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In the vestry of the church at Adel are several querns or handmills for grinding corn, three Roman altars, and other sculptured curiosities, which have been found in different parts of the parish. Adel was a Roman station, and the description here given of the Roman antiquities is fairly done. But when we come to an account and drawings of some five or six old Saxon tombstones that have recently been found in the foundations and other parts of the masonry of the old church, it is almost melancholy to see the waste of learning. These stones and certain fissures and marks on some rocks in the parish (which, so far as the etchings are any guide, seem undoubted weather-marks) have given rise to a flood of writing on the "primæval creeds illustrated at Adel." Of the upright early tombstones found in the masonry of the church, and illustrated on pp. 205-6, the rector remarks: "An Indian traveller (Sergeant M.) pronounced them to bear astrological features, and I think he was correct in his idea"; and then in the very next sentence he goes on to say: "If you inspect them carefully, you will see that they bear phallic marks, and oghams too (ancient Irish letters), and runic characters, which place them above the Saxon or Christian period." Judging by the drawings, the stones are not very exceptional, numbers of similar ones having been found in Norman church masonry in Derbyshire, and the arrangement of circles and half circles into a cross-like form was undoubtedly the early form of Saxon (and possibly Celtic) memorials to departed Christians. There is no reason for coming to any other conclusion with regard to the Adel stones, providing that the drawings are fairly accurate. The way in which almost every filthy superstition of Eastern nations is supposed to be symbolized on these old tombstones of a Yorkshire village is almost painfully absurd. The traveller who is acquainted with the interesting

Basque churchyards on the French side of the Pyrenees could produce from his sketch-book nearly every one of these cruciform and circular designs at Adel, as now to be seen on both old and quite new tombstones in those Christian cemeteries; and as for another of the designs, found on a rock, and supposed to convey some terrible and obscene mysticisms connected with the worship of some half-dozen different deities of pagandom, we last saw it on the flank of a mule which had been bought for five francs at the disbandment of Don Carlos's troops, bearing the brand that had been affixed to all the royal cattle!

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