

**THE EARLY COLLECTION
OF CANONS KNOWN AS
THE HIBERNENSIS:
TWO UNFINISHED PAPERS**

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The Early Collection of Canons Known as the Hibernensis: Two Unfinished Papers by Henry Bradshaw

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HENRY BRADSHAW

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THE HIBERNENSIS.

THE EARLY 4261
COLLECTION OF CANONS

KNOWN AS THE

HIBERNENSIS:

TWO UNFINISHED PAPERS

BY THE LATE

HENRY BRADSHAW

FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN.

EDITED FOR THE SYNDICS OF THE PRESS.

CAMBRIDGE,
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS,
1893

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PREFACE.

IN a note prefixed to the Appendix which concluded the volume of Henry Bradshaw's *Collected Papers*, published in 1889, I mentioned the existence of a fragment of his more detailed work on the *Hibernensis*. Although I was familiar with it, having had it read to me by the author himself, I had not been able to find it among his papers; or it would have been included in that collection. As there seems little chance of making up another volume, and as several persons have expressed a desire to see his latest work on the subject in print, unfinished as it unfortunately remains, the Syndics of the Press have consented to publish it in the present form.

It is to be regretted, in view of the remarks contained in the footnote on pp. 54, 55, that Bradshaw's own copy of the mis-named *Rituale Ecclesiae Dunelmensis*, with MS. notes by him, passed, at the sale of his books, into the hands of a bookseller in the north of England; and I do not know in whose possession it now is¹.

In the *Academy* for 1888 and 1889 will be found several letters relating more or less directly to the *Hibernensis* and to Mr Bradshaw's work. In particular Dr B. F. MacCarthy

¹ His copy of Maassen's *Bibliotheca Latina juris canonici manuscripta* has also disappeared. I should be very grateful to anyone who could inform me what has become of it.

takes exception to the suggested identification of the compiler of the *Hibernensis* with Cummeanus, the author of the Penitential (see pp. 37, 38 of the present pamphlet). It would be presumptuous in me to do more than ask students of the subject to consider his objections very carefully before they accept them. They do not appear to me to be conclusive.

It may be well to explain that the first paper was written in the form of a letter to Dr Wasserschleben: and I have not thought it desirable to make any change.

Bradshaw's collations and notes are preserved in the University Library: and it may be that someone who possesses the necessary knowledge and the necessary patience and insight will one day make some use of them.

I hope that the 'Synopsis of Contents' will serve in the place of an alphabetical index: and that the comparative 'list of *tituli*' at the end will help to call attention to the wide difference that exists between the two recensions of the work.

F. J.

CAMBRIDGE, November 24, 1892.

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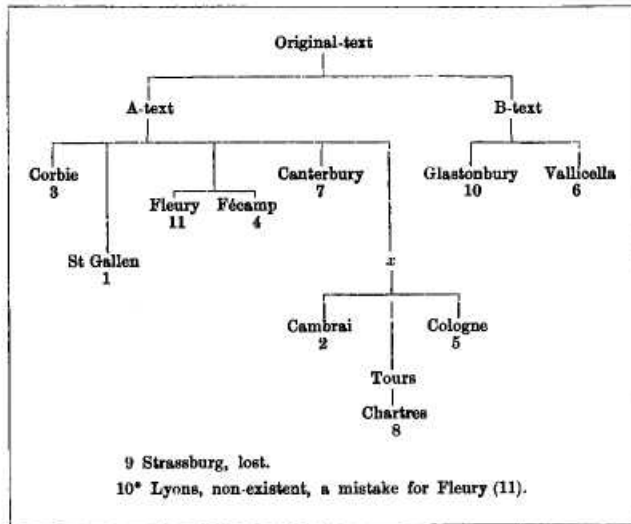
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I.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE.

April 28, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

I gladly avail myself of the opportunity you offer me of putting down on paper for your consideration a brief statement of some of the conclusions to which I have been led concerning the history of the compilation known as the *Collectio Canonum Hibernensis*. The work, which first came to my notice when Haddan and Stubbs were preparing their edition of the *Councils*, came afterwards to be a subject of more special study when I was engaged in searching for any volumes I could find which might with certainty be looked upon as written (that is, transcribed) within the limits of Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany before the close of the eleventh century (A.D. 1100). Whatever I found in the nature of contributions to the vernacular dialects, either new glosses, or corrections of old ones, or scraps of verse, etc., I sent to Mr Whitley Stokes, who printed them from time to time with a commentary of his own. But the Latin books themselves, which contained these glosses, were of course of no interest to the Celtic philologist, while my own primary object was to see what books these early people read and used, and transcribed for their own use, and what habits of writing they displayed. Even where they were specimens of foreign or classical literature, they nevertheless presented features of interest peculiar to themselves; but where they had the appearance of being native productions, their interest for me was naturally increased tenfold. Eight copies of the *Hibernensis* are among the volumes which I thus examined in the course of my explorations, five of them undoubtedly written