

JACET CURCACINUS
VRIVI FILIUS.'

The eleventh letter of the upper line is however not intended for *CI* conjoined, as read by E. Lhwyd, but a minuscule-formed *G* without a top bar and with a tail, of which numerous instances have been already pointed out in the stones of this county.

PLATE L. FIG. 1 a, b, c, d.

THE LLANARTHNEY STONES.

These figures represent portions of a highly ornamented but broken wheel cross which twenty years ago were built into different parts of the churchyard wall, one portion being close to the steps leading into the churchyard on the south side, and another on the north side of the north wall of the churchyard, about six yards to the west of the stile leading into the adjoining field. The stones have been greatly injured and defaced, and having been removed, rest at the present time against the south side of the tower. The large wheel of the cross rests upon a narrower base, the middle of which seems to have been ornamented with a ribbon pattern, and the sides with an inscription of which I could only unsatisfactorily make out the letters represented in figures a and b. The words *elm* and *merci* might possibly be portions of a Norman-French inscription,—‘*Deu del alme eit merci.*’ In which case, however, it must be considered that the inscription is of a much later date than the cross itself. Moreover, the late Rev. H. Longueville Jones favoured me in 1855 with a rubbing of the plain fragment of the stone, ‘which proves to be the foot of the cross. The name is gone, the words *Fecit crucem* alone remaining.’ My own sketch of the latter stone shews the letters *acet* and *it*, but the stone is so much injured that I cannot be sure of its correctness.

PLATE L. FIG. 2.

THE PARCAU STONE.

The first notice of this stone was given by Edward Lhwyd in Gibson’s Camden, p. 627, and Gough’s Camden, ii. p. 510 (ed. ii. vol. iii. p. 141), together with a figure, the inscription being read, *C MENVENDANI FILII BARCUNI*, i. e. (sepulchrum) *Caii Menvendani filii Barcuni*. It is numbered 2777 by Orellius.

It was found in the parish of Hen Llan Amgoed, a mile and a half from the Whitland station, in a field belonging to Parken called Parc Maen, ‘the field of the stone,’ and near to Kevn Varchen. It has now been placed upright in the middle of an adjoining field about a furlong distant N.E. from the farm-house, where it was visited during the Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Carmarthen in 1855.

An elaborate memoir on this stone was published by Sir Gardner Wilkinson in the *Archæologia Cambrensis* in 1871, p. 140.

In the same volume, p. 256, I published a figure from a rubbing of this stone, with a description.

The letters in the upper line extend about a yard in length, the average height of each letter being about three inches. As above stated, the first stroke was considered to be a C. Sir G. Wilkinson supposed it to represent the word Corpus, and not the initial of a prænomen CAIUS, as had previously been read.

A subsequent inspection of the stone during the Carmarthen Meeting in August, 1875, made by myself in company with Prof. Rhys (who objected to the first letters being C and M), has proved that the top part of the C is united to the top of the following vertical stroke, that the bottom part of the C is quite detached, that there is no junction between the top of the following vertical stroke and the top of the first oblique stroke of the following V, and that the top of the second stroke of the V is certainly united to the top of the following E, making the names to read—

¹QVENVENDAN—
FILI BARCVN—

as read by Prof. Rhys (Arch. Camb., 1877, pp. 360, 377).

The letters are Roman capitals of a debased form, the B being somewhat unusual in its form in having the two semicircular loops not united in the middle of the straight stroke, and the A having the cross bar angulated.

The philological peculiarities of the first name upon this stone has employed the skill of Prof. Rhys (Arch. Camb., 1874, p. 245 ; 1875, p. 186), and the late Mr. R. R. Brash (ibid., 1874, p. 335).

PLATE L. FIG. 3.

THE MERTHYR MONACH STONE.

This stone is now fixed as a seat in the north porch of the newly rebuilt church of Merthyr Monach, near Cwrt Derllys, three miles west of Carmarthen. It was found by the sexton in digging a grave two yards distant from the south wall of the present church, two feet below the surface, having formerly been crossed by the south wall of the Derllys Chapel, which formed part of the former church. It had never been dressed, and appears to be of grey grit, measuring 51 inches long, from 15 to 18 inches wide, and 8 inches thick. The inscription had been published by Prof. Hübner in the *Additamenta* to his *British Christian Inscriptions*, p. 88, no. 231, from an 'ectype' sent to him by Prof. Rhys. The form of the seventh letter resembling a S, the name had been read CATVRVS, especially as the top of the letter has been injured, but as Prof. Rhys read the letter as a G of the minuscule form (of which various other instances in Carmarthenshire have been pointed out), and moreover considers that he has seen a prostrate I' following this seventh letter (omitted however by Hübner), the name should be read—

CATVRVG—
FILI LOVERNAC—

¹ The peculiar formed q in the Talorus inscription, Plate XLVI. fig. 3, may be compared with the first letter of this inscription.