

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

PLATE XXXII. FIG. 1.

THE PEREGRINUS STONE AT TRETOWER.

From information communicated to me by the late Rev. T. Price of Llanfihangel-Cwm-dô, I was enabled many years ago to find this and the following stone built into walls at Tretower, the present one into the north-east angle of a wall of Ty-llys farm-house, joining the north-east entrance into the orchard of the castle of Tretower. The inscription is in plain Roman capital letters and is to be read PEREGRINI FEC¹.

The letters are 2 inches high and partake slightly of the rustic form. As the Roman station of the Gaer is but a short distance from Tretower, it is possible that this and the following stone may have been brought from thence, as I am not aware that any Roman remains have been found at Tretower.

The first published notice of this stone appeared in my article in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1851, p. 227.

PLATE XXXII. FIG. 2.

THE STONE OF VALENS AT TRETOWER.

This stone, like the preceding, was built into the wall or pillar on the north-west side of the gate of Court-House farm at Tretower, just to the north-east of the castle. The stone was 18 inches long by 5 inches wide. The letters, especially the terminal F(ecit), are Roman capitals partaking of the rustic character.

The inscription commences with a mark like a 7, usual in Roman inscriptions, and is to be read 7 VALENT F. On visiting Tretower during the meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1876 I was not able to find this stone, nor has Sir Joseph Bailey, resident in the beautiful adjacent Glan Usk Park, been more fortunate, as he has since informed me. It is therefore to be feared that it has been destroyed.

PLATE XXXII. FIG. 3.

THE VAENOR STONE.

In Jones's 'Brecknockshire,' vol. ii. p. 624, pl. 6, fig. 5, a description and figure are given of a stone which stood at Vaenor, or Faenor (about 3 miles to the north-east of Merthyr

¹ I had supposed that the first word is intended for a proper name in the nominative (although, as usual, written in the genitive case), but possibly the inscription is to be read in the plural (as suggested to me by Sir Joseph Bailey, to whom I am indebted for a recently made rubbing of the stone), *Peregrini fec(erunt)*.

Tydvil), within 100 yards of the twelfth milestone on the turnpike-road from Brecknock to Merthyr, as a gatepost in a wall on the right-hand side of the road, and about 50 yards on the other side of the river Llysevoc.

On unsuccessfully searching for this stone, I was informed that it had been accidentally destroyed by workmen at Merthyr Tydvil on its way to the Swansea Museum, whither it was being carried by a Mr. Richards. The first line of the inscription is much defaced, but seems to have read TIR vs. It was however read by the late Taleisin Williams as TIBERIUS. The second line, CATIRI, was plainly carved in good Roman capitals. By Hübner it was read Tir (fili)us Catiri (Inscr. Christ. Brit. p. 19), and by Dr. John Jones Terminus Catiri, the boundary of Cadir. I was informed also that the Rev. T. Price of Llanfihangel-Cwm-dû possessed a rubbing of the stone.

PLATE XXXII. FIG. 4.

THE CATACUS STONE AT LLANFIHANGEL-CWM-DÛ.

In the year 1830 the inscribed stone here figured was built into the south wall of the church of Llanfihangel-Cwm-dû, and close to it a brass plate was affixed in the wall with the following inscription:—

‘CATACUS hic jace[i]t filius Tegernacus.’

‘Here lies Cattoc the son of Teyrnoc.’

‘This stone was removed from a field called Tir Gwenlli, about a mile S.S.W. of this church of St. Michael, Cwm-dû, and placed in this buttress for preservation by the Rev. T. Price, vicar A.D. 1830, having been presented to him for that purpose by the owner, the Rev. T. Lewis. Its original site is not known. 1830.

‘CATAWC AP TEYRNAWC.’

This fact is detailed in the *Cambrian Quarterly Magazine*, vol. v. p. 519. The stone had however been previously noticed by Daines Barrington in the *Archæologia* for 1773, by whom it is stated to have formerly stood at the Gaer (Pen-y-Gaer or Pentre Gaer) near Cwm-dû; and in Gough's *Camden*, iii. p. 103, where it is strangely mis-read as follows:—

EAT×CUS HIC JA·CP

FILIUS PSESERNACUS.

Thence it was badly copied by Jones in his ‘*Brecknockshire*,’ ii. pl. 12, fig. 1, and p. 499, and it is also noticed by Payne in the *Archæologia Scotica*, iii. 1831, p. 98. The inscription measures about 40 inches by 10, the letters being very irregular in size, and from 2½ to 5 inches in height. They are a curious mixture of capitals and minuscules, several of them being of unusual shape, the C throughout being of the angulated form, the A in the top line with the two oblique strokes extended and crossing above the top of the letter like x, and with the cross stroke angulated. The t throughout is of the minuscule form, the S always written of a very large size, the h minuscule-shaped, the F almost cursive, the E

to the stone in July, 1877) shows an oblique stroke on the right side of the first letter of the upper line, which I had thought might be a *r*, making it a *x*, as has been suggested by Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 332), who further suggests that the first name seems to be *RUGNIAVTO*, with the top of the *r* very faint, but he does not think it can be *Rugniavio*. The stone is however so imperfect in this part that only guesses can be made as to its true reading. I cannot however believe the two marks following the *Δ* (the second of which is upright) to be intended for *u*, because that letter is clearly made of the *v* form in both rows of letters.

The ornamental details represent two crosses with equal-sized limbs, both of rather elegant design, although it is to be regretted that the mason, in order to fit the stone for its required position, has chiselled off part of the patterns on one side. This however is not to be wondered at in a district where the mutilation of sepulchral slabs was in times past carried on to such a disgraceful extent as I have nowhere else witnessed.

PLATE XXXVII. FIG. 3.

THE VAENOR STONE.

In the middle of the last century an inscribed stone marked with a cross of very unusual form (copied in the accompanying figure) stood in the highway-road in the parish of Vaenor, 3 miles north of Merthyr Tydfil, and was described by E. Llwyd in Gibson's *Camden*, vol. ii. p. 6, and in Gough's *Camden*, vol. ii. p. 476, pl. 14, fig. 7, whence it was copied by Jones in '*Brecknockshire*,' vol. ii. p. 623; the last-named author not having succeeded in finding the stone. In 1846 I visited the neighbourhood to search for it without success, so that it is probably destroyed. The cross, of the Latin form, surmounted by a second cross bar (probably intended for the *Titulus*), is enclosed within a space formed by two straight incised lines, extending down the sides of the stone and preceded by a transversely-oval space traversed by a straight cross line.

The inscription in my Plate is copied from Gibson's *Camden*, and is as follows:—

+ IN NOMINE di fumi +ILUS.

On comparing this inscription with that at Llantwit given in Plate VII, and that of the Margam cross, Pl. XIV, fig. 2, it will be evident that the commencement of it should be read *IN NOMINE DEI SUMMI*¹. Whether the following letter be intended for a prostrate *r* or *f*, or whether it is the more ancient form of *n*, or whether, as represented in Gough's *Camden*, there is only a single *i* between the *m* and the *L*, is, it is to be feared, no longer possible to determine.

In this inscription the *m* is represented in two early forms in use in Anglo-Saxon

¹ This disposes of a suggestion made in a communication which I received from Dr. Hübner: '*Potest etiam cogitari de Sumi (si quidem tale nomen ferri potest) fil[i]us Sitii.*'