

In Germany and Switzerland St. Columbanus left disciples, who were more successful than he had been. St. Gall converted Switzerland, of which he is still venerated as the apostle. St. Gall and his companions, Magnoald and Trudbert, converted the Alamanni. St. Kilian, St. Totnan and St. Colonat preached the Gospel in Bavaria. To show to what measure Germany has received the benefit of Irish missionary zeal it is sufficient to state that the catalogue of the saints of Germany contains the names of 150 Irishmen, whom the gratitude and admiration of the people evangelized by them have placed on the altars.

Scotland is another country to which the bright light of Erin's Faith was carried by her faithful sons. Caledonia, as the country was then called, was inhabited by the Picts and the Scots. The Scots occupied the western islands and part of the western shore. They were a colony that had left Ireland, shortly after the conversion of the island, and had probably remained Christians, at least in name. The rest of the country was inhabited by Picts. The Picts of the south had already been evangelized by Roman missionaries, Ninian and Palladius, but no traces of Christianity remained among them. No missionary had ever ventured among the ferocious Picts of the north. St. Columbkil, a voluntary exile from the Emerald Isle that he loved so well, established a monastery of Irish monks, on the rocky island of Iona. Thence, he and his companions made numerous voyages over all Caledonia, preaching to both Picts and Scots. St. Columbkil spent the last thirty-four years of his life in this work. He built more than a hundred churches and monasteries, remains of fifty-four of which are still found in Scotland. He had the happiness of seeing the Christian faith spread over all Caledonia before his death.

The monastery of Iona continued to flourish after the death of its founder, and its monks carried the Faith into England. St. Augustine, a Roman missionary, sent out by St. Gregory the Great, is the apostle of England. But it must not be supposed that he was to England what St. Patrick has been to Ireland. St. Augustine, and the Italian missionaries that accompanied him, succeeded in converting two of the seven kingdoms that formed the Heptarchy, Kent and Essex. Though Ethelbert, king of Kent,