

**THE CELTIC CHURCH IN SCOTLAND,  
BEING AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN  
SCOTLAND DOWN TO THE DEATH OF  
SAINT MARGARET. [LONDON-1894]**

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The Celtic Church in Scotland, Being an Introduction to the History of the Christian Church in Scotland down to the Death of Saint Margaret. [London-1894] by John Dowden

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**JOHN DOWDEN**

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THE DEATH OF SAINT MARGARET.

BY  
JOHN DOWDEN, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF EDINBURGH.

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## PREFACE.

THE following pages, some of which were read in a series of Lectures delivered in the Chapter House of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, are intended chiefly for those who, while possessing such general information in regard to the history of Scotland as may be reasonably looked for in persons of education, have not made any special acquaintance with the early history of the Church in this country. I have also, however, had in view the interests of Theological Students, and those of the Clergy and others, who may be induced to investigate the subject more minutely for themselves; and I have accordingly treated with some fullness the original sources of our knowledge in respect to the Celtic Church in Scotland, and have attempted to estimate their value.

For the sake of both classes of readers, I have in many places thought it an advantage to allow the original records to tell their own story. A modern rehandling of the contents of the ancient documents is, no doubt, to a very large extent inevitable, but it is not unattended with loss; and as far as it is

feasible there is a real gain in coming, so far as may be, into direct contact with our historical sources.

The true character of the episcopate in the Celtic Church, having been long the subject of an animated controversy, not yet wholly extinct, has been dealt with at a greater length in Chapter XIV. than could otherwise be reasonably claimed for it.

It is hoped that the chapter on the archæology of the Celtic Church may serve to interest some who may be impatient of the treatment of merely documentary evidence.

The fact that the early chapters were delivered as Lectures may be offered as some excuse for the somewhat colloquial style in which they are cast.

I have to express my thanks to Rev. H. J. Lawlor, B.D., Senior Chaplain of Edinburgh Cathedral, for the care he has bestowed upon the revision of the proofs, and for many valuable suggestions; but it would be unfair to him to hold him in any degree responsible for the statements of fact and opinion in the following pages. My thanks are also due to the Rev. Edmund McClure for the valuable Appendix IV. on the epigraph of one of the Kirkmadrine stones.

## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

- The Roman Possession of Scotland—The Christian Monumental Sculptures at Kirkmadrine, Wigtonshire—The Native Peoples—Their Religion—The Labours of St. Ninian ... .. p. 11

### CHAPTER II.

- St. Patrick a Child of the British Church in Scotland ... .. p. 33

### CHAPTER III.

- St. Palladius, and his Disciples, St. Ternan and St. Serf—The Origin of the Myth of a non-Episcopal Church in Ancient Scotland ... .. p. 40

### CHAPTER IV.

- St. Mungo (or Kentigern) ... .. p. 49

### CHAPTER V.

- The Historical Character of the Documentary Authorities for the Lives of St. Ninian and St. Mungo ... .. p. 59

### CHAPTER VI.

- St. Columba ... .. p. 80

### CHAPTER VII.

- Iona: its Physical Features—The Constitution of the Columban "Family"—Life in the Brotherhood at Iona ... .. p. 122

### CHAPTER VIII.

- The Historical Character of Adaman's *Life of St. Columba*: The Miraculous Element ... .. p. 135



## CHAPTER IX.

- St. Adannan—Iona in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries  
p. 144

## CHAPTER X.

- Influence of Iona in the South: St. Cuthbert in Lothian ... .. p. 157

## CHAPTER XI.

- The End of the Columban Episcopate in Northumbria—  
The Diocese of Lindisfarne north of the Tweed—  
Melrose—Coldingham—Abercorn—The See of Can-  
dida Casa as an English Foundation ... p. 177

## CHAPTER XII.

- The Church in Scotland in the Ninth, Tenth, and  
Eleventh Centuries—The Culdees ... p. 193

## CHAPTER XIII.

- The Faith and Ritual of the Celtic Church—The Tonsure  
and Easter Computation ... .. p. 208

## CHAPTER XIV.

- The Episcopate in the Celtic Church ... .. p. 250

## CHAPTER XV.

- St. Margaret of Scotland ... .. p. 267

## CHAPTER XVI.

- The Archæology of the Celtic Church in Scotland in its  
Historical Relations ... .. p. 292

## APPENDICES.

- I. The *Altus* of St. Columba ... .. p. 321  
II. The Legend of St. Regulus ... .. 329  
III. St. Margaret's Gospel Book ... .. 331  
IV. The Kirkinadrine Epigraph ... .. 333  
Index ... .. 335

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. Representation of St. Luke from the *Book of Deer*.  
The square ornament on the breast of the figure has  
been supposed to represent a case, containing the  
Gospel, suspended from the neck ... *Frontispiece*
2. Sculptured Stone at Kirkmadrine, Wigtonshire *p.* 17
3. Remains of the ancient Celtic Church on Eilean-na-  
Naoimh, from a photograph in the possession of Dr.  
J. Anderson, Keeper of the National Museum of the  
Antiquaries of Scotland ... .. *p.* 113
4. Double Bee-hive Cell on Eilean-na-Naoimh, from a  
photograph in the possession of Dr. J. Anderson  
*p.* 293
5. (a) The Bell of St. Ninian (hammered iron). (b) The  
Bell of St. Fillan (cast bronze) ... .. *p.* 309
6. The "Bachul More." The metal covering has almost  
disappeared, many rivets are still visible ... *p.* 313

# THE CELTIC CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

## CHAPTER I.

THE ROMAN POSSESSION OF SCOTLAND—THE CHRISTIAN MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES AT KIRKMADRINE, WIGTONSHIRE—THE LABOURS OF ST. NINIAN.

WITH a view to our understanding aright the early history of Christianity in Scotland, it is well to recall to mind that the present boundary line between Scotland and England had no existence in the days of the Roman occupation of Britain, nor indeed for many centuries after the last of the Roman legions had quitted the country for ever. The whole island as far as the line between the Firths of Forth and Clyde was known as Britain: north of that line was the region known as Caledonia, or Alban.

The Roman conquest of the island, so fruitful in the beneficent results of civilization, was not permanently effective in the most northern part. In Edinburgh we are close by the furthest outposts of the Empire. The line of forts originally constructed