

To the Editor of the Advertiser and Guardian.

Sir,

The following taken from a very curious and ancient manuscript lately fallen into my hands, may perhaps be interesting to some of your readers.

"Ye nexte purle, or township, which we met withe on our journeye drew much attention from ye verie antente view of its localities and it now is my intentet to make a few remarks on the same- Round this Town is a verie solide wall of ~~masourie~~ and for entrance there be, three Gates, one to the Southe leading to the strong holde of the Quintins Lordes of ye place, one to the ^{WEST} East, bye a verie greate poole, and another to the ^{EAST} West where ye Bridge also is to be seene, from the same the place is named, from hes antiente British "Pont y Von" or woodene Bridge- These divers curious thinges are unto ye traveller shown ye first a mightie stone where been carved a hughe image of Thor, Saxon Dietie this standeth nigh to the aforesaid bridge, further up the ville is an agreeable mansion in which we were told the familie of Carne had been located for manie centuries- opposite to this we were shewne a verie aged mansion with its Gables to the street, called by the good folks the Executors Hall, a name attached untoe it from the verie greate practice its owner had carried on ye manufacturunge and ye executinge of ye wills and testaments of divers riche gentrie in ye place, he was a Gentleman at law and to use ye wordes of ye highe Bailiff "He is ye onlie one in the place, praised be God and he is bye far too muche" This house was reported to be mightie ^{finished?} furnished in its interiore partes, and to have ye noblest, with drawinge apartmente in ye vicinitie- highe to the same is seene ye Courte House, in the which ye Criminals are broughte to triale, this buildinge is saide to have been builte to stoppe ye great currente of winde that passe the down ye Town, for it high shutteth up ye passage from ye Gates- nearer

to ye South Gate standeth a Schoole said to have been founded
bye a Welshman of a neighboringe Ville, here ye master is
saide to imparte a diversitie of learninge to ye Scholars,
most of whom are for ye ministrie of Christe-

We were showne two lades, who are able to converse in the
English Tongue, and write a few wordes in ye same-

Passingethroughe ye Easterne Gate and bye ye Pool of Boats we
journeyed manie miles until we came to ye smalle Ham called
Came Town, the same having been builte by Sir Edward Came
of the Abbie of Ewennie and passinge this we came to a place
called Bridge End" etc: etc: Fol: M.S. Trin. Cam.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently

Cantab

Pasted in a scrap Book which had belonged to the Revd.J.

Montgomery Traherne and is now given to the National Library
of Wales at Aberystwith.

November 1928.

Cowbridge Record Society

1 Mill Park Cowbridge CF71 7BG
01446 - 773373

9th November 2001

Dear Sir,

I am the General Editor of the Cowbridge Record Society, which has as its aim the recording and publishing of information relating to the history of Cowbridge and district. (Cowbridge is a small market town in the Vale of Glamorgan, about 15 miles west of Cardiff.)

We have recently come across the enclosed material, which purports to be a copy of a newspaper letter, pasted in a scrap book, which was presented to the National Library of Wales. The account does not ring true, but does contain some material which could add a little to the history of Cowbridge. As a result, I am interested in the origins of this 'curious and ancient manuscript' which is only identified by the words 'Fol: M.S. Trin. Cam.'. If the manuscript does exist, I presume it is part of a 'Tour through South Wales', or something similar. Is there any way in which you could identify it?

I would be very interested to see if you could shed any light on the matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

AJL Alden

The Librarian
Trinity College
Cambridge