

On another side of Towyn, at the distance of about three quarters of a mile, is a large upright stone about 7 feet high, neither inscribed with letters nor a cross, which is called Croes Faen (the Cross Stone). It is one of the boundaries of the township.

## PLATE LXXVII. FIG. 7.

## THE BEDD PORIUS STONE.

This stone was first noticed by Robert Vaughan, in the first half of the seventeenth century, in his MS. notes published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1850, p. 203. It was however first made known by Edward Lhwyd in Gibson's *Camden*, p. 662<sup>1</sup>, Gough's *Camden*, iii. p. 176; Pennant, ii. p. 101. It stands in a field near a large maen-hir called Llech Idris, about 10 feet high, about half way between Dolmelynllen and Trawsfynydd in the valley of the Afon Gain. In Pennant's time it was in a farmhouse, but is now placed in the middle of a field on the west side of the river, and is surrounded by a fence of stones to preserve it from injury. It was rescued from destruction about forty years since by W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., who found the farmer in the act of building it into a wall, and Sir W. W. Wynne, on being informed of the circumstance, took proper steps for its preservation. (*Arch. Camb.*, 1846, p. 423, and 1847, p. 95.)

The inscription, which is of a very early period and in Roman capitals, is to be read

PORIVS

HIC IN TVMVLO IACIT

HOMO XPIANVS FVIT

1245 E.

The word in the first line is clearly Porius, although read as PORUS by Pennant, EPOREUS by Robert Vaughan, and MORWYS by Dr. John Jones. In the second line the letters VMV in the word TUMULO are conjoined, with only six instead of eight strokes; and in the third line the word following HOMO has been variously read thus: . . RIANUS by Edward Lhwyd, XRIANUS by R. Vaughan, PIANUS by Pennant, MEIRIANUS (a native of Meirion) by Dr. John Jones (*Hist. Wales*, p. 336). The difficulty has arisen from the curious conjunction between the first two upright strokes not having been clearly understood. This conjunctive character represents in fact an x of the Anglo-Saxon form, whereof the left-hand portion also forms the loop of a p, the p and x and i following being equivalent to the monogrammatic contraction of the name of Christ, and enabling us to read the third line as Homo christianus fuit, 'He was a Christian man.' The numerals 1245 E are clearly a modern addition, since no notice is given of them by the older writers above mentioned, and Mr. Wynne informed me that the late Mr. John Lloyd of Cefnvaes had told him that when he first knew the stone the Arabic numerals were not upon it. (*In litt.*, June 16, 1877, and *Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 78.)

<sup>1</sup> Also in his MS. correspondence from Oxford, 6th July, 1693. *Arch. Camb.*, 1848, p. 246.

Of Porius, Mr. Samuel Lysons suggested to me (in litt., March 24, 1865) that Peirio, one of the sons of Caw, called also Cato or Cadaw, was a saint of the congregation of St. Illtyd, to whom is dedicated a church in Anglesea. He was contemporary with St. Kebius or Kuby, circ. 360-400.

My figure of the stone was drawn by me from a rubbing communicated by the late Rev. H. L. Jones (Arch. Camb., 1846, p. 422). The stone is 3 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 4 inches, the lower corners being broken away, and about 8 inches thick<sup>1</sup>.

PLATE LXXX. FIG. 5.

THE CÆLEXTUS STONE AT LLANABER CHURCH.

This stone, 7 feet 4 inches long, 1 foot 9 inches wide, and 9 inches thick, was formerly used as a foot-bridge over a brook, and afterwards lay on the sea-beach, just above high-water-mark, under the farmhouse called Kiel Wart, in the parish of Llanaber and hundred of Ardudwy, to the north of Barmouth, where it became buried in the sand and its locality lost. It was however removed to the church of Llanaber in August 1855, where it is now safely imbedded in the inside of the wall of the church close to the north door. It was first described in Gough's Camden, iii. p. 173, and by Pennant in his Tour in 1781, p. 109 (4to. edition).

Pennant read the inscription as follows, *Hic jacet CALIXTUS MONEDO REGI*<sup>2</sup>; and it was read by Mr. Jones Parry as CÆLEXTUS Monedo Regi, the first two words being no longer visible (in fact, they could never have existed), there being space above the name Cælexti for several lines of writing, and the stone not appearing to be a fragment. (W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., Arch. Camb., 1850, pp. 229, 317, and 1853, p. 215.)

This is doubtless one of the stones in the sands of the Bay of Abermo, with inscriptions in Roman characters upon them, mentioned in Waring's Life of Iolo Morganwg, p. 202.

In the Arch. Camb., 1866, p. 369, an anonymous correspondent suggests the connexion of the stone with the Isle of Man—Mona, in the name Monedo Rigi.

The accompanying figure has been drawn from rubbings sent me by Mr. W. W. E. Wynne and the Rev. H. L. Jones, who read the last letter but two as *i* in Rigi, not Regi. The fourth and fifth letters of the second line are nearly effaced by the tread of feet when the stone was used as a foot-bridge. (H. L. J. in litt., Feb. 28, 1864.)

It closely corresponds with the figure given by Hübner (Inscript. p. 45, No. 128), except that in the last letter of the second line appears a mark like an *x*, and that a crack on the face of the stone renders the first letter of the third line incomplete.

Prof. Rhys (Arch. Camb., 1875, p. 195), referring to the connexion of this stone with Mona, the Isle of Man, and suggesting that Righmonaidh is the name of a monastery in Scotland, mentioned in the Irish MS. of the Felire Aengus, says, 'Righmonaidh probably meant

<sup>1</sup> The gigantic dimensions of the stone given by Hübner, Inscr., p. 46, No. 131, are those of the Llech Idris. (See Arch. Camb., 1846, pp. 423, 424.)

<sup>2</sup> The last two words have been read as intended for Moneta(rius) regi(s), the king's moneyer or coiner.