

lines. In the spaces between the arms of the cross are small circular impressions, arranged so as to form four triangles, each composed of three impressions. On the margin of this side of the stone are a few marks, which may either have been Oghams, or possibly represented the letters I V L.

PLATE XL. FIGS. 1 & 2.

THE PATRISHOW FONT.

These figures represent the curious font in the small but very interesting church of Patrishow, on the eastern confines of the county of Brecknock, about 6 miles to the north-east of Crickhowell. The font is large and circular, with a narrowed circular base resting on a broader circular block. Its upper part measures 34 inches in its external diameter, the basin being 20 inches in diameter with an excavated drain. The outside of the body of the font is quite plain, but upon the flat ridge of the top of the font is the inscription—'Menhir me fecit i(n) te(m)pore genillin,' consisting of rudely-formed letters of irregular size, being for the most part Anglo-Saxon minuscules. On either side are two holes for the staples for the cover, and also two semi-foliated ornaments, extending into a line which runs all round within the outer edge and encloses the inscription.

From Jones's 'Brecknockshire' we learn that Cynhyllyn, or Genyllin Voel, the only son and heir of Rhys Goch, was Lord of Ystradyw, as well as Prince of Powis, in the middle of the eleventh century, and that the church itself was consecrated by Herwald (who was consecrated Bishop of Llandaff in 1056) under the name of Methur Issur, evidently corrupted from Merthyr Ishaw, or St. Ishaw the Martyr. Hence we learn that the font is coeval with the dedication of the church in the year 1060, and this is of considerable importance, as we have in this inscription round its top a very different style of letters either from the debased Roman capitals of the Paulinus and other earlier stones, or the Hiberno-Saxon characters of the Llantwit and other similar monuments. The system of contracting the words, wherever possible, had also commenced.

The foliated ornaments on the rim suggested a later date to the font than is here proposed to the Editors of the *Archæologia Cambrensis* (1856, p. 287), where my original article appeared; in reply to which I cited many instances of similar foliated ornamentation in Anglo-Saxon MSS. of the end of the tenth and eleventh centuries, in a foot-note to my article above referred to.

PLATE XL. FIGS. 3, 4, 5.

THE FONT OF BRECON PRIORY CHURCH.

Amongst the various objects of interest in the priory church of Brecknock, which has been lately restored in an excellent style, chiefly through the energetic action of J. R. Cobb, Esq., none exceed the ancient font represented in the accompanying figures, now standing in

the centre of the west end of the nave. The diameter of the bowl is 2 feet 10 inches, and the height, exclusive of the plain base on which it has been fixed, 2 feet 8 inches. The bowl is externally carved above and below with a fascia of interlaced ribbon-work, the middle portion of the bowl divided into nearly circular compartments formed by curved ribbons, pearled down the centre of each, springing from the ears and mouths of large monstrous heads of beasts, with erect mains and large tongues or beards. The four circles still remaining (for the font has been injured and partially repaired with plain cement work) contain a large head with a gigantic tongue and topknot, a bird resembling a very lame duck, a dog biting the end of his long tail, and a honeysuckle flower-like ornament. The narrowed stem on which the bowl rests is ornamented with an arcade of small interlacing arches and a flowing foliated arabesque. The rim of the font was inscribed all round the circumference, but portions have unfortunately been broken off and replaced by stucco, and even the portion which remains is very indistinct and can only be thus partially deciphered:—

ENSIESTV qdAINdiquicque VE . . . FE SVSCIPITIS FEREOS.

PLATE XLI. FIGS. 2 & 3.

THE DEVYNOCK FONT.

This font with its base is 2 feet 10 inches high, 20 inches in diameter at the top, the basin being 14½ inches in diameter. The bowl is 7 inches high, the plain circular stem in two compartments about 22 inches, and each of the sides of the square foot 26 inches long. The bowl is ornamented with a row of small raised oval pellets, below which is a row of large quatrefoil ornaments with intervening raised pellets. The base is sculptured at each of its angles into raised trefoils. The rim is ornamented with a series of zigzags, much defaced and obliterated with whitewash, except in one part near where the staple for the lid was fixed, where there is an inscription represented in fig. 3, which I am entirely incapable of deciphering, or even of determining whether it may not be intended to be read in an inverted position. The characters are sufficiently deep and clear, so as not to admit of any doubt as to most of their forms.

PLATE XLI. FIG. 4.

THE ALTAR TOMB OF ST. AVAN.

In the churchyard of Llan Avan Vawr (6 miles west of Builth) is a plain oblong altar tomb, the top formed of very hard stone, with a deeply-cut inscription to the memory of St. Avan, the patron saint of the church—

HIC IACET SANCTUS AVANUS EPISCOPUS,

the letters being capitals of the Lombardic type slightly ornamented, and consequently not older than the end of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. I have given a copy of this