



Canolfan Uwchefrydiau Cymreig a Cheltaidd Prifysgol Cymru  
University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies



The Leverhulme Trust

## Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth a Rhwydweithiau Cymdeithasol: Dysg Ewropeaidd a'r Chwyldro yn Ysgolheictod Cymru Oes Fictoria

Trawsysgrifiadau o Lythyrau at Thomas Stephens (1821–1875) o Lawysgrif Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru 965E i–ii

## Knowledge Transfer and Social Networks: European Learning and the Revolution in Welsh Victorian Scholarship

Transcripts of Letters to Thomas Stephens (1821–1875) from National Library of Wales Manuscript 965E i–ii

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/letters-889>

### INTRODUCTION

The main aims of this Leverhulme Trust-funded project were an exhibition on the life and works of Thomas Stephens, a monograph charting his contributions to local community, Welsh culture and European scholarship, and a critical edition of the most important letters which connected him with the world of European learning.

### CYFLWYNIAD

Prif amcanion y prosiect hwn, a noddwyd gan Ymddiriedolaeth Leverhulme, oedd cynnal arddangosfa ar fywyd a gwaith Thomas Stephens, cyhoeddi cyfrol am ei gyfraniad yn ei gymuned leol, at ddiwylliant Cymru ac ysgolheictod Ewrop, a chywain a golygu detholiad o'i lythyrau pwysicaf, a oedd yn ei gysylltu â byd dysgedig Ewrop.

In 2017, the project decided to make its **transcripts of letters addressed to Thomas Stephens** found in four volumes at the National Library of Wales available to the public.

National Library of Wales Manuscripts **964E i–ii** and **965E i–ii** contain over 400 letters donated in 1916. Between 2013 and 2016, Dr Adam Coward transcribed and edited most of the material and Dr Marion Löffler revised the collection, especially the Welsh letters. We are grateful to Dr Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan for her help with the letters in French.

In the four volumes, the **letters, numbered through from 1 to 385B, are mainly in alphabetical order**, from the first, written by Scotsman Alex Anderson, to number 385B in the fourth volume, which had been sent to Stephens by William Wilde, father of Oscar Wilde. The remainder of 965E ii is taken up with miscellaneous material, such as visa, envelopes, some eisteddfod adjudications, and poetry. The transcripts have kept to the order of the material in the volumes.

Yn 2017, penderfynodd y prosiect wneud eu **trawsysgrifiadau o'r llythyrau at Stephens** a geir mewn pedair cyfrol yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru ar gael i'r cyhoedd.

Ceir yn Llawysgrifau Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru **964E i–ii** a **965E i–ii** dros 400 o lythyrau a roddwyd i'r llyfrgell ym 1916. Rhwng 2013 a 2016, trawsysgrifiwyd a olygwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r deunydd gan Dr Adam Coward, ac adolygwyd y cyfan, yn enwedig y llythyrau Cymraeg, gan Dr Marion Löffler. Mae'r prosiect yn ddyledus i Dr Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan am ei chymorth gyda'r llythyrau Ffrangeg.

Yn y pedair cyfrol, rhifir y llythyrau o **1 hyd at 385B, gan gadw yn fras at drefn yr wyddor**, o'r llythyr cyntaf a ysgrifennwyd gan yr Albanwr Alex Anderson, hyd at rif 385B a anfonwyd at Stephens gan William Wilde, tad Oscar Wilde. Ceir ar ddiwedd 965E ii ddeunydd amrywiol, megis *visa*, amlenni, beirniadaethau eisteddfodol, ac ambell gerdd. Mae'r trawsysgrifiadau yn dilyn trefn y deunydd yn cyfrolau.

## EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES

Presented here are transcripts made for the project from volumes **NLW MS 965E i–ii**. They do not include background information on Stephens’s correspondents, on subject areas discussed, or on the importance of certain letters and documents in Stephens’s private and public life. This additional information will be available in the anthology and in the monograph. Here, the project reproduces our transcripts only, organized **by correspondent and from A to Z of their surname**.

**Editorial input has been kept to a minimum**. Obvious mistakes have been quietly corrected or more rarely been marked with [sic].

**Proper names** mentioned by correspondents, including historical and mythical figures, place names, and river names, have been left as they appear in the letters. This means that the Irish hero now known as Cu Chullain, a river name like Crafnant, or the title of a manuscript may appear in various forms and spellings.

## EGWYDDORION GOLYGYDDOL

Ceir yma drawsysgrifiadau o gynnwys cyfrolau **Llsg. LIGC 965E i–ii** a wnaethpwyd ar gyfer y prosiect. Nid ydynt yn cynnwys gwybodaeth gefndir ar y sawl oedd yn gohebu â Stephens, ar y pynciau a drafodir, nac ar bwysigrwydd llythyrau a dogfennau penodol ym mywyd preifat a chyhoeddus Stephens. Ceir yr wybodaeth ychwanegol hon yn y detholiad o lythyrau ac yn y gyfrol ar Thomas Stephens. Yma, atgynhyrchir trawsysgrifiadau’r prosiect yn unig, wedi eu trefnu **yn ôl cyfenwau gohebwr ac o A i Z**.

**Golygiad ysgafn** o’r testun a geir yma, gyda chamgymeriadau amlwg wedi eu cywiro’n dawel, neu, yn llai aml, eu hamlygu â [sic].

Cadwyd **enwau priod**, yn cynnwys enwau ffigyrau hanesyddol a chwedlonol, enwau afonydd, ac enwau lleoedd, fel y maent yn ymddangos yn y gwreiddiol. Golyga hyn fod yr arwr Gwyddelig a adwaenir fel Cu Chullain, enwau afonydd megis Crafnant, a theitlau llawysgrifau yn ymddangos mewn amrywiol sillafiadau.

The **orthography** has been transcribed as written at the time, which will especially affect searches for those Welsh words whose spelling Stephens and others attempted to settle after the Llangollen Eisteddfod of 1858. Only in cases where a different spelling would impede understanding have words been quietly corrected or marked by [sic].

All matter inserted by the editors, such as **[illegible]**, appears in **square brackets**.

Cadwyd **orgraff** adeg yr ysgrifennu, a fydd yn effeithio'n benodol ar chwiliadau am y geiriau Cymraeg hynny y bu Thomas Stephens ac eraill yn ceisio sefydlu eu sillafiadau yn dilyn Eisteddfod Llangollen 1858. Dim ond mewn achosion pan fyddai'r ystyr yn dywyll fel arall y cywirwyd geiriau'n dawel neu y nodwyd camgymeriadau â [sic].

Ymddengys popeth a fewnosodwyd gan y golygyddion, megis **[illegible]**, rhwng **bachau sgwâr**.

**When citing from the transcripts use the format shown in this example:**

NLW MS 965E, no. 385a, William Wilde to Thomas Stephens, 30 July 1855, in Knowledge Transfer and Social Networks Transcript, <<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/letters-889>>

**Wrth ddyfynnu o'r trawsysgrifiadau, defnyddiwch ffurf yr enghraifft isod:**

Llsg. LIGC 965E, rhif 385a, William Wilde at Thomas Stephens, 30 Gorffennaf 1855, yn Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth a Rhwydweithiau Cymdeithasol Trawsysgrifiad, <<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/letters-889>>

**To learn more about Thomas Stephens of Merthyr Tydfil, go to:**

**<http://www.wales.ac.uk/en/CentreforAdvancedWelshCelticStudies/ResearchProjects/CurrentProjects/Knowledge-Transfer-and-Social-Networks/IntroductiontotheProject.aspx>**

**I ddysgu rhagor am Thomas Stephens o Ferthyr Tudful, ewch i:**

**<http://www.wales.ac.uk/cy/YGanolfanGeltaidd/ResearchProjects/CurrentProjects/TrosglwyddoGwybodaeth/IntroductiontotheProject.aspx>**

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES MS 965E, I and 965E, II

Volume I

201

Windsor Castle  
1/11/49

Dear Sir

In answer to your kind note (of the 16<sup>th</sup> l.m) I have the pleasure to inform you that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to accept the presentation of the two copies of your Prize Essay for Herself & for H.R.R. the Prince of Wales. You had last sent the two volumes to Buckingham Palace from whence they will be speedily forwarded to Windsor Castle.

I have to apologize for the delay of this reply, which was owing to your note having been mislaid.

I am very anxious to read your volume and I hope I shall soon find leisure for giving myself that satisfaction.

I remain, dear sir,  
Faithfully Yours  
C Meyer

202

[Printed Circular 'At y Llenorion appwyntiedig yn Llangollen i drefnu Orgraph y Gymraeg' by Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) and Thomas Stephens, with Welsh marginalia. A copy of this circular can be seen at NLW, MS. 964E, I, 79.]

x Geirdarddiad, yn fy marn i, a ddylai gael y lywodraeth ar Seinyddiaeth, gan ofalu gyfnewidiad cydseiniad – pob dosbarth (Gwefusolion &c) o fewn eu gylch priodol. Barnwyf fod 'y Gormerydd' yn gywir yn hyn. Rhesymolach yw gwneuthur i Seinyddiaeth ymostwng i wreiddyddiaeth, nag amcanu diwreiddio yr iaith er mwyn peth mor amrywiol ag yw ei seiniad yn Nghymru. Bid gwraidd yn wraidd, na thin-ben-droser pethau. Os geir unrhywiaeth Orgraph, dysgir, gan bawb a garo hyny, unrhywaith sain.

Yr wyf fi, ar y cyfan, ond gofalu am y pwnc crybwylledig, yn cydsynio ag awgrymau y papuryn manylgraff hyn; ac yn foddlon i gydffurfio ag un orgraph Gymraeg.

Ion. 24, 1859.

Owen Michael Penybont, Morganwg

Onid buddiol fyddai awgrymiad fel hyn, – Mai llesiol i gyflawnder y Gymraeg fyddai gollwng i mewn iddi enwau priodol, termau Celf a Gwydd, &c., dwy eu cymmreigeiddio yn lle amcanu eu cymmreigio? Oferadd yw llunio enwau Cymmreig i'r Telegraph Phonograph, Photograph, &c., ni ddeuant fyth i arferiad. Ni wn i am un gwrthglawdd i'r rhyddid yma yn y Gymraeg, rhagor rhyw iaith arall, ond yr hen ddywediad celwyddog – 'Mai iaith bur yw y Gymraeg ac nid clytiaith o amryw ieithoedd.' Cyflawnder geiriau arferedig yw un o ogoniantau iaith.

Drwg genyf i drafferthion eraill beri i mi cyhyd heb ateb y papuryn hyn

Owen Michael

Monsieur,

Je vous sais un gré infini de la peine que vous avez bien voulu prendre à mon intention, et vous demande pardon de ne vous avoir point encore répondu; mais le lendemain même du jour où m'est arrivée votre lettre, je suis parti pour Oxford, et là tout mon temps a été jusqu'ici absorbé par des soins divers. Vous me faites l'honneur de me demander des lumières sur un point qui se rattache à l'une de mes publications: j'ai le chagrin de ne pouvoir vous donner la satisfaction action que vous attendez de moi, et vous ai une nouvelle obligation.

Il se trouve en effet que j'ignorais complètement ce que vous voulez bien m'apprendre au sujet du roman gallois de Jesus College.

La littérature de votre pays ne peut manquer d'attirer l'attention de l'Europe Savante, surtout quand l'ou[v]rage de son ingénieux historien sera plus connu. Je me propose de le lire avec attention à mon retour en France, et d'en parler dans l'un de nos journaux. C'est vous dire, Monsieur, combien je m'honore de votre connaissance, et à quel point je suis désireux d'entretenir des rapports avec un homme de votre mérite.

C'est dans ces sentiments, Monsieur, que je vous offre, avec mes services, l'expression de ma considération la plus distinguée et de mon confraternel dévouement.

Francisque Michel

Oxford, Broad Street, 22 Nov 1857

Je compte retourner à Londres après demain, et y rester jusqu'au 4 ou au 5 décembre, 13 Caroline Street, Bedford Square. A Bordeaux, mon adresse est rue Ducau, no 17.

### 203a

[A translation of NLW, MS. 965E, I, 203 in Thomas Stephens's hand]

Sir,

I am infinitely obliged for the pains you have been ~~good~~ willing to take ~~as to~~ on my behalf, and I demand your pardon for not having before responded; but the next day to that on which your letter ~~arrived~~ reached me I departed for Oxford, and the whole of my time was until now absorbed in various searches.

You did me the honour to demand of me to elucidate a point connected with one of my publications: I am chagrined not to be able to give you the satisfaction which you expected of me and you have conferred a new obligation It is found in fact, that I was completely ignorant of what you have been good enough to apprise <sup>inform me</sup> of, on the subject of the Welsh romance in Jesus College.

The Literature of your country would not fail to attract the attention of learned Europe, especially when the work of its learned historian ~~become~~ will be more known. I propose to myself to read it with attention on my return to France, and to speak of it in one of our journals. It is to tell you Monsieur how much I am honoured in your acquaintance, and also that I am desirous to ~~retain the~~ maintain correspondence ~~of~~ with a man of your metite [sic]?

It is in these sentiments Monsieur that I offer you with my services the expression of my distinguished consideration and of any confraternal devotion.

Francisque Michel

Oxford, Broad Street. 22 Nov. 1857.

I expect to return to London after tomorrow, and to rest until the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> of December, at Caroline Street, Bedford Square. At Bordeaux my address is Rue Ducau no 17

204a

British Museum  
Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>/58.

My dear Sir –

After a careful search, I can find no Greal for 1820. I have found a volume, containing 9 numbers of “Y Greal” published by the London Cymreigyddion Society from 1805 to 1807; which volume contains a translation of the letter of a Mr Toulmin on the “Madogion;” and this translation is made by Thomas Roberts (Llwynrhudol), London.” There is not the slightest allusion in it to Guttyn Owain. I have looked over the vol. carefully, and cannot find any thing else. – Dr. Owen Pughe has given an account of the matter in the “Gentleman’s Magazine” for 1791, pages 329, 396, ^534^, 613; but no reference is made to Guttyn Owain.

But the “Greal” found by me answers neither <sup>to</sup>, your date (1820) nor the publishers (the Welsh MSS. society.) Is there no further description of the book possible? If you’ll just let me know, I’ll undertake to find it if the Museum contains it. The Title page of this book is – “Y Greal; sev cynnulliad a orchestion ein hynaviaid a lloffion o amryw vangovion y cyn-oesoedd; hevyd amryw gyvansoddiadau mewn rhyddiaeth a phrydyddiaeth gan ein cyvoedion.”

I remain, dear Sir

Very respt yours

John Morgan.

204c

4 Roxburgh Terrace  
Haverstock Hill  
London  
Aug 13/60.

Dear Sir-

A day or two before I received your last, which contained a “Museum” query about the American Indians, I had closed an engagement with a London Printing House as Press Reader – hence my inability to satisfy that query. I pass the Museum in the morning ere it opens – return at even when it is closed. And I have learnt that in a London house of business it is all but impossible to get away before the regular time. I am truly sorry for this – and can for some time, I fear, only be sorry.

Now that Denbigh Eisteddfod is past, it may be well for Welshmen to reflect, why out of 35 prizes for Literary subjects, only 15 were deemed worthy of the award – whilst 4 Essay subjects were not competed upon at all – 3 of them being of vast importance, in fact the subjects that most required investigation. What has become of our Essayists? You, of course, had nothing in – I had nothing but a trifle on Rifer Cups, not yet adjudged. Mathetes does not seem to have done anything. – Out of about 317<sup>l</sup>. for Literary subjects, 63<sup>l</sup>. not competed for, and 123<sup>l</sup>. withheld.

My Welsh news is very scanty, as I never see but the “Faner” – and have at present a very limited correspondence. And hence as for what I know, the “Prophecy” prize has long been adjudged. Is it so? or how long will we have to wait again? I don’t like to put questions in the “Faner”, chiefly because they may not be answered, or indeed might not be seen by yourself or Dr Lloyd. If you can spare a moment one of these days, I should feel greatly obliged would you inform me when the final adjudication may be expected. – I was silly enough to try the other day for a 30 guinea English prize – 60 competitors – Alfred, Dr. Hamilton, and a barrister, judges – but was not successful, though only second.

I remain, dear Sir

Sincerely yours  
John Morgan

205

[Probably *c.* January 1859]

9. Roxburgh Terrace  
Haverstock Hill  
N. W.

My dear Sir –

Since you kindly sent me the enclosed, I have been laid up for some weeks, and then very busy with some College work, especially with a paper I had promised to prepare, and read to the debating society of students on “F Wade’s Henry VIII”: besides some small fry in Welsh. I now return the documents with especial thanks.

The paper on the “Orgraff” I have not returned, just for the reason that I do not feel myself quite in a position to give judgment. Still on the whole it does appear to me that this is most decidedly the best attempt ever made, and that it is perhaps as perfect as such a scheme can at first be. Such words as ammharod as so sounded in parts of North Wales with ease equal to ammharod in other parts. I suppose there is <sup>no</sup> necessity for my returning the paper. I sincerely hope something may now be accomplished, so that the vexed question may <sup>be</sup> determined before the Denbigh Eisteddfod comes off.

If you have seen the “Traethodydd”, you have probably formed an opinion of the pedigree of Cromwell. Is the investigation fair, and can any thing further be said of the Glamorganshire Williamses? If so, I would be greatly obliged by your indicating the course to be pursued.

I remain, dear Sir,  
Truly yours  
John Morgan

206

9 Roxburgh Terrace  
Haverstock hill  
London  
Oct. 24/60

Dear Sir –

The Essay MS. and your letter came to my hand this morning, and I <sup>only</sup> can thank you very sincerely for your congratulations, and hope to profit by your suggestions as to the revision of the Essay. It were nonsensical in me to pretend to nominate pride in connection with the result of the adjudication – but I do not feel conscious of any greater satisfaction than that of knowing that the intolerance of those who consider themselves orthodox has been taught a lesson by this result. And though my heretical views on the question are more in harmony with those of these orthodox men, I find much more to admire in the conscientiousness of those who ~~have~~ give the award of merit to what may be opposed to their opinions. Dr. Williams wrote me a very kind letter, advising me to write you concerning the revision, and enclosing a cheque for £25 as an earnest of the larger sum. But as it is just possible that in a few days I may pay a long promised <sup>visit</sup> to a friend – the curate of Dowlais, it may be as well to hear the suggestions, and then to have notes of them. If I don’t come, I’ll write again. I am very anxious to make a complete and fair Essay of the thing, and shall not spare any trouble in so doing.

I'll try to find out the [illegible] gentleman, but without disclosing that I have been set on his track. I was long aware that London had sent in two essays, but could not divine who the other besides myself was. – If possible, I'll get Mr. Gee to take the Essay off my hand.

I remain, dear Sir

Very truly yours

John Morgan

T. Stephens, Esq.

207

Pwlldu House  
Blaenafon  
Abergavenny

Dear Sir,

Will you pardon a stranger for asking a favour at your hands? I am rendering a couple of chapters from Ms. Marcet's The Political Economy into the Welsh language, where the names of a few English towns occur, with the proper translation of which I am unacquainted. I would therefore beg your kind assistance. They are as follows – "Manchester" – "Leeds" – "Birmingham" – "Lancashire" – "Cheshire" – "Derby" – "Nottingham" – "and Leicester" – I think I have heard Manchester called "Manceinion"? is it so? And Nottingham "Dinobant" or "Tŷ-ogawg"? And Cheshire "Caerlleon". The Latin names of the others I know, but I presume that will not answer the purpose. Had I the pleasure of your acquaintance I would presume so far as to ask you to look over my paper 'ere I shall send it off. Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I remain, Dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours  
Wm H Morgan  
Curate of Blaenafon

Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1854

Mr T. Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

P.S. What is the proper words for "spinning jennies"? Will "hyd-erthygau" do?

[Possibly in Thomas Stephens's hand]

Manchester	Manceinion
Leicester	Caer Llyr
Chester	Caer Lleon
Nottingham	Ty Gogovawg

208

Craven Lodge.  
Stamford Hill, N.  
[Printed letterhead]

28 Sept 1868

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Instant in reply to which I beg to say that, as the result of my intercourse with Mr Bruce, I have never had the slightest doubt of his impartiality between Churchmen & Dissenters in matters connected with the Education Board I have no means of answering your question as to Mr Bruce's support of the just claims of Dissenters in parliament as to any particular divisions. From what I know of him however I should be

exceedingly surprized to hear that he has been any thing but a steady and constant supporter of our claims. I sincerely hope you will again send him to parliament. I must be pardoned for adding that I should deeply lament his absence from the Reformed House even for a single session. I am right glad to hear that my friend Henry Richard is reputed safe.

I am Sir

Yours faithfully

S Morley

Mr Thomas Stephens

**209**

28 Feb / 1870

Sir

Accept my best thanks for your interesting note. The coincidences are certainly curious, but unless the historical channel through which such thoughts are supposed to have drifted from East to West is quite evident, I always think that what has naturally sprung up in one country, may spring up again in another country. Still the question deserves far more careful consideration than I can give to it at present, and I think it would interest many people if you would publish what there is of this kind of mystic poetry in Welsh

Believe me, Sir,

Yours most respectfully

Max Müller

[Postmarked Oxford, 1 March 70]

**210**

1 Tivoli Villas  
April 5<sup>th</sup>

Cymru Fu Cymru Fydd

[Printed letterhead seal]

Dear Sir

I am collecting the likenesses of all the principal actors in the Llangollen Eisteddfod and shall feel obliged if you will give me yours for the album I am about to commence? If you can aid me in finding~~ing~~ out the address of Corporal Shields and Dr Price & his Daughter I shall esteem it a great favour. There is much difficulty in many of the Persons I wish to obtain being away or removed to other localities. Can you tell me if Miss Parker, or Miss Henry live in Merthyr now? Trusting you will excuse this intrusion

I remain dear Sir

Much your obliged

Mwynwen

[Enclosure:

Printed card: Mwynwen, 1 Tivoli Villas, Cheltenham; 'address' is handwritten at the top]

**211**

1 Royal Well Terrace  
Cheltenham  
Jany. 14. 1858

Dear Sir

I address this letter to Merthyr, trusting it may reach you by some means, though I fancy I have heard that you have left Merthyr. My object is on obtaining your present address

to request your acceptance of a copy of a work I have lately published on the ancient Welsh poetry; for the greater part of what may be valuable in its contents I am indebted to your excellent treatise on the Literature of the Kymry. I shall be glad to have your frank opinion of it whether favourable or otherwise, for I have been convinced by your own Essay that there is no one so capable of giving an opinion on the subject.

Believe me to remain

Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

D. W. Nash

Mr. Thos. Stephens

**212**

1 Royal Well Terrace  
Cheltenham April 2. 1858

My Dear Sir

I am very much obliged by your kind letter, and much gratified by your review of my book Taliesin. I have not seen the notice in the Cambrian Journal; the writers in the Atheneum & Literary Gazette were deplorably ignorant of the whole matter, but there is a very fair notice in the Gentleman's Magazine for March.

I must confess that on reading my own book, I see that there are more difficulties in the subject than I saw before it was in print, and you have touched with a light hand several points where an unfriendly critic might have laid on the lash pretty heavily.

I am glad to find that you are at work on the Hu Gadarn tradition, for a solution of this enigma of Bardism is absolutely necessary to a clear understanding of the social and literary history of Wales in the 10: to the 16: centuries. I send you Professor Pictet's book on the Bardic Triads which, if you have not seen it, will interest you and you can keep it as long as you wish.

I should be very glad to go on with an analysis of the Prose Triads, but I do not feel equal to the task, which seems all the more formidable from the knowledge I have acquired, and moreover, the publication of a work not likely to sell, is too expensive a luxury to be frequently indulged in.

Believe me to remain

Yours very truly

D. W. Nash

Thos. Stephens Esqr.

**213**

Brandon Villa  
The Park

Cheltenham Oct 8 1858

My dear Sir

I shall not be able to send you the Transactions of the Ossianic Society for about a fortnight as I am just moving house to the above address and my books are all at present in a warehouse. I shall be very glad to see the subject of the connexion between the Welsh & Irish legends taken up by your able pen, and I think you will find it a good field for explanation.

Believe me to remain

Yours truly

D. W. Nash

Thos. Stephens Esq

Brandon Villa Cheltenham Oct. 16. 1861

My dear Sir

I cannot say how much I am obliged to you for your most kind and disinterested conduct towards me. I believe there are few members of the republic of letters who would take the chivalrous part you have, in warning me of the pitfalls before me, and communicating your own important discoveries before publication.

With regard to Dyfnwal Moel Mud I have placed him just before the commencement of the Christian era, about the time of Beli Mawr, whom I think the same with Belimus. I look at Dyfnwal as a genuine historical character. I have no doubt you are right, but I shall not tread on your new authority unless you should desire that I should do so.

With regard to Hu Gadarn, your discovery will change the face of Welsh traditional literature. I shall be most happy to share the expense of transcription of the document. That which you have so kindly communicated will cause me to soften down many of my expressions, and to treat the subject more carefully than I otherwise should have done. But unless the MSS of the Red Book is older than Iolo Goch, the source of the tradition still remains, as to the name. In this I have not been able to do any thing, though I have the source of the Tafrobani part of the legend.

When I had got so far as the analysis of the "three natural pillars" I found that there were still Bardic traditions and the Llywelyn Sion documents, (to which latter circle I believe the third series of Triads belongs) in which the Prydain legend was supported. It was necessary therefore to ascertain what authority was to be assigned to them. I therefore took to the Barddas.

The cosmogony, theosophy & symbolism, are all in print, in sufficient amount to furnish full materials for analysis.

The symbolism is clearly modern & its sources may be traced. The cosmogony &c is ancient in form but may well have been written in the 18: century, & there is internal evidence that some part probably was so.

The external history of the documents may be made pretty clear. I am still of opinion that there is fraud somewhere, but after your observations I shall be more careful in expressing my opinions. The cosmogony is certainly very curious, and what seems to me strange is, that it was clearly known to Rowlands, Mona Antiqua that such views existed, though every one else appeared quite ignorant on the subject when first broached by Dr. Owen Pughe from E. Williams' instructions.

I had gone pretty well through all this before receiving your letter, and had thought of writing an essay on the Druidism of the 19: century separately from the Triadic history, and publishing it first, to clear the way as it were. But since reading your letter two or three times over, a "horrid doubt" has entered my mind. In the lines of Iolo Goch is this,

A bywyd oll o'r bydd oedd

Is this rightly translated, "And the life of all the world" If so compare the lines of Rhys Brydydd "Bychanau o'r bychenid &c". Is it possible that this can have reference to the Pythagorean doctrine of the Cosmogony in Barddas, the soul of the world, & the origin of all things in the Monad in which 'the life' this Divine energy existed?

Will you turn this over in your mind: because if it were so, the authenticity of the Bardic documents would be established up to the 14: century.

Now if Hu Gadarn was really a name for the Deity in the 14: century and Hu = IUO or IAO we cannot well avoid the conclusion that there was still earlier a secret society holding their pantheistic doctrines, and I think it would take us up to the writings of Johannes Scotus Eriugena in the 9: century.

If Iolo Goch obtained the name of Hu Gadarn from a popular romance how could he have applied it as he does? On the other hand if the romance got the name from Welsh sources, how can it be that it never appears in the popular literature of Wales? I confess I am greatly puzzled. That the name in the 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> century was connected with some religious heresy is clear from the words of Sion Kent. I thought from some expressions of Iolo that it was a kind of Unitarianism or Arianism. But even while I am writing I can see that I shall have to consider the whole subject over again from the beginning. Suppose after all there should be something in the alleged mysticism contained in the earliest poems. It was only last night I was reading Davies' Celtic Researches over again, & I was struck by some things which it seems to me I had overlooked when I wrote 'Taliesin'. Your letter this morning has made me pause and think again. With many thanks to you for your kindness.

Believe me  
To remain  
Yours very truly  
D. W. Nash

P.S. A week or two ago I sent for the part of the Gwyddoniadur containing the article reviewed in Cambrian Journal Sept. 1860. Since then I have had a letter from Mr R. J. Pryse Denbigh on things in general, but doubt if he had gone below the surface. I have just been reading the remarks on you in the Saturday Review of Oct. 12. That about Madoc is excellent.

214c

Brandon Villa Cheltenham  
Oct 20. 1861.

My dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for sending me the Traethodydd. I have read the article & am now abstracting it which takes me some time as so many of the words are quite new to me. I must say that its perusal has humbled me a good deal, as I see how you have forestalled me at every step. That matter of the Archdeacon's Ap' is which I certainly thought a masterstroke, you had printed in Sept. 1857 – while my book was in the press as you will see by the date of my preface.

I have been a great reader of the Cabbala, & possess the Cabbala Demendata of Knorr von Rosenroth 3 vols – ^and also Franck's La Cabbala^ but I thought that the Cabbalistic sources in Barddas were indirect, and though I looked at the table of the ten Sephirot the form of the /\ did not strike me. The quotation from Isaiah is of the greatest importance in unravelling the question, though I begin to doubt very much whether I shall be able to do much with it.

I have sent for the Charlemagne romances, & Life of Turpin to see what they contain. I observe in the "Sefyllfa" that you think Druidism remained as a living faith in the North down to the battle of Arderydd in the 6: century. This is no doubt very probable, and would lead to the belief that a good deal of the old creed may have remained in the popular superstitions and been worked up afterwards in the Mabinogion.

I think it is a pity you do not at once bring out a comprehensive work on the whole subject. You have already an European reputation and what you say will be taken as authority on the Continent. In the mean time you get forestalled by little and little, though I really believe there is no one but yourself competent to treat the whole subject. It is no use to write in Welsh, it is lost to the literary world in general.

I do not think I shall go on with either of my essays, as I see now there is a great deal more to be done than I had any idea of, before I read your paper.

That story of Olwin – the kindred 'events' was used by Monk Lewis in his Romantic Tales. It is all very curious and I hope you will publish it

With many thanks I remain

Yours very truly

D. W. Nash

I shall return 'Traethodydd' tomorrow.

Thomas Stephens Esq

215

Brandon Villa

Cheltenham

Oct. 8. 1861.

My dear Sir

I am making use of your 'Studies in British Biography' in a work I am now writing on the Historical Triads & the Bardic Traditions and I shall be very much obliged to you if you will furnish me with the continuation of the genealogies given by you 'from Gutyn Owain and others' Cambrian Journal vol 4. p. 256. From Dyfnwal Moel Mud down to Beli Beli Mawr. I want to see how it is that the pedigree of Gruffyd ab Cynan omits Dyfnwal Moel Mud and goes straight down to Beli Mawr without passing through Dyfnwal.

I am quite aware that you have said every thing I can say on these subjects, but I shall put them differently and they will come differently from an Englishman.

My real belief is that Edward Williams tampered with many documents and forged many others, but of course it is difficult to prove it.

I cannot express my astonishment at the course pursued by the Editor of the Cambrian Journal. Druidism & nothing but Druidism seem to be his motto & the wonderful system pursued of stating the most ludicrous fables as positive facts, and then ignoring every thing and every body on the other side of the question. The Rev. J Williams ab Ithel is certainly an able man, & it is wonderful how he can continue to shut his eyes to reason and common sense. I think of bringing out my book before the publication of the Barddas by the Welsh MS. Society though I run the risk of ignorance of many documents which will be there cited. Still 'ex pede Herculem' we have enough in print to show their line of action, & I propose to attack the Bardic school at once. If I might so far venture to trouble you I should be very glad of your counsel in the matter and am

Yours very truly

D. W. Nash

Thos. Stephens Esq

216

4 St. Martins Place

Trafalgar Square

London

Dec. 5. 1865

My dear Sir

I have forwarded by book post an essay of mine printed as part of an introduction to a Romance of Merlin, edited by the Early English Text Society, of which I beg your acceptance.

I have also enclosed a prospectus of a Journal in which I am interested and shall be much obliged to you if you can procure any subscribers. You will see from the list of articles the style of the journal, which it is hopeful will in a little time be self sufficient; at present unfortunately it requires nursing.

Believe me to remain  
Yours very truly  
D. W. Nash

Thos. Stephens Esq

**217a**

[Black-bordered paper]

Coedriglan Cardiff  
Dec 4. 1854

Dear Sir

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in consulting you on the subject of Mr J. G. Nichols' letter – I have been unwell of late & therefore unable to refer to my papers – but I have no hesitation in referring to an individual whose authority has so much weight.

I take this opportunity to say that I meant to have introduced myself I fear at the Brecon Meeting of the Cambr. Archae. Society, but I was obliged to return to Clifton before the close of the meeting.

I remain dear sir  
Yours faithfully

John Montgomery Traherne

**217b**

25 Parliament St  
Nov. 23 1854

My dear Sir,

As I do not know who is now the most learned person in Welsh pedigrees, I trouble you with this to request that, if you know any man, you would do me the favour to submit to him the question as to the birth of Sir Thomas Vaughan chamberlain to Edward Prince of Wales (Edward V.) which is stated in the note I inclose

I am not aware whether that Rev. John Jones, calling himself Tegid, be alive. I have presumed that Sir Samuel Meyrick, publishing after him, is now correct, but it is only upon their own authority that one can make a choice  
I fear, at last, that if there were two Sir Thomas Vaughans, contemporaries, I may have fallen into some mis statements. If you can help me, pray do so, and believe me

Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely  
John Gough Nichols

**217c**

[Printed pages, excerpts from 'Historical Introduction', pp. xiii-xvi (identical except for the pagination) which contain the points mentioned in the letter. The book must have been published after 1846, since it contains references to a publication in that year.]

**218**

25 Parliament St  
Dec 11, 1854

Sir,

I beg to thank you very sincerely for the trouble you have taken to answer my inquiries at the suggestion of Mr Traherne. Since I wrote to him I have made some further

researches respecting Sir Thomas Vaughan the Lord Chamberlain of the Prince of Wales. & I am inclined to believe that he was a distinct person from Sir Thomas Vaughan of Tretower, & consequently that the statement that he was an illegitimate offshoot of the house is probably correct: though Jones in his history of Brecknockshire does not state his authority for it.

I find that he married a member of the family of the Earls of Arundel, which gave him distinguished connection at Court

There remains a question which I am unable to solve from not understanding the Welsh language – viz: whether there is, in the Poems of Lewis Glyn Cothi, any plain & certain allusion to the execution at Pontefract?

If not, I should doubt that any of the Bards' poems allude to this Sir Thos. Vaughan

A very little time after his death I find it stated that “the son of the late Sir Roger Vaughan with his brethren & kinsmen kept all the [sic] country of Wales,” i.e. in the reign of Richard the Third. This appears in the Chronicle of Croyland.

You will observe that Sir Thos Vaughan the chamberlain had for his arms a saltine (as mentioned in the paper I inclosed) which I understand from you differs from the arms of Vaughan of Tretower.

Should the Editor of the Poems of Lewis Glyn Cothi prove to be in error respecting Pontefract, it may be desirable to take some public notice of the circumstances & I should feel obliged by your opinion.

I remain, Sir,  
Yours sincerely  
John Gough Nichols

219

25 Parliament St  
Jany 18 1855

Dear Sir

Your great kindness and trouble in sending me the translations from the Poems of Lewis Glyn Cothi ought to have been acknowledged at an earlier date: but I thought that I should then have it in my power to do so by sending you a copy of the book in the course of a few days. A month has since elapsed, and I now send you a copy which has just arrived from the Binder

I am very doubtful whether any of the poems of Lewis Glyn Cothi allude to the Chamberlain of Edward the 10<sup>th</sup> who I have satisfied myself was a distinct person from Sir Thomas Vaughan of the main line of Tretower. It would be an interesting subject to trace the share which the Vaughans & Herberts took in the political transactions of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and to appropriate clearly the Poets allusions to them. I fear the late Editor may have fallen into some misapprehensions, both as to the identity of parties, & as to the dates to which the poems refer: but without a knowledge of the language it would be presumption to say more.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obliged & faithful

Servant,

John Gough Nichols

Thomas Stephens, Esq

(should I properly address you as the Reverend, I hope you you pardon me)

[Written across the side, possibly in a different hand]

You will notice that the arms on the monument in Westminster Abby are wholly different to those of the Vaughans of Tretower

220

Bishop's Court Llandaff  
[Embossed]  
Jan 3 1859

Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular. Though I can read Welsh sufficiently for ordinary purposes, I have not, at least for many years, paid attention to the questions which your Circular refers to. My opinions upon them would therefore be of no value, and you will excuse me for not entering upon them

I remain

Sir

Your obedient Servant

A. Llandaff

T. Stephens Esq

221

Whitehall  
16 Dec. 1854  
The South Wales Brit. School  
Association

My dear Sir

I have written to your co-secretary, Mr Jones of Blaina, to inform him that I had unhappily failed to induce Sir B. Hall to accept the presidentship of this association.

Mr Vivian stood next on the list of those who should be invited to take the post. I think it would be well if Mr Jones & yourself would, as secretaries, apply to Mr Vivian to take the office of President; & to the gentlemen nominated as Vice Presidents, to accept that office. I shall be glad to learn that the committee have had a meeting and taken action. The first thing to be done, in my judgment, is, the publication of the instructional pamphlet & the next, & the indeed the most important matter of all – the creation of a large number of competent teachers. This will require men and money. They are both to be obtained.

You may find the accompanying copies of the conference "report" useful.

Yours faithfully  
Hugh Owen

Mr Thomas Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

222

Whitehall  
6 Jan. 1855

My dear Sir,

You will receive herewith a copy of Sir B. Hall's written refusal to take the Presidentship of the A. W. B. S. Association.

If the Executive Committee has been able to meet, I should be glad to learn what course of action they propose take.

Yours faithfully  
Hugh Owen

Thos Stephens Esq

223a

Talywern  
Pwllheli  
3 Sept. 1868

My dear Sir,

I regret to say that your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult did not reach me till today, owing to my absence from London. I expect to be at the Poor Law Board on Saturday, when I will forward to you the Blue Book containing some account of the Gellifor School Case. I am very well acquainted with that case and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider that the Education Department missed its way in relation to it. When, as in this case, the statements of the Promoters of rival schools are so conflicting, it is not an easy matter for the department to determine the proper way to act, and to discriminate between truth and falsehood. In the case of Gellifor the Department was misled and committed, as I think, a grave mistake. When the case was brought before the House of Commons Committee Mr Bruce, as the representative of the Council Office, defended the Department. This he did because he believed the representation on which the department had acted. I read the criticism in the Baner on Mr Bruce with sincere regret. In my view they were unjust, ungenerous, and impolite. Mr Bruce has been for many years the able and consistent friend of undenominational education in Wales. There is no man in Parliament who appreciates so thoroughly the educational wants of Wales the Principality as Mr Bruce; neither is there one who is more competent from his great ability and high position to aid our efforts to meet their wants. He is preferred with us in regard to the proposed university for Wales, and is prepared to render essential help to the undertaking. You will be so good as to understand that I do not speak of Mr Bruce from a party point of view. With Party I have now nothing to do

Yours Faithfully  
Hugh Owen

223c

Railway Station  
Chester, 4 Sept. 1868

Private

My dear Sir,

Yesterday I addressed a note to you which I said you might use in any way you might think fit. My object in writing ~~the~~ was, first to reply to your communication; and then ~~to place~~ to bear my humble testimony in reference to Mr Bruce. It has occurred to me that I might avoid bringing the Baner upon me, without at all weakening my testimony in regard to Mr Bruce if I omitted the statement that its criticisms upon him were “unjust, ungenerous, and impolite” – contenting myself with the expression of my sincere regret at those criticisms. If however you should think this insufficient, you might substitute for the three words not quoted, – “they were neither just ~~not~~ nor generous”. You will kindly fit in the words. I am not able to do so as I kept no copy of my note to you.

Very faithfully  
Hugh Owen.

Thomas Stephens Esq

[Written in blue pencil on separate sheet]

The accompanying note may be used in any way Mr Stephens may think proper

H O



I am Dear Sir  
Yours truly  
William Owen

**226a**

Tan y Gyrt  
Feb. 10 1858

(Dear Sir,

It affords me much pleasure to answer your question.

You are correct in supposing that my Father edited the portion of Caradog's chronicle published in the Excerpta Brit. and I have now before me the MS continuation of it – unfortunately it terminates abruptly with the very year in which Madog is supposed to have sailed: (1170).

After noticing the death of Owain Gwynedd in the year before it goes on “Deg mlyned a thrugein achant amil oed oed crist pan ladawd dauyd ab owein Howel uab owein y brawd hynaf i daw.” It then goes on to notice the murder of “tomas archesgob gwr mawr y grefyd &.” Afterwards “yn y vlaydyn hono y mordwyawd ricert iarll tristig val gilbert uba cadarn a chadarn uarchawdu (y) gyd ag ef y Iwerdon.”

This is the only expedition by sea that is noticed about the year in question. No mention of Madog – But it appears more probable  $\text{\o}$  that Madog left after the murder of his brother Hywel. I have been laid up with an influenza for some days, & am not able to search among my Fathers piles of MSS. for the continuation of the ch. But when I am able to do so I will communicate with you if I find any notice of Madog's expedition.

Yours truly  
W. Owen

[Written across the side]

I do not think it likely to have been noticed otherwise my Father would have remembered it to one of his correspondents.

**226b**

My father corresponded with the late Mr. Rees of Casgob in reference to these chs. and if Madog's expedition is mentioned in there he is sure to have remarked it. I should much like to have  $\text{\o}$  copies of these letters but do not know who to apply to.

**227a**

Rhyllon, St. Asaph  
Oct 29. 1853

My dear Sir/

I have just read in the “Star of Gwent” of Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. the proceedings of the Fenni Eisteddfod. The “judgement” of Chevalier Bunsen <sup>^in the great prize^</sup> is a masterly composition. It would be no mean praise to any author, that his work had been even favourably noticed, by this learned and distinguished man. I cannot therefore refrain from offering my heartiest congratulations that your essay has elicited so noble a eulogy from his Excellency. Your other success at this great meeting must have been very gratifying; still the awards were made by local judges & your own countrymen. Not so with regard to the Essay in question. The adjudicator was a foreigner, a man of exalted station, a profound theologian, an accomplished scholar, a deeply read jurist – one in short, whose brilliant attainments & world-famed writings have won for him the very foremost place in the literary ranks of

Europe. We sincerely hope this Essay with the judgement prefixed, may be published as soon as may be.

We purpose forwarding the "Star" of the 21<sup>st</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> to our valued friend Profr Ranke at Berlin. The Profr takes a warm interest in all that relates to Wales.

Lady Hall was good enough to invite us to Llanover, but circumstances, beyond my control, put it out of our power to avail ourselves of her Ladyship's kindness. It was a great grievous disappointment. Our great pleasure we had proposed to ourselves was to renew the acquaintance which we had so happily made with the Author of the "Literature of the Cymru" at Rhuddlan.

Repeating my own & Mrs Owen's hearty congratulations,

Credwx fi Anwyl Syr

Yr Eiddox

Yn ddifuant

W. H. Owen

228

Llanidloes

March 8/58

Dr. Sir,

I return you the schedule. I know nothing of the "Gwerinwr". The monthly circulation of the "Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd" is one thousand copies. This periodical is the oldest in Wales, being now in its fiftieth year: price six pence per number.

The monthly circulation of the "Winllan," penny each, is considerably above 2,000 copies. It is published here.

Wishing you success and facility,

I remain

Yours truly,

Henry Parry

Publisher

T. Stephens, Esq.

229

Festiniog, Meirion,

Ebrill 25 1851

Anwyl Syr/

Gwelais gyfeiriad o'r eiddoch mewn rhifyn diweddar o'r "Amserau", at fy etholiad am Gwrthodrad i fodd yn feirnead ar rai o gyfansoddiadau Eisteddfod ddiweddar Merthyr – A fyddwch chwi mor garedig a rhoddi mi address rheolaidd y 'Cofnodydd', modd y gallwn ymddiddan gair a'g ef trwy Lythyr?

Yr eiddoch &

Yn ostyngedig

R. Parry

(Gwalchmai)

Gynt o Lanymddyfri

O.N. Bum yn defnyddio eich "Literature of the Kymry", droion, pan yr oeddwn tua Sir Gaerfyrddin, ond nid oes yr un Copi y ffordd yma.

230

Cilgerran

Nr Cardigan Nov. 30. 1865

Dear Sir/

I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you; but inasmuch as I am preparing a short memoir of King Arthur for the Journal published under the auspices of the Cambrian Institute, of which I perceive you are, like myself, a member, I should be greatly indebted to you if you would be so kind as to favor me with your views generally on the Arthurian History – irrespective of that notoriety which it has derived through the fictions of Geoffrey & the early Romancers.

To what can be attributed the growth of this most extraordinary legend? Can the two Arthurs – the real and the legendary – be in anywise identified.

As you are well versed in every thing connected with our early history, your views on the subject – be they ever so concise – cannot but prove of great value to me comparatively a novice in Welsh literature.

Mr. D. W. Nash in writing to me on the subject, encouraged me to have your views thereon, by saying that you invariably are willing to assist those who seek your opinions.

Again apologizing for the liberty

I beg to subscribe myself

Your very obedt Servt

J. R. Phillips

Thomas Stephens Esq

Merthyr Tydfil

231

The Park

Manchester

Oct 7. 1861

Sir

In reply to your favour of the 3<sup>d</sup> inst I beg to state from all that I saw of Mr Bruce's conduct when in office he behaved with perfect impartiality in education matters as between Churchmen & Dissenters. It is of course a very difficult position to hold but I must say I never heard any one impeach Mr Bruce's conduct while in office – and I know he devoted a vast deal of time to the detail of the department.

I should, for one deeply regret not seeing Mr Bruce's name as one of the MPs of the new Parliament. The nation cannot afford to lose the services of such a man –

Belive me

Sir

Yrs truly

Rob. N. Philips

To Mr Thos Stephens

232

Llanellen Abergavenny

5 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1851

Dear Sir

As there were ^two^ Dromios in the Comedy of Errors so there are two persons of my name or rather there is a Sir Thos Phillips of Middle Hill Worcestershire ^Baronet^ & I who am no Baronet but a simple Knight.

The Baronet is the Antiquarian who has contributed in an important degree to disintomb & illustrate the past & I who am no antiquarian am attempting to describe the present & to contribute according to my powers to promote the wellbeing of those crowds of reasonable & reponsible beings by whom this Island of ours is now peopled.

I might have informed you in fewer words that your appeal for antiquarian contributors must be addressed to my namesake. I am however gratified ~~at~~ by the mistake into which you have been led because it affords me the opportunity of assuring you of the pleasure which I had received from your interesting work on the Literature of the Cymry & of my hope that the favourable reception which has been awarded to that work may encourage you to further efforts to elucidate the early condition of our Cymric ancestors

I propose to write your name in & to ask your acceptance of a copy of a description of Wales as it is in relation topically to education & religion

I beg you believe that I am your faithful Sert

Tho Phillips

**233a**

Middle Hill

29 Aug 52

Sir

I had great pleasure in receiving your letter, for I have frequently thought of writing to you on an important matter. You may have heard that I wished to establish my Library in Wales. Had I been able to do so, I looked forward to the hope of being able to secure you as the Librarian. I returned from Worcester last night or I sh<sup>d</sup> have answered yours sooner. I will look for the Meyrick, & if I have a copy ^complete^ (which is very doubtful,) I shall beg your acceptance of it, as a compliment to a Gentleman who as written so well on Welsh Literature. I am very desirous to know if yours is a Welsh or English Family; & if English, from what parts of England or what county.

I am sir

Very truly yours

Thos Phillips

P.S. I think you had better do Vol. 3 first, to secure the Poems wch are not published. The Myvyrian collection are safe already.

**233b**

Middle Hill

21 S. 52

Sir

I am very sorry to say I cannot complete the Meyrick by one sheet. I think there is a copy at the Swansea Institution by which you may see what those 4 pages treat of. I think also Mr Williams of Aberpergwm had a copy. Mr Trahern of Coed-riglan has a copy, I believe.

I intend to send your copy by the great Western ~~to~~ to Cardiff tomorrow, or rather the next day, & hope it will reach you in safety.

I am sir

With great esteem

Your obd servant

Thos Phillips

Buckingham Palace  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1859

Sir,

I have received the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort to inform you in reply to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Insnt, that it is not considered desirable at present to grant the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to any Association or Institution

His Royal Highness will in a few years be of age, and able himself to make a selection of the objects which he may wish to patronize, and it has been thought better not to forestall this selection by appointing patronage in the name of the young Prince.

The Prince Consort has instructed me to forward the enclosed cheque for twenty five Guineas, as a donation from the Prince of Wales towards the approaching Eisteddhvod.

I have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Your obed humble Servt

C B Phillips

Thos Stephens Esqr

### 234b

[A draft of a letter by Thomas Stephens to the Prince of Wales]

Merthyr Tydfil  
June 1<sup>st</sup>

Sir

It is proposed to hold one of those Kymric gatherings called an Eisteddfod in this town in September next. The proposed ~~meeting~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ Eisteddfod ~~will be mentioned~~ has been advertised for upwards of six months; a large number of prizes; several of them 20£ each ~~each will be awarded on the~~ have been offered for competition; and judges of high reputation <sup>^have consented to act^</sup>, among others <sup>^that most conspicuous of living Welshmen^</sup> The Rev. Rowland Williams D.D, with whose ~~reputation~~ name and fame you are doubtless well acquainted. ~~The~~ The field of competition embraces the whole Principality; ~~it ought~~ the subjects calculated to call for the <sup>^in various ways^</sup> the intellectual powers of the most gifted natives of Wales; and the Eisteddfod it may claim for itself the designation "National" ~~without~~ in the best sense of that term.

But the managing Committee still feel that there is one want yet to be supplied. The proper head of a Kymric national Eisteddfod is in their judgment and mine, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales; and they are anxious to obtain ~~permission to run~~ permission to use his name as its Patron.

They have therefore requested me, as I had the honour of obtaining the prize given by H.R.H. in 1848, to make this application on their behalf; and I may confidently add, that should you be graciously pleased to ~~give~~ favour their request, ~~not on~~ not only, but the whole Kymric race will feel grateful for the honour conferred upon them.

I remain, your Royal Highness Obedt Servant

Thos Stephens

Author of The Literature of the Kymry

Genevè. 18 Mai 1869

Monsieur,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 12 Mai, et je ne puis assez vous remercier de l'aimable empressement avec lequel vous avez bien voulu répondre à la demande de mon ami Henri Martin au sujet des noms de cours d'eau du pays de Galles. La liste que vous m'avez envoyée me sera certainement utile à plusieurs égards, en complétant celle que j'avois extraite déjà de sources diverses. J'aurois désiré seulement que vous eussiez indiquer les positions topographiques, comme par ex : Crawnnon (=Crafnant Lib. Landav. p. 127) tributary to the Usk, Breconshire, the scraping brook? et ajouté vos conjectures étymologiques, appuyées, si possible, du caractère réel des cours d'eau, rivière, torrent, ruisseau, rapidité; couleur, encaissement etc, détails, il est vrai, difficiles à réunir à moins d'observations directes.

Le travail que j'ai entrepris, à l'instigation surtout de la commission française de la Topographie des Gaules, comprendra l'ensemble des noms de rivières dans tout le domaine des races celtiques, anciennes et modernes. La comparaison des noms anciens du continent avec ceux de l'Angleterre, de l'Irlande, et de l'Ecosse, est très importante pour leur élucidation étymologique, et c'est pour cela que je désire réunir ces derniers d'une manière aussi complète que possible. Je ne voudrais pas abuser de votre obligeance en vous demandant une collection semblable pour le pays de Galles et la Cornouailles; mais vous pouvez peut être m'indiquer quelque topographie bien faites, avec une nomenclature correcte des cours d'eau, comme celle que j'ai trouvée pour le Merionethshire, et Anglesey, dans le Cambrian Register de 1795, et 1796. Le Liber Landavensis n'a fourni un bon nombre des formes anciennes précieuses, et on en trouverait, sans doute, dans ce qui a été publié des Lives of British Saints, que je n'ai pas à ma disposition. Le nouvel ouvrage de Skene, Ancient Books of Wales, m'a été aussi utile sous ce rapport.

Je ne suis encore occupé, pour le moment, qu'à réunir des matériaux dont la masse croissante commence quelque peu à m'effrayer. Quand je serai plus avancé, je vous demanderai la permission de vous consulter sur des points particuliers relatifs aux noms gallois et à leur signification. En attendant, je vous renouvelle mes remerciements pour le secours que vous avez bien voulu m'apporter, et je vous prie d'agréer l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Adolphe Pictet

[On the reverse, written in Thomas Stephens's handwriting in pencil]

The Crafnant, and the Crafnell, are both small rivers that fall in to the Usk, a few miles below the town of Brecon, They flow or rather fall from the Alpine Region of South Wales. These mountains, go by the various names of Cadair Arthur (Gildas Cambrensis), Bannau Brycheiniog, Ban uwch Denni (in bardic figure) or the Breconshire Beacons. The configuration of the district necessarily causes them to be scraping brooks – in rainy seasons they fall precipitously, and carrying before every thing moveable.

Pitnacree  
Ballinluig  
Perthshire.  
[Printed letterhead]

Sept 27. 1868

My dear Sir

I feel assured that Mr H A Bruce was never guilty of any partiality to Churchmen over Dissenters when in office & in Parliament. He has fully and fairly supported the claims of Nonconformists.

He is a most excellent member & if you lose his services you will find it difficult to replace such a man.

I wish we had one like him in Perthshire at this moment

I hope the dissenters will rally round Mr Bruce.

Yours truly

Thomas B Potter  
MP for Rochdale

Thomas Stephens Esq

Cwmdû, Oct. 22, 1845,

Dear Sir

Your letter arrived just in time to prevent the Essay being sent to Mr. Henney. I will forward it to you without delay. In the mean time allow me to ask what advantage you contemplate in its publication? If you give it as the Essay sent in by you, you must print it verbatim & literatim, and either add my reasons for rejecting it or call upon me to do so myself, and in order to enable you to judge of the expediency or in expediency of such a step I send you the following as amongst my chief reasons.

1. A misconstruction of the Law.
  2. An acrimony of style scarcely consistent with the conventionalities of life, and certainly not admissible in a work sanctioned by a society such as the Cymreigyddion.
  3. A somewhat uncalled for harshness in the treatment of Mr. Henney, who is I understand a very worthy man, and his only fault in this matter appears to be a misapprehension of the scope of his subject, whereas you lash him with the severity of a person punishing a criminal.
- This alone would be sufficient to decide me in my judgment and I think to justify me in it
4. An avowed determination on your part to publish the essay whether successful or not, in defiance of the condition, prefixed by yourself, that the successful composition was to be the property of the Donor of the Prize, How could I give Mr. Henny's money for the copyright of a work that was immediately to be pirated?
  5. An attack upon the Magistracy, which if justifiable in principle, is in my opinion too acrimonious in style – but which if not justifiable is I am convinced actually libellous if not seditions.
- This argument I do not urge, and I think Mr. Henney has laid too much stress upon
6. A fallacious idea of the right of the poor to fish. The poor strictly speaking can have no right of the kind. Poverty implies an absence of property and a right of fishery is a property. Indeed it does not appear that any man has a right to fish except on his own property as

the rights of the poor as well as yourself. a landowner or by charter &c. So that I take it that every portion of a River (the Usk, for instance) from the source to the mouth is the property of some one or other. And the absolutely Poor man has no right to touch a drop of it, or even to approach it, excepting he wades through it at a ford. He can only fish by permission.

These are my principal reasons for wishing to dissuade you from printing the Essay without subjecting it to a rigid examination and revision. And I think you will admit the force of some of my arguments. As to the 1<sup>st</sup> Should you still continue to doubt it, there is no way of setting the question but by Counsel's opinion, and that I do not think in the present state of the matter either you or I would be at the trouble and expense of procuring and until some such authority can be produced, any appeal to the public would be worse than useless. I will adopt your suggestion of writing to Mr. Henney on the subject, and referring him to you. And will recommend the Cymreigyddion and Mr. Henney to place the matter in your hands, that you may so remodel your Essay as to make it useful to carry out the intention [of] the prize which is the preservation of salmon, and the prevention of their illegal capture, as I imagine, that is Mr. Henney's object. And I think ^it^ will be a much more rational mode of dealing with the matter than a wager of battle in a newspaper, which generally terminates in something like a pelting of mud in the street, where the combatants bespatter each other for the amusement of lookers on.

And now I will take the liberty of continuing some of the remarks which you gave me permission to make, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at the Eisteddfod. In the first place, with regard to your style of writing, I perceive a great difference betwixt the tone of the Salmon Essay and that of the Heraldic Poetry. In the last there is nothing whatever of acerbity of expression, and I thought you left off much too soon, whereas in the other I wished every sentence to be the last, and never turned a leaf without dreading to meet in the next page some explosion of angry feeling against some unoffending object or other, every one of which was adding to the impossibility of my awarding the prize to a composition which evidenced the existence of abilities of the highest order. All this has worked on my mind the conviction that you are in a degree of which you are not aware, the creature of impulse. And you will allow that impulses even though rightly directed yet may sometimes act with an undue impetuosity. I have heard a very observant person say that if however excited by anger a ^man^ may be, yet if he at the moment, speak in a low or deep tone of voice, he shall not commit ~~himself~~ himself by a hasty or intemperate expression. How far this is true I cannot say but I am inclined to think there is a great deal of truth in it, and when I am next tempted to scold I will endeavour to practice it. Now I feel disposed to believe that such a lowering of our mental utterance may also be put in practice. Such an under tone as may save us from the extreme alto pitch of remonstrance. Indeed I am satisfied such an exercise of patience and mental revision is very practicable, and I would (under the same licence of speaking my mind on this subject that you allowed me) submit to you whether it would not greatly aid in directing and moderating the impetuosity of your own mind, were you to have recourse to some such expedient I am sure of this, that the absence of such moderation will always act to the disadvantage of any writing whatever and that in such a manner as to neutralize all its merits be they what they may. It is offering violence to the received and conventional rules of literature and however some may be amused or even satisfied with the cleverness with which such shafts are discharged and the sharpness of their point, yet you will find that in the end those whose good opinions you would value will rather get out of the way of such dangerous missiles, and in this as in every thing else public opinion will declare against the practice of such archery.

Hoping that you will give me credit for writing these remarks with the same friendly disposition that our conversation was carried on at Abergavenny.

I am  
Yours very truly  
T Price

The Heraldic Essay is the property of the Cymreigyddion, but I have no doubt they will let you have it on applying to the secretary.

238

Copy of Letter sent to Henney Esq Clarence House, Cheltenham.

Cwmdû Oct 24 1846

Dear Sir

As the Eisteddfod is now over, and you may possibly wish to know something of the fate of your prize, I write to say that I have again been under the necessity of withholding it. There were two Essays sent in: one by no means deserving of a prize of such amount, and which I of course rejected at once; the other was well written, but to which from disagreeing with the writer upon some essential points, I could not award the prize. However this Essay contained so much valuable information, and put the subject in such a new and striking point of view that I felt exceedingly grieved about not being able to award the prize to it. And I will add that it contained some remarks of much importance towards the rewording of your advertisement, and of the points to be discussed. After disposing of the Essay I had the pleasure of speaking to the writer Mr Thomas Stephens Druggist of Merthyr, who expressed his willingness should the prize yet be given to him to new-model his or to write another in which the evils of poaching, and the illegal destruction of Salmon should be fully exposed. Now I can only add that Mr Stephens is a highly talented young man, perfectly master of the Welsh and English languages, and also fully acquainted with the nature of his subject. And as your object is a good practical Essay, I do not know how you can attain that object better than by accepting his services. Should this plan meet your views, you will communicate with Mr. Stephens, and arrange with him the topics to be discussed.

It is but fair towards Mr. Stephens to state that I feel satisfied he is not influenced by any mercenary motives in this offer; as having gained the prize for the Essay on <sup>the</sup> Heraldic poetry of Wales 5£, he would not receive it, and immediately gave it to the funds for the next Eisteddfod.

I remain

Yours truly

(Signed) T Price

Thos Henney Esq  
Clarence House  
Cheltenham

239a

Cwmdû, Crickhowel  
Sept. 24. 1846

Dear Sir

Having been from home for the best part of the last fortnight, it was not in my power to answer your letter much sooner. And now I can only say that whatever reluctance I might feel with regard to undertaking the office of judge, yet after so much delay in returning my answer it would be hardly fair in me at this time to decline it, therefore I shall endeavour to make up for my apparent neglect by rendering the society such service as I am capable of on this occasion. Nevertheless with one proviso, which is that if I find any one of the subjects beyond the limits of my general range of thought, I may be allowed to except it. – I must also

explain the principle on which I shall proceed to frame my judgement. In the first place, I shall always, cæteris paribus give a preference to purity of diction. (coethder iaith) believing that with the Cymreigyddion this must ever be a leading object. In the next place, I shall consider the class of persons for whom the composition is intended. For instance – A work intended for the perusal of cultivated people will require a more literary style than that for the mere labourer. Where the instruction of the latter is the chief object I would reject a Johnson for a Bunyan, and vice versa. But where the composition is intended to be a mere literary exercise, as is often the case, I shall of course give its due weight to elegance of style. And lastly, I shall expect the compositions to be written in a plain hand, with good ink. I fear that in the course of my life some Essays may not have received due justice at my hands from the absolute impossibility of deciphering them, excepting at an expense of time, and strain of eye which the writers would have no claim to.

After this declaration, should the society honour me with the office of judge, I hope I shall be allowed as much time as possible to read the composition, and with much regret for having delayed my answer so long

I remain

Yours very truly

T Price

**240a–c**

Shakespeare Tavern,  
Temple Street  
Bristol 24 Feby 1853

Dear Sir/

According to my promise when last we met, I write to inform you that I am now at Bristol and having looked about for Works on Wales, the accompanying List is the result of my inquiries. I mean to take my departure <sup>^hence^</sup> immediately on receiving your reply, so pray answer this by return of post, and inform me whether I can do any thing for you, in making purchases of any kind – few or many – for which I do not require a single penny by way of agency – nor should I require you to send the cash provided you will repay me (should you want any thing) when I deliver you the copies. The good services you will render poor old Wales by possessing yourself of such tools of trade, will amply compensate me. On leaving Bristol I shall re-enter Wales through Newport, Cardiff, Merthyr, Aberdare, Neath, Swansea, &c. Excuse this brief scrawl as time will not admit of my usual indulgence in a long gossiping Epistle.

I suppose you will carry off half a dozen at least of the Abergavenny prizes – I wish you may – The Gododin you may assure yourself of, doubtless. I intend to try for one thing – The names of places in South Wales –

In haste

Yours very truly

Llewelyn Prichard

I think the prices high with the exception of the 2 County Histories and Warner, but in answer to expostulations on the subject Jefferies the Younger says he has but one copy <sup>^of^</sup> each & that Works on Wales are sure of sale at any price.

Merick's History of Antiquities of the County of Cardigan – Quarto – fine copy – half the leaves uncut – 1810

Plates - £1. 10/-

Theophilus Jones's History of the Town & County of Brecknock – 3 vols quarto – 1805 – parts of map torn & two of the plates slightly ~~defaced~~ soiled  
Half Russia binding £2. 4/-

Sir John Doddridge's Historical account of the Principality of Wales, Duchy of Cornwall, & Earldom of Chester – 1714 – Octavo – - 4/6

Sotheby's Tour through a part of Wales Engravings from Drawings on the Spot, by J. Smith – 1794 – quarto – half Russia – 5/-

Davies's Celtic Researches – ~~10/~~ 7/

---Mythology of the Druids 10/

These prices are too high – although the Copies are fine (Boards)

A collection of Welsh Tours or a Display of the Beauties of Wales – Coloured plates – Small Octavo – uncut – half Russia – 4/6

Powell's translation of Caradoc of Llancarvan's History of Wales – with additions by Wynne & Sir John Price Royal Octavo – maps – boards – uncut – 1812 – 6.6

The above is all at Jefferies

Turn Over

At another Bookseller's – I forget his name – tis night & I am too lazy to go out to ascertain it.

Thomas's Memoirs of Owen Glendower (Owain Glyndwr) 1822 – Octavo – Boards the original publ<sup>d</sup> price – 7/

He has sold 3 copies at that price – this is the last – he will not sell it for less. –

Warner's Walk thro' Wales ½ bound 1/6

Warner's Tours through the Northern Counties of England – uniform with the above 2 vols ½ bound – 3/-

You are aware perhaps that Warner's two works are illustrated with views of the parallels of the Road & Rivers – the situation of Towns & villages – distances &c

My book has been sadly delayed in consequence of the printing of a new Bristol Directory – however, they are getting on now - & the next will be a double number – containing far better, that is, more interesting Memoirs than in the three first numbers.

**241a**

Dyffryn Golych – Cardiff Sept. 24. 49

Dear Sir

Can you help the Irish Antiquarians to the first appearance of the word Cromlech?

I enclose you a letter from Dr. Todd of Dublin University to me on that subject.

If Ffili was the son of Cennydd after whom our "Lordship of Senghennydd" is called, it is a strong prima facie proof of the soundness of your derivation.

But I believe the Breos family, for 3 or 4 generations (though not recorded by the scanty writers of the day) were at Caerphilly – one of them had a son called Philip – one of them (William) was selected Bishop of Llandaff in 1265, and died 1287 – his tombstone,

perfectly legible, may now be seen within the altar rails of "our Lady's Chapel" at Llandaff Cathedral –

Now the family of Breos, or Bruce were well known to be at Gower & at Brecon – both these places were then, as they now are, in the Diocese of St David's – would not his being elected for Llandaff be a (collateral) proof of local influence arising from local power? – Think of this and give me information, if you please, of the oldest manuscript in which you can find the word Cromlech – Yrs Sinc

J Bruce Pryce

**242a**

Bath. 27 Circus. May 6

Dear Mr Stephens

I have read with much pleasure your paper on Cromlechau in the Last Arch<sup>a</sup> Cambrensis

You speak of Llech y Vilast "in Glamorganshire" and "Gwâl y vilast" in Caermarthenshire – The Cromlech on my farm of Maesyfelin <sup>in</sup> the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Lythans, is known as Gwâl y vilast – The larger one (in the parish of S<sup>t</sup> Nicholas) is known by the country people as Castell Carreg –

– You have demolished my favourite derivation of Duffryn Goluch (the Vale of Worship, supposed to be so called from the number of Druidical remains from S<sup>t</sup> Nicholas to Llanveithin & Llancarvan –

In the same paper you speak of Siggiston (near Catherick in Yorkshire) –

You are aware that a Branch of the ancient family of Basset are settled (& one still owns the place) at Siggiston<sup>+</sup> or Sigginston near Llanmihangel (Cowbridge) – where the family have resided for some centuries – Can there be any affinity between the Yorkshire Siggiston & our's?

Yrs Sinc<sup>y</sup>

J Bruce Pryce

+Tre Siggin

**243**

Dear Sir

As I know you have a relish for men of Talent you will like to hear that on Thursday morning next one of the closest reasons & best logicians we have, is to preach on Thursday morning next at the opening of the New Church at Penydarran – he is the Rev<sup>d</sup> W. C. Magee of Bath, Grandson to Magee, ArchBishop of Dublin, the celebrated author of the Atonement

Yrs sinc<sup>y</sup>

J Bruce Pryce

Dyffryn Golych

May 18. 1858

**244**

7 Lower Terrace

Denbigh

Hyd. 29/58

Anwyl Syr,

Do, gwelais lythyr Ab Ithel; ac yr oedd yn dda genyf ganfod eich bod am fynu eich iawnderau. Yna da hefyd oedd i chwi beidio oedi fallasai yr ail farn a addawodd Carn Ingli i

chwi wedi dyfod allan hyd ddydd brawdd. Y mae eisiau dysgu gwersi i'r "gwobrattalwyr", fel yr wyt yn eu galw yn y "Faner".

Bydd y "bulsen" yn yr Herald hefyd yn anheggorol angenrheidiol. Heb hòno, dichon yr edrychai rhai arnoch fel dyn croes, brwnt. Dylai'r belen gynnwys strong purgative ingredients.

Wel, wel! Y mae'r "brodyr Eglwysic" benben! Nic. v. Ab Ithel & Carn Ingli! Peth garw ydyw Eisteddfod, hefyd, am droi'r byd a'r Eglwys a'u gwynebau yn isaf. (Y mae Nicander wedi cael Personoliaeth Llanrhyddlad, fy mhlwyf genedigol i, tua 15 nos yn ol – o gylch 650p. y flwyddyn)

A ddarfu chwi sylwi mai corachod llenyddol, mewn cymmharïaeth, ydyw yr holl wobrattalwyr? Dyna nhw – Ceiriog, Creuddynfab, Hirlas, Cynddelw, Gwalchmai, &c. rhai heb fod yn beirniadu erioed o'r blaen mewn Eisteddfod fawr, hyd y gwn i. Os na fedr y gwyr hyn gyfansoddi nes synu'r byd, ymddengys y gobeithiant fedru ei synu trwy ddangos mor anhawdd ydyw eu plesio â chyfansoddiadau rhai ereill. Y fath ffyrdd amryw sy gan ddynion i fyned i fyny! Curodd Ioan Madog ei farnwr Gwalchmai dair gwaith mewn cystadleuaeth Eisteddfodol – ar Gibraltar, R. ab Gwilym Du, a'r Dr. Morgan "Cynt dau ddyn na dau fynydd" – cafodd y gwalch gyfle i roi cic iddo o'r diwedd.

Anfynych iawn, os erioed, yr attalwyd y wobr oddi wrth y goreu gan Gwallter Mechain, Iolo Morganwg, y Dr Puw, Bardd Nantglyn, Caledfryn, Eben Fardd, Hiraethog, &c.

Goreu po cyntaf y caffeu eich barn ar y "gofres", am fod Mr Gee ar frys am gael y Rhif 1. o'r Geiriadur allan; ac nid wyf fi yn dewis iddo ei gyhoeddi sut yn y byd nes i chwi a minnau o leiaf gyttuno

Yr eiddoch, &c

R. J. Pryse

"Gwrnerth"

(Enw del ydyw hwn.)

**245a**

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Hyd. 26, 1858

Anwyl Gyfaill,

Dyma fi o'r diwedd wedi gorphen yr Orgraff ryw lun, ac nid ychydig o drafferth a gefais, er bod digon o le i wella arni etto, yn sicr ddiammeu. Yr orgraff (ynte orgraph? the roots undoubtedly are ορθος & γραφω) a ddefnyddir yn swyddfa Mr. Gee ydyw y colofnau argraffedig, a gasglwyd gan Hirlas (D.S. Evans) a minnau, rai blynyddau yn ol. Yn yr orgraff yma y mae Geiriadur Evans, ac yn hon y cyhoeddodd efe ei argraffiad o'r Bardd Cwsg, a gyhoeddwyd gan Spurrell (1853). Yr oeddwn i'r pryd hyn yn dyfal fyfyrïo egwyddorion cyffredinol (general principles) iaith; a pho mwyaf adnabyddus o'r rhai hyn y deunw, hoffaf oll o lithrigrwydd llythraith ac ymadrodd y cawn fy hun, fel o'r diwedd y llwyr argyhoeddwyd fi nad oedd yr Ysgol Newydd (Ysgol y Dr. Puw), beth bynag, ddim yn gywir. Y canlyniad o hyn fu, i mi ymroddi i chwilio gwaith yr hen Ysgol – o'r Dr. Morgan hyd Gwallter Mechain – y rhai a nodir genyf yn yr "Arweiniad" i'r "Gofres Egwyddorol" a bostir genyf i chwi heddyw, a chefais fod yr H. Ysgol, yn gyffredinol, yn dangos swn geiriau yn llawer rhagorach na'r Newydd (am ieithweddau (idioms) yr iaith Gymmraeg, nid yw y N. yn gymmwys i ddattod carai esgid ~~yr~~ Hen; ond ni pherthyn hyn i'r pwngc) Yn ebrwydd ar ol i Mr Evans gyhoeddi y Bardd Cwsg, ysgrifenis iddo grynhodeb o'm syniadau ar Lythraeth hwnw, cystal ag ar Lythraeth yr iaith yn gyffredin; a dadl gyfrinachol, led boeth, a fu'r canlyniad, am gryn chwe mis, neu chwaneg o amser. Pa fodd bynag, y terfyn fu, i Evans fabwysio y rhan fwyaf o'm golygiadau i ar Lythraeth, fel y mae ei lythrau sydd yn fy

meddiant yn dangos; a chyhoeddodd argraffiad o Grotius ar Wirionedd y Grefydd Gristionogol, yn ol fy nghynllun i o lythyrenu. Os ydyw ei argraffiad ef o'r Bardd Cwsg ac o Grotius at eich llaw, chwi a ganfyddwch hyn ar unwaith. Y mae efe (D. J. Evans) yn gwahaniaethu ychedig oddi wrthyf fi etto, a dim ond ychedig: myn ef ysgrifenu ammheu, cymhwys, anghymhwys, cynghor, llanc, pwnc, &c tra yr ysgrifenaaf fi ammeu cymmwys, anghymmwys, cyngor, llangc, pwngc &c ond nid yw hyn o wahaniaeth o bwys mawr; er, yn ol fy marn i, ei fod ef etto yn gryn dipyn anystoythach.

Yr wyf fi, er mwyn yr Ysgol Newydd, yn defnyddio dy, yn lle di yn dyben, &c. Gwel Arwein §23, 24.

Ar y cyfan, yr wyf yn credi fod fy llythraeth i, fel y'i gwelir yn yr Arweiniad o'r Gofres, mor agos i'r canol, rhwng y ddwy Ysgol, ag y goddef cyssondeb iddi fod – mae'n wir ei bod braidd yn nes at yr Hen Ysgol na'r Newydd, am fy mod yn ystyried yr Hen yn dynodi swn yr iaith yn llawer rhagorach na'r llall – yn wir, os bernir wrth Goll Gwynfa Puw, a gwaith Tegid a Chaerfallwch, ei brif ddysgyblion (ynte disgyblion?) ymddengys mai clogyrneiddiwch ac anystwythder a ystyrient hwy yn ogoniant yr iaith Gymraeg!

Ystyriwn mai ofer fuasai i chwi a minnau fyned i'r drafferth i roi dim ond cofres noeth o eiriau, fel y mynai Tegai i ni wneuthiwr, (yr hwn, gyda llaw, nid yw yn deall ond ychedig iawn o iaith yn y byd,) a dyma yr achos i mi ffurfio yr Arweiniad a welwch yng nglŷn â'r Gofres, er rhoi rhyw fras olwg paham yr ysgrifeniwr fel hyn neu fel arall. Ysgrifenaaf yr Arweiniad ar y tudalen de, fel y galloch chwi gael lle i chwanegu y peth a fynoch ar y chwith, Hefyd, cymmerwch eich rhyddid, wrth ~~wrth~~ gwrs, i newid, ac yn enwedig i dalfyru yr Arweiniad a'r gofres; ac wedi y gwnelech chwi hyn, mi ymdrechaf gael gan Mr. Gee eu hargraffu ~~yr~~ yn y Faner (yr wyf yn ofni yr aiff a lle yn eu hyd hefyd); ac os gallaf gael rhyw gant o slips, mi anfonaf eu hanner i chwi yn ebrwydd. Nis gall Mr. Gee aros cyn dechreu argraffu y Geiriadur hyd ar ol Eisteddfod Dinbych ond y mae yn awyddus i aros nes y deloch chwi a minnau i gydsynied, ond i mi edrych am wneuthur hyny mor fuan ag y bo bosibl.

Dymunaf gael llinell yn hysbysu derbyniad y Gofres, &c. cyn gynted ag y delo i law; a hyderaf y bydd i chwi edrych drosti a'i chywirow cyn gynted byth ag y medroch. A gawsoch chwi'r Banerau a ddanfonais yna?

Yr eiddoch &c

R. J. Pryse

T. Stephens Esq

246a–b

7, Lower Terrace

Denbigh

Hyd 8/58

Annwyl Gyfaill,

Daeth y Guardian i law, a'ch nodyn heddyw. Diolch i chwi. Anfonais innau ddwy "Faner" i chwi yn eu pryd, yr un oedd yn cynnwys hanes yr Eisteddfod, a'r olaf, yn cynnwys Leader o'm gwaith i ar y ddalen gyntaf – "Eisteddfod Llangollen", cewch y nesaf hefyd, am y cynnwys y Llangollen "Scene" ^=terfysg Madog" a gyfieithir genyf y munyd yma o'r "Guardian" Hyderaf eu bod yn eich cyrhaeddyd. Daeth cwynion o amryw fanau fod y ddau rif olaf, oedd yn cynnwys hanes yr Eis<sup>d</sup> heb gyrraedd pen eu taith. Gadwch wybod a ydyw yr eiddoch chwi yn eich cyrraedd.

Gwnaf ddefnydd a Lythyr Mr D.S. Evans ar eich "Madog" yn niwedd yr erthygl heno.

Mab i minnau – hogyn 16 oed – oedd y gorau o saith ar y "Bradwr"; ond attaliwyd ei wobwr yntau, yr hyn nis gwyddwn i yn Llangollen. Mae o yn hanner cynddeiriog o'r achos, fel y deallaf wrth lythyr a gefais ddoe; a dywed iddo anfon am ei gan yn chrwydd, pan welodd mai efe oedd y goreu; ac iddo eu gyru yn syth at Eben Fardd, er cael ei farn ef arni. Dywed na

ddywedasai efe air, oni buasai iddo gael ei farnu yn unfryd fel y goreu, ac y mae rheswm yn y peth a ddywed. Mae ganddo gryn flas ar ynnill prizes yr oedd wedi ynnill tri “first prize” yn Glasgow cyn bod yn 15 oed – un ar Midwifery, y llall ar anatomy, a’r llall “for excelling in the dissecting room”; ac y mae wedi ynnill tri mewn eisteddfod yn awr, eb efe, “ond da a gefais”. Mae’n debyg iawn yr enfyn rywbeth i’r Merthyr hefyd. Yr wyf fi yn erbyn iddo ganu, rhag iddo golli ei amser, ond dywed ef mai “recreation” ydyw iddo; ac yr wyf bron a’i gredu yn awr; canys er ei holl ganu, y mae y medru 4 iaith yn lled dda – Cymraeg, Saesneg, Groeg, a Lladin. Mae wedi canu 7000 lines On Death yn Saesneg, heb law holl Lyfr Galarnad Ieremi. Pw! pw! oddi wrth y pwngc; ond gweli, frawd, nad tydi yn unig sy mewn hwndrwd o blegid barneiddiaeth Llangollen! Da genyf i’r hogyn gadw ei secret oddi wrthyf, yn angen, digon tebyg y buaswn yn fwy pivish wrth hymbygiaid Llangollen. Enw yr hogyn yw John R. Pryse (Joan Prys)

Daw’r Geiriau atodd yr 8nos nesaf, ynghyda 48 t. o’r maint yma o Arweiniad. Tybiwn yn anheggorol angenrheidiol dywedyd rhai rhesymau – o leiaf, awgrymiadau dros y dull a gymmerir, er ceisio dwyn pobl i gydweled. Mae’n rhyw yr genyf gael eich barn chwi ar y cyfan. prydhawn dâwch. “Post,” a dau “diawl y wasg” yn cyfarth am yr erthygl o’r Guardian. Extra job i mi yw hon a gymmerais arnaf fy hun heddyw, er mwyn i’r Cymry weled ymddygiad eich Rymbygwyr (gair da ydyw hwn!)

Yr eiddoch  
Gweirydd ap Rhys

at “Gwrnerth Ergydlym” –  
enw campus, fachgen!

247

7, Lower Terrace

Denbigh  
Hyd 16/58

Anwyl Gwrnerth,

Yr ydym yn rhyfeddu fod cymmaint o’r Faner wedi colli yn y Pyst ar ol Eisteddfod Llangollen, ac yn methu gwybod pa beth i’w wneyd yng ngwyneb y fath beth. Mae’r gwyn wedi dyfod oddi wrth amryw heb law chwi. Nid oedd achos a chwi ddanfôn stamps, canys goddefir i mi anfon ambell gopi i gyfeillion ar achlysur neillduol. Nid oes dim un copi o’r Faner olaf ond un gan neb o honom yn yr office yma: yr wyf wedi anfon bachgen o amgylch y dref i chwilio am gopi; ac os llwydda, rhoddir hi yn y Post gyda hyn o nodyn. Yr oedd y ddiweddaf y 3edd Fanner a ddanfônais i chwi; ond tybiaf mai yr olaf yn unig a’ich cyrhaeddodd chwi! Mae hyn yn rhy ddrwg. Hanes yr Eisteddfod oedd yn y gyntaf, fy erthygl innau – “Yr Eisteddfod” – oedd yn yr ail, a gwyddoch beth oedd yn yr olaf. Yn y nesaf, bydd llythyr oddi wrth un a eilw ei hun “Honi soit qui mal y pense”, yn cynnwys, sylwadau ar fy erthygl i, am hatebiad innau iddo ar ei ol, dan yr enw gogoneddus o “Gol”! Anfonir copi o hon i chwi, yn ddiffael, h.y. cychwynir ef oddi yma yn sicr. Mae hi yn ^debyg^ fyned yn lled boeth. Buasai yn dda genyf yn awr, pe buaswn heb ddechreu ysgrifenu fel Gol. ar y pwngc fel y cawson fwy o ryddid; ond y bechgyn yma ofynodd i mi wneyd Leader am dro ar yr Eisteddfod; a dyna’r canlyniad, un o’r Beirniaid ydyw Honi soit, &c.

Yr wyf heb orphen y list etto: hyderaf y bydd ar ben yr 8nos nesaf. Ai tybed y cyrraedd hõno chwi yn ddiogel? Helynt fyddai i hõno fyned ar ddisperod. Tybiaf fy mod yn cyfeirio atoch yn gywir

Yr eiddoch, &c

Gweirydd ap Rhys

Gwrnerth Ergydlym

O.S. Bydd erthygl arall ^hefyd^ wrth gofio, ar yr Eisteddfod, oddi wrth un arall o'r Beirniad, yn y Faner nesaf, a sylw Mr. Gee, dan yr enw Gol. ar ei hol, yng nghylch diwygio yr Eisteddfodau dyfodol.

Dyma fi wedi cael rhyw fath o gopi – postir ef gyda hwn heno

248

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Tach 24/58

Anwyl Stephens,

Y mae Mr Gee yn gwaeddi yn groch am eich penderfyniad chwi ar yr orgraph, fel y gallo dechreu argraffu'r geiriadur. Nid oes ganddo ef, mwy na minnau, yn wir, ond gobaith gwan y ceir cydsyniad yr holl rai a nodwyd ar yr Orgraph yw ystod yr oes yma. Anfynych iawn y cyttunod y Cymmry ar drin eriod. Am hyny, y mae efe am sefyll at eich barn chwi a minnau, os nad eill gael ychwaneg mewn byr amser. Anfonodd ab Ithel ataf nas galla efe, o barod iddo ei hun gydweithredu â chwi ar yr Orgraph! – dyn a'i galwodd yn gelwyddog; ac archodd i mi dynu ei enw o Restr yr Orgraphwyr! Dywedais wrtho y byddai yn fwy o anrhydedd iddo, i'm tyb, i gydweithredu â gwrthwynebydd nag â chyfeillion – y dangosai hyny rywbeth tebyg i wladgarwch; ond y byddai tynu yn ol oddi wrth beth mor wir genedlaethol ag ydyw Orgraph yr iaith, o blegid bod llenorion y genedl wedi dewis gwrthwynebwr i gydweithredu, yn rhywbeth mor bersonol na chynnygiwn i mo'i esbonio. Cwynais yn arw mai ffrillion personol sydd wedi bod yn ddinystyr ym mhob oes i'r Cymmry – adgofiais ef a ymddygiad Afarwy, a Gwrtheyrn, a Medrod, ac amryw hen chwedlau o'r fath. Ni wn pa effaith a gafodd fy epistol, canys ni chefais ateb. Os gwrthgilia, ofnaf y gwnaiff lawer o ddrwg, canys y mae'n sicr o gael plaid; ond yr wyf fi yn benderfynol y gwnaf fy egni. Dywedais wrtho nad oes genyf fi fwy o hawl; i dynu ei enw oddi ar y Rhestr nag sy genyf i fyned yn esgob yn lle'r Dr Monk.

Wel! Myn einios. Buddug yr ydych yn blingo'r brodyr Llangollenaidd yn fyw! a mi feddyliwn na orphwyswch nes rhoi eu crwyn ar y pared! Byddaf i mi ddywedyd – “Serve ‘em right”.

Gweirydd

Ergydlym!

249

7 Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Tach 27/58

Daeth eich llythyr i law heddyw; ac yr wyf yn atch “gyda throad y post”, gan obeithio y cyraedd hwn chwi cyn i chwi gychwyn y gofres, &c, o'r Merthyr.

[Here follows a twelve page detailed letter on Welsh orthography, written over several days. It concerns last decisions, mainly on the doubling of consonants, accents, and the word *cyfleu*. The author asks Stephens to cut down on his script, but he trust his judgement. There are detailed remarks on words, such as *ymhobman*; *ynghyfiawnder*, *ynghyd*, *amhersonol*, etc.]

Yr eiddoch &c  
R. J. Pryse

Mr. Stephens

250

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
20 Decr 10<sup>th</sup> 58

Anwyl Syr,

Daw slip o'n cylchlythyr i'ch llaw ar unwaeth a'r nodyn hwn; ac erfynir arnoch ei ddychwelyd "gyda throad y Post", gyda'r gwelliadau arno. Cewch y llythyr wedi ei orphen yn daclus, yn ebrwydd ar ol i chwi ddychwelyd y Proof.

Yr eiddoch &c  
R. J. Pryse

251

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Rhag 25/58

Anwyl Gyfaill,

Dylaswn fod wedi cydnabod eich caredig lythyrau &c. cyn hyn; ond yr oedd gofalu ar gael ein Cylch-lythyr o'r wasg, at y gorchwylion oedd genyf eisoes mewn llaw, yn mawr wasgu ar fy amser. Buasai yn dda iawn genyf gael "Salmau Iolo" yn gyflawn, fel hyn, er tal yn ddrud am ganynt; ond y mae llawer mwy o werth drachefn yn ddynt fel anrheg oddi wrth lenor o'ch bath chwi. Diolch mor gwael ydwyf fi am gymmwynasau mawrion yn wastad; ond bydd y teimlad yn eangach na'r geiriau.

Yr oedd beirniadaeth Evans ar y Traethodau Madogaidd yn rhy ddiweddar i'r Faner ddiweddaf; ond y mae yn yr hon a ddanfonir i chwi gyda'r un post o hwn heddyw. Y mae ein pen gol ni yn bur ofalus rhad digio Ab Ithel, hyd y gall; ac am hyny, cyfeiria cyn lleied ag y medr ato ef yn y sylw sydd ar ol y Feirniadaeth. Dywedais wrtho, amser yn ol, fod Ab Ithel yn bygwth peidio cydweithredu i sefydlu yr Orgraph o blegid eich bod chwi yn pwyso mor drwm ar ei wynt o blegid ei ymddygiad ymyrgar, os nad gwir bawaid, yn Llangollen: "O!" medd yntau, "y mae Ab Ithel yn llai, yn hyn, nag y buaswn i yn dysgwyl iddo Ef fod – ni buaswn yn dysgwyl iddo ef, yn anad neb, wrthod gwneuthur lled cyhoeddus o blegid anghydwelediad personol". Dywedais innau fod affairs Llangollen wedi fy ngorfodi fi i newid fy meddwl i raddau annymunol genyf am Ab Ithel, fel boneddwr a gwladgarwr. Dywedodd yntau fod yn ddrwg iawn ganddo glywed; ond na ddylid amddiffyn neb ar lwybr anheg; â'r hyn, wrth gwrs, nis gallwn innau lai na chydysnio.

Yr oeddwn i wedi <sup>meddwl</sup> cael tipyn bach o ddifyrwrch yn y Faner heddyw, âg un E.T.D. ynghylch "Coelbren y Beirdd;" ond methwyd â rhoi fy ysgrif i mewn yr 8nos hon. Anfonir hi yna pan ddaw allan. Cellwair ydyw fy ysgrif bresennol, gan mwyaf o blegid i'r creadur a nodais ddywedyd fod gwybodaeth o honi yn hanfodol, am wn i, i wneuthur llenor Cymraeg, neu rywbeth i'r ystyr yna; ond yn wir, yr wyf fi yn ofni, o ddifrif, nad ydyw ddim ond ffug diweddar i gyd: yr wyf yn dra sicr, yn fy meddwl fy hun, mai Iolo a'r D<sup>f</sup>. Puw a'i perffeithiodd [illegible] bai hi berffaith hefyd. Credaf nad oes dim o honi yn hynach na'r hen frawd Llywelyn Sion, a'i gydoeswyr, y rhai a gyfansoddasant Iolo Mss. Mae yn dra thebyg genyf, er a fostia'r Celtig Ddafis a'r cwbl, nad yw 16eg llythyren gyntefig y Cymry ddim amgen nag 16eg Cadmus, yr hwn, yntau, yn mae'n bur debyg, nad oedd dim ond breuddwyd rhyw ddynsodyn Groegaidd bywiog ei feddwl. Mae 8 o 10 llythyren gyssefin "deg ystoriyn" – Iolo Mss. yn Schlegel's Philosophy of Language! a, p, c, e, t, i, l, r, o, s, ydyw "awgrymau Iolo", ac a, i, u (w); p, t, c; l n r; s, ydyw "primary elements" Schlegel, neu yn hytrach, Bopp a Grimm; ond nid peth anhynod oedd i hen deulu Cymreig y 15ed neu yr 16fed canrif ddyfod mor agos i athronwyr mawrion "Sermania"! Hoffwn i yn fawr i wybod eich barn aeddfed

chwi am y Goelbren. Y mae pob peth a'r a ysgrifenydd arni, am wn i, yn fy meddiant, er hynny, ni fedrwn i yn fy myw, hyd yn hyn, fod nemor nag infidel Coelbren yddol! Rhesymau y Celtic Ddafis yw'r goreu a welais i, yr wyf yn credu; ond dywed Caisar yn ddi seremoni mai llythyrenau Groeg oedd genym, y rhai, yn wir, yn eu dull hynafol, fel y gwyddoch, yn llawer gwell na mi, oedd dra thebyg i lythyrenau Coelbren Iolo – dyna i chwi enw newydd.'

Am amhen a tymmor, yr wyf fi yn ddigon bodlawn i “ranu yr ysbail”; ond dichon yn hawdd y bydd ar lawer heb law ni ein dau eisiau rhan.

Yr wyf yn anfon i chwi heddyw 100 copi o'r cylch-lythyr; ac y mae genyf finnau 100. Yr wyf yn anfon 80 o'm rhai fy hun ymaith gyda'r un port a hwn. Yr wyf yn hoffi cael llais cynnifer fyth ag a aller o rai sy'n meddwl rhywbeth am y llythraeth Gymraeg, cystal a'r 6 Gogleddwr, a'r Cyhoeddwr a'r Golygwyr a enwyd yn Llangollen. Yr wyf fi yn diwallu'r trefyn yn o lew, mi dybygaf: Llundain; Gwrgant, Cadfan, Aled o Fon, a Gwilym Twrog, neu Twrog – yr wyf yn eu hanfon oll i Gwrgant, Manchester; Mr Francis, Creuddynfab, Ceiriog, Derfel Liverpool; Hiraethog; Ioan Lleifiad, Barlwydd, a'r Parch John Thomas. Yr wyf yn anfon hefyd i Llallawg a Carn Ingli. Nid wyf wedi llysu un llenor o ddim bri, sydd yn y Gogledd yma; ond ni sengaidd gwys o'r Deheubarth, hyd yr wyf yn gwybod.

Pa beth a wneir pan ddelo'r pleidleisiau i law, h.y. rhai y Gogledd? ai eu hanfon yna oll, ai rhwy ddull arall? Nid oes genyf fi fawr i gyd o obaith y bydd yma Eisteddfod y flwyddyn hon; a phrin yr wyf fi yn meddwl y byddai ddoeth bod yn genedlaethol, o herwydd un fawr y Merthyr; am hynny, y mae arnom eisiau sefydlu yr Orgraph cyn cynted ag y gallom, fel y gallom ddechreu cyhoeddi y Geiriadur; ac, yn wir, gallwn wneyd yn llawn cystal, o ran hynny, os nad gwell, ag mewn Eisteddfod. Y mae Gee, er pob gwawd a wna rhai o'r mân bapurau gyda golwg ar hynny, yn penderfynu mabwyso'r llythraeth a benderfynoch chwi a minnau, ar unwaith yn Geiriadur, y Faner, &c., beth bynag a wna rhai ereill. Bum mi mewn tipyn o lafur i gael enw pob un o'r Cynoeddwr a'r Golygwyr, Gogleddol, heb son am y lleill oll; a diau genyf y cewch chwithau gryn lafur hefyd. Yn eich talaith chwi y mae Caledfryn. Beth a ddywed ef, tybed, pan y cai circular?

Pa un oreu a “gwneud” dyweud?” ai “gwneyd, dyweyd?” Yr wyf yn meddwl mai o blaid yr olaf y mae tarddiad ac analogy: gwna = gwneyd; dywedyd=dyweyd –y d yn colli, am wn i. Teyrn, &c

Yr eiddoch byth, Gweirydd

252

7 Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Rhag. 14, 1858

Anwyl Syr,

Ni wn a ydyw hynny o wahaniaeth sy rhyngof fi a chwi yn werth ysgrifenu yn ei gylch o gwbl, heb law y dylwn gydnabod derbyniad diogel yr ysgrifau; a bod yn ddifyr genyf ysgrifenu at un sy'n dangos meddwl mor glir a diragfarn ynglŷn â phob pwngc a gymmero mewn llaw.

Yr wyf yn llwyr gydwled fod yr hyn a gynnygiwch i wneuthur i fyny y Cylchlythyr yn llawn ddigon – goreu po byraf y bo'r cyfryw bethau.

Yr wyf yn meddwl mai'r peth pwysicaf sy'n gofyn ychydig sylw ydyw eich syniad dan y penawd “Tarddiad”; a rhag nad ydych yn ei gofio yn fanwl, gwell i mi ei ddyfynu (yn te difynu?) yma:

[Here follows a twenty-three page letter with detailed suggestions regarding the Welsh Orthography Circular. About sixteen pages of the Dictionary have been printed; Pryse has

had a copy of Iolo Moorganwg's *Salmau*, but cannot get hold of the second volume. He would like to have the notes which are in the preface, if Thomas Stephens could copy them for him; but if he could send him the volumes, he'd send stamps for it. Some remarks on the triads. The letter concludes]

‘Awdurdod ydyw pob peth braidd, mewn ieithyddiaeth gan bob cenedl ond y Cymry. Beth ydyw yr achos o hyn, nis gwn i, oddi gerth nad yw ein ieithyddion ni, at eu gilydd, yn fwy annysgedig nag ieithyddion cenhedloedd ereill. Ni fedr R. Tegai, awdwr y “Gramadeg Athronyddol”, ddim brawddeg o un iaith dan y nef ond Cymraeg!

Dyma fy ‘stori i wedi darfod, o’r diwedd, a sicr fod yn dda genych gael ymwarded â hi. Na – un gair etto! Ni ddaeth eich chwanegiadau at y gofres byth i law. Dysgwyliaf hwy yn fuan.

Yr eddoch &c.  
R. J. Pryse

Mr T. Stephens

**253a<sup>1</sup>**

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Ion 29/59

Anwyl Wrnerth,

Dyma un arall o’r Cynghor wedi dychwelyd y Cylchlythyr: nid oes yn awr ond un heb ei dychwelyd – y Parch. L. Edwards. Gwelwch fod y mwyafrif o’r gogleddwyr o leiaf, o blaid egwyddor ein llythraeth ni

A welsoch chwi sylw doctoraidd gol. y Gwron am heddyw ar ein Horgraph? (O! nag e “Orgraff”, medd ef.) Yr wyf fi yn credu mai Caledfryn yn ddiu ydyw yr awdwr. Y mae gohebiaeth wedi bod rhyngddo â Thegid: felly Caledfryn; heblaw amryw arwyddion <sup>^</sup>Caledfrynaidd<sup>^</sup> ereill sydd ar yr ysgrif; ond bernwch chwi a ydyw yn sylw ~~xxxxddion iw~~ ai peidio. Ofna y byddai Caledfryn yn falch o daflu rhwystr ar ein ffordd i sefydlu yr Orgraph, oblegid i’r Pwyllgor yr oedd ef yn perthyn iddo fethu; a dichon fod aml un arall yn Nghymru o’r un deimlad; ac y mae yn bur debyg fod y brawd Hirlas yn eu mysg (er ei fod ef ymhell oddi wrth dull Caledfryn) am fy mod i mewn cyssylltiad â’r gorchwyl; canys digiodd yn arwrthf am i Mr Gee fy newis i yn ei le ef i wneyd y Geiriadur Cym. a Saesneg.

Byddwn bur ddiolchgar i chwi pe gallech anfon eich penderfyniad i mi ar yr Orgraff yn gynnar yr 8nos nesaf, canys y mae arnaf fydd mawr yn rhwystro Mr Gee i argraffu’r Rhifyn cyntaf o’r Geiriadur. – Cawsom gyfarfod o gylch 1500 neithwyr ar yr Eisteddfod. Pasiwyd hi yn unfryd i fod yn haf 1860. Cawsom luaws o lythrau ffafriol iawn. Soniant oddi wrthf chwi. Yr eddoch &c R. J. Pryse.

**253b**

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Chwefr. 8/59

Anwyl Syr,

Cymmerais fy rhyddid o anfon i chwi, gyd â’r Post heddyw, y broflen (proof sheet) gyntaf o’r “Geiriadur Cymraeg Cyfystyrol a Geirdarddol”, er mwyn i chwi weled y cynllun yn gyflawn, a chael eich Barn arno, o’r hon farn y mae genyf fi feddwl pur uchel.

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<sup>1</sup> In the manuscript of collected letters, this letter is among the pages of 253b.

Byddwn bur ddiolchgar i chwi pe gallech hebgor cymmaint o amser ag i'w darllen oll yn fanwl, gan chwangu ati a thynu oddi wrthi unrhyw bethau a'r a ddymunoch, yn enwedig yn y tarddiadau; ac os gwyddoch am unrhyw eiriau arferedig a adawyd allan, diolchwn yn fawr i chwi am eu rhoddi i mewn. Os gwnewch hyn oll, byddwch gystal a sylwi pa faint o'ch amser a gymmer hynny i fyny (ynte fynu?). Gwelwch fy mod i yn cymmeryd pob geiriau i mewn, “bastarddol” cystal ag anfastarddol; canys ni wn i i ba le y mae i efrydydd Cymraeg droi am eglurhâd ar eiriau a arferir gan ysgrifenydd y genedl, ond i Eiriadur. Cofnodi yr iaith fel y bu ac y mae, ac nid fel y dylai fod, fel y gwnaeth y llafurus Dr Puw – o leiaf, fel yr oedd efe yn tybied y dylai fod. Yr wyf yn nodi pob gair anarferedig neu anwarantedig, hyd y gallwyf, â X, fel na bo i ysgrifenydd yr oes hon eu harfer os gallant yn hawdd eu hebgor. Tybiaf y gall hyn fod o dipyn o help, yn enwedig i ysgrifenydd ieuaingc.

Y mae genyf fi gryn feddwl o'r eglurhâd Cymraeg a roddaf. Nid oes genym ni, fel cenedl, ddim o'r fath, hyd yr wyf fi yn gwybod, ond “Cyveirlyfr” Bardd Glas Morganwg; ac nis gallaf ymddiried braidd ddim iddo yntau.

Mae llythraeth y broflen yn ol ein cynllyn diwygiadol, cyn belled ag y gallwn, yn ol argrymau eich nodyn o'r laf o'r mis hwn. Yr wyf yn dysgwyl (ynte disgwyl? – dyma arfer gwlad) eich “formal statement”, bob dydd.

A welsoch chwi Leader “y Gwron”, Ion. 29, ar “Yr Orgraff Gymreig”? Yr wyf yn gwbl sicr, yn fy meddwl fy hun, mai gwaith Caledfryn ydyw – dyma'r prawf: – Ar ol sylwi ddarfod i “Bwyllgor gael ei benodi o'r blaen, drwy lais gwlad [sylwch!],<sup>2</sup> yn y flwyddyn 1840”; ac enwi yr aelodau, yn fanwl dywed, “Yr holl symudiad a gymerodd le, ar ein tu ni [ar ein tu ni],<sup>3</sup> yn yr amgylchiad hwnw, oedd i ni [ni]<sup>4</sup> ohebu ychydig a Thegid”.

Dyma Galedfryn: y mae wedi dywedyd yr un peth yn gwbl o'r blaen yn ei Ramadig. Credaf fod arno ofn ^yn^ ei galon i ni lwyddo i sefydlu yr Orgraph, am ei fod ef a'i gyfeillion, wedi erthyglu; ac nid wyf yn amheu nad oes llawer un yng Nghymru o'r un teimlad ag ef – Beth! T. Stephens ac R. I. Prys, yn “wyr cymwys” i sefydlu yr Orgraph Gymraeg! Gwyr heb fod na ~~phxxxgeth~~ “Gweinidogion Ymneilldiuol” nac “Offeiriaid Eglwys Loegr” – preposterous! Credaf mai dyna deimlad rhai corachod llenyddol. A ydyw Caledfryn yn peidio bod yn un o honynt?

Mae yr erthygl dan sylw, o'r Gwron, yn son ~~xxx~~ y byddai yn hawdd “troi y byrddau arnom”; ond ni falw'n i lawer a'u troi arnynt hwy. Y peth a ffromodd yr awdwr yma yn erwin, oedd i ni ddywedyd nad yw eu dadleuon “yn teilyngu cymmaint o bwys ag iddo y ddwy brif ysgol”. Hoffwn i chwi weled yr erthygl fyfiol hon.

Yr wyf yn llwyr gredu y rhoddwn ni gam da weithion at sefydlu yr Orgraph, er gwaethaf tuedd genfigenus, wrthwynebus rhai o'r sawl “a fynant fod yn athrawon y bobl”, chwedl hwythau. Ond ni ddygwydd dim fel hyn eriod i weithrediad ar unwaith. Pe bai fodd i chwi, lwyddo i gael gan Eisteddfod y Merthyr i erchi ar i'r holl gyfansoddiadau Cymraeg yno fod yn yr Orgraph ddiwygiedig; ac i minnau lwydd efo Eisteddfod Dinbych, y flwyddyn ganlynol, 1860, i erchi yr un peth, mi a edrychwn ar ran fawr o'r amcan wed ei gyrhaeddyd. Yr wyf yn hyderu hefyd y caf gan Mr Gee gyhoeddi y “Faner” a'r “Udgorn” yn yr Orgraph ddiwygiadol; heb law y bydd y Geiriadur ynddi; a phan allom orphan y Gofres, hyderaf yr edrychir ar i bob llyfr arall a ddaw o'r swyddfa hon fod ynddi. Tybiaf y gwna Mr Clarke, Rhuthyn, a Mr Hughes, Wrexham argraphu ynddi hefyd.

Os gwelwch yn dda ddychwelyd proflen y Geiriadur ymhen diwrnod neu ddau, gwnewch gymwynas i'r

Eiddoch, &c

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<sup>2</sup> Square brackets in original.

<sup>3</sup> Square brackets in original.

<sup>4</sup> Square brackets in original.

R. J. Pryse

O.N. Gymmerwch, attolwg, gyflawn ryddid i groesu a chwanegu at y broflen Eiriadurol. Yr wyf yn meddwl y bwriada Mr Gee ddanfon proflen i Ab Ithel. Mae ganddo ef gryn feddwl o'r "gwr llên", tra y mae genyf fi fwy o feddwl o'r "gwr lleyg". Os byddwch yn gweled yn dda ysgrifenu rhyw nodiadau ar y broflen, gwell peidio crybwyll dim am hyn, parth Ab Ithel. –

254

7, Lower Terrace  
Denbigh

Anwyl Syr,

Ni chefais hamdden i dalu dim sylw yn awr er's talm i'r Orgraph, mae i'ch llythyrau chwithau mewn perthynas iddi. Yr wyf weithiau am fyned ati o ddifrif. Y mae y Rhifyn cyntaf, pris 6 ch. o'r Geiriadur yn y wasg; a dyma yr achos fod genyf ryw ychydig o amser yn bresennol ^i^ ystyried rhyw faint ar yr Orgraph.

[Here follows a seventeen-page letter on the orthography circular and the Welsh orthography. He apologizes for not answering Thomas Stephens's letter sooner and gives a detailed discussion of some words. He is against a second appeal. They would lose the the confidence of the country, because they would see that they have no confidence in their own abilities. It was their plan to take a middle path and not follow the Old School. He gives details of who has returned the Circular; 6 positive and 1 against, i.e. Prof. Williams. Their plan has 49 followers, 10 against, and among the backers are the main authors of the age. There is strong opposition to doubling of consonants. Here follows a detailed discussion of words; one problem is that our alphabet is deficient; consistence and uniformity is all, but we can't achieve this until we have a constant alphabet; only then can we expect correctness ... ch, dd, ff=ph, ll, ng, th. Many believe there should only be simple signs; Dr Puw and Iolo Morganwg have been the means to drive many astray; in their midst Rev J. Rowlands, author of the Grammar. There is a detailed discussion of the spelling of some words; what Mr Williams insists on writing; Prys will prepare the Circular and Thomas Stephens's 'dosbarthiad taclus chwithau o'r pleidleisiau, i'r wasg, fel arweiniad i'r gofres eiriau']

Er eiddoch &c  
R. J. Prys

Mr. T. Stephens

[Postscript on orthography]

255

7 Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
4 March 1859

Anwyl Syr,

Anfonaf i chwi heddyw broflen o'r holl arweiniad i'r Gyfres eiriau. Dymunaf alw eich sylw neillduol ^at y^ nodyn sydd ar y slip a rifais yn 5. Yr wyf yn tybied fod yr un peth yn eich golwg chwithau yn un o'ch llythyrau diweddar. Y mae h yn nechreu sill o flaen cydsain yn annioddefol hleid hlyg, hraft, un cym-hlyg, cym-hraft-der, &c. Rhaid eu hysgrifenu cym-mhlyg, cym-mhraftder, &c. rhag eu hagreidd fel arall; yna wrth gwrs, cym-mhorth, cym-mhell; ammharod, ammhliddgar, &c. Yn unol â hyn yr wyf am argraphu y gofres. Yr ^wyf^ yn disgwyl y cewch chwi a ereill broflen o'r gyfres yn bur fuan.

Fe fydd y Gyfres a'r Arweiniad yn Llyfr 6<sup>d</sup> mi wn, erbyn ei orphen; gan hyny ni bydd modd i neb ei gael "ond danfon stamp i dalu y cludiad;" ond y mae Mr. Gee wedi addaw y caf anfon copi wedi talu ei gludiad i bob un a atebodd y Cylchlythyr – 59 o nifer. Bydd raid i bawb arall dalu'r pris yn llawn am dano, wrth reswm.

A fyddwch fwyned a rhoi address y gwyr hyn i mi: Dr. Rowl. Williams; Ioan Emlyn; Myfyr Morganwg; Robyn Du Eryri; Gwilym Mai; Ieuan Grug; Rev. D. Ll. Isaac; Gol. yr "Ymofynydd;" Mr Aneurin Jones; Gol. y Seren Gomer; Tydfylyn; Gwilym Ildid; Llawdden; Rev. R. Gwesyn Jones; Dewi Wyn o Essyllt, fel y gallwyf anfon profleni iddynt yn syth o Ddinbych; canys bydd hyny yn llawer llai o drafferth, na'u gyru i chwi, a chwithau iddynt hwy, oni fydd? Proflen i o'r Gyfres wyf yn ei feddwl.

Gwnewch pa gyfnewidion bynag a'r a hoffoch, ym mhroflen yr "arweiniad" a ddanfona i chwi heddyw, h.y. cyn belled ag y goddefo'r "form" orgraphedig. Ni rhaid i mi ddywedyd i chwi mai goreu byth po cyntaf y caffom y broflen yn ol.

Gyda chofion,  
yr eiddoch, &c.  
R. J. Pryse

Mr. Stephens

256

Dinbych  
Mawrth 12 1859

Anwyl Syr,

Mae yn ddrwg genyf fod Mr. Silvan Evans yn dechreu eich blino yng nghylch y Gyfres; ond gellwch fod yn berffaith dawel o berthynas iddi: mae yr hyn oll a dywedais i yng nglŷn â hi yn wirioneddau ansyfladwy; a chymmeraf fi ofal i amddiffyn y cwbl, os bydd achos, heb i chwi ymflinio dim yn eu cylch.

Yr ydych chi wedi cydnabod llawn ddigon, a pheth gormod hefyd, o waith Mr Evans gyda golwg ar y Gyfres eisoes. Dywedaso ch y "rhwyddhawyd y gorchwyl o gasglu y gyfres, drwy fod cyfres o'r fath o gasgliad Mr. Gee, yr hon a ddefnyddiwyd ganddo yn ei swyddfa er's blynyddoedd; a'r hon a ddiwygiwyd yn lled ddiweddar gan y Parch D.S.Evans."

Y mae hynyna yn wir, ond nid "y gwir i gyd", canys gofyn hwnw am "ac R. I. Prys;" o blegid y mae genyf fi amryw ^lythyrau^ oddi wrth Mr. Evans yn dymuno arnaf brysuro i wneud y gyfres i fyny, o'r hon yr oedd Mr. Evans a Mr. Gee wedi anfon i mi gopi, fel y byddai i mi chwanegu ati. Y mae pawb oedd yn swyddfa Mr. Gee ar y pryd mor hysbys a minnau o wirionedd hyn.

Yr ydych chi yn dywedyd yn y summing up fod yn "deg cydnabod fê ddarfod i rai sylwadau y gyfres hōno gael eu defnyddio yn y cylchlythyr." Nid ydyw hyn wir; canys nid oes unrhyw "sylwadau" yng nglŷn â'r "gyfres hōno" i'w defnyddio; am hyny, yr wyf fi yn credu yn awr, ar ol cael eich nodyn diweddar, mai gwell dileu'r gydnabyddiaeth yma, a sefyll yn fanwl at y gwirionedd.

Dyma wir hanes y Gyfres: ni ddywedir dim am dani, nas gellir ei profi o lythyrau Mr. Evans ei hun sydd yn fy meddiant i, a thrwy dystiolaeth. Casglwyd y Gyfres, ar y cyntaf, gan Mr. Gee ei hun, o gylch y flwyddyn 1844 (y mae hon yn awr, fel y gwnaed hi yn wreiddiol, o'm blaen); ac yn ol orgraph hon yr argrephid poppeth yn swyddfa Mr. Gee, cyn belled ag yr oedd hi yn cyrhaedd, hyd o gylch y fl. 1852, pan yr helaethwyd ac y diwygiwyd hi gan Mr. Evans a minnau; canys yr oeddwn i ar y pryd yn cael tâl gan Mr. Gee am gynnorthwyo Mr. Evans i gasglu'r Geiriadur Saesneg a Chymraeg.

Yr oedd Mr. Evans weithiau yn parotoi argraphiad o'r Bardd Cwsg i'r wasg; a byddai yn anfon ataf finnau yn bur fynych i ymgynghori yn ei gylch. Yr oeddwn i y pryd hyn yn orchri yn fawr at y dull seinyddol o ysgrifenu'r Gymraeg; a llawer dadl frwd a gymmerodd le

rhyngof fi a Mr. Evans yn gyfrinachol, a rhyngof ac ereill yn gynhoeddus ar y pwngc, yn enwedig yn y “Cymro” a'r xxxxxxxxxxxxxx le yr ysgrifewnwn dan yr enw “Geraint Fardd Glas.” Yr oedd Evans y pryd hyn, fel yr oeddwn innau wedi bod, ym mhell dros y dull tarddiadol o ysgrifenu'r iaith, fel y dengys ei Fardd Cwsg, 1853, a'r Geiriadur; a mynych y derbyniwn i y llwm wawd mwyaf pigog oddi wrtho o blegid mabwyso'r dull seinyddol: cyhuddai fi o fod yn ddisgybl i “Arthur y Cymro,” sef Nicander, yr hwn, medd efe, sy'n “Busead llenyddol cystal a Phusead crefyddol,” &c. Pa fodd bynag, dal i ddadleu o blaid seinyddiaeth a wnaethwm i, nes y dygwydd Evans hefyd, bob yn dipyn, i gofleidio yr un drefn. Mae yr holl lythyrau a gefais i oddi wrth Mr. Evans ar y pwngc ar gael etto; a phrofant fy honiadau.

Pan ddygwydd Mr. Evans i gymmeradwyo'r cynllun seinyddol, dymunai gael newid y Gyfres unwaith etto; a gofynodd i mi ysgrifenu at Mr. Gee i'r perwyl hyny, gan nad oedd y ddau erbyn hyn yn medru ond ychydig o ffyrdd eu gilydd; a pharodd yr anghydfod a dyfodd rhyngddynt i mi gryn boen a thrafferth, o bryd i bryd, gan y galwai Evans arnaf yn fynych i gyfryngu. Ni fynai Mr. Gee, ar y dechreu, newid y Gyfres drachefn, yn un peth, am fod ganddo gynnifer of lyfrau mawrion yn Orgraph y diwygiad cyntaf er hanner eu cyhoeddi; megys y Geiriadur Saesneg a Chymraeg, y Traethodydd, y Gwyddoniadur, Esboniad Barnes, &c. Pa fodd bynag, ymosod i ddiwygio'r Gyfres eilwaith a wnaeth Evans a minnau; ac yn y flwyddyn y fl. 1854, cyhoeddodd Evans argraphiad o Grotius yn ol orgraph yr ail ddiwygiad, yr hon sy gwbl wahanol i orgraph y Bardd Cysg a gyhoeddasai'r flwyddyn o'r blaen. Yr oeddwn i yn para i berswadio Mr. Gee i dderbyn y dull seinyddol; ac yn y flwyddyn 1855, cefais lythyr oddi wrtho yn hysbysu fod Evans wedi anfon iddo ail ddigwygiad o'r Gyfres ac yn dymuno arno ei phryni ganddo ef. Dywedais minau wrth Mr. Gee fod y cynllun orgraphol a gynnwysai yr ail ddiwygiad hwn yn ffrwyth myfyrdod mwyaf pwylllog ac addfed Mr. Evans a minnau; a dymunais arno gydsynio a chais Mr Evans trwy bryni y copi a gynnwysai y diwygiad; a chydsyniodd Mr. Gee, a rhoddodd i Evans Bunt am dano!

Tua dechreu'r fl. 1856, dechreuais i cyhoeddi'r “Geiriadur Cynaniadol Saesneg a Chymraeg, yn yr Orgraph Seinyddol ddiwygiedig, yr hwn a orphenwyd yn y flwyddyn 1858.

Y mae'r copi diwygedig o'r orgraph a brynodd Mr. Gee ar fy nghais i, gan Mr. Evans, yn llawysgrif yr olaf, yn awr ger fy mron; a chopiaf yma yr holl “Sylwadau” (?) sy gan Mr. Evans yn nglŷn â'r gofres dan sylw – dyma nhw:

“Rhagymadrodd”

“Cynnwysa y colofnau canlynol gofrestr led helaeth o'r Geiriau hyny y gwhaniaethir yng nghylch y dull cywiraf o'u sillebu; a bernir nas geill casgliad o'r fath lai na bod yn dra chyflëus i'r rhan amlaf o'r rhai sydd yn ymarfer ag ysgrifenu ac argraffu yr iaith Gymraeg.

Dau neu chwaneg o eiriau cyffelyb eu sain, ond gwahanol eu hystyr, yw y rhai a gyfrwymir ar y llaw chwith; ond pan fydda y cyfrwym ar y llaw dde, arferir ef i gyssylltu dwy ffurf berthynol i'r un gair; a phan gydi^e^r dau air felly, gosodir y ffurf a gyfrifir yn oreu bob amser ym mlaenaf.

“Ebrill 25, 1855”

Dyma'r cyfan oll o “Sylwadau” orgraphol Mr. Evans; a phe buaswn yn eu defnyddio bob gair yn fy “Arweiniad” i'n horgraph ni; yr hyn nis gwnaethum, prin y buasai deilwng o'r gydnabyddiaeth a roddasoch chwi iddo.

Am y Gyfres ei hun, yr wyf fi yn hõni fod genyf gymmaint o hawl awdurol ynddi, ag sy gan Mr. Evans, os gellir ystyried casgliad o'r fath yn awduriaeth o gwbl; ond ni buaswn i byth yn son am y fath beth, wrth neb, pe buasai efe yn gallu ffrwyno ei ddygasedd. Yn wir, os oes awduriaeth yn perthyn i'r peth, Mr. Gee ydyw yr awdwr cyntefig o'r Gyfres – nid yw Evans a minnau yn ddim ond diwygwyr ar y goreu.

Am yr “Arweiniad” a ddanfonais i chwi, yn cynnwys 50 tudalen o'r llawysgrif hon, o'r hwn “arweiniad” y ffurfiasoch chwi'r Cylchlythyr mor Ddeheig, yr wyf fi yn honi fod

hwnw yn gyfansoddiadd cwbl wreiddiol i mi fy hun, ac nad oes arnaf y ddyled leiaf i Evans am na'r defnydd na'r delfrydau sydd ynddo. Hawdd i chwithau ddeall hyny, ond i chwi gymmharu'r "sylwadau" helaeth sydd yn yr Arweiniad hwnw, â "Rhagymadrodd" 'cwta Mr E. sydd wedi ei ddifynu uchod, yr hwn "Ragymadrodd" yw'r cwbl, hyd y gwn i, a ysgrifennodd efe ar yr Orgraph.

Yr oedd cymmaint o lythyrau wedi pasio rhwng Mr. Evans a minnau ar yr Orgraph, fel y dichon yn hawdd fod yr un delfrydau yn argraphedig ar fy meddwl i ac yntau; ond, a wyf fi yn fwy dyledus iddo efe i mi? Nid wyf yn tybied; ac ni thybiech chwithau, pe gwelech ei ohebiaethau cyntaf â mi; y rhai sydd fyth ar gael, er iddo ef ofyn am danynt i'w llosgi.

Yn awr, gellwch fod yn gwbl dawel gyda golwg ar "gydnabyddiaeth" i Mr. Evans, ac os blina efe chwi etto, rhoddwch yr holl fai arnaf fi; neu, os ewyllysiwch, rhoddwch y llythyr hwn iddo; neu cyfeiriwch ef ataf fi am eglurhâd. Gwn ym mlaen llaw beth fydd ei ateb – "Nid yw yn werth genyf ddadleu â'r fath un", &c. Gwyr Mr. Evans y bydd yn haws iddo ddywedyd hyny, na gwrthsefyll fy mhroffion. Weithian yr wyf yn darhod â'r Gyfres am y tro hwn, i roi eglurhâd i chwi ar yr hyn a grybwyllais eisoes gyda golwg ar Eiriadur Saesneg a Chymraeg Mr. Evans.

Dywedais fod Mr. Gee yn talu i mi am gynnorthwyo Mr. Evans i gasglu ei Eiriadur: mae hyn yn brofadwy mewn mwy nag un ffordd; er hyny, ni bu wiw gan Mr. Evans gydnabod hyny, mewn un modd, trwy gymmait ag un gair yn y Preface nac mewn un man arall!

Y mae'r Geiriadur dan sylw bron mor llawn o'r m chwanegiadau i ag ydyw o'r eiddo Mr. Evans, yn enwedig, y rhifynau blaenaf o hono – y trysor o eiriau y bum i yn ei gasglu er's cyn geni Silvan Evans. Gwyddai Mr. Gee werth cyfartal llafur pob un o honom, yr hyn fe allai nas gwyr neb arall; a phan y daeth eisiau argraphiad newydd o'r Dr. Pughe, myfi a ddewisodd ef at y gorchwyl, a hyny heb i mi eriod gymhell fy hun iddo; tra yr oedd Mr. Evans wedi anfon ato am y gwaith, er nas gwyddwn i hyny nes yr oeddwn wedi ymgymeryd ag ef. Hwyrach y meddyliwch mai yr achos i Mr. Gee fy newis i yn hytrach na Mr. Evans yddoedd, am ei fod yn cael fy ngwasanaeth yn rhatach: nid felly, ond yn hollol i'r gwrthwyneb: £100 a geisiodd ac a gafod Mr. Evans am y Geiriadur Saesneg, a Chymraeg, sy'n 1964 ^tudalen^; ond talodd i mi £80 am y Geiriadur Cynaniadol Saesneg a Chymraeg, yr hwn nid yw on 684 o dudalenau o tebyg bychan; a chyst fy ngwaith ar y Geiriadur Cymraeg a Saesneg iddo dros £700. Dengys y effeithiau ^hyn^ yn amlwg na cheisiwyd fy ngwasanaeth i, beth bynag, o blegid ei radlonrwydd; a gwyr Mr. Gee yn dda, na chymhellais fy ngwasanaeth iddo ar draws Mr. Evans; yn wir, yr oedd Mr. E. wedi dywedyd wrthyf lawer gwaith, nas gwnelai efe ddim byth i Mr. Gee ar ol y Geiriadur; a synwyd fi yn aruthrol pan ddeallais ddarhod iddo ddanfôn llythyr at Mr. Gee, ar ol i mi ymsymmud o Fon i Dinbych, yn cynnyg chwanegu at Eiriadur y Dr. Pughe! Anfonodd llythyr hefyd ataf finnau i Fon, o gylch yr un amser, yr hwn a yrwyd ar fy ol i Dinbych, ac a atebwyd genyf oddi yno yn gwbl gyfeillgar, fel arferol; ond pan ddeallodd Mr. Evans fy mod i yn Ninbych, ni ^chefais^ byth gymmait a llinell oddi wrtho! Hyn a barodd i mi ddechreu meddwl fy mod wedi troseddu yn erbyn Mr. Evans trwy gymmeryd gwasanaeth llenyddol Mr. Gee mewn llaw.

Ar ol hyn, aeth Mr. Evans i ffrwgwd chwerw a Mr. Gee, yn yr hon y gwnaeth y cyfeiriadau mwyaf bawaid ataf fi, yn gwbl afreidiol, fel "Cyflogddyn Gee", &c. Attebais y cyfeiriadau iselchwaeth hyn, mewn llythyr byr yn y "Faner"; a gwnaeth yntau gyfeiriadau cyffelyb, eilwaith, wrth ateb Mr. Gee, a hyny yn y modd mwyaf chwerw a thrahaus; ond gan fy mod yn gweled iddo gael somiant mor fawr gyda golwg ar fod yn Olygydd Geiriadur Pughe, er nad oedd genyf fi ddim help, mi a ymattebiais rhad ei archolli ym mhellach. Ond os daw efe etto i'r maes yn fy erbyn i, pa un bynag ai yr orgraph ai rhywbeth arall gymmero yn esgus, mi a osodaf y cwbl ger bron y wlad, ac a brofaf y cyfan o'i lythyryrau; a chaiff ein cydwladwyr farnu rhyngom.

Yr wyf yn dywedyd hyn oll wrthych chwi, am y casglaf oddi wrth eich nodyn diweddaf, cystal a'ch summing up o'r pleidleisiau, ei fod ef yn gohebu â chwi, ac yn gwneud rhyw gyfeiriadau anffafriol, wrth gwrs, at rhan ddibwys a gymmeraf gyda golwg ar yr Orgraph. Yr wyf yn gwybod nad yw ef yn malio dim yn yr Orgraph, gan na buasai efe yn cael ei osod ym mlaenaf yn y gwaith – ei bwngc ef bellach fydd taflu rhwystrau, ar ein ffordd ni i gyrhaedd yr amcan. Y mae genyf ddigon o seiliau i dywedud hyn – y mae gohebiaeth ddidor am yr ysbaid o yn agos i ugain mlynedd, wedi rhoddi i mi gryn fantais i farnu nodweddiad y dyn. Gwelais ef cyn hyn, mwy nag unwaith, yn myned i gryn gost, er mwyn dim ond porthi yr anian wrthddyngarol sydd ynddo. Bum yn ceisio ei argyhoeddi, rai prydiau, o ynfydrwydd y fath ymddygiad; ac aml dro y difyrwyd fi gan y ffrwd o sarcasm a dywalltai arnaf am fy mhoen; canys y mae ganddo gryn dalent i dduchanu.

Yr wyf yn hyderu na chaiff eiddgedd personol, a'r anianawd dan sylw sydd yn Mr. Evans fod yn un rhwystr i ni wneud bob egni yn ein cyrhaedd i gwblhau y gwaith a ymddiriedwyd ini gan ein cydwladwyr, sef sefydlu yr Orgraph. Yr ydych yn gweled yn awr ar pa dir yr wyf fi yn sefyll, a pha bethau ydyw fy honiadau i'r cyfryw dir; a chewch weled na bydd i mi ildio modfedd o hono i unrhyw intruder. Os hoffa Mr. Evans fyned i'r gost ddiachos i argraffu traethawd gwrthwynebol, gwnaed hyny – nid ~~eff~~ effeithia odid ddim er niwed i'n hamcan ni, os byddwn unfryd.

Bydd Rhifyn Swllt o'r Geiriadur Cenhedlaethol Cymraeg a Saesneg wedi ei gyhoeddi yn Orgraph ein cyfres ni cyn diwedd y mis hwn; a hyderaf y bydd “Baner Cymru” ac “Udgorn y Bobl”, ac unrhyw lyfrau pwysig ereill yn cael eu cyhoeddi yn yr un Orgraph, cyn gynted ag y gellir cyhoeddi y Gyfres. Mae yr “Arweiniad” wedi ei argraffu eisoes; ond nis gellir gorphen y gofres nes cyhoeddi y Rhifyn cyntaf o'r Geiriadur.

Gellwch fod yn gwbl dawel gyda golwg ar y “ffeithiau” a adroddais i yng nglŷn â'r Orgraph – maent oll yn ansyfladwy.

Mae yn ddrwg iawn genyf na chawswn y pleser o anfon i chwi gopi o Grotius Mr. Evans – dywedir wrthaf na bu neb eriod yma yn ei werthu. Ni wyr y prif lyfrwerthwyr ddim am dano. Mr. Spurrell a'i cyhoeddodd; ac mi dybygwn mai prin y mae yr argraffiad yn adnabyddus yn y Gogledd.

Nid wyf yn deall beth a olygwch wrth ddywedyd – “a minnau a ddychwelaf y ceinion”.

Mae i chwi groesaw i amlygu cynnwys y llythyr hwn i Mr. Evans; ac ni byddai waeth genyf fi, o ran hyny, pe gwelai ef yn ei grynswth.

Yr eiddoch &c.

R. I. Prys

Mr. Stephens

O. N. Nid oedd genyf hamdden i ysgrifenu llythyr yn fychan, taclus, ar y mater

257

7 Lower Terrace  
Denbigh  
Ion. 1860

Anwyl Syr,

Rhwystrodd amgylchiadau anorfod i mi ateb eich llythyr ^yn gynt^. Dymunaf eich hysbysu nad oedd genyf fi ddim bwriad i'ch dolurio, yn y gradd leiaf, wrth gyferbynu ymddygiad pwyllgor Llangollen at “Madog” âg ymddygiad pwyllgor Merthry at yr “Arwrgerdd;” ond yr oeddwn yn gwneud hyny am fy mod yn credu yn benderfynol fod y “tebygolrwydd” mwyaf “rhwng yr amgylchiadau a ddygyddasant” yn y naill le a'r llall. Yr oeddwn, ac yr ydwyf yn credu fod “Gwrnerth” wedi cael cam yn Llangollen, ond nid dim mwy nag a ga “Golyddan” ym Merthyr! Ac y mae amryw lenorion sy mor alluog i “ddeall”

yr hyn sydd wedi ei gyhoeddi ar y materion a neb sydd ym Merthyr, yn meddwl yr un fath – yn wir, yr wyf yn tybied y gallaf brofi fod “yr amgylchiadau”, yn ol yr hyn oll a gyhoeddwyd, yn gryfach er cadarnhau fod “Golyddan” yn gyfartal â “Taliesin”, nag oeddynt er profi fod “Gwrnerth” yn fuddugol yn Llangollen, er bod yn rhai o blaid yr olaf yn ddigon cryfion i’m hargyhoeddi i ar y pwngc. Pleidlais a hanner, ar y goreu, oedd gan “Gwrthnerth” i fod yn fuddugol ond y mae pob peth sydd wedi ei gyhoeddi yn profi tu hwnt i ddadl i bob dyn “diragfarn”, fod gan “Golyddan” dwy bleidlais o blaid ei gyfartalwch.

Wrth ystyried hyn, a chofio fod “Gwrnerth” yn Drysorydd (ac yr oeddwn i wedi arfer meddwl fod trysorydd “yn un o brif swyddogion”) Eisteddfod Merthyr, yr oedd yn dra naturiol i mi synu peth; ond y mae eich gwaith yn troi i amddiffyn camymddygiad Merthyr, bron mor chwerw ag y condemniath yn eiddo Llangollen, yn peru i mi synu mwy fyth, ac yn dwyn im cof chwedl y cyfreithiwr am “y case yn newid”. Gwrnerth oedd yn cael cam yn Llangollen, ond Golyddan sy’n cael cam yn Merthyr, am hyny “y mae’r case yn newid”! Y mae Gwrnerth yn awr yn amddiffynydd ac nid achwynydd; ac y mae’n credu fod yn ddigon i “wr ieuangc” o fath Golyddan gael yr “anrhydedd o ddyfod mor agos i ennill y gamp”, heb gael ei ystyried yn gyfartal âg anwylyn y pwyllgor, er i ddau o’r beirniaid “fethu penderfynu” rhynddynt, ac heb gael dim am ei boen!

Dywedwch fy mod i “wedi bod yn rhy fyrbwyl, ac wedi camddeall un o’r prif ffeithiau, sef golygiad Eben Fardd,” a’ m bod “yn camddeall Cynddelw hefyd”!

Wel, wel! truan a’ m ddealltwriaeth, ynte! Ond, a ddigwyddodd i chwi ddim meddwl y gallai mai chwi sy “wedi camddeall” y naill a’ r llall. Yr wyf fi am brofi, fy mod yn eu deall yn drwyadl. Dymunwn i chwithau ddeall fy mod i yn seilio fy ymresymiad ar yr hyn sydd wedi ei gyhoeddi ar y pwngc, ac nid ar yr hyn a glytiwyd, fel y dengys eich llythyr chwi, rhwng y pwyllgor a’r beirniaid, mewn nodynau cyfrinachol, ar ol i feirniadaeth Eben ddyfod i law’r pwyllgor. Dechreuaf gydag Eben Fardd.

Dywedais yn fy llythyr o’r blaen, ac yr wyf yn ail ddywedyd yn hwn, ddarfod i Eben Fardd “dystio yn gyhoeddus ei fod yn analluog i benderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”. Gofynwch chwithau “ym mha fodd ac ym mha le? ai ar air ai mewn ysgrifennu?” Atteb, ym “Maner ac Amserau Cymru”; a chadarnheir hyn gan ddau neu dri o dystion. Y cyntaf a osodir yn y bocs ydyw “Gohebydd Llundain”, yr hwn oedd yn Eisteddfod Merthyr, ac yn ysgrifenu o’r fan a’r lle: Dyma ei eiriau ef:–

“Y llall ydoedd yr ‘Arwrgerdd’ oreu: beirniad Eben Fardd. Daeth pedair i law, ond (sylwch!) methai Eben a phenderfynu pa un o ddwy o honynt oedd yr oreu; ac annogai fod i ddau gael eu penodi i gydfarnu âg ef”

Os nad yw hyn yn dangos fod Eben Fardd “yn analluog i benderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”, yr wyf fi yn sicr nad oes fodd dangos hyny yn yr iaith Gymraeg! Fe welodd E. Fardd y dystiolaeth hon cyn ysgrifenu ei lythyr i Fanner Hyd. 19, 1859; ac yr oedd ei ddistawrwydd yn hwnw yn ddigon o brawf ei fod yn ystyried y dystiolaeth yna yn wir. Ond nid hyny yn unig, ond y mae tystiolaeth gyhoeddus Eben ei hun yn profi yr un peth, fel hyn:–

“Yn nghylch barnu yr Arwrgerdd yn Eisteddfod Methyr, dymunaf genad i ddywedyd mai pedair oedd yn gystadleuaeth, ac i mi gael bodlonrwydd i fy meddwl fod dwy yn rhagori: teimlwn fy meddwl yn gogwyddo, mwy na pheidio, yn mhlaid un o’r ddwy yma; ond wrth ystyried addysg y prif athrawon ar farddoniaeth arwrol, a themlo fy amnherffeithrwydd ar yr achlysur presennol i fod, o honof fy hun, yn awdurdod digonol i benderfynu rhwng y ddwy hyn, arswydais adael i’r gogwyddiad oedd yn fy meddwl addfedu i benderfyniad nes i mi gael yn gyntaf ymgynghori â rhw rai cymhwys, a gydsynient i ddarllen y cyfansoddiadau, a’u barnu gyda mi.”

A feiddiwch chwi ddywedyd etto yn wyneb y profion diamwys hyn, nad ydyw E. Fardd “wedi dystio yn gyhoeddus ei fod yn analluog i benderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”? Pa un bynag, y mae gwaith E. Fardd yn gofyn am gynnorthwy i farnu rhyngddynt, ynddo ei hun, yn

profi ei fod ef yn ystyried eu hun “yn analluog i benderfynu” rhwng y ddwy, pe amgen, ni buasai’r fath ymddygiad yn ddim ond ffug noeth!

Y tyst arall ydyw un o gymmydogaeth y Merthyr, fel yr arwydda ei enw, yr hwn sydd wedi deall y pwngc yr un fath yn hollol a “Gohebydd Llundain” a minnau. Dyma ei dystiolaeth ef:–

“Pan ddaeth yr Eisteddfod” (sef Eisteddfod Merthyr) “hysbysodd y pen barnwr, Eben Fardd, ei fod ef yn methu penderfynu rhwng dau o’r cyfansoddiadau, a’i fod yn deisyf cael cynnorthwy dau o Feirniaid ereill.” – Methyrian (Merthyrian?) Herald Cymraeg, Ion: 14/60. t. 2.

Credaf fod hyn yn ddigon i setlo’r pwngc yma, am byth – bod E. Fardd wedi tystio ei hun, a bod y wlad yn ei gredu, ei fod “yn analluog i benderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”.

Dywedwch chwi fod “tystiolaeth y pwyllgor yn wahanol”. Ond, attolwg, pa bwys sydd yn nhystiolaeth y pwyllgor, tra y mae geiriau Eben Fardd ei hun genyf, a thystiolaeth gynoeddus dau oedd yn y fan a’r lle yn clywed darllen y feirniadaeth gyntefig, cyn i’r pwyllgor ddechreu newid nodau cyfrinachol a’r Beirniaid?

Ar ~~fy~~, y gwirionedd amlwg, anwrthwynebadwy ydyw, fod Eben Fardd wedi “methu penderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”; ac am hyny yr oedd teilyngdod y ddwy gân yn gyfartal; ac annhegwch i’r eithaf yn y pwyllgor oedd peidio rhanu’r wob ar unwaith; canys nid oedd gan y pwyllgor nad Eben Fardd, na’r naill a’r llall ynghyd, un hawl, yn ol tegwch a chyfiawnder, i ddewis beirniaid at Eben, heb gydsynied yr ymgeiswyr.

Yr ammod a asoddodd y pwyllgor o flaen beirdd a llenorion y wlad, o’r dechreu oedd, mai Eben Fardd yn unig oedd i farnu yr Arwrgerdd. Ar yr ammod yma y canodd y beirdd eu harwrgerddi fel y dystiolaethodd “un o’r Cystadleuwyr” ym “Maner ac Amserau Cymru”, Hyd. 12/59, t. 31, yr hwn a fynega yn ddiamwys na buasai efe yn ysgrifenu dim erbyn Eisteddfod Merthyr pe rhywun heb law Eben Fardd, neu un neu ddau arall, a fuasai i feirniadu arno”, ac yr wyf fi yn gwybod yn awr nad Gwalchmai a Chynddelw, yn anad neb, ydyw yr “un neu ddau” hyny.

Dywedodd Llew Llwyfo hefyd, lle y clywais i, ei fod ef wedi gyru at ysgrifenydd y pwyllgor am ei gân yn ol, cyn gynted ag y clywodd mai Gwalchmai a Chynddelw a fyddai i feirniadu yr Arwrgerdd ar ol i Eben Farth fethu penderfynu rhwng y ddwy oreu.

Mae hyn oll yn profi tu hwnt i bob dadl, fod pwyllgor Eisteddfod Merth wedi tori ammod cyhoeddus â beirdd a llenorion Cymru; ac ni bydd “dynion anrhydeddus” byth (yn ol ystyr y gair anrhydedd yn y Gogledd) yn tori ammod.

Mae “yr ymgeiswyr yn gystal a’r pwllgor yn dewis eu beirniaid” fel y dywedodd “Un o’r Cystadleuwyr” yn y Faner; a diau nad oes neb a wyr hyn yn well na chwi eich hunan. Ond rhwystrodd pwyllgor Merthyr i’r hymgeiswyr wneuthur hun, a hyny trwy dwyll amlwg ac anwadadwy! Addawsant yn gyhoeddus yn y gwahanol bapurau, mai Eben Fardd yn unig a fyddai beirniad yr Arwrgerdd, ond wedi iddynt gael y cyfansoddiadau i law, gorfodasant yr ymgeiswyr i ymostwng i farn dau o’r rhai anghymmhwysaf i farnu cerddi rhyddion o feddylddrychau godidog, a allesid gael trwy Gymru benbaladr! – dau nas gallasant eriod gyrhaeddyd ond i’r trydydd neu’r ail gradd, hyd yn oed yn eu hoff sychlyd “fesurau caethion”!

Dwy ffordd yn unig oedd gan y pwyllgor i ymddwyn yn deg ac “anrhydeddus” yn wyneb i feirniadaeth E. Fardd fod fel yr ydoedd; sef, naill ai rhanu’r wob rhwng y ddau y methai E Fardd a phenderfynu rhyngddynt, neu ddychwelyd y cyfansoddiadau i’r hawdwyr, yr hyn pe gwnaethent, ni chawsau Gwalchmai a Chynddelw mo’r anrhydedd o farnu yr un o’r ddwy gân gyfartal – caniadau, y mae pob lle i gasglu, na ddangosodd yr un o’r ddau eriod, yn eu gwaith, y cymmhwysder lleiaf i’w beirniadu. Ond gwrthododd y pwyllgor y ddwy ffordd “anrhydeddus” a grybwyllwyd, er i “Un o’r Cystadleuwyr” alw arnynt i’r dewis, ac ymddygasant at yr ymgeiswyr yn drahaus, annheg, a thwyllodrus.

Am feirniadaeth Cynddelw, yr wyf yn dywedyd yn hyf a phenderfynol nad oes dim cymmaint ag un frawddeg ynddi, yn dangos ei fod ef yn ^barnu^ fod cân Taliesin “fel barddoniaeth yn oreu”, fel yr ydych chi yn haeru fod; ond yn hollol i’r gwrthwyneb – dengys yn berffaith eglur yn y paragraph olaf ei fod yn eu barnu yn gwbl gyfartal, ac os oedd un yn deilwng o’r wobr, fod y llall yn deilwng o honi hefyd; ac y mae braidd yn rhy ddiweddar iddo yn awr, ar ol hymbygiaeth gyfrinachol â’r pwyllgor, ~~iddo~~ gallu alw ei eiriau yn ol yn effeithiol – dyma nhw:–

“Os bydd y beirniaid ereill yn golygu yn wahanol, bydd yn llawen genyf os gallant, yn unol â deddfan arwrgerdd, eu gwobrwyo am eu trafferth.”–

Nid wyf fi yn malio dim ac ni falia’r wlad chwaith ddim yn yr hyn a ddichon Cynddelw ddywedyd wrthy ch chwi, neu wrth y pwyllgor, ar ol iddynt eu hysbysu yn gyfrinachol, ~~pa fodd yr~~ dros ba un yr oedd Eben Fardd “yn gogwyddo mwy na pheidio”, a pha fod yr oedd Gwalchmai wedi penderfynu (!). Y mae ei feirniadaeth gyntefig o flaen y wlad; ac yn hōno y mae’n dangos drwyddi fod y ddwy gan yn berffaith gyfartal; a heriwn un dyn dan haul i brofi yn wahanol. Ac ym mlith cannoedd os nad miloedd ereill yng Nghymru, sy’n barnu yr un fath, dyma ydyw barn “Methyrian” yn yr Herald:

“Ond methai Cymddelw a phenderfyn u y naill ffordd na’r llall,” eb efe, “a chyfaddefodd nad oedd yn ddyon hyddysg mewn arwr-farddoniaeth.”

Yn awr, a chaniatau fod gan y ddau is-feirniad hawl i feirniadu (yr hyn onid oedd ganddynt), y mae yn gwbl ofer i chwi na neb arall geisio profi, nad oes dau o’r beirniaid, sef Eben Fardd a Chynddelw, wedi addef yn gyhoeddus, ar air a gweithred, nad oddynt alluog i “benderfynu rhwng y ddwy gân oreu”, ac am hyny fod gan awdwr pob un o’r ddwy yr un hawl yn y wobr a’u gilydd o ganlyniad anghyfiawnder noeth a haerllug oedd peidio rhanu’r wobr; a diammheu mai fel hyn yr edrych pob dyn “diduedd” ar y mater. Y mae lliaws o beirdd a llenorion wedi mynegi eu syniadau eisoes wrthyf i’r perwyl yma (am fy mod ynglŷn âg Eisteddfod Dinbych) heb wybod fy mod yn dal dim perthynas â “Golyddan”.

Am waith Gwalchmai yn penderfynu mor ddibetrus, lle y methodd Eben Fardd a Chynddelw (tra ar eu penau eu hunain, heb hymbygiaeth y pwyllgor), nid oes dim i’w dywedyd, ond

“That fools rush in where angels fear to tread”.

Dichon fod poor Gwalchmai yn dechreu dyfod i feddwl, yr hyn a wyr pob llenor eisoes nas gall efe byth enwogi ei hun wrth ganu, ac iddo dybied y gallai wneuthur hyny trwy benderfynu yn ddibetrus rhwng caniadau y methodd Eben Fardd â phenderfynu rhyngddynt! Fe allai y clywsoch am yr hogyn a rwystrodd i Duke Wellington groesi maes ei dad, ac a lefodd ar ol darfod, gan droi ei het o gwmpas ei ben, –“Troais I y gwr y methodd Napoleon Buonaparte sefyll o’i flaen!” Gellid maddeu peth fel hyn i Gwalchmai ei hun, ond nid mor fuan a maddeuir i’r dyliaid a’i rhoddasant ar waith, a hyny yn groes i bob anrhydedd, a thegwch, a chyfiawnder.

Credaf o hyd yma na ddylai ymddygiad o fath eiddo’r pwyllgor yna gael ei adael heb ei ddynoethi yng ngwydd y wlad. Mae eich llythyr chwi ataf yn fy nghad[ar]nhau yn y syniad yma; ac ni wn i am un llwybr gwell i wneud hyny na thrwy gyhoeddi sylwedd y llythyr hyn sy’w pasio rhyngom ni a’i gilydd ar y mater. Trwy hyny, cai’r wlad weled graddau o’r ddwy ochr ar unwaith. Mae ymddygiad y pwyllgor yna, a’r cyffelyb, sy’n neu’i gilydd bron ymhob Eisteddfod, mor ffaidd yn fy ngolwg i, fel yr ystyriaf fod ei ddynoethi yn ddyledsdydd gyssegredig, mewn ystyr lenyddol, am y dichon i hyny fod yn foddion da – gorau y gwn i am dano i buro pwyllgorau oddi wrth eu “fieidd-dra anghyf anneddol”, trwy rod-di’r wlad ar ei gwiliadwriaeth gyda golwg arnynt. Wrth ystyried y twyll, a’r hoced, a’r anghyfiawnder sydd ar waith braidd ymhob Eisteddfod, nid rhyfedd fod cynnifer o’r dynion goreu a fedd ein cenedl yn eu casau ac yn eu gwrthwynebu.

Yr eiddoch yn “bwyllog”

R. J. Prys

O.N.

Dengys eich Adysgrif y gwyddoch chwi gryn lawer o secrets y pwyllgor, er y dywedwch nad ydych alod o hono. Dengys hefyd fod cryn lawer o ohebu cyfrinach wedi bod rhwng y pwyllgor â'r beirniaid ynghylch eu beirniadaeth ar y ddwy gân oreu, yn enwedig, ar ol iddynt lusgo Gwalchmai a Chynddelw i mewn; ac yr wyf fi yn gwybod fod amryw feirniaid yn fwy awyddus am blesio pwyllgor nad am wneud cyfiawnder â'r ymgeiswyr. Nis gwn yn sicr etto pa un ai cyn ai ar ol i "Llew Llwyfo" anfon am ei gân yn ol, pan glywodd pwy oedd i droi'r fantol yn lle Eben Fardd, y dechreuodd gohebiaeth gyfrinachol rhwng y pwyllgor â'r beirniaid ynghylch eu beirniadaeth; mae genyf rai seiliau i gredu mai ar ol hyny, yr hyn sy'n taflu mwy o ammhewaeth fyth ar degwch yr ymdrafodaeth. Mewn gwirionedd, y mae pob peth a ddarllenaf ac a gwelaf ar y pwngc, yn enwedig eich llythyr chwi ataf fi a llythyr y pwyllgor at "Golyddan", yn profi yn ddiamheuol fod yr holl drafodaeth wedi tori allan yn farce diegwyddor.

Yr ydych yn cymmeryd yn ganiataol fod beirniadaeth Eben Fardd yn swyddfa y Baner pan oeddych yn ysgrifenu ataf, ond gallaf eich hysbysu yn awr nad ydyw yno etto; ac yr wyf yn dechreu ofni na chawn weled y wreiddiol byth bellach, heb apelio at Eben Fardd ei hun, fel beirniad gonest am dani. Dichon fod gan y pwyllgor "anrhydeddus" yna ryw amcan pendant mewn golwg wrth gyhoeddi beirniadaethau y ddau ail-feirniad, gan gadw beirniadaeth y prif feirniad, a'r unig feirniad oedd a hawl deg ganddo i feirniadu yr Arwrgerdd ym Merthyr, oddi wrth y wlad! Ond bydded hysbys iddynt na fodlonir llenorion Cymru heb weled y feirniadaeth gyntefig, heb ei newid; canys y mae triciau llenyddol isel fel hyn weithiau braidd out of date.

258

Bangor, N. Wales  
Nov. 69

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to inform you that I am writing a History of the Welsh People (Hanes y Cymry), in Welsh, of course. The work is to contain the Political, Social, Religious, and Literary history of the Nation, from the earliest to the present time: to be published in 2 vols, Royal 8vo

I am very anxious for the work to be strictly correct in all its departments; therefore, I respectfully solicit your able assistance to accomplish this national undertaking, and your kind permission to insert your name, as such, on the Title page.

The particular branches that I should wish you to undertake would be, the supposed ancient Welsh characters, such as Gwyddion Ganhebon; Hu Gadarn, Prydain ap Aedd Mawr; Tydain Tad Awen; Dyfnwal Moelmud, and his Laws; Plenydd, Alawn a Gwron, down to Bran Bendigaid and his family, Caradog, &c. the supposed and real characters of <sup>the</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> cent., as Aneurin, Taliesin, Myrddin, Llywarch Hen, Gildas, Arthur, &c to Gwalchmai, &c. our undoubted Literati. Also, a condensed history of the Unitarians, from their first appearance in Wales to the present time.

The whole work will be arranged in periods, centuries, &c., that the reader may refer easily to the date, as far as possible, of every fact or occurrence therein stated; and I should wish it to be written in the style of the 'Welsh Classics', from Charles Edwards to Gronwy Owain

The remuneration for writing is not yet settled, but I am confident that <sup>it</sup> will be honourable.

A line in reply, as soon as convenient would much oblige

Yours faithfully

R. J. Pryse  
(Gweirydd ap Rhys)

Thos Stephens, Esq  
(Gwrnerth)

**259**

[Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) to Thomas Stephens; page 5 of a letter]

treifflach. Cewch glywed oddi wrthym etto, yn fynych, ynghylch y pethau hyn, yr wyf yn hyderu. Llenorion Cymru benbaladr, yn ol fy marn i, ac nid Loc. Com. unrhyw le, sydd i ddewis Testynau a Beirniaid Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Byddaf ddiolchgar i chwi linell yn fuan am yr Orgraph  
Yr eiddoch &c  
Gweirydd ap Rhys

Gwrnerth

O!

Blwyddyn newydd ddedwydd dda i chi!

**260**

Cae wern 4/3 mo 1844

My dear friend

I was much interested in thy "Antiquities of Neath" and obliged for the Papers thou sent me. I should have written to thee sooner but did not see the Guardian containing thy second communication till within the last four days. I hope thou wilt now give us the "Antiquities of Lantwitt Major" a place celebrated for its early Collegiate and Monastic Institutions and still exhibiting in its monumental remains the glory of its bygone days – Believe me

Thine most truly  
I Redwood

**261a**

[Printed note]

Neath Philosophical Society  
Established December, 1834.  
President....Howel Gwyn, Esq., M.P.  
Treasurer....J Rowland, Esq

Curators  
The Rev. J. Jeffreys,  
S. Hews, Esq. (the Late)

Secretaries  
I. Redwood  
C. H. Waring

Report, 1849

It is gratifying to the Committee of the NEATH PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY to direct the attention of Members to the following Report, containing as it does, the best evidence of the continued prosperity of the Institution.

By the liberality of Lord Dynevor and the Hon. Rice Trevor, the Committee has accomplished an object which it has long had in view, the Repair of the Roof, and the Restoration of the Windows of the Refectory of Neath Abby. Our excavations of 1848 brought to light numerous fragments of broken windows and fallen columns, many of them distinctly retaining the marks of the chisel, and exhibiting all the freshness of recent

sculpture. These, with other remains that lay scattered over the grounds, have been collected together and placed in the Refectory, where they will now be secure from the injury and depredation to which some of them had long been exposed.

The year 1849 has been distinguished from preceding years by the communication of several original papers, of great local and general interest, which have been read at the Meeting of the Society. These papers, by the Rev. H. H. KNIGHT, B.D., he has obligingly consented should form the first of a series to appear as the TRANSACTIONS of the NEATH INSTITUTION. The publication of a work on the Inlaid Tiles of Neath Abby has occupied much of the attention of the Committee during the past year, and the interesting Heraldic Notices, with the beauty and accuracy of the Lithographs, render this work a highly valuable contribution to Archæological Literature.

[Inside, detailed lists of:

Papers read at the Meetings of the Society during 1849

Donations to the Museum

Donations to the Museum Library

Works purchased for the Museum Library

Statement of Account of the Neath Philosophical Society, for the year ending December, 1848]

## 261b

[Envelope]

Postmarked: Neath Jan 29 1850

[Inside]

Report of the Neath Philosophical ^Society^ with I Redwoods kind regards.

Will T. Stephens oblige IR by contributing a Paper to the Transactions of the Neath Philosophical Society The Antiquities of Lantwitt ^Major^ with a sketch of its early history and notices of the Principal characters connected with its Colleiate [sic] establishment would be highly interesting.

## 262

Cae wern near Neath 4/5mo 1860

My dear friend

I send for thy perusal a book on the settlements of Friends in America giving correct dates of the period of those Settlements. I believe there is no ground for the idea that Wm Penn ever issued an Address to the Welsh Friends, holding out to them the prospect of finding in America, a Colony of Welsh Indians. The existence of such a Colony appears to be one of those fascinating but long existing illusions, fostered by National Vanity, but altogether, unsupported by facts. It has been, and will continue to be, the dream of the Poet, regardless of historic truth, seeking only "to Point a Moral, or Adorn a Tale". I believe all history is more or less made up of fable. Tyler has proved in his "Harry of Monmouth", that so far from that Prince, being the boon companion of profligates, and the dissipated youth descended by Poets and Historians, he was diligent, and attentive in the discharge of all the important duties, which devolved upon him. Well might Horace Walpole give to the world his "Historic Doubts" and had he extended those doubts to every reign since the Conquest, by a careful examination of the Public Records, he would have conferred upon his country an invaluable benefit. I saw thy excellent father about a fortnight since, I thought him looking well, though with him as with me, "Time rolls his ceaseless course". He told me he had not

heard from thee for some time. To him might truly be applied that line of Pope's, An honest man's the noblest work of God."

Thy sincere friend

I Redwood

263

Neath 1m 20 1863

Respected Friend

Thos Stephens

I fancy thou wilt be following an ignis fatuus in trying to find any document of Mr Penn respecting the Welch – Wm Penn appears to have issued a statement of the state of some of the productions &c vol 1 – pp 377 and at pp 299 he gives the frame work of his government

Many friends were induced to go from Radnorshire and should think from Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire most of them earning a scanty subsistence for themselves and families on the poor soil of Wales, some going and much bettering themselves induced others to go also that there was a district formed called North Wales in Pennsylvania – A friend of Eskergoch on the side of Plinllimon named Jn<sup>o</sup> Goodwin his father and some of the family having gone he was disposed also to go but felt an intimation on his mind that it was right for him to remain with the belief that he should have all things needful he was a valuable minister amongst friends lived to a good old age and found the premon verified that ~~th~~ those who seek first the kingdom of Heaven all things necessary will be added – I think as well to put thee on thy guard against Thos Rees' statement as to the number of Friends in Wales about 1715 also about the time of writing his book on Welch nonconformity in which he has very much maligned our early friends. He has stated the number of friends at the time of his writing to be from 6 to 700 whereas I am nearly sure they do not exceed 125 and about 1715 he states them at three thousand when I believe three hundred would be a nearer approximation to the truth – I consider he has been led into error by considering those who attended the yearly meetings were members of our society, but by a recent inspection into the records of the y meetings I am more confirmed <sup>^in my view^</sup> We have only 1 member in Pembrokeshire about 90 in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire a very few in Radnorshire and Denbighshire and not one in either of the other 8 counties. I send herewith 2 volumes of Clarkson's Penn and a work respecting Ja<sup>s</sup> Logan – It is much to be regretted that such a nobly minded man <sup>^as WP^</sup> should be ungenerously treated by the world and also these early settlers whom he used so honourably I ~~would lend thee them~~ – And Macaulay I fear from sheer spite to friends has tried to blacken his character but I think it will fall back upon him to his shame.

Altho' I do not like Hepworth Dixon's manner of sketching Penn's religious character which he cannot appreciate I will also lend that and hope if it does not clear up the myth that racks upon thy mind, it may otherwise prove entertaining and instructive at page 397 thou may see that W Penn thinks the Indians descended from the Jews.

I have written a poor scrawl – When thou hast finished with the three books shall be pleased to have them back

From neither of the books wilt thou have a right appreciation of W P as a religious character

Respectfully thy friend

Jonr Rees

I intend sending the books by the afternoon train of tomorrow

264

[Black-bordered paper]

Llandovery, Nov 23.  
1846

Sir,

In reply to your query I have to inform you that circulation of the Haul is 1300 monthly.

Dr Meyer proposes to visit Ireland in order to acquire a more perfect knowledge of the Irish Language before his Work is put to Press – The number of Subscribers obtained is yet too limited to justify the Publication of the Work without risk of loss thereby

I remain, Sir,

Yours truly

Willm Rees

Mr Stephens

265

Llandovery June 3 1848

Dear Sir,

I cannot let your address at the Merthyr Eisteddfod pass over without tendering you my humble tho' best thanks for the utterance of sentiments so much in union with my own on the subject of the preservation of the Welsh Language. With such views your prolific Pen might now do essential service particularly in exposing the one sided views taken by the commissioners.

One point in Mr Lingen's report particularly requires animadversion – that wherein he states that Welshmen never rise to posts of Management &c about the Ironworks. Your local knowledge can help you out well in exposing the falsehood of such an assertion, unsupported it is by any evidence.

We all would wish to better our condition in life & if the English Tongue would be the means of so doing all the Taffies w<sup>d</sup> soon acquire it – but at the sametime would cling most pertinaciously to the Welsh – generally speaking they have brains enough for two languages

In haste

Yours faithfully

Willm Rees

266a

Llandovery Oct 14 1847

Dear Sir

I have placed the Merthyr Subscription Library on the List of Subscribers to Ab Iolo's Work, My memory fails me to recollect whether you wished to become a Subscriber yourself, perhaps you will inform me thereof. And if any of your Literary friends at Merthyr wish to have the work at Subscribers price will you do me the kindness to inform them that it is requisite to send their names to me immediately as the work is nearly all printed, or if it would be giving you less trouble the favour of a list of those who are likely to subscribe, would equally oblige, & I will apply to them direct.

Dr. Meyer told me last June at Buckingham Palace that he had not relinquished the intention of publishing his Work, but that it would be sometime ere it could be got ready for the Press. –

You will be glad to hear that the Ven. Archdeacon Williams of Edinburgh has accepted the Mastership of the recently endowed Grammer School at this place & that he is determined to make Llandoverly the seat of a flourishing seminary by affording High education to his young countrymen at a cheap rate. He gave up the Rectorship of the Edinburgh Academy with that view. Such a sacrifice on his part is a noble act of true patriotism.

Have you seen Mr Price's Work on the Geographical Progress of Empire and Civilization?

Believe me to remain

Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully

William Rees

**266b**

Llandoverly Aug 4  
1849

My dear Sir,

I have sent by Wm Lewis, Carrier a Box with the enclosed, I would have set a few more if there had been room. I have not paid the carriage.

Not having had any instructions how many copies you were to have gratis I have charged the whole at Trade Price except the copy I sent to Mr Butler & the 2 Presentation ones – you will of course reap the benefit of the Profit upon the copies you sell

Please to deliver the Book to Mrs Ab Iolo and get her to return me in the Box the Tolands Druids & Peter Robert's Chronicles which were lent the late Ab Iolo.

In g<sup>t</sup> haste yours

William Rees,

**266c**

My dear Sir,

I have just received the enclosed –

The Archdeacon has kindly introduced your work to the notice of Lockhart, Skene and Professor Emsen for review in the Quarterly, Blackwood's and the Edinburgh Review, I have sent copies to each.

Did you receive the copies I sent you last week?

When is the Box with the Return Books & those from Ab Iolo to come back

Yours truly

Willm Rees

Llandoverly  
Aug 11, 49

**266d**

Llandoverly Sept 5  
1849

My dear Sir,

Your Book sells as fast as my Binder can turn them out of hand Lingman has sold 50 & has had a fresh supply – Did you send a copy to the Examiner as I find I have not marked it on my List as sent, and I am told it has been favourably Reviewed therein. I am expecting the Athenaeum & Lit Gazette to give a favourable notice each of them.

I have not sent to any other reviews excepting those I wrote to you viz the Quarterly, Blackwood Edinb. Review, Dublin Magazine, & the two noticed above – So that you need not fear my sending to the Standard of Freedom – I think one ought to be sent to the Editor of the Archaeologia Cambrensis

I am much pleased with the Review of the Mabinogion in the Guardian I hope that of the Lit of the Kymry may be equally good – If you have a copy of the Examiner to spare let me have it as I preserve all of the Reviews of my Works to extract recommendations therefrom – for the Prospectuses and I should like to have a few of yours before the Prospectuses are issued

I have collected all the old proof sheets together for you – they shall be sent by Wm Lewis who will call for the sheets next Week–

Believe me to remain

My dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

Willm Rees

The Dean's remarks shall go into the Prospectus-

Did you sell them tolerably easy at Cardiff?

Inter nos

From what I can glean Mr Lockhart of the Quarterly is not not so favourable to the Work as I expected – If I had a downright good review fit for the Quarterly I would send it him and if he inserted it all would be right. Of course he would not accept it if not fully worthy. But if accepted it would most probably be paid for – Do you know any Literary Giant who would buckle to & write?

How would Mr Williams of Nerquis do – provided he divested himself of Welsh prejudices?

How do you stand with the Vicar of Aberdare? He has been reviewing Welsh Literature ere this and was a stout disbeliever of Iolo Morganwg's honesty

266e

Llandovery Sept 11  
1849

My dear Sir,

I sent you & Mr D W Jones a Parcel of old Proofs corrected & incorrect for the purpose of cutting up for the papers – they should however be compared with the Book before they are sent off-

I have given on your a/c a copy to Mr Longueville Jones Editor of the Archaeologia Cambrensis in order to have a Review in the Number forthcoming on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October But if you have already sent a copy to the Editor pray let me know per return & one of them shall be returned

I fully agree with you not to issue prospectuses until the end of October so as to have some good "Notices" pray preserve all the good bits of praise for that purpose & I will give 4 pages of a Prospectus along with 4 pages for the Mabinogion a few thousand of these will make you more known than at present

Believe me to remain

My dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

William Rees

Mr Stephens

**266f**

Llandovery Sept 29  
1849

My dear Sir,

The enclosed are very good but being from private individuals will not do to publish. What I want is every morceaux from Public Magazines & Reviews such as the enclosed cover of my Diary which will go to upwards of 17,000 hands & be before the purchasers for 12 months.

If I do not hear from Mr White on Monday I will send to his Binder an order to call for the Feathers.

I want the notices so soon as possible to work them off early in October as you know what Reviewers you have sent Copies you know where to look for the Reviews

If you have a slip of the Principality Review to spare send it me – as I preserve all such notices

Yours truly

Willm Rees

**266g**

Llandovery Oct 23  
1849

Dear Sir

I hope you enjoyed your trip to Paris as much as I did 13 years ago – Nothing of any moment has transpired since you left. The Arch. Camb. gave a short & very favourable notice of your Work which I shall copy into my next Lists of New Works – I wish I had a few more morceaux but must do the best with those we have as the Lists cannot be detained much longer.

I presume that I must pay for the advertisements in the Guardian & Principality

It is my intention to grapple with the Myv. Arch as you may see by the enclosed – Can you give me any assistance in translating some of the Poetry Mr Williams, late of Nerquis has translated the Gododin and is going to publish the same immediately & not wait for the £40 prize at the Abergavenny Eisteddfod of 1851 – should I place your name as a Subscriber to the Work?

When Mr Walter Davies' Review is sent to the Haul I will, if allowed, append his name to it. His name is worth having.

Have you sent any copies to London Reviewers? I ask this as no Review has yet appeared. One is sure to come out in the next Edinburgh Review, & the Quarterly promises an article.

Believe me to remain

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Willm Rees

Mr Stephens

**267a**

Llandovery Oct 23. 50

My dear Sir,

Now that the thousands of my Annual Diary are off my hands on their way to London, my Binder shall get up the remainder of your Copies of Lit. Kymry – which shall be sent you forthwith

I am making one more desperate effort to obtain Subscribers to the new Edit of Myv. Arch. can you give me a lift with your pen in stirring up the embers into a flame in some of the local Papers or Reviews It strikes me that short Notes of recommendation from some of the leading Literary Characters would be of service if published with the Prospectus.

So much for the Myv. Arch. next.

Your explanation about the omission of Prof. Rees' name in your essay is perfectly satisfactory – indeed I should not have mentioned the fact of its omission had it not been my only means of letting you know the fate of the Essay without my breaking faith with the Judge. By the by who is to publish the Essay? or is it to remain in abeyance till the Biog Dict of Eminent Welshmen is out of the Press. If the Essay is to be printed I will supply materials for Prof. Rees.

The Archdeacon has the 2 Vols of Sir Thos Phillipps MSS. & is going to make a list of Contents thereof

The Gododin will soon be in the Press and you shall see a specimen of it when the 1<sup>st</sup> Sheet is ready.

Believe me to remain

Yours very faithfully

Willm Rees.

I have to congratulate you upon your splendid success at Rhuddlan.

[In a different hand, possibly Thomas Stephens's hand]

Duddingston a parish and village of Scotland in the county of Edinburgh pop 3088. ~~in 1834~~  
Edin Gazetter date 1824

Ayton a village and parish of Scotland in Berwickshire on the Eye pop 1821. 1540

Ayton, Great, a village & parish of England in the North Riding of Yorkshire pop in 1821.  
1023

Present

Sir J Guest

Robert Crawshay

John Evans

Meyrick

W Thomas – Auth Hill

Lewis Lewis

Sam Thomas

Ed Purchase

Benj Martin

David Evans

J. Russell.

W. Thomson

D W James

11. 12. Candidates Ino Morgan

J W Russell

E. Geo Smith

D W J asked from Prof

Letter from Board

267b

Llandovery Jan 28 1851

My dear Sir

The circulation of the Haul is abt 1,000. I hope you will clear off a good Lot of prizes at Tremadoc.

I was going to enclose a sheet of the Gododin but it has not had its final correction, so I must defer it for a few days

My Arch Subscribers are very slow in coming forward only 202 Copies subscribed for – The Pope & his Cardinals have run away with the Public mind - & Free Trade has run away with the loose Cash – so that it is doubly difficult to induce the country Gentlemen to think of any Literature

I sh<sup>d</sup> much like to see a specimen of your Translation of the Cynfeirdd

The Lives of Cambro Brit. Saints is nearly all printed off I am awaiting FacSimiles to complete the Vol.

When is it intended that Iron shall be up in the Market? a good rise in the price of Iron would soon cause Literature to flourish

Believe me to remain

My dear Sir

Yours very Faithfully

Willm Rees

267c

Llandovery Nov 9. 1853

My dear Sir,

I have put the enclosed Work in the Press - & enclose you a copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Proof.

It is my general practice when a Work is fairly committed to the Press, to look out for its successor, and for that purpose would not your continuation of the Literature of the Kymry be an appropriate Work?

I would propose to have it published by subscription as the only safe mode of publication – and in that mode I would take all risk of expense upon being allowed half profits – the usual mode of publishing.

If such would meet your views, I would at once publish a Prospectus & collect names during the time that Carnhuanawc would be in Press so as to be ready to place its successor therein.

At the rate you have gained laurels at Abergavenny – there will soon be “no competition” – Proceed successfully, but mind your health. I was unable to attend the Eisteddfod in consequence of being under the hands of the Doctor. I am now all right once more –

Believe me to remain

My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

Willm Rees.

T Stephens Esq

267d

[Embossed]  
Llandovery

April 30. 1864

My dear Sir,

A small parcel has come to me from Germany for which I had to pay 1/6 carriage and in opening it I found it to be a copy of a Translation of your Literature of the Kymry by Albert Schulz I therefore send it by this Post and shall be obliged by your sending in return 2/- Postage Stamps. It must be gratifying to find continental Scholars approving of your literary labours.

Have you finished with my copy of the Myv. Arch?

Believe me to remain

My dear Sir

Yours truly

Willm Rees

268

4 Essex Court Temple  
9 Oct 1846

My dear Sir/

I should feel most happy to do all in my power to assist in establishing a public Library in Merthyr. You will have some little difficulty, at least if the same apathy and want of public spirit exists now as appeared some years ago when an Institution and Library were attempted. I gave at that time Books and specimens but I know not what is become of them. I also called on Lord Bute who kindly promised his valuable aid. My professional avocations will prevent my personal assistance at Merthyr but all within my power I will most cheerfully do – all I can now say is God speed your excellent and praiseworthy undertaking.

I am My dear Sir

Yours very truly

E. L. Richards

269

Aberystwyth  
March 22nd. '62

Thos Stephens, Esq

Dr. Sir,

Believing no one to be so well acquainted with the Antiquities of Wales as yourself, I have taken the liberty of submitting to you a query upon which I have long been desirous of being enlightened.

Can you inform me what were the Arms and Motto (Arfau a Chysswynair) adopted and worn by Llwyth Llywarch ab Bran, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales & out of which you will remember the celebrated Bard D. ab Gwilym sprang?

I shall greatly thank you if you will kindly let me hear from you at your earliest convenience – I am

Dear Sir

Yours Obediently

Jas P. Richards

P.S. Who is generally believed to be the lineal representative of the Llwyth?

Author Lit: of the Kymry

Merthyr Tydfil

270

Sir

In last weeks Atheneum I saw an advertisement of a work entitled the Literature of the Kymry. I should feel great pleasure in reviewing it in the Metropolitan Magazine should you send it me for that purpose. The Metropolitan as you may be aware is one of the longest established Magazines we have and is published by Reed & Richards Paternoster Row

Trusting that you will order your publisher to send me a copy

I am

Yours Respectfully  
J Ewing Richards  
Editor of the  
Metropolitan  
Magazine

Aug 10 49

271

Rhyl  
Oct 7. 1854

Dear Friend

Be so kind as to send me by Return of Post, a List of Subjects &c &c for the next Eisteddfod of the

Cymmrodorion Dirwestol  
Merthyr Tydfil-

Time will not allow me to write upon any of them – but I have promised a particular friend of mine, that I would procure a List of Subjects &c for him.

If you would come to this healthy part of Wales, you will find every welcome and comfort in my House: change of air would do you great deal of good. Come for a fortnight. I have a Pony and Gig; and I will run you ab<sup>t</sup> the country, like a fly in a sunshine.

Yours very truly  
Ior: Gl: Aled

It appears to me, by what I have seen in the Amserau, that it was a Competition between Jacks, at Treforris Eisteddfod!!

I do not find a single clerau Competition amongst the Lot!! “That’s the way the Money goes”-

“Pop goes the whistle”-

I intend being in South Wales in December – Would they give me 5 Guineas at the Merthyr Eisteddfod for a “Lecture on Poetry?”

272

Dear Sir

The monthly circulation of the chronicle is about 6,700.

I am, Dear Sir,

Very sincerely Yours  
Samuel Roberts

Llanbryn-mair  
23 Nov. 1846

Salford March 15/60

My Dear Mr Stephens

It is not at all unlikely that you may think me to blame for not writing to you before this. Let me tell you why I have not written. I have been expecting day by day to hear something definite with respect to a proper sphere of labor and have deferred writing in order that I might give you an idea of its nature and whereabouts when I wrote. Looking over a bookstall on Tuesday I chanced to fall on a copy of "Schuman" which I gave half a crown for and posted to you. It is to tell you this that I now take up my pen on your behalf for with respect to what is before me I know and can say nothing. I have preached once in Manchester and once at Congleton in Cheshire ~~and that~~ which with lounging and visiting is all that I have done since I came here. We have the "Mason Jones," whose "orations" in London you may have seen some notice of, here at present. He is to lecture in the Large room of the Free Trade Hall on Saturday night his subject is "Lord Macaulay." I heard him the other night on "Lord Byron." He had an Audience of from four to five thousand. He is clever but does not in my opinion deserve a quarter of the praise that I have seen awarded him. I must however say that I heard one or two individuals remark ^when I heard him^ that he was not up to his usual mark that evening. He had no notes ^before him^ but I think repeated a well prepared Essay. I am very well in health as I trust you are

I am My dear Mr Stephens  
Yours Faithfully  
Wm Wynn Robinson

Thank you for forwarding the letters. I find I have not finished my money transactions with you. There is an account due from the Sunday School to the Western Association for books for xmas prizes and to me 3/- for a book for the same purpose

Glanrafon  
Ruthin  
8<sup>th</sup> July 1861

Dear Sir

I am glad to learn from your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, that you think well of Dr. Smith's proposition; I will send your letter to him, recommending him to adopt your suggestions, and requesting him to correspond with yourself.

This week I expect to be able to send a few articles as specimens, including one of on Ambrosius Aurelius, of whom Price says much in his Hanes Cymru. But the traditions of the early time are so very vague, that it is like walking amid quicksands. I think that with the assistance of Gweirydd ap Rhys, I shall venture upon Arthur, and I am very much pleased with the view given of the romantic Arthur in Price's Remains. The only fault of Price is, that he is too discursive, and seems to have lacked the faculty of working up his thoughts into one connected discourse. He must have been rather desultory in studies.

Gweirydd has an article on Arthur in the Gwiddoniadur, but it is an enlargement of the view given by Williams in his Biog. Dict. If I feel the want of additional references, I shall make bold to consult you.

I am not of Dublin, as you suppose, but of Queen's College, Cork where I hold the chair of History and English Literature; and it is in order to study the early history of Britain, that I have endeavoured to acquire the Welsh language. I can now read with some degree of comfort, but the colloquial part of the language gives me great trouble. I never had so much difficulty with any spoken language, arising principally from the fact that I have not been thrown among persons who could speak nothing but Welsh. But for literary purposes, this is

not of much moment; and of this I am certain, that unless the English scholars lay aside their prejudices, they will be left far behind by the Germans. I have sent a long extract from "Das Alte Wales" by Ferdinand Walter of Bonn, to Ab Ithel for the Cambrian Journal; and that will afford a slight proof of what the Germans are doing.

With kind regards,

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully

Wm Rushton

Thos Stephens Esq  
Merthyr Tydfil.

**275a**

Glanrafon

Ruthin

2 July 1861

Dear Sir

Having frequently heard of you from my friend Gweirydd ap Rhys, I venture to address you without further introduction.

Dr. William Smith, the editor of the Classical Dictionaries and other works, is making arrangements for a Biographia Britannica. He requested me to furnish a list of those gentlemen in Wales, who might feel disposed to contribute; and among other names I mentioned you own.

In a letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> June he writes to ask whether you would undertake an article on "Aneurin"; and in desiring me to send some other articles as specimens, he adds, "I am unwilling to insert any articles till I see them."

He is a cautious man and does not like to commit himself; but he is fair in his dealings, and as the work is extensive, the proposition is worth considering, with a view to the future.

I am very anxious that the Cymric portion of the Biography should be treated in a philosophical spirit, and shall be very happy to learn that you think well of the design.

I am, Sir

Yours faithfully

Wm Rushton

Thomas Stephens Esq  
Merthyr Tydfil.

**275b**

Post Office

Stretford

Manchester

29 Aug. 1863

Dear Sir

I have requested the Editor of the Dublin Univ<sup>y</sup> Magazine to send you a copy of the next (September) number, containing an article on "Cymric Studies, as illustrating Eng. History and Literature".

If you can review it for one of the South Wales papers I shall be greatly obliged; & if you can call at the Eisteddfod or elsewhere, and in any other way promote the interests of the periodical, you will complete the obligation.

I regret that I cannot come to Swansea: but I have written to the Sec<sup>y</sup> Mr Williams, making some remarks upon the schismatic Eisteddfodau of the North.

I am  
Yours very truly  
Wm Rushton  
Thos Stephens Esq  
Merthyr Tydfil

**276a**

Queen's College  
Cork  
29 March 1864

Dear Sir

I hope that no mistake has occurred this time in the transmission of the D. U. Mag. which I requested the publisher to send to your address.

If you have noticed the article on Cymric Literature, I should be very glad to see a copy of the notice.

I am  
Yours very truly  
Wm Rushton  
Thos Stephens Esq

**276b**

48 Albany St  
London N.W.

Dear Sir

I can in some measure sympathize with you, as I have been obliged to consult an oculist about my eyes, and am forbidden to read for three months. I sincerely trust that we shall be both restored in due time, and able to devote ourselves to literary work.

At all times I shall be delighted to see anything from your pen,

And remain  
Yours very truly  
Wm Rushton  
T Stephens Esq

[Postmarked London, 10 May 1864]

**277**

48 Upper Albany St.  
London N.W.  
17 May 1864

Dear Sir

I am much obliged by your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. and should be glad to know, at your leisure, who Dr. Schultz is, why he calls himself "San Marte" and what is the value of his works, especially those on Arthur & Geoff of Monmouth. I have often met with references to his books, e.g. in Prof. Walter's treatise "Das Alte Wales," and elsewhere: and I have sometimes thought of ordering his works for our College Library. Still, as my allowance for books is limited, I am obliged to exercise discretion.

I sincerely trust that your health will be speedily restored, and I am happy to add that my eyes are much better under the able treatment of Mr Critchett.

I am  
Yours faithfully  
Wm Rushton  
Thos Stephens Esq

**278a**

Genealogical and Historical Society  
208 Piccadilly W  
27 Augt 1864

Sir

The Council at the last meeting resolved that you be invited to become a Fellow of this Society which has been founded by several Noblemen and Gentlemen for the purposes set forth in the enclosed statement

The Council hope you will honor the Society by permitting them to elect you a Fellow  
I have the honor to be

Sir  
Your obedient Servant  
Rycroft Reeve  
Secty

T Stephens Esq

**278b**

[Enclosure, printed note]

Genealogical & Historical Society of Great Britain  
[contains a list of official and description of the society]

**279**

[Black-bordered paper]

Lady Charlotte Schreiber has to apologize for having left Mr Stephen's note so long without an answer but she has hitherto been unable to lay her hands on the copy of the Greal which she had made for her. She hopes ere long to be able to do so and will then have much pleasure in lending it to Mr Stephens

Exeter House  
Roehampton  
6 Oct 1857

**280a**

[Italics denotes pencil (in a different hand, possibly Thomas Stephens's).]

Magdeburg  
14 April 1854

Sir/

The undersigned feels himself obliged to express many thanks to the learned author of the "Literature of the Cymru" for the abundant information *with* which this work, full of merit, has furnished *him*

He desires, besides, to prove his gratitude, in fact & deed, by permitting himself to present to you the accompanying works, the "~~Translations~~ *Traditions* of Merlin" and the "History of Geoffrey of Monmouth"

To my knowledge *as far as I know* your work is the first and only one, that submits the literature of the Gauls *Welsh* openly and without prejudice, to a criticism, which was hitherto entirely wanting to it.

Your excellent work has kindled a flame that has *and* spread a light over regions, where reigned an impenetrable ~~darkness~~ *obscurity* or at ~~most~~ *least* only the pale ray of ~~dim twilight~~ *dim and glimmering light* and therefore it cannot ~~fail that fruit to appear for to be~~ fruitful to the national literature of the Gauls *Welsh* as ~~nor for well as to all~~ the entire sciences.

One of my most agreeable duties has been to spread your doctrine and results over the fields of German literature.

How much time shall pass ere the Myvyrian Archaeology shall appear in a complete and perfect translation, that shall stand a severe criticism.

I pray you infinitely to give me notice of such a translation. The continent does not rejoice in its acquaintance.

May scientific studies continue to join hands for so great an effort, unseparable by nationality or ~~the breadth~~ of the seas!

Accept the assurance of my esteem for you, for, with whom I have the honour to ~~be~~ remain

Sir

Your very humble

Schulz

Councillor royal

## 280b

[This letter, written by Albert Schulz, a native speaker of German, is here reproduced without correcting the French.]

Magdeburg. 14 Avril.  
1854

Monsieur:

Le soussigné se sent obligé à dire beaucoup de remerciements à l'auteur savant de la "Literature of the Cymry" à cause de l'information multiple, que cet oeuvre, plein de mérite, lui a fourni. Celui-ci désire, outre cela prouver la récon[n]aissance par le fait, en se permettant de vous présenter les oeuvres ci-joints: "Les Traditions de Merlin," et l'"histoire de Gottfried v. Monmouth." A mon savoir, c'est que vôtre oeuvre soit le premier et l'unique, qui soumet la littérature des Gaules ouvertement et sans préjugé à une critique, qui lui manquait tout à fait jusqu'ici. Vôtre excellent ouvrage a allumé et répandu la lumière dans les régions, regnés par une obscurité impénétrable, ou moins seulement d'un clair obscur et leur pale. C'est pourquoi que les fruits ne manqueront pas à paraître ni pour la littérature nationale des Gaules, ni pour les sciences entières. – Un de mes plus agréables devoirs ait été, de répandre sur les champs de la littérature allemande vos doctrines et vos résultats. – Que de temps viendra encore de passer jusqu'à ce que la Myvyrian Archaiology paraitra dans une traduction et complète, et parfaite, qui pourra supporter une critique sévère!

Je vous prie infiniment de m'avertir de l'existence d'une telle traduction. Le Continent ne se réjont pas de sa connaissance.

Puisse continuer les études scientifiques se tendre la main pour un effort aussi grand,  
non séparé ni par la nationalité, ni par les mers!

Agréer donc l'assurance de mon estime pour Vous, Monsieur, avec laquelle j'ai  
l'hon[n]eur de rester

Monsieur

Vôtre très humble  
Schulz, conseiller de régence.

281

20 Inverleith Row,  
Edinburgh  
[Printed letterhead]

2<sup>d</sup> Novr 1864

Dear Sir

I have just had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> octr I was at Peniarth for a few days in September but I left on the 23<sup>d</sup> September and have not been there since. I need not say that if I had received your letter at Peniarth I should have had much pleasure in making the enquiries you wish. I did not see the Greal when I was there as I was occupied the whole time with other MSS.

What you mention of Hu Gadarn is very curious and well deserves being worked out. It would be curious to see whether he can be identified as the same person with some other name in other copies of the Ystoria. I suppose the copy at Oxford is in the Red book of Hergest and I shall look for it the next time I am at Trewen Hall. The text I adopted for the Gododdin is that in the MS which belonged to Carnhuanawc succv to Sir Thos Phillipps. I adopted it because I consider it the oldest known text but on collating with it, I found the text printed by ab Ithel on the whole very correct. The only variations were a word here or there and the stanzas mentioned by ab Ithel 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 are in a diff<sup>t</sup> hand & appear to be subsequent additions to the poem

I am Dear Sir  
Yours faithfully  
William F Skene

282

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 1858

My dear Sir,

In the middle ages, there was such a thing as Knightly courtesy: it is pleasant to think that science, now knighthood is no more, has put on that graceful garment. Will you allow an old man without further introduction than the above sentiment to beg a literary favour of you.

Living near Tenby, I find many English antiquarians, & geologists, kindly introduce themselves to me – one, whose paper on Serpent-worship has found a place in the Ency. Metropolitana, has just been with me, whose knowledge on unlettered monuments, is, or seems to me to be, what science was before I came to live in Wales about twenty years ago & extremely visionary & conjectural. His paper, & his book published on the same subject, contain a quotation in support of his theory of Serpent-temples and Sun-temples & their “Hierograms” (of which he says Stone-henge is one, & Abury another) which quotation he interprets in a way that seems to me to accord with the whole conjectural system, rather than truth. The favour I have to beg, is, that you will be so kind as to tell me what is really meant by the allusions in the following quotation from “a Bardic Poem called the Elegy of Uther Pendragon” ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the lines are on a separate paper enclosed.

It is desired to know (1) what lakes? (2) What invoking sanctuary (3) Who the “gliding King” (4) how a fair one retreats, & who is meant (5) What the veil, & stones it covers (6) what “the chief victim” (7) Who “victorious Beli.” These, or any of these questions which your valuable time, & kindness will allow you to reply to w<sup>d</sup> be very thankfully received—

Reading now often the pages of Archæological works, published in Wales, has made me familiar with your name, & if you come to Tenby, & will do me the honour to find me out, I shall be most happy to return the compliment sought in every possible way.

There are a good many things not yet examined & reported on here = barrows Cromlechau, & even an ogham stone I met with the other day eight miles off. Of this last I hope to give some account to you, or someone else, when I can assure myself by a more careful examination that it is really one = for I was in much haste when it caught my eye.

I am, My Dear Sir, with much respect

Yours faithfully

Gilbert N. Smith

(Rector of Gumpeston near Tenby.)

283

My dear Sir.

I was not fortunate enough to get a reply to my last letter, accompanied with a copy of my paper on the Tenby Bone-caves, selected to be read at the Oxford Meeting of the Brit: Ass<sup>n</sup>. — I hope I shall have better luck this time.

You are aware of the great interest the discovery of ancient human remains in this Island is awakening. My researches this winter have been rewarded by the finding in a cave, of some thirteen flint Knives, with the bones of animals, &c. Now you know the English are not able to read your Welsh records, & are proud, or ought to be proud, to look up to you for light on ~~our~~ the early history of Britain. Ab Ithel in his Annals gives a very early date to the possession of the Island by the Cymry, & accounts them the first inhabitants. Tho’ not fully read in Cambrian literature, (I tried to get your work the other day, & enclose you Murray’s answer) yet in all I have read I have not met with a thought suggestive of a time when the Cymry used such rude tools as stone hammers, chisels, knives, saws, or celts (the last name suggests however a connexion.) Was there therefore a race here prior to the Cymry? Do you think these weapons & tools incontestably prove it? Do you remember any reference to flint or stone weapons in the old Welsh records? An answer to this last question w<sup>d</sup> particularly oblige.

Do you remember any record of a traditional separation of this land from France; or of any subordinate Island from our Main land, or the like?

And please will you tell me where I can get your book on the “Literature” Which Murray has so curtly ignored? Is it in 8vo?

Hoping, as I sayd, for better luck this time,

I remain,

My Dr Sir,

Yours very Obediently,

Gilbert N. Smith

Gumpeston – nr Tenby

17<sup>th</sup> Feby 1862

Thos Stephens Esq

Merthyr Tydville

[Envelope]  
Thomas Stephens Esq  
(Member of the Cambrian Institute, &c, &c)  
Merthyr Tydfil  
S. W.

Private

284

76, Avenue Road, London, N.W.  
12 July 1861

Biographia Britannica  
[Printed letterhead (including address)]

Sir,

My friend Professor Rushton has forwarded to me a letter from you to him, in which you kindly intimate your willingness to write the article Aneurin for the above work. I assume that a contribution from your pen would be of great value – but as we shall not begin printing till next year, I shall not want the ^article^ for comment for 8 months.

Yours faithfully  
Wm Smith

285

William Spurrell's  
General Printing, Binding, Book, Stationery Establishment,  
"Haul" Office,  
King-Street, Carmarthen  
[Printed letterhead]

Mar 5 1858

Sir

I place very little dependence on statistics obtained from Publishers of Books and Periodicals either in England or Wales; one exaggerates in order to puff his property, and another takes the opposite to avoid risk of competition, while some state their position correctly. On this account, I have on former occasions declined furnishing any such information on the subject of my publications, and I regret to say I have no reason to depart from my previous practice in the present instance.

Yours obediently  
W Spurrell

286

Merthyr Tydfil  
Nov 18 1846

Sir

Wishing to form an estimate as nearly as possible correct, of the present state of Welsh Literature, I am induced to request you will be kind enough to state by Return of Post the extent of the Dysgedydd's circulation.

Yours respectfully  
Thos Stephens

[On reverse, written in a different hand]  
Dysgedydd from 1350 to 1650  
Cronicl 6150

Pint P. O. 1/-  
Candles – 7d  
W.G. 25/6  
Calt. 4/4  
David 7/-  
Owen 5/-  
Nile 2/-  
Barm £- [illegible]  
Mash 1/- [illegible] 3d

287

Iestyn ap Gwrgant  
To the Editor of the West. Mail.  
Copy

Sir,

Judging by the printed reports, I find that the Archaeological Society, and especially a gentleman named Floyd, have flattened the people of Cardiff as violently as Coriolanus did the Volscians, sapped the foundation of your county genealogies, and even attempted to turn Iestyn ab Gwrgant into a myth!

But take comfort, there is ~~is~~ Balm yet in Gilead. All Honour <sup>^be^</sup> to Mr. Floyd for his researches; and equal honour to my neighbour Mr G. T. Clark for suspending his judgment until he had examined the ~~faets~~ evidence.

Notwithstanding all that was said at the meeting, Iestyn ab Gwrgant yet lived, and is mentioned no less than six times in <sup>^the Latin text of^</sup> a document of acknowledged antiquity, namely, the Liber Landavensis which is known to have existed in AD 1119. For example p 541 ~~ex sag~~ of the translation we read: -

“Iestyn Son of Gwrgan sent his household filled with an evil spirit to Llandaff” &c  
Latin Original p 261

Bishop Herwald, consecrated to the see of Llandaff in 1056, and who held the see until 1104, actually curset Iestyn for this offence, and actually made him give up a large slice of territory including the village of Miluc and the country about Ely, in reparation for this insult offered to Llandaff. “Gistinus filius Gurcant” p 260, is one of the witnesses to the document which records the offence, and its punishment; and yet we are told in the Saturday Review of today (the 12<sup>th</sup>) that Bishop Herwald knew “nothing of Iestyn, prince of Glamorgan” (p 204 col 2)

Again Caradoc the grandson <sup>^of^</sup> Iestyn partook of a banquet at Llanmocha, without Bishop Herwald’s permission in or about AD 1069; and was ~~again~~ sentenced to give up “tref Rita”, ~~and~~ by “Merthir Tecmed” in Monmouths to the Church of Llandaff in condonation for his gluttony. Here again, p 262 “Iestin filius Gurcant” signed <sup>^(?)^</sup> the record of the transaction and its punishment; and yet, Bishop Herwald knew him not! Alas! for the fallibility of historical criticism. Other references made to Iestyn’s Son Rhydderch pp 578, 521, 534

Iestyn ab Gwrgant was no ancestor to be proud of, yet he may be allowed to retain his place on the copper halfpenny <sup>^coined in Glamorgan, which^</sup>, we sometimes meet with. He certainly was no more a myth, than “Heruualdus Episcopus”, or

Yours Respectfully  
Thos Stephens

Merthyr Tydfil  
Aug 12 1871

Malines Rue Haute 11 (Belgique)  
July 10/62

Dear Sir,

I venture to inform you that I have been engaged sometime in a work of considerable interest and importance – if I am equal to it – viz “The Students’ Companion to Hume’s and Lingard’s History of England – with a running Commentary upon Both” Just now I’m preparing for the Press my first volume, concluding at AD 670 – 80/88, with the Deaths [illegible] of Kadwallader the last Pendragon & Oswic the last Bretwalda of the Britons and Anglo Saxons. I would fain consult for the last time, before publication the latest [PD]<sup>5</sup> tien & Revision of the “Welch Triads” I h[PD] you to be the highest living authority and [PD]fect & cannot resist my desire to you [PD] =mend to me the titles of the two works mos[PD] [fa]vorable and infavourable as well as authentic – on the genuiness, & speciousness of the said Triads. I am myself an advocate of the first I fear you are of the last view opinion finding by your last letter in No 29 Jany 62, to the Ed of the Archaeologia Cambrensis. I am acquainted with your “Literature of the Kymry” &c Mr Nashs “Taliesin” &c and Viscount Villemarque’s Works but the question now is, not the British Bards of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, but of the Welsh Triads. I am much afraid they will prove to be indessoluble connected – but I care comperatively mostly for the first while you seem to be most adverse to the last.

I have also been much interested lately by a very remarkable work by Mr D H Haigh entitled “The Anglo Saxon of Britain”. Could its authority & accuracy be [PD]tablished it would produce an entire [PD]sion of much of our history during the [PD] man & early Anglo Saxon, but I am at a less whel[PD] tints. Can you help me to form some opini [PD] and will thus confide yours to a perfect [stranger] who can but repeat his apologies for this intrusion & solicit your indulgence for his impertinence.

I am Dear Sir  
Yours Sincerely  
J R Lumley

Thos Stephens Esq  
of Merthyr Tydfil

P.S. Perhaps you would kindly issue ~~you~~ some Bookseller in Wales to send me his Catalogue showing me where & at what cost I might procure certain works. I greatly covet & among them

- 1 The works of the Rev E Davies
- 2 “ of the Rev Jo Williams ab Ithel
- 3 The Mabinogion &
- 4 the Myvyrian Archaeology in English if such there be

JRL

Russell Square  
London  
Sept 12 1858

Dear Sir-

As one who intends competing for the prize announced to be given for the best Welsh Essay on the Hebrew Prophecies, permit me to ask you, as one of the judges, is it not possible to have the time fixed for sending in the compositions extended some few months.

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<sup>5</sup> Page damaged.

To do justice to the subject, which participates so largely of a historical character, it requires considerable research and consequently, time. Although I have now for some months been digesting materials for my Essay, yet I clearly foresee I shall not be able to send in my composition, in a state worthy of the subject, by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the time appointed; and I am given to understand, by means which I need not now mention, that others who intend competing, are in the same predicament.

I would submit it is better to give ample time to the writers to produce something worthy the subject and also the prize, than to have only a few Essays for adjudication, and those perhaps hurriedly drawn up, and dealing with the subject in an imperfect manner. Nor can there any injustice be done to any of the competitors by an extension of the time, and by immediately advertising to that effect in the Newspapers. May I beg that you will confer with your colleagues, and exercise your influence to effect this object.

You as an adjudicator will doubtless allow me to with-hold my proper name and

Subscribe, myself

Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Ab Sibyl

Mr T Stephens

[On the reverse]

Dear Doctor

Please to read the enclosed, and give me your opinion.

Dr. Williams has sent me a similar letter addressed to him, in which he says. "I should be inclined favourably towards it, provided we did not incur the charge of procrastinating levity". And I see no very great objection.

He suggests Midsummer Day 1859

Yours truly

Thos Stephens

Rev Dr Lloyd

Carmarthen

Merthyr. Sep 6<sup>th</sup>/58

290

Llandeilo,

Sept<sup>r</sup> 11th 1863

My Dear Sir,

I need not say I w<sup>d</sup> feel greatly obliged for any suggestion which I well know you can give me relative to the Carnarvon Essay. It w<sup>d</sup> be superfluous for me to add, that I believe, that there is no other man that is so capable as yourself to give a helping hand to an aspirant like your humble, but sincere admirer Teilo.

The council of "Yr Eisteddvod" have as you know hinted already that they intend publishing my Essay. & with the view of supporting their intention, I have found it an easy matter to procure 250 subscribers and if I see that matters will get on smoothly I will endeavour to double that number.

'But, I want to know upon what terms would you kindly read the MSS. Essay, and point out its falacies, and calling my attention to any errors of date, or weak points – and to suggest any thing which you may consider desirable either to add to it, or to take from it. I will be glad to give you any fair remuneration – as I consider, that perhaps your time is more valuable than mine.

The only light in which I look at the Essay as being a valuable one, is, merely in a compilative sense. It is a good compilation of what may be fairly said to be the cream of our own ^poetical^ Literature ^up to a certain date^. As to the criticism it contains you are better able to judge of its claims than I am – But I must confess I am anxious to have “Counsell’s Opinion” upon the whole Essay. & whatever Gweirydd ab Rhys has said of it I care but little as his opinions upon the literature of Wales is at a very heavy discount. The man that could write such trash in the ‘Gwyddoniadur’ upon the words “Bardd”, “Bangor” &c &c is unworthy of the least claims to as an authority upon Welsh historical matters. I have not seen a word of his adjudication upon the Essay. But the General Sec<sup>y</sup> Creuddynfab, has promised to let me have the Essay and the Adjudication ^upon it^ next week.

I feel that I am addressing you rather freely – but I believe I can depend upon gaining your sympathy, though you are a great historian of European fame – yet, I have that faith in your manly character as the Chief of the literary men of ^my country^ that you will not spurn either my wishes or my corresponding.

We are all glad as a “Nation” that the Swansea Eist<sup>d</sup> has proved such a grand success. Yn mlaen a hi!

You must take a more active part in next year’s meeting. Apologizing for thus addressing you

I am Dr Sir,  
Yours sincerely  
Teilo

T. Stephens Esq

291

Abergwili  
Carmarthen  
27 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1853

The Bishop of St Davids presents his compliments to Mr Stephens, and having sent in another envelope a Post office Order for £2.2.0, for the relief of Ieuan Ab Gruffydd, begs Mr Stephens to acknowledge the receipt.

292

11 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1859

Sir

I have to apologize for having so long delayed to return the enclosed Paper: but I was prevented by absence from home, and some pressing engagements, from giving my attention to it immediately, and it was only yesterday that I observed the wish expressed in the concluding paragraph, to receive it back in the course of a week.

I entirely assent to the general principles laid down in it, and believe that the proposed compromise between the etymological and phonetic systems of orthography, with a decided leaning to the latter, is the only basis which has any chance of being generally adopted, and procuring the desired uniformity.

In reading the Paper I was struck by a few remarks as to which I felt a doubt, and I noted it in the Margin: but it relates only to matters which will not affect the forthcoming list of words, but, if anything, only some of the grounds on which it rests. I will indicate my meaning as briefly as I can.

I do not see the alleged inconsistency between the opinion, that the final consonant in cyd cyf &c have an independent existence, and that of those who treat the consonants into which they are sometimes changed as borrowed from the initial of the following words, as in the compounds, collocate con-note &c

If the principle adopted is that of bringing the orthography into accordance with the pronunciation, it would seem that the question on which the orthography of a word must depend, is neither what mode of pronouncing it is possible (fel y galler ei seinio) nor which is pleasantest to the ear (fel y byddont yn hawdd ac yn beraidd i'w seinio) but simply which is actually in use. The people is the only judge and witness of euphony in its own language.

Rule III is excellent as a practical maxim for avoiding needless innovation: but I am not sure that I can reconcile ^it^ with that which is laid down p. 2 under the head 'Calediad llythyrenau'. as to bwyta &c.

If byth is the same word as pyth can it be convenient to change the initial: and if not, can it be correct to write byth bythoedd or can this be defended on either supposition?

I should have expected some notice to have been taken of the wide difference between the ground of the rules governing accentuation and that of the others. The whole question of accentuation seems to concern the interest rather of foreigners than of natives, who can hardly ever need such assistance in pronunciation; and therefore, under the kindred head of II Gwahaniaeth sain ac ystyr, I should have thought the term afresymol rather too strong.

That the Cymric ear loves variety, is very true: but hardly sufficient, I think, to account for the laws afterwards laid down as regulating that variety – which must depend upon some more special principle of euphony &c so for instance it is at least remarkable, that the a in the four plurals, gwagedd, dagrau, nadroedd, lladron, belongs to the singular of the words virago, lacryma, natter, latro.

Finally may I venture to suggest, that the value of the list would be increased, if it included the words of doubtful gender, particularly if any rule or principle could be established for lessening their number.

I remain

Sir

Your faithful ser<sup>t</sup>

C S<sup>t</sup> Davids

T. Stephens Esq

[Enclosure: Printed Circular 'At y Llenorion appwyntiedig yn Llangollen i drefnu Orgraph y Gymraeg' by Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) and Thomas Stephens, with very little marginalia. A copy of this circular can be seen at NLW, MS. 964E, I, 79.]

293

15 June 1861

Sir

I have reprinted my Letter to Mr Bowstead for publication, and it may be had from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rivington: but I have directed a copy to you by this post, as a token of personal respect, and will desire Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rivington to send you a copy of my charge.

I am Sir

Your faithful Ser<sup>t</sup>

C S<sup>t</sup> Davids

T. Stephens Esq

[Postmarked Carmarthen, 16 July 1861

294

[Printed letterhead with an engraving of]  
Baptist College Pontypool

Jan<sup>y</sup> 19/59

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to say that I have paid so little attention to the Welsh Language that I do not consider myself competent to render the Com<sup>ee</sup> any aid in this important matter to which your circular relates. But though, for this reason, I respectfully decline the service you so kindly request, I appreciate the great importance of the object you have in view, & heartily wish you & your fellow-laborers success in your patriotic efforts.

I am, Dear Sir  
Yrs truly  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Thomas

Thos Stephens Esqr

295

Llandyssul.  
July 27 1865.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose you this circular which will explain itself. It seems now unclear whether y<sup>e</sup> Ymof<sup>dd</sup> will again make its appearance, and even if it did, I am of opinion there would remain a distinct province for each. My principal aim is to issue a small monthly more especially adapted for y<sup>e</sup> young men & women of our Sunday Schools.

If you sympathize with me I should feel obliged by your making y<sup>e</sup> Athraw known to Welsh friends in Merthyr very few of whom I know. If I knew, which I do not, who y<sup>e</sup> Distributor of y<sup>e</sup> Ymofynydd used to be, I would write to him.

More important still; if you would favour me with a short article now and then from your pen, this would be essential assistance to me & a boon to y<sup>e</sup> public.

If my little enterprize is properly backed y<sup>e</sup> first number will be out on Sept 1.

With kind regards

Yours very truly  
W Thomas

T. Stephens Esq

296

Llandudoch Mawrth 13. 1859

Mr T Stephens

Syr, yr wyf yn antyrio anfon atoch ar ychydig eiriau gan gredu na ddygiwch or herwydd, ie na ddygiwch wrth un ac sydd yn eich caru o'i galon. Yr hwn er nas gwelais yr ydwyf yn ei garu, ac o gwynfyd nad allwn gall eich gweled a bod genich yn y cyrddau ar ysgol Sabothol yn Twynyrodyn yn wir ni cheisiwn fwy o fraint yn y byd hwn. Yr ydym yma yn nganol ein gelynion, ac yn dioddef yn dost, y maent yn barod i'n lladd un amser, yr ydym wedi cael ein taflu allan o'r ysgol Sabothol oddi ar bethofnos i heddyw, a hyny am ein bod yn arddel ac yn amddyffyn y ffydd yr hon a roddwyd unwaith i'r saint. Y mae un yn cael ei ddiarddelu o'r Eglwys heddyw am yr un peth, a thri mis i heddyw y diarddelwyd un yma or blaen am yr un peth ac y maent wedi dweid wrthim am beidio dod ir cyrddau hefid ond hyd yn hyn yr ydym yn fwy na chongcwerwyr, canys er ein taflu or ysgol eto ni wnaethom gyfrif o honynt. Yr ydym yn parhau i ddylyn yr un modd ac un benderfynol i ddylyn hefyd gan fwrw ein bara ar wyneb y dyfroedd, mewn gobaith oi gael mewn llawer o ddyddau y mae genim yn bresenol ddwy galon i weithio er pan y mae yr Ymofynydd wedi ei ailgychwyn

derbynir deuddeg yma y rhai a anfonir genim o fan i fan, er ymofyn y chwaneg eto o rhai hyny ac y mae yn mhob man ddywedid yn eu herbyn.

Syr idd eich hysbysu fod yma Eisteddfod i gael ei chynnal ar y llun Sylgwyn nesaf fel y gwelir ar amlen Seren Cymru yn bresenol, ac yr wif yn mentro gofyn yn ostyngedig, a wnewch chwi gyfansoddi Traithawd imi ar y testun hwnw sef—  
“Prif ddyffigion yr oes” nid oes yn wyf yr un awydd am godu fy hun ond dymynwn fod yn fuddygwr a hyny o herwydd fy ngelynion hyny am troisant allan o Bwyllgor yr Eisteddfod am fy mod yn Undodwr a bydd fy mod yn fyddygwr yn rhoddi iddynt ergyd marwol, byddau yn well ganddynt i bawb enill nag i “Sosin” enill y mae ganddynt hwy eu lleurwg ac eraill wrth law ac at pwy yr awn nynau ond at ein Stephens &c. Y mae yn digon anhawdd genif ofyn hyn gan y credwyf fod genich ddigon o waith yn barod, ond gobeithio y llwyddaf dymynaf ateb bach boddhaol mor gynted ag y byddwch y byddwch mewn cyflei i hyny

Ydwyf eich anwyl Frawd

William Thomas

William Thomas

Tailor

St Dogmells

Nr Cardigan

297

L.J.I

N-40

Vale of Neath Railway.

Neath Station,

June 8<sup>th</sup> 1858

[All of the above is on printed letterhead]

Mr Stephens

Dear Sir

I am requested by the Society of Alfreds Lodge No 40 of the Merthyr Unity to write asking you to do us the favour of coming down to Neath to deliver us a Lecture I will not ask for your charge for so doing I will first ask you the favour well knowing if you come we will have a crowded meeting I wait your reply when I will communicate further with you on the Subject The object of the Society is to get funds and elevate the Social and Moral condition of the Cymru by occasional Lectures &c

I am Dear Sir  
Pres for the Society  
W. T. Thomas

298

Carmarthen, Sept 26, 1854

Sir,

A dispute has taken place between parties in this town, and your name has been honourably mentioned to decide the matter. Both parties agreed that Dyer had written the Poem on Grongar Hill, but it was held out also on one side that Pope had written an Ode on the same subject. Now, dear Sir, will you be kind enough to give your opinion on the subject.

I remain, dear Sir,  
Yours most respectfully,  
William Thomas  
(Gwilym Mai)

T. Stephens, Esq

**299c**

Orgraph y Gymraeg  
At y Meistriaid R. J. Prys a T. Stephens

Foneddigion,

Y mae cael unffurfiaeth yn Orgraph y Gymraeg yn bwnc y dylai pob Cymro cywir ymestyn i'w gythaedd; ond y mae achos i ofni y bydd dadleu diddarfod cyn y dygir hyn i ben.

Y mae llawer o'r seiliau a osodir i lawr yn eich Cylchlythyr yn dra chanmoladwy, ond y mae ereill yn ymddangos yn groes i elfenau a chyntefigion y Gymraeg.

Gan fod geir-darddiad yn un o brif elfenau yr iaith, onid oes perygl i roddi lle i lefariad gwlad, yn hytrach na chadw at ystyr gwreiddiol y gair? Gan mai yn y gwreiddyn y mae'r bywyd, gellid tybied mai cynnyg at fywyd yr iaith a fyddai cyfnewid yr an negyddol i am, megys a^m^mhur yn lle anmhur, ammharch yn lle anmharch, &c? Ond os gellir profi fod am yn negyddol, nid afresymol, er mwyn llyfndra seinyddiaeth, fyddai mabwysiadu y dull olaf; ond os defnyddir y cynllun hwn byddai yn afresymol ysgrifenu amharod; ni fyddai hynny ond diddymu y negydd am, oblegid fod p yn parod yn cyfnewid i mh, o ganlyniad byddai ei ystyr yn cael ei droi i a-mharod

Gan mai sill derfynol yw au, nid yw yn rhesymol i arfer dwy n yn tonnau; ond bydded i ddull argraffyddion yn gyffredin gael ei fabwysiadu, sef cadw y geiriau sydd â sain galed iddynt heb un nod uwch eu penau, megys tonau; a phan fyddont yn hirllais, rhodder yr ô hirllais yn y gair, yr hyn a gyfnewid ei ystyr i tônau (music;) ond pan gyfarfyddir â'r gair tonnau, defnyddier y ddwy n, am fod y t olaf yn tant yn cyfnewid i n wrth ei luosogi, a hynny yn ei wahaniaethu oddiwrth y gair tanau (fires.)

Yr wyf yn hoffi arfer y gair ynghyd, ynghylch, &c. o ganlyniad nid wyf yn gweled sail i wrthod ymhen, ymhlaid, &c.; ond pa beth a wneir pan fyddo prifair yn canlyn yr yn megys y Nghymru, y Nghernyw &c.? Os gosodir y heb ei chysylltu â'r olaf, newidir y synwyr; ac os cyssylltir hi, fel hyn, yNghymru, yNghernyw &c., ymddengys yn wrthun iawn.

Os penderfyna y Pwyllgor ar ryw safon benderfynol, bydd yn ofynol iddynt ymdrechu darbwylllo Argraffyddion y Dywysogaeth i'w mabwysiadu, onide yn ofer ac am ddim y treuliwch eich nerth.

Y mae gorchwylion ereill yn fy nghaethewi rhag sylwi yn fanylach, ond dymunaf i chwi bob llwyddo yn eich gorchwyl canmoladwy

Yr eiddoch yn gywir  
William Thomas (Gwilym Mai)

Caerfyrddin  
Ionawr 10, 1859

**300a-b**

Trin: Coll: Dublin  
Nov. 14. 1849

Dear Sir

I am very glad to find that you intend entering the lists, & taking a share in the Cromlech controversy

O Reilly's Dictionary is compiled from various sources, & amongst the rest from Vallancey's MSS. O Reilly was not himself an original or vernacular Irish scholar. He was a man of great industry & learned all he knew of the language from books. Hence it came to pass that he transcribed into his Dictionary many words for which there is no authority – & they have been copied from his work into the Dictionaries compiled by Armstrong, Shaw, & other Scotch lexicographers of the Celtic.

You will see a curious instance of O Reilly's ignorance in the word Croimlin, which he interprets thus (from a MS. note of Vallancey's,) –

“Croimlin, the temple of Crom; the name of several places in Ireland”.

Now there is no such name as Cromlin, except in the Anglicized spelling of the names of some places in Ireland, In Irish these places are called Cromglinn,<sup>6</sup> - Crom=glinn, bent or crooked valley. Moreover if there were such a word as Crom signifying a God, or idol, & if we wished to say temple of Crom, (using the old word lann for church or temple) we would have said lann an Chroim, not Crom=lin.

And now with respect to the famous Irish idol Crom=chruac. The authority for the word is the tripartite Life of St Patrick, lib. ii. c. 3, where this idol is said to have been destroyed by the saint – But in Joceline's life, where the same story occurs, the idol is called not Crom=cruach, but Cean=cruithi, which name is there interpreted to signify caput omnium deorum. In the annals of Ulster &c the four Masters the same idol is mentioned, but the lives of St Patrick are the original source of the name: & if Jocelin be correct then Crom=cruach is an error for Cean=cruithi, which signifies literally bloody head, (for cruach & cruithi are the same word in Different spellings) & the idol is described as surrounded by twelve other idols that are sunk in the earth, so that this was the chief, & is so called caput omnium deorum.

Crom cruach signifies bloody stooped (thing); it was probably Cean crom cruach, bloody stooped head, or chief, which would reconcile the two accounts.

In the Duin Seanchus, or History of Forts, castles, &c. in Ireland, a work of great antiquity the following account of the Crom cruach is given – “Magh sleacht (Plain of slaughter) is so called because it is there was the chief idol of Ireland, viz the Crom-cruach, & twelve stone idols round it, & its face was of gold, & this was the god of all the people that possessed Ireland until the coming of St Patrick.”

If the face of the idol was covered with gold, this may account for its being called bloody head - & if the head was inclined or stooped this would be a reason for calling it crom.

This word crom is ~~off~~ often used as a sort of surname or appellation for ~~these~~ men who are remarkable for a stoop or inclination of the head. Thus O Donovan Crom, or the stooped was a famous chief of the O Donovan's who was often called “the Crom” or the stooped one. There is a Glen in the County Cork, in the O Donovan country called Glenn an Chruim, or the valley of the Crom, i.e. of the stooped O Donovan. If Vallancey had got hold of this he would of course have made it the valley of his God Crom: & it w<sup>d</sup> have been much more plausible than some other of his instances, inasmuch as it would have been correct Irish.

There was also a Castle in the Co Limerick called Crom Castle from the same Crom O Donovan: & this is the Crom mentioned in the Duke of Leinsters motto – That Castle was taken by the Fitzgeralds from the O Donovan's & hence they assumed for their motto Crom a boo, or in correct spelling Crom a buaidh, i.e Crom conquered, alluding to O Donovan Crom & his Castle. See Gough's Camden. iii. 518.

The supposition that the word Cromlech signifies the stone of the God Crom, has been suggested by O Halloran & others who have been infected with Vallanceyism. But no Irish scholar could imagine such a thing – for if we wanted to say stone of Crom, we could

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<sup>6</sup> Written in Irish letters.

only express it by Leach an Chroim – whereas the position of crom in the word cromlech clearly shews it to be an adjective, whatever be its meaning.

The name which Llwyd quotes for the great plague of 540 – is a mistake – it ought to be cronchonail. Cron or Cruan signifies yellow, & the words are translated flava ictericia the yellow jaundice, by Colgan, Acta Sanctorum Hibernia, p. 831. col. 2–

Cromadh is a living Irish word signifying to bend, to stoop, to bow down. It may be used for worship, not primarily but just as we use the word bow down, for worship – It occurs frequently in our Irish version of the Bible, & is still in vernacular use.

By the way the Annals of Ulster & of Tighernach, describing the great pestilence of 543, say “anno post quam Papa Vigilius ~~xxxxxx~~ obiis, mortalitas magna que. Blefed dicitur”

The word Blefed is unintelligible to us – has it any meaning in Cymric ears?

I am very sorry archdeacon Williams could not write with a better tone. I did not enter into the question of the sepulchral theory of the cromlechs, because I was anxious only to know what Welsh tradition said respecting them. My friend Dr Petrie has fully investigated that subject, I would rather it was discussed by him. I hope he will be persuaded to mingle in the fight. The discussion I hope will do good

I remain, dear Sir

Very truly yours

J. H. Todd

[Across top of second page, possibly in Thomas Stephens's hand]  
Crymlin Monmouth, near Pontypool – bent – glen  
Crymlin Burrows or Boroughs, Swansea. Bent – pool?

## Volume II

301a

Athenaeum  
London  
Sept. 6. 1851

My dear Sir

Your letter followed me here. I believe the word 'blefed' is correct. We have no k in Irish. The pestilence referred to by Tighernach is elsewhere generally called the yellow pestilence (flava- or in Irish buidhe) – this leads me to conjecture that blefed is connected with the root of an English word blue, which in Anglo Saxon had a more enlarged meaning & was applied to colour in general. Bleofah, & Bleofag in Anglo Saxon signifies versicolor, & might very well be applied to a disease whose characteristic was coloured blotches or spots over the body. Wachter gives the root blaw, cæsius, glaucus, coruleus, & gives the Islandic synon. blafain, in which the w, as in Anglo Saxon has become f.

If the final d were aspirated the word ~~bfe~~ blefed would be identical in sound with the A. Saxon bleofah.

Your conjecture however is very ingenious & plausible; & I will not undertake to say that it is not correct, but the parallel passages in the Annals lead me to the conclusion that blefed must be synon<sup>s</sup>. with the Irish buidhe, & therefore that it signifies colour of some kind.

I remain, dear Sir  
J H Todd

301b

Dear Sir/

Some time ago I sent you a long note on the meaning of the word "blefed", which occurs in the following entry:-

"Mortalitas magna quæ 'blefed' dicitur". Tigernach.

It has just occurred to me that after all, this is only our common name for sickness or disease – clevyd – which in Welsh orthography – the f being soft could be written Clefyd, Clefid, or Klefid. Sounded Klevid.

I do not know whether the letter k occurs in some of your MSS. It does occur in ours. If so the b in blefed may be a mistaken k. Which according to Llwyd was introduced into our MSS about the year 1200, and was discontinued about 1500. We have no k in the Kymric alphabet, and the letter in our old MSS was probably derived from the Normans. The initial consonant changes as follows:-

sounded

Nom. Case.	Clefid – Clevid
Gen	glefid – glefvid
	a Chlefid – with sickness
	yn nghlefid in sickness

Please to accept this attempt to explain the word and believe me Dr Sir  
Yours faithfully  
Thos Stephens

Dr Todd

Plymouth  
12<sup>ain</sup> Mawrth  
1868.

Anwyl Syr,

Rhaid i mi yn ddioed rhoddi i chwi fy niolchiadau diffuant am eich boneddig rwydd gan ddanfon i mi ateb cyn i mi wybod fod fy sylwadau ar waith Gildas wedi eu cyhoeddi yn "Notes and Queries."

You may there see that I was aware of the existence of the two Cambridge MSS; and I find in the German Introductions to the Berlin edition (which calls itself a reprint of Stephenson's Text,) some account of the earlier editions. My puzzle is about the omission in the Berlin edition of so much: I think now that the object was the selection of such parts as could be considered historical. It would be in vain for me to try here to see any copy of Gildas; and indeed I am too unwell to attempt it; as I have been these nine weeks laid by with a severe attack of hooping cough.

I see in the Abp Ussher's Correspondence that in his inquiries for MSS of Gildas, he was more than once led almost astray from the name of Gildas being prefixed to copies of Nennius. I feel sure that the internal marks of Gildas shew him to have belonged to the sixth century.

I know familiarly your "Literature of the Kymry"; indeed it happens <sup>^now^</sup> to be on the table before me: I have not a few of the earlier (and some of the later) Welsh writings: - indeed I am fond of collecting what I can of the literature of the three <sup>^Cymric^</sup> branches of the Celtic stock: - Cornwall my native country, which I left forty years ago: - Wales, where in the Vale of Neath I spent the next seven years: - and Armorica a country about which Carnhuanawc excited in my mind a sort of enthusiasm on his return in 1829, but which I was not able to visit till 1865, when I investigated the country, the language and the Literature pretty thoroughly.

Very pleasant are many of my remembrances of Wales: - tho' much is connected with those who have passed away, leaving names and often more which ought to be remembered: - such as Taliesin ab Iolo, who taught me many things related to Barddas, and Eben Fardd my long continued friend some of whose poems I read on the banks of the Tiber and Guadalquiver.

Last Summer after twenty one years I revisited Glyn Nêdd; it revived not a little of my old love for Sîr Morganwg.

Gorphwysaf  
Anwyl Syr  
Yr eiddoch yn ddiffuant  
S. Prideaux Tregelles

I shall try if I can see a copy in any Catalogue of the Record Commission edition of "Monumenta Historica", your mention of it reminds me of my having translated the Welsh Chronicles for the old Record Commission; but what became of what I did I do not know, it is a matter of 37 years ago.

303

[Black-bordered paper]

Coedriglan.  
Cardiff  
Jan. 24. 1857

Dear Sir

The Vice Principal of St. Davids Coll Lampeter [illegible] if when on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. if he comes from N. Wales, he may not hit the Express train, & in this case, he will not be at Cardiff till 5.45 on Monday Eve I shall send in a carriage [illegible] Cardiff arms in time for the Express. I beg Mr Williams would go for [several illegible words] him & come or leave in my Carriage of course my Coachman will wait 'till he sees Mr W-

It strikes me that you may be able to visit us at the same train, in which case, you will know when you [illegible] in Cardiff - & accompany Mr W. to Coedriglan-

I have been laid up lately by some Bronchitis – a [illegible] affair - & still am a prisoner, but am better. [several illegible words] A line in reply will oblige. Yours faithfully  
J. M. Traherne

304a

Sir

I have duly received your letter, and should much like to learn from you more definitely as to what would constitute the substance and drift of your proposed paper – how far statistical and what your sources of information are & – . It would would also be agreeable to me to have a little knowledge of the the person with whom I have the honor to communicate. Do you know ^the Rev.^ Mo Griffiths of Brecon ^College^? His views I presume are against state-aid – but anything about Wales on this subject would be rather jealously examined by your countrymen – and I do not wish to widen the sphere of controversy with which I am mixed up already, very much against my indication.

I am  
Sir  
Yours faithfully  
Robert Vaughan

College

Manchester

Nov. 23 [1846]

Thos Stephens Esq

304b

My dear Sir/

Since I wrote to you I have made inquiries about educational matters in connexion with Wales, and I feel that it would be inexpedient to take up that question in the Brit: Qu<sup>ly</sup>: during the inquiries now making by the government inspectors. Without statistics little of importance could be effected, and this is not the junction to venture upon that ground. My custom is not to encourage any one to produce a paper for the review except as I have good reason to think that it would be deemed prinatble when produced. – this was the sole reason of my questions to you

I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours very truly  
Robert Vaughan

College  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mr Thos Stephens

[Postmarked Manchester, 2 December 1846]

305

[Black-bordered paper]

Au Château de Keransker  
près Kemperlé, (Bretagne)  
le 17 mai 1856

Monsieur,

Quand même il n'existerait pas une république des lettres, dont tous les membres sont frères, il y aurait pour nous, Bretons-armoricains, et pour vous, Kymrys-britons, une mères-patrie commune dont nous sommes les fils; nous devons donc nous aimer et vous entre-aider. Vous m'avez prouvé que ces sentiments sont les vôtres, en voulant bien parler de moi d'une manière aimable dans votre excellent livre, The Literature of the Kymry, et moi-même j[']ai été tres heureux de pouvoir louer ce livre dans ma traduction française des Poèmes des bardes bretons du VI<sup>e</sup> siècle, publiée à Paris par Renouard, rue de Tournon, en 1850. Dernièrement encore, j[']ai en occasion de citer vos travaux, comme des modèles du critique, dans une lecture que j'ai faite à l'Institut de France, sur les monuments de la langue des Anciens Brêtons.

C'est donc avec un véritable chagrin que j'ai lu dans le Cambrian Journal, revue distinguée, éditée par un homme si intelligent et si impartial, ce me semble, une lettre à l'editeur où vous êtes traité d'une manière inqualifiable. Non! quelques dissentiments qui puissent exister sur certains points de détail vos Studies upon ^in the^ british biography ne sont point indignes de vos études précédentes; vous continuez à marcher dans la bonne et large voie, et vous y marchez même d'un pied plus assuré et plus indépendant vous perpétuez la saine école de Edward Lhuyd à laquelle appartenait aussi mon excellent et à jamais regrettable ami Thomas Price, et vous partagez avec d'autres l'honneur de cette Renaissance Cambrienne qui attire sur votre beau et intéressant pays les regards de l'europe savante. Mais j'espère que ce nuage élevé entre compatriotes c'est dissipé depuis longtemps, et que vos contradicteurs auront fini par juger, comme les étrangers, qu'une sévérité même pousser à l'excès, vaut mieux qu'une complaisance fâcheuse ou qu'une déplorable flatterie. Je serais bien aise de l'apprendre de vous, car je n'aime point les querelles de famille :

Cas bethau Breton:

Gwrth ac ymryson

Rhwng cydvrodorion

Vous savez qu'on attribue ces vers à un de vos sages et de vos saints qui vint vous prêcher au vi<sup>e</sup> siècle, et qui est mort chez nous! je les cite souvent.

Pour vous, Monsieur, si, comme je n'en doute pas, vous avez fait la paix avec vos critiques revenus à des sentiments plus équitables, à ceux du temps où ils vous regardaient "with pride as the future historian of Wales", vous pouvez dire, en le leur prouvant, avec le sage des Kymry:

Nerth cryv, ei drugaredd.

Veillez agréer l'assurance de mon estime et de la sympathie avec la quelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, votre serviteur

Le Directeur de l'Association bretonne  
V<sup>te</sup> Hersart De la Villemarqué

306a

Au Chateau de Keransker près Kemperlé  
(Bretagne)  
le 14 juillet 1856

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai reçu votre lettre du 4 juillet, et je ne saurais assez vous remercier de ce que vous me dites d'aimable, je suis particulièrement flatté de l'honneur que le Cambrian Institut veut bien me faire en m'offrant de placer mon nom parmi ceux de les Vice-président; je l'accepte avec beaucoup de plaisir, et je vous prie de remercier pour moi cette Société Savante, en attendant que je la remercie moi-même, à la réception officielle de ma nomination. Etre loué par vous, dont les travaux sont si justement estimés en France et en Allemagne, était déjà un grand succès. J'ai souvent parlé de vous à mon illustre ami Augustin Thierry dont les souffrances & les infirmités, jointes à la perte de ses yeux, n'altéraient en rien le génie: il avait été lui même très sensible à l'éloge que vous faites de lui dans votre excellent ouvrage The Literature of the Kymry, et peu de temps avant sa mort, qui est, pour la France & pour ses amis, une perte irréparable il me demandait quelle était votre opinion sur une assertion très importante du Cambrian register for 1791, p. 241, concernant le ressentiment conservé en Galles des appropriations de la conquête. Il me demandait également le que vous pensiez du Kyvrinach y beirdd que M. Pictet de Genève a récemment exhumé et mis en credit, d'après un texte de 1792 d'iolo Morganwg, et qui me paraît à moi non un mystère mais une mystification. J'aurais été bien aise de pouvoir lui répondre pour vous, et de l'éclairer de lumières meilleures que les miennes mais vous n'en parler point dans la Literature of the Kymry; et vous qualifiez seulement, avec beaucoup de bon sens & d'esprit, dans le cambrian journal, les MSS d'iolo, de Slipshod documents. Comme on continue en France à s'occuper de l'authenticité du Kyvrinach, vous m'obligeriez beaucoup de me dire s'il en existe une copie ^datée^ antérieur au manuscrit qu'on attribue à Edward Davydd, mort en 1690, et si ce manuscrit de Davydd existe réellement dans la bibliothèque de Llanharan, dans le Glamorganshire, maintenant la propriété de la famille Turberville. Je ne sais si je me trompe, mais j'ai bien de soupçonner Edward Davydd et ses confrères d'avoir fabriqué tout le Kyvrinach ^on de moins la partie^ théologique du livre, à l'exception des vieilles triades des Cercles. Qu'en pensez-vous? Je me suis exprimé dans ce sens en adressant mon opinion écrite à mon savant collègue de l'Académie du Berlin, M. Jacob Grimm; je serais heureux de la voir confirmée par un juge aussi compétent que vous: Les recherches que j'ai faites, au mois de décembre dernier, dans la bibliothèque de Sir Robert Vaughan, à Rhug, n'ont pas changé ma manière de voir à cet égard. J'aurais été aussi très aise d'y trouver quelque document ancien et portant une date certaine de nature à confirmer l'important passage cité par Iolo Morganwg, p. 630, sur l'origine armoricaine de la table-ronde; Taliesin Williams me l'avait montré en 1839, dans les papiers de son père, mais je doutais de l'ancienneté de la tradition avant de l'avoir vue adoptée par vous, (p. 336) et il me paraît que M. Albert Schulz en doute encore, car il vous cite avec un point d'interrogation à ce sujet, lui qui d'ordinaire vous emprunte vos opinions. Le fameux Llyfr o grefft yr holl vordd gron où j'espérais trouver tant de lumières et que Lady Vaughan m'a permis de lire, (celui-la même dont vous parlez p. 438 avec une si juste défiance de la date), est la traduction pur & simple d'un roman du st

Graal en prose française. Le traducteur cambrien le dit expressément, et nous apprend que l'auteur français a drosses yr ystoria honn o ladin yn ffranghec (fol. 36 verso).

Voilà une lettre bien longue, cher Monsieur, et bien des questions; je veus pourtant vous en adresser une dernière. Je vois dans un de vos articles si intéressants du Cambrian J<sup>l</sup> que vous placez la bataille de Cattræth en 608, voserai je vous demander la source de cette date très précieuse pour moi? Mille pardons de mes importunités vous y trouverez j'aime a le croire, une preuve de plus de ses sincères considérations de votre bien dévoué

Vcte Hersart De la Villemarqué

P.S. Seriez-vous assez bon pour offrir des hommages à M H. A. Bruce M.P. dont j'ai garde le plus agréable Souvenir, et qui m'a parlé de vous.

[Written across the side of third page]

Je n'ai pas l'article dont vous avec l'obligeance de me parler sur les British Bards mais on m'en a cité des passages: quand je la connaitre j'en remercierai l'auteur.

[Written across the side of the last (fourth) page]

Comme vous le pensez avec raison, j'ai lu la traduction du Gododin par le Rev John Williams Ab Ithel, j'en dois une copie à un ami du Jesus college je partage tout à fait votre sentiment sur la traduction & sa critique: c'est avec la plus vive impatience que j'attends votre nouvel ouvrage à vous-même.

[A contemporary translation, possibly by Thomas Stephens]

Chateau de Keraskier près Kemperlé  
Bretagne  
The 14<sup>th</sup> July 1856

Dear (Monsieur) Sir

I received your letter the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and I am unable to compensate you sufficiently for the friendly terms in which you speak of me. I am particularly flattered by the honour which the Cambrian Institute thought proper to ~~aff~~ me, in offering to place my name among the number[?] of its Vice Presidents; I accept it with much ~~of~~ pleasure, and I pray you to thank that learned society for me, ~~and~~ until I can myself thank them, on the official reception of my nomination. To be praised by you, whose labours are so justly esteemed in France and Germany, is already a great success.

I often talked of you to my illustrious friend in suffering and infirmities, the hardship of losing his eyes did not alter his genius in life: he was himself very sensible of the elog [praise] which you made of him in your ^excellent work^ the Literature of the Kymry, and a little before his death, which is for France and for his friends an irreparable loss; he demanded of me what was your opinion, respecting a very important assertion, in the Cambrian Register for 1791. p. 241, concerning the slight remains conserved in Wales of the expropriation of the conquest. He ~~also~~ equally demanded what ~~is your opinion~~ think, of the Kyvrinach y Beirdd, which Mr Pictet of Geneva has recently exhumed & with credit, after the text of 1792 of Iolo Morganwg, and which appear to me, not a mystery but a mystification. ~~He~~ I was ~~not~~ ^should have been^ well able to reply to him for you, and to explain the more clearly that

you do not speak on the point in the Literature of the Kymry: your qualifying ~~sentiment~~ solely, with much sense and spirit, in the Cambrian Journal, the Iolo MSS as slipshod documents. However we continue in France to occupy ourselves with the authenticity of the Kyvrinach, you would oblige me much by informing me if there exists a

copy of a date anterior to the MS attributed to Edward Davydd who dies in 1690, and if the manuscript of Davydd exists really in the library of Llanharan, Glamorganshire the property of the Turberville family:-

I am not, unless I am deceived, without ground for suspecting Edward Davydd and his confreres, to have fabricated the whole of the Kyvrinach, or at least the theological part of the book, with the expression of the old Triads of the Circles. What think you?

I have expressed myself in this sense in addressing my written opinion to my learned colleague of the Academy of Berlin, Mr Jacob Grimm: I shall be happy to see it confirmed by so competent a judge as yourself: The researches I made, in the month of December last, in the Library of Sir Robert Vaughan at Rhûg, do not change my desire to see it this regard. I should have been very easy ^glad^ to find an ancient document bearing a certain date, of a nature to confirm the important passage cited by Iolo Morganwg p 630, respecting the Armorican origin of the Round table. Taliesin Williams showed me this already in 1839, in the papers of his father; but I doubted the antiquity of the tradition, before seeing the view adopted by you (p 336). And it was I who caused Mr Albert Schulz to doubt also, inasmuch as ~~you~~ he cites ^you^ with a point of interrogation on the subject, whereas ~~you~~ he ordinarily borrows ^adopts^ your opinions. The famous Llyfr o grefft yr holl ford gron, in which I hoped to find every light, and which Lady Vaughan permitted me to read (it is the same that you speak of p 438, with such ~~defeaced~~ distrust of the date), is a pure and simple translation of the Romance of St Graal in French Prose – The Cambrian translator says ^this^ expressly, and we learn that the French author, a drosses yr ystoria honn o Ladun yn Ffranghec (fol 264, verso)

Here is a ^very^ long letter, Dear Sir, and full of questions: your will bear me to address you one more. I see in one of your interesting articles in the Cambrian Journal, that you place the battle of Cattrath in 608 may I ask you the source of this date, very precious to me? A thousand pardons for my importunities, you will find, that I love you

P.S. I press you to be good enough to offer my homages to Mr H. A. Bruce MP of whom I have the most agreeable souvenir, that he spoke to me of you.

Comme vous le perchez, avis restons.

I saw the translation of the Gododin by the Rev John Williams, Ab Ithel, I was given a copy by a friend of Jesus College; I partake your sentiment respecting the translation and the criticism. It is with many turns of impatience that I await your new work from yourself.

I ~~did~~ have not seen the article, of which you obligingly spoke to me, ~~on the Br~~ respecting the British Bards in which the passages from me were cited, though I knew and thanked the author.

**306b**

Château de Keransker, près Quimperlé, Finistere  
le 3 aout 1858.

Cher Monsieur,

Depuis le mois de novembre 1857, je me promettais de vous écrire pour vous remercier des deux nos qui vous m'avez adressés du Traethodydd et sans adresser ^moi-même^ les renseignements que vous avez bien voulu me demander sur Hu gadarn: j'esperais que le livre que j'ai sous presse, intitulé La Légende celtique serait livré au public beaucoup plus tôt et j'avais le projet de vous l'envoyer pour répondre à votre question, mais cet ouvrage tardant à paraître, je ne puis remettre plus longtemps la réponse & les remerciements que je vous dois. Vos deux articles sur les Kymris m'ont fort intéressé, je suis de votre avis sur bien des points, et j'ai vu avec plaisir que M. Nash vous a lu et a profité de plusieurs de vos observations: comme vous il doute et "c'est le commencement de la

sagesse,” mais il ne faudrait pas douter éternellement, après avoir commencé de la sorte notre Descartes a affirmé; la critique négative est bonne pour déblayer le terrain de la science, mais une fois le champ nétoyé, il faut bâtir. Je voudrais une bonne histoire du Pays de Galles, et vous l’écriviez mieux que personne. Je le disais il y a peu de temps à mes confrères de l’institut de France, où j’ai été reçue le 21 mai dernier, et où on commence à s’occuper avec intérêt des choses celtiques.

Pour en venir au point sur lequel, je vous dois une réponse, c’est à dire à Hu Gadarn, voici ce que j’ai trouvé à son sujet, dans la Portefeuille des Blancs Manterey, (Bibliothèque impériale), n° 38, légende manuscrite Saint Hervé, composé ‘au XI<sup>e</sup> Siècle , p. 857 et 858) St Hervé trouve un démon déguisé en moine et lui demande qui il est: le démon répond: “Ego Hu canus nomine et Hybernia huc veni faber ferrarius, liguarius, atique cemertarius, nanta quo’ que peritus, et omnia opera componere physice postum minibus.

Hervé lui répond qu’il ne le croit pas, et il adjure au nom de la Trinité de d’avouer qui il est: le diable alors lui dit: et ego quidem unus sum ex immundis spiritibus ideo artem veni ut monachos deciperem qualibet fallacia quibus Superabundat hic ~~spiritibus~~ patria et il précipite dans la mer du haut d’un rocher qu’on appelle en breton roch-Hu-Kan, et à propos, l’auteur de la légende s’écrie ~~aponte~~: “O quam ingens tumultus tunc resultavit in pelagus cum projectus fuit dæmon Hucanns a quo rupes Hucani nominatus quae in aquas supervienit, et ibique diversis specibus perdere compicitur!

Le dialogue entre Saint Hervé et le diable est un peu différent dans la tradition populaire que j’ai suivie dans la Légende Celtique (3<sup>e</sup> partie): le vra tel que je l’ai recueilli de la bouche même de nos paysans

“Quel est ton nom? lui demanda Hervé

- Je suis maître charpentier, Seigneur

- Ton nom? te dis-je, reprend le Saint.

- Seigneur, je suis maçon, serrurier, capable de tous les métiers

- Ton nom! pour la troisième fois, je t’adjure de me dire ton nom au nom du Dieu Vivant!

- Hu-Kan! Hu-Kan! Hu-Kan! s’écrie le démon; et il se précipite, la tête en avant, du haut d’un rocher dans la mer.”

J’ajoute cette réflexion:

“les superstitions druidiques s’évanouissaient ainsi devant Hervé après lui avoir résisté un moment et l’avoir voulu tromper sous différents déguisements: cet Hu-Kan, c’est à dire Hu-le-Génie n’est autre que le Dieu Hu-Kadarn des traditions cambriennes”

Je pense que vous sera aussi de mon avis. Nous pourrions cuser de toutes les questions qui nous occupent si vous veniez en Bretagne: plusieurs de vos compatriotes, faisant partie de notre Association bretonne, et membres de l’Association Cambria nous annoncent leur arrivée à Quimper pour le 3 octobre prochain où ils se proposent d’assister à notre XV<sup>e</sup> congrès breton; je serais bien aise de vous voir vous joindre à eux, et très heureux de vous ramener de Quimper chez moi, après le congrès Vous verrez avec cette le programme des questions proposées et qu’on y traitera: vous verrez qu’il le y en a plusieurs à votre adresse. Pourriez-vous me dire si la grammaire d’Edeyrn tafawd aur a été imprimée dernièrement, comme on me l’assure, et qui la publiée? Cette publication serai bien plus importante que le fatras mystérieux des soi-disants dépositaires des secrets druidiques. Le Livre de M Adolphe Pictet est tombé en France, dans le plus complet discrédit, je vois que votre article du Traethodydd est de nature à produire un bon effet sur les personnes de votre pays qui pourraient attacher quelque importance à ce livre.

Votre tout dévoué

Vcte Hersart De la Villemarqué  
Membre de l’Institut

[An incomplete translation]

Chateau de Kera[n]skier  
nr Quimperle, Finisterre  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Augt. 1858

Dear Sir

Since the month of November 1857, I have promised myself to write to you, to thank you for the two MSS which you addressed to me, of the Traethodydd, and to address you myself the information which you have been good enough to demand of me about Hu Gadarn. I hope that the book which I was printing, entitled The Celtic Legends, would be a ~~book~~ published much ~~before this~~ sooner, and I had intended to send it to you, in reply to your questions, but the book was delayed in preparation, that I did not? remit for a long time the response and the thanks which I owed? you. Your two articles on the Kymry interested me strongly: I am of your opinion on all the points; and I have seen, that M. Nash has read you, and profitted by most of your observations. Like you he doubts, and “it is the commencement of knowledge”, but he should not doubt eternally. After having commenced in this way, our Des Cartes affirmed: the Negitive Critique is good to serve the domain of science; but ^a^ faith in the Shadowy field it fails to build.

I promise a good History of Wales, and you are the person to write it.

I said this time to my

confreses of the Institute of France, on visiting them the 21<sup>st</sup> of last month, and they begin to occupy themselves with interest in Celtic Affairs.

To go to the point on which I have to give you an answer, i.e. Hu Gadarn. Behold, I found on this subject, in the Portfolio of White Monks (Imperial Library) No 38 a ^MS^ legend of Saint Herve, composed in the XI<sup>th</sup> century, pp 857 and 858. St Herve finds a demon disguised as a monk, and demands of him what he is. The Demon replies.-

“I am Hu-Can by name, come here from Ireland, a blacksmith, a carpenter, and cementer(?), skilful also in fluids, and all walled work I am able to put together.”

Herve replied, that he did not believe him, and adjured him in the name of the Trinity to avow who he was.

The devil then said to him, “I truly, am one of the unclean spirits: for that cause therefore, I came as a monk deceiving whoever would, with fallacies, in which this country abounds.”

And he precipitated himself into the Sea off a rock called in Breton Roch-Hu-Kan of the legend writes,- “O what fiery tumult thou resulted in the Sea into which the Demon Hu-Canns was precipitated, from which they have ~~been~~ given the name[^of^ the Hill of Hucanns

307

Aux Eaux de Nérès a 29 aout 1857

Monsieur & cher Confrère,

N’ayant point exécuté mon voyage au Pays du Galles, et ayant au contraire pris ma route, cet été, vers le midi où je suis venu prendre les eaux, je suis privé du plaisir de faire votre connaissance, et à mon grand regret. Mais jespère été plus heureux une autre fois.

En passant par Paris jai fait les recherches qui vous m’avez prié de faire, aux manuscrits de la Bibliothèque impériale dans le roman de Charlemagne: malheureusement votre indication n’était pas assez précise, il m’eut fallu au moin une page du texte gallois à comparer avec l’original français, et vous ne m’avez donné qu’une phrase, sans m’indique approximativement dans quelle partie du roman elle se trouve. Jai donc cherché, comme l’on dit, une aiguille dans une charretée de foin. Si vous avez l’obligeance de préciser un peu plus, je ferai avec plaisir des nouvelles recherches.

En attendant je vous soumettrai une hypothèse: J'ai remarqué dans un manuscrit du collège de Jesus intitulé Lucidar et que j'ai décrit dans une Notice récente que je vous ai envoyée, le nom gallois Hu qu'on y donne comme l'équivalent du nom français Hughes. L'auteur gallois de la traduction du roman de Charlemagne n'aura-t-il pas de même traduit par Hu-gadarn, le nom de Hughes-le-fort, un de nos preux les plus illustres? Vous en jugerez.

Je ne partage pas toutefois entièrement votre opinion en sujet de Hu. Il se peut, comme vous l'avez constaté, qu'il ne paraisse pas dans vos bardes avant le XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, mais s'en suit-il que ce ne soit pas un caractère Kymrique ou anciens breton, et que nos ancêtres communs, je discens des temps héroïques, ne le connaissent point? Je serais téméraire de l'affirmer, et plus téméraire de le croire d'origine provençale. La preuve qu'il a une origine Kymrique c'est qu'il figure dans la légende armoricaine de St Hervé où on le représente comme le génie des vieilles superstitions payennes luttant contre le christianisme naissant. Cette légende a été rédigée au moins au XI<sup>e</sup> siècle, d'après les traditions populaires de l'époque. Je viens d'en donner une traduction nouvelle où j'ai fondu les souvenirs encore vivants qui éclairent si bien les anciens vieux manuscrits: Si vous la désirez, je vous l'adresserai aussitôt qu'elle aura été imprimée.

Avez-vous publié vous-même le livre que vous m'annoncez, où vous avez cent pages, sur le Mystère des bardes, et où vous en avez donné la clé? Soyez assez bon pour me dire chez quel libraire d'Angleterre je pourrai me le procurer. Tout ouvrage de vous est une bonne fortune pour le public breton soit de l'île soit du continent. Existe-t-il quelque autre livre nouveau sur les vieux sujets que nous aimons?

Comme Président de l'Association Bretonne, j'ai la primeur des articles publiés dans les Revues galloises qu'on nous adresse et je m'en félicite. Votre étude sur les cromlechau m'a fort instruit & intéressé.

Mais je n'ai point encore vu ma nomination dans vos revues, comme un des Vice-présidents du Cambrian Institut; je n'ai même rien, d'autre nouvelle de cette honneur que par vous-même y aurait-il eu quelque lettre égarée?

Je vous remercie de votre critique aussi juste que polie du passage du Gododin relatif à Catvannan. Mais sur quelle autorité placez-vous le combat de Mannan en 584? Je pense que vous en avez quelque chose de bien solide pour donner une date aussi précise, et je serais on ne peut plus reconnaissant si vous avez l'obligeance de me la faire connaître, vous l'aurez sans doute due à quelque ancien ouvrage que je n'aurai pas en sous la main; ou peut-être y serez-vous arrivé par le rapprochement des textes que je ne connais pas.

Je serai chez moi en Bretagne dans dix jours, et au mois de décembre de retour à Paris où je demeure maintenant rue des Beaux arts n° 17. Toutes les recherches que vous aurez à y faire dans nos manuscrits, je les ferai volontiers de nouveau, je vous le répète. Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Le V<sup>te</sup> Hersart De la Villemarqué

[A contemporary translation]

Mr Thos Stephens

Merthyr Tydfil

South Wales, England.

The Waters of Nesis: Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> 1857

Sir and Dear Confrere.

Not having executed my journey to Wales, and having on the contrary taken my route ^this Summer^ to the South, where I ~~am going~~ have come to take the waters, I am deprived of the pleasure of your acquaintance, and to my great regret. But I hope to be more fortunate another time.

In passing thro' Paris I made the researches which you prayed me to make in the MSS of the Imperial Library, in the romance of Charlemagne: unfortunately your indication was not sufficiently precise: it would take me at least a page of the Welsh text to compare with the original French, and you have ~~not~~ given me but one phrase, without indicating to me approximately in what part of the romance, it is found. I might ^have^ searched, as we say, for a needle in a bottle? of hay. If you will have the goodness to be more specific, I will with pleasure make new ~~researches~~.

In the mean time I submit to you an hypothesis. I remarked in a MS in Jesus College entitled Lucidar, and which I described in ~~any~~ a recent Notice which I sent to you, ^that^ the Welsh name Hu ^was^ given as the equivalent of the French name Hughes (The person named ~~was~~ Hughes ^or Hugues^ de Saint-Victor of Paris) ^Has not^ The Welsh author of the translation of the Romances of Charlemagne in the same way translated by Hugh Gadarn the name of Hughes le Fort, one of our most illustrious (Knights) ~~be~~ worthies? you will ~~to~~ judge.

^However^ I do not partake altogether of your opinions on the subject of Hu. It may be as you have ~~proved~~ stated that ~~it~~ he does not appear among your Bards before the 13<sup>th</sup> century; but does it follow, that it ~~may~~ is not ~~be~~ an ~~ancient~~ Kymric or ancient British Character, and that our common ancestor, I mean those of the heroic time, did not know it

It would be rash to affirm, and still more rash to believe the Provençal origin (I had suggested that the name came from the Breton or Provençal). The proof ~~of~~ ^that it has a^ a Kymric origin is that ~~he~~ it figures in the Armorican Legend of St Herve, ~~as the and that~~ ^where^ he is represented as the Genius of the ancient pagan superstitions, contending against ~~meanion~~ rising Christianity This legend was ~~rea~~ ^reduced^ written at least in the XI<sup>th</sup> century after popular traditions of the ~~E~~ period. I am going to give a new translation ~~with~~ ~~found~~ ^when I can ~~being~~ embodied^ the remembrance ~~still existing again into life~~ still living which ~~have lain~~ ^correspond to^ ^explain^ so (well?) in ancient ~~written~~ manuscripts ^details^. If you desire it, I will address (?) ^send^ it to you immediately it is printed.

Have you ^yourself^ published the book which you ^have^ announced to me, where you have those page respecting the Mystere des Bards, and of which you ^have^ given the key? Be so good as to tell me of what ~~Library~~ English bookseller I can procure ^it^. This work of yours is ~~an good~~ boon to the British Public, both ^~~other~~^ of the island and the continent.

Exists there any other new work on the ancient subjects which we love?

As President of the Breton association I ~~read~~ have the first reading of the Welsh Reviews, which ~~you~~ are addressed to me; and to my felicity. Your study on the Cromlechau was to me most instructive and interesting.

But I have not yet seen my nomination in ^one^ the reviews as one of the Vice Presidents of the Cambrian Institute. Nor have I received any other news ~~respecting~~ ^of^ this honour ^but^ from you yourself. ~~Should I have had~~ ^May it be that^ a letter ~~which~~ is lost?

I thank you for your just and ~~real~~ ^polite^ critique in the passage of the Gododin relating to Catvannan. But on what authority do you place the battle of Mannan in 584? I think you have a very solid ground for giving a date so precise; and I shall be still more ~~eeourage~~ ^grateful^ if you will oblige me by making it known. You ~~have without~~ ^owe it no^ doubt some ancient work which is ^I have^ not ~~in my~~ at hands, or perhaps you have arrived at it by a comparison of texts unknown to me.

I shall be at home to Bretagne in 10 days, and in the mouth of December I return to Paris, and ^where^ I reside now at Rue de Beaux Arts No 1. All the researches which you wish to be made in our manuscripts, I will feel pleasure in making anew if you desire. Accept &c &c

Le C<sup>te</sup> Hersart De la Villemarqué

Chateau de Keransker, le 29 juillet 1861.

Cher Monsieur Stephens,

Permettez moi de vous présenter mon ami, notre éminent historien français, M. Henri Martin, qui a lu et admiré votre bel ouvrage Sur la littérature des Kymri, et qui desire faire votre connaissance et recourir à vos lumières. Je regrette de n'avoir pu l'accompagner dans votre cher et beau pays et lui envie le plaisir qu'il aura de vous voir & & vous entendre

Votre bien dévoué

V<sup>te</sup> Hersart De la Villemarqué

Membre de l'institut

M. Thom. Stephens, Merthyr Tydwyl

Château de Keransker près Kemperlé  
(Bretagne)  
8 7<sup>bre</sup> 1861

Mon cher Monsieur

Il y avait bien long temps que je n'avais eu de vos nouvelles et je suis heureux d'en recevoir par le Cambrian daily; j'ai lu avec plaisir votre excellent Speech à l'Eisteddfod d'Aberdare, et votre non moins excellente traduction du discours de mon ami Henri Martin. Il m'écrit que vous l'avez accueilli à bras ouverts et qu'il a eu autant à se louer de votre bienveillance que de votre science; je n'en doutais pas, et je vous remercie. Plus heureux que moi, il vous connaît maintenant personnellement, et je compte recevoir prochainement de lui d'intéressants détails sur ce qu'il a vu & appris grâce à votre recommandation; Je m'applaudis extrêmement, dans l'intérêt de vos études celtiques, qu'il ait fait votre connaissance; il emportera du Pays de Galles des notions justes sur toute chose, et votre esprit droit l'aura mis en garde contre des documents qu'il était trop disposé à admirer sur la foi d'enthousiastes peu éclairés & sans critique, qui croient faire preuve de patriotisme et ne font que nuire à leur cause.

J'aurais été heureux de revoir avec Henri Martin votre cher pays pour la troisième fois, et si j'avais été prévenu à l'avance de la réunion d'Aberdare je m'y serais peut-être rendu. Les récits du mon ami me donnent des regrets: Il est vrai que j'en aurais éprouvés aussi de ne plus retrouver tant de personnes que j'aimais et qui m'aimaient:

Pa le mae Price, vy anwyll Price?

Vy mrawd, pa le yr wyt ti?

Pa le mae Tegid? Pa le ych chwi,

Owen, Williams, parchedig Rice?

Parmi les vivants, j'aurais été étonné de ne pas trouver à Aberdare mon excellente amie Lady Augusta Llanover (Gwenynen Gwent); je vois qu'elle s'y est fait représenter par un Telynwr de son village que vous avez couronné, et Henri Martin m'apprend qu'elle a acquis et qu'elle fait mettre en ordre par M. Williams Ab Ithel les papiers d'Iolo pour les publier: sont-elles les pièces que vous avez qualifiées de "Slipshod documents" dans le cambrian journal de mars 1855 (part. V. p 46)? Les deux volumes ^de Price^ qu'elle a intitulés The literary remains et mis au jour en 54 sont audessous de la réputation de Carnhuanawc, et de son vivant, il ne les eut pas publiés tels qu'ils sont; son hanes Kymru est bien supérieure. J'espérais y trouver quelques nouveaux renseignements pour un livre que je viens d'achever "Myrdhin, Son histoire, ses oeuvres, Son influence, (Paris, Didier ed.) mais je n'en ai point trouvés. Veuillez me dire, chez monsieur, par quelle voie vous adresser cet ouvrage où je vous cite souvent avec reconnaissance et que je serais très flatté de vous juger dans quelque Revue l'Angleterre

Votre bien dévoué  
V<sup>te</sup> H. De La Villemarque

P.S. Si vous n'avez pas de correspondant à Paris, je prierais Didier de vous adresser directement ce livre.

310

Sir

Having met with a Copy of my Statistics on Swansea I have much pleasure in sending it to you

I remain

Sir yr obt ser

H H Vivian

Singleton

4 Feb 1847

311

[Black-bordered paper]

Graig 4<sup>th</sup> Decb 54

Dear Sir/

Many thanks for your prompt reply to my enquiries. I had forgotten that you have disposed of the question as to Arymes Prydain in your excellent work on the Lit of the Cymry. I had some misgivings on the subject of its being a production of the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century had it been the expression Gwrtheyrn Gwynedd, would have been tolerable evidence that this celebrated character was a native of North Wales, as it is I suppose it amounts to nothing more than calling somebody in the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Vortigern of N Wales, on account of his having entered into an alliance with the English. I have somewhere heard or read that Bedd Gwrtheyrn is a place in the parish of Llanhaelhaiarn, in Lleyn, Caernarvonshire, not far from Trevyn; the place I suppose alluded to by Price. Unless the traditions of this description can be traced to some authentic source of early date I am not disposed to attach much credit to mere names, as I have known some very ingenious theories, based on assumed traditions drawn from local appellations, imposed within my own recollection, through whim or wantonness. If Ystyvachau had been in Lleyn it would have been of some weight in support of the authenticity of the Bedd in Llanhaelhaiarn, but I think your etymology fixes the grave of Vortigern with greater probability in a district, with which we have at least some reason to believe, that he was connected. After all we really know so little about this personage that it may be doubted whether he was a Cymro or not. Gale thought he was of a Pictish family. I have not seen Zeuss' Gramatica Celtica, but I suppose like most German works it is very learned and very abstruse. The term Celtic as applied now a days to the Welsh, Breton, Irish &c is I think objectionable. No one knows what language the Celts of Gaul spoke, only Cæsar tells us, that it was different from that of the Belgæ, and Aquitani, and the Emperor Justinian likened it to the croaking of Ravens. I can't admit the justice of the similitude to either of the so called Celtic dialects as the term is used at the present day. I wish some other ~~term~~ name could be found for this family of language.

A very curious discovery has been lately made about half a mile from Caerwent. In cutting some drains the workmen came upon a cist formed as usual of flag stones within which was a stone coffin containing the skeleton of a tall man, but the extraordinary part of the affair was that the spaces between the coffin and the walls of the cist were filled with coal!

This must have been brought there from the forest of dean or our hills and must have been an expensive article when this internment took place. What could have been the intention of it I am totally at a loss to conjecture: The coffin is pronounced by some to ^who^ are considered judges in such matters "decidedly Roman"! It had been rifled by the workmen before the proprietor of the land was aware of the discovery, but from circumstances that have transpired there is strong grounds to believe some ornaments (rings or fibulæ) were found. If these could be recovered they might throw some light upon the probable age of this singular grave.

Yours Very truly  
Thos Wakeman

T Stephens Esq

**312**

Graig 26<sup>th</sup> Jany 1856

My Dear Sir)

Among the documents in the evidence room at Tredegar there is a MS poem addressed to Sir John ap Morgan by Gwilym Tew. Did you ever see this Cywydd. If not and you would like to have it I will send you a copy. The one at Tredegar is not the original, but a copy, by some one, from the hand writing I should think about a century ago to which the writer has appended some notes.

Your Very Truly  
Thos Wakeman

Thos Stephens Esq

**313**

Graig 19 Feb 56

Dear Sir)

The vagaries of the gent<sup>m</sup> of the numismatic society are certainly very erratic. I never before heard of the coin bearing the name of Addedomarus and to say the truth I should doubt very much of the existence of such a one unless I saw it. The next thing I expect will be a genuine coin of Gomer son of Japhet. I have seen a great many of the supposed British Coins which it is imagined were struck between the time of Cæsars first expedition and the final subjugation of our Island by the Romans, and many called Gaulish formed in France very singular in the style of execution to the former. Many have no legend at all and of those that have the only ones of which there can be no reasonable doubt ^about^ bear the names of Cunobeline and Comius. Those of the latter found in England were probably Gaulish as we know but one Comius and he had no dominion in Britain as far as appears. By far the greater part of all the varieties of coins have been discovered in Kent, Sussex and the southern counties ^in the district occupied by the Belgæ^ some few in Yorkshire, and for that reason attributed to the Brigantes. In most instances the names as well as the titles or whatever the rest of the legends was intended for, are contracted and it appears to me totally impossible to understand what is meant unless we know the language in which they were written, and the usual formula of such legends. What on earth will an Antiquarian 1800 years hence if fortunately a coin of our present gracious majesty fall into his possession make of D: G: unless he has some historical document to refer to from which he will learn that the legend is Latin and that D: G: means dei gratia.

Now as to the coins attributed to Caractacus which would certainly be very interesting if they could be established as his with any certainty but that is not the case. There are only about two or three types known of such so called coins of Caractacus, below see sketches of two and the 3<sup>d</sup> differs very little from the upper one. They will give you an idea of what they are –

[Figure 1: Sketches of two coins, front and reverse, skillfully drawn. The first has a man on a horse surrounded by the letter 'C C E', with 'ARATI' at the bottom, and on the reverse a stalk of wheat with 'TAC' on one side and 'CIE' on the other. The second has a man's face in profile on one side and a man on a horse with 'CARIC' at the bottom on the other.]

Now in order to make anything like Caractacus we must read the whole on the obverse of the upper one as one word beginning with the C by the mans head CERATIC, but is it intended as one word that is the question? It may be ARATI\_C\_C\_E or C\_C\_E\_AEATI, and what is the meaning of TACIE on the reverse. On the reverse of the Coins of Cunobelin we that Tacio, Taciovan, Taciovani Taciovant F and Taciovasis Fir of the meaning of which the numismatic Society have been disputing ^about^ for years. As for the 2<sup>d</sup> coin the inscription is plain enough not Caradawg.

As for the Dubnovellaunus coins they are extremely rude, it is difficult to say what the device is intended for on the left hand are the letters ve joined thus [Figure 2: a ligature V E] near the top is a [Figure 3: outline of the disputed letter] which some read l and others R and followed by something which may be VS although they look more like part of the ornament in the centre and down the left side DVM are plain enough and near the bottom an N and near it ~~near it~~ but rather below a circle which is taken for an O but more likely part of the central figure. At first the reading was pronounced to be verosdumno or ~~veludumno~~ velusdumno but now Dumnovelus on the reverse between parallel lines thus

[Figure 4: Sketch of three parallel lines surrounded by parenthesis, indicating the edges of the coin. Above and below each line are two diamonds. Between the the first and second line is written 'VO [two diamonds] W'. Between the second and third is written 'S [two diamonds] O'.]

which nobody has yet attempted to explain.

My late opponent the Revd Beale Poste is an active member of the numismatic Society and he and Evans seem to differ widely in their conjectural explanations. He has published a book on the subject price 28<sup>s</sup>/- I have not seen it but I suspect it is only a reprint of the papers he has read at the Archæol Association. I am not acquainted with Evans. The authenticity of many of the supposed British coins is very questionable and I believe it is a well known fact that some have been tampered with by erasing some of the letters or parts of letters to suit an hypothesis and others there is no doubt are altogether forgeries and it is therefore very necessary to be cautious in admitting them unless something is known of the finding and finder

On the opposite side I send you a sketch of the Verodumno alias Dumnovelus coin from a rubbing which is perhaps more exact than the others. You will observe the Dum tolerably plain but then comes a sort of horseshoe quite as much like an imperfect O as the one at the top but which is omitted in the reading by our learned numismatics, however you must judge for yourself. I dare say I shall have some account of Addedomarus in due course and when I do I will let you know what I think of it. It is a long word to appear on one of these coins which are all about the same size as these I send you drawings of and the lettering large in proportion. I shall be glad to have your opinion and if I can give you any further information I shall feel pleasure in doing so.

Very truly Yours  
Thos Wakeman

[Figure 5: The coin described above, front and reverse]

314a

Neath Abby  
Glamorganshire  
[Printed letterhead]  
16<sup>th</sup> Jany\_ 1850.

Thos Stephens Esqu  
Sir

At a meeting of our Philo: Socy on Monday Mr Knight communicated your request to have the loan of our copy of my Fathers letters on the old Bard E. Williams. They are aware that it is the intention of my Father to publish them, with further particulars &c & that it would have been done ere this had he not been of a long time too ill to even read. When I saw him a fortnight ago he was unable to write, but hoping soon to be in a condition to proceed with the work.

I take the liberty of writing to you on the subject, that you may perceive the reasons we had for wishing my father not to be forstalled. And I may suggest that you write him on the subject that all may be obtained w<sup>ch</sup> is valuable about the Bard & used by either of you

His Direction is  
Elijah Waring Esqu  
No 11. Dowry Parade  
Hotwells  
Bristol

I remain  
Yours obediently  
C H Waring

Merthyr

314b

Clifton Oct 21. 1850

My dear Sir

I am obliged by your inclosure of P/O order for 6 Copies of Iolo.

With respect to the local papers you mention, the Swansea Herald had not occurred to me, as it is a paper I never see except by chance. It is however, evidently, conducted by a man of talent & I shall, certainly, act on your suggestion. With the patrons of the Guardian, as a class, Old Iolo was no favourite, that paper therefore, appeared to me more likely to aim at pleasing that class, by sarcasm & hypercriticism on my book, than to give it a fair review. I believe the Editor to be a man of liberal mind, but that paper has always had Investors behind the scenes, whose voice is more political than his. I write this in the freedom of literary confidence. If you would take the trouble to write an analytical notice for the Editor, & he would print what you write, I will still gladly send him a copy & take my chance. Hitherto the sale has been good, & I receive many very gratifying letters from readers whose opinion is really valuable. I see many faults which a second edition would correct. Allow me to congratulate you, and I do most sincerely, on your distinguished success at the Rhuddlan Eisteddfod Could not you undertake what Gwladwr is just now so anxious about? – A translation of the prose part of the Myvyrian Archaeology, & such of the poetry as is translatable. It would be a work to render a man's name honourable in the annals of Cymmerian literature.

Yours truly  
E Waring

British Museum  
Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sir/

I am, as you suppose, the writer of the article on Welsh Literature in Knight's English Cyclopædia, an article the obvious imperfections of which can only be excused by the hurry in which it was written. As long however as it remains the only general account of the subject it may be defended on the well-known principle that a percentage in the pound is better than nothing.

Enclosed you will find the collation of the article you requested in the Gentlemans Magazine. The Rev. T. Evans says in his letter to the Editor "I shall first quote a letter from Mr Morgan Jones, Chaplain to the Plantations of South Carolina, sent to Dr. Thomas Lloyd of Pennsylvania, by whom it was transmitted to Charles Lloyd of Dol-y-fran in Montgomeryshire Esq. and afterwards communicated to Dr. Robert Plott by the hands of Mr Edward Lluid A.M. keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It is as follows." And then follows the narrative as you will find it, differing in many respects from the copy printed by Owen in the British Remains, but enclosed within inverted commas as if a close transcript from the original. Evans then proceeds "I shall next make some remarks on the above Letter. It appears by this narrative that the author Mr Morgan Jones was probably unacquainted with the history of his own country. He was surpriz'd (and well he might) to hear the Doeg Indians talk the British Language, and concludes (and indeed very justly) that they must be descended from the Old Britons, but when and how, our Author seems to be at a loss. But the Welsh History (first wrote by Caradoc Abbot of Llancarvan and since published by Dr Powell) sets the whole matter in a clear light and unravels the mystery. For it informs us that in the year 1170 Madoc ap Owen Gwyneth" &c &c &c Evans speaks of Mexico as probably the country to which Madoc sailed "since there Prince Madoc was bury'd as his Epitaph since found there does make evident beyond all contradiction.

"Madoc wyf mwy dic ei wedd"

&c &c &c

"It is indeed the common Opinion that in the course of a few Generations Madoc and his Men incorporated with the Natives and made one People with them, whence proceed the various British words that the Europeans found among the Mexico Indians such as Pen-Gwyn, Groeso, Gwenddwr, Bara, Tad, Mam, Buwch, Clugiar, Llwynoc, Coch y dwr, with many more received in Sir Thomas Herberts Travels p. 222. But by this Narrative, it is evident that they keep as yet a distinct People, at least in the year 1660 when our Author was amongst them. For Mr Jones says he not only conversed with them about the ordinary Affairs of Life but preached to them three Times a Week in the British Language, and that they usually consulted him when anything appeared different in the same Language, which evidently demonstrates that they still preserve their original Language, and are still a Colony or People unmixed," The remainder of Evans's letter is an argument in favour of the prior right of the English to the discovery of America which "oure Statesmen would fain have persuaded Queen Elizabeth to insist on" &c &c which is I dare say already known to you.

Evans does not mention where he got his copy of Jones's report and in the Philosophical Transaction I find nothing on the subject. I have referred to the general index of the first seventy volumes of the Phil. Trans. by Maty but among the various papers contributed by Dr Plott there is none on this. ~~subject~~

My delay in answering your letter has proceeded from no remissness on my part but is the effect of my position at the Museum. Any literary inquiries that you wish to be made at this library can be much more readily and conveniently made by a reader who has admission here than by one of the officers. For some hours of the day I am engaged in the centre of the

magnificent Reading Room under circumstances which render any such occupation as collection impossible, and even when I retire to my room I am liable to continual interruptions which seldom leave me undisturbed many minutes. I am delighted to have been able, under these difficulties, to render any assistance to your valuable researches and remain

Sir  
Yours very truly  
Thomas Watts

Thomas Stephens Esq.

315

Woodside  
Bournemouth  
10 Nov. '72

Dear Sir

My good friend Mr G. T. Clark assures me that I may venture to request your kind assistance. I have so often profited agreeably by the valuable information that you have given us in the *Archaeologia Cambrensis* and for example specifically in your paper on names of Cromlechs, that I appeal with full confidence ~~appeal~~ to your knowledge in matters mutually interesting to us. May I ask whether any fresh facts have come before you, that bear on the antiquity, the use, or the popular traditions regarding these Cromlechs.

My special desire, however, in being now troublesome to you, is in regard to your opinion of certain Oval, or nearly circular Cavities, having the appearance of some theatrical purpose, they are like small Amphitheatres of which several exist near Roman stations in England (such as at Silchester, Cirencester, Richborough Housesteads on the Roman Wall, &c These I conceive to be undoubtedly Roman. They occur often on the Continent, adjacent to Roman towns & stations, where a permanently established Garrison had to be amused & kept in good humor. There is in Anglesey one of the small oval areas to which my enquiry relates, it is known as Castel (Arch. Cambr.) and Mr Wynn Williams regards it as Roman, certain inconsiderable traces of Roman occupation occurring not far off, but not I imagine sufficing to warrant the conclusion that the work may be really Roman. There is another in Carnarvonshire at Crûg, near Llanfair Isgaer; another still more remarkable at Tomen y Mur, which Longueville Jones took for a reservoir, and others I think have been noticed. Arthur's Round Table at Caerleon seems more likely to be referable to the Roman age.

Where there not certain dramatic exhibitions, games, musical entertainments &c. for which these amphitheatre-like places may have been constructed? or could they be for Gorsedd's? we have small grounds for speculation on their age. Near that at Crûg relics of bronze & articles of early times have occurred, but this may only suggest continued occupation of the place. What was the Institution of the Round Table by Rhys ab Tewdwr in the eleventh Century of which Ab Ithel speaks as a recognised fact (*Arch Cambr* IV. p. 9. Such practices would naturally require suitable places of Assembly. If really there were Bardic Gatherings for music recitation, or popular disports of any kind, such theatres of simple character, suggested it may be, by Roman Arenas or Circus' would very probably exist – but not Roman – except in form, and that the form but adapted for the purpose – whatever their date.

I shall be very Grateful if you will give me the benefit of your learned investigations of ancient remains in Wales, and throw light on this curious little question. I am about, with the assistance of my brother in law Mr W. O. Stanley, to reprint "Castel" & cannot help thinking that Wynn Williams may have too willingly ascribed a Roman Origin to it.

I remain, apologising for this intrusion  
Yours very faithfully  
Albert Way

316

Cardiff & Merthyr Gard<sup>n</sup> Office  
Cardiff 28<sup>th</sup> April 1847

Dear Sir,

I am now enabled to say that my present Correspondent will resign his Duties this week, I have therefore to request you will be good enough to commence the task next week and hope every thing will go on satisfactorily and I rely on your attention & exertions for promoting the Interest and circulation of the Guardian at Merthyr wishing you health and may the undertaking prove our mutual benefit for Years to come.

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly

Henry Webber

Mr Thos Stephens  
Chemist &c  
Merthyr

P.S. over

I will thank you to address all communications to me, and as early in the week as you conveniently can.

HW

317

Henley House  
Nr Oxford  
27 Sepr, 1861

Dear Sir

I needed no apology in writing to me about a new British inscribed stone from one whose writings have so much instructed me.

I thank you very much for the Communication. I only wish I had known of the stone when in the neighbourhood as I should certainly have visited it. The letter  $\Delta$  is certainly an angulated a [Figure 1: an 'A' turning into  $\Delta$ ] is the process. The calacus [Figure 2: an 'A' in which the cross line is made of two lines angling down, forming a diamond in the middle of the letter rather than a triangle.] is the majuscule form crossed at top – The photograph is so small that I am fearful of giving an opinion about the termination after [Figure 3: 'MA' and a third letter resembling a large lower-case 'r'] Could you manage to get me a rubbing made either with grass or powder black-lead (not heel ball) upon common whitey-brown paper I should have more confidence in conjunction with the photograph. It would also be a valuable addition to my series which I am endeavouring to make as perfect as possible ~~so may~~ ultimately intending it for preservation either in the Bodleian in company with Humphrey Llwyd's MSS or the British Museum. With this view I have also secured O Neills fine Collection of Irish Rubbings at a considerable expence so I hope you will be induced if possible to oblige me.

It is very interesting to get these repeated instances of the occurrence of the same names at this rate we shall be able to construct the genealogy of several persons commemorated

I am Dr Sir  
Yours very truly  
J. D. Westwood

318

High Street, Abergavenny  
October 30<sup>th</sup> 1845

My dear Stephens

I thank you for your Letter. Its contents pleased me much, and I drank to our better friendship. You know we all, Atlas like, carry a little world upon our shoulders; and the weight of business, which lately has fallen to my lot, precludes the possibility of my being able to reply to it before, which I dare say you have thought rather strange. However “better late than never”; and though either in the character of amanuensis o[r] author, I fall at infinitely short of yr own graceful penmanship and ready and elegant diction, still I will mount Pegasus, and “drive away”, and I hope not for the last time in yr company.

I am glad you have spoken out in your criticism. To me in this you have been a Cattwg Ddoeth, par excellence! I like you the better for your plainness. I sh<sup>d</sup> esteem myself a fool if I received your remarks in any other than the spirit of thankfulness. I agree with some part of your criticism though not with the rest. I will tell you the history of the book. Its contents appeared originally in the columns of the Hereford Times, for the benefit of a few friends and relatives in the Midland counties who had become enamoured of the beauties of Monmouthshire. But the newspaper descriptions and style were widely different from the specimenes in the “Guide.” Those numbers were full of the thoughts of an ardent admirer of nature – of mountains, vallies, streamlets, &c., &c., rather than the enthusiastic attentions of the antiquarian to the arches and cornices of a ruin, or the tiresome minutiae of topographical corrections. Some have judged that I am passionately fond of “ruins”; but it is a mistake, a bright poetical thought, a landscape, a blue or a starlit sky are the things I love. I shall never write another “Guide”. As the people of Abergavenny had no book of the kind to refer to, I thought I w<sup>d</sup> play the devil with the original to suit the public taste, and publish it in another name and under a new form. It has paid the expenses attendant of printing it, and it was all I required. In my opinion (but entre nous) the book is as badly formed as a man with weak knees, and mis-shapen visage. The sentences are broken and incomplete, and your taste stumbles over every page you read. I c<sup>d</sup> not, however, help this. It may be necessary to prune a vine, but after the tree you ~~have~~ looked upon in all its luxuriance has been deprived of its foliage, it looks cursedly bare and ugly. You ask, where was the necessity of pruning it at all? To meet the public taste, is the reply. The world hates to see an exotic let it never be so beautiful growing on the top of a ruined tower. And, you know, ~~this looked and was~~ Talfourd narrowly escaped a lashing, in consequence of introducing “figures of speech” amongst ~~their~~ his details. As it has turned out, I was right in my conjecture. The “Critic” in reviewing the Guide, praises it in style in consequence of its plainness, but if I publish another edition, it shall be ^of the^ original descriptions, and the world may go to – “blazes.” You are right when you say, I am too fond of quotation. I am, I know. You are wrong in your conclusion that because the Englishman loves the Lake of Como more than his streamlets at home – ergo – The Lake of Como is the more beautiful scene. The case is: - A. B. loves the pot-house more than his fire-side at home, - ergo, the pot-house is the better place for A. B. to visit. But I will revert to your letter more at length in my next.

I want to see your ~~Ess~~ unsuccessful Essay. Lend it me; it were a pity it were lost to the world – if it be what I esteem it, from my knowledge of yr abilities. Cannot something be done in this case for the public good? At all events let me have the privilege of reading it.

Price is indeed a la bandit ^setting aside the countenance^ in the Illustrated News of last week.

I thank you for the review – Please send me a paper.

What is the price of Hazlitt's Seasons?

Yrs very faithfully

John White

Mr. Stephens, Merthyr Tydfil

319a–b

High Street, Abergavenny  
November 15<sup>th</sup> 1845

My dear Stephens

The “exalted notion” I have formed of you, and to which you allude in your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> ult, is I believe a just one, and as I esteem yr judgment so highly of course any fault you perceive in my compositions, to which you may make allusion and criticise, will be received as an act of benevolent regard by me.

In my last you say that I “imprudently” “deny a reverence for old ruins”. You very evidently mistook the meaning I intended to convey by the expression of which I made use. I meant “old ruins” simply as such. You must be aware of those enthusiastic feelings amounting almost to adoration which thousands in the present day entertain for an old broken wall, abstractedly considered. I too, like yourself, view with the deepest sympathy those old beautiful, and to the spirit spiritualized by the sacred influences of poetry, highly philosophical associations connected with those decayed and sombre remnants of the past time! gloriously true! I think heart and soul with you in yr timely expressed ideas on these points. But, at the same time, I tell you that not one of a thousand in society w<sup>d</sup> appreciate yr thoughts as Bulwer somewhere remarks, the crowd is still one step in advance of the brute. And not only the crowd, but men of superior judgment around us w<sup>d</sup> deprecate the introduction of a legend, or associating thought, into a Guide-Book, simply, I imagine, because such seldom is the case. Dr R. says in his review of the book, “There are no old-woman’s tales,” The Critic writes “There is no affected enthusiasm which make the Local Historian the contempt of his readers. The language is plain, the writer is content simply to narrate the history of the town and castle &c.” Was I not right in the conception I had formed of the public taste? Certainly! But I do despise the soul that cannot see more than the simple bare walls in the castellated and monastic remains of the past. You may depend upon it, that in my next edition, I shall not only retain the historical details, but maugre the public taste, dress them after my own peculiar fashion, and avoid my friend Stevens’s hint relative to the “soldiers on parole, waiting the word of command.” You are quite correct in that hint, but I could not avoid the evil. Long and firmly did I stick out for my own opinion in the matter, but such was the over powering weight of influence brought against me, that I was at length compelled to give way. “The bee of Gwent” and yr “Great Little man”, and “Dr Reynolds”, and others were all against the introduction of “extraneous matter into a Guide Book.” The “second edition” you may depend shall be formed after my own judgement.

Your quotation from the Hazlitt is very natural and very pretty, but I certainly cannot see with you that it is the “finest piece of writing in the English language”. There [are] more natural, and prettier passages to be found in Smythe’s late work “Historic fancies.” And you surely have not either read “The Christmas Carol”, or “The Chimes”, or the dying scene of Little Nell in the “Old Curiosity Shop”, or the details of the dear creature’s suffering, and watchful care. When you penned the remark you must have forgotten Coleridge, and what I esteem as the most natural and sweetest ballad in the whole range of English poetry, his

“Genevieve”. Have you forgotten “Don Juan”? Did you think of the striking majesty of the lines

“Roll on thou dark and deep blue ocean roll  
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain  
Man marks the earth with ruin, &c”

I cannot think you have read much of Bulwer, and the extraordinary life-like and almost inspired scenes, that he with a magician’s art calls up before the eye of the mind. (Ah, how my brain and heart have been tossed and dizzied by his converse with my feelings?) The quotation from Beattie’s Minstrel I admire, and thanks for it. Washington Irving is a second-rate writer as to his powers of ~~judgement~~ description, at least ~~with~~ in my judgement. The poet I love most of all is Coleridge.

“The Lake of Como.” In meeting your criticism on this point, I did not act judiciously. The fact of the matter is, the phrenological bump of “comparison” predominates in its extent over the neighbouring bump of comparison on my cranium. The consequence is, (and it is the most marked feature in my conversation) I always attempt to show the error of an argument, by instituting a comparison between the subject in dispute and ~~one~~ a case which I imagine all will be ready to admit to be utter folly and perfect nonsense. Just so, in this matter; instead of acting as a logician w<sup>d</sup> have done, and first persuaded you to admit the accuracy of my premises, and then have drawn my conclusions, I on the contrary, fancied you w<sup>d</sup> think with me that the fire-side was ~~the~~ more preferable for a man than a pot-house (the truth of which it w<sup>d</sup> be a matter of no difficulty to prove.) I admit the imperfection of my argument, tho’ I retain firmly as ever any ideas. In my opinion Johnson was a fool when he penned the remark you quote, and Shenstone’s line are not applicable. Well:

Stevens says “The Lake of Como is preferable to the Vale of The Honddû because an aristocrat thinks so”

This it must be observed is Stevens’s opinion, and is rank nonsense. I.e. he says it is his opinion, though in fact it is not, because it is the aristocrat’s opinion. As well might we assert that because Pope Alexander II delighted in vice and incest, therefore such a course of conduct is better than the path of virtue and honor in our opinion. Stevens does not prove the superiority of the Lake of Como by comparison of facts and circumstances, but simply by the opinion of another man, which is no proof at all, when Stevens’s opponent disputes that <sup>^very^</sup> man’s ~~very~~ judgment? No man is judge in his own case. I do not quarrel so much with Stevens’s position as with his inaccurate method of retaining it. The ~~fact~~ idea of the Lake of Como ~~may be good~~ being superior to the vale of Honddû will admit of argument, but ~~not~~ its truth cannot be supported by ~~adu~~ adducing the opinion of that man whose judgment is held in dispute.

I applied for the M.S. on the Heraldic poetry of Wales, but Morgan s<sup>d</sup> he c<sup>d</sup> not give it me until after the next Committee Meeting, which Heaven only knows will take place.

I am very glad you are about to publish yr essay on the subject of Henney’s prize. I think it will meet with a very ready sale. Yrs very faithfully

John White

Mr. Stephens

320

Dublin  
21 Westland  
Row

Thanks my dear Sir for your letter & the proofs. By some mistake in the office I fear signature Y the first sheet of Pestilence was not sent to you and it is that to which I wish more especially to hear your opinion. I directed it to be forwarded to you today.

Yours faithfully  
W Wilde

[Illegible]

321

15 August 1853

Dear Sir

As I have introduced your name and referred to several Welsh authorities in this sheet of the Introduction to the Tales of Pestilences. Would you be good enough to look it over & oblige

Yours faithfully  
W Wilde  
I owe you a letter

322a<sup>7</sup>

Dublin Westland Row.  
[Printed letterhead]  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 1854

Sir/

My friend Dr. Todd of Trinity College has frequently promised to give me a letter of yours upon the word Blefed, applied to the plague styled in our Annals the Buidhe Connail, the great yellow plague of 548, which appeared in Ireland and also in England as Bede states.

I am at present engaged in compiling a history of Irish epidemic pestilences and would gladly enter into communication with you or any friend in Wales respecting contemporaneous plagues in that country.

An answer at your earliest convenience will confer a compliment upon,

Yours faithfully  
W Wilde

322b

Dublin Westland Row.  
[Printed letterhead]  
24 July 1854

Dear Sir

Accept my best thanks for your prompt and learned reply to my former communication respecting the Blefed. You have I think fallen into some trivial errors respecting the dates at which it appeared in Ireland, but as they are comparatively of little consequence I will not trouble you about them. I will with your permission have some further communication with you on your Welsh Clefyd, but for the present permit me to ask you for the extracts from the Welsh Annals respecting it and the Crom Connail, which with us means the same disease.

I am profoundly ignorant of your Welsh Annals and would therefore ask you to put me in the way of procuring any Works which refer to them, that is, provided they are English or Latin as I do not know any Welsh Scholar here.

Our Irish Annals viz those of Tigernach – the Annals of Ulster, Annals of Clonmacnoise – An. of Innisfallen; An. of Kilonan. Annals of the Four Masters, And the Chronicon Scotorum &c &c abound with notes of plague, pestilence, and famine, and these I

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<sup>7</sup> Written in a very different hand from 320 and 321, the following (322–26, 327–29) are written by Wilde's secretary or wife, and he signs them with his usual signature, which does not change.

am having extracted and arranged chronologically: And the whole history of Irish Epidemics printed as a fitting Preface to the Analysis of our late fearful Epidemic of 1826–8. I intend to give the words of the respective Authors as far as possible and then write a dissertation upon the whole. I will print in chronological order this history of pestilences and Cosmical phenomena in four columns containing the date – the event and circumstance – (chiefly quotations) – the authority from which the foregoing was taken – and lastly some brief references to contemporaneous Epidemics. In this latter Column your Welsh Annals would be of great use.

I likewise have included Epizootics and Vegetable diseases.

Allow me to refer you to the following names which possibly the Welsh Annals may throw some light upon

AD 550 The Chronicon Scotorum gives an Account of a “Pestis qua Vocatur Samtrug.” Other Authorities style it Samthrose, and others again Santrusk. It raged about the middle of the Sixth Century. Do the Welsh Annals allude to this?

Under the year 949 the Annals of the Four Masters give an Account of the Clamhtrusgadh a sort of Scaly leprosy or Mange, which O’Donovan has translated “Great Lues”, and in the annals of Clonmacnoise it is called Dolor Gentilum having been introduced by the Danes who then swarmed upon the coast of Ireland ^I think it was syphilis^. Have you any Welsh term for disease similar to the foregoing?

About the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century we had an Epidemic of a disease called the Kings Gain ^chuche au riogh^ which carried off many persons of distinction and among the rest the celebrated Dr O’Cassidy in 1504. I am inclined to think that this was some nervous affection like the Dancing Mania. Can you enlighten me thereon?

The week before last I directed a copy of our Census Report upon the Status of Disease to be forwarded to you. It has I hope reached you. Toward the end of it you will find a Nosological table in which the Irish terms for disease are given. If you have anything of the kind in Welsh I would feel obliged by being referred to it.

By this Post I send you a Copy of a little Work of mine upon Irish Popular Superstitions.

I remain

Yours faithfully

W Wilde

323

Dublin 21, Westland Row.

[Printed letterhead]

4. January 1855

My Dear Sir:/

Allow me to revive our correspondence by asking you to refer me to such Cambrian Annals as relate to “Plague pestilence and famine” in the early times. In a work published lately by Dr Bascome he frequently alludes to plagues in Wales of which the following is one example A.D. 327 “The inhabitants of Wales suffered from Pestilence;” but as he has not given any authorities I find some difficulty in acknowledging that part of his book which I am myself unable to verify.

When I had had the pleasure of hearing from you, you said you would make some further enquiries for me respecting Blefed or as you call it in Welsh Vel Vellen.

I have the pleasure to

remain,

Yours faithfully

W Wilde

324

21 Westland Row,  
Dublin 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1855

My Dear Sir/

Allow me to renew our correspondence by asking your opinion with respect to the date of Sampson one of your Welsh Bishops mentioned in the Itinerary [sic] of Baldwin. So far as I can make out Sampson flourished early in the tenth century say about AD 913; but the "yellow Plague" which raged in Wales in his time had been referred by some chroniclers to the period of the Buidhe Chonnail in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. If you can assist me in fixing the date of Sampson I shall feel much obliged.

Yours Faithfully  
W Wilde

[Thomas Stephens, in pencil] *The date of Sampson may be fixed without any difficulty. He was born abbot of Lantwit Major in this county in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He left Glamorganshire about 550, for Armorica (Brittany), where he was made bishop of Dole, and in that capacity he attended an Ecclesiastical council at Paris in 557. Died Etat 68 in [566 or] 592*

325

Dublin 21, Westland Row.  
[Printed letterhead]  
5<sup>th</sup> July 1855

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving your last letter & feel much obliged for the information it contains.

Enclosed I send you 2 Sheets of our table of pestilences which include the great Yellow Plagues of the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, which affected both Britain and Ireland. In these you will see I have made some use of your Welsh annals & the Works to which you directed my attention, especially in the column for "Contemporaneous Epidemics" You would confer an additional obligation on me by looking over these Proofs & revising them in any Welsh matters which you may see wrong

The proofs are as you see not fully revised

I had originally entered the death of Sampson under 913, but have now brought it back to the time of the first Bruidhe Connaile. I have had as you may perceive in trying to Synchronize the events from the different annals very great difficulty indeed, but I think I at last succeeded in ~~not~~ arranging them intelligible I do not attempt to correct your Welsh

I remain

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly  
W Wilde

T Stephens Esq  
Mether Tydfil  
Wales

326a-b

21 Westland Row  
18<sup>th</sup> July 1855

My Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of both of your notes as well as of all the proof sheets that were sent you & for the trouble you have kindly taken in the revision of these sheets & for the valuable information you have afforded I pray you accept my best thanks

As you must allow me to acknowledge the debt in the body of the report allow me to ask you by what title you wish to be designated "Mr" "Surgeon" or "Doctor", and also to inquire what contributions you have made to literature, & whether you hold any official position which you would like to have set down in our report

I have in the body of the report entered at some length into the question of the chronology of the early annals, I believe with you, that the variation in the dates of certain events is not accidental but systematic according to the system adopted by the particular annalist This ^you^ will understand better when you come to read the report. I have also corrected the chronology by means of eclipses the calculated dates of which are given in the great French book, L' Art de Verifier les Dates.

By some oversight you received an old proof of the Signature G. Table of Pestilences. Herewith I enclose you the last proof of that Sheet, in which you will perceive I have made many additions especially from the Welsh Annals to the Column for contemporaneous epidemics, to this allow me to direct your attention, especially under A.D. 547. p. 44. & 547. p. 46.

I pray you correct my Welsh, especially at A.D. 547. page. 44. which is taken from your own letter of last year, also look at AD. 512. p. 44. under "Event & Circumstance"

Allow me to ask you what the Iolo M.SS is, is it a work accessible or copied for any public libraries, has a description of it been given in any work to which you can refer me? Have those notices of Welsh pestilences which you gave me in Sheet G. returned by you to the Census office ever appeared in print and if so where? What was the third pestilence mentioned in the Welsh Triads?

Thanks for the list of later epidemics which I return that you may place the authorities underneath each entry:- every entry of this kind will be of great service. A.D. 1348 The sweating sickness only attacking the Welshmen is curious as we have a similar circumstance recorded in the Irish annals respecting the Irishmen. A.D. 1401, what was "Killed by lime"? A.D. 1419 what was "Green Vermin", were they reptiles?

I remain yours,  
Very truly  
W Wilde

Thos Stephens Esq  
Merthyr Tydfil

327<sup>8</sup>

21 Westland Row

Dear Sir

I received your note of the 26<sup>th</sup> Together with the proof – for which I send you my best thanks.

I procured a copy of the Iolo MSS. from Dr Todd but am stupid enough not to be able to find the quotations you have given me under AD 220 307. 334. 5. & 410

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<sup>8</sup> In Wilde's own handwriting.

The "Yellow pestilence" recorded under this latter I don't understand as the first Welsh pestilence (of the 3 recorded) was in 466, when the bodies of the Gwyddalans (were they not Irish) caused the plague.

Your Welsh Antiquarian Works want indeces very much

I will send your introduction to Dr O Donovan (now at Oxford & E. Curry now in London. & also answer you other queries forthwith, but I write this in haste as I have the first sheet going to press & I also want if possible the authorities for dates in Iolo MS

Yours

W Wilde

[Postmarked 29 July 1855]

**328**

Dublin  
1 Merrion Square  
May 8/1856

Allow me to renew our correspondence by enclosing you a rough proof of a portion of my report relating to early Irish pestilences. Your perusal of it will oblige me, and if you can add to or improve the text it will increase still further the obligations I am already under to you. I hope soon to be able to send you the report.

I am yours &c  
W Wilde

**329**

1 Merrion Squ N  
15/3/60

My dear Sir

Let me revive our acquaintance by asking you some information upon the subject of Ancient Welsh costume, civil, or military, public or domestic. I do not limit your period; you may go back to the days of Caractacus or Boudicca. The second part of the Catalogue of the R.I.A. is in the press, and being now engaged upon the subject of Irish Costume I sh<sup>l</sup>d like to compare what is really known on the matter, with the dress of Wales at the same periods. By this Post I also send you a copy of my last tract.

As I suppose all medical practitioners in Wales as well as Ireland are called "Doctors", and in order to make sure of its reaching you, I direct Dr. Stephens

Yours truly

W Wilde

**330**

Sir, Pray pardon this intrusion of a literary querist & stranger, & (I sho<sup>d</sup> add) smile not at the singularity of his enquiry.

About 8 or 10 years ago, there was current in literary circles an anecdote of "Lady Charlotte Guest & her balance sheet" (of Dowlais Works) which was as strongly marred with improbability as impertience; nevertheless the story, like all other [of] the most improbable stories, was repeated usque ad nauseam.

Will you be kind enough (if in your power) to inform me whether this anecdote originally appeared in some Welsh publication – & if so, in what & where?

Often as I heard it in the time referred to, I am unable to trace it in any English ephemeris.

Apologising again & again for this intrusion, I am, Sir,  
Yr vy obt serv

W Walker Wilkins  
18 Hampshire Grove  
Camden Road  
London  
N.W.

17/12/62

Thos Stephens Esq

**330a**

[Card]

[Printed] Mr W. Wilkins

[Handwritten underneath] Author of Political Ballads of the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries; Life of Bishop Bedell; Life & Times of Fy. Quarles, the Christian poet; &c. &c.

**331**

London. 18 Hampshire Grove  
Camden Road. N. W.  
12 June 1863

Dear Sir, Among other MSS in the possession of the late Mr Taliesin Williams (ab Iolo) was Sir Edw. Mansel's Conquest of Glamorgan. Pray can you inform me who is the present owner of it, & if there be any likelihood of my getting a sight of it? I ought to state, perhaps, that the only object of my enquiry is to obtain a few additional notes upon the early history of Coyty, near Bridgend, which, in the Norman speciation of the county, fell to the lot of Sir Payn Turberville.

Will you also, kindly oblige me by stating where I can procure a copy of Sir John Stradling's poetical description of Glamorganshire? Several writers have quoted a couple of stanzas from it (referring to the mineral wealth of the county), but beyond that hackneyed extract nothing more can I learn of the poem! Even the columns of Notes and Queries have failed to edify me.

When last in correspondence with you I had, unfortunately, a very sick house, & my anxiety in consequence not only greatly harrassed, but made it almost impossible for me to labor in any way. Hence perhaps the necessity of my apologizing to you for the rather loose manner in which I too frequently answered yr queries. Happily, at this moment (after nearly four months trial of my patience) I am free from domestic cares, & ready therefore to afford you any further humble assistance you may require.

Bele me, dear Sir,  
Mst faithy yr's  
W. Walker Wilkins

Thos Stephens Esq

P.S. Rice Meyrick, in his book of Glamorganshire Antiquities, says that ð the condemnation of criminals the following Welsh poem was used:

“Gwynt a gwyden a ffenn  
Blaydd achwygy hid marw” –

A passage which my son, a fair modern Welsh scholar, cannot translate for me. Will you kindly do it?

W.W.W.

London. 16 June 1863

Dear Sir, Pray accept my heartiest thanks for yr very prompt & obliging replies to my last queries. I have now seen ab Iolo's "Colyn Dolphyn", or his "Cardiff Castle". Strange to say, the only work of his in the Brit: Mus: is a Welsh ode on British Druids, with a translation by Mr Bruce, 1835.

Concerning the ballad in praise of Glamorgan, attributed to Sir Jo Stradling, author of Latin Epigrams, 1606, & Divine Poems, 1625, - in neither of wh. vols does it occur, - the hackneyed quotation from it is as follows: -

"And in Glamorgan's hillie parts  
 Cole greatly doth abound;  
 For goodness and for plenty, too,  
 Its equal neuer was found.  
 With wood & iren, ledde and salt,  
 And lime aboundaintlie  
 And every thing that mankind want,  
 This land dothe it well supplie."

These stanzas certainly possess the ring of the early part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century; but perhaps, after all, Sir John was not the author of 'em.

I have looked into Harl. MS. No 2273; wh, among several articles, more or less perfect (the Vol is in a tattered condition), contains a few brief extracts from the Book of Neath (so frequently quoted by Rice Merrick?) then (1595) in the possession of Sir Edw. Stradling of St Donat's, relating exclusively to the families of Mansel & Talbot. The full title of the article is:-

"6. Ex Libre abbathe de Neth in cōm Glamorgan, jam en custodia Edwardi Stradlingo de St Donats, militis, anno 1595, cum aliis spectantibus ad familiam Talbotorum".

Your exposition of gwynt a gwyden &c has set both my son & self a-thinking. Primarily, the reference, incorrect, is to the reserved fate of the criminal, who by his villainies has degraded himself to the level of a wolf, or beast of prey. By the old Roman law, a parricide was condemned to be sewn in a sack, together with a wolf & an adder, the sack with its strange contents was flung into the depths of the sea. Grimm, in his antiquities of German law, stated that, in the very earliest times, "another aggravation of punishment was, that by the side of the hapless culprit (when hanged) they hung wolves or dogs". It wo<sup>d</sup> seem that these beasts were usually (if not invariably) suspended alive by the side of the criminal, so that they might satisfy their hunger upon him. Grimm also quotes a German poet of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, who recommended his friends to put a rope about the neck of his worthless wife, "and hang thereby two wolves or three"!! Such may have been the fate of the adulteress. Is there any affinity, think you, between "chwygy" and the Irish word cuilleasga, hazel rods or twigs? ^ (The pronounciation is somewhat similar.) ^ Before the advent of the Saxon in Ireland, who introduced hempen rope into that country, Irish criminals were hung in withs, or ozier bands - an additional ^ (or the only) ^ disgrace in their estimation! In ignorance of the history of Collyn Dolphyn, I cannot now conjecture the nature of the particular offence, which brought him to grief - i.e. the "twist". There wo<sup>d</sup> seem, however, to be some allusion in, or resemblance to the ancient Briton's expression of horror against a very base criminal, to the commonly entertained detestation of an equal offence among the Romans.

Again thanking you for yr kindness, I beg to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir  
Yr vry obliged & faithful Sert  
W. Walker Wilkins

T. Stephens Esq

333

Please, address me at  
Llanedy  
nr Llanelly

St David's College  
Lampeter  
June 22/57

Sir

As Judges of the best essay on Prophecy, for which Dr Williams, our Vice Principal, has propounded a prize, it will be necessary for us and our colleges to exchange our thoughts and opinions on certain preliminary arrangements as soon as we conveniently can. But I trust you will pardon me, if before we enter the consideration of any business connected with that essay, I venture to ask you one question. I have no doubt from all I have heard of you that you will frankly avow your religious sentiments, if necessary, whatever they may be. I don't know whether you will be surprised to hear that you have been represented to me by several people as holding certain opinions on religion, which if you do, it may be a question whether I may not be prevented from acting with you in adjudicating upon the essay. Will you therefore kindly answer me one question, which shall be expressed in few words, Do you believe the Christian religion to be of Divine origin?

I hope you will give me credit for having asked this question in no uncharitable spirit, but simply for the sake of ascertaining whether you and I act hold opinions so opposite that it may be either unwise or impossible for us to act together in deciding upon the merits of Theological essays. I may add that I write this without the knowledge of Dr Williams.

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully  
David Williams  
Professor of Welsh

Thomas Stephens Esqr

334

Pontarddulais  
Llanelly  
July 30/54

Sir

On my return home last evening I found your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. I must confess I regret you do not think fit to give me a direct "yes" or "no" to the question I put you. But I think this may have arisen from my not having made myself understood. I did not ask that question because I was afraid the differences of opinion between you and myself in adjudicating upon the essays would be so great as to render it impossible for us to act together. I have no reason at all to fear that. But what I wished to say, was that you are reported to hold opinions which I consider would make it unwise and positively wrong for a clergyman at least to cooperate with you as a judge of Theological essays. It is very probable I should agree with you in thinking that the judges ought to act independently of each other.

But before I take a single step in the matter, you will excuse me for saying that I must have, as you will probably admit I have a right to claim, a direct answer to the question I put to you. I had rather not apply to Dr Williams for your answer as I think it is a matter to be settled entirely by you and myself. I have only to add that if you do not think proper to give me a direct answer, the only alternative left me, will be to resign my office as judge.

I am, Sir,  
Yrs very faithfully  
David Williams

Thomas Stephens Esqr.

335

[A draft of Stephen's reply to 334]

Aug. 12. 1857

Sir,

I have to apologize for not having replied before to you sooner. The matter did not appear to me to your last letter but the urgent, and therefore I postponed the press of actual business the reply to a convenient season various kinds leaves me which has only now arrived but little time or inclination to attend to matters that remotely contingent.

As to the inquiry, whether I do or not believe in the divine origin of Xtianity, I have to remark that tho' the question admitly of itself vague, I should have no difficulty in replying to this or another question of a similar nature, if I could put reconcile the act to my sense of independence of the "Morning Post" Newspaper. Inquest Neither you nor any other person can have any right to put such or authority to catechise me on such subjects; and this attempt To institute an inquisition into religious opinion, if not only seems to me is a grave infringement of the liberty of conscience, but also to my thinking, an act unbecoming directly at which Protestants claim as a right, and believe it their bounden duty to protect preserve; and it appears to me that you attempt to exercise an authority, which you do not possess, and which I ought not to recognize.

I must therefore decline to give any other answer to your question than that which I have already given to & though Dr Williams

336

Merthyr – Ion. 8, 1859

At Mr R. J. Prys, Dinbych,  
A Mr T. Stephens, Merthyr  
Foneddigion,

Deallwyf mai yn nhref Dinbych y bwriadwyd cynnal yr ymdriniad ar yr Orgraff. Yn awr, gan nad yw yn debygol y cymmer yr Eisteddfod fwriedig le yno yn mis Medi, yn ol fel yr hysbyswyd, a chan y cynnelir "Eisteddfod Fawr" y Cymrodorion yn y dref hon yn y mis uchod, oni fyddai yn well dwyn yr ymdriniad ymlaen yma ar yr adeg hono? Dymunwyf, yn ostyngedig, awgrymu hyn i'ch sylw.

Ydwyf, Foneddigion

Yr eiddoch, &c.,

D. J. Williams, (Tydfylyn.)

**336a**

[Printed Circular 'At y Llenorion appwyntiedig yn Llangollen i drefnu Orgraph y Gymraeg' by Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) and Thomas Stephens. A copy of this circular can be seen at NLW, MS. 964E, I, 79.]

Foneddigion,

Er mwyn cyrhaedd unffuriaeth [sic] yn Orgraph yr iaith, dymunwyf ddweyd, fy mod yn barod i gyttuno a'r egwyddorion a'r awgrymau a osodir allan, gydag eglurder a dehurwydd, yn y papuryn hwn.

Ydwyf,

Foneddigion,

Yr eiddoch yn ostyngedig,

D. J. Williams

(Tydfyl.)

Merthyr Tydfyl

Jon. 8. 1859

\*Paham eithriad! Onid yw Seison yn well, gan ei fod yn llawn mor gysson â llafar gwlad, ac yn fwy felly â threigliadaeth? \_\_\_\_\_ Sais Seison Seisonig, Seisoneg.

**337**

[Black-bordered paper]

Sir

I read with great pleasure the proceedings of the Abergavenny Eisteddfod and rejoiced to find the Author of the Literature of the Cymry the successful Hero of the meeting. I cannot adequately express the gratification I have felt in the constant perusal of that admirable Production; which I read & read again & never without delight & I hope Profit. It is this which induces me to hope the Essay on Trial by Jury, and the Analysis of the Remains of the Welsh Poetry &c will be published for the Benefit of the Public. The Essay on the Proper Names &c you will perhaps reserve, so it appears to me, for additions. I really see very little substantial good in the Eisteddfodau if it is only to be known that a certain Person has determined that the Production of A is superior to B C D &c, if the Production is not to see daylight. Bunsen's Judgement is in my opinion an effectual recommendation for any work that may come from you. Laudari a laudato is something, but in Bunsen's case laudato should be laudatissimo, he is one of the most admirable of men and happy should that man be that has elicited the Praise of that truly able Personage. I do not venture to offer you any Praise, I only speak my opinion and the Pleasure & Edification I have received from your Literature of the Cymry far transcends what the Iolo M.S.S. &c & Rees! Welsh Saints have affected me. Books with Large Margins large Types and large Prices are undesirable, I admit a fine Jewel should be handsomely set, But if the Public, the English at least, are to profit by the Literature of the ancient Britons, It should appear in a modest Garb not in the meretricious display of the Printer, the reading public turn away from Marginal Broudisims, which deter rather than invite the Hungry & Thirsty. I do not mean that every successful Writer should be compelled to publish his writing, but if he declined, the work should by some means or other find its way into the Press. Guessing from the descriptive account in the Star of Gwent of the Eisteddfod, I cannot doubt but that 100 Subscribers to your three Publications would have given their names on the spot. I regret that I have always been a

Resident in England, tho' my heart is never absent from Hen Gymry, as I am removed by distance & occupation from the Eisteddfodau, I have never been present at any one, but I hope I shall be enabled to attend in future on some occasions at least, & the Abergavenny ones among the number, when I may hope for the honour of an Introduction to Mr Thomas Stephens Chemist of Merthyr Tydfil the talented author of the Literature of the Cymry.

It is now but right that I should mention my name, & trust I shall not be deemed an Imposter. I am Sir Erasmus Williams of Llwynywormwood near Llandovery. This is the usual ~~name~~ mode of spelling the name, tho' it has been said to be a corruption form Llywnywhermout, but I can make nothing of either wormwood or whermout, and therefore I am meditating a change to "Llwyni – for so it really is – a great number of separate woods united together as beautifly as nature could make them, and y Llwyni strikes me as the true thing. Tell me if I err. The name could hardly be a corruption of Llwyn y Gwernen, for tho there are alders there the natural Staple of the soil is oak; I plant largely Larch, but the oaks plant themselves.

I have now only to thank you as one of the Public for the great Gratification I have derived from the only Publication by you which has come to my Knowledge, & I Entertain the Hope that the Public will have the opportunity of reading & enjoying your other Publications, which they only know as Existing, don't disappoint them.

In all Sincerity

Your faithful Servt

Eras Williams

Marblro

Nov 10: 53

**338**

[Black-bordered paper]

Bassaleg vicarage

Jany 17. 1859

My Dear Sir

I regret much that having been called from home soon after I received from you the paper on Welsh Orthography I have not been able to give my attention to it until now.

I will without further delay carefully consider all the points you omitted, and give you my opinion upon them as soon as possible.

In the mean time I am

My dear Sir

Very faithfully yours

Hugh Williams

Thos Stephens Esq

**339**

[Black-bordered paper]

Persondy Maesteg  
Mawrth 12<sup>fed</sup>. 1859

Fy Anwyl Syr

Y mae yn bur dda gennyf fy mod, weithiau, yn gallu anfon yn ol i chwi y papur 'sydd amguedig gyda'r llythyr hwn.

Ond y mae yn ddrwg iawn gennyf orfod arnaf, o herwydd anwrywiol ddigwyddiadau anoacheladwy, ei gadw cyhyd mewn llaw.

Gobeithiaf er hynny na fyddaf ddim wedi eich rhwystro chwi rhag myned yn y blaen â gwaith, am yr hwn, pan fyddo wedi ei orphen, y bydd ar y Dywysogaeth i chwi a'ch cydlafurwr, Mr Prys, ddyled o ddiolchgarwch, na's geill hi byth mo'i dalu.

Ydwyf, fy anwyl Sir,  
yr eiddoch yn ffyddlon  
Hugh Williams

Thos Stephens Yswr

[Enclosure: Printed Circular 'At y Llenorion appwyntiedig yn Llangollen i drefnu Orgraph y Gymraeg' by Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) and Thomas Stephens, with marginalia. A copy of this circular can be seen at NLW, MS. 964E, I, 79.]

[bottom of front]

Oblegid beth ydyw iaith ysgrifenedig ond yr iaith ar lafarir, neu'r iaith lafaredig, wedi ~~xxxxxx~~ ei doddi ar bapur? Ond cyn y gellir ei gosod allan, neu ei doddi i lawr, yn gyflawn ac yn ffyddlon, y mae gofyn cynnyrcholi [sic] â llythyrennau, neu nodau.

[bottom of back]

Hugh Williams.  
(Hu Benfro)

Priodol a chymmwys, bob sain a lafarir â'r genau: ac am hyny pan fydd cydsain y nghanol gair, fel na's gellir peidio ei dyblu wrth ei llefaru, dylid ei dyblu hefyd wrth ei hysgrifennu – y barnaf fi. e.e. cyfoethoccaf, tryaroccaf lliosoccaf tebyccaf cammu, llammu, grynnu, grymmus, rhesymmu – cannu, dybennu, llonni, mynnu, manau, bannau, gofynnwr, hwnnw, honno, hynny – gwlyppach, gwlypped, cyffelypped. – rhattaf, calettaf. – cyrrau tyrrau, pentyrru, cyrraedd, cyrrhaeddyd. &c. – mewn gair – dylid, meddaf fi, ddilyn, hyd y galler, y reol, o ysgrifennu pob gair yn gywir fel y llefarir – oddieithr geiriau estronol, 'fallai – e.e. papur, &c.

y llinell ddu uchod a'r ochr arall ^fel hyn |^ a arweddocâ fy mod i yn cymmeradwyo'r egwyddor a ganmolir, neu y sylwadau a wneir, yn y darlleniad sydd ar ei chyfer hi; a'r groes (x) a ddengys fy mod yn methu cyttuno â'r hyn a ddywedir yn yr ymadrodd sydd ar ei phwys hi.

H.W.

340

Carmarthen  
Aug. 23. 1867

My Dear Sir

We are in a fix for an adjudication. Mr Browne who was to adjudicate with Mr Osborne Morgan on "Defence of the Welsh People against the misrepresentation of their Eng. Critics" is on the continent. Will you kindly act instead of him? Mr Morgan has completed his work and if you consent the essays will be at once forwarded to you.

An early reply will oblige

Yours very truly

J Prydderch Williams

/\

Thomas Stephens Esq

No competitors for your prize-essay No 11

341

Llanfair-yngorn-wy  
Holyhead  
14 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1850

Dear Sir

I assure you it will afford me very great pleasure if I can be of any assistance whatever in the prosecution your interesting researches into Welsh History. I will turn my thoughts to "Blurawn Beryr", (for such I interpret your orthography) immediately and make all practicable enquiries as to "Cynvan" and "Gawrnwy". I am sorry to say "Cornwy" will stand you in no stead in the matter, as it's signification applies to the position of the land, in the horn or promontary of the water or in other words, St Mary's in the Promontary. Nevertheless I will not give up the search. The (quasi) Valley in which the Grave of Bronwen was found runs through one of my parishes, and is not destitute of names bearing on Historical points. An intelligent Farmer living on its confluence with the Sea some years back discovered a Grave carefully constructed and under 3 feet in length, the field in which it was being called "Cae bedd y Cor" I have been told there is some allusion to it in the Mabinogion. "Ton wen orewyn a orwlŷch" &c would indicate the site as being close on the Sea. I will enquire the names of fields in that locality, as they frequently assist the Antiquary. Every field in the immediate vicinity of this House bears some allusion to a great Battle, but at what period we know not.

Should any thing bring you into this country I should have much pleasure in forwarding your views: or if I can be in any way useful, do not hesitate to mention it

Belive me Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Ja Williams

I guess "Beryr" is Ap Eryr

P.S. A very faint glimmer has just occurred to me. Into the vale of the Alaw above alluded to there runs a small stream which joins it at it's confluence with the Sea. There "Bedd Cor" was found. A little higher up is a Farm through which this Stream runs, ~~and~~ called Gronant: just possibly it might be "~~Gawn^h^wy~~" "Gawrnwy" nant. At all events it shall serve to stimulate my enquiries in that locality.

342

Llanover  
January 27, 1851.

Miss Jane Williams, wishing to obtain the original Welsh of David ab Gwilym, for a translated passage of a poem in w<sup>h</sup> he reproaches a Clock for having disturbed him from a delightful dream; & finding that the Poems in Welsh are not in this Library, is referred by Lady Hall to Mr Stephens, as an eminent student of his country's literature, & requests that he will have the goodness, to forward to her here a transcript of the original passage. By sending it with the least possible delay the obligation will be enhanced.

343

Llandovery  
16. Nov 1849

Dear Mr. Stephens

It grieves me that I have not hitherto acknowledged the receipt of the handsome and richly bound copy of your work which you have been so good as to send me. But I really have been so much engaged with business of a various nature, the discharge of which I could not evade that this fact must plead my excuse for my previous negligence.

But if I have been negligent personally I have been very active in recommending your work to the first literary critics of our land and I expect that in at least two popular Reviews, a very impartial estimate will be taken of our cause and your work. Favour we cannot expect until we have proved more worthy, but I think even now I see the dawn of a better day when "The Literature of the Kymry" will <sup>rather</sup> confer honor on its patrons than receive honor from them. Watch the "Cromlech" question well and keep your mind free from prejudice and I will irrefragably prove that our "Megalithic" structures were the works of our civilized ancestors at least a thousand years before the christian Era. Again I say, wait without prejudice for my illustration of the argument.

I never have boasted, and never will boast, but can honestly say that the solution of this much debated question is in my hand, and that I can solve it. Only wait.

Yours faithfully  
John Williams.

To Thomas Stephens Esq

344

My dear Sir,

I have been so ill of late that I have not been able to attend to any thing much, and this must be my apology for not having replied sooner to your letter. Perhaps we had better begin with Westood's Relics of the ancient British Church, if you think that you cannot get your History of Wales ready in time. My Traditional Annals are very far behind, and therefore their publication as a 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. is quite out of the question. I believe the "Relics" are quite ready for the press. O. Glyndwr's Life nearly so.

Allow me to thank you for the very interesting articles which you send to the Arch:  
Camb:

My Gododin is at length quite out. I hope you will like it, though I am afraid that I take a different view from you as to the object of the poem. I should like to have your opinion of it as soon as you shall have perused it.

Believe me, My dear Sir,  
Yours very Truly  
John Williams  
Llanymowddwy  
Jan. 9. 1852

T. Stephens Esq.

345

Ynislas – Jany 21  
1851

Sir/

I beg to thank you for your kind enquiries after my sister who has quite recovered from her very severe accident at Rhuddlan Castle – in compliance with your appeal in behalf

of the forthcoming Eisteddfod, I shall be happy to add my names and my Sister's for one guinea each for the purpose of Musical prizes – our contributions are generally in favor of the harp & Song – & shall select for our subjects on this occasion the following & if you will have the kindness to make it known in the proper quarter we shall feel much obliged to you. One guinea for the best performer~~æææ~~ on the triple Harp of “Y Bardd yn ei Awen with variations as set in “Parry's Welsh Harper.” by Miss Jane Williams” – one guinea for the best female Singer of the air of “Clychau Aberdovy” as set in Miss Jane Williams collection of Welsh melodies by Miss Williams of Aberpergwm.

I look back with much pleasure to the Royal Eisteddfod at Rhuddlan & of our pleasant tour through north Wales.

I am Sir yours respectfully  
M. J. Williams

**346**

[Black-bordered paper]

Ynyslas Feby 18  
1864

Dear Sir/

When we returned home on Tuesday, I heard that you did us the favour of calling, & we regretted our absence as it was a disappointment not to see you – the next time you come to the Valley, it will give us much pleasure to see you – to pass an evening here but please to fix a day & let us know as my sister who has been ill all the winter takes advantage of every fine ^day^ to go out now; since here recovery – the Trains to, and from Merthyr ^2.15. & 8.30.^ would suit you, I should think for an evening visit with united compliments

I am dear Sir yours truly

M. J. Williams

**347**

[Black-bordered paper]

Feby 20<sup>th</sup>  
1864

Ynyslas  
Saturday  
Evening

Miss Williams begs with her kind compliments to say that in reply to his note received this morning, the Miss Wms will be happy to see Mr T. Stephens on Wednesday Evening next at Ynyslas in the mean time the Miss Wms offer their best acknowledgements for Mr T. Stephens's photograph which shall be placed in their book of celebrities –

**347a**

[Envelope]

[Written across]

Evans'

Coins of the Ancient Britons

J.R. Smith

Price £1.1.0

Notes & Q Feb 27/64

348 (1)

Llanrhyddlad Rectory  
Holyhead,  
Aug. 17, 1860

Sir,

Although personally a stranger to you, I have often wished to write to you as a fellow-labourer in Welsh literature, if I may presume to call myself a fellow labourer of a man of your genius and research and independence of thought.

I had hoped to see you at the late Denbigh Eisteddvod; and that you would have competed for the two prizes on the History of Welsh Literature. Then we should have had three treatises from you, comprising the whole extent of the subject. I have your published Essay, and need not tell you that I concur in all your views. But as you were not well treated at the Llangollen Eisteddfod, perhaps you acted with proper dignity in not writing for any of the Denbigh Prizes. I too had some foul play at the former: but I thought I would try and have my revenge in obtaining the grand Prize of 40 guineas at the latter: and I succeeded, and am satisfied with the revenge.

I collect the autographs of eminent living Welshmen. I hope I may induce you to write me a letter which I may insert in my collection. When you write, if you will do me the favour, would you kindly enclose a copy or two of the Proposal published in the Cymro some two years ago by Dr. Rowland Williams for the Prize Essay on Prophecy? When the Rev. Mr. Williams of Lampeter ~~declined~~ gave up his post of being one the adjudicators for that Prize, Dr. Williams did me the honour of asking me to take his place; and he shewed me some correspondence that took place between you and Mr Williams in which I greatly admired your spirit in your reply to some impertinent questions of his. But I declined the honour, telling Dr. Williams that I might possibly be a competitor.

If I thought I was not taking too great a liberty, I would respectfully ask whether the result of the adjudication is soon to be published. I am merely one of so many thousand that feel some anxiety on this point, an anxiety resulting in a great measure from the confidence reposed in the judgment of men like you & Dr. Lloyd of Carmarthen

I have the honor to be  
Dear Sir,  
Most faithfully yours  
Morris Williams

Thos: Stephens Esq.

348 (2)

Llanrhyddlad Rectory  
Holyhead, Oct. 24. 1860

My dear Sir,

I congratulate "Crede ut intelligas" upon his success with his Essay on Hebrew Prophecy. I have this moment seen the announcement in the "Cymro".

I felt conscious that I was not sufficiently acquainted with the works of other writers on the subject – and that I had devoted too much space to preliminary matter – the nature of inspiration, &c.

I only hope that all the unsuccessful Candidates will be as perfectly satisfied with your decision as I am.

Would you kindly return me Pollio Biblicus' Essay? I shall forward to you the amount of postage stamps on its receipt.

Most sincerely yours  
M. Williams

Thos. Stephens Esq.

349 (1)

Llanrhyddlad Rectory  
Holyhead, Aug. 26.  
1860.

Dear Sir,

I was not at home when your interesting letter came: but I now thank you very much for the promptness with which you answered mine.

As you must have long made up your mind as to the relative merits of the Essays, and as you were good enough to mention Pollio Biblicus, without intimating however how the Essay so signed stands in the scale of relative merit, it would be affectation in me not to say that I am interested in it. Perhaps that Essay has the merit at least of steering a course in which it does not come into collision with the religious opinions of those who may differ from the writer. The longer I live, and the more I study, the more I learn to respect the opinions of my fellow men. Good heavens! how little we know, and how few should presume to say to their neighbours, "I am right, and you are wrong." The circle of religious knowledge and of the facts relating to it, is so vast, that the most keen-sighted among us can only see a link here and there of the chain. Many of the "orthodox," who think they have all this circle in their pockets, would ^and do^ call me latitudinarian for such sentiments. I care not.

A Rev. Mr Evans of Goytre, somewhere in your county, is lecturing in North Wales in favour of the pre-Columbian discovery of America by Madoc ab Owen Gwynedd: he has found out some new evidence, – a mare's nest, I suppose.

Wishing you long life and happiness to be the ornament of our literature,

I remain,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours very truly  
Nicander.

Thos: Stephens Esq.

349 (2)

Llanrhyddlad Rectory,  
Holyhead, Aug. 31. 1860

Dear Sir,

I never was a believer in the discovery of America by Madog: your remarks seem quite decisive of the point. It is a misfortune that we so little value historical criticism in our researches. Too much prejudice and too little knowledge have, on the other hand, puffed us up to take credit for many things that really do not belong to us. How often, for instance, have the words of Tacitus been applied to the Cymry – "Cimbri, parva nume civitas, sed Gloria ingens." Tacitus here makes not the remotest allusion to the Welsh, who in his time were by no means a "parva civitas": he is in fact speaking of a tribe of Germans.

I remember being much struck with your identification of Aedd Mawr with the Roman general Aëtius. There seems to me to be more common sense in this view than in that of Dr Meyer, who suggests that the Ædui of Gaul were so called from a god Aed whom they worshipped, and whom he identifies with the Aedd mawr of the Triads! These Ædui, he thinks, gave this Island the name of Aeddon or Eiddin, which is perpetuated in the word Edinburgh.

Most of our Scholars, in endeavouring to grasp at distant shadows, disregard, and therefore miss the substance that is nearer home, and really available for our true history. What a havoc Niebuhr would have made of our traditions, and what materials he would have found for Welsh history where one would have least expected to find any.

It is amusing to see how some actually good scholars receive all our crudest traditions as sound articles of historic faith, and defend them as such with all zeal and earnestness.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Truly yours

M. Williams

Thos: Stephens Esq

**350a**

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry.

June 24. 1859.

Dear Sir/

I have been looking everywhere that I can think of for the origin of Humphrey Llwyd's assertion about Madog, but without any success. You should know that Guttyn Owen was the author of a valuable Chronicle called Llyfr Basyng, but I learned from a letter of Aneurin Owen's that this is only a transcript of the Welsh Chronicles as preserved in the British Museum. Guttyn Owen's portion is only a continuation by him from the year 1332 to 1461 – "but unfortunately of so meagre as to be of no interest, the whole continuation being comprised in 8 pages" – I fancy that this work however contains the assertion about Madog's emigration. I have none of Guttyn Owens poetry. I send you a copy of my new prospectus – I only want the subscribers necessary (to cover half the expense of printing) before putting it into the press, but I fear that I must wait a long time

Yours truly

Rev<sup>e</sup> Williams

**351a**

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry.

Feb. 11. 1860

Dear Sir/

I am sorry that I can give you no genealogical information relating to Edward Morris, beyond this, that he was no relation of the family of Hugh Morris – He was a native of Cerrig y Drudion, & being a poet & Cattle Drover he was well known in his time – Are you not rather securlyd at present, I should like to see your articles a little oftener

yours truly  
Rev Williams

[On reverse]

230 is the present number of my subscribers – as soon as 250 names are sent in, I will begin to print – I am going to ask you now to give me the true etymology & the reason why our early ancestors called a churn budhai, & a fool ynvyd & a sacrifice aberth & a plague y vad velen, & I will then give you the analysis from my Dictionary

Yours Truly

Rob<sup>t</sup> Williams

Give the prospectus to some of your fellow townsmen – Are you the only Welshman in Merthyr?

[Thomas Stephens's handwriting in pencil]

*Buiailledh*

*Dairy*

*adh*

*Biudhg/ain = to stir up*

*Buidel –hindeal*

*Boide = a bottle, brooding*

*Budhe, yellow butter,*

*used in Beadh, meal,*

*Buadh, food*

*Buidhean: cheese runnet*

*Beinid –ditto-*

*Biadhtach a farmer or grazier*

### 351b

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry

Feb. 20. 1850.

Dear Sir)

I now send you a few of my explanations, and I let you decide whether they are correct or not. budhai a churn, is evidently a later form of mudhai, which form is preserved both in in Irish and Gaelic muidhe a churn. The root is preserved in the Sanscrit. mat, to shake, agitate, to churn.

There are several instances in Welsh of b being substituted for its cognate m (both being labials & commutable in most languages) take for instance Basod a thumb, there can be no doubt whatever of the earlier form being mawd as it is so in Armoric meûd, and also in the Welsh compound, modvedh an inch = the measure of the thumb. / Vâd in y vâd velen means a pest. derived by the Welsh Lexicographers from mâd – but not only in Welsh, but in all 6. Celtic Languages means good only, (Cornish mâs, Armoric. mâd. Irish. math. Gaelic. maith. Manx. mic.) It cannot therefore have a meaning dialectically opposite. Vâd must therefore be derived from a totally different word, i.e. bâd. I find in Sanscrit Badha an evil, or pest. from the rood badh to hurt. Bôs, Bosen, ar vosen mean a pest in Armoric. The English bad is also derived from the same source & bad in Persic Aberth is also preserved in Irish Todhbhairt & Gael. Tobairt, but neither Welsh nor Irish can give us the root. it is identical with Sanscrit adhvara adhvara a sacrifice: compounded of adhva a way & ra (=W. rhoi) to give. that which opens a way (to heaven. Ynvyd (in old Welsh unmit) In Irish Oinmhid (in older Irish onhhith) Gaelic amaid. Manx. ommidan. = Sanscrit unmatta folly. un bitens. prefix. & malta derived from mad to be intoxicated or crazy. the root of greek μεθυ & Welsh. medh, medhu, &c. & also of gr ματαιος. L. fatnus. another derivation is obtainable from Sanscrit. amata foolish from a not & mata intelligence the root of which is man to consider = W. myn & latin mens. What Welshman can inform us from Welsh sources only, why our ancestors called a couch tyle, the word is preserved in Irish tolg, & Greek τυλα. it is identical with Sanscrit tulikas a mattress, from tula cotton, the material of which it was originally composed. Dr. Pughe's derivation twl what is smooth & round can have no connection whatever. My Dictionary contains scores of similar illustrations, & I do not think that I say too much when I assert that my Dictionary will throw quite a new light upon the Welsh and other Celtic dialects

Yours truly  
Rev Williams

352a

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry  
Jan. 31. 1865.

Dear Sir/

I have been spending a week with Mr Wynne at Peniarth, when I had the opportunity of seeing his superb collection of Welsh MSS. and among them the renowned "Greal." I spent my leisure time in transcribing the commencement of the volume, and had I not been otherwise engaged this year, I should not be afraid of undertaking to transcribe the whole – its a beautiful vol. in small 4to. In perfect preservation, not a leaf wanting and lately bound in old style calf by Mr Wynne – it is written on vellum – Mr Wynne thinks that it is not earlier than Henry VI: the commencement of the 15<sup>th</sup> century – it certainly agrees exactly with the orthography of Iarllles y Fynnawn in style and letters – ie being constantly use for v & V for w. I do not see if confined to this era, how Davydd ap Gwilym could have alluded to it, who died 50 years earlier. The time of Iarllles y Ffynnawn in the Llyfr Coch is certainly that of the 15<sup>th</sup> century – Can we say that Mr Wynne's Copy is a transcript of an earlier one? – As you take as great an interest in the Greal as I do myself, I think you will be pleased to have the transcript I send you being the first 4 & last 2 pages. of the work. It is I presume a translation of Morte d' Arthur or "Tres plaisante Histoire, afterwards published in 1530 & "or the Historia du San Greal, ^see Schulz. 113.^ Paris, 1523." – It is not a translation of Chrestien de Troyes, who wrote in poetry, & says little of Arthurs court – Perhaps with the specimens I send you, you can find whether it is a translation or paraphrase trossyawdur might signify either. I have no means of ascertaining here – If you can not tell me, perhaps it would be best to print the 12 pp. which I have done in all in the Archaeologia Cambrensis with a translation & invite the remarks of the competent to help us – there can be [no] doubt of the importance of printing the volume with a translation, and it would be another gem added to our national literature. It is written in an excellent style. The Cornish Dictionary is at length finished, and I hope that you will receive your copy within a fortnight

Yours very truly  
Robert Williams

352b

[Transcription of pages 1 and 558 of Y Greal mentioned in the previous letter, not reproduced here.]

353

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry  
Nov. 15. 1865.

Dear Sir)

My idea is that Mor weryd is the Mare Hibernicum and that the weryd is formed either from Welsh – y werdd-on or from the Latin Hibernicum. Since I wrote to you last I have carefully read every line of the Peniarth MS of Charlemagne – I do not believe that the Welsh Hu Gadarn is the identical Hu le Fort mentioned therein. He has nothing in common with our National hero – though the queen brags of his grandeur he is but a small personage in comparison to Charlemagne to whom he entirely submits. Is the French text quoted by you in The Brython printed, if so please to give me the title as I should like much to see a copy – and I should much like to have a copy of what you transcribed from the Llyfr Coch, Hergest

– You will see by comparing it with the first page of the Peniarth MS. that it is quite a distinct translation – is there any way of having a copy of the whole of the Gest in Llyfr Coch – I do not know any one there that would undertake the transcript The Peniarth MS. is deficient in the beginning, and a page or two in the middle – the composition is first rate – excellent idiomatic Welsh, and equal to an original. I send you the first page for comparison –

I am yours truly

Robert Williams

354

Rhydygroesau Rectory  
Oswestry. June 5. 1871.

Dear Sir)

I was very glad to receive your letter, and the communication respecting Judge Powell – and the reference – I do not see Notes & Queries, and this neighbourhood is so unliterary that I do not suppose a single copy is taken. I have made several additions to my volume, and I think sometimes of publishing a supplement, but it is very uncertain, as I have 2 important works in a state of preparation, which I hope to commit to the press, through which they will probably proceed simultaneously, as they are not connected – the 1<sup>st</sup> is a Cornish grammar on a large scale & the second is – “Selections from the Hengwrt MSS. in the Peniarth Library, transcribed, and translated with notes by Myself – commencing with the “Greal”, and followed by “Charlemagne”, Boun o Hampton, &c. – These prose works, though translations from the Norman French are well worth printing, they are as valuable as originals in a philological view, as the Welsh is very pure and idiomatic. In a few weeks I will print a Prospectus & send you one – As the Welsh MSS. Society is defunct, I must undertake the risk myself, but I think that I can get names enough to save me from a heavy loss. There is not a perfect copy of Charlemagne at Peniarth, only fragments, and they all differ in the translation – There is a perfect copy in the Book of Hergest at Jesus College & Silvan Evans has a copy of it. But the Greal is the most important, and I have a copy of the original Norman French for comparison. It speaks well for the literary character of our ancestors, when they had a translation into Welsh, years before it was turned into English. There is a splendid Celtic grammar just published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Zeuss by Ebel. giving Irish, Welsh, Cornish, & Armoric in perfection – the deficiency is the omission of Gaelic & Manx which my grammar will partly supply –

I am yours truly  
Rev Williams

355

Rhydygroesau Rectory  
Oswestry. Sept. 16. 1871.

Dear Sir)

I have delayed answering your kind letter until I could give you some account of the progress of the list of Subscribers. I am sorry to say that it is not filling as it ought – 100 Prospectuses have been issued to this date, which have produced 32 names – they were sent to the most likely persons, but the Welsh gentry are not in any way fond of Literature whether Welsh or English. I should have preferred your not sending the money until you had received the work – but if I am not able to go to press in good time I will return it to you – I have copies of 3 or 4 fragments of Charlys, from which I can furnish a perfect copy. I shall be very glad to have the Oxford copy to compare, & also the French – but I fancy the Welsh is translated from the Latin, & this I most endeavour to obtain when I come to it – I shall be glad to give you the Welsh sheets you want – my chief anxiety is to have the Greal printed

The Welsh is beautifully idiomatic & is equal to an original work – I think that every transcriber altered the Text to suit his ideas or improvement & such is the case with the French copies – all of which differ among themselves –

I am yours truly  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Williams

Do you know any friend likely to send his name?

[On reverse in Thomas Stephens's hand]  
Subscription 10/- for Greal  
Remitted Sept 8. 1871

*Declined to Subscribe for the rest; but offered to send a copy of the Llyfr Coch Ystori Chyarlys in exchange for copies of Nengwrt "Chyarlys" and "Lucidar" printed or written.*

*TS<sup>9</sup>*

356

Rhydycroesau, Oswestry  
March 18. 1873

Dear Sir/

I send you a new Edition of my Prospectus, which shews that I am gradually arriving at the time when I can venture to put the "Greal" in the Press – I hope on the first of May, as I have now in all 83 names, and 17 are not many to hope for – It is annoying to find so little interest among what may be called the educated class (though their claim to that title is more than doubtful) the Gentry & Clergy are below the mark as a body, & it is like extracting a tooth to get them to subscribe – Have you no other friend to whom you can send the Prospectus – I ought to have more than 2 from Merthyr = when fairly floated I have no fear of ultimate success – though 300 copies subscribed for will scarcely cover the expense of publication – There is abundance of material in the Peniarth Library – I should much like to have Dr Thos. Williams ~~English~~ Welsh Dictionary published it is a very copious work, with ample quotations from old MSS. The original work in his autograph is at Peniarth – Are you doing any thing in the literary way at present –

I am yours truly  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Williams

357

Rhydycroesau Rectory  
Oswestry. Sept. 7. 1874.

Dear Sir)

I sent your copy of Part 1 of the Greal, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May last – which I hope you duly received – I expected to have a line of encouragement from you, for it is a rather desponding undertaking – I scarcely thought the Welsh of the present day were so entirely careless about the literary treasures of their ancestors – I have not yet had half the number of subscribers to cover the expense of printing – and I am afraid that many on my list are pitiable rogues – they send their names & receive the book, but do not send their subscriptions after repeated application – But it is passing rapidly through the press & will be ready before Christmas as the Welsh Text will soon be finished & then follows the English Translation & a glossary of the more uncommon words – many of which are of great philological value – I have seen nothing from your pen for a long time – what is the reason?

---

<sup>9</sup> Italics denotes pencil.

Disgust at the indifference of the modern Welsh – Scholarship was never at a lower point than at present. Please to tell your neighbour, Mr Reynolds that he will greatly help me by sending his subscription – The Printer has sent his account which is very heavy & he wants a settlement – I am

Yours truly  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Williams

358 (1)

King's College Cambridge  
July 6, 1857.

My dear Sir,

There must be some mistake on part of my friend Professor David Williams.

I did not anticipate nor had he said anything leading me to suppose, that he would institute any inquisition into your personal belief. But I had myself written to him a letter of suggestion, that the Judges might conveniently communicate to each other some common principles of action. If he will send you that letter, you will see at once its nature.

I regret to be the innocent cause of any inquiry that may cause you a moment's annoyance.

As the question has been addressed to you, the answer should come from you. Were I myself, however, in such a position, I might feel tempted to deny my brother Judge's essays right to transfer his authority from the essays to his colleagues: at the same time, I should, if facts permitted me to do so, disclaim, in a general way, any consciousness of opinions which <sup>would</sup> disqualify me for exercising the office of judge. In other words, I should be glad, if you feel able, without acknowledging Mr David Williams's authority in the matter, to say anything that may tranquillise his mind, and enable him to cooperate with you.

But I am far from wishing to suggest any reply which you are not able of your own accord and freely to make.

And, although I have not a shadow of a reason to suppose that such an inquiry is more disagreeable to you, than it would be to any 99 men out of 100, yet I can conceive the very words "Divine Origin" to be understood so differently, that many serious thinkers might fully admit them in a mediate and mental sense, (as, indeed, in such a sense one does not see how they can well be denied,) but yet the same person might hesitate to adopt them without explanation, if they came from one who used them of an im-mediate and externally sensuous manifestation. Again the possibility of the admixture of human imagination, in an innocent and ornamental manner, as if poetry, is an idea, which to some minds is quite compatible with a Divine Revelation, but to others sounds like absolute "infidelity".

So that I certainly can conceive, how any one, without rejecting the Eternal Truth in the very faith which Christ taught, and even without blaming much of humanity in the natural development of that truth in the world, might still hesitate on having a point-blank interrogation as to "Divine Origin" propounded to him, especially if it came from no adequate authority.

But as I said, the reply must, after all, be your own: only I cherish the hope that it may be of such a tone and nature as may prevent any difficulty in arriving as to farther cooperation.

I should add, that Mr David Williams one day asked me, whether I had heard such a statement made respecting you: and I said that I never had; but that I supposed it might arise from your critical treatment of Welsh literature, which the enthusiasts in that time had called by hard names. But I certainly did not understand that any personal catechism was to be addressed to you.

Once more I beg to express my regret that the thing should have happened, and, am,

My dear Sir,  
Very truly yours,  
Roland Williams.

[On reverse]

“Gentle words are always gain;  
Respect the weakness of they peers”  
(Tennyson)

Please to address me at Cambridge

**358 (2)**

say

St. David's College.  
Lampeter.

My dear Sir,

Will you be good enough to act as Examiner for a Prize ~~Essay~~ of £100, to be given for the best critical Analysis, in Welsh, of Hebrew Prophecy in its Messianic, or other, relations? You will have as Colleagues, two clergymen, and two Dissenters; and it will be your business to keep the peace, and to aid in the adjudication of the Prize, with reference to literary and general merit, and to the dissemination of Truth, rather than with requirement of any particular view or theory.

It would give me pleasure to find that you will bring your knowledge of Welsh Letters and your integrity of character, to aid in such adjudication: or at least I would hope that your only motive for declining, if you do decline, will be a wish to have the field open to you as competitor.

I write hastily amid the din of voices around me, that I may receive your answer immediately on my arrival at Lampeter.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

Rowland Williams

Thomas Stephens Esqr

[Postmarked envelope Mold 18 August 1857]

**359**

Rhual-isa. Mold.  
N.W.

August 18. 1857.

My dear Sir,

Your first letter reached me during the Eton “Election”, on my return from the Continent: and your second last night, on my return from Manchester.

I delayed answering the first, not only on account of its wanderings, and my own: but because I hoped, by correspondence with Mr David Williams, to effect an agreement.

In a letter, which reached me from him yesterday morning, he asks for another week to take advice and deliberate.

If he should throw up the appointment, can you mention to me the names of any persons suitable to ask ^to act^ as judges in his place?

But I hope, he will not do so: as any change is now much to be depreciated.

I regret exceedingly that anything should have occurred to hurt your just susceptibilities: and said in my letter to my friend Mr David Williams, that “It is foreign to all

my habits of thought, to institute unauthorized inquisition into any man's conscientious relations to his Divine Judge."

But I cannot "return his letter", because you did not enclose it to me.

Believe me

Very truly Yours,

Rowland Williams

Thomas Stephens Esqr.

**360 (1a)**

Rhual-isa  
Mold  
N.W.

Sept 3.  
1858

Dear Sir,

Will you please to take counsel with Dr Lloyd, upon the enclosed Note; and let me know your joint opinion as to the suggestion which it contains?

I should be inclined favourably towards it, provided we did not incur the charge of procrastinating levity.

Yours very truly,

Rowland Williams

Thos Stephens Esqr:

**360 (1b)**

Private

N.B. I have not heard, whether your Merthyr Cymrodorion have made me one of their arbiters; which I did not wish: but would not refuse their wish.

Also I should like, if you think it would elicit anything poetical, and if my name were kept strictly secret, to offer through you a Prize of £2= for the best Welsh Unmetrical Hymn, with rhythm of parallel thoughts, instead of syllabic rhyme, after the fashion of Hebrew Poetry. Subject, the History of Cymry. Model, which might guide competitors, or judges, the 78<sup>th</sup> Psalm. "Gwrando fy' nghraith, fy' mhobl" &c &c.

On no account would I have my name connected with the offer: as it would be called a temptation to profane paroding, whereas I mean rather to enrich our Language with a new kind of sublimity, and to make the Psalms themselves more intelligible by suggesting the character of the national heart in pious song. [N.B. £2- stands for Two not for Twenty.]<sup>10</sup>

If you think the scheme useful and can keep my name secret, I authorise you to make the proposal, as from an unknown friend: and I will pay the £2, when desired.

**360 (2)**

[Black-bordered paper]

My dear Sir,

Being plunged in affliction by the loss of my dearest mother, I cannot be present at Llangollen; but I heartily approve of the document you send, and on receiving from you Dr. Lloyd's authority, I will advertise it with both your names attached.

Only perhaps you will let me retract a superfluous word or two.

---

<sup>10</sup> A box has been drawn around this comment.

Believe me,  
Very truly yours,  
Rowland Williams

Thomas Stephens Esqr:

**360 (3)**

Ferryside  
Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 185[8]

Dear Sir,

I must regret that your letter, addressed to me in Carmarthen did not reach me till this morning. Several applicataions have been made to me, for extentions of time, and if you and Dr Williams agree, I shall be happy to abide by your decision. But how is the extention of time to be made known? By advertisement in the Welsh Periodicals and papers, I suppose If it is to be done there is no time to be lost.

Mrs Lloyd desires to be kindly remembered to you and friends at Merthyr

I am in haste

Yours very truly  
D Lloyd

-Stephens Esq

**361a**

[Black-bordered paper]

Anwyl Syr, Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr-

Sgrifenais ar ochr y cylch-lyther, yn hyn oedd gennyf i sgrifenu.

Yr wyf yn parhau, Yr Eiddoch, yn gyfeillgar.

Rowland Williams

Llanbedr

Jonawr 8. 1859

Thomas Stephens, Ysw.

**361b**

[Printed Circular 'At y Llenorion appwyntiedig yn Llangollen i drefnu Orgraph y Gymraeg' by Robert Prys (Gweirydd ap Rhys) and Thomas Stephens, with much marginalia. A copy of this circular can be seen at NLW, MS. 964E, I, 79.]

[Written across the left side of the front]

Prif amcan, a diben, pob iawn orgraph a ddylai fod dangos y modd y lleferir yr iaith; ac nid dysgu geirdarddiad. Ond peth addas iawn i'w gofio, ac i'w arnodi, yw Geirdarddiad, tra na's {Camfynegir Camddarlunir} iawn seiniad y Geiriau.

[Bottom of front]

Llythyren hardd iawn, a phriodol i'r iaith Gymraeg, ydw H, yn fy nghlustiau i a drwg gennyf fyddai ei cholli hi allan o'r geiriau a enwir.

[Across the left side of the back]

Yr wyf yn cydsynio â'r rheolau hyn, ymæron eu gŷd

[Across bottom of back]

Darllenais y Cylch-llythyr hun, (er i mi deimlo fy hun y annheilwng o'r fath anhrydedd,) yn llawen ac yn ddiolchgar: ac yr wyf yn cymmeradwyo yn hollol y rhan fwyaf o'r egwyddorion a'r rheolau a osodir y i lawr ynddo.

Buasai yn dda genn[?]<sup>11</sup>yf weled ymdrech i gael orgraph-nodau addas i'r llythyrenau dd, ll, ch. Dymunwn hefyd ymofyn, onid oedd barn Dr J D Rhys, yn well na barn Dr Davies, pan ysgrifennodd dh, lh, in lle dd, ll.

Ond pa ateb bynnag a rôir i'r gofyniadau hyn, dymunaf lwyddiant i'r gwaith, a dodaf fy enw, fal ewyllysiwr da.

Rowland Williams D.D.

Coleg Dewi Sant  
Llanbedr  
Ionawr 8<sup>ed</sup> 1859.

### 362

My dear Sir,

If you can tell me that Robyn Dhu is a proper subject for public or honorary aid, I will send a Sovereign to the fund, which I see has the benefit of your name; but I am too much in the dark as to the merits of the man, (whom I only known by having seen him violently abused,) to be able to trust my unaided faculties.

Can you also tell me anything of the present place of the Welsh Translation Societies's abode, the name of its secretary, and the likelihood of its editing anything besides the Meddygon Myddvai?

I am afraid a circular from its secretary got into my basket during a recent vacation, and received but a half-informed glance from me in the hurry of a commencing term.

I should, however, feel that, if it is doing anything, I ought to support it.

Yours very truly,

Rowland Williams

Broadchalke V.

Salisbury.

Decr. 23. 1861

Thomas Stephens Esqr:

&c &c

### 363

My dear Sir, On the strength of your discrimination of representations, and electing you so far as my sponsor, I enclose a cheque for £1.1. in favour of the fund for Robyn Dhu.

I thank you also for your good wishes in the court of Arches, and share, on the whole, your anticipation: although the proceedings of such courts are elaborately framed, so as to make the issue turn as little as possible upon the merits.

If you can get a full report of Mr Fitzjames Stephen's speech, you will find it a very masterly exposition of the old and liberal Anglican view of Scripture, and of the legal right of toleration, which the Church has hitherto accorded to such views.

Dr Deane's speech had some strong points, but was too much conceived in that spirit of technicality, which seems indigenious to Ecclesiastical Courts.

---

<sup>11</sup> This '[?]' is placed over the second 'n'.

Thanks for the Address.  
Believe me very truly yours,  
Rowland Williams.  
Broadchalke V.  
Salisbury  
Jan 3. 1862  
Thomas Stephens, Esqr:  
&c &c

**364**

Dear Mr Stephens,

I have received your P.O.O. for Ten Shillings, towards the "Essays and Reviews Defence Fund", and thank your friends and yourself for the little rill from Merthyr helping to swell the stream.

We recommence in a day or two: and unless the friends of Darkness contrive characteristically to interpose a technical obstacle to an entire hearing on the Merits of the case, I expect, not to have the sentence modified, but the Judgment reversed.

If however they should manœuvre us out of ~~our~~ a hearing on the Merits, I shall take but faint interest in a mere question of amount of penalty.

Yours faithfully,  
Rowland Williams

Broadchalke V.  
Salisbury  
June 17. 1863                      Thos Stephens, Esqr: &c, &c,

[Written on the reverse of envelope **364** in Thomas Stephens's hand]

Mem:

Henry & Co  
Morgan Bros  
Mathen & Co

**365**

Sir,

I am scarcely justified in venturing to address ^you^ the motive will, I trust, be an apology – The bearer has just introduced himself to me, he says you have had the kindness occasionally to manifest some interest on his behalf; he informs me his intention is to undertake a journey to London & to present himself to the Queen! I have endeavoured, without hurting his feelings to dissuade him from committing that absurdity but people in his excited state of mind are not easily moved from a fixed idea: but it is a pity to think that one who by his conversation and appearance deserves at least the tenderness of the world, should through yearnings after knowledge be exposed to the worrying of the rabble

I do not doubt that your charity will induce you to prevail on him to relinquish his ill-advised project, or at least to defer it until the instruction through books and converse with the informed may render him more presentable at the palace. Hoping you will excuse his intrusion

I remain Sir  
Your very obedt  
Wi Williams

26 January  
1855 Aberpergwm

**366 (1)**

[Cards for Mr. W. F. Williams and Mrs. W. F. Williams (née Miss Clapperton). The envelope is postmarked Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, 21 February 1859.]

**366 (2)**

17 Church Street  
Saturday

Dear Stephens

I am not going out this morning, therefore write you a few lines. Mother & Mr Davies are anxious to get the Post office at Milford which is about to become vacant.

Of course they want all the influence they can get from every quarter. An attorney at Narberth is doing his best with the Tories & Ben my brother is using all his influence with Sir Hugh Owen M.P.

Mother wants you to write to Mr Bruce M.P. I do not understand what good a Liberal could do now, but they think so & have asked me to request you to do them the favour of recommending Mr Davies to the Milford Post Office.

Mr Davies's Address is

Mr James Davies

Draper  
16 Charles Street  
Milford  
Yours sincerely  
W Williams

T Stephens Esq

**367**

Royal Library Windsor Castle,  
22<sup>nd</sup> Augt 1860.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your very obliging & valuable communication, which I have forwarded to Mr Salisbury; from whom most probably you will hear soon. Any suggestions would be both welcomed & appreciated, from one so intimately acquainted with the Literature of the Kymry. Perhaps you would be able to assist in preparing a complete list of articles in high-class Periodicals on Wales, & the Border Counties, Welsh men, & Welsh affairs generally; or by Welshmen of mark. This would be a novel & very interesting feature in the Catalogue proposed.

I am, Sir,

Your most oblig'd servant  
B. B. Woodward

368 (1)

Mr T. Stephens. Merthyr Tydfil

9. Norfolk Crescent  
Bath. May 13.59

My dear Sir

A few days ago I referred your letter to me of Aug 22/58 concerning Hugun le fort &c to Mr T. Wright: – and I explained to him about the MS. at Jesus Coll. – I enclose you his reply.

It appears to me from what I see of the working of the finances of our Association that we can now afford every year to put by from £50 to £60 for the publication of MSS – and papers such as yours, for in our supplementary column. The subject I will try and develop at Cardigan: – and I hope the next year, if not in this, we shall be able to publish this MS. from the Llyfr Coch.

The good news of the day is that the late Sir R. Vaughan has bequeathed the whole of the Hengwrt MSS. to Mr W.W. E. Wynne our last President! – So that now I hope that we the Camb: Arch: Asson: shall have & publish extensively from that collection through his kindness

I remain, My dear Sir,  
Yours very truly  
H Longueville Jones

368(2)

14 Sydney Street, Brompton, London, S.W.  
June 11, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I have been so much engaged during the last few days that I put off replying to your letter till this evening. Most of the names in those ~~historic personages~~ Carlovingian romances are not historical personages as far as the names go, though they may be faint representations of personages some of whom under some form or other really existed. The foundation of them was no doubt a few traditions of the early Carlovingian period, but in the only form in which we now know them, their great principle was the glorification of feudalism, and they are filled with personages who had no existence but in the romances themselves. I am rather inclined to fear that Hugh le fort was one of these. He seems to belong especially, and if not solely, to that poem of the Voyage of Charlemagne to Constantinople which certainly is not one of the most historical of these Chansons de Geste. Still I have an impression of having seen Hugh le Fort mentioned elsewhere, but I have been looking over the printed Chansons de Geste (which I have pretty well all) and I can find no traces of him. It would be a good thing if we had a dictionary of Medieval literature and history. I may have seen the name somewhere in the MSS., but the Chansons de Geste are so numerous and long, that it would be ~~no~~ in vain to seek it there.

It does not appear to me, however, that this at all affects your arguments, which, as far as I can yet learn, seems to me a very satisfactory one. I should much like to see the two Oxford texts printed – the Latin and the Welsh, and I will only add that I should have great pleasure in giving you any assistance I can in doing it.

I have the late edition of Eginhard, but one part of my library is just now in such confusion that I cannot put my hand on it. If I don't find it in a day or two I will look at the copy in the Br. Mus., and send you a copy of the passage to which you refer. I am, dear Sir

Yours very sincerely,  
Thomas Wright

Thos. Stephens, Eq

369

14, Sydney Street, Brompton, London, S.W.  
July 7<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sir,

Our mutual friend Mr. Longueville Jones will have told you that I have promised for the Truro meeting a paper on the legend or story of the Cort Mantel – the mantel which is pretended to have been sent to the court of King Arthur to expose the faithlessness of the queen and court Ladies – in order to show how much of French medieval Literature was taken into Welsh. Unfortunately I am but little acquainted with the Welsh language, and know its literature only through translations, and, though I find the Welsh version of the story of the Cort Mantel spoken of as not uncommon in MSS., I don't know if it has ever been printed, and I fancy it has never been translated. Could you kindly give me any information about it, and the outline of the story as told in the Welsh version? There is a version of it in Gaelic in the "Dean of Lismore's Book," recently published, which, as I suppose would be the case in Welsh, is <sup>very</sup> short. My intention is to print at the end of the Essay the original French poem from a MS. of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Gaelic with a translation, and the Welsh with a translation. Could you procure a copy of the Welsh text, and would you join with me in the ~~Es~~ Paper so far as to edit it with a translation? I would be extremely obliged by ~~it~~ your doing so, and I am sure we should make a very curious and useful little Essay.

Bishop Percy, as you no doubt know well, printed in his "Reliques" the <sup>old</sup> English version under the title of the Boy & the Mantle – he gets his information on Welsh Literature from the Rev. Evan Evans, whose specimens of Welsh Poetry have been lately reprinted, and that is the authority for stating that the legend is found in Welsh.

Pray forgive me the liberty I am taking in thus troubling you, and believe me, I am.

Very faithfully yours,  
Thomas Wright

370

14, Sydney Street, Brompton, London, S.W.  
Aug. 16, 1862

My dear Sir,

I have got my paper on the Mantle ready to make into pages, and I am only waiting to know if you have any suggestions to make on it. I have added to the end of it a short note of the different poems, <sup>&c</sup> I give in the Appendix, and of the MSS. from which they are taken. Would you have the kindness to write me a few lines for the purpose relating to your Welsh fragments – say simply from what MS. you give the text, its date, and if it be the oldest MS., for the Triads and for the Thirteen Royal Curiosities.

I should feel extremely obliged if you could send me this note immediately, as it will enable me to get a complete proof of this notice of the documents, and then I can get on with the the documents themselves. I shall be glad of your text and translation of ~~your text~~ the Triads relating to the Mantle and of the list of curiosities as soon as you can conveniently prepare them, but I don't want it so soon as the note relating to them, for which latter in fact I am now waiting.

I hope – in fact, I have no doubt – that you will have a good meeting at Truro. I am very sorry that I am not able to be with you there. I am

Very faithfully yours,  
Thomas Wright

Thomas Stephens, Esq

371

14, Sydney Street, Brompton, London, S.W.  
Oct. 18, 1862

My dear Sir,

I shall be much obliged if you will now have the goodness to send me the fragments relating to the legend of the Mantle as soon as you conveniently can. In fact the printer is at a stand for them, and the earlier part of my paper is already printed off.

I arrange all the documents in two columns, the text in the first column, and the English translation in the other. So perhaps, if you have not already written them out, you will arrange them in the MSS. in the same manner; although this is of no consequence, as the printer will know how to arrange it in type.

It will make about 2 ½ sheets, so that it will make a curious and fair sized pamphlet, and as I am having 100 copies printed separately at my own expense, I shall have great pleasure in offering you a few if you will do me the favour of accepting them. Perhaps you may like to give one or two to friends.

I am, my dear sir,

Very faithfully yours,  
Thomas Wright

Thomas Stephens, Esq

372a

Peniarth  
Machynlleth  
[Printed]

Monday

Sir,

I am not likely to be from home any morning excepting the 4 Sept., & shall be glad to show you ~~any~~ such of the Hengwrt & Peniarth M.S.S. you may wish to see. I make the same rule that the late Sir Robert Vaughan did, of not lending ~~one~~ any of the M.S.S., excepting under very special circumstances.

In great haste,  
Your's obedtly  
Wm W E Wynne

[Postmarked, Machynlleth, 25 August 1863]

373a

Peniarth  
Machynlleth  
[Printed]

Tuesday, Oct: 25 [1864].

Sir,

Upon looking for something else, in the Archaeologia Cambrensis, today I by accident ~~stumbled upon~~ observed a letter from you relative to the time at which the M.S. "B." ~~from~~ referred to in the Introduction to the Brut y Tywyssogion was written. I feel pretty certain that you are correct in ascribing it to a later date than the 13. Century. Mr Skene who

is editing the Black book of Carmarthen, has been here for some time lately, & I have been ~~constantly~~ frequently in communication with him, relative to the work upon which he is engaged. He ~~have~~ has made out certain tests whereby to ascertain the ages of Welsh M.S.S. One of these is, that a letter representing w., very like the figure 6., did not come into use till about the year 1300. It occurs in M.S. "B.", ^of the Brut y Tywysogion,^ Hengwrt M.S. 16., & in the "Llyfr Coch Hergest," M.S. "A." I differ from you however, in adjudicating M.S."A." to be of prior date to "B." There is a peculiar form of the letter g in the former which I believe shows it to have been of later date than M.S. "B."

I was sorry that you called here last summer when I was from home. Any time that you may be coming again into this neighbourhood & will give me notice, I shall be happy to show you any ~~here~~ either of the M.S.S. or printed books ^here^, if you take an interest in the latter. I have lately been so much engaged in attending & restoring this place, that I ~~cannot~~ have not paid the same attention to antiquarian pursuits that I did formerly. Can you tell me where Hergest is? – "Llyfr Coch Hergest". I am giving the decorators at Wynnstay some hints for restoring a curious set of heraldic panels from Llwydiarth, & Hergest occurs in them.

I am,  
Your's obedtly  
Wm W E Wynne

374

At Nathan Dyfed, B.B.D.

O anwyl frawd paid a digaloni, ofnwyf dy fod yn glafach nag yr oeddwn yn meddwl dy fod, ond, anwyl frawd gwan, paid digaloni, – Hyderwyf fod gobaith o adferiad ac y caf dy weled etto yn dy holl sirioldeb hynaws ac arferol yn llywyddu Gorsedd yr ynys wen.

Gobeithiwn y goreu ond gwir y dylem fod yn barod bob amser ar gyfer y gwaethaf pe gwaethaf hefyd, Myned sydd raid yn gynt neu hwyrach. Mae Amser wrth ei waith o hyd ai cylchau mawrion yn troi – Ein Tad a wyr pa fodd mae'n rhaid ein trin – Llawer o waith sydd wrthym i'n cychwyn o bwnc y drwg eithaf yn annwn i bwnc y da eithaf yn y Nef – Llawer o waith puro a pherffeithio wrthym yn y peiriau cyn ein gwneyd yn barod yr amcan mawr terfynol – Doed y tywydd ddelo gallwn fod yn sicr fod drws y Gwynfyd fyth yn agored o flaen y plant, ac na chenhedlodd ein Tad Nefol blentyn erioed i dragwyddol mae.

Y Celi mawr a thirion yw ein Tad oll. efe a'n cenedlodd ac nid ni ein hunain ac o'u Mam Anian ein ganed – Ac Arffed ein Mam y cawsom ni ein hunain gyntaf erioed, ac ai ei harffed, dan ei nawdd, ein gwên, ac weithiau ei gŵg, yr ydym wedi byw hyd yn hyn, ac a'u pwys ac ei mynwes y byddwn feirw –

Dyna ein holl Dasg ni yw ceisio anrhydeddu ein Tad a'n Mam yma, heb ymboeni dim os gallwn am y dyfodol, gofala ein Tad a'n Mam yna heb ymboeni dim os gallwn am y dyfodol, gofala ein Tad a'n Mam am hynny – Nid oeddym ni wedi gofalu dim am y byd hwn cyn i ni ddyfod iddo etto, yr oedd pobpeth yn barod hyd yn oed dillad bach i'n derbyn, Felly gyda golwg ar y dyfodol.

Pa raid ofni                    } yn ddiiddiwedd  
Cawn ein noddi                }

Rhwng Tad a Mam ni wneir camwedd  
i'r gwan

Rhan Duw ag Anian fydd rhoi'n digonedd.

Nid yw ein holl ddyoddefiadau ond cynifer o drwytheu i'n puro i gylch y gwynfyd, drwy beri i ni ollwng ein gafaelion, a glynu fwy – fwy wrth y DA.

Y Dadau bob croes hyd oes dewisiwn,

Ac yn y stormydd a'n cynnydd canwn,  
Can's wrth Oddef tua'r hef y nofiwn,  
Ac yn ffordd Rhinwedd gwir hedd gyrhaeddwn  
Heb y daith drwy y byd hwn – nid ein adref  
I wlad y wiwnef o waelod Annwn.

'Nol treiglo cylchau'r Abred hwn  
Drwy filiwn o drallodion  
Ein Tad a ddwg bob enaid gwan  
I gylch yr Anfarwolion

(2)

I'n Tad a'n Mam gorucha'n clod  
I'n roisant fod ac enw  
Ymddiried fyth ein gofal wnawn  
Pan byw a gawn neu farn

(3)

Pur gwneir pob enaid – Duw sydd ddoeth  
Heb ffwrnais boeth i'n rostio  
Nid codi'n Corph o'r hedd wna'n Tad  
Mewn bwriad dial arno

4

“Duw'n ennill plant i fythol gur,  
Hyn dryllia'r natur ddynol,  
Na, mil tynerach yw'n Duw mad  
Nac unrhyw Dad daiarol,

–

Dadgana di y pennillion uchod Nathan anwyl, os gelli yn dawel fach, neu fyfyria arnynt –  
Ymdrecha fod yn obeithiol, ac mor gysurus ac y medri a gwna dy oreu i geisio gwella, O yr  
wyf yn teimlo dros dy “Fartha dyner a'th anwyliaid bach”, ys dywedi,

Ofnwyf fod y bad terms sydd rhyngot a Mr Cwsg yn dy wanychu'n fawr, oes dim gan  
y Meddyg i beri i ti gysgu? Ond, dyna y mae hynny wedi cael ei ystyried yn ddiddadl –  
gorwedd a'th ben mor isel ag y gelli, bydd hynny efallai'n fodd i ti gael cysgu, drwy  
gynnorthwyo mynediad y gwaed i'r ymenydd –

Dyma'r papur yn darfod, Duw f'o gyda ti fy mrawd

Myfyr

**375 (3)**

Seren Gomer Office,  
Carmarthen, Nov. 12, 1846

Sir,

In answer to your Letter, I beg to state that the present circulation of Seren Gomer is  
1800.

I remain,

Yours truly,

W. M. Evans

For S. Evans

375 (4)

Cardiff Nov 18/46  
The Circulation of the "Bedyddiwr."

Sir,

In answer to your query I beg to state that 1200 per month is about the average circulation of the "Bedyddiwr"

Should you have any statement to make to the public, I should be glad to give it publicity thro' the "Bedyddiwr"

I remain,

Sir

Yours respectfully

Wm Owen

Mr Thomas Stephens

375 (5)

Carmarthen Novbr 20<sup>th</sup> 1846

Sir

In answer to your enquiry I have to inform you that the extent of the Drysorfa circulation for this year is 1500 but next year it will nearly double the number

I am your's Truly  
Josiah Thomas Jones

375 (6)

4 Post Office House

Liverpool Novr 20<sup>th</sup> 1846.

Sir,

I am in receipt of yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst. and in reply beg to inform you that the circulation of the Amserau during the last 9 months has varied from 2300 to 2500 each publication – one publication ~~there~~ we sold 3000 copies – It is published every alternate Thursday.

I am Sir,  
Yours Respectfully  
Wm Evans Treasurer  
Of "Yr Amserau"  
per I.E.

375 (7)

Holywell,  
March 5/58

Dear Sir,

I am sorry I cannot send you the Drysorfa, as I have not one single Copy on hand of neither months, the demand being so great.

Your &c  
pro Jno Evans  
J Elms

Mr. T. Stephens

375 (8)

Merthyr Tydfil  
March 5. 1858

Sir/

~~Mr Robert Watson, bookseller of Mynydd Kenffig writes to me, stating that you are the great grandson of John Bradford the antiquarian, and requests me to return to you, as their proper propr~~

[On reverse in Thomas Stephens's hand. Italics denotes pencil]

- 1 Traethodydd √ 1400. *P Mr Evans*
  - 2 Drysorfa √ 7900 Calvinist *do*
  - 3 Dysgedydd √ 1440 Indep. <sup>d</sup>6
  - 4 Eglwysydd √ Church
  - 5 Cymro √ “ *“Brython”*
  - 6 Baner y Groes √ 1200 *“R J Jones*
  - 7 Herald √ 10,200 *James Rees*
  - 8 Amserau √
  - 9 Cronicl Wythnosol √ ~~Indep?~~
  - 10 Annibynwr <sup>d</sup>3 √ 3600 *Indep C R Jones*
  - 11 Baner Cymru √ *declined*
  - 12 Cronicl Bach <sup>d</sup>1½ √/1228 *Indep?*
  - 13 Haul √ *declined* Church
  - 14 Seren √/ 1800 *Bapt*
  - 15 ~~Gwron~~ √ 1800-2000
  - 16 Bedyddiwr √ “
  - 17 Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd √ 1000 *Weys.*
  - 18 Gwerinwr √ *dead*
  - 19 Seren Cymru √ [fortnightly] 2000 *W M Evans*  
~~Gwron~~ √
  - 20 Diwigiwr √ 2,000 *David Rees*
  - 21 Pwnc Cymreig √ fortnightly? 35000
  - 22 Winllan √ 2000
  23. y Greal √ 700
  - 24 yr Athraw √ 3000?
  25. y Tywysydd √ 2700 *David Rees*
  26. yr Udgor 1000 weekly
- [across side]
- 27 Yr Arweinydd weekly √ 1. 1500  
y Methodist  
Oenig √  
Howells Prichard?

375 (9)<sup>12</sup>

Aberdare. March 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Gwron is now ^ between 1800 & 2000^ per week, and of Seren Gomer, price 6<sup>d</sup> 1,800 per month.

---

<sup>12</sup> 375 (9 – 24, 27) (exceptions noted) seem to be written on templates and sent in envelopes provided by Stephens

Signed

Publisher

Mr. Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

[Postmarked 5 March 1858]

**375 (10)**

Carmarthen. March 5 1858

Sir

The Circulation of Seren Cymru, is now 2,000 ^every fortnight^ ~~per week~~

Signed

Wm Morgan Evans,  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (11)**

Caernarvon. March. 1858

Sir:

The Circulation of the Herald Cymreig is now 10,200 per week.

Signed

James Rees  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr

[Postmarked 6 March 1858]

**375 (12)**

Holy-head, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir

The circulation of the Pwnc Cymraeg, ~~price~~ now, 3,500 (5<sup>th</sup> no.) per week

Yours respt

Signed. Exl. Jones, Publisher

Mr T. Stephens

**375 (13)**

Llanelly, March. 5<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir:

The Circulation of the Diwigiwr, price 4<sup>d</sup>, is now 2000 per month.

Tywydydd 2700

Signed David Rees

Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

[Written by Stephens across the envelope]

Walter Son of Banquo 35

Strathclyde Migration 31

Breton Story Believe in  
Letter Ll.

Alphabet  
De Clare 76

**375 (14)**

Llanidloes

March. 8 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the ~~Gweriwr~~, ^"Eurgrawn" price 6<sup>d</sup> is now 1,000 per month

Signed Henry Parry  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (15)**

Llanidloes, March

1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Methodist price 2<sup>d</sup> is now  
was when stopped Decr 1856 2000 per month

Signed Owen Mills  
Publisher

Mr. Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (16)**

[Not written on the template]

Llangollen Mch 5. 1858

Dr Sir

I have pleasure in forwarding you the enclosed fill'd up. I should be glad to see your correction of the a/c published in the Traethodydd and will be glad to know where to look out for your statistic. the circulation of Welsh periodicals

Yrs very truly  
C. R. Jones

Mr Stephens

**375 (17)**

Llanfyllin March 6 1858

Sir

The circulation of the Annibynwr price – 3<sup>d</sup> is now 3,660 per month

Signed C. R. Jones  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (18)**

Llangollen, March 1858

Sir,

The Circulation of the Athraw ~~is now~~ price 1<sup>d</sup>, is now 3,000 per month

Signed

William Williams  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

[Postmarked 9 March 1858]

**375 (19)**

Llangollen, March 1858

Sir:

The Circulation of the Greal, price 3<sup>d</sup>, is now 700 per month

Signed

William Williams  
Publisher.

Mr Thomas Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (20)**

Pwllheli, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Arweinydd price One Penny, is now, 1,500 per ~~month~~ week

Signed

Hughes and Co.  
Publishers

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (21)**

Rhyl March 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the ~~Eurgrawn Wesleyaidd~~ Gwerinwr, price – , is now Discontinued  
11 months ago –

Signed

D Ll Lewis  
Publisher

Mr T. Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (22)**

Tre Madoc. March 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir

The Circulation of Baner y Groes, price 1½<sup>d</sup> is now 1,200 per month.

Signed R. J. Jones

Publisher

Mr T. Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (23)**

– March 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Traethodydd is now 1400 per quarter, and that of the Drysorfa – per month 7900

Signed P. Williams  
Publisher

Mr T. Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (24)**– March 9<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Dysgedydd, price <sup>d</sup>6, is now – 1440 per month.

Signed Evan Jones  
Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens  
Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (25)**

Cylchrediad Cyhoeddiadau Cymreig  
Yn ~~Jonawr~~ Mawrth 1858.

[Written across the top: ‘Denomination’]

Name of Periodical	Price		Place of Publication	Authority	Circulation
1 Traethodydd	1/6	1/4ly	Holywell	Mr P. M. Evans	1400
2 Drysorfa	<sup>d</sup> 4?	Monthly	“	“	7900
3 Dysgedydd	<sup>d</sup> 6	“	Dolgelly	Evan Jones	1400
4 Eglwysydd (ch)		“	Holywell	No answer	
5 Cymro	“	Weekly	“	“	
6 Baner y Groes	“	Monthly	Tremadoc	R. O. Jones	1200
7 Herald Cymreig	<sup>d</sup> 1	Weekly	Caernarvon	James Rees	10,200
8 Amserau	<sup>d</sup> 3	“	Liverpool	No answer	(above 3,000) (1)
9 Cronicl Wythnosol	3	Query if in existence		“	
10 Annibynwr	<sup>d</sup> 3	Monthly	Llanfyllin	C. R. Jones	3,660
11 Baner Cymru	3	Weekly	Denbigh	T. Gee <del>answer</del> Declined	<del>At</del> 1700
12 Cronicl Bach	1½	Monthly	Dobgelly	Evan Jones	6228
13 Haul	<sup>d</sup> 6?	“	Carmarthen	<del>Spurrell</del> Declined	(2) 1000 in 1847

14 Seren Gomer	<sup>d</sup> 6	“	Aberdare (near Swansea)	J. T. Jones?	1800 to 2000 (?)
15 Gwron		“	“	“	[Combined with cell above]
16 Bedyddiwr		“	Cardiff	No answer	
(1) Nid 2500 na 3000 ychwaith <u>Amserau</u> . T					
(2) Authority W. Rees, Llandovery – (3) Returned without any signature					
17 Oldest in Wales Eurgrawn Wesleyaid[d] Now in 50 <sup>th</sup> year	<sup>d</sup> 1	Montly	Llanidloes	Rev. H Parry	1000
18 Gwerinwr		“	Rhyl	(Burial Certificate from	Dead
19 Seren Cymru		Fortnightly	Carmarthen	W. M. Evans	2000
20 Diwigiwr	<sup>d</sup> 4	Monthly	Llanelly	David Rees	2000
21 Tywysyd[d] (1)	<sup>d</sup> 1	“	“	“	2700
22 Pwnch	<sup>d</sup> 1	Fort <sup>ly</sup>	Holyhead	C Ll Janes	3500
23 y Winllan	<sup>d</sup> 1	Monthly	Llanidloes	Rev Henry Parry	“considerably above 2000”
24 y Greal	<sup>d</sup> 3	“	Llangollen	William Williams	700
25 yr Athraw	<sup>d</sup> 1	?	“	“	3000
26 Arweinyd[d]	<sup>d</sup> 1	Weekly	Pwllheli	Hughes & Co	1500
27 Udgorn Sion (Mormonite)		“	Swansea		1000
28 Brython	(not in existence then)				
Methodist	(Dead)	Circulation when stopped 2000 Decbr 1856	Llanidloes	Owen Mills	
Oenig	?				

Of course you will mention Subsequent changes such as that of the Amserau becoming a <sup>d</sup>1 paper &c

Please to return the enclosures

~~Perhaps it would be better to say nothing as to Gee's letter, as he gave me the figure we considered, but not for [publishing?]~~

**375 (26)**

Dr Sir

Seren Cymru is published fortnightly. Our Circulation at present is on the average 2000 every fortnight

Yours Truly  
W M Evans

**375 (27)**

9 March 1858

Sir

The Circulation of the Cronicl Bach, price <sup>d</sup>1½, is now 6228 per month.

Signed

Evan Jones

Publisher

Mr Thos Stephens

Merthyr Tydfil

**375 (28)**

[Printed order form]

To the Publisher of the Brython Newspaper

No 11

Sir,

Please to enter my Name in the List of Subscribers, for \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of the Brython Newspaper, for which I shall remit the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for the same in advance, for one year, on receipt of the first Number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Trade or Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Abode \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**375 (29)**

[Printed business card]

THOMAS STEPHENS

Chemist and Druggist

MERTHYR TYDVIL

Prescriptions accurately dispensed. Genuine Patent Medicines

[Written on reverse]

Trysorfa Circulation

2300 per Month.

375 31 – 33

[Miscellaneous envelopes]

375 (34)

[Printed advertisement]

Cyhoeddir yn fuan, Pris Dwy Geiniog,  
Yr Athraw,  
DAN OLYGIAETH  
Y PARCH. WILLIAM THOMAS, M.A.  
“NA FYDDWCH FECHGYN MEWN DEALL; EITHR MEWN DRYGIONI BYDDWCH  
BLANT; OND MEWN DEALL BYDDWCH BERFFAITH.”

[etc.]

Derbynir enwau yn y lle hwn gan

375 (35)

[Printed advertisement]

SHORTLY WILL BE PUBLISHED,  
THE FIRST NUMBER OF  
A Weekly Welsh Paper  
Entitled  
/\  
Y BRYTHON  
(The Briton)  
“TRA MOR TRA BRYTHON.” – Taliesin

[Etc.]

Mr Robert Isaac Jones, Printer  
Tremadoc, North Wales

376

Merthyr Tydfil  
Oct 16 1847

Dear Friend,

I have analyzed the specimen you left with me, of the concretion at Cwmfford, and found it to be lime, with barytes (the crystals) and a trace of silica, &c

The proportions upon a rough estimation, are about as follows

Lime	60
Baryta (in crystals)	35
Silica	<u>5</u>
	<u>100</u>

The composition of the soil <sup>above</sup> is identical with that of the stone; and this mass has been in the course of formation from the time when water began to flow through the soil.

Yours very truly  
Thos Stephens

Merthyr Tydfil  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1852

My Lords

The Temperance Society of this town are about to build a new and spacious public hall; and some of the officers connected with the County Court, thinking that the hall would suit their purpose as well, have requested them to lay their plans before the Lords Commissioner of her Majesty's Treasury.

The Society have made certain alterations in their plans, so as to adapt the Hall <sup>^for^</sup> judicial purposes; and in their amended form they have this day been transmitted to your Lordships.

I am further instructed to state that should the plans meet with your Lordships' approbation, the ~~terms on which it~~ Hall would be let for the purpose of holding the sittings of the Court, ~~are~~ at the annual rental of 50£

The Society are about to proceed with their Hall forthwith, and wish to have the plans returned, as well as the decision of your Lordships, at as early a period as possible.

I have the honour to be  
Your Lordships  
Obt Servant  
Thos Stephens

The Lords Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury  
Whitehall

[On the back, in pencil]

*Mr Morris thinks the charge too much*

[This letter is to Archdecon John Williams, See NLW, MS 942C, 145]

Merthyr Tydfil. 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1857

My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your reply, and am much obliged for the extracts quoted.

I propose to leave the Picts in peace, north of the Antonine wall; and to content myself with proving ~~that~~ or attempting to prove that the Lowlands were occupied by Cymry. My proposition is this: That in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, the Lowlands of Scotland were occupied by a people speaking a language identical with that of the Principality.

Now in reality this position does not render it necessary for me to discuss the question whether the Picts were Gael or Cymry; but it will follow as a matter of course that if the Lowland Picts spoke Cymraeg they must have been Cymry: and by the same rule, if the Highland Picts were identical with those of the Lowlands they were all Cymry.

That Cymraeg was the language of the Lowlands appears clear from the Gododin. The language of the Ottadini was that of the other tribes in all probability: and Aneurin's poem may be said to be living evidence of the fact that the Lowlands were occupied by Cymry. One passage will show the value of that poem: -

Gweleis y dull o bentir Adoen  
Aberth am goelcerth a ddisgynnyn  
Gweleis y ddeu oc eu tre Rygwyddyn  
A gwyr Nwython ry gollesyn.

Gweleis y wyr tylluawr gan wawr Adoen

A phen Dyfnwal frych brein ae cnoyn

These lines may be thus translated

From the uplands of Doon, I saw men arrayed,

While sacrifice descended on the beacon fire;

I saw both (parties) by their town of Redegein

And the men of Nwython lost the day.

Let us take these lines first: The uplands of Doon, are as you well know, the range of mountains in Ayrshire, ^to^ which Burns refers in “the banks and braes of bonny Doon”. If so, here is Aneurin, in the West of Scotland; and occupied in such a manner as bespeaks him to have performing a very important duty: can we believe him to have been permitted to assume the priestly function among any other people than his own countrymen. Further, from the uplands of Doon, he commands a view of the town of Rhedegein, the capital of the Norantæ. In the MSS of the Gododin, this place is variously named Rhedegein, Fledgein (probably a misreading) and Rerygwyddyn and Rygwyddyn. Rhedegein corresponds exactly to the Retigonium of the Romans; and Rerygwyddyn very nearly to the Roman name for Loch Ryan – Rerigonius Sinus. Retigonium stood on the present site of Stranraer in Wigtonshire, which is built on the banks of Loch Ryan. Aneurin then, saw two parties of armed men drawn up at Stranraer a fight ensued, and the men of Nwython lost the day. This was probably a local feud: history affords no notice of this fight, though singularly enough, a fact came to light some twenty 3 or 4 years ago strikingly confirmatory of Aneurin’s statement; for in ploughing up the High St. of Stranraer with a view to its improvement, a large quantity of human bones were found strewn underneath. (If you would prevail with some of your learned Scottish friends to furnish fuller particulars respecting this fact you would greatly oblige me, and facilitate the illustration of the Gododin) –

To complete the case – Nwython was either the brother or nephew of Aneurin! Ergo: Nwython’s dominions were in Wigtonshire & the Novantæ were Cymry.

Let me now take up the other lines: -

Gweleis y wyr dullyawr gan wawr adoen

A phen Dyfnwal frych brein ae cnoyn

English: -

I saw men arrayed by the dawn of Doon

And the head of Donald Bree gnawed by ravens.

Donald Bree was king of the Scots of Argyle. He was frequently at war with the Strathclyde Kymry, and generally defeated. In 642 he invaded the dominion of the Norantæ, in the ~~dim~~— present counties of Wigton and Aye, and the result is described by Aneurin in this couplet, and is thus related in the ~~Annales Ultronenses~~ Annales Ultonenses of Ulster: -

DCXLII. Mors Domnail mac Aodha regis Hiberniæ, in fine Jannarii. Postea Domnail Bree in bello Sraithe Cairuin, in fine anni, m. Decembri, interfectus est ab Hoan rege Brittonum.

Fraithe Cairvin, is most probable Ystrad or Vale of the river Girvan, which flows westward from the hills of Doon, and falls into the sea at the town of Girvan midway between Ayr and Stranraer; and therefore, the battle of which Aneurin was a spectator, might easily have been seen from the hills of Doon. The battle being fought in winter the bodies might have been left unburied; and the fact that ravens abound at Carnsmuir in that neighbourhood, shows the minute fidelity of the Bardic portraiture. The Bard only mentions one of the Combatants – the other being his own countrymen did not require to be named. Can ^Owen and^ the Britons of Ayr be ^of^ any other race than that of the Cymry?

At your leisure, I shall be glad to learn your opinion on this point; for if I am not self deceived, the Cymric character of the early Lowlander is as clearly as that of Wales. I shall

also be glad to learn your opinion respecting the terms Gael and Gwyddel. Are they convertible terms?

All the Cymric documents show the contrary. The Gauls – Gal of the Continent were Cymry; the triads classify all the British tribes as belonging to “Cyffredin Al y Cymry;” Llywarch Hen in two places calls Urien Rhegid – Eryr Gal; and Aneurin describes his countrymen to be Gal. But they carefully distinguish themselves from the Gwyddels. The Triads call the Scots – Gwyddelod, and describe the Picts as Gwyddel ‘Ffichti’ and Gwyddel cochion; and Aneurin thus classifies the people of North Britain: - speaking of ~~Gwen~~ Moryen Farfawc, he says.

Goruchyd y Law Lovlen

Ar Gynb a Gwyddyl a Phrydein:

The Britons were the Lowlanders I presume, the Gwyddyl – Scots & Southern Picts, and – Cynb – a remanent of the Cynebæ of Herodotus, ie the Cantæ of Ross, Sutherland &c

If these views are correct, Gal and Gwyddel are not convertible terms; but if Gal and Gael mean the same thing, Gallic and Cymbric ~~and~~ are kindred ~~terms~~ names – the distinction being between Gwyddel and Cymro, and not between Gael and Cymry. The resemblance between Gal and Gael, seems to furnish another proof of the identity of Picts & Cymry [In pencil] *What sound had the u in Gaul to Roman ears? Was it like E as in Welsh and German? Like ee in bee*

Where can I find a copy of your Essay on “The Nonhellenic Elements of the Latin Language”?

Waiting your reply I remain

Faithfully yours

Thomas Stephens

P.S. The essay affair is in statu quo: the diversity of the judgments puzzles the Committee how to act. The Judges should agree upon an unanimous ~~reading~~ decision of some kind.

**379**

Llangollen Eisteddfod

To the Editor of the Star of Gwent

Sir/

Mr R. H. French in ~~you're~~ the last Star has favoured me with a column of ~~abuse~~ compliments, under the impression that I am his ^epistolary^ opponent “~~Fiat Justitia~~”. Permit me, in rely to that effusion, remarkable alike for its modesty and politeness, to state that I am not “Fiat Justitia”.

Yr resply  
Thos Stephens

Merthyr Nov. 10 1858

**380**

[This letter is 50 pages long.]

Suggestions on Welsh Orthography  
To Messrs R. J. Prys of Denbigh  
And Thos Stephens of Merthyr  
Preliminary remarks

I think it is due to you to say that I have read the suggestions you have done me the honour of submitting to my notice, with much satisfaction, and I rejoice to find I can so



873. Crown instead of Coronets &  
 ----- women of mon..  
 733, 735. 754. Cf Sax Chron. 743. 753. Also Turner .1. 347  
 720 Haf tesawg their authorities

Parallellisms with Brechva.  
 750. 770.  
 777. Gwent

Book of Aberpergwm

I. Orthography

{I. mistakes and unauthorized additions

II. Internal evidence {II. Anachronisms

{Brut Tyw 682 or 3 + 48: 730

1. Ivor went to Rome {---Saeson 720  
 {---Brechva 712. (686 + 37=) 723  
 {---Gwent 698 (683 + 28 = ) 711

& gifts to churches in England and Wales

2. Battle of Garthmalloc: } another in Gwynedd. Gwentian 720

3. Cad Mynydd Carn 730. {  yng. Ngwent 728 &c &c &c  
 {Carnio vs Sais-

733. 735. Two battles not named elsewhere

4. 750 Rhodri buried at Caerleon

Britons victorious at Megadawc.

760. Battle of Hereford. Dyfnwal. Cf. 735 – 754. 757. Gwentian

755. Symud y Pasg. &c &c. 770. B.T. 768 B.S. also “ –777 & 809.

6. 776. Offa 756. 776. 784. Gwent  
 780 “ 776. 784 B.S.

5. Death of Fernwal. 773. B.T. B. S.

777 – Gwent. CF Brechva. 770

7. Danes came to Britain 795. G. to Ireland. B.S.

B.T. 790

- 8 795. Meredith died. Battle of Rhuddlan. where Caradoc slain: G & 139.

-----800. B.T.

9. Death of Rein, Arthur & Cadell.

-----798 B.S.

10. Cf BL Ieuan & Caradoc. 810 & 818. 755. 777.

notice orthog: identity. – also 830. Cf B.T. & S.

Cf 926

B.I closely follows B.T.

11. 823. Ronepion of Powys B. J. & B.I.

Destruction B. S. & G.

- 814 Bu farw Gruffydd ab Cynan! p. 475. 815 Griffin ab Cyngen {same events from  
 2 authorities

831 Senghennydd mawr

835 G. Cf B.S. 842

838. Mervyn Vrch Killed.

840. Bishop St David. appointed

-----died G.

850 Cf B.T. {BS  
 {G



289  
957  
1063

605

### 381 (2)

[Notes by Thomas Stephens]

Note: Ymer in A.S. Voluspa  
Ivar son of Ragnar Lodbrok. Schultz

As to whether Hywel made any use of Dyvnwal – Geoffrey would be a better authority, than the Pergwm MS; but he says nothing of the kind

Is not the act of charging Alfred with the translation – an indication of the relationships of the two?

### 381 (3)

[Draft of an article by Thomas Stephens]

#### Studies in British Biography

Dyvnwal Moelmud

#### III

I have not time to write the concluding article on this subject; but as it is desirable to divest that of all controversial matter, it will be well to offer a few remarks upon the plea put forward by Ab Ithel in the last Journal.

I read his article with some interest; and not without ~~some~~ an expectation, that ~~on~~ some point of my ~~argument~~ **thesis** might have proved ~~to be~~ valuable; but I may truly say, that from first to last, the article does not contain one sound argument. ~~It has supplied me with one argument, which had been overlooked; but it~~ and does not establish a single point in his favour <sup>^</sup>the Molmutian Triads<sup>^</sup>. These are strong, perhaps singular assertions; but if the reader will give me his close attention, they will be found to be true.

Mr Williams starts with a ~~garbled version of the~~ **citation from an important** passage in the Venedotian Laws, To which I had already ~~named~~ called attention; but, ~~for a Reason presently to be given~~, it will be seen, that he had not the courage to quote it entire, though common fairness demanded that he should have done so –

Here it is (The words in brackets are interpolations **not in MS E. the oldest authority, as printed in its pure state, Myv. III. 403.**

“Before (this, and before) the crown of London and the supremacy (of this island) were seized by the Saxons, Dyvngwal Moelmud (son of Clydno) was king over this island, ~~who~~ **and he** was son to ~~the~~ earl of Cornwall, by a daughter of the King of Lloegyr. And after the male line of succession to the Kingdom was become extinct, he obtained it by the distaff, on account of his being grandson to the king. And he was a (very) honourable and wise man; **(1) and (it was) he (who first) established good laws in this island; and those laws continued in force until the time of Howel Hygwel the Good (son of Cadell)”**

Now comes the omitted passage, which as an honest man, Mr Williams ought to have cited:

2. “After that, ~~Howel~~ Hygwel (the good) enacted new laws, and abrogated those of Dyvngwal (2): yet Howell did not (however) alter the measurement of the lands in this island, but continued them as they were left by Dyvngwal, because he was the best measurer.

(1) Gwr awdurdodus a doet are the original words

(2) Ac a diraws rai Dyvngwal. Literally, destroyed

3 He measured this island from the promontory of Blathaon (3) in Prydain (4), to the promontory of Penward in Cernyw; and that is nine hundred miles, the length of this island: and from Crigyll in Mon to Soram on the shore of Mor Udd (1) (~~the British Channel~~) which is five hundred miles; and that is the breath of this island

(3) Caithness. (4) Scotland

(1) The British Channel. The original is “yn glan y mor.”

4. The case of his measuring the island was (2), that he might know the tribute (of this island), the number of the miles, and its journey in days” Owen’s Laws. I. 185.

(2) Literally, he measured it.

Here I stop for the present. The passage goes on to give a table of measures, ^of a kind^ familiar to every schoolboy, ascending from three barleycorns in one inch to 25600 acres in a cantrev. The measures are Roman; but I will not now enter into that question.

Returning ~~then~~ to the above passage, what do we find? First, then, that Dyvnwal lived before the Saxons seized the Crown of London and the supremacy of the island.

Secondly, that Howell abrogated the Laws of Dyvnwal, ~~save and~~ excepting only the measurements here named. Th

Thirdly, that the great roads of the country, existed before Dyvnwal’s time, that he only measured them.

This passage is the only one that deserves any attention. All other statements respecting Dyvnwal, are clearly ~~forgeries~~ false, having no foundation but Geoffrey of Monmouth. As a preliminary consideration then, we may remark, that ~~it is of~~ this occurs in a document of the thirteenth century (the MS. E. of Owen; and that there is a fair presumption that it existed in the missing part of MS. A, a document of the twelfth century. It is therefore of equal antiquity with the Historia Britonum of Geoffrey. On comparison, they both agree in making Dyvnwal to be a Cornishman; but differ in every other respect; Geoffrey’s details ~~being~~ are clearly fictitious; those of the Vened. Code have at least the merit of being rational. Geoffrey’s Dyvnwal obtained the Lloegrian throne by expelling Ymner, just as King Alfred secured his by expelling Imar, or Yngvar King of the Danes. Dyvnwal went into an enemy tent in disguise: so did King Alfred. Dyvnwal put down robbery: so did King Alfred. Geoffrey’s Dyvnwal is a jackdaw decked out in ~~the~~ Alfred’s feathers of ~~King Alfred~~; but the Ven. Code, knows nothing of these details, which ^to my mind^ are clear proofs of the matchless imprudence of that fabulous historian. Again, Geoffrey states that Dyvnwal made the great roads of the country; but the Ven. Code, assumes their previous existence, and simply states that he measured them. In these two accounts we have two distinct versions of a national tradition ^existing^ in the twelfth century; and of these the Ven. Code alone deserved any attention.

The third point needs no further discussion: the roads ^in all probability^ were formed by the Romans; and Dyvnwal must have lived after their occupation.

The second, is quite fatal, ~~to the repa~~ to the pretensions as ~~regards~~ regards of the Molmutian Triads. All that Howel adopted were the measurements above named, with which the[se] Triads have no affinity. Their claim to antiquity is thus rendered clearly untenable; and the state[ment] of the Book of Aberpergwm, that Howel adopted the laws of Dyvnwal, must be rejected. ~~This is~~ it is honest on Mr Williams, to cite this inferior authority, as The Chronicle of Caradoc, which the late Carnhuanawc; ~~was careful to~~ always studiously cited it as Llyfr

Aberpergwm? The Code is a document of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the Book of Aberpergwm, a recent MS: to choose between is not difficult.

The first point is that which most concerns us. Dyvnwal lived before the sceptre of the island, and the crown of London were seized by the Saxons. ~~Now When was that came the Sceptre of the island and the crown of London into these into the hands of that people?~~ One document fixes the coronation of Maelgwn (between 536–547) after the Cymry had been expelled from Lloegr, and had been deprived of the crown and Sceptre of London; but as Cymry remained in Lloegr three hundred years after that date; and as the Saxon conquest had then only ~~embraced~~ extended over the South Coast this date is too early. (Owen’s Laws. II, 49, Iolo MSS. 461 ^or Hoare’s Giralduſ II: 258^). Cyvrinach y Beirdd, p. 7, states that Taliesin, Myrddin, and Aneurin, lived during the Unbennaeth, thus extending the period, a full half, if not a whole century. ~~But even this is much~~ The chronicles, viz, Brut y Twysogion, Brut y Saeson, Llyfr Aberpergwm, and Brut Ieuan Brechva, date the cessation of the Supremacy from the depart[ure] of Cadwaladr ^to Rome^, which the first places in 681, and the last in 686; but as he never went to Rome, we may take the date of his death, i.e. 682. (Myv. II. 391. 486. 470. Annales Cambriae) But even this is too early. The Cymry had lost; but the Saxons had not obtained the Supremacy. Geoffrey fixes the true date, in this passage: - “The Saxons – throwing off the allegiance dominion of the Britons bore sway over all Lloegria, under their leader Athelstan, who first wore a crown among them. But the Welshmen being very much degenerated from the nobility of the Britons, never after recovered the monarchy of the island.” This occurs at the end of his History; and the Welsh ~~translation of his history~~ versions ~~use corresponding expressions~~ translate these exact words. Athelstan succeeded his father in 925; he was the first crowned king of England and in him the supremacy of the island, and the Crown of London ~~were~~ became united ~~for the first time~~ for the first time in a Saxon monarch; for up to that time his family, including King Alfred were Kings of Wessex, having Winchester for their capital. To make this assurance doubly sure, let me cite one ^passage^ more. Athelstan rendered the Cymry tributary to him; and the tribute is thus spoken of, viz, -

“Three score and three pounds, the King of Aberffraw should pay to the King of Lloegyr; then he was called the King of London, for there were many Kings formerly in Lloegyr: he should pay that as investiture fee when he might take investiture of his privilege.” Owen’s Laws. II. 585. Before the reign of Athelstan there could have been no such King ~~here then is the fixed point we seek~~ of Lloegyr, as is spoken of by Geoffrey, and in the Ven. Code. Before the Roman occupation, there could have been no Crown of London; for London, ~~was~~ even if not built by the Romans, became in their hands for the first time the Capital of the island. **The idea of a crown of London 440 years before built is a preposterous absurdity.**

Here then is the fixed point we seek. Dyvnwal Moelmud, the son of an earl of Cornwall, and afterwards himself a King, lived before the year AD 924. How long “before”, must be left for the present, to be determined according to the candour or the prejudice of the reader. In the first case cited the Coronation of Moelgwn, “after the loss of the Sceptre” meant immediately after: and by the same rule of construction, Dyvnwal lived immediately before 926, but the reader can collect examples of “before”, for his own satisfaction. I will also keep my decision in abeyance, on the question, whether Dyvnwal lived in the sixth century, or was the King of Cornwall, “Dumnas et rex Cornubiæ” who died in AD 875. After the examination of the Venedotian passage the belief in the ante christian existence of Dyvnwal is beneath contempt.

[Written across this last paragraph: The Statements of the Venedotian Code, was at a period subsequent to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, adopted into the title of the so called Molmutian Triads; and as it is said that they formed the law of the Island before the Saxon conquest, they impose the same limitation as the Laws of Howel, and may be cited to the same purport, as

conformatory, so far as a repetition can be, of the denial of the antiquity of Dyvnwal; for this statement is equally significant: These are ~~the exact~~ substantially words of the Venedotian Code; and there also the word before must be interpreted in the same way -]

**Ab Ithel then makes a heroic effort to decide himself and his readers: upon the Ven. Code he engrafts the fictions, not only of Geoffrey, but of his Welsh translation; and all this time he concerns himself to be writing history.**

Mr Williams then states that Dyvenwal extinguished the oppression of March Malen. The horse of Malen is transformed into a pestilence; the pestilence is referred to the time when Dyvenwal is supposed to have lived. i.e. 430; there was a plague at Athens, at that time ergo Dyvenwal lived in 430. This <sup>^circular^</sup> logic ~~of this passage is most extraordinary~~ is of course most conclusive; but what of the facts? This reputed feat was new to me; and I turned to Triad II to verify the statement, when it appeared that ~~Mr Williams had committed a~~ **the novelty arose from a grammatical** mistake ~~most extraordinary in any Welsh grammarian~~ **much less Homer sometimes nods: do does the editor of Edeyrn Davod Aur.** The Triad runs thus: -

“Three oppressions came upon the Isle of Britain, and ceased. First the oppression of March Malen, called the oppression of May-day; and the oppression of the Dragon of Prydain; and the oppression of the illusive man. The first of these was foreign: the second arose from the wailing of country and kindred, under the pressure of landlessness and dissocial sovereignty; and Dyvnwal Morlmud (aj diffoddes) extinguished it, by forming a just organization of fraternity and confraternity, of king and co[-]king, of country and border country. The third was a treacherous meeting in the time of Beli ab Manogan, and he suppressed it.

//see Camb. Briton: I. 125. Probert Anc Laws 378

Comment on this is unnecessary: Dyvnwal has nothing to do with March Malen, “March Malen” affords no confirmation of his antiquity.

After going through several pages of unsupported assertions, I find ~~that~~ “Trioedd y Cludau”, ~~are said to~~ are thought to furnish proof of great antiquity, Very well: Trioedd Cludau, and Cargludau occur in the Laws of Howel, as well as in the Molmutian Triads; the usages implied by Cludau and Cargludau were common in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries; and we learn from Cynddelw, that it was one of the privileges of the men of Powys, that they should not be Car-returning, when going on an excursion. See also the list of parallel Triads, in my second article. The words Cludau and Cargludau have therefore no savour of remote antiquity.

He then cites no 219 of the Moelmutian Triads, with a reference to “Welsh Laws. p. 557”. In this there are several forms of oaths, of which one is swearing by “the staff of a golychwydwr”. He finds “the staff of golychwydwr” in a document called “The Voice Conventional of the Bards”; and hence concludes that he has proved the great antiquity of the Triad. Had I recollected the passages quoted, they certainly would have been used to sustain a diametrically opposite conclusion. The word “golychwydwr”, so far as I know, occurs only in recent writing; and therefore it is useless to assert that its root golychwyd occurs in the 12<sup>th</sup> century: **the antiquity of verbal roots, and the dates of compound words are very different things.** Geo-logy is not an old compound but its component parts are <sup>^transcendently so.^</sup> ~~old enough.~~ The word golychwyd <sup>^also^</sup> occurs in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; for William Salesbury in translating Ephes. VI. 18 renders δεήσῃ, golochwyt, the “deisyfiad” of the Welsh <sup>^version^</sup> and <sup>^the^</sup> “supplication” of the English ~~version; Testam~~ and I conclude, that as ~~of~~ this was in 1570 ~~held in sufficient regard to have~~ thought worthy of a place in the New Testament, the compound “golychwydwr” was formed about that time **or not long before.** ~~What is the value of Mr Williams’s new illustration?~~ The use of Golychwyd by Salisbury, goes a very long way to show that this ~~word~~ **root**, and the compound belong to Christianity, and not to Druidism.

That golychwydwr was both recent and of Christian acceptance, is proved in ^one of^ the passages where it occurs. In a triad, quoted in my second article, and written at the close of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the word golychwydwr is explained to be offeiriad ffydd. If the word was one of established usage, what need was there of this explanation? But ~~more~~ **further**; in another copy of the same triad. Myv. iii. 80. Tr. 7., the ~~pla~~ bodd of the golychwydwr appears as Bendith tad ffydd. Faith is closely associated with the word; and if **such phrases as “priest of faith”, and “the blessing of a father in faith”** ~~that is~~ **are** not decisive tests of Christianity, I should be glad to know what is? **Again, Monks formed members of the Bardic chair of Tir Iarll. (Cyvrinach y Beirdd. p. xi. (1))**

**(1) I commend this passage to the notice of Geraint.**

What then is the value of Williams’ new illustration? This, ~~the~~ if “the voice conventional” in an ancient document, this word is much older than I take it to be; but if the document be recent, ~~the occurrence of~~ it will ~~become~~ be another nail in the coffin of ^the laws of^ Dyvnwal. Let the reader refer to the Iolo MSS. p. 430 ^and^ he will find that the document was copied by Llywelyn Sion, from the book of Meyrig of Glamorgan. Now “the book of Meuryg of Glamorgan”, otherwise Meuryg Davydd, is according to the phraseology of Cyvrinach y Beirdd, a book written by Meuryg Davydd. He flourished from 1560 to 1600, when he died: the Voice Conventional, must therefore be dated from the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century; and thus affords one more proof that the Molmutian Triads must be referred to that time. Nay more, there is such a close coincidence in matter and phraseology, between this document and some of the more remarkable ^of these^ Triads, that I am inclined to suspect them, either to have ^**been**^ composed by the same person, or to have been founded upon this very MS. But be that as it may, the Voice Conventional is fatal to the antiquity of ^**the word**^ “golychwydwr”.

Mr Williams ~~then finds in Tr 71~~ **concludes his article with** “a still stranger” Proof” of ~~the the~~ antiquity, **from** Tr. 71. in which the hybrid Druid-Bard of the Chair of Glamorgan, is said to “give instruction, and to demonstrate ^(**in court, church, and household**)^ the Sciences of wisdom and divinity” (not, religion, for the original is Dwyvoldeb); This, it is said, could not have taken place until Lleurwg transferred the national rights of the Druids to the Christian Priesthood To [PD]<sup>13</sup> I reply, that ~~there were a~~ Romans peremptor[PD] abolished Druidism, both in Gaul and Br[PD] Their testimony as to Gaul is explicit: “Druide[PD] religionem apud Gallos divæ immanitatis, et [PD] tantum civitem sub Augusto interdictum, [PD] Claudius penitus abolevit. Suetonius. Augustus ~~having~~ interdicted, and Claudius abolished ^“the savage rites” of^ Druidism on the continent, and Pailinius in Anglesea, massacred the Druids of Britain in AD. 81. After ^that^ they do not appear in history: unde[PD] the Romans the Druids could have no rights, in the days of Lucuis (AD 167–189) there could have been no Druids. The name of Druid-bard belongs to a ~~period~~ **the 15<sup>th</sup> century**, when the ambitious Chair of Glamorga[n] attempted to revive the ^**ancient**^ order, but in such a way, that the Bards instead of being the infer[PD] of the Druids, should become their equals ^**or superiors**^ Th[PD] was too strong a dose of modern antiquity f[PD] even for Carnhuanawc; and those who wish to know his opinion of the Druid-Bards had better refer to Hanes Cymry p. - Lastly, “the sciences of wisdom and Divinity.” ~~Mr W~~ I feel bound to admire the courage of Mr Williams in asserting that we have here a proof of antiquity; but ~~it is to be hoped that~~ it is to be hoped for the reputation of Cymry, that there ^are few^ other men in the principality, so unacquainted with this history of mental science and theology, as to imagine that the words “sciences of wisdom and divinity” can belong to any Druidic period.

[^ [PD] **Ab Ithe’s arrive, [PD] now can be** [PD] ]

<sup>13</sup> This page is badly damaged

[PD] ~~then I suppose~~ with the hope that no [PD] ~~now Ab Ithel~~ **he** will either find sound [PD]ument **^founded on accurate citations^**, or having the honesty and manliness [PD] give up the antiquity of the Molmutian Triads. [PD] so in future time, I ~~may~~ **^must^** have leisure [PD] to sum up the evidences on the whole question. Case of Myth

T. Stephens

Laws of Dywnwal stated to have descended to us by means of the Bardic Institution. C.J. IX p 33.

Requires introspection to understand mythic theory [add da] Caradoc ab Bran, and Giraldus will be angry if they ~~are~~ remain unnoticed The first may be discussed at once: His letter was full of words signifying nothing, but that his mind is full of cobwebs.

Giraldus had more point, and shall [PD] answered ~~subsequently~~ in detail. First case of [PD]ephens v Stephens Gwron (6<sup>th</sup> cent) was called [PD] bard; and yet herald bards are limited [PD, entire line obscured] galovyda (transl. architect) in Pughes' Dict); not an Arwyddvardd or herald-bard. Second, Dywnwal in 6<sup>th</sup> century made the contemporary of Alfred. And A case of confusion in his mind. See the jackdaw illustration which I trust sufficiently plain for any comprehension. Third: I have abandoned the qualified belief in the Triads, held in 1848. I was sincere then, and am sincere now. I then saw with the eyes of Roberts and Probert, ~~I now~~ but now use my own. Seven years of careful and diligent researches ~~into the sources of all~~ have altered my opinions on this, ~~as well~~ and other topics.

Geraint also ought to be answered by some<sup>^one^</sup>, but more especially by the author of the Ecclesiastiq of the Cymry The statement that the Bards were the early Christian priesthood, ~~œœurs~~ originates in Owen's preface to Llyward Hen. p. 6 and is undoubtedly false.

[Written across the last page]

Dugald Stewart

Tair Colofn gwladoldeb, is said in the Historical Triads to belong to

Dosparth Prydain

See Dyfnwal No 171

### 381(4)

[Draft of an Article by Thomas Stephens]

Merthyr Tydfil

#### Offa's Dyke

Sir:

You do not appear to have noticed a flat contradiction between the statements of the Brut Tywysogion (properly called) and those of Brut y Saeson and Brut Tywysogion ~~impro~~ No. 2, which should be called the Book of Aberpergwm.

The first, as given correctly by the Rev R. Williams states, that in the decade 770–80,-

There was a destruction or spoliation of the men of Deheubarth, by King Offa.

780–90. King Offa despoiled the Britons in Summer-time

790–800. Kind Offa died.

The others, on the contrary, assert that the dominions of Offa were despoiled by the Britons. Hence a flagrant contradiction which affects any argument respecting Offa's dyke, founded upon the latter authorities, or rather upon the Book of Aberpergwm; for the two authorities, though coincident of the above contradiction, are also at variance respecting the Dykes.

Llyfr Aberpergwm represents ~~the~~ <sup>^Offa's^</sup> dyke to have been made after an incursion into the Marches in 765, to have been levelled with the ground in 776, and in consequence of

an incursion in 784, to have been abandoned as a boundary, for ^the supposed^ Wat's Dyke. On the other hand Brut Saeson, ignores the ~~two~~ first notice, and affirms that Offa's Dyke was made in consequence of the incursion of 784. Hence these consequences:

If not built until 784, it could not have been destroyed in 776, nor does the last notice furnish a date and a history of Wat's dyke.

The first contradiction appears to have arisen from a mistranslation of the Annales Cambriae ^the Latin original^ of which the Brut Tywysogion Welsh Chronicles are ~~transla~~ native versions. The original entries are, -

A.D. 778. Vastatio Brittonum lextalium apud Offa.

784. Vastatio Brittonum cum Offa in aestate.

795. Vastatio Rienueb ab Offa.

796 Offa rex Merciorum, et Morgitiud rex Demetorum, morte morientur; et bellum Rudglann.

Of these notices, those in Brut y Tywysogion are accurate translations, those in Brut Saeson – misapprehensions, and those of The Book of Aberpergwm – the misapprehensions of the Brut Saeson with additional details supplied, according to his custom, by the inventive copiest of that chronicle. I doubt much whether any of the notices respecting the dykes can be accepted as ~~anything~~ more than opinions. The book of Aberpergwm is only known by a copy taken in 1764, and is to my thinking a deceptive and much over rated document.

There is a notice of much greater importance in the Book of Basingwerk, the property some time ago, and perhaps now, of Thomas Griffiths Esq, Wrexham, there is a significant addition to the Brut y Saeson entry under 784: -

And it (Offa's Dyke) extends from one sea to the other, from the south near Bristol, towards the north above Flint, between the monastery of Basingwerk and Coleshill."

– rwnng mynachlog dinas Basing, a mynydd y Glo.

Brut Tywysogion, as edited by the late Aneurin Owen Esq. in the Monumenta Historica Britannica, p. 643.

This notice come most probably from the pen of Guttyn Owain, the celebrated bard and herald, who flourished about 1500, and is therefore valuable on that account.

It follows, necessarily from my views, that the expeditions of the men of Gwent, and the destruction of Offa's dyke, seven years before its formation, are mere myths. But it is scarcely to be expected that such views will be accepted on my authority, it may be well to ~~show~~ give another example of the peculiarities of the Book of Aberpergwm:

Immediately before the Entry of 765, we have the following:

Oed Crist 757. y bu drydedd Waith Henffordd lle y gorfu Gwyr Deheubarth ar y Saeson, ac y llas Dyfnwal ab Tewdwr, y rhyfelwr glewaf o du'r Cymry, wedi iddaw wneuthur yw orchestawc o neb yn y Gad honno.

AD 757. The third battle of Hereford, where the men of South Wales overcame the Saxons, and Dyfnwal son of Tewdwr was slain, the bravest warrior on the part of the Cymry, was slain, after he had achieved great things in that battle.

Now it ~~would~~ will be scarcely be credited, that Dyfnwal was not a Cymro, was not at the battle of Hereford, and that the whole statement underlined is pure invention. But so it is: Compare these entries.

760. ^There was a^ Battle between the Britons and the Saxons – the Battle of Hereford, and Dyfnwal ab Tewdwr died. Brut Ieuan Brechva

760 -----called the battle of Herefordd, and Dyfnwal son of Tewdwr died. Brut Saeson.

760 ----- the action of Hereford, and Dyfnwal son of Theodore died. Brut y Tywysogion (proper)

760 Bellum inter Brittones et Saxones, id est queith Hirford, et Duvnagual filii Teudubri moritur. Annales Cambriæ

Dynwal was the son of “Taudar M<sup>c</sup> Bile rex na Cochlandab.” whose death is also recorded in the Irish and Cambrian annals, and had no ~~other~~ connection at all with the battle of Hereford. The et & ac simply denote that Dynwal who was King of Lochlyn or the Scottish Orkneys died in the ~~year~~ same year.

// An. Owen is careful to call them Gwentian Annals

Cf Mervyn 818. 844 also Cyvoeth & An. Camb

See Williams’s opinion Biog Dict Caradoc.

### 381 (5)

[N.B. The colours reversed here: dominate colour is in black, secondary in red]

[Notes and partial draft by Thomas Stephens]

990 }  
991 } one expedition: two distinct accounts  
Llyfr Aberpergwm: Price 428  
    } 1070 Caradoc ab Rhydderch  
    } died  
Dyvenwal ab Beli } Llyfr Pergwm  
    } 1073 – fighting B Saeson  
---Offa } 1076 – Catching Rhys ab Owen  
Edgar made a law that North Wales sh<sup>d</sup> pay tax of wolves heads  
~~-AD 962 Th[-] was paid 540 years & then commun[-] to money~~  
~~—Ergo—the Chronicle was written after (962 – 540 = 1502~~  
831: Castell Senghenydd  
yr awr

Llywen Bren.

// Galfrai ab Arthur

// Languayl ~~980 Events of 991-2-3 are given under this year~~

// 1000 nid oed[d] Ll ab Seisyllb yn oed gwr, i cael cyfoeth ei wraig

Wakeman: a chronicle published in the Myfyrian Archaeology, called Llyfr Aberpergwm, evidently a comparatively modern composition.

Arch-Camb. 1848. p 331

art. Caerleon.

“The same pretended Chronicle”. Ibid called Llyfr Aberpergwm –

Then goes on to point out a mistatment

- 994 Iestyn ab Gwrgant married daughter of Bleddyn ab Cynvyn.

**Who was not born until 1023**

Who did not die until 1073 this Iestyn was ab Owen

1053 Gruff ab Rhydderch Slain

Bishop Marlyn: 1057 Owen ab Gruff died

1057 Gruff slain Ll. Pergwm

Llyfr Aberpergwm makes Martin to be Contemp of Howel Ddu bishop of St Davids

Martin Reigned from – to 1328

Ergo: Llyfr Aberpergwm was written long enough after 1328 to Render such an anachronism noticeable

Compare Anian 13<sup>th</sup> bishop of Ty Ddewi

//Ll. Aberper in 871 places the death of Einion Forheddig, bishop of St Davids. The party intended is probably <sup>the</sup> Meuric Vorheddig y Brut Tywysogion; and that is a misconception of the following:

873 ~~nobis episcop~~ et Courii moriantur Llyf Aber goes on to say. – Ac o gwnaethfwyd Hubert Sain ym escob yn ei le ef. Einion must have been Anian bishop of ~~Bangor~~ St David 1268–1293, and Hubert was archbishop of Canterbury, and opponent of Giraldus circa 1203. Anian of St Asaph: 1268–1293. Hoare’s Gerald II. 143–7. Hubert – circa 1203

Ergo – after 1293 –

[Written across top left of second page: Of 1050 the Annal Camb 1045–1055 Cardoc for Griffith ab Rhydderch. Cf Brut y Saeson – 1033]

This shall

— ~~Mr Williams conceives that the~~

Mr Williams then advances from the consideration of Dyvnwal age and history, to that of his reputed laws, which he ~~consideration~~ to be expansions of the laws of Prydain ab Aedd Mawr. Now considering that Prydain was a non-entity, a myth, and a perfect realization of Shakespeare’s description, being merely a local habitation and a name given to airy nothing, <sup>this statement should be refuted</sup> Dyvnwal has at least the merit of being an entity; but Prydain ab Aedd Mawr never existed, except in the terrestrial form of Prydain, the old name for the Lowlands of Scotland. (See the extract from the Ven Code) Let the reader take nothing on my authority; but judge

~~Giraldus~~ Here is a new case of Stephens v Stephens; but as I am no more bound to respect my own errors, than those of other persons. I ~~beg~~ now withdraw the statement respecting Prydain in my first article. The mist has since cleared off; though national prejudices in me as in other people, are very reluctant to let go their hold. I shall owe the reader an apology, if ever <sup>again</sup> I trust, the document of the Chair of Glamorgan, or the Triads of the Third series for himself; and take care, that he is neither with held by his prejudices from seeing that which really is, nor led away by his imagination to see that which really is not.<sup>14</sup> Let us first turn to “The Genealogy of Iestyn” (Iolo MSS. 333). Here, Prydain ~~assumes~~ is another name for old Priam King of Troy: - Hearing of the fertility of Britain he furnished men and means to conquer it, which having effected he called by his own name – Prydain. He then divided the country between Loerius his eldest son, who had Lloegria, or England: Annyn, <sup>or</sup> Einion of Troy (Enus) [PD] ~~had~~ the second son had Cambria; and Danwallon, the youngest had Scotland. – This story occurs in a document containing internal evidence, in references to the works of Ieuan Deulwyn and Guttyn Owen, of having been written after 1460 and 1504. And further, it contains within itself the refutation of the falsehood; for the compiler after making <sup>and perhaps copying</sup> the above statement, has this remark: – Whether this much of a story be a falsehood, let the learned judge, from its ~~own~~ authority, and its deviation from the received books of history” (pp. 4,33[?]) The copyist does not state what the authority is, but as the paragraph commences with the words, “Annyn of Troy, called in Ieuan Deulwyn’s book, Einion of Troy, was the first King of Cambria,” we may conclude that Ieuan Deulwyn was the authority; and as he flourished from 1460 to 1490, it is manifest that this story was not only at variance with received history in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but also a fiction of very recent date. What was thought a falsehood ~~by the ab~~ three centuries ago, it is now a sui ~~against~~ of the deepest die to call in question. Again, if the reader will do himself the justice to verify my citation <sup>(p. 333)</sup>, he will find two things of interest, 1<sup>st</sup>, that the authority for the ancient —

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<sup>14</sup> Change from red pen to black

names of the the of the island is Ieuan Deulwyn, and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the book of the same genealogist, is one of the sources of the Triad \_\_\_\_\_ [ferit] II. In the next place, ~~let not~~ we have Prydain in the Triads, in a secondary position to Hu Gadarn. "Hu brought the Cymry hither; and Prydain made laws for them, being the first legislator of the Isle of Britain. This is Prydain no 2, being now ~~Geoffrey's of Me~~ Brutus in disguise. Read Geoffrey: "After Brutus had finished the building of the city (Trinovantum, afterwards London), he made choice of the citizens that were to inhabit it, and prescribed them laws for their peaceable government." (Book. I. c.xviii) The Welsh translation of Geoffrey, ~~establish~~ brings the resemblance still closer. They say that he ga[PD] extended his care beyond the city, and that having established good order and peace throughout the island, he slept with his wife Imogen, by whom he had three sons, Locrinus, Kamber, and Albanactus. (compare with the names of the sons of Prydain) (Myv. II. 115). III. Again, turn to "The Roll of Tradition and Chronology," (p 429 Iolo MSS) and it will be found that Prydain continues to descend in the scale of Chronology. In the first document he lived prior to the occupation of the island; but in this, "the arrival of the Cambric people, took place 849 years before the time of Prydain the son of Aedd the Great." Observe also, from Prydain to Eurog Gadarn – 328 years total from the arrival of Euroc = 1177 years. IV. Now, let us turn to "The Periods of Oral Tradition and Chronology." (Iolo MSS. 412). Where our friend Prydain gets very shameful treatment. This document was written in the first year of Henry VII. ergo in 1485; it proceeds upon the basis of Geoffrey; but adds to it several legends unknown in the days of Geoffrey. Mark the Chronology

	years
From the arrival of the }	
Cymry to Euroc Gadarn } =	500
From Euroc to Leon Gawr	190
– Leon to Bleiddy	66
– Bleiddy to Llyr Llwyd	20
– Llyr to Prydain	<u>287</u>
Total	<u>1063</u>

Here again Prydain is deprived of (1063 - 849 =) 214 years. This is at first view; but if Prydain lived 563 years after Euroc and not 328 years before him, ~~we must~~ he must descend still lower; for 1177 added to 563, amounts to 1740! ~~being according to the same~~ From the arrival to Lucius according to the same document, was 1898; and as he lived about AD. 154, we find that the Cymry arrived 1742 years before Christ. Hence if any reliance could be placed on a tissue of fictions Prydain who lived 87 years, must have died AD 85! These however are only the preliminary stages of his annihilation. V. A pedigree in the Life of Gruffydd ab Cynan (Myv. II. 584), breaks his fall a little, and makes him the fifth in ascent from Beli Mawr, which allowing 30 years to a generation, would place him in 200 B.C. VI. But other pedigrees, absolutely ignore his existence, ~~and~~ for in a ~~Wynnstay~~ Penbryn MS quoted in Roberts Early History of the Cymry, p 63, the pedigree instead of being Dyvnvarth, son of Prydain, son of Aedd Mawr, son of Antonius, as in the G ab Cynan MS. was thus: -

Antonius  
Aedd Mawr  
Dyvnvarth Prydain

Here Prydain is in what Rowlands (Grammer p 105) terms mere apposition, and like "Heol Babilon" or "Coron ~~Daf~~ Brenin," has a genitive relation The name therefore is, Dyvnvarth of Prydain or Scotland, son of Aedd, or in other words Dyvnvarth King of Scotland. Feeling that it was necessary to get rid of this awkward fact, Roberts refers his reader to a note in which he says that epithets are sometimes converted into proper names; a remark that explains the origin of the personality of Prydain, though singularly applicable in the sense he uses it. Again Ab Ithel tried to ~~get ri~~ dispose of the obstacle in a ~~singular~~ very peculiar way. He prints

the ~~Wynnstay~~ Penbryn pedigree thus: Aedd Mawr, Dyvnvarth, Prydain, ---- and thus Prydain is made ^a^ son of Dyvnvarth! All such explanations are futile if nothing worse. There is one genealogy of sufficient importance to be decisive upon the point. Henry the Seventh, issued a Commission to trace the ~~pedigree~~ descent of Owen Tudor from royal Cambrian Princes. ~~The date is~~ Pennant says the Commission was issued in the early part of his reign: Jones (Hist Wales p ) dates it in 1504. The Commission was addressed to the Abbot of Valle Crucis; Dr Owen Pool, Canon of Hereford, Dr John King, Herald-bard (Arwyddvardd), and with them Sir (or the Rev) John Leiaf; Guttyn Owain, (the Bard), Gruffydd ab Llywelyn ab Iewan Vychan, Madawc ap Llywellyn ab Hywel, Robert ap Hywel ap Thomas, and others. These persons drew up a report which will be found ^at length^ in the ordinary edition of Caradoc's History of Wales, or Substantially in Price's Hanes Cymru. p 782, and in this report we find "Cyrwyd ap Cydor ap Dyfnfarth Prydain ap Aedd Mawr ap Antonius &c" This I think ought to be conclusive. Prydain ~~of~~ was not a ~~proper~~ a man's name, ~~name~~ but having slipped into the genealogie, and being thence thought a good explanation of the name of the island, it was magnified by successive stages into that of a legislator in remote times, and ultimately into that of the first ~~conquest~~ possessor of the island. As Prydain never existed, he could have made no laws at all; and as he made no laws, the laws of Dyvnwal Moelmud cannot have been extensions of any such nonentities.

This Dyvnvarth king of Prydain or Scotland is usually identified with Dyvnwal Moelmud; but I think this is a mistake. In the son of Aedd we have a ^north British^, a Scottish ^or an Irish^ monarch, and in this pedigree, very possibly, a fragment of ^a British, an Irish or a^ Scottish genealogy. I will not undertake to say, that Dyvnvarth is either of the following persons, viz

DCVLII. Mors Domnail Mac Aodha regia Hiberniæ, in fini Januarii. An Ulton.

DCCCC. Martui sunt in tempore hupes (Constantine seibiet, filii Edii) Dovenaldus rex Britannorus, et Dovenaldus filius Ede rex eligitur Cron Pictorum.

Only that is not improbable.

In the last, we have a Dyvnwal ~~king~~ son of Ed, or Aed. King of the Britons of Strathclyde or Prydain as they are called by Aneurin.

*Also Donald (863) the reenactor the Laws of Aodh tew called Ardthlaith the high or great king*

See Celtic records p. 589 on the accession of Donal son of Aedd son of Anmire in the seventh century. – This family were the descendants of Neill of the hostages, whose country was called the region of the Mumunensens[PD]. Hence Donal the Mumanesian

CB Saints. 562. 566 – 7

Dyvnvarth ab Gwrwst [Ledlum hilbuch?] 30

Mut and Trimut – In the original of the description of Olwen. –

Resemblance to Irish poems –

Kilhwch: three grinding gashes

Branwen 137: &c &c

Irish legends in Kilhwch

Time of G ab Cynan?

[Draft of an article by Thomas Stephens]

Brut y Tywysogion  
To the Editor of the Archaeologia Cambrensis

Sir:

Your correspondent Reviewer corrects my statement that MS B of Brut y Tywysogion dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. He is certainly justified in so doing; and equally accurate in his assertion that no MS of Brut y Tywysogion now known can ~~claim that date~~ be affirmed to be of that age. I fell into that error, from having too hastily adopted the assertion in the Preface to Williams' Edition of the Brut y Tywysogion pp. XLV, & IVii, where ~~it~~ MS B is said to be older than MS A, and that "it was probably written about the end of the thirteenth century." Knowing that much of this preface embodied the views of the late Mr Aneurin Owen, I assumed too hastily that in this particular instance, the critical judgment was his, and that he had seen reason to alter or modify the judgment given in the Mon. Hist. Britannica. Now, however I know the dictum to be that of ~~that~~ Ab Ithel, and having ~~looked into~~ considered the reasons alleged in its favour, have no hesitation in affirming that the evidence advanced really leads to an opposite conclusion.

This Error however does not invalidate the argument ~~it was~~ my statement was intended to support, inasmuch as it rests upon the higher and earlier authority of William of Malmesbury, ~~and as~~ Most of my references will <sup>^also^</sup> apply to MS B of Annals Cambriæ, ~~as well as to Brut y Tywysogion. Here one alone~~ That which MS comes was confessedly written at the close of the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pref. Mon. Hist. Brit. p 93). ~~and One reference~~ extract from it will now suffice,  
~~Under AD 1107 we find~~  
Namely the entry:

"Flandrenses ad Ros venerunt."

which appear under the date AD 1107.

~~Permit me to thank "Reviewer" for having called my attention to this error, and for having afforded me one additional illustration of the untrustworthy character~~

### 383a

[Notes by Thomas Stephens]

#### Electricity

Name. Electron – Thales  
History of discovery – Franklyn  
    Kinds of Electricity  
    Diffused through all nature  
Quality in water –  
    Evaporation – Cloud –  
Thunderstorms – Lightning  
    Dowlais Incident &c  
Lightning conductors – Hecla  
    Earthquakes – Morlais Castle.  
In connection with vitality  
    Hunt – Mattenci.  
Applications – Electric Clock –  
    Electro plating

	Electric Telegraph 196	
Conclude with the quotation 25		in a
Sound	1088 miles	Second
Light	198.000	“
	576.000	“

Explanations

### 383b

[Clipping from a printed page discussing two experiments pertaining to electricity: namely ‘Electricity in Leather Bands’, which demonstrated ‘a property of leather which we think it is not generally known to possess’, in the context of electrically charged bands of leather found in a cottonmill on the coast of Maine; and ‘Velocity of Electricity’ which utilized a copper wire with three breaks made in it, reflected in a mirror which spun at a controlled rate via clockwork, illustrating the speed at which electricity travels by measuring the appearance of sparks.]

[Handwritten at bottom]

Velocity of Electricity. Messrs Walker and Mitchel have carefully investigated the subject, and give the result as varying from 11 to 28,000 miles per second.

(Exposition No 8)

### 384a

#### History of Cardiff

Of all the two compositions sent for adjudication on this subject, I consider that by Silurus, from the great research, varied information, and extensive ~~implemen~~ acquaintance with the Ancient, Medieval, and modern History of the Town and District, to be first in point of merit, and a valuable addition to the knowledge previously possessed –

The other Essay by Un o yr dre is highly creditable to its author, especially for its statistical details

Evan Evans

Caerphilly  
May 24 1851

### 384b

[In Thomas Stephens’s hand]

#### History of Cardiff Evans’ Adjudication

Of all the two compositions sent for adjudication on this subject, I consider that by Silurus, from the great research, varied information, and extensive acquaintance with the ancient, medieval, and modern History of Cardiff the Town and District, to be first in point of merit, and a valuable addition to the knowledge previously possessed.

The other Essay by Un o yr dre is highly creditable to its author, especially for its statistical details.

(Signed, Evan Evans

Caerphilly  
May 24 1851

### 385a

[This is a letter from William Wilde, as is indicated by the embossment at top of the letter]

21 Westland Row  
Dublin, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1855

My Dear Sir/

I yesterday wrote you an authograph letter I fear has afforded you some difficulty to decipher.

I had a letter from Dr. O'Donovan today from Oxford where he has been for some time past transcribing our Irish Brehon Laws. He will return here tomorrow or next day. He is not only the most learned Irish Scholar by far – but one of the most liberal men of his knowledge I ever came across. Next to the accumulation of knowledge his chief delight seems to be the distribution of it. I will see him as soon as he comes home and mention your wish for an introduction so you may at once address any questions you please to Professor O'Donovan, 35 Upper Buckingham street Dublin.

Mr Curry as present resides at 11 Judd st. Brunswick square London being still engaged transcribing some of our Brehon Laws from MSS. in the British Museum. He is a very critical Irish scholar and especially well versed in old readings of the Irish language and in the desciphering of MSS. I will write to him tomorrow stating your wish for his acquaintance and requesting him to attend to your behest.

Enclosed I send you such answers ~~contained~~ <sup>concerning</sup> to the queries in your last letter as I can at this moment make out but when I see O'Donovan I will speak to him on the subject.

I have to thank this wearisome history of our Irish Plague Pestilence and Famine (the Construction of which I may say I imposed upon myself) for some acquaintance with Welsh history at least with the books relating thereto. Can these works published by your Antiquarian Societies be procured from a bookseller? I mention in yesterdays letter that it was to be regretted that the transactions of your societie's were not supplied with copious Indexes at least of persons and places; and in the case of the Iolo MSS. the want of an introduction is greatly felt by persons as unlearned as myself. In yesterday's letter I asked for page references for extracts from the Iolo MS. work inserted by you from one of the proofs sent from the Census Office and I also wish to know how you arrived at the dates that you placed opposite each quotation.

I hope some day to make your personal acquaintance, but I am sadly deficient in topographical knowledge of Wales except that scene from the London and Holyhead Railway. How are you to be got at from here. Are there any antiquities in your neighbourhood worth a visit. Is there any trout fishing in your vicinity. Are you far from Stonehenge. Is there any Railroad from your neighbourhood thereto?

### 385b

[This partial letter is very similar in paliography and condition to 385a]

A.D. 996 “Maelcolain mac Donn ri Bretain tuaisairt m.” Translated by O’Conor  
“Maelcolmus filius Donaldi, Rex Britonam septentuonaluim maritur.” And in the old translation of the Ulster Annals in the Clarendon copy in the British Museum we read; -

“Donall mac Donogh Finn blinded by Malsechlainn. Maeleolum mac Dainell king of North Wales died.

In the annals of Clonmacnoise under A.D. 990 (recte 997) – Malcolme mac Donnell king of North Wales died. [in another hand, pencil *Cumberland See Kitson.*]

In the annals of Tighernach the entry is repeated similar to the annals of Ulster but under 997: and to this there is a note in O’Conor’s edition referring to another entry under A.D. 1029 where Malcolm II son of ~~Canneth~~ Mealbrigda is referred to (If you wish this chronological note will be transcribed.

The Annals of the Four Masters do not allude to the first Malcolm although they mention the circumstance of the blinding of Donall mac Donogh Finn.

Laeghaire king of Ireland who was killed by lightning in A.D. 458 was succeeded by Oilioll Molt son Dathi and I cannot find the names of the children you assign to him: but in A.D. 478 Oilioll Molt was slain at the battle of Ocha by Lughaidh or Lewy son of old Laghaire.

We don’t know much about Cuchulin at least as Connected with anything like authentic history but I will look into the matter and let you know.

Have you got a little book styled Beauties of the Boyne and Blackwater published here a few years ago. Have you ever been in Ireland?

I remain, yours truly  
W Wilde

386

[The poetry in this letter contains corrections in a different hand, written in a different coloured ink, indicated in red.]

Graigfach  
Mai 19/48

Anwyl Gyfaill

Derbynais eich llythyr cariadus heddyw – rwy’n teimlo fy hun mewn dyled mawr i chwi am yr hyn a ddanfonsoch ynghylch “Turberville”

Nawr rwy’n gweled fod gyda chwi mwy o hanes ~~oes~~ y Bardd nag sydd genyf fi, - a thrwy hyny annheg fyddai i mi gynnig y testun. A hyny herwydd dau beth – yn 1<sup>af</sup> am eich bod chwi a llawer o’r defnyddiau “yn barod, yr 2<sup>ail</sup> eich bod yn fwy campus, ynghylch ~~ei~~ cyfansoddi yn Traethawd “A hyn yn nawdd Duw a phob daioni” gwrolwch at y gorchwyl. Danfonais dau lythyr i Llandaf am beth o’r nodwedd – nid ydwyf wedi derbyn un ateb hyd etto, rwy’n meddwl efaillai bod Thos James Pontyprydd wedi bod yno, ag wedi cael yr hyn ag oedd ganddynt. clywais bod hwnnw ynghyda casglu.

Llyma fi yn trosglwyddo yr hyn a feddianau arnynt Pan oedd “Turberville” mewn Eisteddfod, yn ol pob tebygolrwydd ar Garth Maelwg – ger Llantrissant dywed “Iolo Morganwg am iddo cyfansoddi gair. Ebe “Turberville”

~~I chwi brydyddion gwir y llys  
Sydd a’ch doniau megys duwiau  
Rhowch dro i’ch dysg a dawn  
R’owch gynghor iawn rhag anghau~~

wrong

Gair or Ganu hyny yn Saesonaeg

Thou Godhead of our British Isle  
Thy sons once more implore thy smile  
We fear no Gaul, if he beguile  
For to Exill this country

The Laurel is at thy command  
No ~~w~~rathless foe, can the ~~e~~ withstand  
Join Mars the heroes hand in hand  
~~And~~ ~~Do~~ advance into France  
~~And~~ ~~Teach~~ the Rebels thy old dance  
And glare their glance of Glory

Llyma benill o'i waith "Turberville" sydd ^ar^ Garreg Bedd, hen gyfaill iddo yn mynwent  
Eglwys Llandaff or enw Wm Lewis – pa un a fu yn ysgrifenu i'r Bardd ag yn un o'i  
gyfeillion mwyaf.

Gwel ddyn derfyn dy yrfa  
Dysg ~~r~~hiwfodd rifo dy ddyddiau  
Dy oriau cyfyng daw cofia  
Cais heddwch doeth dy Dduw da.

Hyn a dywedodd wrth Rhys y Gwehydd o Ganton, ger Caerdyf, pryd oedd ar ei brentis yno

Mae'n ewyllys i dawelu  
Yn well pe bawn i yn gallu  
I ddod am dwylaw fel y gwynt  
Cyn calanmai gynt i glymu. Sef cybynnau credif

Y pennill uchod a ~~g~~anod. cyn priodi. enw gwraig y bardd, oedd Elspad, un o Tyllcoed plwyf  
Llandaff. Pryd bu "Turbervil" yn Lloegr – darfu iddo cael gwaith i wneuthur Priddfeini,  
Bricks, canod y penill canlynol

If I did knew this morning  
If it would be such a cruel evening  
I would not be here today  
To work the clay for Battin! enw ei feistr

Digwyddodd i ddyn daro ergyd anhapus nes lladd ei wraig – yn yr un pentre ag oedd  
"Turberville" yn preswyllo – Sef Tre lai – canodd ir gwr hyny fel y canlyn. er cannoedd  
Phylip Evans

Gofid yw sonid am Sian=ar foreu  
Càs farw ~~y~~'n aniddan  
Trwy ~~Gas~~ ff~~Phil~~ Evan ffwl aflan  
Ni ddaw dwr y Lai ~~Sion~~ a'i law'n làn.

Mae genyf ugeiniau o bennillion gwael ac o ~~eyfansoddiad~~ chwaeth isel, nid wyf yn gwelid  
gwerth ysgrifenu hwynt i lawr, yma.

Yr wyf wedi cael addewid am un neu ddau o ganiadau o'i waith ir Milwyr (Militia)  
danfonaf hwynt i chwi etto mor gynted a gôf.

Gellwch coffhau fod Turberville "wedi hanu yn ol pob tebygolrwydd oddiwrth ~~y~~ hilogaeth  
Pain "Turberville" Arglwydd y Coedty pa un oedd un or deuddy Marchog. Robt Fitzhamon  
yn Morganwg.

Lythir Waltr Davies yr Araeth [illegible]

Yr wyf yn meddwl danfon y tri Englyn ir Canwyll i Aberdâr a effallai “Marwnad i Mr Vaughan”. Danfonweh air attaf pwy fydd y Beirniad

Os medraf danfonaf ychwaneg i chwi os caf y llythyron hyny o Llandaf

Danfonais ir War Office i Lundain am yr amser a listws ir Fyddin ni chefais un boddlondeb ganddynt herwyd e[u] bod yn methu ei ffeindio

Hyn mewn brys mawr

Oddiwrth eich ffyddlon wasnaethwr

Edward Lewis

Pan aeth i olwg y Cornish

Mi ryfeddais pan y gwelais

Dref a Canvas gynta eriod

Ni sylwais ne’s canfyddais

Fod fath beth mewn byd yn bod

Ac erbyn Spio pwy oedd oedd yno

Sef Boneddigon o bob rhyw

Ac ysywaeth mi ges roeso

Da yn wir fynd yno i fyw.

**387 (1)**

[Printed sheet] [c.1859]

Judicial Statistics

The annual official work on Civil and Criminal Statistics has just been published, and nearly all the following facts are taken from it: -

[Contains section]

Glamorgan Criminal Statistics

The more important Criminal Statistics relating to the county of Glamorgan are as follow:

[Written next to section discussing the number of ‘English’ v ‘Welsh’ criminals in Glamorgan]

Total -1850

English 503

Welsh 744

Irish 747

only 7 ~~to 11~~

out of 18

[On reverse]

To be put with the “Essay on Working men, of Wales compared with those of England, Ireland or Scotland”

**387 (2)**

Disclaim any hostility to Welsh per se

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Welshmen, even in the Welsh County of Glamorgan, form only a small part of the criminals in Cardiff & Swansea Jails, being only 7 out of 18.
2. The Welsh Criminals nearly all know English perfectly well, for, it is a fact, that ~~the pure Welsh~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ of Criminality is only found among this class of Welshmen; and the pure Welsh ~~elxxx~~ race, is almost wholly free from crime, as witness the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan & Pembroke
3. There is less necessity for Good spiritual instruction among ~~the lower classes of~~ Welsh criminals than among English & Irish, as from the greater prevalence of ~~Rel~~ means of Religious instruction in Wales, than among the lower ~~floating English & Irish same classes~~ as England & Ireland. The floating population of English Navvies & Vagrant Hibernians, are too frequently habitually absent from both churches & Chapels; whereas there is always a presumption, that even where a Welshman has fallen into crime, his offence has not arisen from a want of religious knowledge.
4. Relative merits of the Candidates [Page ends]

**387(3)**

[Clipping from The Cardiff [and Merthyr Guardian] July 21, 1860, p. 8]  
Glamorganshire Summer Assizes.

The charge to the grand jury contains notices of the lack of crime in Wales, and discusses the remarkability of this in relation to Cardiff

**388**

[Passport for France]

Avis	Notice
Les étrangers porteurs de Passports pour France, sont prévenus qu'it leur sera délivré à la frontière, en échange de ces Passports, lorsqueleur intention sera de voyager oude séjourner dans l'intérieur, une Passe Provisoire laquelle il est perçu <u>deux francs</u>	Travellers, bearers of Passports to France, are hereby informed that whenever their intention is to go through or reside in the interior of the Country, a <u>Passé Provisoire</u> shall be delivered to them in exchange for their original Passport subject to a <u>fee of two francs</u> .
Passport	RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Consulat Général de France à Londres	Au Nom du Peuple Français
N° 6,137 Reg <sup>ce</sup> B	Nous
Signalement	Consul Général de France en Angleterre,
Age_ 28 ans	Prions M. M. les Officiers Civils et Militaires,
taille_ 1 m 66	De laisser passer librement Mr Stephens, (Thomas) Chimiste,
cheveux_ Chataint Blond	né en Angleterre
sourcils_ Blonds	demeurant à Merthyr Tydvil
yeux_ gris	allant à Paris, par Calais ou Boulogne
	et de lui donner aide et protection en cas de besion
	Le present Passport, valable pour un an, a été deliver sur La demande

<p>front_ronds nez_moyent bouche_moyen menton_rond [Line lost in binding] Signes particuliers [Illegible] le 4. 8. 1849 [Signed] Le Maire de Calais E. Mayer Signature de Porteur Thomas Stephens [Stamped: PAS DE CALAIS MAIRIE CALAIS]</p>	<p>Fait à Londres, le 3 Octobre 1849 P[our] Le Consul Général pp H. Voisselier chancelier</p> <p>Par le Chancelier du Consulat. [Signature illegible]</p> <p>Numéro 856 art<sup>e</sup> 46 du Tarif Droit perçu 6fr. 28s</p>
--	--

[On reverse]

Vu a l'Ambassade Britannique à Paris le 8 Octobre 1849 Bon pour l'Angleterre Par Son Excellence

[Seal: Ambassade D'Angleterre A Paris] A Paget

34

Vu au Ministère de l'Interieur Paris le 6 octobre 1849 Le Chef de bureau chargé du Visa

[Seal: Ministère de L'Interieur

Visa des Passeports et Livrets] [Illegible]

No 14

Vu pour l'Angleterre Paris, le 9 8<sup>bre</sup> 1849 P[ar] le Préfet de Police Le Chef de 6<sup>me</sup> [?]chaussée

[Seal]

[Seal]

**388 (2)**

[Royal Seal]

9175

[Stamped: London 29.8.51 T]

We, Henry John Viscount Palmerston, Baron Temple, a Peer of Ireland, a Member of Her Britannic Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, a Member of Parliament, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c. &c. &c.

Request and require, in the Name of Her Majesty, all those whom it may concern to allow Mr. Thomas Stephens, travelling on the Continent, to pass freely without let or hindrance, and to afford him every assistance and protection of which he may stand in need.

Given at the Foreign Office London the 8 day of Sept. 1851

Palmerston

[Coat of arms]

Signature of the Bearer Thomas Stephens

[On reverse]

No ----- Gratis

Gesehen nach Coeln

Aachen den 11 9 51

Eisenbahn Pass. Bureau

Nemke

[Stamp]

Va pour Paris

[Illegible] le 21 7<sup>bre</sup> 1851

Le Com Spécial

Vousenez

[Stamp] 29 7<sup>bre</sup> 51

**389**

[Printed flyer]

Dr. Rooke's Medicines  
The Oriental Pills and Solar Elixir.

Pulmonary Consumption

[etc.]

Bronchitis Cured

[etc.]

More than Half a Million Copies have been published of

Dr. Rooke's "Anti-Lancet,"

A Family Medical Book, containing One Hundred and Sixty-Eight Pages.

Every Household should possess a Copy of this "Handy Guide to Domestic Medicine."

Your Chemist will give you one on Application.

[etc.]

Oriental Pills and Solar Elixir

Are prepared only by Charles Rooke, M.D., Scarborough. The Pills are sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 4s. [-] each; the Elixir in bottles at 4s. 6d. and 11s. each, duty included. Around each Box and Bottle are wrapped Directions for the guidance of Patients in all Diseases.

Dr. Rooke's Medicines are sold by

M. E. Stephens, (late Thomas Stephens), 113, High Street,

Merthyr Tydfil. Established 1841

[On reverse]

To be kept for the possible publication of Mr. Stephen's correspondence

Address to Lord Dynevor on settlement of Cyfarthfa lease and his Lordships reply

Letter from F K Evans also

Iestyn ap Gwrgant crest & motto

**389 (1)**

A few remarks to shew the address mode in which he had pursued his inquiries as to origin & descent of Caerphilly Castle.

It appears to me that this castle was originally the principal seat of the ancient Lords of Glamorgan, after the Romans left Britain. In the chronological Table appended to 'Powells History of Wales. . .' It is said, "et D. 831. The English of the Marches came by night, and burnt the monastery of Senghenyth, which stood where the castle now is built, & marched from thence to the Castle of Tredodan, which they likewise burnt, & made their escape over the Severn."

In 993. it is said, "Ithel died, & Gwrgan his son succ<sup>d</sup> him. Iestin son of Gwrgan, Prince of Powis, & his father gave him the commot of Trev Essylt, where he built a castle, & called it Denis Powis (now Dinas Powis)"-

1030. "Gwrgan ap Ithel Prince of Glam<sup>n</sup> died, & Howel ap Morgan succ<sup>d</sup> him."

1080 "Rhys ap Tewdur ent<sup>d</sup> the lands of Iestin ap Gwrgan, & destroyed the castles of Denis Powis, Llanilltud, & Dindryban." "Iestin this yr began the building of Cardiff Castle." 1088. Invasion of Gl<sup>n</sup> by Fitzhamon &c.

After the overthrow of Iestin ap G. it appears that the lordship of Senghenyth, was given to Eioneon ap Collwyn for his own. It must therefore have then belonged to Iestin ap Gwrgan, tho' I cant find when or by whom, the Monastery was turned into a castle, but it must have been between 831 & 1080.

Again as Iestin is said alone to have built Dinas Powis in 993, & Cardiff in 1080, tho' no mention is made of the building of Caerphilly, it is provable that it had been built & destroyed before 993 when he removed to Dynas, as Dynas was destroyed in 1080, & Cardiff built in its place. It appears to be agreed that it was a Roman station from the name Caer. the & it is improbable that the princes of Glam<sup>n</sup>, between the final departure of the Romans, & the conquest of Glam<sup>n</sup> by the Fitzhamon Knights, sh<sup>d</sup> have ~~been~~ left ^it^ unoccup<sup>d</sup>. (for this part of the subj<sup>t</sup>, I refer you to the extr<sup>t</sup> before given you from Grono antique & Camden - & such extracts as I may be able to find & send herewith) Also to Merthyr Guardian & the essay therein, which you say you have)

Tho' the Lordship of Sengenith was assigned to Eionon, ^after the conq<sup>t</sup> of Glamorgan 1088,^ the castle no doubt was not parted with, & it is probable that it was subsequently repaired, & added to from time to time by the successors of Fitzhamon -

What the several additions were, & the order of time, must be decided upon by those who are skilful in the history of ancient building, which I know nothing of, but tho' the more beautiful & ormanental part, may probably belong to the age of Edw. I & be attributed to the Despencers, as also the enlargement of the outworks; it does not follow that the more anc<sup>t</sup> part may not belong to much earlier days, even to the time of the Romans. & their British successors - Just as was the case of Cardiff, acc<sup>g</sup> to the acc<sup>t</sup> of Tal<sup>n</sup> Williams. (and here I refer to what I copied for you from King's antiq<sup>s</sup> some months since, who you will see says, that parts of Caerphilly & Castel Coch, seem the work of Phœnician builders. Or those who had learnt from them.)

It appears that the Lordship of Sengennith fell into the Clares, & many other of the Lands assigned to Eionon & the Welsh Lords who assisted Fitzhamon; who thus by degrees acqu<sup>d</sup> the whole Lordship of Glamorgan, -

It is probable that it was not till after the acquisition of this larger Tract to the North, that the enlargement of the castle, to its more magnificent scale, was made, & that before, it was only an outpost to defend the Normans from any attack from Eionon or this succ<sup>t</sup>; which may acc<sup>t</sup> for the silence of the early Welsh writers about it. ~~or to some~~ & its seizure by Braose may have caused the Clares to enlarge it, to prevent similar attacks. - I am sorry I can collect so little real information as to the early history of this castle, for my guesses will pass for nothing. -

The succession of the various ^Norman^ Lords of Glamorgan, is clearly traced by the Pedigrees, I now send. -

It certainly passed from the great Fitzhamon to Rob<sup>t</sup> E of Glr, thence to his son. 3<sup>rdly</sup> to Rich<sup>d</sup> de Clare, who m<sup>d</sup> his dau. 4<sup>th</sup> Gilbert. 5<sup>th</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> 6 Gilbert. 7 Gilbert 8 Despencer 9 Hugh D. 10 Thomas. 11. Rich<sup>d</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> male Despencer 12. Rich<sup>d</sup> L<sup>d</sup> Bergavenny & S of W<sup>r</sup> for life. 13. Rich<sup>d</sup> E. of Warwick (the last two for life only in right of their wife Isabella the heiress of De Clare & Spencer.) 14 Henry D. of War<sup>k</sup>. 15. Anne his d. 16. Anne his sister & heiress (of Clare, Despencer & Warwick) & her husb<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Nevill, E of Salisby & Warwick – from whom it ultimately passed to K. H. 7. (tho R. iii. the usurper, did while D. of Gloucester in right of his wife Ann one d. & coh. Of Ann & Rich<sup>d</sup> E of S & W take possession of the whole) at his death how<sup>r</sup> R<sup>d</sup> H7. 7. gave first restored to the mother & g<sup>d</sup> heiress Ann C of Salisby & Warwick, the whole of her large possessions; & then got a grant of them to him & the heirs of his body, (or in Fact) leav G. only to Rev<sup>n</sup> in her & her heirs, which Rev<sup>n</sup> he did not suffer to belong outstanding, for in 15 yr of his reign he most unjustly & with<sup>t</sup> any excuse beheaded her grandson Edw. E of Warwk son of her dau. Isabel by Geo D of Clarence, & ca 3 yrs afterw<sup>ds</sup> proc<sup>ed</sup>, a Bill of attainder to be passes in parlt, by which the whole passed to him forever. It subsequently granted the Warwk estates or parts of it to Jaspur Tudor Duke of Bedford his Uncle, who probably resided at Cardiff, from his hav<sup>g</sup> rebuilt one of the towers at Landaff, tho' I have not yet been able to find any acc<sup>t</sup>. At his death the Glam<sup>n</sup> estates reverted to K H 7. From him passed to K H VIII & to K Edw 6. Who sold all his Lordship & land in Gl<sup>n</sup> except Dinas Powis to Wm Herbert [see excpt Camden & so says Powell History] created by him E. of Pembroke. From an heiress of E. Pembroke it passed to Viscount Windsor, from a Windsor to 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Bute & Baron Cardiff. &c &c see pedgree

The acts of some of the earlier Lords of Gl<sup>n</sup> are well known & attested. Within the last few days, I have seen copy of Charters to the Boro of Llantrisant, by Rich<sup>d</sup> Beauchan E. of Warwick. Rich<sup>d</sup> B, E. of Warc<sup>k</sup> & Bergavenny, Thomas le Despencer E. of Gloucester, & of Hugh le Despencer who marr<sup>d</sup> Elianor the heiress of Clare – which shew that the Lordship of G. was that part of the Inheritance of Clare, which passed to the Despenchers, & thro' them to the Beuchamps & Nevilles, & from the last to K H 7 .

That Caerphilly was still part of such Lordship in Despecner's time is known by Hugh Despencer being descr<sup>d</sup> in the pedigree, Governor of Caerphilly C. & sev<sup>l</sup> of the Warw<sup>k</sup> family appear to have been born at Cardiff.

It is probable that after the siege of Caerphilly while Hugh Depencer was taking shelter there, ag<sup>t</sup> the Mortimers, &c<sup>f</sup> Barons, it might fall into decay, & not be rebuilt – However I find no mention of it, which otherwise during the Welsh wars of King H IV, & Owen Glendower, one w<sup>d</sup> expect to find, as also dur<sup>g</sup> the wars of York and Lancaster, the Nevills & the Beauchamps tak<sup>g</sup> on one side or other so great a part –

The occupancy of the castle may probably have ceased with Despencer, but its ownership must have passed with the other Clare possessions in Gl<sup>n</sup> as above, down to H VII – VIII & E VI –

And from W.E. of Pembroke who purch<sup>d</sup> it, to present L<sup>d</sup> Bute –

See various extracts annexed in support of my opinion.

### 389 (2)

Sir

The moto you enquire about, is, as I have understood, derived from the crusades and refers to the crest, the paschal lamb, the emblem of the Templars; it was probably borne by some of Iestyn's descendants, he having quitted this country about 1090. Mr Henry Evans of Cardiff can probably inform you, as he was the successful candidate on the subject at an Eisteddfod.

My time is so much engaged in my own affairs, that they will not admit of my devoting much attention to other subjects.

Yours respectfully  
W Williams

29 February 1840 Aberpergwm

[Inside, in another hand, likely Thomas Stephens's hand]

The motto "y Dioddefwys y Orfu" is wrongly spelt – it should be "y Dyaddefwys y Orfu" as Dy is an augmentative prefix as in in in infinite &c Di is <sup>^a^</sup> negative prefix as les in Senseless &c consequently the English of the inscription would be He suffered not conquered instead of He suffered and conquered as being reference to the Saviour.

The last is correct T Stephens Jun 2/40

### 389 (3)

Respected friend & fellow Secy

It is more in sorrow than in anger that I pen these lines to indicate to thee my disappointment at the contents of thy last epistle. I had entertained hopes of better things from thee and in proportion to the height of my former estimation, has been the depth of thy fall – A Philosopher forsooth! One who arrogates to himself the power of Educating others, to descend so low, so vulgar, and I am sorry I cannot add <sup>^so^</sup> illiterate as to make use of "naughty names" and profane oaths. Out upon thee thou hypocrite to the faith, couldst thou not have summoned philosophy to thy aid, and through her celestial influence have devised a better means of reclaiming an already penitent and repentant sinner from his error; than by threatening the argumentation of ad hominum, and talking of punching his head. Perhaps it will be necessary to remind thee of a most important fact which thou like many other pugnacious fellows <sup>^hast^</sup> seemingly overlooked, viz – "that two can play at that game". – Now for thy "intelligent jury" where canst thou find them; ~~are~~ men ~~of~~ answering the description are indeed scarce, and in spite of educational essays, and in despite of my Lord Brougham and other schoolmasters being abroad, they are unhappily like angels ~~but~~ visits few and far between.

There must have been something wrong about thy cause when thou talkest about law and juries and actions for breaches of promise, – art thou sure that if I had been down that thou wert at home to receive me, or wert thou not rather looking after some stray sheep (gy Lamb) in the wilderness

Perhaps indeed thy lamb might have strayed as far as Aberdare, if so I can account for the billious attack by ascribing it to thy great disappointment. For Gods sake take some Blue pill ere I come down else the consequences may be fatal.

I will be down to see thee shortly and in the meanwhile accept the sincere truth as my only apology.

I found a horse to go to Aberdare but was disappointed in the vehicle, one of the wheels being off – I passed through Merthyr on horseback, and went down as far as Troedyrhiw, but owing to my riding a young and foolish horse, I did not dismount opposite thy house

Thine in all truth and friendship  
Frederic R Evans

Monday Evening

389 (4)

Neath Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1840

My dear Sir)

In looking at the date of your Letter (Sept 8. 1840) I am ashamed to I have been so long without writing an answer. The fact is I am in arrears with many in the article of letter writing. But in your case, the principal cause of delay was owing to this circumstance – I had not myself a copy of the Odyssey, that is of the original Greek; (the translations of Pope & Cowper I had) I therefore thought I might in the course of a few days be able to borrow of my neighbouring Clergy or Laymen a copy: but I have not succeeded, and consequently I cannot give you the Greek of the quotation given in your letter.

I sh<sup>d</sup> be very glad to get a peep at your Essay on Druidism as well as your ~~Essay~~ Biography of Iestyn ab Gwrgant, the last prince of Glamorgan; and I hope you will give the public, thro' the medium of the Merthyr Guardian the substance of both.

In the last n<sup>o</sup> of the Silurian, I thought I recognized your name again, as the successful candidate in an article respecting (I forget what) some legends, or rather, records respecting some places in Cardiganshire. Could you favour me with an outline of your plan in that article? Can you tell me how I can get Ab Iolo's Essay on the old British Characters? If you cannot, be kind enough to ask him; and pray remind him of his promise to lend me Dr Davies's Welsh Grammar.

You ask what books I w<sup>d</sup> recommend in order to your attaining a knowledge of the Greek Language: I think the best Greek Grammer for a self taught student w<sup>d</sup> be Bosworth's Eton Greek Gram<sup>r</sup> as it gives the quantity and accent; then Edwards' Greek Delectus; and when you have conned them over carefully, you may take Valpy's Works as advertised in most catalogues, &c. Messr Thos & Redwood were glad to hear of your welfare, and wished to be remembered to you

You may perhaps not have heard, that Miss Thomas is no longer Miss Thomas, as she has been married now for many months. With the best wishes

I remain yrs very truly

Jno Davies

389 (5)

#### An Address

to the Right Honourable Lord Dinevor, of Dinevor Park, Caermarthenshire, ~~presented at a Public Breakfast, in the Town of Merthyr Tydfil, 1860 to Celebrate the Renewal of the Cyfarthfa Lease~~

My Lord

We, the Colliers, Miners, Firemen, and other Workmen employed at the Cyfarthfa Iron Works, again beg to address you in reference to the Renewal of the Lease. On a former occasion, while the negotiation, between yourself and the Administratrix of the late E. P. Richards Esq. on the one part, and William Crawshay Esq of Cyfarthfa on the other, were still pending, we took the liberty of calling your Lordship's attention to the serious alarm which prevailed amongst us, consequent upon the dreaded possibility of a final disagreement between the contracting parties. And we now respectfully tender our thanks for the assurance of your Lordship's sympathy with us, in the perilous position in which we were placed, and especially such of us as were tenants of the ground Landlords as well as employees of Mr Crawshay.

We now enjoy the good fortune of having to address your Lordship under happier auspices, and in more hopeful language. The clouds which then overhung the prospects of Cyfarthfa have now disappeared, "the winter of our discontent" has passed away; and we now rejoice in being able to anticipate a brilliant future of continuous and increasing

prosperity. We have learned with much satisfaction, from our beloved and esteemed employer Mr Crawshay, that this happy result, is due to a great extent to your Lordship's good offices, and conciliatory disposition, and we beg to tender you this expression of our sincere respect and gratitude.

As Welshmen, proud of the History of the Principality, and deeply interested in its welfare, we feel additional pleasure in recording our obligation to a Nobleman, who besides being one of the ground Landlords of a large portion of this district, is also the living representative of the Princes of Deheubarth or South Wales. The Princes and Lords of the houses of Dinevor ^and Reged^ have an honourable place in the Annals of the Principality; and we feel just pride in the reflection that you, their estimable ^representative and^ descendant, are now connected in an equally honourable manner with the manufacturing and agricultural interests of Wales, in this the most prosperous period of its commercial history.

We therefore, beg your Lordship's acceptance, for yourself and the Administratrix of the late Mr Richards, of our felicitation on the Renewal of the Cyfarthfa Lease, and of our grateful appreciation of the conciliatory disposition of the Landowners. Permit us to add the expression of our regard for your Lordship personally, and to indulge in the aspiration for the continued lustre of the House of Dinevor.

We remain your Lordships most faithful tenants, and obedient Servants.

Signed on behalf of  
The Workmen of  
Cyfarthfa

Jacob Jones  
Chairman of the Workmens  
Committee

[On reverse]  
Worthy Sir/

I beg you to excuse me for sending to you the original Copy, as it is somewhat foiled, but my meaning by sending you this copy is that you might alter the heading of the address to the Circumstances, besides if it falls to my duty to read the address to this Lordship it will easier for me to read my own handwriting

I remain your most Obedient  
And humble Servant  
Jacob Jones

### 389 (6)

#### *Lord Dynefor's Reply*

I am very glad to see you here – I thank you for the address now presented to me & for the handsome flag which you have given to me but particularly for having taken the trouble to travel so far & present them to me in person – ~~//It is also very kind of such of you who are not connected directly to the Cyfarthfa works to have come so far to visit me//~~ It is a matter no doubt of very great interest to all of us that there has been a new arrangement made between Mr Crawshay & the Proprietors of the Cyfarthfa works, & perhaps to the workmen most of all: for their state would have been most lamentable if the works had stopped, even, for a time. Mr Crawshay might have retired from business or he might have carried his energy & capital elsewhere. We the proprietors might after a time have found others to occupy the works – but even let that time have been short – you would have been driven to great straits & not only you and your families but many of the shopkeepers of the Town as well. This evil has been arrested & I rejoice that it has been so – but really I do not wish to take more credit than is due to me for that – all negotiations have their difficulties & those which we have been engaged in have not been without them, but they have not been so formidable

as you seem to think & happily they have been got over & I trust that a prosperous future is before us all –

You speak of Wales our beloved country & of its History & old Traditions with which my family is connected: it is true that in the old times things were different, but I am far from thinking that we in the present time have not gained immensely by the change – what was Merthyr then? a mountain desert, & what is it now – my ancestors then [filled?] a high position in Wales & when I am reminded by you of it, I feel proud to be descended from such men – but there is another feeling which arises in my mind & I ask myself what I ought to do under present circumstances to prevent disgracing myself & the answer is this – that I ought to endeavour to use such advantages as I possess for the good & benefit of all. This has been my constant aim hitherto & your kindness will encourage me to persevere –

You speak of me as equally connected with the Land & the great commercial interests of the Country which ought to ~~be~~ to be in my opinion as equally blended & united in themselves as in me. We may depend on it if either of these just interests suffer the other will feel it & the prosperity of the one will in the same manner be followed by corresponding prosperity of the other. The only rivalry that ought to subsist is, as to who should best serve the interests of the common Country. I will communicate to Miss Richards Trustees this expression by you of your satisfaction at finding a new Lease has been granted by us to Mr Crawshay & will conclude by thanking you again for all your kindness to us –

**390**

[Printed note]

Description  
Of the  
Cardiff Athenæum Eisteddfod  
Medal  
[etc]

C. E. Bernard.

[ a description of an eisteddfod medal as having on obverse Minerva with palm frond; Apollo with lyre; at the foot a Welsh harp; pallet, mallet, compasses; background altar and globe; ancient galley; book at foot; olive and laurel branches;  
Reverse: inscription and date; legend;  
Apollo and Minerva are 'strictly classical']

**391**

Early American Book.

The Book called The Savage by Piomingo is known in this district, and a person named David Llewellyn formerly had the book, and he is nicknamed Piomingo, ever since. He lives in the neighbouring town of Aberdare  
Merthyr

T.S  
author of the Literature  
of the Kymry



Plato: Grammadeg yn gymysglyd – ar haeriadau yn anghywir – addysg gyffredinol – Arwyddion &c – bur rymus But rather on the excellencies of the school than the duty &c  
Neptune: Llyfr yr Arglwydd – Had Isaiah same view as the Essayist? – Three texts  
More to the point than any of the others.

The subject takes the “Excellence” to be granted: and points the duty to uphold it on the testun.

Galweddydd: Good: but too much on Rhagoroldeb rather than dyledswydd – Sarah T.S. “I nawd him.”

Good Cymro – poor Sais. Sylwadau Buddiol

#### Gweithwyr

Rhyddfrydig: Very Good Essay, full of thought and practical applications; but defective in the latter part – in giving instances of successful industry

Hen Weithiwr: Higher literary taste, and a ~~be~~ wider range of information – Also names many men who have risen to Eminence. But not strictly on the subject. Anfanteision & manteision; camddefnyddiad & Incwm Ddefnyddiad – rather than dyledswydd. Powerful delineation of these. Exhort to read Franklin &c: but why not establish reading Rooms.

Cato. Powerful delineation of the necessity to use the time properly, ~~and~~ exhortation to do so, and advice as to its proper employment.

The three best distinct branches of an important subject; and if published in this order. Hen Weithiwr. Rhyddfrydig & Cato would form a very good Essay, Advise committee to reward all three - & give prize to the first. Shows knowledge, but a little inflated & probably not all original

Rhyddfrydig sticks closest to his text. Make Eisteddfod starting point & society a milieu for literary & debating society.

### 393

Pennant Melangell a parish in the County of Montgomery. The legend in connection with this place is probably well known to you, but if not, it may be seen in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vol of the Archæologia Cambrensis & in Williams’s Eminent Welshmen. See Melangell.

Mathafarn in the parish of Llanwrin in Montgomeryshire – Henry Earl of Richmond slept at Mathafarn (then residence of Dafydd Pugh or Pryse, one of the Gogerddan family) on his way to Bosworth. Before retiring to rest Henry asked D.P. what he thought of his undertaking and desired him to consider the matter over night & to give him his advice in the morning. D.P.’s wife observing that something troubled her husband asked the cause of his uneasiness, when he related his conversation with Henry & added that he felt unable to advise him on a subject of so much importance. His wife immediately replied – Advise him by all means to meet Richard for if he falls you will hear no more of your advice, whereas if he be successful you may be handsomely rewarded.

This gave rise to the old Welsh saying –  
“Cyngor Gwraig heb ei ofyn.”

Dôlguog the residence of Llywarch-hên is in the next parish Penegoes. I fancy I have heard something of this place, but cannot now think of the legend. Llywarch hên’s bower & seat where he wrote his poetry are shewn in the garden. I will make inquiries about this place

Pont. Robert ap Olifer on the confines of the parishes of Meifod & Llangyrniw was so named after Robert ap Olifer of Cynhinfa in Llangyrniw who paid his addresses to a Miss Pryce of

Rhosbryn-bwa in Meifod & who finding it rather inconvenient to ford the river Michau [illegible] at all seasons caused a wooden bridge to be built which has since been replaced by a stone one; - Twm o'r Nant lived some years at Pont Robert and wrote several things there. (Robert ap Olifer was an ancestor of Mrs Vaughans, Gwallter Mechain's step-daughter Pont Robert is now the name given to the village. My mules were the means of building a Church there to which Mr & Mrs Vaughan contributed £100 on condition that nothing but Welsh is ever to be preached in the Church.)

Mathrafal the residence of the Princes of Powis is in the parish of Llangyrniw. All the particulars connected with this place are probably well known to you. I remember having heard my Uncle say that King John was summoned to sign the Magna Charta when he was just passing the Rectory of Llangyrniw on his way to Mathrafal he certainly aids the person who burnt the Castle of Mathrafal

Dolaeddyn ^in Castell Caer-einion^. Henry Earl of Richmond slept one night at this place on his way to Bosworth.

Cae Cobham or Gardd Cobham in the parish of Guilsfield (in Welsh Cegidfa) Sir John Old Castle. Baron Cobham was apprehended on this spot & sent to the tower where he was cruelly put death. The country people say that a handsome reward was offered for his apprehension & that someone betrayed him to the family who then lived at Castell Côch or Powis Castle.

Llyncllys – I am not sure where this is in Wales, but we pass ^it^ on our way to Oswestry, it is about 10 miles from Meifod & I think on this side of Clawdd Offa. It is a large pool & and you can see an account of the legend in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chap. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Part of Drych y Prif Oesoedd in connection with the history of St Garmon and Lupus (The people of the neighbourhood still believe that at stated times the mansion may be seen at the bottom of the Lake &c &c. – Not far from Llyncllys are Croes Wylan and Yr Wylan which some say ought to be Croes Yr Wylofain from the lamentations which were heard there when the Plague visited Oswestry There is a well near where the townspeople put money to pay for goods purchased of the peasantry as the latter would not receive the money before it passed thro' the water.

Have you heard of or seen a pamphlet with an acct of a man who was hanged at Montgomery? The man declared he was innocent of the crime imparted to him & said that as a proof of his innocence no grass would ever grow on his grave.

I have seen the grave & there was not a blade of grass upon it altho' it grown luxuriantly all around.

[Miss Richards]

[Postmarked, Welshpool, 30 November [1858], Milford, Merthyr Tydfil 1 December 1858]

**394 (1)**

[Draft by Thomas Stephens]

~~Religious Opinions of Sir  
Isaac Newton~~

—————“What the gifted mind of Newton believed to be the truth, I dare not pronounce to be error

To the Editor of the Telegraph

Perfectly satisfied that the readers of the Telegraph will decide the Milton controversy ~~In accordance with my point~~ in my favour ~~promise~~ I now proceed to justify the statement made at Twynrodyn Chapel, respecting the theological views of Sir Isaac Newton. On that occasion I stated that his religious papers had been kept out of sight by his executor, on the plea, urged by Bishop Horsley, that they were unfit for publication. But these papers have recently been published by Sir David Brewster in the second edition of his Life of Newton (1855); and it is upon these papers, as they stand in that work that I propose to rely; but as the question had previously been discussed on other grounds, it will be well perhaps, in fairness to those who held Newton was <sup>^not^</sup> an <sup>^anti^</sup>Trinitarian, to review the controversy, as ~~be~~ it formerly stood.

~~In his life time, though without h~~ Sir Isaac Newton is best known as a mathematician ~~and Astronomer~~, and Natural Philosopher; but he had also paid much attention to historical and theological studies. He ~~is~~ was described by one Bishop to have had "the whitest soul" he ever knew; and by another he was said to "know more of the Scriptures than them all," ~~ie~~ than the whole bench of Bishops. (Brewster. ii. 525). The opinions therefore, of a man ~~of such commanding~~ so well qualified to form them, of in fact the greatest mind that ~~wor~~ England ever knew, must be <sup>^well^</sup> worthy of consideration.

In his lifetime, though not with his name, he caused to be printed in Holland a Treatise entitled, Historical account of two notable corruptions of Scripture, in which he denied the genuineness of 1. John. v. 7. "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one;" and also of the word God, in 1. Timothy. iii. 16. "Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh" &c, the proper word being in his opinion the pronoun which. That the ~~was~~ first verse is a forgery, or to use a milder word an interpolation, is now admitted by ~~every~~ all competent scholars ~~in~~ Europe; and I need only state that Luther excluded it from his Bible, ~~and~~ that the first English translation of the Bible printed it in a different type ~~differently~~, that such critics as Bentley and Porson rejected it, and that Dr J. Pye Smith, Dr Adam Clarke, <sup>^Dr Chalmer^</sup>, Dr Davidson, and Dr Rowland Williams coincide in that view to satisfy my reader, that Newtons statement was quite correct. So also with respect to <sup>^the^</sup> other text, the ~~balance~~ weight of authority is all ~~in his favour~~ against the common reading, all the great ~~authors~~ critics agree that ~~Go~~ the word God in that verse, is of comparatively late introduction; and Dr. Henderson, an Independent divine <sup>^recently deceased,</sup> was <sup>^is</sup> the only person of any note, who ~~has~~ defended the ~~ordinary~~ reading of the as we now have it; but his authority is small compared with that of Newton, Welstein <sup>^and^</sup> Gresbach; even Dr Pye Smith thinks this reading untenable, and among living scholar <sup>^Sachman</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>^Tischendorf^</sup> Alford, Tregelles, and Davidson <sup>^all Trinitarians^</sup> are of the same opinion. Against such a host of authorities, Dr Henderson contended in vain; and it is the deliberate judgment of <sup>^Sir David^</sup> Brewster, that Dr Henderson has not justified the retention of the word God in 1. Tim. iii. 16, as a position of revealed truth. (Ibid i/ 336). The majority of scholars are now quite satisfied that the true reading is either who or which; the former is sanctioned by the greatest number of ancient manuscripts; and the latter, which was the one Newton adopted, has ~~the~~ in its favour, the MSS of greatest antiquity. These two texts were in former times, and probably are still, the mainstays of the ~~two~~ doctrines ~~which~~ Unitarians of the Trinity and the Deity of Christ; and it was generally felt that in proving these to be corrupted he had very materially weakened the hands of Trinitarians.

Now the question arose whether Newton, who gave no opinon upon these doctrinal points, was or was not a Trinitarian. On the one side it was contended, that no Trinitarian would have attacked the genuiness of these texts; and on the other, that Newton had <sup>^done^</sup>

only what ~~other~~ other persons who were Trinitarians had done also. Again, it was said, on the one hand, that Newton had no where ~~denied~~ impugned the doctrine of the Trinity; and on the other that no Trinitarian would have used such an expression as his, in reference to Matthew xxviii 19, which he says was “the place from which they tried at first to derive the Trinity.” Having stated the case fairly, I leave the reader ~~may now~~ to draw his own conclusion, with only this additional remark, that ~~according to~~ I coincide with the statement of Prof De Morgan and the admission of Brewster, that there are “two or three expressions in the Dissertation which a believer in the doctrine of the Trinity is not likely to have used.” On the whole I concede that the evidence is in favour of the ~~the Unitarian interpretation~~ assertion that Newton was an Antitrinitarian.

But I do not propose to rest my case on these expressions for there is very distinct evidence upon the point under consideration. Whiston the translator of Josephus, and the contemporary of Sir Isaac, reports him to have been hearty for the Baptists, as well as for the Eusebians or Arians. (*Whistons Memoirs*. p. 206. 477). Again, while Sir Isaac Newton was Master of the mint, Mr Hopson Haynes, a weigher and teller at the Mint, was on very intimate terms with him; and he reported Sir Isaac to have addressed him in these terms:—“The time will come, when the doctrine of the incarnation, as commonly received, shall be exploded as an absurdity, equal to transubstantion.” And further he said, “that Sir Isaac Newton, did not believe in our Lord’s pre-existence, being a Socinian (as we call it) in that article; and that Sir Isaac much lamented Mr (Dr) Clarke’s embracing Arianism which opinion he feared, had been, and still would be, a great abatement to the progress of Christianity.” (quoted in Lindsey’s sequel. p. 18.). Haynes “maintained an unsullied reputation, as a public servant for more than half a century,” and is mentioned with high commendation by Macaulay (*Hist of England*. IV. 703. note.). He is therefore a credible witness; and his testimony clearly establishes the fact, that Newton held ~~Unitarian~~ Socinian views.

Yet the fullest and most satisfactory evidence, as to the views of this great man, presents itself in his own ~~unpublished MSS~~ theological manuscripts, and which in Brewster’s opinion, he had no desire to suppress, inasmuch as he deliberately left these behind him, when he burned many other letters and papers previous to his death. In a paper of a few pages, entitled A Short scheme of the True Religion, he has this summary: We are therefore &c

Copy

Brewster. ii. 348.

But his doctrinal opinions are more conspicuous in the following twelve articles & ~~which have no title~~

“Art I. there is one God &c.

*Omit notes p 349*

Brewster. ii. 349 – 50.

These then were the theological views of Sir Isaac Newton: and most candid minds will I think admit that their complexion is clearly and decidedly ~~Unitarian~~ Socinian. They evidently exclude the doctrine of the Trinity, and that of the Deity of Christ; and while they are essentially at variance with “orthodox” views, they contain nothing that Unitarians in general would not and do not readily admit.

Brewster deals very cautiously with the question; But he has less hesitation in informing us that Newton’s ~~was not~~ orthodoxy ~~was~~ is open to suspicion, and that he can no longer be ~~confidently~~ termed an Trinitarian; and in his preface, he more frankly affirms that his views were at variance with received opinions. “I can hardly avoid,” he says, “referring to Sir Isaac Newton’s religious opinion. In the chapter which relates to them, I have touched lightly and unwillingly on a subject so tender; and in publishing the most

interesting of the manuscripts in which those opinions are recorded, I have done little more than submit them to the judgment of the reader. Though adverse to my own, and I believe to ~~those whose~~ the opinions of those to whom his memory is dearest. I did not feel myself justified, had I been so disposed, to conceal from the public that which they have long suspected, and must sooner or later have known. What the gifted mind of Newton believed to be truth, I dare not pronounce to be error. By the great Teacher alone can truth be taught, and it is only at his tribunal that a decision will be given on those questions, often of words, which have kept at variance the wisest and the best of men." (Vol. I. p. xv). These are noble sentiments; and will have ~~our~~ the cordial concurrence of every candid reader.

~~If pressed for an explicit answer, Brewster would I think reply that Newton was an Arian (Compare pp. 339. 525); but as we have seen, his opinions approach much nearer to the Unitarianism of the present day. Yet whether Arian, Socinian, or Unitarian, he was most decidedly not a Trinitarian. On this point Dr Thomson, in his History of the Royal Society, speaks out very plainly: "Newton's religious opinions were not orthodox; for example, he did not believe in the Trinity. This gives us the reason why Horsley, the champion of the Trinity, found Newton's paper unfit for publication." (p 284) And again, like modern Unitarians, he evidently rejected "the Deity of Christ", but still believed in his divine nature, and the presence of his spirit in and among all true worshippers.~~

~~—These facts will I believe suffice to vindicate the correctness of my statement; and fully justify Unitarians in regarding Newton as one of their own brotherhood; but illustrious as ~~are~~ the names of Milton, Newton and Locke; and great as is the luster they shed on the Unitarian faith, it must not be supposed that we attach undue importance, even to their sanction of our views; for Unitarians call no man master save "the man Christ Jesus."~~

I have <sup>^again^</sup> apologized to your readers for having trespassed so much upon their time, and to thank you for the space allowed me to vindicate myself in your columns.

Yours Respectfully  
Thos Stephens

High St  
July May 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

~~P.S. At last my opponent admits that Dr Watts died, not a Trinitarian, but a modalist, that is a Sabellian, a believer in one God manifested in three modes; but he could not make this admission, without affirming what is not true, that Watts in his late years, i.e. when he wrote the pamphlet entitled A Faithful Enquiry after the Ancient and Original Doctrine of the Trinity taught by Christ and his Apostles," was suffering under mental aberration. Fy, Fy, Fy! Æsop has a fable of an ass kicking a dead lion; and P. performed a equally heroic deed, in the last Telegraph <sup>^towards the lion of his own Sect^</sup>. Verily, there is nothing new under the sun: ~~no gratitude even in orthodoxy.~~~~

394 (2)

[Draft by Thomas Stephens]

Brewster's Newton. Ed. 1855

In a paper of a few pages, entitled A Short Scheme of the True Religion he treats of Godliness, Atheism, Idolatry, and Humanity or our duty to man.

The section <sup>^on idolatry^</sup> is concluded with the following Summary: -

"We are, therefore, to acknowledge one God, infinite, eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, the Creator of all things, most wise, most just, most good, most holy. We must love him, fear him, honour him, trust in him, pray to him, give him thanks, praise him, hallow his name, obey his commandments, and set times apart for his service, as we are

directed in the Third and Fourth Commandments, for this is the love of God that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous, 1 John. v. 3. And these things we must do, not to any mediators between him and us, but to him alone, that he may give his angels charge over us, who being our fellow servants, are pleased with the worship which we give to their God. And this is the first and the principal part of religion. This always was, and always will be the religion of all God's people, from the beginning to the end of the world." page 348. Vol. 2.

Art. 12. To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we by him, That is, we are to worship the Father alone as God Almighty, and Jesus alone as the Lord, the Messiah, the Great King, the Lamb of God who was slain, and hath redeemed us with his blood, and made us Kings and Priests  
pp. 349. 350

In another manuscript, On our Religion to God, to Christ, and the Church, he treats more fully of the same of the theses in the Irenicum (see p. 347), but his doctrinal opinions are more conspicuous in the following twelve articles, which have no title: –

Art. 1. There is one god the Father, ever living, omnipresent, omniscient, almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

Art. 2. The Father is the invisible God whom no eye hath seen, or can see. All other beings are sometimes visible.

Art. 3. The Father hath life in himself, and hath given the Son to have life in himself.

Art. 4. The Father is omniscient, and hath all knowledge originally in his own breast, and communicates knowledge of future things to Jesus Christ; and none in heaven or earth, or under the earth, is worthy to receive knowledge of future things immediately from the Father but the Lamb. And, therefore, the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy, and Jesus is the word or Prophet of God.

Art. 5. The Father is immovable, no place being capable of becoming emptier or fuller of him than it is by the eternal necessity of nature. All other beings are movable from place to place.

Art. 6. All the worship (whether of prayer praise, or thanksgiving) which was due to the Father before the coming of Christ, is still due to him. Christ came not to diminish the worship of his Father.

Art. 7. Prayers are most prevalent when directed to the Father in the name of the Son.

Art. 8. We are to return thanks to the Father alone for creating us, and giving us food and raiment and other blessings of this life, and whatsoever we are to thank him for, or desire that he would do for us, we ask of him immediately in the name of Christ.

Art. 9. We need not pray to Christ to intercede for us. If we pray the Father aright he will intercede.

Art 10. It is not necessary to salvation to direct our prayers to any other than the Father in the name of the Son.

Art 11. To give the name of God to angels or Kings, is not against the First Commandment. To give the worship of God of the Jews to angels or Kings is against it. The meaning of the commandment is, Thou shalt worship no other God but me.

It must be quite evident to every person who has done himself the justice of reading the Articles of Newton's belief, that his views were ~~in perfect harmony with those of~~ positively Socinian, and are in perfect harmony with those of Unitarians. On these points there cannot I think be any cause for doubt; but to make assurance doubly sure, I will cite a few the opinions of a few eminent persons, who <sup>were</sup> acquainted with his views, and

competent to pronounce judgments thereupon. Dr. Thomson, in his History of the Royal Society, speaks very plainly on this head. "Newton's religious opinions were not orthodox; for example, he did not believe in the Trinity. This gives us the reason why Horsley, the Champion of the Trinity, found Newton's paper to be unfit for publication." (p. 284). Dr Chalmers, after eulogizing the the theology of Newton in the second of his Astronomical Discourses, qualified the statement in his preface, where he says, "I do not think, that, amid the distraction and engrossment of his other pursuits, he has at all times succeeded in his interpretation of the Book (i.e. the Bible); else he would never, in my apprehension, have abetted the leading doctrine of a sect or system, which has now nearly dwindled away from public observation." It is evident that the small sect alluded ~~are~~ were the Unitarians; and it is equally evident, that in Dr Chalmers' opinions, Newton had abetted their leading doctrine. Bishop Watson affirmed that "Newton and Locke were esteemed Socinians" (appendix to Theol. Tracts. Vol. vi); and Lord Brougham, whose judgment few will venture to impeach, ~~stated~~ in a speech on National education, delivered in the House of Lords, Aug. 4. 1854, ~~made use of the re~~ expressed himself in these terms; "That Newton was a Unitarian is quite certain – as thorough a Unitarian as ever attended Essex Street Chapel. My noble and learned friend (Lord Campbell) will find this clearly proved ~~in~~ by Sir David Brewster, from an examination of the Newton manuscripts, which, that learned person says, leave not the shadow of a doubt on the subject."

~~Your correspondent, in his first letter~~

These facts will I believe suffice to vindicate the correctness of my statement; and fully justify Unitarians in regarding Newton as one of their own brotherhood; but illustrious as are of Milton, Newton and Locke; and great as is the luster they shed on the Unitarian faith, it must not be supposed that we attach undue importance, even to their sanction of our views; for Unitarians call no man master save "the man Christ Jesus."

I have ^again^ to apologize to your readers for having trespassed so much upon their time, and to thank you for the space allowed me to vindicate myself in your columns.

Yours Respectfully  
Thos Stephens

High St  
July ~~May~~ 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

**395(a)**

Two Verses  
addressed to ~~Augustus~~ H Layard Esq. D. C. L.  
and sung  
to the Air of "y Bardd yn ei Awen"  
at Dowlais House, Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1851

1

Hail, Layard, Hail, to Cambria's hills,  
It's joyous dales and bounding rills,  
Thrice welcome shalt thou be.  
We've heard thy deeds, we know thy name,  
We love to celebrate thy fame,  
And honour give to thee.  
Assyria's pomp "lay hid in night,"  
And Nineveh had not a site,  
Till Layard came and gave us light  
To view the scene again.

Prais'd be the man, and bless'd the hour,  
Which with the wreck of Assur's Power  
Adorn'd Victoria's reign.

2

As oft we read the Book of Life;  
At evning close when free from strife,  
We seek thy guiding hand,  
T'explore the fields of ancient fight,  
And contemplate the ruin'd might  
Of that historic land.—  
Survey with thee, its antique halls,  
Its lion forms and crumbled walls,  
And view the fate which pow'r befalls  
From many quiet Vales  
To Dowlais then we welcome thee,  
And Layard's face rejoice to see,  
Among the hills of Wales  
T.S.

395(b)

Lines

Addressed to ~~Augustus~~ [Austen Henry] Layard Esq. D.C.L.

1

Hail, Layard, Hail, to ~~Kymry's~~ Cambria's hills,  
Its joyous dales and bounding rills,  
Thrice welcome shalt thou be.  
We've heard thy deeds, we know thy name,  
We love to celebrate thy fame,  
And honour give to thee.  
Assyria's pomp "lay hid in night,"  
And Nineveh had not a site,  
Till Layard came and gave us light  
To view the scene again:  
Praised be the man, and bless'd the hour,  
Which with the wreck of Assur's Power, ~~or allen~~  
Adorn'd Victoria's reign.

2

We oft peruse the Book of Life;  
And when retir'd from mortal strife,  
Accept thy guiding hand,  
T'explore the fields of ancient fight,  
And ~~meditate upon~~ contemplate the ruin'd might  
Of that historic land.—  
Survey with thee, its antique halls,  
Its lion forms and crumbled walls,  
And view the fate which pow'r befalls  
From many quiet Vales  
To Dowlais then we welcome thee,  
And Layard's face rejoice to see,

Among the hills of Wales

T.S.

396 (1)

### Hebrew Prophecy Adjudication

Adjudication of the Rev David Lloyd L.L.D, and Mr Thos. Stephens, upon the competitive Essays on Hebrew Prophecy.

Eight Essays were sent to us for adjudication, the signatures to which, as well as the number of pages we here subjoin, viz

Yr Hen Simeon	120pp. 4°
Elanwy	191 “ folio
Paulus	504 “ small 4°
Cattwg Glan Gwy	299 “ folio
Pollio Biblicus	301 “ “
Ismael Gomer	286 “ “
Tertullian	547 “ 4°
Crede ut intelligas	418 “ large 4°

The examination of so many lengthy Essays necessarily took up much time; and the illness of one of us has caused the publication of the result to be delayed.

We accepted the office of Judges, from a sense of the importance of the subject of Hebrew Prophecy, and of having views of Biblical Scholars made known to our countrymen in their own language; and knowing, that since the retirement of the majority of the Judges originally appointed, considerable distrust arose from the supposition of our holding extreme opinions upon the subject, we thought it becoming in us to announce that we should not allow ~~accordance with~~ our own doctrinal views, to have any influence upon our decision. As it happens, we are under no temptation to depart from our pledge. None of the Essays represented exactly our own views; one goes further, than the facts in our judgment appear to warrant; and the majority, including the successful essay, fall short of what we believe to be the truth. Our award ~~will~~ therefore rests entirely upon the general literary merits.

Having compared our notes we find that we agree in our decision. The Essays resolve themselves into three classes: The least meritorious are the two first; but in justice to the second, it should be observed that it ~~does not~~ appears to have been originally ~~written for~~ designed without reference to this competition

The subject proposed was An Analysis of Hebrew Prophecy, with Critical Discussions of certain important quotations therein involved. In dealing with this subject, the Essayists of the Second Class, namely Paulus, Cattwg, and Pollio Biblicus ~~and~~ whose ^Essays^ are all ~~writers~~ of a high order of merit, have directed their attention too exclusively to the Analytical part, leaving the Critical Question almost out of sight. Paulus is the most defective in this respect, and we can only award him the merit due to great industry. Cattwg’s Essay deserves much commendation; both for industry and learning, but his work contains much irrelevant matter ^such as the attempt to reconcile Genesis with Geology^; and his Critical views fall far short of attaining the level of modern Scholarship. Pallio’s Essay is the best of the three. He is evidently a man of considerable talent, learning, and literary ability. We have read his Essay with pleasure; and have to commend ~~both~~ the felicity of its diction, ~~and~~ the ~~inenuity~~ acuteness of his his reasoning and the candour displayed in dealing with hostile objections; but his Critical Dissertations are too sketchy: like Tennyson’s sonnet, they are but “short swallow flights”; and the author no sooner dips his wings than he flies away, leaving the reader ^pleased but^ unsatisfied.

The writers of the third class, enter largely into the consideration of the critical difficulties. Tertullian, as compared with Paulus goes to the opposite extreme, and instead of a detailed Analysis simply gives a list of texts, thus evading all the difficulties involved in the interpretation. His Essay ~~merits the praise of matureness and~~ is well arranged, and merits the praise of compactness; but it shows a deficiency of literary culture; and besides introducing irrelevant matter, such as biographic sketches of Eihom, Paulus &c, he, like several of the other Essayists, follows Hengstenberg too slavishly, without exhibiting any acquaintance with De Wette, and the other writers on the Rationalist side. In other respects the Essay reflects much credit upon its author.

Ismael Gomer ~~on the other hand is an Ultra-Rationalist, and goes to the opposite extreme of neglecting orthodox criticism. He pushes the critical objections too far, and urges several that are quite untenable. In a very long and able Introduction, he differs entirely from all his competitors in his views of Inspiration. All of them, except Simeon reject the theory of verbal Inspiration, and adopt the doctrine of Plenary Inspiration, ^but without extending it to scientific subjects^. Pollio even conceded an inferior degree of Inspiration to the Gentile Oracles &c; but Ismael Gomer denies special inspiration to either the Hebrew Prophets or the heathen oracles. He denies the antiquity and Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch; and adopts the documentary hypothesis now finding acceptance among Biblical critics: in this respect his Essay contrasts strongly with that of Cattwg Glan Gwy. His work however is but a fragment; and his Analysis stops short of exhausting even the Book of Genesis ^but^ so far as it extends ~~however~~, it is the ablest Essay submitted for our consideration.~~

The Essay of Crede ut intelligas as compared with that fragmentary MS of Ismael Gomer is deficient in critical thoroughness; ~~and as the signature implies, the Essay is vitiated [pervaded] by principles of interpretation, that riper consideration will probably prove to be untenable.~~ It is also deficient in clearness, a ~~fault probably incident to the present transitional state of Biblical criticism,~~ and will require careful revision. (It is however distinguished from its competitors, by its general completeness, by the fullness with which all parts of the subject are treated, by the largeness of the writer's acquaintance with the best authors on each side of the questions debated; and by the fidelity with the Essay reflects the views now prevalent among Biblical critics, while it is characterized throughout by considerable literary ability). (It has, however, several defects; the concluding chapters bear marks of haste,

transpose

and should be rewritten; it includes several long quotations in English which should be translated and the Introduction might advantageously be condensed.)

~~Nevertheless,~~ We are ^therefore^ of opinion that this is the best of the Essays submitted to us; and we unite in awarding the Prize to its author, but at the same time we recommend the Donor to withhold the payment of the whole or the greater part thereof, until the writer shall have completed the Essay to our satisfaction, and prepared it for the Press.

It now remains for the author, in accordance with the usage of Eisteddfodau, to announce his name; and we forward herewith to the Trustee, the sealed envelope accompaning the Essay, for the purpose of verification.

*D. Lloyd*  
Thos. Stephens, Merthyr Tydfil  
Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1860

To the Rev Rowland Williams DD.  
St. David's College  
Lampeter

Adjudication of the Rev David Lloyd L.L.D, and Mr Thos. Stephens, upon the competitive Essays on Hebrew Prophecy.

Eight Essays were sent to us for adjudication; the, signatures to which, as well as the number of pages we here subjoin, viz

Yr Hen Simeon	120pp. 4°
Elanwy	191 “ folio
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Cattwg Glan Gwy	299 “ folio
Pollio Biblicus	301 “ “
Ismael Gomer	286 “ “
Tertullian	547 “ 4°
Crede ut intelligas	418 “ large 4°

The examination of so many lengthy Essays necessarily took up much time; and the illness of one of us has caused the publication of the result, to be deferred.

Having compared our notes upon the subject, we find that they may distributed into three classes.

In the first class, and the highest in the order of merit, we place “Crede ut intelligas”, Tertullian, and Ismael Gomer. In the second, Paulus, Cattwg ^Glan Gwy^, and Pollio Biblicus. And to the third, and lowest in point of merit, we refer Elanwy and Yr Hen Simeon, the latter being the least meritorious of the whole. In justice to Elanwy, ~~we ought~~ it is however right to state that he designated his MS “Y Deonglydd Prophwyddiaethol, that it was apparently intended as “A Prophetical Interpreter”, ~~rather~~ and that it does not appear to have been composed expressly for this competition.

In dealing with so large a quantity of matter, it would be obviously impolitic in us to enter into detailed criticism; and as our decision is based on general literary merits and in observance ~~with~~ of the principle of allowing full liberty of discussion, it is not at all necessary that we should do so. We <sup>shall</sup> confine our observation to the Essays named in the first and second classes.

The subject proposed was the Analysis of Hebrew Prophecy, with Critical Discussions of certain <sup>important</sup> questions therein involved. In dealing with this subject, the Essayists of of the Second Class, have ~~confined~~ directed their attention too exclusively to the first part, having the Critical Question almost out of sight. Paulus<sup>’</sup> Essay<sup>^</sup> is ~~exceedingly thin~~ very defective in this respect, <sup>and very antiquated in its interpretations</sup>. Cattwg’s Essay possesses much higher merit, though it is far below the level of modern Scholarship, and contains much irrelevant matter. Pollio Biblicus is the best of the three, and is evidently a man of considerable talent, learning, and <sup>literary</sup> ability. We have read his Essay with much pleasure; and have to commend ~~the candour and literary~~ its felicitous diction, as well as the candour displayed in dealing with critical objections; but his dissertations on these questions are too ~~short meagre~~ sketchy: like Tennyson’s sonnet, they are <sup>but</sup> “short swallow flights, that dip their wings and fly away”, leaving the reader unsatisfied.

On the other hand, the writers of the first class enter largely into the consideration of the critical difficulties. Tertullian <sup>as compared with Paulus</sup> goes into the opposite extreme, and instead of a detailed analysis simply gives a list of texts, thus evading all the difficulties involved in the interpretation. His Essay is also deficient in literary culture; ~~and like several of the~~ and contains much matter, not strictly relevant. Like several of the other Essayists, he follows Hengstenberg too slavishly, and seems to have but a very slight acquaintance with De

Wette, and other writers on the Rationalist side. The Essay however reads well, and reflects ~~much~~ credit upon its author.

Ismael Gomer is an Ultra-Rationalist, and goes to the opposite extreme. He pushes the critical objections too far, and urges several that are quite untenable. ~~Sombre as~~ In a very long and able Introduction on <sup>the</sup> Prophets and <sup>on</sup> Prophecy, he differs entirely from all his competitors in his view of Inspiration. All of them, with the exception of Simeon reject the theory of verbal Inspiration; most admit the Plenary view, without extending it to scientific subjects; and Pollio concedes an inferior degree of inspiration to the Gentile oracles, sybils, ~~and~~ poets, and Philosophers; but Ismael Gomer denies superhuman inspiration to either the Hebrew Prophets or the Gentile oracles. He denies the antiquity and Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch; and ~~he~~ adopts the documentary hypothesis; now very generally received by Biblical critics. His work however is but a fragment; and his Analysis of Prophecy, stops short of exhausting even the Book of Genesis. So far as it extends however, it is the ablest Essay submitted for our consideration; but its fragmentary character necessarily prevents us from awarding the prize to its author.

The Essay of Crede ut intelligas as compared with that fragmentary MS of Ismael Gomer is deficient in critical thoroughness; and as the writer's signature implies, the Essay is vitiated by principles of interpretation that riper consideration will probably prove to be untenable. It ~~illustrates in a remarkable way~~ is deficient in clearness, a fault incident to the present transitional state of Biblical criticism, and will require careful revision. It is however distinguished from its competitors, by its general completeness, by the fullness of its treatment of all parts of the Subject, by the largeness of the writer's acquaintance with the best authors on each side of the questions debated, and by the fidelity with which ~~the~~ the Essay reflects the views now prevalent in the higher circles of religious intelligence, while it is also characterized by general literary excellence.

It <sup>has</sup> however several defects; the concluding chapters bear marks of haste, and should be rewritten; it includes several quotations in English, which should be translated; and the critical Introduction might advantageously be condensed ~~Subject to~~

~~We xxx are therefore~~ Nevertheless we are of opinion, that this is the best of the essays submitted to us, and we unite in awarding the prize to "Crede ut intelligas"; ~~subject however to these considerations, that~~ but we recommend the Donor to withhold the payment of the whole or the greater part thereof until the writer shall <sup>have</sup> completed the Essay to our satisfaction, and prepared it for the press.

**396 (3)**

Prophwydoliaeth Hebrewg

[Welsh version of same adjudication]

**396 (4)**

King Edward's school  
Birmingham  
Sept. 27. 1860

Dear Sir,

Your letter has just reached me.

I am prepared to be guided entirely by the just opinion of Dr Lloyd and yourself, the correctness of which I have no reason to doubt.

In framing your adjudication, it will be necessary to state publicly that there are faults which should be amended, and deficiencies to be supplied, adding that you have recommended the Donor (omitting my name) to withhold entirely, or in great part, the

payment of the Prize, until the author has completed the Essay to the satisfaction of the Judges.

I cannot hesitate to be guided by your recommendation, since the larger power of withholding the Prize altogether with which you were entrusted, must include the smaller one of requiring a just completion of the Essay.

But the nature of the alterations required by you may best be explained in a private letter: and if the author should wish to put himself privately in communication with myself, I shall have no objection to hear from him.

If you will draw up in Welsh a brief statement of your (1) decision, your (2) requirement, your (3) recommendation, and my (4) implicit assent, without troubling the Public either with the nature of the alterations, or with my name, I will have it advertised in two Welsh newspapers, leaving the intelligence to leak out in the ordinary Press, as best it may.

Perhaps you may as well send me the form of adjudication you agree upon, duly signed: as such must be my justification for payment, in respect of person, and of time.

In adjudicating the Prize, as I presume, according to literary merit, rather than agreement of special views, you have acted on the principles by which I conceive such questions should always be guided; and I feel a more deliberate expression of my thanks is due to you, than I have at present leisure to frame.

Believe me, Dear Sir,  
Very truly yours,  
Rowland Williams  
St David's College  
Lampeter

Thomas Stephens Esqr. &c &c

**397a**

Vale View, Denbigh, Augt 9/62

David Williams Esqr (Alaw Goch) Chairman and Treasurer  
And

Thomas Stephens, Esqr Secretary of the Committee of Aberdare National Eisteddfod, held August 20, 21, & 22, 1861,

To Robert John Pryse (Gweirydd ap Rhys), for adjudicating thirteen Treatises for the said Eisteddfod -----£10\_0\_0

[one penny stamp, initialled 'R.J.P.']

1861

Aug. 23. By cash on acct-----5\_0\_0

Balance due-----£5\_0\_0

Gents.

I must beg of you to settle the above balance without any further delay to save trouble.

R. J. Pryse

397b

Copy

Merthyr Tydfil  
Aug 11. 1862

Sir

In reply to your demand for £5, as a balance due to you from the Committee of the Aberdare Eisteddfod, I have to state,

1. That I never corresponded with you as "Hon. Sec to the Aberdare Committee"; ~~and~~ that I neither ~~engaged~~ requested you ^to act^ as an adjudicator, nor contracted any other engagement with you, in that capacity. ~~And that~~ You have ^therefore^ no claim against me – either legal or moral.

2. That you have already received the same amount as your fellow judges, the Rev W Roberts, and myself.

Yours &c.

T.S.

2. That you were not appointed by the Aberdare Committee, but by your own partizans at Denbigh.

398

[In Thomas Stephens's hand] And as it happens, that we are under no temptation to depart from our pledge. None of the essays represent exactly our own views; one goes further than the facts in our judgment appear to warrant. And the majority, including the successful Essay, fall short of what we believe to be the truth

[The letter, in David Lloyd's hand]

Parade  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860

My dear sir,

I have carefully read your "adjudication" and have no alteration to suggest.

When is the Welsh paper to be drawn up? I suppose that also must be signed by me.

Or is that left for Dr. Williams?

Mrs. Lloyd desires her kind regards. Lucy Ellen never goes to bed in the Evening nor rises in the morning without speaking of her "sweetheart" Ah! Will she be so faithful when she is 19!

Yours very truly

D Lloyd

Rev<sup>d</sup> Thos Stephens Esq

[On the reverse in Thomas Stephens's hand]

We accepted the office of judges, from a sense of the importance ~~Having seen that~~ ~~considerable pay~~ of ~~having~~ the subject of Hebrew Prophecy, and of having the views of Biblical Scholars made known to our countrymen in their own language; and, knowing that since the retirement of the majority of the Judges originally appointed, considerable distrust arose from the supposition of our holding extreme ~~views~~ opinions on the subject, we thought it becoming to announce that we should not allow accordance with our own doctrinal views to have any ~~weight in~~ influence upon decision. Our award will therefore rest entirely upon general literary merits

**399a**

Thou guileless bird of azure wing  
    Be of my thoughts the bearer  
And tell what sorrows to me cling  
    Where one I love's the hearer:  
Speed thee Dove, and say unto her,  
    How weeps the swain who'd be her wooer,  
Say how from love naught can extinguish  
    He scarce can walk the earth with anguish  
May God forgive the beautiful lass  
    That caus'd ^one^ thus to languish

As late I revisit the dewy lawn  
    I first beheld this creature;  
And as she past me like a fawn  
    Observed her form and feature:  
When o'er the flow'rets moist and dripping  
    My eyes beheld the fair one skipping,  
O What I saw with bosom riven  
    Still my heart is deeply graven  
    The charms that made deem this maid  
    An angel stray'd from heaven

**399b**

[Newspaper clipping]

Translations

From the Collection of Original Welsh Melodies of Miss M. J. Williams, continued from  
THE CAMBRIAN of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1866

No. 5  
Aderyn Pur.  
Pages 10, 11

[The Welsh original and a translation of the above poem, with corrections to the Welsh made  
by Stephens]

Cyvieithydd

**400**

Can Ddigrif  
neu

Hanes trafferthion WIL y Gwas {Tôn Difyrwch Gwyr Harlech

1

Distewch am ennyd gwmni llon  
Rwy'n teimlo bron a hollti  
Mae'm llestr agos fwy na llawn  
O eisiau na chawn ganu  
Mi fentra os caf fi ddod ymla'n  
Na chlywsoch gan fwy digri!

Gosteg! – I ddechreu Nawr Wil.

2

Mi es i'r Eglwys pan yn llangc  
Yn fawr fy wancg am bleser  
Heb wybod dim am Ffeiriad Plwy  
Na chredo mwy na Phader  
Ar hen Gi Dash dda'e ar fy ôl  
Doedd hwn ddim ffol o Bartner.

3

Pan es i'r Seat r'oedd Dash tu fa's  
A ffra go gâs ai'n fuan  
Trwy i Davi'r Clochydd fynd yn rash  
I beri i Dash fynd allan  
Arhwygwyd trowsers Dai fel pais  
A chlywyd llais aniddan.

4

Fe chwaddai pawb wrth weld y ffra  
Ond, Ha-Wyr da 'be'r Ffeiriad  
Pwy ydyw'r ffol ddaeth yma a'r Ci  
“Attebais Fi'r hen hwyad”!  
A thi yw'r Ffôl mynbrain (be fi)  
Mae'th grys di ar dy ddillad!!

5

Ond galwais “Dash” i mewn i'r Seat  
A gosted neat gawd gwedyn  
A'r “Dyn a'r crys” ai mlaen yn braf  
Ond mynych Crafa'i gobyn!  
Ac ar ryw ddalen sylwai'n Syn  
Gan ddarllen fal y canlyn,

6

“Deugain mlynedd bum o'r bron  
A'r Gene'l hon'n ymryson”  
“Dy gelwydd di be “Sian o'r Pant”!  
Er's hanner cant mae'n greulon”!  
Ond “Sian” a gredai yn ddilai  
Mae'r Llai feddyliau'r Person!!

7

Och: Sian 'be'r Ffeiriad bydd eich rhan  
Mewn lle cewch ringcian dannedd  
Ond Sian atebai atebai “Craf dy din”  
‘Does gen i un ‘ddar llynedd’!  
Ac yntau driniau Sian yn gas  
A throw'd hi ma's o'r diwedd.

8

Aeth “Dash” a finnau tua thre'  
Ac Wfft fath le a chwm'ni  
Ces “Twm o'r Felin” ger llaw'r tan  
Yn ddu ei rân yn rhegu  
Wrth ryw Gyfreithiwr fod ei Dad  
Mewn nefol wlad yn carne!!

9

“Melinydd i yn y nef (’be’r llall)  
Fu’rioed fath wall gobeithio”  
“Do, Do, (be Twm) a gwrando di  
Mi ddwedaf modd bu arno  
Ni chawd Cyfreithwr trwyr’ holl le  
Iw wysio fe oddiyno”!!

10

“Na, Na mewn Pwll diwaelod” mae  
Ac yno’r ai di atto”  
“Taw’r Ffŵl ’be Twm ped aethai o  
Pa fodd mae yno etto?  
Os Pwll diwaelod ydyw e’  
Fe aeth i ryw le trwyddo”!

11

Daeth crys ’r hen Fachgen mas ar hyn  
Ac awd yn dŷn am ymladd  
A’n wir wrth weld fath frwydr lem  
Mi ofnais cawsem Angladd  
Ond Twm a ffodd dan olwg wael  
’Nol iddo gael ei ddirladd.

12

Ar hyn aeth Gwraig y Ty’n glaf iawn  
A’m gyrru gawn am Ddoctor  
Mi redais innau ffwrdd i’r taith  
Am filldir faith neu ragor  
Daeth E a’i Brentis gyda fi  
A mewn i’r ty yn sobor

13

’Nol teimlo’i garddwrn Siglai ben  
A’r gwaew ar Gwen yn greulon  
Fe ddwedai wrth ei gwr wrth drws  
“Hi fultws wstrws oerion”!  
Nawr doed y gwas lawr gyda fi  
Anfonaf iddi foddion”

14

Y Prentis fethai ddeall pam  
Y dwedai am yr Wstrws  
A holai Feistr pan ca’dd le  
Ac yntau i dde atebws  
Roedd Cregin ar fy mh wys mewn tin  
A llyngcais hyn yn gymmwys”!

15

Yr ailwaith cadd y Prentis fynd  
A gwnaith fy ffrynd waith cryno  
Cadd dan y gwely gyfrwy a ffrwyn  
A mawr fu’n holi a rhuo  
“Chwi futsoch geffyl Gwen ’be fe  
Does gennyh le i obeithio.”!

16

Daeth Gwr y ty mewn ar y gair  
A bu yn ffair ofnadw  
Arhowd ir Prentis flas y ferin  
Am ddweud fod Gwen i farw  
A ffoi tua thre yn fuan wnaeth  
Yn ol cael triniaeth arw.

17

Mi giliais innau nawr i ffwrdd  
Ac es i gwrdd a nghariad  
Ag'r oedd hi'n hyfryd iawn yn wir  
Wrth oleu clir y lleuad  
Os peidiwch chwi a'i roi ar g'o'dd  
Cewch glywed modd bu'r Siarad.

18

Dechreuais ganmol goleu'r lloer  
Mae'n hynod oer be hithau  
Deallais beth feddyliau hi  
Sef cael dod i fy mreichiau  
Ond dwedais Os wyt oer fy ffrynd  
Gwell i ni fynd tuag adre

19

Na, Na, ni gerddwn gael ein gwres  
Gwna in iechyd les 'be hithau  
Pa gyssur gei yn nhre be hi  
Tra gwraig y ty'n gwneud lleisiau  
Pe bawn i dan rhyw boenau blin  
'Does gen i un a deimlai.

20

Deallais etto'r hynt rodd im'  
Ond chymrais i ddim arnaf  
A cherdded wnelem 'nol a mla'n  
A chlosai Sian nes attaf  
Rwy'n dechreu blino meddai hi  
Ac weithiau hi pwysai arnaf

21

Rwyt innau'n blino'n wir be fe  
Pe bawn yn ty cawn orwedd  
Mae'n eitha sych Twm bach be fe  
Pa ham na chaem ni eistedd  
Rho'm fedog wlanen yn ei phlyg  
Nawr ar ryw Gryg – paid gommedd

22

Cyn eistedd passai Wil o'r Wain"  
A'i geingen fain tua'r tafarn  
A Sian ar hyn ai'n eithaf claf  
A minnau'n braf a chadarn  
Wel, Wel, be hi peth odd fod rhai  
A'n clonnau fel yn haiarn!

23

Er treio'm Sian a garai'n dŷn  
Mi wnes un cynnyg etto  
Tai gennyf chwech be fi mi awn  
I fan lle cawn i dwymno  
Mi rown i Swllt un rhwydd 'be Sian  
Pe cawn i dân rwy'n Siglo

24

Daeth Hanner coron nawr i mâ's  
A Wil y Gwas ddywedai  
Tyrd gyda mi fy meinwen ffri  
Mith dreiais di hyd adre  
Cei dwymno ac yfed pethau da  
Ac ni chei hella dimmai.

25

I mewn yr ardd a chafodd Sian  
Ei Rum a than i dwymno  
A chadd gusanau fwy na rhif  
Ac awd i'r plyf cyn 'mado  
Nawr fechgyn peidiwch cymryd merch  
Gan faint fo'ch serch heb dreio.

Terfyn

Twm o'r Bont

[Misc envelopes]

Hand-written table of the letters, written in pencil on letter headed 'Pendarren House,  
Merthyr Tydfil.'

20 Mar / 17

Schedule of original letters ^etc^ addressed to the late Thomas Stephens of Merthyr Tydfil  
the author of "The Literature of the Kymry" the property of Miss Mary Williams ^Davis^ and  
Mr Rhichard Rhys Davis of 40 High St Merthyr Tydfil and presented by them to the National  
Library of Wales viz-

[The table]