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Edward Pugh

Frontmatter

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**CAMBRIA DEPICTA:**

A

**Tour through North Wales,**

ILLUSTRATED WITH

**PICTURESQUE VIEWS.**

**By a Native Artist.**

—And I perceive that it would have been an advantage, had I been able to have given a more copious account of them (the Welsh); but the requisite knowledge of a sufficient number of circumstances from which to deduce a NATIONAL CHARACTER, is not to be acquired without long residence, and much intercourse with the inhabitants.

PREFACE TO DR. AIKIN'S TOUR THROUGH NORTH WALES.

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## PREFACE.



**A FEW** years before the demise of that venerable patron of the arts, **ALDERMAN BOYDELL**, chance gave me the opportunity of an hour's conversation with him, at the Shakespeare Gallery. To that conversation the following work owes its origin. Mr. Boydell lamented that the landscape painters, whom he had employed in Wales, confined the efforts of their pencils to the neighbourhood of Snowdon: thus multiplying copies upon copies of the same sketches, and frustrating the worthy Alderman's intention of publishing a just series of Welsh views. This practice they defended on the ground of the difficulty in which a stranger, unacquainted with the language or the country, involved himself, the moment that he quitted

the high roads, and plunged into the intricacies of the mountains. To obviate this inconvenience, Mr. Boydell suggested the expediency of publishing a small volume of direction by a native, whose local knowledge should qualify him for the task. At that time, circumstances induced me to decline an undertaking which, from its being calculated for the use of but a small number, was not likely to be sufficiently productive, in point of sale, even to pay the expense of the publication. In the spring of 1804, however, the idea of a combination of objects forced itself strongly upon my mind, and I soon resolved upon a plan, which promised to be serviceable, not only to the artist, but also to the general observer.

The following volume, I have the presumption to hope, will lead the painter to numberless objects, well worthy of his exertions, in representing them on his canvass; whether his genius incline him to the mountain's craggy side, the cwm's solemn profundity, the frightful brink of the cataract, and the rocky margin of the sea: or to the milder features of Nature, observable in the shadowy recesses of the grove, the cultivation of the expanded valley, and the tufted

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banks of the serpentine *afon*\*, he will here find frequent and tempting opportunities of indulging and exercising it.

To the antiquary, also, will be pointed out frequent occasions of contemplating the magnificent remains of ancient times. The relics of Druidical superstition the hasty but durable labours of the Romans, contrasted with the comparatively insignificant productions of later periods: nor are the massive military fortifications of the ancient Britons, or those structures of later date, the abbeys or monasteries of Catholic devotees, left unnoticed.

The mineralogist will, likewise, receive in the course of the work some assistance in his researches.

Nor, as I hope, will the general observer, whose object is Nature in all her varieties, be wholly disappointed by the perusal.

The many volumes published under the appellation of “Tours through North Wales” have invariably been found defective in their description of the people, their manners, and customs: nor is this deficiency surprising, when we recollect that these descriptions

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\* The Welsh name for river.

have generally been undertaken by complete strangers to those people, their manners, and customs; and who, therefore, could not possibly avoid numerous inaccuracies. The confined route which they prescribed to themselves, seldom quitting the repeatedly beaten tract, is another pregnant cause of their inadequacy.

I have included in this volume a topographical history of the North of the Principality, deriving my information from the most authentic sources, and relying frequently on that faithful writer the late T. Pennant, Esq. I have also been variously and materially assisted by many gentlemen of the country, whose names will be found gratefully recorded. Nor have I fastidiously refused occasionally to refer to the narratives of such of my countrymen, as appeared to me to be actuated by the spirit of intelligence and impartiality. These sheets also contain biographical notices of many celebrated persons mentioned in the annals of Ancient Britain.

In drawing the portraits of the different classes of the ancient Britons, unwilling to rely on my own knowledge of their character, and to avoid the imputation of being biassed in their favour, I have availed myself

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of the opinions of the best informed among them ; and I may therefore venture the more confidently to assert that my delineation is correct.

In my choice of views, I have abandoned the common practice of giving portraits of towns, castles, &c., which have been so often repeated that they now fill every portfolio.

The picturesque embellishments of the following volume, are all of them (as far as I know) new to the public, and they describe very striking contrasts in the features of the six counties. From this observation I must except St. Winefred's-well, published in Mr. Pennant's Tour, and the monument at Maes Garmon, etched many years ago by an artist in the country, both of which had sufficient interest with me to obtain admission into my work ; but even of these I have varied the points of view. Upon the whole, if, from my knowledge of the ancient British language, *from my intimacy with my native country and its inhabitants, their economy, customs, and character,* and from the moderate talent as an artist, which I possess, I may be thought in some degree to have attained the end which I proposed to myself, I shall feel amply recompensed for the fatigue which I ex-

perienced for many months, in travelling as a pedestrian, between two and three thousand miles, over one of the roughest districts of Great Britain.

**EDWARD PUGH.**

*Ruthin, May 10, 1813.*

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The Author of this Valuable Work is no more. He died at Ruthin in June, 1813. He was Ten Years in completing the Drawings for this Volume.

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