



X 4½

Left Ramus of lower jaw, view from interior. Double row of teeth. Inner row of sharp pointed laniaries, evenly spaced and the anterior one showing slight anterior inclination, curving dorsally into a blunt tip. Several are preserved in the specimen and the bases of the others can be seen in the posterior part of the jaw. Outer row of small peg-like teeth in which the crown is somewhat expanded towards a flattened top. Only to be seen to the posterior of the specimen. Jaw fairly deep, tapering very quickly at the extreme anterior end. Bone smooth and glossy, slightly concave to viewer.

In dentition the specimen is typically Palaeoniscid — the double row of teeth being characteristic. The quickly-tapering anterior end of the lower jaw suggests similarities to the general *Fouldenia* (White), *Carboveles* (White) and *Ekonichtys* (Giebel). The type specimens of the varying species of the above mentioned are not sufficiently well preserved for definite identification of this specimen.

Family PALAEONISCIDAE



X 9

Scale from left flank showing area of overlap and articulating peg. Incomplete at postero-ventral margin. Free surface brilliantly polished. Rhomboid with distinctive ornament of coarse rugae tending to converge at the postero-ventral border. A normal type of Palaeoniscid squamation.

SCOULAG KIRK

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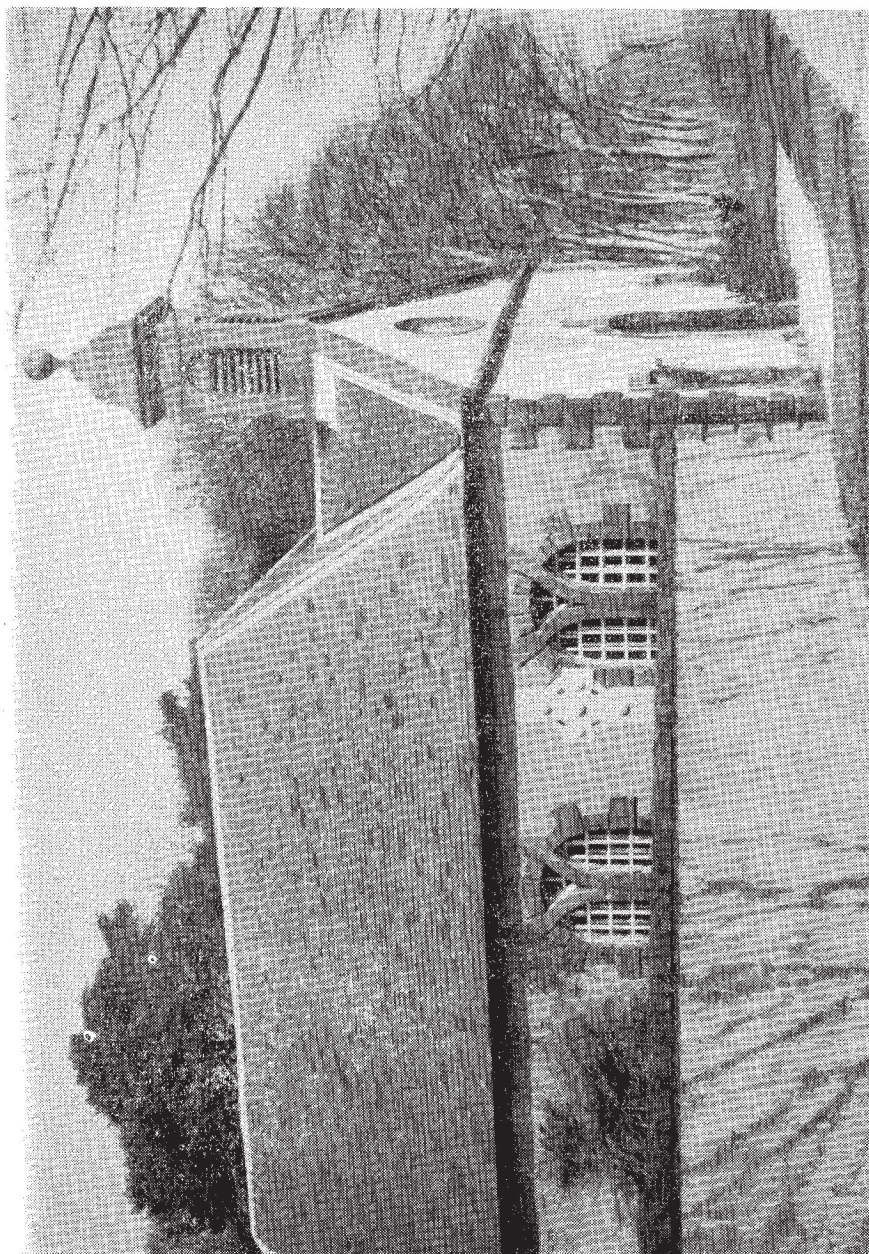
The parish of Kingarth is fortunate in possessing a fine Romanesque church albeit in ruins, standing on an early religious site of great beauty. Less well-known than the kirk of St. Blane is the little building at Scoulag, which was once the centre of a hamlet and which served the parish in later times. Standing now within the policies of Mount Stuart, it is the property of the Bute family, who as patrons built it in the mid-18th century. When in the early 19th century it ceased to be the parish kirk, it became what Blain in his "History" referred to as "a very genteel and convenient chapel of the family" and had thus the good fortune to be preserved complete in most of its essentials. As an excellent example of a Scottish post-Reformation kirk this little building is worthy of study.

Like many others of the period, it is a T-plan structure whose north aisle, or wing, accommodates the laird's loft, reached by a fine ashlar forestair against the north wall. Its harled walls, with rusticated quoins and other dressings of red sandstone, are capped by a moulded cornice, above which rises a steep-pitched slated roof. The east and west ends have round-arched doorways flanked by blind rectangular ones and, in an unusual straining after symmetry, both pedimented gables are surmounted by a square belfry with ogival head. The south wall, against which the pulpit stands inside in the usual manner, has a balanced arrangement of two rectangular doorways and four round-headed windows with rusticated dressings. The latter are each divided Gothic-wise by a central mullion into two lancet lights.

The vernacular classical character of the exterior is maintained inside the building. There is a coom-ceiling of plaster; the laird's loft has panelled walls and breast and an entablature overhead; and the original pulpit of oak with

an ogival-topped sounding board still stands against the south wall, but now lacks its precentor's desk. The area below the loft, often used as the laird's burial vault, in this case has been faced with ashlar in later times and opens into the main body of the kirk through modern arches. Two fine funeral hatchments are displayed on the walls and there is a good brass chandelier of Dutch type. The building is now furnished as a Roman Catholic chapel and forms an attractive centre piece to the Bute family burial ground.

According to Reid's "History of the County of Bute," the last minister to officiate at St. Blane's was Robert Glen, who in 1724 was translated to Lochgilphead. The parish remained vacant until 1740, when James Stewart of Kilwhinleck was ordained and it was during this interregnum that the kirk of Scoulag was built. About 1805, the village of Kerrycroy was laid out to replace that at Scoulag and about that time the kirk ceased to serve the parish and became the domestic chapel and burial place of the Bute family. It was succeeded for a short time by another building near the present parish kirk, the latter being erected in 1826.



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Photo: J. Ferrier