

### III.

NOTES ON SOME ANCIENT CHAPELS AND OTHER REMAINS IN THE ISLAND OF MULL. BY J. W. JUDD, Esq., F.G.S., ETC. COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE REV. J. M. JOASS, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

#### RUINED CHAPEL OF PENNYGOWN, ISLAND OF MULL.

This chapel is situated about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Salen, on the road to Craigmore. The burial-ground round it is still used for interments. The internal dimensions of the building are 40 feet by 17 feet. The building is placed in true position; the altar at the east end. The walls are constructed of blocks of basalt and felstone from the immediate neighbourhood,—the little carved work of the doors and windows being wrought in a freestone of the cretaceous rocks (Upper Greensand), which must have been brought from Gribun, Inch Kenneth, or Morven. The same material is similarly employed in the buildings of Iona. There is only one door, which is situated not in the usual position of the principal entrance of churches (namely the south-west), but at the north-west. Its dimensions are 6 feet 3 inches high by 2 feet 10 inches broad; it is round-headed, and surrounded by a continuous, simple, but not very

deeply-cut roll-moulding. There are indications of hinges, but not of a bar-hole.

The chapel is lighted by three windows, which are all simple, round-headed lancets, surrounded by a simple roll-moulding; the thick walls being deeply splayed internally, as is usual in early English work. The western widow is 40 inches high by 6 inches broad, the other two windows are situated at the east end of the north and south walls respectively, so as to overlook the altar. They are 45 inches high by 6 inches broad.

In the east wall, on the south side of the altar, is a small ambry, 14 inches high by 12 inches broad; but I could find no trace of the existence either of *Piscina* or *Sedilia*, and all vestiges of the altar itself have disappeared. At the west end we find two very rude corbels for the support of an arch.

According to a tradition in the neighbourhood, this chapel was never completed, the sudden death of three lairds in succession, who attempted to roof it in, having operated as a check to all later undertakings of the kind.

Judged by our English standards, the date of this little chapel would certainly be the thirteenth century; but the structure is so very simple, and destitute of almost all characteristic ornament, that one may well hesitate in pronouncing a decided opinion on the subject.

Inside the chapel, and facing the altar, is the fragment of a beautiful cross, still erect. The position of this cross, taken in connection with its age, may lend some support to the tradition, that the chapel was never completed.

The material of this cross is a fine-grained black mica-schist, similar to that of which the crosses of Iona and Inch Kenneth are constructed. I have enclosed a rough sketch of the beautiful work upon it. The fragment is 40 inches high. Most of the work is still very distinct; but portions of the *Madonna*, especially the features, and portions of the child, are much worn. The style of the workmanship appears to point to the *Early Decorated* or *Late Early English* (*i.e.* *Geometric* or latter part of the thirteenth century), as the period at which it was executed; this date appears to be confirmed by the presence of the nail-head moulding.

Outside the chapel are to be seen, on the ground, two slabs of soft

(cretaceous) sandstone, which have evidently formed the tops of altar-tombs. The figures upon these are in *alto-relievo*, but very rudely executed, owing to the softness of the material; also the sculpture is not well preserved.

One figure is that of a knight lying with his head on a kind of square pillow, the legs *not* crossed, and the toes turned awkwardly outwards. His right hand grasps the pommel of his sheathed sword, and his left holds a long dagger that lies along his left thigh. The only portion of the dress which shows any character is the helmet, of which I give a rough sketch. The other figure is that of a lady. Her head rests on a similar square pillow to that of the knight; she is clothed in a simple dress, very rudely carved, which is without any characteristic details or ornament, and does not appear to differ, so far as it can be made out, from a modern gown. Her feet are in the same awkward position as those of the knight, this position having been apparently determined by the thickness of the blocks of sandstone on which the figures are sculptured. The arms, however, lie easily across the body, with the hands united. The head-dress can be fairly well made out, but appears to be destitute of all ornament.

Altogether these altar-tombs are very much ruder than those common in England, in which the figures are sculptured in full relief, and the details of the dress are given with such fidelity, that antiquaries, who have made the subject of *mediæval* dress and ornament their special study, find little difficulty in fixing the date of these monuments within very narrow limits.

#### PENNYCROSS.

This is a very celebrated cross, which gives its name to a district, and a title to a laird. The cross stands near the road which traverses the Island of Mull, from Loch Dow to Bunessan, and about eight miles from the latter place, near the southern shore of Loch Scriden.

I have enclosed a rough sketch of this cross. It is very rudely cut out of a block of Easdale slate, probably brought from the opposite mainland, or one of the adjoining islands. It is fixed by a well-cut mortice into a square block of (cretaceous) sandstone from Gribun, and this rests on a pyramidal pile of basalt blocks from the immediate neighbourhood. The cross is 4 feet 6 inches high, and the pile of stones on which it stands, 5

feet high. There are many scribblings on the cross; but on its east side, at the point indicated in the sketch, are letters and a date carefully cut. These are, of course, long posterior in date to the cross itself, but from the character of the letters, &c., it appears to be a genuine inscription of that period.

In the "Nun's Cave" at Carsaig, on the south coast of Mull, there are several rudely incised crosses upon the soft sandstone, which form the walls. Piles of stones at the end are called "altars," but may only be bed-places; for the cave is still used as an occasional dwelling by wanderers.

At Ardnacroish and Achenacroish, in spite of their names, I could find no trace of the existence of any crosses at the present time. The other interesting mediæval monuments of Mull and the adjoining islands, namely the chapels and crosses of Iona and Inch Kenneth, are too well known to require description at my hands. In Glen Lonnán in Lorn, I saw an interesting cross, of which I give a sketch from memory. It stands on a pile of stones, and consists of a simple block of slate, upon which is carved a cross (incised), standing upon a sphere (in bold relief).

#### MEGALITHS, &c.

At Ardnacroish, half way between Salen and Tobermory, is a "standing-stone," 10 feet high, and another prostrate one in its neighbourhood. They consist of the basalt of the vicinity, and stand on a sloping hill-side. Close at hand are two circles of stones, each about 5 yards in diameter, with some barrows at a short distance from them. On the opposite side of the road, and near the farm house, is another similar circle of stones. From their position these stones could hardly have formed part of a great circle, but seem to have been monumental. The circles seem to have been the boundaries of cairns or barrows.

On the farm of Baliscate, near Tobermory, there are, on a small tract of elevated ground, two standing-stones, 9 feet and 6 feet high respectively, with a prostrate one in their vicinity. These may *possibly* have formed part of a great circle. At the south end of Glen Lonnán, in Lorn, there is a very fine monolith. Barrows, cairns, and hut-circles are by no means rare in Mull and the adjoining islands. On the shores of Loch Nell, in Lorn, rises the striking hill, dignified by the title of "Berego-

nium." At its summit are clearly seen the remains of one of the remarkable "vitrified forts;" but this has doubtless been already fully described.

Of interesting mediæval castles, the district exhibits very numerous examples : Dunstaffnage, Dunolly, and Loch Nell in Lorn, Ardtornish and Kinloch Aline in Morven, Mingary in Ardnamurchan, Gylen in Kerrera, and Duart, Aros, and Moy in Mull. These are generally more interesting from their picturesque position than from their architectural beauties ; they are generally of but insignificant proportions, and do not exhibit evidences of any great antiquity.

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