

PLATE XVIII.

MARGAM CHAPTER-HOUSE. THE CROSS OF ILCI.

This sculptured stone here represented is very similar to that of Ilquici, being 5½ feet high, 2 feet wide in the middle of the inscription, and 34 inches wide at the top, its thickness varying from 11 to 5 inches. The upper part is carved on both faces with a plain wheel-cross with eight spokes, the four spaces between the four limbs of the cross being wider and deeper than the limbs themselves. The wheel is surrounded by a second plain circular line, which on the back of the cross ends above in two small circles.

The lower division of the face is formed by lines into a nearly square panel, in which is inscribed—

o ilci Fecit o
hanc cruce
m. in nomin
e. di summi

A few of the letters are considerably defaced, but sufficient remains to determine the reading given above. The letters are minuscules of a more ancient form than those of the crosses of Grutne and Brancuf. The lower half of the reverse of the stone has a plain square panel, and one of the edges is carved with a serpentine line divided by an indentation of the side.

The stone was described by Donovan in his *Tour in Wales*, vol. ii. p. 5, and figured in the opposite plate, but the inscription has not hitherto been deciphered.

PLATE XIX. FIG. 1.

MARGAM CHAPTER-HOUSE. THE SMALL BROKEN WHEEL-CROSS.

This fragment of an elegant wheel-cross was removed to Margam Abbey about twenty years ago.

It is about 4½ feet high, the upper part decorated with an incised and elegantly ornamented cross of the Latin form, having the base of the stem dilated and ornamented with double interlaced ribbons forming a triquetra, each ribbon having an incised central line, as is the case with all the single interlaced ribbons of which the cross is formed. The centre of the cross itself has an ornament like a prostrate 8 (∞), and the arms of the cross are united by a broad interlaced band forming (when entire) a circle, the spaces between the arms of the cross being pierced. The upper limb of the cross and the two upper connecting bands are however broken off and lost. There is no inscription on this stone.

PLATE XIX. FIG. 2.

MARGAM CHAPTER-HOUSE. THE NARROW WHEEL-CROSS.

This stone was also removed to Margam Abbey about twenty years ago. It is about

5 feet high and 17 inches wide, but the upper part of the stone, which had been rounded to form the wheel of the cross, has had the sides cut away so as to be continuous with the narrower basal portion.

The upper part formed a cross of the Maltese form, with the limbs, of equal size dilated at the ends, filled with irregular incised patterns, which, in the much worn state of the stone, I am unable to determine either from my rubbings or a photograph prepared by Lord Dunraven. The limbs of the cross were united by a plain raised band forming the whole into a circle, the spaces within the arms of the cross and the band being only slightly sunk and not pierced through the stone. Below the wheel-cross is a large panel filled in with an interlaced pattern of an irregular character, which I am also unable satisfactorily to make out. This stone does not bear any inscription.

PLATE XX. FIG. 1.

MOUNT GELLYONEN. STONE WITH PARTIAL FIGURE OF THE CRUCIFIXION.

After much trouble I found this stone, which measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and $1\frac{1}{4}$ foot wide, built into the wall of a dissenting chapel on Mount Gellyonen, not far from Llandewick near the Pontadawr Station of the Swansea Railway. It is very much rubbed, and the design is with difficulty to be determined. The centre however is plain, quadrangular, and surrounded on the sides and bottom by a border which appears to have been irregular at the sides but more regularly interlaced along the bottom. In the upper part is a human head and a cross slightly elevated, and a space probably intended for arms, whilst at the bottom below the border appear a pair of feet.

This stone is evidently a portion only of a wheel-cross, since we find in Gough's Camden (iii. p. 132) it is recorded that Mr. Lhwyd saw on Mount Mynydd Gelhi Onen in Lavo Gynelack parish a stone about 5 feet high with the top formed like a wheel and the base carved with a man's face and hands and with two feet near the bottom, similar to the cross at Langholm in Cumberland and several in Cornwall, as at St. Buriens.

In Gibson's Camden (ii. p. 24) apparently the same stone is mentioned as having stood in the midst of a small cairn or heap of stones, but then thrown down and broken in three or four pieces. It was 3 inches thick, 2 feet broad at the bottom, and about 5 feet high, with the top round like a wheel, whence to the basis it became gradually broader, and was carved on one side, the round head having 'a sort of flourishing cross like a garden knot,' below which were a man's face and hands on each side, and thence almost to the bottom neat fret-work, beneath which were two feet ill-proportioned.

PLATE XX. FIGS. 2 & 3.

COURT ISAF. CROSS OF ST. THOMAS.

The cylindrical stone of which the upper half only is represented (the lower part being quite plain and cylindrical) now stands against the south side of the south wall of the yard of