

I.

NOTES (1) ON THREE CARVED NORMAN CAPITALS FROM HOBKIRK, ON RULEWATER, ROXBURGHSHIRE; (2) DESCRIPTION OF THE REMAINS OF A WAYSIDE CROSS AT HARWOOD IN HOBKIRK PARISH. By A. O. CURLE, W.S., F.S.A. Scot.

I. The three capitals, which are the subject of these notes, were recently discovered in the vicinity of the Manse of Hobkirk, whither they had been removed from the churchyard by a former Minister of the Parish, for the not unusual purpose of adorning his rockery. Two



Fig. 1. Two Norman Capitals from Hobkirk.

of them (fig. 1), which may have formed the capitals of the columns at the doorway of the church, are fine specimens of Norman work of the first half of the twelfth century. They are decorated with bold scrolls of a foliaceous character issuing from the mouths of inverted grotesque masks on the lower portion of the frontal angles of the stones, and are all executed in high relief. The larger stone is 13 inches in

height, and the other, which has originally corresponded with it, has been cut down to $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The style of decoration closely resembles that to be found in the church of Edrom in Berwickshire, and on the east cloister doorway of Dunfermline Abbey. The third stone (fig. 2) is in all probability part of the same building as the others, though it differs from them in style of decoration. It is $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and is



Fig. 2. Capital from Hobkirk.

a debased form of the Corinthian capital. On either side of the frontal angle on the upper part of the cap, are two spirals in low relief, between which and the rounded abacus are a series of vertical flutings. This may have been the cap of an angle shaft. All the stones are of the same nature, being light-coloured freestone, and brought, in all probability, from a distance, the building stone plentiful in the district being red in colour. The site of the present church of Hobkirk, which was erected in the year 1862, is in close proximity to that built on in
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earlier times. It is situated in the "hass," or narrow neck of land, where the valley of the Rule is considerably contracted, half a mile above the village of Bonchester Bridge and some five or six miles from Rulemouth, where that stream mingles its waters with the Teviot. It is eight miles distant by road from Jedburgh Abbey, over a high ridge of land which separates the valleys of the Rule and the Jed, and a similar distance in a south-easterly direction from the town of Hawick. The earliest notice of a church on this site is to be found in the Register of the diocese of Glasgow, where under date 1220 occurs a reference to a dispute between the Bishop of Glasgow and the canons of Jedburgh, in settlement of which certain payments were to be made by a number of churches, including the church of Hopechirke. It is included in the list of possessions of the Abbey of Jedburgh at the Reformation, but at what date the Abbey acquired it, there is no extant evidence to show. Jedburgh Abbey was erected by King David I. about the year 1147, and in the charter by which Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, who died in 1152, confirms to the Abbey the grant of lands with which the king endowed it, the name of Hopkirk does not appear. Nor is there mention of it in the charter by William the Lion to the Canons of Jedburgh, dated about 1165. If these stones, therefore, are decorated in a style earlier than these dates, we have here the relics of a Norman church erected in a remote valley among the hills at an earlier period than the great Benedictine Abbey which subsequently possessed it. Whether the Norman church was destroyed in the invasions of the Borders during the sixteenth century, or fell a victim to old age and neglect at a later date, we cannot actually determine, but in the walls of the unpicturesque structure erected about the year 1692, and which gave place to the present building, these old stones were used as rubble. Mr Walter Deans, a local antiquary who followed the trade of a stone mason, records that "when the later church was taken down, many ornamental stones were found among the rubble; these consisted of parts of columns and pilasters with terminating capitals in imitation of Corinthian. Many of these stones were scattered about the churchyard and used as marks

for graves." With the exception of those here noted, however, which he mentions as having been removed by the minister, they have all now disappeared. The stones are in the possession of Mr Tancred at Weens.

CROSS HEAD AT HARWOOD.

About a mile and a half up the watergate from the church of Hobkirk is situated the mansion-house of Harwood, the property of William



Fig. 3. Portion of Cross-head at Harwood.

Claude Elliot, Esq., and there, leaning against the fence which surrounds the gamekeeper's garden, I discovered one day last summer a portion of an old cross (fig. 3). It consists of the upper and two side arms, which are connected by bands or segments of a circle about two inches in breadth, slightly recessed on one face and concentric, meeting the arms midway between the base and the outer edge. The arms expand towards the outer edge, as in the form of cross known as Maltese; the angles at the intersection have been left filled in, presenting a convex

face concentric with the segments or bands connecting the arms, in this respect differing essentially from the Celtic type of cross, where semicircular or rectangular spaces are left at the intersection of the arms. There is evidence on the undersides of the lateral arms that the bands were continued. The left arm has been reduced by the upper edge having been chiselled off probably at some later date. The dimensions of the cross, which is of the red sandstone native to the district, are—breadth across the arms 20 inches, thickness 6 inches, at base of the arms about 4 inches, at the extremity 12 inches, except the left arm, which has been reduced; the thickness is 6 inches. The cross was brought to its present position from the farm of Harwood Mill, half a mile nearer Hobkirk, where it had remained for a number of years built into the wall of the byre; thither it had been brought from the foundations of the house of Appotsyde, where it was unearthed many years ago. Appotsyde in bygone times belonged to the family of Loraine, a name long extinct in the district. It was situated on the Harwood burn, an affluent of the Rule, in a field to the west of Harwood Mill, and about a mile distant from Hobkirk Church. No trace of it now remains. The derivation of the name has some bearing on the subject under discussion. In old charters it is spelt Apotesyde or Apetsyde (never Abbotside), and it is conjectured that the name is a corruption of Aldpethsyde—i.e. the place beside the old path. In former times a hill road passed near by, leading to the valley of the Slitrig, and to Liddesdale, and it is a fair presumption that beside the track stood this cross. Many were the uses of the wayside cross. Beside it the devout made prayer; those bearing their dead to burial rested the coffin at its base;—it was a sign-post pointing the way to the church. There is a tradition in Cornwall that the pilgrim who had aught to spare left an alms on the wayside cross for the poorer brother who might follow. It guarded the way to the church presumably from evil spirits. Says Wynkyn de Worde, in *Dives et Pauper*, printed in 1496: “For this reason ben crosses be ye waye than whan folke passyng see ye cross they shoulde thynke on Hym that deyed on ye crosse and worshippe Hym

above all thynges." This particular cross is quite without ornamentation. The form is uncommon by reason of the angle at the base of the arms being left filled in, in such a way that the outer edge follows the curve of the connecting circle. Four examples of crosses having the angles similarly filled in occur among the wheel crosses of Cornwall, and are illustrated in the Rev. Mr Langdon's *Old Cornish Crosses*, where also he refers to one at Woodchurch in Cheshire, and one in Adel Museum near Leeds. In the diocese of Carlisle, the early sculptured crosses of which have been described and illustrated by the Rev. W. S. Calverley, there are three crosses which not only closely resemble the one at Harwood, but two of them at least are also considered to be wayside crosses. They are to be found at Arthuret, Bromfield, and (Cross-Laçon), Rhêda. From the first mentioned we can obtain a comparatively accurate idea of what the form of the Harwood Cross was when complete; for though also imperfect, it has lost only the upper arm, the lower arm, shaft, and base being still entire. The arms which expand towards the edge are joined by the arcs of a circle and are separated by four spaces. The lower arm is completed exactly similar to the others, and terminates on the cross shaft, which is 61 inches high, not counting the tenon which holds it into its socket, for the whole thickness of the shaft is not sunk into its pedestal as in earlier crosses. The cross at Bromfield, consisting only of the three upper arms, is decorated with flutings along the arms, and in the Cross-Laçon, which is without ornamentation, the holes are apparently sunk, not pierced through. I can find no data to enable me to arrive at any conclusion as to the period when these particular crosses were erected, except that from their connection with Norman, and later churches, they are unlikely to be pre-Norman. That they are almost devoid of decoration I do not think assists us; as among the Cornish crosses, over 300 in number, the wayside crosses are, as a rule, distinguished from the churchyard and devotional crosses by this characteristic. It is probable that the type developed out of the highly decorated and kindred form of the Celtic cross in the twelfth century.