

the elder brother of Juthahel and Rhys, who were all three sons of Arthmael. *Samson, in all probability, was some relation of the parties, although he does not appear in the genealogies.* The name seems to have been rather a common one. As this monument was not erected till after the death of Ithahel, in 846, its date may be fixed about the middle of the ninth century, and that of Howel ap Rhys a few years later.' 'I think,' he adds, 'the foregoing observations must set the question at rest as to the age of the Llantwit crosses. At no other period are the names thereon recorded to be found contemporaneously in the history of Wales. Those of our associates who, from the characters of the letters and ornamentation, conjectured the date to be the ninth or tenth centuries, are fully borne out in their opinion.' Arch. Camb., vol. iv. p. 21.

The terminal letters of the last word of the inscription are very indistinct. Sharon Turner read them teca✠ni, the i being inserted within the n. Messrs. Haddan and Stubbs read the last word as tecain—(=decani✠), converting the initial t into d and reading the in backwards, and thus turning Arthmael into a dean, with the observation, 'The last line must be read backwards. Juthael King of Gwent was killed A.D. 848. (*Ann. Camb. and Brut y Tywysog.*) But Arthmael or Arthfael was probably from his office [of dean], not the king of that name who was Howel's grandfather, nor yet the king (probably of Gwent) who was contemporary with Bishop Cyfeiliawg of Llandaff, 872—927, and therefore with Howel (*Lib. Landav.* 227). Neither was Samson of course the Bishop of Dol, who preceded his namesake in the text in the abbey of Llantwit by some 300 years, and who died in Brittany. Both names are not unusual. The office of Decanus, however, cannot have been that of a Cathedral Dean, there being no such office at all in the old S. David's, nor at Llandaff (apparently) until the 10th century.' Councils, i. p. 627.

It may also be observed that Ithel Hael, an Armorican prince, migrated to Wales in the sixth century, and that amongst his sons (to whose memory several churches in different parts of Wales are dedicated) was Tegai, the founder of Llandegai, Caernarvonshire (Rees, *Welsh Saints*, p. 223). Have we not here the Juthahelo rex and the teca recorded in the last lines of our inscription? Again, it seems scarcely probable that the same Samson who erected this stone 'pro anima sua' should also have stated upon the large cross figured in Plates III and IV that he placed it 'pro anima ejus.' I am hence induced to consider this latter stone as earlier than the tall quadrangular shaft.

It has still further been suggested by Dr. Carne (*Arch. Camb.*, 1869, p. 437), that the Samson of this inscription is the Archbishop of Dol of that name who migrated thence from Wales, and whose rescue of Indual, a Breton prince, is recorded in his Life (*Liber Landav.*, p. 303: 'The similarity between Juthahel and Indual is singular').

PLATE VIII.

LLANTWIT. THE CYLINDRICAL PILLAR.

This stone, unique of its kind in Wales, stands in the churchyard of Llantwit, leaning against the north wall of the church. It is nearly 2 yards high, and 14 inches in diameter in

the middle, tapering slightly from the bottom to the top, which is injured. The side next the wall has a small groove extending throughout its whole length, with which some strange notions were attached in former days, as we learn from Donovan's Tour. It is divided into four portions by transverse bars, each composed of three narrow ribbons. The bottom compartment is ornamented with straight lines forming a series of zigzags, and the other three compartments are filled with interlaced ribbon patterns, which are represented in full detail in the detached figures of the Plate.

This stone has been figured, but inaccurately, by Strange in the *Archæologia*, vol. vi. pl. 2, fig. 3, and by Donovan in his *Tour in Wales*, vol. i. p. 339, and tab. annex. I have not been able to learn anything, traditional or otherwise, concerning this elegant relic, which in its complete state was most probably surmounted by a cross.

PLATE IX.

LLANTWIT. THE SHORT QUADRANGULAR SHAFT.

This quadrangular stone, which measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard high, 14 inches wide, and 10 inches thick, stands in the porch of Llantwit Church, and has been cracked across near its top. It is ornamented on all its sides with ingeniously arranged interlaced ribbon designs in sunk panels, which will be seen on examination of the Plate to form never-ending patterns, but which are not easy to describe in detail. There is no inscription on the stone, nor have I been able to meet with any account of it. It is figured imperfectly by Donovan in his *Tour in Wales*, vol. i. p. 339. It probably bore a cross at the top when in its complete state.

PLATE X. FIG. 1.

MERTHYR MAWR. BROKEN HEAD OF WHEEL CROSS.

This fragment of a wheel cross measures 30 inches in diameter, and is now in the churchyard at Merthyr Mawr. It is drawn from a rubbing sent me by the Rev. H. L. Jones in 1855. The base, with a small portion of the cross in its socket, stands close to the south gateway of the modern churchyard. The wheel cross was composed of eight spokes, the intervening spaces forming sunk panels. Around the edge of the stone appears a series of scroll-like patterns of an unusual character, but evidently too imperfect to be clearly made out.

PLATE X. FIG. 2 a, b, c, d.

MERTHYR MAWR. CROSS OF CONBELANUS.

This stone, which doubtless originally supported a cross on its top, stands in the garden of the mansion of J. C. Nicholl, Esq., at Merthyr Mawr, about two miles from the Bridgend Station. It is 4 feet high, 2 feet broad, and varies in thickness from 14 to 12 inches. On its front face it