

end of the outside of the church of Silian. In figure 4 the ornaments consist of incised diagonal lines bent continuously at right angles, forming an elaborate never-ending pattern constantly seen in Chinese metal and other work, and which is also found in the finest Hiberno-Saxon illuminated manuscripts.

The pattern on the other side of the stone (fig. 5) consists of an interlaced raised ribbon forming an endless series of knots. These patterns are 20 inches long by 11 inches wide. The latter will be seen to be identical with that on the Llanfihangel Ystrad stone next described.

This stone is noticed by Lewis (*Top. Dict. Wales*, vol. ii), who however was not acquainted with the inscribed stone above described. I suppose it is also the stone alluded to by Dr. John Jones (*Hist. Wales*, p. 317) as a monumental stone with an inscription in runic knots. 'The difficulty in deciphering such inscriptions consists in finding out the commencement of the inscribed sentence¹.' (!)

PLATE LXVII. FIG. 3.

THE LLANFIHANGEL YSTRAD STONE.

In Sir S. Meyrick's *Cardiganshire*, Pl. V. fig. 1, is given a wretched representation of an ornamented stone 'covered with runic knots and circles, such as are ascribed to chisels of the ninth century,' then standing in a field called Maes Mynach, near Cwm Mynach Valley, in the parish of Llanfihangel Ystrad. The stone now lies by the road-side near the mill at the entrance of the little valley in question, about six miles north-west from Lampeter, where it was visited by several members of the Cambrian Archæological Association in August, 1878, by one of whom it was suggested that the shape of the stone here represented might, from its rude resemblance to a monk in his cowl and cloak, have suggested the name Maes Mynach for the field in which it stood. It is about 6 feet high, 2 feet wide, and 19 inches thick, the ornamented side being uppermost. The size of the stone prevented our turning it over to ascertain whether there were not an inscription or other device on the reverse of the stone. It will be seen that the design of the ornament is identical with that of the Silian slab (fig. 5). It is proper to add that my figure has been made from sketches and rubbings of the stone, as it seems scarcely credible that Sir S. Meyrick's figure could have been drawn otherwise than from memory, being so ludicrously inaccurate.

¹ Prof. Rhys (*Notes on Welsh Stones*, p. 5) states that Mr. Jones of Glandennis, a member of the Cambrian Arch. Association, had assured him that he had often seen at Silian an Ogham-inscribed stone. No such stone was however found on visiting Silian in August, 1878, and it is probable that one of the other stones at Silian had been mistaken by Mr. Jones for an Ogham one, as it had by Dr. John Jones for a runic inscription.