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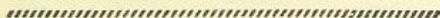
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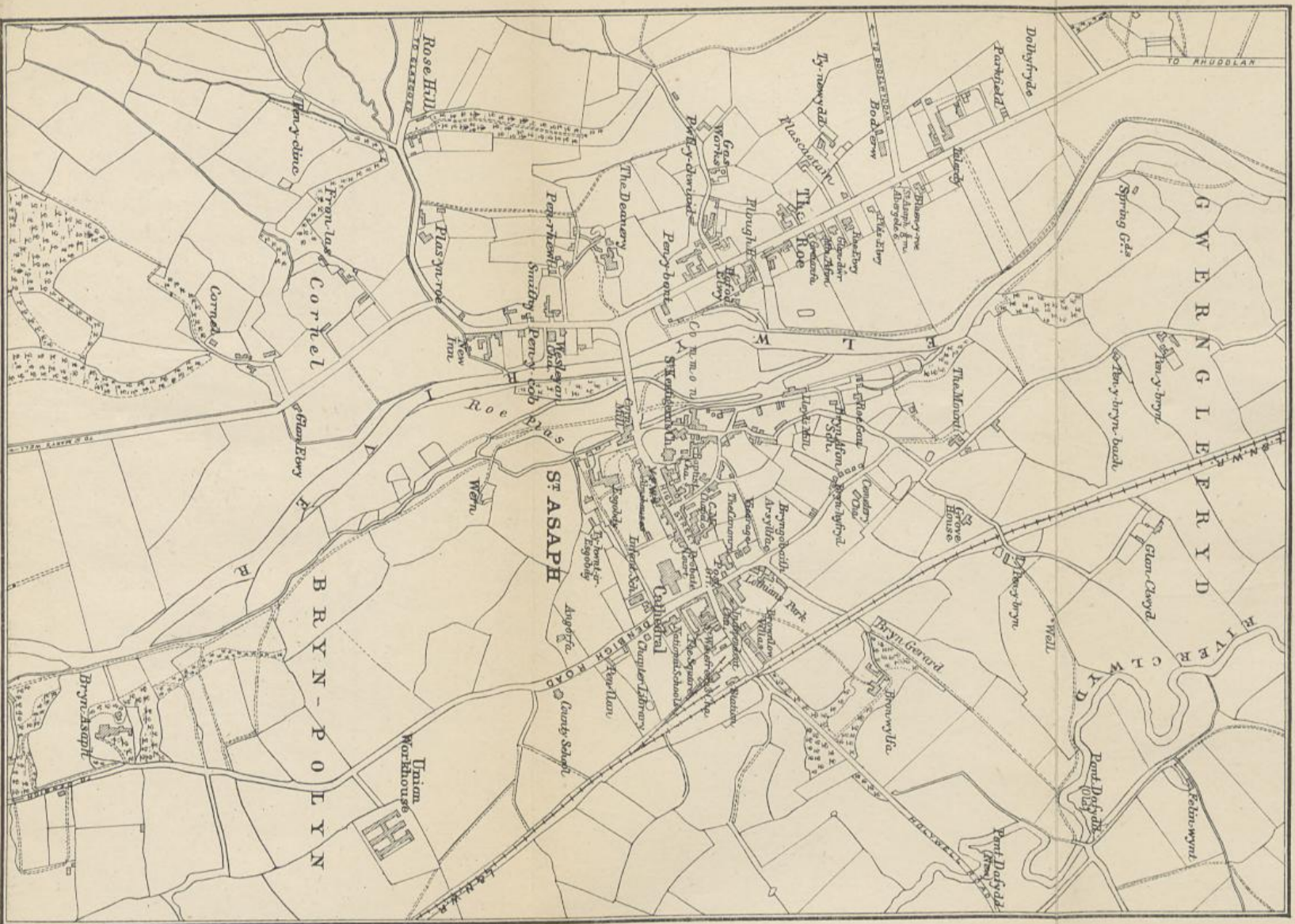
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COMPANION TO ST. ASAPH,

WITH

MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

EDITED BY

JOSEPH HENRY AUSTEN

(Author of "*Notabilities connected with St. Asaph*").

PUBLISHED BY

D. HUGHES, VICTORIA PRINTING WORKS, ST. ASAPH.

1898.

COMPANION TO ST. ASAPH.

MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

EDITED BY

JOSEPH HENRY AUSTEN



PRINTED BY

JOHN WOODS, PRINTER, ST. ASAPH.

1862

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Yours truly,

THE PUBLISHER.

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THE PUBLISHER

Dedication.

WE dedicate this little book to TIME,
 With hopes that in the future it may be
 To those who visit here—a truthful guide.
 We love our ancient city, and although
 'Tis small, its beauty and its scenery,
 Its mother church—as old as interesting—
 All compensate for this. Ne'er was city
 Blest as ours; for think of those connected
 With its history in the days passed away,—
 Morgan (whose name shall never die so long
 As Wales shall have a language of her own);
 Barrow and Lloyd, who stood up for the rights
 Of every true born Briton; Beveridge
 The pious; Shipley (son and father); names
 Still held in admiration; and therefore
 We, as citizens and true admirers
 Of the city's fame, do give this volume
 To old TIME, with hopes that every reader
 Will delight to praise the ancient city
 Of our sires, so long as it endureth.

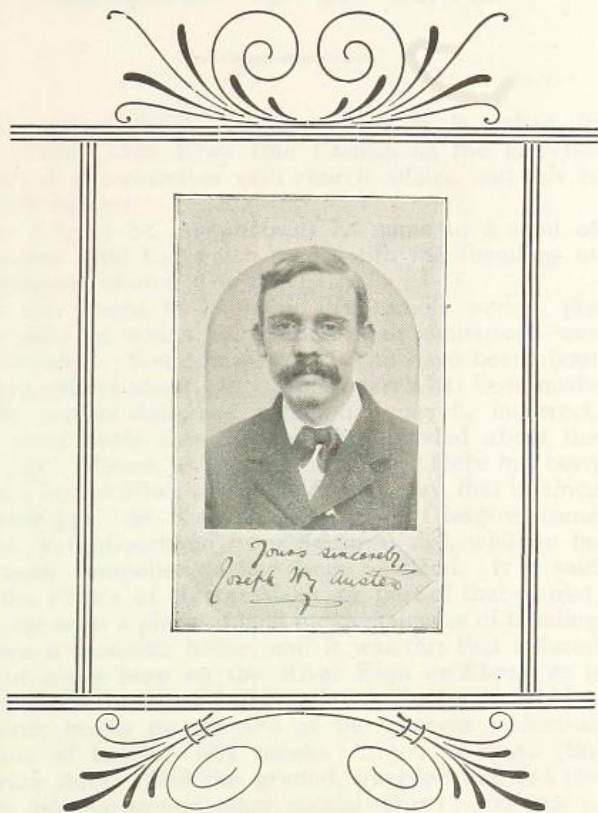
THE EDITOR
 AND
 THE PUBLISHER.

St. Asaph, 1898.

Preface.

THIS work on St. Asaph and its attractions is issued designedly to supply what we feel to be a long felt want,—viz., a guide to the city and surroundings. There is this fault to be found with the majority of the local guide-books,—that the best part of the information on St. Asaph is concerning the Cathedral and its monuments. Both the Editor and the Publisher feel and have felt that this was a mistake, and they hope by the book now offered to the public to rectify this common deficiency. St. Asaph is one of the most beautiful spots in the Vale of Clwyd, and it has many great advantages. You may go many different walks and drives, and never see the same kind of scenery, but only those who have spent their lives or made their homes here are aware of this fact. Visitors look upon a visit to St. Asaph as a visit to the Cathedral Church of the Diocese; they seldom, if ever, take notice of its other attractions, which have been overlooked too long. With this book we are issuing a Map, so that visitors may be the better aided in their pilgrimages to our city, and go away with recollections of its many charms. And this is just what we desire, for we hope that St. Asaph will in the future years be noted for the many natural beauties which it fortunately possesses. In addition to the map, we are also issuing views of the neighbourhood, many of which (as far as we know), have never been published before, but we are not omitting those views which have been well known in the past.

In conclusion, if this little work tends to induce visitors to appreciate our city and its environs more than they have done in the past, the aim of the Editor and the Publisher will indeed have been attained, and their efforts in the production of it will have been fully and amply compensated for.



Preface.

THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.



COMPANION TO ST. ASAPH.

THE name Saint Asaph—or, as it is called in Welsh, Llan Elwy (the Church on the Elwy)—savours of a connection with church affairs, and this is perfectly correct.

The City of St. Asaph owes its name to a saint of that name, who had much to do with the founding of a permanent church “on the Elwy.”

No one seems to know, at this remote period, the exact date at which the cathedral or monastery was first founded. Some have stated it to have been about A.D. 523, others about 530. Much search has been made for the correct date, and although I may be incorrect, it is most likely that the see was founded about the year 543. Hence, we may presume that there has been a place on the Elwy since Kentigern's day, that is, since the year 543. St. Kentigern (bishop of Glasgow) came to our neighbourhood from South Wales, whither he had been compelled to flee from Scotland. It is said that the Prince of North Wales, or part of that district, gave the saint a piece of land for the purpose of building thereon a monastic house, and it was this that induced him to come here on the River Elga or Elqua, as it is supposed to have been called. So he founded a monastic house on the site of the present cathedral, capable of holding 965 monks!! 300 of these (the illiterate ones) tilled the ground, guarded and fed the cattle, and performed other menial offices; 300 saw to the domestic part of the work; whilst the remaining 365 spent their time in prayer and praise. On Kentigern's recall to his native Scotland, he left as his successor a pious man of the name of Asaph, upon whose death the little village was named St. Asaph.

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Of the subsequent history of the city there is not very much for me to tell.

There has been a city ever since the date I have mentioned, and it has had its fair share of knockings about. Owen Glyndwr did his part in his day, when it was considered brave to knock about as much as possible all handsome buildings, and so did Cromwell, or rather, his soldiers.

Amongst notable people not connected with the ecclesiastical history of the city, who have spent some part of their lives here, have been Sir William Jones, the noted linguist, who married Bishop Jonathan Shipley's daughter; Bishop Heber, who married the granddaughter of the same bishop; and the poetess, Mrs. Hemans, who sang of the beauties of St. Asaph.

Dean Swift paid a visit to the city several times, and upon the first occasion took the liberty of inscribing in one of the hotel books the following amusing couplet:—

“ High church,
 Low steeple,
 Proud place,
 Poor people.”

At the present time our city is noted as being the smallest in the kingdom—indeed it never seems to have advanced much in prosperity.

Old St. Asaph, as far as we know now, consisted of the High Street, the Gemig, Lower Street, some houses on the river side, a few houses dotted here and there at the top of the city, and several large houses standing by themselves in and around St. Asaph. There was no bridge leading over the Elwy, neither was there a road from the bottom of the High Street past the Parish Church.

With succeeding years, however, St. Asaph has improved in the right direction, we hope.

In 1841 there were only 182 houses, and 782 inhabitants in the city, but in 1881 (40 years later) there were 1901 inhabitants.

St. Asaph is a contributory borough of Flint, returning



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one member of Parliament. The present M.P. (1897) is J. Herbert Lewis, Esq., of Caerwys.

Here, however, we will commence our account of St. Asaph.

On emerging from the Station, we find ourselves in the Station Yard.

ON THE VIEW FROM THE STATION.

Sweet prospect of the distant hills of Wales,
 Long doth thy sight entrance the traveller
 Who stands with rapturous look beholding thee.
 To us, who know thy charm, thou art not lost,
 The more we see, the more we love to praise,
 For viewing thee reminds us of that green
 And joyous land, where all things glorious are,
 Where nought there is to dim the view, or hide
 Aught from the sight. 'Tis like unto the scene
 Spread out before some son of Wales, when he
 Has reached that age when life seems most sublime,
 And all things have some charm. The future lies
 Before him like this scene; but, unlike it,
 Is not so clear at all times; but as he
 Grows older, all unfolds itself before
 Him, and he looks upon his life perchance
 As we admire this view, with rapture sweet.
 Those hills should teach us of that bounteous care
 Bestowed on all from the beginning, for
 They speak to us of Him who never dies,
 For they endure through all time, and will speak
 To generations yet to be of all
 That is sublime, telling of His great power,
 Who, with his hand, hath built these glorious hills,
 And clothed them all with verdure beautiful.

Walking straight out of the gates, we have behind us a road called the Holywell Road. This leads us to a beautiful walk, which we shall speak of in its proper place. On our right we have the Courthouse, where local affairs are settled monthly by magistrates, bi-monthly by the County Court Judge. A little further on to our left, standing back a little, we see the back part (and the entrance) of the Roman Catholic Chapel. Walking on through Chester Street, we come to what is called the Cross, that is, where four roads meet. The hill in front of us is the High Street, whilst on our right

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Mr. H. A. CLEAVER, Diocesan Registrar, St. Asaph.



'THE COURTHOUSE.

we have the Mount Road, and on our left the Denbigh Road.

THE POST OFFICE

is the building at the corner of this street; postal affairs have been much advanced during recent years. The last Post Office (prior to 1892) occupied half the space of a local draper's shop! Years ago letters were forwarded from St. Asaph and district (which included Rhuddlan and Rhyl) in a small bag, by the "London and Holyhead Mail Coach." What would be said if such a slow method was employed in these days. As for the delivery of letters then, only houses within reach of the Post Office were served; those living in the country being obliged to fetch any letters that might be addressed to them. Later, letters were delivered by a blind man and a woman. Nowadays, the postal officials serve St. Asaph and neighbourhood alone.

The building enclosed by a stone wall facing the Cathedral is the Canonry, the residence of the Residentiary Canons, who visit St. Asaph by turns of three months each. This house was built in the year 1858. Prior to this there was a well known hostel standing there,

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rejoicing in the name of the "White Lion." The Canon's house, however, used to be situated here, but had been destroyed. Owen Glyndwr burnt a former residence down in 1402.

We are now in the High Street, which extends down the hill as far as the bridge crossing the Elwy.

Facing the Canonry we have the Cathedral. (*See Places of Worship*).

We will make our way into the High Street again. Passing down, nothing of importance attracts except the view in front of us, and where the large draper's shop now stands (to your right), the old city lockup used to be.

The narrow lane running down at the side of this shop is called the "Gemig," a somewhat curious name. This street (as I have mentioned before) is a part of old St. Asaph, and the word "Gemig" is an old Welsh name for "a narrow lane" or "street." I am indebted for this information to an article on "Old St. Asaph," by the Rev. B. Hughes. The building at the bottom of the Gemig is the Ebenezer Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. (*See Places of Worship*). The top part is the chapel, the lower part is used for services, and Sunday and winter week-night schools. During the summer months English services are held, commencing at 10 o'clock.

Passing the chapel, you will presently find your way into Lower Street (the street to your left); the one to your right is Luke Street (so called after a former resident in the neighbourhood), whilst the lane in front leads to the river, over which you cross to the bridge.

Passing up the Lower Street, you will be struck with the appearance at the further end of an old gabled building. This is the oldest house in St. Asaph, and was formerly used as a sort of convent or home in connection with the Parish Church. Its old name (on the authority of Rev. B. Hughes) was Plasllwyd, but the modern name is Penyrentri. As children, we knew the end part as the "Pot Shop."

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Cream; Fresh Vegetables daily; English and Foreign
Fruit. Orders punctually attended to.

To the left, past the "White Horse," the Baptist Chapel (*see Places of Worship*) is situated. All the services are in Welsh.

We will now pass the Parish Church through the churchyard. (*See Places of Worship*).

Ascending the steps to the gate on the east side, we find ourselves at the bottom of the High Street. If we look on the opposite side we shall see a row of low houses. These are the Alms Houses, relics of a former



TENANTS OF THE ALMSHOUSES.

age. Bishop Barrow founded them for eight poor widows, leaving enough money to keep them from want.

Havens of rest, long may you shelter give
 To those deserving citizens who dwell
 Beneath your walls. Relics of bygone days
 We still are proud of you: the very sight
 Of e'en the arms emblazoned o'er your porch
 Reminds us of that prelate who did build
 You, and endow you for the use of those
 His fellow creatures needing peaceful homes
 Beneath the shadow of his well-loved church.
 And so the name of BARROW will go down
 To citizens unborn, as one, at least
 Who, living, did much good, but in his death
 Did not forget the poor and needful. So,
 For double purposes, thou standest still,
 And so thou wilt until thy latest day.



DAVID HUGHES,

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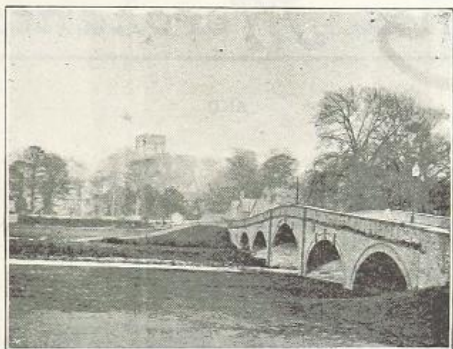
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Turning to our right, and passing along to the end of the street, we shall notice the Palace, hidden behind a thick enclosure of trees.



ELWY BRIDGE.

Passing the old Mill House, we now find ourselves on the Bridge, with its five circular arches, having the Common to our right and the Roe Plas to our left. This bridge was built some years ago, and joins the City to the Roe. The Elwy, the third river from you, rises near Pandy, and after stormy weather the quantity of water that rushes under is enormous.

Thou peaceful flowing river, glide still on
 Until thy destination thou dost reach.
 So calm and smooth thy waters seem to be—
 Save when the storm king rouses thee from sleep—
 That e'en thy peacefulness commends itself
 To those who live around. There is no sight
 More beautiful than that of peaceful streams
 Descending from some mountain gorge away
 From human habitation. All is still
 Around, and nought there is which can disturb
 Distract, depress the human heart, unless
 It be the incessant torrent of thy flow.
 Oh, peaceful river. Still thou flowest on
 As in the days of yore, and still thou wilt

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For aye, until the time shall come when all
 Shall perish. Flow thou on, O placid stream,
 With ne'er a care or trouble to distract
 Thy dreams for ever and for evermore.

The Common is the playing ground of past and present generations of St. Asaph children. Shows and circuses are generally held on this side, when they visit us. Strenuous efforts are being made to turn this place into a respectable piece of ground; no doubt something will be done to it in the course of time.

As we pass over the bridge we must not forget to pause for a fine view of the Cathedral, with the city nestling beneath it.

The entrance gate facing you as you pass over leads into the Deanery, built by Dean Luxmoore in 1830.

We have now two roads; the one to the left is called Penyrhewl (meaning "head of the lane or street"). The only object of interest here is the Welsh Wesleyan Chapel. (*See Places of Worship*).

Passing back again into the Roe we have the Elwy Grove Park (at the side of the Plough Hotel), where auction sales on sheep, cattle, &c., are held. The St. Asaph Smithfield Shows are held here on the last Thursday in each month. There is little else of interest to attract visitors in the Roe, except, of course, the walks leading from it.

ANAGRAM.

S hall we forget thy fame, O, city bright,
T hy beauties, passing fair, thy ancient church
A nd all that makes a home seem lovable?
S hall we forget thee, or, when far away
A like from friends and kindred, think no more,
P erchance, of thee? Nay, rather let us love,
H onour, and praise thee always while we live.

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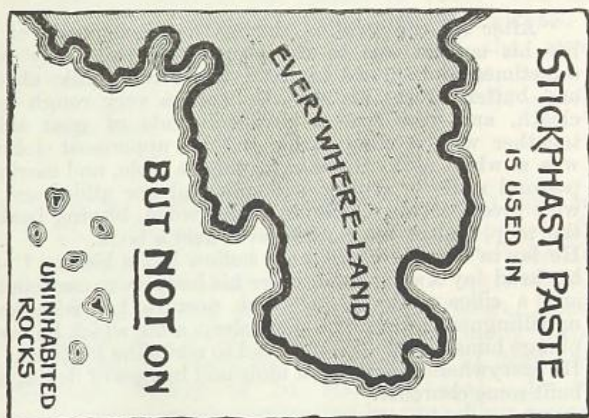
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NOTABILITIES CONNECTED WITH THE CITY.

ST. KENTIGERN,

founder of the See of St. Asaph, was born in the year 514. His mother's name was Thevis, the daughter of Loth, King of Pict Land, but there is some doubt as to who his father was. With his mother, he lived for some time on the little island of Cullenros, but eventually returned to Scotland, where he received the name Munghu or Mungo, meaning "dearly beloved."

He was trained to serve in the sacred ministry, and in time became Bishop of Glasgow. Owing, however, to serious trouble in the country, the Saint was obliged to flee from Glasgow, and he made his way to St. David's, where there was already a religious house.

In 543 he removed to the North, where he founded his monastery. Concerning his life as a cleric, I take the following from an ancient account of "The Church History of Brittany":—

"After his consecration, during the whole course of his life his custom was to eat only every third day, and sometimes fourth, and his food was bread, milk, cheese, and butter. Next his skin he wore a very rough hayr cloath, and over that a garment made of goat skins, together with a close cowle, and his uppermost clothing was a white alb. He always wore a stole, and carried a pastoral staffe or crosier, not spherical nor gilded and set with precious stones, but of simple wood, bowing back at the toop, and in his hand he ever held a book. . . . He lay in a stone chest made hollow like a biere. Under his head lay a stone, and under his body were cast cinders and a cilice of hayr, in which posture he, with some unwillingness, admitted a short sleep, after which he would plunge himself in cold water, and so recite the Psalter. . . . He everywhere threw down idols and images of devils, and built some churches."

Our first Cathedral was built by the Saint of wood and lime. Tradition says that the Saint was not satisfied with such a poor structure, and commenced to build one of stone. In 545 he was recalled to his native Scotland, where tradition says he died in 601, at the good old age of 87.

GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH,

Bishop of St. Asaph, from 1152—1154, or, as some call him, Jeffry ap Arthur, was born in the early part of the 12th century (some think either in 1090 or 1110). He received his education at his native town, and early in life entered the Convent of the Benedictines. He was soon made Archdeacon of Monmouth, and in 1152, on the death of Gilbert, was made Bishop of St. Asaph. Of his later history we know very little. It is even uncertain whether he ever visited his diocese or not, but in 1154 he resigned the See, or, as is most likely, died.

His legends are well known; the stories of King Arthur being put together by him.

ANIAN II.,

known as "the Black Friar of Rhuddlan," was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph in 1268. We know very little of his history, except that he restored the Cathedral, building the stone part of the present Cathedral. He died February 5th, 1292, and was buried in the chancel of the Cathedral. (*See article on "The Cathedral."*)

REGINALD PEACOCK

was born in Wales in the year 1390. At the early age of 27 he became a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, and was ordained priest in 1421. He visited the Court of Henry VI. between this date and 1431, when he became head master of Whittington College, London, and Rector of St. Michael in Riola, chiefly through Court influence. Here he remained for 13 years, when he became Bishop of St. Asaph (1444). In 1447, Peacock caused much commotion by preaching a sermon

at St. Paul's Cross, in London. In this sermon he treated of matters which were foremost among the burning questions of the day.

In 1450, Peacock went to Chichester, where he gave out that he could no longer support the Romish doctrine concerning "Transubstantiation," and for this he was afterwards deprived of his bishopric. He was asked to recant and renounce his views, and this he did at St. Paul's Cross in the presence of (some say) 20,000 people. He was then sent to Thorney Abbey, in Cambridgeshire, where it is supposed he died in 1460. His chief works were:—"A Donet" (or Grammar), "A Follower to the Donet," "The Book of Faith," and "The Repressor."

RICHARD REDMAN

was born in Hertfordshire. He became Rector of Kershull in 1415, and in 1471 succeeded Thomas Knight as Bishop of St. Asaph. He was a man of great ability, and he it was who reroofed the Cathedral, as well as repairing and refurnishing it after the ravages committed upon it by Owen Glyndwr, in 1402.

He was promoted to Exeter in 1495, and Ely in 1501, dying in 1505. He is buried in Ely Cathedral.

DAVYDD AP OWEN

(1503—1513) is noted as the builder of a timber bridge called Pont Davydd, the immediate predecessor of the present one.

HENRY STANDISH,

nominated to St. Asaph in 1518, was a zealous advocate of Romish claims. He was buried in the Church of the Grey Friars, London, in 1535.

WILLIAM BARLOW

was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph in 1536, during the reign of the eighth Harry. He was the first English Bishop to marry, and he was one of the chief figures in the consecration of Archbishop Parker, in Lambeth

Palace Chapel, December 17, 1559. Bishop Barlow was translated to Bath and Wells in 1548, but in 1553, on the accession of Mary I., he fled the country, and did not return until her death. Barlow's family consisted of two sons and five daughters, and curious to relate, each of these daughters married a Bishop. One of the sons became Archdeacon of Salisbury.

WILLIAM MORGAN,

the translator of the Bible into Welsh, was born in Carnarvonshire, and was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge. He was translated to St. Asaph in 1601, in succession to William Hughes, and died in 1604 (see Extract from Vicar Rowland's Note Book). He was buried in the choir, where no monument was placed to his memory, only his initials ("W. M.") cut into the slab covering his grave.

JOHN OWEN

was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph in 1629, and was a great sufferer during the civil wars. He died at Aberkinsey, near Rhuddlan, October 16, 1651.

GEORGE GRIFFITH,

consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph in 1660, was another great sufferer during the civil wars. He spent much money on the repairing of the Cathedral fabric, and was buried in the choir at his death in 1666.

ISAAC BARROW,

uncle of the celebrated mathematician, was consecrated Bishop in 1669. He was educated at Cambridge, and was made Bishop of the Isles (Sodor and Man) in 1663. He founded the Almshouses at St. Asaph, and was a generous benefactor during his stay here. He died at Shrewsbury, June 24th, 1680, and lies buried outside the west door of the Cathedral.

WILLIAM LLOYD,

who succeeded Bishop Barrow, was born in the village of Littlehurst, Berks, in 1627. In 1640 he went to Oriel

College, Oxford, and afterwards to Jesus College, where he took his M.A. degree.

He was ordained in 1656, and was appointed to various livings until his promotion to St. Asaph in 1680.

During the reign of James II., Lloyd came to the front as one of the "seven bishops," the story concerning whom most people know.

In 1692 Lloyd went to Lichfield, and in 1699 to Worcester. He died in 1717, and was buried at Fladbury Church, near Evesham.

WILLIAM BEVERIDGE

was born in 1637, at Barrow in Leicestershire. He received his education at Cambridge, and was ordained early in life.

In 1660 he received the living of Ealing, in Middlesex, and in 1685 was appointed to St. Peter's, Cornhill. After several other changes, he was offered the See of Bath and Wells, but in the end declined it. In 1704, Queen Anne promoted him to St. Asaph, but he died on the 5th of March, 1708, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. He published several books, including "De Linguarum Orientalium praeantia et usu cum Grammatica Lyriaca" (published in 1658), "Synodicon" (a book relating to Church laws), "Private Thoughts on Religion," and twelve volumes of sermons, published by his executor, Mr. Richard Smith, in 1716.

PREBENDARY DAVID LLOYD

was a Welsh writer, who was born in Merionethshire in 1625. He received his education at Oriel College, Oxford, and subsequently became a reader at the Charter House. He was made an Hon. Canon and Prebend of St. Asaph, and died in 1691.

His chief works were:—"Life of General Monk, and Persons who Suffered for Loyalty;" also, "History of Plots and Conspiracies."

SIR WILLIAM JONES,

the celebrated Oriental scholar (1746—1794), married Anna Maria, daughter of Dr. Jonathan Shipley, Bishop of St. Asaph.

JONATHAN SHIPLEY

was born in 1714. He was educated at Oxford, and was shortly after ordained. In 1769 he was promoted to St. Asaph, and remained Bishop until his death in 1788. He lies buried in Rhuddlan Church. On the death of Queen Caroline, wife of George II., he is reported to have written some "elegant" verse.

SAMUEL HORSLEY

was born in London in 1733, and received his education at Westminster and Cambridge. In 1789 he became Bishop of St. David's, and in 1802 was promoted to St. Asaph. He died at Brighton, October 4th, 1806, and was buried at Newington Church. He was the author of several works.



• DIC ABERDARON.

• *(From a Photograph kindly lent by Mrs. Vaughan, Chester Street.)*

RICHARD ROBERT JONES

was born of poor parents at a little place named Aberdaron, in Carnarvonshire, in 1780. He was one of

a large family, so he received nothing but the bare A.B.C. of education.

“Dic Aberdaron,” as he is familiarly known, was a very lazy specimen of humanity as a boy; his father could never induce him to work. As he grew up, he did nothing but dabble with books, so one day his father bade him go about his business. So he went on his journeys, for he never had a home he could call his own. His travels through England and Wales are very interesting, but space forbids me to speak of them. As he went along, he would work long enough to earn money to buy books and food. When he was “hard up” he would sell his books, and buy more when he had earned money again. He was often in St. Asaph during his travels. Bishop Carey was very good to him, and would have provided for him during his later years had not “Dic” been so independent. He used to lodge at the back of the “George” in High Street, and it was here that he was taken ill in December, 1843, dying on the 21st. He was laid to rest in the St. Asaph Parish Churchyard. There is a long Welsh inscription on the grave.

Bedd

RICHARD ROBERT JONES

(*Dic Aberdaron*),

A anwyd yn 1780,

A gladdwyd Rhagfyr 21, 1843,

Yn 63 oed.

Leithydd uwch ieithwyr wythwaith—gwir ydoedd

Geiriadur pob talaith,

Aeth angau a'i bymtheg iaith :

Obry 'n awr mae heb 'r un iaith.

ELLIS OWEN.

Yma dygwyd Gramadegydd—hynod

I hunaw yn llonydd

O'i boen—a dyma lle bydd,—fud feudwy

Tra rhêd Elwy trwy ro y dolydd.

TALHAIRN.

REGINALD HEBER

was born April 27, 1783, at Malpas, in Cheshire. In 1800 he was sent to Brasenose College, Oxford, where, in 1803, he obtained the prize for English composition, with his celebrated poem "Palestine." In 1805 he took his degree, and afterwards made a rather lengthy tour abroad. In 1807 he became Rector of Hodnet, in Shropshire, and in 1808 married Amelia, daughter of Dean Shipley, of St. Asaph. In 1817 he was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral, and whilst holding this office wrote his well-known hymn, "From Greenland's icy mountains." In 1823 he was made Bishop of Calcutta. Here he lived for three years, working very hard indeed. He was found dead in his bath on the morning of the 3rd of April, 1826, and was buried in St. John's Church, Trichinopoly. His works include, "A Life of Bishop Jeremy Taylor" and "Narrative of a Journey through the Upper Provinces of India." His hymns are known all over the world:—"The Son of God goes forth to war," "All glory, laud, and honour," "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty," and "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning." The late Canon Morton composed a tune for the latter hymn.

WILLIAM DAVIES SHIPLEY

was born at Midgham, in Berks, October 16th, 1745. He went to Oxford, and was afterwards ordained. He became Vicar of Wrexham in 1770, and Dean and Chancellor of St. Asaph in 1774. In politics he was a strong Whig, and got into trouble for circulating a pamphlet of his brother-in-law's (Sir William Jones), entitled "A dialogue between a gentleman and a farmer." He was summoned on a charge of "seditious libel," and was tried at Wrexham, before Lord Kenyon (1783). The case was finally disposed of at Shrewsbury, when the Dean was triumphantly acquitted. He died at Bodryddan, Rhuddlan, on the 7th of June, 1826, and was buried with his father at Rhuddlan Church.

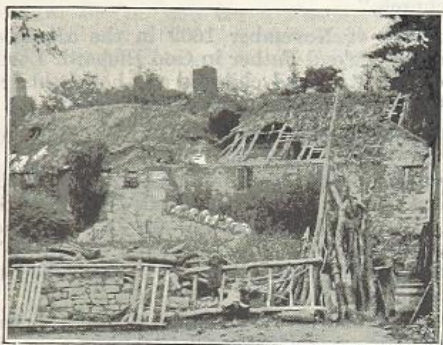
FELICIA DOROTHEA HEMANS

was born in Liverpool on the 23rd of September, 1794.

While she was still young, her parents removed to Gwrych Castle, Abergele, where her father (Mr. Browne) died. In 1816 she (with her family) removed to St. Asaph, where they resided at Bronwyllfa. In 1812 or 1813 she married a Captain Hemans, by whom she had five sons. After the death of Mrs. Browne, in 1827, Mrs. Hemans removed to Rhyllon, where she remained until she left St. Asaph, in 1828. She never returned, and after visiting friends, settled down in Dublin with her brother. She died there, after a lingering illness, on the 16th of May, 1835, and was buried in St. Anne's Church, Dublin.

Of the Bishops and Clerics connected with St. Asaph during the present century I have nothing but good to say. There are Bishops Cleaver (1806—1815), Luxmoore (1815—1830), Carey (1830—1846), Short (1846—1870), and Hughes (1870—1889), names that many St. Asaph residents still remember, not only with respect, but with sincere affection. Nor must I forget to mention Dean Bonnor, who lived so long amongst us, and Canon Morton, a name which will be a household word in St. Asaph for many years to come. Amongst those still living there are Dean James, Canon Owen (now Bishop of St. David's), and Archdeacon Howell (now Dean of St. David's). Of those who are gone before, let us sing with Mrs. Hemans :—

“ Forget them not, though now their name
 Be but a mournful sound,
 Though by the hearth its utterance claim
 A stillness round.
 The holy dead. Oh ! blest we are
 That we may name them so,
 And to their spirits look afar
 Through all our woe.”



PENYGRISIAU, LUKE STREET.

OLD ST. ASAPH.

Extracts from "Y Cwta Cyfarwydd," The Chronicle written by Peter Roberts, Notary Public (1607—1646). —(Published in 1883 by Ven. Archdeacon Thomas, M.A.)

"Upon Wednesday, being the ixth daie of December, 1607, yt snewe and afterward continued frostye until the xvth day of Januarye that in Xptemas holidais the people as well on horseback as on foot passed over the ice on Elwey w'thout any danger or harme and when the ice was melted or broken a little the same brake in lumpes or burdes of xii, xiii, or xiv ynches in breadth."

"In November 1608 the clocke in the Cathedrall Church was staid or letten to fall to decay and not to strike."

"Upon Wednesday, being the xth daie of May 1609 between two and foure of the clocke in the afternoone of the same daye Elen Parry then yongest doughter of Richard Parry Bishop of St. Asaph died of the white poxe at his house at Llanelwey and was buried the morowe after being the xith of May afore-

said in the Cathedral Church of St. Asaphe at which buriall a stranger of Carnarvonshire preached in the queere (choir) of the same church."

"On the 7th of November 1609 in the afternoone of the same daye the rev'end Father in God Richard, Lord Bishop of St. Asaphe w'th wief and children and household first removed from St. Asaphe to Disserth to dwell."

"Upon the xvth daie of April 1612 Evan Roberts and Anne Vz John ap Hughe were married in the Parish Church of Llanelwey in the com' of Fflint by Hughe Roberts Cl'rc one of the vicars chorall of the Cathedrall Church of St. Asaphe; and upon this day my brother John Roberts was sore and greevously hurte and wounded upon the head by D'd Lloid ap Thomas with a long piked staffe." Surely a bad ending to a marriage day.

"In the later end of July last past, 1612, there happened great drought in so much that all or the most p t of the water corne mills (standing on the side of the ryver of Elwey) stood still w'thout grynding for want of water to turne the same and be yt rememb'ed that in the last weeke of July aforesaid yt was so dry and faire over head that hey in Kyrchynan meadowe was made dressed and ynned within the space of 3 days and lesse, viz., cut downe upon the first day, gathered up and dressed the second day, and carried away and ynned the third daie."

"In the moneth of November 1618 a strange blaz ing starre appeared and was seene in the east about vi of the clock in the morning with a long taile upwards towards the weast."

"Upon Mondaie being the xxiiiith daie of Sept'r 1622 about vi or vii of the clocke in the afternoone of the same day, it being in the twilight aboute supper time, there happened a fell and terrible and fearefull showre of rayne and hailestones w'th great lightning and thunderbolts w'thout resting' censing, or inter mission, the hail stones being some of them of the bignes of a wallenut or a man's thombe, and some others of them being bigger and some lesser and many of them were congealed and knit together to the number of 3 or 4 or more."

"About xen of the clocke in the afternoone of the xxxth day of October 1624 there fell such greate rayne that night that by Sondag morning the ryver of Elwey did ov'flowe all the Ro' or commons at St. Assaph and took away some part of the Bridge of St. Assaph next the Deane his house and the bridge of yr allt goze, and also the chappell bridge, the like water was nev' seene or heard of."

Here is a very curious entry:—

“Upon Saturday being the xxviiith day of November 1624 Thomas Mostyn, Esq're, and Gwen Parrie, widow, the late wief of the late rev'end father in God Richard Parrie late Lord Bushop of Sc't Asaph decessed, were married; and also W'm Mostyn gent, son and heire app'ant of the said Thomas Mostyn and one Anne Parrie one of the yonger daughters of the said late Lord Bishop were likewise married the day and year aforesaid, and Richard Parrie son and heir of the said late Lord Bushop and Marie Mostyn, third daughter of the said Thomas Mostyn were then married.”

Note the dates in the two following extracts:—

“Upon Friday being the xth day of October 1628, Agnes Bancks the wief of Thomas Bancks, Deane of St. Asaph died and was buried upon Sondag folowing being the xiiith day of October aforesaid w'te greate solempnitie.”

“Upon Sondag being the xviiiith day of January, 1628 Thomas Banks deane of St. Asaph and Katherin Gruffith, widowe, were m'ied at Henllan.”

Rather a short term of widowerhood—at least it would be considered so in these days.

“In March 1629 and 1630, the south porch of the parish church of Llanelwey al's St. Asaph, being fallen downe by reason of the greate mightie and boisterous windes, which happened upon the feast day of the purification of our blessed ladie St. Marie the virgin last 1629 was reedified; John Conway, gent, being then one of the churchwardens.”

“On Saturdaie being the sixth day of June 1630 John Ffoulkes killed Jane Wen his owne wief with a beedle or washing staff vizt golffan and upon Thursdaie being the third daie of Julie following 1630, he remaying in gaole at Fflynt for the foresaid wicked and execrable fact murdered himself by cutting of his owne throat with a knife, by report.”

“In the monethes of June, July, August, September, October and November 1630, the bridge called Pont David Escob upon Clwyd together x'th the two other litle bridges betweene it and the Cathedrall Church of St. Asaph were made up of newe w'th stones (where before they were made of tymber).”

“Upon Thursday being the xiiith day of October 1631, w'thin night, one Abednago Perkins (M'r of the Quire of the Cathedrall Church of St. Assaph) was buried, by report.”

“In May, June, and July 1634, the newe building (annexed unto my lord Bushop's house or Pallace in St. Asaph, eastward toward the garden belonging to that house, and towards the Cathedrall Church there) was made and erected at the costs and chardges of the Rev'end father in God John Owen, now Lord Bushop of St. Asaph.”

“In the beginning of October, 1635, the great and newe organ in the Cathedrall Church of St. Assaph was sett up and plaied upon, the same being first brought and caried thither from London upon Saturday being the vth day of September 1635.”

“Upon Fridaie, being the 11th daie of March 1635 Thomas Humphey, Esq'e, having departed this lief upon Wednesday before, about vii of the clock in the morning, was buried, at w'ch time Mr. Andrewe Moris (being Deane of St. Asaph) p'ched in the Cathedrall Church of St. Asaph, in respect the p'ish church could not containe the people then and there assembled.”

On the 12th of September, 1636,

“Jane Price was buried in the Cathedrall Church of St. Assaph under the middle bellrope there.”

“Upon Tuesday, being the xiith daie of June 1638, the pavement or causey betweene the parish church and the Cathedrall Church of St. Assaph was begunne and was finished at the week's end by W'm Lle'in of Ruthin and others.”

“On the last summer 1638, and by this time the schoole house roome or lofte in the lower end of the parish church of St. Assaph al's Llanelwey was made and finished by Edd. ap Ieu'n D'd and others.”

“The xxivth xxvth and xxvith daies of April 1645 the Rebels vizt S'r W'm Brerton and S'r Tho. Myddleton K'ts &c w'th their army have blyndred St. Assaph's p'ish, except Wickwer and made great spoyles, etc.”

“Upon Wednesday, being the first of April 1646, the gallon of butter was sold at Denbigh for 20s.”

In the register note book of Thomas Rowlands, Vicar Choral of St. Asaph, there occurs the two following interesting entries :—

“Yt upon Munday morning being the xth day of September 1604 between the hours of iii and iv of the clock in the morning W'm Morgan (B'pp of St. Asaph who succeeded W'm

Hughes late B'pp there) departed out of this transitory life and died at his house in St. Asaph and was buried the ii day of September aforesaid."

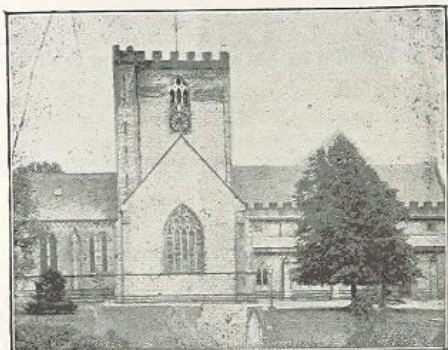
"Yt upon Munday being the xviith day of September 1649 David ap W'm David a BLACKE strong young man was buried."

TO THE MEMORY OF PETER ROBERTS

(NOTARY PUBLIC, 1607—1646).

Roberts! thy memory is still preserved
 As one who in his day did labour much
 With mind and pen to give truthful accounts
 Of those events which, but for thy forethought,
 Would have been lost to us. 'Tis interesting
 To read thy records of a people passed
 And gone, unknown to us. Names that once were
 Familiar in the ears of citizens.
 Those whom thou wrote of moved upon the stage
 Of our loved city in a time remote
 From this, and so we read with interest due
 To such accounts. No chronicler have we
 Amongst us in these days to follow in
 Thy footsteps, though the records of our time
 Will be as full when in the years to come
 The future citizens desire to know
 Our history. Thy memory is not,
 Like many unknown worthies, held to fame
 By some memorial in our city, but
 Thy records form a true memorial, which
 Shall be a lasting tribute to thy name,
 And to the name of him* who first did cause
 Them to be given us in these latter days.

* Ven. Archdeacon Thomas, M.A., Rector of Llandrinio.



THE CATHEDRAL.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

O stately edifice, with ages grey,
Thy walls have changes seen, and not a few,
In generations past. But now those times
Have changed, and all around is peacefulness.
And, let us hope, that in the future dim,
When we are gone, it will be well with thee.
Let war no more wield its destructive hand
Upon thy features, as in Glyndwr's days,
Nor let the impious bigot come again
To mutilate and desecrate thy walls.
But let the citizens of future years
Honour and keep thee as thou should'st be kept,
Free from neglect, from fire, and all that taints.
So shall we leave thee as we found thee—loved
And cared for as becomes a House of God.

We will proceed to the west door, which is a relic of Bishop Anian II.'s building. On either side will be noticed two altar tombs. The one on the right is to the memory of Bishop Isaac Barrow (1669—1680), who

spent much money in repairing the Cathedral fabric. The Latin inscription on top tells us that "the remains of Isaac, Bishop of St. Asaph, are deposited here, in hope of a joyful resurrection." He died on St. John Baptist's Day, 1680, aged 67. In the lower part will be observed a small brass tablet, placed there by the present Dean in 1892, to replace the one which had been taken to London for production at Court, to prove the legality of prayers for the dead being offered for



WEST VIEW OF CATHEDRAL.

members of the Church of England. The Latin inscription being translated is this:—"Ye who pass by in the house of the Lord, which is the house of prayer, pray for your fellow servant, and find mercy in the day of the Lord." This was composed by the good bishop himself. I may add that this bishop bequeathed a flagon to Llandrinio Church, bearing the inscription—"*Orate pro conservo vestro*" (pray for your fellow servant). I am indebted for this information to Archdeacon Thomas's "Handbook to the Cathedral." The tomb on your left covers the remains of Thomas Vowler Short, (Bishop of St. Asaph 1846—1870), and his wife Mary. This Bishop spent large sums of money on church work in his diocese. He was translated to St. Asaph from Sodor and Man.

On entering the Cathedral, we have a splendid view

from west to east of the interior. We are standing in the nave, with its north and south aisles, whilst straight in front we have the choir (with vestry and chapter house on either side), and the east end, chancel and sacrarium. The interior has not always been as we see it now. Prior to 1868 it was very different. The nave was entirely unused, whilst in the archway separating the choir from the nave, was a massive stone screen, on the top of which stood the organ. Entering the choir, you found that there were seats, beyond the choir for the congregation reaching up to the east wall, whilst the Communion table was enclosed by a small semi-circular rail.

The Bishop's throne stood on the south side of the chancel wall, whilst the pulpit stood immediately opposite, and the choir had their seats on the east side of the eastern arch of the tower.

Before looking around, let me say a few words concerning the building itself. The early "cathedrals" (for there have been several) are supposed to have been built of wood and other common material. We know but little of those early structures. During the Norman period a cathedral was built of stronger material, and it is to this period that the chancel and the west wall belongs. Ruin followed this building, and only the parts mentioned above (together with a chapter house which stood against the north wall of the chancel, and which is now demolished) were left. Edward I's soldiers did most of this damage to the Cathedral Bishop Anian II. (1268—1293) did a great deal of rebuilding—the walls of the nave, the Chapter House, and the North Transept, are those of this bishop's building, as well as the lower part of the tower. Owen Glyndwr destroyed some of it with fire, and the unfortunate Cathedral remained roofless and unfurnished for eighty years, when Bishop Richard Redman (1471—1495) restored it. In Cromwell's time the St. Asaph postmaster (Milles) did his best to destroy and desecrate the building, and in 1714 the top part of the tower fell.

during a storm, doing much damage to the choir. This damage was repaired about the year 1770. Several alterations were made between this date and the year 1869, when the great work of restoration was begun, under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott, but it was not until 1875 that the work was finished, and the Cathedral finally re-opened, as we see it at present.

The large window over the west door was erected in 1856, to the memory of Canon Rowland Williams, by relatives and fellow churchmen. The large marble memorial on this west wall is to the memory of Bishop William Carey (1830—1846) and his wife, Lady Carey, who, in their day, were very charitable. Six months of each year the good bishop and his wife spent in London, and on their return there were always great rejoicings in St. Asaph. The west front of the present palace was built in 1831 by this bishop. The brass tablet underneath commemorates the erection of the east window to their memory. Close at hand you will notice the font, which is quite modern. The old font was destroyed during the Commonwealth, but four of its panels, fortunately, were somehow preserved, and these are inserted round the side of the present font. The window at the west end of this aisle is to the memory of Caroline, daughter of the late Dean, and his third wife, Mrs. Bonnor, and a daughter who died in infancy, and represents "Our Lord blessing little children" and "The Good Shepherd." The quotations are:—"He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom," and "It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

Turning to the south side, you have a window "To the memory of Major William John Bythell, late of the Austrian Imperial Army, who died on the 6th of October, 1866, from wounds received in action." This window was erected by his brother, and represents six stages in a pilgrim's life. It bears suitable quotations. On the wall will be noticed two memorials of the Price family

(now situated near Bala), and one to the memory of "Richard Bythell, who died August 10th, 1845, and Eliza, his first wife," &c. The tablet close by, with helmet and sword in white marble, is "In memory of Captain Whiteman Thomas, captain of H.M. 21st Hussars, only son of Honoratius Leigh Thomas and Sophia Boydell, his wife, died in India, the 28th of June, 1867, in the 27th year of his age." It is also recorded that "This tablet is erected by his brother officers in testimony of their regard for him in life, and their sorrow at his early death." The next monument, representing a mother and two children mourning, is in memory of Sir John Hay Williams, of Bodelwyddan Hall, whilst the brass beneath records the death of his wife (Lady Sarah Hay Williams). The former died in 1859, the latter in 1876.

Passing the door opening into this aisle, we have another monument by Westmacott, R.A., representing two angels in the act of ascending. This is to the memory of Sir John Williams, of Bodelwyddan (father of Sir J. Hay Williams) and his wife Dame Margaret. Below this monument may be noticed the walled up space where a former Holy Water Receptacle may have been. The next monument is a plain white marble one, in memory of Elizabeth Wyatt, of the Mount, St. Asaph, who died November 10, 1839. The next group of six tablets are very interesting. The bottom oblong tablet of white marble is in memory of the gifted poetess, Mrs. Hemans, who lived in St. Asaph for so many years. The inscription runs—"This tablet, placed here by her brothers, is in memory of Felicia Hemans, whose character is best portrayed in her writings. She died in Dublin, the 16th of May, 1835, aged 40." The oval one just above is "To the memory of Felicity Dorothea Browne, the best of mothers, who died at Rhyllon on the 11th of January, 1827, aged 60. This tablet is inscribed by her grateful children." This was Mrs. Heman's mother, of whom she was exceedingly fond. Her hymn, which I give here, was written by the sick bed of her mother:—

“ Father! that in the olive shade
 When the dark hour came on,
 Didst with a breath of heavenly aid
 Strengthen Thy Son.

Oh! by the anguish of that night,
 Send us down blest relief;
 Or to the chastened let Thy might
 Hallow this grief.

And Thou, that when the starry sky
 Saw the dread strife begun,
 Didst teach adoring faith to cry
 “ Thy will be done.”

By Thy meek spirit, Thou, of all
 That e'er have mourned, the chief;
 Thou, Saviour, if the stroke *must* fall,
 Hallow this grief.”

TO THE MEMORY OF MRS. HEMANS.

Sweet songstress of the past, thy name is known
 In all parts of the world, beside our land.
 Thy name, to us, is dear, for is it not
 Bound up inseparably with the fame
 Of this our city, and thy name is loved
 Because of this. Thy mind is now at peace,
 Thy pen at rest, but still thy cheering words
 Are with us, and they give us hope and peace
 In times of pain or trouble, care or woe,
 As in the days when thou didst publish them
 To an adoring world. Hemans! thy name
 Is blest; long may thy works have influence
 For good, as they have ever had, and may
 In times to come thy works be still more blessed.
 While thou didst live, there was not aught around
 But had some charm for thee. Thy home, thy boys,
 The flowers, the birds, the grand, attracted thee.
 In everything around, a lesson seemed
 To show itself; hence that deep love of all
 Things made by God, however small and poor,
 Which thou hast sung of. We should ne'er forget
 That thou wert gifted far above thy friends
 With the blest power of song; and some, thus blest,
 Have used it not aright; but thou didst use
 Thy gift with soberness, and so thou hadst
 An influence great on the song-loving world.
 He, whom thou lov'st so well, didst bless thy words
 And give them influence sweet for power of good.
 To Cambria's children many things appeal,

But most of all sweet music and sweet song,
 And though thou wast not Cambria's own by birth,
 By residence thou wert, and thus thy name
 Is linked to Wales. In our fair land of birth
 Some, in a humbler way, have gifted been
 Like thee; and amidst all their names, the name
 Of Hemans shall stand forth, towering above
 All others; and as thou didst bid all men
 Give praise for Heber's life and influence,
 So we would bid them do for thy great name.
 Thy time on earth was short; but forty years
 Were spent with us. Oh! hadst thou but been spared,
 Though 'tis not for we poor frail sons of dust
 To doubt and question God's good ways. Thy work
 On earth was done, and so thy Father, God,
 Didst take thee home. Give praise then for the life
 Spent 'midst the scenes we know and love so well;
 Thus may it be our lot to finish all
 Our task ere our brief race is run, and so
 Our names, though soon forgot on earth, may be
 To those we loved bright jewels, precious gems,
 Worthy the inheritance, as the names
 Of those who, while on earth, their duty did
 To God and man, e'en as the poetess
 Whose name we love, whose memory we revere,
 And who, when we forgotten are, will be
 Remembered, and respected, and admired.

The other tablets commemorate Sir Henry Browne (Mrs. Heman's brother), his two wives, and niece. The flat tombstones to your right (on the floor) below these tablets are to the memories of Bishop Griffith (1660—1667), and John Price, of Vaynol, who died in 1685. The stained glass window here, representing our Lord walking on the water, and the Apostles watching, and bearing the words—"Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid," is to the memory of Mr. E. B. Luxmoore, of St. Asaph, who died whilst touring in Switzerland, in 1895.

As you enter the South Transept (now used as a Chapter House in place of the old one) you are struck with the appearance of a curious effigy placed upright against the wall. For many years it was supposed to represent Bishop Davydd ap Owen (1503—1513), but the Ven. Archdeacon Thomas (author of "History of the Diocese") believes it to represent Anian II., of whom I have already spoken. It was in a recumbent position in



EFFIGY OF BISHOP ANIAN II.

the chancel up to 1780, when it was removed to the Chapter House. Unfortunately, it is badly mutilated at the top, the figures being broken, but the Bishop's effigy itself is not in a bad condition, considering its age. The right hand (evidently upraised in blessing) is gone, and the top of the pastoral staff, which is held in the left hand, is also gone. At its feet may be seen a stone, engraved with a cross (full length). This was removed from the chancel at the last restoration. Archdeacon Thomas believes it to have marked the grave of Bishop William de Spridlington (1376—1382).

TO THE EFFIGY OF ANIAN II.

Anian II., Bishop of St. Asaph (1268—1293) was the rebuilder of the Cathedral after the ravages committed upon it by the soldiers of Edward I., and it is his structure, with the exception of the chancel, the west wall, and the top part of the tower, which still stands.

Image of Anian! still thou brav'st the storms
Of time, taking our memories back again

To those past years when he did rule the see
 Of Kentigern, with wise and prudent hand.
 Still thou existeth, spite of all the hate
 Borne to such effigies by unskilled minds.
 And here, around thee, guarding thee from all
 The elements, his true memorial is—
 Our own Cathedral—relic of his day,
 And of his wisdom, for 'twas he that, when
 Proud Edward's army, paganlike to all
 Which spoke of Wales, or Wales's history,
 Destroyed and ruined his Cathedral church,
 Did build thee up again; and still we see
 His work and bless his name ('tis all that we
 Can do) for his forethought. Concerning him
 We know but little, though that little is
 Far more than he did think would in the years
 To come be known of him. The structure built
 In such uncertain times might ne'er have lived
 To tell of all the care and love bestowed
 Upon it by his deeds. But it *has* lived;
 And now his name will stand or fall as that
 Of one who, when a conquering army filled
 And ravaged our fair land, was not afraid
 To build again and beautify the church
 Which stands to day, a witness to his name.

The Cathedral library can now be seen behind the monuments. It was founded in 1711, and contains many valuable books. The curious old map of Flintshire (published in 1610) framed, is well worth inspection. There is also a plan of Flint, with its castle, and of St. Asaph, showing site of city cross in front of Cathedral, and the principal streets. The spelling of places should not be passed by unnoticed. Amongst them are:—

Demyrchion for Tremeirchion.
 Potvary for Bodfary.
 Llanshanshor (Welsh) for St. George.
 Cajerwis for Caerwys.
 Skiuiog for Ysceiflog.
 Potruthan for Bodrhyddan
 Rudland Castel for Rhuddlan Castle, and
 Combe for Cwm.

In the corner of the old map you see the plan of St. Asaph, as it would be at about the beginning of the reign of James I. According to it, St. Asaph then consisted of the High Street, the Denbigh and Mount

Roads, the Gemig, Esgobdy, Luke Street, Lower Street, and Mill Street. The Cathedral and Parish Church are both depicted in their several positions, whilst in front of the Cathedral is seen the old Village Cross. The Palace and its grounds are marked out very clearly. It has been asserted that the map is not a trustworthy one ; if so, this plan of St. Asaph is not of much value. But, as it gives the correct outlines of St. Asaph (as we can see for ourselves) I should regard it as being very correct indeed.

The houses marked are perhaps guesses, for while there are five houses running along one side of the top part of the Gemig, the old lockup, which stood opposite, is not marked at all.

In the High Street, there are only six houses marked (excluding those on the site of the present canonry), but only the most important may have been inserted, as one stands where the present Registry Office is situated.

The position of the Cathedral is certainly a wrong one. By it the west door entrance faces the High Street, which it certainly never did. The entrance gates to the Cathedral (three in number) are as correctly marked as possible.

The Parish Church is approached by two entrances, one from the back of the Kinmel Arms (as we now know it), the other from the corner facing the bridge.

The outline of Lower Street and its environs are fairly correct. Forge Square, Roger's Yard, and (I think) Elwy Terrace are shewn.

Parliament Street (branching off from the Gemig), but not Cae Bryn, may also be noted.

There seems to be some sort of a bridge from Mill Street to the Common. At that time there was no bridge over the Elwy, as we have it at present. The Mount Road is devoid of houses. One only is marked, and that one is nearly opposite to the Canonry (somewhere near the site of the present Post Office. At the top of the Esgobdy Lane there is a single house (on the site of Mr. S. Powell's house), whilst further on there are several other residences.

On the whole, this map and plan are very interesting, and deserve careful attention from those who have never seen it and made a close study of it.



DEAN SHIPLEY'S MONUMENT.

The fine life-sized figure in white marble is to the memory of "William Davies Shipley, Dean and Chancellor of this diocese for more than half a century. He was born October 16, 1745, and died June 7th, 1826. It was erected by subscriptions of the gentry, clergy, and commonality of this diocese as a testimony of his eminent private virtues and public worth."

The communion plate, most of it bequeathed by Bishop Thomas Tanner (1731—1736), is kept securely in the large chest next to this monument.

The three framed drawings on the east side were the work of the writer's father (the late Mr. C. A. Austen, of St. Asaph), and were executed during the last restoration of the Cathedral.

The old-fashioned pulpit placed against the south wall was the one used prior to the last restoration.

In the enclosure below the throne will be seen many interesting books and papers in a closed case. There is an ancient horn book, which was found under the floor of Tryddyn Church about 1867. These horn books were used many years ago to teach children the first rudiments of education chiefly, and were in common use until the introduction of cheap literature, &c. In these days horn books are very scarce.

THE CATHEDRAL HORN BOOK

(By ANDREW W. TUER, Esq., F.S.A.)

(Mr. Tuer has very kindly written this interesting note on the above, as well as allowed us to reproduce the engraving of it from his exhaustive work on the Horn Book.)

Archdeacon Thomas, in his "History of the Diocese of St. Asaph (p. 612), tells the story of the discovery of this horn book, now in the St. Asaph Cathedral Chapter House:—

"During some alterations in the old church of Tryddyn, in the County of Flint, in the year 1866, one of the early Horn Books (*Llyfr Corn*) was found under a pen in perfect preservation. It consisted of a small sheet of paper, having printed on it in black letter characters the letters of the alphabet, small and capital, the vowels and monosyllabic words representing the simplest sounds, the formula, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,—Amen,' and the Lord's Prayer. This paper was laid upon a small oaken tablet, over which a sheet of horn was fastened, as we now put glass, and bound with a narrow rim of copper; and in the handle was bored a small hole for the string, by which to suspend it on the wall when the lesson was done. Unfortunately, it became a little damaged on exposure.

On the removal of the then Vicar, the Rev. D. Davies, to another living, he took the Horn Book with him, and subsequently lent it to me to be photographed. On his death in 1887, a representation was made to the executors, claiming the Horn Book for the Parish Church, or the Cathedral, as its representative; but it was found that one of the domestics had selected it as a memorial of her old master. A pound was offered as a solatium under the circumstances, but the offer was rejected, and five pounds demanded. An official demand was thereupon made for its restoration, and after some demur, it was given up without any compensation at all."



THE HORN BOOK.

In my "History of the Horn Book" (Vol. II., p. 143), I have written in reference to the same:—

"The brass, not copper, rim securing the horn has been lost, but the marks of the nails by which it was fastened are easily made out. When in late days the sheet of paper was gummed to the oak tablet, it was carelessly placed upside down. With the exception of the mistake in the spelling of the word "Father," and a slight difference in the arrangement of the capital letters of the alphabet, the St. Asaph Horn Book is almost identical with one in the Bodleian Library, and would appear to belong to the same period."

There is also a Latin MS. Hymnal; Roger Ascham's Prayer Book (May, 1549); Bishop Morgan's Welsh Bible (1588); Brian Walton's Polyglott Bible (1657); a copy of the first portable edition of the Welsh Bible (1630); a Romanist Prayer Book in Welsh (1690); Autograph Letters of Bishop Morgan and Sir John Wynne of Gwydir; a Copy of the Petition of the Seven Bishops (Bishop Lloyd, 1680—1692, was one); Copy of Salesbury's New Testament (1567); and MS. Dictionary in Welsh, Greek, and Hebrew, by Dic Aberdaron.

In the cupboard opposite you may see a copy of the Sealed Prayer Book of 1662; a piece of timber found above the west window, supposed to be a relic of a former cathedral; and a good picture of Dic Aberdaron, the Welsh linguist (whose real name was Richard Robert Jones), who died at St. Asaph, and lies buried in the Parish Churchyard.

Passing out of the Chapter House, you will notice on your right a memorial to the memory of Charles Butler Clough, M.A., dean of St. Asaph, 1854—1859. The handsome brass lectern was given by the late Miss Mesham, of Pontruffydd, whilst the carved pulpit is to the memory of Bishop Short.

The choir stalls date from Bishop Redman's time (the end of the fifteenth century), with the exception of four new ones, which will be distinguished from the others by the difference in the colour of the wood. The end stall on your right is used by the Dean; the opposite one by the Canon in Residence, whilst the three adjoining ones on either side are used by the Cathedral Prebendaries

(honorary offices now). The remaining stalls (with inscriptions), eleven in number, are used by honorary canons (seven), and minor canons or vicars choral (four), of the Cathedral. The names inscribed on the honorary canon's stalls are those of the holders of them in 1535.

The organ, which will be seen in the gallery over part of the North Transept, was erected by Messrs. Hill and Son, in 1830, in place of the old organ, now used in the Parish Church. The late Rev. Canon Morton, the greatest benefactor St. Asaph has had for many a long day, spent much money in keeping the organ in good condition. At the time of writing, the Dean and Chapter desire to raise £1,150 for the purpose of thoroughly overhauling it, according to modern ideas.

THE NEW ORGAN

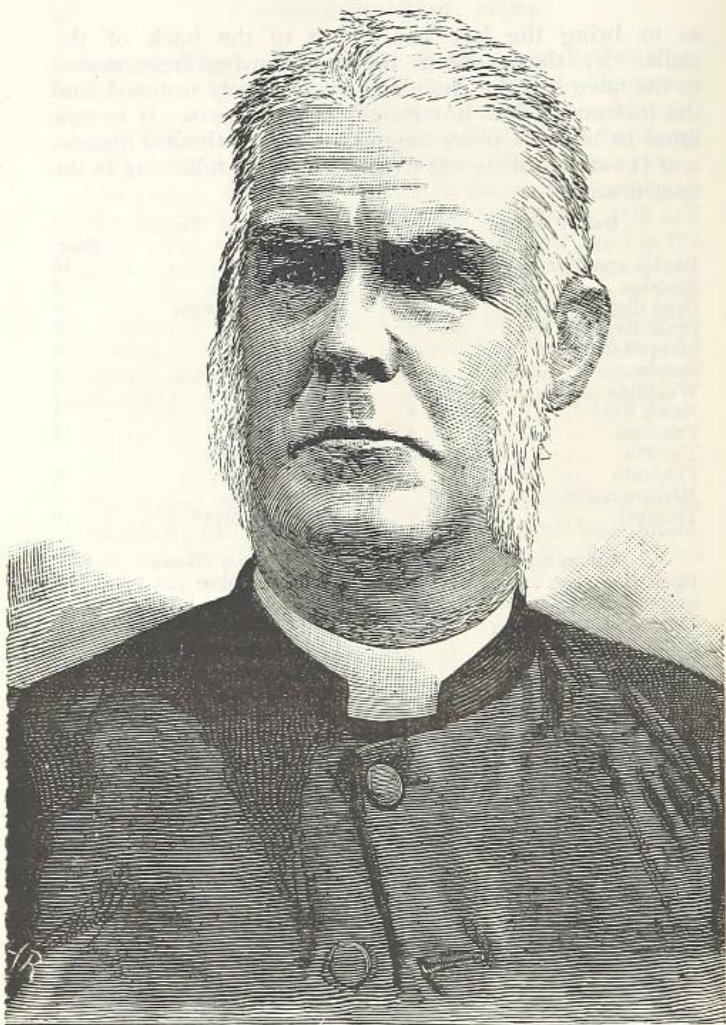
The organ in the Cathedral is the outcome of a series of additions and improvements to the original instrument, which was built by Messrs. Hill and Son, in 1834. This old organ was on the G. system, and stood in the western arch of the choir over the screen. In its earliest form it contained but one manual. Eleven years afterwards, in 1846, a choir organ and some pedal pipes were added, and in 1859 a tenor C swell. In 1867 the swell was extended to CC. In 1869 the organ was taken down from the choir screen, and was to have been erected under the northern arch, but at the last moment this plan was changed, and a temporary position was found for it in the south east corner of the North Transept. The change of position from the screen to the transept materially affected the tone of the organ, which had been justly admired. It had been in the mind of the Dean and Chapter for a long time to remedy this by bringing the organ under the northern arch. Nothing, however, was done until July, 1897, when the Dean and Chapter decided to entirely reconstruct and enlarge the organ according to modern demands and resources, and to lower it, and bring it as far as possible under the arch towards the choir, at the same time turning it round so

as to bring the key boards up to the back of the stalls. By these means the tone, having freer access to the nave and the choir, has been largely restored, and the instrument has lost its old unsightliness. It is now fitted to take its place among the best cathedral organs, and is worthy of its old traditions. The following is the specification:—

GREAT ORGAN.		SWELL ORGAN.	
	Feet.		Feet.
Double open diapason ..	16	Bourdon	16
Bourdon	16	Open diapason	8
Open diapason No. 1..	8	Stopped diapason	8
Open diapason No. 2 ..	8	Dulciana	8
Stopped diapason	8	Voix celeste	8
Gamba	8	Viola di gamba	8
Waldflute	4	Flute	4
Nason flute	4	Principal	4
Principal	4	Fifteenth	2
Twelfth	3½	Mixture ranks	
Fifteenth	2	Oboe	8
Mixture ranks		Cornopean	8
Trumpet	8	Double trumpet	6
		Tremulant	
CHOIR ORGAN.		SOLO ORGAN.	
Open diapason	8	Orchestral oboe	8
Stopped diapason	8	Cor Anglais	8
Pierced gamba	8	Harmonic flute	8
Flute	4	Tuba mirabilis	8
Principal	4		
Clarinet	8		
PEDAL ORGAN.		COUPLERS.	
	Feet.		
Open diapason	16	Swell to great	
Violone	16	Swell to choir	
Bourdon	16	Great to choir	
Flute	8	Solo to great	
Trombone	16	Swell octave	
		Swell to pedals	
		Great to pedals	
		Choir to pedals	
		Solo to pedals	
Four combination pedals to great		four to swell.	H. P. A.

A DREAM.

Canon Morton was formerly a well-known figure in St. Asaph, being Succentor for many years, and afterwards Precentor. He practically spent the whole of his



CANON MORTON.

income in doing good in St. Asaph; his name is a household word. He died in May, 1895, and was buried in Highgate Cemetery. The editor of this book being a representative of those he loved in St. Asaph (as no memorial—1897—was erected to his memory), wrote the lines here given in the hopes of something being done.

'Twas eve,
 And I, bred in the city, but away
 For years, drew near again to the dear scenes
 Of home. The city seemed much changed, I knew
 None there. Each face I saw was strange; the homes
 Once tenanted by friends were now pulled down,
 Or in the hands of others. I wandered
 To and fro, until at length I reached
 The old Cathedral, still the very same
 Grim edifice. The graves were numerous,
 And these drew my attention for a space.
 Weary of wandering, I, after a while,
 Retraced my steps towards the Cathedral lone,
 And looked around. No one drew nigh to me,
 So entering, with solemn thoughts, I sat
 Me down, thinking to rest awhile, in peace.
 Long years, and sad, had passed since those glad days
 When as a child I chanted of and praised
 My God within those walls. Ah! this was true,
 Too true; for now the years had quickly sped
 And left me sad, and drear, and desolate.
 I seemed to feel once more my father's hand
 Of guidance; while my mother's voice fell soft
 And clear upon mine ear in words of hope
 And love and wisdom. Thus I sat and mused
 Until a gentle voice spake in mine ear—
 "Sir, would'st thou behold the many beauties
 Of this place. If so, come, rise and follow."
 In my youth, I knew full well the beauties
 And the monuments of the Cathedral;
 But now I had forgotten all of these,
 And so I followed silently my guide.
 I listened as he spake; the windows stained
 With glowing figures seemed to speak again
 Of those whose memories they were showing forth—
 Bonnor, Luxmoore, Hemans, Short, and Carey;
 The gentle bishop of my youth, whose name
 Was loved and honoured whilst he lived amongst
 Fair Cambria's children. And there old Anian
 Raised still his broken arm in blessings mute,
 Whilst Shipley seemed to come to life again.

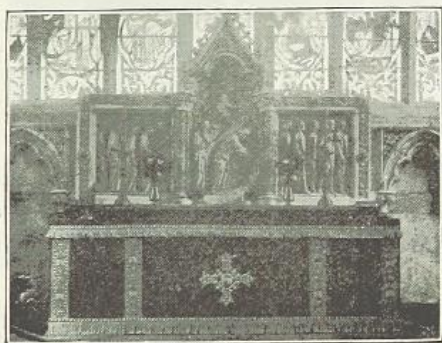
But in the choir I paused, for memories
 Of childhood never fade. I seemed to hear
 Once more the dear old voices of the choir
 Now hushed, and gone for ever from this earth.
 My guide led on ; he showed me all that I
 Could wish to see, and then I followed him
 Back to the nave ; one window there he had
 Not spoken of ; it held the pleasant forms
 Of Samuel and David. One moment
 Thought I, then my guide refreshed my memory—
 It was to the memory of a choir boy
 Who had lost his life at sea. Thus it was
 I was reminded, so I looked around.
 "Have I seen all?" I asked, and he replied,
 "Yea, sir, thou hast." "But," I enquired then,
 "The canon's monument, is it not here?"
 My guide seemed dumb ; no answer did he give.
 "The choir-boys' friend, have they not thought of him
 In death, who cared for them and loved them so
 Through life? He, who though all could call him friend,
 No man could call a foe ; who, by his deeds
 And actions, lived a life of Christian peace
 And love amongst us. Have they no window
 To his memory? Is there no tablet,
 Sculptured tomb, or bust, placed here, recording
 Canon Morton's life, or death, or burial?"
 Then spake my guide—"He is not sleeping here ;
 Memorial to his memory is there none
 In painted glass or marble ; even his name
 Sounds strange to those who worship here to-day.
 But, sir, in heaven his name is not forgot,
 For in that day when secrets shall be known
 The Father shall reward and honour him.
 Fret not thyself, for all that thou hast seen
 Shall perish soon ; their fame shall fade away ;
 Proud Time will crush them with his ruthless hand ;
 For "all is vanity." And though to-day
 No record of his life may here be found,
 His name is not forgot ; nor will it be."
 Ere I could speak, soft light illumed the aisle,
 And, looking up, I saw no guide, but there,
 Where he had been before, an angel bright.
 And then I knew my guide, and waking, found
 The evening bell did chime for evensong,
 And that which I have told was but a dream.

As we advance to the chancel, it will be noticed that
 both the choir and chancel floor are paved beautifully.
 This was done at the last restoration

The magnificent throne is a memorial to Bishop William Beveridge (1704—1708), noted in his day for his great piety and learning.

We are now in the chancel. The first window on our left is in memory of the late beloved Bishop, Joshua Hughes, the first Welsh bishop appointed for nearly 150 years. It represents "Joshua's Vision" and "The return of the Spies," and was the gift of Dr. James, head master of Rugby, and Dean of St. Asaph 1886—1889.

The central window on the same side is to the memory of Mrs. Hemans, and was given by her son, Mr. G. W. Hemans. It represents "Miriam" singing her triumphant song, and "Deborah." The end window is to the memory of Mrs. Short, wife of the Bishop, 1848, and represents "The Good Part." The opposite window is to the memory of Bishop Short, and represents "Unbelieving Thomas." It was erected in 1872. The central window is to the memory of Mrs. R. J. Sisson (who lies buried in the Cathedral yard), and was placed there in 1865. It represents "Mary Magdalene," and "Mary," and bears the quotations—"She hath done what she could" and "I am the

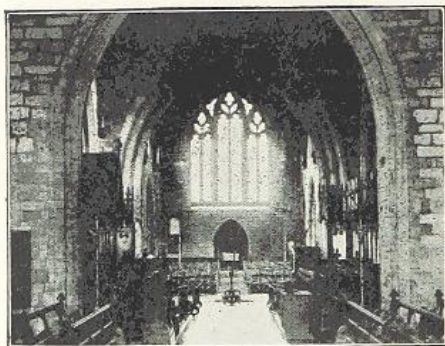


THE COMMUNION TABLE AND REREDOS.

Resurrection and the Life." The third window is to the memory of Dean Bonnor (1859—1886), and represents scenes from the life of our Lord. A family memorial to the Dean will be noticed close to the throne.

The sacrarium now claims our attention, with its handsome "table" cloth, its handsome marble panelling, beautiful "reredos," credence, and sedilia. The reredos represents "The Procession to Calvary," with our Lord bearing His Cross as the central figure. It was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bamford Hesketh, of Gwrych Castle, Abergele. The credence is seen at the east end of the wall, whilst the sedilia is the name given to the three seats against the south wall, for the use of assistant clergy during celebrations of the Holy Communion.

The beautiful east window now attracts us. It is to the memory of Bishop Carey and Lady Carey, and was given by their nieces (the Misses Sheepshanks) in 1864. In the central panel is depicted "The Ascension of our Lord," whilst in the other panels there are scenes from our Lord's life, and illustrations of His parables.



THE CATHEDRAL (LOOKING WESTWARD.)

We will now retrace our steps, and in passing to the North Transept will notice a handsome inlaid brass to

the memory of Archdeacon Ffoulkes, 1886. In the North Transept, now used as a robing room or vestry by the choir-boys and men, there is a small brass tablet to the memory of Mr. R. A. Atkins, for many years organist of the Cathedral. Standing against the north wall, we see a large altar tomb, to the memory of several members of the Luxmoore family, including Bishop John Luxmoore (1815—1830), Dean Luxmoore (1826—1854), and Canon Luxmoore (1826—1858). On either side of this monument will be seen two tablets (which were formerly on either side of the great east window). One is to the memory of "Richard Price Thelwall, M.P., who died in 1773, aged 35." The other is to the memory of "Anna Maria Lloyd, of Pengwern." The pulpit, which we see here, was formerly used in the Cathedral, but latterly has been put away disused. The monumental slab on the floor was found at the time of the restoration, in the choir, and was removed here. There is a coat of arms carved upon it, and a greyhound pursuing a hare. No one can tell now who was enclosed within.

You may ascend to the tower, if you are so minded, from the robing room, by means of a winding stair. The height of the tower is 93 feet, and on fine days a glorious view is to be obtained.

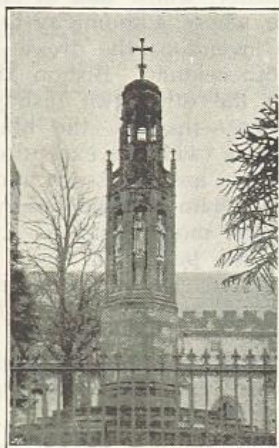
Passing down again, after a visit to the belfry (if the ringer is present), you will notice in the north aisle the two tablets, one to the memory of a choirman, and the other to the memory of two young men (brothers, and formerly choirboys) killed during the Crimean war.

The window here, representing "David" and "Samuel" (Praise and Prayer) is to the memory of Herbert Jones, an old choir boy, who was drowned off the coast of the Isle of Man in 1881; this was erected by the father, several friends, and "the choirboys' friend" (Canon Morton). The window at the west end of this aisle, representing "St. Michael the Archangel" and "The Victorious Christian," is to the memory of a son of the late Dean Bonnor (Captain John Bonnor), and was erected in 1869.

We have now completed our inspection of the interior of the Cathedral, so we will pass out into the churchyard by the west door.

An inscription under the west and north doors tells us that they were placed there in memory of Sir Stephen Glynne, of Hawarden, Lord Lieutenant of Flintshire. If you step on to the plot of ground to your left, you may inspect memorial stones to Archdeacon Ffoulkes, Archdeacon Morgan, Dean and Mrs. Bonnor, Canon Howell Evans, Rev. J. A. Jackson, B.A. (formerly Diocesan Inspector of Schools), Lieut.-Col. Standish Hore, Mr. R. A. Atkins and Son, and Major Bax; whilst on the plot of ground to the south (here you may obtain a good view of the Cathedral) you may see Mrs. Browne's grave (enclosed by iron railings), and with this inscription: "Sacred also to the memory of Felicity Dorothea Browne, who died at Rhyllon 11th of January, 1827, in the 60th year of her age;" also those to Vicar and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Sisson, the late Bishop Hughes (with a son and step-daughter on either side); whilst to the south-east are buried Bishops Bagot and Carey (large stones enclosed by railings), Archdeacon and Mrs. Smart, and the Rev. John Hall and Mrs. Hall. There is also to be seen, inserted in a flat tombstone, a bronze tablet bearing this inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Lieutenant O. B. Thomas, 19th Regiment, W. I. Obiit, 15th September, 1834, etat 29; erected by his brother officers." Around it we may read: "This tablet, having been saved when the burial ground at Jungypore in the East Indies was washed away by a flood of the Bhaugirutty River, was brought home and placed here by his affectionate brother, H. Leigh Thomas, 1852."

We will now pass round the east end of the Cathedral, and over the spot where the ancient Chapter House once stood (on the north side). The little tree in the plot of ground on your right, enclosed by a railing, was planted on Jubilee Day, 1887, by the then Dean of St. Asaph (Dr. James).



BISHOP MORGAN'S MONUMENT.

We have not yet seen the monument standing on the front plot of ground. It is to the memory of Bishop William Morgan (1601—1604), and those who assisted in translating the Bible into the Welsh language. In shape, the memorial is like the Queen Eleanor crosses, and is octagonal in shape; has three stories, and is mounted upon a flight of steps. There are eight niches round the middle, each holding a statuette. Those represented are: Bishops Morgan, Richard Davies (St. Asaph, 1560—1561; St. David's, 1561—1581); and Parry (St. Asaph, 1604—1623); Dean Goodman, of Westminster; John Davies, D.D., of Mallwyd; Edmund Prys, Archdeacon of Merioneth; Thomas Huet, Precentor of St. David's; and William Salesbury. Surmounting these figures is a lantern, suggesting the words: "Thy word is a lantern unto my feet, and a light unto my paths," and at the top is a cross. It might be added that there are no portraits extant hardly of these worthies. Goodman's figure is copied from that on his

tomb in Westminster, whilst that of Archdeacon Prys is from a picture, whose authenticity is doubted. The other figures are inventions, the dresses being those of the end of the 16th century. Bishop Morgan is in cap and mitre, whilst the other two bishops have a cap, rochet, and chimere—that is, the black gown with surplice. The others (with the exception of Salesbury, who is in lay costume) are in cassock and surplice. Mr. Protheroe, of Cheltenham, was the designer of the whole. The total cost of the monument was £729, which was subscribed by Welsh people of every class and denomination, and was unveiled on the 22nd of April, 1892, by the present Bishop, in the presence of the then Dean (the present Bishop of St. Davids), the Archdeacon of Montgomery (Thomas), the late Dr. Dickens Lewis, the Revs. Hugh Jones, and the late Dr. D. Roberts (Wrexham), and Professor Lloyd.

Bishop,—

The Right Rev. A. G. Edwards, D.D., The Palace.

Dean,—

The Very Rev. W. H. Williams, M.A., The Deanery.

Residentiary Canons,—

Ven. Archdeacon Thomas, M.A., F.S.A., Llandrinio (January—March).

Ven. Archdeacon Evans, M.A. (April—June).

Rev. Canon Fletcher, M.A., Wrexham (July—September).

Ven. Archdeacon Llew. Wynne Jones, M.A., Wrexham (September—December).

Vicars Choral,—

Rev. D. W. Davies, M.A.

Rev. J. Silas Evans, B.A.

Rev. Richard Theophilus Jones, B.A.

Rev. J. D. Jones, B.A.

Organist,—

Mr. Hugh P. Allen, B.A., Mus. Bac.

Lay Clerks,—

Six in number.

Choristers,—

Twelve in number.

Vergers,—

Mr. C. Mansbridge.

Mr. J. Manning.

Services,—

All in English.

Sunday,—

At 11, 3-30, and 6-15, choral.

On the First, Third, and Fifth Sundays in the month the Holy Communion will be administered at the 11 o'clock service, and on those Sundays Litany will be sung in the afternoon.

On the Second and Fourth Sundays there will be Holy Communion at 8-15 a.m.; Choral Services on Thursdays at 11-30 a.m., and on Saturdays at 3-15 during the summer months, and 5 o'clock during the winter months.



THE PARISH CHURCH.

THE PARISH CHURCH

Church of our Fathers, tiny though thou art,
 Thy name is held in deepest reverence
 Where'er a citizen implanted be ;
 For e'en he must have been connected with
 Thy name, by baptism or marriage day,
 Or perchance, the memory of some dear one
 Sleeping here with many generations.
 Thy bell—its sound familiar to us all,
 Doth summon still to all those services
 The faithful who still love to worship God
 In their own tongue. And so will all go on
 As in the past, with ne'er a change maybe.
 But while all else around thy sacred walls
 Are changing and being changed, be thou the same,
 And let thy ministers, imbued with grace,
 Teach those who enter thee the same glad truths
 Taught here before our days, and in our days.
 So shall we pass thy fame to those who come
 Behind us, as a precious heritage
 Bequeathed from ages long since lost in night.

It dates from the year 1524, and is dedicated to Saints Kentigern and Asaph.



INTERIOR OF PARISH CHURCH.

(Photo taken on Harvest Festival Day, 1897.)

The church is open on SUNDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and FRIDAYS.

On entering by the west door you will observe that the church has two aisles; these are in honour of the two patron saints.

The west window of three panels represents "Joshua and the Angel," "Angels ministering to our Lord after the temptation," and "Christ and the Centurion." It is to the memory of Captain Charles Thomas (to whom we noticed the memorial in the Cathedral). The large window on the south side is in memory of his father (Mr. H. Leigh Thomas), and represents "The Good Samaritan," "Christ stilling the tempest," "Be of good cheer," and "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." The tiny window next to this is to the memory of Mrs. Hughes, The Cottage. The large coat of arms over the doorway of the south porch, bearing the royal initials "G. R.," was presented by George IV. The monuments in the church are not of very great importance. There is one to the memory of a former Registrar of the Diocese (1702); another to the memory of "Thomas Humphreys, of Bodelwyddan," who left provision for the catechising of St. Asaph children for

ever (1698). A small tablet near the organ commemorates the death of James Story, a member of a once well-known St. Asaph family, who died in 1843, on the eve of his marriage.

The organ was removed here from the Cathedral in 1830.

In 1872 the Parish Church was thoroughly restored; the galleries were taken down, the pews were removed, and all coffin plates, which has been allowed to be fastened on to the walls (an old Welsh custom), were removed.

In 1889 another restoration (on a small scale) was carried out, and it was then that the Lectern was presented by Mr. T. Howes Roberts, Bodhaulog, and the handsome Reredos, Communion Table Cloth, and ornaments were added. The two former were the gifts of Mrs. Hesketh, of Gwrych Castle. All marriages of St. Asaph churchpeople take place here.

Passing out by the south porch (the outer door of which bears the date 1687), the only interesting gravestone in the Churchyard is that to Dic Aberdaron, who lies buried near the south corner. He was supposed to be able to speak or understand a number of languages, and all these he had acquired without the aid of teachers, other than books.

Parish Church (all in Welsh).

Sundays, at 10-30 a.m. and 6-15 p.m.

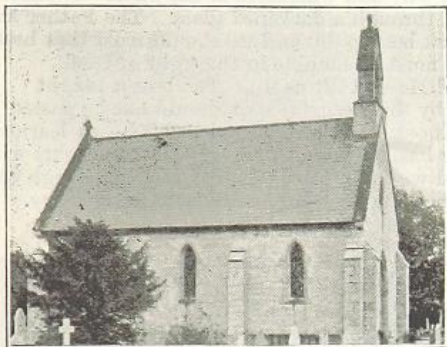
Wednesdays, at 7 p.m.

Fridays (during summer months), at 7 p.m.

Litany on Sunday afternoon at 3-30 p.m.

Organist, Mr. T. R. Jones.

Parish Clerk, Mr. Joseph Davies.

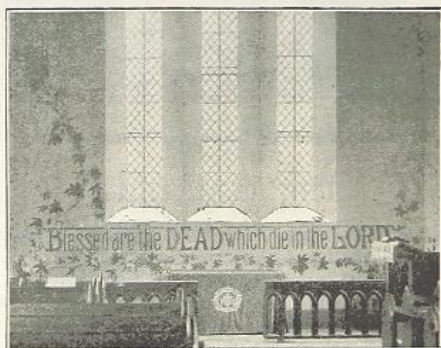


THE CEMETERY CHAPEL, MOUNT ROAD.

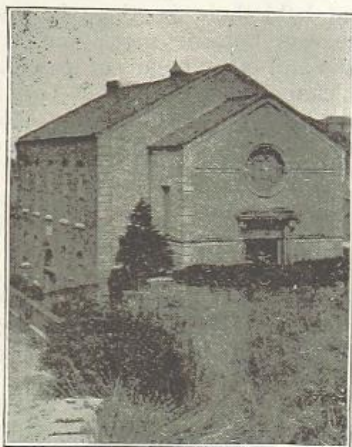
THE CEMETERY.

Oh! peaceful spot. The tolling of thy bell
 Reminds us of our vain and fleeting lives.
 Thou holdest many forms, once dear to us,
 But now returning to their mother earth.
 All, all is peaceful here. The silent dead
 Disturb us not, as oft we stand and view
 Their last, long home. Here, rich and poor alike
 Are equal; equal in the sight of God.
 Here lie the cherished ones, the well loved friends,
 The widow's son, the father dear, the wife,
 The maiden pure, the aged, and the young,
 All freed from earthly joys and earthly pains.
 The years roll on; and some, their very names
 Forgotten are in this forgetful world;
 But others are not lost from sight by those
 Who loved them well. Their graves are now kept green,
 Showing that still their memory is preserved
 While those who loved them live. Then let us keep
 In reverence the memory of those
 Whom God hath taken from us, with the hope,
 Nay, promise, that in realms of endless day
 Those loved ones wait for us. Our stubborn wills
 Demand to know why the All-Seeing God
 Detains us here. 'Tis not for us to ask

The why and wherefore of his ways. We see
 But through a darkened glass. The Father knows
 What best to do, and we should trust that best.
 We must be humble in the sight of God,
 And He will lift us up. The lesson taught
 Us by this peaceful spot should not be passed
 Without a thought, for with this lesson learned
 Our hearts would be on high, our thoughts with Thee,
 And we should live "in Heaven," although on earth
 Joined, in the spirit, with our friends above.



INTERIOR OF CEMETERY CHAPEL.



CALVINISTIC METHODIST CHAPEL.

CALVINISTIC METHODISTS,
OR, AS THEY ARE CALLED BY SOME,
THE PRESBYTERIAN METHODISTS.

(Contributed by the Rev. B. Hughes, Graianfa.)

These are by far the most numerous body of Nonconformists in St. Asaph, and the strongest denomination in Wales. Their existence in the city dates from the latter half of the eighteenth century. The first adherents, some 120 or 130 years ago, in order to obtain spiritual advantage to their souls, were obliged to travel three miles from the city to a place called Cefn Meiriadog, where a chapel was then erected, which still exists. In a few years, this timorous flock summoned sufficient courage to hold their religious meetings on the confines of the city, namely, at Penyrhewl and in the Roe; and their ministers preached occasionally in the open air, near Elwy Bridge. Towards the close of the

century, this brave band ventured over the river to the city proper, and held their meetings in private rooms; and as the hearers became more numerous, and the Sabbath Schools and other means of grace became more prosperous, a chapel was erected at Gemig Street, in the year 1807. This new sanctuary, in connection with other incidents, gave considerable impetus to the cause, and contributed materially to the success of this body of Christians. In the year 1810, the renowned Rev. Rowland Hill, of London, and the celebrated Rev. Thomas Charles, B.A., Bala (the founder of the Bible Society), paid a visit to the city, and both preached to a large congregation in High Street, near the Parish Church, the former in English and the latter in Welsh. The preaching of these eminent ministers was very effectual, and was the means of furthering the cause of Nonconformity in the place, and in the district generally. In the year 1843 it was found necessary to erect a more commodious chapel, which has undergone considerable alterations since. The usual Christian ordinances,—namely, the preaching of the Gospel by able ministers, Sabbath Schools, church meetings, prayer meetings, &c., have been conducted regularly in the Welsh language, and occasionally English services are held. The lay element, men of conspicuous ability, has had much to do with the prosperity of the cause; but in the year 1867, the writer of this article was called by the church to be its first pastor; and he administered faithfully to the wants of the church, and the cause generally for many years. Afterwards the church was under the pastorate of the Revs. J. Elias Hughes, M.A., London; and Dr. R. Owen Morris, M.A., Birkenhead. At the commencement of the year 1892 the present pastor, the Rev. Jonathan Jones, took charge of the cause. The printed statistics of the church at Gemig Street for the year 1896, among other items, present the following figures:—Communicants, 202; in the Sabbath School, 206; children of the church, 48; hearers, 330; collections, £236 9s. 5d.

Beside the church and congregation at Gemig Street

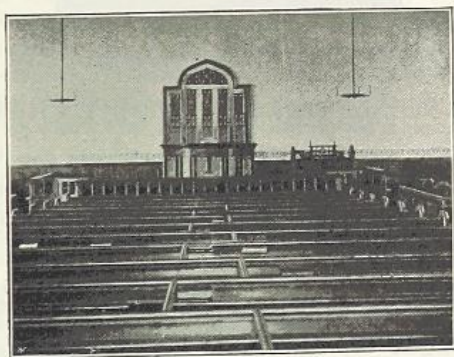
this body of Nonconformists alone has three other places of worship in the parish (proper) of St. Asaph, namely, —a new chapel at Cefn Meiriadog (some distance from the old chapel), with a convenient cemetery contiguous thereto; also the Morfa Chapel, beyond Bodelwyddan, and a convenient schoolroom at Waen, on the road towards Holywell, where a Sabbath School and other religious meetings are held to meet the demands of the neighbourhood.

Services,—

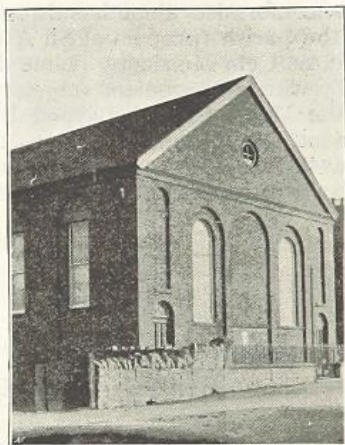
Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Sunday School at 2 o'clock.

Weekly services on Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m



INTERIOR OF THE C.M. CHAPEL.



WESLEYAN CHAPEL, PENRHEWL.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

EXTRACTS TRANSLATED FROM THE "EURGRAWN WESLEYAIDD," APRIL, 1868 (KINDLY LENT TO THE PUBLISHER BY THE REV. W. H. EVANS, RHYL); WITH A FEW CONCLUDING REMARKS BY ELWYFAB.

St. Asaph was one of the first places in the Principality which was blessed by the visits of our missionaries on their first coming to Wales, on Monday, September 1st, 1800, the first minister being the Rev. John Hughes. He preached his first sermon at the bottom of the city, and afterwards on several occasions both in English and Welsh. In the year 1801, the Rev. Owen Davies came and engaged a room for holding permanent services, the place selected being at the lower part of the city, called Tanybylcliau (now known as the "old china house"), and services were held there for many years. At this time a young man joined the cause, of the name

of John Foulkes, Pant Evan, who turned out to be a very popular preacher. The Rev. Edward Jones, Bathafarn, Ruthin, also paid several visits to the city. In 1813 there were united in matrimony Mr. David Parry, Dyserth, to Miss Parry, Tanybryn, Cwm, who came to reside first at Plas Coch, near St. Asaph, and afterwards at Faenol Fawr. Mr. Parry was most popular as a class leader and preacher. In 1814 the work of erecting a chapel was eagerly taken up. This was done on land belonging to Mr. Thomas Parry, Tanybryn, father to Mrs. David Parry. It was a great improvement on the old place, although not a pleasing locality, owing to its close proximity to the river. Immediately after the opening of this new chapel, it was evident that the cause was rapidly growing, and the chapel was enlarged to double its size. In the year 1830 the site was still a subject for discussion. Six years later the North Wales District Meeting was held at St Asaph, the representatives being the Revs. Richard Rees (president of the Conference), W. Davies (Africa), and David Evans (from the South Wales District). Things went on steadily for some time, but complaints for a new place of worship were continually heard. In the Conference of 1859, the Rev. Methusaleh Thomas was appointed superintendent of the Denbigh Circuit, and he then threw his whole spirit into the work to attain the desired object; and finally bought land at Penrhewl for £60, where the present place of worship now stands. In the District Meeting of 1860, permission was given to erect a chapel capable of holding 600 persons, at a cost of £600, on condition that £450 was raised, and only £150 remained owing at the end of twelve months after its opening. The Rev. Rowland Hughes endeavoured to get the place erected, but adverse circumstances delayed the work for many months, owing to the expenditure incurred in laying the foundation. The Rev. Thomas Aubrey delivered lectures, and other means were used to raise the money. The chapel was soon finished, and the opening services were conducted on May 8th and 9th, 1862, by

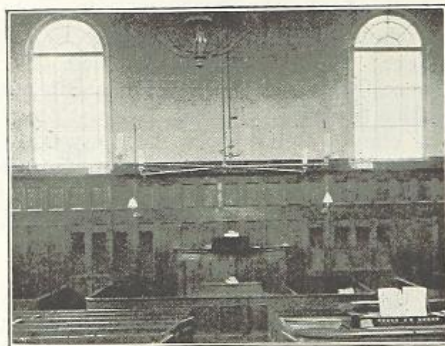
the Rev. Lot Hughes, Mr. D. Parry, Revs. John Bartley and R. Pritchard. There was a heavy debt on the building, but through the generosity of Mr. D. Parry and others, strenuous efforts were made to pay the same off. The preachers that have arisen from this chapel were :—Messrs. J. Williams, saddler ; Thomas Powell, Phillip Williams, and Richard Williams (being two sons of the above J. Williams), T. G. Pugh, John Williams, H. Roberts, J. Ll. Jones, R. Roberts, Thos. Roberts, and Edwin Williams. The present deacons are Messrs. John Davies and D. Williams. The chapel at present is free from debt, the cost of which was over £1,100. The jubilee took place about eighteen years ago, the late Mr. T. Roberts, Glandwr, giving £76 towards liquidating the fund, on condition that friends raised a similar sum, which sum was quickly subscribed.

Services,—

Sunday, 10 o'clock and 6 o'clock.

School at 2 p.m.

Weekly services on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 7 p.m.



INTERIOR OF WESLEYAN CHAPEL.



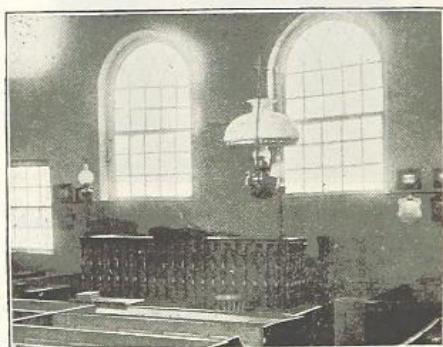
INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, BRONWYLFA SQUARE.

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

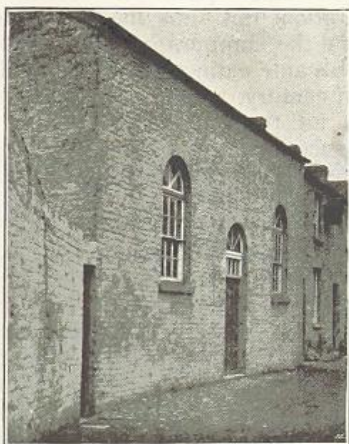
(Contributed by the Rev. W. M. Jones, Pastor.)

This chapel was built in the year 1828. The cause was established in the city in the year 1816, through the instrumentality of Mr. John Jones, father of the late Mr. Thomas Jones, postmaster. The friends met together for some time in a room in Lower Street, but the cause was feeble. After building a chapel members increased rapidly, and from that time till the year 1870, several pastors who had charge of the church laboured with distinct success. Those ministers were the Revs. Jonah Lloyd, David Hughes, B.A., John Williams, and William Griffith. From 1870 to 1891, owing to the absence of any minister, it showed signs of decay, yet the faithfulness which was shown by the late Messrs. David Vaughan and Thomas Jones was highly praiseworthy. In 1891 a call was given to Mr. E. M. Roberts, Holywell, who worked diligently as pastor for nearly three years,

when he left for New Tredegar, and was succeeded by the present pastor. The cause has continued to increase, and it is hoped that a fine new chapel will soon be erected through the energy of the present members. The following gentlemen commenced their work as lay preachers when members of this church:—Messrs. Thomas Jones, Thomas Hughes, Richard Roberts, Hugh Roberts, M. H. Roberts, W. Glyn Williams, and the Rev. T. S. Jones (Kent).



INTERIOR OF INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.



BAPTIST CHAPEL, CALIFORNIA STREET.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.

(By the Rev. Evan Jones, St. Asaph.)

The Baptist denomination commenced to hold services at St. Asaph somewhere about, or soon after, the middle of the last century. It was one Richard Michael that first preached Baptist principles at St. Asaph, and laboured as a kind of a home missionary, from the Vale of Conway to the Vale of Clwyd. In the year 1784 one John Evans commenced operations in the same field, and was very popular as a preacher. In his time the Baptist Church at St. Asaph was a branch of the church at Fforddlas, Glan Conway. At first the services at the city were held at different private houses, but before very long a large room was taken, in which the services were held for about three years, until the present chapel was built, during which time the denomination made considerable progress here,

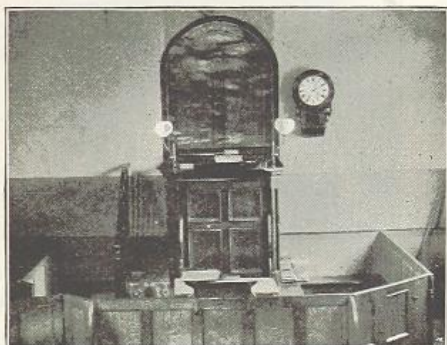
as well as in other parts of North Wales. But, unfortunately, about this time the Sandemenian division took place, and the comparatively young Baptist Church at St. Asaph became extinct for a time. However, early in the present century, a fresh effort was made to start a Baptist cause for the second time in the city, and the effort proved successful; and the present Baptist Church is the outcome of this second effort. The services were held at first in a private house, occupied by John and Phœbe Rowlands. In the year 1814, the Denbighshire and Flintshire Baptist Association established a Home Mission, which was the means of starting a number of new Baptist churches within the two counties, and amongst them the Baptist Church at our city, which was formed into an independent society in the year 1821. The late Rev. John Kelly, Bontnewydd, had much to do in starting this second Baptist Church at St. Asaph. The Revs. Robert and Isaac Ellis, Llanefydd, also rendered valuable service. The different ministers of the Baptist Church at Rhuddlan, as well, rendered similar service to the church at California Street,—the late Revs. Timothy Thomas, John and William Evans, and the Rev. Walter Samuel, now of Liverpool. The church had a minister of its own for a time, some years ago, in the person of the late Rev. Henry Rees, a faithful pastor and a good preacher. The present minister is the Rev. B. Evans, Rhuddlan, who is highly respected. The Rev. Dr. Owen Davies, Carnarvon, spent some time at St. Asaph when he was a young man; it was here that he commenced to preach, and he rendered valuable service to this little church during his stay in the city, at the Lower Shop. The late Mr. Edward Roberts was an assistant and local preacher in the church, and was much respected.

The Baptist Church here, though its members are neither numerous or rich, does good work among the other churches of the city; and what is required is a new chapel in a more convenient and better situation than its present place of worship.

Services,—

Sunday, at 2 o'clock and 6 o'clock.

School at 10 a.m.



PULPIT OF BAPTIST CHAPEL.

ST. WINEFRIDE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

(By the Rev. H. Lucas, S.J., M.A., St. Beuno's College.)

Previous to the establishment of St. Beuno's College, the nearest place of worship for the small number of Roman Catholics then resident at St. Asaph was Talacre. However, soon after the building of the college, in 1848, services were held occasionally, first in one of the cottages which stood on the site of the present church, and subsequently at Bryn y Gwynt, a small house belonging to Nicolas Blundell, Esq., in the Mount Road,



ST. WINEFRIDE'S CHURCH, CHESTER STREET.

St. Asaph. In 1850, the site of the present School, Church, and Presbytery was purchased, and the church was built in 1854, the contractor being Mr. John Rowlands, Brynhyfryd, and the builder Mr. Owen Thomas, Rhuddlan. In 1882 it was enlarged by the addition of side chapels, with altars (the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Topham, of Bryn Elwy), and a handsome tiled pavement; whilst the school, which heretofore had been held in the lower portion of the church, was established in its present position by alterations made in the house which had previously occupied the site, Messrs. Walter and Tom Williams carrying out these alterations. In 1889 the school was placed under Government, and commenced to receive the annual grants. In 1892, when the Rev. J. Lightbound was in charge, the whole church was painted by Messrs. Park, of Preston; and the decorations were notably improved, in 1897, by Mr. H. Lea, of St. Asaph.

The stained glass windows (two single lights) are the

gifts respectively of Mrs. R. F. Sisson, of Boderw, and of Mrs. Ward, Rhyllon.

Amongst notable visitors to the church have been the Right Rev. Dr. Mostyn (Vicar Apostolic of Wales), and His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan (August, 1896). The church is worthy of a visit; the design, furniture, and fittings of the sanctuary being handsome and in good taste. The church is always open for inspection, from 7 a.m. till nightfall, and may be visited by anyone at any time.

Services,—

Sunday—Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Catechism at 2-30 p.m.; Evening Service at 6 p.m.

Holidays—Mass at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Benediction at 7 p.m.

Week-night services are also held.

Confessions—Saturday, 3 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m.; also after the Wednesday evening service.



INTERIOR OF ST. WINEFRIDE'S CHURCH.

THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS STATE OF ST. ASAPH.

(Contributed by "Cynwyll.")

As may be observed from the remarks which we have already made on the churches and chapels which are to be found in St. Asaph, the city is not deficient in the number of its places of worship, nor, we think we can presume to say, in the talent and ability of the men officiating in those places. There are in the city as many as six or seven congregations meeting regularly at least twice for public worship on the Sabbath, with ten or twelve Christian ministers to provide for them the moral and religious instruction which is requested and appreciated by them. It may be said that on an average every Sunday from twelve to fourteen sermons are delivered at the different places of worship to audiences of at least ordinary intelligence and earnestness. A Sunday School for both children and adults is held in connection with every one of the chapels and churches, and those schools are conducted by a good number of able and faithful Christian men and women as superintendents and teachers. The influence of these good people is great on their scholars. The rising generation in the city has sufficient opportunity for acquiring a good and substantial knowledge of the Word of God, the only book taught in most of the schools, and also of acquiring a good knowledge of the Christian life and duty. If we refer to the moral and religious state and tone of St. Asaph, we are carried to a more difficult matter, of which it is not easy to make any exact or precise statement. Of course, the Sunday Closing Act is in force here as everywhere throughout the Principality, and its operation has proved to be of a most beneficial character; and also, it may be added, that the temperance cause has some strong supporters in the city. Without much fear

of contradiction, we would venture to say that the moral tone and practice, the religious knowledge and life of the citizens of St. Asaph, would compare, not to disadvantage, with the same in any ordinary town of its size in any part of North Wales. The citizens are not all angels, nor do they pretend to be such; but the better part of them are diligently seeking to elevate their fellow-citizens, and to bring them to attend earnestly to their highest interests, and to lead a life worthy of their Christianity and of their God. Were they to use the noble words of the great Welsh poet, *Islwyn*, they would say to every one of their neighbours :—

“ Cyflawna dy weithredoedd beunydd, fel
 Y mynnit i'th feddyliau yn y byd
 Anfarwol fod. A boed dy fywyd, ddyn,
 Yr hyn a alli oddef fyth a byth
 Fel meddwl ac fel hanfod—ran o'th enaid.”

THE MUSICAL TALENT OF ST. ASAPH.

(Contributed by A. O. Evans, St. David's College, Lampeter.)

THE title of this article presupposes the fact that the inhabitants of St. Asaph possess a natural aptitude for music; that they have an innate proclivity for the musical cult. The simple statement that the fair little city is in "*gwlad y gân*" (land of song) should remove any doubt which may exist to the contrary. Besides, the very name Asaph suggests the idea that the dwellers of the city of Asaph are worshippers at the shrine of St. Cecilia. This fact might be still further impressed upon the stranger if he should chance to be standing outside the old church of Kentigern, and hear the melodious harmony of some old Welsh hymn. Who would be bold enough to dispute that the worshippers had not souls for music? Let it be the Welsh version of "Lead, kindly light," sung to the tune called "Sandon!" It is sung in full harmony, the rhythm is flowing, and the general effect is excellent. Stand outside the Gemig Chapel! Here they break forth into a hymn of praise with "Huddersfield." Notice the bass, how correctly and smoothly the fugue passage is rendered. However critical the listener might be, yet he cannot but confess that the singers are possessed of what might be termed a talent for music. Cross over to the chapel on the opposite banks of the Elwy, and hearken while an anthem is sung. While listening, who could fail to notice how gracefully and lightly the soprano voices sing their part, and how sympathetically the other voices join in to make one great harmonious whole. Wherever you turn, whether it be church, chapel, or meeting house, the fact asserts itself that St. Asaph is decidedly musical. Mention must also be made of the small, but charming choir of the Roman Catholic Chapel. In the palmy days

of the Choral Union—whether it was on the field of victory at Rhyl or in the defeat at Corwen—attention was invariably drawn to the fact that the ranks of the choir were reinforced by the members of the choir of this chapel. This in itself is a sufficient proof of the proficiency and success of their musical attainments.

As elsewhere, faults may be found, and, as with all faults, there are causes and preventatives. The one great fault with the voices of St. Asaph is the limited range. Several in the neighbourhood are possessed of capital bass voices, but it will be found that the range of the majority of them is but a matter of about an octave and a half. Their bottom notes are full and rich, but their upper are decidedly weak and harsh. The same remark holds good with tenors and other voices. With many of the sopranos the top notes may be as clear as the tone of a bell, but the lower are decidedly thick and beady. Like all inhabitants of plains and flat localities, the voices generally lack that robustness and ruggedness which are characteristics of more hilly districts. The rendering of a choir of Asaphenses would fall far short in fire and vigour than would be obtained by a choir from the hills of the counties of Carnarvon or Merioneth, but would, on the other hand, make up in softness and smoothness what it lacked in strength and energy.

At the Elementary Schools of St. Asaph, the citizens of the future are able to give a good account of themselves. Nowhere in the kingdom can sweeter singing be heard. The timbre may not be strong, but it is sweet.

The Cathedral choir has not been mentioned. As of necessity in a professional choir, members are often immigrants from other localities. Of the six lay clerks, three are natives of St. Asaph, and two have resided such a length of time as almost to qualify as such. The three who form the "popular trio" have appeared not only in the principal concerts of the northern portion of the Principality, but have also sung with the greatest success before large audiences in many parts of England. The twelve boys are natives, and have been reared in

the Cathedral. The assistance which this choir has from time to time afforded at the principal musical festivals of the country—among others, Crystal Palace, Chester and Bangor Cathedrals—and also had the honour of performing before Her Majesty the Queen, during her stay at Palé, is a fair criterion of the status of the choir. The high commendations of such authorities as Sir F. A. G. Ouseley is a still further proof (if any is needed) of their musical ability.

As elsewhere in the Principality, the motto of the musicians of the city is that of Taliesin, the Welsh bard of the sixth century,—*Nid cerddor celfydd ni molwy yr Arglwydd; nid cywir ceiniad ni molwy y Tad*—(“No musician is skilful unless he extols the Lord; and no singer is correct unless he praises the Father.”) The great bulk of the music sung is sacred. The lately formed Auxiliary Voluntary Choir, which has been formed by the Very Reverend the Dean, is worthy of every support. This choir, under the skilful training of Mr. H. P. Allen, B.A., Mus. Bac., the Cathedral Organist, has lately most successfully rendered Bach’s Passion Music and Brahm’s Requiem. The names of these composers alone would be a guarantee of the quality of the work done by this Society.

Secular music is cared for by the Choral Society. This Society has been in existence for a long number of years, and has given a splendid account of itself at various times, under different conductors.

Instrumental music does not seem to be in such high favour as vocal, though several excellent individual performers on piano, flute, and violin, might be named. The city, however, has given birth to two organists of no mean rank,—Mr. Llewelyn Lloyd, late Cathedral organist (formerly of Bryn Celyn, St. Asaph, but now of Oak Dene, Conway), and Mr. R. Meyrick Roberts, some time organist of the English Church at Paris.

Before drawing to a close, mention must be made of one who, “though dead, yet speaketh,” and that is Mr. Robert Davies (*Cyndebyrn*), who composed several hymn tunes and anthems, which are sung all over Wales. Mr.

Joseph Thelwall Roberts, late organist of the Parish Church, was also one who won for himself high encomiums as an executant on the organ. Another, who though not a native, yet "fell on sleep" at St. Asaph (Mr. William Ellis, late organist of the Parish Church), was without doubt, in his time, one of the greatest local authorities on ecclesiastical music.

St. Asaph has its musical talents; St. Asaph has its faults; but for all that, every stranger must confess, after an unbiassed examination,—

"What harmony is this? My good friends, hark!
Marvellous *sweet* music."—PERICLES.

MRS. AUSTEN,
STATIONER & NEWSAGENT.

— TOYS. —

PARRY AND ROCKE'S WOOL AND STOCKINGS.

Address:—

HIGH STREET,
ST. ASAPH.

LITERATURE.

(By *J. Elwy Jones*).

As our readers know, we Asaphites cannot boast of many literary characters who were born or bred in this venerable old city of ours, and therefore we have not earned everlasting fame in this way yet, but we may have hopes that in the future some Shakespeare or other will spring up. Other small places have earned fame in this way,—Stratford-on-Avon for instance; and to come nearer home, Eglwysbach; and why should we not hope for this. With our excellent elementary and secondary schools, together with the impetus of the reverend gentlemen resident in the city, we have advantages that many places cannot lay claim to.

Although not born and bred here, the illustrious and talented lady, Felicia Hemans, lived for some time at Bronwylfa. Her works are too well known for me to praise them; the best proof of the greatness of her works is to be seen in the fact that periodicals so often quote them.

We can boast of another poet who resided here for many years,—the late Rev. W. Glanffrwd Thomas, who brought honour to this little city by his clever verse both in English and our dear mother tongue.

We can hardly lay claim to any honour connected with Dick Aberdaron, although his bones are resting in peace in our old Parish Churchyard.

We are all proud of the works of our old friend Dean Howell. "Llawdden" is a name known throughout the Principality, and although we feel his loss at St. Asaph, yet we all rejoice at his well-merited preferment.

Last, and not least, I will mention the late Bishop Short, whose book—"What is Christianity?"—has been so widely read, and has no doubt done a lot of good.

It is to be hoped that before long St. Asaph will be able to boast of a good public library, which would help to foster a love of reading, so often the foundation of literary attainments.

A R T .

S K E T C H I N G .

(By "Amateur.")

ST. ASAPH is not at first sight a promising sketching ground. Though the views are beautiful, they are too distant; there is too much expanse of hill and wood, and too little subject for foreground to make it an ideal place for an artist.

On the other hand, nothing can be more lovely than the variety of light and shade, of cloud and colouring that may be seen, particularly in early spring or late autumn, and which should inspire any artist.

There is one well-known view which photographers and sketchers are never tired of reproducing,—the Cathedral and town from below the Elwy Bridge. In the meadows by both rivers many sketches might be made; and, in particular, Mrs. Hemans' bridge is a picturesque subject.

There is a fine willow by the mill stream, which makes a good tree "study," as do the old red brick buildings of the Palace out-houses and mill.

For distant sketches, the fields at the end of the Mount Road are perhaps the best, looking either towards Bodelwyddan spire, with Moelfre and the Orme's Head behind, or to the hills in the opposite direction. Within a walk are St. Mary's Well and Ruined Chapel, and Rhuddlan Castle.

That the city is visited by artists is apparent from a collection of "Sketches of St. Asaph" sent me the other day; though it may be objected that too much had been included under that title, since there were views of Conway Castle and Snowdon from the N. W.—still it points to the fact that St. Asaph is a good centre for distant sketching excursions, and has, as well, its own beauties, which can be discovered after a little search.

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PHOTOGRAPHY.

SUBJECTS IN AND AROUND ST. ASAPH.

(By a "Preston Amateur.")

Amateur Photography is now a popular hobby; a scientific and fashionable pastime.

About St. Asaph there are several subjects which are well worth the expenditure of a few plates.

The visitor to the city invariably wends his way to the Cathedral. The monument erected to the memory of Bishop Morgan, which is situated in the grounds, can be photographed from any side. After taking the outside of the ancient structure, the camera carrier, to secure good pictures of the interior, would do well to have a batch of *backed* plates. The tower is well worth a visit. This can be done at any time in the day except during service hours. The Cathedral is so charmingly situated on a hill, that from the Tower the eye commands a glorious view of the beautiful Vale of Clwyd. I would strongly recommend all amateurs who are fond of landscape views to climb the steps. Here they can, with a little painstaking, secure four splendid views. On all sides there is plenty of variety. On the north side the Canonry forms the foreground; to the south, the Church House, County School, and St. Asaph Union Workhouse; the east view gives the Station, and a range of hills forms the background; and on the west side, we see the Bishop's Palace, the Elwy Bridge, and Deanery.

The Elwy affords several subjects for river sceneries, from Rhuddlan to St. Asaph, thence up the river towards the Weir, &c., until he reaches Bont yr Allt Goch, St. Mary's Well, and Pont-y-ddol.

The Cefn Rocks and Cave, together with the romantic and picturesque views from Pen y Craig, on the opposite side of the river, will delight the eye and tempt some latent pictures. Two or three hours can be spent here, which I have no hesitation in saying will never be regretted.

On returning, some beautiful subjects and scenery will

be passed, viz. :—St. Mary's Church, the Bryn, Marli, Sinen, and Waterworks, until he reaches Cross Foxes, a wayside inn, where the mother of H. M. Stanley, M.P., the great African explorer, resided until her death. A mile further, he will reach Bodelwyddan Hall and the Marble Church, The Fountain and Faenol Fawr Avenue; and if time permits, along the Nant y Faenol Road to Rhuddlan Castle, and back to the city.

To the lovers of old buildings and quaint dwelling houses, there are numerous subjects for such in the city and neighbourhood.

[To those inclined to bridges, we would mention the Llanerch Bridge; the Cilowen Wooden Bridge, where Owen Glyndwr retreated; Clwyd Bridge; the celebrated Pont Dafydd ap Owen, the tempting place of the muse of Felicia Hemans and Archdruid Clwydfardd; the Pentre Railway Bridge over the Elwy, with train in motion; the Five-Arched Bridge over the Elwy, in the centre of the city; the 85 feet one-span Bont yr Allt Goch; the Dolygorllwyn Rustic Oak Bridge, leading to Galltfaenan Woods; Bontnewydd, with Salmon Pond and Mill; the precipitous Pontyddol; and Pont y Gaeren and its surrounding picturesque scenery. On Pontyddol a touching incident recently took place. During a very dark evening in the winter months, a young man and a lad happened to be out with a pony and shandry, coming from the direction of Llanefydd. They had to drive very cautiously along, as they could not see anything—there being darkness that could almost be felt! Instinctively the animal refused to move, whereupon the young man lighted a match; when, behold! they saw that the pony was on the edge of the precipice, and the wheel half way over the bridge!! A step further and all would have been hurled to the deep abyss and the river below; resulting, no doubt, besides loss of property, in the death of the three. The lad, on seeing their fearful position, and thinking it was by God's providence they were protected, got hold of his comrade round the neck, and shouted out,—“Oh! —, let us sing “Lead, kindly light!”—THE PUBLISHER.]

SHORT WALKS.

(By the Editor.)

I.—BRYN GERARD.

STARTING from the Cross, we will proceed up the Mount Road. The first turning you see—opposite the “Short” Memorial—is the Bronwylfa Square; at the end of it, on the right hand side, is the Congregational Chapel—(see *Places of Worship*)—at which regular Welsh services are held. The “Short” Memorial was erected by Bishop Short, in memory of his wife; her name is seen carved in the stone-work. In the “Churchman’s Magazine” for 1865, the Rev. Richard Wilson alludes to this Memorial thus :—



“MARY SHORT” MEMORIAL.

“As through St. Asaph’s quiet streets I went,
I saw a sculptured fountain softly flowing;
A cherished name inscribed above it, showing
What tearful memories with those tears were blent.
To the Cathedral next my steps I bent,
Where in rich glass the same deep grief was glowing;
While, strewn upon a grave, flowers freshly blowing
Showed sorrow’s early tenderness unspent.
Thus by three touching symbols was recorded
A husband’s life-love to his sainted wife.
Through lonely years like precious treasure hoarded.”

Passing on, we come to another turning which we must pass along—the row of houses being called Bryn Gobaith. At the end of this lane we reach the railway line, over which we must cross. The red brick house—the side and back of which we see here—is Bronwylfa (the new). In the old house Mrs. Hemans lived for a few years with her mother and children. Passing over the stone stile, we proceed straight down the fields, keeping to the path all the way, until we reach the river Clwyd. On fine days, the view from the top of these fields (which we call Bryn Gerard) is beautiful indeed.

On reaching the river, you turn to your right, and make for the old stone bridge which is called Pont Davydd. This bridge was rebuilt in 1630 in place of the one built by Bishop Davydd ap Owen. Formerly, the old coach ran from Pont Davydd through the meadows, passing the back of Bronwylfa, past Bryn Gobaith, and then down towards the river. Travellers had to ford the Elwy, and make their way to the Roe from the back of the Plough, &c.

It was on Pont Davydd that Mrs. Hemans composed most of her poetry.

When we have crossed the bridge, we turn to the right (having Rhyllon on our left, with its extensive fields and woods), and keep to this road until we come to the next turning, which leads us up under the Railway Bridge into Chester Street, and so to where we started from.

As we pass up the hill (over the Clwyd Bridge, built about 70 years ago), we can obtain a good view of the front of Bronwylfa away up on the hill to our right.

2.—GLANCLWYD FIELD.

A very pretty walk is that leading up the Mount Road past the Cemetery. At the end of it we have two turnings, one to the left and one to the right. The one to the left leads down the Red Hill into Luke Street. A good view of the bridge and the lower parts of the city, with Cefn in the background, is obtained from here.

The other road leads us on past the entrance to the Mount. Turning down this road, we take the next turning to the right, and walk straight on over the bridge across the railway, passing through the gate on our right. We must now keep to the path straight down the fields to our left, and we shall presently see Bryn Gerard, up which we can make our way back again.

3.—MARTIN'S FIELD.

Our third walk will be that which lead's round from the back of the Mount. After walking along for a short distance, we reach a stile on our left. Passing over this into the field, we have a beautiful view in front of us, reaching from Abergele on the extreme right to the mountains of Denbighshire on the left, with the lower part of St. Asaph below you.

At the bottom of this field is a wood, through which we pass. At the bottom we find a narrow path leading along the side of a field; this we must keep to until we reach the further end, where we can pass out into the road (by a gate) leading to the river on one side, and the fields further on on the other. Taking the path to the river, we find a small bridge, which we pass over. All we have to do now is to keep to the path, and make for the road in front of us, when we shall reach the further end of the Roe, through which we may make our way back again.

4.—WAEN OR HOLYWELL ROAD.

Our fourth walk may be taken down the Holywell Road, and up the first turning to the right. Keeping to the road, we walk on until we reach a turning on our left opposite finger post pointing to "Rhuddlan and Rhyl," down which we turn, passing the Waen Chapel on our right. The next turning on our left leads us back again to Pont Davydd, over which we can cross, and so make our way back up Bryn Gerard to the city.

5.—BRYN ASAPH FIELDS.

Our next walk will be in a different direction to the previous ones. Passing up Denbigh Road, we have the Girls' School on our left (with Boys' School behind). They were built in 1863, mainly through the exertions of the late Dean Bonnor. The Infants' School will be seen in the narrow lane running to the back of the Cathedral (called "Esgobdy" — Bishop's House — because the Palace is close here).

Next to the Girls' School we see the Chapter Library, built in 1893 by the present Dean. Walking on, we soon reach the St. Asaph County School (on our left) formerly situated near the Red Hill.

A little further on we see a long and rather low building; this is the Poor House for the district.



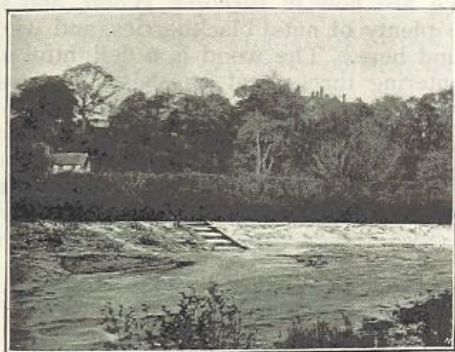
THE UNION WORKHOUSE.

Keeping to the footpath on the right hand side of the road, we shall presently see a stile and a gate; passing over the stile we find ourselves in a large field. Turning to the right, and passing into the next field, we must keep to the path straight in front of us, and we shall find ourselves passing into a field abutting on to the river. We have only to pass into the several fields beyond (by

the stiles), cross the little bridge at the further end, and we shall find ourselves in the Roe Plas, leading up to the bridge.

6.—PONT 'RALLT GOCH.

A very pretty walk is that leading along the Denbigh Road until you come to turnings (about two miles on) on your right and left. Take the one to the right leading downwards, cross over the bridge, and take the road to the right. This is the Lower Denbigh Road, and will lead you into Penrhewl, past the Wesleyan Chapel, over the bridge, into the city again.



THE WEIR (*Yr Argau Fawr.*)

7.—“ARGAU.”

If we walk down the Roe Plas, we can find another nice walk in that direction. Instead of turning to our left, let us cross the little stone bridge on the right. Keeping to the footpath straight in front of us, and passing through a gate or stile, we see in the distance a wood. This is the “Argau,” and in the season blackberries are very plentiful here.

We can walk at our leisure in the “Argau,” until we

reach the further end, where we see "Lock and Weir." To our right the river rushes down, and after stormy weather presents a fine sight. To prevent a walk back in the same direction, we can pass over the "Lock," and proceed back either up the fields, and so along the Denbigh Road, or along the Roe Plas fields straight in front of us.

8.—"COED ESGOB."

Our next walk will be to Coed Esgob (Bishop's Wood). To reach this place, we pass through Penrhewl, and take the second turning on our left (the Cefn road). After walking along a short distance, we make our way down a narrow lane on the right, passing through a gate. We are now in Bishop's Wood, and in season there are plenty of nuts, blackberries, and wild flowers to be found here. The wood is a delightful place, and after sauntering through at our leisure, we can find a gate at the top end leading us back (to the left of the Coed Esgob Farm) to the high road by a turning on the right. The turning to the left (at this juncture) leads us into the same high road (or Glasgoed Road), from whence we may make our way back into Penrhewl, and so to the city.



CROSS FOXES INN, GLASGOED.

9.—BODELWYDDAN ROAD.

Our ninth walk will be *via* the Bodelwyddan Road. On reaching the top, a turning is seen on the left hand side. This leads you out into the Glasgoed Road, down which you can proceed back again into the city, past the Cross Foxes Inn, where Stanley's mother lived.

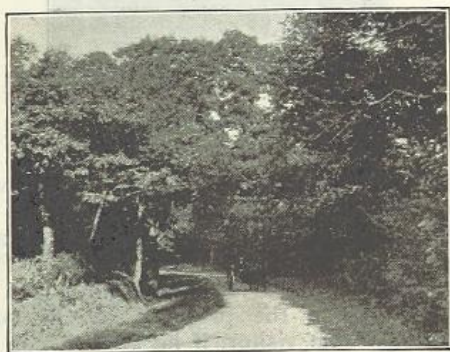
10.—FOUR CROSSES LANE.

Up the Bodelwyddan Road. We must walk straight on, past the house on the right, called "Green Gates," until we reach a place where four roads meet. The one in front leads us to Bodelwyddan—the one to our left is the road we must take. In the season blackberries and wild flowers are plentiful here also. We must keep to this road until we reach the Glasgoed Road (running at right angles), when we can make our way back past the cottage on your left to the city again.

11.—NANT Y FAENOL ROAD.

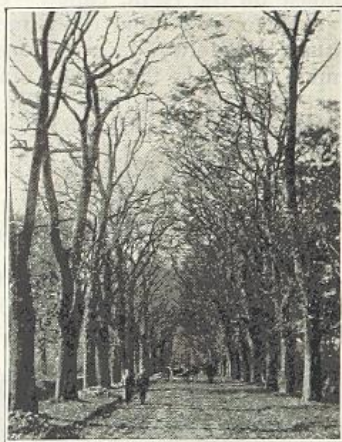
(Contributed by the Rev. B. Hughes.)

This is a pleasant sequestered roadway between the Bodelwyddan highway and the mansion of Pengwern.



ENTRANCE TO NANT Y FAENOL.

Some three-fourths of a mile from the city, on the right hand side, the visitor enters this shady resort. It combines the features of a wooded avenue, a dingle, and a highly delightful drive. On the right hand of this passage warbles a beautiful brook, with trees and shrubberies between. On the left stands a cover and a copse, well stocked with ground and winged game, the property of Sir W. G. Williams, Bart. Most agreeable it is to witness these privileged creatures enjoying them-



FAENOL FAWR AVENUE.

selves within the hedged enclosure, and to watch the squirrel performing its amusing gambols on the lofty trees. After the visitor pursues his course along this umbrageous way, he comes to the vicinity of Pengwern, an old mansion which formerly belonged to Lord Mostyn, but is now the property of the baronet of Bodelwyddan. The visitor, if he wishes, can return to the city through the delightful paths that bisect the broad acres of Gwernigron Farm. An attempt was made

some years ago to close this Nant y Faenol Road, or to neglect the repairing thereof, so that eventually it would come under the decaying influence of "Old Father Time." But, thanks to the kind interference of neighbouring friends, this calamity was frustrated, and now, since this Apian way and its approaches are under the supervision of the County Council, no fear exists of its being ever closed.

12.—FAENOL FAWR ROAD.

A walk along the Faenol Fawr Road is a very pleasant one indeed. Taking the Bodelwyddan Road until you come to the church, you find two roads—one to your right, the other straight in front of you. Take the one to your right, and keep to it until you find yourself coming out on to the road near Rhuddlan. You will then either walk to Rhuddlan Station, or proceed home along the road to St. Asaph, by the turning on your right.



THE COUNTY SCHOOL.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c.

COUNTY SCHOOL.

(By "*An Old Citizen.*")

THE time of the foundation of this school, and the name of its founder are both, if not absolutely unknown, at least involved in obscurity. Various attempts have been made to penetrate that obscurity, but the best of them is the one made by the learned and erudite historian of the Diocese, the Venerable Archdeacon Thomas, who, in his history of the Diocese of St. Asaph, thus writes :—

“The Grammar School appears to have been always intimately connected with the Cathedral, and probably represents the Diocesan Grammar School, to the “power scolars” of which certain fines were assigned in the injunctions of Bishop Goldwell, A.D., 1556. Bishop Hughes, in his will, 16 Oct., 1597, made a conditional bequest of lands and moneys in its favour ; but the condition was not complied with, and the bequest was lost. Bishop Barrow, in 1680,

bequeathed £200 towards it, and intended, had he lived, to have built a School-house. It was probably held at first in some part of the Cathedral; but in 1638 'a Schoolhouse roome or loft was made and finished in the lower ende of the p'ishe church by Edward ap Ieân, Dafydd and others.' At a later period it was held in the Chapter House, and later still in the Cathedral Close until the present Schoolroom was built in 1780."

In 1868, a Commission of Inquiry into Endowed Schools was appointed by the then Government, and the result of its inquiries was the Endowed Schools Act, 1869. By the operation of this Act, a scheme for the management of the school was formulated, and which became law on March 17th, 1875. The school was then to be controlled by thirteen Governors, five being co-optative, six elected by the Vestry of St. Asaph, one nominated by the Dean and Chapter of St. Asaph Cathedral, and one nominated by the four Vicars of St. Asaph. Peter Roberts, Esq., J.P., is the only surviving Governor of the first five co-optative ones. Steps were taken at once by the new Governors to erect better, more useful, and more commodious buildings. Dean Bonnor, who was then the chairman of the Governing Body, took a most active and energetic part in obtaining subscriptions to effect this object. On October 27, 1877, the foundation stone of the new buildings was laid by Lady Williams, of Bodelwyddan, and the present large and commodious buildings were then erected. On August 9th, 1881, the old school buildings were vacated, and the new ones occupied. From this period to January 1st, 1895, a number of scholars received a free education in the school, by the generosity and munificence of the late John Roberts, Esq., M.P., and of the trustees of the Davies Griffiths Charity.

In 1889, the Intermediate Education Act for Wales was passed, and a new scheme under its operation was framed for the future management of the school. The name of Grammar School was changed for that of County School, and it was placed under the management of fifteen Governors, who are elected in various ways.

They now give eight scholarships and sixteen bursaries to pupils from St. Asaph and the neighbouring parishes in Flintshire. The only changes which have taken place in the curriculum of the school are the addition of the teaching of drawing, shorthand, and practical chemistry. Viewed as to its teaching, either in its commercial, mathematical, classical, and religious aspects, no change whatever has been made. For the teaching of chemistry, an excellent laboratory, consisting of a lecture room and a practising room, has been erected, and both rooms are excellently furnished and fitted up with modern apparatus. The school in the past has done splendid work, and in many parts of the kingdom its pupils are now honoured and distinguished men. With its additional and new advantages, it should progress in the fullest sense of the term. However that may be, in all sincerity of heart and in all honesty of purpose we say,—*“Floreat semper Schola Asaphensis.”*

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

(By the Editor.)

The training of youthful minds in St. Asaph is very efficiently accomplished in the schools connected with the various classes.

Belonging to the Church of England—for we have no School Board in St. Asaph—we have the Boys' and Girls' National Schools (adjoining in the Denbigh Road), and the Infant's School (at the back of the Cathedral).

The work at the Boys' School is carried on under the direction of Mr. T. R. Jones, whilst the work in the Girls' School is under the control of Miss Napper.

The Infants' School is carried on under the able management of Miss Williams and Miss H. Roberts.

The school belonging to St. Winefride's R. C. Church adjoins the church in Chester Street. It is looked after by Mrs. K. L. Kelly.

The various Dissenting bodies have no school under their direct control in the city.

We must not forget to mention Bryn Avon House School for Girls, with a preparatory class for Boys (a new building on the site of the old Grammar School), where the middle class of citizens send their children for instruction. The principal of the school is Mrs. Robinson, whose efforts are ably seconded by Miss Dunglinson and Miss Jones.

THE SCHOOLS.

The Schools! May they maintain the worthy name
 Held by them in the records of our time.
 In former days how many a youth and maid
 Have fought the "battle of the books" full well
 Within their walls. The schools are still with us;
 But those equipped therein, in days gone past,
 For life, are scattered here and there; and some
 Have risen to giddy heights of fame in life,
 And some have prospered and become good folk,
 Each leading lives eventless and obscure;
 And some have sunk below the common scale
 Of human greatness, through their own neglect.
 For these, we hope a better life will dawn,
 And may each generation trained aright
 Within their walls aim high, nor rest content
 Until a higher level they have reached
 Than that they stood upon. And thus the work
 Of training youthful minds will still go on
 Within our schools, as over all the land,
 Bringing into the homes brightness and joy
 And all that tends to make life interesting.
 Long may they prosper, and in other things
 Maintain their name for training youth aright.

THE CHURCH INSTITUTE.

(By the Rev. J. Silas Evans, B.A.)

The Institute commenced its existence in 1895, and has met with much success. So far, however, it cannot be regarded as anything more than an experiment, under difficulties. The Mostyn Arms Hotel, now unlicensed, in the most central part of the city, is rented for the six winter months in the year as a temporary home, and although it cannot be regarded as much more than a

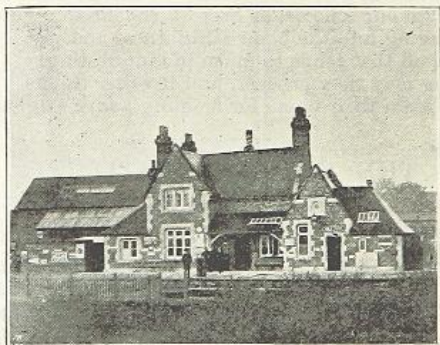
temporary make-shift, it is surprising what patronage the movement has already received from all classes of the community. The average number of lads and young men enrolled as members is not far short of 100, and there is a thriving Literary and Scientific Society in connection with the Institute, with an additional membership of some 50 or 60.

It is sincerely to be hoped that in years to come the movement will go on and prosper, and result in a permanent and commodious place being built in the city, which will further the best interests—intellectual and moral—of our young men.

RAILWAY STATION.

(By O. Hughes, Stationmaster.)

This station is owned by the L. and N. W. Railway Company, and is on a branch line called the "Vale of Clwyd," which connects with the main line for Chester and Holyhead at Rhyl; also at Denbigh for Corwen, Mold and Manchester, &c. From the Station a full view can be obtained of the beautiful Vale of Clwyd.



THE RAILWAY STATION.

The Railway Company have provided every accomodation for the convenience of passengers, and also the working of merchandise and live stock traffic.

Passengers.—During summer months, 20 ordinary trains run daily in connection with the express trains on the main line. This summer the Railway Company have granted the same privileges to St. Asaph as to other neighbouring towns, such as Denbigh and Rhyl, by allowing "cheap day bookings" to the sea coast and to English towns. The public have fully appreciated the privileges given them.

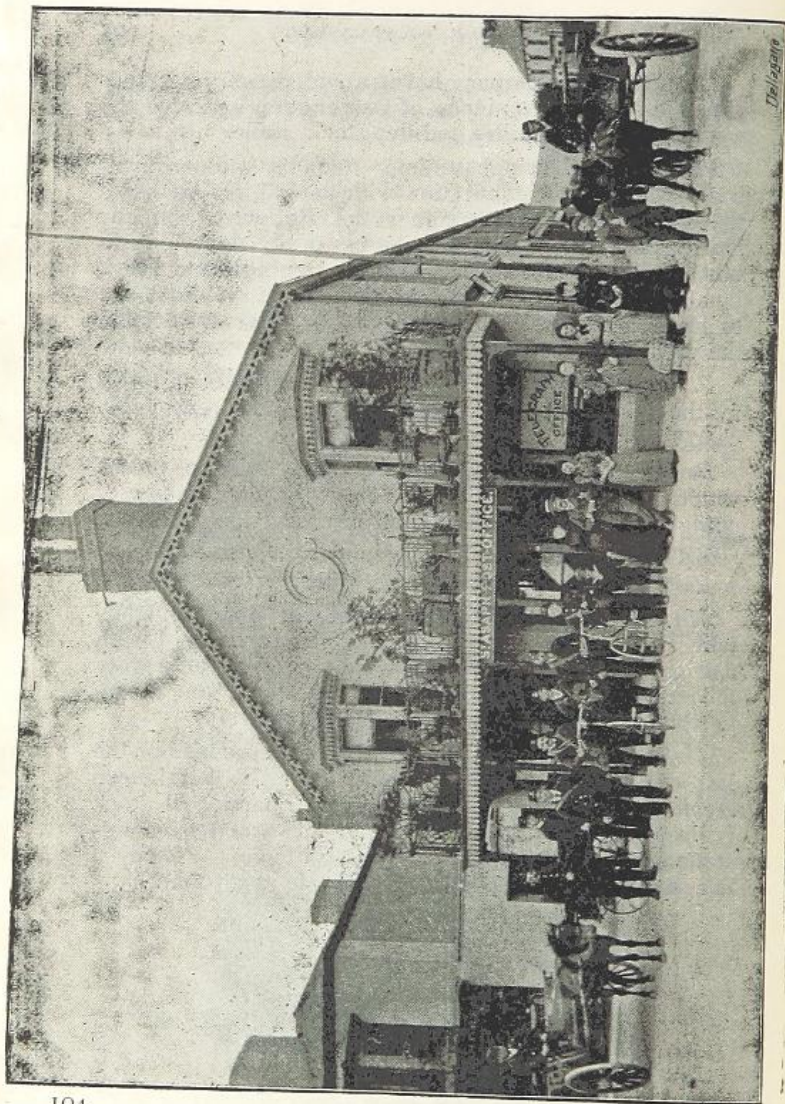
Passenger Luggage.—An outside porter meets all trains for the delivery or collection of luggage, at a reasonable charge.

Parcels.—Three deliveries are made daily to places within a radius of half a mile from the Station free of charge; and also to places not exceeding one mile at a charge of 2d. per package.

Cabs ply for hire, and meet all trains.

Merchandise.—The Railway Company do not undertake the delivery of goods; but have arranged with carriers from this city for prompt delivery at a very moderate charge. Consignees must advise the agent, to whom the goods may be handed for delivery.

Live Stock.—Fat and Store Stock Sales are held on the last Thursday in each month by the well-known Auctioneer, of Wrexham. A great quantity of stock is disposed of at these sales, and forwarded from this station to various English and Welsh towns. A special live stock train leaves on the day of sale at 5-30 p.m.



De la Salle

THE POST OFFICE.

POST OFFICE.

(By C. Tomkinson, Postmaster.)

Despatch of Mails:—8-20 and 11-20 a.m.; 1 p.m. for Denbigh only; 2-30 p.m. for Rhyl only.

The General Night Despatch is at 8-30 p.m. for all parts. With an extra stamp letters are taken in up to 8-40 p.m. A late despatch to Denbigh (only) is also made up, for which letters may be posted up to 10 p.m.

On Sundays the despatch for all parts is at 5-30 p.m.; for Denbigh only at 10 p.m.

Parcels are despatched by all mails, and should be posted before 7-50 in the evening.

The arrivals of mails are at 4-30 a.m. from all parts 11-50 a.m. and 9 p.m. from Denbigh only; 1-20 and 6-30 p.m. from all parts.

The deliveries of letters, parcels, &c., commence for the country at 6 a.m.; for the city at 7 a.m.; country and city at 2 p.m.; and city only at 6-40 p.m.

The wall boxes are cleared as follows:—Deanery and Lower Street at 8-10 a.m., 11-15 a.m., and at 8 p.m. The Roe Box, 11-15 a.m. and 7-50 p.m.

Postal, telegraph, money order, postal order, savings' bank, life insurance, annuity, licensing, and Government stock business is transacted daily (except Sunday) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Sundays the office is open for the sale of stamps and telegraph business only from 8 to 10 a.m.

Letters are now forwarded to all parts of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Channel Islands, at 1d. for 4 oz., and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each succeeding 2 oz.

Book post, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 2 oz.

Parcels, 3d. for first lb.; and 1d. per lb. after up to 11 lbs.

Money Orders—£1, 2d; £3, 3d.; £10, 4d.

All telegrams are delivered free within a radius of three miles of the Post Office.

The extensive country district of Cefn and Bontnewydd, under the title of "Meiriadog," has now been

connected with St. Asaph by telephone, by which telegrams to and from all parts are transmitted.

The growth of business of all kinds at this office during the past five years has been most remarkable. The number of letters, books, &c., now passing through the office average considerably over 20,000 per week; parcels upwards of 500 per week; telegrams upwards of 400 per week. Postal business of all other kinds has also increased in equal proportions. Seven mail bags, containing letters, books, newspapers, and postcards, are received, and eleven despatched daily, also six parcel baskets are received.

The staff now regularly employed in postal work at St. Asaph, in addition to the Postmaster, number two telegraphists and one assistant clerk, nine postmen, three telegraph messengers, and five sworn in substitutes and assistants. There are also sub-offices at Rhuallt, Tremeirchion, Meiriadog, and Groesffordd Marli, each served from St. Asaph office, and each in charge of a sub-postmaster, from which auxiliary postmen make daily delivery of letters, parcels, &c., to districts beyond the reach of the St. Asaph postmen. Thus, within a radius of 10 miles and more, every house in the most remote districts has at least one delivery daily.

When it is remembered that within the memory of many of the citizens of St. Asaph the postal business of the neighbourhood was conducted in a corner of one small room, and that the whole of the mails received and despatched were contained in one small bag daily; one indoor official partly employed; one auxiliary postman performing the whole of the deliveries; and that telegrams numbered less than one a week; the change is indeed remarkable!

THE BANKS.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

(By "*A Denbigh Banker.*")

THE National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having numerous branches in England and Wales, as well as agents and correspondents at home and abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have moneys transmitted to the credit of their accounts through any of the branches free of charge.

An Agency of the Denbigh Branch of the above Bank has been opened for many years once a week on Fridays, from ten to three o'clock, and residents and visitors of St. Asaph and neighbourhood find the Bank a great convenience.

The office is conveniently situated for business purposes in the centre of High Street, and is under the management of Mr. R. E. Hughes, of Denbigh Branch.

NORTH AND SOUTH WALES BANK, LIMITED.

(By "*A Rhyl Banker.*")

A Sub-Agency of this Bank was opened here early in 1872, under the charge of Mr. W. E. Smalley, manager of the Bank at Rhyl, in premises owned by the late Mr. T. K. Roberts, Plas yn Roe. In December, 1875, the directors decided to remove to a more commodious building, belonging to Mr. Joseph Lloyd, where the business of the bank is still carried on every Friday, from 10 till 3, and also on Fair Days during the same hours.

The Agency is now, and has been since the death of Mr. Smalley, in January, 1888, under the superintendence of Mr. James Yeaman Strachan, the well known manager of the Rhyl Branch, who is a J.P. for the County of Flint.

THE SAVINGS BANK.

(By "A Depositor.")

This Bank is one of the oldest Trustee Savings Banks in the Kingdom, and was established in the year 1817 by Dr. Luxmoore, who was then the Bishop of this Diocese, "*for the purpose of affording to the industrious and provident classes a secure and productive investment for such sums as they can conveniently spare.*"

At the time of its establishment, this bank supplied a serious and long felt want, and the strictly private and efficient nature of the management, together with the absolute security offered, was not slow in gaining the public confidence, which has been maintained up to the present time.

The Bank has been managed by the Vicars and Gentry of St. Asaph and neighbourhood from its commencement.

The first deposit was made on December 1st, 1817, over 80 years ago.

The total capital of the Bank is £27,150 12s. 3½d., of which sum there is invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt ... £26107 16 8
 On Separate Surplus Fund 684 6 4
 In the hands of the Treasurer 358 9 3½

£27150 12 3½

The Bank is opened for the transaction of business every Monday from 11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m., and every Saturday from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Lord Bishop of St. Asaph is the President; and the Lord Lieutenant of the County, and Sir William Grenville Williams, Bart., the Vice-Presidents.

The following is a list of the present

Trustees and Managers :—The Very Rev. the Dean of St. Asaph; Thos. Howes Roberts, Esq., Bodhaulog; Augustus E. Davies, Esq., Dolhyfryd; Rev. David Griffith, Cefn Rectory; Joseph Webster, Esq., Diddosfa; Peter Roberts, Esq., J.P., Gwylfa; Rev. David Walter Davies, M.A., The Vicarage; Wm. Easterby, Esq., B.A., LL.D., J.P., County School; Rev. J. Silas Evans, B.A., Bodlondeb; H. W. Clift, Esq., Sunnyside; Rev. R. Theophilus Jones, B.A., Doverly House; Rev. J. D. Jones, B.A., Bodlondeb.

Treasurer :—Richard Edward Hughes, Esq., Manager National Provincial Bank, Denbigh.

Actuary :—Mr. Miles R. Partington, Bronwylfa Square.

Assistant Actuary :—Mr. Miles R. Partington, junr.

THE SMITHFIELD.

(Contributed by "Observer.")

It was erected mainly through the instigation of the local farmers at a great cost, made up of public voluntary subscriptions.

On the last Thursday in each month, St. Asaph is the scene of great bustle and excitement. Herds of cattle and sheep are to be seen going to and from the Smithfield, and all the leading farmers, butchers, cattle dealers, &c., are all with one accord wending their way to the Smithfield. It is situated in the far corner of Elwy Grove Park, and is capable of holding about 200 oxen and cows, and 600 sheep. It is to be easily seen by anyone visiting the sale that it is rising in importance, as the representatives of cake, corn, meal merchants, &c., put in their attendance soliciting orders. The selling commences at a quarter past one; the sheep are sold first, the calves second, pigs third, cows fourth, and fat and store cattle last. There are prize shows during the year, and prizes of plate and money are presented to successful exhibitors. A special prize is also given to the largest buyer during the current year at the Christmas Show. Some of the exhibits are really grand, and visitors here will not be disappointed if they go down and see the splendid fat stock sold at the Christmas or any other large sale. The prices obtained show a good average with other important sales, and buyers and sellers are satisfied with them. The Smithfield is situated in a nicely sheltered spot, so the animals are thoroughly sheltered from the cold winds, and all enjoy the blessings of cleanliness and comfortable accommodation, and are well looked after and attended to.

The leading persons in this institution are :—Messrs. Frank Lloyd, auctioneer, Wrexham; Joseph Lloyd, Elwy Grove, St. Asaph; W. C. Bell, Brynffynon, Rhuddlan; and R. J. Roberts, Hendre, Bodfari.

FARMING.

(By H. Howes Roberts, *Bodhaulog.*)

I do not suppose there is any quarter of North Wales where such a lively interest is taken in the pursuit of agriculture as St. Asaph and neighbourhood.

The department of farming chiefly practised in this district is the feeding of stock, which fact is shown by the quantity of fat beasts which are brought to the monthly sales at the Smithfield Auction Mart, which is attended by dealers from all parts, who are loud in their praises of the quality of the beasts in general, but especially those fed by Mr. Joseph Lloyd, who is acknowledged to be one of the best cattle breeders in North Wales.

Another thing that must be mentioned as being of great service to the farmers of the neighbourhood is the magnificent stud of cart and hackney stallions kept at Brynlythrig Hall, which is too well known to need further comment.

The land in many parts is not well adapted for the growing of corn, being of a clayey and heavy nature, but in other parts, where the soil is lighter, crops of all kinds may be grown to perfection.

July, 1897, the annual show of the Denbigh and Flint Agricultural Society was held at St. Asaph, and was reported to be the most successful show held by the Society for many years, showing plainly that the local interest in agriculture is superior to that of any of the surrounding districts.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY.

(By T. Howes Roberts, Bodhaulog.)

THE Parish of St. Asaph, which includes the city, comprises the townships of Brynpolyn, Talar and Gwernglefryd, the extent of which is 1645a. or. 23p.; the population, according to the census of 1891, 1,873; and the rateable value of houses, &c., £6,949, and of agricultural land, £1,831.

The civil government is in the hand of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL,

which is responsible for the maintenance of the main roads, and exercises supervision over the Rural District and Parish Councils;

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

which is responsible for the sanitary condition of the parish, and for the maintenance of all public ways which are not main roads. It has also the power of granting Game Dealers' and other Licenses, which were formerly granted by Justices; and

THE PARISH COUNCIL,

the powers of which are numerous, including, among others, the custody of all books, papers, and other documents, which do not relate wholly, or in part, to the affairs of the church, and which may be inspected by any parochial elector free of charge. The expenditure is restricted to such sum as may be produced by a rate of 3d. in the £. The Parish Council also acts as the Lighting Authority, under the Watching and Lighting Act, 1833.

The Parish is represented on the County Council by

one member, who also represents the parishes of Bodelwyddan and Waen; on the Rural District Council by two members, who are also *ex officio* members of the Board of Guardians; and on the Parish Council by eleven members.

The members of the County and Rural District Councils are elected triennially, and those of the Parish Council annually.

The term of office of County Councillors commences on the 1st of April, and of District and Parish Councillors on the 15th of April.

H

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

SPORTING.

(By H. W. Clift, Sunnyside.)

THE resident or visitor to St. Asaph will be able to find a fair amount of sport in Hunting, Fishing, Golf, and Cricket.

The rivers Elwy and Clwyd are under the direction of a Fishery Board. (*See Article on Fishing for further particulars.*) Fair baskets of trout may be got during April and May, when the rivers are in good order. The Elwy, being practically a mountain stream, soon runs low and clear, when, as most anglers are aware, it is difficult to get a good basket. The Clwyd runs deeper and slower than the Elwy, often between high muddy banks, and is very much covered by trees, making it a difficult river to fish; but the trout, as a rule, run larger than those of the Elwy. The best flies are the male and female "March brown," the "olive," "February red," "blue dun," "Greenwell's glory," and "Coch-y-bondu."

During July and August, the sea trout afford good sport in the lower reaches, running from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. up to 3lbs. and 4lbs. weight. They come on the feed best from dusk to 10 and 11 p.m., the "mallard and claret," "mallard and orange," and small "silver doctor," being the best flies. Salmon begin to run about the same time as the sea trout, but do not come up in any large number till the nets are taken off (September 16th); then, if there is plenty of water, the angler may reasonably expect good sized fish. Two fish were killed by the rod last season 24lbs. and 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; but from 12lbs. to 18lbs. is about the average weight.

The Flint and Denbigh Fox Hounds hunt the district, and are kennelled at Cefn, two and a half miles from St. Asaph. Masters, Owen J. Williams, Esq., and R. Williams-Wynn, Esq. The pack consists of about 30 couples, and hunt five days a fortnight, showing excellent

sport. A portion of the country is very rough and difficult to ride over, but to men who go out to hunt (not to ride) this is a matter of little moment, as you can nearly always see or hear what hounds are doing.

The Hawkestone Otter Hounds hunt the rivers in the district, generally coming in August for ten days or a fortnight, and usually have good sport, otters being fairly plentiful.

There are capital Golf Links at Rhyl; and there is also a good Cricket Club at St. Asaph.

Shooting is mostly in the hands of large proprietors; a fair head of game is generally to be seen.

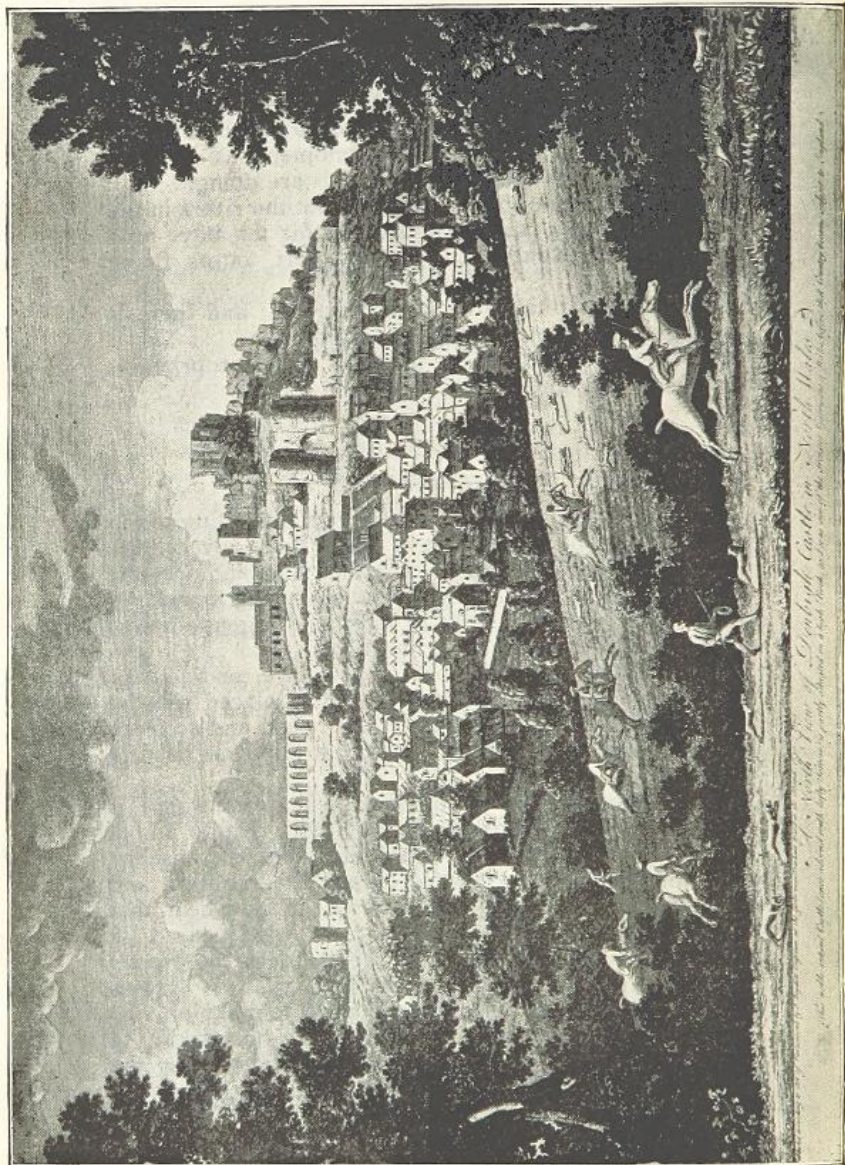
HUNTING.

(By "Countryman.")

Hunting has many lights, which vary according to the colour of our spectacles; yet in reality there is very little between the most irrational on either side, and once the foundation for a mutual understanding can be arrived at, the colours gradually seem to alter, and a gentle hue of rosey red creeps over the former black.

Once break down the bar of prejudice, and let the advantages and disadvantages be fairly placed side by side, there need be no fear for the result, and no more will be heard of the question—"What good *can* hunting do?"

That a certain amount of damage and annoyance is caused, all true friends of hunting will readily admit, though perhaps the latter word describes the mischief best, for appearances always exceed the realities, and the hoof marks of some careless rider in the wheat, that looked so bad in December, have disappeared in June, and after all, the crop seems none the worse. But all the same, the mere fact that it causes annoyance to others should be enough to make all who hunt more careful where they ride, more painstaking to shut gates, and more ready to remember that the pleasure they enjoy is due to the hospitality of those who live on the land.



The North View of Greenbush Castle in North Wales.
The castle, which was built by Henry II. in the year 1154, and was one of the strongest in the kingdom. It was destroyed by the English in 1535, and the ruins were afterwards used as a quarry for the building of the castle of Plas-y-n-Cefn.

We have, however, digressed from our question—"What good does hunting do?" Before answering, let us ask another,—“On what does the prosperity of a country depend?” Good markets and good demand. In those four words lie the answer to the first. It is not the actual person, or the actual horse he rides, that makes this demand, but it is the family he brings down with him, the home he makes in our country, and the smaller houses he keeps filled by giving regular employment.

The bitter cry of to-day is that the country is being depopulated by the people flocking to the towns. Many remedies have been suggested, but to my mind the only effectual one lies in our straining every nerve to induce more capital to flow into the country, for capital creates employment, and employment alone will bring back our people. If this be true, then let every district do its utmost to encourage a sport which, in itself, creates so large a flow of capital, and, in addition to forcing those who take part in it to spend their money around their own homes, fills so many of our empty houses with visitors, who, without the attraction, would never have come.

An old print of 1750, which we reproduce, proves that hunting is of no new growth, and that our forefathers could ride to hounds under the shade of Denbigh Castle as keenly as any of their descendents to-day. Since then there have been many changes in men, as well as in horses and hounds, but whatever these differences may be, the old spirit is still alive, and long may it thrive to teach our sons the value of a quick eye, firm determination, good temper, and above all, a thorough readiness to assist others, for these are the qualities that make a good man to hounds.

Few amongst us now will remember the late Lord Mostyn's famous establishment, when, together with his brother, Mr. Pryce Lloyd, they hunted the whole district at their own expense, keeping the hounds at Pengwern. Yet tales of their doings remain with us still; and sad

must have been the day when, after nearly twenty years, the hounds and horses were sold. For some while after, Sir Robert Vaughan, of Rûg, used to bring his hounds for a fortnight at a time to hunt this side, and from the old accounts many a good day they had. The late General Wynne, of Coed Coch, and Captain Rowley Conwy, following the example of Lord Mostyn, kept hounds at their own expense from 1868 to 1876, when General Wynne gave place to Mr. Hughes, of Kinmel. Six years later, Capt. Rowley Conwy, after fourteen years in office, resigned, and was succeeded by the present Lord Mostyn (at that time Mr. Lloyd Mostyn). In 1884 Mr. Owen Williams became master, and we are glad to see still continues to preside over the destinies of the Hunt.

In the meantime, Captain Wynne Price also kept Harriers at Llanrhaidr, and after him Sir Pyers Mostyn, of Talacre, hunted all the Holywell side, while up to a very few years ago, Major Birch most successfully managed the Vale of Clwyd Pack, and showed sport and a welcome to all.

And now one word about that necessary in a hunting sense, but best abused animal, the fox. Terrible are the crimes of robbery and violence that we hear laid to his charge, and heart-rending are the stories of his misdoings. Still, though it is far from my intention to make him out one of Rudyard Kipling's "Plaster Saints," I do think that sometimes, like the cat, he come in very usefully as a scapegoat for the sins of others. I well remember an old master of hounds, on receiving a claim for a calf killed by a fox, gravely saying, as he handed back the paper, that the fox would be sure to come back for the cow, and that it would save trouble if the two might be included in the same bill.

There are various conflicting ideas of what the food of a fox consists. If you ask a farmer's wife, she will unhesitatingly say chickens and ducks, and generally those that were going to market the following day; while some of the present day keepers seem to be equally convinced that pheasants form his only dinner,

and when the 200 pheasants dwindle down to 20, explain to their masters that the fox has had the balance conveniently forgetting that want of care, gaps, and other ailments, polish off perhaps 50 in a night.

Foxes, too, in other ways sometimes have an *alter ego*, as when an old lady, complaining of the loss of her fowls, pointed to a broken down hen house door with the remark—"He was that savage that he tore the door down;" and her faith never wavered, although the next neighbour, whose house had equally suffered, succeeded in bringing the two-legged fox to justice, and provided him with a few week's board and lodging at Her Majesty's expense.

Then again they are credited with great powers of digestion. In one case a man solemnly declared that during the night a fox had got into his hen house through a hole 8 inches wide, and had taken away, without leaving a feather, 32 cocks and hens. On being pressed to explain how such a feat was possible, he gravely assured my friend that the fox had eaten them, and in spite of cross-questioning, stuck to his point that beaks, claws, tail feathers, and all had gone down the same hungry throat. As a last resort, he was asked,— "What sized chickens were they?" "Oh! large," was the answer, "and ready for the market." But this time the password failed, for it was conclusively proved that 32 large fowls inside a fox could not pass through an 8-inch hole, even if packed like a Christmas cracker.

Those who have made their ways a study, assure us that a fox's chief diet is fur, not feathers. Rabbits he likes, but a far more dainty meal to him is a rat or a mole, to say nothing of beetles and many other kinds of insects. He is, besides, a general scavenger, and to this habit owes much of his bad character. During lambing time, dead lambs are either thrown into the ditch or, at the most, hung on the hedge; drawn by these carcasses a fox may be seen by the field, and immediately suspicions are aroused, which in turn become a certainty when bones are discovered anywhere near his earth. On such testimony he is called

a sheep killer, while if any damage has really been done, the true culprits, generally neighbouring dogs, go unsuspected, and are allowed to continue their costly work. In the interests of all, it is well to remember that for every fox there are about 50 dogs, out of which many are almost entirely uncared for, and practically unfed, and also that in counties where there are no foxes at all the most sheep killing takes place.

Another great temptation is the careless way in which hens are allowed to sit entirely unprotected in any corner of the orchard or home field, a prey to every animal, of which by far the most destructive is the little stoat and the common rat, to say nothing of our pious looking friend the cat, who, all the same, dearly loves the taste of blood. Perhaps the most common time for foxes to attack poultry is just when they are let out, early in the morning, that is supposing they have been shut up. This can often be prevented by varying the time, for they are impatient animals, and if thwarted, prefer going elsewhere for a breakfast.

Hunting must always depend on mutual give and take, and a move in the right direction was made two years ago, when the Hunt Club initiated the scheme of buying pedigree shorthorn bulls, and placing them out at convenient centres for the use of farmers and cottagers. The success of the scheme has been proved by the very great use made of the animals on all sides. The reason is obvious; it brings help to those who are unable in this particular way to help themselves.

And as time goes on, the smaller farmers will find that good blood in their stock means an increase of from £2 to £3 in their yearlings, which is something tangible when times are bad.

This article may be accused of containing nothing but precepts; if so, let me summarise them.

To the Farmer's Wife,—Shut up your poultry tight at night, and enforce on your hens the moral virtue of going home to roost.

To the Farmer,—Wait till the crop is grown before

adjudging the damage, and remember that your best friend is capital. Don't drive it away.

To the Keeper,—Don't trust to foxes to furnish excuses. A little care and management will keep foxes and pheasants, and what is better, your character as a man who knows his business.

To the Man who Hunts,—Be courteous to all, and remember Lord Petre's advice,—“After all, you will never have your hand out of your pocket, and should always have a guinea in it.”

FISHING.

(By R. Davies, Rhyl.)

The votaries of the “gentle art” will find St. Asaph an excellent station, especially if, like their great apostle, Isaac Walton, they can enjoy the sublimity of sylvan and pastoral retreats in conjunction with piscatorial pursuits. On the one side runs the sullen, sluggish Clwyd, and on the other flows its livelier sister, the rippling Elwy. Both affords capital trout fishing, and riparian owners are generous in the matter of permits. Of course fair angling must be observed, and the alluring bait confined to fly. Most anglers favour the Elwy, but there are some splendid reaches on the Clwyd, where heavier fish may be taken. The rivers open on the 1st of March in each year, and close on the 1st of October for trout, *six* weeks later for salmon. Early summer, perhaps, is the best time here for trout, but sportsmen in quest of the nobler salmon may do better about the closing end of the season. From Pontnewydd Bridge on the Elwy, and Llannerch Bridge on the Clwyd, down to the confluence of the two rivers at the Junction Pool, near Rhuddlan Castle, would be scope enough for ample sport to the average angler; but the lower reaches—the Willow, the Abbey Pool, and the Castle Reach, down to Rhuddlan Bridge, are excellent spots. In the

earlier part of the season, perhaps, the salmon fry will prove somewhat troublesome in the Castle Reach, especially if gaudy flies are employed. In any event, people seeking relaxation and recreation after busy city life, if they do not fill their creels will enjoy nature in the fulness of its glory, by meandering along the banks of either the Clwyd or the Elwy; and return to business rejuvenated and refreshed, to begin anew the battle of life.

(By W. G. Kelly, *Eirianfa*.)

“The most important principle, perhaps, in life is to have a pursuit, a useful one, if possible, and at all events an innocent one. . . . Though I do not expect, like our arch-patriarch Walton, to number ninety years, yet I hope, as long as I can enjoy, in a vernal day, the warmth and heat of the sunshine, still to haunt the streams.”—SIR H. DAVY.

Dr. Butler said of strawberries—“Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did;” and Isaac Walton said “that, if he might be judge, God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling.”

It is a nice morning in April. A heavy mist hangs over the river, but, on the sun's appearance, is soon dispersed like the rolling aside of a great filmy curtain, while a chorus of nature's music sends up a joyful welcome from a hundred feathered throats. Ted and I have walked to Pontrallt Goch, which is situate between St. Asaph and Trefnant on the Elwy, and, resting on this fine bridge, enjoying the “fragrant weed,” we gaze on the loveliness of the scene, and agree that all nature, this lovely morning, is indescribably grand. Having decided to fish down stream, we get our tackle ready in that quiet mechanical manner peculiar only to the faithful adherents of glorious old Isaac, our fly selection being the “March brown,” “Cochybondu,” and “blue dun,” also the “olive,” “hare's ear,” and “woodcock.” At first the prospects of good sport are not encouraging, but as the morning advances, a southerly breeze springs

up, and clouds appear in the horizon, but before noon we have done fairly well. After lunch we fished as far as St. Asaph, and thoroughly enjoyed our day's fishing.



It is a fine morning in the early part of October; the Elwy is in very fine condition for the minnow, a "fresh" having come down the day before. The trout season expires on the 1st of October, so that we are now on the look out for something bigger, viz., salmon. We commenced on the Common, but did nothing until we arrived at a favourite old salmon pool opposite Spring Gardens. Ted had not fished many minutes before he hailed me, when I saw he was into a beauty, and after a little cautious play, we managed to land him,—a beautiful specimen, scaling 24 lbs.

In conclusion, we two humble adherents of the arch-patriarch echo his words,—“That there never was a more quiet, calm, innocent recreation than angling;” let those who have no acquaintance or sympathy with rural recreations say what they will to the contrary.

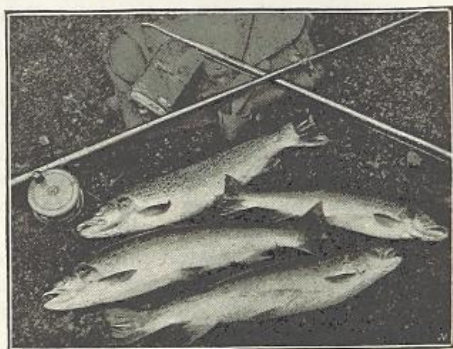
(By “*A Local Angler.*”)

“Give me mine angle. We'll to the river.”

SHAKESPEARE.

The disciple of Izaak Walton will find ample scope for the enjoyment of his favourite sport in the neighbourhood of St. Asaph, which is situate between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, both of which afford good salmon, sea trout, and brown trout fishing. These rivers and their tributaries are strictly preserved by the Clwyd and Elwy Conservancy Board, who employ three water bailiffs for this purpose, and both rivers have lately been stocked with Loch Leven trout, which, judging from the baskets taken during recent seasons, have done very well.

Before commencing operations, it is necessary for the angler, who wishes to try his skill with the brown trout, to take out a licence for this purpose from one of the persons authorized to sell the same, amongst whom may be mentioned Mr. J. A. Tomkinson, Chester Street, who also



(From a Photograph, taken by the Author of the article, of four out of nine Sea Trout caught by him and another rod in the Clwyd, averaging $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.)

sells fishing tackle ; Mr. T. W. Huntington, Plough Hotel, and Mr. Jas. Towers, Bryndinas Hotel, which licence will cost him 4s. 6d. for the season, or 2s. for one week. On the other hand, if he wishes to fish for salmon, under which head are included the bull trout, sea trout, and Sewin, he must take out a salmon licence, which may be procured from one of the same persons, and for which he will pay £1 for the season, and which latter licence will entitle him to catch brown trout also without taking out a separate trout licence. The next step to be taken is to ask for permission to fish from one or more of the riparian landowners, which permission is seldom, if ever, refused. The season for taking brown trout commences on the morning of March 1st, and ends on the evening of October 1st ; and for salmon commences on the morning of May 16th, and ends on the evening of November 14th. The hotel accommodation at St. Asaph is excellent, and there are several experienced men, with a thorough knowledge of the rivers, who are willing to attend fishermen.

The brown trout flies generally used in the district

are of the usual standard patterns, and the same remark applies to the sea trout and salmon flies. Wading is not necessary in either of the rivers.

For the guidance of anyone who might not otherwise be able to distinguish the Parr or Smolt from the brown trout, and so inadvertently put one of the former into his basket, thereby rendering himself liable to a penalty, the following descriptions, extracted from "The Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland," by Francis Day, F L.S. and F.Z.S., may be useful:—

"*Smolts* are bluish along the upper half of the body, silvery along the sides, due to a layer of silvery scales being formed over the trout-like colours, while they have darker fins than the yearling pink, but similar lateral bands and spots (. . . .) which can be seen (as in the parr) if the example is held in certain positions of light. Parr have two or three black spots only on the opercle, and black spots, also orange ones, along the upper half of the body, and no dark ones below the lateral line, although there may be orange ones which may be seen along its course. Along the side of the body are a series (12 to 15) of transverse bluish bands, wider than the ground colour, and crossing the lateral line, while in the upper half of the body the darker silvery colour of the back forms an arch over each of these bands. A row of spots along the middle of the rayed dorsal fin, and the adipose orange tipped."

It is said that the fisherman's life is made up of disappointments, and everyone who has practised the gentle art knows that he cannot always expect to return after a day's fishing with his basket full; but given a favourable day, when the water is in order, disappointments are the exception in these rivers, and the angler may on such days reckon with confidence on securing a good basket of brown trout in the earlier part of the season, and later on a very respectable catch of Sewin, or a salmon.

SHOOTING.

(By a Barrister.)

St. Asaph, in addition to the numerous attractions of its city, affords many facilities for manly sports, of various kinds; in the present instance the reader's attention is directed to that of shooting. Within walking distance of the city there are several pheasantries. Perhaps the one at Llanerch will come almost first, for there, thousands of birds are reared annually; then Bodelwyddan and Cefn have each one, not to take into account the smaller shoots, which all help to add to the aggregate head of game. It were somewhat superfluous to describe the different varieties of scenery, or the difficulties of walking on the mountains; yet, be it uphill or down dale, to the true sportsman there is no more exhilarating or health-giving exercise than a day spent among the stubbles, grass lands and hills, which form our lovely Vale. With gun in hand and dogs at heel, with watchful keepers and eager beaters, who does not realise the delight of the first *whirr* of the day, the eager pointers at stand, the wary retrievers on the watch, the sportsmen in position, the men tensely marking, and then bang! bang! and a brace of partridges pay their last debt. The spark is now alight, and each and all work with one accord, no matter how thick the underwood, no matter how wet the beans or the turnips, through them they go, dogs and men, with occasionally one of the fairer sex. Thus the time passes with varying success, till, tired and weary, the ardent sportsmen realise the need of lunch. With the knowledge of rest well earned, masters and men sit down in groups and discuss the morning's sport, whilst at the same time they refresh the inner man. The few minutes allowed for cigars and pipes, bring with them reflections—to the more cultured; and gazing around, can be seen the undulating and fair Vale of Clwyd, with the sea line showing white in the far distance. In *that* turnip field fell a brace of birds; out of *that* dingle whose leaves vary from palest yellow to richest sunset

gold, four rabbits, and a fine cock pheasant were bagged; among the golden stubble, to the left, the big hare, whose head now projects out of the bag, the pride of the veteran sportsman, was started; to the right the hen pheasant fell *plump* into the little hollow in the grassfield, where good old Rose cleverly found and brought her forth. The failures are glossed over; the quality of the cartridges is discussed; the behaviour of the dogs—when Pert was shy at The Hollow, when Ripple started the hare, how well Trix found that partridge—till the word of command is given, and with willing tread and contented countenances is begun the work of the afternoon. What need to enlarge on the deadly enmity of the rustic beaters—now so plainly shown—to the innocent brown rabbits; or to the keen terriers, who, with open mouths, and noses pointed earthward, most surely track them to their doom. The day wears on; the bag—a goodly one—is counted, and homeward the sportsmen wend their way to welcome dinner and peaceful pipe, too tired to talk of anything but what a capital shot So-and-So made over that partridge, and what a fool over that pheasant, was another.

As the season advances and winter cold sets in, what so delightful as a day's ferreting? or an early morning's duck shooting along the banks of the dark and winding Clwyd? What heart does not thrill with pride when down falls that twizzling snipe, and the great wood-cock of the season is safe in the bag? But all these branches of the sport deserve an article to themselves; and if our readers have not experienced the pleasures faintly described, they should endeavour to do so, for the salubrious and exhilarating air of St. Asaph will soon drive dull care away, and bring to them the glow of health and happiness.

CRICKET.

(By "Enthusiast.")

Until 1897 no cricket Club had existed for some years at St. Asaph. The present club was formed chiefly through the influence of Mr. H. W. Clift, Sunnyside, who, with praiseworthy energy, put the club on a firm footing. The ground is situated in Elwy Grove Park, and owing to its even surface and extent is eminently adapted for a recreation ground, both from a player's and spectator's point of view. After some slight improvements—to be made at the beginning of this year, 1898—the ground will be second to none in the Principality.

FOOTBALL.

(By Fred W. Grimsley, Mount Villa.)

Like every other place of any importance, St. Asaph has had its ups and downs as regards football. Few clubs are in existence to-day that have not at one time in their history come upon evil days. The first club



THE ATHLETIC FOOTBALL TEAM.

that made any show as representing the city was that known as the "St. Asaph Football Club," but three years ago affairs were re-organised, and from that time forward it has been known as the "St. Asaph Athletic Football Club." This club, as it now exists, has been a success, and considering the limited number of players from which it can draw a team, it has done remarkably well. Two years ago it played in the final round of the North Wales Coast Junior Cup Competition. The great difficulty in the way of successfully carrying the team through a season has always been that very little practice is put in by the players, while often the full team was unable to be present at important matches. With regard to the ground, I may say that at one time the club played in Cae Joseph (by the New Inn), but of late years Elwy Grove Park has come to be looked upon as the home of everything taking place outdoors in this ancient city, and so the Football Club has found a place there. At present it is in a good financial condition, but not such as to place it beyond the need of appealing for subscriptions to all the lovers of healthy out-door recreation. Any remarks on Football in the city would not be complete without reference to the Easter Monday Competitions, which fill the city with visitors, and has had many imitators, but none to excel. It started about eleven years ago, and had at that time a senior competition. Four years afterwards a junior competition was added. The committee decided very wisely to creep before they walked, and so it was not until about two years ago that a cup, known as the "St. Asaph Challenge Cup," was added to the list of attractions. It has to be won three years in succession. Flint Football Club has already won it twice, and should they be successful this year (1898), the committee will want a new cup. The Easter Tournament has not always left a large balance in hand, but it has generally paid its way, and deserves every encouragement at the hands of the citizens and all lovers of Football.



PREPARING FOR PLAY.

LAWN TENNIS.

(By "A Member.")

This club has been in existence for the last nine years, and is in every way a success. The club ground is situate in Gas Lane, and adjoins the Deanery grounds. There are two full sized courts, well enclosed, and very private. The number of members is about 30. There are no special days for play, but on Saturday afternoons there is generally a good attendance, and when the weather permits, tea is given on the ground in turn by the members, and friends are always welcome on these occasions. This tea giving is one of the features of the club, and adds much to the pleasure of the afternoon, and those friends or members who do not play are always warmly received in the kitchen by the genial "cook."

By the kindness of the Dean—who, by the way, is good enough to rent the ground to the club—the members have the use of a neat Pavillion, which is used for keeping the club material and for dressing purposes. The ground is always well kept and marked, and is one

of the green spots in the city, and with its pavillion and one or two stately oaks for a back-ground, it is to all intents and purposes a real "pleasure ground." A part of the field is not yet made use of, but it is contemplated to lay it for croquet, and possibly bowls on one or two evenings in the week, but this will mostly depend upon the encouragement the club may receive from ladies and gentlemen who are not yet members.

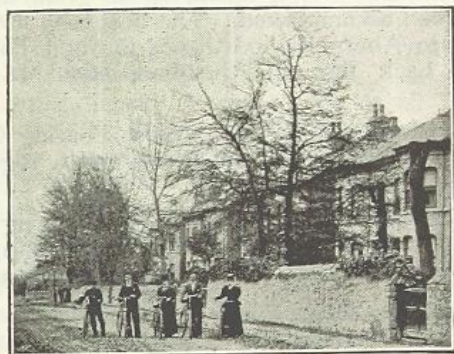
Another feature of the club is the annual dance, which is always looked forward to with much pleasure both by members and their friends.

The qualification for membership is a subscription of 7s. 6d. for the season, 5s. a month, or 2s. 6d. per week. Miss Partington very kindly acts as hon. sec., and Mr. Cleaver is entrusted with the financial part of the business.

CYCLING.

(By D. Clwyd Griffith, Tirionfa.)

It is contrary to the mental and physical conformation of mankind to labour or to study incessantly without paying the penalty in the shape of shattered health.



THE ROE, AND HAFOD ELWY.

There are times when brain and sinew, mind and muscle, appeal for rest and change, and need it ere their functions can be properly continued. Cycling, then, is an amusement which draws its votaries away from the scenes of their labours into contact with external nature in all its innocence and beauty, and we are assured by medical gentlemen that it is a healthy recreation to those who adopt it, so long as it is consistently pursued. It may safely be said that the bicycle has had the most attention of any invention of the present century. One can hardly realise the rapid progress that has been made since the days of the "bone-shaker," which was the best "bike" at a not very remote period. There are now so many good machines (pneumatic tyred) turned out, that it would be useless to particularize; but mounted on one of these on a summer's evening, when the roads are in good condition, and to take a quiet run along the Lower Denbigh road, where we have the woods and fields, the hills and stream, the birds and flowers, and the thousand and one other objects of all-beauteous nature, is indeed entrancing. The roads in the vicinity are nice and even. The city hill itself is perhaps rather too steep for the average cyclist; at any rate one feels all the better when at the top, if he or she has walked it, and even if ridden up no grand achievement has been accomplished. The best road for a nice run is that to Abergele, and thence through Towyn to Rhyl, and back through Rhuddlan, about 18 miles altogether.

In the ancient little city, the Cyclist Touring Club is well represented by convenient hotels and a registered repairer.

In conclusion, we have no hesitation in saying that a prettier and more convenient spot than St. Asaph for cyclists to make their headquarters could not be found.

(By Mrs. W. H. Eel.)

In describing the many attractions of St. Asaph, its facilities for cycling must not be forgotten. In the first place the roads are excellent, and very fairly level. There are many charming rounds which are well within the power of an average cyclist. It must be remembered that these rides are not planned for the "scorcher" who wants to cover forty miles in an hour, but for the rider who wishes to enjoy to the fullest extent the beauty of the country. From St. Asaph to Rhuddlan is a perfectly level road for three miles, and for the greater part of that distance skirts the grounds of Pengwern.

To Bodelwyddan is a delightful ride of three miles, and after leaving the Church on the right, and passing Schools and Vicarage, a winding road brings the rider to Rhuddlan.

Again, in somewhat the same direction, but leaving the city by Rose Hill, and in less than three miles the Cross Foxes, where the mother of H. M. Stanley used to live, is passed. By keeping to the right by Bodelwyddan Park, a short down hill run will bring the rider once more to Bodelwyddan Church.

A very pretty ride is to Trefnant, by the Lower Denbigh Road over Pont yr Allt Goch, where a lovely view of the river Elwy, with its beautifully wooded banks, is obtained. The return to St. Asaph is by the Upper Denbigh Road.

Perhaps the most charming ride of all is to Cefn. Again taking the Lower Road, but turning to the right just before reaching Pont yr Allt Goch, a short climb will bring the cyclist to one of the most perfect views in the neighbourhood, for the scenery round the Cefn Rocks and up the Valley of the Elwy is equal to any in Wales. The rest of the ride back to St. Asaph, by Rose Hill, is delightful. Before leaving Cefn, it is worth while branching off towards the Church. Here again a most extensive view is obtained of the range of hills up the Clwyd Valley, and also of the sea.

But there is yet another direction for the cyclist to

wheel his way. Leaving the city by the Holywell Road, and crossing the river Clwyd, the hamlet of Rhualt will be reached about three miles distant. Here the roads turn right and left. By turning to the right a somewhat winding road which leads past St. Beuno's, the Roman Catholic College, to Tremeirchion; then a lovely down hill run, passing Llanerch, and so home to St. Asaph. But if, on reaching Rhualt, the road to the left is taken, after passing the Village of Cwm, Dyserth is reached. Here, after seeing the waterfall, the view from the Cottages above the fall should not be missed, for on a clear day a most magnificent view is obtained of the Great Orme's Head and Little Orme, Penmaenmawr, Anglesea, the Snowdonian Range, and even the three points of Snowdon itself. About six miles of level road will bring the rider back to St. Asaph by Rhuddlan.

It will be noticed that in most of these rides the cyclist can return by a different road, and so a greater variety and more extensive knowledge of the surrounding country will thus be obtained.

S K A T I N G .

(By "Eric.")

Though not a pastime, as far as history records, among the ancients, nor yet having the honourable distinction of being mentioned in the classics, yet, as we proceed in our historical researches across the centuries, we find that civilization in its progress utilizes the gifts of nature, hence in flat and low-lying countries the ingenuity of man has succeeded in creating a healthful, useful, and enjoyable exercise. In Europe, the kingdom of Holland possesses the greatest natural and artificial advantages for the pursuit of the art, and it is said that there first was invented what Professor Skeat describes as "the frame of wood and iron, with a steel ridge beneath it for sliding on ice (Dutch). The Old Dutch *schaetsen*, from which is derived the O. French *éschasse*, a

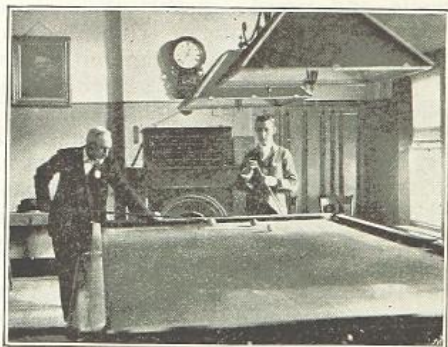
stilt;" also the Anglo-Saxon *sceacan* (to shake or go swiftly), and from which root is derived our English word *shake*, and hence the name of England's greatest poet—Shakespeare. But we digress, and would fain call to mind the beauties and delights of our ancient city and its environs, which form so capital a centre for the pastime, the derivation of whose name has already been discussed. In our immediate vicinity there are many pools, which form good skating grounds, along the banks of our famous winding river Clwyd. Given a heavy rain before a frost, our favourite river overflows its banks, and fed by the many mountain rivulets from the hills, which bound our lovely Vale, contribute to its namesake. Then, the Bronwylfa Meadows, made sacred by the well-known name of Mrs. Hemans, afford safe and good skating to both the novice and the expert. Farther from our city, Llyn Helig, the romantic lake, which, like a gleam of silver, shines forth from its dark environments of umbrageous trees, to many is a delightful and enchanted spot on which to enjoy a day's freedom. From St. Asaph, Holywell, Rhyl, and the surrounding districts, as soon as King Frost proclaims his sway, brakes, carriages, carts of all sorts and conditions, may be seen wending their way to the lake, where gentle and simple disport themselves, equally enjoying the healthful pastime. Dancing, hockey, and many other skilful devices are engaged in, and among the best exponents of the art are the gentlemen from the Jesuit College of St. Beuno. When lunch is over, all "goes merry as a marriage bell" till the shades of eve fall gently, and the giant sun slowly glides in radiant glory into the west; then the skaters, tired and happy, homeward "wend their weary way." But nearer to our "littell citie" we find opportunity of enjoying our favourite pastime. Even if "kindly rain" has not made the Bronwylfa Meadows available, yet there are many pools, as Felyn Wynt, Bodelwyddan Pools, situate in Bodelwyddan Park, the pools near Rhuddlan Railway Station, and also numbers of smaller pools well known to the youthful citizen, where skating

can be indulged in. During recent severe winters, the rivers Elwy and Clwyd have been frozen, and many capital skating courses were then available. It is needless to further enumerate the attractions and delights of this most healthy and invigorating exercise.

BILLIARDS.

(By George Osborne Williams, Registry Office.)

We are assured by various authorities that the game of billiards is of French origin; but whether it is so or not, we must admit that it is peculiarly fascinating and the most seductive of indoor pastimes, a pastime that one cannot afford to despise, as it affords both intellectual entertainment as well as physical exercise. During the last twenty years the game of billiards has made more progress in this country than any other pastime, and the time has now come when an hotel or first-class public house is considered incomplete in the absence of the "green baize." And now a few words about billiards in St. Asaph. Up to 1893 the game



AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB.

was hardly known except by one or two, and the question of obtaining a billiard table was discussed in the Constitutional Club, but as an ordinary table costs about 90 guineas, and the financial circumstances of the club were not very flourishing, this was a difficult obstacle to overcome; but several members promised to take shares, and a table was eventually procured. The table was opened in January, 1893, by Mr. W. B. Heppenstall and another local gentleman. Mr. Heppenstall, who is a native of Huddersfield, is undoubtedly the finest player in the neighbourhood, and is an intimate friend of Dawson, the Yorkshire champion. It may be of interest to add he had the honour of seeing Dawson play his first match with Mr. John Roberts (champion of the world), and of playing long games with him while in training for the match. He has also had the honour of having lessons from Mr. John Roberts, and he saw a match more than 20 years ago between John Roberts, senior, then champion of England (father of the present champion), and Louis Kilkenny, the then Yorkshire champion, so that the novices in the city have had the rare opportunity of copying a good player. At present the club can boast of a fair proportion of cueists, and have proved themselves formidable opponents of the Denbigh Conservative team, who are no mean experts at the game. The club has now about 40 playing members, and the billiard table has long since paid for itself, so that the game of billiards in St. Asaph is now in a very flourishing condition, and is likely to have a permanent existence.

G E O L O G Y .

(By the Rev. G. C. H. Pollen, S.J., F.G.S., St. Beuno's College.)

THE following are the chief points of geological interest in the neighbourhood of St. Asaph :—

Silurian.—The hills both east and west of St. Asaph are Wenlock, and to the south so called “Denbighshire” grits. The detailed geology of these rocks still requires working out, and some of the smaller fossils may prove to be new species. In a black shale below the Denbighshire grits there is a very fine crinoid, “*Coelocrinus basalis*” of the “Geol. Survey,” Vol. III.; also “*Actinocrinus Pulcher*” (Salter) is found as casts in the Wenlock of Cwm Hill.

Bala, which is within a day's journey, should also, if possible, be visited for its fossiliferous limestone, especially at Rhiwlas, about one mile from the station.

The Carboniferous Limestones of Holywell and Newmarket are both rich in fossils, especially of the coral orders. Coal plants can be found in great richness and variety near Downing, and a very fine collection of ferns of this age can be quickly collected from the shales near that place. The carboniferous limestone has been carefully described by Mr. G. H. Morton, F.G.S. (President Liverpool Geological Society, 1881—82).

New Red Sandstone and conglomerates can be found in the south east parts of the valley, and is present in most places below the drift.

Glacial Drift, &c., can be divided into :—

(a) Drift from small local glaciers. This drift is rarely found in exposed parts of the valley, but forms the floors of caves and fissures.

(b) Glacio-marine drift, with erratics from Snowdonia, and from Scotland or the Lake District, in all the valleys, especially those above the level of St. Asaph.

(c) Remaniè drift, formed from *a* and *b*, is found chiefly between St. Asaph and the sea.

The banks of both Elwy and Clwyd should be searched carefully, both for erratics and also for mollusc shells, which, though in fragments, are interesting records of the great depression which formed the beds of Moel Tryfaen, on Snowdon, at present 1,300 feet above the sea. Flint implements and the bones of the pleistocene mammalia have also been found in the drift, especially where clay beds or gravels have been exposed in well shafts, &c.

Caves. — That caves in the St. Asaph district can compete both in numbers and interest with those of any other part of the British Isles. The caves of Cefn should certainly be visited, and several others at Newmarket, Plas Heaton, and Pont Newydd, have been explored. The caves at Ffynnon Beuno, Tremeirchion, are of special interest, as it is claimed that in them have been found the remains of man in undoubted pre-glacial deposits, of an age which has not been definitely established for any other human implements. Other caves in that neighbourhood are now being excavated; and several in Caerwys Wood and near Rhydymwyn, on the way to Mold, only wait for an explorer.

Very interesting accounts of the Vale of Clwyd, and of the geology of the caves and drift, are constantly being brought forward by various geologists, as may be seen by consulting the index of the Q. I. Geol. Society, "Geological Magazine," and other general periodicals. The Chester Natural History Society has also some interesting papers by Professor T. McKenny Hughes, F.R.S., on the geology of this district.

MINERALOGY, &c.

(By Charles Mansbridge, Bryn Haul.)

THERE is something very interesting in the Geology and Mineralogy of this locality. The variety is great. We will first take the west or Cefn side of the Vale; here we have a limestone formation, and also in the Cefn Rocks. The layer of limestone is not very thick here, as it crops out a little way over the river Elwy just above Pont Newydd, where there is at this point a peculiar green sandstone.

There is evidence of the existence of Coal in the Vale of the Elwy; but whether it could be got in paying quantities or not is doubtful.

The limestone formation at St. George, Bodelwyddan, and Wigfair is known to contain very rich lodes of Lead Ore.

On the east side, Dyserth, Cwm, and Rhualt, we have the same formation again, and here also, the layer of limestone is not very thick, as it crops out about the top of Rhualt Hill. About Rhualt we meet with the Silurian system; at the bottom of the hill, the Traprock. Then higher up the hill at Pennant we find a very nice smooth Blue Killas. Rich lodes of Lead Ore, Blend, Sulphide of Pyrities, and Carbonate of Pyrities are found in this Killas. About Cwm we find pockets or chambers of rich Iron Ore.

Then in the Vale itself, we have from Kilowen across to Pont Rallt Goch, a very interesting piece of Red Sandstone. It is very probable that the river Elwy joined the river Clwyd just below Kilowen, before that Red Sandstone was pushed up. This turned the river Elwy down its present course, and the two rivers threw up a bank behind the Red Sandstone Rock, which forms the high ground from Brynpolyn to Pentre. This high ground or bank is not solid, but a kind of sedimentary deposit thrown up by the two rivers, as we see a little bank of gravel and sand thrown up behind a large stone in the river.

BOTANY.

WILD FLOWERS.

(By "A Lover of Nature.")

"Blessed be God for flowers !
For the bright, gentle, holy thoughts they breathe
From out their odorous beauty, like a wreath
Of sunshine in life's hours."

DURING the short dark days of December and January, all nature seems to rest. Fields and hedges are brown and bare; but very swiftly the dark days pass, the sun remains longer above the horizon, and before the wolf-month is out, the tiny bells of the snowdrop will be peeping through the dead leaves in the woods and sheltered fields, sweet harbinger of spring and the wealth of lovely flowers that in a few short months will clothe wood, field and hedgerow with beauty. As February advances, the bright blossoms of the lesser celandine and the dandelion shine among the grass by the wayside. When March comes in, a few early primroses may be found in sheltered places, and the sweet violets, though scarce in this neighbourhood, in a few favoured spots scent the air with their fragrance.

After the cold winds of March have passed, the gentle showers and brighter sun of April and May bring many favourites to perfection—primroses, cowslips, the early varieties of orchis, the daffodils

"That come before the swallow dares,
And take the winds of March with beauty,"

are succeeded by the cuckoo flower, periwinkle, cranesbill, the star-like blossoms of the stitchwort, the white May, and on the commons and hill sides the golden gorse, a vision of beauty never to be forgotten by those who have seen great masses of it in bloom. June, bright, leafy June, brings one of the most loved of all flowers; roses red, white and pink, hang in long, grace-

ful sprays on the hedges, their sweet scent mingling with that of the hay. The small white flower of the woodruff and its whorls of bright green leaves, the clusters of blue speedwell, eye bright and scarlet pimpernel, form a lovely contrast of colour. In the woods the hyacinths, their blue bells waving in the soft breeze, delight the eye; and many beautiful orchis may be gathered. Nor must the buttercups be forgotten, covering the meadows with a golden glory. Honey-suckle, geranium, campion, ragged robin, bird's foot trefoil, purple and yellow vetch, are now abundant. In July the rockrose and tormentilla clothe the grey rocks, the purple foxglove grows tall and stately under the hedges, about old walls, and far up the hills. Bindweed and bryony, the former covered with its pure and delicate white flowers, send forth long tendrils over thorn and rose-bush. Scarlet poppies make bright patches 'mid the corn, and in the pastures yellow-rattle and cow-wheat are conspicuous, as also are the large white daisies or marguerites. Now may be found the enchanter's nightshade, centaury, and spiræa or meadow sweet.

During the later summer and autumn, yellow is the prevailing tint among the flowers, St. John's wort and perfoliate yellow-wort are among the prettiest. The chicory and tanzy groups flower profusely, and with marsh-mallow, willow-herb, and thistle group, make the lanes bright with colour. By the rivers and running brooks the purple loosestrife grows, and mint, marjoram, and thyme bloom on many a sunny bank, with the light and graceful harebells, of which a poet writes—

“ Are we not beautiful ? are not we
The darlings of mountain, and moorland, and lea ? ”

In these later months, too, the beautiful heaths and heather, almost covering mountain and moorland, are in perfection.

As autumn advances, and the flowers pass away, the beauty of summer still lingers in the berries that adorn the hedges. The scarlet fruit of the rose mingles with

the darker red of the haws and the purple clusters of the deadly-nightshade. Here and there woodbine and barberries may be found, while the trailing bryony wreaths many a bush with its large bright berries.

The splendour of the autumn foliage under the brilliant sunshine who can describe ?

“ There is a beautiful spirit breathing now
Its mellow richness on the clustered trees,
And from a beaker full of richest dyes,
Pouring new glory on the autumn woods,
And dipping in warm light the pillared clouds.

* * * * *

The gentle wind, a sweet and passionate wooer,
Kisses the blushing leaf and stirs up life
Within the solemn woods of ash deep-crimsoned,
And silver birch and maple yellow-leaved,
Where Autumn, like a faint old man, sits down
By the wayside aweary.

* * * * *

O what a glory does this world put on
For him who, with a fervent heart, goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed and days well spent.
For him the wind, ay and the yellow leaves,
Shall have a voice and give him eloquent teaching ;
He shall so hear the solemn hymn that Death
Has lifted up for all that he shall go
To his long resting place without a tear.”

LONGFELLOW.

(By “ *Two Residents.* ”)

In the neighbourhood of the city the lovers of wild flowers will find ample opportunity for indulging their tastes. The varied character of the surface, comprising sheltered river bank and exposed hill-side, as well as the hedges and ditches of the meadow and the wayside, leads one to expect a rich variety of these gems of nature. Such an expectation would be richly fulfilled. The following list of plants, though not professing to be



BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.

(Gathered in and around St. Asaph.)

at all exhaustive, will give an idea of the richness of the neighbourhood, and may be of use to the flower seeker. The botanical names and the seasons of flowering are in nearly all cases taken from the last edition of *Bentham and Hooker's British Flora* :—

COMMON NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SEASON OF FLOWERING.
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	All Summer
American Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Early Spring
Arum	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Spring
Avens Common (Herb-Bennet)	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Summer and Autumn
Bartsia (red)	<i>Bartsia odontites</i>	Summer
Bed-straw (yellow)	<i>Galium Verum</i>	Summer and Autumn
Betony (wood)	<i>Stachys betonica</i>	Summer
Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	All Summer
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Summer and Autumn
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Spring and early Summer
Blue Bottle	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Summer
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Summer
Branched Bur-reed	<i>Sparangium ramosum</i>	Summer
Brooklime	<i>Veronica becca bunga</i>	All Summer
Broom	<i>Cytisus Scoparius</i>	Spring and early Summer
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Spring and early Summer
Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	All Summer
Butterbur	<i>Tussilago petastites</i>	Spring
Corn Chamomile	<i>Anthem's arvensis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Campion Bladder	<i>Silene inflata</i>	Summer

COMMON NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SEASON OF FLOWERING.
Campion Pink	<i>Lychnis diurna</i>	Summer
Campion White	<i>Lychnis vespertina</i>	Summer
Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Summer and Autumn
Centauray	<i>Erythraea centaureium</i>	Whole Season
Chickweed	<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i>	Whole Season
Clover (red)	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	All Summer
Clover (white)	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	All Summer
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago furfura</i>	Early Spring
Convolvulus Field	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	All Summer
Convolvulus Small	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	All Summer
Corn Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Spring
Corn Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Late Summer
Crowfoot Meadow	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Summer and Autumn
Crane's Bill (meadow)	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Summer
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Summer and Autumn
rosswort	<i>Galium cruciata</i>	Spring and early Summer
Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Spring and early Summer
Daisy (Common)	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Nearly whole year
" (Oxeye)	<i>Chrysanthemum lencanthemum</i>	Spring and Summer
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum dens-leonis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Deadly Nightshade	<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Summer
Dead Nettle (red)	<i>Lamium purpurea</i>	Whole season
" (white)	" <i>album</i>	Whole season
" (yellow)	" <i>galeobdolon</i>	Summer
Dewberry	<i>Rubus cæsius</i>	Summer
Dock (broad-leaved)	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Summer
" (red-veined)	" <i>sanguineus</i>	Summer
Duckweed	<i>Lemna triscula</i>	Summer (rarely)
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Fescue Grass	<i>Festuca elatior</i>	Summer
Field Scabious	<i>Scabiosa arvensis</i>	All Summer
Flea Bane (common)	<i>Inula dysentericæ</i>	Summer and Autumn
Fool's Parsley	<i>Æthusa cynapium</i>	Summer and Autumn
Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis palustris</i>	Whole Summer
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Spring and Summer
Fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Furze	<i>Ulex Europæus</i>	All year
Fleur-de-lys	(See Yellow Flag and Iris)	
Garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Spring and early Autumn
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamædrys</i>	Spring and Summer
Goldilocks	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Spring
Goosegrass	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Spring and Summer
Ground Ivy	<i>Nepeta glechoma</i>	Early Spring
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	All year
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Summer and Autumn
Hawkbit (various)	<i>Leontodon, &c.</i>	Summer
Hawthorn	<i>Crategus oxycantha</i>	Spring and early Summer
Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Summer and Autumn
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium Robertianum</i>	Whole season
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Summer
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Summer and Autumn
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Spring
Hyacinth Wild (Bluebell)	<i>Scilla nutans</i>	Spring

COMMON NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SEASON OF FLOWERING.
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Late Autumn
Knapweed (small)	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	All Summer
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	Spring and Summer
Lady's Smock	<i>Cardamino pratensis</i>	Spring and early Summer
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Beginning of Spring
Loosestrife (Purple)	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Summer
Mallow (Common)	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Summer
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Spring and early Summer
Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Summer
Meadow Sweet	<i>Spiræa ulmaria</i>	Summer
Mercury (Dog)	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Early Spring
Moschatel	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Spring
Nightshade (Enchanters)	<i>Circæa lutetiana</i>	Summer
" (Deadly)	See Deadly Nightshade	
" (Woody)	See Bittersweet	
Nipplewort (Common)	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Orchid (Common)	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Spring and early Summer
" (Spotted)	<i>Orchis maculata</i>	Spring and early Summer
Pansy	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Summer
Perfoliate Yellowwort	<i>Chlora perfoliata</i>	Summer
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca Major</i>	Spring
Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Whole season
Plantain (Broad)	<i>Plantago Major</i>	Summer and Autumn
" (Narrow leaved)	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Summer and Autumn
Poppy (scarlet)	<i>Papaver rhœas</i>	All Summer
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Summer
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Spring
Ragged Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Spring and Summer
Ragwort	<i>Senecio Jacobœa</i>	Late Summer and Autumn
Red Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Summer
Rest Harrow	<i>Ononis arvensis</i>	Summer and Autumn
Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum vulgare</i>	Summer
Rose Dog	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Early Summer
" Field	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	All Summer
Saint John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Summer and Autumn
Sauce Alone	<i>Alliaria officinalis</i>	Spring
Self Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Summer and Autumn
Shepherd's Purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Nearly all year
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Summer
Sloe (Blackthorn)	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Early Spring
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Very early Spring
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Summer
Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Early Spring
Sowthistle (Common)	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Whole season
Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Spring and early Summer
Stonewort (Biting)	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Summer
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Whole season
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Spring and early Summer
Stork's Bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Spring and Summer
Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Late Summer

COMMON NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SEASON OF FLOWERING.
Teasel	Dipsacus sylvestris	Summer and Autumn
Thistle (various)	Carduus, &c.	Summer
Thyme	Thymus serpyllum	Whole Summer
Toadflax (yellow)	Linaria vulgaris	Summer and Autumn
Tormentil	Potentilla tormentilla	Summer
Vervein (Common)	Verbena officinalis	Summer and Autumn
Vetch (various)	Vicia, &c.	Spring and Summer
Violet Dog	Viola canina	Spring and Early Summer
„ Sweet	Viola odorata	Early Spring
Water Cress	Senebiera cornopus	Summer and Autumn
Water Figwort	Scrophularia aquatica	Summer
Water Plantain (great)	Alisma plantago	Summer
Water Ranunculus	Ranunculus aquatilis	Summer
Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	Summer
Woodruff	Asperula odorata	Spring and early Summer
Woodsage	Teucrium scorodonia	Summer and Autumn
Woody Nightshade	See Bittersweet	
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	Summer
Yellow Flag	Iris pseudacorus	Summer
„ Iris		
(Fleur-de-lys)		
Yellowrattle	Rhinanthus crista-galli	Summer
Yellowwort (perfoliate)	Chlora perfoliata	Summer

TREES.

(By “*Admirer.*”)

A visit to the little “city on the hill” will convince the most sceptical person that it is one of the most picturesque places in the Principality, nature having, in my opinion, been at its best to beautify the parks and fields, all of which, abounding with trees of every description, help to give the city a venerable appearance. The continual exclamations of the thousands of visitors, when in sight of St. Asaph, invariably is “What a pretty place,”—undoubtedly alluding to the scenery which the above subject lends itself. There are several pretty avenues to be seen in and near the Cathedral City; the beautiful one of Faenol Fawr is well worth a visit. Take again the road that leads to Holywell; the avenue of trees there is second to none, and the road to Rhyl from the bridge to Plas Coch we may describe as one of the prettiest that could ever be seen, and no matter from

which direction you enter the city the trees are plentiful. The principal tree, no doubt, is the "brave old oak," which, according to tradition, "takes a hundred years to grow, a hundred to live, and a hundred to die!" Whether the old adage is true or not, this we well know, it is one of the best trees planted in the neighbourhood for different purposes. The oak is the king of local trees. An oak was planted in the Cathedral Church-yard in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, in 1887. We will not tire our readers with details that are common with regard to trees, but simply mention the names of the most common ones that are to be seen around the places which the "Companion" is describing. The next in merit, if we mistake not, are the different species of Ash; a very marketable tree; it is not so conspicuous with its leaves as others, but the thrush delights to warble its sweet notes from its branches on a fine summer evening. Poplars are very numerously cultivated; some are inclined to grow to an extraordinary height, while others are more for spreading their branches far and wide, and often shelter pic-nic parties from the rays of the sun. Those in "Roe Plas" (Dol Anna) testify to the truth of our saying. Elms, also, are favourite trees. They have several relatives which closely resemble them; the Willow, which grows along the river banks, and which is much sought after by basket makers, &c.; the Pussy Willow, which yields its blossoms early in the Spring, and the Weeping Willow (nature's angel), which watches over the graves of our departed friends and relatives. The river side has another constant tenant in the Alder, which tree is more trodden upon than any other, in the clogs that are worn by our colliers and others. The Beech also abound around our little city, and it is a very valuable tree if planted in good and deep soil. Then there are the different Sycamores. Birches, with their white bodies, have been substitutes for many an imaginary ghost! Lime Trees, Horse and Sweet Chesnuts, the Walnut Tree, both valuable for its nuts for pickling purposes and for eating when ripe; as dessert

or otherwise; besides the timber is very expensive and beautiful when properly worked. The Yew Tree—no churchyard seems to be complete without. The different Fir Trees that are noticeable around our neighbourhood, as a rule are planted closely together, so as to enable game to thrive. The other trees which give the “finishing touch” to their brethren, and in summer crown the panoramic view of the country, are the May Blossom, Wild Cherries, Laburnam, Elder, Mulberry, Black Beech, the innumerable fruit trees, and when these wither, the Holly, Laurels, &c., take their place during the winter months. A visit to the place so imperfectly written of will be a treat in reality

(By “Forester.”)

These are the various trees growing along the Vale:—Spruce (*Pefrwydden*), Silver Fir (*Ffinidwydden arianaidd*), Oak (*Derwen*), Ash (*Onen*), Elm (*Llyfanen*), Sycamore (*Masarn*), Alder (*Gwernen*), Birch (*Bedwen*), Beech (*Ffawyddden*), Poplar (*Poplysen*), Willow (*Helygen*), Sweet-Chestnut (*Castanwydden-bêr*), &c.

Sweet Chestnut.—A sandy loam may be said to be best adapted to the growth of the Chestnut as timber; but it also flourishes upon poor gravelly soils and loams, though not on a strong wet clay. In situations where it is fairly sheltered it attains a great size upon almost any dry-bottomed soil.

The Sweet Chestnut is also valuable as a coppice wood, as both from its rapidity of growth, its freedom from sapwood, and its flourishing upon rather poor sand, it forms one of the most remunerative of underwood crops.

Owing to the rapid growth of this tree upon suitable land, and the great spread of its branches, the timber is very liable to ring-shakes, a defect which seriously interferes with its use for beams, and in other situations where it might be exposed to great strains, and where

otherwise it might become a substitute for oak. Still the wood is found very serviceable for many purposes to which oak is generally applied, such as door jambs, window frames, gate and fencing posts, cart bodies and tables.

The wood of the Chestnut is of a brown colour, fairly hard and heavy, fine and clean in its grain. This timber was at one time employed as a substitute for Mahogany in cabinet work, which it was made to resemble by rubbing it first with alum-water, and afterwards applying with brushes decoctions made from logwood chips and Brazil wood. It was also found to be a fair substitute for Holly, in large and rough wood engravings. In growth the Chestnut is not unlike the Oak, but generally its form is rather more straggling.

Alders should be used in quantities along the banks of streams and pools, where their vigorous roots help to retain solid land in spots most liable to cave. How ornamental, too, the low waving green foliage of the Alders thus situated, as their course follows that of the stream through long stretches of green and level meadows! Useful for making soles of clogs and common cheap chairs.

The Beech.—This is one of the largest of our timber trees, and is considered to be also one of the most picturesque; this is due rather to its closeness or compactness of growth than to the present possession of distinct attractive features. Its large and smooth-barked stem is sometimes of a silvery colour, often fluted, and marked with patches of lichens and masses of a rich golden hue. The foliage is dense, and somewhat silky in appearance. Useful for furniture.

Ash (common and mountain).—Valuable as underwood for crates, handles of tools, &c.

Birch.—Valuable timber for turning, and makes first-class charcoal.

Beech.—Succeeds well in light soils, and stands well near the sea. For use see Sycamore.

Oak.—A good tree for growing on the sea coast; and

is found very serviceable in the building line, for door and window frames, also for making coffins.

Elm. — Very useful, excellent timber for building purposes, gatemaking and coffins.

Sycamore. — Thrives in almost any soil, and stands the sea breeze better than most trees. Useful for wringing machines, washing machine rollers, dairy utensils, mallets, &c.

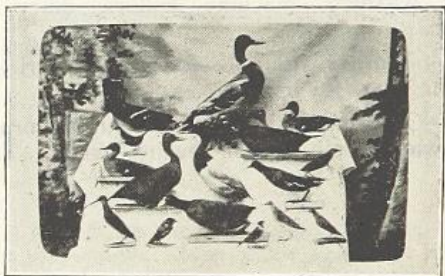
Willow. — Timber valuable for making cricket bats, &c., and the twigs for baskets.

Spruce. — Of compact growth, and highly ornamental. All are, when well grown, bushy plants. Used for flooring.

ORNITHOLOGY AND ZOOLOGY.

(By *W. A. Rogers, Taxidermist.*)

WILD BIRDS.



1, Mallard Duck; 2, Mallard Drake; 3, Teal Drake; 4, Water Ouzel; 5, Scoter; 6, Teal Duck; 7, Spotted Crake; 8, East Indian Wild Duck; 9, Pochard; 10, Water or Moor Hen; 11, Snipe; 12, Hawfinch; 13, Coot; 14, Blackheaded Bunting or Water Sparrow; 15, Dunlin; 16, Sandpiper. All the above were killed on the Elwy, Bodelwyddan Pool, or Deanery Wood.

As we think a description of this famous Vale would be incomplete without reference to its Birds—the pleasantest study of the Field Naturalist—we venture to offer the following brief remarks for such as are strangers to this neighbourhood, and who take a delight in the study of Birds. The locality round this ancient city of St. Asaph is fortunate in possessing representatives of almost every order and family of British Birds, from the Tiny Fire Crest with its quick prying movements, the Hawk with its lightning dart, the rapidly decreasing Bittern's booming, the stately Heron with measured tread, the Kingfisher with its electric flash, the Landrail with its crake, the Night-Jars and Owls with their screeches, the Jays and Magpies with their scolds, the Woodpeckers with their yaffle-yaffle, to the Golden Crested Wren,

Golden Plover, Oyster Catcher, Scoter and Tufted Owls. Nor in its Water Birds does it lack, for there is a profusion of Mallard, Teal, Widgeon, Grebe, Coot, and Shell Duck, which gives ample sport to the November shot, as also does the Snipe, Jack Snipe, and Woodcock. The proximity to the coast also induces the visits of all kinds of sea birds, Gannets, Gulls, Terns, Shags and Northern Divers, together with the Scoters and Mergansers. An important order of our "Feathered Friends" are the songsters, a veritable ærial concert awaiting the ears of such as choose to take an evening walk; the Blackbird, Thrush, Skylark, Goldfinch and Linnets, Blackcap and superb Woodlark, vieing with each other for supremacy of note. Lastly our noble Game Birds (Pheasants and Partridges), in which this beautiful valley abounds. The following are a few rare birds which have been taken at different times in and around the neighbourhood:—Belted Kingfisher, Blue-headed Wagtail, Crested Grebe, Crossbill, Darter, Golden Eye, Golden Oriole, Goosander, Great Grey Shreik, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby, Hawfinch, Long-eared Grebe, Musical Duck, Pied Fly Catcher, Purple Heron, Red-legged Kestrel, Red-legged Partridge, Rose Starling, Scarlet Bullfinch, Shoveller Duck, Snowy Owl and Wax Wing.

WILD ANIMALS.

In the possession of Wild Animals, the Vale and District of St. Asaph cannot, fortunately, boast of a very varied order; chief amongst them undoubtedly is the Fox, of which the whole Vale abounds. Next in order we would place the Hare and Rabbit, closely followed by the Otter, as far as sporting qualities are concerned. The Badger also is found, but not so common as formerly; as also is the Polecat, which still commits depredation in some of the local game preserves. The Pine Marten and the Beech Marten are still found, but rarely.

The Stoat and Weasel are common, as also the Hedgehog, Squirrel, Dormouse, Musk Rat, Water Rat, Common Mouse, Field Mouse, Harvest Mouse, and the Mole; and if we be permitted to add to the list of animals, the Frog and Toad (though not classed as animals by the leading naturalists); and the Newts will about close the whole of the animals common to the Vale and District.

ENTOMOLOGY, &c.

(INSECTS AND REPTILES).

(By *Percy Standish Hore, Beresford Dormitory, Wellington College, Berks.*)

THE lanes and country around here abound in various species of Insects, and afford plenty of scope for the collector.

The principal species of butterflies, besides the large and small cabbage whites, are the large and small meadow browns, the green-veined white and the large and small heaths; whilst of the commoner species there are the red admiral, the common blue, the small copper, the small tortoiseshell, the peacock and the orange tips, the wall butterfly and the high brown fritillary. As to moths, perhaps the most noticeable is the goat moth. The caterpillars of this moth inhabit trees close to the city, and can always be recognised a long way off by their peculiar smell, which is supposed to resemble that of a goat. They bore into the trees, and by eating out the tree do a lot of damage. The fox moth can also be found. The caterpillars of this species feed on bilberry and heather. Another of the St. Asaph moths is the oak eggar. The peculiarity of this moth is that it makes an extremely hard cocoon; another moth of the same order, namely, the goldtail, is also fairly abundant. The caterpillar of this species, which can be found often in spring, is black, with red line down its back, and is marked on the sides with white. Its principal food is the hawthorn. This caterpillar has the peculiarity, also enjoyed by other species which have long hair, of causing a peculiar irritation to the skin when handled. The goldtail moth, the fox, and the oak eggar, all belong to the same order, namely, the "Nocturni." The tiger moth can also be found round St. Asaph. The caterpillar of this moth feeds on nearly every sort of plant. The beautiful vapourer moth is also found in this neighbourhood.

As to the rarer species of butterflies and moths, I have found the comma once, and also a privet hawk moth. I was also given a puss moth caterpillar. I do not know whether this latter is a rare species round here, but it has not come under my notice since. On the whole, I should say that St. Asaph is a very good place for butterflies, moths, and other insects.

As to the vapourer moth, the female is wingless, and lays her eggs all over the cocoon of the chrysalis.

In the beetle division, the principal species are the dor beetle, the burying beetle, the whirl-i-gig, and a species of water beetle. As to the large kind of *Dysticus*, personally I have only found it once, and even then, owing to its being in the water, I could not be certain of it. Besides several other kinds of land beetles, nearly all the species of dragon flies can be found in this vicinity.

Personally, I have only once heard of a hanging wasps' nest, and that was in a yew tree on Cefn Rocks. As a rule the wasps around here make their nests in banks. The nest, which is made at the end of a hole, is a most marvellous structure, and is made of a sort of paper like substance, moulded by the female wasps out of the wood on the gate posts and fences. The nest is globular in shape, and consists of layers of cells.

I have never heard of a hornet's nest being found in the neighbourhood.

As to reptiles, the lizard, blindworm, grass or ringed snake, and also the adder can be found. I have myself only found one adder, and it was quite small, but I fancy it can be found on the hills and on the dry heath amidst the bracken. It is of a brown colour, marked with darker brown. The ringed snake is green, marked with yellow. The adder likes dry ground, whilst the grass snake likes wet and marshy ground.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

(By a Civil Engineer.)

ST. ASAPH and the surrounding district obtains its water supply from the mountains in the Parish of Llanefydd, the impounding reservoir being 500 feet above sea level. The water, like most other upland waters, is of a soft character, and is of unquestionable purity.

The water is brought from Llanefydd to Glascoed by means of earthenware pipes. At Glascoed it is filtered before being delivered to the district. It then proceeds to St. Asaph by iron pipes or mains. The whole of the works are on what is known as the gravitation system, no pumping being necessary.

The filter beds and reservoir at Glascoed—three miles from St. Asaph—are well worth visiting. Permission to view them may be obtained from Mr. Leonard G. Hall, C.E., Water Engineer, Rhyl.

AS A HOLIDAY RESORT.

(By "Cymro.")

HAS St. Asaph any claims to the above title? I think it has, more than a great many places whose charms are written and spoken about through England and Wales; and that is my apology for writing these few lines.

"Ye little citye" has attractions within and without. The old Cathedral, although the smallest in the kingdom, has a charm of peace and quietness more suitable for public worship than any other Cathedral. This is the opinion of a noted Englishman who once visited the Cathedral. Its natural beauty of situation is hardly noticed by us; strangers must come here and tell us so; yes, and more would come if only a few enterprising citizens (like our respected Publisher) would take the matter up, and cater for visitors more than they do now. If they want scenery, can they not go up to the Tower? and if they are not satisfied with that view, well, their appreciation of scenery has not been developed. Could a more pleasant change be thought of than to come from the noise, bustle and smoky atmospheres of our large towns to breathe the fresh pure air of our little city.

Apart from its own beauties, St. Asaph is more favourably situated than any other town in the district. Look at the places of interest in the neighbourhood—Cefn Rocks, St. Mary's Well, Bodelwyddan Church, Rhuddlan Castle, Denbigh Castle, all within a very short distance, and with splendid roads either for walking or cycling. If they want "a sniff of the briny," Rhyl and Abergele are only about six miles away. Holywell, with its noted St. Winifred's, is also within easy access.

But some will say "St. Asaph is so quiet and dull." Allowing that it is so for the young and frivolous, are there not thousands in our large towns who wish to find a place "far from the madding crowd," where peace, beauty, and quiet enjoyment can be had?

We further hope that the Parish Council will see their way to bring the many attractions of our city more prominently before those who love a quiet, beautiful, and health-giving resort.

AS A HEALTH RESORT.

(By J. Lloyd Roberts, M.B., Edin., D.P.H., Eng., Medical Officer of Health for the St. Asaph—Denbigh and Flint—Rural District Councils, Denbigh.)

MUCH may be said, and more experienced, by those persons who are so well advised as to try St. Asaph as a health, and particularly as a holiday, resort. Generally, the locality is dry and mildly bracing, enjoys more than an average of sunshine, and has a recorded low rainfall of about 30·0 inches only during the year. The refreshing air is tempered by breezes from the sea, and if a more invigorating or stronger air be needed, it will soon be gained by a short excursion to the higher lands about, as to Cefn, Glascoed, &c., and more especially will such be found on the table land east of the city, beyond the top of the Rhualt Hill, about the Traveller's Inn and Llyn Helig, and anywhere between Caerwys and Gwaeynysgor. For the man who is "run down" by the strain of his calling, or by the cares and anxieties of a business or a professional life, no more likely place than St. Asaph is there to recuperate in. Here the lost sleep will return without wooing, appetite be recovered, and digestion wait upon both. Neither should the quietness of the place pall upon anyone, for the district has abundant sources of refreshing occupations and relaxation. According to the season, Golf, Tennis, Cricket, Hunting, Fishing, and perhaps Shooting, by way of sport; and for those who would seek diversions of another kind, they may be found in variety. The Archæologist will find the district one rich in material; the Geologist a country peculiarly representative, and exhibiting in a short radius a greater number of the named formations than is to be found in any other known locality; and the Naturalist a fine field for search both for fauna and flora, extraordinary both in numbers, variety and rarity. Thus to the many advantages of

sunshine and fresh and invigorating air are added many attractive occupations to take one out into the open and to give zest to the enjoyment of a ramble.

The lodgings obtainable are comfortable and home-like. The city is well sewered, and otherwise sanitarily well cared for. The water supply is a constant service from the Rhyl water main, from the reservoir in the hills at Llanefydd, some five miles distant.

(By Henry Lloyd, M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.S.A., Lond., Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the St. Asaph District and Workhouse, Arsyllfa.)

Although St. Asaph cannot be recommended as a health resort for possessing natural mineral waters or Spas, it undoubtedly is supplied with exquisitely pure water, which has its source in a high altitude amongst the hills of Llanefydd on the west side; on other grounds it may be considered attractive, its moderate climate and position being beneficial for a country residence.

With regard to its position, St. Asaph is advantageously situated between hills which shelter it considerably from gales and cold currents from these quarters. On the east side it is sheltered by a range of hills which run from the sea to Moel Famau, and on the west side by a similar but less regular range. These ranges form the boundaries to the Vale of Clwyd, and enclose it on the two sides. Opposite St. Asaph they are about seven miles apart, but as the Vale extends inland they converge, so that at Ruthin they are only two miles apart, the Vale being narrowed to this extent. St. Asaph is situated nearer the east range on an eminence between the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, but in nearer proximity to the Elwy a not inconsiderable part of the city is built on the west side of this river. The upper part of the city at the Canonry is 115 ft. above the sea level, and is distant from the sea as the crow flies

five and a half miles. The gradient is very gradual from Rhyl to the city. Rhyl Town Hall 22 ft., Talardy 37 ft., Elwy Bridge 61 ft., floor of Workhouse 152 ft., Trefnant Village 193 ft. above sea level. The height of Pont Dafydd over the river Clwyd is 51 ft., or 10 ft. lower than the Elwy. The Elwy flows more rapidly than the Clwyd opposite St. Asaph. Thus it cannot be said the city stands on a high altitude, but the portion included between the two rivers is well raised, and commands an excellent view of the surrounding country. The substratum here is entirely of solid clay, with a sharp incline on the east and west slopes, which considerably assist the drainage. Modern hygienic investigation goes to prove that a porous ground tends to breed micro organisms which cause specific infectious diseases, such as typhoid, scarlatina, &c. Then the soil of the city is, in its ordinary geological sense, unfavourable to these organisms on account of its non-porous consistence. Indeed this has proved to be the case, for during the last twelve years, in the writer's knowledge, there have been none of these diseases originating here, those few cases which occurred being traced to infection from outside the district. Light and direct sunlight, dry and bracing sea and mountain air, an impenetrable surface, are well known as unfavourable factors for the extension and propagation of infectious diseases. These adjuncts we have in the city.

That part of the city which lies west of the Elwy has a gravelly and sandy soil, but not of a peaty nature. It is well drained, and fortunately as free from infectious diseases as the upper part. However it is lower, in close proximity to the river, consequently the air is more humid. The greatest blot and eyesore which attaches itself to the city is that part called The Common, situate around the Elwy, just below the bridge, where is allowed to be carted the city rubbish and waste of all kind. It is a strange thing that near the close of the 19th century this should remain, apart from its sanitary aspect, an ugly, desolate midden. Were this converted into a lake, or levelled, and ornamental trees and evergreens planted,

I venture to think our city one of the prettiest in England.

The St. Asaph Workhouse, which draws its inmates from 16 surrounding parishes in the Union, including Rhyl and Denbigh, swells the death roll considerably. Were this deducted, the city would compare favourably with the lowest rates of mortality in the country.

The city generally is well wooded, and so is the surrounding country, with high trees, especially near the Palace and Bronwylfa, where the crows build their nests in Springtime. It was at the latter residence that the famous poetess composed her beautiful lyrics.

The climate is mild, the temperature rarely more than a degree lower than at Rhyl. The air is remarkably clear and invigorating. From the N. and N.W., bracing sea air is obtained, this tempered and moderated by its travel over land. The writer has frequently found that a certain type of anæmic patients do not benefit by a residence at the sea side, the air overpowering, causing constitutional disturbances; also certain phthisical subjects in a similar way are not suited at the sea side, the cough and throat irritation becoming more troublesome, and lessening their chances of recovery. I have found such cases improve rapidly on removal here. Residence here also has proved the best of tonics for the overworked and jaded from our large English towns. A happy country life here, free from the trammels of a crowded city, where one can enjoy a landscape which presents all that is bright and beautiful in nature, and where also is to be found within reach all that is necessary for his needs and fancies.

(By *F. L. H., M.A., M.B., Oxon.*)

I have a very high opinion of the wonderfully healthy climate of our city.

*By J. Richardson Armstrong, M.D., Edin. ; M.Ch. ;
Surgeon Ocean Colliery Company, Treorchy, R.S.O., Glam.,
formerly of St. Asaph.*

St. Asaph is a charming little rural city, and is built upon and round an eminence situated midway between the rivers Elwy and Clwyd. It lies in the Vale of Clwyd, and is bounded on two sides by a range of high hills, while the remaining sides look respectively towards the sea and up the Vale, and the tide comes up to Rhuddlan, a distance of two miles and a half from St. Asaph. Hence you have in this little city advantages which few places possess as a health resort. You get the sea air from Rhyl and the sea carried up, and you have also the bracing mountain air from the hills around. I would strongly recommend St. Asaph and district as a health resort for persons recovering from severe illnesses, especially from chest affections, *e.g.*, pneumonia and pleurisy or empyema, and also in the convalescences from any of the fevers. The air will be found to be an excellent tonic, and will contribute largely towards setting them up in life again. St. Asaph is essentially rural, and as a place of peace and quiet for the business man, who is wearied with over work and mental strain, it will be found invaluable. Added to its bracing and tonic atmosphere, you may indulge in any of the healthy rural pastimes, such as fishing, shooting, riding. On the whole, I do not think that any invalid or delicate person will regret spending a few weeks or months in St. Asaph.

(*By Eryri.*)

As a residential neighbourhood the City of St. Asaph stands pre-eminent. It is situated on the table land which forms the watershed of the rivers Clwyd and Elwy, and is about six miles distant from Rhyl, six from Abergele, and five from Denbigh, all of which places

are of easy access. On the eastern side are the mountains of the Clwydian range, with their varied beauties, and on the western and south western the heights of Cefn Meiriadog are in the near distance, while further away the mountains of Carnarvon are seen rearing their hoary summits. From the higher parts of the city the snowy peak of Snowdon is visible. The inhabitants of the city thus have the benefit of sea and mountain air combined, and as there are no manufactories or works to render the atmosphere impure, the freshening winds blow over mountain and sea, bearing life and energy in their breezes. In addition to these natural advantages, St. Asaph possesses an abundant supply of excellent water, drawn from the gathering grounds round the district of Llanefydd, where the principal reservoir is situated. This reservoir was constructed by the Rhyl and District Water Company, who a few years ago sold their undertaking to the Rhyl Urban District Council. The water is exceptionally pure, and of good quality for drinking and all domestic purposes. The drainage of the city is also on modern principles, as a few years ago an entirely new system of drains was laid down by the St. Asaph Rural Sanitary Authority. By this system the sewage is carried under the bed of the river Elwy to a series of filtering tanks, where, after a course of purification, a perfectly pure and harmless outfall results. The cost of these works, which are at some distance from the city, was defrayed by the ratepayers of the old undivided Parish of St. Asaph. It will thus be seen that the two great principles of sanitation, viz., pure water and scientific drainage, have been secured for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the City of St. Asaph. For those who are wearied by the turmoil of our large cities, no place can offer more advantages than St. Asaph. Its salubrious and mild climate; its varied and pleasant walks; its rivers, from the banks of which the angler can enjoy all the pleasures of his pursuit while drinking in health at every breath; and its perfect sanitary arrangements, combine to render "ye olde citie" an ideal place of residence.

GARIBALDUS.

A ST. ASAPH "COMMON" STORY.

(*By the Editor.*)

THE sun had set, and evening was rapidly coming on, as the showman opened the door of the circus.

All the dead walls in St. Asaph had been covered with placards relating to the wonderful circus about to visit the city for some weeks past, and everyone talked about it.

The loafers in the High Street, on the Cross, and on the Bridge, discussed it; the old women in the Lower Street jangled about it, and the children—well—went into raptures over it.

Wonderful things were to happen; horses—riderless horses—were to jump through rings of fire; clowns were to crack everyone's sides with laughter; young riders were to fill everyone with wonder at their performances; acrobats were to perform feats of daring; and above all, Garibaldus, the most accomplished juggler of the age, was to show his great skill.

All these things were to be seen for a very small sum, and so, as a matter of course, the Common presented a lively appearance as the showman appeared on the balcony to invite all St. Asaph folk to step up.

"Walk up, gentlemen," he cried, "everything may be seen if you pay your money. We have been patronised by everyone of note in our travels over the country, and we can boast of many great attractions, as has been announced to you. We have the youngest performers of the age; the best horses that money could buy; the most accomplished horsemen and horsewomen of the day; and above all, the wonderful and renowned juggler—Garibaldus. So this way, gentlemen and ladies, please; you will never regret it; this way for an evening of fun and amusement. Walk up, walk up, walk up."

This little speech was duly punctuated with "cheers

and laughter" (to use a parliamentary expression), and after its delivery, the motley multitude made its way up the steps, and down again into the circus on the other side, round which ran tiers of seats raised one above the other, in the form of a circle, so common to all such shows.

The seats being quickly filled, the band began to play, and punctually to time the performance began. To the accompaniment of a stirring air, a young lady on horseback trotted into the arena, and was greeted with rounds of applause. She went through her performance very creditably, amidst the cheers of the delighted St. Asaph folk. Most of the other performers did equally well, and everything went off without a hitch, until it came to Garibaldus, the renowned juggler's turn.



Let us leave the circus for a brief space, and take ourselves to a caravan, which stands by itself away from the circus building. It is painted a dark yellow, picked out here and there with red. It is the home of some of the circus folk, for as we stand outside we can see a light through the window, which is but faintly veiled. The inside, indeed, is a dwelling place. On entering, we see a small fire place, a tiny chest of drawers, and other necessary furniture. On the walls are pictures, amongst them the "Ecce Homo," whilst screened off from the doorway is a bed, on which lies a handsome young fellow, dressed in all the paint and gaudy finery of a circus show, and looking the very picture of death. By his side kneels a young woman—one of the renowned horsewomen—still in her flesh-coloured tights and professional paint. Perched at the head of the bedstead is a little fellow, about five years of age, who is looking sorrowfully first at the father and then at the mother.

"Do you feel better now?" inquires the young woman of Garibaldus—for this is he. "Do you think you will be able to go into the circus presently. I think they are nearly ready for you."

The young fellow looks up with a sigh, and answers

in a weak voice,—“No—Mary—I sha-all ne-ver, ne-ver go aga-in.”

At this the poor young woman—it is his wife—seems much distressed, and big tears steal down her cheeks.

The little one at the head of the bed sees sorrow, but only comprehends it enough to sob out,—“Don’t ‘try,’ muvver.”

But “muvver” does cry, and presently Garibaldus lays his hand upon her arm, and says,—“Mary, if I—do-n’t go—they w—ill de—mand the—ir money back.”

The little child looks wistfully at his father, and then at the clown who is watching at the foot of the bed. The latter—poor fellow—is too saddened at heart to be of comfort to the poor woman in distress, and he only lays his head upon his arm and weeps in silence.

Mary, by this time, is more composed, and says,—“Look here, George, they don’t know me or you, and I can do most of your tricks. Let me do your part. I will put on your things, and imitate you as well as I can.”

But before she has done speaking another clown hurries in, with “Now then, Gari—,” but seeing signs of distress, he adds in a whisper,—“Mary, is he worse?”

Mary draws him aside, and in a few words explains.

He evidently agrees, for together they strip Garibaldus of his circus attire, and while the attendant clown covers Garibaldus up in bed, Mary “does” herself up for her unrehearsed part. Then, after a wistful look at her husband, and leaving the clowns and her little boy in charge, she hurries off to the circus.

The sick man has now sunk into a stupor, and the clowns watch carefully by his side. Not a sound is heard around, save the frequent roll of a carriage over the bridge; the swish—swish—swish of the calm and peaceful Elwy; or the occasional clapping of hands in the circus, which tells those in the caravan of the success of the brave girl in her new rolê.

* * * * *

Let us peep into the circus for a moment. Not a seat is vacant now; the petroleum lamps burn as brightly as ever, and every eye is fixed on “Garibaldus,” who

smiles and bows "his" acknowledgments at the conclusion of each of "his" feats. Who, of all this throng, knows what "Garibaldus" is undergoing; who, of all this throng, thinks that there is an aching heart under that gaudy dress; who, of all this throng, thinks how near he is to the presence of Grim Death himself. Ah me! such are the ways of the world.



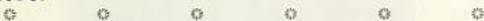
Mary is back again once more, but only to find George near to "the gates of death."

The performers all know now how ill Garibaldus is; they knew he had been poorly for a long time, but they did not think he was so far gone, they could not realise that the tide of his life was receding, that they were to lose one they all respected and loved.

But he is beyond all human aid now, his life is fast ebbing away.

Supported by the clowns, Mary leans her head upon the shoulder of their little child, who is lying at the foot of the bed, and weeps as though her heart would break.

When she lifts her head, they tell her that Garibaldus is no more.



In the peaceful cemetery, a few days later, a little band of men, women, and one little fellow, gathered round a grave.

It was a beautiful spring day—one of those typical days which remind you of the resurrection of all things—all around was calm and peaceful, and no sound was heard save that of the white-robed minister committing the body of "our dear brother here departed" to the ground—the last resting place of all that is mortal of us.

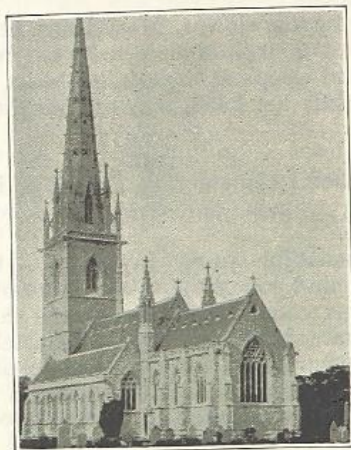
After it was all over, they all, in turn, took a last long look—for they all loved Garibaldus—and then moved away silently and tearfully.

Poor "Garibaldus."

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ST. ASAPH.

(By the Editor.)

DISTANCES FROM ST. ASAPH.		Miles.
Bodelwyddan		3
Cefn (Stairs, Rocks and Caves)		3½
'tŷ,, (St. Mary's Well)		2½
Trefnant		2½
Denbigh		5
Tremeirchion		3
Rhuddlan		2½
Dyserth		4
Rhyl		6
Abergele and Pensarn		6



BODELWYDDAN MARBLE CHURCH.

BODELWYDDAN CHURCH.

THIS celebrated church—or to give it its proper name, St. Margaret's Church—is reached from St. Asaph by

the Bodelwyddan Road. It was erected at the sole cost of Lady Willoughby de Broke, aunt of the present Baronet (Sir W. G. Williams), of Bodelwyddan Hall. The first stone was laid by her on the 24th of July, 1856, and the church was consecrated by Bishop Short, of St. Asaph, on the 23rd of August, 1860. The church itself consists of porch, nave, side aisles, vestry or ante chapel and chancel. In the porch may be seen the foundation plate, bearing the word,—“This stone was laid July 24th, in the year of our Lord 1856, by Margaret Willoughby de Broke, who founded, erected, and endowed this church at her sole expense, in the devout hope that it might tend to the glory of God.”

The small stained glass windows on either side of the porch represent St. Margaret and St. Kentigern, the first Bishop of St. Asaph.



THE FONT IN BODELWYDDAN MARBLE CHURCH.

The font is one of the most beautiful in the country. It is formed of Carrara marble, and represents two

daughters of the late Sir Hugh Williams (one kneeling the other standing), the larger figure holding the baptismal basin (a shell). It is the work of the late Mr. Peter Hollins, of Birmingham, and cost the donor (Sir Hugh Williams) something over £300.

The window overlooking the font is to the memory of the third Lady Williams, who died in 1881.

The west window in the south aisle is to the memory of the wife of the present Baronet, who died in May, 1894, aged 29. The quotations are very appropriate.

The pulpit is of finely carved oak, and was given by the Misses Williams.

The lectern—a memorial to the late Sir Hugh Williams—was presented to the church by his family in 1876.

The chancel is approached by a fine gothic arch, whilst the stalls are of carved oak. The steps to the Communion Table are of Sicilian marble.

The east window represents scenes in the history of our Lord's life,—his birth, entry into Jerusalem, passion, crucifixion, and resurrection.

The first window on the north side is to the memory of the Rev. W. W. Edwards and his wife.

There are other windows,—to the memory of Lady Willoughby de Broke and "Harriet Williams."

In the vestry may be seen a marble bust of the foundress.

Above the west door (on the exterior) may be seen a handsome clock.

The height of the base of the spire is 82 feet; the total height is 202 feet.

The designer of the building was Mr. John Gibson, of Westminster.

The third rector was the Rev. W. Rees Williams, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and formerly principal of Carnarvon Training College.

The fourth one was the present Dean of St. Asaph; whilst the fifth and present one is the Rev. Canon Owen Jones, M.A.

The church may be seen in the summer months during

the week-days, the Verger conducting visitors around and explaining fully.

In the churchyard lie the remains of Mr. H. M. Stanley's mother, who lived in the neighbourhood.

CEFN CHURCH, ROCKS AND CAVES, AND ST. MARY'S WELL.

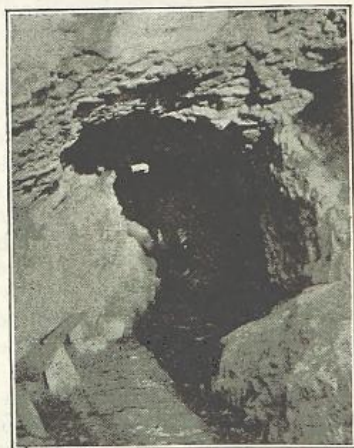
The road to Cefn (as we have mentioned) is by the second turning to the left from Penrhewl.

There is nothing of interest as you pass along; the scenery around, on clear days, is rather pretty. Cefn Church was built by Mrs. Williams-Wynn, of Plas yn Cefn, in memory of her husband, Colonel H. W. Williams-Wynn, who was killed by a fall from his horse. It was consecrated in 1864, and consists of nave, north and south transepts, and chancel. The font, another beautiful piece of work, representing a kneeling angel with shell, was presented by the late Sir W. Williams-Wynn, of Wynnstay, Ruabon. The east window (if the lancets in the east end can be so called) represent scenes from our Lord's life. The reredos is to the memory of Mrs. Williams-Wynn's eldest son, who was drowned whilst boating at Eton. There are windows to the memory of Mrs. Wynn's father, Edward Lloyd, of Cefn, and Letitia Owen Lloyd, 1876. The first Rector of Cefn was the Ven. Archdeacon Thomas; the second was the Rev. Dan Edwards, the present Vicar of Rhyl; the third the Rev. E. J. Evans (Vicar of Chirk); and the present Rector is the Rev. David Griffith (late curate of Denbigh).

The Narrow Stairs and the celebrated Caves are situated not very far from the church. The view as you look across from the Caves is glorious. In summer time there is a guide who will provide you with candles if you care to enter the Caves. Many fossil remains were found here during the explorations that took place when the Caves were discovered.



THE NARROW STAIRS, CEFN ROCKS.



ENTRANCE TO CEFN CAVES.

If you should happen, by mistake, to take the road below that leading to the Caves, you will pass through a natural arch, through which the old road from Abergele



THE NATURAL ARCHWAY, CEFN ROCKS.

to Denbigh used to run in days gone by. The view from the *top* of the Caves is very grand. The house that is seen lying far below is "Dolben," now the residence of Mr. T. G. Dixon, and formerly the residence of Major-General Hutton, one of the "Light Brigade."

Passing round the back of the rocks, and keeping to the footpath, a rustic bridge will presently be seen on the right. This leads to Galltfaenan Woods, at the top of which splendid views of the Vale may be obtained.

Coming back, and keeping to the footpath in front, and having the Elwy below us on our right, we soon reach an open field, where, within an enclosure, is seen St. Mary's Well and Chapel. The well—enclosed in a stone basin—was reputed to possess healing virtues in



ST. MARY'S WELL, CEFN.

days gone by. The chapel—now a pitiful ruin—was formerly used as a chapel of ease to St. Asaph. Up to a year or so ago visitors were allowed admission through the kindness of the owner (Colonel Howard, of Wigfair), but now it is closed to the public, and you may only view this peaceful spot from behind the iron railings. There is nothing more to interest, except the walk home, which is delightful on a cool, clear day.

Well of the past! thy palmy days are o'er;
 Chapel so ruined, ne'er again shall come
 Those times of old, when 'neath thy sheltered walls
 The monks did praise their God, and when each day
 The many pilgrims visited thy well.

Well of the past! No more shall come the sick
 To seek health cure from thee for all their pains,
 To drink of thee as of enchanted stream,
 Or visit thee on pilgrimage of love.

No more the name of Jesus shall be breathed
 Around thee, or within thy chapel's walls,
 For ruin hath outsped thee in the race
 With Time, and desecrated thee and all
 That once was held so dear to those around.

But though thou art deserted, we do not
 Love less thy name—nay, for now we see thee

Crumbling fast away, we e'en would have thee
 Back again as in thy happiest days. But
 This can never be, and so we watch thee
 In thy death. And as soon thou wilt be gone,
 All save thy well, we treasure deep thy fame.
 Ah! thus it is in life; we treasure most
 The memory of those we should have loved,—
 When they are gone,—and thus 'twill always be.

TREFNANT.

This very small village is situate $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from St. Asaph, and may be reached either by rail or by the Denbigh roads. The only attraction here is the church, which, with its churchyard, is a perfect model of what a church and its surroundings should be. It was built in 1855 by Mrs. Mainwaring, of Galltfaenan, and her sister, in memory of their parents, Colonel and Mrs. Salesbury, of Galltfaenan. The church itself consists of nave, choir and chancel, and vestry or north transept. The font is a beautiful creation of greyish marble, and there are stained windows to the memory of "Whitehall Dod," of Llanerch; Col. and Mrs. Salesbury; "Townshend Mainwaring,"—two given by friends, one by the family; and an infant daughter of Major and Mrs. Ffoulkes, of Erriviatt.

In the churchyard lie Major General Campbell (one of the Lucknow garrison), and Charles Lewis, of Plas yn Cwm (nephew of the Rector of Trefnant).

A sun dial in the churchyard bears this verse,—

"Suns rise and set
 Till men forget
 The day is at the door
 When they shall rise no more.
 O everlasting Sun,
 Whose race is never run,
 Be thou my endless light,
 Then shall I fear no night."

The present Rector is the Rev. Canon Lewis, M.A.

DENBIGH

(See *Illustration Page 116*).

is five miles from St. Asaph (through Trefnant). The Castle is at the top of the hill, and naturally attracts the attention first. The grounds are beautifully kept, as well as the celebrated bowling green, which is still as it was in the days of the celebrated Earl of Leicester (who spent a considerable time here). Fine views are obtained from the Castle walls.

In a small cottage (now demolished) outside the Castle walls, the explorer Stanley was born. The large arches we see lower down are portions of a cathedral or abbey, which the Earl of Leicester commenced, but never finished. The disused building we see further on is St. Hilary's Church, once a chapel of ease to the parish of Denbigh.

St. Mary's Church is situated in Henllan Street, and St. David's off Vale Street. The latter has been renovated very recently, both externally and internally.

Whitchurch, the old Parish Church of Denbigh, dedicated to St. Marchell, stands some little way outside the town.

In the church are buried many celebrities, including Richard Myddleton, governor of Denbigh Castle (in the reigns of Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth) and his wife; Thomas Edwards (Twm o'r Nant); and John Salisbury (Sion y Bodiau).

The monument in Vale Street is to the memory of Dr. Evan Pierce, a prominent townsman and benefactor, who died in 1895. It was erected during his lifetime.

 TREMEIRCHION.

The little village of Tremeirchion can be reached by road from Trefnant. There is an ancient church here, the key of which is to be obtained close by.

St. Beuno's College stands near the village, and was

built for the purpose of training young men for the Romanist ministry. On a rocky eminence, not very far away, is a tiny chapel or oratory belonging to the College.

The view across the Vale is really exquisite on fine days from this point. To reach St. Asaph you take the road straight on, passing through Rhualt, and so on, down the Holywell Road to the city.

R O C K C H A P E L

(ST. BEUNO'S COLLEGE).

The dimensions of this diminutive building are :—

Interior :—

Length—19 feet.

Porch—7 feet.

Total Length—26 feet.

Breadth—9 feet 6 inches.

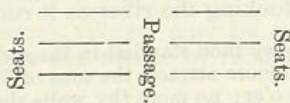
Height to pitch of roof—19 feet.

Exterior :—

Height to Spring of roof—10 feet.

Height of Spire—33 feet.

In the interior there are eight small benches, accommodating two persons each. There is a narrow passage between them, thus :—



Including the Officiant (or Celebrant) and Clerks, this tiny building holds just about 20 persons ; or—allowing for the porch—25 persons.

[I am much indebted for the foregoing information to the Rev. H. Lucas, S.J., M.A., who has kindly given me information on things relating to his church].

RHUDDLAN.

This little village, situate at about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from St. Asaph (by road—the Roe and Rhuddlan Road—or rail), was formerly a place of great importance, but now it has dwindled down in size very much.

The bridge over the Clwyd, which here runs into the sea, was built by William Hughes, Bishop of St. Asaph (1573—1601), the predecessor of Bishop Morgan. In the High Street may be seen the fragment of an old building on which it is recorded that “This fragment is the remains of the old building where Edward I. held his Parliament, A.D., 1283, in which was passed the Statute of Rhuddlan, securing to the Principality of Wales its judicial rights and independence.” To show how the sea has receded in recent years, the following extract from “The Chronicle written by the famous clarke, Peter Roberts,” will be of interest:—

“Upon Shrove Sundaie, being the xxth daie of February, 1641, some xixen shippes loaded w'th soldiers and munic'on for warres, were seene sailing anynch Ruthland” (from St. Asaph) “for Ireland, to suppress the rebellion of the Ireish na'con, w'ch began to rebell and to kill and robbe abouts all S'ts last.”

The old church is also very interesting, and many celebrities are buried here. The present Vicar is the Rev. T. W. Vaughan, M.A.

The castle itself, built of red stone, is a large quadrangular structure, now covered with ivy, and stands on an eminence overlooking the river as it runs into the sea.

Ruined and grey thou standest in these days,
 When war no more attracts the sons of Wales.
 Thy days are o'er; no more thy walls shall see
 The pageants of a king or stately prince,
 Nor yet the revels of some high born peer.
 Thy days are o'er. No more the drum shall beat
 Its loud alarm around thee or within.
 No more shall MYTTON bring his Ironsides
 To conquer thee and ruin thee again.
 Oh! could'st thou speak to us with truthful tongue,
 Unfolding tales of ancient history,
 How we should marvel. But now thou standest

Lone and silent ; and the ruthless war-god
 Shall no more wake thee in thy slumber deep.
 But Time has cast his cruel hand on thee,
 So now no more thy fame is heard abroad
 As a sure stronghold of defence in times
 Of war, but only as a helpless wreck
 Fast mouldering in the dust, amidst decay.
 Still, to the sons of Wales, thy fame is dear
 Even in time of peace, for doth it not
 Speak still of days when Wales stood forth alone
 Against her foes. Thy glory shall not fade ;
 Thy name — when thou art gone—shall even be
 A watchword bright upon the pages dark
 Of Cambria's history, which shall never fade.

It was on Rhuddlan Marsh that a fearful battle was fought in 795 between the Saxons, under the King of Mercia, and the Welsh, under Prince Caradog, who were defeated. The castle is supposed to have been built in 1020. During the years 1277—1284 Edward I. was here very much, and a daughter of his was born in the castle in 1283. During the civil wars the old place was held for the King, but had to surrender to General Mytton in 1646, and was shortly afterwards dismantled. Visitors may view it daily on payment of a very small sum.

DYSERTH.

This picturesque village may be reached either by rail to Rhuddlan, and thence by road, or by road all the way.

The Church (with its ancient Jesse window) is well worth a visit, as well as the celebrated Waterfall, the Talar Goch Lead Mines, and the Castle, which is now nothing more than a few shattered fragments.

RHYL.

This popular watering place needs very few words of praise or introduction from me, as its many attractions are well known.

It is six miles from St. Asaph, and is a splendid resort for children, as there is a very fine stretch of beach (sandy, not pebbly), and there are no quicksands.

The churches are four in number, whilst there are places of worship (both in English and Welsh) in connection with all of the Nonconformist denominations.

ABERGELE AND PENSARN.

These two watering places are six miles (by road) from St. Asaph. Pensarn has sprung up within recent years—Abergele is the parent town.

The chief attraction in Abergele is, of course, the Church, which is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels. In the churchyard is a large memorial stone to the memory of those unfortunates who lost their lives in the awful Abergele railway disaster some 30 years ago.

Gwrych Castle, now the residence of the Earl and Countess of Dundonald, is a beautiful old structure outside Abergele. Mrs. Hemans lived near for a few years during her childhood.

As a watering place, Abergele is much frequented by those who prefer the quiet country and the seaside, rather than the bustle and hurry of town life with the same.





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A PEEP INTO THE RECORDS OF THE PAST.

(By the Editor).

By the kindness of the Senior Vicar of St. Asaph (the Rev. D. W. Davies), I was enabled to look into the Church Records of the Parish in search of any information concerning St. Asaph or its residents in the past.

The Records include Registers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, some very ancient, as their dilapidated condition testifies, recent ones well and carefully kept, Vestry Records, and various small books.

In the year 1686 I noted the following:—

Marriage,—

“Reverend Mr. John Mostyn and Madam Anne Price of Vaynol were married at the Cathedrall of St. Asaph by Dean Humphreys of Bangor ye 22nd day of May, 1686.”

In 1688 we have this entry:—

“Anne, daughter of John Piers of Wayne, Gent, was baptised ye 8th day of June 1688 it being that remarkable day of ye sudden and great irruption of rayne and waters and violent storms.”

In the year 1698 there is this entry relating to young children left orphans:—

“Two children of Thomas Cadwaladr being kept amongst the neighbours till they be in age to be put apprentices in the said township of Wickwer.”

In the year 1700 we have this extract of interest:—

“At a Vestry Meeting held the 1st of September 1700, it is agreed that the north aisle of the Parish Church of St. Asaph be slated, and the lead sold off it towards the charges of the new flooring, and that the last churchwardens do bring in an account by the next Vestry of what money hath been levied by them.”

The following extract from an old Register of Marriages is one of many cases where, apparently, those responsible for payment either could not, or would not, pay the necessary fees:—

“Hugh Parry of Denbigh, Labourer, to Eliza Jones of Keelowen, Spinster, were married the 10th day of September, 1704.

DUTY NOT PAID.”

The next extract is rather curious, on account of the use of the name "Eglwys Asaph" for the Parish Church:—

"William Price and Grace Adams of Hollywell were married in Eglwys Asaph the 5th day of August 1682."

In the year 1719 we have this Vestry entry:—

"Sunday, 11th of August, agreed that £4 legacy left by John Salusbury, late of Wickwer, Gent to ye poor of Wickwer, Talar and Brynpolyn be, together with the addition of 10s. promised to be paid or given by Mr. J. Wynne of Wickwer, Gent, 5s. by Rev. Morris and 5s. by Robert Ffoulkes (making £5) be laid out in some safe hands by wardens of parish, and of overseers of poor, and interest yearly distributed to poor of Township.

And : Morris : Vicar.
Tho : Evans : Vicar." &c.

Under heading "December 18th, 1720," we have this entry:—

"Agreed to set up list of benefactors in ye Parish Church."

And again:—

"July 14th, 1723.

Agreed to obtain sum of £20 from inhabitants for repairing church and other necessaries."

The name of Conway occurs very frequently, and I was rather surprised to see such a name as Weyman recorded fairly frequently in the records of the last century.

A rather curious custom existed in St. Asaph from the year 1729 and onwards, as this affidavit will show:—

"A. B. of C. maketh oath that D. E. of F., lately deceased was not put in, wrapt or wound up in any shirt, shift or shroud made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver or other than is made of sheep's wool only, or in any coffin lined or faced with any cloth, stuff, or any other thing whatsoever, made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold Silver or any other material but sheep's wool only.

Jurat coram me

M. W."

Witnesses.

There is a register to be seen containing names of those buried in wool, commencing with the year 1729 (John Pierce of Faenol), and ending in 1752 (Elizabeth, wife of John Roberts of Nant y Faenol).

The two following will interest the curious:—

"1730. Jane, ye daughter of Richard Jones of Brynpolyn, FIDLER, and Catherine Roberts, his wife, was baptised."

"1736. June 18. Wm, the son of SALMON, and Catherine Jones of Meiradog was baptised."

The following very interesting extracts are from a "Terrier" for the year 1774, during the episcopate of Bishop Jonathan Shipley:—

"There are no houses belonging to the Vicars Choral of St. Asaph, except a small ordinary house built with brick and covered with straw thatch, which stands upon that part of the glebe belonging to the third Vicar, and is not fit to be inhabited by any but some poor person."

(The piece of land here referred to is the piece whereon Mr.

S. Powell's house now stands. We have enough particulars to prove that this is correct.)

Lower down we find :—

"The glebe consisteth of a small parcel of land scarcely half an acre inclosed by a hedge, and set into 4 parts, one for each Vicar."

"There has a custom prevailed in this parish that the senior Vicar should provide the sacramental wine for the Communion at Easter, which is contrary to the Rubrick and the 20th Canon. The Dean of St. Asaph also pays annually six shillings and 8 pence towards sacramental wine for the Townships of Wickwer and Meiradog to the Senior Vicar."

Then follows a list of things ("furniture") belonging to the Parish Church. These appear to have been

"A small bell,
Two common biers,
One horse bier, with decent black cloth to cover them,
A folio Bible, and 2 Common Prayer Books,
Books of the last edition in the Welch language,
A Pulpit cloth and cushion made of green cloth, and a carpet for the Communion Table of crimson cloth, and a linnen cloth, and napkin to be used at sacramental services."

Then follows a list (with description) of the Communion Plate, which includes a silver flagon, a silver cup, a silver bason.

("Above mentioned pieces of plate were purchased from Cathedral; Bishop Tanner having given a handsome set of new plate to the Cathedral").

Silver Cup (No. 2), Silver Waitor :—

"Two large flagons, a dish, and a plate of pewter used when large number of communicants present."

An entry respecting the purchase of trees for the churchyard will be of interest :—

"There are growing in the churchyard, seven elms valued at four pounds, four shillings, and one yew tree valued at four shillings."

The last entry I take from the "Terrier" relates to the Parish Clerk :—

"The Parish Clerk depends entirely on the oblations or offerings of the people excepting a bell sheaf throughout the whole parish."

The four following entries are what I call "contrasts" :—

"February 1st 1777.

Robert Lloyd—The Rev—of Cefn—Clerk—Canon of St. Asaph.

May 30th, 1789. Mary Jones of Gwernglefyrd—a pauper.

May 10th 1789. Easter, daughter of Wm Ash, of Gwernglefyrd—a pauper.

Aug. 23rd 1811. John Stanley, servant of the Lord Bishop of the diocese."

The entry relating to the death of Bishop Carey, the patron of Dic Aberdaron, runs :—

"Wm. Carey, late Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, died at the Palace, St. Asaph, September 25th 1846, aged 76 years.

Charles Scott Luxmoore,
Dean of St. Asaph."

The reference to the death of Dic is as follows :—

"Richard Robert Jones, (of Aberdaron) died at George and Dragon Yard (township of Brynpolyn), Dec 21st 1843 aged 64 years.

John Jones . Vicar."



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