

III.

NOTICE OF SOME UNRECORDED SCULPTURED STONES AT EDDERTON, ROSS-SHIRE, AND AT FOSS, PERTHSHIRE. BY REV. D. MACRAE, B.D., F.S.A. Scot.

The first of the four stones to be described on the present occasion is a grave-slab (fig. 1) dug up in the churchyard. One face of the stone is planed, the other undressed. It is of old red sandstone, the length being 71 inches, the breadth at top $22\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and at bottom 17 inches, and the thickness 3 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The planed face of the stone bears an incised, equal-armed cross with trefoil ends, and, below it, a long sword with recurved guards, pointed trefoil pommel, and blunt point. In the fourth quadrant of the cross there is a lion rampant, langued. The stone has evidently been a palimpsest, used and lettered more than once, for initials of later occupants of the grave have been cut through part of the cross and the lion. Above the cross are A.P. ; M.P., which have been almost obliterated by diagonal scores. At the foot are C. R. ; and (above these) W. S. F., of which the S cuts into the cross, and the F badly damages the lion. The stone is probably originally of the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

The second stone to be noticed is a lintel now in the billiard-room of Balnagown Castle, but formerly in the mansion-house of Daan, in the Parish of Edderton.

The mansion-house of Daan, from which the carved stone here figured was taken, was at one time of considerable importance, and is referred to in the Kalendar of Ferne, under April 1592, " — The XII day Apryll, Catherine M'Kenzie dēptit in daan and wes [buried] in ye moñe in Ferne, she beand Lady of balnagown." Of the original building a part still remains, and is inhabited. Of what was apparently the kitchen there only remain the walls, in one of which there is a stone spout for carrying water to the outside.

The carved lintel is noticed in the *New Statistical Account of Ross-shire*. The stone (fig. 2) is old red sandstone, and measures 5 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 7 inches. It has three circles, each 16 inches in diameter, and at each end of the stone is a bearded human face carved inside a semicircle enclosed within a moulding.

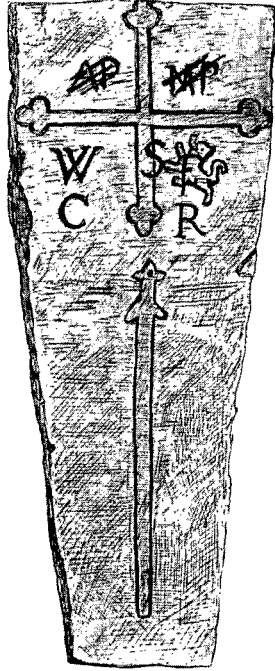


Fig. 1. Grave-slab in Edderton Churchyard.

Between the middle circle and the others are the initials A. and M. (above), and M. and F. (below). Just above the latter, and beginning after the crescent, is the motto "SOLI DEO GLO-RIA," with the date 1680.

The first and third circular panels have coats of arms with mottoes.

(1) Eagle's head on a shield; and motto, "AQUILA NON CAPTAT MUSCAS."

(2) In the middle panel is a man in what appears to be a Geneva cloak, and with a small skull-cap on his head. He holds in his hands a book, whereon is written, "*Fear God in hairt as ye may be bsd.*" Surrounding the figure is the motto "SERVIRE DEO EST REGNARE," and the initials M. H. M. E. R. Of these initials the M is above the head of the figure; H. M. one on each side of the head; and E. R., one on each side of the shoulders. They are supposed to represent Magister Hector Munro [et] Effie Ross. Mr Hector Munro was of the



Fig. 2. Carved Stone Lintel from the Mansion-house of Daan, now at Balnagown.

family of Fowlis. He was minister of Edderton from 1614, and was also proprietor of the estate of Daan. The initials A. M. and M. F., which seem later than the date of the panels, may represent Mr Hector Munro's second son (and possible successor at Daan) Alexander, and his wife, who may have been a Fraser. The minister of Edderton from 1709 till 1729 was Hector Fraser.

(3) Three lions rampant on a shield; and motto, "NOBILIS EST IRA LEONIS."

The third stone is a lintel in Edderton House, inscribed with initials at different dates and a text from Scripture.

Part of this house is very old, and is supposed to have been built

on the site of an ancient fort. In what is now the smoking-room is a stone lintel (yellowish sandstone) with the following initials: H. M.; C. R. 1676, R. M. M. M.; Æ. M.; J. M. 1722, and the quotation from Eccles. xii. 13—

“ FE

AR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.”

The FE is written above the AR of the word FEAR.

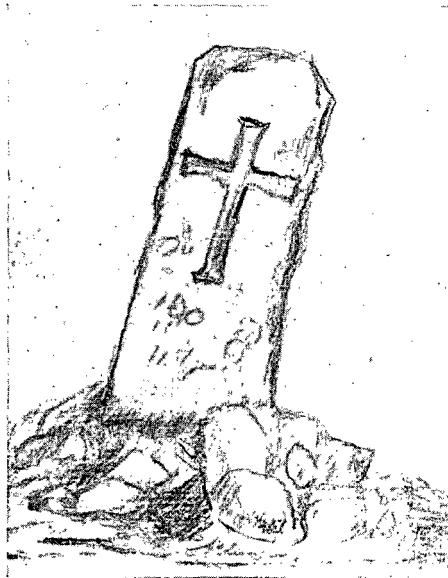


Fig. 3. Stone with Cross at Tombreck.

The fourth stone to be described is a standing stone with an incised cross on one face at Tombreck, in the Parish of Foss, Perthshire.

This stone (fig. 3) stands in a field of the farm of Tombreck occupied by Mr Forbes, and is about a mile and a half from the Manse of Foss. It is of mica schist, and stands on the end of a somewhat long

tumulus, which may be the ruin of a building. Near it is a knoll called Bal-an-tuim, and on the other side is a deep ravine through which flows a small burn. The stone is tilted westwards to an angle of about 75 degrees, and on its west side bears a deeply incised cross with slightly expanded ends. The incision is 2 inches broad, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in depth, the hollow being rounded and not bevelled.

The dimensions of the stone are : length, 54 inches ; breadth at top, $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and at foot, $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; thickness varies from 3 inches to 12 inches.

The cross begins 9 inches from the top of the stone. Its vertical length is $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and breadth $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The ends expand to 3 inches.

The total length of the mound on which the cross stone stands is 19 yards, of which a considerable part may be natural rock, but near the cross there are many stones embedded in the soil as if there had been once a building. Not far away is a high, jutting rock, on which are the remains of an ancient fort.