

Glamorgan Training College,
Barry.

592

Geography Advanced
First year Thesis.

"Cowbridge and District."

Stacie Millman.

1926 - 1928.

List of Illustrations

Placing	page		
	2.	1.	Photograph showing fault on Llandoveryan Hill.
		2.	Geology map of district.
"	"	3.	cutting of Cambridge railway. Lower Hall, Cambridge. "baffin styles", Cambridge.
"	"	5.	map showing position of Cambridge.
			Original map - map showing Cambridge as a market town.
"	"	6.	map showing mills on the river Thame.
also	"	6.	Photograph Cambridge battle market. Pictures of Haws Mill, Llandovery Mill & Llandovery mill.
"	"	7.	Photograph of Ox-haw lake. Pictures of Thatched cottages on Thame.
"	"	9.	Photographs of floods, bridge and open air baths.
"	"	10.	Sketch map showing
			Original map - how Cambridge High Street avoids marshes.
also	"	10.	Pictures of streets.
"	"	11.	Photographs of "Silver Well," "Lower Hall pump" & "Bowman's well".
"	"	15.	Map of Cambridge as a petty sessional court.
Original maps.			
"	"	16.	map showing Cambridge as a postal centre.

Having page	17	General view of Cambridge.
"	"	20. Photograph of Old South Gate.
"	"	22. Pictures of Cambridge Church.
"	"	23. Cambridge Grammar School.
on page	24.	Cambridge High School.
Having page	27.	Pictures of St. Hilary Church.
also "	"	27. Pictures of "Beaufort Castle"
"	"	28. & the meet on the Downs.
also "	"	28. Pictures of Llanbleddian
		& St. Quentin's Castle.
		Llanbleddian Church.

A great deal of the information in this thesis has been collected during the vacations of this year. Personal visits have been made to most of the places mentioned and they have been most interesting.

In some cases old Cambridge people have been able to help me, as for instance an old man was able to give me valuable information about the mills in the neighbourhood. Visits to the mills in the district have been among some of the most enjoyable.

The photographs I were taken during the Easter vacation, except that of the floods which I took a few years ago, and that of the meet on the Downs which I took last Boxing Day (1926)

Local postmen and police men have given me the information needed to draw maps of Cambridge as a postal and petty sessional centre and by personal observation I have been able to find out something of Cambridge as a market town.

There is no doubt that a thesis of this kind would be easier to do if one could make daily visits to the places of interest, but even in a short time one can learn much of one's own home district.

For the historical aspect of the place I consulted Dr. Hopkin-James last

"Old Cambridge" and for the place
names I did not know I found the
"Annals of South Glamorgan" very
helpful.

Glamorgan Training College, Barry

Stacie Millman Geography Thesis

Bowbridge and district

Bowbridge, a municipal borough and market town is pleasantly situated in the centre of the Vale of Glamorgan, on the banks of the river Thaw.

The geology of the district

The oldest rocks of the Bowbridge district is the Old Red Sandstone which extends over the southern portion of the Stalling Downs and most of Hensol Park, and east of Welsh St. Donats. The sandstone is all quartzite, sometimes pebbly, and has been quarried at Aberthaw.

Next in age is the Carboniferous limestone, distinguished locally from later limestone by the title of "Mountain limestone". It has been thrown up in an enormous anticline running east to west, practically from Bowbridge to Cardiff. The whole axis has disappeared, leaving the two great flanks on north and south; the first extending from St. Mary Hill eastwards, the second from Brocastle; the Thaw flows across it between the town and bridge and the entrance to the Llandough valley. Probably it forms the basis of the Ystradowen Marsh. The northern

limb is steeply faulted to form
Peallyns Hill, parallel to the
original axis of folding. Ash Hall

* this is stands on another escarpment.
marked on Llanbleddian Hill * is sharply faulted,
the map the scarp facing north. The limestone
forming page 5 lies in thick beds, often with shales
between; some is oolitic, some shaly
nearly all crinoidal. It is quarried
at how Beaupre and elsewhere both
for roadstone and for burning lime.
Springs escape where shale and
limestone meet.

Both Old Red Sandstone and
carboniferous limestone were tilted
and denuded before a subsidence caused
new aqueous deposits. Their detritus went
to form Millstone Grit, a little of
which comes to the present surface in
the district; it has been traversed by
baemetite workings at Pantyellun.

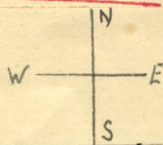
The nearest coal measures are
those mined at South Llanharan
and at Navigation Colliery, Pantyellun.

The subsidence above mentioned
caused the filling of depressions by
water. (called Triassic waters) and the
consequent accumulation of mud; this
now forms the greenish and buff
shales or marls containing very few
fossils; gypsum and iron salts were
caused by evaporation. Scree fell
from the older rocks around, and
the angular gravel and grit were embedded



1. Photograph showing the sharp fault on Llanbleddian Hill

2. Geology map of the Llanbleddian district



Old Sandstone	Mountain limestone	Jurassic lias	Conglomerate	Boulder Clay	River Alluvium	Erratics



Cutting of the Aberthaw - Cambridge
railway, showing the local rocks.



Photograph of old "biffin styles" near
Cambridge. They are made from slabs
of Ostrea and their peculiar shape is
explained by their name. When they were
built it was the custom for Penllynne
people to be in Llanfrynach churchyard,
three miles away. The heavers rested the
coffin on the "biffin styles".

in a mud impregnated with dissolved lime. This hardened into a breccia. A continued subsidence led to the thicker accumulation. This breccia forms the high ground of Llandough and Grable, through which the Thaw has cut deeply; the breccia of Slade Hill is composed mainly of limestone pebbles.

A continued subsidence meant that the waters were no longer land-locked but communicated by an inlet to the open sea. Now the accumulated beds are like compact crystalline limestone. Some portions consist of shell sand, i.e. fragments of shells of corals firmly cemented together by calcite formed on a beach not exposed to heavy surf: this type is known as Sutton Stone and is quarried at Ogmores - by sea for building purposes (Cambridge Town Hall is faced with it), and it appears in smaller bands near Cambridge (e.g. north of the railway bridge on the Bardiff road). The shores of this sea were often pebbly and conglomerate beds are widespread in the immediate district of Cambridge. At greater depths accumulated the Liassic beds, characterised by frequent beds of *Ostrea* (slabs of the *Ostrea* are frequently used for sills and head-stones of pillars hereabouts). The Liassic covers practically the whole area south of Cambridge, forming the very clearly stratified cliffs between Penarth

and Oymore. It is quarried in very many places for lime. Bands of shale alternate with limestone.

The wide lowland between Penllyn and the opposite southern slopes is thickly overspread with glacial clay which becomes markedly gravelly on the site of Cambridge. The clay contains sub-angular fragments of grit from the coal measures to the north of the Mountain limestone, and of the Old Red sandstone, as well as of the Triassic and Jurassic rocks of the immediate vicinity. At Ustradamwen there is a fairly extensive peat bog. The ground of the law is hummocky with gravel.

South of Llanharry the Thaw has smoothed out the glacial stuff so that Penllyn and the Newton moors take the form of an alluvial plain.

The varied rocks of the Cambridge district yield varied soils, soils differing very widely in fertility; the red shales are mostly pasture-land, the carboniferous limestone frequently wooded, while the soils yielded by the Keuper marls and Old Red sandstone were formerly used for wheat growing.

It was during the period when this district was essentially wheat producing that Cambridge became important.

Bridgend

St Mary Hill

Llangan

Ewenny

Corntown

Penllyn

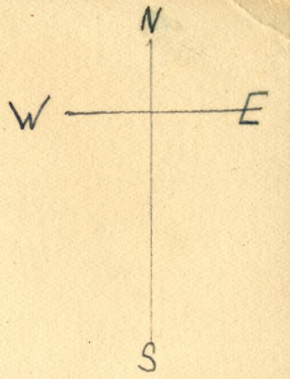
Llansannop

Llanharry

Ystradowen

Maendy

Prysc



Welsh St Donats

Pendoylan

COWBRIDGE

Aberthin

Conwilstone

Llysworney

Llandow

Wash

Llanbledian

Wick

Bonvilstone

Llandough

St Hilary

Llanfihangel

St Mary Church

Llanmilhyd

Flemingsstone

Llancafon

Llanrwit Major

Llanmaes

Eglwys
Brewis

St Athan

Penmark

Scale = 6 m to 1 in.
Cowbridge as a market town



Map showing position of Cowbridge in the lowland of Glamorgan

5.

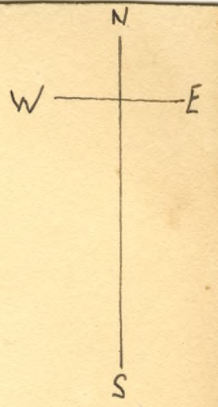
To understand why Cambridge became noted as an agricultural centre it is necessary to study the natural position of the town. The accompanying map shows that Cambridge holds a very central position in the lowland of South Wales. A hundred years ago the population of this district was much denser than that of the hilly land to the north; there were many rich and prosperous farmers in the district, so that a market town became essential: moreover that town had to be within easy horse-distance from the surrounding villages. Cambridge supplied this need and even today Cambridge market is a busy place. Farmers and butchers from the villages marked on a map of "Cambridge as a market town" flock to Cambridge once a week and the quiet streets of this dreamy little town are ringing with the cries of drovers and noises of sheep and cattle once again. There is not the exchange in dairy produce that there used to be, but many farmers wives still bring their eggs and butter to the Cambridge shops.

The number of mills on the river Thaw and the predominance of thatched cottages in the villages close by turn our attention to the district

6.
as essentially a wheat producing area until the last three years several of the mills on the Thame were still in use, but Llanbleddian Mill and Monastery Mill are the only ones used to-day. The sound of Llanbleddian Mill at work is so unfamiliar and to the people of Cambridge and many still love to have their bread made from the "home ground flour". Just before reaching Llanbleddian Mill the Thame winds its way through the low alluvial fields at the foot of Llanbleddian Hill. Because the gradient of the river is so small (its source being only 200 feet above sea level) artificial weirs had to be made. These may be seen at Lower Mill, Llanbleddian Mill and Llandough Mill; near the last mentioned mill the Thame has cut very deeply into the breccia, forming several almost perfect ox-bow lakes. The photograph shows one of these. Very soon perhaps, not one of these mills will be used for year by year farmers are turning fields into pasture land. This is, of course, more profitable in modern times.

For the thatched roofs around local straw was used and the occupation of thatching was the livelihood of many. Until recent years there were several of these cottages in old Cambridge itself;

Map of the Mills on the Shaw.



Thatched cottages in Cambridge
and Harbledian



LLANBLETHIAN, LOOKING SOUTH.

4.

two behind the present Town Hall and three in the West End. Only this year the roofs of the latter were replaced by zinc owing to their bad conditions. For the village of Llanbleddian there is an interesting old alms house - a thatched cottage with the words, "Remember ye poor" above the front door. The roof, however is fast decaying and it seems a pity that there is no one to replace it.

Almost every cottage in the village of Llancaeron has a thatched roof and it speaks very plainly of the past of the district.

Before the Industrial revolution the barren hills to the north of the Cambridge district were devoted to pasture land. Many of the coal-field towns were merely shepherd's hamlets while Cambridge was very prosperous. The chief industries were connected with agriculture and the manufacture of woollen goods was fairly important. It is interesting to notice that Llanbleddian possesses one of these small woollen factories. The striking contrast in the population figures about 1801 shows again the importance of the vale at this time; the parishes in the vale had a density of more than 50 per square mile while large areas

8.
of the coal field had less than 25
per square mile.

Even now, however, the decay
of the vale had begun. The iron
industry was rapidly developing in
the coal fields. The earliest
smelting hearths or "bloomeries"
were worked by wind and were
placed on the sides of the hills.
The remains of one of these are
to be found on a hill-side near
the town of Blaenrisant.

About this time, too, railways
were constructed and their effect
on the agricultural area of South
Wales had been very similar to
their effect in England and Wales
generally. This point may be
illustrated by the difference in the
rates of development of Caerbridge
and Bridgend. While the population
of Caerbridge has scarcely increased
during the last century, Bridgend
on account of its position on the
main railway became the chief
town in that region. To-day the
railway between Blaenrisant and
Caerbridge is of very little importance.
The busiest time on Caerbridge
platform is when the dairy
farmers from the neighbourhood are
sending off their churns of milk
to the industrial towns further north.
Even these are now tending to

Floods on the banks of the Shaw

I



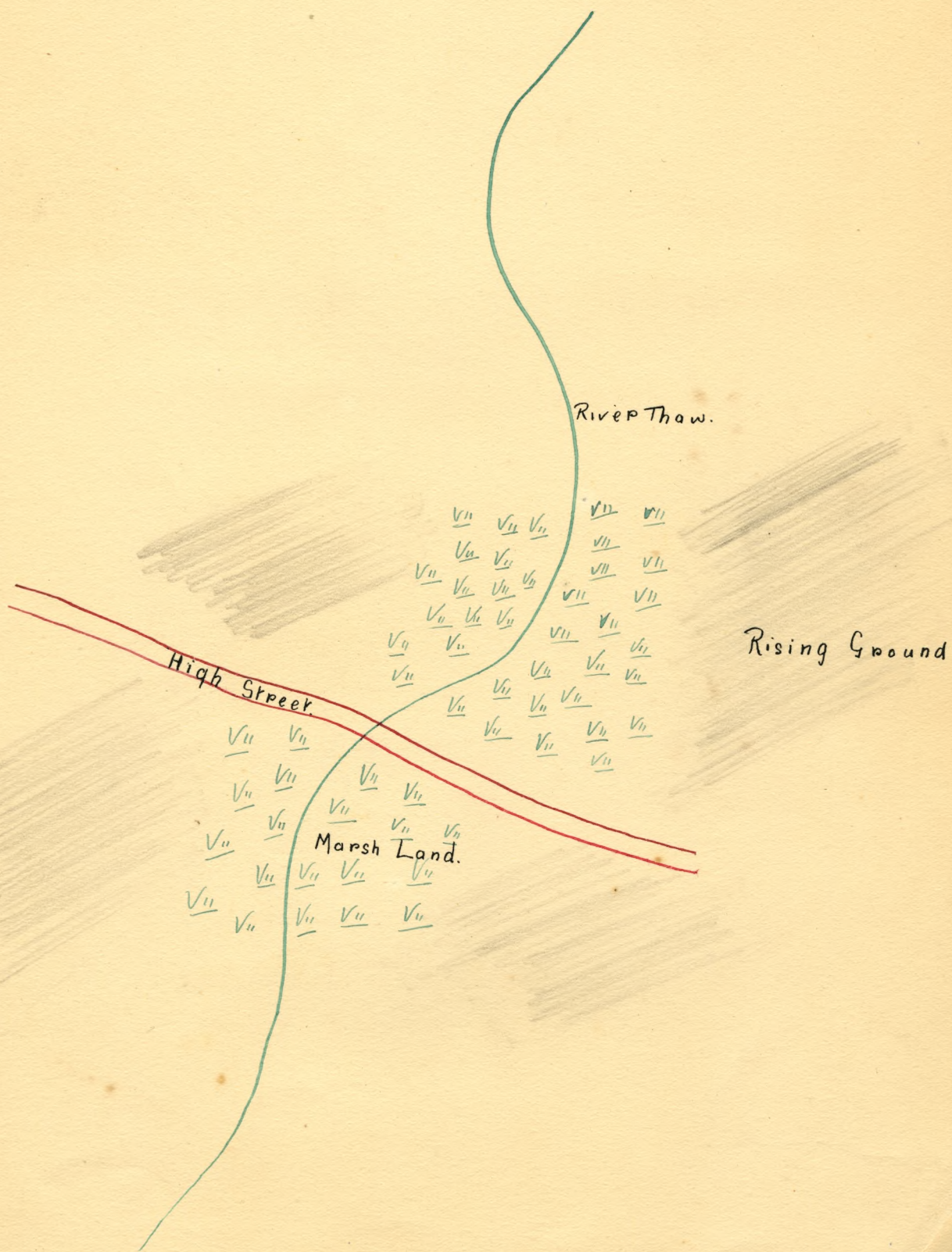
II



Wooden bridge crossing the Shaw.



Lawbridge swimming bath.



Sketch map to show how High Street avoids Marsh



Photograph of Cambridge cattle market



HOWE MILL, ST. MARY, COWBRIDGE.



Slansough Mill.



Slanbleddian Mill

Ox-how lake



use their own vans instead of the railway so that it is probable that this familiar scene will soon disappear.

Beside its centrality and convenience as a market town, one other factor has made the position of the town important. On either side of the river Thau there are flat alluvial plains, not only marshy, but flooded every winter. The photographs on the opposite page show the fields on the banks of the Thau during the flood season. The hill in the back-ground is Mount Pleasant hill and as it stands the farm of that name. During such periods the farm is isolated and the inhabitants have to use another route to the town.

The banks of the river Thau are so soft that they cannot support anything but small stone bridges and wooden ones such as the one opposite. Where the banks are a little firmer the bamboo bridge open air swimming baths have been made and it is very interesting to notice that the head-stones of the diving steps have been made from slabs of local Ostrea. Though always very cold the water in the baths is particularly clean and pleasant as the river is continually flowing through.

At one point, however, the river banks are higher and firmer and here a bridge heavy enough to carry considerable traffic has been built. This is Law-bridge and the sketch map opposite is intended to show how High Street avoids the marshy ground in both directions. The pictures opposite show the trend of the Cambridge High Street and also the bridge which has, however, been altered of recent years. The road has been widened so that none of the water can now be seen on the night and a new garage has been built near; strangely enough, this garage uses the water of the Thaw for electrical purposes.

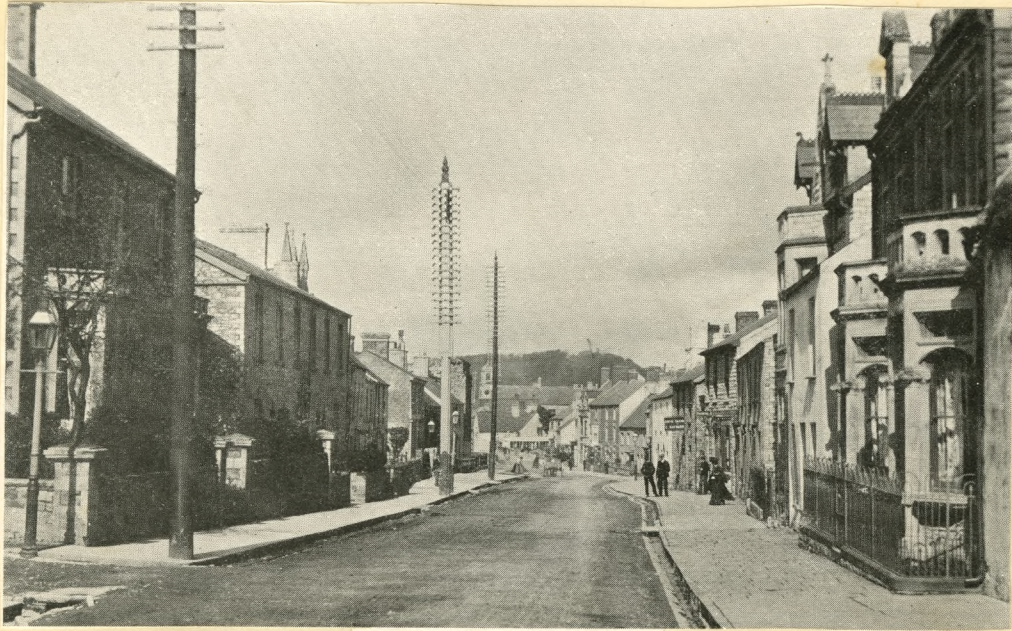
The Water-supply in the district

It seems strange that in a district which, a hundred years ago, appeared to be making progress the local water-supply is only that of springs and surface wells. Water pipes have been laid during the last twelve months, it is true, but even now only council houses have a water supply from the company's mains. Many of the houses in High Street possess pumps of their own.

The most reliable well in



COWBRIDGE ROAD, SHOWING HORSE AND GROOM HOTEL, COWBRIDGE.



COWBRIDGE ROAD, COWBRIDGE

The Silver Well



Bar of
Arthur Johns

The "Town Hall" pump



Town Hall
Square



New Town Hall

Bowman's Well

the immediate neighbourhood of Cambridge is the "Silver Well" which is situated near the town boundary in the corner of a field; it has an overflow which forms a small brook leading into the river Thame. This well supplies the central population of the town through a pump near the Town Hall and known by all as the "Town-Hall pump". Its water is considered by all who partake of it to be exceedingly pure and many who now have a water supply in their own houses still prefer to drink of the Silver Well. (see photographs opposite).

Bowman's Well

Many small springs issue along the edges of the drift deposits but they are less reliable. Among these may be mentioned the Bowman's well which apparently is fed from the gravelly terrace on which the town is built. This well takes its name from the time when the sport of archery was practised in the town of Cambridge; place names in the town still indicate that this sport was popular in the town. The "Butts" or "Target" stands near the cattle market and opposite the market is a strip of enclosed land known as

12
"Bowman's green": When tired of archery the players made it a habit to visit the well nearby in order to quench their thirst - hence the name Bowman's well.

This well, so the inhabitants who depend upon it tell us, has not ^{been} many dry for many years. The vegetation near it is exceedingly luscious and wild parsley and water-cress grow in abundance. (see photograph).

Another well, which has, however, deteriorated in importance is the "Rag well" which lies in the corner of a field about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Bowman's well. It springs from underneath an old tree but is not as deep as it was in former years. There again the vegetation is particularly rich and inhabitants of the village of Llanbleddian can testify the richness of the water-cress. As the name signifies there is an old tradition connected with this well. We are told that its waters had a medicinal value and that persons suffering from various skin diseases could be cured by washing in water drawn from this well. An old Llanbleddian native tells me that years ago the bushes near this well were always covered with pieces of rag, bandages

left behind by those who had gone away cured.

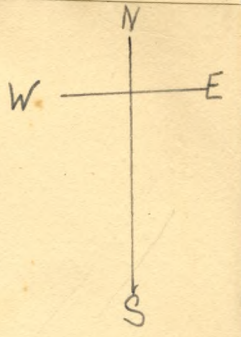
Near the Rag well is a smaller one known as "Pin well" where the same story tells us, the pins which had been used to hold the bandages were dropped when the bandages were discarded.

The villagers of Pealline too, depend upon local wells for their water supply. The well known as "Pealline well" is in the centre of the village but happens to be on private ground. The late Dr. Salmon, who lived to be 103 years of age, and was buried inside Lanfrynach church, the oldest church in the neighbourhood had great faith in the water of this well, enclosed it in a substantial stone building and inscribed the words, "Dwys Rhodd Duw" above it; these words when translated mean "water, God's gift". There is yet another well on this private ground but is free to all who wish to partake of it. These springs are, no doubt, of the best; ~~as~~ they occur between the pervious and impervious strata. Various wells occur in all the villages around and there is an interesting one known as "Llanfrynach" or "Thrusk's well" in

14.
the village of Trelingyll. When rain water was scarce in the village the women have been known to take their washing down to the well and to spend a whole day washing and drying their clothes near the well.

Near this village occurs "Pantgwynn Well" one of the prettiest and freshest in the district. It is particularly deep and steps have been cut in its sides to allow the villagers access to the water even when it is very low. Hooked ferns and maiden-hair ferns are growing near and this spot would be delightful as a camping ground during the summer time.

It is interesting to know that the river Thaw supplies the water which is used in the Cowbridge Brewery. This brewery is situated in the centre of the town, near the bridge under which the Thaw passes.



Scale . 6mils to 1 inch

Map showing parish boundaries.

Cambridge as a petty-sessional
centre

The accompanying map indicates again the fact that the centrality of Cambridge has made it important. Every Tuesday Cambridge Police Court is a busy place and the cases from all the villages marked are brought to the town.

This map is also valuable inasmuch as it illustrates the growth of the Cambridge parish inside the parish of Stanbledian. Stanbledian is by far the bigger of the two and Cambridge Church is a chapel of ease to Stanbledian.

Cambridge as a postal-centre

Although Cambridge has lost a great deal of its importance as a market-town it is still the postal-centre for many of the villages in the neighbourhood. The postman has a long round and has to start very early in the morning. Most of them use bicycles but there are still some of the older ones who do not find their tramps too long. All the postmen leave Cambridge Post Office about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and to see this sight reminds us that Cambridge still has some importance.

It is interesting to notice that the village of Welis is still served by Cambridge post-men in spite of the fact that Southendown and even Bridgend post-offices are nearer.

The places within the dotted line on the map opposite are those served by Cambridge post-men.



Cowbridge as a Postal centre

Scale .6 miles to 1 inch



GENERAL VIEW OF COWBRIDGE.

The historical aspect of Cambridge

Even in very early history we find references to Cambridge, but the name takes various forms. The following are some of the forms in which the name appears at different dates.

1295 - Cambrigge
1306 - Cambriug
1310 - Cambrigge
1336 - Cambriug.

In all probability there was a bridge in Cambridge even in better times. At any rate one existed here during the Roman occupation for the anonymous geographer of Ravenna mentions one during the seventh century. Since the days of Walter and Lolo Langenswyg there has been some controversy as to whether the proper Welsh name for the place is "Pontfaen" or "Pontyfaen". Walters, in his dictionary gives his reasons why the proper form of the place name should be Pont-y-faen and not Pontfaen.

N.B. Pontfaen (i.e. Stonebridge) seems to be nothing but a corruption of Pont-y-faen meaning Cambridge. There is evidence, however, that the Welsh name for the place was Pontfaen for several centuries, but we have no evidence to show that

it was never called Pant. y. fon before the latter half of the eighteenth century

Though Pantfaen is the correct form of the name and no corruption of Pant. y. fon we have still other difficulties to contend with; there are both "Bovium" and "Pen Wchen" which some say are early forms of the place name.

In the first place the town, which is the Bovium of the Roman itinerary, shows the usual human pride in the wall that still partly closes it, and the wall, which now has rounded angles appears to have followed theagger of the old Roman station.

Bawbridge has from time to time been associated with Bovium or Bomium. The Grammar School is still known as "Schola Boverensis" and the school magazine is called "The Bovium".

We cannot, however, say for certain the bawbridge itself is the old Roman station of Bovium for the town has, in Boverton, a most formidable rival.

This is roughly the story of bawbridge during Roman times but we here tell more of this town in the story of the Norman conquest.

19.
of Glamorgan.

Cambridge in Norman times must be regarded as a garrison town, fortified by its walls, gates, and ditches. Every burgess was armed with weapons and possessed protective armour. The old borough was guarded by a castle standing on an overlooking hill. It appears that there were originally two castles but the only remaining one is that of St. Gwenllan's. - see picture opposite. The Gates and Walls of the town remained a feature of importance as late as the reign of Elizabeth. The races within the town were, to give them their relative order of importance, French, English and Welsh.

Town Walls, Gates and Ditches

We have some evidence that the Norman defences of Cambridge were built on a pre-existing Roman camp.

When the Institute was being built many years ago part of the old Town wall was exposed and a report was made by Mr. Ward, Curator of Cardiff Museum. The width of the wall was 7' 8" in thickness and Mr. Ward expressed the opinion that it was mediæval rather than Roman.

20
The Town Walls were 25' in height, having a batter outside, and a walk inside the battlements fourteen feet wide. Part of this walk remains in the garden of Old Hall and in the grounds of the Grammar School.

Cambridge possessed in all four gates. The South Gate still stands near the Grammar school see photograph. and has been repaired during the last year.

The first of the town gates to fall was the North Gate, shortly before 1630. In the survey for that year the following words occur:-

"Richard Sayer esquire some few past years hath encroached on the common footway within the walls of the said Borough without of the high street whereof did lead to the north gate of the said Burrough in erecting and new building of one stable to the restraint hindrance and stopping the passengers of going to and fro the same way which formerly time out of mind hath been a customblic used . . . and ever presented by the grand Jury of this Burrough to be a common footway, and free for the Burgesses and Inhabitants thereof to have ingress and regress."



The old South Gate and Lower Wall.

The west and East gates fell between the years 1450 and 1475. The Town-walls had been allowed to go unrepaired for some time and in 1475 Daniel Durell, head-master of the Grammar school complained:-

"ye ruinous condition of ye Town Walls about us is no encouragement for gentlemen to send their children here."

There is no doubt that the South Gate fared better than the others because it did not impede the traffic. "Indeed" says Dr. Hoppin-James in his book "Old Cambridge" "in 1805 the Corporation actually repaired it together with the Parish Pound which lay immediately within it on the west side thereof."

The Town Ditches

In early days nine yards of the ground from the Town Wall round the Town was considered to be free to the burgesses of the town. It is not possible to trace much of this ditch to-day but a piece of ground leading to the Cricket field is still known as the "broad shord" and has been proved to be the identical piece of land mentioned as part of

22.
the Louna Ditch in early documents.

The Church

It is thought that the ground on which the beautiful church of Cambridge now stands was used for divine services even before the Normans came. The churchyard is on a raised area and is surrounded by two fields, "Counsel Lut" and "Manna y. gair"; the latter "meadow of the camp" takes us back, no doubt, to Roman times.

This ancient church is singularly shaped and looks, from a distance like an old fortress. It has a south aisle to the nave and a north aisle to the chancel and contains several ancient monuments.

In spite of the uncertainty which is felt concerning the origin of Cambridge Church, it is clear, from the analogy of the surrounding parish churches, that the Christian religion was established in Cambridge even in pre-Norman days.

About three years ago it was found necessary to remove part of the ancient roof of the church and for some time only Communion services were held there. The renovations are almost complete now, however, but I am afraid that

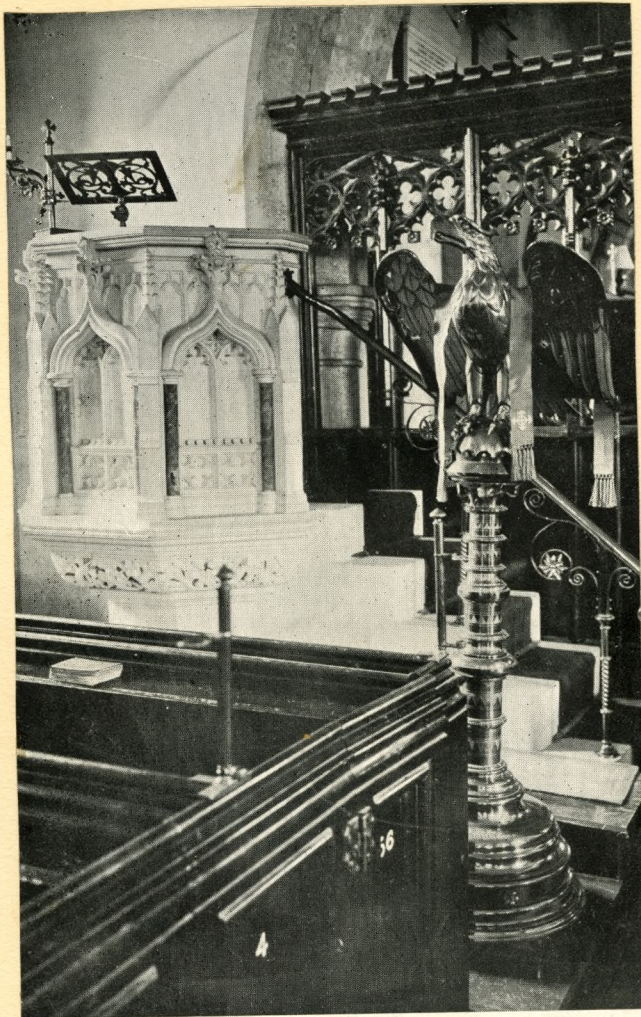


ST. MARY'S CHURCH (EAST SIDE), COWBRIDGE.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH (INTERIOR), COWBRIDGE.

N. B. leaning pillars on the right.



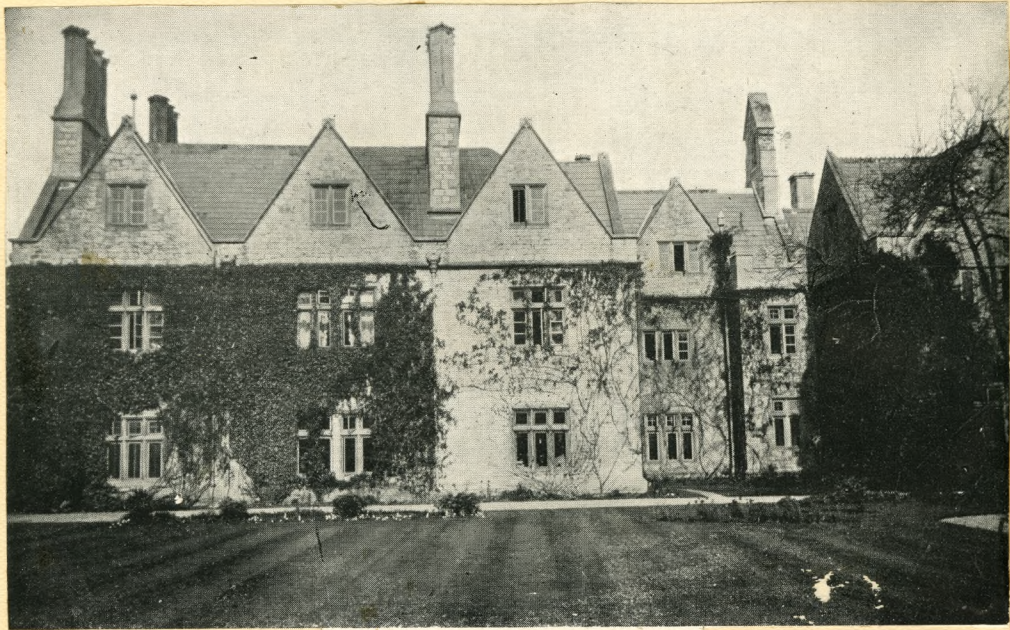
PULPIT AND LECTERN, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, COWBRIDGE



THE CHURCH, LLANBLETHIAN.



THE CHURCH (INTERIOR), LLANBLETHIAN.



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, COWBRIDGE.

with its old roof Cambridge church lost a little of its dignity.

From an entry in a Llanbleddian register of 1721, we came to the conclusion that the south aisle of the church was built considerably later than the body of the church. It appears that when the south aisle was built the foundation yielded a little under the pressure of the walls, causing the pillars to overhang, and giving them the appearance that they have to-day.

The Grammar School.

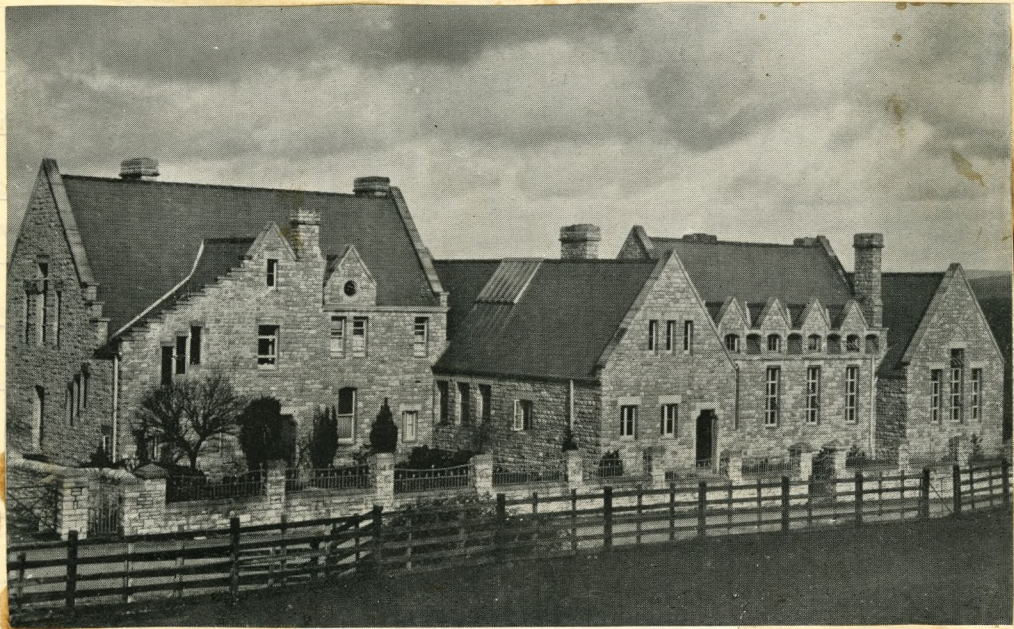
This school is the oldest institution of the town and there is a tradition that it dates back to the time when the old Christian school of Llanfair Major was falling into a state of decay. The present school was endowed in the time of Charles II by Sir Leoline Jenkins who was himself a scholar of the school. He founded scholarships which still take men up to Jesus College, Oxford. More boys from towns other than Cambridge seem to enter the school every year; the fact that a new hostel in High Street has been opened proves this fact.

4.

The High School for girls.

In spite of the fact that the High School cannot boast the long history of the Grammar school it is well worth mentioning it as an important institution in the town.

It owes its foundation to the generosity of Mr. John Bevan who wished to promote the education of girls in Wales. The school is not a large one, being in all only about 125 scholars. Twenty of these are boarders, about the same number live in Cowbridge at the villages close by and the rest are pupils who come by train every day from places further north.



THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS, COWBRIDGE.

Some interesting place names in the locality.

The Vale of Glamorgan is a chequered mass of names of varied origin. Even here the bulk of the names are Celtic but there are, too, traces of other incomers.

All along the Vale the Englishman has left his traces; "tan" is exceedingly common and it is interesting to notice that it is often applied to a single farm as well as to a hamlet. Other English suffixes, such as "ley" & "ham", on the other hand are very infrequent. A mansion house at Llantwit Major is known as the "Ham" and the "Leys" occurs near Gileston; the only example of "-ing" seems to be in Stalling Down near Cambridge.

The last of the invading influences was that of the Flemings. There is an interesting group of place names in South Glamorgan which seem to refer to this invasion. "Flemingston" - while some think that this name was given to the place when the Flemings settled in the parish of Llantwit Major, others are of the opinion that it was named in honour of Sir John Flemmings, one of Robert Fitzhamon's knights. "Flander's Ham" again provides evidence of this Flemming settlement.

26.
Aberthir - this is a corruption of
Aberthir which signifies a place of
sacrifices. It is supposed that
Druidical sacrifices were offered here.

Banuilstone

This name was bestowed
upon the place in honour of Simon
Banville, another of the knights of
Robert Fitzhamon. The Normans gave
their own names to many of the villages
of South Wales for the simple reason that
they could not pronounce the Welsh names.

Eglwys Brewis

Eglwys is the Welsh for
church and has in many places
superseded the ancient "llan". Brewis
is more difficult to explain: the
roots are "bro" a hill and "nyf"
a rest. It may be a corrupt form of
Brewis from "William de Brewis".

Llancafon

Tradition tells us that in
this place the first monastery was
built in Britain by Germanus. From
this Lolo Lorganwg thinks that
the name Llan. cafon signifies the
church of Germanus - cafon being
a corruption of the saint's name.

Llanfrynach

The church bearing this
name, according to "Rosa y Saint"
was founded by Brynach myddel of
the city of Hafwan in the fifth
century.



THE CHURCH, ST. HILARY, COWBRIDGE.



THE LYCH GATE, ST. HILARY, COWBRIDGE.



SOUTH GATE, BEAUPRE CASTLE COWBRIDGE.



The horse stall, Beaupre Castle.



The meet on
Stalling Downs

Llysworney

This is a gross mutilation of "Llyp. bro. rudd" Lolo tells us that rudd hall, son of Senyll, a royal saint of Illtyd's seminary built the place

Bro = a cultivated vale
Rudd = the royal saint.

Penllin

Pen. llyn means the head at the end of the lake. This village stands on a hill outside Cambridge and possesses a picturesque castle which may be seen from many miles around.

St. Athan

According to the old Welsh chronicles this place has a church built by St. Hathan, son of Annon Du, and Anna, daughter of Meurig ap Tewdrig. It is said that Hathan founded a monastic establishment here for five hundred saints and that he was buried here.

St. Hilary

The church here was dedicated to St. Glasi. The village is a charming little place within easy walking distance of Cambridge. Like so many Welsh churches the church of St. Hilary has been rebuilt at various times. The chancel, arch and font are Norman while the rest of the church seems to be early English.

The tower, like that of Cambridge
 is buttressed. The picture opposite
 is a good one of the Lyeb Gate of
 St. Hilary Church. Near this village
 on Stalling Downs stands the clump
 of trees which is such a good land
 mark from the sea. There, years ago
 those who violated the law were
 hanged and to-day it is famous
 for the meet of the Glamorgan Hunt
 which is held there every Boxing Day.
 The remains of Beupre Castle are
 in this parish.

Glanbleddian

History tells us that Bleiddian
 founded the first church here in
 the sixth century. The root is
 "bleidd" a translation of "lupus" a
 wolf.

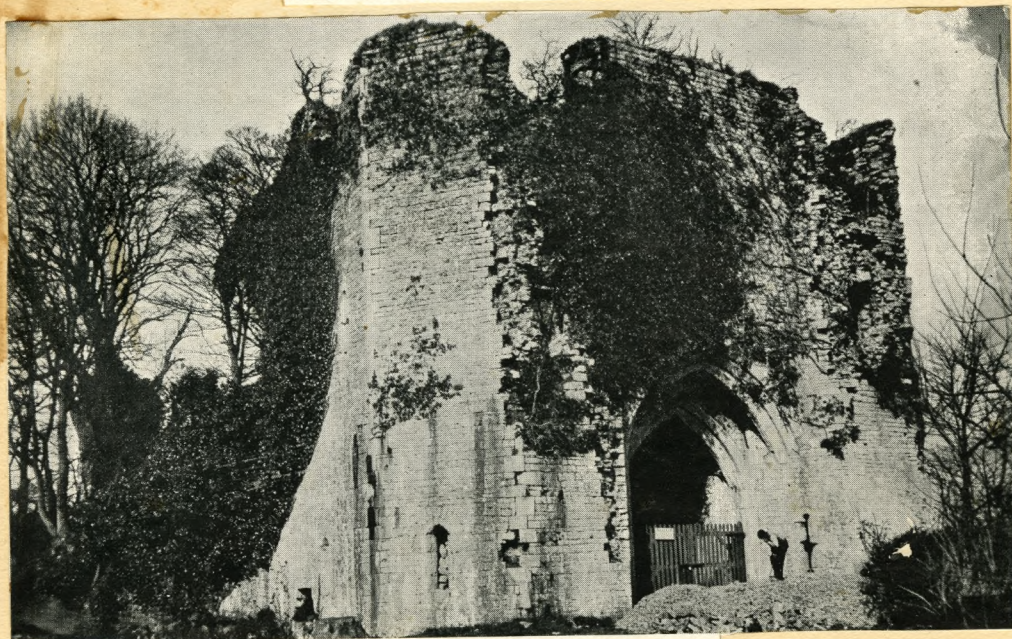
This parish contains the remains of
 St. Quentin's castle which has been
 famous ever since Cambridge was a
 garrison town.



LLANBLETHIAN, LOOKING EAST.



RIVER THAW AND BRIDGE, LLANBLETHIAN.



ST. QUINTEN'S CASTLE, LLANBLETHIAN.

Cambridge people and their work.

The people who actually live in the town of Cambridge are English speaking; those in the surrounding villages however, speak Welsh as well as English.

In the town we find a class of busy shop-keepers, post-men, police men and other civil servants. There is no opening for young people in the town and the young men and women, on leaving school seek their employment elsewhere. Quite a number travel to Cardiff every day.

The men of the villages around Cambridge find employment on the farms: some are employed in the Albertshaw cement works while others seek work in the iron-ore works at Llanharry. A few even go to the colliery districts in order to seek a livelihood.

The population of Cambridge is particularly proud of its old borough and everyone in the district seems to take a special interest in the Mayor and Corporation. "Mayor's Sunday" in Cambridge is the day of the year: the little town is crowded and the Mayor of London could not wish for more honour than that conferred on

Lowbridge Mayor by his worthy
citizens.
