


ornamentation of the stone, as will be seen from the engraving, is of a very bold and effective character, especially on the inscribed side, which is more classical than that of the opposite side, which is divided into three compartments by two transverse bars, each about an inch wide, and extending across all the four sides of the stone. The interlacing of the ribbon in the upper compartment of this side is very intricate and irregular in its knotting, whilst that of the middle division is quite simple, each side of the square consisting of twelve loops. The bottom division of the un-inscribed side represents a curious pattern, formed of a series of fillet crosses arranged diagonally, each united to the four adjacent crosses (or at least to so much of them as could be introduced into the space) by straight raised lines interspersed with raised pellets, forming a charming diaper design capable of extension for larger spaces. The same design occurs on some other of the Welsh ornamented stones. The design in several of the compartments of the inscribed side of the stone, formed of a series of T's arranged thus , is very Chinese in its character, but is found on many of the ornamented stones in South Wales. To give this pattern, however, its proper effect the double outline strokes of the T's must be of the same width as the inclosed portion of the letters and also as the open spaces between the letters. Laid down in this manner in, for instance, small square tesserae or tiles, it forms a beautiful geometrical pattern.

The preceding account is copied from my memoir in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 339. A subsequent writer in the same work, 1872, p. 163, objects to the inscription recording a proper name, and suggests that it should be read as 'eju[s] don[avit]; say, of him who gave it;' i. e. the memorial stone of the founder; a most improbable conjecture.

PLATE XLIV. FIGS. 2 & 3.

THE LLANDEILO CROSS.

The accompanying engravings represent the two faces of a small sculptured stone cross recently discovered at Llandeilo, for the following particulars concerning which, as well as for rubbings thereof, I am indebted to our indefatigable member, Col. George Grant Francis, of Swansea. The information which he communicated respecting it is as follows:—

'While digging the foundation of the present church, in the chancel, the workmen came upon two slabs, the smaller of which has been missing ever since, the other has a cross inscribed on the obverse and reverse sides interlaced with chain (or rather ribbon) work, and measures 2 feet 4 inches in height by 1 foot 10 inches in width. The pedicle or lower portion, which was fixed in the earth, was accidentally broken in attempting to remove it. It is now deposited in the nave of the church. This stone cross is supposed to have been a production not later than the tenth century.'

It will be perceived that the ornamentation on both faces of the cross is very simple in its character, corresponding with that upon many other of the sculptured stones of Glamorgan-shire. It does not seem indeed that the arms of the cross have ever been connected by a raised circle (producing a wheel cross which is the more common form), indeed the four

bosses on what may be supposed to have been the front face prevents such a supposition. In this respect therefore, as well as in the graduated outline of this cross, we have a marked deviation from the other early crosses of South Wales. The knot-work in the centre compartment of the back face is rather more irregular than ordinary, and there appears some confusion in the interlacing of the left-hand extremity of the front face. The outline also of the panels, especially the central one on the reverse, is rude and irregular. It is probable that the cross was a sepulchral one, and was formerly fixed upright in the churchyard. It is not indeed improbable that the shaft, which is stated to have been accidentally broken, contained some inscription which is now lost. It is also to be hoped that the smaller slab mentioned in the preceding extract from Col. G. G. Francis's communication may be recovered. (J. O. W. in Arch. Camb., 1859, p. 136.)

PLATE XLV. FIG 1.

THE LLANSAINST STONE.

Shortly after the Carmarthen Meeting of the Archæological Association in 1875 my attention was called by Col. G. G. Francis to a stone in the wall of Llansaint Church, on the top of the hill between Kidwelly and Ferryside, which was not visited during the excursion to the former place. Col. Francis sent me a copy of a sketch of the stone made by his brother in 1846, and the Rev. Aaron Roberts has kindly furnished me with a rubbing of it. The stone is 4 feet 5 inches long and 8 inches wide, and the inscription in Roman capitals is to be read—

VENNISETL—

FILIVS ERCAGN—

The lower edge of the stone is broken through half the letters, but sufficient remains to show that the first word was FILIVS.

Prof. Rhys (Arch. Camb., 1877, p. 141) suggests that 'the last name *Ercagni* survives as *Erchan* in *Rhos Erchan*, the name of a farm near Aberystwyth, and *Vennisetli* analyses itself into *Venni* and *setli*, of which *venn-* must now be *gwyn* or *gwen*, white; and *setli* must be our *hoedl*, life; in fact the whole name appears later as *Gwyn hoedl*;' so that Mr. A. Roberts renders the inscription *Gwen hoedl fâb Erchan*.

PLATE XLV. FIG. 2.

THE CORBAGNUS STONE.

Lying close to the door of a cottage called Pantdeuddwr, about half a mile from White Mills, near Felin Wen, Abergwili, and used for whetting purposes, the Rev. Aaron Roberts discovered this inscribed stone, of which he kindly furnished me with rubbings, and by whom it was mentioned in the Arch. Camb., 1876, p. 236. According