

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*<sup>1</sup>. 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.*'

and Irish MSS. of the seventh and eighth centuries (see my article on the forms of this letter in *Arch Camb.*, 1846, p. 303). The first s is of the minuscule Anglo-Saxon form, whilst the second is a good Roman capital s.

## PLATE XXXVIII. Figs 1 &amp; 2.

## TY ILLTYD, OR ILTUD.

This picturesque cromlech or low tumulus stands within the parish of Llanhamllach, on a farm called Mannest Court. A lane runs out of the east side of the Brecon road about 200 yards from the church, and gradually ascends the hill which rises from the river Usk. After ascending about half a mile due east from the church, the farm-house is reached in a grove of fir-trees, and opposite to the farmyard gate of this house is a foot-path to the northwards across the fields, in the second of which, sheltered by a large and very ancient yew-tree, a mound (about 4 yards high, 50 feet long, and 25 feet broad) is found, within which is a kistvaen or chamber open on the north side, by which a person is able to creep into the cell. The top stone is oval and flat,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  yards long by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards broad, and slopes towards the north, on which side the earth has been removed, the tops of the other stones being level with the surface, and on that to the west is inscribed the date 1510. On creeping into the cell with some difficulty, I found a number of small crosses and other marks scratched on the inner surfaces of the upright stones; they vary from 2 to 4 inches in length, placed quite irregularly, and not in a line as represented in Gibson's *Camden*, ii. p. 6, pl. 14, fig. 8, and Gough's *Camden*, ii. p. 476; they have the appearance of having been scratched with a nail or other similar instrument; and it has been suggested that they have been made by some ascetic person who, as a penance, resorted to this narrow and secluded cell. That they are not coeval with the monument itself will I think at once be admitted. Figures of some of these markings given by myself (*Arch Camb.*, 1852, p. 273) and the Rev. H. L. Jones (*ibid.*, 1867, p. 353) are given in the accompanying Plate. The inner chamber is about 6 feet long by 5 feet wide, and about 3 feet high, and it is on the right-hand slab that the cross-like marks occur, with the letters  $\text{H D}$  at the upper end. Those on the left-hand slab are chiefly letters, viz.  $\text{H}$  and  $\text{D}$  joined together, and then  $\text{H R E}$ , with a cross between  $\text{H}$  and  $\text{R}$  which almost looks like a rude  $\text{E}$ . The end of the chamber is closed by a large transverse slab like the others.

The kistvaen is usually denominated the house or hermitage of Illtyd, Illtid, Iltud, or Iltutus, Ty Illtyd. Within a few paces of it was a circle of stones called Maen Illtid, some of which were remaining in Llwyl's time.

The situation where this monument stands is a remarkable one, being in the centre of an amphitheatre of high hills, the Brecon beacons being the most conspicuous to the west, so that the Druidical rites practised at Ty Illtyd might be observed and telegraphed for a great extent of country from the various stations on the summits of these elevated spots. The reader is further referred to the Rev. H. L. Jones's memoir on this monument in *Arch Camb.*, 1867, p. 347.