

WALES AND THE CONQUEST

is associated here with more than one historical episode. Plas Penmynydd, where Owen Tewdor, grandfather of the founder of the English dynasty, was born, is still in existence. A little farther on, Castell Leiniog, a small square fortress with a tower at each corner and a ruined dungeon in the centre, is still covered with ivy and hidden in trees and shrubberies. It was built by the Earls of Chester and Shrewsbury when they conquered the island in the eleventh century. Finally, at the extreme eastern point, a farm covered with moss and creepers is all that remains of a priory, probably founded in the sixth century by Maelgwn Gwynedd, prince of North Wales. At Baran Hill one sees the stone sarcophagus of the Princess Jeanne, wife of Llewelyn the Great, and the daughter of King John of England. This Isle of Anglesey, so fertile and so healthy, was for a long time the chosen home of its Druids and bards, the centre of Welsh existence. In other places traces of the past are still rarer, and I met none in my wanderings through the counties of Carnarvon and Merioneth, until close to Blaenau Festiniog, overlooking a big town given up to slate quarries, I came upon an old square tower and a fragment of an ancient