

the middle, tapering slightly from the bottom to the top, which is injured. The side next the wall has a small groove extending throughout its whole length, with which some strange notions were attached in former days, as we learn from Donovan's Tour. It is divided into four portions by transverse bars, each composed of three narrow ribbons. The bottom compartment is ornamented with straight lines forming a series of zigzags, and the other three compartments are filled with interlaced ribbon patterns, which are represented in full detail in the detached figures of the Plate.

This stone has been figured, but inaccurately, by Strange in the *Archæologia*, vol. vi. pl. 2, fig. 3, and by Donovan in his *Tour in Wales*, vol. i. p. 339, and tab. annex. I have not been able to learn anything, traditional or otherwise, concerning this elegant relic, which in its complete state was most probably surmounted by a cross.

PLATE IX.

LLANTWIT. THE SHORT QUADRANGULAR SHAFT.

This quadrangular stone, which measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard high, 14 inches wide, and 10 inches thick, stands in the porch of Llantwit Church, and has been cracked across near its top. It is ornamented on all its sides with ingeniously arranged interlaced ribbon designs in sunk panels, which will be seen on examination of the Plate to form never-ending patterns, but which are not easy to describe in detail. There is no inscription on the stone, nor have I been able to meet with any account of it. It is figured imperfectly by Donovan in his *Tour in Wales*, vol. i. p. 339. It probably bore a cross at the top when in its complete state.

PLATE X. FIG. 1.

MERTHYR MAWR. BROKEN HEAD OF WHEEL CROSS.

This fragment of a wheel cross measures 30 inches in diameter, and is now in the churchyard at Merthyr Mawr. It is drawn from a rubbing sent me by the Rev. H. L. Jones in 1855. The base, with a small portion of the cross in its socket, stands close to the south gateway of the modern churchyard. The wheel cross was composed of eight spokes, the intervening spaces forming sunk panels. Around the edge of the stone appears a series of scroll-like patterns of an unusual character, but evidently too imperfect to be clearly made out.

PLATE X. FIG. 2 a, b, c, d.

MERTHYR MAWR. CROSS OF CONBELANUS.

This stone, which doubtless originally supported a cross on its top, stands in the garden of the mansion of J. C. Nicholl, Esq., at Merthyr Mawr, about two miles from the Bridgend Station. It is 4 feet high, 2 feet broad, and varies in thickness from 14 to 12 inches. On its front face it

bears an inscription tolerably legible, except the first, fifth, sixth, and last lines, which unfortunately contain the proper names of different persons commemorated by the stone; the top line has in fact the commencement broken off. The remainder reads, so far as a very careful examination of the stone in situ and a number of rubbings enable me to decipher it—

. . . nbelani
 possuit hanc
 crucem pro
 anima ejus
 scigliuiffi
 herte(i?)bo et
 fratris eiu
 s et pater
 eius a me
 prepara
 tus ❖ st(c?)il(g?)oo

The first of these lines has been read 'conbelini,' 'convetini,' 'conboleni,' and 'conbellini;' the fifth line 'scitliuissi' and 'sat uissi,' the sixth line 'nertido et' and 'hertibar,' and the last line 'tus ❖ scio III.' It will be noticed that the two portions of the inscription end with a word commencing alike.

Edward Lhwyd thus speaks of this stone in a letter dated from Cowbridge, Sept. 25, 1697, preserved in the Tanner Collection, Bibl. Bodl., Oxford—Arch. Camb. 1861, p. 231:—"The inclosed is an old Crosse on y^e bank of y^e river Ogwr at Merthyr Mawr, a small village of this county. The first word I read Conbelini,¹ y^e same name with Cunobelin, which was y^e Roman way of writing the word we call Kynvelin. But I can proceed no further than "Conbelini posuit hanc crucem pro anima ejus." I have sent y^e Vice-Chancellor an other stone [i.e.? an account of another stone] frō Kaerphilly Castle for y^e Museum, but that (I fear me) was more intended for an inscription. I am, S^r, yours heartily, whilst E. LHWYD.'

I have been favoured by J. C. Nicholl, Esq., of Merthyr Mawr, with the sight of two manuscript readings and sketches of this and the other cross at that place, made by the late E. Williams (Iolo Morganwg) and Dr. Petrie, the latter of whom visited Merthyr Mawr during

¹ In Edw. Lhwyd's letter of the 20th December, 1702, to the Rev. Humphrey Foulkes, we find the first word spelt differently, probably being a lapsus calami. (It is however to be observed that the stone clearly shows two strokes between the l and n, so that the word must have been either conbelani, as read by Petrie, or conbeloni, or conbellini.) The writer remarks, 'I have observed that the Romans and ancient Britans (*sic*) expressed *Kyn* in the British names by *Cumo*, but towards the eighth century both the Britans and Irish rendered it *Con*: for the British name Kynvelyn was written by the Romans *Cunobelinus*, and I found it on an old crosse in Glamorganshire *Conbolini*: and that (according to their skill in grammar) in the nominative case.' (Coll. of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., copied in Arch. Camb. 1859, p. 248.)

the meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Cardiff in 1849 (Arch. Camb. 1849, p. 318). The former read

the first line as	convetini
the fifth line	Sat uiffi
the sixth line	her
the eighth line	S
the ninth line	eiUS a
the tenth line	PREPARAM
the eleventh line	VITS SUA

Dr. Petrie's reading agrees with mine in

the first line nbelani
and gives the fifth line as	scrthiviffi
the sixth line	nerthbar
the ninth line	eiUS ama
the eleventh line	tus ❖ stiloo

It may be suggested that the four dots in the last line should read + which is the Anglo-Saxon contracted form of the word est. The inscription is ascribed in Dr. Petrie's note to circa A.D. 600.

The reverse of this stone as well as its narrow edges have been ornamented with interlaced ribbon patterns interspersed with small raised knobs. The designs are much defaced and do not appear to have been so carefully drawn as in many of the Welsh stones.

This stone formerly stood in a hedge within a yard of a stile on Whiting Farm, by the foot-path from Merthyr Mawr to Laleston, before the Merthyr Mawr property came into the possession of the Nicholl family.

PLATES XI & XII.

MERTHYR MAWR. THE GREAT CROSS.

The great cross at Merthyr Mawr (vulgo, the Gobblin Stone) is nearly 7 feet high, 3 feet wide in the broadest part, and 10 inches thick. It stands, like the preceding, in the garden of Mr. Nicholl's residence, and has unfortunately been much defaced and part of the upper portion broken off. This upper part formed a cross of the Maltese form, with the limbs united by a broad flattened band, leaving the intervening spaces pierced through. In the centre is a raised boss, and the limbs are boldly ornamented with triquetrae formed of wide ribbons united together in the centre. Below the cross are two transverse bands with cross raised lines, the middle of the upper band on the back of the cross having a simple ribbon pattern.

The basal portion of the cross is occupied, on its front side, with an inscription very much defaced, and of which I have endeavoured to give as good a representation as could be derived from several visits to the stone and several rubbings.