

## PLATE XLVI. FIG. 2.

## THE CYNFIL GAYO INSCRIPTION.

This stone forms the cill of the west door of the church of Cynfil Gayo, near Dolaucothy House. It is a slab of indurated schist, and portions of the face have scaled off, defacing the most interesting portions of the inscription. It bears in the form of its letters a striking resemblance to the Talorus stone at Dolaucothy House. The name in the upper line appears to have commenced with a long-tailed letter, possibly P or R, followed (perhaps with the intervention of another letter) by an E; the next curious shaped letter resembling at first sight an F, but which I rather consider to be a g of the debased form, as it disagrees with the F at the beginning of the second line, and the short middle bar is very indistinct and may be accidental. The second line is to be read *FILIVS NV . . . INTII*. (J. O. W., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 321.) Prof. Hübner (p. 30, No. 84, not 48) gives the reading 'Regin . . . filius Nu[v]intii,' after 'Rhys, quem sequor;' but Prof. Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1876, p. 244) reads the last word as Nu[v]inti. In the drawing sent me by the Rev. H. L. Jones the final duplicated I is not given, but in the rubbing it appeared clear.

## PLATE XLIII.

## THE LLECH EIUDON, NOW AT GOLDEN GROVE.

The earliest notice which I have been able to meet with concerning this stone is contained in Gough's edition of *Camden* (vol. ii. p. 508; Ed. ii. vol. iii. p. 141), where the letters of the inscription alone are given, without any representation of the stone itself. It was first mentioned in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* by the late Rev. J. Jones (Tegid), N. S. vol. v. p. 303, where the inscription is given in the following manner:—

E J H J O N

The stone itself is mentioned as standing alone in a field on the farm of Glan Sannan in the parish of Llanvynydd, near Llandeilo-fawr, Carmarthenshire. It is called by the common people Llech Eidon, and the tradition is that a saint of that name was buried beneath it. The correct reading of the inscription was subsequently given by me in *Arch. Camb.*, 3rd Ser. vol. i. p. 64, and in the same volume (p. 303) it is further noticed as bearing a strong resemblance to the cross at Carew in the style of its ornamentation; and it is further observed that with the exception of the loss of the summit, which was probably cruciform, it is in excellent preservation. In the third volume of the third Series of this work (p. 318) it is further recorded that this stone, which had been visited by the members of the Cambrian Archæological Association whilst standing in its original situation on a small cairn of stones in a field near Abersannan, 'had been removed by the Earl of Cawdor to the lower or American garden at Golden Grove, and erected with all suitable precautions in an admirable situation.'

It can now be seen to its very base ; being firmly fixed in a stone socket, and the socket of the cross on the top has been filled with cement, to obviate the action of frost. A bronze plate, fixed in the turfy mound against its eastern side, commemorates its ancient site and its removal. We would recommend his lordship to place a rude unhewn stone upright on the original spot, to show that it was a monumental site, for though this sculptured stone is too valuable to have been left in so exposed a situation, still the cairn at its foot has yet to be explored, and such a stone as we allude to would sufficiently preserve the identity of the spot. While upon this topic, we may express a conjecture that, perhaps, the name *Eiudon* may prove to be a contracted form of two words *SCI* and *VDON*<sup>1</sup>.

Previously to the removal of the stone from its original situation I had visited, drawn, and rubbed it, and with the view to the identification of its site (which, unless marked in the manner suggested above, will soon be lost, as the cairn of stones will doubtless be gradually dispersed and carried away), it may be worth recording its precise site. After passing through a lane running close to the small new church built by Mr. Green, with its square tower, we entered another road at a mill, and crossed the Sannan brook by a bridge at a distance of about 100 yards to the N.W. Here a lane runs parallel to the Sannan on the western side of the latter, and after traversing it for about half-a-mile we came to Glansannan farmhouse ; nearly opposite to which, on the eastern side of the Sannan, is a lane running eastwards, at right angles to the Abersannan lane. We waded through the little river and traversed this lane for a short distance, and found the stone in a small triangular enclosure at the south end of the third field on the south side of this cross lane. We learned on the spot that the tradition was that a battle had been fought there between the Romans and Britons, and that the stone had been erected to the memory of a Roman soldier, which we of course reasonably doubted. As the stone stood in the field the lower portion of the ornament was buried, only the upper row of the bottom square compartments on the inscribed side being visible. Its height above ground was then 5 feet 10 inches, but now that the whole of the worked part is seen it is rather more than 6 feet ; the width, at about 1 foot from the top, is 1 foot 9 inches. The inscribed side faced the north in its original position.


I am indebted to the Rev. James Allen for rubbings of the stone and photographs of the inscribed side, from which (together with my own rubbings and drawings) the accompanying engraving has been executed. This photograph was made after the letters had been whitened with chalk, and represents the loop of the initial *e* as complete, although my own drawing shows it slightly open ; the whole however clearly reads—

e i u d o n

The letters are four inches in height and are of a rude minuscule character. The

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<sup>1</sup> I can find no saint of this name. Is it possible that the stone may commemorate the warrior and Saint Iddon ab Ynyr Gwent, who made a grant to Llandaff of 'Lanarth with all the landes there and Llantelio Porth-halawg and certain lands at Llantelio Cressenny, all in thankfulness to God for a victory obtained against the Saxons, and who appears to have been contemporary with St. Teilo.' Rees, *Welsh Saints*, p. 234.

ornamentation of the stone, as will be seen from the engraving, is of a very bold and effective character, especially on the inscribed side, which is more classical than that of the opposite side, which is divided into three compartments by two transverse bars, each about an inch wide, and extending across all the four sides of the stone. The interlacing of the ribbon in the upper compartment of this side is very intricate and irregular in its knotting, whilst that of the middle division is quite simple, each side of the square consisting of twelve loops. The bottom division of the unscribed side represents a curious pattern, formed of a series of fillet crosses arranged diagonally, each united to the four adjacent crosses (or at least to so much of them as could be introduced into the space) by straight raised lines interspersed with raised pellets, forming a charming diaper design capable of extension for larger spaces. The same design occurs on some other of the Welsh ornamented stones. The design in several of the compartments of the inscribed side of the stone, formed of a series of T's arranged thus , is very Chinese in its character, but is found on many of the ornamented stones in South Wales. To give this pattern, however, its proper effect the double outline strokes of the T's must be of the same width as the inclosed portion of the letters and also as the open spaces between the letters. Laid down in this manner in, for instance, small square tesserae or tiles, it forms a beautiful geometrical pattern.

The preceding account is copied from my memoir in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 339. A subsequent writer in the same work, 1872, p. 163, objects to the inscription recording a proper name, and suggests that it should be read as 'eju[s] don[avit]; say, of him who gave it;' i. e. the memorial stone of the founder; a most improbable conjecture.

#### PLATE XLIV. FIGS. 2 & 3.

##### THE LLANDEILO CROSS.

The accompanying engravings represent the two faces of a small sculptured stone cross recently discovered at Llandeilo, for the following particulars concerning which, as well as for rubbings thereof, I am indebted to our indefatigable member, Col. George Grant Francis, of Swansea. The information which he communicated respecting it is as follows:—

'While digging the foundation of the present church, in the chancel, the workmen came upon two slabs, the smaller of which has been missing ever since, the other has a cross inscribed on the obverse and reverse sides interlaced with chain (or rather ribbon) work, and measures 2 feet 4 inches in height by 1 foot 10 inches in width. The pedicle or lower portion, which was fixed in the earth, was accidentally broken in attempting to remove it. It is now deposited in the nave of the church. This stone cross is supposed to have been a production not later than the tenth century.'

It will be perceived that the ornamentation on both faces of the cross is very simple in its character, corresponding with that upon many other of the sculptured stones of Glamorgan-shire. It does not seem indeed that the arms of the cross have ever been connected by a raised circle (producing a wheel cross which is the more common form), indeed the four