

II.

NOTICES (1) OF AN INSCRIBED SEPULCHRAL SLAB AT ARDCHATTAN PRIORY; AND (2) OF THREE CARVED SLABS AT TAYNUILT, ARGYLLSHIRE. By ROBERT BRYDALL, F.S.A. Scot.

Ardchattan Priory.—The inscribed stone here given (fig. 1) from the Priory Church of Ardchattan on Loch Etive side, is referred to in vol. xxxiii. of the *Proceedings*, where the other stones in the same place are described, at which time it escaped my notice. It is 5 feet 9 inches in length by about 1 foot 11 inches in breadth, and the last two letters are now defaced. The border is formed of double interlaced semicircles, and the letters are a curious mixture of the later Gothic characters and the minuscules of a much earlier period. The reading, of which an analysis has already been given, is:—

IAUNE · MEIK · DO(U)LL · M'CANE · DUJ
Ewen (or John) MacDougall, son of Black John.

Double interlaced semicircles occur upon both sides of a hog-backed stone at Luss on Loch Lomond, where they appear in relief forming the arches of an arcade; the work here, however, is entirely incised, and it probably belongs to the thirteenth or early fourteenth century.¹

Taynuilt.—At Taynuilt in Argyllshire the church has as vestiges of antiquity two stones built into its wall, one with a small head and the other with a small figure, both of an archaic type; and in the graveyard are the three slabs here given. Fig. 2 measures 5 feet 3 inches in length by 1 foot 7 inches across the top, narrowing slightly downwards. The work is partly incised and partly in relief, the upper part being executed by cutting a deep bold outline round the figures, within which they are slightly modelled in relief. It contains a sword with round pommel, horizontal guard or quillons, the extremities of which are tri-lobed, and

¹ The drawing is from a rubbing by Dr Macnaughton of Taynuilt.

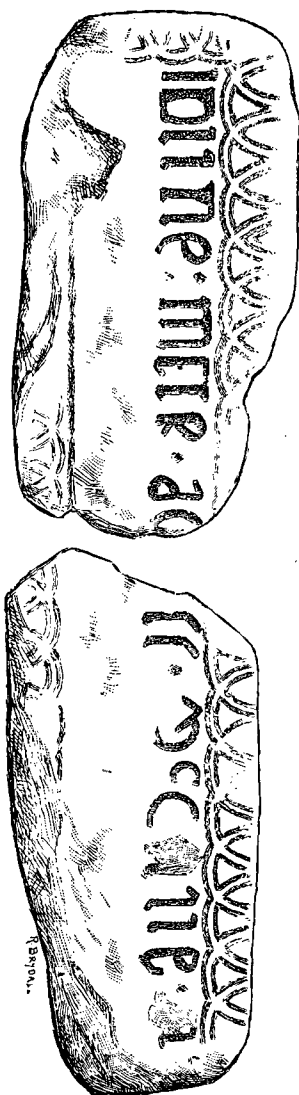
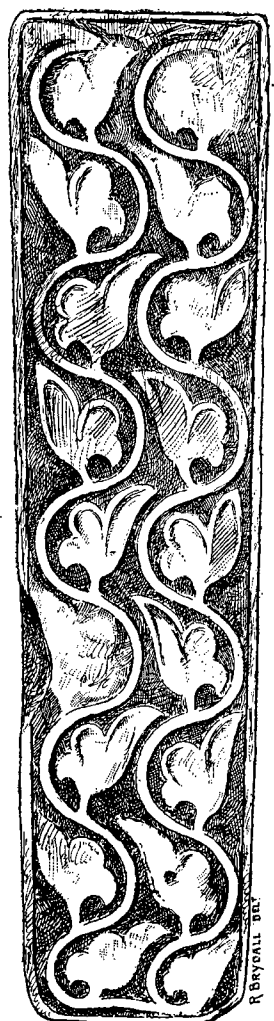
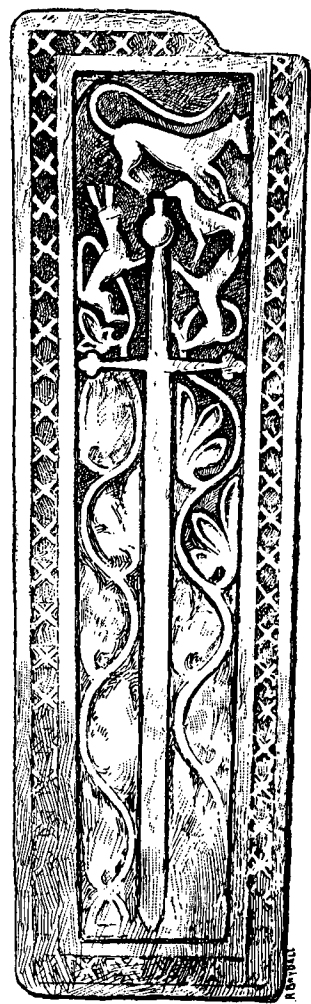


Fig. 1. At Ardchattan.



Figs. 2 and 3. At Taynult.

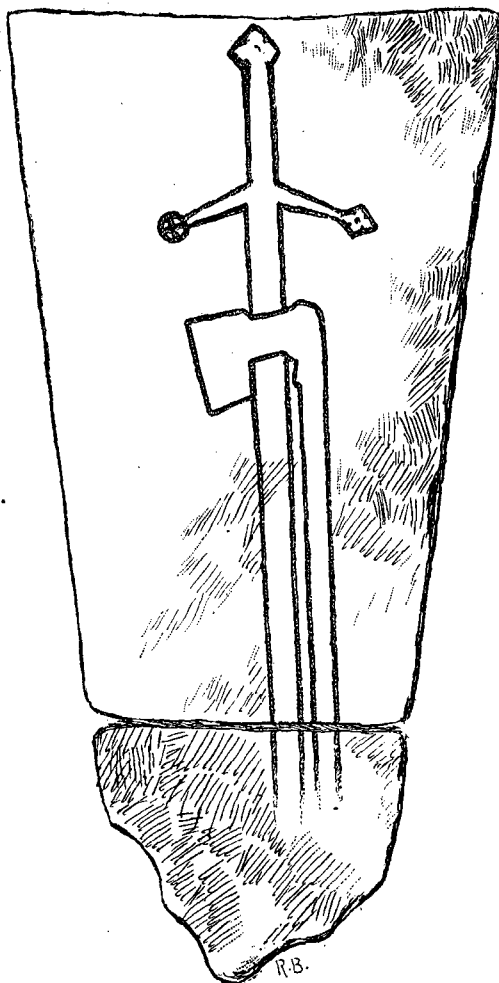


Fig. 4. Incised Slab at Taynult.

a broad blade of uniform breadth ; at the dexter side of the handle is a hare or rabbit, the tail of which is wrought into a branch of foliage continuing the entire length of the stone ; at the upper part and opposite side of the handle are three dogs, one of which is biting the hind leg of another and has its tail continued into the foliated ornament. Although neither so large nor so elaborate, the work is slightly suggestive of that upon two altar tombs at Kilmichael-Glasserie ; on these the swords are of the claymore type, and in place of the large dog above the handle the space is occupied by an inscription on one tomb, while on the other the same space is occupied by two nearly obliterated animals. The cross pattern on the border also appears on one of the Kilmichael-Glasserie stones, but considerably narrower. They all probably belong to the fourteenth century.

The stone which is represented by fig. 3 is more defaced than the other and has been in slight relief ; it is probably later in date, and the foliated ornament, which has not been so well designed, is similar in intention to that on fig. 2, the sword being withdrawn and the ornament widened out. It measures 5 feet 4 inches in length by 17 inches at the top.

Fig. 4 is about 5 feet in length by 2 feet 6 inches across the top, and the work is incised. The lozenge-shaped pommel is three lobed, and the depressed quillons are terminated on the one side by a small Maltese cross, and on the other by a lozenge-shaped quatrefoil. The axe, which is superimposed on the sword blade, is shaped like a cleaver, and probably does not occur, especially in this form, upon any other Scottish stone. As a fighting weapon the axe went out of general use during the fifteenth century, but may have been retained till a later date in the west of Scotland. The stone may belong to the same period as fig. 2.