

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 century¹, 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

¹ Hübner, Inscr., p. 50, Nos. 144, 145, regards them as much older.

middle, the upper part having probably formerly supported a sun-dial, judging from the nails still remaining in its head. A figure and description of the stone was published by T. L. D. Jones Parry, Esq. (Arch. Camb., 1848, p. 105), by whom the inscription was read

MELI MEDICI FILI MARTINI JACIT.

The letters of the inscription are entirely Roman capitals, a proof of the great age of the stone. They are about 2 inches high, the *m*'s with the first and last strokes splayed outwards, the second *m* having the second and fourth strokes carried above the line as in the rustic letter *m*; the *L* and *I* in the first line are conjoined, the *I* not so tall as the *L*, and extending below the line. This conjunction indicates a debased style, and which is sometimes carried so far that the *L* and *I* were formed \perp (the *i* at the end of words is often carved like a *j* below the line in early Irish and Anglo-Saxon MSS.). The *r* and *R* are also debased in form, the bottom right stroke of the latter being short and nearly horizontal. The formula commencing with two names in the genitive and without any *hic* is to be noticed. (J. O. W., Arch. Camb., 1848, p. 107.) Sir J. S. Simpson gave a figure of this stone in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1863, vol. iv. p. 130. It is Hübner's Inscript., No. 142.

PLATE LXXXII. FIG. 4.

THE LLANELHAIARN STONE.

About fifteen years ago, in digging a grave in a newly-inclosed piece of ground adjoining the churchyard of Llanelhaiarn (about four miles from the Chwilog station and close to Yr Eifl mountain), there was discovered a block of stone 4 feet 3 inches long, here figured, on which is inscribed

A HORTVSEIMETIACO HIC IACET,

the whole being in good Roman capital letters of good proportions, but slightly irregular in size. The second letter has an oblique line or dash at the bottom of its first upright stroke, apparently making it into an *L*, so that it may be taken for *H*, *LH* conjoined, or *LI*.

The account and figure which I published in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1867, p. 342, were prepared from rubbings received from the Incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Ellis, of Glasfryn, near Pwllhelli, and the schoolmaster, Mr. R. Hughes, together with a careful drawing executed by Mr. Blight.

Prof. Rhys subsequently examined the stone, and read the second letter as *L* and *H* conjoined, the seventh as a *G* instead of *s*; and again after another visit (Arch. Camb., 1874, p. 247) he doubted the *L* in the first letter and adopted the reading of the seventh letter as *s* (giving philological reasons for this change in his opinions). In July, 1876, he read the second letter as *LH* and the seventh as *s*, translating the first line as Alhortus the Bronze-speared. In August, 1877, the stone was visited by Prof. Rhys, Mr. Robinson, myself, and several other members of the Association during the Caernarvon Meeting, when the inscription was discussed; and in the report of the visit it is stated that the inscription was read