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# Highlanders at Home and Abroad.

## M A N I F E S T O

*By the Executive Council of "The Highland Association" (An Comunn Gaidhealach) explanatory of the Objects and Work of the Association.*

### An Comunn Gaidhealach (The Highland Association).

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 The Duchess of Sutherland.  
 The Marquis of Breadalbane.  
 The Marquis of Lorne.  
 The Right Rev. Angus MacDonald, R.C.  
 Bishop of Argyll, etc.  
 Professor Blackie.  
 Professor MacKinnon.  
 Professor Masson.  
 Mr John MacKay, C.E., Hereford.  
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George Henderson, Oban.

Donald MacKay, teacher, Ledaig.

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## O B J E C T S .

1. To promote the cultivation of Gaelic Literature and Music and Home Industries in the Highlands.
2. To encourage the Teaching of Gaelic in Highland Schools.
3. To hold an Annual Gathering, at which competitions shall take place, and prizes be awarded.
4. To publish at intervals a volume of such Prize Compositions as may be selected by the Executive Council.
5. To raise, by means of members' subscriptions and of donations, a fund which shall enable the Association to carry out these objects.

The Executive Council appointed at the inauguration of the Association on 30th April, 1891, have carefully considered the best methods of carrying out these objects, and they think it well to lay before their fellow-countrymen their proposals, in the hope that in carrying these into execution they will meet with that popular support, to which alone they look for success.

One of the main objects of the Association will be the encouragement of the teaching of Gaelic in Highland schools.

*The Teaching of Gaelic in Schools.*

With this end in view the Association will endeavour to induce School Boards to take advantage of the existing provisions of the Educational Code, and at the same time it will make an effort to secure additional facilities from the Education Department for the teaching of Gaelic in the schools. The Executive Council have appointed a committee TO PREPARE SCHOOL BOOKS SUITABLE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE.

The Association recognises that the instruction of the young is the first step towards securing to the Highland people the full benefit of their native literature; and it considers that to deny to children, to whom Gaelic is the mother tongue, greater facilities for learning to read and write it, is often a hardship, and in all cases an unnecessary and improper limitation. It is a certainty that the teaching of Gaelic reading and writing to these children would not interfere with the teaching of English, but could be made the vehicle for a more thorough understanding of their English lessons.

The increased grant which would follow the adequate teaching of Gaelic would also prove of substantial assistance to many School Boards in the Highlands.\*

The Executive Council regard the encouragement of Gaelic music as, perhaps, the most important of the objects of the association and, certainly, the one which is most calculated to give immediate results.

The practical work of the association in this direction may be divided into two sections, viz.:—The formation of adult choirs, and the introduction of Gaelic singing into Highland Schools. By these means it is confidently hoped that the rich treasures of Gaelic melody and song will become more the possession of the people than they are at present.

The Executive Council recommend the formation, wherever there is material available, of choirs for the study of Gaelic music. Should the Association meet with the encouragement and financial support which is anticipated, the Executive Council purpose engaging the services of one or more competent choir teachers to organise and instruct local choirs. To local choirs, whether formed under the guidance of the Association's choir teachers or not, the Executive Council look for competitors, both in solo and chorus singing, at the annual Mòd or competitive gathering of the Association. The Executive Council are making arrangements for the publication of GAELIC SONGS HARMONISED FOR PART SINGING, and to be published at a cost which will bring them within the reach of all. It is hoped that this will give a great impetus to the formation of choirs.

The teaching of singing in schools is now universal throughout the country and is the subject of a Government grant. At the same time it is the fact that in few Highland schools are Gaelic songs taught to the children. One reason

\* Extract from the preface to the second edition of the text book published by the Council of the Society for utilising the Welsh language:—

"In more than one school it has been shown that the children of English-speaking parents have passed a highly creditable examination in Welsh—one such child, indeed, standing third in the total number of marks earned. As to the injurious effect upon other subjects, it is sufficient to point out that *where Welsh has been taken up the uniform success of all classes has never been greater than now*; that the children have improved in English, and that in one case the grant for English was doubled on account of the increased proficiency in that subject which followed the teaching of Welsh as a specific subject."



for this may be the want of proper music books harmonised for children.

The Executive Council are making arrangements for the publication of a suitable collection of SONGS HARMONISED FOR CHILDREN. When the want of a text-book is thus supplied, strenuous efforts will be made to introduce Gaelic singing into all Highland schools. The Executive Council believe that there should be no difficulty in attaining this end, and they anticipate that the instruction of children in Gaelic singing will popularise the reading and writing of the language.

#### *Annual Mòd.*

A distinctive feature of the association will be the holding of an Annual Gathering, at which prizes will be offered for excellence in the composition and recitation of Gaelic poetry and prose, and for choir and solo singing in Gaelic. In addition to these, prizes will be offered for original melodies and bagpipe compositions, unpublished Sgeulachdan, and Home Industries, such as wood carving, weaving, &c.

#### *Meetings.*

It is hoped that the first meeting will be held sometime next summer or autumn in Oban. Due notice will be given in the public press. In subsequent years the meetings will be held at places likely to accord the support necessary

to success. The Executive Council trust that, in no case, will two consecutive meetings of the Mòd need to be held in the same place, but that every populous centre in the Highlands will endeavour, by the amount of local support it is prepared to give the Association, to justify the holding of the Mòd within its bounds.

To individual Highlanders at home and abroad the Executive Council confidently appeals for that personal and financial support without which the objects of the Association cannot be carried out, strong in the assurance that these objects are both practicable and calculated to raise the standard of popular culture in the Highlands.

The membership of the Association is divided into two classes—Life Members and Ordinary Members—Life Members paying one subscription of £5 5s, and Ordinary Members an annual subscription of 5s. It is hoped that every one sympathising with the objects of the Association will intimate to the treasurer, Mr Donald MacKay, Ardmore Villa, Oban, their desire to become members, and will, further, do their best to induce others to join, and by every means in their power make the Association what it aims at being, a truly popular and national organisation.

*Membership.*

## DO CHLANNA NAN GAIDHEAL ANNS GACH CEARN.

### AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

Chaidh an Comunn Gaidhealach a staidheachadh air an deiceamh là fichead de mhìos deirionnach an Earraich, agus tha'n Comunn a uis a' cur fa chomhair an luchd-duthcha na dòighean a's fearr, a reir an beachd, air son nan rùntan sin a ghiùlan a mach, ann an dòchas gu'm faigh iad cuideachadh fialaidh bho Ghaidheil anns gach cearn a chum 's gu'm bi cànaid, litreachas agus ceòlan duthcha air an leasachadh agus air an togail gu h-inbhe a's àirde. Cleachdaidh an Comunn gach meadhon a dh'fbaodas iad a chum leughadh, sgrìobhadh agus seinn na Gàidhlig a theagas anns na sgoilbha Gaidhealach.

Bithidh Cuanail Ghàidhlig air an suidheachadh anns na h-àitibh a mheasar freagarrach; agus, ma's urrainnear, bithidh luchd-teagasg ciùil air an taghadh agus air an cur air chuairt, a chum nan Cuanal sin a theagas ann an ceòl na Gaidhealtachd. Bheir an Comunn fa chomhair luchd-riaghlaidh nan sgoilean am feum mòr agus sònraichte a th'ann, gu 'm bi an òigridh Ghaidhealach air an oileanachadh 'n au cànan mbàthaireil, agus gu 'm bi fàth air a ghabhail air a' chothrom agus a' chuideachadh a tha tighinn a cheana bho'n Chrùn air sou teagas na Gàidhlig. Iarrar air a' Chrùn tuillidh cuideachaidh a thoirt seachad, a dhom's gu'm bi a' Ghàidhlig air a cur anns an t-suidheachadh anns am bheil oiid de theagasgan eile. Tha'n Comunn anns a' hheachd gur e teagas na h-òigridh Ghaidhealach 'n au cànaid fhéin, an ceud cheum agus an ceud ceart a chum litreachas agus ceòlan duthcha a leasachadh; agus gur i an sgoil an

t-àite anns an còir sin a dheanamh, Cha'n eil e ach riasanta agus uàdurra cothrom a thoirt daibh le luchd-riaghlaidh nan sgoilean air an cànan fhéin a sbeinn, a leughadh agus a sgrìobhadh. Bithidh a' Ghaidhlig air a teagas taobh ri taobh ris a' Bbenrla, agus chithear, au aite i bhi 'n a bacadh air foghlum eile, gur ann a bhitheas i 'na cuideachadh mòr do'n sgoilear ann an iomadh doigh.

Bithidh leabhraichean teagasg agus leabhraichean ciùil, freagarrach do shean agus òg, air an uidheamachadh agus air an cur a mach leis a' Chomunn. Cha'n ann gun airgid 's gun saothair is urrainnear sin a dheanamh, agus, ma thig an t-airgid a stigh—mar tha'n dòchas gu'n tig—cha bhi'n t-saothair a dhith a chum crìoch urramach a thoirt air a' chuid so de obair a' Chomuinn. Tha e air a mheas gu'n còir ceòl binn, milis ar duthcha a theagas anns na sgoilbha, agus a chur air a leithid de rian 's gu'n gabh an òigridh tlachd ann a bhi seinn duanagan na Gaidhealtachd; agus, mar so, gu'm fàs iad toigheach air leughadh agus sgrìobhadh an cànan fhéin.

'Nuair bhitheas na leabhraichean deas, nithear oidhirp air an cur an cleachdadh anns na sgoilbha; agus tha 'n Comunn ann au dòchas gu 'm faigh iad cuideachadh agus misneach anns an ni so bho luchd-riaghlaidh nan sgoilean, agus bho mhaighstirean-sgoile Gaidhealach. Tha a' mhian air a' Chomunn, Mòid bhliadhnaidh a chumail ann an àitibh freagarrach de'n Ghaidhealtachd; ach cha ghleidhear Mòd ann an aon àite dà bhliadhna an déigh chéile. Aig a' Mhòd

bhliadhnaibh bithidh duaisean air an toirt seachad air son seinn, bàrdachd, lenghaidh, seanachais, pobaireachd, grahhaladh-fiodha, obair-fhighte, agus an leithid sin.

Faodaidh feadhainn air dheag tuigse a hhi farraid—Ciod e an stàth a nì e do na Gaidheal co-dhiù hhitheas iad spèiseil no dearmadach mn 'n Ghaidhlig, a litreachas, a ceol agus na nòsaihh a hhuineas daibh mar chinneach air leth?

Tha 'n Comunn a' freagairt—agus tha na daoine a's airde beachd air na nithean a 's feumail agns a 's freagarraiche do chor chinneach, a' freagairt—gur e an nì a 's cunnartaiche a th' ann do chinneach air bith dimeas a dheanamh air an ahaistean agus an cleachdaidhean dùthchasach. Thainig an cunnart sin faisg air na Gaidheal.

Ma leanas sibhse an eisimpleir a tha feadhainn a' toirt, cha 'n fhada gns an dùmar leahhar bhur n-eachdraidh, gus an sgaoil neul na dì-chuimhne air enchdan siol nam beann; agns, an deigh sin, caillidh na Gaidheil am hnaidh shònraichte air cùisean an t-saoghail. Cha do gheill slnagh riamh ann an gleachd an àir gnn mhoran a bhi fulang droch-càraidh agns bròin. Nì mò strìochdas cinneach ann an cogadh na beatha gun iomadh neach dol a dholaidh. Cha'n'eil an

Comunn am beachd gur e sin a tha 'n dàn do na Gaidheil.

Ma 's àill leibh hhi 'n 'nr daoine comasach, dochasach, fein-carbsach, buadh-mhor, cumaibh suas na cleachdaidhean dùthchasach. Is airidh iad air hhur spéis. Ach ma 's àill leibh bhi 'n 'nr daoine diblidh, an-dochasach, geillteach, cnirihh air chùl iad.

Dùisgibh, ma ta, éirichihh agus cuiribh an gnìomh. Rngadh sibh 'n 'ur Gaidheil; 'n 'nr Gaidheil bitheadh sibh; agns togaibh hhur cloinn gu bhi 'n an Gaidheil. Cha 'n fhaod e bhi gu'n dearbhadh sibhse sibh fein 'n 'ur cladhairan; agns, gu sonraichte, 'n nair a tha sibh a' faicinn cho gaisgeil agus cho eudmhor 's a tha na Cuimrich agus na h-Eirionnaich ann a bhi seasamh dileas d'an dùthaich 's d'an cànan fein.

Tha nis na cénman a tha 'n Comunn Gàidhealach a' rùnachadh a' ghabhail, air an cur fa chomhair an luchd-dùthcha, agns tha fìor dhòchas aig a' Chomunn, gu'm faigh iad cuideachadh bho gach Gaidheal aig am hheil spéis agus gràdh d'a cànan, 's d'a dhùthaich; agus a nis tba cothrom aig na h-uile air a dhearbhadh gn follaiseach co dhiu is math, no nach math leo an cànan a chumail suas, agus a dheanamh seasmhach.

All interested in the objects of the Association should at once communicate with the Secretary, MR JOHN CAMPBELL, Solicitor, Albany Street, Oban; or MR DONALD MACKAY, Ardmore Villa, Oban—the Treasurer—who will be glad to receive subscriptions or donations.