**Ymarfer 3**

This year I have done much walking in Snowdonia, and although I am no expert on antiquities, I am always pleased to meet a standing stone or some ancient circle to remind me that humanity has somehow survived on the uplands for thousands of years. One thing obvious about these relics of prehistory is how rare they are in much of inland Snowdonia. You can go for miles across the most popular mountain, including Snowdon, and see hardly a trace of ancient man. Yet as soon as you come near the coast you see some of the seaward slopes littered with ancient settlements. Locally they are known as Irishmen’s huts and to see them at their best I would always go to the Town of the Giants, an Iron Age fortress on the hills which English tourists have always called The Rivals.

It was the antiquarian, Thomas Pennant, who first put this hill fort on the map by declaring it “the most perfect British post I ever beheld.” No doubt when he said that in 1773 the perimeter walls were much higher because since then they have been robbed, probably to build field walls. Then in about 1850 a local woman dreamed that a copper cauldron full of gold was buried up there and people turned the place upside down in search of it. It is well worth the clamber up this steep hill to see these five acres of hut remains enclosed within their massive walls.

*[The Guardian]*