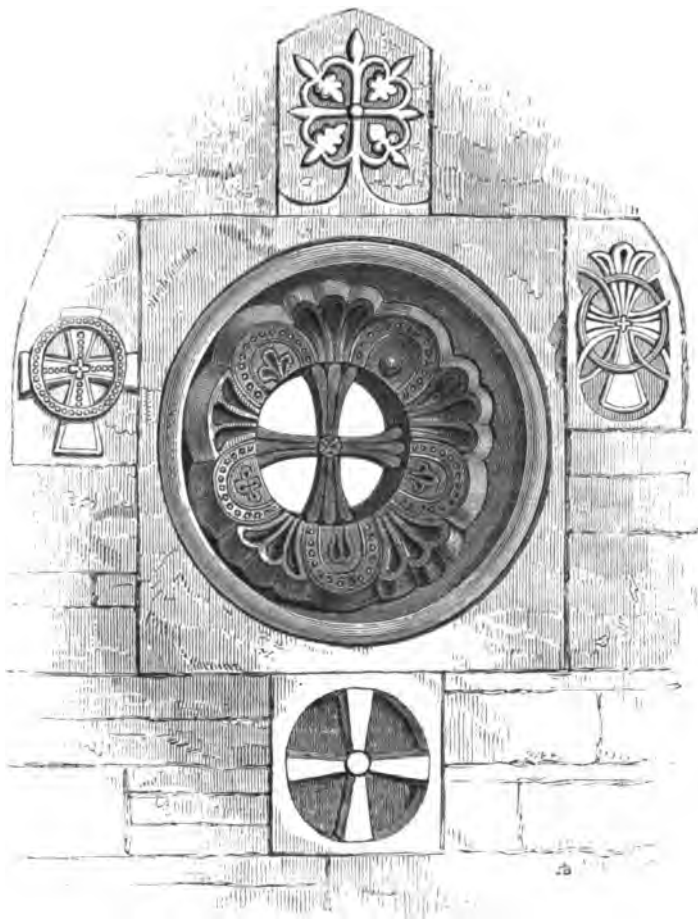


THE PIERCED CROSSES IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.



In 1866 a series of four beautifully ornamented crossed stones which had been walled up were found surrounding a much larger central one deeply sculptured and fixed within a niche on the west side of Bishop Vaughan's Chapel in St. David's Cathedral immediately behind the high altar, which was visible through the four pierced holes in the central cross, which was at such a height from the ground as to be level with the eyes of a man of ordinary size. It has been considered that these crosses are of different dates, the oldest being the one beneath the large cross, whilst that above it is the most recent. From the ornamentation of the central and two lateral crosses I apprehend that they must be referred to the Norman period. I know nothing more beautiful in work of that period than the central cross. The mouldings of the arched recess beneath which these crosses were found correspond with the work of Peter de Leia (1180). These crosses were first described by the Rev. E. L. Barnwell (*Arch. Camb.*, 1867, p. 68).

PLATE LXV. FIGS. 3 & 4.

MUTILATED STONE IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.

These two figures represent a stone block at present standing in the north transept of St. David's Cathedral, about 2 feet 8 inches high. In its present condition it is cylindrical, with the base slightly dilated, the top hollowed into a circular basin, whence it was probably used as a holy water stoup. It is evident however, from the slight and unintelligible remains of an inscription in one part and of an ornamental interlaced pattern in another portion of the circumference, that the stone had originally formed the quadrangular base of a cross, and that all the angles had been rounded off in order to give it a cylindrical form.

I am indebted to the Very Rev. James Allen (now Dean of St. David's) for drawings from which the accompanying figures have been made.

PLATE LXIII. FIG. 4.

FRAGMENT OF AN ORNAMENTAL CROSS IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.

This elegantly ornamented fragment has lately been found during the restoration of St. David's Cathedral, and this figure is reduced from rubbings made by myself and Miss Dora Jones, sister of the Bishop of St. David's, and others kindly sent me with a drawing by the Very Rev. Dean Allen. The fragment measures about 26 inches high by 16 inches. It is now preserved in Bishop Vaughan's Chapel, which I would suggest might well be adapted for a Lapidarian museum, where the many fragments of sculptured stones found in the cathedral and in the neighbourhood, including the Pen Arthur stones, might safely be preserved. The fragment here represented evidently contains two of the limbs of a cross, two of the semicircular spaces between the limbs of the cross (the upper one only partially) being shown in my figure. The interlacement appears to be not quite regular in some parts, possibly owing to the injury of the stone; and I cannot clearly determine the intention of the spiral objects represented on the lower right-hand space, somewhat resembling wings.

PLATE LXIII. FIG. 1.

CROSSED STONE, NEWPORT.

The large stone represented in this figure, 6 feet high by 2 feet 10 inches wide, lay in the churchyard at Newport face downwards, but on turning it over in 1877 the incised cross on its underside was discovered. It is here represented from a photograph exhibited in the temporary museum at Lampeter in August 1878.