

Over the north door of the tower of the church of Llangyvelach is placed a slab (on which is carved a large plain Latin cross, 30 inches high, resting on a broad step or base) in lieu of an arch; the sculpture has however become so greatly defaced by the weather, even during the memory of Col. Francis (to whom I am indebted for a rubbing), that I have not thought it necessary to publish a figure of it. It appears to have had some kind of ornament between the arms of the cross.

PLATE XXIX. FIGS. 1-4.

STONES CARVED WITH CROSSES AT MERTHYR MAWR CHURCH.

During the rebuilding of the church at Merthyr Mawr various fragments of sculptured stones of an early period were found, together with numerous mediæval grave-stones, which have been carefully preserved, and at present (1877) lie in the churchyard adjoining to the east end of the church. As however some additional building is contemplated for a vestry, &c., it is to be hoped that an opportunity will be afforded for affixing them upright in the walls of the new building, so as to insure their more perfect preservation.

Amongst these stones is the inscribed one already published in this work, Plate II. fig. 5, page 8, and those represented in Plate XXIX. Of these, figure 3 represents the upper half of a wheel-cross, about 2 feet in diameter, with a small circular boss in the centre, and with eight spokes, the spaces between them being sunk and alternating in size, the narrower ones being rounded at the base, while the broader spaces have the bases truncated.

This cross is in fact very similar to the fragment of the wheel-cross represented in Plate X. fig. 1. The latter has however scroll-work round the margin, of which I perceived no trace on the fragment here figured.

Figures 1 and 4 represent two smaller stones, the former about 16 inches and the latter about 14 inches square. The ornamentation of these two stones is unusual, and their date consequently uncertain. Possibly, however, they may be assigned to the twelfth century.

Figure 2 represents a very plain wheel-cross sculptured at the top of an oblong block of stone about 5 feet high and 6 inches thick. The spaces between the four spokes, which represent a Maltese cross, are sunk, and the circle occupied by the cross has been surrounded by an incised circular line, nearly defaced, except on the under side of the cross. There are also two other incised, slightly curved lines dividing the base of the stone into two equal parts. The stone now stands against the eastern wall of the churchyard, near to its southern extremity, where it was pointed out to me recently by the Rev. Charles R. Knight.

PLATE XXIX. FIG. 5.

SMALL CROSS AT TYTHEGSTON.

I am further indebted to the Rev. Charles R. Knight for a notice and rubbing of a small crossed stone recently dug up in the neighbouring churchyard of Tythegston. It is only 30 inches high by 15 wide, the upper half ornamented with a cross of the Maltese form, with a small raised boss surrounded by a narrow raised circle in the centre, the spaces between

the four-arms of the cross being occupied by four small round bosses, each surrounded by a circular impressed line. The lower half of the stone is formed into a square panel by sunk lines, at the lower angles of which are two small round bosses, each with a circular impressed line.

## PLATE XXIX. FIG. 6.

## STONE WITH INCISED LINES IN LLANGONNOYD CHURCH.

I am indebted to the Rev. R. Pendrill Llewelyn for rubbings of a stone with incised lines upon it now lying in the chancel of the church of Llangonoyd. It is 28 inches long, 13 inches wide, and about 8 inches thick. On its upper surface is an oblong hole with rounded ends, 12 inches long, 3 inches wide, and 5½ inches deep. This hole, I presume, formed the socket in which the base of a cross was fixed, of which there are no remains.

The stone was found about 25 years ago in the middle of the chancel wall, which is presumed to have been built about the year 1688, as that was the date when the church was restored, as inscribed upon the wall-plate. The stone is extremely hard, and does not appear to occur in the neighbourhood. The lines are cut very sharply, and the tools with which they were made must have been of excellent quality.

In the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1860, p. 374, is a notice of a stone with marks which had been doubtfully regarded as Oghams, found in a field near the summit of Penmaen Mawr; and in the same work, 1863, p. 331 et seq., and 1864, p. 315 et seq., are published two notices by Mr. E. Owen on other stones in Caernarvonshire with similar marks which agree very closely with those on the Llangonoyd stone, with which one of them further agrees in having a circular depression on the upper surface, 'which is evidently filled with water from the first rain-cloud passing over the hill. Nothing, then, would be more convenient for the sharpening of weapons or tools than a thing of this kind; and if the length and form of the incisions be studied, it will be found that they correspond to the length of the convenient play of a man's hand moving an edge tool backwards and forwards.'

Supposing then the cross to have been broken and thrown down, and the base with its socket filled with water remaining lying on the ground, it would afford a very convenient means for the sharpening of tools for use or defence. Certainly the marks on this stone and the very similar ones figured in Mr. Owen's articles can scarcely be regarded as letters of any kind, nor can they be considered as exhibiting any affinity with the archaic circular markings on stones in the north of England and Scotland, admirably illustrated by the late Sir J. Y. Simpson and other northern antiquaries.

## PLATE XXX. FIGS. 1 &amp; 2.

## EFFIGY OF BISHOP DE BREWSA IN LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL.

In a paper on Monumental Effigies in Wales which I published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. ii. 1847, p. 240, was the following passage accompanied by a woodcut reproduced in Plate XXX of this work:—