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**A Miscellany of Local  
Newspaper Reports for  
Llanelly and the  
surrounding areas.**

**Spanning the period  
1840 – 1849**

**Compiled by Peter Kent**

**An Intriguing and fascinating  
insight into the lives of our  
ancestors.**

**1840 – 1849**

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**1840**

*Advertisement:*  
**TO BE LET**

*For a Term, or from Year to  
Year, and Entered upon at  
Michaelmas next.*

THAT old-established  
**TAVERN**, called the **CORNISH  
ARMS**, situated at the Sea-side,  
Llanelly.

The above House is well  
adapted for a very extensive  
Business, being in the  
immediate neighbourhood of  
the Custom House, the  
Cambrian Copper Works, and  
two Shipping Docks.

For particulars and terms apply  
(pre-paid) to Mr. Stanley, on  
the premises.

(The Cambrian 25<sup>th</sup> April 1840)

**BURNT**

On the 14th inst. A little girl,  
about three years old, was left by  
herself in the house near the  
Furnace, Llanelly, and she  
approached so near the fire that  
her clothes ignited. She ran out  
and was seen in a blaze by a  
woman who lives near, who  
immediately wrapped her apron  
about her, which put out the  
flames, but not before it had

burnt part of her body almost to a cinder. She lingered in the greatest agony till noon the following day, when she expired. It is impossible to speak too reprehensibly on the practice of leaving young children by themselves in a house.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> December 1840)

### WRECKING

We regret that a serious loss have been experienced by the owners of the cargo on board the sloop *Ebberly* of Barnstaple, which recently went on shore and was wrecked on the sand near Kidwelly, in consequence of the base conduct of some of the inhabitants plundering and carrying off the goods, consisting of drapery, grocery &c., in a most *daring* and *diabolical* manner. Great praise is due to the officers and men serving under Mr. Edward Bartlett, chief officer of the Coast Guards of Llanelly, who by their active and resolute conduct succeeded in saving the greater portion, but which, without whose assistance, would inevitably have been carried away by the miscreants. Great is the disgrace to one civilized

country that this part of the coast is still swarmed with robbers of the above description.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> December 1840)

### BODY FOUND

On the 11th inst., the body of a man was found on the sand near Llanelly. It was so much mutilated and disfigured, that it was impossible for any one to identify it; it is probable that it was the body of one of the crew of the *City of Bristol* steamer.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> December 1840)

# 1841

### TESTIMONIAL

OF RESPECT TO THE REV. WATKIN HERBERT, LATE CURATE OF KIDWELLY.-

On Monday last, a deputation of some of the most respectable inhabitants of Kidwelly, waited upon the above-named gentleman at his house, and presented to him

a handsome piece of plate, viz., a first-size melon pattern Silver Teapot, made by Savory and Sons, Cornhill, London, upon which was the following inscription :—" Presented to the Rev. Watkin Herbert, by his friends and parishioners, for his zeal and efficiency in the discharge of his duties as Minister of Kidwelly for the last ten years. 1840." - The chairman of the committee, at the time of the presentation, delivered the following address to the Rev. gentleman: "We beg, in the names of our co-subscribers, and in our own, to present to you the accompanying piece of plate, in testimony of our regard, and in acknowledgment of ten years' faithful services performed by you as curate of the parish church of Kidwelly, in the county of Carmarthen.—Dated the 28th day of December, 1840. Signed, Edward Rees, chairman, for self and co-subscribers." To which address the Rev. gentleman made the following reply: "Gentlemen, I am at a loss for words to express my feelings of gratitude to you for the very handsome manner in which you have been pleased to record your opinion of my services. I shall, to the last moment of my existence,

entertain the highest opinion of your kindness, and I also beg to observe, that during the time I had the honour of officiating as your minister, I discharged the duties of my office (if not as efficiently as I could wish) yet to the best of my abilities, and always had the welfare of my parishioners at heart. This very handsome testimonial of your regard, does honour to the committee, and it will always recal my feelings of affection towards those who presented it to me. I again beg to offer my most grateful thanks to the whole of the subscribers, and believe me that their kindness will never be effaced from my memory." The deputation having partaken of wine and refreshments, then withdrew.

(The Welshman 1<sup>st</sup> January 1841)

PETTY SESSIONS,  
TOWN HALL, LLANELLY,  
JAN. 16.

Before W. Chambers and J. H. Rees, Esqrs. - *Singular Case*. - "The biter bit." - Phillip Howells,

of Maesgwenllian, attended to substantiate a complaint against Daniel Richards, a tradesman in Llanelly, for having on the 14th instant, got into his cart, on the highway, and violently assaulted him, threatening also to stab him with a knife.

On complainant being sworn, he said: I am a farmer, living at Maesgwenllian, near Kidwelly, in this county; I was going home on Thursday last, the 14th instant, at 6 or 7 p.m., a little tipsy, with Mr. William Phillips, of Garreg, when at Cwm-bach, near Pembrey mountain, I saw the prisoner in my cart. I asked him to come out once or twice; he said he would, if I stopped the horse, which I did, and he got out; he then passed me several times, and at last, he tried to trip up my heels and throw me on my knees. I rose and struck him once; he jumped into the cart again, and said he would not come down; he is a stranger to me; as he would not get out, I dragged him out; I did not strike him, but he fell down; he got up again, and ran into a house on the mountain, called "Cold Blow;" the woman of the house made a noise. Mr. Phillips and I took him from the house, and put him in the cart against his will. I took him to Kidwelly, and gave him

into custody; he would not give his name; he was not drunk.

Defendant stated that he was going to Carmarthen on business on the night in question, but missed the Carmarthen carrier; found a cart in Llanelly; a woman was in it, who gave him leave to go as far as Kidwelly; he got in and remained till near Cwm-bach, when complainant desired him to get out, which he did, and walked behind the cart; complainant came to him, d---d him for being in his cart, and knocked him down.

Defendant went into Cold Blow cot, and asked for a bed, being afraid to go on, or to be shown the road, it being quite dark; the woman in the cot said, "There's a cart passing by." It proved to be complainant's, who then came up with Phillips, saying, "Here's the man again," and put him by force into the cart. Complainant charged him with being a highwayman; when near the "Star," complainant struck him without cause several times in his face; the defendant is a resident in Llanelly; complainant and Phillips were intoxicated; they forced him to go into the "Star" where they drank beer; he wished to remain there; the people at the house were willing, but

complainant and Phillips dragged him again into the cart, with great cruelty; complainant beat defendant with a stick violently after this, Phillips also struck him three or four times.

Defendant had the buttons torn off his waistcoat, and lost 10s. from his pocket; his hat was broken [he here exhibited many bruises] ; was taken to Kidwelly and given into custody.

Mary Morris, sworn: I am a single woman living in Kenby, near Kidwelly; I was at Llanelly market last Thursday; went home in Howell's cart; left about half-past six; Howells had gone on; there was no one but myself in it; defendant came into the cart near the saw-pit at Llanelly, without saying a word; I soon overtook Howells, who then got into the cart with Phillips; nothing was said; they saw defendant; went on till they came to Cwm-bach; Howells then told defendant to get out, which he did; after walking about 30 yards, he again got into the cart; Howells asked him to get out, but he would not; Howells then dragged him out; did not hear any blows the first time defendant got out; after this I went on my way alone; and saw complainant and Phillips raise defendant into the cart; Howells

was not very drunk; Phillips did not appear drunk; I accompanied the cart to Pont-spudder; defendant got willingly out at the "Star;" I did not see or hear Richards ill-treated that night by Howells.

Complaint dismissed with costs.

The above named Daniel Richards now charged the said Phillip Howells and William Phillips, with an assault. Howells and Phillips being present, they were asked whether they wished that the case should be proceeded with them, or preferred it being heard on the following Saturday, but they chose the former.

Defendant Howells said, he did not touch Richards, excepting as he had stated; did not know how he got the bruises; Phillips denied striking him at all.

Mr. Arthur Davies, surgeon, stated that Richards had been cruelly treated, and had received several blows.

The defendant Howells was fined £5, including costs: and Phillips, £1, and costs.

There were no other cases of interest.

(The Welshman 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1841)

## **EARTHQUAKE.**

On Sunday morning last, between the hours of three and four o'clock, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Carmarthen, accompanied by a very visible tremor of the earth, and a rumbling noise similar to the sound of distant thunder. A like occurrence was also felt at Pontantwn on the same morning and it seems to have passed onwards to Llanstephan and the Ferry Side, as shocks were felt at each of those places at about the same time, the vibration or tremor accompanying them being very considerable, and occasioning momentary alarm and consternation in the minds of the inhabitants. Similar shocks were experienced about the month of November last, in the neighbourhood of Llanstephan, but of so slight a nature as scarcely to warrant notice.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 6<sup>th</sup> February 1841)

## **THE REGISTRY**

We caution all persons, being electors, or desirous of being electors, to look at the register lists that will be published by the parish officers on Sunday next, and which will be hung up at the

church and chapel doors throughout the kingdom. If any elector finds his name omitted in those lists, let him immediately make application to someone who will prepare a claim for him, that the error may be corrected. In some parishes the most shameful practices are resorted to by officials to exclude persons from the lists in others, errors may inadvertently creep in but in all cases electors ought to be on their guard. At every election thousands find themselves disfranchised merely because they neglected to examine these lists.

(The Welshman 30<sup>th</sup> July 1841)

## **KIDWELLY FAIR**

At this fair, on Tuesday last, there was a good number of buyers, but the show of cattle was not large. The demand was extremely brisk, and the prices obtained high. At the pig fair on the following day there was but little doing.

(The Welshman 6<sup>th</sup> August 1841)

## **SEVEN DOCKS RAILWAY**

A line of railway from Swansea to Carmarthen, a distance of 30

miles, would connect seven sea ports, viz. Swansea, Loughor, Penclawdd, Llanelly, Burry Port, and Pembrey, (two docks) Kidwelly, and Carmarthen.

(Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and South Wales Independent 7<sup>th</sup> August 1841)

## **PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE**

On Friday, the 20th ult. as Mr. Alexander Maule, nurseryman, of Bristol, was crossing the ford at Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, not being fully aware of the dangerous quicksands found at that place, he had not proceeded far through the stream when suddenly the horse and carriage sunk in the sand a considerable depth. An attempt was made to return, but in vain; Mr. Maule and his man then jumped into the water, which rose to their waists, and deepened around them from the sinking of the sands beneath their feet, which led them to suppose the tide was rising, but that was not the case, or their situation would have been perilous in the extreme. The harness was then cut through, and the horse's head being held above water, the whip was severely applied for some time, and, at

length, with success, though the animal was much exhausted. Their danger was seen by persons upon the shore, who hastened to their assistance, and arrived in time to help to extricate the carriage.

(The Cambrian 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1841)

## **UN-REPAIRED ROAD**

Last week a surveyor of turnpike roads at Kidwelly, was fined one shilling and forty shillings costs, for not repairing a road to which his attention had been directed.

(The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette and Merthyr Guardian 18<sup>th</sup> December 1841)

# **1842**

## **LLANELLY PETTY SESSIONS**

John Thomas, a sailor boy, was brought up in custody of the police charged with having stolen a pair of shoes and stockings the property of Michael Wright, a seaman on board the schooner Three Sisters, of Llanelly. Committed to the Quarter Sessions to take his trial.

(The Welshman 21<sup>st</sup> January 1842)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Llanelly, Jan. 20th, 1842.

Sir,-The barque *Suir* left this port some time since for Quebec, under the command of Thomas Davis, where she arrived, took her cargo, and returned as near home as Pembrey, where she struck. The consequence was the whole crew nearly met a watery grave; but fortunately, after struggling for some time with the sea, they were taken ashore with nothing more than they stood upright in. An appeal has been made to the Shipwrecked Mariner's Society, but relief is refused. I would therefore state my object in this giving publicity to such inhumanity is, that some persons would come forward and endeavour, by raising subscriptions (and much may be got by asking) to place this poor Davis and crew in a condition to obtain any other voyage, they now being ruined. Trusting this appeal will not be in vain,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,  
Humanitas.

(The Welshman 21<sup>st</sup> January 1842)

## To the Rate-Payers of the Borough of Llanelly.

GENTLEMEN,-It has become a subject of importance to me, as well as it ought to be to you, to consider the present enormous Highway Rate, it being now more than double what it was within the last few years, when the inhabitants were better able to pay the present rate than they are now to pay the former rates. Under such circumstances, I think there ought to be some economical eye on the look out, to see that they do not (by improving the Borough) damage the resources, thereby adding fuel to the fire of distress. My object in making those remarks is to get a Meeting of Rate-Payers to put a stop to making unnecessary improvements until some more favourable time.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Llanelly, July 26, 1842.

A Rate Payer.

(The Cambrian 6<sup>th</sup> August 1842)

## GROUNDING ON THE CEFN SANDS

On Friday, Dec. 16th, the night being very foggy, a foreign galliot, named *Die Gute Hoffnung*, grounded on the Cefn Sands, at the entrance of the Carmarthen and Kidwelly river, in her passage up to Llanelly, in consequence of not knowing the coast. The following morning she became a total wreck and, we are glad to say, all lives saved, except one child, who died from being exposed to the inclemency of the weather. Part of the cargo was saved, which consisted of marble, oils, images, some part of which was washed ashore by the swelling tide.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 24<sup>th</sup> December 1842)

# 1843

## LLANELLY.

A RATE-PAYER.  
At our Petty Sessions on the 10th inst., David Howell, the landlord of the Collier's Arms in this parish, appeared to answer to an information laid against him, for having fraudulently deposited and concealed on his premises at Bryn, a quantity of malt. The

quantity found exceeded fourteen bushels. The defendant pleaded guilty, in consideration of which, and this being his first offence, he was convicted in the mitigated penalty fifty pounds. The magistrates advised him to forward a petition to the Board of Excise at the same time stating that they (the magistrates) would send a recommendation to the same board that the penalty should be further reduced to five pounds.

John Rees, the landlord of the King's Head, Llanon, pleaded guilty to a similar charge. He was also convicted in the same penalty, and received a similar recommendation from the magistrates.

William Gonmer, Samuel Davies, William Lewis, and John Morris severally complained against David Harry, the manager of the Pant-y-fynon colliery, near this town, under Messrs. Kirke and Kymer, for non-payment of wages due to them—viz £9, £6 5s., £9 18s., and £10 7s. The magistrates ordered the wages to be paid in each case, together with the costs of the application.

Lion Israel, an Israelite, appeared with hat on to complain against Mr. Anthony, of Temple Gate, for

having assaulted him on the 7th instant at the Crown public-house, by "plucking his beard." The necessary facts were fully proved and Mr. Anthony was convicted in the penalty of £1 10s. together with 13s. costs.

Inquests were held before William Bonville, Esq., coroner, on Monday last, on the bodies of two seamen found drowned, supposed to be Frenchmen belonging to a fishing boat; one (a middle sized stout man apparently of about 37 years age) wearing a flannel shirt, and a good blue cloth trousers. On his person were found 2s. 6d., in silver, three clasp knives, and an oval brass medal about the size of a shilling, wore about his neck, tied with a piece of black tape. The other body was that of a lad of about 17 years of age, meanly clothed, the former was found upon Cefn Sidan sands, and interred in the church yard at Saint Ishmael, the latter found on Towin sands, and buried in the church yard at Pembrey. The Jury found a verdict of "found drowned" in each case.

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held before the same gentleman, at the Pemberton Arms, between Llanelly and Loughor, on the body of Mrs. Anne Jones, aged 53, who was on Saturday night

last found a corpse in her own house (by her husband) lying on the floor, and the door locked from the inside; he was obliged to break it open to gain admittance. There were no marks of violence on her body, and the medical gentlemen were of opinion that she died from natural causes. Verdict Died by the visitation of God.

A vessel bound from Youghal to Cork was driven on shore at Towyn Point, near Pembrey, on Friday last. The master was drowned, but the crew and part of the cargo were saved.

(The Welshman 16<sup>th</sup> June 1843)

#### **INQUEST AT LLANELLY.**

On Monday last an inquest was held at the Bird-in-hand public-house, in the parish of Pembrey, near Trimsaran, on the body of John Bees, found the river Gelliwyth. From the evidence, it appears that the poor man was seized with a fit while in his own garden, and fell into the river which runs through the middle it. He was found by his aged mother, when it was supposed life was

hardly extinct, but no means of restoration being near at hand life was soon gone. The jury after carefully investigating the case gave a verdict of "Found Drowned."

(Monmouthshire Merlin 15<sup>th</sup> July 1843)

#### **ROBBERY.**

Early in the morning of Friday last, some person broke into the office of Mr. James Buckley, merchant, Llanelly, and having forced open the locks, took from thence about £2 in copper, and a quantity of old silver plate and foreign and English coins, amounting to the value of about £6, It appears evident from the manner in which the robbery was perpetrated that the depredators must have been well acquainted with the premises. Information has been given at the police stations in Swansea and Carmarthen, but up to the present time no clue has been discovered so as to detect the party.

(The Welshman 28<sup>th</sup> July 1843)

#### **RURAL POLICE**

We are informed that William Chambers, Esq., of Llanelly House, and R. J. Neville, Esq., of

Llangennech, have expressed their intention of relieving their tenants from the expense which will attend the proposed establishment of a Rural Police, by paying the Police Rate on their estates within the Llanelly District, and that they are using endeavours to make such relief general throughout the neighbourhood. We apprehend that many other gentlemen will ultimately be compelled to do the same for it is confidently asserted by some of those who best know the condition of this county, that tenants generally cannot possibly pay a penny for rural policing.

(The Welshman 28<sup>th</sup> July 1843)

#### **ALARMING PROGRESS OF REBECCAISM DESTRUCTION OF THE FURNACE GATE, NEAR LLANELLY.**

Official intelligence has just reached me, that these depredators made an irruption into Llanelly, about three o'clock this morning, and totally demolished the Furnace Gate, on the road leading from that town to Carmarthen, and burned the

toll-house to the ground. This is a new—a very formidable feature in this servile war. They also destroyed the Sandy Gate on the road leading to Pembrey, as well as a private gate, the property of a gentleman named Lewis, of Stradey.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 12<sup>th</sup> August 1843)

## REBECCA RIOTS.

### THE LLANELLY TOLL GATES.

The town of Llanelly was in a state of considerable excitement on Monday last, that being the day on which the investigation before the Magistrates into the circumstances attending the destruction of the Sandy and the Furnace gates, took place. The Town-hall was crowded to excess. The persons against whom the charge was preferred were *Francis M'Kiernin* (inn-keeper, and contractor for the carriage of the mail from this town to Llanelly, and proprietor of the day coach running from this town to Carmarthen), *George Laing*, carrier, and *John Phillips*. These parties had at a former examination, when the information against them was given by the toll-collector at the Sandy gate, entered into

recognizances to appear on the day in question, which they then duly discharged.

The Magistrates on the bench were R. J. Nevill, D. Lewis, and J. H. Rees, Esquires.

Mr. Wm. Gardner, of Carmarthen, attended on behalf of the prisoners.

The Magistrates' Clerk read over the charge, which was to the effect that they had, on Wednesday, the 2d of August last, together with about twenty other persons, riotously and tumultuously assembled, and did, then and there, break down and destroy the Sandy toll-gate, and commenced to demolish the toll house. Each of the prisoners pleaded "Not Guilty."

Jenkin Hugh, was the first witness examined. After being sworn, the witness asked permission to give his evidence in Welsh, but at the request of Mr. Gardner, and on the Magistrates promising that any question he did not understand should be explained to him in Welsh, he consented to give his evidence in English.

Mr. J. H. Rees reminded the witness of the importance of the evidence he was going to give, and desired him to be very

cautious in all statements he might think proper to make.

The witness then deposed to the following effect:- I live at the Sandy-gate toll-house, in the parish of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire. My wife's name is Catherine. She is the toll-collector, and resides with myself and family in the toll-house. On Wednesday, the 2d of this month, the letter-carrier of this town delivered me a letter, for which I had to pay two-pence postage. At the time I received it, I told the letter-carrier that I would pay him again. The letter contained a notice to the effect, that the gate would be destroyed. I took it to Mr. Benjamin Jones's office. He advised me to take it to Mr. Chambers, the magistrate. I did not show the letter to Mr. Chambers, as I thought the threat a mere joke. However, I took it with me to Mr. M'Kiernin's house; when Mr. M'Kiernin, myself, and another person, took about two half-pints of beer each. When I showed Mr. M'Kiernin the letter, I asked him what was the best course to pursue, whether I had not better remove my family from the toll-house. He replied, "Never mind doing that—should the gate be destroyed, neither yourself, wife, nor children, shall

be injured ; I will take care of that." I am sure he said "I will take care of that." Soon afterwards I returned home. This conversation took place between nine and ten o'clock. I was home by ten. After arriving at the house I expressed an apprehension to my wife, that the gate would be destroyed, and told her that it would be useless for us to retire to bed. However, my wife went to bed that night, but I remained on the settle. I had no particular fear for the gate on that night, for I had remained down many nights previously, having several times received letters informing me that the gate would be destroyed. One letter advised me, that I had "better retire to the Stradey level out of the way of Becca and her Daughters." About one o'clock in the morning, I heard a great noise at the gate. Some persons were talking and laughing. They then broke the gate to pieces. I was not asleep at the commencement of the noise. The first noise I heard was the striking at the posts of the gate. I then looked out through the window, and observed some of the party cutting the gate with saws. It was not light enough for me to see what description of saws they used. In a short time two shots

were fired through the window. I was not looking out at that time. Two or three persons then broke the toll-house door with an axe or axes. I then went out to the turnpike-road and fell on my knees before them, and begged them not to pull down the house upon my family, but allow me to get the children out of the house. On looking about I observed Mr. M'Kiernin standing on the railway, near the turnpike-road. I advanced towards him, and repeated my request that the party should stop until I had got out my family. Mr. M'Kiernin then cried out "stop, stop, let the man take his children out." Upon that, the defendant George Laing, having stepped forward to the middle of the road, cried out "don't stop, take it down—to the devil with it." I then went into the house for the purpose of getting the children out, and a shot was fired after me. I do not know who shot after me. The marks are now on the mantelpiece. My wife had taken some of the children out through the back window. After going into the house I tried to carry out the clock. One of the party, who had his face blackened, assisted me to get the clock out of the house. After having taken the clock, which was

damaged by the removal, out of the house, I missed both M'Kiernin and Laing. During the riot I was severely struck on my arm with a gun. I do not know who struck me. Besides the two persons I have named, I saw a neighbour of mine there, but I forgive him. (Laughter.) I will swear I recognised none of the individuals who were present with the exception of Mr. M'Kiernin, Laing, and my neighbour. I also saw three or four persons on the house-top, who commenced unroofing the house. They threw down a few of the tiles. The mantelpiece and the porch before the door were taken down. A great number of dishes, &c., on the shelf were taken down and broken. All the windows were smashed. I cannot say how long the riot continued. Mr. M'Kiernin had not got his face blackened, but he wore a kind of white shirt over his clothes. Laing was dressed in a similar way. I did not see Laing's face. He had a white shirt about him, and something around his waist. When he jumped from the railway to the middle of the turnpike-road and cried out "go on," I spoke to him, and begged of him to stop them, but he made no reply, yet, I think he stopped them for a short time.

I have no additional statement to make. I did not observe in what direction M'Kiernin and Laing went.

Mr. Gardner applied for permission to inspect a copy of the deposition made by the witness at the time the information was given by him.

The Magistrates granted the request.

In his cross-examination the witness said—I left my house with the letter soon after dinner, and went to Mr. Benjamin Jones's office. I drank in all about three or four half-pints of beer, but I was perfectly sober. I cannot say whether the party came to the gate from different directions, or all at the same time. I did not see M'Kiernin until I went to the railway. I knew Laing by his voice and his appearance. It is of no use talking to you (laughter) ; what I told the Magistrates was true, and said on my oath.

Mr. Gardner:—In your former statement to the Magistrates you said that when you begged Laing to allow you to take out the children, he said, "d—n you, never mind," and now you say that he made you no reply. Which statement are we to believe? Witness answered, that he would

explain the whole, if he should give his evidence in Welsh. He also said that what he said in his former examination was, that Laing told the men, "d—n you, go on," when witness begged of them to allow him to take the children out of the house. Witness proceeded :—On the following morning I was intoxicated, as I had taken three or four halfpints after having been down during the whole of the night. I was not quite sober when I went to the house of Mr. Chambers, the magistrate.

Mr. Gardner:—Why did you wish, not to make a complaint against your neighbour whom you saw among the party ?

Witness:—I did not wish to make a complaint against any person, but the Magistrates required me to make a deposition. I do not know who any of the persons on the roof were. I will swear I did not say that I recognized Mr. Chambers, sen., as being one of the persons on the roof.

Mr. Gardner:—But I have witnesses to prove that you have said so.

Witness:—You may have witnesses to prove that I said many things which I have never said. I swear I never said so. I



was alarmed, but not so much so as to prevent my knowing any person. M'Kiernin had on, either a straw bonnet, or a straw hat. It was something white. I will undertake to swear that Laing was there. I knew him by his face, and the shape of his body. Do you think I am such a fool as not to know a person whom I see every day. He was walking to and fro while I was on my knees. The night had been rather dark, but it became lighter before the riot terminated. I told them that if they would allow me to save my furniture, they should burn down the house on the next day.

Mr. Gardner:—Why did you refuse to be sworn before the Magistrates?

The Magistrates decided that that was not a proper question, not arising out of the examination.

Catherine Hugh, the wife of the last witness, stated that she was the toll-collector for Sandy gate, as her name was on the toll board. In her examination in Welsh by the Magistrates, she made the following depositions:— I remember the night of the 2d of August, when I retired to bed about one o'clock. The children had previously gone to bed. My husband was on the settle. Shortly

after retiring I heard a noise of knocking at the windows. It was a quarter to two o'clock. I came out of bed to wake my husband. He went on his knees upon the table for the purpose of looking out through the window at the party destroying the gate. The window was soon smashed in. The glass was broken to pieces. I do not know that it was broken by the shots, but there were marks on part of it the next day. I desired my husband to request them to stop until the children were taken out of the house. He cried "holt" through the window. The door was then broken open, and my husband begged them to allow him to remove the family and furniture. Some cried. "Come out, or we will kill you." Others assisted in removing the furniture. I was in the back room with the children, who were crying, while my husband was outside with the crowd. I heard some of the tiles fall, and also heard my husband telling the rioters that lie depended upon their honour not to injure the children. I did not recognize one of the party. After the party had gone, I began to cry. My husband said they would surely repent. My husband was perfectly sober, but he had been taking beer. That morning, before

he left the house, he named some persons as being among the rioters. He named M'Kiernin and Laing. He named no others, as I told him to hold his tongue. He complained of his arm, and was afraid it had been broken. The description of the damage done to the houses, &c., given by witness, is similar to that given by the first witness.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gardner: - I had been out looking for my husband before his return on that night. He came home about ten o'clock. I took no particular notice of the rioters, as I was greatly alarmed. I did not look upon them, as they were shooting over my head into the house. After my husband came in, he told he had been conversing with Mr. M'Kiernin on the railroad, who called upon the mob to "stop," while Laing cried out "go on."

Edward Challinder, tide-waiter, who lived near the toll-house, deposed that, in consequence of hearing a noise at the gate on the night in question, he looked out through his window, which commanded a view of the whole of the gate, and nearly the whole of the toll-home, and saw a crowd of people destroying the gate, and commencing the demolition of the

house. They were firing guns, and talking quite loud. He heard some voice saying "Go on," and another calling out "Stop, stop, let the children be taken out." I could not recognize any of the party. It was a rainy and dark night. I got out of bed and went to the toll-house in an hour's time. Witness then described the damage done.

Cross-examined: — Believed that the two persons who stood on the railway had white shirts about them. It was light enough to ascertain that.

Re-examined: — Had a conversation with Hugh soon after the gate was destroyed. He said that he had received a kick and a blow on the arm. He had drunk beer, but was steady enough. He did not mention to witness any persons who were among the crowd.

Mr. William Lewis was then sworn, and stated that he was the lessee of the tolls of the Kidwelly trust, and first received information of the destruction of the gate about eight o'clock on Thursday morning. A person came about that time to his house, which is in the Swansea Market-place, and requested him to come to Mr. M'Kiernin, who wished to speak to him. Witness

went to the "King William," in St. Mary-street, where Mr. M'Kiernin stopped. He said that the Sandy gate and part of the house were destroyed, and that Jenkin Hugh's clock was injured. He also informed witness that the Furnace gate was broken to pieces, and the house burnt to the ground, and advised him to proceed immediately to Llanelly. Witness asked what use would it be to go on a market day. He said no person would hurt me by day. He did not say how he became possessed of the information. I think he said that Mr. Broom called at his house and informed him of the circumstance. I know Mr. M'Kiernin is an inn-keeper and a coach proprietor.

Mr. M'Kiernin: — Do you not remember I distinctly told you that the toll-receiver called after me as I was passing on the coach through the gate, and requested me to inform you of the destruction of the gates.

Witness:—I cannot remember that you told me so.

Mr. Gaidnor then addressed the bench, and contended that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant the Magistrates to send the case for trial. He proceeded to remark upon the variations in the

evidence of the witness J. Hugh from that given at the previous examination before the Magistrates.

Mr. J. H. Rees observed, that the evidence was direct and positive.

Mr. Gardnor said that he could produce respectable witnesses to prove that Mr. M'Kiernin was in bed on the night in question.

Strangers were ordered to withdraw, until the Magistrates had decided whether such evidence could be admitted.

On our return, Mr. J. H. Rees said, that after the long and patient investigation made into the case, and after the direct evidence given, the Magistrates could come to no other conclusion than that it was their duty to commit the parties for trial. If it were desired, the Magistrates would receive evidence, but the question of an *alibi* could not be entertained by them. It was not their duty to be judges of conflicting evidence. That belonged to the judge and jury. The only kind of evidence which could be received by Magistrates was evidence to prove a witness unworthy of credit.

J Mr. Gardnor expressed a hope that, as the Magistrates had determined to commit, the case

would be sent for trial to the Assizes, as the parties were desirous of having the benefit of Counsel.

Mr. Nevill said that the case would be sent to the Assizes, as probably a Special Commission might be sent down to try the parties charged with being implicated in these and similar disturbances.

John Phillip was discharged, there being no evidence to inculcate him.

Mr. J. H. Rees said that the Magistrates were extremely sorry that it became their duty to commit for trial parties of the respectability of the defendants, but as they were not to decide upon the credibility or non-credibility of evidence, they were compelled to send the case for trial, but would receive bail - each principal in the sum of 200*l.*, and two sureties in 100*l.*, each.

On the Magistrates announcing their intention of committing the parties for trial on a charge of felony, Mr. Gardnor called their attention to the Act of Parliament, which enacted that any person convicted of destroying any turnpike gate, chain, or bar, so as to let passengers pass without paying

toll, or any house or building used for the purpose of toll-collecting, should be deemed guilty of a *mis-demeanour* only.

Mr. Grove, Clerk to the Magistrates, said that the Act cited referred to the destruction of a gate, bar, or house by one person only, but called Mr. Gardnor's attention to 4 and 5 Vic., c. 56., s. 7, which enacted that if three or more persons riotously assembled and destroyed any church, chapel, or any description of building, he should, on conviction, be deemed guilty of felony.

Messrs. M-Kiernin and Laing were committed under the latter Act. The required sureties having been found, they were liberated.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> August 1843)

### **DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF HENDY TOLL- HOUSE, AND DEATH OF THE TOLL COLLECTOR.**

A report reached this town on Sunday evening, that the above gate, as well as the Toll-house, had been destroyed, and that the toll collector, an old woman, had been shot dead. On enquiry it

turned out that the sad news was but too true. It appeared that the gate-house was attacked by a party of the Rebaccaites at about eleven or twelve o'clock on Saturday night. The number of persons assembled could not have been great, as, according to the evidence of one of the witnesses at the coroner's inquisition, neither the noise of horses nor the trampling of feet was heard, but two witnesses say that they heard the reports of five or six gunshots.

(The Cambria 16<sup>th</sup> September 1843)

## REBECCAISM

### RIOT AT PONTARDULAIS.

In our second edition of last Saturday we gave the particulars of the attack on Pontardulais gate, on the night of Wednesday the sixth instant, by a party of Rebeccaites, and the apprehension of seven of the violators of the law, by Captain Napier and the gallant band who accompanied him. Four of these prisoners, named William Hughes, Thomas Williams, Henry Rogers, and Lewis Davies, were taken to Llanelly, where they were examined, on Thursday, before a

bench of magistrates, who adjourned the further examination till Monday, when the affair would be fully investigated at Swansea.

Mr. Chambers, Carmarthenshire magistrate, who was present at the apprehension of the Rebeccaites at Pontardulais last week, cultivates a farm of his own near Llanelly, the barns and outbuildings of which were consumed by fire on Sunday morning last. A servant boy of Mr Chambers saw 15 men, disguised, leaving the premises immediately on the appearance of the fire : these same men were seen afterwards crossing the country to another farm belonging to Mr. Chambers, to which they also set fire. The damage done at the first farm is estimated at £300, and that at the second at £150.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 16<sup>th</sup> September 1843)

### COMMITTAL OF A DESPERATE CHARACTER.

A fellow named John Jones, alias Shoni Scuborfawr, already committed on several charges connected with the destruction of turnpike gates and toll-houses in Carmarthenshire, has again been

examined at the county gaol, on a charge of shooting, with intent to murder, Mr. Walter Rees, of Ponthenry, near Pontyberem. The following are the facts of the case:-

On the 25th of Aug. last, the great Mynydd Sylen meeting was held. At that meeting a resolution condemnatory of nightly outrages, was unanimously carried. The prisoner was present, and made himself very conspicuous, voting for the resolution on the show of hands being taken.

On the evening of that day a man named Levi asked him what he carried the gun for, after having held up his hand against nocturnal meetings and outrage. Shoni, with dreadful imprecations, levelled the gun at Levi's breast, who at once seized it by the barrel, and a violent struggle ensued, in which the gun went off, without, however, injuring either. Levi then ran away and took refuge in a public-house called the New Inn, followed by Shoni, who finding the door shut against him, attempted to force it in, and being a very powerful man, succeeded in his object, but did not enter the house, being suspicious, as it is supposed, that other persons were inside.

The landlady inside saw him level his gun, as if he intended firing at some-one through the window, and being much alarmed, requested Mr. Walter Rees, of Ponthenry, who happened to be in the house at the time, to close the door. Mr. Rees attempted to do so, but while in the act, Shoni left the window and came to the door, and, before it could be closed, levelled and fired at him. The charge from the gun made a large hole in the door, and a number of the shots went through Mr. Rees's hat. Shoni then made off. These circumstances were ascertained by Inspector Tierney, who after three weeks of great exertion, succeeded in getting the evidence in train so as to secure Shoni's committal.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1843)

# 1844

## THE LATE STORM

In Carmarthen Bay, in addition to the total wreck of the Richard of Sunderland, we have to record the total loss of three vessels near the Worms

Head. They were endeavouring to enter Llanelly, but failed and were, completely destroyed. On Saturday forenoon, the body of a female was picked up on Pembrey sands; she was supposed to be the wife of the Captain of one of the lost vessels. These three vessels are supposed to be a schooner called the *Mary*, of Bridgewater, laden with hay and reeds. Crew saved, with the exception of one man. The smack *Julia*, of Chepstow, laden with bark. One man lost. The *Triton*, of Plymouth, laden with copper ore for Williams, Forster, & Co. The master was saved, but three of the crew were unfortunately lost.

The brig *Friends*, of Ilfracombe, (Fry, master), went down in Carmarthen bay. All the crew perished, together with the master's wife and family, who were on board.

(The Welshman 9<sup>th</sup> August 1844)

### LLANELLY.

The gale caused great damage here, both ashore and afloat.

Three vessels were seen endeavouring to make the port, but they all perished in the storm, and left no traces of their names or country. Three other vessels were wrecked near the Caldy roads, being driven thither from their anchorage. One crew was saved—the others perished. On Saturday the body of a female—supposed to be the wife of the master of one of the shipwrecked vessels—was picked up on Pembrey sands. Other losses and disasters are reported, but nothing can be stated with certainty.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 10<sup>th</sup> August 1844)

### To Grocers, Drapers, Ironmongers, &c:

### TO BE LET AND ENTERED UPON IMMEDIATELY

A Commodious HOUSE, with a spacious SHOP, situated in College-street, being one of greatest thoroughfare in the town of Swansea.

Apply to Mr. Wm. Walters,  
Castle-square, Swansea.

(The Cambrian 31<sup>st</sup> August 1844)

*Advertisement:*

### To CAPITALISTS.

Extensive Colliery, Iron Works, Harbour, &c., to be Let, in the Mineral Basin of South, Wales,

PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

### TO BE LET,

For a term of Years, with immediate possession,

ALL that celebrated and well-known COLLIERY, called the GWSCWM COLLIERY, with the Iron Works, Canal, and Harbour, lately occupied by the Pembrey Coal and Iron Company together with the spacious Residence, Managers, Agents, and Workmen's Houses, situate at Pembrey, near the vale of Gwendraeth, Kidwelly, and Llanelly, in the county of Carmarthen.

The Coals, which are bituminous, are of well-known quality, being the noted Barnaby Pill Coals; they comprise several valuable veins, and extend under several thousand acres of land, and from the unusual facilities for exportation, offer such advantages for working as are possessed by no other Colliery in the neighbourhood.

The Colliery, which is capable of being immediately worked from the existing pit, has the peculiar advantage of requiring but a comparatively small outlay of capital to render it at once productive; the former workings having been discontinued while in full and profitable supply, form an extensive hold of most excellent coal, and is free from all the uncertainty which may attack to new Collieries.

The Harbour, which was constructed solely for shipping coals from the Colliery, and lies within half a mile of the pit on the Burry river, is capable of holding a very considerable number of vessels of the largest class, in perfect security; and the canal communicates from thence by means of the Llanelly and Kidwelly canal with the vale of Gwendraeth, where an inexhaustible supply of iron stone can be procured for the Iron Works, which, it is considered, may be revived with great advantage, as the coals are peculiarly adapted to the manufacture of iron and the site is strongly recommended, from its position and supply of coals, for the erection of Copper Works.

The Iron Works, Harbour, and Canal, as well as the Dwelling-houses and other Residencies, will either be let with the Colliery or not, at the option of the tenant, who may be also accommodated with a greater or less quantity of land as may be desired.

Pembrey, which in four miles from Llanelly, and thirteen from Carmarthen, has a daily post to London.

The projected railroad from Gloucester through the mineral district of South Wales must pass through this properly.

For particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Charles Bishop, Llandoverly, Carmarthenshire, and to Mr. John Davies, Frood, Pembrey, who will shew the premises.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> October 1844)

*Advertisement:*

## TRIMSARAN

### ANTHRACITE IRON & COAL WORKS,

IN CARMARTHENSHIRE, SOUTH WALES.

### MESSRS. HOGGART & NORTON,

Have received instructions to

#### OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION, AT THE MART,

On FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13th, at 12 o'clock, (unless previously disposed of by private contract.)

THE LEASE, PLANT, and STOCK of all those valuable and newly erected

### IRON WORKS,

With the extensive and very rich Mineral taking attached thereto, known as the TRIMSARAN IRON AND COAL WORKS, situate in the parish of Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, three miles from the excellent harbours of Pembrey and Kidwelly, which communicate with the Works by canal.

The Iron Works comprise two newly-erected furnaces, sixteen months in blast, cast-house, foundry, two refineries, capital new blast engine, smithies, and offices complete. The Mineral taking comprises upwards of 1200 acres, containing above twenty workable seams of coal, and abundant pits of iron mine, all proved, opened by level, and of excellent quality for making iron; also a very valuable and abundant seam of black band, from which excellent foundry iron has been made.

There is a new pit of 60 fathoms, with new engine, other colliery engines, railways, tramways, brick-yard, clay mill, kilns, trams, &c., where fire-bricks of the best description are made.

The iron produced at these works is of the best quality made in the Anthracite district, and the collieries and rick-yard are capable of furnishing a large shipping-trade in addition to supplying the iron works.

The Lease is for a term of 60 years, at a moderate rent and royalties, and it contains a provision for a right to purchase the freehold within a specified term on very advantageous terms.

For further particulars apply to T. I. Mawe, Esq., Bridge-street., Blackfriars; Messrs. Freshfield, Bank Buildings; and of Mr. Blethyn, on the Premises. Particulars also at the White Horse, Bristol; Falcon, Llanelly; Angel, Cardiff: the Westgate Inn, Newport, Bush and Boar's Head Inns, Carmarthen the Castle and Mackworth Arms, Swansea; Albion, Liverpool; Bridgewater Arms, Manchester; Hotel, Merthyr; at the Auction Mart, London; and of Messrs. Hoggart and Norton, 62, Old Broad-street, Royal Exchange. London.

(The Welshman 6<sup>th</sup> December 1844)

# 1845

## THE WEATHER.

The snow which fell so heavily last week, has disappeared under the effects of a gentle thaw, and the weather on Tuesday and Wednesday, was as mild as it usually is in May. Yesterday, however, it became much colder. Last night we had a sharp frost.

(The Welshman 7<sup>th</sup> February 1845)

## LLANELLY AND LLANGENNECH DISTRICT PLOUGHING MATCH.

On Friday last this match took place in a field on Penywern farm. Twenty ploughs started, and we may say that the farmers here have reason to be proud of their ploughmen. The judges (G. Barnes, Esq., of Talyclyn, Mr. J. Roberts, of Erwasted, and Mr. Pritchard, of Hereford) awarded the prizes as follows:—

- 1st. £1 5s. to F. Hopkin, ploughman to R. J. Nevill, Esq., Llangennech Park;
- 2nd £1, to E. Thomas, ploughman to ditto
- 3rd. 15s. to W. Williams, ploughman to Mr. T. Thomas, Cwmbach;
- 4th. 10s. to John Hugh, jun., ploughman and owner;

5th. 5s. to J Davies, ploughman to Mr. Rees. Gellygaed.

After the above had been awarded, a single contest came off between the man who won the 1st prize, and David Griffiths, ploughman to the Gwendraeth Company, which was gained by No. 1.

In the evening a supper took place at the Royal Exchange Inn, Llanelly, when about 45 sat down. A. Raby, Esq. Portreeve of the Borough of Llanelly, was unanimously called upon to take the chair; the vice was ably conducted by Mr. John Gibson. Song and sentiment engaged and amused the company until a late hour, when they separated highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.

(The Welshman 7<sup>th</sup> February 1845)

## LLANELLY NEW DOCKS.

To the Editor of the "Welshman."

SIR,—Aware of your readiness on all occasions to give insertion in your columns to any communication of a public nature, I am induced to trouble you with this on the subject of the inefficiency (or rather the total want) of police in the locality of

the Llanelly New Docks, trusting that the publicity given to the matter will be the means of causing some inquiry into this very great evil from the proper quarter. It is not uncommon for 150 vessels to lay at one time in this place, with about 800 or 900 seamen, and although repeated applications have been made to the authorities, no measures have been taken to prevent the scenes of drunkenness, riot, obscenity, and disorder which daily occur; and the perpetrators are permitted to continue their conduct for hours together without a question being asked by any person authorized to do so. I assure you, Sir, I only express the universal feeling of the inhabitants of this quarter of the town in complaining of the supineness of those whose duty it is to maintain order and attend to the internal regulations of the place, in allowing the constant repetitions of such scenes without taking any measures for their prevention. I hope that through the medium of your valuable paper, those who are interested in the well doing of the town, and who have not given this subject consideration, may from this statement be induced to exert their influence in establishing

some permanent means for preserving the neighbourhood from proceedings disgraceful to any civilized country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
October 28th, 1845. M.

(The Welshman 31<sup>st</sup> October 1845)

### Great Gwendraeth Vale and Welsh

#### JUNCTION RAILWAY

THIS Railway is proposed to be made with a view to its forming a Junction in the most important part of South Wales with three other projected Lines, viz., the South Wales, the Welsh Midland, and the North and South Wales, whereby communication will be formed with North Wales and Ireland, London, Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, and the whole of the Northern Manufacturing Districts, and also with the Coasts of Devon and Cornwall, and will accommodate the following Towns in the vicinity of the Line, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llangadock, Llandovery, Treacastle, Brecon, Hay, Crickhowel, Abergavenny,

Merthyr Tydvil, Swansea, Neath, Lloughor, Llanelly, Kidwelly, Laugharne, St. Clears, Narberth, Haverfordwest, Milford, Cardigan, Newcastle Emlyn, Pembroke, H. M. Dockyard at Pater and the fashionable Watering Places of Aberystwith, Tenby, Lanstephan, and the Ferry side.

Commencing at Burryport, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, a harbour of recent formation, but unequalled in point of situation, depth of water, and safe anchorage for Ships by any other Tidal Harbour on the whole of the Welsh Coast; the Line will be carried close to the Village of Pembrey, in a westward direction about one mile and a half, where it is intended to cross the South Wales Railway, from here, taking a course to the North, it will proceed through the Gwendraeth Vale, passing the Villages of Pontyates, Ponthenry, Llangendeirne, Pontyberem, Porthyrhyd, Llanddarog to Llanarthney, near to which place it is intended to intersect the Line of the Welsh Midland at a point about six miles from Llandilo and nine from Carmarthen, and on from this point up the Vale of Cothi, passing the Villages of Llanegwad, Brechfa, Abergorlech, Edwingsford, and Llansawel to

Lampeter, where it will form a Junction with the North and South Wales Railway, and completing a distance, including branches, of about fifty- four miles.

It is intended to connect the Line with the coal, marble, and mineral districts. The Line presents no engineering difficulties, and the country through which it passes abounds with the materials necessary for its construction.

Should it become necessary, arrangements will be made for the continuation of the Line from near Edwingsford to Rhayader, and to form a junction with other projected Railways.

This Railway will proceed for the first 20 miles through a most important mineral district abounding with bituminous anthracite and steam-coals, iron, fire-clay, limestone, black marble, slate, flagstone, copper, and lead ores, and the remainder of the distance across an agricultural country, thus connecting these several districts with the sea and with each other.

It is quite obvious that great benefit must also result to the Landowners by the construction of this Railway, in insuring the cheap delivery of Coal and Lime,

both essential to the welfare of the Farmer.

Thousands of acres of convertible land are now lying barren for want of the means of procuring lime as manure at a moderate cost, which is scarcely to be obtained from the heavy charge for transit, in common carts, over bad roads.

The traffic in coals, lime, slate, copper and lead ore, timber, cattle, and every description of live stock and agricultural produce, which already exists to a large extent, must receive great impulse from the convenience and economy of this line of Railway.

The great interchange of commodities between the manufacturing, the mining, and the agricultural districts, will ensure a large revenue, independently of passenger traffic, which must necessarily be of great extent, the line forming a connecting link between many main lines, communicating with every part of the United Kingdom.

It is estimated that even the present traffic of the Gwendraeth Vale alone in coal and lime is of itself sufficient, to pay a fair percentage on the capital required

for this Railway, leaving out all the other sources of profit.

The value of the Land generally required for the Line is within the average cost.

Until an Act of Parliament shall be obtained, the affairs of this Company shall be under the control, of the Committee of Management, to whom power is given to allot the Shares, and to apply the funds of the Company in payment of the expenses incurred in its formation and in the preparation of the Plans and Sections to be submitted to Parliament.

Preference will be given in the allotment of Shares to the Landed Proprietors and others locally interested in the Line.

Power will be applied for in the Act—and in the meantime is hereby given to the Committee of Management—to raise an additional capital; to abandon any part of the Line, to make Branch Lines, or enter into arrangements with any other Company or Companies and also to nominate the first Directors of the Company.

The Deeds will provide that no Call shall be made on the Shareholders beyond the Deposit until the Act of Parliament is

obtained, and power will be taken in the Act to allow 4 per Cent. interest on all Calls.

The Parliamentary contract and subscribers' agreement will be ready for signature on payment of the deposits.

Applications for prospectuses and shares may be made to the solicitors, and to the following stock and share brokers:- Messrs. James, William, and Charles Peppercorne, 2, Old Broad-street; Messrs. Hill, Fawcett, and Hill, Threadneedle-street; Messrs. Smith, Knowles, and Cook, Leeds; Messrs. Wreford, Nicholls, and Wreford, Bristol; Messrs. Fletcher and Sharp, Liverpool; Mr. Wakefield, Nottingham; Messrs. H. Monro and Co. Edingburgh; W. H. Collis, Esq., Birmingham; Messrs. Duncan and Hutchinson, Glasgow; Mr. Frederick Wheatcroft, broker, Derby; Mr. I. M. Balme, Gloucester.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian 1<sup>st</sup> November 1845)

### **SWEDE TURNIPS**

FOR SALE, any quantity, not exceeding fifty tons of SWEDE TURNIPS. - Apply to Wm. Hewlett, near the Turnpike, Neath.

(The Cambrian 7<sup>th</sup> November 1845)

# 1846

## **CONVICTION**

On Monday last, John Lewis, of Waynbagland, Pembrey, mason, was convicted in the lowest penalty, 20s., by W. Chambers, Esq., for having, against the provisions of a local act, passed in 1805, endeavoured to take, kill, or destroy, with a spear and a torch, fish in the river Loughor, Llanedy parish. It may be well to observe that the provisions of the above act extend to the preservation of salmon, &c., in all rivers in the county of Carmarthen.

(The Welshman 6<sup>th</sup> February 1846)

## **THE LATE HIGH TIDES AT KIDWELLY.**

The Spring tide of yesterday morning week, rose to an extraordinary height at Kidwelly and at one time reached the Pelican Inn, in the centre of the town, inundated several cellars and ground floors, caused considerable damage to the shopkeepers and publicans In Bridge street, and demolished several adjacent garden hedges and stone walls. It broke down the embankments on each side of



the Gwendraeth river from the quay near the mouth to the bridge ; and all but caused a breach in the new road lately formed between Kidwelly and Pembrey, protected by the commissioner's embankment, a beautiful piece of work ; and this the following tides and high wind would inevitably have effected but for the intervention of Mr. Hugh Williams, who collected and despatched a number of navigators to the spot under the able direction of Mr. Edward Rees, of Towyn. The workmen after strenuous exertions in the course of the day repaired the damage and put the spot in a much more effective state to withstand the further action of the tide water. It was the opinion of competent persons witnessing the progress of the water, that had the tide continued to beat for a or 10 minutes longer without receding, it would have caused a breach, which might have taken £1000 at least to make up, and endangering, (if not speedily attended to,) the whole bank, erected 6 years ago at a cost of £5000. The embankment under Penallt and Saint Ishmaels, formed there about 4 years ago at a great expense by our respected

member, David Morris, Esq., has been partly prostrated.

The devastation caused at the Ferry Side has been very great, one cottage has been filled up with sand, and two others rendered tenantless. Green cottage, the residence of Mr. Thomas Evans, once a beautiful spot has been rendered uninhabitable. Almost all the gardens under the cliffs save those at the S.W. end secured by a stone embankment, have been inundated and may from henceforth be considered in a most insecure state. Many of the houses under the cliff were seriously damaged, and the inhabitants incommoded, the water beating into the common lands bordering on the river. Such an influx at the Ferry has never been known before.

(The Welshman 6<sup>th</sup> February 1846)

### RAPE

On Monday last, John Rogers, and engine driver on the Llanelly railway, was charged before W. Chambers and R.J.Nevill, Esquires, with having committed a rape on one Sarah Thomas, of Llangennech. He was fully committed for trial at the Assizes.

The complainant is 41 aged 41, and is a single woman residing in a cottage near Plas-issa, adjoining the turnpike road to Pontardulais.

(The Welshman 6<sup>th</sup> February 1846)

### General Miscellany KIDWELLY TIN-PLATE WORKS.—

Mr. Robins offered for sale, at the Auction Mart, on Thursday week, these well known and extensive Works, situate near Kidwelly, South Wales, under the Corporation of which borough they are held upon a lease for 99 years. They are about two miles from the sea, on the banks of Gwendraeth Fach river, and a few miles from Carmarthen & Swansea. The average weekly manufacture of plates was stated to be about 200 boxes; the machinery is of the most improved description the works are very extensive, and admirably arranged for the transaction of a considerable business. The sale was not numerously attended; the first bidding was 1500 guineas, which ultimately increased to 1900 guineas, at which sum it was knocked down. It was understood, however, to be bought in by the

mortgagee, under whose direction the property was put up.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian 22<sup>nd</sup>  
August 1846)

### PEMBREY RACES.

These races came off on Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22d inst., on the sands at Burry Port. The weather being very propitious, at an early hour on Monday the roads from Llanelly and Kidwelly were literally thronged by crowds of people anxious to witness the sport; the humble mechanic evinced his anxiety by trudging on foot, while the more aristocratic briskly drove to the scene of action, which arrived at, we were surprised at the excellent arrangements made by the indefatigable stewards, B. Brock and Edward Grove, Esquires, who, we are sure, did not spare any exertions to render the sport worthy the attention of the number of persons assembled on the occasion.

(The Welshman 25<sup>th</sup> September 1846)

### LLANSAINTE SUICIDE.

An inquest was held on Monday last, at the village of Llansaint, before William Bonville, Esq.,



Coroner, upon view of the body of John Lewis, (servant in husbandry to Mr. Anthony, a respectable farmer, who lives at Penhill, in the parish of Kidwelly,) who committed suicide, by hanging himself last Saturday morning, in the barn. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. David Anthony, (Mr. Anthony's son) that the deceased had been in his father's service for about four years, and that he was in company with the deceased in the hayguard at work on Saturday morning, within a short time before the rash act was committed. Deceased was of a cheerful disposition and not at all subject to melancholy, and appeared to be in his usual spirits and good temper the whole of that morning.

After Mr. Anthony had been in the hayguard some time, it began to rain, and he left it for a short time, and went into the house; shortly afterwards he looked through the window which commanded a view of the hayguard to see if the deceased was at his work; not seeing him there, he thought he might have gone into the barn from the rain to rest himself, upon which he went to the barn door, and looked in, when he beheld the deceased

suspended by his neck to a rope which was fastened to the lower part of the couple for the purpose of preparing thatch, and his feet touched the floor.

Mr. Anthony was so terrified and unnerved at such an appalling sight that he had not presence of mind to cut him down. He, however, immediately ran to the nearest neighbour, who returned with him, cut the deceased down, and rendered every assistance, but without avail, for life had been extinct for some time.

After a long investigation it having appeared from the evidence that the deceased was of a cheerful disposition, and never afflicted with melancholy, which was well known to the jury who knew him perfectly well, and in the absence of any mental or bodily cause to account for the rash act, distressing as it was to the feelings of the jury, they immediately returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and the body was interred in the Llansaint church yard at night, without funeral obsequies although, considerable dissatisfaction was expressed at the mode of interment.

(The Welshman 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1846)

### THE LATE SEVERE GALES.

On Friday last, a tremendous storm of wind and rain visited the whole of the Welsh coast, and the counties of Cornwall and Devon, and raged without intermission from about 4 o'clock a. m. till 3 o'clock p. m. The gusts of wind were extraordinarily powerful, and the rain drifted heavily and continuously for some hours.

At 4 o'clock, p.m., on Friday last, a smack was seen half way between Cornel Mawr and Towin sands, Pembrey, about two miles below high water mark in the breaking sea, which soon became dismasted and broke up, but no part of her cargo came on shore on Friday night, only the boat and part of the deck. Mr. Roderick, of the Custom House, at Pembrey, together with Mr. Martin, and Mr. Coalbrook, Coast Guard, found the boat upon which was the name of the smack, the *Trader*, of Milford, John Evans, master.

Next morning the beach from Pembrey old harbour to 2 miles below Cornel Mawr sands, was partially covered with goods consisting of a general cargo, which in the course of Saturday were found to be from Bristol and duly cleared at the custom house. By the exertions of Mr.

Alexander Davies, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Roderick, and the Coast Guard, a great portion of the cargo was saved, and is now secured at a store in the village of Pembrey, but the heavy goods are still in the place where the vessel broke up.

On Saturday morning 21st, a great quantity of planks, timbers, &c., were scattered on Towin sands- at high water mark, and upon some of them were the names of two vessels, the *Dolphin*, of Penzance, and the *Achilles*; there is however only a small portion of the latter broken up, but the former has become a total wreck. The bodies of the master and one of the crew have been picked up, and also a male and female belonging to the *Trader*. A great portion of the light goods were carried up with the tide to Llanelly and Gower, of which none are saved.

(The Welshman 27<sup>th</sup> November 1846)

### PEMBREY INQUESTS

Inquests were held at Pembrey on Tuesday last, before Wm. Bonville, Esq., Coroner, on the bodies of three mariners, and a female passenger, wrecked on Friday last, on the Llanelly and

Pembrey bar in the terrific gale of that day. Capt Eynon, of the *Endeavor*, of Milford, recognised one of the bodies, as James Jones, mate of the *Trader*, of Milford, homeward bound from Bristol, with a general cargo. Another body was identified by Captain Care, of the *Mary*, of Penzance, bound from Hayle to Llanelly (who was nearly wrecked in the same gale) to be Jas. Hodder, master of the *Dolphin*, of Penzance, in ballast, bound from Hayle to Llanelly for coals. The other body is supposed to be that of a man before the mast on board a schooner from the same place, and wrecked in the same gale. The female has not yet been identified, she was a good looking young woman, about 18 years of age, well dressed, and wearing gold earrings, which are preserved. It is supposed that she was a native of Pembrokeshire, on her passage home from Bristol on board of the *Trader*. The verdict in each case was "Found drowned." The four bodies were decently interred in separate graves in the churchyard at Pembrey, and were followed by several master mariners, and respectable inhabitants of the place.

(The Welshman 27<sup>th</sup> November 1846)

# 1847

## INSOLVENT DEBTOR

*To be heard at the Court House, at Portugal-Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, in the County of Middlesex, on WEDNESDAY, the Seventeenth day of February, 1847, at the hour of Ten o'clock in the Morning precisely,*

**JOHN KYMER** the elder, sued, committed, commonly called & known as John Kymer only, formerly in lodgings at the Red Lion Inn, Pontardulais, & at the same time of the Pantyfynton Colliery, both in the parish of Llanedy, in the county of Carmarthen, and at the same time having a Coal Yard and Offices at Llanelly Dock, Llanelly, and also a Coal Yard at Llanlash, both in the county of Carmarthen, carrying on business at all the above places in partnership with Robert Kirke, as Coal Owners, trading under the style or firm of the "Llanelly Stone Coal Company," at the same time having a private residence, first at Pontardulais, aforesaid, then in lodgings at Swansea, in the county of Glamorgan, afterwards at No. 6, Sion Place, Clifton, near Bristol, in the county of Gloucester; then also in lodgings, first at No. 19, and afterwards at

No. 21, Westbourne Place, Eaton Square, Pimlico, in the county of Middlesex; then of the Pantyfynton Colliery, & at the same time having a Coal Yard and Offices at Llanelly Dock, Llanelly, aforesaid, and a Coal Yard at Llanlash, aforesaid, carrying on business at all the above places on his sole account under the style or firm of the "Llanelly Stone Coal Company," and at the same time in lodgings at No. 21, Westbourne Place, Pimlico, aforesaid, and late of 21, Westbourne Place, aforesaid, out of business and out of employ.

**LEWIS & LEWIS,**  
(Insolvent's Attorneys,)

No. 10, Ely Place,  
Holborn.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan  
Monmouth and Brecon Gazette 30<sup>th</sup> January  
1847)

## VALUABLE TIN-PLATE WORKS, KIDWELLY, NEAR CARMARTHEN, SOUTH WALES.

**MESSRS. KIRKMAN & THORNE** have received instructions from the Assignees to **SELL BY AUCTION**, at the **MACKWORTH ARMS, SWANSBA, SOUTH WALES**, on **SATURDAY, MAY 15**, at One for Two o'clock precisely, an

important long Leasehold Estate, comprising the **KIDWELLY TIN-PLATE WORKS**, together with all necessary Machinery and Buildings, an excellent Dwelling-House and Garden, a Foreman's and a Workman's Cottage, and about half an acre of Meadow Land, situate about One Mile from the Borough Town of Kidwelly; also, a Wharf and Storehouse with a frontage to the River Gwendraeth, in the said Town. The whole of the above Property is held on Lease from the Corporation of Kidwelly for an unexpired term of 96 years, at the low Ground Rent of £4 1s. 0d. The Works contain all the requisite Machinery for the manufacture of about 300 Boxes of Tin-Plate per week.

Kidwelly is situated about 2 miles from the Sea, 18 miles from Swansea, and 9 miles from Carmarthen.

The Estate may be viewed by Cards only, which, with particulars, may be obtained on the Premises; at the Mackworth Arms, Swansea; the White Lion Hotel, Bristol; the Bell Inn, Gloster; the Castle Inns, Brecon and Neath; the Ivy Bush Inn, Carmarthen; of Messrs. Tilson, Squance, Clarke, & Morice, Solicitors, 29, Coleman-street; of

Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Solicitors, Coleman-street; and of Messrs. Kirkman and Thorne, Auctioneers, Valuers, Surveyors, and Estate Agents, 26, Nicholas Lane, Lombard-street, London.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian 8<sup>th</sup> May 1847)

### BAPTISM BY IMMERSION IN LLANELLY CHURCH.—

On Sunday week, the parish church was the scene of a most interesting ceremony — the baptism by immersion of an adult. After the reading of the second lesson, the Rev. E Morris, the vicar of the parish, and rural dean of the deanery of Kidwelly, conducted the young person to be baptised, to a font, specially provided for the purpose, and in his usual most impressive and solemn manner, read the service proper for the occasion. The revival of this form of baptism, which was, in former years, generally adopted by the Church of England, and is still authorised by the Rubric, was all object of interest, and attracted many to witness the ceremony. The whole proceedings were devoutly conducted in the prescribed

decency and order, and seemed to impress the crowded congregation with feelings of reverence and devotion, which the public reception of a young man of mature age, into the bosom of the Church of Christ, would most naturally produce. The sermon preached at the conclusion of the service by the same rev. gentleman, from the 28th chap, of St. Matthew, 19th and 20th verses, was replete with eloquence and argument, and fully sustained the eminent reputation which his talents have acquired for him as a pulpit orator; and it is much to be desired that this able discourse should be published, and disseminated in this as well as other parishes, where a re-action is now rapidly taking place in favour of the National Church.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian 4<sup>th</sup> September 1847)

### SOUTH WALES RAILWAY

The South Wales railway is rapidly progressing at Llanelly, no less than a hundred and fifty men being employed under Messrs. Jones and Douglas, the contractors for walling in the

sands between Llanelly and Pembrey.

(Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and Wales Independent 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1847)

# 1848

*Advertisement:*

### TO SMITHS, &c.

Pembrey Colliery is again in full work the Coal is superior for Smith's Coking and for taking Gas. This is the noted BARNABY PILL or GWSCWM COAL. The Coal is Shipped at the old Harbour, Pembrey.

(The Welshman 21<sup>st</sup> January 1848)

### LLANELLY - FATAL ACCIDENT.

An inquest was held on Monday last at Cross Inn, Llandebie, before W. Bonville Esq., coroner, on view of the body of Wm. Griffiths, collier, who met his death under the following circumstances :- It appears that on Saturday last, deceased and eight others were riding on some waggons on the Llanelly and Llandilo line of railway. One of

the company's officers warned them not to do so; seven of the men acted upon this advice, but deceased and another heeded not the warnings. The waggon on which the deceased and the other man were riding, in its progress, slipped off the line, killing deceased on the instant, and seriously injuring the other person. A verdict was returned in accordance with the above facts. The deceased has left a wife, unfortunately of weak intellect, and eight children to lament his loss.

(The Principality 5<sup>th</sup> May 1848)

### LLANELLY - FALL OF A SEA WALL.

On Friday last, a somewhat serious accident occurred on that part of the line of the South Wales Railway, now in rapid progress, which crosses the sands near the Old Castle. The morning was fine, accompanied by a fresh breeze from the south west. The resident engineer and contractor deemed it necessary, in order to prevent the tide scouting at the back of the sea wall, to run an embankment south-west to the Pembrey road. The wall was raised to a sufficient height to meet the rise marked in the

Llanelly tide table - 23 feet 4 inches - above which, however, the real rise was 2 feet before high water. The tide flowed freely over the wall, inundating a space of about 250 acres, and on the tide receding, the wall, having insufficient support on the inside, gave way and fell in lengths of 20 feet each, making altogether a whole length of about 200 feet. We are happy to state that no blame is attached to the engineer or contractor, both of whom were present when the accident occurred.

(The Principality 9<sup>th</sup> June 1848)

**SHERIFF'S COURT,  
LLANELLY.**

John Stanley, Esq., v. South  
Wales Railway Company.

In this important case Seargeant Allen appeared as counsel for Mr. Stanley, and Mr. Lloyd for the South Wales Railway Company. The amount tendered by the company was £500. On the assembling of the court Mr. Lloyd applied to the undersheriff that the jury should view the premises at Pembrey. The court assented, appointing Mr. Rees Jones, Loughor, on the part of the company, and Mr. Rice Hopkins,

C.E., London, on the part of Mr. Stanley, to conduct the jury to the locality in question. The Court re-assembled at five, pm. when the following witnesses were examined : Mr. Barman, book-keeper to Mr. Stanley; Mr. Joseph Hay, coal agent; Mr. Goode, surveyor, Carmarthen; Mr. R. Hopkins, C. E. ; Mr. Struve, C. E. Swansea, Mr. C. Morgan, Cwmamman, Mr. J. Brown, Newport, Monmouthshire, Mr. John Auther, Llanelly, Mr. Thomas Livesey. Oldham, Lancashire; Mr John Dusey, Ashton-under-Lyne. These gentlemen assessed the damages to £ 7,059 6s 3d. The company declined calling any witness. After an eloquent address on the part of Mr. Lloyd, the jury retired, and after an absence of three hours returned the following verdict :-

Land . . . . .	£22 2s. 4d.
Damages by severance . . . . .	£176 5s. 0d.
Compensation for tramroad . . . . .	£1,000 0s. 0d
Ditto for canal . . . . .	£2,000 0s. 0d.
Total . . . . .	£3,198 7s. 4d.

The proceedings occupied two days, and did not terminate till eight o'clock last (Tuesday) evening. Mr. Stable, from Messrs.

Hunt and Co., solicitors, London, appeared for the South Wales Railway Company, and E. D. Grove, Llanelly, for Mr. Stanley.

(Monmouthshire Merlin 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1848)

**LLANELLI.**

A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, which was most numerous and influentially attended, was held on Monday evening, for the purpose of memorialising the directors of the South Wales railway to rescind the resolution, passed at the last meeting, the effect of which would be to delay the completion of the line between Swansea and Llanelly, The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That a memorial from the Chamber be presented to the directors of the South Wales Railway Company, that they will reconsider the resolution of the last half-yearly meeting, by which the works below Swansea may be suspended for an indefinite time, and that they will complete the works already commenced, and considerably progressed between Swansea and Llanelly, contemporaneously with the completion of the line to Swansea; that it be referred to the

committee to embody the arguments adduced in the memorial."

(The Principality 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1848)

**SOUTH WALES RAILWAY.**

Mr. Wm. M'Kiernin and Mr Joseph Douglas, the contractors for the construction of the South Wales Railway at and near Llanelly, have been required by the company to proceed no further for the present with their contract. Prudential motives have caused the company to suspend the works here, as well as all along the whole line downwards from Swansea to the terminus in Pembrokeshire. The responsibility of replacing any damage made by the ravages of sea upon that part of the line over the lands between Llanelly and Pembrey, and elsewhere, of course, devolves upon the company.

(Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and South Wales 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1848)

**CARMARTHENSHIRE  
TURNPIKE ROADS.**

**TOLLS TO LET.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That a Meeting of the Carmarthenshire County Roads

Board will be held at the SHIRE HALL, in CARMARTHEN, on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of OCTOBER next, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon, for the purpose of LETTING TO FARM THE TOLLS arising at the several Gates and Bars within this County, for One Year, commencing the 1st day of January next; the said Tolls will be put up by Auction in the following Lots, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced, viz.:-

**CARMARTHEN DISTRICT,—**

Comprising the several Gates or Bars, called Aberarad, Alltywalis, Cenarth, Cwmdud, Francis Well, Glangwilly, Pentre, Red Roses, Royal Oak, Twelly Bridge, and Water-street, if the same shall be or continue standing, or such other Gates or Bars as may be erected in this District.

**THREE COMMOTTS DISTRICT,—**

Comprising the several Gates or Bars, called Bankffos-felen, Carmarthen Bridge, Castellyrhingill, Ffairfach, Gwilly Bridge, Kidwelly, Llandafan, Llandilo-rhwnw- Bridge, Llanelly Furnace, Llanon, Llanfihangel Aberbythich, Minke, Pontyeats, Portbyrhyd, Sandy, Spudder's

Bridge, Troedyrhiwgoch, Tyryfran, and Velinvoel, if the same shall be or continue standing, or such other Gates or Bars as shall be erected in this District.

NOTE.—It is proposed to remove Castellyrhingill Gate, and to throw the road or roads from which the toll is derived on the parishes; and also to direct that Minke and Kidwelly Gates do clear Carmarthen Bridge and Llanelly Furnace Gates, and *vice versa*; and this Lot will be put up at such meeting, subject to the determination of the Board on such proposed alterations.

(The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1848)

## 1849

### SOUTH WALES RAILWAY.

That portion of the line of South Wales Railway, which passes over the sands between Llanelly and Pembrey, sustained considerable damage on Wednesday week. Owing to the heavy winds which blew inland, the tide attained a much greater height than that indicated by the table, and the sea swept furiously over the wall and embankment, a portion of which was undermined and swept down

by the furious waves. The damage done is in Mr. Douglas's contract, but it is supposed that, owing to the stoppage of the works, he is indemnified. It is considered probable that after the ensuing spring tides, the site only of that portion of the line of railway extending over the sands will be remaining. Another account which we have received states the wall was not sufficiently high the waves therefore washed over it, carrying away the loose sand behind which the embankment is formed, and thus deprived the wall which is built at a great slope, of its support, and it consequently fell. A cross embankment was also washed through, which allowed the sea to come up to the old iron bridge as formerly. This is the second accident of the kind that has occurred. The foundation does not appear to be at all affected therefore no danger need be apprehended as to the permanent safety of the railway. The height of the tide at the time referred to was 22 feet. The loss sustained by these breeches is estimated at nearly £3,000.

(The Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser 19<sup>th</sup> January 1849)

### LLANELLY.

Yesterday week, the workmen employed in Mr. Richard Nevill's foundry, of this town, together with their wives, were plentifully regaled with tea, coffee, beef, and cake, in celebration of the marriage of their employer. Tables were arranged in the erecting shop of the engine factory which were most tastefully decorated with a profusion of evergreens and flowers. Success to the happy pair was pledged in cheerful bumpers of coffee, and the harmony of the evening was greatly promoted by a few of the elder boys of the British Schools, who with their teachers attended, and enlivened the proceedings by some excellent singing. Thanks having been voted to Mr. Maybery, manager of the works, for the excellent arrangement of the evening, all separated highly pleased.

(The Principality 27<sup>th</sup> April 1849)

### ROLLS' COURT, WESTMINSTER, APRIL 30. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL v. REES AND OTHERS.

This was all action filed against John Hughes Rees, the Earl of Cawdor, and several others.

It stated that, by the royal prerogative, the sea and sea-shore, and the soil of all arms and creeks of the sea, round this kingdom, as far as the sea flows and reflows between high and low water-mark, and the soil of the navigable rivers of this kingdom, and all mines and minerals lying under the sea, sea-shore, and all arms and creeks of the sea, and all the profits arising from the sea-shore and arms and creeks, belonged to her Majesty as Queen ; that an estuary called the Burry River opened out of the northern side of the Bristol Channel, and entered the land on the south side of Carmarthenshire, the shores of which estuary were of great extent between high and low water-mark, and that the northern shore of the Burry River, between high and low water mark, belonged to her Majesty as Queen ; that on the southern side of Carmarthenshire laid Pembrey, and immediately contiguous to the Burry River there were pieces of land called Killymanllwyd Farm, in the occupation of Rees, another defendant.

There were valuable and extensive seams of coal and culm under the lands, which, by means of a shaft sunk in Blackrock Farm, belonged to the defendants

Chambers and Rees, had been worked, and coal and culm gotten therefrom ; and by embankments and other works, made with the sanction of the defendants, the line of high-water had removed lower down the sea-shore, and the former run and scour of the tides had been checked, and the shore opposite the plaintiff's lands had been raised by the projection and subsidence of sands, &c., and large portions of land formerly covered by the sea had become permanently dry, or only covered by the sea at extraordinary high tides.

The bill, after many other statements, prayed that the right of her Majesty to the sea-shore of the parish of Pembrey below high water-mark, and to all veins, seams, or strata of coal might, be established and declared, and that any licenses to the defendants to work, dig, or raise coal or culm, from those parts of the seams which lie under the sea-shore might be declared void, &c. To this bill the defendants put in their answer, and to that answer the Attorney general filed exceptions.

The master, upon reference to him, found by his report that the answer was sufficient, upon which the Attorney-general took

exceptions to the Master's report, and these exceptions now came on to be argued.

The Solicitor-general, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Maule, were for the crown, in support of the exceptions and against the Master's report; and Mr. Malins and Mr. Renshaw, *contra*, were for the Master's report, finding the answer sufficient.

Lord Langdale allowed the exceptions taken by the Attorney-general, and decided that the answer was insufficient; and he gave six weeks for a further answer.

(The Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser 11<sup>th</sup> May 1849)

### KIDWELLY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHOLERA DEATHS

There were five deaths from cholera in Kidwelly between Thursday and Sunday last; an aged woman and her daughter were amongst the number, with two aged paupers, one whose sister had been buried a few days prior<sup>0</sup>, while the other party was a man who worked under the County Roads Board, and lived near Glanmorlais.

A little girl four or five years of age has also since died from the same disease. Our correspondent says that the inhabitants have reason to congratulate themselves on the number of fresh cases since Sunday being very few, and that with the exception of two cases all are doing well, under the treatment of Dr. Humphreys, of Wern, who has been appointed by the Llanelly Board of Guardians to watch the cases at this place, and to whom all are greatly indebted for his perseverance and attention. The dire disease has generally prevailed in the worst ventilated and dirtiest places, and great exertions are now being made by a few individuals acting under the Board of Guardians at Llanelly to induce the inhabitants to clean their dwellings and remove all nuisances. These exertions have been met by the poor classes in a proper spirit, as they have exhibited every disposition to comply with the orders of the inspectors. It is to be regretted that we cannot say so much of some others who from their position in life should have been foremost in the good cause instead of putting every obstruction in the way that self-interest and prejudice could dictate.



There has been one death from cholera at Llansaint this week, the sufferer being a quiet, inoffensive man, who had been unwell for some time past. He was attacked a few days since with diarrhoea and cramp, and owing to the weak state of his constitution the disease soon put an end to his life. The village has been much cleansed lately, but there is plenty of room for improvement yet, as there is a filthy pond of stagnant water before a farm house at the entrance of the village from Kidwelly.

(The Welshman 21<sup>st</sup> September 1849)

### ACHDDU ROAD

A report from John Hughes Rees, Esq., respecting the widening of the road near the Pemberton Arms Inn, on the Pembrey road, to facilitate the transit of the mail, having been read; it was ordered, "that the turnpike road beginning at Achddu to the Pemberton Arms, be widened at an expense not exceeding £ 100, under the direction of the Three Commotts District Roads Board.

(The Welshman 26<sup>th</sup> October 1849)

### LLANELLY. - HEALTH OF TOWNS ACT

A preliminary meeting of inquiry under the Health of Act, was held at the Town-hall, Llanelly, on Wednesday last, before George Thomas Clark, Esq, the Superintending Inspector sent down by the General Board of Health of London, in pursuance of a petition sent to that Board by more than one-tenth of the rateable inhabitants of the town.

Mr. Clark said that he had been directed by the General Board of Health in London, to inspect the town of Llanelly; he observed, and it was now in short, an established fact, that the health of the inhabitants mainly depends on the sanitary condition of a town, which should be well drained and watered. The report of the Registrar General would shew the number of deaths, and if that functionary was present, he would be glad to hear from him the number of deaths. (It was stated to Mr. Clark that the Superintendent Registrar was not however present.)

Mr. Clark then observed that if they had such a thing in existence, (as possibly they had,) as a Local Board of Health, the reports made to such Board during the

prevalence of cholera would be of service.

It was stated in reply that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Davies, surgeons, would furnish the required information on this head.

Mr. Clark observed that his next question, and which was an important one, was as regards the sewerage and surface draining of the town. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Harris was prepared with a section and plan of the town, and some other information on that head. Mr. Clark said that he believed that as to the other matter for consideration—which was that of bringing water to the town—something had been done by the inhabitants of the town.

Mr. Nevill said that he believed he was right when he said that nothing had been done, though contemplated, as regards bringing water to the town. It is, it appears, the conviction of the people of the town, that they have at present no supply of water, but which supply they sought to obtain at any price.

It was mentioned that Dr. Thomas had directed his attention to the subject, and had analysed every stream and well likely to become available for the use of the town, and would no doubt

gladly put Mr. Clark in possession of the results of his investigations. Mr. Thomas was not then present, but would be shortly, when Mr Clark would have an opportunity of questioning him.

Again, observed Mr. Clark, street cleansing, paving and scavenging was a very important subject; it had a very sensible influence on the mortality of towns - the difference in mortality in paved and unpaved streets was very great; in the latter the wet and moisture never dried, but were evaporated by the sun's heat. The wet, moreover, destroys the houses at the foundation, especially in butcher's shops, which is shewn in a report on the state of Preston.

At this stage of the proceedings several papers, sections, and maps were handed in by different parties, and amongst the rest one by Mr. Harries, of the town of Llanelly, not, however, including the Sea Side.

Mr. Clark stated, in relation to the suburbs, he should have to fix upon the extent and boundaries of a certain area, within which the Act would be applied; such area would most probably include such of the suburbs as are bound

up with the prosperity of the town ; if this were not done the people would take their dirt and filth without the boundary embraced by this Act and nothing could punish them.

Mr. Nevill asked if power was given to the Local Board to take compulsory possession of land by purchase, without going to a jury?

Mr. Clark: -"No; but it is intended to give that power to Boards by an amended Act, which is now in contemplation, and doubtless will pass next Session, giving to Local Boards the power which public companies now have, as to the compulsory taking of land, &c. All the ratepayers within the proposed area before mentioned, would have a vote as to the expenditure of the money. In short, every one will have control over and spend their own money. It will be for me to state the number and qualification of the members of the Local Board, to which the Legislature has confided enormous powers, not only of draining and watering, but of improvement also. Instead of having all cottages cooped up within a small given space, they ought to have necessary accommodation and a dustbin ; it may not in all cases be practicable to have one of the

former to each house. There ought to be one at least for every 4 houses. This cannot be effectually done without a large drain and an abundant supply of water, so as to be a species of rude water closet. Large drains are not, however, so good as moderately sized ones, because the water, covering a large surface, is less rapid. It is one of the improvements of the present time to have small pipe drains, which are successfully used in the metropolis. These perform all the functions of a drain, that is, what goes in at one end of them comes out of the other without anything unwholesome or unpleasant evaporating. These pipes are made of a harder substance, and more durable, and perform other functions than draining pipes, which are made porous, and required to take in wet at all points. The main drains will be paid for by the community at large, all being rated alike for payment for their construction but the water will be paid for by the property which requires it. The floors of all future buildings will be 6 or 9 inches above, instead of being, as they are often at present, as much below the levels of the roads and all yards must be paved. The good effect of

this law cannot be felt unless a town can afford to carry it out. To fairly meet a contingency of this nature the Legislature has provided a remedy. Where parties are too poor to do the required improvements, the money can be borrowed, charged on the property, and re-paid by a rate of, say one penny in the pound, to run over 26 or 30 years. This is just; for instance, supposing a tenant to have only a life interest for 5 years in a property which is permanently improved for 40 years to come, it would be unjust towards the tenant to charge the property with the re-payment of this loan within 5 years, when it is thus permanently improved, and his successors will derive the benefit. It appears there are 45 public lights in the town, for which it was stated the trustees of the burgesses were paying at the rate of £ 1 8s. 10d. each per annum ; these, however, were put out at midnight, when most wanted."

In answer to Mr. Clark's enquiries, it was stated that the burial grounds were much complained of; the Rev. D. Rees stating that Capel Als burial ground was quite full, - 244 were buried by himself, besides a great many others buried by other

ministers within the last 7 years ; less have been buried lately owing to the fulness of the ground, which has been in use for the last 54 years, and covers but a small area.

Mr. Clark then asked if there were any local acts relating to the town, and it was stated that there were the Burgess Act for enclosing certain lands within the parish and improving the town and port of Llanelly, which, the Inspector stated, was an important one — the Gas Act and the two Harbour Acts - these two latter had no effect within the town as regards the health of the inhabitants. Regarding the burgesses act, a great deal of anxiety seemed to prevail, and most of the inhabitants, in fact all, with but few, perhaps two or three exceptions, were desirous that the income of the trustees, which is alleged to be so much perverted in its use, as to make this town a bye word to every sensible person, should be used for the legitimate purposes of improving the town and port of Llanelly.

Mr. Clark then stated he was going over the town and suburbs, and would be glad of the company of any gentleman who would kindly accompany him.



## THURSDAY.

At 10 o'clock, Mr. Clark entered the Hall (having on the previous evening inspected the suburbs of the town) and several gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, were in attendance. Mr. Clark then give a brief outline of the extent, population, and condition of the town, especially alluding to the facility for water supply and drainage. He divided the town into three districts - the Town, properly so called, the Wern, a detached mass of 448 houses, and the SeaSide, a block of houses containing about 2000 people. [It is impossible from the late hour at which we received our account to do more than to give a condensation of Mr. Clark's excellent address, but we shall publish the whole next week, together, we hope, with the conclusion of the enquiry.] After rapidly but succinctly stating the chief and most prominent nuisances in the town, the Inspector proceeded to point out the available sources for a sufficient water supply - the river, the Furnace Pond, and the Stradey Pool - to the second named of which he appeared to give the preference. It will yield a thirty days' supply of water, at 20 gallons per diem, per man. It

would be necessary to provide for the main and house drainage of the town, which at present are very deficient, but could be easily rendered efficient. Necessary accommodation was much required, as was also ventilation in most of the houses. At the conclusion of his address, Mr Clark was asked various questions, which he answered briefly, but with his accustomed clearness. He then enquired if Mr. Grove, the Solicitor for the Trustees of the Burgesses of Llanelly, was present, and on being answered in the negative, intimated that he should require a financial statement respecting the affairs of the Burgesses, on the following morning, and if it all not produced he could compel the attendance of parties to account for its non-production. Mr. Clark then adjourned to continue his survey of the town, and was accompanied by several of the inhabitants.

(The Welshman 9<sup>th</sup> November 1849)

### LLANELLY.—HEALTH OF TOWNS ACT.

[We now proceed to fulfil our promise of publishing the full, report of the occurrences before the Inspector under the General

Board of Health, on Thursday, the 8th inst., an abstract only having been inserted last week. ]

At 10 o'clock, on the Thursday in question, Mr. Clark, the Inspector, having on the previous evening visited the various suburbs of the town, entered the Town Hall, where there were several gentlemen awaiting his arrival.

Mr. Clark stated that since he had the pleasure of meeting them on the preceding day he had inspected the suburbs of the town, the water supply, and main drainage ; he would now inform them as to what he saw, and the conclusions at which he had arrived. The town may be divided into three parts or sections, namely;— the town, properly so called; the Wern, a detached mass of about 448 houses and the Sea Side, a block of houses containing a population of about 2,000 people, with the draining distinct. The town drains itself into the river Lliedi, which is very tortuous below the town, where, as all knew, a new cut had been made, which has the effect of draining a large tract of land near the Forge, whose cottages are built on a gravelly foundation, which he need not say was good, but should be well drained. The Forge cottages are at present

within reach of highway water, have been lately flooded to their eaves, and are continually damp. The embankment of the South Wales Railway has the effect of shutting out the sea from these cottages. You will be forced (continued Mr. Clark),-for this town will do nothing unless forced - to straighten the bed of the river below the town. This is the condition of the town as to drainage. The Sea Side has no regular drains the few there are irregular and run out to the sea. The level of the highway, as the name implies - the Flatts - is low ; this has been remedied by judiciously carrying out to a point the slags from the Copper Works, thus putting all the houses beyond the reach of highwater. Going over the Flatts over the Wern towards Capel Als and the town, there is a tract of land generally covered with water, and chiefly composed of mud. The testimony of medical men concurs in stating that the effect of all this is to produce fevers and other diseases in the town. Near the town is the Tyisha brook which runs in a very torturous course indeed, by the copper works into the sea. The Wern district is above this and drains into this brook ; its natural drainage is very deficient and the

condition of the cots very bad. The roads in the town, and especially the suburbs are in a bad state and extremely dirty. The want of paving before the cottages, especially those at the Forge, the Wern, Sea Side, and the Flatts, is very great; at the latter places, they are made worse by tramways, which run through them, and where they exist you will always find a collection of rubbish. There are no conveniences to the cottages especially at the Forge, where there is only one belonging to the public-house, amongst 40 or 50 cottages. This town is very deficient of water, and some people have to go half-a-mile to buy water. One man stated that he paid five-pence a week for water. Complaints about water are universal. Mr. Clark held in his hand a list of 21 workmen living at the lower part of the Wern, and at the Sea Side with the price they paid per week for water. Mr. Clark read this list aloud and it appeared they all with three exceptions, paid four pence per week for water. One gentleman stated he paid £5 per annum for water. There were other people, who if they did not pay as much in money, did so in labour. All these people could

under this act have a sufficient supply of water not only to drink, but for all other purposes at a much cheaper rate. Mr. Clark had seen some of the wells from which the drinking water was obtained. One was at Capel Als, close to the burying ground (with only the road intervening) where the people of the upper part of the Wern get their supply which it is stated is necessarily at times tainted. The neighbourhood of a burying ground is by no means a desirable spot for a well. The town is luckily very well off for a supply of water, for which (said Mr. Clark) there are three available sources namely, the River, the Furnace Pond, and the Stradey Pool ; as regards the river, there are some mill rights there, which it would be difficult and expensive to get rid of. The Furnace Pond appears however to suit very well, it covers an area of about an acre and a half, and is eight feet deep, but it is at present dirty, and would be required to be cleaned out. It contains about 30 days supply, allowing 20 gallons per day to every person in the town and Sea Side. Then again there are no mill rights over the water. There are however some other rights which it would be easy to get rid of -

one corner of the pool should be raised and made a filtering bank, which would contain about two days' supply. I speak thus from Mr. Harries's levels, the lowest pond is 147 feet above the sills of the Thomas's Arms, which is nearly the highest house in town; if it should be found that the lowest pond was at too low a level recourse could be had to the upper one. There would thus be a very good supply of water and delivered at a very cheap rate. My objection to the river is the mill rights, and when the river becomes freed of these, it is at too low a level. There are a great many drains in the town, of which I have a list. They are about twenty inches square without a bottom, so that the fluid portion enters the ground. There are no brick or stone drains in the town. The main drainage being deficient, house drainage as a consequence is deficient too. Some of the houses are well provided with conveniences. There is a row of houses near the Sea Side, called the Chancery Row, comparatively speaking especially so provided, there being one to every pair of houses these drain into cesspools. The supply of water from a neighbouring colliery could easily be made to

pass through and scour these cesspools. The houses in Cambrian Row at the Sea Side have a very good frontage, but are miserably deficient as to back premises. Many have no windows for ventilation, and those which have windows cannot open them. Those houses on the Custom-house Bank are specimen of the description of houses I allude to. The drainage of these houses will have to be provided for, and how this should be done I will mention tomorrow - there is a stream of water flushing one of the drains which comes out at the Pembrey Road.

Mr Clark then added, he had just had a statement from the Gas Company, which he would look over that evening, and comment upon next morning. He had since the preceding day received two letters, one regarding some premises of Mr. Jones, the butcher, in Hall-street, and one from Mr. Tate, the solicitor, respecting some piggeries.

Mr. Clark said he would visit these alleged nuisances.

Mr. Ben Jones asked if the nuisances from Skinner's yards, &c., had been pointed out to him.

Mr. Clark "No, I will visit them to day." [When he subsequently

visited them, he found them very clean, in short as clean as premises of that description could be kept.]

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Smith if he had anything to say as to the effect of these Skinners' yards on the health of the inhabitants.

Mr. Smith made no reply.

Mr. Clark enquired for Mr. Grove, the solicitor for the trustees of the burgesses of Llanelly. (Mr. Grove was not, however, present). He (Mr. Clark) then intimated that he required a financial statement of the affairs of the trustees to be got ready by the following morning, when he should enquire for it again, and if not then produced, he would compel parties to attend who would account for its non-production. Mr. Clark then adjourned to continue his survey of the town, and was accompanied in his route by several inhabitants.

#### FRIDAY.

Shortly after 10 o'clock Mr. Clark entered the town-hall. Previous to this a considerable number of the influential inhabitants of the town and immediate neighbourhood were in attendance, and almost immediately after the

superintending inspector had taken his seat, a large portion of the body of the hall was filled by an audience, evidently brought together under an impression that important business would that day be brought forward. Indeed, from the general excitement which we observed in the streets, officials hurrying to and fro, groups of men here and there assembled discussing with apparent anxiety some question, it was evident that Llanelly was moved from its usual quiet, and that some subject of more than ordinary importance was exciting the general interest. Speculation was busy as to what course the trustees of the burgesses would adopt. The sequel of our report will inform our readers that they did adopt a course alike creditable to themselves and beneficial to the interests of Llanelly generally.

Mr. Clark, addressing the meeting, said that he had now completed the inspection of the town and its suburbs, and was prepared to give his views as to what was necessary to be done, reserving, of course, for the report which he should hereafter have to draw up, such points as demanded mature consideration. He would first refer to the subject of water

supply. On this head he (Mr. Clark) thought there would be no difficulty, as Llanelly possessed resources which could easily, and consistent with economy, be made available for the purpose of supplying the town with water. As he had stated yesterday, there were three sources from which the water could be drawn—the river, the Furnace pond, and the Stradey pool. He had since yesterday made additional inquiries and received several communications relative to the comparative advantages of each source. As regard the river, in addition to other objections, there were mill rights which it would be at once difficult and expensive to get rid of. He might observe that there were various streams from collieries in the neighbourhood, but there were many objections to a town being dependent for its water supply on such resources as they afforded. Such streams would probably contain a portion of mineral matter, and the water would not be fit for domestic purposes.

In addition. The supply of water from such sources was always precarious, as springs thus tapped artificially were apt to be dried by the sinking of pits in the neighbourhood. Taking all

circumstances into consideration, he (Mr. Clark) thought no source of supply so sustainable as Furnace pond. It would afford a copious supply of water, as it covered an area of about an acre and a half, and its depth was eight feet. If it were objected that the lower pond would not, with the increase of the town, afford a sufficient supply, they might have recourse to the pond a little above it (the Stradey pool). He (the inspector) had yesterday visited the upper pond, and the result of his inspection was, that as to expense, it was not a matter of much importance whether the town was supplied from the upper or lower pond. From either of the sources indicated, a supply of water may, at an economical cost, be procured sufficient to meet the wants of the town. The pressure would lie equal to carrying the water to the upper part of the houses in every part of Llanelly, and they would have good, pure water, fit not only for drinking, but for general domestic purposes. One branch of his inquiries related to the expenses now incurred by the inhabitants in procuring water. In reference to this subject, he had ascertained that the present cost to cottages of about £ 1 annual rental, was

not less than 4d. per week, and this was for drinking water only, without taking into account the cost, or what was the same thing, the labour and time expended in procuring water for the river or other sources. One gentleman had yesterday informed him (Mr. Clark) that his supply of water cost him £5 a-year. A similar heavy expense was entailed upon a very important branch, the shipping, by the want of sufficient water supply, the cost being estimated at from 1s. to 2s. per ship. Taking then, these elements into calculation, he thought that the inhabitants of Llanelly could not at present be paying less than £ 1,000 a-year for the convenience of water, which would be an average to each house of about 3d. per week, and if there were added to this the cost to the shipping, assuming the number of vessels entering the harbour each year to be only 2,000 at 1s. each vessel, it would give a total outlay each year of £1,100. Now he (Mr. Clerk) thought this in itself to be a great burden in the shape of taxation, which, though indirect, did not press less heavily upon the inhabitants of the town. Besides, for this sum they obtained but a very inadequate supply, at least

for sanitary purposes. There was no provision made by the present outlay for flushing sewers, cleansing cesspools, and other depositories of refuse matters, nor for many other objects, which were necessary conditions to the health and comfort of the public generally.

Mr. Clark next referred to the subjects of sewerage and drainage.

In averting to the subject of the streets and roads, Mr. Clark stated that his object was more to give them (the inhabitants of Llanelly) local government for sanitary purposes than tell them what to do. He, however, had looked at their roads, and he must say that they were very bad; and what was worse, they had not the excuse which they had in some districts of the country, of want of good materials.

Mr. Clark then entered into the subject of the cost of the water supply, which under the new Act might be obtained for 1½d. per week on each house in the town. He then sketched an outline of the necessary works. He added that there was a great want of conveniences attached to houses.

Mr. Clark then adverted to the nature of the governing

machinery for carrying into effect the objects of the Public Health Act. He should have to recommend that the town should be placed under properly constituted local control. This would be the local Board of Health, consisting of as many members as hereafter would be deemed expedient. Under the Health of Towns Act, Llanelly would, for the first time in its history, have a representative local government. The first step taken would be a survey of the town.

Mr. Clark then said that the meeting was without doubt, aware that, before he concluded his labours, a very important question would come before him – that relating to the burgesses property. He had summoned the Clerk of the Trustees to meet him, as well as several other parties connected with the management of this property. He was happy in being enabled to inform them, from information he had received, that there every prospect of an arrangement being come to as beneficial to the interests of the town at large, as it was creditable to all parties concerned. Mr. Grove, the legal adviser of the trustees, and Mr Brown, solicitor, were now engaged in negotiating the matter.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Grove having entered the Hall presented Mr. Clark with a document, which shortly contained the result, of their negotiations relative to the burgesses' property. It is as follows:-

We, the undersigned trustees for the burgesses of the borough of Llanelly, being possessed of certain lands and property within the borough, in trust for the improvements of the town and the said lands, agree to transfer the rents and profits of the aforesaid lands, from this date to the Board of Public Health, to be applied under the provisions of the Public Health Act, upon condition that all the present liabilities be taken as they now stand.

Dated this 9th day of November, 1849.

(Signed)

Alexander Raby, Portreeve;  
Wm. Rees, Maesardafen;  
John Morgan; David Morgan;  
William Morgan; William  
Chambers, jun.; Henry Rees;  
William Chambers, sen.

(Loud applause, which continued for several minutes, followed the reading of the document.)

Thanks having been voted to Mr. Clark, the meeting separated.

(The Welshman 16<sup>th</sup> November 1849)

*Advertisement:*

**Freehold Public House for  
Sale.**

**TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC  
AUCTION,**

**On THURSDAY, the 29th of  
NOVEMBER, 1849,**

**ON THE PREMISES,**

THAT well-known Public House, UNION INN, situate in the populous village of Velinfoel, near Llanelly (Carmarthenshire).

The house is now let to a respectable Tenant, who will show the Premises, and further particulars may be obtained of the Proprietor, Mr. John Gibson, Box Cottage Llanelly.

A portion of the Purchase Money, if desirable, may remain on Mortgage of the Premises.

(The Welshman 16<sup>th</sup> November 1849)

**CARMARTHEN UNION**

**SCHOOLMISTRESS WANTED.**

The BOARD of GUARDIANS of the CARMARTHEN UNION will proceed to the Election of a to the election of a SCHOOLMISTRESS for the Workhouses on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> instant. Salary, Twenty-five pounds per annum, with rations. Candidates will be required to send their testimonials to me, the undersigned, on or before Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> instant, and to attend personally at the Board Room on the day of election, at 12 o'clock at noon.

By order of the Coard  
W.D.Phillips,  
Clerk to the Union

Board Room, Carmarthen,  
13th December, 1849

(The Welshman 21<sup>st</sup> December 1849)

