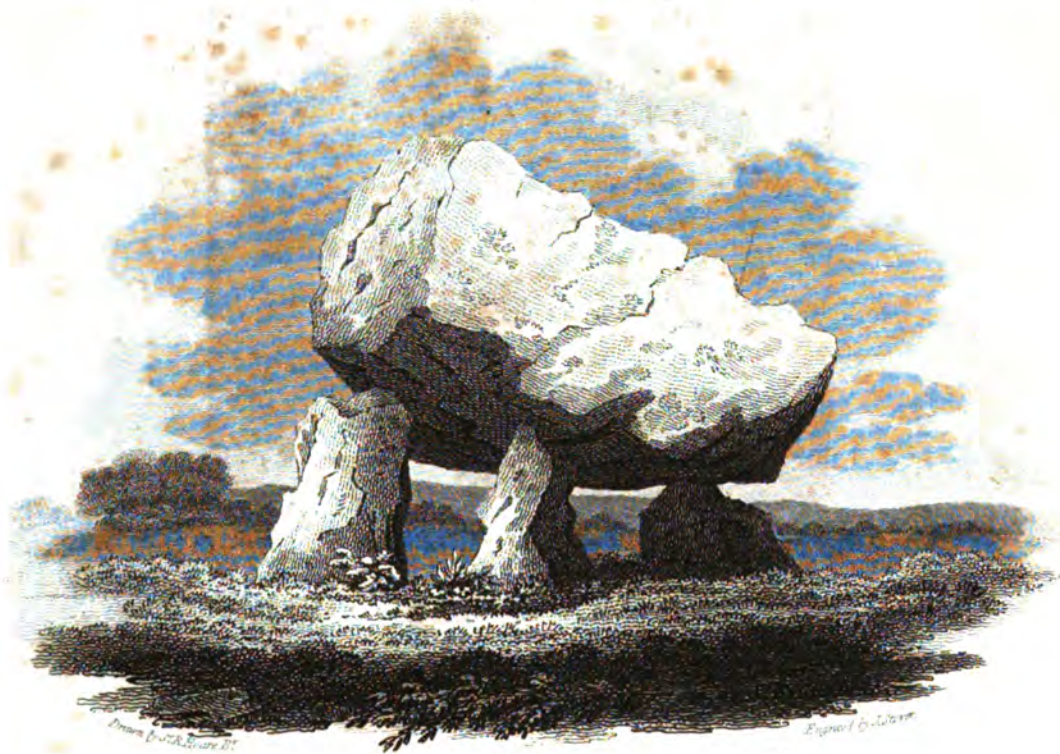


A
HISTORICAL TOUR
THROUGH
PEMBROKE SHIRE,

BY
RICHARD FENTON, ESQ. F.A.S.



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(No. 20.)

[See page 268, where this is referred to as No. 13.]

* *A Pedigree of the late Sir Richard Perrott, Bart.*

THERE are, perhaps, few families at this time existing who can boast of so long and noble a pedigree, who can sink so deep into the bosom of antiquity as this I am now treating of, which is introduced by the following dedication:—

“ This pedigree of the most noble and princely house of Perrott, descended from a most numerous race of kings, monarchs of Britain, was collected from the British annals, which will bear record of the truth, and that it is no fiction, to latest posterity; it is most humbly dedicated to the most noble and puissant prince Sir James Perrott, Marquis of Narberth, Earl and Viscount Carew, and Baron Perrott, by his lordship's poor but most faithful servant Owen Griffiths, who was wounded by his side in Carew Castle, 1650.

“ From Howel, Prince of Anglesea and King of Man, descended through a line of princes and nobles William, surnamed De Perrott, so called from Castle Perrott, which he built in Brittany, and the town of Perrott, one league from it. A. D. 957 he made an expedition into England, and obtained lands in Wessex, on a river afterwards called Perrott, and is to this day vulgarly called Parrett in Somersetshire; but



* This pedigree was left in the hands of the late Mr. Kimber, and is published in the Appendix to his Baronetage; but I have transcribed only such parts as are imposture, for the charlatan made use of the real pedigree of the Perrott family of Pembrokeshire as a *fulcrum* to support his fabulous addition.

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William aspiring to too much power was obliged to retire in haste to Brittany. He left issue Richard Perrott de Castle Perrott, who married Bonna, daughter of Rollo the Dane, Duke of Normandy, by whom he had William Perrott, who had issue Sir Richard Perrott, Seigneur de Perrott, anno 1066. He furnished the Conqueror with his quota of ships and men, with whom he came over to England, the ancient possession of the kings his ancestors. He was knighted by William, and went to take possession of the lands which formerly belonged to his family in Somersetshire, and began there a city, whose remains are North and South Perrott, between which two the river Perrott rises and runs into the Severn. Sir Richard married Blanche, daughter of Sancto Ramyro, second King of Arragon, and had issue Sir Stephen Perrott, who growing too powerful in Somersetshire, King Henry the First called him thence, and gave him as much lands as he could conquer in South Wales, which was then in confusion. He was obliged to leave, though with regret, the infant city his father had founded, and to which he had given the name of Perrott. Not willing, however, to lead his troops into a country he knew nothing of, he went to Wales in disguise, and was there struck with the beauty of the Princess Hellen, daughter and sole heir of Meirchion ap Rhys. She was not less charmed with his graceful stature, his amiable and majestic countenance, and most wonderful, brilliant, and piercing eye, which commanded reverence from all beholders. The conquest of this princess, whom he married, gained him great part of that country, and his magnanimity, valour, and undaunted courage, the respect and love of the people."

Here again the authentic pedigree is resumed, and regularly descends till it lays hold on this visionary being Sir James Perrott, from whom, by several links, some genuine, but the greater number fictitious, the genealogical chain is stretched till it reaches Sir Richard Perrott.

"Sir James, who garrisoned *Carew* and *Laugharn* Castles with 1130 men all at his own expense. He was of the king's council, and such was his affection to him for his loyalty, that he ordered a warrant for a patent, creating him Marquis of *Narbeth*, Earl and Viscount *Carew*, and Baron Perrott.

"The present baronet is of a military genius, and was in service in

East India before he was fourteen years old, since which he has visited most of the habitable globe. His present majesty of Prussia found him of so active a disposition, that he confided solely to him the care of his intended marine : the following was the commission he was honoured with for that purpose.

“ Nous Frederick, par la grace de Dieu Roi de Prusse, &c. a notre aimé et féal serviteur, le Sir Richard Perrott, salut. Nous vous constituons, par les presentes, notre commandant de vaisseaux, et vous nous autorisons, par ces lettres patentes de prendre a notre service, autant de vaisseaux de guerre et autant de compagnies de marine, que vous jugeres necessaires, pour defendre nos côtes, et pour proteger le commerce de nos fidèles sujets, contre les depredation de nos ennemis. Nous vous permettons, et vous autorisons de prendre a notre service et de donner des commissions à un tel nombre d’Officiers, quil sera jugé necessaire pour commander nos vaisseaux. Nous vous ordonnons, par les presentes, de courir sus, de prendre et de bruler, de couler à fond et de ruiner tous les vaisseaux de guerre, vaisseaux marchands, marchandises et effects appartenants a l’imperatrice reine, au roi de Suede et au grand Duc de Toscane, et aleurs sujets, sous les restrictions exprimées dans nos instructions de la même date.

Donné a Berlin le 24 d’Octobre de l’année 1758.

Commission pour Sr. Perrott, en qualité de commandeur de vaisseaux in chef.”

A lord high admiral of Great Britain could not have been vested with more extensive powers. When Sir Richard was told it would be given in charge to all ships from Whitehall to search the Prussian ships of war for British sailors, he replied, “ *They might if they carried more metal than he did;*” but the wise and prudent arrangements of the ever-glorious Pitt prevented this young Hydra (under the command of a Briton) rising to a formidable maritime force, or we might in time have had another power to have disputed with us the sovereignty of our native element.