

**PEASANT PROPERTIES:  
AND OTHER  
SELECTED ESSAYS. IN  
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II**

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Peasant Properties: And Other Selected Essays. In Two Volumes. Vol. II by Frances  
Parthenope Verney

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**FRANCES PARTHENOPE VERNEY**

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SELECTED ESSAYS

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# PEASANT PROPERTIES

*AND OTHER SELECTED ESSAYS*

BY

LADY VERNEY

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. II.

LONDON

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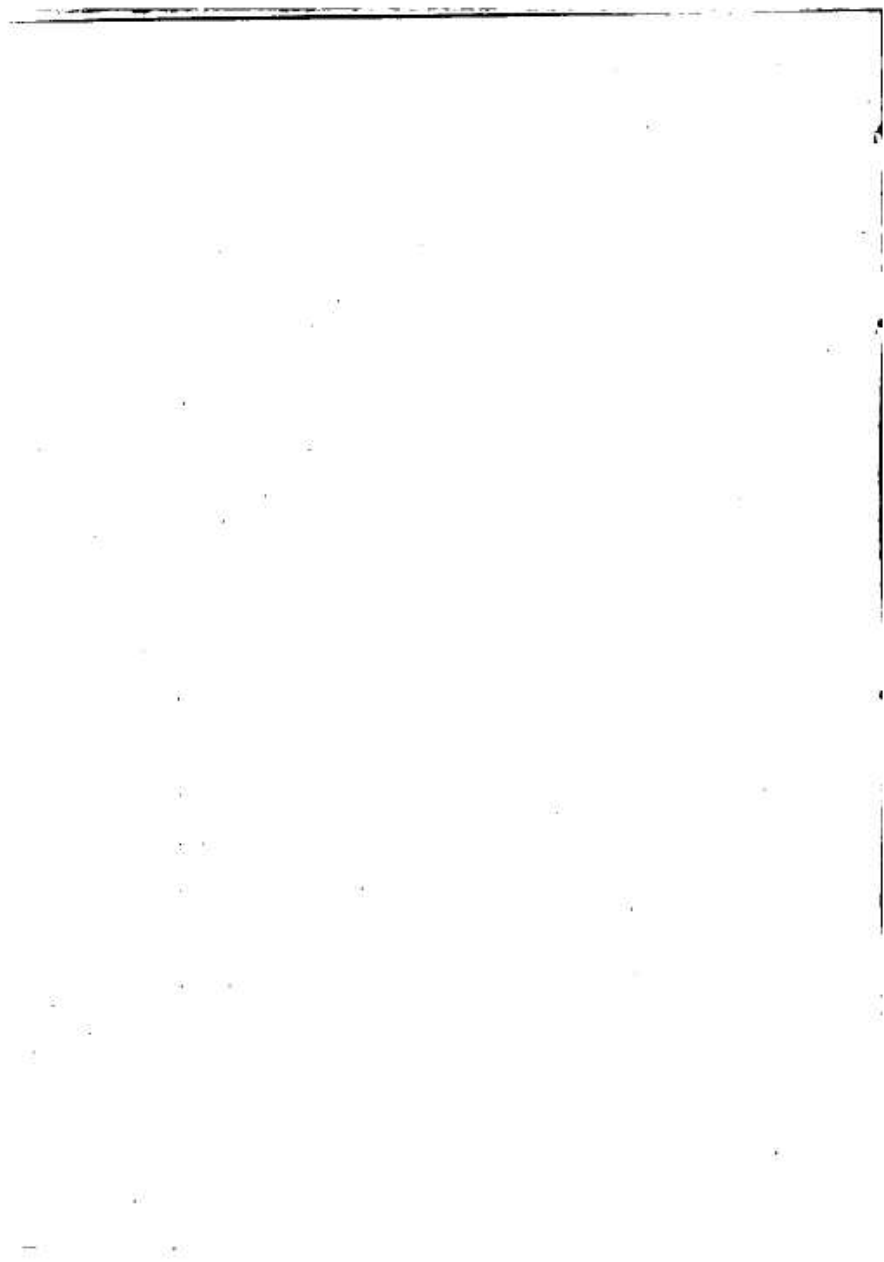




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### ANCIENT BRITISH SAINTS.

WALEs according to her own account has been of old pre-eminently a land of saints. In the early ages of 'faith' they must indeed have been as plentiful as the rocks on her steep mountain sides. Bardsey Island alone ('home of the Holy Grail') is said, with the love of exaggeration habitual to such records, to be the grave of 20,000 confessors and martyrs. Churches dedicated to three saints, 'Llantrisant,' are not uncommon. One at least has taken five protectors—Llanpumpsant.

The requirements which were necessary to the profession were clearly laxer than at present. Many thick books, published by the Welsh Society, are full of their histories. Their names alone fill many pages of indexes, unknown most of them to the general Catholic world, but evidently held very sacred in their own rough and secluded land.

Their stories, scattered up and down among much irrelevant matter, are curious and interesting for the numerous valuable hints they contain as to the standards of morality, the habits of thought, and life, and feeling, of that far-off time. One strange feature in them is very marked, which Maury, in his '*Légendes pieuses du moyen-âge*,'<sup>1</sup> describes as belonging with singular persistency to the lives of saints in all countries during the middle ages, and as he gives no instances from Welsh sources it is interesting to trace in them the truth of his theory.

<sup>1</sup> The book is scarce and out of print.