The Celtic church in Scotland, being an introduction to the history of the Christian church in Scotland down to the death of Saint Margaret

Dowden John
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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.

BY

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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 archaeology
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.
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