

The Royal Commission
on
The Ancient and Historical Monuments
and Constructions
in
Wales and Monmouthshire.

An
INVENTORY
OF
THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN
WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE
II – COUNTY OF FLINT



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Royal Warrant authorizing and appointing the Commission.

EDWARD, R. & I.

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, to

Our trusty and well-beloved : -

SIR JOHN RHYS, Knight, Principal of Jesus College, in Our University of Oxford and Professor of Celtic in Our said University;

EDWARD ANWYL, Esquire, Master of Arts, Professor of Celtic in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth ;

ROBERT CARR BOSANQUET, Esquire, Master of Arts, Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Liverpool;

ROBERT HUGHES, Esquire, Ex-Lord Mayor of the City of Cardiff, President of the Cardiff Cymmrodorion Society;

GRIFFITH HARTWELL JONES, Doctor of Divinity, Rector of Nutfield;

WILLIAM EDWIN LLEWELLYN MORGAN, Esquire, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel on the retired list of Our Army; and

EVAN VINCENT-EVANS, Esquire, Secretary of the Honourable Society of, Cymmrodorion;

GREETING!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to make an inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation and conditions of life of the people in Wales and Monmouthshire from the earliest times, and to specify those which seem most worthy of preservation :

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint you, the said Sir John Rhys (Chairman); Edward Anwyl; Robert Carr Bosanquet; Robert Hughes; Griffith Hartwell Jones; William Edwin Llewellyn Morgan; and Evan Vincent-Evans, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said inquiry :

And for the better enabling you to carry out the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these Presents authorize you to call in the aid and co-operation of owners of ancient monuments, inviting them to assist you in furthering the objects of the Commission ; and to invite the possessors of such papers as you may deem it desirable to inspect to produce them before you :

And we do further give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to and examine all such books, documents, registers and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject, and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever :

And We do by these Presents authorize and empower you, or any three or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid :

And We do by these Presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment : -

And We do further ordain that you, or any three or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time if you shall judge it expedient so to do :

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in your inquiries We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Owen, Esquire, of the India Office, Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to this Our Commission, and Our trusty and well-beloved Philip Edward Thomas, Esquire, Bachelor of Arts, to be Assistant Secretary to the Commission.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the tenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and eight, in the eighth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.
H. J. GLADSTONE.

Royal Warrant ratifying and confirming the Commission.

GEORGE R. I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, o ' f the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING !

Whereas it pleased His late Majesty from time to time to issue Royal Commissions of Enquiry for various purposes therein specified :
And whereas, in the case of certain of these Commissions, namely, those known as –

The Ancient Monuments (Wales and Monmouthshire) Commission, the Commissioners appointed by His Late Majesty, or such of them as were then acting as Commissioners, were at the late Demise of the Crown, still engaged upon the business entrusted to them :

And whereas We deem it expedient that the said Commissioners should continue their labours in connection with the said enquiries notwithstanding the late Demise Of the Crown

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in the zeal, discretion and ability of the present members of each of the said Commissions, do by these Presents authorize them to continue their labours, and do hereby in every essential particular ratify and confirm the terms of the said several Commissions.

And We do further ordain that the said Commissioners do report to Us under their hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of such of their number as may be specified in the said Commissions respectively, their opinion upon the matters presented for their consideration; and that any proceedings which they or any of theni may have taken under and in pursuance of the said Commissions since the late Demise of the Crown and before the issue of these Presents shall be deemed and ad dged to have been taken under and in virtue of this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the twenty-sixth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and ten, in the first year of Our Reign. By His Majesty's Command.

R. B. HALDANE.

LIST OF PARISHES.

The divisions adopted are those of the Civil Parishes in the Administrative County, following the arrangement in the Census Reports of England and Wales for the year 1911.

[Bodelwyddan](#)

[Bodfari](#)

[Brynford](#)

Buckley Hawarden (no entries)

Buckley Mold (no entries)

[Caerwys](#)

[Cilcain](#)

[Coleshill Fawr](#)

Connah's Quay (no entries)

[Cwm](#)

[Diserth](#)

[Flint](#)

[Gwaunysgor](#)

[Halkyn](#)

[Hawarden](#)

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[Llanasa](#)

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN WALES AND
MONMOUTHSHIRE

COUNTY OF FLINT

**MONUMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION AS
ESPECIALLY WORTHY OF PRESERVATION**

No. in Inventory	Parish.	Monument.	Remarks.
9	Bodfari	Moel y Gaer	
22/5	Caerwys	Group of Tumuli at Bryngwyn	
46	Cilcain	Standing Stone in Penbedw Park	
47	Cilcain	Circle in Penbedw Park	
51	Cilcain	Parish Church	
77	Diserth	Parish Church	Stained glass and early interlaced cross.
88	Flint	The Castle	
96	Gwaunysgor	The Gop Cairn	
108	Hawarden	The Castle	
109	Hawarden	Ewloe Castle	
113	Holywell Rural	Basingwerk Abbey	
126/7	Holywell Urban	St. Winifred's Chapel and Well	
132	Hope	Caergwrle Castle	

INVENTORY OF THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF FLINT

INTRODUCTION.

THE antiquities of Flintshire, though varied and important, are for the most part unrecorded and undescribed. Until a period that is subsequent to the operations of this Commission in the county there did not exist within its bounds any society whose main purpose was the exploration and description of its archaeological remains. The history of two or three of its parishes has been written, and the presence of such antiquities as were known to the authors is duly noted, but with the indefiniteness and brevity of the writers of an unscientific age. It is true that amongst the most worthy and most celebrated of the sons of Flintshire is the widely-known Thomas Pennant, of Downing, and that Pennant's various journeys start from his home. But pleasant as it is to recognize the intelligent and cultivated interest that Pennant always exhibits in the antiquarian remains of his county, and country, and valuable as are his delightful descriptions of the objects of antiquity that he met in his walks around his home or in his rides further afield, it must be confessed that they fall far short of satisfying the questionings of modern archaeology, and that their chief value in the present day is in the indications that they afford of spots where the modern student will frequently find objects undreamt - of by his guide. Nor again, during the more than half-century of fruitful work of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, did there arise in Flintshire a man of more than usual ability, blessed also with length of days, who could have enriched the excellent journal of the Association with a series of articles devoted to the antiquities of his county. Articles there are in the volumes of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* upon historical or antiquarian features, but they have not been numerous, and they have not possessed the cohesion of a single purpose or of a single pen. The same may be said of the less numerous but valuable collection of volumes chronicling the doings and proceedings of the Chester Historical and Antiquarian Society, who, with some historical justification, regard Flint as still attached to "the sword of Chester." These main streams have been carefully fished and their tributaries diligently netted, and the catch if it has not been considerable, has at any rate been important. But after due respect is paid to the work of past Flintshire antiquaries, into whose labours the Commission has done its utmost to enter with thankfulness and due recognition, it remains none the less true that the work that is here done has in the main been done by and for the Commission, for the first time. In the collection of such a considerable stock of fresh material respecting the ancient monuments of Flintshire it is, of course, impossible to have collected every fact that is worthy of record, to have said all that there is to say about every one of the monuments, and to have said what has been said without the commission of mistakes. But it is believed that not many objects possessing a real claim to inclusion have been omitted, and that such errors as would have the effect of misleading the archaeological student are infrequent if not entirely absent.

It is not our province to enter upon a discussion of the serious and important racial, political, and social problems which this inventory of the works of man in Flintshire through many ages, brings into prominence, and which its careful study may do something to solve. That is for others, and we are hopeful that Flintshire will yet produce a scholar who, from the broken fragments of its story that we have garnered, will re-create her honourable past and make of it an abiding source of inspiration to her sons in the future.

THE PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD. – Three caves within the borders of modern Flintshire have afforded abundant proofs of habitation by animals belonging to species that have become extinct or have long since withdrawn from the district, some to colder, some to warmer regions. The caves in question are those known as the Gop cave (No. 206), in Newmarket parish, the Ffynnon Benno cave (No. 248), and the Cae Gwyn cave (No. 249) both in Tremeirchion parish. No certain proof, however, has been forthcoming 'from these caves of the presence of man in the county within this period; though it is said that in a post-glacial deposit of palaeolithic times in the neighbouring cavern of Cefn near St. Asaph – but in Denbighshire – a human molar tooth has been found in association with the leptorhine rhinoceros, hippopotamus, straight-tusked elephant, bear, bison, reindeer, and horse (Boyd Dawkins, *Cave-hunting*, viii; *Early man in Britain*, 192). A claim was, indeed, put forth in the scientific journals devoted to such subjects of the last decade of the last century, on the strength of the discovery of an artificially worked flint in the pre-glacial deposit in the Cae Gwyn cave (No. 249), that man had lived in the district in mid-pleistocene times; but the echoes of the controversy have died away leaving the bulk of specialist opinion unconvinced (Evans, *Antiquities of the Stone Age*, 521).

THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD. – In whatsoever way the chasm was bridged between the Old Stone and the New Stone Ages, it is certain that the prehistoric age for Flintshire finds man in possession of sites, the convenience of which as shelters still continued. The recent discovery by Mr. J. H. Morris, of West Bromwich, of a fine unpolished stone axe (Fig. 51, p. 73) in the Gop cave is of great importance as marking the use of this cave by man during the neolithic period. This had indeed been rendered certain by the explorations of Professor Boyd Dawkins in 1886 and 1887, when out of the remains of at least fourteen individuals, five skulls were discovered in a sufficiently perfect state to admit of measurement, and three were found to be dolichocephalic. As the entire series of caves, both of Flintshire and Denbighshire, produced crania in much the same proportions, it may be inferred that the district – an eminently favourable one for the dwelling of man – was peacefully occupied early in the period. The county, however, displays an almost complete absence of the features that are generally regarded as evidencing neolithic civilization. These are chiefly displayed in the disposition of the dead, who, during this period, are generally found to have been buried in long or oval shaped mounds.

Now, while it is true that we have to deplore for Flintshire what we had to regret for Montgomeryshire, the almost entire absence of any records of the exploration

of the mounds and barrows of the county, we have no reason to suppose that the mounds that have been destroyed differed in respect of form from those that still remain. And careful investigation of the burial mounds of the county prove them to be of the round variety which is generally associated with another and later arriving race of men. It is possible, therefore, that neolithic man did not appear in the district until late in the period, and he may have already begun to show signs of admixture with a race of very different cranial structure at a period long prior to his own appearance. For if, as seems reasonable, we regard the burials in the caves as preceding those in the mounds; and if, as appears from the evidence, the human burials in the caves cover only one period of civilization, however long extended it may have been, it would seem to follow that the long skulls and round skulls found there were those of an already mixed population who would naturally incline, some to greater breadth, some to greater length of skull, according to the numerical strength of the parent races. The alternative would seem to be to consider the human burials within the caves as falling within the Bronze Age; as, if round-headed man buried his dead side by side, and, therefore, contemporaneously with long headed man, the interments, must have occurred during the Bronze Age, in which period authorities are generally agreed that round-headed man made his appearance in the island to which he gave the name of Britain. It may therefore be well if we at once proceed to consider the traces of Bronze age civilization in the area of modern Flintshire.

THE BRONZE AGE. – The difficulty with which we are confronted in studying the remains of the Bronze Age in Flintshire proceeds from the length of time over which that age extended, and the development of its civilization (as measured by the artistic character of its products), within the limits given to the period by recent men of science. The Bronze Age in Britain may be considered as extending from the year 2000 B.C. to the year 500 B.C. The character of its art productions in Flintshire varies from the rudest cinerary urn to the Mold peytrel and the Caergwrle bowl. Is the period of sufficient length to admit of such an advance? We do not presume to enter upon a discussion of the subject, for which the medium of this volume is not suited, and upon which indeed we have no authority to enter. We desire simply to direct attention to one of the problems presented by this enquiry into the ancient monuments illustrative of the culture, civilization, and conditions of life of the people of what is now Flintshire at an early stage in their development. We may, however, legitimately point to the following factors involved in its consideration, under such subdivisions as we have adopted for our Inventories.

TUMULI. – If we restrict this term to artificial mounds thrown up for sepulchral purposes, these, in Flintshire, are found (as we have already observed) to be exclusively round of form. It would be natural to regard the immense mound known as the Gop in the parish of Gwaunysgor (No. 96) as the most wonderful monument of this class in Flintshire, and one of the most wonderful in Britain, were it not that it still remains to be proved a tumulus. Its examination by Professor Boyd Dawkins in 1886 proved abortive, and we have to leave the Gop

with the verdict “not proven.” The group of Bryngwyn tumuli, both in their formation and their contents, may be regarded as typical of their class, and as several have been carefully explored, the results which are set forth in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* for 1908 and 1910, and (which clearly demonstrate their Bronze Age character) should be carefully studied. Traditions and brief memoranda of the finding of urns in demolished tumuli are occasionally forthcoming, and illustrations taken directly for this volume (Fig. 47, p. 67), of a few surviving fragments of cinerary pottery that is known to have been discovered in Flintshire are given by us. The circumstances which led to the discovery of the only entire specimens of cinerary urns may be related. In the course of the Commissioners’ visit to the county for the purpose of inspecting the most important of its ancient monuments they proceeded, by permission of the Earl of Denbigh (the owner) and Sir W. H. Tate, Bart. (the then occupier) to Downing Hall, their main object being the inspection of the old inscribed stone preserved in the grounds. While there they were invited to see the library formed by the celebrated topographical writer, Thomas Pennant. On the top of one of the high shelves, and sheltering modestly behind a number of oriental vases, was observed the larger urn of which an illustration is given opposite page 99. It was kindly brought down for closer examination, and was found to contain a smaller urn—an incense cup of rather unusual type—and a letter giving some, but unfortunately, incomplete particulars of the discovery of the urns. Associated with tumuli, and in one instance satisfactorily proved to have come out of a tumulus, are three objects, the possession of which shows that the district now called Flintshire could boast of wealth and skilled craftsmanship in the later Bronze Age. Now that they are for the first time brought into proper connection with what may be termed their domicile of origin, they cannot fail to enhance the interest of antiquaries in the pre-historic archaeology of the district: we mean (in the order of their discovery)

- (a) The gold torque (No. 309) found on a site which appears to lie in the parish of Ysceifiog, and “near” a tumulus said to have been associated with the inscribed stone now at Downing Hall (No. 298).
- (b) What has hitherto been known as the Caergwrle Cup – an oaken cup at one time richly ornamented with gold leaf, the decorative motives being those usually found upon unmistakable Bronze Age objects. This cup or bowl had probably a religious or sacrificial use. It was discovered in the year 1822 or 1823 in a marshy meadow on the northern side of the medieval Caergwrle Castle.
- (c) The splendid gold horse breastplate or peytrel, as it is called in the British Museum *Guide to the Antiquities of the Bronze Age*, discovered during the clearance of a tumulus near Mold in the year 1832.

These are “finds” which by reason of their intrinsic value, their unique character, and their importance in the history of Celtic Art, of which it may be said that each in its way forms a most excellent example, cannot be matched by any other

county of Wales, and of each of which the following further remarks may be permitted. As to

- (a) this splendid torque is now at Eaton Hall, having been purchased soon after its discovery by the then marquess of Westminster. It is the least distinctive of the three objects, there being several examples in gold in the British Museum and the Royal Dublin Museum. It bears no ornament.
- (b) The Caergwrle bowl. Fig. 40 is an illustration of the bowl showing its present condition. The ornament upon the bowl, if compared with other undoubted examples of Bronze Age art, will be found to connect it with that period, but its discovery in a district which came successively under the influence, and perhaps the dominance, of Mercian and of Dane should give weight to those factors in any consideration of its artistic provenance, even though it would take a thousand years off its age.

It should be stated that upon application to Sir Foster H. Cunliffe, Bart., Acton Park, near Wrexham, the owner of the bowl, for permission to photograph it, Sir Foster Cunliffe not merely made arrangements for this purpose at considerable personal inconvenience, but, recognizing that the proper destination of such a valuable and unique object was a public museum, he with great generosity presented it to the Commission, and the Commission (with Sir Foster Cunliffe's approval) have in turn handed it over to the Welsh National Museum for careful repair and exhibition to the public.

- (c) The value and importance of the gold horse frontlet found at Mold has long been recognized, and its possession by the British Museum has led to its being one of the best known objects of British antiquity. As mentioned in the account of the corslet (as it was then called) written soon after its discovery, and quoted at p. 64, many small fragments were broken off. Several of these were subsequently purchased by or presented to the Museum authorities. Four small pieces have found their way into the Chester Museum, and have been photographed for the Commissioners. The illustrations here brought together therefore represent as much of this beautiful object as is at present known to exist.

It may be added that the gold torque now at Eaton does not seem to have been the only example of somewhat similar objects that have been found in Flintshire soil. There can be little doubt that the penannular rings of which mention is made in a letter of the year 1703 as having been discovered in the parish of Bodfari (No. 16) were of gold.

The bronze objects found in the county are neither numerous nor distinctive.

CROMLECHAU. – It is of considerable interest to note the presence of only one known, though not now existing, example of the cromlech (in the nomenclature of continental scholars this would be called a “dolmen”) in the county of Flint (No. 158). We learn from the invaluable Itinerary of Edward Lhuyd that in the old parish of Hope there existed a cromlech which was traditionally known as the burial-place of Gwrle Gawr, a mythical hero, probably invented from the name of the medieval castle whose ruins are in the parish. The cromlech undoubtedly

gave its name to the district of 'Cefn y bedd', 'the ridge-land of the grave.' It is interesting to remember that the south part of the present county of Flint was a portion of the old Welsh principality of Powys, of which the central and main portion consisted of the present county of Montgomery; and in the Introduction to the volume of Inventories of the Ancient Monuments of Montgomeryshire we pointed out the absence of cromlechan in that county.

STONE CIRCLES AND MEINI HIRION. – The only example of this class in the county is to be found in the parish of Cilcain (No. 47). It is doubtless to be associated (as has been done in the description written by one of our number, Lieut. Col. W. Lt. Morgan) with the neighbouring tumulus (No. 194). This, however, happens to fall into the parish of Nannerch, and from it came the urn of which we illustrate (by the kindness of the owner, Mr. H. W. Buddicom) the only surviving fragment. The maen hir at the side of the drive to Penbedw House may also have had a connection with both circle and tumulus.

It is interesting, to note that of the names by which several of the mein hirion (standing or pillar stones) are now known, such as 'Naid y March,' 'the horse's leap' given to two stones in Brynford parish (No. 17), not one appears in Lhuyd's Itinerary of 1699. On the other hand, a Flintshire correspondent of Lhuyd mentions 'Maen Cantawen' (which Lhuyd makes into 'Maen Cynhawen') as a stone then standing on Tegeingl mountain, the identification of which has baffled us.

INSCRIBED STONES. – There are two stones in the county, which, though both coming within the designation of " inscribed " stones, differ greatly the one from the other. The first in point of age is the stone at present in the grounds of Downing Hall, described in this volume (No. 298) under Ysceifiog because that parish seems to possess the best claim to its original site. It was moved by Thomas Pennant, the antiquary, from what was probably its original position, and where it stood near to (some accounts say upon) the tumulus whence came the Eaton Hall gold torque. Having regard to the havoc that has been wrought upon conveniently placed monoliths by the utilitarian necessities of road making and fencing, we may perhaps forgive the action of Pennant, but we are not disposed to acquit him of failure in his plain duty to furnish succeeding antiquaries with a full and particular account of the removal.

The other inscribed stone is the Maen Chwyfan—which appears to be the best attested form of the name, whatever it may mean, of this noted cross. In order to obtain the fine photographs which accompany our description of this monument (No. 272), Lord Mostyn kindly permitted the removal of the wooden rails which protect it from damage by cattle.

HILL FORTS. – The physical conformation of the county, and its restricted hill area, confine its camps to a small number, but these are of considerable importance. They are placed for the greater part upon the salient heights of the Clwydian range which constitutes the western boundary of the present county for

almost its entire length. But as the heights upon which the camps are placed are sometimes upon one side of the line of demarcation and sometimes upon the other, the restriction of the present series of volumes to the monuments of the particular counties within which they happen to fall operates in the present case to prevent a proper consideration of the large defensive camps of the Clwydian hills. We see them separately, but we do not see them as a whole. The list may be said to consist of Moel Fenlli and Moel y Gaer (situated wholly in Denbighshire), Moel Arthur (almost wholly in Flintshire) and Pen y Cloddiau through which the boundary passes giving the greater proportion of its area to Flintshire. Further to the north in direct continuation of the line of camps just named is another Moel y Gaer in the parish of Bodfari. All these camps are of the same character, and appear to be links in a chain which includes the great earthen fortress of Old Oswestry and the long line of border camps. They display similar characteristics to the camps which we found in Montgomeryshire, and which we had reason to believe were essentially of the late Bronze Age, and to be of the type in use at the time of the Roman invasion. It may be remarked that this conclusion is borne out by the exploration of the great Denbighshire camp of Pen y Corddyn, the results of which were published after our speculations on the Montgomeryshire camps had been written; and it is still further strengthened by the finds which have already been made in the excavation of Pare y Meirch, another Denbighshire camp displaying similar features. As these camps will come under our inspection during the present year (1912), the general consideration of the Flintshire late Bronze Age camps, which should be regarded merely as parts of a system will be better undertaken at a later period.

In the same category we should probably place the camp called Caer Estyn in the parish of Hope. Though its main features connect it with the great fortresses whose outstanding features are their deep ditches and their carefully defended entrances, Caer Estyn does not in any respect equal the camps on the Clwydian hills. It may have formed, with Hawarden to the north (where, however, the ditches were of considerable strength), and Y Gaerddin near Ruabon to the south of it, a chain of defensive positions resting upon the great camp of Old Oswestry.

Beyond the camps already mentioned, which may with almost perfect certainty be regarded as late Bronze or early Iron Age camps, and as having been actively occupied at the period of the Roman conquest of the district, there are two other camps the age of which is more problematical. We refer to another Moel y Gaer (the third camp of this name) in the parish of Northop (No. 209), and Bwrdd Rhyfel, 'the plateau of conflict,' in the parish of Ysceifiog (No. 299). Both consist of simple enclosures of a space by a mound and ditch, neither mound nor ditch being in either instance of sufficient importance to render the camps serious obstacles to the advance of a strong party of raiders armed in the most primitive fashion. The former is known to have been occupied during the Owain Glyndwr troubles, and if both were constructed in prehistoric times as cattle shelters, they may, by reason of their convenience of position, have been found suited to the necessities of Angle and Northman.

THE ROMAN PERIOD. – The Roman occupation of Britain in the area which forms modern Flintshire is proved by the existence of a military station, the site of which cannot be identified with certainty, and by a road which must have traversed the county but whose course has not been proved beyond all cavil at any one point. The Antonine Itinerary places a station between that of Deva and that of Canovium, the former known to be Chester and the latter Caerhun; but this intervening station of Varis, the distance of which from Deva places it somewhere on the western side of Flintshire, has not been discovered, nor has the route between Deva and Canovium been more than conjecturally fixed. We have recorded the little that is known of both one and the other under Nos. 13 and 238. The great mineral wealth of the district was known to the Romans, and there can be little doubt that the site known as Croes Ati (No. 94) was the centre of their smelting and transport activities. The pigs of lead that have from time to time been found have all been discovered just outside the limits of the county, and the inscriptions they bear do not connect them with any spot in present Flintshire, but the tribal name 'Deceangl,' with which one of those in the Museum at Chester is inscribed, must be connected with the names 'Tegeingl,' by which the district was known to the Welsh, or with 'Englefeld,' by which it was known to the English.

It is somewhat surprising that the finds of Roman articles or coins that are recorded as having been made within the county are so few in an area which the Roman officials must have frequently visited. Perhaps the near vicinity of Deva, and the clear evidence that exists that the smelted mineral ore was brought to that fortress by water, removed the necessity for residence nearer to the mining district. It has also to be remembered that no systematic effort at excavation has yet been made at any of the places traditionally connected with the Romans; but the abundant promise of important results will we trust cause such excavations as may be attempted in the future to be carried through with the care and thoroughness exhibited by Mr. T. A. Acton at Holt in Denbighshire.

Much baseless conjecture has been indulged in with regard to a supposed Roman station at Caergwrle, but we think that the facts presented under No. 166 will probably serve to concentrate attention for the future upon the little hamlet of Ffrith. Here the problem was doubly interesting, and we trust that our enquiries have not only served to solve the question of the presence of the Romans in this part of Flintshire, but also to settle the long-debated point of the pre- or post-Roman construction of Offa's Dyke. We have to thank Mr. Acton (whom we have already mentioned) for the plan of the site at Ffrith, where a modern dwelling now stands upon the foundations of a Roman structure.* The plan shows that the still existing line of the Dyke, which is to be traced within a couple of hundred yards from the modern house, must have passed over some part of the Roman foundations.

The student of the Roman administration of Flintshire should not fail to direct his attention to the interesting little bronze figure of a fully caparisoned horse, of

* These foundations were seen by the commissioners when the ground was uncovered for the building of the dwelling house referred to.

undoubted Roman work, now safely preserved in the somewhat incongruous environment of the cathedral chapter-house at St. Asaph.

THE PERIOD BETWEEN A.D. 410 AND 1066. – The long stretch of time between the date usually given for the departure of the Roman soldiery and that which saw the arrival of the Norman host is, perhaps, the most difficult with which the Flintshire antiquary has to deal. He knows it must have been a formative period ; for when the obscurity is relieved, however slightly, by the evidence of Domesday Book and the writings of the chroniclers, he finds the greater portion of the district is part of a small but fairly cohesive principality – that of Powys. Archaeology tells him little of how the new state of things came into being. That it was through much stress and strain; that it was after stubborn fighting first with Teuton and next with Northman, we infer from the traces that both those marauders have left in the place-names of the district; but archaeology helps us hardly at all. We cannot point with certainty to a single camp as having been constructed by Angle or Dane, nor have traces of those peoples been discovered in the already existing strongholds of the Britons. Churches had become fairly scattered over the district, though it is possible that they date from the latter half, and, it may be, the last quarter of the period with which we are dealing. There is no reason to doubt the existence of an important ecclesiastical foundation at Bangor Isycoed, or its practical annihilation by ‘Ethelfrith about the year 615. There is equally little reason to doubt the foundation of the ecclesiastical supremacy of the church of St. Asaph, and the churches named in Domesday must have been in existence long before the compilation of that record. But of them not a vestige that can be recognized remains. There is only one class of archaeological remains in the county which we can confidently assert to date from the period between the Roman and the Norman; it is, the few sculptured crosses bearing the peculiar forms of ornament which, whatever may be the country of its origin, is universally admitted to be pre-Norman. Of this special type of cross Flintshire possesses, in the Maen Chwyfan (No. 272), one of the finest examples that has survived. Another example exists at Diserth in a sadly imperfect condition, and the base of a second cross shows this ‘desert place’ to have blossomed like a rose under the influences of Celtic Christianity.

THE DANISH PERIOD. – It is impossible that the district of modern Flintshire could have been uninfluenced by the strong Danish settlement of Wirral, but no archaeological remains or finds show them to have settled in strength and permanency on the west side of the Dee. The upper part of the estuary probably remained too swampy and liable to inundation to make its banks desirable winter quarters, but nearer the open channel the shore is firmer and offers many favourable spots for the construction of small riverine camps and stations. It is probable, however, that the hold upon the district by the Teutonic tribes, whether Angles from Northumbria or Mercian from mid-England, was so firm and their numbers so considerable – facts which a study of the place-names of the county will show to be indisputable – that the foreign enemy failed to make a permanent occupation. If, too, the Danish settlement of Wirral did not occur before the close

of the ninth century, there would remain barely two hundred years for the establishment of such stations as would furnish future generations with evidences of their existence in the form of archaeological finds. The great lines of demarcation and of defence known as Offa's and Wat's Dykes may have played important parts, and indeed, may have sprung into existence, during the bitter struggle that the Briton must first have waged against the Saxon, and that afterwards the Saxon may have had to wage against both Dane and Briton. We have already adverted to the now proven fact of the post-Roman origin of Offa's Dyke. No conjecture is more in accord with the common-sense probabilities of the situation, and with such historical evidence as exists, than this, that Offa consolidated his conquests against the Britons of the west by the construction of a great dyke which should prove a tangible and visible evidence of the limits of his power, though it would not wholly prevent sporadic raids any more than the formidable lines of Hadrian and of Antoninus had been effectual in keeping back the turbulent northern tribes. At a later time an equally perceptible boundary became necessary between Englishman and Dane, and it was natural that the example of Offa should be copied. But the Dane had made good his footing within only a portion of Teutonic ground, and consequently the new dyke lies entirely within the earlier boundary. Its termination at the sea below Holywell is also not without significance, for the country immediately beyond it, forming the northern corner of the county, is proved by Domesday to have been held in great strength by the English, and the berewicks in this district bear, almost English, exception, English names.

THE MODERN PERIOD. – The coming of the Normans ushers in a period in which archaeology obtains the assistance of recorded history. Within a very few years after the conquest of England by duke William of Normandy – probably within the first ten – a large part of modern Flintshire had passed, more or less effectively, under the dominance of the Norman earl of Chester. The districts mentioned in Domesday are those that could be easily controlled from Hawarden at one end of the county, and Rhuddlan at the other. They constituted for the most part that portion of the modern county that had become English and lay east of Offa's Dyke, plus the area around Rhuddlan. It is clear that the foundation of a stronghold at that place – the Toothill (No. 222 of the present Inventory) enabled its Norman holder to control the district along the vale of the river Clwyd as far as and inclusive of Bodfari. At the period of Domesday the Welsh districts to the west of the Dyke had remained politically unaffected by the conquest, and there is no reason to suppose that the great camps of the Clwydian range and the upland district to the east which they command, had ever acknowledged (except, perhaps, for very brief periods) the overlordship of the Norman earl. Bodfari, and the parishes of St. Asaph, Waun, Tremeirchion and Cwm intervening between Bodfari and Rhuddlan, were controlled from Rhuddlan, but the exploration of the great camp above Bodfari in 1908 proves, at any rate, that it was not utilised by the new comers. It is, indeed, probable that from the middle of the twelfth century to about the middle of the thirteenth century, the sphere of Norman, or, as we may now begin to term it, English influence had been

restricted, and may at times have been confined to the immediate surroundings of the castles of Rhuddlan, Hawarden and Mold. It is clear from the extracts from the public records given under Prestatyn (No. 220) and Ewloe (No. 109) that the able Welsh chieftain Owain Gwynedd (A.D. 1135-70) and his grandson Llewelyn ap Iorwerth (A.D. 1198-1240) reduced the English power in the hundred of Englefeld almost to the vanishing point, and that until the superior military organization of Henry III and the military genius of his son Edward were actively employed to rehabilitate the English cause, the Welsh mastery over the country was more real than it had been since the advent of the Romans.

It is interesting to observe how the archaeology of the county accompanies and illustrates its recorded history. The first castles, each consisting of a moated earthen mound covered with a wooden stockade, are found in the parishes of Hawarden (Trueman's Hill, No. 106), Marford (The Rofft, No. 167), Mold (The Bailey Hill, No. 190), and Rhuddlan (The Toothill, No. 222). The quite unmistakable mound and enclosure in the parish of Northop called Llys Edwin (No. 210), was doubtless constructed from the Norman models that were springing up, by an Anglo-Welsh chieftain named Edwin, from whom a number of the most important Flintshire families are proud to claim descent.

The introduction of stone castles at Hawarden and Hope (Caergwrle), about the middle of the 13th century, probably alone stemmed the tide which threatened to sweep the English power out of the district. There was also a stone castle at Mold (No. 190), doubtless of the shell-keep type, but every vestige of it has been swept away. The construction of the interesting castle of Ewloe is definitely ascribed to Llewelyn ap Gruffydd (1256-82) by the valuable record referred to at the foot of p. 39, and the place is of importance as showing that as the Welsh chieftains of a former generation had not disdained to adopt the type of defence of the earlier Norman barons, so the last Welsh Prince of Wales was not above taking the hint from Caergwrle, which Ewloe clearly follows, both in style and period.

It is much to be regretted that neither of the great Edwardian fortresses of Flint or Rhuddlan was examined and described by the late Mr. G. T. Clark. That they were not dealt with by him has laid a heavier burden upon ourselves. Our general practice of making no effort to exhaust the description of any monument has caused us to confine our accounts of these structures to such limits as would present their general features to the reader, but the fact that they have not received full treatment from a specialist in medieval military architecture has led us to describe them at greater length than was perhaps demanded from a mere Inventory.

The ultimate fate of the ruins of Diserth castle is to be blown to pieces, as the quarrying of the hill upon which they stand is relentlessly pursued. In our First and Second Reports to His Majesty the King, which have been presented to Parliament, we have drawn attention to the steadily advancing destruction of this Castle, and with this our powers were exhausted. But we desire, as members of a Royal Commission appointed for the purpose of scheduling such Welsh monuments as are worthy of preservation, to give expression to our regret that such an instance of the utter absence of recognition of what is due as much to

the future as to the past, should have been presented in Wales. It will in future not be necessary to ascribe every act of vandalism to Cromwell, or to go beyond the early years of the twentieth century, in order to produce an example of the wanton and callous destruction of an ancient historic monument.

ECCLESIASTICAL EDIFICES. – The county of Flint is rendered exceptional by the possession of one of the four cathedral churches of the Principality, but the absence of features of special interest, architecturally considered, of the cathedral church of St. Asaph does not appear to require a more extended notice of it as an ancient monument than we give at p. 85.

The ancient monastic establishments of the country are represented in modern Flintshire by the ruins of Basingwerk Abbey in the parish of Holywell Rural (No. 113). The illustrations we are enabled to give of the condition and extent of the remains, first Buck's view of the year 1742, and secondly the reproduction of a beautiful water colour painted in the year 1800, show how deeply this ruin has suffered from neglect during the past one hundred and fifty years. In 1742 the nave of the church is represented as retaining a part of its original roof; in 1800 the roof is gone, but the nave walls are standing to their full height; in 1912 the structure has disappeared to such an extent that it is difficult for any but an expert in ecclesiastical architecture to trace its component parts. The Commissioners have reason to believe that the representations which the growing decay of the remaining ruins induced them to offer to the owners of the site will result in the adoption of some scheme that will ensure their future care and preservation.

The only other ruins in the county of a religious house dissolved through the operation of the legislation of Henry VIII., are those of the Dominican Friars of Rhuddlan (No. 227). These consist of little more than several sepulchral slabs which are at present built into the walls of a farm yard, parts of which are indisputably those of the original establishment. There is here, however, nothing structural that is worthy of special pains to preserve, though it is to be hoped that the few details that still survive in the walls will be well taken care of. All the sepulchral slabs are most incongruously placed, and two or three occupy positions where they are daily liable to fracture or defacement, should be removed without loss of time to a place of safety.

The village churches of Flintshire have little to recommend them to the notice of the ecclesiastical antiquary; some have been rebuilt from (and, perhaps, including) the foundations, some (and amongst them the Cathedral church) have been restored in a manner which has swept away as many ancient features as it has retained; all are now preserved with becoming reverence, and are looked after with exemplary attention.

An interesting type of parish church, namely, that in which the edifice consists of a double rectangle, with no structural distinction between one side and the other, and where it is impossible from the exterior to know the position of the chancel, occurs with sufficient frequency to demand special attention, and calls for what it has not yet obtained, an explanation of its localisation within this and the neighbouring county of Denbigh. This style of church is often described as

double-naved' or 'double aisled,' and the plan of Llanasa church on p. 52 will illustrate the peculiarity. The type is not confined to Flintshire, but is even more numerous represented in Denbighshire, especially amongst the churches of the Vale of Clwyd, so that it is frequently spoken of as 'the Vale of Clwyd type.' Churches of this pattern, though not altogether confined to the districts influenced by the architectural forms predominant in the Vale of Clwyd, is to be found in the Vale and immediately adjacent hill districts in greater frequency than in any other part of the Principality; and if not entirely absent from Cheshire, it is certainly not common in that county. An interesting conjecture as to its origin has recently been advanced by Mr. T. F. Tout, M.A., professor of Medieval and Modern History in the University of Manchester. Recalling the fact that the friars of the Dominican Order were established at Rhuddlan in the latter half of the 13th century " with the express purpose of being a centre of ecclesiastical reformation in those parts," Professor Tout observes :-

Travelling a few years ago in the Garonne valley, I went by accident to see the still abiding great Dominican Church at Toulouse, now included within the lycée, but erected as the church of the parent house of the order of preachers, from whose pulpit Dominic and his early followers preached the men of Languedoc back from heresy to orthodoxy. That great church is built with two high parallel naves, on exactly the same lines as the ordinary village church in the Vale of Clwyd, though on an immensely nobler scale. Further inquiry showed me that other Dominican churches in the same region were built after similar fashion. I could not help wondering whether we might not here see the true origin of the double-paved churches of the Vale of Clwyd. I remembered how, after the conquest of the principality by Edward I., everything, had to be built anew, and how great a share the Dominicans had in the favour of Edward I., and most of the other great men of his age. I recalled the fact that in the critical years between 1268 and 1293, a Dominican friar, Eineon, formerly prior of the Dominicans at Rhuddlan, was bishop of St. Asaph, and that this Dominican house had been set up in Rhuddlan with the express purpose of being a centre of ecclesiastical reformation in those parts. I remembered, too, that Archbishop Peckham, himself a Franciscan, had declared that the Dominicans and Franciscans were almost the only theological teachers in the diocese of St. Asaph (*Registrum Epistolarum J. Peckham*, ii., 742. Rolls Ser.), and how he had appointed Dominican and Franciscan officials to inquire into the damages done to the churches during the long continued wars (*ib.*, pp. 735-6). The thought at once flashed on me that the prevalence of a recognised Dominican type of church building in the Vale of Clwyd might be plausibly connected with the strong current of Dominican influence radiating from Rhuddlan and St. Asaph, at the moment when the establishment of permanent peace allowed the derelict churches to be rebuilt on newer lines. (*Flintshire: its History and its Records*, pp. 32-3).

The suggestion is not without attraction, but it has the unfortunate defect of running counter to the evidence of archaeology. It will, of course, not be possible to pronounce definitely and ultimately upon it until all the churches of the equal-bodied type have been inspected, and as the larger number of the edifices of the Clwydian type are situated within the county of Denbigh, the further consideration of the subject must be reserved for the volume dealing with the monuments of that county. But it may be said here, in reference to those churches of the type which are inventoried in this volume – those of Caerwys, Cilcain, Llanasa, Rhuddlan and St. Asaph – that not one of these buildings shows signs of having been constructed earlier than (in round figures) the year 1400, and that they are

all probably of the period 1450-1500. That is to say, they all display the Perpendicular style of architecture in its most developed form. The churches of Caerwys and Cilcain possess towers, the former of which is earlier than the double-bodied church to which it is attached, but the latter contains no work that links it to an earlier period. So far, therefore, the architectural consideration of the double-bodied churches of Flintshire cannot be said to support the suggestion of Professor Tout.

The frequent fragmentary remains of coloured glass that are still to be met with prove the almost universal possession of beautiful stained windows by the Flintshire churches of the late 15th and early 16th centuries, and the splendid window at Diserth is evidence of the high excellence attained by the medieval glass stainer.

Much of the carved woodwork as well of the rood as of the roof has vanished. What remains, as at Caerwys, does not exhibit a high standard of craftsmanship. The roof of Cilcain church we have dealt with in the notice of that church (No. 51).

Most of the ancient churches of the county possess one, and sometimes more than one, effigy or sepulchral slab which well merits the attention of the student of the development of ornament. Perhaps the earliest effigy is that of a cross-legged knight in Tremeirchion church, which dates from about the year 1275. There are several effigies of the fourteenth century, but their complete disappearance in the fifteenth is probably due to the effects of the Glyndwr insurrection upon the Welsh families of the county, although the more influential of these espoused the English cause. But the desire to commemorate the dead remained; the only difference was that the expensive life-sized effigy of the deceased gave place to a slab bearing a cross and a heraldic shield. These slabs are of much interest, and are sometimes conventionalised of great beauty. From the number of examples collected it is clear that a type of sepulchral slab was developed in the county. What is probably the earliest form is to be seen upon one in Diserth church. The plan is that of a circle occupying the entire upper part of the slab to the extent of about a fourth of its length. Within the circle was a smaller circle, and the space between the inner and outer circles was filled by four incomplete circles interwoven with the inner circle and having the broken part of the circles facing outwards. In the later examples the incomplete circles are occupied by a branch with trifoliated terminals. Immediately below this ornamental cross-head is usually placed a shield bearing the heraldic cognizance of the deceased, and having an inscription round the border. In the space on the left side formed by the curve of the cross-head, is a hand grasping a sword which passes behind the shield and is carried below it. The long arm of the cross generally terminates in a two-stepped base. Crosses of the type thus described, many of them in a sadly mutilated condition, are to be found at Caerwys, Cilcain, Diserth, Gwaunysgor, Llanasa, Meliden, Nerquis, Newmarket, Rhuddlan and Whitford ; but the type is not found in Maelor Saesneg.

The series of broken sculptured stones at Cilcain is of much interest, and some of the charming decorative motives appear to be a development of the ribbon work found upon Norman fonts.

We have been at pains to record the dedications of the ancient churches as the single link that connects the structure with a period long anterior to the architecture of the existing building.

The ancient wells here enumerated should also receive the sympathetic attention of the student of our religious history.

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES. – The domestic architecture of the county comprises only two undoubted pre-Elizabethan examples. The first is the ruin known as Siambur Wen in the parish of Diserth (No. 74), which has recently been satisfactorily shown to have been a manorial hall dating from the late 14th century. The second is the Tower near Mold (No. 179). The latter half of the 16th century saw a great outburst of activity in the erection of comfortable country mansions, but none of the Flintshire examples, except perhaps Emral in Maelor Saesneg (No. 360), is of importance.

THE FINDS. – Important as are some of the monuments which occur within the bounds of the modern county of Flint, they are probably not so important for the elucidation of the complex processes in the social development and gradual consolidation of the races that have lived upon its soil as are some of the objects which have been brought to light from spots where no monument at present exists. With three of these objects – the gold torque (No. 309) discovered on the borders of the parishes of Caerwys and Ysceifiog, and inventoried in this volume under the latter; the gold horse breast-plate or peytrel disinterred near Mold; and the oak bowl ornamented with gold which is known as the Caergwrle Cup—with these we have already dealt. To have been the home of three such splendid specimens of ancient craftsmanship proves not only that the civilization of early Flintshire was of a high order, but that it was fairly diffused over the district. It is, however, in strange contrast with the comparatively numerous finds of a commanding interest to the student of primitive culture, that we have to record that of the many examples of earthen vessels which the numerous tumuli of the county have surrendered, only two specimens of sepulchral urns have, as far as we have been able to discover, come down to our own times perfectly entire. A fragment of rude and coarse pottery, even if it be treasured for a while by its discoverer, is apt to find its way to the rubbish heap, though a few pieces are preserved here and there in the county and notably at St. Beuno's College belonging to the Jesuit order, where the students have displayed much interest in archaeology. The urns illustrated opposite p. 99 are the only specimens of pre-historic pottery found in the county that are still whole and in good condition. To the small bronze figure of a horse of the Roman period we have already alluded.

The tithe maps and schedules of the county have been diligently searched for place names that might possibly embody traditions of importance to Flintshire antiquaries, but the harvest of rich and suggestive names has not been so abundant as might be expected. We can say, however, that if this source had been neglected, our Inventory of actual though almost hidden monuments would have been appreciably the poorer. It is only those, like the Commissioners, who

undertake the examination of the tithe schedules for an entire county that can estimate the extent of the labour and the importance of the results.

We have but to add that the feature which in the Montgomery volume was found to be useful in the identification of the exact position of an existing monument, however small or unimportant, or of a site of archaeological or historical significance, namely, the record of its latitude and longitude, has been continued in this volume.

The monuments of Flintshire were visited by Mr. A. Neobard Palmer, of Wrexham, and the descriptions have been written by him. We desire to record our sense of the care with which Mr. Palmer executed the first of his tasks, and of the ability he has displayed in the second. The editorial duties in a compilation of this kind are exceedingly arduous, and have been fulfilled by our Secretary in such a manner, we are confident, as to reduce the unavoidable mistakes to a minimum. Enquiries upon points which local knowledge only could elucidate have been made from many persons of all degrees, and most of the entries which follow have been submitted to those who it was hoped could purge them of error or increase the amount of information. We would thank them one and all.

We desire to express our special obligations to :

The committee of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, and the editor of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (Canon Rupert H. Morris, D.D.), for permission to reproduce illustrations Nos. 4 and 10.

The council of the Royal Archaeological Association (Hon. Sec., G. D. Hardinge Tyler, Esq.) for permission to use illustrations Nos. 26 and 36.

The Council of the Chester Archaeological and Historical Society, for the use of the plan of Diserth Castle, No. 8.

The Trustees of the British Museum (Director Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, K.C.B.), for permission to reproduce illustration No. 45.

Major P. T. Godsal of Iscoed Park, for the photograph of figure No. 63.

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Dr. R. Geoffrey Williams, of Wrexham, for the photograph of Fig. 42.

Mr. T. Arthur Acton, of Wrexham, for the plan of the Roman foundations at Ffrith (No. 43).

Lieut.-Col. T. Allen Glenn, of Meliden, for the plan of Llanasa Church (No. 41), and for much assistance readily rendered to our officers during their inspection of monuments at the northern end of the county.

Mr. J. H. Morris, of West Bromwich, for the brief account of his excavatory work at the Gop cavern, and for the photograph of the stone celt found therein by him (No. 51).

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Miss Helen L. Meacock, Birkdale, Lancashire, for the drawing of Fig. 61.

Mr. R. Newstead, of Chester, for photographs of Figs. 34 and 35.

To Lord Mostyn we are indebted for the removal of the railings that protect the Maen Chwyfan, in order that the photographs reproduced opposite p. 95 should not show the obstruction.

We think it due to those who have kindly furnished us with photographs which have not been reproduced to state that the question of price, over which the Commissioners have no control, has compelled the omission of many illustrations that would have materially enhanced the permanent value of the volume.

The assistance rendered to our officers has been so cordial that we would we were able to name our helpers individually, but their number is so considerable that it 'is out of our power to do more than to offer them collectively our hearty thanks.

JOHN RHYS, Chairman.
E. VINCENT EVANS.
EDWARD ANWYL.
R. C. BOSANQUET.
ROBERT HUGHES.
G. HARTWELL JONES.
W. E. LLEWELLYN MORGAN.

EDWARD OWEN,
Secretary.
15th August, 1912.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE

Parish of BODELWYDDAN.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

1. ***Y Faenol Fawr*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 30", long. 3° 29' 55").
Owner, Sir William W. Williams, Bart., Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan; occupier, Mrs. Owen. A fine mansion, the older part of which is of the late Elizabethan period, with some subsequent additions. The east front has three stepped gables, the middle one recessed. A few of the many mullioned windows are closed. The contemporary staircase has been preserved, and above one of the fireplaces is a carved shield of arms bearing the date 1597.—Visited, 11th August, 1910.
An illustration of the exterior is given in Arch. Camb., 1887, V, iv, 358.
2. ***Y Faenol Fach*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 25", long. 3° 31' 4"). Owner, Colonel H. B. L. Hughes, Kinmel Park, Abergele ; occupier, Mr. Richard Parry. This is an interesting example of a yeoman's house of the late 16th century. It has large rooms, and many mullioned windows, several of the latter closed. One of the oaken beams has inscribed the words : YN . ENW , DUW . ANNO . DOMINI . 1571 ; and the ceiling of one of the attics bears the date 1627.—Visited, 23rd August, 1910.
3. ***Penisa'r Glasgoed*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 28", long. 3° 30' 35"). Owner, Sir William W. Williams, Bodelwyddan; occupier, Mr. H. Owen. A plain but interesting house, built in the year 1570, and having a small distinct (but contemporary) house for the bailiff on the south-east. The gables are stepped, and the frame-work of some of the windows is of wood.—Visited, 14th October, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

4. ***Cae'r Garnedd*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 10", long. 3° 30' 10"). Tithe Schedule, No. 83. No carnedd is now traceable in this field.—Visited, 23rd August, 1910.
5. ***Sarn*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 36.5", long. 3° 29' 12"). A small house on the north side of a road leading from the main St. Asaph and Rhuddlan road, and at the corner of an old lane turning out of the first-named road. There is no pitched surface. The probable line of the Roman road lies about two miles south.—Visited, 23rd August, 1910.

6. **Cae Garreg Lwyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 19" and 16", long. 3° 28' 33" and 30"). Owner, Sir William W. Williams, Bart. ; occupier, Mr. John Jones, Dafarn Iefrith.

These names are given in the Tithe Schedule (Nos. 248 and 252) to two adjoining fields on which no trace of a standing stone is now to be discovered. According to the occupier, field No. 252 is now known as 'Cae main,' the field west of it 'Cae garreg lwvd' ; and No. 248 is said to be one of three adjoining fields known as 'the Four Crosses fields.' No tradition exists of a 'hoar' or 'standing' stone.—Visited, 14th October, 1910.

7. **Perth Saint Bach, Perth Saint Mawr, Werglodd Saint Perth** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 50", long. 3° 28' 0" and 3° 28' 10"). Three large fields west and south-west of Gwerneigrôn house, in the township of that name. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 338, 341, and 340. The two first-named lie on the east side of a lane, and the third is a large meadow adjoining them on the east. No explanation of the names has been offered.—Visited, 14th October, 1910.

Parish of BODFARI.

Division Ia (TUMULI).

8. **Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.W. ; lat. 53° 14' 14", long. 3° 20' 28"). A low roughly-circular mound crowning a high-lying meadow, about 150 yards south-east of Lodge Farm (owner, Col. H. B. L. Hughes, Kinmel Park, Abergele ; occupier, Mr. William Hughes). It is 5 or 6 feet above the ground level on the north, and 8 or 9 feet on the south side ; the external diameter is 24 yards north to south, and 26 yards east to west. It appears to have been dug, into from the summit.—Visited, 28th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

9. **Moel y Gaer** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.W. ; lat. 53° 13' 35", long. 3° 21' 22"). Owner, Mr. D. F. Pennant, Nantlys, Bodfari. This camp occupies the summit of a bold spur of the Clwydian range of hills, and commands the only easy line of communication through the range. It stands some 450 feet above Bodfari church, and is oval in shape. The banks are composed of earth and loose shale. On the eastern side it is altogether unprotected by defensive banks or ditches, but on the south-east both an inner and an outer bank can be discerned. At this point the inner bank is 6 feet broad, and within it is a depression from which the interior of the camp rises to a considerable height. One of the original entrances was placed in this south-eastern face. Proceeding in a westerly direction along the inner bank, the outer rampart recedes so as to leave a large intervening space, while the inner bank increases in height and breadth. A little north of west a raised path runs

eastwards into the camp, and terminates in a mound. There is an entrance at the north-west, and from this point a third bank starts, intermediate between the previously mentioned dykes. This bank runs in a northerly direction, and, after merging into the outermost bank, the remaining banks gradually die away as the steep eastern side is reached. Only the inner bank is continued, and this also is brought to an end at the verge of the sharp eastern slope. At the southern end of the camp a raised path or low bank runs in a southerly direction down the hill for nearly a hundred yards ; this may have been connected with an entrance, now destroyed. Three good springs are within easy distance.—Visited, 28th June, 1910.

This camp was explored in 1908 at various points. The boulders which were then found to have lined an entrance on the south-west were again covered over. This south-west entrance itself has apparently become filled up and overgrown, for it is now not perceptible. The diggings in one of the western ramparts yielded only some charcoal, and, in the charcoal layer, part of a deer's antler and a water-worn pebble of hematite. The conclusion then arrived at is thus stated : " If anything can be learned from an exploration which yielded nothing in the shape of a find, it is perhaps that Moel y Gaer was at least never occupied by the Romans. Further than this the evidence will not carry us " (*Arch. Camb.*, 1909, VI, ix, 232).

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

10. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 S.W.). Ded : St. Stephen. * Diocese and archdeaconry of St. Asaph ; rural-deanery of Denbigh ; townships of Bodfari in Flintshire, and Aberwhiler in Denbighshire. †
A church of which only the tower is old, the rest of the structure having been rebuilt in 1865 upon the foundations of an earlier edifice. The massive tower may date from the early 13th century ; it is about 50 feet in height, and is battlemented, with a cote for a single bell on its eastern side formed by arching over one of the openings of the battlement. The ground slopes sharply westwards, so that the lower stage of the tower is made to batter out ungracefully ; and on its western side it is further strengthened by clumsy external projections. Internally, it is 19 feet 6 inches square. It opens into the modern nave by a low pointed arch, which may be original. The communion table is an interesting 17th-century example, and the panels of the oaken pulpit, which are of the same period, A.D. 1635, are of especial excellence and preservation. The old parish chest has been set up as a cupboard in the vestry, which is formed in the base of the tower. In the rectory grounds are the original base and portion of the pedestal (12 inches high) of the octagonal font, the bowl o-f which has been restored and is in use. It is intended to replace these within the church.—Visited, 28th June,

* According to Edward Llyud, writing in 1699, Dier (that is Deifer) was the patron saint (*Camb. Arch. Assoc.*, *Parochialia*, I, 68) See 'Ffynnon Deifer,' No.11 and 'Capel Hwlkyn' under Aberwhiler parish, county Denbigh.

† Aberwhiler is now a separate civil parish within the county of Denbigh, though still ecclesiastically attached to Bodfari.

1910. Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 2; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 84.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

11. ***Ffynnon Deifer or Dier*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 S.W. ; lat. 53° 13' 8", long. 3° 21' 36").

This was the well of the earlier patron saint of the church of Bodfari, although no one now knows of it by that name. Edward Lhuyd, writing in 1699 of Bodfari, says, " Dier is their saint " ; and again, " Ffynnon Dhier. It is a custom for the poorest in the parish, after going nine times round the well, to offer chickens—a cock for a boy and a pullet for a girl. They use also to put a child up to its neck in the three corners of the well, lest it cry at night " (*Camb. Arch. Assoc., Parochialia*, i, 70 ; translation). On the left of a footpath leading from the main road towards the railway, about 180 yards from Bodfari church, is a neglected and choked spring, the surroundings of which answer to Lhuyd's description.—Visited, 7th July, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

12. ***Cae- Maen Llwyd*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.W. ; lat. 53° 13' 26", long. 3- 22' 4-).

Tithe Schedule, No. 94. This field, about 200 yards west of Ty Draw, although still bearing its old name, does not now contain an erect stone.—Visited, 24th September, 1910.

13. ***Alleged Roman Site*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 S.W. ; lat. 53° 13' 0", long. 3° 22' 27"). Owner and occupier, Col. Arthur Mesham, Pontruffydd Hall. A meadow called Cae Maen Llwyd (Hoar Stone Field), on the north side of the road opposite Pontruffydd Hall, is marked on the Ordnance Map as the " supposed site of Roman station," and a spot near the said Hall as the Varis of the Antonin Itinerary. The meadow above-named is situate on a piece of ground having a gradual fall to two low-lying meadows on the west, between its foot and the river (hvyd). The owner and occupier, Colonel Mesham, said that he had heard of the discovery of two urns, which had been re-interred by the then owner, Miss Mesham*. It is also stated in *Arch. Camb.* for 1856 (III, ii, 188), upon the authority of Miss Angharad Llwyd, that " when the late Lord Mostyn's father was planting some trees at Pontryffydd House, the workmen uncovered divers specimens of Roman bricks, pottery, &c. A few years ago, the house was occupied by a lady, whose servants and children, digging among the trees, turned up some Roman earthenware." Furthermore, the late Mr. Barnwell, in *Arch Camb.*, 1859, III, v, 128, observes that Mr. Aneurin Owen (died 1851) saw in the grounds of Pontruffydd House " an embankment," since destroyed, which Mr. Owen evidently thought to be Roman. This is all the really relevant

* Colonel Mesham writes that "when the present main road was constructed the erect stone which was in the field was blasted, and the several pieces placed above the new road in a semi-circle, where they now are."

information relating to the alleged finds, and there is nothing now visible to support the identification of a Roman station at Pontruffydd. On the other hand, old inhabitants of the neighbourhood who were questioned, neither remembered nor had heard of any of the above discoveries. Indeed, the belief is mainly based upon the impossible equation of [Bod] Fari with Varis. It should be said that when the present main road was constructed, the old roadway was taken into the north side of Pontruffydd grounds as now existing ; and the line of the earlier road (which can still be traced in part) possibly gave rise to the idea of an embankment.[†]

—Visited, 29th June, 1910.

14. **Maes y Groes** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.W. ; lat. 53° 14' 7", long. 3° 20' 10"). Owner, Colonel H. B. L. Hughes, Kinmel Park.

A field on the north side of the Mold and Denbigh main road, between Waen yr odyn on the west and Pentre ucha on the east, is called Maes y Groes ; but why is not known, no trace of a cross being apparent, or tradition of any. Tithe Schedule, No. 421.—Visited, 23rd September, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

15. **A Stone Spindle Whorl**, said to have been discovered " in a camp near Moel y Gaer (No. 9), was exhibited by the late Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, of Peniarth, co. Merioneth, at the Cambrian Archaeological Association's annual meeting at Machynlleth in the year 1866. The spindle whorl is at Peniarth.

15A. **Stone Hammer and Scraper**. The former is 7 inches in length, and has a groove $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide near the centre. This was found on the surface of an old sandy road which had recently been ploughed and furrowed by heavy rains. The scraper was found lying on the surface near the church ; it is a little over 6 inches each way, with the corners roughly rounded, and with one side carefully brought to a cutting edge. Both implements are of Wenlock shale, the local stone, and are in the possession of Air. W. F. Price, Fron Haul, Bodfari.

16. **Torques**, In a letter to Mr. Edward Lkuyd from Mr. Robert Davies of Llannerch, written on the 20th September, 1703, is the following passage:—" Sometimes before I left home, I heard of two odd things which a poor Boy found peeping out of the ground as he was reapeing, soe I sent for them, and gott the wooden patterns which you see to be made for you. The things are curiously gilded, if not gold ; for they had not the least rust on them. Whatsoever use they

[†] The latest and most authoritative pronouncement on the subject is that of Professor Haverfield, LL.D., who, after setting forth the arguments, sums up thus : " It will be well, therefore, to await more evidence before placing Varis at Pontruffydd, or, indeed, near Botffari " ; and he continues : " It is possible that it (Varis) lay further north. Certainly the only piece of modern road in this region that seems to me to have a Roman look, runs westwards from the Clwyd near St. Asaph, past Glascoed and Sarnrug, for about six miles. This is straight, and old : for half the distance it forms a parish boundary " (*Transactions of the Hon. Soc. of Cymmrodorion*, Session 1908-9, p. 80).

have been for, they seem to be intire, by the little swellings at the Ends which the Joyner has not well imitated ; besides he has made Them a little too slender, and the Hatt one ought to be somewhat convex on one side. This was turned almost into a Ring, and the round one was irregularly Crooked, but in what shape they were found I could not learne. If they be found to be brasse I will buy them, and send them you. A Goldsmith has broke half an Inch of the round one, and says it is not Gold but has Gold in it. When I returne I will cause digging about the place, which is a field in Bodvary." And in a subsequent letter of the 13th February, 1703/4, the same correspondent says :—" The brass rings which I sent you are at your service, for I suppose they are given me by him from whom I had 'em. The two gilded things, whereof I sent you wooden patterns by my son, proved to be Gold, soe it was not without some caution that I could find meanes of Digging about where they were found, in another man's land. I met with nothing, only an ordinary pavement, and something like the foundation of an house, but I heare there has been formerly found in the same field a round thing like a Tennis Ball, and something else of gold " (Camb. Arch. Assoc., *Parochialia*, iii, 96-7).

Parish of BRYNFORD

DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

17. ***Naid y March*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 3", long. 3° 14' 57').

This name, 'Naid y march,' ' the Horse's leap,' designates two stones on Holywell Common which stand in relation to each other south-east and north-west, and are 25 feet apart. The north-west stone is an irregular truncated block of triangular shape, 2 feet 5 inches high above ground ; it is secured by concrete, having, it is said, been injured and repaired. The south-east stone is four-sided, 4 feet high above ground, with its width at the base varying from 12 to 15 inches. Pennant mentions these stones in 1796 (History of Whiteford and Holywell Parishes, p. 253).—Visited, 27th July, 1910.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

18. ***Calcot Hall*** * (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 24", long. 3° 14' 45"). Owner, Mrs. Dunhill, 8, Knaresborough Place, Cromwell Road, London.

This house, the early seat of the Mostyns of Calcot, although repaired and occupied about 60 years ago, is now a ruin, with little more than the walls and roofs remaining. It consists of an older part—a stone front and wing of about the year 1600, or somewhat later ; and a considerable addition in red brick, mostly at the back, with an extension of the front. It is of three stories, including attics. The farm buildings are extensive, and seem to be older than the house.—Visited, 29th August, 1910.

* Calcot Hall stands in the township of Calcot, the 'Caldecote' of Domesday

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

19. **Maen Llwyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15'27", long. 3° 14'33").

The name given in the Tithe Schedule, No. 120, to two fields on the east side of the old drive to Calcot Hall, and north-east of the Hall. When visited the field was occupied with standing corn, and no 'grey stone ' was to be seen ; a small stone, 19 inches by 16 by 12, was noticed on the southern border of the field.—Visited, 29th August, 1910.

20. **Garnedd Lwyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 37", long. 3° 13' 25").

Tithe Schedule, No. 267. A field near the hamlet of Gamdda'r Cerrig, where the name ' Garnedd Lwyd ' is now quite unknown. The field was carefully examined, but no traces of a Garnedd were discovered.—Visited, 21st September, 1910.

21. **Maen Llwyd Ucha, Maen Llwyd Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. lat. 53-- 15' 43" and 48" ; long. 3° 15' 25" and 30').

Two adjoining fields, north-east by east of Calcot Pella farm house, Tithe Schedule, Nos. 16 and 17. No ' maen llwyd ' is standing in either field, but a fragment of grey stone is worked into the stile on the west side of ' Maen IN-1-d ucha,' and two larger fragments into another stile on the opposite side of the same field.—Visited, 23rd September, 1910.

Parish of CAERWYS.

DmSION Ia (TUMULI).

22. **Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 19.5", long. 3° 21' 3"). Owner, Mr. T. Thornycroft Vernon, Bryngwyn Hall, Caerwys.

This tumulus is placed 500 yards west by north of Bryngwyn Hall ; it is not more than 4 feet above ground, the summit diameter being 7 yards from north to south and 4 yards from east to west. A great portion of the west side has been dug away.—Visited, 29th June, 1910.

This is " Tumulus No. 2 " of the Rev. Philip Stapleton's paper in *Arch. Camb.*, 1908, VI, viii, 362. It was explored in 1897 by the Rev. J. Luck, who, starting from the south side found a dome of large stones filled with cremated and broken bones, all thrown together ; whence it was concluded that the mound had been already dug into. On replacing the bones and filling in the cutting, Mr. Luck found a stone hammer (now at St. Beuno's College), which is illustrated (*ib.*). The later excavation produced nothing.

23. **Coed Bron Fawr Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 9.5", long. 3° 20' 48"). Owner, Mr. T. Thornycroft Vernon, Bryngwyn Hall. A circular tumulus, situated about 250 yards south-west of Bryngwyn Hall, having a fairly flat top of 15 feet diameter. The height above the natural surface is 12 feet on the north and west sides, and 9 feet on the south and east. The base is 23 yards north and south, and 25 yards east and west, the surface gently sloping on either side. It has been disturbed in the middle, and on the north and west sides.—Visited, 28th June, 1910.

This mound was well explored by the Rev. Philip Stapleton, S.J., of St. Beuno's College, in the year 1908 ; it is No. 3 of his list of Bryngwyn tumuli. Two (if not three) distinct interments were met with, the finds consisting of an urn containing calcined bones and a flint flake, all on the ground level. The urn was too badly crushed to admit of reconstruction. The objects recovered are carefully preserved at St. Beuno's College. A secondary interment was separated from the first by a layer of calcined bones, human and non-human ; and three inches below the summit was a bowl-shaped hollow. On the surface were found a scrap of bronze and a piece of coarse pottery. A good illustrated account of the exploration, with plans and sections, is in Arch. Camb., 1908, VI, viii, 363. -

According to the same authority a tumulus (No. 4 of Father Stapleton's list), close to the one here described, has " at some fairly recent period been practically L/ 1 destroyed."

24. **A Mound**, about 350 yards south-east of Bryngwyn Hall (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 7", long. 20' 17"). Owner, Mr. T. Thornycroft Vernon.

A mound, marked on the old 1-inch survey as a 'Tumulus,' but not shown on the 6-inch survey map of 1898. It is low and difficult to define ; but appears to be about 9 yards in diameter at the top, with a base of 24 yards east and west, and 40 yards north and south.—Visited, 5th July, 1910.

This seems to be the mound explored by the Rev. Philip Stapleton in 1908 (Arch. Camb., 1908, VI, viii, 375), which he distinguishes as No. 5 of the Bryngwyn tumuli, and decides to be " a natural rise in the ground," the fire-marked stones, lime, and clinkers which were discovered being taken to be evidence of the use of the mound as a limekiln. Externally it now shows no signs of such use. A trench, 3 feet wide, driven from east to west, was the only exploration attempted by Mr. Stapleton.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the mound four flints have been picked up off the surface of the ground. They are now at St. Beuno's College.

25. **Tumulus in Coed Shepherd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 11.5", long. 3° 19' 59"). Owner, Mr. T. Thornycroft Vernon, Bryngwyn Hall. A tumulus, in a wood in the township of Bryngwyn, somewhat indefinite in outline, but having a circular summit 27 feet in diameter. The height above ground is about 4 feet, except on the north side where it is 6 feet ; the soil is clay. The

mound has been much disturbed on the top, and it has apparently been trenched on the south-west.—Visited, 25th August, 1910.

This tumulus was explored in the winter of 1908-9, and charcoal and remains of a human interment, without any enclosing cist or urn, were found on the ground level in the centre of the tumulus. The body had been burnt. A flint arrow-head was discovered 10 inches below nearly the highest point of the mound (Arch. Camb., 1909, VI, ix, 361).

26. **Beech Tree Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.W. ; lat. 53° 15' 21" long. 3° 21' 20"). Owner, Mr. E. Sutton, Maxey House, Market Deeping ; occupier, Mr. A. Foulkes.

This barrow is placed on the summit of what appears to be a natural mound, about 150 yards east of Aelwyd ucha farm in Tremeirchion parish. It shows no signs of having been opened. The actual tumulus is roughly circular, measuring about 4 feet high, and 71 yards in diameter at the top. It is said to have been constructed about a century ago, but the work then done may have been merely the re-forming of an already existing mound. ---, Visited, 29th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES).

27. **Offa's Dyke** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint., 5 S.E.).

A striking portion of this dyke, first noticed on the Ordnance sheet, may be seen for about 100 yards on the north side of Walk tan y Plas, near Caerwys Hall. This earthwork will be dealt with as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

28. **Caerwys Hall** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 21", long. 3° 18' 0"). Owner, Mr. John Owens, Plas ucha, Whitford, Holywell.

A large house possessing no distinctive features, which has replaced the older residence of the family of Griffiths called 'Plas yng Nghaerwys.' A stone in one of the gables is inscribed 1589, P.G., M.G.—Visited, 1st July, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

29. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E.). Ded : St. Michael. Diocese and archdeaconry of St. Asaph ; rural-deanery of Denbigh ; townships of Tref Edwyn, Tre dre, Bryngwyn ucha, Bryngwyn issa.

This church is a double rectangle, of which the southern body constitutes the chancel and nave. The northern body is of almost similar dimensions in height and width, but its length is decreased by the engaged tower which stands at the western end. In its principal structural features the church is of the late Decorated period, with Perpendicular and later details, and it has been attached to the tower of an earlier building of which no other traces appear to have survived. The tower is square and massive, with walls 3 feet 3 inches in thickness, -and probably dates from the latter half of the 13th century. It was lacking in height, and accordingly received an additional story in the year 1769. At the Decorated reconstruction of the edifice the pitch of the roof was lowered, and the low round-

headed doorway which opened from the interior of the tower into the church underwent alterations, giving place at a still later date to the present low square-headed doorway. If, therefore, as is most probable, the earlier church consisted of only a single body, the southern body must represent the addition of the 15th century. Some of the windows are Decorated ; those at the east end are Perpendicular, of slightly different periods and of varying details. The roof of the present nave and chancel has been renewed, but that of the north aisle has been well restored and presents an interesting example of late Decorated or early Perpendicular oak roofing ; the lower wind braces are of an unusually elaborate and pleasing design. The arcade was originally formed of immense oak beams, but these have given way to modern stone piers and arches. A Decorated window on the south side of the chancel has been filled with fragments of coloured glass of the early 16th century, formerly in one of the east windows. The church had: a rood screen and loft, but (probably in the 18th century) the loft was removed to the west end and transformed into a gallery. At a later restoration the screen was taken down and utilised for lining the large sacarium, the east end of the north aisle, and back of the chancel stalls. The remains show the screen to have been one of considerable interest, though the ideas are conventional and the execution rough.* Especially bold is the carving of the bosses, and the designs are good. In view of the association of the Welsh princes of Gwynedd with the parish of Caerwys, it is interesting to note the presence of the dragon amongst the decorative motives. A carved pew door of the year 1682, which is surrounded by panels of the earlier screen-work, is here illustrated. The communion table is dated 1620 ; the legs are much worn on the inner side. The octagonal font bears the date 1661. A small bell, formerly used at funerals, is in the vestry.

On the south side of the chancel is a canopied tomb of the Decorated period, now sheltering the figure of a female which has probably been brought from some other part of the church. The effigy (figured in Arch. Carob., 1891, V, viii, 69) is of the 13th century, and is supposed to represent the wife of Prince David ap Gruffudd (d. 1282).† Three early sepulchral slabs have been affixed to the wall at the west end. The details of the inscriptions and decoration have almost

* According to Sir Stephen Glynne, much of this carved screen work had formed the cornice of the aisle roof.

† A mandate of Pope Innocent IV. to the abbots of Aberconway and Cymmer, dated 26th July, 1244, respecting certain proposals that had been made to the pope by David ap Llewelyn, prince of North Wales, directs the holding of an enquiry into the matter, " apud Keyrus in ecclesia Gustefend." Mr. Haddan (Councils, i, 471), observes that the name ' Gustefend' " rather suggests Llangustenin " ; *while Luard (Rolls' ed. of Matthew Paris' Chronica Majora, iv, 399) considers that it signifies 'Constantine.' There is, however, little doubt that the church intended is that of Ysceifiog, the next parish to that of Caerwys, and in 1291 (and also in 1535, but not at present) in the same deanery. It is possible that a church did not exist at Caerwys so early as A.D. 1244, as no mention is made of one in the Valor of 1254. But as the abbatial enquiry was a hostile one, to hold it in Ysceifiog church was to remove it from the sphere of influence of David, who had a residence at Maesmynan on the Denbighshire border of Caerwys parish. It is impossible to fix the date of the effigy in Caerwys church within narrower limits than those given in the text, but it may be suggested that it more likely represents the wife of Prince David ap Llewelyn than the wife of Prince David ap Gruffydd. The latter lady probably died and was buried in England

entirely disappeared, but [HIC. JAC]ET . EDN . VAC[11' or HAN] can be read upon one.[‡] The lettering is of about the year 1400, and the ornament is similar to that on slabs at Diserth, Cwm, Gwaunysgor, and other churches of the neighbourhood. Another slab shows faintly the same details, and a third bears a decorative motif like that on the stone now forming the exterior sill of the north door of Meliden church. In the exterior of the south wall is a small memorial slab, dated 1582, to Robertus Evans, appointed rector in 1557.[§]

Within the covered lychgate is a pre-Reformation oak frame, the two uprights supporting a beam in which a cross was fixed, where the corpse was set down " dan ei groes," .. 'neath his cross. "—Visited, 2nd July, 1910.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 8; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.* 1884, V, i, 84 ; *Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 69.

Edward Lhuyd states (A.D. 1699) that " there is a foot of land (*troedvedh o dir*) in the churchyard called Dewi's land, because of which the plague will never enter this town " (*Camb. Arch. Assoc.*, *Parochialia*, i, 67).

Figures 1 and 2.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

30. **St. Michael's Well** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 44.5", long. 3° 18' 52').

The 'Fynnon Mihangel' of Edward Lhuyd; formerly the sacred well of Caerwys church, situate in Maesmynan wood, on the western border of Caerwys parish and franchise. A natural basin of limestone, about 12 feet across east and west, and 20 feet north and south, in which the water collects from the springs above, the spring within the basin adding its quota ; the water discharges over its southern lip, forming a little brook which Lhuyd calls 'Avon NEhangel,' ' St. Michael's stream.' The well was formerly much resorted to for the cure of sore eyes and the removal of warts.—Visited, 26th August, 1910.

31. **Ffynnon Deg** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 53", long. 3° 17' 56.5").

A strong spring on the western edge of Coed y Drefraith, flowing into a rectangular enclosure of masonry, 8 yards by 4. The discharge is so copious as to form a river sufficient in volume to have worked a factory mill about 15 chains below, from which circumstance the stream is called 'the Factory river.' Edward Lhuyd, however, denominates it 'Afon Galchog,' ' the chalky river.' It forms the

[‡] In the year 1441 a lease was granted to Deio ap Edden' [Ednowain or Ednyfed] of certain lands and messuages in the township of Faenol (modern parish of Bodelwyddan), in the king's hands by the rebellion of Edden' Vaghan ap LI' ap Rees

[§] The diocesan returns of 1563 report him to be " abydyngye at the unyv'sytye of Sir John ap John was vicar (British Museum, *Harley MS.* 594)

south-eastern boundary of the borough of Caerwys up to the point of its juncture with the Whiler.—Visited, 26th April, 1910.

32. **Ffynnon Wryyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. ; lat. 53° 16' 1", long. 3-19' 5').

This spring, which is very abundant and of excellent water, is protected by stone slabs. Steps lead down to it. It gives its name to cottages hard by.—Visited, 5th July, 1910.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

33. **Ffordd Mehemia** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 23", long. 3° 18' 40"). f

This lane, described on the Ordnance map as 'Maesmynan Lane,' forms part of the western boundary of the parliamentary borough of Caerwys. It is popularly called 'Ffordd Mehemia,' and has always been known as such within the memory of people still living.* It is now for the most part a private road, and the name 'Ffordd Mehemia' seems at present to be applied only to the private portion of it. It has a rough wall on either side, surmounted generally by a hedge ; its width is from three to four yards, and the surface is pitched. Northwards it is still a public lane ; southwards it crosses the Mold and Denbigh road at a cottage called 'Groesffordd,' 4 the cross roads,' beyond which it can be traced on the slope of Moel Parc as a sunken lane, with an occasional tree along its course. It was formerly the approach to Caerwys from the main road just named.—Visited, 30th August, 1910.

34. **Boundary Stone** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. ; lat. 53° 16' 21.5", long. 3° 18' 12.5").

Although marked on the map as stationed between the parishes of Caerwys and Whitford, the boundary stone on Ffridd y garreg wen could not be found. Enquiry elicited the information that the stone, then known as 'Maen Penmelvu,' had been taken away to form the chief gorsedd stone at the time of the Rhyl Eisteddfod of 1904, and was not brought back. It is still lying among the sand hills. at the eastern end of the Rhyl parade.—Site visited 30th June, 1910.

35. **Merestones** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 45", long. 3° 18' 44").

In the north end of the field immediately east of Coed farm, and adjoining it. is a line of three mere or quillet stones, 24 feet apart ; each bears the letter, - R. R. on one side, and W. W. on the other. At the south end are two merestones. 31 feet apart, similarly marked ; one of these seems to have been moved. The distance from one of the southern to one of the northern stones was paced, and found to be 192 yards. The quillet, therefore, was 28 times longer than it was broad, an unusual proportion of length to breadth.—Visited, 29th August, 1910.

* the correct form of the name is said to be 'Ffordd Bohemia,' the 'Bohemian's way,' from the gipsies who formerly congregated there; but the derivation is a doubtful one.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST)

36. **Erw'r Palmant**, 'the pavement acre' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. lat. 53° 15' 38", long. 3° 17' 23").

A level stretch of meadow (Tithe Schedule, No. 57), on the north side of an old lane (now mended with road metal), which at this point is the boundary of the franchise of Caerwys.—Visited, 12th October, 1910.

37. **Erw'r Castell**, Castle Acre (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 0".long. 3° 18' 25"). Owner, Mr. J. Herbert Lewis, M.P., Penucha, Caerwys.

A triangular-shaped field slightly higher in level than the Holywell road, whereon it abuts on the east side. At its south point, where the surface falls slightly, the soil is maintained at the level of the field by a low bank of stones and earth. Many big boulders lie outside the gate at the south corner, but they probably have been placed there to be out of the way. This field is mentioned by Edward Lhuyd in 1699, under the same name.—Visited, 4th July, 1910.

38. **Croes Arian** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 8 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 45", long. 3° 18' 39-).

Tithe Schedule, No. 879. There is no cross in this field, nor any tradition of such, and the name is wholly forgotten.—Visited, 29th August, 1910.

39. **Croes Wian** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S. E. ; lat. 53° 15' 12", long. 3° 18' 56").

This spot at a cross road is still called 'Croes Wian,' although there is now no cross or base of cross remaining, nor any remembrance of such. The site is on the boundary line of the franchise of the town of Caerwys, and in the charter of Edward III (1357) to the burgesses of Caerwys, the boundary of their franchise is said to run " a via juxta Crucem vocatam Crosse Wyaun quay ducit versus Marian Croyken," etc. (*Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 183), a phrase which proves that a cross was then in existence here.—Visited, 12th August, 1910.

40. **Cae'r Orsedd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 30", long. 3° 19' 30") Owner, Mr. T. Thornycroft Vernon, Bryngwyn Hall, Caerwys occupier, Mrs. C. Ames.

The name of a field on the farm of Plas yn Rhos. Towards its north end the field rises slightly from all sides. The inspecting officer was told by John Brunnan of Minffordd, Caerwys, aged about 70, that about 35 years ago he was told by a man nearly 80 years of age, that he (the latter) remembered a stone with letters on it being removed by Mr. Pennant, the antiquary, from Cae'r Orsedd, Plas yn Rhos, where it was standing in the middle of the field. This was the stone inscribed " Hie Iacit Muller bona nobili," which is still at Downing (see Nos. 271 and 298). * —Visited, 12th August, 1910.

* It should be stated that a totally different site has been claimed for the original position of the Downing inscribed stone. Mr. T. Prichard Edwards (Caerwyson), now residing at Blaenau Festiniog, but a native of, and for many years a resident in, Caerwys, in a little work entitled " Henafiaethau Caerwys" (" the

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

41. **A Collection of Beads**, said to have been found in the year 1792 in the field called Erw'r Castell (No. 37 above). They were exhibited at the Cambrian Archaeological Association's meeting at Rhyl, in 1858, by the late Miss Angharad Llwyd (Arch. Carob., 1858, III, iv, 464). The objects were classed as 'Primwval, but no further account of them has been found, and their present whereabouts is unknown.
42. **A Palstave**, " from a tumulus at Rhos Goch near Caerwys," was also exhibited by Miss Llwyd on the same occasion (ib.).
43. **Bronze Spear Head**, 31- inches in length, recently found some 10 feet deep at the bottom of a marl pit at the Caerwys Cement Works ; now in the possession of Dr. Hopper of Afonwen, Caerwys. It is illustrated in Arch. Carob., 1909, VI, ix, 506.

Parish of CILCAIN.

DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

44. **Tumulus** (No. 1) in Coed du Park (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. ; lat. 53° 11' 18", long. 3° 12' 12"; net shown on the Ordnance sheet). This tumulus rises from the southern end of a small natural plateau, and is composed of black earth and rubble. It has a flat circular top 33 feet in diameter, and is 18 feet high from the ground on the east side, 10 feet on the west, 15 feet on the north, and 8 feet from the plateau on the south. It has no surrounding ditch, and shows no signs of disturbance. To the west of it is another similar tumulus, to be next described.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.
45. **Tumulus** (No. 2) in Coed du Park (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. ; lat. 53° 11' 17", long. 3° 12' 15"; Rot shown on the Ordnance sheet). A tumulus of earth and rubble, the summit of which appears to have been disturbed. It measures 12 feet from east to west, and 15 feet from north to south. small
The mound is situated at the west end of a smaplateau, and rises 8 feet from the ground on the western side, 10 feet on the northern, 6 feet on the southern, and 8 feet from the plateau on the eastern side. It lies about 100 yards to the west of the tumulus last noticed.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.

Antiquities of Caerwys,"), states upon evidence of a satisfactory character that the stone, which was known as ' Carreg Bedd Buddug' (^ Boadicea's Gravestone'), stood on a farm called Bryn Sion, not in Caerwys parish, but a few yards over the border in the parish of Ysceifiog. The stone probably occupied its position (wherever that may have exactly been) when Pennant produced the first edition of his Tours in 1778, and may have been moved to Downing only a year or two before his death in 1798. The subject is further discussed under the parish of Whitford (No. 271) below.

DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

46. **A Stone**, standing on the south side of the drive to Penbedw Hall (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.W. ; lat. $53^{\circ} 12'$, e, long. $3^{\circ} 14' 40''$). Owner, Mr. H. W. Buddicom, Penbedw Hall, Mold.

The position of this stone is 237 yards slightly south of west from the remains of the circle (No. 47). It is 5 feet 4 inches above ground, and is roughly circular in section. Its girth at mid height is 16 feet 3 inches, and its diameter at the top 5 feet 6 inches. It stands on slightly rising ground, and has occupied its present position beyond living memory.—Visited, 27th June, 1910.

DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

47. **Stone Circle in Penbedw Park** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.W. ; lat. $53^{\circ} 12''$, long. $3^{\circ} 14' 27.5''$). Owner, Mr. H. W. Buddicom, Penbedw Hall, 1~2 Mold.

This stone circle is 29 yards in diameter. It consists at present of only five stones forming an almost exact segment of a circle which now is completed by oak trees ; a monolith stands a little south of west, and 237 yards distant from the circle.

Figure 3

Starting from the south-west, the stones are as follows :—(1) a boulder 5 feet 3 inches above ground, greatest breadth 4 feet, thickness 1 foot 8 inches, material siliceous ; has a rough collection of small stones around it ; (2) a somewhat irregular block 10 yards south from the stone first named, 3 feet 6 inches above ground, greatest width 3 feet 4 inches, thickness 1 foot 7 inches ; (3) distant 7 yards east of No. 2 is another irregular stone, 3 feet 3 inches above ground, 2 feet 9 inches broad, 2 feet thick ; (4) 8 yards from No. 3, 3 feet 4 inches above ground, 2 feet broad, 1 foot 10 inches in thickness ; (5) the fifth stone is 10 yards from the fourth ; it is so irregular that only its height, 1 foot 4 inches above ground, can be noted. The whole circle is slightly elevated above the immediately surrounding ground. It was stated that some of the stones had been removed and broken up during the building of a farm in the neighbourhood. The outstanding monolith, 237 yards west, has been separately described (No. 46) and a neighbouring tumulus is inventoried under 11 Nannerch (No. 194).—Visited, 27th June, 1910.

At least six mere stones, each marked T. M. (for Thomas Mostyn), are near the circle.

(The following section has been supplied by Lieut.-Col. W. Ll. Morgan, R.E., one of the Commissioners.)

The circle stands on a slight, but natural plateau in the* middle of the Park. Five stones only remain, these are arranged on the segment of a circle 87 feet in diameter ; the rest of the circumference is marked by a ring of oak trees. We were informed that some of the stones had been removed and broken during the building of a house on a neighbouring farm.

The azimuth of the line from the centre of the circle to the first (the largest) stone is N. 153° 30' W. It is 5' 3" high, 4' broad and 1' 8" thick.

The 2nd, 30 feet to the south, is 3' 3" high, 3' 4" broad and 1' 7" thick.

The 3rd, 21 feet distant, is 3' 3" high, 2' 9" broad and 2' thick.

The 4th, 24 feet (almost due east), is 3' 4" high, 2' broad and 1' 10" thick.

The 5th, 30 feet distant, is 1' 4" above the ground ; irregular in shape.

All these stones are of millstone grit conglomerate, and are probably ice borne boulders.

237 yards to the west is a large upright stone of trap rock formation, 5' 4" high, roughly circular in section, diameter at top 5' 6"; at the centre it is somewhat less.

This stone is a very prominent feature in the landscape, and is apparently intimately connected with the circle. Its position certainly confirms (to some extent) the theory of the orientation of this class of monument. Immediately behind this monolith is a well-wooded hill, which at the present time considerably detracts from the value of the stone as a point for astronomical observations, for when looking towards the hill from the centre of the circle, the day on which the sun would set on any particular line would of course vary with the height of the trees.

The azimuth of the line, taken by a prismatic compass (the magnetic variation in this part of Flintshire being 18° W.) is N. 95° W. Under the present conditions the elevation of the skyline over the tops of the trees is 6°, and the sun would set behind the stone on the 24th March and the 20th September.

If the hill were bare of trees the elevation of the skyline would be about, 4° 30'. (This is only an estimate as it is impossible to see where the hill ends and the trees begin.)

Allowing 10' 40" for refraction, the declination of the sun setting on the line whose azimuth is N. 95° W. in latitude 53° 12' behind a hill whose elevation is 4° 30' is about 20' south, the declination of the sun on the 21st March and 23rd September, the days of the vernal and autumnal equinoxes.

No allowance has been made for the semi-diameter of the sun, as it is impossible to conjecture whether the observation of the sunset was taken to the disappearing of the upper or lower limb, but the uncertainty of the growth of wood on the crest of the hill at that particular time being of much greater importance, it is not necessary to insist on minute accuracy.

The only break in the line of the hills is towards the north, where is a well-marked tumulus, the azimuth of the line being N. 15° W. and the elevation of the skyline behind it not more than 30' ; but no importance can be attached to the astronomical value of this line for the azimuth is far beyond the limits of the sun for these latitudes, and many stars must necessarily have set on this line from time to time.

If any one star could be chosen in preference to the others, the time when it set upon this particular azimuth would give a clue to the age of the monument, but with our present knowledge there is no valid reason for making this selection.

There might be a point in the fact that Capella and Arcturus both set on this line somewhere about 1100 B.C., but it would only be of importance if the same coincidence were observed elsewhere.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC)

48. **Maes y Groes** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 S.W. ; lat. 53° 9' 37", long. 3° 12' 51"). Owner, Mr. Henry Potts, Chester ; occupier, Mr. George Williams. A house of two stories, with mullioned windows ; apparently of the early 17th century, with some older outbuildings. On an inner gatepost is a deeply incised Latin cross ; at the bottom of the same post is a device evidently intended for a heraldic shield with an inescutcheon. Between the cross and the shield is the date 1795.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.

Illustrated in Owen's Stone Crosses of the Vale of Clwyd, p. 15. There is another farmhouse called Maes y Groes in this parish, visited on the same day, but nothing of interest was found there.

49. **Trellyniau Fawr** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.W. ; lat. 53° 12' 58", long. 3° 13' 7').

A farmhouse built about the commencement of the 17th century. It has one large mullioned window and many smaller ones on the south side. Its internal arrangements have been modernised.—Visited, 22nd August, 1910.

50. **Plas yr Esgob** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. ; lat. 53° 10' 17.5", long. 3° 13' 5").

A farmhouse possessing no distinctive features, and (so far as could be learnt) not now, nor formerly, episcopal property. A cavity near the top of Moel Findeg is recorded in 1758 as 'Cader Esgob,' 'the Bishop's Chair.' The field adjoining Plas yr Esgob is called 'Cae Domen,' 'mount field' ; it slopes towards the river Alyn, but presents no antiquarian features calling for notice.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

51. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W.). Ded : St. Mary. Diocese of St. Asaph ; archdeaconry of Wrexham ; rural-deanery of Mold ;

townships of Tre'r Ran, Maes y groes, Cefn, Llys y coed, Mechlas, Trellyniau, Llystyn Hunedd (alias Glust).

The church is divided into two parts of equal length but of not quite equal breadth by an arcading of four bays and (at the west end) a piece of solid walling. The south side constitutes chancel and nave, and is the only portion at present used for divine service ; the north side, or aisle, is given to the Sunday School. The arcade has been closed by wood panelling, except the easternmost bay, which is occupied by the organ. The tower stands beyond the line of the western wall of both divisions, and on the north side. It probably occupies its original site, but is itself of comparatively recent reconstruction. It opens into the disused aisle by a narrow square-headed doorway probably of the year 1764, when it is said that the whole of the northern body was rebuilt, with the exception of the eastern gable. The earliest feature of the structure appears to be the arcade between the two parts of the church ; the piers are octagonal, and the capitals have a late Decorated shallow moulding of poor character. Some of the piers have been rebuilt, and the arches may have been altered in pitch. All the early windows were altered in Perpendicular times, the chancel east window of five lights being of quite disproportionate height for the church. This window has five coloured glass figures of considerable interest, the centre figure is Christ crucified, on the right St. John and St. Peter, and on the left St. Mary and St. George. The last-named figure has a curved scimitar with which he is slaying the dragon : this panel has been badly patched.* The nave roof is one of the richest in the diocese, and its elaborate character in connection with the church of so secluded a parish has given rise to the suggestion that it was removed from Basingwerk Abbey at the dissolution of that house. It was excellently repaired and restored in 1846, when the following description of it was written : " This roof covers the southern aisle, or rather the main body, of the church. The nave or western portion, which is constructed on the hammer-beam principle, is fifty-four feet long by twenty-two feet wide, with a rise of fourteen feet from the wall-plate to the ridge. The chancel part is coved in a segment of a circle ; it is seventeen and a half feet long by twenty-two feet wide, and eight feet high from the wall-plate to the centre of the curve. The main compartments of the western portion are thirteen feet wide from bracket to bracket, there being four such compartments ; and these again, are equally sub-divided into two compartments. Sections of the main and secondary principals are here given.

Figure 4

The chancel roof is divided equally into two compartments. Both portions are ultimately divided into rows of single pannels between each purline. The cross sections of all the timbers are bold ; the material used is oak ; and the execution of the carving is bold, rather than elegant ; thus indicating, perhaps, that the roof was intended for a loftier building than that which it now covers " (*Arch. Camb.*, 1847, I, ii, 78). The principals terminate with figures of angels bearing shields ,i-hich display the different emblems of the Passion and other ecclesiastical symbols. These have been restored recently, presumably by a neighbouring

landowner, for the westernmost shields bear the date 1888 and a modern coat of arms. Placed on the wall-plate, between each principal, are smaller human figures in pairs, treated heraldically.

There are external evidences of a doorway near the east end of the south side, exhibiting a good though plain three-centred arch which may be earlier than the Decorated arcade. It has been closed, as has also a later doorway in the north wall.

The minor objects of interest now preserved at the west end of the nave comprise (1) an early font showing Transitional Norman decoration formed of trifoliated loops, interlacing cordwork, and a chevron pattern—it is figured in *Arch. Camb.*, 1846, I, i, 442* ; (2) a broken stoup ; (3) a richly carved capital : both the latter appear to be of a little later date than the font, and probably are Early English. A slab (in two pieces) bearing the representation of the bust of a female figure, the lower part with the inscription HIC. IACET. MARRED. F' IERWERTH (illustrated in *Arch. Camb., ib.*, 444) ; (4) the central part of a slab depicting a female figure (headless, and the lower portion gone), the bust apparently undraped, the left arm laid across the breast, the right slightly bent at the elbow and dropping loosely in front, the hand holding up the drapery† ; (5) a slab displaying in a very primitive and childlike manner a female with an extraordinarily long and attenuated neck ; the figure appears to have a square head-dress, and elaborate stomacher with an embroidered border of orles ; the hands are separately placed open on the breast ; below the figure, the slab is ornamented with a leaf pattern, and the inscription ran down the centre ; this now shows only HIC: LACET (6) two portions (the larger 31 inches high by 24 inches broad) of a fine slab of precisely similar character to the slab at Llanasa, of which an illustration is given in *Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 75. The inscription around the shield reads HIC: IACET: IOR[W]ER[T]H DV : CUI [US : R] EQ'ESCAT I' PACE+AMEN.‡ The lettering is of the period c.1400; (7) a fragment showing a somewhat unusual treatment (for this county) of a cross-head : an—eight petalled flower within a circle and a narrow cross-stem (broken) ; (8) A coffin lid bearing an elegant design of interlaced incomplete circles around a cusped quatrefoil ; this is figured in *Arch. Camb., ib.*, 443: the design is frequently found on the slabs of this county. There are one or two smaller fragments.

Serving as a lintel to the door leading from the north aisle to the tower is a broken floriated slab, with the inscription, [M]EREDIT: AP :BLETYN : AP....§

The churchyard is oval, with a high bank against the north wall ; indeed, the interior is everywhere above the outside level, except at the north-west corner

* The writer (the late Professor Westwood), says that this font " was found in the ground, buried about a yard deep, beneath the pulpit on the south side of the church."

† This would seem to be the figure described by Professor Westwood as " the effigy, in low relief, of a hale, in a very rude but interesting style of art, still used as the coping stone of one of the buttresses on the north side of the church" (*Arch. Camb., ib.*, p. 444.)

‡ The letters ER of the name IORWERTH are on the smaller fragment. The outer margin of the shield has disappeared. The space on the border of the shield being exhausted, the AMEN was placed within field.

§ This occupied the same position when Professor Westwood wrote the article already referred to in 1846.

where the parsonage once stood. The much weathered shaft and pedestal of the churchyard cross leans dangerously over ; near it is the equally forlorn shaft of the sun-dial.—Visited, 4th August, 1910.

Arch. Camb., 1846, I, i, 441 ; 1847, I, ii, 77 ; Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 367 ; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 182 ; Owen, *Old Stone Crosses*, 7.

Figures 5, 6 and 7.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

52. **Carreg Boeth** (6 in. Ord Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. ; lat. 53° 11' 37", long. 3° 12' 31").

A limestone boulder which has given its name to a neighbouring farmhouse and wood. Its height on the north side (facing Coed Du Park) is 8 feet, breadth 12 feet. On the south, where the mass comes almost to a point, its height is about 5 feet. The name ' Carreg Boeth ' here probably means ' burnt stone,' rather than ' hot stone,' but, although well known, no genuine tradition seems to be attached to it.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

53. **St. Michael's Well** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. lat. 53° 10' 43", long. 3° 14' 33-5').

This well, called 'Ffynnon Mihangel' by Edward Lhuyd in 1699, occupies a site on the south side of the road near Pistyll farm. It rises in a basin about 4 feet in diameter, enclosed by unwrought stones, and its overflow runs into the adjoining field. Steps lead down to the well.—Visited, 16th August, 1910.

54. **Ffynnon Leinw** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.W. ; lat. 53° 11'59-5", long. 3° 13' 7-5").

A spring, the flow of which has probably been decreased by operations in connection with the neighbouring lead mines. It is enclosed by masonry 18 feet by 10 feet, and 2 feet deep, but there is now little water save after long continued rain. This spring is noted by Edward Lhuyd in 1699 under the above name.—Visited, 24th October, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

55. **Castel** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 S.W. and N.W. ; lat. 53° 9' 52", long. 3° 13' 52-).

The name of a house to which is attached a field whose south end- adjoins a good mountain road. This end is higher than the northern part, and has a somewhat irregular surface, a low ridge crossing the field ; but it cannot be said to suggest a defensible position. Tithe Schedule, No. 1267.—Visited, 31st October, 1910.

56. **Coitie'r Garnedd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 N.W. ; lat. 53° 11' 33", long. 3° 12' 43").

The fences of this field, and those of the field adjoining it on the west, are full of stones of considerable size. This is especially the case on the east side of Coitie'r garnedd where the fence traverses a heap of limestone rubble, partly in Coed Plas Wilkin. This heap of rubble is almost exactly in the middle of the eastern fence, and is probably the remains of the 'carnedd' which gave its name to the field. Tithe Schedule, No. 532.—Visited, 24th October, 1910.

57. **Bryn y Castell**, Coed Bryn y Castell (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 13 S.W. lat. 53° 9' 46", long. 3° 12' 48").

Bryn y castell is the name of a hill composed of gravel and small pebbles, with a steep eastern slope to the river Alyn. It is clothed with trees, undergrowth, and thick vegetation, so as to make measurements difficult. The little eminence has a flat top, about 20 feet north to south and 40 feet east to west. On the south and west the summit is about 20 feet above the level, on the north from 40 to 50 feet, and on the east some 150 feet from the river. There is no ditch at its base, nor are there any signs of fortification. It is probably natural. Tithe Schedule, No. 1430.—Visited, 24th October, 1910.

58. **Rhyd y Maengwyn**, 'the Ford of the White Stone' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.W. ; lat. 53° 12' 52", long. 3° 14' 38.5").

A ford on the river Whiles, where is now a wooden footbridge. The name is derived either from the outcrop of white limestone just east of it, or from a big stone, about 3 yards in length, which formerly lay across the stream at this point.—Visited, 22nd August, 1910.

Parish of COLESHILL FAWR.

DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

59. **Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 10", long. 3° 9' 46-). Owner, Mr. R. W. Henry, Oswestry.

This tumulus stands about 50 yards east of Coed Ffrith, surrounded at its base by a slight platform of earth from three to five inches high. The tumulus is about 20 feet high on the west, and 14 feet on the east side. The circular top of the mound was about 10 feet in diameter ; of it only the edge remains. Its sides are clothed with gorse, and the whole is composed of rubble and sand. A section has been dug into it from the summit to the ground level, while on the south side a trench has been driven into the centre. The site is an enclosure of uncultivated ground, called 'Bryn Castell' in the Tithe Schedule, No. 204.—Visited, 29th July, 1910. 1

60. **Coed Ffrith Tumulus** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 15", long. 3° 9' 48"). Owner, Mr. C. E. Hope, Burton, Neston, Cheshire.

This mound is situated on the edge of a little ravine. It has a flat oval top 16 yards in the length of its greater axis from north-east to south-west, and 7 yards from

north-west to south-east ; its height varies from 12 feet on the south side to between 50 and 60 feet on the north. It is composed of sand and gravel, and is clothed with thick wood ; the upper soil consists of decayed vegetation, and the whole has every appearance of being a natural mound. If it was ever crowned with a tumulus all signs of the latter have disappeared.—Visited, 29th July, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED).

61. **Henblas** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 7", long. 3° 10' 0").

Owner, Mr. C. E. Hope, Neston, Cheshire.

This area, situated in Coed Ffrith, is a flat piece of land projecting into the dingle called Nant y Fferm. On its northern side, which is unprotected by nature, is a wide artificial ditch about 15 feet deep. It is approached from the northern fringe of the wood by a roadway, evidently modern and constructed for the haulage of timber. The enclosure thus partially made has somewhat the form of a shield ; it is 40 yards across from north to south, and 37 yards from east to west, and contains about an acre of land. The fall of the ground to the dingle on the east is about 60 feet, and on the south about 70 or 80 feet, but is much less on the west. Although on the Ordnance map called 'Henblas,' a name usually denoting a medieval residence. there are no remains of foundations, nor is any house so called mentioned in Edward Lhuyd's Itinerary (A.D. 1699). There is no surrounding bank, and the whole place presents the appearance of a site that had been hastily rendered defensive and quickly evacuated, possibly in connection with the battle of Coleshill (A.D. 1157). East of it is a piece of land called 'Bryn Castel,' on which is a rifled tumulus (No. 59).—Visited, 10th August, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES).

62. **Wat's Dyke.** A portion of this dyke is to be seen as a hedge-bank above the ford below the Windmill Tavern, and further north ; it probably ran along the eastern ridge of Nant y Fflint in this parish.

It will be described as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

63. **The Supposed Site of the Battle of Coleshill,** A.D. 1157 (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 10", long. 3° 8' 45").

The spot marked on the Ordnance map as the supposed site of the battle of Coleshill, though any one, or all, of the adjoining fields in the township of Coleshill Fechan would suit the required conditions. Henry II, advancing along the shore from Saltney Marsh as far as Coleshill, found himself opposed by Owain, prince of Gwynedd. The sudden onset of the Welsh temporarily disorganized Henry's army, but the king rallied his forces, repulsed the charge, and advanced so as to cut off Owain's retreat, the latter taking shelter in a more

hilly or more defensible region. The exact site of the ' Koet Kennadlaoc ' (for which we should probably read ' Keun=Kefnhadlog') of Brut y Tywysogion is not certainly known. It has been surmised to be either Ewloe Wood or Hawarden.—Visited, 1st September, 1910.

64. **Castell Noble** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E. ; lat. 53° 14' 53", long. 3° 10' 5"). Owner, Mr. R. W. Henry, Oswestry.

A small farmhouse, almost entirely modern, but occupying a somewhat commanding position. The name has probably no antiquarian significance, though it appears in the Tithe Schedule, No. 322.—Visited, 12th October, 1910.

Parish of CWM.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

65. **Pwll Halog** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W. ; lat. 53° 17' 19", long. 3° 22' 7"). Owner, Mr. Maurice Rowley Convey, Bodrhyddan ; occupier, Mr. Frank Denson.

A stone-gabled residence, now a farmhouse, built about the beginning of the 17th century, and formed of two unequal portions. Part of an older house appears to have been demolished, and many mullioned and transomed windows closed ; on the brick fillings of one of these windows is inscribed 'Sir Edward Lloyd 1816.' The farmyard, and some of the outbuildings, are unusually large, and they are probably contemporary with the older house. It was formerly the residence of the Parrys of Pwll halog, of which family Bishop Parry of St. Asaph (A.D. 1604-1624) was the founder.—Visited, 5th July, 1910.

66. **Pentre Cwm** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. lat. 53° 17' 24", long. 3° 24' 28"). Owner, Mr. Maurice Rowley Convey, Bodrhyddan.

A large gabled farmhouse of three stories, with external entrances to the two lower. A passage runs through the house on the second story. Over one of the fireplaces is 16. W. M. A. 32—that is, (Archdeacon) William and Anne Mostyn ; and above a doorway is the date 1636.—Visited, 5th July, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

67. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E.). Ded : Ss. Mael and Sulien. Diocese, archdeaconry and rural-deanery of St. Asaph ; townships of Uwchlan and Islan.

A church consisting only of nave and chancel, between which there is no structural division. The edifice has been several times restored, last in 1890, so that few of its ancient features remain, but its plan is, doubtless, that of the original church. At the east end is a large and well-proportioned five-light window of the Perpendicular period, but the other windows are of no architectural importance. The roof appears to be entirely new. The square font basin, dating from the 12th-13th century, stands on a modern pedestal ; the stoup occupies its

place inside the south door ; and a sepulchral recess, with four-lobed flower decorations of the 14th century, is in the north wall of the chancel. Many fragments of early Perpendicular stained glass have been inserted in the east window. The following sepulchral slabs, discovered in various parts of the building during its successive restorations, have been placed at the west end— (1) A slab with four incomplete circles placed within the wheel of the cross, and a boss between the shaft and the wheel ;* (2) a fractured slab bearing a maltese cross with leaf decoration between the intersections ; the stem rests on a calvary, and has the inscription ' Hie jacet Gwinlian vxor Gronw vole † ; (3) a slab, broken at head and foot ; it shows a sword on one side and foliage on the other, and the incomplete inscription ' (Hi)c jacet Howel ap H - - ap Marevd ' ; (4) a small mutilated double figure of the Crucifixion, the design being repeated on both sides of the cross-head.—Visited, 5th July, 1910.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1908, i, 396 ; Glynne, Notes, ' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 85 ; *Arch. Camb.*, 1904, VI, iv, 213 (an excellent account, fully illustrated).

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).‡

68. **Ffynnon Asa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W. ; lat. 53° 17' 56", long. 3° 23' 16"). Owner, The Prestatyn Urban Authority.

This spring, which rises in a modern roughly-octagonal stone reservoir from 9 to 10 feet across, yields from four to five million gallons of water daily, and supplies the parishes of Prestatyn, Diserth and Meliden ; its overflow joins the Ffyddion. In volume its discharge is only exceeded in North Wales by that of St. Winifred's well, Holywell.—Visited, 6th July, 1910.

Edward Lhuyd (A.D. 1699) says that the spring was reputed to ebb and flow, but he (or his informant) had observed no signs of the phenomenon, though the well had been watched for nine hours.

69. **The Vicarage Spring** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 17' 8", long. 3° 24' 1").

This spring is in the vicarage garden, adjoining the churchyard; it is protected by what appears to be a portion of a fifteenth century sepulchral slab and is approached by four or five steps. It is probably the 'Ffynnon Fael a Sulie(n) ' mentioned by Edward Lhuyd in 1699,[§]* but that name is not now remembered.

* This may be the slab referred to by Pennant as being then in the churchyard, inscribed 'Hie Jacet Tangwistl uxor Llewelin ap Inir' (*Tours*, 1810, ii, 119 ; ed. Rhys, ii, 115). Lhuyd in 1699 calls her Tangwystl wife of Llewelyn ap Meilir, and says that the slab was at one time within the chancel.

† Ierwerth fil. Gruff' ap Grono Voyl appears in a deed enrolled on the Chester Recognizance Rolls for the year 1461,

‡ In addition to the wells here enumerated as still existing in greater or lesser beneficent activity, Lhuyd says that in his day (A.D. 1699) it was traditionally reported that there were 147 (Saith gynnon a saith igeint)— unless, indeed, the meaning is that there were twenty-seven wells. The presence of the great number of wells is, of course, accounted for by the faults and fissures in the limestone formation.

§ Lhuyd also mentions a Ffynnon Fair, St. Mary's Well, as being close to (*wrth*) the Vicarage.

The waters were celebrated for their efficacy in cases of ophthalmia ; and it appears to have been renovated in the year 1772, which date appears on the timber covering of the well chamber.—Visited, 6th July, 1910.

70. **Ffynnon Cilhaul** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 56", long. 3° 23' 53"). Owner, Mr. Maurice Rowley Convey, Bodrhyddan.

This spring is at the end of a fissure in the rock. The water is now used for the supply of Bodrhyddan Hall. Edward Lhuyd calls it 'FfynnOD Leiki,' 'Lleucu's well,' and etymologises upon the name 'Cilhaul,' saying that the sun never reached the spot.—Visited, 6th July, 1910.

71. **Ffynnon Bwbach** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 17' 5", long. 3° 24' 2.5").

This spring is on the side of the lane below the village school, and is still flowing, though much neglected and choked. It is not mentioned by Edward Lhuyd in 1699, or appears under a different name.—Visited, 6th July, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

72. **Hendre Fawr** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 57", long. 3° 21' 17"). Owner, Lord Mostyn, Mostyn Hall ; occupier, Miss Hughes.

The farm now known as 'Hendre Fawr,' is called 'Hendre Nlynach' on the Tithe Schedule, No. 8. It lies a few yards outside the township of Tre'r abbot in Whitford parish, but is expressly described by Edward Lhuyd in 1699 as being within (though on the border of) the parish just named. It is probable that Hendre Mynach (in Whitford) was demolished, and its lands added to Hendre Fawr (in Cwm), and that the name of the former lingered on in popular recollection.—Visited, 13th October, 1910.

Parish of DISERTH.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

73. **Diserth Castle** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 27", long. 3° 24' 40"). Owner, Mr. T. Leonard Hughes, Diserth ; occupiers, The Castle Limestone Quarry Company, Mostyn.

The remains of this castle crown the top of a steep hill which rises about 200 feet above the ground at its base. They consist of a few ruined towers and curtain walls ranged round an inner and outer bailey. The inner bailey was entered between two stone towers, the lower chambers of which are still standing. Along the north side of this bailey is a curtain wall, wherein are many gaps, and intermediate in the line of the curtain appears to have been a tower, having the foundations of a chamber extending within the courtyard. At the north-west is a tower, rounded externally, from which the curtain wall of the inner court was continued towards the south. The outer bailey was defended on the north-west side by a square tower of which the lower chamber remains. From the west

corner of the outer court ran a stone wall in a southerly direction ; the other sides of this court were protected only by the moat and outer bank. In front of the entrance on the south-east is a square moated outwork. The character of the masonry and of the few bits of moulded detail point to the middle of the 13th century, and the historical sources (the *Chronicle of St. Werburgh*, *Annales Cambriae* and *Brut y Tywysogion*) unite in asserting the castle to have been constructed in 1241 by Henry III, and destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd in 1263*. Considerably more of the castle remained until a few years ago, when the hill was leased for quarrying purposes, and the lessees began to quarry away the rock. Owing to these operations a large part of the south curtain, and such buildings as may have stood against it†, has already disappeared.—Visited, 6th September, 1910.

The castle was surveyed and described by the late Mr. E. W. Cox, of Liverpool, in the year 1894. (*Illustration, figure 8.*) The thick black lines of Mr. Cox's plan show the outline of the building, and the shaded lines represent conjectural restorations. Mr. Cox's paper also includes a sketch, reconstruction of the castle, which is largely imaginary (*Proceedings of the Chester Archaeological and Historic Society*, 1893-5, V, n.s., p. 361).

Figures 8 and 9a and b.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

74. ***Siambr Wen*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 20", long. 3° 24' 32"). Owner, the Earl of Plymouth ; occupier, Mrs. Roberts, Diserth Hall. *Siambr Wen* is a roofless ruin which, on the inspecting officer's first visit (on 6th July, 1910), was found inside and outside to be so choked with growing saplings, nettles and other undergrowth, as to make any satisfactory description or measurements impossible. During the six weeks following, the interior of the site was cleared by the students of St. Beuno's College. The building was then found to be a stone rectangular chamber, with its east end carried beyond the width of the main edifice, so as to make the whole something of the shape of the letter T. The total length of the interior is 68 feet, the transeptal portion accounting for 15 feet of that length. This transept is 31 feet from north to south, the eastern wall of the building running flush for the whole of this length. The projection of the transept on each side is 4 feet 9 inches. The main body of the chamber is 21 feet 4 inches broad ; in the middle of its western wall is the lower part of a solid

* *Brut y Tywysogion* calls Diserth castle in 1241 'Castell y Garret,' and in 1263 'Caer Faelan.' In a paper read on the site before the Cambrian Archaeological Association in August, 1911, Mr. Thomas Edwards, Brynteg, Chester, adduced some interesting record evidence to prove that the castle was first commenced on the slopes of the adjacent hill, where are undoubted evidences of building. But there is a difficulty in reconciling the historical with the archaeological testimony, and it is impossible to regard the remains on Craig Talargoch as being of earlier date than those of the ruins described above on the opposite hill. Mr. Edwards' paper appears *in extenso* in *Archoeologia Cambrensis* for July, 1912.

† Mr. Cox says the hall, 48 feet in extreme length and 25 feet in breadth, was placed against the south curtain.

projection 5 feet 4 inches thick, the function of which is difficult of explanation. Towards the upper end of the central chamber is a shallow well, on one side of which some masonry is apparent. The walls above ground are 2 feet 9 inches thick throughout. The north wall is fairly perfect, the south wall less so, and some of the other walls are represented only by their lowest courses. The highest portion standing is the south side of the transept, where in the end wall is a large window opening, about 20 or 22 feet high from the exterior level.

Figure 10

The ground inside (which had not been entirely cleared at the date of the inspecting officer's last visit) rises to the east, that is, towards the transept. There are slits looking westward on each side of the transept; a window on the north side of the building, as also a doorway; another doorway opposite on the south side 5 feet wide; and two large windows (one square headed) on either side of A. No signs exist, either in the main portion or in the transept, of upper rooms or foundations of divisions. Towards the south end of the eastern wall of the transept is the lower part of a shallow projection 7 feet long by 2 feet 10 inches deep. No mouldings anywhere remain, but a 14th-century date (at earliest) may be hazarded on the strength of the large south window. The whole has the appearance of a hall with eastern dais, but there are no traces of appurtenant buildings and offices, and the presence of the well within the chamber remains unexplained. Some antiquaries have argued in favour of an ecclesiastical origin to the building; but too much stress should not be laid on a current local name, 'Hen eglwys' or 'Eglwys. wen,' as this does not appear in print before last century. Edward Lhuyd in 1699, and Pennant in 1810, call the ruin 'Siambur Wen' simply. The building is much less perfect now than when described and sketched by the late Rev. H. Longueville Jones in *Arch. Camb.*, 1847, 1, ii, 339.—Visited, 25th August, 1910.

Siambur Wen has been recently discussed by the Rev. Kenelm Digby Beste, S.J., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1911, VI, xi, 54; and by Mr. R. Cochrane, LI.D., F.S.A., *ib.*, 1912, VI, xii, 33. The latter concludes that "the house was no doubt built for the accommodation of the family of a man of some position, but not one of exalted degree, or one in the position of lord of the manor. It is more likely to have been the residence of the seneschal of a manor, or an esquire. It was a defensive rather than a fortified residence—that is, it was made capable of defence against robbers or casual attack but it could not resist an armed force, and could not be made the base of offensive operations, so that the objection which led to the removal of the adjoining castle did not apply to it. The erection of this house seems to have followed some time after the destruction of Dyserth Castle in A.D. 1263."

Figure 11.

75. **Graig Bach** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 29", long. 3° 24' 41"). Owner and occupier, Mr. J. B. Price.

A rectangular building—probably of early 16th century date—lying east and west, with shallow chambers on each of the long sides, north of and adjoining the outer vallum of the medieval castle. It is now incorporated into a modern residence, and in the course of reconstruction a closed arch, 7 feet 3 inches wide and 2 feet 10 inches thick, was discovered. Many oak beams of great size and considerable antiquity remain in the ceilings of the older portions of the modern residence. One of the windows is of the Tudor period. Let into an exterior gable is a stone 7 bearing a lion statant, which appears to be of 13th century date, and has doubtless come from the adjacent castle; three carved figures of heads, two male and one female, are also built into the walls of the present residence.—Visited, 6th September, 1910.

76. **Diserth Vicarage** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 11", long. 3° 25' 5-).

The vicarage house of Diserth was formerly the chief residence of the bishops of St. Asaph as archdeacons of the diocese. A large and rambling house, with extensive grounds, it appears to have been restored so effectually by Bishop Bagot in 1799, as to leave little of earlier date remaining. A tablet in one of the outer walls records its original erection in 1584 by Bishop William Hughes. Edward Lhuyd in 1699 says it was commonly called 'Plas yr Esgob.'—Visited, 22nd September, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

77. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E.). Ded : St. Bride.* Diocese, archdeaconry, and rural-deanery of St. Asaph ; townships of Diserth, Rhyd, Trecastell, Llewellyd.

This church was largely rebuilt in 1875, when a north transept and aisle (the latter not quite so wide as the nave) were added to the then existing structure. A fine Perpendicular five-light east window retains much rich late 15th century glass.* A square-headed four-light window, dated 1636, is on the south side of the chancel, and an ogee-headed window is placed further west on the same side ; all other windows are modern. The west wall is supported by two massive buttresses, probably not later in date than the 13th century. The upper part of the west wall has been rebuilt, and surmounted by a small bell-cote containing a single bell. The font is octangular and plain, and was restored in 1863. Against the south wall is placed an early 15th century sepulchral stone of which only a few letters can now be deciphered : it is said to read : HIC. IACET. ROBERT. F' RYN F' BLED. F' MAD.—HIC. IACET. H...F' RYN. F' BLED. F' MAD.

The shaft of the churchyard cross, with broken circular head, is now inside the church, and let into a new stone pedestal ; its total height is 6 feet 7¼ inches

* Edward Lhuyd writing in 1699 says that the patron was St. Cwyfan whose well was by the church. A house next the churchyard is known as ' Tyn Ffynnon.

Figure 11

On one side of the circular cross-head is a central boss ; and the whole was once covered with late Celtic interlacing and other ornament of the 9th or 10th century* . This weathered and once beautiful cross is often wrongly called ' Croes Einion.' Near it is the pedestal of another cross, the shaft of which has disappeared ; it is 19½ inches high, two sides are upright, the other three are slightly tapering, so that its total depth, back to front, is at the base 17½ inches, and at the top 13 inches ; its sides are covered with interlaced work, &c., and it probably is of about the same date as the cross already described ; the size of the socket hole, 11½ inches long by 6 inches broad, proves it to have belonged to a different shaft. There seems to have been a third cross in Diserth churchyard, not now to be found (see under Bryn Einion)⁷³) There are many old tombstones in the churchyard : one to 'Kinvericke Lloyd; died 5th March, 1580. Two well-preserved heraldic slabs are in the walls of the vicarage garden. —Visited, 4th July 1910.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1908, i, 400 ; Glynne 'Notes,' *Arch. Carmb.*, 1884, V, i, 86 ; Owen, *Old Stone Crosses*, _1886, p. 47.

Figure 13.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

77A. **St. Mary's Well*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 17' 53', long. 3° 25' 52"). Owner and occupier, Mr. Maurice Rowley Convey, Bodrhyddan Hall.

A famous sprino, called 'St. Mary's Well,' always full and overflowing, rising within an enclosure in the grounds of Bodrhyddan House. Over the spring is an octagonal well-house, said to have been built by Ingo Jones in 1612 ;. the roof terminates in a finial, surmounted by a pelican. The overflow from the well runs into a long rectangular open bath, approached by steps.—Visited, 23rd August, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES or HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

78. **Bryn Einion** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 17' 58.5", long. 3° 24'53"). Owners, The Trustees of Pendre Church of England School, Diserth. Bryn Einion is now called 'Bryn yr ysgol,' from the Pendre Schools which have been built upon it. Tradition asserts that in A.D. 1263 Einion (second) son of Rhirid Flaidd was here slain during the siege of Diserth castle, a cross.being erected to his memory on the spot where he had fallen.' This cross was afterwards removed to the churchyard (see No. 77), and its shaft was believed by Pennant to form a stile, seen by him in or before 1781, but long since disappeared.—Visited, 22nd September, 1910.

* There is a coloured drawing of some of the figures in this window in the Winston collection of the British Museum (*Addit. AISS.*, 35211 EE 1).

79. **Ffordd y Ffraine** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E.).

The road leading from the foot of Pendre Schools, Diserth, to Rhuddlan, is still called 'Ffordd y Ffraine,' 'the Frenchmen's way.'

80. **Trecastell** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E.: lat. 53° 18' 10", long. 3° 24' 2").

This house may have received its name from the high and commanding position it occupies, or because it stands in the township of the same name. No other reason presents itself.—Visited, 22nd September, 1910.

81. **Maes y Llys** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 4 N.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 12", long. 3° 25' 16").

The Tithe map schedule (Nos. 341-2-3) gives the names 'Maes y llys ucha,' 'Maes y llys canol,' and 'Maes y llys isa,' to three fields south-west of Diserth Hall, and north-east of Bodrhyddan. The 'llys' to which these names refer is probably 'Llys yr Esgob' in Meliden, the Bishop of St. Asaph having formerly had much land in that parish as well as in Diserth.—Visited, 6th September, 1910.

82. **Maes Garnedd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. I, S.E. ; lat. 53° 18' 50", long. 3° 25' 30").

The correct name of this field is said to be 'Maes Garn Evan.' There is no sign of a carnedd upon it.—Visited, 6th September, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

83. **Bronze Celt.** A small socketed celt, 2 inches long, 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ inches at broadest part of blade ; said to have been found in a garden at Diserth. It is illustrated in Arch. Carob., 1910, VI, x, 323.

84. **Coins**—Roman. Mr. Joseph Thomas of the Diserth National Schools writes that in 1860 "about 60 Roman coins were found at the base of the hill called 'Graig Bach,' upon which Diserth castle is situated. The find was made south-south-west of the hill. I have spoken to the finder, who told me that the contractors of the railway then being made [Messrs. Scott and Edwards] took possession of most of the coins, which were dated from 200 to 300 A. D."

85. In the Chester Archaeological and Historic Society's *Journal*, 1887, n.s., i, 136, an account is given of the discovery in the year 1882 of a fine Roman Coin, "in a long disused washing floor" of the Talargoch Lead Mine, parish of Diserth. The coin is a brass of Gordian III (A.D. 238-244) with the (extended) inscription—obv. : IMP[ERATOR] GORDIANVS PIVS FEL[IX] AVG[VSTVS] ; rev. P[ONTIFEX] M[AXIMVS] TR[IBVNTIA.] P[ROTESTAS] IIII. COS II P[ATER] P[ATRAE].

Parish of FLINT.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS, with ENCLOSURES).

86. ***Bryn y Cwn Mound*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.: lat. 53° 14' 3", long. 3° 8' 29").

This mound is placed just below the ridge of a gentle slope, and about 200 yards east of the farm house of the same name. The summit is circular, with a diameter averaging 60 feet. The mound fades gently into the slope on every side: it is about 30 feet high and covered with trees. It has once been surrounded by a ditch and outer bank, but these have been removed on the north and north-east; on the other sides the ditch varies in width from 18 feet to under 6 feet, and the outer bank from 4 to 12 feet. The mound presents every appearance of one of the motte-and-bailey type, which has lost its exterior defences.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED – DYKES).

87. ***Wat's Dyke*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 S.E. and 9 N.E.).

This earthwork entered the parish of Flint from the direction of Coed y Llys in Northop parish. There are no indications of its presence in Flint parish, but its most probable course would be along the line of Nant y Fflint. It becomes apparent a short distance north, in the parish of Coleshill Fawr.

It will be described as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES – MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

88. ***Flint Castle*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.).

Owners, The Flintshire County Council; constable, Mr. J. Herbert Lewis, M.P; deputy-constable, Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A., Chester. The inner ward is let to the Corporation of Flint, and used as a place of recreation; the building erected in the outer ward has recently been acquired by the Flintshire Territorial Association for the headquarters of the county force.

The precise date of the construction of Flint Castle is known from the public records. It was commenced in the summer of the year 1277, the architect being one Richard, who is known to have constructed several of the great military works of the reign of Edward the First. The site chosen was a small rocky platform extending about 50 yards into the channel of the river Dee, and partly or wholly covered at every high tide. In plan the castle is an almost perfect square with one corner cut off, having three three-quarter engaged towers and one separate tower at the several corners.

The inner ward measures 160 feet by 145 feet, and is about half an acre in area. The curtain walls are aligned nearly to the cardinal points.

The distinguishing feature of the castle of Flint is unquestionably the southeastern tower. While forming part of the constructive scheme of the castle, this tower is not fitted into the structure of the fortress, as are the towers at the other three corners of the quadrangle. It stands at the south-east corner, but a little outside it, the southern and eastern curtains avoiding it by a sweeping inward curve.

Figure 14.

In the curve is a strong abutment of masonry, upon which rested the end of the drawbridge connecting the tower with the main body of the castle; otherwise, it was completely isolated, and at high tides was surrounded by the waters of the Dee. Its plan is that of a round tower with a wall of immense thickness pierced by a mural gallery of such dimensions as to leave little room for residential or storage quarters, and it was doubtless its shortcomings in this respect that led to the rejection of the feature in the other castellated structures of Edward's reign. It should, indeed, be regarded rather as a survival than a fresh departure, it being probably the last tower of the donjon or Juliet type to be built in this country by the king.

The tower is built round an interior circle having a diameter of 21 feet 9 inches. The diameter of the exterior circle - that is, from the outside of the wall on one side to the outside of the wall on the opposite side is - 69 feet. The building thus forms a perfect cone of masonry of a width of nearly 24 feet, and this thickness of wall is pierced by the mural gallery already referred to. The exterior doorway was placed exactly opposite the drawbridge; and there were four doorways each leading by three steps to the inner enclosure. The gallery is 7 feet broad throughout its entire length, and 12 feet high for the greater part of its circuit. The arch rises to a rather sharp point, the voussoirs being arranged with much care. This wide and high passage-way is not so much a gallery driven through a mass of otherwise solid masonry, as it is a space between two independent walls which are made to meet above. The four doorways opening into the small inner enclosure are not placed at perfectly regular intervals, but are spaced: two (the northern and southern) exactly opposite each other; the two others are at a distance of 7 feet 6 inches on either side of the northern and 15 feet 6 inches on either side of the southern entrance. All the entrances lead by three steps to the ground level of the enclosure; the steps are placed in the thickness of the wall, and are arranged so that the lowest step is flush with the concave line of the wall. The floor level of the circular gallery is interrupted directly beyond the northern doorway by a flight of seven steps rising to a level platform whence, by an opening in the external wall, the drawbridge connecting the tower with the south curtain of the main castle was reached. On the side of the curtain the drawbridge rested upon a square block of masonry projecting from the line of the wall, but on the side of the tower, the platform upon which the bridge fell was placed within the tower wall; by which arrangement the steps leading down to the floor level of the gallery were set back so as partly to cut across the gallery. From the

drawbridge platform rise three open steps terminating in a broad landing, and at the further end of this landing a newel stairway 4 feet 10 inches wide, led to the upper story of the tower. This stairway is constructed over the mural gallery, which had consequently to be reduced in height. Immediately beyond the inner doorway, therefore, the ground level of the gallery sinks 2 feet 6 inches, three steps carrying it down to the level of the enclosure outside. The height of the gallery is also decreased to 6 feet 6 inches, the space thus gained being required for the landing and stairway above it. The width of the gallery remains the same, and the level rises again by three steps at the next inner doorway. The whole of the arrangements display considerable ingenuity, but no useful purposes are served. The gallery is lit from the exterior by narrow slits, and from the interior only by the four doorways into the enclosure. Consequently it is very dark, and, though wide and commodious, must have been useless as a place of storage. Its height also, accompanied by its width, removed about two-thirds of the interior space from use. In fact, the sole part of the tower available for apartments was the floor built over the vault of the gallery, and reached in the manner already described. This provided a circular space of about 15 feet in depth between the outer and inner wall of the tower, decreased only by a narrow passageway running round the inner margin. This space was occupied by four apartments, each with a fair-sized pointed window, and one room having two windows. One of these rooms was the chapel, but all architectural features from which the distinctive uses of any of the rooms might have been conjectured have disappeared. These apartments enjoyed a pleasant prospect over the river and town, but the small accommodation they afforded was out of all proportion to the size and area of the tower, and mark the inadequacy of the plan.*

The three other towers are fitted into the several angles of the walls, and would appear to have been alike in internal arrangements; but, though still standing a fair height, they are now in such a ruined condition that it is difficult to recover their details.

The two towers facing the river were polygonal internally, and were probably carried a little higher than the tower at the north-west angle, and certainly than the tower already described. The north-eastern tower has a flight of steps, which are part of the original arrangements, carried down the exterior face of the curtain wall for communication with the river. The curtain walls have been removed in several places to the ground level of the inner ward. In the north and west walls are deeply splayed embrasures narrowing from 3 feet to loops of 4 inches by 4 feet 11 inches. If provision was made in the original plan for a hall, it was most probably placed against either the eastern or southern curtains. In the latter case it would have communicated most easily with the chapel and apartments in the south-eastern tower, but the isolation of that tower would have constituted a difficulty; if the hall was built against the eastern curtain easy communication would be afforded with the river, which was doubtless the usual method of reaching Chester.

* Grose (*Antiquities*, 1786, vii, 28) states that above the gallery already described was a second gallery "of the like kind"; but this is almost certainly a mistake.

In any event, it must have been of timber[†]

The north-western tower seems to have differed from its fellows, but it has also suffered most, and its details are quite irrecoverable.

The gateway leading into the outer ward was not placed in the centre of the western curtain, but near its southern end at the point where the wall was curved inwards for the eastern tower. Owing to this curve the gateway chambers could be placed only on one side of the entrance. The upper structure has gone altogether, and the details of the portcullis chamber cannot be followed. All that can safely be said is that the gateway chamber extended a few feet into the inner ward, with which it communicated directly by a doorway placed in the angle of the ground-floor chamber. The purpose was doubtless to bring the entrance to the inner ward under the command of the strong south-western tower, but the arrangement removed the gateway from its natural position in the middle of the west curtain. The present communication with the outer ward is by a solid causeway thrown across the principal moat, but it is unlikely that this was the original arrangement. The whole was surrounded by a deep moat which ran immediately beneath the castle walls.

The constructive work is of the best description, the courses of dressed ashlar being most carefully laid. The stone used is a local grit of a reddish tint, and the effect is highly pleasing. About thirty yards outside the south wall were a couple of gateway towers, and Speed's plan shows a curved wall extending from the entrance gateway in the curtain to the sides of these towers, the space thus formed constituting the outer ward. But a modern building has been erected within this area, and the walls have disappeared. The exterior ditch still remains. Speed figures a couple of buildings standing in the centre of the inner ward, but it is not known what they were.

The castle does not seem to have been of great military importance after the pacification of Wales in 1283, but it was hastily prepared for defence in 1374, when a descent upon the coasts of Wales by Owain de Galles was expected. It was again neglected until the Civil War, when it was held for the King, and upon its reduction (as much it would appear by famine as by assault) the interiors of the towers and much of their outer walls were blown up by gunpowder.

[†] That some of the minor defensive features of Flint Castle were of wood is clear from an entry in the Close Rolls of 13 Edw. I., where an order dated the 7th Dec., 1284, appears for the handing over to Hugh de Pulford of the timber of two of the King's bretaches that are thrown down at Flint. They were, doubtless, temporary wooden towers put up for the security of the workmen. A document (Pub. Rec. Office. Exchequer Accounts : Works. Bundle 486, No. 15. Particulars of works at Flint, Rhuddlan, etc., 32 Edw. I.) gives the expenses of carpenters repairing the bretache (bretag') of Flint over against Coleshill, which had been damaged by a great tempest. The hall and kitchens had also suffered and were repaired. William Faber charges for making the ironwork for the door of the bretache, and for iron bars ad fenestram in Capella magne Turris et ad fenestram camere juxta eandem Capellam. The towers of Flint do not appear to have borne distinctive names, or at any rate they had been soon forgotten. For, in a very detailed account of the reparation of one of them in the 20-21 Hen. VI. (A.D. 1442), the name of the tower is left blank.

As an, example of military architecture, Flint Castle should be studied and compared with the castles of Rhuddlan and Hawarden. Rhuddlan Castle was in course of construction at the same time as that of Flint, and is the work of the same architect. Hawarden Castle was built a little later, and its architect is unknown. While we know that the constructor of Flint and Rhuddlan Castles was the same, we can also with considerable confidence assert that the builder of Hawarden had studied his predecessor's south-eastern tower of Flint.
Visited, 20th July, 1910.

Figures 15-18.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

89. ***The Parish Church*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.).
Ded: St. Mary. Diocese of St. Asaph ; archdeaconry of St. Asaph; rural-deanery of Holywell ; townships of Leadbrook Major and Minor.
An entirely modern edifice that has preserved nothing of the church which it replaced in 1847. A charming water-colour drawing of the earlier building, executed in the year 1800, has been discovered in British Museum *Additional MSS.*, 21011, of which a photographic reproduction is given[‡]. The second illustration (from the same source) is of some of the floor tiles in the old church.

Figure 19.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

90. ***The Borough of Flint*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. and 9 N.E.).
A chartered borough founded in the time of Edward I, and apparently taken out of the servile manor and township of Coleshill Fechan*, a circumstance which explains the appellation 'Colsul Chapel' as the earlier name for Flint Chapel. A charter for a market and fair was granted 6th February, 1277-8; a charter of incorporation 8th September, 1284; and a confirmation by Edward, prince of

[‡]The artist supplied a sketch of his drawing to the Gentleman's Magazine for January, 1801, which is reproduced in Taylor's *Historic Notices of Flint*, 1883, p. 119, and in Thomas's *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 178.

*The Welsh name of Coleshill is, 'Consyllt' or 'Counsylt'; the common form 'Mynydd y glo' is a translation of the corrupt modern English name. The present Coleshill is bounded on its eastern side towards Flint by a brook now called in its lower course "The Swinchiard brook," but which in its upper course through Northop parish is still known as the Conwy (that is, the Little Conwy). Edward Lluyd in 1699, in his account of Northop parish, says: "The river Conwy rises in Halkyn parish and runs through the parish (Northop) to the sea." It seems probable that the first syllables of 'Conwy' and 'Consyllt' are related, and that the Conwy ceased to be so called in Flint and Coleshill because of its liability to be confounded with the more important river of the same name. The Domesday form of the name is 'Coleselt.'

Wales and earl of Chester, 20th Sept., 1360, the last defining the boundaries of the franchise, which are those of the present municipal borough. The town was laid out as a regular parallelogram, and surrounded by a ditch, which can still be traced at intervals - on the west in Earl Street and Evans Street, on the south in Coleshill Street and Chapel Street, on the east in Swan Street and Duke Street, while on the north its position is roughly indicated by Castle Dyke Street (Taylor, *Historic Notices of Flint*).

Figure 20.

91. **Flint Sessions House** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.).

Considerable remains of this building, which probably dates from the beginning of the 17th century, are still to be found in what are now known as The Victoria Stores, facing Church Street, and having its back to Feathers Street. High on the north side are two three-light mullioned apertures, and lower down a closed mullioned window; on the south side, towards the back, is a considerable length of old wall.

Visited, 1st September, 1910.

92. **Flint Churchyard Cross.**

The shaft and pedestal of the churchyard cross remained, it is believed, in their original position until 1847, when the parish church was pulled down, and they disappeared with much else worthy of preservation. In the course of the destruction of the building the cap of the pillar was discovered, built into the church wall. It was rescued by Mr. Roskell, and subsequently placed in a rockery at Stockyn Hall, in Holywell parish. Mrs. Roskell died about eleven years ago bequeathing the relic to the Rev. Charles Beauclerk, S.J., of Holywell, and he in turn has generously surrendered it to the present rector of Flint. It is still in the care of the rector, who proposes to find a place for it when the intended enlargement of Flint church shall take place. The capstone is 3 feet 6 inches in height, and 2 feet broad, and is much mutilated. It is of the Decorated period, and bears beneath a crocketed canopy the figure of Christ on the Cross, with the Virgin and St. John on either side. It is illustrated in Owen's *Old Stone Crosses*, p. 70, and the illustration is reproduced in Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 178.

Seen, 29th September, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

93. **Cae Mount** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.; lat. 53° 14' 50", long. 3° 7' 30").

A field (Tithe Schedule, No. 6) traversed by the railway, to which the ground on each side gradually slopes, but otherwise flat. Whatever mount was here must have been destroyed when the railway was constructed. A line of cottages called Mount Place, next the road on the south, preserves the name which is otherwise lost. The river Dee flows on the northern side. Edward Lhuyd, in 1699, notes 'Coitie'r mount' in Flint parish, and says that a mount stood there.

Visited, 29th September, 1910.

94. **Croes Ati, Ati's Cross** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.E.; lat. 53° 14' 23", long. 3° 7' 10").

A house called 'Croes Ati Mill,' - no longer a mill - indicates approximately the site of Croes Ati, after which the Domesday hundred of Atiscros was named*. This hundred was coterminous with the cantref of Englefield ('Englefeld' in Domesday), which comprised the main body of the present county of Flint, except Hopedale, Hawarden, and a few other places.

As to the cross of Ati, Pennant (*Tours*, 1778, p. 50; 1810, i, 71; ed. Rhys, 1868, i, 68) states that he remembered the pedestal on which it stood. Its disappearance is one of the irreparable losses of Welsh archaeology.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

95. **Roman.**

Pennant (*Tours*, 1778, pp. 50-51; ed. 1810, i, 71; ed. Rhys, i, 68) speaks of large quantities of lead scoriae and melted lead as having been found at the place called Pentre ffwrndan on the Ordnance sheet (9 N.E.; lat. 53° 14' 28", long. 3° 6' 55"), and he gives illustrations of Roman objects (fibulae, spoons, keys, amulets, etc.), which had also been found here. Sites of ancient furnaces are shown upon the Ordnance sheet, which are said to have been laid bare in 1840, and Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A. (*Historic Notices of Flint*, p. 8), adds that in comparatively speaking recent times, "coins, pieces of glass, tiles, and other evidences of Roman occupation have been found at Croes Ati,2" which is close to the Pentre. This place is colloquially called 'Pentre ffwtan' or 'ffwdan'; the form 'Pentre ffwrndan' is first found in Pennant.

The Parish of GWAUNYSGOR.

DIVISION Ia (CARNEDDA-U).

96. **The Gop Cairn** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W. lat. 53° 18' 37", long. 3° 22' 16").

Owner, Lady Aberconway, Bodnant, Talycafn; occupier, Mr. R. R. Humphreys. The Gop cairn crowns the top of the Gop hill, and is the biggest pile of limestone debris and earth in the county; it is indeed the most conspicuous object in the

* The name appears in the public records as 'Adecrosse.' In 1387 a grant was made to John Brickhull, during pleasure, of the mill of Adecrosse, in the king's hands by reason of the burgesses of Flint having built the same without license (*Chester Recognizance Rolls*, 10-11 Ric. II). In 1437 it is called 'Addycross' (*ib.*, 15-6 Hen. VI). British Museum *Harley MS.* 473, a collection of memoranda of the end of the 16th century, has the following at fo. 3: "On the east side of Flint, after the river of Dee, is a small river, and an old cross, which place is called Adecross. Where in ancient tyme stode a town, so named, and now utterly defaced, no ruyn thereof or monument appearing. Flynt is supposed to have been bylt of the ruines of Adecross, and some think that first it was named Flyt of the said fleting or removing of Adecross." Edward Lhuyd (A.D. 1699) says, "According to tradition there stood a Church heretofore at Pentre Atticrosse half a mile from Flint; for Gravestones have been found there which Mr. Jones of Coed Onn my informant saw. He says. this was called Fleet Town, but this wants a confirmation" (*Parochialia*, i, 86).

district, and has accordingly been the subject of much ill-founded conjecture. It was partially explored in 1866 by Prof. Boyd Dawkins, when nothing of importance was found, and further researches are required. The height of the cairn varies from 50 to 60 feet, and the top, which has been hollowed out, is in diameter some 25 yards north-west by south-east, and 15 yards north-east by south-west. There is a mass of loose stones on the north side.

Visited, 1st July, 1910.

Archaeological Journal, 1901, lviii, 322; reprinted in *Arch. Camb.*, 1902, VI, ii, 161.

The celebrated Cave, whence have been, and still are, obtained many relics of the palaeolithic and neolithic periods, is at the southern foot of the Gop Hill, but in the parish of Newmarket (see No. 206).

Figure 21.

Parish of GWAUNYSGOR

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

97. ***The Parish Church*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.)

Ded St. Mary Magdalene. Diocese, archdeaconry, and rural-deanery of St. Asaph; townships of Gwaunysgor and Carnychen .

A small building without structural separation of nave and chancel; there is also a long southern porch, and a western bell turret. The east window of three lights is of the Perpendicular period. In addition there is a small window, externally a mere slit, on the north side, and there are also two square-headed windows of two lights. The rude north doorway with pointed arch is closed. The entrance from the south porch is formed of two massive pieces of oak, making an acute straight-sided arch; the woodwork is rudely ornamented. The roof of the church is temporarily ceiled with rough boards. The font is of late Norman date, the bowl being 2 feet 2 inches square, with an internal diameter of 19½ inches; the sides are decorated with foliage and interlacing stems. The bowl is supported by a central pillar and four free-standing circular shafts, resting on a moulded base. Embedded in the wall over the south door is a medieval coffin lid bearing a round-headed floriated cross and sword. The octagonal shaft of a sun dial (the dial plate, missing) stands on a large stone platform at the south-western corner of the churchyard

Visited, 21st July, 1910.

* This is doubtless the 'Cancarnacan' of Domesday, as 'Wenescol' represents the name of the other - township or of the parish.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1908, i, 403; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 86 ; see also *Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 73 (with illustration of slab).

Figure 22.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS - WELLS).

98. ***Ffynnon Wen*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 18' 41", long. 3° 22' 43").

Owner, Lady Aberconway, Bodnant, Talycafn.

This spring is partly enclosed by a wall, now very ruinous. The well-house is about 5 feet square; steps lead down to the water. At the south-east corner another ruinous building of about the same size was possibly a dressing chamber for the accommodation of the former family of Cop'rleri Hall, near at hand, with a bath fed from the overflow from the well. The slab which roofed the building is said to have been in place twenty-five years ago. The whole is surrounded by a low bank of earth and stones, representing an old wall or hedge. Visited, 6th July, 1910.

Since the above was written, it has been learnt that, incensed by the number of visitors to the well, the then (not the present) tenant of the farm destroyed the covering to the well. Though no traditions exist respecting the cult associated with the spring, or its popularity, there can be little doubt that the name signifies 'the Holy Well' (*gwyn*, mutated by the feminine *ffynnon* into *wen*=blessed) and denotes its primarily religious character.* The illustrations were taken only a few weeks before its ruination.

Figures 23 & 24.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

99. ***Maes y Gaer, Maes y Gaer Fach*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint, 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 18' 48" and 43", long. 3° 22' 29" and 40").

Maes y gaer is a field (Tithe Schedule, No. 167) at the north-western foot of Gop hill, now showing no signs of defensive earthworks. The field to the west is 'Maes y Gaer Fach.'

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

100. ***Carn Ychen*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 18' 48", long. 3° 22' 16).

* It should, however, be noticed that the Domesday name of the township is Wenescol. Edward Lhuyd mentioned a Ffynnon Gwayn-ysgor, by which he unquestionably means Ffynnon Wen. On the other hand Col. T. A. Glenn believes the name to be merely a corruption of Ffynnon Shon Wynn, after John Wynne of Cop'rleri Hall (*Newmarket Notes*, part i., p. 6.).

The name of one of the townships of the parish, and now that of a considerable farm. There are no indications of, cairn upon the farm, and the early form of the name may have no such significance.

Visited, 13th October, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

101. **Roman Bronze Figure.**

In the year 1875, the object of which the illustration is here given was found on the surface of a freshly made grave in the churchyard of this parish. The metal is bronze, and the figure is unquestionably of Roman craftsmanship. It is hollow, and has been affixed to some object by rivets; the hole fastening one of these at the back of the head is visible in the photograph.

Figure 25.

Other small holes pierced the body, and the rivets passed through these were fastened to small stays running longitudinally through the interior. It was doubtless an ornament attached either to some part of a horse's harness, or to the military dress of a horseman. It is now preserved in a glass case in the south transept (the chapter house) of St. Asaph Cathedral (*Arch. Camb.*, 1876, IV, vii, 218, with illustration).

Parish of HALKYN.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

102. **Halkyn Hall** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.W.; lat. 53° 14' 27", long. 3° 12'9").

Owner, Mr. R. T. Richardson, Capenhurst Hall, Cheshire; occupier, Mr. Edward Roberts.

The oldest part of this residence is still inhabited, being now used as a farmhouse. It has been so altered externally as to present no ancient feature, except a small late 16th century mullioned window in its north-west gable. Many of the decaying walls which enclose it are probably of the same date. In 1674 a large mansion was attached to, but made distinct from, the older house; this was built mostly of red brick. The newer house after being much modernized, has been allowed to fall ruin. The entrance is under a round arch, and above the door is a long, ornamented stone of two panels, in one of which is a coat of arms (a cross engrailed between four Cornish choughs), and in the other a verse from the 127th Psalm, and the date 1674. On the day it was visited the walls were being pulled down for the bricks being required to repair another house.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

103. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.W.); Ded: St. Mary. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of St. Asaph; rural-deanery of Holywell; townships of Lygan y llan, Lygan y wern, Hendrefigillt. This church was entirely rebuilt on a fresh site in the year 1876. Sunk in a buttress to the south wall near the east end, and beneath an ogee canopy, is a panel representing the Crucifixion, with figures of St. John and the Virgin, and below a bracket representing an angel face with a cross upon the forehead. The panel was found in the belfry during the demolition of the older church, which stood on a site near by. Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 184; Arch. Camb., V, viii, 58 (with illustration); Owen, *Old Stone Crosses*, p. 85 (with illustration). Visited, 21st June, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

104. **Maen Llwyd Mawr, Maen Llwyd Bach** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.W.; lat. 53° 14' 34", long. 3° 12' 12"). Owner, Mr. R. T. Richardson, Capenhurst Hall, Cheshire. These are the names given in the Tithe map schedule (Nos. 464 and 473) to two fields directly north of Halkyn Hall, and belonging to it; they are still in common use. The field called 'Maen llwyd bach' is so wasted by mining operations, that a " mien llwyd " cannot be expected to have survived within it. But in the west hedge of the field lying between 'Maen llwyd mawr' and Sion chapel is a grey stone about 15 inches high and some 18 inches each way. Visited, 9th September, 1910.

105. **Halkyn Old Churchyard** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 9 N.W.; lat. 53° 13' 49.5", long. 3° 11' 2"). The graveyard, and (within it) the site of Halkyn old parish church. Except where the church stood, the area is full of gravestones. Two yews still remain. In the south-west corner of the area is Ffynnon Fair, mentioned by Edward Lhuyd in 1699; it is now covered with cemented flags, and its water supplies the neighbouring houses. Visited, 21st September, 1910.

Parish of HAWARDEN.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

106. **Trueman's Hill** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 14 N.E.; lat. 53° 11' 10", long 3° 1' 43.5"). A roughly circular mound about 20 feet high, with a north to south summit diameter of 36 feet, east to west 42 feet. It is mentioned under its present name by Edward Lhuyd in 1699, and also by Pennant (*Tours*, 1778, i, 89; 1810, i, 123;

ed. Rhys, i, 117). The latter describes it as " Truman's hill, within a piece of ground which appears to have been squared, and nicely sloped." There is now no evidence of an attached court, nor sign of a surrounding ditch. Pennant could hardly have been mistaken as to the character of the enclosure he saw, which he calls " a small camp, whose figure has been much obliterated by the frequency of agriculture." On the other hand, the mound has considerable resemblance to a tumulus. On the top is a flat stone, connected with a distributing valve of the Hawarden District Waterworks Company. The mound was opened about two years ago for the insertion of this valve, but nothing appears to have been discovered.

Visited, 1st June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION F (HOMESTEAD MOATS).

107. **Bretton Hall Moat** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 15 N.W.; lat. 53° 10' 0", long. 2° 56' 55")

Owner, the Duke of Westminster, Eaton Hall, Chester; occupier, Mr. T. R. Probert.

A moated area, 38 yards by 33, in shape approximating to a square with rounded corners; its sides face the cardinal points, and it contains about a quarter-acre of land. It is entirely surrounded by water. At the north-west corner are the foundations of a retaining wall of good squared stone descending into the moat; otherwise the area is entirely destitute of buildings. It is approached on the south side by stepping stones, and there are indications of an earlier and more formal entrance on the west. The moat varies in breadth from 8 to 12 yards, and even more at the corners. There are now no buildings upon the moated area, a residence having been recently erected close by; but outside the southern moat is a good building, formerly a barn, and now used as stables, the lower part of excellent ashlar work, the upper part of red brick—all that remains of the residence of the important Flintshire family of Ravenscroft.

Visited, 29th September, 1910.

DIVISION III (STONE CASTLES—MEDIEVAL).

108. Hawarden Castle (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 14 N.E.; lat. 53° 10' 50" long. 3° 1' 5").

Owner, Mr. W. G. C. Gladstone, M.P., Hawarden Castle.

From the remains of artificial banks and ditches which still surround the site of the medieval castle of Hawarden, it is probable that the fine natural position had been occupied in prehistoric times by a strong defensive camp. The situation is an admirable one, on the summit of the first high ground which is reached after leaving the city of Chester by the coast route to North Wales, and which blocks the eastern road to the uplands of what is now Flintshire. It also commands a wide view seawards. Many centuries later the prehistoric defences were utilised for a different method of warfare, but they were not entirely obliterated. What was probably the exterior ditch and bank of a Bronze or Iron Age camp can still be

traced outside the lines of a medieval stronghold, and were doubtless retained as an outer line of defence. With the great fortress of Deva only six miles off it is improbable that the camp of Hawarden would be allowed to be occupied during the Roman domination, and it certainly was not held by the Romans themselves. In the seven centuries that ensued between the withdrawal of the Roman power and the first establishment of the Normans (and probably about midway), the district within which Hawarden falls came into the possession of a Teutonic tribe. Many of the township names became English, and towards the end of the seventh century the bank and ditch which bear the name of Offa, and which (whether constructed by that king or not) are unquestionably the work of an invader and conqueror, marked the western limits of the district of Englefeld. At the Norman conquest this district passed; apparently without a struggle, into the possession of Hugh, earl of Chester. Domesday Book shows Hugh to have kept "Haordine " within his demesne, while bestowing Englefeld (now extended westwards so as to take in Rhuddlan) upon the barons of his palatinate; and at Hawarden he proceeded to construct a strong mount and bailey castle. The tongue of high land which had constituted the prehistoric camp rose at one point within its banks and ditches to a steep hillock of natural rock, having the innermost of the original ditches close to its western scarp, and dropping sharply on its eastern side by a long level slope to the Cheshire plain. On this natural hillock was placed the Norman earth and timber castle, and the castle enclosure spread away eastwards at its foot. It is probable that the already existing lines of earthen defences were continued as the defences of the Norman fort; though, doubtless, the improved methods of ingress led to the construction of a rude barbican on the north side of the fort, where the original entrance had probably been placed. This castle may have remained with small modifications or improvements until 1282, when the position was taken by the Welsh, and such wooden defences as then existed were destroyed. A little prior to this date there were in the district which was so soon to become the English administrative

Figure 26.

county of Flint (leaving English Maelor at present out of count), the mount and bailey castles of Mold and Rhuddlan. There were also small stone castles at Ewloe and Hope, and a few years later (but prior to 1282) the earthen mound at Rhuddlan gave place to a fine structure of stone. Edward determined upon constructing a small modern castle on the admirable site at Hawarden, and upon securing the sea coast by means of a fortress of the first class at Flint. After the disaster of 1282 at Hawarden, when the Welsh seized the castle by a coup de main, a writ was issued to Roger de Mortuomari (d. 1297) to restore order in the district ; and it was probably during his life, or in the early years of his successor, Robert de Montealto, that the castle was rebuilt in stone. A cylindrical tower about 40 feet high was erected upon the mound ; the ground to the south and east was enclosed within a wall 7 feet thick which ran up the slope of the mound and joined the tower walls. The sides of the mound were probably rendered steeper by scarping; so that the plan is that of a round tower looking down upon a levelled enclosure about 30 feet beneath it. The buildings were placed at the

foot and on the sides of the slope immediately beneath the entrance to the tower. The chapel was in the upper floor of the keep. " This is a mural chamber 14 feet by 7 feet, but not quite rectangular. It is flat vaulted, and its axis points south-east to the altar, which is a restoration. The doorway next the west-end is only 2 feet broad by 7 feet high, with a cinquefoiled head, and a plain moulding of decorated character.

The door opened inwards, and could be barred within the chapel. On the same side, but near the altar, is a small cinquefoiled recess for a piscina, with a projecting bracket and a fluted foot. In the opposite wall, in vaulted recesses, are two windows, that next the altar square-headed, the other lancet-headed. Against the west wall is a stone bench, and above it a rude squint through which any person in the adjacent window recess could see the altar " (*Arch. Journal*, 1870, xxvii, 243 (Clark); *Military Medieval Architecture*, ii, 88).

The keep still remains in a perfect state, though the wooden floors have vanished; the left-hand sweep of curtain wall is also in fair preservation, but that curving to the right from the keep eminence has disappeared. Of the buildings in the inner ward the foundations alone exist, and the position of the hall is made clear only by a couple of fine Early English window openings in the curtain. It was placed against the curtain on the opposite side of the enclosure to the flight of steps leading to the keep. Immediately beyond the hall, but on the exterior side of the enceinte and in probable communication with the hall on the interior side of the curtain, are traces of rooms the purpose of which is not clear. The gateway was on the north side of the castle, and the height at which the approach and drawbridge had to be carried in order to abut upon the mound at the ground level of the keep gave opportunity for the provision of several semi-subterranean chambers. The moat appears to be the inner ditch of the prehistoric camp, which at this point passed close to the hillock upon which the medieval keep was placed; and some of the buildings supporting the drawbridge, together with the pit into which the platform swung when the drawbridge was raised, were built to the very edge of the moat. Two mounds on the exterior side of the moat mark the position of the barbican.

Visited, 6th June, 1910.

The castle was admirably restored by the late Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart. It has been described in *Arch. Journal*, 1858, xv, 236, by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, when a special survey and plan was made by the late Mr. J. Harrison of Chester. That plan has been reproduced on page 36. Mr. G. T. Clark contributed an excellent paper on the castle to the same Journal, 1870, xxvii, 239 (reproduced in *Medieval Military Architecture*, ii, 88); and three years later (xxx, 204), the improvements effected by Sir Stephen Glynne are described.

Figures 27- 29.

109. **Ewloe Castle** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 10 S.W. ; lat. 53° 11' 58", long. 3° 3' 57")

Owner, Mr. P. T. Davies-Cooke, Gwysaney, Mold.

In the high ground about two miles to the north-west of Hawarden (old) Castle and village is a narrow dingle formed by the junction of two small streams called the Alltami and Northop brooks. A second streamlet called the New Inn Brook runs into the first almost at right angles, and within the angle was placed the small castle of Ewloe. The dingle is densely wooded, and the remains of the structure are almost buried in the tangled undergrowth. The sides of the dingle fall precipitously to the water level, so that the castle buildings were placed a little way from the margin, and aligned parallel to the course of one of the streams. Two small hillocks about fifty yards apart were utilised, the eastern constituting the highest ground at the angle of the two streams. On the western and lower height was built a round tower; on the eastern eminence, a rectangular tower with its two eastern angles rounded off.

The entire position was moated, the line of moat running from the margin of the dingle round the base of the smaller mound, continuing in almost a straight line along the southern front, and taking a wider sweep round the eastern tower, until it reached the margin of the dingle on the other side of the position. The ground continues to rise on the south side of the castle, so that the counterscarp, of the moat rises from 10 to 20 feet higher than its inner side. The position of the castle was therefore always open to observation from this direction, and there are no traces of exterior works, but the great depth and sheer drop of the moat must have rendered the castle safe against surprise. A curtain wall about 15 feet high connected the two towers, and a cross wall following the dip of the ground between the two tower-crowned hillocks divided the space within the moat into an inner and an outer ward. This curtain wall was pierced by two entrances, both placed at the lowest part of the dip between the towers ; one opened into the outer ward, and the other (about three feet to the east) into the inner ward. There must have been an opening in the cross wall giving access from one ward to the other, but its position is at present not traceable. The round tower at the western end of the defences is small, the interior diameter being only 25 feet 6 inches. It had a window opening towards the west, but the aperture has lost all character.

Figure 30.

The walls stand at present about 12 feet high. The tower was doubtless roofed with timber ; it had no basement. The tower in the other ward is possibly of later, though not much later, date. It consisted of two floors and cellars. The entrance to the principal floor was on the side of the moat, by means of a doorway 4 feet wide and 9 feet high ; the sill of the doorway was about 5 feet above the level of the small platform into which the mound has been formed at this point. The method of ingress was probably by a short, ladder, but at a later period several stone steps (now buried beneath a heap of debris) appear to have been substituted. On the right hand a narrow stone stairway in, the thickness of the wall leads to the roof. The entrance doorway opened immediately into the hall, which probably occupied the greater part of the floor. It was well lighted by two

windows; one, an early English lancet of good design, is set in the south wall of the tower, a short distance beyond the doorway. The other window was placed in the west side of the tower, facing the cross wall and round tower, but none of its details remain. The whole of the north side of the tower looking over the little dingle already mentioned has been overthrown, and the ruins are scattered over the slope of the mound. It is therefore impossible to say whether the principal floor was occupied by more than one chamber. A doorway on the west side, placed almost at the end of the wall, would seem to point to an independent approach to rooms that faced the north and adjoined the hall. It is on this side that we should expect to find the chapel of the castle. The entrance must have followed much the same direction as the present path, crossing the moat obliquely directly below the walls of the round tower, and leading to the curtain where were the posterns of the inner and outer wards. Between the tower and the margin of the dingle the ground was naturally, or had been formed into, a level slope comprising the most open portion of the outer ward. This is now a jungle, and strewn with fallen debris. The castle is not seen until the visitor is close upon it, and it was doubtless the purpose of its builders to conceal its presence as much as possible. Its natural position is weak, but the depth of its ditch rendered it difficult of direct assault. Though a considerable portion of the fortalice still remains, and its entire ground plan is perfectly clear, it has lost practically every detail that would have fixed its date ; while it is so overgrown with trees, and the walls are buried beneath such a dense covering of ivy, that it is difficult to be confident that it is entirely the work of one period. The Early English opening in the square tower is probably of about the middle of the 13th century, and the cylindrical tower is of the same date.*

Visited, 6th June, 1910.

Arch. Camb., 1891, V, viii, 1.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

110. ***The Parish Church*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 14 N.E.).

* A document of the 4-5 Edw. II, enrolled upon the Chester Plea Rolls, is of great importance for the history of this castle. It is thus abstracted in the 27th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, p. 101 "Inquisition upon a writ commanding the Justice of Chester to certify as to the King's right to the manor of Ewloe ; finding that Oweyn Goneith [Owain Gwynedd], sometime Prince of Wales, was seised of the manor ,of Ewloe in his demesne as of fee, at whose death David, son of Oweyn, entered on the said manor as Prince of Wales, and held the same until Thlewelyn the son of Jor[werth] overcame the said David, and took from him the said principality, together with the manor of Ewloe ; that the said Thlewelyn died seised of the said principality and manor, after whose death David, son of the said Thlewelyn, entered upon the same manor, and died seised thereof ; after whose death King Henry III occupied the same and four Cantreds in Wales, that is to say, those between the Dee and the Conway, and made Roger de Mohaut his Justice of Chester, who attached the same manor to his, the said Rogers, neighbouring lands of Haurthyn and Mouhaldesdale, to which it had never belonged, and made a park of the wood of Ewloe, and so held the said manor and park until Thlewelyn, son of Griff. son of Thlewelyn, Prince of Wales, recovered the said four cantreds from Henry III, and again attached them to the principality of Wales ; that the said Thlewelyn ousted the said Roger from the said manor and attached the same to the principality as it was before, and built a castle in the corner of the wood, which was in great part standing at the time of the inquisition [1311]," etc.

Ded : St. Deiniol. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural-deanery of Mold; townships of Hawarden, Broadlane, Mancot, Aston, Shotton, Pentrobin, Moor, Manor, Rake, Bannel, Bretton, Broughton, Ewloe wood, Ewloe, Saltney, Sealand.

A church consisting of a nave of four bays (the arches of a fifth bay form the foundation of a low central tower), a chancel of three bays besides the sacarium, and north and south aisles. On the north side of the chancel is a small modern chapel containing a monument to the late Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gladstone. There is also a chapel on the south side, which projects externally 6½ feet from the south aisle wall and is of equal length with the chancel; this is called 'The Whitley' or 'The Aston Chapel,' and was the seat of consistory courts when Hawarden was exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, a state of things which did not terminate until 1849. The east end of the north aisle was formerly occupied by the chantry, chapel of Deiniol's Ash, the piscina of which still remains. The font is modern. The general character of the architecture of the older portion of this church is late Decorated, but it has been extensively restored.†

Visited, 21st June, 1910.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. of St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 374.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST)

111. Monks' Croft (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 14 N.E. ; lat. 53° 9'55", long. 2° 58' 10").

Owner, the Duke of Westminster, Eaton Hall, Chester.

Tithe Schedule, No. 983. Directly south of, and adjoining, one of the farms called Bretton. 'Monksfeld' at the beginning of the 14th century was already a well-established name in Bretton (*Arch. Camb.*, 1895, V, xii, 257).

Visited, 29th September, 1910.

Parish of HOLYWELL RURAL.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES).

112. ***Wat's Dyke.***

Proceeding in a north-westerly direction from Coleshill Fawr, this dyke is represented in Bagillt Fawr township by a hedge-bank south of Wern Sink wood ; it is also found in good condition for about 20 chains north of

† British Museum *Additional MS* 21011 is a volume of drawings and brief memoranda by a D. Parkes, who made an excursion into Flintshire in the year 1800. At folio 9b is the statement: "The following Inscription was taken from a brass plate purchased by a brazier in Shrewsbury amongst some old metal, 1813. [A shield of arms displaying a fess charged with three five-pointed stars, between three annulets, two and one.] Orlando Fogg / eccl'iae Hardinensis in comit / Flint Rector et Pecul' is / Iu'isdic'is ibid. ordinaries / Fil'us Rob'ti Fogg eccl'iae Bangor / Monac. Rectoris / Huc ad sanitat Recuperand'm / Accedens Dumvita: Diuturnior' / quaesivit aeternam invenit / Flens Posuit Fil' chariss'mi / Pater Moestissimus / Nov. 10, an. D. 1666 / Aetat suae 40."

that wood. It then disappears until the parish of Holywell Urban is reached, where it is duly noted (No. 124); a fragment remains in Greenfield township, west of Basingwerk Abbey.

It will be described as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

113. **Basingwerk Abbey** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 N.W. ; lat. 53° 17' 16", long. 3° 12' 22").

Owner, Lady Mostyn, Talacre.

This Abbey, formerly belonging to the Cistercian order, was founded in the year 1131 or 1132, and called " the monastery of Our Blessed Lady of Basingwerk." It now presents a tangle of roofless and for the most part disconnected walls and grass-grown heaps of ruins, which require careful study before its general plan becomes clear. The arch through which the area is entered represents the eastern end of the south aisle of the abbey church, and, as a portion of the western wall is still in existence, it is possible to say that this aisle was 36 feet wide and 99 feet long. The springing of the first arch of the nave arcade and that of the south arch can also be seen, as well as, high above the standing arch, the starting of the eastern arch of the nave. It may be concluded from the comparative slenderness of the one pier remaining that there was no central tower. The church was cruciform, the choir being probably without aisles. The western wall of the south transept still remains, but the south wall fell in 1901. Beyond the south transept is room for a sacristy about 6 feet wide. Next comes the chapter house, a chamber about 24 feet square, entered beneath two round arches from what appears to have been a vestibule ; part of the groining remains. Still further south were the parlour and day room, the east side of the latter with a door opening into a covered walk; over all this range, and extending above the east walk of the cloisters, stretched the dormitory, 64 feet long. The holes for the floor beams of this dormitory, and its eastern window openings (single lancets) are still visible. It is possible also to distinguish parts of the south and north walls of the cloisters, which had an entrance into the east end of the south aisle of the nave under a doorway, the remains of which show it to have had a round arch. The range of buildings south of and continuous with the day room includes a roofless chamber of equal width, probably the kitchen, containing a large square-headed fireplace of Perpendicular date. South of the kitchen, and in line with its eastern face, is the gable end of a building, the rest of which has disappeared. Directly west of the kitchen is the northern end of the refectory, 66 feet long by 27 wide, now roofless and choked with nettles: its western wall has a range of Early English arcading forming the approach to the reader's pulpit, and beyond this are three beautifully proportioned lancet window openings which have been built up. the western wall of this fine apartment has been reconstructed, perhaps after the dissolution of the monastery. At its northern end is a door into the kitchen. A range of buildings of stone and timber, 50 or 60 feet long, runs eastwards at right

angles to the kitchen. These buildings extended southwards, forming probably the store-rooms and stables of the monastery in its later days—all are now in a very ruinous condition, although some attempts at repairs have been made. The monastic buildings hitherto indicated, save those few otherwise described, belong to the best period of Early English architecture. Considerably west of the conventual buildings is a small one-storied building, which may have been the porter's lodge. Eastward, and below the hill, is the fishpond. The ruins have been sadly neglected.*

Visited, 27th July, 1910.

Arch. Camb., 1846, I, i, 97 ; *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journal*, 1878, xxxiv, 468 (reprinted in *Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 126) ; *Chester Archaeological and Historic Society's Journal*, 1904, n. s. xi, 169, with excellent illustrations but no plan.

Upon the dissolution of the monastic houses in 1535 portions of the decorative features of the abbey church of Basingwerk are traditionally said to have been removed to several of the surrounding parish churches, and incorporated into their structures. Such are the roof of Cilcain church, and the coloured glass at Llanasa. The same tradition is related of other monastic houses, but is usually unsupported by any evidence; though there is nothing unreasonable in the idea that small parish churches would be glad to enrich themselves with the spoils of a condemned abbey. In the case of Basingwerk fairly good testimony exists that some of the carved oak was removed to the church of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester, an entry in the churchwardens' books for the year 1536 recording that "in there tyme the quere was boght. at Basewerke, and Bette uppe, with all costs and charges belonging to the same." It is also probable that one of the roofs of Cilcain church was obtained from Basingwerk, and the subject is referred to in the notice of the church (No. 51).

Attention may be drawn to Buck's view of the Abbey in 1742, in which the nave is shown as partially roofed; the view of 1800 shows this roofing to have disappeared. The lead was stripped from the buildings directly after the dissolution of the monastery, and used for 'repairs' in Ireland.

Figure 31-35.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

114. **Garrey Lydan 'The Broad Stone'** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. lat. 53° 16' 27", long. 3° 11' 44").

A stone in the garden of Garrey lydan farm, giving its name to the house. It is now overturned, and surrounded by bushes, but its general contour can be observed. It has a fairly flat base and the top forms a rough curve. The measurements are about 4 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet high.

* Edward Lhuyd (*Parochialia*, i, 72) says, " At the Abby of Basingwerk we found the tombstone of Dns. Anianus," and it might very well still be there, buried beneath the masonry of the abbey that has fallen since the year 1699.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

115. **Maen Llwyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 35", long. 3° 8' 45').

Tithe Schedule, No. 2. There is now no standing stone in this field, the northwest side of which is bounded by a high stone bank, whereon is a tramway; a fact which may account for the disappearance of the maen llwyd.

Visited, 29th September, 1910.

116. **Berth y Carna** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 4", long. 3° 11' 31").

Owners, The Trustees of the Charities of the Poor of Holywell.

This field is on the farm of Tyddyn tlodion and in the township of Bagillt fawr. The name 'Berth y carna' (Tithe Schedule, No. 137), which it still retains, is possibly a shortening of 'Perth y carnau,' 'the thicket of the cairns,' but there are no signs in the field itself of a single cairn, although three large stones lie in the lane on the west side of it. The hill to the north is called 'Bryn y berthen'.

Visited, 12th October, 1910.

117. **Pen y Palmant** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 27.5", long. 3° 8' 59.5').

The name of a farm-house in the township of Coleshill Fechan, a little above (and south of) the present shore road. It probably led to several old farm-houses - Bryn, Llys, Gors, and Tyddyn Miltron, which look as though they had once stood by the side of an old road. It must not be confused with the old London road, the course of which is well known.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

118. **Maes y Groes** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 47", long. 3° 11' 31").

The name given to two adjoining fields (Nos. 72 and 73) in the Tithe map schedule. There is now no cross in either, and possibly the name was derived from a cross-road near at hand.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

119. **Llys** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E. ; lat. 53° 15' 23", long. 3° 8' 58").

The name of what is now only a small farm-house in the township of Coleshill Fechan, which (coupled with that of 'The Manor house' near at hand) seems to support the conjecture that this township was the caput and special demesne of the tribal chieftain. In the year 1240 David ap Llewelyn granted a charter to the monks of Basingwerk from 'Colsull,' by which Coleshill Fechan (then including, the site of the present town of Flint) was probably meant, and near which the original dwelling of the chieftain may be expected to have been situated. See under 'Pen y palmant' (No. 117), and 'Cae Mount, Flint' (No. 93).

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

120. **Englefield Farm** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 N.W. lat. 53° 17' 33", long. 3° 12' 48").

Owner, Sir Wyndham C. H. Hanmer, Bart.; occupiers, the Bromfield Colliery Company.

The name Englefield, in its proper use, denotes a large area, the greater part of the present county of Flint, and not any special spot within it. It first appears in Domesday (A.D. 1086); where a number of what subsequently became manors and mesne-manors of Flintshire are said to have been "in Englefeld." It very nearly if not exactly represented the Welsh cantred of Tegeingl, and it is a moot point whether the Welsh name gave rise to the English, or the English to the Welsh name. Note should also be taken of the fact that the Welsh Tegeingl and the English Englefeld were wholly or partially included within the district inhabited in Roman times by the Deceangl, a name found upon several pigs of lead discovered in this district, and now in the Chester museum. It is, however, questionable whether the name of 'Englefield,' as applied to the farm now in question, has any historic connection. The house and buildings are modern: they may, of course, occupy an ancient site, to which the name 'Englefeld' did not specially attach.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

121. **Bryn Dychwelweh** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.E.; lat 53° 15' 37", long. 3° 10'35").

Owner, Mr. C. E. Hope, Burton, Neston, Cheshire ; occupier, Mr. Daniel Jones.

The two fields on the farm of Gadlys in the township of Bagillt Fechan, called on the Ordnance map 'Bryn Dychwelwch,' are supposed to be the place where, after the battle of Coleshill (see No. 63), Owain Gwynedd, in 1157, sounded a retreat. The present tenant does not know the fields by that name, nor has he ever heard it. But across the fields, from north-west to south-east, is a hollow said by the tenant to have been much more apparent formerly than it is now, though it is still very marked at the south-east end next the wood and dingle ; and the hollow (and consequent . elevation) probably gave rise to 'Bryn Dychwelwch.' The habit of translating the name 'the hill of the retreat' is misleading*.

Visited, 10th August, 1910.

122. **Basingwerk Castle** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 N.W.)

Owner, Sir Piers Charles Mostyn, Bart., Talacre.

The exact site of Basingwerk castle, otherwise called 'Dinas Basing,' has never been satisfactorily determined. But in a search after it some points became evident that are deserving of notice.

Basingwerk is the name not of a township, but of a spot within the township of Greenfield, otherwise Fullbrook ; and as the construction of Basingwerk castle

* Dychwelwch seems to be a verb in the second person plural, imperative, meaning 'do (you) return' or 'retreat.' But Welsh names of places are not ordinarily made in that strange way, and if this name is to be treated seriously, some other meaning has to be discovered for the second part of it.

was probably closely followed by the foundation of the abbey, we may conclude that the two were adjacent. The name 'Basingwerk' is English, but the place fell to the Welsh prince, Owain Gwynedd, who is said to have been encamped at 'Dinas Basin' in 1157; and it was alternately in the possession of Welsh and English. The castle was probably a mound strengthened with earthen entrenchments, and may have stood on the verge of the deep ravine at the bottom of which runs the stream flowing from St. Winifred's well and past Wat's Dyke. A meadow near by is called 'Castle field,' but all defensive works, except a fragment of the dyke, have disappeared.
Visited, 8th September, 1910.

Parish of HOLYWELL URBAN.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED).

123. **Bryn y Castell, Castle Hill** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W. ; lat. 53° 16' 34.5", long. 3° 13' 17").

The house so called, the older part of which was built in 1704, stands immediately above Holywell church, and the old gardens have a steep fall to a dingle on the east. Some years ago the grounds were extended northward so as to take in the actual castle hill, or 'Bryn y castell,' then covered with cottages (known as 'Castle Hill cottages'), which were pulled down. Two dingles converge at this point, and at the point of juncture is a mound, having a rounded top about 27 feet across, and some 30 feet above the ground on the south, where there is now a slight depression, marking probably the site of an old ditch across the neck of the promontory.

Visited, 9th September, 1910.

According to *Brut y Tywysogion* the earl of Chester built a castle at Treffynnawn (Holywell) in the year 1209.

124. **Wat's Dyke** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 N.W.).

This earthwork, locally called 'Offa's Dyke,'* is found at the south end of the Strand Walk, from which it passes northward, forming a fine hedgebank, mainly on the west side of the Walk, until the reservoirs, cottages and buildings of Greenfield are approached.

It will be described as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

125. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W.).

Ded: St. James the Apostle.† Diocese and archdeaconry of St. Asaph ; rural-deanery of Holywell ; township of Holywell‡

* It is called 'Offa's Dyke' by Edward Lhuyd, or his correspondent, in A.D. 1699 (*Parochialia*, i, 72).

† This church was dedicated to St. Winifred according to Edward Lhuyd (1699) and Pennant (1796).

The only ancient part of this structure is the tall square tower dating from the early Perpendicular period. The rest of the church, according to Pennant, " was rebuilt in 1769 on the site of the old, and of the same length and breadth, viz., the length 68 feet, the breadth 56."

To this chamber has been added an eastern apse, and other alterations have since been made. The font is modern. In the church are two parish chests, both of oak. The first stands on dwarf supports, has two locks, and is well bound with iron. The second is strengthened with iron bands, and is dated 1679. Outside, at the eastern end of the church, and within a locked enclosure, is the headless, full-sized, late 13th century recumbent effigy of a priest in ordinary vestments, with hands holding a chalice.

Visited, 2nd August, 1910.

(Pennant, *Hist. of Whiteford and Holywell*, 1796, p. 237; Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 188; *Arch. Camb.*, 1892, V, ix, 228, illustration of effigy.

126. **St. Winifred's Chapel** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W.).

This chapel is situated in Holywell churchyard ; the east end is a few yards below the church tower, and the west end overlooks the main road. With it is connected the famous well of St. Winifred (see next article). It is of unusual size and importance for a well-chapel, comprising chancel, nave, and north aisle of three bays. The clerestory is of considerable importance. The aisle is not carried to the west end owing to the exigencies of the site. With the exception of the chancel, which is of pentagonal shape and built on the ground of the churchyard, the chapel walls are continuous with, and rest upon, the outer walls of the well-chamber, so that the two form structurally one building. The chapel was entered by a south door, which is now closed, a modern doorway having been made of the eastern window of the chancel. This arrangement led to the chapel being flooded in rainy weather, and necessitated the raising of the chancel floor 2 feet 6 inches above the original level. The aisle is separated from the nave by two slender lozenge-shaped piers, with caps, supporting three depressed arches. The clerestory windows, each of three lights, are concealed externally by a later aisle roof. The chancel is now shut off from the nave, and many of the windows in the chapel are closed. The roofs are panelled throughout, and are supported in the chancel by corbels carved with representations of the deadly sins. On the south side of the closed eastern window of the aisle is a doorway opening upon steps that led to the substructure, and there is an external closed entrance by the south door, which opened on steps leading down into the vestibule of the well chamber. Though sadly mutilated, the whole is a fine example of elaborate Perpendicular, having been erected by Margaret, countess of Richmond, the mother of Henry VII, at the end of the 15th century. It has been used as a sessions hall, and a Sunday school is now held in it.

Visited, 29th July, 1910.

‡ The old ecclesiastical parish of Holywell contained the townships of Holywell, Greenfield, Whelston (Wellton), Bagillt Fawr, Bagillt Fechan, Coleshill Fawr, Coleshill Fechan, Brynford and Calcot.

(Pennant, *History of Whiteford and Holywell*, 1796, p. 221; Glynne 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 182; Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 192.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

127. **St. Winifred's Well** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W.).

This is the well-chamber to the chapel described in the previous article. The water springs up within a stone enclosure, about 3 yards square, which on three sides is star-like in form; on the fourth or north side it is rectilinear. On the north side of this enclosure, within parallel walls, and entered by a highly enriched entrance, are the steps to the water. The roof is elaborately groined. The well is surrounded by a vaulted ambulatory, the outer walls of which, with those of the vestibule, are continued above as those of St. Winifred's chapel. The ambulatory is entered from the vestibule at its north-west side by a doorway, which is exactly below the west window of the chapel aisle. The overflow before leaving the precincts passes through a long uncovered bath on the north side of the well-house. In this bath is a roughly oval stone, now called 'Maen Beuno,' about 5 feet long, from 2 feet to 1 foot broad, and about 1 foot thick.

Visited, 29th July, 1910.

(Pennant, *Tours*, 1778, p. 28; 1810, i, 41; ed. Rhys, i, 40; *Arch. Journal*, 1846, 1 ii, 148.)

Figure 36.

128. **Ffynnon Beuno** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 6 S.W.; lat. 53° 16' 35", long. 3° 13' 25").

Owner and occupier, Mrs. Dykins, Pen dre House, Holywell.

A pool of water which at present can hardly be considered a well. It is situated beneath a tree in a meadow below Pen dre House, west of Castle Hill. The pool is of irregular shape, and a bank projects into it. Two of its sides are about 8 and 5 yards respectively. It has recently been cleaned out. There is a slight spring.

Visited, 12th October, 1910.

Parish of HOPE.

DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

129. **Erw Garreg Lwyd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W. ; lat. 53° 7'43", long. 3' 2' 28).

The field called 'Erw garreg lwyd' stretches between Stryt Issa and Wat's Dyke, in the township of Hope Owen. In it are two prostrate long stones which look as though they might formerly have been standing stones. Both are now used as steps to hedge-stiles. The one at the bottom of the field is a piece of limestone, white in fracture, 4 feet by 8 inches, and 12 inches thick. The stone at the top in

the line of Wat's Dyke is of sandstone, 4 feet by 12 inches by 9 inches, and of grey appearance. The last-named is probably the 'carreg iwyd' after which the field was named.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

130. **Caer Estyn** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.E.; lat. 53° 6' 38", long. 3° 1' 24").

Owner, Mr. Frank Lloyd, Wrexham.

This is a camp occupying the top of a long hill called 'Bryn y gaer,' and overlooking the height upon which stand the ruins of the medieval castle of Hope (or Caergwrle), the intervening valley being drained by the river Alyn, a tributary of the, Dee. The area enclosed is an irregular oval having its longer axis running east and west. A depression crosses the camp from north to south, making the centre of the camp to be considerably lower than the ends of the oval. The southern slope of the hill is steep, and here the camp is defended by a single bank, at present from 2 feet to 4 feet high, composed of earth and rough stones. The western and northern sides are more gradual, and near the south-west corner an outer bank begins which, gradually diverging from the inner bank, is found all along the west and the greater part of the north side. On the north-east exists a triple line of banks with intervening ditches, gradually dying away on the east. The breadth of the defences from the top of the innermost to the top of the outermost bank of this triple line, at its most formidable point, is 77 feet. The main entrance to the camp is in the centre of the northern face, and at the lowest point of the camp ; it is now 11 feet wide in the outer bank, which on each side for a considerable distance is still in good condition and shows a slight external ditch. The line of the inner bank, corresponding to this main entrance, has been entirely destroyed by the haulage of timber. There are three or four springs forming water holes within the camp. The bronze colt (No. 142) was found near the base of the hill on the west side.

Visited, 4th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES.)

131. **Wat's Dyke** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.E., N.E., and N.W., and 14 S.W.).

This dyke enters the parish of Hope from that of Llai, county Denbigh, at lat. 53° 6' 13", long. 3° 1' 38", and pursues a devious north-westerly, northerly, and sometimes westerly course until it enters the parish of Mold, beyond Pen y ffordd railway station at lat. 53° 8' 39", long. 3° 3' 25". In the parish of Hope it begins to be confounded with Offa's Dyke,* and in the other parishes of Flintshire it is invariably called 'Clawdd Offa.'

* This confusion began early, for it is found in the inspeximus charter granted to the town of Hope on the 24th of May, 1378 (*Cal. Rot. Pat.* 1 Ric. 11, p. 6, m. 13), where the bounds of the town are thus set forth: Ab illo loco in quo unus rivulus vocatus Aberymoelduy currit in Alim [*recte* Alyn], sequendo illum

It will be treated as a whole at a later period.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

132. **Caergwrle Castle** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.E. ; lat. 53° 6' 25", long. 3° 2' 8").

Owner, the Right Hon. the earl of Derby, Knowsley Park, Liverpool.

The remains of this medieval castle consist of broken walls forming an irregular parallelogram, with a double tower at the entrance to the structure, and a small tower at the opposite side. Single or double towers were, doubtless, placed at other parts of the enceinte, but these have entirely disappeared. The structure was finely situated on a bold, and on one side precipitous hill, commanding an important pass. The hill is on the right bank of the river Alyn, which flows at its foot at a distance of .about 1,000 yards. The ground on the left bank of the river is part of a small range of low hills, and on one of the prominences called Caer Estyn, directly opposite and overlooking the hill upon which the Castle is placed, is the fine prehistoric camp already described (No. 130). A peculiarity of the plan upon which the castle was constructed is the manner in which the entrance is placed. The gateway occupies the angle in which the northern and eastern curtain walls would have met had they been carried to their full length. Each wall terminates in a three-quarter drum tower, the interior projection being square. The bases of the towers being in line (with the exception of the break caused by the entrance way), cut off the angle to the extent of their own length. One of the towers stands to a height of about 24 feet, but the walls are much broken, and

rivulum contra eundem rivulum usque ad illum fontem de quo ille rivulus venit sive oritur, et deinde usque ad illum locum vocatum Kaehame dimittendo illum locum extra libertatem, et deinde sequendo summitatem montis ibidem linialiter usque ad capud illius loci vocati Nant Meuric, et sic sequendo illum Nant Meuric usque ad quandam viam que ducit de inferiori capite illius Nant Meuric usque ad Pontyderleyn. Et de Pontyderleyn recte trans campos usque Offediche, recipiendo ibidem juxta Offediche infra libertatem manerium et totarn placeam persone ecclesie de Eston, una cum quadam modica places terre quam hospitale Sancti Johannis Cestrensis habet juxta manerium dicti persone, et deinde sequendo Offediche usque le Gorstihulle, et deinde sequendo unam aliam viam que ducit ex parte orientali sub Caereston usque ad Kennant [*recte* Keunant=Ceunant], qui Kennant dividit ibidem inter Bromfeld et Hopedale, et sic sequendo illum Kennant usque ad Alim et sic trans Alim usque ad predictum Abermoelduy ibidem cadentem in Alim ubi predicte bunde incipiunt.

The course of the boundaries here set forth can be followed with sufficient certainty to leave no doubt that the 'Offediche' of the charter is really Wat's Dyke. The line of boundary is in fact that of the present parliamentary borough of Hope, to which Wat's Dyke (so far as it is in existence) is near, but within the eastern limit, and the true Offa's Dyke is over a mile to the west. The stream-name 'Moelduy' is no longer known, but the point, where it falls into the Alyn has given its name to the farmstead of Abermorddu. The field name of Kaehame is unknown ; that form is probably a mis-spelling. Nant Meuric must have been part of the hill-district to the west of Hope Castle. Pontyderleyn (? 'pont y derw Iwyn,' 'the bridge of the oak coppice'), appears on the modern Ordnance sheet as 'Pont y delyn,' 'the bridge of the harp.' The parliamentary boundary here crosses the river Alyn, and, doubtless along the original line, makes straight for Wat's Dyke. 'Gorstihull' indicates a hill which must lie directly north of Caer Estyn hill, but the name has perished. The lordship of Hopedale is here coterminous with the lordship of Bromfield, the boundary being the little stream whose long-forgotten name is now revealed as 'Ceunant.'

Edward Lhuyd or his informant (A.D. 1699) was under the same error as to the two dykes. "Clawdh Offa," he says, "passes within less than a stone's cast of ye Church" (Camb. Arch. Assoc., *Parochialia*, i, 97).

only the moulded base of a doorway remains to show that the structure is of the Early English period. The tower attached to the northern curtain was square internally as, doubtless, was its fellow of which less exists. The absence of close regularity in the length of the opposite walls will be gathered from the following measurements : of the two shorter sides, the north (extended to the point in the entrance-way at which the north and east walls would meet) is about 11 yards; the south curtain, which still retains its lower wall courses, is 15 yards ; the east (if extended to meet the northern, as before) would measure about 38 yards ; the west side, a portion of the line of which has entirely disappeared, is 40 yards. The inner ward therefore contained about a quarter of an acre of ground. The only other tower of which traces still exist is that at the south-west angle. There are enough of the foundations of this tower to enable us to say that it started by being, octagonal. In the south-east angle of the inner wall a chamber 18 feet square has been constructed, the curtain being utilised for the outer walls of the apartment. The fire-place occupies the centre of the eastern wall, and the entrance (of which the pointed doorway has fallen) faced north. The masonry of the castle is rough, and for the most part poor; the thickness of the eastern curtain is only 81 inches, though this is the best preserved section of the walls, and much of the external ashlar work is still in position. The lower courses of walling are formed of massive stones, with dividing courses of the thin slate of the district. The ashlar-lined well was within the south gateway tower.*

The remaining portion of the fairly flat summit to the extent of about two acres was surrounded by a bank of earth and stones, and constituted an outer bailey, but this bank is so broken down that it is not possible to reconstruct the defence. In front of the entrance towers is a deep ditch, having on its outer side a high bank, which is continued to join the external bank. The primitive nature of these defences has given rise to the idea that they are parts of a prehistoric camp, which was constructed here, and the position would almost certainly appeal to the instincts of a British tribe. On the other hand, with the exception of the ditch and bank already mentioned, there are no signs of the immense earthworks that are usually found associated with the type of prehistoric camp which might be expected upon such a site.

For similar, though even less convincing reasons, the medieval castle has been thought to have been constructed on a Roman station. Finds of Roman objects and coins in the neighbourhood, and the idea that the courses of thin stones found in the walls must be of Roman construction, are probably responsible for this utterly baseless conjecture.*

* Public Record Office: Chancery Roll, Miscellaneous; Bundle No. 2, file No. 3, is an account of expenses incurred at Hope Castle in the year 1282. A number of masons and carpenters were employed, and mention is made of work on the well of the castle (Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A., in *The Cheshire Shelf* for 5th and 12th October, 1910).

* A writer in *Archaeologic Cambrensis*, 1871, IV, v, 355, thus describes the Castle : " The most important portion of the present ruins is Roman work of excellent character. The exterior face of the wall is lined with well cut ashlar. In the inside of the work, where there is no ashlar, the boundary courses of thin stone in the place of bricks are very conspicuous. Part of an arch of the same date still remains." The late, Mr. Thompson Watkin not only " verified " this account, but identified Caergwrle with Sandonium, which

The castle is a structure of the late 13th century. Its history is obscure, but there is every reason to believe that its construction followed the grant of Hopedale by Edward I to Queen Eleanor, and that it conformed to the type of border castle found at Dinas Bran. It came only occasionally into the hands of the King, and continued therein but for brief intervals. It has, therefore, left few traces upon the public records.

Visited, 1st June, 1910.

Figures 37-38.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

133. **Plas Teg** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W. ; lat. 53° 7'46'. long. 3° 3'57").

Owner, Mr. C. C. Trevor-Roper.

This house, built by Sir John Trevor at the beginning of the 17th century, presents some features of interest. The main entrance in the centre of the front is recessed, and at each corner of the building (and built into it) is a square tower,, covered with lead or shingles, and surmounted with a cupola. The appearance of these four towers is spoiled by low ugly chimneys at each corner. The mullioned windows, most of which remain, display much variety of form and size.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

134. **Fferm** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W.; lat. 53° 8' 5', long. 3° 4' 40").

Owner, Mr. W. Carstairs Jones, Hartsheath.

A small Elizabethan stone mansion, formerly the seat of the Lloyds of Fferm. The irregularity of its external outline, and the style and disposition of its chimneys contribute a very pleasing effect. A passage, 6 feet wide, divides the interior. One side of this passage is formed of the original oak screen ; a door in it leads to the kitchen. The other side is a plaster wall, strengthened with oak uprights, with two doors giving entrance to the living rooms; the parlour ceiling is massive but rude. The staircase is poor. The timbers of the kitchen ceiling are of great solidity.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

Figure 39.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

135. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.E.).

appears in the list of names preserved by the Ravenna geographer between Canovium (Caerhun) and Deva. (Chester).

Ded: St. Cyngar.[†] Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural-deanery of Mold; townships of Estyn, Shordley, Hope Owen, Rhanberfedd, Caergwrle.[‡]1

This church consists of two nearly equal bodies, and is without structural division of nave and chancel. The chancel and nave occupy the northern half of the edifice, the tower being at the western end of the nave. An arcade of four bays divides the nave and chancel from the south aisle. Constructionally, the whole of the church is of the Perpendicular period, with minor alterations at subsequent restorations. Both east windows are of the same period, the northern having five lights and the southern four. Fragments of early 16th century glass have been placed irregularly in both windows; the chancel window is a setting of the Te Deum, that of the south aisle depicted scenes in the life of the Saviour. The other windows are modern. Towards the eastern end of the south aisle is a plain double piscina. The tower is early Perpendicular, with pointed windows in the highest stage, and it opens into the nave by a high pointed arch having rude angular mouldings. Several of the original doorways have been closed up. The exterior walls of the church on both the north and the south sides contain a number of fragments of sepulchral slabs that have been broken up, probably during an early 18th century restoration of which there are signs.

It is to be regretted that opportunity was not taken in later restorations to rescue them from their present positions, and to remove them into the church.

The organ was presented to the church in the year 1852; an inscription on it records that it was built in the 18th century. It was restored and enlarged in 1905, and is undergoing a further restoration whilst this note is being written. Some of the pipes in the swell organ are original. The original oak casing has been discarded, but is kept on the sill of the south aisle window.

Visited, 1st June, 1910, and 11th April, 1912.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 394 ; Glynne, 'Notes,' Arch. Camb., 1884, V, i, 257.

DIVISION, V (MISCELLANLEOUS—WELLS).

136. **Ffynnon Barris** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.E.; lat. 53° 7' 26.5", long. 3 2' 14".)

A well on the north side of the lane leading from Rhos Estyn past Pigeon-house farm, and seven chains south-west of the last-named farm. It is generally known as the Pigeon-house well, but it is called Ffynnon Barris (which may mean the 'Parish' well) by Edward Lhuyd in 1699.

Visited, 7th June, 1910.

DIVISION, VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

[†] The true dedication is to St. Cyngar, according to Edward Lhuyd (1698) ; but the church is now assumed to be under the dedication of St. Cynfarch.

[‡] The parish of Hope, including the new parish of Llanfynydd, was coterminous with the lordship of Hopedale. All the ancient parish on the right bank of the river Alyn was called 'Hope Medachied.'

137. **Sarn Lane** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.E.; lat. 53° 6' 50", long. 3° 2' 14").

An old lane leading from the northern part of Caergwrle village across Sarn Bridge over the river Alyn, towards Hope. There are distinct traces of pitching in parts, and here and there the lane is very narrow.

Visited, 21st September, 1910.

138. **Stryt Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W.; lat. 53° 7' 25" 53° 8' 0", long. 3° 2' 20" 3° 3' 0").

The lane so called in Hope Owen township is undoubtedly an ancient road ; although narrow it is still much used, and no old pitching remains.

Visited, 20th June, 1910.

139. **Cae Croes Mawr** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W. ; lat. 53° 7' 25", long. 3° 3' 30").

Owner, Mr. C. C. Trevor-Roper; occupier, Mr. William Whittingham.

Tithe Schedule, No. 113. This field is still known by the name above given; it lies at the corner between the main road to Caergwrle and Mold and a lane going up to Tir y fron, but no tradition attaches to it.

Visited, 21st September, 1910.

140. **Maes Esgyrn** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W. ; lat. 53° 7' 18", long. 3° 3' 17").

Owner, Mr. C. C. Trevor-Roper; occupier, Mr. William Whittingham.

'Maes esgyrn,' 'the field of bones' - a field traversed by a footpath, and traditionally said to have been the site of a battle. Whether any bones had ever been dug up here could not be ascertained. Tithe Schedule, No. 110.

Visited, 21st September, 1910.

141. **Sarn Field** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 N.W.; lat. 53° 6' 30", long. 3° 2' 24").

Tithe Schedule, No. 151. This field does not now go by the above name, the significance of which is altogether lost.

Visited, 21st September, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

142. **A bronze celt,**

31 inches long, 2 inches broad at the extremity of the cutting edge, 1½ inches broad at the socket end, with marks on one side of a broken tang. Found by Mr. William Bowman of Hope Hall in one of his fields, and now in his possession.

Seen, 11th June, 1910.

143. **The Caergwrle Bowl.**

A beautiful oval cup or bowl of black oak, overlaid with gold leaf in finely-tooled bands ; found about the year 1820 during some drainage operations in a boggy

field south-west of the Rhydyn and west of Caergwrle castle, and purchased from the workmen by the late Rev. George (afterwards Canon) Cunliffe of Wrexham. The bowl was exhibited at the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries on 5th June, 1823, by the late Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, when it was described as "richly inlaid on the exterior with thin gold in various devices, the gold leaf beautifully tooled and extremely pure, the border being formed of concentric circles and the rest of parallel lines, where it was made to double over the edge. The ornament of the under part consists of a central band very sharply indented both ways, and, at a little distance on each side, another composed of three lines of zigzag which is again bounded by another indented border." The upper portion of one side is wanting. An illustration of the bowl appears in Arch. Camb., 1875, IV, vi, 268 its dimensions are there given as, average length 9 inches, average breadth 4 inches, depth 2 inches. The owner is Sir Foster H. E. Cunliffe, Bart., of Acton Park, Wrexham.*

The illustration on the opposite page shows its present condition.

Figure 40.

Parish of LLANASA.

DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

144. ***Coitie pen y Garnedd*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.).

This is a field on the farm of Kelston, containing no trace of a carnedd. But in the field to the east (lat. 53° 19' 49", long. 3° 20' 48") a natural eminence is crowned by what may be a low tumulus. The name 'Coitie pen y garnedd' has probably been derived therefrom. Tithe Schedule, No. 375.

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION.)

144A. ***Maenhir***.

A stone 7 feet 1 inch high, 1 foot 6 inches wide, and 7 inches thick now lies in the yard of the Red Lion Inn, Llanasa.

It formerly stood on an eminence above the mansion of Golden Grove, in a field belonging to the farm of Ty Newydd. It was placed on a cairn or heap of stones, about 40 feet in diameter and 4 feet high, which, however, had sunk to the level of the surrounding ground; a few of the stones still lie about the site, but most of them were utilised for road metal.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES).

* Since the above was written Sir Foster Cunliffe has presented the bowl to the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, and it has been handed over by the Commission to the National Museum of Wales.

145. **Offa's Dyke** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W., 2 S.W.).

The dyke can be traced in this parish, almost without a break, in a north and north-westerly direction from lat. 53° 17' 55" ; it forms the boundary, first between Llanasa and Newmarket, and then between Llanasa and Gwaunysgor parishes. At lat. 53° 19' 8" it strikes northward through the parish of Llanasa, between the townships of Gwylgre and Kelston, as far as lat. 53° 19' 33", long. 3° 21' 46.5", beyond which point it cannot be traced with certainty.

This earthwork will be treated as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION III (DOMESTIC STRUCTURES).

146. **Golden Grove*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 21", long. 3° 22' 5").

Owner, Lady Aberconway, Bodnant, Talycafn ; occupier, Mr. F. Mortimer.

This house, formerly the seat of the family of Morgan, is a large, long, irregular building, much modernised, but retaining two or three two-light square windows which reveal the date of its erection to be about 1600. Over the front door is a shield inscribed: 1578.

An octagonal sun-dial in front of the house is dated 1590 E M

In appearance it is one of the most picturesque residences in Flintshire.

Visited, 22nd July, 1910.

147. **Henblas** (6 in. Ord. Surv. Sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 21.5", long 3 20' 28").

Henblas, or Old Hall, in the village of Llanasa is (so far as its older portion is concerned) a stone building of three stories, with a central porch, and furnished with mullioned windows. Later, another portion corresponding in style to the earlier building was added at the back. The interior has been ruthlessly modernised. Leaning against the house is a loose pillar bearing the date 1642, somewhere about which time the front portion must have been built. On the eastern gable is a somewhat weathered inscription consisting of a Welsh stanza which refers to the construction of the house, but gives no date[†].

Visited, 22nd July, 1910.

148. **Perth y Maen** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.E.; lat. 53° 18' 56", long. 3° 18' 49").

Owner, Lord Mostyn ; occupier, Mr. Edward Evans.

* The Welsh name of this house, as well as of the township in which it stands, is 'Gwylgre' or 'Gwlgre.' The spelling 'Gulgreave,' an intermediate form between the above and 'Golden Grove,' is seen on a monument in Llanasa church. The Domesday form is Ulvesgrave.

[†] The stanza, which is an interesting example of the Welsh Englyn, runs as follows:-

Plannais da i gwisgais dew gysgod—oth gylch,
Ith gael di yn barod,
Ag ymma yn hir ammod,
Byddi di am fi heb fod.

This house, formerly the seat of the Parrys of Trelogan, is a large residence roughly but strongly built, the eastern gable wall being 6 feet thick. All is much modernised. Inside are massive carved oak beams. The date on the front, 16-7, is weathered into indistinctness, but over the door leading into the orchard is inscribed E. 1643. P, which closely represents the date of the house. Visited, 22nd July, 1910.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

149. **The Parish Church** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.).

Ded: Ss. Asaph and Kentigern. Diocese and archdeaconry of St. Asaph; rural-deanery of Holywell; townships of Gronant, Gwespyr, Kelston, Golden Grove (Gwylgre), Picton, Trewaelod, Axton, Trelogan.

The church is a double triangle, the north side forming the nave and chancel, the south side constituting an aisle. The west end of the nave terminates in a bell cote containing a single bell. An arcade of six bays divides the building, and there is room at the west end, where is a solid wall, for another bay. According to an inscription in the church the, pillars and arches were rebuilt in 1739, in the style of the early 16th century. The roofs have been raised, the old principals being used where possible. The corbels of the earlier low roof remain in both aisles. The east windows are dissimilar, though both are Perpendicular ; the northern window is of four, and the southern of five lights : both contain stained glass of about the year 1500, which is said to have come from Basingwerk abbey. Let into the southern wall at the east end of the northern nave is a stone fragment, 15 inches by 14, the design consisting of an outer circle formed of three narrow rounded mouldings, surrounding a quatrefoil of three similar bands; within the quatrefoil is a cross raguly of equal arms. It has been termed a consecration cross (Owen, *Old Stone Crosses*, p. 92), but may be the upper part of a sepulchral slab.

Figure 41.

In the north wall of the south aisle is another inserted fragment, 7 inches long by 3½ inches wide, displaying an extended hand with nail prints ; this should be compared with the small double figure of the Crucifixion in Cwm church. In the floor of the south aisle is a slab bearing a shield, and having the incomplete inscription, HIC. JACET. GRYFYD. VACHAN (illustrated in *Arch. Camb.*, 1891, V, viii, 74).* The font is octagonal, the sides of the bowl, stem, and base are covered with Perpendicular ornament, possibly reproducing the tracery of the windows. The old door of the church at the west end of the aisle is now built up ; the south door is modern. The parish chest is 4 feet 3½ inches long, 2 feet high, and 19 inches deep from back to front, and has at one end of the lid a slit for offerings opening into a box below. The south wall of the church near the east

* After several careful examinations of this slab the decipherment of the almost defaced inscription was carried a little beyond the point it had already reached. The remaining letters are almost certainly AP. GR[UFYD].

end is supported by a huge buttress. The lychgate still stands, though closed. Next it is the schoolhouse built in 1675, now divided into cottages.[†]

Visited, 20th July, 1910.

Thomas, Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph, 1910, ii, 196 ; Glynne, 'Notes,' Arch. Camb., 1884, V, i, 183.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

150. **Maen Llwyd Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 45", long. 3° 20' 15").

This field, which adjoins Pritchard's Covert, contains a grey boulder, 3 feet 6 inches by 12 inches at base, and 5 inches thick ; it tapers to a point, one edge having a pattern of rounded points. The stone is similar to those at Capel Beuno in this parish, and was probably brought thence. Tithe Schedule, No. 421.

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

151. **Maen Llwyd Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 46', long. 3° 20' 18").

A field on the farm of Bryn Llystyn (Tithe Schedule, No. 423). Standing in the middle of this field, formerly employed as a gate post but now used as a cattle-rubbing stone, is a boulder of the same material as that previously described, and with similarly rounded top. It is 2 feet 11 inches high by 8 inches long, and 6 inches thick, and is fairly regular. In the same field thrown into the hedge is another similar stone, once used as a gate post. It measures 4 feet by 9 inches by 6 inches.

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

152. **Maen Llwyd Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W. ; lat. 53° 19' 48", long. 3° 20' 20).

In the field adjoining the north-west of field, Tithe Schedule, No. 423, was found a cattle-rubbing stone of similar texture, character and ornament to that found in field No. 421. It is 3 feet 2 inches high and 4 inches wide at top and bottom. This stone probably came from St. Beuno's Chapel, Gwespyr.

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

153. **Maen Llwyd Issa** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 48', long. 3° 20' 15').

The three fields (Tithe Schedules, Nos. 536-8), now thrown into one, are called in the Tithe Map schedule, 'Maen llwyd issa,' but no standing stone is visible.

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

154. **Ffoes y Garnedd** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.; lat. 53° 19' 30", long. 3° 20' 7").

[†] Edward Lhuyd (A.D. 1699) says that a spot at two cross-roads close to the church was then called Croes Onnen, and that another cross stood in the churchyard (*Parochialia*, i, 58).

'Ffoes y Garnedd,' possibly a mistake for 'Maes y garnedd,' is the name given to two fields north of Gyrn Castle ; but no Garnedd is traceable at present. It was said that the fields are now known as 'The Cross Fields,' but why so called was not known.*

Visited, 7th September, 1910.

155. **Site of Capel Beuno, Gwespyr** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 2 S.W.).

This chapel is believed to have stood at the right-hand corner of the road leading to Gwespyr from Llanasa village. An adjacent wall is largely composed of squared stones, and of strips of worked stones figured with a blunt zigzag ornament. These probably came from the destroyed chapel. Behind the wall a quarry is being worked.

Visited, 20th July, 1910.

This chapel is entered in the ecclesiastical returns of 1563 as one 'wheryn no servyce ys had' (British Museum, *Harley MSS.*, 594).

156. **Bryn Castell** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.W. ; lat. 53° 18' 19", long. 3° 20' 3').

This site in Axton township on a ridge of the millstone grit formation is about 9 feet high on the east side, where it occupies a somewhat commanding position. Edward Lhuyd in 1699 calls it 'Castell Edwyn,' and says that there were then no walls to be seen. It is now being quarried for roadstone.

Visited, 20th July, 1910.

157. **Sarn** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 5 N.E.; lat. 53° 18' 1", long. 3° 19' 35").

The name of a small house and hamlet on the south side of an undoubtedly ancient, but now macadamised road, near Sarn Hwlcyn in Whitford parish, which see (No. 282).

Visited, 30th June, 1910.

DIVISION VII (FINDS).

157A. **Stone Axe Hammer.**

Found at Terfyn, a house near the town of Prestatyn but in the parish of Llanasa, during excavations in December, 1904. It consists only of the pointed tip. Now in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

* 'Ffos y garnedd,' 'the foss or ditch of the cairn,' might also be hazarded; but the present name, 'Cross Fields,' suggests the probability that the Welsh name was 'Croes y garnedd,' 'the cross of the cairn,' and that the original feature consisted of a mound of stones with a cross standing upon it.

Parish of LLANFYNYDD.

DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).

158. Cefn y Bedd Cromlech (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.E.; lat. 53° 6' 3", long. 3° 2' 6").

Owner, Mr. Maurice Rowley Conroy, Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhyl ; occupier, Mr. George Hughes, Abermorddu farm.

In the upper part of a conical-shaped field are many big stones, one being 1 foot 7 inches high and over 4 feet wide, and there is also a heap of displaced small stones on the north side of the slope. The field, which is known as 'Ffedog y diawl,' 'the Devil's Apron,' lies in that portion of Cymmau township called 'Cefn y bedd.' There can be no doubt that this represents the site of the grave whence Cefn y bedd took its name. Edward Lhuyd, writing of Hope parish in 1699, mentions a carnedd (the burial place of Gwrle Gawr) called 'arfedogaed y wrach,' 'the hag's apronful,' on the common of Cefn y bedd, with a cistfaen within two or three stoneshots, and a small carnedd close by.

Visited, 15th June, 1910.

DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (UNCLASSIFIED—DYKES).

159. **Offa's Dyke** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W.).

This dyke enters the parish from Brymbo at lat. 53° 5' 22", long. 3° 4' 3", and continues a northward course through the villages of Ffrith and Llanfynydd. After a few breaks it leaves the parish at lat. 53° 6' 19", long. 3° 4' 52", for the parish of Treuddyn.

This earthwork will be described as a whole at a later stage.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

160. **Trimley Hall** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W.; lat. 53° 5' 40", long. 3° 4' 42").

A square two-storied farm-house in an exposed position. The house is grouped round a block of chimneys which rise in the middle of the building. A stone porch, with chamber above, projects over 7 feet from the north side. Some of the mullioned windows are filled in. Its probable date is the year 1653, which is carved on one of the staircases.

Visited, 9th June, 1910.

161. **Bryn Iorcyn** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W. ; lat. 53° 6' 17', long. 3° 2' 41").

Owner, Mr. Maurice Rowley Convey, Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhyl; occupier, Mr. Thomas Lewis.

Bryn Iorcyn is situated slightly below the summit of Hope Mountain on its east side ; it is an early 17th century stone building, which has replaced an earlier,

and was long the home of the important Flintshire family of Yonge.* Its south front, which is 70 feet long, consists of a central portion, with unequally projecting wings at each end. The eastern wing has a projection of 8 feet ; the western wing is exactly three times as long. The depth of the house externally at the west end is 59 feet, and the line of the exterior is broken by many chimneys. The low porch is in the angle formed by the projection of the eastern wing. The house has been used as a farm for over a century. East of the dwelling is a large square dovecote. The outbuildings are probably older than the house, but have been much altered; in one of them are steps leading to a closed archway, the entrance to a tunnel. This passage, which was probably for carrying off sewage or drainage, has now fallen in, but its exit about 500 yards due east down the hill can still be discerned.
Visited, 9th June 1910.

Figure 42.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

162. ***The Parish Church*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W.).
Ded: The Saviour. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry and rural-deanery of Wrexham; townships. of Cymmau, Uwch y mynydd ucha, Uwch y mynydd issa. A modern building erected in 1843, and repaired and improved in 1868. It contains two interesting objects, namely, the present font, and the font previously used. The present font was the old font of Hope Church, from which it was cast forth somewhere about the year 1828; after sundry adventures it was brought to this church in 1902. It is octagonal, and of Perpendicular date. One of the external panels of the bowl shows a falcon's claw. The font used here until 1902 is a rough, grey, square hollowed stone, found in a gravel pit close to Hafod Abley near at hand.
Visited, 5th October, 1910.

DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

163. ***Ffynnon y Garreg*** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W. ; lat. 53° 6' 0", long. 30 3f 26").
A spring in a field, giving its name to a house in the township of Uwch y mynydd issa. It is protected on three sides by stones, some of which are displaced, and there is one stone standing in front, where the overflow from the spring renders the ground boggy. The well takes its name either from the stone at its entrance, or from the rocky surface of the adjacent lane.
Visited, 5th October, 1910.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

* Morgant le Yonge, alias Morgan ap Iorwerth (died c.1407), of Bryn Iorcyn, and Croxton in Maelor Saesneg, was the first of the family to adopt the surname of Yonge.

164. **Pen y Stryt** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W.; lat. 53° 6' 12.5', long. 3° 5' 25").

A small farm-house in the township of Uwch y mynydd'ucha, standing at the head of an old mountain lane, still cobbled in places, and at one time evidently pitched throughout.

Visited, 5th October, 1910.

165. **Rhewl** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W. ; lat. 53° 5'47 5", long. 3° 4'30").

An old cobbled mountain lane in the township of Uwch y mynydd ucha ; it passes close to a house called 'Rhewl.'

Visited, 5th October, 1910.

166. **Roman.**

In the month of May, 1910, during cottage-building operations at the village called The Ffrith (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Flint. 17 S.W.), the footings of a wall exhibiting all the characteristics of Roman work were uncovered. The wall was about 30 inches thick, and was formed of undressed blocks of the local limestone, well bedded in clay. The portion of wall thus disturbed appeared to form the angle of a building, which on the northern side had been plastered with concrete, about an inch thick. Other fragments of walling were met with, some ending in the boundary fence of the highway; but adequate exploration at this point could not be attempted owing to the nearness of the road, which evidently ran directly over the foundations of the building. The earth around the walls was dark-coloured, and contained numerous fragments of charcoal and bones. Fragments of hypocaust tiles made from boulder clay, portions of the neck and handle of an amphora of the usual buff paste, one fragment of a plain Samian dish, of poor make and glaze, which had been discoloured by heat, several pieces of urns and bottoms of grey ware, ollae of usual type, and a few sherds of boulder clay red ware were discovered during the cutting of the shallow foundation trenches. These objects were found by, and are in the possession of, Mr. T. Arthur Acton of Wrexham, the explorer of the Roman site at Holt.

This discovery clearly marks a small Roman station, and renders probable the supposition that the discoveries located by an earlier generation of antiquaries at Caergwrlle (see note to No. 132, on p.47) were really made at The Ffrith. It is also confirmed by the recollection of the late Mr. R. Venables Kyrke, of Nant y Ffrith, given in a letter printed in Mr. A. N. Palmer's *History of the Country Townships of the old parish of Wrexham*, p.122. What is said to have been a Roman altar was dug up about the year 1828, on almost the same spot as the recent discoveries, but the altar, and every record of it have disappeared. Various coins, brooches, and bronze fibulae, found at the same time are now in the possession of Mr. Acton.

Offa's Dyke crosses the Roman site, and the interesting problem presents itself whether the Dyke was cleared away in the course of the construction of a small station by the Romans, or whether the Mercian constructors of the Dyke carried it over the foundations of a Roman settlement. In the work already mentioned Mr. A. N. Palmer affirms, on the authority of the late Mr. Kyrke, that Roman objects, notably the altar already referred to, were dug out of the Dyke. On the other hand, Professor T. McKenny Hughes, F.S.A., after enquiries upon the spot immediately following a discovery of Roman objects in 1878, expresses his opinion that "the evidence was altogether most unsatisfactory. I had no doubt that Roman remains had been dug up there, but I could not learn that any of these objects [Roman tiles and bricks] had been dug up under the rampart. On the contrary, all the evidence that I could collect on the spot went to show that they were found near or in the surface of the dyke, but not under it" (*Archaeologia*, 1893, liii, 481). The discoveries in 1910 remove all doubts that might remain as to the real character of the settlement at The Ffrith, and an examination of the accompanying plan shows that the line of the Dyke must have passed within a few yards of the site recently uncovered, if it did not actually rest upon it.

The identification of Hope village, and even of Hope Castle, with a Roman station appears to have commenced with Camden and to have been accepted with unwavering confidence by generations of antiquaries. The words of Camden are "Near Hope, while I was writing this, a gardener digging somewhat deeper than ordinary, discovered a very antient work, upon which many conjectures were formed; but whoever reads Vitruvius with attention will see it could have been nothing more than a hypocaust begun by the Romans... It was five ells long, four broad, and, about half an ell high. It was inclosed with walls of hewn stone, the pavement of brick set in mortar; on brick pillars rested a vault formed of polished tiles, and in several places perforated, on which stood brick flews."

It is improbable that Camden ever paid a personal visit to Caergwrle. He, doubtless, depended upon some correspondent, and a slip of paper in British Museum *Cotton MS.*, Julius F x, fo. 120 (a volume of Camden's Collections), probably represents part of his original authority. Under the heading, "The vault founde under the earth at Trymley, distant from Hope in Flyntshire, one mile," it is said that "there were founde certayne kockes of steele rusted, a rib of an oxe as though it had byne, and a rownde yron in forme of a cury combe w'thout teeth, or as though it had bene the cover of some littell iron chest." In the time of this writer (*circa* A.D. 1600) Trimley may have been a tiny village of a few houses; now the name is borne only by Trimley Hall Farm (No. 160, *ante*). The Hall is a mile and a half from Hope, but it is within half a mile of Ffrith.

Edward Lhuyd, or his correspondent, carries the matter a little further. He writes, "Fo gawd yn y Ffrith yn Hrymle dharne o aur etc^a gyn ffyrfed a sylchdan aradr olwynog a gwaith o vricks, viz., ennaintgwyr Rhyvein; sic enim senex vocabat. A Roman Bannis : square bricks Fo mendiodh kymydogion gwedi, Kael y gist-vaen" (*Camb. Arch. Assoc.*, *Parochialia*, i, 97), which farrago seems to mean, "There

was discovered at the Ffrith in Trimley a piece of gold about as thick as a ploughshare, circular, together with brickwork, viz., a Roman bath...The neighbours repaired the cist after its discovery." The object here described is doubtless one of those mentioned by Camden's correspondent.

The subject may be completed by an extract from a letter to Mr. Edward Lhuyd written by Mr. Josiah Babington on the 26th August, 1701, from Llannerch in Flintshire. "I know not," he says, "whether an old rusty copper thing found near Eastyn in Flintshire, be a piece of Antiquity or not. You will guess when you see the figure which is a Plate of about the thickness of a shilling. It is made up of seven rounds. which might have bin drawn more mathematically if I had thought it worth the while. On one side in the middle of each round is a cylindrical peg of a barley corn's length" (*ib.*, iii, 96).

Finally, amongst the same scholar's correspondence (*ib.*, iii, 97), is a letter from Mr. R. Davies, dated 2nd February, 1708-9. "I have no urn or Pot, my Br[other] meant a brick Tunnel of an Hypocaust found near Estyn in Flintshire: 'tis like that on the Plate of Welsh Antiq^s in your Cambden, only this is double - but whether deserving a place among such Curiosities as yours, I cannot guess being Lumber of toward 30li weight."

Figure 43.