

PLATE LXVIII. FIG. 2.

THE PENBRYN OR DYFFRYN BERN STONE.

This stone was first noticed by Edward Lhwyd (Gibson's Camden, p. 648, and ii. p. 42; Gough's Camden, iii. p. 160), and was also subsequently engraved by Meyrick (Cardiganshire, Pl. IV. fig. 2). From information received by me from H. Jenkins, Esq., and the Rev. John Hughes, Vicar of Penbryn, it appears that this stone formerly rested on the side of an artificial mound of stones in a field not far from the church of Penbryn, called Parc Carreg y Lluniau, on the Dyffryn Bern estate. On removing the tumulus (of which no trace now remains) an urn was found buried, but it was not ascertained what were its contents. The stone was afterwards set up in its present erect position as a rubbing-post for the cattle. The stone is nearly 5 feet high and 21 inches wide. It was visited by the members of the Cambrian Archæological Association during the Cardigan Meeting, and was subsequently published by the Rev. H. L. Jones (Arch. Camb., 1861, p. 306), who observes that the letters are of the same style and probably of the same date as those on the stone at St. Dogmael's. None of them are conjoined together; none are minuscule; they are tolerably regular; they are not peculiarly debased, but they contain the common false Latinity of *jacit*. Edward Lhwyd in his reading separates the syllable *COR* from the succeeding letters, and translates it 'the heart of Balenci.' Some of our members when they visited the stone took it as an abbreviation for *Corpus*; but judging from analogy we are inclined to look upon the first four syllables as making up only one word, the name of the deceased, apparently in the genitive case, and the whole inscription as divided into three words, reading thus—

CORBALENGI IACIT ORDOUS.

Above the first letter *A* is a sharp vertical incised line, which Mr. Jones thought might have been the commencement of a cross. The last word, *ORDOUS*, has occasioned much difficulty. It was considered by Edward Lhwyd to be an abbreviation for *Ordovicus*, showing that it was carved by men of South Wales who had welcomed one from the North, and had considered his origin worthy of note when they put over him this stone of honour. This suggestion confirms the great age of the inscription, since, as H. L. Jones suggests, this Romanised name of a British tribe could not have remained in use among ecclesiastics who no doubt cut the stone long after the termination of the Roman power.

Professor Rhys (Notes, p. 5, col. 1) adopts this reading, considering the first syllable *Cor* as analogous to the *Cor* in the Irish name Cormac for an older form Corbmac, and that *Lengi* meets us in Evolengi.

Dr. John Jones (Hist. Wales, pp. 22 and 316) gives the following absurd reading of this inscription: 'Cor Balenci jecit Ordous, the army (cohort) of Valence defeated the North Wallians. This Valence was cousin-german of Edward I, and fell fighting with the Welsh at Llandilo.'

Dr. John Jones also mentions that there is in this parish a stone called *Llech yr Ochain*, the Stone of Grief, near a well called *Fynnon Waedog*, or the Bloody Well.