THE TWO GWAETHFOEDS.

Great confusion has arisen in the pedigrees of the descendants of certain Welsh princes and chieftains bearing the same names and living a century or two apart. This is nowhere more noticeable than among the descendants of the two Gwaethfoeds, one living in the tenth and the other in the eleventh century; two of the Iestyns, two of the name of Caradoc Vraich-Vras (the brawny arm), and two called Eineon ap Collwyn.

Here we propose to treat only of the two Gwaethfoeds. Their confusion was noticed, in print, as long ago as 1662, by Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, a celebrated Welsh antiquary, in his "British Antiquities Revived" (pp. 71-75, reprint 1834), where he says, "That there were two Gwaethvoeds our Books of Pedegrees assure us . . . They are recorded as distinct persons, the one being styled of Powys, the other of Cardigan, for distinction's sake. And they appear further to be distinct by their distinct Coates of Arms and distinct Pedegrees; he of Powys beareth *vert a Lyon rampant A. imbrued head, feet and tayle;* the other *Or a Lyon rampant regnardant S. langued and armed G.* And for their Pedegrees, books written about 400 years ago, say that Gwaethvoed of Powys was the son of Gwrhydr ap Caradawc ap Lles Llaw ddeawc . . . And there are other books that derive the Pedegree of Gwaethvoed of Cardigan to Gwythno Garanir . . . thus, Gwaethvoed ap Eunydd, as Lewis Morganwc saith; but others leaving out Eunydd say, he was the son of Cadivor ap Peredur Peiswrydh ap Enion ap Eunydd, and so on to the said Gwythno Garanir . . . Gwaethvoed of Cardigan could not be the great Grandfather of Blethyn ap Cynfyn, etc, for Blethyn was near of this Gwaethvoed's age . . . Also we read in our Books of one Morvydh daughter to Ynyr Ddu King of Gwent (now Monmouthshire) who lived in King Athelstan's time, A.D. 921, as Rog. Hovenden hath it recorded, that married one Gwaethvoed," etc.

Ample evidence exists to show that Robert Vaughan was correct in saying that there were two Gwaethfoeds living at different periods.

Vincent (Rouge Rose 1616, Rouge Croix 1621, Windsor Herald 1624, died Jan. 1626) separates and distinguishes them thus, in his MS. 180, pars. 73 and 74 (now in the College of Arms).

"73. Gwaethfoed Vawr, of him do descend the men of Iscoed in South Wales," *Or a lion ramp. regard. Sa., armed and langued Gules.*

"74. Gwaethfoed, of him do descend the men of Powis in Montgomerishire," *Vert a lion ramp. Arg., head and feet Gules, armed and langued Az.*

The latter was Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan, and Lord of Cibwr in Gwent, ancestor of the Princes of Powis, and called "*for distinction's sake*" Gwaethfoed of Powis (for it does not appear that he himself ever lived there). He lived, as will be shown, in the tenth century, and he is the one who should be styled Gwaethfoed Vawr (*i.e.* the Great).

The eleventh century, or lesser Gwaethfoed, was Lord of Caredigion Iscoed, *i.e.* that part of Cardiganshire which lay below the wood (is = below, coed = the wood). He is called in C. 17, 88 (the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1625) "Gwaethvoed secundus."

Vincent in his MSS. 428, pp. 144 and 146, again distinguishes the two Gwaethfoeds by their coats, and in 135, p. 385, gives Gwerystan as the son of Gwaethfoed ap Gwrydyr, and Morvydd his wife, and as the grandfather of Bleddyn, King of North Wales, and though he falls into the error of making this Gwaethfoed, and Morvydd his wife, the parents of Cadivor and Cydich, etc., who were the sons of the lesser Gwaethfoed, still he does not seem quite happy while so doing, for while he calls Gwaethfoed "Lord of Cardigan," he adds after his son Gweryston, "son of Gwaethfoed, Lord of Powis."

Symont Vachan[1] gives, in A 24, f. 152, the descent of Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan, ap Cloddien ap Gwrydyr, etc., and marries him to Morvydd, dau. of Ynyr, King of Gwent, though he unfortunately tricks in the arms ascribed by Vincent to the Gwaethfoed "of whom do descend the men of Iscoed," of which hereafter, and in f. 147 gives an abbreviated descent of the eleventh century Gwaethfoed, of different ancestry, from Gwyddno Garanhir. This agrees with the Returns of the Welsh Deputy Heralds in the College of Arms (now called the Protheroe Collection), vols. vii, p. 128, viii, 59, and vol. xvii, gives both, p. 173, Gwaethfoed of Cardigan descended from Gwyddno Garahir, *Or a lion ramp. regard. Sa.*, and p. 335, Gwaethfoed Fawr ap Gwrydyr, etc., *Vert a lion ramp. Arg. imbrued head, feet and tail*, married Morfydd f. h. Ynyr Ddu, King of Gwent.[2]

One of the Gwaethfoeds, he of the tenth century, being PRINCE OF CARDIGAN, by right of his grandmother, the daughter and heiress of Edwin ap Teithfalt, Prince of Cardigan, and the other, of the eleventh century, being LORD OF CARDIGAN ISCOED, has made confusion worse confounded. Can it be wondered that, both being of Cardigan, they have been mistaken for one and the same man? Let us examine the ancestry of both the Gwaethfoeds side by side.

Gwrydyr ap Karadoc. = . . . d. and h. of Edwyn ap Teithfelt, Prince of Cardigan.

Cloddian (given in A 24, omitted in Protheroe).

Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan. = Morvydd, d. and h. of Ynyr, King of Gwent.

Gwerystan.

Cynfin.

Bleddyn, Prince of Powis (1046), King of North Wales (1061—1073).

Peredur, L[d] of Cardigan Uchaf.

Cadivor, L[d] of Cardigan Iscoed.

Gwaethfoed, L[d] of Cardigan Iscoed, died 1057. = . . . a dau. of Elystan Glodrydd.

Cydrich, living 1099.

[1] A Welsh Deputy Herald who made returns to the College of Arms in the year 1577, some of which are in MS. A. 24, others copied in the Returns of David Edwards (a later Welsh Deputy Herald), in what are now called the Protheroe Collection. Folio 151, of A. 24, is signed as follows, "My vi Simwnt Vachan Penkerdd o mynedd is Conwy a sgreveniodd hynn o achau pam oedd oed Krist 1577," which is in English, "I Simwnt Vachan Chief Bard of the mountains below Conway wrote this of pedigrees when was the year of Christ 1577."

[2] This last is, I believe, in part, a transcript of a MS. of Robert Vaughan aforesaid, now in the Harlean Collection, no. 2,299, but it has been continued to a later date.

By making one man of these two Gwaethfoeds, and making that amalgamation marry Morvydd, dau. of Ynyr, King of Gwent, Morvydd would have a great grandson killed in 1073, and a son living in 1099!

David Edwards, of Rhyd-Gors, co. Carmarthen, appointed Deputy Herald for the six counties of South Wales, 1 August, 1684, though a most careful genealogist, falls into this trap and gives (Protheroe, xviii, p. 185) the issue of both as the children of one father and mother, and evidently gives the birth of the first and the death of the second Gwaethfoed, for a note says, "He was born in the year 937 and was killed by ye Irish Scots in ye year 1057," thus making the two one man who must have died fighting at the age of 122! Dissect these dates and the great grandfather of Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, King of North Wales, who was killed in 1073, might well have been born in 937, while the father of Cydrich, who was living in 1099, might equally well have died fighting in 1057.

That there were two Gwaethfoeds chronology clearly shows us, and this was recognised in the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1625, before alluded to.

Next comes the question as to which of them married Morvydd, the dau. of Ynyr Ddu, King of Gwent. Symont Vachan, a pupil of Griffith Hiraethwg, says that the earlier of the two did, so does Robert Vaughan, not only in his "British Antiquities Revived," but also in Harl. MS. 2,299, p. 271, while the celebrated Welsh Herald, Griffith Hiraethwg (mentioned by Lewis Dwnn and alluded to in the Returns of the later Welsh Deputies as "Grif' Hir'" and "Gr' H.") says that Gwaethfoed of Iscoed married a daughter of Elystan Glodrydd (Protheroe, i, p. 82, vii, p. 128, and viii, p. 59), which is in accordance with chronology, for Elystan Glodrydd was living in 1010, and the lesser Gwaithfoed could not have married the daughter of Ynyr Gwent if Robert Vaughan is correct in stating, on the authority of Roger Hovenden, that Ynyr was living in 921.

There can be no doubt that the *earlier* Gwaethfoed married Morvydd; he is styled Prince of Cardigan and Lord of Cibwr, and, according to Iolo MSS., p. 393, we find that when Iestyn ap Gwrgan, Prince of Morganwg, married Dennis, a daughter of Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, Prince of Powis, she had for her jointure the Lordship of Cibwr in Morganwg. Cibwr is a tract of land lying on the west side of the river Rhymney, south of the Lordship of Sanghenydd, on the confines of Gwent and Morganwg, in the present County of Glamorgan, in all probability this was the land, or a portion of it, that the Prince of Cardigan obtained with his wife Morvydd. When Iestyn married Dennis he built her a castle about four miles south-west of Cardiff, and called it Dennis Powis, the village there is called Dinas Powis to this day *i.e.*, Powis Castle.

Now let us examine the arms ascribed to the two Gwaethfoeds and we see that, either Symont Vachan in A. 24, p. 152, or Vincent in 180, pars. 73 and 74, and MS. 428, pp. 144 and 146, is in error, for Symont Vachan has tricked in for Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan, ap Cloddian ap Gwyrydyr, ancestor of the Princes of Powis, the arms given by Vincent to Gwaethfoed, from whom "do descend the men of Iscoed in South Wales." Vincent was a celebrated Herald, an Officer of the

College of Arms. Symont Vachan was a genealogist so well known that he was selected as the Welsh Deputy Herald of his day, and a pupil of Griffith Hiraethawg, who had ample opportunities of obtaining evidences of descent from the Monkish chronicles extant in his time. But we have only to compare the arms tricked in A. 24 with Vincent's MSS., coupled with the returns of the other Welsh Deputy Heralds, to see that Vincent's MSS. for accuracy of arms, are incomparably superior to A. 24, while Vincent—who could only obtain his information second hand through the Welsh Deputy Heralds, from a nation speaking a language foreign to him, and indeed keeping their Records in a great measure in that language—cannot be compared to Symont Vachan for accuracy of Welsh pedigrees.

To return to the arms of the two Gwaethfoeds, a careful study of Welsh Heraldry shows us how often personal arms were evolved out of other coats, whether by the chieftains to whom these coats are ascribed, or by subsequent Heralds, is immaterial. Let us first take Gwaethfoed, "Prince of Cardigan" by right of his grandmother, and Lord of Cibwr (probably by right of his wife Morvydd). The arms of Edwyn ap Teithfalt, "Prince of Cardigan," were, *Sa. a lion ramp. Arg.*, these are arms given in H. 8, Visitation of South Wales in 1530, as the arms of Gwaethfoed of Hemlyn, who it is evident by comparison of Vincent 125, p. 115, and Protheroe viii, p. 164, was Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan, while to Gwrydyr, his grandfather, are ascribed, *Az. three crowns, two and one Or* (evidently evolved out of the arms of Beli Maur, *Az. three crowns in pale Or*). Of Gwrydyr we know nothing save that he was a link in a long string of names showing descent from Beli Maur, but Edwyn ap Teithfalt was known in history as "Prince of Cardigan," so it may not be unfair to infer that he was a better known and more powerful chieftain than Gwrydyr, of whom we know little. Gwaethfoed then, in H. 8, is recorded as having a right to his grandmother's arms, while the arms of his son Gwerystan ap Gwaethfoed are recorded as *Vert a lion ramp. Arg., head and feet imbrued Gules*, Vincent 428, 146. *Vert* and *Argent* were the Royal colours of Wales, the head and feet imbrued *Gules* may have been to commemorate some bloody border fray now long forgotten. Bleddyn ap Cynfyn ap Gwerystan bore *Or a lion ramp. Gules*, his son Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, *Or a lion ramp. Az.*, all of them founded on the simple original coat of the Prince of Cardigan, *a white lion rampant on a Sable field*, the metal and tinctures altered.

Following out the same reasoning let us examine the arms of the lesser Gwaethfoed, Lord of Cardigan Iscoed, "*Or a lion ramp. regard. Sa.*, descended from Gwyddno Garanhir, whose arms, *Or a griffin Vert*, he would be entitled to bear. According to Griffith Hiraethrwg, he married a daughter of Elystan Glodrydd, founder of the fourth Royal tribe of Wales, a much more powerful and better known chieftain than the Lord of Iscoed. Elystan's arms were, *Gules a lion ramp. regard. Or.* What are the arms given to Gwaethfoed from "whom the men of Iscoed do descend?" They are, *Or a lion ramp. regard. Sa.*, the arms of Elystan Glodrydd with the metals and tinctures altered, while his son Cydrich ap Gwaethfoed, and Cydrich's descendants bore, *Sa. a lion ramp. regard. Arg.*, still the same shield with the metals and tinctures altered.

Let us now turn to the double word Gwaeth—foed, and see what these two British words mean when translated into English. Gwaeth = work, ffoed = escaped (in the spelling of the double word Gwaethfoed one of the f's is dropped for the sake of euphony, according to the British custom, ff = f in English, f = v). Gwaethfoed then means work, or a task escaped.

A most interesting account is given in the Iolo MSS., p. 481 (published by the Welsh MS. Society in 1848) of the tenth century Gwaethfoed refusing to row King Edgar's barge at Chester.

That King Edgar summoned the Welsh and other Princes to row his barge is a well known historical fact, mentioned in the Welsh "Brut" (Rolls' ed., p. 26), Mathew of Westminster (Bohn's ed., p. 484), William of Malmesbury (Bohn's ed., p. 147), and many other Chronicles. The "Brut" gives the date as 971 and Mathew of Westminster as 974, the latter gives the list of those who rowed as, Kinad, King of the Scots, Malcolm, King of Cumberland, Maco (called by William of Malmesbury "that Prince of pirates, Maccus"), Dufnal, King of Demetia, Sifreth and Howel, Kings of Wales, James, King of Galwallia, and Jakil, King of West Maria. Powell's Hist. of Wales (ed. 1774, p. 59), calls the "*three* British Kings" "Dyfnval, Sifrethus and Ithel."

This then was probably the task escaped, from which the tenth century Gwaethfoed obtained his cognomen, and the lesser Gwaethfoed, or "Gwaethfoed secundus," was in all probability named after Gwaethfoed Fawr, the former Prince of the County in which he held the Lordship of Iscoed.

T. M. J. WATKIN, *Portcullis.*

Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls.

By Major-General the Hon. GEORGE WROTTESLEY.

(*Continued from Vol. XIV, p.* 260.)

De Banco. Easter. 1. *Hen.* 4. *m.* 114.

Devon.—The Dean and College of Wyndesore sued Richard Seymour, Knight, for the next presentation to the church of North Molton.

