

LLANIDLOES: A SCHOOL BILL OF 1882.

By C. E. VAUGHAN OWEN.

Before the establishment of a County Secondary School in Llanidloes in 1895 the only facilities for secondary education were provided by private schools. One of the best known of these was the Severn Grove Academy, conducted from 1877 for some ten years, by Hugh Jerman, in the house on the Trefeglwys road which, since 1922 has been the property of the Llanidloes Memorial Hospital.

Hugh Jerman, Born in 1836, was educated first at a school in Church Lane kept by David Humphreys; then at the Commercial School by John Davies, described as 'an old pensioner'; and after 1845 at the newly-opened National School, under Thomas Adams, headmaster. At the age of 13 he began a 5 years' apprenticeship as a pupil teacher under Mr. Adams, and then he won a scholarship to the Battersea Training College. There he showed considerable proficiency in music and in art. He taught for a few years in Lincolnshire and at Connahs Quay. He married in 1859, Miss Salter, sister of Mr. Edward Salter, at one time headmaster of Llanidloes National School and well known in the district as a painter of local scenes. He succeeded his brother-in-law as headmaster of Kerry School in 1862, and later taught at a school in Yorkshire. In 1877 he returned to Llanidloes and opened the Severn Grove Academy. Here he continued to take an active part in the musical life of the town, and he devoted much of his time to painting. Probably his most important work was the painting of 'the Glanyrafon Hunt, a large canvas four feet by three feet, completed in 1885, and presented by the subscribers to the Master, Edward Bennett, on November 12th 1886. The picture shows the followers of the pack of beagles assembled in the yard at Glanyrafon, and consists of portraits of the Master, his brother, Nicholas Bennett, and some two dozen prominent figures in the parish of Trefeglwys, and the surrounding district. When his health failed he gave up

both teaching and painting, and died in 1895.

Among the papers found at Glanrafon in 1945 was the following bill:

MIDSUMMER 1882

N. BENNETT ESQ.
TO HUGH JERMAN

	E	s	d
To 1 Terms Tuition for Master T. Griffiths (including Music and drawing).	2	2	0
1 doz Mounts for drawings.		8	0
Drawing paper and materials.		3	6
1 "Tom Browns Schooldays".			6
1 Geography		1	6
Copy and Exercise Books, pens, ink, and pencils		1	5
			<hr/>

(Receipted) July 15/82

Hugh Jerman

£2 16 11

"Master T. Griffiths" was a Llawryglyn boy who showed such unusual promise that Nicholas Bennett arranged for him to attend Hugh Jerman's school in Llanidloes. The youth, then aged 16, profited by the encouragement given to him. He was trained as a teacher, and for 35 years was headmaster of Llanystumdwy School, Crickieth. He died in 1938 and was buried at Llanidloes.

LLANIDLOES DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY.

Although the Llanidloes District did not hold its first meeting until 4th May 1894, once the governing body had been properly constituted there was immediate progress. At Llanidloes there was an indirect link with the previous Private Adventure schools in the town, as the governors decided to use the Severn Grove premises, which had previously used as a private Adventure School, as temporary premises. Their 1st headmaster was also the headmaster of a Private Adventure School in the town known as the Llanidloes Grammar School. The County Governing Body were not enthusiastic about the proposal to use an old Private Adventure School, as they did not want the Intermediate Schools to be associated too closely with these private schools.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE COLLECTION Vol 62 pt 2 P. 144.

There were five Private Adventure schools in the county claiming to provide post-primary education, including the Severn Grove School in Llanidloes, a school of 39 boys and girls in separate departments, offering English, Latin, French, and the sciences

MONTGOMERYSHIRE COLLECTIONS Vol 62 pt 2 p112.

Mr Tennant Died 1895 - To be to take
MONTGOMERYSHIRE COLLECTION Vol 62 pt 2 P. 144

SPERR TO Mrs WILLI