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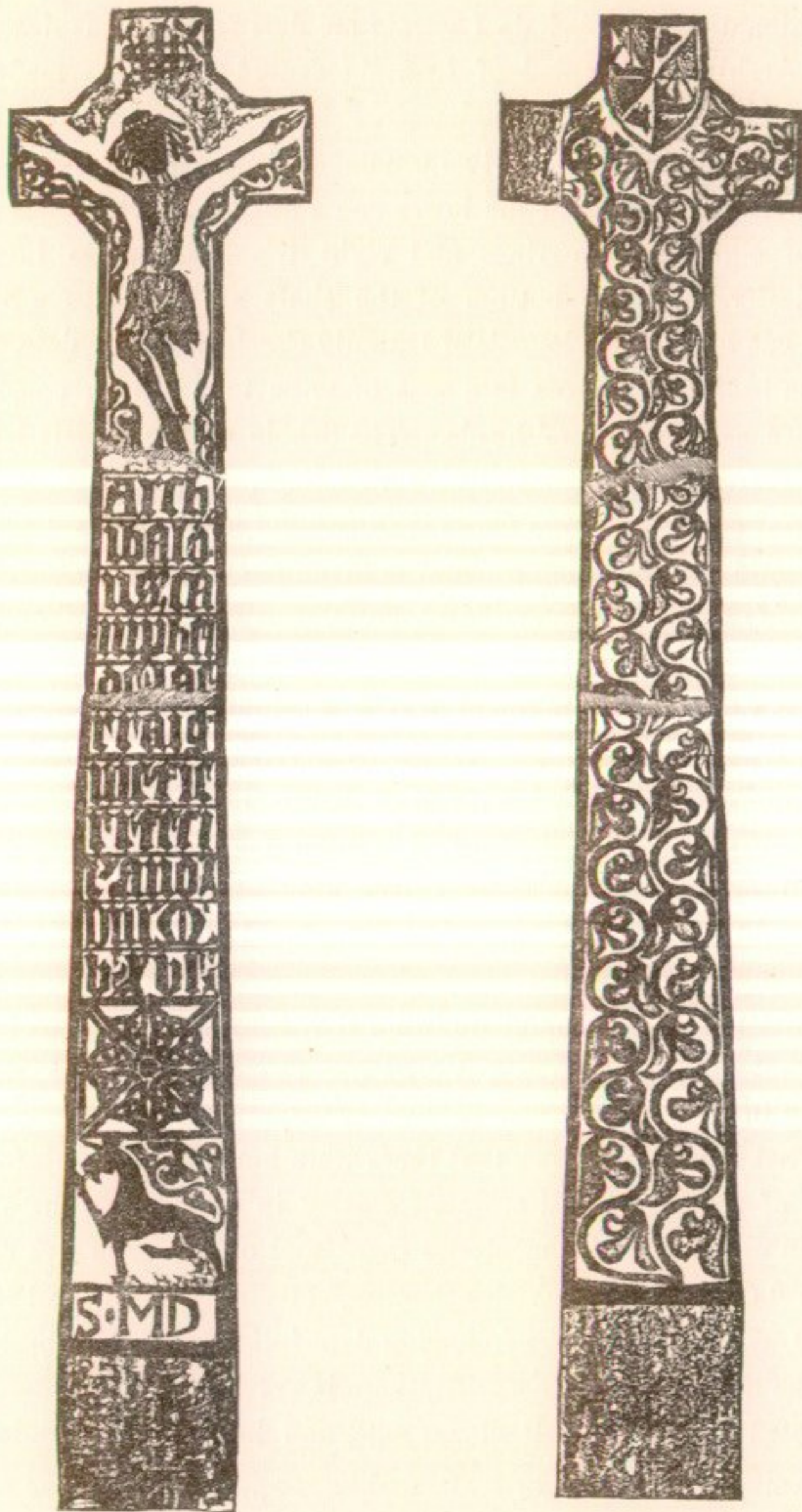
NOTICE OF SCULPTURED STONES AT KILBRIDE, KILMARTIN, AND
DUNBLANE. By J. ROMILLY ALLEN, F.S.A. Scot.

Cross in Kilbride Churchyard, Argyllshire.

While staying at Oban last summer my attention was directed by my brother to the fragments of a cross in Kilbride Churchyard, which forms the subject of the following notice.

The old burial ground of Kilbride is situated three miles south of Oban, in Argyllshire. The church, which is now in ruins, was built in the year 1740. Close to the south wall of the church lie the fragments of a very beautiful specimen of a West Highland cross, from which the rubbings here reproduced were taken. The shaft is broken in two places, thus forming three pieces, but as none of it is wanting the dimensions could be accurately obtained, and are as follows :—Total height, 11 feet 6 inches ; size at top, 9½ inches by 3 inches thick ; size at bottom, 1 foot 4 inches by 4 inches thick ; breadth across arms of cross, 2 feet 4 inches ; width of arms, 9½ inches. The stone of which the cross is made is slate, and there is elaborate carving on both sides. The ornamentation on the front is as follows :—At the top is the figure of the crucified Saviour with arms outstretched and feet crossed. There are seven small round holes in a row round the top of the head, apparently for the insertion of a metal crown of thorns. Above the figure is the monogram I. H. S., and the remaining spaces are filled in with conventional foliage. On the shaft below are eleven inscribed lines which read thus :—

A R C H
I B A L D
U S C A
M P B E L
D E L A E
R R A I G
M E F I E
R I F E C I
T A N O
D N I M
D X V I



Cross in Kilbride Churchyard (11 feet 6 inches high).

or "Archibaldus Campbel de Laerraig me fieri fecit Ano Dni MDXVI," that is "Archibald Campbel of Laerraig caused me to be made in the year of our Lord 1516."

Beneath the inscription are two ornamented panels, the upper one containing interlacements, and the lower one a unicorn. The interlacements consist of eight circular rings and eight triangular rings intertwined symmetrically. At the bottom of the shaft are the letters S. M. D., probably cut by the Macdougals of Dunolly Castle at a later date. At the top of the back of the cross is a coat of arms in a shield, consisting of two galleys and two boars' heads. The whole of the remainder of the shaft is covered with elegant scrollwork foliage.

The front of the Kilbride Cross is illustrated in Graham's "Antiquities of Iona" and the following account is given:—

"*Kilbride Cross*.—A magnificent cross, prostrate and broken in three places. The inscription 'Archibaldus Campbel ...raig me fieri fecit ano Dni MVXVI.' This Archibald was a celebrated character, known in Gaelic as *Gilleasbuig ciar glas* (Dark Grey Archibald). There are about a dozen more stones of Iona workmanship in Kilbride. During an excursion in Lorn (Argyllshire), I visited many burial grounds, and found in nearly every one some stones brought from Iona. That they were brought thence, and not originally placed in these hills, I adduce the following arguments:—

"1. That there is a general tradition that they were brought thence.

"2. That the stones and patterns are exactly similar to those still remaining in Iona.

"3. That it is well known that there were hundreds of tombstones, and upwards of three hundred crosses formerly in Iona, now there are not more than one hundred tombstones there, and only four or five crosses."¹

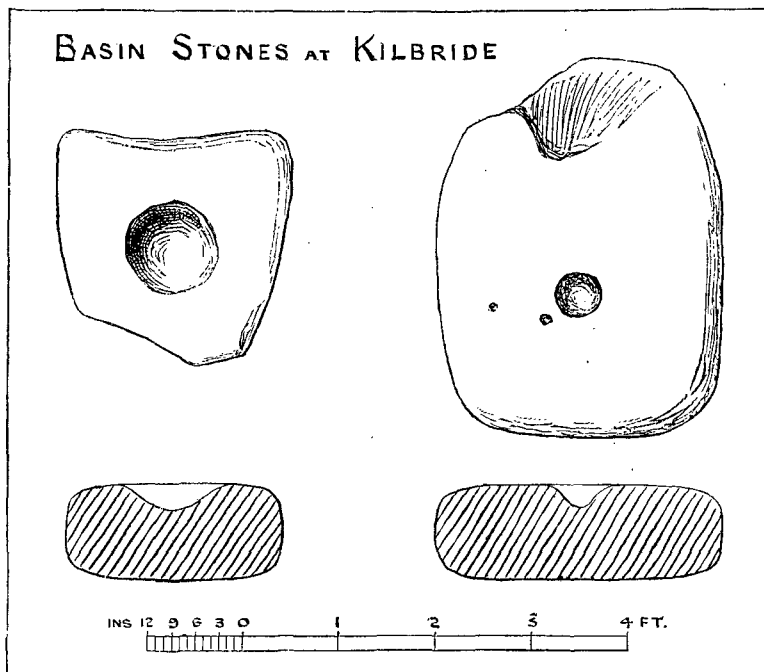
In the "Origines Parochiales Scoticæ," (Bannatyne Club, 1854), vol. ii. p. 119, will be found the following description of the Kilbride Cross:—"In the churchyard of Kilbride, there is a stone cross, supposed to have been erected by a Campbell of Larroge, and bearing some rude devices

¹ "Antiquities of Iona," by H. D. Graham, Esq., 1850, pl. 53, and p. 37.

with an inscription Archibaldus Campbell de Larraigne me fieri fecit anno Domini MDVI."

The coat of arms on the back does not appear to have been noticed in either of the preceding accounts.

I take this opportunity of suggesting that the Society should take some steps to have the Kilbride Cross preserved from further injury by being



Basin-Stones in Kilbride.

removed to some place of safety, such as the Museum of National Scottish Antiquities, where its historical value will be properly appreciated. There are several other sculptured slabs in Kilbride Churchyard of inferior interest. In the valley below is a Holy Well called "Tobar an Espuig," or the Bishop's Well. I noticed two granite boulders close to

the church with cup-shaped hollows in their upper surfaces. One is by the roadside north of the church ; it measures 2 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot thick. The circular depression is 1 foot in diameter and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep. The other stone is in the middle of the stream, which runs between the road and the wall of the churchyard. It measures 3 feet by 4 feet by 1 foot thick. The cup on the upper surface is 6 inches in diameter and 3 inches deep. There is another boulder of this description on the Island of Kerrera, opposite Oban, 180 yards up the stream, near the schoolhouse close to the ferry. The cup is 8 inches in diameter and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

Cross in Kilmartin Churchyard, Argyllshire.

The village of Kilmartin is situated ten miles north of Ardrishaig, in Argyllshire, at the entrance of the glen through which the waters of Loch Awe originally discharged themselves into the Crinan valley. The church is most charmingly placed on the summit of a grassy knoll, and commands a lovely view of the valley below. Scattered over the churchyard are a great number of sculptured slabs of the usual West Highland type, nine of which are illustrated in the late Mr James Drummond's book on this subject, published by the Society. The cross now to be described stands inside the churchyard, on the left side of the gateway going in. It is a slab of slate of greenish hue 5 feet 6 inches high, 1 foot 2 inches wide at the base, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the top, and averaging 7 inches in thickness.

The shape of the cross and the character of the ornament is purely Celtic. The front face has a circular boss in the centre of the cross with knotwork upon it, and the horizontal arms are covered with spiral patterns of the usual form. The upper or vertical arm is decorated with knotwork. The shaft is divided into three panels ; the upper filled in with interacements, the middle one with key patterns, and the lower one with a device consisting of a central cross surrounded by four smaller ones of the same shape. The back of the cross is altogether ornamented



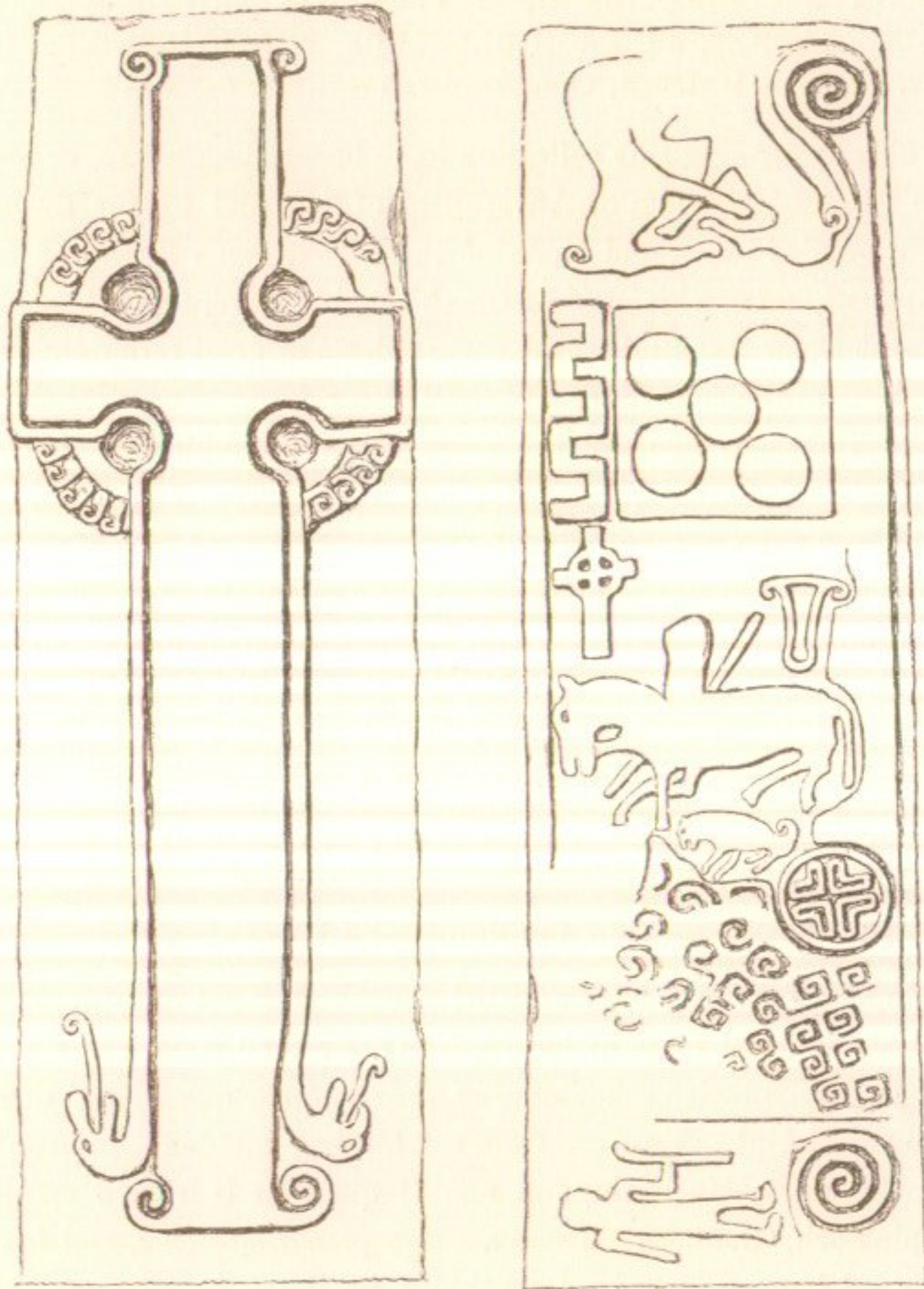
Cross at Kilmartin, Argyleshire (5 feet 6 inches high).

with key patterns, except the centre of the cross and two side arms, which have two spirals of form somewhat resembling the "fleur-de-lys." The drawings of the cross are reduced to scale from rubbings, and corrected by means of photographs very kindly placed at my disposal by the Rev. J. B. Mackenzie, by whom they were taken.

Cross at Dunblane Cathedral, Perthshire.

The position and surroundings of Dunblane Cathedral are too well known to require any mention ; curiously enough, however, the sculptured slab here described has not up to the present been illustrated. This slab is of fine-grained sandstone of warm red colour, measuring 6 feet 2 inches high, 2 feet by 8 inches at the base, and 1 foot 9 inches by 7 inches at the top.

The front face has a cross of the usual Celtic form carved in relief upon it. A beading runs round the edges, terminating in spirals at the top and serpents' heads at the bottom. The circular ring uniting the arms is ornamented with a fret pattern. The back of the slab is covered with figures of animals, men, and symbols. At the top are two conventional beasts with curling tails, facing each other, and holding up their paws. Below them is a square figure with five circular bosses upon it, and a fret pattern at one side. Under this is the representation of a man on horseback, with a dog following him. Above the horseman, in front, is a cross, and behind a V-shaped figure, apparently a symbol of some kind. Below the horseman, on the right, is a circular disc with a cross upon it, and a fret pattern round it, much worn away. At the bottom of the slab appears to be the figure of a man placed horizontally. At the top and bottom corners of the slab on the right hand side are spirals. This sculptured slab is placed erect under cover in a little vaulted chamber at the west end of the cathedral. Close to it is another smaller slab of the same class, ornamented on the edge only, and measuring 2 feet 9 inches long by 1 foot 8 inches wide by 8 inches thick. Both stones were found, when the cathedral was restored ten years ago, under the staircase at the west end of the Lady Chapel on the north side of the chancel.



Cross Slab at Dunblane (6 feet 2 inches high.)