



(a) From West.



(b) From East.

ANTHORN CROSS.

Photo. R. G. Collingwood.

FACING P. 211.

ART. XIII.—*Anthorn Cross*. By W. G. COLLINGWOOD.

Read at the site, July 6th, 1928.

AS it stands, the cross is a piece of red sandstone, 24 ins. high, 39 ins. round the shaft in its thickest part, and 19 ins. across the arms. Its shape is very unusual. It might be fancied to resemble the battered torso of a statue, but it is merely a rude cross. There is, at the Durham Cathedral Library, from Wooler in Northumberland, a cross almost as clumsy, perhaps a post-Conquest boundary-mark. But the photographs by Mr. R. G. Collingwood, taken recently, show it as it is now, and, but for possible loss of height at the lower end of the stone, as it has always been. The surface retains the original pecking except on the east side where a piece is flaked off, split by fireworks, it is said, at the time of the King's Coronation. The head was always much out of the centre, for the cuts forming it are clear, and the swollen trunk was carved so. Thirteenth and fourteenth century way-side crosses were often very rude, and this seems to belong to that class. It is not pre-Norman and it has never been ornamented, though in a sketchbook, with date May 12, 1882, the late Rev. W. S. Calverley noted—"Just traceable Crucifixion; left arm, head, chin, part of body traceable on Anthorn side. Never has been a circle," he added, meaning that it was not a wheel-cross. But in 1899 I was unable to verify the forms he thought he saw, and the more recent damage makes it impossible to revise any opinion.

No history is available. The place-name occurs first in 1289 as Aynthorn, obviously the Old Norse *einn-thorn*, 'lonely thorn-tree.' East of the village, and west of the

bridge there, is a solitary thorn-tree by which (or by its predecessor, for the present tree is not aged) the local court has been used to be held, as at Hesket Court Thorn. John Denton did not know this when he wrote (edit. Ferguson, p. 76) "Caer-durnok, a British name which signifies the town of the thorns, of a wood there then all of thorns which was long after called the Eyen Thorns, or old Thorns, and now are all wasted away. And [at] the place where they did grow stands now a village yet called Aynthorn." Without doubting the thorn-wood, we suppose that he meant 'ayne,' an old word for 'eldest,' 'first-born,' but we cannot find that this word was applied to trees; and Cardurnok does not seem to bear his interpretation. At first sight it seems rather to be parallel to Dornock near Annan, which Professor W. J. Watson of Edinburgh, pointing out that it is in a British (i.e. Cymric, not Gaelic) district, thinks may have meant the 'place of cobbles' or 'hand-stones,' Old British **Durnacon* from Old Welsh *durnawc*. The modern Welsh for 'fist' is *dwrn*. In that case Caer-durnok might mean the 'fort of cobbles.' The oldest written form is indeed *Cardrunnoke* (F.F. 1386), interpreted by Professor Sedgefield as the 'fort on a ridge'; but that involves a hybrid form between British and Gaelic, and the metathesis of *durn* to *drun* is not impossible. At any rate a British etymology is preferable in Cumbria, except in places named by the Vikings, who brought across the Irish Sea a few Gaelic words; and 'Caer' is certainly British.

Anthorn was in the manor of Bowness, granted in the 12th century to Gamel le Brun, ancestor of the family de la Ferté. At Easter, 1400, William de Osmotherley, who in 1403 was sheriff and a knight, sold Anthorn with other places in Cumberland to Alan de Blennerhasset for 100 marks (these *Trans.* n.s. xvi, 174). It is said that there was a tradition of a battle with the Scots here, marked by this "Broken Cross"; and within the last

hundred years human bones were discovered in the mound on which the cross stands, when some digging into it was made to get sand. The diggers, it is said, ceased work on finding these remains, and it looks as though there were still something left to justify a belief that the cross stands on a burial tumulus, not of prehistoric date. This may dispose of the suggestion that it merely marked the head of the ford across the river towards Newton Arlosh.

In Greenwood's map dated 1823 two crosses are marked here and lettered 'Taylor's Crosses.' It looks like a modern name, but still that name may be medieval. John Denton (p. 78) says that "William de Glasson, who held Glasson of Robert le Brun de la Ferte, lord of Bowness, forfeited the same, being outlawed for the death of Patrick Taylor in the 6 Ed. I" (1278). At that period there were well-to-do tailors at Carlisle who granted houses to Holm Cultram; one of their charters is witnessed by Sir Richard le Brun. A little later, people named le Taillour rose to be landowners and married into county families. But we cannot connect Patrick the Tailor with this site; our Editor, Mr. T. H. B. Graham, kindly tells me that nothing is said in the Calendar of Close Rolls for 1278 about him, and we must leave this puzzle for the present in hope that it may be solved by some happier historian.
