

III.

ADDITIONAL NOTES IN REFERENCE TO THE INSCRIBED STONE
FOUND NEAR YARROW KIRK, SELKIRKSHIRE. BY JOHN ALEX.
SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot. (Plate XVIII.)

In July 1857 I brought under the notice of the Society the inscribed stone, found near Yarrow Kirk, with its rudely cut Latin inscription, and gave details of its general appearance and the history of its discovery. (This communication is printed in the Society's Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 484.) The Inscribed Stone (of which a drawing, from a photograph kindly taken for me by my friend Mr J. Smith, jun., Darnick, is given in Plate XVIII.), is a large rough or unhewn slab of grey-wacke, somewhat triangular in shape, about seven feet in length, by

three feet at its greatest breadth, from which it tapers downwards towards the pointed extremity; measuring two feet across at the surface of the ground, and five feet in height, from the point being now buried to a depth of about two feet; it is about three inches in thickness at its upper part, and increases to a foot at the surface of the ground. The stone displays a rude inscription on one side, the other showing no traces of letters, or ornamental sculpture of any kind. I may remind the Society, it was discovered upwards of fifty years ago, when the waste moor on the farm of Whitehope, known by the rather strange name of Annan Street, was first brought under tillage. The locality had long been remarkable for the presence of two large unhewn standing stones, near which various cists and sepulchral remains were found; a large cairn, under which the remains of bones were observed, having been formerly removed from the base of the larger standing stone; over the whole moor, indeed, sepulchral remains have been found.

Some time after reading this communication, my attention was called to the exact correspondence in the history and place of discovery of what at first sight appeared to be another stone, stated to have been covered with incised ornaments, and described as having been discovered in a similar manner, and at the same place, as the Inscribed Stone just referred to.

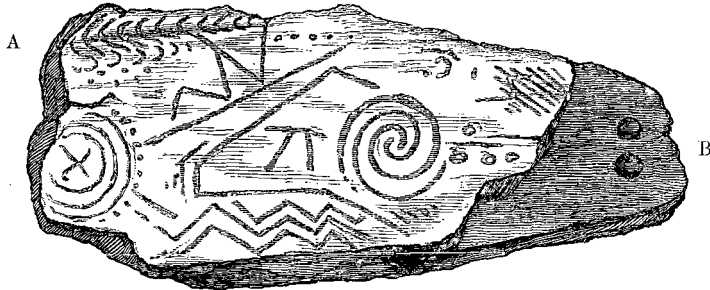
The object of the following notes is an attempt to show that these two apparently distinct and separate sculptured stones are in fact but one and the same. Dr Daniel Wilson designates this second stone, with its incised ornaments, the "Annan Street Stone," and gives a figure of it in his interesting "Prehistoric Annals,"¹ in the chapter on the "Archaic or Bronze Period." After noticing the sculptured markings and concentric circles on various stones, he says :—

"Of the same class, also, is another slab figured here, the drawing of which was made by George Scott, the friend of Mungo Park, who accompanied him to Africa, and died there. It was forwarded to the Society of Antiquaries by Sir Walter Scott in 1828, who described the original as a rough sandstone, about six feet long by perhaps two and a half broad, which was raised by the plough at a place called Annan Street, upon the farm of Wheathope. The drawing is designated, probably by the original draftsman,—'A Druid stone found at Annan Street, figured with the sun and moon.' Little doubt can be entertained that it had formed the cover

¹ Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, 8vo, Edin. 1851, p. 334.

of a cist, though few probably will now be inclined to attempt a solution of the enigmatic devices rudely traced on its surface. The spot where it was found is about half a mile from the church at Yarrow, and close by there are two large stones, about 120 yards apart, which are believed to mark the scene of the memorable struggle that has given 'The dowie houms of Yarrow' so touching a place in the beautiful legendary poetry of Scotland."

On examining the letters and papers of the Society, the China-ink sketch (now exhibited) was found—and is the original from which Professor Daniel Wilson's figure was taken. The latter, I may state, is a good copy, with a slight difference merely in the shading which gives the appearance of a fractured-like extremity to the stone, being a little darker or stronger marked, perhaps, than in the original; and an impression of it, for which I am indebted to Professor Wilson, is annexed.



"ANNAN STREET STONE.—*Prehist. Annals.*"

(A) A portion has been broken off at this corner since the drawing was made, but is still preserved.)

With this drawing the following detailed MS. account was found:—

"Memoranda received by me from Sir Walter Scott, in regard to the drawing in Indian ink upon the other side.

"*Edinburgh, 9th March 1828*

(Signed) "E. W. A. DRUMMOND HAY."

"The drawing was made by (? George) Scott, who accompanied Mungo Park to Africa, and died there.

"The original is a rough sandstone about six feet long, by perhaps two and a half

feet broad, which was raised by the plough at a place called Annan Street, upon the farm of Wheathope, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

“The place is about half a mile from the church of Yarrow, and is said at some remote period to have been the site of an ecclesiastical building. There are two large fragments of rock at the distance of about 120 yards from each other. Here the memorable duel is said to have taken place, which gave occasion to Hamilton’s ballad of ‘Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny, bonny bride;’ and other ballads on the same subject. The common tradition is, that both the knights, whose names are reported to have been Scott, fell in the duel.

“Sir Walter Scott had the good fortune of preserving this curious relic of antiquity, which, from circumstances which he does not think worthy (of) record, he had accidentally discovered was about to be blown up with gunpowder some years ago.”

This paper is marked on the back :—

“Notice by Sir Walter Scott of an anciently Inscribed Stone found at Annan Street, of which a drawing is annexed.”

These memoranda, by Mr Hay, after a conversation with Sir Walter Scott, formed the subject of a communication on the 24th March 1828, when the Indian-ink sketch was presented by him from Sir Walter Scott to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

The sketch has written on it the following descriptive title :—

“Selkirkshire,

“Druid stone found at Annan Street, figured with ye sun and moon.”

This title however, instead of being in the handwriting of the original draftsman, according to Dr Wilson’s idea, is undoubtedly in the handwriting of Sir Walter Scott himself; and I may state that my friend Mr David Laing quite agrees with me on this point.

In the third volume of the second edition of the “Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border,” published in 1803, page 73, Sir Walter Scott, with his well-known fondness for giving to any floating tradition or song a local habitation and a name, fixes upon this locality of Annan Street, with its standing stones, as the scene of the tragedy described in the old ballad of the “Dowie Dens of Yarrow,” which is supposed to have suggested to Hamilton of Bangour his much admired ballad, “Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny, bonny bride.” In Sir Walter’s introductory notes to this ballad he says :—

“The name of the murderer is said to have been Annan, and the place of combat is still called Annan’s Treat. It is a low moor, on the banks of the Yarrow, lying

to the west of Yarrow Kirk. Two tall unhewn masses of stone are erected, about eighty yards distant from each other; and the least child that can herd a cow will tell the passenger that here lie 'the two lords who were slain in single combat.'

In my former communication I referred to the curious change which Sir Walter makes in the name of the place, from Annan Street to Annan's Treat; connecting it with the supposed combat, for which I need scarcely say there seems to be no authority whatever.

In the next edition of the *Minstrelsy*, the third, published in 1806, Sir Walter gives the following addition to these introductory notes on the "Dowie Dens of Yarrow:"—

"In ploughing Annan's Treat, a huge monumental stone, with an inscription, was discovered, but being rather scratched than engraved, and the lines being run through each other, it is only possible to read one or two Latin words. It probably records the event of the combat. The person slain was the male ancestor of the present Lord Napier." (*Border Minstrelsy*, vol. ii. p. 354.)

Here then we have a published notice of this Inscribed Stone, with the markings on it, believed to be a Latin inscription, although, probably from the unfamiliar and rude forms of the letters, very little of it, indeed, had been decyphered, or Sir Walter could scarcely have supposed it to refer to the event of the combat celebrated in the "Dowie Dens of Yarrow." With regard to the person supposed to have been slain there being an ancestor of Lord Napier, I may remark in passing, I have in my previous paper, shown on the authority of the Rev. James Russell, that Lord Napier's ancestor was killed at Deuchar swire.

Sir Walter Scott, at the date of the publication of the third edition of the "Minstrelsy" in the year 1806, was therefore quite aware of the existence of this inscribed stone, with its Latin inscription. I shall now show, that at this same date, Sir Walter Scott was also cognizant of the existence of the so-called "Druid stone," of which the drawing, although not given to Mr Hay until 1828, was in Sir Walter Scott's possession in 1806.

The drawing of the "Druid Stone" was made, as Sir Walter Scott informed Mr Hay, by Mr George Scott, who was a son of the tenant of the farm of Singlee in Eterrick; Mr Lockhart, in his *Life of Scott*, refers in his magniloquent style to the acquaintance and relations between Sir Walter and this Mr George Scott. From the published account of Mungo Park's

travels¹ we learn that Mr Scott had served for several years under an engraver of eminence in London; "the talents which he displayed as a draftsman accidentally engaged the attention of Mr Walter Scott, by whom he was recommended to the late Duchess of Buccleuch. By her Grace's influence he obtained the assurance of speedily succeeding to an office under the Ordnance department in the Tower."² Mr Scott, however, preferred to join his friend Park, and was appointed to act as draftsman to the expedition; and Park was accordingly accompanied by him when he left Britain on his last expedition to Africa, which sailed from Portsmouth on the 30th of January 1805. Mr Scott subsequently died at Koomikoomi, where Park had been obliged to leave him when on his way to the river Niger, in the autumn of the same year.

The drawing must therefore have been made before this date of 1805, and was probably given to Sir Walter by Mr Scott. When Sir Walter Scott, four and twenty years afterwards, hands it over to Mr Hay, and tells him the particulars about the stone, we need not be astonished that his memory should fail in some of the details; or that he should describe this stone of the greywacke rock of the district as a rough sandstone. Its size, about which he seems a little doubtful, corresponds, however, to that of the Inscribed Stone, and the memoranda by Mr Hay prove that it was found at the same place and at the same time as the Inscribed Stone. Both are stated to have been raised by the plough at Annan Street, on the farm of Wheathope; and Mr Hay further adds, that "Sir Walter Scott had the good fortune of preserving this curious relic of antiquity, which, from circumstances which he does not think worthy (of) record, he had accidentally discovered was about to be blown up with gunpowder some years ago." Sir Walter here speaks of some years ago, as if the discovery had been but recently made. I have, however, shown, from the date of George Scott's departure for Africa, that it must have been at least four and twenty years before, at the very time, indeed, when the moorland at Annan Street was first broken up for cultivation; and it is well known one of the first steps in an improvement of this kind, is to get rid of all the large boulders or blocks of stone which are so frequently found scattered over unreclaimed land; the means used for affecting this clearance, being simply to bore holes for blasts in the

¹ Park's Travels, 4to, Lond. 1815.

² Addenda to Park's Travels, 4to, 1815.

larger stones, and blow them to pieces with gunpowder, and the fragments can then be easily carted off and put to any economical use; and this, it appears to me, is the explanation of the rather peculiar circumstance about blowing up with gunpowder, to which Mr Hay refers in his memorandum. This very statement, indeed, conveys to my mind an additional proof that these slabs of stone are the same, because, had the one described by Sir Walter been sandstone, there would have been no occasion to use gunpowder, for what could have easily been done by the hammers of the workmen.

The simple history of the whole matter seems to have been somewhat as follows:—

About the beginning of the present century, agricultural improvements commenced on the farm of Whitehope, or Wheathope as it is commonly pronounced, which immediately adjoins Yarrow Kirk; and the low moor called Annan Street was for the first time broken up with the plough; the large stones lying on the surface were blown to pieces with gunpowder, and removed to form enclosures, and for other economical purposes. As the ploughing operations went on, various ancient interments were exposed, and among these, this large Inscribed Stone was turned up, and the remains of human bones were discovered below it.

George Scott was then living at his father's at Singlee, in the neighbouring valley of the Etterick; and learning that a curiously marked stone had been discovered in the course of the improvements at Whitehope, came, examined, and made a pencil sketch from the rough, uneven, and inscribed surface of the unhewn slab (traces of the pencil outlines still remain on this drawing). On returning home, with the help of a little imagination, he finished in Indian ink the rather artistic-looking sketch exhibited. The idea, apparently, never occurred to him, that the markings could possibly be letters, the rude forms of which were quite unfamiliar; he sketches them, therefore, merely as ornamental lines, and also represents the lines and irregularities on the natural surface of the stone in a similar way, a distinctness being probably given to them, from the sun's casting its shadows obliquely over the rough, uneven, and probably not thoroughly cleaned surface of the recently exposed stone.

Knowing the general appearance of the Inscribed Stone (see Plate XVIII.), I can easily understand that, in circumstances of the kind sup-

posed, such a drawing might be made. The general outline is like that of this inscribed stone; more so, indeed, than appears from the cast of it now in our Museum, as a portion of the upper corner of the stone (marked A in the copy of the sketch, p. 526), had unfortunately been broken off, at the removal of the stone to Bowhill, subsequent to the sketch being made; which now considerably alters this part of the outline of the stone and its cast. (This broken fragment is still preserved beside the stone, and is restored in Plate XVIII.) The cast has also been changed in other parts of its outline, which has been smoothed, and made up with stucco; and the pointed extremity of the stone, corresponding to that of the Indian-ink sketch (B.), with its splintered-like surface, and two round markings or depressions, is not shown in our cast, Mr Currie informing me he did not include it in his mould, as it apparently showed no trace of inscription; and this part being now buried in the ground, I was not able to get the comparison fully carried out between them. (The Rev. Mr Russell, at my request, has however since got the lower part of the stone examined, and can discover no defined, round impressions, but simply the rough natural surface of the stone.) The cross-shaped mark enclosed by the concentric circular lines—the sun?—shown in the drawing at the larger end of the stone, is manifestly suggested by the accidental markings which exist there in the inscribed stone; and the other fanciful and zig-zag patterns, including the circular or double spiral figure, probably the so-called moon of Sir Walter Scott, seem to be due to some of the more prominent letters, and also, like the other, in part to the various irregularities on the natural surface of the stone.

Mr George Scott gave the drawing to Sir Walter Scott, knowing his fondness for anything curious, and perhaps informed him that the stone was on the point of being blown to pieces and removed. Sir Walter is satisfied of the Druidical character of the stone, from the drawing sent him; saw on its sculptured surface, at least as displayed in the sketch before him, the figures of the sun and moon, and wrote on it his designation of a “Druid-stone.”

His Grace Henry Duke of Buccleuch, the proprietor of the farm, was also informed of the discovery, not unlikely by Sir Walter himself, and the stone is preserved from destruction; the Duke gets it removed to his neighbouring residence of Bowhill, and a meeting is summoned of

the authorities of the district—Sir Walter Scott, Dr John Leyden, and Mungo Park—for its special examination, to which I have already alluded, in my previous communication. The result of this more careful examination is satisfactory so far, that it makes an end of the “Druid-stone” theory, of which we never hear again—one or two Latin words having been detected; the strange markings on the stone are therefore parts of an inscription.

Sir Walter gives us this information himself in the addition which he makes to the notes on the “Dowie Dens of Yarrow,” in the new edition of the “Minstrely,” to which I have already referred; and fancies, as he must now give up the Druid origin of the stone, that the inscription which has been discovered probably refers to the murdered hero of the ballad. This account of the Annan Street stone is therefore added to the previous notes on the ballad; and as the supposed “Druid stone” was simply a mistake, of course we learn nothing more about it. The drawing, however, is put carefully aside, among Sir Walter’s other collections; and as the result of the examination had been by no means very satisfactory, at least in any proved relation to the supposed scene of the ballad, the fact of the discovery of the Latin word or two probably soon escaped from Sir Walter’s memory altogether.

Fortunately the Duke gave orders for the Inscribed Stone to be sent back to Yarrow Kirk, and planted erect in Annan Street, in company with the old Standing Stones which have so long watched over the forgotten graves of the district; and I am glad to say, it is now protected by a fence.

Long after this time, on the 9th of March 1828, our Secretary, Mr Drummond Hay, pays a visit to Sir Walter Scott, in Castle Street, and, as I shall show immediately, Sir Walter had recently got his hands on the old drawing of the “Druid stone,” which he gives to Mr Hay; and the conversation naturally turns upon the incidents of the discovery of the stone itself, the first impressions of which seem to be still fresh in Sir Walter’s memory; he altogether forgets, however, and apparently tells Mr Hay nothing about the old mistake, the inscription afterwards discovered on the stone, and his own published reference to it in the “Minstrely.” Mr Hay, on his return home, jots down the leading facts which Sir Walter has told him, and as the Indian-ink sketch is added to

the collections of the Society of Antiquaries, he attaches to it his MS. sheet of memoranda, which I have already detailed.

It is curious, on turning to Lockhart's Life of Scott, to find that Sir Walter also made his memoranda of that day's labour, and Mr Hay's call, in his private Journal. We are there told how it was this old drawing turned up so opportunely. Sir Walter had been engaged in looking over, and arranging some of his old papers. We get a glimpse also, and that but a sad one, of Sir Walter's mental state at the time, and see at once the little probability there was of his remembering very distinctly any details which did not expressly bear on his own peculiar poetic fancies, or on subjects closely allied to them; instead of, as in this case, referring merely to an old stone, which obstinately refused to show any relation whatever to one of his own much loved scenes of Border life and song, with which at one time he was so strongly inclined to connect it.

In the diary given in Lockhart's Life of Scott, under the date March 9th, 1828, the very date of Mr Hay's memoranda of his call, Sir Walter writes:—

“ I set about arranging my papers, a task which I always take up with the greatest possible ill will, and which makes me cruelly nervous. I don't know why it should be so, for I have nothing particularly disagreeable to look at, far from it, I am better than I was at this time last year, my hopes firmer, my health stronger, my affairs bettered, and bettering—yet I feel an inexpressible nervousness in consequence of this employment. The memory, though it retains all that has passed, has closed sternly over it; and this rummaging, like a bucket dropped suddenly into a well, deranges and confuses the ideas which slumbered on the mind. I am nervous, and I am bilious, and in a word, I am unhappy. This is wrong, very wrong, and it is reasonably to be apprehended that something of serious misfortune may be the deserved punishment of this pusillanimous lowness of spirits. Strange, that one who in most things may be said to have enough of the ‘ Care na by,’ should be subject to such vile weakness! Drummond Hay, the Antiquary and Lyon Herald, came in.” (Mr Lockhart adds in a foot note,—‘ W. A. Drummond Hay, Esq. (now Consul at Tangier) was at this time the deputy of his cousin, the Earl of Kinnoull, hereditary Lord Lyon King at Arms.’) Sir Walter continues, “ I do not know anything which relieves the mind so much from the sullens as trifling discussions about antiquarian *old womanries*. It is like knitting a stocking—diverting the mind without occupying it; or it is like, by Our Lady, a mill dam, which leads one's thoughts gently and imperceptibly out of the channel in which they are chafing and boiling. To be sure, it is only conducting them to turn a child's mill: what signifies that? the

diversion is a relief, though the object is of little importance. I cannot tell what we talked of."

Sir Walter being in such a mood of mind, it is not to be wondered at that his memory supplied only the earlier incidents of the history of the stone—those more immediately connected with the mere finding of the single stone, and nothing more; and although aware, as I have shown, of both the Inscribed Stone and the sketch, he only refers to the existence of the one stone.

I sent a tracing of the "Druid stone" sketch with a copy of Mr Hay's memoranda, to the Rev. James Russell, minister of Yarrow, to whom I was so much indebted in my previous communication on the Inscribed Stone; and having stated my views of the matter, asked if he could furnish me with any information on the subject of the supposed pair of sculptured stones found at Yarrow. As his reply gives an excellent condensed view of the whole subject, I cannot do better than quote it at length. After referring to the Inscribed Stone, he says—

"I am sorry to say, that I never heard of any other stone connected with this locality; and if there had been, I could not but have been cognisant of it. The one that stands near this was dug up during my father's incumbency. I have very often heard him describe to strangers the circumstances under which it was found; its transportation to Bowhill, and the efforts to decipher the inscription, without success, by Sir W. Scott, and the others, whom old Duke Henry had assembled. I have had many a conversation with the Ettrick Shepherd, and various old people regarding the original appearance of the ground, with its scattered cairns, the *three stones that remain*, and the legends connected with them and the locality. Sir Walter's amanuensis and bosom friend, William Laidlaw, was a native of this parish, aided him, as you know, in his collection of ballads and antiquarian lore, and had many a talk with him on such subjects. After Sir Walter got into difficulties, Laidlaw was for years my next neighbour at the farm-house of Whitehope, on which the stone stands. We frequently discussed local antiquities, and particularly the inscribed stone, the finding of which he well remembered, but he never spoke of another near it with any sculpture. After he returned to Keaside, near Abbotsford, I was frequently with him; and about the very time Sir Walter must have sent the sketch and accompanying notice to the Society of Antiquaries, and as I was then collecting materials for the 'Statistical Account of the parish, I more than once asked him, if his friend had never obtained any additional light on these monuments, since he wrote his notes in the 'Border Minstrelsy.' He simply told me, that Sir Walter had discovered, that the duel he had supposed them to commemorate

had taken place at Deuchar Swire, but not a word of the Minstrel's more recent discovery, 'The Druid Stone.'

"On the very first inspection of the tracing you sent me of the latter, I perceived that it was the original inscribed stone, which fancy had decked out in fairy forms—in fact, an old friend with a new face. It agreed with it in site, in size, and shape (that being pretty marked and peculiar). In the zig-zag lines of the sculpture I recognised a succession of Roman letters; and the circles were obviously the natural hollows of the hard whinstone. I have been unable, after a careful excavation, to find anything corresponding with the two round depressions in the lower part. Of course it is somewhat singular, that, in the 'Prehistoric Annals,' we should have the drawing of a monument, which turns out to be a mere myth. Dr Wilson, however, obviously took as his authority the drawing of Mr George Scott, Singlee. Mr Scott had traced out some of the prominent lines presented by the stone, and his imagination twisted them into rude sculptures; the drawing he probably presented to the author of the 'Minstrelsy,' on learning how much he was interested in the relic. Like the first chapters of 'Waverley,' but still longer, the sketch, with its strange devices, appears to have lain by in Sir Walter's repositories, till he came upon it like a new discovery. True, as you remark in your letter, 'he was cognizant of the fact of *Latin words* forming part of the inscription on the stone he himself refers to in his 'Minstrelsy,' but does not mention the words; he says, 'they were rather scratched than engraved.' Even at the first, then, these words seem to have had little importance attached to them, and made little impression on his memory or mind; when he lighted on the drawing twenty-four years after, that unrivalled memory was considerably impaired, that mighty mind had 'o'er informed its tenement of clay;' and no wonder that he at once, without reflection or reference, transmitted it, as something very valuable, to your Museum."

I am inclined to think I have now proved that only one stone, this Inscribed Stone with its rude inscription, and none with any other sculpture, was found at Annan Street, on Whitehope farm, in Yarrow; and, however unwilling my friend Mr John Stuart may be to give up the supposed existence of any Sculptured Stone, that the "Annan Street stone" of Dr Wilson and the "Druid stone" of Sir Walter Scott must now be both regarded as due originally to the fancy of an artist, and have no existence save in this Inscribed Stone still remaining at Yarrow Kirk; from which a mould of its Latin inscription was recently presented to our Museum by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, and it still remains a riddle for our Antiquaries to read.

In conclusion, I may venture to make a few remarks on the inscription

itself; I fear, however; many of the letters are now so much obliterated by the touch of time, that it will be almost impossible to make out anything more than a fanciful reading, at least of part of the inscription.

In my previous notice of the stone, I gave the reading which had then been suggested. Since that time we have got a cast taken from the mould of the inscription presented to us. I am, however, still unable to give more than a very partial reading of it.

The inscription is cut lengthwise along the stone, and the first line is tolerably parallel to its edge; and as the stone is irregular on its surface and of unequal breadth, the lower lines are more wavy in their character, and vary in length, apparently to accommodate them better to the space left on the narrower parts of the stone; it consists of six lines, of debased or rudely formed Roman capitals, with the exception apparently of two or three letters, which appear to be minuscules or small letters, but are nearly of the same size as the others. I shall not, however, attempt to enter into any critical details of the character of the individual letters, which vary in size from two to four inches in length. (See Plate XVIII.)

Professor Simpson, in his learned and interesting communication on the CAT STANE,¹ alludes to the resemblance of its inscription to this Yar-row stone. He is inclined to consider the latter may record three interments; the whole appearing to read, as far as it is decipherable, as follows:—

HIC MEMOR IACIT F
LOIN :: NI :: HIC
PE :: M
DVMNOGENI · HIC IACENT
IN TVMVLO DVO FILI
LIBERALI

The different interments he does not define very minutely; but in accordance with the readings given of inscribed stones of a somewhat similar kind, found in considerable abundance in Wales, I suppose he would divide the inscription as follows:—

¹ Proceedings Soc. Antiq. Scot., vol. iv. p. 119.

The first record, beginning with the commencement of the inscription and ending with the second line, the Professor reads—

HIC · MEMOR · IACIT · F
LOIN : : : NI : : :

“ Here Memor lies, (F for filius) the son of Loin : : : us.”

The second record of interment begins under the second line, nearly at its termination :—

HIC
PE : : M : :
DVMNOGENI ·

“ Here Pe : : m : : the son of Dumnogenus.”

And the third and last, which is the most perfect :—

HIC · IACENT
IN · TVMVLO · DVO · FILI
LIBERALI

“ Here lie in the tumulus, or tomb, two sons Liberalis, or of Liberalis.”

Professor Simpson tells us,—“ The name of Liberalis is probably the Latinised form of a British surname having the same meaning. Rydderch, King of Strathclyde, in the latter part of the sixth century, and the personal friend of Kentigern and Columba, was sometimes, from his munificence, termed Rydderch Hael, or, in its Latinised form, Rydderch Liberalis.”

I agree with Professor Simpson in the general explanation of the inscription, but differ from him a little in some of the details of his reading. The first line I read, HIC MEMOR IACET I, considering the last letter of the first line an I, and taking the last and only perfect sentence of the inscription as a guide to the arrangement of the others ; I was at first inclined to attempt a reading of the commencement also, of the inscription in a similar way, as there seemed to me to be a portion of a letter V left on the broken part of the stone at the beginning of the second line ; showing possibly that others were lost where this corner was broken, and suggesting the word TUMULO, as in the last part of the inscription, ‘ Here Memor lies in the tumulus or tomb, &c.’ The Rev. Mr Russell, however, has since informed me that the broken portion of the stone is very small, and shows no traces of letters. (This broken corner

is shown in the Plate, restored to its original position.) I am now therefore inclined to read the last letter of the first line, as it is shorter than the others, simply as a linear point or stop. The second line, omitting the very doubtful letter at its commencement, seems to read LOINRISNI, the letters RIS, however, being doubtful; and it concludes with some still more doubtful letters which may suggest the word Filius, the letters being nearly obliterated, and bending upwards towards the first line:—

HIC MEMOR IACET
LOINRISNI

The next word, at the end, and below the second line, I read PRINC, and it perhaps terminates with an I, the following or third line commencing with the letters PE (and possibly a rudely formed and doubtful S), which is followed by the letter C, also rather doubtful, and next by the letters NVdI, the d being a minuscule, and the whole not very distinct, it then terminates apparently with a mark or stop; the reading of the letters NVdI was previously pointed out by Mr Russell. The fourth line begins with the word dVMNOGENI, the first letter, the d, being a minuscule, the next, V and M a compound letter, and the G similar to that on various stones found in Wales,¹ the other letters are quite distinct; this word is also followed by a point or stop:—

PRINCI
PE(S)CNVdI·
dVMNOGENI·

What peculiar British names are thus Latinised I cannot tell. Whether any old records may throw light on the names indicated in this inscription I do not at present know. The inscription then concludes either with the record of another interment, or is simply a continuation of the sentence, and refers to the individuals just named, as the sons of Liberalis:—

HIC IACENT
IN TVMVLO dVO FILII
LIBERALIS

The letters V and M in the word TVMVLO, like some of the others, are compound, or tied together, and we have the d in dVO again apparently

¹ See Archæologia Cambrensis, April 1860, &c. &c.

a minuscule; the last word in the line is FILII, and the line below gives us the last word of the inscription, LIBERALIS, as I fancy I can detect a small mark on the cast, which may possibly be the minuscule letter S, if not simply a stop or point at the conclusion of the word.

The inscription, therefore, may suggest the following reading :—

‘ HERE MEMOR LIES
OF LOINRISNUS (THE SON)
PRINCES (or, Chieftains of)
CNUDUS (AND) DUMNOGENUS, HERE LIE
IN THE TUMULUS, TWO SONS
OF LIBERALIS (?).’

The most distinct parts of the inscription may be read as follows :—

HIC MEMOR IACET
LOIN : : : NI : : : : :
PE : : NVdI· PRINC
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It is with great doubt I have ventured to bring this fragmentary, and I fear fanciful, reading of the inscription under the notice of the Society. I hope at some future time to make a more careful examination of the inscription, on the lichen covered stone itself, than I have yet been able to do, which may perhaps enable me to throw a little more light on the subject. Meantime, I trust Professor Simpson, or some other Fellow of our Society, may be attracted to the work of deciphering the still obscure parts of this inscription, and, if possible, inform us what the record has to tell about the great men, it may be, of their day and nation, whose long forgotten graves, by the quiet banks of the Yarrow, this anciently inscribed stone still commemorates.

With the single exception of the “CAT STANE,” with its shorter, but to all appearance equally dark and mysterious inscription, which, however, Professor Simpson has now so wonderfully illustrated; this is the only other inscribed memorial stone as yet known to exist in Scotland, which also belongs to a very early period of our history, and refers to a people who are all but unknown to us.

Since these notes were read to the Society, I have been favoured with another communication from the Rev. James Russell, which completely settles the question of the number of the Inscribed or Sculptured Stones found at Annan Street, in Yarrow, and, I am glad to say, in accordance with the view I had taken up. Mr Russell writes as follows:—

“I am now fortunately able to throw some light on the origin of the drawing made by Mr George Scott, Singlee. During a recent visit to Mr Ballantyne of Holylee, the only person now alive who can give personal and direct information on the subject, I gathered from him the following particulars, confirming the opinion which I had previously formed. Having resided on the farm of Whitehope, from early infancy for nearly forty years, he was perfectly cognizant of everything that occurred there. At the time when the improvements at Annan Street were carried out, and the stone in question was discovered, he was a lad of 16, and still retains a most distinct recollection of all the circumstances connected with it, so that his testimony cannot be disputed. He assured me that only *one carved stone* was raised by the plough during the course of the whole improvements, and that it was never in contemplation to blow it up with gunpowder, for immediately on its being found, his father had it removed to a place of safety, near the farm-house. While it lay there, some friends, including Mr George Scott, came to examine it, and on their forenoon inspection were only able to make out what looked like HIC MEMORLÆ. They spent the day at Whitehope, and after partaking freely of the hospitalities of a most liberal host, they paid another visit to the rudely-carved block. Mr B., who watched their proceedings throughout with great interest, was astonished and amused to perceive how wonderfully, by this time, their wits were sharpened; they had no longer the same difficulty in deciphering the tracings, at least to their own satisfaction, and before leaving Mr Scott took a hasty pencil sketch. Mr Ballantyne added, that this *same stone* was sent to Bowhill, for the Duke's special examination, and was then restored to its old locality, where it yet remains.

“These reminiscences of Mr Ballantyne, fresh as yesterday, ought to set this *lis sub judice* completely at rest. They prove beyond a doubt, that the stone on which Mr Scott exercised his ingenuity was the one that still stands erect at Annan Street. If it be asked, How in that case were the words read at the first, omitted? let it suffice to say, in explanation, that they might be traced very indistinctly, if not illegibly, in the after-dinner sketch, and that it seems to have been filled up, or more probably copied, at a subsequent period, with some embellishments, when they had been forgotten. The finished drawing was then given by Mr George Scott to his friend, the Author of the “Minstrelsy,” on learning the interest he took in the matter, as I have already suggested in my former letter.”



From a Photograph by J. Smith Esq.

W. & F. Johnston Edinburgh

INSCRIBED STONE AT "ANNAN'S STREET" NEAR YARROW KIRK
SELKIRKSHIRE

The stone is the property of the Earl of Argyll and is now in the possession of the Earl of Argyll.