

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 J. D. Davies; and it is to the latter gentleman that I owe the pleasure of adding this hitherto unpublished early inscription to my series, having received a rubbing and notes from him.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 S<sup>1</sup>. It is however a well-known but uncommon form of G (like a C followed

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

by a gigantic comma). The next letters, VAN, are conjoined, the second stroke of the V forming the first stroke of the A. The remaining letters are clear, the whole being in good Roman capitals and referrible to the Romano-British period.

With regard to the names upon this stone, it may be observed that VÆCTI does not occur to my knowledge on any other Welsh stone nor in any Welsh record or MS. Vectis, the name of the Isle of Wight, can scarcely have any connection with it, and the name of Victi on the Cat-stone near Edinburgh is the nearest lapidary form to it with which I am acquainted. GUAN, on the contrary, seems identical with GOVAN, the Saint, whose chapel and the promontory on which it stands, St. Govan's Head, is visible from the high ground at Llanmadoc; and Gouanus and Elga, otherwise Gwynwas and Melwas, are said in Tyssilio to have intercepted the virgins sent to Armorica (John Major, l. i. fo. 20).

Whether St. Govan can be identified with Sir Gawaine, the renowned knight of King Arthur's round table, as has been asserted by some popular writers (e. g. Malkin and Roscoe), is rather doubtful.

This stone and other relics of antiquity in the neighbourhood will be illustrated by the Rector, the Rev. J. D. Davies, in his 'History of West Gower,' of which the first part has just appeared, including also the very early quadrangular ecclesiastical bell which was ploughed up in a field in the parish of Llanmadoc, and was given by the Rector to C. R. Mansell Talbot, Esq., and is now preserved in the museum at Penrice Castle. It was made of sheet-iron, and had formerly been covered with some bright shining substance like gold, some portions of which still adhere to the thin corroded shell of the bell. The clapper was attached, but owing to a fracture in the side of the bell its sounding properties are of course destroyed. It is about 6 inches high. This is here mentioned as supplemental to my papers on ecclesiastical hand-bells in the early volumes of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.

In addition to several cairns to the south of Llanmadoc, there is a tall pillar-stone to the south-west, as marked in the Ordnance Map.

#### PLATE XXXI. Figs. 2, 3, 4.

##### COPED TOMBSTONE, NEWCASTLE-BRIDGEND.

In the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1852, p. 156, the late Rev. H. H. Knight published a short note of an ancient monumental stone with early characters which had recently been discovered in the alterations and repairs of Newcastle Church, Bridgend, and which was then placed on the south side of the chancel, outside the church, where the inscription was likely to be gradually effaced by exposure to the weather.

---

that name—there being a meadow near the church which goes by the name of 'Swan's Meadow,' or 'Swan's Acre,' to the present day. It need hardly be observed that the stone is many centuries older than the time of worthy Vicar Swan.