

EXCURSION, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15TH.

Leaving the Bear Hotel at 9.30 A.M., the carriages started on the Bridgend road up the steep hill on the west side of Cowbridge. When the top was reached, the straightness of the road became very apparent, looking both backwards towards the clump of trees on Stalling Down, and forwards in the direction of Ewenny. There seems to be little doubt that this is the line of the old Roman military road to Bovium, the site of which has been conjectured to be at Ewenny. The fact of the existence of a place called Broth Street, near Ewenny, points to a Roman road of some kind having passed by it. Halfway between Cowbridge and Ewenny the road passes over what was formerly a bleak moor, but which is now enclosed and cultivated. This portion of the road is

called by the somewhat poetical name of the Golden Mile,¹ and it was not far from here that a large number of ancient British urns were dug up in the Twmpath barrow on Pwll-y-rack farm, a full description of the discoveries, by Mr. F. G. Hilton Price, having been recently published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (vol. v, Ser. 5, p. 83). Passing by Ewenny, to return there later, the first halting-place was St. Bride's, eight miles distant from Cowbridge. The last mile of the road passed through a deep ravine, with mountain limestone cliffs peeping out here and there from between a covering of greensward varied with patches of bracken fern. The scenery in this secluded valley is entirely different from the views in other parts of Glamorganshire, where the geological formation is lias, and is far more like the wild landscapes of Cumberland or Derbyshire. St. Bride's Church is picturesquely situated at the upper end of the valley, perched on the hill-side.

St. Bride's Church.—The church here is dedicated to St. Bride or Bridget, and is called St. Bride's Major. St. Bride's Minor is situated nearly as far north of Bridgend as St. Bride's Major is south of the same place. It was visited by the Cambrian Archæological Association during the Bridgend Meeting in 1869. The building, although not a large one, is full of points of interest.

The plan consists of a nave, chancel, west tower, north porch, and a small vestry on the north side of the chancel. The chancel-arch is a remarkable one. It is round and of Norman date, with a simply-moulded abacus. Most of the rest of the architectural features are Decorated. The tower has the usual local characteristics.

On each side of the chancel-arch are two large squints cut through the wall at a late period, and on the north side is, in addition, a third squint of much smaller dimensions than the others. The font has an octagonal bowl on an octagonal stem.² The most noteworthy amongst the sepulchral monuments are the inscribed coffin-lid of Johan le Botiler, and an altar-tomb belonging to the same family. The coffin-lid is at present in the floor of the chancel, but is partially concealed from view by some rickety boarding placed upon the top of it, which should be removed. The stone coffin belonging to it is still in the churchyard, on the south side of the tower, and might well be taken inside the building and the lid restored to it. The top of the lid is flat, with the figure of a Crusader in chain-armour incised upon it, and the sides bevelled, bearing the following inscription in Lombardic capital letters of the thirteenth century:—

IOHAN : LE : BOTILER : GIT : ICI : DEU : DE :
SA : ALME : EIT : MERCI : AMEN.

¹ Several stories are given to account for the name, the most probable being that it was suggested by the golden yellow flowers of the gorse.

² By some mistake the font at St. Bride's is described in the Report of the Bridgend Meeting in the *Arch. Camb.*, 3rd Ser., vol. xv, p. 434, as being Norman, and similar to the one at Llantwit.

laced work, preserved at Llanancarvan, has been very incorrectly illustrated in Professor I. O. Westwood's *Lapidarium Walliæ* (pl. 101, figs. 2 and 3).

Llantrythid Church and Mansion.—The last place on the programme was Llantrythid, two miles north of Llanancarvan, and four miles and a half east of Cowbridge, which was taken on the return journey. The plan of the church, which has been already described in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, consists of a nave, chancel, west tower, and south porch; a stoup like that at Llanancarvan; rood-loft stair; and rood-screen. The church possesses two remarkable monuments: (1) Under a niche in north wall of a recumbent effigy with hands folded in prayer; head tonsured, resting on square pillow beneath trefoil canopy; feet resting on greyhound; ball-flower ornament and fleur-de-lys. (2) An altar-tomb against north wall, with mural appendages and inscriptions, having two recumbent figures, representing Sir Anthony Mansel, who died in 1544, and his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1596, daughter of John Basset; the tomb was erected by Elizabeth Mansel in 1597. Mansel and Basset arms.

The chalice and paten are Elizabethan, dated 1576; chalice, silver-gilt, inscribed "My Bloude is dirinke indeed."

The Llantrythid estate was given by Fitzhamon to Madoc ap Jestyn, and belonged successively to the Bassets, Mansels, and Aubreys. Sir John Aubrey, the last baronet who lived at Llantrythid House, lost his son under distressing circumstances, in consequence of which he left the place. In 1832 the roof fell, and the place is now a ruin; but some views of the interior have been preserved amongst Mrs. Traherne's sketches, now in the possession of T. M. Franklen, Esq., of St. Hilary. A plan of the building is given in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (vol. xiii, Ser. 3, p. 214), showing that it consisted of a rectangular block with two wings at each side.

This day's excursion terminated most pleasantly with a tea, to which the members were very kindly invited by Roper Tyler, Esq., the present owner of the modern mansion of Llantrythid.

EVENING MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 14TH.

The evening meeting was held at the Town Hall, there being again a good attendance.

Archdeacon Thomas, in the absence of the President, occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings by giving a well thought-out *résumé* of the day's work, commenting amongst other things on the dilapidated state of the tower at Llanancarvan, and protesting against the thoughtless conduct of the gentleman who was about to carry away one of the sixteenth century iron hinges from Old Beaupré for the Cardiff Museum, without first obtaining permission from the owner to do so.

The following three papers were then read, and will be printed in the Journal:—

"The Norwich Taxation of the Diocese of Llandaff." By the Ven. Archdeacon Thomas, F.S.A.

"English Influence in Wales." By Edward Owen, Esq.

"The Manor of Llanblethian." By James Andrew Corbett, Esq.

Votes of thanks were passed to the authors of these papers, which were listened to throughout with marked attention. The meeting then terminated.

For several reasons the Local Committee were unable to form a Museum, as is usually done on the occasion of the annual meetings of the Cambrian Archæological Association; but this shortcoming was to a certain extent made good by the private efforts of Mr. David Jones, of Wallington, Surrey, who exhibited a very valuable series of drawings and maps in the ante-room of the Town Hall, illustrating the antiquities of Glamorganshire. Mr. Jones also produced at the meeting the skull of a horse clothed to represent the head of the animal when alive, which is called a "Mari Lwyd", and is carried about in procession. He has been good enough to furnish the following account of this curious, ancient custom:—
