

to a stonemason, named Shon Morgan, who went in a fit of drunkenness to "try the quality of the stone." Arch. Camb., 1862, p. 134.

Lastly, in Hubner's *Inscript. Brit. Christ.*, p. 22, the ancient representation of the inscription is repeated with the note—'Quæ supersunt vestigia Johanni Rhys visa sunt talia efficere: "*tesroiki*;"' whilst in the text the inscription is read '*Sefroiki*.'

PLATE II. FIG. 2.

THE MERTHYR TYDVIL STONE.

In one of the angles of the Church of St. Tydfil (the parish church of Merthyr Tydvil) there is inserted at a considerable distance from the ground an inscribed stone represented in this figure. It commences with an ornamented ✠ of the Latin form, placed longitudinally, followed by an inscription in rather rudely formed minuscule letters such as are found in Anglo-Saxon and Irish MSS. of the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries. They appear to me to represent the name

✠ artbeu.

Respecting the second of these letters, which might be thought the most difficult to be deciphered, I have not the least doubt that it is intended for a r, which in many of our earliest manuscripts has the first stroke elongated below the line, and the second stroke deflexed, sometimes even so much as to resemble a ρ ; the fourth letter appears to be a b, and the last a u of unusual form. Although I was unable to make a rubbing of the stone I was enabled to make a clear drawing of it, the letters having been well brought out by the sunlight, and which has since been fully confirmed by the examination of a rubbing made by the Rev. H. L. Jones.

As to the person intended to be commemorated in this inscription, we may notice first that he was a Christian, as shewn by the sacred emblem prefixed to his name; and secondly that the inscription from the form of the letters must have been executed long after the departure of the Romans. Mr. Stephens, indeed, at the Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1853, in a paper on the Antiquities of Merthyr and its neighbourhood published in the Fourth Volume of *Archæologia Cambrensis* for that year (Ser. 2. vol. iv. p. 319), gives it as his opinion that it commemorates Arthen, a brother of St. Tydfil. The Rev. W. Basil Jones, now Bishop of St. David's, on the other hand, suggested that although Artgen or Arthen was the son of Brychan Brycheiniog, a name famous in Brecknockshire (but regarded as apocryphal by him and most other archæologists), there were others of the same name, and hence that it is doubtful whether it were intended for the individual in question. The fact however that this stone should even still be found forming part of St. Tydfil's Church (having probably been placed there when the former church was destroyed), is in favour of Mr. Stephens' suggestion. My original figure (here reproduced) was published in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1858, facing p. 161. The inscription with the cross extends to the length of 24 inches, the average height of the letters being 3 inches.

'Artgen occurs among the legendary sons of Brychan. Artgen, prince of Ceredigion,

died A.D. 807 (Ann. Camb. and Brut y Tywysog.). And Arthgen, son of Sulien Bishop of St. David's, must have died a few years before or after A. D. 1100. The date seems to exclude the first (supposing him to have existed), and the locality the second, whilst the assumed date of the monument is inconsistent with the third. Sulien's other sons appear to have left St. David's on their brother Rhyddmarch's death, so that Arthgen may well have died in Glamorgan.' Haddan and Stubbs' Councils, i. p. 631.

PLATE II. FIG. 3.

THE INSCRIBED STONE AT THE GNOLL, NEAR NEATH.

The earliest notice of this stone is that given by Edward Lhwyd in Gibson's Camden, p. 620 (copied in Gough's Camden, ii. p. 502, and ed. alt. iii. p. 132), where it is stated that 'in Panwen Brydhin, in the parish of Llangadoc, about 6 miles above Neath, is the Maen dan Lygad yr ych, two circular intrenchments and a stone pillar, inscribed M. CARITINI FILII BERICH.' The stone is about a yard long and 8 inches broad. From a letter, with which I was favoured in 1853, by the Rev. T. Williams¹ of Tir-y-Cwm, Ystrad, near Swansea, it appears that about the year 1835 the late Lady Mackworth, then the possessor of The Gnoll, near Neath, collected together all the curious stones found in the neighbourhood for the embellishment of a grotto she was forming in a terrace about one hundred yards to the south of the house, in the ornamental ground overlooking Neath. Being too heavy it was partially broken before removal, the extremity of the inscription receiving some injury. Shortly after the grotto had been completed the rock-work gave way during a heavy storm of lightning and thunder and the whole was buried from sight.

Fairy influence was believed by the common people to have been at work in revenge for the removal of the stone from the charmed circles, within which the 'fairies had been constantly seen dancing on a fine evening,' but who had disappeared after the removal of the stone, and who were heard laughing heartily when the grotto was destroyed, according to the testimony of the under-gardener, as amusingly narrated by Mr. Williams, who subsequently induced Mrs. Grant, the then occupier of The Gnoll, to have the ruins removed, when the stone reappeared without having suffered any further injury. The place however became neglected, as in 1846 I found the grotto filled with dead leaves and garden rubbish so as nearly to hide the stone again.

The letters of the inscription are very rudely-formed Roman capitals of unequal height. It is to be read²

MACARITIN— FILI BERI(CI?)

There is certainly a cross bar between the two strokes forming the second part of the

¹ Mr. Williams's letter appears in extenso in my article on this stone in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Ser. 3. vol. xi. p. 59.

² By a lapsus calami (easily detected on an inspection of the engraving of the inscription published with my article on this stone in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, here reproduced in the accompanying Plate II. fig. 3), the first word of the inscription was printed MACARIN— instead of MACARITIN—.