

ART. VI.—*Early Sculptured Stones at Gosforth, Ponsonby, St. Bridget's, Haile, and Egremont.* By CHARLES A. PARKER, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., &c.

Read at Durham, June 20th, 1901.

THESE five parishes, together with St. Bees and St. John's, Beckermeth, form a cluster which is rich in pre-Norman stones (already described), as the later slabs at St. Bees and St. John's have also been.

At Egremont we have no trace of a churchyard cross, nor does there seem to be anything pre-Norman, unless the rude pillar of uncertain date, with a socket in the top of it, standing near the entrance be such. In the churchyard are a great number of architectural fragments belonging to the old building, many of which are well worthy of preservation, but an unfortunate right of way through the enclosure has enabled the youth of the town to foil any effort that has hitherto been made in that direction. At present they are piled in heaps, covered with soot and dirt, and altogether in a woeful condition. Among them are many fragments of gravecovers, which have been broken up for building purposes, and were found in 1880 when the church was rebuilt by Mr. T. L. Banks. Mr. Banks found part of an Early English building, which he dated between 1195 and 1214, and traces of a Norman church which had preceded it, of which he says* :—"The Norman chancel could not be much later than 1130. Except the string of the arch, everything points to a much earlier date."

GROUP I.—XII CENTURY. EGREMONT.

Fig. 1, which was found in the tower at Egremont, has been long exposed to the weather, and is in parts defaced.

* *Transactions*, vol. vi., p. 163.

PLATE I.

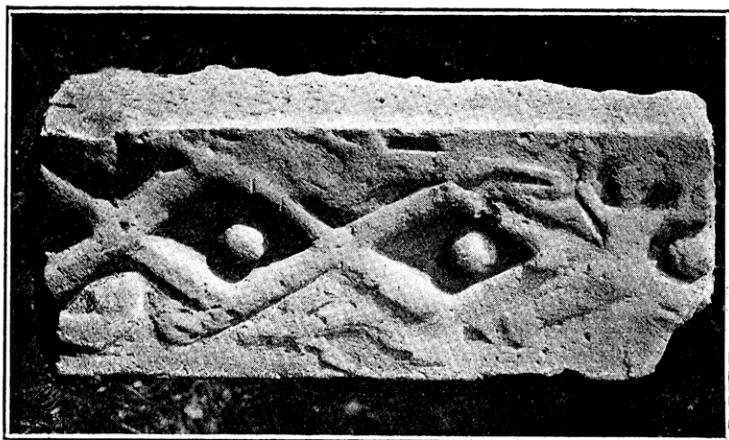


FIG. 1.

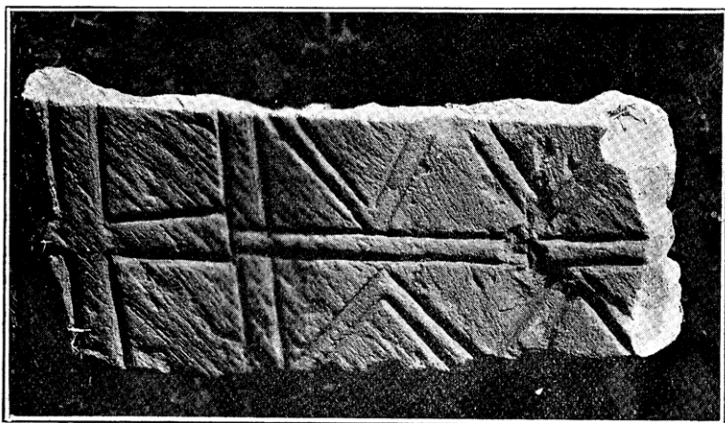


FIG. 2.

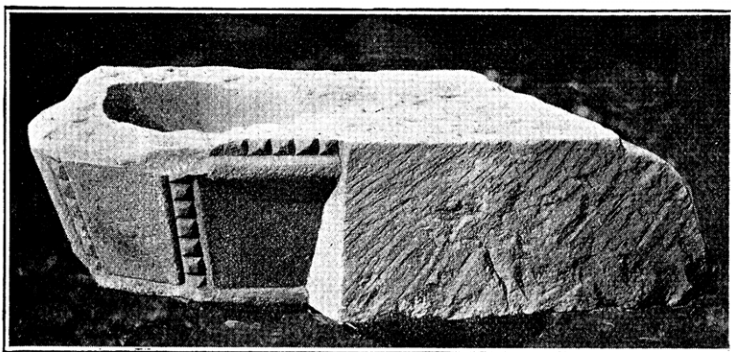


FIG. 6.
EGREMONT.

TO FACE P. 85.

It measures 32in. by 13½in., and is now 7¼in. thick. One side appears to be original, and is not sculptured; the other has been purposely hacked off. Both ends are broken, and the back has been split away in the rudest manner. The main design consists of four lozenges (only two of which are complete), set end to end, so as to much resemble the "lazy tongs" formerly used by ladies; also, on a larger scale, for catching dogs in church. Three of them contain five-petaled roses, which are in no case in the centre of the lozenge. At each obtuse angle of one lozenge one side projects and curves slightly, all being in heavy relief. At one end, superimposed to the lozenge work, is the figure of a mermaid, with upraised arms and rather long hands, in an attitude suggesting joyful greeting. This figure is extremely well drawn, being, so far as the human part of it is concerned, anatomically correct. In the Scandinavian work at Gosforth the human figures are strikingly crude, compared with those of the animals depicted. On the more artistic Anglian cross at Bewcastle the figures are well drawn. In the compartment below the mermaid is a slender curved tendril or tail considerably defaced. Beyond the tail of the mermaid is a flying dragon-like creature, sadly chipped and worn away; and beyond this again is the upcurved tail of a marine animal. On the other side of the design is a beast of prey in a menacing attitude, either lion or wolf, with heavy chest, protruding tongue, and long bushy tail directed towards the mermaid. This tail in shape resembles those of the wolves on the Dearham font,* and on a cross shaft at Cross Canonby†; but this may be accidental.

This stone, though so fragmentary, is evidently a piece of Norman architectural work, and was possibly part of an impost, or some ornamental work about a doorway, not much later than 1100. It should be compared with

* Lysons' *Cumberland*, p. cxciv.

† *Transactions*, vol. v., p. 149

the unique interlaced impost at St. Bees close by, which also bears a dragon; with the flying figure on the north side of the cross at Gosforth, and the tympana at Long Marton, Westmorland. Long Marton Church, built about 1100, and dedicated to St. Margaret and St. James (part of the building to each saint), bears on its tympana a mermaid or merman, a dragon, a dove, and a beast of prey with the head of a dove. The Rev. T. Lees* believed all these to refer to the legendary martyrdom of St. Margaret—her escape from the dragon, the lion who seeketh whom he may devour, and the torture by water. He also referred to the account given in the Northern *Speculum Regale* of the monster called Margygr—half fish, half woman, with long hands and united fingers. Here at Egremont we have a mermaid, a dragon creature, and either a lion or a wolf, the latter being the typical evil beast (Fenrir) to the northmen who colonised the district so extensively in the tenth century.

Whatever may be the meaning of the Long Marton sculpturings, the mermaid or syren—which latter is, of course, of classical origin—is not uncommon in Norman work. At Stow Longa, Huntingdonshire, it is represented on the tympanum with arms upraised and long hair, between a lion and an animal which is either a lioness or a wolf, all surmounting a cross.† The *Picardy Bestiary* tells us there are three kinds of syrens—two, half women, half fish; one, half woman, half bird—each producing a different kind of music, and symbolising the seductive voice of the devil.‡ Both kinds appear on the same cross at Campbelltown, Argyllshire. The frequent occurrence of this combination of the syren and the lion, or other evil beast, over the doors of churches seems plainly to point to the temptations and tribulations which await those who would enter at the straight gate. The Egremont

* *Transactions*, vol. v., p. 174.

† Mermaids occur at Bishop Wilton, Barton-le-Street, and Alne, in Yorkshire.

‡ *Early Christian Symbolism*, J. Romilly Allen, p. 360.

PLATE II.

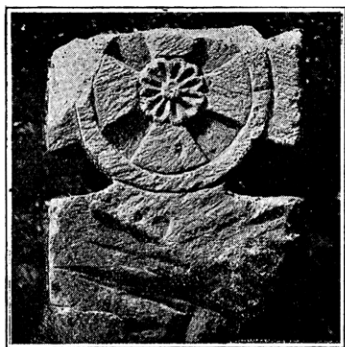


FIG. 5.



FIG. 3.
EGREMONT.

TO FACE P. 87.

mermaid has neither comb, mirror, nor tresses; in fact, her hair is to all appearance arranged in a close, curly crop. The carver may have been an expert brought from a distance.

Fig. 2, 29in. by 13½, was found in the east wall of the Early English Church at Egremont, is broken at both ends, and a good deal injured on one side. It bears a plain cross, having the horizontal limb repeated at the junction of the head with a slender stem, so as to resemble what is called in heraldry a patriarchal cross. On each side of the stem is an angular ornament, all being very deeply incised. This early slab, in many respects, resembles one at Cross Canonby,* which bears a rude human figure; and another at St. John's, Beckermeth,† which has a plain cross, with parallel lines sloping downwards from each side of the stem. The zigzag is also found on Welsh slabs. From the style of the work it seems to be of much the same date as the first stone, though carved by a ruder hand.

Fig. 3.—Said to have been found used as building material in the oldest part of Egremont Church, is most extraordinary. On a quadrangular block, 18½in. by 12 by 10in., in relief on a sunk background, is a female figure, nude, with left knee bent, and right foot turned inwards. The arms are very long; the left hand, turned upwards, rests on the thigh, while the right holds an object in the hollow of the hand which is not unlike an infant, but may be a pair of shears or pincers. It has been worked with a broad chisel, and the carver was evidently never taught in any school of figure drawing, but was probably an amateur—some stonemason who thought he could do it as well as another. Yet it seems vigorous for a first attempt, and, though so grotesque, is not so rude as the figure on the Cross Canonby slab, nor as that on a similarly-shaped block at that place, on

* *Transactions*, vol. v., p. 151, Fig. v.

† *Transactions*, vol. iv., p. 139, Fig. vi.

which is also rudely cut a cross and a kind of thunderbolt, being apparently a trial piece, done for practice or amusement, as this may have been.

What was passing in the Egremont workman's mind is difficult to say. Something has evidently been intended, but what? A maniac?—a martyr?—a woman and newborn child?—a sort of crazy representation of a Madonna?—the last by no means impossible, irreverent and inappropriate as it seems to us.

Mr Banks writes* :—

“The tower had a number of stones which evidently never belonged to the church, and which most likely came from the castle.

Beneath the rubble walls of the Norman chancel were three courses of masonry very like Roman masonry. They were not set in Roman mortar, and there is no reason to suppose they were anything more than stones brought from some neighbouring Roman building.”

Egremont is situated where three Roman roads met, and was probably a station.

5.—The broken head of a cross, 21in. by 15in., probably a finial, was found embedded in the east wall of the Early English church. A Maltese cross with circle, which is incised where it crosses the limbs, the spaces between the limbs being sunk, but not cut through the stone; conventional ornament in centre resembling a daisy. The back has a plain circular centre, and an incised line running round the edges of the limbs.

6.—A piscina with dog-tooth mouldings and central drain, which was found as part of the seventeenth century cornice—probably thirteenth century.

In the early years of his reign, Henry I. gave the newly-formed barony of Copeland to William de Meschines, who changed its name to Egremont. Meschines was probably the founder of the Norman chapel there, which he gave to the priory of St. Bees. The parish is small, and this

* *Transactions*, vol vi., p. 172.

may have been the first church on the site. Taking into consideration Mr. Bank's observations and the antiquity of some of these fragments, I think we may conclude that the foundation was very little later than 1100. About the dedication there is some confusion. Hutchinson says St. Mary;* Bacon's *Liber Regis* and Gorton's *Topographical Dictionary*, St. Michael; Canon Venables† and Miss Arnold Forster, St. Mary and St. Michael. The charter of Henry III., in 1266, orders the fair to be held on the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin.‡ This is now held on the 18th of September. Nicolson and Burn do not mention the dedication, but note that Edward VI., in 1549, granted certain lands which had belonged to a stipendiary of St. Mary's Church, Egremont.‡ There was a chantry here‡ which may have been dedicated to St. Michael, which saint had at one time more churches dedicated to him in England than any other, whereas St. Mary was in early times a very rare patroness. The order of Henry VIII. that all feasts of dedication, on which day the local fair was commonly held, should be held on the 29th of September is thought to have given St. Michael the reputation of being the titular saint of many churches.

GROUP II.—PRE-NORMAN. GOSFORTH.

Fig. 4, a fragment not yet figured in our *Transactions*, was dug up close to the churchyard in 1894. Two sides are sculptured, one of which bears part of the interwoven body of a serpent, with tail coiled round exactly like that of the gagged serpent wolf on the south side of the existing cross. On the other is part of a serpent with wolfish head, and what appears to be a second head with open jaws, joined on to the same neck—a serpent's head. If so, this is a representation of the Scandinavian evil

* *Cumberland*, vol. ii., p. 26.

† *Transactions*, vol. vii, p. 148.

‡ *Cumberland*, vol. ii., p. 35.

powers—Fenrir (the wolf) and Jormungand (the serpent) combined. It is a fragment of one of the two lost crosses, and probably belonged to that which formerly stood within 15 feet of the existing one,* and was deliberately destroyed in 1789. Near the three crosses the two hogbacks were probably placed, the whole forming a noble group.

A small fragment, the missing arm of the head of the same cross, was unearthed in making up a gravemound near the existing cross in 1897. It bears interlaced work, and is now inside the church near the other fragment.

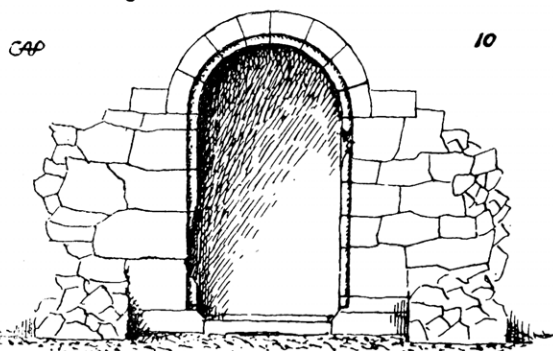
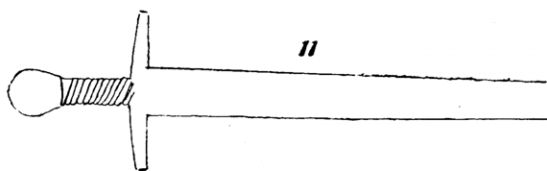
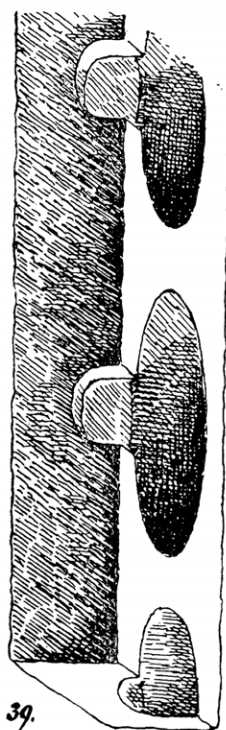
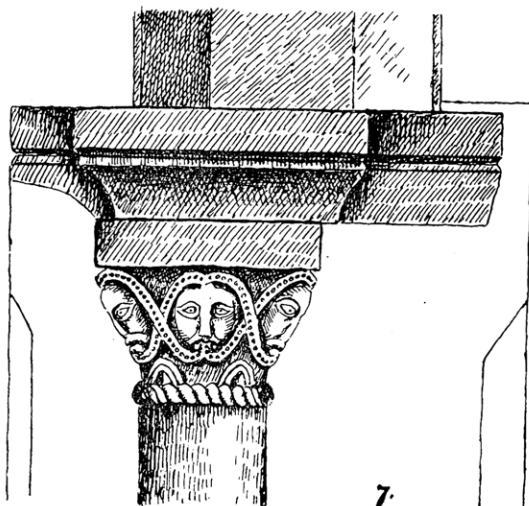
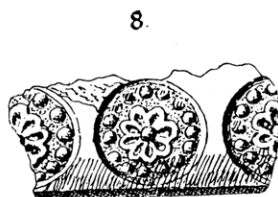
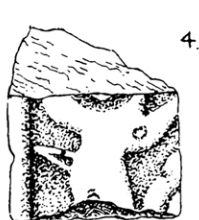
GROUP III.—NORMAN WORK AT GOSFORTH.

Gosforth Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is probably the sixth building on the same site. The rebuilding in 1896, by Mr. C. J. Ferguson, disclosed part of a Norman church, which consisted of nave and presbytery only, and had a south doorway with porch. The semi-circular head was gone, but the missing stones were carefully searched for and mostly found in the later walls, and replaced. (Fig. 10.) What remains exactly resembles the inner member of the west door of Calder Abbey, which Mr. Loftie dates 1180. Exactly opposite was a north or "devil" door, used at baptisms only and close to which the old churchyard wall stood. The hole for running back the oak bar (five feet deep) remained, inside of which an old knife was found. According to Mr. Ferguson, these twin north and south doors are not later than 1125. The north doorway was rebuilt as part of the present entrance on the south. At some period the church was roofed with thin freestone slabs, similar to those found at the chapel (lately uncovered) close by, and at Calder Abbey.

There are two pieces of zigzag in the churchyard wall, which appear to have come from the chancel arch, and a corbel in the porch, with a man's head carved upon it.

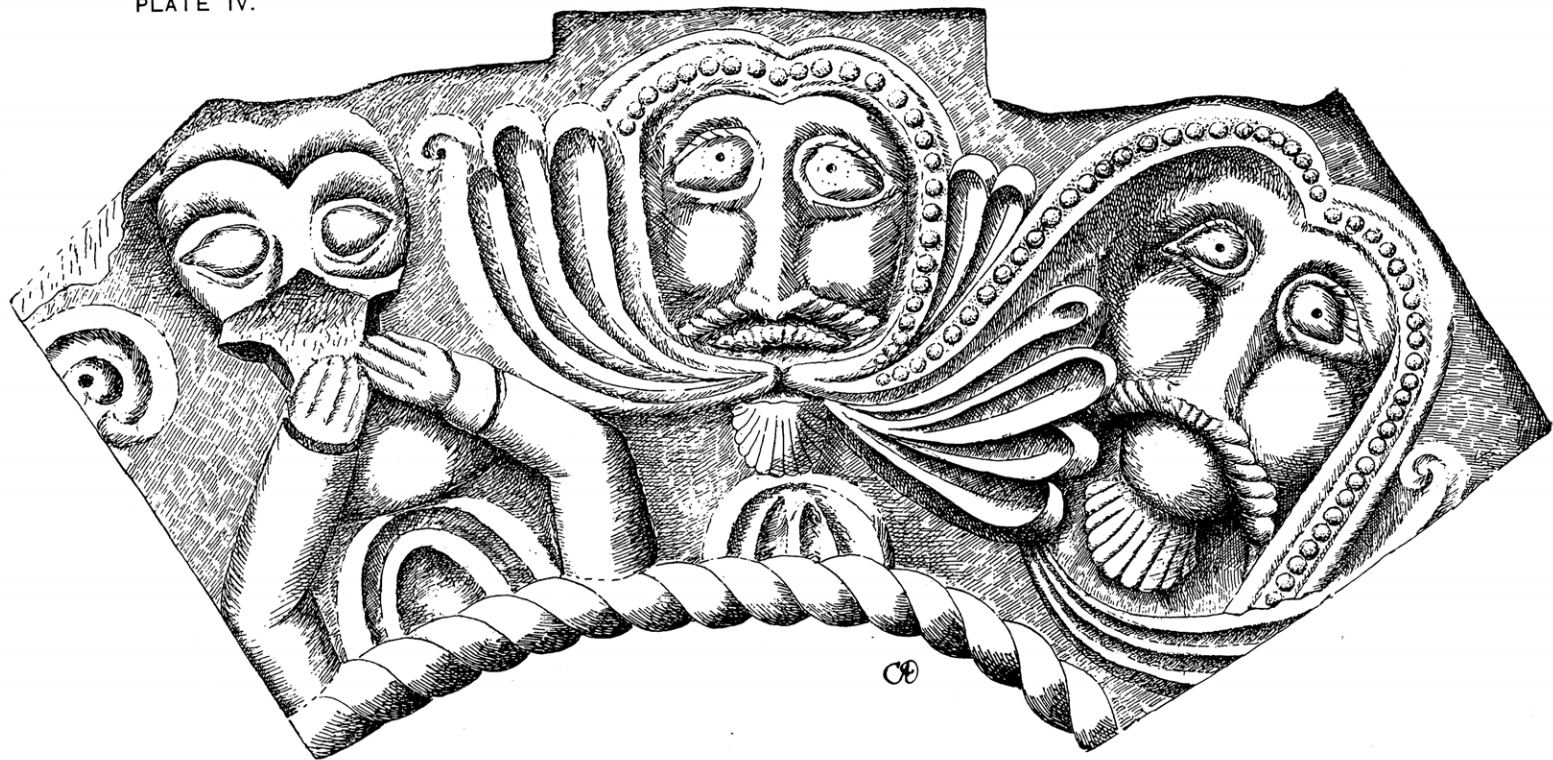
* The Penrith crosses, with hogbacks, are 15 feet apart.

PLATE III.



GOSFORTH.

TO FACE P. 90.



CARVING ON NORTH PILLAR OF CHANCEL ARCH, GOSFORTH.

TO FACE P. 91.

Many pieces of Early English windows were also found, and a piscina, with drain at the back, much broken, which is now in the porch.

The chancel arch, said to have been built about 1340, carries a much thinner wall than the older piers supporting it, which are fronted by Norman pillars. The opening, however, is too wide for a Norman arch; and the explanation seems to be that when the arch was widened, two of the pillars—which were very likely six originally—were rebuilt. On the south capital (Fig. 7) the three grave faces, bearded and moustached, level in height and equal in size, may represent the Trinity. From the beards of each proceed two beaded fillets, which cross between the faces and encircle the heads, so as to resemble hoods. At each side and below is conventional foliage or scroll work, and below all a rope border.

On the north capital (Plate IV), the central large-eyed face is higher than the others; the beaded fillet surrounds the top of the head and is lost below. On the east of it is a similar face, surrounded by the fillet, and bearded and moustached like the first. From the mouth of the central face, or from the beard, proceed foliations, which may represent the flying beard, the breath, or even wings. To the west is a half-length figure, clothed, the cuff of the left sleeve being distinct, with both hands held before the mouth, the eyes and chin somewhat broken, at the side foliations, and below a rope border. The carver has been expert and careful. The curling locks of the beards and moustaches, the eyelashes, the pupils, and even the irides are all shewn.

It has been suggested that these represent "The Past," "The Present," and "The Future;" another suggestion is, "The Word proceeding from the mouth of the Deity." Another pillar cap in the churchyard wall is of the same character, but has oak leaves instead of faces.* The same

* *Transactions*, vol. vi., p. 370.

beaded fillet occurs profusely on the font at Bridekirk,* at Durham, &c.

The chancel arch is very wavy when looked at from underneath, and Fig. 7 shews how oddly out of the centre the whole arrangement is.

8.—This small fragment has parts of three roses, each surrounded by a circle of beading, in relief in circular-sunk panels set in line. It was considered by Mr. Ferguson the most curious architectural stone found, being almost Romanesque in style; and to have been the inner member of the chancel arch, or a principal doorway. The magnificent Norman doorway of Durham Castle, built by Ralph Pudsey in the twelfth century, and another arch of the same date in the cloisters of the priory, bear strings of roses of much the same character, but without the sunk panels.

9.—Is the base of a cross or other monument, with heavy dog-tooth moulding, found in the wall of Gosforth Church, and later than the other stones.

GROUP IV.—GRAVE-COVERS.

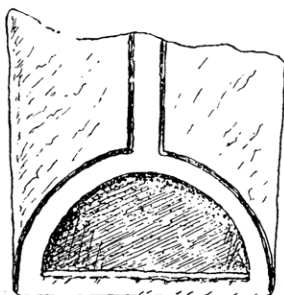
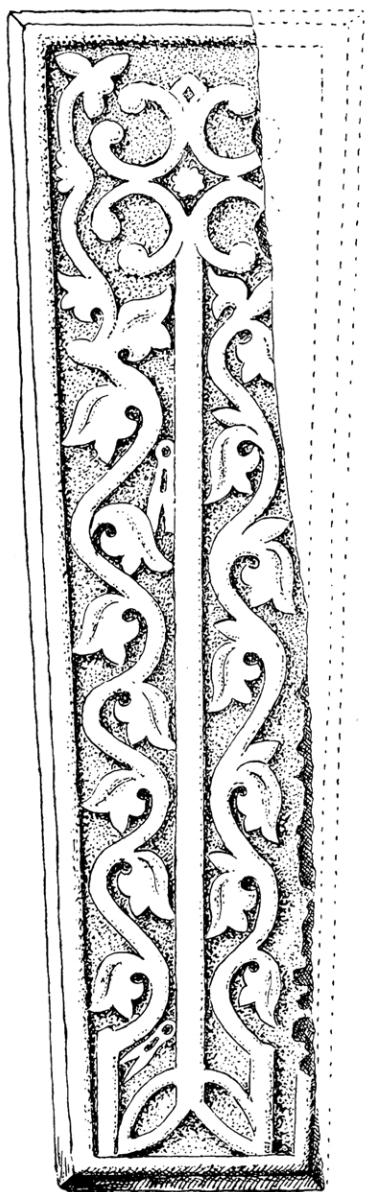
At Gosforth there are fragments of at least 22 grave-covers, and at Egremont a still larger number, difficult to classify—first, on account of their infinite variety; and, secondly, because the variations overlap. In only two or three instances has more than one fragment of the same slab been found. Four of the Gosforth slabs are described in the *Transactions*, the illustrations being erroneously labelled Calder Abbey. (Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, p. 370, vol. vi.)

12.—This large and handsome slab, which is built into the church porch at Gosforth, is 6ft. 4½in. long and 18in. broad at the lower end. The upper end has been 22½in., but one side has been dressed off to make it fit square as a lintel to the west door of the nave, over which

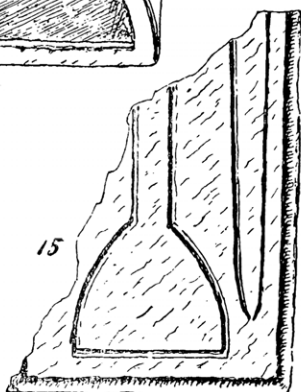
* Lysons' *Cumberland*, p. cxcii.

PLATE V.

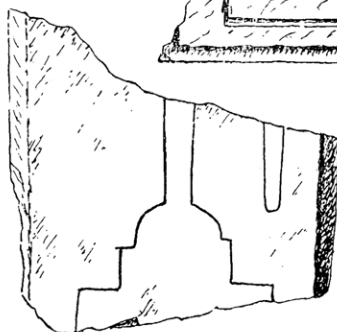
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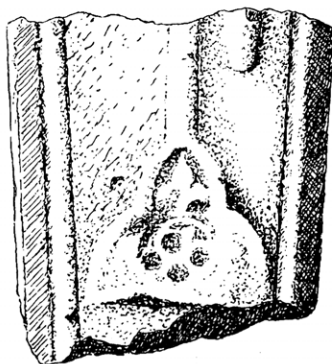
14



15



13



16

CAP.

12, GOSFORTH.

13—16, EGREMONT.

TO FACE P. 93

it was found in 1896. It is chamfered all round and bears, carved in bold relief, a roll border, a plain cross stem springing from an arch formed by two loops, with plainly floriated head, in the centre of which is a rose; and foliage on each side resembling a vine, springing from stems at the extreme foot, and continued up to the top of the cross head. Amongst the leaves on the dexter, about halfway up, and close to the arch on the same side, are shears; and it is to be noticed that the upper shears are distinctly blunt, and the lower as distinctly sharp-pointed. Evidently the tomb of an important person; possibly an ecclesiastical dignitary. In 1311, William de Gosford, rector of Ormeshead, was vicar-general of the diocese of Carlisle.* The family "de Gosford" became extinct in the male line early in the fourteenth century. Alongside of the above is an entire, perfectly plain, chamfered slab, found under the floor near the door, but not in its original position; also a worn slab, with cross and sword, with whipping round its handle, like one at Bangor. (Fig. II.) Thirteen to sixteen, at Egremont, are other varieties of the arched foot of the cross—13, an incised arch on calvary steps; 14, an incised arch, containing a recessed panel, which makes the whole look like a stirrup; 15, the same in the simplest possible form; 16, the remains of a decorated arch in relief, three-lobed, with fleur-de-lis and tracery. This has been a fine late slab, with roll border and heavy chamfer.

17.—Two fragments in the north aisle at Gosforth, the intentional mutilation of which has destroyed nearly all details of the heavily-carved cross head, which has a six-petaled rose, with five-petaled centre, in each quarter, and another rose in the centre of the cross; roll border; on the sinister part of the sword blade (?) incised, on the dexter remains of an incised inscription:—

* Nicolson & Burn, vol. ii., p. 305.

HIC: IA ...O[—]HES FIDVS R*(hic jacet Johannes fidus.)*

The last letter looks like R, but as to whom "faithful John" was there is no clue.

John Multon, a grandson of Robert de Gosford, was in 1328 possessed of three-fifths of his lands there.*

18.—11ins. by 9, is part of a small and unfinished slab, taken out of a stable wall at Spout House, Gosforth, and now in the churchyard wall. The cross head, of four complete circles, is ornamented with two or three wavy incised lines. Handle of sword on the sinister; on the dexter an incised line, surrounding an inscription, of which part of one letter only remains.

19.—At Egremont is the defaced lower end of what has been a beautiful little chamfered slab, bearing a worn-out interlacing pattern in relief, with an ornament exceedingly like a triquetra in a recessed circular panel at the foot—symbol of the "Eternal Three." I cannot but think the carver has been influenced by the patterns on pre-Norman crosses. 20in. by 11, tapering to 9in.†

20.—Small fragment, 13in. by 10½, found among the others at Egremont, and presumably part of a grave-cover. Flat raised border, horseshoe with seven nail holes, and head of pincers—all precisely like those of the present day. The master smith, or armourer, living under the walls of Egremont Castle, might well be important enough in those troublous times to merit such a tomb.‡

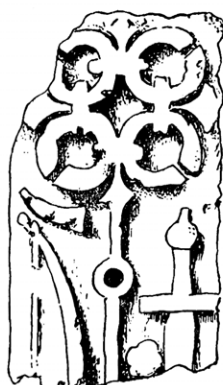
21.—Egremont, 17in. by 9½. Upper half of small grave-cover crowded with emblems—viz., cross head of common pattern, with pierced circular swelling on stem; sword, with cross hilt; a rose, a strung bow, and a horn

* Denton.

† Interlaced slabs of the eleventh century are found at Cambridge Castle and Barningham, Yorks.

‡ Pincers and sword occur on a slab at Aycliffe, Durham.

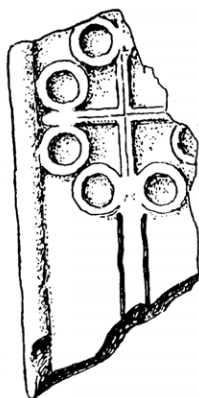
PLATE VI



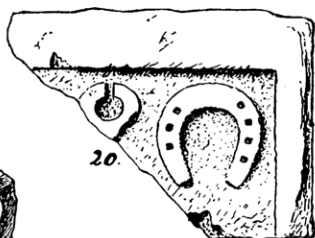
21.



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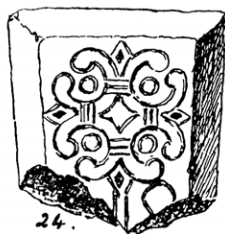
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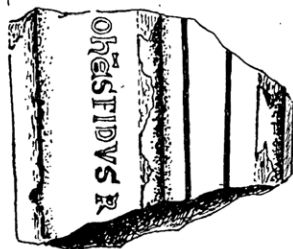
17



24.



25.



18.

CAP.



19.

17, 18, 25, GOSFORTH.

19—24, EGREMONT.

TO FACE P. 94.

—all in relief and poorly carved. Surely the grave mark of a great hunter,* probably a forester of the Lord of Egremont; certainly not that of an ordinary burgess, for they were forbidden by the charter granted them by Richard de Lucy (1203-14) to enter the forest with bow and arrow, or to take a dog unless it had one foot mutilated, so as to incapacitate it from chasing the game.

"Item, licet burgensibus ire in foresta mea de Innerdale, ad mercatorium suum faciendum, sine arcu et sagittis. Item, burgenses non amputabunt pedes canum suorum infra divisas suas: et si forte aliquis canis sequitur aliquem burgensem extra divisas suas in via, *excepta* foresta mea de Innerdale, non calumpniabitur inde a quoquam."

As this was a charter of privileges, the restrictions must have been greater before 1203, in which year, or the next, Richard de Lucy, who died about 1213, was made Forester of Cumberland, which may possibly be the nucleus of fact round which has been woven the legend of the "Horn of Egremont Castle." Sandford, writing as late as 1675, says:—"The bow-bearer is a brave gentleman: I have been at his house in the Lower end of Enderdale: a seat for any gentleman: his name Mr. Kelleway." The rose may have been a badge, or in memory of some great feat or prize won by the archer.

There are several instances at Egremont of the kind of cross shown in 22, nearly always accompanied by the sword.

23.—Differs from the others in design, and has roll border. 24 is incised. 25, at Gosforth, has vine leaves drooping from the stem; the shears occur only once at Egremont, at Gosforth seven times. 26 is one of two cross heads deeply sunk in circular panels, and is of the "church-door hinge" type, with three-lobed leaflets

* Sword, bows, and horn appear on a slab at Bowes, Yorkshire, and are believed to commemorate a "De Bowes;" sword and horn at Darley, Derbyshire, and Great Salkeld, Cumberland; horn alone at Hutton, Cumberland; Papplewick, Nottingham, and at Bakewell.

springing from the limbs. The hinge is in full relief in a circle on 27, and below it is an object resembling the upper end of a bow. Another variety of hinge, at Gosforth, is seen in 28.

29.—At Egremont, is a combination of styles. On a thick chamfered slab, 17in. at the head end, is a sunk cross in saltire, the arms being formed by four leaf-shaped projections with a lozenge centre. The stem is incised. Above the saltire is what looks like a wheel, but is really a cross head; and probably the true crosshead, the saltire being superimposed. It is rudely executed, and consists of a circle, upon which is a cross having four leaf-shaped limbs, with a circle in each quarter. The whole is surrounded by an incised line, a row of nailhead, and a slight roll. Boutell* thought the mediæval artist derived the idea of the cross saltire from the Chi-Ro symbol ☩. Certainly this slab seems to bear him out, as it would only be necessary to add half a circle and a horizontal line to get the whole scheme of design. The sunk saltire appears on a slab at Gosforth,† and the nailhead occurs profusely on another moulded slab there ‡; also on the stem of the cross on a much worn slab at Egremont, which has for many years been stuck, wrong end uppermost, in the socket of the rude pillar in the churchyard.

Among the incised cross heads at Egremont is one (30) which has been used three times, being carved on both sides, and afterwards cut round and probably set up on end. 31, at Gosforth, is carved alike on both sides. Another stone at Egremont is a bad copy of one at Calder Abbey (32), and a third instance of the same sword handle is at St. John's, Beckermeth.‡ There are no slabs at the ancient church at St. Bridget's, Beckermeth, but some years ago I was told by an old gentleman that there was under the plaster in the east gable what he called the

* *Christian Monuments*, p. 30.

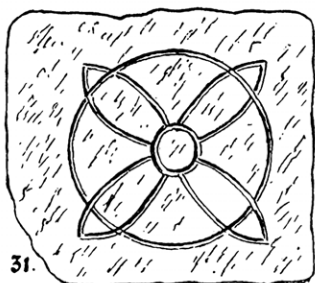
† *Transactions*, vol. vi., p. 370.

‡ *Transactions*, vol. iv., p. 147, Fig 16.

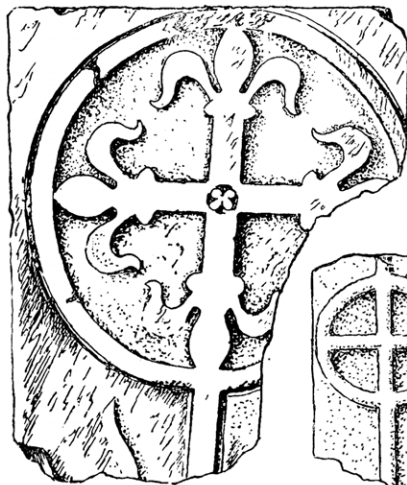
PLATE VII.



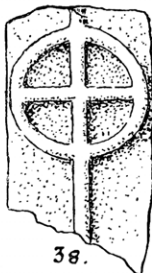
26



31.



27.



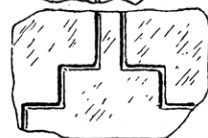
38.



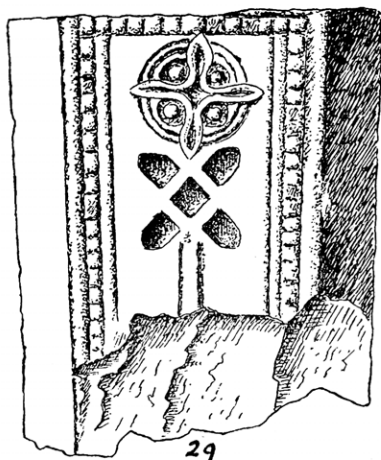
30



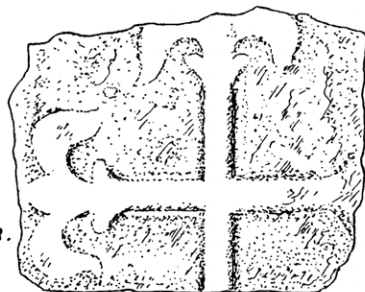
37.



CAR



29



28.

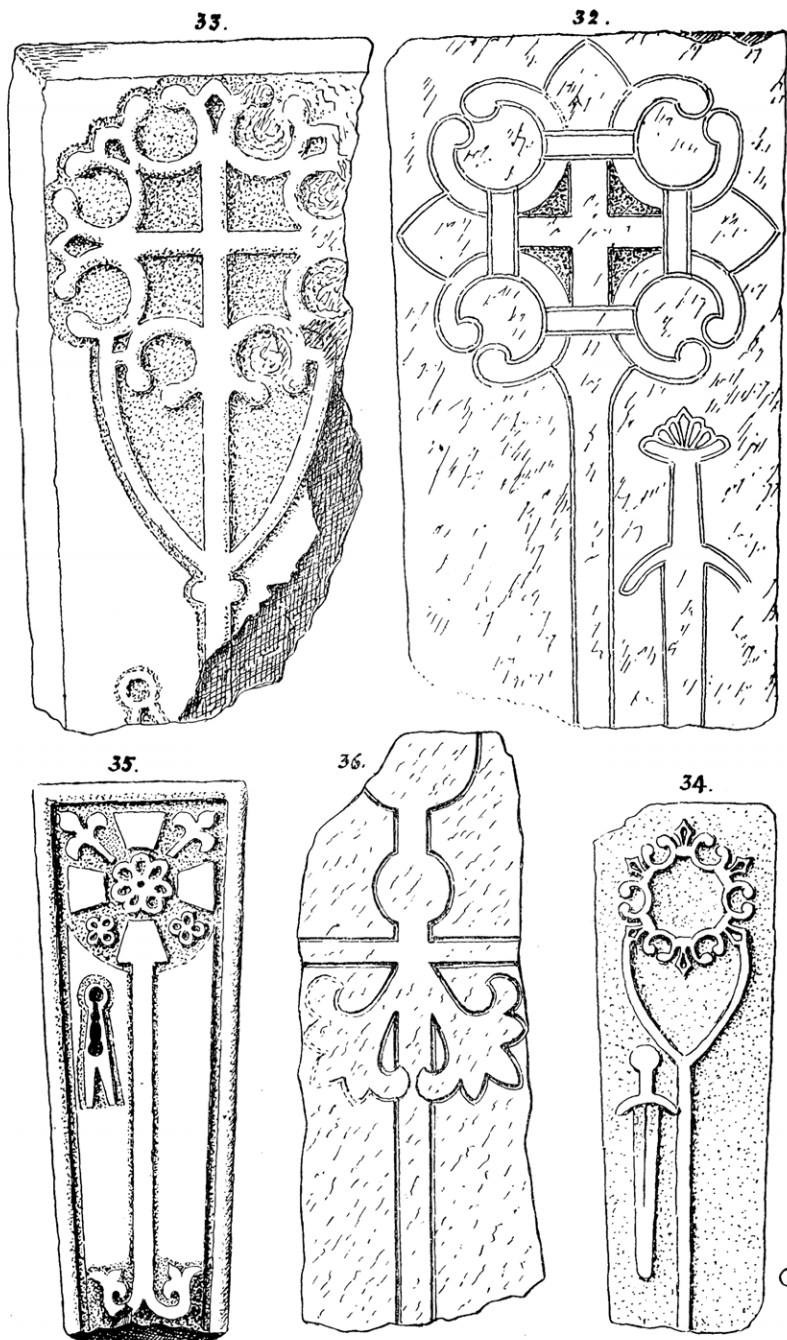
26, 27, 29, 30, EGREMONT.

28, 31, 37, GOSFORTH.

38, HALE.

TO FACE P. 96.

PLATE VIII.



32, 33, CALDER ABBEY.

34, 35, 36, PONSONBY.

TO FACE P. 97.

head of a cross. At Calder Abbey there is one more (33), which has a cross head of eight circles, with bossed stem and shears in relief, the head being trebly connected with the main stem by two curved lateral bands and a straight central one.

The same idea appears at Ponsonby Church, where on the east face of the chancel arch are two very small, but perfect slabs. 34, 24in. long, bears on the dexter a broad sword, with curved guard and a groove down the blade, and a pretty cross head of six circles with points between, from two of which last curved bands droop to join lower down to form the stem. 35, 27in. long, has chamfer and roll border, Maltese cross head, with rose in centre, fleur-de-lis in the upper quarters, and roses in the lower. These are good instances of the size of the slab having no reference to the age of the individual, the tiny church of Ponsonby having very limited floor accommodation. To the dexter of the cross stem are blunt-pointed shears; the foot of the stem splits and turns up on each side in fleur-de-lis. In the outside of the south wall, which is full of fragments of all the ages, is a third slab (36), on which is incised a Latin cross, with vine leaves drooping from the stem; and above the cross, incorporated to the upper limb, what appear to be the chalice and paten, being the grave-mark of some early priest of Ponsonby. Nothing could be much simpler than the Gosforth fragment (37), unless it be the solitary instance at Hale (38), which is the smallest slab I have as yet seen.

GROUP V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

On the top of the churchyard wall at Gosforth is the old font, shaped like the pillar in a child's box of wooden bricks. It formerly had a gilt, dome-shaped cover of wood. Also, a rude cross head without sculpture, found many years since between the church and Gosforth Hall.

* Chalice, &c., incorporated to the cross stem occur at Corbridge, Northumberland; St. Mary's Hospital, Newcastle; and Well, Yorkshire.

Near these are five stones, found embedded in the church walls, the use of which is not clear. (39, Plate III.) When placed end to end, they form a set of seven oval basins or hollows, 11 in. long, $7\frac{3}{4}$ broad, and from 3 to 5 inches deep. Out of the side of each hollow a curved piece is cut, forming a channel.

On the top of a shed at Hallsenna, Gosforth, which stands very near the edge of the parish, and the boundary between the manors of Bolton and Drigg, is a carved stone. On one side are five fusils in fess, the arms of Lord Muncaster, whose ancestors have long been lords of the manor of Drigg; on a second, a kind of whirligig; on a third, a double-headed bolt in an inverted crescent; on a fourth, defaced carving. It may have been a boundary mark. Within a very short distance is a spot where three manors meet, and a little further away a place called Threapland Gate—the road to the disputed land. The Senhouses of Seascale and Bolton had a rose for their badge. Formerly, a stone with the Senhouse popinjay carved upon it was in a house wall at Hallsenna.

All the above are of red sandstone. The illustrations are all drawn to the same scale except 12, 7, 9, 10, and 39. The photographs are by T. H. Baker, of Egremont.