

## A N G L E S E A.

PLATE LXXXIII. FIG. 2, and PLATE LXXXIV. FIGS. 1, 2, 3.

## THE PENMON CROSS.

The Augustine Priory of Penmon, founded by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, King of Wales, in the sixth century, and refounded by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, Prince of Wales, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, still exhibits in various portions of its ecclesiastical remains specimens of sculpture of a date long prior to the latter period. The conventual church, the refectory, probably part of the prior's lodgings, and some of the farm-buildings of the establishment still remain, and were carefully described and figured by the late Rev. H. L. Jones in the first volume of the *Journal of the Archæological Institute*; whilst the documentary history of the priory is given in an elaborate paper by the same writer in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1849, p. 44, which was illustrated by a plate drawn by myself representing the four sides of the fine cross which now stands at some distance from the church, in an exposed situation, and which still preserves its original base—a rare occurrence—the eastern and western sides of the base being ornamented with a sort of square pattern, the two other sides having an ornament of small depressed diamonds. The shaft of the cross is rather more than 5 feet high, and from 1 to 1½ foot thick; the head of the cross is 1 foot 8 inches in diameter, and 1 foot thick. It is a wheel cross, but the spaces within the wheel and between the arms are not pierced. From the awkward manner in which the cross fits into the present top of the shaft and the shaft into its base, it is not improbable that some portions both of the top and bottom of the shaft are lost. The east side of the shaft (Pl. LXXXIV. fig. 2) is the only one which is divided into compartments, three of which are filled with interlaced ribbon-work not carefully designed. A large square central compartment represents a central figure, apparently with a nimbus round the head, on either side of which stands another upright figure with long robes, one having a head like a bird and the other like that of a fox. This design appears on several of the crosses in Ireland, as at Castle Dermot, and it has been suggested that it represents our Lord between Pride and Avarice. It appears however to me to be intended for Christ seized by the Jews, of which we have a more perfect representation in one of the illuminations in the *Book of Kells*, which I have copied in my 'Miniatures and Ornaments of Anglo-Saxon and Irish MSS.,' Suppl. III. Pl. I. fig. 1. The practice of representing the enemies of our Lord as hideously as possible, and sometimes with the heads of beasts, was quite common in the Middle Ages. In the bottom compartment of this side of the cross is a figure on horseback, with some other figures not easily determinable, which has been doubtfully regarded as intended to represent the Flight into Egypt. The west side of the cross (Pl. LXXXIV. fig. 1) is chiefly occupied with a very peculiar ornament, of which no other instance occurs in Wales, but which is clearly of Roman origin, and is also found on stones at Kirk Michael in the Isle of Man (Cumming, Pl. I. fig. 1, Pl. II. figs. 1, 3, &c.; St. John Tynwald, ib. Pl. II. fig. 5; and Kirk Andreas, ib. Pl. III. fig. 9) as well as on some of