

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.

From the effects of time or ill-usage the greater portion of this inscription is illegible, a few words at the top as well as at the bottom being only decipherable, although I cannot but think that with a good cast held to the light at different angles, an additional portion might be made out. I can only however distinctly read—

I nomine dī pat
 rif et fili speri
 tuf

 . . . a eus
 post
 . caifto gre (a?)
 ciam ad pro
 prium
 in diem iudici

The latter part of the third line is I think intended for the word *sancti*, written in long ornamental letters, as was usual in some of the early MSS. of these countries, copied in my *Palæographia Sacra* and work on the *Miniatures and Ornaments of Anglo-Saxon and Irish MSS.*

In Iolo Morganwg's MS. reading (communicated by J. C. Nicholl, Esq.) the three top lines are read—

I nomine dī sum c
 RUX FILIUS eri
 cus

and the four bottom lines—

I. POSUIT
 coifto
 eius m. in pro
 prium .
 inem . IUDICII.

Taking *Filius Ericus* as a proper name, Mr. E. Williams (Iolo M.) referred the cross to 'a prince of Glamorgan named Eric who lived in the second century, whence it may be fairly

inferred that the above are the oldest British inscriptions the dates of which can be clearly ascertained of any hitherto known.'!!

If the fifth line from the bottom could be read 'i. posuit' there is space for the letters in lo, or at least for lo, which would read 'posuit in loco isto,' but I fear that the inscription will not bear out this suggestion.

Dr. Petrie's MS. reading of the top and bottom of the inscription, also communicated by Mr. Nicholl, is as follows:—

i nomine dī pat
ris et FILII G SPI
tus
.
.
.
i. post le .l.
Sofito . IRGCV
f. ibm . in PRO
prium . iufn
in diem iudici

The back side of the basal part of the stone as well as the edges are ornamented with various patterns formed of incised lines, which have however become as much defaced, especially in the middle, as the inscription itself. It will be seen from what remains that the designs formed quadrangular compartments arranged irregularly, and filled in with the Chinese-like pattern common on these stones.

PLATE XIII. FIG. 1.

KENFIG. THE POMPEIUS STONE.

This stone stands upon the grass-sward at the side of the road, supposed to be identical with the Via Julia Maritima, between Kenfig (Kenfegge or Kenfyg) and Margam, near the Pyle Station, without any protection. It is called by the peasantry of the neighbourhood Bêdh Morgan Morganwg, i. e. the sepulchre of Prince Morgan. It is 4 feet 4 inches high on the back side of the stone, the top sloping to the front, which is 4 feet high; it is 20 inches broad, and 15 inches thick; it has been somewhat injured at the upper left-hand angle. It bears on its front face an inscription in two lines in Roman characters, PVMPEIUS CARANTORIVS; the only doubt being as to whether the second and third letters of the top line, which are conjoined, should be VM or VN. I prefer the former reading, because if read VN the N would be reversed, whereas it is of the proper form in the second line; whilst the transformation of the second stroke of the V into the first stroke of a conjoined M is of common occurrence. The letters were also read as VM in Camden, as mentioned below.

This stone was first noticed by Bishop Francis Godwin, Bishop of Llandaff, in a letter to