

MEYRICK, Sir SAMUEL RUSH, LL.D., F.S.A., was educated at Oxford, and afterwards practised for many years as an advocate in the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty courts; but his real study and pursuit was that of antiquities and archæology; and in his residence, Goodrich Court, Herefordshire, he gradually accumulated a very large collection of armour, which is now deposited in the South Kensington Museum. His two great works, which are standard authorities on the subject they treat of, are, 'A Critical Inquiry into Antient Armour, as it existed in Europe, but particularly in England from the Norman Conquest to the reign of Charles II.; with a Glossary of Military Terms of the Middle Ages,' 3 vols. 4to., 1824, and again 1844; and the letter-press portion of Joseph Skelton's 'Engraved Illustrations of Ancient Arms and Armour' in his collection, 2 vols. 4to, 1830, and again 1854. Sir Samuel also published 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Cardigan,' and edited Lewis Dunn's 'Heraldic Visitations of Wales.' Died 2 April, 1848, aged 65. 676

My dear Sir

The environs of Corwen, the next stage beyond Llan-gollen on the road to Bangor Ferry, abound in traditional circumstances corrupted or exaggerated in the life of Owain Glyndwr, who is regarded by the peasantry within them as a being wonderful in every respect. In this neighbourhood is Glyndyrdoy (i.e. the vale of the water of the Wye) Park celebrated as the birth-place of this Cambrian meteor, and three quarters of a mile before entering Corwen is seen a bank of earth, now planted with firs, on which tradition ^{says} he practised the ^{stratagem} tradition of driving stakes into the ground and cloathing them so as to resemble men. While the enemy's attention was arrested by these he had the horse-shoes of his cavalry turned the wrong way so that his retreat seemed to be in a contrary direction. The principal inn in Corwen has the head of this chieftain for its sign, and at about a mile beyond this town on the right is Ruy, the seat of Col. Salisbury ^{where} is a dagger with a knife in the same sheath said to have belonged to Owain Glyndwr. As I have not seen the original, I cannot tell what reliance is to be placed on this, but I believe Mr Douce has a drawing of it made by Gose. An instance of the extravagance of the Welsh traditions regarding Owain Glyndwr may be found in the ungrammatical derivation they now give of the lordship of Seith Marchog, between Wrexham and Corwen. It is translated into "Seven Knights" and said to have acquired its appellation from that hero having here slain that number belonging

to Lord Joke. Seith Marchogion would be seven knights, but there are other instances of forced derivations to account for obsolete terms in Wales; as Traeth Seith, which ~~is translated~~ ^{is a variety of names} ~~is translated~~ as if Seith was the genitive case of "the shore of the seven" and then a story is told of seven sisters &c. Seith Marchog is Seith the knight or rider on horse, and is a mythological character, who used to be represented by a Druid on horseback during the celebration of the migrations, and the Traeth was the shore appropriated to such of the ceremonies connected with his worship as were performed by the sea side.

The traditions respecting Owain Glyndwr though so numerous in the district I have mentioned, seem almost confined to it as in other parts of Wales, particularly in the South there is scarce any other notice than what is established by history.

The books in which notices of his attempt at independent sovereignty and its consequences are to be found, are Rymer's Fed. a Queen's Cambrian Geography, The Memoirs of Owen Glendwr attached to a Hist. of England, pub. by Dodsley in 1775, and a late History of him by the clergyman of Allonddewi Abernethy in Cardiganshire, which I have never seen and whose name I forget. It was reviewed last year or the one previous in the Gentle Mag.

Any further information that I can give on this or any other subject you are quite welcome to.

May I trouble you to inform me whether your private

Catalogue of the Museum M.S. contains any reference to Welsh pedigrees. I have examined all those referred to in the printed catalogue, and continually find references to Hugh Thomas's genealogies of Montgomeryshire, but the volume is not there. If there should be any collection of Welsh pedigrees I should be obliged by being informed when and where I may see it.

I should be further obliged by being permitted to look over your Register Hall to see if it contains the name of Genion Sais. Mr. Coley promised the search should be made for me but he seems to have forgotten it. Griffiths is the name of the gentleman who is about to publish it.

Believe me

Truly Yours
John Meyrick

20 Upper Cad. St.
12th July 1825.

ANTIQUE
* 14th *
* 1826 *

STNO

Henry Ellis Esq
V V V
British Museum



Sir Samuel Buckle Proprietor

1830-1838

Antique

Antique

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ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

Allan Cunningham

FIGHER, SON & CO LONDON. 1831

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6812.2
Sir Samuel R. Meyrick
1783-1848
Author Antiquary author
in armour
James Dellaway
1762-1834
Author

CUNNINGHAM, ALLAN, a popular novelist and biograph. wr., au. of a well-known memoir of Burns, several lyrical poems and ballads, the novel of 'Paul Jones,' 'The Lives of British Painters, Sculptors, and Architects,' &c., born in Dumfriesshire 1786, died in London two days after completing the biography of his friend Sir D. Wilkie, 1842.

171.67.V.3