THE VISITATIONS OF LEWYS DWNN.

The Heraldic Visitations of Wales by Lewys Dwnn are so little known to any but students of Welsh genealogy that a few words concerning that antiquary may not be out of place before I pass on to consider his works. Lewys Dwnn, or rather Lewys ap Rhys ap Owain, for Dwnn was the name of his mother's family, tells us that he was a diligent student at the feet of William Llyn and of Hywel ap Sir Matthew and of other earlier and well known Welsh heralds. Of his date of birth or death nothing is known, but his labours extend over the last quarter of the sixteenth century, and part of the reign of James I. In the first half of the nineteenth century the Society for the Publication of Ancient Welsh Manuscripts determined that Dwnn's Visitations should be, if possible, discovered and published, and the task was entrusted to several competent antiquarians, under the editorship of Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, LL.D., F.S.A., the well known author of a "History of Cardiganshire," with the result that in 1846 two folio volumes were published. Of these, the first contains the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan in South Wales, and those of Radnor, Flint and Denbigh in North Wales. The second volume begins with a small number of miscellaneous districts, some in North and some in South Wales, extending to only sixty-four pages in the printed folio; the remaining and chief portion being occupied with the counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon and Merioneth in the Northern part of the Principality. The first difficulty that Meyrick had to encounter was the discovery of the original manuscripts. This proved no easy matter. We can imagine the search made and the correspondence that no doubt took place between Meyrick, Mr. Morris, of Shrewsbury, the eminent Welsh genealogist, Lord Cawdor, Sir Thomas Phillipps, Mr. Lloyd Mostyn, M.P., and others, with the somewhat meagre result that of all Dwnn's manuscripts the only autographs that came into Sir Samuel Meyrick's hands were those relating to the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan. Meyrick tells us that this volume was in the possession of Mrs. Madocks, of Glan-y-wern, in Denbighshire, who allowed him to copy it. The fact that these three counties are taken from the originals at first hand and are not mere copies of transcripts, lends a peculiar value and interest to the first two hundred and forty-eight pages of Meyrick's volume i. The remaining eighty-four pages of this volume contain copies of transcripts, said to be from original Visitations of Radnor and Montgomery, by Dwnn. With regard to volume ii, the first sixty-four pages are, as I have already said, occupied by miscellaneous descents, which appear to have been written by one Hopkin ap Einion, of Brecon, and are a compilation made about 1604, probably from various sources, including, it may be, Dwnn himself, who was then living. The remaining three hundred pages are from a transcript made in 1685 by Lewis Owen, of

Peniarth, from the original then in the possession of Mr. Thomas Mostyn, of Gloddaith. The accuracy of this transcript is, however, supported by two persons, William Hughes and John Davies, who attest each page with the remark, "This page agrees with ye originall being compar[d] by us." This copy, after many wanderings from its original home, came into the possession of Mr. Edward Evans, of Eyton Hall, in Herefordshire. Sir Samuel Meyrick, we see, in spite of all his enquiries and the help of Welsh antiquaries, had to put up with a series of transcripts in forming his text for the North Wales Visitation. In fact, apart from the three counties of South Wales, out of the remaining nine counties of the Principality, we have only Anglesey, Caernarvon and Merioneth, that can boast an even passable text and that merely an attested transcript. In his introduction, p. xxix, Sir Samuel Meyrick remarks as follows:—"During its (his work) being printed, the original by Lewis Dwnn, with the subscribed signatures in the handwriting of the parties, has been, through the untiring perseverance of my friend Mr. Wynne, discovered at Hengwrt, but I must mention that no energies have been wanting to ascertain what has become of all Lewys Dwnn's other manuscripts." It is much to be regretted that unique records such as these should be so constantly the subject of enquiry into their location and ownership. Perhaps some system of central registration or notification might be consented to by their fortunate possessors, who do not desire to part with their treasures into the safe keeping of an official body such as the Trustees of the British Museum or the College of Arms. As it is, such MSS. are frequently dispersed when change of ownership comes about by death or other means, and in consequence a sort of Inquisition or Domesday Survey has to be taken about twice in a century to ascertain if they are still extant and where they abide. It is more than fifty years since we last heard from Sir Samuel Meyrick of his quest, and I recently undertook another to ascertain where Dwnn's autograph Visitations now are. Meyrick found the South Wales Collection at Mrs. Madocks', at Glan-y-wern, *but it is not there now.* He tells us that before his book issued from the press that the North Wales Visitation was discovered at Hengwrt, *but it is not there now.* Where then are they? I can fortunately answer this question. The first I have discovered in a safe place, whence it is unlikely ever to wander again. It is among the Egerton MSS. in the British Museum and is described in the Catalogue as follows:—

"Egerton MS. 2,585.

"Pedigrees of Welsh families in the Counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan, by Lewis Dwnn, Deputy Herald-at-Arms 1586--1613, Welsh and English, Autograph. The title in Welsh, which is written on f. 8, states that the volume is the book of Lewis Dwnn, the poet of Montgomeryshire, of Bettws in Cydhewain, which he collected as Deputy Herald-at-Arms over the three Principalities of Wales and the Marches of Wales, under a patent sealed by Clarenceux and Norroy, Kings of Arms. In the first

part of the MS. are interspersed some biblical, historical and mythical genealogies. The pedigrees of the families are not arranged in any order, but many of them are attested with the signatures of the heads of the several families. At the end is an index of names made in 1748. The pedigrees were edited, together with those in the following volume, by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, for the Welsh MSS. Society in 1846, both volumes being then in the possession of Mrs. Madocks, of Glan-y-wern, co. Denbigh. Paper ff. 388.

"On the cover is stamped the name, 'John Madocks, Esq. From J. W. 1825. Folio.'"

The following is Meyrick's translation of the title page, which is in Welsh:—

O Jesus, prevent error.

The three Counties of South Wales; that is to say Carmarthen, Pembroke and Cardigan;

And their family ancestry or family tribes, as they have been found in the old books of authority by the Poets, ancient Deeds and Latin Records.

The Book of Lewys Doonn,

Poet, of Montgomeryshire, of Bettws in Cydhewain on Berriew, who is Deputy Herald at Arms over the three Provinces of Wales, and in the Marches of Wales, under the Patent and Seals of Clarencieux and Norroy, two Kings of Arms, under the Great Seal, for the Southward and the Northward, for North and South Wales.

May God preserve our Gracious Queen Elizabeth in good health.

Amen. So be it.

1586.

On the fly-leaf appears:—

Purchased of H. Madocks, Esq.

10 Dec. 1881.

With a book-plate signed,

G. Davies.

The pedigrees are partly in tabular and partly in (Welsh) narrative form, and most are signed by the head of the family, whose descent is recorded, together with the date and a note of the sum paid to Dwnn for his labours, usually five or ten shillings. The language is an extraordinary compound of Welsh and English, for instance, "Dustus o'er pies et cwrwm," is Dwnn's rendering of "Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum"! His writing too, is very bad, indeed he apologises for it in his introduction; addressing his readers he says, "But I request of you wise and learned readers that you will not form your judgment of me by the appearance of my writing, for no one can go beyond his abilities." Nevertheless, in spite of these drawbacks, the work is one of great general accuracy, and is especially valuable by reason of the signatures of those from whom the herald obtained his information at first hand. Such evidence would in our own times be regarded as of legal validity for at least the

third generation above that of the attester. Dwnn tells us that he had an official position as Deputy Herald under patent. I have made enquiry at the College of Arms and find that nothing is known there of the circumstances of his appointment or of any patent. Yet Meyrick states in his Introduction (p. xxiii) that this deputation was discovered at his instigation, after much search, by T. W. King, Rouge Dragon, among some miscellaneous papers, and that it is endorsed in a hand resembling Dugdale's, "Taken out of Wales Visitation Booke, nu 136." The reference given by Meyrick is "H 16, f. 202." It would be very interesting to know where this MS. is. Meyrick, however, had a full copy of the Patent which he gives *in extenso* on p. xxiii. There is one praiseworthy direction given to Dwnn by Clarenceux (Cooke) and Norroy (by his deputy Glover), and that is to carefully take down dates and full particulars of the families within the Principality and the Marches, "Omittinge all highe lynes dedvced from farre aboue all memorie, which for great part are found to be coniecturall," etc. This direction Dwnn will be found to have followed. His patent is dated 3rd February 1585. How it came about that none of Dwnn's Visitations are to be found in their proper home the College of Arms, and why no record of his appointment can be discovered, although it clearly was in existence within the last fifty years, are enigmas beyond my ability to solve. His work in South Wales is extremely full, accurate and duly attested, and the original MS. is easily accessible. For its own period it is unrivalled and superior both to Vincent and Prothero in detail in many cases. Turning from South to North Wales in my search for Dwnn's autograph of that part of the Principality, I fully expected from Meyrick's statement that Hengwrt would repay enquiry, but I found that no MSS. are now there. Peniarth I thought unlikely, as Meyrick states that a *copy* made by Lewis Owen, Esq., of Peniarth, from the original at Gloddaith, was not then in the possession of his descendant, W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., but had wandered to Herefordshire, whence it was lent to Meyrick for his work. However, it proved eventually that Peniarth was the right locality, and on applying to W. R. M. Wynne, Esq., Lord Lieutenant of Merionethshire, he with the utmost courtesy, informed me that the original MS. was among his valuable collection at Peniarth. Mr. Wynne is of opinion that it never formed part of the Hengwrt collection, but that it reached Peniarth through some ancestors of his family, "either the Mostyns or Williamses of Penbedw in Flintshire." As it would appear to have been at one time in the possession of Mr. Thomas Mostyn, of Gloddaith, Mr. Wynne is doubtless right in his belief. In 1859, however, the late Sir Robert Williams Vaughan bequeathed the great Hengwrt collection to his "friend and kinsman" W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., whose letter prefixed to Harl. MS. 2,299, tells us so. It will thus be seen that the whereabouts of the original Visitations for six counties has at length been ascertained, but there is reason to believe that Lewys Dwnn included the other parts of Wales in his inquiries. And it is in the hope that the attention of

persons interested in Welsh genealogy may be called to this matter and further stimulated, that I have written this article. I have had the title page of the South Wales MS. photographed (full size). Any subscriber to *The Genealogist* who wishes a copy can obtain one from the photographer by applying to me. It may serve as a standard to test the authorship of other MSS. that may be, possibly, writings of Lewys Dwnn.

W. T. Law.

A MANUSCRIPT RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF OFFLEY.

(*Continued from p.* 88.)

This W^m^ Offley Aldermã of Chester & Father of S^r^ Thomas Offley had also 2 Daughters (sisters to the afores^d^ five brethren) bes[t]owd in marriage to men of good wealth Lynen Drapers in the Poultry, the one Mr. Jacob, the other Bowyer, they had many Children vertuously brought up & in Learning, The eldest sone of Giles Jacob was a learned scholler, & ꝑceeded Doctor of Phisick in great love & admiracõn of the Students for his vertuous quallityes & learning & was elected by the Doct^rs^ of Phisick at the request of the late Queene Elizabeth, to whom Embassad^rs^ were sent from the mighty Emperor of Russia, for one of her phisitiãs to attend his royall person & to minister unto him for the preservacõn of his health; And this Doctor Jacob was welbeloved of the Emperor & honored of the Muscovites.

Soe Bowyer likewise had a son by his wife who was a Famous Captaine in the Low Countreys, greatly advanced by the state for his pollitick & Couragious attempts & his Fortunate success in atcheiving them in defence of the Gospell. These were the Grandchildren of ould Williã Offley Alderman of Chester by his later wife, whereby I gather hee was a godly vertuous & Faithfull man, one that feared god for his seed was mighty upon Earth; & the generacõn of the faithfull shalbe blessed: It is not in mans memory, neither is it chronicled (though it be worthy) that ever any heard or saw five such brethren of such hon^r^ worship Dignity & estimacõn in one Citty & at one tyme whereof 4 were Marchant Taylors: But now to returne to John Offley the German Brother to S^r^ Tho: Offley of the whole blood the 2^d^ son of the seven sons of William Offley to whom belonged the inheritance of the howses in Stafford. In his youthfull dayes in his rash adolescency when ignorance beare the sway, & men were ledd by blind guides, this John Offley having access to the brick house in Hackney afores^d^ was moved by a false Fryer, to lay out a great sum̃ of money for the Furnishing of a Chamber,

(afterwards 1st Earl of Jersey) and Henry (succeeded his father as Governor of Tynmouth Castle); and six daughters, in the following order:—

1st. Barbara (who mar^{d} John, 4th Visct. Fitz Hardinge of Berehaven).
2nd. Frances (as above).
3rd. Katherine (mar^{d} first James Lewis du Puissar, and secondly her cousin William, 2d son of George 4th Visct. Grandison).
4th. Elizabeth (the well known Countess of Orkney).
5th. Henrietta (mar^{d} John 2nd Earl of Breadalbane).
6th. Mary (mar^{d} William, 3rd Earl of Inchiquin).

Can the first wife of Lord Portland have been a (seventh) daughter named Anne as stated by Sir Egerton Brydges and in Burke's *Peerage* (1893), or were there two daughters named Frances?

R. J. W. Davison.

LEWIS DWNN'S PATENT AS DEPUTY HERALD.

In the last number of *The Genealogist* will be found an article of mine on the Visitations of Wales, by Lewis Dwnn, in which is set forth the present location of those autographs which relate to six out of the twelve Welsh counties now existing. I further said that although Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, in the introduction to his printed edition of those Visitations, had given a *verbatim* copy of the patent issued by R. Cooke, Clarenceux, and William Flower, Norroy, to Lewis Dwnn to act as their official deputy, nothing was known of the existence of the original deputation at the College of Arms, although, after much search, it had been unearthed by Gregory King, Rouge Dragon, at Meyrick's instigation, nearly sixty years ago. I am, however, glad to say that, thanks to a search undertaken by Mr. Alfred S. Scott-Gatty, York Herald, this deputation has now been re-discovered. It is a lengthy document, and as it already exists in print in Meyrick's work, which is not very difficult of access, I do not propose to occupy the valuable space of *The Genealogist* by reciting its terms. What is more important is the consideration of the questions—of what authority is this document? Is it the original patent, and if not, what is it? To answer these queries we must examine it carefully. It is written on paper in a legible and clerk-like hand, without alterations, emendations, or additions, and is obviously not a rough draft. It is dated Feb. 3, 1585. No signatures are attached. At the foot, in a quite different hand, are these words—"Taken out of Wales Visitation booke nu 136." On turning over the paper we find it endorsed by two entries of great importance, side by side thus—

A debitacion from	A debitacion from
R. C. and W^{m} Flower	me and Norroy to one
for one to vyset some	to vyset some part
part of Wales.	of Wales.

These entries are both evidently the writing of Robert Cooke himself, and are in a hand differing from either of the other two referred to above. From these interesting particulars one thing is clear. This document is not Dwnn's patent itself, for it is not signed by the Kings of Arms who appointed Dwnn as their deputy. But I cannot conceive any reason why a signed and sealed patent, handed to a deputy herald as evidence "to all and singular" of his delegated powers, should be in the College at all. We may feel pretty confident that he died in possession of it, and that it shared the fate of some of his MSS. after his death. An official herald who dies bequeathing all his collections to the College might conceivably include his patent in such a bequest, but even that is not at all probable, and we know that Dwnn's actual *visitations* are not (at any rate *now*) in that institution where they *should* be, and there is, therefore, less reason to expect his own *patent* to be there, where it should *not* be. The nature of the document brought to light admits of no doubt. It could not be the original signed patent that passed out of the College over three centuries ago into the hands of Lewis Dwnn on his appointment, but is an official and certified copy of that patent—the official counterpart, endorsed in the actual hand of Clarenceux himself, as is clearly proved by the terms of the endorsement and the expression "by *me* and Norroy." This, then, is the official record of Dwnn's appointment and of the terms of reference contained in his patent, of which it is an exact and certified copy. It would be the merest pedantry to require further proof that Dwnn was properly authorised by patent to act for Clarenceux and Norroy in Wales. Such autograph Visitations properly taken, dated and attested by the head of the family concerned, are, it will hardly be denied, entitled to an official recognition beyond that accorded to mere collections of pedigrees, however excellent, that have no Collegiate authority. The main difficulty in the way of this recognition, since the important discovery of the counterpart of the deputation, arises from the fact that Dwnn's autographs are not at the College; but those at the British Museum, at any rate, are accessible to all, and photographic facsimiles can easily be obtained, so that this difficulty is not so great as it might appear. It may be observed that Dwnn, in his title page to the South Wales Visitation, records his title of Deputy Herald at Arms to Clarenceux and Norroy, *under Seal*. Until lately almost nothing was known of Dwnn except through Meyrick's printed work, and though a copy of the latter is to be found in the College of Arms, it was not to be expected that a mere printed book, largely in Welsh, and partly composed of pedigrees attributed to a writer of whose claims to heraldic status nothing was known, would be regarded as of any special value from the Collegiate point of view. Now, however, that the MSS. of Dwnn are partially traced and the original deputation, duly attested, discovered, it is not unreasonable to believe that Dwnn's position will in future receive a higher meed of recognition than was possible hitherto to accord him.

W. T. Law.