

## “Early Christian Art in Ireland.”

Not long since Messrs. Chapman & Hall published a work under the above title, which contained much valuable information, and many highly interesting illustrations to the



From “EARLY CHRISTIAN ART IN IRELAND,” BY MARGARET STOKES.  
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book-lover. After elaborate reference to the renowned “Book of Kells,” the work continues:—“From the school in which such work as this was produced, it is natural to suppose many branches sprang. In Ireland we have the ‘Book of Durrow,’ in King’s Co., a fragment of the Gospels, also said to be in the handwriting of Columba, and in which there are illuminations of the same style of art, though inferior in beauty of execution.\* In this manuscript, at the close of the first and apparently the oldest portion, we find the usual request of the Irish scribe for a prayer from the reader, which when translated runs thus:—

“‘I pray thy blessedness, O holy presbyter, Patrick, that whosoever shall take this book into his hands may remember the writer, Columba, who have myself written this Gospel in the space of twelve days, by the grace of our Lord.’

“There are fewer varieties of design in this book than in the ‘Book of Kells,’ but those it does display belong to the most charac-

\* The specimen accompanying this article is the page preceding the Epistle of Jerome in this volume, and offers a fine example of the Celtic design called trumpet pattern, or divergent spiral.

