

seen on the Filey stone, and on Irton cross, certainly late Anglian. The other plaits are unique; and on Northumbrian crosses safely datable to the period after the Danish invasion we rarely find unique plaits. The more unique plaits the earlier the design; so that the place of Bewcastle cross, judged by plaits, falls about midway in the Anglian age, that is to say, late in the 8th century. This dating approximates to that of Messrs. Forbes and Dickins, though quite independently inferred.

III.—THE BECKERMET ST. BRIDGET'S SHAFT was the subject of a paper by Mr. Rothery of Whitehaven read on January 15th last to the Ehenside Nature Club. This well-known inscription, at which many antiquaries have made attempts, is thought by Mr. Rothery to be of the 15th century—though it is on a shaft of a type like the Gosforth cross and others which I have not found except in connection with late 10th or 11th century ornament. A photograph of the inscribed panel was sent to Cardinal Gasquet, who gave a tentative reading of the first five lines, printed by Mr. Rothery as follows:—

Aidulfe Ab[batis]
 Moni dE Hii P[osuit]
 Hvc CRVCE[m]
 I onorEm SANCTE
 Virg BrigittE.

“ Translation :—Abbot Adulf, a monk of Iona, erected this Cross in honour of the Holy Virgin Bridget.”—(*Whitehaven Advertiser*, January 23rd, 1915).

I suppose *Abbatis* to be intended for *Abbas*, and *Huc* for *Hanc*: and as Mr. Rothery very kindly let me see his photograph I can understand how the lights and darks of the rough stone suggested this reading.

But these are not the forms I see on the stone. In 1899 I made a tracing, which I checked recently in very favourable circumstances, and now offer as a facsimile of the



INSCRIBED PANEL ON THE CROSS-SHAFT AT ST. BRIDGET'S,
BECKERMET.

From a tracing by W.G.C.

TO FACE P. 130.

inscribed panel ($\frac{1}{4}$ diam.), as far as it is possible to facsimile a worn carving of this kind. The former use of the stone, shown by the vertical cut under this panel (see the photograph in Calverley's *Early Sculptured Crosses*, p. 26) and the hole for an iron rod or other insertion, a little lower down, has perhaps caused the defacement of the middle parts of the last two or three lines. At some rather distant time, the letters have been tampered with; one can see that some of them have been scraped with a knife; but those scrapings are overgrown with lichen, and they probably did no more than to remove the lichen then on the surface, without altering the forms. At any rate I submit my tracing in the belief that it gives the material for a reading, much more completely than any photograph hitherto produced: and I express a strong disbelief in any attempt to read such inscriptions, of which the type and style are not known, without personal knowledge of the original.
