

Frederick Thruston, of Talgarth Hall, near Machynlleth, my wife and I spent two very delightful weeks at his hospitable home in 1879. Comparatively few American tourists, I presume, have an opportunity of knowing and enjoying the real social life of England,—its social life at its best. There I am sure we found it. Mr. Thruston was an ideal host in an ideal home. His wife also gave us a most hearty welcome. The estate at Talgarth Hall embraced some 5,000 acres in that most beautiful section of Wales. A part of the old stone mansion house was 500 years old.

Our visit was in the spring, when all rural England is picturesque and charming to an American traveler. No description can do full justice to the flowers and woodland, the meadows and hills at Talgarth. The grounds about the mansion were groomed like a city park and the landscape was unsurpassed in beauty. Thanks to our English cousin and his fine horses, we visited a number of old English estates and homes miles away. The Marchioness of Londonderry, Mr. Thruston's first cousin, invited us to her spacious summer home near Machynlleth, to hear the children of the Welsh School on her estate, of which she was patroness, sing their strange, sweet Welsh songs, a visit I still recall with pleasure. She gave us a delightful luncheon. Indeed, no American hostess could have been more kindly cordial than this charming, unaffected noble English lady. Mr. Thruston was magistrate for his county, a most honorable and important office in Wales. His wife was the granddaughter of Lady Nelson, wife of Lord Admiral Nelson.

For some generations our Maryland and Virginia cousins have corresponded and claimed kinships with this branch of the English family, and "Mr. Charles" and I, after looking thru his family rec-