

II.

NOTE ON THREE SCULPTURED MONUMENTS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN GARVOCK CHURCHYARD, KINCARDINESHIRE. BY REV. D. G. BARRON, F.S.A. SCOT.

The church of Garvock has already furnished one notable contribution to the ecclesiastical archæology of Scotland in the mediæval censer, deposited in the National Museum by the Rev. William Stephen, minister of the parish, in 1887. This censer is figured and described in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. xxi. p. 181.

In the course of improvements carried out last winter, the level of the churchyard was considerably lowered, with the result that no fewer than six buried tombstones were unearthed. Three of the number possess features of distinct antiquarian interest, and these it is our present purpose to describe.

I. In the notice of the parish, printed in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, it is stated that "the oldest gravestone is dated 1643, in memory of William Greig (a smith), 'ane famous honest man.'" Jervise, coming later, failed to identify this monument, and naturally concluded that it had been destroyed. It transpires, however, that it had merely disappeared beneath the turf, and its recovery, entirely unanticipated, gives interest to what is in itself an exceptionally good example of the richly-sculptured tombstone characteristic of the period from which it dates.

Of the usual recumbent type, it measures 6 feet 1 inch in length, is 2 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the top, and 1 foot 11 inches across the lower end. The face of the stone presents a rounded surface, which is profusely carved in high relief. The reverse, which is roughly treated, is partially hollowed out, so that the maximum thickness does not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or at most 3 inches. Passing round the edge, and terminating in the top central panel, is the following inscription:—

HER · LYES · BENEATH · THIS · TOMBE · ANE · FAMOUS · HONEST ·
 MAN · VILLIAM · GREIG · SOME · TYME · HUSBAND · TO · ELSPIT ·
 PVRROVS · VHO · DEPERTED · IN · ANNO · 1643.

Beneath, a deeper panel carries in the centre a pair of pincers surmounted by a crown : to the right, a dagger and pistol—the latter curiously shaped and somewhat reminiscent of a modern revolver : to the left, a hammer, beneath which is an anvil, and, lower still, the letters W G and E H.

A later inscription, immediately below these symbols, overruns the space reserved for it, and impinges on what originally had been set apart to accommodate a skull and crossbones, the former encircled by the legend LECTOR · DISCE · MORI. The second inscription reads :—

HERE · LYES · WILLIAM · GREIG · YOVNGER · HUSBAND · TO · ELIZABETH ·
 HENDERSON · HE · DIED · THE · 12 · OF DECEMBER · HIS · AGE · 77 · YEARS ·
 ANNO · 1695.

II. The mutilated fragment of a mediæval stone which bore, incised, a Calvary cross and sword. It measures, roughly, 3 feet 8 inches in length, and has a maximum breadth of $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The top is wanting and, of what remains, the upper portion has been recut to form the sill of a window, which apparently was protected by a central iron stanchion, of which the broken socket may be seen. Below, a three-stepped Calvary is rudely sculptured, from which rises a slender shaft ; while, to the right, is part of a sword blade. The Calvary, awkwardly placed upon the stone, measures $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the base, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The shaft, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, is defaced at a height of 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and here the sword blade also terminates with a length of 9 inches.

III. Of greater interest than either of the above is a much-worn slab 6 feet long by 1 foot 9 inches broad at the top, and narrowing to 1 foot $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the foot. Within an incised line which passes



Fig. 1. Slab dated 1643.



Fig. 2. Slab with Cross and Sword.



Fig. 3. Slab of mediæval type.

Three Recumbent Slabs in Garvock Churchyard.

round the stone at a distance of 1 inch from the edge, and occupying the entire length of the area thus enclosed, is a double-headed cross, composed of two circles connected by a long and narrow shaft. A similar form of cross occurs on a grave slab at Convinth, Inverness-shire (*Proceedings*, vol. xlv. p. 311), but whereas it is there associated with a variety of other symbols, it carries with it, in the present instance, only a sword. In the *New Statistical Account* of the parish of Benholm, Kincardineshire, there is a notice of a stone, apparently similar, having been discovered in taking down the old church there.

The upper circle, 1 foot 6 inches in diameter, bears in relief six intersecting arcs. The lower circle, which is unfortunately damaged by a surface fracture, has a diameter of 1 foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the centre is a circular depression, 2 inches across and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, from which a series of radial lines, twenty-four in number, stretch to the circumference. The shaft passes somewhat obliquely between the discs. It is 2 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and has an average breadth of 3 inches. The sword, disposed upon the right, is 33 inches in length, the blade itself measuring 29 inches. It has the usual depressed quillons. The rounded pommel rests on the circumference of the upper circle, while the point touches that of the lower.