

## PLATE LXXVI. FIGS. 1 &amp; 2.

## THE LLANFIHANGEL Y TRAETHAU STONE.

In the churchyard of Llanfihangel y Traethau, within sight of Harlech Castle to the south, is a tall slanting stone standing about six yards due west of the church. It is square, about 6 feet high, and was delineated in Gough's Camden, iii. p. 172, tab., figs. 8, 9; Pennant's Supplemental Tables, 5, fig. 4; and a description and figure of the stone, with a copy of the inscription from my drawing, was published by T. L. D. Jones Parry, Esq., in Arch. Camb., 1848, p. 227, with an additional note by myself.

Further notes on the stone by Mr. Thomas Wakeman and John Gough Nichols appeared in the Arch. Camb., 1849, pp. 21, 22.

The inscription is to be read

+ h̄ EST SEPULCRV̄ WLEDER MATS  
 ODELEV QI PMV̄ EDIFICAV  
 HANC ECL'A.  
 IN TEPRE WINI REG.

i. e. + Hoc (or perhaps Hic) est sepulcrum Wleder matris  
 Odeleu qui primum edificavit  
 hanc ecclesiam  
 In tempore vvini regis.

Following the initial + is a thin stroke quite close to the first stroke of the h, noticed by Mr. Parry, but which appears to me to be but a *lapsus calami* of the sculptor.

The names commemorated on this stone have been the subject of considerable controversy. At first it was considered that it was the sepulchre of Wledermat Odeleu<sup>1</sup>, but Mr. Wakeman and J. Gough Nichols simultaneously suggested that the stone was that of Wleder, the mother (*matris*) of Odeleu, which reading has subsequently been maintained; the former writer adding, 'The person whose interment it is intended to commemorate appears to be Gwladis, the mother of Olave, the founder of the church in the time of King Ewin or Owen, probably Owen Gwynedd, between 1137 and 1169' (Arch. Camb., 1849, p. 21). The name of the king in the fourth line has been read Winus or Win by Mr. Jones Parry, Ewin or Owen by Mr. Wakeman (as above), and as Willelmi by Mr. J. Gough Nichols, the last-named writer considering the E as belonging to the word Tempore, 'for the word would be imperfect without it,' and that the letter following the vvi is intended for two minuscule ll's, with a line of contraction through them in the usual way; a reading which appears to me untenable (the letter being an n with the oblique bar neither reaching the top nor the bottom of the upright strokes, just as in the second letter of the same line). It will also be noticed that all the four L's in the three upper lines of the

<sup>1</sup> Lewis read the commencement, 'Hoc est sepulchrum Will. Dermal de deler;' and Dr. John Jones (Hist. Wales, p. 335) translates the inscription thus: 'This is the Sepulchral Cross of Gwladrifad Ddewin, who built this Church in the reign of King Edwin.'

inscription are capitals with the bottom horizontal bar, whilst, on the other hand, the w is of the same form as the w in the first line.

Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 244) considered that the king mentioned in the fourth line was Owen, son of Howel the Good, who died in 987. This he corrected in a following page (334), thinking that 'it was more likely to be of the time of Owain Gwynedd, perhaps on the whole,' as had been suggested by Mr. Wakeman.

In my note in *Arch. Camb.*, 1848, p. 228, I observed, 'I have no doubt of this inscription being of the Norman period. You will find it correspond in many respects with the legends of the Bayeux tapestry.' And (*Arch. Camb.*, 1849, p. 22), 'Mr. Wakeman's suggestion that this stone was erected in the time of King Owen (VVINI, Uvini?) is to be preferred to that of Mr. J. Gough Nichols<sup>1</sup>.'

The name Wleder (Gwledder in modern Welsh) has been recognised by the Rev. D. R. Thomas in the name *Buddwleder*, and by Prof. Rhys in the *Mabinogion* (ii. 212), where mention is made of a lady called Gwennwledyr. The latter also says that the name Odelev seems to be involved in Edelyv-on (*Liber Landav.*, p. 237), and that it probably follows the Welsh mutation, which would make Mam-Godeleu into Mam Odeleu, and so in *Sepulcrum Wleder*=Bedd Wleder for Bedd+Gwledder; if so, we might infer Gwledder and Godeleu. (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, pp. 244, 334.)

The palæographical peculiarities of the stone are worthy of attention, being especially referrible to a period of which there are scarcely any other examples in Wales. Amongst them are to be noticed the insertion of one letter in the open space of an adjoining one (*lettres enclavées*), and the peculiar contractions, sometimes in the shape of a small i above the line or a small transverse bar above the line, or a similar small cross-bar within the loop of the letter p in the last line.

PLATE LXXVI. Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6.

WELSH INSCRIBED STONE AT LLANFIHANGEL Y TRAETHAU.

In the 'Academy' for 1874 the Rev. John Wordsworth, of Brasenose College, Oxford, gave the first account of a curious stone which, about six years previously, had been found built into the belfry of the church, and for rubbings and drawings of which I am indebted to him, as well as for the following description of it:—

'It was a block of about 22 inches long, three-sided, and inscribed at both of the triangular ends and on two of the sides. On one of the ends and one side were Latin inscriptions, and on the other side and end Welsh. The Welsh inscription was comparatively modern, probably of the same date as that cut upon the end—*Mai 16, 1679*; it ended with the words *WYRMEWN HEDDWCH*, "I am in peace," but was difficult to decipher throughout. The Latin inscription was very curious. The triangular end seemed to have been used for a double purpose. Towards the apex were four letters, one of which might possibly have

<sup>1</sup> Strangely overlooking my remarks quoted above, Prof. Hübner (*Inscr.*, p. 45, No. 130) observes, '*Sæculi decimi quinti lapidem esse putabat Westwood.*' (!)

been a *M*, with three others beneath it, which I took for *I M P*, with a broader *M*. These three were scored through, and then came in apparently later characters, *DOMVS MEA SEPVLCHRVM*, and underneath them another line scored. There were the usual *nexus litterarum*, and the *M*'s were of a later shape—*M*. On the side was a pentameter line, which is certainly to be read

*ip* SE . IVBET . MORTIS . TE . ME | MINISSE . DEVS +

though the letters were somewhat indistinct, and the slab was broken in half by being thrown from a height. Of the cross I have a clear recollection, and it seems apparent in a rubbing which we made upon the spot. One of the friends who was with me at the time, and who assisted me in deciphering the stone (Mr. W. Heslop of Brasenose College, Oxford), has since pointed out that the pentameter is a line of Martial, from the epigram describing the little drawing-room built by Domitian so as to have a view of the mausoleum of Augustus, and that *deus* there is the dead emperor (Martial, ii. 59):—

“Mica vocor; quid sim, cernis; cenatio parva.

Ex me Caesareum prospicis ecce Tholum.

Frange Toros, pete vina, rosas cape, tingere nardo;

Ipsè jubet mortis te meminisse deus.”

‘Curious as the fact is, it is evidence of some culture, if of no very good taste, in the Christian who erected the tomb. The letters erased at the triangular end are also extremely puzzling; one is tempted to question whether they formed part of the legend of a mile-stone. But were mile-stones ever inscribed upon the end? Or could it have been a boundary-stone, some of which we know were so inscribed?’

‘The Welsh inscription, probably of the same date as is inscribed at the bottom of the stone, is to be read

CWG ... CEC                    . . . . .  
BYM FARW OR hSVTRENGAIS  
DDAETHYM . O RGROTH . . . S  
FWSIG wy (F me) WN HEDDWCH

‘The words *BYM FARW* mean, I believe, “I have been dead;” *TRENGAIS* is “I died;” *DDAETHYM O(R)GROTH*, “I came from the womb;” *PWYSIG* (?) is given in the dictionary as “pressing, weighty, important;” *WY(F ME)WN HEDDWCH*, “I am in peace,” is at any rate clear.’ (J. W. in litt.).

An account of this stone and its inscriptions is given by Hübner (*Inscrip.*, p. 47, No. 134), the Latin one being considered as much more ancient than the Welsh.

#### PLATE LXXVII. FIG. 4.

#### THE CRAIG Y DINAS STONE.

This figure represents a small stone 8 inches high by 6 inches wide recently found in taking down an old building on the farm of Pantglas belonging to R. H. Wood, Esq.,