

PLATE LXIX. FIG. 1.

CROSSED STONE AT STRATA FLORIDA.

At the first Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Aberystwith in 1847, an excursion was made to Strata Florida Abbey (a building the architecture of which was transitional from Norman to Early English), when the only earlier object which was found was a gravestone in the cemetery (under which lay a skeleton of considerable size; Arch. Camb., 1848, p. 131), of which a figure was given in p. 110, here copied, and which may be assumed to be earlier than the introduction of the Gothic style in architecture.

PLATE LXX.

THE CROSS OF ST. PADARN AT LLANBADARN VAWR.

The parish of Llanbadarn Vawr (including the town of Aberystwith, from which it is distant one mile to the east) is one of the most celebrated in the ecclesiastical history of Wales, deriving its name from St. Paternus, contemporary with SS. Teilo and David (with whom he is associated in the Welsh Triads), who founded a religious establishment here, afterwards erected into a bishopric, over which see he presided for twenty-one years. The name of a subsequent bishop is recorded as having attended a synod held at Worcester in the year 601, and the suffragan bishop of Llanbadarn was also appointed as one of the deputation to meet St. Augustine on his landing in Britain. The monumental stone of Idnert at Llandewi breffni has been considered to be that of the last bishop of Llanbadarn Vawr, who was killed by the inhabitants. See ante, p. 140.

In the churchyard are two very early memorials of the British Church, one a tall narrow stone, of which about 7 feet and a-half stand above ground (the base being buried at least 2 feet under ground, and being about 11 inches wide and 8 thick). The head of the stone is cut into the form of a cross, with a circular boss in the middle surrounded by interlaced ribbon patterns greatly defaced by the action of the weather, whilst the tall stem of the cross is divided into numerous compartments of various lengths, those of the north side (fig. 2) being filled with interlaced ribbon patterns, whilst those of the south side (fig. 1), much defaced by the weather, are more varied, the first from the top being filled with a rectangular Chinese-like incised pattern, the second with two conventional animals placed back to back, the left-hand one nearly defaced; the third compartment is an interlaced ribbon; the fourth short, with bosses, of which I am unable to determine the meaning; the fifth a very rude human figure with a large head, his right hand bent upwards towards his face as if in the act of benediction, whilst his left arm is extended into a large spiral curve covering his body, which may be either regarded as a shield or the head of a large pastoral staff. The legs are very short, and the feet large and splayed outwards. The narrow sides of the stone are ornamented with interlaced ribbons (fig. 3), and with the alternating TIT pattern (fig. 4). The figures of this stone given in Meyrick's Cardiganshire,