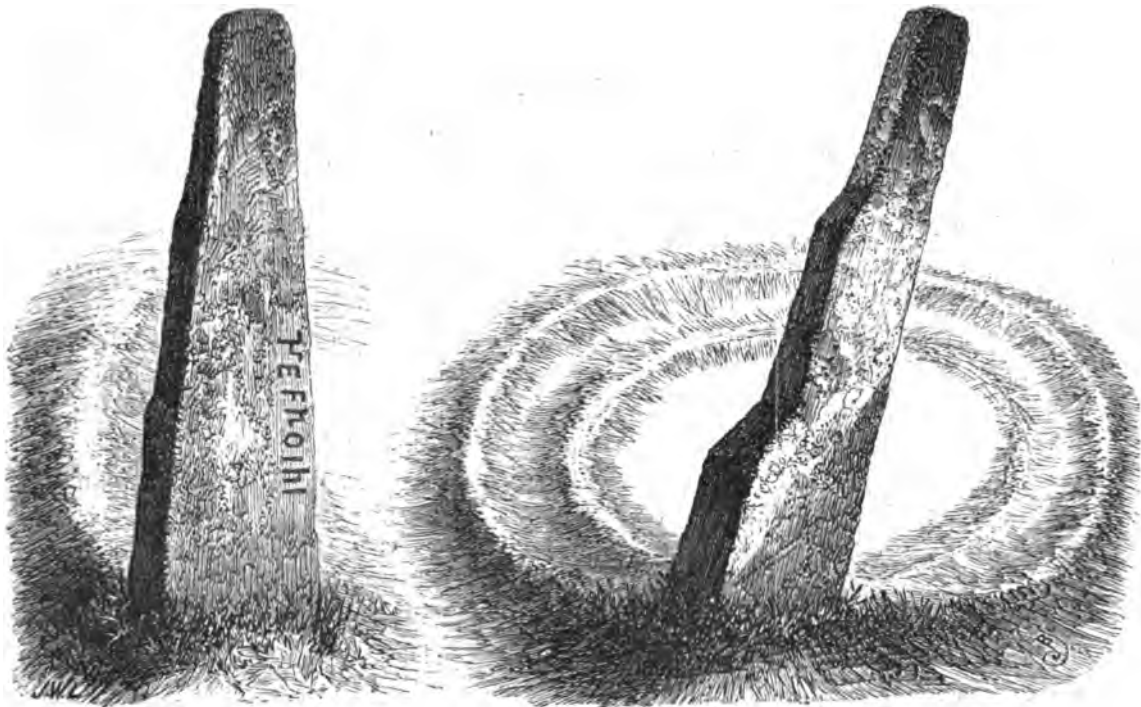


to me to have been intended for *ir bic* . . in Hiberno-Saxon characters. The semi-columns of the angles of the shaft of the cross are left plain, but all the four intervening spaces are ornamented with ribbon patterns of different design, represented in the two detached figures in the upper part of 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,

then winds round another mountain to the south, with several small farm-houses on its eastern slope, into the valley, and the maen-hir is seen standing very conspicuously about a furlong to the west of the road, about three miles and a half from the Abergavenny-road; it is about 9 feet high, and rather inclines to the north; it is about 14 inches square at the bottom, narrowing upward to 9 inches square at the top. The inscription is written longitudinally on the northern face, the tops of the letters being near the north-west angle of the stone, where it is much chipped and several of the letters destroyed, this, as I was informed on the spot, having been done by a party of drunken miners from Dowlais out of sheer mischief. The present appearance of the inscription is given in figure 1 of the accompanying Plate, and is described by Mr. J. Rhys in Arch. Camb. 1875, p. 370. It was read for me, (as given by Gough,) by the late Taleisin Williams at Merthyr Tydvil in September, 1846, '*Deffro ini* (may we awake)'—his father having made several rubbings of it.

In the letters of E. Lhwyd, preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is one dated October 10, 1693, in which this inscription is copied, and it is further stated that 'close under this stone there's a small round [represented as oval] trench about 6 yards over, with a square area, &c., within it. My thoughts are that in y^e area in y^e midst, a man lies buried, and y^t the inscription is *Teffro i ti* or *Deffroi ti* (mayst thou awake).' Arch. Camb. 1848, p. 310.

In E. Lhwyd's *Archæologia Britannica*, p. 227, a different opinion regarding the inscription was thus expressed: 'On a mountain called Mynydh Gelhi Gaer, in Glamorganshire, we find the British name DYVROD inscribed on a stone TEFRAU TI. In the notes on Glamorganshire, in Camden, I have read this inscription, supposing it might have been Welsh, *Deffro it ti* (mayst thou awake); but having found afterwards that the names anciently inscribed on monuments in our country are very often in the genitive case, as Conbelini, Severini, Aimilini, etc., and most, if not all, Latin, I now conclude it to be a proper name, and the very same that is otherwise called Dubricius.'

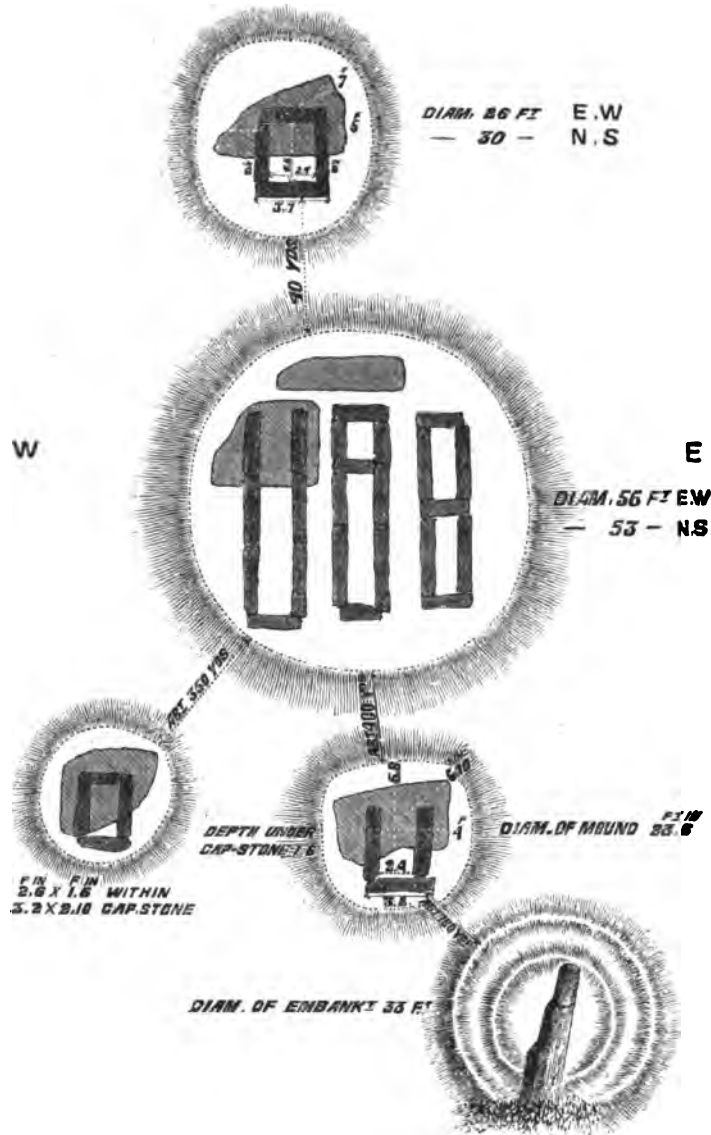
In a paper read by the late Mr. Stephens at the meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1853, it was stated that the writer preferred the reading of the inscription '*VIA FRONTI*,' or '*Via Frontini*,' i. e. the way of Frontinus, supposing it to refer to Julius Frontinus, the Roman general. This reading had been first proposed in 1824, by Dr. J. Jones, in his *History of Wales* (pp. 17, 327), in which the maen-hir itself was regarded as a miliarium. At the meeting of the same Association in 1860 it was resolved that the Rev. John Griffiths be requested to take steps for removing the inscribed stone from Gelhi Gaer to a secure place at the cost of the Association. I am not aware that any steps have been taken to carry out this resolution.

In Mr. Lukis's *Memoir on the Cromlechs, &c., near Cardiff* (Arch. Camb., 1875, p. 183), this maen-hir is mentioned as standing on the south edge of a small double circular embankment, or a circle within a circle, 33 feet in diameter: 'It is remarkable in having an inscription in Welsh engraved on its eastern face, which our guide told us reads "*DEFFROIHI*," and means "Awake unto thee."'

The figures which Mr. Lukis has given of this maen-hir, seen from two different points of view, are reproduced at the head of this description (the inscription itself being given

LAPIDARIUM WALLIÆ.

as it formerly appeared, although not so stated), whilst the relative position of the maen-hir and several adjacent mounds and kists described by Mr. Lukis is shewn in the following woodcut.



PLAN OF MOUNDS, KISTS, &c.

According to the late Mr. Thomas Stephens there were no letters visible on this stone when he visited it. 'The upper part of the stone has been slit and the inscribed part either destroyed or taken away. This act of vandalism is attributed by the farmers of the locality

to a stonemason, named Shon Morgan, who went in a fit of drunkenness to "try the quality of the stone." Arch. Camb., 1862, p. 134.

Lastly, in Hubner's *Inscript. Brit. Christ.*, p. 22, the ancient representation of the inscription is repeated with the note—'Quæ supersunt vestigia Johanni Rhys visa sunt talia efficere: "*tesroiki*;"' whilst in the text the inscription is read '*Sefroiki*.'

PLATE II. FIG. 2.

THE MERTHYR TYDVIL STONE.

In one of the angles of the Church of St. Tydfil (the parish church of Merthyr Tydvil) there is inserted at a considerable distance from the ground an inscribed stone represented in this figure. It commences with an ornamented ✠ of the Latin form, placed longitudinally, followed by an inscription in rather rudely formed minuscule letters such as are found in Anglo-Saxon and Irish MSS. of the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries. They appear to me to represent the name

✠ artbeu.

Respecting the second of these letters, which might be thought the most difficult to be deciphered, I have not the least doubt that it is intended for a r, which in many of our earliest manuscripts has the first stroke elongated below the line, and the second stroke deflexed, sometimes even so much as to resemble a ρ ; the fourth letter appears to be a b, and the last a u of unusual form. Although I was unable to make a rubbing of the stone I was enabled to make a clear drawing of it, the letters having been well brought out by the sunlight, and which has since been fully confirmed by the examination of a rubbing made by the Rev. H. L. Jones.

As to the person intended to be commemorated in this inscription, we may notice first that he was a Christian, as shewn by the sacred emblem prefixed to his name; and secondly that the inscription from the form of the letters must have been executed long after the departure of the Romans. Mr. Stephens, indeed, at the Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1853, in a paper on the Antiquities of Merthyr and its neighbourhood published in the Fourth Volume of *Archæologia Cambrensis* for that year (Ser. 2. vol. iv. p. 319), gives it as his opinion that it commemorates Arthen, a brother of St. Tydfil. The Rev. W. Basil Jones, now Bishop of St. David's, on the other hand, suggested that although Artgen or Arthen was the son of Brychan Brycheiniog, a name famous in Brecknockshire (but regarded as apocryphal by him and most other archæologists), there were others of the same name, and hence that it is doubtful whether it were intended for the individual in question. The fact however that this stone should even still be found forming part of St. Tydfil's Church (having probably been placed there when the former church was destroyed), is in favour of Mr. Stephens' suggestion. My original figure (here reproduced) was published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1858, facing p. 161. The inscription with the cross extends to the length of 24 inches, the average height of the letters being 3 inches.

'Artgen occurs among the legendary sons of Brychan. Artgen, prince of Ceredigion,