

9/2/2010

EXTRACTS FROM THOMAS HORNOR'S DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS PAINTINGS – SEPT 1815

THE ORDER OBSERVED IN THE ARRANGEMENT IS THAT IN WHICH THE VIEWS THEMSELVES WILL OCCUR IN AN HOURS WALK THROUGH THE GROUNDS COMMENCING WITH THE APPROACH TO THE MANSION.
THE RED FIGURES UPON THE PLAN SHEW THE SITUATIONS FROM WHICH THE SEVERAL SKETCHES WERE TAKEN

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FROM STATION 1 – (NO PICTURE)

(NEAR WATER DISCOVERY CENTRE)

THE FIRST DRAWING IS A VIEW OF MIDDLETON HALL AS SEEN FROM THE USUAL WEST APPROACH FROM SWANSEA. THE WATER, PART OF THE EXSTENSIVE SHEET CREATED BY SIR WILLIAM PAXTON WINDS AROUND THE BASE OF THE HILL ON WHICH THE HOUSE IS PLACED. THE BRIDGE SEEN TO THE RIGHT BELONGS TO ANOTHER APPROACH IN THE SAME DIRECTION, AND IS CONNECTED WITH SEVERAL OF THE GREEN DRIVES THROUGH THE PARK.

FROM STATION 2 – P1010008

(FRONT OF MANSION- SOUTH SIDE)



THE NEXT DRAWING REPRESENTS THE WEST FRONT OF THE MANSION. - I CANNOT DESCRIBE IT BETTER THAN BY MAKING AN EXTRACT FROM THE BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES. - ” THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST SPLENDID MANSION IN SOUTH WALES, AND THE INTERIOR ARRANGEMENTS AND DECORATIONS COMPORT WITH ITS EXTERIOR MAGNIFICENCE. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT FOR ITS PRESENT PROPRIETOR BY MR COCKERILL THE ARCHITECT. IT IS SITUATED ON A GENTLE ELEVATION IN THE MIDST OF A PLEASANT VALE THAT BRANCHES OFF TO THE EASTWARD OF THE TOWY, AND FORMS THE ONLY OPENING OF THE KIND IN THE CHAIN OF HILLS THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER BETWEEN LLANDEILO AND THE SEA. BESIDES THE ADVANTAGES IT DERIVES FROM THE BEAUTIES WHICH SURROUND IT, MIDDLETON HALL IS ELIGIBLY PLACED IN RESPECT TO THE PUBLIC ROADS BEING WITHIN A MILE AND A HALF OF EACH OF THE TWO GREAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MILFORD AND LONDON”.

THE VENERABLE TREE IN THE FOREGROUND CALLED THE DYNEFOR OAK HAS LONG BEEN CELEBRATED AS A LANDMARK, BUT IT MAY NOW LAY CLAIM TO GREATER DIGNITY AS AN INTERESTING OBJECT IN THE HOME SCENE, ADORNING WITH ITS MAJESTIC SHADE THE POLISHED LAWN THAT SURROUNDS IT.

HAVING NOW FINISHED OUR RAMBLE WE MAY CHANGE THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE WHICH IT HAS PRESENTED TO US FOR THE ELEGANCIES OF ART DISPLAYED IN THE MANSION, THE NOBLE HALL WHICH WE WILL NOW SUPPOSE OURSELVES TO HAVE ENTERED. HAVING VIEWED ITS GENERAL ASPECT AND APPROPRIATE DECORATIONS, WE MIGHT PROCEED TO THE VARIOUS ATTRACTIONS OF THE LIBRARY, BUT OUR RURAL EXCURSION BEING STILL INCOMPLETE WE LEAVE ITS ATTRACTION FOR FUTURE ENJOYMENT AND PREPARE FOR A MORE EXTENSIVE TOUR WHICH THE APPENDAGES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AFFORDS US THE MEANS OF PERFORMING WITH EASE AND PLEASURE.

THE DRIVES WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THE PARK ABOUND IN A VARIETY OF SCENERY, BUT MY SKETCHES BEING CONFINED TO TWO POINTS WE WILL FIRST TAKE OUR STATION NEAR A GROUP OF FIRS SEEN TO THE LEFT OF THE THIRD VIEW WHICH COMMANDS THE HILL ON WHICH NELSON'S TOWER STANDS, THE VALE OF TOWY, GRONGAR HILL, DRYSLWYN CASTLE AND THE RICH DISTANCE BEYOND DYNEFOR

FROM STATION 3 – P1010034

(FROM NORTH STEPS OF MANSION)



THE ANIMATED SCENE WHICH OPENS FROM THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE, AND IS BEHELD FROM ITS INTERIOR, PRESENTS A HAPPY UNION OF THE VARIOUS REQUISITES FOR AGREEABLE AND INTERESTING LANDSCAPE. THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE VIEWS IS IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL MAGNIFICENCE OF THE EAST ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSE, A PORTION OF WHICH IS INTRODUCED. THE VERDANT LAWN – THE EXPANSE OF WATER – THE WOODED HILL CROWNED WITH THE TOWER – THE SWEEP OF SYLVAN SCENERY DIVERSIFIED WITH WHITE COTTAGES, AND BOUNDED BY THE DISTANT HILLS COMPOSE A SCENE WHICH THE EYE REPOSES ON WITH DELIGHT AND QUILTS WITH RELUCTANCE.

FROM STATION 4 ? – P1010001

VIEW FROM BANK OF LLYN MAWR LOOKING BACK AT MANSION WITH UNKNOWN BRIDGE



THE PATH SEEN ON THE LEFT OF THE LAST DRAWING LEADS THROUGH A SHADY WALK THAT IS CONSTRUCTED IN AN AGREEABLE LINE BY THE MARGIN OF THE LARGE LAKE, WHICH WHEN SEEN FROM THE MANSION IS CONTEMPLATED NOT ONLY AS A PLEASING OBJECT IN ITSELF, BUT AS THE MEANS OF MULTIPLYING AND VARYING THE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS AROUND IT..... THE ENJOYMENT OF ITS NAVIGATION PRESENT A PLEASING AND RATHER RARE ADDITION TO THE RANGE OF RURAL AMUSEMENTS.
PURSUING OUR WALK TO THE LEFT WE ARE LED TO THE

FROM STATION 5 OR 6 - (NO PICTURES)

..... LOWER LAKE WHICH IS HAPPILY FORMED IN A SEQUESTERED AND WELL WOODED LITTLE VALLEY. THE HARBOUR IN THE CENTRE OF THE PICTURE FORMS THE POINT OF VIEW WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF A SUCCEEDING DRAWING. THE DELL WHICH COMMENCES BY THE BRIDGE TO THE RIGHT CONTAINS MANY CHARACTERISTIC BEAUTIES DEVELOPED IN THE COURSE OF THE WALK. THE PATH BY THE SMALLER BRIDGE TO THE LEFT LEADS TO THE CHALYBEATE SPRING AND BATH , THE SUBJECTS OF THE NEXT PICTURE.

FROM STATION 7 – P1010010

SITE OF BATH HOUSE



THE RUSTIC BUILDING (WHICH I SHALL CALL THE GROTTO OF HYGREA) APPROPRIATED TO THE SPRING IS AGREEABLY PLACED IN A FLOWER GARDEN AND AS IT AFFORDS THE PROPER CONVENIENCES WE MAY TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACCORDING THE MEDICAL VALUES OF THE WATERS.

<u>GASEOUS CONTENTS</u>	CUB INS
CARBONIC ACID GAS	16.5
ATMOSPHERIC AIR	4.5

<u>SOLID CONTENTS</u>	GRAINS
CARBONATE OF LIME	4.75
CARBONATE OF IRON	5.25
MURIATE OF SODA	6
MURIATE OF LIME	3.25
SULPHATE OF LIME	2

THE BATH WHICH IS NEAR THE SPRING AS SHOWN IN THE LAST VIEW MAY BE USED AS A TEPID BATH AS IT IS FURNISHED WITH COMPLETE APPARATUS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

FROM THE SPRING ARE LAID PIPES WHICH CONDUCT THE WATER TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE PARK WALL FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC, AND A HOUSE FOR THE ACCOMODATION OF VISITORS HAS ALSO BEEN ERECTED.

FROM STATION 8 - (NO PICTURE)

RETURNING BY THE EAST SIDE OF THE LOWER LAKE WE ARE INVITED TO PAUSE IN A BOWER WHICH COMMANDS AN ELEGANT VISTA OF THE LAKE AND ITS WOODED BANKS TERMINATED BY THE PORTICO OF THE MANSION: IT WOULD BE PLEASANT TO INDULGE MORE AT LARGE IN DESCRIBING THE VARIED BEAUTIES OF THIS SECLUDED SCENE, BUT AS WE HAVE STILL AN INTERESTING PART OF OUR WALK BEFORE US WE WILL LEAVE THIS LITTLE GRASMERE OF WALES AND EXPLORE THE DINGLE, WHOSE BANKS ARE OVERHUNG WITH

WOOD AND DIVERSIFIED WITH THE WILDER PRODUCTIONS OF NATURE GROUPED AND COMBINED IN INFINITE VARIETY.

FROM STATION 9 - (NO PICTURE)

THE WALK LEADS BY A LIVELY STREAM WHICH RUSHES DOWN WITH VARIED RAPIDITY AND COMBINED IN INFINITE VARIETY. TO WHERE THE DALE EXPANDS INTO A LITTLE VALLEY HAPPILY FORMED INTO A FLOWER GARDEN WHICH HAS AN ENCHANTING EFFECT AFTER THE GLOOM OF THE ENTRANCE.

THE RUSTIC ARCADE FORMS A PLEASING COVERED WALK AND AFFORDS SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS CREEPERS WHICH FORM THEMSELVES INTO GRACEFUL FESTOONS.

FROM STATION 10 – P1010014



WE NOW COME TO A VERY DIFFERENT SUBJECT, A BOLD AND IMPETUOUS WATERFALL WHICH HAS ALL THE APPROPRIATE CHARACTER OF A NATURAL CASCADE, HEIGHTENED IN ITS EFFECT BY THE WOODED SCENERY THAT SURROUNDS IT.

FROM STATION 11 - (NO PICTURE)

QUITTING THIS PART OF THE DINGLE WE HAVE THE CHOICE OF SEVERAL PATHS, BUT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A GENERAL VIEW OF THE GROUNDS WE WILL TAKE ONE OF THE GREEN DRIVES WHICH LEADS THROUGH THE SOUTH PARK – THE VIEWS FROM ALMOST EVERY POINT ON THIS SIDE EXPAND IN GREAT VARIETY – THE GENERAL CHARACTER IS THAT OF UNDULATING LINES OF VARIEGATED SURFACE OF GROUND – AN UNDIVIDED RANGE OF PASTURE AND LIVELY EFFECTS OF VARIEGATED FOLIAGE – THE SEVERAL PIECES OF WATER HAVE THE EFFECT OF ONE CONNECTED SHEET, WHICH APPEARING BY GLIMPSES AMONGST THE TREES BY ITS SIDE GIVES TO THE WHOLE A FINISH OF ANIMATION AND BEAUTY. THE POINT OF VIEW CHOSEN FOR THE SKETCH WAS SELECTED FOR ITS PROXIMITY TO THE SITE OF THE OLD MANSION, RATHER THAN AS AFFORDING THE BEST REPRESENTATION OF THE SCENE.

FROM STATION 12 – (NO PICTURE)

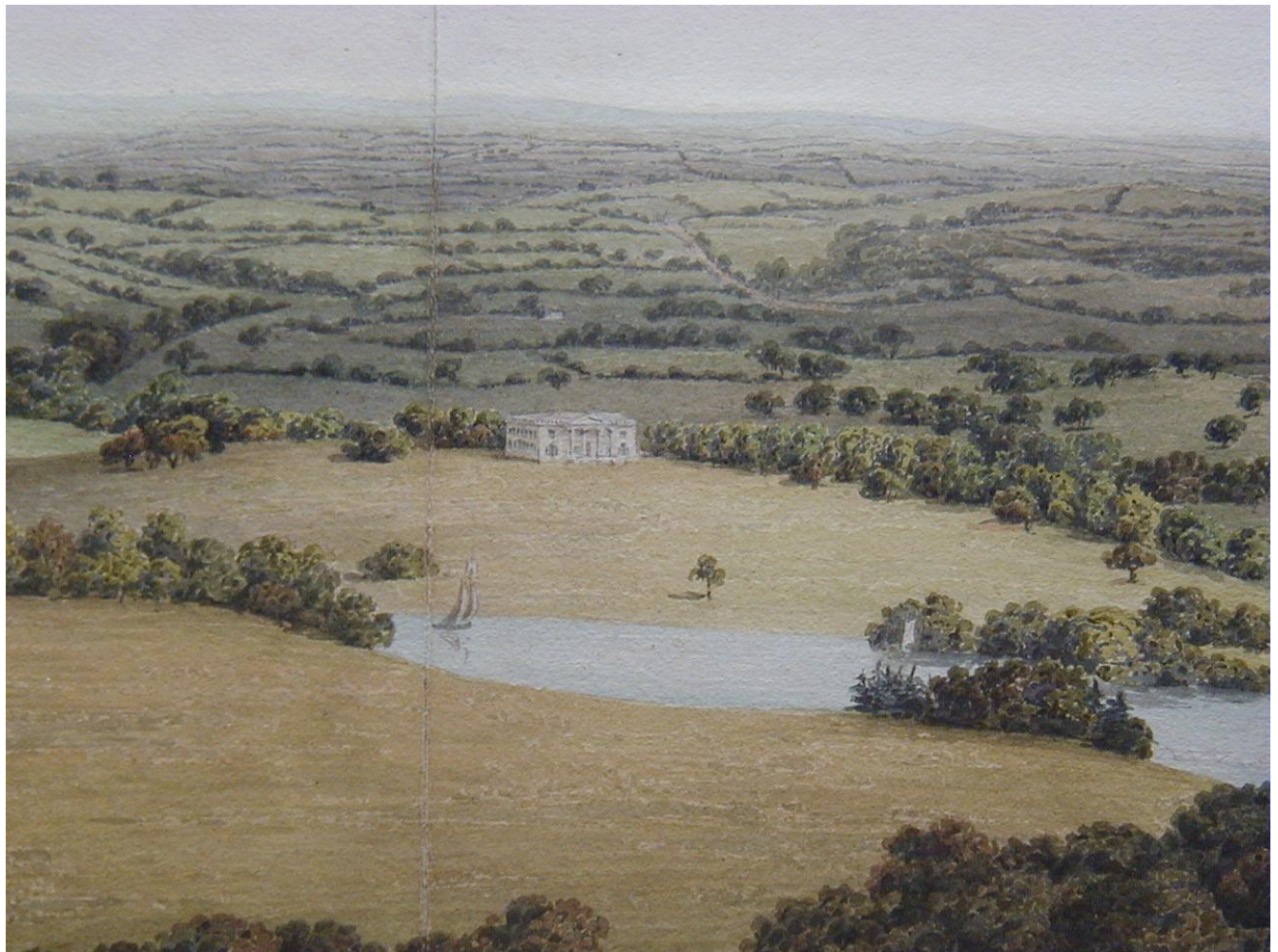
DESCENDING TO THE MARGIN OF THE LAKE WE MAKE TAKE A SEAT IN AN AGREEABLE FLOWER GARDEN FORMED IN A LITTLE PROMONTARY FROM WHICH THE MANSION IS SEEN TO ASSOCIATE ADVANTAGEOUSLY WITH THE FINISHED DOMESTIC CHARACTER OF THE SCENE.

FROM STATION 13 – P1010028



PROCEEDING IN THE SAME DIRECTION WE COME WITHIN SIGHT OF ANOTHER BATH, WHICH IS APPROPRIATELY PLACED IN A SECLUDED SITUATION AND WELL SCREENED BY A GROVE WHICH INTERCEPTS IT FROM THE LAWN BEHIND.

STATION 14 ? - P101050



THE RIDE MAY NOW BE VARIED BY ENTERING THE VALE OR RETURNING BY THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PARK, BY EITHER ROUT THE FOOT OF THE HILL ON WHICH THE TOWER STANDS MAY SOON BE GAINED. FROM HENCE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF AN EXTRA HORSE, I WILL NOW SUPPOSE US TO BE ASCENDING BY THE ROAD WHICH TAKES A CIRCUITOUS DIRECTION THROUGH AN EXTENSIVE AND FLOURISHING PLANTATION, AFFORDING AT EVERY TURN VIEWS EVER VARYING IN EXTENT, RICHNESS AND GRANDEUR: AND OUR ADMIRATION IS PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED BY THE EXPANDING BEAUTIES OF THE VALE AS IT SEEMS TO UNFOLD ITSELF TO THE EYE AS WE ADVANCE.

HOWEVER GREAT MAY BE THE EXPECTATION FROM THIS GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF PROSPECT DURING THE ASCENT, THE UNBOUNDED MAGNIFICENCE OF THE WHOLE ON ATTAINING THE SUMMIT CANNOT FAIL TO CALL FORTH A SPONTANEOUS EXCLAMATION OF WONDER AND DELIGHT A CIRCLE OF LANDSCAPES SO SUBLIME IN ITS GENERAL EFFECT, AND SO PLEASINGLY VARIED IN DETAIL MUST DEFY THE HAPPIEST EFFORTS OF THE PEN OR PENCIL, YET I MAY HOPE THAT THE ANNEXED REPRESENTATIONS WILL HAVE

THE EFFECT OF PRESENTING TO THE EYE, AND TO THE MIND, A COMPREHENSIVE THOUGH FAINT VISION OF THE SCENE.

HORNOR'S MAP OF THE ESTATE

