

SIR LEOLINE JENKINS.

One of the great names associated with the Cowbridge of the past is Sir Leoline Jenkins. As long as the Grammar School lasts, which we hope will be yet many years, his name will never be forgotten as the School's great benefactor, whose family motto it still carries. There are benefactions in Cowbridge and Llanblethian that still bear his name.

A correspondent has sent us the following piece about Sir Leoline, many of you may find of interest. His source must come from some very ancient records. We reproduce the spelling exactly as he found it.

"Sir Llewellyn Jenkins, Knight, was borne at Llantrithid in the Countie of Glamorgan in 1623. His father (whom I knew) was a great plaine country-man, a copyholder of Sir John Aubrey, Knight and Baronet (eldest son of Sir Thomas) whose manour it is. He went to schoole at Cowbridge, not far off. David Jenkins, that was prisoner in the Tower (married a sister of Sir John Aubrey) was some remote kin to him; and looking on him as a boy towardly, diligent and good, he contributed something towards his education. Anno Domini 1641 he was matriculated of Jesus College in Oxford, where he stayed till (I thinke) he took his degree of Bac. Artium. About that time Sir John Aubrey sent for him home to enforme his eldest sonne Lewis Aubrey (since deceased, 1659) in Grammar; and that he might take his learning the better, he was taught in the Church-house where severall boyes came to schoole, and there were 6 or 7 gentlemen's sonnes (Sir Francis Mannsell, Bart; Mr Edmund Thomas; etc.) boarded in the Towne. The young gentlemen were all neer of an age, and ripe for the University together, and to Oxford they all went under Mr Jenkins's care about anno 1649 or 50 but by reason of the Disturbance of those times, Sir John would not have his some of any college. But they all studied at Mr (now Sir) Sampson White's house, a Grocer, opposite to University College. Here he stayed with my cosen about 3 years or better, and then, in anno 1655, he travelled with my cosen and two or 3 of the other into France, where they stayed about 3 years and made themselves Masters of that language. He first began the Civill Lawe, viz., bought Vinnins on Justinican, 1653. When he brought home Mr Lewis Aubrey, he returned to Jesus College. After his Majestie's restauration Dr. Mansell was restored to his Principallship of that house, but being very old and wearie of worldly cares, he kept it not long, before he resigned it to Mr Jenkins.

Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Sir John Aubrey were co-etanei, and contracted a great friendship at Oxon in their youth, which continued to their deaths. In the troublesom times after Dr. Sheldon was expelled, he was a yeare (I think) or two with Sir John at Llantrithid, where he tooke Notice of the Vertur and assiduity of the young man Mr Jenkins. After the King's restauration Sir John Aubrey recommended Mr Jenkins to him; made him. Anno 1668, he was Archbishop of Canterbury. Sir William Meyric, LL.D and Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, dyed, and the Archbishop conferred that place on Mr Jenkins. When Mary the Queen-Mother dyed in Paris, the King of France caused her Jewells and Treasures to be locked up and sealed. His Majestie of Great Britain sent Sir Llewellyn (which is Leoline in latin) to Paris concerning the Administration. Anno 1670, he had the Honour of Knighthood. Anno 1673, he was sent with Sir Joseph Williamson, Plenipotentiaries, to Memeghen; I remember that very time they went away was opposition of Saturn and Mars. I sayed then to the Earl of Thanet that if that Ambassade came to