

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

THE members of the Cambrian Archæological Association who attended the Meeting at Llandeilo Vaur in 1855 will remember with pleasure their visit to Dolaucothy House and their hospitable reception there by Mr. and Miss Johnes, and their examination of several interesting inscribed stones now deposited in front of the house, and which formerly stood at Pant-y-polion.

PLATE XLIV. FIG. 1.

The most important of these stones is—

THE GRAVE-STONE OF PAULINUS.

In its present condition the inscription on this stone is not so perfect as it was in Bishop Gibson's time, when the whole was legible, as follows:—

SERVATVR FIDÆI
 PATRIEQ SEMPER
 AMATOR HIC PAVLIN
 VS IACIT CVLTOR PIENT—
 SIMVS ÆQVI.

(Gibson's Camden, ii. p. 27; ditto Ed. ii. 1722,
 vol. ii. p. 746. Gough's Camden, iii. p. 139.)

My figure shows the present state of the stone, some portion of the letters in the four bottom lines having become defaced. Sufficient however remains to prove the correctness of the reading given by Bishop Gibson, if we except the last three words, which we must now take on credit.

It will be seen that the inscription is entirely in Roman capital letters (about 3 inches high), with a tendency to the character termed *Rustic* by palæographers, which is especially visible in the letter F in the top line. The conjunctions of the letters E and R, V and A, and A and E in the top line, and A and V in the third line, will be noticed, especially the reversed form of the first E (E), to accommodate it for conjunction with the next letter R. Moreover, in its original state, the V and L in the word 'cultor,' the M and V in the word 'pientissimus,' and the A and E in the last word 'æqui,' are represented as conjoined, the second stroke of the V in 'cultor' forming the down-stroke of the L, and the first and last strokes of the M being oblique (M), so as to adapt the last stroke for the first stroke of the adjoining V. In addition to this, the form of the L and I at the end of the third line, and the prostrate form of the I at the end of the fourth line, as given by Gibson,

merit notice; the whole being of a debased Roman character, free from the slightest admixture of British or Saxon forms.

This is important to be noticed in connexion with the history of the stone and the person commemorated by it in such glowing terms. A guardian of the faith, an unchanging lover of his country, and a true friend of justice, we need scarcely wonder that such a man should have left a fame behind him not easily to be effaced, and which has, as usual, been evinced by his name having been given to the locality of his labours; Pant Polios, corrupted into Pant-y-Polion, being the spot where the stone originally stood: the saint himself being commemorated on November 22nd, under the name of Polin Esgob.

The entire inscription, as suggested by Rees in his *Essay on the Welsh Saints* (p. 188), consists of two hexameter lines—

‘*Servator fidei, patriæque semper amator*
Hic Paulinus jacet, cultor pientissimus æqui,’

and which belong to a period when Latin versification was more corrupt than at the time of the departure of the Romans from Britain. ‘The last syllable of *patriæque* is an error in prosody, unless the author intended the *u* for a vowel, and so formed the end of the word into a dactyl. In the second line he appears to have had for his model the poets before the Augustan age, who frequently omitted the final *s* and allowed the vowel preceding to assume its natural quantity; the last *u* in *Paulinus* is therefore short. The *u* in *pientissimus* must have been quiescent, in which case the vowel before it would be short, as in *pietas*, from whence the word is derived.’ (Rees, l. c.)

From the notices of Paulinus in the lives of St. David written by Giraldus Cambrensis and Ricemarchus¹, and the life of St. Teilo written by Galfridus, we learn that St. Paulinus or Pawl-Hen or Polin was originally a North Briton, and that he probably resided for some time in the Isle of Man. His next residence was at Caerworgorn in the monastery of Iltutus. He afterwards founded a similar institution at Ty-gwyn ar Dâf, the White House on Tave, in Carmarthenshire, of which he is styled the bishop, and which became famous and was attended by SS. David, Teilo, and others. In the life of St. David by Ricemarchus St. Paulinus is described as having been the disciple of St. Germanus, to have been a scribe, and to have taught St. David to read, who in return miraculously cured Paulinus of blindness. (Rees, *Lives of Cambro-Brit. Saints*, pp. 122, 424.) From the same life we further learn that St. Paulinus was at the synod of Llandewi Brevi for the confutation of the Pelagian heresy, generally assigned to the year A.D. 519, and that it was by his advice that St. David was summoned to attend the synod. (Rees, *Camb. Br. Saints*, pp. 137, 411, 440.) St. Paulinus is moreover the patron saint of Capel Peulin, a chapel subordinate to Llandinga, Carmarthenshire, called *Capella Sancti Paulini* in one of the charters of the abbey of Strata Florida, and which is very near to Llan Dewi Brevi, the scene of the synod above mentioned.

See also the ‘*Cambrian Biography*,’ and the ‘*Cambrian Register*,’ iii. 38, in which

¹ See *Arch. Camb.*, i. 117.

latter work the inscription is supposed to commemorate a Roman general and not a British saint!

The account of this stone given above is taken from my article in *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 249.

The reader will doubtless remember the stone at Port Talbot also bearing the name of Paulinus, figured in my 26th plate; whilst another bearing the same at Llandyssilio appears in Plate LIII. fig. 3.

PLATE XLVI. FIG. 3.

THE TALORUS STONE AT DOLAUCOTHY HOUSE.

This stone originally stood at Pant-y-Polion, and is now preserved at Dolaucothy House.

It is a portion of a Romano-British grave-stone, and has suffered mutilation since it was examined and drawn as it appears in Gough's *Camden*, ii. p. 505. It is there given as follows:—

TALOR—
ADVENT—
MAQVERAG—
FILIVS.¹

The terminal I in each of the three upper lines are represented as having been prostrate. It is to be regretted that so much of the stone has been broken off and lost. The letters are more debased in their character than those of the Paulinus inscription; the form of the F and the mode in which the second I in the word Filius in the last line is written in juxtaposition with the preceding L merits notice in a palæographic point of view. (J. O. W. in *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 251.)

PLATE LI. FIG. 5.

ROMAN STONE AT DOLAUCOTHY HOUSE.

This figure represents the fragment of a Roman stone inscribed P [Passus] CXXV in good Roman capitals nearly 2 inches high, now at Dolaucothy House. I have not however heard where it originally stood.

The figures of the preceding Dolaucothy stones were made from rubbings sent me by the late Rev. H. L. Jones, taken on the occasion of the Llandeilo Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1855. (J. O. W. in *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 252.)

¹ In Dr. John Jones's *History of Wales*, pp. 53 and 321, the author proposed to read this inscription '† Alor adveni Marcieni filius—Alfred the son of Edwin defeated. This Alfred was Earl of Mercia, who invaded South Wales in 981 and was defeated in this place by the princes of North and South Wales.'