

III.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES OF THE DISTRICT OF KINTYRE
IN ARGYLLSHIRE. BY CAPT. T. P. WHITE, R.E., F.S.A. SCOT. (OF THE
ORDNANCE SURVEY).

[As this elaborate paper, which was illustrated by upwards of a hundred drawings and sketches of the sculptured slabs and other early ecclesiastical remains of the Kintyre district, is intended to be published by the author in a separate form, we give merely a bare abstract of the descriptive portion of the paper, in which the dedications of the various sites, with a

brief account of their patron saints, and sketches of the parochial history, &c., were given.—EDS.]

Parish of Southend.—In this parish, which comprises the two ancient parishes of Kilcolmkill and Kilblane, there are the remains of one of the old parochial churches (Kil-Colmkill) and six chapels, viz., Kilchattan, St Ninian's, St Coivin's, St Catherine's, Katti Kil, and another which is nameless. The following other ecclesiastical sites are indicated by the local names,—viz., Kilbride, Kil-mashanachan, Kil-Irvan, Kil-Calmanell, and Kildavie. The church of Kil-Colmkill is situated in a retired spot on the southern shore of the parish. Caves in the face of the conglomerate precipice overhanging the cemetery are pointed out as having sheltered St Columba during a sojourn here. A spring bubbling from the rock is called the Priests' Well.

In the churchyard there are five mediæval slabs, drawings of which are exhibited. Remains of an ancient cross are also spoken of, but no remnants of it are now visible.

The island of Sanda belongs to the parish of Southend. On it are the remains of St Ninian's Chapel, of the general appearance of which and of some of its architectural details drawings are exhibited. At Kilmosenchain there are two crosses, nearly seven feet high, one of which is very similar in shape and pattern to the monolith at Applecross in Ross-shire, only much more ornate. The other is unsculptured. Both are represented in the drawings exhibited.

At St Coivin's Chapel, a little to the eastward of Dunaverty, the foundations alone remain to show the site, and one small fragment of a sculptured stone was observed.

Parish of Campbeltown.—This parish contains three chapels, identifiable by their ruined walls, and four more are suggested by local names. There is also another dedicatory Saint's name in Davar island. Of the four parochial divisions, Kilkerran occupied the south-east corner. Traces of the walls are still visible. The churchyard contains fragments of two sculptured crosses, besides two entire slabs, and the remains of another, of all which drawings were exhibited. The perfect cross erected in the centre of the town of Campbeltown (a cast of which is in the Museum), and which is assigned to the first year of the 16th century, seems to have been brought from this place.

The cave traditionally said to have been the cell of St Kieran is about three miles from Kilkerran, at Achinhoan Head. The remains of a substantially built wall, three feet in thickness, still bar its entrance. On the left hand side of the entrance is a flat roundish stone, on which is carved a circular figure, with inscribed hexafoil, having its cusps connected by arcs, and surrounded by a cable border, arranged in a sort of Greek pattern of square folds. Near this stone is a small fragment of another, traced over with lines. Besides these, there is a basin, nearly oval in shape, neatly scooped out of a block 2 feet long, by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width. It lies exactly under a drip of water from the roof of the cave, which always keeps the little font full.

Davar, or St Barr's Island, which lies across the entrance to the Bay of Campbeltown, has also a number of caves on the seaward side.

At Kilchoulan, on the north side of the Bay of Campbeltown, are the ruins of the former church. It was originally dedicated to St Constantine. The burial-ground is still in use. It contains the fragment of a beautifully sculptured cross; and a circular stone, like a quern stone, with a round hole in the centre large enough to pass the hand through, which has a curious tradition attached to it. If a man and woman eloped, and could reach the churchyard in time to join hands through the hole in the stone before they were overtaken, they were held to be safe from the pursuit of kith and kin.

Kilkevin, or St Coivin's Church, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west of Campbeltown, is in tolerable preservation. There are six sculptured slabs within the area of the church. A little to the south of the church is a small hill, called Cnocan-a-chluig, or the Hill of the Bell.

The Church of Kilmichael has been completely destroyed; the foundations and a few fragments of what were once tombstones being all that remain to indicate the site.

The foundations of three of the subsidiary chapels can yet be traced on the ground. They are grouped pretty near each other at the south end of the parish, and were probably dependencies of Kilkerran. The one furthest south is Kilellan, the foundations of which only remain; the second is Kilchrist; and the third Killeonan, dedicated to St Adamnan.

Three "Kils," now existing only as prefixes in the names of farms, may

indicate ancient ecclesiastical sites. They are Kilkeddan, Kilwhipnach, and Kildalloig.

Parish of Killean and Kilchenzie.—The old church of Kilchenzie is between four and five miles from the town of Campbeltown. Of the eight sculptured slabs here, four are in a very perfect condition. On one of them, the shears accompanies the sword, with this inscription, HIC : IACET : KATERINA : F(I)LIA : NEIL. Besides these, there is another fragment, with a rude form of wheel cross, brought out by means of a broadish band or beading in relief.

On the north side of Glen Barr there are traces of an ancient burial-ground on the farm of Kilmaluag. In the garden fence of the farm-house a slab was found, with an ornamental cross carved on it in relief.

The churchyard of Killean contains eleven mediæval slabs, and two more were discovered in a mutilated condition, paving the doorway of the church.

Parish of Kilcalmonell and Kilberry.—The modern churchyard at Clachan contains some rude slab carvings of a curious and distinctive type, as well as several of the more ornate and later kind. In the grounds of Ballinakill House there is a curious conical mound, on the summit of which is an upright slab, with a fragmentary cross sculptured upon it. The mound is sepulchral, and several urns were taken out of it some years ago.

There are several dependent chapelries of Kilcalmonell, which can be identified, viz., St Bride's, Kilmichael, where there is a rude cross slab, and Kilchamaig.

Parish of Saddell and Skipness.—Within the limits of this parish only three ecclesiastical sites have been identified. Between Saddell and Skipness there are no traces of any ecclesiastical site, except the burying-ground of Claonaig. The chapel of Kilbrannan (also called St Columbus), stands near the extremity of the point of Skipness. It is in a better state of preservation than any of the other Kintyre churches. Five sculptured slabs were sketched here.

In conclusion, Capt. White intimated his intention of dealing in his next paper with the prehistoric remains of the district, which are even more numerous and less known than the ecclesiastical.