

PLATE LXXXII. FIG. 1.

THE ORIA STONE AT PENMACHNO, NEAR BETTWS.

On taking down the old church at Penmachno, near Llanwrst, Caernarvonshire, several early and mediæval inscribed and sculptured stones were discovered, of which in due course of time, by the untiring assiduity of our greatly lamented friend the Rev. H. L. Jones, I was favoured with rubbings and drawings. One of these was a rude stone, on the upper portion of which was longitudinally inscribed the letters

ORIA IC IACIT,

the whole being cut in Roman capitals rather debased in form, as of course they are in orthography, the misspelt words *hic* and *jacet* being however often met with thus spelt.

The letters measure from 2 to 3 inches in height, and they appear to have been partially at least inclosed above and below the letters by a thin incised line. There is a little abrasion at the left-hand side of the initial letter *o*, but otherwise the whole is completely distinct and legible. The name *Oria* is very unusual, and there seems to be no reason for thinking any letters at the commencement of the inscription are lost.

By the care of the Rev. H. L. Pryce, Rector of the parish, the stone has been securely placed within the church, and it is to his attention that I am indebted for the rubbing of it which has afforded the subjoined engraving. (J. O. W., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 262; Hübner, *Inscript.*, p. 49, No. 137.)

PLATE LXXIX. FIG. 2.

THE PENMACHNO STONE OF CARAUSIUS.

The stone here figured (for a knowledge of which I am indebted to Miss F. Wynne of Voelas Hall) was first mentioned by the Rev. H. L. Jones at the Bangor Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1860, and is now securely placed in the church of Penmachno. It is 22 inches high and 11 inches wide, and bears on the upper part a large representation of the Labarum monogram of the name of Christ XPI , followed by the inscription—

CARAUSIUS HIC JACIT IN HOC CONGERIES LAPIDUM,

the whole (with the exception of the letters *Λ* and *v* in the first line, an unusual angulation of the upper part of the letter *s* thrice repeated, and a rather peculiar formed *α* in the fourth line) being written in tolerably well-made Roman capitals. The introduction of the monogram of Christ is of very unusual occurrence on the stones of this country (see ante, p. 145), the peculiarity in the present instance consisting in the Greek chi (*X*) being + shaped, the upper arm of the figure representing the Greek rho, whilst the lower part of the figure represents the *l*, making together *XPI* for *Christi*. Other instances occur both at St. Just, St. Helm's and Phellock in Cornwall, and in the pavement of the Roman villa at Frampton, Dorsetshire; at Jarrow, Durham (in the dedication stone of the church);

and at Kirkmadrine and Whithorn, Wigtonshire, Scotland. Its presence here seems to indicate a very early date, probably of the fifth or sixth century.

Whether the Carausius commemorated on this stone was one of the Roman rulers of Great Britain (Marcus Aurelius Valerius Carausius¹), as has been suggested, is scarcely possible, the Labarum of Constantine not being in use till ten years after the death of the Roman ruler. Carausius is said to have been slain at York in 297 by Alectus, a Briton.

The statement that the deceased was buried under a mound of stones (in hoc congeries lapidum) is, so far as I am aware, the only instance on record of such a fact, and proves that the raising of cairns or mounds of stones is not necessarily evidence of the paganism of the person interred beneath the mound. (J. O. W., in Arch. Camb., 1863, p. 257; Hübner, Inscript., p. 48, No. 136.)

PLATE LXXXII. Figs. 2 & 3.

THE CANTIORUS STONE AT PENMACHNO.

At the Bangor Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association (Arch. Camb., vol. vi. p. 363), the late Rev. H. L. Jones, in giving an account of the then recent discovery of several inscribed stones, mentioned one which had been known to Pennant and which had been preserved by Mr. Wynne of Voelas Hall, which describes a person as a Venedocian; and in the Report of the same Meeting given in the Gentleman's Magazine, Nov. 1860, p. 97, the inscription itself is given—

CANTIORIC HIC JACIT
VENEDOTIS CIVE FUIT
CONSOBRINO,

and on another side of the stone—

MA FILI
MAGISTRATI.

This inscription is quite unique, both as indicating the deceased as a citizen of Venedotia and as introducing the word magistrati, the precise meaning of which in a Welsh inscription of the sixth or seventh century is open to enquiry. The penultimate line is much defaced, and the rubbings before me show no trace of the letters *ri* which Mr. H. L. Jones introduced, probably from the letters *li* at the end of the line suggesting the usual formula *fili*. The letters of the remainder of the inscription are mostly Roman capitals, the second and third letters of the first line being closely conjoined together and formed of three strokes, the second oblique stroke of the *Λ* forming the first of the *N*. Moreover, between the *τ* and *ο* there is a short upright thin stroke, which may possibly represent an *ι*, but it is so indistinct that I at first overlooked it in making the drawing from the rubbings with the camera lucida. The *R* in the first word has a very large top loop and a very small second oblique line. The *N* in the second line is united with the following *ε*, its second oblique

¹ Sir Gardner Wilkinson (Arch. Camb., 1871, p. 141) disproves the supposed Menavian (South Wales) origin of Carausius as supposed by Stukeley and others, showing him to have been 'Bataviæ Alumnus,' according to Eumenius.