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Stokes, W.

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Snouck Hurgronje, C.

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1890

1890-10-14

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15, Grenville Place,
S.W.

14 Oct. 90

My dear Freeman

I have written to Prof. DeGoeje.
His pamphlet is very clever,
but has not convinced me:
The incident of celebrating
masq on a whale's back
is certainly Celtic, not
Arabic - for it occurs
in Bili's Life of S. Malo
composed in the ninth
century. And the name

of the ^{whale} ~~great fish~~ Isconius ⁰²
can only be explained from
the Irish iasc, which is,
as you say, connected with
piscis, & fish.

De Goeje thinks that
the Sea Lindis story
may have been picked up
by an Irish sailor or monk
travelling in the East. But
there is not a particle of
evidence that the early

medieval Irish ever
~~went~~ travelled eastward
further than Rome. For
their knowledge of the Holy Land
they are indebted to Adamnan's
tractate De ~~the~~ Locis Sanctis, which
he wrote from information ~~decre~~
given him by Arculfus, a
Faulish bishop cast by storm
on ~~shore~~ the western coast
of Britain.

My own impression (it
is not strong enough to be called
an opinion) is that the Arabs

04
heard the legend for
when they came to
Spain in the 8th
cent.

We start for Italy on
the 23rd. I shall rejoice
to escape the fogs.

Faithfully yours

Whitely Stokes
