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The Council of the Society respectfully request Donations of any objects of interest relating to the County, especially Books, Prints, Drawings, Coins, Specimens illustrating the Archaeology, Botany, Zoology, and Geology of the County, &c., &c., for deposit in the Museum.

All Donations will be acknowledged in the *Transactions* of the Society.

THE ORDERS OF THE CORPORATION OF  
SHREWSBURY, 1511—1735.

THE Extracts from the Orders of the Corporation of Shrewsbury, here reprinted, were written in a quarto book, by Godolphin Edwards, Esq., Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1729, son of Samuel Edwards, Esq., and grandson of John Edwards, Esq., of Pentre, Montgomeryshire, admitted a burgess 30th May, 1729. His arms were *G*. a falcon proper preying on a martlet, *A.*, a border engrailed *O*.

The Orders, &c., in *Phillips's Shrewsbury*, pp. 168-172, appear to have been selected from this book.

Owing to want of care the book is much mildewed and perished, and some pages were copied with difficulty. The first part is not arranged in proper order, having been extracted by Mr. Edwards from different books, but it is printed exactly in the order found in his MSS.

H. W. ADNITT.

- Liber G.      HENRY 8. A° 3. 1512.  
*Recorder*      That Geo. Bromley have a grant under the Common Seal of a Fee of 1*l*l**. 6*s*. & 8*d*. as Recorder & that his former grant be resumed.
- Parlt. Mem.*      Mem. that Thos Kynaston & Thos Trentham Jun. Burgesses in Parl<sup>t</sup> set out thither the last of January & returned the 4<sup>th</sup> of March & had each in Fees for 65 Days 6*l*l**. 10*s*. 0.
- Companies.*      Companies who appear'd viz. Pannarii Merceri Bariani Tonsores Cordwaynarii Sissores, Ciro-tecarii Tixtores Barbitonsores.
- HENRY VIII. A° 4. 1513.  
*Liberties.*      That the Charter be pleaded for discharging the foreyn Franchise of 15<sup>th</sup>s & 10<sup>th</sup>s.

## HENRY VIII. A° 5. 1514.

*Watch & Ward.* Order taken for keeping Watch in Town and an Alderman & three Assistants appointed to oversee each Ward.

*Courts.* The Extracts of the small Courts to be levied quarterly and of the great Courts one before another is held.

*Companies.* Companies who appeared—viz. Pannarii Merceri Sherman, Carpenters & Tylers, Glovers, Taylers Corvisers, Sadlers, Smiths, Fletchers & Bowyers, Wevers Barkers, Barbers, Bakers.

## Liber H. HENRY VIII. A° 6. 1515.

*Aldermen.* Aldermen either non resident or disabled: not attending the service of the House to be removed.

*Company.* Order concerning the Carpenter Company.

*Members of Parl<sup>t</sup>.* Agreed at the Instance of the Kings Letters to elect the same Members of Parl<sup>t</sup> as were last chosen.

## HENRY VIII. A° 7. 1516.

*Alderman.* Ric Pursell elected Alderman in room of Ric Lister displaced for not residing in Town.

*Steward.* That Tho Coupper have a grant under the seal of the office of Steward, during pleasure without any Fee.

*Qn. Elizabeth Com.* That for the Birth of a Princess be made a Thanksgiving this night in St Marys Church with all the Choirs of the Town.<sup>1</sup>

## HENRY VIII. A° 8. 1517.

*Pound.* The Fees of the Keeper of the Pound settled.

*Aldermen.* Two Aldermen displaced one for not inhabiting in Town, the other for not keeping House but only being a boarder.

*House-Meetings.* That no matters be proposed to the Common Councell nor the Common Hall till first concluded on by the Bailiff & Aldermen.

<sup>1</sup> This entry, if correct, must certainly be under the wrong year. Queen Elizabeth was born 1533. Phillips, in his *History of Shrewsbury*, prints it 1516 without note. It probably refers to Queen Mary, who was born 1516.

## HENRY VIII. A° 10. 1519.

- Bailiffs.* Order for Punishment of disrespect to the Bailiffs and the Members of the House,  
*Tensors.* Tensors selling Ale to pay 6<sup>d</sup>. a quarter.  
*Wardens.* Wardens of Companies Gardiani Parnasiorum &c.

## HENRY VIII. A° 11. 1520.

- Members of Parlt.* Persons tho. not of any Company to be assessed to Members of Parliaments Wages.  
*Companies.* Difference in the Companies discussed, and they to keep processions & due order according to the usage of the Town.  
*Aldermen.* Alderman elected in the Exchequer.  
*Burgess.* The son of a person deprived of his Burgesship claiming that right as born before his Father's deprivation was by the House given in his Favor on Exam<sup>n</sup> of Witnesses.  
*Bakers.* Order taken by the Bailiffs & Aldermen only for regulating the Bakers in making Loafs & Horse (Qy. House) Bread.  
*Brewers.* The like as to the Brewers & they not to use Hops under pain of 6s. 8d.  
*Butchers.* The Butchers to produce their composition.  
*Alesellers.* Alesellers to be Burgesses, or pay 6<sup>d</sup>. per quarter they to be licensed first & to sell at 2<sup>d</sup>. per gallon in seal'd measures.  
*Burgesses.* Wardens to enquire who of their companies have a mind to be Burgesses & present their names to the Bailiffs.  
*Friery.* The wardens of the Friers Minors to have ten marks to the repair of their House.  
*Company.* Order touching the Carpenters & Tylers.  
*Assistants.* Assistants agree to stand to the Order of the Bailiffs & Aldermen in the Elections of Members of their Body.  
*Burgesses.* That all Inhabitants of the Town and Suburbs of good and honest conversation may be admitted Burgesses by the Bailiffs & six men paying a suitable sum to the Town, if the Common Hall shall consent thereto.  
*Assistants.* Order of Aldermen touching the election of Assistants.  
*Watch & Ward.* That an assistant with four other persons watch every night in each ward.

That every Alderman provide himself with compleat Arms for two Men & every Assistant for one Man.

*Drapers.* The Pannarii (Drapers) to appear and answer some Matters to the Corporation like other companies.

*Liber I.<sup>1</sup>*  
*Coton Hill.* That the way above Coton Hill is not damaged by the Common wear but by the rain water running down the said Hill. (18<sup>o</sup> 1527)

*Liberties.* Whoever claims Privilege under the Charters of the Town to plead the same at his own charge.

*Bakers.* Country Bakers to sell bread in the Town. (19<sup>o</sup> 1528)

*Burgesses.* The Commons to be assembled and moved to make Burgesses. (20<sup>o</sup> 1529)

*Meryvale.* An Assistant dwelling in Myryvale awarded to be out of the liberty of the Town, surrenders his place. (21<sup>o</sup> 1530)

*Town Hall.* A new Both Hall ordered to be made. (22<sup>o</sup> 1531)

*Vintners.* The Vintners not to sell Malmsyes ab<sup>v</sup>o 15<sup>d</sup> per gallon & other sweet wines 12<sup>d</sup>.

*Butchers.* Order about Butchers & retailers of Candles.

*Burgess.* Burgess degraded for perjury.

*Aldermen & Aldermen & Benchers.* to be on no inquest but for the title of Land. (23<sup>o</sup> 1532)

*Liber F.* HEN 8. A<sup>o</sup> 11. 1520.

*Burgess.* Agreed that no Burgess shall have a vote in the Comon Hall that is not resident and contributing to all Assessments.

*Butchers.* That the Butchers have a shop assigned by the Bailiffs & Councill.

*Abbey Foregate.* That no Freemen living without the stone gate in the Stoneward do keep any of his goods without the said gate.

*Mills.* That a Common Mill or Mills be provided.

*Kingsland.* That the common pasture of Kingsland be set for three years at 3*li.* per an.

*Fleshboard.* That the arrearages of the Rent of the Fleshboard be put into the common Treasury. (22<sup>o</sup> 1531)

*Mills upon Severn.* That a new Mill or Mills for the towns use & profit be provided when it shall be

<sup>1</sup> The Orders do not run in consecutive order as to dates, but are printed as written, with the years in parentheses added,

thought necessary upon the river of Severn, and that there shall be elected as many honest burgesses residents to be admitted before Monday night next ensuing without any fees to the Sessions but to the profit of the towne. (25° 1534)

*Mills.* N.B. Accordingly nineteen burgesses were made and the sum of 44*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* was paid by them. The new Mill set for 24 years at 7*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per an. rent the tenant to keep the Mill & the stank in repair, the burgesses to send all their grain thither to be ground and in scarcity of water their grain to be ground first. (27° 1536)

*Liber S.* *Stonbridge.* Agreed that for reparation of Stonbridge about the Bulringhe that the Bailiff enow the Abbot of Salop's minde therein. (24° 1533)

*Entertainmt.* Agreed to provide an hogshead of wine, 4 lambs & 12 capons for the Kings Commissioners at the Abbey of St. Peter Salop. (26° 1535)

*Market, Mills, Fishing.* That the Bailiffs and six men have the ordering of the common market keeper, of the keeper and profit of the Mills and the ordering of the fishing.

*Alesellers.* That no one sell ale of the best sort above 1<sup>d</sup> per gallon and of the meaner sort above a farthing.

*Fines of Compts.* Agreed for reformation of fines of Crafts to call for compositions of all occupations of the Towne & to order the fines reasonable. (27° 1536)

*Wast Ground.* That suit be made to Parliament for the Town to enjoy all void Grounds which the Owners will not build upon.

*County Gaol.* That from henceforth the Sheriffs of Salop shall have their Gaol within the Town.

*Butchers.* That the Bailiffs call the Butchers before them to know whether they will be content to serve the town of flesh, beef & pork for 1<sup>d</sup> per pound and mutton & veal at  $\frac{1}{4}$  and half farthing a pound or else they will find other persons.

*Austin Fryers.* Ric<sup>d</sup> Alane Prior of the Frere Austins committed for making spoil there. (28° 1537)

*Kingsland.* That Mr. Bailiffs set Kingsland to plow for the most profit of the town. (30° 1539)

- Fleshboard.* That the King's Board in the Fish Street shall be enlarged and made larger.
- Severn.* That no Floats be permitted to shute the Bridges.
- Abbey.* Agreed that there be suit made to the King & his Counsell by mediation of my L<sup>d</sup> President that the Abbey may stand & remain to receive the Prince His Grace or any other nobility of the realm that shall resort to this Town, and also concerning the Franchises called the Abbey Franchises in manner and form as the same is now used to be had & obtained to this towne to be used as the other Suburbs be. (81<sup>o</sup> 1540)
- Oswestry.* Items for a stay to be made of the Incorporation which the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Oswestry sue for.
- Liber K.*
- Brewers.* That the Brewers sell the best ale at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. pr gallon. (12<sup>o</sup> 1521)
- Coton Hill.* That the way over Coton Hill be made through the land of John Stury, & if the Judges say 'tis not his right to find the same, that he be paid for it. (13<sup>o</sup> 1522)
- Companies.* Companies appearing Cordewaynani, Barbiton-sores, Baikers, Taylors, Weavers, Mercers, Butchers, Carpenters & Fletchers, Drapers, Sherman, Glovers, Sadlers, Smiths. (14<sup>o</sup> 1523)
- No Welchman to be made Burgess.* That no Welchman born be made a Burgess.
- Bell rung at 4 in the Morning.* That the Clerk of St. Alkmond have 40<sup>d</sup> per half year for ringing the watch Bell at 4 in the Morning.<sup>1</sup>
- Entertainmt at Christmas.* That the Breakfasts made by the Bailiffs on Christmas day between Mattins & High Mass be no longer used for diverse considerations & misorder that hath ensued by reason of the same.<sup>2</sup> (15<sup>o</sup> 1524)
- ELIZABETH. 26<sup>th</sup> 1585.
- Stone Quarry in the Quarrel.* Agreed that the Quarry of Stone being in the Water Quarrell, behind the

<sup>1</sup> Phillips has this date 1536.

<sup>2</sup> No further Orders are given until 26th Eliz.

walls shall be reserved for the sole use of the Corporation.

*Sealing of Cloth.* The Towns title to the form of the Alnage for the sealing of the Cloth within this Town & franchise & Abbey Forriet asserted.

*Entertainmt.* Twenty pounds ordered to be expended on the Earl of Leicester at his coming to this Town.

*Burgesses.* New Burgesses ordered to be made out of the Inhabitants of the Town towards defraying the charges of a new Charter.

*Councill House.* A grant made to Mr. Barker of such estate as the town hath in the Counsell House & Chappel, Mr. Barker to be bound by covenant for the payment of all rents & for repairing the same during his term with a proviso that the Corporation shall pay ratably every year during such time as the Queen's Counsill in the marches of Wales shall abide in the said House.

*Severn.* Mr. Burton fined and amerced for stopping & hindering the watercourse in Severn near Longnor.

*Bakers.* Ordered that unless the Bakers company shall comply with the payment of 4*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* (w<sup>ch</sup> hath been paid time out of minde to the use of the Corporation) called the Serjeants Fee; that foreign bakers may bake and sell their bread within this town.

*Town Hall Stairs.* A grant made of the rooms under the town hall stairs.

27<sup>th</sup> 1586.

*Abbey Foregate.* Ordered that in case the inhabitants of Monk forriet do desist making any opposition to the uniting and annexing of the liberties of Monk forriet to this Corporation they then shall enjoy the following liberties & freedoms.

1 viz:—The now Inhabitants shall be made free of such Company as their trade belongs to.

2. They may be made Burgesses paying 5*li.* each.
3. The Inhabitants now being or hereafter to be shall either pay toll as other foreigners do and in respect thereof shall

*Tensors.*

be discharged of their Tensor's fines, or else pay their Tensor's fines and be acquitted of the payment of Toll at their own election.

*Counsell in the Marches.* Whereas her Majestys Counsell in the Marches of Wales intend to make their repaire to this town and here to abide for a time it is therefore order'd that the wardens of

*Entertainmt.* Companies be convened to have notice to provide for them as hath been accustomed.

*do.* A sugar loaf presented to one of the Counsell of the Marches.

*do.* That Mr. Bailiffs have 10s. for every meal during the Town Sessions.

28<sup>th</sup> 1587.

*Assessment on Alehouse keepers, &c.* Money ordered to be raised for the entertainment of the Counsell of the Marches by assessment on the Innkeepers, Victuallers & Alehouse keepers and such as refuse payment thereof to be discharged by Mr. Bailiffs of victualling hereafter.

*Schools.* The method taken for confirming the School ordinances.

*Bakers.* That the foreign bakers be admitted to sell bread in this town every market day.

*Abbey foregate.* That such Inhabitants of the street of Forriet Monachorum as shall desire to be made burgesses be admitted for 5*li.* cash, in respect of the uniting of the same to the liberties of the Town.

*Bailiffs & y<sup>r</sup> wives to wear Scarlet Gowns.* That such as are or shall be Bailiffs of this Town as also their wives do wear scarlet gowns on all such days as are accustomed.

*Quarry.* That the pasture behind the walls be enclosed & plowed for two years first with Barley and then with Rye.

29<sup>th</sup> 1588.

*Entertain.* That 50*li.* be bestowed on my L<sup>d</sup> President at his coming to this Town.

*Court Leet Albrighton.* That the Amercement laid on the Inhabitants of Albrighton for non-appearance at the great Court be stay'd for a while.

30<sup>th</sup> 1589.

- Burgesses.* That 12 new Burgesses be admitted for 5*li.* fine.
- Assizes Assess.* That 2*li.* 8*s.* 0*d.* be raised for the entertainment of the Judges by an Assessment of 2*s.* on every alderman & 1*s.* on every Counsellor.
- Burgesses.* That 8 new Burgesses be admitted towards paying for a New Charter & for the reparations of the Town especially the gates & posterns.
- Bakers.* That the Bakers have a new composition paying yearly 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*
- Quarry.* The Quarry behind the walls to be opened and set for the getting of stone.

31<sup>st</sup> 1590.

- Entertain't.* That the Bailiffs Aldermen &c. & wardens of Companies do meet the Chief Justice of Chester in some convenient place at his 1<sup>st</sup> coming to this town & that the Scholars make him some Orations, and he to be entertained with wine &c.

32<sup>nd</sup> 1591.

- Players.* That there be given to the Queen's Players 3*l.*
- Burgesses.* That eight new burgesses of such as dwell within the Town & suburbs be admitted at 5*li.* fine.
- Justices for the Town.* Q<sup>re</sup> whether it is requisite or not to elect 6 persons to be Justices of Peace for this Town & liberties according to the Charter or not.

33<sup>rd</sup> 1592.

- Cadogan's Tower leased.* A lease made of Cadogan's tower for forty years at 2*s.* rent liberty reserved for the Bailiffs &c. to reenter in time of war.
- Assizes.* Judges to be entertained & every Alderman to be assessed 2*s.* & every Counsellor 1*s.* for that purpose.
- Burgess Grates.* A Burgess made grates in respect of the good will he bore to the Corporation.
- Town Rights.* The goods of a Felo de se forfeited to the Corporation.

34<sup>th</sup> 1593.

- Public Preacher.* That the sum of 500*li.* be laid out in purchasing some rent for the maintenance of a preacher

- St. Maries.* The Bailiffs nomination of a Curate of St. Marie's (tho: the Cheif Schoolmaster would not consent thereto) confirmed.
- Dto.* The person so appointed ordered to be placed in the said cure & to be supported therein at the Corporation charge. The said Curate to have yearly 4*6li.* 1*3s.* 4*d.*
- Dto.* The Cheif Schoolmaster being called before the Sheriff & Justices of the peace for the County of Salop to shew cause why he would not consent to the Bailiffs nomination of a Curate of St. Maries, answered that he thought a Burgess's son was first to be preferred but proof being made y<sup>t</sup> divers burgesses sons had refused the same, and others being beneficed elsewhere were not capable of the place, & it being adjudged that the most worthy was always to be preferred & presidents being brought to that purpose he did then & there consent to the Bailiffs nomination.
- Publick* His stipend raised by Contribution.
- Preacher.* A second order to the same purpose.
- Official of St. Maries.* The Bailiffs and chief Schoolmaster appoint the Official of St. Maries.
- 35<sup>th</sup> 1594.
- Dto.* That the Commonalty of the town be assembled for the granting of the spiritual Jurisdiction of St. Maries to the publick preacher of this town for 21 years paying yearly 1*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* towards the maintenance of the Free School though it is the opinion of this house that this office is not to be set to the most yearly rent because it is an office of Justice and to be set to the most sufficient person.
- Severn.* A wear under the Stone bridge stopping the watercourse there ordered to be pulled down.
- Conduits.* That 10*li.* be laid out in repairing the conduits.
- Plague.* That in respect of the danger of the plague the Welsh market be dissolved till a further time.
- Dto.* Further orders made touching the Plague.
- 36<sup>th</sup> 1595.
- Town rights.* A bailiff forfeits 20*li.* for arresting a person by a Sheriff his writt in the Town.
- Kingsland.* That Kingsland be set for 20 marks p<sup>r</sup> an.

*Tower on the Walls.* A lease made of a Tower upon the walls for 60 years.

*Town Sessions.* Allowance made for Entertainment at the Town Sessions as usual.

*Chapel at St. Maries.* That 1*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* be allowed out of the Schools revenue to the Parishioners of St. Maries for the use of the Chapel there for the Schoolmasters and Scholars the parishioners repairing the same.

*Publick Preacher.* Contribution made for maintenance of publick preacher.

37<sup>th</sup> 1596.

*Quarry.* That the pasture behind the walls be enclosed.

*Burgesses.* That 20 persons be made Burgesses at 5*li.* each to buy lands for the maintenance of the publick preacher, or for such other uses as to the Corporation shall seem good.

*Quarry.* The pasture behind the walls to be set to graze for 6 years provided all persons to have liberty to walk shoot or bleach clothes there.

*Market House.* A new Market House of stone ordered to be built with all expedition.

*Dto.* That the frame of the Market House be sold to the best bidder.

38<sup>th</sup> 1597.

*Country Bakers.* That all country bakers may come to this town Wednesdays & Saturdays & sell all manner of bread between the hours of 10 & 3.

*Country Butchers.* That all foreign butchers shall come to this town on Saturday to sell flesh, and to have a place appointed them under the Walls of St. Alkmunds & St. Julians Churchyards on the west end of the said Churches.

39<sup>th</sup> 1598.

*Aldermen &c. displaced.* That such Aldermen and Counsillours as do not inhabit in the town & old liberties be displaced.

*Town Gates.* That the Town Gates, portcullisses & posterns be repaired.

*Corn Scarce.* Corn bought for the better providing the town therewith.

40<sup>th</sup> 1599.

*Register of Charters.* That all the Charters of the Town shall be registered in a fair book at the Town Charges.

*St. Chads Chimes.* That 20s. be paid yearly for keeping in repair St. Chads Chimes.

*St. Maries Jurisdiction.* Evidences at Canterbury searched touching the spiritual Jurisdiction of St. Maries.

*Corn.* Ordered to be bought at London & Bristol.

*House meeting.* House meeting adjourned from Morning to Afternoon.

*Bakers.* That the Country Bakers be restrained from coming to sell their bread in this town upon the company of Bakers promising to pay the usual yearly sum of 3*li.* yearly to the use of the Corporation.

41<sup>st</sup> 1600.

*Burgesses.* That 6 Inhabitants of this town be made Burgesses at 5*li.* each.

*Burgess disfranchised.* A Burgess disfranchised of his Burgesship for abusing the Servants of the Judges of Assize.

*The College of St. Chads not in the liberties of the Town.* On a dispute arising upon Thomas Edwards Esq his being elected one of the Bailiffs of this town, whether his dwelling house commonly called the College of St. Chad be in the liberties of this town or not it is agreed in consideration of his having taken upon him the said office for this time that he the said Thos. Edwards, nor any of his heirs inhabiting in the said house shall at any time hereafter be elected unto the office of Bailiff without their consent till this dispute shall be determined by two referees being Counsellors at Law to be chosen one by Mr. Bailiff & the other by the said Thos. Edwards.

*A Bailiff elected Alderman.* Thos. Edwards Esq one of the Bailiffs elected an Alderman.

42<sup>nd</sup> 1601.

*Cliff & Astley.* The Charters of Henry 7<sup>th</sup> & Queen Elizabeth prove Cliff and Astley to be in the liberties of this town.

*Council of the Marches.* The Councell of the Marches now and at several other times have cognizance of matters arising in this town.

43<sup>rd</sup> 1602.

*Burgess degraded.* A Burgess degraded of his Burgesship for speaking opprobrious words against the Bailiffs.

44<sup>th</sup> 1603.

*Entertainmt.* That 16*li.* be bestowed on my Lord President.

JAMES I. 1<sup>st</sup> 1604.

*Members of Parliament.* That at all future elections of Burgesses in parliament for this town, the election be made of such persons as shall be then inhabitants within this towne or suburbs, being burgesses of this towne & known to be men fearing God of sound religion lovers of the estate of this town and able to speak in that place as occasion may require.

*Burgesses.* That 5 new Burgesses such as dwell within this town & suburbs be admitted at 5*li.* each towards the repairs of the gates, walls, bridges, &c.

*Council House.* Forasmuch as Mr. Owen hath lent his house near the castle called the Councell House for the Council of the Marches to use as long as they remain in this town the sd Councell house shall be forthwith put in good repair.

*Schools.* That 6*li.* 3*s.* 4*d.* be given out of the revenues of the School to a minister to read prayers and catechize the Scholars in the Scholars Chapel ; the said Minister to be appointed by the Bailiffs and Chief Schoolmaster.

*Entertain<sup>t</sup>* That the Bailiffs & Aldermen in their Scarlet gowns to give meeting to my L<sup>d</sup> President on his coming here.

*Toll of the Wool Market.* Toll of the Wool Market in the new hall or elsewhere set for 21 years at 20*s.* per an. paying 20*li.* fine.

*Burgess Grates.* That Ed. L<sup>d</sup> Touche, L<sup>d</sup> President of the Marches, be made a burgess of this corporation.

2<sup>nd</sup> 1605.*Plague.* Order taken in time of Plague.*D<sup>to</sup>**D<sup>to</sup>**D<sup>to</sup>**D<sup>to</sup>*3<sup>rd</sup> 1606.*Town Clerk.* The place of Town clerk given in reversion.*D<sup>to</sup>*

None to be elected Town Clerk in reversions &amp; the qualifications necessary for that place.

*The Castle.* Enquiry made after the stones taken away from the ruins of St. Michaels Chapel in the Castle4<sup>th</sup> 1607.*St. Maries Jurisdiction.* That a lease be made to Mr. Bright of the spiritual jurisdiction of St. Maries for 21 years at 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per an. if he be resident & use the place of public preacher.*Key at the Welch Bridge.* Order made about the key at the Welch bridge.5<sup>th</sup> 1608.*Fire Engines.* That 10*l.* be expended in providing 28 ladders 20 iron hooks and an hundred leather buckets (Drapers Cov) for preventing of danger by fire whereof the Company of Drapers shall provide from time to time and keep in good reparation 2 ladders 2 hooks and 2 dozen of buckets & the other companies their respective quotas as are hereby ordered.*Records in the Exchequer.* The records in the Exchequer ordered to be viewed and searched & placed in waynscot at the charge of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation.*St. Maries.* The spiritual Jurisdiction of St. Maries conferred.*Wardens of Companies.* Tensors for want of sufficient burgesses may (with the Bailiffs consent) be elected Wardens of Companies but not otherwise.*Monford Bridge repaired.* An Assessment ordered to be made on the inhabitants of this town & liberties, towards the repair of Monford Bridge.*Burgesses, Streets.* Burgesses made towards paving the streets.*Schools.* One of the School Masters ordered to be admonished for his absence and negligence in teaching.*Bellman Burgess disgraced.* A Bellman displaced & disgraced of his burgesship.

- Schools.* That if the Schoolmaster will not deliver his key of the School Chest for the taking out of evidences that the same be broken open.
- Curate of St. Chads.* A curate of St. Chads appointed after the decease of the present, so that he be always resident upon the same unless by the special license of Mr. Bailiffs.
- Waits.* Five town Musicians appointed & they to have liveries & cognizances.
- Burgesses.* That 6 new burgesses be made of such as dwell within this Corporation & suburbs thereof towards the discharge of the Town's debt.

7<sup>th</sup> 1610.

*Town wall in St. Maries Churchyard granted & way thence to the Friars.* In the agreement at the Common Hall this year a grant in fee farm is made to Mr. Lea, of part of the Town wall in length 44 yards, from Mr. Barkers land to a lane or entry leading from St. Maries Churchyard to a place called St Maries friars as also of their right of passage unto the Fryers through the said lane or entry.

8<sup>th</sup> 1611.

- Sessions.* That Mr. Bailiffs have 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a piece towards keeping the Sessions.
- Burgesses.* That 12 new Burgesses be made towards repairing the Bridges.
- Entertain<sup>t</sup> of the Bishop.* That 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* be bestowed upon the L<sup>d</sup> Bishop at the discretion of Mr. Bailiffs & likewise that the said Bailiffs do invite the Bishop to their houses & to have 40*s.* for every meal they entertain him.

9<sup>th</sup> 1612.

- Schools.* That the head Schoolmaster be sent unto the next Assizes with the School Evidences to sollicit the cause about the revenue of the said Schools against the Vicar of Chirbury. (9<sup>mo</sup>)
- Records in the Exchequer.* That the Records remaining in the Exchequer be rightly placed in the upper Chamber there & that the Town Clerks man be agreed with for doing the same.
- Abbey Foregate.* That Tensor's fines be levied in the Abbey Foregate.
- Burgesses.* That 8 Burgesses be taken in towards the repairs of the bridges.

*Court of Marches.* That 20 Nobles be bestowed on my L<sup>d</sup> President if he keep lent terms here otherwise not.

10<sup>th</sup> 1613.

*Schools.* That a School be erected in the County for the Scholars in time of Sickness.

*Gratuity to a Bailiff.* That 100*l *be bestowed on Mr. Perche for his charge expended in the office of Bailiwick & other offices.**

*Town Wast.* At Crow-mele granted by the Common Hall.

11<sup>th</sup> 1614.

*Quarry.* Order made concerning Burgesses & their widows having a cow's grass in the Quarry.

*Schools.* The Schools to pay 15*l *towards the repair of the Chancel of St. Chads.**

*Burgesses.* That 10 Burgesses be admitted for the discharge of the town debts.

12<sup>th</sup> 1615.

*Kingsland.* That the Burgesses may keep Kyne in Kingsland at 10*s.* the Cows grass in such sort as the Quarry & that it be turned open and kept as common from All Saints till Candlemass yearly.

*Burgess grates.* The Vice president of the Marches made a burgess grates.

13<sup>th</sup> 1616.

*Bickton Heath.* That the inclosures at Bickton heath be thrown open.

*Kingsland.* That the gates at Kingsland be kept locked.

*St. Alkmonds.* Mr. Heylin grants 20*l *annuity towards the maintenance of a preacher at St. Alkmonds the Election to be made by the Corporation.**

*Schools Chirbury.* That 20*l *per an. out of the School stock be given to a person to take the place of Cathechizer of the Scholars & to preach at Chirbury.**

*Burgess.* Persons pretending to be a Burgess to bring proof thereof in a time limited.

*Entertain<sup>t</sup>.* Entertainment of the Recorder at the Sessions.

*Burgess disfranchised.* A Burgess disgraced for abusing the Bailiffs & Corporation,

*Assessment Entertainmt.* An assessment to be made on Inkeepers Companies & Townships for the entertainmt of my L<sup>d</sup> President.

14<sup>th</sup> 1617.

*Burgesses.* Six Burgesses to be made for the repairing of the gates and walls of the Town.

*Poor Castle.* That a stock be raised for setting the poor on work & the Castle be repaired & employed for that purpose.

Joh. Niccolles & Ric. Wynne, Ball. JAC. 1 14<sup>th</sup>

*Assizes.* Ordered that there be given 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* unto Mr. Tho. Owen for his house & finding such necessaries as he found at the last Assizes & y<sup>t</sup> the companies shall find beds as formerly & y<sup>t</sup> beer bread fowel ale & wine be provided for the Judges by the oversight of Mr. Bailiffs & six men; & that Mr. Fowler & Mr. Onslow shall have lodgings provided formerly the charges whereof to be born by the Corporation.

*Sheriff.* Also that 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* be bestowed upon Sr Rowland Cotton K<sup>t</sup>. high Sheriff of this County.

*Burgesses* Also that ten new burgesses be admitted for the repairing of the walls & other necessaries for the Corporation & the same to be moved to the commons for their consent at the next assembly.

JAC. 1<sup>mi</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1618.

*Entertainmt.* Agreed to entertain the L<sup>d</sup> Gerard, the L<sup>d</sup> President of the Principality of Wales at the charge of the Corporation on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

*Assizes.* Agreed as above with respect to the Assizes.

Edw. Donne, Tho. Wingfield, Ball.

*Burgesses.* Agreed that six new burgesses be admitted for the repairing the walls & bridges & other necessaries for the Corporation & the same to be moved to the Commons for their consent thereunto.

*Councillor.* Mr. Tho. Wingfield one of the bailiffs of y<sup>e</sup> Town is elected to be one of the Common Councill & has taken his oath accordingly.

*Assizes.* Assizes as before.

*Sheriff.* Agreed in regard that Mr. Rob<sup>t</sup> Owen the High Sheriff was born within this Corporation & his father an Alderman of this Towne to bestow upon him 10*li* for a gratuity from the Corporation.

*Expulsion for Absence.* That such of the Aldermen & Counsell as shall not appear upon three times summoning, & having no reasonable cause for their absence shall be displaced if the Commons think fitt.

JAC, 1<sup>mi</sup> 16<sup>to</sup> 1619.

*Stretton Markets.* The greater number agree y<sup>t</sup> Mr. Bailiffs shall make certificate to the Kings majesty of the damage w<sup>th</sup> this town is like to suffer by means of a new market erected in Stretton

*Turns in the Quarry and Kingsland.* That no two burgesses dwelling in one house shall have two turns for their Kyne's grass in behind the Walls or Kingsland except they have kept watch severally for the year before their turnes come & be contributors to all charges imposed upon them & none to be capable of any such turn that keepeth fire without a chimney.

*Dto.* Also that the turns shall go as the watch goes taking each burgess or burgess' widow as they dwell, provided they have kept house there for a year past & the turnes to go forward & not to turn backward tho. any do remove before his turn do come & that none shall set such turn to any Tensor or floreigner.

*The Recorders Entertainant at the Sessions.* Whereas there has been no Sessions or Gaol delivery held for this Corporation for this 3 years last, ord<sup>d</sup> y<sup>t</sup> there shall be a sessions of the peace held before Mich<sup>s</sup> next if Mr. Recorder can come & Mr. Bailiffs to entertain him & they to have 4*li*. a piece for his dinner & supper the 1<sup>st</sup> day, & if the Sessions shall last till the 2<sup>d</sup> day y<sup>t</sup> then Mr. Bayliff Donne shall have 2*li*. for his dinner the 2<sup>nd</sup> & Mr. Balliff Wingfield 2*li*. for his supper that day if he shall remain in town so long & Mr. Bailiffs agree to accept the same.

*Assizes.* Assizes as before only horse meat and flower added.

*Town Clerk's Records.* That Mr. Town Clerk's men have  $5li.$  given them to settle and place all the records in the Exchequer in good order.

*Warden of Companies.* That no Tensor be made Warden of any Company unless in case of necessity.

*Entertainment.* That the L<sup>d</sup> President of the Marches Earl of Northampton with all his followers be entertained at the charge of the Corporation during his stay in this town.

Arth. Kynaston, Joh. Garbet, Ball.

*Toll.* That 6s. p<sup>r</sup> week be taken for the toll of the Stone Gate.

*Publick Preacher.* That whosoever be elected publick Preacher in this town shall be resident here & have no other benefice whatsoever.

*School Ordinances.* Appointed a Committee for the consideration of such of the School ordinances as are thought fit to be alter'd & the same to be moved to the Commons.

*Burgesses.* Agreed that 8 new Burgesses be made for  $5li.$  each.

JAC. 1<sup>i</sup> 17, 1620.

*Publick Preacher.* Appointed Mr. Brown to be the publick preacher for this Corporation with an allowance of  $46li.$  13s. 4d. yearly out of the Town treasure, as formerly.

*Entertain.* That Mr. Bailiffs be allowed  $4li.$  a piece towards the Entertain. of Mr. Steward at the next Sessions.

*Burgesses.* Agreed that 4 of the Inhabitants of this Town or suburbs be admitted free burgesses of this town paying  $5li.$  & the fees of 3s. 4d.

*Schools.* The Play days for the School Boys regulated.  
Geo. Wright Ric. Gibbons, Ball.

*Publick Preacher.* Ordered a Committee to consider of & appoint an house for the Publick Preacher.

*Curate of St. Chads.* Orders concerning the Curate of St. Chads.

*Publick Preacher at St. Mairies* That  $6li.$  13s. 4d. be paid out of the town treasure to Mr. Brown to provide him an house so long as he shall continue publick preacher in St. Mairies & the same to be moved to the Commons.

*Burgesses.* That 12 burgesses be admitted for repairs of the walls paving the streets &c.

*Prayers at St. Alkmunds.* That 5 markes yearly be paid out of the town treasure to Mr. Lloyd Vicar of St. Alkmunds so long as he shall read prayers in the morning as now he does.

JAC. 1<sup>st</sup> 18 1621.

*Curate of St. Chads.* Whereas Mr. Sampson Pryce is by patent from the Corporation created Curate of St. Chads in Shrewsbury & is thereby to be resident there in person, the house therefore agrees that Mr. Bailiffs for the time being have power to give him license for absence for a reasonable time.

*Bakers Company.* That Mr. Bailiffs endeavor to compel the Wardens of the Bakers to pay their old Annuity of 4*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* yearly for the Corporation.

*Country Butchers.* That the Country Butchers shall be allowed to sell their flesh upon Wednesday's & Saturdays & a place in the street near St. Julians & St. Alkmunds Churchyards shall be provided for them to sell their wares, & the hours for the country butchers shall be from 8 of the clock in the forenoon to 3 in the afternoon.

*Master of the House of Correction.* That Mr. Bailiffs appoint a fit person to be M<sup>r</sup> of the House of Correction for this town.

*Scarlet Days.* Scarlet days appointed.

*Country Butchers.* That the proclamation for coming in of Country Butchers be published by Mr. Bailiffs in the usual places.

*Dto.* That 10*li.* of the Towns treasure be disbursed for the erecting of Shops for Country butchers under St. Alkmunds wall.

Rog. Pope, Howel Vaughan, Ball.

*Maltsters.* That all foreigners & strangers not keeping scot & lot in this town & bring malt to sell, shall sell the same in open Market & not in shops or houses.

*Common Council.* Howel Vaughan, one of the Bailiffs of this Town is elected a common Councilman.

*Coroner and Sixman.* That the Coroners shall be assembled to-morrow to elect a Coroner & for the swearing of him and a Sixman.

*Assizes.* Assizes as usual.

*High Sheriff.* Gratuity to the High Sheriff.

*Burgesses.* That 12 Burgesses be admitted paying 5*li.* fine & fees.

*Assizes.* Agreed & thought fit that there shall be means made to obtain the Assizes yearly hereafter in this Town & the same to be by Act of Parliament if it may be so procured.

*Beer and Ale.* The price of Ale and Beer settled.

JAC. 1<sup>i</sup> 19, 1622.

*Kingsland* That such Burgesses as are to have their turn in Kingsland this year bring in their money on Tuesday next for their Kyne or else shall lose their turn.

*Schools.* Orders relating to the Schools &c.

*Entertain.* Entertainment allowed for the Recorder & Stewards at the Sessions.

*Schools.* Orders relating to the Schools &c.

*Castle Bank.* Lease for 99 y<sup>rs</sup> made to Mr. Burreston of part of the Castle Bank.

*Expulsion of Counsellors.* That if such & such Counsellors upon summons given them in writing shall not come to the next meeting or shew some reasonable cause for their absence they shall be sent to the Commons to be displaced.

*Bagley Bridge.* That Bagley Bridge be repaired by the Corporation.

*Burgesses.* That 6 new burgesses be made to supply the town and wants.

S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Owen & Tho. Jones, Ball.

*Foreign Burgesses.* Agreed that Foreign Burgesses shall pay toll.

*Assizes &c.* Assizes as before & gratuity to High Sheriff.

*Steward.* That Mr. Bailiffs proceed when they think fit to the election of a New Steward instead of S<sup>r</sup> Henry Townsend lately deceased.

*Lecturer at St. Alkmunds.* That Mr. Greaves have 10*li.* yearly for his Wednesday morning Lectures in St. Alkmunds Church.

*The Castle.* A lease granted by the Corporation of part of the Castle Bank.

*Curate of St. Chads.* That the Commons be summon'd to choose a curate for St. Chads Parish.

*Entertain't. at the Sessions.* That Mr. Bailiffs have  $4li$ . a piece for dinner & supper at the Sessions &  $40s.$  for every meal after for entertaining the Recorder and Steward.

*Toll of the Welsh Market.* That several charters be inspected which ordain that this town shall have Guilda Mercator eum libera hansa and de Wallensibus ad dictam villam venient debit Theol & debit consuetud.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Stephens & Ric. Hunt, Ball<sup>s</sup> JAC. 1<sup>ml</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1623.

*Burgesses.* That six new Burgesses inhabitants of this Town & liberties paying  $5li$ . a piece fine &c.

*Expulsion of Counsellors.* That if Mr. Wolley & others upon summons given them particularly in writing shall not come to the next Meeting or shew some reasonable cause for their absence then they shall be put to the Commons to be displaced of yr Counsellorships.

*Town land.* A grant made of a piece of void ground between Mr. Jenk's Kay & Cripe load Gate.

*Assizes.* That it be moved to the Commons that in regard the Assizes is likely to be kept & held in this town what course shall be taken for the raising of money for the entertainment of the Judge & for a gratuity to the High Sheriff.

*Quarry & Kingsland.* A Mortgage ordered to be made of the Pasture behind the walls & of Kingsland.

*Burgesses.*

*Officers.*

*Assizes.*

- Schools.* A suit ordered to be commenced for tithes belonging to the Schools & carried on at the schools charge.
- Burgesses.* Three Burgesses taken in paying 5*li.* a piece.
- Dto.* Six more ordered to be taken in.
- John Studley & Tho. Mathewes Ball<sup>s</sup>.
- Weights.* That there be a wooden beam & scales made to be kept in the Exchequer for the trial of weights.
- Quarry & Kingsland.* Regulations made concerning the Burgesses keeping kyne in the pasture behind the walls & Kingsland.
- Burgesses.* That 8 new burgesses be taken in.
- Companies.* That the wardens of the Companies attend the Bailiffs on the 4 fair days.
- Schools.* The old School house ordered to be taken down & built up a new, but that St. John's College be first made acquainted therewith.
- Tho. Knight, Chas. Bennyon, Ball. CAR. 1<sup>mi</sup> 1, 1625.
- Burgesses.* That 6 new Burgesses be taken in for the necessary reparations of the town.
- Parliament Men.* That Mr. Bailiff call a common Hall for the election of Burgesses for this Parliament when they shall think fit.
- Tensors.* A Quære made whether gentlemen living in the town being Tensors ought not at the discretion of the Bailiffs and Six men to be fined for Tensors as other tradesmen are.
- Burgesses.* That 8 new Burgesses be taken in for the repairing of the Walls and Bridges of this town.
- Ric Persehouse, Ric Llewelin, Ball. CAR. 1 2, 1626.
- Schoolmasters Admonished.* Mr. Studley and Mr. Jones were both admonished by the Bailiffs according to the Ordinances for their neglect of duty,
- Price of Candles Settled.* That proclamation be made that Tallow Candles be sold for 4*1/4d.* per pound on forfeiture of the same or the value thereof.
- Burgesses.* Four Burgesses ordered to be made for 5*li.* each and the s<sup>d</sup> money to be paid to one of the Schoolmasters for such a service and if the 4 burgesses do not come in then to be paid out of the town treasure.

*Schoolmasters Admonished.* This assembly agree and give warning to Mr. Studley and Mr. Jones 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Schoolmasters to use more diligence in teaching their Scholars than heretofore they have done and to agree with the head Schoolmaster both in form method and manner of teaching and government of the Schollars and to take this for a final admonition of amendment.

*Burgesses.* That 8 new Burgesses be taken in for the repairs of the walls and bridges.

*Schools.* Agreed that the Head Schoolmaster sollicit a cause relating to the School revenue and the School bear the charge thereof.

*Dto.* A deputy School master appointed.

*Schoolmasters displaced.* Agreed that Mr. Bailiffs shall displace Mr. Studley the 2<sup>d</sup> Schoolmaster & Mr. Jones the third, for that they have had warning for their amendment according to the ordinances & no amendment hath been by them.

Tho. Jones, Rob<sup>t</sup> Stephens, Ball. CAR. 1, 3<sup>to</sup> 1627.

*Six Justices Appointed.* Agreed that the six persons there named be elected & nominated Justices of the Peace for the year following according to the charter granted by 2 Eliz.

*Workhouse* That the Jersey house be made a Workhouse.

*Members of Parliaments Wages.* That Mr. Tho. Owen have his charges born by the Corporation for serving as a Burgess of the Parliamt. for this town.

*Castle.* That the Castle be set for 7 years with proviso for free ingress &c. upon all occasions for the Kings Service, the Town's & County's occasions.

*Burgesses.* Ten new Burgesses made.

*Assizes.* Provision made for the entertainment of the Judges.

Edw. Dunne W<sup>m</sup> Rowley, Ball. CAR. 1 4<sup>to</sup> 1628.

*Justices appointed.* The Aldermen & Councillors above mentioned w<sup>ch</sup> have born the office of Bailiwick of the Town have elected the persons subscribed to be Justices of the Peace for the year following according to 2 Elizabeths charter.

Castle Ward. Welsh Ward. Stone Ward.

S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Owen K<sup>t</sup>. Rog. Pope, Esq. Tho. Jones Esq.

Art. Kinaston Gent. Jno. Garbet Gent. Rob. Betton Gent.

*School Ordinance &c.* That the letters patent belonging to the Schools be confirmed by parliament the School ordinances altered & the defects therein & all other businesses of the Schools to be rectified & amended, an allowance to be given to a preaching minister at Chirbury, the school-masters wages to be raised & allowance to be given to such others as Mr. Bailiffs the cheif schoolmaster & the gentlemen whose names are subscribed who are chosen a Committee for that purpose.

*Burgesses.* Agreed to admit ten new burgesses for the extraordinary reparations to be bestowed this year upon the town & other charges of the Corporation.

Ric. Gibbons, Ball in room of Ed. Doone deceased.

*Schools.* That Mr. Meighen have 20*li.* for overseeing the School works.

*Tax on the Burgesses of Mountford's Bridge.* That 100*li.* be levied from the Inhabitants of this Corporation and the liberties thereof and the foreign burgesses for the repairs of Mountford's bridge and the same to be proceeded in at next Session.

*Curate of St. Chad's.* Whereas Mr. Pet<sup>r</sup> Studley curate of St. Chads claimeth the small tithes in Frankwell order'd that he be born out in the suit at the charge of the Corporation.

Rob. Betton Dan Lewys Ball, CAR. 1 5<sup>to</sup> 1629.

*Measures.* That the Bushells as well for oats as for other grain be made all of one breadth.

*The Gullet.* That the Sessions dinner be provided at the Gullet.

*Schools—The High Pavement.* Agreed to grant unto the school so much of the street called the High Pavement over against the New School House lying to an house of S<sup>r</sup> And. Corbet K<sup>t</sup> along towards an house of Ric Preece hatter whereon a stone wall is to be erected as it now is meared out for the s<sup>d</sup> use.

Geo. Hunt, Simon Weston, Ball. CAR. 1 6<sup>to</sup> 1630.

*Burgesses.* That ten new Burgesses be taken in.

*Plague.* Order taken for relief of persons infected with the Plague.

Ric Hunt Tho. Knight Ball. CAR. 1 7<sup>th</sup>, 1631.

*Tax on the Burgesses for the Welsh Bridge.* An Assessment made on the Burgesses inhabiting the town & liberties & foreign burgesses for the repair of the Welsh Bridge according to the direction in the comportion and Charter.

*The Publick Preacher & his Salary.* That Dr. Betton publick preacher of this Town shall be paid yearly to provide him an house 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* His salary particularly described.

*Assizes.* Entertainmt at the Assizes as usual & a gratuity given the Sheriff for procuring the Assizes to be held in this Town.

George Wright, Owen George, Ball. CAR. 1 8<sup>th</sup> 1632.

*Conduit.* That a man be appointed for the keeping of the conduit of this Town.

*Gaol.* That there be a common gaoler within the towne for the keeping of all prisoners as well for debt as felonies & all other offerings & Mr. Bailiffs to make choice of such a man & he to have all accustomed fees as the Sergeants ought to have for commitments & discharges.

*The Booth Hall.* Proclamation order'd to be made in the Booth Hall of this Town.

*Assizes.* Assizes as usual, and order'd a gratuity to the Sheriff for procuring the Assizes to be kept here.

*Burgesses.* That ten new burgesses be made, their fines to be applied to the repairs of the bridges gates & walls.

*St. Chads Chimes.* Ten Shillings pr An. given towards the repairing of St. Chads Chimes.

*Entertain.* That the Bp. of Coventry & Lichfield be entertained.

John Poyner, Aud Griffies, Ball<sup>s</sup>, CAR. 1 9<sup>mo</sup> 1633.

Car. Benyon, Tho. Hepes, Ball, CAR. 1 10<sup>mo</sup> 1634.

*Kingsland.* That Kingsland be leased for 21 years to the best bidder.

*St. Maries Jurisdiction.* That Mr. Bailiffs advice with counsel how best to preserve the right to the spiritual jurisdiction of St. Maries in the Bailiffs and Burgesses as also for the obtaining of a further grant of the same if occasion be.

- Schools.* Suit commenced by the Third Schoolmaster order'd to be supported out of the school revenue.
- Burgesses.* Ten new burgesses made for the repairs of the Walls bridges & gates.
- Assessment for Walls.* That Mr. Bailiffs advice with counsel in making a cessment of 200*l *for the repairs of the walls & whether they may cess as well the Tensors inhabiting within the Town as the foreign burgesses.**
- Assizes.* Assizes as usual and a gratuity given the Sheriff for procuring the Assizes to be held in this Town.
- Tho. Jones J<sup>ne</sup> (?) Prowde, CAR. 1 11<sup>mo</sup> 1635.
- Schools.* They elected Mr. Jno. Harding Chief Schoolmaster.
- D<sub>to</sub>.* The next order.
- Burgesses.* Ten new Burgesses made for the repairs of the walls &c.
- Old Heath.* Whereas the Inhabitants of this Town are hindered of common of pasture in Pimley Wood on the old Heath by Mr. Young's enclosing the same and the royalty of the Corporation thereby diminished, order'd that he be prosecuted for the same.
- Expulsion for absence.* That several Aldermen and common Counsellmen be displaced for non-attendance.
- Tho. Nicolls Tim. Weston ball<sup>s</sup> CAR. 1 12<sup>mo</sup> 1636.
- St. Chads.* That the Commons be moved to make choice of an able man to be curate for the Parish church of St. Chad's.
- Ric. Llewellyn Jo. Wightwick Ball, CAR. 1 13<sup>mo</sup> 1637.
- Sale of land.* Agreed to sell certain lands lately purchased in Cotten to be applied in suing forth the new charter.
- St. Chad's.* Agreed to convey over the Curates place of St. Chad, and the Easter Book and other the tithes tenths & herbages as also the advowson of the parish of St. Chad to the Kings Majesty
- The Sword for the Mayor.* That a sword be provided for the sword-bearer on the Town's charge against the day the Mayor is to be sworn.

1638. Tho. Jones Esq Mayor.

*Sword-bearer's Salary.* The Mayor Aldermen and Assistants are agreed that the Sword-bearer for the time being shall have 20*li* pr. An.

*Assessmnt.* Agreed to assess the burgesses to make up the charge laid out in suing forth the new Charter.

*Assizes.* Assizes as usual.

*Burgesses.* That Mr. Mayor & Chamberlains shall take in ten new Burgesses for 5*li* each of such as are not excepted in the new Bye-Laws.

1639. Rob<sup>t</sup> Betton Esq Mayor.

*Entertain't. at Sessions.* That the dinner at the next sessions & Gaol Delivery be provided at the town charge at the discretion of the Mayor and Chamberlains.

*Expulsion of an Assistant.* An Assistant (nominated by Charter) displaced for not residing within the liberties of the town.

*The Tanners Company.* Order'd a Committee to examine the Tanners Composition.

*Expulsion for Non residence.* That notice be given to Mr. Niccoll one of the aldermen by letter or otherwise from Mr. Mayor to appear at the House meeting or else to be displaced for non residence.

*Workhouse.* An order regulating the workhouse for the Poor.

*Assizes.* Assizes as usual & a gratuity given the Sheriff for procuring the Assizes to be held here.

1640. Hugh Harris Esq. Mayor.

*Burgesses.* Three burgesses made for 7*li*.

1640 cont. Tho. Wingfield Esq. Mayor (Hugh Harris dec'd). Ric. Gibon was sworn a Justice of peace in room of Hugh Harris Esq. late Mayor deceased.

*Assizes.* That an house with furniture & fewel be provided for the Judges by the corporation having toward the s<sup>d</sup> charge the money collected amongst the Vintners Innkeepers & Victuallers & hereafter to be at no other charge.

*Burgesses.* Burgesses made.

1641. Ric. Gibbons Esq. Mayor.

*Watch & Ward appointed & the gates to be locked.* That Watch & Ward be set at the 3 gates to bring strangers that are travellers before the Mayor, or some

Justice of the peace, to be examined of the course of their travell in these dangerous times & that the 3 gates & the gate at the water load hean shall be repaired by the coroners & the same to be lock'd every night safe & that the Oath of Allegiance be tender'd to all strangers.

*Pavement in Coleham.* That the Coroners repair the pavement leading from the Bow bridge in Coleham to the foot bridge leading from the end of that pavement to the rail wh encloseth the little meadow in Coleham from the Highway.

*The guarding of the Town.* Several orders relating to the well guarding & defending of the town.

*Entertainment for the King.* That if the King come to the town he shall have free access into the town & to be entertain'd in the best manner these troublesome times allow of.

1642. John Studley Esq. Mayor.

*Subsidy.* Agreed y<sup>t</sup> the money collected in this town shall be all given to the King save 100*l*. to the Prince and as much to the Duke of York.**

*Aldermen suspended.* Several Aldermen & Assistants suspended from their offices for dissaffection to his Majesty.

*Assizes.* A petition presented to the King for obtaining the Assizes to be kept in this town.

*Burgesses disfranchised.* Burgesses disfranchised for not paying money assessed on them.

*Aldermen expelled.* Several Aldermen displaced for not residing in the town according to Charter.

*Civil Wars.* Assessments & other preparations made against a siege.

*Aldermen expelled.* An Alderman displaced for that he & his family are wholly removed out of the town & suburbs.

*Burgesses.* Several burgesses made & their fines ordered to be paid at several payments.

1643. Rob Betton Esq Mayor.

*Civil Wars.* Preparations made for the defence of the town.

*Assistant expelled.* An Assistant displaced for not residing within the town.

*Alderman dto.* An Alderman dto.

*Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.

*St. Alkmunds.* Five pounds yearly allowed to the Vicar of St. Alkmunds,

1644. Chas. Bennion Esq. Mayor.

*St. Chads.* Five pounds yearly allowed to the Curate of St. Chads so long as he or his substitute continue the reading of Morning & Evening Prayer daily in St. Chads Church.

*Streets &c. ordered to be kept clean.* Several orders made for the better sweeping the streets & keeping the town clean during the sickly time.

*Aldermen displaced.* Aldermen displaced for not residing in town.

*Civil Wars.* The town come over to the Parliament.

*Burgesses.* Several burgesses made.

1645. Tho. Nicolls Esq. Mayor.

*Town Clerk Displaced.* Tho. Owen Esq. Town Clerk displaced from his office he being adjudged a delinquent by ordinance of Parliament.

*Recorder Dto.* The Recorder dto.

*Scarlet Days.* Order made for altering the Scarlet days.

*Burgesses.* That twenty new Burgesses be made (not under 5*li.* each) to be taken in by Mr. Mayor & the Chamberlains but this order to be no Rule hereafter.

*Coals Weighed.* That Mr. Mayor appoint person to weigh all sea coals coming to this town who shall have of the seller 1*d* per tun.

*Burgesses.* Samuel More of Linley & others made burgesses.

*Schoolmaster and Catechist.* That Ric. Pigott be confirmed chief Schoolmaster & appointed Catechist with a Salary of 50*li.* per an. for the first & 20*li.* as Catechist.

*Old Heath.* Some land on the Oldheath leased out.

*Burgesses.* Several burgesses made.

1646. Tho. Knight Esq. Mayor.

*Town lands.* A lease made of a parcel of land lying betwixt Bellcroft & Shelton stone to build an house upon.

*Assistants expelled.* Several Assistants displaced for not residing in the Town.

*Burgesses.* That the Mayor & Chamberlains shall take in 20 Burgesses at the usual fines & fees.

*Publick Preacher.* That 6*li* 13*s.* 4*d.* be allowed yearly to Mr. Fisher, the publick preacher towards his house rent as Dr. Betton the late preacher had.

*Church clocks.* That nothing in future be paid by the town for keeping of St. Chad's & St. Alkmund's clocks.

*Burgesses.* Burgesses made.

1647. Ric. Lluellin Esq. Mayor.

*Burgesses.* Several burgesses made.

*Entertamt. at Sessions.* A dinner ordered for the Mayor Recorder &c. at the Sessions.

*St. Maries.* That the sexton of St. Maries have 20*s.* yearly for ringing 9 o' the Clock the Bell & cleaning the Aldermen's seats.

*Fish board on St. John's Hill Street* That the Kings board for selling of Fish be remcved from Butcher Row to the street of St. John's Hill on condition that the inhabitants there do pave the s<sup>d</sup> street.

*The Plague at Oswestry.* A collection ordered to be made in the five parishes of the town for the relief of the town of Oswestry w<sup>ch</sup> is infected with the plague.

1648. Owen George Esq. Mayor.

*Burgesses.* That Mr. Mayor & the Chamberlains shall take in 20 Burgesses paying the fines appointed by the Bye laws.

*Assizes.* A particular order made for entertainment at the Assizes.

*Sword bearer.* Five pounds given the sword Bearer towards the buying him a new gown.

1649. Tho. Hayes Esq. Mayor.

1650. John Prowde Esq. Mayor.

*Town Clerks Precedence.* That the Town clerks place in all publick meetings shall be after all that have borne the office of Mayor.

*Assistant fined.* An assistant fined 40*li.* for not accepting of his place.

*Pest House at Kingsland.* The pest house at Kingsland ordered to be repaired.

*Burgesses.* Burgesses made without any fine.

1651. Cha. Benyon Esq. Mayor.

*Curate of St. Maries.* Salary given to the Curate of St. Maries, he preaching twice every Sunday besides his weekly lecture.

*St. Maries Court.* The spiritual jurisdiction of St. Maries given to the head Schoolmaster paying 1*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per An.

*Musick Master at the Schools.* A Musick Master appointed to maintain a musical exercise in the Gallery of the Freeschool of this town.

*Town Clerk displaced.* Town clerk displaced for not inhabiting within the town.

1652. Ric. Cheshire Esq. Mayor.

*Houses on the Welsh Bridge.* Ordered that the houses on the Welsh bridge be repaired & set to the best advantage.

*Dog lane pump.* A well sunk in Doglane & a pump placed therein.

*Fire engines.* The wardens of the several companies ordered to provide buckets hose & ladders to prevent dangers by fire.

1653. Jno. Rowley Esq. Mayor.

*Pump in the Butcher Row.* A pump ordered to be sunk at the head of the Butcher row.

*Dto. on St. John's Hill.* Another ordered on St. John's Hill a little above the Fishboard.

*Dto. at Shearman's Hall.* Dto. at the upper end of the High Street near Shearman's hall.

*Drapers.* Regulations made to prevent the Drapers fore-stalling or engrossing the Welch flannels cloaths &c.

1654. John Cook Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor elect's precedence.* That the Mayor elect from the day of his election shall take place next after the Mayor for the time being.

1655. Adam Webb Esq. Mayor.

*Market Bell.* That the Market bell from Mich<sup>s</sup> to Candlemass ring at 12 o' the clock.

*Standings at the Market House.* That the standings about the corn market be set by Mr. Mayor & Chamberlains for 4*s.* per an.

*Burgesses.* Several burgesses made.

1656. John Lowe Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor's seat in St. Julian.* That 4*li.* be paid for making a seat in St. Julian's Church for Mr. Mayor.  
*Kingsland.* That the Burgesses hereafter shall pay 13*s.* 4*d.* for every Cows grass in Kingsland.

*Tanners Company.* That the Company of Tanners be prosecuted for not shewing their composition to Mr. Mayor upon his demand as usually hath been done.

*Butchers.* That the butchers for the future never kill any pork but between Mich<sup>s</sup> & the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.

*Dogpole.* A lane formerly leading from Dogpole to the Orchards &c. (as I suppose near the friers G.E.)

1657. Tho. Hunt Esq. Mayor.

*Members of the House.* That no common brewer of Ale or beer be chosen a member of this house.

*Dto.* That no member of the house discover the secret of the said house.

*Storehouse.* The Storehouse in Mardol set on condition that the Tenant furnish the poor with coal at 5*d.* per hund. & keeping therein continually 50 tuns of coal.

1658. John Betton Esq. Mayor.

*Alderman displaced.* An Alderman ordered to be displaced if he did not come to reside in Town in 6 weeks time.

*Toll dishes.* The Sergeants toll dishes ordered to be inspected.

*Standings at Markets.* Regulations about the standings in the apple Market at the end of the Market house & in Shoemakers Row.

1659. John Walthall Esq. Mayor.

1660. And. Vivers Esq. Mayor.

1661. Ric. Bagot Esq. Mayor.

*Town gate locked.* An allowance of 7*s.* weekly made to a man for locking & opening the gate of this town night & morning.

*Bakers harbour.* Liberty granted to the Company of Bakers to erect an harbour on Kingsland.

*Smiths Company.* A new composition granted to the company of Smiths &c.

1661 cont<sup>d</sup>. Rob<sup>t</sup> Forster Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor displaced.* This Rob<sup>t</sup> Forster was appointed Mayor by the Government in room of Ric. Bagot displaced.

1662. Sr Ric<sup>d</sup> Prynce K<sup>t</sup> Mayor.

*Poor Money.* Five pounds out of the Poor's Money given to the education of a poor scholar at the free Schools.

1663. John Langley Esq. Mayor.

*The Castle.* That the Castle of Shrewsbury be surrendered to the King & his Successors.

*Charter.* The Charter confirmed.

*Quarrel & Kingsland.* Turns in the Quarrel & Kingsland.

*Entertamnt.* Entertainment ordered for the L<sup>d</sup> Newport.

1664. Edw. Kinaston Esqr<sup>e</sup> Mayor.

*St. Chads.* An allowance made to the Minister of St. Chads.

*Assizes.* The Judges entertained at the Assizes as usual.

*Burgess gratis.* The Town clerks clerk admitted Burgess gratis.

*Another Dto.* Another person dto.

*Contribution to the Fire at Newport.* Twenty pounds given to the sufferers by the fire w<sup>ch</sup> consumed almost the whole town of Newport.

*Assizes & regulations therein.* That the expence for entertaining the Judges be charged upon such persons as made advantage by the Assizes & that the s<sup>d</sup> monies be raised out of the Tensors & Bibsters fines.

*Wine License.* A wine licence granted under the common seal of the Corporation.

*Charges at Assizes regulated.* That thoes who have not contributed according to order towards last Assizes be not licensed to sell Ale.

*Plague.* Order made for the better preservation of the Town in time of Plague.

1665. Fra. Burton Esq. Mayor.

*Assistant displaced.* An assistant displaced for having resided out of the Town & Suburbs for one year & upwards.

*Storehouse.* The Storehouse order'd to be filled with coals for the poor.

*Steward refusing to be Mayor.* The Steward being elected Mayor as Sen<sup>r</sup> Alderman that had not served the s<sup>d</sup> office refused the same relying upon the

privilege contained in the Charter whereby the Steward has liberty to refuse any office imposed on him.

*Fine for not serving Mayor.* The next Senior Alderman being elected Mayor & refusing to serve was fined 100*li.*

*Dto.* Another fined 20*li.* for his refusal of the said office.

1666. Ric. Waring Esq. Mayor.

*St. Georges Chapel.* St. Georges Chapel situate in Frankwell.

*Assizes regulated.* Assizes as usual but no allowance to be made for providing for the Clerk of Assizes horses.

*Alderman displaced.* An Alderman displaced for Misbehaviour.

1667. John Harding Esq. Mayor.

*Schools.* Repairs ordered at the Schools.

*Ground between ye Castle Gates.* Lease made of ground between the Castle Gates.

*Dinner at Session.* A Dinner ordered at the Session.

*Chelwick Common.* Part of Chelwick Common enclosed ordered to be thrown open.

*Freeman of the Felt makers Co.* The Feltmakers Company having refused to make one who had been an apprentice to the said Trade free of the Company; the Mayor & Aldermen ordered the Wardens to admit him & the Mayor is desired to give him the oath of a Freeman of the said Company.

*Fine for refusing to be Alderman.* An Assistant fined 20*li.* for refusing to accept of the place of an Alderman.

1668. Sam. LLoyd Esq. Mayor.

*Assizes.* The Sheriff & S<sup>r</sup> Hen. Herbert returned thanks for procuring the Assizes to be held here.

*Schools.* Order made concerning repairs at the Schools.

*Precedency of Aldermen.* Such Aldermen as have bore the office of Mayoralty shall have the precedency of such as shall have refused or fined for the said office.

1669. Ric. Taylor Esq. Mayor.

*Wharfs to have Scales.* That Scales & weights be provided for the several Keys of the Town & also water bailiffs to look after the same.

- Warfage settled.* The several rates of wharfage settled.
- Sword for the Mayor.* A new Large sword ordered to be bought to be carried before the Mayor on publick days.
- Scolds.* Aucking stool ordered for the punishment of scolds.
- Swine Market Hill.* The swine fold agreed to be removed from St. John's Hill.
- Waterbailiffs Fee.* The Waterbailiffs to have 1d. per tun fee for inspecting the weighing of Coals & so in proportion for a lesser quantity the sd fee to be paid by buyer & seller each a 1d. piece.
- Assizes.* The Judges to be entertained as usual if the Assizes be held in this Town.
- Schools.* The Common Seal ordered to be taken up to seal the leases of the School tithes.
- Rossal Heath.* That Rossal heath within the liberties of the town be thrown open.
- Sword bearer.* Eight pounds given to buy the Sword bearer a new gown.
- Chamberlain.* A new Chamberlain elected instead of an Assistant elected Alderman.
- Assistant displaced.* An Assistant displaced for not residing in the Town.
- Dto.* All Assistants who do not appear in 3 months to be ipso facto removed.
- Cripples gate.* That Cripples gate leading to Severn near the Welch Bridge be enlarged.
1670. Tho. Cotton Esq. Mayor.
- Assistants displaced.* That two of the Assistants have notice to appear at the next meeting or to send in their resignations else this house to proceed to remove them for their neglect of their offices.
- Ditto.* Two more displaced for non-residence in the town or suburbs.
- Fine for not being an assistant.* Three Burgesses fined 10*li.* a piece for refusing to accept of the office of assistant.
- Burgesses not sworn.* That no person enjoy the privilege of a Burgess before they have taken their Burgess oath.
- Burgesses gratis.* Upon the request of the Recorder his son was admitted a Burgess gratis, and were also Mr. Baldwin's sons.

1671. Roger Griffies Esq. Mayor.

*Fish Market.* That St. John's hill is the most convenient place for the Fishboard, and that for the future the Mayor for the time being may appoint the fishmarket where he pleases and that the Mayor be saved harmless for committing any person who disobeys his proclamation in that behalf.

*Cleaning ye Market House.* That the Sergeants keep in and about the market house clean as behoves them. Assizes. The Assizes as usual only the clerk of the Assizes have but 40s. as a gift.

*ditto.* That the Bakers, Butchers, Brewers, and Ale-sellers be summoned to contribute towards the cost of the Assizes.

*Sword bearers gown.* The 4*lb.* be given the Sword bearer to buy him an every-day gown, to save his best gown.

*Fire Engines.* Town engines ordered for the extinguishing fire; and the several parishes within the town desired to procure more for the like use.

Assizes. That 20*lb.* every Assize be allowed for the future and no more, and that at the next the Chamberlains pay the same to the Judges' Steward deducting thereout the charge of House rent, beer, ale, coals etc.; but if the Judges at the next Assize shall seem dissatisfied, the Mayor and Chamberlains may entertain them at their discretion.

*Sessions Dinner.* That a dinner be provided for next sessions at the charge of the Corporation.

1672. Sam. Jevon Esq Mayor.

*Breach at the Welch Bridge.* That upon the fall of the towers and great part of the gatehouse at the Welch bridge, a committee be appointed to inspect the same, and other defects and breaches of the stone bridge and to contrive an immediate help for passengers etc.

*Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made, and the like done each year.

*Assessment for Bridge money.* Assessment of 20s. laid on each Alderman and 10s. on each assistant, towards the repair of the bridges.

*Kingsland Mortgages.* Kingsland ordered to be mortgaged for the like use.

*Assizes.* Assizes as the last were.  
*Assistant fined 40s. for not serving.* An Assistant fined 40s. for refusing to take upon him that office.

1673. Rowl. Middleton Esqr. Mayor.

*Old heath.* Mr. Wingfield releases his pretended right to the Corporation waste at the old heath.

*Ordinary of St. Maries.* The Ordinary of St. Marie's not keeping his courts there regularly nor having taken his oath for the due performance of the same; ordered that Mr. Mayor advise whether he may not legally appoint a new one.

*Coals weighed.* That Mr. Mayor appoint a Waterbailiff to inspect the weighing of coals.

1674. Will, Thynne Esq. Mayor.

*Four Lecturers appointed.* That the lecturers be confirmed by this house and that they be the 4 persons herein named, till further order, and to have 10s. a sermon.

*The Maze at ye Shoemakers harbour.* That the company of corvisors have liberty to enclose the Maze in Kingsland till further order to the contrary, so that public styles be made for all persons to go in there at will.

1675. Joh. Severn Esq. Mayor.

*Kings Statue on Welch Bridge.* Ordered that the King's Statue be provided for the place Assigned on the Welch bridge lately erected.

*Curate of Clive.* Curate of Clive appointed with a Salary of 10*l.*

*Assizes and regulations.* That 20*l.* be presented to the Judges of Assize, and 40*s.* to the clark of Assize, and that the bakers and butchers be contributors as well as brewers and alesellers.

*Sr. Ric. Corbet made burgess.* Sir Ric<sup>d</sup>. Corbet of Longnor, now of this town and his son named . . . . admitted burgesses gratis 18 Feb. 1675.

*Clive Waste.* An enclosure made by Mr. Wicherley on Clive Waste, ordered to be thrown open.

*Burgess rolls.* That any sworn burgess have liberty to have a copy of all the Burgesses transcribed by the Town Clerk, paying for the same.

*Three crown court.* Three crown court in Southwark (lately burnt down) ordered to be rebuilt and leased for term of years.

*Dto.* Further order taken therein.

*Sessions dinner.* Sessions dinner to be provided as usual.

1676. Geo. Hosier Esq. Mayor.

*Sr. R. Corbet Assistant.* Sr Ric<sup>d</sup> Corbet Bar<sup>t</sup> chosen assistant.  
*Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.

*Assizes.* Assizes to be as the last were.

*Sr. R. Corbet Alderman.* Sr Ric<sup>d</sup> Corbet chosen Alderman.

*Wem fire.* Ten pounds given to the sufferers by Fire at Wem.

1677. Rob. Forster Esq. Mayor.

*Bell at 8 o'clock.* Orders concerning the ringing the 8 o' the clock Bell.

*Fire Engines.* Nine fire engines ordered to be procured and the Companies to keep their number of the buckets and ladders.

*Chirbury.* The Corporation seal ordered to be annexed to the Mayor and Headschoolmasters presentation of Mr. Harding to the vicarage of Chirbury.

*Butchers Harbour.* Leave given to the Butchers to erect an harbour in Kingsland.

*Fire Engines.* The several companies buckets and engines ordered to be viewed, and that the corporation provide 6 hand engines and 6 doz. of buckets to be hung up in the Guildhall.

*Bickton Heath.* Inclosure to be taken out of Bickton's heath for the use of the Preacher at Bickton Chapell.

*Streets.* That Ramulsham, and Claremont Hill, and Cripplegate be paved.

*Housemeeting.* Member of the house fined 40s. for departing the house without license.

1678. Edw. Philips Esq. Mayor.

*Watch guard.* Watch and ward ordered at the several gates.

*Fire in the Castleforegate.* Five pounds given to those persons that were serviceable in quenching a dreadfull fire in the Castle foregate.

*Three Crown Court.* That a rent roll of 3 crown court w<sup>ch</sup> ought to be divided between the several parishes of Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitchurch be fairly drawn up, and each parish to have copies, paying for the same.

*Assizes.* Assizes as usual.  
*St. Julian's bells.* That 18*li.* be given towards new casting of  
 St. Julian's bells.

1679. Arth. Hinckes Esq. Mayor.

*Burgess gratis.* A Burgess made gratis.

*Non-residence.* An Assistant removed for not being resident  
 nor appearing.

*Recorder's fee.* The Recorder's fee augmented from 4*li.* to 20*li.*  
 p<sup>r</sup> an. besides his fees as Counsell of the Cor-  
 poration.

1680. John Harwood Esq. Mayor.

*Chamberlains.* That all chamberlains for the future give  
 security for the well executing their offices.

*Haulliers.* That no Haullier ride upon his cart or dragg  
 under pain of 6*d.* 8*d.* or be bound over to the  
 sessions.

1681. Geo. Llewellyn Esq. Mayor.

*Depy. Mayor.* The Sen<sup>r</sup>. Alderman elected Deputy Mayor.

*Fire Engines.* A committee appointed to provide Engines at  
 the town charge for the quenching of Fire.

1682. Edw. Gosnell Esq. Mayor.

*Rossal.* Permission given to the inhabitants of Up-Rossal  
 for plowing the Commons in Down Rossal for  
 3 years.

*Burgesses gratis.* Dr. Hollings and his Son made Burgesses  
 gratis.

*Assistant.* Two Burgesses fined 10*li.* a piece for refusing to  
 accept of the places of Assistant, and this to  
 be a precedent for the future.

*Stonebridge.* Dispute with Mr. Prince about the Tollhouse on  
 the Stone bridge.

1683. Collins Woolrich Esq. Mayor.

*Coton Hill road.* A way purchased by the town of Mr. Mitton  
 at Coton Hill.

*Swordbr's. gown.* A new gown ordered to be bought for the  
 Sword bearer.

*Assizes.* That the Mayor may spend what money he sees  
 convenient in entertaining the Judges next  
 Assizes.

*Sr. S. Jones' gift.* Order made how the 500*l*l**. left by Sr. Sam. Jones should be disposed of.

*The Charter surrendered.* The Charter of the town ordered to be surrendered up to King Charles the 2nd, *Entertainment.* The Dukes of Beaufort and Ormond ordered to be treated.

1684. John Wood Esq. Mayor.

*The Charter renewed.* That 200*l*l**. be borrowed for defraying the charges of the new charter granted by King James the 2nd Mart. 17 1684.

*D<sup>to</sup>.* Rob. Wood Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor deceased.* He was elected instead of John Wood deceased 17<sup>ber</sup> 1685.

1685. Sr. Fran. Edwards, Mayor.

*Market House.* Posts ordered to fixed in the Market house to keep out coaches and carts.

1686. Tho. Bawdewin Esq. Mayor.

*Fire Engines.* A Committee appointed to provide Fire Engines. *Entertainment ordered for the King.* Whereas his Majesty upon his progress is to come to this town; it is unanimously agreed that 200*l*l**. be expended in presenting to, and entertaining his Majesty and such further sum as shall be thought reasonable. The entertainment to be made as the house shall further consider and agree at next meeting.

*D<sup>to</sup>.* Agreed to send to Gloucester and Worcester to enquire way at those places for entertaining his Majesty.

*D<sup>to</sup>.* That the chamberlains provide 200 guineas and the town to give security.

That the streets be gravelled just before the King comes in.

That all companies appear with their drums colours etc.

That the conduits run with wine the day the King comes in.

A Committee appointed to consult of his Majesty's reception.

Agreed to meet in their gowns to-morrow under the Market house.

*Aug. 25th 1687. King James at Salop.* Mem<sup>m</sup>. that this day the King came to the town of Salop, attended by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses and by all the nobility and Gentry of the county of Salop, and kept his court at the Councill house.

1687. Ric. Salter Esq. Mayor.

*Corporation Councell.* Mr. Lister appointed Councell for the Corporation.

*Schoolmaster.* That Mr. Lloyd be admitted chief schoolmaster according to the nomination of St. Johns College.

*Burgess gratis.* That Mr. Scrymsher clerk to the Townclerk be admitted a burgess gratis.

*Fire engine.* A Salary ordered to a man for looking after the Fire engine.

*Recorder.* By virtue of the King's Mandamus the Earl of Steward. Mr. Powis was elected recorder and Thos. Burton Esq. Steward.

*Schoolmaster.* Proceedings in the nomination of a Third Schoolmaster.

*Dto.* A person appointed to supply the place of third Schoolmaster till another be legally settled therein.

1688. Ric. Muckleston Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor displaced.* The proclamation for regulating of Corporation and for restoring of antient charters was delivered to Mr. Muckleston upon w<sup>ch</sup> he was discharged from his office of Mayoralty and Mr. John Hill elected in his room.

1688. John Hill Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor's Sergeant.* That Mr. Mayor have the nomination of a Sergeant for next year, because he continued the old one.

*Sr. Fr. Edwards.* Sr. Francis Edwards elected Assistant.

*Schoolmaster.* Proceedings in the nomination of a Third Schoolmaster.

*Dto.* That the said proceeding be Justified at the Corporation charge.

*Mayor's Burgess.* A person and his son admitted Burgesses gratis at the request of Mr. Mayor.

*Sergeant.* That the estreats of the Stoneward be gathered by such persons as Mr. Mayor shall think fitt on the death of one of the Sergeants.

1689. Jonathan Scott Esq. Mayor.

*A Senior Alderman elected Justice.* Mr. Gosnell one of the three senior Aldermen elected to execute the office of a Justice of peace for the term of his natural life.

*Warden of Company.* That no person be a warden of company but a burgess.

*Members of the House.* That no person being an intruder of any trade be elected a member of this Corporation.

1690. Sam. Thomas Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor.

*House Meeting.* Members appearing in the house without gowns to pay 12<sup>d</sup>.

*Assizes.* The Judges entertained this year as formerly.

*Assistants displaced.* Three Assistants displaced by reason of their removal and living out of the corporation.

*St. Julian's.* That 10*li.* be allowed this year to the Minister of St. Julian's.

*St. Maries Steeple.* That 10*li.* be allowed towards the building of St. Maries steeples.

1691. Cha. Kinaston Esq. Mayor.

*A Counter or Gaol appointed.* A Counter ordered to be made for the more safe securing of prisoners in this Corporation, and that the Jersey house be converted to that use, and that no other fees be taken by the Master of the said Counter but what have been usually taken by the Sergeants, and further that the 5*li.* yearly be deducted out of the Master of the house of Corrections salary and given to the master of the Counter, who is to give sufficient security to the Mayor for the time being as well for debtors as felons, and also to keep the prison for debtors in good repair etc.

*Housemeeting.* That the orders of every last meeting be always first entered and read before this house proceed to further business.

*Mayor elect excused.* Mayor elect excused serving that office by reason of his residing at that time in London with his family.

- Assistants fined.* Assistants fined 5*li.* each for refusing the said office.
1692. John Hollier Esq. Mayor.
- Schools.* Order made for the better regulating the school accounts.
- St. Julian's.* Allowed 10*li.* to the Minister of St. Julian's.
1693. Arth. Tong Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor.
- Assizes.* That the Judges be entertained as usual and that the Chamberlains take care of their horses.
- Standings set.* A Committee appointed to set the Standings in the Streets of this Corporation.
- Serjeant.* That for the future no Member of this Corporation be admitted security for any Serjeant.
- Fine.* The house petitioned to remit a fine laid at the Quarter Sessions.
1694. Sam. Aderton Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor.
- Old heath.* Power given to a Committee to set leases for years and to ascertain the rent for the Cottages and lands on the old heath.
- Gaol.* That the Serjeants have the Jersey house for a prison.
- Mardol Key etc.* Regulations made in the keys about the Welch bridge.
- Abbey foregate constables.* That for the future there be no more than two Constables appointed for the Abbey foregate.
- Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.
- Preacher to the House.* That the thanks of this house be given to Mr. Dawes for his funeral sermon on the death of the Queen, preached before this house, and that he be desired to print the same.
- Burgesses.* That A. Davies and his wife's son be made burgesses for 6*li.*
- Schoolmaster.* Lease sealed of the school tithes without consent of the Chief Schoolmaster declared to be void.
- Assizes.* The Judges to be entertained as formerly.
- Storehouse.* A Committee appointed to furnish the storehouse in summer with coals for the use of the poor.
- Burgesses.* Several more Burgesses made.
- Joyners company.* Articles added to the Joyners Composition.
- Serjeant.* That no person stand for Serjeant unless his accounts are cleared.

*Burgesses.* A Burgess ordered to be admitted paying 5*li.* in hand or otherwise as Mr. Mayor shall think fitting.

1695. Simon Hanmer Esq. Mayor.

*Association.* An Association signed to be presented to his Majesty by the Earl of Bradford.

*Recorder.* A Salary of 20*li.* p<sup>r</sup> an. given to the Recorder.

*Merrington Heath.* A Committee appointed to inspect what Cottages and inclosures are upon Merrington Heath.

*St. Julian's.* That 10*li.* be given this year to the Minister of St. Julian's.

1696. John Kinaston Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor.

*Deputy Mayor.* The Senior Alderman that has already been elected to officiate as Mayor, in the absence of the present Mayor; and the rest have agreed to officiate monthly.

*Poor's coal.* The Storehouse at the stone bridge set rent free to a person, he furnishing the poor in the winter with 40 tun of the best coal at 5<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> hund.

*Causeway on the old heath.* Upon St. Alkmund's parish paying 10*li.* to repair the causeway at the old heath, the Corporation will keep the same in repair.

*Mayor elect.* The Senior Alderman then present elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

1697. Rob. Shepheard Esq. Mayor.

*Standings.* That Mr. Mayor and Chamberlains set the standings in the streets.

*Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.

*Storehouse.* The Storehouse at the Welchbridge leased at 15*li.* p<sup>r</sup> an.

*Assistant.* An Assistant fined for refusing to be sworn.

*Serjeant.* Mr. Mayor having suspended one of the Serjeants for disobeying his order, agreed that the said Serjeant stand suspended during Mr. Mayor's pleasure.

*Mayor elected.* The Senior Alderman then present elected Mayor.

*St. Julian's.* Upon the petition of the Minister of St. Julian's allowed him 15*ll.*

- Causeway on the old heath.* That the broad causeway leading from the clay pits to the Bow bridge on the old heath be hereafter maintained at the Corporation charge, the parishes having paid 12*l.* towards the same.
- Burgess.* That Mr. Mayor name a burgess gratis.
1698. And. Johnson Esq Mayor.
- Assizes.* That a committee discourse the Sheriff about preventing the future charges of entertaining the Judges.
- Assistant displaced.* An Assistant displaced for acting contrary to the interest of the Corporation by endeavouring to infringe upon their rights.
- Dto.* Aldermen and Assistants displaced for non-residence.
1699. Moses Reynolds Esq. Mayor.
- Sword bearer.* That the new Swordbearer have a new gown made him at the Corporation charge, the same to be for the use of the Swordbearers for the future.
- St. Alkmond's.* That 20*l.* be paid towards repairing St. Alkmond's church and that the seats there, lately the Aldermen's seats converted into a private seat be altered by the parish as formerly.
- Sword.* That Mr. Mayor be paid the charge of repairing the sword.
- Dto. Ric. Presland Esq. Mayor.
- Mayor deed.* Elected 11th May instead of the late Mayor deceased.
- Assizes.* Assizes as formerly, and so on for many years.
- Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.
1700. John Kinaston Esq. Mayor.
- Serjeants.* That no person be elected a Serjeant who has been Sergeant for 3 years successively.  
N.B. This order was reversed a few years afterwards.
- Assizes.* Two new courts ordered to be erected for the Judges.
- Bridgenorth Burgesses.* Burgesses of Bridgenorth claimed exemption from paying toll here, but denied and ordered to be contested.

*Assistant fined.* An Assistant fined for refusing to be sworn.  
*Town Waste.* A committee appointed to inspect the incroachments made on the towns waste.

*Wardens of Companies.* A penalty of  $5li.$  laid on any that shall act as warden of a company unless he is a burgess, and before he is sworn into the said office of warden.

1701. Rob. Philips Esq. Mayor.

*Swordbearer.* A Swordbearer elected, and sworn he demeaning himself with respect to the member of the Corporation.

*Gaol.* Order made concerning the Gaol for the town.

*Burgesses.* A great number of Burgesses made this year.

*Entertainment.* Entertainment ordered for the Coronation Day.

*Mr. Kinaston's House.* Mr. Kinaston intending to erect a new Town Wall. house near St. Marie's churchyard, has leave to pull down part of the town wall, and to rebuild the same more to his convenience he keeping the same in repair.

*St. Chad's bells.* Twenty pounds given towards the bells of St. Chads.

*Entertainment.* An entertainment of  $20li.$  ordered to be on the day of swearing the new Mayor.

*St. Chad's.* An allowance of  $20li.$  given to the Minister of St. Chads.

1702. Rowland Bright Esq. Mayor.

*Entertainment.* Order made concerning the celebrating the thanksgiving day, and an entertainment to be made.

*Swinemarket.* The Standings in the Swine market ordered to be set to the best bidders.

D<sup>o</sup>. Tho. Harwood Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor deed.* Elected March 15th, instead of the late mayor deceased.

*St. Alkmunds.* An allowance of  $20li.$  given this year to the vicar of St. Alkmunds.

*Burgesses restored.* Several burgesses that had surrendered July 25th restored Aug. 3rd gratis.

*St. Chads.* An allowance of  $20li.$  made to the parson of St. Chads.

*Abbey church.* d<sup>o</sup>. of 10*l*. to the parson of the Holy cross.**

*Fines of companies.* Enquiry made of what fines of crafts have been paid to the Corporation.

1703. Will. Bowdler Esq. Mayor.

*Entertainment.* That an entertainment of 5*l*.** be made for the Deputy Lieutenants at the next Muster.

*Conduits.* Order made concerning the repair of the conduits.

*Waterworks.* Proposals, reports from committees and orders about erecting the new waterworks.

*Assistant surrenders.* Leave given to an assistant to surrender and in consideration of his long service his 40s. fine repaid him.

*The Parson's allowances.* Allowances continued this year to the parsons of St. Chads, St. Alkmonds, Holy cross & St. Maries, but that no petitions in that behalf be for the future received by the house.

*Nobold Quarry.* Leave given to the parish of St. Julians to get stone at the Corporation Quarry called Nobold quarry for the repairs of their steeple.

1704. Will. Leighton Esq. Mayor.

*The parson's allowance.* The five parsons of this town allowed half as much as they had last year.

*Burgess gratis.* Richard Loxdale admitted Burgess gratis.

1705. Tho. Bowdler Esq. Mayor.

*Severn.* That Mr. Mayor do nominate a fit person to be Conservator of the River Severn, to be approved of by this house.

*Pool on Bicton's Heath.* That the pool of Bicton's heath called the Burgesses' pool be set to the best bidder.

*Entertainment.* Entertainment ordered for a Thanksgiving day.

*Game.* A gun taken from an unqualified person restored upon petition.

*St. Julian's.* Twenty pounds given to the parish of St. Julian's towards the repair of their steeple and recasting of their bells.

*Town waits.* Town waits appointed and regulated, and coats with badges given to them.

*Cottagers.* Cottagers in the town liberties not paying their rents every Midsummer day to be ejected.

*House meeting.* Four days notice to be given to the members of the house before the election of any Recorder, Steward, Townclerk or other officer for the future. This order was afterwards reversed.

1706. John Twiss Esq. Mayor.

*Disposal of Charities.* The house is of opinion that the sole Disposal of Alderman Allen's charity is in the Mayor for the time being but the disposal of Mr. Paul Clerk's charity is in the Corporation.

*Fire engine.* Committee appointed to inspect the Fire engine; and four dozen of buckets afterwards ordered to be provided.

*Burgess gratis.* Mostyn Baldwin Esq. at the request of a member of house made a burgess gratis.

*Dto.* Mr. Vin. Price made a burgess gratis for curing a person that was hurt at Pighall fire.

1707. John Felton Esq. Mayor.

*Nobold.* A petition offered for obtaining leave to build a smith's shop upon a piece of wast ground in the Township of Nobold.

*Cotton Hill.* Order touching the wall near Cotton Hill in St. Maries parish.

*Fire engine.* A Fire engine bought for the Corporation.

*Assizes.* Eight pounds rent to be paid for Mr. Cartwright's house each Assizes for the Judges he finding such goods as usual.

*Burgesses.* That no petition for the admission of burgesses be received till after the next election of Parliament men, but that Mr. Mayor may admit burgesses paying their full fines.

*Dto.* Will<sup>m</sup> Smith Esq. Mayor.

*Mayor dead.* He was elected March instead of the late Mayor deceased.

1708. Sam. Cook Esq. Mayor.

*Allowances to parsons.* Allowances made to the parsons of St. Chads, St. Julians, St. Alkmunds, and the Abbey.

*Mele Bridge.* Twenty pounds given towards building Mele bridge.

- Nobold.* And leave given to get stone in the quarry at Nobold.
- Sermon.* The thanks of the house given to Mr. Davies for his sermon preached before them at St. Chad's, and he made a Burgess for the same.
- Burgess.*
- Nobold.* The Corporations right to Nobold Quarry ordered to be asserted.
- Dto.* Further order made in that behalf.
- Burgess.* A petition to be admitted a Burgess rejected.
- Town wastes.* A committee appointed to look after the Corporation wasts.
1709. Will. Clemson Esq. Mayor.
1710. Walt. Pateshull Esq. Mayor.
- Assizes.* The Judges to be entertained as usual.
- Town Wall at Ld. Bradford's House.* The town wall adjoining to Lord Newport's garden ordered to be repaired at the Corporation charge.
1711. Will. Turner Esq. Mayor.
- Standings.* Standings in the streets (fair times ordered to be set).
- Chelwick.* Order concerning the enclosures at Chelwick.
- Recorder.* An allowance of 16*li.* made to the Recorder.
1712. Jonathan Scott Esq. Mayor.
- Church at Birmingham.* Ten guineas given toward building a new Church at Birmingham.
- Sr. Tho. White's charity.* That this Corporation agree with Norwich and other corporations to call Bristol to account for their share of the augmentation of the charity lands left by Sr. Thos. White.
- Burgesses.* Several Burgesses made.
- Dto.* That Mr. Mayor admit no persons to be burgesses till after the next election of Parliament men; and that he may be indemnified from all costs and charges thereof.
1713. Edw. Jones Esq. Mayor.
- St. Chad's Organist.* The Corporation agrees to pay 20*li.* per an. to the organist of St. Chads.
- Assizes.* That the Judges have the usual present, and that theirs and their servants horses to be maintained, but not the horses of the clerk of Assizes.

## 1714. James Blakeway Esq. Mayor.

*Betton Strange.* Upon Mr. Mackworths claiming to be Lord of the Manor of Betton Strange and having enclosed part of the Corporation waste there, ordered that Mr. Mayor cause the same to be thrown upon and to be indemnified forsooth.

*St. Maries.* That Mr. Lloyd, Curate of St. Maries have the Common seal to secure to him the same allowance for the lecture there as Mr. Davies had, together with what belongs to the s<sup>d</sup> cure.

*St. Chad's organist.* Mr. Baker elected organist of St. Chad's. *Assistant displaced.* An Assistant displaced for non-residence.

1715. Thos. Philips Esq<sup>r</sup>. Mayor.

*Guard room.* A Guard room ordered to be provided for the soldiers and to be allowed fire and candle.

## 1716. Jos. Muckleston Esq. Mayor.

*Schools.* Mr. Brickdale appointed School bailiff.

*Deputy Mayor.* The Senior Alderman that was at that time in health in town sworn Deputy Mayor.

*Mayors Burgess.* That for the future no farmer be made a Burgess gratis at the instance of the Mayor.

## 1717. Will. Kinaston Esq. Mayor.

*Waits.* The town waits discharged and ordered to deliver up their silver badges.

*Gamekeeper.* Sr Chas. Lloyd appointed Gamekeeper of the Corporation.

*Non residence.* Three Aldermen displaced for non-residence.

*Lecture.* Mr. Phillips' lecture ordered to be preached at St. Alkmunds.

*Kingsland.* Kingsland course ordered to be marked out.

*Official of St. Maries.* Mr. Gardner elected official of St. Maries, and to have the common seal for that purpose.

*Burgesses.* Three Burgesses made for their good services in the last rebellion.

*St. Alkmunds.* Order made about the Corporation seat in St. Alkmunds.

*Election of Mayor.* Sr Chas. Lloyd carried this election against Mr. Corbet Kinaston.

*Schools.* A long and useful report made to the house by a Committee appointed to examine into all deeds and other matters relating to the schools.

*Burgess.* Mr. Vashon made a burgess gratis, (not this year but the next year).

1718. Sr Chas. Lloyd Mayor.

*Burgess.* A Burgess made gratis in consideration of his services at the late rebellion.

*Housemeetings.* Members ordered to attend at the house meeting or else to be displaced.

*Aldermens seats &c. at St. Chads.* Proper methods ordered to be pursued to preserve the right of the Corporation to their seats in St. Chad's church.

*Alderman displaced.* Alderman displaced for non attendance at Housemeeting the Poor's money.

*Election of officers etc.* That for the future at the Election of Members or officers of this Corporation, no person shall give his vote for more than one member or Officer at a time.

1719. Hen. Penk Esq. Mayor.

*Copthorn.* Lease made of a cottage at Copthorn.

*Town liberties.* Sheriff not to enter the liberties of the Corporation with any writt but will warrant him so to do.

*Walk in Quarry.* That a walk be planted in the Quarry in such manner as Mr. Mayor shall think fit.

*Burgesses.* Committee to consider what persons are fit to be Burgesses.

*Streets.* No trollies with Iron bound wheels to be used in the streets.

*Soldiers removed.* Thanks of the Corporation given L<sup>d</sup> Bradford for getting the soldiers removed, and afterwards a representation of the grievances the town suffers by soldiers ordered to be sent to the Secretary of State.

*Grutuity to Coroner.* A Coroner ordered 5 guineas for his extraordinary trouble.

*Cottagers.* Cottagers not paying their rents to be ejected.

1720. Tho. Morhall Esq. Mayor.

*Recorders attendance.* The recorder ordered to show cause why he should not be removed for not attending the execution of his office.

*Interest made for votes.* A Committee appointed to ask freeholder's votes for Lord Newport and Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Corbet.

*Quarry & Kingsland.* Regulations made in the turns in the Quarry & Kingsland.

*Market House.* The Serjeants and under officers to take care that no persons play at ball, or other games in the market house.

*Airing in Kingsland.* Leave given for an airing in Kingsland each person paying 5d. a horse, and the charge of a key. This order was soon after reversed.

*Insult on ye Mayor resented.* Sir Fran. Edwards ordered to be sued for affronting the Mayor and entering Kingsland by force.

1721. Mich. Brickdale Esq. Mayor.

*Sworn burgess.* That no burgess shall have any voice at an election or bear any office in this Corporation before he is sworn.

*Hencott.* The Corporation's right to the wast lands at Hencott ordered to be asserted.

*Burgesses rights.* A committee appointed to examine the rights of burgesses.

*Burgess gratis.* Mr. Bridgeman made a burgess gratis.

*Mayor sworn.* That a feast of 20*l.* be provided when the new Mayor is sworn.

1722. Edw. Gregory Esq. Mayor.

*Toll of Barley.* That methods be taken to prevent the Maltsters of this town hindring the payment of the toll of barley.

*Street lamps etc.* A committee appointed to set up Lamps, and repair the highways and clean the streets.

*Town Gaol.* That the prisons of the town be repaired and the Common Serjeant and his underofficers to live therein.

*Schoolmaster.* Mr. Owen elected chief schoolmaster. N.B. This election was afterwards reversed by the house of Lords.

*Copthorn.* That Mr. Mitton be sued for breaking the Corporation soil at Copthorn.

1723. Matthew Travers Esq. Mayor.

*Turns in Quarry & Kingsland.* A burgess should live a full year in an house he claims his turn in the Quarry or Kingsland for, before he be entitled to the same, and to pay scot & lot, and the widows of burgesses to have the like priviledge. N. B. this order was very much altered in the next Mayor's time.

*Assizes.* The Judges be entertained as usual.

1724. Tho. Lindop Esq. Mayor.

*Burgess gratis.* Mr. Basterville made a burgess gratis.  
*Postfines etc.* That the green wax be taken over to this Corporation to impower them to receive such fines as shall become due.

*Serjeant.* A Serjeant obliged to make publick recantation for affronting two of the Aldermen.

*Causeway at old heath.* That the causeway and bridges upon the old heath be repaired at the Corporation charge, and posts put up to keep carts off the causeway.

*Sir T. White's Charity.* Order made to carry on the suit against Bristol about Sir T. White's charity jointly with Worcester and other places.

1725. Sam. Elisha Esq. Mayor.

*Town Councell.* Mr. Gardner appointed Councell for the Corporation.

*Entertainment.* An entertainment of 5*li.* to be made the 5th of August.

1726. John Adams Esq. Mayor.

*Shelton.* Leave given to make brick at Shelton.

*Pulley Common.* Leave given to build an house on Pulley Common.

*Butchers.* That the 50*s.* per ann. paid by the butchers for slaughtering in the streets be not received and they to be prosecuted if they do for the future slaughter there.

*Streets paved.* A paviour to have 20*li.* in hand, and 30*li.* per ann. for keeping the pavements of the streets in repair.

*Town Wast.* A Committee appointed to enquire into any infringement of the Corporation rights that shall be made by breaking up the soyl enclosing their wasts, etc.

*Munckmeol.* Mansel of Munckmeol to be sued if he does not acknowledge the Corporation right to the Cottage he lives in.

*Kingsland.* Twenty pounds given to the tenant of Kingsland to throw it up.

*Pulley Common.* That the Cottagers on Pulley Common be sued if they do not pay their arrears.

*Nobold Common.* Leave given to the churchwardens of St. Chads to get stone on Nobold Common.

*Quarry.* Order made concerning the lay of Horses in the Quarry.

*Clean ye Streets.* That no person lay rubbish in the lane adjoining to the Walls.

*Assizes.* Whereas the several guilds and innkeepers have withdrawn their contributions towards entertaining the Judges, agreed that for the future the Corporation expend no money on that account.

*Streets.* No person to lay dirt or ashes in the streets.

*Rowsall Walls.* Rowsall walls ordered to be repaired.

*Incroachments on town grounds.* Actions ordered to be brought against any person incroaching by building on the Corporation Grounds without their consent.

*Steward.* Mr. Steward's salary augmented from 40s. to 10*li.* per annum.

*Fines.* No fines laid in the leet to be off by the Audit.

*Burgess.* Mr. Elisha Jun<sup>r</sup> made a burgess gratis.  
1727. Jos. Jones Esq. Mayor.

*Poor's money.* The Corporations S. Sea Stock to be transferred to the town Clerk.

*Schools.* Committee appointed to inspect the repairs at the schools.

*Schoolmaster.* A Schoolmaster having accepted a living with cure of souls ordered to quit the schools.

*Mayor's burgess.* Mr. Mayor to nominate a burgess, he not being a farmer.

1728. John Townes Esq. Mayor.

*St. Chads workhouse.* St. Chads parish to have the Jersey house for their workhouse.

*Kingsland Airing.* Liberty given to the Gentry to have an airing in Kingsland, the Corporation to be at no expense therein.

*Mr. Rogers at the stone bridge.* Leave given Mr. Rogers to turn arches adjoining to the stone bridge to build an house upon.

*Horse race.* Given towards the improvement of the course of Bicktons Heath 4*li.* out of the Aldermen's admission money, 2*li.* out of the Assistant, and 4*li.* out of the Corporation Money.

*Cottagers on Bicton Heath.* The Cottagers on Munckmeol and Goosehill ordered to be sued, or ejectments brought against them for not paying their rents.

1729. During my own Mayoralty.

*Poor's Money in S. Sea Stock to be Transferred.* Ordered that Hen. Edwards Esq. or W<sup>m</sup> Kinaston Esq. or either of them in whom the S. Sea Stock of 1000*li.* belonging to this Corporation be transferr the same to Sam. Edwards Esq. if he will accept the same in trust, otherwise to the present Mayor.

*Fire and candle for guardroom.* That the Soldiers have allowed them such Cole and Candle on the guard, as Mr. Mayor and the Chamberlains shall think reasonable.

*Town waste.* That all persons making brick and tyle on the Corporation wasts pay 12*d.* per thousand otherwise to be sued.

*Old Heath.* That — Cross be sent to produce his title (if he have any to a Cottage &c. on the old heath.

*Cottages.* A Committee appointed to inspect the Cottages on the Old heath, and report what the same are worth per ann.

*King's Arms.* That 15 guineas be paid for the King's arms frame and all; to be set up in town hall.

*Fire engines.* A Committee appointed to consider of proper methods to extinguish fire for the future.

*Petitions to Parliament.* That a petition be presented to the House of Commons for suppressing Hawkers and Pedlars, as also another for amending the act relating to the breadth of tires of wheels.

*Airing in Kingsland.* That Kingsland be an airing place for the gentry and they to have keys of the same, paying such yearly sum as the Mayor and Chamberlains shall think reasonable. No persons to be permitted to ride there, but such as pay, and the ground to be set to the best bidder.

*Sallaries.* No additional Sallaries other than the ancient allowances to be made to any person without the consent of the House.

*Fishmarket.* That the fishmarket be an open market and that the persons who bring fish in this town, sell the same in any place they shall think proper by themselves only; and none to be permitted to regrate the same.

*Cottages on Bickton heath.* That the Committee appointed to inspect the Cottages on the old heath, do also inspect the Cottages about Bicktons heath.

*Pulley common & other wastes.* That such method be taken to oblige the Cottagers on Pulley common and the other wasts to pay their rent to the Corporation as Mr. Recorder may advise.

*Fleshboard rent.* That Mr. Berrington be applied to touching on what account he demanded the rent called the Fleshboard rent.

*Haberdasher's company.* Leave given to the Haberdashers Company to elect Persons though not Burghesses, to be Wardens of their Company.

*Severn.* That none presume to wash skins or empty ringes into the Severn.

1730. Ric. Wollaston Esq. Mayor.

*Serjeant.* That no person be elected a Serjeant unless he give such security as the Corporation approve of.

*Butchers.* Country Butchers to have leave to sell meat within the town in case the town butchers neglect to furnish the market with sufficient fresh meat.

*Bakers.* Country Bakers to be also admitted unless the Bakers Company pay their yearly fine of 3*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to the Corporation, and to be defended by the Corporation. Afterwards on their refusing to pay the same it was ordered that all country bakers be called in.

*Races.* Ten pounds given to the Races.

1731. Abraham Davies Esq. Mayor.

1732. Richard Lloyd Esq. Mayor.

*Burgesses.* That Mr. Mayor be indemnified on refusing to admit several persons burgesses who claimed the same without any right so to be.

*Non residence.* Several Aldermen and Assistants removed for Non residence.

210 ORDERS OF THE CORPORATION OF SHREWSBURY,

*Mayor Elect fined.* And. Corbet Esq. and Sir Ric<sup>d</sup>. Corbet Bart. fined 10*li.* each for declining to accept the Mayoralty.

*Bylaws.* The Councell for the Corporation to prepare new by laws.

*Dto.* New Bylaw made for the better Regulation of the Admission of Burgesses.

1733. John Lacon Esq. Mayor.

*Quarry.* The Summer House built in the Quarry.

*Disfranchisement of Burgesses.* That any Number of Persons riotously assembling themselves above the number of six, such are burgesses shall be disfranchised.

*St. Chad's, St. Alkmond's.* Mr. Phillips' Lecture removed from St. Alkmonds to St. Chads.

*Chimes and bells.* Payments for tolling, ringing and keeping the Chimes in repair, ordered to be stopt for the future.

1734. John Rogers Esq. Mayor.

*Charities.* A committee appointed to inspect the several Charities belonging to the Corporation.

*Schools.* The same Committee ordered to inspect the ordinances of the Schools.

*Streets.* That a By law be drawn up for paving and cleaning the streets.

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NEOLITHIC MAN AND HIS REMAINS  
IN SHROPSHIRE.

By GEO. LUFF.

THE out-of-the-way old-fashioned little town of Clun, in the extreme south-west corner of this county, has been so little visited by scientific men that until of late no idea has been whispered of the richness of the neighbourhood in striking geological phenomena and archæological remains. In the year 1877 my attention happened to be called to a number of large stones lying on one of the hills south of the town. They were strayed erratics; their derivation and mode of transport were unknown, and the uses to which they had been put were mysterious. I entered upon the task of elucidating both questions, and pursued it with the keenness of a sleuth-hound for nearly ten years. Materials came to hand, and facts were gathered more or less rapidly, but generally in proportion to the diligence of the search, and the excitement of the chase increased as the pace quickened and success seemed certain. The geological portion of my work is not so far completed as I could have wished, but the subject matter of this paper is Archæological, and sufficient information in this department is now at hand to show that in Neolithic times, or the age of polished stone, many of the Shropshire hills were fortified, and the Clun hills particularly, with some portions of the valleys, were inhabited and cultivated by a hardy, diligent, and gifted race of men. An intelligent survey of the country, credited with being the site of the last great stand made by Caractacus, King of the Silures (the identified

descendants of the Neoliths), is sufficient to realise the richness and strength of the position so fiercely held. Fruitful plains lie in front, and impregnable mountain land behind. Every hill top is covered with soil several feet in depth. Smiling valleys lead tortuously up into Mid-Wales, but unexpectedly close up into gloomy passes, flanked by precipitous heights, which are crowned still by frowning earthworks. A network of these earthworks, with Burrough Camp on the immediate left, and Coxwall Knoll on the right, defended the Clun valley.<sup>1</sup> No doubt the warlike bronze weaponed Celts assailed the position again and again. The Romans, we know, laid desperate siege to it, as evidenced by the Roman Camp on Norton hill, near Craven Arms, right over against the centre of the line. Whether the defence was irretrievably broken at Coxwall Knoll, the Chapel Lawn Caradoc, or still further west no one knows, but the most formidable fortress of all—Bury Ditches—stands like the keep of a Norman Castle, far within the outer line of defence, and overlooks the spot which was the centre of the Neolithic population. This is the summit of Rock Hill on the other side of the valley.

Here our early ancestors congregated most thickly. They probably fished in the broad waters of the lake, where the valley and town now are, and fed their flocks, and raised their flax and grain on the clearings they made on the hills and slopes, but they must have been of a social disposition, for their relics, though scattered over a wide area, as would be expected from a large population engaged in such various pursuits as we know them to have been, yet here are found in thousands, and are of such a nature as to indicate a permanent and long-continued settlement. The object was not protection merely from danger, for they had the hill-fort to flee to when alarmed, but they had already arrived at such a

<sup>1</sup> While far away were flanking works—the Knighton Lurk-en-hope on one side, and Church Stretton Caer Caradoc, and the Pontesbury entrenchment on the other.

state of civilization as to appreciate the advantages of combination and social intercourse.

Of all the flint and stone remains I have collected,<sup>2</sup> a very large proportion are arrow-heads. These weapons may have been used for either fighting or hunting.

Looking at the wild open tract still called Clun Forest it is hard to realise the existence there of masses of timber and scrub sufficiently dense to shelter the larger beasts of prey and of the chase. Yet if these worked flints of mine are say 10,000 years old, we know that in that time the natural features of many localities have changed again and again. From the bogs in the neighbourhood of Clun massive black oaks have been dug up, yet before these bogs were formed possibly Neolithic man lived there.

I had hoped to have settled the origin of a stratum of clay appearing here and there upon the hill tops, which, withholding the surface water, has encouraged the growth of beds of peat. Most of the peat has been worked out, and to this work and natural denudation I ascribe the distribution to low levels in the Clun valley of many implements.

The mass of implements upon Rock Hill are found imbedded in the subsoil beneath a growth of gorse, heather, and coarse herbage. When the waste lands are brought into cultivation, and this growth is stocked up, the plough turns up flints and "little waggon wheels" (see fig. 6), and after a shower of rain they may be seen glistening in the sun.

On the spurs of the Pennine Range in east Lancashire a Neolithic colony was established, whose history is being worked out by Dr. Colley March, of Rochdale. This gentleman has kindly, from time to time, collated his discoveries with mine, and we find an exact similarity in the type of most of the weapons and cutting flints, but an absence in either region of some implements,

<sup>2</sup> Declared by Prof. Boyd Dawkins to be of undoubted Neolithic age.

showing perhaps a difference in tastes and pursuits natural from the difference in latitude rather than in race of the people themselves. On the Pennines the implementiferous bed was evidently formed by the decomposition of *grass* and *brushwood*, and is found "beneath a varying depth of from 1 to 10 feet of peat and peaty clay," so that here also some striking physical changes must have taken place since the days of Neolithic man.

Of all the implements I possess, only one shows distinct traces of polish, and this was about the last to be discovered. It is a beautiful miniature whet-stone (fig. 3) intended to polish other tools which have not yet appeared, and which are not necessarily newer than those merely chipped into shape. The mistake is often made of referring all chipped flints to the early, and all polished ones to the later, stone age. As far as I am aware nothing bearing trace of the handiwork of man has been discovered so far north as Shropshire of older date than the collection I am describing, and yet many of the articles in it show how wonderfully gifted were the makers. The man who made the splendid barbed arrow head (fig. 1) was an artist who was proud of his work and meant to excel. It passes my comprehension how such delicacy of tooling in material so intractable could be accomplished by the means he had at his command. If a perpendicular line is drawn from the apex of the figure to base of peduncle it will be found to exactly bisect the triangle formed by the whole. The base line round the wings and the peduncle also forms a segment of a circle. So much for the proportions which must have been in the maker's eye from the first, but the actual carving surpasses all. It requires a powerful lens to follow the minuteness and unerring accuracy of chipping, and to wonder sufficiently at the result when a single misdirected blow might have ruined all. Other tools in my collection show that the Neolith was a good workman in the best sense of the word, for he had an eye to see, and a mind to invent

when a difficulty occurred. Flint No. 4, when flaked off the nodule, took too curved a form to be useful as a straight edged cutting instrument, but by working on the outer edge only a handy tool was formed, from which, possibly, was afterwards obtained the idea for the flint chisels, gouges, and stone adzes frequently made.

No. 2, a little leaf-shaped flake, had a twist on either edge. The twist was immediately taken advantage of. The workman carefully chipped the half of one side only, beginning at the point, then, reversing the flint, he chipped as nicely the other side—each time on the outer edge of the curve—and there was an implement which the modern manufacturer of steel drills only copies. It is impossible to think the lathe can have been known at so early a period, yet the spindle whorl (fig. 6) has actually been turned. Whether the work or the tool was made to revolve, the marks of the cutter round and round are apparent enough. "Is there nothing new under the sun?"

The Neoliths are often traced best by their Celts, polished and unpolished. I find none, though Mr. Dykes, of All Stretton, has found at Wenlock a fine perforated stone hammer (probably of this period). It is now in the Shrewsbury Museum.

Little stone rings, similar to No. 5, have been found in various parts of the country, but, I believe, as yet no one has authoritatively decided what their uses were. I venture to express as my opinion that they were pieces of money. Julius Cæsar found the Britons using bronze and iron money made in the form of rings, or of square pieces pierced with a hole in the centre, and strung together like Chinese money, or the cowrie shells of the African coast tribes. He thus speaks of this money :—

"Aut nummo æreo (bronze) aut *annulis* ferreis."

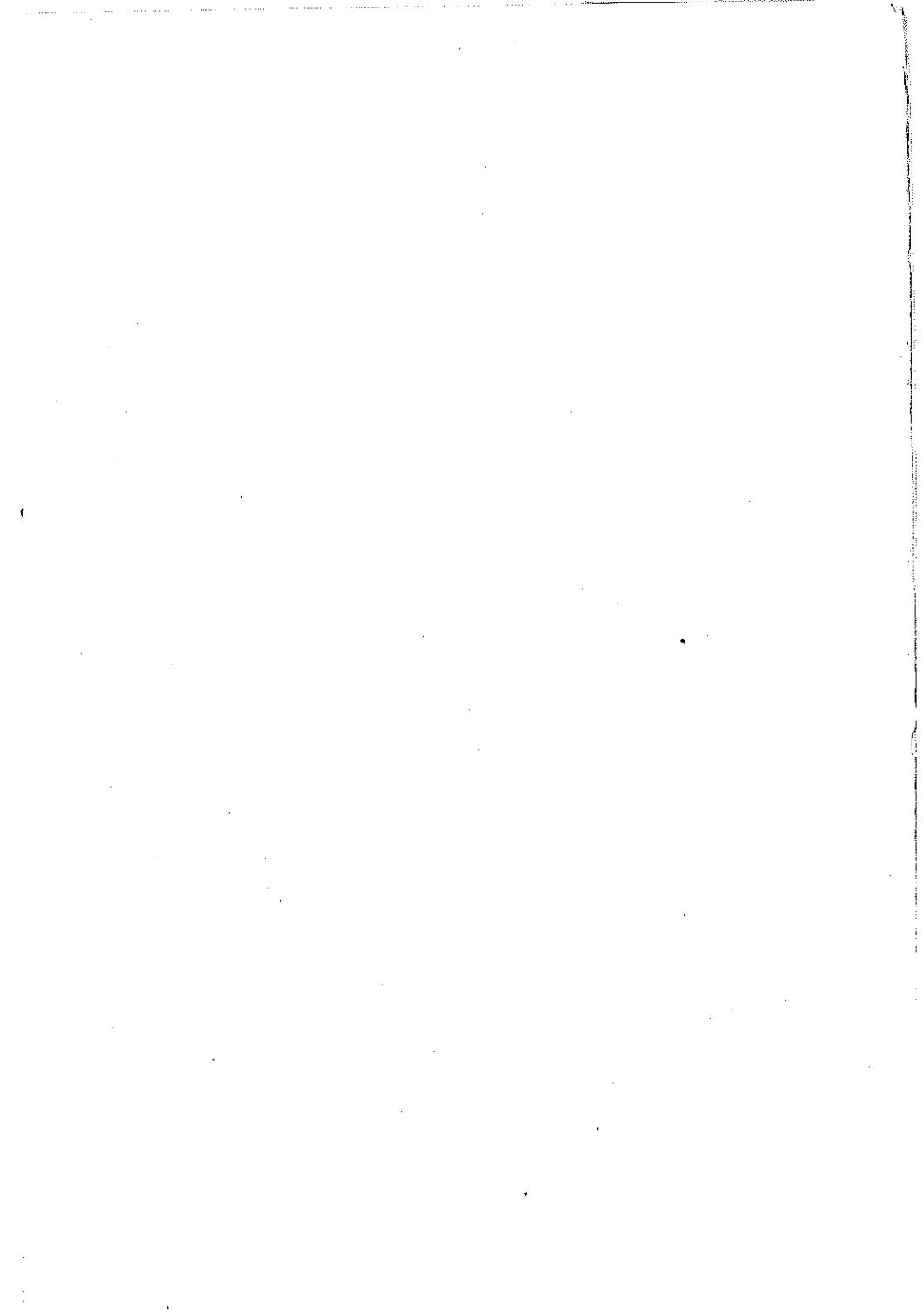
Large stores of Gaulish money have been turned up in France. This is made in gold, silver, bronze, iron, and

lead. The pattern commences with a simple ring or wheel, and passes on to spoked wheels of various stages of elaboration. But a disc of metal stamped with figure and inscription does not appear. This was a development in the life-history of coined money reserved for a later period. Now where did the Celts obtain the design for their bronze ring money? We know that their tools and weapons were at first copied from the stone patterns they saw before them, and I infer that these metal rings were simply imitations of the stone ring money used by the Neoliths of Clun and elsewhere.

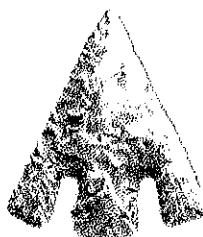
Plate II. shows two specimens of pottery—all I possess. It is remarkable that they are similar portions of the handles of similar vessels. Both are undoubtedly pre-historic, but there is a wide difference in their age. No. 1 may be Early Neolithic; No. 2 Late Neolithic or Bronze. Their composition is a mixture of clay and micaceous sand, such as results from the degradation of the Old Red Sandstone of the Clun rocks. They are rudely baked but not glazed, though No. 2 is stained, either naturally or artificially. They were found about half-a-mile apart, and the accidental discovery of the first, which was fortunately brought to my notice, led to the recognition and preservation of the second. Other portions of the vessels must still be in existence, and, no doubt, a great deal of interesting pre-historic pottery lies about on the Clun hills.

The Neolith was as cosmopolitan in his pursuits and mode of living and adapted himself to circumstances apparently with as ready a facility as the modern Englishman. On the coast fishing tribes lived without any other protection than the wide sea, of which they had the command. In such a neighbourhood as Clun a warlike people were trained to arms, and found refuge in danger in fortified hill posts. While among the meres and marshes of North Shropshire, men hid their dwellings behind reeds and willows on low-lying and difficultly approached islands, natural and artificial.

In the year 1872, when cutting a deep drain, which



I



1



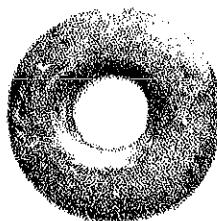
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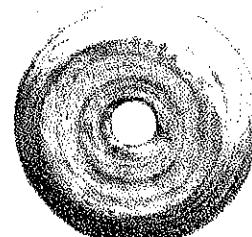
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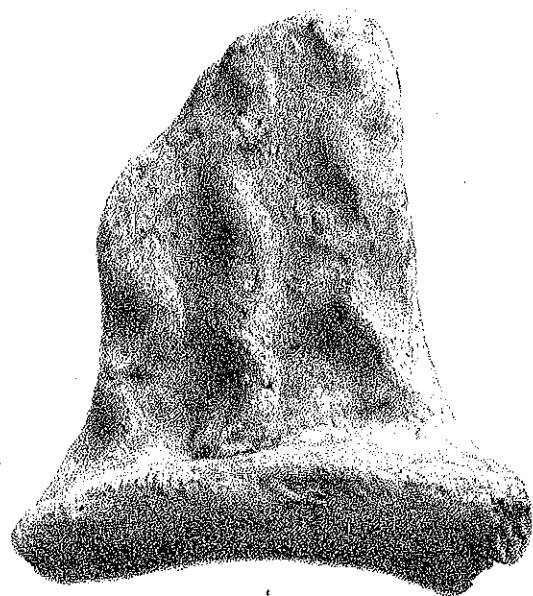


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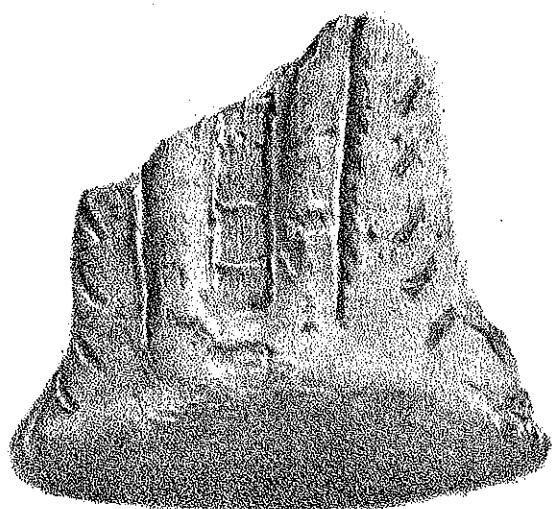


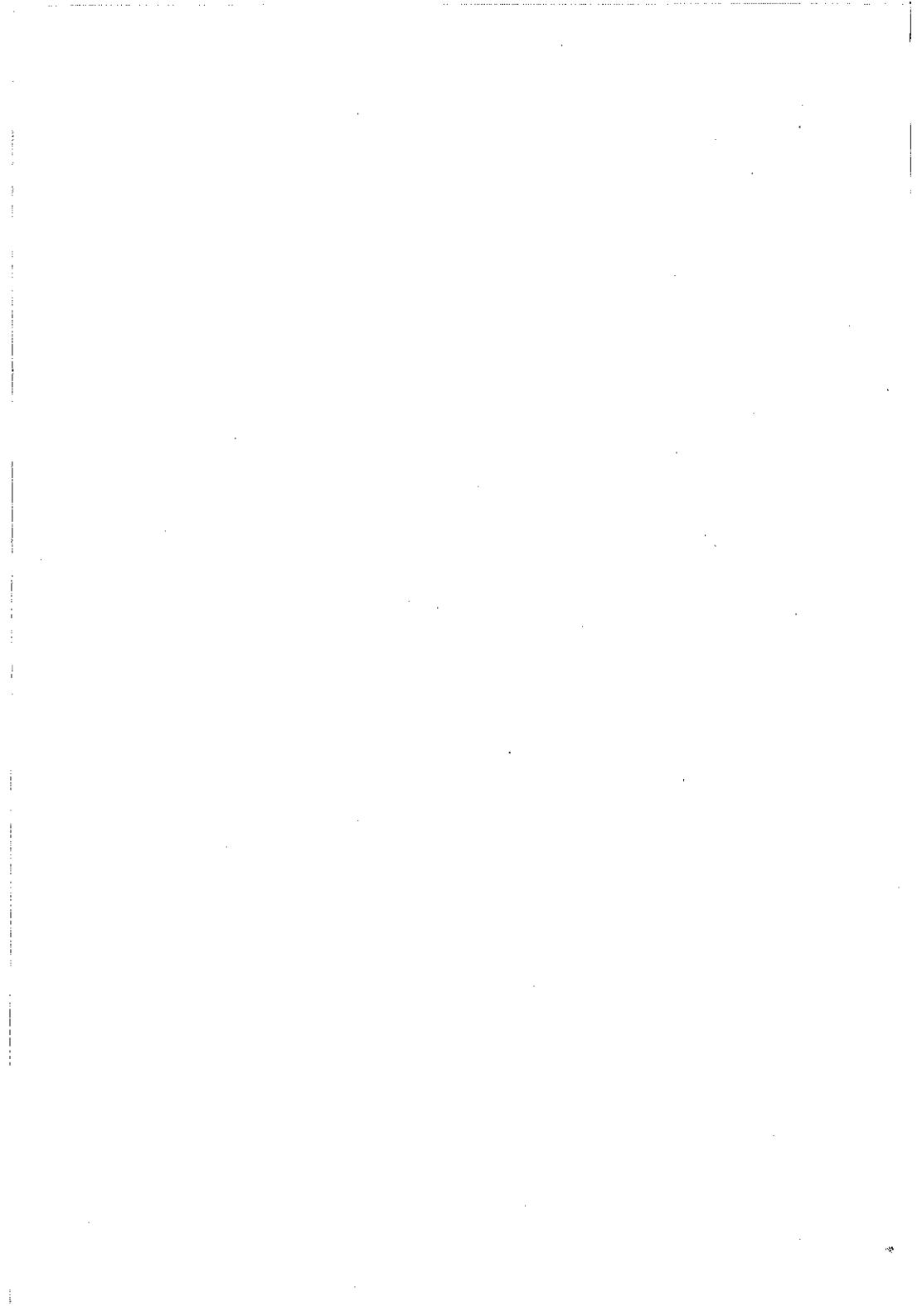
6

II



1





lowered the waters of Crossmere from six to ten feet, and reclaimed much boggy land, a rude canoe was discovered eight or nine feet long, square at bow and stern, and dug out of a solid oak trunk. The canoe was imbedded far down in the peat, and is now carefully preserved in Ellesmere Town Hall. Near the spot where it was found may be distinctly seen what, if the water returned to its original level, would be a low peninsula still called Stockett (little Stockade ?) approached by a natural causeway, which has evidently, at some time, been entrenched and, perhaps, stockaded. It would be interesting and conclusive as to the supposition, I imply, if upon this peninsula should be found in undisturbed position worked stones and flints of the type herewith figured. When I hazarded the opinion that the canoe was of Neolithic make, it was doubted whether it could possibly be so well squared and hewn with only stone implements. But I am trying to show how hard it is to fully estimate the skill and ability of the later stone folk. Prof. Boyd Dawkins writes me :— “The Neolithic folk certainly possessed canoes made of tree trunks and with square sterns, and possibly square at both ends.”

A much larger boat of the kind was dug up from a meadow at Bagley a few years ago, which, on exposure to the air, perished away, and another, still larger, also exhumed from the peaty soil, may be seen in the garden adjoining Ellesmere House.

Perhaps the most perfect specimen of a Crannoge, or lake fortress, in this county is exhibited in the Berth near Baschurch, eight miles north-west of Shrewsbury. Hartshorne, writing nearly forty years ago, says of this :—“The works consist of two distinct fortresses, lying in a morass, but which are connected with each other by an artificially raised causeway, one hundred and fifty yards long, and twelve feet wide, formed, with vast labour, of small stones. This traverses the bog at present on a level with it. There is another causeway that takes a sinuous line across the bog towards the

higher ground at Marton. The upper work occupies a circular eminence of three acres, and rises about forty-five feet above the level of the land at its base. It is strengthened on three sides by a morass, upon the south or fourth side by a deep pool of water, covering eight acres. A concentric trench and vallum (gradually being destroyed) encircle the whole work. The Inferior Fortress is of an elliptical form. It was defended by a morass on all sides." Hartshorne remarks it would have been easy to have dammed up the two streams which now drain the bog, and converted each fastness into an island.

Some authorities consider the position to have been occupied by the Saxons, others by the Britons. Each supposition may be correct, but before either people seized upon the stronghold it may have been fortified and inhabited by the Neoliths, who would not fail to perceive its security and importance.

The collection of small relics of a by-gone age I have busily gathered and attempted to describe is undoubtedly of considerable historic value, but my interest, from the first, has been most keenly excited by the larger menhirs, hoarstones, and stone circles in the neighbourhood of Clun. All these may not have been of Neolithic origin, but most, I think, were.

The Neoliths were inveterate Gilgal erecters and circle builders, and their sacred enclosures seem to have been used for any or all of these purposes - assembly, judgment, solar observation, burial, worship—a habit of consecrating and solemnizing matters of importance to the common weal we ourselves, it is hoped, have hardly yet lost.

The mystery of an antiquity and purport beyond the comprehension of the ignorant causes them to be generally looked upon with fear, and avoided, hence they have been wondrously preserved. The Whetstones just within the borders of Montgomeryshire were some time since ruthlessly destroyed, but the neighbours still speak, almost with bated breath, of the outrage,

and remark upon the fearful fate of the perpetrator of it.

I mention here, in order, some of the larger stone monuments I have examined.

#### MENHIRS.

1. The "Druid Stone" at Whitcot, two miles north-west of Clun, just above the river high flood mark. This is a rough slab of local Old Red Sandstone, standing above the ground about 6ft. by 3ft. One native tradition says that a British Chieftain is buried underneath. Another that a giant in playful wantonness kicked it from the opposite hill top.

2. The "Old Stone" at Beguildy, six miles west-south-west of Clun, in the valley of the Teme. Height above ground 3ft. 6in. ; breadth, 4ft. 3in. ; depth, under ground, considerable, as several unsuccessful attempts have recently been made to dig it out.

Tradition says it was thrown by the devil at Beguildy Church, from the Graig Don rocks near Knighton, six miles distant, but falling short by a few hundred yards stuck end up in the ground as now seen. In proof of this, the marks of his Satanic Majesty's hand are still pointed out upon it. Really the stone has been transported by a colder agency from an opposite direction. It is an Upper Llandovery Grit, and has been carried by ice seventeen miles across the mountainous county of Radnor. The prints of the infernal finger and thumb, so visible to rustic eyes, are bowl-like depressions, probably caused by the wearing out of unusually large nodules.

Since considerable superstitious awe lingers round the stone, these hollows may once have been used to contain the votive offerings of a primitive people in the practice of religious rites.

#### HOAR STONES.

1. The "Fairy Stone" upon Clunbury Hill, four and a half miles east of Clun, near the boundary of

Clunbury and Clungunford parishes. It is a strayed Rhayader Grit, 3ft. by 2ft. 3in. by 2ft. 6in.

2. The "Bettws Hoar Stone" has been removed from the Hoar Stone field upon Bettws Hill, five and a half miles west of Clun. Either the original stone or its representative is now lying by the door of Moor Hall farm-house, a mile or so down the valley. This is a fragment of local sandstone. On one side is roughly cut THOMAS, and on the reverse 066.

3. The Clun "Hoar Stone" in "Middleton's Dingle," one mile south of Clun. A travelled block of Rhayader Grit, 3ft. 6in. by 4ft. by 2ft. 6in.

#### STONE CIRCLES.

1. The "Kerry Hill Cromlech" nine and a half miles north-west of Clun. A perfect oblate circle of eight stones, averaging about 6ft. cube, with a block in the centre measuring 3ft. by 1ft. 4in. by 1ft. 6in. The longest axis of the enclosure measures 87ft., the shortest 78ft.

2. "Mitchell's Fold" upon Stapely Hill, fifteen miles north of Clun. An oval ring containing thirteen stones, standing from 2½ft. to 6ft. high. The diameters of the ring are 92ft. and 86ft., the longest diameter running north-west and south-east. If this has been a "Moot Hill," or place of judgment, it was so situate that the rock of precipitation, over which the condemned was hurled in execution, may have been almost within a stone's throw of the spot.

3. A straight line drawn from the centre of Mitchell's Fold, and passing over Stapely Hill in a north-east direction, cuts the centre of the "Marshpool Circle" about three miles distant, which is about 74ft. in diameter. It contains thirty-three stones in the ring, ranging in size from one foot to twenty cubic feet, with a central block 3½ft. by 3½ft. by 2ft. Several of the stones in this circle and Mitchell's Fold contain small holes which must not be confounded with the genuine pre-historic "pin holes" sometimes seen on ancient

monuments. They have mostly been bored in modern times by the miners of the neighbourhood, who gather round on the occasion of an interesting wedding and fire shots from them by way of salute.

Mr. Lewis, who kindly supplies me with the measurements, &c., he has taken of the two last-mentioned circles, says "accidents frequently happen on these occasions, but it is satisfactory to know that the miners suffer from them more than the stones do," and "The custom may be thought slightly suggestive of a tradition of public ceremonies having been performed at these places."

4. Upon Penywern Hill, two miles south of Clun, hidden by a clump of fir trees, and additionally obliterated by farm refuse carted from the neighbouring fields, is a badly treated stone circle, thirty yards in diameter. The stones are too small and out of sight to be readily noticed, but about one hundred and twenty yards distant, towards the south-east is an overthrown obelisk, which, apparently, lies just where it stood, and evidently did stand upright in the ground for a very long time. It is a glacial relic from Rhayader, is 10ft. long by 3ft. by 3ft., lies 1,200 feet above sea level, and has travelled twenty-three miles from its parent rock. Looking from the centre of the circle over the stone—*nearly*—the sun will be seen to rise on the 21st of December. Here there is presumptive evidence that the Neoliths from Rock Hill and far away trooped to venerate and worship the Baal god. Connected with their simple temples the Neoliths, it is known, often placed large outlying stones towards the point of highest or lowest sunrise or sunset. Though careful observers in other respects, they were seldom accurate in this. The Clun gnomon is  $6^{\circ}$  south of the true line. Allowing  $2^{\circ}$  for possible astronomical variations since Neolithic times, an error of  $4^{\circ}$  remains. Says Mr. Lewis "a remarkably good shot." The same authority also observes "I think the reference" of outlying stones to significant points in the heavens "was often rather

conventional, and, possibly carried out as a matter of custom, without any clear remembrance or knowledge of its origin." Then, if the custom was inherited from still earlier ancestors, who were the *original* sun worshippers? Are we to find *proof* in our day that Palæolithic man, the being supposed to rank next in order after the ape, was endowed with the *instinct of worship*? Do not the later continental discoveries suggest as much? For instance, the Solutré burials, dating from the age of the reindeer and the mammoth, with the bodies placed in position, and the surrounding rings of stone open towards the setting sun.

As bearing upon this great problem, I commend the Clun stone circle, with its outlying gnomon, and trust that other workers will take up the search for Neolithic remains in Shropshire.

## NOTES ON SHROPSHIRE BIRDS.

By WILLIAM E. BECKWITH, EATON CONSTANTINE.

(Continued from p. 398 of Vol. X.)

MARSH HARRIER, *Circus Aeruginosus*.

I am able to record a third instance of the occurrence of this now rare bird in the county. Writing to the *Field*, January 16th, 1886, Mr. G. J. Dumville Lees, under the pseudonym "Tantara," says:—"On January 12th, I saw a fine specimen of the Marsh Harrier near Oswestry. The bird was coming along a narrow plantation that had recently been planted, and he was beating as systematically as a pointer works his ground; his flight was sluggish and awkward, though he turned smartly at some small bird or mouse on the ground. The small birds, such as blackbirds and chaffinches, were in a great state of excitement. It seems strange that birds should know their natural enemy, though I do not suppose any one of them had ever seen a Marsh Harrier before. I know this is the first I ever saw in Shropshire, though I have seen plenty in Spain, on the low ground near Gibraltar. The bird seemed entirely brown." Mr. Lees also, I am glad to say, adds:—"You will notice that I use the word 'saw,' not 'shot,' as I am strongly opposed to the plan of destroying every rare bird that pays us an occasional visit. I see Yarrell (4 edit.) mentions Shropshire as one of the counties where the Marsh Harrier has been seen, but it has never before been my good fortune to set eyes on one, though I have seen the Hen Harrier there."

Mr. A. G. Moore, in the *Ibis*, gives Shropshire and Staffordshire as counties where the Marsh Harrier breeds, or used to breed; and, in Yarrell's *British Birds* (4 edit.), Professor Newton says that its nest may be occasionally found in Shropshire. This might have been the case in former days, as the extensive heaths and mosses were likely places for such a bird to inhabit; but, at the same time, it is scarcely right to assume, in the absence of any record of the discovery of either nest or young, that it was ever more than an accidental visitor.

To judge from the memoranda of its occurrence, it was always a

## BIRDS OF SHROPSHIRE.

rare bird in this county. T. C. Eyton, in his Attempt to ascertain the Fauna of Shropshire and North Wales, *Annals of Natural History*, 1838, vol. i., p. 286, speaks of it as "common in Wales," but makes no mention of Shropshire. Rocke notices one obtained on the Longmynds by Mr. W. Pinches, of Tickleton, who began to collect about 1830, and who died in 1849; and in the catalogue of the Hawkstone collection, one is mentioned, no date being given, as having been killed at Berwick, and presented to Lord Hill by the late Honourable H. W. Powys. It appears to have become scarce in Wales also, though Mr. A. T. Jebb, The Lyth, Ellesmere, informs me he sometimes sees it in Denbighshire, near Llansilin.

HEN HARRIER, *Circus cyaneus*.

The Hen Harrier shares the fate of other birds of prey in being now of rare occurrence; though, formerly, it seems to have been rather common on the heaths and mosses in the North, and on the moorlands in the South of the county. People now living remember it as frequenting the lowlying ground in the vicinity of Wem, Whitchurch, and Ellesmere. More recently, the late Mr. R. A. Slaney used to see it hunting round the large pools and over the marshy land near Baschurch and Hordley. The late Mr. Thomas Bodenham, of Sunfield, Shrewsbury, when forming his collection of birds about 1850, had little difficulty in procuring both adults and young from the Stiperstones. And Mr. Pinches, some years previously, often killed it on the Longmynds and other hills round Church Stretton. Now, although it is very seldom seen, the Rev. Riou G. Benson informs me that he has occasionally noticed it upon the Longmynds. Mr. G. J. Dumville Lees wrote me word that in January, 1879, he saw a male not far from Oswestry; and, in the following December, Mr. H. A. Payne obtained an immature female near Envile, close upon the borders of the county. Mr. T. W. Bourne, who then lived at Astley Abbots, also informed me that in 1882, and for two previous years, he had observed a pair of Harriers about the high ground near Willey and Barrow.

Writing of this species in 1838, Eyton says:—"I have several times observed these birds near Corwen"; but for the last thirty years, at least, the three kinds of Harriers have been very rare in Shropshire, and almost equally so in North Wales. The bird-stuffers in Shrewsbury, who get a variety of birds from Wales, have, during that time, had very few of any one of the tribe. A young male Hen Harrier was, however, killed at Bodelwyddan, near St. Asaph, in November, 1881; and writing from Bronpardarn, near Aberystwith, in 1886, Mr. George Weir Cossens says:—"Merlins still breed in this county, and I know of a pair of Harriers still left."

MONTAGU'S HARRIER, *Circus Montagui*.

In Yarrell's *British Birds* (4 edit.) the Editor, Professor Newton, writing of this Harrier, enumerates Shropshire among the counties in which "there is more or less satisfactory evidence of its nest having formerly been found." As far as I can learn, however, the only example that has been obtained in the county is the one I have mentioned before, which was caught at Crosemere Mere in July, 1859, by Mr. Sparling's gamekeeper, and is now in that gentleman's possession at Petton Park. The bird was a female and had recently been sitting; but no nest was found, and no other birds were seen.

In North Wales, Montagu's, or the Ash-coloured, Harrier appears to have been only of rare and accidental occurrence. Eyton, who was well acquainted with that part of the country, says:—"But one of this species has come under my observation, nor have I heard of others. The specimen alluded to was killed near Dolgelley."

There is no evidence to show that the stuffed specimen at Oakley Park, near Ludlow, mentioned by Rocke in the *Zoologist*, 1865, was killed in Shropshire.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Otus vulgaris*.

This fine Owl is found, wherever there are fir plantations, throughout the county; and, in those districts where it is not persecuted, is becoming more numerous every year. In the large woods round Oswestry, Ellesmere, and Newport, as well as in those along Wenlock Edge, it is often seen. I have known three or four instances of its breeding on Shawbury Heath, and about the Wrekin it has almost taken the place of the Tawny Owl. Like the other kinds, it preys principally upon rats, mice, and small birds, and occasionally takes young rabbits; but I can give no stronger evidence of its utility than by quoting an interesting passage contributed by Professor Newton to Gould's *Birds of Great Britain*:—"I do not know many sights" he says "more engaging to a naturalist than one which often presents itself on peering into a thickly growing Scotch fir-tree. A family party of some half-dozen Long-eared Owls may be descried perched in close proximity to the observer's head. Their bodies are drawn up perpendicularly and attenuated in a most marvellous manner, the ear-tufts nearly erect, or, if not exactly parallel to one another, slightly inclined inwards. Except these, there is nothing to break the stiff rectangle of the bird's outline. Thus they sit, one and all, swaying slowly upon one foot, and gravely winking one eye at the intruder. Underneath such an Owl-roost as this, is certain to be found a large quantity of the pellets ejected by its frequenters; and a good notion of their usual food is to be gathered from an examination of the same." Half-grown rats and mice, chiefly the former, constitute the staple; but small

birds contribute no small share ; and I have recognised among the remains, unquestionable bones of the Wheatear, Willow Wren, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, and Yellow Bunting. How the owls catch them, I am unable to say ; but I am bound to mention that never in a single instance have I discovered a trace of any game-bird, and I feel assured that the keepers who wage war against the Long-eared Owl for the protection of their young Pheasants or Partridges, are not only giving themselves unnecessary trouble, but are guilty of the folly of exterminating their best friends, for the number of rats destroyed by this species is enormous, and I look upon the rat as the game-preserver's worst enemy."

I may also remark that, while other owls are becoming scarce for want of suitable breeding-places, the Long-eared Owl would, where protected, increase ; as, though it sometimes lays in hollow trees, it is quite independent of them, and prefers bringing up its family in a squirrel's nest, or "drey" as it is locally called, or in the deserted nest of a magpie or a jay. And Stevenson, in his *Birds of Norfolk*, records an instance on the authority of Mr. Spalding, where an owl of this species was "snared on her nest, which was placed amongst the heather at the foot of a fir tree." This owl appears to be an early breeder. Writing to the *Field*, May 28th, 1887, from Chetwynd Park, near Newport, Mr. C. R. Gawen says :—\* \* "On the 14th of April last I found in the nest of a Long-eared Owl near here the hinder halves of five mice and the fore part of another. The remains were perfectly fresh and moist, the mice having apparently been caught during the previous night. There were five owlets in this nest. Another nest visited by me on the 26th of April, and which belonged to the same species, contained three owlets, but no catables of any kind." And, writing to me subsequently, Mr. Gawen adds :—"Both the Long-eared Owls' nests mentioned in my note to the *Field* were in young Scotch firs. The first lot of owlets were in an old squirrel's "drey" ; the second in what seemed to be the disused nest of a hawk. I have no doubt this species also breeds in some old Scotch firs on Chetwynd Heath."

In the *Zoologist* for May, 1874, Mr. Nickolas Cooke, writing from Gorsey Hey, Liscard, near Birkenhead, records the occurrence of an Eagle Owl (*Bubo maximus*), which was shot the previous autumn by Mr. Reynolds, of Hermitage Farm, near Bridgnorth ; but, as this owl is often kept in confinement, it was, no doubt, one that had escaped. Another of these large owls, also, doubtless, a tame one, was killed in November, 1863, in an extensive wood near Llanidloes.

If taken care of, this handsome owl will live to a considerable age in confinement. One, at present in my possession, was bought by the late T. C. Eyton in 1860 or 1861, and, after his death in

1880, was given to me. It is a very handsome bird, and is now perfectly healthy and in beautiful plumage. When undisturbed, the greater part of its time is spent dozing in the front of the cage, even in sunshine, and it delights in calm weather, but during a high wind sits upon the ground. When reposing, the ear-tufts or "horns" are usually depressed, but are promptly erected if a stranger, or a cat, or a dog, passes. Its powers of hearing are very acute, and it can see perfectly well by day. With people who are known it is quite tame and familiar; but shows a dislike to others by hissing and snapping its mandibles. It hoots both in the day time and at night, and, in still weather, can be heard for nearly a mile. I feed it upon kittens, rabbits, rats, mice, and birds; but kittens are its favourite food, and, after them, rats or sparrows. While it eats shrews, it will not touch moles. It cuts the head off a full grown rabbit with ease, and removes the entrails of both rabbits and rats; but swallows small animals entire. When a rabbit or a large rat is given to it, it eats down between the shoulders to the heart; but little things are gulped down head first. After feeding, it invariably drinks copiously. Stevenson, in his *Birds of Norfolk*, gives an interesting history of Eagle Owls breeding in confinement at Easton, and mentions that one of the original parents was thirty-four years old.

#### SHORT-EARED OWL, *Strix brachyotus*.

The Short-eared Owl is a regular winter visitor, but its numbers vary greatly in different years. In November, 1883, when it was unusually numerous, I frequently found one by the meres or on the mosses near Ellesmere; and several were, I am sorry to say, killed in other places. Like many migratory birds, this owl is usually more common on its arrival in October and November, and again before its departure in March and April, than in mid-winter; and two or three, or even more, are often found together at those seasons. Indeed the late Mr. Coke, when hunting near Clun, in April, 1864, saw so many disturbed by the hounds that the singular spectacle presented itself of from fifteen to twenty owls on the wing at once. In enclosed districts the Short-eared Owl is usually found in boggy places, or long grass in low-lying meadows—places which are favourite resorts of mice and voles, upon which it preys.

In order to gain some idea of the enormous numbers in which these destructive animals frequent certain localities, it is only necessary to walk along the meadows by the Severn in the early stage of a flood, when the water is beginning to overflow them. Field-mice are then to be seen in all directions hurrying towards the high ground, now and then stopping in some tussock of rushes or grass, and again running forward, and swimming rapidly across any narrow ditch or streamlet that intercepts

their course. At a time like this, were owls more plentiful, great destruction would be wrought among these small pests; for the rising water compels them either to constantly change their quarters until they gain the higher banks, or to remain on some temporary island till the flood subsides.

On its arrival in autumn, the Short-eared Owl often resorts to turnip fields, from which it frightens the partridges, who probably mistake it for a hawk. A few years ago some friends, while engaged in beating a turnip field near High Ercall, failed to find any partridges, but put up, one after another, seven Short-eared Owls. In the *Zoologist*, 1863, p. 8818, Mr. S. P. Saville asserts that this species never perches but always sits upon the ground. This certainly is its general habit, but it is not invariable; for a few autumns ago, on my passing under a large oak tree, a bird flew out, and supposing in the dusk that it was a woodpigeon, I shot it, and, on going to pick it up, found to my regret I had killed one of these Owls.

Mr. Rocke stated in the *Zoologist*, 1865, p. 4687, that he had no doubt this bird bred on the Black Hill, above Clun, but he was never able to find its nest or young. That part of the county is, however, an extremely likely one for it to nest in; and the following letter shows that it unquestionably breeds, or recently bred in Wales. Writing to the *Field*, January 24th, 1880, from Cym, near Aberystwith, Mr. George Weir Cosens says:—"In answer to your correspondent, Mr. Frederick Spalding, I beg to state that I have ample proof that the Short-eared Owl has nested in Cardiganshire. Some thirteen years since, when I first came to reside in Cardiganshire, I lived within a few miles of the Plynlimmon range of mountains. As I was returning from fishing one summer afternoon, about four o'clock, I saw seven owls flying about together. On getting nearer to them I saw that they were Short-eared Owls, two old and five young ones. Knowing that it was an unusual occurrence for them to breed in this country, I rode to a gamekeeper's house, which was a short distance away, and borrowed a gun. I shot two of them, one old and one young. I found the nest, where they had been reared, among the heather and long grass. Of these two birds, one is here in my collection, and the other I gave to a friend. I knew of other instances of young Short-eared Owls having been killed during the summer months, but will relate another incident which came under my personal observation. A year or two after, on the same range of mountains, I was told by a gamekeeper that he had killed an owl, sitting on her nest, with a stick. A day or two before, he had seen the bird leave her nest, in which were four eggs. The nest was in the long grass on a narrow spur of mountain. Having occasion to pass the place again, he saw the bird sitting on the nest, and, as she allowed him to approach quite close, he killed her with a long

stick he had in his hand. The eggs were destroyed by the blow. The bird, which I examined, was a Short-eared Owl, but, unfortunately, was too much mutilated for preservation. During the seven years I lived in that neighbourhood, I feel quite sure that never a summer passed without a pair or two remaining to breed, as I used to see them flying about in the afternoon and evening. The flight of the Short-eared Owl is very different from that of the Long-eared or Tawny Owl, to say nothing of its habit of hunting in the daytime, which I have occasionally watched it doing."

Unhappily, Mr. Cossens is now prevented by illness from visiting the locality alluded to above; but kindly replying to my question, in a letter dated April 12th, 1886, he says:—"I have every reason to believe that they still breed in this county, as they are by no means an uncommon bird."

#### WHITE OWL, *Strix flammea*.

In these days, when ivy-clad church towers, dilapidated barns, and hollow trees or "runnels," as they are sometimes termed, have been almost swept away, the Barn Owl is not often seen except where the ruins of some Abbey or Castle, or old ornamental trees afford it a retreat. Still a few are to be found throughout the county; and, now that for five months in the year all owls are protected by law, and the boy who takes their young ones is liable to be fined a sovereign for each nestling, this handsome bird will, I hope, increase, especially if those who have the power will assist in its protection, and prevent it from being ruthlessly destroyed. As a mouser, this is the most valuable of the family; for, while the Long-eared and Tawny Owls chiefly confine themselves to woodland districts, it prefers hunting about houses and stackyards. Outlying stacks in fields, where rats and mice are constantly obliged to pass to and fro, are very favourite resorts of these birds; and on passing some so placed near this village, in autumn, I frequently see an owl either perched upon a stack or flying round it. If it were possible to estimate the annual cost of keeping a rat or a mouse, every farmer would encourage about his stackyard a bird which preys principally upon these destructive vermin; but, unfortunately, the beautiful plumage of the White Owl is too attractive, and it is shot and sent to be stuffed. Indeed one great reason of its scarcity is the readiness with which both old and young ones are purchased by bird-stuffers, who seem to consider a number of owls stuffed in all manner of grotesque attitudes, or converted into ornaments, an especial attraction to their shops.

Besides rats and mice of all kinds, this Owl kills numbers of small birds, especially the mischievous House Sparrow, whose favourite roosting place is among ivy or in the sides of stacks.

Waterton, who long preserved this Owl at Walton, and had,

accordingly, unusual facilities for observing its habits, remarks in his *Essays on Natural History* :—“If this useful bird caught its food by day, instead of hunting for it by night, mankind would have ocular demonstration of its utility in thinning the country of mice; and it would be protected and encouraged everywhere.”

And with reference to the charge often brought against it of entering dovecots and killing the inmates, Waterton adds :—“When farmers complain that the Barn Owl destroys the eggs of their pigeons, they lay the saddle on the wrong horse. They ought to put it on the rat. Formerly, I could get very few young pigeons till the rats were excluded effectually from the dovecot. Since that took place, it has produced a great abundance every year, though the Barn Owls frequent it, and are encouraged all around it. The Barn Owl merely resorts to it for repose and concealment. If it were really an enemy to the dovecot, we should see the pigeons in commotion as soon as it begins its evening flight, but the pigeons heed it not.” And this opinion has been recently confirmed by Mr. Reginald Kelly, Lifton, Devonshire, who, writing in the *Zoologist*, 1886, p. 369, says :—“It may interest you to know that a Barn Owl has taken up her abode in my dovecot for the last three months. The Pigeons do not mind her. She sits during the day in one of the holes, and always comes out every evening, and invariably takes the same route. I hoped she had nested, and went up to-day (June 29th) to look, but found no nest. She took no notice of me. \* \* \* My dovecot is one of the old-fashioned buildings with an entrance at the top down into a room, with holes in the walls all round. Since writing the above a month ago, I found yesterday (July 26th) a couple of young Owls in the dovecot. I am very glad of it, as it proves there is a pair of old Owls about, although I never see more than one at a time.”

The Barn Owl breeds, I believe, later in the year than any other British Bird. Colonel Kenyon Slaney sent notice to the *Field*, December 11th, 1880, of a young one not fully feathered being picked up at Hatton Grange on the 30th November; and on the 20th October, 1881, an owl’s nest in this village contained two young ones unable to fly. Waterton noticed this peculiarity, and mentions having a brood of young owls in December, 1823, and some that were hatched on the 7th September, 1831; while, in the charming *Letters of Rusticus*, the author relates having taken owlets and eggs from a tree near Godalming, in October, 1822.

Mr. J. H. Gurney, however, seems to think these late hatches depend upon the season; for, in the *Zoologist*, 1880, p. 71, he says :—“As a proof of the lateness of the past nesting season, I saw two nestling Barn Owls on November 21st, which had been taken from Ryburgh (Norfolk) Church tower, I could not

exactly say how old they might be, but they were evidently very young."

There can be, I think, no doubt, that the Barn Owl is, to a certain extent, migratory, and that birds from other places visit us in autumn. For several years I have noticed White Owls during October and November where there had been none the previous summer, but I thought their occurrence accidental, or that they were wandering from stack to stack in search of food. The late Henry Shaw, however, often remarked that he had more Barn Owls brought to him in those two months than at any other time of year. And, in corroboration of this, I find the following passages in my own note book:—

"November 14th, 1875, Henry and John Shaw have had an unusual number of Barn Owls, this autumn, chiefly young birds. Some of them have, apparently, been killed against the telegraph wires."

"November 3rd, 1881, The bird-stuffers in Shrewsbury have again received a number of Barn Owls. After the great storm on the 14th October many were picked up dead."

"December 2nd, 1883, A good many Barn Owls have been brought into Shrewsbury, several of them disabled by telegraph wires."

"November 25th, 1887, Barn Owls have been unusually plentiful this autumn. The great proportion of them are young birds, in very beautiful plumage."

These Owls probably came from Scotland and the North of England, as in North Europe this species is scarcely known. Still, the fact that they appear at a season when so many continental migrants are arriving is remarkable.

#### TAWNY OWL, *Syrnium stridula*.

As this handsome Owl, whose loud hooting used to be so frequently heard in the vicinity of woods, rarely inhabits ruins or buildings of any kind, the scarcity of hollow trees has affected it even more than the white one; and, in consequence, it is now seldom found except in parks or in plantations where yew and holly bushes abound, among whose thick foliage it passes the day. Its preference too, for woods, combined with its occasional taste for a young rabbit, brings it under the gamekeeper's ban, which, I fear, when taken in connection with the failure of suitable nesting places, will prevent its ever again becoming numerous. On some estates, however, the utility of owls is now being recognised, and a stop is being put to their wanton slaughter. As an instance of which, I may mention that Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, writing from Hatton Grange, says:—"I am glad to say we have abundance of owls, both brown and white, and we preserve them very strictly."

Still, with all this care for its preservation, the fact remains that,

in the extensive woods about the Wrekin, where thirty years ago the Tawny Owl was common, and where gamekeepers have long ago ceased to molest it, only a few are now left ; and I fear its scarcity is owing rather to changes in the character of our woodlands than to persecution. In choosing a site for its nest this Owl is somewhat erratic. Gurney and Fisher, in the *Zoologist*, 1846, p. 1304, say :—“ We have known this Owl to nest in a deserted rabbit or fox’s hole on the side of a wooded hill near the coast. The nest was about two feet from the mouth of the hole.” A correspondent of the *Field*, April 26th, 1884, signing himself F. W. (Montgomeryshire), stated that his son had found a Tawny Owl’s nest in a rabbit burrow, which, when he examined it on the 21st, contained an owlet and an egg. And the following article on this subject, from the graphic pen of Mr. J. E. Harting, appeared in the *Zoologist* for 1879, p. 427 :—“ In regard to its nesting habits the Tawny Owl seems to differ a good deal from other Owls. As a rule, the eggs are deposited in the hole of some tree, but it has been observed to make an open nest in a hollow of a fork, seven feet from the ground, and sometimes to make use of the deserted nest of a Rook (see Gray’s *Birds of the West of Scotland*, p. 61). It has also been known to lay its eggs upon the ground on a heap of fir-needles (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 324). In the *Ibis* for July last (p. 378) two instances are recorded of its nesting in a burrow. Captain J. W. P. Orde mentions a nest of five eggs so placed which came under his observation in Argyllshire. One had rolled away into a branch of the burrow, the others were nearly hatched in the second week of April. Mr. Bruce, of Ederline, at the foot of Loch Awe, on April 18th, 1876, found a nest of this bird in a rabbit-hole about two feet deep, in a sloping bank. The nest contained four young Owls, differing greatly in size ; two were at least ten days older than the other two, and no two of them looked quite of the same age ; they were covered with whitish down, and kept their eyes shut. The nest also contained a rat and two mice, freshly killed, and with their heads taken off. This approximation in habit to the well-known burrowing Owls of America is curious and worth noting.” From this it appears that the Tawny, like the White Owl, begins to sit as soon as the first egg is laid ; and, consequently, young ones of different ages are found together in the nest. It will be interesting to observe, as the number of hollow trees year by year decreases, whether this species becomes rare and restricted to a few localities, or whether it adapts itself to circumstances, and, like the Short-eared Owl, nests upon the ground, or in burrows, like its relatives in America. Speaking of its usefulness, Gould, in his *Birds of Great Britain*, remarks :—“ Were it possible for a pair of Brown Owls to produce a yearly record of the number of nocturnal moles, Norway rats, and destructive field-mice they have destroyed, against a similar

account of what has been done in this way by any five keepers, I question whether the balance would not be in favour of the Owls. \* \* \* I believe the brown rat to be far more destructive to leverets and young pheasants than this Owl can be."

The following table, also, giving the result of the examination of the indigestible portions of their food, which owls and other carnivorous birds cast up in the shape of pellets, shows the amount of good done by our three common species in preying upon mischievous animals ; and further proves that the present species feeds upon insects. This table was originally communicated to the German Ornithologists' Society, by Dr. Altum, during their meeting in 1862, and it is reprinted in the fourth edition of Yarrell's *British Birds*, p. 148.

	No. of Pellets Ex- amined.	REMAINS FOUND.							
		Bats.	Rats.	Mice.	Voles.	Shrews.	Moles.	Birds.	Beetles.
Tawny Owl.	210	...	6	42	296	33	48	18(1)	48(4)
Long-eared Owl.	25	...	...	6	35	...	...	2(2)	...
Barn Owl.	706	16	3	237	693	1590	...	22(3)	...

<sup>1</sup> 1 Tree-Creeper, 1 Yellow Bunting, 1 Wagtail, 15 small species undetermined. Species of Titmouse.

<sup>2</sup> 19 Sparrows, 1 Greenfinch, 2 Swifts.

<sup>3</sup> Besides a countless number of Cockchaffers.

The fact of Dr. Altum having found, as shown in the above table, the remains of moles in the pellets ejected by the Tawny Owl is extremely interesting, and corroborates Gould's statement that it destroys "nocturnal moles." At the same time, it is remarkable that no bird feeds upon the moles which are gibbeted by mole-catchers on some hedge or bush and they are allowed to decay, while if rats are left lying about they are soon eaten, and even their bones picked, by hawks, owls, jackdaws, or magpies. It is true that several kinds of hawks are said to kill moles, and Yarrell mentions an instance of twenty-two being found in a Kite's nest, but this is no proof that the young ate them ; indeed from the number it seems as if they did not relish them, and the same feeling may lead birds to carry moles to their young

that induces cats to bring them, together with stoats, weasels, shrews, and robins to their kittens, though they never eat them.

#### GREAT GREY SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor*.

This Shrike is a rare and accidental winter visitor, and appears to be even scarcer now than formerly. The last specimen to come under my notice was shot at Hardwick, near Ellesmere, in November, 1878; but Mr. G. J. Dunville Lees informs me that it is occasionally seen along the borders of Montgomeryshire. Unlike the next species, it seems to have been always rare in the interior of Wales, as Eyton only once observed it—an exceptional circumstance which happened in the month of May. Owing, however, to its shy habits, and to the time of year its visits are made, it is extremely likely to escape notice.

During its stay here, the Great Shrike is usually a solitary species, or two are sometimes found together; but Armitage and Ley, in an account of *Rare Birds found in Herefordshire*, published in the *Woolhope Club Transactions*, 1869, p. 72, mention having met with a "small flock" of these birds on the Black Mountain.

#### RED-BACKED SHRIKE, *Lanius collurio*.

The Red-backed Shrike still visits the county every summer; but, owing to its curious habit of frequenting the neighbourhood of towns and villages, where its bright plumage soon attracts attention, so that it is too often killed, or its nest destroyed, has of late years become rather rare. The changes which have taken place in the aspect of the country have also contributed to cause its decrease; for it is a bird that delights in old tangled hedges, in commons, and waste places dotted over here and there with clumps of trees and bushes, and that cares little for low pleached fences, or enclosed and cultivated ground.

During its stay, the Butcher-bird prefers the south and west portions of the county, and is less frequent in the north and east. Mr. G. H. Paddock, of Caynton, however, writing in 1887, tells me that it breeds every year about Newport and Edgmond, and he thinks that it has lately become more common in that district. Colonel the Honourable F. C. Bridgeman saw one at Crackley Bank, near Shifnal, in July, 1871; the Rev. W. Serjeantson noticed one at the foot of the Wrekin, in July, 1876; in May, 1878, Mr. G. E. Meredith shot a beautiful pair at Leighton; Mr. J. E. Stanier obtained one some years ago at Donington, near Wroxeter; and a pair frequently breed on Haughmond Hill. In the south and west it is more generally distributed. Mr. Thomas W. Bourne, who then lived at Astley Abbots, found three pairs, in 1881, breeding near Broseley, where they had nested for the three previous summers; and the following year he found a single nest. Mr. R. E. Anstice informs me that he has seen it about Ironbridge; and the Rev. F. O. Philpott notices it occasionally

about Church Stoke and Chirbury. Mr. G. J. Dumville Lees sent me word that it bred at Nant Mawr, near Llanyblodwell, in 1885, remarking at the same time that it was not uncommon along the borders of Montgomeryshire ; and Mr. A. T. Jebb saw a nest near Llansilin, in the summer of 1887. Indeed, it is extremely likely to be found all along the Welsh borders, as the tracts of partly cultivated, partly wild, country, so common in Wales, are eminently suited to it. Eyton, in 1838, wrote of it :—“Very common in Wales, particularly near Capel Curig and Barmouth ; at the latter place they feed chiefly on insects belonging to the genus *Geotrupes* (Dorr beetles) which particularly abound. At Capel Curig, grass-hoppers appear to constitute their chief food ; some dozens of them may be seen on the side of the hill above the lakes, which is thinly covered with scattered hawthorn bushes, and abounds with their prey.” Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips, *Zoologist*, 1881. p. 408, says that it is common in Breconshire, being often seen in hay-fields adjoining the town of Brecon. I have known it frequently occur near Llanidloes ; and Mr. F. H. Birley, in the *Zoologist* for 1886, p. 75, mentions having found two pairs breeding on the borders of Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire, near Cader Idris. A doubt has sometimes been expressed whether the Red-backed Shrike attacks and kills birds ; and Yarrell seems to have had some misgivings on the subject. In the *Zoologist*, however, for 1875, pp. 4691 and 4721, Mr. J. H. Gurney and Captain A. Clark-Kennedy severally give their own experience, which not only sets the question at rest, but also shows that it sometimes kills birds equal, if not superior, to itself, both in size and weight. Mr. Gurney instances a case where a pair took several pheasants about three days old ; and Captain Clark-Kennedy states that he has “found thorn-trees, and thorn-bushes in hedgerows in Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent, and other counties, well ‘decorated’ with (among several others) the following specimens, *viz.*, great titmouse, blue tit, longtailed tit (all a very common prey), robin, and hedge sparrow ; once a thrush (young) ; twice old blackbirds, and once young partridges, in addition to the usual beetles and cockchaffers.”

Perhaps one reason for it so often frequenting places where large hawthorns grow is that it finds the thorns convenient for spitting its prey upon.

#### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa grisola*.

Hewitson, in his *Eggs of British Birds*, states that he never remembered to have found a Hedge Sparrow’s nest except near some habitation ; and the same remark will apply with even greater truth to that of this Flycatcher. It seems to delight not only in choosing odd sites for its nest, but in building near some door or path where people are frequently passing, and where, alas ! its

young often fall victims to the cat. Rocke truly says of it :— “This neat and most sociable little bird is common everywhere. The last of our summer migrants, it arrives with a regularity almost inconceivable. Few birds have so little fear of man : the nearer they can approach his dwellings, the greater their confidence appears to be. I have known two broods in succession reared in a summer-house, the nest being placed within two or three inches of the heads of people who were continually passing in and out.” Although spending little more than three months here, it generally has two broods, five eggs being usually laid the first time, and three the second. This silent bird—for it has no song—is most useful in gardens, where it feeds entirely upon insects and their larvae, either picking them off the ground, or expertly catching them in the air. Latham says it eats cherries, and in Kent is called a cherry-sucker ; but Yarrell is doubtless right in remarking that “they visit fruit trees for the sake of the flies which the ripening fruit attracts, since on examination of the stomachs of Flycatchers killed under such circumstances no remains of fruit were found.”

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa atricapilla*.

A rare summer visitor, the Pied Flycatcher breeds here in limited numbers every year ; but it is most frequently seen, either singly or in pairs, during its spring migration, when we are visited by passing migrants. On the eastern side of the county, I know of only two instances of its occurrence—Colonel Kenyon-Slaney having seen one at Hatton Grange in the spring of 1877, and Mr. Thomas W. Bourne having found a nest with four eggs on the 11th May, 1880, in a wall at Willey Park. In west Shropshire this pretty bird is more frequent, as it breeds annually along the valley of the Teme and some of its tributaries ; and Mr. G. J. Dunville Lees noticed one or two pairs, in the summers of 1884 and 1885, nesting by the river Ceiriog, where it bounds the county near Chirk—an interesting discovery, as this is an old locality, mentioned by J. F. M. Dovaston, of West Felton, who, in the *Magazine of Natural History* for 1832, p. 83, reports having seen one or two, and sometimes three, pairs among the old oaks close to Chirk Castle “where the rocks overhang the rapid Ceiriog, exactly where Offa’s Dike crosses the river.” Dovaston also states that early in every April he observed a pair in his orchard at West Felton, where they played and fed for a day or two ; and that the song nearly resembled that of the Redstart. Some years ago, one of these birds was shot at Brogyntyn near Oswestry ; in May, 1877, three or four were seen about Shrewsbury ; in June, 1887, one was again said to have been seen there ; and in June, 1883, Lord Hill saw one in his park at Hawkstone.

This Flycatcher is very likely to occur along the borders of

Wales; for, though it was not noticed by Eyton, it is not uncommon in many Welsh counties. Mr. E. Cambridge Phillips, in his *Birds of Breconshire, Zoologist*, 1881, p. 409, says:—"This county seems to be a favourite resort of this bird, and I may say with truth that it is fairly plentiful." A correspondent, signing himself J. (Manafon, Montgomeryshire), writing to the *Field*, May 28th, 1887, says that he saw a pair near the small village of Berriew, on the 3rd of that month. I have notes of its frequent occurrence in the neighbourhood of Llanidloes, and Mr. F. H. Birley, in the *Zoologist*, 1886, pp. 75-6, gives the following account of finding it on the borders of Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire, near Cader Idris:—"The Pied Flycatcher (*M. atricapilla*) is by no means rare. We found six nests of this bird; they are easily found for the male is continually going to and fro while the female is sitting; and on one occasion there were two males in attendance. We took an egg from one of the nests without disturbing the bird, and she more than once allowed us to push her up from her eggs. This nest was in a hole in the rock on the hill-side, and another one we found in the root of a tree." From this communication it appears that, although this species prefers to frequent parks and the banks of streams, rather than the vicinity of houses like the spotted kind, the two birds possess the same quiet confiding nature. Rocke noticed that the nest of the Pied Flycatcher was almost invariably built in holes, and rarely or never in open places.

On its arrival in April, before the leaves are fully out, this bird is one of our most conspicuous visitors, and in some of its habits and actions reminds one of the Red-backed Shrike. Like that bird, too, it is fond of tall overgrown hedges and large hawthorn bushes.

#### COMMON DIPPER, *Cinclus aquaticus*.

The streams in North Shropshire, with the exception of one or two that flow from the Wrekin, and a few in the neighbourhood of Oswestry, are too deep for the Dipper, or Water Ouzel, and are seldom frequented by it. In contrast to this, the rapid rivers and brooks in the south are so well adapted to its habits that on all of them it is a common bird. Along the Teme and its tributaries, indeed it may be called plentiful; and it is nearly as numerous up Cound, Sheinton, Highley, and Dowles brooks, while in summer a pair often ascend the rivulets that flow down the hill-sides, almost to their source. Except in autumn, when we are visited by migratory ouzels, I do not often see one on the Severn, unless by the mouth of a brook; and, at that season, I have occasionally known a solitary individual desert its favourite streams for the shallow margin of some large pool. In November, 1884, however, and again in the following year, I was

surprised to find one by Newton Mere, near Ellesmere ; for, as this mere is entirely fed by springs, and has no outfall, the bird, on both occasions, must have travelled some distance overland. The old deep-rooted and commonly received opinion that, because the Dipper obtained its food principally by diving, or searching for it in shallow water and under stones, it was feeding upon the ova of fish, is now, I am glad to say, not only shown to be fallacious, but it is also established that the bird, by devouring the larvae of Dragon-flies (*Libellulæ*) and May-flies (*Ephemera*), both of which feed ravenously on fish-spawn, renders essential service to fishermen. This part of its economy is, however, far too important to pass over, as particulars of it may be the means of saving so many useful and innocent lives. I therefore quote the opinions of three eminent naturalists on the subject. Macgillivray, *British Birds*, vol. ii, p. 59, remarks :—“I have opened a great number of individuals, at all seasons of the year, but have never found any other substances in the stomach than *Lymneæ*, *Ancylæ*, (fresh water mollusks), *Coleoptera*, and grains of gravel.” Gould, *Birds of Great Britain*, also says :—“During my visit in November, 1859, to Penoyre, the seat of Colonel Watkyns, on the river Usk the Water Ouzels were very plentiful, and his keeper informed me that they were then feeding on the recently deposited roe of the trout and salmon. By the Colonel’s desire, five specimens were shot for the purpose of ascertaining by dissection, the truth of this assertion, but I found no trace whatever of spawn in either of them. Their hard gizzards were entirely filled with larvae of *Phryganeæ* and water beetle (*Hydrophilus*). One of them had a small Bull-head (*Cottus gobio*) in its throat, which the bird had doubtless taken from under a stone. I suspect that insects and their larvae with small shelled mollusks constitute their principal food : and it may be that their labours in this way are rather beneficial than otherwise ; for, as many aquatic insects will attack the ova and fry, their destruction must be an advantage.” And the late Frank Buckland, whose knowledge of fish and pisciculture was so extensive, in a letter to the *Times*, April 4th, 1863, writes :—“It may be observed that I do not mention the Water Ouzel as destructive to spawn—this advisedly, as of late I have carefully examined the gizzards of several of these beautiful little birds, and have found only the remains of water insects in them. Write the Water Ouzel the *friend*, and not the enemy of the fish spawn ”

(*To be Continued* )

ON SOME ANCIENT SALOPIAN  
CONGLOMERATES.

By CH. CALLAWAY, D.Sc., F.G.S.

In the *Transactions* of this Society for 1878 and 1880, I have given a summary of recent geological researches in the district. The most important results were the detection of two Cambrian formations,—the Shineton Shales (Tremadoc) and the Hollybush Sandstone,—followed by the discovery of two Archæan (Præ-Cambrian) systems, the Uriconian (which I named from our famous Shropshire mountain) and the Malvernian. The relations of the old rock-groups to each other are often obscure, owing to the frequent disturbances which, in the long course of ages, have shattered the earth-floor, and pushed the fragments about pell-mell. Thus, it rarely happens that, in the Cambrian and Præ-Cambrian rocks, the formations occupy their original positions, and, if we were to be guided by the ordinary rules of stratigraphy, we should sometimes arrive at erroneous and even contradictory results. Hence the study of conglomerates becomes of supreme importance. Rolled fragments in a sedimentary rock are necessarily derived from a pre-existing formation, except in a few cases which can be easily differentiated from those under consideration. By this kind of evidence we are able to determine the relative ages of the three most ancient rock-systems in the region, viz., the *Malvernian*, the *Uriconian*, and the *Longmyndian*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The great series which forms the Longmynd Hills was referred by Sir R. Murchison and the Geological Survey to the Lower Cambrian; but until good evidence of its age is obtained, I have thought it better to use a local designation. It is very desirable that these rocks should be searched for fossils.

*Longmyndian Conglomerates.*

A great band of conglomerate runs along the crest of the Longmynd, and is exposed at the side of the road from Church Stretton to Ratlinghope. Similar pudding-stone is well exhibited on the stream and in the ridge east of Pontesford Hill. A thick bed of purple conglomerate<sup>1</sup> forms a conspicuous feature in the escarpment at the southern extremity of Haughmond Hill, a little to the east of the Castle; and conglomerates are also seen near the Abbey. The fragments in these rocks are as well rounded as pebbles on the sea-shore. They vary in size from small grains to masses as large as cannon-balls. In all the localities examined, pebbles of purple rhyolite form a very conspicuous ingredient of the rock, and in the purple conglomerate of Haughmond Hill they are as abundant as raisins in a plum pudding. This rhyolite is an acid lava, and does not materially differ from some of the molten rocks which flow down the sides of modern volcanoes. The fluidal structure is still apparent, but the original glassy condition has disappeared, so that the rhyolite, when examined in thin slides under the microscope, behaves like a crystalline rock. The great interest attaching to these fragments is that the rock of which they consist cannot be distinguished from the purple rhyolite (felstone) which makes up so large a part of the Uriconian chain.<sup>2</sup> This resemblance extends not only to the characters already noticed, but to the perlitic and spherulitic structures originally described<sup>3</sup> by Mr. S. Allport. It may safely be concluded that the Longmyndian conglomerates are largely derived from the Uriconian, and, as the Longmynd rocks are at least

<sup>1</sup> Coloured as "greenstone" in the Map of the Geological Survey.

<sup>2</sup> *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, 1879, p. 651.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 1877, p. 449.

as ancient as the Lower Cambrian, the Uriconian must be Archæan.

*Uriconian Conglomerate.*

At Charlton Hill, near Rushton, not far from where the windmill once stood, there is an exposure of a very hard pudding-stone. The rock appears in a few detached outcrops of small size. Its projection above the surface is too slight to expose the dip or strike, but the masses lie roughly in an east and west direction. That the rock is Uriconian is apparent from an examination of the ground. Outcrops close at hand, on the north and the east, are of the ordinary volcanic grit so common in the Wrekin, but the best evidence is in the hollow lane to the south. In the northern bank there is a band of pebbly grit, composed of materials similar to those in the conglomerate, but of smaller size, and this bed is interstratified with the common ashy and felsitic rocks of the Uriconian. These rocks form an unbroken series, extending down the lane, being exposed on both sides, and it is at last unconformably overlain by the Cambrian<sup>1</sup> quartzite in a very clear section in the southern bank. This is the quartzite which spreads out towards Rushton and as far as the Wrekin, where it laps round the Uriconian series. The conglomeratic beds, being so intimately associated with ordinary Uriconian volcanic rocks, must be regarded as truly Archæan.

The Charlton Hill conglomerate is packed with well-rounded fragments. Some of these are of purple rhyolite, but contemporaneous denudation is common where a sea or lake is invaded by flows of lava, so that the rhyolites which have furnished pebbles to this conglomerate need not be of much

<sup>1</sup> This quartzite has been sometimes referred to as possibly Prä-Cambrian. Recent discoveries in the Midlands point with more probability to a Cambrian age.

greater antiquity. The occurrence of similar fragments in the Longmyndian has quite another significance, since that epoch was one of pure sedimentation, without volcanic action.

The most abundant pebbles in the Charlton Hill conglomerate are a brick-red granite (mainly consisting of quartz and red orthoclase felspar) such as occurs at Primrose Hill, at the south-western extremity of the Wrekin; at the Ercal, which terminates the Wrekin chain on the north-east; and in many parts of the Malvern Hills. In smaller proportion are fragments of a rock composed of quartz, felspar, epidote, and chlorite, very similar to some of the decomposed diorites of the Malverns. Other varieties are quartz-schist, quartzite, and mica-schist, resembling rather some of the foliated rocks of Donegal and Connemara than any of the Malvern types. Taken as a whole, these fragments fairly represent the older Archæan system of rocks, usually described as "metamorphic," and known under the names of Laurentian, Hebridean, Dimetian, etc. During the eruption of the Uriconian volcanoes, considerable masses of the older Archæan land must have stood above the waves, and furnished fragments to the beds of pebbles intercalated with the ashes which, scattered by volcanoes over sea and land, sank to the bottom of the marine or inland waters. The rock which formed this land was formed at great depths, and a long period of time must have been occupied in the upheaval of the crust, the denudation of the overlying masses, and the exposure of the granite and gneiss to the waves of the Uriconian sea.

These Uriconian conglomerates are, perhaps, amongst the oldest sedimentary rocks in the earth's crust. The assumption that the "metamorphic" schists of Malvern are altered aqueous sediments has been seriously invalidated<sup>1</sup> by recent

<sup>1</sup> *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, August, 1887, p. 525.

discovery, and should our older Archæan gneisses and schists prove to be of igneous origin, some of the earlier chapters in the earth's history will have to be re-written. These conglomerates are the most definite piece of evidence in our possession of the existence of a rock system of much greater antiquity than even the great volcanic series of the Wrekin.

Further details of the old Salopian conglomerates may be seen in my recent paper in the *Journal of the Geological Society* (November, 1886, p. 481).

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ANCIENT DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE  
HONOR FOREST AND BOROUGH OF CLUN.

BY THE LATE THOMAS SALT, Esq.

IN consequence of the scarcity of authentic documents of ancient date relating to some of the Marches of Wales which adjoined to Shropshire, it was thought that information connected with the Honor of Clun might be acceptable to the Archaeological Institute at their meeting at Shrewsbury.<sup>1</sup> After the public announcement of this meeting, permission was asked from and kindly granted by the Earl of Powis, as Lord of that Honor, to examine ancient muniments relating to it in his Lordship's possession ; and the result is the present paper.

The Honor now contains the Borough of Clun (which was anciently more populous than at present) ; a Manor containing five Townships and called the Five Towns ; and the large Manor called Tempsiter containing twenty-three Townships. Offa's Dyke passes through it, leaving nearly half of it on the western side of the Dyke. This portion at the time of the Norman conquest was therefore part of Wales. The Honor of Clun is about thirteen miles long by ten miles wide, and contains about 80,000 acres ; and the adjoining Hundred of Purslow in Shropshire, which will be often mentioned, is rather larger, and adjoins the Honor on the eastern side.

It is generally considered<sup>2</sup> that Roger de Montgomery,

<sup>1</sup> Read at the Meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Shrewsbury, 1855.

<sup>2</sup> Hartshorne's *Salopia Antiqua*, p. 498

Earl of Shrewsbury, received authority from William the Conqueror in the year 1070 to levy war at his discretion upon the Welch, and to appropriate to himself whatever he could acquire from them. If this be so, he had made but little progress in the conquest of the Welch adjoining Clun during fifteen years or more next after this permission was granted to him; the only mention of the Welch in the record of Doomsday being that there were four Welch Tenants who paid 2s. 4d rent to Earl Roger. Doomsday describes Clun as being in "Rinlau," which was the ancient name for the Hundred of Purslow. In the reign of King Stephen, Clun passed into the hands of William Fitz-Alan, whose descendants afterwards became Earls of Arundel, and it continued in his family until the reign of Queen Elizabeth; interrupted only by occasional forfeiture from the attainders of its possessors, which attainders were afterwards reversed. During the whole of this period the Hundred of Purslow was also in their possession, so that these powerful Lords Marcher exercised an almost unlimited authority over both Hundreds; with the exception only of Bishop's Castle and its vicinity, which were part of Purslow, and over which the Bishops of Hereford ruled.

The earliest document met with is an inquisition on extent taken at the Castle of Clun on Tuesday next after Trinity in the 56th year of the reign of King Henry the 3rd (1272) by order of the King before the Lord G. Talebot, the Lord John de Surrey, and Roger de Wardinton, concerning Clun and the towns underwritten, and also concerning the Hundred of Purslowe. It describes the Castle thus: "At Clun there is a certain small Castle competently built, but the head of the Tower of      is necessary to be covered, and the Bridge of the Castle ought to be repaired; and without the said Castle there is a Bailey inclosed with a ditch, and there is a certain gate begun in the wall and a certain part of the wall is begun of the length of 200 feet, and in the same Bailey there are houses, to wit, a Grange, a Stable, and a Bakehouse in a decaying state." The

Bailey here spoken of means a precinct of the Castle, and is a corruption of the word "Baleuga"<sup>1</sup> used in ancient Charters.—Another item in this inquisition runs thus, "The pleas and perquisites of the Portmoot amount one year with another to two marks." It may seem strange that a place so far inland should have a moot apparently peculiar to Seaports; but in the Marches of Wales, the Welch were treated as foreigners; and hence Courts were established in border towns similar to those used in seaports for foreigners coming by sea. Such a Court was held in Knutsford and other inland places bordering upon Wales.

But there is one passage in this inquisition still more curious. It follows others which specify the annual income derived by the Lord from the rents of Burgages and Mills, and various other sources, and runs thus—"The heirs of William Kempe hold one messuage with a croft and curtilage and they carry to Shrewsbury the heads of felons and it is of no amount." The explanation is, that when any felon was taken in the Hundred of Purslow, and condemned to die at Shrewsbury, the Lord of Clun sent his own officers to fetch the culprit from Shrewsbury to Clun, and there executed him; and the heirs of William Kempe held the tene-ment rent free by the tenure of carrying back the head to prove that execution had taken place upon the identical criminal condemned. The late Mr. Edmund Edye, of Montgomery, was for a long series of years the local law agent of the Grandfather of the present Earl of Powis for his Lordship's Clun and adjoining Estates; and in the year 1800 he drew up a paper, in which he states that in the 20th year of King Edward the 1st, the Jury at the Assizes presented that Richard,

<sup>1</sup> Blount—voc:—That part of Oswestry which was formerly the preeinot of the Castle is still called the Bailey. [The old Bailey in London was an ancient preeinot of the City, lying outside of but adjoining to its wall. See Cunningham's *Handbook of London*, Edition 1850, voc. Newgate, where it is said that the New Gate stood across the present Newgate Street a little *East* of the old Bailey.]

then Earl of Arundel, prescribed for the privilege of executing criminals above mentioned, and that the cause was adjourned. The compiler of this paper has not met with any copy or extract of this record, but well knowing the information and accuracy of Mr. Edye, he entertains no doubt of its existence.

It appears by the same inquisition that at that time there were Knights and Gentlemen holding lands by Knight-service in the Townships of Stowe, Weston, Bucknell, Beckjay, Hopton Castle, Broadward, Abcott, Rowton, Brunslow, and Acton (then and now parts of the Hundred of Purslow), who were bound to Military Service in the Castle of Clun in time of war, and, also, at all times to do suit and service to John Fitz-Alan, the then Lord, both at his Court of Clun, and at his Hundred Court of Purslow. The document is too long to be set out, but the services in the Castle vary from that of a Knight, fully equipped with one or two attendants for the entire year, to that of a single Footman, for only four days in the year. At that time also, the townships of Aston, Kempton, and Clunton (now parcel of the Hundred of Purslow) were treated as part of the Barony of Clun, and were answered for by the same John Fitz-Alan as Lord of Clun, so that the Honor of Clun may then have contained more townships than those now composing it. One of the entries at the end of an enumeration of Military Service by Knights fees runs thus—"Total nine fees and a half. The aforesaid tenants by Knights service, except the Lord Brian de Brompton, owe in the time of war, ward at the Castle of Clun for forty days in the year, with one man at arms and one horse for a whole fee; and the ward is worth by the year in time of war £6 15s.<sup>1</sup> and so an Esquire shall be taken at 4½d. a day."

The large Manor of Tempsiter comprises within it much of the district lying on the western or Welch side of Offa's Dyke, as well as several townships lying

<sup>1</sup> The exact amount would be £6 16s. 10½d.

on the eastern side of it. All the lands lying west of the Dyke, being about half of the Honor, appear to have been gained from the Welch long before the reign of King Edward the 1st. The occupiers of it in 1292, paid to the Lord £200 for right of chace, and for his protection against oppression, as appears by the following Grant:—

“ To all Christs Faithful People, seeing or hearing this present writing. Richard Earl of Arundel and Lord of Clonne, Greeting in the Lord. Be it known unto all of you, that we have granted for us and our heirs, and by this our present writing confirmed to all our men the Welchmen of Tempsett, that the said men from henceforth, shall have their Chace throughout the whole of Tempsett for every beast, except in our Forest of Clonne and *Kingsteth*,<sup>1</sup> and our demesne lands, in which we have warren by Charter of our Lord the King: and that the said men from henceforth shall not be compelled in pleading to answer Word for Word, but shall only answer by three words, that is to say, that it is not so as it is alleged against them, and of this they put themselves upon their Country. And also that we will not take or cause to be taken by any of our people any cattle, nor any kind of blade, nor any goods of theirs, against their will, unless they are for sale; and if any of their goods wheresoever they are shall be for sale, that we will have them before all other persons, for as much as they can get from any other person for the same, to be paid for them within forty days. And for these three articles before named to be granted, and by this present writing confirmed, the aforesaid Welchmen of Tempsett, have given to us beforehand two-hundred pounds in money, and that this our Grant and the Confirmation of this present writing may obtain perpetual stability, we have caused our Seal to be put to this present writing; these being witnesses, Eynon Lorth, Robert ap Howell, Codog ap Wyn, who are of the parts

<sup>1</sup> Kingsley Wood near Knighton.

of Montgomery, Howell ap Egenon, Meiler ap Griffith, David ap Medd, who are of the parts of *Melenyth*,<sup>1</sup> Griffith ap Meredith, Jevan Vaughan, Joram ap Erogenow, who are of the lands of the Bishop of Hereford, and many others. Dated at Clonne on Sunday the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist in the Twenty-first Year of the Reign of King Edward."

The warren above alluded to was in Berfield. The whole Township of Berfield was laid waste by *Owen Glendower*,<sup>2</sup> and from that time to the present has been known by the name of the decayed township of Berfield in the Manor of Tempsiter.

Notwithstanding the above Grant to the Men of Tempster, the Commonalty of that Manor seem to have been much oppressed by the Bailiffs of the Lord in the next reign, which led to the following Deed being made by Edmund, Earl of Arundel in the 11th of King Edward the 2nd, (1317):

" To all Christ's faithful people seeing or hearing the present writing, Edmund Earl of Arundel Greeting in the Lord Everlasting. We are informed by the Relation of the Commonalty of our people of Tempsitt, that they are much aggrieved by the superfluity of our Bailiffs going about the Country. We willing to relieve our said people from such grievance have ordained, constituted, and confirmed for us and our heirs the underwritten Bailiffs to serve for us and our people of Tempsett, that is to say One Provost with his servant, One Steward with two under Bailiffs, and one servant in Keryvaldewyne, and that we and our heirs at the entry of each of the Bailiffs aforesaid, will take sufficient security for their making amends to us of all Trespasses touching their Bailiwick of which they shall be convicted, so that the country from henceforth shall not

<sup>1</sup> Maelienydd meaning a Lordship in Radnorshire lying on the south and south-west of Clun, between the Rivers Teme and Ithon.

<sup>2</sup> So stated in a survey of 1603 referring to an ancient Record dated 13th September 5th Henry the 6th, (1427).

be challenged or charged with those offences of the Bailiffs. And if it shall happen that the aforesaid Bailiffs shall not perform sufficient administration for the advantage of the Lord and People aforesaid, that the men of the country aforesaid to whom it shall be told, shall be bound to undergo the same. In witness whereof our Seal is put to these presents for us and our heirs, Dated at Clonne on the day of Saint Luke, in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of King Edward son of King Edward, these being witnesses, the Lords John de Blankinost, Walter de Huggeford, Knights : The Abbot of Haghmon : Roger de Chenytum Steward : Thomas de Wynsebury and others."

Kery Valdewyne adjoins Clun Forest and Honor on the north-west, and means Kerry belonging to Montgomery, the ancient name of Montgomery being Tre Valdwyn or Baldwin's Town, so named after Baldwin the Lieutenant or Deputy for one of the early successors of Earl Roger mentioned in Doomsday. These two Deeds, which have been set out at length, were deemed so important by the men and Commonalty of Temp-siter that they were embodied together, and each successive Earl of Arundel signed a Charter of Confirmation of them for more than two centuries afterwards. The last of these Confirmations is by Henry<sup>1</sup> Earl of Arundel, Lord of Mautravers and of Clun, and concludes thus—"In Witness whereof to this my Confirmation I have caused my seal to be put, these being witnesses, the most Noble and Excellent Prince Thomas Duke of Norfolk ; John Lord Lumley ; my dearly beloved Gentlemen, Thomas Gawdie, Thos. Carpenter, Esquires ; and others. Dated at Nonsowch the last day of August in the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of Philip and Mary by the Grace of God of England, Spain, France and both the Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, King and Queen,

<sup>1</sup> He was the last Earl of the Fitz-Alan family in the Male Line. Books differ as to the number of these Earls, which have been stated at 12, 13, and 14 ; but it seems 12 is correct, as shewn in Sir Harris Nicholas's *Historic Peerage* by Courthope.

Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Earls of Haspurge, Flanders and Tirol."

Edmund, Earl of Arundel, the original grantor of the above Deed giving protection to the Commonalty of Tempsiter, was the same Lord Arundel who suffered to much from the Mortimer family, and, eventually, loss his life by their intrigues. Having regained possession of his Castle of Clun, which Roger de Mortimer had seized and withheld from him for some time, he, in 1325, granted the following Charter of Pardon to his Burgesses of Clun :—

"To all faithful Christians who see or hear this present Charter Edmund Earl of Arundell and Lord of Clun greeting in the Lord. Your whole body shall know that we have granted for ourselves and our heirs to all our Burgesses of our town of Clun and their heirs to have and hold all their lands and tenements all liberties customs and laws for us and for our heirs as freely and wholly as the aforesaid Burgesses and their ancestors held from us and our ancestors : and moreover we have granted more fully and freely for ourselves and our heirs to the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs to have and to hold all Charters and Confirmations which they have either by our grant or by that of our ancestors and that in future they may keep their place and remain firm and unshaken for ever : and moreover we have given up and have altogether remitted for ourselves and our heirs to our aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs each and every exaction, demand, sale, and claim which we have had or shall be able to have by any means against the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs by occasion of the arrival of Roger de Mortimer enemy and rebel against the King at the Castle of Clun, because that the aforesaid Burgesses made their oaths of fealty and became adherents to the aforesaid Roger and his adherents; so that neither we nor our heirs nor any other by our name, colour or ingenuity shall in future be able to make charge or claim against the aforesaid Burgesses or their heirs on that

pretext for ever—In proof of which our Seal is affixed to these presents in presence of these witnesses, William Butler, William de Grealawe, and Walter Hungerford Knights, Roger Carles, Alexander de Shavynton, and others. Given at Haughmond on the eighth day of January in the nineteenth year of King Edward son of King Edward."

This Charter was confirmed by each succeeding Earl of Arundel for more than a century and a half. The last confirmation found is by Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Lord of Mautravers and Clun, and is dated at Ludlow the 12th of June in the 8th year of the reign of King Henry the 7th (1492), and the witnesses are Lord John Arundel, Knight, our dearest brother; Henry Rees, Knight, William Young, Knight, John Harley, Knight, John Dudley, John Cooke, Maurice Ludlow, Thos. Hord, Richard Littleton, and William Skriven, Esquires, and many others.

Time has not permitted the examination of more than a few of the Court Rolls, but the most ancient, and some of the reign of King Henry the 8th were selected. Unfortunately, some of the former are mutilated, and others nearly illegible. With the exception of some entries in 6th and 7th of Edward the 3rd, the ancient Court Rolls examined are confined to the reign of Richard the 2nd. Their contents are, generally speaking, the fixing of heriots and reliefs, and assessing of sums in mercy (or amercements) varying from 3s. to 6d. each, for what were considered minor offences, such as for detaining the Lord's heriot, for agreeing without licence, for not attending the Bailiff's summons, for a false plaint, for unjustly raising the hue, for drawing blood, for false swearing, &c. The fines for crimes are for larger sums, extending from 5s. for a petty theft, upwards to £5 or more for manslaughter, sureties being always required for the larger sums. The amount is always noted in the margin, whether mentioned in the body or not. Also, there are entries which shew that if an accused person stood mute or denied to hold of the Lord, or

refused to put himself upon the judgement of the Court, he was sent to prison. Also, if heriots were not duly yielded or compounded for, or if the Tenant died without goods, the Lord seized the land till the Heir came in and paid not only the relief payable by a new Tenant but the heriot also. Some extracts may, perhaps, be deemed of sufficient interest to be cited at length.

Court of Tempseter, Edward the 3rd in the 6th or 7th year (1333). "Halmot Welch held Wednesday next after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul."

"Henry Walden died who held of the Lord One Messuage and 26 Acres of land, whereby hath accrued to the Lord an heriot and for goods and entrance into the lands and hath fined Lewky his wife 13s. 4d."

This entry shews that at this date the Welch Tenants were of sufficient number and importance to have a Halmot or Court Baron to themselves, and it is submitted that the following entries go far to shew that the Customary Laws of the Honor, in the Welch part of it, were founded upon those of *Howell Dda*,<sup>1</sup> and in many respects identical with them.

"Richard the 2nd in the 7th year (1333). Monday next before the feast of the Ascension of our Lord. Mercy 6d., William ap Jevan hath given to the Lord 6d., to have an Inquisition whether his house was burnt or not. Mercy 12d., Jevan ap Lewellyn in mercy for burning the house of said William. Mercy 2s., Griffith ap Rills and Rosser in mercy for the same."

"Court of Tempseter. Monday in the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the 6th year. Judgement given by 24 of the best men of Tempseter, upon Philip Pagin (or Payne) that he be outlawed in Tempseter and proclaimed in Court."

"Court of Tempseter held Monday on the morrow after the feast of the Holy Trinity. 40s., The parents of Richard de Acton give to the Lord 40s., for the Peace

<sup>1</sup> The translation from the Welch of these laws, given in Probert's *Ancient Laws of Cambria*, was used in compiling this paper;—See pages 220, 208, 150.

had of Philip Payne, who was outlawed for the death of Richard de Acton and that the Bailiffs of the Lord be assisting to levy ten pounds of the Sureties of the aforesaid Philip Payne, to witt, Gar, Hugh the son of David, and Roger Payne. Goods 6 marks. Of the goods of Philip Payne outlawed found in Tempster aforesaid, 6 marks. Pledge William Gam.

“Mercy 6d.—Phillip Falch in mercy for Trespass made in the house, which is in the hands of the Lord. Mercy 6d.—The same Phillip in mercy for breaking the Constitution of the Country.

“Court of Tempster held Monday the morrow after the beheading of Saint John in the 7th year (1384). Two sheep—price 2s. Two sheep of Wlad Goch: deceased accrued to the Lord according to the custom of the Country, she being a ha'lot.—price 2s.

“Court of Tempster held Monday next before the feast of St. John the Baptiste in the 7th year. Two shillings—Llwys Son of Howell gave to the Lord 2s., to have judgment of the Court, if his Sister ought to have part of his inheritance, according to the Custom of the Country.”

The inheritance here spoken of would not be of lands; for these would descend to the brothers only, to the exclusion of sisters, but of goods, in which sisters shared with brothers. The proceeding may however have had reference to the law of Hoel Dda, which says<sup>1</sup> “a brother may disown his sister except in one case, namely : where property of the father or mother is to be divided between them,” and Llwys ap Howell may have asked Judgment as to such a division before disowning.

The two next have reference to the imprisonment and mainprise of a Gentleman of Shropshire, for an act which, though called a felony and a robbery, was probably only a seizure, in exercise of a supposed right, or in retaliation for a supposed wrong. The rank of his mainpernors, and the whole tenor of the warrant of mainprise, leave

<sup>1</sup> Probert, 202.

no doubt that it was not a common case of theft. The warrant of mainprize was written in Norman French, and the person who transcribed the Copy found, has translated the earlier part of it into English, but meeting with some blanks and imperfections in the original has copied the latter part in the language of the original. The copy given below is substantially correct, the words supplied by the compiler, to make it read, being placed between brackets.

Court of Tempster held Monday next after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas of Canterbury in the 7th year. "Next Lawrence Pricket is accused at the suit of Nicholas Theband in a plea of Felony and Robbery, to witt of two horses with their harness to the value of 6<sup>1</sup> marks, which said Lawrence being present stood mute, and therefore it is considered by the Court, that no warrant of mainprise, till such time as he will speak."

"Court of Tempster, Monday next before the feast of Saint Oswald in the 7th year. Warrant of main-prize.

"Richard Earl of Arundell to our well beloved Alexander Shavington Steward of our Lands in the parts of the Marches, Greeting, For as much as . . . . Pricket of *Salopshire* is attached and remains in Ward in our Castle of Clonne and We [being besought] by our dear and well-beloved Cousins Sir John de Leyburn [and] Sir Robert Corbett that we would vouchsafe to grant them a main-prize to have presently the said Lawrence [so that he may be released from] our said Castle [know that] we have granted him to the mainprize of the aforesaid Syr Johan de Leyburne, Syr Robert Corbett, Syr Roger Lestraunge and Syr William de Ercallewe [to whom we command you] to cause him to be delivered and this letter shall be your warrant—Adieu—Written at Berwick upon Tweed the morrow of Saint Margaret."

<sup>1</sup> This figure is uncertain.

Richard, Earl of Arundel, who gave the above warrant of mainprize, was the same Earl whose name appears so often in the history of the reign of King Richard the 2nd, and who was attainted and beheaded in 1397.

Some Riders annexed to Rolls of the 6th and 7th of Edward the 3rd contain entries of seizures by the Lord's Officer, Meredith ap Gilbert, of the lands of persons who owe what is termed "Kilgh." The following are specimens:—

"The inheritance of Eve the daughter of Llewellyn Voil who oweth *Kilgh* is in the hands of Meredith ap Gilbert."

"The inheritance of Eignion Talgron is in the hands of Meredith ap Gilbert, which oweth *Kilgh*."

Blount, under the word "*Kilth*," gives a quotation which speaks of it as a Customary annual rent or render, without explaining its nature, and adds "Spelman confesseth he did not know the meaning of the word." Cowell, under the word "*Kilketh*," explains it only as "an ancient servile kind of payment," and quotes an old manuscript which does not explain it; but Owen, in his Welch Dictionary (edition 1803), under the word "*Cylch*," gives the meaning thus—"In the law it signifies a yearly custom of provisions or other things paid to the King's officers or servants by those who held land under him." The compiler has been informed that in ancient Welch documents this kind of render is termed *Cylch-corn*, *Cylch-meal*, &c., according to the nature of the thing rendered—it may therefore have been of the nature of a purveyance, and the Royal Charters and Statutes in the reigns of Henry the 3rd, Edward the 1st, and Edward the 3rd, show how oppressively these renders in kind were exacted by seizure and imprisonment in those days. It may be here observed that the corruption of the Welch language in Clun and its vicinity, and especially in the mode of spelling it, is much complained of by persons well acquainted with that language, and this word "*Kilgh*" is a specimen of it. No letter in it, excepting the letter *L* in the middle, agrees with

those in the word "*Cwlch*," though the sound of both words is as nearly the same as Welch and English can be. In further explanation of "*Cwlch*" it may be added that some small annual payments, which still continue to be made to the Lord of Clun, are known by the name of "*Meal Rents*." They are understood to be a money composition for a render in kind anciently made of meal to feed the Lord's hounds when he hunted in the townships, and are supposed to have originated from the "*Cylch Dyfrgwn*"<sup>1</sup> of the Welch, which was an obligation on tenants to provide for the huntsman and hounds of the Prince when he came to hunt otters. They are payable in respect of tenements of great antiquity.

At the before mentioned Court held on Monday next before the feast of St. Oswald in the 7th year, is the following entry.

"The Free Tenants of Kerrybaldwyn are accused, that they have concealed services, to witt, Reliefs, Amobrage and Warmetak, which they were accustomed to make as the other free tenants of Tempseter; who deny and say, that they are of other tenures than the other free tenants of Tempseter and will not put themselves on the Country. Accordingly a warrant is given to all the Men of Tempseter and the same Country gave for Judgment that they remain in prison until they are willing to put themselves on their Country."

Amobrage is the same as Amobyr, and will be discussed hereafter, and Warmetak seems to have been an annual township payment.<sup>2</sup>—Independently of other considerations, this entry is worthy of notice as shewing that at this time (1384) the men of Kerry claimed to be out of the Honor of Clun; and Kerry now bounds the Honor at its north-western extremity, and forms part of Montgomeryshire. The forest as well as the Honor of Clun adjoined Kerry upon this boundary; and in a suit, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, between the Crown

<sup>1</sup> Owen's Dictionary. voc;—

<sup>2</sup> Blount. voc;—

and several freeholders and copyholders of Clun, the boundary of the forest was minutely set out, and is thus deposited to,—At Reilth in the County of Salop the 8th day of May in the 18th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1576) Moris ap Owen of Reilth Yeoman of the age of 4 score years, or thereabouts, being sworn to the meares of the forest, and having described them so as to exclude Kerry, on being examined, how he knoweth the meares to be as aforesaid, saith that “about sixty years last past at which time the Lords of Clon had and held Jura Regalia within the Lordship of Clon, and the Lords of Kery held also Jura Regalia within the Lordship of Kery, he saw two men hanged, whose names he doth not now remember, for certain offences by them before committed and done; the one of the said two men was hanged within the Lordship of Clon at the side of the Brook called the Rithor, by the Steward and Officers of the Lordship of Clon; and the other man was hanged within the Lordship of Kery on the other side of the said Brook within less than a bow shot to the other by the Steward and Officers of the Lordship of Kery; and saith that the said two men were hanged in one day.”

The power of the Lords Marchers to inflict capital punishment was taken away by the Statute of 27th Henry the 8th, chap. 26, and by section 7 of that Act Clunesland was transferred to Montgomeryshire — Clunesland then meant, and does to this day mean, the whole district of country through which the river Clun passes from its rise at Fos y Rhys on the north western side of Clun Forest to its fall into the Teme below Clungunford at the south eastern extremity of Purslow Hundred; so that the Hundreds of Clun and Purslow were thereby made parts of Montgomeryshire, with the exception of the Bishop's Castle district of the latter. A Bill filed, or intended to be filed, in the Court of the Lord President of the Marches of Wales in or about 1649 relating to the Honor of Clun, contains the following recital, “And whereas by a late

Statute 27th Henry the 8th the said Lordship was annexed and made parcel of the County of Montgomery, and after by a private Act in Queen Mary's time it was transferred and annexed to the said County of Salop, and made liable to such of His Majesty's laws as the said County of Salop was subject unto."

The compiler of this paper doubts the accuracy of this statement, but has not had time or opportunity for enquiry as to it. By a Statute of 28th Henry the 8th, chap. 3, power is given to the King during three years to allot newly the towns in the shires and marches of Wales, notwithstanding the above Statute of 27th Henry the 8th; and by another Statute of 31st Henry the 8th, chap. 11, this authority to allot newly is continued to the King for three years longer. It seems more likely that Clun should have been restored to Shropshire under the powers given by these Acts at a time when the state of Wales was much under the consideration of the King and his advisers, than by a private Act, passed early in the reign of Queen Mary, of which there is no trace in any of the printed statutes.

#### AS TO THE FOREST OF CLUN.

Though for the last century, and probably for two centuries, it has been a green pasture, having no trees upon it, there is abundant proof that it was anciently well wooded, and that a considerable quantity of trees remained undestroyed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The ancient forest contained in round numbers about 17,000 acres. It appears by the evidence of many old witnesses examined in the above mentioned cause, whose memories went back to the reign of King Henry the 6th, that Clun Forest was what was called a Band Forest,<sup>1</sup> meaning an ancient forest, of which the meares and bounds had been publicly proclaimed or banned throughout the whole shire or Lordship Marcher, and afterwards duly recorded. The district within the recorded bounds thereby became subject to the Forest

<sup>1</sup> Blount and Cowel—voc : Ban, Bannum, and Forest.

Laws. How cruelly and tyrannically these laws were executed in many of the Forests of Wales, and the Marches of the same, may be learnt by reading the preamble to the Statute of 27th Henry the 8th, chap. 7, passed for remedying such abuses ; but whatever may have been the abuses and exactions of the Officers of the Forest, or of the Lords before the reign of Henry the 6th (a subject which has not now been enquired into), the later Earls of Arundel do not appear to have enforced the Forest Laws at all rigorously from that period, with the single exception (if it can be considered one), that<sup>1</sup> "if any inhabitant or other did hawk, hunt, fish or fowle within the Forest without licence he was by the custom of the Forest to forfeit £7"—a large sum in those days. To every Forest, as is well known, there was necessarily incident a swainmote Court, possessing powers to attach and punish summarily all small trespasses in the forest, and to regulate all other lesser matters connected with it.

During the 4th, 5th, and 6th years of King Henry the 8th the Swainmote Courts for Clun were held three or four times a year, and the attachments for Vert, "*i.e.* for cutting or destroying any thing bearing green leaf which may cover a deer," are very numerous, as also are those for turning goats, pigs, sheep, and cattle into the Forest ; but the Lords seem to have tacitly permitted these practices, as the fines were seldom more than 4d. for vert, goats, and pigs ; 2d. for sheep ; and from 6d. to 1s. for cattle. The proceedings in the before mentioned suit by Queen Elizabeth shew that before the 18th year of her reign the woods had been extensively cut down and much trespassed upon by the freeholders and others, which occasioned the suit. This could scarcely have happened if the forest rights of the Lord had been rigidly enforced previously. Another proof that they were not so is that parts of the Forest began to be enclosed at an early period. Howell ap

<sup>1</sup> Deposed to by several witnesses.

Maddock ap Mirick, aged 80 years, deposed, in 18th Elizabeth, to having known the forest for 70 years; and that parts of it, namely the farms of Newcastle and Maesyrhame, were enclosed before his remembrance, but that other parts, exceeding the quantity of 600 acres, had been in the time of his remembrance inclosed; and he is confirmed by other witnesses.

Documentary evidence is in existence which leaves the inference that the Hall of the Forest, or the Ladies Hall as it was then called, was built by Anne Lady Mautravers, widow, who had a life interest in the forest, and was living in 1573 after the seizure of the Honor of Clun by the Crown, in consequence of the participation by Henry, Earl of Arundel (the last heir in the male line) in the crime of the Duke of Norfolk. The Duke was his son in law, having married his daughter and, eventually, sole heir, Lady Mary Fitz-Alan. Upon the death of the Earl in 1580, without issue male who survived him, his titles descended to the Howard family, and the Duke of Norfolk now inherits the Earldom of Arundel and the Baronies of Mautravers and Clun through Lady Mary Fitz-Alan; but the Clun estate has not been united to these titles since 1572. The Queen kept it in her hands, or in those of her lessees, until her death, and, in 1603, King James the I. granted the Honor and Forest of Clun, and the Hundreds of Clun and Purslow, to Mary Fitz-Alan's younger grandsons, Thomas Howard, created Earl of Suffolk, and Henry Howard, created Earl of Northampton; and, by a family arrangement between them, these estates shortly afterwards became the sole property of the latter, and remained in his family until sold in 1677.

We have seen that the freeholders of Kerry refused to hold under the Lordship of Clun. Notwithstanding this refusal, an agreement was made between them (at a very early date not yet ascertained) which was creditable to both parties. The cattle and horses of the Kerry men would, unavoidably, at times be found in Clun Forest, and the arrangement was that the Kerry men

should pay the Lord of Clun two marks yearly for such trespasses, in return for which their cattle and horses were not to be treated as estrays. This bargain continued until 1797, when the inclosure of the Commons in Kerry which adjoined Clun Forest put an end to the payment. It was known by the name of "Kerry Escape Money."

#### AS TO THE BOROUGH OF CLUN.

The Earls of Northampton and Suffolk, in 1605, caused a Court of Survey to be holden for the Borough of Clun, which is co-extensive with the Township, and contains about 1700 acres of old inclosed land, and 1570 acres of land newly inclosed. The Jury of survey say upon their oath "that the town of Clun through the whole time whereof the memory of man does not exist to the contrary is an ancient Borough Incorporate or existing by the name of two Bailiffs eligible annually and Burgesses, and that the Lord of the town or borough aforesaid through the whole time aforesaid has had and still has, as well two Leet Courts with a view of Frankpledge of the same held annually by the Seneschal for the time being, as also a small Court of the same held by the bailiff of the aforesaid town or borough for the time being yearly from three weeks to three weeks for the trial of all kinds of personal actions ; and that there issue amerciaments and perquisites from the aforesaid court and rents to the Lord of the same, and that the aforesaid town had and still has two Sergeants at Mace eligible annually and jurors who attend the bailiffs of the aforesaid town for the time being." They also say that the Borough has fairs and markets ; and they complain of the tenants for neglecting to attend the markets. They also say that "divers and many Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, Venerables, Yeomen, Husbandmen, Craftsmen and Tradesmen are now Burgesses of the Borough." They afterwards specify the Burgage Tenements to the number of about 100, which are described to be holden in fee, some by fealty and

suit of court only, but the greater part also by burgage rents payable to the Lord. No customary descent is spoken of, and they must therefore be taken to descend to the eldest son, and, in fact, they do so descend. There are only two tenements stated to be holden in free socage, and the owners of these held Burgage tenements also. One of these two is thus described, "Owen ap Owen and Anna his wife in right of the said Anna holds in fee one messuage with divers lands belonging thereto in a free socage of old of the land of John ap Eiganon Rent per annum 7s." This Eiganon might be the same person as Eignion Talgron, who owed Kilgh. Some lifehold tenements are mentioned in the survey, but no copyholds, either of inheritance or for life, and it must therefore be inferred that there were none in the borough, and it may here be added that there were no copyholds, except for lives, in any part of the Honor.

The following quaint entries extracted from the Great Hundred Rolls of the 3rd and 5th of King Henry the 8th, and entitled "Clonnie Town," show that the power of the Balliffs and Sergeants at Mace was either limited or mildly exercised.

"Mercy 4d.—Howell Heyr in Mercy, because he did not go to the Gaol of the Lord as he was ordered by Hoell Happyan the Catchpole there.

"Mercy 2d.—Gwilliam ap Richard hath forfeited a pain of 40d, because he did not keep the Gaol of the Lord, as he was commanded by John ap Rees the Catchpole there, therefore he is in Mercy.

"Mercy 2d.—Alice Porsce hath incurred a Pain, that she would not go to the Gaol of the Lord by the Precept of the Lord's Bailiff there, therefore is in mercy."

#### AS TO THE CUSTOM CALLED AMOBYR.

Blount in his Law Dictionary on tenures describes it thus:—"Amabyr vel Amvabyr (Br.) Pretium virginitatis Domino solvendum L.L. Eccl. Hoeli Dha. Regis Wallace, Puella dicitur esse desertum Regis, et ob hoc

Regis est de ea Amvabyr habere. The custom was in the Honor of Clun, till such time as Henry Earl of Arundel by his Deed, dated ult. Aug. 3rd and 4th, Philip and Mary in consideration of £60 released it to all his Tenants there by the name of the Custom of Amabyr and Chense. See *Chevage*."

The word *Chevage* so referred to is explained by Blount and Cowel to signify "a tribute or sum of money formerly paid by such as held lands in villenage, or otherwise, to their Lords in acknowledgment; and was a kind of head or poll-money. It seems also to be used for a sum of money, yearly given to a man of power, for his countenance and protection as to their chief head or leader."

Other authors have from time to time copied or adopted Blount's definition of Amobyrr, and it seems to have been considered that the Lord had a right of concubinage with his tenant's daughter upon her marriage and accepted money instead; but Mr. Justice Blackstone<sup>1</sup> observes that he "cannot learn that this custom ever prevailed in England." The derivation of<sup>2</sup> Amobyrr is from the two Welch words "Am" for and "Gwobyr" a fee or recompense, so that it means a fee paid for some benefit received.

It is proposed to show that the above passage from Blount is in more than one respect erroneous; that the deduction drawn from it is untenable; and that Amobyrr was a premium or reward to the Lord for defending the honour of his tenant's daughter until her marriage, instead of a compensation for not violating it when she was married.

To begin with the Laws of Hoel Dda above referred to.<sup>3</sup> Considering their date they will be found to be framed in a spirit of kindness and right feeling towards women, and that their protection was never lost sight

<sup>1</sup> Blac. *Commentaries*, Vol. ii., 82

<sup>2</sup> Owen's *Dictionary*, voc. Gwobyr.

<sup>3</sup> Probert, 128 to 143,

of. Although the Amobyr or Commutation fee was usually payable to the Lord by the betrother<sup>1</sup> (whether he was her father or not) and became due upon a girl's betrothal, or seduction, or violation, yet in one case only was the fee to be paid by herself, namely,<sup>2</sup> *when she betrothed herself*, and even then the claims given to her upon her husband were much greater, for she became entitled to receive from him her commutation fee wherewith to pay the Lord, and her maiden fee for herself besides, which latter is in the Welsh language called "Gwobr Merch."<sup>3</sup> But the nature of Amobyr is not left to conjecture or inference; for one passage in these laws clearly shows what the Lord's obligation was. It says that<sup>4</sup> where a rape has been committed upon a maid and the ravisher is unknown "the law has enacted, that the Lord must lose the commutation fee, because he has not preserved her honour, though he ought to have preserved it inviolate." In Wales, therefore, Amobyr was a fee or reward to the Lord for protection, and the following entries in the early Court Rolls of Clun above mentioned, though few in number, give sufficient proof that it was the like in Clun.

"Tempsetur. the 13th Court held Monday the morrow after Purification of the Blessed Mary 2nd Richard 2nd, (1378). 6d.—Meredith ap Hoell gave to the Lord 6d. to have judgement between him and the Farmer of Amobrage.

"Court of Tempsetur held Monday on the morrow after the feast of the Holy Trinity in the 7th year (1383). The two daughters of Cadwallader ap Wynn, two Amobrages not paid.

"At a Court for Tempsetur held on the Monday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, 9th R<sup>d</sup> 2nd, (1385). David ap Jevan ap David is in the hands of

<sup>1</sup> Probert, 198.

<sup>2</sup> Probert. 138, 134.

<sup>3</sup> Owen ubi sup.

<sup>4</sup> Probert, 267.

the Lord for marrying his daughter without licence and he so remains.

“At a Court for Tempsetur held on the Wednesday next after the feast of St. John ante Poram Latinam 9th R. 2nd. (1386).

“David ap Jevan ap David given into the hands of the Lord for that he had married his daughter without the licence of the Lord, on account of which he is held as a native, and who is called to warrant upon his charter, is to come before the Council of the Lord.”

This David ap Jevan seems shortly afterwards to have made his peace with the Lord for this offence, and to have had a new Charter granted to him; for over this entry in the Roll is the following “pro se-xij p'pt pam'nt,” which seems to mean that he paid 12d. to the Lord's Officer for his fee, besides for the parchment. Amobyr therefore was a money payment, and was let to farm nearly 500 years ago, which it could not have been if it had been of the description first named.

In 1852 an application was made to the Earl of Powis, to allow to be taken, for antiquarian purposes, a copy of the release given in the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, referred to by Blount; but no trace of it could then be found, although diligent search was made. An ancient copy of it was found folded up very small among some refuse papers of no value. This copy was produced at the meeting, to enable the Society to judge whether it was made at the same time as the deed itself, or at some later period. It will be observed that the place of execution and date do not appear to be insertions in the copy after it was made, and yet it wants the addition of the usual clause, “These being witnesses, &c.” It agrees as to place and date with the Charter of Confirmation before mentioned to have been witnessed by the Duke of Norfolk and others, and it seems probable that they would be the witnesses to the release of Amobyr also, although the copy does not so state. The following is a copy of it:—

“To all trew Christian people to whom this p'sent

writing shall come Henry Earl of Arundell lord of the honor of Clonne and Tempsetur sendeth greeting in our Lord God everlasting. Knowe ye that the sayd Henry Earl of Arundel lord of Clonne and Tempsetur aforsaid aswell for divers and sondry reasonable consideracons him moving as for the some of threescore pounds of lawful money of England to the sayd Earl before hand payd by the freehoulders and resiaunts of the sayd Honor by the hands of Richard ap Howell in the name of all the freehoulders and resiaunts there, Hath for him his heires and assignes Remised released and quite claymed and by theese presents doth cleerly remise release and quite clayme unto Richard ap Howell, of Edenhope, in the Countie of Salop, Cadwalader ap David, Henry ap Hughe and to all others the resiaunts and his tenants being freehoulders there within the sayd honor of Clonne and Tempsetur and the members therof and to their heires for ever. All that his right, title, poss'ion, clayme, demaund, challenge and interest of and into a certen custome comonly called Amaber and *Cliense* which hath been and continewed within the sayd Honor and Members of the same tyme out of mynd: and of and into all manner of debts and dutyes dew or to be due to the sayd Earl or his heires for or by reason of the sayd Custome except twenty pounds which is allredy due unto the sayd Earl by reason of the sayd custome whereof one Robt. Vaughan hath received part to the use of the sayd Earl, so that the sayd Earl nor his heires nor any other in his or their name or for them any manner of Right title demaund challenge clayme or interest of and unto the said Custome or of or into any thinge or things some or somes by reason of thesayd Custome from hencefurth shall have aske demaund clayme or by any meane challenge or of right may or ought to have aske demaund clayme or challenge: But that the said Richard ap Howell, Cadwalader ap Dd, Henry ap Hughe, and all other the resiaunts and freehoulders there and their heires and every of them and the heires of every of them of the

said Custome and of every thinge dew or to be dew for or reasen of the sayd Custome (except before excepted) be and hereafter shal be by theese presents thereof cleerly and utterly exonerated, acquitted and discharged for ever And further the sayd Earl by theese presents doth graunte for him and his heires for ever to the sayd Richard ap Ho'll Kadwalader ap D'd Henry ap Hughe and to all other the freehoulders and resiaunts there and their heires for ever that they the sayd Ried. ap Howel Kadwalladr ap Dd. Henry ap Hughe and all other the freehoulders and resiaunts there and their heires shall hould their lands being freehold and shalbe resiaunt there within the sayd Honor without any manner of interruption of the sayd earl or his heires or any other for them or in their name by reason or vertue of the sayd Custome or without any thing doing or paying for or by reason of the sayd Custome. In witnes whereof to this my p'sent writing I have putte to my Seale Dated at Nonsowch the last day of August in the 3rd and 4th yeares of the reignes of our Sovereigne Lord and Sovereigne Ladye Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queene of England Spayne Fraunce both Cicilie Jerusalem and Irland deffenders of the faith Archduks of Austria Duks of Burgundye Millayne Brabant Counts of Haspurg Fflanders and Tiolls."

"ARUNDELL"

It will be observed that Blount speaks of Amaber and *Chense*, and that in the Copy it is said to be Amaber and *Cliense*. It is conceived that *Cliense* is the word used and an appropriate one; and that *Chense* is not the word used, and would have been an inappropriate word to express what was intended to be released. On a careful examination of the ancient Copy<sup>1</sup> it will be seen that the letter "h" occurs in every line, and in

<sup>1</sup> [It has since been inspected by T. Duffus Hardy, Esq., and other gentlemen of the Record Office conversant with ancient writings, who are of opinion that the ancient copy and the original deed were contemporaneous, and that the word under discussion is *Cliense*.]

some lines very often, and it is used no less than 195 times in all, and is not in any one instance formed like the letter in the word under consideration. It is true that, supposing the reading to be "*Clense*," the letter "i" is not dotted, but this trifling omission occurs in other parts of the Copy, for instance in the date, the "i" in "reignes" and "King" is not in either word dotted. It is believed that the word "Chense" is no where else to be found; but the word Chensers is thus explained by Blount—"Chensers (anno 27. H.8. cap. 7.) such as paid Tribute or Cense, Quit-rent, or Chief-Rent: For so the Fr. Censier signifies"—and Cowell gives the same explanation (in Manley's Improved Edition, 1672) but with a quare. On referring to the 27th Henry 8th c. 7. (being that before mentioned against abuses of Forests in Wales and the Marches there) it will be found that the word Chenser is used three times, twice in the plural and once in the singular number, the words used being "yearly tributors or chensers" and "a yearly tributor or a chenser," so that a chenser according to that Statute differed from a *yearly* Tributor or tenant paying rent annually. It is therefore submitted that the word "Chenser" meant a person who, though not a tenant paying annual tribute or rent, yet had a temporary right to turn sheep or cattle upon the forest, by licence of the Lord or his Forester, on paying an acknowledgment for the privilege; or who had entered into some arrangement which entitled him to be found upon the forest, without being liable to the charge of being there for unlawful purposes. Such licences were common in former times when there was a great excess of pasture belonging to the Lord; and many judicial decisions upon them are to be found in the older Law Reports and treatises. Practically speaking, it is clear that the word "Chense" used in the release could not mean persons yielding rents or other annual payments, because all the ancient rents continued to be paid afterwards as if no such release had been given. With respect to the word *Clense*, which has been substi-

tuted, the following words in the Latin, French, and English languages nearly resemble it, and exactly express the true nature of what was intended to be released. "Cliens" in mediæval and later Latin is said in Adelung's Glossary to be a word of most extensive signification, and to mean a person under subjection to and by necessary consequence under the protection of another, such as "an Esquire" who is under a Knight, "a Common Sergeant," or "a Sergeant at arms," who are under superior officers, and "a Vassall or tenant," who is under his Lord. In the same language all its derivatives have the same meaning, such as "Clientela" rendered "domestic servants of every grade and other persons protected in the house"—"Clientia," which is defined to be "Refuge, Protection"—Clientulus and Clientula meaning he or she who trusts his or her cause to a patron's defence. The French word "Clientelle" is thus explained by Boyer in his French and English Dictionary (edition 1816), "Clientelle (protection que le patron accorde a ses cliens)," and he gives the following English meanings to it—"patronage, protection, defence, Clientele, Clientship," and in Bailey's English Dictionary "Clientels" are explained to be "persons under protection and vassalage," and a Vassal is in the same useful book explained to be "one who holds lands of another by homage and fealty, a tenant."

It is to be observed that the release is not confined to freeholders, but extends to resiants also; who are defined to be<sup>1</sup> "persons continually dwelling or abiding in a place," as distinguished from merely temporary residents. Hume and other English historians have forcibly pointed out the causes which led craftsmen and other inferior persons to place themselves under the protection of some great baron in order to escape continual exactions; and the necessity for doing so must have been greater and have continued longer in the

<sup>1</sup> Blount and Cowel voc: "Resiance,"

Marches of Wales than in England, since those Marches were subject to inroads from the Welsh, in addition to all other exactions.

For these reasons it is submitted to the learned Society that the Lordship of Clun never was justly chargeable with the stigma which has been cast upon it by misapprehension, and that Amobyr was not a badge of servile tenure, but was originally a fee paid to the Lord by freemen for a protection, the value of which few in these days are capable of duly appreciating ; but which gradually lessened in value as the country became more settled and civilized, and ended (as many feudal usages have ended) in being a thing of profit to the Lord only, who accordingly released it for a money consideration.

ROMAN MINING OPERATIONS IN  
SHROPSHIRE AND NORTH WALES.<sup>1</sup>

BY THE LATE THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A., F.S.A.

OUR history of the first establishment of the Romans in Britain is very imperfect and very obscure. After a short campaign under Claudius, A.D. 43 and 44, which appears to have been carried on chiefly in the south, we find the Romans exercising a superiority over all the eastern and central States, including that of the Brigantes, and suddenly carrying nearly all their forces to the borders of Wales. When Ostorius Scapula was sent, in the year 50, to take the command of this distant province, and to suppress the disorders which had arisen in it, he made the Avon the base of his operations, and then marched into the country of the Cangi, who evidently inhabited the districts lying on the northern coast of Wales. Beyond their territory, the Romans came upon the sea that looked towards the island of Ireland. They were called back from this conquest, first by a revolt of the Brigantes, and then by the more resolute hostility of the Silures of South Wales, which led to the defeat and capture of Caractacus. Under the Government of Suetonius Paulinus, in the year 61, the spirit of insurrection was again active in Britain, and the Romans appear attaching the same importance to that district of the Cangi; for his grand exploit was the reduction of the island of Anglesey, because it was by the Britons assembled there that the Cangi were continually urged into revolt. The multitude of the Roman troops was still collected in this quarter, and it was from thence that they were taken to repress the more formidable insurrection of Boadicea.

<sup>1</sup> From the *Intellectual Observer*, May, 1862.

We might naturally inquire what was the particular circumstance which drew the attention of the Romans, at this early period, so strongly to this distant part of Britain; and a rather curious antiquarian discovery furnishes the reply. In 1783, a Roman pig of lead was found in Hampshire, bearing the inscription—

NERONIS . AVG . EX . KIAN . IIII . COS . BRIT

intimating that this lead was taken from the mines in the country of the Kiangi, or Cangi, in the fourth consulate of the Emperor Nero. Now Nero's fourth consulate began in the year 60, so that this pig was probably cast in the year before Boadicea's revolt. It is clear, therefore, that it was the metallic riches of the mountains on the border, and on the northern coast of Wales, which drew the Romans thither at so early a period. Britain had long had a celebrity for its richness in metals, derived from the treasures carried from the south, and the Romans would no doubt be attracted by any report of mountainous districts. They had thus at a very early period fixed upon the peak of Derbyshire; and in the mountains of the Welsh border, their richness in metals must have been visible on the surface, and would have caught the eye of the Roman metallurgists at the first glance.

There are evidences of a much more definite character, which show the extent to which the Romans laboured on these metalliferous regions, and which will repay well the labours of the scientific inquirer in exploring them. The attraction of these researches is increased by the fact that the most imposing remains of the Roman mining operations are scattered through by far the most lovely scenery of the Welsh border. We may trace them from the wild country of the Forest of Dean, and the beautiful Wye scenery in the south, through the hills of Shropshire and Montgomeryshire, Cheshire, and the counties of Flint and Denbigh, and through the ancient country of the Cangi, or Kiangi, up to the shores of the Irish Channel. We can only, in the space here allowed us, review this

extent of country briefly, but we will begin with the iron district in the south.

The best position from which to visit the Roman mining districts of the Forest of Dean is Ross or Monmouth. Nearly the whole country for some extent on both sides of the river Wye, between those towns, has a deep substratum of the scoriæ from the Roman iron works, sometimes lying close upon the surface. I am told that in places the depth of scoriæ has been found to be from twelve to twenty feet, and I have myself traced it on the surface over a considerable part of the district. Coins and pottery of the Romans, and other objects, found frequently among the scoriæ, leave no room for doubt that the latter were deposited there by that people.

Nor are their cinders the only remains of their iron works, which that extraordinary people have left behind them in this district. In a turn of the river Wye, amid the beautiful scenery between the ruins of Goodrich Castle and Monmouth, rise two massive hills, called the Great and Little Dowards. They consist of mountain limestone, resting on the old red sandstone, in the former of which the iron ore is here found. Both hills have been largely mined by the Romans, and their manner of proceeding on this occasion is explained fully by the entrance to one of their mines, which still remains on the site of the Great Doward. They had excavated a large cavern into the side of the hill, and wherever they came upon the vein of iron ore, they followed it into the heart of the mountain. Thus from the cavern, as it still exists, rude galleries run in more than one direction, leading to successions of chambers made by the extraction of the iron ore. The entrances from the outer cave are now much clogged up, but they are said to have been entered and explored to a great depth underground. They are, as is frequently the case with such remains, the subject of many popular legends of fairies which dwell in them, hidden treasures, and the like, and the entrance cavern is called in the locality "King Arthur's Hall." On the adjacent Little Doward there is an

ancient entrenched inclosure, which had probably some connection with the mines.

The Romans had, in this district, another method of mining, or rather a modification of the same, which was caused by the character of the ground. It is seen to most advantage in the neighbourhood of Coleford, on the Monmouth side of the Forest of Dean. Coleford is reached most easily from Monmouth, through a country of mountain and forest of the greatest beauty. It is situated upon the same mountain limestone which here skirts the Forest of Dean, and in which the iron ore is found ; but here, as the ground lies more level, and cannot be entered from the side of a hill, the Romans began their operations by sinking a large pit—in some cases these pits are from twenty to thirty feet in diameter—and when at the bottom of this pit they came upon a vein of ore, they followed it just as they did the veins from the cave in the Great Doward. These pits as they now remain are popularly called *scowles*, a word the origin or meaning of which I have not been able to discover. They have, as may be supposed, rendered the ground on which they are situated very uneven, and unfit for cultivation ; it is thus always overgrown with copse and brushwood, and it requires some care on the part of the explorer not to fall unawares into a pit. They are seen to most advantage not far from a farm house, called, from them, the Scowles Farm, about a mile to the westward of Coleford. In one of these scowles which I examined, the round pit, was nearly twenty feet deep, at which depth the Romans had come upon a vein of ore, which they had followed by a shaft, the entrance to which looks now something like the mouth of a large oven. Without a light, and the other necessary accoutrements of a miner, it was not advisable to enter beyond a few feet ; but a stone thrown in could be heard rolling down for some seconds ; and the cottagers stated that some of these mines extended two or three hundred feet underground, and that they could easily descend them with lanterns, and generally found clear water at the

bottom. The ore is of fibrous appearance, and so rich in metal that it often looks like malleable iron, and pieces of it are picked up plentifully about the Roman mines. That they are Roman we can have little doubt, from the frequent discoveries of Roman coins and pottery in and about the scowles.

Space will not allow of any detailed description of the scoriæ which are found in such marvellous quantities over this district, but which, nevertheless, present many circumstances worthy of remark. There can be no doubt that wood was used in the smelting, as pieces of charcoal are often found imbedded in the cinders. The Roman process of smelting was evidently very imperfect, for they still contain so much ore, that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries they were carried away and re-smelted on an extensive scale, and large quantities of iron were thus obtained.<sup>1</sup>

This incredible quantity of the scoriæ shows the immense activity of the iron mines in this district during, no doubt, the whole Roman period. They are traced also, I believe, in some parts of Monmouthshire, but its neighbour Radnorshire is not a mining district, and we find no further traces of the eagerness of the Romans to profit by the existence of metallic treasures till we reach the lead and copper fields of Salop and Montgomery.

The most important group of the Shropshire lead-producing mountains is that of the Stiperstones and its dependents, especially that which is known as Shelve Hill. My headquarters for exploring this district have always been at the hospitable mansion of an esteemed friend, the Rev. T. F. More, of Linley Hall, one of the most lovely spots in this island. Mr. More takes in his mining property all the interest of an antiquary and of a man of science. The park of Linley runs from the hall, first northward, and then bending round to the west, along a narrow and beautifully picturesque valley,

<sup>1</sup> A more full account of the Roman iron works in the Forest of Dean, and also of those of the weald of Kent and Sussex, will be found in a little volume by the author of the present paper, entitled *Wanderings of an Antiquary*, published in 1854.

between ranges of mountains, a distance of about three miles, at the end of which we enter the high road from Newtown and Bishop's Castle to Minsterley. Two miles along this road, towards the latter place, brings us to a long mountain, extending nearly north and south, and parallel to the Stiperstones, at a distance of some two miles to the west, which is called, from the name of the parish in which it is situated, Shelve Hill. This hill, the property of Mr. More, is full of lead ore, which runs in almost horizontal veins from east to west, turning a little towards the north west, and when the Romans came to these parts, all these veins cropped out on the surface on the western side of the hill. The Romans, who considered lead as a very valuable metal, were not likely to overlook so open a manifestation of great wealth, for the ore in this locality is particularly rich, and this locality was without doubt the scene of some of their earliest mining operations. Lead is the only metal produced from the British mines of which we find the pigs bearing the imperial marks, and these pigs have been found in rather considerable numbers. All such pigs of the Roman period hitherto found under circumstances which would lead us to suppose that they came from the Shelve hill mines bear the same mark, that of the Emperor Hadrian (A.D. 117—138) in the simple form—

IMP. HADRIANI. AVG

from which it would appear that the mines were in great activity in the earlier part of the second century. Three of the pigs of lead with this inscription are well preserved; one found on Mr. More's own property is to be seen among the curiosities at Linley Hall; another, found in the parish of Snead, near Linley, is now in Mr. Joseph Mayer's museum, at Liverpool; and a third, found in the last century at Snailbeach, is deposited in the British Museum. With these facts before us, it is more than probable that it was to this locality that Pliny referred, when, writing before A.D. 79 (when he died), he says, that lead (which he calls *nigrum plumbum*, to

distinguish it from *plumbum album*, or tin), was found in Britain so plentifully on the surface of the ground, that it was thought necessary to pass a law to limit its extraction.<sup>1</sup>

The remains of the Roman workings on this spot are of a very remarkable character. Pliny's description of the lead as found *summo terræ corio*, on the very skin of the earth, was here literally true, for some eight or nine parallel veins came out upon the surface of the rock, and all these the Romans worked, beginning apparently from the bottom of the hill, and following the vein into the rock, as far as they could trace it. The remains of their labours are visible along the whole surface of the hill, like irregular cuttings along a large cheese; but it presents the most remarkable appearance at a spot near the northern end, where, at the foot of the hill, a mine called the Roman Gravel Mine is now in operation. The way in which the Roman miners followed the veins of ore is here exhibited in the most remarkable manner. Where it did not appear to run deep they soon stopped, and have left but a shallow cutting. In some places the cutting is wide; while in others it is at the same time very narrow and very deep, in one instance sinking to a depth of, I believe, forty yards, yet not wide enough for more than one man to work in it. In other places the vein of ore has been more massive, and in following it the Romans had hollowed in the rock cavern-like chambers, from which galleries ran in different directions, which are now blocked up by rubbish. The Roman miners also sank shafts. In one of the largest of the caverns on the line of the vein I am describing, near the brow of the hill, the vein has been followed downward by a shaft of great depth; in its present state a stone is heard rolling down for several seconds. It is not easily examined from its position, but having been carried up to the surface of

<sup>1</sup> Nigro plumbo ad fistulas laminasque utimus, laboriosius in Hispania eruto totasque per Gallias, sed in Britanni summo terræ corio adeo large, ut lex dicatur ne plus certo modo fiat. Plin. *Nat. Hist.* lib. xxxiv, cap. 17.

the rock above, no doubt for the purpose of more easily raising weights up and letting them down, we were enabled to ascertain that it was a square shaft of small dimensions. We have, however, still better evidence of the extent to which the Roman miners perforated the mountain. I have just stated that at the bottom of the hill, just under these large Roman surface workings, there is a modern mine, which was begun some years ago, but, for some reason or other, was soon abandoned. This mine has been recently taken by a most respectable company, which has taken the name of the Roman Gravel Lead Mining Company, who, in the prosecution of their own works, have met with numerous Roman shafts and galleries to a considerable depth.<sup>1</sup> The antiquity of these mines has been proved, not only by the Roman pigs of lead already mentioned, but by Roman coins and pottery found from time to time among the old rubbish. Early mining implements also have been found, but none have been preserved, with the exception of a curious description of spade. These spades are formed of laminæ of oak timber, roughly split, with a very short stumpy handle, and a square hole, sloping on one side in the blade. This hole was evidently intended to receive a short staff, which might be used as a leaver to give force to the movement of the hand; and the implement itself was no doubt designed for shovelling the broken stones containing the lead ore in narrow passages where there was not space for giving much movement to the body. The dimensions of the two spades are nearly  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 16, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  by

<sup>1</sup> When we consider the facility which nature gave to the ancients to obtain the higher metal from the surface, and the length of time they no doubt worked the mines, and the fact that we learn from ancient documents that mines were worked here in the middle ages, and at various more recent times, and that during the last seventy years an unceasing large supply has been raised, although not a fifth of the ground has been explored, we may imagine the richness of this district in ore. Immediately under one part of the ancient workings, about fifteen years ago, one pipe of ore produced two thousand tons in eleven months at a depth of eighty yards.

11. It is worthy of remark that similar spades have been frequently found in other parts of our island in the remains of mines which no one doubts to be Roman ; and these confirm us in believing them to be of the Roman period. They furnish a remarkable proof of the great durability of sound oak.

No traces of the washing and smelting places attached to these Roman mines have yet been met with ; but they are accompanied by other monuments of a very important description. The remains of a very extensive Roman villa have been discovered, occupying the southern part of the park at Linley and part of the adjacent fields, and standing in a very commanding position. This great mansion, which covered the space of a small town, had no doubt some connection with the mining works in the mountains above. Again, to the north of Shelve, at the extremity of the Stiperstones, and in the parish of Minsterley, is the Snailbeach mine, one of the most productive lead-mines in this kingdom. It also had been extensively worked by the Romans ; and the miners, I believe, still speak of the upper part of it as the Roman level. Two or three miles distant, in the fertile country below, the remains of a fine Roman villa have also been found in the parish of Pontesbury.<sup>1</sup>

Westward of the Stiperstones mountains, and through the county of Montgomery, copper and lead are found in abundance, and we trace everywhere the presence of the Roman miners. Roman mines have been found in Newtown Park, and were re-opened a few years ago. They were found productive in copper and "silver lead;" to explain which, it may be stated that the lead ore found in this country has always an alloy of silver, varying in quantity, and particularly rich in the latter metal as we go westward into Montgomeryshire. At present the alloy of silver is considered rather as a defect than otherwise, as it is not worth the trouble of

<sup>1</sup> At the Lea Cross,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Shrewsbury. A coloured engraving of the beautiful tessellated pavement found here in 1793 is in the Shrewsbury Museum.—ED.

extracting ; but the Romans, who set greater value on silver, extracted it with care, of which many of the Roman pigs of lead found in England bear testimony by the words in the inscription—EX. ARG., or LVT. EX ARG., or MET. LVT. EX. ARG., the latter of which has been interpreted as meaning *metallum lutum ex argento*, metal washed from silver, in accordance with Pliny's account of the process of extracting the more precious metal from the other ; but LVT. has also been interpreted, perhaps rightly, as referring to a mining town or district in Derbyshire, named by the Romans Lutudæ. I believe that among the miners on the borders of Wales the lead ore is still sometimes called silver. Most of the Roman mines in Montgomeryshire, as far as they have yet been observed, are formed by shafts sunk from the surface, or from caves made in the bank. In the park at Newtown they thus sunk shafts for copper, and appear to have been very successful, to judge by the report of the resumption of these excavations in 1856.<sup>1</sup> About six miles westward from Newtown, on an elevation on the banks of the Severn, are the remains of a rather important Roman station, called by the Welsh

<sup>1</sup> An account of the re-opening of this mine was communicated to Eddowes's *Shrewsbury Journal* in October, 1856, by a mining captain at Llanidloes, Mr. William Vivian, who says :—" The interest excited in Newtown by the opening of the old mine at the Park, near that place, has caused me to direct my attention to that interesting spot. I have this day inspected the ancient work, and find that, in clearing out the level, an old shaft has been discovered, sunk, it is supposed, upwards of a thousand years ago. The men are now employed night and day in clearing the shaft, and they have already arrived to the depth of ten fathoms, but have not as yet reached the bottom. Amongst the stuff now being brought up are some ancient pieces of oak timber, and, strange to say, also large quantities of bones, supposed to be those of the deer, which, owing to their having been lodged in mineral water, are in perfect preservation and freshness. The lode at this part of the shaft is about four feet wide, composed of barytes, intermixed nicely throughout with copper ore, just diverging into silver lead ; at which point the lode and branches (which are about ten feet wide) fall altogether into the main vein, showing perhaps one of the finest lodes at the same depth in this or any other country ; indeed, had such a lode been discovered in the mining districts of Cornwall or Devon, it would have been considered of immense importance."

Caer Sws, probably a mining town, in the neighbourhood of which I believe that remains of Roman mines are also found, and by which runs a Roman road, called in Welsh Sarn Swsan, which is said to run by way of Rhaiadyr through this mining district towards Chester. At the western extremity of the county of Montgomery, in the park of Machynlleth, a Roman mine was also re-opened in 1856, which produced copper and "silver lead." Like most of these ancient excavations, it had become an object of superstition, was believed to be the dwelling of the fairies, and had obtained the popular name of the Ogo-Gwyddsyg, or Witch's Cave.<sup>1</sup> Machynlleth itself has been supposed by antiquaries to stand on the site of a Roman town, but about two miles from it, at a place called Cefn Caer, or the ridge of the city, are the undoubted remains of an extensive Roman settlement. In the neighbourhood of Llanrhaiadr, on the borders of Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire, the Romans appear also to have had

<sup>1</sup> The following paragraph appeared in the *Shrewsbury Journal*, May 14, 1856 :—"OGOGWYDDSYG, OR THE WITCH'S CAVE—In the park near to the town of Machynlleth is a deep pit, known by the above name, attached to which are many legends of ghosts, hobgoblins, and fairies ; and occasionally pranks have been played off on old crones and timid maidens as they passed at night, so that the road has been shunned as haunted. The scene has, however, changed in one short week ; and however it might be shunned after nightfall, it is the great attraction of the neighbourhood by day. An active miner, Morris Williams, conceiving this to be an old Roman mine, applied for a take-note to Sir Watkin W. Wynn, which being promised, he commenced, with the aid of Mr. Weston, a gentleman residing in the town. As the water was reduced they came to some woodwork, and an old shaft was soon developed, which was dried, and at the bottom was discovered a second shaft about eighteen feet deep, also timbered ; but owing to the obstructions and danger attending the getting the water out of it, it was resolved to drive a level upon it. This is now in progress upon the course of a fine lode, from which there have already been taken some fine stones, rich in silver and copper. At the foot of the work flows the little stream called Nant-yr-arian, or the Silver River, a name, doubtless, arising from the knowledge, in days of old, of the precious metal through which it flowed, though, till now, its origin has been long unknown. The quiet town of Machynlleth has been roused into a state of unusual excitement by this unexpected discovery."

extensive mines, and at no great distance from this place probably stood the Roman station of Mediolanum, on the great Roman road from Uriconium (*Wroxeter*), which passed hence over the mountains of North Wales to Segontium, near the modern town of Caernarvon.

To the east of the Stiperstones copper is found, but not in such quantity as to pay for the labour of mining, as far as it has yet been discovered. I am informed by Mr. More that the little stream, which enters his park under Radley Hill, which is marked in the Ordnance Survey Map as the Black Brook, and which runs southwardly at the eastern foot of the Stiperstones, divides the lead district from the copper. The hill in Linley Park, opposite Radley Hill, certainly contains copper; and there are traces of copper over the whole district between Minsterley and the Stiperstones on one side, and the Long-Mynd on the other. Copper has also been found, though in no great quantity, in Lythe Hill, facing the entrance to the Church Stretton Valley. Hence the copper district turns northwardly. To the north of Shrewsbury we meet a flat country with a broken line of eminences, represented by Grinshill and the Hawkstone hills, which all contain copper. My friend Mr. Samuel Wood<sup>1</sup> informs me that there are traces of mines which had been worked by the Romans at the Clive near Grinshill, and he is of opinion that the well-known grotto in Hawkstone Park, with its dark passage of eighty yards, was certainly formed by the Romans in working for copper ore. From this spot the traces of Roman mining disappear until we arrive at the hill of Llanymynech, on the northern borders of Shropshire and Montgomeryshire, in an isolated part of Denbighshire, a few miles from Llanrhaiadr, already mentioned. Llanymynech Hill is a mountain of limestone of considerable extent, arising from the plain at some distance in advance of the edge of the mountain district of Denbighshire. Between the strata of lime occurs a very tenacious smooth clay,

<sup>1</sup> The late Mr. Samuel Wood, Surgeon, of Shrewsbury.—ED.

with orange-coloured ochre and green plumose carbonate of copper. It was the latter which attracted the Roman miners ; and the remains of their extensive works are found on the north-west side of the hill, consisting of shallow pits, the debris from the excavations of which are full of small pieces of copper ore. In the neighbourhood of these pits are found traces of vitrification which show that here the Romans smelted their copper on open hearths. Their excavations, however, were by no means confined to the surface, for there still remains a very large cavern, known popularly by the Welsh name of Ogo (the cave), from which run irregular winding passages, connected with which are the remains of air-shafts. The Ogo at Llanymynech, like so many of these monuments of primeval times, is popularly believed to be inhabited by fairies and similar beings ; a lad, whom I once took for my guide thither, knew all about these spirits of the mine, and gave me an account of one of the miners, with whom he was acquainted, who, coming over the mountain rather late at night, had seen the fairies dancing on the sward. But, though not very easy of access at the commencement, the Roman workings in the interior of Llanymynech hill have been explored more than once, and are better known than those in any other locality. In the latter half of the last century they were entered more than once by miners in search of copper, who found a number of Roman coins, some mining implements, and, it is stated, culinary utensils, and several human skeletons and scattered bones—one of the skeletons having a bracelet on the left arm, and a “battle-axe” by his side.<sup>1</sup> Some of the mining implements were deposited with other antiquities in the library of Shrewsbury School, but they have long disappeared. I possess a drawing of one, which was a roughly made iron implement resembling a pick, except that it only had one limb, and which had evidently been used for pulling out the rock

<sup>1</sup> See Pennant's *Tours in Wales*, edition of 1810, Vol. iii., p. 218, and Nicholson's *Cambrian Traveller's Guide*, under *Llan y Mynach*.

after it had been cracked and broken. At a later period, a man, well known in the literary history of Shropshire, J. F. M. Dovaston, explored the Roman workings as completely as it could be done, taking the precaution of carrying a piece of chalk with him to mark his way. Some of the shafts, or passages, which were extremely sinuous, extended as far as two hundred yards, sometimes they were so small that it was necessary even to creep through them, but they were usually from a yard to three yards wide, and from time to time became developed into broad and lofty chambers, where the ore had been found in larger quantities. They had all been cut through the solid rock, and in many places the marks of the chisel were distinctly visible. "Long passages," we are told in the account of this exploration, "frequently terminate in small holes, about the size to admit a man's arm, as if the metal ran in strings, and had been picked out quite clean, with hammers and long chisels, as far as they could reach." It may be added that the roofs of these caverns were covered with pendent stalactites, which glittered brilliantly in the light of the torches. So many human bones were found scattered about, that it was conjectured that these caves had become a place of refuge in the troubled times which followed the overthrow of the Roman power, and that the fugitives had perished there. Roman antiquities of various kinds, and especially coins, are often found on Llanymynech Hill; of the latter, a friend in Shrewsbury, Mr. Henry Pidgeon, well known for his zealous and successful investigations of Shropshire antiquities, possesses about twenty copper coins found here, ranging from the earlier emperors to a tolerably late period of the imperial sway in Britain. The metal which was taken from the mines I have been describing was no doubt copper; but the Romans obtained also from this hill lead and calamine. Llanymynech Hill still produces both copper and lead, though, I believe, not in very large quantity.

The Romans seem not to have been aware of the existence of iron in Shropshire; but there can now be

no doubt that they discovered the Shropshire coal-field. It has been long suspected that they used mineral coals in Britain, though different circumstances rendered it very difficult to substantiate the conjecture; but the question has been set at rest by the recent excavations at Wroxeter, on the site of Uriconium, where mineral coal is found in abundance, both unburnt and in cinders, and under circumstances which can admit of no doubt. It appears to be, generally, a coal of inferior quality which they found near the surface, and which is still spoken of as surface coal.

When the Romans came into Britain, the metals in these parts of the island were probably as yet undisturbed, and they found employment enough where the existence of ore was plainly indicated on the surface of the earth. From the copper and lead of Shropshire we find few, if any, traces of their labours until we reach the mountains of Flintshire, where copper and lead again presented themselves on or near the surface. We are now, no doubt, in the country of the Cangi, which, stretching along the coast districts to Bangor, is full of mineral wealth; but I must pass over it briefly. The remains of Roman lead mines are met with in almost every part of this district, and they usually present features similar to those observed at Shelve, in Shropshire. It is a remarkable circumstance that, in the latter locality, and similarly in the mining districts of Montgomeryshire and at Llanymynech, we are so entirely ignorant of any deposits of scoriæ, or slag, that we might suppose that the ore had been carried away to be smelted elsewhere, were not this hypothesis contradicted by the discovery in the immediate neighbourhood of the pigs of lead ready for exportation. This is not the case in Flintshire, where the land bordering on the coast to the west of Flint is covered with thick layers of lead scoriæ, deposited in the same manner as the iron scoriæ on the borders of the Forest of Dean. These scoriæ are found chiefly at Croes-Ati, a kind of eastern suburb of the town of Flint, and in the adjoining parish of Northop; and, like the iron scoriæ

of the south, the process of smelting had been performed so imperfectly that in the time of Pennant, who is our chief authority on the traces of old mining operations in this part, people collected them and subjected them again to the process of smelting, and thus obtained large quantities of metal.<sup>1</sup> Pennant further informs us that rudely made pick-axes had been found in the Roman mines in Flintshire; and that distinct marks of fire were found in the deep parts, as though the rock had been heated, and cold water thrown on it while hot to make it crack—a process which is alluded to by Pliny. Pennant had an iron wedge, thickly incrusted with lead, which had been found in the ancient workings in the parish of Dyserth.

From the quantity of scoræ found at Croes-Ati and Northop we are justified in supposing that the lead ore was brought down from the Flintshire mountains to be smelted at this spot; and the activity of the miners of this district is proved by the great numbers of Roman pigs of lead, all belonging to early emperors, and bearing the mark DE.CEANG, which have been found in the adjacent county of Chester. One of these was found in 1838, at about a mile from Chester, in excavating for the railway to Crewe, and bore the date of the third consulate of Vespasian, A.D. 74. In the time of Camden no less than twenty pigs of lead were found together at Runcorn, on the Cheshire coast, near the mouth of the Mersey, all bearing the inscription DE.CEANG; some of them bearing date in the fifth consulate of Vespasian, A.D. 76, and others inscribed with the name of Domitian, A.D. 81-96. Another, with the mark of the Ceangi, or Cangi, and the date of the fifth consulate of Vespasian, was found in 1772 on Hirst's Common in Staffordshire, near to Watling Street, where it had been left in its transit from the mining district to the south. It is a remarkable circumstance that nearly all the pigs of lead found in Britain bearing the imperial mark belong to

<sup>1</sup> Pennant's *Tours in Wales*, Vol. i., p. 71. *Ibid.*, Vol. i., p. 74. See also Vol. iii., p. 58.

the early emperors, and the absence of any of a later date perhaps implies some great change in the system of administration of the mines.<sup>1</sup>

The Romans found lead again in the limestone mountains behind Abergele. On the side of one of these, which, from some ancient intrenchments on its summit, is called Castell Cawr, the vein of lead appears to have cropped out on its surface as in Shelve Hill ; and in following it the Romans have cut a trench across the mountain of such vast depth and width, that the cuttings on Shelve Hill are mere scratches in comparison to it. After the departure of the Romans, this country had been left so wild and unfrequented that the caverns of the Roman miners became the haunts of beasts of prey ; and the trench of which we are speaking received from the Welsh the name of Ffos y Blaiddiaid, or the Wolves' Ditch. More recent attempts at mining have showed that the Romans had penetrated deep into the hill, and had cleared away the ore. They are thus recorded in the local guide-books : " In driving a level into the mountain some years ago, the miners discovered that the Romans had been deep in the bowels of the earth before them. They had followed the vein where it was large enough to admit a small man, and where it opened out into a larger chamber, they had cleared it quite away. When the vein became too small to admit a man, they were obliged to relinquish the ore. Some curious hammers and tools, but almost decayed into dust, were found in these chambers."

We are now leaving the borders of Wales, whatever limits might be given to them, but we may still pursue the Roman mining operations through the country of the Cangi. They found copper in the Great Orme's Head, and worked it successfully ; and when digging

<sup>1</sup> A complete and valuable list of the Roman pigs of lead found in this country, was contributed by Mr. Albert Way to the *Archaeological Journal*, and another will be found in a paper by Mr. James Yates, "On the Mining Operations of the Romans in Britain," published in the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*.

for the foundations of buildings in the town of Llandudno the modern excavators came upon the soil of the Roman level, coloured by the washings of the ore. I believe that in the neighbourhood of Caerhen or Caerhun, supposed to represent the ancient Conovium, about five miles to the south of Conway, there are also traces of ancient mining. Here was found, in the last century, a mass of copper, in form like a cake, but weighing forty-two pounds, which had evidently come fresh from the smelting. It bore two singular inscriptions, which have not been satisfactorily explained; one was *SOCIO ROMAE*, the other *NAT SOL*, supposed to be for *natale solum*. It is, I believe, still preserved at Mostyn. The Romans found copper in the mountains of Anglesey, and although they failed to discover the immense mass of that metal which has given celebrity to the Parys mountain, the remains of their mining operations are found in its immediate neighbourhood.

A comparison of these various remains give us a tolerably complete view of the manner in which the Romans obtained metals from the earth. It is more than probable that, in these districts at least, no miners had preceded the Romans, who therefore found the veins of metallic ore on the surface, and first worked upon them there, until, when they were obliged to trace them further, they followed them by shafts and galleries. They evidently preferred, where it was possible, to make a cave on the side of a mountain, or sink a pit in the ground till they came to a vein, and then follow and clear away the vein itself. They worked with rude implements, including wooden shovels and wedges, and chisels of stone. It was the work of slaves and condemned criminals, and was no doubt laborious and slow, but at the same time productive, because they found the metallic ores where they were abundant and often easy of access. The ore itself they seem to have worked out with chisels and axes, and when they had to deal with the hard rock, they cracked it by the application of fire, and then split it further with wedges of iron or stone, and pulled it apart with rough iron picks. In

smelting they evidently used nothing but wood ; coals seem not then to have been found in sufficient abundance, and the smelting was performed on the spot, and very imperfectly.

This inquiry also leads to very important results throwing light on the condition of Roman Britain, and these results will be more important as we trace the Roman mining operations through the interior of Wales. We shall find the whole of that country, even into the districts which have hardly been approachable since the Roman period, in the peaceful occupation of the imperial colonists, and covered, even in the wildest mountain districts, with excellent and numerous roads, and with towns, stations, country villas, and settlements of all descriptions, quite contrary to the old popular notion, that here the Britons continued to retain their independence ; and at the same time we understand why, at so early a period of their conquest, the Romans established permanently at the southern and northern extremities of the border of this mountain district two of the three legions which occupied the island. It was not to hold in check independent and turbulent natives, but to overawe a large population of slaves and condemned criminals who were employed in the extensive mining operations. Many of the numerous early entrenched inclosures which are scattered over the mountains in which the mines were situated, and which our antiquaries have so hastily and so injudiciously called camps, contained probably villages of miners, or places for works in connection with the mines, or possibly posts which were occupied from time to time by detachments of troops when their presence happened to be necessary.

## INDEX.

	<small>PAGE</small>
The Orders of the Corporation of Shrewsbury, 1511—1735 ... ... ...	153
Neolithic Man and his Remains in Shropshire. By Geo. Luff ... ...	211
Notes on Shropshire Birds. By William E. Beckwith, Eaton Constantine	223
On some Ancient Salopian Conglomerates. By Ch. Callaway, D.Sc., F.G.S.	239
Ancient Documents Relating to the Honor Forest and Borough of Clun. By the late Thomas Salt, Esq. ... ... ... ...	244
Roman Mining Operations in Shropshire and North Wales. By the late Thomas Wright, M.A., F.S.A. ... ... ...	272

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## ILLUSTRATION.

Flint and Stone Remains ... ... ...	page 216
-------------------------------------	----------

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