

Mr. Robinson mentions in his paper that the well near this stone is alluded to under the name of the Fountain Liss in the grant of the church of St. Bridget by Cadwallaun, son of Gwriad, to Joseph, Bishop of Llandaff (A.D. 1022—1046), and as no reference is made to any cross in the immediate vicinity of the well, he supposes it probable that the cross was subsequently erected on the spot by Bishop Joseph, so that the earlier part of the eleventh century may be assigned as its date. I am not disposed to question this opinion, although I should have thought that the ornamentation, especially of the south side of the stone, indicated an earlier date; certainly the rudeness of the other portions of the design will not allow it to be compared with some of the earlier and more correctly executed stones at Llantwit and Margam.

PLATE XXXI. FIG. 1.

THE WELL AT LLANMIHANGEL, NEAR COWBRIDGE.

This sketch represents a well or spring at the side of the road at Llanmihangel running from Cowbridge to Llantwit, the shallow stream from which runs across the road. The spring rises within a small structure, the front of which towards the road is ornamented on the middle of its base with a carved figure of the upper half of a female within a sunk square panel, rudely designed and greatly worn, so that no special features are to be noticed. I have not been able to find any mention of this as one of the holy wells of South Glamorganshire, but it is curious to find a sculpture of this kind in such an unusual and unexpected situation.

PLATE XLI. FIG. 1.

STONE ORIGINALLY AT CAERPHILLY CASTLE.

In a letter dated from Cowbridge, Sept. 25, 1697, by the antiquary Edward Lhwyd, preserved in the Tanner Collection in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and printed in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1861, p. 231, the writer says, 'I have sent y^e Vice-Chancellor an other stone frō Kaerphilly Castle, for y^e museum; but that (I fear me) was never intended for an inscription.'

In the 'Philosophical Transactions' of the Royal Society for 1712 (vol. xxvii. No. 335, p. 550), Lhwyd gave an account of this stone, accompanied by a plate representing the numerous markings on it, portions of which are copied in the Plate XLI. It was found used as one of the steps in the round tower of Caerphilly Castle, and was removed by him, as above stated, to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, where, as one of the Curators of that institution, I regret to state that no traces of it are to be found. The marks on the stone represented in Lhwyd's figure are very numerous, about one-third only of them being here reproduced, the remainder consisting almost entirely of small short single strokes in various positions, almost all those which had the semblance of letters being here copied.

'I must confess,' adds Lhwyd, 'I am not fully satisfied whether it were ever designed for reading or for some kind of antique ornament, but rather incline to the latter. The stone was

not designed for a step, there being none of the same kind in the whole stair-case. The marks were mostly worn out by treading: and it is possible they might be once more uniform and some few mistakes may have happened in the copying it; as it is I have sent the stone to the Museum at Oxford, where the curious may be satisfied. Were it the old Celtic character which Cæsar says was like the Greek, 'twere a noble discovery. But I fear our ancestors (if ever they had any writing) have left us none upon stones.'

As will be perceived, the markings which most resemble certain letters, as M, H, L, W, Z, Y, are all formed of short straight strokes like the detached smaller and simpler marks. It must be observed that by the 'old Celtic character' Edward Lhwyd did not allude to the Ogham letters, with which he was unacquainted, but rather to the so-called Bardic Alphabet, neither can these marks be in any way regarded as Oghamic. How and why they should have occurred in such great numbers on this particular stone must ever remain a mystery.

PLATE XXXI. FIG. 5.

THE LLANMADOC INSCRIBED STONE.

I am indebted to Col. G. Grant Francis for calling my attention to an inscribed stone which had been found at Llanmadoc, in the west of Gower, used as a quoin-stone in repairing the parsonage house, and of which he sent me a full-sized sketch which he had received in 1864 from the Rector, the Rev. J. D. Davies; and it is to the latter gentleman that I owe the pleasure of adding this hitherto unpublished early inscription to my series, having received a rubbing and notes from him.

The stone is 27 inches long and 8 inches wide, and has been slightly injured along its upper edge, cutting off the tops of one or two of the letters, so as to leave a little doubt about the first word of the upper line. I think, however, that the whole must be read—

VECTI FILIVS
GVAN HIC IACIT.

The letters are very irregular in size; the second letter of the upper line seems intended for an E, the top cross-stroke being broken off and the middle cross-stroke extended so as to join the next letter, clearly C; this is followed by a vertical stroke, at the top of which I perceive traces of a horizontal one, making a T, there being a very slight line uniting the bottom of the vertical one with the following stroke, indicated in the rubbing, but which I regard as no part of the letter, as all the other strokes are of uniform thickness and distinct. The top of the next letter, F, is also broken off, but it clearly commences the word FILIVS.

The first letter of the second line is of very unusual form, and might at first sight be mistaken for S¹. It is however a well-known but uncommon form of G (like a C followed

¹ In fact the inscription, owing to the broken tops of some of the upper letters, had been read VICARIVS SWAN HIC IACIT, and had been supposed to be raised to the memory of a former Vicar of the parish, of