

PLATE XXVI. Figs. 1 & 2.

THE ROMAN MILIARY STONE AT PORT TALBOT.

This stone originally stood upon the road from *Nidum* (Neath) to the southern Bovium or Bomium (either Boverton or Ewenny). Thirty years ago I found it lying in the harbour-master's office at Port Talbot, broken into five or six pieces. It was about 5 feet long and 1½ feet wide, tapering at the lower end, and was doubtless originally inserted upright in the ground. On its face it bears the Roman inscription, written in large capital letters across the stone:—

IMPC
FLAVA
(?)DMAXI
MINO
INVIC
TOAV
GVS

Owing to the crack across the third line there is a little difficulty about the first letter, which has been given as CL in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1840, p. 296, and simply as L in Col. Grant Francis's work on Neath Abbey and its Charters (Swansea, 1845, p. 8). It appears to me to be a D, unless, as is possible, the top of the curved second stroke of the letter should be only part of the crack of the stone. The oblique elongation of the top of the second stroke of the A without a cross bar and the form of the G in the last line are palæographical peculiarities worthy of notice.

Col. Francis thus speaks of this stone, which 'was found in 1839 at Port Talbot, between Neath and the Roman station of Bovium. The older inscription, if we may depend on the fidelity of the engraving, is dedicated, not, as some have pretended, to *Maximian*, but to *Maximin*, who bears upon his coins the title of *Invictus* (as upon the stone), which is not found on those of *Maximian*. The inscription as it now stands may be read thus—Imp. C. Fla. Val. Maximino Invicto Augus(to). *But on looking closer we are led to believe that the first part belongs to a still older inscription, as the C. Fla. Val. (Caius Flavius Valerius) were names which never belonged to Maximin, whose name was Galerius Valerius. (The names of the two Maximians were "Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus" and "Galerius Valerius Maximianus.")* The appellation of C. Flavius Valerius belongs to the second Severus, and it is probable that to him this stone was originally inscribed, but that subsequently his name had been erased to give place to that of Maximin by some person who carelessly or ignorantly overlooked the prenomens.'

The name of the Emperor Maximinus here recorded (with the title INVICTUS) also occurs in an inscription found in Cumberland, given by Horsley (Brit. Rom. p. 192, No. 40; and conf. Hübner, Inscr. Lat. vii. 1158).

On the other side of the stone, and evidently of a somewhat more recent date than the Roman inscription, is the following, written in debased Roman capitals (except the h):

hIC IACIT CANTVSVS PATER PAVL(?)NVS.

The crack of the stone across the latter word has damaged part of the inscription, but the stroke following the conjoined AV is extended below the line, and was evidently an L, doubtless followed by I, preceding the terminal NVS. The inscription, differing as it does from the ordinary formula of Welsh stones, is therefore, I presume, to be interpreted, 'Here lies Cantusus, whose father was Paulinus'; or may it not mean, 'Here lies Cantusus, who was the father of Paulinus'?

In addition to the notices above given, this stone has been recorded in the 'Journal of the Archæological Institute,' iii. 1846, p. 274; the 'Journal of the Archæological Association,' ii. 1847, p. 287; Thomas Wright's 'The Celt and the Saxon,' p. 456; Haddan and Stubbs, Councils, i. 168; and by myself in the Arch. Camb., 1856, pp. 251, 320. The name Cantusus appears to be unrecorded by the Welsh historians, but Paulinus is repeatedly; and besides the Merthyr Mawr stone above described (p. 8), the stone dedicated to him, now at Dolocauthy House (post, pl. XLIV. fig. 1), is the most interesting of all the Welsh inscriptions. The irregularity in the size of the letters, varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, is their most noticeable peculiarity, the Latinity of the Welsh stones being somewhat defective.

PLATE XXVI. FIG. 3.

THE ROMAN ALTAR AT LOUGHOR.

We are indebted to the late Rev. H. L. Jones for the first notice of this Ogham inscribed altar (Arch. Camb., 1869, pp. 258, 344). Loughor, the mediæval Castell Llychwr, stands on the extreme western boundary of the county of Glamorgan, where the river of that name, coming down from the hills near Llandeilofawr, divides it from the county of Caermarthen. Just where the present decayed town stands near the stream, or rather on the sandy and marshy ground south of it, was the Roman station of Leucarum, and coins, pottery, and other traces of a Roman station have been found here, and tradition points to the site of part of it as just opposite the modern railway station. A small hill rises here immediately from the water's edge, and on it are the earth-works and a square tower of the Norman castle, as well as the parish church, the former having probably been erected with its mound in the strongest part of the station. Mr. H. L. Jones continues: 'It is stated in Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary" that a Roman miliary stone was found at Loughor, where it formed one of the steps leading up to the rectory house. It was not a miliary stone but an altar, and it now stands on the lawn in front of the rectory, in the upper part of Loughor, on the slope of the hill. It is rather plain, but its shape, as will be perceived by the accompanying engraving, plainly betokens its origin and purpose. The material is a fine-grained, white sandstone of the carboniferous series, so close in texture and so light in colour that at first sight it appears to be marble. It is entirely devoid of any sculptured ornaments or inscription, but on examining it closely and under a favourable light in 1857, the author found on the south-west angle of the lower portion certain Oghams, the edge which serves for the fleasg or basal line on which they are cut being chipped in two places, and the oghamic inscription is so far imperfect. Owing to the very light colour of the stone, and