

Map near the spring of the little river Llia. The Maen Madoc stands at about half a mile along and close to the south side of the Sarn Helen. It is a tall rude stone, 11 feet high, 2½ wide, and 1¼ thick, inclining southwards, with the inscription on its western side. The desolate bleakness of the spot is equalled by the extreme rudeness of the inscription.

My figure is made from a sketch taken on the spot, corrected by my rubbing, which has been reduced by the camera, and the inscription is to be read DERVACI FILIVS IVSTI IC IACIT¹.

The first letter D is reversed, the R with the bottom right-hand stroke horizontal, both the A's turned upside down, the I at the end of the first word horizontal, and evidently indicating the nominative case, to agree with the next word FILIVS, in which the F and I are conjoined, both the L's with the first stroke obliquely slanting, the terminal S reversed and of the capital form: the third letter of the second line, which I had regarded as L, disagrees with the two L's in the preceding word, and agrees with the last letter S in the first line; the following letter, which I had considered as a prostrate I, notwithstanding the short unconnected vertical stroke, is most probably a reversed T, as suggested by Prof. Rhys; the next character is a prostrate I (completing the word IVSTI), the H is wanting in the next word HIC, and the last word is misspelt IACIT as usual.

PLATE XXXVII. FIG. 2.

THE DEVYNOCK INSCRIPTION.

The beautifully situated church of Devynock is interesting on account of the inscribed stone inserted in the south-west angle of the outside of the tower, as well as of the font, mentioned in a subsequent page. The stone is placed at a considerable height from the ground, but I have been able to obtain several rubbings of it, which have been reduced by the camera in the accompanying figure. It is placed upside down, and the ornamental details occur at the end of the inscription instead of preceding it as usual.

In my description of the stone (Arch. Camb., 1858, p. 164) I stated that I could only satisfactorily make out the letters VGNIA in the upper line, the first of which was preceded by a letter which in my figure I delineated as a P, the A being followed by strokes which appeared to me to be intended for CIO, which were however nearly effaced. The second line is clearly LIVENDONI.

The letters are for the most part tolerably good Roman capitals. The G in the top line is however of the uncial form, and the L at the beginning of the second line is unusual, from having the bottom angle rounded so as to resemble an upright minuscule l.

It has subsequently suggested itself to my mind that the commencement of the second line has, like part of the ornamental work, been chiselled away, and that the LI are portions of the word FILI, leaving the remainder, VENDONI, as the proper name of the father of the person commemorated. A repeated examination of my rubbings (confirmed by a visit

¹ In my notice of this stone in the Arch. Camb., 1858, I gave the third word as IVLII, but here gladly accept the reading of Prof. Rhys as IVSTI (Arch. Camb., 1874, p. 332).

to the stone in July, 1877) shows an oblique stroke on the right side of the first letter of the upper line, which I had thought might be a *r*, making it a *x*, as has been suggested by Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 332), who further suggests that the first name seems to be *RUGNIAVTO*, with the top of the *r* very faint, but he does not think it can be *Rugniavio*. The stone is however so imperfect in this part that only guesses can be made as to its true reading. I cannot however believe the two marks following the *Δ* (the second of which is upright) to be intended for *u*, because that letter is clearly made of the *v* form in both rows of letters.

The ornamental details represent two crosses with equal-sized limbs, both of rather elegant design, although it is to be regretted that the mason, in order to fit the stone for its required position, has chiselled off part of the patterns on one side. This however is not to be wondered at in a district where the mutilation of sepulchral slabs was in times past carried on to such a disgraceful extent as I have nowhere else witnessed.

PLATE XXXVII. FIG. 3.

THE VAENOR STONE.

In the middle of the last century an inscribed stone marked with a cross of very unusual form (copied in the accompanying figure) stood in the highway-road in the parish of Vaenor, 3 miles north of Merthyr Tydfil, and was described by E. Llwyd in Gibson's *Camden*, vol. ii. p. 6, and in Gough's *Camden*, vol. ii. p. 476, pl. 14, fig. 7, whence it was copied by Jones in '*Brecknockshire*,' vol. ii. p. 623; the last-named author not having succeeded in finding the stone. In 1846 I visited the neighbourhood to search for it without success, so that it is probably destroyed. The cross, of the Latin form, surmounted by a second cross bar (probably intended for the *Titulus*), is enclosed within a space formed by two straight incised lines, extending down the sides of the stone and preceded by a transversely-oval space traversed by a straight cross line.

The inscription in my Plate is copied from Gibson's *Camden*, and is as follows:—

+ IN NOMINE di fumi +ILUS.

On comparing this inscription with that at Llantwit given in Plate VII, and that of the Margam cross, Pl. XIV, fig. 2, it will be evident that the commencement of it should be read *IN NOMINE DEI SUMMI*¹. Whether the following letter be intended for a prostrate *r* or *f*, or whether it is the more ancient form of *n*, or whether, as represented in Gough's *Camden*, there is only a single *i* between the *m* and the *L*, is, it is to be feared, no longer possible to determine.

In this inscription the *m* is represented in two early forms in use in Anglo-Saxon

¹ This disposes of a suggestion made in a communication which I received from Dr. Hübner: '*Potest etiam cogitari de Sumi (si quidem tale nomen ferri potest) fil[i]us Sicii.*'