

In a paper on the Ogham Stones of Wales (*Arch. Camb.*, 1869, p. 162) the late R. R. Brash considers that the broad end of the stone was manifestly the bottom when used as an Ogham monument, but was certainly made the head when it was turned into a Christian monument by the engraving of the cross upon it. The stone was selected and inscribed with a Gaedhelic inscription, as usual, on the angle, and leaving a space at the broad end of about 16 inches to secure it in the ground; subsequently a Roman inscription, embodying a portion of the Gaedhelic one, was inscribed on the stone as it stood, from the top downwards, as we find the custom in all such examples, after which the cross was engraved on the broad part and the stone reversed. The Oghams were read by Mr. Brash 'CU NACEN NI FI IL FETO,' i. e. 'Cu Nacen, a warrior pierced (by) many wounds, (lies) beneath in silence;' 'a rendering in accordance with our knowledge of the Gaedhelic language, and without violence to the original, neither adding to, taking from, or altering a single letter.' In the same work, 1871, p. 327, Mr. Brash adds that although the word NI does signify a warrior, it is here the genitive case of the preceding proper name. He further mentions the discovery in the cave of Dunloe, near Killarney, of another Ogham stone bearing the name Cunabena, 'another link in the chain of evidence which connects the province of Munster with South Wales at a remote prehistoric period.'

Prof. Rhys, however, read the 'Celtic letters Cunacenni Viilveto; the latter has as yet not been explained' (*Early Inscr. Stones of Wales*, p. 9). Subsequently he admits this reading to be incorrect, and that it 'can only be Cunacennivi Ilveto, where Cunacennivi may be regarded as the equivalent of Cunacenni filius Cunaceni, and Ilveto as an epithet not rendered in the Latin version, the same person being commemorated in both.' (*Arch. Camb.*, 1875, p. 371.) A third reading is also suggested by Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 92), that the FILL is the Oghamic equivalent of the FILII of the Roman inscription.

PLATE XXXVI. FIGS. 2 & 3.

FRAGMENTS AT YSTRADGYNLAIS CHURCH.

The first of these stones (fig. 2) forms one of the steps of a staircase on the south side of the church of Ystradgynlais, in the Vale of the Tawe, at the south-west angle of the county of Brecknock. It measures 4 feet long and 8 inches wide. The letters are large and coarsely cut, measuring about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. There appears to be a crack across the stone between the first and second letters. The inscription, in its entire state, has, as it seems to me, been intended to be read ADIVNE: from its standing thus alone I take it to be a sepulchral slab inscribed with a name terminating not in the genitive I as usual, but in E, probably intended for the diphthong Æ, and thus indicating a female as intended to be commemorated. The first stroke of the A and V are nearly upright, the curved stroke of the D is slightly detached at each end from the upright first stroke, as are also most of the strokes of the other letters. I suppose this inscription to be not much more recent than the sixth or seventh century.

The second of these stones (fig. 3) is built into the outside of the east wall of the same church, near the south-east angle. The inscription is simply HIC IACIT, but it cannot have

been part of the preceding inscription, as the letters are much smaller (being only $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, and much better formed). Possibly some other part of the inscription is built into the church walls, with the letters placed inwards. The inscription is in good Roman capitals, except the terminal τ , which has a more minuscule form, the bottom of the vertical stroke being a little angulated to the right; the Λ has the cross bar angulated, and the usual false Latinity IACIT is adopted. These peculiarities indicate a somewhat more recent date than that of the Roman occupation of the Principality.

PLATE XXXVI. FIG. 4.

THE ABERCAR STONE.

In one of my rambles in Brecknockshire I found this stone (to which I had been directed by the late Taliesin Williams of Merthyr Tydfil, and which had not previously been recorded) forming the lintel of a beast-house at Abercar, on the west side of the road from Brecon to Merthyr, about 100 yards north of the thirteenth mile-stone from the former place and two miles south of Capel-Nant-ddû. The adjoining farm-house abuts on the turnpike-road, on the south side of a small rivulet, and a long barn and cow-house close adjoining are on the north side of a small brook (Cwm-Car) which crosses the road.

The stone has one end built into the wall, so that the beginning of the inscription containing the name of the person commemorated is hidden, and the stone is cracked across the middle of the doorway (the inscription being on the under-side of the stone). Since my visit, the doorway, as we learn from Prof. Rhys, has been walled up, and a building made adjoining it ('Inscribed Stones of Wales,' p. 9). The visible part of the inscription is—

S
CVRI IN HOC TVMVLO

The letters are tolerably good Roman capitals, with the exception of the minuscule h ; the u is written v , and the m with the first and last strokes splaying outwards beneath. The exposed part of the stone is 32 inches long, and the letters about 2 inches high. (J. O. W. in Arch. Camb., 1858, p. 162.)

PLATE XXXVII. FIG. 1.

MAEN MADOC.

A strange inscription upon a tall stone (as represented by Strange in the Archæologia, vol. iv. tab. 1, fig. 3, and in Gough's Camden, ii. pl. 14, fig. 3, copied in Jones's 'Brecknockshire,' ii. pl. 12, fig. 2, without any attempt at its elucidation) led me to hunt for the Maen Madoc in one of the bleakest and most unfrequented parts of South Wales in September 1846. The Roman road called Sarn Helen or Lleon joins the ordinary road from Devynock to Ystradfellte, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of the Maen Llia, a great block of stone marked on the Ordnance