

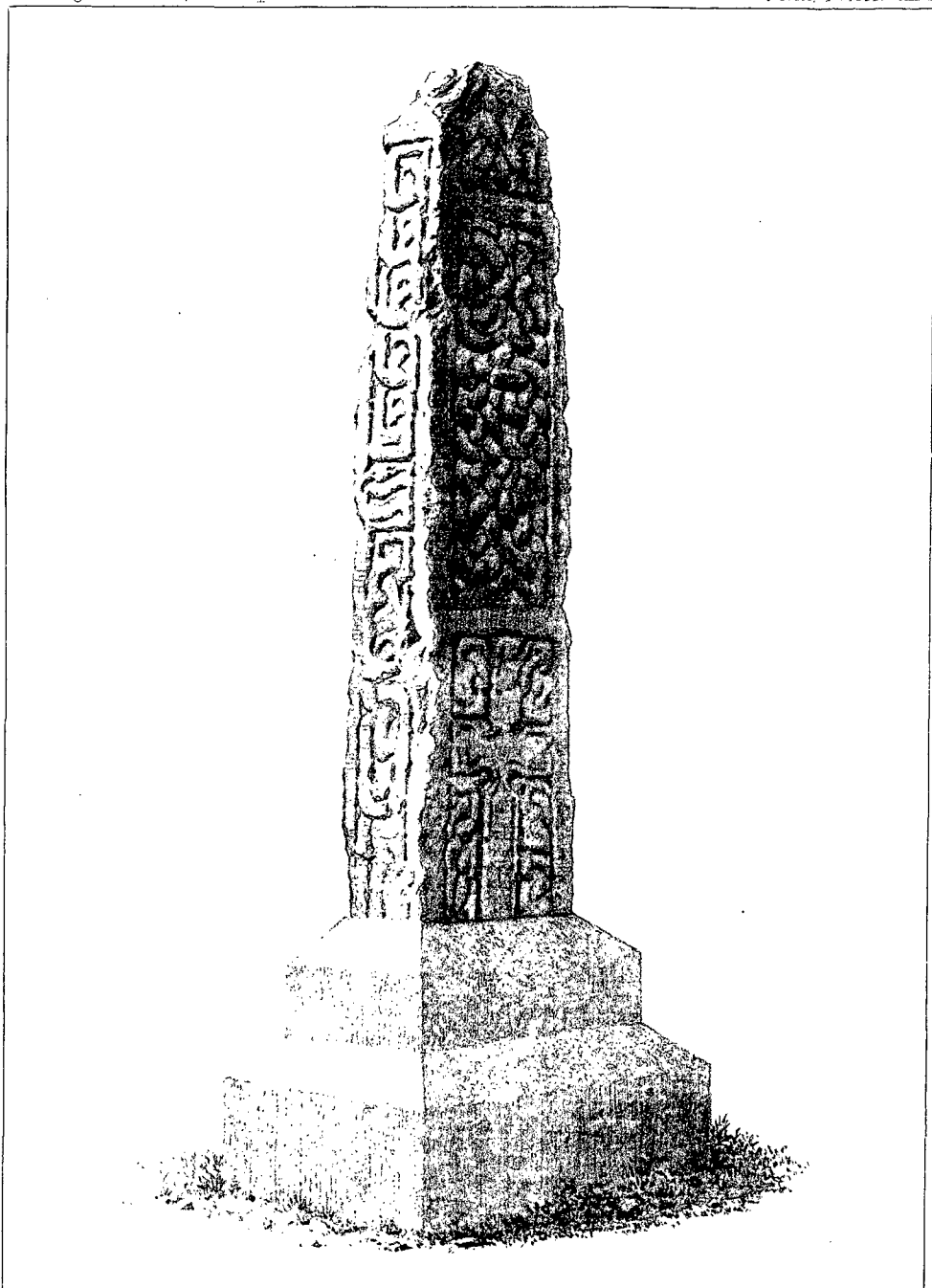
II.

NOTICE OF A CROSS-SHAFT AT ARTHURLEE, RENFREWSHIRE. BY T. ETHERINGTON COOKE, F.S.A. Scot. (PLATE XXVII.)

The exact original site of this cross is a matter of conjecture ; but there is good reason for supposing it to have stood in a field on the Arthurlee estate, in the parish of Neilston, and which many years ago was known as the "Cross-stane Field," though latterly as the "Thorn Field." A tradition exists in the district that a combat took place near this spot between two chiefs named Arthur and Neil (giving names respectively to Arthur-lee and Neil's-ton, and that both dying from their wounds, the former was buried here, while the latter was interred at "Cross-stane Brae," to the south of Neilston village, where a sepulchral cross is known to have been standing at the end of last century. Another conjecture

supposes the cross to have marked the burial-place of a chief of the name of Arthur, who may have fallen in conflict with the Danes at the battle of Crosstab, the scene of which lies about a mile north of Arthurlee, and at which place formerly stood a stone pillar, said to have been erected in commemoration of the battle. The titles of the estate, I am informed, throw no light on the origin of its name, which may well date from a period contemporary with the subject of this notice. In later times Arthurlee was a possession of the Stewarts of Darnley.

For an unknown length of time this cross-shaft formed a convenient stepping-stone across a burn at the foot of the field above alluded to, for the frequenters of a now disused footpath leading from Arthurlee House to the village of Neilston, about a mile distant. The attention of the present proprietor of the estate, James Dunlop, Esq., having been called to it, he has caused it to be erected as near the supposed original site as circumstances would permit, with a view to its preservation. A diligent search has been made for the upper portion of the cross, but without success. Its form was probably the same as that sculptured on the lower panel of the shaft. The stone has been worn nearly smooth on the reverse side, from the use it has served as a foot-bridge. The ornamentation, however, was similar to that of the front, but without the cross in the lower division. The edges were not divided into corresponding panels. The height of the stone is 6 feet 9 inches (about 6 inches of which is built into the new base); width, at widest part, 1 foot 9½ inches; thickness at base, 8½ inches.



Etherington Cooke, del.

W & A K. Johnston, Edin.

SCULPTURED CROSS AT ARTHURLEE. RENFREWSHIRE.