

"Daw a phob daioni."—(God and all goodness.)

CHAIR OF GLAMORGAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Second Anniversary of the Cymreigyddion Society was held at Cowbridge, on the 1st inst. (St. David's Day), the Rev. W. Williams, D.D., Master of the Free School, President. The members of the Society met at ten o'clock at the Masons' Arms, and with the Rev. President, Rev. David Morgan, Vicar of Llancaiwan, Rev. John Powell, and E. Ballard, Esq., Bailiff of the Town, walked from thence in procession to the Church, where the Rev. John Powell read the service in Welsh. A hymn was given by Mr. J. Reynolds, a Wesleyan preacher, who creditably officiated as clerk on the occasion. It is pleasant to see Ministers of different denominations together with their members join in song in the Established Church among several of their Ministers. Union thus among brethren is not a small blessing accompanying the Welsh Societies. The Rev. David Morgan preached in the Ancient British language from Prov. iv. 7.—"Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding." The Rev. Preacher, in explaining the nature of the present meeting, as a patriotic Welshman, spoke eloquently of the Welsh Societies as beneficial institutions in our land; as knowledge is increasing, blinded prejudice must fall before its mighty power. The service was concluded by signing another hymn in the same language. The party then proceeded to the Town-Hall; but owing to the great number of persons present, it was difficult to enter for some time. The Hall was decorated with laurel, &c., and the Bardic Chair also beautifully ornamented. Amongst the harpers on the table before the Rev. President was one who greatly attracted the notice of the crowded assembly, a child not nine years old, with his harp. After the Rev. President had thanked the Rev. David Morgan for his excellent sermon, Miss John, "Bronfraith" (Thrush), sang most sweetly to the great satisfaction of all present. We were glad to see Morfydd Glan Taf, but disappointed in not hearing the melody of her voice, being unable by cold to take part in the performances of the day. We should have been proud of the presence of "Eos" (Nightingale) Mr. Evan David (Iwan Myr Uch Celli), an Independent Preacher, and one of our last year's judges, and Mr. Eli Evans (Eli Cwm Ifor), the present Judge, then related their stanzas. The Rev. President thanked Miss Williams, eldest daughter of the late famed Welsh Bard Mr. Edw. Williams, of Flemingstone (the venerable Iolo Morganwg), for her curious work in decorating the Bardic Chair for the day. Mr. Evan David then delivered an excellent Welsh speech on the supereminence of Glamorgan in formerly possessing the most eminent men as Warriors, Bards, and Public Teachers, as well as being honoured in having the first Christian College, and very probably the landing of the gospel at its introduction to Great Britain. Dr. Williams thanked him and Mr. J. Reynolds (who followed in English) for their warm and suitable addresses.

After the Rev. President read the 1st subject in English and Welsh, one of the deputed judges of the literary compositions, Mr. E. Evans, read his and Mr. Benjamin Bowen's (Meudwy Glan Taf) decision, and called the successful candidate by his feigned name. Thus was it continued throughout the whole of the subjects.

No. 1. By the Rev. Dr. Williams, of the Free School.—For the best Stanzas, from ten to fifteen, on the Lighthouses on the brink of the Severn Sea, in the parish of Marcross, to light vessels on their voyage. Five compositions were received on this excellent subject. "Ymdeithydd" (Traveller), one of our last year's judges, Mr. John Howells, of Langrall, was awarded one guinea, and Williams' Doom of Colyn Dolphin, was given to "Morwr" (Seaman), Mr. Edw. Williams, of Cowbridge, Iolo Fardd Glas, for the second best.

No. 2. By the Rev. T. Edmondson, M.A., Vicar of Llanblethian.—For the best Treatise on the Castle and Parish of Llanblethian, together with the superior advantages the present generation possess over their ancestors in the time of the Norman Knights. Two compositions. "Caradaw" was called. Mr. Morgan Rhys, the successful candidate on the History of Cowbridge last year, received one guinea, and the Rev. E. Thomas, Baptist Minister of Cowbridge, 5s.

[May we beg here to remind all Welsh Societies not to forget having annually as an historical subject one of their neighbouring parishes, for by so doing we shall in a few years possess great assistance for an excellent history of each county in the Principality.]

No. 3. By the Rev. O. Jenkins, B. D.—For the best twelve Stanzas on Margan new House. Three compositions. "Ancorin," Iolo Fardd Glas, Bard of the Society, received One Guinea; Five Shillings between Mr. E. David and Mr. Thomas Arnott, of Lisworney.

No. 4. By the Rev. J. Powell.—For the best Poem of thanks in the name of the poor of the parishes of Cowbridge, Llanblethian, and Welsh St. Donatts, for a piece of ground presented by Major Edmondson, Mayor of the town of Cowbridge, towards building a National School, called "Victoria"; the foundation stone being laid on the day of her Majesty's proclamation. Four compositions. "Ymwelwr" (Visitor), Mr. J. Howells, received One Guinea, whose excellent Poem was read by Mr. Howells, to the great satisfaction of the numerous audience. Five Shillings to "Lupus," Iolo Fardd Glas.

No. 5. By the Young Gentlemen of the Free School.—For the best twenty Stanzas on the history of St. Illutus, and the removing of his school from Lantwit Major to Cowbridge. Three compositions. "Garmon" (Iolo Fardd Glas), received 25s "Gwyddon Ganhebon," Mr. Evan David, 5s. Both were highly praised for their industry in collecting their rare and numerous notes.

No. 6. By Hfnyd Nicholl, Esq., Usk.—For the best Treatise on the Utility of Public Institutions that have a tendency to enlighten the mind, and moralize the country. Four very excellent compositions. "Iwan" Mr. J. Howells, received One Guinea; "Hywel Dda" (Howel the Good) Mr. W. Lewis, 5s.

No. 7. By J. Thomas, Esq., Caerodi.—For the best Song, six verses, describing the beauties of the scenery of Glamorgan. Tune, "Gwel yr Adeilad." Four compositions. "Morgeinwr" (Glamorganian), Iolo Fardd Glas, and "Rhoddianwr" (Ambulator), Mr. Thomas Williams being equal in merit, the first and second were divided between both (25s.).

No. 8. By Taliesin Tudor ap Gwilym, of Brighton.—For the best Ode on the Death of our late beloved Majesty, King William the Fourth. Two compositions—one not meritorious. The first and second were awarded to "Llywarch" Iolo Fardd Glas, Harris's Prize Essay, Mammon, and 10s., and Harris's Christian Citizen.

No. 9. By Mr. Thomas Donne, of Brighton.—For the best Song on the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Victoria to the Throne of Great Britain. Tune, "Monday Morning." Four compositions. "Brutwn" (A Briton), Iolo Fardd Glas. It was the same respected Bard gained the second-best Ode at Cardiff Eisteddfod, 1834, on the Princess Victoria. He was awarded "Rees's Prize Essay on the Welsh Saints" & 10s. Near a thousand years back the Chair of Glamorgan was noticed by the Royal Family; no wonder the spirit of gratitude remains, and excels in song here; the illustrious Alfred the Great, by example and encouragement, used his utmost endeavours to excite a love for letters among his subjects, sent to the Chair of Glamorgan for the learned Welshman, Geraint Fardd Glas, to be one of the principal professors at Oxford. Second-best, "Williams' Doom of Colyn Dolphin" was awarded to "Caw Bach," Mr. Richard Owen (Ael Haiarn Hir, Llanfachraeth, near Holyhead, Anglesey). He being not present, the prize was, according to the rules of the society, awarded to the next best (a Southwalian again), the Rev. E. Thomas.

No. 10. By Hadassah, a Jewess.—For the best Treatise on the Curse of Infidelity and rejecting the New Testament, together with the innumerable blessings of receiving and retaining the Holy Volume, exemplified in the two nations, the Jews and Britons. Two compositions. "Bedu Bach," Mr. J. Howells's Treatise contains some excellent observations on the subject; but "Cristion" (a Christian), Rev. E. Thomas, was awarded "Harris's Great Teacher."

No. 11. For the best Stanzas to our benevolent countryman, Daniel Jones, Esq., of New Beaupre, for his munificence towards the poor of Monmouth and Glamorgan, in the building of Cardiff Infirmary. Five compositions. "Chwanog i Grwstyn" (Desirous of a Crust), Iolo Fardd Glas was awarded "Price's History of Wales," 5s. to Mr. Thomas Arnott.

No. 12. For the best Treatise on the Duty of the Poor, as well as the Rich, to exert their power in preserving and protecting unfortunate Sailors and property when wrecked. Five compositions. "Philo-Morganwg," Mr. William Lewis, Aberdare, was awarded 1l.; "Gwladwr" (Countryman), Mr. J. Howells, and "Cyfaill y Morwr" (Mariners' Friend), Rev. E. Thomas, were both considered very good, "Williams' Doom of Colyn Dolphin" between both.

No. 13. For the best collection of Moral Songs to any tunes, to be sung at Welsh Societies, and Anniversaries. Three compositions. "Blagurwr Glan Taf" (Branch of Taff Vale), Mr. Bassett Jones, of Cardiff, the eminent maker of Welsh Harps, was awarded 1l. and 10s. to "Diwyd" (Industrious), Mr. Thomas Arnott.

No. 14. For the best Catalogue of printed Welsh Books. Two compositions. "Cyw'r Eryr" (Eagle's Chick), W. Bowen, a school-boy of the town, twelve years of age, and "Owen Glyndwr" Mr. M. Rhys, the successful candidate on history this and last year. Although the keen-eyed eagle was short of 93 to the number of the great and successful Owain, yet his new and excellent method of arranging a Welsh catalogue, fixed him side and side with Cowbridge champion before the President. The first and second was divided between both (15s.)

[As a good general Welsh catalogue is very desirable, should the booksellers in the Principality, Liverpool, the Metropolis, &c. send their catalogues free of expence, to the Secretary of this Society, the whole will be arranged on a new plan, which, no doubt, will be found very useful.]

No. 15. For the best Catalogue of Printed Books in other languages which refer to Wales. Two compositions. "Matho Dew," Mr. Morgan Rhys, received the second 5s.; but the first was awarded to another scholar in the town, "Eryr," (Eagle), John Evans; the Eagle being more industrious and methodical, gained the first 10s.

[A good catalogue of this sort could be easily completed by the assistance of a few Antiquarian Gentlemen, who possess many books on the subject.]

No. 16. For the best Treatise of Thanks to Almighty God for the slight visitation in the Principality, compared with other places, of the late pestilence, the Cholera Morbus and the Influenza. Two good compositions. "Diolchdyd" (Thankful), Rev. J. Thomas, received the Welsh Bible, "Cristion" (A Christian) Mr. J. Howells, a Daoglott Testament. This industrious travelling Christian received the first and last prize.

The Rev. President thanked the Judges for their decision, which was returned by Mr. Eli Evans.

Capt. Savours, and E. Bates, Esq., in the absence of Whitlock Nicholl, Esq., were chosen judges of the singing and music.

No. 17. For the best Male Singer with the Harp, according to the custom of Gwent and Morganwg, 10s. was awarded to Mr. Robert Williams, of Llancaiwan, the successful candidate last year; the second best, 5s., to Mr. Richard John, of Landough; third best to Mr. John Roberts, of Aberdare, 2s. 6d.

No. 18. For the best Female Singer with the Harp. As there was no one to compete with "Bronfraith" (Thrush), the 10s. was received by her; also 30s. more was given between her and Morfydd Glan Taf.

No. 19. To the best Harper, by the following Gentlemen:—Captain Savours 1l. 1s., John Bevans, Esq. 1l. 1s., Whitlock Nicholl, Esq. 1l. 1s., was awarded to Mr. D. Davies, of Gellygaer; 25s. was given to Mr. G. Griffiths, of Cardiff, and Master William Penry Williams, of Swansea, whose performance also gave great delight.

ranked the Harpers and Judges; and half of the meeting, returned thanks to poets and prizes and who took an interest also gave notice, that it was the intention forsedd, on their 3d Anniversary, which, ing yearly at the same time, is fixed to a future, being one of the regular times [In 1681, a Gorsedd was patronized in Sir Richard Bassett, of Old Beaupre, at lasted three days.] Mr. R. also, in behalf sincere thanks to the highly-respected izing the Society as President. Before proposal of Edward Ballard, Esq. three ous cheering was given to the worthy sent.

friendly party proceeded to the Masons' at dinner was provided by Mrs. Howe, which was previously decorated with and the Bardic Chair placed for the Rev. the table, where several Clergymen and ad neighbourhood were present. After the Rev. President expressed his best y of the Society. Several Welsh and ed with the harp, was sung in the course "Bronfraith" (Thrush) and Mr. John . Evan David also gave general grati- rare and curious old Welsh Wooden lbery; Beirdd," or Stave of the Bardic ch characters; the letters were pre- scribed by Montfaucon, in his Pa- ment which commemorated an event 1 years before Christ. Several gentle- neighbourhood entered their names on members.

cond Anniversary of the Chair of Glas- ed in interest that of last year, and sent. The subjects for last year were pen. Three compositions on an average subject, many of them very excellent. re very numerous and respectable, and e will thus increase yearly, it must be se a new room must be built in the town pose.

u have subscribed for the ensuing an- Williams, Free School, 1l. 1s.; John 2s.; John Bruce Price, Esq., Dulrym, sq., Lanharran, 2l.; the Young Gentle- 2l. 15s.; Mr. Rhys Jenkins, London, l, Esq., Adam's Down, 1l.; Rev. David arvan, 1l. 1s.; Rev. John Williams, s.; Mr. E. Ballard, 10s.; Mr. J. Wil- John Davies, to begin a subscription wbridge, 5s

remiums will appear in a short time in and gentlemen who intend to give me- ve not fixed on their subjects, would do the whole may appear at once.

To the EDITOR of The CAMBRIAN.

SIR,—The following is at your service, being the substance of a Welsh address, delivered in the Town-Hall of Cowbridge, on the morning of St. David's-day last, at the 2d Anniversary of the Chair of Glamorgan Cymreigyddion Society, before the Rev. Dr. Williams, of the Freeschool, President, and a numerous and respectable assembly, by Mr. Evan Davies (Iuan Myfyr Uwch Celli), a respected Welsh bard of the *Earl's Land*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DWN MORGANWG.

Chair of Glamorgan, 23d April, 1838.

Reverend President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Though not considering myself prepared to address such a respectable and numerous assembly as have honoured our Anniversary, yet, by the request of our Rev. President, I cannot but comply.

It affords me the greatest pleasure in being present at the celebration of the Second Anniversary of the Cymreigyddion Society of Cowbridge, beholding evident signs beaming from every corner of the Hall, bespeaking the rapid increase of the good and interesting work. With such a prospect, what member of the society, what warm-hearted Welsh patriot present at such a time, can but acknowledge the worthiness of our dignified President, from the reflection thrown on this praiseworthy cause by his presidency last year, and the impulse he has given to its increase and prosperity.

With delight and gratification, we are at present permitted to see gentlemen and men of influence advancing to protect and encourage the operations and intentions of our society. Who by viewing this can doubt but what the Anniversary of the Cymreigyddion of Cowbridge, in Glamorganshire, will be celebrated with as much pomp, profit, and pleasure, as the Anniversary of the Cymreigyddion of Abergavenny, in Monmouthshire; and why not? Are the people of Glamorganshire inferior in power, gift, and learning? Do they not possess as much zeal for the increase of useful knowledge for the ancient and amusing good customs of their forefathers, yes, and for the means that so effectually nourisheth *national unity and the spirit of patriotism*? I confidently affirm they do, if excited; when once the ice is broken, and the wheel put in motion.

Abergavenny Society, in its infancy, was but weak and small, but when the influential part of the neighbourhood beheld their good tendency, they advanced and supported them with all their might, and now it is an object of wonder, like a great lamp in Wales, the rays of its virtues are beaming over England and France.

Cowbridge Society is established in an advantageous place, a town of learning, the foundation of learning, since past ages flow here. In this town and vicinity are many powerful in gift, knowledge, and goodness, who can contribute to the cause; a society established in the centre of Glamorgan, so famed in past ages for learning and nourishing the children of song; Glamorgan still possesses a sufficiency to supply this lamp of Cowbridge, so that its rays may illumine the utmost ends of Europe.

The Rev. Chancellor Knight, at the splendid Eisteddfod at Cardiff, said, that Glamorgan had been the most renowned part of Wales to cherish learning and religious devotion. The numerous remains of stones of covenants, and bardic seats, which remain in the Vale of Worship, in the parish of St. Nicholas, are proofs that at a very early period the men of Glamorgan followed this way. Let us think of every thing honourable and renowned, pertaining to our ancestors; if we search diligently, we shall find they held some communion with the Vale of Glamorgan. Who were the bravest that the Romans met in Britain? Was it not the heroic Silurians, the inhabitants of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire? Who was at that time the strongest and most valiant of the Princes of our isle, that heaped so many bloody carnages among their legions, as the Latin historians and Welsh Triads inform us, with so much fame? Was it not the immortal Caractacus of Dunraven? Where did the Gospel first appear in our isle, and the northern countries? Was it not in this vale with our countryman and Golden Chain, Prince Bran the Blessed? Where was the first Christian Academy opened? In Lantwit-Major, called Tewdws? Was it not in the Vale of Glamorgan the chief Academy of Great Britain remained above 700 years? Yes, the principal College for all who professed the Christian faith; where the sons of Kings and Princes from all parts of Christendom flocked to be educated. And Bangor Illtyd was in this vale. There Taliesin, the chief bard, was educated; and Talhaiarn, the great bard; and Gildas or Aneurin, of the Golden Wood; yea, and the Welshman St. David, in respect of whom our Anniversary is held on this day. Also, one of the good and wise men of Glamorgan was the Titular Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, who was the first public Christian teacher in its vale on record. How brilliant, for many ages, was the *Academy of Llaniothin*, in this vale, where Dyfrig and Catwg the Wise were as lights of the first magnitude; and only naming Bangar, Teilo, and Landaff, and the famous Gorsedd and Bardic Chair that was there in the time of Geraint Fardd Glâs.

Let us not also forget the *Earl's Land*, which was situated in the centre of Glamorgan, between Ogmore and Neath, a wapentake of the great plain, that fruitful garden for bards and teachers in ancient days, where was held in perfect accordance the chief Chair and Gorsedd of science, customs, and privileges of the ancient bards of the Isle of Britain, and the bards of the *Earl's Land*, as recorded in an old MS., were esteemed above all the bards of Wales; there was David Nanmor, who was considered the best harmonizer by cononyancy in Wales; and Gwilym Tew, the best antiquarian; and Llawdden, the chaired bard in the great Eisteddfod at Carmarthen, held in King Henry the 4th's time, who was there rewarded with a golden axe for his improvements in Welsh harmonies, which were so effectual as not to require a second revision; Lewis Morganwg, Talhaiarn the great poet, and Iuan the Great son of Dewlith, Rhys Goch, Dafydd Ddu, David the grey-headed teacher, Iorwerth Fynglywd, Iuan Strydwal, Einion the Minister, and the Golden-tongue Edeyrn, were all bards of the *Earl's Land*; and several others renowned dwelt there; it was there the rules of the bardic mysteries were composed, and there the ancient Chair of the primitive bards of Great Britain is fallen to ruin, and has not been since erected, except in the Chair of Glamorgan, at Cowbridge, which I affirm to be, if distinguished as the Bardic Chair of Glamorgan.

Again, where was it till lately we were indebted for the best Antiquarian in the whole world? Was it not to the Vale of Glamorgan, in the person of the immortal Iolo Morganwg, whose son now sits the Chaired Bard of Wales, since the Eisteddfod at Cardiff. As Glamorgan is so prolific a garden for the sons of the muse, who can predict what the consequence and renown may be to a society of Cymreigyddion established in the centre of so fruitful a province as this? May they continue to increase—may they have universal encouragement—may the heart of Glamorgan continue to pulsate and force the spirit of the muse through all her wapentakes, from sea to mountain,—and the scholars of the Freeschool in this place (the flowers of our country and our hope for future times), may they be magnified by her, that wherever they go, they may possess the attraction of the Welshman's spirit.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these institutions deserve the protection and support of all the gentlemen and plebeians that love their country and kindred. What means more effectual to cause our language to be cherished and meliorated (through which only knowledge is imparted to thousands, to neglect which would be to incline our kindred back to barbarism), what means so powerful to agitate life and desire in men to seek for knowledge, and labour in knowledge, and to advance those possessed with talents to be honoured and rewarded according to their merit, yea, what means so effectual to nourish *friendship and national unity, and patriotic spirit*? In this assembly we have different members of our kindred; through the country, whatever difference existed between them in religion or politics, *meeting as Welshmen*, all angry feelings and debates are forgotten; they are, as if agitated by the same heart to carry on this work, and with delight join in the amusing customs of their forefathers, nobility and other grades of society meeting in the same patriotic assembly; our nobles are charmed and surprised by the masterly and fortunate performance of the lower classes, so as to induce them to magnify them; and the lower orders of society are induced to love, honour, and esteem the good and great of our country. These kind of meetings are of very ancient origin among the Welsh; we find they existed in the time of Dynwawl Moelmad, twenty two centuries back, and in all ages they have been as birth and life, causing the heart of patriotism to beat warm in the bosom of Wales; and what greater blessing in a country than patriotism? It is prosperity, happiness, honour, and the crown of government. This is her strength, that unites her children, and makes them brave to keep away the foe, as the Welshmen's enemies have often found it to their sorrow; for which reason their enemies attempted several times to destroy the Bards, as they were aware that by their enchanting verse, the patriots of the nation were united heart to heart, and from their unfeigned love to their country their matchless bravery sprang, and their unchangeable determination to protect their country and possessions.

Why have Welshmen the same land to tread as they had some thousand years past, and their nation still a nation? While the nations of the continent have been scattered, why is their language still living, and the languages of Greece and Rome are dead? Why doth their old national customs continue in spite of the torrent of changes in time? These may be imputed to their unfeigned love for their country surpassing all. From where did the flame of *patriotic Welsh spirit* have its support to weather so many storm and tempests of past ages? It was the oil of muses which flowed from the bardic assemblies in these meetings. The bosom of every sensitive Welshman is not only moved to love his kindred, their learning, language, and the good customs of their

forefathers, but every thing that is Welsh, even the earth they stood on in Wales, yea, they are charmed in these meetings not only to love the fruitful hills and valleys in the land of their ancestors, but they feel a sacred love for her barest mountains and wildest rocks, her stones of covenants, and most barren moants.

I shall now conclude, thanking you for your attention, and the hearty reception given to that which you have heard, quoting the Welsh proverb, "Hateful is the man that loveth not the land of his nativity."