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Notes and Queries.

Ancient Carved Stone near Bantry.—The illustrated account of a carved pillar stone near Bantry, which appears in your last number, is of great interest; the publication of such information is most useful to archæologists. For instance, if I had known the exact position of this stone I should probably have been able to examine it when in Bantry some years ago, but time did not permit me to *search* for it. The following remarks are therefore based only on your illustration and description, and require to be confirmed, or the reverse, from the actual stone.

It would be more satisfactory if the name of the townland as marked on the Ordnance Survey were given in such cases, as this enables the site to be identified with certainty at any time: in this instance it appears to be Kilnaruane.

It is stated that the carving is now worn away, but from the photograph I should think that a paper squeeze or cast would bring out most of it, and perhaps some on the other side. The carving in the panels does not seem difficult to identify; the uppermost being a design of interlaced serpents or sea-horses, like those at Moone Abbey, County Kildare, and Kells, County Meath; and the second one of the figures known as *Oranti,* which represent men in the ancient attitude of prayer. They are uncommon in Ireland, but are found in Great Britain. Similar figures are to be seen in the Catacombs. Oranti are described and illustrated in Mr. Romilly Allen's "Early Christian Symbolism," pp. 127-8. The third panel contains a Greek cross of a type well known on early Irish monuments, for example, on slabs at Clonmacnois, illustrated in Professor Macalister's "Memorial Slabs of Clonmacnois," plates vii. and x. The design in the fourth or lowest panel is the most interesting, and evidently represents a subject common in Celtic art, both in Ireland and in Great Britain—the hermits, Paul and Anthony, in the desert dividing the bread brought to them by a bird. It may be seen on the Crosses at Moone Abbey, Monasterboice, and Kells, and usually takes the form of two figures seated or standing, and between them a bird holding a circular cake in its beak. At Moone Abbey the figures hold the bread in their hands and the bird hovers above; while on the cross at Nigg, in Ross-shire, the table or stand is indicated between the figures in the same way as in Windele's drawing. It would be difficult to identify this subject except for its occurrence on the celebrated cross at Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire, where the title is inscribed on the margin of the panel. See "Early Christian Symbolism" as above, pp. 223-4.

With regard to the stone mentioned as being at Old Kilcullen in County Kildare, I may state that it is not an erect slab or pillar like the Bantry stone, but is the shaft of a high cross, the head of which has been destroyed.

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Ancient Carved Stone near Bantry.— May I offer a reading of the third panel in this stone, counting from the top downwards towards the base, viz., that it represents the cross of our Saviour and those of the Four Evangelists. There is a cross in Kilmartin churchyard, Argyleshire, in

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