

III.

NOTE OF A SCULPTURED STONE RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT ROSNEATH. BY REV. R. HERBERT STORY, D.D., MINISTER OF ROSNEATH.

I send rubbings of the two sides and edges of a stone dug up some time ago in the churchyard of this parish. It is sculptured on both sides and both edges; on the one side the work is more worn and undecipherable than on the other. The stone is oblong, slightly rounded and abraded at the top and bottom; its length, 6 feet; breadth, 1 foot 11 inches; thickness, 6 inches; and seems to be of a hard sand stone, not found in this parish, as far as I know.

It was discovered about 4 feet below the surface of the churchyard, and to the west of the church of Rosneath. The churchyard is a very old one, and the pre-Reformation church, now no more, stood in the centre of it, eastward from where this stone was found. I send you the rubbings at the suggestion of the Rev. George Wilson, Free Church minister at Glenluce, who tells me no similar stone has been found in this district.

[The rubbings show that the monument is a shaped slab about 5 feet long, 20 inches wide, and 5 inches thick, ornamented on both faces and on both edges with patterns of interlaced work. On the obverse it presents a cross of the whole length of the slab, the centre filled with a spiral pattern, and the shaft and summit with patterns of interlaced work. The reverse also bears a cross of the whole length of the slab. The ornament is much more defaced, but seems to consist entirely of interlaced work and fret. The edge of the stone has its ornament also of interlaced work. The monument thus differs entirely in the character of its ornament from the crosses and slabs decorated with foliaceous scrolls, which are so common in the West Highlands. Its style is earlier, and corresponds with the purely Celtic ornamentation of the erect and shaped slabs of the eastern area of Scotland.]