

CARDIFF DISTRICT.

COWBRIDGE.

1. COWBRIDGE lies in the vale formed by the small stream of the Thaw. The ground rises above it in every direction except the North, where the stream forms some flat marshes, and the South-west, where it falls down to the Village of Llanblethian by a deep valley. Cowbridge is 12 miles from Cardiff, and 171 miles from London.

Situation of Cowbridge.

2. Cowbridge at present contributes to send up one Member to the House of Commons with the Cardiff district. The other contributory Boroughs of the district are Aberavon, Cowbridge, Kenfig, Llantrissant, Loughor, Neath, and Swansea. By the late Bill the Boroughs contributory to Cardiff were to have been Aberdare, Cowbridge, Llandaff, Llantrissant, and Merthyr Tydvil.

Present and proposed Franchise.

There is no limitation as to the residence of the Voters of Cowbridge; they are the Freemen made by gift, birth, marriage, or apprenticeship. There are 70 or 80 of them; 30 or 40 are resident.

3. The latest Charter is dated in the 33d year of Charles II. Cowbridge is there called the "Town of Cowbridge;" and the expression occurs of "burgesses and inhabitants by several names." It is spoken of as a Borough then existing both by prescription and "divers Charters," which are not specified. It has a considerable municipal exclusive jurisdiction, both criminal and civil, though much of this has fallen into disuse. There are no local acts of any kind.

Charter and Corporation.

4. The Charter does not set out the metes and bounds; but no doubt exists as to the limits of the Borough; they were last perambulated on 22d September 1808.

Limits of the old Borough.

5. Cowbridge is in the parish of Llanblethian, by which it is entirely encompassed, except at one point on the North-west, where the Boundaries of the two coincide. The Chapel at Cowbridge was originally a Chapel of Ease to Llanblethian Church, and the same Minister performs the duty at each, taking Morning Service at one and Evening Service at the other on the same Sunday, and changing the distribution each successive Sunday. The Borough maintains its own Poor separately from the rest of the Parish. Llanblethian Church is at the farther end of the Village, which gives name to the Parish. The Church lies about three quarters of a mile from Cowbridge, on a hill hanging over the valley down which the stream of the Thaw descends, in which valley, and on the adjacent hills, the Village stands. The Houses are scattered at small distances between Cowbridge and Llanblethian; so that it is difficult to fix on any point where the one ends and the other begins. The two together form a group which is quite distinct from the rest of the Parish. The Parish contains 1,944 acres without the Borough; the Borough contains rather more than 33 acres.

Llanblethian Parish.

6. The Town is not an increasing place; it has no trade or important manufacture; and it maintains the little consequence which it possesses by the means of two schools of very good character. There is, however, a prospect of a slight increase at present, as some Houses are to be built on a waste piece of ground in the Borough. The Town is principally inhabited by shopkeepers and the occupiers of public houses; the rest of the Parish is agricultural. The farms in the Parish have from 40 to 60 acres each; I was told that there were not six farms of so many as 100 acres.

General Condition of Cowbridge and Llanblethian Parish.

The Sum levied by Assessed Taxes, in Cowbridge, in the	}	£.430. 16. 6.
year ending 5th April 1829, was		
— 1830		
— 1831	- - - -	442. 2. 11.
	- - - -	380. 9. 6.

Population of
Cowbridge, and
Llanblethian Parish.

7. The Population of the Borough forms the principal part of the Population of the Parish, but the whole may be considered as populous. That of Cowbridge was returned as

759 in 1801*
850 in 1811
1,107 in 1821†
1,097 in 1831‡

The Population of the rest of Llanblethian Parish } 475 in 1801 ||
was returned as - - - - -

553 in 1811
703 in 1821 ¶
670 in 1831 **

The last Census was taken during the vacation of a large school within the Parish, and, allowance being made for this, there will be room for a slight increase.

Number of
Inhabited Houses.

8. The number of Inhabited Houses in Cowbridge } 1801. 1821. 1831.
Borough was - - - - - } 144* 185† 205 §
in the rest of Llanblethian Parish 117 || 146 ¶ 146 **

Houses in Cow-
bridge and Llan-
blethian Parish
assessed to the
Inhabited House
Duty.

9. There are 57 Houses in the Borough assessed to the Inhabited House Duty, as of the annual value of £.10, and 13 in the rest of Llanblethian Parish. Of these last, all but 4 are in the immediate neighbourhood of Llanblethian Village, or between that and Cowbridge. They of course are not farm houses, and the land is not reckoned; so that it may be considered a good test of that part of the Parish which is not merely agricultural.

Number of £.10
Houses, estimated
from the Poor
Rates of Cowbridge
and Llanblethian
Parish.

10. According to the Poor Rates (making allowance for the proportion to the rack-rent at which they are taken), the Houses of the annual value of £.10 are 67 at Cowbridge, and 49 in the rest of the Parish. To the former I was told that about 12 might be added.

It is supposed that, of the houses to be built on the waste piece of ground spoken of in Section 6, seven or eight will be of the annual value of £.10.

Circumstances to
be considered in
choosing a
Boundary.

11. At the distance of about half a mile from the Borough, on the opposite side of it from the Village and Church of Llanblethian, but in the Parish, is the Village of Aberthin. It contains a considerable number of Houses, but only two or three of £.10 annual value. It is completely divided from the Borough by a large interval of agricultural country, and has no connection with it, except from forming part of the same parish.

Under these circumstances, I should propose that the new Borough should comprehend Cowbridge and Llanblethian Villages, with a moderate space round, but not Aberthin. For this purpose, I should recommend a Boundary which is laid down by a dotted Line. It runs principally along recognized Boundaries, either of the Parish or the Borough. Where it does not do so, the lines are formed by Fences or Roads, and are very definite, and much of the same character as those forming the old Boundaries.

If it should be determined not to include Llanblethian Village, I think it would be advisable to adhere to the old Borough Boundary, except towards the East and North, where it seems to me to cut the Town too closely, being in fact almost coincident with the backs of the houses. An enlarged Boundary might be described here, by means of the Stream on the North. But if this extension should not be adopted, in order that the well known Boundary of the Borough may be adhered to throughout, the Boundary will be that of the old Borough of Cowbridge.

T. F. Ellis, jun.

* Marshall, "Abstract" &c. p. 74. No. 4893.
† Ib. and "Abstract of Answers and Returns under the Population Act, 1 Geo. IV. c. 94." p. 462.
‡ Parliamentary Document entitled "Parliamentary Representation," 207. p. 2. Census of 1831, Copy procured in London.
§ Census of 1831, Copy procured in London.
|| Marshall, "Abstract" &c. p. 74. No. 4894.
¶ Ib. and "Abstract of Answers and Returns under the Population Act, 1 Geo. IV. c. 94." p. 462.
** Census of 1831, Copy procured in London.

SUMMARY of all the INFORMATION relative to the Borough of *Cowbridge*,
laid before Parliament since March 1831.

1.—Limits : Comprise part of the Parish of Llanblethian. Contributory Rep. in the Cardiff District, with Cardiff, Aberavon, Kenfig, Llantrissant, Loughor, Neath and Swansea.

Proposed to be contributory with Cardiff, Aberdare, Llandaff, Llantrissant, and Merthyr-Tydvil.

2.—Population :

	<u>In 1821.</u>	<u>In 1831.</u>	
Of the Borough * - - - - -	1,107	1,097	Parl. Ret. p. 411.
Of the Parish exclusive of the Borough - - - - -	703	670	Rep.

3.—Number of Houses :

	<u>1821.</u>	<u>1831.</u>	<u>Assessed to Inhabited House Duty at £. 10. and upwards.</u>	<u>Worth £. 10. a year and upwards.</u>	
In the Borough - - - - -	189	214	57	79	Parl. Ret. 413. Rep. Pop. Ret.
In the Parish exclusive of the Borough	160	150	13	49	

4.—Amount of Assessed Taxes paid :

	<u>1828</u>	<u>1820.</u>	<u>1830.</u>	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Cowbridge - - - - -	430 16 6	442 2 11	380 9 6	Parl. Ret. p. 393*

5.—Greatest Number of Electors polled within the last 30 Years:

Polled at Cowbridge 41.

Parl. Ret. 110.

6.—The Right of Voting is in the Freemen.

Rep.

* Stated in the Parliamentary Returns to be the amount of Population in the Borough. See Rep. sect. 7.