

LAPIDARIUM WALLIÆ.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

PLATE I.

CROSS AT LLANDOUGH, NEAR PENARTH.

THE base and fragment of the shaft of the cross represented in the first Plate of this work must, when complete, have been the most elegant example of the kind in Wales. It is now for the first time described and figured. It stands in the churchyard of Llandough, near Penarth, near the south-west entrance of the church, and is about 9 feet in height, the upper part of the shaft and the head of the cross being broken off, and probably, as I was told on the spot, either rolled into the river at the bottom of the hill, or buried in a mound of rubbish on the south side of the churchyard, or broken up for household purposes by the villagers. The base and shaft are quadrangular, with the angles rounded and forming semicircular columns. On my first visit to Llandough in 1845 the block on which the base rests was sunk in the ground, but in 1856 it had been raised, shewing the remarkable sculpture of a man on horseback, with knot-work on the front face, the busts of five figures, separated from each other by a spear head or trefoiled sceptre (as I take them to represent), on the back face, and with a single bust and knot-work on each end. These figures are greatly defaced. Above these figures is a band of interlaced ribbon-work.

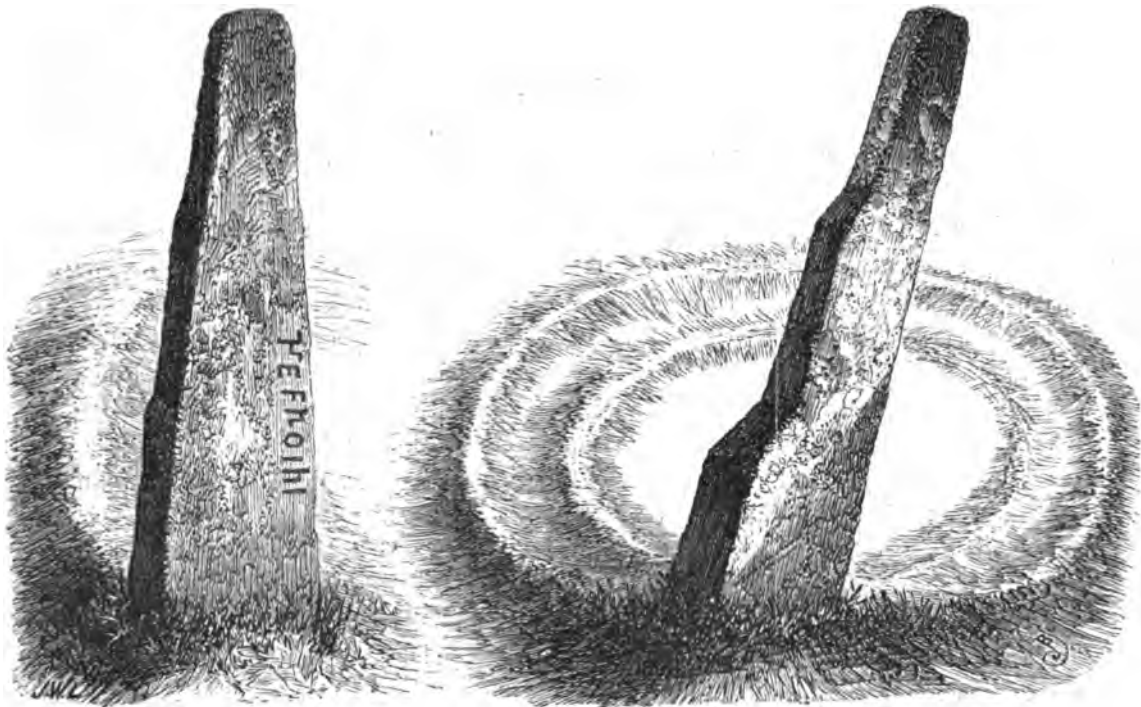
The two broader faces of the basal portion of the cross are 10 inches wide and are ornamented with interlaced ribbon patterns, as are also the rounded semi-columns of the angles, giving them a cable-like appearance, but the two narrower faces of the base are left plain and slightly concave, being only 5 inches wide, exclusive of the rounded angles.

The shaft of the cross is separated from the base by a large dilated boss cut into several narrow transverse steps or compartments ornamented with simple interlaced ribbons, the lowest division being inscribed on its front side with letters much defaced, but which appear

to me to have been intended for *ir bic* . . in Hiberno-Saxon characters. The semi-columns of the angles of the shaft of the cross are left plain, but all the four intervening spaces are ornamented with ribbon patterns of different design, represented in the two detached figures in the upper part of the Plate and in the middle figure of the left hand side, which last-mentioned pattern is repeated on the back side of the base of the cross. The outline figures represent transverse sections of the base and shaft of the cross. The basal block is 13 inches, the base 42 inches, the middle boss 20 inches, and the broken shaft 30 inches high. I was indebted to the late Taleisin Williams for directing my attention to this beautiful relic.

PLATE II. FIG. 1.

KEVN GELHI GAER STONE.



On a mountain near Kevn Gelhi Gaer, not far from Caerphilly on the way to Marchnad y Wayn, stands a maen-hir with an inscription given by E. Lhwyd in Gibson's Camden, p. 616, and in Gough's Camden (ii. p. 498, and ed. alt. iii. p. 127), represented as it appeared in 1693, and as copied in my Plate. After leaving Merthyr Tydvil and passing through Dowlais two great ponds are arrived at, a little east of the third mile-stone from Merthyr Tydvil on the way to Abergavenny. The cart-road to Gelhi Gaer runs southward from this spot, passing to the east side of a farm about half a mile from the Abergavenny-road,