

THE WINDELE MONUMENT, CORK.

THE accompanying Lithograph represents the monumental cross lately erected in the Botanic Gardens Cemetery, Cork, to the memory of the late John Windele, the well known Irish scholar and antiquary, by his fellow citizens. The cross is 18 ft. in height, of light grey limestone from the Blackrock quarry. It was designed by Mr. Richard R. Brash, architect, of Cork, and was executed in the workshops of Mr. Patrick Scannell. Mr. Scannell has performed his work with the greatest fidelity, the peculiarly Celtic ornamentation being well rendered. The proportions of the monument, which is sculptured on the four sides, are exceedingly graceful and pleasing. The inscription is as follows:

JOHN WINDELE.
Died AUGUST 20TH, 1865.
AGED SIXTY-FOUR YEARS.
Erected by his Fellow Citizens as a Memorial of his Christian
virtues, and of a life devoted to elucidating the
Antiquities of
HIS BELOVED ERINN.

The following brief memoir appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, October, 1865:

"The deceased was born at Cork in 1801. Early in life he evinced an intense love for antiquarian pursuits, particularly those in connection with his own country, for he was an enthusiastic Irishman, and a sterling patriot; his patriotism was however of the right stamp, not dissipating itself, like that of too many of his countrymen, in frothy declamation, or Utopian schemes of national glory impossible of realization. He loved his native land, and everything connected with her ancient history, language, literature, and arts became the leading passion of his life. While yet a boy, he visited all the ancient remains within his reach, churches, abbeys, castles, &c., sketching and making notes of all that interested him.

"Early in life he became a contributor to *Bolster's Magazine*, which introduced him to the society of a number of gentlemen who made Irish archaeology their special study, among whom we may mention the late Abraham Abell, M.R.I.A. William Willes, an accomplished artist and archaeologist, and uncle of the present Baron Willes the Rev. Mathew Horgan, the hospitable and facetious parish priest of Blarney, and a well-known Irish scholar; Father Prout, &c. It was the custom of these gentlemen to make periodical excursions through the country, sketching military and ecclesiastical ruins, cromlechs, stonecircles, pillar-stones, and digging into round towers, tumuli, raths, &c. With such companions Mr. Windele was in his element; he entered into their pursuits with all the enthusiasm of his ardent nature, and after these associates of his early antiquarian labours had passed away from earth, he still continued the same course with unabated ardour.

"His favourite pursuit was Ogham hunting. These mysterious monuments of his country's early civilisation had for him an indescribable charm; away on the lofty mountain, the rugged glen, the wild moorland, or buried in the recesses of the lonely rath cave, his unweary spirit sought out those rock-cut records, whose mysterious characters have puzzled posterity. He was the original discoverer of a considerable number of those now known to exist, and saved many from destruction by removing them to his own residence, where they formed what he termed his megalithic library.

"His ardour in this pursuit was something astonishing; the smallest hint of the existence of marks upon a stone in any locality, no matter how remote or inaccessible, sent him off at once in search. The information conveyed to him, often by the farmers or peasantry, was very frequently incorrect, and many a weary pilgrimage ended in his finding the supposed Ogham inscription to be nothing more than weather marks or plough scratches. These disappointments never, however, damped his enthusiasm; as he often informed the writer, when he did not find an Ogham, he very generally bagged a stone-circle, a cromlech or two, or some other object of antiquarian interest. Several thick quarto volumes of sketches and notes attest the extent of his labours in this department.

"Mr. Windele's attention was also directed to the ancient language and literature of Ireland. He was himself a good Irish scholar, and had made a considerable collection of MSS. in that language. He was a constant patron of the poor Irish scribes; he not only employed them himself to the full extent of his moderate means, but he canvassed his friends for commissions for them to execute, in transcribing ancient MSS. Mr. Windele, though almost self-taught man, was possessed of a highly cultivated intellect,

and fine literary tastes; his information upon general subjects was varied and extensive, and the philology and antiquities of the other ancient peoples of Europe occupied his attention as well as those of his own; he was a good Latin and French scholar, and spoke and wrote the almost obsolete language of his native land with fluency and correctness.

"He was an indefatigable contributor to periodicals, newspapers, and antiquarian publications. In 1839 he published his 'Cork and the South of Ireland,' a work full of correct information and valuable antiquarian lore, and which reached a second edition; he was a large contributor to the *Dublin Penny Journal*, which in its day was the great repository of Irish antiquarian and topographical information. His papers enriched the pages of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, and the *Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society*. He was from the commencement a member of the *Cork Cuvierian Society*, whose records contain many of his valuable papers. At the time of his death, he was engaged in editing a valuable Irish MS. for publication by the *Ossianic Society*; * this work was nearly completed, and as it contains a mass of valuable notes on Irish topography, history, and folk-lore, the writer trusts it will be completed and published.

"Independently of his own personal contributions to antiquarian literature, Mr. Windele was a most generous and disinterested helper to every person requiring information on subjects coming within the sphere of his pursuits; he spared neither time nor trouble in answering all queries addressed to him by such, and that in the fullest and most complete manner. To every student of, or writer on, Irish topography or archaeology, his valuable library, his MSS., and his collection of notes and drawings made at great labour and expense, were freely accessible, we regret to say, often without acknowledgement. We could name more than one writer, the most valuable portion of whose work was contributed by the deceased, without the slightest notice of the obligation; he was indeed the most unselfish of men, and cared little about personal fame, or popular applause; the grand passion of his life being, to diffuse and spread around him a taste for cultivating the ancient literature and archaeology of his native land.

"In person, Mr. Windele was slightly below the middle size, strongly built; he was a famous pedestrian and in the heyday of his vigour would think, nothing of walking thirty or forty miles while engaged in his favourite pursuits. He was of a kindly, genial, social temperament; fond of the society of kindred spirits, full of quiet fun, and sly wit, which however was always harmless and carried no sting; he never spoke an uncharitable word of any and would shrink from wounding the prejudices or susceptibilities of the humblest. These qualities endeared him to a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who seldom considered their social board complete without him." The writer of this obituary feels deeply the loss of his old friend and fellow-worker, who for the last twenty years encouraged, stimulated, and assisted him in the study of Irish archaeology, and was the companion of many a delightful antiquarian tour. Mr. Windele's last contribution to archaeology was a paper 'On Ancient Irish Medical Practice,' which is in course of publication by the *Kilkenny Archaeological Society*.

R. R. Brash."

Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. IX, 1867, p.270]