

CHAPTER III

Missionaries of Christianity and Culture CONTINENTAL EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA;— AMERICA?

THE conversion of England as we have seen was due to the Irish missionaries. The conversion of Scotland was an earlier task performed by the same agents with like success. What was accomplished from Lindisfarne for western, central and northern England had been achieved for Scotland in very similar fashion from the mother house of Iona. These two nations occupied only the sister island however, separated from Ireland by a narrow sea or straits and only comparatively little of the missionary spirit that sends men to long distances from home was needed for the workers in these regions. But the spirit of the Irish missionaries led them to wander ever so much farther afield than this. They went over to the continent not only to France and Italy as well as to the not distant coasts of the North Sea, but they also went up along the Baltic and to the end of the Mediterranean and made foundations near old Carthage in Africa as well as in Asia Minor. They ventured greatly daring up to Iceland and there is even definite question, which some answer in the affirmative, as to whether they did not go all the way across the Atlantic to