

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - *Annales Cambriae*
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Rolls Series

Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores, or The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages, usually referred to as the 'Rolls Series', was an ambitious project first proposed to the British Treasury in 1857 by Sir John Romilly, the Master of the Rolls, and quickly approved for public funding. Its purpose was to publish historical source material covering the period from the arrival of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII, 'without mutilation or abridgement', starting with the 'most scarce and valuable' texts. A 'correct text' of each work would be established by collating 'the best manuscripts', and information was to be included in every case about the manuscripts used, the life and times of the author, and the work's 'historical credibility', but there would be no additional annotation. The first books were published in 1858, and by the time it was completed in 1896 the series contained 99 titles and 255 volumes. Although many of the works have since been re-edited by modern scholars, the enterprise as a whole stands as a testament to the Victorian revival of interest in the middle ages.

Annales Cambriae

Reverend John Williams (1811–62) also known by his bardic name of Ab Ithel, graduated from Jesus College, Oxford, in 1835. Williams was an important member of the 'old literary clerics', a group of nineteenth-century clergymen who promoted Welsh language and culture. Published by the Rolls Series in 1860, this work was largely inspired by such patriotic sentiment. Presented here in the original Latin, this edition is a collation of three linked manuscripts. The first is the oldest surviving copy of the chronicle and ranges from 444 to 954, where it is continued by two later manuscripts until 1288. Information has also been taken from other authorities, such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Florence of Worcester, when the same events have been recorded. Incorporating elements of hagiography, these annals document the reigns of kings and the Norman Conquest. They remain a unique and valuable record of Welsh history.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Annales Cambriae

EDITED BY
JOHN WILLIAMS [AB ITHEL]



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108043007

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1860
This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04300-7 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates, which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these images can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108043007

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY, UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

ON the 26th of January 1857, the Master of the Rolls submitted to the Treasury a proposal for the publication of materials for the History of this Country from the Invasion of the Romans to the Reign of Henry VIII.

The Master of the Rolls suggested that these materials should be selected for publication under competent editors without reference to periodical or chronological arrangement, without mutilation or abridgment, preference being given, in the first instance, to such materials as were most scarce and valuable.

He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be formed from an accurate collation of the best MSS.

To render the work more generally useful, the Master of the Rolls suggested that the editor should give an account of the MSS. employed by him, of their age and their peculiarities; that he should add to the work a brief account of the life and times of the author, and any remarks necessary to explain the chronology; but no other note or comment was to be allowed, except what might be necessary to establish the correctness of the text.

The works to be published in octavo, separately, as they were finished; the whole responsibility of the task resting upon the editors, who were to be chosen by the Master of the Rolls with the sanction of the Treasury.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, after a careful consideration of the subject, expressed their opinion in a Treasury Minute, dated February 9, 1857, that the plan recommended by the Master of the Rolls "was well calculated for the accomplishment of this important national object, in an effectual and satisfactory manner, within a reasonable time, and provided proper attention be paid to economy, in making the detailed arrangements, without unnecessary expense."

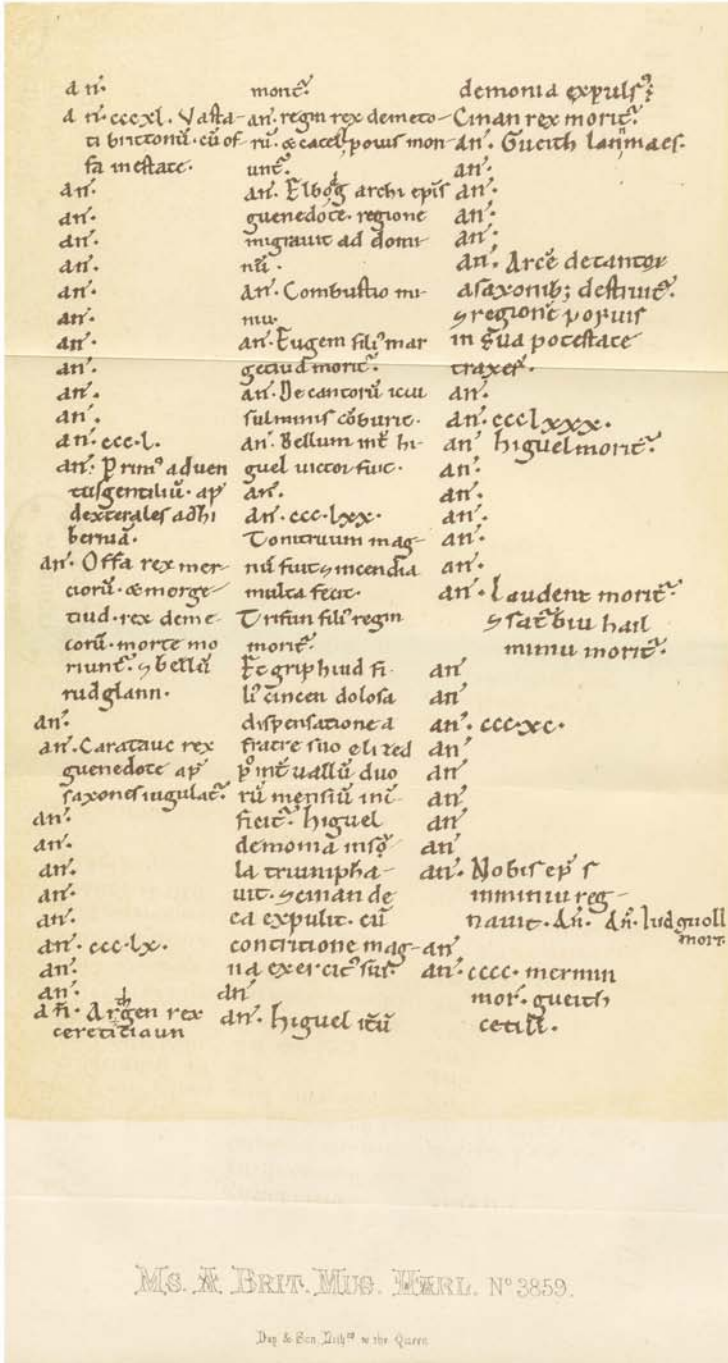
They expressed their approbation of the proposal that each chronicle and historical document should be edited in such a manner as to represent with all possible correctness the text of each writer, derived from a collation of the best MSS., and that no notes should be added, except such as were illustrative of the various readings. They suggested, however, that the preface to each work should contain, in addition to the particulars proposed by the Master of the Rolls, a biographical account of the author, so far as authentic materials existed for that purpose, and an estimate of his historical credibility and value.

*Rolls House,
December 1857.*

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ANNALES CAMBRIÆ.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ANNALES CAMBRIÆ.

EDITED

BY

THE REV. JOHN WILLIAMS AB ITHEL, M.A.,

RECTOR OF LLANYMOWDDWY, MERIONETHSHIRE.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S
TREASURY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS.

1860.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Printed by
EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, Her Majesty's Printers,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
 Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFACE - - - - -	vii
ANNALES CAMBRIÆ - - - - -	1
GLOSSARY - - - - -	113
INDEX - - - - -	131

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

P R E F A C E .

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04300-7 - Annales Cambriae
Edited by John Williams [Ab Ithel]
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

A PORTION of the “Annales Cambriae,” *i.e.*, down to A.D. 1066, was printed some years ago in the “Monumenta Historica Britannica,” under the able editorship of the late Henry Petrie, Esq., F.S.A., Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London.¹ The plan adopted by the promoters of that great work assigned the Norman conquest as the historical limit of the first volume; but as only one volume was ever published, the consequence was that the chronicle in question, as well as several others, remained imperfect. When, however, the Lords of Her Majesty’s Treasury in 1857 gave their sanction to the publication of materials for the history of this country from the invasion of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII., under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, it was thought desirable that a complete edition of the “Annales” should be issued, and appear in the series which is now in course of coming out.

The result is the present volume, which, though of small dimensions, is nevertheless highly interesting, and of considerable value, as being, perhaps, the oldest chronicle of Welsh affairs that we possess. It is derived from three different copies, which, for the pur-

¹ Mr. Petrie died before the work was finished, and after his death it was completed, and the prefatory matter added by Thomas Duffus Hardy, Esq.

pose of reference, we have distinguished respectively by the letters A., B., and C. We did not consider it advisable to deviate from, or to alter in any respect, the groundwork laid down in the *Monumenta Historica*; the undertaking, therefore, is to be regarded simply as the completion of what was begun there.

Description of
 manuscript
 A.

A. is a manuscript in the Harleian Collection, No. 3,859, on vellum, in octavo, of the latter part of the tenth or beginning of the eleventh century, inserted without title or introduction in the body of a manuscript of Nennius. It is followed immediately by the pedigree¹ of Owain, sor of Howel the Good, and his

¹ This pedigree is as follows :—

Yv'e Map Iguel,	M. Mailcun	M. Anguerit
Map Catell	M. Catgolaun Ianhir	M. Onmum
Map Rotri	M. Einiaun girt	M. Duvun
Map Mermin	M. Cuneda	M. Brithguein
Map Ethil	M. Ctern	M. Eugein
Merch Cinnan	M. Patern pesrut	M. Aballac
Map Rotri	M. Tacit	M. Amalech, qui
M. Tutgual	M. Cein	fuit Beli Magni filius,
M. Catgualart	M. Guoicein	et Anna mater ejus,
M. Catgollaun	M. Doli	quæ dicitur esse con-
M. Catman	M. Guordoli	sobrina Mariæ Vir-
M. Jacob	M. Dumn	ginis matris Domini
M. Beli	M. Gur dumn	nostri Jesu Christi.
M. Run	M. Amguoloyt	
Yvein Map Elen	M. Guortepir	M. Constans
Merch Loumere	M. Aircol	M. Constantini
Map Hymeyt	M. Trifun	Magni
Map Tancoyst	M. Clotri	M. Constantii et
Merc Ovei	M. Gloitguin	Helen Luiedauc quæ
Map Margetiut	M. Nimet	de Britannia exivit
M. Teudos	M. Dimet	ad crucem Christi
M. Regin	M. Maxim Gue-	quærendam usque
M. Catgocaun	letic	ad Jerusalem, et
M. Cathen	M. Ytec	inde attulit secum
M. Cloten	M. Ytector	usque ad Constanti-
M. Nougoy	M. Ebiud	nopolim, et est ibi
M. Arthur	M. Eliud	usque in hodiernum
M. Petr	M. Stater	diem.
M. Cinciar	M. Pircsmisser	

mother Elen, which gives us reason further for supposing the chronicle in question to have been originally compiled during the sway of that prince. Howel died A.D. 948, when his sons, four in number, Owain, Rhun, Roderic, and Edwin, divided among them the kingdom of South Wales and Powys; North Wales being ruled over by Ieuav and Iago, sons of Idwal Voel. Between the two families there was a very severe struggle for the supremacy, and several bloody battles were fought with various results. Under these circumstances it was very natural that publicity should be given to Owain's regal claims, as genealogically derived through both his parents from the ancient monarchs of the land. The officer, whose province it was to keep a register of births, marriages, and deaths, was the bard, who, being already in possession of a maintenance of five free acres of land in virtue of his profession, received, moreover, in consideration of this special act, a pecuniary fee according to the social position of the head of the household which he visited.¹ As the bard was an officer of the court, it is but fair to suppose that the genealogist was Owain's own bard, one who enjoyed a more honourable post than fell to the lot of the itinerant Cler; a supposition further corroborated by the knowledge of Latin which he evidently possessed.

Now, if this manuscript is not a mere transcript, which there is no reason to suspect, inasmuch as both the chronicle and the pedigree are written in the same hand, it follows that the genealogist was also the compiler of the chronicle; and with propriety would he be so; for, as we learn from the ancient laws of Wales,

The genealogist of Owain, son of Howel the Good, supposed to be the compiler.

¹ See *Ancient Laws and Institutions of Wales*, printed under the direction of the Commissioners on the public records of the kingdom,

MDCCCXLI. Also *Statutes of Gruffudd, son of Cynan, and Bleddyn, son of Cynvyn*, MS.

“ the three records of the bards of the Isle of Britain
 “ are the genealogy of descent by marriages, territorial
 “ divisions, and praiseworthy actions and sciences.”¹
 The family registers of the princes and other great
 men of the land would naturally form the basis of a
 national chronicle, such as the “ Annales Cambriae.”

The compiler
 supposed also
 to be an
 ecclesiastic.

It is very possible, moreover, that the compiler was
 also an ecclesiastic, for men in holy orders were fre-
 quently found to be members likewise of the bardic
 profession. But we can hardly suppose that he was an
 Englishman, because Owain had, for some reason or
 other, a great antipathy to the Saxon clergy and
 monks, which he carried out to such lengths as even
 to destroy the Welsh colleges which harboured them.
 Thus it is related of him in one copy of the “ Brut
 “ y Tywysogion : ” — “ A.D. 959, Owain, son of Howel
 “ the Good, demolished the college of Llanilltud in
 “ Gorwennydd, because there were found in it gentle-
 “ men scholars who were Saxons, and from thence he
 “ proceeded to the college of Cattwg in Nantgarvan,
 “ and furiously demolished it.”²

The chronicle
 written
 probably
 in South
 Wales.

The chronicle under consideration was in all proba-
 bility written in South Wales, for it notices events con-
 nected with that part of the country more particularly
 than it does those of North Wales. This circumstance
 in some degree corroborates the supposition that the
 compiler was attached to the interests of Owain, who
 had no actual jurisdiction in North Wales.

The
 principal
 scholars of
 South
 Wales at
 that time.

We naturally inquire who were the most distinguished
 scholars of South Wales at this period? The interval
 between the sixth and the twelfth centuries was singu-
 larly barren of literary names ; nevertheless, during that
 period, and about the time in which the chronicle seems

¹ Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales, vol. ii. p. 513. | ² Myvyrian Archaeology. vol. ii. p. 490.

to have been compiled, we meet with two scholars that would have done honour to any age, Blegewryd, arch-deacon of Llandaf, and Geraint the Blue Bard, both being the brothers of Morgan, king of Glamorgan. Blegewryd was a doctor both of the civil and ecclesiastical law, and on that account was chosen as the “*ysgolhaig*” or secretary, when the ancient laws of Wales were undergoing a revision by command of Howel the Good. That he was acquainted with the Latin tongue is attested by the fact that a set of Latin verses is attributed to him in the preamble to one copy of Howel’s laws.¹ In that respect, therefore, as well as from being in the favour of Howel, he was well qualified to be the writer of the “*Annales Cambriae*.” Geraint was a poet and grammarian of note. A fragmentary document printed in the Iolo MSS. volume thus speaks of him:—“The oldest system on record of memorials and recollections is that of Geraint the Blue Bard upon poetic metres, and of all that is extant from before his time there is nothing remaining except what may be discerned by the learned by means of books. This Geraint was brother to Morgan the Aged, king of Glamorgan, and he collected ancient records of poetry and bardism, and arranged them in a book of his own composition, and established them by the laws of the chair and the Gorsedd, in every country and dominion in Wales; and Geraint excelled in knowledge and judgment, and every chair

¹ “Here are the verses composed by Blegewryd thereupon, in testimony of that event:—

Explicit editus legibus liber bene finitus,
 Quem regi scripcit Blangoridus, et quoque fuit
 Hweli turbe doctor, tunc legibus in vrbe
 Cornando cano, tunc iudice cotidiano
 Rex dabit ad partem dexteram nam sumerat artem.”

In the same preamble Blegewryd is described as “the most learned in all Cymru.”—*Ancient Laws, &c.* vol. i. pp. 341, 343.

“ in Wales and England was given to him, from which
 “ he was called the Blue Bard of the Chair. After this
 “ he became domestic bard to Alfred, king of England,
 “ and he remained with him, giving instruction to the
 “ Cymry in England, and to the Saxons ; and in Win-
 “ chester he lies buried.”¹

Geraint a
 registrar of
 national
 events.

Geraint appears, in the above extract, in the character of a “ collector of ancient records,” and though these records are mentioned as “ of poetry and bardism,” we may well presume that a person of such a turn of mind would not be indifferent to the memorials of national events. Indeed, in the volume alluded to, there are thirty-two poetic triplets assigned to him, in which are actually registered the achievements of the principal characters of British history from the earliest times down to that of Howel the Good, which, if the stanzas are genuine, prove that he did investigate the historical traditions and annals of his country.”²

An objec-
 tion to the
 claim of
 Geraint
 considered.

There is only one objection to the supposition that Geraint might have been the writer of the “ *Annales Cambriae*,” namely, the dispute which is said to have existed at one time between his brother, the king of Glamorgan, and Owain, and which renders it improbable that he would in any degree further the interests of the latter.³ But this is not a fatal objection. The

¹ “ Arrangement of vocal poetical metres of Geraint Vardd Glas ” penes Iolo MSS. pp. 623, 624. Geraint is supposed by some to have been the same person with Asser *Menevensis*, a monk of St. David’s, who at the request of king Alfred went to reside with him as his preceptor, and was made bishop of Shirburne. A collection of moral and religious precepts attributed to him is printed in the *Myv. Arch.* vol. iii. pp. 100, &c.

² Iolo MSS. pp. 668, &c.

³ An account of this dispute and

its settlement is given in the “ Genealogy of the kings of Glamorgan,” printed in the Iolo MSS. pp. 357, &c. It is there, however, attributed to Howel the Good and Morgan, which is evidently a mistake, for Edgar, who arbitrated between the parties, was a mere child when Howel died in 948 ; whereas Caradog positively asserts that it was his son Owain who committed the aggression upon Morgan’s territories, which was the cause of the dispute. See *Myv. Arch.* v. ii. p. 490.

last date in the chronicle is equivalent to A.D. 954, but the cause of the dispute did not arise until four years later, so that up to that time Geraint might have continued as attached to Owain, as Blegewryd, his brother, had been to Owain's father. Indeed, in some genealogical documents, Owain is represented as the father of Morgan, and therefore the father of Blegewryd and Geraint.¹ In that case it would not be strange that one son should continue to advocate the claims of his father, whilst another repudiated them. Besides, as both Morgan and Owain submitted to the arbitration of the English king, aided by a council of bishops and earls from Wales and Mercia, it would appear that the quarrel had arisen entirely from a mere misunderstanding, which was of a transient character, and was not at all grounded on any personal animosity.

In bringing forward these two names, we do not mean to fix the compilation of the chronicle upon either of them; we have no sufficient evidence to warrant our doing so. Our intention is rather to point out from history that there were men, even in that illiterate age, who were fully equal to the task, and not unlikely to have produced a register similar to the "*Annales Cambriae*."

Whoever the compiler was, he appears to have availed himself, in the prosecution of his task, of an Irish chronicle, which was also used by Tigernach, and by the compiler of the *Annals of Ulster*. The notices of Irish and Scottish events are, especially in the former part of the chronicle, disproportionately numerous, and such as could not be expected in a register founded

¹ This relationship is recorded in an important historical pedigree, said to have been transcribed from Ieuan Deulwyn's book, 1450-1490, and is confirmed by several other genealogies. In the "*Genealogy of the kings of Glamorgan*," however, Morgan is said to be the son of Howel.

upon a purely Cambrian basis. Of this description are the birth of St. Bridget (p. 3), the death of St. Patrick (ib.), the birth of St. Columcille (p. 4), the death of St. Bridget (ib.), mortality in Ireland (ib.), the death of Ciaran, abbot of Cluan (ib.), the death of Gabran, son of Dungart, king of Scotland (ib.), St. Columcille's departure for Britain (ib.), the death of Brenda, abbot of Birre (p. 5), the death of St. Columcille (ib.), the death of Aidan, son of Gabran (p. 6), the death of St. Kentigern (ib.), and the demolition of the fort of Altclyde, or Dunbarton (p. 14).

Intercourse
between
the eccle-
siastics of
Wales and
Ireland.

In the sixth century there was much intercourse between the ecclesiastics of Ireland and those of Wales, which was not wholly discontinued down at least to the middle of the ninth century, as appears from the fact that Cydivor, abbot of Llanveithin, who died A.D. 883, had in his lifetime exhibited great concern for the welfare of the Scots of Ireland, and sent over six wise men of his college to instruct them.¹ There could, then, have been no difficulty on the part of Cambrian scholars in gaining access to Irish records during that interval of time, and if they were thus within their reach, there is every reason to suppose that they would duly avail themselves of them.

Native
documents.

But there were, moreover, documents of indigenous growth, which might, and no doubt were used in the compilation of this chronicle—those which the author of Nennius speaks of as “*veteri libri veterum nostrorum.*”² Some of these would be the memorials of the national Gorsedd, whilst others would be family registers, or the genealogical title deeds, which every free-born Cymro was obliged to exhibit in order to establish his rights and privileges as a member of the commonwealth. It was very natural that the bards

¹ *Brut y Tywysogion penes Myvyrian Archaiology*, vol. ii. p. 482.

² *Hist. Brit.* § 17.

PREFACE

xvii

should add to certain names the principal deeds or events for which the bearers of those names were respectively distinguished. An aggregate of such pedigrees would afford very useful materials towards the compilation of a national chronicle.

The entries of events are but few in number, more especially towards the beginning of the chronicle. Indeed, all the notices we have relating to Britain, during its first century, are the death of the archbishop of York, the battle of Badon, and the battle of Camlan. Its second century contains twenty-eight entries, its third twenty-seven, its fourth twenty-nine, but in its fifth century there are as many as fifty-one, and seven during the remaining ten years. These several entries are likewise meagre, being just of that character which we would expect genealogical extracts, or fragments of family registers, to exhibit.

Owing to the great brevity with which these memoirs are for the most part clothed, they too frequently occupy such detached and isolated positions as to make it impossible for us to identify them, independently of other and fuller authorities. If we depended solely on the statement of the "*Annales*," we should know nothing more of St. Patrick (p. 3), Ciaran (p. 4), Gildas (p. 5), Brendan (ib.), Gwrgi and Peredur (ib.), Gregory (p. 6), Kentigern (ib.), Ceredig (ib.), Belin (ib.), Brochvael (p. 7), Morgant (p. 8), Adomnan (ib.), Howel (p. 12), Laudent (p. 13), Iudguoll (ib.), Mervyn (ib.), Meurig (p. 14), Cerball (p. 15), Hyveidd (ib.), Gorchwyl (p. 16), Asser (ib.), and Aedelstan (p. 17), than simply that they died in certain years. The births as well as the deaths of some, as of St. Bridget (p. 3) and St. Columcille (p. 4), are recorded. Others have the names of their fathers added, as Gavran, son of Dungart (p. 4), Aeddan, son of Gavran (p. 6), Selim, son of Cyran (ib.), Iago, son of Beli (ib.), Beli, son of Elfin (p. 9), Tewdwr, son of Beli (ib.), Dyvnwal, son of Tewdwr (p. 10), Fernvail

The entries
few and
scanty.

Examples
of the
mode of
registering.

son of Iudhail (*ib.*), Owain, son of Maredudd (p. 11), Trifun, son of Rein (p. 12), Aedd, son of Neill (p. 15), Llywarch, son of Hyveidd (p. 16), Hyveidd, son of Clydawg (p. 17), and Rhodri, son of Howel (p. 19). Others their office or rank, as Benignus, bishop (p. 3), Dunawd, king (p. 5), Dubricius, bishop (p. 6), Oswid, king of the Saxons (p. 8), Alfred, king of the Saxons (*ib.*), Osbrid, king of the Saxons (p. 9), Bede, priest (*ib.*), Owain, king of the Picts (*ib.*), Rhodri, king of the Britons (p. 10), Edwald, king of the Saxons (*ib.*), Lemoyd, king of the Picts (*ib.*), Cudberth, abbot (*ib.*), Arthen, king of Ceredigion (p. 11), Rein, king of the Dimetians (*ib.*), Cadell of Powys (*ib.*), Cynan, king (p. 12), Satur biu hail of Menevia (p. 13), Cemoyth, king of the Picts (p. 14), Jonathan, prince of Abergeleu (*ib.*), Albrid, king of Giuoys (p. 16), Cadell, king (*ib.*), Anarawd, king (p. 17), Aelfled, queen (*ib.*), Abloyc, king (*ib.*), Eneuris, bishop of Menevia (p. 18), and Howel, king of the Britons (*ib.*). In some instances the mode of death is specified; thus, Maelgwn, king of Gwynedd, died of a great mortality or plague (p. 4), Idris had his throat cut (p. 7), Cadwalader, son of Cadwallon, died of a plague (p. 8), Caradog, king of Gwynedd, had his throat cut by the Saxons (p. 11), Iudhail, king of Gwent, was killed by the men of Brecheiniog (p. 13) Meurig was killed by the Saxons (*ib.*), Cyngen had his throat cut by the Pagans (*ib.*), Gwgawn, king of Ceredigion, was drowned (p. 14), Dyvnwarth, king of Cornwall, was drowned (p. 15), Rhodri and Gwriad his son were strangled by the Saxons (*ib.*), Clydawg the king was slain (p. 17), Cadell, son of Arthvael, died of poison (p. 18), Idwal and his son Elized were killed by the Saxons (*ib.*), Cyngen, son of Elized, died of poison (*ib.*), Eadmund, king of the Saxons, had his throat cut (*ib.*), and Cadwgawn, son of Owain, had his throat cut by the Saxons (*ib.*). Again, in some cases, the place of death is mentioned; Selim, son of Cynan, fell in the

battle of Caerleon (p. 6), Edwin and his two sons were slain in the battle of Meiceren (p. 7), Cadwallon fell in the battle of Cantscaul (ib.), Oswald, king of the Northmen, and Eoba, king of the Mercians, fell in the battle of Cochoy (ib.), Talargan, king of the Picts, was slain in the battle of Mygedawg (p. 9), Cyngen, king of Powys, died in Rome (p. 13), Howel died in Rome (p. 15), Rhodri was beheaded in Arwystli (p. 16), and bishop Lumberth died in Menevia (p. 18). The notices of some of the battles are likewise exceedingly brief; as, the battle of Arderydd (p. 5), the battle against Man (ib.), the slaughter of Caer Gai (p. 7), the battle of Mount Carno (p. 9), the battle of Rhuddlan (p. 11), the battle of Llanvaes (p. 12), the battle of Cetyll (p. 13), the battle of Finant (ib.), the battle of Bryn Onnen (p. 14), the battle of Banguoleu (ib.), the battle of Sunday in Mona (p. 15), the battle of Dinas Newydd (p. 17), and the battle of Brune (ib.); all of which are simply mentioned, without the least reference to any of the particulars that attended them. The same brevity is observed with respect to other events also; as, the deposition of Daniel of Bangor (p. 5), Edwin begins to reign (p. 6), Gwyddgar came, and returned not, on the calends of January (p. 7), the rise of a star (ib.), the slaughter of Pantha (ib.), the consecration of the church of Michael the Archangel (p. 9), a hot summer (ib.), the burning of Menevia (p. 11), Cadweithen was expelled (p. 14), Otter arrives (p. 17).

These circumstances imply very clearly that the facts of the chronicle were supposed to be well known at the time they were put together, and that the compiler did not intend so much to give a narrative of events as to arrange them conveniently in order of time. Inferences drawn from the brevity of entries.

Independent authorities do exist, such as Gildas, Nennius, Bede, the Genealogies of the Saints, the Triads, and the works of the Bards. In some instances the evidence is contemporaneous with the Independent authorities.

event, and thus it not only throws more light on the entries of the chronicle, but corroborates its general authenticity.

The battle
of Mount
Badon.

The first entry of a civil or national character that occurs in it is that of the battle of Mount Badon, which is noticed by two contemporaries, Gildas and Taliesin. The former dates his own nativity from that event,¹ whilst the latter speaks of it in the following strain:—

“Woe to them, miserable ones, because of the
 battle of Badon,
 Arthur, the head of the brave, his blades were red
 with blood,
 He inflicted on his enemies the vengeance of
 warriors,
 That demanded the battle blood of the sovereign
 of the North.”²

The author of the book of Nennius, who lived at a later period, represents the battle of Mount Badon as the twelfth which Arthur fought, and one in which 960 enemies fell in a single attack by his own hand.³

Maelgwn
Gwynedd.

Mailcun, king of Gwynedd, or Maelgwn Gwynedd, whose death is recorded under the year 547, and of whom the “*Annales Cambriae*” give us no other account, is very severely handled by Gildas because of his sinful life.⁴

The battle
of Arder-
ydd.

The battle of Arderydd, A.D. 573, is mentioned in a Welsh poem, which is usually attributed to Merddin, a person of some distinction, who himself took an active part in it:—

“In the battle of Arderydd I wore the golden
 torques.”⁵

¹ Hist. Gildæ, c. 26.

² Cited by Archbishop Usher.

³ Hist. Brit. § 56. Another ver-

— sion gives 840 as the number that fell on that occasion.

⁴ Epist. Gildæ.

⁵ Myv. Arch. vol. i. p. 152.