

PLATE XXXVIII. FIGS. 3, 4, 5.

THE STONE OF JOANNES MORIDIC, LLANHAMLACH.

Llanhamlach, Llanhamllêch, Llan-Amlêch, or Llan-Ammwlch, is a beautifully situated parish about 4 miles to the east of Brecknock. The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and I found the old Rectory house to the south of the church in a ruinous condition, as described in my article in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1852, p. 274. 'It appears,' says Lewis, 'to be of very ancient date, probably coeval with the settlement of the first Norman family, for besides the Norman arches which constitute the doorways and the stone mullions of the windows, several stones have been found in the walls ornamented with the Norman or Saxon scrolls.' Of these peculiarities I found only the round-headed door on the north side of the house and square-headed windows built with large blocks of stone, as shown in the illustrations of my article above alluded to. On the east side of this building was another square-headed window, the lintel of which was formed of a long narrow stone ornamented on the outer edge with an interlacing double ribbon-pattern (fig. 4), whilst on the inner edge is the inscription represented in fig. 5:—

iohannis moridic surexit hunc lapidem.

The letters of this inscription are of an early character, resembling those generally termed Anglo-Saxon uncials and minuscules. The R is of the ρ shape, the S Roman, the D and T uncials, the remainder being Roman minuscules. Such letters indicate a date prior to the introduction of the Gothic angulated letters by the Normans in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, whilst the manner in which the name Johannes is spelt, with a penultimate I instead of E, is an early Anglo-Saxon and Irish peculiarity. The term surexit used instead of erexit, and the word lapidem instead of crucem, are also to be noticed¹.

The under-side of the stone, as fixed in the top of the window at the time of my visit, exhibited a variety of patterns, chiefly of an interlacing character with a square cruciform design in the middle. Since my visit the stone has been rescued from its former position, and it has been found that the upper part of the design consists of a cross of the Latin form, each limb formed of three incised lines which are dilated at the ends, on either side of which is represented a human figure most rudely delineated, with raised arms and outspread fingers, as in the attitude of prayer, and a long shirt-like garment reaching down to the knees. The

¹ The fact of this inscribed stone having been built into the Norman vicarage is a proof of its higher antiquity than that building, and the name Moridic appears in the *Liber Landavensis*, pp. 263, 264. The present Bishop of St. David's, the Very Rev. W. Basil Jones, at the Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Brecon in 1853, objected to my explanation of the word 'johannis,' and noticed the difficulty of the double name 'Johannis Moridic' occurring at so early a period, suggesting that the original inscription ran thus—'Pro salute Johannis,' &c. I know nowhere of such a formula having been adopted in Wales. Would it not rather have been 'Orate pro anima johannis,' &c.? But (1) the letters are too old for such a formula; (2) the word is clearly a nominative in conjunction with Moridic; (3) the nominative Johannis, from the Greek Ἰωάννης, (with η to distinguish it from the spelling with the short penultimate Greek letter ϵ), was in common use in our early MSS.; and (4) the neighbouring Llanfrynach stone shows a similar form of the name.

figure on the left side of the cross is smaller than the other on the right side, the latter of which has a large circle between the arm of the cross and the head of the figure, two smaller circles over the shoulders, and two upon the breasts of the figure, from each of which last-mentioned circlets three small straight lines extend downwards. 'At first sight,' says Prof. Rhys, 'they seem to stand under a cross, but I am not certain that it is not the apple-tree with Adam and Eve beneath it; at any rate, above the lady's shoulders there are two or three small circles which may be an attempt at representing apples' (Arch. Camb., 1874, p. 332). As a small part of the basal portion of this cross was visible whilst in its former situation, and closely resembled the same part of the Llandevaillog cross (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2), I felt satisfied that the whole represented a cross with figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John standing at its sides. The Rev. J. Howell, Rector of the parish, kindly furnished me with rubbings of the stone in June, 1877, enabling me to complete my figures. I presume, notwithstanding the larger size of the figure on the right-hand side, that the peculiarities of the ornament over the shoulders and on the breasts indicate a female, and it is probable that a larger size was given to this figure in order to express a greater amount of reverence to the mother of the Redeemer than was due to St. John.

PLATE XXXIX. FIGS. 1, 2, 3.

STONES AT LLANFRYNACH.

I am indebted to W. L. Banks, Esq., of Brecon, for a notice and rubbings of the two interesting stones here represented, which were discovered in 1855 on taking down the parish church of Llanfrynach (Llan-vrynach, or the Church of St. Brynach, an Irishman who is said to have accompanied Brychan Brycheiniog into Wales in the fifth century). This parish lies about three miles to the south-east of Brecknock, and was a place of Roman occupation. The long stone (figs. 2 & 3) was found in the foundation of the church, below the surface and beneath the door leading from the chancel to the vestry. It is 6 feet long, 8 inches wide, with the upper surface covered with sculpture of a character closely resembling that of the Llanhamlach stone. At the upper end is a small Greek cross; below which is a human figure with the arms raised and fingers extended upwards towards the cross. At the sides of the legs, and for nearly 3 feet down the stone, is interlaced ribbon-work. Below this is a larger Greek cross formed of incised outlines, and the remainder of the lower part of the face is filled with ribbon interlacement, terminating with two triquetra-ornaments and a small bird. On the reverse side, and immediately opposite to the larger cross, are the letters *iohiꝛ* in Anglo-Saxon minuscule characters, which are the abbreviated form of the word *Johannes*, misspelt, as usual in some of our early MSS., *Johannis*: the whole leading to the conjecture that this stone was the work of the sculptor of the Llanhamlach stone. As to the execution of the design, it is to be remarked that the double knot in the ribbon-work at either end of the large cross is not so regularly interlaced as in the older stones, neither is the pattern of the interlacing beneath the human figure so regular and symmetrical as usual. On the left side also, the pattern is eked out by a waved line parallel with the outer edge of the ribbon itself—a