

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 Lehoric C., i. e. Lehoric 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

been deposited amongst the antiquities in the Royal Institution at Swansea. It bears the inscription, as given by Col. Francis:—

IMP  
MCPIA  
VONIO  
VICTOR  
INOΛVQ°

the name of Victorinus recording one of the thirty tyrants slain A. U. C. 1019. A number of coins of Victorinus were found at Gwindy near Llansamlet in June, 1835 (Dillwyn's Swansea, p. 56; Numism. II. i. 132).

The figure in Plate XXVII is copied from a rubbing by Col. Francis—reproduced in Journ. Archæol. Instit. vol. iii. p. 275. It was probably erected by the Legion which happened to be at Boverton at the time of the usurpation of Victorinus in Gaul (A. D. 265, in the time of Gallienus), whose inscriptions (like those of his contemporary, Tetricus, of which all that are known are published in the Winchester Volume of the British Archæological Association) are of the greatest rarity and interest.

The present stone must not be confounded with the stone near Scethrog, which also bears the name of Victorinus.

PLATE XXVII. FIGS. 2, 3, 4.

MILIARY STONE FOUND NEAR ABERAVON.

These three figures represent the three inscriptions upon a Roman military stone which I found lying in a carpenter's work-shop near Aberavon, which had then quite recently been discovered on the line of the Via Julia Maritima, on the western side of the New Cut at Aberavon by which the river is discharged into Swansea Bay. It is about 5 feet in length; its sides have not been brought to a face before cutting the letters, which have been inscribed with a round-headed chisel. The front, back, and one side of the stone bear inscriptions, much effaced. Portions of an interment were found below the stone, so that, like the votive stone of the Emperor Maximinus, discovered near the same spot in 1839–1840 (Plate XXVI. Figs. 1, 2), it had probably served for a grave-stone in the ancient Christian adjacent burying-ground, known under the Welsh name of Plattau yr hen Eglwys, and owes to this its preservation.

In the Rev. H. H. Knight's third memoir on Newton Nottage (Arch. Camb., 1853, p. 231), it is recorded that the 'stone inscribed to the third Gordian on one side and end, and to Diocletian on the other, was brought from Aberavon after a voyage into Swansea Bay as ballast in a pilot boat. It was set up on the lawn before the [Rector's] house for safe preservation; the exact spot was chosen because it once formed the angle of the level platform on Jacklow's Hill, extending to the southward of the present highway, and some bones were found there in embanking.' In a footnote it is added that 'the letters of this inscription are rudely cut with