AN ARTIST TOPOGRAPHER.

I.

JAMES BAKER, topographer, is credited in the British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books with two works, viz. :

I. The Imperial Guide ; with picturesque Plans of the great Post-Roads, containing miniature likenesses . . . of the cities, towns, etc. (Home beauties : an appendix) 2 pts. London 1802. 8°.

II. A Picturesque Guide through Wales and the Marches. . . . The second edition, with alterations and additions. 3 vols. Worcester 1795. 4°.

It is proposed to deal here with the second of these works, and incidentally with the first.

To describe The Guide through Wales is a complicated piece of bibliography. The following attempt at a partial solution gives the result of the examination of a good many copies at varying times during the last ten or twelve years. No copy which can be described as complete for both text and plates has yet been found. What is practically a complete copy so far as the text is concerned does, however, exist, and will be described.

Of James Baker the man, no record appears to exist as far as can be ascertained, though it is probable that some biographical data could be

recovered by further search. My attention has been given mainly to the elucidation of the Guide through Wales.

The book is notable as an attempt to produce a well illustrated guide to Wales with suitable letter-press just at the beginning of the period when tours in Wales, followed by books, became fashionable. It began its somewhat erratic career of publication not later than the year 1792, and possibly a little earlier. The first issue of Thomas Pennant's famous 'Towns in North Wales' was already published (1778), but Pennant covered different ground to Baker. Henry Penruddocke Wyndham had published two or three editions of 'A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales'; Paul Sandby, too, had issued his superb series of aquatint 'Views in Wales.' 'England Displayed' (1769) having as joint editor Owen Price, presumably a Welshman, devoted part of its attention to the country covered by Baker. Dr. Johnson's slender 'Journey into North Wales,' though written in 1774, was not published until 1816. Save for these, and a few trifles, Giraldus Cambrensis, Leland, and Camden were the only sources of information. John Taylor, the Water Poet, with his facetious 'A short relation of a long journey made Round or Ovall by encompassing the Principalltie of Wales, etc.' (1653), cannot be taken seriously, while Churchyard's 'Worthines of Wales' (1587), though reprinted in 1776, could only be of incidental use to the tourist.

One other work, 'The Beaufort Progress,' written by Thomas Dingley, remained in manuscript

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until it was privately printed in 1864, and practically inaccessible until it was reproduced in facsimile, at the instance of the Cambrian Archæological Association, in 1888. Dingley (he sometimes wrote his name Dineley) accompanied the Duke of Beaufort when, in 1684, as Lord President of Wales and Warden of the Marches, he made a progress, almost regal in its splendour, through the regions comprised within that jurisdiction. Dingley was a keen lover of heraldry and antiquities, and a good draughtsman. One brief extract will show his quality :

COWBRIDGE, August 18 1684, this afternoon The Duke of Beaufort, Earle of Worcester, Sr Edward Mansell, Sr John Talbott &c. came to this town, and were received at the entrance into it by the magistracy thereof in their formalities, by whom his Grace and company were conducted to their Town Hall where he was pleased to accept of a collation prepared for him which gave me time to take a view of the Church belonging to this Community.

The enthusiastic antiquary must have made good use of his opportunity, for he furnishes a detailed account of the principal monuments in the church, noting inscriptions and heraldry, and giving drawings of shields of arms. The time at his disposal could not have been much, for the party only arrived in the afternoon, yet he accompanied the Lord President as he rode through the streets 'strewed with flowers and sweet herbs by the loyall and well minded people of Cowbridge,' and towards evening arrived at Cardiff, twelve miles away, where bell-ringing, and many other tokens of welcome were provided, including another collation,

before the party moved on a further six miles, to Ruperra, their quarters for the night.

II.

It will be useful to set out the various title-pages of the Guide through Wales, and some minor publications associated with it, as a preliminary to an attempt to formulate what constitutes a complete copy. The plates will be dealt with later.

1. A / Picturesque Guide / to the / Local Beauties / of / Wales / interspersed with the most / interesting subjects of Antiquity / in that / Principality / The Second Edition / By James Baker / assisted by / Gentlemen of Great Scientific Learning and Knowledge / Vol. I / London / Printed by W. Justins, Shoemaker Row, Blackfriars / . . . / MDCC,XCI /.

2. A / Picturesque Guide / to the / Local Beauties / of / Wales, / and the / Marches; / interspersed with / The Most Interesting Subjects / of / Antiquity / in that / Principality. / By James Baker; / assisted by / Gentlemen of Great Scientific Learning and Knowledge. / Vol. I. / London: / Printed by Griffiths and Hixon, Brydges Street; / . . . / MDCC,XCII. /

3. A / Picturesque Guide / to the / Local beauties / of / Wales; / interspersed with the most / Interesting subjects of antiquity / in that / Principality. / By James Baker. / Vol. I. / Printed for the Author: / And sold etc. . . . / M.DCC,XCIV.

4. A / Picturesque Guide / through, ' Wales / and / the Marches; / interspersed with the most / Interesting Subjects of Antiquity / in that / Principality. / The Second Edition; / with considerable alterations and additions. / By James Baker. / Vol. I. / Worcester: / Printed and Sold by J. Tymbs, at the Cross; / . . . / M,DCC,XCV. /

These four variants of the title-page of vol. i. call for some comment before proceeding. The earliest in order of date (1791) is described as 'The Second edition,' while the title of the genuine first edition (No. 2) is dated 1792. My reason for calling No. 2 the genuine first edition is because there lies before me a copy of the first 12 parts, and the *first* part contains the title with the date 1792, and the words 'Second Edition' do not occur. Further, the wrapper of No. 6 gives a prospectus referring to the issue of the work in parts to the subscribers, 'upwards of one thousand,' and refers to a new edition of the first seven numbers 'as soon as 500 names are attained, of which a great part are already offered, the seven numbers to be published and delivered, stitched together, with the plates, in a thin volume, price one guinea; or two guineas stained.' I have seen a copy of the work in four thin volumes, boards, obviously the four here referred to. The author frequently changed his letterpress printers. There is no information available as to the printer or printers of the plates.

The introduction of the words 'and the Marches,' in 1792, seems to suggest that this is a later form of the title. Against this view must be put the fact that by the time vol. i. was completed, it was found that the Marches had no place therein, hence the words were omitted. In the title-page of 1795 the words recur, but by this time the title would be more accurate as the publication of the parts which included the Marches was in hand. The mystery of the two dates remains.

Only one form of title-page for vol. ii. has been seen, and it is probable that by the time it appeared, 1794, the author was sufficiently experienced to settle a style and adhere to it, avoiding the changes which occur so often with his first volume.

There are, however, other developments which will now be set out. The title of vol. ii. runs:

A / Picturesque Guide! / to the / Local Beauties / of /
Wales ; / interspersed with the most / interesting subjects
of Antiquity / in that / Principality. / By James Baker. /
Vol. II. / Printed for the Author / . . . / M,DCC,XCIV.

Although the date 1794 appears on the title-page, vol. ii. was in course of publication long after. Pages 188-90 give an account of the landing of the French near Fishguard in February, 1797.

No title-page appears to have been printed for a third volume. There is, however, one copy made up into three volumes, with the title-page of vol. ii. altered by a pen to iii. There is evidence that this copy was arranged by Baker himself. It is the same copy that contains the unexplained 1791 title with the words 'second edition.' The reasons for stating that it was made up under the author's direction are these:

1. Pp. 213-4 of vol. ii. are omitted at the end of that volume, a new leaf, p. 213, being substituted, with only three lines of text ending with the word 'Caldiut.' The remainder of the text from pp. 213-4 has been reprinted on a leaf paged 1-2 at the beginning of the third volume. This leaf is followed by the remainder of the pages from 215-70, usually found in vol. ii. There is,

however, a leaf added at the end, paged 271-2, which avoids the abrupt termination with a broken sentence and a catchword 'ever' occurring at p. 270 in other copies.

2. This copy has items in vol. iii. some of which are not found elsewhere. These have separate titles, viz. :

a. Visions, / A Poetic Essay ; / Hastily sketched for the present juncture of danger, to / Assist in forming the National Spirit in / An Union of Loyalty and Patriotism ; / By J. Baker / Author of the Imperial Guide, and a Picturesque Guide Thro' / South Wales. / to which is added, / A Brief and Faithful Narrative of the recent / French Invasion, / upon the Coast of Wales near Fishguard, illustrated with / several engraved views taken on the spot, / . . . / Bath / Printed by W. Meyler, for the Author, / and sold by all the Booksellers. / 1803. / Title. Text pp. 3-12.

b. A / Brief Narrative / of the / French Invasion, / near / Fishguard Bay : / including / a Perfect Description of that part of the coast of / Pembrokeshire, / on which was effected the / Landing of the French Forces, / on the 22^d February, 1797, / and of their / Surrender to the Welsh Provincial Troops, / Headed by / Lord Cawdor. / By J. Baker, / Author of the Picturesque Guide through / Wales and the Marches. / Printed for the Author, / by J. Tymbbs, at the Cross, Worcester, / 1797. Title. Text pp. 1-10, last p. blank.

Copies of the Fishguard Invasion narrative were issued separately with pp. 175-88, vol. ii. of the Guide through Wales. Page 187 (not numbered) contains a note stating that these pages are included for the use of non-subscribers to the Guide through

Wales. The last part of the paragraph on Fishguard has been re-written for this issue, the paragraph 'From Fishguard to St. David's' is omitted, but the poem which follows in the Picturesque Guide is included. This poem is given in vol. iii. of the special copy on page 10 of the 'Visions' (see above No. 2) with the heading 'A Poem, written at Fishguard by a Spectator to the French Invasion, and presented to Mr. Baker for Publication.'

3. This copy also contains an Index to the text, as here arranged in three volumes. The extra publications, 'Visions' and 'Narrative of the French Invasion,' are not indexed. The Index is obviously a late production, but bears evidence of being the work of the author. It was printed by Browne, George Street, Bath.

The conclusion to be drawn from these facts appears to be that this copy, though it has the date 1791 on vol. i., was made up not earlier than 1803, the date of 'Visions, a Poetic Essay.'

III.

THE collation of the text appears to include :

Vol I, 1st edn.

Engraved Title (sometimes omitted). Title. Dedication to the Prince of Wales 1 leaf verso blank. Introduction begins, 'Bear me indignant from the gaudy scenes' (31 lines), followed by six short prose paragraphs, pp. (5)-7, (8) blank. Text, A / Guide through Wales. / South Wales. / New Passage House. / pp. [9]-186, pp. 41-2 repeated.

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Vol. I, 2nd edn.

Title. Dedication. Prefatory advertisement (and list of distinguished patrons) [v]-viii. Text, A / Picturesque Guide / through / Wales and the Marches. / pp. 1-186.

The text of the second edition is revised, some sheets (at least) being re-set.

Vol. II.

Title. Introduction (poem), [iii]-iv. Text, A / Guide through Wales. / Tour from Gloucester to Carmarthen. / pp. [5]-270.

Vol. III.

Only one copy, described above.

Vol. i. frequently occurs in a mixed form. It is impossible to set out all the variants.

The 'Address to the Public' prefixed to the Imperial Guide throws light upon the difficulties which beset the author in his ambitious scheme for the Guide through Wales. He states that he was induced to undertake it because he found that the beauties of South Wales, in which he had long resided, 'were as little known, and as seldom visited, as the snow-top'd acclivities of the Alps.' Incidentally, this supports the view of those who maintain that it was the poetry of Wordsworth which first awakened appreciation of the beauties of grand scenery.

His work, he says, was commenced upon an expensive scale, in the days of profound peace, when the arts flourished. In spite of the Royal and other liberal patronage which the work received, the European war brought unexpected disappointments, and the more costly scheme had

to be abandoned at the end of the second volume. He then undertook the Imperial Guide, to carry on the work until 'a happy change of circumstances might enable me to carry on the [Guide through Wales] to its full extent.' Meanwhile he proposed to publish in the Imperial Guide descriptions of those views in North Wales which had been printed and distributed with the South Wales volumes—'thus rendering all the satisfaction in my power to those numerous nobility, gentry, and others, who first favoured, and have still continued to countenance my endeavours, and I already find my purpose so far to have succeeded, that much anguish is removed from my mind.' It is a pathetic story, and not without interest at this present time, when new chapters are doubtless being added to the calamities of authors.

IV.

THE way in which the illustrations are distributed over the copies examined is difficult to explain. In no two copies seen do the plates agree. It looks as if the author made up copies to suit the purchaser, using the plates most likely to be of interest to the immediate customer, and including such others as were available at the time.

The special copy already referred to has 92 plates, and the Penkerrig copy, to be referred to later, 94. All others seen have fewer. The British Museum copy has 62. The total number, including the engraved title, is 122 or thereabouts. Some

of the plates prepared for the Guide through Wales were repeated in the Imperial Guide.

I fancy that a good many copies, or parts, have been broken up for the sake of the plates, as they frequently occur in collections of topographical engravings and dealers' catalogues.

The district covered by the engravings includes North and South Wales, and the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Shropshire, Cheshire and parts of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

The prospectus states that 'none but the most celebrated artists will hereafter be employed.' A few early plates appear to have provoked criticism. 'Duplicates are preparing of Abergavenny Castle, Bishop's Castle, and Castle Careg Cennon, which will be delivered Gratis to replace those inferior Engravings (which were delivered from necessity) when the Proprietor was ineffectually employed in procuring the Assistance of those Artists most eminent in that Department of the Work; but he hopes his late indefatigable Labour in the Profession of Engraving, will provide him against such an inconvenience in future.'

Reference is also made to the author's late illness, and consequent difficulties of distribution of the parts. The number of plates proposed was 'upwards of 200 in number, including a superb frontispiece.'

The census of the plates yields the following list. The names of artist and engraver and other information are given when they occur. The plates are here arranged in alphabetical order of the titles. The promised direction for the placing of

them did not, apparently, appear. Many errors of spelling occur in the names. No attempt has been made to correct these, except in a few instances where the errors would be misleading as to the places:

Title.	Artist.	Engraver.
Abbey Church, Salop . . .	—	J. Bluck
Aber	—	—
* Aber Edow Rocks . . .	J. [<i>sic</i> T.] Jones	J. Bluck
Aberdylis Waterfall . . .	—	— (oval)
Abergavenny Castle . . .	—	— (oval)
Aberly Lime Work . . .	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Acton Castle	Archd. Plymley	J. Wright
Barmouth	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Basingwerk Abbey . . .	J. Wright	J. Wright
Bathing-place in Cardigan Bay, near Aberystwyth . .	—	—
Beeston Castle ¹	Baker	Baker
Bewdley Bridge	J. Wright	J. Wright
* The Birds Rock	J. Baker	T. Bluck
Bishop's Castle ²	—	—
Bolitre Castle	J. Walker	J. Bluck
Brampton Brian Castle . .	Baker	Baker
Brecon Castle	—	J. Cartwright
Britton Ferry	Ibbetson	Ellis
* Brynbella, the seat of G. Piozzi, Esq.	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Buildwas Abbey	—	—
Caerfily Keep and hanging tower	—	—
Caernarvon Castle	—	— (oval)
* Caernarvon [Castle] . . .	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Carngwastad and Ebervalin .	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Castle Carreg Cenen . . .	—	— (oval)
Chepstow Castle	—	F. Jukes
* Chester in 1700	—	J. Ross
'From a drawing in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Prescott.'		

¹ 'Copied from the earliest drawing of it that is extant.' (Prospectus.)

² 'From a drawing in the possession of Lord Clive taken in ye ⁴ of Queen Elizabeth.' Some copies lack this inscription.

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Title.	Artist.	Engraver.
Colnbrook House . . .	J. Watken	J. Bluck
Conway	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Crickhowell Castle (Usk bridge in foreground to the right)	Mrs. Williams	J. Ross
Crickhowell Castle (a different view)	Mrs. Williams	—
Croft	J. Ross	J. Ross
Denbigh Castle	M. Griffiths	J. Ross
Dolbadern Castle	—	—
Downton Castle	—	J. Wright
* Druidical Monument	Ibbetson	—
Dryslwyn Castle with Grongar Hill	J. Baker	—
* Festiniog ¹	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Fishguard	J. Baker	J. Ross
Glyn, near Corwen	J. Baker	—
Goodwick Sands	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Grosmont Castle	—	—
Hampton [Harpton] Court . (i.e. Harpton Court, Hereford)	—	J. Watken ²
* Hanging Steeple at Wybun- bury	H. James	J. Wright
‘In the possession of Mr. Yoxall.’		
Havod	J. Watken	J. Bluck
Hereford	—	—
Herefordshire Beacon, Mal- vern Hills	J. Wright	—
Holt Castle	—	—
Iron Bridge nr. Coalbrookdale	J. Baker	R. Hancock
Kennorth Falls	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Kermincham Hall	J. Baker	J. Bluck
(Norton in some copies)		
Kilgarran Castle	—	—
Lanelweth Rocks	T. Jones	J. Bluck
Lanthony Abbey	J. Watken	—
Lanthony Abbey	J. Watken	J. Bluck
(Another view—distant)		
Laugharne Castle	—	—
Ledbury Church	J. Baker	J. Ross

¹ Testiniog on early copies.

² Omitted on early copies.

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Title.	Artist.	Engraver.
Llangollen Vale, Plate 1st .	Ibbetson	—
Do. do. Plate 2nd .	Ibbetson	Bluck
Do. do. Plate 3rd .	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Longnor Hall	J. Bluck	J. Bluck
Longtown Castle	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Ludlow Castle	Archd. Plimley	J. Ross
Malvern	Baker	—
* Malvern Bath	J. Wright ¹	—
Malvern Church	J. Wright	—
Mohill Hadog	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Moreton Corbet	—	—
Nant Mellon	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Neath Castle	—	—
New Bridge (i.e. Pontypridd)	—	—
Newcastle Amlyn	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Norton	J. Baker	—
(Kermincham Hall in some copies)		
Old East Bridge, Salop . .	—	J. Bluck
'From a drawing in the possession of the Rev ^d . Mr. Owen.'		
* Old West (or Welch) Bridge, Salop	—	J. Bluck
'From a drawing in the possession of the Rev ^d . Mr. Owen.'		
Oukon	M. Griffith	J. Ross
* Paris Mine	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Part of the Aqueduct that crosses Langothlin Vale .	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Pengwern (Mansion) . . .	Ibbetson	—
* Penmaenmawr	Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Plan of Caerfely Castle . .	—	—
Plan of Ludlow Castle . .	—	—
Plan of White Castle . . .	—	—
Plan of Roads, Plate I, Vol. I, 1798, New Passage to Cowbridge	—	—
Do. Plate II, Vol. I, 1798, Cowbridge to Carmarthen	—	—
Priory Church, Ewenny . .	—	—

¹ Omitted in earlier issues.

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Title.	Artist.	Engraver.
Ragland Castle	—	—
Red Castle	Ibbetson	—
* River Wye near Builth . .	T. Jones	J. Bluck
* River Wye near Lanvareth .	T. Jones	J. Bluck
Ruins near Hereford . . .	J. Snell, Esq.	J. Bluck
St. Davids	J. Baker	—
St. John's Church, Chester .	Archd. Plimley	J. Ross
Salmon Fishery, Pont Aber- glaslyn	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Scene at Penkerrig . . .	T. Jones	J. Bluck
'To T. Jones, Esq., this plate is inscribed by his obliged ser- vant, J. Baker.' ¹		
* Seat of Sir H. Manwaring .	S. Stringer	J. Bluck
Seat of Sir H. Tempest, Bart.	J. Bluck	J. Bluck
Shobdon	J. Ross	J. Ross
* Shrewsbury Castle . . .	—	J. Bluck
'From a drawing in the posses- sion of the Rev. Hugh Owen.'		
Source of the Loughor . .	J. Baker	—
Stackpoole Court, Pembroke- shire	J. Ibbetson	J. Bluck
Stoke (Mansion)	J. Bluck	J. Bluck
Stoke Salop	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Strogel or Strigil Castle . .	—	—
Sugwas House	Baker	—
* Tatton Mere Park . . .	S. Stringer	J. Bluck
Tenby	Ibbetson	Ellis
Testiniog ²	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Tredeagar	—	—
Upton	J. Baker	J. Bluck
Valle Crucis Abbey (oval) .	—	—
View in Myfod	—	—
View near Usk at Crickhowell (Porthmawr, oval) . .	Mrs. Williams	—
View in Wynnstay Park . .	—	—
View near Winnington . .	S. Stringer	J. Bluck
White Castle	—	J. Baker
Wigmore Castle	J. Ross	J. Ross

¹ Omitted in some copies.

² Corrected to Festiniog in later copies.

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Title.	Artist.	Engraver.
Worcester	J. Ross	—
Worcester Bridge . . .	J. Bluck	J. Bluck
* Worcester Old Bridge . .	J. Ross	J. Ross
Wrexham Church . . .	—	J. Ross
* Ynysmaengwin	J. Baker	J. Bluck

An engraved title to the work appeared in two forms :

I. With Prince of Wales's plume above, followed by 'Wales and the Marches,' and below a female figure seated at the base of a broken column. No artist or engraver.

II. The same plate partly re-engraved, the title being changed to 'Picturesque Guide / Through / Wales and the Marches / Dedicated,' etc.

The plates marked with an * in the above list are found in one or more of the three copies of the Imperial Guide which I have examined.

The following plates are mentioned in the text of the Guide through Wales, but they have not been found, and most, if not all of them, may not have appeared :

Vol. I.

p. 15. Sudbrook entrenchments and chapel.	p. 167. Malaber or Manaber Castle.
19. Mathern Palace.	176. Haverfordwest Castle.
40. Caldicot Castle.	181. Walwyn or Gualwin Castle.
148. Narboth.	186. Bishop's Palace, S. Davids.
150. Llahadon or Llanhden Castle.	

Vol. II.

p. 141. Stone Pulpit, Hereford.	p. 196. Plas Newydd [i.e. Llys Newydd, Cardigan].
152. Snowdle or Snodhill Castle.	

V.

It will be convenient at this point to set out what has been gathered about Baker's other book, the *Imperial Guide*. I have already shown that it was undertaken because the expense, and other difficulties, prevented him from proceeding with the *Guide through Wales*. The title page runs :

The / *Imperial Guide* / with / picturesque plans / of the
/ Great Post Roads, / containing / miniature likenesses, /
engraved from real sketches, / of the / Cities, towns, vil-
lages, seas, islands, mountains, public / edifices, and private
buildings, / situated in and near such thoroughfares. / Also,
/ a new letter press description / of all the celebrated /
scenery and local events connected with the above-men-
tioned subjects, / and interspersed with / biographical,
chronological, and historical anecdotes; / and all the /
Important Illustrations that could be attained by the
most assiduous Investigation and Survey. / By J. Baker,
/ Author of the *Picturesque Guide through South Wales*
and the *Marches*. / . . . / London : / Printed by C. Whit-
tingham, / Dean Street, Fetter Lane, / And sold by etc.
. . . / 1802.

As indicating the scope of the book the following collation may be useful :

- Pp.
iii-iv. Address to the Public.
1. London to Holyhead, &c.
11. A Guide from the Holyhead Road to Birmingham,
Stafford, &c., &c.
13. From Birmingham, by Walsall to Stafford, &c., &c.
16. From the Manchester and Carlisle Road to War-
rington and Liverpool.

- Pp.
18. From Manchester to Rochdale, Halifax, Bradford, &c., to Leeds.
 20. From Manchester to Liverpool.
 22. Manchester to Carlisle, &c.
 27. A Guide from London through Bath, Bristol, and to South Wales, and the Marches.
 38. London to Oxford and Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Malvern Wells, Worcester, &c.
 44. Oxford to Cheltenham, Gloucester, Malvern, and Wales.
 48. From the Bath and Bristol Road, to Henley, Oxford, &c.
 49. From the Oxford Road to Abingdon, Farringdon, Lechlade, Fairford, Cirencester, &c., &c.
 51. Continuation of the Western Road from Hounslow, Staines, &c. to the Lands End, Cornwall, &c., &c.
 58. Coast Way from Lyme Regis, throughout the South Coast of Dorsetshire.
 61. Continuation of the Coast Way from Exeter, through Dawlish, Teignmouth, Brixham, Dartmouth, &c., to Plymouth.
 63. Continuation of the Western Road from Plymouth to Truro, and a coast way thither by East and West Looe, &c.
 66. End of Volume I.

Like the Guide through Wales, the Imperial Guide yields differences not only in the plans and the plates, but also in the text. In the second copy the text is the same up to page 26, and has been slightly revised in pages 27-34, the heading on page 27 being also changed to 'From London to Reading, and through Bath to Bristol, &c., &c.' In this copy the plates are numbered at the foot with a pen. The numbering evidently relates to

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the serial issue in parts, the text being numbered in the same way, also with a pen.

The British Museum copy has an appendix, with an engraved title, on a cartouche :

Home Beauties / as communicated to / the author of
the / Imperial Guide / by some of the / Royal Family,
/ the / Nobility, Gentry, etc. / for an illuminated / appendix
to that / work / his Royal Highness the / Grace the
Duke / Dedicated by permission / most obedient servant
/ J. Baker. /

Text. Pages 1-8 wanting.

p. 10. Woodhall.

12. West View of Brixham.

13. East Cowes Castle.

15. The Hanging Steeple.

16. Chester.

17. Kentish Town Lodge &
Fitzoy Farm.

19. Fitzroy Farm.

20. Voilas.

p. 21. Caernarvon.

24. Nant Mellon.

24. Dolbadarn Castle.

25. Pont Aberglaslyn.

25. Mohel Hadog.

26. Aqueduct that crosses
Gothlen Vale.

26. Bassenwork Abbey.

Index to Vol. I. 4 pp.

The text of the Appendix ends abruptly on page 26 with a broken word, the last line being 'Lancashire. Its architecture being the principal por-'

Whether any more of the Appendix was issued I cannot say. It will be noticed that the promise to supply text for some plates included in the Picturesque Guide, but not there described, is partially fulfilled in this Appendix.

As already explained, some of the plates in the Imperial Guide are the same as in the Guide through Wales. The following additional plates have been found in one or more copies of the former work :

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	Artist.	Engraver.
Adlington	H. Clayton	J. Wright
‘To Sir Rich ^d Clayton, Bart,’ etc.		
Avishays	J. Baker	J. Wright
[Inscription cut away]		
Brixham from Torbay	Anderson	F. Chesham
‘To Mr W. Anderson,’ etc.		
Brooks Place	J. Baker	J. Wright
‘To Lieut ^t Col ^l Litherland,’ etc.		
Green Hill	J. Baker	J. Wright
‘To S. Jones, Esq.’ etc.		
Hamstead Hall	J. Wright	J. Wright
‘To George Birch, Esq.’ etc.		
Whitton Park	—	—
‘To J. Agnew, Esq.’ etc.		
Wood Hall, Cumberland. . .	J. Baker	J. Wright
Plan of Antiquities and other scenes of celebrity contiguous to the New and Old Passage across the River Severn see Imp. G. p. 26, and Guide through Wales from p. 2 to 34 ¹	—	Birm ^m —

A footnote on page 76 of the text refers to a view of Penealenick ‘and other seats, provided for the Appendix from the liberality of the families of this county’ (i.e. Cornwall). These plates have not been found.

The Picturesque Plans are an important feature of the Imperial Guide. They consist of a map of the road on each route, in the centre of the page, with small picturesque drawings of places of interest ranged on either side, and the distances in miles. The plans run from the bottom of the page to the top. The following particulars will enable

¹ A series of views of buildings, etc. disposed over the page. Only found in B.M. copy of the Imp. Guide. This plate was probably intended for the Guide through Wales, but has not been found in any copy seen.

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the plans to be identified, but the list may not be complete. The names of places given represent the lettering to the top and bottom views on the left and right of each plan, the figures the miles along the different routes:

Shenly 48	Lowton 48	Gobnall	Warrington 203
Canonbury House 2	Islington 1	Mowlop, & — Moreton's Esq 157	Astbury 159
Feb 1801		July 1800	
F. Gregory, Esq. 90½	Coventry 91 Wheelers	Kirkstall Ab- -bey, 226	— Todd Esq. 224
Stony, Stratford 52	Cosgrave 53	L ^d Grey de Wilton's 186	Lady Levers
June 1801		(N.D.)	
Stafford 155	Stone 140	Lancaster 238	Greenhough Castle 227
Meriden Church 97½	Ansley 94	Worsley	Ireim 188
Coventry March 1, 1801		(N.D.)	
Chester 181	Tarven 176	Carlisle 304	Upper Cartcot
Cresswell 136	Walton 140	Bolton 242	Aqueduct 239
from London Dec 1801		(N.D.)	
Talk on the Hill 154	Burslem 152	Woolhamp -ton 49	Benyon's 45
Mess ^{rs} Pinker- ton & Guest's	Mr Russel's	Kensington 1	Kensington Palace. 1.
July 1, 1800		July 1. 1801	

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Froome 111	Brislington 120	Weymouth 127	Maiden castle [& Ridgeway Hill*]
Thatcham 55	Oakly House 60	Drayton	Husborn Park 58
(N.D.)		(N.D.)	
Ld. Harcourt's 52	Islip 56	* Not in B.M. copy.	
Kensington Gravel pits	Paddington	Exeter 172	Heavitree 171
Aug. 1802		Steepletown 8 from Weymouth	Winterbourne 124
Glocester 109	Malvern 123	(N.D.)	
Oxford 55	Bletchington 58	Crosshole 224	Neale's 223
(N.D.)		Topsham	Alphington 174
		(N.D.)	
Stockbridge 66	Drayton *	Penzance 289	Morva
Bedfont 15	Staines 16	E. & W. Looe	St. Germain's
July 10. 1801		(N.D.)	
* Erased in B.M. copy.			

ADDITIONAL PLANS IN No. 2 COPY (COLOURED).

Eton & Windsor.	Holyhead	Harlam
St Ann's Hill	92	Bridge
Lambeth Palace		88
Chelsea Hospital	Dwygyfylche	Brynynewdd
(N.D.)	53	57
Conway	Conway	
Lan Helan	Dec 1801	
46		
Halkin	Hawarden	
12	Chester	
Dec 1801	6	

The Guide to Wales appeared first in numbers, issued 'as nearly as possible' every six weeks, 'to the completion of three handsome volumes.' I have only seen the numbers from 1 to 12, but the publication in number form may have gone beyond that. The price was 2s. 6d., or with the plates 'stained' 5s., per number. The plates are nearly all aquatints. Most of those I have seen are plain, but a few are stained. In one of the copies examined the plate of Ewenny is coloured—I think hand-coloured—but it is some years since I saw it, and my memory may be inexact. Each number contained four plates and twelve pages of text.

Following the publication in numbers came the issue in thin volumes, seven numbers to the volume, stitched in boards, at one guinea plain and two guineas stained. Four of these thin volumes appeared. Then the whole work was issued in one stout volume, made up of vol. i. and vol. ii. so far as it went, though copies vary in completeness of the text and the plates, in the odd manner already referred to. I have found no reference to the price of the work in its latest form.

Parts of the Guide through Wales were issued for different localities¹ On p. 47 of the Imperial Guide there is this reference: 'See Picturesque Guide through South Wales and the Marches'; or Malvern Guide, as selected from that work, with plates, &c.'

Another instance is afforded by the Fishguard section, in which occurs the account of the Invasion, and some pages from the general work.

¹ This may also apply to the Imperial Guide, but no evidence has yet been found to confirm the belief.

The sections actually, or intended to be, dealt with in this manner may be inferred from the headings, the words, 'A Guide,' probably indicating the author's scheme of localization of sections.

Reference has already been made to Baker's account of the French landing near Fishguard in 1797. He appears to have been in the neighbourhood at the time, and was therefore enabled to give a firsthand account of that ill-starred attempt at an invasion of Britain. The account of the appearance of the French ships, the landing, and the subsequent surrender to Lord Cawdor's hastily collected forces, are an interesting feature of Baker's work. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the plates relating to this episode are the only ones in the work which record the date of publication, evidently to protect the author's rights against piracy.

In the prospectus the author mentions that he had laid out over £300 in two years on the Guide to Wales. He appears to have changed his printers rather often. Two London firms, two title-pages, 'printed for the author,' with no printers given, a Worcester printer, and then a Bath printer, suggest difficulties, financial or otherwise, which account for the tone of distress peeping through some passages I have quoted, and others not mentioned from consideration for my readers.

Among the patrons of Baker's Guide through Wales occur many names of distinguished people. The Prince of Wales heads the brief list recorded in the prospectus, which includes also the Bishops of St. Davids and St. Asaph, the Duke of Beaufort, Lady E. Butler (one of the Ladies of Llangollen),

Lord and Lady Clive, Earl Grosvenor, Lady Glynn (of Hawarden), T. Johns, Esq., M.P. (of Havod, translator of Froissart and Monstrelet), Lord Kenyon, Lord Lisburne, the Earl of Powis, Lord Penrhyn, Sir Watkin Wynn, and many other notable names from Wales and the Marches. Baker states that in addition to the seventy names in the list, he has upwards of one thousand other subscribers. It must have been some time after the appearance of this prospectus, that he first made the acquaintance of Thomas Jones, of Penkerrig, who evidently took a liking to Baker, and gave him much encouragement and help.

Thomas Jones was a landscape painter of considerable merit. He commenced his art studies under Richard Wilson, who treated him as a favourite pupil. He afterwards went to Rome, and later to Naples, where he painted many pictures. Returning to London he went on painting, until, on the death of his brother, he succeeded to the family estates in Radnorshire, and abandoned art for the pleasures of a cultivated country gentleman's life. Thomas Jones was born in the year 1743, so he was an elderly man when Baker found him at Penkerrig. There are five plates from drawings by him in the *Guide through Wales*, including a picture of Penkerrig, the other four being from the near neighbourhood, in the Wye Valley around Builth. The view of Penkerrig is dedicated to Thomas Jones 'by his obliged Servant J. Baker,' and he is referred to in the text as having ample estates 'for the trust of which the school of painting lost a powerful assistant.' Reference is also made

to numerous views in Italy, highly finished coloured drawings, then to be seen at Penkerrig. Some of them are there still, and also a fine copy of the Guide through Wales, containing ninety-four plates, two more than the special copy in three volumes already referred to, and so far the most complete copy found.

Baker seems to have relied mainly upon Camden for history and antiquities. He cites Giraldus Cambrensis occasionally, and Carte. Reference is made in one place to 'Mr. Tayler's map,' presumably Thomas Taylor, who engraved maps of the counties of England and Wales published in 1718. I have, however, discovered no reference to the later maps by Thomas Kitchen, on which all the important country seats are carefully indicated, for which reason they would have been useful to Baker, who paid marked attention to the gentry, no doubt with a view to securing their patronage. The history, and the antiquarian descriptions, are poor. But many valuable bits of information are conveyed when the author sets down things seen or heard on the spot. He refers to the conveyance of coal from the mines to the wharfs or manufactories by means of rail-roads, when describing Morriston, near Swansea, and to the abundance of oysters and other shell-fish derived from the Mumbles. Mention is also made of the practice of feeding cattle through the winter with chopped furze (gorse), which survives to this day in parts of Wales. He tells us that at the old palace of the bishops of Llandaff, Mathern in Monmouthshire, he saw the remains of a library

'which after having suffered all the various ravages, to which its insecurity subjected it, still seems to contain something worthy preservation,' and goes on to relate how the honest farmer who was his guide at Mathern told him that he once had an order to convey the books to the bishop's palace at Llandaff, but 'unable to procure the least promise, or presumptive hope of a reimbursement of his expenses, he had omitted the performance.' Alas!

A brief sentence, 'Paiston is an antient seat of — Pickton, Esq.,' is the only mention of the birth-place of General Sir Thomas Pickton, who was born at Poyston (near Haverfordwest), and when Baker wrote was at the war. Later he crowned a glorious career at Waterloo, where he was killed. The author refers in the prospectus to 'Original landscapes in verse' as being a feature of the work. Most of the verses are rather turgid. And not much can be said for his treatment of Welsh place names. He appears conscious of his defects, for he states in the prospectus 'The Antient Welch Terms that occur through the descriptive part of it, being so little understood by the fashionable Tourist, who are becoming common visitors of Wales, and for whose particular accommodation this Work was originally intended, the Author has, in many instances, thought it expedient to adopt the mode of Expression now generally prevalent. But as the Antiquary and Scholar (also) so generally support the Undertaking, and whom the Author is particularly ambitious to gratify, a Supplement is preparing for the Whole, which shall contain a Glossary of the Antient Names of Places

and Persons, with the best derivations and illustrations; an advantage he is provided with from the liberal condescension of the Welch Literati: And every subject of antiquity which from being too recluse or remotely dispersed, may escape present attention, shall therein be carefully preserved.' These good intentions appear not to have been realised. Perhaps the well-meaning author never knew from what perils he escaped, by failing to provide that glossary with the best derivations and illustrations of Welsh place names.

Such is the story, as far as I have been able to unravel it, of James Baker and his Guide Books.

We get a glimpse of an artist-author setting out with the design to produce a Picturesque Guide to Wales, full of enthusiasm for his undertaking, and encouraged by generous patronage and support. The great war and bad health intervened. Some of his patrons complained that his obligations were not being fulfilled, and withdrew their support. He, bravely struggling with difficulties of production and distribution, finding himself compelled to abandon the more ambitious design, turned to the Imperial Guide scheme as a temporary expedient, hoping later to resume the other work, of which he held a stock of text and plates.

For him, however, the tide appears to have had no favourable turning. As opportunity offered he made up for customers copies of both works, using what he had in hand; choosing the plates according best with the tastes of the purchaser, perhaps adapting the number to the amount paid.

JOHN BALLINGER.