

PLATE LXXXII. FIG. 1.

THE ORIA STONE AT PENMACHNO, NEAR BETTWS.

On taking down the old church at Penmachno, near Llanwrst, Caernarvonshire, several early and mediæval inscribed and sculptured stones were discovered, of which in due course of time, by the untiring assiduity of our greatly lamented friend the Rev. H. L. Jones, I was favoured with rubbings and drawings. One of these was a rude stone, on the upper portion of which was longitudinally inscribed the letters

ORIA IC IACIT,

the whole being cut in Roman capitals rather debased in form, as of course they are in orthography, the misspelt words *hic* and *jacet* being however often met with thus spelt.

The letters measure from 2 to 3 inches in height, and they appear to have been partially at least inclosed above and below the letters by a thin incised line. There is a little abrasion at the left-hand side of the initial letter *o*, but otherwise the whole is completely distinct and legible. The name *Oria* is very unusual, and there seems to be no reason for thinking any letters at the commencement of the inscription are lost.

By the care of the Rev. H. L. Pryce, Rector of the parish, the stone has been securely placed within the church, and it is to his attention that I am indebted for the rubbing of it which has afforded the subjoined engraving. (J. O. W., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 262; Hübner, *Inscript.*, p. 49, No. 137.)

PLATE LXXIX. FIG. 2.

THE PENMACHNO STONE OF CARAUSIUS.

The stone here figured (for a knowledge of which I am indebted to Miss F. Wynne of Voelas Hall) was first mentioned by the Rev. H. L. Jones at the Bangor Meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in 1860, and is now securely placed in the church of Penmachno. It is 22 inches high and 11 inches wide, and bears on the upper part a large representation of the Labarum monogram of the name of Christ ☩ , followed by the inscription—

CARAUSIUS HIC JACIT IN HOC CONGERIES LAPIDUM,

the whole (with the exception of the letters *Λ* and *v* in the first line, an unusual angulation of the upper part of the letter *s* thrice repeated, and a rather peculiar formed *α* in the fourth line) being written in tolerably well-made Roman capitals. The introduction of the monogram of Christ is of very unusual occurrence on the stones of this country (see ante, p. 145), the peculiarity in the present instance consisting in the Greek chi (*X*) being + shaped, the upper arm of the figure representing the Greek rho, whilst the lower part of the figure represents the *l*, making together *XPI* for *Christi*. Other instances occur both at St. Just, St. Helm's and Phellock in Cornwall, and in the pavement of the Roman villa at Frampton, Dorsetshire; at Jarrow, Durham (in the dedication stone of the church);