

The crack of the stone across the latter word has damaged part of the inscription, but the stroke following the conjoined AV is extended below the line, and was evidently an L, doubtless followed by I, preceding the terminal NVS. The inscription, differing as it does from the ordinary formula of Welsh stones, is therefore, I presume, to be interpreted, 'Here lies Cantusus, whose father was Paulinus'; or may it not mean, 'Here lies Cantusus, who was the father of Paulinus'?

In addition to the notices above given, this stone has been recorded in the 'Journal of the Archæological Institute,' iii. 1846, p. 274; the 'Journal of the Archæological Association,' ii. 1847, p. 287; Thomas Wright's 'The Celt and the Saxon,' p. 456; Haddan and Stubbs, Councils, i. 168; and by myself in the Arch. Camb., 1856, pp. 251, 320. The name Cantusus appears to be unrecorded by the Welsh historians, but Paulinus is repeatedly; and besides the Merthyr Mawr stone above described (p. 8), the stone dedicated to him, now at Dolocauthy House (post, pl. XLIV. fig. 1), is the most interesting of all the Welsh inscriptions. The irregularity in the size of the letters, varying from 2½ to 4¼ inches in height, is their most noticeable peculiarity, the Latinity of the Welsh stones being somewhat defective.

PLATE XXVI. FIG. 3.

THE ROMAN ALTAR AT LOUGHOR.

We are indebted to the late Rev. H. L. Jones for the first notice of this Ogham inscribed altar (Arch. Camb., 1869, pp. 258, 344). Loughor, the mediæval Castell Llychwr, stands on the extreme western boundary of the county of Glamorgan, where the river of that name, coming down from the hills near Llandeilofawr, divides it from the county of Caermarthen. Just where the present decayed town stands near the stream, or rather on the sandy and marshy ground south of it, was the Roman station of Leucarum, and coins, pottery, and other traces of a Roman station have been found here, and tradition points to the site of part of it as just opposite the modern railway station. A small hill rises here immediately from the water's edge, and on it are the earth-works and a square tower of the Norman castle, as well as the parish church, the former having probably been erected with its mound in the strongest part of the station. Mr. H. L. Jones continues: 'It is stated in Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary" that a Roman miliary stone was found at Loughor, where it formed one of the steps leading up to the rectory house. It was not a miliary stone but an altar, and it now stands on the lawn in front of the rectory, in the upper part of Loughor, on the slope of the hill. It is rather plain, but its shape, as will be perceived by the accompanying engraving, plainly betokens its origin and purpose. The material is a fine-grained, white sandstone of the carboniferous series, so close in texture and so light in colour that at first sight it appears to be marble. It is entirely devoid of any sculptured ornaments or inscription, but on examining it closely and under a favourable light in 1857, the author found on the south-west angle of the lower portion certain Oghams, the edge which serves for the fleasg or basal line on which they are cut being chipped in two places, and the oghamic inscription is so far imperfect. Owing to the very light colour of the stone, and

the total absence of shadow cast by these cuttings, the Oghams were extremely difficult to be made out, but considerable time was spent over the monument, and the accuracy of the delineation may be fully depended upon. The Oghams begin from the bottom, and read upwards from left to right, as is usual in similar cases.'

These letters are represented in Mr. H. L. Jones's figure here copied;—two oblique lines between the chippings of the edge of the stone, a dot above the upper chipping, followed by three oblique strokes to the right, then five dots, and at the top, in the curved space below the square cornice or abacus of the top of the altar, four oblique lines to the left of the middle line. These marks Mr. Jones considers to represent L(?) . . . ASIC, and he is further induced to consider that they were cut on the edge of the stone after it had ceased to be used as an altar, and when it served for a commemorative purpose; and hence that it is to be considered, not as of pre-Christian times, but of a date later than the departure of the Roman garrison from the adjoining station. The stone is about 4 feet 6 inches high, and the width of its flat sides about 1 foot 7 inches.

Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1873, p. 198) maintains that 'the reading is L(?)VIC, which, if the drawing be correct, should be completed by inserting E, which makes it LEVIC, that is, according to the Irish method of reading, Lefic. The former reminds one strongly of Leucarum, the name of the Roman station in the neighbourhood. But which are we to trust, Mr. H. L. Jones's reading or his drawing?' In his Notes (p. 7) he, however, gives a different reading, observing, 'After it (the stone) had been cut for an altar, an inscription in Celtic was made on it, which is now very hard to read—it may be Lehoric or even Vehomagic. Were the former correct, it might stand for Lehori C., i. e. Lehori Castra, meaning Cas Llychwr, which is the name by which Loughor is known in modern Welsh.' On which I may observe that it is not at all usual on these Celtic or Romano-British stones to use initials alone, and that it is also not common to inscribe localities on them.

Mr. Brash, whose experience of the Ogham inscriptions in Ireland was very considerable, states (*Arch. Camb.*, 1873, p. 286) that he had examined and copied the Loughor stone. He says, 'The inscription is much damaged. Only two letters are determinable, IC. Before the I are two scores across the angle, which, if a letter, would be G, but as there is a flake off the angle before it, it may have formed portion of an R. There is neither an L nor an F on the stone. Farther down is one score, but as the angle before and after it is damaged, it cannot be determined whether it is an M or a portion of another letter.'

#### PLATE XXVII. FIG. 1.

#### THE ROMAN MILIARY STONE IN THE SWANSEA MUSEUM.

In Col. G. Grant Francis's work on Neath and its Abbey we find a notice of another Roman miliary stone, found on the Via Julia Maritima, between Nidum (Neath) and Bovium (Boverton) near Pyle, which having been rescued from destruction by that gentleman, has