LEASE OF ALL THE COALS IN THE LORDSHIPS OF GOWER AND KILVEY, FROM THE EARL OF WORCESTER TO SIR MATHYAS CRADOCK, KNT. A.D. 1526.

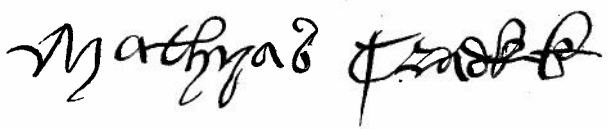
Communicated by G. G. Francis, Esq. F.S.A., Honorary Librarian of the Royal Institution of South Wales.

Sir Mathyas Cradock, as he here signs himself,—or Sir Mathew, as he has been generally styled, was a person of great consideration in Glamorganshire, and married the widow of Perkin Warbeck.[h] He resided at Swansea, where his monumental effigy remains in the Herbert chapel attached to the chancel of the parish church. See "Historical Notices of Sir Matthew Cradock, Knt. of Swansea, in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. by the Rev. J. M. Traherne, M.A., F.S.A." 8vo. 1840.

This indenture made the viijth day of October the eightene yere of the reigne of our souvrain lord King Henry the eighte betwene Henry Erl of Worcester Lord Herbert and Lord of Chepstow, Gower, Kylvey, and Raglan of that oon' partie, and Syr Mathias Cradok, Knight, of that other partie, witnesseth that the said Erl hath graunted, dymysed, and to ferme letten to the said Mathias all and almaner Mynes of Coles, now founde or that hereafter can bee founde and also all the coles of the same mynes w^{t}in the said lordships of Gower and Kylvey or the membres of the same, To have and to hold all the same mynes of coles and the coles of the same, to the said Mathias and his assigns from the fest of Saynt Michel tharchangel last past unto the ful end and terme of eighte yeres next following, yelding and paieng yerely for the same mynes and coles to the said Erl and to his heyres xj^{li} sterlings To bee paied yerely in the feste of the Appostles Saint Philip and Jacob and Saint Michel tharchangel by even porcions, And if it fortune the said ferme of xj^{li} sterlings to bee unpaied in parte or in the hoole by the space of six wekes after any of the said festes if it bee asked, that than it shalbe

[h] A family of the name of Warbeck must have been highly respectable in Carmarthen, in the reign of Edward IV. as the records of that town prove "Philip Warbeck" to have been bailiff in 1433; "John Warbeck" Mayor in 1462, and in 1474 "John Wardibeck" was Mayor. From a scarce book, entitled "The History of the two impostors, Simnel and Warbeck: London, 1745," it appears that his lineage was prepared *for him* by authority. See Sir F. Madden's paper on this subject, in the xxviiith volume of Archæologia.

laful to the said Erl and to is heyres unto the said ferme to entre and the said Mathias and his assignees fully to exclude and put out, this present lease notw^{t}standing And over this the said Mathias graunteth and covenanteth by these presents to the said Erl that if the said ferme bee behynd and unpaied w^{t}in xv daies after any of the said fests, that than it shal bee lawful to the said Erl his heyres and executours unto all the lands of the said Mathias to entre and to distreigne in the same lands, or ellswhere to distrayne and to take the goods of the said Mathias and of his executours whersoev^{r} the said Erl shal fynde the same goods, and the same goods shal retaigne unto the tyme the said Erl his heyres and executours bee fully contented and paied of the said ferme and of the arrerage of the same Yeven the daie and yere aforsaid.



(L. S. but seal lost.)

Endorsed, " 8 October 18th Henry VIII. Lease for 80 years of all Mines of Coals in Gower and Kilvey."

This Lease was politely sent me from the muniment room, at Badminton, by F. P. Hooper, Esq.; it is in excellent condition, the signature somewhat faint, but the seal unfortunately lost. On comparing the autograph with that published by Mr. Traherne, at page 8 of his valuable Memoir, it will be seen that, though evidently written by the same person, the *o* is left out, or possibly intended to form part of the *d*, and the *k* for Knight is added.

The legal form of the lease is very similar to those of the present day, with the exception of distraining *elsewhere* than on the property leased; though the comparative value of the taking is widely different.

G. G. F.

Swansea,
July 4, 1845.