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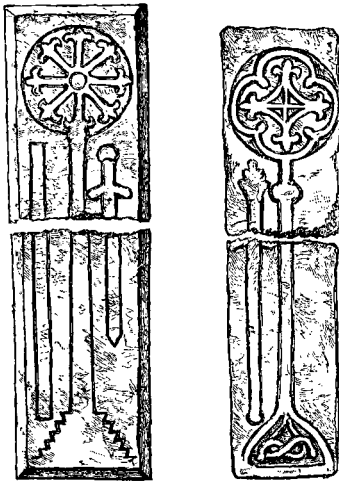
NOTE ON TWO SCULPTURED SEPULCHRAL SLABS IN OLD PENTLAND CHURCHYARD. By THOMAS ARNOLD, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

I forward for exhibition to the Society a tracing of two sepulchral slabs in the old churchyard at Pentland, near Edinburgh.

The sketch from which this tracing was taken was made some twenty-three years ago, before I left Edinburgh to practise my profession in London. On my way to Roslin I turned aside to see if there was anything of interest in the old churchyard. I soon saw that the raised grassy mound covered the ruins of a church, and that the smaller mound eastward indi-

cated the site of the chancel. On the site of the chancel there was an unusually flat piece of turf, whose square outline suggested that it grew over some stone slabs. Assisted by my brother, who was with me, I loosened the turf all round the edge of the hidden slabs, and after some trouble we unrolled the grassy cover which had for ages protected these memorials. The stones were discovered clean and sharp; and, excepting the damage received by the original destruction of the church, quite uninjured. Some vaulting or other heavy stone-work of the chancel had fallen on and broken the two slabs nearly in the middle. These slabs had not been seen for centuries in all probability; the closely-adhering and

old matted turf showed the growth of many generations. After sketching the slabs we replaced the turf covering. I do not know if any one has since re-discovered these interesting remains of mediæval art. After leaving Edinburgh I had forgotten all about Pentland Churchyard till I came by chance on the sketch referred to; and, thinking that it might be of interest to your Society, and knowing how desirable it is to protect such works, I resolved to communicate this letter and sketch.



Sculptured Slabs in the Chancel of
Old Pentland Church.

Both of the slabs belong to the middle period of Scottish Gothic art, say about the beginning of the fourteenth

century. The details of the design are not sufficient to indicate the date with greater accuracy, as these designs were for a long period very general all over the country. You will see in "Characteristics of the Architecture of the Western Isles and Mainland of Scotland" an outline drawing of a slab from St Mary's, Culross, almost identical with the cross on the left in the sketch. There seems to me some slight reminiscence of the crosses

in the sculptured stones in the Calvary or mount on which the cross on the right-hand slab is set,—too slight, probably, to merit notice.

I shall be glad if any member could complete this notice by furnishing some historical notes of the church, or offer some suggestion as to what mighty men of old the sculptured stones covered.