

with them. The text is in Irish and English, giving the Law of Distress, Laws for the punishment of Murder, Wounding, Abduction, and for all offences against Persons and Property, Hostage Securities, Fosterage, Saer-Stock, and Daer-Stock Tenures. Laws defining with great minuteness the relative positions of Landlord and Tenant. These laws prove that even in those remote times the maxim, "that property has its duties as well as its rights," was well understood." The rights of women, married and single, and of minors, are minutely defined. These ancient laws show that nearly two thousand (2,000) years ago, the Irish laws relating to them were nearly, if not entirely, in accord with those plans now recommended by advanced thinkers in England as a basis for legislation to do justice to women and minors. (*See Preface.*)

These Volumes were published in Dublin, by order of the Government, respectively in the years 1865, 1869, and 1873, and together contain over 1650 pages of printed matter, Irish and English on every alternate page. They are beautiful specimens of Irish Typography. The fac-similes of Irish MSS., with which they are illustrated, deserve careful examination.

#### FAC-SIMILES OF IRISH MANUSCRIPTS.

- 13.—FAC-SIMILES OF THE NATIONAL MSS. OF IRELAND; made by command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Photo-zincographed from the original Vellum MSS., under the direction of Major-General Sir Henry James, R.E., F.R.S., Director-General Ordnance Survey, England, and issued from the Public Record Office, Dublin, 1874.

Sir Henry James, in his Preface, says :—

"The Irish Series, as will be seen, is remarkable not only for the great antiquity of many of the MSS. comprised in it, but also for the splendid examples of pictorial art which it contains, of which the highly colored drawings and the letters on the Title-page will give an idea."

"A great number of the MSS. are copies of the Gospels and Psalters, which exhibit in their illuminations the devotion to their work of Artists of the highest skill [the Irish Monks of the period], both in fanciful design and colour."

"The production of Fac-similes of such highly ornamented work has tested the skill of the draughtsmen and printers of this Department [Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton], the selection of the various tints of colours requiring great taste and judgment, and the 'register' of the plates the greatest nicety and care."