

96 No. 2

Lamphey Palace

Chapel

3507

Jones and Freeman's History of St. David's page 309 attributes this chapel to Bishop Vaughan, 1509-1522. On November 10, 1487, an Irish priest, Roger Burley of St. Mary's, Pembroke, was arraigned on a charge of heresy before Hugh Pavy, Bishop of St. Davids, in the chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Lamphey, and on March 20, 1488 before the same tribunal and in the same place, Stephen Hale of St. Michael's Pembroke, was tried on a like charge. (See note on "Diocesan Register" for 15th, 16th and 17th centuries by the Rev. J. Phillips, Haverfordwest, contributed to the Pembs. County Guardian, March 21, 1896). As the Parish Church is dedicated to St. Tyfei, and the little chapel on the coast is out of the question, it follows that this trial either took place in the private Palace Chapel, or in one that preceded it. In 1507 Sir Rhys ap Thomas held his celebrated tournament at Carew Castle. This ceremony was opened with a visit to Robert Sherborn, Bishop of St. David's, at Lamphey Palace. The Bishop celebrated mass in his chapel for the benefit of his visitors. In later days the three Devereux, Earls of Essex, with many celebrated men who at various times were entertained by them, worshipped within these walls, for it seems probable that Bishop Vaughan's share in the chapel consisted chiefly of the east window.

96 No. 3

Lamphey

Palace

3507-8

The first reference to Lamphey Palace seems to be that by Giraldus who states that during the siege of Pembroke by the Welsh in 1092, a letter addressed to Arnulph de Montgomery was dropped before the house of the Bishop of St. David's. If any of this house still remains it will probably be found between the two main blocks of building. The eastern block is attributed to Bishop Gower, 1328-1347. The western block was most likely built by Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, between 1558 and 1576. The last we hear of Lamphey is that in the year 1644 "there was a gentleman, one Master Gunter that sustained much loss by plunder, and for his better defence maintained a constant garrison at a house of His Excellency's my Lord of Essex near Carew". (Letter of Simon Thelwall to the Speaker of the House of Commons). Master Gunter was a member of the house of Tregunter, Co. Brecon. When Robert, Earl of Essex, died in 1646, Lamphey became the property of Lady Hertford, who sold it to the Owens of Orielson. They in turn disposed of it in the year 1821 To Charles Mathias Esq. of Llangwarren, Co. Pembroke whose grandson is now (1896) the owner. Very few relics have been discovered. A few Elizabethan coins and a good many cannon balls, I think represent the finds. A considerable Deer Park surrounded the Palace. The so-called "priest's chamber" which now stands detached in the middle of the garden, was the gate house connecting the outer and inner wards of the Castle. Arch. Camb. II, iii, 198; II, iv, 190; IV, xi, 341. In the 5th series, vol. v, p. 363, will be found an inventory of goods belonging to Bishop Rawlins at the time of his death in 1536, and some account of the rooms which contained them. These were situated in the eastern block,

and the buildings between that and the western block. Fenton, 430, 434. Little England, 56, 101, 103, 174, 263, 273, 304, 306, 327, 348, 379.