

IV.

UNDESCRIBED SCULPTURED STONES AND CROSSES AT OLD LUCE, FARNELL, EDZELL, LOCHLEE, AND KIRKMICHAEL (BANFFSHIRE), WITH SOME LATE MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS AT PARTON (KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE), MARYTON, AND WICK. BY F. C. EELES, F.S.A.Scot., F.R.Hist.S.

FRAGMENTS OF THREE EARLY CROSSES AT OLD LUCE, WIGTOWNSHIRE.

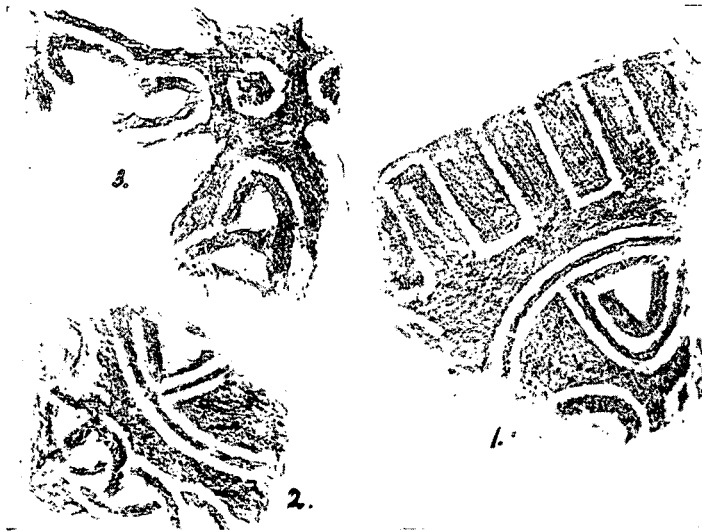
The parish church of Old Luce, near the north-east corner of Luce Bay, in Wigtownshire, was rebuilt about 1821, according to the *New Statistical Account*. Three fragments (figs. 1-3) of early sculptured crosses have been built into the north wall, a little distance to the east of the north transept. Much broken, partly overflowed by cement, and covered with whitewash, they are not easily seen, and it is almost impossible to get satisfactory rubbings of them. Each seems to be part of a separate cross.

No. 1.—A fragment of a slab (fig. 1), with part of an incised cross and incised border ornament. The cross is surrounded by a circle, and the spaces between the arms are filled with a simple incised key pattern, leaving between the ornaments a cross with parabolic hollow angles. The cross would have been 1 foot wide, including the surrounding circle. The key pattern between the arms is not unlike that on the slab of Conaing M'Conghail at Clonmacnoise, Ireland, No. 1014, on p. 360 of *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*. The key pattern border consists of two facing rectangular turns alternating, the simplest form, very like No. 886 in *Early Christian Monuments*.

No. 2.—A fragment of a slab (fig. 2), showing part of a cross within a circle. Outside the circle there is a triangular corner space filled by interlaced work of a common type. The cross appears to have been very similar to that on No. 1.

No. 3.—A fragment (fig. 3) of the head of a free-standing cross (?), with expanded ends to the arms. The stone is too far embedded in the wall, and too much broken, to enable one to decide the exact nature of

the cross, and whether or not the arms were connected by a circular ring. In the centre of the cross a small boss is formed within a circular incised line, and each arm is ornamented with an interlaced knot, somewhat after the manner of that on the single arm of a cross found at Cairn, New Cumnock, fig. 505 in *Early Christian Monuments*, p. 474. The knots are disconnected, like those on Whithorn, No. 9, fig. 528 in *E.C.M.*,

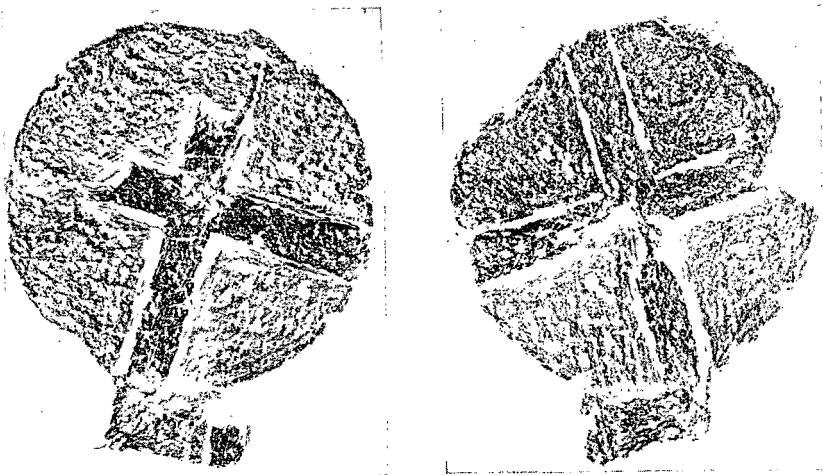


Figs. 1-3. Fragments of Three Early Crosses at Old Luce.

p. 492, but the central ring is smaller and there is a larger space round it. The stone is very much broken. *Cf.* portion of cross head at Glencairn, near Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, fig. 460 in *E.C.M.*, p. 438. *Cf.* also a group of crosses in Cornwall, which have heads of the wheel type with the connecting ring, but with the arms ornamented in a similar manner, each with a separate kind of interlacing, *e.g.* the "Four-Hole Cross" at St Neot, in *Old Cornish Crosses*, Langdon, Truro, 1896, p. 388; St Teath, *ibid.*, p. 393; Quethiock, p. 399.

TWO HEADS OF CROSSES AT FARNELL, FORFARSHIRE.

These two fragments of crosses are lying on the north side of the parish church of Farnell, in Forfarshire. The present church was built in 1806, upon, or close to, the site of the old parish church, which was probably dedicated to St Ninian, and about 7 miles south of Brechin, not far from the landward end of Montrose basin.



Figs. 4 and 5. Obverse and reverse of the Head of a wheel-headed Cross at Farnell.

No. 1 is a wheel-headed cross (fig. 4), of a type which seems to be exceedingly rare in the north-east of Scotland. Wheel-headed crosses are found in Galloway, but they are chiefly characteristic of Man, Cumbria, Wales, and Cornwall. This particular cross is peculiarly like certain Cornish crosses. It does not seem easy to find other examples of this type in Scotland, although there is a small cross head recently unearthed at Tullich, in West Aberdeenshire, which is not dissimilar.

The head is circular, 16 inches across, and from $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 4 inches thick. The remaining portion (about $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 inches) of the shaft shows

that it was very narrow, only some 4 inches wide. The head is a plain, unpierced disc, and the cross stands out in low relief upon each side of it. The arms of the cross are thin (about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide), and the sides are parallel. The cross is tilted or inclined in a peculiar manner, and not the upper part only, but the whole cross, which on one side leans over to the spectator's right, the top of the cross being about 2 inches to the right of an imaginary vertical line drawn through the middle of the disc, and the foot of the cross a corresponding distance to the left. On the other side of the monument (fig. 5) the cross is tilted in an



Figs. 6 and 7. Obverse and reverse of the Head of a Cross at Farnell.

exactly similar manner, but in the opposite direction. The arms of the cross are of equal length, extending to the edge of the head, the lowest, on the stem of the cross, dying into the flat surface of the stone at the top of the shaft. The raised cross is made more distinct by an incised line at its edge; this is more prominent on one side than on the other.

Crosses with unpierced, disc-like wheel heads are common all over Cornwall, and are ornamented in various ways, sometimes with a Greek, sometimes with a Latin cross, and sometimes with a figure of our Lord. They seem to be of various dates. There are several very like the example under discussion, having the plain cross in low relief; in at least one case the cross being tilted on one side in somewhat the same way, e.g., at Trevalga, in *Old Cornish Crosses*, Langdon, p. 50.

No. 2 consists of the upper part of what seems to have been a free-standing cross with a connecting ring, the opposite faces of which are shown in figs. 6 and 7. Nothing of the cross remains below the arms, so that it is impossible to say definitely that the head was not engaged with a slab, but this seems unlikely. The arms do not project beyond the circumference of the ring, and they only expand very slightly; they are slightly raised above the circular ring. There seems to have been no central boss, and there are remains of interlaced work at the intersection. The whole fragment is much worn. It is about $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide across the arms of the cross, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick.

SCULPTURED SLAB AT EDZELL, FORFARSHIRE.¹

This is a rough slab of rather soft red sandstone, 4 feet 4 inches long by 2 feet 3 inches wide. It is preserved in the only remaining portion of the old parish church of Edzell, the interesting late fifteenth-century south transept, which still stands, intact and roofed, in the churchyard a short distance above Edzell Castle.

The stone (fig. 8) is carved with interlaced work of an extremely irregular and debased kind. At one end the pattern runs across the slab, at the other end the pattern runs down one side, in both cases in a more or less confused mass. On the side of the stone opposite the interlacing work which runs lengthways, is a spreading design of indeterminate character, something like a long, ragged leaf. Between the two patches of interlacing, two circles may be distinguished, one about 9 inches wide, the other about 8 inches. They appear to be connected, and to have been a kind of late imitation of the double disc ornament of the earlier monuments of the district. The discs are divided and partly surrounded by some rather tangled interlaced ornament, the position of which may have been suggested by the

¹ This stone is illustrated, very inaccurately, on p. 71 of *The History and Traditions of the Land of the Lindsays in Angus and Mearns*, by Andrew Jervise, 2nd ed., edited by Jas. Gammack, Edinburgh, 1882.

Z-shaped rod which accompanies the discs on the early stones. The ornament within the smaller circle takes the form of a cross made of four triangles. The material being very soft, the design is much worn in places.

This monument is of interest from its unusual character. Bearing a superficial resemblance to the elaborately carved stones of the best period of Celtic art, it is evidently a later imitation of them, probably



Fig. 8. Monumental Slab with interlaced work at Edzell.

not earlier than the early part of the twelfth century, before the introduction of the mediæval type of monument and before the older art had been forgotten. Degraded survivals of interlaced work, and other early forms, are common in the West Highlands, and are to be found of as late date as the seventeenth century. In the West, the Celtic forms were absorbed and adapted, and not displaced, by the art of Gothic times. But it was otherwise in the district east of Drumalban. There the Celtic or Pictish forms disappeared both earlier and at once. Such degraded survivals of the older forms as this Edzell stone are almost non-existent in the East of Scotland, and it is therefore

suggested that this monument is of much earlier date than the similar survivals in the West.

INCISED CROSS NEAR TARFSIDE, LOCHLEE, FORFARSHIRE.

On the moorland in the middle of Glen Esk, beside a track leading westwards from near the Episcopal Church at Tarfside, some 4 miles

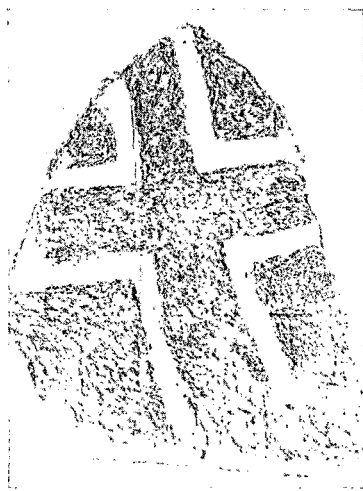


Fig. 9. Boulder with incised cross near Tarfside, Lochlee.



Fig. 10. Free-standing Cross in the Churchyard of Kirkmichael, Banffshire. (From a rough sketch.)

from Lochlee and on the side of the hill called the Rowan, stands a rugged boulder (fig. 9), one side of which has been flattened, and upon it a Latin cross roughly indicated by parallel incised lines, or rather shallow grooves, for they are from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and enclose a cross about 5 inches wide. The stone itself is about 1 foot 8 inches broad and about 2 feet 6 inches in height. It is in a leaning position, and both in situation and appearance reminds one of the later type of

wayside cross very common in Cornwall. It is probably of late date, and may have been set up as a boundary stone, or to indicate the position of a track leading to Lochlee Church.

FREE-STANDING LATIN CROSS IN THE CHURCHYARD OF
KIRKMICHAEL, BANFFSHIRE.

This (fig. 10) is perhaps a churchyard cross. It is known as St Michael's Cross, and stands on the south side of the church, about opposite the place where the principal entrance would have been in ancient times. The height is about 4 feet 7 inches, the breadth across the arms 2 feet 2 inches, the centre of the arms 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches below the top of the cross. The shaft and arms are slightly flattened and taper. The edges are rounded, and the top of the cross and the ends of the arms are also somewhat rounded. The shaft is about 1 foot \times 9 inches at the base, about 7 inches thick at the top, and the arms are about 6 inches thick. In the middle, at the intersection of the arms, there is a circular depression, like a cup mark, on each side. On one side the depression measures $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and, on the other, 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 2 inches deep. The material is rough granite from near the surface.

The cross is mentioned by Jervise, in *Epitaphs and Inscriptions of the North-east of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 71, where he says: "It is said to have been used by the natives for resting their spears and lances upon when they came to Divine Service; and a story is told of some of the more sacrilegious of the Highlanders having killed a priest by the side of the stone, for his being too strict in demanding attendance at church!"

FRAGMENT OF RECUMBENT EFFIGY (?) IN THE CHURCHYARD
OF KIRKMICHAEL, BANFFSHIRE.

In Kirkmichael Churchyard, not far from St Michael's Cross, is a peculiar sculptured stone (fig. 11) set upright in the ground, above which it rises to a height of 15 inches, about 6 inches being below the surface. One side of the stone is plain; the other side bears

some curious heavy carving in high relief, and one edge of this side is chamfered. The stone is $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. It does not seem to be complete, and the carving seems at first sight unintelligible. Beginning from below, there is a kind of curved and flattened stem, about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, which swells into a circular mass, 11 inches across, flattened on the surface, and with a slight depression. At the top this circular mass

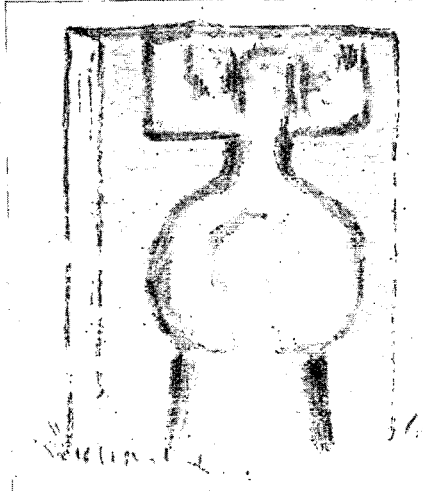
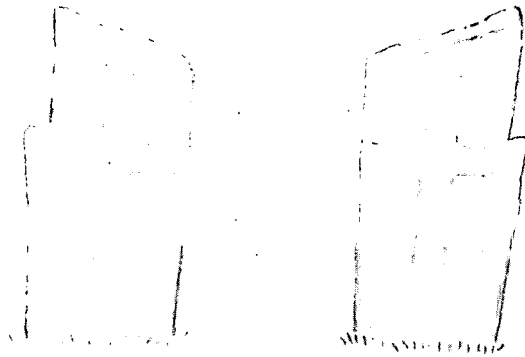


Fig. 11. Sculptured Stone in the Churchyard of Kirkmichael, Banffshire.

tapers with ogee curves into a neck-like connection 3 inches wide, which joins it to a rectangular mass 13 inches by 7 inches, which is cut short by the top of the stone. This is an inadequate description, but the shapeless and indeterminate character of the carving makes it difficult to describe it more accurately. Close examination suggests that it is part of a small, ill-proportioned recumbent effigy with the head lying upon a square cushion and the hands joined upon the breast. Even before it was mutilated the whole monument must have been clumsy and rude in the extreme. It is impossible even to guess the sex or calling of the person represented.

INCISED LATIN CROSS ON UPRIGHT SLAB IN THE CHURCHYARD OF
DOUNAN CHAPEL, KIRKMICHAEL, BANFFSHIRE.

On the right side of the main road from Ballindalloch and Inveravon to Tomintoul through Glenlivet is the churchyard which once contained the chapel of Dounan, in the parish of Kirkmichael. The site is near the village of Dounan, and on the right bank of the Livet. Only one stone is of special interest. It is near the middle of the churchyard, and



Figs. 12 and 13. Obverse and reverse of upright slab at Dounan Chapel, Kirkmichael, Banffshire. (From a rough sketch.)

probably stood close to the south side of the chapel. It is an upright slab of sandstone (figs. 12-13), the top and sides of which have only been roughly dressed, if at all. In height it is about 3 feet 6 inches on one side, 3 feet 3 inches on the other. The breadth at the base is 1 foot $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on one side, 1 foot $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches on the other. One side slopes outwards towards the top, and the greatest breadth of the slab is 1 foot $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Upon each side a Latin cross is roughly indicated by parallel incised lines about 4 inches apart on the stem, or a little less on the arms. The total height of the cross is about 1 foot 6 inches. The monument is most likely a mediæval gravestone of not very early date.

FRAGMENT OF A LATE MEDIEVAL EFFIGY OF A PRIEST, IN LOW
RELIEF, AT PARTON, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

Parton is situated on the left bank of the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee, just below Loch Ken and a few miles above Castle Douglas.

The present parish church is modern, having been built in 1834, and

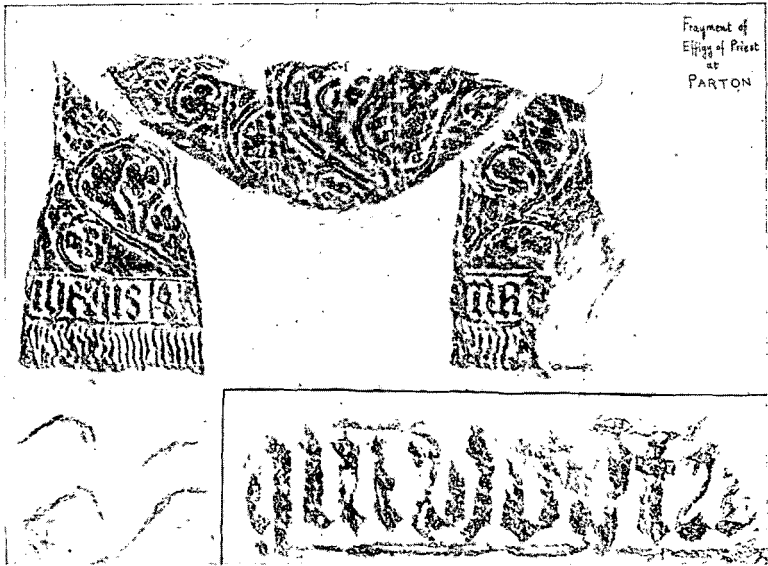


Fig. 14. Fragment of an Effigy of a Priest at Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire.

it stands on the west side of the ruins of the old church, which was built in 1592.

Just inside the door of the modern church is preserved a small fragment of an effigy of a priest carved in low relief. The fragment (fig. 14) includes portions of the lower part of the effigy with a few inches of the surrounding band, which contained the inscription, the remaining words being "qui 2 obijt 2." The lettering is ordinary black letter, the band being sunk and the letters raised. The stops

separating the words are of a common type, somewhat like the letter "S" reversed. The date is probably the first half of the sixteenth century, if one can judge from this scrap of the inscription. What is left of the effigy itself shows a few inches of the end of the chasuble, the two ends of the stole, and the skirt of the albe. The figure must have been of exceptional interest, as the vestments represented are very rich. The chasuble shows the base of an orphrey about 3 inches wide running up the middle, and on each side a little over 2 inches of what appears to have been a border round the edge of the vestment. This border must have been of unusual width, and, like the orphrey, is embroidered with a rich design consisting of a twisted stem breaking into leaves or flowers on alternate sides. A similar design is represented on the stole, and, compared with the character of embroidery generally shown in representations of Gothic vestments, is unusually free, and very heavy and rich. But this richness of embroidery and freedom of design seem to have been combined, at this late period, with a very massive and heavy style, not at all suitable for vestments. It was the introduction of such embroidery which led to the cutting down of the large and graceful Gothic chasuble into the stiff and ugly vestment which grew fashionable on the Continent after the Renaissance. We have here only a mere scrap of the chasuble, and it is therefore impossible to say what the shape must have been; but if one may judge from the character of the embroidery as well as the very late type of stole-end, it was more probably somewhat reduced in size than of the full mediæval shape. The effigy incised on the slab at Oathlaw, described in our *Proceedings*, vol. xliii. p. 312, has a chasuble smaller and less full than the majority of Gothic chasubles, and in the West Highlands a curious and perhaps unique form of a chasuble exists, the sides of which are very much cut away.¹ The embroidery shown on the richer examples of this West Highland group is of a heavy type, and there is a consequent lack of folds in the vestments.

The heaviness and richness of the embroidery, although not dissimilar

¹ See *The Book of Arran*, Glasgow, 1910, p. 233.

in character, is not of itself sufficient to justify the assumption that the chasuble of this Parton effigy was of the same type as those of the West Highland figures. The West Highland chasubles have narrow, plain orphreys, even when the rest of the vestment is covered with ornament; the chasuble seldom, if ever, falls so low in front, and is generally more acutely pointed. And the West Highland maniples¹ are invariably of the very narrow type almost universal in mediæval times, unlike the stole shown here.

The stole is perhaps the most remarkable feature shown in this fragment. Fortunately both ends are left. The width is unusual, nearly 3 inches above the splayed ends, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the ends themselves. The stole and maniple in Gothic times were generally very narrow, in England sometimes extremely so. On the Continent, after the Reformation, they began to be made wider and shorter and the ends were more splayed, indeed the modern French stole has been called "spade-ended." Continental effigies, even in Gothic times, sometimes show wider stoles than we find in British examples, and in the present case it would not be unreasonable to look for Continental influence. Across the end of the stole which hangs on the right side of the figure is the holy name "ihesus" followed by an ornamental stop, and across the end on the left side the first two letters of "maria," the rest being broken away. There is a short fringe of the usual kind, 1 inch in depth. This is the only case known to the writer of the two ends of a stole being treated in a different manner, and the whole treatment is unlike anything that is at all usual in England, or in the effigies of the ordinary or English type in Scotland.²

¹ The maniple or fanon is nearly always exactly like the stole, except, of course, as regards length. West Highland effigies rarely show the stole.

² The width of the stole and maniple on the effigy of Bishop Sinclair (?) in Dunkeld Cathedral is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in each case. The thirteenth-century episcopal effigy in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral shows a stole of about the same width and a maniple very little wider. A fifteenth-century effigy of a priest at Luton, Bedfordshire, has the maniple the same width and the stole $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The effigy of a bishop in St Margaret's, Leicester, has a maniple only 1 inch broad, widening to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the end.

No apparel is shown on the skirt of the albe. The absence of an apparel would indicate a late date and perhaps Continental influence, but it is not possible to say that the makers of the effigy did not intend to show one, as effigies of this kind were generally painted, and the apparel may have been painted on the albe without being carved.

SLABS AT MARYTON, FORFARSHIRE.

In the vestry of the parish church of Maryton, Forfarshire, on the south side of Montrose basin, are preserved two mediæval sepulchral slabs, both unfortunately imperfect.

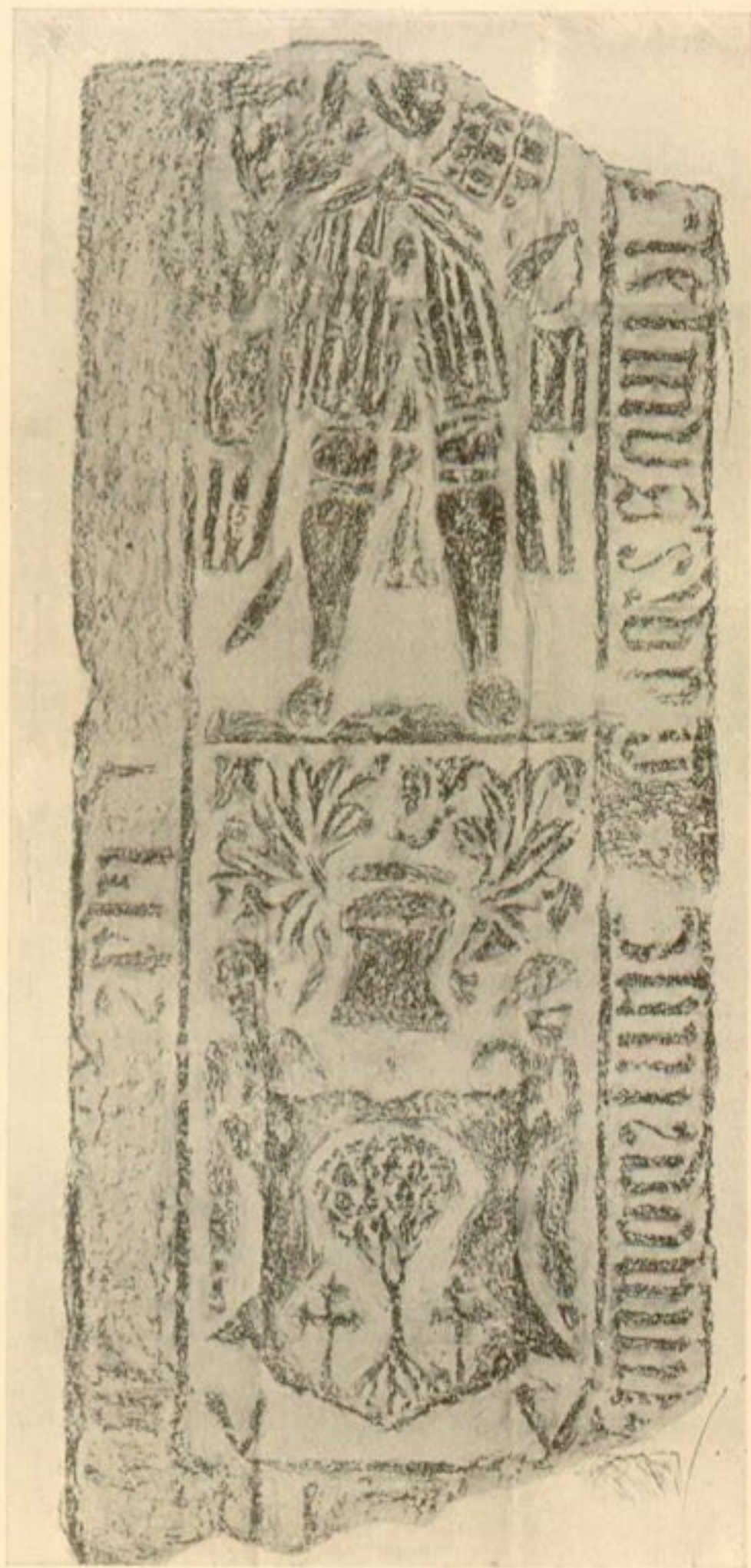
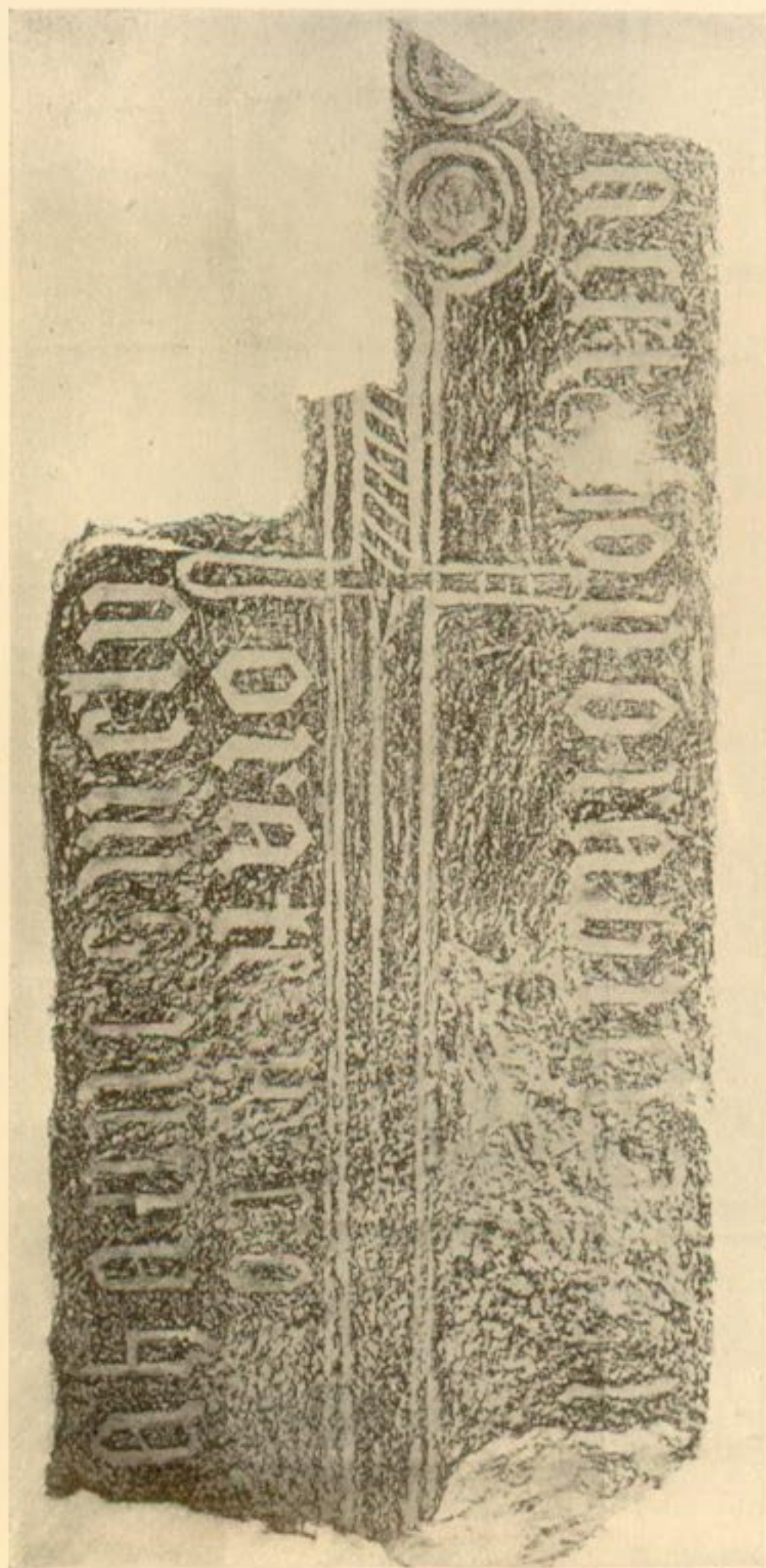
No. 1, which is shown in fig. 15, has a cross incised upon it, and a sword laid upon the cross. The head of the cross is formed by four circles set close together, and the top of the handle of the sword is immediately below the head of the cross.

There is an inscription in bold, incised black letter along each side of the slab near the edge ; it reads :—

[hic i]acet 2 honorabil[is 2 v]ir
 [i]ahannes ¹ melvi[lle ?]
 orate : pro : eo

No. 2, shown in fig. 16, is in low relief. It has a sunk border 4 inches wide, with a raised black-letter inscription and an interesting effigy, the legs of which are in armour and the body apparently in the ordinary dress of the period. The sleeves are puffed and pleated, a cloak hangs on the figure's back, and a sword from the waist. The hands appear to be folded in prayer. The slab is broken off above the hands of the figure. The effigy occupies only the upper part of the slab ; the lower part is filled by an elaborate coat of arms, with the initials V V in the bottom corners outside the shield. The arms are those of Wood of Bonytoun, an oak tree growing out of a mount in base between two crosses-crosslet fitchée, with two savages for supporters.

¹ The person commemorated was no doubt one of the Melvilles of Dysart.



Figs. 15 and 16. Monumental Slabs at Maryton.

The shield is represented as hanging from the helm by what seem to be intended for three links of a chain.

The inscription runs :—

. . . . [Wi]lhelmus 2 wod Olim 2 domin[us]
 t 2 xlii [?]

The slab is about 23½ inches wide, and appears to have been about 5 feet 6 inches long.

MEDIÆVAL RECUMBENT EFFIGY AND SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY
 SLABS AT WICK.

In the burial aisle of the Sinclairs of Stirkoke, a short distance eastward of the present parish church of Wick, is preserved a curious recumbent monumental effigy (fig. 17) of probably the fifteenth or early part of the sixteenth century. The figure is that of an ecclesiastic : it is vested in a long, loose, cassock-like garment with narrow, but loose sleeves, and a kind of large collar at the neck. The head has a large tonsure, round which is a fringe of fairly long hair. The hands are clasped in prayer. On the breast lies a cross with notched ends at the arms ; small round bosses are shown on the arms of the cross and on the top of a small lozenge-shaped addition at the intersection. These seem to be intended to represent jewels.

The feet of the figure rest upon a lion ; the head rests on a flat cushion with small tassels.

Tradition has it that this is a figure of St Fergus, the patron saint of Wick, and a few years ago Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, made an elaborate framework of stone to support the effigy, which was then placed outside the Court House. This erection was afterwards demolished, and the stones which formed it, together with the effigy, were placed in the Stirkoke aisle in the churchyard. Unfortunately, Mr Nicolson refaced nearly the whole of the effigy, so that it is difficult to know how much of the existing detail is original. That it is not an image of St Fergus is clear, and it is also clear that it is a recumbent

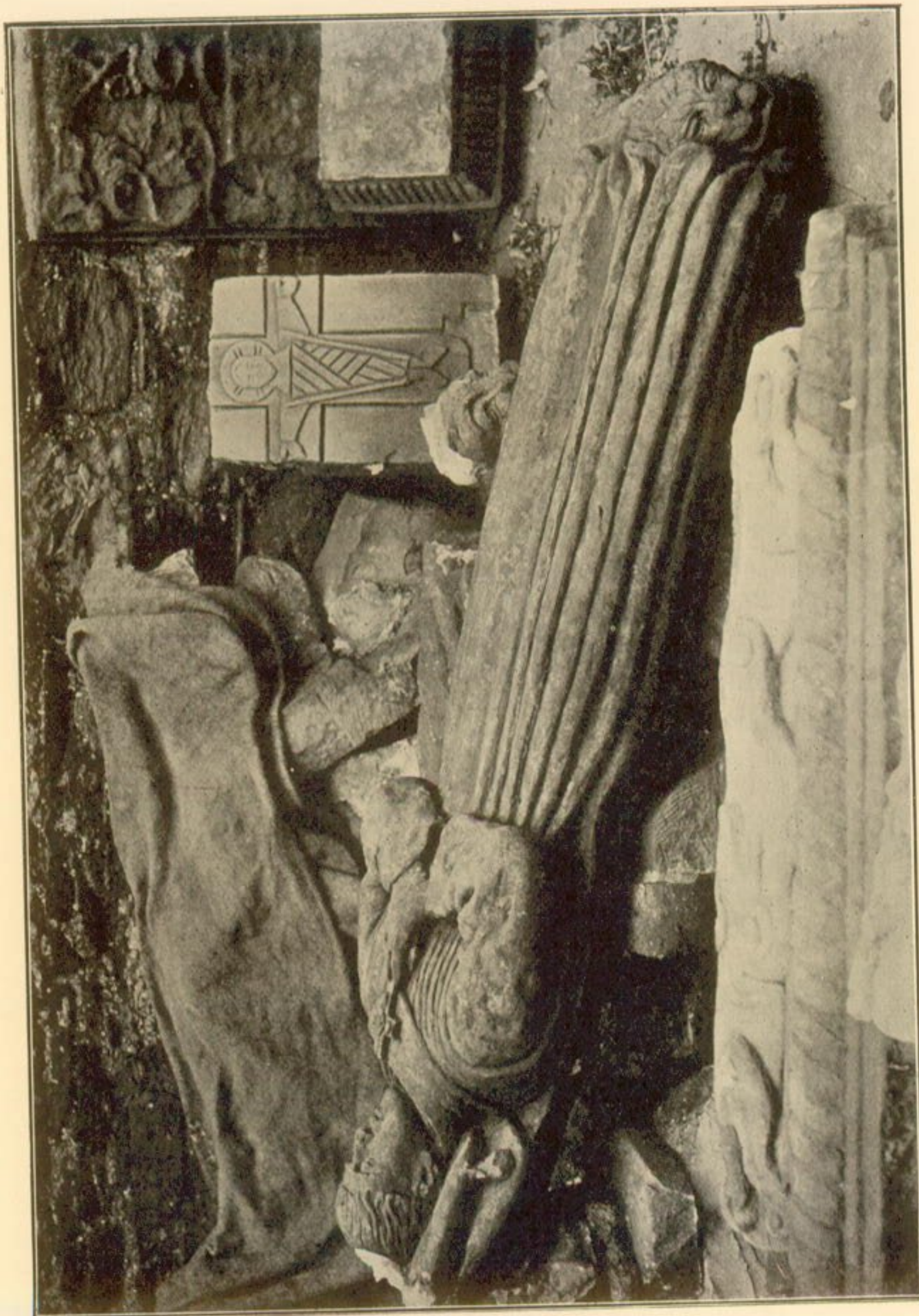


Fig. 17. Recumbent Effigy at Wick, Caithness. (With the exception of the much-weathered armorial slab in the top right-hand corner, the other carvings shown in the photographs are apparently modern.)

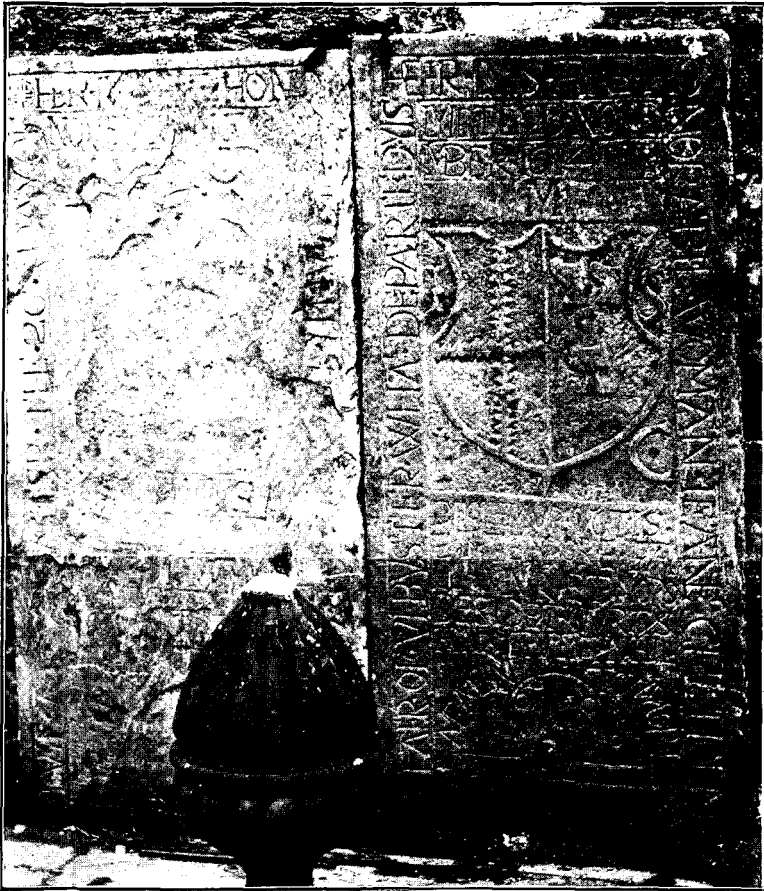


Fig. 18. Two Monumental Slabs at Wick, Caithness.

monumental effigy of an ecclesiastic, taken no doubt from the old church. It may be that the figure was originally represented in albe and apparelled amice and that the details have been obscured in the recent "restoration." But this is by no means certain.

The two upright slabs (fig. 15) on the east wall of the Stirkoke aisle are of a very common seventeenth-century type, and need little remark. One is inscribed:—

HEIR · LYES · ANE · HO
 NORABLE · WOMAN · IEANE · CHISHOLME
 SPOVS · TO · M · IOHNE
 SINCLAER · OF · VLBSTER · WHA · DEPARTED · YIS

[in middle]

LYIF · THE · 23 · NOVE
 MBER · 1614

[Shield]

DECIPIMVR · VOTIS
 ET · TEMPORE · FA
 LLIMVR · ET · MORS
 DERIDET · CURAS
 ANXIA · VILA · NIHIL

MEMEN TO MORI

[Skull]

The other is more worn, and all that can be read is:—

HEIR · LY HON MAN S VLBUSTER
 TED THIS LVIF · THE · 26 · DAY OF NOVEMBER 16