

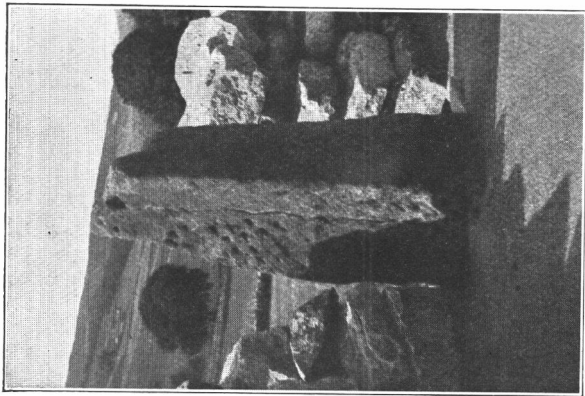
## Gritstone Gatepost at Burbage (Cadmanlow) near Buxton.<sup>1</sup>

By T. L. TUDOR.

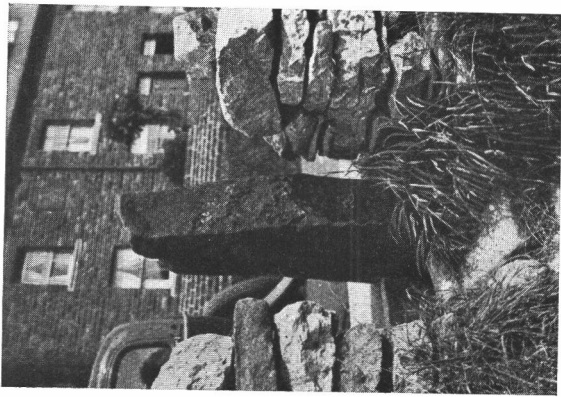
THE Society's *Journal* for 1932 shows an illustration of this stone (see opposite, page 100), and the writer of the accompanying note regards the much worn surface dressings as vestiges of pre-Norman decorative work of the 'basket interlace' pattern. If this view can be established we have undoubtedly the remains of a Christian cross of the Norbury type and some endeavour should be made to rescue it from its present common-place use. In view of the above-stated opinion as to the character of the markings the present writer has made a close examination of the stone with a view to including it in a list of Wayside Minor Monuments which is being prepared by this and other counties in conjunction with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Automobile Association. The idea is to have wayside monuments of special value in all parts of England scheduled by the Ancient Monuments Board.

The writer of these paragraphs must confess that he has been quite unable to detect any evidence of interlacing work. The stone has markings of the kind that are common to numerous gritstone gateposts in all parts of county, in localities as far apart as Tideswell and Little Eaton and in many intermediate places, and as to the general pattern, this does not seem to be any more regular

<sup>1</sup> The stone is best reached from the Ashbourne-Buxton road by leaving the latter at Brierlow Bar and taking the road  $\frac{1}{4}$ -left through Harpur Hill to Burbage; on reaching the junction with the Leek-Buxton road turn right towards Buxton for a quarter of a mile, when the stone will be found. The illustration accompanying this note should render identification easy. Thanks are due to the editor of the *Derbyshire Countryside* for the loan of one of the blocks.—Ed.



GATEPOST AT LADMANLOW, Near BUXTON.



*Photos, by T. L. Tudor.*



than the rough and ready work to be seen whenever we stop to observe the details of such objects.

Concerning what may be regarded as unusually deep cutting of the dressed surfaces this may be accounted for in no more remarkable way than by the existence of a local workshop with its own customary methods. In all parts of Derbyshire this scappling of gateposts was a local industry. Belper has some entertaining reminiscences of this primitive trade. A consideration which weighed heavily with the present writer was that several gritstone rick-stools were observed in the rickyard of Bridgehouse Farm near-by, which have precisely the same appearance as to style and depth of cutting. But as these are hexagonal in plan (about two feet high) they cannot have been cut down from any pre-Norman monument which may have survived in the locality.

The Burbage stone, now the cheek of a stile but formerly one of a pair of gateposts (the fellow is lost and the gateway built up) has been twice used as a hanging post and has broken off towards its upper end where a deeply cut drop-in slot for a stang has weakened it, so that we have only an inconclusive portion of the original post to judge by. A delusive looking cable mould seen down the edge, in the photograph, is quite comparable to many similar markings more or less accidental caused by the rough and varied life of such things. Another delusive feature shown in the photograph is a border of plain surface, but this appears to be due to a natural crack in the post which has stopped the stone-dresser from working on this portion. On examining the remaining faces of the post no further evidence could be found of a pattern deliberately set out. These considerations have forced the present writer to hesitate about including the stone among the minor monuments of the county. But for anyone disposed to carry the question still further there remains the possibility of additional evidence obtainable by digging up the stone and examining the lower part,

at present invisible. Failing this the evidence already examined leaves the question 'non proven.'

A matter quite extraneous to this discussion is of more definite interest, and gives us a glimpse of later and very localised history which came to light during these investigations. The writer of the note already referred to (*Journal*, 1932) says 'there does not seem ever to have been a settlement in the vicinity.' So far as a village is concerned this may be true, but there is another consideration. The post stands opposite a row of houses locally known as 'Jerusalem Terrace' and the meadow which is entered through the stile is known as 'Jerusalem Meadow.' The field path runs down to a farm house anciently known as the 'Homestead' and close by there are remains of extensive buildings showing that here once stood a place of much greater importance than is apparent to-day. An old road from Burbage once ran along the foot of the meadow past the Homestead but it is now obliterated by modern works and the railway.

Regarding the name 'Jerusalem' this appears to be a bit of folk humour of comparatively recent times and of just the sort that we like to discover for its casual human touch. A rustic told us all about it. There was once a well-respected preacher who lived on the terrace opposite the stile, and because his texts and sermons were so liberally illustrated by references to the Holy City the folk in the neighbourhood called the terrace by this name, i.e. 'Jerusalem Terrace,' and thus the name 'Jerusalem Meadow' naturally attached itself to the field which lay opposite. Here we have an excellent illustration of the origin and growth of many place-names, i.e. quite simple and natural in the beginning, and often containing no high mystery for the future enquirer. The investigations just described were carried out jointly with Mrs. Cooper, of Culland Hall, who kindly provided transport. We were both much entertained by the naive manners of our local informant.