

### III.

NOTICE OF SCULPTURED STONES AT LAGGANGARN, MULL OF SUN-  
NONESS, AIRRELICH, AND CASSENDEOCH, WIGTOWNSHIRE. BY  
REV. GEORGE WILSON, GLENLUCE, CORR. MEM. S. A. SCOT.

*Laggangarn Stones.*—These stones are on a low grassy knoll about 100 yards east of the farm-house. They are all of greywacke. Only seven remain *in situ*. I observed three used as lintels in the farm buildings of Laggangarn, and two which have been gate-posts at Kilgallyoch, across the Tarff, about half a mile to the east. Two more are lying at Pultadie, about two miles to the west. They have been dressed for gate-posts. I have not seen them, but have got the dimensions of both, and a rubbing of the one which is sculptured. I believe it was used as a lintel over the kitchen-fire in the former house at Laggangarn, which was pulled down about eighteen years ago. An examination of the ground-plan suggests the idea that there have been two circles of stones; but I have heard no tradition to that effect. The two sculptured stones of which I send a sketch are at the west end; and I believe the Pultadie stone stood

beside them. They are 2 feet apart. The crosses are hollowed out of the stone, the groove being about an inch wide, and from a quarter to half an inch deep. The upper limb of the large cross on the northmost stone (fig. 1) is carried across a ledge on the surface about an inch wide. This stone has been split for the purpose, the back showing the natural smooth surface. The bottom of the shaft of the cross is open, the two

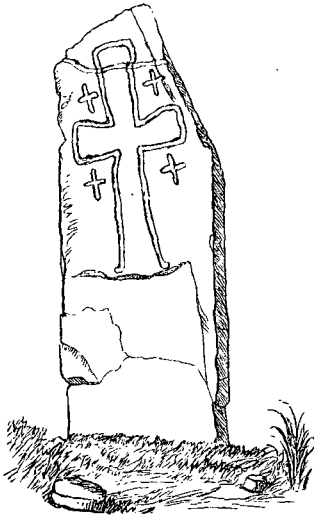


Fig. 1.

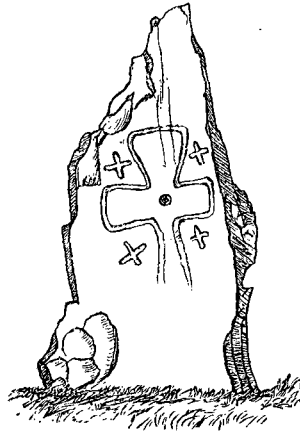


Fig. 2.

## Sculptured Stones at Laggangarn.

lines diverging a little, and being rounded off somewhat like inverted commas. The shaft of the large cross on the other stone (fig. 2) is so weather-worn it cannot be traced all the way. Each stone has four small crosses, one in each angle of the large cross. The Pultadie stone is of finer material, and the cutting is deeper and sharper. The shaft is a single grooved line, 19 inches long, with a short cross line,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches

long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the top, and another 3 inches long about 3 inches from the bottom, and two longer ones in the middle, which have been dressed off at both ends when the stone was shaped for a lintel or gatepost. An old man, lately dead, remembered seeing thirteen stumps, and said the two carved stones had *sunk* a good deal. I suppose the turf may have risen round them. The late Mr Peter Douglas of Glenluce told me his mother remembered when fourteen stones were standing. A man, M'Millan, tenant of the farm about 100 years ago, used several for lintels in the new buildings he erected. Soon after he was bitten by a mad dog, which he caught by the tail as it was going in at the dog-hole in the house-door, and brained it against the door cheek. He took hydrophobia, and, at his own request, was smothered under a feather-bed in a paroxysm of his disease! In the following autumn his sister-in-law, who had helped to smother him, slipped on some frozen straw in the barnyard, and suffered compound fracture of an arm, of which she died. The neighbours looked on these deaths as judgments for the desecration of the "stanin stances." Let all greedy builders take warning!<sup>1</sup>

The following are the measurements of the stones :—

	Height.		Breadth.		Thickness.	
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.
No. 1. Sculptured stone, . . .	6	9	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	8
„ 2. Sculptured stone, . . .	5	9	2	3	1	0
„ 3. Plain, erect, . . .	2	0	0	0	0	0
„ 4. Plain, slanting, . . .	3	0	2	0	0	0
(A small one beside it.)						
„ 5. A smaller stone, . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0
„ 6. Irregular in form, . . .	3	0	3	0	0	0
„ 7. Irregular in form, . . .	3	0	3	0	0	0
Pultadie, sculptured stone,	4	6	0	8	0	10
Pultadie, other stone, . . .	5	1	0	8	0	10

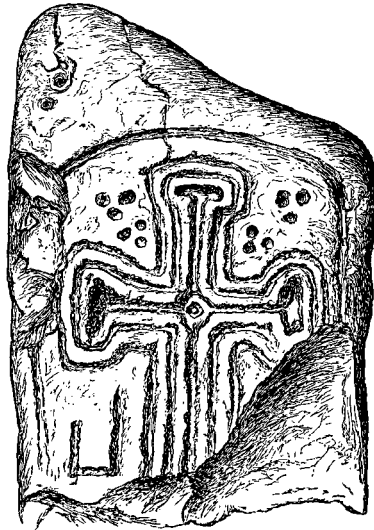
*Sculptured Stone at Mull of Sunniness.*<sup>2</sup>—This stone was built into the dry-stone wall of a field on the south-east slope of the Mull of Sunniness.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sir Andrew Agnew gives a more striking version of this story at p. 209 of "The Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway."

<sup>2</sup> This stone has now been presented to the Society's Museum by the Earl of Stair.

<sup>3</sup> The common spelling is Sinniness; but I prefer that of Pont's map.

It was first noticed by an old man who was mending the wall many years ago, and its existence was known only to a few persons. No one knows where it came from. There were two large cairns in the immediate neighbourhood. It is a slab of greywacke, sculptured on the natural surface, which is slightly concave. The lower part has been broken off and lost. Length, 27 inches; breadth, 15 inches; thickness,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the top slanting from left to right. On one side a cross is cut in hollow



Sculptured Stone from Mull of Sunnness, now in the Museum.

lines like those on the Laggangarn stones; but the pattern is different, and appears to be new in Scotland (see fig.) The cross is 12 inches across, and is broken off at  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length. The shaft has a transverse bar at the top 2 inches long. The horizontal bar has a spatulate hollow at each end. At the intersection there is a lozenge with a hollow in its centre. All round this central cross two lines are cut. The top inclines some-

what to the right. The space under the left horizontal limb is filled in with rectangular lines. But the peculiarity of the pattern consists in six hollowed dots arranged in two triplets in the space on each side above the transverse limb. The stone from Eilan More, Argyllshire, now in the Museum, figured in Dr Stuart's work, vol. ii. p. 60, plate ciii., has three dots on each side. A line enclosing the cross runs across the top and down the right side, but is a good deal broken away on the left.

*Sculptured Stone at Airretich.*—This is a piece of greywacke, 12 by 8 inches, built into one of the pillars of a new cart-shed. Mr Brown, the tenant, tells me it was found in lifting the foundation of an old out-house used as a potato store. There are traces of various buildings near the present steading, and one spot is called Barhabble or *Kirkhabble*. It seems to be part of a cross, and differs in pattern from that at Monreith House, as the interlacing lines do not cross this space between the two rows of circles. I owe the sketch drawing now exhibited to the kindness of Herbert Maxwell, Esq. of Airlour.

*Cassendeoch Stone, Barlockhart, Old Luce.*—This is a greywacke slab, 34 inches long by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  thick, sculptured on two sides, showing marks of a pointed dressing-tool. The sculpture on the front is split off aslant at the top, except on the right hand, where part of the outside groove remains, which seems to have formed a parallelogram, 19 by 8 inches, bounding a sort of cross *in relievo*. At two-fifths from the top is a rounded transverse bar resting on the points of two segments of circles set back to back, and each embracing two concentric segments. The reverse bears traces of a groove at the top and sides, enclosing a kind of St Andrew's cross, about 14 by 8 inches, having the lower limbs curved inwards, and between the points of the upper limbs a segment of a small circle, open to the top, with a central dot. This side is uneven, and shows a large splinter and fissure.

Cassendeoch is a small hill a mile and a half south-east from Glenluce, in the bifurcation of the old country roads to Wigtown and Portwilliam. At the foot of its southern slope is the supposed site of Cassendeoch homestead, the land being now part of Barlockhart farm. The stone was found there in a field wall about 1858, carried to Barlockhart, used for eight years as step-stone to a pig-sty, and then set on a wall at the home-

stead gate pillar. Cassendeoch is about a quarter of a mile north of the site of *Kirkchrist Chapel*, in the Jerusalem Fey, on Kilfillan farm, so that the stone may have belonged to it. The site of a chapel on Balcarrie is a little more than a mile off. This stone is now in my possession, and is to be placed in Glenluce churchyard.