

by a gigantic comma). The next letters, VAN, are conjoined, the second stroke of the V forming the first stroke of the A. The remaining letters are clear, the whole being in good Roman capitals and referrible to the Romano-British period.

With regard to the names upon this stone, it may be observed that VÆCTI does not occur to my knowledge on any other Welsh stone nor in any Welsh record or MS. Vectis, the name of the Isle of Wight, can scarcely have any connection with it, and the name of Victi on the Cat-stone near Edinburgh is the nearest lapidary form to it with which I am acquainted. GUAN, on the contrary, seems identical with GOVAN, the Saint, whose chapel and the promontory on which it stands, St. Govan's Head, is visible from the high ground at Llanmadoc; and Gouanus and Elga, otherwise Gwynwas and Melwas, are said in Tyssilio to have intercepted the virgins sent to Armorica (John Major, l. i. fo. 20).

Whether St. Govan can be identified with Sir Gawaine, the renowned knight of King Arthur's round table, as has been asserted by some popular writers (e. g. Malkin and Roscoe), is rather doubtful.

This stone and other relics of antiquity in the neighbourhood will be illustrated by the Rector, the Rev. J. D. Davies, in his 'History of West Gower,' of which the first part has just appeared, including also the very early quadrangular ecclesiastical bell which was ploughed up in a field in the parish of Llanmadoc, and was given by the Rector to C. R. Mansell Talbot, Esq., and is now preserved in the museum at Penrice Castle. It was made of sheet-iron, and had formerly been covered with some bright shining substance like gold, some portions of which still adhere to the thin corroded shell of the bell. The clapper was attached, but owing to a fracture in the side of the bell its sounding properties are of course destroyed. It is about 6 inches high. This is here mentioned as supplemental to my papers on ecclesiastical hand-bells in the early volumes of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*.

In addition to several cairns to the south of Llanmadoc, there is a tall pillar-stone to the south-west, as marked in the Ordnance Map.

PLATE XXXI. Figs. 2, 3, 4.

COPED TOMBSTONE, NEWCASTLE-BRIDGEND.

In the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1852, p. 156, the late Rev. H. H. Knight published a short note of an ancient monumental stone with early characters which had recently been discovered in the alterations and repairs of Newcastle Church, Bridgend, and which was then placed on the south side of the chancel, outside the church, where the inscription was likely to be gradually effaced by exposure to the weather.

that name—there being a meadow near the church which goes by the name of 'Swan's Meadow,' or 'Swan's Acre,' to the present day. It need hardly be observed that the stone is many centuries older than the time of worthy Vicar Swan.

No steps were taken to illustrate or elucidate this interesting relic until the zealous Treasurer of the Cambrian Archæological Association, the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, published a notice of the stone in the same work for 1873, p. 193, accompanied by a figure of the stone drawn by Mr. J. T. Blight, in which however, by some oversight, the larger portion of the inscription which extends in two lines down one side of the central stem of the cross was omitted. Mr. Blight's otherwise clever drawing has been copied in the accompanying figure, corrected from sketches and rubbings made by myself in July, 1877.

The tomb-stone measures 6 feet 4 inches long and 15 inches broad at its widest part, the stone gradually tapering to the end. It has suffered much from the weather, many small round holes now occurring on the stone, especially on the side shown nearest the spectator in the accompanying figure, of which however sufficient intervening spaces occur to prove that on this portion of the stone there has never been any inscription. The cross itself forming the summit of the ridge of the coped stone is of the Maltese form, with a central boss and with the ends of the arms gradually widening and marked by oblique incised lines in pairs, the lower limb of the cross terminating in a long and gradually tapering stem of a twisted or rope-like form, the slender lower end being worn smooth. The top of the broad end of the stone has been obliquely chiselled off, the upright end itself as well as the further side being quite plain, but the side of the stone towards the spectator is worked into an arcade of rounded arches much injured.

On the side of the head of the cross towards the spectator is a square interlaced ribbon design, the ribbons formed of double raised lines. The corresponding space on the other side of the head of the cross is almost worn smooth, but a careful rubbing shows the double interlacing ribbons as well as their recurved ends in various parts, so that I do not hesitate to consider that originally it resembled the other side. These interlaced spaces are followed by two transverse lines of inscription, which are so far defaced that I fear it will be impossible to recover their true import. I have drawn them as carefully as possible in figure 3.

Possibly the first line on the left-hand side may have commenced with the word HIC, while the second line seems occupied with the word QVIQVE. The first line on the right-hand side looks something like NIVN, and the second line seems clearly to end with EIVS. The two spaces below the arms of the cross are occupied by two quadrangular ribbon ornaments tied into a simple knot at each of the four angles.

Below this ornament, on the further side of the stone, are two lines of inscription, which are unfortunately so much defaced as to render the reading very difficult. This is especially the case in the portions occupied by what appear to be two proper names. With the assistance of Augustus Franks, Esq., the keen-eyed Director of the Society of Antiquaries (with whom my pleasant acquaintance dates from the first Caernarvon Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1848), I think the following may be the possible reading of the inscription:—

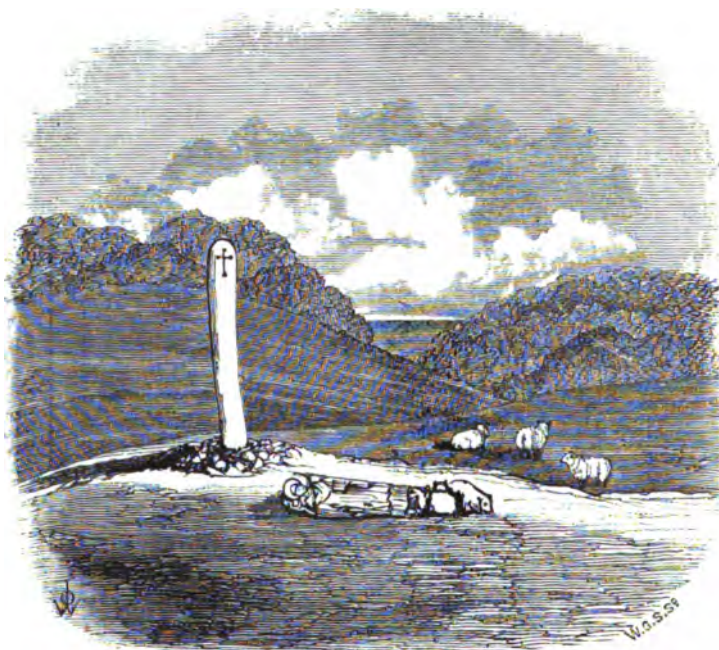
CG(?)ER(?)ERT(?) FECIT LAPIDES
EMIT hU(?) PVM LAPIDES.

The letters of the inscription are very rude, and cannot, I think, be more recent than

the tenth or beginning of the eleventh century, to which date I believe that the tomb itself must be referred. As noticed above, the quadrangular 4-knotted ornament (which is repeated of a small size at the end of the inscription) occurs on the coped coffin-lid at Llantwit, with the inscription in Lombardic capitals printed in Plate XXX. fig. 3, which can scarcely be referred to an earlier period than the twelfth century.

The peculiar twisted cord-like stem of the cross on this Newcastle stone is of rare occurrence, but is seen on a slab in the churchyard of Llanfihangel Aber Cowen, near St. Clear's, Caermarthenshire, as referred to in my article on Welsh Monumental Effigies, Arch. Camb., 1847, p. 317.

THE CROSSED STONE AND EFFIGY NEAR NEATH.



In a field in the grounds of Court Herbert, near the abbey of Neath, stood, some years since (and probably still stands), a tall upright maen-hir, raised upon a small mound of stones, doubtless of Pagan origin, but upon which, at a more recent period, the emblem of the cross had been inscribed by early Christian converts, thus rendering it an exponent of the two opposed religions; whilst at its foot lies the sculptured effigy of the founder of the abbey church, the abbot Adam de Kaermarden (who lived at the latter end of the thirteenth century, in the most palmy days of the Romish Church in this country), dragged from its original place in his abbey, of which a Welsh poet, who saw it in all its glory, tells us in inflated language that 'never was there such a fabric of mortal erection, never was there and never will there be such workmanship, which will not perish while the day and wave continue!'—'Sic transit gloria mundi.'