

PLATE LII. FIG. 2.

THE SPITTAL STONE.

In the churchyard of this place, and on the east side of the south porch of the church, stands a tall stone of the porphyritic greensand formation from Preselau, nearly square, with the faces smooth, and bearing an inscription on its southern side, which the late Rev. H. L. Jones, to whom we are indebted for a figure and description (*Arch. Camb.*, 1861, p. 302, and here abstracted), regards as one of the earliest in Wales. The letters are somewhat debased Roman capitals rather finely cut. Several of the letters are conjoined, and the whole is to be read—

EVALI FILI DENO
CVNI OVENDE
MATER EIVS

In the first line the letter o seems to be the last in it, because the sinking away of the surface with an edge running across the stone is evidently older than the letters themselves, and hence Mr. H. L. Jones was inclined to think the word to which this letter belongs was contained [continued] in the second line.

The stone therefore gives three new names: Evalus or Evalius, his father Denocunus, and his mother Ovende, the addition of the words 'mater ejus' to the third name being of very rare occurrence.

The v and a in the first line and the vn of the second line are conjoined in the usual manner.

Spittal derives its name from an hospitium now demolished but once standing on the ancient road from Carmarthen and Whitlands to St. David's; several roads also cross each other in the centre of the village, one of which may be part of the Roman road; another road near the church still bears the appellation of the 'Pilgrim's Lane.' The stone itself may be referred to the fifth or sixth century.

Professor Rhys (*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 332) considers the last portion of the first line to read DENCV—, adding, 'At any rate Mr. Llywarch Reynolds, of Jesus College, Oxford, who assisted me in the inspection of this stone, agreed with me that there can be no doubt as to the v—, which Mr. Longueville Jones had missed. As to reading c instead of his o, I am not certain, and even q might be possible.' And in his *Lectures* (*Pembrokeshire List*, No. 73) he adopts the reading as Dencui, and the whole of the second line as one word.

PLATE LII. FIG. 3.

THE CHERITON STONE.

On the south side of the chancel of the church of Stackpole-Elidyr or Cheriton, restored by the late Earl of Cawdor by Sir G. G. Scott, is a small chantry in which the original

stone altar is preserved, the upper surface of which bears the inscription represented in its partially defaced condition by the late Rev. H. Longueville Jones (*Arch. Camb.*, 1861, p. 137). It is of the old red sandstone formation, inclining to split off in laminæ, which has injured some of the letters, the inscription reading—

CAMV ORIS—
 FILI FANNVC—

‘The missing letters may have been LL or CL, but there is some degree of uncertainty about them¹.’

A plaster cast of this stone had been exhibited at the Archæological Institute of Great Britain in November, 1851, by the Rev. J. M. Traherne, in the notice of which the reading was given CANTORIS—FILI FANNVCI or FANNACI (*Arch. Camb.*, 1852, p. 70). The elongated s in the first line and the debased H-shaped N’s in the second line merit notice, and led with other characters to the stone being regarded as not later than the seventh century.

PLATE LIII. Figs. 1, 2.

THE CILGERRAN STONE.

This stone stands erect on the south side of the church within the churchyard of Cilgerran, 2¼ miles S.S.E. from Cardigan. It measures about 8 feet high, by a foot and a half wide, and about the same thickness. It is formed of the hard greenstone of the neighbouring Preseleu hills, and half of its length was buried in the ground and had to be excavated. It is to be read—

TRENEGUFFI FILI
 MACUTRENI HIC IACIT

The letters are very irregular in size, some being 2 and others as much as 4½ inches in height. They are of a mixed character, showing quite a different style of writing from that of many of the Carmarthenshire stones. Thus the sixth letter of the first line is a minuscule g with a transverse top bar, the ss are f-formed, the H in the second line is an angulated minuscule. The initial T is semi-uncial, with the bottom of the vertical stroke bent to the right. Every E has the middle bar greatly elongated. The terminal T is quite minuscule, with a dash for the top cross stroke. The U of the second line might possibly be read LI conjoined.

¹ In his account of the Fardel stone given by Mr. H. L. Jones (*Arch. Camb.*, 1862, p. 142) he has given the reading of this stone as CAMVLORISI FILI FANNVCI, a sagacious reading, fully confirmed by the discovery of the leaden coffin at Rhyddgaer, Anglesea, on which the name CAMVLORIS occurs (*Arch. Camb.*, 1878, p. 136). The father’s name, Fannuci, also possibly occurs on the Fardel stone, as noticed by the Rev. H. L. Jones (*ut supra*).