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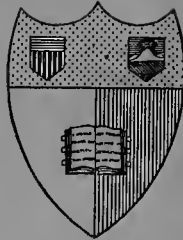
The Megalithic Remains of Anglesey.

BY

Mr. E. NEIL BAYNES, F.S.A.

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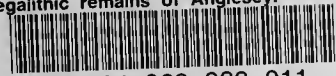
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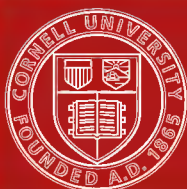
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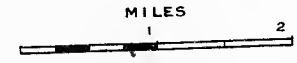
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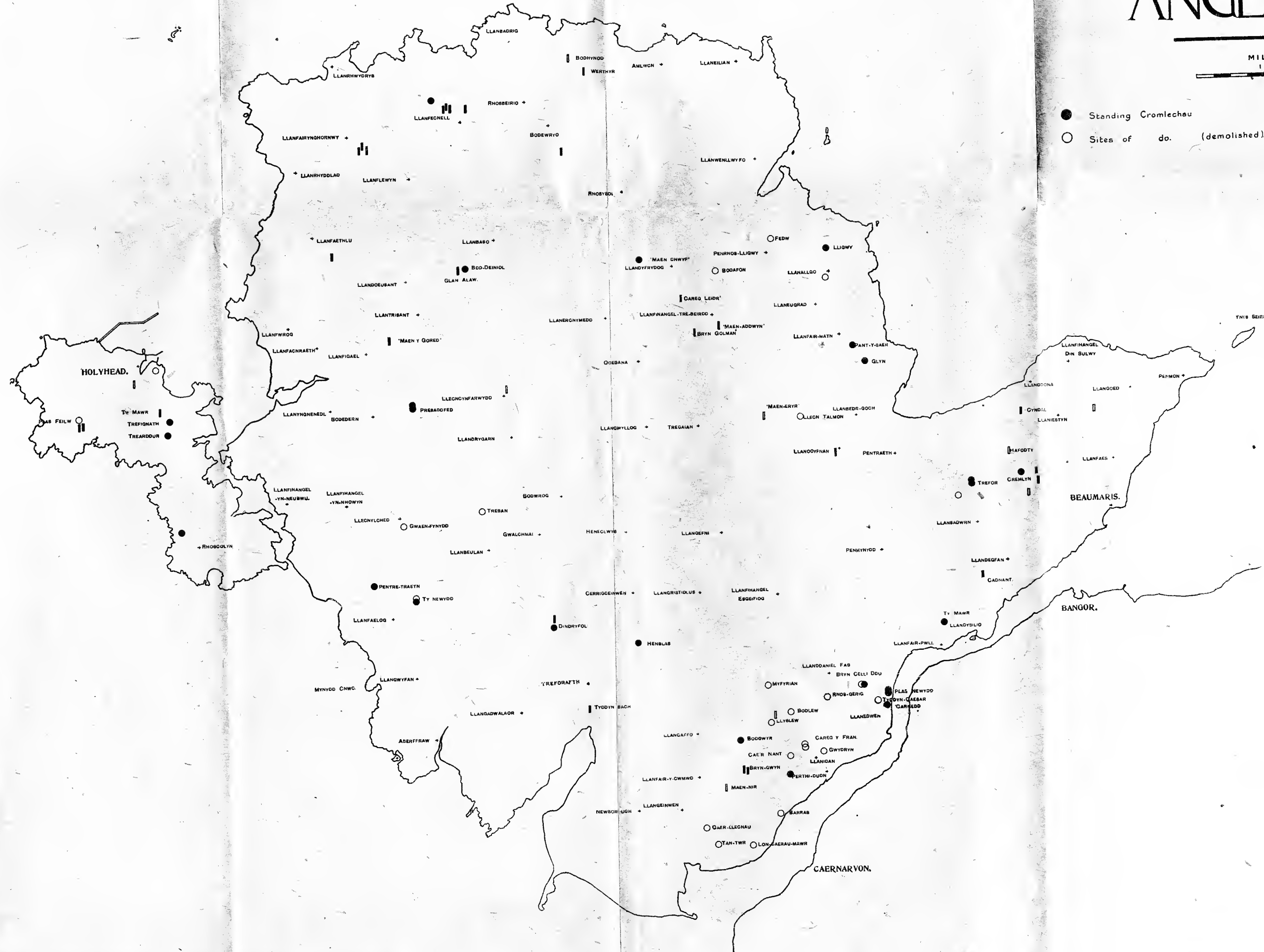
BY

MR. E. NEIL BAYNES, F.S.A.

ANGLESEY



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- Sites of do. (demolished)
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THE MEGALITHIC REMAINS OF ANGLESEY.¹

By MR. E. NEIL BAYNES, F.S.A.

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

The following publications are referred to under abbreviated titles:—

- A. C.—*Archæologia Cambrensis*. London.
A. J.—*Archæological Journal*. London.
A. Ld.—*A History of the Island of Mona*. Angharad Llwyd. Ruthin, 1833.
C. B. (Gibson).—*Camden's Britannia*. Gibson's ed. London, 1772.
C. B. (Gough).—Do. do. Gough's ed. London, 1789.
Cam. Reg.—*The Cambrian Register*. London, 1796-1818.
E.—*A Topographical and Historical Description of North Wales*. Rev. J. Evans. London, 1815 *cir.* (Brayley & Britten's *Beauties of England and Wales*.)
E. N.—*The Cambrian Traveller's Guide*. E. Nicholson. Third ed., 1840.
E. P.—*Cambria Depicta*. E. Pughe. London, 1816.
H. R.—*Mona Antiqua Restaurata*. Hy. Rowlands. London, 1766.
J. E. G.—*A Portfolio of Photographs of the Cromlechs of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire*. J. E. Griffith. Bangor, 1900.
J. S.—*Ten Days' Tour through the Island of Anglesea*. J. Skinner. *Arch. Cam. Supplement*, 1908.
N. O.—*A History of the Island of Anglesey*. N. Owen. London, 1775.
O. S.—*Ordnance Survey Map*.
R. W.—*A Second Walk through Wales*. R. Warner. Bath, 1800.
S. L.—*Topographical Dictionary of Wales*. S. Lewis. London, 1843.

¹ Read before the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, at 20, Hanover Square, on the 10th of February 1911. Chairman, Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, K.C., M.P.

- S. and W.—*Memoirs on Remains of Ancient Dwellings in Holyhead Island*. The Hon. W. O. Stanley, F.S.A., and A. Way, F.S.A. London, 1876.
- T. E.—*The Cambrian Itinerary or Welsh Tourist*. T. Evans. London, 1801.
- T. P.—*A Tour in Wales*. T. Pennant. London, 1783.
- W. B.—*North Wales*. (1793-1801). W. Bingley. London, 1814.
-

The megalithic monuments which used to exist in Anglesey, or that are still to be found there, have so often been recorded and described, that at first it might be supposed that nothing new could be said concerning them. The records, however, are scattered and disjointed, and errors have crept into the names and descriptions, owing to want of personal knowledge and observation on the part of some of the writers.

With the exception of a short account of the dolmen or dolmens at Trefignath, the earliest recorded descriptions are given by the Rev. Henry Rowlands, Vicar of Llanidan, in *Mona Antiqua*, first published in 1723. Some of his views and deductions are very quaint and have received a great deal of adverse criticism, but on the whole he has given us a very fair idea of the monuments that he saw personally, or which he knew to have actually existed, and altogether his work is well ahead of its time. His drawings, moreover, although crude, are not without interest, and it seems strange that some prominent stone monuments escaped his notice, and that the meini hirion are not enumerated by him.

About fifty years after the publication of *Mona Antiqua* and the death of its author, Thomas Pennant made a tour through the island, accompanied by the Rev. J. Llwyd, of Caersws: he gives further particulars, but it is not clear what part of his evidence is first hand, and in some cases

it is obvious that he is only repeating hearsay information.

In 1772, a letter from the Rev. J. Davies, of Newbro', appeared in Gibson's edition of *Camden's Britannia*, and this contains a description of some of the stones which were standing in his time. Owen's *History of Anglesey*, which forms a supplement to the second edition of *Mona Antiqua*, records some fresh monuments, and Gough, in his edition of *Camden* (1779), gives us additional information, including an account of Aubrey's visit to Trefignath cromlech.

The first fairly complete, though not absolutely accurate list of dolmens or cromlechau, is that given by David Thomas in the *Camb. Reg.* (1799). A very similar list was published by Bingley at about the same date. Early in the nineteenth century, Anglesey was evidently explored by the tourist, since from 1800 to 1828, eight guide-books or accounts of tours, including some particulars of the antiquities, were published.

The first of any note is the Rev. John Skinner's *Tour through Anglesea*, in 1802; bequeathed to the British Museum, together with other *Journals* in 1839, subject to the curious condition that the Chests containing them should not be opened until fifty years after his death. Consequently, later writers were unaware of Skinner's notes until 1889. This tour is of great interest, as a description, often accompanied by a pencil sketch, is given of the objects visited by him, and they are described as he actually found them in 1802. Edward Pughe, in 1816, supplies some further particulars from personal observation, and, in 1833, Miss Angharad Llwyd published her *History of Mona*,¹ which is a very com-

¹ A prize essay at the Beaumaris Eisteddfod, 1832.

plete and interesting work on Anglesey. She had special facilities for acquiring information, and had access to the MSS. of her father, the Rev. J. Llwyd, who, as already stated, had been Pennant's guide and companion on his visits to Anglesey and other parts of Wales. A certain number of mistakes are however to be found, owing partly to the lack of local knowledge and partly to the fact that the notes of which she made use, though accurate in their account of the monuments at the time they were made, no longer correctly described their condition in 1833.

In the *Arch. Camb.* for 1854 and 1855 is to be found an almost complete list of antiquities, including the cromlechau and meini hirion, of Anglesey. This is the work of the Rev. H. Longueville Jones. Coming to more recent times we have the Hon. W. O. Stanley's list in the *Arch. Camb.* for 1870, and a detailed schedule, the joint work of Mr. A. Way and the Rev. Wynn Williams of Menaifron, in the *Arch. Journ.* of 1871. Lastly, we are indebted to the Rev. Hugh Prichard, of Dinam, and the Rev. Wynn Williams for some important papers on stone monuments, and various other subjects, which have appeared in the *Arch. Camb.*, and to the Rev. Evan Evans of Llansadwrn, for having re-discovered the dolmen at Glyn. Mr. J. E. Griffith's portfolio of photographs of the cromlechs of Anglesey and Carnarvon gives some interesting views of these monuments, and has done much to keep alive public interest in them.

The first¹ 1 in. Ordnance Survey, published in 1841, and the 1 in., 6 in. and 25 in. Surveys, made in 1886-8, and corrected almost to date, and information to be derived from

¹ It is unfortunate that the Surveyor's notes have not been preserved.

present inhabitants exhaust the sources from which evidence can be obtained.

I must express my thanks to all those who have assisted me in getting together the materials for this paper. In particular, I should like to mention Mr. Edward Greenly, F.G.S., who has been studying the geology of Anglesey for some years, and who kindly supplied geological notes on the different stones; the Rev. Richard Evans of Llanidan, who directed my attention to the site of a demolished cromlech at Brynsiencyn; also H.M. Office of Works and Dr. Norman, who have most kindly permitted me to make use of some of their photographs.

The question of orientation brought forward by Sir Norman Lockyer, opens up a new and interesting field for investigation with regard to existing stone monuments, and I am of opinion that no description of megalithic remains is complete unless accompanied by details of such alignments as may suggest themselves to the observer. When a stone, or collection of stones, is found to be in alignment with some point on the eastern horizon the orientation may have been intentional or fortuitous; but before a decision on this point can be arrived at some consideration of the primary details of the subject is necessary.

The sun rises at the Summer and Winter Solstices, and also at the equinoxes, with very little variation during hundreds of years, at some fixed point in the eastern horizon, and sets again at the same periods at nearly corresponding points in the western sky. It is, I believe, a fact recognised by all, that in early ages of the world's history these periods were considered critical times of the years, and that various ceremonies, probably of a religious nature, took place in connection with the sunrise at these times: this was certainly the case in Egypt and the East and probably elsewhere.

Sir Norman Lockyer also¹ calls attention to another, and as he believes, an earlier year which was not solstitial. This, the May-November, or the farmer's year, still survives in Anglesey, farm servants being engaged and rents paid at these dates. It was calculated from about the 5th of May, half way between the vernal equinox and the Summer Solstice to about the 8th Nov. which is half-way between the autumnal equinox to the Winter Solstice. In making the necessary observations for ascertaining the orientation of the various monuments, a prismatic compass or some similar instrument is as a rule sufficiently accurate. It is of course requisite to know the magnetic variation of the compass needle on the spot where the observations are to be made, and to take this variation into account when correcting the measures. This enables one to calculate the Azimuth, or angular bearing, either east or west, from the north or south points, and to preserve a permanent record of the alignments.

The five points of sunrise, corrected for Anglesey, are approximately (1910) as follows:—

	Compass reading.	Azimuth.
Summer Solstice sunrise ...	65°.	N.47°.E.
May sunrise ...	79°.	N.61°.E.
Equinoctial sunrise ...	108°.	90°.E.
November sunrise ...	135°.	S.63°.E.
Winter sunrise ...	149°.	S.49°.E.

I refer only to alignments to the sunrise for the reason that star alignments appear to be almost absent in Anglesey, and personally I should doubt, taking into consideration the uncertainty of the west coast climate, whether star alignments would have been of much practical use.

¹ *Stonehenge*, p. 23.

Sir Norman Lockyer only obtained two such alignments on the island. As far as the examples in Anglesey are concerned, the method of procedure when an oriented monument was to be erected seems to have been as follows. The edge of a large stone was apparently first placed in alignment with the point required, and in the event of the erection being a dolmen, the creepway seems to have followed the direction of this stone. When we have to deal with a dolmen that is complete with its alleé undisturbed, it is an easy matter to find the orientation, if it has one, but when the alleé has been destroyed the only method available is to find the directing stone; if this is absent, the task is practically hopeless. There are no stone circles or avenues in Anglesey, but occasionally alignments can be made from an outstanding stone to a dolmen or vice versa, or from one stone to another, and again the meini hirion, when shaped like flat slabs may have an alignment of their major axis or sides directed to one of the five points of the compass I have referred to. For any further information on this subject the *Dawn of Astronomy* or the second edition of *Stonehenge*, by Sir Norman Lockyer, should be consulted.

I proceed to give a list of all the megalithic monuments which I have been able to trace in the Island of Anglesey, and when referring to those that are now extant, or of which sufficient trace still remains, I will give the orientation. Many other monuments doubtless existed formerly in the Island and were destroyed at the time when the roads were first made, the lands enclosed, and the building of houses became general. Let us hope that the day is now past when stone-mason's materials are to be sought for among the few megalithic remains which are left to us.

The dolmens, or cromlechau as they are termed in

Wales, may, in the first place, be grouped under three headings. (1) Those to which bare reference has been made, and concerning which we have no particulars. (2) Those of which there exists some description, but which have since been demolished, and (3) Those which now remain nearly intact or in an advanced or partial condition of decay.

Fourteen examples fall under the first heading, viz.:— One at BARRAS, near Brynsiencyn, one and a quarter miles S.W. by S. of Llanidan (New) Church.¹ Rowlands writes: “There are also ruins of a small cromlech not far from the last mentioned (Carreg y fran), at a place called Barras”.

Skinner seems to have searched for one at BODLEW, one and three-quarter miles S.W. of Llanddaniel Church, mentioned by David Thomas, but was informed that it had been cleared away.

One at CAE’R LLECHAU, three-quarters of a mile S.E. by S. of Llangeinwen Church. Reported by Stanley,² and also by Way,³ who states that it had been demolished before 1871. There was a tradition that bronze weapons or implements of some kind had been found near this spot. (A similar story attaches to the Perthi duon dolmen, referred to later.) Judging from the name of the place, Cae’r llechau, or the field of the flat stones, it may be that more than one dolmen stood there.

Rowlands⁴ records the remains of a cromlech at Cerrig Wydrin (GWYDRYN), in the parish of Llanidan, and one-quarter of a mile N.E. of the (New) Church. It may have stood close to the spot where the name “Gwydryn” appears in Gothic type on the Ordnance Survey of 1841. This is but a short distance to the south of Caer Idris and the site lies open to the south-east.

¹ H. R., p. 93.

² A. C., 1870, p. 55.

³ A. J., 1871, p. 104.

⁴ H. R., p. 94.

A cromlech at FEDW, Parciau, over half a mile N. by W. of Penrhoslligwy Church, is mentioned by David Thomas, but no information can now be obtained concerning it. The farm of Fedw has an easterly aspect.

The words "site of cromlech" at LLYSLEW, in Llanidan parish, and one and a quarter miles N.W. of the (New) Church, appear in the Ordnance Survey of 1841. Rowlands¹ says: "There are near Llyslew barn . . . the tokens of a carnedd", and Miss Llwyd adds "two upright stones only are left at Llyslew". Rowlands also refers to a maen hir at this spot.

A cromlech at MYFYRIAN, also in Llanidan, and two miles N.N.W. of the (New) Church, is recorded in David Thomas' list. Skinner,² however, on making enquiries found that it had been destroyed.

The Rev. Longueville Jones, in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1855,³ writes: "The doubtful remains of a cromlech" (at PLAS FELLW), "are to be observed on an eminence in a rocky field, east of the road leading to Plas Milo, about two miles south-west of Holyhead". No further reference to this monument can be found.

A ruined cromlech at RHOS Y CERRIG, one mile S.S.W. of Llanddaniel Church, is noted by Rowlands,⁴ and another large demolished one, at TYDDYN CÆSAR,⁵ half a mile N. by W. of Llanedwen Church, is also mentioned by him.⁶ This must have stood close to the present farm buildings at Plas Newydd.

In the *Arch. Journ.*, 1846,⁷ Mr. Longueville Jones writes: "Another cromlech, we have been informed, quite sur-

¹ H. R., p. 93.

² J. S., p. 23.

³ p. 25.

⁴ H. R., p. 24.

⁵ Formerly the residence of Sir Julius Cæsar, Master of the Rolls, 1615.

⁶ H. R., p. 23.

⁷ p. 42.

rounded with stones and earth, has been found" (in the parish of LLANFAELOG), "by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne". This cannot be identified.

David Thomas mentions three small altars on the CRIGYLL river, Llechylched, but no details are obtainable concerning them.

Of the second group of dolmens, those which are no longer extant but concerning which we have some particulars, thirteen instances can be cited.

A single one on the south side of BODAFON MOUNTAIN, in the parish of Llanfihangel-tre'r-beirdd, and over half a mile N.N.E. of the church. (David Thomas, in his list, says there are three cromlechau on Bodafon mountain.) This error has been copied by Bingley¹ and Miss Llwyd.² It apparently arose in the first instance from confusing Tre Beirdd, Llanidan, with Llanfihangel-tre'r-beirdd, and in consequence of this mistake Miss Llwyd says that, besides the above mentioned, there were the ruins of one at Banas [? Barras], and a demolished one at Carreg y fran, the two latter being of course in Llanidan parish on the other side of the island.

Skinner³ says that this dolmen was called "Lldercoch". He describes it as nearly square, the upper stone being about 11 ft. across, supported by four or five small uprights, not above 1 ft. 6 ins. from the surface. He also adds that had he not been assured that it was a genuine cromlech he would almost have doubted whether it had been designed for one. He gives a sketch of it.

Possibly this dolmen was called Cromlech Lidach or Ligach as, according to the *Camb. Reg.*, v, ii, p. 288, Lidach Chapel was near Tre-wynn, a farm which adjoins the slope of Bodafon Mountain on which the cromlech

¹ W. B., p. 203.

² A. Ld., p. 263.

³ J. S., p. 73.

stood. Lewis Morris, however, in *Celtic Remains*, p. 250, refers to "Ffridd Ligach", or the field in which the chapel is supposed to have been situated. He also says that a cromlech at Llanfihangel-tre'r-beirdd is called "Coetan Arthur", and this may have been a name given to the monument now under discussion.

The size of the capstone is also given in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1867, as 11 ft. across and about 3 ft. thick. It had seven supporters but rested only on four. A drawing of the monument accompanies these particulars, and I do not think that anyone who looks at the sketch will doubt that it was a genuine dolmen.

In the *Antiquary* (1894, p. 73), Mr. Lines describes a visit he had paid to the monument, and states that the capstone was 11 ft. 9 ins. and 4 ft. 6 ins. thick. Beneath lay five supporters which had given way and caused it to swerve four or five feet from its first position. He adds: "It was placed upon the outer curve of what appears to have been originally a double concentric semi-circle, surrounding a smaller circle of 25 ft. diameter".

It was demolished, before 1871, when the steep road over the mountain was diverted, and it is reported¹ to have been broken up and converted into road metal. The site is marked on the 6 in. Ordnance Survey.

A double dolmen called CARREG Y FRAN, in the parish of Llanidan, and quarter of a mile N.W. of the (New) Church, is mentioned and figured by Rowlands². He writes: "not far from the last mentioned" (Perthi duon dolmen), "there appears another demolished cromlech now called Carreg y fran, which seems to have been a double one; the two larger incumbent flat stones, with many lesser supporters, lie disorderly leaning one on the other." The site is about

¹ A. J., 1871, p. 107.

² H. R., p. 93.

430 yds. N.W. of Llanidan (New) Church, but at the present time no traces of the dolmens remain.

From information supplied locally it appears that an unrecorded dolmen once stood at a short distance to the N.E. of Brynsiencyn, on the small farm of CAE'R NANT, half a mile W.N.W. of Llanidan (New) Church, in a field still known as "Cae Gromlech". I was informed by the tenant that it was broken up about 50 or 60 years ago, when some of the stones were built into the farmhouse and others used in making up the bank at the S.W. end of Cae Gromlech. An old man, who remembers it well, describes the capstone as standing on two supporters at such a height that he could pass underneath it by merely bending his shoulders. He added that it bore a great resemblance to the dolmen at Bodowyr.

A "Cromlech destroyed" is marked on the ground-plan, of Cyttiau, etc., at HOLYHEAD, attached to Stanley's first Memoir, *Arch. Journ.*, v, xxiv. It stood half a mile E.S.E. of the Church and just to the east of the present inner harbour but no particulars are given.

In Skinner's *Tour through Anglesea*¹ a dolmen in the parish of LLANALLGO, which had previously been mentioned by David Thomas, is thus described: "passed a stone 7 ft. 9 ins. long and 3 ft. thick; this is placed edge-ways on a flat rock. Another about the same shape and dimensions lies on the ground near at hand. A third, formerly placed across, has been destroyed within the memory of some of the inhabitants. These stones are called cromlech, but I should rather imagine, like those we noticed at Llanfechell, that it had constituted the chamber of a large carnedd". He appends a sketch of the stones. The remains cannot be found at the present

time, neither can any information concerning them be obtained on the spot.

A dolmen known as **LLECH TALMON**, in the parish of Llanddyfnan, and one and a quarter miles N.W. of the Church, is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841; it does not appear on any later survey. Miss Llwyd¹ says that there used to be one at Llech tal y môn, and describes it as "now demolished". This information appears to have been copied from David Thomas' list. Longueville Jones, however, refers² to an erect stone at Llech Talmon. It was possibly a supporter of the capstone.

Remains of a dolmen at **LÔN CAERAU MAWR**, one and three-quarter miles E.S.E. of Llangeinwen Church, are mentioned by Way,³ who adds that one side supporter was standing in 1871. Stanley, however, in 1874, says⁴ there are several upright stones not of large size. One, set edgeways, has apparently formed a supporter to a small dolmen or cistfaen.

Somewhat similar remains at **TAN TWR**, one mile S.E. of the Church in the same parish, are mentioned by Way.⁵

A small dolmen near **TREFOR** is thus described by Skinner⁶: "About two fields from Trefor we traced one of very small dimensions, the capstone not being above 1 yd. across, and its two supporters 1 ft. 6 ins. high".

A dolmen at **TREBAN**, one and a quarter miles N.N.W. of Llanbeulan Church, first mentioned in the *Arch. Camb.* for 1855,⁷ was demolished about 1870, according to Stanley,⁸ by an improving farmer. The son of the present tenant told me that it was a large dolmen with a massive capstone resting on three supporters. The capstone was destroyed by his father who, when the men wanted some stone to

¹ A. Ld., p. 253.

² A. C., 1855, p. 23.

³ A. J., 1871, p. 104.

⁴ A. J., 1874, p. 326.

⁵ A. J., 1871, p. 104.

⁶ J. S., p. 86.

⁷ p. 25.

⁸ A.C. 1870, p. 55.

make a wall, in a moment of thoughtlessness, said: "O, go and blast that big stone up there". Afterwards he was very sorry that he had given the order. The supporters were standing twenty years ago. The site is close to a rocky outcrop called "Craig yr Allor". The dolmen is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, and the site is shewn on the present 6 in. and 25 in. maps.

Remains of a dolmen at WAEN FYNDD, in the parish of Llechylched, and half a mile S.S.E. of the church, were chronicled in 1871 both by Hugh Prichard and Way. The former, in his account, remarks: "Two stones of a cromlech, the largest of which measures superficially 9 ft. by 5 ft. 6 ins., and is 3 ft. thick, are at present the only perceptible antiquities, with the exception of a large stone built into a wall. The capstone of the cromlech, 15 ft. long, was broken up many years ago".²

There were perhaps two dolmens at TY NEWYDD, three-quarters of a mile N.E. of Llanfaelog³ Church. One will be described later on but the other has been demolished.

In David Thomas's list there is mention of two dolmens at RHOS FAWR, but he does not give any particulars concerning them, and in consequence they are supposed by some to have been destroyed. The monuments referred to are, I believe, those at Glyn and Pant y Saer: the latter is a very prominent object and could hardly have been omitted from the list.

We now arrive at the last and most interesting group of dolmens, namely, the twenty-seven examples which are either fairly complete or in a partially ruined condition.

Of these, the dolmen at BRYN CELLI DDU, in the parish

¹ A. C., 1871, p. 53.

² Mr. Rich. Williams, the tenant of Gwaen Fynydd, writes, Feb., 1911: "The remains of the cromlech are still here untouched".

³ A. J., 1846, p. 42.



Fig. 2. Bryn Celli ddu, Llanddaniel. Distant View of Dolmen.

of Llanddaniel, and three-quarters of a mile E.S.E. of the Church, is in the best state of preservation and therefore seems worthy of first notice.

Being close to Rowlands' home it naturally attracted his attention, and he thus describes it¹: "There are also in Llanddaniel parish, at a place formerly called Llwyn Llwyd, now Bryn Kelli, the remains of two carnedds within a few paces of one another; the one (fig. 3) is somewhat broken and pitted into on one side where the stones have been carried away; the other (fig. 4) having had its stones almost all taken away into walls and bridges, with two standing columns erected between them." A curious old-fashioned engraving is given, which is of interest, as it shews the position of the two standing stones and their relation to the carneddau.

Between the date of Rowlands' death and 1770, when Pennant made his tour through the island, the chamber in the larger or eastern carnedd, had been discovered, for Pennant describes the creepway² as being 3 ft. wide, 4 ft. 2 ins. high, and about 19 ft. 6 ins. long. In the middle of the chamber was an artless stone pillar 4 ft. 8 ins. in circumference and "along the sides of the room a stone bench" on which were found human bones "which crumbled at the touch". This stone bench is only mentioned by Pennant, and it is very doubtful whether it was really found there as described. From his description it is not clear that he personally visited the spot, he certainly makes no mention of the second carnedd.

Skinner, in 1802, seems to have made a careful examination of the site. He refers³ to his visit to the spot, "where in Mr. Rowlands' time there were two carnedds remaining, having two rude stone pillars placed between

¹ H. R., p. 94.

² T. P., ii, p. 262.

³ J. S., p. 25.

them, but these stones have been employed for the purpose of building a wall near this place, as well as a great part of the western carnedd which is nearly destroyed for the same purpose about 20 years ago (1780), when the labourers, when digging towards the centre, discovered a flat pan, about 10 ins., overturned bottom upwards and under it a wedge of gold, as they pretend, the size of the heater of an urn, with a piece of wire passing through the smaller end of it”.

The discovery of the chamber in the eastern carnedd is thus described by Skinner: “whilst a farmer was removing some of the stones from the N.E. side of the larger carnedd”, in order to employ them in his repairs, he came to the mouth of a passage covered with a square stone. On crawling down the passage and into the chamber he found a stone pillar about 6 ft. high, “standing in the centre of the chamber”. He overturned the stone to discover what might be buried beneath but he only found some large human bones lying near the pillar. There is no mention of any stone bench.

When Skinner entered the chamber he found the walls composed of flat stones, the intermediate space up to the roof being filled with stones placed one above the other in the manner in which they build walls, but without any kind of cement. Two prodigious flat stones covered the whole, one about 3 yds. in length and 2 yds. in breadth; the pillar lying in the cavern appeared to have been rounded with the tool. Pugh seems to have visited the spot but he tells us nothing new.

Miss Llwyd, writing in 1833,¹ says: “The two upright stones are still (*sic*) in position and in several of the adjacent fields are stones of large dimensions”. But the

¹ A. Ld., p. 221.

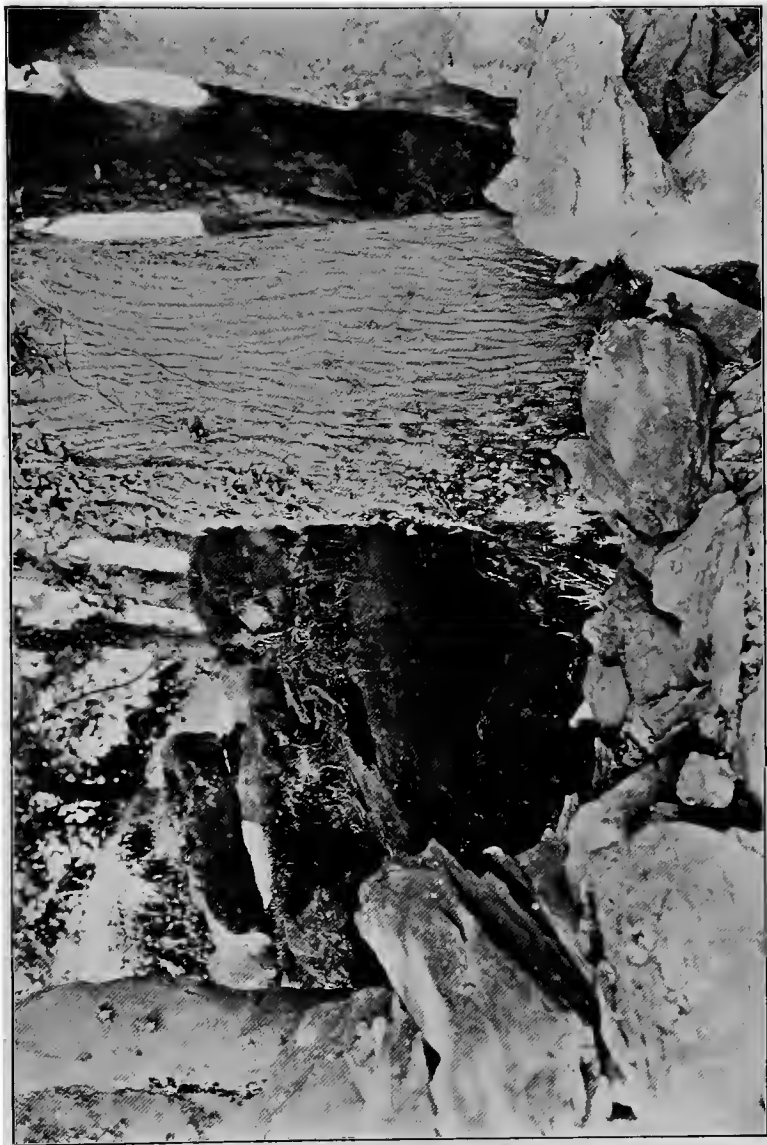


Fig. 3. Bryn Celli ddu, Llandaniel. Entrance to Crawl.

two upright stones, as we know from Skinner, had been demolished more than thirty years previously. Miss Llwyd gives¹ the dimensions of the creepway as 3 ft. wide, 4 ft. 6 ins. high, and about 19 ft. 6 ins. long. The "little room" is described as being covered by one stone near 10 ft. in diameter, supported by a rude pillar in the middle, and reference is also made to the stone seat and human bones, evidently quoted from Pennant. The statements that the roof consisted of one stone and that the pillar supported it, are at variance both with Skinner's sketches and with the fact that the farmer is said to have overturned the pillar immediately after entering; in any case a roof composed of two massive blocks of stone would not need support in the centre.

In 1847,² the pillar is described as prostrate in the middle of the chamber, but there was no sign of the stone bench. The width of the entrance to the chamber is given at 20 ins. About the same year the site was protected by enclosing it with a stone wall,³ and trees were planted round the remains of the carnedd.

The Rev. E. L. Barnwell, in 1869, contributed a paper to the *Arch. Camb.*,⁴ in which is incorporated an excellent ground-plan and some notes by Captain Lukis, in which the latter mentions a second pillar near a small side cist close to the entrance to the crawl and about 3 ft. down it. He excavated the chamber and found on its right side a pavement of flat slabs lying on a bed of beach gravel about 2 ft. thick; no pottery was found, but there were a few fragments of lead, some charcoal, a broken flint knife, a javelin head, and some pieces of human bones. The length of the larger pillar is given as 9 ft. Mr. Barnwell points out that there are two small

¹ A. Ld., p. 241.² A. C., 1847, p. 1.³ *Ib.*, p. 3.⁴ p. 140.

cists which lead into the creepway, almost opposite each other, and he adds that some thirty or forty years previously one of the servants at Dinam remembered, as a boy, playing up and down the carn which was then tolerably complete, and as far as he could remember, the side chambers, shown by Captain Lukis in his plan, were then in existence. Mr. Barnwell was unable to find the second pillar.

The following finds from Bryn Celli were presented to the British Museum by Captain F. D. Lukis, in April 1875; a piece of red colouring matter,¹ a fragment of pottery, shells, and a lead band, but there is no record of the exact spot where they were found, or of the date of their discovery.

In the *Arch. Camb.* of 1895,² Mr. Hubert Allen calls attention to the fact that "three large stones on the outer circumference of the rise . . ." probably formed part of a circle of stones which bounded the carnedd.

The site is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841 as "Yr Ogof", and in the surveys since 1895 as "Carnedd".

The alignment of the creepway is between 69° and 70° Mag. (Az. N. 51-2 E.), which allowing for a 2° hill is within 2° of the Summer Solstice sun-rising.

The trees which have been planted close to the dolmen are now a source of danger, as the roots have doubtless grown round some of the stones and in a strong wind

¹ The red colouring matter was probably composed of ground hematite. Stanley refers (*A. J.*, xxvii, p. 161, and 3rd Mem., p. 5) to a "quartzite grinding stone, much worn by friction and deeply tinged with red, such as would be produced by grinding hematite of iron", found in one of the cyttiau at Pen y Bonc, Holyhead. Sir John Evans says that "there can be little doubt of this red pigment having been in use for what was considered a personal decoration by the early inhabitants of Britain".

² p. 157.

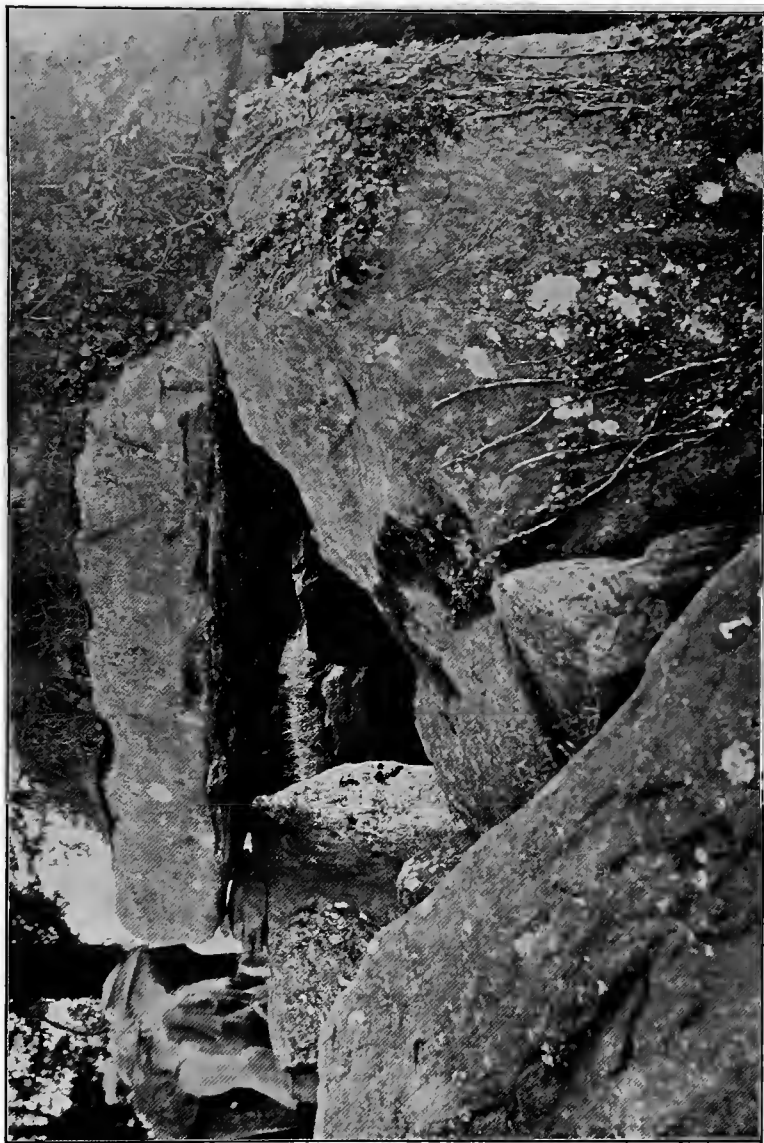


Fig. 4. Bryn Celli ddu, Llanddaniel. Chamber and Remaining Capstone.

might cause them to move from their positions, also the wall, which is built within a few feet of the remains, quite prevents the observer from forming any idea of the general appearance of the monument.

The supports are of schist (local). The capstone, which is in position, is of the carboniferous pebbly sandstone, which occurs a mile or so to the south. (E. G.)

Unfortunately in none of the records relating to the destruction of the western carnedd, is there any information as to whether a chamber and alleé or a cistfaen was hidden under the tumulus, or whether the objects described by Skinner were all that it contained.

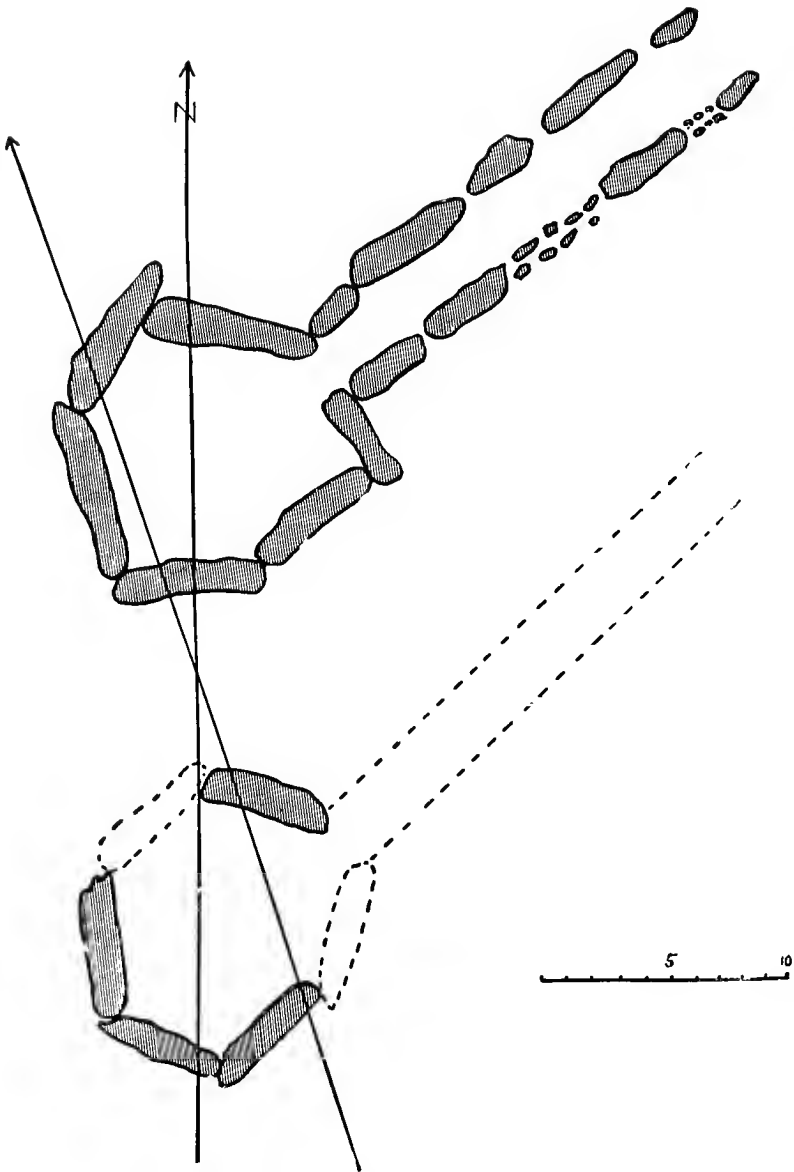
This is perhaps the finest monument of its kind in Great Britain and it is earnestly to be hoped that Lord Anglesey will hand it over to the care of the Commissioners for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

References¹:—

H. R., p. 94, fig.	A. C., 1847, p. 1, fig.
T. P., ii, p. 262	„ „ 1854, p. 205
C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 570	„ „ 1860, p. 364
Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288	„ „ 1869, p. 140
J. S., p. 25, fig.	„ „ 1870, p. 55, fig.
E. P., p. 71	„ „ 1895, p. 157
A. Ld., pp. 221 and 241	„ „ 1908, p. 67, fig.
S. L., i, p. 502	A. J., 1871, p. 102
J. E. G., fig.	

Not far from Llyn Llywenan at PRESADDFED, in the parish of Bodedern, and over three quarters of a mile E.N.E. of the Church, there stands a fine dolmen, and a little further to the north, at the distance of a few feet, is to be seen a second one, in the latter case, however, the

¹ References to existing dolmens will be found at the end of their descriptions.



To face p. 23.

Fig. 6. Ground Plans of Bryn Celli and Presaddfed compared.

In 1846 it is stated by Mr. Longueville Jones¹ that this cromlech was surrounded by a "great number of small stones affording a strong presumption that here was once a cairn", and in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1870, we are told² that "it originally consisted of two chambers with openings facing the east".

Griffith gives the following measurements:—Capstone 12 ft. 6 ins. long, at one end 8 ft. wide, at the other 7 ft., thickness from 20 to 28 ins. The supports are from 4 ft. 4 ins. to 4 ft. 6 ins. in height.

These remains are marked on the Ordnance Map of 1841 and all subsequent surveys.

When I first saw the standing dolmen I was immediately struck with the resemblance which the arrangement of its uprights bore to that at Bryn Celli, which latter monument is directed to the Summer Solstice sunrise. Sir Norman Lockyer was of opinion that the creepway originally extended in a north-westerly direction, at right angles to the south-east stone and towards the Summer Solstice sunset, but I originally had an impression, which still holds good, that it must have been directed to the sunrise, although when I formed this opinion I was not aware of the statement in the *Arch. Camb.* of 1870, above referred to, where it is said that the opening faced the east. Sir Norman and I were agreed that the position of the south-east stone was the key to the alignment of the creepway. I have obtained an accurate ground plan of the upright stones, and if the alignment of the south-east stone, viz., 65° Mag. (Az. N. 47° E.), is correct, it seems to me that the chamber was designed approximately on the same plan as that at Bryn Celli, and that the creepway followed the direction of the south-east stone towards

¹ A. J., 1846, p. 43.

² p. 365.

the Summer Solstice sunrise, and not at right angles to it towards the sunset (fig. 5).

The geological particulars supplied by Mr. Edward Greenly with regard to these dolmens are as follows:—
 No. 1. Capstone and two supports of Ordovician pebbly grit; two remaining supports of chlorite mica schist.
 No. 2. Capstone and one support of local chlorite mica schist. One support of chloritic epidote schist and the remaining two supports of Ordovician pebbly grit.

“There is therefore much the same assemblage of materials in both cromlechs. The cromlechs stand on the schists: but the Ordovician rocks are close by, the boundary runs just along the east side of Presaddfed woods. Only shales, however, occur there, but the pebbly grits come on about Bodynolwyn, two and a half miles to the N.N.E., and have sent so many boulders out with the ice that there are plenty at Presaddfed.” (E. G.)

I am glad to say that Major Fox Pitt has handed over these dolmens to the custody of the Commissioners for the Protection of Ancient Monuments.

C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 571

J. S., p. 50, fig.

A. Ld., pp. 188 and 243

S. L., i, p. 93

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25

„ „ 1862, p. 13, fig.

„ „ 1870, p. 365

„ „ 1871, p. 283

A. J., 1846, p. 43, fig.

„ „ 1871, p. 106.

Perhaps no megalithic remains in these islands have been more frequently illustrated than the two standing dolmens at PLAS NEWYDD, in the parish of Llanedwen, and one mile north of the Church. Rowlands gives but a poor description¹ of them. He makes the larger capstone 13 ft. long,

¹ H. R., p. 47.

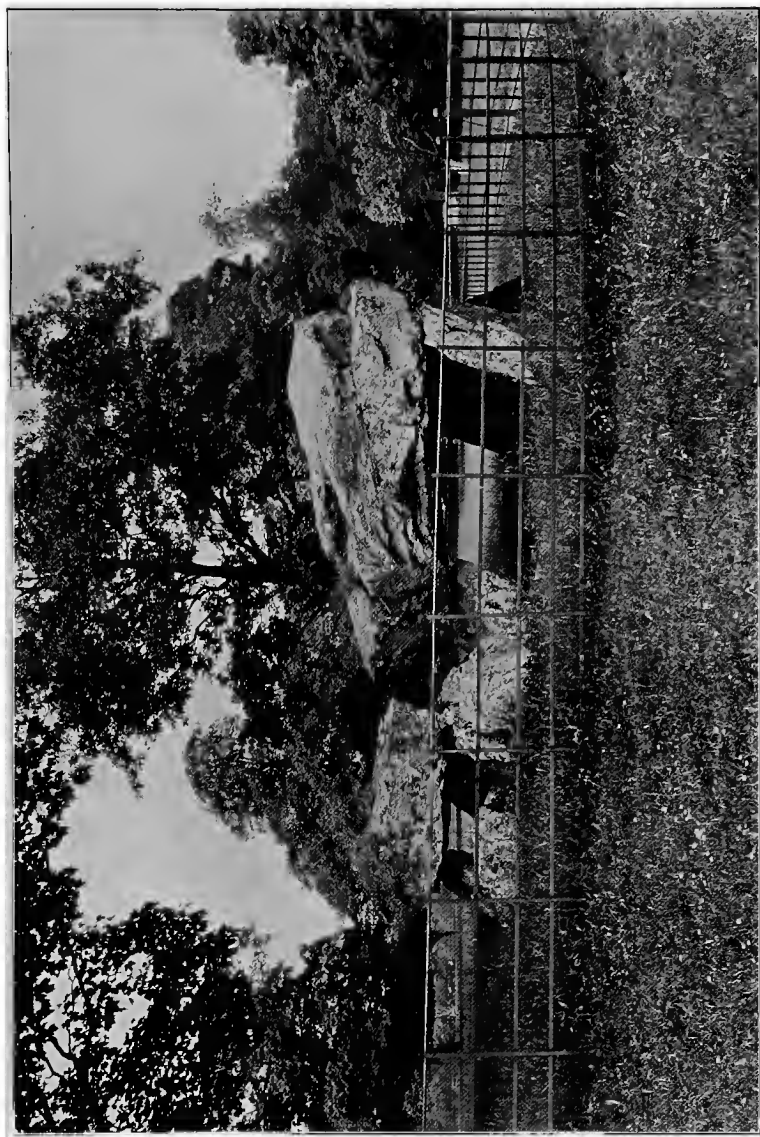


Fig. 7. Plas Newydd, Llanedwlen.

9 ft. wide, and 3 ft. thick, and the smaller, 6 ft. long by 5 ft. and 2 ft. 6 ins. thick. Pennant supplies¹ a few more details. He gives the measurements of the larger capstone as 12 ft. 7 ins. long by 4 ft., and says that it rested on five tall stones. The smaller one he describes as 5 ft. 6 ins. long, supported on four stones. An engraving by Moses Griffith gives some idea of its condition in 1770. Bingley's account² tells us that the larger capstone "formerly rested on five upright supporters; but some years ago, after some heavy rain, the one at the back suddenly split, since which time it has been necessary to prop it with supporters of wood". Richard Warner, in one of his *Walks through Wales*, 1799,³ says that the larger dolmen seemed originally to have consisted of seven stones, that is, six uprights supporting an immense superincumbent stone, with its flat side lying upon them, this stone being 13 ft. long by 4 ft. 6 ins. broad, and had originally been supported by four stones, one of which had fallen from its proper position. Thomas Evans, in the *Camb. Itin.*, 1801,⁴ states that the larger capstone "rested originally on five stones, but one being detached or thrown down, four only bear its weight at present", the smaller one rested on three stones, the fourth having fallen down. Skinner gives no further details, neither does he mention the number of supporters: he, however, made a sketch of the dolmens. Pugh, in 1816,⁵ says: "Sometime before I saw it, it was supposed that some of its supporters had given way on one side, which greatly alarmed the family; it was in consequence, propped up with pieces of thick timber, and this has entirely destroyed the effect . . . wood was a very injudicious auxiliary to stone". In Evans' (Brayley

¹ T. P., ii, p. 236.

² W. B., p. 202.

³ R. W., p. 297.

⁴ T. E., p. 370.

⁵ E. P., p. 77.

and Britten) *Beauties of North Wales*,¹ the larger capstone is described as "resting on six uprights, four at the broadest end and two at the other end, two fallen stones lie underneath". Miss Llwyd, quoting from her father's MSS.,² says the larger capstone is 12 ft. 7 ins. by 11 ft. and 4 ft. thick, the north end supported by four stones or perhaps three, the middle one being split. She also quotes from *Monumenta Antiqua*, where it is stated that this capstone was apparently supported years ago by five tall stones near the upper end, of which only three then remained.

The dolmens are marked on all Ordnance Surveys. No reference is made to any mound of earth and stones, although both dolmens were probably once covered in this manner. At the present day the capstone of the larger dolmen rests on three uprights at its north-east end, one of these is split, and is stayed by a fourth stone set as a strutt which was apparently fixed, in place of the wooden support, between the dates of Pugh's visit, in 1816, and Evans' description published in 1819. The eastern end rests upon two stones. The whole monument has a considerable list to the north-east. The cap of the small dolmen, from which a portion has been detached, rests on three stones.

These monuments are composed throughout of dark blue Glaucophane Schist, with the exception of one supporter of the larger dolmen, which is of mica schist. The schists do not occur *in situ* but there are so many ice bound erratics of them, brought only a mile or two from the north-east, that the cromlech builders could easily have obtained them on the spot. (E. G.)

The orientation of the larger dolmen, as calculated by Sir Norman Lockyer, from the south-eastern supporter, is

¹ p. 282.

² A. Ld., p. 239.



Fig. 8. Ty Newydd, Llanfaelog.

to the sunrise on the 2nd of November. (137° Mag. = Az. S. 61° E.)

These dolmens stand in a railed enclosure in the private park of Plas Newydd and should be safe from any wilful damage. A large portion of the cap of the smaller dolmen has at some time been detached from the present stone, and now lies on the ground between the two dolmens. When this portion was in its proper position it must have nearly touched the cap of the large dolmen, so that the two caps would have appeared, at a little distance, to form part of one long stone. Mr. W. E. Jones, Lord Anglesey's agent, has kindly sent me the following measurements. Length of larger capstone 11 ft. 9 ins., breadth 9 ft. 6 in. Length of smaller capstone 6 ft. 6 ins. and breadth 5 ft. 4 in. Length of block which has fallen from the latter, 5 ft. 6 ins. and breadth 2 ft. 9 ins.

"The dolmen" is scheduled to the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1882, but it has not, as yet, been handed over to the Commissioners appointed under this Act.

H. R., p. 94
 T. P., ii, p. 236
 C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 568
 W. B., p. 202
 Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288
 R. W., p. 297
 T. E., p. 370
 J. S., p. 20, fig.
 E. P., p. 77
 E., p. 282

A. Ld., p. 241
 S. L., ii, p. 3
 J. E. G., fig.
 A. C., 1854, p. 205
 " " 1860, p. 367
 " " 1870, p. 51, fig.
 " " 1880, p. 81, fig.
 " " 1895, p. 157
 A. J., 1871, p. 92, fig. and 102

The dolmen at TY NEWYDD, in the parish of Llanfaelog, and three quarters of a mile N.E. of the Church, is supposed to have been formerly double, and it has been suggested that Pennant refers¹ to this monument in his

¹ T. P., ii, p. 238.

remarks on dolmens when he says: "Others again are quite bedded in the carnedd or heap of stones, of which instances may be produced in Llan Faelog . . .". It is noticed again in David Thomas' list and was visited by Skinner who calls it¹ "a very perfect cromlech". The capstone was of an oblong shape and measured 16 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 3 ft. thick. It only rested upon three supporters, each about 3 ft. high, although there were four placed in the ground. Near the dolmen were lying two large stones, one of these being 17 ft. long and 3 ft. thick. Two good sketches accompany this account. Miss Llwyd, quoting from her father's MSS.,² says: "On a farm called Ty Newydd is a cromlech; the upper stone measures 12 ft. long, quite bedded in the carnedd or heap of stones". She adds, "a modern tourist describes it thus . . . a large stone, nearly in a horizontal position, about 12 ft. long, beneath which is a small cell or cavity". Longueville Jones, writing in the *Arch. Journ.*,³ describes it thus: "One flat on several upright stones, the flat top being about 12 ft. by 9 ft. in breadth and from 2 to 3 ft. in thickness. By its side lie the fallen remains of a much larger cromlech, the upper stone of which is not less than 15 ft. in length; underneath the upright one are still to be seen numerous small stones, and the ground rises gently on all sides". A sketch accompanies this account. Writing in 1864,⁴ he again refers to the monuments and states that one cromlech was erect, and the other by the side of the first, having been thrown down or perhaps having formed part of a passage. The cap of the fallen one must have been 15 ft. long. The tenant of the farm had taken the stones for building, and at a later date a fire had been lit on the top of the cromlech to celebrate

¹ J.S. p. 46.

² A. Ld., p. 248.

³ A. J., 1846, p. 42.

⁴ A. C., 1864, p. 44.

some event; this had split the stone, which at that time rested on three uprights.

It has been marked on all Ordnance Surveys. The capstone—which is 12 ft. 9 ins. in length and 5 ft. 3 ins. in width—and one support, are of Ordovician pebbly sandstone. The second support is granite and the third dolerite. The fourth upright has vanished. It is very difficult to find the orientation of this dolmen. Sir Norman Lockyer at first believed that it was to the sunrise at the Winter Solstice, but he thinks it quite possible that an alignment (Az. N. 53° E.), to the Summer Solstice sunrise may be the correct one; “no other astronomical alignment”, he says, than a solstitial one “is suggested by the arrangement of the stones”. The monument is on the property of J. Rice Roberts, Esq.

T. P., ii, p. 238

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

J. S., p. 46, fig.

A. Ld., p. 248

S. L., ii, p. 116

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25

„ „ 1864, p. 44, fig.

„ „ 1870, p. 58

A. J., 1846, p. 42, fig.

„ „ 1871, p. 106

Two dolmens formerly stood at TREFOR, in the parish of Llansadwrn, and one mile N.N.W. of the Church.

Pennant makes the following statement¹: “At Trefawr passed by a great and rude cromlech with the ruins of others adjacent”. These remarks are repeated by Gough.

Skinner describes² the one which was standing at the time of his visit as “a very perfect cromlech, the upper stone measuring above 3 yds. across, supported by two uprights, the larger 6 ft. high, the other not above 4 ft. 6 ins., which cause the capstone to recline in a slanting direction. Another long stone now lying on the ground

¹ T. P., ii, p. 254.

² J. S., p. 86.

appears to have been formerly used as a supporter. Near at hand are also three or four flat stones lying promiscuously". These stones had originally formed the second dolmen. Miss Llwyd gives the following account¹ from her father's MSS.: "On a tenement called Trefawr, in this parish (Llansadwrn), there are two cromlechau; one is a large stone mounted high upon four pillars, its inclination westward; in length it is 9 ft., and 6 ft. in breadth. Near it and upon the same carnedd, is another supported by only two stones, with a great inclination northward". The date when both dolmens were to be seen standing is unfortunately not given, but a footnote states that one fell down in 1825.

It therefore appears that originally there were two dolmens here. The western one had four tall supporters or uprights and the eastern one two, but before Pennant's visit in 1770, the western one had fallen, and in 1825, the second also collapsed or was demolished.

Longueville Jones, in the *Arch. Camb.* of 1854,² states that "they were thrown down by the tenant because they were superstitious". (For "they were" read "he was".) As a period of fifty-five years elapsed between the falling of the two monuments this statement is probably incorrect; perhaps Mr. Jones only refers to the second one which was destroyed or fell in 1825.

The site is marked "cromlech" on all Ordnance Surveys. The stones are composed of mica schist and diabase. (E. G.). Of the dolmen demolished in 1825 only one supporter remains erect and any attempt at orientation is impossible. This one stone stands north and south. An alignment from the fallen western dolmen to the standing supporter of the eastern one, which is approxi-

¹ A. Ld., p. 287.

² p. 205.

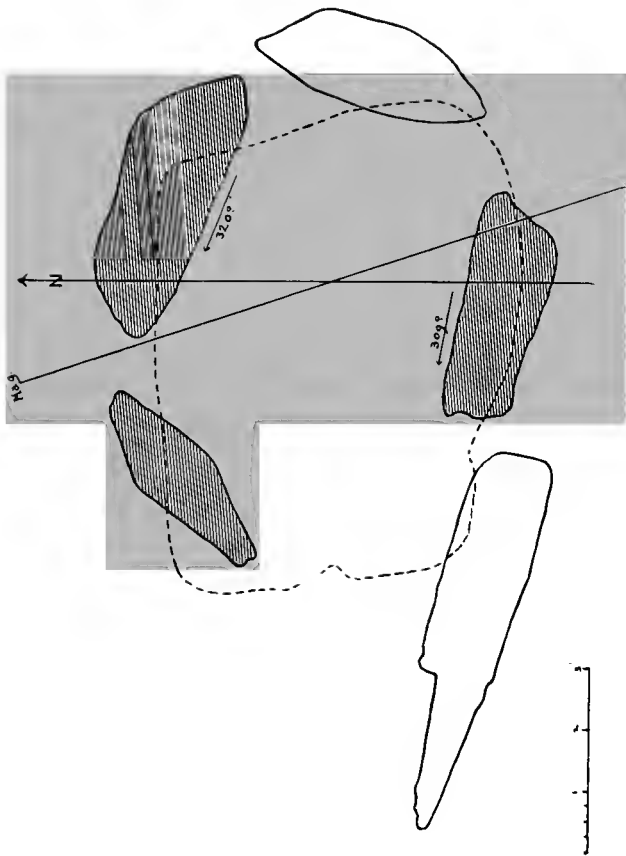


Fig. 9. Bodowyr Cromlech. Ground Plan.

To face p. 31.

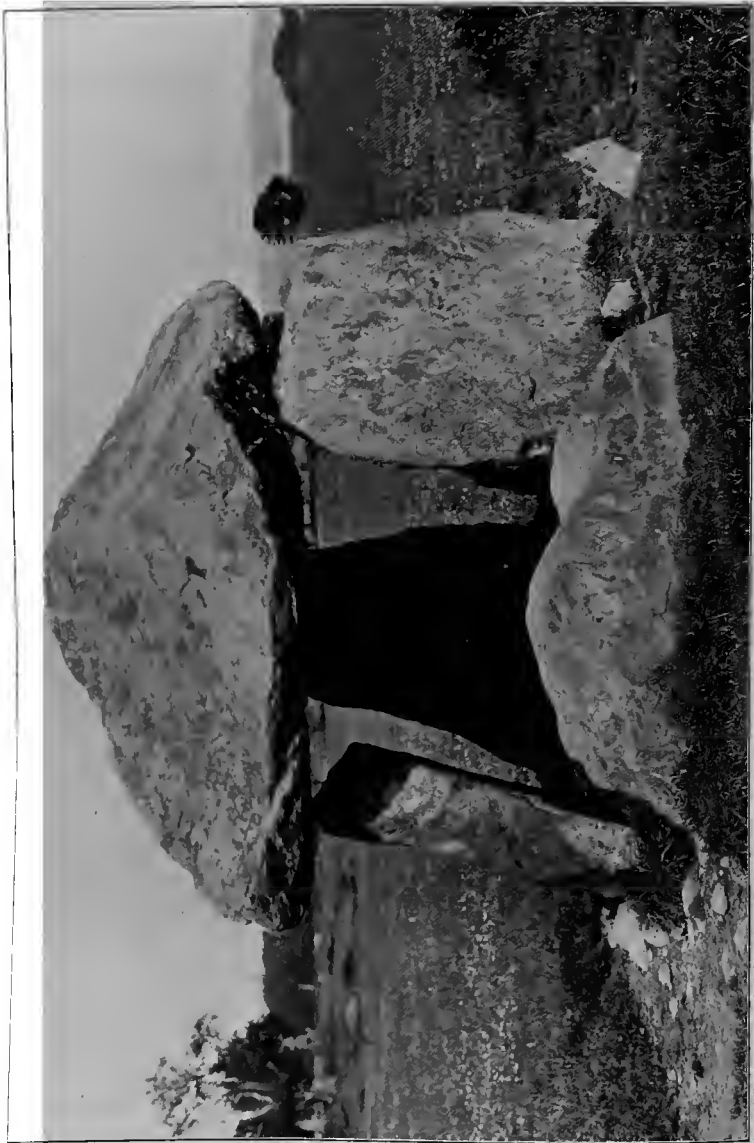


Fig. 10. Bodowyr, Llanidan.

mately a line from the centre of one dolmen to the centre of the other, gives 137° Mag. (Az. S. 61° E.), or the November sunrise, but this may be fortuitous.

The owner of these remains is Miss Thomas, of Beaumaris.

T. P., ii, p. 254

C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 569

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

R. W., p. 299

J. S., p. 86, fig.

A. Ld., pp. 243 and 297

S. L., ii, p. 93

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1854, p. 205

„ „ 1870, p. 58

A. J., 1871, p. 105

The dolmen at BODOWYR, Llanidan, one mile and three quarters W. by N. of the (New) Church, has received a great deal of attention and has been frequently figured.

Rowlands thus describes it:¹ “There is a very pretty cromlech standing at the top of a hillock at Bodowyr”. He also refers to traces of a *carnedd* and a *cirque* close by. Quaint representations of both dolmen and *cirque*, which looks like the wall of a British village are given. The Rev. J. Davies in a letter, reproduced in Gibson’s *Camden*,² says: “This Kromlech at Bod Owyr is more elegant than any monument that I have ever seen of its kind”. Writing in 1802,³ Skinner calls it a very perfect cromlech, the cap sustained by three supporters, each 3 ft. in height and nearly the same in thickness. Miss Llwyd incorrectly describes the capstone as resting on four supporters. According to Griffith, “there were five supports but two have fallen and the capstone at present (1900) rests on three only. The largest dimensions of the cap are 4 ft. 6 ins. by 6 ft. 3 ins. by 7 ft. by 6 ft. The top of the cap is 7 ft. 6 ins. from the ground”. It has been

¹ H. R., p. 93.

² p. 61.

³ J. S., p. 15.

marked on all Ordnance Surveys. The capstone still rests on three supporters. A fourth upright has fallen and is partly embedded in the ground, a fifth is comparatively low and does not nearly touch the cap. It is curious that in this instance as also in the case of the dolmen at Pant-y-Saer, to be described later, both monuments have their own sides practically parallel, and one upright in each projects only a short distance above the ground. Hugh Prichard believed that a similar upright was to be found at Ty Mawr cromlech, but after a careful examination I think that the statement is open to doubt. Another similarity between the two monuments is that they both belong to the May-November group. The stones of the dolmen are chiefly composed of mica schist, but one supporter is of hornblende schist. A portion of the last-mentioned supporter has become detached and now lies under the capstone.

The mean values of the two side supporters is 135° Mag. (Az. S. 63° E.), which gives the November sunrise on the 3rd of that month.

Lord Boston railed in this monument last year (1910) and he has now placed it under the care of the Commissioners for the Protection of Ancient Monuments.

H. R., p. 93, fig.	S. L., ii, p. 66
C. B. (Gibson), ii, p. 61	J. E. G., fig.
C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 567	A. C., 1854, p. 206
W. B., p. 203	" " 1860, p. 367
Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288	" " 1869, p. 263, fig.
J. S., p. 15, fig.	" " 1870, p. 58
E., p. 285	" " 1873, p. 24, fig.
A. Ld., p. 287	" " 1908, p. 71

The dolmen at PANT Y SAER, in the parish of Llanfair-Mathafarn-eithaf, and half of a mile S.E. by S. of the Church, is probably one of the two said by David Thomas

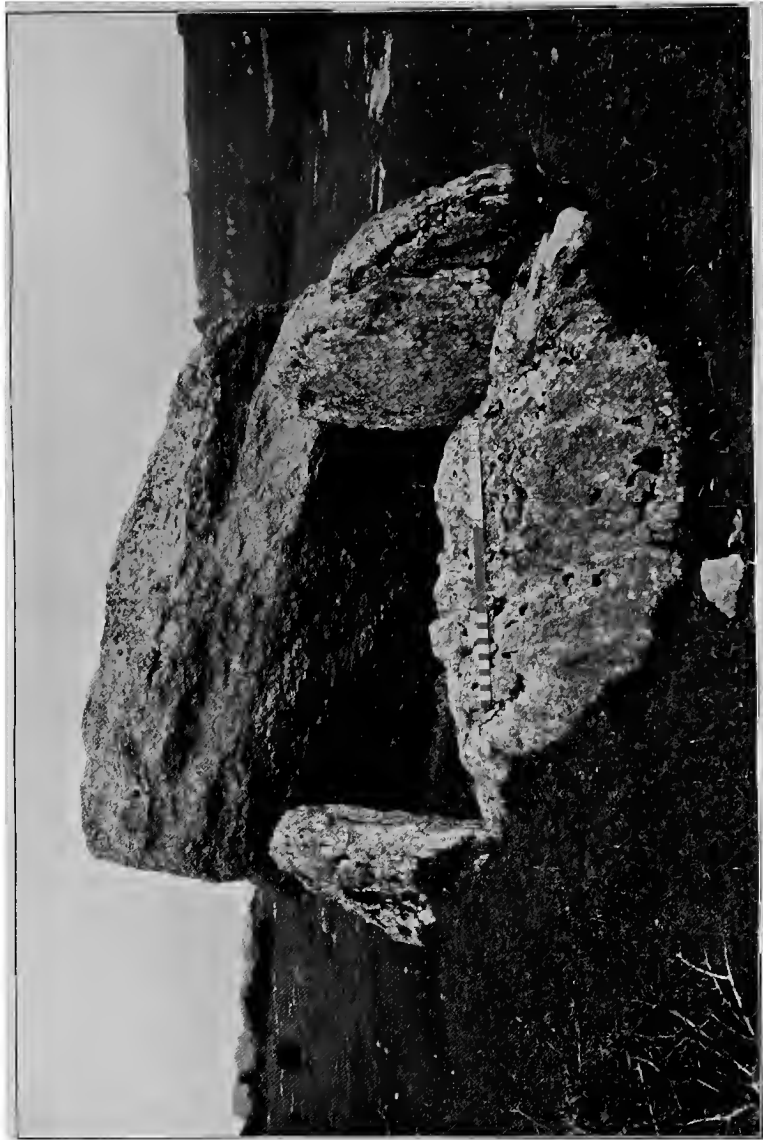


Fig. 11. Pant y Saer, Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf.

to have stood at Rhos Fawr. Bingley mentions¹ a cromlech at Marian Pant y Saer. It was stated in 1868,² by Hugh Prichard, that the existence of an original covering mound was plainly indicated by the depth of soil which surrounded the structure; this collection of soil is still visible at the present day. In 1874, it was reported in the *Welsh Herald*, that some treasure seekers had been digging under the dolmen, but only human bones, including five jawbones had been found to reward them for their trouble, and no objects of metal or pottery. They had exposed a flat stone in the floor of the chamber, this covered another deposit of bones, but it was not removed at that time. These discoveries induced the Rev. Wynn Williams and Mr. Thomas Prichard, of Llwydiarth Esgob, to make further investigations.³ They discovered in the first place that the supporters of the capstone rested on the solid rock, and that the inner slab on the south-east side was not a supporter in position, but a stone that must have been placed there at some time antecedent to the erection of the dolmen.

The flat stone above mentioned, 6 ft. long, 2 ft. 3 ins. wide, and from 7 to 21 ins. thick, was raised at this time. A cist was then disclosed, 4 ft. 4 ins. by 14 ins. wide, this was paved with pebbles. Portions of two skulls were recovered belonging to skeletons which had apparently been buried in a crouched position; some small ribs suggested that a child's burial had been associated with them. The walls of the cist had given away so that the skulls and some of the bones were found in a fractured condition. It was suggested by the excavators that this subsiding of the flat stone accounted for the fact that some of the bones were found partly outside the cist, but it is more likely that they had been disturbed by the

¹ W. B., p. 203.

² A. C., 1868, p. 89.

³ *Ib.*, 1875, p. 341.

treasure seekers. Besides human bones, those of ox, pig, hare, and a quantity of comminuted mouse and rat bones were brought to light: some seashells completed the list of finds. Deposits of human bones,¹ covered with thin flat stones were found at three points near the walls of the chamber. One complete humerus measured only $10\frac{3}{4}$ ins. and was considered to have belonged to an individual of about 4 ft. 4 ins. in height. The lower jawbones found in the cist are described as of the top of the front teeth to the bottom of the chin. A femur 16 ins. in length could only have belonged to a woman or short man standing about 4 ft. 5 ins.²

This cist appears to be of neolithic or early bronze age type, and the individuals buried in it were short of stature; this fact, combined with the pointed jaws, suggests the "Iberian" race. The excavators considered that the remains of interments found outside the cist, were those of a taller race living at a later period. The position of the cist is curious. Certainly the dolmen must have been erected first or the excavation for its supporters would have destroyed the cist. It would therefore appear that the stone covering the cist had been drawn in at the north-east corner of the dolmen and laid over the cist, already prepared to receive it. If the dolmen had been used in the first instance as a place of burial, it is very unlikely that a people of Iberian type, who are themselves identified by some as the dolmen builders, would have removed every trace of earlier burials³ before making their own interments according to their

¹ I have been unable to trace these remains and they are apparently lost.

² A. C., 1875, p. 341.

³ Mr. Reginald A. Smith, F.S.A., suggests that the people who formed the cist deposited the bones which they disturbed, at the three points near the walls of the chamber, above referred to.

own ritual. This tends to shew that the dolmen, when first erected, was not intended as a place of burial, but was later used for this purpose, first by men of neolithic or Iberian type, and afterwards, judging from the evidence of the bones found outside the cist by a race possibly of Celtic origin. Above the stone slab was a fragment of pottery of a type common in cyttiau in Anglesey, it is hand made, dark in colour, and studded with white particles. (I think that I can probably identify this as being similar to other pottery fragments found under Lligwy cromlech.) There is no record of any flints being found, though one would certainly have expected them to be present. The following measurements are given by the excavators. From the rock to the bottom of the cist 12 ins., and 19 ins. from the bottom of the cist to the top of the stone slab; this latter was covered by soil a foot in depth. The largest of the supporters was found to be 6 ft. in length, but only 2 ft. are above the ground level. Griffith gives the following dimensions of the capstone: 9 ft. square and from 2 ft. to 2 ft. 6 ins. thick.

This dolmen has been marked on all Ordnance Surveys. It is built throughout of carboniferous limestone, and the stones, which are brittle and of poor quality, are perceptibly disintegrating through the influence of the weather. The capstone has been tilted over towards the north-east and one end rests on the ground outside the chamber. The sides of the chamber are practically parallel, their alignment being 77° Mag. (Az. N. 59° E), or towards the sunrise on the 10th of May. The upright stone at the south-west end of the chamber only rises a short distance above the ground and can never have touched the capstone. In this respect it resembles the dolmen at Bodowyr which is directed to the November sunrise. It is sometimes called "Yr Allor" and stands

on the property of Mr. J. W. Hughes of Pant y Saer.

W. B., p. 203	A. C., 1855, p. 25 ("near Bryn y Felin".)
A. Ld., p. 253	
J. E. G., fig.	" " 1868, p. 89, fig.
A. J., 1871, p. 104	" " 1870, p. 58
" " 1876, p. 192	" " 1875, p. 341

LLIGWY cromlech, one mile and a quarter E. of Penrhoslligwy Church, although a prominent object, seems to have escaped the notice of Rowlands, but Pennant inspected it when on his tour round the island. He says¹: "Not far from the road in the lands of Llugwy is a most stupendous cromlech of a rhomboidal form. The greatest diagonal is 17 ft. 6 ins. the lesser 15 ft.; the thickness 3 ft. 9 ins., its height from the ground only 2 ft.; it is supported by several stones and is called Arthur's Quoit".

Skinner writes² that one end of the capstone rested on a bank of earth while the other was supported by four or five small upright stones, leaving a hollow beneath about 2 ft. high. In 1846³ the inevitable treasure seekers were at work, I am told, outside and to the north of the chamber, but not within it. A paper on this dolmen was contributed by Wynn Williams to the *Arch. Camb.*, 1867,⁴ but the ground plan which accompanies the article is inaccurate. In 1908,⁵ the chamber under the capstone was excavated and the floor was found about 6 ft. below the cap. The major axis of this capstone is 18 ft. 3 ins., and the minor axis 15 ft. 9 ins. It measures 3 ft. 6 ins. at its thickest part and both the upper and under surfaces have a slight declination from north to south. This stone actually

¹ T. P., ii, p. 263.

² J. S., p. 79.

³ A. J., 1846, p. 269.

⁴ p. 108.

⁵ A. C., 1909, p. 217.



Fig. 12. Lligwy, Penrhoslligwy. East Side.



Fig. 13. Lligwy, Penrhoslligwy. South Side.



Fig. 14. Lligwy, Penrhoslligwy. West Side.

rests on three supporters. It is evident that at some time the capstone must have moved towards the east, and the north-east supporter, being held down at its northern end, has pivoted outwards from the chamber, a portion also of the stone itself has been broken off. It is estimated that the capstone weighs about 25 tons. The entrance is on the east side. The level of the soil within the chamber was 2 ft. below the capstone, and this soil was found to extend to a depth of about 24 ins. Then came a quantity of limpet shells lying on black soil and stones, in which were dispersed some human and a few animal bones, flint scrapers and fragments of pottery. This dark layer appeared to be about 15 ins. in depth, underneath it a kind of paving of flat stones, about 3 ins. thick, was encountered; again below this paving was black earth and small stones, together with bones, worked flints and fragments of pottery. This latter layer was about 9 ins. in depth, and, at the bottom, consisted of a wet sticky soil containing a quantity of mussel shells.

The finds included:—A bone pin, flint scrapers, fragments of coarse brownish pottery with an incised design of zig-zag lines, scraps of coarse black pottery, two fragments of a greyish ware, one piece of rim having a zig-zag pattern, portions of about thirty human skeletons, bones and teeth of a small ox, a sheep, and a young pig; portions of the horns and bones of red and roe deer; the femur of a fox and the wing bone of a fowl, also pieces of an otter's skull. With regard to the human remains, Dr. Keith, of the Royal College of Surgeons, reports: "One human metatarsal is of especial interest (the distal end being bifurcated) as indicating the presence of a six-toed individual". Most of the pieces of pottery were found at the lowest level; and in paste and colour, but not in design, are precisely similar to other pottery found in the village at

Din Lligwy, which is not far distant. It is probable that an alleé or passage led up to the entrance, and three stones, found lying outside the chamber, may perhaps have been employed in its construction.

There is one feature about the arrangement of the uprights of this dolmen which appears to be exceptional. The south-east supporter points almost exactly due east and on the opposite side of the chamber is a flat slab which is pointing nearly due west; on the south side another flat slab, set at right angles to the wall of the chamber, points towards the south, but the movement of the capstone has evidently shifted it slightly from its original position. These features certainly point to the conclusion that the dolmen dates from an early age when some form of sun worship ritual was observed. By means of the south-east supporter and the west pointer the period of the equinoxes could be determined either at sunrise or sunset, and by noting the highest or lowest points reached by the sun on the side of the south pointer the times of the Summer and Winter solstices would be ascertained.

It is important to note that Sir Norman Lockyer obtained a clock star alignment from an outlying stone in a neighbouring field, which enables him to suggest the period about 1200 to 1000 B.C. as the date of the erection of the dolmen. A tradition connected with this dolmen is given by Miss Marie Trevelyan in her *Folklore and Folk Stories of Wales*, p. 131. The dolmen is not marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, but is included in all later surveys. It is an equinoctial monument (Az. S. 88° E.), and is composed of carboniferous limestone throughout, which was doubtless obtained on the spot, as a natural outcrop of large limestone slabs, lying on the surface, is to be found only a few yards distant.



Fig. 16. Henblas, Langristiolus.

Lord Boston has placed this dolmen under the care of the Commissioners for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

T. P., ii, p. 263	J. E. G., fig.
C. B. (Gough), p. 570	A. C., 1855, p. 25
W. B., p. 203	„ „ 1867, p. 135
Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288	„ „ 1870, p. 58
J. S., p. 79, fig.	„ „ 1909, p. 217, fig.
E., p. 218	A. J., 1846, p. 269
A. Ld., p. 341	„ „ 1871, p. 108
S. L., ii, p. 322	

It has long been a question whether the dolmen at HENBLAS, in the parish of Llangristiolus, one mile and three quarters S.W. by W. of the Church, is a natural collection of boulders or a monument placed in position by the hand of man. This question has, I think, been finally set at rest by Mr. Edward Greenly, who contributed to *Nature*¹ a letter, shewing how, during his geological survey of the island, he inspected the monument and found on the underside of the capstone glacial striæ or ice scratchings. This in itself would lead to the supposition that the stone had been turned over, but he also observed that these striæ did not correspond with the direction of the ice drift, shewing that the stone had also been turned round when it was raised to its present position. This is a very happy instance of the geologist coming to the help of archæology.

David Thomas includes this dolmen in his list, but the first description is furnished by Skinner. He speaks² of “three immense stones, two of them above 15 ft. high and nearly the same in width, standing upright in the ground; another of a flatter form leant against them”.

¹ 1905, p. 152.

² J. S., p. 36.

Hugh Prichard gives¹ the size of the north-east stone as 13 ft. 6 ins. high and 50 ft. in circumference at the base, and that of the south-west stone as 10 ft. high and 55 ft. in circumference. The capstone was 18 ft. by 15 ft. 9 ins. and 4 ft. thick in places, and he adds that it "had a hump on the top which would have prevented its being moved on rollers on this side. Two rubble stones wedged in between the edge of the capstone and one of the supporters suggested that it had all been covered over once". A stone 5 ft. high and 6 ft. wide once stood four or five paces in front of the south-west upright and may have formed part of a gallery; this had been broken up and also one other at the back of the chamber which had probably been a supporter. Near the dolmen were found a blue glass ring, an urn containing ashes, and two barrowsful of ashes, which were discovered under a flat stone. Longueville Jones states that he had heard of an avenue of stones leading up to the dolmen, and that these had been buried so as to clear the ground.

The direct outlook between the two large stones is due east (Az. 90° E.), and the avenue of stones, which no doubt formed the sides of an alleé, would have pointed in the same direction. Astronomically then this must be considered an equinoctial monument. All three stones are of hard quartzite which occurs in the district. (E. G.)

This massive monument stands on the estate of Henblas, the property of Captain W. E. Evans, and is marked on all Ordnance Surveys.

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

W. B., p. 203

J. S., p. 36, fig.

A. Ld., p. 281

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25

„ „ 1866, p. 466, fig.

„ „ 1870, p. 58

A. J., 1871, p. 105

¹ A. C., 1866, p. 466.



Fig. 17. Trefignath. General View.

The dolmen or dolmens at TREFIGNATH, on Holyhead Island, over one mile and a half S.E. of the Church, claim the honour of being the first stone monument to be referred to in Anglesey.

It is supposed that it was in 1660 that Aubrey visited the spot. In his *Monumenta Britannica*, he states: "There is in Anglesey, about a mile from Holyhead, on a hill near the way that leads to Beaumaris, a monument of large stones. They are about twenty in number and between 4 and 5 ft. high; at the northern end of it there are two stones about 6 ft. high. They stand upon an hillock in a farm call'd Trefigneth and have no other name than lhechau, whence the field where they are raised is called Kaer Lhechau".

This notice also appears in *Gough* with the addition of the following¹: "About a quarter of a mile north (of Capel St. Fraed) are the remains of a double cromlech in the same direction as the rest and seeming to have been considerable. It is called Trechen Tre rechthre" (*sic*). Owen, in 1775,² says that there "are some rude stone monuments supposed to have been three cromlechs; they join each other, though the upper stones are now fallen off their supporters".

Lewis Morris, in a letter to Brown Willis quoted in the *Camb. Reg.* v, 3, p. 217, states that at a place called Treiorwerth (*sic*) in the parish of Holyhead, there exists a cromlech which he describes as "composed after a very artificial manner and seems to be three monuments erected over the graves of some great men". Pugh,³ about 1816, seems to have explored the spot although it is not quite clear whether it is this dolmen, or the one at Trearddur, close by, to which he refers. His

¹ C. B. (*Gough*), ii, p. 571.

² N. O., p. 36.

³ E. P., p. 64.

description however does not seem to correspond with the latter ; also he makes no mention of Trefignath, although these remains are very conspicuous, while those at Trearddur are comparatively insignificant. After leaving Holyhead, he says : “ I quitted the road to see a double cromlech at a place called Tre Iarddur, two miles from thence : the one entire is of an unusual construction, one end of the perpenders resting upon an upright stone while the other reclines upon a stone leaning diagonally on two others. Adjoining this is another cromlech that has fallen”.

Stanley, writing in 1867,¹ states that the cromlech or cistfaen was damaged 70 or 80 years ago (1790 *cir*). Many stones which formed the covered chamber were removed for gate posts and lintels, and had it not been for the exertions of Lady Stanley, it might all have been demolished. He describes it as 20 ft. long, 4 ft. high and 4 ft. in width. There was a tradition that on the removal of the superincumbent earth and stones, urns and human bones were found inside, but no reliable record has been preserved. Writing again seven years² later Stanley says : “ Fergusson seems to consider it of a class unknown to Britain. It is evidently one continuous covered way 45 ft. long by 5 ft. wide outside, divided into three or more distinct cells or chambers by flat stones placed across ; two large stones, 7 ft. above ground, are placed at the entrance on the south-east. In 1816 those places from which stones had been removed about 1790, were still plainly visible, the centre group was then perfect and the covering stone in its proper position.

This dolmen, which may be of the type known as the gallery grave, is said to bear a resemblance to the one to

¹ A. C., 1867, p. 234.

² A. J., 1874, p. 1.

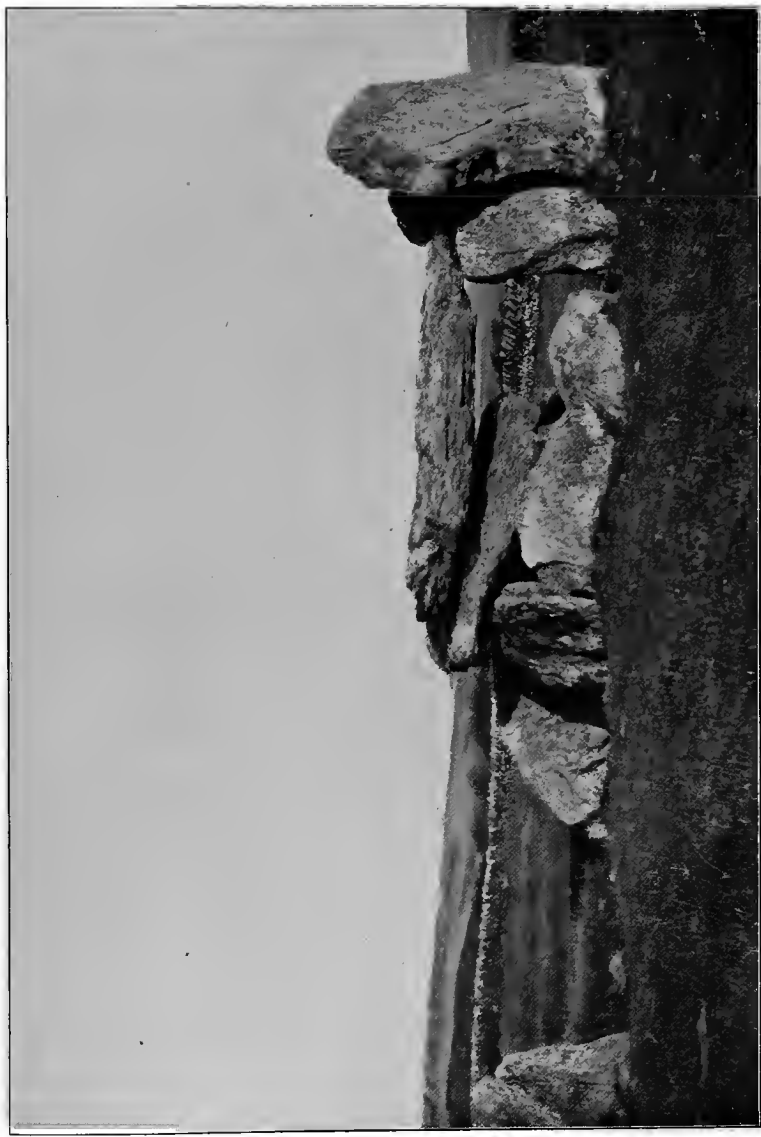


Fig. 18. Trefignath. East End.

be described next. It is composed of local mica schist. The direction of the monument is (Az. N. 79° . E.), or a little south of west by a little north of east, but many stones are not in their original position, some have been removed and others have evidently been replaced, so that it is difficult to get any satisfactory bearings. An alignment however from the maen hir at Ty Mawr to this dolmen is 148° , Mag. (Az. S. 50° . E.), or within one degree of the Winter Solstice sunrise. It is marked on all Ordnance Surveys as "Cromlech". Lord Sheffield has placed the monument under the custody of the Commissioners for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

N. O., p. 36

C. B., (Gibson) ii, p. 62

C. B., (Gough) ii, p. 571

Cam. Reg., iii, p. 216

E. P., p. 64

A. Ld, p. 208

S. L., ii, p. 422

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25

„ „ 1867, p. 234, fig.

„ „ 1870, p. 58

A. J., 1871, p. 96, fig.

„ „ 1874, p. 1, fig.

The dolmen at DINDRYFAL, in the parish of Aberffraw, three and three-quarters of a mile N.E. by E. of the Church, is first recorded by Longueville Jones in 1855,¹ and some particulars concerning it are given by Hugh Prichard. The latter speaks² of a cromlech standing to the north-west, and close to the foot, of a precipitous rock called Dinas. One slab 12 ft. long and 5 ft. high above ground remained; it was probably a supporter in the walls of some chamber. The capstone, 8 ft. 6 ins. long by 6 ft. wide, is perplexing, as it does not appear to fit in with the cromlech. Thirteen feet to the south of these remains were two holes in the ground, 13 ft. apart, where formerly stood a trilithon which was said to have been broken up by the

¹ A. C., 1855, p. 25.

² A. C., 1871, p. 311.

tenant. A somewhat similar arrangement of stones is referred to later in connection with the maen hir at Werthyr. Mr. Prichard's statement that the capstone does not appear to fit in with the dolmen is rather obscure. Taken in connection with a standing supporter it would go into place perfectly. Possibly it would not have fitted in with the trilithon, and it is certainly difficult to connect it with a maen hir which stands a few feet away to the north-east, and which is described later.

These remains have, as already stated, been compared to those at Trefignath, but in their present condition it is impossible to express any definite opinion as regards any original likeness between them. The stones are composed of chlorite schist with grains of jaspery phillite, *i.e.*, partly igneous, partly sedimentary. (Local.) (E. G.) The site is marked "Dinas and Cromlech" on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, but only the word "Dinas" is given in later survey. The alignment of the large standing supporter is 69° , Mag. (Az. N. 51° E.), which, allowing for a 1° hill, is only 2° from the Summer Solstice sunrise, to which it may have been oriented. Lord Sheffield has, as in the case of Trefignath, placed these remains under Government protection.

J. E. G., fig.

A. J., 1871, p. 105

A. C., 1855, p. 25

" " 1870, p. 58

" " 1871, p. 311, fig.

A dolmen at Llanddyfnan, two miles N.N.E. of the Church, is first mentioned by a Mr. Matchwick, who was staying at GLYN farm in 1875 or 1876. He says¹ that there was at the back of the house "a cromlech somewhat ruined from excavations and apparent efforts to destroy it, but

¹ A. J., 1876, p. 190.

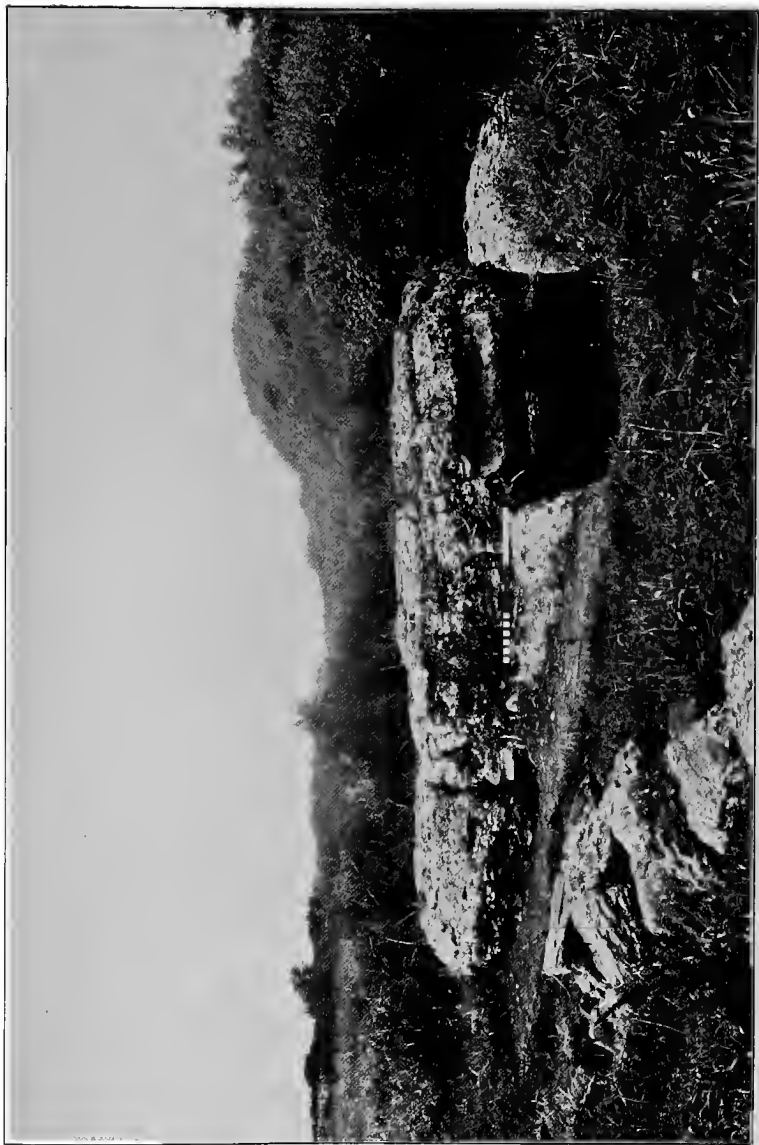


Fig. 19. Glyn, Llanddyfnan.

the tabular cover or capstone is yet *in situ*, and several of the supports are still upright". The cap was 10 ft. long by 6 ft. wide and 20 ins. thick. It was said to have been excavated twenty years previously, in 1856, when various bones and other relics were found. This was the work of treasure seekers, who failed to find the riches of which they were in search.

Except for the above notice the existence of this dolmen seems to have been forgotten, and it was not until some years later that it was rediscovered by the Rev. Evan Evans of Llansadwrn, and chronicled again by Mr. J. E. Griffith in his *Cromlechs of Anglesey and Carnarvon*. He mentions that one of the supporters, 5 ft. long by 3 ft. 4 ins. wide, had been removed and was lying close by. The other supports were *in situ*, embedded in the soil and *debris* which have accumulated round them. One of these latter which stands close to the entrance and faces south, is 3 ft. 7 ins. long and 2 ft. wide. The capstone is 14 ft. 5 ins. long, 8 ft. wide at its eastern end, 6 ft. in the middle and 3 ft. at the extreme west end. It averages from 2 to 3 ft. in thickness and is cracked through at the extreme west end.

On this spot there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone and of this material all the stones of the monument are composed.

I think it doubtful in this case whether we are dealing with a dolmen or large cistfaen, and there are features connected with it which suggest that possibly the central slab or capstone is still *in situ*, and has not been removed to its present position by artificial means, although its eastern end has been raised about 2 ft. so as to allow access to the chamber formed in the trough of the rock underneath it.

In May 1909, excavations were commenced by Lord

Boston and myself, with the consent of Sir George Meyrick, the owner of Glyn Farm, but it soon became evident that the treasure seekers had cleared out the whole of the chamber. This fact was corroborated later by an old inhabitant who remembered seeing it just after the work had been completed. As it seemed useless to continue operations the work was abandoned, but a certain amount of clearing had been done and this enabled a few points to be noted. Only one supporter, the one on the south side, remains in position. This slab set on edge, rests on the rock, and is about 20 ins. high. The only other visible support to the cap at the present time is given by some built up stones opposite the entrance. This collection of stones does not resemble the usual method of supporting the cap of a cromlech; either they formed part of the wall of a cistfaen or they have been placed there in recent times.

It will be noticed from the photograph (fig. 17) that if the front supporter were to be removed the capstone would drop down practically into line with the stones lying to the east and west of it. The western stone has evidently at some time formed part of the same block as the capstone or has been lying next it on the same bed. Griffith says that the capstone is cracked through near the west end and he gives the total length of the stone, including the portion which has been broken off, as 14 ft. 5 ins. but I think that from the weathered appearance of the edges, the crack must have occurred centuries ago, more probably it is an early cleavage of the rock.

The stone lying to the east can hardly have been a supporter, as it rests on the rock and has perhaps never been moved. If the capstone were raised, so as to allow this stone to be placed underneath, the former would be quite clear of its present supporter which is evidently *in*

situ, and the latter would overhang the trough in the rock. The height of the entrance is about 2 ft., and the bed-rock was encountered 4 ft. 6 ins. below the cap, just inside the entrance.

Sir Norman Lockyer suggests that this monument was oriented to the Winter Solstice sunrise, (Az. S. 48°. E.), but the conditions are not favourable for making calculations. Either it represents the remains of a dolmen of unusual construction or a massive cistfaen, which was perhaps not oriented at all; it is impossible to decide this point. It is marked "Cromlech" on the Ordnance Surveys since 1895.

J. E. G., fig.

A. J., 1876, p. 192.

The fallen dolmen at TY MAWR, in the parish of Llanfair-pwll-gwynnyll, over half a mile N. by E. of the Church, is described by Miss Llwyd as the remains of a large cromlech, partly thrown down, the table stone of which now lies upon stones which formerly supported it.

Hugh Prichard, in 1873, states¹ that there were still in existence four stones, the capstone, two side supporters and a low erect slab, 2 ft. high by 3 ft. wide, fronting the East, which may indicate the chamber entrance. The capstone is 11 ft. by 8 ft. and from 12 ins. to 2 ft. 3 ins. thick; the supporters about 4 ft. 4 ins. long and rather over 11 ins. thick. Mr. Prichard suggested that the capstone stood 3 ft. 6 ins. to 3 ft. 9 ins. above the floor of the chamber and that the erect slab was placed across the entrance. According to this theory only 7 to 10 ins. of the supporters could have been buried in the ground, this

¹ A. C., 1873, p. 22.

hold would have been insufficient to retain them in an upright position, and at this height they certainly could not have supported the capstone unless they were well packed round with stones and earth. Possibly the east stone was not a supporter until such time as it was pressed into the soil by the weight of the capstone. If however the entrance was over this upright, on which the capstone now appears to rest, the monument may have been an equinoctial one, as this stone points due north and south, and the fallen south supporter is practically east and west. Nothing definite can however be said on this point.

It is marked "Cromlech" on the Ordnance Survey of 1905 and stands on the property of Mr. Harry Clegg.

A. Ld., p. 255

S. L., ii, p. 124

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1873, p. 22, fig.

The dolmen at PERTHI DUON, in the parish of Llanidan, three-quarters of a mile S.W. by S. of the (New) Church, is first mentioned by Rowlands¹. He says: "There is a shapely cromlech on the lands of Blochty . . . now thrown down and lying flat on its supporters". This was in 1723. From a sketch which he gives we see that it was called "Maen Llwyd".

Skinner² went from "Bryn Shenkin" to Blochti to see a cromlech called "Maen Llwyd" and writes as follows: "The capstone and its supporters remain still on the spot but have long since been thrown prostrate on the ground. If I remember right Mr. Rowlands speaks of it as a demolished cromlech in his time. The capstone is nearly circular, measuring about 2½ yds. in diameter and 1 yd. in thickness. The two supporters lying near it are about

¹ H. R., p. 93.

² J. S., p. 29.

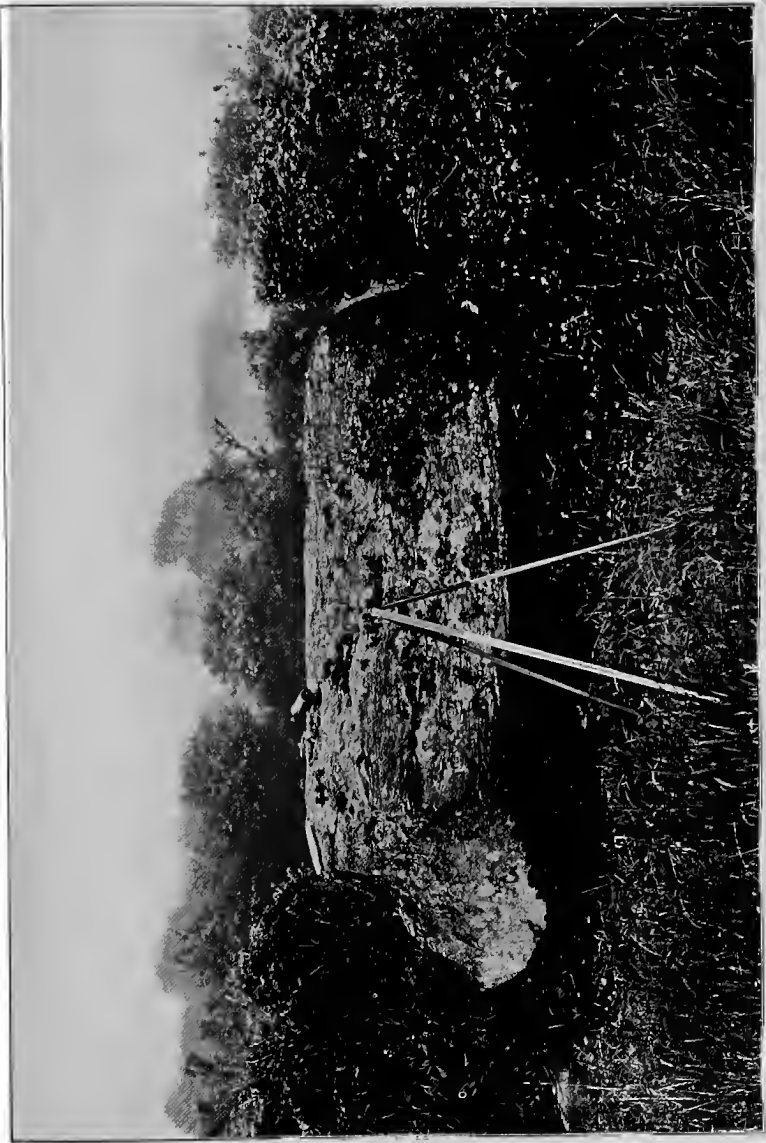


Fig. 20. Perthi duon, Llanidan.

2 yds. each in length, the third we could not take the dimensions of because the capstone has fallen over it". [The two supporters described in this account as lying near the dolmen have since been removed.]

In the *Arch. Camb.* of 1846¹ a correspondent writes of this monument: "About twenty years ago (1826) brass or copper chisels were found in digging under it, when it fell down . . . there are still three uprights under it". There is evidently some discrepancy here. If the dolmen had already fallen before Rowlands' time it could not do so again about 1826.

In 1869 it is reported,² that "two only of the supporters, much sunk in the ground, and the fragments of a third, are now visible". The story of the treasure seekers finding bronze implements is repeated. It will be remembered that bronze weapons or implements are also said to have been found near the dolmen at Cae'r llechau. Three years later, an anonymous correspondent in a letter to the *Arch. Camb.*,³ mentioned the names of the owners of two of the bronze celts, or whatever they were, and asked for information respecting the remainder of those that had been found. That letter remains unanswered.

In Longueville Jones' list⁴ a cromlech is recorded as to the south-west of Llanidan old Church. As, however, the Perthi Duon dolmen is not mentioned by him, and I can obtain no particulars concerning any such monument near the old Church, I think he must have intended the dolmen now under discussion, which stands to the south-west of the new Church.

This stone is a fragment of the mica schists that forms a large part of the south-west of Anglesey. It stands on

¹ p. 467.

² A. C., 1869, p. 264.

³ *Ibid.*, 1872, p. 161.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 1855, p. 25.

the carboniferous limestone, but the schists are less than a mile away to the north-west and north. Most probably, however, it was brought by the ice. (E. G.) Orientation of this dolmen is impossible. It appears on all Ordnance Surveys as "Cromlech", and is situated on Lord Boston's property at Llanidan.

H. R., p. 93

J. S., p. 29, fig.

A. Ld., p. 263

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1846, p. 467

1869, p. 264, fig.

1870, p. 58

1872, p. 161

A. J., 1871, p. 103

David Thomas includes the dolmen at LLANFECHELL (three quarters of a mile N.W. by W. of the Church) in his list, but the earliest particulars concerning it are given by Skinner. "We came", he says,¹ "to the spot where many large stones were lying scattered promiscuously on the ground, and one nearly square measuring 9 ft. across leaning against some uprights about 6 ft. high. From the appearance of this place I should rather imagine that it had been the interior or cistfaen of a carnedd, and this opinion seems somewhat confirmed by the accounts of the common people who remember great quantities of stone having been removed to form a wall." In my opinion, however, it is unlikely that uprights of 6 ft. high could have formed the walls of a cistfaen.

Pugh, fourteen years later,² gives the following description of the monument: "It consists of a few upright stones, upon which is laid one of immense size, but owing to some of its supporters giving way, one side of it declines towards the ground". Miss Llwyd makes the curious error³ of confusing it with the three meini hirion which stand on a brow not far distant. The stones are composed

¹ J. S., 57.

² E. P., p. 48.

³ A. Ld., p. 260.

of local gritty mica schist. (E. G.) The monument is now in a very ruinous condition, and any orientation of the remains is impossible, but an alignment from the site to the three meini hirion, above referred to, gives the Winter Solstice sunrise (Az. S. 50° E.). It is marked on all Ordnance Surveys, and stands on the farm of "Cromlech" the property of Mr. G. J. Roberts, of Trefarthen.

The Rev. T. Walters, Rector of Llanfechell, has noticed a large stone, set in the S.E. corner of the Church, and he suggests that it may once have formed part of a dolmen.

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

J. S., p. 57, fig.

E. P., p. 48

E., p. 238

A. Ld., p. 260

S. L., ii, p. 130

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 24

1870, p. 58

A. J., 1871, p. 107

The remains at MYNYDD CNWC, in the parish of Llan-gwyfan, and a mile and a half S.S.W. of Llanfaelog Church, are chronicled by David Thomas, while Bingley describes them as a "cromlech" partly demolished. Skinner says¹: "Instead of a cromlech . . . we found the vestiges of a large carnedd, many of the flat stones of the cistfaen, or chamber, are still remaining, but the small ones have been almost all removed to build a wall close at hand. On another fork of the peninsula, about a hundred yards distant, we observed the traces of another carnedd of much smaller dimensions".

Hugh Prichard² gives the circumference of the base of the mound as perhaps 240 ft. The entrance he thought was from the north, the passage being at least 35 ft. long by rather more than 3 ft. wide, its extent being marked by

¹ J. S., p. 45.

² A. C., 1869, p. 403.

a depression in the ground, and by seven stones which were all that remained of its side walls and roof supports. The remaining roof stone was 10 ft. by 5 ft. 6 ins. at its widest end, and was said to have been mistaken for the capstone of the cromlech. The upright slabs outlined one cell about 3 ft. 3 ins. by 3 ft. 9 ins., and other stones suggested further cells. On the other point, 150 yds. away, were well defined traces of a smaller tumulus, comprising one chamber. I quite agree with both Skinner and Prichard that the remains are those of a collection of cists and not of a dolmen or cromlech, properly so called. They are in a very ruinous condition. The small cist on the further promontory can still be traced.

The largest stone is sometimes called "Careg Enwau", from the number of names which tourists have scratched upon it. At the present time, however, Sir George Meyrick, on whose land it stands, does not allow the public access to it. It is named on the Ordnance Survey of 1841 as "Barclodiad y Gawres Cromlech", but in the later surveys the word "Cromlech" has been omitted. Sir Norman Lockyer orients it to the Winter Solstice sunrise (Az.S.50°.E.).

W. B., p. 203
 Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288
 J. S., p. 45, fig.
 J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25
 1869, p. 403, fig.
 1870, p. 58
 A. J., 1871, p. 106

David Thomas mentions two dolmens at BOD DEINIOL, in the parish of Llanbabo, three-quarters of a mile S.W. of the Church. Skinner¹ searched but could not find them, and the farmer, a man about eighty years of age, told him that he had never heard of anything of the kind

¹ J. S., p. 70.

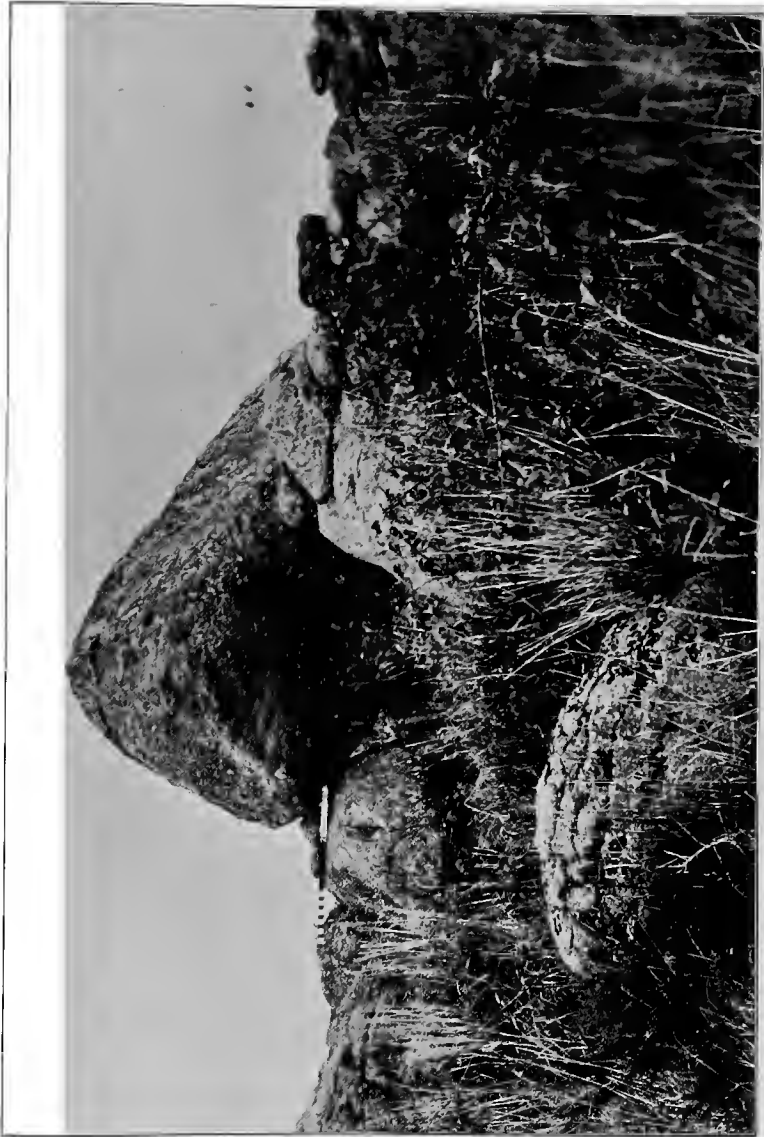


Fig. 21. Bod Deiniol, Llanbabo.

existing there. Bingley¹ gives the number of dolmens as three. There is no further record or description of them except that given by Griffith. He says: "there are the remains of two large cromlechau lying in a field west of the farm house of Bod Deiniol . . . both have fallen down and only a few stones of the smallest of the two are left. The capstone of the largest is 14 ft. long by 5 ft. wide and 3 ft. 6 ins. thick. It has fallen down with its east end lying on what is left of the smallest cromlech, with its remaining supports lying underneath. It is 8 ft. high from the ground at its west end".

The site on which the remains stand, is a rocky outcrop on which are lying a quantity of boulders. The plan of the larger dolmen can hardly be traced at the present day, but the existence of one supporter at the north-west corner of the capstone is fairly evident. I failed to distinguish the smaller dolmen, referred to by Griffith, and I have therefore only scheduled the other one. Any attempt at orientation is impossible, but the hollow space under the capstone is directed approximately towards a maen hir standing on the farm of Glan Alaw, about 230 yds. west by south of it. The remains are marked on all Ordnance Surveys. Mr. Robert Hughes, who owns and farms the land at Bod Deiniol, takes a great pride in his dolmen. He is so interested in the stones there that when requiring material for building, he will not touch even the boulders which lie about on the rising ground.

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

J. S., p. 70.

A. Ld., p. 217

J. E. G., fig.

¹ W. B., p. 203.

A standing cromlech at CREMLYN, in the parish of Llanddona, two miles south by west of the Church, is referred to by Rowlands,¹ but before Skinner's time it must have been nearly destroyed, as he says² that there was little worthy of notice there. I think that the Rev. E. Evans is quite correct as to the site which he pointed out to the surveyors. It is now marked "Cromlech Cremlyn" on the Ordnance Surveys. At the present time only a few unimportant mica schist stones remain, perhaps more or less *in situ*, but the farmer remembers a great many large blocks being removed to form a wall which may be seen close by. The site is in "Coed Hafodty" and two *meini hirion*, to be described later, would have been in sight to the east and south-east of the dolmen before the wood was planted.

H. R., p. 47

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

J. S., p. 86

A. Ld., p. 222

J. E. G., fig.

A. J., 1871, p. 104

MAEN CHWYF. This stone, in the parish of Llandyfrydog, three-quarters of a mile W.N.W. of the Church, is mentioned by Longueville Jones, in 1885, and Griffith. The latter says "it is called Maen Chwyf, or the rocking stone. One or two supports are seen projecting from underneath it. The capstone is 11 ft. long, 5 ft. 10 ins. to 8 ft. wide and about 3 ft. thick. Tradition says it used to rock. Any attempt at orientation is impossible, and I think that the term dolmen or cromlech, as applied to it, still requires substantiation. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, incorrectly, as "Maen Chwyt", this has been corrected on subsequent surveys to "Maen Chwyf". Mr. Richard Roberts of Llandyfrydog is the owner of the land on which it stands.

¹ H. R., p. 47.

² J. S., p. 86.

A single stone, the capstone (?) of a dolmen, lies in a field at RHOSCOLYN, near the farmhouse of "Cromlech". It was first mentioned by Longueville Jones and is recorded in both Stanley's and Way's lists. Griffith says the stone is 5 ft. 6 in. high and the same in width, and is known as "Yr Allor". It is marked "Cromlech" on all Ordnance Surveys.

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1855, p. 25

A. J., 1871, p. 107

1870, p. 58

The dolmen (?) at PENTRE TRAETH, in the parish of Llanfaelog, three-quarters of a mile N.N.W. of the Church, is apparently the one mentioned by Bingley as at Towyn Trewen. Skinner says¹: "we walked about half a mile further towards the river Crighill to see another cromlech. This stood on low ground quite in a swamp, the capstone, like that at Maen Llwyd (Llanidan), has been thrown down and its supporters lie near it. Also many other stones from 3 to 5 feet long, to the number of thirty, lie scattered in all directions around it".

Hugh Prichard describes some remains,² noticed on the Ordnance Map as a cromlech, but which may be described as a scattered tumulus, or carnedd, with its chamber, or most probably chambers, laid open and destroyed. On their south-western side, seemingly dismounted from its position, is the capstone of a low cist or cell, a cumbrous block, 22 ft. 6 in. in circumference and 3 ft. 3 in. thick, so curiously poised on a ridge of earth and smaller stones, as to give the appearance from several points of view of a larger part being balanced by a smaller one". It is marked only on the Ordnance Survey of 1841. The remains of a mound, now about 40 ft. across,

¹ J. S., p. 47.

² A. C., 1871, p. 51.

on which these remains stand, can still be traced, and six or seven stones disposed more or less in a ring may have formed part of a circle of low stones surrounding the monument. The site, on flat swampy ground, close to Rhosneigr Station, is open on all sides, and it is probable that the stones would have been removed and built into walls but for the difficulty of conveying them across the marsh.

W. B., p. 203

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 288

J. S., p. 47, fig.

A. Ld., p. 265.

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1871, pp. 51 and 66, fig.

A. J., 1871, p. 106.

At TREARDDUR, a little to the south-east of Trefignath, a mile and three-quarters S.E. by S. of the Church on Holyhead Island, are the remains of a dolmen first recorded by N. Owen in 1775. He mentions¹ that there was another druidical altar or cromlech, within half a mile of Caer Gybi, called Coetan Arthur, i.e., Arthur's Quoit. The upper stone had been removed to a hedge near by. These remarks are repeated by Miss Llwyd, but in Longueville Jones' list the dolmen does not appear. Apparently he mistook the remaining supporter, which is still standing, for a maen hir, for he says:² "there is a maen hir in a field near the roadside at Tref Arthur, two and a half miles south-east of Holyhead". Stanley, writing in 1867,³ describes: "traces of a small cromlech, now nearly obliterated, called Coetan Arthur".

All that remains at the present day is one standing supporter, apparently composed of local schist, 5 ft. 4 ins. high and nearly 6 ft. wide at its widest part; it varies from 4 to 15 ins. in thickness. Close by another supporter, 7 ft. long, 4 ft. 9 ins. wide and about 8 ins. thick, lies flat on the ground. These remains have not been

¹ N. O., p. 37.

² A. C., 1885, p. 25.

³ A. C., 1867, p. 234.



Fig. 22. Plas Newydd, Llanedwen. "Carnedd."

marked on any Ordnance Survey. Trearddur belongs to Mr. H. H. Williams, of Beaumaris.

N. O., p. 37

E. P., p. 64

A. Ld., p. 208

A. J., 1871, p. 107

A. C., 1855, p. 25 (as a maen
hir)

1867, p. 234

1870, p. 58.

The chambered mound at PLAS NEWYDD, half a mile north of Llanedwen Church, should not perhaps be classed among the dolmens or cromlechau, but it is an important megalithic monument and well worthy of careful examination. Rowlands¹ describes it as "one of the largest carnedds in the Isle of Anglesey, yet scarce discerned and distinguished from a mount of earth, the stones being overgrown with earth and moss, and great trees growing thick upon it. It lies in a dry bottom without any pillars now standing by". Later in the same volume² he says: "People having occasion to take away some Lime-Stones from a Karnedd, which is in Plas Newydd wood, . . . found near the top of it, on one side about a yard deep in the stones the bones of three persons lying close to one another, not at length in a straight line but oblique posture, straggling with heads downwards. They seemed to be the last [victims of the druids] that were slaughtered there". Rowlands does not appear to connect the first carnedd with the second, but I think it is probable that he is referring to one and the same place. The chamber or cist-faen had not been discovered in his time. Pennant says:³ "Not far from the Cromlech is a large carnedd, part has been removed, and within was discovered a cell about 7 ft. long and 3 wide, covered at the top with two flat stones and lined on the sides with

¹ H. R., p. 94.

² *Ib.*, p. 215.

³ T. P., ii, p. 238.

others. To get in I crept over a flag, placed across the entrance. On the top of the stone were two semi-circular holes of size sufficient to take in the human neck, and it is conjectured that above might have been another. This mound was known as "Bryn yr hen Bobl", or the hill of the old people.¹

Some information as to the discovery of the chamber is given by Bingley,² who says it was first exposed about 1754, when some workmen having "opened the entrance to the larger recess," Sir Nicholas Bayley, the owner "ordered them to discontinue their operations as it seemed to contain nothing but bones". Later a servant "dug to the depth of about 12 ft. in the bottom of the smaller vault and discovered a few human bones and a very old clasp knife", possibly left by former diggers. Skinner³ observed a square opening on the south; he entered on hands and knees and found the chamber about 10 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. high, the sides being formed of three larger flat stones placed edgewise in the ground, supporting the roof which consisted of only two.

In Evans' *Beauties of North Wales*⁴ it is stated that Sir Nicholas Bayley opened the chamber. A large upper stone covered a low entrance into a subterranean recess about 4 ft. in diameter and of equal height, which led to a vault containing human bones, and two other lateral stones apparently opened into similar cavities. Miss Llwyd, evidently quoting from Pennant,⁵ gives the size of the cell as 7 ft. by 3 ft., and says that it was covered by two flat stones. It is further stated⁶ that about 1858 the mound was again partly excavated, but without further discoveries being made. At the present time

¹ Cam. Reg., ii, p. 289.

² W. B. p. 204.

³ J. S. p. 18.

⁴ E. p. 283.

⁵ A. Ld., p. 241.

⁶ A. J., 1871, p. 102.

only one cist-faen remains and it would appear that one or more cists have been destroyed. The remaining cist is 7 ft. 3 ins. long, by 4 ft. 6 ins. to 3 ft. in width. The cist itself is about 50 yds. in length.

Reference has at different times been made to the low stone across the entrance to the cist, with two semi-circular depressions or holes in its upper edge, and a comparison has been drawn between it and those dolmens in one side of which a single hole is sometimes found. As Pennant states, it is purely a matter of conjecture that another stone was originally placed above the first mentioned one. There is certainly no record of any such stone having been found and in any case the occurrence of two holes, if it is suggested that they were artificial, would be a most unusual feature.

Mr. Greenly has supplied the following geological notes on this monument. "One upright is of mica schist; all the rest of the stones are composed of carboniferous limestone and conglomerate which is found *in situ*." He considers that the depressions are natural holes where fossils have weathered out of the limestone, or from which shells may have been knocked out by the builders accidentally.

Sir Norman Lockyer orients this chamber to the rising of the Pleiades (Az. N. 71° E.), in the year 1000 B.C.

H. R., pp. 94, 215

T. P., ii, p. 238

C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 569

W. B., p. 204

Cam. Reg., ii, p. 289

T. E., p. 370

J. S., p. 18, fig.

E., p. 283

A. Ld., p. 241

S. L., ii, p. 3

J. E. G., fig.

A. C., 1854, p. 204

1860, p. 367

1870, p. 51, fig.

1880, p. 81, fig.

A. J., 1871, p. 85, fig. and 102

The Meini Hirion do not seem to have excited so much interest as the dolmens, and in consequence have not received the same attention from archæologists. I have been able to trace about thirty-nine examples, but many others have been destroyed. A certain number of standing stones have certainly been erected to mark boundaries and these are not included in the above number.

Camden mentions only a few of the meini hirion and the majority are recorded for the first time in Mr. Longueville Jones' list, in the *Arch. Camb.*, for 1854 and 1855. One stone stood at BODHYNOD, near Amlwch, over two miles W.N.W. of the Church. It is marked "Maen-hir" on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, and was probably destroyed not long after that date. Mr. L. Jones in his list¹ states that it might have been destroyed before 1855. A maen-hir, marked "Erect stone" on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, is mentioned by Longueville Jones² as standing at HAFODTY, in the parish of Llanddona, one and three-quarter miles S.S.W. of the Church, but it has since then been destroyed. Stanley refers³ to some stones which used to stand near Pen-y-bonc, HOLYHEAD. He also shews one maen hir, half a mile S. by E. of the Church, close to the town, on his plan of cyttiau, etc., on Holyhead Mountain. The site is now covered with houses. It does not appear on any Ordnance Survey. A farm called Meinir, at LLANGEINWEN, one mile E.N.E. of the Church, marks the site of a maen hir, described by Miss Llwyd⁴ as being 12 ft. high; it was broken up to build the present farm house. Stanley says⁵ the stone was standing in 1800. Another formerly stood near Fron, three-quarters of a mile W.S.W. of LLANGOED Church. It is marked "Stone" on the Ordnance Survey

¹ A.C. 1855, p. 23.

² *Ib.* 1854, p. 205.

³ A. J., 1869, p. 306; 2nd Mem., p. 6.

⁴ A. Ld., p. 276.

⁵ A. J., 1874, p. 326.

of 1841, and is included in Mr. Longueville Jones' list.¹ The present schoolmaster, however, says that it cannot now be found.

The parish of LLECHCYNFARWYDD apparently obtained its name from a stone which used to stand there, a quarter of a mile N. by E. of the Church. Evans (1819) says² that on an eminence adjacent to Presaddfed, "in an erect position is a maen hir or upright stone, about 9 ft. high, called Llech gwen farwydd". Longueville Jones states that it was thrown down by a stupid tenant and broken up for the purpose of building a wall. It is marked "Maen hir" on the Ordnance Survey of 1841. Rowlands says³ that in the parish of Llanidan, one and a quarter miles N.W. of the (New) Church, "there are near LLYSLEW barn . . . the tokens of a carnedd; and a well-shaped pillar of great length, thrown flat on the ground". In an accompanying sketch the length of the pillar is given as 14 ft. The site is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841 as "Site of Cromlech". Mr. Longueville Jones describes⁴ another stone called MAEN ERYR, a mile and three quarters E.N.E. of Tregaian Church. It stood in the centre of a wide open valley and is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841. I have not been able to ascertain when it was demolished.

Two farm houses, the one at GWREDOG, a quarter of a mile S. of Ceidio Church, and the other at LLANFAIR MATHAFARN EITHAF, half a mile E. by N. of the Church, were called Meinir, and they almost certainly marked the sites of standing stones. Again, "Cae maen hir", close to Llys Caswallon, LLANWEN LLWYFO, was probably so called from some stone which stood there. Other names of farms and houses suggest the presence of meini hirion in former

¹ A. C., 1854, p. 205.

² E., p. 244.

³ H. R., p. 93.

⁴ A. C., 1855, p. 23.

days, such as Maen y dryw at Llanelilian, Cerrig y drudion, Carreg fawr, Carreglwyd, Maen Llwyd, etc.

Besides those above mentioned it is known that two or more stones have been destroyed at BRYN GWYN, next to be referred to, one near CREMLYN marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, and one out of three at LLAN-RHWYDRYS.

Of those stones which remain standing at the present day the finest are to be seen at BRYN GWYN, in the parish of Llanidan, over one and a half miles W. by S. of the (New) Church, and this must without doubt at one time have been a very important spot. Rowland says¹: "about a furlong further [than Castell, a circular earth-work], directly west of this round bank, there appears the remains of a ring or coronet of very large erected columns or stone pillars; three whereof are now standing, together with the stump of a fourth, broken a little below the middle; by the position and distances of which one may easily calculate their number and order to have been eight or nine great pillars pitched in a circle about an included area of about 12 or 14 yds. diameter". He also refers to the remains of a gorsedd or carnedd at no great distance. Pennant states²: "here also were the reliques of a circle of stones with the cromlech in their midst, but all extremely imperfect. Two of the stones are very large; one which serves at present as part of the end of a house, is 12ft. 7ins. high and 8 ft. broad; and the other 11 ft. high and 23 ft. in girth. Some lesser stones yet remain. Not far [from Castell] is one of the gorseddau, now in a manner dispersed, but once consisted of a great copped heap of stones".

¹ H. R., p. 84.

² T. P., ii, p. 230.



Fig. 23. Bryn Gwyn, Llanidan. West Stone in Foreground.



Fig. 24. Bryn Gwyn, Llanidan. East Stone.

To face p. 63.

The Rev. J. Davies' letter, quoted in Camden,¹ runs: "Further westward (from Castell) under the protection of this fort, there are stones pitched on end, about 12 in number, whereof three are very considerable, the largest of them being 12 ft. in height and 8 ft. in breadth where it is broadest, for it is somewhat of an oblong form. These have no other name than Kerig y Bryn gwyn".

Owen seems to have had a lively imagination, for he adds²: "The stones are twelve in number, each of them 12 ft. high, and about 8 ft. broad; they are set erect, and, taken collectively, very much resemble the shoe of a horse".

Gough mentions³ the cottage, "whose gable is formed of a monstrous single stone twelve feet high and eight wide". He refers to the second large stone, and adds: "Behind the cottage is a broken cromlech". He then apparently gets confused, for he relates that the name of "Bryn Gwyn seems to be given also to the circle of stones which Rowlands says were by the distances eight or nine great pillars, of which he saw three and the stump of a fourth. This and the third may be hid in the fence of the cottage yard, or broken to make it".

Skinner seems to have missed the larger stone, for he states⁴ that "on enquiring for some ancient stones, noticed by Mr. Roland at a place called Bryn Gwyn, we were directed to one standing near a cottage a quarter of a mile to the north-west of the circus (Castell). It was of a lozenge form, measuring about 3 yds. in height and 2 yds. in width. We observed none of equal dimensions near at hand, but in a field at the back of the cottage there were six, each about a yard high, placed three and three at equal distances so as to form two exact triangles.

¹ C. B. (Gibson), ii, p. 61.

² N.O., p. 12.

³ C. B. (Gough) ii, p. 567.

⁴ J. S., p. 13.

Nicholson makes a rather curious statement¹: "The temple was a circle of upright stones, the diameter of which is 52 yds. The country people, supposing money was concealed, removed them. Some are scattered; two stand 20 yds. east of the circle, and are 4 yds. asunder. One, which is 12 ft. by 7 ft., exclusive of what remains in the earth, stands upright, and forms the gable end of the house which occupies this place. The other, nearly the same size, is also erect, and forms a fence for the garden".

Later writers have evidently derived their information from one of the above sources, but Stanley, in the *Arch. Journ.*, 1874, says: "Some stone fragments lying in a ditch may have formed part of the stones mentioned by Rowlands". The cottage has long since been demolished and a gateway in a walled bank, which runs across the field at this spot, has been set between the two meini hirion.

The larger slab shaped stone is 13 ft. high, 10 ft. wide near the ground, and 2 ft. thick. Its orientation is 108° Mag. (Az. 90° E.), that is, to the Equinoctial sunrise.

The second stone is 10 ft. high, from 9 to 7 ft. in width, and 4 ft. 6 ins. thick. Its orientation is 80° Mag. (Az., N. 62° E.), or to the May sunrise. The stones themselves are 11 ft. apart.

It is probable that an important group of stones stood here. In Rowland's time (1723), apparently, there were four standing, the two which still remain and two others, of one of the latter, however, only the stump remained. In his sketch he shews three more stones standing quite close, and five others at no great distance.

Pennant, in 1770, refers to a cromlech, but as Rowlands does not mention it, its existence must be con-

¹ E. N., p. 161.



Fig. 25. Llanfechell.

sidered doubtful. He describes the two large stones, one of which had by then been built into the end of a cottage, and also some lesser stones. Probably, the other two large stones out of the four had vanished before his time. Skinner, in 1802, only noticed the thicker stone and six small stones in a field at the back of the cottage.

In 1817, the cottage seems to have been standing, but it was demolished before 1841, and at that time probably every stone, with the exception of the two *meini hirion*, were broken up and used in making the walled bank which now runs across the field.

There are no indications which lead one to suppose that the two standing stones ever formed part of a circle. If this had been the case, the flat sides of the stones should have formed chords of a circle, but they do not do so.

It is, however, probable that a group of fine stones were associated together here, we know that two have been removed, and possibly three which may have been destroyed, shewed the points of the November and Solstitial sunrises. If this were the case, we should have a complete calendar formed by the stones which might aptly be compared to Rowlands' "Cerrig y Brudyn", or the Astronomer's stones. The western stone is composed of chloritic quartzose schist, which is not known nearer than seven or eight miles to the north-east. The eastern stone is of local mica schist. (E. G.)

They have been marked on all Ordnance Surveys as "*Meini hirion*", and are situated on the farm of Bryn Gwyn, which is the property of Mrs. Jones of Brynarvon, Llangefni.

At LLANFECHELL, half a mile N.W. of the Church, three stones stand on an eminence in the form of a triangle, from 8 to 11 ft. apart. They measure from 6 ft. 2 ins. to 6 ft. 11 ins. in height, from 2 to 2 ft. 6 ins. in

width, and from 8 to 12 ins. in thickness. One side of the triangle lies nearly East and West, its Azimuth being N. 86° E. The alignments of the remaining sides are Az. N. 34° W. and N. 33° E. The stones are composed of schistose grit, and are marked on all Ordnance Surveys.

About 500 yds. to the north-west is Llanfechell dolmen, from which an alignment is obtained through these three stones to the Winter Solstice sunrise. (Az. S. 50° E.) Standing East, at a distance of about 750 yds., is a single maen hir, to be described later. Its flat, or most visible side, is presented towards the three stones, its alignment being 1° S.E. (Az. S. 89° E.)

Three stones, also placed in the form of a triangle, used to stand at Pen-yr-Orsedd, LLANRHWYDRYS, two miles S.S.E. of the Church, and near Llanfairynghornwy, but the eastern stone, about 11 ft. in height, has been removed. Gibson,¹ quoting the Rev. John Davies' letter, refers to some objects, including an odd kind of helmet, which were found at "Cae-y-Maes",² in the parish of Llanrhwydrys, near three standing stones. He says: "Of these stones there are but three now standing, and these in a manner triangularly. One of them is 11 ft. 6 ins. high, 4 ft. broad, and 14 ins. thick; another about 3 yds. high and 4 ft. broad; and the third 10 ft. high, 8 ft. broad, and but 6 ins. thick". Gough also states that they are to be seen in the parish of Llanrhwydrys. The group is, however, described by Evans³ (1819) as being at Llanfairynghornwy, and "consisting of three large upright stones, standing at the distance of about 500 yds. from each other, the intervening space forming nearly an equilateral triangle".

¹ C. B. (Gibson), ii, p. 61.

² This spot cannot now be identified by name.

³ E., p. 240.



Fig. 26. Llanrhwydrys. North Stone.

To face p. 66.



Fig. 27. Llanrhwydrys. South Stone.

To face p. 66.



Fig. 28. Penrhos Feilw, Holyhead.

Miss Llwyd follows Evans in referring to Llanfairynghornwy as the situation of the three stones, but in another place, when quoting the from Rev. J. Llwyd's MSS., she speaks of three pillars and the helmet at Llanrhwydrys.

The missing stone, removed before 1841, was used by a farmer as a lintel to the door-way of a cow house, and it is said that every cow that passed the threshold became afflicted with a sore disease. The north stone, a very prominent object, is somewhat like a pillar, 11 ft. 4 ins. in height, 5 ft. wide, and about 2 ft. 6 ins. thick. It is composed of a schistose grit, which occurs close by. (E.G.) The south stone is also of schistose grit, and rather smaller than the other, being 8 ft. 6 ins. in height, 3 ft. 9 ins. in width, and but 8 ins. thick. It is now leaning out of the perpendicular. These two stones are nearly 300 yds. apart, and have been marked on all Ordnance Surveys. (Az. N. 10° E.) The approximate site of the third stone was pointed out to me; it must have stood nearly east of the south stone. From an examination of Lewis Morris' survey it is clear that the site indicated was correct, and that the stone used to stand about 400 yds. from the two which still remain.

Two *meini hirion*, a mile and a half S.W. of Holyhead Church, are marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1841 at Plas Milo, to the south-west of Holyhead Island. This farm is now known as PENRHOS FEILW.

Stanley writes¹: "tradition says that a large coffin was found between them, composed of several flat stones, and enclosing remains of bones, with spear-heads and arrow-heads, but I am unable to obtain accurate evidence of the facts". Both these stones are 10 ft. high, 3 ft. wide,

¹ A. C., 1868, p. 394.

and from 8 to 12 ins. thick. They stand about 11 ft. apart and are apparently composed of mica schist.

Writing in another place, Stanley says :¹ "old tradition affirms that these stones were surrounded by a circle of large stones, standing 4 or 5 ft. above the surface ; many of these were removed by the tenants to build the out-houses, fences, and to form gate-posts There is still one standing in the field to the east of the two meinhirs above mentioned". This latter stone still remains in position. The two meini hirion are marked on the present Ordnance Surveys, and have been placed in the custody of the Commissioners for the Protection of Ancient Monuments.

At CREMLYN, in the parish of Llanddona, two miles S. by W. of the Church, stand two meini hirion, within sight both of the dolmen and of each other. (There was formerly a third at some little distance to the south.) Both stones are composed of green mica schist and they stand about 185 yds. apart.

On the Ordnance Survey of 1841 all three stones are marked "Erect stone", but in the modern 1 in. survey one only of the two remaining stones is noted, it is called "Maenhir" ; on the 6 in. map both stones are marked.

The more northern stone of the two must be almost due east of the dolmen, but as the precise site of the latter has not been determined, no accurate measurements can be made. The northern stone is 9 ft. 6 ins. high, 3 ft. wide, and 2 ft. thick, and the southern one 7 ft. 7 ins. high and 3 ft. in width and thickness. (Az. N. 11° W.)

The important maen hir at Plas Bodewryd, half a mile S.E. of BODEWRYD Church, is not included in Longueville Jones' list. It is first recorded by Skinner,² who was

¹ L. S. & W., 2nd Mem., p. 10 (A. J., xxvi).

² J. S., p. 65.



To face p. 68.

Fig. 29. Cremlyn, Llanddona. North Stone.



To face p. 68.

Fig. 30. Cremlyn, Llanddona. South Stone.



Fig. 31. Bodewryd.

To face p. 68.



Fig. 32. Llanfaethlu.

To face p. 69.

shewn an immense stone called "Pres Maen". This name is accounted for by the tradition that a brass pot was buried near it and that anyone who could trace the sun's shadow at some particular hour of the day would discover a great treasure in the brass vessel.¹ Skinner says: "it is standing upright in the midst of a field and measures 13 ft. high and 14 and 15 ft. in circumference; allowing 4 or 5 ft. underground it must have been a very heavy body and cost some trouble to have erected it in its present position".

This stone occupies a prominent site. It is now 12 ft. high, 5 ft. 9 ins. wide and 2 ft. 6 ins. thick at a height of 30 ins. above the ground, in circumference it measures 13 ft. 3 ins. It is a rough oblong shaped stone and is composed of mica schist and is much weathered on both sides; at the present time it leans somewhat to the south. The general direction of the stone is 62° Mag. (Az. N. 47° E.) or to the Summer Solstice sunrise. It has been marked on all Ordnance Surveys.

The maen hir near Capel Soar, three-quarters of a mile S.E. of LLANFAETHLU Church, is a very prominent object, being 9 ft. 3 ins. in height, 6 ft. 3 ins. broad and from 15 to 24 ins. thick. The alignment of the major axis of this stone is 65° Mag. (Az. N. 47° E.), or to the Summer Solstice sunrise. It is composed of chloritic sericite-quartz schist (E.G.), and it has been marked on all the Ordnance Surveys.

About 400 yds. to the west of the farm house of Bod Deiniol, on the farm of GLAN ALAW, one mile S.W. of

¹ On p. 23 of Stanley's first Memoir on cyttiau at Ty Mawr, Holyhead, a footnote states that a large stone east of that farm was known as "Mein Bras", "possibly on account of some deposit of bronze or other relics there brought to light at some former period".

Llanbabo Church, stands a maen hir, 8 ft. 6 ins. in height, 6 ft. 7 ins. wide and about 20 ins. in thickness.

In spite of its size this stone has apparently never been chronicled neither has its position been marked on any Ordnance Map. It is in full view of the rocky hill on which, it is said, one, two, or three dolmens originally stood, and of which some remains may yet be traced. The stone appears to be composed of mica schist.

The alignment of the flat side of the stone is 53° Mag. (Az. N. 35° E.), it was not therefore directed to any one of the points of the compass already referred to. Taking into consideration the flat surface and great width of this stone slab it is somewhat surprising to find that it is not aligned to one or other of the important points of the horizon. On the south-east face of the stone is a well-defined hollow about 4 ft. from the ground, but this has evidently been formed by the continuous rubbing of cattle and horses.

A quarter of a mile north-west of LLANFECHELL Church is a single maen hir which was referred to earlier when speaking of the three stones near the dolmen. It is a flat slab of schistose grit, 8 ft. 6 ins. in height, 6 ft. wide at its base and 10 ins. thick. Its alignment is $197\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Mag. (Az. S. $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E.), or north and south, and it is practically due east of the triangle of stones already described. It is the only north and south maen hir in the Island and was first marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1895.

A mile and a quarter S.E. by S. of Holyhead Church is a maen hir on the farm of TY MAWR. Gough describes it¹ as a single stone in a field to the west of Trefignath, terminating almost in a point, about 5 yds. (*sic*) high. It is included in Mr. Longueville Jones' list. At the

¹ C. B. (Gough), ii, p. 571.



Fig. 33. Glan Alaw, Llanbabo.

To face p. 70.



Fig. 34. Llanfechell. North West of Church.



Fig. 35. Ty Mawr, Holyhead.

To face p. 70.



To face p. 71.

Fig. 36. Tyddyn bach, Trefdraeth,



Fig. 37. Werthyr, Amlwch.

To face p. 71.

present time it measures 8 ft. in height, 4 ft. 4 ins. in width near the bottom and about 2 ft. in thickness; it is composed of local mica schist. (E. G.)

The alignment of its south-east face is 65° , Mag. (Az. N. 47° E.), or to the Summer Solstice sunrise. An alignment from this stone to Trefignath dolmen is 148° Mag. (Az. S. 50° E.), or within 1° of the Winter Solstice sunrise. It has been scheduled as an Ancient Monument, and is marked on the 6 in. Ordnance Survey, but not on the present 1 in. map.

Just to the south of the railway at TREFDRAETH, three-quarters of a mile S. of the Church, on the farm of Tyddynbach, stands a large stone, close under the railway embankment. It is a rough squarish stone, 8 ft. in height, 4 ft. wide, and about 2 ft. 3 ins. in thickness, composed of felspathic quartzite of a type occurring to the north-east about Henblas. (E. G.) The alignment of its south-east face is 149° (Az. S. 48° E.), or to the Winter Solstice sunrise. It is marked "Maen hir" on Ordnance Surveys since 1895.

At WERTHYR, a mile and three-quarters W. of Amlwch Church, a maen hir stands in a field almost opposite the farm-house of Bryn Llwyd. Writing in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1882,¹ Sir John Rhys says he heard that "there was another stone of the same size, some distance from it, and a huge flat stone extending from one to the other. The old country people stood in great awe of it, and considered it an act of sacrilege when a Mr. Williams destroyed the top stone and one of the supporters".

It is an irregular slab of local chloritic mica schist, 9 ft. 6 ins. in height, 5 ft. 2 ins. in width, and from 19 to 28 ins. in thickness. The alignment of the south-east side of the

¹p. 237.

stone is 65° Mag. (Az. N. 47° E.), or to the Summer Solstice sunrise. It has been marked on all Ordnance Surveys.

A maen hir, leaning very much out of the perpendicular, stands close to LLANDDYFNAN Church. It is about 8 ft. high above ground, and 2 ft. square, it is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1895. Mr. Greenly describes it as of mica schist or gneiss, not local, but occurring to the east and south-east, beyond the deep valley; not in the direction of ice transport.

MAEN ADDWYN, which has been translated to mean "The Blessed Stone", is a maen hir standing by the roadside, a quarter of a mile S. by E. of the Church of Llanfihangel-tre'r-beirdd. It is mentioned by Miss Llwyd¹ and is a rough squarish stone, composed chiefly of quartzite. It is 10 ft. high, 4 ft. 2 ins. wide, and 2 ft. 8 ins. thick. It has given its name to a small village not far distant. The surveyors who compiled the first Ordnance Survey in 1841, appear to have been misinformed, or careless, as the words "Meini Addwyn" appear at the cross roads in the village as if there was more than one stone there. In 1895, however, the error was corrected.

About three-quarters of a mile to the west of the above, but not within sight, is another maen hir; it stands on a rising ground formerly called BRYN GOLMAN, on the farm of Plas Llanfihangel. It is a rough quartzite pillar with uneven sides, 8 ft. 6 ins. high and from 3 to 5 ft. in diameter. On the Ordnance Survey of 1841, it is faintly drawn as a stone, but not named, and in later surveys it does not appear at all.

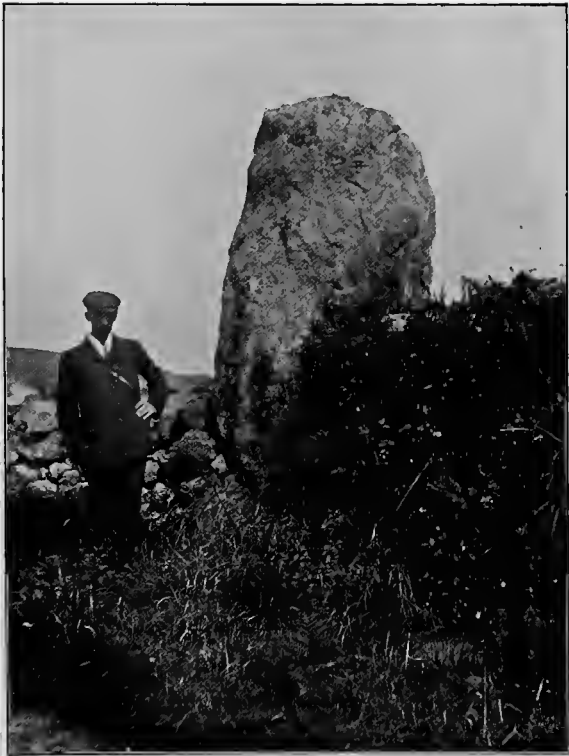
Lewis Morris in *Celtic Remains*, p. 97, referring to Colmon, an Irish general, that invaded Anglesey about A.D. . . . (?), says: "There is a great ditch thrown up

¹ A. Ld., p. 263.



Fig. 38. Llanddyfnan.

To face p. 72.



To face p. 72.

Fig. 39. "Maen Addwyn", Llanfihangel tre'r beirdd.



Fig. 40. Bryn Golman, Llanfihangel tre'r beirdd.

To face p. 72.

near Tre Wyn called Ffos Golmon to this day, and the ruins of a town hard by, called y Carneddau, or the Heaps, but no tradition what town it was.¹ A wedge of gold, about 20 lbs. weight, was lately found near this place, and other treasure". On p. 182, he adds that the solid piece of gold was as large as a man's foot. (Ffos Golmon is now known as Lôn Golman.)

Skinner evidently heard of the same piece of gold, for he writes²: "In the course of our walk the countryman pointed to a spot where he said his grandmother whilst tending the cattle found a large triangular piece of gold, as he called it, standing on three supporters weighing nearly 40 lbs. . . . This she sold for three shillings at Llanerchymedd". Skinner suggests that it was a bronze celt, and his conjecture is probably correct. Tradition, in the course of some forty years, doubled the weight of the "wedge of gold". It will be remembered that another "wedge of gold" was found in the smaller carnedd at Bryn Celli.

In the parish of Llantrisant, three-quarters of a mile S.W. by S. of the church, and about half a mile north-west of the farm-house of Tregwhelydd, and not far from that of Maen y Goron, is to be found a maen hir, formerly known as MAEN Y GORED; this stone is leaning in a north-westerly direction at an angle of about 45°. Its present measurements are 8 ft. 6 ins. long on its upper surface, 3 ft. 6 ins. in width and from 1 to 2 ft. in thickness. It is composed of mica schist and dolerite which may be local, though there is little local dolerite except in ice carried boulders. (E. G.)

¹ The foundations of dwellings can still be traced not far from the site of two carneddau which were destroyed within the last hundred years.

² J. S., p. 74.

No indication of its existence appears on the present Ordnance Surveys but on that of 1841 it is described as "Maen-y-gored", or the stone of the fish-weir. It is difficult to imagine at the present day where a weir could have existed in its immediate vicinity, possibly a fish-trap, or something of that sort, was to be found in the river Alaw, which is close by.

A second stone lies nearly buried in the ground behind the leaning stone the dimensions of which correspond nearly to those of the first. Excavation might reveal that when in their original upright position they were a pair which stood 11 ft. apart. A block of sandstone, scored by the plough, lies partly under the leaning stone. No orientation can be attempted here. These remains have been placed by Lord Sheffield under the care of the Commissioners for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

A stone near CYNDAL, over three-quarters of a mile S.W. by S. of Llanddona Church, is mentioned by Mr. Longueville Jones. It stands 200 yds. south-west of Bwlch farm-house which almost adjoins that of Cyndal. It is now 5 ft. 1 in. high, about 2 ft. by 18 ins. at the ground level, and is composed of micaceous chloritic schist. Some of the inhabitants remember it when it was higher, but a large piece has been broken off, or cracked away, and at the present time the top ends almost in a point. It stands close to a rocky mound, facing west and is not a conspicuous object. From its position one might suppose that it marked some interment.

On the Ordnance Survey of 1841 it is shewn as "Erect Stone", in later surveys it is omitted.

Close to the remains of the cromlech at DINDRYFAL, three miles and three-quarters N.E. by E. of Aberffraw Church, there is a maen hir which stands 10 ft. 6 ins.



To face p. 75.

Fig. 41. Cadnant, Llandegfan.

above ground. Hugh Prichard, in 1871, says¹ that 2 ft. have been exposed by treasure seekers. (This is on the northern side.)

This stone may have formed the end of a long chamber and should perhaps not be classed as a separate monument, the alignment however of some stones close by, which are believed to have formed part of a passage dolmen, does little to confirm this theory. The alignment of the stone itself is 147° Mag. (Az. S. 51° E.), or within 2° of the Winter Solstice sunrise. As, however, a short distance away a rocky eminence stands exactly in this direction the sunrise could not be observed from this point.

The stone is composed of chloritic epidote schist with magnetite, a modified basalt local (E. G.); it has not been marked as a maen hir on any of the Ordnance Surveys.

Mr. Longueville Jones refers to this stone² in his list as a maen hir on the west side of a rocky hill near Bodwrddin, two and a half miles south of Cerrig Ceinwen Church.

The preservation of this stone, as well as the dolmen, already described, has been entrusted to the Commissioners for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments who will doubtless cut away the ivy which covers the top of the stone, and fill in the hole, about 2 ft. deep, which has been dug by treasure seekers and exposes the very bottom of the stone.

A maen hir stands on the hill above CADNANT, in the parish of Llandegfan, three quarters of a mile W.S.W. of the Church. It is composed of schistose grit sandstone schist, stands in a prominent position, and is 9 ft. 7 ins. in height, about 3 ft. 3 ins. in width, and 12 ins. in thickness. In shape it is rather pointed, and an alignment of its south-west side is 149° Mag. (Az. S. 49° E.),

¹ A. C., 1871, p. 34

² A. C., 1855, p. 18.

or to the Winter Solstice sunrise. It is marked "Erect stone" on the Ordnance Survey of 1841, but in later editions is not recorded.

Two stones at LLIGWY may be spoken of here although they are not of sufficient size to be termed *meini hirion*. They are both slabs of limestone set on edge in commanding positions. The one standing, in what is now Lligwy wood, is about 8 ft. long, 5 ft. high and 20 ins. thick. Its alignment is 135° Mag. (Az. S. 63° E.), or to the November sunrise. The second is on a brow in Cae Felin, to the east of Lligwy House. This stone is about 6 ft. 4 ins. long, 4 ft. high and 24 ins. thick, its alignment is 77° Mag. (Az. N. 59° E.), or to the May sunrise.

The purpose of these stones is a mystery, but it is possible that the natives made use of them in order to ascertain correctly the division of their year.

A collection of stones, which were to be found at TRE'R DRYW BACH in the parish of Llanidan, disposed somewhat in the shape of an oval and chronicled by the Rev. Wynn Williams in A. C., 1871, p. 34, does not appear to have included any *meini hirion*. Four years ago I could find no trace of the "oval" except possibly one or two stones which had been included in walls.

A stone standing in the parish of Llandyfrydog, called "CARREG LEIDR", or the thief stone, is sometimes included in lists of *meini hirion*, but is quite unworthy of such a description. It is only a little over 4 ft. high and is composed of local red sandstone, called cornstone.

Folk-lore has brought it into notice, and a tradition runs that a man, having robbed the Church of Llandyfrydog of its books, was on his way homeward, when he "suffered a sudden transition of himself into a stone".¹

¹ N. O., p. 50.

The lump which is to be seen on one side of the stone represents the sack which contains his theft, lying over his shoulder. It is marked on all Ordnance Surveys as "Carreg Leidr".

Another stone called MAEN ARTHUR, not far from Llanfechell, has at times been dignified with the title of "maen hir", and may have been held in reverence. Mr. Greenly, however, assures me that it is a natural boulder. It is marked "Maen Arthur" on all Ordnance Surveys.

There is a stone standing in a wood at PLAS BODAFON, in the parish of Penrhoslligwy, on a spot called "Ponc y garreg hir". It is 5 ft. 3 ins. high, 3 ft. 3 ins. wide, and 2 ft. 3 ins. thick, composed of quartzite. At its foot is a smaller stone, somewhat like a step. It is difficult to decide whether this is an ancient stone or no. It has not a weathered appearance and it has never been chronicled.

A farm in the parish of Llanidan is known by the name of MEINI GWYNION, or the white stones. No standing stones are to be found there at the present day, but it should be remembered that, according to the Iolo MSS. (p. 446), the stones of the Gorsedd circle were called Meini Gwynion, *i.e.*, Sacred Stones, and some gorsedd circle may once have been laid out here.

Rowland mentions¹ a place as not far from Caer Idris, Llanidan, called "CERRIG BRUDYN, or the Astronomer's stones or circles".² This farm, now called Bridin, is about a mile and a half north west of Llanddaniel Church; the name suggests that some important stones once stood there.

¹ H. R., p. 84.

² There is no doubt that certain names were given to stone monuments by superstitious people in mediæval times, and that the value of the evidence afforded by these names may, in some cases be very small.

A gatepost, about 5 ft. high, on the farm of TREFOLLWYN, in the parish of Llangefni, was pointed out to me by the tenant, who stated that it had formed part of a long stone which used to lie in a field on the rising ground above the farm-house, close to the supposed site of an ancient town. The other portion is said to have been set in the foundations of the house itself. This stone has not been chronicled, but if it ever stood in an upright position, it would have been a very conspicuous object.

This completes the list of dolmens and meini hirion that I have been able to trace in Anglesey.

In summarising the above remarks, and in attempting to classify the monuments, I would point out that although fifty-two dolmens have been referred to, only five or six are known by any particular name, viz., Carreg y Fran, Maen Llwyd, Maen Chwyf, and two, or perhaps three, as Coetan Arthur. The term "Yr Allor" can hardly be considered a name. The remains at Mynydd Cnwc and one or two boulders in other parts of the island are known as "Barclodiad y Gawres" or the "Giantess' apron-full".

A classification of the dolmens would have been easy if they had been found to fall under various well-known types, but no special features common to more than, perhaps, two examples can be found. The ruinous condition of the monuments themselves adds considerably to the difficulty of grouping them together in any way.

It is not easy to determine whether two dolmens, when in close proximity, have been erected at the same date or at different times. If in the case of contiguous dolmens one was found to consist of a certain species of rock, and the second of quite another kind, they might be of different dates. On the other hand, the fact that both are of the same stone proves nothing, although it is

slightly in favour of the hypothesis that both monuments are of even date. Mr. E. Greenly tells me that as far as he can remember the stones which compose the two dolmens at Plas Newydd are of rock that is found in the district, and that the same is the case at Presaddfed and at Trefor.

In some instances, as at Plas Newydd, the monuments are so close as to be almost touching; a tumulus covering the larger one would necessarily have included the smaller, but there is nothing to shew whether they were erected at the same time, or whether the mound if any such existed, covered one chamber first and was afterwards partly excavated in order that the second dolmen might be built into it. As before stated, the evidence is rather in favour of the conclusion that these monuments are contemporary.

At Presaddfed, the dolmens are about 6 ft. apart, so that if they were covered with earth and stones, probably the mound would have included two. The two dolmens at Trefor, are, perhaps, 30 ft. apart, and the tumuli would, in all probability, have been separate. At Bryn Celli ddu, we know from Rowlands' and Skinner's sketches that two separate *carneddau* existed "within a few paces of one another", although neither observer mentions the exact distance between them. It is quite possible that the smaller one merely covered a cist.

Naturally, the kind of stone available for the purpose on any particular site, whether it be a glacial boulder or an outcrop of rock, would, to a certain extent, have influenced the style of building, though it would not have affected the plan. In one district slabs might be abundant, and in another only blocks or irregular masses. It is probable that in point of date the dolmen preceded the cist, and that the latter is a degenerate type of the former.

On this assumption, the oldest monuments should be

massive structures with no passages, and, with some hesitation, I suggest that Lligwy Cromlech, if it never had a creepway, may be the earliest monument in Anglesey. Stones directed to the east, west, and south, associated with the dolmen are certainly most unusual.

It is difficult to decide whether the dolmens at Plas Newydd and Ty Newydd or those at Bodowyr and Pant y Saer should come next; possibly, the above order may be the correct one. The dolmen at Bryn Celli is evidently of later date, and may be classed with the monument at Presaddfed as one of the same (passage dolmen) type, *i.e.*, slabs forming a six-sided chamber with an allée, directed to the Summer Solstice sunrise.

Probably Trefignath Cromlech and the remains at Dindryfal fall under the "long chamber" or "giant's grave" type, the sides of their oblong chambers being roughly parallel to each other. The plan of this class of monument should be a development of the passage dolmen.

Lastly, the monument at Glyn may be of a still later date, intermediate as to type between the dolmen and cist proper, and intended primarily as a place of burial. The condition of the remaining dolmens is so ruinous that no opinion as to their type can now be formed. The most massive dolmens with large quoits, supported by tremendous upright stones, are, in the opinion of Sir Norman Lockyer, connected with the May year, and are the most ancient, then the solstitial monuments, and lastly, those oriented to the equinoxes¹.

The dolmens of early type were, I believe, oriented, but the reasons for orientation cannot unfortunately now be determined, and they must, to a great extent, be founded on theory and conjecture. The most interesting theories

¹ *Stonehenge*, p. 429.

are those advanced by Sir Norman Lockyer, who, out of ten dolmens in Anglesey, aligns three to the Summer Solstice sun, two to the Winter sun, one to the May sun, two to the November sun, and two to the equinoxes ; also the chambered mound at Plas Newydd to the Pleiades. At Trefignath and Llanfechell solstitial alignments between dolmens and meini hirion are obtainable.

Most of the objects found under dolmens in Anglesey, with the exception, perhaps, of those within the cist at Pant y saer, appear to belong to the bronze age or an even later date, and may be connected with burials which have been introduced from time to time by successive peoples, long after the date of the erection of the structure. In the chamber at Bryn Celli little was found except human bones and some worked flints. The finds at Pant y Saer and Lligwy were confined to human and animal remains, pottery fragments, shells, and worked flints. At Trefignath there is an unconfirmed report of the finding of "urns" ; at Cae'r Llechau there is a tradition that bronze weapons have been unearthed near the dolmen ; and at Perthi duon "brass or copper chisels" are said to have been discovered.

It is unfortunate that accurate details of the finding of these urns and bronze implements have not been preserved. The "earthenware pan", discovered in the smaller carnedd at Bryn Celli may have been a cinerary urn. The under surfaces of capstones are certainly flatter than the top surfaces, and doubtless the stones have in most cases been turned in this manner, when necessary, to lighten the operation of moving them. The weather, moreover, is inclined to produce this condition of the surface by causing the under-side of the stone to shale off and by forming holes and irregularities in the top.

Some reference must here be made to the terms crom-

lech and dolmen, which are often misapplied, and I must express my entire agreement with Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., that some reconsideration of the terms is necessary. In Wales, monuments known as cromlechs or cromlechau, and in South Wales and Cornwall sometimes as "cromleys", are in other parts of Great Britain, on the Continent and elsewhere, referred to as dolmens. In Brittany a circle of stones is known as a cromlech, and the term dolmen is applied either to a quoit resting on two or more supporters, or to a long chamber covered with stone slabs.

I quite realise that there might be considerable difficulty in persuading the Continental authorities to discontinue the use of the word cromlech when referring to a stone circle, although attention has been called to this misnomer,¹ but, as in Great Britain the terms dolmen and cromlech are applied in different parts to practically the same class of monument, it seems to me that by making universal use of the word dolmen we should remove what is very often a source of difficulty and misunderstanding. I have therefore made use of the word dolmen when referring to any megalithic chamber which is definitely larger than a cist, let it be of the simple dolmen, wedge-shaped, passage, or gallery dolmen variety.

The term supporter is also misapplied. A supporter must necessarily uphold something, and in nearly every case where a capstone rests on tall uprights it will be found that the actual supporters are only two or three in number, and that the remaining stones or uprights have been placed in position merely to complete the wall of the chamber.

Dolmens, which are chiefly to be found near the coast in Cornwall, and in Wales as far north as the Conway Valley,

¹ *Manuel d'Archéologie Préhistorique* (J. Déchelette), i, p. 375.

are rare in Scotland, if indeed any of the simple dolmen type exist there, and there is no single instance in the Isle of Man. In the former case it is believed that the dolmen builders, who appear to have made their way round Cornwall and up the coast of Wales, did not get so far as Scotland, and in the case of the Isle of Man either that all examples have been destroyed, or that the dolmen builders never settled there, perhaps considering the island too small and remote for comfortable occupation. Ireland, on the contrary, is rich in these monuments.

The belief that they were Druidical altars is no longer seriously entertained, and the survival at the present day in Great Britain of any "altar" is unknown. Moreover the capstones of some dolmens, such as the one at Bodowyr, are not suited for sacrificial ceremonies.

Tacitus tells us that after the first fight of Suetonius, probably at Llanidan¹, "the groves dedicated to sanguinary superstition were destroyed; for they deemed it acceptable to their deities to make their altars fume with the blood of captives and to seek the will of the gods in the entrails of men". (*Tac. Ann.*, 1, xiv, c, xxix, Bohn.)

We may safely assume that any altars in the neighbourhood of the landing of the Roman forces or on the side of the Menai opposite Segontium, would have been destroyed, as Cæsar was bent on the extermination of the Druids. It will be remembered that the district of Llanidan was very rich in the number of dolmens it contained.

It is interesting to note that Cæsar makes no reference to Druids in Great Britain. The only evidence we have

¹ Prof. Lloyd suggests than the landing may have been made either at Llanidan or Beaumaris. *History of Wales*, i, p. 55.

on this point is that of Tacitus and he makes no mention of them in any other part than Anglesey.¹

It has I believe been too readily assumed that dolmens were erected by one race only and for one particular purpose. Certainly many, if not all, were at some period or other used either as ossuaries or to contain the bodies or remains of the dead, but it will not do to infer thereby that they were intended in every case to serve this one purpose only.

Take for example the dolmen at Lligwy. It will be remembered that it possesses stone slabs pointing approximately east, west and south. If the whole erection had been covered in the first instance with earth and stones, any purpose for which these pointers may have been intended would have been entirely nullified. The monument at Pant y Saer also, for reasons already stated, was probably in the first place intended for some other purpose than that of sepulture. Owing to the operations of improving farmers and treasure seekers in all ages, the external evidence now available is insufficient to justify us in determining the date when these monuments were erected, but we may assign the simple dolmen type to the neolithic period and the passage dolmen to the end of that period and perhaps the commencement of the Bronze Age.

A few remarks on the *meini hirion* must bring this paper to a close. As already stated only four have been distinguished by any special name,² *i.e.*, Pres Maen, Maen Eryr, Maen Addwyn, Maen y Gored and perhaps Maen y Dryw. All the stones stand either singly, in pairs, or in triangles, and no circles exist at the present day in Anglesey.

The single stones, when slab-shaped with flat sides, have

¹ The assertion that Druidesses existed in Anglesey apparently lacks proof. *Vide, Roman Britain*, E. Conybeare, p. 154.

² *Vide* footnote, p. 77.

generally been found to be aligned to one of the five points of the compass already referred to ; there are six examples to the Summer Solstice, one to the May sunrise and one to the equinox. A ninth, at Llanfechell, stands north and south, and as already explained, may have been used for determining the times of the Solstices. As in the case of the dolmens the greatest number of alignments are solstitial.

The single stone at Llanfechell, above mentioned, which stands with its flat side facing towards the three meini hirion, is a very noticeable object and seems to suggest that it was placed there in order to be quite visible to anyone standing at the three stones due west of it.

Groups, or remains of groups of stones are to be seen at Bryn Gwyn, Llanfechell, Llanrhwydrys, Penrhos Feilw, and at Cremlyn, also possibly at Tregwhelydd.

At the first three places the groups consisted of three, or perhaps more stones ; the two at Penrhos Feilw may be the remains of a triangle, but in the Cremlyn group it is quite possible that there were never more than two.

It is a matter of some surprise that so few alignments between standing stones, in any of these groups, can be obtained. At Llanfechell and Llanrhwydrys two stones are almost east and west of each other, while at Cremlyn one stone stands east of the dolmen. At Bryn Gwyn the taller of the two stones stands east and west.

No suggestion can be offered as to the purpose of the stones at Penrhos Feilw, although the "doubtful cromlech" may have been associated in some way with them. It will be remembered that a long grave is said to have been found between these stones.

The object in view when setting up the flat slab stones was evidently not the same as in the case of pairs of stones or triangles.

It is a curious fact that the distances between the stones at Bryn Gwyn, Penrhos Feilw and the points of the triangle at Llanfechell, measure approximately 11 ft. in each case, although the heights of the stones vary.

We may assume that the standing pillars, in some cases most probably the remains of groups of stones, are either commemorative, funereal or astronomical monuments. It is possible that some of these stones were venerated, as suggested by Rowlands, or adored by devotees of the phallic worship. By means of the aligued stones certain periods of the year could be calculated, and meetings, religious or otherwise, held in their immediate neighbourhood; the times for sowing the crops could also be regulated. The groups of stones as we find them now do not suggest that they were erected with the direct object of observing the sun, although they may have been used in connection with sun worship or "cultus lapidum".

If dolmens and meini hirion were in every instance to be found closely associated together we should be fairly safe in considering them of even date, but this is not the case, as meini hirion are widely distributed over Great Britain in districts where dolmens are unknown.

I think, however, that in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we must assume that the majority of the meini hirion belong approximately to the same date as the dolmens, although some may be of earlier date. Excavations may perhaps bring to light burials or various objects which will enable this question to be answered, so far as Anglesey is concerned, with a greater degree of certainty.

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ERRATA.

- Page 24, line 2 (fig. 5). The reference is to fig. 6.
 „ 46, „ 18 (fig. 17). The reference is to fig. 19.
 „ 69, „ 17 for 62° Mag. read 65° Mag.
 „ 73, „ 1 for Tre Wyn read Tre Wynn.
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