

I.

FURTHER DISCOVERY OF THREE CELTIC CROSS-SLABS AT ST ANDREWS; AND NOTE ON A CRUSIE. BY D. HAY FLEMING, LL.D., F.S.A. SCOT.

That portion of St Andrews burying-ground which lies to the northward of St Rule's Tower and Chapel and to the eastward of the east gable of the Cathedral has disgorged many Celtic cross-slabs at various times; and there, too, were found these three most recently discovered. The first of the three was dug up on the 26th of December 1916, and the other two on the 12th of March 1917. All the three were standing upright when found, and had been damaged, two of them very seriously, by previous grave-diggers, who cared naught for such things, but regarded them merely as obstacles to the necessary, and sometimes pressing, work on which they were engaged. As obstacles they were either smashed to pieces, or as much was broken off their tops as happened to be in the way.

Of the one found in December the upper part is gone. Looking at the obverse (fig. 1), it is 29 inches high at the left-hand corner and 4 inches less at the right-hand corner. In breadth it varies from 21 to 22 inches, and in thickness from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The unsculptured portion at the bottom is 17 inches in depth, which would give it a fairly good hold of the ground. The shaft of the cross is plain, and within the border lines is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad. On either side of the shaft the panel has been filled with a spiral pattern; but the patterns are not quite the same, and the one panel is half an inch broader than the other, thus contrasting with the machine-like regularity of the work of modern monumental sculptors. On the reverse (fig. 2), the unsculptured portion is 22 inches in depth. The shaft of the cross is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad within the border lines, and on each side of the shaft there is part of a small panel filled with a zigzag or angular fret pattern. The left side of this slab is plain, but on the right side there are traces of what appears to have been a key pattern.

The March find included a large slab, which was lying east and west in a horizontal position at a depth of 3 feet 6 inches below the surface. This slab measures 5 feet by 22 inches by 5 inches. It was with great difficulty that Mr Mackie succeeded in getting it out whole; and it was very disappointing to find that it was rough-dressed, with no sign of sculpturing. But in the same grave there were two sculptured stones. The taller one was near the foot or east end of the grave, and the lower end of this slab was about 7 feet below the present surface of the ground.

Looking at the obverse (fig. 3), the slab is 4 feet high at the right-hand corner and 11 inches less at the left-hand corner. The breadth is about 21 inches, and the thickness varies from 5 to 6 inches. The shaft and arms of the cross have been plain. Within the border lines the shaft is only $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad, and the remaining arm is barely as much. The

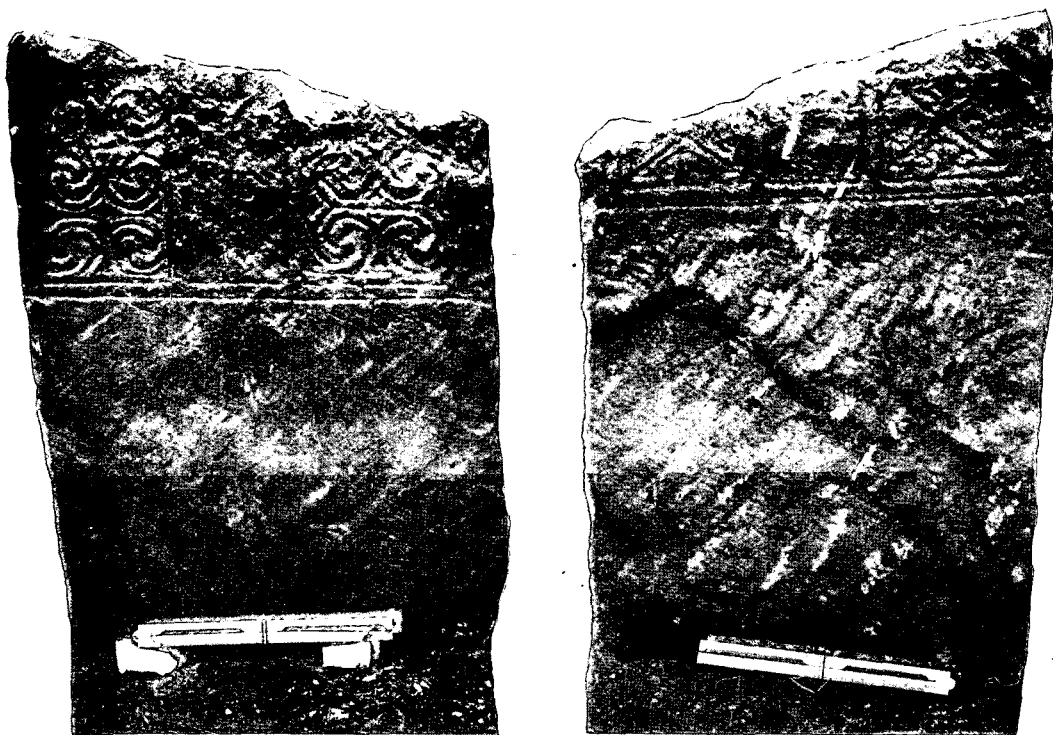


Fig. 1

Fig. 2.

Celtic Cross-Slab from St Andrews, found in December 1916.

pattern of the panel on each side of the shaft is very similar to that on the obverse of the slab found in December. On the reverse (fig. 4), the shaft and arms of the cross have also been plain, and are 3 inches in breadth within the border lines. On each side of the shaft there is a small panel with a zigzag pattern. The limbs of this cross are connected by a quadrant, and on the quadrant there is also a zigzag pattern. The sides of this slab are plain. The unsculptured base is 18 inches in depth on the obverse, and 22 inches on the reverse. This cross-slab and the one found in December appeared to be standing *in situ*.

The other slab found in March, though also standing upright, could hardly be in its original position, for it lacks both top and bottom. Only the central portion remains. It is 24 inches in height by 17 in breadth,

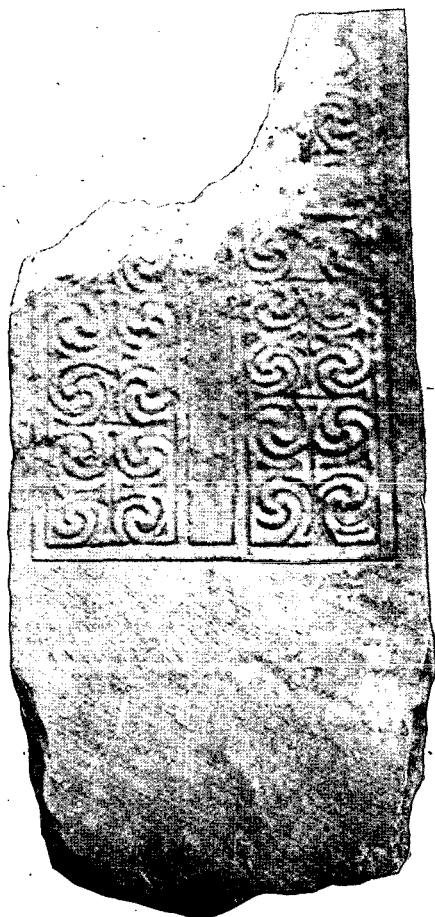


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Celtic Cross-Slab from St Andrews, found in March 1917.

and is from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 in thickness. Of what remains, the whole surface of the obverse (fig. 5) is covered with sculpture, but very badly weathered. The shaft and arms of the cross have been filled in with interlaced or plaited work. The border lines of the shaft are barely discernible. The panels on either side of the shaft appear to have had a scroll or spiral pattern, and there have been double-square recesses at the intersection

of the arms. On the reverse (fig. 6) the cross has had a quadrant. Both cross and quadrant are plain. Within the border lines the shaft is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, and the arms 5 inches. At the intersection of the arms there are recesses which are fully semicircles, and above and below the arms there are small decorated panels. Both sides of this slab are also sculptured, the one with a scroll or spiral pattern, and the other with what may have been a zigzag pattern. The illustrations of the slab found in December 1916 are from photos by Mr J. Wilson Paterson of H.M.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

Celtic Cross-slab from St Andrews, found in March 1917.

Office of Works, and those of the slabs found in March 1917 are from photos by Professor Baldwin Brown.

It is only right to mention that Mr Mackie has now dug up no fewer than twenty Celtic slabs more or less complete, a record which is probably unexcelled, even unapproached, by any other person.

NOTE ON CRUSIE.

The crusie now exhibited, which belongs to Mr Cargill of the Crosskeys Hotel, St Andrews, was found at Ceres. With the exception of the handle, hinge, and lid, which are of malleable iron, the rest is of cast iron, and has been cast in a piece. The total weight is over 6 lbs. The extreme length of the under part or tray (not including the handle) is $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the extreme breadth is $5\frac{5}{16}$ inches, and the height to the top of the ring is $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Though massive in appearance the crusie is not ungraceful (fig. 7). The

advantage of a crusie having a lid was that tallow could be used when oil was scarce. A piece of burning peat was put on the top of the lid to melt the tallow. The parish of Ceres could at one time boast of three im-



Fig. 7. Crusie of Cast Iron from Ceres.

portant dwellings—Struthers Castle, Craighall, and Scotstarvit Tower. Possibly the crusie may have been made for one of them, and it may have been made locally. In the eighteenth century there was a small foundry about a mile to the west of St Andrews. The place, now a farm-steading, is still known as Little Carron. I am pretty confident that I have come across a reference to another small foundry at Craigrothie, in Ceres Parish.