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Of the Honourable

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1931.

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The Editor welcomes the free expression in these pages of genuine opinions on any matters of interest relating to Wales—its modern developments as well as its ancient history—but disclaims responsibility alike for the opinions themselves, and for the manner in which they are expressed.

D Cymmrodor.

VOL. XLII. "CARED DOETH YR ENCILION." 1930.

The Catholic Church in the Welsh Laws.

BY T. P. ELLIS, M.A.,

Author of "Welsh Tribal Law and Custom in the Middle Ages".

[In the preparation of this article, I am indebted for help or suggestions on certain points to many, including the Rev. Father Thurston, S.J., the leading authority to-day in Britain on Catholic Liturgy; the Rev. Father McGrath, M.A., Principal of St. Mary's College, Aberystwyth; the Rev. Father Lofthouse, Dolgelley; Prof. T. H. Parry-Williams, M.A., U.C.W., Aberystwyth; Prof. T. Gwynn Jones, M.A., U.C.W., Aberystwyth; and Mr. J. Lloyd, M.A., Dolgelley Grammar School. The expression and such errors as there may be are mine exclusively.]

1.—In Wales to-day there are many who are dimly conscious of the fact that the "golden age" of Wales was a Catholic age, an age which, if not exactly "golden," at least gave to Wales its greatest men and witnessed its highest achievements.

There are, however, some who assert that Wales has no Catholic tradition or who are inclined to belittle, if not actually misrepresent, the attitude of the Welsh people towards the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.

It is no part of the present purpose to appeal to all the facts of Welsh history; the present purpose is to consider the actual evidence of the Welsh laws, fairly enough regarded as among the greatest monuments of the race, in so far as that evidence bears upon the religion and practice of the people of Wales who lived under those laws.