

Cymri and Scots joined forces to resist him. Aidan, the King of Dalriada and Victor, with Rhydderch Hael, at the great battle of Arderydd or Carwhinellow, took up a position on Dawstone Rig in 603 to meet Aethelfrith the Saxon. His army consisted of Cymri and Scots. These were related races and had a common aim, the defeat of a cruel and relentless enemy, but there was not perfect unity between them. Aidan was not a Cymric King. The Cymri had their own glorious leader; he was not dead, but had passed into a mysterious region from whence he would appear to fight for his people when they were in dire extremity. Religion was a bond between them, but not a strong one. They had both embraced Christianity under the influence of the same teacher, St Columba. St Columba had spoken to them of love, and they had listened to him; and the Cross was held up before them as the symbol of love, yet they had not learned to love each other. Religion, at best, had presented them with a war-emblem, the Cross, and the name of Christ for a battle-cry.

Allowing fancy to fill up gaps in the historical or traditional account of the Battle, we may picture the Pagan King appearing from the East and taking up a position on the left bank of the Liddel, from which he could carefully study the disposition of Aidan's men. The fight was opened by Theobald, Aethelfrith's brother, who attempted to outflank the Celtic army; but this adventure failed and his force was cut to pieces, and we can imagine the sanguine Cymri dissipating their strength by following up too far this advantage. This was immediately succeeded by the main attack, led in person by Aethelfrith with all the ferocity for which he was famous. For a period the battle hung in the balance, now in favour of one and then of the other adversary; but, at last, the Cymri and Scots gave way. They may have made a stand at the upper end of their position, where the ground rises and narrows, but were unable to resist the ever-renewed assaults, and so the fight dragged on, till the remainder of Aidan's great army was annihilated at Adderstone Shiels. The Cross had, for a time, gone down in defeat. The standing

stone on Dawstone Rig commemorates a Pagan victory, a victory for Thor and Wodin, even more than the death of a Saxon lord.

Seventy years after the battle of Dawstone Rig, Italian sculptors carved on a stone the image of Jesus Christ; beside them was a ruined Pagan temple, and round them were fallen altars which had been dedicated to heathen deities. When they had finished the carving they raised the stone and surmounted it with a Cross. A Christian King had died, and the erection of the stone honoured the victory of a good life.

Five miles from Bewcastle is a ridge known as the Longbar. The writer was guided to it by way of Flatt, a distance of three miles, on a beautiful summer evening. After leaving Flatt the first part of the journey was easy, over a hill road and a path; then there was a little climbing across rough ground. The clouds were in masses which cast great shadows, in abrupt contrast to spaces of brilliant colour on the hillside above, seen against a screen of darker clouds. Looking back towards the west the distant hills were hazy blue; below was moorland, broken by ridges covered with heather and rough grass, scattered mossy patches of fresh green and red, and boulders which glittered in the sunlight. The White Lyne could be seen far down like silver, through a thin veil of blue; and the rocky summit of Christianbury towards the north rising 1500 feet or more. The route lay between great jagged stones and crossed immense flat rocks, fissured from end to end. One was impressed by the feeling of silence. The Spirit of the place was irresistible, the glamour and mystery; and the mind would have received little shock had there suddenly appeared a horde of wild men in weird coverings, armed with ancient weapons of flint and bronze.

A former rector of Bewcastle, the Reverend John Maughan, visited the Longbar and was of opinion that the stone from which the famous cross was made had been taken from this place. "About the centre of the ridge a stone is now lying on the surface of the ground, which is nearly 15 feet in length, and