

Octavius Morgan: journal of a tour through North Wales in 1821

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INTRODUCTION

Whilst General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London I became interested in the material about Wales that is contained in its varied collections. One manuscript was the journal of Octavius Morgan describing a journey he had made to North Wales in 1821 accompanying his father and one of his sisters. This manuscript has never been published but it seemed to contain material which should be in the public domain.² This includes information about the early experiences and views of Octavius Morgan who became a significant Welsh antiquarian, a founder of the Cambrian Archaeological Association and the Caerleon (later Monmouthshire) Antiquarian Society, a Fellow and Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a notable collector of antiquities. His observations on the places he visited and the social network he was involved with are also of interest. The primary objective of this journey, which was to attend the Eisteddfod at Caernarfon, provides information about the early nineteenth-century Eisteddfod movement. I have transcribed the manuscript account of the North Wales journey; introduced it with some general matters and provided, as far as feasible, a commentary and references in the form of endnotes.³ In addition I have transcribed, as Appendix II, a fuller account of the Eisteddfod carried by the *Cambro-Briton*.⁴

THE MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript on which this article is based is contained in a quarto volume with some forty handwritten pages describing two journeys by members of the Morgan family, starting from Tredegar House, Newport. The first journey took place from 28 August to 24 September 1820 and was to the North of England. The second journey, to North Wales, which is the subject of this study, was from 24 August to 19 September 1821. On both journeys the Morgan party consisted of the father, Sir Charles Morgan, and two of his children, Angelina and Octavius. The journey to the north of England also included another son, George Gould Morgan (1794–1845).⁵ It is worthwhile briefly considering the purpose of the manuscript. It is a journal rather than a contemporary diary, and although internal evidence indicates that it drew on a diary or notes is clearly a ‘fair copy’ written into the book and meant to be a permanent record of the journeys taken. The purpose of such a journal was unlikely (especially in this case) to be for publication. It was more likely to be used for entertainment, probably by being read aloud, no doubt with a commentary. It is worth noting that Octavius at times makes reference to how Welsh names should be pronounced. It should also be noted that the ‘List of stages and distances’ at the end of the text does not directly correlate with the details of the journey described. Distances can be different and entire stages were left out. A journey schedule with dates is included here as Appendix I.

THE MORGAN TRAVELLERS

This 'Morgan' family in their early nineteenth-century form were relatively recent. The sister of the last male Morgan (John Morgan 1741–92) was Jane Morgan. In 1758 she married Sir Charles Gould, who became Judge-Advocate General in 1771. When John Morgan died childless in 1792, Sir Charles Gould, as part of the process of formally inheriting the estate, took the surname and armorial bearings of Morgan and was also created a baronet. He died in 1806. His son and grandchildren, all born Gould, were the author and subjects of the 1820 and 1821 journals. The subject of the new dynasty's attitude to Welsh culture would need more study but in August 1813 Iolo Morganwg certainly felt that the change of family meant that he was no longer as welcome as he had been in John Morgan's time.⁶ The three travellers⁷ on this second journey were Charles Octavius Swinnerton Morgan, Lt. Col. Sir Charles Morgan, and Angelina Maria Cecilia Morgan.

Charles Octavius Swinnerton Morgan (1803–88). He was the fourth son of Sir Charles Morgan and Mary Morgan (née Stoney). At the time of writing this journal in 1821 he was 18 years old. He was then attending Westminster School, before going to Christchurch, Oxford in June 1822. It was said of him that 'as a young man he was vain, flippant and conceited. Like all the Morgans he was a pygmy in stature, of a pale languid complexion and rather effeminate. Although he could converse volubly on most subjects, his voice was squeaky. He delivered his opinions in a dogmatic, overbearing and arrogant manner. He was a great favourite with his father'.⁸ I will leave it to the reader to judge how much of this character comes out in the following pages. After leaving university Octavius returned to Tredegar House where it is said he organised the running of the household. He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1830. In 1839 he moved to his own house, The Friars, Newport, which he rebuilt in neo-Tudor style with plenty of carved woodwork. He went on to become a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Monmouthshire and Member of Parliament for Monmouthshire from 1840–74 in the Conservative interest. As has been indicated he played a major role in English and Welsh antiquarian circles. He died unmarried in 1888. His large collection of clocks was left to the British Museum.⁹

Lt. Col. Sir Charles Morgan (1760–1846), second baronet, who succeeded his father in 1806. He had previously served in the army as an ensign in the Foot Guards in 1777, being taken prisoner at Yorktown, America, and retiring from the army in 1792. He married Mary Margaret Stoney in 1791. She died in 1808 and he did not remarry. In August 1807 he left 12 Downing Street which his father had leased and moved to 70 Pall Mall. He was very interested in agricultural improvement and the comments in Octavius' journal on such matters are probably to be derived from his father.¹⁰ In 1821 John Frost, subsequently better known for his Chartist activities, said of Sir Charles 'a handsome little man . . . possessed of great power', which he deployed to further dynastic interests. Sir Charles was MP for Brecon from 1787–96 and for Monmouthshire from 1796–1831. In political terms he was a 'Tory', supporting Lord Liverpool's government and opposing Roman Catholic emancipation. In 1820 his estate rentals were estimated at £40,000. His eldest son, another Charles, became the first Lord Tredegar.

Angelina Maria Cecilia Morgan (1802–44). In 1821 she was 19 years old. She was the youngest surviving daughter of the family. In 1825 she married, as his first wife, Sir Hugh Hugh Owen, 2nd Baronet of Orierton, Pembrokeshire.¹¹ Octavius varied the spelling of his sister's name which could be 'Angelina' or 'Angelena'.

THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

In the spring of 1820 Lord Liverpool's government had called an election. Only four seats were contested in Wales none of which concerned the Morgans, although as we shall see Welsh landowners often held

English parliamentary seats.¹² I would suggest that this journal illustrates the close connection between social, cultural and political life. For example, the visit to Brecon would have had political and cultural elements to it. The Morgans had lost control of the Parliamentary seat for the County in 1806 and had failed to win it back in 1818. They had managed to hold on to the Brecon Borough seat in 1818 and it was uncontested in 1820. Octavius was admitted a freeman of the borough in 1824. As discussed below the Gwent Provincial Eisteddfod was held in Brecon in 1822, although this had not been formally decided in August 1821. The choice of Brecon for the 1822 Eisteddfod was almost certainly determined by Morgan political, rather than cultural, interests. The network of social contacts that Octavius refers to during the journey also show marked political preferences.

Events in the summer and autumn had the activities of George IV in the background, and these are mentioned at various points in Octavius' journal. George IV had been crowned king on 19 July 1821, and decided that he would visit Ireland. Rumours that he was going there appear in Mrs Piozzi's letter from Penzance, dated 5 March 1821 'pity that the King should go from Brighton to Ireland but he may possibly return through Wales, once his Principality'.¹³ So there was some hope that George IV might formally visit Wales. George IV's wife Caroline died on 7 August, the news reaching him in Anglesey while on his way to visit Dublin in the Royal Yacht. These events were touched on in the comments on public mourning in Aberystwyth, the gossip at Holyhead about the Irish visit, and Sir Watkin William Wynn's newly decorated state rooms at Wynnstay. George IV did of course 'informally' visit Wales, first staying with the Marquess of Anglesea when the Royal Yacht was weather-bound at Holyhead, and later on making his overland journey across South Wales.¹⁴

Eisteddfodau

The years from 1819 saw increased Welsh cultural activity, especially by the 'establishment', and the formation of new regional cultural societies. The Cambrian Society of Dyfed had organised the Carmarthen Eisteddfod of 1819 when Iolo Morganwg (Edward Williams) had managed to tie the blue ribbon of a bard around the arm of Thomas Burgess, the Bishop of St David's and President of the Eisteddfod. The next Eisteddfod, organised by the Powys Society, under the patronage of Sir Watkin Williams Wynne had been in 1820 at Wrexham. In the same year the Cymmrodorion Society was refounded in London as the Metropolitan Cambrian Institution with Sir Watkin as President. In 1821 the Gwynedd Society held its Eisteddfod in Caernarfon with the Marquess of Anglesea as President and we will deal with this in more detail. That left the area of Gwent, defined as the counties of Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, Breconshire and Radnorshire. As it happened, a Cambrian Society for Gwent was formed in December 1821, with Sir Charles Morgan expected to play the leading role and the Eisteddfod was held in Brecon in 1822. I would suggest that the main purpose of Sir Charles Morgan's 1821 journey to North Wales was to meet 'on the ground' those involved with the Powys and Gwynedd Eisteddfodau, and with a visit to Caernarfon to view that Eisteddfod, in preparation for the Gwent Eisteddfod of 1822. This would account for his rather curious route, first to Bangor, then east see Sir Watkin and the Bishop of St Asaph, then virtually doubling back on his tracks to Bangor again.

There had recently been a brief public airing in the English 'cultural establishment' press of the question of whether it was a desirable matter to encourage the continuance of the Welsh language. This occurred in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. In May 1821 a public letter was published from 'DW' to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn in his role as President of the 'Metropolitan Cambrian Institution'. It forcibly made a case that it was morally wrong to encourage the survival of Welsh as a living language. The continuing study of it as a 'dead language' was thought to be allowable. From 'DW's' personal observations and comments on the use of Welsh in the Welsh Assize Courts it is probable that he was a barrister.¹⁵ In August a reply from 'Caradoc', dated 11 July, was published. This gave a detailed rebuttal

of ‘DW’s’ points; quoted a speech made ‘at the late Congress of Bards at Wrexham’ that ‘to promote cultivation of the Welsh Language is not likely to be productive of more evil than good’; and importantly (at the time) quoted a letter to Sir Watkin (as President of the Metropolitan Cambrian Institution) from the King’s private secretary, saying that George IV gave his ‘Royal protection . . . and best support to the revival of any society for the cultivation of Welsh language and literature’.¹⁶

An aspect of these tensions might be seen in the appearance of the Bath Harmonic Society at the Caernarfon Eisteddfod, as at the 1819 Carmarthen one. This has been seen as part of the Anglicization of the Eisteddfod culture. It is worth pointing out that the conductor of the Bath Harmonics, the Revd John Bowen, delivered an address at Caernarfon on early Welsh music, which he only took as far as the early fifteenth century, and illustrated by the Bath Harmonics who also sang a ‘Welsh air’. Rather than a simple Anglicization, we are perhaps looking at a more complex ‘antiquarian’ approach to Welsh ‘culture’. This is briefly discussed in the footnote on the Bath Harmonics. There was also a dispute over the style of playing the harp which is described in Appendix II. Despite this there seems to have been a feeling that this Caernarfon Eisteddfod was a success, at least William Jenkins told Iolo Morganwg this was the case.¹⁷

Architectural taste

It is interesting to see that the eighteen-year-old Octavius Morgan had opinions, and makes judgements, about the architecture of the buildings that he visits. Generally he seems to prefer ‘Gothic/Gothick’ as a style. Examples of favoured ‘Gothick’ are Eaton Hall, ‘it is the most princely place I ever saw’, Tremadoc church, ‘pretty . . . being highly ornamented Gothic’ and Plas Newydd, ‘a charming place . . . beautifully ornamented with carved oak’. Examples of ‘Gothic’ include Valle Crucis, ‘beautiful ruins’ and St Winifred’s Well, ‘handsome gothic’. Examples of disapproval of ‘neo-classical’ design were Llanerchaeron (‘the house ugly’; Fig. 1) and Nannau (‘it is a new built house, & very indifferent one too’). In fairness, Octavius also appreciated the neo-classical of Harrison’s Chester castle complex (‘a very handsome building’) and became quite excited by the Mansion House at Liverpool (‘magnificent . . . truly palacelike’). As is mentioned above, when he came to have his own house in Newport he favoured neo-Tudor.

Weather

The journal makes frequent references to the wet weather, gales and poor state of the harvest. That this was no exaggeration is confirmed by the records for 1821 which indicate that it was a wet cold summer, with snow in London on 27 May and frosts in June. The autumn, although mild, was marked by frequent gales, and the harvests were bad.¹⁸

THE TRANSCRIPTION

I have tried to reproduce the manuscript as accurately as possible with no alterations to Octavius’ spelling and punctuation.¹⁹ His underlinings, crossings out and use of capital letters have been followed. Words that I am not quite sure about are marked with an asterisk. I have followed the numbering of the pages of the manuscript added in the past in pencil by a librarian of the Society of Antiquaries. This number is given in square brackets, ‘a’ is the left hand or *verso* page, ‘b’ the right hand or *recto* page.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON, MS/680

[20b] Journal of a tour through North Wales 1821

[21a]

NORTH WALES

Friday, August 24th, 1821, Sir Charles, my sister Angelena & myself, left Tredegar at 8 o'clock in the morning & proceeded on our way to Abergavenny, 21 miles, the road is very pretty – A large town on the Usk, some very fine mountains in the vicinity. Thence to Brecon, 22 miles, one of our horses roared dreadfully the whole way & died soon after our arrival at Brecon – It is a nice town, we accepted the kind invitation of Mr Hugh Bold,²⁰ & dined there – the road thither is most beautiful, the most magnificent mountains are seen the whole way – from Brecon to Trecastle, 11 miles, where there was a monstrous fast dog – thence through a beautiful road, with hanging woods on each side, & the river Towey murmuring at the bottom, to Llandovery, a very bad Inn the people slovenly & dirty, where we had tea & went to bed, perfectly dead with the heat of the day – there was some vivid lightning. [21b] Next morning we got up to an early but nasty breakfast, & about 9 o'clock started our way to Lanbedris, called Lampeter, a poor town, our road thither was over the mountains, which were quite enveloped in mist – the stage is 18 miles – Thence to Aberaryon, 14 miles, in our way we went by Llanayron, the seat of Mr Lewis,²¹ the grounds of which are pretty & well wooded, but the house ugly [Fig. 1] – Aberaryon is a village on the sea coast, a nice Inn built by Mr Lewis²² – thence to Aberystwyth 16 miles, barren ugly road I never saw a country so destitute of inhabitants – Of all the places I ever was at, Aberystwyth is the most horrible, so dirty, stinking & ugly; There we met the Greers,²³ (to my amazement) & on the esplanade we met Harry Lloyd²⁴ of Brecon, Sir John and Lady Morris,²⁵ & the Lewises of Llanayron – On Saturday, the day we arrived, the Cryer had been around the town, saying that every [22a][Fig. 2] person would be fined 10 shillings who turned their pigs into the street as that is a favourable custom – the year before the same penalty was to be inflicted, if they turned their pigs into the street before 7 pm. The Talbot inn²⁶ where we stopped is the worst one I ever saw, so dirty & etc – we had dry chops, & smear'd cutlets for dinner – the place was so full that I could not get a bed in the inn, but slept at a Milliner's over the way – Sir C & Angelena had but indifferent accomodation – Sunday morning, I had a charming bathes* but beastly breakfast – No church, but a chapel which began at a little before 12 – After chapel, which was very neat & only wanted some paint, we walked on the esplanade which is a nasty place, with the Lewis's I saw the new warm baths,²⁷ not commodious – Many people out of Mourning,²⁸ ~~We ordered dinner at 5 o'clock~~ We were removed from the Talbot Inn to the Castle,²⁹ as Mr [22b] Smith Owen³⁰ & party left after church. We ordered dinner at 5 & did not get it till was 7 & when it did come we had stinking Fish & a bad dinner. At the Talbot Inn, the accomodations were wretched, but they were rather better here at the castle – at this place the people are horrid figures. Friday was dreadfully hot, & I never was more tired than when I got to Trecastle but Saturday and Sunday were very chill & damp – Altogether this is a most horrid dull, & beastly place I ever met with – Mr Littledale & Dixon³¹ are here – there is very little paving & the ruins of the castle upon a hill at the back of the town, they are extensive.

Our change to the Castle was a great improvement for we had a comfortable sitting room & bedrooms – But at the Castle they had no provisions or anything of the sort – not even a bit of bread to make toast for tea – Our dinner, which consisted [23a] of stinking fish (at the seaside) etc we were obliged to have cooked at the Inn & brought to us thro the streets. After breakfast on Monday we started to see the Devil's bridge, & Hafod – the road there is most hilly I ever went, but it is good. On one side is a beautiful valley,



Fig. 1. Llanerchaeron, near Aberaeron, built by John Nash in 1794–95, and described in Octavius Morgan's Journal as 'the grounds of which are pretty & well wooded, but the house ugly'. © *Alwyn Jones Architects*.

meandered through by the Ystwyth – & the most lovely romantic mountains on each side of it – but although in the bottom it is cultivated, there are not the traces of an inhabitant – The wind was most dreadfully high & cold, that we were almost frozen – Having arrived at the Devils bridge Inn,³² 12 miles, we ordered dinner, & proceeded to Hafod,³³ 5 miles, the seat of Mr It was built by Mr Johnes, who ruined himself in making it – the grounds are finely planted, all over the neighbouring hills which closely surround the place – the house is built in tasty* Gothic, or rather cockney Gothic,³⁴ of such soft stone that it is decaying fast the furniture bookcases [23b] chimney peices most costly, but the rooms are not large – in one room the tapestry chairs are beautiful – It coming on to rain hard we could not walk about, so returned to the devil's bridge & after dinner went to see first a very grand cataract, which flowing from under the Devil's bridge (which you do not see here) falls 18 then 20 & then 110 feet – on either side of the ravine through which pours, are trees, which hanging over the cataract have a fine effect – the Devil's bridge I was disappointed in, it is a cast iron bridge³⁵ connecting the two sides of a tremendous chasm of the rock, there are the remains of the old bridge which was stone – the arch of the present one is stone – the places which the torrent beneath has excavated for its reception are curious – Some weeks ago, a woman fell from a place near the bridge, 160 feet & escaped with her life – when we had seen everything we returned to Aberystwyth [24a] it rained the whole of the way back – The roads are in general good about here, owing to the vast quantity of slate stone with which this country abounds – the cottages are

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 from the Talbot Inn to the Castle, as Mr

Fig. 2. Page 22a of Octavius Morgan's 'Journal of a tour through North Wales 1821'. By permission of the Society of Antiquaries of London (MS/680).

mostly built of mud³⁶ & I never saw such poverty displayed anywhere – they are certainly a century behind South W in civilization – Curious pebbles may be picked up here, I found some of & have had them cut³⁷ – the country here is the most bleak & desolate owing to the thinness of the soil, & paucity of inhabitants, I ever saw – I took two sketches at Devil's bridge – On Tuesday morning, It rained hard, & continued to do so all day – so that our scheme of riding was defeated, & we were obliged to go in the carriage, in which we started at 12 o'clock for Machynlleth, called Mahunleth, 18 miles the road is very beautiful after the first 6 miles, but wretchedly hilly, so much so that we were 5 ~~miles~~ hours going the 18 miles; the valleys are very picturesque, & highly cultivated, but the crops are scanty, & there ~~are~~ is as usual a dearth [24b] of inhabitants – the mountains are particularly fine, being very rocky – We passed some cataracts, “red from the hills” – one of which was exceptionally beautiful, & surpassed the one at Devil's bridge – owing to the quantity of rain, they were very full – Some parts of the road are solid rock – The hay is particularly backward, for they have begun to reap before they have gone in the hay – Some parts of the country are very boggy, & great quantities of peat are made there – On our arrival Col. Edwards,³⁸ who lives at the entrance of the town came & asked us to dinner, but we could not accept his invitation, on account of us not being ready, so had a comfortable dinner & fire at the inn – the town was very nasty owing to the quantity of rain – We had no bell in our room, so we were obliged to sport our voices on the landing with “Waiter” – On the morrow it rained as hard as on the preceding day – after Breakfast we went to call [25a] & thank Col. Edwards, in hopes that he would have asked us to dinner that day, but as he did not, after having been caught in a violent shower of rain, whilst coming from his house, we got into the carriage to Depart – there is an old building here, (but we did not know it), where Owen Glendower was crowned & summoned his first Parliament³⁹ – the body of the church has been pulled down, and a new one is half built, & in that state of forwardness it is left without any body working at it⁴⁰ – There had been a funeral two days before, & they continued to toll for 3 days – It is the custom for all the inhabitants, with the clergy man at their head to precede the corpse, sing psalms

From Machynlleth to Dolgelly – 17 miles through a most sublime road, far more magnificent than the last; most beautifully wooded mountains with torrents, cascades & cataracts on all sides, the first part of the way. Then is seen a small but picturesque [*addition in pencil at foot of page*] ‘lake, surrounded by’ [25b] mountains & near which Cader Idris rears it's lofty head, towering to the clouds – Then the most terrific mountains on either side, whose rocky, craggy, rugged summits threaten to fall & annihilate the passing travellers – the only impediment is the hilly & rough state of the roads –

We got to Dolgelly to dinner – There were the Prices & Gresleys⁴¹ – the Inn being full, Sir C & I kept out of the house, I had a horrid nasty place A welsh harper ~~play~~ belonging to the Inn, played to us at Dinner, after Dinner we had him into the room to look at his harp – Next morning we went out to see Barmouth & Harlech, & returned in the evening –

The road to Barmouth is more picturesque than anything we have yet seen, it is on the side of a hill, & by the edge of the river Wnion (Winion) which at high tide, being wide at the mouth, ~~forms it~~ & encircled by grand mountains, has the appearance of a large & beautiful lake – this beautiful [26a] scenery, continues 11 miles, the distance between Dolgelly & Barmouth – which is itself a very delightful place – there are several nice looking lodging houses & capital sands, the town is small, & backed by a very fine rocky mountain which rises close behind it – It is very retired* & is the nicest sea-bathing place I know of – For post horses to take us to Harlech, ~~we~~ they were obliged to send to a hayfield 2 miles off – after breakfast we went on to Harlech, 10 miles – This for a treat was a very fine day – the Sun had not shone upon N. Wales for 5 days before – it is a pretty drive, by the side of the sea – but the road is wretchedly bad, it is covered with large loose stones & very frequently great peices of rock project 6 or 7 inches above the surface, it is impossible to give an adequate description of the badness of the road – It can only be seen, or felt to be believed – Our horses being so jaded, we were obliged to stop two miles

before the town, & walk to it – [26b] Harlech once a city, now a small fishing village is finely situated, it is a nasty place, & there is nothing to be seen there but the castle, it is built upon a rock, & is very perfect, the scenery round it is magnificent – When we had seen the castle which was shewn to us by an old woman, an old man brought some gloves to sell, I went down to sketch the castle, so we had bread, cheese & ale, brought down to us – & whilst eating our luncheon we negotiated for some gloves, & after having paid the old chatterbox, he wanted to make Sir C. to pay him some more, & tried to make Sir Charles out a cheat, but on my having finished my sketch, we left the old rogue & his gloves – On our return to the carriage, we found the horses much refreshed – & went back to Barmouth, where we had a very comfortable dinner after which we started for Dolgelly, & got there by 9 o'clock – At Harlech Sir Robert Vaughan is building an Inn,⁴² as there [27a] is none at present. On ~~Saturday~~ Friday we took a walk about the town, & strolling on, we entered the approach to a house, intending to ask permission to walk about the grounds, whilst Sir C. was at the door, a lady in riding dress came round a walk accompanied by her pug, which she had sent previously to bark at us – & stood for some time looking at us. When Sir Charles came up & we had a parley – she informed us that the grounds belonged to Mr Evelyn⁴³ – We walked about them, & found them very pretty – On our returning to the Inn we took a ride, the first time since the commencement of our tour – We had not gone far before it began to rain very violently, & on turning back, we found that we had gone precisely the wrong way; for having sent our carriage & luggage on, we intended to have ridden to Sir Robert Vaughan's Nannau Park⁴⁴ – having gone again through the town, we arrived there having previously met Sir R. in the pleasure grounds – The place is not a fine one, [27b] & has no particular beauty – to my great surprise I met the Prices there – after a very stupid evening, we went to bed – next morning after breakfast Sir Charles, Angelena I & a Mr Roberts, went to see some waterfalls in the neighbourhood – the ride was pretty, but dangerous, being very steep & very stony great part of the way⁴⁵ – one was the Rhaidr Dhu (*dee*) (the falls of the Mawddach (Mouthach)) or black cataract, from the blackness of the water, it is very fine, the other the Pistill y Cain, the spout of the Cain – the most magnificent one I ever saw – they certainly repaid us for the badness of the ride – at Nannau there is an Eagle 50 years old, in a cage – In the garden, which was a mile from the house there was a oak, which fell in 1813, according to tradition, it was hollow 500 years ago & Owen Glendower enclosed the body of Howel Sele, his enemy, in it in 1400 – when it fell Sir Robert has cups etc made of the [28a] wood – on my petitioning for a small morsel of the wood, he presented me with a snuffbox of it – on Sunday ~~after~~ before Church, we departed for Tan y Bwlch 17 miles – The service is all in Welsh in this part of the country – Sir R. gave Sir C. 2 spaniels, there are an amazing quantity of dogs about Nannau – I had always expected that it would have been a grand place, but it is a new built house, & a very indifferent one too – at Tan y Bwlch the Inn⁴⁶ is pretty good, & before dinner we went to see the grounds of Mr Oakley,⁴⁷ who lives near there, they are nothing very fine, & badly kept up – some fine views may be seen from them – Monday at 8 o'clock we set off for Tremadoc 10 miles, where we breakfasted – It is a pretty village,⁴⁸ called after Mr Maddox who built it, & an embankment, over which the road passes of stone, to keep out the sea, for the sake of reclaiming a ~~bit~~ large tract of ground (which is nothing but common sea sand) but unfortunately the embankment leaks, & he ruined himself [28b] in doing it – The Church & gateway are pretty but, foolishly expensive, being highly ornamented Gothic – thence to Beddgelert, 6 miles, In that 6 miles there is some of the finest scenery, which resembles that of Switzerland, namely the mountains, rivers, falls, & bridge of Pont Aber Glasslyn – the bridge is a single arch, across the river & valley & the river is uncommonly rapid & a great salmon leap – from Beddgelert to Carnarvon, 13 miles, the Uxbridge arms Hotel⁴⁹ very comfortable. The Castle is by far the finest & most perfect ruin I ever saw, it is very extensive & excessively strong, the room is now shewn (only it has neither floor nor ceiling, & should therefore rather be called the tower) in which Edward 2nd was born – there are subterranean passages etc but the woman when I asked her if there were any, & where they went

said “Lord who knows” – which at once shews that neither she nor any one had sufficient [29a] spirit of discovery to explore – the town is a Sea port, has ONE bathing machine, & no warm bath - & like other Welsh towns has nothing but pitching to walk upon We took a walk after dinner, and on our return we had the harper, who played most beautifully, some of Handel overtures, Welsh airs etc – his harp is a very fine toned one – He won the silver harp at the eisteddford, or congress of bards, at Wrexham last year⁵⁰ – They forgot half our dinner, so we were obliged to go without – The Harvest, Hay etc are very backward – & roads most intolerably rough – but this last stage they have been rather better – before we left Nannau many yards our slippers⁵¹ broke – On Tuesday morning when we ordered dinner we were told we might have “a piece of turbot & one fowl” there being only one in the town – The town is as nasty a place as ever I saw – After breakfast we got (according to the advice of the landlord) into a ‘hackchaise’ to go to Snowdon etc the chaise was an old one kept for the [29b] purpose, entirely motheaten – the road is worse than anything we have met with yet I never was so jumbled – We had not been in the chaise long before it began to rain, & blow most violently, when we got to the lake, over which we were to go to Snowdon it rained and blew more violently than ever – So after waiting for an hour to see the event of the weather, we jumbled back to Carnarvon, having been 10 miles altogether, to see nothing, for all was mist – we walked in to the Church⁵² at Carnarvon, it was once a roman Catholic one, & there are many old monuments, tablets etc – coming back from the Church, which is out of the town, we met a funeral accompanied by half the town – The wind is now roaring worse than it did in the morning, it certainly must be the equinoctial gales. After Breakfast on Wednesday, we left Carnarvon, & passing through a pretty country, along by the Straits of Menai, we arrived at Bangor 10 miles The town is better than Carnarvon – The Cathe [‘dral’ *addeu*] [30a] very poor, no carved work & not so good as many parish churches – After having seen the town of which there is not much, we walked along the road, 2 miles to the new chain bridge, which is being built across the Menai – The road is the great irish road, & is like a bowling green, not a rut to be seen – the piers of the bridge are all stone & at present look like so many towers, being very high, it is not half finished⁵³ – on our return went to call upon the Bishop, but he was not at home, the palace seems a very nice place – We had not gone far before we met the bishop,⁵⁴ who was very glad to see us. We stopped to see a slate quarry by the road,⁵⁵ & by a romantic drive, & a capital road we arrived at Capel Cerrig – 19 miles – The inn very good & very full⁵⁶ – The Lake Capel Cerrig is very picturesque, & Snowden rises beautifully at the back. I met the Greens there – The next morning to Kernioge⁵⁷ where we breakfasted – near the road is a magnificent waterfall, Rhaidr y wenne⁵⁸ [30b] the stage is 15 miles, & there are 2 turnpikes 5 shillings each, in it, but the road is very good – the Inn at Kernioge is magnificent capital breakfast, etc – to Corwen 13 miles & another 5s gone

– Thence to Llangollen, 10 miles After ordering dinner, we went with the letters Mrs Tracy⁵⁹ had given us to call upon ‘the Ladies’ – Lady Elinor Butler & Miss Ponsonby, two old ladies who live at a cottage near Llangollen⁶⁰ – It is a charming place, it is beautifully ornamented with carved oak & both out & inside – which they themselves have collected – they are delightful people, & are always called ‘the Ladies’. they begged us to come in the evening, which we did after dinner, we went in a chaise to see some beautiful ruins of an abbey⁶¹ about 2 miles, after which we went to ‘the Ladies’, their rooms are full of pictures trinkets etc – they are acquainted with every body & every thing – They are great friends of Lord Londonderry’s & have writing [31a] with the Duke of Wellington they gave me – they are the nicest old people I ever saw, so droll – It has been raining almost incessantly for some days past, dreadful weather for the harvest – The children being very troublesome, getting up behind the carriage, I have been obliged to get a whip to flog them down⁶² Breakfast being over, we went to Rhuabon 7 miles, it having rained torrents all the night the river Dee, on which the town of Llangollen is situated was very much swollen – the road is very pretty, & in it we passed by a beautiful aqueduct, stone piers, & iron duct, for

the canal to pass over a valley – It has a very magnificent appearance, & is a very grand structure⁶³ – We stayed at Rhuabon whilst the Servant went with a note from Sir Charles to Wynstay Sir W.W.Wynne,⁶⁴ who rode down himself, & most cordially invited us to stay, which we did, Sir C. Angelena & I, walked up to the house with him, the walk we went was very pretty [31b] The cold bath is very elegant, in the open air, lined with marble, & very spacious, with a dressing house at the back⁶⁵ – a Column built of stone, erected to his grandfather, & very high⁶⁶ – Soon after we came into the house Lord and Lady Bridgewater⁶⁷ called & after Luncheon, we walked round the garden which is very extensive – A fine conservatory⁶⁸ in the flower garden, with many scarce plants, the papyrus, palmetto, etc – After our walk, Sir Watkin took us a drive round the grounds, which were exceptionally extensive & picturesque, there are two pretty ‘bella-vistas’ – one is very handsome – We stopped to see his thrashing machine, which is a very complete thing, it thrashes winnows, carries the grain up to the granary & loads the waggons with straw all at the same time – & is a curious but simple piece of machinery⁶⁹ – The stables are very good,⁷⁰ we saw some of the race horses – At dinner every thing was in the greatest [32a] style, the plate very handsome, especially that on each of the beaufets,⁷¹ the one gold, & the other silver – The piece of plate given him by the county of Denbigh is the largest I ever saw, it is a large wine cooler [Fig. 3], to stand under the side board⁷² – the rooms are all very good, preparations had been made, in his Majesty’s might come⁷³ – the drawing room is a very fine room, nicely furnished very handsome lamps & candelabras – I did not see the state bed room, but Angelena had the state dressing room – crimson & gold – Saturday



Fig. 3. Silver wine cooler presented by the county to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, formerly at Wynstay. It was designed by Paul Storr, dated 1815 and supplied by the silversmiths Rundell, Bridge & Rundell. Photograph: © National Museum Wales.

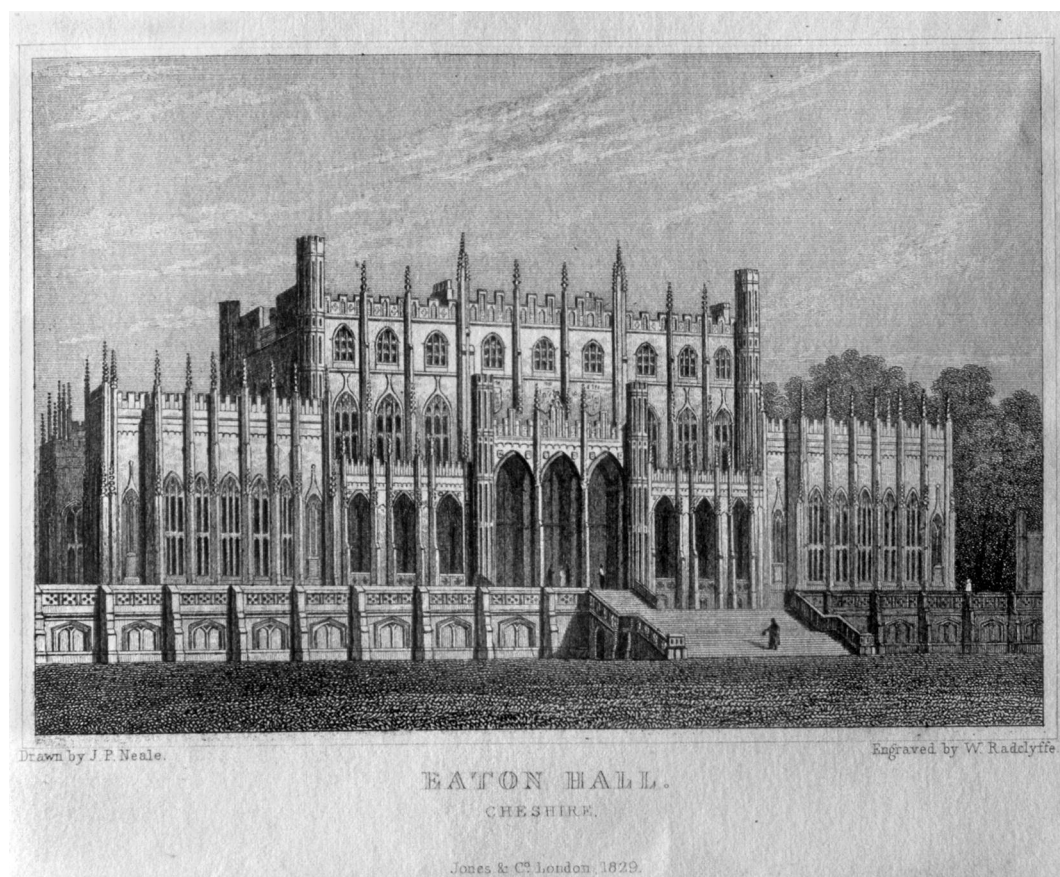


Fig. 4. Eaton Hall, Cheshire (drawn by J. P. Neale, engraved by W. Radclyffe, and published by Jones and Co., London, 1829), described by Octavius Morgan as ‘the most princely place I ever saw’. *By courtesy of the Society of Antiquaries of London.*

morning after an elegant breakfast, we set off for Wrexham which is a large town, & a very handsome church⁷⁴ the steeple is much carved, & the roof is very beautiful – ~~Thence to Chester~~ 14 miles – From Wrexham to Chester, 11 miles, In our way thither, we went to see Lord Grosvenor’s place Eaton Hall⁷⁵ – It is the most princely place I ever saw [Fig. 4] – It is not very large, but built in the most florid Gothic, all of stone – the Hall [32b] has a fine effect – you drive under a Gothic portico to get out – Lord Grosvenor’s private study is done with tapestry, the billiard room, library & anti-drawing room, are all handsome Gothic⁷⁶ The state bedroom is very small, & the bed enormous, being enclosed within a solid mahogany gothic framework which is very heavy – the Dining room is very large, & has a splendid arched gothic roof, as have all the other apartments, & a most superb etc immense chandeliers – the Music room is stile finis,⁷⁷ it is very lofty, has a finis roof & finis chandelier, a beautiful organ etc, & two magnificent chairs, purple velvet & gold, cost 50 guineas each the great Drawing room is more superb than all, the carving is finis than all the rest, & the hangings purple & gold, the walls are covered with crimson velvet & gold, the roof & chandeliers, are stile superior, to the last, the carving is white &

gold – all the chairs ~~were~~ cost 50 guineas each, & two large ones [33a] crimson satin & gold, £100 – the fire grate cost £200, as did those in the dining parlour, & music room – from a beautiful gothic terrace at the back of the house, on which the principal rooms open is a beautiful view – all the best rooms have stained glass windows – It certainly is a perfect palace – Chester is a very curious place there is a walk around the town upon the top of the old walls – there are curious places called the ‘rows’ which are rows of shops within the houses, on the second floor, the access to which is through long galleries the whole length of the streets, which galleries are built like colonades, which are bounded on one side by the doors and windows of the above mentioned shops, & on the other by a rail to prevent you falling into the street – under these galleries, are other shops on a level with the ~~sea~~ street. The town Hall,⁷⁸ county goal, etc form* a very handsome building – the race course is very small – while we were at dinner, there was clock opposite us [33b] us that went at the rate of 9 miles an hour – After dinner we started for Holywell 17 miles – Chester cathedral is nothing fine, it is built of red sand stone, which has crumbled away very much – Part of the road between Holywell & Chester had been repaired, & heightened, & after the high rains they had had, was become so deep that we were really over the axle trees of the fore wheels in mud, & could hardly be dragged on – Just before we had got there – a chaise with 4 inside passengers had just been righted from an over turn – the Inn at Holywell we found comfortable before we started the next morning, we walked down to see the well from which this place derives its name,⁷⁹ it is very curious, the water rises so fast in the basin, they say 100 tons in a minute – there are many curious stories about it, such as heads cut off, rolling down a hill, this spring rising where it stopped, the head being joined again & the lady living 15 years etc – it is within [34a] a curious old stone building, handsome gothic, & said to perform wonderful cures – from Holywell to St Asaph, where we had breakfast, & went to cathedral it is a very neat one,⁸⁰ & the choir is very pretty, & the service is performed in a manner that would shame ~~the~~ some of the Major cathedrals – Sir Charles & I sat in the stalls – the Bishop was not a little surprised to see us, & made us come and dine with him at 3 o’clock, & go to service again in the Afternoon at the Palace⁸¹ which is a very nice house, we met Mr Hesketh, Mr Bruce, & Mr Hudson⁸² – After service, we set off for Denbigh (& in our way there called upon Mrs Clough)⁸³ 7 miles – the Crown inn⁸⁴ at Denbigh is the best, & that is a perfect pot house, the most nasty stinking place I ever was at – It being so bad went to Abergelly 13 miles, to breakfast – In our way to Abergelly we passed Mr Hesketh’s house, a castellated mansion built in a high rock, which has been cut away to admit the house⁸⁵ – From Abergelly to Conway [34b] 12 miles – At Conway we crossed the ferry & were delayed by the awkwardness of the people in managing the carriage⁸⁶ – Conway castle is beautifully situated on a rock by the water, & the old walls surround the town – From Conway to Bangor 14 miles, In that road we passed through the pass of Penman Mawr, cut through rock by the side of a mountain with a tremendous precipice on one side – We dined & slept with the Bishop that evening – The palace is a very comfortable house indeed⁸⁷ – in the drawing room is a very fine organ – Immediately after breakfast, we went to the ferry 2 miles off, then we ordered dinner, & having got a boat Sir C., Angelena, & I embarked unattended, for Anglesea, there we popped into a chaise & four, & went to Gwyndw,⁸⁸ 12 miles The island is very frightful, so flat & scarcely a tree to be seen – thence to Holyhead, 12 miles on our arrival there, we walked down to see the pier,⁸⁹ which is very handsome & solid thence we went with Mr Thomas Smith,⁹⁰ who took [35a] us on board his yacht, & told us all about the fetes etc in Ireland – Holyhead is hardly to be called a town It is a straggling place with a pier & lighthouse at the end of it – after Luncheon, we went back & having crossed the ferry again, & dined at the Carnarvonshire side of the ferry, we went out to Carnarvon to tea – Wednesday being the first day of the Eisteddfod – about 11 O’clock, the Bp of Bangor & Family came, & with them we proceeded to the County Hall – the Marquess of Anglesea was President, Lord & Lady Uxbridge, Lady Georgiana, & Lady Agness, & Lord Arthur Paget⁹¹ were there – Lord Anglesea opened the business with a speech explaining the nature of the thing – then we had a welsh repetition of

what he had said, then a dissertation on ancient Welsh Music – Then some bards (as they call them) recited some welsh poetry on various subjects which had been previously given them, at intervals a man played on the harp or a military band played⁹² – & then part of an English essay [35b] was read out by Col. L. Parry,⁹³ who took a very active part in the business then the succesful candidate or Bard, who was the composer of a welsh poem, was installed in the bardic chair which was carved oak gothic chair, & had a strip of blue ribbon put around his neck, his prize was 20 guineas or a medal to that amount.⁹⁴ Occasionally during the meeting Ld Anglesea & many others, among them Sir Charles Morgan ~~had occasion to m~~ were obliged to hold forth – The installed youth was a vulgar dirty fellow totally uneducated, I conceive, save & excepting writing & reading – I should like to have understood them, the poems of tinkers, tailors, ploughboys must be good – Upon the adjournment of that meeting we returned to the Inn, & at ½ past four, we went to the Ordinary,⁹⁵ the Marquess was president, Angelena sat between him & Lady Uxbridge on his right hand, & on his left sat Mrs Owen Williams,⁹⁶ & next to her I sat – & when the Ladies withdrew, & Sir C. [36a] supported the Marquess – we had the Bath Harmonics⁹⁷ ~~society~~ who favoured us with beautiful glees between the toasts – The ordinary over, we went to the Concert, at the Guild Hall, which was very good many pretty catches & glees, etc very well sung, it was a very long, & very strong (smell) being very hot – When over we came home hungry to tea & went to bed – Thursday morning at 12 Mrs Majendie⁹⁸ & family came, & we accompanied them to the meeting, the Hall was so full that not half the people could be accomodated & ladies fainted in all directions – so instead of going to the Hall, we went to the Castle, where the Marquess was standing on the steps of the grand entrance – Thence he made an oration to the people, saying that as there was not room in the Hall, they were going to adjourn to the castle court, & that of course those persons who got places in the Hall, must have the choice of places in the castle – & called upon the honour of people not push into the castle before those out of the Hall were all in, but there was [36b] not much honour among them I fear by the attempts they made to get in – When we got into the castle, & a few seats were prepared, it came on to rain, so Sir C. my sister & I made good our retreat, & the rain continuing, the meeting was adjourned till the next day & all dispersed The Marquess & family returned in his yacht (in which they came, & slept that night) to Anglesea & great part of the company departed. Mr O. Williams was president at the ordinary – We did not go – Had the day been fine, the contest of harping was to have taken place the prize for which was a wrought silver harp suspended by a blue ribbon, which was to have been placed on the succesful musician by a lady – but on the next day it took place We took Mrs O Williams to the concert in the evening – Early the next morning we started through Bangor, Conway, Abergaeli, to St Asaph 42 miles altogether. At Carnarvon we met [37a] Mr Alban,⁹⁹ the chaplain to the Welsh society in London,⁹⁹ & he ordered horses, forms, & a boat to be ready at Conway ferry, so we got on without delay – at St Asaph we dined, & stayed at the palace Saturday, at the Bishop's kind invitation – After breakfast, Angelena, I & Miss Luxmore¹⁰⁰ took a ride on three ponies to see a cave, & round by Sir G Lloyd's home,¹⁰¹ the roads were so dirty, that we were splashed, or rather covered with mud from top to toe the bottom of Angelina's habit was for a yard all round, one entire sheet of mud – Col & Mrs Hughes¹⁰² dined there – At dinner we had a haunch of red deer, it looked like 'half a Jackass' – & was next to putrid, so high – Before breakfast next morning we started to breakfast at Holywell 1 7 3 miles – & thence to Chester, but not by the bad road we went before – 17 miles. From Chester to Woodbridge ferry¹⁰³ – 17 miles – there we embarked carriage & all in a steam packet & crossed the ferry 1 mile to Liverpool – [37b] I must not forget to mention an anecdote that proves the proverbial honesty of the Welsh When Sir C. & I first went to the Eisteddfod we forgot to get tickets, & having no change I gave the honest taffy who asked us for our ticket a sovereign to get a couple, which ½ a crown apiece – Going into the concert the first evening a man stopped me & told me that he had given the 15s change to the landlord of the hotel, & when I met my friend afterwards he always reminded me – the Bishop of St Asaph's youngest

son who stayed at the Eisteddfod said that the Harp was won by a man named Hughes,¹⁰⁴ who had formally been his servant –

On our arrival at Liverpool, we drove to the Waterloo,¹⁰⁵ that being full recommended us to the star & garter,¹⁰⁶ there they communed together at the door before they took us in, & then they showed us to a sitting room that was either over the kitchen or oven, & then on [38a] complaining of that, into one as dark as a jail, & stinking of tobacco – grimacing most furiously the whole time, but upon finding that it was Sir Charles, they began to be civil, & begged us to walk into another room, but we walked into our carriage & ~~walked~~ drove off to the King's Arms,¹⁰⁷ very comfortable – on the morrow (Monday) I took my place in the Defiance,¹⁰⁸ to London, & bought me a portmanteau – the exchange & Mansion house¹⁰⁹ are magnificent, the rooms at the Exchange are very fine & handsomely done up – the suite of state rooms at the Mansion house are truly palacelike, the most splendid dining tables, candelabras, stoves etc the great ballroom, is 90 feet by 45 & has 3 of the largest, & most superb cut glass chandeliers I ever saw the furniture crimson cloth, & carved Mahogany – the staircase is very fine, & has a very high & beautiful dome at the top – At ½ past 3 o'clock Sir C & Angelena started for Mr Blackburns,¹¹⁰ & [38b] left me at Liverpool to console myself – After dinner I went to the coach office with my luggage, & to my inexpressible surprise the coach had started, so took a hackney coach with which Liverpool abounds, & pursued the coach but was unable to overtake it, so returned to Liverpool & paid the coach man 10s 6d & lost my fare into the bargain. I secured a place for the next morning, & was in good time for it – the roads ~~in the neighb~~ for some miles from Liverpool are pitched – we met quantities of Irish reapers returning to Ireland, & most of them walking bare foot, & carrying their shoes in their hands – we went through Warrington, Northwich, Nantwich, Burslem, where are abundance of potteries Newcastle, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Dunstable & London – we passed Woburn, & went under Highgate archway & arrived London¹¹¹ at 6 o'clock – on Wednesday, nearly 230 miles, by the circuitous route we came – on Wednesday in the coach there was a lady with her little boy, she [39a] was very ill all the way, fainted once, & was sick three times

List of stages & distances

Abergavenny	21	Bangor	10
Brecon	22	Capel cerrig	17
Trecastle	11	Kernioge	15
Llandovery	13	Corwen	13
Llampeter	16	Llangollen	10
Aberayron	14	Rhuabon	7
Aberystwyth	16	Chester	11
Devil's bridge	12	Holywell	17
Hafod	5	St Asaph	13
Aberystwyth	17	Denbigh	7
Machynlleth	18	Abergelly	13
Dolgelly	17	Conway	12
Barmouth	11	Bangor	14
Harlech	10	Gwynor (Anglesea)	12
Tan y bwlch	17	Holyhead	12
Tremaddoc	10	Back to Bangor ferry	25
Beddgelert	6	Carnarvon	10
Carnarvon	13	Bangor	10
Snowden & back	8	Conway	14

[39b]			
Abergelly	12	Liverpool	18
St Asaph	7	London	207
Holywell	13		
Chester	17	Total number of miles that }	
		In on our whole tour	}753

APPENDIX I

JOURNEY SCHEDULE

Friday 24/8 set off stop Llandoverly
 Saturday 25/8 Aberystwyth
 Sunday 26/8 move to Castle House, Aberystwyth
 Monday 27/8 Hafod (Aberystwyth)
 Tuesday 28/8 Machynlleth
 Wednesday 29/8 Dolgellau
 Thursday 30/8 Barmouth, Harlech (Dolgellau)
 Friday 31/8 Nannau
 Saturday 1/9 Nannau
 Sunday 2/9 Tan y bwlch
 Monday 3/9 Caernarfon
 Tuesday 4/9 Caernarfon – Snowdon
 Wednesday 5/9 Capel Curig
 Thursday 6/9 Llangollen
 Friday 7/9 Wynnstay
 Saturday 8/9 Eaton Hall/Chester/ Holywell
 Sunday 9/9 St Asaph
 Monday 10/9 Bangor
 Tuesday 11/9 Anglesey (Bangor)
 Wednesday 12/9 Eisteddfod, Caernarfon
 Thursday 13/9 Eisteddfod, Caernarfon
 Friday 14/9 to St Asaph
 Saturday 15/9 St Asaph
 Sunday 16/9 to Liverpool
 Monday 17/9 Liverpool (miss coach)
 Tuesday 18/9 coach to London
 Wednesday 19/9 6 pm arrive London

APPENDIX II

A DESCRIPTION OF THE 1821 CAERNARFON EISTEDDFOD
IN THE CAMBRO-BRITAIN, VOLUME 3, 1821

[55]

CARNARVON EISTEDDVOD

On the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th days of last September the first EISTEDDVOD, or Bardic session of the “Cymmorodorian in Gwynedd” took place at Carnarvon, under the auspicious presidency of the Marquis of Anglesea. A numerous assemblage of nobility and gentry also honoured the meeting [56] with their presence, and committed to the occasion an *éclat*, which has seldom been surpassed in the Principality.

The business of the EISTEDDVOD was opened on the 12th by an appropriate address from the noble President, who extolled, in strong and ardent terms, the national objects, which they were assembled to provide, and which, he observed, should never want his most zealous encouragement. This address was afterwards delivered in Welsh by Mr D Thomas (Davydd Du o Eryri), and seemed to make a deep impression upon those who had not understood it from the mouth of the noble President.

The Rev. Mr Bowen, of Bath, was the next to bespeak the attention of the meeting by the perusal of an Essay on Welsh Music, which was received with considerable applause. The chief object of this Essay was an historical review of the *Awen* of Wales from the earliest period down to the time of Glyndwr, when the voice of song was stifled in the unpropitious events of that troubled age. After the conclusion of Mr Bowen’s Essay the musicians of the “Bath Harmonic Society”, who had accompanied that gentleman, played a Welsh air with great skill. Three copies of Welsh verses on the occasion of the EISTEDDVOD were now recited, and experienced a very favourable reception: the writers were Mr D Thomas, Mr John Howels of Llandovery, and Mr Thomas Roberts of Conway. After an appropriate and animated address from Col. Parry and the Bishop of Bangor, the Judges of the Prizes proceeded to declare the successful candidates, of whom the following is an account.

1. The AWDLON ‘Minstreley.’ – Premium twenty guineas – Mr RICHARD JONES of Llanwnda, Carnarvonshire.
2. The CYWYDD on ‘The Accession of the Family of Tudor to the Throne of Great Britain’. – Premium – ten guineas. – Mr W Edwards of Waen Vawr, Llanbeblig.
3. The ENGLYN on ‘The Birth of the first Prince of Wales of English blood at Carnarvon Castle’. – Premium five guineas. – There were fifty-one competitors for the prize, but none of the compositions were adjudged of sufficient merit to obtain it.
4. An ENGLISH ESSAY on the ‘Art of Alphabetical Writing amongst the Celts, and on the form and numbers of their characters’. – Premium, ten guineas. – Mr I H Parry, London.
[57]
5. An ENGLISH ESSAY on the ‘Ancient Orders of Bard, Druid and Ovale’. – Premium, ten guineas – No candidates.

After the announcement of the prizes a premium of two guineas was proposed for the best Welsh poetical composition on the ‘Exploits of the Marquis of Anglesea in the service of his country’. The subject was announced in Welsh, but upon being afterwards explained in English, the compliment was delicately declined by the noble Marquis, who proposed, in its stead, that the subject should be ‘The Benefits likely to arise from the visit of our most gracious king to his subjects.’ This thence was finally selected; and the compositions which were not to exceed twenty lines, were to be delivered before nine o’clock the following morning.

The proceedings of the first day closed with a vote of thanks, proposed by the Dean of Bangor, to Sir Charles Morgan, who was present on the occasion, and who, in acknowledging the honour done to him, took the opportunity of saying, that he would use his best exertions to have an EISTEDDVOD next year in the province of Gwent*.

[footnote * *This, we believe, has since been determined upon, and Brecon is said to be the place selected for the occasion. – ED*].

On Thursday, the 13th of September, the meeting was resumed, and held by adjournment in the Court of the Castle, the assemblage being become too great for the County Hall. The Gwyneddigion Prize Poem on the 'Fall of Lywelyn' which had been adjudged to the Rev. Walter Davies, was this day recited by Mr David Thomas; and a programme in English, for the benefit of those unacquainted with the original, was read by the Rev. Mr Casgob, whose active zeal on this, as on every former occasion had been evinced in a remarkable manner. The Premium of two guineas, for the best Ode upon the King's Visit of his Subjects was adjudged to Mr Richard Jones, who recited the successful effusion. And this appears to have terminated the proceedings of the second day, as far as they related to the EISTEDDVOD.

On Friday, September 14th, the Meeting reassembled at the Castle; and the musical competition on the Welsh harp immediately commenced. There were eleven competitors; and the order in which they were to play was decided by lot in the [58] following manner:- 1. Margaret Edwards, of Corwen, a blind woman. 2. Richard Pugh of Dolgellau. 3. W Hughes of Welshpool. 4. John Morgan, of Corwen, a blind man. 5. Edward Williams of Bangor. 6. Robert Rowlands of Beddgelert, blind. 7. Evan Jones, of the Abbey, Llanrwst. 8. Mr Benjamin Connah of Rhiwabon. 9. Elizabeth Hughes of Carnarvon, a young girl. 10. Evan Jones, of Capel Curig. 11. John Williams, of Pwllheli, blind.

After a vigorous and doubtful contest, especially between three of the performers, the first prize, the silver harp was awarded to Mr William Hughes, of Welshpool, and the second prize, a medal, to John Morgan, of Carnarvon. Considerable praise was, at the same time, bestowed upon the taste and correctness, with which Mr Benjamin Connah had played. The successful candidates were then invested with their prizes, appended to blue ribbons, by the Hon. Mrs Irby, and the business of the day was brought to a close, the singing of the *Pennillion* with the harp being postponed until the following morning.

On the morning of Saturday, September 15th, the EISTEDDVOD was once more resumed at the Castle: and several candidates appeared to contend for the *Pennillion* prize. The contest continued with unabated ardour for several hours, until the competitors were at length reduced to two; and after an obstinate struggle, victory at length declared itself for Richard Jones of Llangwyuan, in the county of Denbigh, who received the premium of three guineas, the second premium of one guinea being adjudged to his less fortunate rival, Thomas Edwards, of Corwen.

Thus terminated the proceedings of the EISTEDDVOD, as far as they related to its national objects and genuine characteristics. It would be beyond the purposes of this brief account to record all the traits of festivity and good fellowship, that distinguished this Bardic Congress during the four days of its continuance. It is but justice to add, however, that they were such to prove, in the most unequivocal manner, the joy and enthusiasm with which all ranks participated in their national festival. And the spirit, with which the EISTEDDVOD in Gwynedd was conducted, will long be remembered as [59] worthy of the proudest æra of past times, and as a bright example of patriotism to ages yet to come*.

[footnote * *We ought to notice, that the co-operation of the musicians of the 'Bath Harmonic Society', under the auspices of the Rev. Mr Bowen, contributed greatly to the spirit and hilarity of the meeting. The Band of the Royal Denbigh Militia, sent expressly by Sir W W Wynn, also attended. – ED*].

Among the distinguished individuals who honoured Carnarvon with their presence on this occasion besides the noble President, were the Earl and Countess of Uxbridge, the Ladies Paget, Lord A Paget, Lord Newborough, Lord and Lady Selsey, the Lord Bishop of Bangor and Mrs Majendie, Hon. G and Mrs Irby, Hon. Paul and Mrs Irby, Hon. Mr Wynne, Sir Charles Morgan and family, Sir W B Hughes, Sir Joseph Huddart, the Dean of Bangor and family, Owen Williams Esq MP, T P Williams Esq MP, H D Pennant Esq MP and Col Parry, whose active zeal and judicious services on this interesting occasion particularly entitle him to the gratitude of his countrymen.

THE HARP CONTEST

The nature of the ‘vigorous and doubtful’ harp contest was the subject of a letter to the *Cambro-Briton* which was published, with an introduction, on pages 126–7 of volume 3. Most of the letter is reproduced below.

The contest for the Silver Harp proved a very interesting but certainly not a *fair* one; there were eleven harpers, who after the first trial, were reduced to three, viz B Cunnah, W Hughes, and J Morgan.

Richard Roberts of Carnarvon, who gained the prize at Wrexham last year, was appointed the umpire, assisted by the Rev W Cotton, who conducted the Concerts, and Mr A Loder of Bath.¹¹² Both Mr Cotton and Mr Loder were decidedly of the opinion, that Cunnah was by far the most scientific performer, and that W Hughes was next in merit; but R Roberts would not hear a word of it, and wished to give the prize to Morgan. It was at length agreed, that each should play a simple Welsh air, without any variations; this was accordingly done, and R Roberts persisted, that Cunnah did not play in time; he, therefore, awarded the medal to W Hughes. [*note: at this stage five judges were involved, two of whom supported Roberts's decision*] The cause of this partial decision may, perhaps without difficulty be traced; Cunnah came in neck and neck with Roberts at Wrexham, and may have created in the old minstrel something like *gwenwyn*. As a proof that the audience were of a different opinion, a subscription was immediately entered into (confined to five shillings each person), to produce a medal or a piece of plate for Cunnah, as a compliment to his talents.

NOTES

1. 24 Avenue South, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8PJ. tycapelbeulah@hotmail.co.uk
2. I am grateful for the permission of the Society of Antiquaries to publish a transcript of this manuscript.
3. I have tried to make endnotes suitable for a general reader's guidance and apologise if they are either too full or not full enough.
4. *The Cambro-Briton and General Celtic Repository* was published from 1819 to 1822 in London. It is in three volumes.
5. For a fuller description of the manuscript and its donor see Willets 2000, 291. There is also a manuscript (MS 681) by Octavius Morgan, containing an account of two continental tours in 1827 and 1835.
6. Jenkins *et al.* 2007, 171.
7. The three were accompanied by servants for almost all of the time but these were not named or numbered. Octavius travelled back from Liverpool to London on his own and the trip to and across Anglesey was explicitly without servants—being ‘unattended’.
8. Thompson 2003, 303. The quote is from *Memoirs of Monmouthshire*, attributed by Thompson to R. Blewitt.
9. Roberts 2004, 105; Nicholas 1872, vol. 2, 782; Williams 1997; anon. 1889, which states (in his obituary) ‘Personally Mr Octavius Morgan was a delightful companion, full of information on his favourite subjects, and willing to impart it’.
10. Thomas 2004; Fisher 2009, vol. 6, 434–6. For a pictorial illustration of Sir Charles' interest in agriculture see the ‘Ploughing Match at Castleton’ by J G Mullock (National Museum of Wales (NMW), A26149)
11. Nicholas 1872, vol. 2, 907.
12. For the 1820 election see Fisher 2009, vol. 1, 217–8.
13. Bloom and Bloom 2002, 6, 502. There is also the captioned lithograph of Wynnstay by C. Hullmandel, published June 1821, showing it ‘fitted up for the reception of George IV on His Tour to Ireland’ (Howell and Pritchard 1972, 784).

14. J. B. Macaulay (1800–1859) as a ‘reluctant student’ on a ‘Reading Holiday’ visited Bangor on 31 August 1821, and saw George IV sailing through the Menai Straits (Williams 2003, 44).
15. *Gentleman's Magazine* 91 (1), (1821), 417–419.
16. *Gentleman's Magazine* 91(2), (1821), 133–135.
17. Jenkins *et al.* 2007, 595.
18. Stratton 1969, 100.
19. Given comments about the standard of education at Westminster School I feel fortunate in the relative clarity of the manuscript. A history of the school reported first that ‘in 1819 the school entered on a period which is in some ways the darkest’, and second that Lord Melbourne said to Queen Victoria ‘I do not know why there is all this fuss about education, none of the Paget family (Marquis of Anglesea) can read or write, and they do very well’ (Carleton 1965, 48 and 53).
20. Hugh Bold II (1770–1867), Bailiff of Brecon in 1795, 1805, 1812, 1814 (Verey 1960, 70 and genealogical table 73). Hugh Bold had been the Morgan political agent in the 1820 election. At some stage before 1826 he quarrelled with the family. The Morgans had lost Breconshire in the election of 1818 but had survived a challenge to the electoral system of Brecon in 1820 (Fisher 2009, vol. 6, 435; also Thomas, 1993, 112–114). Hugh Bold appeared amongst those speaking at the Brecon meeting of 6 December 1821 in support of the Gwent Eisteddfod (*Cambro-Briton*, 3, 18).
21. The Lewes family of Llanerchaeron (SN 433409). The house was built by John Nash in 1794–95 and is currently in the care of the National Trust (Jones 2000, 159–60; Lloyd *et al.* 2006, 512–4).
22. Octavius was mistaken about the builder of the inn at Aberaeron. It was part of the development by the Revd Alban Thomas Jones Gwynne of Mynachdy and Tyglyn, Cardiganshire.
23. I have not been able to identify the Greer family or any of its connections with the Morgans. There was no one of that surname at Westminster School, nor any contemporary MP. The ‘gentry’ Greers seem to be mostly based in Ireland. Octavius also met them later staying at Capel Curig so they were on a tour.
24. Harry (or Henry) Lloyd of Brecon does not appear in the Westminster School lists. He is possibly of the Lloyd family of Dinas, Brecon who became direct political opponents of the Morgans (Thomas 1993, 117).
25. Sir John Morris. The Baronetcy is of Clasmont, Glamorgan, created in 1806. This would be the second baronet (1775–1855) who succeeded his father in 1819.
26. Talbot Inn, Aberystwyth. The town came into favour as a fashionable holiday resort because it was cheap, although at this time costs were rising. The main hotels were the Talbot, followed by the Gogerddan Arms, and the Old Black Lion a noisy third. The Assembly Rooms, opened in July 1820 do not rate a mention by Octavius. The ‘chapel’ is the first building of St Michael’s church opened in 1787. Consideration of ‘the Brighton of Wales’ in the early nineteenth century can be found in Lewis, 1960.
27. For the promenade and warm bath at Aberystwyth see Freeman 2007, 74. The Court Leet approved a lease for building the Warm Bath in 1799, but it was apparently not completed until about 1810 (but Lloyd *et al.* 2006, 401 has completion 1808). The warm bath had a Public Breakfast Room attached which may explain the comment about having a ‘charming’ bath, but ‘beastly breakfast’. For details of holidays at Aberystwyth by a family lower in the social scale than the Morgans see Oliver 1986.
28. The mourning was for Queen Caroline of Brunswick, ‘injured’ wife of George IV, who died 7 August 1821 and whose funeral procession involved riots in London with the Lifeguards killing two of the demonstrators. Sir Charles had signed the Breconshire Loyal Address to the King, in January 1821, along with Lord Camden, when Queen Caroline was attracting popular support, so

- his public sympathies were not with her cause (Fisher 2009, vol. 6, 435–6). According to *The Times* the Lord Chamberlain ordered full Court Mourning on the 14 August, half mourning on 13 September and an end to mourning on 27 September. The newly crowned George IV was meanwhile on Anglesey or in Ireland, where, it is said, there was some difficulty in persuading him to wear mourning, although at his public entry to Dublin on 17 August he did wear a crape band on his arm. The short public mourning period indicated by the behaviour of people in Aberystwyth might indicate that Caroline’s popularity in Wales and the provinces was not as great as in London and the south-east of England, although the varieties of mourning behaviour at this time were complex (Johnson 1992, 526–38; Hibbert 1973, 210; Fritz 1982, 314; Behrendt 1997, 199–202).
29. ‘The Castle’, Aberystwyth. The cooking arrangements and accommodation are explained by the ‘Castle’ being Castle House, built in 1795 by John Nash for Sir Uvedale Price. By 1801 it was being let for part of the year and by 1824 it was recorded as an annexe of the Talbot hotel (Jones 2000, 13–14). This process seems to have been under way earlier. The details of the accommodation set out later in the account tally with the plans and descriptions of Castle House (Suggett 1995, 64–71).
 30. This conjunction, if not meeting, was not without a potential element of social embarrassment. Edward William Smythe Pemberton (after 1814 Owen) (1793–1862) of Condover Park, Shropshire was engaged to be married to Georgiana Morgan, daughter of Sir Charles and sister to Angelina and Octavius. Invitations to the wedding were sent out in mid-July 1817, but by the 31 July he had been ‘jilted’ by the lady. We have this information from the letters of that great Welshwoman, Hester Lynch Piozzi (Bloom and Bloom, 2002, vol. 6, 103).
 31. Probably Charles Richard Littledale (1807–92) Westminster School 1819, Christchurch, Oxford 1825, and George Dixon (1801–74), Westminster School 1813–21 (Barker and Stenning 1928, 271 and 581).
 32. Macve (2004, 24–5) refers to the building of the inn. The one used by Octavius Morgan would be the rebuild and enlargement of 1814.
 33. The creator of Hafod and its landscape, Thomas Johnes, had died in 1816. In 1821 the estate was still subject to legal dispute, and would not be put up for auction until 1832 eventually being purchased by the Duke of Newcastle in 1834 (Macve 2004, 26).
 34. ‘Cockney’ as in ‘London’, compare Iolo Morganwg referring to ‘be-cocknified Welsh subscribers’ (Jenkins *et al.* 2007, 2).
 35. The cast iron Devils Bridge (see Macve 2004, 24). In *c.* 1814 the ‘upper bridge’ (the middle one of today) was partly rebuilt with Johnes responsible for the design and manufacture of the ornamental iron railings.
 36. On cottages of ‘mud’ see Wiliam 1995, 23–40 and Wiliam 2010, 103–15.
 37. These ‘Curious pebbles’ were probably from the formation within the Silurian strata, known as the Hafod Member ‘characteristically thinly bedded, shelly and containing phosphatic pebbles’ (Macve 2004, 14).
 38. Plas Machynlleth, see Haslam, 1979, 156. Colonel John Edwards (1770–1850) derived his rank as a Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal West Montgomery Local Militia 1808–16 (Owen 2000, 68). Following the 1832 election reforms he eventually became a Whig MP for Montgomery Borough and for his political ‘services’ was made a baronet in 1838.
 39. Haslam 1979, 156.
 40. St Peter, Machynlleth. Haslam (1979, 155) says that the rest of the church was rebuilt by Edward Haycock senior in 1827

41. Possibly Richard John Price (1803–42), eldest son of Richard Watkin Price of Rhiwlas, Merioneth, who was at Westminster School 1817–21 (Barker and Stenning 1928, 761), and the Gresley's of Meriden Hall, Warwickshire. William (1801–28), Richard (1804–37) and Francis Gresley (1807–80) followed the route from Westminster School to Christchurch, in Richard's case Westminster School in 1815 and Christchurch in 1822 making him a contemporary of Octavius Morgan (Barker and Stenning 1928, 399).
42. According to Haslam *et al.* (2009, 615) the Blue Lion Inn was built *c.* 1830 by the Vaughans, but perhaps it is earlier.
43. More properly, Hugh Reveley, who inherited by marriage the modest Owen estate and built Bryn y Gwin Isaf (1803–06), described as 'Reptonian on a miniature scale' (Haslam *et al.* 2009, 596).
44. Sir Robert William Vaughan, 2nd baronet (1792–1842). This was the 'neo-classical near cube' house begun in 1788, completed 1795, and enlarged in 1805 by Joseph Bromfield. There is no mention of the tower and spire of the church of St Machreth which was being rebuilt 1820–22 (Haslam *et al.* 2009, 639–40).
45. The ride was presumably along the one created on the 'Precipice Walk' around Moel Cynwch.
46. Now known as the Oakley Arms, mentioned as 'small and neat' in 1784 and enlarged pre-1835 (Haslam *et al.* 2009, 673). Plas Tan y Bwlch is the National Park Centre (see Hughes 1989).
47. Mr William Oakley (1790–1835). To quote Mrs Piozzi: 'February 1817 private Occurrence concerning the near Marriage of a Welsh Gentleman who has – Oh I forget how many Thousands o'year: who lives like as the old Noblemen lived in former days – and who to crown it all keeps a harper (weds girl without a penny) his name is Oakley . . . for Mr Oakley called on me once, and was I thought an agreeable man with particularly fine eyes.' (Bloom and Bloom 2002, vol. 6, 67, footnote 13.2).
48. Octavius Morgan's gossip was out of date. Maddocks' financial problems had been eased by his marriage to an heiress in 1818 (Beazley 1967, 210) and the major problems with the embankment were over. The church (1811) was one of the earliest Gothick revival churches in Wales, the gate was of Coad stone shipped from London (Beazley 1967, 98).
49. Now the Celtic Royal Hotel, built early in the nineteenth century by the first Marquess of Anglesea (Haslam *et al.* 2009, 309).
50. This would have been Richard Roberts who was the chief judge of the harp at the Caernarvon Eisteddfod (*Cambro-Briton* 3, 126).
51. A 'slipper' in the context of a coach is 'a form of skid used to retard the speed of a vehicle in descending a hill' (*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edn, Oxford, 1989, 15, 719). The term seems to have come into fashion in the early nineteenth century.
52. Llanbeblig Church (see Haslam *et al.* 2009, 281–2). I am not sure what prompted the observation that it was once a Roman Catholic church.
53. The 'irish road' and the towers of the Menai 'chain bridge' is this journal's first reference to Thomas Telford's 'Holyhead Road' (see Quartermaine *et al.* 2003). The Menai Suspension Bridge was started in 1818 and opened to the public in January 1826 (Quartermaine *et al.* 2003, 88).
54. Bishop Henry William Majendie (1754–1830), bishop of Bangor 1809–30, noted for being corpulent and given to awarding rich livings to relatives (Clarke 1969).
55. The slate quarry by the Telford road would be the Penrhyn quarry at Caebraichycaf. Bethesda, initially built on non-Penrhyn estate land, had barely started as a settlement.
56. Capel Curig Inn (see Quartermaine *et al.* 2003, 103–4). The inn was built by Lord Penrhyn early in the nineteenth century at the eastern end of the Bangor to Capel Curig turnpike. It was renamed the Royal Hotel in 1870. It attracted a high status clientele including royalty.

57. Cernioge Mawr Inn (see Quartermaine *et al.* 2003, 100–3). The inn was in a very isolated spot but had a good reputation. It seems to have gone out of business with the abandonment of the coach service in 1839.
58. The Swallow Falls.
59. Possibly the Hon. Henrietta Tracy, the wife of Charles Hanbury Tracy (1778–1858) of Pontypool Park, Monmouthshire. Charles Hanbury took the additional name of Tracy at his marriage in 1798. Henrietta died in 1839.
60. Plas Newydd (see Hubbard 1994, 222–3). Did Octavius Morgan derive inspiration from Plas Newydd for his rebuilding of The Friars near Tredegar House?
61. Valle Crucis.
62. In June 1806 Sir Richard Colt Hoare wrote of the same stretch of the great Irish Road that it was ‘infested by herds of beggars and children trained to begging by incessantly following the carriage for great distances’ (Thompson 1983, 240); In 1854 George Borrow noted that ‘the children of the lower class of Llangollen are great pests to visitors. The best way to get rid of them is to give them nothing’ (Borrow 1958, 38).
63. Pont Cysyllte, completed in 1805 (Hubbard 1994, 166).
64. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (1772–1840), 5th baronet, succeeding in 1789. According to Hubbard (1994, 314) the house had been recased *c.* 1820. Sir Watkin and Sir Charles were both trustees of the London Society of ‘Ancient Britons’ (Fisher 2009, vol. 1, 79).
65. Wynnstay cold bath existing by 1784 and involving work by Harrison (Hubbard 1994, 316).
66. Wynnstay column by Wyatt, commemorating the 4th baronet, who died 1789 (Hubbard 1994, 316).
67. John William Egerton, earl of Bridgewater (1753–1823), whose estates included land in Flintshire.
68. Probably the Wynnstay greenhouse, built in 1785 to designs by John Evans and James Wyatt (Hubbard 1994, 315).
69. It is interesting that the Morgans regarded the thrashing machine as worth commenting on, but unfortunately do not mention how it was powered. This was possibly by horses. In 1798 there had only been two thrashing machines in North Wales, one water and the other steam powered (William 1986, 173). While thrashing machines had become viable by the late eighteenth century they were still the preserve of the wealthy, especially as labour had become cheaper after the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The age of the thrashing machine started after the 1830s (Partridge 1973, 162–5; Overton 1996, 125).
70. The Wynnstay stables were built in 1738–39 (Hubbard 1994, 315).
71. *i.e.* buffets (sideboards).
72. Designed by Paul Storr, dated 1815 and supplied by the silversmiths Rundell, Bridge & Rundell: National Museum Wales, A51210.
73. Sir Watkin would have been hoping that George IV might visit him, perhaps on his journeys to and from Ireland. On George IV’s return from Ireland gales in the Irish Sea meant that the Royal Yacht had to take shelter in Milford Haven and then after attempting but failing, to round the Land’s End peninsula returned to Milford Haven. The King’s unwillingness to risk Welsh roads is shown by a letter he wrote at the time ‘what from the very mountainous and bad state of the roads through this part of South Wales, the scarcity of horses, the dreadful length of the stages, and, after all, the formidable length of the journey itself (being above two hundred and seventy two miles) and this too, unattended with any sort of comfort or accommodation on the road, at any rate, until we reach Gloucester’ (Fitzgerald 1881, 290). The Royal Yacht being stuck in Milford Haven meant that there was no choice but for the King to proceed by road via Carmarthen, Brecon, where he dined and stayed at Priory House, (Thomas 1993, 87–8), and Cheltenham back to London.

- Hibbert (1973, 22) is wrong in suggesting that he sailed to Portsmouth to avoid Welsh roads. A probable reason for George IV not returning to London via Holyhead and Wynnstay is given in the account of the Countess of Glengall in a letter dated 10 September 1821: ‘The King I find has cut his voyage short by landing at Milford. He was strongly advised to go quietly to Holyhead, but Sir Watkin had refused to receive a certain part of his cortège, saying his wife did not know the ladies’. The ‘ladies’ objected to would have included George IV’s infamous last mistress, Lady Conyngham, with whom he was publicly besotted (Maxwell 1904, vol. 2, 31). In 1822 George IV visited Scotland, or rather Edinburgh and its environs. Of the fourteen days he was there, less than thirty hours were spent in public, almost half of those indoors, so perhaps the Welsh avoided further disappointment (Prebble 1988, 236).
74. St Giles, Wrexham. Hubbard (1994, 298–302) refers to ‘the crustaceous richness’ of the tower’s decoration.
 75. This was the house built and furnished between 1804–12, for the 2nd earl Grosvenor by William Porden (c. 1755–1822) and demolished to make way for the better-known Waterhouse design. Illustrations of the saloon and armchairs can be found in Davis 1974, pls 120, 139, 144.
 76. There are eight Gothick-style armchairs from Eaton Hall in the Octagon Drawing Room of Basildon Park, Berkshire, a National Trust property.
 77. I assume that this spelling is meant for ‘finest’.
 78. The shire hall, castle and gaol were the newly built complex by Thomas Harrison (Champness 2005, pls 45–49 and 54–59).
 79. St Winifride’s Well, Hubbard 1994, 371–3.
 80. St Asaph cathedral, Bishop John Luxmore, bishop of St Asaph 1815–30. Hubbard (1994, 435–440) notes that the choir had been refurnished 1809–10, probably by John Turner, plaster vaulting was inserted in the nave by Lewis Wyatt c. 1822, and that the medieval canopied stalls occupied their present position in choir before 1832.
 81. The Bishop’s Palace, St Asaph. The ashlar east front is dated to 1791 (Hubbard 1994, 440).
 82. Mr Hesketh was Mr Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh (1788–1861) of Gwyrch Castle, Mr Bruce and Mr Hudson were his brothers-in-law; Mr Bruce (1788–1836) became the 2nd baronet Downhill, Co. Londonderry, in 1822 and had married Ellen Hesketh; Mr Hudson (c. 1772–1852), MP for Evesham 1831–34, married Frances Hesketh (Bloom & Bloom 1999, vol. 5, *Letters 1811–1816*, 364).
 83. Mrs Clough was presumably living at Plas Clough, just north of Denbigh.
 84. The Crown Hotel, currently a listed Grade II building located on Crown Square, just off the centre of Denbigh. Although used by Mrs Piozzi this seems a curious choice given the variety of inns in the town.
 85. Gwyrch Castle, created by Lloyd Bamford Hesketh. The foundation stone was laid 1819 and it was likely to have been finished by 1822 (Hubbard 1994, 175–8).
 86. Construction work by Telford to replace the ferry with a bridge was not started until 1822, and opened in July 1826 (Quartermaine *et al.*, 2003, 81–3). The insolence and avarice of the Conway ferrymen was notorious (Davies 1942, 215–8); ‘the wilful delays, and the gross and bare-faced impositions of the ferry-men’ (Bingley 1814, 70).
 87. The Bishop’s Palace is now the Town hall. Bishop Majendie had added a wing in 1810 (Haslam *et al.* 2005, 243).
 88. It was the normal practice to pick up a carriage on the Anglesey shore, even though it was possible to transport private coaches (Davies 1942, 277). Gwyndy was a well-established coaching inn which served the Menai ferry to Holyhead 1765 turnpike route, until the opening of the Telford

- road which by-passed it. It was replaced by the purpose-built Mona Inn (Quartermaine *et al.* 2003, 105–8).
89. The ‘Admiralty Pier’ was constructed by John Rennie and completed 1821. It has been suggested that the lighthouse was erected later but evidently a lighthouse at the end did exist in 1821, allowing for arrivals after dark. The Morgans missed the excitement of King George IV abandoning the Royal Yacht, trapped at Holyhead by adverse winds, and sailing for Ireland on 12 August 1821 by the newly introduced steamer, the *Lightning* (Quartermaine *et al.* 2003, 108–10).
 90. Probably Thomas Assheton-Smith (1776–1858) of Vaenol, Bangor who was notoriously keen on yachting.
 91. The Marquess of Anglesea was Henry Paget (1768–1854). His children accompanying him were by his first wife whom he had divorced in 1810. Lord and Lady Uxbridge were his eldest son Henry Paget (1797–1869) and his wife Eleanora Campbell (1799–1828), together with Georgiana (1800–75), Agnes (1804–45) and Arthur (1805–25). The Marquess of Anglesey, as Lord High Steward, had carried St Edward’s crown as part of the Royal regalia at the coronation of George IV (*Gentleman’s Magazine*, 91 (2), (1821), 6).
 92. The Royal Denbigh Militia band (see Appendix II).
 93. Col. L. Parry also figures in the account in Appendix II. This was Colonel Love Parry Jones (1781–1853) of Madryn Park, Caernarvonshire. He had briefly been a Whig MP for Horsham (1807–08) and was later to represent the Caernarvon Boroughs in 1835–37. He had experienced regular army service, being involved in action in Canada in the war of 1812–14, and his army career continued with him being eventually knighted. He had followed the Westminster School (1796), Christchurch, Oxford (1799) route, but his politics were not such as to recommend him to the Morgans (Falkner 2004; Thorne 1986, vol. 4, 323–9).
 94. Richard Jones of Llanwnda (see Appendix II).
 95. An ‘Ordinary’ was a meal in a public house, usually at a set price, of a communal nature with one person presiding to welcome guests and to order the proceedings.
 96. The wife of Mr Owen Williams who later presided at the ‘Ordinary’. Mrs Williams (Margaret Hughes of Kinnel Park) married Owen Williams (1764–1832) of Temple House, Bisham, Berkshire, and Craig y Don, Anglesey, educated Westminster School 1776. He was re-elected MP for Great Marlow, Buckinghamshire, in 1820, helped by the influence of the Marquess of Anglesea. His grandfather founded the family fortunes as manager of the Parys Mountain copper mines on behalf of the (then) earl of Uxbridge and had also sat as MP for Great Marlow. Owen Williams at this time was categorised as a ‘conservative member of the Whig opposition to Lord Liverpool’. By 1830 he had become a Tory (Fisher 2009, vol. 7, 784–5).
 97. We know from the account in the *Cambro-Briton* (see Appendix II) that the conductor of the Bath Harmonics was the Revd John Bowen, who had also appeared with them at the Carmarthen Eisteddfod of 1819. From the *Cambro-Briton* account we know that it was Mr Bowen who delivered the dissertation on the subject of early Welsh music. The Bath Harmonics, founded in 1779, had eight professional singers. Unlike some other glee and catch clubs they only performed vocal works. The development of glees is a complicated subject but, while being a contemporary art form, it had strong ‘antiquarian’ elements and was at times seeking to define itself as a ‘national’ music form (Robins 2006, especially 92–5 and 150). The Revd W. J. Rees in his address of 5 December 1821 to the Gwent Cambrian Society said that the Cambrian Societies ‘are much indebted for entertainment to the professional performers of the Bath Harmonic Society, who sing the Airs of Cambria with a sweetness of tone, correctness of science and chasteness of execution, which delighted all who hear them.’ (*Cambro-Briton* 3, 228)

98. Mrs Majendie, the Bishop's wife.
99. Mr Alban does not appear as an Oxbridge graduate. No Albans are recorded in the alumni records for Cambridge (Venn 1922) and none of a suitable date for Oxford (Foster 1888). The 'Welsh London Society' was the second Cymmorodorion Society, formed in June 1820. Although the post or name of the chaplain appears not to have been formally recorded until 1836 (Jenkins and Ramage 1951, 383), in 1822 at the Saint David's Day service at St James', Piccadilly, Mr Alban is noted as the Society's chaplain taking the service in Welsh (*Cambro-Briton* 3, 383). The easier crossing of the Conway ferry might have been connected with the fact that the owner was Mr Owen Williams, MP, who had been very prominent at the Eisteddfod (Davies 1942, 216).
100. Miss Luxmore, the bishop's daughter. It is worth noting that on 2 June 1821, the reformed Cymmorodorion Society elected Miss Fanny Luxmore, of the Palace, St Asaph, and five other ladies, as Honorary Members of the Institution for their services to Welsh culture (*Cambro-Briton* 3, 61).
101. This ride seems to have been to the SSE of St Asaph. The cave was probably Cefn 'Old Cave' in the Elwy valley and the house probably Plas yn Cefn which remained in the Lloyd family until 1848. If the cave came first they rode down the Elwy valley and then back over the top.
102. Probably William Lewis Hughes (1767–1852) first son of Revd Edward Hughes of Kinmel Park, who had earned a fortune from the copper of Parys Mountain, Anglesey. William Hughes became Lord Dinorben in 1831. He had been made a Colonel of the Royal Anglesey Militia in 1808, had married Charlotte Margaret in 1804 and was MP for Wallingford, Berkshire. A Whig by conviction, although 'never the most dedicated of parliamentary attenders' (Fisher 2009, vol. 5, 743–5). One of his brothers, another colonel, Lieutenant Colonel James Hughes (1778–1845) of the 18th Hussars, had fought in the Napoleonic Wars but he did not marry until later and so cannot be the bishop's guest (Fisher 2009, vol. 5, 741–3).
103. More correctly the Woodside ferry where, earlier in 1821, Hugh Williams had taken over the ferry with the steam packet, the *Countess of Bridgewater*, moved from the Ellesmere Port crossing.
104. William Hughes of Welshpool, harpist (see Appendix II).
105. None of the three hotels that the Morgans considered for accommodation survive. They were all quite close together. Waterloo hotel, Liverpool, Ranelagh Street. The proprietor, William Lynn later founded Aintree racecourse.
106. Star and Garter, Liverpool, Paradise Street.
107. King's Arms, Liverpool, Lower Castle Street.
108. I have had some problems with Octavius' coaches. First the afternoon coach he missed, the 'Defiance'. In 1830 this was the name of a Manchester to London coach and nothing of that name ran from Liverpool. Coaches named 'Defiance' coaches also ran from elsewhere in the country. Then of the coach he caught in the morning. In his text he says that the distance was nearly 230 miles 'by the circuitous route we came', but in his list of stages he gives the distance as 207 miles. In 1830 published route distances varied between 212 and 222 miles. Octavius also caught a coach the next morning and arrived in London 'at 6 o'clock'. The reference to the lady and her little boy 'on Wednesday' suggests that the arrival time was 6pm. The route he said he followed, especially around Derby and Leicester was not an 1830 Liverpool to London route, but would confirm his description of a 'circuitous route'. In 1830 the Liverpool to London coach times were around twenty-six hours. On this basis, to arrive in London at 6pm Wednesday would mean a 4pm start, but Octavius says that his was a morning coach. This suggests that in 1821 Octavius, leaving Liverpool at c. 10am and arriving in London at 6pm might have spent at least thirty-one hours on

- his journey, enjoying the company of the ill lady from about Leicester. For the 1830 information see <http://www.carlscam.com/coach.htm> (consulted 12.7.2011).
109. Exchange and Mansion House, Liverpool. The dome had been completed in 1802, following the big fire of 1795. The State Apartments had been completed in 1820 (Pollard 2006, 286–91).
 110. Probably John Blackburne (1754–1833) of Orford Hall, near Warrington, Lancashire, MP for Lancashire 1784–1830. He tended to vote with the government and can be called ‘anti-Catholic, Pittite and Tory’. In 1820 his demeanour was described as ‘extremely absent and otherwise odd’ (Fisher 2009, vol. 4, 282–3).
 111. The Morgan residence in London at this time was 70 Pall Mall. The lease had been acquired by Sir Charles in 1810, and it was left by him to Octavius on his death in 1846. Octavius sold it to the Guards Club and it was demolished (Thompson 2003, 305). In his account of his trip to the North of England in 1820, Octavius mentions returning to this address in London.
 112. There was a musical family of this name in Bath, with an Andrew Loder appointed organist of the Octagon Chapel by 1751. The competition judge must be a younger relative (Sadie 2001, 15, 56).

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