

These Fac-similes are produced in perfect accordance with the original MSS., in dimensions, colours, and other features; not a line added. So faithfully has the Sun copied these MSS. that the leaves of the ancient documents appear as if they were stretched and pasted on sheets of card board, and then bound up in the Volume. The plates, before the work was issued, were examined and certified to by Mr. Saunders, Assistant-Keeper of the Public Records, England.

Mr. Gilbert, Secretary of the Public Record Office, in his report to the Right Honourable the Master of the Rolls and Keeper of the Public Records of Ireland, describes this great work as follows:—

“The work is in imperial folio size, and the present part contains 45 coloured plates. The written matter of each specimen has been printed opposite to it, in the original language, line for line, without contractions: such translations and elucidations have also been given as will, it is hoped, effectively assist those who may desire to examine or critically study any of the manuscripts.”

The original manuscripts are remarkable for their great antiquity. They are probably the most ancient Christian MSS. in the world, as those copied into this Volume date from the fifth century (*temp. St. Patrick*) to A.D. 1137.

These Fac-similes are most interesting, and to the Biblical student invaluable, as nearly all the MSS. represented in this Volume are portions of the Holy Scriptures, copied from the Gospels.

The Rev. J. H. Todd, D.D. (Church of England clergyman), in recommending to Sir Henry James the publication of the *entire* BOOK OF KELLS, says:—

“I wish you would consider whether it would be possible to do the entire of the *Book of Kells*; it is, I believe, the most splendid specimen of a Latin Evangelistarium in the world. It would be of immense importance to Biblical Literature to have such a MS. in fac-simile.”

There are several hundred figures, letters, &c., copied on 45 folio plates in this book (which is the first of a series of three Volumes publishing by order of the British Government). They are splendid examples of pictorial art, as the magnificent illuminations, especially the *unique* compound and single letters from the *Book of Kells*, show. (See plates XIII. to XVII.)