

vault, and originally enclosed by stone traceried screens filling up the spaces between the supports. Round the basin is an ambulatory similarly vaulted."*

The ornamental sculpture consists of quaintly carved animals and the rich armorial bearings of various benefactors of the shrine; as Catharine of Arragon, Margaret Tudor, and different members of the Stanley family.

The stones at the bottom of the well are covered with the fragrant *Byssus iolithus*, and a species of red *Jungermannia* (Scale-moss), locally known as St. Winifred's hair and blood.

The water was formerly held in high repute for its curative powers; and when Pennant visited it, in the last century, he found the vaulted roof hung with the crutches of grateful cripples. "In the summer," he says, "still a few are to be seen in the water, in deep devotion, up to their chins for hours, sending up their prayers, or performing a number of evolutions round the polygonal well; or threading the arch between well and well a prescribed number of times. A crowned head," he adds,† "in the last age dignified the place with a visit. The prince who lost three kingdoms for a mass, paid his respects, on August 29th, 1686, to our saint; and received as a reward the very shift in which his great grandmother, Mary Stuart, lost her head."

The quantity of water furnished by the well is computed at 21,000 gallons per minute. It flows into the Irish Sea, which is about half a league distant, and in its course sets in motion ten or eleven mills.]

In the south of Mexico, on the bank of the river Zuni, or *Rio del Pescado*, is another very celebrated spring, which bears the name of the *Sacred Fountain*. The basin receiving its waters measures 26 feet in diameter and 14 feet in depth.

When the water, descending from a certain elevation, infiltrates

* [“Archæological Journal,” iii. 144.]

† [Pennant, “A Tour in Wales” (ed. 1778), p. 36.]