

where did the cross stand originally, for no doubt has been thrown on the natural conclusion that the stone is the head of a standing cross. History records no ancient sanctuary at Rowsley, but is this part of an ancient preaching cross which stood in the village in those distant centuries, but which was not succeeded by an early church? Or was it a wayside sign of the faith for the traveller approaching the Derwent crossing, from the west country? Where the road lamp stands to-day another old road strikes off across the Wye, making for Stanton and Birchover. The ancient cross may very well have stood at this point.

A tablet beside the stone at the present time calls it a preaching cross of the "seventh century." This, as we see, is not proven. Canon Prior who has taken care of the stone will probably have it removed into the church.

T. L. TUDOR.

THE BURBAGE CROSS-SHAFT.

(See illustration).

On the modern road for Leek and Macclesfield from Buxton, through Burbage, a little before the fork for those destinations is a row of tallish dark gritstone dwellings at the foot of the immense spoil heap from the Grinlow quarries and opposite the near end, a long mile from Buxton Crescent, a slip stile opens on a path leading from this to the old Macclesfield road ("Cat and Fiddle" Inn). The cheek or jamb-stone of this stile is the fragmentary shaft of a pre-Norman ecclesiastical cross which does not seem to have been recorded hitherto.

Returning last March from the high moors about the Danehead, the curious tooling on this stone struck me as I passed and I examined it and was satisfied it was the extremely weathered remains of a decorated surface. From enquiries I couldn't learn it had been recorded, so



Photo. by T. E. Routh.

PLATE XI.—Fragment of a pre-Norman Cross-shaft at Burbage, Buxton.

visited it subsequently to be reassured and then reported it to the next meeting of the Council of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and also to the Buxton Archaeological Society. I have not measured it but estimate its height at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet with four inches in the ground, and of a massive section. Our expert in antiquarian photography, Mr. T. E. Routh, shortly after my report, visited it and obtained the accompanying picture which makes detailed description unnecessary. It will be seen the carving on the face is of the "basket interlace" or simple knot pattern with a plain border and a cable moulding at the angle. The stone has been split so that a small portion of this face is missing. I was unable to detect any other ornament on this much weathered and roughly used fragment.

Speculation does not seem to me a very profitable business and all I will add is that from the massiveness of this fragment it is not likely to have been carried very far. Probably it stood near by on the open moor. We must remember the road by which it now stands is quite a recent construction and that there does not seem ever to have been a settlement in the vicinity. Burbage was merely an upland stream or hill beck until recent times and Buckstones itself just a natural feature on the edge of what became the Peak Forest. Of course the same applies to the somewhat similar survival at Chapel-en-le-Firth. The occurrence of such survivals on these remote and always very sparsely populated moorlands merits further study.

W. H. WALTON.

LIST OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN DERBYSHIRE SCHEDULED
BY H.M. COMMISSIONERS OF WORKS.

Ashbourne. Hanging Bridge (over the Dove).

Ashford Bridge.

Ashford. "Sheepwash Bridge."