

ON THE PROBABLE IDENTITY OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CHAPELRY OF ST. BRIAVEL'S, RECOGNISED AS LIDNEIA
PARVA IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY, WITH THE LEDENEI
OF THE SAXON HUNDRED OF LEDENEI, NAMED IN THE
DOMESDAY AS THE PROPERTY OF WILLIAM FITZ BADERON.

By GEORGE ORMEROD, D.C.L., F.R.S.

I. It has been generally supposed that the Vill, which, for many centuries, has borne a name derived from that of the adjacent CASTLE of St. BRIAVEL, was passed over in silence in the Domesday Survey, and Rudder and Bigland aver such omission in direct terms. It certainly does not appear under its present designation of St. Briavel's, the origin of which name has not been ascertained, but which has first occurred to the writer of this memoir in the Fine Roll of 31 Hen I.,¹ where "Milo de Gloecestria" accounts, among other things, for disbursements connected with the services of one knight, serjeants, a porter, and the watch at the CASTELLUM DE SANCTO BRIAVEL.

II. With respect to the transference of this name from the Castle to the Parochial Chapel, *the same* occurs as that of the Patron Saint of the Chapel before 1166, in a Decree of that Bishop of Worcester, who consecrated it, as after-mentioned. But it is important to notice that this appellation of "*Capella S. Briavelli*" struggled with that of "*de Lidneia Parva*," which is preserved in a somewhat later episcopal award of the Bishop of Hereford, the district from which the Church claimed tithe being also denominated in the same document, "*Dominium de Lidneia Parva*."

III. It is believed by the writer that the original name of the Chapelry was *Lidney*, and that it is surveyed in Domesday under the name of LEDENEI in Ledenei Hundred.² Two other places of similar name occur in the Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire. One is LEDENE³ in Botlewes

¹ Page 76.

² Fo. 167, col. 1.

³ Fo. 165, b. col. 1.

Hundred, referred by Rudder to Upleadon, and foreign to the present discussion. The other is LINDENEE, in Bliteslau Hundred,⁴ which has been universally admitted to relate to Lydney on the Severn, the only place in Gloucestershire now bearing that name.

IV. Of these two villis or lordships, the Ledenei of Ledenei Hundred and the Lindenee of Bliteslau Hundred have both been considered by Sir Robert Atkyns, Rudder, and Bigland to have been comprehended within the present Lydney, and to have been identical with manors therein, severally known as Warwick's, and Shrewsbury's, from the titles of former owners.

V. This is inconsistent with Domesday. Shrewsbury's seems to have been only an ancient subinfeudation, and the district comprehended within the present Lydney is on the *Severn side* of the Gloucestershire peninsula, whereas the Ledenei, with which it is proposed to identify St. Briavel's, the former Lidneia Parva, was a tenure *in capite*, and is distinctly stated in Domesday to have had rights of fishery in the *Wye*.

VI. As a part of the evidence will turn on an award made by the Bishop of Worcester, between the monks of Lire, patrons of the mother-church of Lydney on Severn, claiming tithe for their new chapel of St. Briavel within Lidneia Parva, and the monks of Saumur, previously possessing it by ancient usage, it may be better to premise that no church is named in Domesday within the greater or present Lydney. This last named Lydney was included in the "Terra Regis," having been forfeited by Roger de Breteuil, son of William Fitz Osberne the Norman grantee. It does not appear whether this mother-church was founded or otherwise by either of these Barons, or, after forfeiture, by the Crown; but it was certainly confirmed to Lire Abbey by Henry II.,⁵ between 1154, the date of his accession, and 1173, the date assigned by Dugdale to the death of William Earl of Gloucester, one of the witnesses of this confirmation.⁶ It further appears from an obit-book of Hereford,⁷ that the Church of Lydney was given to Hereford Cathedral by Robert Abbot of Lire and Canon of Hereford; and the time

⁴ Fo. 164, col. 1.

⁵ Dugdale's Mon. Ang. (Ellis), vol. vi. p. 1092.

⁶ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 536.

⁷ Appended to the Hist. of Hereford, 1717, p. 20.

of this seventeenth abbot is fixed between 1269 and 1271 by the list of Abbots in Du Monstier's *Neustria Pia*.⁸ Lire, therefore, would have the patronage of the mother-church, to which the patronage of St. Briavel's or of Lidney Parva (as the Chapel was then variously denominated) was appended, up to 1269, and a document cited hereafter will prove its possession of this patronage before 1166.

VII. The next point relates to the foundation of the Chapel, and to the Decree of the Bishop of Hereford, who consecrated it, and declared it to be a Chapel of the Mother-Church of Lydney. This decree is given in the *Monasticon* from the original Register of Lire Abbey,⁹ and contains a statement by R . . . , Bishop of Hereford, that it was recognised at the time of *his* Dedication of the Chapel of St. Briavel, that it was a dependency of the Church of Lydney, and that both belonged to the Abbey of Lire. This dependency on the mother-church has continued to the present century, but the argument has, hitherto, only proved the early use of the name of St. Briavel's.

VIII. The Episcopal Award,¹ which follows this Decree, will prove the date of this dedication to have been before 1166, and will show that this Chapel and its district retained a more ancient name of *Lidneia Parva*, although St. Briavel had been named in the preceding decree, as being the Patron Saint. It will, also, prove the previous interest of the monks of Saumur in this *Lidneia Parva*, which monks had been grantees of much ecclesiastical patronage and other property in the neighbourhood, from the direct representatives of William Fitz Baderon, the Norman Lord of the *Ledenei* in *Ledenei Hundred*.

IX. The award cited was made by R . . . , Bishop of Worcester, in a controversy "*diu agitata*," between the monks of Saumur and that of Lire, respecting the two several Chapels of Hualdsfeld and *Lidneia Parva*, and directs, that the monks of Lire (patrons of St. Briavel's at this time, as already proved) shall henceforward have two garbs, "*de decima Dominii de Parva Lideneia quas Monachi Salmurenses solent antiquitus habere*."

X. The date of this award would be between 1164 and 1166, for the following reasons: *William*, Abbot of Lire,

⁸ Page 537.

⁹ Vol. vi. p. 1094.

¹ *Monasticon, ibid.*

agrees to this composition on behalf of his House, and as appears from the list given by Du Monstier,² would be William, tenth abbot, who died in 1166, and who was the *only Abbot William* contemporary with any Bishop of Worcester whose initial was R. This Bishop R . . would be Roger, son of Robert Earl of Gloucester, consecrated Bishop by Becket in 1164, and the Dedication of the Chapel of St. Briavel's (previously and subsequently Lydney Parva) would be between these dates ; and this will give a close approximation to the date of the foundation.

XI. It is submitted that this collective evidence will show,

1. That the Domesday description of Ledenei in Ledenei Hundred, is not reconcilable to any part of the Domesday Lindenee in Bliteslau Hundred, or Lydney *on Severn*, the Norman Ledenei being on the *Wye*, and having rights of fishery therein.
2. That the chapel named *Capella Sancti Briavelli*, with reference to the Patron Saint, in the Decree of the consecrating Bishop, is named between 1164 and 1166 in a later Episcopal Award, as the Chapel of "*Lideneia Parva*," and that the locality from which it drew tithes, which had been anciently ("antiquitus") drawn by the monks of Saumur, was "*Dominium de Lideneia Parva*."
3. That a long agitated controversy between these monastic houses, had led to an award, in which the monks of Saumur, in Anjou, are stated (as before mentioned) to have rights, "antiquitus," in this "*Dominium de Parva Lideneia*," those monks being known to have been the grantees of various properties in this neighbourhood connected with Monmouth Priory, from the direct representatives of that William Fitz-Baderon, in whose Norman grants the Ledenei of Ledenei Hundred is included in the Domesday Survey.

XII. It is submitted that these points would render the position of St. Briavel's, *proved* to be coincident with the *Lidneia Parva* of the twelfth century, totally irreconcilable with any part of the present *Lydney on Severn*, the *Lindenee* of the *Terra Regis* in Domesday ; and that they identify it, as far as such remote identification can be expected to be recovered, with Fitz-Baderon's *Ledenei in Ledenei Hundred*, on the *Wye*, as the later *Lidneia Parva*.

XIII. In another point, the date of 1164—66 will be found to be clearly proved as that of the Episcopal Award, somewhat later than the Decree which follows the consecration of the Chapel of St. Briavel, and this may be useful to the architectural antiquary in considering the style of the south side of the nave and of carvings in other parts very similar to those of corresponding date at Malmesbury.

The general arrangement and form of the clerestory windows, the arches and ornamental capitals of the above-mentioned south side of the nave, which has every appearance of being a fragment of the original building, will be gathered from the annexed representation drawn from measurement in 1844.

The Central Committee desire to acknowledge the kind liberality of the author in presenting the map and illustrations by which this and the preceding memoir are accompanied.

