

II.

TWO SCULPTURED STONES, A COPEDED COFFIN-COVER, AND PART OF A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY TOMBSTONE FOUND IN ST ANDREWS. BY D. HAY FLEMING, LL.D., F.S.A.Scot.

On the 27th of August 1923, the upper portion of a small Celtic cross-slab (fig. 1) was discovered in the south gable of the south transept of the Cathedral, about 2 feet below the broken wall-top and about 20 feet above the level of the ground. This slab bears unmistakable traces of the uses to which it has been put in its long history of some nine centuries. From the weathering on the top it is evident that it had stood in the open, in



Fig. 1. Fragment of Cross-slab at St Andrews—front and back.

an upright position, for a considerable time. By-and-by it was utilised as pavement. This is obvious from the sculpturing on one of its faces being almost worn off, worn off not by weathering, but by the long-continued treading of countless feet. Then it was seized and used as common rubble in that gable, either when it was originally built, or when it was partly rebuilt after the great tempest of St Kentigern's Day, 1409. This fragment of a slab is only 13 inches high, 15½ inches broad, and 4½ inches thick. On the unworn face the sculpturing is clear and sharp. The upper limb of the cross and both arms are covered with a double-cord interlaced pattern. The compartments above the arms are filled with a zigzag fret. There is a double square recess in the angles at the intersection of the arms. On one side there is a spiral and fret pattern, pretty fresh (fig. 2); and on the other side a more open but more weathered one. On the worn face there are little more than traces of the upper limb of the cross, and of the semicircular hollows at its junction with the arms, and of a connecting ring. The mouth of each of the

semicircular hollows appears to have been closed with two circular ornaments.

The other fragment of a Celtic cross-slab (fig. 3) was found in the closing week of March 1924, in the Eastern Cemetery, about 50 yards to the south-east of St Rule's Chapel. Unfortunately, much of it had been smashed off years ago, when the adjoining grave was being lined with brick. Both top and bottom are gone, and it is fractured to boot. The extreme height is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, extreme width 19 inches, and the thickness is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The ornament on one face is mainly spiral, but there is some fret as well. The other face shows part of the shaft of a cross and part of the left arm, which are covered with interlaced work. There is a double square recess at the intersection of the shaft and arm. On one side there are traces of a zigzag fret; and, on the other side, slight traces of a pattern. The illustrations of both slabs are from photos by Mr R. B. Strachan. No Celtic cross or cross-slab, or fragment of one, has ever been found before in the Eastern Cemetery, and, in the Cathedral Burying-ground, only one has been found on the south side of St Rule's. Of Celtic crosses and cross-slabs, complete and incomplete, there are now in St Andrews, above ground, sixty-five



Fig. 2. Side view of Cross-slab.



Fig. 3. Fragment of Cross-slab at St Andrews—front and back.

specimens. Some of these, however, are mere fragments. The supply appears to be inexhaustible. If the rate of discovery of the last thirty years is continued for another thirty, we shall have about a hundred!

Some time ago, part of a coped coffin-cover was taken out of the Abbey Wall. Its extreme measurements are: length, 26 inches; breadth

at bottom, 15½ inches; breadth at top, 5¼ inches; depth, 11 inches. There are two parallel roll mouldings on the top, each of which terminates in a curve, and in each curve there is an oval tassel or bulb. This is by no means the first interesting object that has been extracted from the Abbey Wall (see *Proceedings*, vol. xlix. pp. 221-3).

On the 29th of September 1923, a modern tombstone in the Cathedral Burying-ground, which was so much off the plumb that it was in danger of falling forward, was moved from its place, in order that a proper foundation might be built for it. Then it was discovered that it had been set very insecurely on a number of rough stones and one fragment of an old monument. This fragment is part of what must have been a large slab, as it measures 4 feet by 20 inches, although no dressed edge remains. The ornament shows by its centre that the slab must have been at least 5 feet 2 inches either in length or breadth. Of the inscription, parts of the first four lines alone remain. So far as I can, I have completed them within square brackets.

SUB HOC TUMULO PLACIDE CONQUIESCUNT OS[SA MARGA]
RETÆ TAILZEOR SPONSÆ IACOBI ROBERSONE IU[NIORIS]
MERCATORIS CIVIS CIVITATIS S[ANCTI ANDREÆ QUÆ OBIT]
TERTIO DIE MENSIS M[AII 1636 ÆTATIS SUÆ . . .]

There were two Margaret Taylors in St Andrews in the first half of the seventeenth century, and both of them died in May 1636. One was the wife of James Robertson, younger, merchant, citizen of St Andrews, and the other was the wife of Andrew Dickson, elder, maltman, citizen of St Andrews. James Robertson's wife signed her will on the 22nd of April 1636. In the *Commissary Records* she is said to have died on the [blank] day of April 1636. Evidently the commissary clerk was uncertain about the precise day, but knew or assumed that she died soon after making her will, and therefore put April; but the last remaining letter in the fourth line of the inscription on the stone proves that it must have been May, not April.