

3571-  
3589.

Diaries and other papers, the generous gifts of Dr. Leslie Jones of Hafod, Llanfair P.G. The main part pertain to the career and fortunes of the Doctor's grandfather, William Jones of Glybcoed in Llanwenllwyfo, son of David Jones, and grandson of John Hughes of 'Rallt in Llangaffo; W.J. was nephew to William Jones of Llyslew by Brynsiencyn, who in turn was father to John Hughes of Llyslew, a well-known name in the annals of Calvinistic Methodism, and grandfather to the distinguished lawyer, wit and political personality, Sir Ellis Jones Griffith, Bart. To return to William Jones of the Diaries, he was not a very facile writer, and his English was certainly not above reproach; he was a particularly hard-working young farmer, steady enough in his habits, though there is plenty of evidence that he had not yet been affected by the Temperance crusade that swept through Wales in the forties. But different from the average young Anglesey farmers of his time, he was bent on seeing some of the great world outside: it was nothing for him to run over to Liverpool; there is reference to a visit to Dublin; and the family had intimate connections with the Isle of Man years before W.J. made his voyage to Australia, and returned to farm the Calf of Man for a period. The record of that voyage in 1852, and his sojourn there till 1855, is the outstanding interest of MSS. 3571-3580.

3571. Diar y of W.J. for 1843-1844. 172 pp.

Reference to the weather each day, and an account of the day's work: ploughing,

3571 (cont.) draining, sowing, reaping, thatching, carting journeys to Amlwch Port (sometimes to Red Wharf); attending fairs at Llannerchymedd, sometimes at Menai Bridge, seldom at Llangefni; carrying coal from the coal-pits [at Berw, presumably]. This hard life was variegated with shooting in the company of Mr. Henry Hills of the Amlwch Chemical Works and with Mr. Hughes of Madyn, a local solicitor of old family; he was also very friendly with the Rev. John Owen, the sporting parson of Llancilian, son of Caera in Llanfairynghornwy, of whom many tales are still told in the neighbourhood. Very naturally, he was fond of attending ploughing matches, just then in the heyday of their popularity. E.G., he was at the match at Trewyn on January 30, 1844 - the poster advertising that event is preserved in this Library, and the date exactly agrees with the entry in the Diary (p. 140). Soon after he was at the Croesa match (142); sometime before that he attended a coursing meeting as far east as Beaumaris (133). Religiously, he does not seem to have any very settled convictions - "home all day" is a frequent entry opposite Sundays. For all that, we find him going to a "Sinters meeting" [Dissenters, i.e., Independents] at the Port (26), several times to the Baptist chapel at Pensarn (30, 69, &c.) and witnessing adult baptism on the seashore (72), much more often to the neighbouring Baptist chapel at Sardis, a particularly weak cause served by the assistant preachers (pregethwyr cynorthwyol) with which the Baptists of Anglesey have always been so well-supplied. Quite often he turned in to the Wesleyan chapel at Pensarn, ~~being~~<sup>partly</sup> because his friend Hughes of Madyn was at that time a prominent

3571 (cont.) supporter of it (see Hanes Wesleyaeth Gymreig, 111, 1347, 1356). Nor did he forget the C.M.chapel at Nebo, especially when prominent men like John Phillips (114) and the sweet-voiced John Charles of Gwalchmai (122) preached there.

3572. Diary for 1845-1847. 156 pp.

References here to four separate visits to the Isle of Man (pp. 24-25; 85; 92-93; 128-9); to a visit to Dublin with his brother Owen (122-3). Work goes on with the same severe assiduity; on 22 Sept., 1845, it started at 3 a.m., "cynull cae adlodd", taking advantage of the harvest moon. He is very eloquent over the execrable potato yields of 1845 and 1846 (in this Diary he starts the practice of giving a summary at the end of each month of the weather, state of the crops, the rise and fall of prices). He still goes on to ploughing matches, e.g., at Penbol (5), and attends coursing meetings and an occasional hunt. On a Saturday evening early in Feb., 1845, he stayed rather late in Amlwch in the company of Edwards of Bodafon and Owen of Trewyn; possibly that had something to do with the mare throwing him on his way home opposite the house of Hugh Timothy (6). On p. 32 is an entry how he won a looking-glass at Ty Mawr "on lotry" [a raffle, no doubt]. Parson Owen and he are still great friends: the former came to Glybcoed with his "beagils" [beagles] on 8 Nov., 1845 (44) and caught one hare; some months before that (32) the parson had brought his father with him, old Owen Owens

3572 (cont.) of Caera. There are very few references to the Wesleyan chapel in this Diary - he went to hear Clwydfardd there early in 1845, the later Archdruid of Wales. He seems now to concentrate on Sardis, mentions the regular Baptist preachers Thomas of Llangefni, Hugh Williams of Bettws by Amlwch, and Richard Hughes of Llannerchymedd, "a very good sermon" (109), and often "listened" to more homely fare from Seth Roberts, Edward Williams y pannwr, and Hugh Prichard, the latter on three consecutive Sundays (111-115).

3573. Letter to his brother John, from Glybcoed (3 Febr., 1849). Rather astringent in tone. Refers to John's working at one time with Mr. Hills at the Chemical Works and living at Pen-y-Greigwen. Many favours, but little recompense. "I assure you that I would be most happy to see you at the Isle of Man" (does this mean that W.J. was on a home visit from that Island?).

3574. Account [part] of his voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne in the Earl of Derby; the dates comprised here are 4 Aug., 1852 - 27 Oct., but there are no entries for Oct. 23-26 (inclusive). Perforce the narrative is somewhat bald and monotonous, in a course that never saw or touched land between Holyhead and St. Paul's Island (round the Cape of Good Hope). However, there are plenty of interesting and picturesque points: e.g., he had never quite caught the right Welsh word for porpoises, he has Llambddydiol

3574 (cont.) for llamhidyddion. References to a fellow-passenger named Seth Evans, who very probably was from his own neighbourhood (cp. Seth Roberts the preacher, and the more famous Seth Jones, originally from Sardis - Hanes Bed. Cymru, Spinther James, 111, 292), and who suffered more from sea-sickness than any other passenger (see entry opposite 15 Aug.); more pungent references to a passenger named Morton, whom W.J. seems to have known well, a character who took to praying when the ship was in distress, but played cards for twelve hours on end when the weather improved (see MS. 3576). On Oct. 2 he remembers it was "ffair Llannerchymedd ddiwedd y cynhaeaf", and regretfully says he would be there for sure if in Sir Fôn. Refers to a bargain with the baker - made by a cabin-ful of 30 - to pay 2/- each for the voyage in return for a hot roll of bread every morning, to the punctuality with which they got up to share in a sospan-ful of porridge, late-comers to go without; and writes with pride that a crock of Glybcoed butter given him by his mother was safe and sweet when opened on Oct. 5 (this was not the case with many other crocks). On Oct. 11 saw the leviathan he had read of in the Book of Job "as big as the vessel". On the whole, things went well. But some of the passengers - "y bobel" - were the scum of the world.

3575. Really a copy of 3574, with some little variations: it extends from 4 Aug. to Oct. 20 only. It is just possible 3574 was the original, and 3575 the copy.

3576. Narrative of the last part of the journey (28 Oct. to well on in November). Opens with a general account of the voyage - the provisions, the scarcity of alcoholic drink; much about St. Paul's Island with its hot springs and albatross. At this point he has a few words about the Captain and his tall yarns: "he will tell more leis [lies] than W. Hughes Tyfadog never did"; the Captain also had a very poor opinion indeed of the people of Holyhead. Reverts to some of the passengers brawling and fighting - "ten times worse than Jonathan Burnel when he is tipsey". It finishes up with a very lively description of Melbourne and neighbourhood in 1852: bullocks drawing carts, men galloping madly on horses, thousands living in tents ("jest like commine"), the wooden houses, no walls or hedges anywhere, everything very dear - "copper is good for nothing here". This account begins "Dear Brother Thomas", but is addressed to his father at Glybcoed.

3577. Letter to his parents from Ballarat Gold Diggings, 25 March, 1853. Seems to have stopped for some time at Melbourne, then with a steamer to Geelong, proceeding from there on the laborious and costly four-day's journey to Ballarat - with tents and provisions. His mates were Seth Evans, the aforesaid Morton (3574, 3576), and the son of King's Head, Bethesda. Soon got in partnership with new

3577 (cont.) mates, one from Llanrwst and one from London; tells of the ups and downs of his fortune, quoting the well-worn formula of disappointed seekers - "they say that the best diggins is done", and comparing Ballarat with Mynydd Parys, "some get copper, others don't". No farmers anywhere near, never sees a field of corn; everything fearfully dear; he would dearly like 200 quarters of Anglesey oats, which would bring him a small fortune. He has met but few Welshmen - the son of Ysgubor Fawr by Ty'nygongl, the captain and crew of a Holyhead vessel, and two daughters of Garnan Goch, who were keeping lodgers and doing some sewing work. Hopes to start home next Christmas [1853]. That idea, however, was postponed for some years.

3578. Another letter, June 12, 1853. Complains Bitterly of the cold weather, the terrible roads, &c. Seth Evans and Morton have gone to Melbourne; Seth had written a letter to William Jones Waterloo (who was he?) that W.J.'s brother John (see 3573) was dead. By now he reports that many Welshmen have arrived - the son of Ty Canol, also grandson of Cornelius Rhoswên, &c.; he has not come across the "Llannerchymedd boys". Still hopes to start home about Christmas. In a postscript he writes that if he had 100 pairs of Llannerchymedd boots he would clear £150 profit. In Ballarat a pair of high boots to wear in wet diggings cost him £7, a pair of shoes £2. 10. 0. This doct. also alludes to a letter he had received from the parson of Llanellian.

3579. Gold License to W. Jones - Three Months, dated

3579 (cont.) 20 Sept., 1854, costing £2. Eight regulations to be observed, of which the most interesting are that due and proper observance of Sunday must be maintained, and that the extent of claim granted to each licensed miner was 144 sq. ft., and in proportion if 2, 3 or 4 worked in a party. The license was not transferable. No mining was permitted if it were destructive of any line of road which it was necessary to maintain or impede access to stores and shops.

3580. Refiners' certificate (Messrs. Browne & Wingrove) to W.J. that he had produced before them Bar Gold, minus costs for milling and assaying, worth £1,413. 16. 1; date, 19 Sept., 1855. It is not at all clear where this firm had its headquarters; their address was 30, Wood Street; ~~but there was no Wood St. in Melbourne at that period (it may have been in this country, Liverpool, or in Australia, Geelong - we have not the information when W.J. sailed from Australia and arrived in England).~~

3581. Letter to W.J., after his return to Wales, from William Selkirk, of 84, Collins Street West, Melbourne; date, 13 Jany., 1857. Of great interest because it introduces the names of numerous mutual friends down under, names that illustrate the cosmopolitanism of the life in which W.J. moved during his comparatively short stay in Australia - names such as Palmer, Stoney, Ashling, Middleton, Canny Dickson, Eckersall, Holland,

*in the City of London*



3581 (cont.) "Lord John Russell", Neal, the two Misses Buckham. Some of these were Ballarat diggers; but not all. Selkirk himself was a general dealer, and appeared as such in the Melbourne Directories for 1858, 1859, 1860. Morton is referred to as one who had returned to the old country, probably with W.J.; but he tells the sad news that Seth Evans had not been seen or heard of since W.J.'s departure. Selkirk was expecting Jones to return, and pointed out how brisk business had been in 1856, Ballarat taking first place in output of gold, new "leads" being continually hit. There remain two interesting points: S. says that Dolgelley was his favourite spot in Wales, a rather unlikely dictum unless he had actually been there; this letter was actually carried to England by the Royal Charter (which was later wrecked outside Moelfre, 26 Octr., 1859).

3582. Second letter, but the date is wanting, p. 1 having been lost. Introduces new names such as Cureton, Ritchie, Whitehead. No more news of Seth Evans. Hopes to come home next February, and uses words about tapping the Stanley Vaults that go far to prove that neither he nor W.J. were teetotallers at the time. It seems that the latter was now married to Anne Humphreys of Llaneuddog; S. wants to know if a certain Mr. Humphreys whom he knew as clerk and traveller for the River Dee Foundry Co. was a relative of hers. He winds up by giving

3582 (cont.) the news that they are about to start building the Ballarat and Bendigo Railway.

3583-  
3588.

Six letters written to Miss Anne Humphreys of Llaneuddog, when in a good position at Manchester, one by her mother (Aug. 19, 1839), and five by her brother Thomas, ranging in date from June 30, 1840 to June 29, 1842. He was at the time a medical student first at Queen's College, Edinburgh, and then at University College, London: he had a distinguished career, and eventually settled down in Bangor, his name appearing as Thomas Humphreys, Bodhyfryd, High St., in Worrall's Directory for North Wales (1874), p. 198.

What he especially wants from his sister Anne is a little money to keep things going, but he intersperses his letters with gossip from home about his sisters' courtships, some social mishaps, &c. In one letter (3587) he tells of the marriage, early in 1841, of Ellen Parry of Frigan with the Rev. John Phillips, later founder of the Bangor Normal College. In London he often saw Ellen Owen of Ty'nrhos, cook at Lord Mostyn's in Portland Square. "I go there to see her very often, and have a very good croeso".

3589. Letter to W.J. from the Hon. W.O. Stanley, a younger son of the Stanleys of Alderley and Penrhos by Holyhead, at the time M.P. for the Anglesey Boroughs (dated Oct. 9, 1865). He was a gentleman of great public spirit, and was desirous of enlisting W.J.'s

3589 (cont.) interest to form one of a Company to bring pure water to Holyhead from the springs at Mynydd Tŵr. At this period W.J. was farming in the neighbourhood, before he ultimately settled down at Tre Ifan by Brynsiencyn. (died 1902; born 1814).