

COWBRIDGE AND LLANBLETHIAN.

COWBRIDGE, one of the principal agricultural market towns of the vale of Glamorgan, lies 12 miles W. of Cardiff. It is a clean, well-lighted, picturesque town, irregularly built in the shape of one long, wide street, extending from the East Gate to the West Gate. The best houses are situated in the High street, which contains some handsome and well-supplied shops and warehouses. The town lies in a hollow, and on the slopes of the surrounding hills are the villages of Llanblethian, Lisworney, Penlline, Newton, Aburthin, Welsh St. Donatt's, St. Hilary, Llandough, and other smaller hamlets, and several fine mansions and country residences. The drives and walks around Cowbridge command a surprising variety of charming scenery; and from one of the surrounding eminences, Llanblethian Hill, may be obtained quite a panoramic view of the country for many miles around, with the river Ddau gracefully winding through the landscape, bounded in the distance by the mountains on one hand, and the Bristol Channel on the other. Within a short walk of the town may be found several curious old castles. Beauprè, with its quaintly-carved porch; Llanblethian, with its architecture and historical interest; Penlline, Llantwit, and particularly St. Donatt's Castle, a fine study for the painter. St. Donatt's is the subject of one of Turner's loveliest landscapes. Before the projection of the South Wales Railway, and when the mail coach road was what the railroad now is, the main thoroughfare of Glamorgan, Cowbridge was busier and of more importance than it is in the present day. But when the South Wales Railway was completed and opened, the fortunes of Cowbridge experienced a reverse, for Cowbridge was left at a distance of 6 miles from the line, and was therefore thrown into a new position. Business decayed, rents went down, the quarter sessions were, for more convenient access, removed to Cardiff, and the town suffered in every way. Through the enterprise of the Cowbridge Railway Company, however, a single line of narrow-gauge railway, from Cowbridge to the junction at Llantrissant of the Great Western and Taff Vale Railways, was completed and opened in 1865, and this already produces a considerable effect upon the prosperity of Cowbridge. Building is now vigorously pushed forward, rents rise, an additional bank is opened, and under the influence of steam, gas, telegraphs, and other modern improvements, Cowbridge is progressing, and it is evident that each successive year must tend to its greater expansion. Dependent principally upon agricultural resources, the trade of Cowbridge never exhibited any of those sudden inflations, depressions, and collapses, witnessed in some other towns in the principality; but there is, and always has been, a steady flow of general business upon the best and firmest commercial foundations, and the live-stock market of Cowbridge is still unsurpassed by any other in England or Wales in point of quality of stock. The population of Cowbridge in 1851 was 1,067, and that of Llanblethian in 1851 was 767. In 1861 the population of Cowbridge was 1,094, and that of Llanblethian, 753.

Cowbridge was originally called the "long town in the meadow," or

“Tref hir yn y Waun,” which name appears to have been successively corrupted into Pont Waun and Ponf Faen, which is now translated Cowbridge. The popular legend of the *Cow* being entangled by its horns in the arches of the *Bridge*, and the town after, and because of the accident being named Cowbridge, is evidently fallacious, although the figures of a cow and bridge certainly are the arms of the town. Robert de St. Quintin, who rebuilt Llanblethian Castle, built a wall round Cowbridge, some parts of which, with the South Gate, are now in existence. The town hall is a substantial stone building, in the centre of the town, surmounted by an elegant turret, with an excellent clock, presented by the Right Rev. Edward Copleston, the late Bishop of Llandaff. On each side lie the market places: meat market and wool market on one side, and fish, fruit, vegetables, &c., the other. The sheep and pig markets are in the west-end. For cattle markets and fairs, the cattle are placed in rows down each side of the High street. The small debts court is held in the hall every other month. The petty sessions are held every Tuesday in the police station. The hall is used now as an assembly room; public meetings, concerts, balls, lectures and entertainments, are held in the large room. The town is governed by a mayor (who is also Constable of St. Quintin’s), and two bailiffs, elected annually. The mayor is appointed by the Marquis of Bute, in his capacity of lord of the borough of Cowbridge, and of the manor of Llanblethian. A court of record may be holden under the charter of Charles II., but the corporation do not avail themselves of the privilege. The only court is that of the common council, as occasion may require, for the transaction of the business of the borough. Cowbridge, as contributory borough, is united with Cardiff and Llantrissant in returning a member to Parliament. Cowbridge is in the Bridgend and Cowbridge union, county court district, and Bristol court of bankruptcy. It is in the diocese of Llandaff, deanery of Gro-Neath, lower division. In consequence of the angle at which the railways join, it is much farther to Cardiff and Bridgend by rail than it is by road. These are the distances: Cardiff by road, 12 miles; by rail, 16 miles; Bridgend by road, 7 miles; by rail, 14 miles. London by road, 176 miles; by rail, 186 miles; Bristol 56 miles by rail; Swansea 32 miles by road and 40 rail; Neath 24 by road. And it is 6 miles to the sea-side, where there are several bathing places—Llantwit, Aberthau, St. Donatt’s, Mareross, and Porthkerry. The pretty watering-places of Llantwit and Aberthau are about an hour’s pleasant drive; and Llantwit is easily reached by omnibus. The fairs and markets are held as follows:—March, May, June, August, and September fairs on the first Tuesday in the respective months. Tuesday is the market day; and there is High market the first Tuesday in each month. The agricultural show is held on the Tuesday before Michaelmas annually. The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome building. The living is a vicarage consolidated with Llanblethian, the mother church, and Welsh St. Donatts, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Gloster, joint annual gross value £294, the Rev. Thomas Edmondson, M.A., being the present incumbent. The parish church of Llanblethian is about one mile distant. There are also places of worship for Baptists, Wesleyans, and Calvinistic Methodists. Adjoining the church is an

elegant pile of buildings in the modern Gothic style of architecture, called Sir Leoline Jenkins' Free Grammar School. The history and career of this benefactor of Cowbridge, although so interesting as to excuse a long digression, cannot, in the narrow limits of a Directory, be treated with the attention and extensive notice it deserves. He, Sir Leoline Jenkins, it has been said, and here we may remark, that in places where we cannot consult better authorities, we have contented ourselves with the oral tradition of the neighbourhood, used to walk daily from the adjacent village of Ystradowen, where his parents resided, to pursue his studies at the grammar school which now bears his name. The chain of successive triumphs that led to his advancement from comparative poverty to one of the most exalted positions in the realm, commands our admiration, and presents a striking illustration of the power of genius, when combined with tact, energy, and perseverance. He ultimately became judge of the Prerogative Court and Secretary of State under Charles II. In the golden days of his prosperity, he bethought him of the place where he had first tasted the waters of the Pierian Spring, and at his death he bequeathed to Cowbridge school those liberal endowments that have perpetuated his good name, and placed the Cowbridge Free Grammar School in the eminent position it at present occupies. One of the endowments consisted of some acres of land in the marshes of Chelsea, London, at that time of inconsiderable value, but the present value of this and the other lands is considerably enhanced. The management and administration of all the lands and revenues, however, is in the hands of the authorities at Jesus College; and although the value of the lands has risen, the school endowments remain the same as they originally were. But although the school is frequently spoken of as Sir Leoline Jenkins' school, it should properly be styled Sir Edward Stradling's Grammar School, as it seems to have been Sir Leoline's wish that the site of the school purchased by him from Sir E. Stradling should be considered the gift of Sir E. Stradling. There are six *monitorships*, each of the present value of £16 10s.; and there is a provision, that every year "not more than *ten* towards youths" from the town and the neighbouring parishes, whose parents cannot afford to pay the usual school fees, shall receive their education for four pounds a year. The scholarships and fellowships originally attached to the school have been, as in most foundations, thrown open to competition by the Royal Commission, which has, as some compensation, granted to English boys educated in the school equal advantages with the Welshmen in competing for the scholarships and fellowships of Jesus College, Oxford.

In close proximity to the town is the romantic and picturesque village of Llanblethian. It may be mentioned that part of Cowbridge lies in the parish of Llanblethian; but Llanblethian is in the hundred of Cowbridge, and in Bridgend and Cowbridge union and county court district. Its area is 2,266 statute acres, belonging to various landowners, and the Marquis of Bute is the lord of the manor. Its population, as already stated, was 753 in 1861. Llanblethian is a pretty village, containing some very desirable and well-designed villas and country residences. There is excellent trout-fishing in the river; and at Llandough, close by, there is a pack of foxhounds, under the mastership of Theodore Mansel

Talbot, Esq. St. Quintin's Castle, one of the principal attractions of Llanblethian, is just at the entrance to the village. In the castle grounds is held the annual floral and horticultural show.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.—Mr. Thomas Felton, postmaster. Letters arrive from London, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Glos'ter, Bridgend, Carmarthen, and all parts of the kingdom at 7.30 a.m.; Ireland, Scotland, and the north of England at 11.25 a.m. Dispatch to London, Cardiff, Bristol, Swansea, Glo'ster, and all parts of the kingdom, 6.30 p.m., with additional fee at 7.0 p.m. To the north of England, Ireland, and Scotland at 8.20 a.m. Money Orders granted and paid. Post office Savings' Bank.

BANKS:—National Provincial Bank of England (branch)—Draw on the National Provincial Bank, London, High street; Thomas Payne, Esq., manager.

Provincial Banking Corporation, Limited (with which is incorporated the Bank of Wales, Limited), High street—Draw on the London and County Bank, London; William Morgan, Esq., manager.

PUBLIC OFFICERS:—Mayor of Cowbridge and Constable of the Castle of Llanblethian, and Justice of the Peace for the Borough—Robert Charles Nicholl Carne, Esq., Nash Manor.

Bailiffs and Justices of the Peace for the Borough—John Samuel Gibbon, Esq., Newton House; James Ballard, Esq., The Verlands.

Deputy Mayor—James Simpson Ballard, Esq., The Verlands.

Acting Magistrates for the Division of Cowbridge—John Homfray, Esq.; Hugh Entwisle, Esq.; Rowland Fothergill, Esq.; Robert Charles Nicholl Carne, Esq.; Robert Boteler, Esq.; William Salmon, Esq.; John Richard Homfray, Esq.; Jno. Whitlock Nicholl Carne, Esq.; Jno. Samuel Gibbon, Esq.; Rev. Fred. Francis Edwardes; G. Montgomery Traherne, Esq.; Hubert de Burgh Thomas, Esq.; and the Rev. Thos. Edmondson.

Clerk to the Magistrates of the Borough—John Stockwood, Esq.

Clerk to the Magistrates of the Hundred of Cowbridge and Division of Miskin Lower—John Stockwood, Esq.

Clerk to Commissioners of Taxes—John Stockwood, Esq.

Clerk to District Highway Board—John Stockwood, Esq.

Town Clerk—John Stockwood, Esq.

Treasurer of the Borough—John Thomas, Esq.

Stamp Distributor—Mr. Thomas Felton, High street.

Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages—Mr. David Lloyd.

Relieving Officer for Cowbridge District—Mr. David Lloyd.

Town Hall, High street—Rebecca Thomas, hall-keeper.

Police Station, High street—Sergeant Thomas, resident officer.

Inland Revenue Officer—James Rich, Esq., Cross House.

Reading Room and Library—Open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m. at E. and A. Davis's, High street.

British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Office—At the post office. Open from 8 to 8; Mr. T. Felton, superintendent.

Gas Works, East-end—Mr. T. J. Parsons, secretary; John Jenkins, manager.

Road Surveyor—W. H. Jenkins, Esq.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.—St. Mary's Church—Rev. Thomas Edmondson, M.A., vicar.

Parish Church, Llanblethian—Rev. Thomas Edmondson, M.A., vicar.
 Baptist Chapel—Rev. ———, minister.
 Calvinistic Methodists—Ministers various.
 Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Llanblethian—Ministers various.
 Independent Chapel, Llanblethian—Rev. John Evans, minister.
 Wesleyan Chapel—Ministers various.
 SCHOOLS (Public):—Free Grammar School—Head master, Rev. Thos. Williams, M.A.; second master, Joseph H. Smith, Esq.; French master, Mons. Simonet, Ph. D.
 National School (for boys and girls), East-end. William Thorpe, master.

Town Crier—Mr. Christopher Norton, High street.

CLERGY, GENTRY, &c.

Ballard James, Esq., J.P., The Verlands
 Ballard Miss
 Ballard, Mr. Thomas
 Bates Edward, Esq., M.D., East end
 Bevan John, Esq.
 Bradley Edward, Esq., M.D., East end
 Carne Robert Charles Nicholl, Esq., J.P. and D.L., Nash manor
 Edmondson The Misses, East end
 Edmondson Rev. Thomas, M.A. and J.P. (vicar of Llanblethian, with Cowbridge and Welsh St. Donatts), High street
 Edwards Daniel Ithiel, Esq.
 Edwards Mrs. Sophia, East end
 Entwisle Hugh, Esq., J.P. and D.L., Marlbro' Grange, Llanblethian
 Entwisle Miss Margaret, Bryn-Awel, Llanblethian
 Gibbon John Samuel, Esq., J.P., Newton house
 Gibbon Mrs. Margaret, East end
 Giro James, Esq., Brynhyfryd, Llanblethian
 Goddard William John, Esq., High street
 Homfray John, jun., Esq., Pwlllywrach
 Hooper R. N., Esq., Llansannor court
 Jenkins Rev. Isaac, East end
 Lewis Miss, East end
 Lewis Titus, Esq., F.S.A.
 Llewellyn John, Esq., East street
 Llewellyn Miss, High street
 Llewellyn Thomas, Esq., East end
 Morgan Joshua Lee, Esq., Kingscombe
 Ord Mrs., Llanblethian
 Owen Daniel, Esq., Ash hall
 Payne Thomas, Esq., High street
 Perkins Mrs., High street
 Phillips John Watkin, Esq.
 Rhys Miss, High street
 Samuel Mr. Edward
 Simonet Mons., Ph. D., Dynovor cottage
 Smith J., Esq., Church street
 Smyth Capt. William, Hill house, Llanblethian
 Stockwood John, Esq., High street
 Stockwood Mrs., East end

Stone Henry, Esq., Llanblethian cottage
 Talbot Theodore M., Esq., Llandough cot.
 Taylor Mr. Thomas, Penmark
 Taynton Rev. Francis, High street
 Thomas Hubert de Burgh, Esq., Llanblethian
 Thomas Mrs., High street
 Thomas Mr. William, Thorn villa
 Williams John, Esq., East end
 Williams Mr. John
 Williams Mrs. Llewellyn, East end
 Williams Mr. Morgan, East end
 Williams Rev. Thomas, M.A., principal of the Grammar school, Church street

COMMERCIAL.

Alexander Mrs. Charlotte, wine and spirit vaults, High street
 Aubrey Richard, wheelwright and beer retailer, East end
 Ball J., Westgate inn
 Ballard and Co., ironmongers, High street
 Bates Edward, surgeon, M.D., East end
 Bevan Mrs. Mary, beer retailer
 Bird Nathaniel, ironmonger, agent to the London and Liverpool Fire and Life Insurance Company, High street
 Braddick Joseph, beer retailer, East end
 Culverwell Thomas, farmer, Llwynhelig farm
 David Thomas, Cross Keys inn, High st.
 Davies Daniel, letter carrier, East end
 Davies Edmund, linen and woollen draper, High street
 Davies Edward, currier and leather seller, High street
 Davies E. and A., farmers, Llanblethian
 Davies and Jenkins, ladies' school, High street
 Davies Mrs. and Miss, ladies' seminary, High street
 Davies Mrs., fancy repository, High street
 Davis E. and A., printers, booksellers, stationers, news and advertising agents, Berlin wool and fancy repository. Reading room and library, open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m., High street

- Davis Thomas, shoemaker, High street
 Edwards Daniel Ithiel, surgeon
 Edwards William, cutler and tinman,
 East end
 Elliot John Mathew, law clerk, East end
 Evans Thomas, White Lion inn, High st.
 Evans Edward, cooper, Llanblethian
 Evans Robert, auctioneer, High street ;
 p. r., Brynteg, Bridgend
 Evans Samuel D., silk mercer, linen and
 woollen draper, tailor, and general out-
 fitter, and Agent to the Royal Fire and
 Life Offices, High street
 Felton Richard, tailor and draper, High st.
 Felton Thomas (from Godfrey & Cooke's),
 chemist, High street
 George John, Horse and Groom inn
 Gibby Daniel, grocer, &c., East end
 Giles David, shoemaker
 Goddard William John, solicitor, agent to
 the Law Union Fire and Life office,
 High street
 Griffiths J., blacksmith & grocer, High st.
 Griffiths Philip, grocer & provision dealer,
 High street
 Hall Joseph M., seedsman, East end
 Harman Miss, milliner
 Harris Miss Catharine, seminary, High st.
 Harris William, grocer, High street
 Hopkins Daniel, blacksmith, West gate
 Horton Jacob, Red Lion, East end
 Howe John, butcher, grocer, and provision
 dealer, High street
 Howe John, baker, East end
 Howe Messrs., farmers, Llanblethian
 Howe Richard, Blue Bell inn, & butcher,
 High street
 Howell John, Three Boars' Heads inn,
 High street
 Howells Mrs., farmer, Llanblethian
 Howells Samuel, maltster and brewer,
 High street
 James John, grocer
 James Matthias, stonemason
 James William, cabinet maker
 Jenkins Ann, dairy, West end
 Jenkins Lewis, maltster, East end
 Jenkins Richard, letter carrier
 Jenkins Thomas, farmer, Llanblethian
 John Catherine, provision dealer, East end
 John Thomas, farmer, Llanblethian
 Johnson Henry, watchmaker, &c., High
 street
 Jones Misses Annie and Mary, Masons'
 Arms, High street
 Jones John, farmer, Llanblethian
 Jones John, tailor
 Jones William, farmer, Kingscombe cot.
 Lane Robert, farmer, Llanblethian
 Lewis Thomas, gardener, fruiterer, and
 dealer in earthenware, High street
 Lewis William, saddler, Eagle lane
 Lewis William, boarding and day school,
 High street
 Lister Thomas, chemist and druggist,
 High street
 Llewellyn Mrs. Jane, saddler and harness
 maker, Church street
 Llewellyn William, beer retailer, High st.
 Llewellyn John, surgeon, High street
 Lloyd David, registrar of births, deaths,
 and marriages, and relieving officer for
 the Cowbridge district, East end
 Matthews Thomas, saddler and harness
 maker, High street
 May Joseph, Ancient Druids' inn, East end
 Miles Mrs. Mary Ann, grocer, &c., High
 street
 Morgan Ann, dressmaker and shopkeeper,
 East end
 Morgan David, butcher and beer retailer,
 High street
 Morgan Davies, carpenter, High street
 Morgan Mary, shopkeeper, Llanblethian
 Morgan Miles, Bush inn, and coal dealer,
 High street
 Morgan Morgan, beer retailer
 Morgan Morgan, shoemaker, High street
 Morgan Thomas, Cowbridge Arms, and
 butcher, High street
 Morgan William, butcher, Llanblethian
 Morgan William, banker's clerk, and agent
 to the Western Counties, and London
 Mutual Life, Provincial, and Accidental
 Death insurance companies, High street
 Morris Richard, confectioner, East end
 Mustoe Elizabeth, boot and shoemaker
 Nicholas Edward, farmer, Llanblethian
 Nicholas Thomas, builder and contractor,
 slate and timber merchant, East bridge
 Ormanby Miss, Bear family & commercial
 inn, High street
 Parker Thomas, farmer, Llanblethian
 Parsons John, grocer and tallow chandler,
 agent to the Sun Fire office and Eagle
 Life office, High street
 Parsons Thomas John, grocer, &c., secre-
 tary to Gas Company, East end
 Perkins William, barber, High street
 Phillips John Watkin, surgeon
 Preece William, blacksmith, High street
 Pritchard Thos., seedsman, Llanblethian
 Rees David, draper, &c., East end
 Rees Thomas, law clerk, East end
 Reynolds James, tailor, draper, and auc-
 tioneer, agent to the Minerva Life, and
 Lancashire Fire and Life Insurance
 company, East end
 Richards John, farmer, Llanblethian
 Roberts William, tinman
 Stibbs Robert, confectioner, High street
 Stibbs William, confectioner
 Stockwood John, solicitor, and clerk to
 magistrates of the borough, the hundred

of Cowbridge, and division of Miskin Lower town clerk, clerk to commissioners of taxes, solicitor and secretary to Cowbridge Railway Company, to the highway board, and Gas Company; commissioner for taking deeds of acknowledgment by married women, to administer oaths in Chancery and all the common law courts; agent for Norwich Union Fire and Life office, High street
 Thomas David, general draper & milliner, High street
 Thomas David, Duke of Wellington inn, High street
 Thomas David, shoemaker, West end
 Thomas Edward, beer retailer, West end
 Thomas John, borough treasurer, auctioneer, appraiser, and land agent, agent to the West of England Fire and Life office, licensed to let post horses, frys, mourning coaches, &c., &c., High street; and at Bridgend
 Thomas John, King's Head inn, and carpenter, Llanblethian
 Thomas John, beer retailer, East end, Crown inn
 Thomas John, dispensing chemist, High st.

Thomas T. Treharn, agricultural implement depot, High st., and at Bridgend
 Thomas William, miller and maltster, agent to the Artificial Manure Company, Town mill, Llanblethian
 Thomas Wm., Nag's Head inn, West end
 Thomas William Henry, Greyhound inn
 Tilley Wm., grocer and coach builder
 Turbervill Mrs. Jane, beer retailer, East end
 Warren Elizabeth, painter and decorator
 Warren Solomon, beer retailer, Bridge st.
 Williams David, Royal Oak, High street
 Williams Jenkin, plasterer
 Williams Mrs., General Picton inn, Llanblethian
 Williams John, maltster, High street
 Williams John, butcher, East end
 Williams Mrs., register office for servants, East end
 Williams Rees, shopkeeper, East end
 Williams T., tailor and draper, East end
 Williams Thomas, baker and flour dealer, High street
 Williams Thomas, shoemaker, High street
 Williams Thomas, woollen manufacturer, East end
 Williams William, baker

COYCHURCH, a parish and village, 3 miles from Bridgend and 2 from the Pencoed station on the South Wales Railway, is in the Bridgend and Cowbridge union and county-court district, diocese and archdeaconry of Llandaff, and deanery of Lower Gro-Neath Western division. The parish is divided for parochial purposes into 3 districts. The church is a cruciform edifice, with tower. It consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and transepts. In the chancel are some neat monuments to the memory of the Thomas family. In the churchyard are two very ancient crosses. The living is a rectory, with the chapelry of Peterstone-super-Montem annexed, in the patronage of the Countess of Dunraven: annual value, £481; the Rev. Charles Llewellyn is the rector. The population in 1861 was 611.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.—Daniel Jones, postmaster. Letters arrive from Bridgend at 7 a.m.; dispatched at 5.30 p.m. Bridgend is the nearest money-order office and its post town.

Griffiths William, Esq.
 Llewellyn Rev. Charles, The Rectory
 Phillips, The Misses
COMMERCIAL.
 David Edward, farmer
 David Sarah, shopkeeper
 David Thomas, wheelwright
 David William, farmer
 Hopkin Edward, farmer
 James William, farmer
 Jenkins Thomas, farmer, Coedmwstwr
 John Thomas, tailor
 Jones Edward, shoemaker

Lewis William, farmer
 Matthews Thomas, Prince of Wales inn
 Morgan William, farmer
 Owen David, farmer
 Phillips William, farmer
 Richard William, shopkeeper
 Thomas Thomas, Lamb & Flag inn, and smith
 Thomas William, farmer
 Thomas William, White Horse inn
 Thomas William Edward, farmer
 Watkin David, farmer
 Watkin David, shoemaker