

the centre of the west end of the nave. The diameter of the bowl is 2 feet 10 inches, and the height, exclusive of the plain base on which it has been fixed, 2 feet 8 inches. The bowl is externally carved above and below with a fascia of interlaced ribbon-work, the middle portion of the bowl divided into nearly circular compartments formed by curved ribbons, pearled down the centre of each, springing from the ears and mouths of large monstrous heads of beasts, with erect mains and large tongues or beards. The four circles still remaining (for the font has been injured and partially repaired with plain cement work) contain a large head with a gigantic tongue and topknot, a bird resembling a very lame duck, a dog biting the end of his long tail, and a honeysuckle flower-like ornament. The narrowed stem on which the bowl rests is ornamented with an arcade of small interlacing arches and a flowing foliated arabesque. The rim of the font was inscribed all round the circumference, but portions have unfortunately been broken off and replaced by stucco, and even the portion which remains is very indistinct and can only be thus partially deciphered:—

ENSIESTV . . . . . qdAINdiquicque VE . . . FE SVSCIPITIS FEREOS.

PLATE XLI. FIGS. 2 & 3.

THE DEVYNOCK FONT.

This font with its base is 2 feet 10 inches high, 20 inches in diameter at the top, the basin being 14½ inches in diameter. The bowl is 7 inches high, the plain circular stem in two compartments about 22 inches, and each of the sides of the square foot 26 inches long. The bowl is ornamented with a row of small raised oval pellets, below which is a row of large quatrefoil ornaments with intervening raised pellets. The base is sculptured at each of its angles into raised trefoils. The rim is ornamented with a series of zigzags, much defaced and obliterated with whitewash, except in one part near where the staple for the lid was fixed, where there is an inscription represented in fig. 3, which I am entirely incapable of deciphering, or even of determining whether it may not be intended to be read in an inverted position. The characters are sufficiently deep and clear, so as not to admit of any doubt as to most of their forms.

PLATE XLI. FIG. 4.

THE ALTAR TOMB OF ST. AVAN.

In the churchyard of Llan Avan Vawr (6 miles west of Builth) is a plain oblong altar tomb, the top formed of very hard stone, with a deeply-cut inscription to the memory of St. Avan, the patron saint of the church—

HIC IACET SANCTUS AVANUS EPISCOPUS,

the letters being capitals of the Lombardic type slightly ornamented, and consequently not older than the end of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. I have given a copy of this

inscription, which runs in two lines down the sides of the tomb, in order that other enquirers may not be tempted to take a walk of six miles as I did to see an inscription which might be considered to be several centuries older.

This stone is mentioned by an anonymous writer in the Additional MS. (British Mus., No. 14,934, fol. 206).

## PLATE XLI. FIG. 5.

## THE TURPILLIAN STONE.

In Gibson's Camden, ii. p. 433, pl. 14, fig. 6, and in Gough's Camden, ii. 476<sup>1</sup>, a stone is described, then thrown down near a hedge on the farm of Ty-yn-y-wlâd, about a mile to the north-east of Crickhowell, with the inscription—

Turpilius jacit veri tr filius Dunocati.

In Jones's 'Brecknockshire' we find the inscription thus commented upon: 'Mr. Gough says it commemorated one Turpilianus<sup>2</sup>; in this he is incorrect. The first word is evidently Turpili and not Turpilian, the remainder may be anything the reader pleases. A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine for July, 1768 [1786, p. 473, t. 1. f. 7, and 581], makes it "Turpillius jacit Veri Tr. filius Dunocati."' Mr Jones adding—

"As the bell clinketh  
So the fool thinketh,"

with the footnote, 'I would by no means be understood to apply this sarcasm to the writer in the periodical work above mentioned, and much less to the truly learned and respectable author above named. I only mean to assert that the inscription, except the first word, is so far from being legible that it may be anything the antiquary supposes or wishes it to be.' He is equally incredulous on the subject of the marginal marks, now known to be Oghams. In my paper on this stone in Arch. Camb. (1847, p. 25) I have given the true reading of the stone, and exposed Mr. Jones's fallacious arguments. In 1846 I visited the farm of Wern-y-Butler, where the stone then was, and it was impossible to have discovered it had I not been accompanied by the proprietor of the farm, as it was completely overgrown with brambles, and the plough having cast up earth round it on which grass and moss had grown in profusion. The stone had even then been removed from its former position in an adjoining field on the farm of Ty-yn-y-wlâd. I found the stone to be nearly 3 yards long, 14 inches wide at one end, and 2 feet wide in the middle.

The inscription is to be read, without the slightest difficulty as to any of the letters—

TURPILLI IC IACIT PUERI  
TRILUNI DUNOCATI,

with various Oghamic marks along the left-hand edge (that is beneath the second line in my

<sup>1</sup> (And Ed. ii. vol. iii. 103, tab. 4, f. 6.) It is also mentioned or figured by Strange in Archæologia (vol. iv. pl. 2, fig. 2, and p. 19) and in Jones's Brecknockshire (vol. ii. pl. 6, fig. 4, p. 433).

<sup>2</sup> Petronius Turpilianus was successor to Paulinus Suetonius as commander of the Roman forces in Britain, A. D. 62. Our Turpillus must be several centuries more recent.