

PLATE XXXII. FIG. 7.

THE VICTORINUS STONE AT SCETHROG.

This stone stood formerly on the east side of the turnpike-road, near Scethrog (half-way between Llansaintfread and Llanhamlwech). It was however removed thence by a person resident in the neighbourhood and used as a garden-roller, being cylindrical and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long. On being remonstrated with he placed it, many years since, in its present situation, in the hedge, on the west side of the road, 4 miles and 7 furlongs distance south of Brecon, and within a stone's throw north of the ford across the Usk, which runs here close to the road. I found the upper half nearly covered with moss and ivy, and the lower half buried in the bank, but having cleaned it with much trouble, and partially dug away the earth from the lower part, I was able to make out most of the letters except in the upper part of the inscription. The first word indeed seems hopelessly undecipherable (Professor Rhys, however, suggests it may possibly be read NEMNI, whence Nemnivus). The remaining characters clearly read FILIUS VICTORINI; the first stroke of the F being produced both above and below the line, the top transverse stroke being rather short, the middle transverse stroke seems to be effaced, but the little cross tip at its end is to be seen even longer than the following I. The next letter L has much of the minuscule character, the top being elongated above the top of the line. The following I is short, and carried, like the preceding I, below the line, as is often the case when the letters L and I come together: the V is of the v shape, the top being carried above the preceding letter: the N is a good Roman capital. This mixture of the forms of the letters indicates a late portion of the Roman period.

The stone has been engraved by E. Llwyd in Gibson's Camden, p. 593, and by Strange in the *Archæologia*, 1776, tab. 2, fig. 1; also in Gough's Camden, vol. ii. pl. 14, p. 5, and in Jones's 'Brecknockshire,' pl. 6, fig. 3, p. 536, but the forms of the letters are incorrectly rendered, and by myself from my rubbing and sketch in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1851, p. 226.

PLATE XXXIII. FIG. 1.

THE MAEN Y MORWYNION, OR MAIDEN STONE.

This stone, ornamented with full-length figures of a Roman soldier and his wife, is unique in Wales, and it is to be regretted that it is so much obliterated. It stands on the north side of the Roman road, about 40 feet wide, leading from Brecon to Aberscyr, close to the Gaer, about 2 miles west of the former town, facing the south, the two figures in high relief but almost defaced. The stone is 7 feet high, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide at the base, and from 9 to 12 inches thick.

The lower half of the stone was occupied with an inscription, of which only portions of the two bottom lines are now decipherable. In Gibson's Camden, ii. pl. 15, fig. 2, it is badly represented by E. Llwyd, and the two bottom lines are read, ALANCINA CIVIS ET CONJUNX EIUS H S EST: and this reading (except that the first word is given as ALANCLA) is confirmed by an entry by the Rev. Henry Thomas, Rector of Llandevaelog, in a copy of Gibson's

Camden. My figure is drawn from a rubbing and sketch made by myself on the spot. The letters which remain are excellent Roman capitals.

The stone is further mentioned by Strange in the *Archæologia*, vol. i. p. 294; Jones's 'Brecknockshire,' vol. ii. p. 103, pl. 6, fig. 2; in the 'Beauties of England and Wales,' p. 5; by Gough in his edition of Camden; and in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1872, p. 385.

PLATE XXXIII. FIGS. 2, 3.

THE LLANDEVAELOG STONE.

In the churchyard of Llandevaelog-fach, a little village about two miles to the north of the town of Brecon, is preserved one of the most interesting of the early sepulchral incised slabs now remaining in the Principality. It is of considerable size, being about 7 feet long, by rather more than 1 foot wide, and is built into the west wall of a small square building erected in the churchyard, a little south of the church, being a mausoleum of the former owners of Penoyre. It may be described as consisting of four several compartments: (1) the top of the stone, being occupied by an incised ornamental cross, followed by (2) the figure of a warrior, whose right shoulder has been cut away with a portion of the stone, the figure being surrounded by interlaced ribbon-patterns; (3) a square space, bearing an inscription preceded by a cross; and (4) an oblong space, with a double interlaced ribbon-pattern, of which I believe the lower part is cut away. Being bedded into the wall, I cannot state the thickness of the stone, and cannot consequently judge whether it could ever have stood upright, or was originally intended to be laid flat on the ground, or fixed upright, as now, in a wall. With the exception of the space containing the inscription, the letters of which are incised, the surface of the whole stone is sunk, leaving the ornamental patterns and figure in relief. The incisions forming the design are but of moderate depth, and it is therefore really surprising how well, in so exposed a situation, it has been preserved, withstanding the action of the elements for at least a thousand years.

The cross at the top of the stone is of the calvary form, formed of two parallel raised bands interlaced at the junction of the limbs, the ends of the limbs forming dilated triangular knots, the basal knot being increased in size to give greater apparent support by the band being doubled.

The spaces within the angles formed by the arms of the cross are filled in with interlaced ribbons, which are either doubled or trebled; the middle band of the lower left-hand space appears to have been left entire, instead of being trebled by incision, like the other ribbons in that part of the design.

The warrior in the next compartment is as rude an attempt at delineation as could well be imagined. It is $2\frac{1}{4}$ feet high, with a most ill-shaped head, and disproportionately large left shoulder and small legs. There is no attempt at rounding the limbs, the surface of the stone being left flat, and the parts indicated only by incised lines. In his right hand he bears a thick straight weapon resting on his right shoulder, but of which the upper end has been cut away; in his left hand he also bears a short weapon, slenderer than the other, and which is evidently extended into the ribbon-pattern at his left side. The pattern on the right side of the stone, at the side of the head, is a double interlaced ribbon.