

Original Documents.

EXEMPLIFICATION FROM THE RECORDS AT CAERNARVON OF TWO CHARTERS
AND A LETTER OF PLACARD OF HENRY VII., IN FAVOR OF THE INHA-
BITANTS OF THE COUNTIES OF MERIONETH, CAERNARVON, AND ANGLESEY.
DATED 1 JAMES I. (A.D. 1604).

FOR permission to publish this document, which has been preserved among the muniments of Mrs. Ormsby Gore at Porkington, Shropshire, the Institute is indebted to the kindness of that lady through the obliging intervention of Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, M.P. Mrs. Gore, as we are informed by Mr. Wynne, is the representative and heiress of the estates of Sir William Maurice, knight, one of the persons at whose request this Exemplification is stated to have been granted by James I.

We acknowledge with much pleasure the valuable assistance received on the present occasion from a friend well versed in the ancient history of the Welsh, and in the rights and liabilities formerly incident to property within the Principality. Those who take interest in such subjects will not fail to appreciate the Memoir on the Political Geography of Wales, communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. H. S. Milman, M.A., F.S.A., and printed in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxviii. p. 19.¹ To his kindness it is we have been chiefly indebted for the following introductory observations.

In historical documents the three counties of Merioneth, Caernarvon, and Anglesey are often found grouped together, being the King's Principality of North Wales, and having as such the town of Caernarvon for their common capital.

Soon after the accession of King James I. to the throne of England, the inhabitants of the three counties applied for an Exemplification by letters patent of certain charters granted to them in the reign of Henry VII. The records at Caernarvon were searched for the charters, but in vain; for it would seem that the neglect, if not destruction, of archives there, is not wholly chargeable upon the present age. Evidence, however, of the charters and their contents was found in the *Originalia* of the Exchequer at Caernarvon. The officers' revenue accounts seem to have been better preserved than the charter rolls. From early times part of the revenue of these counties had arisen from certain customary payments, peculiar to Wales and the Marches, if not to the three counties alone; some of which payments were abolished by the charters in question. In the year when these sources of revenue accordingly ceased, the officers justified their blank returns either by reciting or abstracting more or less of the charters in their accounts, or by adding or annexing to them copies of these charters.

¹ It may be convenient to some of the archæologists of the Principality to know that this valuable memoir of Mr. Milman has been reprinted, with permission of the Society of Antiquaries,

in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, third series, vol. vi. p. 34. Some exceptions were taken to the views of our friend, *ibid.* p. 231; see also Mr. Milman's reply to these criticisms, p. 324.

Accordingly it appears from the Exemplification now published, that among the bailiff's accounts for the county of Merioneth for the year ending at Michaelmas 23 Henry VII. (1507), there was found an account of the Commote of Penllyn, which had at the end of the part intitled "Firme ballivarum," in explanation of the blank return, an abstract of a charter or letters patent dated the 27th October 20 Henry VII. (1504); and a copy of another charter or letters patent dated the 3rd March 22 Henry VII. (1506—7); and also a copy of a royal letter of placard dated the 28th September 22 Henry VII. (1506); and in the same account at the end of the part intitled "Putura Stallon," was, for the like reason, an abstract of part of a charter or letters patent said to be dated the 28th October 20 Henry VII. (1504), but intended in all probability for the above-mentioned charter of the 27th October 20 Henry VII., the day of the month being a clerical error occasioned by the occurrence of the 28th of September just before, either in the record or in the account itself.² There was also found an account for the Commote of Estyn manor with a blank return, having at the end of it, by way of explanation, a reference to what had been stated at the end of the part of the Penllyn account which was entitled "Firme ballivarum."

If the date of the royal letter be correctly given in this Exemplification, it preceded the charter of the 3rd March 22 Henry VII. some months, though it is introduced as relating to that charter. For the regnal years of that king were computed from the battle of Bosworth (August 22nd 1485), and consequently in those years September came before March. But possibly the apparent irregularity in the place given to this royal letter may be thus explained. It will be observed that in the letter itself there is no mention of any charter; but there is a reference to a bill of petition that had been presented by the inhabitants of the three shires, which was probably the petition in compliance with which the charter of 3rd March 22 Henry VII. was granted. The king may have acceded to that petition, and then the letter been issued, as a preliminary act, to give partial effect to it while the charter was in preparation. The fine of 450 marks, mentioned in the letter, was probably that which was paid for the charter. Thus the three documents in question would stand in the following order of date: the charter of 27th October 20 Henry VII. (1504); the royal letter of 28th September 22 Henry VII. (1506), and the charter of 3rd March 22 Henry VII. (1506—7).

In the charter last mentioned are recited two Acts of Parliament disqualifying Welshmen, the origin of which it may be well briefly to explain.

Among the events that disquieted the reign of Henry IV. was an insurrection of the Welsh under Owen Glendwr. This chief, who claimed through his mother to be a descendant of their native princes, was educated in England, and for a while studied in the Inns of Court. He entered the service of the Earl of Arundel, and afterwards became one of the esquires

² The 28th October 20 Henry VII. is probably, the correct date of the charter first mentioned in the Exemplification. For a charter of that date is set out in an *Inspeximus* of 4th March 1 Henry VIII., printed in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* II. p. 292, and it contains, among others, clauses like those of which an abstract is

given in this Exemplification as from a charter of 27th October 20 Henry VII., but with a few variations such as might be due to transcription. It is, however, remarkable that the charter in that *Inspeximus* does not extend to the county of Anglesey, but is confined to those of Merioneth and Caernarvon.

of the body of King Richard II. The latter he accompanied on his ill-fated expedition to Ireland, and on his return was with him at Flint Castle when he was betrayed into the hands of Henry, then Duke of Lancaster. The attendants of the captive being left at liberty, Glendwr retired to his estates in North Wales. There he was dispossessed of some land by Lord Grey of Ruthyn, one of the Lords Marchers. He petitioned Parliament for redress, and it was offensively refused. On receiving further provocation from Lord Grey he had recourse to arms, retaliated on his adversary, and was soon in active co-operation with the friends of his fallen sovereign. Richard had remained popular in the principality; but with the Welsh a prospect of independence was a much stronger motive to action than their loyalty, and it induced even many of them in England to quit their studies and employments and join Glendwr. He assumed the style of Prince of Wales, and was crowned at Machynlleth. For two years before the battle of Shrewsbury (23rd July, 1403), he had baffled all the attempts of the Lords Marchers, and also those of Henry himself, to reduce him to obedience. Though in alliance with the Percys, he was not present at that battle. After their defeat he continued the unequal contest, and was assisted by the King of France, who recognised him as Prince of Wales. It was not, however, by arms only that the refractory Welsh were assailed; it was thought expedient to subject them to some severe restrictions, and for this purpose the two Acts of Parliament above mentioned were passed.

By the Act of 2 Henry IV. (1401) all Welshmen were prohibited from purchasing any lands or tenements in England or in any of the English towns in Wales; and no Welshman was to be admitted a burgess, or to have any other liberty in the realm of England, or in any English town in Wales (c. 20).

By the Act of 4 Henry IV. (1402), besides some enactments of a temporary kind, no Englishman was to be convicted by any Welshman (c. 26); nor was any Welshman to hold either for himself or another any castle, fortress, or defensive house otherwise than was used in the time of King Edward the Conqueror of Wales, except bishops and temporal lords for their own use³ (c. 31); nor was any Welshman to be a justice, chamberlain, chancellor, treasurer, sheriff, steward, constable of a castle, receiver, escheator, coroner, chief forester, or other officer, or keeper of records, or deputy in any of those offices in any part of Wales, or of the council of any English lord, except the bishops in Wales; and of them and other persons whom the King had found to be good and loyal liege people he would be advised by his council (c. 32).⁴

The Welsh were thus placed very much in the condition of aliens; and we find during the remainder of the fifteenth century several Acts of Parliament and letters patent for relieving some who by their services in war or otherwise had obtained royal favor, and wished to settle in England.

It will be observed that the charter of 22 Henry VII. did not even

³ The words are "pour leur corps propres;" but in all probability "corps" is an error of some transcriber for "oeps."

⁴ In the recitals of these two acts in the charter of 22 Henry VII., there was no attempt to give the language of the

two chapters there referred to, but the purport of them. That of 2 Hen. IV. c. 20, reads like a commentary on a part of that chapter, so much is the effect detailed.

purport to remove all the restrictions imposed by the above-mentioned statutes. The enactments were not formally repealed till the 21 James I., c. 28; but they virtually ceased to have effect after the union of Wales with England by the 27th Henry VIII., c. 26 (1536), when it was declared in the first section of that statute, that all persons born in the principality of Wales should have, enjoy, and inherit all freedoms, liberties, rights, privileges, and laws within the realm and other the King's dominions, as other the King's subjects naturally born within the same had, enjoyed, and inherited.

The charters and royal letter exemplified by the document under consideration were granted at a remarkable period of Anglo-Welsh history.

On April 2nd 17 Henry VII. (1502) died Arthur, Prince of Wales, the last Prince to whom the territorial principality was granted. The Crown resumed, and never again parted with, the territorial jurisdiction there. The new heir-apparent, Henry, afterwards King Henry VIII., became Prince of Wales, but in title and dignity only.

The reasons for this policy of the Crown are clear. When England rested from the wars of the Roses, it found Wales a great social and political difficulty. The counties of Chester, Salop, Hereford, and Gloucester—the last three not reaching so far westward as they do now—were on the edge of the realm of England. Beyond them, outside the realm, extended Wales, then but partly divided into counties. The then counties were Merioneth, Caernarvon, and Anglesey before mentioned; Flint (attached to Chester, and under the same government as that county); and Cardigan, Caermarthen, Pembroke, and Glamorgan, each much less in extent than it is now. The counties of Monmouth, Brecknock, Radnor, Montgomery, and Denbigh had not been created—their area was then part of the Marches.

Wales, politically, was an aggregate of petty manorial governments, standing between the Crown of England and its Welsh subjects, to the disadvantage of both. The lords of Wales were strong for evil, yet weak for good—active in wars among themselves, but adding little to the military power of the realm—misgoverning, and jealously excluding the Crown from interference with their misgovernment—able to oppress their vassals in person and estate, but unable to restrain those vassals from preying upon their English neighbours.

To curb the lords and conciliate the people of Wales—to supersede manorial by royal and parliamentary rule—to extend to the Welsh the rights and laws enjoyed by the English—to level the barrier raised by difference of race and strengthened by centuries of warfare, and so to prepare the territory for union to the English realm, and its inhabitants for fusion with the English nation—was the policy of Henry VII. and his advisers.

Every lord could, if so minded, further this policy within his own lordship by abolishing burdensome fines, dues, customs, and offices, and by freeing villans.

Now the King was not only paramount throughout Wales, but also immediate lord of many and great manors there, and at this period of the counties of Merioneth, Caernarvon, and Anglesey also, by reversion of these three counties to the Crown on Prince Arthur's death. With a view to the policy above described, he retained the reverted principality, and ranted these charters to the inhabitants.

The earlier charter, that of 20 Henry VII. (1504), dealt with matters of local administration and revenue wholly within the lord's power, not touching any general rule of law or Act of Parliament. Hence it was, in all probability, enrolled at Caernarvon, and it required no parliamentary authority or confirmation.

The royal letter was an instruction to the Crown officers in the three counties to allow the King's concessions, as well those already specified by that charter as those which at that date had not been so formally made.

The later charter, 3 March 22 Hen. VII. (1506-7), began by reciting the two disabling statutes above mentioned. It removed all the restrictions as to purchasing lands, but not those as to offices.⁴ It also freed the villans within the three counties, including those subject to the Bishop of Bangor and to Abbots, and converted their servile into free tenures. It abolished many ancient burdens, reliefs, exactions, and tolls. It protected the goods of intestates from the interference of the King's secular officers. It regulated the practice as to persons bound over to keep the peace, or appearing to informations for felony or breach of the peace, and settled the court fees in such cases. It declared freemen in the three counties capable of holding and serving on inquests relating to Englishmen. This charter—so far as it excepted the three counties from any general statute, as it gave to Welshmen the privileges of Englishmen, and as it trenched upon the manorial rights of the Bishop and Abbots—was beyond the scope of the King's sole authority, and accordingly was backed by the authority of parliament. This we learn from a statement at the end of it, but we have not been able to discover, either in the statutes or in the rolls of parliament, any evidence of such authority for giving full effect to this charter. It was "tested" at Westminster, and most probably enrolled in the Exchequer there; yet, though careful search was made for the enrolment a few years ago when it was wanted for a legal purpose, it could not be found.⁵

⁴ The charter of 28th October, 20 Henry VII., set out in the *Inspeximus* of 1 Henry VIII. appears to have abolished the restrictions on purchasing lands and on holding offices, so far as regarded the inhabitants of the counties of Merioneth and Caernarvon, but said nothing of Anglesey.

⁵ We have made diligent search after other copies of the following Exemplification, preserved either in public depositories or in private hands, but without success. It might have been reasonably expected that a copy, if not the enrolment itself, would be found among the Records formerly preserved at Caernarvon: Mr. Milman has adverted in the foregoing observations to the neglect of the archives there, and the Report on the Records of Wales by Mr. Black, in 1840, discouraged all hope of attainment of our object in that quarter. That gentleman states that the records of the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon,

and Merioneth, were kept in a building opposite to the western end of Caernarvon Castle. "I have discovered," Mr. Black observes, by "diligent enquiry that a great quantity of ancient records had been deposited in a kind of cellar in the basement of the building, and suffered to go to decay; which were cleared out by order of the magistrates about twenty or thirty years ago, and partly sold, together with old Acts of Parliament and other waste paper, by the hundred weight, and partly thrown upon dunghoops and wheeled into the Menai, as rotten and worthless. Some of the Records were bought or otherwise obtained by Mr. David Williams, of Turkey Shore, Caernarvon, who for many years past has supplied tailors and others with parchment, for various purposes, out of the materials."—Appendix to the first Report of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records, p. 90; see also p. 112.

EXEMPLIFICATION, UNDER THE GREAT SEAL OF JAMES I. FOR THE SHIRES OF MERIONETH, CAERNARVON, AND ANGLESEA, OF TWO CHARTERS AND A LETTER OF PLACARD OF HENRY VII.¹

Jacobus, Dei gracia Anglie, Scocie, Francie, et Hibernie Rex, fidei Defensor, &c. omnibus ad quos presentes litere nostre pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod inspeximus Recorda quorundam Computorum ministrorum in Scaccario nostro apud Caernarvon in Comitatu Caernarvon, inter memoranda et Recorda ejusdem Scaccarii ibidem de Record' remanentia, in hiis verbis:—Comitatus Merionyth, scilicet,—Originalia Computorum omnium et singulorum Ministrorum domini Regis nunc Henrici vij^{mi} de omnibus et singulis dominiis, maneriis, terris, et tenementis suis ibidem, a festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli anno xxij^{do} dicti domini Regis Henrici vij^{mi} usque idem festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli anno ejusdem domini Regis xxij^{do}, scilicet, per unum annum integrum,—scilicet, PENLLYN :² Computus Johannis ap David ap Robert Ballivi ibidem loco Ring' nuper dictum officium occupantis per tempus predictum. FIRME BALLIVARUM : Nec receptum de aliquo proficuo proveniente de officio Amobr', aut de officiis Ragl' et Ragl' Advocar', vel de officiis Woodward' et Ring' istius Commoti et omnium aliorum Commotorum Comitatum Merionyth, Caernarvon, et Anglesey, que per cccij^{xx} libris solebant affirmari, sicut continetur in Computis precedentibus, videlicet, de tempore nuper Regis Ricardi secundi ; eo quod dominus nunc Rex Henricus septimus, in consideratione gratuiti, boni, et laudabilis servicii que dilecti subditi sui tenentes et inhabitantes infra Comotos suos de Merionyth, Caernarvon, et Anglesey in North Wallia sibi diversimode ante hec tempora impenderunt indiesque impendere non desistunt, de gracia sua speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu suo necnon de advisamento consilii sui concessit pro se et heredibus suis, quod Custuma sive exaccio ibidem vocata Amobr' de cetero non exigatur, usitetur, seu levetur, sed omnimodo Amobr' penitus deleatur, admissetur, (sic) evacuatur, et irritetur imperpetuum ; et insuper ubi in dietis Commotis usitatum fuit, quod si Wallicus homo vocatus an Arthelman, vel Wallica mulier dicta an Arthellwoman, non habens exitum decesserit abintestatus, vel testamentum suum rite coniderit, executorem in eodem nominaverit et assignaverit, officiarus ibidem appellatus Raglowe Arthell' voluit omnia bona hujus decedentis in manus suas capere et seisire, acetiam de qua-

¹ Of one of these charters, namely, that of March 3, 22 Hen. VII., a copy is printed, Archæol. Camb., vol. ii., p. 215, from a transcript of Rowlands, the author of *Mona Antiqua*, purporting to be from a Bangor Register. The transcript was then in the possession of the Rev. John Jones, Rector of Llanllyfni. Through the kindness of Mr. John Williams, of Beaumaris, we have been favored by Mr. R. Trygarn Griffith of Carreglwyd, Anglesea, with the opportunity of inspecting another copy of the same charter preserved among his muniments. It appears to be a copy made in the seventeenth century, and is a good deal injured, and in many places

illegible. It formerly belonged to the Hollands of Berw, in the parish of Llanidan. We are indebted to Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, M.P., for a third copy in the hand writing of the Merionethshire antiquary, Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, who died in 1667 ; it is preserved in one of the Hengwrt MSS. now in Mr. Wynne's Library (No. 119). At the close of this transcript are explanations, hereafter cited, of Welsh terms occurring in the charters of Henry VII.

² Penlllyn occurs as one of the Commotes of Merionethshire in the Extenta Com. Merion., Record of Caern., p. 261. A *Commotus*, according to Spelman, was the moiety of a *Cantredus* or Hundred.

liter persona vocata Arthellman vel Arthellwoman voluit idem officarius quatuor denarios annuatim percipere et habere, in detrimento executionis et perimpeccionis voluntatis hujus decedentis et contra communem justiciam; quapropter predictus dominus Rex voluit et per presentes concedit pro se et heredibus suis antedictis, quod dictus officarius vocatus Raglowe Arthell', nec aliquis alius officarius deinceps infra dictos Commotos aut eorum aliquem, seisiat nec capiat aliqua talia bona nec aliquam partem eorundem, nec aliquam monetam annuam pro eodem, sed quod dicta Custuma de Arthell' et quodlibet inde proficuum de cetero cassetur nec alicujus sit effectus, sed quod homines et mulieres dicti Arthellmen et Arthellwomen sint liberi ac libere, condent et condere possint testamenta sua, aliqua provisione in contrarium habita sive usitata non obstante; et quod Custume sive exacciones ibidem vocate Wodward et Forestwrieth [et] quedam exaccio sive Custuma vocata Killghey de cetero deleantur ext[er]-minate,³ nec aliqua denariorum summa de seu pro eisdem per silvanos seu forestarios infra Commotos predictos aut eorum aliquem aut aliquos officarios quoscumque levetur nec levabilis existat, aliquo statuto, actu, ordinacione, proclamatione, provisione, prescripcione, aut consuetudine in contrarium premissorum ante hec tempora factis, editis, ordinatis, provisus, seu usitatis, aut alia re, causa, vel materia quacumque non obstante: Per literas dicti domini Regis sub magno sigillo suo patentes datas apud Westmonasterium xxvij^o die Octobris anno regni ejusdem domini Regis xx^{mo}, et irrotulantur in originalibus Scaccarii de Caernarvon de eodem anno. Summa nulla. ss. Carta domini Regis de diversis privilegiis concessis inhabitantibus⁴ infra comitatus Caernarvon, Anglesey, et Merionyth, scilicet, Henricus, Dei gracia Rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod licet in parlamento domini Henrici nuper Regis Anglie quarti, progenitoris nostri, apud Westmonasterium anno regni sui secundo tento, auctoritate ejusdem parlamenti ordinatum, inactitatum, et statutum fuerit, quod nullus Wallicus aut homo de Wallia aliqua terras, dominia, maneria, villas, villatas, redditus, reversiones, aut servicia, sive hereditamenta quecumque infra Angliam aut in aliquibus burgis seu villis Anglicanis infra Walliam acquirere seu obtinere deberet aut valeret, tenenda sibi et heredibus suis in feodo simplici, feodo talliato, aut alio modo quocumque, prout in eodem statuto plenius continetur; et licet in parlamento dicti domini Henrici nuper Regis Anglie quarti anno regni sui quarto apud Westmonasterium, auctoritate parlamenti sui, inter alia, ordinatum et statutum fuerit, quod nullus hujusmodi Wallicus seu homo de Wallia aliquod officium Vicecomitis, Majoratus, Ballivatus, Constabularii, sive alterius consimilis in aliqua civitate, villa, vel burgo infra Angliam seu in aliquo burgo aut villa Anglicana infra Walliam gereret, teneret, seu occuparet sub certis penis in statuto predicto expressis et limitatis, ut in eodem statuto plenius continetur: Nos tamen bona, gratuita, et laudabilia servicia que dilecti subditi nostri tenentes et inhabitantes infra Comitatus nostros de Anglesey, Caernarvon, et Merionyth in Northwallia nobis diversimode ante hec tempora impenderunt indiesque impendere non desistunt intime considerantes, de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris necnon de advisamento Consilii nostri concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod omnes et singuli tenentes et inhabi-

³ There is no *er* nor any contraction for those letters, but the word intended may probably have been *exterminate*.

⁴ In the original the word is *inhi'*, with the usual horizontal line of contraction over it.

tantes infra Comitatus predictos et eorum quemlibet et eorum heredes et successores et eorum quilibet de cetero per totos Comitatus predictos habeant, utantur, et gaudeant omnibus suis terris, tenementis, possessionibus, et hereditamentis de quibus seisiti vel possessionati sint, aut [que] in manibus eorum existunt qualitercumque seu eorum alicujus, [et] tenere possint et quilibet eorum possit sibi heredibus et assignatis suis in feodo simplici, aut in feodo qualitercumque talliato, ad terminum vite vel annorum, aut alio modo quocumque imperpetuum; et de eisdem terris, tenementis cum ceteris prenominatis tam per cartam suam quam aliter alienare, feoffare, dare, aut vendere in feodo simplici, aut in feodo qualitercumque talliato, ad terminum vite vel annorum, aut alio modo quocumque, et cuicumque persone, bene et quiete et in pace, absque aliquo fine inde nobis et heredibus nostris solvendo pro hujusmodi terris, tenementis, et aliis premissis, sine contradicione, impedimento, molestacione, seu gravamine quocumque nostri vel heredum nostrorum aut officiariorum seu ballivorum vel ministrorum nostrorum aut aliorum quorumcumque, aliqua consuetudine, re, causa, more, vel usu infra Comitatus predictos in contrarium premissis prius habitis non obstantibus. Concessimus eciam pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod tam omnes nostri nativi tenentes seu inhabitantes in Comitatus nostris predictis eorum heredes et successores, quam nativi Episcopo Bangorii et Abbatibus quibuscumque debiti, generalem manumissionem et libertatem tenere presentium habeant, et eis de cetero plene gaudeant et utantur, et quod terras suas de libera tenura amodo teneant redditentes inde annuatim tam nobis quam prefato Episcopo Bangorii et Abbatibus quibuscumque redditus perante debitos et consuetos pro omni exaccione, servicio, et consuetudine inde prius debitis, redditus, aut solutis, prout nostri liberi tenentes sive inhabitantes in Comitatus nostris predictis faciunt aut facere consueverunt; et quod nullus tenencium, residencium, sive inhabitancium in Comitatus nostris predictis eorum heredum et successorum nec eorum aliquis de cetero compellatur sive cogatur ad subeundum, serviendum, sive occupandum onus Ringildre, nec [ad] aliqua taxas sive trethes, tallagia sive misas, aut aliquas denariorum summas nobis aut aliis quibuscumque debitas racione officii Ringildre predictae sive aliter, colligenda sive levanda quovismodo artetur, nec aliquam penam seu forisfacturam racione non colleccionis hujus incurrat, sed inde exoneretur et acquietetur imperpetuum. Concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod nullus tenencium sive inhabitancium predictorum seu alicujus eorum seu successorum suorum compellatur aut cogatur ad solvenda aliqua relevia, custumas, sive exacciones ibidem vocata Abedeo detevedd' aut beddewoyes detewedd', nec non indebitas exacciones⁵ et pastu porcorum vocato takkes aliter Wallice vocato Arian moch, nec etiam alias custumas Anglice vocatas pollepens, Wallice vocatas Keniok pen Arian respecte, ne non de reparacione maneriorum aliter vocata Gwayth llis, Arian Gwayth, et Arian Pentay, nec eciam alias custumas Wallice vocatas Fine Kayr, et de tervene aut stauro domini aliter vocato store vawer vel store istis, et Caries, ne non de pastu stallonis et garcionis aliter vocato porthiant stalwyn et Gways, de pastu lutra⁶ cum canibus, arian keulo, kirch, blayde, et butur', ac de operibus molendinorum, de pastu Pennkays et Gweision beighn', ne non de omnibus et quibuscumque denariorum summis et hujusmodi custumis preantea exactis seu exigendis, cogatur aliter aut alio modo quam burgenses⁷ ville de Bewmares vel Angli-

⁵ For this *et* other copies read *pro*.

another document *lucrar'*. See n. 6, p. 82.

⁶ This word is written *lut'*, but in

⁷ Written *burgenc'*.

cane ville (*sic*) infra Principalitates nostre Northwallie comorantes dant et solvunt aut dare [vel] solvere coarctantur, sed quod omnes custume et exactiones ille ammodo (*sic*) penitus deleantur et determinentur nec aliquatinus imposterum usitentur; necnon omnes alie custume seu indebite exactiones quas predicti tenentes et inhabitantes per totos Comitatus predictos ante confeccionem presencium solvere consueverunt eciam penitus deleantur, nec aliqua denariorum summa de seu pro eisdem custumis predictis seu eorum aliqua infra Comitatus predictos aut eorum aliquem qualitercumque solvatur, levetur, seu levabilis existat, set tenentes et inhabitantes predicti et eorum heredes et successores et eorum quilibet (de cetero)⁸ sint et (sit) de premissis quieti et quietus imperpetuum; et quod vicecomes Comitatus de Anglesey custodiat seu custodire faciat omnes Comitatus suos in villa de Neuburch, et non alibi de mense in mensem et de anno in annum futuris temporibus perpetuis teneantur. Concessimus eciam pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod tam tenentes et inhabitantes predicti quam alie extranee persone cujuscumque condicionis fuerint veniendo in Comitatus predictis pro aliquibus bonis, rebus, aut cattallis emptis seu venditis aut emendis seu vendendis infra Comitatus predictos, ac ab eisdem Comitatus redeundo, et eorum heredes et successores sui, sint quieti et exonerati et eorum quilibet sit quietus et exoneratus de theoloneo sive tolneto, stallagio, passagio, et custuma per totos Comitatus predictos, tam infra villam de Bewmares vel Anglicanas villas infra principalitates nostre Northwallie comorantes (quam ex)tra; et quod predicti tenentes et inhabitantes et alie extranee persone predictae non compellantur neque cogantur nec eorum aliquis compellatur sive cogatur per nos, heredes, theolonarios, ballivos, firmarios, ministros, aut aliquos officarios nostros ibidem ad solve(nda) aliqua tolneta, stallagia, passagia, seu custumas infra Comitatus et loca predicta pro aliquibus bonis, rebus, aut cattallis emptis seu venditis aut emendis seu vendendis, set de premissis de cetero pro totis Comitatus predictis sint quieti et exonerati⁹ et (quili)bet eorum sit quietus et exoneratus inperpetuum. Concessimus etiam pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod si quis tenencium vel inhabitancium predictorum heredum et successorum suorum intestatus obierit, Escactor aut aliquis alius officarius nostri ibidem nomine nostro vel heredum nostrorum [in] seu de bonis, cattallis, et debitis hujusmodi decedentis nullatenus intronmittat, seu¹ totaliter decedentis bonorum dispositio loci ordinario cedeat et revertetur ad usum heredum et propinquorum consanguineorum seu amicorum talis decedentis. Concessimus etiam pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod si quis tenencium sive inhabitancium predictorum sit manucaptus sive in posterum manucapiendus de seu pro bona gestura sive de paceferenda ad sectam nostram seu ad sectam alterius cujuscumque persone, quod talis manucaptus seu manucapiendus non compellatur seu cogatur ad comparendum coram Justiciario nostro Northwallie ad sessiones ibidem tentas in Comitatus nostris predictis Northwallie de cetero nisi semel in anno, hoc est, in sessione proxima et in mediata (*sic*) post festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli; et si principales manucapti sive principalis manucaptus in sessionibus nostris coram Justiciario nostro personaliter com-

⁸ The parchment is here damaged, and also in some other parts of the document. The probable readings are here and elsewhere supplied in parentheses:

when words omitted are inserted, they are in brackets.

⁹ Written *exonerati*.

¹ *Sic*, probably for *set* or *sed*.

pareant seu compareat, quod tunc plegii, manucaptors, sive fidejussores pro hujusmodi manucaptis sive manucapto nullum dampnum forisfacture incurrant sive incurrat et (indemp)nes penitus existant sive existat de aliqua forisfactura; et quod tenentes et inhabitantes predicti ammodo (non) onerentur seu compellantur per prefatum Justiciarium seu per prenotarium sive per prenotarios aut per aliquos clericos Curie ibidem ad solvenda aliqua sive ulteriora feoda quam duos denarios pro feod' de (bit') cujuslibet eorum; et in casu quo quis eorum tenencium et inhabitancium predictorum per inquisitionem vel informacionem accusatus fuerit de aliqua feloniam seu forisfactura pacis paratus respondere velit per debitam legis formam, quod prenotarius seu prenotarii ac alii clerici seu officarii Curie ibidem sint contenti cum duobus solidis pro feodis et regardis suis, et quod nullus eorum cogatur amplius solvere in seu pro acquietancia sua de premissis, sed penitus deleantur imperpetuum. Concessimus etiam pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod liberi tenentes sive inhabitantes in Comitatus nostris predictis habiles sint ad inquirendum, et quod inquirent seu inquire faciant, in omnibus casibus quibuscumque concernentibus Anglicas personas, prout Anglice persone prefate inquirent seu inquire faciant concernentibus Wallicas personas; et quod hujusmodi inquisitiones sic capte aut presentate per prefatos tenentes sive inhabitantes nostros Wallicos quoscumque allocentur et in vigore existant et habeantur, et quod nullum impedimentum prefatis tenentibus nostris Wallicis in premissis de cetero obstat seu obstare debeat aut valeat; et quod nullus ballivus itinerans infra Comitatus predictos seu eorum aliquem aliqua sive alia feoda pro exercicio officiorum suorum, quam in Scaccario nostro ibidem per hujusmodi ballivis (*sic*) allocantur, accipere seu percipere debet, aliqua consuetudine sive indebita exactione pro eisdem perantea exacta seu usitata in aliquo non obstante; et hoc absque aliquo fine seu feodo inde ad opus nostrum solvendo seu capiendo. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium tercio die Marcii anno regni nostri vicesimo secundo. Per ipsum Regem et de data predicta auctoritate parliamenti. Baynbrig. Litere domini Regis de Placcard'² quoad cartam predictam. Henry by the Grace of God kinge of England and of Fraunce and Lord of Irlonde to our trustie and well beloved the Chamberleyn, Auditor, Shiref, Eschetor, and all other our officers within the iij shires of Anglesey, Caernarvon, and Merionyth in North Wales, and to their deputies in their absence and to eny of theym, greting: forasmoch as we of our special grace have graunted manumysson to all our bondemen dwelling within the iij shires, and to holde their landes free yelding therefore yerelie the due rentes and assises therof and other duties as other freeholders done within the said Counties, and also certaigne other freedomes and liberties to theym and to all other tenaunts and inhabitaunce within the said iij Shires, and to their heires and successors, and pardoned theym for evermore of diverse Custumes and exaccions heretofore had and perceyved to and for our use within the said shires, as by their bill of peticion it shalle more evidently appere; wee therefore wolle and straytly charge yow that ye nor non of yow levie nor gederne, receyve, nor cause to be gedered, levied, ne receyved

² The name of a form of instrument by which the king issued certain ordinances, often probably in the nature of a modern royal proclamation; derived

from the French *Placart*, *Plaquard*, as given by Cotgrave. See also Richardson's Dictionary *v.* *Placard*, and Cowell's Interpreter.

of or appon the said tenautes or inhabitantes or of any of theym certeyne Custumes or exaccions ther called staurum domini alias dictum store vawr, and karies da llis alias dictum Gwayth Pen tay or arian Gwayth; and also that non of the said tenautes or inhabitantes nor their heires or successours be compelled from hencefurth to serve the office of Ringilshipp within the said shires or any of theym; and if any man or woman die intestate or without heir, or hath died, whos goodes be not as yet received and accompted to our profite and use, that ye nor non of yow medle ne intromite in or with his goodes, cattalls, or debtes, but that all such goodes and cattalles remayne to the order and disposicion of the ordinary ther to the use of his next frendes that soe disseasith, according to the law of holy church. And whereas ye our said Chamberleyn have taken suerties affore yow by recognystyaunce for the summe of foure hundred markes and fifty of a certeygne fyne graunted unto us of and for the premisses, to be payd in maner and forme following, that is to wytt, at the feast of alle saintes next following the date of thes our letters too hundred and fyve and twentie markes, and at the feast of thapostles Petre and Paule then next ensuing thoder too hundred and fyve and twentie markes, as by your letters of certificat by yow send unto us aperith more at large; we therefore wolle and comande yow from tyme to tyme to make out such processe and commissions, and unto such persons, as the said suerties for the spedie levie and gadringe of the said somme shalle thinke necessary and expedient. Fayle ye not in the premisses as ye tender our pleasure: yevyn under our Signed at our manor of Okyng³ the xxviiith day of September, the xxijth (*sic*) yere of our raigne. PUTURA STALLON': De xxx^s nuper provenientius de putura stallon⁴ ibidem ut in Computis precedentibus hoc anno non receptis, eo quod dominus nunc Rex Henricus vij^{mus} in consideracione gratuiti, boni, et laudabilis servicii que dilecti subditi sui tenentes et inhabitantes infra Comitatus de Merionyth, Caernarvon, et Anglesey in Northwallia sibi diversimode ante hec tempora impenderunt indiesque impendere non desistunt, de gracia sua speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu suo necnon de advisamento consilii sui concessit pro se et heredibus suis, quod exaccio sive custuma vocata Kyllghey de cetero deleantur (*sic*) exterminetur (*sic*),⁵ nec aliqua denariorum summa de seu pro eisdem per aliquos officarios quoscumque levetur nec levabilis existat, aliquo statuto, actu, ordinacione, proclamacione, provisione, proscriptiione, aut consuetudine in contrarium premissorum ante hec tempora factis, editis, ordinatis, provisus, seu usitatis, aut alia re, causa, vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstantibus: Per literas dicti domini Regis sub magno sigillo suo patentes datas apud Westmonasterium xxvij^o die Octobris anno regni ejusdem domini regis xx^{mo}, et irrotulantur in originalibus Scaccarii de Caernarvon de eodem anno. Nec receptum de aliquo proficeo proveniente de firm' venacionis finibus per tempus Computi; non receptum eo quod vicecomes Comitatus

³ Woking in Surrey, an ancient royal manor. The moated mansion there was a favorite resort of royalty. Henry VII. was often at Woking. It was given by him to his mother, the Countess of Richmond, who died there. It was an occasional summer retreat of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and James I. Manning and Bray, *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. i. pp. 112, 122.

⁴ The word is here written without any mark of contraction over the last letter; elsewhere it occurs with a contraction.

⁵ A mark of contraction was probably omitted over the *i*, so the *ex* is a misreading of *et*, and that in the original charter the words were *et terminentur*.

predicti receipt: inde in Computo suo hujus anni. Summa nulla. ESTYNNANNOR: Computus Jenkyn ap Gruff' ap Tuder Ballivi ibidem loco Ring' per tempus predictum. Firma Balliarum: Nec receptum de aliquo proficuo proveniente de officio Amobr' aut Ragl' et Ragl' Advocar', vel de officio Woodward', seu de officio Ring' istius Comoti ac omnium aliorum Comotorum Merionyth, Caernarvon, et Anglesey hoc anno; non recept' canc' in Computo Ring' de Penllyn de hoc anno in titulo Firm' Balliarum ibidem plenius annotatur. Summa nulla. Que omnia et singula, ad requisicionem Willielmi Maurice militis, Willielmi Thomas militis, Johannis Wynne de Gwider armigeri, Gruffini Vaughan armigeri, Hugonis Nanney armigeri, Roberti Lloyd armigeri, et aliorum inhabitancium Comitatum predictorum, sub sigillo nostro original' Comitatum predictorum Caernarvon, Merionyth, et Anglesey infra Principalitatem nostram Wallie tenere presencium duximus exemplificanda. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meipso apud Caernarvon quinto die Marcii anno regni nostri Anglie Francie et Hibernie primo et Scotie tricesimo septimo.

JONES.
[with a paraphe]

Examinitis,
[L. s.]

PENNANTE.
[with a paraphe]

This document consists of two skins, the lower part of the former being turned over the latter at the foot, and fastened by the parchment label by which the seal is appended. The seal is imperfect; it was of white wax, circular, diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; it should seem to have been an impression of the Great Seal of the Chancery for the three shires of Merioneth, Caernarvon, and Anglesea, of which the device was as follows:—*Obv.* A mounted figure of the Sovereign, to the right. *Rev.* The arms of France and England quarterly ensigned with a crown; no portion of the dexter supporter remains; it was probably a dragon as on the Great Seal of Charles I. for the counties of Caermarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke, engraved in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxii., pl. 37; the sinister supporter is a goat. Below the escutcheon is the triple plume of the Prince of Wales. Of the legend only a few letters remain.

We acknowledge with gratification our obligation to the Hon. William O. Stanley, M.P., for friendly assistance on many occasions in our investigation of the concessions of Henry VII. to North Wales; we are indebted to his kindness for calling our attention to the following instrument preserved among the Public Records, and also to an abstract (noticed hereafter) setting forth the privileges granted by Henry VII. in both his charters to North Wales. Mr. Milmau has observed in the foregoing introductory remarks, that the earlier charter (20 Hen. VII.), of which an abstract is found in the *Exemplification* now published, dealt with matters of local administration and revenue not touching any law, and that hence it was probably enrolled at Caernarvon, not requiring parliamentary confirmation. Careful search at the Rolls made at Mr. Stanley's request by our obliging friend Mr. Burt, Assistant keeper of Public Records, has brought to light the writ under privy seal of Henry VII. for the charter in question. We are assured by that gentleman that he has sought in vain for the enrolment of the letters patent which were sealed in pursuance of this writ; but they were tested at Westminster on Oct. 28, 20 Hen. VII., four days subsequently to the date of the writ, as appears by a recital in the *Inspeximus* 1 Hen. VIII. printed in *Archæol. Cambr.*, vol. ii. p. 292.

WRIT UNDER PRIVY SEAL OF HENRY VII. FOR A CHARTER IN FAVOR OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTIES OF CAERNARVON, ANGLESEY, AND MERIONETH. Dated 24th October, 20 Hen. VII (1504). (Public Records, Rolls House. Bundle of Privy Seal Bills, 20 Henry VII., no. 226, among the Records of the Treasury of the Exchequer.)

Memorandum quod vicesimo octavo die Octobris anno regni Regis subscripto istud breve liberatum fuit Domino Cancellario Anglie apud Westmonasterium exequendum.

Henricus, Dei gracia Rex Anglie et Francie et Dominus Hibernie, Reverendissimo in Christo patri Willielmo Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo,¹ tocius Anglie primati et Apostolice sedis Legato, Cancellario nostro salutem. Vobis mandamus quod literas nostras patentes sub magno sigillo nostro in forma sequenti fieri faciatis :² Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Sciatis quod licet in parlamento Domini Henrici nuper Regis Anglie quarti, progenitoris nostri, apud Westmonasterium anno regni sui quarto tento, auctoritate ejusdem parlamenti ordinatum et inactitatum et statutum fuerit, quod nullus Wallicus aut homo de Wallia aliqua terras, tenementa, dominia, maneria, villas, villatas, redditus, reversiones, aut servicia, sive hereditamenta quecumque infra Angliam aut in aliquibus burgis et villis Anglicanis infra Walliam acquirere seu optinere deberet, tenenda sibi et heredibus suis in feodo simplici, feodo talliato, aut aliquo modo quocumque ; nec quod aliquis hujusmodi Wallicus seu homo de Wallia aliquod officium Vicecomitatus, Majoratus, Ballivatus, Constabulariatus, aut alterius consimilis in aliqua civitate, burgo, seu villa infra Angliam seu in aliquo burgo vel villa Anglicana infra Walliam gereret, teneret, occuparet, seu super se assumeret sub certis penis in statuto predicto expressis et limitatis, ut in eodem statuto plenius continetur : Nos tamen gratuita, bona, et laudabilia servicia que dilecti subditi nostri tenentes et inhabitantes infra Comitatus nostros de Carnarvan', Anglessey, et Merioneth in North-Wallia nobis diversimode ante hec tempora impenderunt indiesque impendere non desistunt intime considerantes, de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris necnon de avisamento Consilii nostri concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod omnes et singuli tenentes et inhabitantes infra Comitatus predictos et eorum quemlibet et eorum heredes et successores ac eorum quilibet decetero terras, tenementa, dominia, maneria, villas, villatas, castra, redditus, reversiones et servicia, possessiones, et hereditamenta quecumque infra Angliam et in burgis et villis Anglicanis infra Walliam perquirere, habere, recipere, et tenere possint sibi et heredibus suis in feodo simplici, aut ad terminum vite vel annorum, feodo qualitercumque talliato, aut alio modo quocumque imperpetuum ; et quod

¹ William Warham, translated from the see of London, Nov. 29, 1503; appointed Keeper of the Great Seal, Aug. 11, 1502, and Chancellor, Jan. 1 following.

² Of the charter which was sealed in pursuance of this writ, a copy is printed, *Archæol. Camb.*, vol. ii., p. 292, from a

transcript by Rowlands, the author of *Mona Antiqua*, purporting to be from a Bangor Register, occurring in a transcript of an *Inspecimus* of Henry VIII. tested at Westminster, March 4, 1 Hen. VIII. (1510), and in which the charter 22 Hen. VII., printed above, was likewise recited and confirmed.

hujusmodi tenentes et inhabitantes ac eorum heredes et successores et eorum quilibet sint et sit liberi et liber, ac officia Vicecomitatus, Majoratus, Custodum pacis, Ballivatus, Constabulariatus, ac alia officia quecumque eis consona, si ad officia illa electi aut evocati fuerint aut eorum aliquis electus aut evocatus fuerit, infra Angliam et in burgis et in villis Anglicanis infra Walliam libere gerere, tenere, gaudere, et occupare valeant et possint ac valeat et possit licite, quiete, bene, et in pace; et quod iidem tenentes et inhabitantes et eorum heredes et successores et eorum quilibet sint et esse possint Burgenses et eorum quilibet sit et esse possit Burgensis in aliquibus et quibuslibet hujusmodi burgis et villis Anglicanis in Wallia, et pro Burgensibus in burgis et villis predictis habeantur et reputentur ac unusquisque eorum habeatur et reputetur, consimilibus et in eisdem modo et forma quibus Anglici impresenciarum existunt, habentur, et reputantur, absque contradictione, impedimento, perturbacione, molestacione, inquietacione, seu gravamine quocunque nostri ve(l) heredum nostrorum aut officiariorum seu ministrorum nostrorum aut aliorum quorumcumque: Et insuper concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris predictis, quod omnia illa terras, tenementa, redditus, reversiones, servicia, possessiones, et hereditamenta infra Comitatus predictos, que sunt de tenura de Gavelkynde aut de tenura Wallicana et inter heredes masculos divisibilia, decetero non sint divisibilia, sed primogenito vel seniori filio sive heredi discendencia (*sic*) et hereditabilia secundum modum et formam et prout terre et tenementa secundum legem communem regni nostri Anglie sunt descendencia, remanencia, seu revertabilia. Concessimus etiam pro nobis et dictis heredibus nostris, quod nullus tenencium aut inhabitancium predictorum aut aliquis eorum heredum seu successorum amodo amercietur sive ad solvend' amerciamta cogatur aliter aut alio modo quam Anglici infra villas Anglicanas Comitatum predictorum commorantes dant et solvunt aut dare et solvere coartantur; et quod quedam custuma sive exactio ibidem vocata Amober' decetero non exigatur, usitetur, seu levetur, sed omnimodo Amober' penitus deleatur, adnulletur,³ evacuetur, et irritetur imperpetuum: Et insuper cum sit in dictis Comitibus usitatum, quod si Wallieus homo vocatus an Arthelman, vel Wallica mulier dicta an Arthelwoman, non habens exitum decesserit ab intestatus, vel testamentum suum rite condiderit et executores in eodem nominaverit et assignaverit, officarius ibidem appellatus Raglawe Arthell vult omnia bona hujusmodi decedentis in manus suas capere et seisire, accediam de qualibet persona vocata Arthelman vel Arthelwoman vult idem officarius quatuor denarios annuatim percipere, in detrimentum execucionis et perimplecionis voluntatum hujusmodi decedencium et contra communem justiciam; quapropter volumus et per presentes concedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris antedictis, quod dictus officarius vocatus Raglawe Arthell nec aliquis alius officarius deinceps infra dictos Comitatus aut eorum aliquem seisiat nec capiat aliqua talia bona nec aliquem partem eorundem nec aliquam monetam annuam pro eodem, sed quod dicta custuma de Arthell et quodlibet inde proficuum decetero cassetur nec alicujus sit effectus, sed quod homines et mulieres dicti Arthelmen et Arthelwomen sint liberi ac libere, condent et condere possint testimta (*sic*)

³ In the Exemplification 1 James I., above printed from Mrs. Ormsby Gore's copy, and also in the charter printed in Arch. Camb., vol. ii. p. 294, this word is

written *admissetur*; probably by a clerical error, *nu* having been read as *mi*, and *ll* as *ss*, according to the old long form of the letter *s*.

sua, aliqua provisione incontrarium habita sive usitata non obstante; et quod custume sive exactiones ibidem vocate Wodwardethe et Forestwrieth, [et] quedam exactio sive custuma vocata Kellechey decetero deleantur, exterminentur, nec aliqua denariorum summa de seu pro eisdem per silvanos seu forestarios infra Comitatus predictos aut eorum aliquem aut aliquos officarios quoscunque levetur neque levabilis existat; et quod quilibet sacerdos ac alius ecclesiasticus beneficiatus infra Comitatus predictos et eorum quemlibet libertatem habeat condendi testamentum suum, et quod quidem testamentum debite exequatur absque impedimento sive interrupcione Escaetoris aut alicujus alterius officarii sive ministri ibidem pro tempore existentis, statuto predicto aut aliquibus aliis statutis, actibus, ordinationibus, proclamacionibus, provisionibus, prescriptionibus, aut consuetudinibus incontrarium premissorum ante hec tempora factis, habitis, editis, ordinatis, provisus, seu usitatis, aut alia re, causa, vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante; et hoc absque aliquo fine seu feodo ad opus nostrum quovismodo solvendo seu capiendo. In cujus rei, &c. Datum nostro sub privato sigillo apud manerium nostrum de Richemount⁴ xxiij^o. die Octobris anno regni nostri vicesimo (A.D. 1504).

RO. SAUNSON.

We are indebted to Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, M.P., for the following translation of the charter of March 3, 22 Henry VII., given above, in the Exemplification preserved among Mrs. Ormsby Gore's muniments. This old version, which has been pointed out by Mr. Wynne in one of the Hengwrt MSS., now in his library at Peniarth, Merionethshire, seems to have been written in 1548 by Lewis ap Noris Gethin, and transcribed in 1595 by Sir Thomas ap William, a learned lexicographer, genealogist, and physician in the reign of Elizabeth.⁵ The MS. in question is almost wholly in his handwriting; it contains transcripts of Welsh laws and documents, with historical collections of considerable interest.

⁴ The ancient manor-house at Sheen, Surrey, a favorite royal resort, was accidentally burned in 1499, and rebuilt by order of Henry VII., who in 1501 gave it the name of Richmond, in allusion, it is stated, to his earldom of that name in Yorkshire. He frequently resided at Richmond in Surrey, in great state, and there died in 1509. Lysons' Environs, vol. i. p. 438.

⁵ See Wood's Athenæ, and Williams' Dict. of Eminent Welshmen, p. 537. It does not appear that he ever took a degree in medicine, but he was in holy orders, and hence is usually called Sir Thomas ap William. The MS. kindly placed in our hands by Mr. Wynne contains a copy of the Laws of Howel Ddha, "ex Latino exemplari in multis corrupto

et partim restitutæ per Tho : Guilielmi Cambrobrytanum, Medicum, 1594." There are also genealogical collections in Welsh, evidences relating to Bardsea, a charter granted by the Black Prince, Nov. 1, 1365, to the abbot and convent there, and a list of Indulgences granted to pilgrims and benefactors to that monastery. With Welsh poetry and miscellaneous collections are moreover found the legend of St. Daniel, Bishop of Bangor, and a relation of the discovery of the remains of Sir Gerard Braybook in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in 1603, with a copy of the Pardon from Boniface IX., found upon the breast of the corpse, and printed by Dugdale, Hist. St. Paul's, p. 46, ed. 1658.

THE CHARTER AND MANUMISSIONE (EXEMPTION, *interlined*) GEVENE BY
HENRIE THE vijth TO THE INHABITAUNTES AND FREE TENAUNTES OF THE
COUNTIES OF ANGLESEY, CARNARVON, AND MERIONYTH.

(From Hengwrt MS. no. 204.)

Henrie by the grace of God Kyng of England and of France and Lorde of Irelande to all men to whome these presente leters shall come sendeth greetinge. Knowe ye that although in y^e parliament of Lorde Henrie the iiiijth late Kyng of Englande oure progenitore holden at Westminster the secunde yeere of hys reingne by the auctoritie of the sayd parliament yt hath bene ordaynede, enacted, and statutid that no Walshman or man of Wales ought or myght have or obtayne anye landes, lordshippes, maners, townes, villages, rentes, reversions, or service, or anye manere of heretages within England or any kinges or English townes within Wales to be holden to theym or the heyres in fee simple or fee tayle, or by any other manere, as in the same statute more playnlie is conteyned; and although in the parliament of our sayd Lord Henrie the iiiijth late Kyng of Englande in the iiiijth yeere of hys reigne at Westminster by y^e auctoritie of hys parlamente amonge other thinges, yt hath bene ordaynede that no manere of Walshman or man of Wales shoulde bear, hold or occupie under a certene peine in the sayd statute expressede and limitede (as in the sayd statute mor playnly is conteynede) any office of Shyreffe, Maiore, Bailife, Constable, or other lyk in citie, towne, or burgh within Englande, or anye burgh or Englishe townes within Wales: notwithstandinge we inwardly consyderinge the good, free, and laudable service the which oure well-belovede subjectes, tenauntes, and inhabitauntes within oure Counties of Angleseye, Caernarvon, and Merionyth in Northwales have done unto us diverslie befor this tyme and do daylie, of oure speciale grace and of certeine knowledge and of oure meer movinge, also by the advisement of oure Counseile, we have graunted for us and oure heyres that all and everie of theym theyr heyres and successors and eche of theym may have, use, and injoye from henceforth thoroughout all the sayd Counties all theyr landes, tenementes, possessiouns, and hereditamentes the which they be possessed of, or being in theyr handes by any maner or any of theym and everych of theym may hold [to] theym, theyr heyres and assignes in fee simple or in fee tayle, by any maner of terme of lyfe or of yeeres or anye other manere for ever; and the same landes, tenementes, with other thinges afor named, as well by theyr deed as otherwise to alienate, feefe, geve, and sell in fee simple, or any manere of fee tayle, to terme of lyfe or for yeeres, or any other maners, to any manere of persones, quietlie and peaceble without anye fine to be payd therfor to us and oure heyres for which manere of landes and other the premisses, without contradictione, impedimente, molestation or any grefe of us or oure heyres, officers, baillifes, or of oure servauntes or any maner of other men, any custome, manere, cause, maner, or use within the forseyd Counties contrarie to the premisses aforseyd notwithstandinge. We have graunted also for us and oure heyres that as well oure native tenauntes, or inhabitauntes in our Counties aforseyd, theyr heyres and successors, as native to the Byshopp of Bangor and all Abotes dewe, may have generale manumission and

libertie by the tenure of thes presentes, and may injoye and use and ech of theym from hencefurth theyr landes of free tenure, yelding therfor yeerlie as well to us as to the forsayd Byshop of Bangor and to all Abbates [the rents] afor due and accustomed for every [ex]actione, service, and custome therefor afor yelding due and payd as oure free tenauntes and inhabitauntes in oure forsayd Counties have done or have bene wonte to doe ; and that non of the tenauntes abyding or dwelling in the Counties aforseyd, theyr heyres and successors, nor any of theym be compelled or constreigned from hencefurth to go under to serve or occupie the charge of Ryngylld, nor to other taxes or treythes telaijes¹ or mises or any fines of penies due to us or to any other man by reasone of the office of Ryngylld h aforseyd, nor may be constreigned to any other thinges to be geathered or leyved in any manere, or may runne in anye peine of forfeite by reasone of such manere of geatheringe, but may be dyscharged therof and acquieted for evermore ; we have graunted for us and oure heyres that non of the tenauntes or inhabitauntes aforseyd or any of theym or theyr successors may be compelled or constreigned to paye any relifes, customes or exactiones ther cauled Abediw ditivedd or Bedews ditivedd, also other customes in English named pole pennes, in Walsh cauled Ceinioc penn Arian yryspyde, also for the reparacion of maneris otherwise named Gwaith llys and Arian pentai, nor also other customes in Welsh cauled Fin Caer and da Tervyne, or of the store of the lord otherwise cauled Stor vawr, or Stor Justus and Carias, also of the feding of y^e stalione and the charges of the kepere of y^e same, otherwise cauled porthiant stalwyn and Gwas, of the forester with his dogges, Arian Ceñlo, Cyleh y Blawd, and Butre, and of the workes of mylles and of the feedinge of Pencais and Gweision bychain, also of all and everie fines and pennes for the same customes afor asked or to be asked, may be constreigned otherwise or by other maner then the burgeses of the towne of Beomarish or menn dwelling in any English towne within our principalitie of Northwales geven or payd or be constreigned to geve or pay, but that all customes and thes exactiones from hencefurth may be done awaye and determined nor shalle not be used afterward ; also all other customes or due exactiones the which the forsayd tenauntes and inhabitauntes thorough all the Counties aforseyd have bene wont to paye afor the making of thes presentes may also be done away utterlye, nor fines of pennes or of the same customes aforseyd or any of theym within the forsayd Counties or any of theym howsoever they be payd, leyved or to be leavable, but the tenauntes and inhabitauntes aforseyd, theyr heyres and successors, and every of theym henceforth may be quiete of the premisses for evere ; and that the Sheref of y^e Countie of Anglesey shall keepe or cause to be kepte all his Shyres within the towne of Newburgh and not elsewhere, and that they hold the sayde Shyres from moneth to moneth and from yeere to yeere in tymes to come for evere. We have graunted also for us and oure heyres that as well tenauntes and inhabitauntes aforseyd as other straunge persones of what condicioun soever they be cominge to our Counties aforseyd for any goodes, thinges, or cattaeles bought or sould or to be bought or to be sould within the forsayd Counties and goinge agayne from the sayd Counties, they and theyr heyres and successors may be quiete and dyscharged of tolles, stallages, passages, and customes thorough all the Counties aforseyd as well within the towne

¹ Written telaiies, probably for tallages. See Latin text, p. 71, *ante*.

of Beomarish as other English townes within oure principalitie of North Wales dwelling as withoute, and that the forsayd tenauntes and inhabitauntes and other straunge persones shall not be compelled nor constreigned nor any of theym may be compelled or constreigned by us, oure heyres, or tolletakers, bailifes, fermers, servauntes or any other officers ther to paye any tolle, stalages, passages, or customes within the Counties and places aforseyd for any goodes, thinges or cattaeles boughte or sold or to be bought or sold, but of the premisses from henceforth thorough all the Counties aforseyd they be quiete and dyscharged and everie of theym may be quiete and dyscharged for evere. We have graunted also for us [and] oure heyres that if any of the tenauntes or inhabitauntes aforseyd theyr heyres or successors shall dye untestied² the excheator or any other officer ther shall not intromitt in the name of us or of oure heyres of such cattayles and debtes of the man discesinge, but the dispositione may cesse and shalbe reverted by the ordinarie of the place to the use of the heyres and nexte cosyngs or frendes of the man discesinge. We have graunted also for us and oure heyres that if any of the tenauntes or inhabitauntes be maynprised, or afterward be to be maynprised, of or for good abearing or to keepe the peax at oure suet, or at the suete of any other persone, that such one maynprised or to be maynprised be not compelled or constreigned to appere afor oure Justice of North Wales at the Sessiouns ther holden in oure forsayd Counties of North Wales from henceforth but once in the yeere, that is, in the nexte Sessioun immediatly after the fest of Saint Michael the archangel; and if the principales or principale maynprised do appear personalye in oure Sessiouns afor oure Justices, that then the suerties shall have no hurte for such maner of men or man so maynprised, but shalbe utterly without hurte or harme of anye forfeiture; and that the tenauntes and inhabitauntes aforseyd may [not] be charged or compelled by the aforseyd Justices, or by the prenotarie or prenotaries, or by any of the clerkes of the same Courtes, to paye no further fee but ij. d. for the fee of maynprisinge or any of theym; and in case wherin any of theym the tenauntes and inhabitauntes aforseyd by inquisition or informacion shalbe accused of any felonie or forfeiting of the peax he wilbe readie to awnswer by due forme of the lawe, that the prenotarie or prenotaries and other clerkes of the same Courtes ther shalbe contente for theyr fees and rewardes to tak ij. s., and that non of theym may be releaxed and dyscharged thereof for evere. We have graunted for us and oure heyres that oure free tenauntes and inhabitauntes aforseyd may be hable to inquier and that they may inquier or mak inquisition in all maner of causes concerninge English persones as English persones aforseyd inquieren or mak inquisitione in thinges concerning Walsh persones; and such maner inquisitione so taken or presented by the forsayd tenauntes or inhabitauntes Walshmen may be had in strength, and that no impediment may let or withstand from henceforth oure forsayd tenauntes Walshmen in y^e premisses; and that baylife errante within the Counties aforseyd or anye of theym shall receive nor perceve non other fees for th'exercisinge of theyr office but as is allowed in our Courtes for such bailifes in oure Excheaquor ther, any custome or due exaccione asked or used for the same afor tyme in any maner notwithstandinge; and that without any fine or fee therfor to be payd or takene to oure use. In wytnes wherof we have caused thes oure leters

² In the margin is written—Intestate.

patentes to be made. Teste meipso apud Westmestr' iij. die Martii anno regni nostri vicesimo secundo.

Per ipsum Regem auctoritate parlamenti, anno supradicto.³ Scripsit Lewis ap Noris Gethin, xxij. die Aprilis anno Regis Edwardi sexti secundo.

Transcripsi ego 16 die Decembris anno regni reginæ Elizabeth Dei gracia tricesimo octavo, anno domini nostri Jesu Christi incarnati 1595.

Per Tho: Guilielmi,⁴ medicum.

Among Records of the Treasury of the Exchequer formerly at the Chapter House, now removed to the Public Record Office, an abstract of the two foregoing charters of Henry VII. has been preserved. (Wallia, Supplementary Bag, no. 32.) Through the kindness of the Hon. William O. Stanley, M.P., a transcript has been placed in our hands, as before mentioned. The heading is as follows—"Henricus, Dei gracia nuper Rex Anglie et Francie septimus per cartas suas concessit omnibus et singulis tenentibus et inhabitantibus infra Comitatus Angles', Caern', et Merioneth in Northwallia libertates et privelegia subscripta." The passage in which enumeration is made of certain reliefs, customs, and exactions remitted by the charter 22 Hen. VII. (compare p. 71, *supra*, and the English version, p. 80), supplies some various readings of Welsh terms, the interpretation of which has presented considerable difficulty, as will be seen in the sub-joined Glossarial Notes. It has therefore seemed desirable to give in full that portion of the abstract, as follows:—

"Aceciam quod nullus eorum compellatur ad solvenda aliqua relevia, custumas, sive exactiones ibidem vocata obediw ditibedd aut obediwie ditibedd, necnon indebitas exactiones pro pastu porcorum vocato tackys, Wallice vocato arian moch, neque polpens, Wallice vocat' Kennok Ken', arian respice, nec de reparacione maneriorum aliter vocata gwaithe llis, arian gwaith, et arian petai, neque custumas alias vocatas Fyne Kaer et Datvyn,⁵ aut de staur domini vocat' stere vawre vel store Istys, et karias, nec de pastu stallonis vocato porthiant Stalwyn et gwias (*sic*), de pastu lucrar'⁶ cum canibus, arian Keble, Keirch, blawe, et buttur, et de oneribus molendinorum, de pastu Pencais et Gweission' bygheyn."

³ From the MS. it might at first be thought that the words "Anno supradicto" were to be read with those which immediately follow, but on consideration we are convinced that they must be read in connection with the preceding words.

⁴ This genitive case is doubtless equivalent to the patronymic Williams.

⁵ Possibly for Datervyn, by a clerical error, the mark of contraction after *t* being omitted.

⁶ The corresponding words are written in Mrs. Ormsby Gore's copy—*lut* cum canibus,—but elsewhere, and in Robert Vaughan's explanations of words (Hengwrt MS.) *lucra*. The difficulty, however, of distinguishing *t* from *c* in the writing of

the period is well known, and we should probably read *lutra*, and *lutrar'* (for *lutrarii*); there seems little doubt that allusion is made to provision which some villans were bound to supply for the prince's or lord's otter-hunter and his dogs. See the Glossarial Notes under Killghey. In the old translation, given above from Mr. Wynne's MS., the passage is rendered—"the forester with his dogges." It appears by the context that the "chacea de ffynbryn," Record of Caern., pp. 138, 139, 140, 142, signified otter-hunting; no such word as ffynbryn occurring in the Welsh dictionaries, it may be supposed to be a variation of *Fiber*, which generally signifies a beaver.

GLOSSARIAL NOTES.

Ring', ringyll, ring'ild.—Among explanations of words given by Robert Vaughan in one of the Hengwrt MS. in Mr. Wynne's library,⁷ we find "Ringildr: the officer that leyed the princes rent of assiz, and that by compulsion." Wotton interprets it thus,—“in aula *præco*, in curia *apparitor* qui partes litigantes, testes. et advocatos citabat.” Richards gives, “Rhingyll, the crier of a court, an apparitor, a summoner.” The term occurs frequently in the Ancient Laws of Wales, vol. i. pp. 188, 448, 762; vol. ii. p. 524. See also Record of Caernarvon, Introd. p. xii.

Amobr', amobyrr.—A payment on the marriage or seduction of a tenant's daughter, or on the tenant's adultery. Robert Vaughan gives,—“Amobr; the parentes were forced to pay fyne if eny of their daughters or neere kinswomen committed fornicacion, and the parentes distrained.” Hengwrt MS. The term is of frequent occurrence in the Welsh Laws; see Index *in v.*, Rowlands' observations on Mulcts, Mona Antiqua, p. 131, and Richards' Dictionary. The nature of the custom was fully discussed by Mr. Salt in a memoir on documents relating to the Honor, Forest, and Borough of Clun, read at the Meeting of the Archæological Institute at Shrewsbury in 1855, and privately printed by the author in 1858.

Officia Ragl' et Ragl' Advocar'.—Raglaw, Raglottus, a collector or bailiff; “Rhaglaw, a lieutenant, a deputy, a governor or ruler under a superior,” Richards' Diet. A Rhaglaw, according to the Glossary in the Welsh Laws, was the sheriff or deputy (*vicecomes*). See the duties of the *Raglottus Advocariæ*, Record of Caern., Introd. p. xi.

Arthellman, arthellwoman.—These should seem to have been a kind of serfs, who paid fourpence a year to the lord, and whose goods, in case of death without issue, were liable to be taken by the lord. From the context the arthellmen and arthellwomen appear to have been Welsh. In the translation of the Ancient Welsh Laws we find the following passage, in which the arthellman seems to be mentioned,—“Three persons who pay an ebidiw of threescore pence, a king's tæog, an arddelw man, and an alltud, whom the king has enfranchised.” Ancient Laws of Wales, vol. ii. p. 609.

Woodward, wodwardethe, forestwrieth.—Robert Vaughan gives, “Wodwardirth; the woodwardship of the forest; this is yet in other places. Forestorieth; all the exacions and money leyed in the forest except woodwardshyp.” Hengwrt MS.

Killghey, kellehey.—Robert Vaughan gives, in his explanations of terms occurring in these documents, “Kylehey, viz. kylch staloun, kylch dou'goun, gwysion bych'aun, &c.; when eny of the princes officers course cam to eny Townshipp then they of that towne found their diet for a day or too for the officers.” Hengwrt MS. See Wotton, and Richards' Diet. under Cyleh, and the Glossary appended to the Ancient Laws of Wales. In the Introduction to the Record of Caernarvon, p. x., it is stated that

⁷ Records relating to Wales, Hengwrt MS., No. 119. We are indebted to the kindness of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., M.P., for the use of this valuable MS., the whole of which is in the handwriting of the Merionethshire antiquary, Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, who died in 1667. It contains a short glossarial list, re-

peatedly cited in these glossarial notes, and thus entitled: “Les auncient parols et customes de Northgales que istent recyte dans le graunt et charter del Roy Henry le 7 jades Roy Denglittere lan de soun reigne vinct”; and also of words in the charter of 22 Hen. VII.

annual services to which each village, &c., was subject were called Kilgh, in modern Welsh Cylc, a yearly custom of provision or other things paid to the prince's officers by those who held lands under him. In that Record occur Kilgh' for herds, hawks, and stallions; Kilgh' dourgon, for the prince's hounds with which the otter was hunted; Kilgh' Raglot', &c. Payments occur "pro venatore fimbrium," namely, otters; some villans provided "prandium et potum pro venatore fimbrium"; and the mention of the "chacea de Fynbryn" shows how much that sport was in vogue.

Trethes.—In Welsh trêth signifies a tax or tribute. Robert Vaughan gives "Trethes; certayne fynes, payments, and exaccions." Hengwrt MS.

Abedeo detewedd aut *beddewoyes detewedd'*.—These terms seem to be nearly synonymous; abediw, ebediw, or obediw, supposed by Dr. Wotton to be derived from the Latin *obitu*, was, according to Richards and other writers, a heriot, but the context would seem to show that it was a relief; the former being a chattel, the latter a sum of money, which became due to the lord on the death of a tenant. *Dietifedd* signifies in Welsh issueless or without issue, therefore the two words combined signify a payment on the death of a tenant without issue. See also Rowlands' observations on *Obediw*, *Mona Antiqua*, p. 131. Robert Vaughan gives, "Abedeo detewedd, Bedews detefedd; rylffes of xx s. when one dyed without issue of his body." Hengwrt MS.

Arian moch.—Swine money, some payment for the maintenance or slack of swine, as is shown by the context. *Takkes* is not Welsh, but an English term occurring in old records.

Keniok pen.—For Ceiniog pen, head money.

Arian respite.—Probably the latter word is for the English legal term "respite," and the meaning of the two respite money, or a capitation tax derived from the commutation of some general service or duty that had been respited or indefinitely deferred.

Gwayth llys.—Hall or court work, work done at the hall or court.

Arian gwayth.—Work money, some commutation for work that might have been required.

Arian Pentay.—House money, probably some commutation for work that might have been required to be done at the manor house.

Fine Kayr.—Fin is a boundary and also a fine; Kayr is probably for caer. Could this have been some contribution or payment towards a town or castle?

De Tervene.—The context shows this was equivalent to *staurum domini*. For *de* Robert Vaughan's transcript in Mr. Wynne's MS. has *da*, which signifies goods, chattels, or cattle. *Tervene* should seem to be used for Teyrn, a prince. We read in *Mona Antiqua*, p. 125, of the *staurum principis*, which was an annual payment of a certain number of oxen and cows.

Store vawer; store istis.—These it is evident from the context are other equivalents of *staurum domini*. *Store vawer* is great store or stock. Nothing has been discovered that throws any light on *istis*.

Caries.—From the association and use of this word in the Royal Letter it should seem to have meant the same as *Gwayth*, *i.e.*, work of some kind.

Porthiant stalwyn et Gways.—Maintenance of a horse and groom.

Arian keulo, kirch, blawde, et butur.—If these words refer to the otter-hunter and his dogs, they probably meant money for his and their main-

tenance, or for finding him with curds, oats, bread-corn, and butter. The meal-rent (see Cowel) in the Honor of Clun seems to have been a payment of a similar kind. Bread and butter payments, however, occur so frequently in the Welsh Laws, that these words may not have had any reference to the otter-hunter or his dogs.

Pennkays.—Probably for *Pencaes*, a receiver-general, a head treasurer.

Gweision beighn'.—For *gweision vychain*, small servants or lads. Possibly, judging from its association here with *Pennkays*, it may have meant his clerks or assistants. See also Robert Vaughan's note *supra*, under Killghey.

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