

stroke joining it in the middle of the first stroke of the  $\mathfrak{R}$ , whereas the oblique stroke of the  $\mathfrak{N}$  repeated twice in the third line is of the normal form. The  $\mathfrak{d}$  in the second line is exceedingly rude, as is also the angulated  $\mathfrak{s}$  in the middle of the second line, whereas it is more regularly shaped in the third line. The  $\mathfrak{g}$  in the last line is rudely minuscule, without a top bar, and the terminal  $\mathfrak{l}$  is recumbent  $\sim$ . J. O. W., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 257; Hübner, *Inscript.*, p. 48, No. 135, who adds,

‘Venedotis cives creditur esse civis Venedotiæ, i. e. Guenedotæ sive Guenedotiæ, hodiernæ Gwynedd, ita enim apud Nennium et in Annalibus Cambriæ regio illa appellatur. Sed quis affirmet Venedotes sive Venedotis non fuisse viri alicuius nomen fortasse juxta sepulti, ita ut Cantiorus (aut Cantorius) ejus civis sive conterraneus fuisse dicatur. Vocabula duo ultima cum non in eodem lapidis latere scripta sint, peculiarem titulum esse credebant, sed recte J. Rhys (Notes, p. 10) monuit cum prioribus esse conjungenda. Licet autem verba aut ita jungere ut supra indicavi interpunctione (Cantiori. Hic jacit, Venedotis cive(s) fuit, [c]onsobrino(s) Ma[g]li magistrati). Aut etiam ita: C. hic jacit, Venedotis cives, fuit consobrinos M. m.’

## PLATE LXXX.

## THE CEFN AMLWCH STONES.

The two early inscribed stones of which descriptions and figures were for the first time given in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1859, p. 53, have been preserved by the care of Charles Wynne, Esq., of Pentre Voelas, on the lawn of whose house at Cefn Amwlch, Caernarvonshire, they are now deposited. Mr. Wynne states that they were brought from a small farm on his estate called Gors, between Cefn Amwlch and Aberdaron, and that they stood in what is supposed to have been the burial-ground of an old church, the site of which is still discernible. About fifteen years ago the tenant was going to bring the spot into cultivation, and the stones were then removed for safety to their present resting-place. Mr. Wynne conjectures that this church may not improbably have been one of the chain of similar buildings which were erected along the ancient route to Bardsey from Bangor through Caernarvon, Clynnog, Llanaelhairn, &c. This supposition appears well-founded; for either the stones may have been primarily erected and inscribed there, or they may have been brought thither from Bardsey itself after the dissolution of the monastery. The line of road for pilgrims to the Isle of Saints went most probably through Nevin and Tudweiliog, but whether it thence proceeded through Meyllteyrn, Bryn croes, and Aberdaron, to the eastward of Mynydd Cefn Amlwch, and Rhos Hirwaen, or else to the westward of those hills by the seacoast through Llangwnadl and Bodferin to Eglwysfair at the extreme point of the promontory, is not quite certain. The farm of Gors (*query* Glan-y-Gors?) lies near Bodwrdda and Ffynnon Ddurdan (described in *Arch. Camb.*, vol. iv. Ser. i. p. 208), and is near the former of these two lines of road.

The stones themselves are almost cylindrical in form, with rounded pear-shaped ends, very smooth in surface, and seem to be water-worn boulders, brought perhaps from the sea-shore.

The accompanying illustrations were made from rubbings kindly sent by Mr. C. Wynne, and will give an idea of the general appearance of the stones and their inscriptions, which,

it will at once be seen, are of a character quite unlike that of any of the inscriptions hitherto published, not only as regards the form of the letters but also the style of the inscriptions themselves. It is evident that they are contemporary, and I was, at first, inclined to regard them as of the tenth or eleventh century<sup>1</sup>, that is, sometime before the introduction of the angulated Gothic or rounded Lombardic (as they are miscalled) letters: They record the sepulture of ecclesiastics, the second stone showing them to have been members of a fraternity. The records of the locality will probably afford a clue to the history of this establishment. The first and most important of these stones is evidently to be read

SENACVS | PR̄SB | HIC IACIT | CVM | MVLTV | DINEM | FRATRVM | . : : | FRE ET . . . |

The long thin form of the entirely Roman capitals of this inscription will attract attention, as well as the mode of contraction of the word Presbyter and the extraordinary conjunction of most of the letters of the fourth and fifth lines. The false Latinity of the word multitudinem is almost surprising. The lower part of the stone is much rubbed, and the letters FRE ET (. . . fratre et . . .?) are almost defaced.

Unless it were to record the burial of the superior of the community and a number of his companions, perhaps slaughtered at one time, the formula is certainly a curious one.

The second stone is easily to be read

MERACIVS

PBR̄

HIC

IACIT.

Except in the conjunction of the first and second letters, the ill-shaped third letter R (the bottom stroke of which should join the first of the following A), and the equally ill-shaped B in the second line, this inscription does not offer any observation of note.

The length of the first of these stones is 3 feet 6 inches, and its diameter varies from 6 to 18 inches; and the length of the second stone is 3 feet, and its width varies from 6 to 12 inches. The letters vary from 2½ to 3½ inches in length.

Prof. Rhys (Notes, p. 10) reads the first name of fig. 1 as Veracius, and the bottom line of fig. 2 as PRESPIER. The drawing and rubbings sent me show a splaying stroke to the right of the supposed V in the former word, and the first letter of the latter word may possibly be a P, but after the third letter it is but guess-work to determine what is the true reading of this bottom line.

#### PLATE LXXIX. FIG. 4.

#### THE LLANGIAN STONE.

In the churchyard of Llangian, on the south side of the church, stands an erect stone 3 feet 10 inches high, resting on a circular paved space sinking slightly towards the

<sup>1</sup> Hübner, Inscr., p. 50, Nos. 144, 145, regards them as much older.