

III.

NOTICE OF THE FABRIC OF ST VIGEANS CHURCH, FORFARSHIRE;
WITH NOTICE AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF EARLY SCULPTURED STONES
RECENTLY DISCOVERED THERE, &c. BY THE REV. WILLIAM DUKE,
M.A., F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATES XXXI.-XXXIV.)

The origin of the Church of St Vigian of Aberbrothock is lost in remote antiquity. It is probably due to one of those preachers of Christianity who, issuing from Ireland or Iona, overspread Scotland in the sixth and seventh centuries, establishing churches wherever they succeeded in making converts. The name lends some countenance to this supposition. There is a tradition, indeed, that St Vigian was a local saint; and the foundations of a chapel, reputed to be his, are still to be seen at Grange of Conon. More probably the church is one of several that he, or some follower of his, planted in the course of his missionary labours, and that afterwards received his name. Ecclefechan appears to be the only other dedication to him in Scotland. Dr Stuart has identified him with St Fechin of Fohbar in Ireland, who died A.D. 664, Vigianus being merely a Latinized form of his name. His festival was celebrated annually on the 20th of January, on which day a fair, termed St Vigian's Market, continued to be held in the parish till the early part of last

century. The church retained its local name of Aberbrothock till the erection of the town portion of the parish into a separate charge after the Reformation ; but the name of the saint was associated with it at least as early as the foundation of the Abbey by King William the Lion.

The valley of the Brothock, in which the church stands, affords traces of very early inhabitants. Many primitive graves have been laid open in the course of railway excavations and agricultural improvements, and bronze weapons and ornaments have been found. A curiously incised stone, removed from the base course of an underground *bee-hive* house, a mile and a-half above the church is now deposited in your Museum. The excavation of a similar house, and other underground chambers in another district of the parish—the immediate neighbourhood of St Vigian's chapel—is described by Mr Jervise in the fourth volume of your Proceedings ; and there are traditions of earlier discoveries of a similar kind, of which probably no record has been preserved.

The church is picturesquely situated on the top of a conical mount, close by the Brothock, at a point where that little stream receives a tributary on either bank, about a mile and a half from the sea. The level space at the top measures about 80 feet from west to east, and 130 from north to south. In the former direction it is fully occupied by the church, there being a steep descent at both ends. A small level space on the north and south, and the sloping banks of the mount, form the churchyard. The whole has something of an artificial look, but is in reality one of a succession of natural mounds and kaims that occur in the valley of the Brothock, all of which have their longer axis running north and south, in a direction parallel with its course. Its central as well as picturesque situation, its convenient size, and its possession of a soil well adapted for sepulture, no doubt combined to determine the selection of the site.

The first church, supposing it to have been founded by the saint himself, or one of his immediate followers, would naturally be constructed of such materials as came first to hand. It would be succeeded in due time by a more permanent erection ; but it may be assumed that, for a period of four or five centuries, the successive churches that occupied the site were all alike rude and undecorated. No remains of the fabric of the church during the Celtic period can now be identified. The sepulchral monuments

belonging to it however are unusually numerous, and prove it to have been a religious site of the first importance in the district.

A Norman restoration took place at St Vigeans as in many other parts of the country, but, judging from the remains, the ornamental work could hardly have been very extensive. Probably it was confined to the doorway and windows. Three stones, with finely executed mouldings of the purest Norman, forming portions of two orders of an arch, were lately recovered from a fifteenth century wall in which they had been built. Their date may be fixed within the first half of the twelfth century, forty or fifty years before the foundation of the Abbey. There are no stones belonging to the latter of similar character. Probably there are none in Angus, but their exact counterparts may be seen in such purely Norman churches as those of Leuchars and Dalmeny.

There was found at the same time a thin oblong slab, probably sepulchral, on which is sculptured a large staff, surrounded by a border of characteristic Norman work in two patterns, both of which occur on the arch stones.

The earlier churches were all of small extent, and must have occupied the northern portion of the site. The Norman church seems to have been extended to the verge of the precipitous bank on the east, over what had previously been a portion of the churchyard. The east gable of the north aisle is almost certainly a remnant of this church. The character of its masonry accords well with the Norman period, and it can be shown to have been an old wall in 1242. Originally it formed the northern half of the east gable, at a time when the church had no aisles. Its southern half, transformed into a portion of the gable of the later nave, was removed last year to admit of the erection of an apse. In respect both of material and workmanship, it is vastly superior to any other portion of the fabric that has come down to our times. The line of junction between it and its later and much inferior continuation to the south was distinctly marked. Having been founded, like most of the ancient walls, near the surface of the ground, there was occasion to underpin it, when it was seen to have been built over graves. It is also worthy of remark, as showing how soon ancient monuments began to be utilized, that a small sculptured cross of exquisite workmanship, was found embedded in its lowest course.

The west gable of the same aisle is composed of similar materials, in which a blue stone, found in no other part of the fabric, predominates. Part of the face work of this gable, however, had been renewed a century or two ago, and the remainder of it during the present restoration.

The west, north, and east walls of the north aisle formed the limits of this church in these directions. The south wall stood near the centre of the present nave. It measured 60 by about 26 or 27 feet over walls, the walls being three feet thick, and was spanned by one roof. The nature of the site did not admit of its being extended so far east and west as was usual in less important churches; and hence the reason that, though in subsequent times twice widened, receiving the addition first of a north, and afterwards of a south aisle, it came down to our day *without* the more usual appendage of a chancel.

The earliest known documents in which the church is mentioned are confirmations¹ by several successive bishops of St Andrews, and popes, and by King William himself, of various grants to the great monastery which the king had founded in the parish. In these the whole shire of Aberbrothock, including the parish church and all its belongings, are mentioned as forming part of the endowment. The first of them, that by Bishop Hugh, dates from about 1178, the year in which the first abbot was formally installed. Henceforth, till the Reformation, the parish church was a dependency of the Abbey. A stipendiary vicar served the cure, while the great tithes, as well as the rents of the land, swelled the revenue of the monastery.

The year 1242 is the next date of importance in the history of the church. It was then solemnly dedicated on the 19th of August by Bishop David Bernhame of St Andrews, to whose diocese it belonged. The fact of a consecration usually implies a previous rebuilding or enlargement; but this bishop's consecrations are so numerous, as to preclude the idea that, even in that church-building age, all the churches on his list had been recently renewed, or even repaired. Rather, it would seem, the consecration of churches was now deemed of more importance than at an earlier period; and there being no record of previous consecrations, probably a well-founded suspicion that many churches had never been canonically consecrated, the bishop determined to consecrate them all, in

¹ Registrum Vetus de Aberbrothock.

order to make sure. We may suppose that a prelate, distinguished by so much zeal for the work, would take care that the memory of his own consecrations should be preserved. A list of them was brought to light by the late Mr Joseph Robertson, and at St Vigeans the fact is recorded in stone. Of the twelve dedication crosses, usually cut on a mediæval church, as many as seven are still on the walls, five of them in their original position. An eighth and ninth that had been displaced were brought to light during the present restoration. But, though a previous rebuilding or extension is not necessarily to be inferred from Bishop David's consecration, it is certain that a great change had been made on the church since we last saw it in Norman times. It now consisted of a nave and north aisle, of the same dimensions as these portions of the fabric are at present, and composed largely of the same walls. The south wall of the earlier church had been removed, the gables widened and raised, the north arcade inserted, and a new south wall built where the south arcade now stands. It was possible to determine these changes with the greatest certainty during the progress of the works last summer. The east respond of the north arcade having been injured by the excavation for the chancel pier, both it and a portion of the wall above were taken down, when they were found to have been built on to the older gable, without so much as the plaster of the latter having been removed. A narrow perpendicular recess, that had previously existed in the east wall, had been built up to present a solid surface to the respond, only the capital of which was bonded into the wall, a hole having obviously been cut out for the purpose. At the same time a continuous foundation, traced along the site of the south arcade, bore testimony to the former existence of a south wall. The north arcade thus inserted, consisting of four bays, with short, massive round pillars and circular arches, might pass for undecorated Norman, but is really of a style that was used in Scottish parochial churches for several centuries after that period. The capitals, however, are of an early form, simple, yet possessed of great character. The wall above is pierced with three quaint clerestory windows of unusually small size, and nearly square. Whether they are as old as the arcade seems doubtful. There can be little doubt, however, that the church was remodelled in this form not long before 1242. The soffit of the arch immediately over the respond

at either end of the arcade and the corner of the earlier gable, are alike marked by the consecration cross. The south arcade, which is of a much later style, has no such marks.

A reason for the enlargement of the church at this time is not far to seek. Having been strongly built only a century before, it is not likely to have become ruinous. But, in the meantime, the monastery had been erected. Its great church had been consecrated on its completion in 1233, only nine years before. Such a great and wealthy establishment must have attracted to the parish a host of craftsmen, farmers, and other dependents, too numerous to be accommodated in the little church that had sufficed for the scanty population of the previous century. Whether its characteristic Norman features were then obliterated, or preserved till a later period, does not appear. Probably they were preserved or reconstructed. They may even have determined the character of the Norman-like arcade.

When this church was finished, there was as yet no tower at St Vigeans. The west gable was completed without reference to the latter, its outside intake and splayed course, and a higher and lower skew-line, being still visible within the tower. This addition, however, may have been made not long afterwards. It appears not only to have existed in 1485, but to have had important alterations made on it at or before that date. No needless expense was incurred in its erection. Three walls were built and attached without bond to the gable of the church, which was made to serve for the fourth. The line of its south wall was probably determined by the existing south wall of the nave.

Only the two lower stories, or the portion below the second intake, can be affirmed to belong to the original structure. One or two additional stories, surmounted by a saddleback roof, probably completed the design. It is impossible now to determine the character of the windows at the top, if any existed; but the lower stories, narrow, unbuttressed, and tapering upwards in unequal stages, bear a considerable resemblance to the Romanesque towers at Muthill and Dunning, in the neighbouring county of Perth.

The church that was consecrated in 1242 seems to have come down to 1485, with little alteration beyond the addition of the tower. On the 25th day of August in that year it was again dedicated,¹ along with two

¹ Registrum Nigrum, pp. 226, 366.

great altars, and the cemetery by George O'Brien, bishop of Dromore, acting no doubt for the bishop of St Andrews, after another extension which brought it to the form it retained till the present century. The dedication was promoted by John Brown, tenant under the Abbey, first in Letham, and afterwards in Wardmill and Cellarer's Croft. He was the founder of the altar of St Sebastian,¹ one of the two that were dedicated, the other being no doubt that of the Patron Saint; and in a deed of endowment executed by him in 1506, he incidentally mentions that the church had just been completed at the time of its consecration. The particular works that were then executed are not specified, but with the knowledge we have of the earlier fabric, they are hardly doubtful. The roof probably required renewal, and after two centuries more accommodation must have been necessary. At all events, the south wall of the nave was taken down, an arcade built on its site, and a south aisle formed to correspond with that on the north. This extension, like the two former, was made over a portion of the churchyard that was full of graves. Little care was taken to set the pillars exactly opposite, or to have the two arcades parallel. Nor had any two of the arches on either side the same span, the difference between the extremes being more than two feet. The later arcade differs from the earlier in most of its details. It is built of stones from another quarry. Its pillars are octagonal instead of round. The bases, capitals, and arches are all distinguished by well-marked features of a flamboyant character; and the clerestory consists of eight windows taller than the three on the north, and having segmental instead of horizontal lintels. Its whole style corresponds well with the date of the second consecration, A.D. 1485.

With persistent irregularity the south aisle was made about twelve inches narrower than the north. Both are now about a foot wider than they were originally. The north aisle gable bears marks, at its inside corner, of the north wall having been thinned to that extent. The thinning must have been done in comparatively recent times when the wall was rebuilt, the chisel having been applied only to the portion bonded

¹ St Sebastian's day is undoubtedly the 20th of January. Is St Vigian's day really the same, or has St Sebastian's been wrongly assigned to him? If both festivals are on the same day, may not this circumstance have suggested the foundation of an altar to St Sebastian.

into the gable. All the more ancient walls were 3 feet thick. The south aisle wall was never more than about 30 inches. It had been rebuilt above the ground level at the same time as the corresponding wall on the north side of the church, but its original lower part still remains projecting 10 inches beneath the floor.

Internally, the north aisle measured 11, the nave 22, and the south aisle about 10 feet in width, exclusive of the arcades, each 30 inches thick. The length continued to be determined by that of the older church.

The south arcade has no consecration crosses. The insertion into the new corners of two or three of the marked stones, necessarily removed from the old, seems to have been considered sufficient to mark the rededication of the church. One of these is still to be seen in its later position at the south-east corner.

The alteration made on the tower at this date was the rebuilding and thickening of the walls above the second intake. The latter was now omitted altogether on the south side. Its previous existence there, as well as on the west and north, is vouched for by the existence of several feet of the original south-east corner higher up, embedded several inches within the face of the later wall, and now again concealed by the clerestory. On the west and north the thickening was done at different levels, by the insertion of corbels, spanned by oak lintels, to support the inner face. This was obviously subsidiary to the erection of a parapet and bartizan on three sides, which entered into the new design for the roof. The east wall was not thickened, as it was meant to be terminated by a gable; but at a later period a parapet was added on this side also, at a somewhat higher level, and in an inferior style. The saddle-back roof and parapet, after various alterations made on them in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, to fit them for the reception of a bell, existed within the memory of persons still alive; and the corbels, as well as floor of the bartizan, remained in their original position till last year. The whole upper portion of the tower appears to have been an imitation on a smaller scale, and in an inferior style, of the donjon tower of the Abbey, which dates from an earlier part of the same century. More particularly, the arrangement of the corbels and all above was the same in both.

The idea of forming the principal entrance—probably an entrance of

any kind—into the church through the base of the tower, seems to have been an afterthought. The tower is not much more than half the width of the nave, and, standing at its south-west corner, the large entrance opened through the gable of the latter is necessarily off the centre. It is not even in the centre of the tower, having been made close to its north wall, obviously to improve its position as regards the church. Both the outer doorway and the larger entrance through the old gable received the characteristic circular arch. The place where the gable had been slapped, and a portion of the splayed course at the intake removed for this purpose, is distinctly visible in the chamber above the porch. This entrance was probably opened up in 1485. The rude stone vaulting of the porch was certainly formed some time after the tower was built, as is evidenced by the existence of window rybets on the north side, in the space now occupied by the vaulting. The original lights of the ordinary turret kind are still to be seen on three sides of the second story. The doorway into this story, through the south wall, bears the appearance of considerable antiquity.

The position of all the doors and windows of the church, as completed in 1485, cannot be fixed with certainty. The principal entrance through the tower and the clerestory windows were the same as at present, as were probably the doors in the north and south aisles. There was also a narrow light in the west gable of the south aisle, of the same character as those in the second story of the tower, but ragged for glass. There never was a window of any kind in the east end, nor were there any in the north aisle till the present century. There was probably a second door and several windows in the south aisle wall; but the church must have been largely dependent for what light it had upon its clerestory. Most Scotch parish churches, built so recently as the first quarter of the present century, are as destitute as it was of windows to the north.

The altar platform at the east end, on which the bases of the responds rested, stood ten or twelve inches above the floor, and extended quite across the nave. Over it, in the gable near the north respond, was a recess formed of Arbroath pavement, with moulded edge and ogee arch. There was besides, a little lower in the wall, a square recess of rude construction near each end of the altar; also two smaller recesses, one above the other, close to the north respond, of precisely the same nature as those still to

be seen in the ruined gable of the old church of Ethie. There were no remains of a piscina, though one had no doubt existed in the original south wall of the nave.

The church having been completed and put into a state of thorough repair in 1485, may be supposed to have come down to the period of the Reformation in a fairly good condition. Nothing seems to be known about it for a century after that event, except that it was always in use for public worship. The earliest Session record, which begins in 1665, contains notices of many small repairs. One of greater importance was executed in 1676. Under date December 9th of that year is the following entry :—" As also ye church fabrick being now compleited and glass windows put in for ye preventing of any harme to be done yrto the doors of the whole church and steiple be kept closs and ye keyes be brought on the Sabath into ye mnrs. in order to ye act of ye late visitation." The reference is to a visitation of the church by the Archbishop of St Andrews in the previous July, shortly before which the heritors had agreed to execute some repairs. These, however, must have been far from thorough, as there are notices of others in immediately succeeding years. On May 29th, 1681 :—" Ye Mnr. declares yt ye bell of this church is very insignificant for such a considerable paroch as this is, and yt it has been frequently suggested to him yt ye people will almost willingly contribute for ye payt. of a better bell." The heritors and Session thereupon "give commission and warrand to ye mnr. to cause bring home a bell sufficient for ye service, and ye old bell to be sold to help to pay ye new;" and to "have a roll recorded of what each gentleman heritor, husbandmen, cottars and fials, male and female, will give for such a necessary work."

The acquisition of a larger bell seems to have rendered necessary the erection of a wooden bell-house at the top of the tower, there being no belfry windows in the tower itself. The entry relating to it is dated August 17th 1687 :—" 52s. payed for meat and drink to ye men yt built ye bell house. 13 lib. 7s. 8d. payed for timber to ye bell-house. 3 libs. to ye smith for Iron work : 1 lib. 6s. to Tho. Dall for his service."

In 1689 there is a notice of "the church and steeple head" having been repaired. Many other entries of a similar nature show that during the whole period covered by this record, extending from 1665 to 1694,

the church was in a state of chronic disrepair. A crisis was reached in 1720, when it was visited by the Presbytery, and found to be "in a ruinous condition," requiring an expenditure of L.474, 16s. Scots. The repairs needed are not specified, but among them was probably the rebuilding of the walls of the north and south aisles. The ancient incised stone representing various animals may have been first built into the north-west corner at this date, if not in the preceding century.

The Presbytery again visited St Vigeans in 1754, on petition by the Reverend John Aitkin, who declared that "the church was ruinous except the walls." A sum of L.634, 19s. Scots was found necessary on this occasion, nearly the whole of which was required for the wood and slater work of the roof. These repairs, however, were not effected for some years, till the legal liability of the heritors was established. The roof then erected was removed last summer in an advanced stage of decay.

From a comparatively early period lofts had existed across the west end, and in front of the second arch on the north side of the nave, access to which was obtained by a door through the west gable at north side of tower, opening upon an inside stair. The east loft was built in 1770, at a total cost of L.29, 6d. sterling, and access to it obtained by means of an outside stair and door through the gable. In the following year the minister got permission from the Earl of Northesk—the only heritor interested—to build up the door and remove the stair of the west loft, and open a new entrance from the second story of the tower. The unsightly excrescence from this loft in front of the second arch of the nave must have been removed before this improvement.

In 1772 the minister was authorised to get the belfry, which is described as being in a very ruinous condition, repaired, and at the same time "to put in three sky-lights into the north aisle for the use of those who sit there"—a plain intimation that there were no windows in its walls. This aisle had been little occupied up to this time, and its area was only partially seated. Two burial vaults are said to have abutted on its north wall. The more easterly, in which James VI.'s tutor—Sir Peter Young of Seaton—was buried, remained till 1827, when it was brought within the limits of the church by the extension of the north aisle. Its underground portion was finally abolished when the floor was levelled last summer.

A new turret at its south-east corner replaces the outside stair. Stained glass windows and other monuments to former ministers and parishioners, in a high style of art, are in the course of erection. Altogether, the restoration is of a kind that has seldom been attempted in the case of a Scottish parish church.

The ancient sculptured stones previously discovered at St Vigean's are illustrated in the well-known volumes of Dr Stuart of Edinburgh and the late Patrick Chalmers of Aldbar. With regard to the originals, it may be sufficient to mention here that they are carefully preserved. The inscribed stone is intended to occupy a position within the church which will admit of its easy examination. The other two large stones have been built into the inner face of the wall, where they are well seen, while completely protected. The larger of these was found, on its removal from its former position, to have been similarly sculptured on both sides, the reverse showing traces of a cross of the same size and general design as the side exposed, though all but a small portion of the sculpture had been ruthlessly destroyed. The massive fragments of a cruciform pillar figured in Dr Stuart's second volume now occupies a conspicuous place in one of the new buttresses. The incised stone in the north-west corner of the church has not been disturbed.

The present notice concerns the stones that were brought to light during the restoration of the church last summer. They number upwards of twenty pieces, most of them mere fragments, but representing an almost equal number of monuments, for with one or two exceptions there has been no recovery of two separate pieces of the same stone. The original monuments had been broken up and used for building material at an early period, the latest wall in which they were found dating probably from 1485, while there is reason to believe that many of the stones had been so used at least as early as the twelfth century. It cannot be doubted that the ancient walls that have not been disturbed, comprising about two-thirds of the mediæval church, contain many similar fragments.

The following numbers refer to the accompanying photographs:—

1. A small elaborately sculptured cross, 25 by 12 inches, recovered from the foundation of what is believed to be a remnant of the Norman church. The two figures on the reverse resemble those on one of the

Invergowrie stones. One of them wears three, the other at least two ornaments round the neck. Immediately over them the usual interlaced ornament is worked into a crescent form. The material is a coarse-grained red sandstone, naturally inclined to board. Having been exposed for many centuries to the drainage from the roof, the stone has lost much of its silica, and though quite whole when first discovered, separated into a dozen fragments on becoming dry. (See Plate XXXI.)

2. Recovered in two pieces from near the top of the north clerestory. Measures 37 by 17 inches. One side shows a wheeled cross, the shaft of which is in two divisions, differently ornamented. The upper division has on either side a symbol of the Trinity, and the lower a priest, one of them apparently with an open book in his hand. The wheel of the cross is ornamented like that of the Farnell stone, and its limbs have roll-like terminations like those at Dyce and Aboyne. The reverse has in its upper portion what appears to be a representation of the flight into Egypt—Joseph and Mary, the latter with the infant Saviour in her arms, and a gate shut behind them. Below is a meeting of two pedestrians, whose dress is no doubt characteristic of the period. The broad bonnet is of a pattern hardly yet extinct in Scotland. (See Plate XXXII.)

The stone is a fine-grained slab of Arbroath pavement. One of its upper corners must have served as a hone to the parishioners seven or eight centuries ago, some of whom had not scrupled to try the edge of their tools upon the holy family.

3. A large fragment (30 by 10½ inches) in red sandstone of an elaborately sculptured cross (see Plate XXXIV.), which terminates in a semi-circular base like that at Farr, in Sutherland. The cross is considerably relieved. What remains of the outside sunk face is also ornamented. The reverse is blank, but as the stone is comparatively thin, it may originally have been twice as thick, and sculptured on both sides. It was recovered from the top of the tower, where it lay across two corbels, with its sculptured face downwards. It was probably placed there in 1485.

4. A large thick fragment, in red sandstone, of what appears to have been the cover of a coffin, measures 42 by 15 inches. Its sculptured face, which on the above supposition must have been downwards, consists of a broad border of the usual interlaced ornament, surrounding a narrow sunk centre, on which is sculptured a wheeled cross, with long upper limb

terminating in a roll, on which stands an attenuated elephant! Over the latter is a circular ornament, and still higher up the lower and middle portion of a cross of the same type as the one below. This stone was found in an underground wall outside and close to the north-west corner of the north aisle. The wall seemed to have been built to strengthen the foundation. (See Plate XXXIV.)

5. A large fragment of the inscribed stone, measuring 25 by 21 inches. Two of the upper limbs of the cross and a grotesque figure are seen on one side, and on the other a stag followed by hounds, below which are some fragmentary portions of other animals. The graceful circular ornament on one of the edges is now complete from head to foot, the whole length of the stone being six feet. A triangular fragment, measuring about fourteen inches on each side, is still wanting. Nine or ten inches of the upper portion of the edge, which bears the inscription, is included in the fragment, but is neither inscribed nor ornamented. Notice the lines scratched across the upper as well as the lower corners. This fragment was recovered from the east gable of the church, or the adjoining stair. (See Plate XXXIII., and also Vol. VII. Plate IV. for the inscription.)

6. A slab, obviously intended to lie horizontally upon a grave, stepped near the head to receive the foot of a perpendicular cross, and having its upper surface marked by an ornamented border, surrounding a narrow sunk centre. The latter, which is perfectly plain, may have been hollowed out to receive a sculptured panel. One of the edges of the stone is incised with grotesque-looking figures of men and animals. The stone, now broken in three, was found in the foundation of the east gable of the nave, near the centre, where it must have been placed not later than 1242. It is of red sandstone, and measures 62 inches long by 18 inches wide at the widest end, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick.

7. The three upper limbs of a cross projecting beyond, and considerably relieved from the surrounding disk, sculptured nearly the same on both sides. The disk is moulded on the face and ornamented on the edge. Material, red sandstone. Measures 14 by 11 inches.

8. A square pillar of red sandstone, having a cross of a different pattern sculptured on each of its four sides, and relieved about two inches on the face. Height 40 inches, and width of each face from 10 to 12 inches. Though now described and photographed for the first time, it was

discovered many years ago, and used as a footstep for the inscribed stone, one of its sides having been hollowed out for the purpose. It is now built into the wall of the church near the north-west corner. The side shown is the most elaborately carved.

9. A fragment of a wheeled cross, with the upper half of the figure of a priest. Bears a strong resemblance to the Aldbar stone. No remains of sculpture on the reverse. Red sandstone. Measures 13 by 13 inches.

10. A fragment, apparently of a cross, with remains of sculpture only on one side. The ornament runs across the shaft of the cross in horizontal lines like an inscription. There is similar ornament on the lower part of the Woodray stone, now at Abbotsford. Material, red sandstone. Measures 15 by 15 inches. Both this fragment and No. 9 are now built into the west gable of the church.

11. A noble fragment, in character resembling the inscribed stone. One side shows two of the upper limbs of a cross united by a circular rope-like fillet, enclosing an eagle-headed lion or dog. The reverse shows a stag startled from his rest. The sculpture is bold and to the life. No ornament on edge. Red sandstone, 11 by 8 inches. (See Plate XXXIII.)

12. A small fragment (8 by 7 inches) of a fine example of the *Z and spectacle ornament*. The sculpture is in high relief; the material a thin slab of Arbroath pavement, probably not above half the original thickness. (See Plate XXXIII.)

13. A thick fragment of red sandstone, 14 by 10 inches, representing a grotesque-looking animal and one flank of a second. (See Plate XXXIV.)

14. Part of the upper portion of a monument in Arbroath pavement of a primitive type, representing, in horizontal order, a man in a hooded cloak, a staff, and a simple form of the spectacle ornament. This stone, with the rest of the group from 12 to 17, is now built into the inner face of the wall of the church. Its reverse, however, is marked by part of the ornamented limb of a cross, and the symbol of the Trinity, as on No. 2. Measures 11 by 8 inches (not 14 by 10 inches, as on Plate XXXIII).

15. A slab of Arbroath pavement, 24 by 11 inches, having a large staff in the middle, and on either side a border of characteristic Norman work. This appears to have formed part of a sepulchral slab, probably that of the priest of the period, the pastoral staff being indicative of his sacred profession. (See Plate XXXIV.)

16. The head of a bridled or harnessed horse, and part of a circular ornament, in Arbroath pavement. Measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Reverse blank. (See Plate XXXIV.)

17. A warrior on horseback, with spear in hand. The reverse shows a portion of an ornamental cross. Material Arbroath pavement. Measures $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches. No. 14 and this may possibly be fragments of the same stone. (See Plate XXXIV.)

18. This fragment of a cross bears a striking resemblance in size, form, and ornament, to a stone at Kingoldrum, so much so that both might have been worked from the same design. See "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. i. pl. lxxxix. Arbroath pavement. Measures 15 by 12 inches. Not so thick now as it was originally.

19. Fragment in red sandstone, $6\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, showing on either side part of the head of an ornamented cross in relief. One of the corner panels is filled with the head and neck of an animal, the other with a circular ornament like that on the edge of the inscribed stone.

20. A grotesque representation of a man mounted or poised on the neck of a horse or mule. Red sandstone. Measures 17 by 15 inches.

21. Slab of Arbroath pavement, having circular ornament within the moulding of an arch. Now built into the west gable of north aisle. Measures 21 by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Reverse blank.

22. Fragment of plain relieved cross, in red sandstone.

23. Fragment, showing upper limb of cross and corner ornament on both sides. Red sandstone. Measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

24. Upper portion of cross, whether monumental or architectural. Almost identical with sepulchral cross at St Blane's, in Bute, except in being completely perforated. (Vol. ii. pl. lxxiii.) Upper limb appears to have projected beyond wheel. Red sandstone. 17 by $10\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 inches.

25. Upper corner of plain cross, in red sandstone.

26. Norman arch stone, with face projecting from the bed like a corbel. Red sandstone. (Forms a second order to the stone sketched in connection with the architectural portion of this paper.)

27. A small fragment, in red sandstone, $5\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 inches.

28. Small curved ornament.

29. Fragment, showing a man's head.



No. 6
62 X 18 in.



No. 1
25 X 12 in.



SCULPTURED STONES, ST. VIGEANS FORFARSHIRE



N^o 2.
37 x 17 in.



SCULPTURED STONES. ST. VIGEAN, FORFARSHIRE.



N^o 3
30 x 10½ in.



N^o 16
9½ x 6½ in.



N^o 4
42 x 15 in.



N^o 17
15½ x 11 in.



N^o 15
24 x 11 in.



N^o 15
14 x 10 in.