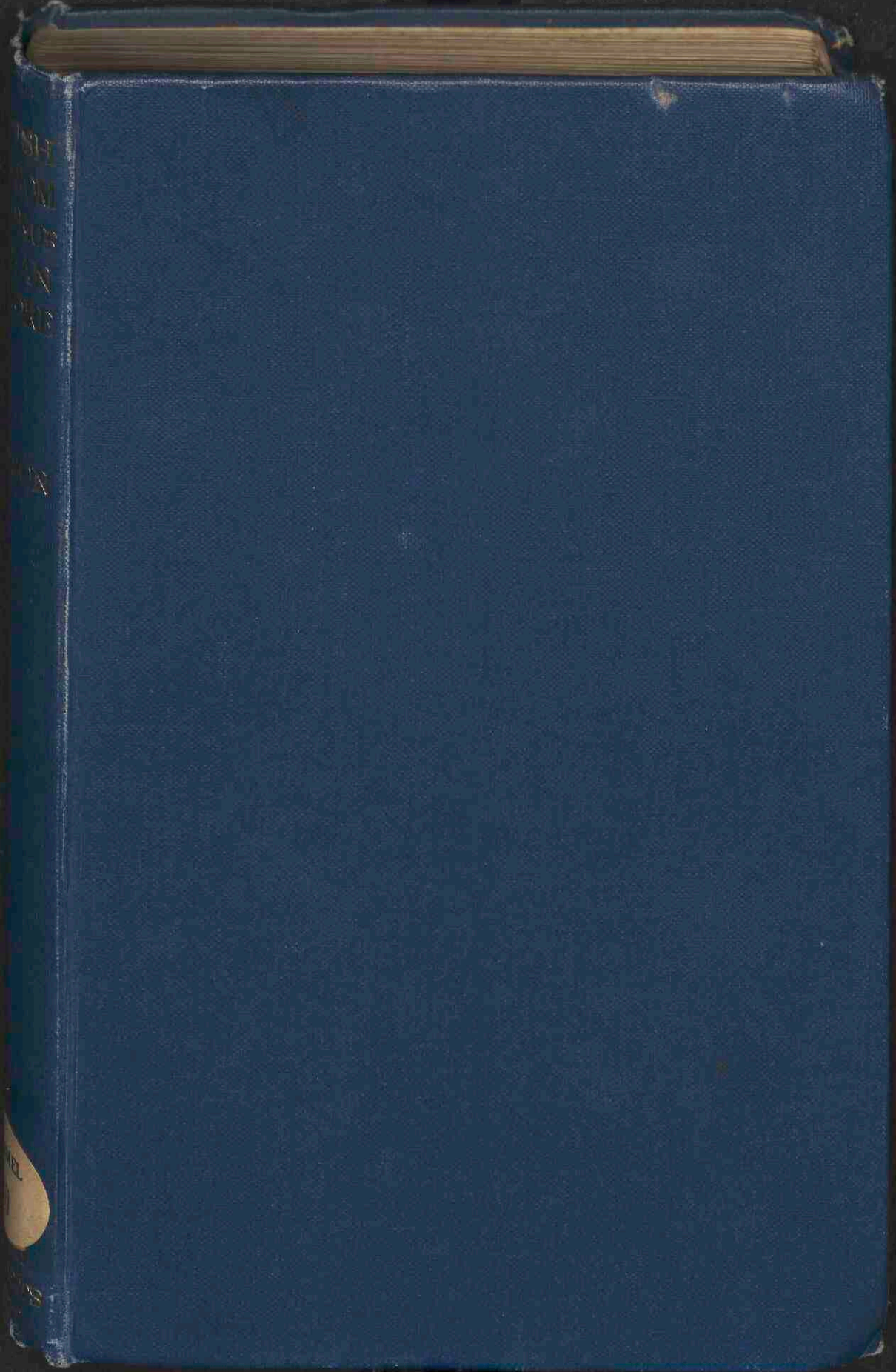




Scottish verse from the Book of the Dean of Lismore [James MacGregor]

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SCOTTISH GAELIC TEXTS
VOLUME ONE

SCOTTISH VERSE
FROM
THE BOOK OF THE
DEAN OF LISMORE

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SCOTTISH VERSE FROM

THE BOOK OF THE DEAN
OF LISMORE

Edited by

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PREFACE

THE manuscript known as the Book of the Dean of Lismore is the oldest collection of Gaelic poetry which we possess in Scotland, having been written over four hundred years ago. As mentioned in the Introduction, it contains poems both by Scottish and by Irish authors: all the poems that follow are by Scottish poets or relate to Scotland. Among some omissions I regret that of a poem by Eoin Mac Mhuirich, who is repeatedly referred to in vol. xii of the Exchequer Rolls, under the designation of *carminista*, as occupying lands in Kintyre. The text of this poem (given by M'Lauchlan, p. 82) proved too difficult to reconstruct with certainty. Other poems are omitted as unsuitable or of trifling interest.

The earliest poem relating to Scotland dates from A.D. 1310; of the others none is later than about 1520. The material is thus of the greatest importance historically, especially as it reflects the native culture at a period when it was as yet, in the main, untouched by influences from the south. It is notable that among the authors of these poems we find not only professional poets, but also others, including members of the ruling family of Argyll and the chief of the Macnabs. To the initiative of the latter, it appears, we owe the formation of the MS. collection. The Earl of Argyll himself, who fell at Flodden, is referred to as a competent critic. This MS. collection, representing but a part of Gaelic Scotland, may safely be taken as an index of conditions throughout the Gaelic area.

With few exceptions the original text of the poems here edited has been published before; what is here attempted is to reconstruct the poems as the poets wrote them, with careful reference to the rules of the various metres and to the language employed, which is common to Scotland and Ireland. Owing to the peculiarities of the manuscript,

described in the Introduction, this is a matter of great difficulty. Where reconstruction was doubtful, I have preferred to leave gaps rather than give hazardous readings. In such cases the MS. text is printed at the foot of the page.

My warm thanks are due to Professor Osborn Bergin, who kindly read most of the poems in typescript and made valuable suggestions. My son, J. Carmichael Watson, Lecturer in Celtic in the University of Glasgow, has given invaluable help in revising the whole work, preparing it for the press, and adding the Indexes.

I feel that an apology is due to the members of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society for delay in the publication of this, their first volume. Thanks are due to the printers for their speed and accuracy.

W. J. W.

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INTRODUCTION

I

THE manuscript known as the Book of the Dean of Lismore (MS.) is a rather small paper quarto of approximately 311 pages. In 1911 it was rebound "in dark crimson niger morocco with leather doublures and an interlacing pattern on boards and spine, worked in blind with small gilt circles; leather thong clasps; each leaf inlaid in a paper mount." Its previous cover is described by Professor Mackinnon in his *Catalogue of Gaelic Manuscripts*, p. 225.

At the foot of p. 27 of the MS. is written, upside down, the inscription "Liber Domini Jacobi MacGregor Decani Lismorensis," "The Book of Sir James MacGregor, Dean of Lismore," of which a facsimile appears in M'Lauchlan's edition, p. xevi. On p. 144 there is a genealogy of the MacGregor chiefs, ending with the statement, "and Duncan, servitor, son of Dugall, son of John *Riabhach* ('the Grizzled'), wrote this from the history-books of the kings and great men (*ro-dhaoine*), A.D. 1512" (original Gaelic and Latin in M'Lauchlan's edition, p. 126). A Latin obituary and chronicle contained in the MS. is carried down to the year 1529 or thereby, the last entry being dated 1532, while the entry preceding is dated 1529. The obituary has been printed with an introduction and notes by Mr Donald Gregory in *Archæologica Scotica*, iii., 318-328 (1831).

A separate manuscript, known as the Chronicle of Fortingall, was written by the curate of Fortingall, whose curacy there began in 1532. The first part of this Chronicle is much the same as that in the Dean's Book; its last entry is for 25th April 1579. The whole has been printed with introductory notes in the *Black Book of Taymouth*, pp. 109-148 (1855). Both Chronicles are given in English

translation in Mr Duncan Campbell's *Book of Garth and Fortingall*, pp. 284-326 (1888). The latter Chronicle is hereafter called the Chronicle of Fortingall, the former the MS. Chronicle.

The history of the MS. is unknown until, at some time in the eighteenth century, it became the property of the Highland Society of London; on 5th January 1903, it was deposited in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, now the National Library of Scotland, where it now lies. The following is an outline of the work of the various scholars who have studied the MS. and its contents.

II

In 1805 three poems from the MS. were printed in the Highland Society Committee's Report on the Authenticity of Ossian (pp. 93, 95, 102), and a fragment of a fourth (p. 141), all "Ossianic."

The Highland Society soon thereafter instructed the distinguished scholar, Ewen MacLachlan, to examine and report upon this MS. and others, which he duly did. He also made two transcripts of almost all the Gaelic portion, one of which (EM.) is now in the National Library, and the other in the Library of Aberdeen University, by which it was acquired from the heirs of the Rev. J. Walker MacIntyre, parish minister of Kilmonivaig. Ewen MacLachlan's transcriptions are the more helpful than parts of the MS. now more or less illegible were not illegible to him.

About 1900 a transcript of the whole MS. was made by the Rev. Walter MacLeod, at the instance and cost of the late Miss Amy Frances Yule of Tarradale, Ross-shire, a descendant of Sir Roderick Murchison. Mr MacLeod was selected as a master of the handwriting of the period. His copy is in the National Library (WM.).

In 1862 the Rev. Thomas M'Lauchlan of Edinburgh (M'L.) published about seventy poems from the MS., with an attempt at a transliteration or reconstruction in normal spelling, an English version, and an introduction and

additional notes contributed by William F. Skene. Dr M'Lauchlan's transcriptions are fairly good, though by no means perfect; the rest of his work is of little value. His readings of Ossianic ballads were revised by Mr Donald Macpherson of the Advocates' Library, an able Gaelic scholar, who also wrote fair transcripts of these ballads.

The Rev. Dr Alexander Cameron of Brodick made a close study of the MS., and his work was printed after his death in *Reliquiae Celticae*, i., 2-109 (1892) (RC.). This contains fifty of the poems which had been printed by M'Lauchlan, including all the heroic ballads, and, in addition, some half-dozen poems not previously printed. Dr Cameron had the advantage of consulting Ewen MacLachlan's transcript and Macpherson's marked copy of M'Lauchlan's printed text; and, in proof of his own care, I have been told by one who knew him well that if, on arriving from Arran at the Library, he found the light unsatisfactory, he would do no work, and would, if necessary, return to Arran. His transcripts are as a rule accurate and reliable. He also gives some reconstructions, less reliable, and some translations.

A description of the MS. was published by Professor Mackinnon in his *Catalogue*, pp. 225-238 (1912).

For some years before his death in 1920 the late E. C. Quiggin, of Cambridge University, worked at an edition of the poems omitted by M'Lauchlan and Cameron. At the time of his death the first part of his work, consisting of 76 poems previously unpublished, was already printed in page form. The second part was to contain a transliteration or reconstruction in normal spelling, but of this only two poems appear to have been printed. After his death the type was dispersed, and it appears that only two copies of the first part are now in existence.

For the information contained in the last paragraph I am indebted to Professor T. F. O'Rahilly's paper in *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, vol. iv., part I, pp. 31 ff., entitled "Indexes to the Book of the Dean of Lismore." This most useful paper contains two indexes, one of initial lines, with references to the MS., M'Lauchlan, and *Rel. Celt.*,

the other of authors (*a*) Scottish, (*b*) Irish. The former index contains 178 items; the latter gives the names of 44 Scottish and 21 Irish authors, with references to the companion index.

III

To turn now to the persons concerned in the origin of the MS., I have already noted that the MacGregor genealogy at p. 144 of the MS. bears to have been written by Duncan, son of Dugall, son of John *Riabhach*. The family to which these men belonged had residence at *Tulaich a' Mhuilinn*, hard by Fortingall in Perthshire, near the site of Glen Lyon House. Dugall, father of Duncan, and styled by him *Dubhghall Maol*, "Dugall the Bare," is several times mentioned in the MS. Chronicle and elsewhere as Dugall Johnson. In 1511 Dugall Jhannesoun, notary, and Dominus Jacobus Makgregoure, notary public, are among the witnesses to the confirmation of a charter of Sir Robert Menzies (*R.M.S.*). In the same year, at 22nd July, the MS. Chronicle records the death of *Katrina Neyn Donil veClawe*, alias Grant, wife of Dougall Johnesone, at Tullychmollin; she was buried in the choir of Inchaden, on the south side of the altar. This lady was the mother of the Dean of Lismore and his brother or brothers. In 1526 the pedestal of the cross at Inchaden was repaired by Dugall Johnson (MS. Chronicle). Inchaden is Inchadney, in Gaelic *Innis Chailtnidh*, the site of the old church at Kenmore, at the apex of a small peninsula on the north or left bank of the river Tay, just east of Taymouth Castle. On 1st October 1529 a stone cross was erected on Larkmonemerkyth by Dugall Johnson on the great stone called Clachur . . . (MS. Chronicle). Larkmonemerkyth represents *Làirig Monadh Marcaich*, "Pass of the Rider's (or Riding) Moor; it is the high pass between Kenmore and Gleann Cuaich, now called *Làirig Mìle Marcaich*, "Pass of the Rider's (or Riding) Mile," and so styled from the long flat, suited for riding, between its steep extremities. Dugall Johnson thus appears as a man of good position and public spirit. The date of his death is not recorded.

It may be added that John *Riabhach*, Dugall's father, is styled "McGewykar," i.e. *mac a' Bhiocair*, "the Vicar's son" (Chronicle of Fortingall, 1542)—most probably the Vicar of Fortingall. A pool in the stream close by *Tulaich a' Mhuilinn* is still known as *Linn a' Bhiocair*, "the Vicar's Pool."

Dugall MacGregor or Dugall Johnson had two sons, James and Duncan, already mentioned. James appears as notary public in 1511, along with his father. As Dean of Lismore he is on record in 1514 (*Origines Parochiales*, vol. ii., part I, p. 161). That he was also Vicar of Fortingall and tenant of the church lands appears from the Latin obituary record at 1551 in the Chronicle of Fortingall: "Death of the honourable and excellent man Sir James (MacGregor) . . . son of Dugall Johnson and Dean of Lismore . . . Vicar of Fortingall and *firmarius* of the said Church . . . of good memory, on the eve of St Lucia the Virgin at the hour of . . . afternoon; and he was buried on the day of St Lucia, namely . . . in the year of the Lord 1551, in the choir of Inchaden before. . . . Pray for his soul *Pater noster, Ave Maria . . . et cetera*" (the gaps are due to defects in the manuscript). Dying in 1551, he was born most probably about 1480. His younger contemporary, John Carswell, Bishop of the Isles, who died in 1572, appears to have been a student of St Andrews University in 1541 (M'Lauchlan's ed. of the *Liturgy*, p. xiii). If James MacGregor received a university education, as he surely did, the choice would lie between St Andrews and Glasgow, the latter of which was founded in 1451.

His brother, Duncan MacGregor, was doubtless one of the scribes who wrote the MS. His description of himself, at the end of the genealogy already mentioned, as *deyr oclych*, i.e. (apparently) *daor óglach* or "servitor," is somewhat puzzling; it may refer to his work as amanuensis. Poems of his preserved in the MS. indicate considerable proficiency in the poetic art.

IV

With regard to the origin of the poetic miscellany of which so large a part of the MS. consists, and a part of which is here edited, important light is, in my opinion, afforded by the short poem addressed by Finlay Macnab to Dugall son of John, *i.e.* to Dugall MacGregor, son of John *Riabhach* and father of James and Duncan MacGregor. In this poem, printed on p. 1, Finlay Macnab makes a proposal to compile a book of poetry, which he calls an *Duanaire*, the Song-book, a common enough term for a collection of this sort. He urges Dugall to undertake the writing of the *Duanaire*: he himself has already some material to hand, got from packmen or from some particular packman, and more may be expected from certain folk whom he calls *na Iorgánaigh*, with whom Dugall is well acquainted and has special influence. These I take to have been the strolling bards, widely known in the Highlands as *Clìar Sheanchain* (see *Celtic Review*, iv., 80), for whom Fortingall and its neighbourhood would have been an ideal resort. In addition to them, all other sources, cleric and lay, are to be tapped.

Finlay Macnab was chief of that name, styled of *Both Mheadhoin*, Bovain, in Glen Dochart, at the head of Loch Tay. In 1486 the King confirmed a charter of Patrick Macnab, whereby he granted to his son and heir apparent the lands of Bovane, Ardkelze-Estir and Doinch, in the barony of Glen Dochart (*RMS.*). In 1502 Finlay Macnab is styled "de Bowan" (*RMS.*). In 1511 Finlay Macnab of Bowane, along with Dugall Johnstone, notary, and Sir James MacGregor, notary public, witnessed the confirmation of the charter of Sir Robert Menzies already mentioned. The charter is dated at the Isle of Loch Tay, the seat of the ancient Priory at the lower end of the loch, known now as *Eilean nam Bannaomh*, "the Isle of the female Saints." Finlay Macnab's death is recorded in the MS. obituary at 13th April 1525.

In his poem Finlay Macnab mentions also a certain Gregor, on whom he calls to do his part in compiling the

Duanaire. This may be Gregor Dugalson, who died at Carsdall (Carse of Dull, near Aberfeldy) in 1555, and was buried at Inchaden on 2nd May by a great assembly of men and women (Chronicle of Fortingall). In the *Book of Garth and Fortingall*, p. 304, Mr Duncan Campbell conjectures, with probability, that he was the Gregor Dougallson who was expelled from *Bealach* (Taymouth) by Colin Campbell of Glen Orchy in 1552 (Chronicle of Fortingall).

It is a reasonable inference that the *Duanaire* projected by the chief of Macnab has come down to us under the name of the Book of the Dean of Lismore, compiled and written under the care of James MacGregor and his poet brother Duncan. Nothing would be more natural than that Dugall MacGregor should have passed on to his two scholarly sons a task involving so great labour.

The reference in the poem to *Mac Cailéin*, the Earl of Argyll, as a shrewd and competent critic of poetry is specially interesting; and incidentally suggests that hostile relations between the MacGregors and the Campbells did not preclude friendly intercourse between Dugall MacGregor and the Campbell chief.

V

The contents of the MS. have been described by Mackinnon and O'Rahilly, and it is unnecessary to repeat the details already given by them. Four poems relate to the earlier Cú Chulainn or Ulster cycle, twenty-four to the later Ossianic or Fionn cycle; the MS. text of all these has been printed by M'Lauchlan. There is a fair amount of religious or semi-religious poetry. Miscellaneous matter includes single quatrains, aphorisms, and a number of pieces which are more or less indecent. The Chronicle of obits, etc., has been already mentioned. Of special interest for Scotland are the poems which deal with Scottish ruling families or members of them. As might be expected, the largest proportion of these relate to the MacGregors, the oldest of which was composed before 1440. The other Houses represented are those of MacDonald, Campbell of

Argyll, MacDugall of Dunollie, MacLeod of Lewis, MacLeod of Harris and Dunvegan, Stewart of Rannoch, MacNeill of Gigha, and MacSween of Castle Sween in Knapdale. The poem concerning MacSween is the oldest of those which relate to Scotland; it was composed in 1310, and is by far the most difficult to reconstruct—much of it I have found impossible.

Most of the Scottish poetry which can be dated was composed during the period of the writers of the MS., and may have been got directly from the authors. Whether the writers consulted manuscripts or depended mainly on oral sources is a difficult question.

As Dr Quiggin remarked in his *Prolegomena*, the poems here preserved relating to ruling families cover a limited area. In fact, however, there must have been, all over the north and north-east from Sutherland southwards, and eastwards by Aberdeen, to say nothing of Galloway, a very large amount of early Gaelic poetry, by trained professional bards and others, of which we have no record. Further, it is to be understood that the poems collected in the MS. form only a part, probably a small part, of the total output of the area they represent. They are, however, a most valuable source of information as to the culture of the period to which they belong. The art and practice of syllabic poetry was by no means confined to the trained bards: nobles like Finlay Macnab and members of the House of Argyll, as well as others of less note, contribute their share. This may be taken as an index of the native literary culture of the north and west, which was shared by the highest and the lowest, and which is further indicated by the great collections made long afterwards from the mouths of the people—J. F. Campbell's *Leabhar na Féinne* and *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*, J. Gregorson Campbell's and J. MacDougall's *Waifs and Strays of Celtic Tradition*, and Alexander Carmichael's *Carmina Gadelica*; yet all these contain but a part of the literary heritage of past centuries. That this heritage was to a large extent common to Scotland and Ireland is shown by this MS., as well as by other sources.

VI

The MS. is written, not in "Irish" script, but in the ordinary hand of the period, such as is seen, for example, in the Asloan MS. edited by Sir W. A. Craigie. Some parts are now quite illegible, the outer edge of some leaves has been frayed off, and some line-endings have been rendered illegible in the process of mounting the leaves; but most of the writing is still easily legible to one familiar with the hand. Instead of the normal or traditional spelling, the writers adopted a style evidently based on contemporary Scots spelling, and by no means consistent with itself. In addition to the letters of the ordinary Gaelic alphabet they used *k, q, v, w, y, z*; as, for example, in *skreive* for *sgriobhadh*, *skail* for *sgéal*; *quho* for *cha, cho*; *quhoy* for *chuidh*; *reyve* for *riamh*, *dayvin* for *deamhan*; *swille* for *siubhal*, *gawl* for *gall*, *wen* for *bhean*, *gi wul* for *go bhfuil*, *di wassew* for *do bhéasaibh*; *iyf* for *oighre*, *dyveris* for *daidhbhreas*, *oyone* for *Eoin*, *ygyche* for *adhaigh*; *gin zenn* for *gan ghean*, *di zroy* for *dá ghruaidh*, *zeive*, *zeve* for *dhiobh*, *zoe* for *dhóibh*, *zloyr* for *ghlóir*, etc. etc. The writers used some symbols found in Irish spelling, some of which are also found in Scots. Thus lenition may be indicated by a dot above a consonant (though in many cases a dot above a consonant or a vowel has no apparent use); a horizontal stroke above a letter may indicate *n* or *m*; endings such as *ir*, *ar* may be indicated by an upward curl or flourish attached to the end of a word. Symbols like the two last mentioned are used freely in Scots script.

This departure from Gaelic spelling often results in extreme difficulty in interpreting the underlying text; for such interpretation, close and detailed study of the MS. text, comparison of variant spellings of the same word, and, where possible, comparison of the MS. text with versions preserved in normal spelling elsewhere, are as essential as accurate knowledge of the metres, of the literary language, and of the Perthshire dialect of the Scottish vernacular. None of these can be dispensed with.

It may be asked whether the writers of the MS. wrote in ignorance of the normal spelling as seen in contemporary prose and poetry both in Scotland and in Ireland. While there may be no certainty as to this, it may be noted that the Dean's younger contemporary, John Carswell, in translating the Book of Common Prayer into Gaelic, with considerable additions by himself (1567), uses normal spelling with great accuracy, at the same time that he insists on his lack of the training of the schools: "*da bhfaghadh saoi re healadhain locht sgrìobhtha no deachtaidh sa leabhar bheagsa, gabhadh se mo leithsgelsa, óir nì dhearrna mé saothar ná foghlaim sa ngaoidheilg, acht amhain mar gach nduine don pobal choitcheand,*" "if a professional scholar find a fault of writing or of style in this little book, let him have me excused, for I have made no study nor learning in Gaelic, save only as any man of the common people" (ed. M'Lauchlan, p. 22; cf. pp. 13, 21, 224). We should think that the writers of the MS. had opportunities for studying Gaelic at least as good as had Carswell. Further, it is difficult, for me at least, to understand how Duncan MacGregor could have composed the poem *Aithris fhréimhe ruanaidh Eoin* without a good knowledge of both spelling and metre, the latter practically implying the former.

VII

The writing of the MS. in what may, in a restricted sense, be called "phonetic" spelling, *i.e.* by an adaptation to Gaelic of the contemporary methods of expressing the sounds of Scots, has provided us with material for some study of the pronunciation of the local vernacular at that time. Some individual points of phonetics are mentioned below and in the notes. More than this, there are in the text as it stands numerous features which belong, not to the literary, but to the vernacular language, in regard to lenition and eclipsis, grammar, morphology, and vocabulary; and the handling of these points is fundamental in editing the material. It is of the utmost importance, in studying

the MS., to keep in view that most, not all, of the poems here printed were composed in literary, not colloquial, Gaelic, and according to strict rules, with observance of rime and often of alliteration, and with a fixed number of syllables in each line. In the text, as we have it, all this is very much disguised; so that to restore the text underlying the MS. is by no means always to restore the text of the poet. The latter must be our aim. In realising this aim, each poem must be approached individually, and receive the treatment appropriate to it; the process of obliterating all non-classical features should not be a merely mechanical one. There is, for example, no doubt in my mind that Fionnlagh Ruadh must be permitted liberties of language and even of metre which we do not find in stricter Irish and Scottish bards; it is possible, indeed, though I do not think it likely, that my edition has removed vernacular features which were present in his original. In such a poem as *Dá urradh i n-íath Éireann*, on the other hand, or its companion poem *Lámh aoinfhir fhóirfeas i n-Éirinn*, it must be recognised that versification and language are alike strict, and that any considerable blemish in either casts more or less doubt upon the text.

In poems of strict technique, then, corruptions are quickly detected. In cases where the MS. text is fairly clear, and yet cannot have been the poet's text (there are some such cases in the poem last mentioned), nothing is gained by the editor's re-writing the passage. The best course seems to be to print the text of the MS., drawing attention to the difficulties it presents. In poems of this kind, on the other hand, the conventional character of the phrasing is helpful, for one knows what to expect. Poems composed in strict *dán díreach*, however, are here in the minority. On the whole, the Scottish bards represented in the MS. wrote with some little licence; and the difficulty of reconstruction is increased by the fact that most of the poems are in a sort of *ógláchas*, with fewer and looser rimes than *dán díreach* would require, and with alliteration either irregular or absent.

VIII

It may be useful here to give some examples of the vernacular which appear in the MS. text, and which are to be amended in the restored text; most of them occur in the poems which follow.

(1) The verbal particle *do* (*a*) degenerates into *a* before a consonant, and (*b*) is doubled in the form *a dh'* before a vowel or *f*. This is common in the MS.; e.g. l. 914, MS., *mark a zyl* represents *mairg a dheadhail*, as we should say now "a (*dhealaich*)," but must be corrected to *mairg do dheadhail*. L. 603, MS., *Fa fer a zawis ir geyle* represents *fa fìor a ghabhais ar giall*, for *do ghabhais ar ngiall*. L. 1321, MS., *Each in nee seirrih ri sayid* represents *each a ní sìorruith rè saighid*, for *do-ní*.

Here we may note also a grammatical feature. The special relative form of the verb which exists in the present and future indicative active, as *an fear bhios*, "the man who is," *an fear chuirfeas*, "the man who shall put," is in modern Gaelic regularly reinforced by the particle *a*, for *do*: *am fear a bhios* or *a bhitheas*, *am fear a chuireas*. Here *do* has been introduced into the relative present and future, as it has in vernacular Irish, on the analogy of its use in relative as well as in independent clauses: *na daoine do-chunnaic mi*, now a *chunnaic*, "the men whom I saw"; *an fear do bhi*, now a *bha*, "the man who was." Here *do*, *a* has come to be regarded as a relative pronoun, so that its use with relative present and future, though historically wrong, is logical. This usage is very common in the MS., and it is clear that in the vast majority of instances the scribe, not the poet, is responsible for its appearance; a few such are: l. 1512, MS., *a zorfis geil er zallew*, represents a *dh'fhoirfeas Gaoidheil ar Ghallaibh*, where the poet wrote simply *fhóirfeas*. L. 1789, MS., *is tow zoiris vor skei' sin is tow reis doynnis aggin* represents *is tú dh'fhóireas bho'r sgith sinn*, *is tú a ris d'fhoghmas againn*, where we must write *is tú fhóireas (d'r sgis . . .)*, *is tú . . . fhoghmas*. L. 169, *ka zearis sporrane vegga ka zearis no snaydda*, i.e. *cia dh'iarras spordín bheaga*, *cia dh'iarras na*

snáthada. We may take it that this was originally *cia iarras*.

In a few cases *do* or *a* in this position is metrically necessary: l. 1230, MS., *M^ccregar a fronnis baa*, i.e. *Mac Griogóir a bhronnas ba*; l. 1232, MS., *a law zell a zergis gáa*, i.e. *a lámh gheal a dheargas ga*; l. 1228, MS., *oid law zill a skoltis skeaa*, i.e. *óid lámh ghil a sgoltas sgiath* (see note *ad loc.*). These three instances are from the same poem; but *cf.* also the same author at l. 1387, MS., *di heiwit (sic leg.)*, i.e. *do thaobhaid*. In one or two cases I have written *bhitheas* rather than a *bhios*, e.g. at l. 1121.

(2) The preposition *do* fares in the same way: before the verbal noun, as at l. 835, MS., *gin mi zeil a heacht er as*, for *gan mo ghaol do theacht ar ais*; l. 1107, MS., *a zeil*, for *do dhíol*; and frequently elsewhere. Here again reduplication is frequent, as is so notably the case in the modern spoken language (*do dh'Éirinn* or *a dh'Éirinn*, "to Ireland"): e.g., RC., p. 58, l. 30, *a zis ni mvr g'larri' grinn*, i.e. *a dh'fhios na múr gclártha ngrinn*, "to visit the goodly panelled walls (of Dún Dealgan)" (but *dys* at l. 1208). Before a vowel or *f*, where the MS. represents *dh'*, as it often does, I have usually written *d'*, but not always.

(3) The possessive *do* is sometimes in the MS. *a*, e.g. at l. 760, and at RC. p. 22, l. 10, MS., *sloneich in niss ca ther a hee*, i.e. *sloinn a nis cia th'ar a thí*, for *ar do thí*, "say now who seeks thee out with hostile intent," as the context shows; RC. p. 44, l. 2, MS., *er a lawe a cleyrre chaye*, i.e. *ar a lámh a chléirigh cháidh*, for *ar do lámh*. This pronunciation is common to-day. This *do* also is sometimes *dh'* before a vowel or *f*, as at l. 759, where I have kept it so.

(4) In literary Irish the verbal particle *do* and compounds of *ro*, such as *níor*, *lér*, etc., aspirate the preterite active but not the preterite passive: *níor marbhadh sé*, "he was not slain." In modern Scottish Gaelic aspiration has spread to the passive: *cha do mharbhadh e*, "he was not slain." Aspiration of the preterite passive after *do*, etc., is common in the MS., showing that the usage was well established

in the local vernacular at that time. *E.g.* l. 953, MS., *di willi letti*, i.e. *do mhilleadh leat*, for the literary *do milleadh*; RC., p. 62, l. 21, MS., *de churre ai gassyth vas*, i.e. *do chuireadh é gusan bhás*, for *do cuireadh*; l. 872, MS., *vrskall nar zalve roy'im*, i.e. *uirsgéal nár dhealbhadh romham*, for *nár dealbhadh*. The correct literary usage is seen, *e.g.* at RC. p. 58, l. 1, MS., *di marwe m^c lowy^t* . . . *di marwa fayn brettin*, i.e. *do marbhadh mac Lughdhach* . . . *do marbhadh fian Breatan*, "Lughaidh's son was slain, slain was the warrior band of Britain."

(5) The plural 2nd imperative ending now general in Scottish Gaelic is *-ibh*, by sympathy with the corresponding pronoun, *sibh*. The ending which this has displaced, however, namely, *-idh*, still survives in certain dialects, as in my own native dialect of Easter Ross, where we say, *e.g.* *cuiridh*, "put ye," not *cuiribh* as in the west. It has been suggested that our *-idh* is merely a reduction of *-ibh*, but this is not so; our *-ibh* has a very different sound. The *-ibh* ending, then, is found in the MS.: l. 2299, MS., *estew zeym dar maggarich*, i.e. *éistibh dhìom d'ur magaireacht*, where *éistibh* is to be retained along with other vernacular forms; but the correct form is seen at RC. p. 36, l. 37, MS., *Estith beg ma zalaw leith*, i.e. *éistidh beag madh dail libh laoidh*, "hearken a little, if ye desire a lay"; RC. p. 8, l. 6, MS., *Estith re astinny^t Inn*, i.e. *éistidh ré áistineacht Fhinn*, "hearken to the prophecy of Fionn." L. 1621, MS., *toggew fert* is for *togaibh feart*; elsewhere MS., *faikgew mir sin*, is for *fágaibh* (the literary *fágbhaidh*) *mar sin*.

(6) A feature of modern Gaelic is the greatly extended use of *-an*, *-ean*, in forming plural nominatives of nouns. Such forms may be retained in such a poem as that on p. 236; so l. 2332, MS., *mi chardin*, *mo chairdean*, and at l. 2337; but elsewhere they are out of place: l. 2205, MS., *ní mnan is messi^t*, i.e. *bídh na mnathan as measa*, where metre requires *mná*.

(7) We are familiar with the reduction of the preposition *ag* to *a'* before a verbal noun beginning with a consonant. This is not a feature of the literary language, but is

exceedingly common in the MS. and must have been regular in speech. One example out of many will suffice: RC. p. 4, l. 20, MS., *a moskleit' hork is efeyg (?)* i.e. *a' mosgladh thorc agus fiadh*, "arousing boars and stags." Some examples of the total omission of *a'* are: RC. p. 10, l. 19, MS., *Mis danow chrawe*, i.e. *mise déanamh chrábhaidh*, "I practising devotion"; RC. p. 20, l. 8, MS., *wa na reym scolyt' nyn donn*, i.e. *bha 'na réim sgoltadh na dtonn*, "which was cleaving the waves in her course"; RC. p. 24, l. 3, MS., *Sowle ni farga gi dane*, i.e. *siubhal* (for *ag siubhal*) *na fairrge go dian*, "traversing the sea in haste"; etc.

(8) In modern Scottish Gaelic the article in certain positions is pronounced and written not *an* but *a'* (before lenited *b, c, g, m, p*, in the nominative singular feminine and the genitive singular masculine, and after prepositions whose modern form before the article ends in a consonant). In the literary language *an* is written in full. Frequent in the MS. are such forms as: RC. p. 62, l. 12, *a wan, a' bhean*; RC. p. 64, l. 7, *a fest, a' phéist* (as against l. 21, *in fest, an phéist*); RC. p. 66, l. 17, *crw' a' khinn, cruth a' chinn*; RC. p. 76, l. 23, *tanik neyn a wrot inn, táinig nighean a' bhruit fhinn*, "the damsel of the white mantle came," where the literary phrase would be *inghean an bhruit*.

(9) The nominative singular masculine of the article before labials and *f*, in literary usage *an*, is in our speech *am*; so RC. p. 78, ll. 3 and 5, *ym brat, am brat*, "the mantle," and very frequently; but RC. p. 78, l. 15, *in brata, an brat*; etc.

(10) The conjunction *dá n-*, "if," is now with us *nan* (*na, nam*), and drops its initial *n* under no circumstances. I have no instance of *nan* in the MS., but there is some evidence that the word was pronounced *a* (sometimes eclipsing) in common speech: l. 250, MS., *a bi zail less*, i.e. *a badh* (for *dá mbadh*) *áil leis*; l. 271, MS., *a glwynm*, i.e. *a gcluinninn*, for *dá gcluinninn*; RC. p. 4, l. 14, MS. *a nearryt' in doyt'in*, i.e. *a n-iarradh* (for *dá n-iarradh*) *an domhan*; RC. p. 34, l. 23, MS., *a beine gin de bra*, i.e. *a*

beinn (for *dá mbeinn*) *go dtí bráth*, "if I were to be until doom come"; etc. When *dá* is represented by the MS., it is not always followed by eclipsis: RC. p. 34, l. 45, MS., *dí bí lwme*, i.e. *dá badh*, for *dá mbadh*, *dámadh*; so at ll. 1886, 1890, etc.

(11) A conspicuous feature of the clipped Gaelic speech of North Perthshire at the present day is the dropping of final *-adh*: *a' lom* (for *lomadh*) *nan caorach*, "clipping the sheep." Final *-aidh*, however, tends to remain; thus in the place-name *Fas*, Foss, for *Fasadh*, older *Fosadh*, the genitive of which is seen in *Bràigh Fasaidh*, Brae of Foss. This feature is evident in the MS.: l. 897, MS., *in ner*, i.e. *a n-aor*, for *aoradh*; l. 372, MS., *do skolt*, i.e. *do sgolt*, for *do sgoltadh*; l. 421, MS., *in ter*, i.e. *an t-earr*, for *an t-earradh*; RC. p. 18, l. 9, MS., *Ne raacha za gomor*, i.e. *ní racha dhá gcommór*, for *commóradh*, "thou shalt not proceed to equal them," etc.

(12) In the literary Gaelic of the period the negatives are *ní*, *nocha*, *nocha n-*. Both are found commonly in the MS., but the writers make free use of *cha*, *chan*, which is now our only negative, but does not occur in the older literature. In some instances this form is doubtless due to the poets themselves, especially if they were not professional bards, and it is not always to be removed or altered. The poem by the Dean of Knoydart (p. 96) has *cha* thrice, and neither *ní* nor *nocha*. Metre does not betray the substitution by the writer of *cha* for *ní*, but *cha* for *nocha* is more easily detected, as at l. 800. In this poem by Giolla Coluim mac an Ollaimh (p. 82), *cha*, *chan* occur ten times in the MS. text, *ní*, *níor* four times. In such a case *cha* is hardly to be obliterated, though Giolla Coluim was a trained poet. In the *uirsgéal* or apologue which really formed part of the poem, but is placed separately in the MS., *cha* does not appear, while *ní* occurs thrice.

(13) A feature of modern Scottish Gaelic, as opposed to the older language, is the lenition of an indefinite noun in the genitive plural depending directly on another noun: *cuideachd fhàidhean*, "a company of prophets"; *briathran fhear Israeil*, "the words of the men of Israel." In the

MS. such genitives are found both lenited and unlenited, the former rather more commonly: the modern usage was not yet established. A few examples of non-lenition in the MS. where our modern Gaelic would lenite are: l. 702, *comunn cliar*; l. 1166, *ri fial uasal Gaodhal*; l. 1964, *féadail fileadh ná cléireach* (*cleirrych* MS.); l. 1972, *urraim dámh*; l. 2300, *a shil bodach is searrach*, etc. In some place-names the old usage persists to-day: *Innse Gall*, the Hebrides; *Dùn Breatann*, Dumbarton; *Cruachan Beann*, Cruachan of Peaks; as contrasted with *Sìdh Chailleann*, Schichallion, as at l. 1755, and *Earra-Ghàidheal*, Argyll (cf. *Oirir Ghaoidheal* at ll. 1031 and 1521).

(14) I shall now mention some of the many indications which the MS. affords of the vernacular pronunciation at the time, as opposed to the literary pronunciation, which would be that of the bard himself and with which the poems should be read now.

As in some dialects of the present day, so in that of the Fortingall district at that time, medial *dh* and *gh* must often had the sound of *bh*. In north Perthshire now one hears such pronunciations as *mu dheibhinn* for *mu dheidhinn*, as we in Easter Ross say *diabhaidh*, *truabhan* for *diadhaidh*, *truaghan*. Many instances could be furnished from names of places, such as *Buail-fhiodhaid*, anglicised as Belivat; *na Ruighean* in Sutherland and *na Ruigheanan* in Easter Ross, both anglicised Rhives; *Ceann-ruighe*, Kinrive. The Fernaig MS. has numerous instances such as *sevil* for *saoghal* (cf. Fraser, *SGS.* i., 50). The change from *gh*, *dh* to *bh*, though not excessively common in the MS., can be illustrated: RC. p. 10, l. 14, MS., *Innis downe a phadrik noñor a leyvin*, i.e. *innis dúinn a Phádraig i n-onóir do léibhinn* (for *léighinn*), "tell us, O Patrick, in honour of thy learning" (which also illustrates *a* for *do*, "thy"); l. 28, MS., *ga leyve*, i.e. *g'a léibheadh* (for *léigheadh*) "to be read"; l. 1361, MS., *connir a hayvin*, i.e. *conair a théibhinn*, for *conair théighinn*, "a road I should go." Further investigation might show that the phenomenon was confined to certain words.

Notable is the spelling of the parts of *ceanglaim*, I bind:

RC. p. 58, l. 34, MS., *cayvelir connil laa conleich, ceanglar Conall le Conlaoch*, "Conall is bound by Conlaoch"; RC. p. 60, l. 1, MS., *Cayd dar sloygh di cawlei' less, céad d'ar sluagh do ceangladh leis*, "a hundred of our host were bound by him"; RC. p. 28, l. 4, MS., *Chaywill tre nenour gi moy, cheangail trí naoinear (naonbhar) go mbuaidh*, "he bound thrice nine men victoriously"; *ibid.*, l. 5, MS., *caywill ní dre cheill, ceangal na trí chaol (gcaol)*, "the binding of the three slender parts." These are instructive instances of the treatment of the consonant group, *-ng-*. The process has been (1) dropping of the *n*, though the preceding vowel may remain more or less nasal; (2) *g* becomes lenited; (3) *gh* becomes *bh*. In my own native Gaelic, the first two stages of the process may be said to be regular: *ceangal* is *ceaghal* or *ceoghal*, plural, *ceaghlaichean, ceoghlaichean*, "rafters of a house," in all of which *ea, eo* is but slightly nasal; *long*, "ship," is *logh*, with vowel as in English *how*, and with no trace of nasalisation. So *teanga*, "tongue," is *teigh(e)*; *iongnadh*, "wonder," is *ioghmadh*, with strong initial palatalisation; *langanaich*, "belling of a stag," is *laigheanaich*; *mang*, "fawn," is *meagh*, with strong palatalisation (*Coire nam Meagh*, "Corrie of the Fawns"); and *ionгна*, "nail," is *ighinn*. Only in one instance, however, do we change *gh* to *bh*, viz., in *seangan*, "ant," which is *seabhan*, devoid of nasalisation, and exact parallel to MS. *caywill*. Some of the pronunciations given above are peculiar to Ross-shire; others are not; and it may be noted that de-nasalisation is complete only in some cases. In our Norse place-names, on the other hand, *-ng-* stands firm: *Langail*, Langwell, "Long-field," where the *-ng-* is sounded as in "anger."

A further example is *An Chonghail*, Connel of Lorne, mentioned thrice in the MS.: l. 1737, MS., *a gonnill, i gConghail*; l. 1794, MS., *vone chonnill, bhó'n (ó'n) Chonghail*; l. 1658, MS., *fan gonvill, fán gConbhail*. Here the pronunciation with *-bh-* is indicated but once, but that the spelling is no accident is shown by "the feray of Gonwell in Lorne" (Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, ii., 514). Further, Ardconnel on the Gare Loch (Roseneath) is in

1351, nearly two hundred years before the date of the MS., spelled Ardenaconvell, *i.e.* *Aird na Conbhail* (*Conghail*).

We are familiar with the pronunciation of *cnoc* as *croc*, *gnìomh* as *griomh*, etc., with nasalisation. In Perthshire *Clach Mhic Réill*, *Tom Mhic Réill* (Tomcrail), and *Bàta Mhic Réill* mean "MacNeill's Stone," "Mound," and "Boat (Ferry)" respectively. So in the MS. we have: RC. p. 36, l. 15, MS., *gin drow* for *gan tnuith*; l. 164, MS., *a cret* for *a cnead*; l. 2004, MS., *a zreyve* for *a ghniomh*; RC. p. 78, l. 5, MS., *wo wrei*, *i.e.* *bho mhraoi* for *ó mhnaoi*; RC. p. 62, l. 21, MS., *re mrave* for *ré mnáibh*; but RC. p. 78, l. 11, MS., *dym wneisi*, *dom mhnaoi-se*; and in the poem ascribed to Gerald Earl of Desmond (M'L., p. 78), where *mnáibh* occurs often, the spelling is *mnawe*, and *le h-aonmhnaoi* is *lay heine wnei*^t.

The adjectival ending *-amhail* is in modern Scottish Gaelic shortened to *-ail*, usually spelt *-eil* after a slender consonant: *cairdeamhail*, modern ScG. *càirdeil*. In the poetry preserved in the MS. the full form is as a rule required by metre, but the spelling indicates the modern pronunciation: l. 1550, MS., *carduel*, *cairdhmheil*, now *cairdeil*; l. 2303, MS., *fullul*, apparently for *fuileamhail*, *folamhail*, but representing a pronunciation *fuileil*, which should perhaps be written; RC. p. 24, l. 6, MS., *tortoyl* for *toirteil*, the form required by the metre; etc.

The word *ceannphort*, "leader," was then pronounced *ceannard*, as now: l. 2405, MS., *kennort*, l. 1351, MS., *kennord* (riming with *gleannphort*, MS., *zlan phort*).

The word *longphort*, "ship-station, encampment, residence, hut, enclosure of stones around a fire for open-air washing," is now pronounced by us *longard*, *longart*. The MS. represents two forms: l. 2363, MS. *longfort*; l. 416, MS., *longwrt*. The former represents the classical pronunciation, which is required in the latter passage also (: *connphort*).

Further vernacular pronunciations indicated are: l. 257, MS., *toyrriskail* (*sic leg.*), elsewhere *toirriskail*, etc., our modern *tuairisgeul*, the literary *tuarasgbháil*, "description"; MS., *doyll*, *deoyll*, representing the colloquial as against

the pulpit pronunciation of *diabhal*, "devil." The sound of the ending *-mhor*, *-mhar* is shown in such spellings as *lenor*, *lenour* for *lionmhor*, *breor* for *bríoghmhóir*, with no trace of *-mh-*. *Deichneabhar*, "ten persons," is *deachnór* (RC. p. 84, ll. 13, 14), *deychnór* (*ibid.*, l. 16), our modern *deichneár*—which in this case is required by the metre.

From the verb *do-bheirim*, the spelling of the imperative as *hoithir* indicates the common modern pronunciation *thobhair*, where the spirant *bh* is not pronounced, but the word is still two syllables: this is exactly what the MS. *th,*^t indicates here and often elsewhere. At l. 213, MS., *doyr* probably represents disyllabic *dtabhair*, though metre requires *dtoir*. So at RC. p. 7, l. 41, MS., *Meichall is mór m' dey dym hóirt fene er in laa, Michéal is Muire (is) Mac Dé dom thabhairt féin ar an lá*, "May Michael and Mary and God's son conduct me on that day." Monosyllabic *thoirt* is spelt *hort* (l. 732).

From the substantive verb, we meet occasionally the form *feilim*, etc., instead of the more ordinary *fuilim*, corresponding to modern *feil* in *bhfeil*, *bheil*. A good instance is at RC. p. 80, l. 2, MS., *Cut da ny'mich cha chellwm gin ga' wellwm gi calmi, Cuid dá n-imtheacht cha cheilim gion go bhfeilim go calma*, where the rime with *ceilim* is decisive.

An early example of the word *nic*, contracted from *ní mhic*, is found at p. 199 of the MS. in the line *a mhare nek gille zwynni, a Mháiri nic Ghille Dhuinn*, "thou Mary daughter of Mac Gille Dhuinn," where, too, it is the poet's word, not the scribe's. At l. 354, where the scribe has *ne v'clymont*, metre requires *inghean Mhic* (*Laghmainn*).

The preposition *ó*, "from," was regularly *bho*, as now.

The intrusion of a final *t*, very common in certain of the Isles, especially after *s* (e.g. *a nist* for *a nis*, *a rithist* for *a rithis*, *fhathast* for *fhathas*, *solust* for *solus*), is seen in *clyne loyt is clyne rynilt, Clann Leoid agus Clann Raghnaill* (for *Raghnaill*) (l. 2321). (The normal Gaelic development from the Norse form is *Raghnall*; it is not a case of the Norse *d* having survived.) In Mid Ross I was familiar with *Raghalt* for *Raghnall*, Ronald.

The negative prefix *neamh-* was pronounced, as now, *neo-*: so at l. 454, MS., *noezann* for *neamh-ghann*, and regularly.

Attention is drawn in the notes to the spelling at l. 2315, *M^o ffeit*, i.e. *Mac-a-phí*, for *Mac Duibh-Shíthe*, which is demanded by the metre; and to that at l. 601, *a v'awee*, i.e. *a Mhic-a-Bhí*, for *a Mhic Dhé Bhí*.

At l. 354, MS., *ne v'clymont*, we have the form which survives as *MacClymont*, for *MacLaghmainn*, *Lamont*.

The poems are sometimes useful in regard to names of places. When *Fionnlagh Ruadh*, for example, charges *Allan* with *cred^t elly^t na^t roy^t sin lygh er fenane' in glen gar* (l. 1282), he establishes two facts: that the saint of *Glen Garry* is *Fionán*, and that the name of the glen is *Gleann Garadh*. *Garadh* is sometimes inflected in the genitive as *Garaidh*, but wrongly. In connection with (11) above, we may note that the Perthshire *Glen Garry* is regularly *Gleann Gar* now, while *Bridge of Garry* is *Drochaid Ghar*.

Loch Hourn appears at l. 1292, MS., *leggit derri di wurn eddr selli is sowyrnmi, léigid deireadh do mhuirne idir Seile is Subhairne*. The metre being *deibhidhe*, nothing is more certain than that the word riming with *muirne* has three syllables; and the nature of its final two syllables is also certain. The loch lies between steep and high mountains; *Coire Shubh* or *Coire Shuth* is at its head. Its name is a compound of *subh*, "berry," or, perhaps more likely, of *suth*, "fruit, produce," and *bearna*, "gap." An exact parallel is *A' Mhorbhairne*, *Morvern*, "the Sea-gap," and the phonetics are strictly according to rule.

Inverness appears once (l. 1747), and the metre (*Séadna*) requires *Inbhir Nise*, which may or may not be a poetic liberty; the name now is always *Inbhir Nis*.

Loch Toibhe, anglicised as *Loch Tulla*, appears twice in that form (ll. 288, 1987); at l. 1744 appears *sruth Toibh* (: *oirbh*).

Finally, some words used by these poets seem to be in use, or at any rate in wide and general use, only in

Scottish Gaelic. Of such I have noted *monadh*, "mountain, mountain moor," Welsh *mynydd*; *dileab*, "legacy"; *pailt*, "plentiful"; *bagaid(e)*, "cluster"; Welsh *bagad*, Latin *bacca*; *piuthar*, "sister," formed from Old Irish *siúr*, aspirated *fiúr*. It may be noted that the poets tend to use the forms *math* and *flath* in preference to *maith* and *flaith*, more usual in Irish. Both the latter forms exist in Scottish Gaelic, and where rime permits one may choose to use them; but *math*, *flath* seem to be regular when rime is decisive. Such cases are collected in the glossarial index.

These notes are, of course, far from exhaustive; they are intended but to outline the points in regard to which the spelling of the MS., difficult and exasperating as it is, can be made to furnish valuable information. Each of the points treated might be investigated more fully, and doubtless many others besides. Enough has been said to show that between the vernacular of that period and the literary language there was a very considerable difference, while in many important respects the former differed not at all from the spoken Gaelic of our own time.

IX

I shall close this Introduction with some remarks on Fortingall and its neighbourhood. The River Lyon, after a varied course of about thirty miles emerges from the deep, rugged and narrow Pass of Lyon, and flows smoothly along the level flat of the Vale of Fortingall, and thence to its junction with the Tay at *Rinn Liomhunn*, Point of Lyon, some five miles farther down. The Vale itself, about a mile and a half long and half as wide, is bounded on the north by high grassy bluffs of limestone, and on the south by the heathery and wooded slopes of *Cnoc Druiminn*,¹ Drummond Hill, which separates it from Loch Tay. Fortingall, in Gaelic *Fartairchill*, on record as Forterkil, etc., means "Fort Church," with reference

¹ *Druiminn* is an old dative-locative of *druim*, "ridge." It has no sort of connection with the hero Fionn, as asserted by W. F. Skene, *Book of the Dean of Lismore*, p. ii.

to a circular fort, *an Dùn Geal*, situated high up on the bluff a little way north-east of the church; and the church, as often, has given its name to the parish. These circular forts, with walls about eight feet thick, internal diameter approximately fifty feet, and one narrow entrance, are characteristic of western Perthshire, and are represented also by some outliers in Argyll. In Gaelic such a fort is *caisteal*, plural *caistealan*, "castle"; in southern Perthshire they have apparently left the name Keir, for Welsh *caer*, "fort." Their distribution coincides with the bounds assigned to the ancient tribe of the *Verturiones*,¹ "Fort-folk," whence the later Gaelic district-name *Fortriu*, genitive *Fortrenn*. These "castles"² are traditionally connected with the hero Fionn mac Cumhaill, whose chief residence was *an Dùn Geal*, "the White Fort":

" Bha dà chaisteal deug aig Fionn
an Cromhleann dubh nan clach ";

" Fionn had twelve castles in the dark bent glen of stones "
(*i.e.* Glen Lyon).

Fortingall is rich in prehistoric remains. At the western end of the Vale is *Dail an Fhraoich*, "the Heather Dale," with a fine example of an ancient tomb³ with commemorative standing stone, now recumbent, and cupmarked, as are many other stones in the neighbourhood. A little to the east is the "Roman Camp," an earthwork of uncertain date but doubtless ancient, surrounded by a deep broad ditch.⁴ In a field before the church are three groups of

¹ *Verturiones* is derived by Rhŷs from Early Celtic *vertera*, "fort," Welsh *gwerthyr*. The gaelicised *Fortriu* was perhaps influenced by Irish *for-trén*, "very mighty." *Fortar*, corresponding to Welsh *gwerthyr*, shows the same irregularity of vowel; but some old record forms have *e*: Fertigil, Fertirgill, Fertirkil (RMS., vol. ii., index).

² See "Circular Forts in North Perthshire" and "Circular Forts in Lorn and North Perthshire," in *Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. xlvii. and vol. i., Fifth Series.

³ The tomb consists of three rings, separated by slight hollows, with a central depression. The width across is 43 ft. The stone is cigar-shaped, about 8 ft. long, 3 ft. broad, and 2 ft. thick.

⁴ Length inside ditch, 120 ft., breadth 87 ft.; ditch about 50 ft. wide from lip to lip; entrance faces due east.

standing stones. On the opposite side of the Lyon is *Tigh-Neimhidh*, anglicised Duneaves, the English plural form being due to the presence of *Tigh Neimhidh Ghearr* to the west; in each name *Neimhidh* represents Early Celtic *nemeton*, a sacred place of meeting and of judgment.¹ The famous yew tree at the west end of the church, which in Pennant's time (1772) measured fifty-six feet around, and whose remains are still vigorous, is judged to be one of the oldest trees in Europe, probably about two thousand years old. In view of its nearness to the *Nemeton* and the well-known reverence for such trees in pagan times, we are probably safe in regarding it as a sacred tribal tree, and in supposing that on the introduction of Christianity its site determined the site of the church; and also that the *Nemeton* became church land. Similarly, St Patrick is recorded to have founded a church hard by the "Tree of Tortiu" (*iuxta Bile Torten*), close to the spot where later stood the monastery of *Ard Breccain* in Meath: the ancient pagan site was taken over by the Christian church.

Below Duneaves on the right bank of Lyon was *Cladh Chiarain*, St Ciarán's cemetery. St Ciarán's Chapel stood on the left side of the road leading to the farmhouse of Borland; and between the site of the chapel and the public road by the side of Loch Tay is *Dail Chiarain*, St Ciarán's Meadow. Below *Cladh Chiarain* a ford on the Lyon opposite Drumcharrie is named *Àth Bhreanaidh* or *Àth Bhranaidh*, a name which is to be taken along with *Cill Ach-Bhreanaidh* in Strath Brora, Sutherland, both probably commemorating St Brendan. *Dail Mo Choid* on Duneaves Farm commemorates Coeddi or Ceti, Bishop of Iona, who died in 712. His fair, *Féill Mo Choid*, was held at Fortingall on the first Tuesday of August (O.S.) or on 20th August (N.S.), when lambs were sold. Another market of the same name, or an offshoot of the same market, was held at Coshievile (*Cois a' Bhile*), a few miles east of Fortingall, on 9th August (O.S.). These fairs ceased between 1880 and 1890.

¹ See CPNS., p. 244 ff.

Ath Mo Ghriam, the ford on the river below Bridge of Lyon, and *Clach Mo Luchaig* are of doubtful explanation. The latter is a tall standing stone in a garden at the roadside west of Fortingall Hotel, to which, as local tradition has it, scolds were fastened by iron pins, traces of which are visible still. The name can have no connection with *Mo Luag*, the saint of Lismore, as has been suggested.

The hamlet of Fortingall proper is immediately west of the church, and is called *Baile a' Chlachain* or *Clachan Fartairchill*, "the Kirktown of Fortingall." West of it, again, is *Baile a' Mhuilinn*, "Milltown," on the burn *Allt Dobhar*. A small height just beyond the burn, near the site of Glen Lyon House, is *Tulaich a' Mhuilinn*, "the Height of the Mill"; and here, according to tradition and written record, was the home of the MacGregors with whom we are concerned.

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SCOTTISH VERSE
FROM
THE BOOK OF THE
DEAN OF LISMORE

I. AUCTOR HUIUS FIONNLAGH MAC AN ABA

1. DUANAIRE na sracaire,
dámadh áil libh a sgríobhadh,
fuaras *féin* don phacaire
ní dá bhféadtar a líonadh.
2. Gíodh iomdha na h-andaoine 5
ar tí millidh na tuatha,
cha nfhaghtar 'na chomaoin-se
aon réad san domhan uatha.
3. Do bhéasaibh na lorgánach,
gion go mbeith uatha acht míle, 10
an teach 'gá mbia a gcomhdháil-sean,
cha ruig iad é go h-oidhche.
5. Cha bhia mé 'gá sloinneadh-san,
cha nfhuil agam dá seanchas
acht a mbeith san choinfheasgar
agus na coin 'na leanmhain. 20
6. A Dhubhghaill, a chompánach,
a mheic Eoin na lann líomhtha,
'gá bhfuil iúl na lorgánach,
déan an Duanaire sgríobhadh.
7. Sgríobh go fiosach fíreólach 25
a seanchas is a gcaithréim ;
ná beir duan ar mhísheóladh
go a léigheadh go Mac Cailéin.
4. Atáá ossil a'nossil agki na chotti killi
Is ta wesew wea ray ayskrey (r *doubtful*) ga zeyg cha chlwni
(chlwn^s RC) sinni (fynn, fynni ? RC) MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS FINLAY MACNAB

1. As to the Song-book of the Pillagers, should you be pleased to write it, I myself have got from the pack-man somewhat that may go to fill it.
2. Though many are the evil men who are set on spoiling the folk, not one thing in the world is got from them in return for it.
3. It is a custom of the strollers, though they should have but a mile to go, that they will not reach until nightfall the house which they make their tryst.
5. I shall not name their ancestry, I have naught of their story, save their being in the evening with the dogs in their train.
6. Thou Dugall, my comrade, son of John of polished blades, thou who hast the guidance of the strollers, do thou write the Song-book.
7. Write expertly, learnedly, their lore and their tuneful works; bring unto MacCailéin no poem lacking artistry to be read.

8. Cuimhnigh féin an comunn-sa,
a Ghriogóir, mar do-chualais, 30
go bhfuil agam oradsa
do chuid do chur san Duanair.

9. Ná biodh annsan domhan-sa
do shagart ná do thuathach
'gá bhfuil ní 'na gcomhghar-san 35
nach cuirthear é san Duanair.

Duanaire.

8. Remember thou too, Gregor, this partnership, even as thou hast heard, that thou owest it to me to put thy share in the Song-book.
9. Let there not be in this world one single priest nor layman who has aught by him that is not put in the Song-book.

II. ARTÚR DALL MAC GURCAIGH (?)

1. DÁL chabhlaigh ar Chaistéal Suibhne,
suaire an eachtra i nInis Fáil ;
marcaigh ag tráchtadh na dtonna,
glantair bárcá donna dháibh. 40
2. Fir arda ag eagar na loingse,
ar loime luath leanas cuairt :
ní bhí lámh gan ghalgha gasta,
i n-ár stargha snasta suaire.
3. Do chotúnaibh is díobh eagrar 45
aghaidh na mbárc fá chruth liag,
do choradhaibh na gcrios gclárdhonn :
Lochlannaigh is ármuinn iad.
4. Do chlaidhmhibh go n-ór 's déad eagair 50
aghaidh bárc na mbréideadh ndonn ;
[] cliath do ghaithibh gealgha,
sgiath ré fraighibh leabhra long.
5. Ar sgáth sgiath ar sgúdaibh breaca
brosarnach chorra cloch n-óir ;
[] at caomh is coiléar 55
ar taobh na slat roighear ró.
6. Gaoth ghorm i nguainibh *na* luathbhárc,
'gá lionadh i n-arradh trácht ;
cliath theann [] do cholgaibh,
foireann sgiath ré bordaibh bárc. 60

2b. er lome RC.] 4c. Nar're clai^t RC.] 5c. Broyt^{ny}^t RC.]
6b. long gai leny^t nare trai^t RC.] 6c. 3ai gohind RC.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS BLIND ARTHUR
MAC GURCAIGH (?)

1. Tryst of a fleet against Castle Sween, welcome is the adventure in Inis Fáil; horsemen travelling the billows, brown barks are being cleansed for them.
2. Tall men are arraying the fleet, which swiftly holds its course on the sea's bare surface: no hand lacks a trim warspear, in battle of targes, polished and comely.
3. Of quilted hauberks is arrayed the barks' forefront in form of jewels, of warriors with brown-faced girdles: Norsemen and nobles are they.
4. Of swords with gold and ivory setting is the forefront of the brown-sailed barks; [] a rank of bright-pointed spears, shields hang from the long sides of the ships.
5. Behind shields on dappled cutters is a gleaming pile of stones of gold; [], fair hat and collar hang on the sides of the yards right sharp and strong.
6. A strong wild wind blows on the shoulders of the swift barks, while they are being loaded by the shore; a stout rank [] of blades, a set of shields lean by the barks' planks.

7. Mná fionn[-] i ngrian na loingse,
leaptha arda ag ighnibh mall ;
pillní bhreaca dháibh 'gá ndéarghadh
leaptha ag mnáibh ré h-éanlaighe ann.
8. Pillní bhreaca shróill is shionnáith, 65
is é sin luachair na long ;
[] ,
dul sróill chorcair ós gach cron.
9. Go lamhainn chruaidh, go gcrios codad,
'nar gearbh síos [] 70
na seoid [] ann gan iomard
do chliaraibh chlann bhfionnard bhFáil.
10. Nuair chualas urdhál an fhéinnidh,
gáir na ndos 'gá gcur ré ceird,
na seoid óir ó Éirinn aca 75
don bhróin mhéirsheing dhathta dheirg.
13. Iomdha fear loinne is fear lúirigh, 85
iomdha fear luath go léim láith,
ré súgh mong na fairge [] ,
ré h-áirde long mbeannchorr mbláith.
14. Cia so lé seóltar an cabhlach 90
ar Chaisléan Suibhne Sliabh Truim ?
fear sreangach nach seachnann saighde,
leathchrann sgorach codad *cruinn*.
- 7a. findmy^t RC.]
8a. wraki^t royl is ty'noll MS.]
8c. Byve hwneny^t sy^t roir ho^t RC, *apparently rightly*.]
9b. gyn chur la clair RC.] 9c. Na said durrit RC.]
11. Ne low lea long zane loigew y' bai^t na nach is nid boe
Gin ocht gy' von dew gy' wroneny^t snee el ter'gy' lom^t lo . . .
12. Ne heilssy^t loa carve zai (?) garrow (? garrew) in lane dy'nos hyn^t
voy
Ag ryne' oir er var^dow ra hard zowe (? zoive) carve coyne' RC.]
- 13cd. ra sowe monz^one farg far zone' ra hard in long RC.]

7. Fair[-] ladies sit in the floor of the ships ; there are high-placed beds for stately damsels ; speckled cushions are arranged for them, couches for the dames where each may lie alone.
8. Speckled cushions of satin and of sendal, these are the strewings of the ships ; [], a loop of purple satin adorns each mast-top.
9. With steel gauntlet, with firm girdle, down into our ship [] the heroes [] without reproach, of the ranks of the bright tall children of Ireland.
10. When was heard the warrior's muster, the trumpets' cry summoning them to ply their art, they had with them the golden heroes from Ireland, to form the slim-fingered, bright, ruddy-cheeked band.
13. Many a man with blade and many a man with corslet, many a swift man with hero's leap, meets the swell of the ocean's mane [] against the lofty, peaked, smooth ships.
14. Who is this who sails the fleet towards the Castle of Sween of Sliabh Truim ? It is a sinewy man who shuns not shafts, a hard, shapely, piercing lance.

15. John MacSween it is who heads this fleet on the sea's surface, a hardy leader ; [] .
16. They have a straight stern-wind behind them, [] , their dappled sails are bulging, foam rises to vessels' sides.
17. He has taken a goodly anchorage hard by Knapdale [] .
18. Let us at Alba's walls hail and welcome his comely breast ; splendid is that brilliant band [] .
19. The streams of Sliabh Monaidh welcome MacSween of Sliabh Mis ; shoals of the fishes of the estuaries come (to meet him), [] is dealt to him.
20. Branches bow down their knees, they welcome our prince, the theme of music ; the hazel of every harbour [] , mighty the welcome with which they meet John.
21. Alba's men of learning come, they welcome the valiant hero of Mis ; [] they give him welcome from points of spears.

23. Do-níd cách i gCaisléan Shuibhne 125
 fá sheabhag Chruachan chroinn bhuirb
 súidhe fá thiomchall na sgor-soin,
 fionnchlann Mhuighe losghloin Luirg.
24. A dhá shleigh thollas taobh námhad, 130
 mar neimh nathrach goin a chrann ;
 caolchlaidheamh ó ghreis uí Ghuaire,
 maolaighthear leis guaille Gall.
27. Aon-chlaidheamh as fhearr san Eóruip,
 is é as leabhra leanas maidhm ;
 cia sgiath san domhan nach diongbhann
 triath gan omhan [] ?
28. Eoin mac Suibhne na sleagh gcodad, 145
 lé cholg tana teasgach [],
 [] an sgiath breacdhonn,
 [] triath deacair an dál.

Dál chabhlaigh.

- 23a. dytneid MS.] 23b. chroitin MS.]
 23d. fynvar neve luslane lurk M^tL., *apparently rightly.*
 24a. teve MS.] 24b. na^try^t MS.]
 25. Cellar mitt oil v'soyne ra solss in nad clwk dy^t choym
 Is feyr na^t deine din clok in cawor sie deine doltnych valklang ver
 (? vor)
 26. Nor nach deine dai lwry^t thrawre er skai chottone na skadon
 (skadom WM.).
 Gavis rachlin slemezir scarrych mevor clatwan calm cor MS.]
 27b. lewry^t MS.]
 27d. treat^t gyn noyn clyne carm (c *certain* ; *possibly a letter between*
c and a) MS. ; erin WM. ; errin EM.]
 28b. teskbych vawle M^tL. ; ? teskfych, ? teskvych MS.]
 28c. Sar na^t skait^t wai skai brak done MS.]
 28d. taris treach dekhorn dawle M^tL., MS.]

23. In Castle Sween, under the hawk of Cruacha of
savage spear, they all sit around these encamp-
ments, the fair children of the plain of Lorg, bright
with herbs.
24. His two spears that pierce the side of his foe, like the
serpent's venom is the wound of his lances; the
slender sword, by dint of the onset of Guaire's scion,
Saxons' shoulders are bared by it.
27. The one sword that is best in Europe, the longest that
follows up a rout; what shield in the world does he
not repel, a lord without fear []?
28. John MacSween of hard spears, with his slender hewing
blade, [] the brown and dappled
shield [] hard the meeting.

III. A UGH DAR SO DONNCHADH MAC CAILÉIN,
AN RIDIRE MATH

1. CIA don phléid as ceann uidhe
ó do theasta an deaghdhuine ? 150
tá na deoir ar éis an fhir,
an phléid gan treoír ré faicsin.
2. Tá 'na díleacht gíodh olc linn
an phléid ar n-éag do Lachlann ; 155
is béad sin ar lár gach lis,
an phléid ar easbhaidh éolais.
3. Má theasta, ní chuala mé
leithéid Lachlainn ar leimhe
ó chruthuigh Dia na daoine :
is cubhaidh a h-iargcaoine. 160
4. Í gan mháthair gan athair,
an phléid bhocht ar anamhain ;
ar n-éag Mheic an Bhreatnaigh bhinn,
a cnead-se créad nach caoinfinn ?
5. Nocha nfheil duine ar domhan 165
do-ní an phléid do mhórughadh ;
ar n-éag Lachlainn is leamh linn :
olc an sgéal soín i nEirinn.
6. Cia iarras sporáin bheaga ?
cia iarras na snáthada ? 170
cia iarras drochbhonn gan dealbh
ó theasta Lachlann leimhshearbh ?

3d. is cowe ce ear genyth MS.] 4b. er anfféine MS.]

4d. a cretsin MS.]

5b. do ne in pleyd a voerytchin MS.]

6a. Ka 3earis (*i.e.* cia dh'iarras) MS. ; *so throughout.*]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS DUNCAN SON OF COLIN,
THE GOOD KNIGHT

1. Whom does begging make its goal, now that the worthy man is dead? Tears follow the man; begging is seen helpless.
2. After Lachlann's death begging, though sore we deem it, is an orphan; it is a sad thing in the midst of every court, that begging knows not where to go.
3. If he is dead indeed, I have never heard of Lachlann's like for forwardness, since God created men; it is meet that the same should be lamented.
4. Begging, poor thing, remains without mother or father; now that sweet-voiced Galbraith is dead, surely I should lament its moan.
5. In the world there is not one man to exalt begging; Lachlann's death we deem vexatious; ill news is that in Ireland.
6. Who now asks for little purses? who asks for needles? who asks for a bad coin without a stamp, since Lachlan, the forward, the sour, is dead?

7. Cia iarras bróga dubha ?
 cia iarras na búcladha ?
 cia iarras bréide brághad ?
 cia ar gceann pléide is fanámhad ? 175
8. Cia iarras iasacht dá bhróg ?
 cia iarras sgiatha pháicóg ?
 cia iarras iadhaidh dá chrios ?
 cia do-ní leamh gach aoinlios ? 180
9. Cia iarras seanada pill ?
 cia iarras leabhair léighinn ?
 cia iarras díota go moch ?
 cia ara mbí íota anmoch ?
10. Cia iarras bótan is spuir ? 185
 cia iarras frocan athchuir ?
 cia iarras measgán is min ?
 cia iarras seasgán seagail ?
11. Cia iarras spáin i sporán ?
 cia ní solár gan náire ? 190
 ó theasta Lachlann leamhach,
 cia nois ar n-adhbhar gáire ?
12. Cia iarras léinte ban n-óg
 ar éis Lachlainn na seanbhróg ?
 dá éag-san is truagh an dál : 195
 cia lé n-iarrthar an cuarán ?
13. Cia ghoideas duais a ghille ?
 cia nach abair ffrinne ?
 cia as leamh ag triall i mbáta ?
 cia iarras na seanchárda ? 200

7b. bowklow MS.]

9a. adda peillith (*i.e.* *peallach*) MS.]10d. schoggill (*i.e.* *seogail*) MS.]11c. leywy^t MS.]

7. Who asks for black shoes, or for buckles ? who asks for neck-cloths ? who now is our chief beggar and our chief butt ?
8. Who asks for the loan of two shoes ? who asks for peacocks' wings ? who asks a clasp for his belt ? who disgusts each court ?
9. Who asks for old hats of shag ? who asks for reading-books ? who asks for dinner in the morning, and is late athirst ?
10. Who asks for boots and spurs ? who asks for discarded frocks ? who asks for a butter-crock and meal ? who asks for gleanings of rye ?
11. Who asks for a spoon in a sporran ? who forages without shame ? Since the importunate Lachlann is dead, who now is our cause of laughter ?
12. Who asks for young women's shifts, after Lachlann of the old shoes ? After his death 'tis a sad plight : who now asks for sandals ?
13. Who now steals his lad's wage ? who tells not the truth ? who is irksome in travelling by boat ? who asks for old carding-combs ?

14. Cia iarras cearc lé h-uighe ?
 cia iarras líon caolbhuidhe ?
 cia iarras corrlach an choirc
 i ndiaidh an dorrlaigh airgid ?
15. Cia iarras príne gan cheann, 205
 fear leamh i gcomas coitcheann ?
 gan oighre ar Lachlann dá éis
 doilghe ná a éag ré faisnéis.
16. Cia iarras dubhán is drobh ?
 cia iarras doirse d'fhosgladh ? 210
 cia iarras binid gan bhrígh ?
 cia lé sirthear gach aoinní ?
17. Cia nach dtoir peighinn do bhocht ?
 cia iarras ní ar tarnocht ?
 cia ghríosas gach gruaidh ó'd-chí ? 215
 cia bhíos go cruaidh um mhaicní ?
18. Cia iarras olann is im
 chon a thighe d'éis Lachlainn ?
 cia iarras coiléara ban ?
 cia lén mian solár sailleach ? 220
19. *Gér* bhinn liom dán Domhnaill Duinn,
 ní mholaim [] Lachlainn ;
 mar do mhill a déanamh dhomh,
 [] linn an [] so.
20. Cia iarras ar mnáibh óga 225
 coin bheaga agus neasóga ?
 cia iarras fursainn (?) ó'd-chí ?
 cia lé dtrusar gach meinbhní ?

14b. leine MS.] ?

15b. layf in (two words) MS.]

17a. nach doyr MS.]

17d. v^eneith MS.]

19. (omitted by M'L.): Vin lwm dane donill dwen / ne vollwm inwne
 Lochlyn / Mor di weill a danow zoith / ni feud linn in larich soo.
 faejer MS.]

20c. furssin oyd keich MS.]

20d. ma^{ve}ve neith MS.]

21. Cia iarras loiste go a bhrot ?
 cia iarras triubhas tollbhocht ? 230
 cia bhíos go tinn is é slán ?
 cia iarras im ar bhrochán ?
22. Deacra linn ná éag an fhir
 gan a oighre dá éis-sin,
 d'eagal na pléide dhul d'éag, 235
 's nach feadar cia ní a coimhead.
23. [] an fhir
 déanaidh, a dhaoine an domhain,
 rann gach neach do chur 'na cheann :
 mallacht don fhear nach cuireann. 240
24. Má theasta Lachlann lá Luain,
 is subhach bhitheas gach duain ;
 dá éag is buidhe gach bioth,
 is ní cuibhe giodh éinchioth.

Cia don phléid.

- 22d. *feadir* MS.] 23a. Ne 3wme nine (ninze ?) in ir MS.]
 24a. lachlin lay lon MS.]
 24c. boeich WM. *rightly*.] Ka din pleydda MS.]

IV. A UGH DAR SO [MAC EACHAIG ?]

1. DÍOMDHACH mé don ghaoith a ndeas, 245
 ó nach léigeann a steach Eoin ;
 is í arna bhreith a mach
 ar dtoidheacht damh go Mac Leoid.
2. Mac Seónaide na seól ngeal, 250
 dámadh áil leis teacht ar chuan,
 nocha nfhastadh gaoth a ndeas
 Eoin mac Uilliam na n-each luath.
3. Ní chodlaim oidhche ná lá 255
 nach bhfaicim ón tráigh-se tuaidh
 long shitheamhail an t-siuil ghil,
 long an fhir lé mbristear ruaig.
4. Ag so an tuarasgbháil thug cách 260
 ar mac Uilliam ó Chlár Sgí :
 giolla díonach déidgheal deas,
 fear nach éaradh neach má ní.
5. An t-ochtmhadh lá uainn fá Eoin,
 oighre Mheic Leoid na rosg []
 cosmhail a n-eangnamh 's a neart
 ré teaghlach M[] an mhór [].
6. Fear faoilteach nach folchann seoid 265
 tuarasgbháil Eoin na n-arm *ngéar* :
 fear théid san tachar ar dtús,
 fear lér cuireadh a chlú *i gcéin*.
- 2c. Cha . . . dess MS.] 3b. o tray⁴id soo MS.]
 4a. toyrriskail MS.] 5b. in rosg . . . MS.]
 5c. angnow is in MS.]
 5d. re tylych morri^t a vor è . . . (*the rest illegible to me*) MS. ; M'L.
reads chreith, EM. chr . . . , WM. cru. Morri may be read
marrit^t, or possibly marnrit, but unlikely.]
 6b. nyn nar . . . MS.] 6d. a clw . . . MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS [MAC EACHAIG ?]

1. I am displeased with the wind from the south, for it keeps John from land, now that it has borne him forth when I have come to MacLeod.
2. Janet's son, white his sails, did he wish to come over sea, it is not a wind from the south that would stay John, son of William, of swift steeds.
3. Night or day I sleep not while I see not from this beach in the north the good ship of white sail, the ship of the man by whom foes are routed.
4. Here is the report given by all concerning William's son from the land of Skye : a lad firm-set, white-toothed, expert, a man who would refuse not store to any man.
5. It is now the eighth day since blue-eyed MacLeod's heir, John, has gone from us ; alike is their prowess and their might to the household of M . . . of great [].
6. A cordial man, who hides not treasure, such is the description of sharp-weaponed John : a man who goes the first into the encounter, a man who has spread his fame afar.

7. Mac Uilliam dhá ndáiltear miodh,
 mac Seónaide ar sliocht an ríogh : 270
 dá geluininn a theacht a dtuaidh,
 do bhiadh mo ghruaim ar ndol díom.

- 7. Son of William, who dispenses mead, son of Janet of royal lineage; were I to hear of his coming from the north, my gloom would then have left me.

V. A UGHDAR SO MAC GIOLLA FHIONNTÓG
AN FEAR DÁNA

1. BUaidh thighearna ar thóiseachaibh
atá ó thús a gcinidh ;
áireómhad dá n-óigfhearaibh 275
gach aon ara mbraith fisidh.
2. Céad tighearna an tíre-se
Donnchadh Beag fa mór aigneadh,
do fhág mar chuid díleaba
ag Clainn Ghriogóir a ngaisgeadh. 280
3. Donnchadh mór dá míleadhaibh
athair maoineach Maoil Choluim,
seanathair Eoin fhínfhleadhaigh :
níor gheall chunnradh nár chomhaill.
4. Griogóir deaghmhac Donnchadha, 285
mac uaidh Eoin dob é a oighre ;
fear ághasach onchonta
ó Loch taobhsholas Toilbhe.
5. Eoin Dubh an geal Gaoidhealta
mac áirmheach Eoin mheic Ghriogóir, 290
sealgaire damh ndraoidheachta,
tús gach cogaidh do fhriothóil.
6. Maol Coluim 'gá dheaghchungbháil
aithnid dúinn d'éis a athar
deisgeart Glinne gealUrcháidh, 295
madh síoth do chách madh cagadh.
7. Atá tús na h-imearta
do Chlainn Ghriogóir ó Ghallaibh ;
'gá bhfuil tréidhe tighearna,
grádh sealga agus buaidh ghaisgidh. 300
- 7a. Itta toissich noymit' MS.] 7b. oo zallew MS.]
7c. boye *deleted before* graw MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS MAC GIOLLA FHIONNTÓG
THE POET

1. From the beginning of their race chiefs do possess the excellence of lords ; I shall record of their young men each one of whom a learned man hath knowledge.
2. The first lord of this land was Duncan the Little, great of spirit, who left with Clan Gregor their valour as a legacy.
3. Duncan the Great, a man of their warriors, was Malcolm's bounteous father, and grandsire of John of wine-feasts : he plighted no compact that he did not fulfil.
4. Gregor was Duncan's good son ; son to him was John his heir ; a warlike man, right valorous, from bright-shored Loch Toilbhe.
5. John the Black, the bright true Gael, was the renowned son of John, son of Gregor, a hunter of magical stags, who attended upon the beginning of every war.
6. Known to us is Malcolm, who followeth his sire, well maintaining the southern side of fair Glen Orchy, whether others be at peace or at war.
7. The foremost place of honour Clan Gregor have won from Saxons ; they possess the qualities of lords, even love of hunting and triumph of valour.

8. I n-aimsir Chuinn Chéadchathaigh
do-chuala mé a mhac samhla :
Fionn, níor ghabh ó ghéarlannaibh,
mac Cumhaill na greach gcalma.
9. Sealg Éireann 's a thigheadas 305
ag mac Cumhaill na gcaoilshleagh ;
aoibh níor ghuidh ná tighearnas
ar críochaibh clanna Gaoidheal.
10. D'fhiadh ré linn dá leagfaidhe 310
ó Chiarraigh go Carn Bhalair,
rogha dhamh na seasraighe
do bhíodh aige 'na aghaidh.
11. Ó Shamhain go Bealltaine 315
buannacht gach tighe d'fhianaibh ;
an t-sealg, fa sógh seabhcaidhe,
aca i n-ionam an fhiadhaigh.
12. Iomdha cíos nach áirmhithe 320
ag Fionn nó ag fear a *thabhaigh* ;
fiacha Éireann d'áirithe
ar mhac Cumhaill 'na aghaidh.
13. A bhfuadar d'iongantaibh
fá bhruachaibh gacha buinne
ag sin a bhfuil d'iomarcaidh
Mhaoil Choluim ag mac Muirne.
14. Ní dhearna Fionn fianaidhe 325
sealg gan sireadh a ceada :
sealg Alban gan fhiafraighe
ag Maol Choluim 's a creacha.
15. Cungbhálach na coimhshealga 330
Mac Griogóir as garg daoine ;
níor mhionca coin chroidhearga
go longphort Clainne Baoisgne.

9a. heytis MS.]

12a. nach airfee MS.]

12b. a harffee, *by dittography from previous line*, MS.]15b. m^eg^egar MS.]

8. In the time of Conn of an Hundred Battles I have heard of one his like, even Fionn (he gave not back from keen blades) son of Cumhall of bold forays.
9. To Cumhall's son of slender spears belonged Erin's hunting and his housing; he sought no welcome nor lordship over the bounds of the clans of the Gael.
10. In his time if any stag was laid low from Kerry to Balar's Cairn, the picked ox of the team of six was his in requital.
11. From Hallowe'en to Beltane the warrior-bands had right of quarters in every house; the hunt (good cheer was there for falcons) they had in the hunting season.
12. Many a tribute that needs not mention had Fionn or he who exacted it for him; in return for that tribute Fionn had as his special duty Erin's obligations.
13. All that they found of wonders beneath the banks of each swift stream; that is such of Malcolm's abundance as was held by Muirne's son.
14. Fionn the warrior made no hunting without leave asked: Alba's hunting and her forays are Malcolm's without seeking.
15. Maintainer of the joint hunt is MacGregor whose men are fierce; not oftener did hounds red with gore enter the encampment of Clann Baoisgne.

16. Lón troda do thóiseachaibh
éirghidh leis i ló catha ;
fíor íota ar óirshleaghaibh
'gá lucht tighe san dtachar. 335
17. Ceannas feadhna is féitheamhnas,
coitchionn is clú dá chineadh,
ar beirn ghaisgidh ghléidhearbhas
Mac Griogóir grádh na bhfileadh. 340
18. Iomdha 'na chúirt chomhladhaigh
feilm chumhdaigh is colg tana,
ór dearg ar a ndornchoraibh,
airm leómhain Locha hAbha.
19. Coimhsheimm idir cláirseachaibh
i ndún an laoi ch 'na lámhaibh ;
a lucht tighe ó tháipleasaibh
ag dol fá dhubhar gháraidh. 345
20. Mac Griogóir bos bharrchorra,
mac Dear-bháil buidhe ó Ghallaibh (?), 350
aonchara na calmachta,
lámh lér ráinig gach rathbhuaidh.
21. Buaidh féile ré fileadha
inghean Mheic Laghmáinn coisnidh ;
do mhéaduigh clú a cineadha
ar thiodhlaic a lámh []. 355
22. Máire muime ollamhan,
taobh míngheal as maith cuma ;
na cliara 'gá commoladh :
corra a gruaidh ná subha. 360

Buaidh thighearna.

18b. felm MS.]

20c. ní calmy'ta] MS.]

21c. a clw kinnaže MS.]

19b. oy (?) before done, WM. and MS.]

21b. ne v'clymont (i.e., ní Mheic) MS.]

21d. a laif lowye MS.]

16. A full battle-complement of captains goeth out with him in day of strife ; right thirsty are the golden spears of his household in the encounter.
17. Captaincy and protection (it bringeth glory to all his tribe alike) MacGregor, loved of poets, clearly shows in valour's gap.
18. In his court of many doors is many a fair-wrought helmet and thin blade ; gold gleameth on their hilts, the weapons of the Lion of Loch Awe.
19. In the hero's stronghold is concert of harps in hands of minstrels ; his household go from games of backgammon to walk in shaded garden.
20. MacGregor whose palms are rosy-tipped, son of yellow-haired Derval from the Lowlands (?), peerless friend of bravery, a hand wherewith is come each gracious excellence.
21. Lamond's daughter winneth triumph of bounteousness to poets ; her kindred's fame hath been enlarged by what her [generous] hand hath bestowed.
22. Mary, the bards' fostering mother, whose side is smooth and white and shapely ; the poet-bands unite in praising her : brighter her cheek than raspberries.

VI. AUCTOR HUIUS GIOLLA CRÍOST
BRÚILINGEACH

1. LÁMH aoinfhir fhóirfeas i nÉirinn
ar anbhuaín Ghaoidheal is Ghall,
flaith na bhfear is bile bonnbhláith,
críthe geal is *connbháil* ann.
2. Ar eineach agus ar aithne 365
's ar eangnamh i n-iath an fhéidh,
giolla glaccaomh, bile Banbha,
macaomh tighe Teamhra tréin.
3. Eólach dhomhsa iarla uasal, 370
fhóireas Éirinn ar chath cliar ;
bradán Sionna na sreabh solta,
giolla geal do sgoltadh sgiath.

AUTOUR HUIUS GILLECRIST BROWLINGYCH
BARD IN LEYMM

1. Law *in* ir *zorfís* in neyr
er *anwon* zeill 7 *zawle*
fflat^h na ver bil bonwlaá
cre gale sy^t onich ann.
2. Er *enny^t* 7 er *anny^t*
7 er *angnow in neyg in neyý*
gil g^zlak ra bil banva
makcave teig^h tawráá trané.
3. Olyth *zowssy^t* erlyth ossil
ooyr^s eyr er cháat^h clayr
braddane sinni nyn schreyve solt
gil gal do skolt skay.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA CRÍOST
BRÚILINGEACH

1. It is the hand of one man who in Ireland will succour
distress of Gael and of foreigners, prince among men
and smooth-soled chief, heart unstained where support
resides.
2. For generous deeds and wide renown, and for prowess
in the haunts of the deer, he is a youth fair-handed,
Banbha's lofty tree, gallant of Tara's mighty house.
3. Known to me is a high-born earl, who succours Ireland
from strife of poet-bands, salmon of Shannon of
fair streams, a goodly lad for cleaving shields.

4. Aithnid domhsa an féinnidh fuileach,
an fear-soin chongbhas a ghaol ;
ciabh fhollán ghlan ag an ghiolla, 375
Mongán na mban sionga saor.
5. Lugh Lámhfhada mór mac Eithleann
airdrí líonmhor Locha Cé ;
Íoth seólach ar buaidh a bhéimeann :
leómhan do chuain Éireann é. 380
6. Ar Thomaltach caomh na Cairrge
do chuir mé m'aithne 'na aoibh ;
gabhtar mo laoidh ar m'fhéis romhainn
go rígh Céise Corainn chaoimh.
7. Mac Diarmada ó Mhuigh Luirg líonmhoir, 385
lánchara ceall agus cros ;
[]
flaith ar mbuain an bháire a bhos.
4. Annit doss in feygith fullich
in fersin chowis a zeill
keyve ollane zlan ag iz zilli
mvngane ni ban sinni seir.
5. Low lawaddi mor m^ekellin
ardre leno^r locha kay
ith soylich er boye a weymiz
loyvin de choyn eyrrin ay.
6. Er homildy^t keyve ni carga
cur mee manzy^t in a yve
goyvir mi leich er meess roythwm
gow reith chess chorr^o . . .
7. M^eDermot mew lwrgi lenor
lane charri kawle 7 cross
tosse gach g^oyrni azrany^t
flatz er boyin a wayr awoss.

o chess chorril
cheve EM.

4. Well I know that deadly warrior, the man who doth uphold his kin ; locks thick and bright the youth possesses ; he is as Mongán among slim free-born dames.
5. Peer of long-armed Lugh, Eithliu's mighty son, is Loch Cé's high-king of numerous hosts ; he is as seaborne Ioth for blows puissant ; a lion of Ireland's litter he.
6. Of dear Tomaltach of the Rock's good cheer I have got knowledge ; let my lay, in return for the banquet that awaits me, be sung to the king of dear Céis Corainn.
7. MacDiarmaid of populous Moylurg is firm friend of churches and of crosses ; [
] ; he is a prince who has won pre-eminence this side the sea.

8. Mac Diarmada is a réim roimhe,
rí na Cairrge i gcruas a chuilg ; 390
fear is iomdha dá fhuil bhríogmhoir
tighearna ar Muigh líonmhoir Luirg.
9. Cruithneacht dearg ar maghaibh míne
fá Thomaltach chosnas *Chéis* ;
bídh ar clár collbhán uí Cholla 395
lomlán a droma ar gach *déis*.
10. Lacht milis ag buaibh i mbuailtibh,
branar fa féaraighe fonn ;
fá h-árainn mhín is fá monadh
tír álainn fá toradh trom. 400
11. Míolchoin gharga ar iallaibh órdha
ag Tomaltach 's *ceann ar cách* ;
sguir go moch san aonach uallach
mán loch bhraonach bhuaadhach bhláth.
8. M^eDermot 7 a reymroith
ree ni carga *in* gross a chwlgē
farda 7 *in* eymy^t *in* wil wreor^r
tearne a er vy lenor lwrgee.
9. Crw^znytht derk er my meiny^t
fa homildy^t chossnis k . . . kee EM.
bee er clair collewane echole
lomelane a drome er gi d . . . dee EM.
10. Laitht millis ag boyve *in* boltew
bra^zner fa feire a foo foonn EM.
ffa arrill weine 7 faa monyth
teír állin fa torrith trom.
11. Meilchon 3arga er eyllow oyrre
ag tomildyth ch . . . awe engrra (?)
skwrre gi mvth si nenyth oylich
ma^z loch vrenith voygith wlaa.

8. MacDiarmaid's course is ever onward, king of the Rock in right of his rapier's steel; many a man of his vigorous blood has been lord of the peopled plain of Lorg.
9. Red wheat waves on smooth plains under the rule of Tomaltach, lord of Céis; on the white-hazelled domain of Coll's descendant, each ear of corn carries its full burden.
10. Cows yield sweet milk in milking folds; the fallow land is most rich in grass; throughout its smooth demesne and mountain it is a lovely land under its weighty crop.
11. Fierce deerhounds on gold-gilt leashes has Tomaltach, lord of all; in early morn horse-spans race in the proud assembly around the moist warm lake of virtue.

12. I gcrích Mheic Dhiarmada doinneirg, 405
dearg agus donn craobh na gcrann ;
[] ar chúl an chragaidh,
gach meas go h-úr abaigh ann.
13. An chúirt as acibhne ar druim domhain
dún Mheic Dhiarmada as geal gné 410
i gcaisteal fionn *na gcloch mbuadha*
ós cionn Locha cuanna Cé.
14. Cuirn is cuaich is copáin chumhdaigh
i gcúirt líonmhoir Locha Cé ;
ibhthear fíon san chonnphort chnuasaigh : 415
is longphort ríogh uasail é.
15. Iomdha a theaghlach álainn uasal,
a éideadh 's a eachradh ard ;
iomdha sleagh is lann is lúireach,
agus fear mall glúineach garg. 420
12. *In greich v^e dermit donnerk*
darkg 7 donni creive ni gran
in gon classi er chowle in gragge
gi mess g ho^r abbe anyt.
13. *A chwrt is eyviny^t er drummy^t doyn*
downy^t v^edermot is gall gnā
. . . hastil fin er braa woygin
oskinn locha chondy^t cay.
14. *Cwrn 7 cwoay 7 coppan chody^t*
in gwrt leno^r locha cay
evir fenyth si chonphort chnossei
7 longwrt re ossil a.
15. *Emmy^t a hylich alin ossil*
a eddee si echre ard
emyth slyg^h 7 lann 7 lwrich
7 fer mawai glwny^t garg.

12. Within brown-red MacDiarmaid's bounds, red and brown are the boughs of trees ; [] behind the crag all manner of fruit is fresh and ripe.
13. Most joyous court upon the world's ridge is that hold of MacDiarmaid, bright of aspect, within the fair castle of stones of virtue above the goodly lake of Cé.
14. Horns and goblets and fair-wrought cups are in the thronging court of Loch Cé ; wine is quaffed in that capital of garnered plenty ; it is the palace of a noble king.
15. Many are his household noble and comely, his vestures and his tall steeds ; many a spear and blade and mailcoat, many a man sedate, strong-kneed and stern.

16. Gabhaidh uime an t-earradh maothshróill
 Mac Diarmada as nós mhor neart :
 sé mar tharbh tuinne i ndruim tóra,
 lé bhuille cóir cródha ceart.
17. Dúinidh uime an cotún daingean, 425
 do dhíon an ríogh ó Ráith Cé ;
 an t-ór dearg ar crois a chlaidhimh,
 fearg ar a bhois raighil réidh.
18. Sgian chaisdearg ar an chríos chumhdaigh,
 cathlúireach má chéibh na gcuaich ; 430
 clogas ós cionn sgabail sgiamhdha
 mán mhionn abaigh niamhdha nuadh.
19. Sleagh fhada ag an mhílidh mhaiseach,
 Mac Diarmada Muighe hAoi ;
 sgiath eangach ar chuairt na gcuradh, 435
 searrach suairc ar fulang faoi.
16. Gawe vimmie *in* ter meithroll
 mak Dermont 7 nossor nert
 ay mir harve twnnith *in* drwm toyrryth
 la bulli corri croyv cart.
17. Dwne vimmy^t *in* cottwn dangin
 a zeine in reith o rath deya (*sic*)
in tor dark er cross a clawe
 ferg er a voss rojall raea.
18. Skayne chassdark er a chreiss *ch*ode
 cath lwry^t mi cheive ni goych
 cloggass oss skinn skabball skayve
 man vinni abbe neyvea noa.
19. Slygh^h addiagin weille vassyth
 ag mak dermit mygza hei^t
 skay nangy^t er chort ni gwri
 sarry^t swork er fowllow fe . . . fei^t EM.

16. He taketh about him his dress of soft satin, even MacDiarmaid renowned for might; as a firm-set bull he presses the backs of foemen with stroke well judged, valiant, unerring.
17. He closeth about him his firm hauberk, to guard the king who comes from the Ráth of Cé; gold gleams red on his broadsword's cross-hilt; wrath sits on his palm full white and smooth.
18. A red-hafted dagger hangs from his fair-wrought girdle; a battle mailcoat protects the warrior of clustering locks; a helmet above a beauteous shoulder-cape encircles the ripe gleaming vigorous royal head.
19. A long spear the comely warrior wields, even MacDiarmaid of Magh nAoi; he bears a cornered shield on heroic venture; a docile colt supports his weight.

20. Tánaig mise, maith an t-adhbhar,
dot fhios a hAlbain, ó's cóir,
mád teist, a Chonnachtaigh chaisghil,
a Thomaltaigh mhaisigh mhóir. 440
21. Tánag d'iarraidh athchuinge oraibh,
a hAlbain, a fholt mar ór,
ar an chuan ghagánach ghailbheach
uar bhradánach mhaighreach mhór.
22. Cláirseach ar leath dom dhán damhsa 445
tabhair mar iarraim, a rí;
ghnúis mar bhláth na h-abhla abaigh,
ó's ní tharla agaibh í.
23. A mheic Chonchobhair chuain Chairrge,
cubhaidh riotsa díol na ndámh; 450
tá cuid do sgéimhe dá sgríobhadh;
Éire dhuid ar líonadh lámh.
20. Hany^t missi math *in* tyvir
a tiss a halbin wss choir cwss Quiggin.
ma test a chonnichthy^t chasszill
a holbmilty^t wasseich woor.
21. Hanic zarre hachon orrew
a halbin a olt myr oor
er *in* choynny^t zaggary^t zalwy^t
or wraddany^t wyrry^t woor.
22. Clarsyth er leith *dym* jane dossi
hoithir mir earrwm a reith
gnwss mir wlaa ni hawlith abbi
on heit harle aggew eith. a reith *very dim*;
ar EM.
eith *very dim*;
EM. omits
23. V^cchonchor *choyne* charge
cowe rut deilli^t nin dawe
hay cut di skaew zaskrreyve
Eir zutte er lenem lawe.

20. I have come, good the reason, from Alba to visit thee,
as is meet, drawn by thy fame, thou white-footed son
of Connacht, thou Tomaltach goodly and great.
21. I have come to crave a boon from thee, from Alba,
thou with hair like gold, upon the stormy sea of
clustering wave-tops, chill and huge, the home of
grilse and salmon.
22. A harp in special grant me at my request, thou king,
thou whose countenance is as the ripe bloom of an
orchard, for it is a matter that thou hast by thee.
23. Thou son of Conchobhar of the Rock's haven, to pleasure
poet-bands befits thee well ; the part that tells of thy
beauty is being chronicled ; may Ireland be thine in
requital of thy filling of hands.

24. Inghean Bháiteir a Búrc Breaghdha,
 bean nós mhor neamhghann má ní ;
 folt cladhach cúlghlan na gcéibheann : 455
 rogha úrbhan Éireann í.

25. Deárna álainn fhada fháinneach
 ag Caitilín na mbas mbán ;
 dearg a h-imle solta saora,
 's ingne corcra laomdha a lámh. 460

24. Ne wayter a burgk brey
 ben nosso^t noe zann vin nee
 folt cleyich cowlzlan nyn geyvin
 ry owrwane ayrrin ee.

25. Darny^t ayllin áddi aynyth
 ag cattelene nyn bass bane
 emle (?) derga soltty^t seir
 7 Ingny^t corkry^t lemy^t lawe.

24. The daughter of Walter de Burgh of Brega is a courtly dame who stints not store ; her hair is deep-trenched, bright-locked, in tresses ; the choice of Ireland's fair ladies is she.
25. A lovely hand, long and ring-decked, has Caitilín of white palms ; red are her lips, comely and noble, and the nails rosy gleaming of her hands.

VII. AUCTOR HUIUS GIOLLA CRÍOST
BRÚILINGEACH

1. DÁ urradh i n-iath Éireann,
díogha is rogha raimhéirsheang ;
criopal sean gortach gallda,
is fear sochrach saorchlannda.
2. Ní cionta ré chéile a gcur, 465
slat fhearna agus slat iubhair ;
slacán don fhiodh fhearna fhiar,
agus m'fhiodh feardha fírfhial.
3. Urradh Ultach lom lochtach,
is rí cródha Connachtach ; 470
giolla geal soichleach subhach,
is fear doichleach diúltadhach.

A(UT)OR HUIUS GILLI CRIST¹ BROWLING^t
BARD IN LEIM

1. Da vrre in nea errin
dewit is ryi ra varing
crepil sen gortyth gald
is fer soithry^t seircland.
2. Ne cintay re cheyl *in* gur
slat arna 7 slat ewir
slat din neiyth arna air
7 meyt^t fairre feireala.
3. Vrre vlyt^t loymy lohty^t
is rei^t croye conythth^t
gilli gal sothlyth sowyth
is fer doity^t dwltowit^t.

¹ Gilli Crist *clear but deleted MS.*]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA CRÍOST
BRÚILINGEACH

1. Two chiefs are there in Ireland : one the refuse, the other the fine-fingered choice ; an old stingy lameter, Saxon of soul, and a bountiful man of noble race.
2. No crime it is to set them side by side, a rod of alder and a rod of yew ; a cudgel of crooked alder wood and my manly right generous timber.
3. Ulster's mean and faulty chieftain, and the valiant king of Connacht ; a bright free-handed joyous man, and a grudging man ready of refusal.

4. Mac Diarmada Muighe Luirg,
is Mag Uidhir an anuird ;
a n-eagar is claon *an* ceart,
seagal caol agus cruithneacht. 475
5. Tomaltach ré gaisgeadh glan,
Tómás ré h-olc 's ré h-uabhar ;
dá chrobh 'gan mheathach ar meath,
gur lobb leathach mo laoidhe. 480
6. Míleadh is fuidheall feachta,
ní cóir a gcur cuideachta ;
giolla mainntbhréan caoch, mo chron,
agus laoch lainntréan líon*mhor*.
7. Mag Uidhir is gann do ghean,
ceólach mac [] ;
Mac Ruslainn dob é a shamhail,
[] a ionnamhail. 485
4. M^cDermont mew lurgi
7 maa gwil in nanurd
in eggir 7 clein kert
seggil keil 7 cronycht.
5. Tonwldy^t re gask glan
thomas re olk 7 re hoyvir
da croff gin wayi^t er maa
gir lowf laya^t me leith.
6. Mele is fuil feachta
ne coir *in* gwrrí cwt-dachte
gilli ma*nt*reyn keith mo *ch*ron
7 leith lane trane lein. . . .
7. Maa gwil 7 gann di zin
coillith m^ewoil waac
m^eruslyn di baa hawil
mvsly^t mea no hynoil.

4. MacDiarmaid of Moylurg and Maguire the unruly ;
to set the two together is justice gone awry, to
compare meagre rye with wheat.
5. Tomaltach practises clean martial valour ; Thomas
practises evil and arrogance ; both the weakling's
hands have failed, whence it comes that my lays
are musty and askew.
6. Unmeet it is to place together a warrior and the leavings
of a host, a purblind foul-gummed loon, woe's me !
and a soldier mighty of blade and of numerous
following.
7. Maguire is scant of cheer ; [] son is fond of
music ; he is such as was MacRuslainn, . . . is
his counterpart.

8. Is é Tomaltach an tuir
Niall Frosach mac fial Fearghail,
Guaire mac Colmán, gruaidh gheal,
Iomlán d'uaille agus d'aigeadh. 490
9. Beiridh Mag Uidhir a mach
an gearrán bacach bronnach ;
a phillín chrionaigh do chuir
fá bhinnín *bhlionaigh* bhallaigh. 495
10. Beiridh Mac Diarmada a mach
searrach súlálainn súgach ;
beiridh bealach don ghaoith ghlain
seang each an laoich ar luamhain. 500
11. Mag Uidhir gan lúth ná lí
ar an ghearrán bhréan *bhuidhe* ;
is daothaide an tráth tánaig,
's saothaide an fáth *fonámhaid*.
8. Is sa tomvlty^t in twrri
neil frossy^t m^c feil fairill
goyr m^ccolman groye ʒal
loymlayn doyl 7 dagny^t.
9. Berre ma gwil a ma^t
in garran bakky^t bronycht^t
a fillin cryni^t a *ch*vrre
fa vyzneyz vronycht vallith.
10. Beirre m^cdermit a mach
ssry^t soul alyn sougych
ber belly^t din ʒeit ʒlynni
sang ayth *in* leith er loyv . . .
11. Ma guile gin low no lee
er a ʒerrane vrayny^t v . . .
is deitid in tra taynik
is seithid *in* fay^t f . . .

8. Tomaltach the prince is as Niall Frosach, the generous son of Fearghal ; he is as bright-checked Guaire, son of Colmán, brimful of noble pride and of pleasant temper.
9. The steed that bears Maguire forth is a halt pot-bellied nag ; upon his meagre mangy hump is placed his rider's mouldering pillion.
10. The steed that bears MacDiarmaid forth is a mettled colt of fairest eye ; the warrior's slim horse, as he skims the ground, makes a breach for the pure wind to enter.
11. Feeble and dingy sits Maguire upon his sorry yellow nag ; the meaner churl he when he arrives ; the pleasanter the occasion for mockery.

12. Lúireach gheal fháinneach fhada 505
 fá Mhac daithgheal Diarmada ;
 ré trodas do thagraidh air,
 sgaball is clogas *cumhdaigh*.
13. Mar mhuine fíorlus ag fás 510
 Tomaltach do-gheibh glé-ghrás (?);
 Tómas corrhón (?) ón [] ghleann
 [] craobh don chuileann.
14. Lúireach mheirge as daoire dreach, 515
 sgaball mísgiamhach salach,
 bídh má Mhag Uidhir críon clamh,
 nár fhuirigh ré díol Danar.
15. Sgiath órdha ré ucht mar ghloin 520
 ag rígh Muighe Luirg líonmhoir ;
 cuiridh ré thaobh raigheal geal
 claidheamh caol agus coirrhshleagh.
12. Lwry^t ʒal any^t adda
 fa vak daʒal *dermitda*
 re trotdass di hagri^t er
 skabil 7 claggass . . .
13. Mir vumith feirlwss a fass
 tomwaldy^t a ʒevye glegrych ¹
 Thomas ch^rrwin one ʒeir ʒlyne
 creyve ʒin chullin.
14. Lwry^t werge 7 deir drea
 skabbil me skeyvy^t sallit
 bee ma va gwil chrein clawf
 na^t durre re deil dannir.
15. Skaye oyrre ra wcht mir ʒlyn
 ag re mew lurga leno^r
 curre ra heive roʒal gal
 claive keil 7 corley.

¹ glegrych EM. ; *now illegible.*]

12. A bright mailcoat, long and ring-wrought, covers brilliant MacDiarmaid ; against the hour of challenge to fight he wears a shouldercape and a fair-wrought helmet.
13. Tomaltach, who wins bright grace, grows as a copse of noblest herbs ; round-rumped (?) Thomas from the [] glen [grows rankly like] a bough of holly.
14. A rusty mailcoat of meanest look, a shouldercape ugly and foul, cover Maguire, that sapless leper, who abode not the recompense due to barbarians.
15. A golden shield against his crystal-bright breast guards the king of populous Moylurg ; by his gleaming side he sets a slim sword and a taper spear.

16. Do-bheir Tómas a truaill duibh
seanmhaolán aimhghéar arsaidh ;
tá ag Mag Uidhir, balbh a bhas,
arm nach fuirigh ré h-ághas.
17. Fear mar Shuibhne nach beir buadh, 525
is fear mar Ioruath armruadh ;
saoi nach sgreadach go lámhach,
is daoi meathtach míolámhach.
18. Fear mar Chain colach cuil,
's fear mar Aibhél mac Ádhaimh ; 530
rí Loch Cé fear ós fearaibh :
is é as gean do Ghaoidhealaibh.
19. Rí láidir aithnid eólach,
is daoi anbhfann aintreórach ;
is fearr saoi solamh ré sgol 535
ioná daoi dolamh diúltach.
16. Di werri tomass a troyle doe
sann vellin awzair arsse
hay ag mak gwil balve a woss
arm na^t furry^t ra awzis.
17. Ffer myr hwny^t na berri boye
7 fer mir erroe armroy
seith na^t scratty^t gow layw^t
is dei vatty^t wee lawytht.
18. Fer myr chayvin colli^t culli^t
is fer mir awail m^eawzew
re lochacay fer oss ferrew
is say 7 gena dy^t zeillew.
19. Re ladir annycht oylicht
is dei^t anvin antroyrryht
is ferri seith holly^t re skol
na dei^t zolly^tin dwltei^t.

16. Thomas draws from a blackened sheath an ancient antique edgeless dudgeon ; Maguire, pithless his palm, has weapons that abide not battle.
17. The one is as Suibhne, who wins no triumph ; the other is as red-weaponed Ioruath, the battle terror ; the one is a hero who blenches not at spear-cast, the other is a shrinking handless poltroon.
18. The one is as sinful crime-stained Cain, the other as Abel, Adam's son ; Loch Cé's king is a man above men ; he is the joy of the Gael.
19. The one a king, strong, renowned, skilful, the other a feeble helpless wight ; better a sage who gives quickly to a poet-train than a boor close-fisted and given to refusal.

20. Ranna dúra dlighidh díom
a ghnúis nach deirge an doinnfhíon,
Mac Diarmada, cúl na gcladh,
slat chiabhfhada úr uasal. 540
21. Tug Tomaltach nach mion móid
dhomh a bhiadh is a bhrogóid,
is cláirsigh liom ar mo los,
an láimhsin as fhearr fhuaras.
22. Mag Uidhir, móide a mhéala, 545
péist amhnáireach neimhdhéanta :
nocha n-ionann balc na mbrodh
agus iothlann ard uasal.
23. Mag Uidhir feannaire fann
drochdhaoi aintreórach anbhfann ; 550
atá mórfhás don olc ann :
Tómás gan chorp gan chalann.
20. Ranni durry^t dlee deym
a znoiss na^t derga *in* doynein
m^edermit cowle ni glyig
slat keafade o^r ossil.
21. Hug tomuldy^t na^t myn moid
zoff a wey 7 a vroikgoyd
is clarsy^t loym er mi loss
in lawsin is fer hoyr^s.
22. Ma gwil moid a wayly^t
pest awnarytht no zendycht
no^tcha nyⁿnyⁿ balk nym broyve
ag^s illin ard ossill.
23. Ma gwil fannir fann
droich ze^t antrorycht anvin
id ta morass din olk ann
thomas gin chorp gin challin.

20. Fervent verses I owe to him, whose countenance is ruddy as the dark wine ; MacDiarmaid with trenched tresses, a wand with long locks, fresh and noble.
21. Tomaltach, not paltry of vow, has given me his food and bragget, a harp besides to reward my song ; that hand is the best I have experienced.
22. Maguire, the more his disgrace, is a shameless misshaped reptile : not alike are a balk of straws and a tall and stately corn-yard.
23. Maguire, flayer of the weak, is a worthless, feeble, helpless boor ; growth of evil in him is rank ; Thomas has neither bulk nor body.

24. Mag Uidhir as mion meanma,
 slat don mhuine mhaoithfhearna ;
 glac uallach na bhfonn bhfada
 Mac dualach donn Diarmada. 555

Dá urradh.

24. Ma gwil 7 mynni memni
 slat din woni weit arni
 glak oyllyth ny voynni fade
 m^e doylt donⁿ dermida.

dawrre.

24. Maguire of paltry spirit is a rod from the thicket of soft alder; the proud theme of long melodious strains is the brown-tressed MacDiarmaid.

VIII. AUCTOR HUIUS AITHBHREAC INGHEAN
COIRCEADAIL

1. A PHAIDRÍN do dhúisg mo dhéar,
ionmhain méar do bhitheadh ort ;
ionmhain cridhe fáilteach fial
'gá raibhe riamh gus a nocht. 560
2. Dá éag is tuirseach atáim,
an lámh má mbítheá gach n-uair,
nach cluinim a beith i gclí
agus nach bhfaicim í uaim.
3. Mo chridhe-se is tinn atá 565
ó theacht *go* crích an lá dhúinn ;
ba ghoirid do éist ré ghlóir,
ré h-agallaimh an óig úir.
4. Béal asa ndob aobhdha glór,
dhéantaidhe a ghó is gach tír : 570
leómhan Muile na múr ngeal,
seabhag Íle na magh mín.
5. Fear ba ghéar meabhair ar dhán,
ó nach deachaidh dámh gan díol ;
taoiseach deigh-einigh suaire séimh, 575
agá bhfaightí méin mheic ríogh.
6. Dámh ag teacht ó Dhún an Óir
is dámh ón Bhóinn go a fholt fiar :
minic thánaig iad fá theist,
ní mionca ná leis a riar. 580
7. Seabhag seangglan Sléibhe Gaoil,
fear do chuir a chaoin ré cléir ;
dreagan Leódhuis na learg ngeal,
éigne Sanais na sreabh séimh.

3b. teic~~h~~ MS.] 6a. ʒown in noyr MS.] 6d. rair MS.] 7b. kein MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS AIFFRIC NIC COIRCEADAIL

1. Thou rosary that hast waked my tear, dear the finger that was wont to be on thee ; dear the heart, hospitable and generous, which owned thee ever until to-night.
2. Sad am I for his death, he whose hand thou didst each hour encircle ; sad that I hear not that that hand is in life, and that I see it not before me.
3. Sick is my heart since the day's close is come to us ; all too short a time it listened to his speech, to the converse of the goodly youth.
4. A mouth whose winning speech would wile the hearts of all in every land ; lion of white-walled Mull, hawk of Islay of smooth plains.
5. The man whose memory for song was keen, from whom no poet-band went without reward ; a chief nobly generous, courteous and calm, with whom was found a prince's mind.
6. Poets came from Dún an Óir, poets too from the Boyne to seek his curling hair ; oft did they come drawn by his fame, not more often than they got from him all their wish.
7. Slim bright hawk of Sliabh Gaoil, a man who showed kindness to the Church ; dragon of Lewis of bright slopes, salmon of Sanas of quiet streams.

8. A h-éagmhais aon duine a mháin 585
 im aonar atáim dá éis,
 gan chluiche, gan chomhrádh caoin,
 gan ábhacht, gan aoibh i gcéill.
9. Gan duine ris dtig mo mhiann 590
 ar sliocht na Niall ó Niall óg ;
 gan mhuirn gan mheadhair ag mnáibh,
 gan aoibhneas an dáin im dhóigh.
10. Mar thá Giodha an fhuinn mhín,
 Dún Suibhne do-chím gan cheól,
 faitheche longphuirt na bhfear bhfial : 595
 aithmhéala na Niall a n-cól.
11. Cúis ar lúthgháire má seach,
 gusa mbímis ag teacht mall :
 's nach fuilngim a nois, mo nuar,
 a fhaicinn uam ar gach ard. 600
12. Má bhrisis, a Mheic Dhé bhí,
 ar bagaide na dtrí genó,
 fa fíor do ghabhais ar ngiall :
 do bhainis an trian ba mhó.
13. Cnú mhullaigh a mogaill féin 605
 bhaineadh do Chloinn Néill go nua :
 is tric roighne na bhfear bhfial
 go leabaidh na Niall a nuas.
14. An rogha fá deireadh díbh 610
 's é thug gan mo bhrígh an sgéal :
 do sgar riom mo leathchuing rúin,
 a phaidrín do dhúisg mo dhéar.

8c. chorray MS.]

10b. di cheyme MS.]

11b. bemist MS.]

14a. fa derry MS.]

8. For want of one man all lonely am I after him, without sport, without kindly talk, without mirth, without cheer to show.

9. Without one man to whom my mind draweth of the stock of MacNeill since young Neil is gone ; ladies lack mirth and joy ; I am without hope of gladness in song.

10. Sad is the state of smooth-soiled Gigha ; Dún Suibhne I see without music, that greensward of a stronghold of generous men ; the sorrow of the MacNeills is known to them.

11. Cause of our joyous mirth in turn, to which we were wont to go in stately wise, while now, alas ! I endure not to view it from each height.

12. If Thou, Son of the living God, hast made a breach upon the cluster of three nuts, true it is that Thou hast taken our choice hostage ; Thou hast plucked the greatest of the three.

13. From Clann Neill hath been newly plucked the topmost nut of their cluster ; often do the choicest of the generous men come down to the MacNeills' last bed.

14. The latest, choicest of them, it is the tale of him that hath sapped my strength ; my loved yokefellow hath parted from me, thou rosary that hast waked my tear.

15. Is briste mo chridhe im chlí,
agus bídh nó go dtí m'éag,
ar éis an abhradh dhuibh úir, 615
a phaidrín do dhúisg mo dhéar.
A phaidrín.
16. Muire mháthair, muime an Ríogh,
go robh 'gam dhíon ar gach séad,
's a Mac do chruthuigh gach dúil, 620
a phaidrín do dhúisg mo dhéar.
A phaidrín.

15. My heart is broken within my body, and will be so until my death, left behind him of the dark fresh eyelash, thou rosary that hast waked my tear.

16. Mary Mother, who did nurse the King, may she guard me on every path, and her Son who created each creature, thou rosary that hast waked my tear.

IX. A UGHDAR SO GIOLLA COLUIM

1. MÓR an feidhm freagairt na bhfaighdheach
thig fá seach,
an drong gus dtigid go h-aidhbhleach
ar gach leath.
2. Neach dá n-iarraid bíd go h-aidhbhleach 625
seach gach fear :
umhla dár chuir dún i ndaidhbhreas
gusa bheag.
3. Beagán do shloinneadh na bhfaighdheach 630
sloinnfead duibh,
an uair thigid fir na faighdhe
d'fhaighdhe chruidh.
4. Bíd go mín cairdeamhail caibhneach
mar is dluigh,
's an uair chuirthear iad ar chairdeas 635
cia nach tuig ?

A HOWDIR SO G. . . . Co. . . .

1. Mor in feym freygirt ni wyag^h hic fane sheach
An drong guss in deggit go ayflac^h er gi laa.
2. Nach 3ane nairrad bead ga ay^wflyth sheac^h ga^t fer
Owyle 3ar chur dwn in dyffris gwss a weg.
3. Beggane di lonnych ni wyag^h slonensith dewf
Nor thiggit fir ny fyagh 3yach chrwe.
4. Beid gow mein cardol cayfnyth mor is dlewe
As noar churrir ead er chardis cay nach tug.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA COLUIM

1. To answer the demands for aid that come in turn is a great effort for those on whom they come hugely from every side.
2. For him on whom these men make demand they are terrible above any other ; it is subjection such as has all but brought a place of strength to poverty.
3. Somewhat of the thiggers' character I will recount to you, when those thiggers come to make request for gear.
4. They are courteous, friendly, kindly, as is meet ; and when they are bidden stay for friendship's sake, which of them fails to understand ?

5. Gabhaid míghean roimhén ghairbhe
agus ruid ;
cromaid cnuasuighid a mailghe
muin ar muin : 640
“ go bráth nochá chara caingne
sinne dhuit.”
6. Seagh na bhfaireann bhíos 'nam aigneadh
tuig go math :
'n uair is léir, gíodh olc an mhaidean 645
nó go math,
do-níd éirghe ghrad, go raghrad,
Rí na rath.
7. Cantar leó, “ Cha linn nach aithreach
ar dtoisg féin ; 650
fíor gach seinbhriathar tá i dtaisgidh
i mbí spéis :
ríocht ná ndrochcarad ar aistear
thig i gcéin.”
8. Éirghim-se ann sin ar sgáth náire, 655
's budh ghnáth bhruid ;
's do-bheirim dhóibh lán na láimhe
do mo chuid.

5. Gawit meežann rewayn žarfy ag'is rwde
Crommid knossyd a mallin mvn er mhwn.
Go braa noch cha charra kangnaa sin na žutt
6. Seygh' ni waá ráán weaz's nam agny tugga mea
Gai žolk a waddin noir 'is leyr na ga maa
Di neid erry ghrad go ra žrad ree ny ráá
7. Cantir loo cho linn nach' arryth ir dosk feyne
ffeir gi sanvrear ta dasky am bea speis
Racht ny drocht charrit er astir hig in ganee
8. Errymsi in sen er skay nar 'is bo žná wrude
Is di wearrwme žoyve lane no layve dim chwdch

5. They take a fit of displeasure, rough ill humour, and of peevishness ; they bend and gather their eyebrows one after another. " Never," say they, " will we be friends to you in a dispute."
6. Understand well the style of the folk I have in mind. Bad or good though the morning be, once it is light they go forth quickly, all too quickly, King of grace !
7. Their talk is, " Sore we repent our journey here. How true the old treasured sayings on which men set store : the plight of the unwelcome friends who come travelling from afar."
8. Then I go forth for shame's sake—it is a regular bondage—and I give them a full handful of my means.

9. Canaid riomsa le gean gáire
ré maoin bhuig : 660
“ ar an dáil is mór an bráighe
thugadh duit ;
a h-aon mhac samhla ag mac Ádhaimh
nocha nfhuil.”
10. Beagán do shloinneadh na bhfaighdheach 665
sloinnfidh mé ;
meic Uí Shúiligh, meic Uí Anmoich
iad i gcéin.
11. Meic Uí Mhoichéirghe, lá samhraidh 670
iarras gréin ;
meic Uí Shirthigh, meic Uí Shanntaigh
iad go léir.
12. Tiogfaid mná dhíobh d’fhaighdhe chaorach
orm fá seach ;
go sonnradhach sanntach sirtheach 675
thíg gach bean.
13. Cuingidh diallaid, iasad easrach
ar a h-each ;
beiridh sirtheach nó dhá shirtheach
lé mar neart ; 680

9. Canait riomsa le gean gáire
Er in dail is mor ym bray huggi dute
Hean v^esawlla ag mak aan noch chin nwle
10. Beggane di lonffa ni wyagk slonffae máa
Mek E hwlych m^e E amych ead in gayn
11. Mek E wothcharyth láa sawry^t zeyris grayne
Mek E hirry^t mek E hantyt^t ead gy^t leyr
12. Tigfeid mnan zeif zyag cheari^t orm fane sach
Gow soñoy^t sanctyt^t sheiry^t hic gi banna
13. Gwn deillit Essit eissur ar ri hača
Wearre sheirry^t na zaa heirry^t laa mir nert

9. They say to me, laughing lightly for the liberal gift,
“When wealth was dealt out, great was the upland
you received ; no son of Adam has the like.”

10. Some little of the thiggers' styles I will set forth ; they
are Roving-eye-sons, Fly-by-night-sons while yet afar
off.

11. They are Early-rising-sons, who on a summer's day
demand more sun ; Spyer-sons, Greedy-sons are they
all.

12. Dames will come who will get aid in sheep from me
each in turn ; on special errand, greedily, craving
comes each dame.

13. She asks a saddle ; she has a borrowed straw pillion
upon her horse ; she brings a spy or two spies with
her as backing ;

14. Agus giolla bhíos fá h-aodach
don treas fear ;
agus inilt do-ní daondacht
ar gach neach.
15. Mara bhfaghbhaid faighdhe chaorach 685
uam le gean,
do-níd bagradh agus fraochach
gan bheith beag :
's é ainm bagartha an dá shirtheach
fatha fead. 690
16. Tiogfaid faighdhigh dhíobh ré shotal,
Rí na ríogh,
giolla mo ghroighe ré chogar :
“ druid a niar ;
innis focal nó dá fhocal 695
dhomh go dian :
17. Gá h-each as fearr thá ag an ollamh ? ”
's é adeir siad ;
“ cionnus éirgheas é san tosach ?
créad a fhiach ? ” 700
14. *Agis* gil weass fa hedy^t din tress far
Agis innile di ne deyndych er gi nach
15. Is mor awyd fygh^h cheirry^t woyme lay gan
Di nead bagry^t 7 freichach gin wei beg
Say anma bagra in daa herrach faa fedda
16. Tigfeit fyigh^h zeive re hottill ree nyn ree
Gille mo zrygh^h re choggir drut in nayr
Innis fokkill no da okkill zof gi dean
17. Ga heach 7 far hag in nollew see der shead
Cunnis a zerris ay sin tossych keid a each

14. And a lad to bear her clothing as third man ; a maid too, who shows kindness at each one's wish.

15. Unless they get from me aid in sheep with good will, they utter threats and angry words in no small measure ; the two spies' term of menace is *Fatha Fead*.

16. Some of them will come cajoling my stud groom, King of kings ! saying in whispers, " Come out here ; tell me quickly a word or two :

17. " Which is the poet's best horse ? " is what they say ;
" how goes he in the forefront ? What is he worth ? "

18. Mion lem ghiolla-sa ré bhrosal
comunn cliar ;
gach each innseas é ré shotal
gheibh mar bhias.
19. Iarrthar ormsa h-aithle a theagaisg, 705
thall 'nar dtoigh,
an t-éineach lúth is lí d'eachaibh
do bhí ar ghroigh.
20. Beag nach faighdhe mheic is athar 710
í mar sin ;
créad a nois do-ghéantar againn
uime sin ?
21. Rugadar ar mba is ar gcapaill
as ar dtoigh ;
's í ciall as fearr atá againn 715
triall ré gcois,
go fionnta cóich as fearr acfhainn
ré dol ar toisg.
22. Go taigh Eoin Mheic Dhomhnaill dámhach, 720
chorcas rinn,
d'fhaighdhe ar an fhear laomhsgar lámhach
rachaidh sinn.

18. Mean leam zillissy^t re wroskill commyn clayr
Gach each zinssis ay re hottil z^{eyf} mir weas
19. Errir ormsi halli heggisk háál nar dyi
In tein each looysly zeachew di wei^t er zryegh
20. Beg nach fygh vek 7 áythir E mir sin
Creddi in nis a zantir aggin vmmy sin
21. Ruggidir ar baa 7 ar gabpil as ir dy
Is keal 7 farri ad ta aggin tryle ra gossi
Gow fynta coygh 7 far agcwng re dol er tosk
22. Gow tei oyne v^{edonil} dáwy^t chorkis rynn
zygh er in nar lynskir lawyt rachoyd sinn

18. Fawned on thus, small thought has my lad for poets' company; the spy by his cajoling will discover the form of every horse of which he tells.
19. After this schooling, I am asked, over there in my house, for that horse in the stud that is best for strength and colour.
20. In this way the thigging is almost one by father and by son; what now shall we do on that account?
21. They have taken our cattle and our horses from our house; our best plan now is to go as well, to prove which of us is best equipped for (such) business.
22. To the thronging house of Eoin MacDonald, who empurples spear-points, will we go, to thig from him, the generous man of ready hand.

23. Gach ní tugamar gus trásta
 cuma linn,
 más é mac Eoin, an folt ánbhog,
 focas rinn. 725
24. Giodh ceart cam leat, a rí bearnais
 na n-arm nocht,
 aithíoc na faighdhe nach dearnais
 do chur ort, 730
25. . . . mé ar do ghealbhois
 a thoirt dhomh ;
 dod mhuintir-se, a mheic uí Fhearghuis,
 thugas crodh.
26. Muintir dhuit, agus é i nAlbain,
 gach flath fial ; 735
 muintir dhuit na faighdhigh amhlaidh,
 a fholt fiar.
27. Dá dtíosadh an fear a Francaibh (?)
 seachad siar, 740
 canaidh é ré do ghnúis dheargglain
 as math niamh :
 “ Muintir mise d'Eoin óg eargnaidh,
 aige bhiam.”
23. Gi neit tuggomor gi strasta commo lynn
 Ma say meayne in nolt aynvog zeikis rinn
24. Gai cart camm lat a rei barnis nyn narm nocht
 Aytheik ni fygh nach dernis a chur ort
25. Sweach mee er a zalwoss a hort zawf
 Did mhwnterse mhek E arghis hugiss chryif
26. Muntir dut agis E in nalbin gi flat h feall
 Muntir dut ni fyagh awfly a olt fear
27. An deiss in fer a franguss scheachad shear
 Canni ay red znwss zerg zlyn 7 math neaf
 Muntir miss zóyn og arne aggi weáme

23. For all that we have given hitherto we care not, if it be Eoin's son, with soft bright hair, who makes us payment.
24. Though thou deem it but crooked justice, thou king of naked weapons' gap, to have put on thee repayment of the thigging thou madest not,
25. [I ask thee] by thy white palm to give it me ; it was to thine own folk, thou scion of Fergus, that I gave gear.
26. Of thy following is every generous lord that is in Alba ; of thy people likewise are the thiggers, thou of the curling tresses.
27. If a man from France (?) were to come along westward, he will say to thy bright ruddy face, good of colour, "I am of the following of stately young Eoin, his man I shall be."

28. Muintir dhuit ó mhuir go monadh, 745
 Dia dod dhíon !
 gomadh tú ghabhas an soladh
 dlighe a íoc,
29. Gion gur íocais cion dá ndearnsad 750
 ar a gceann.
 Canaidh riomsa an súlghorm seangbhog,
 ag ól bheann :
30. “ Aithíoc na bhfaighdhe nach dearnas
 íochtar leam ;
 do-ghéabhair uam í go h-earlamh, 755
 nó ní's fearr ;
31. “ Na ba is na capaill do sgaoilis
 as do thoigh,
 mara beag lat uam do dh'aoineach—
 bó ar do bhoin— 760
 searrach sleamhain seingmhear saoitheach,
 aire ghroigh.”
32. Adéarainn-se a nois ruaig mholta
 dod ghnúis réidh ;
 “ is tú as cruaidhe i ngréis chrothta,” 765
 canfaidh mé ;

28. Muntir ʒwt o mhwri gow monni dya ʒa deiyn
 Gommo tow ʒawis in sollich dley eiak
29. Gin gir deikis kin da dernit er a gann
 Canny rwmsi in swlʒorm sangwog ag oil wann
30. Aytheik ny fyagh nach dernis hekkir leamm
 Dy ʒoywir woyme E gi harlow na neiss far
31. Ni baà 7 na cappil di skeillis as di heygh
 Mir a beg lat vome di ʒein each bóo er a won.
 (S)arryth slaywin sangwoir seiach er ri ʒryegh
32. Dearninsi neis róyağ mholta did ʒnoyss ree
 As tow is croy in gness chrotta canfee mea

28. From sea to mountain all are thy people ; God guard thee well ! May it be thou who gettest the profit of what it is thy due to pay !
29. Even though on their behalf thou hast not paid for the fault they have committed. Then to me the blue-eyed slim-waisted generous lord will say, as he quaffs horns :
30. "Repayment of the thigging that I made not, I shall perform. Thou shalt have it from me readily, or better still ;
31. "The cattle and the horses that thou didst let go from thy house, unless indeed thou deem it small to receive for thine every horse a colt sleek, lithe and mettled, well bred, a lord of studs, and a cow for thy cow."
32. Now would I make a flight of praise to thy gracious face.
"Thou art the sternest in rocking combat,"—thus will I say.

33. “ ’S tú as buige do bhronnadh longaidh
 réd linn féin ;
 is tú as fearr fá chladheamh corra
 as math féigh. 770
34. “ Is tú as fearr fát ór ’s fát ionnmhas
 do chloinn Chuinn ;
 ní mó ort ná uisge ionnlaid
 dod bhois chuirr
 bhar n-oineach ’s bhar ndéire ré iomlaid 775
 druim ar dhruim.
35. “ Is tú as cruaidhe ag cosnamh tíre
 nach bí id sheilbh ;
 bheith it aghaidh, a rí Íle,
 mór an feidhm.” 780

Mór an.

33. As tow 7 bugga wronna longa rada lynn feyn
 As tow 7 far faa clyew cor 7 maí feyèh
34. As to 7 far faa toir 7 fa tynnows di clonn chwnn
 Noc^h chà wo ort na wske inlit di wossi chwri
 ffar noyni^t is fir derk re imlit drwm er 3rwm
35. As tow 7 croy ag cosnow teirri nach^h bee ad telf
 bee id tyg^he a re Eillich^h mor in feym. Mor in.

33. "Thou art the most liberal in giving viands of all thy time; thou art best to wield a keen-edged taper sword.
34. "Thou art the best as regards thy gold and treasure of the children of Conn. No more than water to wash thy taper palm dost thou reckon thy liberality and thy bounty, to bestow them heap on heap.
35. "Thou art the sternest to win land that is not yet thine; to oppose thee, thou king of Islay, great the effort!"

X. A UGHDAR SO GIOLLA COLUIM MAC
AN OLLAIMH

1. THÁNAIG adhbhar mo thuirse,
cha liom chuaidh an bhliadhain-se ;
ní tuigse do neach nach tuig
mo thuirse theacht mar thánaig.
2. Gé bé neach nach tuigeadh soin, 785
a theacht comhlán dom chumhaidh,
na luit-se féachadh im chom,
tuirse 'na créachtaibh orom.
3. Aoibhinn liom, gíodh deacair dhamh,
tógbháil ar chuairt na *cumhadh* ; 790
atá an brón 'gam chrádh fá chléith :
is mór mo ghrádh don [].
4. Tá mo chridhe 'na dhá leth,
cha n-iongnadh é bheith briste ;
tá mo chorp gan fheoil gan fhuil, 795
mar bhocht gan treoir a *shamhail*.
5. Cha n-iongnadh cumha dá mhéid
orom i ndiaidh mheic Mairghréid ;
ó chuimhnmid ar mhaith an fhir
nocha nfhuilngmid flaith d'fhaicsin. 800
6. Is truime dhúinne ná a dhol
anmhain 'na dhiaidh san saoghal ;
mo chrádh, is tuar ar dhol as,
an lámh fhuaras ó Aonghas.

3a. MS. *represents* Is aoibhinn.]

3b. co . . . MS.]

3d. t . . . MS.]

4d. gin troyr (*sic*) . . . MS.]

5c. MS. *represents* ó bheith cuimhneach.]

6a. ʒwnith MS.]

6d. wo Eitni(s) MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA COLUIM MAC
AN OLLAIMH

1. Matter for grief is come to me ; not with me hath this year prospered ; he that hath no understanding understandeth not that my grief is thus come.
2. Whosoever should not understand it, that my grief is come so complete, let him regard these hurts in my breast, and see that grief is wounding me.
3. It pleaseth me, though it be hard for me, to set out upon a journey of lamenting ; sorrow is paining me beneath my side ; great is my love for the [].
4. My heart is broken asunder, no wonder that it be so ; my body lacketh flesh and blood, it is like unto a strengthless wretch.
5. No wonder that I am grieved, however deeply, at the death of Margaret's son ; when I remember the goodness of the man, I cannot bear to look upon a prince.
6. Heavier for us than his going is to abide in the world after him ; alas, it is an omen of my leaving it, the blow I have received from Angus.

7. Gíodh deacair liom deileadh ris, 805
 mac Eoin an chomhráidh mhilis,
 is measa é gan mh'fhilleadh as,
 gan mhé ag tilleadh go hAonghas.
8. Gíodh fada bheinn uath a muigh 810
 's mo lucht tualais im dheaghaidh,
 do bhí d'aontacht mo thriaith rinn
 caontacht cha n-iarradh orainn.
9. Cha n-iongnadh m'aigneadh do mheath 815
 ré faicinn tighearna Íle :
 mo shlán gan mo bhrígh go trom
 ó tá mo rí gan anam.
10. Do chrádh mo chridhe dá éis, 820
 sgéal as urusa a aiséis ;
 cha nfhóil fuidhleach ar mo bhrón,
 do bhloigh cuibhreach mo [].
11. Mór mo bhrón 's ní h-iongnadh domh 825
 cha tuirse [] ;
 d'argain mo chridhe go lom,
 gan slighe i nAlbain agam.
12. A nois ó's éigean domh triall 825
 nó bheith ag cách fá *dhímiadh*,
 ré linn-sean dob annsa dol
 a h-innsibh allta Alban.
13. Gé thriallaim is deacair liom, 830
 gé tá mar fhiachaibh orom ;
 mo rún do dhlúthuigh a muigh :
 cúl rém dhúthaigh im dheaghaidh.

9d. gin an . . . MS.]

10b. assness MS.]

10c. fwilith *is written above* cwrith *deleted*.]

10d. di wlyg cwrith mi MS.]

11b. taa . . . WM.]

7. Though hard I deem it to part from him, Eoin's son, of sweet converse, it is worse that I depart not from the world, that I am not returning to Angus.
8. Though I might be long parted from him abroad, leaving behind me my detractors, so united was I to my lord that secrecy from me he sought not.
9. No wonder that my spirit fails, to see the lord of Islay ; my well-being is grown heavy and strengthless, since my king is dead.
10. By his death he hath pained my heart, a tale right easy to relate ; grief there is no more for me to feel ; it has shattered the bonds of my [].
11. Great is my grief, and no wonder ; it is no [] grief [] ; it hath utterly harried my heart, there is no road for me to take in Scotland.
12. Now since I must needs depart, or live with others unesteemed, in his time I would rather go from the wild isles of Scotland.
13. Though I depart, it is hard for me, though depart I must ; my mind is turned to go abroad, and to leave my native land behind.

14. Is é ní fá-deara dhamh,
ar liom cha bheag an t-adhbhar,
gan mo ghaol do theacht ar ais,
aol ar do leacht, a Aonghais. 835
15. Is truime ná a éag sin
an ló tánaig dá aimsir,
a chnú chridhe is a chnámh chuirp,
gan slighe ag cách dá dhíoghailt. 840
16. Níor shaoileas duine ar domhan,
dá mhéid rath, dod cheannsughadh,
gur fealladh oirne agus ort :
mealladh lér h-oirneadh th'adhart.
17. O's é dheónadar a dhol,
truagh nach amhlaidh do bhámar,
a Mheic Mhuire bhaisghil bhinn,
gan duine taisgidh againn. 845
18. I n-éinfheacht ré agra ghill,
'na ghar gan dol 'na dheaghaidh,
níor éigh ní's faide ná sin
don mhéid bh'aige do mhuintir. 850
19. Lucht caidreabha a chúl gcam,
ar neimhní chaidh a gcomann ;
a n-aigneadh do chuaidh ar ais :
's cruaidh gach caidreabh as t'éagmhais. 855
20. Dobadh deacair coimeas riom
's a mbí óm thighearna agam :
caidreabh is comhól is támh
's aigneadh romhór gan anlámh. 860

14d. eill er a lechtisí enis (*i.e.* ar a (= do) leacht-sa, Aonghais) MS.]

16b. da wayd, *with da deleted wrongly*, MS.]

18c. (ner) rayeyis, *with no^t enich written above, but no deletion ; ner is barely legible now.*]

20b. MS. *represents* do bhí.] 20d. is *deleted in* MS.]

14. My reason (no small one, methinks) is that my loved one returns not, that there is lime on thy gravestone, O Angus.
15. More grievous than that man's death is the day that is come since then, thou nut of my heart and bone of my body, and that others have no means to avenge him.
16. None in the world, however great his fortune, did I think would overcome thee, until thou and I were deceived alike; a deceit through which thy death-pillow was arrayed.
17. Since they ordained that he should go, sad it is that we also were not so; thou Son of Mary, white-palmed and sweet of voice, we have no man to cherish us.
18. At the same time that he demanded a pledge, at his own door, without going to seek it, he called no further than that, such was the number of his following.
19. Those who consorted with him of the twining locks, their comradeship is destroyed; their spirit hath failed; all society is painful without thee.
20. It was hard to find one to compare with me, such was my lord's liberality: society and feasting and rest, and great cheer without a hand against me.

21. An uair théid cách dhá dtigh n-óil
is í mo chuid dá n-onóir
bheith fá bhrón gan díon a muigh,
ag ól mo dhíol do chumhaidh.
22. [] gan dol tar mh'ais, 865
cha n-anann cumha as m'éagmhais ;
[] don chumhaidh mé :
's pailte ná dubhaigh Íle.
23. Is iomdha neach romhainn riamh 870
do chuir cumha fá dhímiadh ;
[] dearbhthar liom
uirs géal nár dealbhadh romham.
- [24]. Do chuala mé fada ó shoin a
sgéal as cosmhaíl rér gcumhaidh : b
ut sequitur in alio loco, etc.
- [25]. Mac Subhaltaigh na mbreath mbinn, c
daltán Chathbhaidh is Chonaill d

21c. a mew MS.]

22a. . . . lanvin RC. ; *the MS. is perhaps tymanvin.*]

22c. . . . ach aggi MS.] 23c. . . . na wonso MS.]

23d. nar ʒalve MS.]

The beginnings of lines on the lower half of the last page of the poem are now mostly illegible owing to abrasion ; the MS. was apparently more legible in Dr Cameron's time.

XI. A UGHDAR SO GIOLLA COLUIM MAC AN
OLLAIMH AN FEAR (DÁNA)

1. Ní h-éibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill,
ní comhnairt bheith 'na n-éagmhais ;
an chlann dob fhearr san gcruinne : 875
gur dhfobh gach duine céatach.
2. Clann as saoire dár dealbhadh,
i roibh eangnamh is ághas ;
clann dár bh umhail na tíorain,
i roibh críonnacht is crábhadh. 880
3. Clann chunnail chalma chródha,
clann ba teódha i n-am troda ;
clann ba mhíne i measg bantracht,
agus ba chalma i gcogadh.
4. Clann ba líonmhoire eireacht, 885
dob fhearr eineach is áireamh ;
clann nár chathuigh ar eaglais,
clann lérbh eagail a gcáineadh.
5. Uaithne ána Alban uaine,
clann as cruaidhe ghabh bhaisteadh ; 890
'gá roibh treas gacha tíre,
seabhaig Íle ar ghaisgeadh.
6. Clann ba mhó is ba mhire,
clann ba ghrinne is ba réidhe ;
clann dob fhairsinge croidhe, 895
dob fhearr foidhide is féile.

2d. *crendy*^t MS.]3c. *bra . . .* MS.]5a. *Oythyn* EM. *rightly*.]6d. MS. *represents* faidhidinn.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA COLUIM
MAC AN OLLAIMH THE POET

1. It is no joy without Clan Donald ; it is no strength to be without them ; the best race in the round world ; to them belongs every goodly man.
2. The noblest race of all created, in whom dwelt prowess and terribleness ; a race to whom tyrants bowed, in whom dwelt wisdom and piety.
3. A race kindly, mighty, valorous ; a race the hottest in time of battle ; a race the gentlest among ladies, and mightiest in warfare.
4. A race whose assembly was most numerous, the best in honour and in esteem ; a race that made no war on church, a race whose fear it was to be dispraised.
5. Brilliant pillars of green Alba, a race the hardiest that received baptism ; a race who won fight in every land, hawks of Islay for valour.
6. A race the greatest and the most active ; a race the comeliest and calmest of temper ; a race the widest of heart, the best in patience and in liberality.

7. Meic ríogh nár thuill a n-aoradh,
i roibh daonnacht is truime ;
fir allta uaisle fhonnmhor,
i roibh bronntacht is buige. 900
8. Clann dob fhearr feidhm is faisgeadh,
clann dob fhearr gaisgeadh láimhe ;
olc liom giorrad a h-forna,
'n bhé lér sníomhadh a snáithe.
9. Níorbh iad na droichfhir bhodhra, 905
ná na fir lobhra laga ;
ré dol i n-ionad bhuaile
fir nach cruaidhe na craga.
10. Clann gan uabhar gan éagcáir,
nár ghabh acht éadáil chogaidh ; 910
'gar mheanmnach daoine uaisle,
is agar bhuaine bodaigh.
11. Mairg ó rugadh an fheadhain,
mairg do dheadhail ré gcaidreabh ;
gan aonchlann mar Chlainn Domhnaill, 915
saorchlann ba chomhnairt aigneadh.
12. Gan áireamh ar a n-urdail,
gan chuntadh ar a nduaisibh ;
gan chrích gan tús gan deireadh
ar eineach agá n-uaislibh. 920
13. I dtosach Clainne Domhnaill
do bhí foghlaim 'gá fáithneadh,
agus do bhí 'na ndeireadh
feidhm is eineach is náire.
14. Ar bhrón agus ar thuirse 925
do thréigean tuigse is foghlaim ;
gach aoinní ortha thréigean :
ní h-éibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill.

Ní h-éibhneas,

7. Sons of kings, who deserved not satire, in whom were manliness and dignity ; men untamed, noble, hearty, who were open-handed and generous.
8. A race the best for service and for shelter ; a race the best for valour of hand ; ill I deem the shortness of her skein, by whom their thread was spun.
9. Not they the miserly men and deaf, nor yet men weak and feeble ; to go where blows were struck they were men than whom the rocks were not harder.
10. A race without arrogance, without injustice, who seized naught save spoil of war ; whose nobles were men of spirit, and whose common men were most steadfast.
11. Alas for those who have lost that company ; alas for those who have parted from their society ; for no race is as Clan Donald, a noble race, strong of courage.
12. There was no counting of their bounty ; there was no reckoning of their gifts ; their nobles knew no bound, no beginning, no end of generosity.
13. In the van of Clan Donald learning was commanded, and in their rear were service and honour and self-respect.
14. For sorrow and for sadness I have forsaken wisdom and learning ; on their account I have forsaken all things : it is no joy without Clan Donald.

15. Dobadh tréan gaoth ag tíorain
fán aicme chríonna chomhnairt : 930
gé táid i ndiu fá dhímheas,
ní h-aoibhneas gan *Chlainn Domhnaill*.
16. Na slóigh as fearr san gcrúinne
a muirn a mire a bhfoghnámh ;
ní comhnairt bheith 'na bhféagmhais : 935
ní h-éibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill.
17. Macán láimhe []
dár saoradh ar gach doghrainn :
gé tá sé dhúinne díleas,
ní h-aoibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill. 940

Ní h-éibhneas.

17a. na wymmyt MS.]

15. Mighty was the blast of tyrants against that tribe wise and strong ; though to-day they are unhonoured, it is no joy without Clan Donald.

16. The best people in the round world,—their joyousness, their keenness, their effectiveness ; without them is no strength ; it is no joy without Clan Donald.

17. The Babe of the hand [], may He save us from every evil ; though He to us is dear, it is no joy without Clan Donald.

XII. A UGH DAR SO DEADHAN CHNÓIDEOIRT

1. A CHINN Diarmaid Uí Chairbre,
gíodh lór th'airgne agus t'uaille,
cha mhór liom méad do dhocra
gé 'taoi i gcrochadh ré cuaille.
2. Cha truagh liom fád ghruaig ghreannaigh, 945
ná gaoith ghleannaigh dá *gairbhe*,
cha truagh liom gad id ghiallaibh,
a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre.
3. Maírg do smuain do bhéim brághad
nach badh námha do chairdis ; 950
och is maírg nár thill t'iachtaigh,
a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre.
4. Do milleadh leat rí Íle,
fear imirt fhíona is airgid,
'gá dtá an trilis úr iarnaídh, 955
a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre.
5. Rí Íle na gcorn gcomhóil,
do chuir onóir ar chairdibh ;
maírg do chréacht a chneas níamhgheal,
a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre. 960
6. Ionmhain liom a bhas mhórdha,
nár dhoichleach óir ná airgid,
's lérbh annsa fleadh is fiadhach,
a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre.

1b. agis M'L.; *contracted in MS.*] 1d. coyll WM.; *almost illegible.*]2b. glennich M'L.; gleint^t MS.; *thereafter WM. reads ga; then, after a little space, appears 3, which WM. does not copy.*]

2c. gad MS.]

4c. eyrni^t MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS THE DEAN OF KNOYDART

1. Thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre, though great enough are thy spoils and thy pride, not too great I deem the amount of thy distress though thou hangest from a stake.
2. I pity not thy shaggy mane, nor (that it is tossed by) the wind of the glens however rough ; I pity thee not that a withy is in thy jaws, thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.
3. Woe to him who hath noted thy throat-stroke, and would not be a foe to thine alliance ; woe, alas, to him who rejected not thy shrieks, thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.
4. By thee was destroyed the king of Islay, a man who dealt wine and silver ; whose locks were fresh and crisp, thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.
5. Islay's king of festive goblets, who raised his friends to honour ; woe to him who wounded his bright white skin, thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.
6. Dear to me was his noble palm, ungrudging of gold or silver ; who joyed in feast and hunting, thou head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.

7. Iarraim ar rígh na n-astal,
 an tí fhasgas le [],
 dá fhurtacht feasda ó phianaibh,
 a chinn Diarmaid Uí Chairbre.

965

A chinn Diarmaid.

7a. nostill MS.]

7b. *After faskis la, which is quite clear, WM. reads tmw: t is very uncertain, mw seems right.*

7c. da vrticht . . . fianow MS.]

7. I beseech the King of the apostles, Him who protects
 [], to succour him now from pains, thou
 head of Diarmaid O'Cairbre.

XIII. [MOLADH AR TORCUL
MAC LEOID LEÓDHUIS]

1. FHUARAS mac mar an t-athair,
math ar flathaibh ar n-eólas, 970
do fhriotháil a aoibh 's a aigneadh
's mé 'gá chaidreabh i Leódhus.
2. Fios agus aigneadh flatha,
uaí ratha leis a ndéantar : 975
dar leat an mac-sa fhuair mí
gurab é an Ruaidhrí céadna.
3. Is ionann i dtigh comhóil
ar n-onóir dá fholt fáinneach ;
ionann moltar i gcathaibh
Torcul is a athair áirmheach. 980
4. Dá dteagmhadh ré linn Torcuil
ní h-é locadh don Tromdháimh :
do-ní—gá beart as buaine ?—
aithris Ghuaire mheic Colmáin.
5. Iomdha ceard ara moltar 985
Torcul an abhradh chraobhaigh,
ar lúth, ar lámhach curadh
ag teacht go dula i gcaonnaig.
6. Adéara mé dhá h-aithle,
d'éis a aithne is a eólais, 990
nach dtánaig fear a aoise
as fearr ná *an* rí-se Leódhuis.

1c. Dareolla ? Aarcoll ? RC.] 2a. Fes is ? Fos is ? MS.]

2b. MS. *represents* lé ndéantar.]

5d. gow dull in c . . . (*the rest illegible*) MS.]

[IN PRAISE OF TORQUIL MACLEOD OF LEWIS]

1. I have found a son like the sire ; good is our knowledge of princes ; he served me with his cheer and his spirit while I was in his company in Lewis.
2. He possesseth the knowledge and the spirit of a prince, the author of an epoch of good fortune ; this son whom I have found is, thou wouldst think, the very Roderick.
3. Equal honour do his locks in ringlets win from us in the house of feasting ; praise equal to his renowned sire's doth Torquil win in battles.
4. Did it come in Torquil's time, it is not he who would make refusal to the Burdensome Poet-band ; he worketh—what deed is more lasting ?—after the pattern of Guaire, son of Colman.
5. Many are the arts for which praise is won by Torquil of the bushy eyebrow : for vigour, for a champion's cast as he cometh to enter battle.
6. I shall assert thereafter, after acquaintance and knowledge, that there hath come no man of his age who is better than this king of Lewis.

7. Madh leis ó Charraig Bhoirbhe
séad as soirbhe fhuair file,
do bhronnadh mac mheic Thorcuil,
dá roichinn tír a fhine. 995
8. Ag mac Ruaidhrí na mearcholl
dá mbeith an Seancholl Snigheach,
nó séad oile b'fherr foghnamh,
do bhronnadh-san ré ineach. 1000
9. Sgiath cheanngháig nó séad ordhairc,
foras formaid na bhfileadh,
usa leissean a mbronadh
ná le ollamh a sireadh.
10. Dá mbeith an Liath mór Macha 1005
d'eachaibh, nó an Dearg Driúchtach,
níorbh iongnadh fear a chleachtain
gan bheith fá eachraidh diúltach.
11. Dámadh leis an Dubh Saighleann,
Mac Leoid dá n-aidhreann cliara, 1010
leis ní thaisgeadh an t-each-soin,
gé bé rachadh dá h-iarraidh.
12. Atá ag Torcul Óg oineach
nach moidheadh i n-am cogaidh ;
cosg gach tíre dá theaghlach,
dá shluagh meanmnach go cogadh. 1015
13. Níorbh fherr 'na aois Cú Chulainn
ná Torcul d'fhulang teannta :
lámh as calma is as cliste,
fear briste gacha bearna. 1020
14. Gérbh ionmhain mac mheic Thorcuil,
ní mholainn é ar a annsacht :
fear as treise i n-uair ágha,
iuchair ghrádha don bhantracht.

7. Had he, from the Rock of Bergen, a jewel the most precious that poet ever won, the son of Torquil's son would bestow it, were I to reach the land of his kin.
8. Had Roderick's son of fierce destruction the Ancient Dripping Hazel, or an other treasure better of service, he would bestow it for his honour's sake.
9. Scalloped shield or noble jewel, cause of envy to poets, —easier for him to bestow them than for bard to seek them.
10. Had he of horses the great Gray of Macha or the Dewy Red, it were no marvel though a man of his custom should make no refusal as to horses.
11. Were the Black Saingleann his, MacLeod whom poets court, by him that steed would not be hoarded, whosoever might come to seek it.
12. Young Torquil hath honour that would not break in time of warfare ; his household winneth victory over every land, his host lively for battle.
13. Cú Chulainn in his time was not better than Torquil to endure straits ; his hand is the most valiant and the most expert, a man who breaks every breach of battle.
14. Though dear were Torquil's grandson, I should not praise him for my love to him ; he is a man mightiest in hour of battle ; he is a key that unlocketh the hearts of ladies.

15. Ní fheil mac ríogh ná flatha, 1025
 dá mhéad ratha, dá gcualas,
 gíodh minic linn a rochtain,
 as fearr ná Torcul fhuaras.
 Fhuaras.
16. Ní Mheic Cailéin Caitr-íona, 1030
 bos mhíolla, urla dualach,
 inghean Iarla Oirir Ghaoidheal,
 an aoinbhean as fhearr fhuaras.
 Fhuaras.
17. Fhuaramar bean ar ndíola,
 do ghéig mhóir ghriobhdha ghasta,
 ní Mheic Cailéin cruth ógbhláth, 1035
 cúl mar an cornán casta.

15. There is no son of king or of prince that I have heard of, though often have I met such, be his fortune how great soever, whom I have found better than Torquil.
16. Catriona, MacCailéin's daughter, whose palm is soft, whose locks are tressed, daughter of the Earl of Argyll, is the one best lady I have found.
17. We have found a lady to our mind, sprung from a bough great, heroic and comely, MacCailéin's daughter, young and fair of form, her tresses curled like the [].

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA PÁDRAIG MACLACHLAN

1. I have found the pick of vigorous young warriors, a man who ploughs the soil of foemen, who has turned his back on peace with impious Saxons, [
].
2. The son of Ua Cailéin of keen-edged blades, a man fierce, most goodly, modest, who has won the palm for valour and for mercy, the leader of a venture in the forefront of battle.
3. Reddest is his banner in a foreign land, the standard of a young warrior of no heavy spirit ; he wins spoil and hostages in the edge of conflicts, along with a courageous pleasant-spirited host.

8. Sluaghadh is gráinne gharbh ruaige 1065
 i ndiaidh dála an [],
 ag ól fíona i ndún an [],
 múr nach aoibhne Teamhair.
9. Séamas mac Eoin na lann dtana,
 ceann na ndámh 's na n-ollamh ; 1070
 eascaraid ré ghliaidh ní anann :
 casmhail é is Cú Fodla.
10. Nuair thillfeas sé ucht ar Ghallaibh,
 tuar millte a lucht [],
 tuir ghlacmhór bhriseas ar Dhanair, 1075
 casaídh, brisídh [].
11. Iolar móirmheanmnach a charad
 i ngliaidh greitheil curadh,
 lámh as buaine, don dáimh tarthach,
 fear lán áigh is urraim. 1080
8. Sloic^t 7 grane ʒarwe royig^t
 i' nyg^{he} dail i' narm. . . . nar msoyd EM.
 a goyle Eine^t i' downith i' deyi' doyi' ?
 moir na^t evy'nith taw. . . . moer WM.
9. Samis m^{co}oyne ni' lann tannith
 kenn ni' daw is oillow (?) kenni EM.
 essgarrit ra ʒley ne a'ni'
 casswle ay is coquhwllin follath. follath EM.; follit WM.;
now illegible.
10. Nor helfeis sea wcht er ʒawllew
 toyr meilt ʒa luch. . . . hwcht *with h deleted in*
 MS.
 twrri ʒlaggoir wreississ er ʒa'nir
 cassi brissy. . . . chiin m . . . EM., *now*
illegible.
11. Eolair mor wamnith a char'rit
 in gloe^t gryile chai^t. . . . curryith EM.
 laywe is boyn di' dawe /a/ tarrei^t sic MS.
 far lane ayg is wr. . . . wrrwm EM.

16. Mac Eoin mhir na slógh 's na gconnlann,
gach ród díobhsan lomlán ;
níor léig Eoin do shíoradh Dubhghall,
fear díola duan dtromdhámh. 1100
17. Aicme dhámh nÉireann 'gá iomrádh,
mac Eoin céibhfhionn glanluath ;
a lámh mar Naoise na n-iolbhuidh
ag dál craoiseach gcraruadh.
18. Do fhuair Séamas as d'fion daoine 1105
saidhbhreas gaoil gach cléire :
do dhíol ratha is *séad* is *maoine*,
flath ar *séad* na féile.
19. Síol na ríogh gan [] 1110
sforghaol dámh na hÉireann,
mar mhac Colmán dob fhearr buille,
dear lomlán don fhéile.
16. M^cOyne vir ni' sloygh is ni' gwnlane
gi royd dew sin lom lane
nar leg oyine di heir'row dowzaale
fer zeil doyn ni dromzav.
17. Acmea^t zawe er'rin ga hy'rai
m^c oyne keyve in glan loye
lawe mir neiss ni' nil woyge
a dal chreissith croy royg.
18. Di hoyr damis is deine dwn^{o.y} (*sic*)
sywriss ~~z~~ zeil gi^t clayr'ri^t *z sic.*
a zeil raá^t is cre is oir
flaa^t er slee ni fayle.
19. Seil ny' rei^t gi' grive er chwnith *grawe?*
seir zeil dawe ni heirrin
mir w^c colman a bar bwle
dar lomlan din nayle.

16. The son of fierce John of hosts and companies, each road is filled with them; John ceased not from chasing Saxons, a man who requites the songs of weighty bardic trains.
17. Ireland's tribe of poet-bands tell of him, John's son, fair-haired, bright and swift; his hand is like that of Naoise of many triumphs, at the meeting of blood-red spears.
18. James, who is the protection of men, has won wealth of love from every train of poets; for dispensing fortune and jewels and wealth, he is a prince upon the path of generosity.
19. The descendant of kings without [], ever the love of the poet-bands of Ireland; he is like Colmán's son whose blow was stoutest, a drop filled full with generosity.

20. Ór le ollamhnaibh []
 go bronnadh dhóibh smaointeach ;
 Ua Duibhne an laoch mór nach cáintear, 1115
 bran fuirne nach sgaoilteach.
21. Snúadh an t-subha 'na ghruaidh ghléghil,
 slúagh fá chumha an óigfhir ;
 laoch neartmhor ghabh tír ar éigin,
 síol Artúir mheic []. 1120
22. Fear bhitheas ré charaid páirteach,
 's ó mbí Danair sgaoilteach ;
 ór gan chuibhrigh do riar cháinteach,
 Ua Duibhne fial faoilteach.
23. Fhuair ón Rígh do dhealbh gach dúile 1125
 geall ós rígh na Féinne ;
mac Eoin chuir flaitheas fá h-umhla,
 lán maitheasa is céille.
20. Oyr la ollowew si ha'lyn
 is gi bronith soive smyentith
 oy downe i' leith mar na^t cayntyr
 bran forni^t na^t skol^t. . . .
21. Sney^t in soe na zrowgh gleyghille
 sloye fa chowe i' noik I . . . Ir EM.
 lei^t nartur zawe teir'ri^t reygin
 di heill artur v^e eriv (?).
22. Far a weiss ra chor'rit partith
 is o bei^t da'nir skeiltith
 oir gi' chwrith a rar cha'tith
 o dwne fayle faltith.
23. H)oar one rei^t a zalwe git^t dwle Hoar EM.
 gyle oss rei^t ni feany^t
 Oyne) chur flay is fa howlith Oyne EM.
 lan mathis is keyle.

20. Gold to men of learning [] he is thoughtful to bestow; Ua Duibhne, the great warrior who receives no satire, chief of a troop that scatters not.

21. The hue of the raspberry is in his bright check, a host owes allegiance to the young warrior; a mighty man of arms who has taken land by force, of the seed of Arthur, son of [].

22. A man who to his friends is generous, and from whom foreigners scatter; gold without stint he gives to pleasure satirists, Ua Duibhne liberal and welcoming.

23. The favour of the King who shaped each creature he has won more than the king of the Fiann; John's son who has placed a kingdom under submission, full of goodness and sense.

24. Mac Eoin beódha baisgheal buidhneach,
barr gaisgidh gach feadhna ; 1130
tuir dhearg óir 's a chiall go cuimhneach,
barr fial mór na meadhra.
25. Baránta na gcríoch do argain,
feardha fiadhaigh feadhnach ;
luan cneisgheal ághmhor armach, 1135
is treis gnáth a theaghlach.
26. Na gcolg bhfuar gan iocht dá námhaid,
tuar bliochta i n-óirdhíol ;
diombuan eachtrainn ó n-a áirleach
's ó threascairt a []. 1140
27. Ceann na n-ollamh 's na mban leanmhnach,
an bhróin mhairneach tholgach ;
's é mo rogha ó a dhreach meanmnach
each is bogha is dorrlach.
24. Mak oyne boae baszalle boewnit^t
bar gasgeit^t gi fynitht
tur zarga ó si cheyle gi^t cwnitht
bar fayle ne mómey(ir). meyr EM.
25. Bar'rintih ni greit^t a zargnith
farroyle fei^tei^tth feynitht feymitht ?
loyn knaszell awour armitht
is tress gnáá hylith.
26. Ni golkga foyr gin neitht ði nawdith ði sic.
toyr bleith i' nordiol
Dimoyn ethtryn wonit^t ar'lith
is o ressgyrt a omnitht.
27. kenni ni' nollew sni ban lanvith
a wron mar'ni tolgitht
Sai mi royivh woa zrai^t ma'nith
eath is boyve is dorlitht. each ?

28. A powerful warrior, fierce, combative, and modest, lofty, spirited, proud-minded; who inflicted every destruction upon the battlefield, unsleeping to his foe.
29. Ua Cailéin who has put behind him each evil wont, his career is without paltry sin; equally ready is he for love and for [enmity], the pick of a king's son I have found.
30. Red-lipped Margaret, the liberal and upright, a bright branch with brilliant tresses; a bosom that has not been dispraised, a person tender, gentle and revered, a slender foot, a heel white and pointed.
31. The fair bright daughter of Sir Duncan Forrester, a noble lady good of mind and soft of skin; her countenance like the sun [], a white tooth and a [] mouth.

32. Aobh is umhla dhá gnúis náirigh,
 craobh chumhra na h-uaille ;
 do thréig sí gach ní fa táire :
 béal bíthe gan fhuaire.
33. Iarla díomsach duasmhor ághmhor, 1165
 rí fial uasal Gaodhal,
 do chuir gach coigcríoch fá rádhaibh,
 's ní choigleann sé an saoghal.
34. Iarla garg curanta cródha
 ard urramach bríoghmhor ; 1170
 flath na síoth 's na gcaithréim gceólach,
 Cailéin rí ós ríoghaibh.
35. [] mo dhána
 d'Iarla Gaodhal *duanach* ;
 don rígh rug geall gacha báire, 1175
 [] *fhuaras*.
32. Eywe is owle ʒa gnwss nairre
 creiwe chowri^t ne hoylith
 di reyk see gi nee fa tayr're
 baile beei^t gin (foyir ri^t horis. EM.)
33. Earlith demisith dosswor awir
 re faile ossil geill
 churri^t gi cogry^t fa ni^t rawhe
 is ne choglin sea in scill.
34. Erlea garga currintith croith
 ard wrmth bre'our
 flaa ni sei^t is na ga^treym toythli 1175
 calleine rei^t oss reith. toythli EM.
35. Nearsi ergoyk wreit^t mo ʒane
 ʒarly^t ʒeil^t gi do. . . .
 din reith rwk gyle gi bair'ri^t
 na^t b . . . rw . . . f . . . i'r.
 deimith EM. ;
 doynith WM.

36. M'anamán ar th'iocht, a Choimdhe,
[

]. 1180

36. Marrwm er heitht a choĩe

a ʒwle . . . fa

ʒwle sic.

a re a ter noewe toyr see ʒwn. . . .

36. Be my soul under Thy clemency, O Lord, [
].

XV. FIONNLACH AN BARD RUADH

1. GABH rém chomraigh, a Mheic Ghriogóir,
 fáilte rinn ré teacht id cheann ;
 thugas lámh fá riar gan aighne,
 a ghrádh chliar 's a chraidhe cheall.
2. Ní cneasda corruigh ar chongbháil : 1185
 brat thar gach cúis théid tar ceal ;
 druim ré dalta badh chiall cheilge,
 's gan Dia leantain feirge ar fear.
3. Usaide a mhathadh 'g cor cuarta 1190
 gur h-annamh gheibhthear dhá *cair* ;
 traothaidh fá dheoidh fearg gach flatha :
 ní feoidh a dhearg 's cathamh air.
1. Gaiwe reim chomre ^vc cregar
 failta rinni ra teacht it chenn
 hug's lawe fane rair gin nani
 a 3raw clar si chri kaale.
2. Ne knesta corre er chwnwail ? kill.
 bratta her gi cwss hed t'kell
 drwm re dalty^t bi chail chelgi
 is gin dea lentin ferga er fer.
3. Wssit a waa^t car corta
 gir hamnow 3oyvir 3a kin
 treithe fa 3oe ferga gi fláa
 ne foye 3arg is caythew er.
 3b. MS. *represents* cion.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS FINLAY, THE RED BARD

1. Receive and protect me, MacGregor ; greet me well
as I come to thee ; I have essayed to make my peace
without an advocate, thou love of poets, thou darling
of churches.

2. To nurse one's anger is ungentle ; over each matter
that is bygone let cast a cloak ; to turn the back
on a fosterson were a trick of treason, for God pur-
sueth not his wrath against a man.

3. The easier it is to pardon him, when he maketh a
circuit, that fault with him is rarely found ; each
prince's wrath subsideth at last ; his heat remaineth
red while it is fanned.

4. Fadódh corruigh 's gan mé ciontach,
a Mheic Ghriogóir na lann ngorm,
gé táim seal a muigh ar th'uamhan,
do lean dá mhuin uabhar orm. 1195
5. Gé bé neach lér cuireadh eadrainn
aimhleas bréige nach buan sgeamh,
a bhréag fá dheoidh dobadh díomhaoin :
créad acht sgeoil far bhfíorghaol sean ? 1200
6. Dalta Chonchobhuir ríogh Uladh,
Conall Clogach nár mhath ciall,
a fhreagrath amhra mán fhosadh ;
beagnach samhla dhomhsa a thriall.
7. Ó Chonchobhar as an Chraobhruaidh 1205
ní bhfaghadh cairde 's a thuaith ;
fá dhiamhraibh gan locht a liosa,
bliadhain gan tocht d'fhios a shluaigh.
4. Fada chorre is gin ma kyntyth
a v^e cregor nin lan gorm
ga tame schel a moe er hoyvin
da len di vwn oyvir orm.
5. Ga ba neach la curri eddrin
awless brega na^t boyn skeiwe 2 skaiwe.
a wraig fa 30ae di bi 3aiwir
creid a^t skoyle fir wer3ail sen.
6. Dalta chonchowir re wly^t
connyll cloggy^t neir waa keyll
a fregry^t awraa my^t nossi
beg nach sawlaa 3oissi a reaille.
7. O chonchowir essi chrewroy
ni fáa chardaa sa thoy
ffa 3eawriw gin lwecht a lyss
bly^e3in gin tocht dyss a loy.

4. Because thy wrath was kindled while I was guiltless, thou MacGregor of blue blades, therefore my pride retained the smart, though for dread of thee I am for a space abroad.
5. What man soever hath set between us lying mischief short-lived of bark, in the end his lie hath been but idle : it is but the tale of thy true kin of old.
6. The fosterson of Conchobhar king of Ulster, even Conall Clogach, who was not sound of sense, made good reply about atonement : his course is well-nigh a type of mine.
7. From Conchobhar of the Craobhruadh he could find no respite nor his folk ; he was in lonely places sundered from his stronghold's people ; for a year he came not to see his host.

12. Mairg do bhiodhbhaidh teacht it aghaidh ; 1225
 ionann duit is do bhaidhbh chliath ;
 ní dáigh ód shith acht fir ghonta,
 ód láimh ghil a sgoltas sgiath.
13. Baránta na h-aosa dána
 Mac Griogóir a bhronnas ba ; 1230
 urra dhámh is fear na sealga,
 a lámh gheal a dheargas ga.
 Gabh rém chomraigh.
12. Merg 3a bewe tacht a teyghee
 innynn dut is di weyf chleaa
 ne dach o tee ach fer gontáá
 oid law 3ill a skoltis skeaa.
13. Barranti ny^t heissi dany^t
 m^e cregar a fronnis baa
 wri 3aw is fer ny^t scheallyggáá
 a law 3ell a 3ergis gáá.
 gáá reym chomre.

12. Woe to the foeman that cometh against thee ; thou art resistless as the war-goddess of battle-ranks ; from thine onset naught is like to come save men wounded, from thy white hand that cleaveth shields.
13. Surety of the folk of song is MacGregor who bestoweth kine ; patron of poet-bands and famed in the hunt, his white hand that reddeneth spears.

XVI. A UGH DAR SO AN BARD RUADH
FIONNLAGH

1. THEAST aon diabhal na nGaidheal,
sgéal as cóir do chommaoidheamh,
bhaoi ré daorlot cheall is chros, 1235
an maoltorc mall gan mhathas.
2. A h-ifreann thánaig ar dtús :
usaide an sgéal a iomthús,
mar thá a bheatha rís ar bail
i gceathaibh ghrís an diabhail. 1240
3. Do nasgadar air fá rinn,
an uair dh'fhág sé teach n-ifrinn,
toidheacht don dún chéadna ar ais,
's a chúl ré réadla pharrthais.
4. An uair thánaig an torc dubh, 1245
b'iomdha deamhan 'gá chonradh :
garbh mhothár gacha péiste
shín go h-anbha oilléitigh.
5. Ar eagal a bheith gan ní
do-rinneadh do mhac Ruaidhrí 1250
a chníoht go h-onáireach ann,
i riocht Chonáin i n-ifreann.
6. Is cóir an agra thá i ndiu
ag Ailéin ar na diabhlaihbh,
gurab é fa rí orra, 1255
ar liom, 'na thím eatorra.
7. Is mithigh sgur réd mharbhnaidh,
a shean bheathaigh bhiothcharnaigh,
mheic Ruaidhrí ón mhúr a mach,
fhuair ní gan lúth gan lámhach. 1260

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS THE RED BARD FINLAY

1. The prime devil of the Gael is dead, a tale fit to be vaunted, who ignobly wounded churches and crosses, the bald boar dull and worthless.
2. From hell he came at first : his origin makes it the easier to believe the news, how that his existence is again prosperous among the hot ash showers of the Devil.
3. They bound him by his weapon's point, what time he left the house of hell, that to that same hold he should return, with his back to the stars of paradise.
4. When the black boar arrived thither, many a demon plighted him ; the rude outcry of every form of monster arose hugely and hideously.
5. For fear that he should lack a competence, Roderick's son was made a knight honourably there in hell, after the manner of Conán.
6. Just is the claim that Allan makes to-day upon the devils, even that he was their king, methinks, in his time among them.
7. It is time to cease thine elegy, thou aged animal ever fleshly, thou son of Roderick, from the sea-girt fortress, who didst win gear without show of vigour or spearcast.

8. Fá chaithréim do chur i sum
 dlighim coinne ré Colum ;
 ó's í caithréim t'aoir uile,
 a Ailéin mhaoil mhíoghoire.
9. Do rinn tusa, 's ní h-í a mháin, 1265
 creach Ie is reilge Odhráin ;
 is tú dhochann go borb ann
 cochall na n-ord 's na n-aifreann.
10. Is tú bhuaire olc Innse Gall,
 's tú bhocht a cíos 's a tearmann ; 1270
 is tú as gealtach nós a mach,
 lé leantar fós do thosach.
11. Acht aonbhuille ar do láimh chlí,
 do bhréithir, a mheic Ruaidhrí ;
 ní clos do ghleó ó soin a mach 1275
 is an chros bheó dod mhallacht.
12. Math an dís fá bhfuil do shlán,
 dóibh-sin fós is []
 ó chéadtosach do chagaidh,
 a bhréanchlosach anabaigh. 1280
13. Creach eile nach raibh san lagh
 ar Fíonán i nGleann Garadh ;
 mhalluigh do naomh feartach féin
 do mhaol gealtach, a Ailéin.
14. Atá mar gach naomh eile 1285
 ag díoghailt a oirbhire ;
 do chuir Dubhthach lé chúis féin
 an cuthach i ngnúis Ailéin.
15. Do thír dubhach is do shluagh,
 do baineadh dhíobh an chnámhthuagh ; 1290
 léigid deireadh do mhuirne
 idir Seile is Subhairne.

8. To estimate his career aright I should need to meet with Colum (Cille), for thy career is thy satire complete, thou Allan bald and impious.
9. Thou didst harry, and that was not all thy spoiling, Iona and Odhrán's burial ground ; it was thou that barbarously there didst mutilate the shrine of the gospels and of the masses.
10. It was thou that didst stir up evil to the Isles, thou didst impoverish her tribute and her sanctuary ; thy custom hath been a coward's ever, wherein thou dost follow up thy first beginning.
11. But one blow hath reached thy left side, on my word, thou son of Roderick : no feat of thine hath since been heard, once thou wert under curse of the living cross.
12. Noble are the two whom thou hast defied, [] from the first outset of thy warfare, thou carcass over-ripe and stinking.
13. Another foray outwith the law thou madest on Fíonán in Glen Garry ; thine own saint of holy power hath cursed thy bald craven pate, thou Allan.
14. He, like every other saint, now avengeth the despite done him ; Dubhthach, in aid of his own cause, hath set madness in Allan's countenance.
15. Sad is thy land, sad are thy people ; the bone-axe is stricken from them ; they make an end of merriment between Seile and Subhairne.

16. Ní h-iongnadh a bheith i bpéin :
 fada ó b'ionchrochtha Ailéin ;
 ná luaidh ar láthair an fhir 1295
 chuaidh go a mháthair 's go a phiuthair.
17. Mithigh a nois sgur dot aoir,
 a mheic Ruaidhrí, a ainmhín ;
 a Ailéin nach greasann greas,
 caithréim t'easgaine is oircheas. 1300

Theast.

16. No marvel that he is in torment ; it is long since Allan was gallows-ripe ; mention not the manly vigour of the man who went in to his mother and to his sister.
17. Time now to cease from satire of thee, thou son of Roderick, thou man of violence ; thou Allan whose wont is not to press a fight, fit is the triumph of thy cursing.

XVII. FIONNLAGH AN BARD RUADH
IS É THUBHAIRT SO

- GEALLADH gach saoi don each odhar
an geall do mhaoidh sise ;
fa h-í bhuaidheas is an chosnamh
gach ní luaidheas mise.
- Urraim a luaithe 'gá cosaibh 1305
go ruathar do bhriseadh ;
nochtadh san aonach a treise,
san chaolach giodh soithimh.
- Ní fhoghnann saighead dá caitheamh
ré aigheadh a reatha ; 1310
ní bréag tuarasgbháil an eich sin,
stéad luadhaltach gasda.
- An Dubh Saighleann is ria as cosmhail,
nó oighre an Liath Macha ;
giodh oirdheirc a méad 's a gcosnamh, 1315
ní [] ná ar n-each-ne.
- Mar chaochladh gaoithe do chnocaibh
ruith na saoithe i ndeachaidh ;
mór gcéad lér aidhbhseach a siubhal,
théid mar thaidhbhse seachaibh ; 1320
each do-ní síorruith ré saighid,
a gníomhraidh is greanta,
léigeas bann d'uaisle a reatha
san ruathar mar reathas.
- Giodh fada an eachraidh roimpe, 1325
níor aithnigh an marcach ;
gur beag do mholadh an eich sin
a coimneas ré caltaibh.

1307. noty⁴ sei^t MS.] 1312. loyilyd⁴ MS.]

1316. ne hor eaid MS.]

1317. MS. *represents* Mar badh. dachi WM., *rightly*.]

FINLAY THE RED BARD, IT WAS HE SAID THIS

Let each wise man pledge for the dun horse the stake that the horse challenges ; it is he that wins in the contest in each matter that I mention. Honour to his feet for his swiftness in breaking an onset ; his might has been shown in the gathering, though he be gentle in the enclosure. A shaft shot amain is no match for his running ; no lie is the description of that horse, a steed goodly and nimble. The Dubh Saingleann he resembles, or the heir of the Liath Macha ; though far-famed their size and their prowess in contest, they are not [better] than our horse. As the shifting of wind from hill-tops is the running of the troop he charges ; to many hundreds his career is dreadful, he that passes like a phantom ; a steed that keeps pace ever with an arrow, his deeds are brilliant ; a steed that lets win triumph by the excellence of his running, as he races in the onset. Though the squadron be far ahead, his rider does not note it ; it is small praise for that steed to compare him to birdflocks.

- Coimhdheas a buadh is a siubhal
 i gcruadhach 's i lathaigh ; 1330
 cagal an eich ar gach duine
 theagmhaidh i ngréis chatha.
 I bhfeacht, i bhfeadhain, i gcumasg
 is each breaghdha an t-each-soin ;
 greann ar an mhóireach 'gá mosgladh 1335
 i gceann chorra bhraitaigh.
 Bheir an stuagh fhulangach thograch
 urraim sluagh dá marcach ;
 théid ón chóir do bheith ar thosach,
 an móireach mín masglach. 1340
 Beiridh buadh reatha agus cosgair
 gé tí i n-uair fheasgair ;
 go h-éasgaidh óirchriosach ullamb,
 móirchriothach ar faitheche ;
 go bíodhgach cruinnshleamhan crudhach 1345
 mín druimleathan daithte.
 Each fá thuarasgbháil an eich sin
 do-chualamar aca ;
 cha roibh seise riamh fá coimmeas :
 níor mheisde an Liath Macha. 1350
 Mac Griogóir ceannphort an eich sin,
 tréan 'na ghleannphort file ;
 tiogfaid ón Bhanbha go a mholadh,
 i nAlbain 'gá shireadh ;
 fear chuireas argain ar Ghallaibh, 1355
 is earbsa ré ghealladh.

1333. weazin MS.]

1338. *Delete M'L.'s in before merkych.*]

1342. gay MS.]

Equal is his triumph and his career on firm ground and on bog-land ; fear of that horse comes on each man that meets him in fray of battle. On expedition, in host, in conflict, a goodly steed is that horse ; fury stirs up the great horse in front of a taper banner. That chief of steeds, enduring and keen, wins the reverence of hosts for his rider ; the vanguard is his place and he goes there, the great horse smooth-coated and virile. He wins the palm for speed and for victory, though he come in the hour of evening ; agile, gold-girthed, ready ; causing the field to quake greatly ; bounding, round-barrelled and sleek ; iron-shod, smooth-coated, broad-backed, comely. A horse such as this horse we have heard to be theirs ; a match was never found to compare with him ; not better was the Liath Macha. That steed's lord is MacGregor ; strong in his glen-mansion are poets ; they will come from Ireland to praise him, seeking him in Alba ; a man who ravages Saxons, whose promise is trusted.

XVIII. FIONNLAGH RUADH AN BARD

1. FADA atáim gan bhogha,
fhaghbháil domh is mithigh ;
thánaig tíom a thabhaigh
as an fhiodhraidh dhlighthigh. 1360
2. Is é conair théighinn
d'iarraidh slaite iubhair,
go fiath tréan na nGaoidheal,
fear nár éar lucht siubhail.
3. Go Mac Griogóir dónach 1365
as ceann do na sgolaibh ;
'na thigh ní bhínn folamh :
dlighthear dhíom a mholadh.
4. Go fear as tréan cuireadh 1370
i dtosach gach samhraidh ;
ní sámhach dá bhíodhbhaidh,
a námha go h-amhlaidh.
5. 'N uair éirgheas iad uime,
Griogóirigh 'na gcéadaibh,
baoth an chiall a bhfógradh : 1375
gur triath ós na tréadaibh.
6. Eoin as ceann don tréad sin
ré h-uair creach do ghabháil
fhuaras féin ag comhól
béal ré béal san chamháir. 1380
7. 'N uair chí teaghlach airmghéar
Mheic Ghriogóir i mBealach
slighe mhín nó chorrach,
ní b'eire riú an eallach.

1c. hanik MS.]

2b. dairre MS.]

2c. fla trane MS.]

3c. *Dim* ; probably na hea MS.]

3d. 3em MS.]

5c. baith MS.]

RED FINLAY THE BARD

1. Long I lack a bow ; time it is I got one ; the time is come to levy it from the proper wood.
2. The way that I would go to seek a rod of yew is to the mighty prince of the Gael, who to travellers has never made refusal.
3. To MacGregor who gives shelter, who is patron to the schools ; in his house I used not to be empty ; to praise him is my duty.
4. To him who is strong of host at each summer's outset ; no peace has he who wrongs him ; in like case is his foeman.
5. When they arise around him, MacGregors in their hundreds, it were a foolish plan to challenge them : he is lord over the flocks.
6. Eoin, who is head of that flock what time a prey is seized, I have myself found carousing face to face at dawn of day.
7. When the keen-weaponed household of MacGregor in Bealach see a way smooth or uneven, no burden for them would be the cattle.

8. 'N uair chinnid ar chomhrag, 1385
 'gá ghairm i gcrích námhad,
 is ris féin do thaobhaid
 i riocht géill is brághad.
9. Do bhéasaibh Mheic Ghriogóir, 1390
 tóir cháich ar a chúlaibh,
 gan deadhail ré dhaoinibh,
 's gach meadhair 'na dhúnaidh.
10. 'N uair dh'fhág mé mo bhogha
 im éis ar lár troide,
 mé 'g innse mo bhuige 1395
 's é as milse lem oide.
11. Giodh olc i Loch Iubhair
 mo dhíolmhaineas innse,
 gan cleith láin na loingse
 's é ar láí catha as milse. 1400
12. Cuimhnigh go mbím romhad,
 Mheic Ghriogóir, gan aga,
 ré aigheadh gach troda,
 ag dáil saighde fada. 1405

Fada.

13. A Ealasaid uasal, 1405
 iompuigh [],
 a bhean na gciabh boga,
 'gá bhfan an chliar fada.

Fada.

8c. heiwit (*the last letter apparently t*) MS.]10d. (wwk) is saí is milsi^t MS.]

13b. ympeich my weadda MS.]

8. When men decide for combat, proclaiming it in foemen's bounds, it is to his side they come, in form of hostage and of captive.
9. It is a custom of MacGregor's, when those others are in chase behind him, to stay with his men and make merry in his stronghold.
10. Since I left my bow behind me on the field of quarrel, it pleases best my patron that I should tell my weakness.
11. Though it be ill in Loch Iubhair to tell of my martial service, to declare the vessel's freight pleases best on day of battle.
12. Bear in mind that you find me there, MacGregor, without tarrying, to face every fight, to meet a long arrow.
13. Thou noble Elizabeth, [], thou lady of soft locks, with whom poets bide long.

XIX. A UGH DAR SO FIONNLACH
AN BARD RUADH

1. FHUARAS mo rogha theach mhór,
i mbí na cliara ag comhól : 1410
mór ndámh lé dtoghthar an teach
nach faghthar lá go h-uaigneach.
2. Maoidhfidh mise, ó táid 'na thaigh,
ráith dhreagain Dhúine Monaidh,
gach rodhorus bláth fán taigh, 1415
dár chomhsholas lá is adhaigh.
3. [] fleadh
is ré fairsinge a foirgneamh,
don chléir ní cumhang an teach,
giodh cumhang é dá theaghlach. 1420

A HOWDZR SOO FINLAI IN BARD ROYE

1. Hoariss mo ry heach vor
ym be ni clairre a chooilli
mor dave la in doyvyr in teach
na^t fayir lai gi hoyk(ny^t)
2. Meithe miss oo tat ni tei
rai 3regyn 3owne a monee
gy^t rac 3orrís blat^he fane teach
3ir choyhollis lai is yig^h.
3.) fley
is ra fars3sing a forgni
) glair na) cowing in teach
ga cowing ee 3a hylch.

4. Neirtghníomhradh a chon 's a shluagh
is meinic le Eoin armruadh :
 a h-aithle na sealg ón teach
 gach faithche dearg ón fhiadhach.
5. Mar soin dh'fhág na saoir ar chóir 1425
 bruidhean chúplach Mheic Ghriogóir,
 gan locht saoirse ré ar linn
 ar dtocht dhaoibhse ar a h-árainn.
6. Fíon 'gá ibhe ag mnáibh malla,
 Mheic Ghriogóir, id mhóρθhalla : 1430
 id bhugh tréan fairsing, ar linn,
 céir ar lasadh go h-ursainn.
7. Fhuaras teach coimneas dod thaigh,
 Mheic Ghriogóir ó Dhún Monaidh :
 ríghtheach na bhfaobhar bhfada, 1435
 teach Aodha Mheic Dhiarmada.
4. Nart) *zneery*^t a chonna is a loye
menky^t la one armroye
 hoilli *ny*^t selga woa in teacht
 gi feach dirg von *neyiche*.
5. Mir sen *zaik* ni seir er chor
 broyne ni *chowply*^t *v^egregor*
 gin locht *seyrsy*^t reir linna
 er techt *zeives* er a harrin.
6. Ffeinni ga *eevi* ag *mnaiw* maali
v^eregor id vor hall
 id wrow trane *farszsin* er linna
 keir er *lassa* gew *hursinn*.
7. Hoaris teach *commis* id *bee*
v^eregor oo d . . . *voyne*
 rea teach *ny*^t *vyvyr* fadda
 teach *Eygh* *v^eDermitta*.

4. Mighty deeds by his hounds and his hosts are frequent
with red-weaponed John ; when hunting is made from
the house, the hunt leaves every greensward red.
5. Thus did the masons leave aright the coupled house of
MacGregor, nor is there any lack of masonry in our
time, since thou hast come to its demesne.
6. Wine is drunk by stately dames, MacGregor, in thy
spacious hall ; in thy wide firm mansion, as I deem,
wax is ablaze even to the door-post.
7. I have found a house to match thy house, thou
MacGregor from Dún Monaidh : the royal house of
long keen blades, the house of Aodh MacDiarmaid.

8. Aon do lá dh'fhear an rúin bhuig,
do Mhac Diarmaid, san Charraig,
tharla béist arsaídh 'na thaigh
ar léim gasraidh a dhúnaídh. 1440
9. Suidhíghthe ar dteacht dá theach
le Mac Diarmada an chailleach
ar taobh asnach an tíghe,
an bhadhbh chaslach chaillighe.
10. Déarghaithear san bhruídhin bháin 1445
leabaidh don eachlaigh urláir
gan iarraidh dh'fhoirinn taighe :
bliadhain dí 'na h-éanlaighe.
11. Níor fharraid éinneach dhise 1450
cá tír asa raibhi-se
ar fad na bliadhna 'na bhruigh,
ag Mac Diarmaid san dúnadh.
8. Inni lai 3ar in rowne voik
di v^e dermit si charrig
harlai best harsi na hee
er lemni gassre 3owne.
9. Soigh^hthir er teacht 3a heacht
le m^e dermynt in kelly^t
er teif assneyf in tee
a wyve chaslat chaalee.
10. Dairreyir so wrone ni vane
lab 3in nealy^t vrlair
gin nearre 3a rein teach
bleyn de na heine lai.
11. Nar errit In nach 3is
ka ter assin royithviss
er fad ni blyni na wrow
ac m^e Dermit sin downy^t.

8. One day when the man of generous mind, MacDiarmaid, was in the Rock, there chanced an aged ill-favoured creature in his house, having eluded the retinue of his stronghold.
9. The crone, coming to his house, is set by MacDiarmaid by the house's ribbed side, the cloaked spectre of a crone.
10. Unasked, the household company spread in the fair hostel a bed for the witch : a year she spends lying without rising.
11. No one asked of her from what land she was, throughout the year in his dwelling, with MacDiarmaid in the stronghold.

16. Fairsing dá thaobh do thaighe,
líonmhor a lucht comhnaidhe : 1470
ríoghól na gcéad ar a lár,
mór do théad is do sheandán.
17. Mise ní bhia mé dod dhíth ;
maith mo thurchairthe id roithigh ;
ar taighibh Gaoidheal a bhos 1475
mo rogha d'aointeach fhuaras.
Fhuaras mo rogha.
18. Ealasaíd an aigne bhuig,
inghean Eoín mheic Ghill-Easbuig,
nocha n-éarthar dámh 'na teach,
bean lán d'fhéile agus d'eineach. 1480
19. Muime na gcliar is na gconn
Ealasaíd a Gleann Líomhunn ;
bean mhín as féile do mhnáibh :
dar linn céile maith fhuarais.
Fhuaras mo rogha.

16. Ffarsing da hove do he
lenor in lwcht coone
Reihoole ní gad er a lar
mor a head is do hann dan.
17. Missi ner veme zai doyt^t
mat^h mi hurchir choad royth . . .
Er tey^t goil a voss
mo ry zeine teach horriss. hoarís m . . .
18. Ellissait in negni voek
Ini oone v^eillespek
no^tcha nearrir dave no teacht
ben lan deil 7 denacht.
19. Mwmi ní glair is ní gon
Ellissait a glenlevin
ben veine is faille zí wnaave
dar leine keill maych hoarís.
[hoaris] mo . . .

16. Wide are thy house's two sides ; many are they who dwell therein ; a royal banquet for hundreds is on its floor ; many a harp, many an ancient song, is heard within it.
17. As for me, thou shalt not lack me ; goodly are my prizes in thy surpassing house ; of houses of the Gael this side the sea, I have found of every house my choice.
18. Elizabeth of liberal heart, daughter of John, son of Archibald, a poet band is debarred not from her house ; she is a lady full of hospitality and of generosity.
19. Foster-mother of poets and of chiefs is Elizabeth from Glen Lyon ; a gentle dame, of dames most liberal ; a noble spouse, I deem, thou hast found.

XX. AR SLIOCHT GAODHAL

1. AR slíocht Gaodhal ó Ghort Gréag 1485
 ní fheil port ar a gcoimhead,
 dá dteagmhadh nach b'aordha lat
 slíocht Gaodhal do chur tharat.
2. Is dú éirghe i n-aghaidh Gall,
 nochá dóigh éirghe udmhall ; 1490
 faobhair claidheamh, reanna ga,
 cóir a gcaitheamh go h-aobhdha.
3. Ré Gallaibh adeirim ribh,
 sul ghabhadar ar ndúthaigh ;
 ná léigmid ar ndúthaigh dhínn, 1495
 déinmid ardchogadh ainmhín,
 ar aithris Gaoidheal mBanbha,
 caithris ar ar n-athardha.
4. Do-chuala mé go roibh sin
 uair éigin Inis Incin 1500
 fá smacht ag fine Fomhra :
 racht le bile Bóromha.
5. Nó go dtánaig Lugh tar linn,
 mór bhfian darab maith dírim,
 dár marbhadh Balar ua Néid : 1505
 budh samhladh dhúinn a leithéid.
6. Seala do Ghallaibh mar sain
 ag íoc cíosa as an dúthaigh ;
 [] ar eagal gach cinn,
 mór atá teagamh orainn. 1510
- 1b. goevait (*one word*) MS.] 1c. Dan degow MS.]
 2b. is nach (*is deleted*) MS.]. udwaalli MS.]
 3b. ir sowe (?) MS.] 4d. rach MS.]
 5b. derre M'L.; derm WM.; MS. *now apparently derro* . . .]
 6c. Di zerna er MS.]

[TO THE EARL OF ARGYLL]

1. The race of the Gael from the land of Greece have no spot in their keeping, should it come to pass that thou shouldst deem it no reproach to disregard the race of the Gael.
2. Meet it is to arise against Saxons ; we expect no wavering rising : edges of swords, points of spears, it is right to ply them blithely.
3. Against Saxons, I say to you, ere they have taken our country from us ; let us not yield up our native country, let us make no gentle warfare ; let us, after the pattern of the Gael of Banbha, watch over our fatherland.
4. I have heard that on a time Incin's Isle was under the rule of a Fomorian race : it roused the rage of the prince of Bóromha.
5. Until Lugh came across the sea with great warrior-bands of valiant troops ; by him was slain Balar ua Néid : for us a deed to follow.
6. Even so did Saxons for a space raise tribute from our country : [it was so done] through each man's fear ; such is our great mistrust.

7. Cia nois ar aithris an fhir
fhóirfeas Gaoidheil ar Ghallaibh,
rér linne, mar do-rinn Lugh
taobhadh a chine ó anghuth ?
8. Aithnid domh, dámadh áil leis, 1515
duine dh'fhéadfadh a aithris,
Lughaidh ar feadh na Banbha :
cubhaidh duit a ionnshamhla.
9. Ghill-easbuig nach d'eitigh d'fhear,
is tú an Lugh fá dheireadh ; 1520
a Iarla Oirir Ghaidheal,
bí id churaidh ag commaoidheamh.
10. Cuir th'urfhógra an oir 's an iar
ar Ghaidhlibh ó Ghort Gáilian ;
cuir siar thar ardmhuir na Goill, 1525
nach biadh ar Albain athroinn.
11. Do chuir Lugh nár loc troda
lé chlaidheamh *gear ceannchodad*
Éire fá smacht Gaoidheal nGréag
[] 1530
12. Na fréamha ó bhfuilid ag fás,
díthigh iad, mór a bhforfhás,
nach faighthear Gall beó dot éis,
ná Gaillseach ann ré *h-aísnéis*.
- 8a. a aythris MS.] 8c. Low er fey MS.]
8d. der M'L. ; d' (= ?) MS.] 9d. coyfmeye MS.]
10b. o žurt žvyth M'L. ; žaveth WM. ; MS. *now shows* žal . . . , or žav
. . . ?)
10c. ardwur MS.]
11b. lay chlaive gin chen ch . . . M'L. ; *only* lay chlaive g . . . *now*
legible to me.]
11d. nar beith cleacht . . . (*the rest illegible*) MS.]
12d. na gilsyth anna ra fath . . . M'L. ; *now legible to* ra f . . . (*i.e.*,
faisnéis) (*the rest cut off*).]

13. Loisg a mbantracht nach maith mín, 1535
 loisg a gclannmhaicne ainmhín,
 is loisg a dtighe dubha,
 is coisg dhínn a n-anghutha.
14. Léig le h-uisge a luaithre sin, 1540
 i ndiaidh loisgthe dá dtaisibh ;
 ná déan teóchroidhe a beó Gall,
 a có bheóghoine anbhfann.
15. Cuimhnigh féin, a ghruaidh mar shuibh,
 go bhfuil orainn ag Gallaibh
 annsmacht réd linn agus pléid 1545
 'nar chinn gallsmacht [].
16. Cuimhnigh Cailéin th'athair féin,
 cuimhnigh Gill-easbuig ainnséin,
 cuimhnigh Donnchadh 'na ndeaghaidh,
 an fear conchar cairdeamhail. 1550
17. Cuimhnigh Cailéin eile ann,
 cuimhnigh Gill-easbuig Arann ;
 's Cailéin na gceann, mór a chlí,
 lér gabhadh geall an [].
18. Cuimhnigh nach tugsad na fir 1555
 umhla ar uamhan do Ghallaibh ;
 cia mó fá dtugadh tusa
 umhla uait an dula-sa ?
- 13a. nach math man MS.] 13b. glanvecna (*one word*) MS.]
 14a. Bog M'L.; Beg WM.; MS. *clearly* Leg le husk.]
 14c. deochroy (*one word*) MS.]
 14d. a eo eokinte WM.; a vo vokinte M'L.] 15c. anssmach MS.]
 15d. nor chinna gaul smach . . . MS.] 17c. no cend MS.]
 17d. in far ler 3awe gail in 3a . . . (3al WM., *perhaps rightly*), with in
 far (*i.e.* an fear) *deleted*, MS.]

13. Burn their womenfolk ungentle, burn their ungentle children ; and burn their black houses, and rid us of the reproach of them.
14. Send their ashes down the stream, after burning of their bodies ; show no pity for living Saxon, thou vigorous salmon dealing mortal wounds.
15. Remember, thou with cheek like raspberry, the Saxons' oppression of us in thine own time, and their spite, in which the Saxon power hath grown [].
16. Remember Colin thine own father, remember again Archibald, remember Duncan who came after them, the friendly man who loved hounds.
17. Remember the other Colin, remember Archibald of Arran, and Colin of the heads, great his might, by whom was won the stake [].
18. Remember that those men made no submission for dread to Saxons ; why shouldst thou, more than they, make submission now ?

19. Ó nach mair acht fuidheall áir
do Ghaoidhlibh ó ghort iomgháidh, 1560
teagair lé chéile na fir,
's cuir th'eagal féine ar náimhdibh.

20. Saigh ar Ghallaibh 'na dtreibh féin :
bí id dúsgadh, a Mheic Cailéin :
d'fhear cogaidh, a fholt mar ór, 1565
ní maith an codal ramhór.

Mór an.

- 19b. di zeillw oo zurt ymzaif MS.] 19c. Teggyr lai keil MS.]
19d. naydeay MS.] 20c. mir hor MS.]
20d. MS. *adds* Mor in (l . . . ?)]

19. Since of the Gael there remain but survivors of slaughter
 from the field of peril, assemble thou the men together
 and put fear of thyself upon the foe.

20. Attack the Saxons in their own land; awake thee,
 thou MacCailéin: for a man of war, thou with
 hair like gold, not good is too long sleep.

XXI. AUCTOR HUIUS EÓGHAN MAC
EOIN MHEIC EICHTHIGHEARNA

1. Do athruigh séan ar síol gCuinn,
ní h-atharrach gan fhochainn :
i ndeaghaidh Eoin díobh do dhol,
síodh 'na dheoidh nocha déantar. 1570
2. An séan fá robhadar riamh,
fine Chuinn nár chleacht dímhíadh,
i ndiaidh Eoin gach aire ar gcúl,
dá dheoidh níor an gan iompúdh.
3. Dá bhás do tréigeadh an tír, 1575
mac ar nEoin [] ó Ailín ;
mór ar séan ar gcúl do chuir :
níor léan dúnn nó go ndeachaidh.
4. An cor-soin lér olcadh ionn, 1580
bás Eoin, is truagh an toirneamh ;
tánaig bráth ua gCuinn don chor :
ís fá chung cháich do-chuadar.
5. Síol Colla Uais go h-éag Eoin,
níor éirgheadar go h-aintreoir ;
fágais léan dá shíol ó shoin : 1585
an séan ní díobh [].
6. Adhbhar bróin a mbeith mar sin,
Clann Dubhghaill do dhíoth éinfhir ;
do-chuaidh bearn 'na séan ré seal ;
ís searbh an sgéal ré sgaoileadh. 1590

1b. gin nochin MS.] 2b. deweyg MS.]

3b. m'ir noyine wo allen MS.]

3d. na gi dear . . . M'L. ; *but r is doubtful in MS.*]

5d. ne in deive a zaith MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS EÓGHAN MAC EOIN
MHEIC EICHTHIGHEARNA

1. The auspicious omen has changed for the race of Conn ; it is not a change without a cause ; now that John has departed from them, peace there is none after his death.
2. The happy omen under which they lived before, the race of Conn who were wont to be revered (after John's death they are heeded no longer), remained not, but was reversed, after him.
3. By his death the land is forsaken, the death of our John [] descended from Allan ; greatly it annulled our happy omen ; we suffered no sorrow until he went.
4. That calamity by which we were undone, John's death, it is a pitiful downfall ; the doom of the race of Conn is come from the stroke ; they have gone beneath the yoke of others.
5. The race of Colla Uais, until the death of John, arose to strength ; since then, he has left a grief unto his race ; the happy omen [].
6. It is matter for grief that Clan Dugall should be so for the lack of one man alone ; their happy omen is for a space impaired ; bitter is the tale to spread.

7. A theachtaidhe thug an sgéal
chugainn, a Dhé, do dhroichbhéal ;
na sgéala do labhradh libh,
m'abhra ní chéala a gcloistin.
8. Síordháil mo dhéar, treachladh mh'fhuilt, 1595
do bhean díom rinn mo radhairc ;
i ndiaidh Eoin ní h-anbhfann gul :
ní fhagbham deoir ré déanamh.
9. Tuireadh ar an Fhéinn san uaigh
bás Mheic Dhubhghaill Dúin Ollaigh ; 1600
iona dheaghaidh, fa chrú Chuinn,
níor dhealuigh cnú ré crannaibh.
10. Síon bhorb ag briseadh na bhfíodh,
méanfadhach cuain 'gá chaoineadh ;
ar ard an tráchta ar éag Eoin 1605
níor fhéad ealta ón aicór.
11. Luadh ar aoibhneas nocha nfhuil
i ndeaghaidh Eoin dá iomghuin ;
an sluagh agá mbreith do bhrón,
gan luadh ar creich ná ar comhól. 1610
12. Adeirim-se a ráidhid cách,
ag teacht ót uaigh gach aontráth,
le tuireadh a n-ochán n-oll,
dod chumhaidh, a bharr beannchorr.
13. I n-íoc, mo nuar, ót fholt bog, 1615
liag agam iona ionad ;
beith ar th'fheart fá-deara dhamh
sgeimheal mo dhearc do dhubhadh.
- 8a. mi ʒair trec clawlt MS.] 8d. MS. *represents* cha n-.]
9b. downollee MS.] 10b. chenych MS.]
10d. ner ayd altáa won nayoy[†] MS.]
11b. aýne ymʒane MS.]
11d. er cor M⁴L. ; er cooyl (*but dim*) MS.]
13b. log M⁴L. ; leg MS.]

7. Thou messenger who brought unto us the tale, O God, for thy evil lips ! The news that ye did utter, my eye will not conceal the signs caused by hearing them.
8. Ever-shedding of my tears, loosening of my hair, has dimmed my sight ; after John's death weeping is vehement ; we find not tears to shed.
9. The Fiann in the grave lament the death of MacDugall of Dunollie ; since he died (he was of the race of Conn) no nut has parted from the trees.
10. A savage wind breaks the woods, the gaping of the ocean laments him ; upon the high surface of the shore, by reason of John's death, the bird-flock from the air have been unable to settle.
11. Mention of gladness there is none since John was struck down ; the folk betake themselves to sadness, there is no mention of foray nor of feast.
12. I say but what all say, as they come each hour from thy grave, with the lamentation of their vast grief, mourning thee, thou prince pre-eminent.
13. Instead, alas ! of thy soft hair, in its place I have but a grave-stone ; it is being upon thy grave that causes the penthouse of my eyes to darken.

14. Ní fhéadaid mná dula dhe
 ót uaigh le truime a dtuirse ; 1620
 tógbhaidh feart don bhéinne bhan
 leithead leacht gcéile gCruachan.
15. Gar gur aithnigheadh orra
 do bhás i lá leathtroma ;
 fine dod chumhaidh, cia a gear ? 1625
 dubhaidh a ggridhe i gcodladh.
16. A Chlann Dubhghaill, go h-éag Eoin
 ní dhéanadh neach bhar neimhdheoin ;
 tánaig do bhás []
 saobh nach cás a ceannsughadh. 1630
17. Ar uaigh Eoin ní fhanaid mná,
 ag dortadh déar gach aonlá ;
 [] tré ghoimh (?),
 [] ar mòiigh gan mharthain.
18. Ní h-iongnadh dhomh tuirse throm 1635
 i ndiaidh Eoin d'fhalach orom ;
 ní dtig lá nach léan cridhe
 an sgéal fá dtá ar dtuirsi-ne.
19. Cuma liom giodh leó-san [],
 a dhéanta giodh leasg linne ; 1640
 dá bhás noch a socair sinn ;
 docair i gcás ní chuirim.
- 14c. din wanyth wañ M'L.] 14d. layd lake cheille croychin MS.]
 15a. azny^tthi MS.] 15b. laytrome MS. (-i WM.)]
 15c. ffinnich did c^howe MS.] 16c. wääss ir wlich MS.]
 17c. Kelle ban gar'ri tra zoych MS.]
 17d. troit M'L. ; troit ? troic ? MS.]
 18a. zoif MS.] 18b. di zallit^t (i.e. do dh'fhalach) MS.]
 19ab. Cwmmi lwm ca loo sin creid a zantyth (zentyth WM.) za lesk
 lwmme MS.]
 19d. ner churrinn M'L. ; MS. *clearly* churrim.]

27. Tearc a suirghe aicme Chuinn
 ón lá nach mair Mac Dubhghaill ;
 bríogha i [] nocha nfhuil,
 sgríobhtha *an* fhileadh 'na n-easbhaidh.
28. Onóir an fhileadh ní bhí 1675
 ar dteastáil do mhac Máiri ;
 is beag a bail d'fhaghbháil duit,
 do thréig a h-anáir [].
29. Nó go ndeachaidh druim ar dhruim 1680
 uam dá cheann Cloinne Dubhghaill,
 ré treoir Eoin níor dheadhail damh
 i ndeaghaidh Eoin a athar.
31. I ndiaidh an trír, truagh an tolc,
 mo chridhe ní bhfuair furtacht ;
 truagh 'na ndeoidh gach cás do-chím
 do bhás dá Eoin is Ailín. 1690
- 27c. in neyil MS.] 28cd. Is beg a bail dawel dvit (dvic ?; daic
WM.) di rayc (*rather than* rayt M'L.) a honnor vayach MS.]
30. Gi lyi dea di 3alwa noyf neyf M'L.
 doyr in gligge in noid Illeich nord WM.
 Voo eachree noch cha woyn báach
 3a deache wáach is ym . . . ym3a . . .
M'L.
31. In dey in trur troyg in tolk
 mi chre ne for furtycht
 Troyg na noyge gi chass di cheim
 di wass ii oyne is all . . . ell WM.]
32. Allex^r nach gavin gess
 in tra man deggir herris
 Tòycht er stoyg woynych bryi (?)
 di royl oy ch mi nenni nenin M'L.
33. Ni beit ga earre er dul
 dyr oyne gow hirrill
 A beit er tee ni trodda
 ne beith nacc fa noo add er ter M'L.
adda M'L. ;
addil WM.

27. There is little wooing among the race of Conn since
the day that MacDugall lives not ; there is no virtue
in [] ; they lack the writings of poets.
28. The poet has no honour now that Mary's son is dead ;
little it profits thee to obtain it, its honour []
is departed.
29. Until there went from me, one upon another, two chiefs
of the Clan Dugall, I parted not from the leadership
of John after John his father.
31. Since the three went from me, sad the blow, my heart
has found no relief ; sad, after them, is every plight
that I see, by the death of the two Johns and Ailin.

XXII. A UGHDAR SO GIOLLA CRÍOST
TÁILLIÚR BOD AN STUIC

1. BEANNUIGH do theaghlach, a Thríonóid,
a Rí pharrthais phuirt na liag ; 1700
do theaghlach nach gann dod ghuidhe,
thú féin do dhealbh uile iad.
2. Is duit do cumadh síol nÁdhaimh,
do ghruaidh dheirg ar dath na subh ;
fhir do bheannuigh port is pobal, 1705
malluigh do locht cogaidh cuil.
3. Atá conairt chursta chuiléan
déanamh uile ar clannaibh ríogh ;
go gcluineam ár na gceann nguineach ;
is lán gach gleann duilleach dhíobh. 1710
4. An lucht cogaidh ar cloinn Ádhaimh,
ó nach féadtar bheith 'na dtosd,
'na gcealtaibh choidhche ré chéile,
feartuigh, Rí na gréine, a gcosg.
5. An lucht cogaidh ar cloinn Ádhaimh, 1715
do fríoth Luicifeir 'na lúib :
ná léig fois ná díon don droing-se,
loisg, a Rí na soillse súd.
7. Malluigh na sealga is an mhortlaidh
itheas eich caoirigh is cruidh,
do chuir druim ré fód na faithche : 1725
sgaoiltear cinn an ghasraidh dhuibh.
8. Atá gasradh mhadadh mhaslach
ar láthair Inse Alt Airt :
lán trudaire iad, tréig, a Thríonóid,
curstar iad dod mhíondóid bhailc. 1730

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GIOLLA CRÍOST THE TAILOR

1. Bless Thy family, O Trinity, thou King of Heaven, place of jewels ; Thy family, who are not a few, pray to Thee ; it is Thou Thyself who hast shaped them all.
2. It is by Thee that Adam's seed was formed, with red cheek of raspberry hue ; Thou who hast blessed place and people, do Thou curse sinful folk who war against Thee.
3. There is an accursed brood of whelps who work evil on kings' children ; may I hear of the slaughter of these hurtful heads ; each leafy glen is full of them.
4. Those who make war on Adam's children, who cannot hold their peace, ever together in their retreats, do Thou, O King of the sun, restrain them.
5. Those who make war on Adam's children, along with them Lucifer was found ; do Thou grant that rabble no rest nor shelter ; burn them, Thou King of yonder light.
7. Curse Thou the hunts and the carnage that devour horses, sheep and cattle, which have laid backs to the sod of the field ; may the heads of that black mob be cleft.
8. A noxious pack of wolves there is upon the meadow of Allt Airt ; foul beasts utterly ; abandon them, O Trinity ; let them be accursed by Thy gentle mighty hand.

9. Giodh iomdha craiceann chon allta
againn um chláirsigh 's um chruit,
cha teirce claigeann fuar falamh
againn ón chuain alla uile.
10. Athair Chríost, déan sneachta seachainn 1735
ó Loch Abar go Rinn Friú ;
luaith i gConghail dá gcorp cnámhach :
oircheas olc do rádha riú.
11. Gion gur éiric sin ar searrchaibh 1740
do mhac Roibeirt na ruag dte,
álach míonmhór na ngleann ngusta,
is líonmhor ceann cursta ar cleith.
12. A bhfuil ó Bheinn Ghuilbinn ghreanta
do mhadradh suas go sruth Toilbh,
bhíos ar sealgaibh síos ag suidhe,
deargár ó Chríost uile oirbh. 1745
13. Go gcluinn 's mé i nInbhir Nise
míolchoin *ag* sgaoileadh na sgonn ;
mairg mán iadh baladh na mbuicneach :
go n-iadh galar tuitmeach trom. 1750
14. Sgamhach conach aillse is acais
ar lucht marbhtha na ngreagh nglas ;
Mac Dé le croidhe nua []
snoidheadh an chuain ainmheach as.
15. Loisg gach saobhaidh tha i Sídh Chailleann, 1755
a Eoin Stiúbhairt na stéad mbras,
más fíor uaim gur sreathach srannmhor
an chuain ghreannach ghreannmhor *ghlas*.
16. Ar ghardha Eoin stéidghil Stiúbhairt
cha léir dhomb cabar gan cheann, 1760
is iad ar chollaibh cas corrach,
an chonairt ghlas mhongach bheann.
Beannuigh do theaghlach.

9. Though we have many a wild dog's skin as cover of harp and of lyre, not fewer are the skulls, cold and empty, that we have of that wild and evil brood.
10. Father of Christ, send snow along from Lochaber to Renfrew; let there be ashes in Connel from their bony bodies; to speak ill of them is meet.
11. Though it is no requital to Robért's son, hot of pursuit, for his colts, the great gentle brood of the goodly glens, there is many an accursed head on a pole.
12. All the curs that be between fair Ben Guilbinn upwards to the stream of Tolve, who are wont to lie in wait for prey, may Christ send red slaughter upon you all.
13. May I hear, while I am in Inverness, deerhounds scattering the brutes; alas for him who is wrapt in the stench of the goat-skinned ones; he shall be wrapt in sore fainting sickness.
14. Murrain, plague, cancer and poison on them that slay the grey herds; may the Son of God, with new [] purpose, cut off that mis-shapen brood.
15. Burn every den in Schiehallion, thou John Stewart of swift steeds, if my tale be true, that they snort row on row, the grey, bristly, surly pack.
16. On the garth-wall of John Stewart of bright steeds, I see no pole that lacks a head, on hazel-stakes steep and pointed, that grey, shag-maned mountain-pack.

XXIII. A UGH DAR SO DONNCHADH MAC CAIBE

1. A Mheic Dhubhghaill, tuar acáin
do luathlaoch an lánmhacán :
atá mo dhearbhadhacáin fíor
um an ghealmhacán mhóirbhríogh. 1765
2. Is fearr thig dod cheann-sa caomh
bheith ris ná dhomhsa, a mhacaomh ;
Donnchadh Carrach 'gá ghairm dhe :
is ainm dhó an Barrach Buidhe. 1770
3. A Dhonnchaidh na gcor ngaisge,
cuimhnigh ainm do chéadbhaiste ;
a mheic Ailéin, ná toill féin
taibhéim nachar thoill Ailéin.
4. Ó tá sibh anois []
ná [] ;
gabh i gcéadóir gus na Rois,
ó's tú éadóil gach amhais. 1775
5. Deimhin gurab tú a rís
fear gabhála na ngairbhchíos ;
mar tharbh troda agus tachar,
's dearbh do thogra angadhach. 1780
6. Is tú taistealach Cruachán
i seilg sliabh *is* fionnbhruachán ;
do chlú, a onchoin, 'gá h-innse,
is tú Donnchadh Diuirinnse. 1785

1a. attane RC. ; accane M'L. ; *either possible.*]

4ab. in neis (neiss ?) in ne'ny^t na hell yvir ard wlyith RC., MS.]

4c. cwss na ros MS.]

4d. gi haw . . . (*edge cut off*) MS. ; hawi . . . , hawis ? RC. ; hawis M'L.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS DUNCAN MAC CAIBE

1. Thou son of Dugall, to a swift warrior the full-grown youth is a portent of lamenting ; my own lament in truth concerns the goodly youth of mighty vigour.
2. Better it becomes thy fair head to be bared than it becomes me. Bald Duncan he is called ; but his proper name is the Yellow-crowned.
3. Thou Duncan of heroic exploits, remember the name of thy first baptism ; thou son of Allan, do thou thyself earn no reproach that Allan earned not.
4. Since ye are now [] do not [] ;
betake thyself straightway to the Rosses (?), since thou art the gain of every mercenary.
5. True it is that thou art again the exactor of stern tributes ; thou art like a bull of strife and battles, of fixed and deadly purpose.
6. Thou rangest Cruachan in hunt through mountains and bright banks ; thy fame, thou fierce warrior, is recounted, thou art Duncan of Diuirinis.

XXIV. [CÓIR FEITHEAMH]

1. CÓIR feitheamh ar uaislibh Alban ;
 's í an fhoidhid do-gheibh gach méad ;
 más í lann líomhtha do-chímíd,
 go ngabh an d'fomoladh éad. 1810

2. Ní cóir fearg i dtús gach agra,
 gé cluineann neach ní nach dóigh ;
 'n uair thá gach rath riamh i ndeacra,
 ní math ciall gan fhreagra cóir.

3. An t-adhbhar fá bhfuil mo thagra, 1815
 ní math glór gan chiall ré chois,
 má tá brígh i ndán na n-innsge,
 do-chím tráth dhá h-innse nois.

1. Cor fai^tw er olswe albin
 sche nyedin a 3oe gi maid
 mass lann lave a cheym i'
 g' gaif in deñ olla ead.

2. Ne cor ferg in duss gy^t agry^t
 ga clwne'ni na^t ne nac^h doe
 noyr ha gy^t raa reyve in negre
 ne ma^t keel gy' regry^t chor.

3. In tyvyr fa ville my^t hachre
 ne math glor gin keel re coss
 m)ata bree in dane a na ny'sk
 de chem t̃ 3a hynse noss.

[TO JOHN STEWART OF RANNOCH]

1. It is right to wait upon the nobles of Alba ; patience it is that wins all increase ; if it be a whetted blade we see, dispraise shall acquire malice.

2. Anger at the outset of a plea is unmeet, though one hear somewhat that he expects not. When all one's fortune hitherto is at stake, good sense without a fitting answer is of no avail.

3. The matter which concerns my plea (not good is speech without sense accompanying), I see the time is come to tell it, if statements' art avails.

8. Gabh do rogha, a mheic Shir Roibeirt, 1835
 t'fhaladh riom giodh beag mo thort :
 []
 's mé do-bheir cliar chogaidh ort.
9. Más í do chomhairle bhunaidh 1840
 bheith 'gam cíteach, a fholt réidh,
 a lámh thréan na nGaoidheal soinnimh,
 fa séan aoir id choinnibh é.
10. A Chú Chulainn cloinne Ghaltair,
 Eoin lér oirbhire neart soirbh,
 a shlat as tréan gnúis ré caille, 1845
nocha déan cúis faille oirbh.
11. Ní bhia tú ar shuain ná ar shiorram
 gan aoir liomsa, a thlacht tláith ;
 ní h-aithnid leis an éan caltna
 an t-saighead ghéar ghreanta gháidh. 1850
8. Gaf di ry v^e S^r Robert
 taylly^t rvma ga beg mí hort
 na how tyr laye y' loggir
 is me i vir clair coggi ort.
9. Mass se di corle vone
 vea gy' etta a olta rea
 a lawe rane ny' geil soñw
 fa sayn eir id chonw ai.
10. a chocullin clyнна zaltír
 one lair nor'wer nort sorve ? nar'wer.
 a lat is tranе gnwss re calle
 ne zane cuss falle orve.
11. Ne we tee er hoon na er herrin
 gy' eir lomsa a lacht taal
 na ha'nit lai i' nai' alt na'
 i' tayt zair zra'ta z . . . g. 3aegh EM.

12. Ní bhia mé i gcomaoin t'fhaladh,
giodh deacair linn dul fán nós ;
acht fá-ríor ar bhéad an bhagair
don mhéad díona tá agad fós.
13. Déar-sa riotsa, a mheic Shir Roibeirt, 1855
a Ghaoidheil nach críon fán chrodh,
fa mó an dfoth dhuit mo theagmháil
ná síoth agus beagán domh.
14. *Nárab* tusa thollas oram :
nimh na n-aoir ní an cogadh soirbh ; 1860
's fearr dhuit gach radháil ón teinidh
ná a gabháil mar eiridh oirbh.
15. Gé dhéana mé, mar as cosmhail,
do cháineadh mar dubhradh linn,
beag an fiach mo mhart ré mhaoidheamh, 1865
a thriath shlat na nGaoidheal ngrinn.
12. Ne wee myr a zomon tallyt
ga deggir linn dul fan noss dol EM.
ach for' er i' vaid air a bagre
din vaid dein id taggit foss. ? caggit.
13. De arsy^t ruttsa ve^e Sr^r robert
a geil na^t crein vin croyve
ffa mow i' dee zut mi hegwill
na see agus beggan doif.
14. g)na bi tussa a hollis orrim
neve ny' neir ney' goggi sorve
is far zut gi roo zail won tena
na zawal myr erri orve.
15. Ga zani me mir is cosswil
di chany^t ma'ss (?) dowry^t lynn
beg in faich mi vart ra veich
a thraie^t lat ny' geyl grinn.

12. I shall not leave thy grudge unpaid, though hard I deem it thus to act; but alas! for the threatened injury against all the defence thou still possessest.
13. I shall say to thee, son of Sir Robert, thou Gael who stintest not stock, it were a greater loss to thee to encounter me than to make peace and to grant me somewhat.
14. Let it not be thou who rousest my enmity: the venom of satires is no light warfare; better for thee to be scorched by fire than to take it on thee as a burden.
15. Though I, as is likely, dispraise thee as I have said, of small avail is my feud to boast of, thou lord of the princes of the goodly Gael.

16. Beag an geall duaise réir n-aoir-ne
 m'anam-sa fá h-éiric chroinn ;
 beag a bhrígh gach mac ag m'athair,
 a shíl shlat ó chathach Chonn. 1870
17. Ní h-amhail sin atá tusa,
 a mheic Ghaltair as fearr ciall,
 a lámh thréan ó fhine an domhain,
 nach d'éar file romhainn riamh.
18. Math mo dheadhail ré mo dhíomdha 1875
 orad do thaobh séad is []
 do dhá bhos mar aol gan []
 's an chos nár aom [].
19. Leór nimh mo theangadh gan ghríosad :
 mairg do ghríosadh í réim linn ; 1880
 a dhéad as geal, rún as gartha,
 is fearr gan súgh nathrach sinn.
16. beg in gyl dwsssy^t rair neir're
 marru'se fa heyrik chroinn
 beg a wree gi mak ag mat^hyr
 a heil slat a chaach^h choonn.
17. Ne hawil sen id ta tuss
 v^e caltyr is far kyil
 a laiwe thrayn o Inni i' doyn
 na^t dar filli royv(i).
18. Math mi 3yil re my^t 3eymma
 orrit di heve stheddais (solsa
 do 3ai woss myr eilla gin wrail
 sí chossa nar ymma teach 3oyle (?).
19. Loir nave mo hanga gin 3ressit
 marg a 3reissy^t ee reim linn
 a 3aid is gal rowne'na is gar'
 is far gin sow narre sinna.

16. Small promise of reward to my satire it were that my life should lie under ransom from spears; small the strength of all my father's sons, thou scion of the princes of warrior Conn's race.
17. Not so art thou, son of Walter who art best of sense, thou mighty hand of the world's kin, who never before us didst make refusal to a poet.
18. It were well that I part with my displeasure with thee in regard to jewels and []: thy two palms are (white) as lime (unspotted), and foot that [].
19. Enough is the venom of my tongue without inflaming: woe to him who should inflame it while I live; thou with tooth the whitest, of will the warmest, better it is that we lack the adder's venom.

XXV. A UGH DAR AN BARÚN
EÓGHAN MAC COMBAIGH

1. FADA dhomh an laighe-se,
allmhurach liom mo shláinte ;
bheirinn do luach leaghais bhuaim 1885
dá mbudh liom na táinte.
2. Táin bó Cuailnge, ceathra throm,
táin bó Dartá is bó Fliodhais
do-bheirinn is an tarbh trom,
dá mbudh liom, i luach leaghais. 1890
3. Greagh is eachraidh Mhanannáin,
claidheamh is corn mhic Cumhaill,
dúdach Mhanannáin bheirinn,
's ga bolga Chon Chulainn.
4. Ór Éibhir is Éireamhóin, 1895
's é bheith agam im chomhra,
cruit Chuircheoil do cheileadh brón,
agus sgiath ríogh na [].
5. Long Laoimein nár luime lí,
's í bheith agam ar cladach, 1900
do-bheirinn-se a h-uile chí
sul bhiam mar so ré fada.
6. Fada liom gan Alasdair
Mac an Tóisigh a theachta ;
dh'fhuaadaicheadh sé an galar-sa, 1905
nach beinn mar so ré fada.

Fada.

1d. Iwnn (*i.e.* linn) MS.]

3c. Doytdichy man allane warrin MS.]

4d. skayth reith ní gollnor MS.]

6c. Foddich schee MS.]

3a. Greyg^h MS.]

4c. cwrchoyll MS.]

5c. Di werrinsi MS.]

6d. nach beith MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS THE BARON
EÓGHAN MAC COMBAIGH

1. Long I deem this lie-abed ; my health is a stranger to me ; I would give the cattle-herds, were they mine, as fee for healing.
2. The cattle-drove of Cuailnge, cattle of weight, the cattle-drove of Dartaid and of Flidais ; all this I would give, and the weighty bull (of Cuailnge), as fee for healing, were they mine.
3. The horse-herds and steeds of Manannán, Fionn mac Cumhaill's sword and horn, and Manannán's trumpet I would give, and the spear of Cú Chulainn.
4. The gold of Éibhear and of Éireamhón, if I had it in my coffer, Cuircheól's harp that drove off grief, and the shield of the king of the [].
5. Laoimean's ship not less beautiful, if I had it on a shore ; I would give all I see rather than be thus for long.
6. Long I feel it that Alasdair Macintosh comes not ; he would banish this sickness from me, so that I should not be thus for long.

XXVI. A UGH DAR SO AN GIOLLA GLAS
MAC AN TÁILLIUIR

1. PARRTHAS toraidh an Díseart,
roileag chóir dá coimhdhílseacht ;
tá síleadh síorchnuas an fhuinn,
fine as fíoruasal foghlaim. 1910
2. Clann Ghriogóir oididhe dámh
do mhéaduigh Díseart Chonnán ;
do-chímse fám dhóigh nach beag
níor dhílse dhóibh an roileag.
3. Maith do chlaidhe uile an fhuinn 1915
daol meirbh itheas gach colainn ;
cúis m'uile i gerann gach codhnaigh,
na cuirp thá ann 'gá n-ollamhnaibh.
4. Bás Donnchaidh na n-arm solta 1920
thug brón ar mnáibh méarchorca ;
thuit taradh is ciall na slógh :
cara na gcliar ar dteastódh.
5. Mar smaoinim adhbhar gach bróin 1925
i ndiaidh Donnchaidh mheic Ghriogóir,
dh'fhág an tuirse bhalbh rém linn
gach cuisle marbh im intinn.
6. Badh chóir an chomhairle dhamh
ar an lic fá bhfuil Donnchadh,
beart nach b'uar le mo chraidhe,
buan ré fheart i gcomhnaidhe. 1930

Title : m^eyntal^r MS.]

2b. chonnane MS.]

5c. walae MS.]

1c. Ta WM., *rightly, as I think.*]

4d. testoych MS.]

6b. leic MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS THE GIOLLA GLAS,
SON OF THE TAILOR

1. A paradise of fruit is the Hermitage, a cemetery fit to be possessed in common ; there drop the soil's continual products, a stock right noble as to learning.
2. Clan Gregor, who nurture poets, have increased Connán's Hermitage ; yet I myself see in very truth that the cemetery hath not been theirs alone.
3. Well does he dig the soil all, the sluggish chafer that devoureth every corse ; cause of my hurt lieth in each lord's coffin, even the bodies that lie therein as the learned tell.
4. The death of comely-weaponed Duncan hath brought sorrow to rosy-fingered ladies ; he who enriched and wisely led the hosts is fallen, the poets' friend is dead.
5. As I ponder the matter of every sorrow since Duncan, Gregor's son, is gone, dumb mourning hath left each pulse dead within my spirit for my life's remainder.
6. Fit counsel it were for me, as I stand upon the slab that covers Duncan (my heart would not deem cold the deed), to abide ever by his grave.

7. Dá saoilinn go mb'é badh dluigh,
ionat éis, mar nach cosmhail,
bhiadh mo dháil go beacht san mhúr,
gé táim ón leacht ag iompúdh.
8. Truimide cách ar gcumha, 1935
tric ar mbrón 'gá beathughadh ;
nocha cuisle chiuil ar sógh
's an tuirse fúinn ag fadódh.
9. Bás Donnchaidh, badh shaoi do theast,
do theast oide na n-éigeas ; 1940
b'fhear gan choimmeas ag réir n-áidh,
mar ghréin shoileas um Urcháidh.
10. Cha do theast é uainn, ar linn :
mairid a dheighmheic againn ;
na glanshlata nach gann dreach, 1945
clannmhaicne as fearr fá einneach.
11. Ag tionól domh ar an dáil
ré dol i ngardha Chonnáin,
fáth rúin gach leacht fám oide,
mo shúil mar bheacht amaide. 1950
12. Sgile bhaothluaimneach fám choim
ré dol i ndlús an phobuil ;
[] an tuile ag teacht,
'gá bhfaicsin uile i n-éinfheacht.
13. Tuirseach a dteacht as gach taoibh, 1955
fillleadh go Inneoin Urchaoidh ;
tánaig tíom teachta a gcumha
mán líog ós leacht Donnchadha.
- 8a. gow MS.] 8d. faddoo MS.] 9d. vm vrquhaye MS.]
10d. clann v'ne is farri fa heannich (*probably ; exact reading of last
word doubtful*) MS.]
11a. er in dail MS.]
12. Scille bay^t loynich fa cwme / re dol in dlws a phobbill / Atteim lay
in twll a teacht / gin vagsin wlli neynneacht MS.]
13. Tursyth a teacht os gi teiv / philli gow Innin wrquheic / Hanik teym
teacht a gow / myn leig oss leac Dunchow MS.]

14. Do-chunncas tú ré mo linn,
a fhir nach bhfuil 'gam chlaistinn. 1960
nach biadh daol ag casgairt ort
is gasraidh laoch id longphort.
15. Níor argain tú i gcogadh creach
féadáil fileadh ná cléireach ; 1965
b'fhear gan réim feall do chraidbe
ar spréidh cheall nó chomraighe.
16. San aimsir bhá réd linn ann,
an reacht i gcomas coitcheann ;
ar gach riaghail badh ghnáth lais,
iarmhais cách iona éagmhais. 1970
17. Muirne is aoibhneas an domhain,
urraim dámh is ollamhain,
na dáimhe nár mheirbh a ndreach,
feidhm is áireamh is eineach.
18. Tearc Gaoidheal do chosnamh áidh 1975
mar fhuair Donnchadh mac Griogóir :
rath comhlán ó bharr go bun,
mar chrann lomlán do thoradh.
19. Fhuair fear cosnaimh gach muirne 1980
rath grás, aisge comhairle ;
rath céille gan chron a bhos,
rath réime ag dol go parrthas.
20. Rath creiche ag dáil don domhan
fhuair cófra na n-ollamhan ;
cha do mheath ar grás an fhir 1985
ó bhreath go a bhás 'na aimsir.
21. I Loch Toilbhe na learg dte
ionann adhbhar ar dtuirse :
tha riar an reachta im ghoire,
ag triall ó leacht t'aoghaire (?). 1990
- 15a. Neir argin tow in goggi creach MS.] 16a. Sin MS.]
19d. rass MS.] 21b. dursyacht *deleted* for dursa MS.]

14. I have seen thee in my time, thou man that hearest me not, in such wise that chafers would not be mangling thee, while thy stronghold held a warrior retinue.
15. In warfare of forays, thou didst not harry the gear of poets or of churchmen ; thou wert a man whose heart harboured no treacherous course against the stock of churches or of sanctuary.
16. In the time that was while thou didst live, laws were within common reach ; as to each rule which was his wont, all men, lacking him, are but as a remnant.
17. The whole world's love and joy were his ; he had reverence from poets and men of learning, the poet-bands not weak of aspect ; his were power and high repute and honour.
18. Few are the Gaels to win fortune such as was won by Duncan, Gregor's son ; he was of grace compact from crown to sole, as a tree with fruit full laden.
19. This man, who won all love, was endowed with grace and gift of counsel ; he had grace of wisdom without fault while here below ; grace sped his course as he went to paradise.
20. The coffers of the learned won fortune of spoil while to the world he made distribution ; the man's gracious qualities lessened not from birth to death throughout his time.
21. At Loch Toilbhe of sunny slopes equal is our cause of lamentation ; he who fulfilled the law lieth nigh me, as I journey from the grave that guardeth thee (?).

22. Guidhidh mé aingeal an áidh
i ndiaidh Dhonnchaidh mheic Ghriogóir
gan chathas san slighe a bhos,
acht flathas nimhe is parrthas.

Parrthas.

23. An ló-s' do claidheadh feart trom
don inghin dh'altruim Dubhghall ;
gé tá an adhbha cóir le tlacht,
is adhbhar bróin dá bantracht.

1995

24. A nd'rinn sí d'dhéirc ar domhan,
do réir dhámh is ollamhan,
go dtogthar don mhíonghlain mhais
i dtobar fíorghlan pharrthais.

2000

22a. *naw deleted for nayghe MS.]*22d. *faass MS.]*

22. I pray the angel of bliss, now that Duncan, Gregor's son, is dead, that he have no vigil on the way here below, but win the kingdom of heaven and paradise.

23. On this day was dug a weighty tomb for the maiden reared by Dugall; though the abode is meet and goodly, it is cause of grief to her women.

24. What of charity she hath shown on earth in pleasuring poet-bands and learned, may it rise up for the comely lady, fair and gentle, in the pure fount of paradise.

XXVII. A UGH DAR SO DUBHGHALL MAC
AN GHIOLLA GHLAIS

1. RÍOGHACHT ghaisgidh oighreacht Eoin,
is aistreach dá dheoin a ghníomh,
ní nach fhuil 'na bhriocht do chách, 2005
fuair iona riocht a sáth ríogh.
2. Mac Griogóir na gcraoiseach ngéar,
taoiseach as tréan ar gach tír :
idir thóir agus creich Ghall
is dóigh a bheith go mall mín. 2010
3. Éinrinn ghaisgidh Gaoidheal nGréag,
leis nár maoidheadh méad a chlú ;
fear as fearr ágh agus iocht,
an lámh a tír sliocht an rú.
4. Scabhag déidgheal na dtrí ngleann. 2015
leis an léigthear geall gach gníomh ;
lámh as cródha i gcathaibh cniocht,
flath as córa don t-sliocht ríogh.
5. Ar mhac Phádraig na ngruaidh ndearg
'n uair ásas fearg i n-uair éacht, 2020
na h-álaidh do-bheir 'na diaidh
nocha slánuigh an liaigh Céacht.
6. Ua Mhaoil Choluim na ndearc gcorr,
ní sgaradh ré ór gan díth ;
giolla dámhach sochrach seang, 2025
an lámh as fearr um gach ní.

4c. knich MS.] 4d. tlich MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS DUGALL, SON OF THE
GIOLLA GLAS

1. A kingdom of valour is the inheritance of John ; of his own will his deed travelleth far, a matter that for others is not within the compass of a spell ; in his person hath that kingdom found its fitting king.
2. MacGregor of keen spears, a mighty captain over every land ; in the time between his pursuit and spoiling of Saxons, his wont is to be stately and gentle.
3. Unique star of valour among the Grecian Gael, who hath vaunted not his fame's renown ; a man the best in battle and in mercy, a hand from the land of prince's stock.
4. White-toothed hawk of the three glens, by whom is laid the wager of every deed ; hand most warlike in battles of knights, a prince the justest of the royal race.
5. When wrath waxeth in hour of exploits on Patrick's red-cheeked son, the leech Céacht doth not heal the wounds that he dealeth thereafter.
6. Grandson of Malcolm of rounded eyes, who parteth from his gold without stint ; a young man slender, lovable, to whom poet-bands resort, the hand that is best for every deed.

7. Aicme Ghriogóir timchioll Eoin,
ní mír ceilte a bhfeoil 's a bhfíon ;
drong bhreathach ar nach léir locht :
badh greathach gort mar *a mbíodh*. 2030
8. Clann Ghriogóir an dream nach tréith,
'n-am nach beidís réidh ré rígh ;
Goill, gíodh fuileachtach na fir,
ní chuireadh siad sin i mbrígh.
9. Ní mó leó Gaoidhil ná Goill, 2035
na saoirfhir ó *chloinn* an ríogh ;
aicme Ghriogóir na gcolg gcruaidh
ó bhorb shluagh ní ghabhadh sníomh.
10. Branán foirne na bhfear bhfial
oighre Ghriogóir na srian n-óir ; 2040
olc do dhuine ara ndéin creach :
meisde do neach théid 'na thóir.
11. Flath Ghlinne Líomhunn na lann,
sgiath bhríoghmhor nach gann ré cléir ;
lámh mar Osgar is gach cath : 2045
is dá as cosmhail an flath féin.
12. Urraim einigh dá ghruaidh dheirg
do fhuair gan cheilg mar as cóir,
ar dhíolmhanacht do gach neach,
ar thíodhlacadh each is óir. 2050
13. Mac Griogóir an teaghlaigh ghrinn,
ní h-iongnadh linn 'na chúirt ciar ;
ní fhoil coimneas dá ucht geal
acht an fear 'gá roibh an Fhian.
14. Ag sin trí freiteacha Finn : 2055
breith a ghill ní facas riamh ;
lámh badh mhath iorghail i ngréis ;
dob ionmhain leis fuileach fiadh.
- 7d. is gray^t (gnay^t ?) gort mir a hee MS.]
14a. frettythchi MS.]

7. The clan of Gregor around John, no hidden portion is their flesh and their wine ; a discerning folk on whom no blemish is seen ; clamorous was the battle-field wheresoever they were.
8. The race of Gregor is a folk not weak when a king and they are not at one ; Saxons, though they be bloody men, our warriors set them at naught.
9. Of Gael they reckon no more than of Saxon, those free-born men of the King's race ; Gregor's clan of hard swords, they were not dismayed by a fierce host.
10. King of the company of generous men is Gregor's heir of golden bridles ; ill for the man on whom he makes a foray, the worse therefor is he who pursues his spoil.
11. Glen Lyon's prince of sword-blades, a shield of might unstinting to poets ; a hand like Oscar in every fight, 'tis unto him the prince is like.
12. Honour due for generosity he hath won for his red cheek, without guile, as is meet, for dispensing liberality to every man, for bestowing steeds and gold.
13. MacGregor of steadfast household, no wonder do we deem it that poets are in his court ; to his white breast there is none to compare saving him who led the Fian.
14. Here are the three matters vowed by Fionn ; winning of his wager was never seen ; a hand good at quarrel in a fray ; he well loved the stag a-bleeding.

15. Cosmhail a mhín is a mhodh
ris an rígh 'gá robh an Fhian ; 2060
ré h-ádh Mheic Ghriogóir na gcreach
do-bheir rádh gach neach a mhian.
16. Math as cubhaidh a rosg gorm
ré mac Cumhail na gcorn bhfiar ;
ionann a n-uabhar fá *fhíon* (?) 2065
agus a rún ag díol chliar.
17. Ionann a suirghe is a sealg,
riú is cuibhdhe ceard na bhFian :
atá an rath ar sliocht an rú,
is math a gelú is a gciall. 2070
18. Eineach is eangnamh is iocht
do ceangladh ar a sliocht riamh ;
fíon agus ciar agus mil,
a mian sin le sealgaibh fiadh.
19. Fine Eoin as gasta gníomh, 2075
iad mar mhacaibh ríogh na *bhFian* ;
agus Eoin mar an Fionn fáidh,
'na chionn ar gach dáimh dá *riar*.
20. Giodh oirdhearc libh flaitheas Finn,
do caitheadh ré linn na bhFian ; 2080
's ar mhac Phádraig atá an rath :
do sháruigh sé gach math *riamh*.
21. Mac Griogóir na dtochar dteann,
ceann sochar ceall agus ciar ;
taobh seang ara mbraitheadh bean, 2085
ó Ghleann Sraithe na bhfear bhfiar.
- 16c. fa din M'L., *apparently rightly.*
17d. a glow is a g . . . (*cut off*) MS. ; is a geyl M'L.]
18a. Ennych is angnow MS.] 19b. re ni . . . (*cut off*) MS.]
19d. dawe a . . . (*cut off*) MS.] 20a. lew MS.]
20d. di *deleted before* haryth MS.] gi machayr WM. ; *I see only*
gi mach . . . , math . . . ?]

15. Like to the king who led the Fian are his gentleness and his courtesy ; while lasts the fortune of MacGregor of forays, each man's word brings him his desire.
16. Well doth his blue eye match Cumhall's son of curving goblets ; alike their pride over wine, and their goodwill in requiting poets.
17. Alike their wooing and their hunting ; meet for them is the Fian's trade ; grace dwells upon the prince's race ; good is their fame and good their sense.
18. Generosity and prowess and mercy have been bound on their lineage ever ; wine and honey and waxen candles, these are their desire, together with hunting of the deer.
19. John's kindred, of comely deeds, are as the youths of the king of Fian, and John is as the seer Fionn, the head of bounty to every poet-band.
20. Though illustrious you deem the sway of Fionn, which was spent in the time of the Fian, it is on Patrick's son that grace dwelleth : he hath outdone every noble ever.
21. MacGregor of tough frays, source of benefits to churches and to poets, slender side which a lady would note, from Glen Strac of liberal men.

22. Córaide dhúinn breith le Eoin,
 is neithe dá dheoin do-ní,
 ag tiodhlacadh each is óir,
 fá seach, mar as cóir i rígh. 2090

23. Rí nimhe *Mac Muire Óigh*
 dlighidh mar as dóigh mo dhíon ;
 mo bhreith san chathair gan cheilt,
 i bhfeil Athair Mheic an Ríogh.

Ríoghacht ghaisgidh.

23d. v'in re. Reicht 3asga MS.]

22. The fitter it is for us to judge in John's favour, that what he doeth is of his will, when he bestoweth steeds and gold on each in turn, as is meet in a king.

23. The King of Heaven, Son of Mary Virgin, doth deign to guard me as is right ; may I be borne to the city which is not concealed, wherein dwelleth the Father of the Son of the King.

A kingdom of valour.

XXVIII. A UGH DAR SO DONNCHADH
MAC DUBHGHAILL MHAOIL

1. AITHRIS fhréimhe ruanaidh Eoin 2095
mac Pádraig nár chnead ceallóir ;
[] 'gá fhine an fhir ann,
[] a chine do charsam.
2. Tearc aithris a fhine ann 2100
d'uaislibh Gaoidheal ná glanGhall,
focht na fréimhe agá bhfuil
do locht léighthe na leabhar.
3. Barail díleas damh is dáibh 2105
feadh *Aird an Easgair* Urcháidh
an fhuil ríoghda a gcoimhdhe chóir
i n-oighre gríobhdha Ghriogóir.
4. Mithigh a rádh réd rosg glas, 2110
éistidh, a Eoin, réd sheanchas,
ríomh do fhréimhe—cá meisde ?—
ríoghda séimhe saoirtheisde.
5. Pádraig th'athair aithnid duid ;
Maol Coluim athair Phádraig ;
mac Eoin Duibh nár dhubh bráighe :
dluigh a chur san chéadáireamh.
6. Eoin eile athair Eoin Duibh, 2115
mac Griogóir mheic Eoin ághmhoir ;
cia triar feardha fa féile ?
triar Teamhra na troimchléire.

1b. callor (*with callwym written as an emendation in margin*) MS.]
1c. Na weym ga inni MS.] 1d. mane a kinne MS.]
3b. fey ard in eskar oorcht MS.]
4b. esty^t MS.] 5d. cheadarre MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS DUNCAN, SON OF
DUGALL MAOL

1. The repetition of a heroic stock is John, son of Patrick, who hath been no churchman's moan ; [we should not be dealing with ?] his line, [were it not that ?] we have loved his kin.
2. Rare is the counterpart of his line among the nobles of the Gael or of the bright Saxons, who make enquiry of his lineage from those who are readers of books.
3. My firm opinion, and theirs, throughout Ard an Easgair of Orchy, is that the royal blood of the heroic heir of Gregor is their lawful security.
4. Fit time it is to state to thee, thou of the blue eyes (hearken, John, to thy history), the enumeration of thy line—what harm therein ?—a line royal, gentle, of noble repute.
5. Patrick thy father is known to thee ; Malcolm was the father of Patrick, son of John the Black, not black of breast : it is right to place him in the foremost count.
6. Another John was father of John the Black, son of Gregor, son of John the valorous. What three manly men were more generous ?—three men of Tara of the weighty band of poets.

7. Athair an Eoin sin eól neach,
Maol Coluim nár cheil eineach ; 2120
mac Donnchaidh Bhig nár bheag réim :
onchoin ar nach dtig taibhéim.
8. Donnchadh eile a athair sin,
mac Giolla Fhaoláin Oirchill,
dá shaorshlait nár dhúr ré dáimh, 2125
mheic Aodha úir ó Urcháidh.
9. Conán na gcuireadh ngábhaidh
athair Aodha Urchádhaigh,
úa Ailpín an gairgmhéin glan,
airdrí na mbailcbhéim mbríoghmhor. 2130
10. So ceathramh tuaras, is tuig,
umad, a oighre Phádraig :
cuimhnigh cairtmhíl fád chéibh dtruim,
úa Ailpín oighre Dubhghaill.
11. Fear ar fhichid is tú a dhíth, 2135
ó Eoin Dubh nach dubh cridhe,
do cheart sheanchas is é soin
go Fearghus mac Earc ághmhoir.
12. Id chineadh nach críon ré fóir
is é a líon do ghabh coróin 2140
dá fhichead agus triúr ríogh :
dlightear a n-iúl san airdríomh.
13. Trí tuaithir, trí deisir *dhóibh*
i ndiaidh Mhaoil Choluim Cheannmhóir ;
dá chóigear choróin a chín 2145
ó Mhaol Choluim go hAilpín.

9d. balkvey^m MS.] 10a. ca'row MS.]

12a. foor MS. ; sooir WM.]

13a. tree toair tre dessir roe MS.]

13c. a cheine *written above* 3a cheir *which is deleted* MS.]

7. The father of that John one knoweth, even Malcolm who hid not generous action, son of Duncan the Little, not little of fame : war-hounds untouched by stain of blame.
8. His father was another Duncan, son of Giolla Faoláin of Oirchill (noble wands twain, not harsh to poet-band), who was son of vigorous Aodh of Orchy.
9. Conán of venturous troops was father of Aodh of Orchy, scion of Ailpín the brilliant, stern of temper, high-king of mighty blows puissant.
10. Here is a quatrain I have found concerning thee, thou heir of Patrick, and do thou understand ; have in mind the chartered warrior under thy heavy locks, thou scion of Ailpín, heir of Dugall.
11. A score and one, excluding thee, from John the Black, who was not black of heart : such is thy history aright, up to Fergus son of Erc the warlike.
12. In thy line, not niggard to help, the number who assumed a crown hath been kings two score and three : in the high enumeration knowledge of them is meet.
13. Three in the north, three in the south were there, after Malcolm Canmore ; twice five crowns is the tale from Malcolm to Ailpín.

14. Ó Ailpín suas is é a mheas
ceithre fir dhéag go Fearghus :
cá líon do sheanchas mar sin ?
ríomh go Fearghus is féidir. 2150

15. Iomdha fíonfhuil fád shúil tais
nach áirmheamar 's nár áirmhis :
dobadh sgíth sgoil dá sgéalaibh,
gach rí fhoil fát fhírréamhaibh.

16. Fuil Artúir fát earla fionn, 2155
maith do chumhdaigh do chuisleann ;
fuil Chuinn, fuil *Chonaill* fád chneas,
dá thuinn toraidh na n-éigeas.

17. Fuil Ghrantach mád ghruaidh mar fhuil,
fuil Néill nimheamhail neartmhoir ; 2160
gairgmhín a gcéim is gach greis :
do réim, a airdrí, a n-aithris.

Aithris.

[15b. awrrwmor MS.] [15d. fa teirrawg MS.]

[16d. ho'rin ny' neg . . . MS.]

14. From Malcolm upwards their number known is fourteen men to Fergus. To what number then doth thy lineage extend? Reckoning may be made up to Fergus.
15. Many a strain of wine-blood floweth under thy soft eye that we have counted not and that thou hast counted not; a whole school would weary to tell the tale of all the kings who underlie thy true roots.
16. The blood of Arthur is under thy fine locks, well has it furnished thy veins; the blood of Conn, the blood of Conall is beneath thy skin, two waves of fruitfulness to poets.
17. The blood of Grants is the blood that is in thy cheek, the blood of Niall, death-dealing and mighty; stern yet gentle was their course in every fray; thy course, thou high-king, is their repetition.

XXIX. AUCTOR HUIUS AN BARD
MAC AN T-SAOIR

1. CRÉAD í an long-sa ar Loch Inse,
nó an bhféadtar a h-airinnse ?
créad thug an long ar an loch, 2165
's nach féad an fonn a folach ?
2. A fhiafruighe dob áil leam,
cia lér léigeadh an laoidheang
ar an loch fa lán feirge ;
giodh moch fa dál díbhfeirge. 2170
3. An garbhghaoth do bharr beinne,
nó an síonta searbh sruithghlinne,
dh'fhuadaigh an carbh ón chladach
ar an chuan gharbh ghuasachtach ?
4. Óglaoich do-chonnaic an carbh 2175
ar an sruth uathmhar agarbh,
ciod é a h-iongnadh nó a h-innse,
nó a fiodhradh dá foirinnse ?
5. Seanlong gan iarnaí gan dair,
níor fhidir sinne a samhail ; 2180
aonlong í do leathar lán :
go tuinn ní h-eathar iomlán.

1b. vead' (*i.e.* veadír) a haithrynsyth MS.]

1d. ní fwnni (*i.e.* na fuinn) MS.]

2b. in ley^tin MS.] 2c. fergit^t MS.]

2d. git^t mu^t fa dail deveit MS.]

3a. In g^twe MS.] 3d. 3oyssydy^t MS.]

4cd. Keddey a heny^t na hynsy^t na feyry^t 3a forrinsy^t MS.]

5b. ner idd' (*i.e.* iddir) MS.] sawilt (*i.e.* samhailt) MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS THE BARD MACINTYRE

1. What ship is this on Loch Inch, or can it be reported ?
What has brought the ship on the loch, that the land
can not conceal it ?

2. I would ask by whom the galley was launched on the
loch full angry ; though it was early, the loch was full
of wrath.

3. Was it a rough wind from mountain peak, or was it
bitter blasts from a watery glen, that drove the
vessel from the shore on the rough dangerous sea ?

4. Thou youth who sawest the vessel on the dread
tempestuous stream, what is its marvellousness or its
description or its timbers to be related ?

5. An old ship without anchors, without oak timber ; we
have not known its like ; she is all one ship of leather :
she is not a ship complete for sea-going.

6. Buid do sgiathaibh daológ ndubh
ó a corraibh síos 'na sliosuibh ;
tairngí gan fuamadh 'gá fuaim,
ar an bhuchain aird ionnfhuair. 2185
7. Créad é an lucht úd san luing dhuibh
'gá tarraing idir tonnaibh ?
an lucht gan chaidreabh gan chéill,
bantracht an aigne aimhréidh. 2190
8. Buidhean bhrosagalach bhruidhneach
labhar dhuanach dhíochuimhneach
shiorrach chonasach chíocrach
ghionach dhona dhroichíotach.
9. Drochlorg as labhrach fá leann,
cóisreach cleamhnánach coitcheann ;
fleasg a geomhrádhá gan chonn,
measgach amhránach éadtrom. 2195
10. Cóisir thóghharbh na dtoll te
má dhá shlios Locha hInse,
do bualadh san luing go léir
ar dhruim uaraidh an aigbhéil. 2200
11. Bean mhaith ní lamhadh san luing,
lughaide a h-éigean againn :
bíd na mná as measa ar an mhuir
feasta gan chách 'gá gcabhair. 2205
12. Ruagthar an long as an loch
ar an sál sruthgharbh siubhlach,
gaoth i leanmhain na luinge
go sean [] na []. 2210

6d. er a woy^tchin MS.] 7d. baantry^t in nakny^t MS.]

8b. lawir downy^t dechewny^t MS.]

8c. scherry^t conmissy^t keikry^t MS.]

8d. gynnith downi^t droch zety^t MS.]

9c. Flesk in goara gin choonn MS.]

10c. Di boyllit MS.] 11c. mnā is messi^t MS.]

12d. gow senn row ní sarimny^t MS.]

6. Boards of the wings of black beetles from her stem downwards in her sides ; nails without grip joining her together, on the high chill ocean.
7. What is yon crew in the black ship, pulling her among the waves ?—A crew without fellowship, without sense, a woman-band of mind disordered.
8. A band loud-voiced and talkative, loquacious, chanting, negligent ; flighty, quarrelsome, greedy, ravenous, evil, of ill desires.
9. A bad stock, wordy over ale, given to feasting, match-making and common ; the thread of their discourse is without sense, they are drunken, songful, light-headed.
10. A party thick-rumped and lascivious is that around the two sides of Loch Inch ; they have all been cast into the ship, on the chill ridge of the sea.
11. A good woman would not venture into the ship—the less, methinks, her danger ; the worst of women are ever on the sea, with none other helping them.
12. Let the ship be chased from out the loch on to the briny stream, rough and swift ; wind be in the ship's wake to the old [].

13. Fágmaid ar an sruth síonach
 an long dhona dhroichdhíonach,
 's a lán do bhantracht na mbéad
 san sál gan salm gan sáilchréad.

Créad.

13a. ffaikmy' . . . sei'nyt MS.]

13d. sin taaill (*i.e.* san t-sál) MS.]

13. Let us leave on the stormy stream the evil leaky ship,
and its load of noxious women, in the brine, without
psalm or sea-creed.

XXX. A UGH DAR SO AN BARD
MAC AN T-SAOIR

1. *TÁNAIG* long ar Loch Raithneach 2215
go h-urchóideach ionnsaightheach,
go h-aistreach éadtrom earlamh
fairsing déadlach doidhealbhach.
2. An long soin do luadhtar linn 2220
níor chum cumadóir romhainn ;
córaide a h-iongnadh d'innse,
cia a fiodhradh dá foirinnse.
3. Buird do dhuilleógaibh dreasa 2225
ó chorraibh a caoimhshleasa ;
[]
tairngí dreasa 'gá dlúthadh.

(A HOUD)YR SOO Y' BARD M^oYNTEIR

1. Da zanyth longga er loch razny^t
gy^t hvrchody^t hynnscyth
ga hastry^t edrome arlow
fassing dedly^t doydalve.
2. In long sen da loyir lind
neir chom comiddoyr roy^tin
coirrit a heny^t dinsy^t
ka feiry^t da forrinsyht.
3. Bwrđ da dżulloga drissy^t
oo chorrewy^t keyve liss
ard ey^t vona a mest mowe
targny^t drissy^t ʒa dlovy^t.

dlwy^t EM.

4. Reanga láir do luachair chrín,
 totaí coiseóga cláirmhín ;
 ráimh do sgealbaibh raithnigh ruaidh
 ré gráin na fairgí fionnfhuair. 2230
5. Crann siuil do chuilcnibh calma
 ré muir dúrdha danarra ;
 tá slat bhréan ar gcúl an chrainn,
 connlán dúr ar a [].
6. Cáblaí do chaithibh eórna 2235
 ar srothaibh 'gá sírsheóladh ;
 seól sreabhainn ris an chairbh dhuibh,
 deabhaidh searbh ag na srothaibh.
7. Long na ndrochbhan adeir cách
 ris an luing go gcruth neamhghnách ; 2240
 cóir tuilleadh san lucht san luing
 ré h-ucht tuinne dá tarraing.
4. Ranga lair dha lothyr chrein
 tow^t tyni cossoga clarweine
 raive dhi skalby^t ranny^t royve
 ra graneny^t farg fynnoyr.
5. Crand swille di chvlkna chalma
 re mvr doyrira dannira
 slat vrane er kowl i chryne
 cwlane dour er a done(w). donem . . . EM.
6. Cabla dhi chaith orna
 er sroifew ga seir hoilla
 soil srayvin rissin charve 3oe
 dawif sarve agna sroifew. ? daivif.
7. Long nyn dro^t wan ader cath
 rissin lwng gyn (?) grow noynigh
 coyr twllu sy^t lwcht sin lwng
 re hwch twnny^t 3a torrin. noynigh from EM.
 torrm WM.

4. Stringers of withered rushes, thwarts of smooth flat stalks of grass ; oars of red bracken shavings, to cope with the chill and horrid sea.
5. The mast is of stout reeds, against a sea surly and savage ; behind the mast is a rotten yard ; a surly crew are upon her [].
6. Cables of barley husks as she sails ever on the currents ; the black ship stretches a sail of tissue, while the currents ply a bitter strife.
7. The ship of evil women is the name that all have for the ship of strange shape ; the ship's crew should by rights be more, to drive her against the wave.

8. Na mná measgacha mórdha
'na deireadh ar drochcomhrádh ;
sál tar a leas annsan luing, 2245
freastal gan ádh gan urraim.
9. Na mná loma náireach soin
ar leabaidh draighin deacair ;
taom tar a gcois annsan gcairbh,
brosnadh ar an ghaoith ghléghairbh. 2250
10. Na mná labhrach ar gach leth
dí ar [] na cairbhe,
iona ngurrach ré taobh tonn,
gaoth [] fuighleach focal.
11. Na mná coitcheann corra soin 2255
ós cionn cáich annsan gcrann-soin,
a ndeireadh ré gaoith *na ngleann*,
dlaoi teineadh fá *dtimcheall*.
8. Ni mnaa messgacha morra
na derri er dro^tcoyr
sail ter *in* less ansan lwng
frestil gin aw gin vrrwme.
9. Ni mnaa loma narrew sen
er lappi dryin degvir dryni WM.
tymi^t her *in* goss andsy^t gerve ? tyni^t
brossne er in geith gleyzerve.
10. Ni mnã lawry^t er ga la
dei er kenkne ni carvi
in gwry^t re teve toyne
gei^t fuily^t fokkil.
11. Ni mnã cotkin coirsen
oss kinn *chatk* ansy^t gransin
in derry^t re gei^t glann
dlei^t teiny^t fann . . .
dlei^t tomy^t fann
denne EM.

8. The women, drunken and haughty, talk naughtily in her stern ; the brine comes over their thighs in the ship ; their service is luckless and without esteem.
9. These naked shameful women lie painfully upon a bed of thorn ; the bilge flows over their feet in the vessel ; the stormy wind hurries them on.
10. The babbling women stand on each side of her upon the vessel's [], cowering beside the billows ; a blast [] of babbling words.
11. These women, common and odd, are above the rest on that mast ; their rear exposed to the wind of the glens, while around them is a blaze of fire.

12. Na mná uaibhreacha uile
i dtopchrann na caomhluinge, 2260
gan [] gan chairrge dhe
acht fairrge *ag* fadódh feirge.
13. Torann tréan annsan mhuir mhóir,
fearg ar iarmhaint an aieoir ;
an cuthach ar cairrgibh clach, 2265
sruth *na* fairrge 'gá folach.
14. Frasa garbha ré gaoith Mháirt,
cairrge loma mán luathbháirc ;
fraoch ar tosgaraibh *na* dtonn,
gaoth ag brosnadh má dtiomchall. 2270
15. Anfadh garbh ré gaoith shneachta
'gá gceasadh mán chuideachta ;
go muir [] is í nach tiugh ;
long shalach tá má dtimcheall.

12. Ni mnã oyry^t vlyt
in dopchrann ni cheive lwnge
gin chaddo gin cha^tga zai
ach farg fada i fergi.

13. Torrin trane ansy^t mvrre mor
fark er eirvintew in nayor
cwthy^t er cargw chlach
srow farg ga fally^t.

14. Ffrassi gharve re geit^t varte
cargy^t lommi man lowark
frei^t er tossgirrew tonn
geit^t y^t brossny^t man dymchil.

15. Onnow garve re geit^t nacht
za gasy' man cwtdy^tta
gow mvr taath^t assina^t teg
long saly^t tait^tha man dymchil.

? caath.

12. These insolent women all are on the topmast of the fair ship ; there is no [] nor rock, but the ocean kindling its wrath.

13. Mighty thunder on the great sea, the firmament of the air is wrathful ; the stony rocks rage ; the ocean's current conceals the ship.

14. Rough showers with March wind ; bare rocks surround the swift bark ; the processions of waves are angry ; the wind urges on around them.

15. Rough tempest with wind and snow steepens the waves around the company ; against a [stormy] sea she is no stout craft ; it is a dirty ship that holds them.

16. Idir cheann is chois is láimh 2275
 gan díoth díola ar na drochmhnáibh ;
 ar cígh chuain ar cairde a mach
 ar fairrge bhrígh ón bhfadódh.
17. Tá lán Luicifeir i luing
 Mheic Cailéin, Donnchaidh dhearccuirr, 2280
 ar ghalraighe ar ghnáth ar dhath,
 do mhnáibh na ndéarna ndathta.
16. Eddir kenn is chossi is laif
 gyn de deilli er ni drothmnā
 er cheit chone er charda mach
 er varga vreit won vaddi.
17. Tai lan lessiver mi long
 m^e challan dunca derchor
 er 3alrai er 3naig er 3at/
 di wnā my^t darna dat/ta. ? nyt.

16. Both hand and foot and head, these women suffer no lack of due requital, out on the ocean's breast storm-stayed in a strong sea.
17. In the ship of MacCailéin, round-eyed Duncan, there is a devil's load, for sickliness, for habits, for hue, of women with dyed palms.

XXXI. ISEABAL NÍ MHEIC CAILÉIN

1. *Is mairg dá ngalar an grádh,*
gé bé fáth fá n-abrainn é ;
deacair sgarachtainn ré pháirt ; 2285
truagh an cás i bhfeilim féin.
2. *An grádh-soin tugas gan fhios,*
ó's é mo leas gan a luadh,
mara bhfaigh mé furtacht tráth,
biaidh mo bhláth go tana truagh. 2290
3. *An fear-soin dá dtugas grádh,*
's nach féadtar a rádh ós n-aird,
dá gcuireadh sé mise i bpéin,
gomadh dó féin bhus céad mairg.

Mairg.

3b. fead' (*i.e.* feadir) MS.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS ISABEL OF ARGYLL

1. Alas for him whose sickness is love, for what cause soever I should say it ; hard it is to be free of it ; sad is the plight in which I am myself.
2. That love which I have given in secret, since it profits me to declare it not : if I find not quick relief, my bloom will be slight and meagre.
3. He to whom I have given love, since I cannot speak it openly, if me he should put in pain, may himself have cause to say a hundred times, alas !

XXXII. [CIALLACH DUINE FÍORUASAL]

1. CIALLACH duine fíoruasal 2295
 gé do-chuaidh sé ré faoighe ;
 magadh mór do dhíothshloinneach
 bheith 'g iarraidh dol le ríogha.
2. Éistibh dhíom d'ur magaireacht,
 a shíl bodach is searrach, 2300
 's a liuthad ceannphort baganta
 leis a mbudh lánmhath m'fheadhan.
3. Folamhail mé Chloinn Dubhghaill,
 buidhean as dáimheil comhrádh ;
 gé táid go gargdha gasta, 2305
 ní asta dhéanainn foghnamh.
4. Comhdhalta mé Mic Cailéin
 bheir ór go rath ré'r cliaraibh ;
 créad fáth má mbeinn go múchnach ?
 tá mo dhúthaigh i nIarlaidh. 2310
5. Tá mo dhúthchas i nIarlaidh,
 iarua mé do Chloinn Domhnaill ;
 ionnua mé Chloinn Ghill-Eathain,
 bheireadh na catha comhraig.
6. Mac Duibh-shíthe Cholbhasa, 2315
 cha b'é fá-ríor mo shloinnte,
 agus Mac Néill a Barraidh,
 glan uasal a chuid sloinnte.
7. Mac Niadh táinig fám chuimhne,
 agus Mac Suibhne féidhmeach ; 2320
 Clann Leoid agus Clann Raghnaill,
 na cinn fheadhna ón dtáinig.

1a. Kellith goint eir'ossil MS.]

2c. Is a lewit MS.]

2d. less a be MS. ; m'feitin WM.]

6a. M'eo ffeit' MS.]

1. A true nobleman is prudent, though he has taken to thigging ; it is a great absurdity for a man without pedigree to seek to go with kings.
2. Listen now, and cease your mocking, ye seed of old men and colts, since there are so many active chieftains who would like well to own my kindred.
3. I am akin to Clan Dugall, a company kindly of converse ; though they are fierce and brave, it is not on them I would depend.
4. I am foster-fellow of Mac Cailéin, who gives gold and fortune to our poet-bands ; what cause have I to be gloomy ? My native land is in Airlie.
5. My ancestral country is in Airlie, I am a great-grandson of Clan Donald ; I am a descendant of Clan Maclean, who waged many a battle.
6. Macfee of Colonsay, it was no sorrow to have him in my ancestry, and MacNeill of Barra, fair and noble his descent.
7. MacNee came under my recollection, and valorous MacSween ; Clan Leod and Clan Ranald, the chiefs from whom I sprang.

8. Catánaigh agus Tóisigh
gé táid dhomhsa 'na gcairdibh,
Camshrónaigh is Clann Ghriogóir, 2325
na fir a Brághaid Alban.
9. Stiúbhartaigh giodh fairsing iad,
sgaoilte fán chruinne chathach,
is seinsgéal cinnteach casluath,
's díobh tá seanmháthair m'athar. 2330
10. I mBoth-fuidir 's Bráid Alban
tá mo chairdean go líonmhor ;
fir Chomhghaill 'g teacht im choinnibh,
bídh iadsan 'namo shloinneadh.
11. Clann Lachlainn is Clann Laghmainn, 2335
Clann Néill ré foghlaim ghaisgidh,
cairdean domhsa Clann Támhais
ar bhun 's ar bhrághaid Ghlasaigh.
12. Na fir bheaga bhaganta
bhitheas ar Srath na Tíora, 2340
taidhlim Mac Dhubhghaill Chreignis,
is caraid domh Mac Íomhair.
13. Gill-Eoin tháinig a Muile,
bean ó Chuan Luing [] ;
cha do chuartaich an cruinne 2345
duine nach tug a [] ghaol.
14. An cara daingean díleas,
más fear ré []
[] an fear soin,
fear mór []. 2350

Ciallach.

11d. 3lassre WM.]

13b. ben o choyni^t lwngiryræ MS.]13d. nach tugi . . . M'L. ; aezeil WM. ; *quite illegible to me*].14b. maa is far re meil dwnyth M'L. ; *very dim*.]

14bc. Si chalsi a fwoe in farsen far mor . . . M'L.]

XXXIII. A UGH DAR SO FEIDLHIM
MAC DHUBHGHAILL

1. Ní math siubhal san Domhnach,
gé bé chongbhas an t-saoire ;
ní math míochlú do cheannach,
ní math feamach mná baoithe.
2. Ní math sgríobhadh gan fhoghlaim, 2355
ní math comhroinn go gortach ;
ní math iarla gan bhéarla,
ní math méara 'na bhodach.
3. Ní math easbog gan bhairrín,
ní math anaobh ar sheanóir ; 2360
ní math sagart ar leathshúil,
ní math pearsún go dearóil.
4. Ní math longphort gan imirt,
ní math inilt go roileasg ;
ní math éarlamh gan tearmann, 2365
ní math teampall gan roileag.
5. Ní math bean gan bheith náireach,
ní math cláirseach gan téada ;
ní math cogadh gan chalmacht,
ní math gallphort gan mhéara. 2370
6. Ní math maighdean go cainnteach,
ní math daidhbhreas fhir oinigh ;
ní math caisléan gan mheadhar,
ní math dearmad chon toighe.
7. Ní math gan urraim d'athair, 2375
ní math labhairt na meisge ;
ní math sgeana gan fhaobhar,
ní math claonadh na breithe.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS FELIM MACDUGALL

1. It is not good to travel on Sunday, for whomsoever keeps that day free from work ; it is not good to purchase an evil name ; not good to dally with a lewd woman.
2. It is not good to write lacking learning ; not good to share with greed ; not good is an earl lacking English ; not good for a mayor to be a churl.
3. Not good is a bishop lacking a mitre ; not good a senior in ill-humour ; not good a priest lacking an eye ; not good a parson in poverty.
4. Not good is a camp without gaming ; not good is a maidservant over-indolent ; not good is a church patron lacking a sanctuary ; not good is a temple lacking a graveyard.
5. Not good is a woman without modesty ; not good a harp without strings ; not good is war without courage ; not good is a foreign port lacking a mayor.
6. Not good is a maiden who is talkative ; not good a generous man lacking means ; not good a castle without merriment ; not good to neglect the household dogs.
7. Not good that a father should lack respect ; not good is the speech of drunkenness ; not good are knives lacking an edge ; not good that judgment should be perverted.

8. Níor mhath cairdeas na nÍobhal
 dod Mhac, a ríoghan rathmhor ; 2380
 gé do fhóir sé síol Ádhaimh,
 níor mhath dháibh-sean a chrochadh.
9. Ní math léightheoir gan tuigse,
 ní math duine gan chara ;
 ní math file gan adhbhar, 2385
 ní math aolchloch gan talla.
10. Ní math éadach gan úcadh,
 ní math súgradh gan gháire ;
 ní math míghníomh do mhóradh,
 ní math pósadh gan fháinne. 2390
11. Ní math coróin gan bhearradh,
 ní math treabhadh san oidhche ;
 ní math éigeas gan chádhas,
 ní math crábhadh gan aoine.

Ní math.

8. Not good was the friendship of the Jews for thy Son,
thou Queen of Grace ; though He succoured Adam's
race, not good was it for them to crucify Him.

9. Not good is a reader without understanding ; not good
is a man without a friend ; not good is a poet lacking
a subject ; not good is a lime-built castle lacking
a hall.

10. Not good is cloth without fulling ; sport is not good
lacking laughter ; not good to exalt an evil deed ;
not good to wed without a ring.

11. Not good is a tonsure without cropping ; not good to
plough by night ; not good that a man of learning
should lack reverence ; devotion is not good that
lacks fasting.

XXXIV. [FUATH LIOM]

1. FUATH liom bheith anmoch ag triall, 2395
 fuath liom cliar ara mbí bean ;
 fuath liom dobrón i dtigh n-óil,
 fuath liom baile mór gan ghean.
2. Fuath liom droichbhean ag fear math, 2400
 fuath liom flath ara mbí gruaim ;
 fuath liom deoch anbhfan 's í daor ;
 fuath liom duine saor gan stuaim.
3. Fuath liom a chogadh nó a shíth 2405
 nach léigeann a ní má seach ;
 fuath liom ceannphort gan bheith cruaidh,
 fuath liom sluagh nach déanadh *creach*.
4. Fuath liom bheith fada ré port, 2410
 fuath liom bheith go h-olc fán bhiadh ;
 fuath liom bean éadmhor 's í drúth ;
 fuath liom cú nach marbhann fiadh.
5. Leasg liom dol i nÉirinn siar
 ó nach maireann Brian ná Conn ;
 fuath liom baintreach gan bheith mear,
 fuath liom fear 's a aigneadh trom.
6. Fuath liom cailleach as olc néal 2415
 is a teanga go léir luath ;
 ní fhéadaim a chur i gcéill
 gach ní dá dtugas féin fuath.

3d. cath MS.]

4d. *marfin* EM. ; *marwin* MS.]

[I HATE]

1. I hate to be late journeying ; I hate a poet-band that includes a woman ; I hate sadness in a drinking-house ; I hate a great homestead without cheer.
2. I hate to see a good husband with a bad wife ; I hate a prince weighed down with gloom ; I hate a weak drink that is yet dear ; I hate a freeman without dignity.
3. I hate his war or his peace who lets not his wealth go round ; I hate a chieftain who is not firm ; I hate a host that would make no foray.
4. I hate to be long at a ferry ; I hate meanness about food ; I hate a jealous woman who is lewd ; I hate a dog that kills not a deer.
5. I am loath to go west into Ireland, since Brian lives not nor Conn ; I hate a widow who is not merry ; I hate a man of heavy spirit.
6. I hate an old wife ill of mood whose tongue is sharp and swift ; I cannot put in words each thing I hate.

XXXV. DONNCHADH MAC AN PHEARSÚIN

1. ALASDAIR, 'ndo thréig tú an ghruaim,
nó a bhféad sibh a cur uaibh ar lár ? 2420
a nd'fhan sibh 'n bhliadhain gan ghean ?
nó a mbí sibh mar sean go bráth ?

2. Chaoidhche ní nd'fhuaras do ghean,
ó ataoi tú go sean liath :
más ar ghruaim bhitheas an rath, 2425
's mór fhuair thú de mhath ó Dhia.

[THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS] DUNCAN MACPHERSON

1. Alasdair, have you shed the gloom? or can you throw it from you? Have you remained this year without cheer, or will you be so for ever?

2. Never have I found your cheer, now that you are old and grey; if grace goes with gloom, great is the good you have got from God.

XXXVI. A UGH DAR SO DONNCHADH MÓR
Ó LEAMHNACHT

1. MAIRG duine do chaill a ghuth,
agus 'gá bhfuil sruth do dhán,
agus nach fhéad gabháil leó,
agus nach eól bheith 'na thámh. 2430
2. Agus nach seinn cor ná port,
agus nach gabh gan locht laoidh,
agus nach sguir dá chruit bhinn,
agus nach seinn mar as mian (?).
3. Is mairg nach sguir dá dhring drang, 2435
agus do-*ní* a rann do rádh,
agus nach cluintear a chruit,
agus nach tuigtear a dhán.
4. 'S mairg nach tabhair tóidh dá chéill,
is nach congbhann é féin slán ; 2440
is mairg do-bheir treas go tric
ar an mheas nach rig a lámh.
5. Dá mbeith mo mhian annsan mheas,
nach soichinn do dhreap go h-ard,
do ghearrfainn an crann fá bhun, 2445
gé bé neach ara gcuir mairg.

Mairg.

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS GREAT DUNCAN
FROM LENNOX

1. Woe to the man who has lost his voice, and who has a flood of song, and who cannot sing with them, and knows not how to hold his peace.
2. And can play not air nor tune, nor utter a lay without defect, and ceases not from his sweet harp, and plays not to his mind.
3. Woe to him who ceases not from his ding-dong, and still recites his verse ; whose harp is not heard nor his song understood.
4. Woe to him who heeds not his sense, and preserves not himself whole ; woe to him who clutches often at the fruit his hand cannot reach.
5. If my desire were for the fruit that I could not reach by climbing high, I would cut the tree from the root, to whomsoever I should cause woe.

XXXVII. [IS FEARR SGÍOS COS]

Is fearr sgíos cos bharr gnímh ghlain
 ná fos agus sgíos meanman ;
 mairidh sgíos meanman go bráth :
 cha mhair sgíos cos acht aontráth.

2450

Is farri skeiss coss war gnewe glan
 na foissi is skeiss memna
 marre skeis memna gi brraa
 cha varri skeiss coss ach intray.

Better is tiredness of feet after a bright deed than inertness and tiredness of spirit : tiredness of spirit remains for ever, tiredness of feet remains but for a space.

XXXVIII. A UGH DAR SO DONNCHADH ÓG

1. SEACHT saighde atá ar mo thí,
 tá gach saighead díobh 'gam lot,
 ag teacht eadram agus Dia,
 ó's é sin as mian lem chorp.
2. A h-aon díobh an t-*saighead* fhiar, 2455
 an *mian* dá gcomhainm *an* craos :
 minic do mheall í mé an phóit,
 air ní thánaig fós an aos.
3. An dara saighead an drúis,
 sin an chúis dá bhfuilim daor ; 2460
 ó lot na saighde nó a gó
 ní fhuilim beó uatha ar-aon.
4. An treas saighead díobh atá
 i n-altaibh mo chnámh a stigh :
 cha léig an leisge dá deoin 2465
 mise ar slighidh chóir ar bith.
5. An ceathramh saighead an t-sainnt,
 a Dhé, mairg i nd'fhuair í guin ;
 fortacht cha nfhaghaim rém ré,
 go ragha cré ar mo mhuin. 2470
6. 'N cóigeamh saighead don ghlaic chuirr
 díomas do chuir riom go h-olc,
maille rém anam do chrádh,
 agus ó nach slán mo chorp.

2ab. Hein dew ta in near ym bey 3a in goo a'my^t creis RC.]3a. darny^t (*i.e.* darna) RC.] 6c. Cut re (*i.e.* cuide ri) RC.]

THE AUTHOR OF THIS IS YOUNG DUNCAN

1. Seven shafts there be that seek me out ; each shaft of them wounds me, coming between me and God, for such is my body's desire.
2. One of them is the wicked shaft, desire whose name is greed ; oft has this seduced me, even drunkenness ; not yet has age come upon it.
3. The second shaft is lust ; that is the state to which I am slave ; from the wound of that shaft or its seduction, from both I live not free.
4. The third shaft of them abides within the joints of my bones, even sloth that of its will lets me not enter on any good path whatever.
5. The fourth shaft is avarice : thou God, alas for him whom it has contrived to wound ! Succour therefrom I find not in my time, until clay goes upon my back.
6. The fifth shaft from the untoward quiver is pride, which has vexed me sore : my soul it has pained, nor is my body whole therefrom.

7. Dhíobh an seiseadh saighead gharg, 2475
 chuireas fearg eadram is cách :
Críost do chasg na n-urchar dhíom
 ó nach bhfaghaim díon go bráth.
8. An seachtmhadh saighead an t-súil, 2480
 formad is tnúth ris gach ní :
 na séid *sín* i bhfaghmaoid cion,
 annta sin cha nfhuil ar mbrígh.
9. *An* ghlac soin i leith nach cóir, 2485
 is mór mhilltear leis an arm :
 char thilg duine dhíobh nár bhuail,
 char bhuail duine riamh nár mharbh.
10. Cuirim Paidir aoinMheic Dhé
 is Cré na nOstal go beacht
 eadram agus guin na n-arm
 is cóig salm nó sé nó seacht. 2490

Seacht.

- 7c. Murre (*i.e.* Muire) chaska ny' nvrchir reym RC.]
 8c. Ní seyd gay in waymot RC.]

7. Of them the seventh rude shaft is that which sets anger between me and others ; may Christ guard me from those casts, from which I find no other shelter until doom.
8. The seventh shaft is the eye, envy and longing for every thing : those treasures in which we take delight, not in them lies our profit.
9. The quiver that works for evil, many a one is marred by its weapon ; it never aimed its shafts at a man but it struck : it never struck and failed to kill.
10. Between me and those weapons' wounding I do precisely put the Prayer of God's only Son, and the Apostles' Creed, and psalms five or six or seven.

NOTES

I. DUANAIRE NA SRACAIRE

MS. 143. RC. 99 ; M'L. 94.

The matter of this poem is discussed in the Introduction, pp. xvi f. The metre is *Ae freislighe*.

1c. I insert *féin* to make up the missing syllable.

4. Atá uasal anuasal
aca 'na chotach cille ;
dá mbéasaibh bheith 'g aitheasgadh :
gidheadh *nocha* chluinn sinne,—

“They regard gentle and simple as theirs by solemn covenant. It is their wont to retort ; howbeit we take no heed.” *Codach cille*, lit., “a covenant sworn in church.”

II. DÁL CHABHLAIGH AR CHAISTÉAL SUIBHNE

MS. 263. RC. 102 ; M'L. 116.

This poem, historically important, is unfortunately most difficult to reconstruct, and in the verses printed I have left considerable gaps. Enough, however, is clear to fix its date and the circumstances of its composition.

The first mention in connection with Scotland of a prince or noble named Suibhne occurs in 1034 in the *Annals of Ulster* : *Suibne mac Cinaedha ri Gallgaidhel mortuus est*, “Suibhne, son of Cinaedh, king of the Gall-Ghàidheil, died.” He may have been ruler of Galloway, which gets its name from the Gall-Ghàidheil, or of some part of the Western Isles (see *CPNS*. 172 ff.). He may or may not have been an ancestor of the Eoin Mac Suibhne of our poem.

In any case, in the early part of the thirteenth century part of Kintyre was possessed by MacSween. In 1247 Pope Innocent IV confirmed to the rector of the church of Colmanel in Kintyre a pennyland granted to the church by Dugall, lay patron of the same (*Reg. Pasl.*, 123). In 1261, 1262, this Dugall is styled

Dugall son of Syfyn (*Dufgallus filius Syfyn*). In 1261 he granted to the church of Paisley the right of patronage of the church of Colmanel, situated in his land of Kintyre, along with the chapel of St Columba, situated near his fort of Skipness (*sita juxta castrum meum de Schepeinche*); also his body to be buried in the monastery of Paisley (*Reg. Pasl.*, 120, 121).

In 1262 Walter, Earl of Menteith, confirmed the grant of *Dufgallus filius Syfyn* of the church of Colmanel, etc., made to the monks before Dugall gave to Walter his land of Skipness (*ibid.*, 121).

Later on the Earl of Menteith appears as superior of Knapdale, for in 1292 the Earl's lands of Knapdale were by ordinance of John Baliol included in the sheriffdom of Lorne and Argyll, then erected (*Orig. Paroch.*, II, part 1, 40).

During the Wars of Independence, MacSween took the English side. In October 1301 John, "son of Suffine," went with Sir Hugh Bissett and Angus of Islay to Bute and Kintyre with a fleet in King Edward's service, and in the same month he himself writes to King Edward to say that he had visited his own lands of Knapdale, which King Edward had given him by letters patent, and had found John of Argyll and Sir John Menteith in armed possession with a vast force of men (Original in Public Record Office, quoted by the Duke of Argyll, *Celt. Rev.*, VII, 278).

On 22nd July 1310 King Edward II, in order that John *filius Swieni* of Argyll and his brothers Terrealnanogh and Murquocgh might render themselves more hateful (*ut . . . amplius exosos se reddant*) to John of Menteith, his enemy, and others his enemies in the parts of Scotland, granted to them the whole land of Knapdale which belonged to their ancestors, provided they could recover it out of his enemies' hands (*Orig. Paroch.*, 41; original Latin in full in *Celt. Rev.*, VII, as above).

It is doubtless to the second of these expeditions that our poem refers. The attempt did not succeed, though we have no details of the circumstances. On 12th March 1314 King Edward II granted to his "Vallet Dungal de Gyvestone and his heirs . . . Suny Magurkes lands in Knapedale and Glenarewale in Scotland, forfeited by the treason of John de Menetathe, a Scot" (*Celt. Rev.*, VII, 280). Needless to say, the grant was ineffectual, owing to the Battle of Bannockburn on 23rd June. Knapdale remained in the hands of the Earl of Menteith. Branches of the MacSweens, however, remained as vassals of the Campbells of Argyll (*Celt. Rev.*, VII, 281).

The poetic style of Eoin Mac Suibhne as of Sliabh Truim, Sliabh Mis and Cruacha indicate connection with Ireland, but I have failed to trace such. The name Suibhne, it may be added, is Gaelic, and occurs in Adamnan's *Life of Columba* as *Suibneus* (see also Marstrander, *Misc. presented to Kuno Meyer*, 342).

I know nothing of the poet, Artúr Dall Mac *Gurkych*, but in view of the name Suny Magurke of Knapdale, he was probably a kinsman of Eoin Mac Suibhne.

The ruins of Castle Sween stand on a rock on the eastern shore of Loch Sween in Knapdale, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. It is described by Cosmo Innes as "an irregular pile with round towers, and apparently neither window nor loophole" (*Orig. Paroch.*, II, part 1, 42). Its walls were seven feet thick. The *Dún Suibhne* mentioned in Deirdre's Farewell to Alba is probably to be equated with *Caistéal Suibhne*, and in any case extends the antiquity of the name Suibhne. Cf. also l. 594.

The metre of the poem was doubtless strict *Séadna*, but it has suffered in transmission. Cameron's very accurate transcript ends at 21b.

- 2b. *ar loime*, "on the bare surface of the sea"; ? *dar liom*
[].
- 5c. ? *bruinnidhe*, "breastplate."
- 6b. But it is by no means certain that MS. *long, long*, is a mistaken interpolation; alliteration should be present.
- 6c. MS. *gohind*: ? *coimhtheann*.
- 7d. *éanlaighe* is the word represented by the MS., but a disyllable is required by rime and metre. If this is the poet's own word, we must read it as *éanlaigh'*, whether as a shortened form or by an irregular elision; cf. *athchuinge* at l. 441.
- 8a. *sionnáth*, sendal; cf. Meyer, Todd Lecture Series XVI (*Síd na mBan Finn*), p. 56, *do folchad na buird do srl 7 do sida 7 do sicir 7 do sindsnáth*, "the boards were covered with satin and silk and serge and sendal"; *Ir-ische Texte*, II, 292, *sról 7 síta 7 sinnath 7 sirecc 7 tlachta gacha datha*. The MS. seems to represent a form *sionnal*, of which, however, I have no note.
- 9c. ? *diaraidh*, fierce; cf. the common *andiaraid*, and *diar-dain(n)* adj. and noun (*Contr.*). Possibly *d'iarraidh*?

III. CIA DON PHLÉID AS CEANN UIDHE

MS. 116. RC. 98 (only three stanzas); M'L. 88.

Donnchadh mac Cailéin an Ridire Math, Duncan son of Colin, the Good Knight, was son of Sir Colin Campbell, first of Glen Orchy, who was knighted in Rhodes "throch his valiant actis and manheid." He was three times in Rome, and was styled Cailéin Dubh na Róimhe, Black Colin of Rome. He was four times married, his second wife being Jonett Stewart, eldest daughter of William Stewart, then Lord of Lorn, mother of Sir Duncan. Sir Colin was Laird for forty-eight years, died, according to the *Black Book of Taymouth*, from which the information given above is derived, on 24th September 1480, and was buried in Kilmartin. According to the MS. Chronicle, Sir Colin Campbell of Glen Orchy died on 26th September 1475, and was buried in Kilmartin.

He was succeeded by his son, Sir Duncan, who was Laird for thirty-three years, and considerably extended the estate. His half-brother John, whose mother was Margaret Stirling, daughter of the Laird of Keir, was the first Campbell Laird of Lawers. Sir Duncan was slain at Flodden, aged seventy, along with his chief, Sir Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll, and was buried along with him in Kilmun, Cowal, "becaus in the foirsaid feild they deit valiantlie togidder" (*Black Book of Taymouth*; see further *Highland Papers*, II, and the genealogical table in *Highland Papers*, I, 142). The MS. Chronicle states that John Campbell of Lawers, half-brother of Sir Duncan, was also slain at Flodden (*cf.* notes on No. XIV).

The metre is *Deibhidhe*; quatrain 11, *Rannaigheacht mhór*.

- 5b. The MS. represents rather *fóirithin*; ? *do-ní don phléid fóirithin*; but the rime is poor.
- 19a. *Domhnall Donn*: a poem by the same author begins *Créad dá ndearnadh Domhnall Donn* (O'Rahilly, Index, No. 40). A thirteenth-century man of this name was son of Archibald, son of Colin (Campbell chiefs) (*Highland Papers*, II, 83).
- 24a. *Lá Luain*, Monday, a calamitous day, often the Day of Judgment. ? *Lacklann luath loin Is subhach bhíos gach duine*, ". . . Lachlan the swift and greedy, glad is every man"; but the rime is bad.
- 24b. ? *a bhíos*. A proper rime would be got by writing *bhíos gach aonduain*.

IV. DÍOMDHACH MÉ DON GHAOITH A NDEAS

MS. 39. M'L. 106.

This graceful little poem is evidently addressed to John, son of William MacLeod of Harris and Dunvegan, the same who, according to Alexander Mackenzie (*History of the MacLeods*) was known as John Borb, and led his clan at Harlaw in 1411. His mother, whose name is here recorded as *Seónaid*, Jonet or Janet, was a daughter of Maclean of Lochbuie.

Dr M'Lauchlan gives the poet's name as MacEachag, with the note: "this name is very indistinct in the MS., and cannot be given with certainty." It is illegible now, and Ewen MacLachlan did not attempt it.

The metre is *Rannaigheacht mhór*; there is *aicill* in each couplet.

- 3b. The MS. represents the Sc. dat. form *trághaid* (gen. *trághad*), *tráigh* being declined as a dental stem like *brágha*, Sc. *bráigh(e)*.
- 4b. *Clár Sgí*, the surface, district, or land of Skye. *Clár* is extremely common in this sense in the older poetry, e.g. *Clár Fionnghall*, the Hebrides; *Clár Monaidh*, the North of Scotland; *Clár Mumhan*, Munster, etc. Ireland is *Clár Conghail*, *Clár Cormaic*, *Clár Criomh-thainn*, etc. It is not uncommon in modern ScG. poetry.
- 5d. MS. *morri* should rime with *neart*; but the reading is not quite certain.
- 6bd. *ngéar* and *i gcéin* I supply conjecturally; the words are quite gone in the MS.
- 7a. Or "to whom mead is dispensed." Mead was the drink of nobles; cf. *do dáiledh orrtha ann sin fin finn ar na flaithibh, 7 sen mid étrom imarsaid ar na h-uaislibh, 7 brogóid ar na brugadaib, 7 cuirm ar cách co coithead ó shoin a mach*, "there was dealt to them then, white wine to the princes, very old light (*i.e.* exhilarating) mead to the nobles, bragget to the yeomen, and ale to all the rest in general" (Glen Masan MS., *Celt. Rev.*, I, 304).

V. BUAIÐH THIGHEARNA AR THÓISEACHAIBH

MS. 209. M'L. 108.

This poem is the earliest in date of all the poems addressed to Scottish chiefs that have been preserved in the Dean's Book. Maol Coluim died in 1440; his father, Eoin Dubh, died in 1415, and the poem may have been composed soon after Maol Coluim's accession. His mother, who died in 1424, is described in the Dean's chronicle as *Darwayll Neyn Ewyn Vc Lachlyn*; as for her origin, *ó Ghallaibh* (20b), supposing it to be right, may mean either "from the Lowlands" or "from Galloway"; I have rendered it tentatively by the former. The point might perhaps be cleared up by investigating her father, Ewen son of Lachlan, or MacLachlan. Maol Coluim's wife was Mary, daughter of the chief of Clan Lamond (l. 354).

The MS. text has some errors of transcription. In 7b *Ghallaibh* makes imperfect rime with *ghaisgidh*, and should probably be amended to *i n-aisgidh*, as a gift, freely; the writer's eye had probably wandered to the end of 20b. A plain case of dittography is *harffee*, 12b, from *airfee*, 12a. The word required rimes with *aghaidh*. In 21c the MS. *do mhéaduigh a clú cineadha* is hypermetric; it is possible that the poet wrote simply *clú cineadha*, or that *do mhéaduigh* has been substituted for a synonym such as *do mhór*. In 21d I can make nothing of *lowye*, which should rime with *coisnidh* or *cosnaidh*.

The metre is *Ae freislighe*.

- 3a. *Donnchadh mór* is identical with *Donnchadh Beag*. The genealogy traced in this poem is as follows: *Donnchadh Beag*, first Lord of Glen Orchy, father of (1) *Maol Coluim*, (2) *Griogóir*; the latter father of *Eoin*, father of *Eoin Dubh*, father of *Maol Coluim* (d. 1440). The genealogy recorded by Duncan MacGregor in the MS. (printed by M'Lauchlan at p. 126 of his edition), and traced in his poem *Aithris fhréimhe ruanaidh Eoin* (No. XXVIII) is: *Donnchadh Beag*, father of *Maol Coluim*, father of *Eoin ághmhor*, father of *Griogóir*, father of *Eoin*, father of *Eoin Dubh*, father of *Maol Coluim* (d. 1440), father of *Pádraig* (d. 1461), father of *Eoin* (d. 1519). Both agree in making *Maol Coluim* son of *Donnchadh Beag*, Duncan the Little, who is great in respect of his warlike character.

- 13a. Perhaps originally a *n-uaradar*, which would give alliteration ; but this is often neglected in the poem.
- 15c. ? *chroibhdhearga*, "red of paw."
20. This quatrain concludes the poem proper, the remainder being supplementary verses addressed to the lady, and we should expect a proper *dúnadh* ; the MS. *raa boye*, then, probably represents *rathbhuidh*. If so, *Ghallaibh* in 20b is rather doubtful. On the other hand, the final (neutral) vowel of *subha*, 22d, might be written *a*, *o*, or *u*, so that the word is equivalent to *subhu*, which gives a sufficient *dúnadh*.

VI. LÁMH AOINFHIR FHÓIRFEAS I NÉIRINN

MS. 153.

This poem by Giolla Críost Brúilingeach, "*bard in leymm*," is addressed to Tomaltach Mac Diarmada, lord of Magh Luirg (Moylurg) in Connacht, who died in 1458. He was known for his generosity as *Tomaltach an einigh*, and is described in the *Annals of Loch Cé* as *rogha Gaoidheal Éirenn*, "the pick of the Gael of Ireland," and in the *Annals of Ulster* as *feichem coitcheann do dámaibh Éirenn*, "the general protector of the learned companies of Ireland." Besides another poem in his praise by the same author (see No. VII), the MS. has preserved one ascribed to Torna Ua Maolconaire (*d.* 1468), edited from other MSS. by Rev. L. McKenna, S.J., in *The Irish Monthly*, January 1921 (see notes on No. XIX) ; to this my attention was called by Miss E. Knott.

Giolla Críost was a Scottish bard, but to whose court in Scotland he was attached we have no means of knowing. The epithet which I transliterate *brúilingeach* may indicate that he was noted for the use of the form of metre called *brúilingeacht* ; I do not understand the meaning of his further designation of *bard in leymm*.

The poem is a fine specimen of the court poetry of the period ; but the text underlying the MS. spelling is not always good, and in some places I have failed to restore it. The sequence of quatrains in the MS. is somewhat confused owing to omissions inserted at the foot of pp. 153, 154, and the order in which they are given is to some extent tentative.

The words in italics in this poem are from a version printed in *RC*. I, 326 ; this version, which has *Connhaltach* instead of

Tomaltach, is very corrupt, but occasionally useful, and I quote some of its readings in the notes below.

The metre is *Séadna*.

- 1a. *aoinfhir*, rather than *anfhir*, as giving stronger sense; the MS. *in* is often for *aon-*, *aoin-*. The MS. *zorfis* is for *dh'fhóirfeas*, with vernacular *do*.
- 1c. The MS. represents 's a *eineach ann*, which gives *floruaim* but no *aicill*; *connbháil* (from *RC.*) gives imperfect *aicill*, but no *floruaim*. Professor Bergin suggests that the simplest emendation would be to keep *oineach* in *d* and to write *boileach* (*baileach*), prosperous, in *c*.
- 2c. I write *glaccaomh* to rime with *macaomh*; the MS. suggests *glairéidh*. *Banbha* is the Dean's text, but makes no *aicill*; *Breaghda*? (: *Teamhra*).
- 3a. *Eólach dhomh*, i.q. (*is*) *eól domh*.
- 3b. For MS. *cliar*, *cliath*, "ordered ranks" (g. pl.), is possible.
- 3cd. *Bradán siothdha na nsroth solta Giolla geal re sgolta sgiath RC.*
- 4a. ? *fiadhaidh*.
- 4d. For Mongán, see *The Voyage of Bran*, I, 41 ff.
- 4d. *sionga*, for g. pl. *seang*. *Ciabh fhada chas air an Ghiolla Leannan na mban seanga saor RC.*
- 5c. Íoth son of Breoghan was, according to tradition, the first of the Gael to discover Ireland; *Leabhar Gabhála*, 242 ff.
- 6b. MS. represents *chuir*, properly *do chuir*. ? *Do chuir* (? *cuirfidh*) . . . 'ma aoibh (Bergin).
- 6c. The MS. *roythwm* represents *romham*, which I have changed for the sake of *aicill*. *Laoidh*: *rígh*, *féis*: *Céise* are bad rimes, and cast some doubt upon the text. Alliteration also fails.
- 7a. MS. represents *Mac Diarmaid Muighe*, but as the correct *Mac Diarmada* is used elsewhere I have introduced *ó Mhuigh*, writing *líonmhoir*.
- 7c. The reconstruction is quite uncertain; the MS. suggests *a ghráine*.
8. *Mac Dhiarmuid is a Threibh roimhe Ríogh na Cairrg' air Cruas a Chuilg B iomadh uime da Fhuil bhrioghmhur Tighearn' air Magh líonmhur Luirg. RC.*

8cd. ? *feart infheadhma 'na bhoil* (: *Mhoigh*) (Bergin).

9ab. No *conchlann*; so 11, 22, 25.

9bcd. Or . . . *chosnas chlu*; *Beich ar clár collbhán ui Cholla, Lomlán a ndroma ar gach dú*, ". . . who wins renown; bees swarm on the white-hazelled domain of Coll's descendant; full-laden are their backs in every spot."

10b. *Bran Eir' fa aoibhinn a fonn* RC.

10c. *monadh*, a survival from British, W. *mynydd*, is found only in ScG.

The word *árainn* recurs in the poem by Fionnlagh Ruadh at p. 304 of the MS., l. 1428. Cf. Iain Lom, *gheibhte bruic agus féidh air a h-árainn*; Donnchadh Bán, *air fáruin na beinne* (Beinn Dobhrain, 1st ed. p. 128). It is still common in Lewis and elsewhere in the sense of "precincts, neighbourhood." (See also Gillies' *Collection*, p. 207; Mackenzie's *Sàr Obair*, 1872, p. 55 a.)

11b. I have failed to reconstruct the line. *Mialchoin ailn' air Iallach orrthuidh* (i.e. *órdhà*) *Aig Connbhaltach 's Ceann air Chách Theid gu moch sa Naonach uallach Fa nloch bhraonach bhudhach bhla.* RC.

12c. The MS. *classi* may represent a case of the word *class*, often associated with *meas*, fruit; see Meyer, *Contr.*; or cf. *feruid in coill imma cress / a mes for muca méthe*, "the forest around its narrowness sheds its mast upon fat swine" (Meyer, *King and Hermit*, 9): *cress*, narrow; a narrow place (see *Contr.*): ? *i gcuán chreas*, in a narrow close or nook. RC. has: *Gheibhte 'ncrich mhic Dhiarmuid Dhonndeirg Dubh is Donn air bharr Crann Mar Chonn na nCleas antús Cogaidh Gach meas gu húr Abuidh ann.* Professor Bergin suggests that *Cú na gcleas ar chúl an chagaidh* may be the original line; if so, it is parenthetical, referring to Mac Diarmada in a. *Cragaidh* I take to be a ScG. diminutive of *creag*, a rock, common in our place-names; Scots *craigie*.

13c. The words supplied by RC., *na nCloch buadhach*, are hardly likely to be correct, giving poor rime and no alliteration.

15d. *mall* is strongly supported by rime; but the MS. *marwai* is strange.

- 16d. For *cóir* perhaps read *cruinn* (: *druim*).
- 18c. The MS. *cloggass* recurs in Giolla Críost's poem to MacDiarmaid at p. 244 of the MS., where it rimes with *troidass*; cf. *clogass*, a belfry, *Annals of Loch Cé*, 1564. RC. reads: *Clogad os cionn sgarbuill sgeimhuidh Man' Mhiann abuidh Neamhdha nuadh*.
- 18d. The spelling *nuadh* somewhat improves the rime with *cuach*; but the classical form is *nua*.
- 19b. I omit *ag* to permit of the correct gen. *Diarmada*.
- 20b. Quiggin's reading will yield *cúis chóir*, a just matter, a proper errand.
- 21a. MS. *hachon* is apparently for *athchuinge*; but a word of two syllables is required; cf. *éanlaighe* at l. 64, and note.
- 21d. For *bradán*, grilse, cf. LL. 148 a 16:

is don bratān do-thaet éo,
is don maccān do-thaet rí,—

“the full-grown salmon takes after the grilse, the king takes after the small boy.”

- 22cd. *A Ghnuis bhla mar abhall abuidh O's ni do tharl' agaibh i RC.*
- 23b. *riotsa, metri causa.*
- 24a. The MS. *ne* represents *ni*, daughter, which I have changed *metri causa*.
- 24c. *folt cladhach*: cf. Giolla Críost at l. 539: *Mac Diarmada, cúl na gcladh*. So *Domhnall mac Eoin, cúl na gcladh*, RC. II, 242. In modern ScG. we have *falt gleannach* with the same idea. *Cúl*, primarily the back part of the head, is frequent in the sense of locks of hair; e.g. *a chúl fiar na bfáinnedh ccruinn*, “thou with twisted tresses of curling ringlets,” Edin. MS. xlii, 23a.
- 25c. The MS. represents *imle dearga*, which I have altered for the sake of the rime-sequence.
25. After this quatrain the MS. has:

Donil m^erymt re mee | m^eallx^rni brow bane
slat Eorpa fa ʒlowney^t gin lãgga | mac er cowle a
lynch os chaich,

which may be read :

Domhnall mac R . . . rí Midhe,
meic Alasdair na mbrugh mbán ;
slat Eórpa fá ghlún gan loige,
mac ar gcúl a loinne ós cách,—

“ Donald son of R., king of Meath, son of Alasdair of fair domains, the wand of (all) Europe for knee unfailing, a youth above all others behind his blade.” (Quiggin’s reading, *Donil M^cRynild, D. mac Raghnaill, O’Rahilly, S.G.S. IV, 46.*)

VII. DÁ URRADH I N-IATH ÉIREANN

MS. 244.

This poem was composed later than the foregoing, either after Giolla Críost had left MacDiarmaid’s court or on the occasion of his leaving it ; he has partaken of MacDiarmaid’s food and bragget, and he has received the harp asked for in the former poem. Here he combines praise of MacDiarmaid with dispraise of an Ulster noble, whose christian name is Thomas, and whose style appears as *Maa gwil*, etc. This, as Professor O’Rahilly pointed out to me some years ago, is certainly for *Mag Uidhir*, Maguire. The curious change of *r* to *l*, by no means uncommon in the Dean, may be compared with *arrill* for *árainn* in the foregoing poem (10c).

Several men of this name were contemporary with Tomaltach MacDiarmaid, but the noble here dispraised can be none other than Mag Uidhir himself, chief of the name and king of Fermanagh. This great lord, Tomás Óg Mag Uidhir, was son of Tomás Mag Uidhir, known as *an Giolla Dubh*. He was born in 1394, became king of Fermanagh in 1430, made the pilgrimage to Rome in 1450-51, invaded Connacht in 1458, abdicated in 1471, and died in 1480 (*Annals of Ulster*). An obituary note says of him : “ A man who was of the greatest charity and piety and hospitality that was in his time, and a man that defended his territory against its neighbours, and a man that made churches and monasteries and mass-chalices, and was in Rome and twice in the city of St James (of Compostella) on his pilgrimage. And full were Ireland and Scotland of the fame of that Thomas ” (*Annals of Ulster*). This is likely to be nearer the truth than Giolla Críost’s mischievous tirade, which was probably in revenge for some slight.

The poem, then, was composed between 1430 and 1458. The metre is *Deibhidhe*; alliteration fails in a few lines.

1c. I infer *criopal* from ScG. *crioplach*, a cripple.

2a. ? a *gcuir*.

2b. *Iubhar* and *fearna* are often thus contrasted; e.g.,

Bu tu an t-iubhar as a' choillidh . . .
cha robh do dhlighe ri fearna,—

“thou wert the yew-tree from the forest, . . . thou hadst naught to do with alder” (Silis nic Raghnaill, at *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, p. 130);

Ge toil leam Cailin Ghlinn Iubhair,
b'fhèarr leam gum b'iubhar 's nach b'fhearna,—

“though well I like Colin of Glenure (the Glen of Yew), I had rather he were yew and not alder” (Alexander MacDonald, 1st ed. p. 180); for *iubhar* alone, cf. l. 1362 and note.

2c. MS. *slat*; I conjecture *slacán*, doubtfully, to supply the missing syllable.

3cd. *soichleach* is opposed to *doichleach*, stingy, churlish; of Aithirne Ailgessach it is said: *do-chóid co Mider Brí Léith co tuc corra diúltada 7 doichle uad for a thech .i. ar díbe 7 ar doichill*, “he went to Mider of Brí Léith and took home from him cranes of refusal and of stinginess, i.e. by reason of refusal and of stinginess (LL. 117 a 42); *rodíbi 7 rodochell* (nom.), LL. 188 c 2.

4b. *Mag Uidhir*: *Mac* (unstressed) in patronymics not uncommonly sinks to *Mag*; in parts of the Isles the name *Mac Dhomhnaill*, the chief, was pronounced *Mag Dhomhnaill*, *dh* being silent. ? *i n-aonaird*.

5cd. A difficult couplet; Professor Bergin suggests:

dá chrobh gan mheath ar an meidh,
gur lobh a leath im laoidhibh.

As largesse (to poets) is the highest virtue, it would be a deadly insult to assert that his paws were always handling the scales.

6a. *Feacht*, expedition, the territorial levy, the unit of assessment in Scotland being the *davoch* of land (cf. W. Forsyth,

In the Shadow of Cairngorm, 339). Men rejected as unfit for service were *fuidheall feachda*, the leavings of the expedition; e.g.,

Fuidheall firdheireadh feachd' thu,
chan fhiach le càch ac' thu,—

“you are the leavings of the very last of the host; the others scorn to have you with them,”—a taunt to Iain Lom (*Glen Bard Collection*, I, 40). Malingering was called *tinneas feachda*; so,

Cha b'e tinneas an fheachda
san mhadainn so bhuail mi,—

“it was not expedition-illness that smote me this morning” (Ranald MacDonald's *Eigg Collection*, 194). The rejected men who stayed at home were apt to be poorly fed; at the Battle of Drumnacoup in Sutherland the Chief of Mackay was accidentally slain by a man who had refused to fight until his wife began to feed him on pottage, which was recognised as *biadh fir as dèidh feachda*, food for a man left over from an expedition (*Old Statistical Account*, III, 522).

- 7b. The words omitted are apparently a proper name, which I have been unable to ascertain.
- 7c. The comparison with MacRuslaimn shows that the line (and no doubt the whole verse) refers to Mag Uidhir; for MacRuslaimn's character see *SGS*, I, 2, 210.
- 7d. The words omitted are perhaps the name and designation of a man.
- 8b. Niall Frosach, king of Ireland in the latter half of the eighth century, was born when three showers (*frosa*) fell,—of honey, of silver and of blood (Keating), or of silver, wheat and blood (*Cóir Anmann*):

Marb Niall Frosach na fleidi
ar lár Ia na allithre,—

“Niall Frosach the hospitable (lit., of the feast) died in Iona during his pilgrimage” (Rawl. B 502, 163 a 23; BB 79 a 44).

- 8c. Guaire of Connacht, proverbial for generosity.
- 9d. MS. represents *bhronnaigh*, bulging.

- 11cd. I am doubtful of *daothaide*, *saothaide*; for the adj. *sáotha*, *sáodha*, etc., from *sáoi*, see *IGT*. I, pp. 33-4 (Bergin).
- 12c. I have not met *trodas* elsewhere; for *clogas* cf. l. 431.
- 14d. MS. represents *nach d'fhuirigh*.
- 17a. Suibhne, said to have been king of Dál nAraide in the north-east of Ireland, became *geill* (i.e. went mad for terror and flew in the air) at the Battle of Roth or Magh Rath, A.D. 637. His adventures are told in *Buile Suibhne* (ed. J. G. O'Keeffe, ITS.; *id.*, Mediæval and Modern Irish Series).
- 17b. *Ioruath* (*air+uath*) means "great dread"; as a personal name it occurs twice in *Acallam na Senórach*: Iruath mac Ailpín, a fabulous king of Alba, and Iruath, son of Diarmaid ua Duibhne.
- 18a. *Cain* is two syllables, as always; the alliterative epithet *colach*, sinful, is so common after his name that the poet adds the tautological *cuil*, descriptive gen. of *col*, sin.
- 19c. MS. represents *sholamh*, i.e. *saoi* fem.
- 19d. The MS. text seems to me to represent *ná daoi dh'ollamhnaibh diúltach*, which is not what the poet wrote. Professor Bergin tentatively conjectures: . . . *soilbhir ré sgoil . . . doilbhir i ndurrthaigh*.
- 20a. *Dúra*: "*dúr*, steady, earnest, eager," HSD.; but the reconstruction is uncertain.
- 20c. For *cúl na geladh* see note on the preceding poem, q. 24c.
- 22c. *Balc* here means a rig left untilled in a field (Scots *bauk*) on which stones and weeds were thrown. It was also called *leum-iochd*. Nicolson, *Gaelic Proverbs*, p. 248, has "Is fhearr leum-iochd as t-Fhoghar na sguab a bharrachd," "a balk in Autumn is better than a sheaf the more." He remarks: "The *leum-iochd* or *bailc* (Scotch 'bauk') is a strip of a cornfield left fallow. The fear of being left with the last sheaf of the harvest, called the *cailleach* or *gobhar bhacach*, always led to an exciting competition among the reapers in the last field. The reaper who came on a *leum-iochd* would of course be glad to have so much the less to cut." In App. VI he gives another explanation. But the real

point of the proverb, as it seems to me, is that in Autumn, when the grass grew bare, the cattle, once the corn was cut, got a good "bite" on the balk, hitherto untouched; the consequent increased flow of milk more than made up for the few sheaves that would have been reaped from the balk, had it been tilled. Professor Bergin, objecting to the faulty rime *balc : ard*, suggests *balg na mbrodh*, meaning the bag filled with straw, grass or rushes, perhaps used in some game, or to strew the floor. The common spelling in Ireland is now *brobh*, which is the form represented by the Dean. For *ióthlann*, d, Professor Bergin suggests *Iollann*.

VIII. A PHAIDRÍN DO DHÚISG MÓ DHÉAR

MS. 148. RC. 99 (to 4b); M'L. 96.

Niall Óg, the subject of this poem, appears to have been chief of Clann Néill. MacNeill was constable of Castle Sween for the Lord of the Isles, and held an important position in Knapdale. Torquil MacNeill was constable of Castle Sween before 1449. In 1455 the constable was Neil, son of Torquil, and he was succeeded by his brother Hector, son of Torquil, who appears on record in 1472. In 1455 Neil, son of Torquil, was confirmed in the possession of lands in Gigha, which had been granted to his father by Alexander, Lord of the Isles, before 1449; and in 1478 Malcolm, son of Neil, is styled "of Gigha." From all this it appears that Neil, son of Torquil, died young, and that he left a son named Malcolm, who was too young to succeed his father as constable. There can be little doubt that this Neil, son of Torquil, is the chief whose death, evidently untimely, is here lamented. Dr M'Lauchlan thought that Neil died between 1472 and 1481, leaving no heir in the direct line, and that he was the last MacNeill of Castle Sween; but there is nothing either in the records or in the poem (which Dr M'Lauchlan understood only imperfectly) to support these views.

From the expression in 14b, *do sgar riom mo leathchuing ruín*, "my beloved yokefellow has parted from me," it is to be inferred that the poetess was the dead chief's wife. The poem is clearly sincere and unaffected. The metre is *Rannaigheacht mhór*.

1d. 'gá raibhe: the author possibly meant *agá robh* or 'gá robh tú, rather than 'gá rabhais or 'gá rabha, 2 sg.

- 4b. lit., "whose wile would be made in every land."
 6a. *Dún an Óir*, in Cape Clear Island, off the south-west coast of Ireland; another in West Kerry.
 6c. *fá theist*; cf. l. 439.
 7a. *Sliabh Gaoil*, in the northern part of South Knapdale, south-west of Erins.
 7b. Or "to poets."
 7d. *Sanas* is Machriehinish, elsewhere called Sanas and Magh Sanais (*RC.*, II, 407). There was a Magh Sanais in Connacht. *Sanas* appears in early M.Ir. as the name of a plant.
 10d. The MS. has *aychwall ni neall in nawli*: cf. MS. p. 296, *Catta will aggin tearre feeffromoid tra achwail*, in McKenna's edition (*Irish Monthly*, 1927, p. 260):

Cuin do bhí againn t'éara
cantar uainn tré aithmhéala,

v.l. *fiarochum tré aithmhéala*. There is thus no doubt of *aithmhéala*; *in nawli* might well stand for *a nall*, "thenceforward, from of old," for which we might write *gan chall* in b; but the sense of the latter is hard.

- 12a. The MS. *a v'awee* shows that the pronunciation of the solemn phrase *a Mheic Dhé bhí* was *a Mheic-a-bhí*; cf. the MS. *M'a ffeith* (at l. 2315), which shows that in the Dean's time *Mac Dhuibh-Shíthe* was pronounced *Mac-a-phí*, as it is now.
 12b. *na dtrí genó*: perhaps MacNeill and his two sons.
 12c. *i.e.*, Thou hast subdued us, laid us low.
 13b. *bhaineadh*, vernacular for *do baineadh*.
 15c. *an abhradh*; the part for the whole, as very often; so at 6b.

IX. MÓR AN FEIDHM FREAGAIRT NA BHFAIGHDHEACH

MS. 117.

EM.'s transcript printed in the "*MacDonald Collection*," 385.

The subject of the poem is, so far as I know, unique. The term *faighdhe* (O.Ir. *foigde*, from *fo-guide*) denotes the craving of

help in kind ; the practice was of old standing among the Gaelic people, and is not to be equated with common mendicancy. It entailed no stigma upon the craver, and was by no means confined to the lower classes of society. On the other hand, refusal of the thing craved is represented as extremely dishonouring to the person refusing. It may be worth while to give some instances illustrative of the practice in operation.

The Würzburg Glosses, ascribed to the eighth century, contain several instances of the term in connection with Thessalonians i, chap. iv., 11, and ii, chap. iii., 7, 8. Thus, for example, the gloss on *non inquieti fuimus inter vos* (ii. Thess. iii. 7) is *nir bommar utmuill oc foigdi inter vos vel nir bommar tromdi*, we have not been restless (i.e. going to and fro) in begging among you, or, we have not been oppressive (*Thes. Pal.*, I, 667). In the Glen Masan MS. version of *Táin Bó Flidais* the lady Flidais advises *tiged-san d'iarraidh faighdhe ech agus arm agus éididh ar an Gamanraid*, let him (sc. Fergus mac Roig) come to seek a subsidy of horses and weapons and armour from the Gamanrad (the famous warrior clan of Connacht) (*Celt. Rev.*, II, 24, 110). Here *faighdhe* passes from the meaning, "act of begging" to "thing begged, subsidy."

Several references occur in the *Lives of the Irish Saints*. Lepers came to beg apples (*ic faighdhe ubhall*) from Brigit. On one occasion Brigit is said to have given her girdle to a beggar woman (*banscal táinic do fhaighdhe co Brigit*) (*Lismore Lives*, 1425, 1488). The *Life of Colmán mac Luacháin* tells how seven clerics, scions of a noble family, came on Easter Monday to beg of the wife of the erenagh of Lann, who had neither food nor drink ready. "Henceforth," said they, "may every company be dissatisfied with thee." "O clerics," said she, "for God's sake give me death rather than this curse!" "We will give it," said they, "if on every Easter Monday each year a meal of drink and food for seven people be given to us always." On two occasions Colmán is said to have begged land (*luid do chungid faghdi feraind*), and to have met refusal, with bad result to the refusers. In a third instance his request succeeds; "for," says the landowner, "I have no heir myself." "Thou shalt have an heir," said Colmán, "and he shall be heir to me till doom." Christ is represented as coming to St Martin of Tours to ask for his mantle (*dia faghde ima brat*).

For the practice in Scotland, Martin's remarks are instructive. Of the people of North Uist he says: "They are a very Charitable and Hospitable People as is anywhere to be found. . . . The great produce of Barley draws many Strangers to this Island,

with a design to procure as much of this Grain as they can, which they get of the Inhabitants *gratis* only for asking, as they do Horses, Cows, Sheep, Wool, etc. I was told some Months before my Last arrival there, that there had been two Men in that Place at one time to ask Corn *gratis*, and every one of these had some one, some two, and others three Attendants, and during their abode there were all entertained *gratis*, no one returning empty." Here "two Men" must be a misprint, probably for ten men.

Nearly a century later (in 1792) the Minister of Fortingall writes of his parish: "the begging poor have a share of every thing the tenants can afford; meal, wool, milk, etc. They go about, twice or thrice a year, lay by a little, then apply to spinning, or some little industry. . . . It would be deemed impious to refuse an alms, or a night's quarters to a poor person." He goes on to complain of the number of beggars from other places, "swarms of tinkers, sailors, and vagrants, from the great towns, who, by dreadful imprecations and threatenings, extort charity, and immediately waste it in drunkenness and riot. These are often guilty of theft, sometimes of robbery" (*Old Statistical Account*, II, 455).

The *Highland Society Dictionary* (1828) defines *faighdhe* as "an asking of aid, in corn, clothing, or other stuff, usual with young persons newly married, or about to stock a farm, and still practised in many parts of the Highlands and Islands." MacLeod and Dewar (1866) define it as "an asking of aid in corn, wool, and sometimes cattle; a custom formerly very common, and still partially practised." In 1880 Alexander Nicolson thinks "it may now be said to be obsolete" (*Gaelic Proverbs*, 108). I am informed, however, that it was not uncommon in Skye a good deal later. Readers of Donnchadh Bàn will remember the lines:—

h-uile bean a th'anns an dùthaich
tha mi an dùil an dùrachd mhath dhomh,
is théid mi dh'iarraidh na faighdhe-chlòimhe
air mnathan còire an fhearainn, etc.

(1st ed., p. 152).

In *Carmina Gadelica* (1900), Dr Alexander Carmichael states that he "conversed with an old man of ninety-nine years of age who went round thigging with the daughter of his chief after her marriage. The lady . . . rode a beautiful black pony, and my informant was her *coiseachan*, footman. She and her husband

were well received and hospitably entertained everywhere, and after an absence of some weeks they returned home with a miscellaneous herd, enough to stock a large farm" (*C.G.* II, 275).

The poet's graphic and humorous indictment of *fir na faighdhe*, though doubtless exaggerated for business reasons, is likely to be founded on fact. Frequent visitations, especially by people from a distance, were apt to be burdensome; the visitors, too, would not fail to presume on the peculiarly privileged position given them by custom. These grievances are skilfully set forth by the poet as reason why he himself should go to MacDonald's court to crave aid from his lord, by whose men, he says, he has been harassed.

In Lowland Scots this custom, or one like it, was called thigging, and those who practised it thiggers. A Shetland Act of the early eighteenth century directs "that all thiggers of wool, corn, fish, and others be apprehended wherever they come." I have used this term for convenience in translation.

Of the author's name all that is legible is *G . . . Co . . .*, which points with practical certainty to Giolla Coluim, elsewhere designated *Mac an Ollaimh*. Three, or rather two, other poems of his are preserved in the Dean's Book, from one of which (*Thánaig adhbhar mo thuirse*, p. 82) it appears that Giolla Coluim was a court bard of the ruling-house of the Isles and closely connected with Angus, who is no doubt the son of Eoin mentioned in q. 23. The suggestion that Angus might act for his father points to a date of composition later than 1476, when Angus is understood to have taken the lead (see *Clan Donald*, I, 275). The poet, then, was a contemporary of Dean MacGregor, and doubtless belonged to a learned or bardic family; the Rev. Dr Kenneth MacLeod tells me that he is still spoken of in Eigg as *Mac an Ollaimh*.

The metre of the poem is *ógláchas* of *Séadradh nGairid*.

1c. *aidhbhleach*, huge, vast, a deriv. from *adble*, vastness, wondrousness (Meyer, *Contr.*); also, a huge number, e.g. *aidhbhle i ngach lios ag cumhadh*, Edin. MS. lii, 27; vb. *aidbligim*, I increase, exaggerate: *agus rōd eile fōs aidhbhliges a anāgh*, and another thing, too, that increases his ill-fortune, *Celt. Rev.*, II, 24; vbl. n. *aidbligud*; cf. *aidhbhéileach* (Dinneen).

4b. *dluigh* (right or fitting thing, *Dán Dé*; *Measgra Dánta*; *Ériu* IV, 238): cf. the MS. *atame er oskir mir is*

dloe | *dul a gomir seil awzewe* (RC. I, 46), i.e. *atáim, ar Osgar, mar as dluigh, | dul i gcomar síl Adhaimh*; so MS. *bí 3loe* (RC. I, 108), *badh dluigh*, l. 1931; MS. *dlwe* (M'L. 104), *dluigh*, l. 2114.

5a. *roimhéin* (*ro-mhéin*), lit., excessive mood.

6c. Re-arrangement of the MS. line is necessary.

7ef. A proverbial phrase, for which cf. Tochmarc Étaíne (Windisch, *Ir. T. mit Wörterbuch*, 120, 26), "*Ní ba tochuiríuth drochcarat det-si ón aní sein*," *ol Eochaid*, "*ocus rot bia-su fáilte*," "that shall not be an ill friend's invitation to thee," said Eochaid, "and thou shalt have welcome"; and *Togail Bruíne Da-Choca*, *Rev. Celt.* XXII, 17: "*Ní ba taig drochca ad hi cēin dait ēm*," *ol Eochaid*. "*Rot bia fáilte*," translated by Stokes, "No 'seeking of an evil friend afar' shall be thine," says Eochaid. "Thou shalt have welcome."

8a. *ar sgáth*, "for the sake of, on account of," as usual in ScG. now; but *ged b'fhada bha e air an sgáth*, "though he was long in their shelter," *Rob Donn*, ed. 1829, p. 60.

8b. *bruit*: *Ba sí bruit Babilone na hÉreinn in (bruit) sin. Ba tanaisti na bruiti ifirn*, "that captivity was the Babylonian Captivity of Ireland. 'Twas next to the captivity of Hell" (Stokes, *Annals of Tigernach*, *Rev. Celt.*, XVII, 342). It is the dat. sg. of *brat*, f., used as nom., mod. Sc. *bruid*, Ir. *broid*.

12c. Here and at 15c *saothrach*, "diligent," would better suit the rime; but *sirtheach* (adj.) suits the context and the MS. *sheiry^t herrach*; cf. 13c *sheirry^t, heirry^t*, where there can be small doubt that *sirtheach* (n., "scout, forager," Dinneen) is the word meant, though the end-rime is defective.

15a. The MS. represents the ScG. vernacular *is mura*, and unless; so 31c; *mara* (ecl.) is used by Carswell (*acht mara bfuil*, p. 21, l. 22; etc.), and I have retained it here, at 31c, and at l. 2289.

15f. *Fatha fead*, apparently the same expression as survives in the form *falach fead*, the game of hide-and-seek.

19c. ? *as uaisle*; ? *dob uaisle*.

21f. The line is hypermetric.

- 22c. *laomhsgar* : cf. *laemscar fá innmas d'fhilid*, "of largess to poets he was prodigal," S. H. O'Grady, *Silva Gadelica*, I, 64; *mu oighre laomhsgur Lochlainn*, Edin. MS. lii, 53 (poem on the death of Eoin, son of Lachlan Mackinnon of Strath Suardail in Skye); *as mé inghean laomhsgra Fhloinn*, *Misc. to Kuno Meyer*, 350. O'Donovan translates *hI Flaithil laemscara* as "the lofty-proud O'F.," *Hy F.* 228. For ScG. the HSD has "*laomsgair*, (1) great, prodigious, vast; (2) fierce, fiery, bold"; the only exx. I have noted are from Alexander MacDonald: *an coire as torach laomsgair barr* (1st ed., p. 92)—if this is the same word; *na tréinfhír laomsgair gharbh*, p. 53; Rob Donn, *eilid luath lomsgarr* (1829, p. 145).
- 25a. Here and often elsewhere the MS. *a* stands for *do*, "thy," a pronunciation common to all or most of the west.
- 25c. Fergus, son of Earc, c. A.D. 500, claimed as ancestor of the Lords of the Isles.
- 27c. *canaidh* = *canfaidh*; so probably at 29c.
- 28c. *soladh*, though not in ScG. dict., occurs: *mur faigh mi tuille da sholaidh*, "if I get no more profit of him," Rob Donn (1829, p. 126).
- 34c. Cf. A. MacDonald (1st ed., 13): *cha bu shá(th) buirn iunlaid | do'n Mhoraigs' iad*.

X. THÁNAIG ADHBHAR MO THUIRSE

MS. 240. RC. 101; M'L. 112.

The poem is a *cumha* or lament on the death of Angus, son of John of the Isles, who was murdered at Inverness in or about the year 1490 (see No. XII). The bard had evidently been in the confidence of Angus, and had found him a generous patron. His position now is so changed that he has to leave the Isles, his native district.

Dr M'Lauchlan has noted (p. 151, note 1) the connection between this poem and the *uirsgéal*, by the same author, which relates the death of Conlaoch by the hand of his father Cú Chulainn. The Conlaoch *uirsgéal* begins on p. 236 of the MS., and is separated from this piece by the short poem, "*Seacht saighde atá ar mo thí*" (included here, No. XXXVIII). There can be no doubt, however, that the two pieces are really parts of one and the same poem, which fell into three sections:—(1) the part here

printed ; (2) a parallel between the grief felt by Cú Chulainn for the tragic death of his son and that felt for the tragic death of Angus ; (3) some concluding quatrains which have not been preserved. This is a common arrangement in the bardic *cumha* ; compare, for instance, the lament for Ailín and Ragnall of Clan Ranald (*RC.* II, 216). The metre throughout is *deibhidhe*. The first section ends *Do chuala mé fada ó shoin, ut sequitur in alio loco*, etc. The second section originally began :

Di choala ma fad o hen
skail is cosslow rar gow,

i.e.

Do chuala mé fada ó shoin
sgéal as cosmhail ré r gcumhaidh,—

“ I have heard long ago a tale that matches our lament.” In the MS., however, the words *is cosslow rar gow* are deleted, and above them is written *di vonis re cowe*, *i.e.* (*sgéal*) *do bhuineas ré cumhaidh*, “ a tale that relates to a lament.” The emendation is obviously a blunder ; it obscures the connection between the two sections, the sense produced is feeble, and the emendator has introduced *do* wrongly with the relative form of the verb in order to make up the requisite number of syllables. At the end of the Conlaoch section, the poet, or rather the writer of the MS., finishes with the second couplet of a quatrain, the first couplet being lacking :—

a chumha giodh mór a fuaim,
ní lughá an brón atá orainn :

“ though loud the noise of Cú Chulainn’s lament, not less is the sorrow felt by us.” This introduced the third section, now lost. (In *RC.* I, 62 : *A chow gai mak sawalti mor a foym* ; in M’L. 36 : *Mak sawalti mor a foyme* ; but *mak sawalti* (*mac Sualtaigh*, Sualtach’s son, *i.e.* Cú Chulainn) is an interlinear gloss, explanatory of a *chumha*, and not part of the text.)

In the MS. text, at the end of the first section of the poem, the poet says he is to give *vrskall nar zalve royim*, a tale that has not been shaped before (23d). (Here *RC.* has *vrskall mar zawe*, and M’L. *wrskal nar zawe*, both wrongly ; *nar* is perfectly clear, and *zalve* is also clear on close inspection.)

I have conjecturally completed 4d, 12b ; in some other places I have ventured no conjecture.

3b. ? *teagmháil*.

7c. ? *gan mhilleadh*.

XI. NÍ H-ÉIBHNEAS GAN CHLAINN DOMHNAILL

MS. 28. RC. 91; M'L. 70.

This fine poem is evidently inspired by the misfortunes which befell the ruling family of the Isles in the last quarter of the fifteenth century, and resulted in the confiscation of John, the last Lord of the Isles, and in the extinction of the title.

Quatrains 15 and 16 come at the foot of a page; they are separated from quatrain 14 by a space, and are in a different and more faded ink. They are very dim in places, and the first two words of the *comhad* of 16 are gone. Quatrain 17, at the top of the next page, is in the same ink as quatrains 1-14.

The metre is *Rannaigheacht bheag*.

2b. *ághas*, awe, dread; cf. *fear ághasach* (l. 287), the MS. *far awzissych* (M'L. p. 108, l. 8); *a v^o awasse ermzrinni* (RC. I, p. 84, l. 18), i.e. *a mhic ághasaigh airmghrinn*; *ágasta*, awful, tremendous (*Contributions*).

2c. ? *tírean*.

3c. *ba mhíne*, etc.: *dá trian do mhíne re mnáibh* was Fionn's counsel to his grandson (*Silva Gadelica*, 107). *bantracht*: the MS. shows only *bra* and that indistinctly; but cf. *brad'ry'* for *baintreach* at l. 2413 (RC. I, p. 94, l. 20).

5a. *Uaithne*: cf. RC. II, 240, q. 39, *ar n-uaithe gaisgidh*.

8cd. The reference is, of course, to the thread of life, *snáithe saoghail an duine* (Keating, *Three Shafts*, ed. Bergin, l. 721); cf. the ancient prayer for long life edited by Kuno Meyer:

Admuiniur secht n-ingena
dolbte snáthi macc n-aesmar,—

“ I invoke the seven damsels who fashion the threads
of the sons of long life ” (*University of Illinois Studies*).

16a. ? *dob fhearr*; the MS. is doubtful.

17a. MS. *wymmy'* must rime with *saoradh*; but is obscure to me; possibly the expression meant was *na bhfaosamh*, “ of the hand that succours ”; to amend the line to *Lámh an Mhacáin go bhfaomadh*, “ may Christ's hand incline to rescue us,” is too strong a change.

XII. A CHINN DIARMAID UÍ CHAIRBRE

MS. 55. M'L. 72.

Angus, son of John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, was murdered at Inverness about 1490 by Diarmaid Ua Cairbre, an Irish harper. The entry in the *Annals of Loch Cé* at the year 1490 is: *Mac Domnuill na hAlban .i. intigerna ócc, ant oen duiniu dob ferr ind Erinn na ind Albain a comaimsir friss, do marbad co mí-rathmar le fer tétt Erennach inda seomrai fein .i. Diermaid Cairbrech*; "MacDonald of Alba, the young lord, the best man of his contemporaries in Éire or in Alba, was unfortunately slain by an Irish harper, called Diarmaid Cairbreach, in his own chamber." The MacMhuirich historian states that he was murdered at Inverness by Mac Í Chairbre, his own harper, who cut his throat with a long knife (*RC.* II, 162). A more detailed account is printed in *Collectanea de rebus Albanicis* (p. 318), where it is said that the harper was drawn after horses till his limbs were torn asunder. From the present poem we learn that he was at any rate beheaded, and that his head was hung from a pole by a withy passed through the throat. Angus, for all his "turbulence" and alleged unfilial conduct, was a favourite with the people; and it is not without significance that the poem is by a clergyman, the Dean of Knoydart.

The metre is *Rannaigheacht bheag*.

- 1b. Though the MS. has *harc*, I write *th'airgne* for the necessary rime with *Cairbre*.
- 2ab. The construction would be smoother with *Cha truagh liom do ghruag ghreannach ná gaoth ghleannach*, etc.
- 3ab. "to thine alliance," with reference to the murderous pact between Diarmaid and certain enemies of Angus, mentioned in *Collectanea*. Or perhaps "to friendship with thee."
- 3c. *i.e.*, who did not disregard thy shrieks.
- 5b. ? *nár chuir onóir ar cairde*.
- 7c. *i.e.*, to release him now from purgatory.

XIII. FHUARAS MAC MAR AN T-ATHAIR

MS. 217. RC. 100; M'L. 112.

Torquil MacLeod of Lewis succeeded his father Roderick as chief shortly before 1500. He married a daughter of MacCailín. Another daughter of MacCailín was wife of Angus Óg, son of John, the last Lord of the Isles. Their son was Donald Dubh, who naturally claimed the position of his grandfather. He made his way to Lewis, and was strongly supported by Torquil, his uncle by marriage; but the attempt to restore the Lords of the Isles failed, and Torquil was ultimately forfeited. The date and manner of his death are unknown.

The poet's name is not recorded. The metre is *Rannaigheacht bheag*; *aiccill* is used in each couplet; there is little alliteration.

- 1c. *aoibh*, MS. *eygh*; cf. *yghe : kein*, i.e. *aoibh : caoin*, M'L. p. 96, l. 31 (l. 588); elsewhere *Eygh* represents *Aodh*, RC. I, p. 6, l. 28.
- 2a. ? *Fosadh is*; MS. *fos ? fes ?*
- 3d. *áirmheach*, "famed," from *áireamh*, "number, consideration, esteem," for which latter see Gloss. Index.
- 4a. *Dá dteagmhadh*, etc.: the MS. has *da deggow l ra linn torkill*; *l*, which is printed in RC., would naturally mean *caoga*, "fifty," which would make good sense: "if fifty poets were to come in the time of Torquil, he would not refuse the burdensome or weighty band"; but the line is then hypermetric, and *l* must be an error. The reference is to the famous train of Senchán Torpéist when he came to claim the hospitality of Guaire, king of Connacht, a by-word for generosity. (See *Imtheacht na Tromdháimhe*, Ossianic Society; *Tromdámh Guaire*, ed. Maud Joynt, Mediæval and Modern Irish Series).
- 4b. *locadh*, for the classical *locfadh*; so at 7c, 8d, 11c, 12b, 14b.
- 4c. *i.e.*, the poets will make for Torquil a memorial in their panegyrics, which will cause his fame for liberality to endure like that of Guaire.

6a. MS. *Id der me 3a halle*. *Aithle* : *aithne* is certain ; cf. *RC*. I, p. 89, l. 13 : *Halli in noill er i nerre math*, i.e. *h-aithle an óil iar n-éirghe a mach* ; at l. 1423 appears *hoilli* (MS. p. 304).

7a. The MS. *da bi* represents *dámadh*, *dá mbadh*, which I have changed *metri causa* ; it would also be possible to omit *leis*, with a slightly different meaning. The mention of Bergen is natural in a MacLeod eulogy ; cf. Mary MacLeod (ed. J. C. Watson, l. 697 ff.) :

Is e mo ghaol-sa an sliochd foirmeil
bh'air sliochd Oilghair is Ochraidh,
o bhaile na Boirbhe
is ann a staoidhleadh tu an toiseach.

Each passage confirms the form Boirbhe, usually Beirbhe, N. *Björgvín*, *Björgyn*, from *bjarg*, pl. *björg*, rocks (*Carraig*).

8ab. MS. *mercholl* : *sann cholg* ; the reference is to Fionn's shield, an *Seancholl Snigheach*, described in *Duanaire Finn* (p. 34 ff.), *cholg* being a natural enough mistake of the scribe.

9a. *ceanngháig*, descriptive gen. ; the shield may have been conceived as scalloped, or as having a large rounded notch at the top. *Ordhairc* : MS. *orryk* ; other spellings are *worrik* (*RC*. 54, l. 21), *urrik* (l. 2079).

9b. Cf. Nat. Lib. MS. XLVIII, 11 :

na sochair-si ó linn Chormuic
is fá formuid na bfileadh ;—

“ these privileges from the time of Cormac are cause of envy in the poets.”

10a, 11a. Cú Chulainn's horses are mentioned again at ll. 1313, 1314 ; the Dearg Driúchtach is the steed of Conall Cernach.

12bd. The final rimes point to some corruption of the text.

16a. The regular form is *Caitir fhiona*, gen. *Caitreach fiona* (*JGT*. par. 185, etc.) ; *cumha Caitreach-iona*, *RC*. II, 274.

17a. *ar ndtola* ; the MS. *ir neilli* gives effect to eclipsis.

17d. *cornán* seems to be some kind of plant with curly leaves or flowers.

XIV. FHUARAS ROGHA NA N-ÓG MBRÍOGHMHOR

MS. 158.

The poem is addressed to James Campbell of Lawers ; the following notes are relevant.

In 1527 the MS. Chronicle records : " Death of Mariota Forester, Lady of Lawers and wife of James Campbell of Lawers, who, of good memory, died at Fordew in Strathearn, and was buried in the parish church of Stirling . . . at seven o'clock in the afternoon on the last day of October A.D. 1527."

In 1495 King James IV granted to his comptroller Sir Duncan Forestar of Skipinche the lands of Skipinche . . . in all thirty-six marks in the lordship of Knapdale, erected into the barony of Skipinche (*Orig. Paroch.*, II, part 1, p. 29). In 1502 the lands, barony, castle, fortalice, and place of Skipynche were resigned by Sir Duncan Forestar, and granted by King James IV to Archibald Earl of Argyll (*ibid.*).

Sir Duncan was a burges of Stirling (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, anno 1496 ; no. 2325 ; he is often mentioned in *RMS.*).

As for James of Lawers, his death is not recorded in the Chronicle of Fortingall ; but it records in 1554 : " Duncan Campbell, son of James Campbell of Lawers, died and was buried in the Chapel of Finlark (Finlarig). June 8."

The MS. Chronicle records John Campbell of Lawers, slain at Flodden, 1513. If he was the father of James, this agrees with his description at 16a, *mac Eoin mhír na slógh 's na gconnlann.*

John Christie records that " the forty-merk land of Lawers was . . . bestowed upon Sir Colin, the first laird, in 1473, by James III for his zeal in pursuing and bringing to justice the murderers of his unfortunate grandsire, James I . . . Sir Colin gave the lands of Lawers, together with the three-merk land of Correquirk, to his son John, by his fourth wife, Margaret, daughter of Luke Stirling of Keir " (*Lairds and Lands of Loch Tayside*, 39). Our poem is addressed to James, son of John, and grandson of Sir Colin. His wife died in 1527.

The metre of the poem is *ógláchas* of *Deachnadh mór* ; there is almost no alliteration, and *aicéill* is absent.

11d. ? *urradh.*

18cd. This couplet seems to furnish at least one instance of the substitution of a synonym. The MS. represents *ratha is cruidh is óir, Flath ar slighidh na féile*, where *óir* is

clearly wrong; *slighidh*, again, gives a syllable too many, and the simplest correction seems to be to restore *séad*, which probably, though not certainly, indicates *séad* in c.

20d. *bran fuirne*: cf. l. 2039.

21d. MS. represents *do shíol*.

21d. Arthur's father, according to tradition, was Uthyr Pendragon. In the genealogy of MacCailín he is *Artúr mac Uibher i. rig an domain mic Ambrois* (Skene, *Celtic Scotland*, III, 459). A poem to MacCailín styles him *Artúr deaghmhac Ambrois* (*SGS.*, III, 146).

25c. The line lacks a syllable; the correction is uncertain.

26b. ? *i n-urdail*.

29d. The MS. line appears to be *Séamas rogha mheic riogh fhuaras*, where the proper name is wrongly inserted.

33-35. These quatrains are addressed to the Earl of Argyll.

XV. GABH RÉM CHOMRAIGH, A MHEIC GHRIOGÓIR

MS. 281.

Fionnlagh Ruadh had for some reason (he hints that mischievous tongues were the cause) incurred the displeasure of his patron, MacGregor, and had gone on circuit (*ar cuairt*), probably in Ireland, where he had been received with honour. He now wishes to return to MacGrégor's court, and sends or brings this poem as a peace-offering. He desires to submit himself to MacGregor as Conall Clogach did to Conchobar. References to former parallels to the poet's case are common, and are almost always in accordance with what we know from older sources; but this one is an exception. Conall Clogach was son of Aodh mac Ainnireach, high king of Ireland. At the Convention of Druim Ceat (575) Conall incited a party against Colum Cille, and caused him and his train to be pelted with clods and injured. For this Colum Cille ordered thrice nine bells to be rung against Conall, whom he cursed and deprived of royalty, of authority, of senses, of memory, of understanding; whence he was called thereafter Conall Clogach (Stokes, *Lives of Saints*, 310 f.; *Amra Choluimb Chille* in *Celt. Rev.* XX.; etc.). No man of that name was connected with the court of Conchobar, whose period

was nearly six centuries earlier. Fionnlagh's patron is Eoin, chief of Clan Gregor, the Dean's contemporary, who died in 1519.

The metre is *ógláchas* of *Séadna*. Alliteration is irregular. Distinctively Scottish features are not absent: *leantain* (2d), for example (Ir. *leanamhain*, *leanmhain*), is not due to the scribe, for it makes *amus* with *dalta*. In *flath* (8d) (Ir. *flaith*), the poet agrees with Sc. usage wherever it can be tested by the rime; so also with *math*. Noteworthy, also, as a non-classical though not distinctively Scottish feature, is the relative verb reinforced by *a*, for *do* (12d, 13bd). That this usage existed in the vernacular of the Dean's time can be shown from lines where *a* was inserted by the scribe, though the metre shows that it was not written by the poet. In 12d rhythm would be impaired by writing *ó do láimh ghil sgoltas*; while in 13bd no such change is possible.

1cd. ? *gan ana . . . a chara* (Bergin).

1c. For *riar*, masc., see *Three Shafts of Death* and *IGT*. II, par. 95 (Bergin).

3b. MS. *kin* represents *cion*, displacing its synonym *cair*.

XVI. THEAST AON DIABHAL NA NGAOIDHEAL

MS. 216. RC. 99; M'L. 110.

An account of Ailéin, son of Ruaidhrí, chief of Clan Ranald, is given in *Clan Donald*, II, pp. 233-246. Ailéin died in 1505, or according to Gregory (p. 110) in 1509, at Blair Atholl, where he is buried. Gregory states that he was executed in the presence of the king, giving as his authority Mac Mhuirich; but in Mac Mhuirich as we possess him there is absolutely nothing to this effect. Had this been Ailéin's end, there is no doubt whatever that Fionnlagh Ruadh would have been delighted to mention it; but all he says is that Ailéin had long been gallows-ripe. It may be doubted, however, whether Ailéin was really dead when the poem was written. This satire is the most ferocious one known to me, and though there must have been some ground for it we may hope that the poet has exaggerated, and in particular that the most revolting part of the indictment is not true. The fine lament by Mac Mhuirich on Ailéin and his son Raghnaid sets him in a very different light.

The poem is difficult, and there are some points on which I am not quite satisfied. The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

- 1a. *Theast* is confirmed here by the metre, as at ll. 1939-40; it is the form still used in some Scottish dialects, while *theasta* is, so far as I know, unheard.
- 4d. MS. *gir hein* represents *gur shín*, which gives a syllable too many. The pret. without *do* is used frequently in this poem, as in the last.
- 8d. *míoghoire*, of impiety, *i.e.* impious, makes good sense, but does not quite satisfy the MS.
- 12b. The MS. *daltwy^t* is obscure to me; it should be two words, the second a disyllable riming with *slán*.
- 15a. *dubhach*: a play of words with *Dubhthach* (14c) is apparently intended; the pronunciation of the two words is now identical, and was no doubt so in the Dean's time, as the MS. indicates.
- 15ab. The couplet is obscure, and the reconstruction tentative; I have not met the term *cnámhthuagh* elsewhere; it would denote an axe for cleaving bones, so that the marrow might be extracted.

XVII. GEALLADH GACH SAOI DON EACH ODHAR

MS. 103. M'L. 84.

This spirited poem extols the steed of John, chief of Clan Gregor. It is worth noting that, when the poet describes the horse's speed, the rhythm is like the flight of a swallow, a fine imitation of fluent undulating motion. The metre is a loose form (*ógláchas*) of *brúilingeacht*, in which the lines are not grouped in quatrains; it is the same as that of a poem by Seithfín Mór, *Briathra cogaidh con chath Laighneach*, edited by Professor Bergin (*Studies*, 1920, p. 416), where the editor notes that the metrical form is rare in MSS. In the present poem the odd lines consonate with the even, and there is internal rime, but no regular alliteration.

- 1301-02. *Each*, a horse, is masc., but pronouns referring to it are fem. The MS. text is not quite consistent in this respect; *cf.* 1335, where the MS. *gi vasgill* stands, as I think, for *'ga mhosgladh*, and where I have changed the gender. It is possible, however, that *a* refers to *greann*, masc.

1312. ? *luath-attach*.
- 1313-14. These were Cú Chulainn's famous steeds; that of Conall Cernach is mentioned at l. 1006.
1316. The MS. *caid* apparently rimes with *méad*, or MS. *hor caid* with *oir dheirc* or *ordhairc*; but the expression is obscure to me.
1334. *Each breaghdha* is rendered "a Bregian horse" in *Duanairé Finn*, ed. MacNeill, p. 101.
1350. The idiomatic use of the comparative *measa* in the sense of "preferable, more esteemed," etc., is not uncommon; with this use of the secondary comparative *meisde*, O.Ir. *messa de*, literally "the worse for it," cf. Iain Lom, *Cath Raon Ruairidh*:

Ach mur tig thu air ball . . .
is ceud misde leam thall san Éiphit thu,—

"but if thou comest not forthwith . . . I had a hundred times rather that thou wert over in Egypt"
(*Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, l. 4549 ff.).

XVIII. FADA ATÁIM GAN BHOGHA

MS. 104. M'L. 86.

The poem is addressed to Eoin, chief of Clan Gregor, and is by way of an apology for the poet's conduct on a certain occasion in face of the enemy. Probably Fionnlagh did not know of the classic parallels to his own case, Alcaeus and Horace; if he did, he does not avail himself of them, or indeed of any excuse. His new bow is to be of yew, the noblest of woods; the best of yew is to be found at the court of MacGregor. This is in the usual style of compliment; cf. Giolla Críost at l. 466 ff. and note; and further:

Slat de'n iubhar uasal
a bhuaineadh a tigh Chaladair,—

"a wand of the noble yew, derived from the house of Cawdor" (Turner's *Collection*, 251). The figure is not uncommon in modern Scottish poetry.

The poem in praise of the chief closes, as is usual, with a verse in compliment to the chief's lady, Ealasaíd; cf. 1477 ff. The metre is a loose form of *Rionnaird*; b and d rime, and c consonates

with them, there is no regular alliteration, and the single internal rime used in most of the second couplets is sometimes lacking.

- 7d. There is a play on the double meaning of *callach*, a burden, also cattle, stock, gear; for a similar play, cf. *RC.* II, 360:

Cha phós mé cailleach gan ní
 's í ar gcall a searrach go léir :
 ní h-áil leam gan callach í,
 's ní mó as áil leam eallach lé.

- 8c. *do* (the MS. *dí*) in this position is a non-classical feature; cf. the same poet at l. 1228 ff.; *Intro.* p. xxiii.
- 13b. The first word is probably *iompúigh*, *ipv.*; the second can hardly be for *mo*, "my," though it might be for *m'aigheadh*, "my face"; the meaning is quite obscure to me.

XIX. FHUARAS MO ROGHA THEACH MHÓR

MS. 304.

This poem is described by Dr M'Lauchlan in this Table of Contents as: "39 lines. On M'Diarmad. Illegible." Most of it, however, had been transcribed by Ewen MacLachlan before the MS. came into Dr M'Lauchlan's hands, and his work is very helpful, for parts of the text which are now wholly or partly illegible were evidently clearer in his time. On the other hand, some parts which he gave up as illegible can still be read under favourable conditions of light.

The poem is addressed to John, chief of Clan Gregor. It compares his house to that of Aodh Mac Diarmada on the Rock (*Carraig*) of Loch Cé in Connacht. Aodh, son of Conchobhar, became king of Moylurg (*Magh Luirg*) in 1458, and died or ceased to be king before 1478 (*Annals of Loch Cé*). The poet's visit to his court must therefore have been between these dates. Aodh succeeded Tomaltach *an einigh*, "the generous," two poems in praise of whom are preserved in the MS. (see Nos. VI and VII). The fame of the MacDiarmaid lords was in itself enough to attract the bards of Scotland; but it may be noted that there was a sept of MacDiarmaids in Glen Lochy of old. Ealasaid (Elizabeth) is named in another of Fionnlagh Ruadh's poems (see l. 1405), but only here do we find her father's name and *dúthchas*.

The amusing apologue concerning the *cailleach* is related at greater length in connection with Cormac, ancestor of Aodh, in the poem *Tosach féile fairsinge*, preserved in the Dean's Book (p. 246), and edited from two Irish MSS. by L. McKenna, S.J., in *The Irish Monthly*, 1921, p. 26. There the *cailleach* (*bean leathchaoch ruadh roghránda*), passing through Cormac's assembly, enters his castle of the Rock and arranges her couch in a corner of the house. There she spends a year, unquestioned by any of the household. She then explains to Mac Diarmada that she has been expelled from the Land of Promise (*Tír Thairngire*) under obligation not to return until she should spend a year unquestioned in one house. She leaves her blessing and a favourable prophecy with Cormac, and departs; but she departs as ugly as she came (contrast 12cd).

The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

- 2a. For *oo tat* Quiggin read *is cach*: *maoidhfídh mise is cách 'nad thaigh* gives good sense.
- 2b. Cf. *Oided mac nUisnig*, ed. Stokes, l. 595: *Tri dreaguin Dúna Monaídh*.
- 3a. The only word now legible is *fley*.
- 3c. EM.'s transcript begins with *glair na*, now illegible.
- 4a. EM.'s reading is *Nart zneery^t*: *Nart* is now illegible to me; Quiggin read *Woy^t zneery^t*, i.e., *Ó ghníomhraidh*; the verse will then be one sentence, "From the deeds of his hounds and his hosts, it happens often with John . . . that every lawn is red. . . ."
- 6c. I read *er linna*; less probably *er binna*.
- 10b. For the expression *eachlach urláir*, see O'Rahilly's article in *Ériu* IX, 15.
- 11a. *zís* is EM.'s reading, and must be right in view of the rime.
- 14a. *cur*: possibly *tur*.
15. Part of this verse is quite illegible, and I offer no reconstruction; it perhaps described the position of the house (? *eadar an t-sruth is . . .*, "between the stream and . . .").
- 19cd. *mnáibh*: *fhuarais*; the rime seems to point to some corruption in the text.

XX. AR SLIOCHT GAODHAL Ó GHORT GRÉAG

MS. 134. M'L. 102.

This spirited poem, as Dr M'Lauchlan correctly stated, is addressed to Archibald Earl of Argyll, Chancellor of Scotland, who was killed at Flodden. It is to all appearance a *Brosnachadh Catha*, incitement to battle, against the English, and must have been composed very soon before the Earl set out on that fatal expedition, which left Edinburgh in August 1513.

The ancestors of MacCailín, as given in the poem, tally with the account in *Highland Papers*, II, 89-100: Archibald, slain at Flodden, son of Colin the Chancellor, son of Archibald Roy, son of Duncan "Nanadh," "that is to say fortunate or prosperous" (*na n-ádh*; also "Anadh," pp. 93, 94, i.e., *Donnchadh an ádha*), son of Coline Iongantach, son of Gillespig More, son of Coline Og. The poem is notable for its fierce national spirit; there must no doubt have been many such poems, now lost to us, in connection with the Wars of Independence; one other, composed in 1310, but unfortunately on the wrong side, is found in the Dean's Book (see II above). The name of the poet is unknown, the beginning of the poem is lacking, and in the reconstruction I have had to leave some gaps. As usual, M'Lauchlan's less serious misreadings are not noticed.

The metre is *Deibhidhe*; the use of *uaim* and *fioruaim* is irregular, but internal rime seems to have been at least intended in each second couplet.

- 4b. *Inis Incin*, no doubt the same as I. Ainghin, the name of two islands, one in the Shannon, the other in Loch Ree (*insula Angin in stagno Rii*, Plummer, *Vit. SS. Hib.*, I, 210; etc.); here, the reference is merely to Ireland in general.
- 4c. *Fine Fomhra (Fomra)*, the race of giants, of whom Balar Balcbéimnech was chief. The Tuatha Dé Danann, coming from overseas according to some accounts (cf. *tar linn*, 5a), wrested Ireland from them, and Lugh, one of the chiefs of the TDD, slew Balar (5c), who was supposed to be his mother Ethniu's father. Thereafter the TDD held Ireland until the coming of the Gael. See, *inter alia*, *Cath Maige Tuired*, *Rev. Celt.*, XII. In stanzas 7 and 11, however, the poet regards Lugh as a Gael.

- 4d. *Béromha*, no special reference is intended; *bile B.*, Lugh.
5, 6. M'L. transposes these stanzas.
- 8c. *Lughaidh* appears to be necessary for metre and rime;
the poet identifies Lugh mac Ethnenn and Lugh (or
Lughaidh) Lámhfhada; *cf.* l. 377.
- 8d. ? *d'fhear* (: *feadh*).
- 10b. *Gort Gáilian*, properly Leinster, but here, as above and
very frequently, the name of a part of Ireland stands
for the whole; *cf.* *ITS.* XXII, lviii, 4; and for the
phrase, *ibid.* 195, l. 10.
- 11a. MS. *nar log trote* perhaps most probably represents *nár loc
troda*; *nár log dtroda*, "who was not weak of combat,"
is also possible; the poet may have written *nár lugh
dtroda*, "who was not puny of combat," with a pun of
the usual sort.
- 12c. MS. *fagir* perhaps represents *fágthar*; but *faighthear*
yields a rime, though an imperfect one.
- 12d. The Dean's final word is perhaps *faisnéis*; *aisnéis*,
however, makes *fioruaim*.
- 13a. For *mín* *cf.* *Cosmhail a mhín is a mhodh*, l. 2059; *ainmhín*
seems certain, and if so requires *mín*; MS. *man* would
rather represent *méin*, for which we might write *ainnséin*.
- 14ab. *Cf.* 1737 and note.
- 14d. The reading is not quite certain; M'L.'s *a vo*, if right, is
for *a bheó*, thou being; I have adopted WM.'s *a eo*,
but adhered to M'L.'s *vokinte*, which is apparently for
bheóghonta, gen. of *-ghonadh*.
- 19b. ? or *ó Ghort Iomgháin*, *i.e.* Ireland; for *Iomghán* in
epithets see *ITS.* XXIII, 208, 48; but *iomgháidh*,
which I take to be descriptive gen. of a compound of
gádh, *gábhadh*, is closer to the MS.

XXI. DO ATHRUIGH SÉAN AR SÍOL GCUINN

MS. 130. M'L. 92.

The poem is a lament for the death of John, chief of the
MacDugalls of Lorne, styled of Dunollie. He is described as
son of Eoin, son of Ailín (3b etc.), and his heir is named as
Alasdair (32). From this it appears that the subject of the lament

is Eoin Ciar, "the swarthy," son of Eoin Maol, son of Ailín Ruadh, both chiefs of their name; Eoin Ciar was succeeded by his son Alasdair (all according to the genealogy in Nat. Lib. MS. IX). The Dean's Chronicle records the death of Duncan McCowle (MacDugall), son and heir of Alexander McCowle of Dunnolych, who was slain by Colin McEnos (son of Angus) of Barbrek (Barr Breac) on 13th July 1512, and was buried in Ardchattan.

The poem was composed in strict metre (*Deibhidhe*); there should be *uaim* in each line, *fioruaim* in d, and two good rimes in each *comhad*; my reconstruction of the MS. has in some verses failed to restore these.

1a. The MS. is for *D'atharruigh*.

1b. *fhochainn*, MS. (*n*)*ochin*; cf. 12c, *ochán*, MS. (*n*)*öchín*.

2c. *aire*, however, makes mere *amus* with *an*.

3b. MS. *noyine* should be two syllables; *Eoin* is uncertain; perhaps *mac fhír (fír) no-ghein* (for *do-ghein*) *ó Ailín*, "son of the man sprung from Allan."

7d. MS. *ner (neir?) chayl* represents *níor cheil*.

14cd. For *béinde (méinde) ban* see *IGT*. II, p. 39.

leacht gcéile gCruachan: the poem being in strict metre, one would expect *leacht* to be declined if gen. sg.; it is gen. pl., and the MS. *cheille* indicates Scottish lenition of another gen. pl., Ir. *leacht gcéile*, lit. "the breadth of the slabs of the spouses of Cruacha," i.e., as great as the whole of Reilig na Ríogh, the Cemetery of the Kings (of Ireland); mention of Cruacha, the ancient seat of the kings of Connacht, is natural in a MacDugall elegy (cf. 1a, 2b, etc.). I owe the interpretation to Professor Bergin.

22b. But *tíor-mór*, MS. *tyrmmor*, is stressed on the second syllable.

22c. *tuireadh* is very doubtful; MS. *durri* should stand for a word riming with *dún*, and the neg. *nócha* is not likely to have been introduced in error.

23c. MS. *oany'* seems to represent a derivative of *uan*, mod. Sc. *omhan*, such as *uanbhach*.

23d. *An Chonghail* ("the dog-fight") is the powerful current of Connel, at the mouth of Loch Etive, distinguished

from other currents of the same name as *An Chonghail Latharnach*, Connel of Lorn. A graphic description of it is given in Macfarlane's *Geographical Descriptions*, II, 151.

26c. MS. *deiv* should represent *diobh*.

30. Of qq. 30, 32 and 33 I can make out but little with any certainty :

30. [	]	Dia do dhealbh nimh	
[	]	an oide Íligh	
[	]		1685
[	]	is iomdha.	

32. Alasdair nach gabhann geis,		
[]	
[	]	ar stuaigh bhuannaigh bhríogh,
[]	

33. [	]	'gá iarraidh ar ndul	1695
d'oighre Eoin go []		
[	]	ar tír na troda,	
[	]	-]da.	1698

The *dúnadh* has clearly been reached.

XXII. BEANNUIGH DO THEAGHLACH, A THRÍÓNÓID

MS. 23. RC. 90; M'L. 68.

This spirited poem, urging the destruction of wolves, is to be taken in connection with an Act of Parliament of Scotland of 1st March 1427-1428, in the reign of James I (1406-1436) :—

“ Item it is statute and ordanit be the king with consent of his hail consal that ilk barone within his baronry in gaynande tym (*i.e.*, suitable time) of the ʒere gar (*i.e.* cause) serch and seik the quhelppis of the wolfis and ger sla thaim. Ande the baron sal gif to the man at (*i.e.* that) slais thaim in his baronry and bringis the baron the hede iis (*i.e.* two shillings). Ande quhen the baron ordanis to hunt and chase the wolfis the tenandry sall ryse with the barone under the payn of ane wedder to ilk man not rysande with the baron. Ande at the baronis hunt in thare baronryis and chase the wolfis four tymis in the ʒere and als oft as ony wolfe beis sene within the baronry. Ande at na man sek

the wolfis with schote bot allanerly (*i.e.* save only) in the tymis of hunting of thaim." (*Acts of Parliament of Scotland*, vol. ii, 15, cap. 5.)

In the fifteenth century and long afterwards, wolves were a common pest. The Descriptions of Sutherland in Blacu's *Atlas* (1662) state that "all these parts are full of stags, roes, wolves, foxes," etc. (pp. 126b, 128b). The Descriptions refer to a date earlier than 1662. In notes on Strath Naver, supplied by Timothy Pont, minister of Dunnet in Caithness in the early years of the seventeenth century, we find "specially here never lack wolves, more than ar expedient" (Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, II, 559; *cf.* pp. 418, 448, 465). The last wolf in Scotland, says Logan (*Scottish Gael*, II, 32, ed. of 1876), was killed by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel in 1697. The *Old Statistical Account* (1792) gives the date as 1680 (vol. viii. 343). Another tradition, apparently reliable, holds that the last wolf was killed in or about 1743 by MacQueen of *Poll-fochaig*, on the Streens of Findhorn (see Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's *Moray Floods*; J. E. Harting's *British Animals Extinct within Historic Times*; G. Bain's *The River Findhorn*; A. Nicol Simpson's *British Land Animals*, etc.).

The view of W. F. Skene and also of M'Lauchlan was that the poem refers to the capture of the murderers of James I. by Robert Reoch (*Riabhach*) Duncanson (*Mac Dhonnchaidh*) of Struan and John Gorm Stewart, the former of whom received a grant of the Barony of Struan (see *R.M.S.* II, no. 491), and the latter a money payment (*Exchequer Rolls*) in recognition of their services (see M'Lauchlan, *Book of the Dean of Lismore*, 95 (English), 151, 152 (Gaelic)). The whole tenor of the poem, however, is against this view; the reference is clearly to four-legged wolves which killed the stock. It may be added that the John Stewart here addressed is styled "son of Robert," while John Gorm Stewart's father was James, according to the continuation of the Chronicle of Forthingall.

John Stewart, son of Robert, who is here urged to burn every den in Schiehallion, is probably the same as John Stewart, son of Sir Robert, "from the bounds of Rannoch," who is addressed in the poem *Cóir feitheamh ar uaislibh Alban* (p. 184). He may have been John Stewart of Garth and Forthingall, who received a charter of Forthingall in 1455 (*Book of Garth and Forthingall*, 158), and died at Garth in 1475 (MS. Chronicle). I have failed to trace his descent, but the specific reference to

- 12a. *Beinn Ghuilbinn* (1) at the head of Glen Shee, in north-west Perthshire, famous in tradition as the scene of the boar-hunt which proved fatal to Diarmaid; (2) in the parish of Port of Menteith, Perthshire; (3) traditionally the old name of *A' Bheinn Fhada*, Ben Attow, Kintail. At the west end of Loch Laggan, Inverness-shire, is *Torr Guilbinn*. The poem may refer to the first-named.
- 12b. *Sruth Toilbh*, the Water of Tulla, at the head of Glen Orchy, on the south-west side of the Moor of Rannoch.
- 12d. ? *deargthar*.
- 13a. *Inbhir Nise*, now *Inbhir Nis*, Inverness.
- 13c. *buicneach* is a deriv. of *boc*, "he-goat, buck," diminutives of which are Ir. *boicín*, *buicín*, and Sc. *buicean*. ScG. has also *boiceann*, goat-skin, hide or skin of any kind; adj. *boicneach*, of goat-skins; *na mbuicneach* may therefore be "of the goat-skinned ones," as I translate it. *An baladh buicneach*, the smell of the goat-skins, is a not impossible correction. O'Davoren (251, *Archiv f. celt. Phil.* II, 237) has "*Buicinn i. tón*, etc."
- 14d. MS. *go snoidheadh*.
- 15c. ? *má b'fhíor*, "if I have truly said."

XXIII. A MHEIC DHUBHGHAILL, TUAR ACÁIN

MS. 129. RC. 98; M'L. 90.

The poem bears to be addressed to MacDugall, *i.e.*, of Dunollie, whose name was Duncan, and whose father's name was Allan, but I have failed to identify him further. The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

- 4b. *na Rois*; perhaps a place-name, from *ros*, a cape, headland; but unknown to me and quite uncertain.
- 6d. *Diuirinnis*, on the north side of Loch Etive, in the parish of Ardchattan, Argyll.
- 8d. *An Chonghail*, see note on XXI, 23d.
- 10, 11. These verses have been transposed for the sake of the *dúnadh*.
- 10a. ? *At-chim*.
- 11b. ? *'gá n-éinshntomh*, bound up together.

XXIV. CÓIR FEITHEAMH AR UAISLIBH ALBAN

MS. 6.

I have no information about the John Stewart, son of Sir Robert, of Rannoch, to whom this poem is addressed, but he is probably identical with the John Stewart of No. XXII (see notes *ad loc.*). Poems of this kind, dealing with a real or fancied grievance of a bard against his patron, are common. The metre is *Séadna*.

- 1cd. The imperfect *aiccill* makes the reconstruction doubtful.
 7d. I have taken *lean* as for *do lean*; but it may be ipv. sg.
 14a. Reconstruction and translation are alike doubtful.
 16. This, like the preceding and the following verses, is a verse of *moladh*, not of *bagar*; the poet is clearly contrasting his weakness with Eoin's strength. The first couplet, however, is not clear; if my translation is right, the sense may be paraphrased, "it is but a poor reward that my satire is likely to win, namely that my life shall be exposed to thy hostility," *anam* being the subject; *fá h-éiric chronn*, however, is a somewhat strange expression.

XXV. FADA DHOMH AN LAIGHE-SE

MS. 179. M'L. 102.

The poem is, and was in the original, metrically irregular, and is clearly by an amateur poet. Various vernacular forms appear: 1c, *bheirinn*, sg. 1 condit.; *bhuaim*; 3c, *dúdach*; 5c, *a h-uile chí*; 6c, *dh'fhuadaicheadh*, sg. 3 condit.

For the author's name, *cf.* a reliable statement in Campbell's *Book of Garth and Fortingall*, 138: "the Wolf's (*sc.* the Wolf of Badenoch's) descendants were commonly called Combaich."

- 1d. The line lacks a syllable.
 2ab. These *táinte* are the subjects of well-known sagas.
 3a. The horse-herds and steeds of Manannán, of the Tuatha Dé Danann, may be sea-horses; to his trumpet (3c) I have met no reference.

- 3b. In *Acallam na Senórach* Fionn's sword is in *Craebghlasach, cloidem sliasta Finn*. A well-known proverb says *Cha d'fhàg claidheamh Fhinn riamh fuidheall beuma*, Fionn's sword never had to cut twice. In the poem in *Ac. na Senórach* beginning *Cuirnn ro bhàtar i tig Fhinn*, Fionn's horn Grugan is given among the horns of the other chief heroes; in *The Chase of Sid na mBan Finn* (Kuno Meyer, *Fianaigeacht*, 62, 63) Fionn obtains from Cronánach a magic horn, which turned the water with which it was filled into sweet-tasting, delicious mead.
- 3d. For Cú Chulainn's famous spear, the *gae bolga*, see O'Rahilly, *The Goidels and their Predecessors*, Rhys Memorial Lecture, 1936, p. 33.
- 5a. ? Cf. *Laoidh Laomuinn mhic an Uaimhfhir* in J. F. Campbell's *Leabhar na Féinne*, p. 106; the *Laoidh* is said to be part of a dialogue between Patrick and Ossian.
- 5c. Forbes in his *Gaelic Names of Beasts*, etc., has "*ci*, an animal, beast, hind, doe; *ci*, *cich*, or *cigh-cingeach* or *ceangach*, noble animal or stag, the leader (Dean of Lismore); *cich*, a greyhound, dog; *cidheach*, *cigheach*, a fat lamb; *cigh*, a hind, doe" (p. 7; cf. p. 57, etc.): the sense of cattle-beast or cow would do well enough here, but I know no such word.

XXVI. PARRTHAS TORAIDH AN DÍSEART

MS. 278. RC. 107.

The poem is an elegy on Duncan, son of Gregor (or Mac Griogóir, MacGregor?), Keeper of the Castle of Glen Orchy, who died on 19th July 1518, and was buried in Dysart, styled by the poet *Díseart Chonná(i)n*, Connán's Hermitage, at Dalmally.

The *Old Statistical Account* has an interesting note on St Connán's well, "a quarter of a mile eastward from the Inn of Dalmaly . . . memorable for the lightness and salubrity of its water. St Connan was the tutelar saint of the country. He lived, it is said, near the well, and he blessed the spring" (vol. viii., p. 351). The only other place known to me where this saint is commemorated is on Loch Rannoch-side, where is *Cill Chonnáin*, Killichonan, Connán's cell or church. His name is a diminutive of Conn, and is not to be confused with Conán, which is a totally different name.

Of the poet nothing is known; but he may have been the father of Dubhghall mac an Ghiolla Ghlais, author of the poem on p. 204. In that case he would be an old man in 1518; and indeed the style and tone of the poem suggest old age. The last two quatrains deal with the death of a lady who, though her name is not given, was perhaps a near relative of Duncan.

The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

- 1a. In *Parrthas toraidh*, *toradh* is the buried dead; but *parrthas torraidh*, *torraimh*, paradise of sepulture, is also possible. Cf. *Párthas súain do na brocaibh*, a paradise of repose for the badgers, *RC*. II, 306; also *parrthas Fódla Fir Mhanach*, the paradise of Ireland is Fermanagh (the beginning of a poem in *Nat. Lib. MS. LXXX*), like the Welsh *Powys paradwys Cymry*, *Powys*, the Eden of Wales.
- 3d. *ga nollony*^t can hardly be for *gan ollamhain*, without poets, *i.e.* unsung; *gan* is *gin* with the MS., nor is the sense what one would expect.
- 11a. I have written *domh* for the MS. *dof*, as is usual; but *dóibh* would make better sense, and I have so translated.
- 21a. *Loch Toilbhe*, still so called in Gaelic, is Loch Tulla on anglicised maps.

XXVII. RÍOGHACHT GHAISGIDH OIGHREACHT EOIN

MS. 155. M'L. 98.

The poem is addressed to Eoin mac Phádraig mheic Mhaoil Choluim, who died in 1519; its author, Dubhghall mac an Ghiolla Ghlais, was therefore a contemporary of the Dean. He was evidently learned and highly trained; the present poem is one of the finest in the Dean's collection. The metre is *Rannaigheacht mhór*. Alliteration is usual, but not regular; *aicill* is used in each couplet.

Dr M'Lauchlan's transcript contains a good many small inaccuracies which I have not recorded.

- 3a. Cf. *dá rinn ghaisgidh Gaoidheal nGréag*, "two constellations of valour of the Gael of Greece," *RC*. II, 222.
- 4a. *na trí ngleann*, *i.e.*, *Gleann Liomhunn* (Glen Lyon), *Gleann Urcháidh* (Glen Orchy) and *Gleann Sraithe*, now *G. Sreithe* (Glen Strae); what of Glen Dochart?

- 5d. *Céacht*, more usually *Dian Céacht*, the god of healing of the pagan Gael.
- 6b. *ní*, for *do-ní*.
- 7b. *i.e.*, they give freely of their flesh and of their wine; *caillte* (: *aicme*) would give better rime, but rather poorer sense.
- 7d. Of MS. *a hee*, a clear reading, I can make nothing; but it almost certainly represents a verb.
- 8cd. Cf. *Clann Morna, gíodh maith na fir, nochar chuir sé sin i mbrígh*, "of Clan Morna, though good the men, he recked naught," *RC.* I, 76 (Dean of Lismore).
- 9b. MS. represents *ó chuain*, which makes no *aiccill*.
- 9d. For *diolmhain* and its derivv. see O'Rahilly, *SGS.* II, 17 ff.
- 10a. *Branán foirne*; cf. l. 1116. *Branán*, a raven, chief, also means a chess king, while *foireann* is the chess-men.
- 11d. Note *flath : cath*; so 17dc and 20dc *math : rath*.
- 16c. ? Read 's a *ndíon*, "and their protection."
- 22a. Cf. *ruc Dia breth le Calum Cille*, "God gave judgment for Calum Cille," *ZfCP.* V, 42: *bas barrtana le mbi ar mbret*, *id.* II, 337.

XXVIII. AITHRIS FHRÉIMHE RUANAIDH EOIN

MS. 208. M'L. 104.

The poem is addressed to Eoin mac Pádraig, chief of Clan Gregor, who died in 1519. Its author, Donnchadh mac Dubhghaill Mhaoil, was the Dean's brother, four other pieces by whom are preserved in the Dean's Book. His work shows that he was not unversed in the art. Those acquainted with poetry of this sort, and with its rules, will find it hard to believe that the author was ignorant of the traditional spelling, and will infer that, so far as Donnchadh was concerned, the difficult spelling of the MS. was adopted by choice and not on account of ignorance.

As to the MacGregor genealogy given here, cf. that by the same hand printed by M'Lauchlan at p. 126, and the older one by Mac Giolla Fhionntóg (No. V and notes).

The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

- 1cd. The MS. *Na weym̄* stands apparently for *ní bhiam*, and *mane* may be for *mian*, though the word is hardly appropriate; the construction eludes me. The meaning intended is perhaps "*ní bheinn . . . munab a chine.*"
- 3b. The MS. points with practical certainty to the place-name *Ard an Easgair*; but as I have no independent proof of the existence of the name there, I have placed it in italics. I have it on good local authority that the name *Bothan an Easgair* was at one time applied to the place where now stands the manse attached to St Conán's church at Loch Awe.
- 4c. *cá meisde*: "what harm?" "why not?" here parenthetical. The condit. *cár mhísde?* is common in mod. Ir.; cf. Dinneen s.v. *measa*. (Hardly *meisde* as at l. 1350.) Alternatively, *tá measta . . . saoirtheasta*.
- 8c. Professor Bergin observes that *dá shaorshlait* is probably a mistake for *dias shaordha* (: *Aodha*).
- 11a. ? "including thee."
- 14b. After this line the MS. repeats 11cd.
- 16c. M'L.'s reading is correct; but as I can make nothing of *choonna* (it is probably a mistaken repetition: cf. *choonni* (*sic leg.*) M'L. 108, for *Chuin*, l. 301), I have conjectured *Chonaill*, to rime with *toraidh*.
- 16d. *tonn toraidh* is a standard expression; cf.—

Mac Uí Olbhuir mar thuinn thoraidh
 ag líonadh lámha gach fir;
 sin an tuile dá dtéar trágadh,
 ós dleacht duine rádha ribh

(from a Nat. Lib. MS. poem in praise of William MacLeod, son of Sir Norman of Bernera who died in 1705);

Madh síoth madh cogadh do chách
 Mac Cailín is é ar n-ursgáth;
 lámh leantar mar thuinn dtoraidh,
 Eachtar an fhuinn Albanaigh

(SGS. III, 152; to the Marquis of Argyll, *post* 1641, *ante* 1645.)

XXIX. CRÉAD Í AN LONG-SA AR LOCH INSE

MS. 70. M'L. 80.

This poem and the following, by the same author, are satires of a curious kind; I know no parallel to them in Gaelic. The only Loch Inse known to me in Scotland is that in Badenoch, in English, Loch Inch, and this may be the loch meant, though it is in fact only a small loch which never held a ship worthy of the name. In No. XXX, which Mac Cailéin the poet has in mind, and why Loch Rannoch is the scene, are questions quite obscure to me.

The metre of both poems is *Deibhidhe*.

- 1b. *airinnse* and *foirinnse* (4d; No. XXX, 2d) are verbal nouns which I have not noted elsewhere. Hessen's *Irisches Lexicon* quotes *for-innet*, divulges, reveals, abstr. *foirnéis*, of which *foirinnse* would seem to be a modern equivalent. Armstrong *foir-innis*, predict; *foir-inniseach*, predictive.
- 4a. *carbh*, masc. here, but fem. in the following poem.
- 5a. The absence of alliteration makes *iarnaí* doubtful.
- 6d. I infer the form *buachain* from the spelling *woy⁴chin* and from the rime; the literary form is *bóchna*, m.; Dwelly's Dict. quotes Dr Carmichael's *Carmina Gadelica*: "*bóchuin*, the sea, the ocean; the ripple at the bow of a moving boat," f.; Dinneen s.v. "*bóchna* f. (sometimes m.)" also quotes "*bóchain* (Meath poet)."

XXX. T'ANAIG LONG AR LOCH RAITHNEACH

MS. 266.

- 1a. The MS. *Da zanyth* is for the colloquial *dé dhéanadh*, where *dé* is for *ciod é*. *Tánaig* is quite conjectural, but gives the required number of syllables and a *dúnadh*, neither of which is possible if we adhere to the MS. There was perhaps confusion with the opening of the sister poem, *Créad í an long-sa*.
- 4d. *fionnfhuair*, for *fionnfhuaire*.
- 9cd. Or *ansan gearbh . . . glégharbh*, but *carbh* is clearly fem. in 6c, 10b.

- 12c. The only word known to me which could fill the blank is *cadúdh* (see *ZfcP.* XVI, 282; XX, 96; *Buile Suibhne*, ed. O'Keeffe in *Mediaeval and Modern Irish Series*); but the meaning ("wrapping") is hardly suitable. *Gan chairrge* seems strange in view of the following.

XXXI. IS MAIRG DÁ NGALAR AN GRÁDH

MS. 292. RC. 103; M'L. 118.

This poem, by Isabel, probably Countess of Argyll, has been edited by Professor O'Rahilly, *Dánta Grádha*, 74; a version, no doubt derived from our source, appears in Maclean Sinclair's *Gaelic Bards*, 1411-1715, and previously in the *Oban Times*, August 1905. The metre is *Rannaigheacht mhór*. For a note on the poetess, see the Appendix containing another of her poems.

- 1a. Or *Mairg darab galar an grádh* (O'Rahilly).
 1c. *sgarachtain* here and *mara* in 2c are vernacular forms which may be allowed to stand in simple verse such as this.

XXXII. CIALLACH DUINE FÓRUASAL

MS. 131. M'L. 100.

This poem, though syllabic, was not composed in the literary dialect, and there is no reason to remove vernacular features, even if that were possible in every case; these features include the omission of *a*, the degraded form of *do*, 3a (but see note), 5c; *caraid* as nom. sg., 12d, *cairdean* as nom. pl., 10b, 11c; the negative *cha*, 6b, 13c; the verb forms *bheir*, sg. 3 pres., 4b; *bheireadh*, pl. 3 imperf. or condit., 5d.; and *bídh*, pl. 3 pres.; and the syncope of *Brághaid*, 10a.

The metre is irregular, and the rough workmanship of the poem naturally leaves something to guesswork.

- 1a. If the reconstruction is right, the lenition indicated by MS. *3oin' eir'ossil* remains unexplained.
 1b. *faoighe* (the Scottish written form) gives good sense, but bad rime, nor does the MS. *feith* resemble the various spellings of *faihdhe*, etc. in No. IX.

- 1c. *magadh*: MS. *maggr* might well represent a word *magradh*, which I do not remember having met, but which might be inferred from Sc. *magair*, a mocker, jeerer.
- 2a. MS. *estew*, *éistibh*, with the usual modern ScG. ipv. pl. ending.
- 2c. 8 syllables.
- 3a. A Sc. form *fuileil*, which I have not met, seems to be indicated by the MS. *fullul*; its adoption would permit *do* before *Chloinn*.
- 3b. ? *dúmhair* (*dómhair*).
- 7b. *feidhmeach*, MS. *faimyth*; the rime shows a not uncommon pronunciation of *ā* in such words as *thàinig*, *màthair*, etc. Possibly, however, the poet meant *fáinneach*, "MacSween of ringlets."
- 9b. The MS. *skeillit* represents a common pronunciation of the past part. pass., *sgaoilit*; so *beannaichit*=*beannaichte*.
10. The rimes of this quatrain appear to be disarranged, but I am uncertain of the correction.
- 12b. *Srath na Tìora*, probably a place-name.

XXXIII. NÍ MATH SIUBHAL SAN DOMHNACH

MS. 102. RC. 92; M'L. 76.

The metre is *Rannaigheacht bheag*; there is no regular alliteration.

6bd. ? *einigh*: *teichidh*.

6c. The MS. text is *Iyr* (: *darmit*), which might well be for *aer* (disyll.), Sc. *aighear*, merriment; but this makes defective rime.

XXXIV. FUATH LIOM BHEITH ANMOCH AG TRIALL

MS. 68. RC. 94 (from EM.'s transcript); M'L. 78.

With this poem may be compared that called *Fuath na h-Uiseag* in the MacLagan MSS., printed in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, XXI, 221 f. The metre is *Rannaigheacht mhór*.

- 1, 2. With these verses *cf.* the following from a poem of 26 verses contained in Nat. Lib. MS. XXXVI, pp. 92b, 93, a transcript of which, in ordinary cursive hand, is found in MS. LXXXIX, p. 222 ff. :

Is fuath liom droch bhean ag fear maith,
 is fuath liom flaith ar mbi gruaim,
 is fuath liom liun tana 7 i daor,
 is fuath liom duine caoin gan stuaim. . . .

Is fuath liom dubron a ttech an oil,
 is fuath liom baile mor gan ghean ;
 is fuath liom a bheith maonar a triall,
 is fuath liom cliar ga mbiodh . . . (illegible).

(the transcript gives the last line as : is fuath liom gan bheith sean).

3. Cf. *Fuath na h-Uiseag* :

Is fuath leam ceann feòna (feadhna) gan bhì cruaidh,
 is fuath leam sluath nach togadh creach ;
 is fuath leam an cogadh na'n sìth
 am fear nach cuiridh (cuireadh) nì ma'n seach.

XXXV. ALASDAIR, 'NDO THRÉIG TÚ AN GHRUAIM

MS. 64. M'L. 82.

The metre is *Rannraigheacht mhór*.

1b. The line is hypermetric.

1d. *Sean* (MS. *schen*) is a common pronunciation of *sin*, and is required here to rime with *ghean*.

XXXVI. MAIRG DUINE DO CHAILL A GHUTH

MS. 93. RC. 91 ; M'L. 68.

The metre is *Rannraigheacht mhór*.

2d. *Mian* is probably the word underlying the MS. *meynni*, but not so probably the word meant by the poet.

3d. The MS. *tugg'* should represent *tuigeadh*, which does not seem possible here.

- 4a. *tóidh*, MS. *toye*; *tóidh*, heed, is common in phrases with the verb *tabhair*; e.g., *thoir tóidh ort fhéin*, take care of yourself. In certain parts of the mainland at least the form used is *taidh*, with *a* shortened before the main stress of the sentence. (The stress is never on *thoir*, *pace* MacBain, *Dict.*, s.v. *taidhe*.) The poet may have written *Is mairg nach toir*, using the common Scottish vernacular form of the dep. verb; so in the following line, the Scottish (*agus nach*) *cum* is quite as likely in this poem.
- 5d. The line might be re-written to preserve the natural sequence of tenses; but *cuir* can be justified as being more vivid, and also it is meant to rime with *bun*.

XXXVII. IS FEARR SGÍOS COS BHARR GNÍMH GHLAIN

MS. 27.

The verse is anonymous. The metre is *Deibhidhe*.

XXXVIII. SEACHT SAIGHDE ATÁ AR MO THÍ

MS. 239. RC. 104; M'L. 118.

Another version of this poem is preserved in the Fernaig MS., and has been edited by Henderson (*Leabhar nan Gleann* 215) and by Malcolm MacFarlane (*Lámh-Sgríobhainn Mhic Rath* 22), who gives a reliable transcript. This version is inferior on the whole to that preserved in the Dean's Book, but from it I take *maille ré* in preference to the vernacular *cuide ré* (6c), *Criost* in place of the unmetrical *Muire* (7c), and *sin* at 8c, where the MS. *gay* is not clear to me.

The metre of the poem is *Rannaiheacht mhór*.

APPENDIX

THE following poem occurs at p. 285 of the MS., under the name "Isbell ne vek Callein," *i.e.* Iseabal Ní Mheic Cailéin. It was translated, without text, by Quiggin (*Prolegomena*, p. 40). To his translation mine adheres as closely as possible, but it is clear that my reconstruction is not identical with his. As regards the identity of the poetess, the style "Ní Mheic Cailéin" is proper to the daughter of the Earl of Argyll, and two such bore the name Isabel: the daughter of the first earl, Colin, and of his wife, Isabel Stewart; and the daughter of the second earl, Archibald, and of his wife, Elizabeth Stewart. Probably, however, it is to the wife of the first earl that we should attribute all three poems, "Éistidh a lucht an tighe-se" (by "Contissa Ergadien Issobell"), "Is mairg dá ngalar an grádh" (by "Yssbell ne v'kellan") (No. XXXI), and the present poem. If this is correct, "Ní Mheic Cailéin" must be, as it were, the feminine equivalent of Mac Cailéin, denoting his wife, a not uncommon usage. In MS. *A* of "The Genealogie of the Campbells," printed in *Highland Papers*, vol. ii., it is recorded that Sir Colin of Glen Orchy, husband of Margaret Stewart, eldest daughter of the then Lord of Lorn, and tutor of the infant Earl Colin, procured to Earl Colin for his lady Isobella Stewart his own sister-in-law. Here MS. *B* gives Isobell as the name of Glen Orchy's wife; "the daughter who married Argyll is there called Margaret and also Marvale na-ridaghri (?) 'for her inclination to Rhyming.'" (*H.P.*, II, 97 note.) MS. *A* is right, but it seems likely that the nickname given in *B* may have been in fact applied to this Isabel.

Atá fleasgach ar mo thí,
 a Rí na ríogh go rí leis!
 a bheith sínte ré mo bhroinn
 agus a choim ré mo chneis!

Dá mbeith gach ní mar mo mhian,
 ní bhiadh cian eadrainn go bráth,
 gé beag sin dá chur i gcéill,
 's nach tuigeann sé féin mar tá.

Acht ní éadtrom gan a luing,
 sgéal as truaighe linn 'nar ndís :
 esan soir is mise siar,
 mar nach dtig ar riar a rís.

There is a youth intent upon me ; King of kings, may
 he come to fortune ! Would that he were stretched by my
 body, his breast to my breast !

Were all according to my desire there would ne'er be
 distance between us, though that be all too little to say,
 seeing that he himself understands not how things are.

But it is not easy unless his ship come, a tale that is
 most grievous to us both ; he is east and I am west, so that
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Note.—2b. The words *go bráth* are not in the MS.

J. C. W.

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Easgair U.

THE SCOTTISH GAELIC TEXTS SOCIETY was founded on 12th April 1934. Professor Watson on that occasion observed that over half a century had passed since that well-known Celtic scholar, Dr Alexander MacBain, in reviewing the position of Scottish Gaelic scholarship, said: "We want a good critical edition of the Gaelic poets; we want also a scientific dictionary dealing with the philology of the language." Dr MacBain himself supplied the dictionary; the other requisite remains, in part at least, to be supplied.

The Society which has been formed to advance this aim, recognising the excellent work done by similar societies in other fields, feels that, with the support of the leading Gaelic scholars of the day and of others whose interest in the language has been life-long, it may well be able to achieve for Scottish Gaelic what has been achieved for other languages.

A very considerable volume of Gaelic literature, prose and verse, is still inaccessible to readers, and the heavy task of publishing it in a systematic and scholarly manner will need the help not only of readers of Gaelic, but of others. Besides the Gaelic texts, the Society's publications will include introductions, commentaries and vocabularies, and in most cases translations, which should specially appeal to those who, while interested in Scottish history and literature, are not conversant with the language.

The Society records its appreciation of the devoted work of the two gentlemen at whose instigation the Society was founded, Professor Watson, the editor of this first volume, and Mr Fred. T. Macleod.

May 1937.

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