

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.

which is not quite regular in its lower part; the ornament on the lower part of the compartment to the right of the figure is a modification of the Z-pattern, which bears so great a resemblance to Chinese work. The left-hand side of the figure is occupied with a single interlaced ribbon-pattern, in which independent circles have been introduced to fill up the design.

The square space below the figure is surrounded by a narrow cable-like moulding, the upper line being bent upwards, following the position of the feet. The inscription consists of two lines of letters, which are to be read—

+ briamail

Flou

They are of the minuscule Anglo-Saxon, Britanno-Saxon, or Hiberno-Saxon form, the second letter r being of the long-tailed or cursive  $\mu$ -form. The first letter of the second line is injured, and may possibly be a P instead of a F.

From its analogy with Brochmael, Dogmael, &c., I suppose the first line of the inscription to record the name of the warrior<sup>1</sup>. What the second line may mean must be left to the student of the old British language to decipher.

The bottom compartment is occupied by a bold diaper-pattern formed of double interlaced ribbons. The design is irregular at the top right-hand corner, and the bottom has apparently been cut off.

The stone has already been described, and rudely figured, in Gibson's Camden, vol. iii. p. 104; Gough's Camden, vol. ii. p. 476, pl. 15, fig. 1; Jones's 'Brecknockshire,' vol. ii. p. 174, pl. 6, fig. 1, and by Strange in the *Archæologia*, i., in which the writer supposes it to be of the fifth or sixth century! and to be the work of the Danes!! Until Denmark can produce such monuments as this, we may be content to consider the present memorial as a production of our own early Christian forefathers.

The present stone is almost the only instance occurring in Wales of the figure of the deceased being represented on one of those early slabs, and is valuable, rude as it is, as affording some slight indication of the dress and weapons of a British warrior. It has struck me as possible that the sculptor of this stone might have been led to introduce the figure of the deceased warrior, from the circumstance of the Roman monument in the vicinity, commonly known under the name of the Maen y Morwynion, having full-length figures of the deceased and his wife sculptured upon it.

The representation given in Plate XXXIII. figs. 2 & 3, is reproduced from my article in the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, 1858, p. 306.

#### THE CATUC STONE, LLANDEVAELOG-FACH.

This stone, as already stated (ante, p. 56), was inscribed with the name of Catuc, but is no longer to be found. It is referred to in an anonymous article in *Arch. Camb.*, 1862, pp. 52

<sup>1</sup> Professor Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1873, p. 77) considers this name as identical with that of Briauail (*Liber Landav.*, pp. 137, 140, 207, and Briavail, *ibid.*, p. 135). Dr. John Jones (*Hist. Wales*, pp. 46, 310) stated that the tombstone has been considered to be that of Brochwel Ysgythrog, but that from the letters 'it is more likely of being the tomb of FIR MÆL, son of Edwal, A.D. 763;' and that the church is dedicated to Maelog ab Caw ab Cawrdaf ab Cradoc Fraichfas, Prince of Brecknock. By Lewis the church is said to be dedicated to St. Tyvaelog.