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EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, D. Litt., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed; business and other communications to 212 West George Street, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXIV.]

An Dàmhar, 1928.

[Earrann 1

MOD INBHIRNEIS.

Tha còig bliadhna o chumadh am Mòd mu dheireadh an Inbhirneis, agus anns an ùine sin thàinig feabhas taitneach air gach cùis a bhuineas do'n Mhòd. Chan e mhàin gu faicear aghart air na comh-fharpuisich iad fhéin, ach thàinig caochladh don ruichte air eud is dùrachd na Gàidhealtachd. Chruinnich cuideachda mhór air an turus so. Thugadh òraid ghrinn leis a' Cheann-suidhe, An Siorram Macamhaighstir Caimbeul. Thug e iomradh air inbhe nan Gàidheal an eachdraidh, an gnìomh, agus an litreachas. Thachair gu fortanach gu robh Ceann-suidhe Eaglais na h-Alba anns a' bhaile mu'n am, agus thàinig e dh'ionnsuidh na coinneimh aig Fosgladh a' Mhòid. Labhair e mu shaothair agus fianuis nan Gàidheal an Eaglais na h-Alba, riamh o linn Chaluim Chille. Ghiùlain e brath o Ard Sheanadh na h-Eaglais, teachdaireachd deagh-ghean, a' guidhe soirbheachaidh do gach gluasad a tha An Comunn a' deanamh as leth na cànan.

Bha ni sonruichte ri fhaicinn, a tha ùr do'n ghinealach òg, agus is e sin na teachdairean a chuireadh gus a' Mhòd leis na dùthchannan Ceilteach eile. Labhair Mac Ille Bhrìde (Lord Ashbourne) airson Eirinn. Is esan Ceann-suidhe Conradh na Gàidhlig. Thug e iomradh air gach spàirn is oidheirp a tha na h-Eireannaich a' deanamh gus a' Ghàidhlig athbheothachadh. Thug maighdean Chumreach deagh bhreacadh air staid na cànan Cuimrich. Thubhairt i gu bheil e na mheatachadh dhaibhsan gu bheil cuid de'n chloinn a dh'ionnsaigh Cuimreach 'n an dachaidhean, gu bheil iad a' faotainn am foghlum anns na sgoiltean o mhaighstirean

sgoile Sasunnach. Is e tha anns an t-sealladh aig na Cuimrich, gu faodadh iad fhéin an cuid riaghailtean foghlum a dheanamh, a chum gum biodh an òigridh 'g an eideachadh air mhodh Cuimreach, agus chan ann air mhodh Sasunnach. Chualas òraid anns an Fhraingeis, o'n teachdaire a thàinig a Brittany. Thug esan seachad brath càirdeil o na Ceiltich a tha an diugh air feadh na Frainge.

Is mór an cuideachadh do'n Mhòd gu robh ullachadh maith roimh laimh troimh an Fhéil a chumadh aig Caisteal Neis anns an t-Samhradh. Bha a' Chomhairle anns a' bhaile soirbheachail an tional airgid. Tha airgid an diugh na dheagh dhearbhadh air dùrachd, dicheall agus dealas. Rinn iad saothair chruaidh feadh a' gheamhraidh a' cruinneachadh suim a phagheadh airson cosgais a' Mhòid. Chaidh leotha gu h-ìomantach; agus tharruing sin aire an t-sluaigh gu seachdain a' Mhòid. Mar thoradh air so bha muinntir a' feitheamh le fadachd gus an tigeadh an t-am, agus bha na tallachan làn an comhnuidh ag éisdeachd ris an t-seinn. Agus chuir Coimhairle an Bhaile fàilte chridheil air a' Mhòd. Chum iad Céilidh gasda an Talla nan Coinneamhan Tuathach. Bha cuid-eachda mhór a' làthair. Fhuaradh fàilte is misneach o Cheann-suidhe na Comhairle, duine uasal measail, agus cainntear urlabhrach, deas. Labhair mar an ceudna Ceann-suidhe a' Chomuinn, agus an t-Ollamh Urramach Macaoidh Chhillfinn. Thugadh guth-cheòl is taitneas le cuid de sheinneadairean ainmeil Gàidhlig, agus is fada a bhios cuimhne aig gach aon a bha làthair air an fheasgar shona a chuireadh seachad.

Ach is e am feabhas a thainig air na comhfharpaisich a tha 'n a aobhar taingealachd. Tha saothair luchd teagaisg na seinn a' giùlan toraidh. Tha sin ri fhacinn anns an àireamh de choisirean a tha a' tighinn o 'n dùthaich. Tha iad sin a' nochdadh na seann dòigh agus an t-seann spioraid. Tha so 'n a bhuannachd, ghe nach biodh na coisirean dùthchail cho innealta an seinn ri coisirean a' bhaile mhóir. Mar dhearbhadh gu bheil alt na seinn air tighinn gu staid aird, thubhairt Raibeart Macleoid gur i so a cheud bhladhna a fhuair e misneach aig Mòd gu bhi a' tabhairt breith air réir nan rioghailean is airde a thaobh luchd-seinn. Is e sin ri ràdh, gus a so nach tuigeadh na seinneidearan cìod e bhiodh e ag ràdh; ach a nis tha iad air fàs cho eolach agus tuigseach air alt na seinn agus gun tuig iad comhairle mu mhearachdan beaga do nach mothaic an sluagh. Thug am breitheamh so fiannuis gu bheil seinn na Gàidhlig aig a' Mhòd, a cheart cho fada air aghart, ri seinn a chluinnear aig fèisdean cìtil an àite sam bith feadh na rìoghachd.

THE MOD OF 1928.

The National Mod of 1928, which was held at Inverness from the 26th to the 29th of September, has been one of the best ever held under the auspices of An Comunn. The four days' proceedings were characterised by sustained enthusiasm. Seldom have the competitions, even in larger towns, been listened to by bigger audiences. The various counties of the north were well represented both by competitors and by visitors to the Mod. Much of the success of the occasion was due to the cordiality with which the Mod was received by the Magistrates, Town Council, and the inhabitants generally. The speeches of the Provost, and the hospitality of the Provost and Council, made the officials of An Comunn realise the cordiality of the welcome. Everyone seemed to feel "at home," and that surely was a great satisfaction to all who came from far and near. We have noticed that the competitors caught the glow. There was a fine spirit pervading the competitions. The period of preparation during the year was a busy time for the local Committee, who acquitted themselves with great credit. In some important directions they have broken the record. An Comunn owes them great gratitude for having put such energy into the work. The accommodation, both in

regard to halls and to hotels, was all that could be wished. We are indebted to *The Inverness Courier*, *The Chronicle*, *Oban Times*, and *The Highland News* for the full reports they gave of the proceedings.

TUESDAY.

The first day was devoted to the Junior Section. The Gaelic adjudicators were Rev. Alex. Macdonald, M.A., Alloa, and Rev. Donald Lamont, M.A., Blair Atholl, who were assisted in making their awards by the music assessors—Mr. Robert Macleod, Mus.Bac., Edinburgh, and Mr. D. T. Yacmini. The judges of the Oral Competitions were Mr. Angus Macdonald, H.M.I.S., and Miss Annie I. Macmillan, M.A., Glasgow. Rev. Neil Maclellan, Rev. Alex. Boyd, Captain William Mackay, Mr. Murdo Morrison, Mr. Roderick Macleod, and Mr. J. D. M. Black presided at the different sessions. Owing to exigencies of space, it has been found necessary to postpone the publication of the Mod Musical and Literary Prize Lists till November. The competitions among the children are very important. When one sees the keenness and earnestness of the rising generation, one feels that a new lease of life is being given to Gaelic speech and song. These children will never forget what they have grasped; and the probabilities are that many of them will catch and retain the Mod spirit. That is the earnest for the future of the language. At least, so we dare to hope. It is for parents and teachers to foster that spirit, which is not only patriotic, but educational as well. Attendance by school children at Mods now counts for school attendance. A Children's Concert was held in the evening. The Lady Elspeth Campbell, who presided, made an excellent speech, impressing on the children the beauty and value of the speech and music of their fathers.

WEDNESDAY.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY.

The official opening of the proceedings took place in the Central Wesleyan Hall on Wednesday at noon, in presence of a large and distinguished gathering. Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, president of An Comunn, occupied the chair. Members of the Inverness Town Council and prominent people connected with the Gaelic movement also occupied seats on the platform or in its vicinity. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. Alexander Boyd, M.A., of St. Mary's Gaelic Parish Church, Inverness, engaging in prayer in Gaelic.

Provost MacEwen said it gave him great pleasure, on behalf of the Magistrates and the citizens of Inverness, to extend a hearty welcome to those attending the Mod. He could assure them that the reception which they would receive in Inverness would not be a mere formality, and he hoped that when they returned home at the conclusion of their visit they would feel that they had been received with the warmth and acclamation which it was the desire of the citizens to accord them. He hoped when they would go away they would be able also to dispel the legend that there was any coldness or lukewarmness on the part of the people of Inverness towards the Gaelic movement, or lack of interest in Highland matters. They in Inverness were deeply interested in the Gaelic movement and in all that it stood for, and they had done what they could to make the visit of the Mod as successful as possible. There was not one in Inverness who was not delighted that the Mod had come to the capital of the Highlands. It had sometimes been said that the Gaelic movement was simply a piece of sentimentality, which had no practical results. He thought the very fact that that was the thirty-second annual gathering of the Mod was proof of the vigour and vitality of the movement. When they found hundreds of competitors coming from all parts of the country, and putting themselves to no small trouble or expense, he thought that was another sign of the vigour of the movement. After all, when they had a movement of this kind, which was not confined to one part of the country, and which interested Highlanders not only in the south, but throughout the Empire, and when they saw the practical results which followed, that again was evidence of the vitality of the movement.

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Fellow Gaels and Friends of the Gael,—There is an oft-quoted sentence from Macpherson's *Ossian* which, more than any other passage in English literature, has done grave injustice to the record of the Gael. Presented as it is in poetic form the phrase might well be regarded as a product of the bard's imagination which is not worthy of serious regard; but, as it turns out, the unhappy words have intrigued and influenced two such friends of the Celt as Matthew Arnold and William Sharp and by their acceptance of their authenticity, innumerable readers have been grievously misled, and the process of misunderstanding

is still alive. The passage to which I make allusion was, there is every reason for the assumption, one of the many interpolations of Macpherson himself, and as that enthusiastic student of Gaelic letters, the late Mr. Nutt, shrewdly remarks, "Macpherson reflects the mood of discouragement which overtook the Scotch Gael after the '45, and the break up of the racial clan organisation." The fateful words run: "They (meaning the Gael), went forth to the war and they always fell." And Arnold accompanied his quotation of the words with his acceptance of them as a well founded generalisation that the Gael had failed in his mission to the world. Mr Nutt, in his admirable edition of *Arnold's Celtic Literature* expresses his emphatic dissent both to Macpherson's declaratory line, and to Arnold's interpretation of it, turning both aside with the humorous reflection that "the real Ossian does not talk of falling, but about knocking down the other fellow." Mr. Nutt, like Mr. Arnold was an Englishman, a difference between them being that Nutt gave ten times more study to Celtic than did his more distinguished better known countryman.

We are not deeply concerned about the application or otherwise of the line, the subject of review, to the legendary period around which the Ossianic poems are written. But it is a sacred duty on the part of every self-respecting Gael to affirm, and affirm again, that so far from the history of the Gaelic people throughout the ages Post-Ossianic, being a procession of repeated failures, it is a history charged with victories and triumphs, imperishable as they are renowned, not alone on the ensanguined field, but in the peaceful domain as well of Religion as of Culture.

It is granted that our race has had its dark days like every other race on the face of the Earth, and it would be egoistic folly to claim for the Gael any position of supereminence. But all sincere students of his lore will allow that it is worse than folly to endeavour to denude any people of those distinctions which it has earned throughout the passing ages. In so far as the people of the Gaelic race are concerned it is I apprehend a sacred trust to An Comunn Gaidhealach to vindicate its reputation at all times and against all assaults to the extent that that reputation is compounded as it is largely compounded of things that are illustrious and of good report.

I would not count the early Gaelic conquest of a large portion of Scotland, nor do I linger to reckon the consolidation of Picts and Gaels into one Scottish Nation under the Gaelic

King, Kenneth Macalpine. The Piets I consider too close in kin for any Gael to regard the events which led up to the unification of Scotland as seized with the quality of victory or of conquest. But when I contemplate St. Columba and the Columban Church I feel there is impregnable foundation for the affirmation that no Christian race is possessed of a prouder, more sublime memory, than that of the people which produced Colum of the Gille. I am not unacquainted with the controversy which surrounds the Ninianic claim that, throughout large areas of Scotland, St. Ninian sowed where St. Columba watered, but the allowance of the Ninianic claim does not dim the lustre or lessen the high distinction of the founder of Iona. He was beyond question the first missionary of the Word in many, and among these the least accessible, places in our beloved land, and it is common ground that he, or members of his community, restored certain of the earlier foundations which Pagan hostility had caused to crumble. The circumstance is a proud one that it was the Columban Church which brought Christianity to the North of England, as it was also monks from the Abbey of Iona who introduced the Evangel to pagan Iceland and thence among the mighty Norsemen, to the point of their conversion the terror of the British coasts.

And as with religion so with general culture. The Abbeys of the Celtic Church were, during the Dark Ages, the most famous Halls of Learning in Europe, and it was only the academic ostracism of Gaelic following the establishment of the foreign religious orders by the Saxon Queen, Margaret, and her royal sons which arrested the development of a native Scotie culture, which would indubitably rank with the finest product of European learning. "The chief Latin poet in the middle of the ninth century," we are told by Professor W. P. Ker, "was Sedullius Scotus," a wandering Irish (which in those days connoted Gaelic) scholar, named like many of his countrymen, after the Christian poet whose *Carmen Paschale* was in the hands of every schoolboy."

It was but the other day that the wrong of the eleventh century was retrieved when, after seven centuries of discouragement and worse, the ancient language of Alba was granted its rightful place in our Scottish Universities. Frowned upon during the intervening generations, Gaelic became a tongue rarely spoken but by the unlearned, but in spite of its lowly state, producing in our poetry and song and our heroic tales a folk literature, and, in our proverbs, a folk philosophy, all the spontaneous

growth of the soil, admittedly superior to anything of its kind throughout the countries of Europe. Now that every scholastic encouragement is vouchsafed Gaelic, there is every reason for confidence that the new learning will inspire a new literature worthy of these far away times, when Gaelic was the home tongue of the finest scholars probably in the world.

Let me next select two periods, out of many, during which the strong arms of the men of Gaelic race gave valiant, magnificent service, first to Scotland, and then to the British Empire. I speak in the town of Inverness, the residence of Mr. Evan Barron, one of our best authorities on Scottish history; and my observation is that after meticulous research Mr. Barron has established it beyond controversy, that without the co-operation, willing, vigorous co-operation of the Clansmen of the Highlands and the Gaels of other Scottish parts, it would not have been given to Robert Bruce to win that memorable Battle at Bannockburn which, once for all gave Scotland the blessing of independence, and what need I say of those anxious, perilous years of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when the world position of Britain trembled in the balance. This I maintain, and for a crucial division of the period my position is fortified by the testimony of the greatest statesman of his age, the Earl of Chatham, that except the Highlands, in course of the sixty years between Quebec and Waterloo had furnished its tens of thousands to the military and naval service of the Empire it would not have been possible for Britain to establish and maintain that world-wide group of dominions, its security and its pride. And it falls to be remarked too, that, just as the Highland soldier and sailor gave such weighty contribution to the extension of the British Empire overseas, it was, in many cases, men of Highland blood who wrote their name most indelibly in the story of the colonisation and development of those lands whose wealth in natural products—and in the splendour of its manhood—is to the Motherland a never-ending source of imperial and moral strength. I mention five of these Highland empire builders. These were John Macarthur of the Strachur Macarthurs, the man to introduce the Merino Sheep and the Vine to Australia, and to earn the title of the "Maker of New South Wales": Alexander MacKenzie who explored, and added, the Canadian North-West to the Great Dominion; and Bishop Alexander MacDonald who organised and inspired the Highland Brigade of the Canadian fighting forces which repelled the American Invasion of 1813-14,

and who in 1837 performed a similar service in relation to the Rebellion of that year. There was Donald MacLean, afterwards Sir Donald MacLean, who by the exercise of that humane-ness which is fundamentally a Gaelic trait, pacificated the Maories of New Zealand, ever since the most progressive and the most loyal of all the native races subject to the British Crown. And last, but not the least eminent of our pioneers of Highland blood, there was David Livingstone, that son of an Ulva crofter, whose primary vocation was to Christianise Central Africa, but whose work was indirectly the occasion of there being added to the territories of his country, a region of high actual and potential value.

But of all the achievements accomplished by the Gael there are none that are comparable, for the peculiar quality of its triumph, with the bloodless, nay unsought, victory for the Gael and his fellow Celts, over those Teutonic elements which in the days following the supercession of the Celtic Church condemned the native language and all that it stood for to the outer court of the Temple of Learning. It was not because of any effort to persuade on the part of the Scottish Gael or his blood kinsmen, but because of the inherent strength and beauty of the Celtic tongues that the scholars of Germany and other Continental countries discovered after many centuries of neglect that, these Celtic tongues, each a variant of the other, were honourable and, with the Teutonic tongues, equal members of the Great Aryan group of languages. Since 1853, when the truth first dawned upon the German Zeuss down to the present day there has been a catena of German and Austrian, and latterly, of French scholars, enthusiastic students of Celtic, and certain of the most erudite contributions to Celtic scholarship in course of the past seventy years have flowed from the pens of Germans like Zeuss, Bopp and Zimmer. May I make mention of the name of the Russian clergyman, Rev. Cyril Dieckhoff, who is with us to-day, and who has given so strong and admirable a lead to those who would desire to acquire our honoured Mother tongue? Gaelic, for too long regarded by many of our own kith and kin as a patois with associations exclusively bucolic, is now honoured and esteemed where true learning is the guide of true appreciation.

I need not detail the successive developments in the movement in Scotland for the conservation and rehabilitation of our ancient culture. But we should not be reluctant to admit that the improved attitude to Gaelic

on the part of our non-Gaelic countrymen has been, to a considerable extent, influenced by the recognition of the language so spontaneously accorded first by leading Continental philologists and grammarians, and then by non-Gaelic Scottish scholars of the calibre of Professor Strachan, snatched away, alas, in the prime of his brilliant life. In this marvellous change of attitude, I have thus alluded to, there is striking attestation of the fact that Culture knows no national boundary lines.

And these exterior changes have been accomplished by an equally agreeable innovation at home. All well conditioned Highlanders are now either proud of their possession of Gaelic, or regretful that early circumstances prevented their acquisition of it. And speaking from the Chair of An Comunn Gaidhealach I rejoice in the well justified confidence that the future record of Gaelic, its literature, and its music will be one of steady, uninterrupted progress and development, which will enure to the best interests of our Mother Highlands and, indirectly, to the unmistakable advantage of that vast Empire in the creation of which our countrymen had had so distinguished a share.

"The Gael went forth to the War and always fell!" so runs the corrupted and too frequently accepted citation. Let us henceforward be stimulated by the historical truth that in certain of the greatest episodes in the stormy history of our race, the strain which sounds the loudest is one that tells of neither failure or defeat, but of definite, unequivocal triumph.

Air an aobhar sin, agus air son aobharan eile nach fhaod mi ainmeachadh bho'n a tha an t-im air ruith, tha sinn dearbhta mu dheidhinn nam bliadhnachan a tha romhainn a thaobh Gaidhlig. Thainig an t-seana chàinain roimh amannan searbhach ach tha sinn làn chinnteach a nis gu bheil i gu bhith mar a bha i o shean, air a labhairt agus air a sgrìobhadh—chan ann le muinntir na Gàidhealtachd a mhàin ach le mòran de mhuinntir na Machair far a bheil a chuid mhór de'n t-sluagh—Goill agus Sasunnaich.

"Ach buaidh is piseach air na laovich

Tha seasmhach air a sgàth,

Chaidh àrach ann an tìr an fhraoich,

Ged sgaoilt' an diugh a' àl:

Ged chaidh an sgapadh air gach taobh,

Cha chaochail iad an gnàth's;

Chan fhàs an eachdraidh lag le aois,

'S chan fhaigh a' Ghaidhlig bàs."

Lord Ashbourne, who was heartily applauded, after delivering a short address

in Irish, told of the progress of the movement in Ireland, and said they spoke Irish everywhere in Ireland, but with English words. People like himself had spent years of their lives in trying to raise up the Gaelic, and after a very long struggle in Ireland they had made progress. He spoke of how the language was uniting people of different political views, and said their mission was to unite the whole of Ireland by its language. He came there to represent the Irish League, as he had the honour of being its president, and to bring to them a message of friendship and greeting from the Gaels of Ireland. The best help that the Gaels of Scotland could give to the Gaels of Ireland was to save the Celtic language in Scotland.

Monsieur J. H. Louwyck, Paris, a distinguished author, speaking in French, conveyed the greetings of the Celts in France to those attending the Mod. In his country they were taking a greater interest than ever in the Celtic cause.

Miss Roberts, who first spoke in Welsh, and afterwards in English, told of the progress of the Celtic movement in Wales, and of the danger there was of the Eisteddfod being anglicised. In Wales they had 40 to 50 per cent. of the population speaking Welsh, but they had that day to fight far more than ever they did to retain the language. The educational system of Wales was an English system, and, therefore, the Welsh language got secondary consideration. The Welsh people were determined to change the educational system, and that was the problem before them. She conveyed her hearty greetings to the Mod.

Very Rev. Dr. Montgomery Campbell said he happened to be in the course of his official duties when he arrived at the beautiful town of Inverness, and he received a cordial invitation from their President to come to the official opening of the Mod. He had pleasure in doing so, and he, on behalf of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, had to offer their salutations. By arrangement with Dr. Harry Miller, the Moderator of the United Free Church, wherever he went, he had also to offer the salutation of the United Free Church. So they might take it that the salutations he offered that day represented the vast majority of the people of Scotland. There was reason why the churches should have an interest in a great society like An Comunn that was endeavouring to maintain the language, literature, culture, and traditions of the Gael. He thought they would agree with him that probably the most powerful

force in the nation in the past had been the Church, and he was pleased to say that An Comunn, in their great effort in preserving the language, could depend upon the support of the Church. It was of the utmost importance that the Gospel should be preached, and the Christian ordinances ministered in the tongue that was so familiar to the people of the land. As a Campbell, he was sorry that he had not the language of his ancestors, whose name was not very popular. They had, however, forgotten these things, and he might say that he went through Lochaber in the performance of his duties, and nowhere had a Campbell received a more hearty welcome than he had from the Camerons and others. He looked forward to the day, and he believed it was not far distant, when the great movement they had at heart would receive the support, not only of their own folk in the North, but of many in the South.

On the motion of Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the various speakers.

On Wednesday evening a Reception was given in the rooms of the Northern Meeting by the Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Inverness. About six hundred guests assembled. The various speakers were Provost MacEwen, Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, Rev. Dr. Mackay, and M. J. H. Louwyck, the delegate of the Celts in France. Gaelic songs were rendered by Miss Phemie Marquis, Miss Margaret Duncan, Miss Nan Macinnes, Mr. Roderick Macleod, Mr. Neil Maclean, Mr J. M. Bannerman, and Mr. R. Macleod, Anstruther.

THURSDAY.

Thursday was the day for the Rural Choirs and the Oral Competitions. In both these sections there was a very good appearance made. It were well if more reciters and readers came forward, who have already distinguished themselves at provincial mods. The singing of the Rural Choirs was most creditable, and indicates how much of steady work is being done throughout the country. The Rural Choir Concert was held on Thursday evening in the Wesleyan Hall, and was presided over by Mrs. Smythe of Ness Castle. She remarked that, although it was only two years since these competitions for Rural Choirs commenced, yet their success has been immediate and instantaneous. There were now no less than eleven choirs competing for the Lorne Shield, presented by Colonel and Mrs. Campbell (Airds). She pointed out that it was in the rural districts that we must look for the main-

tenance of the language as a spoken tongue. It was the badge of a great race, and if it should die, the race would die with it; and what true Gael would ever wish his race to disappear into oblivion.

FRIDAY.

Friday was mostly devoted to choral work and quartettes. One of the musical judges emphasised the vast strides of progress that have recently been made in this department. He said that this was almost the first time at a Mod that he could freely discuss the more subtle points of "light and shade" with the assurance of being properly understood. The choirs had made such progress all round. Much encouragement has been given by such choirs as come a long distance to the Mod. There is a spirit of resolve and loyalty in this which augurs well for the cause.

The concerts in the evening are the grand finale of the festival. The programme was sustained by choral and individual winners. It must be admitted that the standard of merit is extremely creditable. At no concert can one hear the quality and beauty of Gaelic song as at those musical gatherings held in the "Mod atmosphere," which is now a recognised environment helpful to performer and listener alike. The prizes were presented in the Wesleyan Hall to the successful candidates by Lady Sybil Fraser. Sir Archibald Sinclair presided. Mr. Compton Mackenzie presided over the large audience in the Central Picture House. The programme was carried on in two halls.

Owing to exigencies of space, it has been found necessary to postpone the publishing of Mod Prize Lists till the November issue.

AN UISEAG.

A' cheud duais aig.
Mod Inbhir-nis, 1928.

Le PADRAIG CAIMBEUL,
BRAGAR, LEODHAS.

Chuala mise 'n uiseag
Mu mhullach nan àrd :
Cha b'e m'fhuath an guth ud—
Is buidhe leam t' fhàilt ;
I ri seinn le sùigeart
Mu mhullach an àit',
Le co-sheirm na's mìlse
Na bheir aon de chàch.

Iolach ! còisreadh usal
Ann an cuan nan nèamh :
Siòr chur ris an luath-ghair,
'S na dol suas tha 'n t-seid ;
Nuair a sgaoil an gruaim
A chuartaicheas na speur
Thaom i ceòl a nuàs
'San earrach nuadh fo sgéith.

A' bhean mhocharach dh'èirich
Is na sléibhtean dorch,
An àird an ear le leus
Ag cur air éideadh gorm ;
Ma's tug grian nan speuran
A mach leum bho bolg,
A ceòl-maidne ghleus i
'Nuair nach léir dhomh lorg.

Eileamaid 'sna neulaibh—
A' toirt sgeul gu'n d'fhalbh
'Bhuaidh a chuir fo'n eug
Gach luibh 's gach fear a shearg ;
An cruthachadh gu léir
Is i toirt ceum gu dearbh,
Gu dath éideadh chluaintean
Ann an uain' is dearg.

Dhuisc a spiorad éibhinn
Iomadh cré is càil,
Gu bhi greis ag eisdeachd
Guth do bhéil 's na h-àird :
Shuas am measg nan neul
Ag cur an cèill an là,
Co-mheasgta le chéile
Bidh gach té le dàn.

Bho an drùchd a dh'iadh i
Air an t-sliabh 'san oidhech,
Thog i ceum gu h-easgaidh
Dol air sgiath na gaoith,
Seòladh anns an iarmailt,
'Cur beus air ceud le loinn,
Aig am seinn nan eun
A' thig gach bliadhna leinn.
Neultan tiugh a' gheamhraidh—
Thug iad deann 'san ruaig ;
Dh'fhosgladh o an teanntachd
Na bha mall 'san fhuachd :
'S cha bhi teanga mhanntach
Aig bean-rann nan cluain,
Ann an gaoith an t-samhraidh
A tha fann a' gluas'd.

An deisearachd ghrianach
A tha sgiamhach grinn,
'Nuair a dh'fhalbh na siantan
Bidh gach eun a' seinn :
Ceilear aig an eunlaith
Do an Dia a rinn,
'S thug an uiseag bàrr
Aig togail àrd an fhuinn.

Innleachd sean no ùr
 Air inneal-ciùil a' mheòir,
 Chan eil air an dùilean
 Coimeas mùirn do bheòil :
 Chan eil gineal Iubail,
 Aig éil tùr air ceòl,
 Ach mar mhànanan tùchaidh
 Ri bean-chiùil tràth-nòin.

Dìreadh is a' dìreadh,
 Is a' slor chur rann,
 I ri seinn 's a' dìreadh,
 Sgiath mhaoth neo-mhall :
 Le tiotaidhean faochaidh
 Ach a' taomadh chainnt,
 Mar roth beag 's na neòil,
 A' deanamh ceòl nach gann.

Am biadh a th'aig na flùirean—
 Grian, is drùchd, is blàths,
 Gleusaidh e do chiùil—
 An nì bheir sùrd do chach ;
 Feasgar bogha-chùmhnaint,
 Am gun diumb on àird,
 Ri toirt spionnaidh ùir
 Do dheagh bhean-chiùil na Màigh.

Le subhachas t'òrduigh
 An tiugh-reòil a' snàmh,
 Is toilicht' le do stòr thu
 Ged bu dòlum tràth ;
 Chan 'eil cùram tòrraidh
 Ann an dòchas àrd,
 Air gealladh na dh'fhòghnas
 A' tighnin beò gach là.

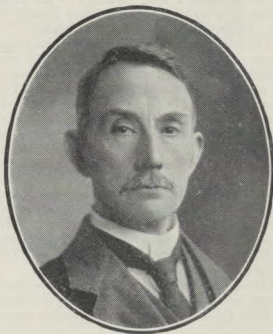
GAELIC TEACHERS.

MR. JOHN MACDONALD, M.A.
 Glasgow.

Mr. Macdonald, who has only recently retired from teaching, is a native of Arisaig. It is perhaps for this reason that *M'Eachen's Gaelic Dictionary* has always had a peculiar attraction for him. He passed his early boyhood in Inverness, and at the age of nine he removed to Glenurquhart, to which romantic glen his parents belonged. He looks back with fond reverence to the old schoolmaster in the glen, Mr. Angus Grant, who was an enthusiast for the ancient language of the Gael, and taught songs and read the literature, *after school hours*, to the senior boys and girls. And Mr. Macdonald still holds in grateful memory, a saintly old lady in the village, who assisted him in the winter nights to read through *The Pilgrim's Progress* in Gaelic. The reading of that classic made one feel something like the

thrill of the poet to whom "Homer" was a "new planet swimming into his ken." In the Glenurquhart of those days there were Gaelic competitions, in which all the schools in the wide parish took part.

Mr. Macdonald, as a lad, went south to Glasgow. After two years in an office he entered the University, and having, like many a Highland, as well as Lowland student, to "work his way," he served for three or four sessions as a teacher in the Free Church Schools in various parts of the Hebrides. The teaching of Gaelic was an important part of the work in these schools, so that his early love for the aristocratic speech of our race was revived. There was a good opportunity for speaking



Lafayette.

and studying Gaelic so as to teach it efficiently. He has no doubt as to the wealth of vocabulary of Hebridean Gaelic, but he prefers the "turn" of the mainland Gaelic. When the founders of An Comunn held their first Provincial Mod in Oban, Mr. Macdonald took first place for singing with a choir from Dalmally School.

During the war years Mr. Macdonald taught the Gaelic Evening Classes in the High School of Glasgow. He was requested to continue the work of that able and devoted Gaelic scholar Mr. Donald MacPhie; and he edited, under the direction of Professor Watson, *Gaelic Reader IV.*, for use in Highland schools. He has frequently read papers at Gaelic meetings. His Gaelic is marked by ease, fulness, and correctness. His name appears

as a prizeman in the lists of more than one University Calendar, since he won distinction in a number of the classes. He was a distinguished student in the French and German classes at the Athenæum. Last year as editor of that outstanding volume, *Voices from the Hills*, the Book of the Great Féill, he gained

fresh laurels, giving evidence not only of a true taste in the selection and arrangement, but also of a talent quite as rare—the editorial gift; for the book and its editor will be heard of when the occasion which called it forth has long been a thing of the past. *Sonas agus saoghal fada dha.*

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC, BROADFORD, 1928.



Teachers and Students at Skeabost House.

Hon. Secretary's Report.

The School was opened on Thursday, 19th July, and held its meetings, by kind permission of the Inverness County Education Authority, in Broadford Public School, where four classrooms were available. The School continued in session for four weeks, meeting for the last time on Wednesday 15th August.

THE GAELIC CLASSES.

During this time the three language classes held 21 meetings of about 2 hours each, making about 42 hours work in all. The Advanced Class, under Mr. David Urquhart, M.A., Drumsittal School, North Kessock, consisted of 9 students, the Intermediate Class, under Mr. John N. MacLeod, Knockbain School, Kirkhill, had also 9, and the Beginners' Class, under Miss Ann Johnston, Castlebay School, Barra, had 8 students, making a total of 26 students in the language classes. These numbers were, however, never all present at the same time, as 7 of the students were only part-time attenders.

Three others paid fees who did not attend the School, and one other enrolled for the Art Class only, making 30 enrolments in all.

THE CLASS OF CELTIC ART.

The Class of Celtic Art, which met in the afternoons, was taught by Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., and Miss MacBride. It held 20 meetings of 2½ hours each, making a total of 50 hours work. There were 8 students. The work consisted of lectures, drawing and designing, and leather-craft.

THE CLASS OF GAELIC SINGING.

The Class of Gaelic Singing met in the evenings from 7 to 9.30, under the leadership of Mr. Neill Orr, and held 19 meetings. Of its 30 members, 16, who were attending that class only, were admitted at a fee of 5s. The programmes of three ceilidhs, which were organised during the school session, were chiefly sustained by members of the class.

FUTURE TEACHING AND MEETING-PLACE OF SCHOOL.

At the request of Mr. Neill Orr and Mrs.

Burnley Campbell, a questionnaire was submitted to the students asking for opinions regarding a future meeting-place for the School, and inviting criticisms and suggestions. As a result of this action, members of the School were on two occasions convened for discussion. Regarding the Teaching, there was a general concurrence of opinion that more stress should be laid on conversational methods of instruction. As to the place of meeting, several suggestions were made, and places specially mentioned were:—Islay, Portree, Inverness, Fort William, Arisaig and Blair Atholl. Opinion was sharply divided between those who favoured holding the school in a town where better facilities for accommodation would be available, and those who held that a Gaelic atmosphere, with opportunities for speaking Gaelic to native-speakers outside the classroom, is all-important to those who wish to acquire colloquial—as against book-knowledge of the language.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR INVITATIONS.

The thanks of members of the School are due to Sir Reginald MacLeod, and to Mr. and Mrs. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost, for their hospitable invitations extended to all the staff and students, and for their kindness and courtesy towards those who, in response to these invitations, availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting Dunvegan and Skeabost.

The following twenty-seven students attended the Summer School of Gaelic. Of these, seven attended the Class of Celtic Art in addition to one of the Gaelic Classes, and one attended the Art Class only. Other three students paid the fee of 30s., but did not attend the School.

The Singing Class numbered about thirty, including enrolled students and specially included members in nearly equal numbers.

ADVANCED CLASS.

Mr. David Urquhart, M.A., Drumsittall School.

Students:—Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, of Ormidale; Miss Hoy, Edinburgh; Miss Lamont Knockdown, Argyllshire; Miss Jane MacLeod, Greenock; Miss Lettice MacNaughtan, Southampton; Mrs. Medley, St. Andrews; Mr. Thomas Paton, Balerno, Midlothian; Miss Christina Ross, Barnock School; Mrs. Ryan, Roy Bridge.

ELEMENTARY CLASS.

Mr. John N. MacLeod, Knockbain School.

Students:—Miss Alexander, Bridge of Allan; Miss E. Brereton, Inverness; Miss Eleanor

Cameron, Colchester; Mr. T. Douglas-MacDonald, Scots College, Palestine; Miss Kirsty MacLennan, London; Miss Margaretta MacNab, Perth; Miss Kate Martin, Inverness; Dr. Jean Meiklejohn, Edinburgh; Miss Catherine Nicolson, Glasgow.

BEGINNERS' CLASS.

Miss Ann Johnston, Castlebay, Barra.

Students:—Miss Catherine Campbell, Edinburgh; Mr. Charles Davidson, Marischal College, Aberdeen University; Miss Margaret Leigh, Plockton, Ross; Miss E. Mackinnon, Crieff; Mr. Angus MacLeod, yr. of Skeabost; Miss Marion McNeill, Edinburgh; Miss Stewart, of Ardvorlich; Mrs. Wrang, Sheffield.

CLASS OF CELTIC ART.

Mr. Colin Sinclair and Miss MacBride.

Students:—Miss Alexander, Bridge of Allan; Miss Lamont, Knockdown, Argyllshire; Miss Margaret Leigh, Plockton, Ross-shire; Dr. Mary Mackinnon, Broadford; Miss Kirsty MacLennan, London; Miss Jane MacLeod, Greenock; Miss Margaretta MacNab, Perth; Miss Marion McNeill, Edinburgh.

CLASS OF GAELIC SINGING.

Mr. Neill Orr, Liberton School, Edinburgh.

The students included 14 from among the above-named, and other 16 who were specially enrolled for the class.

Students who paid the 30s. fee without attending the School:—

Mr. Moffat-Pender (visited school); Mr. J. Cooper Clark, South College, Elgin; Mr. W. Morrison, 41 Meads Street, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Singing in the Summer School.

When I enrolled for singing it was as a recreation after hard study of Gaelic, but I soon found that there was some hard work to be done as well as the practice of Gaelic songs. Half the time was devoted to theory, and Mr. Orr explained very clearly and patiently the difficulties of musical notation as we went on. I am a Staff Notationist, and began with a prejudice against Sol-fa. My neighbour in the class was an ardent Sol-faist, ignorant of the Staff. How could the instruction meet our varying requirements? Our doubts were speedily dispelled, for each evening we got a lesson in both notations; with the result that I am a convert to the use of Sol-fa, and my friend finds the Staff no longer a sealed book. There were over thirty pupils in the class, and so convincing were the explanations and demonstrations that there cannot be any

doubt but that every one who attended the full course is now a zealous dual notationist. The songs were taken from *A' Chòisir Chiuil*, *Chòisir na Cloinne* and *Songs of the Hebrides*. There were hardly any male voices, so we were confined to unison, duet and trio practice. *Puirt-a-bial* was a new type of music to me which I enjoyed thoroughly. One cannot sing Gaelic songs until one has learned to pronounce Gaelic properly, and here the blackboard lessons illustrating the elusive sounds were invaluable. But the *Ceilidhs* arranged by Mr. Orr were the outstanding feature of the Session. What an array of talent and what a variety of entertainment! One night we had skilful performers on the *piobmhór*, *feadan*, *clarsach*, *fidheall*, and piano, and singers and story-tellers not a few. In the audience I noticed doctors of medicine, divinity and philosophy; authors and journalists; choir conductors and teachers. There were truly all sorts and conditions of people at the practices and ceilidhs, from the young singer at the threshold of musical culture, to the holder of a college diploma; yet all seemed to enjoy the work, and many are already looking forward to the pleasure of another term next year.

AN APPRECIATIVE PUPIL.

GAELIC TEACHERS.

For the last year or two the supply of teachers turned out by the Training Colleges has been in excess of the demand, and it has now been found necessary to curtail the number of students admitted to training. It is gratifying to observe that the danger of unduly diminishing the number of teachers available for Gaelic speaking areas has not been overlooked. As a special measure taken in order to safeguard an adequate supply of Gaelic speaking teachers the Committee have offered places at their Glasgow Centre to all candidates for entrance who showed proficiency in the subject of Gaelic as attested by Leaving Certificate results.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Sir,—With reference to a recent query re-Bannockburn, perhaps I may point out that Professor W. J. Watson in his recent book on the Celtic place-names of Scotland connects

the first part of the name with a group of hills, *Mons Bannauc*, which represents *Minid Bannauc*; "this most probably denoted the hilly region, abounding in peaks, which forms the basin of the river Carron in Stirlingshire, from the northern side of which flows the Bannock Burn."

The popular form Allt a' Bhonnaich is apparently a mere retranslation, based upon the misconception that we are dealing with a burn which has some connection with "bannocks."

As to the prohibition of the Teutonic dialect in the Grammar School of Aberdeen, your correspondent will find the Latin original in the *Miscellany of the Spalding Club* (Vol. v., p. 400). It is as follows: *Loquantur omnes Latine, Graece, Hebraice, Gallice, Hybernicè, nunquam vernaculè, saltem cum his què Latine noscunt*. *Gallicè*, of course, is French (Gallic), not Gaelic. *Hybernicè* is Irish, i.e., Gaelic. This and other regulations were published in a book by John Vaus, entitled, *Rudimenta puerorum in artem grammaticalem*, the first edition of which was published in 1522. About this time, Gaelic was spoken in various parts of Aberdeenshire from which it has now disappeared, e.g., in the Garioch.

Mise, le meas,

A. C. MACNEACAIL.

GAELIC TOPICS.

A Charaid,—Ma tha mo litir-se a thaobh nan ainmeann an deigh na Gaidhil a chur aig rannsachadh an choguis chinnich tha mi glè thoilichte gon do sgrìbh mi i.

Suas leis a Ghaidhlig's challenge to the Gaelic nation to disprove the charge of the *inferior race feeling* can be answered best by those who uphold the Gaelic form—Eoin O'Duibhne for instance. The proportion of such seems to be about ten per cent. in *Eire*, and five per cent. in *Alba*.

The officials of the Irish *Comunn Gaidhealach* are pledged to the Gaelic form. Let's hope the Scottish association follows suit. The Gaidheal must assert himself. *Cuirimis uainn an ceann-fé agus an lag-spridighe! E. O'D.*, discussing a song in the *Beurla* ("The Road to the Isles"), says "the thought was imperative that here at last was the Highland national song." This, in my opinion, is an error. We, in *Eire*, have had the "Soldier's Song" half-foisted on us as the National Anthem by non-Gaelic minded young men of military spirit. The music which is not satisfying to a Gaidheal,

seems to be of the *Sousa* march style, and the language is English. I have seen three attempts at turning it into Gaelic, but it is impossible of translation. No Irish Gaidheal accepts it as the *national* anthem. *E. O'D.'s* favourite has the advantage of being Gaelic music, but the language must be GAIDHLIG before we talk of "the Highland National Song."

Beannachd le Cairtriona, Bean an Ghranndaich. Her wonderful work in old age bears close resemblance to that of An t-Athair Peadar O'Laoghaire (the greatest modern writer of our nation) who took up his Gaelic pen at sixty and wrote some twenty volumes before he died, at eighty-four; his last great work being *An Biobia Naofa*, which has not yet appeared in book form. (*D'fhaodadh mi tuille colais, mun sgrìbheadir sin a thoirt nam b' àil ri bh é?*). The historical essays by your lamented lady contributor contain much to interest Irish Gaels. I, myself, had been wondering if the name of a Scottish vessel which visits Corcaigh weekly—s.s. *Pladda*—is Gaelic, but a recent paragraph from Mrs. Grant's pen tells me it is *Lochlannach*:

"Faodaidh sinn Pladda chur riu sin —sgrìobhta roimhe so: *Flada*=Flat-Ey=Eilean comhnárd."

B'fheidir ri Eogair, go geuirféa roinnt éigin de *William Tell* (ó laimh Bhean an Ghranndaigh) fé chlò sa' *Gaidheal* dúinn lá éigin, le d' thoil? Dia go déo le Náisiún Gaedhal!

S. T.

I gCorcaigh, in Eirinn.
Meadhon Fómhair, 1928.

A BHEIL GAIDHLIG AGAD.

"A bheil Gaidhlig agad," arsa mise ri balachan beag a thainig a stigh far an robh mi. "Chan eil," fhreagair e, ann am Burla. "O," thubhairt a mhathair 's i comhla ris, "tuigidh e i math gu leoir ged nach bruidhinn e i." Bha làn a cinn de Gaidhlig aice fhein, gu dearbh 'se a Gaidhlig a b' fhearr na a Burla, agus Gaidhlig gu leoir aig athair a' bhalaich cuideachd. Nis, cha b' ann aon uair no dà uair a thachair dhomh a cheart cheisd fharraid de bhalach no de chailleig agus a fhuair mi a' cheart fhreagairt, agus dìreach 's beag orm a chluinntinn. Carson ma tha Gaidhlig aig na màthraichean nach eil i aig a' chloinn? Nach eil fhios gur i a bhios i a bruidhinn riutha gun tàmh, nuair nach tuig iad aon rud no rud eile agus a tha iad coma co-dhiu ciod e chànan a th'ann fhad'sa se am màthair fhein tha 'ga labhairt. Agus cò 'a chànan tha cho tlàth, thùsmhor, blàth chum a bhi comhradh

ris na leanaban. Ach gu dol air ais gum' chuspair, cia mar nach bruidhinn iad Gaidhlig ma thuigeas iad i. Tha'n dara rud cho furasda ris an rud eile, saoilidh mise co-dhiu, do chloinn a tha air an togail anns a' Ghaidhealtachd.

Bha mi uair dol do Ghasachu anns an "Hebrides" agus air bòrd maille ri mòran eile bha dà chailleig òig, bhòidheich. Bha iad 'nan suidhe dlùth dhomh agus cha b'urrainn mi gun an còmhradh a chluinntinn. Thubhairt an dara té ris an té eile, "Nach briagha fhein an latha fhuair sinn a dh'fhalbh." "Cuist," arsa an té eile, is i toirt dhi putadh math le h-uilinn, "coma leinn a bhi bruidhinn Gaidhlig, bithidh iad a saoilteann gu bheil sinn cho "Heilan." "All right," mata, fhreagair an té eile, agus thoisich a Bheurla aig an da ghòrag bheag, bhochd sin. Bheireadh e gàire air cat. Ciod e chur gu'm biodh iad a sealltuinn slos air 'a Gaidhlig agus air a bhi "Heilan'." Nach e ite b' airde 'nam boireid gun robh iad "Heilan'" mar a bha aice air, agus gun rachadh aca air Gaidhlig a bhruidhinn.

Cha chreid mi gu bheil na Gaidheil cho suarach mu'n cànan agus gu faigh i gu bràth bàs, ach dh'earalaichean air na màthraichean gu sonruichte a' Gaidhlig a labhairt ri an cloinn aig gach am dìreach bho 'n cheart mhionaid is urrainn dhaibh bruidhinn, agus ma ni iad sin cha chluinn sinn cho bitheanta na faacail thàmailteach ud—"Tuigidh mi Gaidhlig ach cha bhruidhinn mi i."

BAN-GHAIDHEAL.

IS GAELIC OF UTILITY?

(By COLONEL GILBERT GUNN.)

If a simple and uninstructed layman may peradventure enter a field where "angels fear to tread," he would do so solely in the hope that this important subject may receive full attention from those who are better qualified to deal with it than he can claim to be.

An *Gaidheal*, for August, contains an interesting account, by Mr. Henry T. Wyse, of the Provincial Mod held at Portree, on 3rd and 4th July. According to this report, "Colonel Macdonald of Tote, Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost, Mr. Angus Robertson of Glasgow, and Dr. Neil Ross of Laggan, all emphasised the *non-utilitarian* aspect of the Celtic movement." It is difficult to understand precisely what this means. Why *non-utilitarian*?

The cultivation of the Gaelic language and literature is the first plank in the Celtic pro-

gramme. It may be assumed that members of An Comunn believe Gaelic to be of more than sentimental value; than it is of real utility, and that its omission from a rightful place in the educational system of the Highlands has been a grave blunder in the past.

Principal Sir Donald MacAlister in his admirable address on, "Gaelic in the Highland Schools," makes the position clear, and shows that the teaching of Gaelic has a real value in the strictly educational sense. In Sir Donald we have a great educational expert and noted linguist, who proves conclusively that Gaelic is of utility. Why, therefore, should the *non-utilitarian* aspect of the Celtic movement be emphasised? Here, a clear and well defined outlook is essential. In official publications such as *Modern Studies*, 1918, and *The teaching of English in England*, 1926, we can glean a wealth of interesting information as to the teaching of languages, and the needs of a liberal education such as is desirable and attainable at the present time. These official publications should be of great help in throwing a light on the aims, objects and needs, of modern education. If Gaelic is to be fully appreciated by the people of the Highlands, steps should be taken to make clear to them how Gaelic teaching directly bears upon life, and how every part of the process of teaching has a purpose intelligible to all concerned. Gaelic cannot be divorced from the general system of education of the country. It should be the ambition of every Gael to have a perfect command of Standard English—spoken and written—as well as of his mother tongue.

The Committee report on *Modern Studies*—defined as all these studies (historical, economic, literary, critical, philological and other) which are directly approached through modern foreign languages—shows that "no part of our national education has remained so far below the standard of national and individual requirements as that concerned with foreign countries and foreign peoples of the present day, and which employs living languages as its instrument." The same report emphasised the need for energetic action in the study of foreign languages if any advance is to be made. The young, capable, active, and well-educated bi-lingual Highlander, with an aptitude for modern languages, will find great opportunities in the many branches of the Imperial Service, where a knowledge of foreign languages, European and Oriental, is essential—in India, where there are some 160 or 170 distinct languages—in Egypt, the Soudan, and in many parts of our far-flung Empire. Officers of the

British and Indian Armies usually know three or four languages. The Army has its own system of interpreters, and it is on record that between 1904 and 1913 candidates presented themselves to the Civil Service Commissioners in no fewer than twenty-two different languages. The number of officers thus coming forward was actually considerable.

In the great commercial and banking firms in the East, active men and good linguists are required. In the past Highlanders and Gaelic men have done much pioneer work in the East, and it is hoped that they may render equally great service in the future. It is not to be expected that all our young, capable bi-lingual men will in future be content to restrict themselves to the duties of the teaching profession or the ministry. The present writer would respectfully urge that the young Gael who ventures out into the world with a competent knowledge of Gaelic and English has clear and distinct advantages over the Lowland Scot, or the Englishman who is limited to one language.

It is to be hoped that An Comunn may be able to send fully qualified, inspiring lecturers of academic standing, to the Gaelic centres, to demonstrate to the people the true value of their Gaelic heritage, and the utilitarian aspect of the Gaelic movement. Above all, the people must be shown that Gaelic is in no way a hindrance to the acquisition of standard English, that, on the contrary, a command of the native language as a means of communication is an obvious condition of all educational development. Finally, that the sounds of spoken Gaelic and of spoken English should be scientifically taught, preferably through phonetic symbols. The old misconception that Gaelic is inimical to the best command of Standard English, and to a pure English pronunciation, must once and for all be shown to rest on a false theory.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1928.

GAELIC.—Dictation.

(Higher Grade.—Second Paper).

Tuesday, 27th March—1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

*This paper must not be seen by any Candidate.
To be read out by the Teacher at 1.30 P.M. in the
presence of the Supervising Officer.*

To be written by the Candidates on the separate sheets provided, which must be collected before the Second Gaelic Paper is distributed.

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS.

1. Read the passage aloud distinctly and deliberately, but not slowly, the object being to bring out the meaning of the whole as clearly as possible.
2. Inform the candidates that they may not ask for the repetition of any word or phrase.
3. Dictate the passage slowly, repeating each group of words (as indicated by vertical lines) twice over, and pronouncing every word very distinctly. The punctuation should be indicated.
4. After an interval of five minutes read the text over again in the same manner as on the first occasion, but do not on any account repeat separate words at the request of individual candidates.

DICTION.

Chan 'eil sgòil fo'n ghréin | cho éifeachdach,
 | ann an rathad, | a dh'ionnsachadh foidhidinn,
 | dlchill, agus saothair bhunailteach | cho maith
 ri bàta an iasgair. | Faic e le ràmh no le seòl |
 a' toirt a mach calaich | no ag cur fodha
 rudha; | a nis a' buidhinn | is a ris ag call; | a
 bheatha an crochadh | r'a neart is r'a sheòl-
 tachd; | agus gheibh thu leasan | air strì bhuan
 agus dhian | nach faigh thu ach ainmig. |
 Ach an uair a tha an rudha seachad, | is an
 caladh fo shròin, | théid an leasan a dhi-
 chuimhneachadh | gus an toir | féin-fhiosrach-
 adh cruaidh a chrannchuir | fa chomhair an
 iasgair | 's an ath ghàbhadh e. | Is e neo-
 sheasmhachd na gaoithe, | an t-srutha is na
 fairge, | agus neo-chinnteachd a bheatha féin
 | an co-cheangal riu, | a ghleidheas àite | an
 inntinn an iasgair, | agus a ni | "Cum an
 fhéill air an latha" | 'n a éigh* fhaoin 'n a
 chluais-san. | [10]

* Read *eigh* or *eubh* according to local pronunciation.

(GAELIC.—Intermediate Standard.)

Monday, 14th May—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

1. Translate into English :—

Tha uillt is aibhnichean Ìomhhor anns an Eilean so, cuid diubh mòr, àillidh, dreachmhor, cho farsaing domhain réidh is gun seòl luingeas chòig ceud tunna leth cheud mìle suas anna

troimh an dùthaich, fo làn aodach. Tha a' choille as mò, as àirde, as dtriche agus as luach-mhoire air an t-saoghal a' fàs gu dosrach ùrar air bruachaibh nan aibhnichean sin, agus an fearann as àillidhe ri amhar air, a' sìneadh a mach cho fada agus is urrainn sùil fhaicinn. Tha calaichean is àiteichean acarsaid mu cheithir thimchioll an eilein mhòir so cho farsaing, réidh thèarainte is a tha r'am faotainn ann an aon chearn de an domhan, cuid diubh cho farsaing agus gu faodadh cabhlach Bhreatainn tighinn thuige taobh ri taobh anna, gun lochd gun chunnart. Chan 'eil acarsaid air an t-saoghal a bheir bàrr air bàgh nan eilean. [20]

2. Translate into Gaelic :—

There once lived in Rannoch a farmer's son, who fell into ill-health. He used to go to the hill, morning and evening, to see if he would get better.

When the summer came and the cattle were driven to the hill pasture he followed, and remained in charge of them until they returned home to the Strath in the beginning of harvest.

On a clam, misty day he went away to gather them to the milking fold but strayed in the mist, and was a good time seeking them before he happened to come upon them.

He found them at last grazing in a fine large corrie with green juicy grass up to their eyes. The day was warm, with a misty, drizzling rain, and the grass was springing up rapidly from the ground. As he was tired with the heat and travelling on the hill, he sat down on the green hillock to take a rest. [20]

3. Give the Gaelic for :—

Twenty ships, two stones, the first book, the thirty-fifth day, a dog's tail, the side of the bed, the baby's mother, without end, with the stream, in the sun. [10]

4. Parse the words in italics :—

- (a) Thachair e orm.
- (b) Chuala mi na thubhairt na daoine.
- (c) Tha iad a' tighinn a choinhead air.
- (d) Is maith an duine e air muir is tir. [5]

5. Translate into idiomatic Gaelic :—

- (a) I dislike winter but I like summer.
- (b) You were foolish not to have taken the money since you were in need of it.
- (c) The more we have the more we want.
- (d) I received twice as much as I asked.
- (e) I should like to visit London in spring. [10]

6. Render into English idiom:—

- (a) Rinn sinn suidhe is ghabh sinn òran.
 (b) Ghabh mi orm nach cuala mi e.
 (c) Ghabh mi ris cho luath's a chuinnach mi e.
 (d) Chuir iad orm gun do ghoid mi each.
 (e) Chuir mi romham so a dheanamh.

[10]

7. Give:—

- (i) negative compounds of *eolach*, *sunndach*, *cuimhnich*.
 (ii) adjectives derived from *caraid*, *blas*, *cool*.
 (iii) nouns derived from *òg*, *diomhain* *dall*, *naomh*.

[5]

ROSG GAIDHLIG.

We regret very much that we should have again to disappoint teachers and scholars in their hope that the new issue of this book would be in their hands for the beginning of the current session. The Publication Committee are extremely sorry that the book is not yet available. Copies of the *Rosg* are being urgently asked for, and it would be a great favour if members who possess the book would kindly forward their copies to the Secretary at 212 West George Street, Glasgow, in order that the most pressing of these demands may be met. They will receive in return copies of the new issue whenever it is ready.

MUSINGS AT LAIRG.

How oft these scenes
 Ope channels deep and wide
 Into the sea of thought
 Where Spirit dwells.

* * * * *

Oh to translate the message
 Of the everlasting hills:
 To know their secrets
 And to know their knowledge
 Of the Great Creator's plan.

* * * * *

Beneath, the loch lies calm and restful.
 On this tranquil afternoon.
 The fisher plies his rod with patience
 In the shadowy pool:
 The stranger, lost in lonesome thought
 Strays by the bank,
 And, heedless of your presence
 Seems to move in realms, other realms than this.
 Afar, a solitary bleat
 Tells of a flock untended
 On the bare hillside.

* * * * *

So, in this calm, I would that you could rest,
 Unmindful of the passing hour:
 Yet with a deep content,
 I would that you could sink beneath this spell,
 And find a still more radiant happiness
 In this stillness, than you find
 In all your world-wide wand'rings.

ROBERT M'LEOD.

"LANGUAGE WITHOUT TEARS."

Maidir le litir *I.M.*, *M-P.*, tha stùil agam nach ceachtana Gaedhilge i dtaobh tighthe òsta agus traenana agus rudaí dhon t-sort san a cuirfar ar an *Parlaphone*.

Mr. Compton Mackenzie reviewing a Gaelic text book, *Irish for All*, in the *Gramophone*, wrote a very patent fact (which, extraordinary to relate, has been missed by the *Parlaphone* producers of Irish-Gaelic lessons: "It is not worth while learning another language to utter the same stereotyped phrases and think the same stereotyped thoughts in different words."
 . . . —*Language without tears.*—*The Gramophone* Nov., 1926.

Unless the Comunn ask that Gaelic life is reflected in the lessons, even in the earlier stages, the stereotyped conversation about 'railway fares, and hotel elevators, and five-course dinners,' will be given us.

Proverbs, riddles, couplets, and *ranna* of a *learnable* nature should form the main portion of the work. (The author of the *rann*—*Donncha Bán*, *Iain Lom*, etc., should be mentioned in passing.) These will communicate the spirit of the language and of the people who speak it.

Ach más é an Coinneach fein a bheidh i mbun na h-oibre beidh gach nà gach cear.

S. T.

I gCorcaigh, in Eirinn,
 10/9/28.

SUTHERLAND PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Sutherland Provincial Mod was held at Lairg on 7th September. Colonel A. N. Macaulay of Golspie presided. There were great numbers of competitors from all parts of the country. The judges were able to report a marked advance on the work of former years. Mr. Robert Macleod, Mus.B., says, "In the solo singing classes there was a very definite striving to produce a naturally beautiful tone, and while the expert from the large centre might scorn those efforts, the tremendous advance can be appreciated by those who have

been in touch with the movement since its inception in Sutherlandshire." At an evening concert Colonel Gilbert Gunn made a rousing speech on the claims and value of Gaelic as a language, and advocated a more thorough application of the "Gaelic Clause" in Sutherland.

The judges were:—Rev. R. L. Ritchie, Chreich; Mr. Robert Macleod, B.Mus., Edinburgh; Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow; and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow.

The Committee carried out the arrangements excellently. Mr. H. Davidson was Convenor; Mr. W. G. M. Macleod, honorary secretary, and Mr. A. Mackintosh, honorary treasurer.

JUNIOR SECTION.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading with expression a piece of poetry of not less than sixteen and not more than 24 lines, chosen by the competitors—1, Bessie Stewart, Durness; 2, Cathie Macdonald, Durness; 3, Barbara Campbell, Durness.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece to be chosen by the judges—1, Catherine Macdonald, Durness.

Reciting from memory "An Tigh Soluis."—1, Bessie Stewart, Durness; 2, Jessie Campbell, Durness; 3, Bella Sutherland, Durness; 4, Katie Munro, Farr.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo singing of a song. Girls.—Competitors own choice—1, Adeline Sutherland, Brora; 2, Rhoda Macleod, Lairg; 3, Helen Dixon, Brora.

Solo Singing of a song.—Boys.—Competitor's own choice—1, Edward Innes, Lairg; 2, Thomas Ross, Embo.

Solo Singing.—Boys and Girls.—Song composed by local bard of a district whether published or unpublished—1, Bessie Stewart, Durness; 2, Margaret Robertson, Rogart.

Duet Singing of a Song chosen by the competitors—1, Anna and Adeline Sutherland, Brora.

Choral Singing in two-part harmony of "Cead deir-eannach nam Beann" and "Am faca tu mo luaidh-sa"—1, Bonar-Bridge and Lairg (equal); 2, Lochinver; 3, Durness.

Unison Singing of "Domhnall Ruadh Gaolach" and "Puirt a Beul"—1, Durness; 2, Lairg; 3, Lochinver.

SENIOR SECTION.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar piece of prose to be chosen by the judges—1, Hector Mackay, Durness; 2, Dolina White, Durness.

Recitation of Rob Donn's "Se do bhas Mhaighstir Mhurchaidh" (first 48 lines)—1, Dolina Whyte, Durness.

Reading of a piece of prose chosen by the competitor—1, Dolina Whyte, Durness; 2, Hector Mackay, Durness.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a song.—Female Voices.—Competitors own choice—1, Jessie M'Donald, Bonar-Bridge; 2, Christina Mackenzie, Strathhalladale; 3, Annie Wilson, Lochinver.

Solo Singing of a Song.—Male Voices.—Competitors own choice of a Song—1, James Mackay, Rogart; 2, J. Mackay, Strathhalladale; 3, Alex. Graham, Lochinver.

Solo Singing of a Song composed by local bard of the district whether published or unpublished—1, Jack Matheson, Tongue.

Solo Singing of a Song. Male or Female Voices.—Competitors to sing their choice of three prescribed "An t-Oighr Og," "Nighean donn mala crom," and "Na Gaidheil's a chogadh"—1, Mary Fraser, Rogart; 2, Jack Matheson, Tongue; 3, Agnes Campbell, Schoolhouse, Rogart.

Duet Singing of a Song.—Same conditions as Junior Competition—1, Misses Ivy and Normanina Fraser, Lairg.

Choral Singing in 4-part harmony of the Songs, "Ho ro mo chuid chuideachd thu" and "Oran an ainn Iain Mhic Eachainn"—1, Lairg, 2, Balvraid-Embo, 3, Rogart.

INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

Bagpipes.—Playing of March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Donald Sutherland, Dornoch.

Pianoforte.—Playing a Highland March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Kate Munro, Bonar-Bridge; 2, Alex. Morrison, Durness; 3, Greta Wright, Bonar-Bridge.

DONATIONS TO INVERNESS MOD.

Previously Acknowledged £547 19 5

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| Gaelic Society of London | 10 0 0 |
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| Paisley Highlanders' Association .. | 4 4 0 |
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| | |
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TELEGRAMS—Runaire, Glasgow.

TELEPHONE—Douglas 1433.

Leabhar XXIV.]

An t-Samhuin, 1928.

[Earrann 2

UGHDARRAS INBHIRNEIS AGUS A' GHÀIDHLIG.

O chionn seachdain air ais chuir Ughdarras an Fhòghluim an Siorramachd Inbhirneis, buidheann ùr air leth gu bhi a' cuideachadh Fear-Stiùiridh an fhòghluim a chum teagasg na Gàidhlig a mhisneachadh anns na sgoiltean. Tha so 'n a chomharradh agus 'n a dhearbhadh gu bheil Ughdarras Inbhirneis an deagh rùn do 'n chànan. An uair a thugadh an t-iarthus air aghart aig a' choinneamh, cha do labhair aon neach 'n a aghaidh, agus ghabh a' chuideachda gu h-aon-ghuthach ris. Tha sinn an dùil gu bheil an ceum so cudthromach a thaobh foghlaim na cànan air feadh na dùthcha. Faodaidh na h-inbhich a bhi a' bruidheann agus a' strì; ach mur h-ionnsuich a' chlann a' Ghàidhlig cha bhi aice ach saoghal goirid. Tha sinn eòlach an cearn sonruichte far nach cluinnte nì ach Gàidhlig o chionn leth cheud bliadhna air ais. Ach thàinig maighstear sgoile ùr aig an am sin a thoirnisg do 'n chloinn a' chànan a labhairt anns a' sgoil no air a' bhlàr-chluiche. Cha b'fhada gus an do ghabh a' chlann gràin do 'n chainnt. Bhiodh nàire orra bhi 'g a labhairt. An ùine ghoirid chaill iad an dòigh agus an deidh air a cleachdadh. An diugh tha a' chànan glè fhada sìos anns a' chearn sin. Cha chluinnear i a nis aig neach sam bith a tha fo aois dheich bliadhna fichead. Tha i an impis a bhi buileach marbh mar thoradh air an tàire agus an dimeas a dh'-

fhuiling i anns a' ghinealach a chaidh seachad. Ma tha leasachadh idir air a' chall so, is e gu faigheadh clann an latha an diugh barail agus beachd nas airde air a' chainnt na fhuair an athraichean. Is iad na h-Ughdarras is urrainn sin a dheanamh.

Faodaidh gun abair neach: carson tha aon chainnt seach cainnt eile a' faotainn aire agus urram thar chàch, le bhi a' cur buidheann de bhuill air leth gus a cumail anns an t-sealladh? Carson nach robh buidheann eile 'g a suidheachadh gu bhi a' cumail faire air Laidinn no Fraingeis, air Gearmailt no Greugais? Is e am freagradh do'n cheist so, gur i a' Ghàidhlig an aon chànan a fhuair ionad is iomradh àraidh—eachdon earrann dhi fhéin—an Achd an Fhòghluim. A chionn gu bheil i fathast maille rinn mar chànan bheò a bhuineas do ar dùthaich agus do ar sluagh, thug ar n-Ard Riaghladh ordugh teann gum bi sinn 'g a teagasg do ar cloinn. Is ordugh glè an t-ordugh sin. Ma bhàsaicheas ar cainnt chan fhaod sinn duine a choireachadh ach sinn fhéin. Tha an t-Ard Riaghladh toileach air a h-uile cothrom a chumail ris a' chànan. Tha Seomar an Fhòghluim Albanaich deonach mar an ceudna air misneach a thabhairt le airgead a chur air leth airson gach sgoileir a ruigeas ìre àraidh an eòlas a' chànan; agus tha Oilthighean na h-Alba ullamh gus gach ceum foghlaim is airde a bhuileachadh air gach neach a shaothraicheas gu dligeach air a shon. Mar sin chan fhaodar gearan a dheanamh air an fheadhain

a tha ann an cumhachd ard a thaobh cothrom do 'n Ghàidhlig, oir tha e soilleir gu bheil i a' faotainn cuideachadh agus misneach uatha-san. Is ann aig na Gàidhlig feù, aig gach mac màthar a dhearmaideas a chainnt a bhios a' choire ma theid a' Ghàidhlig a dhìth.

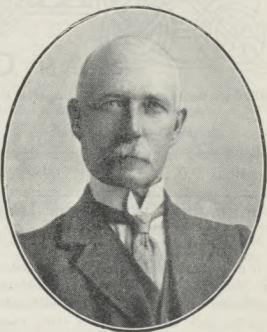
Ciod e is urrainn a' bhuidheann ùr a dheanamh? Tha a' chàinain a cheana 'g a teagasg an còrr is ceud de sgoiltean na Siorramachd. Tha sinn gle thaingil gu bheil sin mar sin. Ach tha e comasach an tuilleadh a dheanamh a chum na crìche so. Is e an cheist is cruaidhe aig an am, ciamar gheibhear luchd teagaisg a bhios comasach air Gàidhlig a theagasg air fhèidh tuigseach mar theagaisgear Beurla no Fraingeis. Tha sin a ciallachadh nach deanar a' chùis idir leis an eòlas a mhàin a thug na maighstearan sgoile òga leotha o 'n dachaidhean. Feumaidh iad tuilleadh oidichidh iad fhéin an Gàidhlig an uair a tha iad a' dol troimh an Cholaiste. Tha so air aon de na gnothuichean a dh'fhaodadh a' bhuidheann ùr a chumail gu dian anns an amharc. Bu chòir dhaibh an aire a thabhairt gum bidh gach òganach agus gach maighdean Ghaidhealach, a tha a' faotainn cuideachadh 'n am foghlum o Ughdarras na Siorramachd, ag ionnsuchadh Gàidhlig a theagasg mar mheur de 'n dreuchd. Is ann mar so a gheibhear luchd-teagaisg aig am bi sgil agus tùr gus a' chlann a theagasg gu ceart an Gàidhlig. Agus nì eile. Is còir gun cuirear maighstear sgoile Gàidhlig anns gach ceàrn anns a' bheil a' chàinain fathast 'g a labhairt. Is cianail an nì luchd teagaisg Ghaidhla gun Ghaidhlig, far nach tuig a' chlann smid a their iad fad bliadhna no dha anns a' sgoil. Agus a rithist tha e iomchuidh gu faigh an òigridh anns na sgoiltean arda, a h-uile cothrom gus na h-Ard-Theisteanais fhaotainn an Gàidhlig. Bhiodh sin buanachdail air dòigh no dha. Bhiodh e buanachdail an cosnadh duais no grant o 'n Ard Riaghladh. Tha feum air airgid; agus is glic gach meadhon a chleachdadh gus fhaotainn. Ach bhiodh so buanachdail gu h-àraidh do 'n òigridh iad fhéin. Bhiodh an càinain mhàtharail dhaibh mar chuspair òilein. Agus co dhù a tha iad ag ullachadh airson maighstear sgoile no ministear, bheireadh so an cothrom dhaibh air ceum foghlum a chosnadh an Gàidhlig anns an Oilthigh, a chum is gu labhradh iad an t-seann chàinain gu h-eagnaigh agus gu blasda.

"VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

Copies of this splendid book may still be had on application to the Office. Price, 6/6. Postage, 9d

GAELIC TEACHERS.

MR. A. MACMILLAN, Glasgow.
(Late of Dervaig.)



Mr. Macmillan, who has recently retired from active teaching, is a native of the island of Islay. During his whole course his lines have been cast as teacher in the north; so he had a good opportunity of showing his loyalty to the Gaelic language, with which he possesses a very full and accurate acquaintance. The first few years of his professional career were passed in Kilmaluag in Skye. Then he taught for a period in Erbusaig, Lochalsh. In 1896 he was appointed head master of Dervaig School in the Isle of Mull, in which post he remained until he retired in 1926. Believing that nothing but the actual practice of Gaelic can keep the language alive, Mr. Macmillan always made it a point to speak Gaelic to old and young in Gaelic speaking districts. In school he made it a custom to open the day's work on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Gaelic Psalmody and Bible reading, Old and New Testaments alternately. In the early part of the child's school days the child was not made to read in Gaelic, until such time as he acquired a grasp of English pronunciation. Afterwards the pupil was introduced to Bible reading, which included spelling, translating, and writing, according to ability. In teaching the children, the language was used orally in explaining the meaning of English words, and especially in pointing out differences of idiom. It was frequently found that by this

method the pupils were easily led to get a firm hold of facts, making them keener to learn when once their interest was aroused.

Mr. Macmillan found that the use of Gaelic for Nature knowledge was most valuable. It was always a delight to the children to have the names and description of animals, birds, flowers, trees, etc., explained to them in a language in which they felt absolutely at home. This is valuable as an illustration of the fact, that Gaelic should always be used in teaching young Gaelic children until they can read English. Mr. Macmillan's experience has been that a bilingual child with good brains was invariably superior to the English (alone) child as an all round scholar. This has been borne out frequently in the reports of H.M. Inspector's in Gaelic areas. With regard to Gaelic music, Mr. Macmillan believes in the rare value of this accomplishment in its own place. Throughout his teaching career he devoted two half-hours per week to practice of Gaelic songs in school, never losing an opportunity at the same time of the linguistic aspect, the meaning and form of words and phrases. Mr. Macmillan is one of those Highland teachers who did most valuable work quietly and constantly, to maintain the use and knowledge of Gaelic in the Highlands. And we have no doubt but in the leisure of retirement he will continue in the same spirit of loyalty to the speech of the glens.

AONGHAS MACDHONNCHAIIDH.

Air feasgar Di-màirt, an dara la de'n Dàmhair, chruinnich faisg air ceithir fichead pearsa 's an Osd-thigh Ghreadhnach am baile Glaschu a leigil ris am meas air Mgr. Aonghas MacDhonnchaidh agus a chéile; agus aig a' cheart àm a dh'fhagail beannachd leo agus a ghuidhe sìth is sonas a bhi 'nan cuideachd am baile mòr Lunnain.

Ré dha fhichead bliadhna bha Mgr. MacDhonnchaidh 'na chòmhnadh agus 'na chùltaice do Chomuinn Ghaidhealach an Glaschu, agus tha an dealachadh ri cairdean, sean is òg, Gall is Gaidhealach, 'na sgaradh a dh'fhairicheas esan agus iadsan gle chruaidh.

Bha Mgr. Calum MacLeòid air ceann na Cuirme agus an deidh na féise thug an t-Urra. Iain M. Mac an Rathaich, ministèir Eaglais Chaluim Chille, a' cheud slàinte, "Tir is

Teanga," ann an òraid fhileanta thaitnich, a thug 'tir ar rùin as ùr 'nar sealladh' agus a rinn gach neach mothachail air luach ar dileib mar Ghaidheil. Fhreagair Mgr. Iain R. MacGille na Brataich ann an Gaidhlig agus dh'fhoillsich e le a dheas-chainnt gu bheil càinair an dùthcha cho coimhlionta aig cuirmean de'n t-seorsa ud agus a tha i aig a' chéilidh.

Bha "Slaint' an Aoidh" an earbsa Mhgr. Uisdein Mhic an Rathaich agus mar shean fhear eòlais thug e do'n chuideachd dealbh air Mgr. MacDhonnchaidh bho a cheud turus gu Glaschu gu là na h-imrich gu Lunnain. Bha mòran 'na sgeul air an robh cuid againn eòlach agus mòran, mòran nach cuala sinn fathunn mu dheidhinn. Ach ann an dlùth na deilbh bha snàithean sloda. Bha e soilleir gu'n robh bann fìor chairdeil eadar am fear labhairt agus an t-aoidh.

Fhreagair Mgr. MacDhonnchaidh a' toirt taing a chridhe do na cairdean a chuir urram cho mòr air. Thuir e nach biodh iad as aire; gu'm biodh a smuaintean tric leo an uair a bhiodh iad cruinn, agus gu'm maireadh an coibhneas, an cairdeas agus am fialaidheachd ùrar 'na inntinn cho fad 's a bu bheò e.

Thug Fear na Cathrach, an ainm na cuideachd, sporan féilidh do Mhgr MacDhonnchaidh agus màileid laimhe do'n bhean uasal, ghrinn is céile dha. Thug ise taing an doigh bhanaill, dhruidhtich—beagan fhacal le sùilean làn.

Labhair Fear Sgeabost mu'n teaghlach agus thug e am briathran cairdeil, deas beanntan Eilean a'Cheo far comhar—osag chaoin bho Bheinn na Cailleich.

Thug an Coirneal Tormod MacLeòid "Comuinn Ghaidhealach aig an tigh is thairis" agus fhreagair Mgr. Tearlach Cairbeul. Rinn iad le cheile iomradh cothromach air obair nan Comuinn sin agus nochd iad dòighean anns am faodadh am feum a mheudachadh.

Labhair Mgr. Padraig MacDhughail air a chuideachadh a tha paipearan naidheachd na dùthcha a' toirt do gach oidheirp Ghaidhealach. Labhair Uilleam Power, Fred. T. MacLeòid an Coirneal Coinneach MacDhomhnuill, agus an t-urr Calum MacLeòid, agus chuir iad uile clach air a charn-chuimhneachain.

Oidheche shona, agus b'e dilseachd is cairdeas bonn-stéidh gach òraid.

Is e guidhe gach neach a bha an lathair gu'm bi slainte is soirbheachadh an cois aoidh na h-oidheche ud, agus le a chéile 's an teaghlach.

Bidh sinn 'gan cuimhneachadh 's 'gan ionndran.i

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on Saturday, 29th September. Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, President, occupied the Chair, and there were over a hundred members present. He said that at the outset they should recognise the remarkable hospitality which had been extended to them by the Corporation of Inverness, so excellently led by the Provost. The Corporation had given to An Comunn the use during the week of a suite of halls and rooms, and a brilliant reception, and that fact ought to be recorded in the minutes of their meeting in returning to the Corporation the sincere thanks of An Comunn.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

The Secretary gave in a report on the voting for members of the Executive, and the following were those elected:—Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Mackay, Killin; Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow; Rev. Dr. George Calder, Glasgow; Rev. Donald Lamont, Blair-Atholl; Mr. John Macdonald, Glasgow; Mr. Neil Maclean, Aberdeen; Mr. Alistair C. MacLaren, Lord James Stewart Murray, Dr. R. R. Macnicol, and Rev. Wm. MacPhail.

It was also reported that Sheriff Macmaster Campbell had been re-elected president, and Mr. Alexander Fraser, Glasgow, vice-president.

Sheriff Macmaster Campbell returned his cordial thanks to An Comunn for having elected him their president for a second year. When he accepted the presidency, he did so with considerable hesitation on account of the long distance he lived from the centre of the work. He had, however, received excellent and loyal support from the Executive, and he therefore had pleasure in again accepting the office of president.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Sir Norman Lamont, the annual report was adopted.

THANKS TO INVERNESS COMMITTEE.

The President said they would now consider as to where next year's Mod would be held, but at that point he might refer to the success of their Mod at Inverness. Members of the Association outside Inverness would gladly agree when he said that great success had attended the Inverness Mod. That had been largely, he might say entirely, due to the untiring activity of the Inverness Committee. While he mentioned the Committee as a whole, it would be an omission if he did not specially

mention the Hon. Convener (Hon. Mrs. Smyth of Ness Castle), the Convener (Mr. Donald MacDonald), and the Secretary (Mr. James A. Mackintosh), and Mr. Ross, who had at first occupied the post, and had left for Skye; also the Treasurer, Mr. John Hunter. He had also specially to mention the untiring work of the Ladies' Committee, which had led greatly to the success of the Mod. Members should acknowledge their indebtedness to Hon. Mrs. Smyth, especially for what she had done in the recent fete held at Ness Castle. Those of them who were present at that fete would agree with him when he said that it was a red letter day in the history of An Comunn, and for the thousands that had gathered from Inverness and outside it. He desired to say that the success of that fete considerably influenced the success of the Mod. They offered their congratulations to the local Committee and its officials, and desired to convey to them the best thanks of An Comunn.

Rev. Dr. Mackay, Killin, spoke of the energy, skill, intelligence, and sanity of the arrangements made by the local Committee, and the magnificent success attending the Mod at Inverness.

Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., one of the members of the local Committee, expressed its thanks and the thanks of the Convener, Mr. Donald Macdonald. Tribute had been paid to the Committee, but if it were not for the work of the Ladies' Committee the success of the Mod would not have been so great.

NEXT YEAR'S MOD.

The Secretary stated that he had received a letter from the Town Council of Dunoon, inviting An Comunn to hold next year's Mod there. The President of the local branch of An Comunn in Dunoon had also sent an invitation. He had also received a letter inviting An Comunn to hold the Mod in Campbelltown. A telegram was read from the Gaelic Society of Perth, which will celebrate its semi-jubilee next year, stating that the Society was desirous the Mod should be held in Perth next year. Ex-Provost Ferguson, in a short speech, told of how anxious Dunoon was to have the Mod next year.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell moved that the Mod be held at Dunoon, and Sir Norman Lamont seconded the motion, remarking that there could be no more suitable place than the capital of the Cowal district.

Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost, in moving that next year's Mod be held at Perth, said he did not object to Dunoon; but speaking

as one from Skye he thought if the Mod was held at Perth it would be a more suitable place, and a much stronger contingent would go from Skye and other places in the North to Perth than to Dunoon.

Colonel Gilbert Gunn, Inverness, seconded the motion, and Mr. Roderick Macleod, Inverness, and Rev. Dr. Mackay, Killin, heartily supported Perth. Dr. Mackay said he believed that the successful Mod in Inverness, which had just closed, was the beginning of greater things as regards the Celtic movement in the Highlands. He felt the movement in Perthshire was, from the Gaelic point of view, in a dangerous situation, and something should be done, and he appealed to them in the interest of propaganda work to go to Perth next year.

Miss Farquharson of Invercauld and Miss Phemie Marquis also spoke, while Miss Hall of Tangy, seconded by Mr. Fred. T. Macleod, moved that next year's Mod be held at Campbelltown.

The final vote resulted in 72 voting for Perth and 21 for Dunoon.

It was agreed to hold the Mod in Perth in the first week of October. It was also agreed to thank the Town Council of Dunoon for their cordial invitation.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE DR. MACKAY.

A deputation from the Gaelic Society of Inverness was present at the Meeting, and spoke in support of An Comunn joining with the Society in the raising of a suitable memorial to the memory of the late Dr. Wm. Mackay, Inverness, the founder of the Gaelic Society, and for three years the president of An Comunn.

Mr. David Ross, solicitor, said the Gaelic Society would be pleased to have the kindly interest and assistance of An Comunn in doing something to commemorate the memory of that great Highlander, Dr. Wm. Mackay. The Gaelic Society thought it would be a slur on themselves if nothing was done to commemorate Dr. Mackay's work and his memory, and the idea of the Committee was that a circular letter should be issued in name of the President of An Comunn and the President of the Gaelic Society. The form of the memorial could be fixed upon after they had received subscriptions.

The President said he was sure that An Comunn would readily join with the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and that all interested in the Gaelic movement would support the proposal of having a suitable memorial to such a zealous and devoted supporter of the Gaelic cause as the late Dr. William Mackay.

It was unanimously agreed that An Comunn should associate itself with this movement.

Mr. Malcolm Macleod said the late Dr. Mackay was the president of An Comunn for three years, and he had done immense service for the cause of Gaelic. The late Dr. Mackay was also a trustee of the Feill funds, and the meeting would require to elect someone to fill his place.

It was agreed unanimously to appoint Mr. Hugh Maclean, Greenock, to the vacancy.

THE GAELIC CLAUSE.

It was agreed, on the motion of Miss Macdonald, Lochaber, seconded by Sir Norman Lamont, that it be remitted to the Education Committee of An Comunn to institute an inquiry into, and prepare a report on the manner in which the Gaelic clause was being given effect in schools in the Highlands, and to make such recommendations on the subject as the Committee thought might be deemed necessary or desirable.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell said it was obligatory according to the rules of An Comunn to promote the cultivation of home industries in the Highlands. She moved that the Art and Industry Committee of An Comunn be authorised to take immediate steps to establish a class or classes for instruction in the district of Ness. She knew that in the district of Ness there was a large population, and that nothing was being done to give them outside or extra work. Wool could be got in the district, and there was a lady who was willing to go to the district and spend the winter there and help the people. The lady would only require to have her expenses paid by An Comunn. She hoped that her motion would be carried, and so remove what she considered to be a blot on the escutcheon of An Comunn.

Miss Farquharson of Invercauld seconded the motion.

In answer to Colonel Gunn, Mrs. Burnley Campbell said the part of the Lews which she desired to be helped had not been touched by any other Association.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

CONSOLIDATING THE POSITION.

Miss Farquharson of Invercauld moved a motion recommending the Propaganda Committee to appoint on a territorial basis two or more sub-committees of its own with such others as they might decide to co-opt, and that such sub-committees be empowered to carry out under the direction of the parent committee various forms of approved propaganda suitable for the different districts. Miss Farquharson reviewed the position of An Comunn. The object of the motion, she

said, was to consolidate their position. By holding the Mod in Inverness, for example, they had strengthened the position of the Gaelic movement in the vast surrounding district. It was the personal touch that was needed in every county and every district. Only in that way could they work the great unworked field.

Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A letter in Gaelic was read from Mr. Moffat-Pender reporting the progress of Clann an Fhraoich. Mrs. Burnley Campbell reported on the great success which had attended the summer school at Broadford.

Mr. Mackenzie, Greenock, spoke on An Comunn supporting junior choirs, and moved that a sum of at least fifteen per cent. should be contributed to the expenses of these choirs when they attended the Mod. He mentioned that the Inverness Local Committee very generously had given a sum of 1s. 6d. per head to the members of the junior choirs attending the Mod.

Mr. Nicolson, Inverness, seconded, and on the suggestion of Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow, the motion was remitted to the Finance Committee for their sympathetic consideration.

Several other matters were discussed, and the President was thanked for his excellent work on behalf of the Gaelic movement.

CHURCH SERVICE.

In connection with the Mod an interesting special Gaelic service was held in St. Mary's (Gaelic) Parish Church on Sunday afternoon. Rev. Dr. Macdonald, Kiltarlity, preached an eloquent sermon. Those taking part in the service included Rev. George Mackay, D.D., Killin; Rev. Alex. Murray, U.F. Church, Beaulay; Rev. Neil Maclellan, West Parish Church; and Rev. Alex. Boyd, the minister of the congregation. The praise was led by the Inverness Gaelic Choir, led by Mr. Roderick Macleod, and a collection was taken on behalf of the Northern Infirmary.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1928-29.

President—

Sheriff J. MacMASTER CAMPBELL, C.B.E.,
Campbeltown.

Vice-Presidents—

ALEX. FRASER, Parkgrove, Bishopston.

Miss CAMPBELL of Inverneill, M.B.E.,
Ardtrishaig;
Rev. NEIL ROSS, D.Litt., The Manse, Laggan.

Executive Council—

Rev. G. W. MacKAY, D.D., The Manse, Killin.
DUNCAN MACLEOD of Skeabost, Portree.
Mrs. J. R. COLQUHOUN, 27 Windsor Terrace,
Glasgow.
MALCOLM MACLEOD, 5 Church Road, Ibrox.
Rev. GEORGE CALDER, D.Litt., The University,
Glasgow.
Rev. DONALD LAMONT, M.A., The Manse, Blair-
Atholl.
JOHN MACDONALD, M.A., 61 West Cumberland
Street, Glasgow.
NEIL MACLEAN, M.A., B.Sc., 64 St. Swithins
Street, Aberdeen.
ALASTAIR C. MACLAREN, Succoth, Dalmally.
Lord JAMES T. STEWART MURRAY, Cul-an-Duin,
Ballinluig.
ANGUS ROBERTSON, "Lawnhill," Lyonsdown
Road, New Barnet, Herts.
JOHN R. BANNERMAN, Meikle Rahane, by
Clynder.
Rev. LAUCHLAN MACLEAN WATT, D.D., 1
Athole Gardens, Glasgow.
Mrs. MACDONALD of Dunach, Oban.
DONALD MACDONALD, 12 Cawdor Road,
Inverness.
NEIL ORR, F.E.I.S., The Schoolhouse, Liberton.
Dr. R. R. MACNICOL, Highfield, Taynult.
Miss C. M. GORDON of Drimmin, M.A., Morvern.
DONALD MACDONALD, 112 York Drive,
Hyndland.
JAMES MACLAREN, 360 Argyle Street, Glasgow.
Mrs. BURNLEY CAMPBELL of Ormidale,
Glendaruel.
Capt. GEORGE I. CAMPBELL, Yr., of Succoth,
Crarae Lodge, Minard.
Miss LOUISA E. FARQUHARSON of Invercauld,
Coignashee, Newtonmore.
Rev. T. S. MACPHERSON, The Manse,
Campbeltown.
Rev. MALCOLM MACLEOD, M.A., 45 Camphill
Street, Queens Park, S.2.
Rev. M. N. MUNRO, M.A., U.F. Manse, Taynult.
COLIN SINCLAIR, M.A., "St. Margaret's,"
Ralston Avenue, Crookston.
NORMAN MACLEOD, M.A., 38 Erskine Road,
Cardonald.
Rev. HECTOR CAMERON, The Manse, Oban.
Rev. WILLIAM MACPHAIL, The Manse,
Ardtrishaig.

Standing Committees, 1928-29.

FINANCE.—Alexander Fraser (*Cowener*), Mrs. Christison, Charles Campbell, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Malcolm MacLeod, Hugh MacLean,

Andrew Stewart, George I. Campbell, Angus MacAulay, Duncan MacLeod, Neil MacLean, the President (*ex-officio*).

EDUCATION.—Rev. Malcolm MacLeod (*Convener*), Malcolm MacLeod, Dr. George Calder, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Norman MacLeod, Dr. G. W. MacKay, John MacDonald, Miss Lamont of Knockdow, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Dr. Neil Ross, Colin Sinclair, George I. Campbell, the President (*ex-officio*).

PUBLICATION.—Malcolm MacLeod (*Convener*), Dr. George Calder, Iain M. Moffatt Pender, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Dr. G. W. MacKay, Donald MacLean, Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Rev. Donald Lamont, Donald MacDonald (Glasgow), Colin Sinclair, Rev. William MacPhail, the President (*ex-officio*), the Editor (*ex-officio*).

PROPAGANDA.—Dr. G. W. MacKay (*Convener*), Dr. Neil Ross, Rev. Hector Cameron, George I. Campbell, Iain M. Moffatt Pender, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Donald Graham, Donald MacDonald (Inverness), Col. A. D. Greenhill Gardyne, Col. Gilbert Gunn, Miss Farquhar of Invercauld, Mrs. Christison, the President (*ex-officio*).

ART AND INDUSTRY.—Miss Campbell of Inverneill (*Convener*), Colin Sinclair, George I. Campbell, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Mrs. Christison, Miss Lamont of Knockdow, Col. Gilbert Gunn, Donald MacDonald (Inverness), James MacLaren, Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Hugh MacLean, the President (*ex-officio*).

MOD AND MUSIC.—John R. Bannerman (*Convener*), Charles Campbell, Dr. George Calder, Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Mrs. Christison, Mrs. Colquhoun, Alexander Fraser, Peter MacIntyre, Dr. G. W. MacKay, Malcolm MacLeod, Alastair C. MacLaren, Dr. Neil Ross, the President (*ex-officio*).

THE MOD PRIZE-LIST.

LITERARY COMPETITIONS.

JUNIOR SECTION.

Group A.—Pupils in or below the Qualifying Class.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a short, simple Gaelic story read twice by the Teacher.—1, Dolina Mackinnon, Ferrindonald School, Skye; 2, Jessie A. Nicholson, do.; 3, Sarah M. Kennedy, Tobermory H.G. School; 4, Alex. D. MacLachlan, Drimnin; 5, Chrissie Macphee, Tobermory H.G. School; 6, John D. Cameron, do.

Group B.—Pupils in the First and Second Years of Post-Qualifying Courses.—Reproduction in Gaelic of a short Gaelic story read twice by the Teacher, followed by a rendering of the same story in English.—1, Isobel Paterson, Tobermory H.G. School; 2, Donald Bain, Portree Secondary School; 3, Katie Macleod, Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 4, Janet M.K. Robertson, Ferrindonald School; 5, Charles Maclean, Tobermory H.G. School; 6, Aliena Robertson, do.; 7, Norman Mackay, Sir E. Scott School, Harris.

Group C.—Pupils in the Third and Fourth Years of the Post-Qualifying Courses.

Writing from Dictation of a Gaelic Prose Passage.—1, John Nicolson, Portree Secondary School; 2, Catherine M. Robertson, do.; 3, Donaldina Macphee, Oban High School; 4, Peggy Macdonald, Portree Secondary School; 5, Donald W. Robertson, do.; 6, Effie Macdonald, do.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short Story in English, read three times by the Teacher.—1, John Mackinnon, Broadford Public School; 2, Mary Matheson, Portree Secondary School; 3, Morag Macdonald, do.; 4, Peggy Macdonald, do.; 5, Mary Effie Campbell, do.; 6, Elizabeth Macpherson, Fort-William H.G. School.

Group D.—Pupils in the Fifth and Sixth Years of Post-Qualifying Courses.

Translation of an English Prose Passage into Gaelic.—1, Christina MacSween, Oban High School; 2, John Macdougall, do.; 3, Samuel Maclean, Portree Secondary School; 4, Annie Cameron, do.; 5, Morag Campbell, do.; 6, John MacCush, do.

Translation of a Gaelic Prose Passage into English, followed by a rendering into English of Ten Gaelic Idioms.—1, Christina Maclean, Fort-William H.G. School; 2, Neilina Macdonald, Portree Secondary School; 3, Samuel Maclean, do.; 4, Annie Cameron, do.; 5, Christy Macdonald, do.; 6, John Macdougall, Oban High School.

Gaelic Essay.—1, Donald Maclean, Royal Academy, Inverness; 2, Annie Macpherson, Portree Secondary School; 3, Christina M. Paterson, Royal Academy, Inverness; 4, Mary F. Nicolson, do.; 5, Dolina Macdonald, do.; 6, John Macdougall, Oban High School.

Group E.—University or Training College Students
Translation into English of a Gaelic Prose Passage or poem.—1, Johanna Morrison, Jordanhill Training College; 2, Katie A. Nicolson, do.; 3, Effie Robertson (Breakish), do.; 4, Euphemia Robertson, do.; 5, Jessie A. Macdonald (N. Uist), do.

Gaelic Essay on a Literary or an Historical subject.—1, Effie Robertson (Breakish), Jordanhill Training College; 2, Mary Martin Mackenzie, do.; 3, Euphemia Robertson, do.; 4, Jessie A. Macdonald (N. Uist), do.; 5, Katie A. Nicolson, do.

Group F.—Evening Continuation Classes or Special Classes.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short Gaelic Story read twice by the Teacher.—Miss Iona Macdonald, Inverness.

Group G.—Special Competitions (Conditions laid down by the donor of prizes).

Boys.—Essay in Gaelic on the Life of David.—1 and 2 (equal), Samuel Maclean, Portree Secondary School, and Donald L. Dunn, Oban High School. Special.—John Macdonald, John N. Nicolson, Portree Secondary School, and Calum Iain N. Macleod, Kirkhill.

Girls.—1, Mary Stewart, Portree Secondary School; 2 (equal), Catherine M. Robertson and Margaret Steele Beaton, Portree Secondary School. Special.—Morag Macdonald, Portree Secondary School; Isabella C. Mackenzie, Oban High School; and Mary Ann Macdonald, Portree Secondary School.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR TEACHERS.

AVERAGE.

Group A.—1, Angus Grant, Ferrindonald Public School, Skye; 2, Miss G. L. Macdonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School.

Group B.—1, Angus Grant, Ferrindonald Public School; 2, Miss G. L. Macdonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School; 3, John Macpherson, M.A., Broadford Public School.

Group C. (1)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School; 3, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness. (2)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, D. Macphail, M.A., Port-William H.G. School; 3, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School.

Group D. (1)—1, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School; 2, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 3, D. Macphail, M.A., Port-William H.G. School. (2)—1, D. Macphail, M.A., Port-William H.G. School; 2, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 3, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School. (3)—1, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School; 2, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; 3, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School.

AGGREGATE.

Group A.—1, Angus Grant, Ferrindonald Public School, Skye; 2, Miss G. L. Macdonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Miss Harriet Stewart, Bunavoulin School, Drimmin.

Group B.—1, A. Gillies, F.E.I.S., Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 2, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School; 3, Miss G. L. Macdonald, M.A., Tobermory H.G. School.

Group C. (1)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, A. Gillies, F.E.I.S., Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 3, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness. (2)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, A. Gillies, F.E.I.S., Sir E. Scott School, Harris; 3, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness.

Group D. (1)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; 3, Miss M. D. Macqueen, High School, Oban. (2)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; 3, D. Macphail, M.A., Port-William H.G. School. (3)—1, R. Chisholm, M.A., Portree Secondary School; 2, Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; 3, Miss M. D. Macqueen, Oban High School.

SENIOR SECTION.

Winner of Gold Pendant for most distinguished prize-winner in the Literary Competitions—Former winners debarred—Kenneth Macdonald, Contin, Strathpeffer.

Poem on any Subject.—1, Peter Campbell, Bragar, Lewis; 2, Kenneth Macdonald, Contin.

One Short Story not exceeding 500 words.—John Macfadyen, Corkerhill.

Gaelic Story, extending to 2000 words or more.—Kenneth Macdonald, Contin.

Gaelic Dialogue.—Duncan Macdonald, Sandwickhill, Stornoway.

Essay on any Subject.—Kenneth Macdonald, Contin.

Book-plate Design.—1, Andrew J. Orr, Putney, London; 2, Mrs. Campbell Blair, Inverarag; 3 (equal), Miss Morag Maclean, Crosshill, Glasgow, and Miss Flora Macdougall, Portcharlotte, Islay.

Needlework Competition (Celtic Design Transfer). Competition A.—Miss Iona Campbell, Oban. Competition B.—1, Miss Margaret Sutherland, Paisley; 2 (equal), Miss Flora MacPherson, Foyers, and Miss E. K. Menzies, Aberfeldy.

TUESDAY'S PRIZE-WINNERS.

Reading Prose or Poetry, by Native Speakers.—1, Mary Cameron, Glenelg; 2, Calum Iain Macleod, Kirkhill; 3, Malcolm Campbell, Greenock; 4, Janet MacGill, do.; 5, Murdo Macdonald, Inverness.

Reading Prose or poetry, by Learners.—1, Catherine Stewart, Blair-Atholl; 2, Flora Mackinnon, Greenock.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar Prose Piece.—1, Calum Iain Macleod, Kirkhill; 2, Murdo Macdonald, Inverness; 3, Colin Macleod, Inverness; 4, (equal) Iain Chisholm, do., and Flora Macphee, do.

Biblical Repetition (Boys).—1, Colin Campbell, Greenock; 2, Duncan Robertson, do. Girls.—1, Annie Campbell, Greenock.

Recitation.—1, Mary Cameron, Glenelg; 2, Effie Robertson, Glenfincastle; 3, Janet MacGill, Greenock. Narrative and Conversation.—1, Calum Iain Macleod; 2, Effie Robertson.

For Excellence in Gaelic Conversation.—1, Mary Cameron, Glenelg; 2, Calum Iain Macleod.

Conversations between Judges and Competitors.—Calum Iain Macleod.

Traditional Singing of an Unpublished Gaelic Song.—1, Margaret MacGill, Greenock; 2, Mairi Macleod, do.; 3, Morag Robertson, do.

Girls' solo (silver medal).—1, Margaret MacGill, Greenock; 2, Annie S. Maclellan, Greenock; 3, Mary Cameron, Glenelg.

Boys' solo (silver medal).—1, Henry MacGuiness, Tayvallich; 2, Calum Campbell, Greenock; 3, Colin Macleod, Inverness.

Choral Singing (Mrs. Miller's Trophy).—1, Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Junior Choir (B); 2, Merkinch School Choir, Inverness.

Action Song.—Merkinch School Choir.

Girls' solo (learners).—1, Effie Watson, Greenock; 2, Mary S. Macdonald, Inverness; 3 (equal), Margaret Campbell, Greenock, and Flora Kay, do.

Boys' solos (learners).—1, Hector Macfadyen, Greenock; 2, Rodk. Mackay, Inverness; 3, John Millar, Port-William.

Duets (learners).—1, Effie Watson and M. Campbell, Greenock; 2, May Henderson and E. Cossey, Roy-Bridge.

Duets.—1, Colin Macleod and Nan Davidson, Inverness; 2, Mary Campbell and Peggy MacEachan, Connel.

Solos (Boys and Girls, open only to former prize winners).—1, Colin Macleod, Inverness; 2, Henry MacGuiness, Tayvallich.

Solos (Girls over 16 and under 18).—1, Miss Betsy Macleod, Inverness; 2, Miss Netty Burry, do.

Unison Singing (Junior Choirs).—1, Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Junior Choir (B); 2, Merkinch School Choir (Boys).

Choral Singing (*Oban Times Trophy*).—1, Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Junior Choir (A); 2, Inverness Junior Gaelic Choir.

WEDNESDAY'S PRIZE-WINNERS.

Oban and Lorn Association's War Commemoration Medal (Open) for the best rendering of Songs of Lorn Bards.—1, Gold Badge and £1—Miss Nan MacInnes, Luig; 2, Gilbert Macphail, Islay.

Gaelic Folk Songs. Best Rendering of Two Unpublished Airs.—1, James C. Macphee, Glasgow; 2, Miss Nancy Macdonald, Oban.

Solo Singing (Male Voices).—1, John Macphee, Glasgow; 2, D. M. Mackenzie, Inverness.

Female Voices.—1, Miss Kirsty MacLennan, London; 2, Miss Barbara Macconnachie, Campbeltown.

Best Rendering of a Song from Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides".—1, Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness; 2, Miss Nan MacInnes, Luig.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song connected with the County of Inverness (James Grant Memorial Prize).—1, Gilbert Macphail, Islay; 2, James C. Macphee, Glasgow.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song connected with the County of Inverness, to be known as "James Grant Memorial Prize" (Open).—Females.—1 and 2 (equal), Miss Margaret Macinnes, Glasgow, and Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing of a Song (older or less known District Songs).—1, Miss Catherine M. Clark, Glasgow; 2, Alexander Macrae, London and Miss Cathie B. Maclean, Glasgow; 3, Charles Macinnes, Ballachulish; Miss Molly E. Campbell, Oban and Gilbert Macphail, Islay.

THURSDAY'S PRIZE-WINNERS.

Gold Medal presented by the Glasgow Skye Association for highest marks in Four Specified Competitions Oral Section).—Miss Christine Macdonald, Blair Atholl.

Reading Unfamiliar Prose.—1, John Cameron, Tobermory; 2, William Cameron, Petty.

Recitation of Poem.—1, Miss Christine Macdonald, Blair-Atholl; 2, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban.

Recitation of Prose Piece.—1, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; 2, Miss Christine Macdonald, Blair-Atholl.

Recitation of Original Poetry composed by Competitor.—Donald Macmillan, Kinlochell.

Solo Singing (Jessie N. MacIachlan Memorial Prize).—Ladies.—Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness. Men.—James C. M. Campbell, London.

Solo, with Clarsach Accompaniment.—Mrs. Annabel Currie, Edinburgh.

Solo Singing (Male Voices).—1, James C. M. Campbell, London; 2, James C. Macphie, Glasgow.

"Puirt a Beul".—1, H. Crawford Macalpine, Ardishaig; 2 (equal), Miss Molly E. Campbell, Oban, and Miss M. C. Brown, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing (Female Voices).—1, Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness; 2, Miss Catherine M. Clark, Glasgow.

Original Gaelic Speech.—1, Angus M. Macdonald, Glasgow; 2, Miss Christine Macdonald, Blair-Atholl.

Best Acted Dialogue.—Seonaid Ferguson, Morven, and Angus M. Macdonald, Glasgow.

Ancient Folk Tale, narrated in traditional style.—1, Angus M. Macdonald, Glasgow; 2, John Cameron, Tobermory.

Rural Choirs (Lorn Shield).—1, Killin Gaelic Choir; 2, Kilmuir Gaelic Choir, Skye.

Vocal Music—Gold Medal (Ladies).—1, Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness; 2, Miss Margaret Macinnes, Glasgow; 3 (equal), Miss Jean Cameron, Fort-William, and Miss Nancy Macdonald, Oban.

Vocal Music—Gold Medal (Men).—1, J. C. M. Campbell, London; 2, J. C. Macphie, Glasgow; 3, Gilbert Macphail, Islay.

FRIDAY'S PRIZE-WINNERS.

Solos, open only to former Mod gold medallists and first prize-winners. Female Voices.—Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness. Male Voices.—James C. M. Campbell, London.

Duets.—1, Miss K. A. Campbell and Jas. C. M. Campbell, London; 2, Miss Cathie B. Maclean and James C. Macphie, Glasgow.

March, Strathspey and Reel (Piano).—1, Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead; 2, Miss R. T. Macdougall of Lunga; 3, Miss Dorothy Swanney, Inverness.

Gaelic Air, Strathspey and Reel (Violin).—1, Roy Macdonald, Achnacloch; 2, David Macaskill, Inverness; 3, J. F. Shepherd, Inverness.

Quartette (Mixed Voices).—1, Inverness Gaelic Musical Association Quartette No. 1; 2, London Gaelic Choir Quartette A.

Male Voice Quartette.—1, Aeolian Quartette, Edinburgh; 2, Oban Gaelic Choir Quartette No. 1; 3, Inverness Gaelic Musical Choir Quartette No. 2, and Duror Male Voice Choir Quartette A (Equal).

Choral Singing (Male Voices).—1, Ballachulish Male Voice Choir; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Choir.

Female Voice Choirs.—1, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Choir; 3, Campbeltown.

Choral Singing in Four-Part Harmony.—1 (Winners of Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy), Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 2, London Gaelic Choir; 3, Greenock Gaelic Choir.

IRISH DELEGATE'S REMINISCENCES OF THE MOD.

The president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, asked me to give him my reminiscences of the Mod, as an Irish delegate.

How could I refuse? I could not; but I am in the difficulty that I hardly know where to begin.

I can scarcely realise that it is more than a quarter of a century since my first appearance as a delegate from the Gaelic League at the Mod. That was in Dundee in 1902. I have a vivid recollection of the time. I spoke in Gaelic, and wondered if my Munster accent would be understood by my Scottish Gaelic friends. That afternoon we were taken on a trip up the river or down, I am not sure which, and a Scottish lady asked me what part of the North of Scotland I belonged to.

It is very curious and very interesting too, that the further north one goes into Scottish Gaeldom the more does the Gaelic speech resemble the sounds of Munster Irish.

My next Mod was at Greenock in 1904. I was at Dingwall 1905, Oban 1906, Glasgow 1907 and 1911, and Dundee for the second time in 1913.

Looking back over them all I think I was impressed most by the Oban Mod, where a railway station was, for the night, turned into a large concert hall, and the "hall" was filled to overflowing. Perhaps instead of racking my old brain to recall the incidents which most impressed me, I had better reproduce here some things I wrote in the Irish press following the Mod. These are extracts from the *Freeman* after the Dingwall Mod.

Nothing could exceed the warmth and heartiness with which we Irish delegates were received. Miss O'Farrelly, M.A., who spoke in Irish and in English, and spoke with effect, was listened to with attention, and her remarks were punctuated with applause. I followed also in Irish

and in English. Indeed, we Irish delegates were the only speakers who ventured beyond English, and we had the satisfaction to hear that our Irish was well understood.

THE MASED CHOIRS.

I could not help noting the forces of those massed choirs on the platforms. I thought I was in Ireland; this feeling was shared by other Irish friends with me, and grew stronger and warmer as Roderick MacLeod, the king of Scottish Gaelic singers, sang the parting song, "Oidhe Mhaith is Beannacht leibh" (Good-night and a blessing with you).

"Blood is thicker than water," and behind this Language Revival in Ireland and in Scotland there is more than the most far-seeing of us can appreciate.

The following are extracts from an article in the *Irish Independent* of October 4, 1911, on my return from Glasgow Mod.

"There is another feature about these Scottish Gaelic gatherings which cannot help striking the visitor from Ireland, viz: the extent to which the old Highland families take part in them. The first Mod, to which I was a delegate, was held in Dundee, and was presided over by the Duke of Argyll. The Marquis of Tullibardine, son of the Duke of Athol, presided at Greenock. In Rothesay a few years ago the Marquis of Bute fitted up the old castle for the Mod. The chief trophy at each Mod is the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield, which is competed for annually by the best Gaelic choirs in Scotland.

"I cannot close this brief account of the Mod without paying a tribute to the warmth and hospitality of the Scottish Gaels. It is very hard to get away from them, and when one does get away from them he likes to get back again—at least that is my experience, and I think the experience of every Irish delegate to the Mod. I wish there was more of that friendly intercourse between both branches of Gaeldom. It would be helpful to both the one and the other in more ways than one."

I think I cannot better close this scrappy paper than by an extract from the *Irish Independent* for September 29, 1913, after my last visit to the Mod. It is a feeble attempt to describe the closing concert.

"The work of the Mod comes to a close on Friday evening with a concert, and such a concert! It did one's heart good to be present at it. It opened with the rallying song, "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig" (Up with the Gaelic). There were the massed choirs, some hundreds. Behind them the organ, and in front of them,

at least, twenty fiddlers of the Edinburgh Highland Reel and Strathspey Society. Every one stood up, and the great volume of song and music which ascended seemed to lift the roof, as it certainly lifted the hearts of the audience. With one exception the singers were successful competitors at the Mod. In addition to accompanying the opening chorus, the Edinburgh Strathspey party played two other items. It was inspiring to see them and to hear them, led by an old veteran of the Mod, Mr. Archd. Menzies, twenty bows all going together. I wish they could be heard in Dublin. The concert closed with the chanting of an old Gaelic hymn, "Dundee," by the combined choirs. I heard nothing like it since Father O'Growney's funeral at Maynooth. I was told by one who ought to know that it was pure Gregorian. I know it was very beautiful."

Beannacht De ar an obair,

J. J. DOYLE.

"I-CHALUIM CHILLE."

Le IAIN MACCORMAIG.

(A Cheud Duais aig Mòd an Obain, 1926.)

A mach o Eilein Phatmois, cha'n 'eil eilein eile air an t-saoghal d mheudachd, cho ainmeil ris an eilein bheag ghorm ud air adhar an Rois Mhuilich, ris an abrar "I-Chaluim Chille."

Mu thri mille a dh'fhad, agus mu thuairm dà mhle air leud, bha e mar sheud luachmhór am broilleach a' chuain, a' tilgeil a' gathan dearsach, le sgeul aoibhneach an t-Soisgeil, cha'n ann a mhàin air machraichean is garbh-chrìochan Bhreatainn, ach air rioghdachdan dòrcha na h-Eorpa.

Mar a thairneas rionnag bheag bhaoisgeil am farsuinneachd an fhailbhe, aire na sùla, tharruing I beag, air a chuartaich le cair ghil a' chuain-shiair, cridheachan mór-roinn na h-Eorpa 'g a ionnsuidh, agus cha'n 'eil teagamh nach d'rinn a shuidheachadh air clar-fuinn taobh siar na Gàidhealtachd, a chuideachadh, a chum a thoirt gu'n àrd inbhe 's am bheil e'n diugh an eachdraidh.

Tha I, agus an duine urramach, air am bheil e air ainmeachadh agus a rinn a dhachaidh ann fad ceithir bliadhna deug thar fhichead, cho fuaighte ra cheile, 's gur e eachdraidh an dara h-ainm eachdraidh an aoin eile, 's leis an sin an àm a bhi 'beachdaireachd air na neonaidean a tha cho luachmhór an suilean an t-saoghail, cha'n

'eil a comasach gu'n mhothachadh do luirg Chaluim Chille 'n ar siubhal feadh an eilein, agus a bhi beachd smuaintinn air a bhuadhan 's air an obair mhóir a rinn e bho theampul an I.

Tha ainm air a ghrabhaladh air machair 's air cnoc. Tha e am fuaim na h-osaig mhaoth, a thig le srannnd uaignich mu oisinn nan sean aibhisteas samhach loma, no a' thogas sìoban geal o chleirinn nan tonn a' bhristeas air traigh port Ròinain.

An nis an àm a bhi 'beachdachadh air aite sam bith a tha iomraiteach an eachdraidh, tha e buaireasach a bhi 'deasbud mu 'ainm. Anns an ainm "I-Chaluim Chille," mata, tha e daonnan na cheist le mòran cìod e tha cheud chuid de'n ainm, I, a' ciallachadh? Tha cuid am beachd, agus gu math dannara 's a' bheachd cuideachd, gu'm bheil e ciallachadh "eilein," agus gur h-ionnan "I-Chaluim Chille" agus "Eilein Chaluim Chille." 'Se mo bheachd féin nach 'eil sin ceart a chionn cha'n urrainn duine a chorag a chodadh ri aon eilein eile anns am bheil an litir, "I," fuaighte ra ainm. Thug Mac-a-Phearsain dhuinn "I-thoroma" agus "I-thonna" ach cha'n fhaicear an sin ach macmeanmna lidir Mhic-a-Phearsain fhéin. A bhàrr air an sin, cha'n 'eil gin de na sgoileirean a tha suas anns an ealain ris an abair sin, a dh'easbhuidh air Gàidhlig as fhearr air "ETYMOLOGY," tus-briathar-ghne, a' gabhail ris a' bheachd gu bheil "I" a' ciallachadh eilein. 'Se mo bheachd fhéin gum bheil I a' ciallachadh "Muintir," no "Teaghlach," no "Comunn." Chi sinn glé thrì an seann sgrìobhuidhean na h-Eireann, "Hi" no "Hui" no "Hy" comh-cheangailte ri ainm treubha, no cinnidh, mar a tha "Hi Manachan," "Hui Melumae," no "Ui Tighearna," agus tha na meanbhradhan sin air an cleachdadh as déidh ainm an fhearainn a bhuinteadh do'n treubh. Faodaidh e bhi gu'n robh ainm sònruichte eile air an eilein mu'n d'fhainig Calum Cille ann, agus nach robh "I-Chaluim Chille" ach air a chleachdadh a chum uachdranachd an eilein a' nochdadh.

Ged is e "I-Chaluim-Chille" ainm litreachail an eilein, thainig e mu dheireadh gu "I" a mhàin. Cha robh eilein eile anns an robh am foghair so a' teachd a stigh 'na ainm, agus leis an sin bha "I" fhéin comharaichte gu leòir, oir cìod air bith a tha "I" a' ciallachadh, "eilein" no "muintir," tha e coltach gu'n do chailleadh sealladh air a bhrìgh. Fadhon cho fad air ais ri linn Adhamhnain fhéin b'e "I" a mhàin ainm gnàthaichte an eilein, oir 's e

"IOUA INSULA"—an t-Eilein I-theach— a sgrìobh Adhamhnain. An Gàidhlig th'an t-ainm a' crìochnachadh le cliabh-fhuaim, agus bha ainm an eilein air a' sgrìobhadh an Gàidhlig cho dlùth air fhuaim 's a b'urrainn do na seann saoidhean a' litreachadh. Gheibhear leis an sin an t-ainm air a chur sìos mar "Ie," "Iou," "I," "Hii," agus "Hy." Tha e gle annasach fhaicinn gur th'ann o'n litreachadh "Iou" a dh'eirich ainm Beurla an eilein. 'N uair a sgrìobh Adhamhnain, an naoidheamh aba an I an déidh Chaluim Chille fhéin, eachdraidh beatha Chaluim, an Laidinn, bha e 'na chleachdadh aige a bhi 'cur tuar na cànan anns an robh e 'sgrìobhadh air ainm gach aite air an robh e 'toirt iomra, le bhi 'cur na litreach "a," as déidh an ainm Ghàidhlig. Mar so rinn e "IOUA" de Iou "Malea" de Mhale (Mhuile), agus "Ilea" de Ile. Ceudan bliadhna an déidh Adhamhnain, 'n uair bha sgoileirean a' sgrùdadh a leabhair-làimhe, bha iad an teagamh mu'n dàra litir mu dheireadh 's an ainm "IOUA." Bha cuid a' deanamh a mach gu'm b'e "U" a bh'ann, agus cuid gu'm b'e "N" a bh'ann. Bhuidhinn an litir "N," oir thainig a' mhòr chuid de na saoidhean gu'n chomhdhunadh, gu'n robh ainm an eilein agus ainm an duine rinn cho iomraiteach e, a' ciallachadh an aon ruid—"colum," no "calaman"—oir gu'n robh Columba an Laidinn, agus "IONA" an Eabhra a' ciallachadh "CALAMAN." Tha e air a ràdh gur th'ann air fhògradh a Eirinn a bha Calum Cille, a thaobh an làmh a bh'aige am blàr fuilteach "Chuilldreimhne," ach 's e is dòcha gu'n robh a' cheart iartus am broilleach Chaluim Chille a chum an Soisgeul a' shearmonachadh do na Cruithnich bhòrba phàganach an Alba, 's a bha'm broilleach Mhic-an-Leigh, no aon teachdaire eile a chaidh gu treibhreach a' liubhairt an t-Soisgeil do theubhan na h-Afric. Bha reusan air a sin. Bha gluasad feadh na h-Eireann 's an am a bha coimh-eigneachadh dhaoine treuna ealanta a chum iad féin a' chrìoslachadh gus an Soisgeil a' chraobh-sgaioleadh, chan ann a mhàin am Breatunn, ach feadh na h-Eorpa air fad. Bha Calum Cille beò 's an àm a bha troimh-cheile mhòr feadh na h-Eòrpa, an déidh do dh'Impireachd na Ròimhe dol 'na clàir. Bha suidheachadh na h-Eòrpa anns an àm ud glé choltach ris mar a tha e an diugh fhéin an deidh ùbraid a' Chogaidh Mhóir. B'e Eirinn agus Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba, na h-aon chearnan air nach do rainig cumhachd na Ròimhe, agus leis an sin thunnich mòran de shaoidhean na h-Eòrpa an Eirinn. Cha

robh àite eile 's an Ròinn-Eòrpa anns an robh urad fòghluim ri Eirinn 's an àm ud. Bha teachdairean urramach 'g an oilein-eachadh ann gu dìcheallach a chum an Soisgeul a' chràobh sgaoileadh. B'ann diubh Calum Cille, freumh de rìgh-theaghlach na h-Eireann, air gach taobh on d'fhàinig e, agus cha'n 'eil teagamh nach b'ann le shaor thoil féin a thàinig e a' shearmonachadh an t-Soisgeil do na Cruithnich an Alba. Mu'n d'huirt seann Diuc Airidh-Ghàidheal e, "shuidhich e dhachaidh, sgaoile bhratach, agus dh'fhosgail e Bhiobal" anns an eilein a tha'n diugh 'na charragh-cuimhne air, agus anns nach 'eil mòran àiteananach nach 'eil na'n cuimhneachain air cuideachd.

Os cionn Port a Churaich, far a reir beul-aithris an d'fhàinig Calum Cille air tìr le churachan, tha àrdan ris an abrar "Uchd Aluinn, no 'Càrn-cul-ri-Eirinn." Tha beul-aithris ag ràdh gu'n do thog Calum Cille càrn an so 's gu'n tug e'n t-ainm ud air a chionn 's nach robh e ceadaichte dha tilleadh do dh'Eirinn gu bràth—"Càrn-cul-ri-Eirinn." Tha mi'm beachd gu'm bheil mearachd anns a' bharail so, a chionn tha eachdraidh ag innseadh dhuinn gu'n do thill Calum Cille do dh'Eirinn ioma uair an déidh dha fhagail an toiseach. Tha eachdraidh againn gu'n robh e'n làthair aig an t-Seanadh ainmeil ud a shuidh aig Druim-Ceat 's a' bhliadhna 575, 'n uair le thagar deas-bhriathrach ealanta, a thug e mach saorsa "Dhail-rìgh-fhada," 's a chuir e air a bonnaibh fhéin rioghachd ur nan Gàidheal an Alba. Tha'n gnìomh urramach so a leigil fhaicinn duinn gu'n robh comasan mór aige an iùl-riaghlaidh, cho math ri e bhí 'na dheadh shoisgeulaiche.

Ri linn Chaluim Chille bha eilein I-the far an robh Dail-rìgh-fhada agus Alba, rioghachd nan Cruithneach, a' tighinn an coinneamh a cheile. Tha e coltach gu'n robh an dà rioghachd a' tagar an eilein, agus gu'n d'fhuair Calum Cille ughdarras an dà rìgh, Brude, rìgh nan Cruithneach, agus Connall, rìgh Dhail-rìgh-fhada, a chum seilbh a chur ann. 'N uair a fhuair Calum Cille còir dhligheach air I, chuir e'n t-eilein, rud a bha glé nàdurra, ri rioghdachd Dhail-rìgh-fhada, agus 'n uair a' dhaignigheadh an comb-cheangal, thogadh "Càrn-cùl-ri-Eirinn" mar fhianuis air a' chùis chudthrom-aich agus eachdraidheil. Tha e coltach gu'm b'e an cleachdadh 's na sean amannan ud "càrn" a thogail 'n uair chuirteadh seilbh am fearann, sa bha'n rioghachd d'am buinneadh am fearann air cùl a' chùim. Mar so

tha "Càrn-cùl-ri-Eirinn" eile an Orasa far, a reir coltais an do chuir Calum Cille seachad greis d'e ùine.

Bha Muile aon uair air a roinn eadar Dail-rìgh-fhada agus Alba, rioghachd nan Cruithneach. Bha'n Gleann Mór 'na chrìch eatorra, agus air mullach beinne taobh a deas a' ghlinne tha càrn ris an abrar "Càrn-cùl-ri-Eirinn." Tha rithist "Càrn-cul-ri-Alba" air mullach Màin Chlachair air taobh tuath a' ghlinne. Tha sin a' solleir-eachadh dhuinn cìod a bha na cùirn so a' ciallachadh o shean. Ach an uair a' dhìchuimhnichear ceud bhrìgh ràdh sam bith, no eadhon ait-ainm sam bith, togar daonnan seul air beachd brail eile.

An nis cha robh a h-aon de na togalaichean breagha, no a h-aon de na croisean, no de na leachdan a th'air an grabhaladh cho rìmhach, 's air an snaigheadh cho finealta, ann idir ri linn Chalinn Chille, no ceudan bliadhna 'na dhéidh, ged is e'n cliu 's am meas a chuir ainm 's a' sheirbheis air an eilein, a chuir 's gu'n do leagadh am bunaithean le Eaglais na Ròimhe aig àm eile. B'e togalaichean fiodha a bh'ann ri linn na h-Eaglais Cheiltich. B'e am fiodh am "mos Scotorum," mar thearaidh iad o shean, agus a' chlach am "Mos Romanorum." Cha robh am fiodh cho seasmach ris a' chloich, agus nàdurra gu leòir, dh'fheumta na togalaichean fiodha a chumail air an càradh gu tric.

(R'a leantainn.)

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Reverting to my recent contribution on, "Gaelic Words embedded in the English of Inverness," friends in the Northern Capital have furnished me with a few expressions supplementary to those already enumerated. These are:—

1. *Fyeon*, faint or weak; a direct loan from the Gaelic Fann of similar meaning.

2. *Spake*, a small branch which I reckon may derive from Speic, a spike, but there is probably a better explanation.

3. *Speil*, a splinter of wood; obviously from the Gaelic word Spealg of the same significance.

4. *Rollach*, confused; a variant of the Gaelic Roileasgach which also denotes confusion.

5. *Bùs*, mouth or snout; a direct loan from Gaelic.

I fancy there are a good many more Gaelic words in habitual use in the English of Inverness, and it would be well they should be put on record.

E. O'D.

SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Tha mi cinnteach gur math le buill a' Chomhainn a bhi a' cluinntinn mu CHLANN AN FHRAOICH. Tha an teaghlach a' fàs lionmhor —tha cheana ceud dhiubh ann; agus is ann is docha iad a mheudachadh an airmh iomradh a thoirt orra na's trice. Choinnich a' chomhairle feasgar an là roimhe agus chuir iad an cinn r'a cheile gu'm biodh ceilidh no cuirm chaidreamhach air choireiginn aca far am biodh cothrom air òraidean goirid, òran no dha agus rud r'a itheadh. A bhàrr air sin cha do bhreathaich iad air mòran tuilleadh, ach cluinidh sibh an déidh coinneamh na h-Ard Chomhairle na bheil 's an amharc aca mu'n cheilidh. Tha iad a' ciallachadh cruinneachadh an Aitreach nan Gaidheal air an deicheadh là de cheud mìos na bliadhna. Gheibh a' Chlann fios leis a' phosta, neo troimh an leabhran so, agus bidh suil ri cròilean laghach air an fheasgar sin. Cha bhi ùmhladh ainmichte ann ach bidh e mar fhiachaibh air a' Chloinn tiodhlac chothromach a chuir anns an trìnsear.

The death of Mrs. Stewart, Simla, which occurred recently comes as a distinct loss to the Gaelic cause which she had so much at heart. For many years she had been a regular contributor to the Mod prize fund, being particularly interested in the religious welfare of the youth of the Highlands. In order to ensure the continuance of these prizes Mrs. Stewart, in 1924, contributed a sum of £500, which was permanently invested so that the annual revenue may provide prizes in accordance with her wishes. In 1927 £100 of this investment was transferred to the Great Feill fund at her own special request. Her donations to the Northern Infirmary, Inverness, amounted to the splendid sum of 2,200 guineas. Mrs. Stewart was a lady of deep religious sympathies, and her kindly interest and practical help will be much missed by those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Ceilidh nan Gaidheal at their meeting on 20th October, had as speaker Mr. George E. Marjoribanks of Sonachan, Lochawe. Mr. Marjoribanks fascinated the ceilidh with a most interesting description of the work and recreations of an officer of the Forestry Department in India. He spoke for three-quarters of an hour without a note in accurate, fluent Gaelic, and with a clearness of articulation which enabled him to be heard with ease over the entire hall. When it is remembered that he learned his Gaelic within the last twelve months his performance was a remarkable one, and is full of encouragement to non-Gaelic speakers who are taking up the study of Gaelic.

The Perthshire Provincial Mod Committee held their first meeting of the session at Aberfeldy on 20th October. Despite the boisterous weather prevailing there was a very large attendance from the surrounding districts. The report by the treasurer, Mr. Andrew Clow, showed a balance remaining from the 1928 Mod. After discussion it was agreed to hold next year's Provincial Mod at Pitlochry. Miss C. MacDonald, High School, Pitlochry, is secretary.

There is undoubtedly a very keen desire for the acquiring of Gaelic experienced in Glasgow at the moment. On a recent evening, close on fifty additional students presented themselves at the Glasgow Education Authority Classes held in the High School. In order to accommodate the increased number, the Authority had to call upon the services of an extra teacher.

A somewhat similar situation prevails at Balloch. Only instituted two years ago the classes have since their inception been very well attended. At the opening of the present session it became evident that the services of a second teacher would be required to assist Mr. Robert MacKenzie, M.A., to carry on the classes, and I understand that a second teacher has been secured. A Gaelic Choir is being trained in the Vale of Leven district by Miss Belle MacKay of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. Mention must also be made of the enthusiasm prevailing in the Motherwell and Paisley districts where classes are also held.

There are no lack of facilities offered to the youth of Glasgow to further their knowledge of Gaelic. In addition to Continuation Classes at the High School, instruction is given each Saturday evening by Mr. Angus MacMillan, under the auspices of the High School Gaelic Class Ceilidh. There is also a class in connection with the Highlanders' Memorial Church. It is pleasing to note that all these are well attended.

News from the rural districts are equally encouraging. Seventeen students enrolled at Kinloch Rannoch for instruction in Gaelic, and efforts are being made by the Education Authority to secure a qualified teacher of Gaelic. At Lochgilphead the only pupils enrolled for Continuation Class instruction were for Gaelic. Difficulties are being experienced at Crieff to secure the services of a competent teacher to give instruction in Gaelic, under the auspices of the newly formed Highland Association.

NIALL.

COR NA GAIDHLIG.

Tha a' Ghaidhlig air a cleachdadh fhathast mar chainnt na cagaill am mór roinn nan Eileanan-a-Siar, an cois a' chladaich air Tìr Mór na h-Alba tuath air maoil chinne Tìre, agus an cuid de àitean eile an siorramachdan Earra Ghàidheal, Rois, Inbhirnis agus Pheirt. Agus an iomadh cearnaidh air feadh an t-saoghail far 'eil sìochd nan Gaidheal a dh'fhàg an dachaidhean, no dh' fhògradh le lamhachas-làidir agus a sheol thar chuan a shireadh an lóin, cluinnear an t-seann chàinain gu beò, sgairteil air uairean.

Ach beag air bheag tha a còraichean air an spuinneadh bhuaipe.

Dh'fhalbh an là anns an cluinnte a fuaim an lùchairt an rìgh, agus an chùirt nam maithèan. Tha i tosdach far an tric a bhrosnaich na seann naoimh an sluagh bòrb gu àilleachd beatha, agus cha chluinnear a mac-talla an ionad tathaich nan clìar mar o shean.

Có ris a tha ar gearan ?

Is e ar barail gur iad muinntir a teachlaich féin fìor naimhdean na Gaidhlig. Is iad sin a ghleidheadh beò, sultmhor i na 'm b'e sin am miann. Is iad sin agus cha b'iad muinntir eile a leig bàs dìth beag air bheag. Mur a seas sluagh na Gaidhealtachd cainnt an athraichean, mur a labhair iad i ri an cloinn agus mur a labhair an clann i, cha dean strì a luchd tagraidh 's na bailtean móra a dìon.

Cha bhi leasachadh buan air cor na Gaidhlig, dh'aindeoin oidhirpean a' Chomuinn, agus dh'aindeoin strithean luchd teagasg, gus an atharraich na Gaidheil—luchd labhairt na Gaidhlig—am beachd cridhe tha aca air luach a' chàinain-sa mar mheadhon oilein, agus mar chòmhnadh do'n àl tha ag éirigh suas chum an teachd-an-tìr a chosnadh.

Is e beachd coitichionn a' Ghaidheil nach 'eil mór stàth anns a' Ghaidhlig mar mheadhon foghlum agus nach fheairrde ach gur misde neach aige i nuair a thèid e an ceann a chosnaidh A nis chan 'eil stèidh aig a' Ghaidheal no aig neach eile airson nam beachdan tha sin. Tha iad tur cìl. Agus chan ann a chum buannachd ar cloinne a tha e gum biodh iad air am beathachadh le leithid a mhearachdan.

Chan e tourad na Gaidhlig ach cion na Beurla an cnap-starra gu minic, agus có dhearbhas ormsa nach ionnsaichear Beurla gun a' Ghaidhlig a chall, no gun antromach eòlas na Gaidhlig foghlum an cainnt choimhich.

Nan tuigeadh agus nan creideadh na Gaidheil gur i Gaidhlig an *southeast* anns am faighear taigete spiorad nan daoine o'n d' thàinig iad, gur i ghlèidh dhuinn na subhaicean sin an

eachdraidh ar sinnsir air am miann leinn beachdachadh gur i tha toirt cunntais air gràsan ar n-athraichean, tadhal an dòchais agus an rùintean, agus a luaidh air gnìomh an làmh; nan tuigeadh iad sin agus nan creideadh iad gu bheil aca an sin luach thar nithean diomain mar tha airgid agus òr, cha bhiodh iad caoin-shuarach a thaobh an coir-bhreth agus cha mheasadh iad mar chàirdean an dream a spionadh an dileab o'n dligheach.

Ach cò theagasgas na Gaidheil sin agus cuin ?

Chan 'eil sin gun fhreagairt mar an ceudna do'n fheadhain a their nach cuir Gaidhlig gu bràth mòran ime air an aran dhuinn. Ann a bhi ag oileanachadh na cloinne, ann a bhi fadadh agus a' beathachadh agus a' neartachadh nam buadhan inntinn' troimh an coisinn iad fadheoidh an teach-an-tìr, agus troimh an sealbhaich iad agus an gnàthaich iad math na beatha-sa, cò aige tha làn chinnt nach buannaichear na nithean sin troimh theagasg na Gaidhlig do chlann nan Gaidheal, ma dh'fhaidte, mòran nas fhearr na leis na meadhonan a tha an diugh air an cleachdadh anns na sgoiltean. Chan 'eil a h-uile beachd air a dhearbhadh, agus is iomadh breth neo-earbsach ris na chuir daoine an aonta gun a' chùis idir a rannachadh gu ceart.

Tha an Gaidheal ro ullamh gu bhi lorg gach math an càinean eile agus gun luach idir fhaicinn 'na chàinain fhéin.

Nan robh na Gaidheil air fantuinn dileas do'n Ghaidhlig, seadh iadsan a thàlaidheadh gu suain le crònan a ciùil, agus a dh'èisd le tlachd ri cagar gràidh a luchd toigheachd, cha bhiodh cor na Gaidhlig an diugh cho iosal. Is lionnuhòr iad anns na bliadhaichean a dh'fhalbh a dh'àraicheadh gu fearachas gun smid 'nan ceann ach Gaidhlig bhlasda an athraichean leis nach mithich a nis an dàimh ris a' chainnt sin aideachadh, ach a shéideas trompaid nan Gall gu liotach, spagluinneach. Carson ?

Dé luach a tha innte co dhiubh ? Dé an toradh a ghiùlaineadh i an crannchar a luchd tòrachd ? Cia mhead bonnach a chuireadh i 'nam broinn, no bròg mu an casan ? Dé dh'itheas agus a dh'òlas sinn agus a chuireas sinn umainn ? Agus nach e sin an fhìor bheatha ? Cha dean Gàidhlig mo chòmhnadh. Séididh mi trompaid nan Gall.

Gun teagamh dh'fhàs an toradh sin air an t-sìol a chuireadh. Dh'fhuiling a' Ghaidhlig ainneart air nach robh i airidh. Bhacadh i ann an sgoiltean na Gaidhealtachd. 'Nan innseadh a' chlann rùintean an cridhe innte, mur cumadh iad an teanga 'na tàmh, gheibheadh iad seiche na bàir air am bois, no meangan na craoibhe

beithe na'm b'e sin bu deise a thachradh. An iongnadh ged chuireadh an òigridh an dimeas an nì sin a dhleas dhoibh a leithid de dhuais.

Bha cuid ann, ach is ann tearc, nach tug gunis do leithid de ainneart, agus a shaothraich gu buadhmhòr a' dleasadh an coir-bhreth do'n chloinn. Cha chaill iadsan an duais.

Ach de their sinn mu dheidhinn sluagh ar n-eilein fhéin, cuid diubh—a' mhór-chuid 'nar measg—a tha cleachdadh na Gaidhlig gu làitheil, agus a tha gu dian 'ga truaileadh le cainnt neo-choimhlionta. Nach minic a chluinnear facail le claigninn Ghaidhealach is spàgan Gallda, no Beurla agus Gaidhlig an achlaisean a chèile.

A bheil comhradh de'n t-seorsa so annasach duinn?—"Se céilidh complete a bh'againn an raoir. Bha *sketch* glé *interesting* ann, agus dh' *enjoyed* mi fhéin a *A.I.* Am faca tu a' *frocka nice* a bh' air *Miss Mackenzie*? Cha b'ann air *cheap sale* a fhuair i am fear ud."

Chan 'eil nì as freagarraiche do'n leithid sin a' Ghaidhlig na'm bàs. Chan 'eil bristeadh cridhe ann as motha na bhi ag éisdeachd ri brothluinn gun bhrìgh gun seadh gun aobhar.

Tha feum aig a leithid sin de Gaidhlig air fìor chartadh. Agus mur tòisich sinne air an obair sin mar Chomunn cò dha bheir sin an obair ri deanamh? Ma dhearmadar an obair an diugh cò mhinnaicheas do'n àl ri teachd a' Gaidhlig am maireach?

Mur 'eil leasachadh air a' chùis is mithich dhuinn ar làmhnan a phasgadh. Tha ar cruinnichdhean diamhain, tha ar ceòl 'na chianalas, tha ar n-oidhirpean gun seòl.

Cionnus a thig leasachadh; C'aithe an toisichear?

Tòisicheamaid aig ar starsaich fhéin, agus an uair a ghlanas sinn ar starsach fhéin cuiridh sinn mar fhiachan air muinntir eile an eisimpleir mhath a tha againn dhoibh a leantainn.

(1) Air tùs cuireadh buill a' Chomuinn mar fhiachan orra fhéin 'nuair a labhras iad Gaidhlig air Gaidhlig a labhras iad.

(2) Brosnaicheanmeaid pàrantan aig a bheil Gaidhlig an clann oideachadh mu'n ghhlùn anns a' Ghaidhlig. An fear nach ionnsaichear ris a' ghhlùn chan ionnsaich ris a' ghualainn. Is i Gaidhlig na cagailt an stéidh air a bheil an aitreabh uile gu bhi air a togail. Mur leagar an stéidh is diamhain a bhi deilbh a' mhullaich.

(3) Rachamaid a mach a measg an t-sluaigh agus an coibhneas cainnte nochdamaid dhaibh luach na dilleab a bhuineas dhaibh. Ise aineolas air a luach is aobhar gu leigeadh iad a cuid chloinne air faondradh as a h-aonais.

(4) Comhairlicheamaid a' mhuinntir òga iad a ghabhail tlachd an càinain is an eachdraidh an sinnsire. Agus thugamaid a h-uile cothrom do'n chloinn cainnt am màthar a labhairt, a leughadh, a sgrìobhadh, agus a sheinn.

(5) Tha feum air leabhraichean simplidh, freagarrach air son òigridh. Gun leabhraichean cionnus a dhùisgear iarrtus, no dh'fhadar miann leughaidh an cridhe nan oileanach?

(6) A bharr air na nithean sin leughamaid uile am biobull Gaidhlig gu minic. Chan 'eil a leth-bhreac ann mar mheadhon stéidheachaidh agus neartachaidh an eòlas càinain. An luchd labhairt Gaidhlig as fhearr a chluinneas sinn is iad an fheadhoin as eòlaiche anns an leabharsa. Agus faodaidh beannachdan as motha leantainn air an t-saothair.

Tha cor na Gaidhlig nar là ag agradh dian shaothair o a luchd dàimh gu léir gu bhi brosnachadh sluagh na Gaidhealtachd agus nan Eilean chum suim dhligheach a ghabhail do chainnt am màthar air eagal gun tig an t-àm anns nach bi leasachadh oirre. Is e call gun teagamh a bhiodh an sin.

Chan 'eil sgaradh comasach eadar dùthchas agus càinain. Seasaidh no tuitidh iad le chèile. Ma chaillead an Gaidheal a' Ghaidhlig caillidh e saoihbreas beul-aithris nan ginealach a dh'fhalbh, nì nach ceannaichear le òr; caillidh e a'mhaoin a tha taisegte am bàrdachd san eachdraidh a dhùthcha; caillidh e a chòir-bhreth an dileab bu chòir da dhleasadh, a dhion le fuil a chridhe; caillidh e spiorad a' Ghaidheil; agus ma bhios e dh'easbhuidh nan nithean sin, dé bhios aige?

SEUMAS MACTHOMAS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—In the August issue of *An Gaidheal*, E. O'D. enquires in "Notes and Queries" for the origin and composer of the pipe tune known as "The Road to the Isles." It was composed by John MacLellan, D.C.M., Pipe-Major of the Territorial Battalion I have the honour at the present moment to command. I enclose a cutting from this year's programme of the Cowal Highland Gathering, which gives some interesting particulars not written by myself but which I believe are substantially correct. I understand the words were written for the tune, and not the tune for the words. Pipe-Major MacLellan is a Highlander imbued with the true Highland spirit, a poet, a piper, and a prolific composer of pipe music. His name and achievements should be more generally known.

Yours faithfully,

IAN M. CAMPBELL,
Colonel Commanding 8th Argyll
and Sutherland Highlanders.

DO AN FHEAR-DHEASACHAIDH.

Uasail Urramaich.—Le bhuir cead, bu chaomh leam gun rachadh Mgr. Gillesbuig Mac Ille Mhuna e fhéin gu Carraig Dhubh Buinne nam Bìodag, agus an sin chitheadh e air a shon fhéin cìod è tha an sruth 'a déanamh. Ach biodh cuimhne aige gu bheil an fhaoi-leag i féin geal, ged tha an aghlirach glas!

Agus, có dhiùbh, 'san t-slighe 'san dol seachad, an innis e dhomh c'arson a ghairm e Bodach na Maoile Ruaidhe dhiom? Tha maol 'na fhacal fìrionn. Air an aobhar sin.

Is mise,

Gu dileas,

BODACH A' MHAOIL RUAIDH

BOOK REVIEW.

The Tale of the Cauldron; Gaelic and English, arranged by J. G. Mackay; Sixteen Paintings by Gordon Browne, R.I. Published by Malcolm C. MacLeod, Dundee. Price, 2/6; 10 in. by 8 in.

Mr. Mackay has conferred a great boon on all learners of Gaelic by giving a very clear and correct English translation of one of the ancient Gaelic Tales. There are also eighteen pages of question and answer, in Gaelic and English, on the subject matter of the story. This turns the book into a text book for a class. The notes are full and illuminating. Indeed the points emphasised are those that give trouble to learners. The translator has himself acquired the language with great mastery, and so remembers what the harder points were. The book is altogether remarkable in its get-up. The full page coloured paintings are very clever, and they catch the spirit of the tale with felicity. The whole book is printed on rich art paper. The type is first class, the Gaelic text being in italics. We cannot recall seeing a book of this nature with such fine finish, and care in the workmanship. It is a marvel of cheapness, and would make a lovely prize for young folks in school classes and at Junior Mods. The artist and printer as well as Mr. Mackay himself have put readers and learners of Gaelic under a great obligation by putting such a fine book on the market.

DONATIONS TO INVERNESS MOD.

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|---|------------|
| Previously Acknowledged | £941 11 2 |
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BRANCH REPORTS.

TOBERMORY.—The opening meeting of the session was held in the H.G. School on Wednesday, the 17th October. There was an excellent attendance of members and friends. The President of the Society (Rev. J. M. Menzies, M.A.), congratulated Mr. J. Cameron, Drumm, on his successes in the Literary

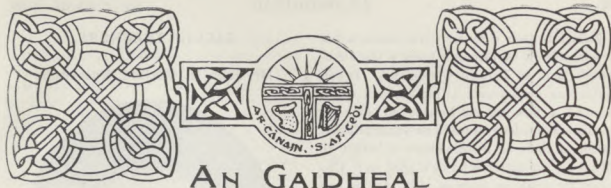
Competitions of the recent Mod, and also the pupils of the H.G. School on their success at the Provincial Mod in Oban. The Tobermory children had gained 17 prizes in the various competitions. Mr. John Cameron, the acting President, then took the chair and introduced the various artistes. An excellent programme of songs and recitations, etc., was arranged by Dr. Morrison and Mrs. MacLeod. The Secretary, Miss M. A. MacLean, read a paper describing a visit to the Mod in Inverness many years ago. The paper described the difficulties that competitors had to face in these days when transport from outlying parts of the Highlands was not the easy thing it is to-day. The paper also described the change that had come in the Mod itself. In those early days one day was sufficient for all the competitions, and any one with a fair knowledge of Gaelic and a good voice could win a prize. The paper was greatly enjoyed, and the writer heartily complimented. Mr. D. MacLeod gave selections on the Bagpipes. Songs were sung by Mrs. MacLeod, Mrs. MacVicar, Miss Flora MacLean and Messrs Adam Brown and J. Cameron. Readings by Ex-Sergeant MacKay and John Cameron, Lindhu. During the course of the evening the Chairman gave an interesting and amusing account of his varied experiences in his visit to the Inverness Mod. Mr. Menzies in moving a vote of thanks to those who had contributed to the evening's entertainment, urged on the young people to be true to the glorious heritage handed down to them. He impressed upon them the importance of reading, speaking, and writing their own beautiful language, and expressed the opinion that the Ceilidhs could be made much more interesting if short, interesting papers were written by the members. This was the age of the short story, and he felt sure that young people would be attracted to the Society if members made greater use of the "Sgeul Ghoidh." An interesting and instructive evening was brought to a close by the company singing the "Eilean Mùileach."

It was decided to hold a Christmas Ceilidh and various ladies under the Convenership of Mrs. MacLeod agreed to attend to the catering.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The opening Ceilidh of the season took place in the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday evening, 3rd October, when there was a very large attendance. Mr. John R. Bannerman, the President, in a short address welcomed the members, and afterwards made many pleasing references to the success of the National Mod at Inverness, from which he had just returned. He was delighted with the interest the Branch was creating in Gaelic affairs throughout the district, and he hoped that that interest would considerably be added to ere the close of the season. From the large number present he felt sure their enthusiasm for the Gaelic was as keen as ever.

During the evening the Rev. Malcolm B. MacGregor, M.A., delivered a delightfully interesting lecture on the Isle of Skye, with lantern illustrations. His remarks concerning the beauties, charm, and appeal of the "Misty Isle," were followed with the keenest enjoyment and appreciation. The musical part of the proceedings was sustained by Miss Cameron, Mr. John M. Bannerman, who contributed several well-rendered Gaelic songs, while Mr. Ronald MacDonald gave bagpipe selections. Mr. James MacGregor accompanied the vocalists on the piano.

At the close Mr. Bannerman conveyed to the Rev. Mr. MacGregor the best thanks of the meeting for his informative and enjoyable lecture. A similar service was also paid to the artistes and to those who had charge of the lantern illustrations.



EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, D. Litt., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed; business and other communications to 212 West George Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS—Runaire, Glasgow.

TELEPHONE—Douglas 1433.

Leabhar XXIV.]

An Dùdhlachd, 1928.

[Earrann 3

CUIMHNEACHAN.

Mu na làithean so tha cuimhne ri chumail air a' bhliadhna anns an d' rugadh Iain Buinein, an t-ùghdar iomraiteach a sgrìobh an leabhar ris an canair *Turus a' Chrìosduidh*. Tha a nis trì cheud bliadhna o rugadh an duine so. Is e an t-aobhar sonruichte mu bheil sinn a' sgrìobhadh mun chùis gu robh mòran de shaoth-air Iain Bhuinein air eadartheangachadh gu Gaidhlig. Is esan aon de na h-ùghdair Shasunnach aig a robh buaidh anabarrach, air inntinn nan Gaidheal. A mach o'n Bhiobull féin cho robh leathar idir a bha cho measail aig ar n-atraichean ri *Turus a' Chrìosduidh*. Is ann le bhi a' leughadh a' leabhair ud a fhuair mòran de na Gaidheil eòlas air clò, agus air leughadh. Tha an leabhar aithnichte a thaobh a' chruth anns an do sgrìobhadh e—cruth comhsamblachd. Tha an naidheachd 'g a h-innse fo shamhladh aisling. Mar sin tha cruth an leabhair annasach ann fhéin. Ach a thuilleadh air sin tha *brìgh* an leabhair prìseil do 'n inntinn thuigsich. Do 'n neach anns a bheil cràbhadh fìor tha suim is seadh an *Turus a' Chrìosduidh* nach faighear an leabhar sam bith, a mach o 'n Bhiobull féin, mar thubhairt sinn a cheana.

Bu mhaith leinn an cothrom freagarrach so a ghabhail air facal no dhà a chur sios mun éifeachd a bha aig sgrìobhaidhean nam Puritanach Sasunnach air litreachas a' chràbhaidh anns a Ghaidhealtachd. Bha uair no dhà auns

antàinig athbheothachadh air beatha spioradail anns an taobh tuath. Chualas gu tric mu dhùsgaidhean agus ùrachadh anns na h-eaglaisean. Aig a leithid sin de dh'am bhithe a' cur meas mòr air ùghdaran diadhaidh. Is e sin an t-aobhar mun deachaidh cuid de na leabhraichean aig na Puritanaich eadartheangachadh. Chuir deagh sgoilearan gu Gaidhlig oibrichean mar tha *Turus a' Chrìosduidh*; *Gràs am Pailteas*; *An Cogadh, Naomh*; *Fois Shiorruidh nan Naomh*; agus, *Slabhraidh Oir a' chreideimh*. Chan eil àicheadh nach robh na leabhraichean dùrachdach sin na meadhon air eideachadh do 'n mhuinntir a bha 'g a' rannsachadh gu dìleas. Ach bha na leabhraichean sin aig a' cheart am a' teagasg beagan de bheachdan glé chumhang mu chòil agus mu nithean eile a tha neochiontach anna féin. Bha e aon uair na chùis uamhais do Iain Buinein gun éisdeadh e le tlachd ri ceòl nan clag an stiopal na h-eaglais. Bha na Puritanaich (ach Milton na aonar) ag amharc air ceòl diomhain mar nì mallaichte. Agus an uair a chaidh am beachd sin a chur an Gaidhlig, chreid mòran de 'n luchd leughaidh e. Chuir iad am beachd cumhang sin air an aon ruith ri nithibh eile a bha ceart is cudthromach. Tha sinn an dùil gur e so is aobhar gu robh cuid de dhaoine diadhaidh anns a' Ghaidhealtachd cho dian an aghaidh ciùil. Fhuair iad an teagasg sin o leabhraichean nam Puritanach Sasunnach. Cha bhuineadh beachd cho cumhang do nàdur, no do dhualachas nan Gaidheal féin.

Faodaidh nach e so an t-àite airson a bhi a' mineachadh na firinnean móra a tha air a' samhlachadh an *Turus a' Chrìosduidh*. Is ann a tha sinn gu h-àraidh a' mothachadh do 'n èifeachd a bha aig an leabhar ud anns an naodhamh linn deug air feadh na Gaidhealtachd. Carson a chuir ar n-athraichean a leithid de mheas air comhsamhlachd de'n ghnè so? Cha b'ann air sgàth an teagaisg idir. Ach is ann air sgàth, a sgeula mar sgeula. An tug sinn riamh fainear gun robh *cruth* an leabhar ud na oilbheum do mhóran de na Puritanaich fhéin aig an am a chaidh an *Turus* fhoill-seachadh. Thubhairt iad gu robh e coltach ris na naidheachdan faoine diamhain a bha ùgh-daran coltach ri Daniel Defoe agus feadhain eile a' sgrìobhadh. Is gann nach do chuir iad sìos an *Turus* gu buileach, a chionn nach robh ann ach breugan, agus nach do thachair a leithid riamh gu litireil. Ach a dh'aindeoin an cuid càinidh fhuair an *Turus* greim air aire an t-sluaigh. Agus fhuair e greim làidir air intinn nan Gaidheal. Bha e coltach ris na h-uirsgeulan air a robh iad féin eòlach. Is ann a bha Baile Léirsgrìos agus Slochd na Mimhisnich ach cosmhuil ri eachdraidh a chluinntte mun chagailte o shean anns na glinn. Cha robh seanachaidh riamh aig a robh nithean ri luaidh cho annasach ri Fámhair gun Dòchas agus Féill an Diamhanais. Agus is gann gu robh bard a dhealbhadh cuspair cho oirdheirich ri dealradh a Bhaile Neamhaidh, agus Tir Bheulah far a bheil na h-eòin a' seinn agus na lusan fo bhlláth. Bha tlachd air tùs do 'n chruth, agus na dhéidh sin bha meas air an t-seadh. Is cuimhne leinn seann saighdear aig a robh spéis mhór do 'n *Chogadh Naomh*. Cha robh earrann a b'fhearr leis na ionnsuighean nan Ifreannach air Baile Anam an Duine; agus shealladh e do'n chloinn mar a chàraich Diabolus na reitheachan cogaidh an aghaidh Geata na Cluaise, agus mar a chleachd e gach innleachd airson Geata na Sùl a ghlacadh.

"VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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GAELIC TEACHERS.

Mr. John N. Macleod, Knockbain.



For many years Mr. Macleod's name has been well known to Gaels throughout the country and abroad as an ardent supporter of Gaelic and as an untiring worker in its cause. A native of Kilmuir, in the Isle of Skye, he was reared in an environment where the Gaelic language was predominant. During his boyhood in the early nineties, he was not too late to hear some of the old reciters of ancient lore. Indeed, his own fluency and resource in writing the language are due in no small measure, we feel, to his having acquired in his youth some of the ease and fulness of the few raconteurs who remained at that time, but who are now all gone. When it is mentioned that his teacher was the late Mr. John Macnab, we shall not be surprised at Mr. Macleod's devotion to, and fondness for, the old language.

Mr. Macleod received his professional training at the Aberdeen Training College. He has held a considerable number of teaching appointments—Bernera in Lewis, Larkhall, Prestonpans, Dornie, Errogie, and Knockbain. He taught Gaelic at Dornie, where very successful mods used to be held. Two prominent Gaelic singers, Mr. James C. Campbell, London, this year's Mod Medallist at the National Mod, and his sister, Bessie (now Mrs. Duff), are outstanding products of these local efforts at Dornie.

Mr. Macleod has acted as Gaelic judge at the National Mod, and was also one of the teachers at the Summer School of Gaelic this year. As author and editor he has a very good list of works to his credit. He is the writer of those popular plays, *Rèiteach Móraig* and *Pòsadh Móraig*. He has edited with great thoroughness the following works: *Bàrdachd Leòdhais*; *Fear Siubhail nan Gleann*; MacCallum's *Domhnallan*; *Poems* by Murdo Morrison. He has written a Play on *Flora Macdonald*, and translated Martin's *Tour*. He wrote the weekly letter by "Calum Sebladair" to the *Highland News* for three years; and for the long period of 12 years he has written the popular weekly letter of "Alasdair Mór" for the *Stornoway Gazette*. He has also lectured to different Gaelic Societies; and has written articles for Gaelic periodicals.

Mr. Macleod has just been appointed secretary to the Northern Sub-Committee of An Comunn's Propaganda Committee, and we feel certain that his energy and enthusiasm will make their influence felt in this promising department.

"I-CHALUIM CHILLE."

Le IAIN MACCORMAIG

(A Cheud Duais aig Mòd an Obain, 1926.)

II.

Chaidh an deanamh a suas as an ùr 's as an nodha ri linn Adhamhnain, a bha 'na Aba an I, e fhéin. Anns a XLV. caibeidil de'n leabhar air "Beatha Chalum Cille" tha'n t-eachdraiche, Adhamhnain, a' toirt cunntais glé annasach air aon turas a thug cabhlach churachan do'n Mhòrairne, agus do dh'Airdnamuirchol (Airdnamurchan) a dh'farruidh fiodha, a chum na toglaichean an I a' chàradh, agus tha e 'g innseadh a' chruadail a fhuair na manaich ghleusda mu'n d'fhuair iad na ràthan fiodha a' thobhadh do dh'I.

'Se Reilig Odhrain, no mar a their muinntir an Eilein, an "Rollaig," ait' is annasaiche agus cuideachd is sine an I. Cha robh ait' ùr anns an cuireadh na seann teachdairean Eireannach a suas a chum an Soisgeil a' shearmonachadh do'n t-sluaigh, nach e 'cheud rud a' dheanadh iad "Reilig" agus "Cill" a' chomharrachadh a mach, agus ainm an teachdaire a' thoirt orra. B'e sin

an cleachdadh. Cha robh Calum Cille air leth air càch. Tha "Beul-aithris" agus seann eachdraidh air "Beatha Chalum Cille," air a' sgrìobhadh an Gàidhlig Eireannach, ag rà gu'n do chuir Calum Cille mach "Roilig" air dha suidheachadh a sìos an I. 'N a sheasamh air an lianaigh ghluirm, 's a chuideachd mu'n cuairt air, thuit e gu'm "biodh e iomchuidh am freumhan a' chur an ùir an eilein, agus gu'n robh e ceadichte do a h-aon sam bith de'n chomunn a bhi air a' thiodhlachdadh beò, a chum an talamh a' choisrigheadh."

Theirig Odhran e féin agus thugadh "Reilig Odhrain" air a chladh, 's tha'n t-ainm sin air gus an latha diugh. Mu dheidhinn na gnìomh' iongantach so, tha beul-aithris an I ag rà gu'n d'òrduich Calum Cille uagh Odhrain fhosgladh an ceann trì laithean, agus gu'n d'fhuair Odhran,

"Cha'n 'eil am bàs 'n a iongantais

No Ifrinn mar a chanar e."

Dh'òrduich Calum Cille an uagh a' dhùnadh 's a' mhionaid ag rà,

"Uir, ùir, air sùil Odhrain

Mu'n labhair e'n tuilleadh còmhraidh."

An nis cha'n 'eil mi 'toirt iomraidh air an so, ach a mhàin a chum a' nochdadh mar a thogar sgeul fhaoin air nithean cudthromach, agus cuideachd a' nochdadh beachdan an t-sluaigh anns na lntean dòrcha fad as ud, agus mar a shìolaidh na beachdan sin a suas troimh na lntean. Cha'n 'eil Adhamhnain, a sgrìobh eachdraidh beatha Chalum Cille an I fhéin, ag rà aon fhacal mu'n ni so, no aon fhacal mu mhanach ris an abairteadh "Odhran" mar ainm.

Bha a h-uile cothrom aig Adhamhnain eachdraidh choimh-lionta a' sgrìobhadh air Calum Cille. Bha e a h-uile latha an seanchas sheann daoine a chunnaic, 's a bhruidhinn, 's a bha gle eolach air Calum Cille 'n uair a bha iad òg. A bharrachd air an sin fhuair e na sgrìobhuidean a dh'fhàg Cuimhne Ailbhe, an t-seachdamh aba an I an dèidh Chalum Cille fhéin, air chor agus gu'n robh làn cothrom aige eachdraidh loinneil a' sgrìobhadh 's a chur ra cheile, agus rinn e sin, oir tha na sgòileirean ag rà gur i eachdraidh Adhamhnain air Calum Cille 's air obair, aon sean eachdraidh cho earbsach 's a tha 's an Roinn-Eòrp' air fad. A bhàr air nach 'eil Adhamhnain a' toirt iomhraidh air an ùir-sgeul a dh'ainmich mi, nach fhaod sinn a' thuigsinn nach b'ann de chreud Chalum Cille a bhi 'toirt a suas iobairtean mar sud. Nach mór bu mhotha a bhuinneadh e do chreud an duin' ainmeil ud, a phàganachd,

no a gheintleachd ud, a dhubhadh a mach a creud an t-sluaigh aineolaich, gu'n d'fhainig e a shearmonachadh an t-soisgeil ghloin.

Annas an t-seathamh caibideil de'n treas leabhar de "Bheatha Chaluim Chille," tha Adhamhnan gun teagamh a' toirt cunntais soilleir simplidh air tiodhlachdadh a' cheud aoin de mhuinntir Chaluim Chille a bhàsaich an I. B'e sin manach da'm b'ainm "Brito." A thaobh sin tha Adhamhnan ag aithris gu'n d'fhuir Chaluim Cille, "gum fac e na h-ainmean a' giulan gu Rìoghachd Neamh, anam an eilthirich so." Cha'n 'eil an corr.

'S e 'nis a' cheisd, ciod e 's gur e "Reilig Odhrain" a tha mar ainm air a' chladh an I? Tha cuid ag rà, agus 's e mo bheachd fhéin e, gun robh I 'n a h-ait' ainmeil mu dh'fhaoitid ceudan bliadhna mu'n d'fhainig Chaluim Cille idir ann, ged is e Chaluim Cille a las an lòchran anabarrach a dhears anns an àird' an iar, agus a chuir a' gathan dealrach air feadh na h-Eòrp' air fad. Tha iomradh gu'n robh ann uair clach ann mar chuimhneachan air Còrmac Ulfada anns a' bhliadhna 298, no uaireigin mu'n treasa linn.

Tha an rithist an t-eachdraiche Boethius a' toirt iomraidh air "Cloich-bhuadhmhoir" shòruichte bho'm biodh na pàganaich ghiosragaich a' faotuin fiosaich. Bha a' chlach so ann cho fad air ais ris a' bhliadhna 237 A.D. Leis an sin mata, nach fhaod e 'bhi gu'n robh "Reilig Odhrain" ann mu'n d'fhainig Chaluim Cille do'n eilein idir. Tha iomra air "Naomh" ris an abairteadh "Odhran" a bhi'n Dail-rìgh-fhada. Bhàsaich e air an dàra latha de'n damhair, "sa" bhliadhna 548, coig bliadhna deug mu'n d'fhainig Chaluim Cille do dh'I. Bha Odhran de na ceud teachdairean o Eaglais Dhail-rìgh-fhada, agus tha eileinean is ceallan air an ainmneachadh air. Nach fhaodadh e bhi, gu'n robh e feadh na h-àirde 'n iar roimh Chaluim Cille, agus gur e se féin, a reir a' chleachdadh, a chuir a mach "Reilig Odhrain" an I. Cha'n 'eil e eucoltach nach robh Reilig Odhrain 'n a aite tiodhlachdadh an I 's an àm an do thiolaidheadh Brito, 'n uair nach do ghlèidh beul-aithris rud sòruichte sam bith a thairneadh aire Adhamhnan. Tha "Cladh Odhrain" an Tìreadh, "Cill Odhrain" an Colosaidh, agus "Tìr Odhrain" air taobh tuath Loch Sgrìodan am Muile. Taobh a stigh ballachan a' chlaidh ainmeil so, tha "Caibeal Odhrain," le a stuadhan loma ruisgte. Tha an luchd sgil ag rà gur e "Caibeal

Odhrain" togail is sine an I air fad, agus tha eachdraidh ag rà gur i Ban-rìghinn Mairearad, a phòs Chaluim a Chinn Mhòir, a thog i mu'n dàra linn deug. Tha e air aithris gu'n do dh'fhosgail Manus Cosruisgte, an Lochlannach, dorus a' chaibeal so air a h-aon de na turusan sgrìosach a thug na Lochlannaich bhòrba do dh'I, agus ciod air bith a chunnaic e 'n uair a sheall a stigh, thionndaidh e air ais air a shàil le uamhas. Dhùin e'n dorus as a dhéidh agus dh'òrduich e gun e bhi air fhosgladh tuilleadh. Tha e coltach gu'n do losgadh 's gu'n do spuinneadh I seachd uairean leis na Lochlannaich. Bha na treubhan bòrba so a' toirt tadhal sgrìosach do'n eilein bho 801 gu 818, a' mort 's a màrbhadh 's a' spuinneadh. Air an turus mu dheireadh a thug iad do dh'I, anns a' bhliadhna 818, thug iad an t-aba agus coig manach deug a suas mar iobairt do dh' "Odin."

'S e'n ath togail as sine an I an Eaglais Dhubb, taobh an rathaid a suas bho Phort Ròrain. B'e Cill bhan a bha'n so, agus their muintir I-the "na cailleanach dubha" riubha gus an latha diugh 'n uair bhiodar ag' iomradh oirre. Cha'n 'eil fiosam c'ar son a' theirtleadh an "Eaglais Dhubb" ris a' chill so, no c'ar son a' theirtleadh "cailleanach dubha" ris na mnathan a bu mhuinntir innte, oir tha e air a rà gur th'ann air an sgeadachadh an anart geal a bha iad mar eideadh. Feumaidh gu'n robh reusan air choireigin air an fhacal "dubh" a bhi air a' chleachdadh ris na seorsa cheallan so, oir tha cunntas againn gu'n do shuidhich Chaluim Cille "dubh regles" an Doire. Tha e air a rà gu'n do dh'fhuilingeadh do na "cailleanach" dubha" so fuireach anns an "Eaglais Duibh" uine mhór an déidh an ath-leassachadh.

'S e'n Eaglais Mhór togail bu deireann-aiche a chaidh a chur suas, ach tha e coltach nach 'eil an togail a th'ann an diugh ach air làrach togail bu slìne, oir o chionn a ghoirid fhuaradh stéidh na seann togail. Tha rian na seann stéidh air a thitheadh an ùrlar na h-eaglais a chum's gu'm faicteadh mar a bha e a' dol. Chaidh an togail mhór bhreagha a chlà sinn an diugh a chur suas le Dòmhnall o' Brolachan, agus tha ainm a' chlachair ainmeil so air a sgrìobhadh air taobh a stigh ballachan an tùir, an Laidinn, "Donaldus o' Brolachan fecit me." Tha e coltach gu'n robh na h-o' Brolachain nan clachairean ainmeil an Eirinn, agus tha cunntas againn gu'n robh teaghlachain duibh an I agus anns an Ros Mhuileach, aon uair. Faodaidh gu'm bheil am fuil 's

an dà àite an diugh fhathast, ach fo shloinnidhean eile.

B'e Eaglais na Ròimhe a chuir a suas na toglaichean breagha a chithear nan aibhistean fuara loma an diubh.

Mar a chaidh a' rà cheana b'e Adhamhnán, a sgrìobh eachdraidh beatha Chaluim Chille, an naoidheamh aba a bha'n I an déidh Chaluim Chille fhéin, agus b'ann r'a linn a thainig cumhachd na Ròimhe a steach far an robh an Eaglais Cheilteach a riaghladh faisg air da cheud bliadhna an déidh Chaluim Chille. Bha Eaglais na Ròimhe, an àm Adhamhnán, a' tolladh a stigh gu seolta, agus a faotuinn buaidh 's a fàs làidir air Breatuinn, 's an Eirinn. Bha Eaglaisean na h-Alba air fad agus an dàra leth de dh'Eaglaisean na h-Eireann fo riaghladh agus fo ùghdaras I-the. B' ubh spiolgte so do dh'Eaglais na Ròimhe, na'm beadh 's gu'm faigheadh i aomadh air na cinn-riaghlaidh. An déidh iomadh tumadh a' thoirt a' reiteach an rathaid, thainig cinn-riaghlaidh an dà Eaglais mu dheireadh cho faisg air a cheile 's gu'n robh "Aonadh" air a dheasbud eatorra, agus mar a thachair 'n ar latha fhéin anns a'cheart suidheachadh, dh'éirich easaontachd 's an Eaglais Cheiltich. Aig aon choinneamh mhóir a bh'ann, gheill Adhamhnán, agus fhuair Eaglais na Ròimhe cothrom air a llong a' sgaioleadh air an rìoghachd air fad. Sheas buidheann bheag a mach an I, ach ri uine, dh'fhàs an àite cumhang daibh, agus thug iad farsuingeachd tìr mòr orra. Ri uine chaidh an Eaglais Cheilteach as an t-sealladh air fad.

Bha eilein I aon uair de eachdraidh, mar a tha Siar-Chill-Mhanaidh an Lunnain an diugh. Bha rìghrean 'g an crùnadh 's 'g an tiodhlachdadh ann. Cha robh Calum Cille ach mu dheich bliadhna 's an eilein 'n uair a chrùn e Aedhan, rìgh Dhail-rìgh Thada anns a' bhliadhna 574, agus tha e 'n a urram mòr do dh'eilein beag I-the gu'm b'e sin a' cheud chrùnadh a chaidh a' dhèanamh riamh an Breatuinn, agus an t-seirbheis air a' frithealadh a réir modhan a' chreidibh Chrìosdaidh. Tha a' chlach air an do shuidh Aedhan an àm a chrùnaidh, air a' gleidheadh gu curamach gus an latha diugh, agus chithear i 'na h-àite anns an rìgh-chathair, an Siar-Chill-Mhanaich. An sin comh-cheangailte r'a cheile, tha an sean nòs agus an nòs ùr.

Bha aon uair rìghrean agus cinn-fheadhna 'g an tiodhlachdadh an I, anns an "Rollaig." Lean an cleachdadh sin fad cheudan bliadhna, agus gus an latha diugh, chithear

na leachdan rìoghail, agus leachdan nan cinn-fheadhna, air an tasgadh gu curamach, taobh a stigh failean iaruin.

'N uair a thug an Deathan, Sir Dòmhnall Mac-an-Rothaich turas do dh'I anns a' bhliadhna 1594, bha gach aitreabh 's an eilein an suidheachadh-móran na b'fhearr na 's aithne dhuinne an diugh iad. An "Reilig Odhrain" chunnaic e crùislean nan rìghrean mar a dh'fhàg na clachairean iad, ged nach 'eil clach os cionn cloiche dhiubh an diugh.

Tha Mac-an-Rothaich a' toirt cunntais air trì crùislean air an togail mar chaibeil bheaga, agus sgrìobhadh air gach cruise a' comharrachadh a mach nan rìghrean d'am buinneadh i. "Cruise rìghrean na h-Alba"; "Cruise rìghrean na h-Eareann," agus "Cruise rìghrean na Lochlainn." Tha oehd is da fhichead rìgh Albannach air an tiodhlachdadh an I; ceithir de rìghrean na h-Eireann; dà rìgh Lochlannach, agus aon rìgh Frangach. Bha na Cinn-fheadhna Ghàidhealach am bitheantas air an tiodhlachdadh an I, agus fhad 's is urrainnear a dhèanamh a mach, b'e Dòmhnallaich Ghlinne Garraidh a b'fhaide a lean ris an t-seana chleachdadh—a' cur duslach ri duslach an grunn coisrichte Reilig Odhrain.

Rinn teachd an "Ath-leasachaidh atharrachadh mòr an I. Chaidh sgapadh a chur an eoin na Ròimhe, agus a chum am fògradh a bhi coimhlionta, chaidh na nid 's na cuachan a' sgapadh cuideachd. Mar a chaidh a ra cheana, dh'fhuilg an Eaglais ùr do na "Cailleachan Dubha" fuireach 's an Eaglais Dhuibh móran ùine an déidh an Ath-leasachaidh, a' teagasg na cloinne mar a b'abhaist daibh. Ach thainig an latha air am b'eiginn daibh an cùl a' thoirt ri I gu bràth agus an déidh sin thuit sgàil-bhrat air an eilein fad dà no trì cheud bliadhna, agus 'n uair a thogteadh a cheud chìrb de, bha Ailein Sgoileir ag oileineachadh na cloinne an I. Bha cuimhne mhath aig an linn a chaidh seachad air Ailein Sgoileir, agus dh'innseadh iad ioma sgeul thaitneach mu'n cuairt air.

Greis an déidh an Ath-leasachaidh thug Seanadh Airidhghàidheal òrdugh a mach gach clach 's gach crois 's gach ni eile d'am biodh an sluagh ach gann ag aoradh, a' bhristeadh, no a thilgeal a mach do Chaol I-the. Cha deach móran dearmaid anns an òrdugh a bhi air a ghiulan a mach. De trì ceud agus trì fichead crois, cha'n 'eil an diugh nan seasamh an I, ach dithis. A chuid nach deach a' spuinneadh, 's a chithear an diugh an iomadh cearn de'n

Ghàidhealtachd, tha e'n grunn a' chuain. Am measg na chailleadh, chailleadh na "Clachan Dubha" ainmeil. B'ann air na "Clachan Dubha" a bhiodh na seann Chinn-fheadhna a' toirt am mionnan 's am boidean anns na làithean dòrcha a dh'aom. B'ann anns a' bhliadhna 1609 a thug Cinn-fheadhna na Gàidhealtachd am boidean air na "Clachan Dubha" air son na h-uair mu dheireadh. B'ann an sin a chaidh na reachdan ainmeil, ris an abraid "Reachdan I-the" a dhèanamh. Thug Ardriaghladh na h-Alba cumhachd do'n Easbuig Knox na Cinn-fheadhna a' ghairm gu còdhail an I, a chum na "Reachdan" so a dheasbuid 's a' dhaingneachadh. Bha cruinneachadh 's an eilein an latha ud a tha ainmeil gun an latha diugh, oir thug na Cinn-fheadhna am boidean nan seasamh air na "Clachan Dubha," na "Reachdan" fhaicinn air an comh-lionadh, gach fear 'na cheann-dùthcha féin. An dèidh sin chailleadh sealladh air na "Clachan Dubha." Cha'n 'eil teagamh nach deach an tilgeil do ghrund a' chaoil, mar a dh'eirich do dh'iomadh clach air a deagh shnaigheadh 's air a deagh ghrabhalladh, de na clachan rimheach a bha aon uair ra'm faicinn an I.

Chaidh na togalaichean breagha a sios cuideachd. Fad cheudan bliadhna bha iad gun cheann gun mullach gun dìon, ach sreud an eilein 'g an iomain a dh'fhaotuin fàsadh am balachan 's a' gheamhradh. Ach anns 's a' bhliadhna 1899 thug Diuc Airidhghàidheal, an t-ochdamh Diuc, na sean aibhistean a nunn do dh'Eaglais na h-Alba. Thug Eaglais na h-Alba gu dreach loinneil iad. Chaidh an teasairginn uile o'n chnàmh anns an robh iad a' tuiteam. Chaidh an Eaglais Mhór ach gann ath-nuadhachadh. Tha an nis loinneil is comh-fhurtachd innte, agus an Soisgeil 'g a shearmhonachadh innte gach Sàbaid, a coimh-lionadh, mar gu'm b'eadh, sean fhaisneachd a tha'm beul-Gàidhlig an t-saoghail, o chionn cheudan bliadhna. Tha i mar so:—

"An I mo chridhe, I mo ghràidh
An àite guth manaich bidh geum bà
Ach mu'n tig an saoghal gu crìch
Bidh I mar a bha."

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 23rd November. The following members were present:—

Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., President; A. Anderson, Larbert; J. R. Bannerman, Rahane; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Miss Campbell of Inverneil; Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Sucoth; Mrs. J. B. Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss Farquharson of Invercauld; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Colonel Gilbert Gunn, Inverness; Colonel A. D. G. Gardyne of Glenforsa; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Duncan MacCallum, Glasgow; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; Peter MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; Miss Flora MacKinnon, Glasgow; Alastair C. MacLaren, Dalmally; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Neil MacLean, B.Sc., Aberdeen; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Rev. M. N. Munro, M.A., Taynult; Lord James Stewart Murray, Ballinluig; Iain M. Moffat Pender, Lewis; Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan; Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow; Andrew Stewart, Glasgow; Lady Helen Tod, Blair Atholl.

In Attendance.—Robert MacFarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary; Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

Minutes of previous Council meetings were read and approved.

Minute of Finance Committee, which included provisional accounts of the Inverness Mod, showing an estimated surplus of fully £800, was read by the Treasurer. The President referred to the splendid services performed by the local Committee with such gratifying results, and on behalf of the Council he conveyed to Mr. MacDonald and his Committee their deep sense of gratitude and appreciation of their efforts. Mr. MacDonald replied.

Minutes of Education Committee were read. It was intimated that Mr. J. G. MacKay, London, had agreed to contribute £100 towards the production of 6 double sided 12-inch Gaelic records of folk tales to be supplementary to the elementary course discussed some time ago. In view of the decision of the Committee to withdraw from the matter, it was decided to thank Mr. MacKay for his generous offer and to arrange a meeting between himself, Mr. Compton MacKenzie, and Lady Elspeth Campbell to ensure that this offer would be taken advantage of.

The President brought to the notice of the Committee the question of boarded out children in Highland areas, and the Committee authorised himself and the Convener to meet and confer with the appropriate authorities on the matter. It was agreed to approach the

Education Authority for Inverness-shire to ascertain if Miss Ann Johnstone, Barra, could be released from her duties to enable her to study the direct method for the teaching of Gaelic as practised in Ireland. It was decided to proceed with a Summer School of Gaelic next year, and to arrange that a local committee, with secretary, be formed to make all local arrangements, particularly, to secure accommodation for pupils and teachers. It was agreed to record the appreciation of the Committee of the services rendered by Miss Lamont, of Knockdow, and the teachers of this year's school. The minutes were approved.

Two Minutes of Publication Committee were read and approved. It was reported that another print of the Elementary Course had been issued, and also, that arrangements were proceeding and estimates secured for the publication of a Poetry book for School use, under the editorship of Mr. James Thomson, Bayble. A letter had been received from the Manager of the Northern Counties Newspaper and Printing and Publishing Company, Inverness, intimating that it was proposed to re-issue Mr. Eachen's Gaelic Dictionary, and asking whether An Comunn would be prepared to make a grant towards the cost of publication. The Committee regretted they could not see their way to recommend a grant, in view of their other commitments. In moving adoption of the Minutes Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Convener, referred to the increased demand for Gaelic books which was now experienced, and which indicated a gratifying and growing interest in the serious study of the language.

Minutes of four meetings of Propaganda Committee were read and approved. Reports were submitted by Mr. Donald MacDonald and Mr. Charles Campbell, the conveners of the Northern and Southern Sub-Committees respectively. A more intensive propaganda campaign will shortly be proceeded with. These two Sub-Committees acting on a territorial basis and operating under the supervision of the parent Committee will embrace the entire Highlands in their plan of operations. By their activities the Gaelic position will be materially strengthened, and a greater interest promoted in the affairs of An Comunn.

Mr. Charles Campbell gave in the report of the sub-committee on Rules for Branches. Each Rule was carefully considered by the Committee and generally approved. Mr. Campbell and the members of the Sub-Committee were thanked for the time and labour devoted to these rules. Suggestions as to the work of

Branches and regulations for the conduct of music classes were also read and approved.

It was suggested that the Committee should meet at Perth in January, at which meeting the whole question of the financial relations between Provincial Mod Committees and the Propaganda Committee should be discussed with a view to stabilization. Captain George I. Campbell suggested that the views of Provincial Mod Committees should be available to the Propaganda Committee before a definite conclusion was come to on this subject and it was thought that this could best be obtained by the submission by the General Secretary of a statement of the present position, and that these committees be asked to give their views in writing in time for the general committee meeting.

Dr. MacKay, the Convener, said there was a wonderful development in the work of the Committee. He congratulated the conveners of the Sub-Committees on the splendid enthusiasm they brought to bear on their work, and he looked forward to a new era in the propaganda field. The two great factors in the arrest of the language decay were the development of Provincial Mods and the rapid application of the Gaelic clause in the Education Act. The Minutes were approved.

The Art and Industry Minutes showed that the Committee considered the remit from the Annual General Meeting regarding the proposed Rug-making classes at Ness, Lewis, and that after a full discussion it was agreed to engage Miss MacLeod, Greenock, as instructress. It was decided to again proceed with Celtic Art competitions, including leather work. It was remitted to Mrs. J. B. Dunlop and Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., to prepare leaflets describing these competitions, and that these be circulated among the members of the Women's Rural Institute in the Highlands, to give greater prominence to the work. The Minutes were approved.

Two Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were read and approved. Proof copies of the 1929 Mod syllabus were submitted, and the Council authorised the Committee to engage the services of Mr. H. Plunket Greene as one of the adjudicators at the Perth Mod.

Sympathetic reference was made to the deaths of The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey MacDonald, and Mr. James Craigie, two very prominent members of the Council. Each had rendered valuable service to the cause, and it was resolved to record in the Minutes an expression of the Councils' deep sense of loss sustained by their

death, and the secretary was instructed to forward an excerpt of Minutes to the relatives.

Mr. Iain Moffat Pender referred to the progress of Clann an Fhraoich, and intimated that a social evening to which all the members of Clann an Fhraoich will be invited; would be held on 10th January in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow. It was agreed to grant 10 pages in the February number of the magazine to Clann an Fhraoich, whose contributions will be entirely in Gaelic. This issue to be known as the "Clann an Fhraoich Number."

Notices of Motion :—

By Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh.

"All the members of a choir competing for the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy must pass a test in Gaelic conversation or reading."

By Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth.

"That in future An Comunn, the amount of whose business is yearly increasing, should accept the principle of County Councils and Education Authorities, and hold all Committee Meetings prior to, but in the same place as the Executive Council is to be held, even though it may not be possible to overtake all the business in one day if adequate time be allowed for the work of each Committee. Emergency meetings only may be called at other times, and in other places."

THE LATE HONOURABLE MRS. GODFREY MACDONALD.

In common with the inhabitants of Skye and its neighbourhood, all members of An Comunn have cause to lament the loss of Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald. Hers was indeed a winsome personality. By the charm of her graciousness and sympathy she was endeared to all classes. Indeed, the poor felt a benison in her very presence. She thoroughly identified herself with the interests of the people, their language, their music, and their general well-being. Her illness evoked wide sympathy in return for her own constant solicitude for the happiness of others. And when the news of her death became known, there was an unusual manifestation of sorrow among all classes. We have just been informed by one of our clergy, that when the late Mrs. Macdonald had received the "marching orders," he made a pastoral call with trepidation, not for her, but for himself. Instead of finding the patient dejected, as might well be the case in such circumstances, he found her bright as usual, full of a strong hope and great fortitude. He testifies that the

interview brought comfort and blessing to himself.

Mrs. Macdonald had been for some years a member of the Executive of An Comunn; and she did a great deal in connection with the gathering of funds for the Féill in 1927. Her enthusiasm was very effective in enlisting the co-operation of workers.

Very deep sympathy goes out to her two young sons, Alasdair and Hamish, the former of whom is heir presumptive of the estates and peerage.

In the words of the Parish Minister who preached the memorial sermon: "Happy was the mother of such a daughter, and happy the sons who had such a blessed memory to cherish."

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND RECEIVES GAELIC MANUSCRIPTS.

An article, which appeared in the Boston *Christian Science Monitor*, gives an interesting account of Gaelic manuscripts collected by the late Rev. Charles Moncrieff Robertson and recently presented to the National Library of Scotland. The clergyman is described as an exceptionally accurate and accomplished Gaelic scholar, who was for thirty years a diligent collector of facts relating to Gaelic philology and topography. Much of his work on Gaelic phonetics and dialects has been published in the *Celtic Review*.

The manuscripts presented to the National Library contain most of his collections on the names of places, consisting of accurately ascertained forms of the names as distinguished from the Anglicized or inaccurate forms which appear on maps, and thus supplying data for scientific investigation. Owing to the decline of Gaelic speech and tradition in certain districts, much of the information collected would now be difficult or impossible to obtain, and as time goes on the value of Mr. Robertson's work is likely to be enhanced.

The collections also include contributions to a bibliography of Perthshire, a bibliography of works relating to Gaelic dialects, and many other interesting contributions on his own subject.

The fund for the purchase of the collection was promoted by Professor W. J. Watson, chair of Celtic literature at Edinburgh University, and among the persons whose liberality has secured the manuscripts for the nation are the Marquess of Bute, Lord Forteviot, Lady Helen Tod, Hugh Morrison of Islay, and Duncan Macleod of Skeabost.

SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Mar a dh'innis midhuibh air a' mhìos so chaidh tha cuirm a' dol a bhi aig CLANN AN FHRAOICH. Tha iad gu bhi air cheilidh an Aitreach nan Gaidheal air an deicheamh a de'n ath mhìos aig leth uair an deidh seachd feasgar. Tha a' Chomhairle an dochas gu'm bi comhlan math cruinn de'n Chloinn agus de bhuill eile a bhios deonach a bhi air an ainmeachadh am measg an teaghlach. Cha ghabhar neach 'na bhall de Chloinn an Fhraoich mur bi e cheana 'na bhall de'n Chomunn. Tha fios a' dol leis a' phosta chun gach ball de'n Chreolain mu dheidhinn na cuirme so. Bidh oraidean goirid air an toirt seachad, orain thogarrrach air an seinn agus ceol a thalaidheadh na daoine sìthe.

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Gaelic as a subject at Continuation Classes has become very popular, and in addition to the districts mentioned in this column last month, I have to record Classes at Balforn, Clydebank, and Greenock. New Societies are being formed, and last month there became affiliated to An Comunn, the Crieff and District Highland Association, and the Falkirk and District Highland Association. The Edinburgh University Celtic Union have also made application, and may be expected soon to join our ranks.

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At a meeting of the local Mod Committee held in Perth on the 17th November, appropriate reference was made by ex-Bailie A. K. Beaton, who presided, to the death of Mr. James Craigie, the Chief of the Perth Gaelic Society and convener of the local Mod Committee. Mr. J. R. Bannerman also expressed, on behalf of An Comunn, their sense of the loss the Gaelic movement had sustained by the death of Mr. Craigie, who had been so long connected with the work of the Gaelic Society, and with the work of An Comunn in general. Delegates were present from Crieff, Forthingall, Blair Atholl and Pitlochry, and An Comunn was represented by Mr. Bannerman, Mrs. Colquhoun, Glasgow, and myself. Various committees were formed to make arrangements for the coming Mod, and Miss Macdonald, Pitlochry, reported that on Friday, 23rd November, a concert would be held at Pitlochry to help in raising funds for the Provincial and the National Mods. The Lady Helen Tod said she had been in communication with several ladies in the county, and she had hopes of

receiving good support from them for the Mod. Altogether, the tone of the meeting was one of confidence, the members present appearing to be assured that the Perth Mod would be quite successful. Ex-Bailie A. K. Beaton was appointed convener and treasurer of the local Mod Committee, as well as the Perth Gaelic Society's representative on the Executive Council of An Comunn. Bailie Baxter was appointed secretary to the local committee.

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Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, her daughter Patuffa, and her sister Margaret Kennedy, represented Scotland at the first International Folk-Art Congress of the League of Nations International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation held last month at Prague. For their renderings of Gaelic songs they were warmly applauded by the Czecho-Slovakian audience, which included representatives of many other nations at a banquet held on the last evening of the Congress. Some of the numbers given have charmed audiences in many lands.

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It is pleasing to record that there is a steady demand for copies of *Voices from the Hills*. Last month 15 copies were despatched to America, and might I suggest that at this time of the year, with the near approach of the Festive season and the exchange of gifts, that no more acceptable present could be sent to friends overseas, than a copy of this interesting publication. Copies may be sent direct from this office. Foreign postage is one shilling per copy.

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The announcement that a Gaelic Room is to be opened in the New York Public Library, will be gratifying to all who take an interest in the Gaelic cause. This addition to the Library is to be devoted to books in Irish and Scottish Gaelic, and books in other languages, dealing with the literature of the Gael.

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A Gaelic Choir has been formed at Toronto, Canada, the objects of which are the cultivation and practice of Gaelic song and music, and the endeavour to bring the beauties of Gaelic minstrelsy before the Canadian public. The first practice was held in the hall of the Presbyterian Church on 2nd October, under the baton of Mr. Iain MacGregor. The secretary is Dr. W. J. Edmonton Scott.

NIALL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Bittern Manor House,
Southampton.

Sir,—Truly, Seumas MacThòmais is right when he says that the Gaelic-speakers themselves are the worst enemies of Gaelic, and that the youth of the Gaidhealtachd must be roused if the language is to survive.

But is he just in blaming the Gael for a state of affairs to which so many unfavourable conditions are contributory? How many educated Lowlanders or Englishmen know a second language even fairly well? How many educated leisured people supporting the Gaelic movement have acquired a working knowledge of the language? Very few. Is it fair, then, to expect the Gael, who in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred is a crofter or a fisherman, to be able to keep up two such widely differing languages when the balance is weighted entirely in favour of the one, and the other can only be regarded as an intellectual luxury? How can he have the time to read two tongues; for him bilingualism is the outcome of necessity—not of choice.

The root of the matter is that not until there are stronger forces than sentiment to support Gaelic in the Highlands will there be any chance of its permanence. At the present moment, in every part of the Highlands, English is used for every practical public purpose, and a foreigner travelling in our country would be astonished to hear that in parts English is still a foreign language. I suggest, therefore, as more practical remedies for the decline in Gaelic-speaking the following:—

1. The restoration of the proper Gaelic forms of place-names in the Gaidhealtachd.
2. The use of bilingual notices and signposts in areas where more than 60 per cent. of the inhabitants are Gaelic-speaking, with special reference to post offices and steamers.
3. The abandoning of the affectation whereby English alone is used in the names and titles of shops and streets in villages in Gaelic-speaking areas such as the outer Isles and Skye.

The adoption of some such plan would help to put Gaelic on an equal footing with English in the Highlands as regards both utility and prestige; it would extend the range of the use of the language beyond the fireside, and would do far more to insure the permanence of the language than any number of appeals to sentiment.—Yours, etc.,

J. L. C.

Sir,—The October number of *An Gàidheal* paints a very rosy picture of the Mòd at Inverness.

The organisation seemed excellent, and much of the music was very good, but why is Gaelic only *sung* and not *spoken* at the Mòd?

If any foreigners had been present, they would surely have been mystified to hear the singing in Gaelic and practically all the speaking (I refer now to the chairmen, judges, and speakers at the opening and the reception) in English or Scotch!

I came away from Inverness feeling absolutely disgusted at the neglect of Gaelic even by the people who pretend to be anxious that it should be kept alive.

I believe that at one or two of the competitions the chairmen did speak in the language of the country, and certainly Mr. Neil Shaw made the announcements in both Gaelic and English at one of the concerts; but at the opening ceremony, and at the otherwise delightful reception, Gaelic was conspicuous by its absence. One feels ashamed that the delegates from the other Celtic countries should see our "make-believe" Highland Festival.

It reminds one of the lovely ladies of the stage whose pictures are to be seen in the illustrated papers. We read, "Miss Fluffy So-and-so is quite *devoted* to gardening," and she is shewn in an exceedingly smart dress, sprinkling the flowers in a bed of geraniums out of a watering can the size of a tea cup. All gardeners know this is utterly ridiculous, but beyond spoiling the few blooms that are sprinkled no harm is done; however, it is pathetic if the lady thinks she is really gardening.

The amazing reason given by some people for English being used by the chairmen and judges was that many of the audience could not understand Gaelic. Why not carry the thing to its logical conclusion—translate the songs and let them be sung in English at the next Mòd? If we are going to wait till the whole audience understands Gaelic perfectly, we shall wait till the Last Day.

There is no earthly reason why the competitors should not be called upon to compete in Gaelic—even if they are beginners; there would always be some Gaelic-speaking friend near to prompt them, and the numbers are always put up on the

platform. It would be an enormous help to those of us who are learning the language to hear the chairmen and officials speaking it, and it would give an air of reality to the proceedings which at present is entirely wanting.

I quite realise that such a change would not be popular with those "make-believe" people who just learn the Gaelic words of the songs and nothing more, either because they are too lazy or because they think English (however Scotch) is more genteel!

I believe at the moment there is some difficulty in getting Gaelic-speaking musical judges, which is very unfortunate, as it is obviously a great handicap to any judge of singing to be ignorant of the language sung. I do not think the fact of having a separate judge for the language puts this right.

However, many of us would like less consideration given to the music and far more to the Gaelic. At present the Mòd is really a Musical Festival and little else. If it was conducted entirely, or almost entirely, in Gaelic, one would feel it was a genuine Highland Festival as well.

Mac Gille Bhrìde told me of a club in Ireland where nothing but Irish is allowed. At first people thought there would be complete silence, but it was not long before the members, after a little struggling, were able to make themselves understood. We want more of this kind of determined effort in Scotland; it would give strength and dignity and reality—qualities which, while possessed by individuals in our Gaelic movement, are by no means generally characteristic of it.

Certainly, in the hotel where I stayed, which was full of people connected with the Mòd, it was most unusual to hear Gaelic spoken beyond "Ciamar a tha sibh!" One could not help concluding that some, at least, of these people wished to be in the fashion, which was obviously to speak English—of any sort—rather than Gaelic.—Yours truly,

LETTICE MACNAGHTEN.

P.S.—I apologise for writing in English; I could not make my points clear in Gaelic. If I were speaking at a committee meeting, I should certainly try to say all this in Gaelic, as then people could ask questions and my unintelligible Gaelic could be revised by friends. In writing (far from any Gaelic speakers), I fear the only thing to do is to use English.

L. M.

FOIGHIDINN.

Nach bochd mar dh'èirich do an t-seann *Rover* aig Donnchadh MacRath?

Chuala sibh an sgeul so roimhe—nach cuala?

Ma tà, bho chionn corr is dà fhichead bliadhna bha Donnchadh agus trìuir no ceathrar ghillean eile a bha air bòrd an *Rover* còmhla ris a' toirt luchd mòr fiodha a Loch Nis gu Steòrnabhaigh. Cha do rinn iad stad idir am Baile Inbhir Nis—cha robh leannan aig duine sam bith aca anns a' bhaile ud aig an am. Ach an uair bha iad anns an acairseid aig Inbhir Theòrsaigh bha gluasad mi-nadurra air a' mhuir, ged bha feath nan eun ann. "Gu dearbh," arsa Donnchadh ris na companaich aige, "cha chaomh leam an gluasad so. Tha so ag cur air mhanadh dhuinn gum bu chòir dhuinn falbh."

"Cha chaomh leam fhéin e," thuirt fear eile dhiùbh, "ach b'fheàrr dhuinn fuireach an so gu maduinn."

"Bu chòir dhuinn falbh," arsa Donnchadh a rithist—agus is e a bha ann gum d'fhalbh iad.

An uair bha iad a' dol seachad air a' Charbh bha oidhche gharbh ann.

"Tha a' ghaoth ag éirigh 'nar n-aghaidh, a Dhonnchaidh, a sheòid," thuirt dithist dhiùbh ri Donnchadh, "nach biodh e cho maith dhuinn fasgadh a ghabhail an so, oir bithidh doinnionn mhór oirn mu'm faic sinn fearann Leòdhais?"

"Dè tha sibh ag ràdh?" thuirt Donnchadh (chuala e a h-uile facal).

"Tha sinn ag ràdh riut nach bu chòir dhuinn dhol a null gu Steòrnabhaigh an nochd."

Ach bha an ceathramh duine de an aon bharail ri Donnchadh. "Théid sinn a null," arsa Donnchadh, "bithidh sinn ceart gu leoir."

Ach is e a bha ann nach robh iad ceart gu leoir. Bha e fiadhaich, fiadhaich, agus ann an glasadh na maidne, an uair bha an *Rover* bhoichd air astar mu chóg no sè mìle air falbh bho Tholsta fo Thuath, chaidh i fodha; chaill na truaghain a h-uile càil a bha innte, agus b'ann air éiginn a ràinig iad trì anns an eithear bheag a bha aca air bòrd. Bha iad air an sàrachadh gu mòr.

"Agus chaill sibh a h-uile càil a bha innte?" dh'fheòrach mi de Dhonnchadh an latha roimhe an uair bha coighear no seathnar againn air chéilidh air anns an tigh aige an Caladh Innis.

"Chail," arsa Donnchadh, agus na sùilean gorma agus an fheusag gheal aige

a' glacadh soluis an teine, "agus chaill mi fhéin a' phlob bu bhréagh a chuala 's a chunnaic mi riamh. Bha i shìos anns a' bhroinn aice an uair chaidh i fodha. Cha mhór nach deachaidh mi air m' ais air a son!"

"Bha sibh ris a' phiobaireachd, ma tà?"

"O, bha—an uair bha mi 'nam ghille."

"Ach thug sibh cuairt as a' phlob tric gu leoir bho'n uair sin, nach d'thug?"

"Cha d'thug, ach uair no a dhà."

"Nach sibh-se a fhuair bhuir sàrachadh an oidhe ud!" thuir Alasdair Anna Bhruth.

"Chiall!" arsa Donnchadh, "bha sinn glé sgèth!"

"Tha mi cinnteach gu robh," arsa Maighistir-sgoile Bhearnraidh agus Coinn-each Liunadail le chèile.

* * *

Tha tuilleadh foighidinn aig Donnchadh an diugh. Gidheadh, chan ann air an socair idir a tha e fhéin agus Uilleam òg a' dol a null gu Bearnaraidh anns an *Rover* ùr aca le litrichean an Rìgh. Agus tha iad a' dol a null a h-uile maduinn—fhuach, tioram, fuar is frasach.

* * *

Is i foighidinn a tha a dhith oirnn uile. An uair bhios sinn cho abuich, cho làn gliocais agus a tha Donnchadh còir dh'fhaodadh gum bi i againn an sin cuid-eachd. Ach tha i a dhith oirnn uile gu mòr. Bha i a dhith air Absalom. Bha i a dhith air Eachann Tirisdeach an uair chaidh e gu Paisley. Tha foighidinn a dhith orm fhéin. Tha i a dhith air Eoghann—nach eil, a Eoghainn! Dh'fhaodadh nach eil i a dhith air Eoin O' Duibhne agus air Calum Mac Thornoid—coltach ri Donnchadh MacRath tha an dithist so cho abuich, cho glic, cho grinn, a nis. Ach, cò dhiùbh, bha foighidinn a dhith air Donnchadh an oidhe gharbh ud eadar an Carbh agus Steòrnabhaigh an uair chaidh an *Rover* aige fodha.

I. M. M.-P.

MYSTERIOUS MOORLAND MİTES.

By D. MATHESON, M.A.

One might imagine that a shepherd would be able to solve all the petty problems that are likely to arise in the pursuit of his happy calling. Exceptional difficulties are, neverthe-

less, inevitable in all occupations, and attempts at solution however ingenious, prove of little or no avail.

As far back as we can recollect, people have been continually complaining of the disaster that each year overtakes a large number of their sheep by their coming into touch with the treacherous feolagan. This insignificant creature is not very much bigger than an ordinary mouse. He resembles our elusive domestic friend in every respect except, perhaps, for a shorter tail and a projecting snout. He loves isolation, and for that reason he makes his habitation in some of the most remote haunts of the moors and mountains. A very favourite hiding-place of these rare animals is the Kebbok Hills, in the south of Lewis, where, it is said, they are more numerous than in any other part of the island. It is hardly conceivable that such a comparatively small creature could work havoc in such a peculiar and quick manner on creatures much bigger than himself. He neither applies his teeth nor does he inject poison, but has, withal, an uncanny power of extracting energy—a power which must surely always remain one of nature's unexplainable mysteries. It is well known to shepherds that a sheep is rendered quite helpless from the moment this little creature walks over her back. The sheep is laid out so very helplessly by this singular action of the feolagan, that human aid is of no avail. The destruction of so many sheep in this peculiar manner has been a perplexing problem for many generations.

It was inevitable that the fellow with the little knowledge, proverbially dangerous, would not suffer such losses to his flock without experimenting freely with antidotes. Some were firmly of the opinion that the only cure was to make the feolagan walk again on his victims back, but in a reverse direction. One may understand the difficulty of effecting this cure, owing to the rare appearance and elusiveness of the strange assailant. We are assured, however, that sheep have been restored to normal in that way, but, the chance of making a feolagan repeat his performance is surely a very remote one. Within quite recent years another, and what has been found a more reliable cure has been practised. The prescription is anything but intricate, for once the elusive creature is caught the remedy is simple. The animal is placed in a large glass vessel and preserved with salt. When the occasion demands, we are told that a quantity of this pickle is sprinkled on the back of the invalid sheep, when its strength is immediately restored.

TORONTO GAELIC CHOIR.

In addition to the Gaelic Free Church and a number of Gaelic and Highland societies which flourish in the city of Toronto, Canada, there has just been formed, the Toronto Gaelic Choir (*Coisir Chiuil Ghaidhlig, Toronto*), whose objects are the cultivation and practice of Gaelic song and music, and the endeavour to bring the beauties of Gaelic minstrelsy before the Canadian public.

Meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 8 p.m., in the Hall of the Presbyterian Church, Bloor and Jarvis Streets, and instruction is given in Gaelic, along with such courses in music as will assist the technical and artistic development of the vocal faculties.

This is the first Gaelic Choir to be formed on the North American Continent, and is certain to enhance the musical reputation of Toronto, which has already several famous local choirs, besides those of Welsh, Bulgarian, French, Jewish, and other nationalities. It is receiving the enthusiastic support of Gaels in the "Queen City," and started this month with forty-one members.

The Choirmaster is Mr. Ian MacGregor, who was formerly associated with Gaelic musical circles in Edinburgh, and under his leadership the Choir has already made such progress that it is hoped to fulfil several public engagements this winter, including a Radio programme of Gaelic selections. The Secretary is Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott, M.A., D.Lit., the Treasurer, Mr. James McKinlay, the Bard, Mr. Angus MacTaggart of Ilay, and the Piper, Mr. George Fowler of the 48th Highlanders. The Chaplain is the Rev. D. M. Lamont of Skye, latterly of Prince Edward Island, and now Minister of Bloor Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

BOOK REVIEW.

Caledonia; or, The Future of the Scots, by George Malcolm Thomson. (Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co.) 2/6.

This is one of a series of books dealing with the probable future of various nationalities now existing. The author follows the lines of "The Unspeakable Scot." As, however, he lays a critical finger on the worst features of lack of patriotism with much insight, his book is a very wholesome Jeremiah if its lessons and truthful exposure are taken to heart.

In particular, the author deals with the Scots' outlook on life, the lack of a national literature, drama, art, architecture, or ambition, all essential if a nation is to continue to possess any separate existence or distinction. His remarks on the slums, and on the Irish invasion, are all sound and to the point, and supported by startling statistics. On deer forests he shows the usual ignorance, and the failure to recognise how small a portion of their sour peat area can be made to grow anything at all, even timber; although he rightly deplores the puny effort made to establish forests, due, however, solely to the insufficient funds allotted to a purpose capable of retaining a greatly increased population on land now abandoned to sport and sheep.

His recommendation to make Scotland another Switzerland (or tourists' paradise) is hardly appetising, as this means for the native residents an existence too dependent on southern visitors—surely more destructive of nationality than almost any other conception. The Swiss have not even a language of their own, and owe what nationality they possess solely to their mountain barriers and to the jealousies of the great nations surrounding them, which do not permit the conquest of Switzerland by any one of the great powers.

MARTIN MARTIN.

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BRANCH REPORTS.

BENDERLOCH.—The annual general meeting of this Branch was held in the Victory Hall—Rev. Mr. MacDonald presided. Office-bearers for the coming session were re-elected—Rev. Mr. MacDonald, President; Mr. MacArthur, Vice-President; Miss Crerar and Miss MacKinnon, Secretaries; and Miss Carmichael, Treasurer, instead of Mr. P. MacDonald, who has retired after six years service. The Committee appointed were, Miss MacGillivray, Messrs D. MacFarlane, A. Black, and P. MacDonald, along with the Treasurer and Secretaries.

DUNOON.—This branch held their monthly Ceilidh in the Imperial Hall, Dunoon, last Friday. Mr. Donald MacDonald, M.A., the President, occupied the chair, and accompanying him to the platform were Major A. J. M. Bennet, C.B.E. (T.D.), and Mr. J. L. Kinloch, M.A. The President introduced Mr. Kinloch, who was the lecturer for the evening. Mr. Kinloch's subject was "Celtic Physical Culture," the kilt, the dance and the games, and he brought forward Mr. Alastair Cameron, Glasgow, to give an exhibition of Highland dancing. Among others who contributed to the programme were Mr. John Campbell, Kilman; Mrs. R. Morrison, Miss MacKechnie, Dunoon; Miss Jessie Treeman, and Miss Ella MacLean, Dunoon; and Piper Henderson. Miss Gemmell, Dunoon, acted as pianist. Mr. John MacCallum proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and Mr. Kinloch thanked the artistes. "Oidhe Mhath Leih" was sung at the close.

INVERARAY.—The fortnightly meeting of the Branch was held in St. Malieu Hall on Thursday, 15th November. Mr. George M. Sime, Treasurer of the branch, presided. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee, and the following programme submitted of Gaelic readings, Gaelic and English songs. Those who took part were, Mrs. Stewart, Castle Gardens; Mrs. Robert Morrison, Miss Hall, Mrs. Peter MacIntyre, Miss Flora Clark, Mrs. Malcolm Dunn, Pipe-Major Duncan MacArthur, Mr. A. J. MacIntyre, Mrs. Alexander Gillies, and Miss Peggy Ferguson. The Inveraray branch of An Comunn is in a flourishing condition, and the Gaelic songs and Gaelic readings so well rendered, and so much appreciated, is proof that the Gaelic language is a living force in this branch.

KILDALTON AND OA.—The opening Concert of the Session was held in the Memorial Hall, Port Ellen, on Thursday, 1st November, at which a very large audience attended. Mr. J. McDougall, President of the Branch presided, and a very enjoyable programme of Gaelic and English songs and recitations were gone through. The Gaelic play, *Posadh Seanaid*, was produced by the Port-Ellen Gaelic Sketch Party. The usual votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. J. McDougall and the Rev. G. G. McArthur. The singing of "Oidhe Mhath leih," brought the Concert to a close. A successful Dance followed.

LOCHGILFHEAD.—This branch has held two Ceilidhs this Session, one on 10th October, and one on 7th November. The programmes at both consisted of bagpipe selections, Gaelic and English songs, recitations, dialogues, and dances. Tea was served as usual. On the second occasion the members were fortunate in having with them Mr. Neil Shaw, who

in the course of some remarks, mentioned that a Gaelic singing teacher would be sent to the Mid-Argyll district shortly. When the President, Mr. MacKellar, called for votes of thanks to those who contributed to the programme, and made these meetings so successful, he was enthusiastically supported by all present. There was general agreement with his statement that it was such people who made these meetings possible, by so kindly placing their services at the disposal of the Committee.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The monthly Ceilidh was held on Friday evening, October 26, in the Co-operative Hall, Alexandria, and was largely attended. Mr. J. R. Bannerman presiding, Mr. Angus McMillan, Glasgow, delivered a most interesting lecture on "Highland Superstition." He gave various types of superstition, incorporating religious, material, and ethereal; explaining the origin of many of the more common beliefs. The Misses McMillan rendered appropriate Gaelic solos and duets, which greatly enhanced the beauty of the lecture; and Miss McLaren delighted the company with humorous readings. Mr. Bannerman in thanking Mr. McMillan for his lecture referred to his qualities as a teacher of Gaelic, and his untiring efforts in the furtherance of everything Highland. Piper Ronald McDonald rendered selections in his usual efficient manner. Mr. James McGregor and Miss McNiven ably officiated at the piano. The evening closed with the company singing, "Oidhe Mhath Leih."

WICK.—The first public ceilidh of the current session of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evening, 31st October. Mr. Millar, editor, presided over a large and appreciative audience. The programme was varied and interesting. Appropriate songs were sung by Miss Bella Clyne, Miss Isobel Bremner, Mr. John S. Duncan, and Mr. Donald Weir, all of whom had a very cordial reception. The song sung by Miss Bremner, never heard previously in Wick, was a composition (words and music) by the late Mr. J. L. Robertson, LL.D., on his retirement as H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools, and entitled "Our Hebrides"—the Highland sentiment in which is very finely and touchingly expressed. The pianoforte accompaniment to the song is by Mr. Lewis J. Owen, Inverness, formerly music teacher in Wick, by whose kind permission it was rendered on this occasion. Miss M. Henderson played violin selections with her usual excellence and acceptance. A feature of the programme was the appearances of the Wick Strathspey and Reel Quartette (Messrs. Troup, Macdonald, Mackenzie, and Cowper, with Mr. Tom Gilbertson as pianist), who gave admirable renderings of this special type of Scottish music, and were loudly applauded and recalled. Mr. John Budge delighted the audience with a couple of humorous readings, and Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., gave a delightful paper on "Hallowe'en Customs," with illustrative readings from Burns's well-known poem, and followed by ducking for apples and other Hallowe'en games on the platform by four boys. This feature of the programme, appropriate to the evening, afforded keen enjoyment to the audience. Mr. W. Coghill was piper, and Mrs. Gilbertson accompanist. Tea was served during an interval, and at the close the usual votes of thanks were very heartily accorded. The session's work this winter is to include the free training of a Juvenile Singing Class (by Miss Kate Mackenzie) for boys and girls of 12 years and over.

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Leabhar XXIV.]

Am Faoilteach, 1929.

[Earrann 4

FEADH NA BLIADHNA.

Aig deireadh na seana bliadhna agus aig toiseach na bliadhna ùire is abhaist dhuinn gearr iomradh a thabhairt air na thachair feadh an dà mhiòs dheug roimhe sin. An aon fhacal faodar a ràdh gu bheil An Comunn a' nochdadh dìcheall agus dùrachd ann a bhi a' cur air aghart cùisean na cànan. Is obair so a tha an crochadh air staid na dùthcha. Feadh na bliadhna a tha a nis an déigh crìoch-nuchadh thachair caochlaidean ris nach robh dùil mun am so an uiridh. Tha sinn a' ciallachadh na riaghaltean ùra a tha nis 'g an suidheachadh, a tha ag òrduchadh gum bi Ughdarras an Fhoghlum 'g an slugadh suas an Comhairle na Siorramachd. Ged a thug sinn tarraing air a' chuspair sin o chionn beagan mhiosan air ais, gidheadh is còir ainmeachadh an uair so mar an ceudna. Oir tha sinn an dùil gu bheil beantain nach beag aig na laghan ùra so ri soirbheachadh na Gaidhlig. Is e an earail shonruichte a tha an diugh ri thabhairt, gum bi luchd labhairt na cànan treibhdhireach air a taobh, agus gun cuir iad rompa gum bi buill air an eur do na Comhairlean Siorramachd a bheir spéis agus cothrom do 'n chainnt. Is ann aig a' bhuidhinn sin a bhios riaghladh an airgid agus riaghladh an fhoghlum. Tha an comas an lathan an luchd taghaidh; agus tha dòchas gun cleachd iadsan an guth taghadh air mhòd a bhios a chum cliù dhaibh fhéin agus meas do 'n chànain. Faodaidh sinne coinneamhan a chumail, òraidean a dheanamh, agus òrain a sheinn; ach mur teagaisgear a' chainnt do 'n òigridh anns na sgoiltean tha am bas dlùth air a' Ghaidhlig, agus tha bliadhnaichean a beatha air an àireamh.

Ann a bhi a' tabhairt buille de ar sùil air na rinneadh feadh na bliadhna, chan fhaod sinn

gun bheachdachadh le tlachd air Mòd Inbhirneis. Thug sinn taitneas agus misneach do mhòran. Aig meadhan an t-Samhraidh chaidh féill a chumail aig Caisteal Neis; agus bha toradh mòr air an fhéill sin. Dhùisg i aire an t-sluaigh an baile Inbhirneis is anns an nàbachd; air choir is gun do ghabh iomadh neach suim de 'n Mhòd nach do thog shùil rianmh roimhe ris. Agus aig a' Mhòd fhéin thugadh dearbhadh aon uair eile gu bheil sgrìobhaichean comasach againn fathast an rosg 's an rann. Mar thàinig aghart feadh nam bliadhnaichean air seinn is cluich a' chiùil, thainig feabhas nach beag mar an ceudna aig sgoilearachd a thaobh sgrìobhaidh is leughaidh is labhairt. Tha òrain is comhraidh 'g an craobh sgoileachd feadh an adhair agus air feadh an t-saoghail. Cluinnear an diugh anns na glinn fad as, guth an fhir sheinn agus an fhir labhairt ged bhiodh iad fhein ceud mìle air astar. Tha so uile 'n a annas iongantach, is 'n a chothrom air leth. Is prèiseil an ni gum biodh coigrich is càirdcan a' sìor fhàs còlach air fuaim na cànan, agus measail air maise a' chiùil. Tha saothair na h-òigridh a' faotainn aire mar is còir. Leugh sinn air an t-Samhradh so fhéin deich oidhirpean an rosg le sgoilearan òga an aon de sgoiltean na Gaidhealtachd; agus bha na briathran cho eagnuidh agus cho taitneach is gu d' rinn air cridhe gairdeachas.

Ged tha obair nan còisirean glé chliùiteach, gidheadh chan fhaod sinn bhì riarachite le seinn, a dh' aindeoin cho maith is gam bi i. Feumar dol seachad air ceòl ged is ciatach e. Bu mhaith gun biomaid a leth cho dian air taobh ionnsuchaidh na cànan agus an litreachais, is a tha anns leth a' chiùil. Cia mar gheibh sinn maighstearan sgoile a theagaisgeas Gaidhlig, mur bi iad fhéin air an teagasg anns a' sgoil agus anns an oilthigh? Cia mar gheibh

sinn ministearan a shearmonaicheas an Gaidhlig mur téid iad fhéin fhoghlum gu cùramach anns a' chaimt. Feumaidh iad sin uile chan e a mhàin comas sgriobhaidh is bruidhne, ach greim glic air an litreachas mar tha sin an rosg is am bàrdachd. Chan eil dòigh air so a dheanadh ach le bhi a' teagasg na muinntir òg sin air chor is gun tabhair iad a mach ceum foghlum an Gaidhlig. Gun teagamh cha leig sinn a leas a bhi an dùil gun teid luchd ceirde agus luchd oibreach air aghart cho fada sin. Ach a thaobh an luchd teagaisg, co dhiù is ann an crannaig no anns a' sgoil, bu chòir dhaibhsan a bhi foghlumaichte an Gaidhlig. Tha misneach 'g a tairgse dhaibh, a chionn gu bheil an t-Ard Riaghladh deònach air aigiod a thabhairt a chum na criche so. Tha riaghailt ùr ann, nach bi bacadh air neach sam bith aig a bheil Gaidhlig, ma tha iad ag ionnsuchadh airson maighstear sgoile. Agus tha sinn a' faicinn o na deuchainnean airson Teisteanais nan sgoiltean arda, gu robh buaidh a thabhairt do aon no dhà de Ghaidheil òga, aig a bheil talarnt airson ciùil, iad féin ullachadh le ceum foghlum ciùil. Bhiodh so a' dearbhadh gu bheil an Gaidheal cho foghainteach an ard cheòl ri Gall no ri Sasunnach. Bhiodh e feumail a chum breithneachadh aig Mòd; agus bheir-eadh sin air falbh an t-aobhar tàire nach eil aon bheirtheamh againn a nis a thuigeas Gaidhlig agus ard-cheòl.

THE LATE MRS. WATSON, EDINBURGH.

The death on the 30th of November of Mrs. E. C. Watson, wife of Professor W. J. Watson, LL.D., D.Litt. Celt, of the Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University has created a deep sense of loss and regret among Gaels throughout Scotland, and overseas. Her death removes one who was a tower of strength in the Gaelic cause. She will be missed and mourned for her outstanding qualities of kindness of heart, and her wide sympathies. Mrs. Watson was a native of Lismore in Argyll, and was the daughter of the late Alexander Carmichael, LL.D., the eminent collector and translator of the notable Gaelic book *Carmina Gadelica*. Dr. Carmichael and his family left Lismore very early and lived for a number of years in Uist. Brought up as she was as a young girl

in Uist, Mrs. Watson assimilated the lore and mystery of the Outer Isles, and had an excellent knowledge of the idiomatic Gaelic of the Hebrides.

About the middle nineties the family went to live in Edinburgh; and there Mrs. Watson distinguished herself as a student of Celtic under the direction of the late Professor MacKinnon. Here she laid the foundation of that remarkable erudition which she afterwards displayed as editor of *The Celtic Review*. By her enthusiastic activity in behalf of Gaelic philology and literature she did much pioneering work in settling the study of the language on an academic basis. She brought together in *The Celtic Review*, which she edited for twelve years, the writings of men of European reputation upon Celtic questions.

She had a considerable share in the preparation of her father's monumental work for the press. Of late years she busied herself with preparing a second edition of that work. It is greatly to be regretted that the completion of that project must now be carried on by other hands.

For many years Mrs. Watson was an earnest member and office-bearer in An Comunn Gaidhealach. She served for some years in the capacity of vice-president. She took an active part in the foundation of the Celtic Union and in the formation of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir. Keenly interested in the economic welfare of the Highlands, she also did much in founding the Highland Home Industries. In this movement she had a loyal helper in her brother, the late Captain Eoghan Carmichael.

Mrs. Watson leaves a fragrant memory of a personality of singular graciousness and charm, ever genial and kind, and in deepest sympathy with all that is good and noble.

GAELIC TEACHERS.

Mr. John Mackay, Glasgow.

Mr. MacKay is a native of the Parish of Croy, in the County of Nairn. He was trained for the teaching profession at the Glasgow Training College, of which the late Dr. Thomas Morrison was Rector. After holding a post for a year or two at Bridge of Allan, Mr. Mackay was appointed headmaster of Borrodale School, Glendale, in the Isle of Skye. The school was new at the time of Mr. Mackay's appointment; and he was its only headmaster from the late seventies until his retiral in 1922, when he went to live in Scotstoun, Glasgow. When Mr.

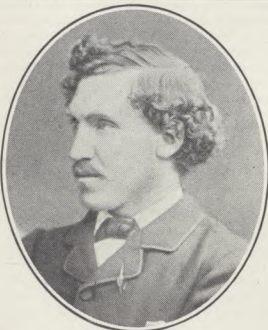
Mackay went first to Skye he was not familiar with Gaelic, since it was not the language of daily intercourse in the district where he had been brought up. He soon observed that among the children of Glendale no acquired language made so great an appeal to heart and had as the mother tongue. So he set himself to learn the Gaelic language. He soon made excellent progress, and before long he was able to take part of the Scripture lessons in school in that language. He lost no opportunity of conversing with the natives in Gaelic, until in the course of two or three years he was quite proficient in the use of it. In later years this Gaelic teaching was amplified, reading and repetition of prose and verse, with the teaching

work done in Borrodale School may be gathered from the fact that two pupils, straight from Borrodale took the *first* and the *eighth* places for all Scotland in the all round entrance examination for Training Colleges. One of these was Mr. Mackay's eldest son, Mr. Alexander Mackay, M.A., now a teacher in Glasgow, who took first place, and the other was Mr. Alexander Macfarlane, M.A., teacher, Portobello, who took the eighth place for Scotland. During the long period that Mr. Mackay was head-master in Borrodale, many pupils have passed through his hands who have made their way very successfully in various walks of life. He produced quite a number of clergymen, physicians, teachers, and business men. Mr. Mackay was one of the Gaelic teachers who acquired the language themselves, and so could help their pupils over the difficulties. He was an ardent supporter of the language, both by precept and example, at a time when very little attention was paid to it either by Highland School Boards, or even by the Highland public.

AN RAINEACH.

LE IAIN MACPHAIDEAN,
A Cheud Duais, Mod 1927.

“Tha dùthaich ar gaoil fo rainich 's fo fhraoch;
Gach machair is raoin 'na fàsach.”



MR. JOHN MACKAY, Glasgow.

of Gaelic songs being continued until his retirement in 1922.

We recall with gratitude the faithfulness and assiduity with which we were encouraged as pupils in acquiring the correct use of Gaelic as of other languages. Mr. Mackay had a succession of highly capable lads and girls as pupil teachers, two of whom gained two prizes offered by a Highland Association in Glasgow, of which the late Mr. Duncan Reid was secretary, to the pupil teachers who took the highest places in Gaelic at the examination for entrance to Training Colleges. The Scotch Education Department with some demur gave all the results, and it was found that the two Borrodale pupils had easily outstripped the other candidates in the subject. At the first two National Mods one of his pupils took first place for verse, and for elocution. The quality of the general

Tha an aon ghlaodh cruaidh an aghaidh na rainich. Cha'n eil facal math aig neach 'sam bith r'a ràdh 'na fàbhar. Tha i a' fàs cho neartmhor agus gu'n cùrnaich i ann am beagan ùine thairis air na cluaineagan is millse, agus air na sraithean iosal; agus gun neach an comas air ni 'sam bith a dheanamh 'na a-ghaidh ach a bhi 'ga càineadh.

Bithidh na tuathanaich—agus gu sònraichte na clobairean—ag ràdh gu'm bheil i an déidh an dùthaich a sgrios; oir, ars iadsan: “Cha'n eil crioman gorm anns a' ghleann, air am faigheadh creutair greim feòir, nach eil air a chur fodha leis an rainich.” “Agus,” ars iadsan, “ann an teis an t-samhraidh, nuair a thogas mi mach an àm éirigh na gréine, agus a thogas mi ris a' mhonadh, tha i an sin a' sruthadh le drùchd na h-oidhche, agus mu 'ni faigh mi am mach aiste gu grunn cruaidh nan àrdan, tha na bheil fo'n chrios dhiom cho fhìuch agus ged a bhithinn am mach air a' mhuir; agus tha an t-uisge a th'ann am bhrògan a' curachdag am mach troimh thuill nam barr-ial; agus bithidh mi mar sin, gus an neartaich teas na gréine. An sin bithidh smùid asam; 's nach cuireadh a leithid sin de dhìol galar a' bhàis, eadhoin ann an ròn.”

Ach feumaidh gu'n robh atharrachadh làithean aig an rainich, agus gu'n robh i air a buain agus feum air a dheanamh dhi uaireginn. A chionn tha an té a rinn an t-òran—ge b'e co' i—no ge b'e 'n t-àite an robh còmhnuidh aice—ag ràdh :

“Tha mi sgith, 's mi leam fhìn
Buain na rainich, daonnan.”

Ach chan ann mar sin a thachair air an latha 'n diugh; oir faodar a ràdh nach 'eil ann raineach air a buain idir. Ach, dh'aindeoin sin uile, gheibh sinn plathadh, an dràs 's a rithist, a leigeas a thuigsinn duinn gu'n robh ann raineach air a buain, agus air a cur gu ùis ann an dòigh no dhà, am measg nan gleann 's nan sraithean.

Tha seann ràdh ann a tha ag ràdh :

“Air latha Fèill-Eathainn, anns an t-samhradh,
Théid a' chuthag d'a tigh-geumhradh.”

Agus an uair 's gu'm falbhadh a' chuthag, bha sin a' toirt sanais do 'n t-sluagh a bhi am mach a bhuain na rainich. An sin bhiodh sùrd is farum air luchd nan corran a' gearradh na rainich, 'ga' caoineachadh agus 'ga cur fo dhion mar a ni iad air an fhéar agus air a' choirce. Ged nach cuir an tréud beul oirre fad 's a tha i bagach gorm, cho luath 's a tha i tioram, cruaidh, caoinithe ithidh iad i cho math agus a dh'itheas iad cònnlach an arathair; agus tha mòran tuilleadh brìgh is beatha innte nuair a tha sin air a dheanamh na th'anns a' chònnlach; oir na'm faigheadh an t-each badan caoin dith 's i gorm anns an sguab airathair a bheirteadh dha, b'e sin a' cheud làn beòil a bhiodh aige. Ach cha'n e sin a mhàin. Tha e ri fhaotainn, ann an cainnt nan seanachaidhean agus nan dàn, gu'n robh an raineach ri feum eile a bharrachd air a bhi a' biadhachd tréud. Tha an seann rann ag ràdh :

“Nuair a bha sinn air a' mhonadh,
'Se bu bhiadh dhuinn bàrr na roinich,
Bàrr an fhraoich 'se 'na chaoran meala,
'S an eunlaigh fhiadhaich a' sgrathail faruinn.”
Agus tha seann ràdh ann a tha 'g ràdh

“Buain na rainich, 's i 'sa' chamaig,
'S gheibh thu reamhar sòghar i.”

Agus gheibh sinn am mach a réir cunntas an dream a bhios ag gabhail sràidean am mach as an eilean mhara so againn, gu'm bheil sluagh dhùthchannan tir-mór na h-Eòrpa, agus eadhon na 's fhaide as na sin, aig am bheil fios air brìgh agus ciall nam facal a th'anns an rann Ghàidhlig:

* 'So sin nuair a bhios i tighinn as an talamh air cumadh croamaig.

“Buain na rainich, 's i 'sa chamaig,
'S gheibh thu reamhar sòghar i.”

Agus aig na daoine beaga tapaidh sin, na Seapánaich, 's aithne dhoibh-san a h-uile ni uime so. Agus 's aithne dhoibh measan a chur air dòigh a tha math agus miadhmhor aig luchd dhùthchannan eile.

Ach, air a shon sin uile, tha 'n raineach an Albainn gun bhuain, gun fheum 'sam bith air a dheanamh dhith; agus, gus an grod i 's am fàs i dearg, agus an téid i air a h-ais a rithis do 'n talamh gu tighinn a nuas an ath-bhladhna na's neartmhoire na bha i riamh. Tha aon leisgeul air a' chùis a bhi mar so—'Se sin aig an fheadhainn air am bi i a' cur dragh—gu'm bheil i for-dhullich a caoineachadh, agus gu'm feum i rìodh shamhradh tioram chum sin a dheanamh gu ceart. Agus gun teagamh bithidh iad ag ràdh: Tha an t-sid a th'againn anns an dùthaich so cho fuathasach neo-chinnteach agus nach 'eil ach an dà ni ann am Breatunn anns nach gabh earbsa cur, agus 's e sin: an t-sid agus òraidean nam ball parlaimaid. Ach, co-dhùibh, tha na tuathanaich le aon ghlaodh cruaidh ris an uachdaran ag iarraidh aisean an raineach a ghearradh. Ach tha luchd na seilg ag iarraidh gun an raineach a ghearradh idir. Tha so a' cur an uachdaran eadar da theine, agus tha na cumhachdan a th'ann, mar a tha Dubhairt 's Dun-ollaidh, nu choinnimh a chéile. Agus cho fad 's a dh' fhuireas iad mar sin chan eil mòran coltais gu'n téid an raineach a bhuain, a chionn chan eil na daoine a tha 'g àiteachadh na talmhainn air an latha 'n diugh cho deas gu aontachadh le each a chéile agus a bha an sinnsarachd anns a' Ghaidhealtachd anns an àm a chaidh seachad, mar a dh'fhaodas sinn a thuigsinn, a réir nan rannan o thàinig a nuas chugainn troimh na linnlean 's na bha Gigeen agus Guaigean beò, agus a chaidh iad còmhla a bhuain an arain ùir.

“Buain thus' e,” arsa Gigeen;
“Buain féin e,” arsa Guaigean;
“Buainidh sinn le chéil e,” arsa Gigeen;
“Ni sinn mar sin féin e,” arsa Guaigean.

Ann an comh-bhonn còrdaidh chaidh Gigeen agus Guaigean troimh an obair, a' buain na dlò 's a' deanamh sguab 's gan ceangeal gus an d' fhuair iad air na bannaibh i, 's anns na sguaban 's anns na h-adagan, air a cur do 'n t-sabhull, air a bleith, a bruich 's a gréidheadh. An sin thubhairt Gigeen, a réir an ràidh:

“Ith thus' e,” arsa Gigeen;
“Ith féin e,” arsa Guaigean;
“Ithidh sin le chéil e,” arsa Gigeen;
“Ni sinn mar sin féin e,” arsa Guaigean.

Ach cha leig an fheadhainn a tha gabhail na seilg a leas a bhi cho cùramach mu'n rainich a chumail fàsagaidh air an t-seilg, a chionn: cha'n ann far am bi an raineach àrd thiugh a laigheas an t-sealg. Cha'n fhacas cearc-fhraoich riamh a' laighe ann am pill àrd rainich. Agus na'm biodh an raineach air a gearradh 'na rathaidean, agus tomain dhi air am fagail 'nan seasamh an sud agus an so, b' e sin an seòrsa griund gu mòr a b' fhèarr leis an t-seilg gu bhi tathaich ann. Agus an àite bhi toirt sìol Inneanach agus bonnach-olla do'n fhiadh ri àm sneachd, na'm biodh an raineach air a caoineachadh agus air a cur fo dhion ann an àm, far am faigheadh am fiadh chuide, nuair a bhiodh feum aig oirre, cha bhiodh feum 'sam bith air a bhi 'ga bhiahdadh leis an laimh mar a dh' fheumar a dheanamh nuair a thig an sneachdadh.

Tha mi cinnteach nach ann air am biadhadh leis an laimh air an dòigh so a bha na féidh a bhiodh Donnchadh Bàn a' sealg. Agus a bharrachd air so uile nàim biodh an raineach chaoin-ghorm air a brùthadh 's air a bleith agus air a cur troimh na muillean mar a bhiodh-tar a' deanamh air an là 'n diugh, dheanadh i biadh cruidd agus each agus eunlaidh cho math agus na b' fhèarr na ionadhdh stuth a tha iad a' toirt à rìoghachdan eile gu am biadhadh.

Agus, a bharrachd air an sin uile—nuair a gheibh a' mhuc cead a coise, anns a' gheamhradh cho math agus anns an t-samhradh—cladhaidh i anns an talamh gus am faigh i freumhaichean na rainich, a dh'itheas i le gean. Agus na'm biodh dòrlach mhuc ann an ionadhdh còsaig rainich anns a' gheamhradh, chladhaicheadh iad de fhreumhaichean far am biodh an raineach pailt 's nach bitheadh feum aca air a bheag ach sin féin.

Ach, nach coma sin uile, tha daoine daonnan buailteach do bhi seasamh 'nan sealladh féin; agus cha d' thug iad an aire gu'n robh sròn gheur aig a' mhuc, 's gu'n d' fhuair i mach cìod e a' bhrìgh a bh' anns na freumhaichean so anns an talamh. Ach 's ann a bha e cur dragh mhoir orra a' mhuc a bhi cho cronail agus gu'n robh i a' bùrach an talmhanta air an dòigh so; agus 's e rinn iad: fainne iarrainn a chur 'na sròin a chum agus nach b' urrainn di sin a dheanamh. Agus an soc a thug nàdur dhi gu solar a lòin chuir am fainne iarrainn a bha 'na sròin sin a dhìth oirre, agus cha robh ach a cur ann an crò nach faigheadh i as, no biadh ach na thilgteadh oirre leis an laimh.

Agus o na tha an dùthaich mar a tha i aig a' cheart àm so, le mìltean agus muilleanan de dhaoine aig nach 'eil obair no beò-shlaint ach na bheirar dhoibh aig cosg na rìoghachd,

nach mòr a b' fhèarr agus a bu fhreagarraiche na daoine sin a chur do na h-àiteannan—cha'n eil iad fad air falbh is tha iad lìonmhor—anns am bheil an raineach pailte, agus a gearradh agus a caoineachadh. Cha ruig e leas a bhi 'na leisgeul aig neach 'sam bith nach 'eil e a suas ri a leithid sin de obair. Oir cha'n eil teòmachd shònraichte mu'n cuairt air an obair a ruigeas a leas grabadh a chur air neach 'sam bith a tha slàn, fallan, fuasgailte, tarraing am mach le chorrann no le speal a ghearradh na rainich agus a cruinneachadh.

Ach bha naireiginn de 'n t-saoghal, ged is fada bhuaithe, a bha eòlas aig sluagh na Gàidhealtachd cìod e mar a bheireadh iad an stàrs á freumhaichean na rainich; agus mu'n d'thainig am bun-tàta, 's ann as an rainich a bha an stàrs a' tighinn, leis an robh iad a' cur air dòigh curaicann nam ban; a choinn tha an ràdh ann air aithris a thaobh freumhaichean na rainich:

“Ged is dubh do chraiceann
'S geal do chridhe.”

Agus ann an òran na Baintighearna tha e air a ràdh:

“'S geal do churrag, 's dubh do bhrògan,
Air Ìrlar bhòrd a' dannsadh.”

Ach co-dhiùbh, na'm biodh an raineach caoin gorm air a tasgadh gu àm a' gheamhraidh, dh'itheadh na h-òisgean i. Agus nach bu mhòr feum do'n tuathanach am biodh a leithid de bhiahdadh sreud air fhearran féin. Agus nach ba mhòr an caomhnadh e seach a bhi cur nan òisgean air falbh fad mhiòsan gu an geamhrachadh; agus nach bu bheag a' chosgais an coimeas ris a chaomhnadh: an raineach a ghearradh agus a chaoineachadh. Ach ged a tha so uile aithnichte do 'n mhoran, tha cuid eile 'nar measg air an latha 'n diugh a tha faicinn feum eile anns an rainich a chionn gu'n gabh i brachadh agus spiorad a thoirt aise anns am bheil cumhachd mhòr a chuireas na carbadan sìubhlach gu astarach air rathaidean mòra nan gleann.

Ach cum do shùil air an rainich; tha a latha a' tighinn.

“VOICES FROM THE HILLS.”

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SCOTTISH HOME RULE AND GAELIC.

Some years ago Lord Rosebery was presented very properly with the freedom of Inverness, where he spoke with his usual charm and lucidity, saying among other things that the Scots were really two peoples, the Lowlander and the Highland Gael or Celt. Continuing, he said, "I know that you people think a very great deal of yourselves, although I never could make out why!" In other words, though aware, as all must be, of Highland pride, he was unable to find a solid or reasoned basis for the sentiment. This ignorance in one so cultured could only arise from an omission to study, in even the smallest degree, Highland history. We ourselves, of the Gael, although we possess no competent or well known historian, are in the habit of thinking of ourselves somewhat as follows, though it is more a feeling in our bones than the result of profound study or investigation.

We are, if not the original, one of the earliest known races inhabiting Scotland. We repulsed the Roman, when all Celts or Gauls south of us, from Marseilles to Perth, had failed to do so. We chased the Norsemen, the Lochlan, from the isles after 400 years of occupation—"Air muir 's air tìr," by sea and land.

When the Norman-French had conquered and subjugated England it was we—the Gael—who furnished Bruce with the levies which rendered Bannockburn possible—remembering not only the contingent led by Angus Og, whose constancy earned the King's trust, but that then to the Mull of Galloway, Scotsmen were Celts who spoke the Gaelic tongue, and according to the late Dr. William MacKay the great bulk of Scotsmen are Celtic in race still, with the exception of the Saxon settlement in the Lothians. Some may think there might have been added to this exception the Scandinavians of Orkney and the Shetlands, and of Caithness.

From those days onward, through the centuries, the Highlander has played his part, unrecorded or too often maligned, in Scottish, British and European history, until at the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was possible for Pitt to proclaim, "I sought for valour and fidelity wherever it might be discovered, and I found it in the mountains of the North."

Such generous acknowledgment of even any participation in Scottish affairs, has not been always forthcoming from the modern Scottish Lowlands. Indeed, a contribution to *The Scotsman* was allowed in late years to refer to

Highlanders, unrebuked, as "the remnants of an alien race!"

Absurd as such an assertion is, in view of the area of Scotland still occupied almost exclusively, though so sparsely by Celts, and of their continued penetration of the Lowlands which has made Glasgow so largely Highland, and even made headway into Aberdeen. This Lowland contention has been seriously advanced by Southron scribes, until it has been largely accepted as a fact. For instance, it is still believed in Edinburgh that it was a Saxon bride who in espousing Malcolm Ceanmore, tamed his savagery and introduced civilisation into the capital.

More exact research shows that Malcolm was at least the equal to his wife in culture, while the whole experience, and even the language of England shows that in those parts, civilisation was brought by the Norman French conquerors, replacing the boorish and Teutonic Saxon.*

Neither were the Stuart sovereigns conspicuous for their solicitude in civilising Northern Territory.

The one and only sovereign who has visited Skye in state was James V., and then only to assert a barren claim to rule and to punish supposed malefactors, probably only offenders in the sense that they had espoused obnoxious factions, which it was the Stuart policy to create in order that Highlanders might be occupied in internecine strife, and so prevented from combining to take their due share in the common affairs of the realm.

And yet it is now proposed to place in purely Lowland hands the destinies of the ancient Caledonians, if the modern Home Rulers have their way. We—the Gael—should seriously consider what this means to-day—sentimentally and practically. Sentimentally, it means the continuance of the false assumption which has obtained in the past, viz.—That Lowlanders were civilised and Highlanders comparatively barbarians—in speech as well as in all other matters. It means that the language of Burns and of the Ettrick shepherd, etc., is to be our proud example, and not the tongue of our ancestors, including a whole set of ideas which have never been a Gaelic inheritance. More practically, it means that for the common resources of Britain, which have been tapped with at least some generosity

* It was the Norman French, who in constant foreign war, hammered into the stay-at-home Saxon, the love of adventure and the sea, which has made the modern English the people they now are, and has differentiated them from Continental Teutons.

and compassion from those available at Westminster, and distributed in the poor Highland area, are to be substituted the much smaller amounts which would be available from a parliament in Edinburgh.

With the very best intentions it would be impossible for our rulers in Edinburgh to serve the Highlands as well as our rulers in Westminster have done hitherto. And finally, could we (the Gael) count upon equal generosity and sympathy from Edinburgh compared with what we receive from London? One would be bold to predict that we should be so fortunate.

The English have made the mistake, in their relations with Scotland, of an excessive preference for the glamour which surrounds the Jacobite and the Highlander in romance, in preference to such solid but less showy qualities which are commonly supposed to be the possession of the homely, dour, and canny Lowland Scot, extending that preference to the districts each inhabit, and still more intensively to a passion for the kilt!

The Englishman (who has been forced to copy the Hungarian for his hussars and the Pole for his lancers) is desperately anxious to discover a claim for the tartan for himself, and searches his pedigree to discover maybe a grandmother or more distant ancestress who can excuse him in discarding trousers. In so doing he has done great injury to Highland feeling, and more to Lowland. The Lowlander when not obliged, as Harry Lauder has been, to don the kilt himself, feels aggrieved at being regarded as only a half-baked or make-believe Scotsman, and is apt to be jealous of the pinnacle on which the Englishman has placed the Scotsman in a kilt to the detriment of one in trows, or indeed, merely in trousers. Consequently, when faced with the obligation of dealing with congested or necessitous areas in his own country, as the Highlands undoubtedly are, he does not feel over disposed to open his purse for a people whom he regards as lazy or thriftless, or even as mere caterans and robbers, idealised by a romance which he regards as largely a sham, as did Lord Rosebery in the early paragraphs of this letter. It is happily quite easy to find other and more general objections to Scottish Home Rule on imperial and economic grounds, but let not the Gael be led to think he can benefit by any such alteration, for most certainly he would be the first to suffer as he did throughout in the days before the Union under the purely Scottish Kings, to whose rule even that of the Norwegian Kings in the Western Isles proved for 400 years more just and sympathetic.

MARTIN MARTIN.

DR. WILLIAM MACKAY MEMORIAL.

46 HIGH STREET,
INVERNESS, November, 1928

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

It has been thought fitting that an effort should be made by those interested in the Gaelic language to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. William Mackay, Inverness, who for about sixty years was one of the foremost protagonists of the Gaelic cause in the country.

He was the founder of the Gaelic Society in Inverness, a Society which, as stated in the *Oban Times* of 29th September last, "is held in the highest honour throughout the world; for its activities, extending over a period of well-nigh sixty years, have been of incalculable service in keeping alive all that pertains to the spirit of Gaeldom."

A series of Transactions published by the Gaelic Society has preserved literature and records which would otherwise have been irretrievably lost, and has provided a storehouse of Gaelic poetry, folklore, history, and tradition which is highly appreciated throughout the whole world.

Dr. Mackay was also greatly interested in the work of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and for a period of years rendered that body highly effective service as its President.

He was the first Chairman of the Education Authority of the County of Inverness, continued in office during all the difficult formative years, and was one of the most active members of the Committee which succeeded in securing the Gaelic Clause in the Education Act of 1918.

His repute as an Historian is of the highest. For his research in this department, and his serious contributions to Highland history in particular, the University of Aberdeen conferred upon him the Degree of LL.D.

A joint Committee of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and An Comunn Gaidhealach has been formed to circularise those interested and collect subscriptions.

The Committee hope that if the amount subscribed is an adequate recognition of the services rendered by Dr. Mackay, who was such an outstanding figure in Highland life, it should be possible to provide a substantial sum to perpetuate his memory, either by encouraging the development of the Celtic historical studies in which he specialised, or by promoting such other cultural purpose related to Gaelic as the Subscribers may resolve at a meeting to be convened when the Fund is completed.

Subscriptions will be received by Mr. DAVID Ross, Solicitor, 46 High Street, Inverness, who will act as Secretary to the Committee.

The Subscribers earnestly hope that an early and gratifying response will be made to this appeal.

Yours faithfully,

ATHOLL,

Chief of the Gaelic Society.

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL,

President of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Bladhna Mhath Ur dhuibh uile, agus gu ma math a theid a' bhliadhna leibh.

* * *

I commenced my tours to the Gaidhealtachd on the 11th December, journeying by train to Duror. The schoolhouse was crowded, and by unanimous consent the Rev. Kenneth Smith took the chair. I spoke in Gaelic and English, and had no difficulty in re-forming the Branch. Gaelic songs and bagpipe music were contributed by members of the audience.

On 12th December I visited Appin, and called on Rev. J. K. MacLean, Mr John MacDonald, M.A., Schoolhouse, and Mr. Donald MacPherson, late schoolmaster. The formation of a branch was considered, and the gentlemen named promised to give their support. A music class is to be formed after the New Year, and, if possible, I shall return and form a Branch.

I addressed a small gathering in the Guides Hut, Ballachulish, on the 13th inst., kindly granted by the local officials. Rev. Colin MacPherson presided, and a Branch was formed. I had hoped to visit Kinlochleven, but was unable to get into touch with anyone to arrange a meeting.

The hall at Onich was engaged for a dance, and a meeting of the Branch on the evening of the 14th was impossible. I journeyed to Fort William, and got in touch with the office, and wrote several letters. I spent the night at Ardgour, and travelled with MacLean of Ardgour and several members of Committee to Strontian on Saturday, 15th December. A well-attended meeting of the Ardnarmurchan Provincial Mod Committee was held in the schoolhouse, and the syllabus for the 1929 Mod was arranged.

I spent the week-end with friends at Camus Aonghais, and on Monday travelled with Major A. M. Fletcher to Acharacle. A meeting held that evening in Mingarry School, Moidart, resulted in a Branch being formed. Mr. Ronald MacDonald presided, and several songs were rendered at the close.

There was an estimated attendance of 80 people in the New Hall, Acharacle, when the meeting was opened by Mr. John Campbell. I spoke in Gaelic for about twenty-five minutes, and reviewed the work of the Association. It was unanimously agreed to hold a monthly ceilidh in the hall, and Mrs. MacKinnon, Cross Cottage, was appointed secretary. I proceeded by mail car to Kilchoan on Wednesday, 19th, and addressed an audience of about fifty in the schoolhouse. Rev. Neil MacDonald presided. A Branch was formed, and arrangements made for meeting monthly.

My visit to Tobermory coincided with the Christmas ceilidh of the Branch on the 20th December. Mr. John Cameron, president, presided, and I gave a short Gaelic address. There were about 150 present. I finished with a largely attended meeting at Lochaline on Tuesday, 21st. Mr. D. B. Fletcher presided, and I spoke at some length in Gaelic and English. A Branch was formed, and a programme of songs and bagpipe music followed.

To the many friends, old and new, who, by their help and assistance, contributed to make my tour so successful, I tender sincerest thanks. I feel that, as a result of their efforts, the cause will prosper in these districts. Moran taing Dhuibh uile.

NIALL.

THE PREMATURE FUNERAL OF GAELIC.

A traveller, tramping a Highland glen,
Came on a party of learned men

A little while ago;
They were up to date as ever could be,
They had dabbled in every new "ology";
There was nothing in heaven and earth and
sea

That, bless you, they didn't know.

They each had a spade, and a pick-axe too,
And the traveller said, "What is it you do

These heathery hills among?"
And the youngest answered, with conscious
pride,

"Oh, we have been working since morning-tide,
A-digging a grave, very deep and wide,
For the obsolete Gaelic tongue."

* * *

So away they went, quite satisfied,
And the traveller lingered the grave beside,
For he felt that some tears were due
To a poor dead language, that in its day
Had had sweet and forcible things to say,
Now scorned and slighted and put away
From a world that must all be new.

And a lad came singing along the way,
Like the lilt of a lark on a morn of May,
When the day and the world are young;
And the tune was old, and the words were—
Hark!

"Mo rin geal dileas"—I pray you mark
The obsolete Gaelic tongue.

"But I learnt it of mother, 'behind the hill,'
And the words, they come to me easy still,
But I can't wait now, I'm afraid,
For Morag's yonder down by the burn,
And I'll tell you this, if you care to learn,
There are Gaelic words that'll serve your turn

If it comes to wooing a maid."

A tongue for singing, a tongue for praying;
For young folk courting and babies playing,
And yet quite dead and done!
And he thought of that grave on the mountain side.

Then the burial party he suddenly spied,
And they didn't look half so satisfied,
And their confident air was gone.

And outside, a Highlander, home from afar,
Was greeting another with "Feasgar math,"
For he said, "I can't but mind

What the words used to mean to us over the sea,

Just a bog-myrtle whiff from the old country.
For the Scots in a distant colony

Are the Scotchest Scots you can find."

Then over the hill came the piper men,
Playing "Pibroch Dhomhnuill Duibh" down the glen,

With the children marching beside,
And Sassenach visitors doing the same;
And a poor old tramp, out at elbows and lame,

Went swinging along with his heart aflame
And his old head high with pride.

And the burial party fled in despair,
And took the train to—I don't know where,

And a paper-boy, quite alive,
Offered papers and magazines with zest,

But added, that if he might suggest,
"The Flight of the Heron" was selling the best,

A romance of the '45!

So the traveller waved them a gay Good-bye,
And reflected on things that do not die

With every new change that comes.

And the pipers went with their swinging pace
Past the empty grave on the bare hill-face,
Playing up the old tongue to its rightful place,

In Highland hearts and homes.

LEARGAN.

COMUNN GAIDHEALACH AUSTRALIA.

HIGHLAND SUPPER.

A large number of Scots, many of whom were dressed in tartan, and displayed it to advantage, attended the Highland Supper in Melbourne Town Hall on September 22nd. Dr. D. S. MacCall was Chairman for the occasion, and opened the function in a neat Gaelic speech. Grace in Gaelic was said by Rev. L. S. MacDougall, Secretary of the Ballarat Gaelic Circle. The supper consisted of Potatoes and Herring, Haggis, Potato and Girdle Scones, Oatcake, Shortbread, etc., and was interspersed with speeches in Gaelic and English. Pipers A. Gilchrist and J. MacFarlane, late of Campbelltown and Arrochar respectively, and A. J. MacRury (from North Uist) opened the entertainment portion with selections. Mr. Colin MacEachern (late of Islay) sang, "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig," and "Caismeachd Chloinn Chamsbroin," and was encored for both. The Highland dancing of Miss Ada Lockwood (champion dancer of Australia) and her pupils was much appreciated and also the dancing of Miss Ina Maxwell. "An t-Eilean Muileach," by Mr. L. Black and "Altan dubh," by Mr. Duncan MacDonald were applauded. The feature of the evening was the "Hebridean Kitchen Scene," by the Ladies. "Crodh Chaliein" and "Buain na Rainich," and other Gaelic songs were sung by Miss Ella Riddell and the ladies. The Luadhadh (shrinking of the blankets to accompaniment of Gaelic songs), was much appreciated, and also, "Tramping the Blankets," which evoked roars of laughter.

The floor of the Hall was cleared at 10 p.m. when Scottish and other dancing was indulged in by the company. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close at 11.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the able chairman and to

those contributing to the success of the night, and with the singing of "Oidhe mhath leibh 's beannachd leibh."

GAELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The following is an extract from the 151st Annual Report of the Gaelic Society of London.

The continued success of the Gaelic Choir at the National Mods is a matter which gives all London Gaels much satisfaction. For four years in succession the Choir and individual members have been prominent among the prize-winners.

This year at Inverness the Choir failed only by the smallest margin from taking the highest honour, and we earnestly hope the day is not far distant when the Gaelic world will be thrilled by the news that the London Gaelic Choir has taken first place at the National Mod in Scotland. In giving our warmest thanks and our congratulations to all who engaged in this splendid work, special mention must be made of James C. M. Campbell, who has brought great renown to the Gaels of London, and earned lasting distinction for himself, by winning the first prize, and bringing the Gold Medal for the first time to this City.

The Council have much pleasure in referring to the unique event of the 19th November, when under the leadership of J. S. MacIntyre, the Gaelic Choir for the first time in history broadcasted from London a programme of Gaelic Songs.

At this year's Mod the Society was ably represented by John MacLeod and John MacPherson, to whom we are indebted for the report they gave us at our October meeting.

The value of our language, the imperative necessity for its restoration to its proper place in the life of the nation, and the homes of our people is beyond question. There are few if any, who would deny that from a racial, cultural and National standpoint, the disappearance of the Gaelic language from the soil of Scotland would be not only a great calamity, but a national disgrace. Among the whole of Scotland's widely scattered sons, it would be felt that the passing of our national tongue, the strongest and what should be the impregnable bulwark of our nationality had collapsed.

The question therefore which confronts us and all kindred Societies is what are the prospects of the language? What position does it occupy in the life of Scotland to-day?

In recent years it has been our custom to review the position in the homeland. As the premier of all Gaelic societies we have taken this liberty, not with a desire to indulge in frivolous criticism or petty fault-finding, but with an earnest hope that our observations might awaken those who slumber, encourage the faint-hearted, and enlighten those who are groping in great darkness. We gladly recognise that within the last generation we have had men and women in our midst who have given unstinted support to the Gaelic cause, and it is far from our desire to embody in this report anything that would reflect on their well-meaning and generously-hearted work. We have seen An Comunn Gaidhealach growing in strength and influence. We have consistently paid our tribute of praise, to its unremitting efforts to give impetus to the Gaelic movement. At our National Mods there are great numbers of men and women in every walk of life, and during these days of high festival there is no denying the popularity of the slogan, "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig." Excellent and well meaning though this work undoubtedly is, it is not in any disparaging spirit that we express our deep concern and grave apprehension regarding the present day position.

As the oldest Gaelic Society in the world we have on several occasions sounded the clarion call to Gaels at home and abroad, and in this report we wish to sound the same call with a deeper, louder, and stronger note. The dangers which have long threatened our language, the perils which are challenging its very existence are still imminent, and in no way lessened. As it is true that men cannot live on sentiment, it is also true that a language cannot live if the race dies, and it may well be that this serious aspect of the question has not received the consideration its importance deserves.

In this report we would earnestly and respectfully appeal to our own members and to the Gaels everywhere to consider this great question from a practical standpoint, not in any controversial or sectional spirit, but as a united people with a full realisation of the dangers which are surrounding our Mother Tongue.

Academic discussions, literary effusions, and golden oratory have their uses, but if we are to save the language, our supreme need is a straight-forward facing of all the facts which are bearing on the situation, and a unanimous determination to remove, as far as possible, those factors whether of ancient or modern origin, which are encompassing the downfall of the cause for which we stand,

PAN-CELTIC CONGRESS, 1929.

The first meeting of the Committee appointed to make arrangements for this Congress, which is to be held in Glasgow on dates to be yet fixed, met in the office of An Comunn on Friday, 21st December. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, convener, presided over a well-attended meeting. Mr. John Cameron, M.A., LL.B., solicitor, 136 Wellington Street, Glasgow, was appointed secretary of the Committee, and Mr. Robert MacFarlane, C.A., treasurer. An Executive Sub-Committee was appointed to organise and carry out the necessary arrangements.

BOOK REVIEW.

Turas an Oilthrigh (The Pilgrims Progress) translated into Irish. Religious Tract Society. Price 2/-, 220 pp.

This new volume is a rendering into Irish of the first part of Bunyan's great classic. *The nom de plume* of the translator is "An Buachaillín Buidhe." The translation is very well done, the language being correct, elegant, and true to the English original. This is the first time that a proper version of *The Pilgrim's Progress* was given in the Irish language. About ninety years ago a portion of the great Dream of Bunyan down to the Death of Faithful at Vanity Fair was printed in Irish; but the attempt is said to have been somewhat clumsy and incorrect in its diction. The present book is beautifully illustrated, and ought to be a welcome addition to every Gaelic library. Scottish Gaels can read the book easily.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BENDERLOCH BRANCH.—Under the auspices of this branch a ceilidh and dance was held in aid of the funds of Benderloch Nursing Association. Rev. A. MacDonald, Ardhattan, presided. The programme was sustained by local artistes, who gave willingly of their services. Pipe-Major Cameron, Barcaldine, played bagpipe selections; solos were rendered by Mrs. A. Kennedy, Mrs. MacDougall, Misses MacLucas and M. Cameron; Messrs J. MacFarlane, J. MacDonald, H. Campbell and A. MacDonald, and Mr. D. Hepburn recited a passage from Burns. Quartettes were sung by Mrs. MacDougall, Miss C. M. MacKinnon, Messrs MacDougall and H. Campbell. Dr. E. R. MacNicol and Mr. D. Bannatyne provided music on piano and violin, while, last but not least, the Benderloch Gaelic Choir contributed their share towards the concert programme. In concluding, the chairman called for a hearty vote of thanks to all who had given of their services on that occasion. The chairman in turn was accorded a cordial vote of thanks on the call of Dr. MacNicol, Taynuilt. An enjoyable dance followed, at which Mr. N. MacArthur acted as M.C. Music was provided by Mrs. A. Kennedy and A. Munro (piano), Messrs J. Scott and H. MacKinnon (violin), and Pipe-Major D. Cameron.

BUTE BRANCH.—Mr. Neil Shaw had a numerous and appreciative audience on Friday evening, when he addressed a meeting of the local branch of An Comunn. Capt. Kennedy presided. Mr. Shaw's

subject was "Orain Mhor" (Big Songs). He gave an account of many such songs and their composers, and illustrated many of them vocally. Very few modern pibrochs have words to them, all are very plaintive, while some are attached to lively, cheerful airs. Mr. Shaw was in fine voice, and rendered his illustrative songs with much ability, and was heartily applauded. The lecture was followed by a number of songs, amongst those contributing being Mrs. Stewart and Miss Smart, Port-Bannatyne, and Mr. James Clark, while Mr. Shaw also gave a number of Gaelic songs, in which the audience joined. Pipe-Major Stewart played several bagpipe selections. It may be mentioned that Mr. Shaw resided in Rothesay at the time the Branch originated, and took an active part in the work, including the teaching of a Gaelic class.

CONNEL BRANCH.—A general meeting of the Connel branch was held in the Connel Hall on 6th December. Rev. John MacInnes, occupied the chair, and briefly reviewed the work done by the Association during the past year. The junior choir had taken a first place at the Lorn Provincial Mod, and the senior choir had taken a good place in the Rural Choir Competition at the National Mod. Several members of the junior choir had also acquitted themselves with great credit both at the Provincial and the National Mod. The annual balance sheet was read, and it was gratifying to know that there was a substantial credit balance. The Captain of Dunstaffnage was re-elected honorary president; and Mrs. Maze, Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Colin Campbell were re-elected hon. vice-presidents. Mrs. Stewart, Falls of Lora Hotel, and Captain Duncan MacGregor, Ramsay Lodge, were added to the list of hon. vice-presidents. Mr. MacInnes was re-appointed president and Mr. D. MacDonald, Mrs. MacGillivray and Mr. MacNeill were elected vice-presidents. The resignations of Miss MacLachlan from the post of secretary, and of Miss Jean MacSwan from the post of assistant secretary were received with regret, and Miss MacPherson, Dunstaffnage Arms Hotel, was appointed in their place. Miss MacLachlan continues as treasurer. In addition to the above ex-officio members, the following Committee was appointed, viz.: Mrs. MacGillivray, Miss M. MacKinnon, Miss MacCorquodale, Mr. A. MacPhail, Mr. John MacDonald, Mr. Donald MacPhail, Miss Sinclair, Mr. Hugh MacPhail, Mr. George MacDonald, Miss Peggy Campbell, Mrs. Noble.

FORT AUGUSTUS BRANCH.—A representative gathering of people assembled in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening, when two of An Comunn's able and enthusiastic supporters gave stirring addresses in Gaelic and English, namely, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld and Rev. Dr. Neil Ross of Laggan (Badenoch). The chair was occupied by Rev. Angus MacIntyre, U.F. Manse, who introduced both speakers to the assembly. Dr. Ross and Miss Farquharson were accorded hearty votes of thanks, and thereafter a working committee and office-bearers were elected:—Rev. Angus MacIntyre, convener, and Rev. Father Cyril Von Deickhoff, O.S.B., president. Miss Bowie and Mr. Roderick MacVarish were appointed hon. secretary and treasurer, respectively. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presence of a considerable number of young people. Gaelic songs and stories were contributed by a few of those present during the evening.

INVERARY BRANCH.—The members of the local branch held their fortnightly meeting on 29th November. Mr. A. J. MacIntyre presided over a large attendance. He intimated the decision of An Comunn to provide a teacher of Gaelic song for the branch if a sufficient

number would enrol. He impressed upon the meeting the benefits which would follow tuition in Gaelic vocal music. Tea and music followed. Contributors to the programme were: Mrs. A. J. MacIntyre (piano); the Chairman; Mrs. Stewart, Castle Gardens; Miss Cathie MacArthur; Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, County Buildings; Mrs. Colin MacLaren, Miss Flora Clark, Mr. Lachlan MacArthur, Master Wm. Stewart, Mr. Robert Jenkins and Mr. Chas. MacInnes. Votes of thanks were accorded the chairman on the call of Mr. Hugh MacVicar, Cherry Park.

LAGGAN BRANCH.—A ceilidh under the auspices of the above was held at Balgown on Thursday, 6th Dec. December. In spite of the inclement weather, there was a good attendance. The chair was taken by Rev. Dr. Ross, the vice-president. Songs in Gaelic and English were rendered by Mrs. Gibson, Miss Ross, Mrs. Mackintosh, and Miss Graham, teacher. A recitation in Gaelic was given by Miss Maggie Macdonald, while a humorous selection was read by Mrs. Gibson. Songs were very acceptably rendered by the following gentlemen:—Messrs Arch. Macdonald (treasurer), Lachlan Mackintosh, Donald Cameron, Alistair Macdonald, Alex. Gillies, and James Hamilton. The chairman gave a brief account of the renewed efforts being made to open fresh branches, such as the new branches opened in Fort-Augustus and Dingwall a week ago. He encouraged the Gaelic choir to maintain their fine attendance at practice; no less than 30 being now in attendance weekly at choir practice. A sociable cup of tea is a pleasant feature of these ceilidhs. The growth of community singing, the old-fashioned chorus, is quite noticeable. The ancient custom of community singing, while familiar at Highland ceilidhs and weddings for hundreds of years, is evidently quite new to the Lowlands, or at least was considered a novelty until quite recently.

NEWTONMORE BRANCH.—The second ceilidh under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach (Newtonmore branch) was held in the Hall on Tuesday, 27th Nov., when there was an excellent attendance and many new members enrolled. Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, Kila-

gussie, presided, and in the course of an excellent Gaelic address, introduced Mr. Neil Shaw, the energetic secretary of An Comunn, who had come all the way from Glasgow to be present. During the evening Mr. Shaw sang a few Gaelic songs and delivered messages in Gaelic and English, in which he stressed the plea for renewed vigour in the furtherance of the language. Branches were now everywhere springing up in the North, and he knew that by the excellent work done by An Comunn and through what it was at present doing that Gaelic would very soon be established on a firm footing. An excellent programme was arranged in which the following rendered beautiful Gaelic pieces; Mr. Hume Robertson, Kincaig; Miss L. Macdonald, Miss Annie Macdonald, Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan; Mrs. Angus Stewart, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, Mr. Shaw, Miss J. Cattanaich, while duets were rendered with fine effect by Mrs. A. Stewart and Miss Macdonald and by the Misses Macdonald. The programme was opened with stirring selections on the bagpipes by Mr. John Macpherson, and Mr. A. Curley and Miss N. Grant gave Highland selections (violin and piano). The Newtonmore choir sang two Gaelic songs. At an interval tea was smartly served by the committee. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld was present. A typical ceilidh, the proceedings were much enjoyed, and the branch is indebted to all who helped to make the evening so successful.

TOBERMORY BRANCH.—Two successful ceilidhs have been held lately in the School, under the auspices of the local branch. The first was organised by Mr. MacKay and Mr. D. Cameron, who were fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. N. G. MacDonald, Kilchoan Manse. Mr. MacDonald entertained the large company with old Gaelic stories which were much enjoyed. The second ceilidh was arranged by Mrs. L. G. Langton and Mr. Duncan MacLeod, who presented the following attractive programme: bagpipe selections, Ian McLennan; songs, Mrs. MacVicar, Mr. J. Robertson, Miss F. MacLean, Mr. A. Beaton, Miss M. Cameron, Mr. J. Cameron, Miss C. Cameron, Mr. J. Cameron, Drumfin, presided.

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Leabhar XXIV.]

An Gearran, 1929.

[Earrann 5

CLANN AN FHRAOICH.

1. Annsachd Shasuinn an ròs rìoghail;
Roghainn Alban cluarn cas,
Creamh na Cuimrigh, spéis nan seanchaidh;
Uidh na h-Eireann seamrag ghlas.
2. Fraoch-eilean le long is leòmhán,
Luaidh na bàird am moladh binn;
Earlas caomh air cosnadh ceannsail
Am fraoch dosrach greannmhor grinn.
3. Badanach geal fraoch nam fireach,
Fìnealta gorm fraoch nam beann;
Purpur nan rìgh—urras uaisle—
Rìomhach lus is cuannda ceann.
4. Cùmaidh gach flath is ceann cinnidh
Cuimhne gu bheil fuil nan clìar,
Fuil na sinnsear chòir na chuislibh,
Cinntè leòir nach tuislich triath.
5. A mhic an fhraoich cuimhnich cruadal,
Coltaich ceart ri fraoch do bhéus—
Mìn a shnuadh air maduinn shamhraidh,
Cruaidh ri gaillionn geamhraidh géur.
6. Mùthadh mór air gnàths ar cinnich,
Caochladh tur air cor is nòs,
Dearmad air na beachdan dualach
A bu reachd d' ar tuath an tòs.
7. Caint na chall le caochladh cleachdaidh,
Ceum nach ardaich comas cinn;
Chaill thu rùn na h-eirmseachd éibhinn,
Seilbh bu dùth bhi géur 's na glinn.

CHILDREN OF THE HEATH.

1. England's desire is the royal rose; the
bristling thistle Scotland's pride; the
leek of Wales, theme of minstrels;
Ireland's delight the green shamrock.
2. Island heath, with galley and lion, the
bards have sung their melodious praise;
a beloved earnest of victory ever, the
tufted, elegant, beautiful heath.
3. Bosky and white the heath of the moorland;
luxurious and green the mountain
heather; the purple of kings, a courtly
guarantee, the handsome plant of come-
liest head.
4. Each noble or chief bears ever in mind
that the blood of heroes flows in his
veins; the blood of the brave a sufficient
surety, that he himself will not prove
unworthy.
5. Thou son of the heath remember hardihood;
like the heath itself let thy bearing
be—gentle its bloom on a summer
morning, but hardy in the storm of
tempestuous winter.
6. A transformation in the ways of our folk,
a serious change in conditions and
customs; an outgrowing of those native
ideals, which were of old a law to our
people.
7. To lose a language through change of
habit, is a step that will not improve
thy mental grasp; thou dost forfeit
the secret of the happy wit, that in the
glens was a gift made keen by long use.

8. Ionnsaich cainntean ullamh ealamh,
Iomchuidh airson leas ar linn;
Cuime dheanadh cosnadh chàinain
Lochd do d' theanga mhàthrail bhinn?
9. Al a' fhraoich ge fad air fògradh
Feadh gach fonn 's an dealraich grian,
Chi iad fraoich nam beann am bruidar,
Glèann an gaoil thar cuantan cian.
10. Ionndrain cridhe ciall na h-aisling,
Eàrail chiùin o chadal sèimh—
Cleachd do chaintn gu duineal dileas,
Snàim ri fuil is tìr is trèubh.
11. A chion bidh mar àrach beatha
Bàsuidhidh gach dàil tha beò;
A chion cleachdaidh crìonaidh càinain,
Seacaidh sìos gun dàil a deò.
12. Gabhaim gach loinn o laimh coigrich,
Caintn is oilean, conn is ceòl;
Ni an coigreach tuisgeach tarcuais,
Thuit mo chor an alt 's an eòl.
13. Còir-bhreith a chall call mo chàinain;
Cunntainn sin mar nì nach fù
Bidh mi suarach an sùil coigrich;
Dhùlt an uaill nach coisinn cliù.
14. Badan fraoich mar theistean bòidean,
Beart a dh' agras cli is cruas—
Cuirm no comunn, mòd no margadh,
Cumaibh seòl bhur seanchais suas.
15. Sgrìobh is leugh is labhair Gàidhlig,
Grunndail gaisgeil lagh nan laoch,
Dèidh is deòin gu seasamh càinain
Dòigh na dream d' am fàbhar fraoich.
16. Facal suaicheantais nam fùran,
Foighidinn, le reachd is rian;
Furtachd is fòir, glie an gealladh,
Tric an tòir air dealas dian.
8. Do thou master languages quickly and
thoroughly, fit for the requirements of
our times; but why should the learning
of other forms of speech do harm to
thy sweet mother tongue.
9. Children of the heath, though scattered
in exile, through every land where the
sun shines, behold the mountain heather
in their dreams, the glen they love
beyond the wide seas.
10. A yearning of the heart, is the meaning of
their vision, a quiet reminder in gentle
sleep—use thy language bravely and
faithfully, a tie that binds thee to thy
race and land.
11. For lack of food to nourish life all creatures
on earth must die; for lack of use a
language perishes, its vigour speedily
declines.
12. If I receive all my accomplishments from
a stranger's hand, my speech and culture,
my taste and music, the intelligent
stranger must secretly despise; my
status is lowered in mental dignity and
resource.
13. To lose my language is to lose my birth-
right; and if I count that but a small
thing, I shall be slight in the eyes of
strangers; reject the pride that will
never bring thee credit.
14. Let a sprig of heather be a pledge of vows,
the keeping of which needs courage and
pluck—at least or in fellowship, at mod
or market, sustain, as much as can be,
the use of thy speech.
15. Write and read and speak the Gaelic;
decisive and bold is the rule of its
champions; a desire and resolve to
maintain the language, the way of those
whose emblem is the heath.
16. The motto of the heroes is *patience*, with
rule and order; succour and aid, wise
the promise, frequently follow an
earnest zeal.

N.R.

NOTE ON THE METRE.—These verses are an attempt in the metre known as Sèdain, one of the classical metres employed by the trained Gaelic bards. Very little has been composed in this metre in Scotland for the last three centuries. Professor Watson, in *Bardachd Gàidhlig*, Intdn. xxxvi., says: "This metre, called Sèdain, is extraordinarily complex and difficult, though the finished *rann* looks simplicity itself." We may give some idea of the old rules and terms as follows:—The first and third lines of the quatrain must contain eight syllables, ending with a word of two syllables; the second and fourth lines have only seven syllables, and must end with a word of one syllable. Every line must have at least two syllables which alliterate (*uainn*), that is, which begin with the same consonant, or with a vowel. There must be *seòladh* (guidance) which means that the first stressed word in the second line requires to alliterate with the two alliterating words in the first line. There must be *comharras*, or end-rhyme between the last words of the second and fourth lines. And here comes the hardest rule of all; there must be three internal rhymes between the third and fourth lines. The internal rhyme is called *uathne*. The rhyme between the final word in third line and some word in fourth line is called *aichill* (anticipation). To compose with success in Sèdain, meant a long apprenticeship. It is a fine dashing metre, giving room for terse aphorism, and subtle surprise, when it happens that an important thought is chieftained under the strict rules of Sèdain. Frequently the verb is omitted, the effect depending as much on contrast as on grammar! The feature of internal rhyme was very strong in early Scottish poets like Gavin Douglas, Henryson, and Dunbar; v. *Douglas's Aeneid*, p. 112 by Dr. Maclean Watt, where striking examples of internal rhyme are noted.

CLANN AN FHRAOICH.

Chumadh ceud chéilidh na Cloinne an Aitreach nan Gaidheal, Glascho, air feasgar Dìor-daoin, an 10mh la de'n Fhaoilteach. Bha Mgr Calum MacLeod 'na Fhear Cathrach airson an fheasgair. Chaidh an t-Urramach Calum MacLeod an ceann urnuigh agus mar sin dh'fhosgladh a' choinneamh a reir riaghailtean na Croilein. Bha faisg air da fhichead pearsa an lathair—cuid dhiubh a thainig astar fada, Mgr Iain Moffatt Pender as a' Chaisteal Nuadh, Baintighearna Ormadail a Gleann-da-ruadhail agus Mgr Marjoribanks bho thaobh Loch Odha. Leugh an Rùnaire an litir a leanas bho 'n Cheam Suidhe:—

CEANNLOCH, 5/1/29.

A CHLANN MO GHRAIDH,

Tha mi duilich gu bheil an t-sìd cho fuar, fiadhaich, 's nach eil e ceadichte dhomh mo thurus a ghabhail gu Glaschu dh' ionnsuidh a' cheud chruinneachaidh de Chlann an Fhraoich.

Bheireadh e toileachadh mòr dhomh a bhi 'nur measg, air son dà aobhar mór,—anns a cheud àite làmh a chrathadh, agus a bhi 'nam shuidhe aig a' bhòrd comhla ri buill a' Chomuinn a tha air a' bhòid a ghabhail, a bhi 'bruidhinn agus a' sgrìobhadh na seann Chànain, agus anns an dara àite, urram a thoirt do charaid dileas, treun na Gaidhlig agus nan Gaidheal —can a chruinnich Clann an Fhraoich—Maidsear Moffat Pender. Tha fhios agam gum bi oidheche chridheil agaibh, oir a reir mo bharail, cha 'n eil coinneamh air an t-saoghal cho cairdeil agus cho cridheil 'sa tha na ceilidhean sin, far a bheil a' Ghaidhlig air a bruidhinn.

Agus aig an àm so, tha aobhar eile ann a bhi 'nur càirdean nas dlùithe, oir tha sibh air bhur cruinneachadh chum adhartas a thoirt do 'n chuis sin a tha cho dlùth d' ar cridheachan.

Mar is trice a bhitheas sinn a smuainteachadh air ar cainnt mhàtharail agus ga cleachdadh 'nar comradh agus 'nar seanachas, 's ann as motha a bhitheas i air a h-aithneachadh mar chaint cho boidheach agus cho drùidhteach 's a tha air an t-saoghal.

Agus faodaidh sinne a tha fo bhratach "Foighidinn," a bhi cinnteach gu bheil sinn a deanamh rudeigin luachmhor chum àite ceart a thoirt do'n chaint anns an do sheinn Oisian, agus anns an do shearmonaich Calum Cille.

Rud beag eile mun crìochnaich mi. Tha mi an dòchas, an deigh a' chruinneachaidh air

an deicheamh là de 'n mhìos so, gum bi a' mhuinntir a tha 'nan clann cheana, air an neartachadh 'nan rùintean, agus gum bi mòran tuilleadh a cur sìos an ainmeanan mar bhuill.

Bliadhna Mhath Ur dhuibh uile, agus Soirbheachadh Math d'ar cainnt anns na laithean a tha ri teachd!

Bhur Caraid Dileas,

EOIN O'DUIDHNE.

Thug Mgr Iain Moffatt Pender seachad a' cheud òraid mar a leanas:—

Spiorad na Cloinne.

Nach maith leis a h-uile neach air leth againn a bhith an so an nochd!

Is e feasgar sònruichte a tha ann—Is e feasgar Clann an Fhraoich a tha ann!

Tha Clann an Fhraoich air an cruinneachadh le chèile an so an nochd air son fàilte a chur air an cairdean.

Nach blàth agus teo-chridheach na dùrachdan agus na faireachduinean a tha anns na cridheachan againn, agus na faicail a tha air ar bilean, ag cur an cèill do chèile, agus do an Chloinn nach eil a lathair, an spéis a tha againn an aobhar na càinain a tha sinn a' bruidhinn, agus an gràdh a tha againn air an dùthaich agus air an t-sluagh a tha ag altrun na càinain.

Is ann á iomadh àite anns a' Ghàidhealtachd a thainig a' Chlann a tha an so—agus thainig feadhainn againn a àiteachan nach eil anns a' Ghàidhealtachd idir!

Ach nach mór nach fhaod sinn a ràdh nach b'ann le ar deòin fhéin a mbàin a thàinig sinn —có dhiùbh? Nach e a bha ann gu robh sinn air ar tarruing agus air ar treòrachadh an so cha mhor gun fhios duinn fhéin.

Chunnaic sinn solus, agus chuala sinn guth—agus thainig sinn. Tha Clann an Fhraoich a' deànamh an díchill. Tha Clann an Fhraoich a' deànamh na tha ann an dàn.

Ach mo thruaighe—mo chreach—tha na smuaintean agus na faireachduinean a bhuineas dhomh fhéin 'gam dhiteadh agus 'gam leònadh oir chan eil e 'nam chomas aig an am uiread a dhèanamh airson na Cloinne agus a bu chaomh leam.

Tha mi duilich, duilich, ach tha cas-bheag orm fhathast.

Tha mi fhathast an dùthaich nan Gall, "anns a' Chaisteal Nuadh, an ceann tuath de Shasunn," mar bha am Muileach bochd ag aithris ris fhéin! Ach so tha mi ag ràdh ribh uile aon uair eile—"Biodh Foighidinn agaibh

rium tacan beag fhathast." Le m' uile chridhe agus le m' uile inntinn nì mi na 's urrainn domh, an dà chuid airson Clann an Fhraoich agus airson Clann na Gaidhealtachd. Tha mi a' faicinn reul dhealraich os cionn nam beann 'san Airde-an-Iar-Thuath, agus tha dòchas agus misneach a' tighinn bhuaite do ar n-ionnsuigh.

As an so tha mi cinnteach—ma bhios a' Ghàidhlig air a sàbhaladh agus air a toirt á dorchadas na h-oidheche, is i Clann an Fhraoich a shàbhalas i, agus a bheir soilleireachd dhi. Tha na Gàidheil an dràst dìreach aig bun na beinne a' feitheamh ri éirigh na gréine, agus ged tha an ceum gus a' mhullach gu maith garbh, agus ged tha an ceò air uairibh gu maith dùmhaill, gidheadh, ma bhios Clann an Fhraoich 'gan treorachadh, bithidh cothrom aig na Gàidheil air mullach na beinne ruigheachd mar nach robh aca riamh roimhe. Is aithne do Chlann an Fhraoich an ceum as fhasa a ruigeas an càrn a tha air a' chreig as àirde. Ràinig sinn cheana e—nach ann shuas an sin a tha sinn aig an dearbhadh am so fhéin! Mar sin, ma tha Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn agus cairdean dileas nan Gàidheal air feadh an t-saoghail airson mullach na beinne so ruigheachd cuid-eachd, seallaidh Clann an Fhraoich an ceum dhoibh—treòraichidh a' Chlann iad—agus théid sinn an urras gur i a' Ghàidhlig a bhios a' Chlann a' bruidhinn riù fad na slighe!

Agus nach e ar dòchas gum bi na Gàidheil as gach càrn fa dheòidh air a' mhullach còmhla ruinn! Is e! Agus is e ar dòchas gum faic iad uile as a' bheinn so Gaidhealtachd an gaoil a' deàlradh ann an sìth fo sholus na gréine.

A! a chairdean—nach eil e a' toirt toil-eachais-inntinn mhóir dhuinn a bhith cruinn còmhla shuas aig a' chàrn air mullach na beinne an nochd! Their sinn gur e latha brèagh samhraidh a tha ann—mu chòig uairean san fheasgar—nach priseil leinn am fàilleadh a tha tighinn bho 'n fhraoch anns a bheil sinn 'nar sineadh! Nach gasda leinn an sealladh a tha againn air an dùthaich àluinn a tha mu'n cuairt dhuinn air gach taobh—nach iad na beanntan móra sin 'san Airde-Tuath a tha a' coimhead usal agus eireachdail mar tha a' ghrian a' deàrsadh orra. Nach fada air falbh agus fosal a tha na h-eileanan beag sin a coimhead a muigh anns a' chuan! Ah—is e feasgar grinn a tha ann—is e—gu dearbh!

Agus nach priseil leinn a' chànan aosda so a tha sinn a' bruidhinn: nach i a tha usal cuideachd: gu dearbh, tha i usal agus tha i aosda—cha mhór nach eil i cho aosda ris na creagan a tha aig a' r casan.

Nach taitneach leinn a nis na sùilean a dhùnachd agus leigeil leis na smuaintean ruith leo fhéin! Nach furasda dhuinn a nis eachdraidh nan Gàidheal a thuigsinn! Nach ann aca-san a tha an eachdraidh fhada iomraiteach! Nach iad na Gàidheil shìol nan gaisgeach treuna sin a thàinig an so bho an Airde-an-Ear an uair nach robh eachdraidh ann idir—an uair nach robh an saoghal bòidheach so fhathast ach glé òg! An toiseach bha na Gàidheil a' gabhail còmhnuidh ann am meadhon Asia—anns an dùthaich sin ris an d' thubhairt na Greugaich agus na Romanaich Bactriané. Ach bho chionn còrr agus còig mìle bliadhna, gun fhios a bhith againn a nis c' arson, thug iad orra gus an Airde-an-Iar.

Ré iomadh ceud bliadhna thàinig iad daonnan agus daonnan na b' fhaigse agus na b' fhaigse air ceann-uidhe an turuis. Ach, b'e so an rud iongantach mu an dèidhinn, cha robh fhios aca c' àite am faigheadh iad an ceannuidhe sin, nì mó cha robh fhios aca c' uin a ruigeadh iad e. Is maith dh' fhaoidhe nach do smuainich iad riamh air ciamar a gheibheadh iad, mu dheireadh, dùthaich agus dachaidh anns am faigheadh iad fois agus sìth. Ach ghluais iad an còmhnuidh do ionnsuigh na h-Airde-an-Iar.

Bha iad greis ann am Persia—an dèidh sin bha iad anns a' Ghréig—an sin thàinig iad troimh Austri agus troimh an Eadailte—air an dòigh so ràinig iad an Fhraing. Tha mòran diùbh a' fuireach anns an Fhraing fhathast. Ach cha b' ann anns an Fhraing a dh' fhuirich a chuid a' b' fheàrr dhiùbh, cha b'ann. Thàinig iad-san a nall gu Beatuinn agus gu h-Eirinn—mu dheireadh ràinig iad a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Chaidh iad seachd air Loch Laomuin—chaidh iad seachd air Cruachan 'chaidh iad troimh ghleann-Comhainn—agus fa dheòidh ràinig iad fionarrachd Rois. Air an aon am chunnaic feadhainn aca na h-Eileanan agus chaidh iad a null do an ionnsuigh. An toiseach ràinig iad Ile agus Diura: an sin ràinig iad Muile, agus an dèidh sin ràinig iad an t-Eilean Sgitheanach. Ach bha astar aca ri imeachd fhathast oir—bho mhullach nam beann àrda anns an Eilean Sgitheanach chunnaic iad an t-Eilean Fada—chunnaic iad Barraidh, chunnaic iad Uibhist, chunnaic iad Beanntean na h-Earadh agus chunnaic iad Leòdhna. Chuir iad na bàtaichean aca fo sheòl a rithist agus chaidh iad a mach air a' chuan aon uair eile. Maith dh' fhaoidte gur e an t-àite mu dheireadh a ràinig iad Uig Leòdhais. B'e sin a' cheud uair a bha Uaislean Uig aig an tigh! Is ann an sin a thuig iad nach ruigeadh iad a leas a dhol na b' fhaide. Is maith dh' fhaoidte gun do sheòl triùir no ceathrar dhiùbh a mach gu

Hìort, ach thill iad gu h-aithghearr agus leig iad fios do chàch nach robh anns na h-eileanan aonaranach sin ach creagan agus sùlairean. An sin thuig iad dà-rìreadh gu robh an turas fada aca mu dheireadh aig a cheann. Bha fhios aca gu robh fois agus samhchair gu bhith aca, gun tuilleadh comhstri agus gun tuilleadh imeachd a bhith ann. An ann an sin an saoil sibh, a thog iad suas na clachan Móra aig Caladh Innis, airson an gairdeachas a chur an cèill? Nach fhaic sibh iad air an cruinn-eachadh le chèile aig na Clachan Móra sin a' cheud oidhche—aig am dol fodha na gréine agus aig am éirigh na gealaiche!

Seadh, a chairdean, chunnaic iad solus—agus chuala iad guth—mar thachair dhuinn fhéin an diugh. Bha iad air an treòrachadh leis an aon spiorad chùin a threòraich Clann an Fhraoich an so an nochd.

Sin agaibh a Chlanna, na daoine bho'n d' thàinig sibh. Agus sin agaibh na daoine bho 'n d' fhuair sibh bhuir againn—a' chàinain a bha dà-rìreadh air a bruidhinn ann an Gàradh nan Craobh, a' chanain a tha air a bruidhinn fhathast anns na tighean agaibh féin. Cumaibh i—cumaibh glan i—cumaibh gu bràth i.

Fhuaradh an deidh sin òraidean bho Iain Domhnallach, Tormod MacLeod, Iain Mac-Cormaig, Seoras Marjoribanks, Iain R. Mac Gille na Brataich, An t-Urra. Calum MacLeod, Eachann MacDhughail agus Fear na Cathrach. Leugh an Runaire òraidean freagarach bho Sheumas MacThomais agus Donnchadh Domhnallach, Leòghas, agus Iain N. MacLeod, An Cnoc Bàn. Chaidh orain a sheinn an dòigh thaitneach, chiataich le Catriona Nic a' Chléirich, Maireard Urchardain, Iain Og Mac Gille na Brataich agus Domhnall Mac Isaac.

Bha spiorad cairdeis agus carthannachd am measg na cuideachd a bha uile gu leir taitneach agus b'i dearbh bheachd gach aoin dhiubh nach robh iad riann roimhe aig céilidh cho gasda. Dh'fhosgail Clann an Fhraoich an dorus agus bidh an luchd tathaich pailt agus tric. Tha fadachd air na bha an làthair 'sa chunnaic 'sa chuala air an son fein, gus am bi an ath chéilidh cruinn. Chan e mhàin gu robh i taitneach mar chéilidh ach bha i oileanach agus buannachdail mar thigeadh do Chomunn litreachas oideach-adh. Cha ruigear a leas a radh gu'n d'fhuair a' Bheurla taobh a muigh na còmhla airson aon oidhche dheth co-dhiu.

Tha sinn a' toirt nan òraidean mar a chaidh an liubhairt.

Iain MacDomhnaill.

An uair a bheir mi sùil mun cuairt, tha eagal orm aon lide de Ghàidhlig a labhairt an éisdeachd

nam filidhean is nan seanachaidhean a tha an làthair, saoghal fada dhoibh. Bha a' mhi-shealbh ormsa a bhi de àl a thogadh an uair a bha guth scann chàinain an fhraoich a' fàs fann, agus ag call a' chùil am measg na h-òigridh mu thaobh Locha Nis. Is ann an tigh a càirdean a tha a' Ghàidhlig gu tric 'ga lotadh, agus sin trid dubh aineolais ar sluaigh fhéin air luach an cainnt mhaithaireil. Is soitheach i air a bheil obair-shnàidhe ro theòma is ro ghrinn air a thaobh a muigh, agus anns a bheil ionmhasan spioradail ro phrìseil air an gléidheachd.

Tha coltas air an fhilùran a tha 'nar suaicheantas a bhi bòidheach, solta, neo-lochdach, ach is fheudar gu bheil feartan milleanta, buadhmhora an coimheangal ris cuideachd. Tha iomradh air “laoch bu gharg *fraoch*,” agus tha e coltach gum b'è am facal “*Fraoch*” a bu ghaoir-chatha aig Cloinn Dòmhnail an àm a bhi a' tarraing an lann. Feudaidh mi a ràdh nach caomh leam idir *fraoch* na seilge a chithear anns an fhoghar an uinneig bùtha anns a' bhaile mhór! Chan è nach freagair m' anam do dhùrdail mhùirnich a' choilich-dhuibh, ach a chionn gu bheil mo dhùthaich 'na h-àite-cluiche aig a' choigreach.

Air uairean, dearcaidh mi air a' chomharradh so a tha dlùth air mo chridhe, agus saoilidh mi gur e a tha ann dealbh a' phris ud a chunnaic clobair sàr-usal anns an fhàsach, smuain a bu chòir a bhi a' toirt dòchais is misnich dhuinn. Feumaidh e a bhith gu bheil stuth dìomhair air choireiginn 'nar càinain nach gabh cur às dha, oir tha i fhathast beò an deidh iomadh deuchainn ghoirt. Ach an uair a sheallas mi na's fhaigse air an t-suaicheantas, is e a tha agam dosan de fhraoch bòidheach, badanach, gorm, le a ghucagan dearga, coltach ri fìor-fhuil Cloinn an Fhraoich, an fhuil sin a bha ag cur deàrrsadh na slàinte an gruaidhean nam balach lùthmhora a bhiodh ri feadaireachd nam port mu'n bhuaille, agus nan caileagan malda a bhiodh ris na h-òrain mu'n bhothan àirighe. C'àite a bheil iad a nis? “Tha an nathair bhreac 'na lùban air na h-ùrlair,” far an d' àraicheadh na suinn.

Badan fraoich, “bho thìr nan aonach àrd, an tìr a dh' àraich iomadh laoch: tha snuadh mo dhùthcha air do ghruaig.” Seadh, agus ged is iongantach e 'ra ràdh, cha ghabh a' ghnè laoich sin 'àrach air fonn 'sam bith eile, ceart mar nach cinn na h-oigheagan dearga ach air beanntan an fhraoich. Saoil thu nach glan, grinn, fallan, seachdnar de theaghlach timchioll air teine-mòna a' chroiteir, an coimeas ri teaghlach an fhir-cheàird timchioll air an t-sradaig ghual anns a' bhaile mhór! Chan ann de luibhean boga nam machraichean a

tha am fraoch; fàsaidh e cadhou air an talamh àrd, sgreagach air an fhuar bheinn, far an toigh leis an iolair a bhi ag itealach. Agus mar sin, ge b'e air bith cèarn de'n chruinne do'n teid a' Chlann, is coingeis leò fuachd no teas no aonaranachd, agus cha chuir cruadal 'sam bith sgàth orra. Biomaid a feuchainn ri a bhi airidh air ar n-ainm.

Feumaidh sinn a bhi ag cumail sùla chaith-risich air ar n-òigridh anns na sgoilean, le *foighidinn*, gun teagamh, oir tha am facal sin ro fheumail auns gach gnothach, mur cuir e sinn gu cadal. Biomaid ag cur an cuimhne na h-Eaglais gu bheil e 'na comas a bhi a' toirt cuideachaidh mhòir dhuinn, agus bhiodh sin ro bhuannachdail dhi fhéin. An làithean ar n-òige, bha còrr is ceithir cheud comh-thional anns an robh aoradh an Gàidhlig air a chumail. Direach mar tha a' Ghàidhlig a' dol am mìthadh, tha na seann altraichean a' tuiteam gu làr, agus an Leabhar oirdheir a bu reul-iùil do ar n-aithrichean air a leigeir air diochuimhne. Chan 'eil cànan air thalamh anns an deach am Facal Bithbhuan a chur an cumadh na's maisiche no na's mórallaiche na tha e anns a' Ghàidhlig.

Bitear ag ràdh nach 'eil ar cànan ag cumail cèim ri gnothaichean is cleachdaimean an là an diugh. Ma thogair! Tha mi an aghaidh a bhi tuilleadh is deas a bhi a' truailleadh ar cànan le faicail a tha coimheadh do ghnè is do spiorad na Gàidhlig. Buidhndh sinn Beurla cho math ri gach Gall, agus mar sin biodh a' Ghàidhlig againn mar chànan nan glèann, agus a' Bheurla air son a' bhaile-mhargaidh. Arsa Alasdair, "Chan fheum i iasad, is cha mhò a dh'iarra. Tha i féin daonnan saoi bhir, maoinèach, slàn, 'sa tighean taisge dh'fhacal gasda làn." A' Ghàidhlig, an Gàidheal, is a' Ghàidhealtachd, fhad 's a bhios Clann an Fhraoich 'nan dìon daingeann dhoibh sin, agus a' seasamh an còir, buaidh is piseach leò, agus gach deagh dhùrachd do'n Ghàidheal dhìleas, dhealasach a chur an comunn ro fheumail so air chois.

Tormod MacLeoid.

Is e facal suaicheantais Clann an Fhraoich—*Foighidinn*. Cha deachaidh clach-steidhidh riamh a chàradh fo aiteabha a tha cho freagarach no cho cothromach. Tha Na Sgrìobtuirean fhein làn de gheallaidhean do'n mhuinntir a chleachdas foighidinn. Ma bhios creideamh againn agus foighidinn sealbhaichidh sinn na geallaidhean.

Tha so fìor ann an nithean spioradail. Guidheamaid gu'm bi e fìor d' ar taobh-ne anns an t-saothair a bhòidich sinn a dheanamh.

Ach ciamar thàinig Clann an Fhraoich gu bhith mothachail air am feum air foighidinn? Direach mar a thachair anns a h-uile linn 'o thùs: dh' fhairich iad cudthrom trioblaid no ciont air an coguis. Ubh! Ubh! dè'n ciont rinn Clann-an-Fhraoich? 'S iomadh ciont sin; tha dubh is geal 'nam measg mar ann am measg nan Gall.

'Se 'n ciont as motha a rinn de thrioblaid dhaibh agus as motha a tha 'gan dteadh gu'n do thréig iad Cànan an sinnsir agus nach robh iad cho dìleas agus bu chòir dhaibh a bhith.

Ach oibrichidh trioblaid foighidinn, agus foighidinn dearbhadh, agus dearbhadh dochas! Am beilsing u bhith fìor mu Chlann-an-Fhraoich? Tha 'n gnothuch gealltanach co dhiubh, eisd ri'm boidean:—

"Bidh foighidinn aca-san aig a bheil a' Ghàidhlig ri-u-san aig nach' eil i gu h-iomlan." Nach' eil dochas an sin? Nach glan cothromach an t-aideachadh sin air cion dleasna is anns na laithean a chaidh seachd? Agus co chuireas teagamh ann am fìor rùn an gealladh so a chomhlionadh?

Ach de tuilleadh a dh'fheumas "A' Chlann" a dheanamh mu'm bi iad airidh air uile shocheairean na h-oighreachd? Mar fhìor òglaich feumaidh iad a bhith cùin ris na h-uile dhaoine—bha an nàdur uasal sin suainte ris na daoine 'o 'n d' thainig iad—feumaidh iad a bhith ealamh chum teagaisg do mhuinntir eile clù, agus eachdraidh, agus ceòl agus glòir nan sonn a tha fhathast am fuil a' ruith 'nan cuislean; agus ann a bhith deanamh sin feumaidh iad a bhith foighidneach, oir da rìreadh bidh trioblaid aca—ged a bhitheas ciont na té sin air coguisèan eile.

Ach a ris, "tha e mar fhiachaibh air Clann-an-Fhraoich a bhith cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus a bhith cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a mhaing; is e sin ri radh, an uair a tha 'A' Chlann' a' bruidhinn ri chèile agus a' sgrìobhadh chum a chèile tha iad air am mionnadh a bhith dìleas do'n chànan air a h-uile dòigh."

Am beil sinn uile gu bhith dìleas do'n chumh-nant so? Tha e mòran na's dorra na'n cumh-nant eile: ach co thubhairt gu'n robh e neo-chomasach ach an gealtair bochd nach do rinn riamh dìchioll sam bith air an gnothuch fheuchainn?

Na mealladh neach sam-bith sibh; far am bi toil bidh gnìomh; agus anns a' chùis so 's e farmad a ni treabhadh.

Ach tha aon ni eile feumail. Ann a bhith cur "Clann-an-Fhraoich" air bonn cha bu mhaith leinn a bhith mealladh neach sam bith. Agus gu h-àraidh na bitheamaid 'gar mealladh féin

gu'm beil sinn a' deanamh ni ùr sam-bith—ni cho iongantach 's nach fhaca sùil 's nach cuala cluas 's nach d' thainig ann an cridhe duine a riamh roimh leithid.

Tha na mìltean air feadh an t-saoghail—ann an Gaidhealtachd na h-Alba agus anns gach aite anns am beil Gaidheil gu ruig iomal an domhainn—a' deanamh, a h-uile latha dh' éireas an taobh 'o thalamh, an dearbh rud a tha sinne 'g iarraidh a dheanamh agus a' feuchainn ri dheanamh; tha iadsan a cleachdadh na Gàidhlig an comhnuidh an uair a tha iad a' bruidhinn ri cheile, tha móran dhiubh 'ga sgrìobhadh gu càch-a-cheile; agus nach lìonmhor iad, fir agus mnathan, eadhon air feadh na Gaidhealtachd, a tha gu treibhdhireach 'ga teagasg agus a tha gu foighidneach a feitheamh "riu-san aig nach 'eil i gu h-iomlan" agus a tha 'gan iomain agus 'gan treorachadh air cluainibh glas le sìth gus an labhair iad i gu puncail agus gus an seinn iad i le fonn is le caithreim.

Bha mhuinntir sin ag obair mu'n do dhuais sinne; bitheamaid, ma ta, air thoiseach chum crùn a chur air an ceann airson an saothreach agus airson an eiseimpleir, leanamaid 'nan cois-cheuman, agus dh'fhaodadh, ged nach beir foighidinn air a' bhliadhna chaidh seachad gu'm beir i air a bhliadhna nach d'thainig.

Iain MacCormaig.

B'ann ri linn teanntachd a dh'èirich an Fheinn an Eirinn a chum an dùthaich 's an càinain a dhìon, agus cha mhór nach ann air son a' cheart aobhair a thainig "Clann an Fhraoich" a' bolg a Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, agus am feadh a bhios an Comunn ùr so beò, bheir e mar fhreagairt do'n bhàrd, nach fhaigh a' Ghaidhlig bàs.

Troimh sheirbhis a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich tha'n t-seann chàinain an deidh builgeadh a' thoirt nach d'thug i riamh roimhe cho mear. Bho'n a' thoisich na Cruithnich air Gaidhlig ionnsachadh fada roimh linn Chaluim Chille, agus mar an ceudna na Breutannaich, 'n uair a thao na Gaidheil nan buadhairean a sìos air a', mhachair Ghallda, cha robh riamh uibhir air Gaidhealtachd 's air Gailldachd 'g a h-ionnsachadh le leithid de dhìchioll.

Feumar aideachadh gu bheil e glè chruaidh air an teanga Ghallda cuid de dh'fhuaimnean na Gaidhlig a' thoirt a mach le blas *Tìr nam Beann*, gus an toir fìor chleachdadh gu rathad i. Tha e glè dhùilich fuaim nan conragan leathan (consonants), no na comh-fhuaimnich, mar a theirte riu cuideachd, a thoirt a mach gu sonruichte "d" agus "t," 'n uair a tha na

litrichean sin air an seideadh (aspirated). Thigeadh dhuinne leis an sin, mar shluagh a th' sinn fhein a' bruidhinn càinain choimhich, nach fuaimnich sinn mar a ni Goill is Sasunnaich, a bhi gu math athaiseach ris na h-oileinich ùra. Cha'n fhuaimnich neach air an t-saoghal ach aon chàinain a mhàin, agus sin a chàinain mhàthrail; agus gus an gabh ise 'n grunnnd cha tig an tè ùr an uachdar le blas air nach aithnichear Ephraimeach seach Gileadach. Do dh'òigridh tha air an togail 's a' Ghalldach chan eil modh ann a tha cho dòcha an suidh-eachadh so a thoirt mu'n cuairt no an "Dealbh-Chluich" 's an "Comhradh," agus buaidh is piseach air gach buidhinn a tha freagairt "Sluagh-ghairm" a Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich leis na modhannan sin.

An t-Urra. Calum MacLeoid.

Anns an t-suidheachadh agus an t-seasamh anns am beil sinn an nochd, ann a bhi toirt sùil timchioll oirnn a thaobh na Gaidhlig agus na cùisean a bhùineas do ar cinneadh agus ar càinain tha e soilleir gu'n d' rinn sinn adhartas mòr o chionn aireamh bhliadhnachan. Tha so soilleir gu h-àraidh a thaobh leughaidh is sgrìobhaidh ar càinain. Tha móran a bharrachd ann an duigh a leughas 's a sgrìobhas a' Gaidhlig na bha ann a riamh roimhe—sin tre mar a tha i air a teagasg anns na sgoilean agus anns na h-Oil-thighean, agus leis an ùidh a tha mòran a' gabhail innte. Bhà agus thà làmh mhór aig a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach anns an deagh obair so, agus bu chòir dhuinne agus do mhuinntir eile a bhi taingeil air son an toraidh a tha an cois na h-oibreach.

Tha so gu maith agus gu ro mhaith. Ach faodaidh eòlas a bhi aig daoine air càinain a leughadh 'sa sgrìobhadh gun an càinain sin a bhi'na beatha 's na h-anail do'n t-sluagh. Agus is ann 'na beatha 's na h-anail a bha an Gaidhlig do na Gaidheil. So, mata, ni as urrainn "Clann an Fhraoich" a leasachadh, ar càinain bhiun bhlada a bhi air a cleachdadh 'na h-àite fhein mar fhìor anail beatha nan Gaidheil; ann a bhi, chan ann a mhàin ga leughadh 's ga sgrìobhadh—bidh sin ann—ach a' toirt dhìth a h-àite fhéin anns gach gluasad agus dòigh anns am beil ar beatha, ann an iarratus is miann ar n-anam, ga nochdadh fhein.

Tha aon ni a thaobh nan Gaidheil a tha na chuis-bhròin dhomh-sa co-dhiù, 'se sin mar a tha na Gaidheil a' cur cùl rithe a thaobh aoraidh is creidimh. Tha mòran ann aig a bheil taobh is daimh ris a' Gaidhlig, co-dhiù ri a ceòl 's a litreachas, agus a tha a' toirt a chreidsinn

orra fhéin gu bheil iad a' deanamh na dh' fhaodas iad air a son na dh' éisdeas iad ri òran no ma sheinneas iad duanag no ma leughas iad duilleag, ach nach 'eil a' toirt a h-àite fhéin dhith idir 'n an anaman mar Ghaidheil, 'se sin, a bhig cleachdadh agus a' toirt a h-àite fhéin dhith, anns na nithibh as doimhne 's as seasmhaiche a tha 'nam beatha—aoradh do Dhia. Is iomadh buadh mhaith agus beannachd phrìseil a bhuineas dhuinne mar Ghaidheil ach chan 'eil buadh eile annainn as son ruichte na so—an tiòdhlaich spioradail a bhuineas dhuinn. So a bhuadh ghloirmhor a thog na Gaidheil anns gach linn gu inbh ard agus uasal agus a thug dhaibh àite ainmeil an measg gach cinneach. Agus is e Ghaidhlig—ar cànan fhéin—beatha agus anail na tiòdhlaiche beannaichte so. Ach is ann a tha na Gaidheil a nis 'sa mhór chuid a tilgeil a' bhuadh 'sa bheannachd so bhuapa.

Seall ris a' Ghaidhealtachd an diugh. Anns a chuid as motha air tìr-mór far a bheil a Ghaidhlig air a labhairt gu coitchionn fhathast, is ann 's an t-searmoin Bheurla a gheibh thu an sluagh agus fìor bheagan anns an t-searmoin Ghaidhlig; agus iomadach aite nach 'eil searmoin Ghaidhlig idir ann. Gheibh thu an aon ni ann an cuid de na h-Eileanan. Thilg idir cainnt am màthar a thaobh cràbhaidh is creidimh air falbh bhuapa.

Bi cuid agaibh a cur a' chòire air na minist-eirean. Cha ruig sibh a leas. Tha mise gu maith eòlach feadh na Gaidhealtachd thall sa bhos, shios is shuas, agus chan aithne dhomh aon mhinisteir aig a bheil Ghaidhlig nach 'eil làn dheonach searmonachadh 'san chànan sin ma thig an sluagh dh' a éisdeachd. Ach cha tig. Bidh iad 's t-seirbhìs Bheurla ged is e a' Ghaidhlig is fhearr a tha aig a chuid as motha dhiubh. Agus chan 'eil am minist-eir a' deanamh ach a dhleasdanas na bhi searmonachadh an t-Soisgeil anns a' chanain ris an éisd an sluagh. Cha bhiodh e 'na mhinisteir soisgeulach mur a deanadh e sin. Agus sin le barrachd curam agus saothair agus eud, nuair a bhios na fìcheadan agus uaireanan na ceudan ag éisdeachd ris sa Bheurla agus gun ach dìthis no triuir no leth-dusan 's a' Ghaidhlig. Rud eile. Cho luath 'sa shaoileas cuid de Ghaidheil gu'n fhuair iad air adhart ann an crannchur no ann an inbh chan 'eil an searmoin Ghaidhlig uasal gu leoir leo. Is minic nach 'eil an Eaglais Ghaidhlig fhein uasal gu leoir leo agus gu h-àraidh le an cuid chloinne. Agus fagaibh iad i air son Eaglais Ghallda. Chan 'eil duine a tha eòlach an Glaschu 's na bailtean móra eile aig nach 'eil fhios air an so. Agus gheibh thu riamhag dheth feadh na Gaidhealtachd.

A nise, chan 'eil leisgeul air taobh nan daoine so, ged bu rud e nach tuiteadh an teaghlach aca a' Ghaidhlig cho maith ris a' Bheurla. Tha Beurla cho maith ri Ghaidhlig anns na h-Eaglaisean Gaidhealtachd, agus an t-seirbhìs Bheurla fhein unnta gheibh thu tùis agus blàth spioradail nan Gaidheal agus na Gaidhlighe nach fhaigh thu 's na h-eaglaisean eile; agus dùisgidh is beathaichidh so anam clann an cloinne-san chum cràbhaidh is creidimh mar nach dean ni sam bith eile.

An teid aig “Clann an Fhraoich,” agus aig a' Chomunn Ghaidhealtach gu leir so a leasachadh? Tha sinn a' cur feum air, air Gaidhealtachd is air Gaidhlig. Ma theid, ni iad feum da rìreadh agus bidh deagh-ghean is gràdh an fhìor Ghaidheil a' laidhe oirnn, bithidh agus na's fhearr, beannachd an Tì as airde.

Eachann MacDhughail.

Aig àm Bliadhna Uire, tha iad ag ràdh gu'n bi daoine ag cur bhannan orra féin gu'n gluais iad air sligheannan na 's stuama agus na 's cùramaiche ré na bliadhna a tha romhpa na rinn iad air a' bhliadhna a dh'fhàg iad 'nan déidh. Tha am beachd sin freagarrach gu leoir na 'n cumadh daoine ris na cùmhnanntan sin a tha iad ag cur orra féin, ach is e a' bhochdunn gu bheil an duine anfhann, is gu'n tuislich e eadhoin an uair nach eil sùil aige féin ris. Is iomadh neul a chuireas còmhachd air a' ghréin bho'n a dh'éireas i anns an àirde an Ear gu an laigh i anns an Iar; agus is cinnteach gu'n d'thug sinn uile fa-near mar is boillsgeile i an àm éirigh gur ann is docha bruailein a thighinn oirre mu'n tig am feasgar thar a cinn is mu an crom i ri a leaba 'san Iar. Nach ro mhothad dha sin dhuinne an uair is e bliadhna mhòr a tha ri a cur seachad.

Gidheadh, cha bheachd ceart no tarbhach sealltainn air a' bhliadhna mar àine an-mhór, aon chuid le eagal roimhe no le fuighair rithe. An déidh na h-uile ni, is ann de làithean a tha a' bhliadhna air a deanamh suas, agus na làithean féin de mhionaidean beaga a' siubhal seachad air astar an luathais! “Thoir an aire do na sgillinnean,” arsa an sean-fhacal Beurla, “agus bheir na puinnn an aire dhoibh féin.” Thoireamaid an aire do na mionaidean, agus bheir na bliadhnachan an aire dhoibh féin.

Ciod a nis, matà, an cùmhnannt a tha sinne a ghabh dhuinn féin an t-ainm comharraichte

“Clann an Fhraoich” a’ dol a chur òirnn a thaobh na Gàidhlig air stairsnich bliadhna eile? Ghabh sinn cheana bóidean air ar cinn, ach gabhaidh eadhoin tuille deanamh. Na seallamaid idir air a’ bhliadhna; mar bhliadhna, ach deanamaid ar dleasanas ré nan làithean is ré nam mionaidean bho a tùs gu a h-éis. Ma tha làmh a’ chuideachaidh r’a toirt seachad do ar cànan, cho beag is ‘gam bi an gnìomh thoireamaid seachad i, agus na feitheamaid gus an tig àm freagarrach gu euchd mór a dheanamh “uair-eiginn mu’n teid a’ bhliadhna seachad.”

“Cha ghabhadh i na coisichean, is cha d’thàinig na marcaichean,” arsa aon-eiginn roimhe so mu aon-eiginn eile, agus cha b’ann mar mholadh no mar chur-suas oirre a thubhairteadh na faicail. Ma tha feum r’a dheanamh do’n Ghàidhlig, ged nach biodh air a’ choisiche a tha air a taobh ach leth-chas, ged nach biodh e ach a’ dìreadh a’ bhruthaich air a ghlùinean, na cuireamaid mi-mheas air fad is a tha aghaidh an taobh ceart. Cha robh siubhal Chrìosdaidh anns an dealbh chomharraichte a thug Iain Buinain dhuinn air siubhal an eil-thirich troimh an t-saoghal so ach glé mhall air uairean, ach fad is a bha aghaidh air a’ Bhaile Naomh, is gun e air aomadh a thaobh le nithean gun diu, cha robh eagal dha.

Aig toiseach bliadhna, matà, suidhicheamaide a tha air taobh na Gàidhlig ar cùrsa le cùram, le chisean ar cànan dhùthchail mar ar cuspair-stiuraidh dhuinn gach mìonaid is gach uair de am bheil a’ bhliadhna mhór air a deanamh suas. Feumar aideachadh nach bi ar duais, mar thuille cudtroim ‘nar sporan, mór; theagamh gur ann a bhios bonn ‘ga dhith. Ach am bonn a bhios a dhith anns an sporan bidh e a bharrachd ann an ionmhas an spioraid, mar riarachas agus mar thoileachas-inntinn, le dearbhadh againn ‘nar cridheachan a steach gu bheil sinn a’ deanamh ar dleasanas mar Ghàidheil. Cumamaid briathran a’ Bhàird Eireann-aich ‘nar cuimhne an uair a thubhairt e:—

“Is fìor iad na focail a thuirtear an sean-ràdh—
Chan eil meas air an ti nach eil meas aig’
air fèin’,
‘S bidh sinne, mar Ghàidheil, fo mhi-mheas
gu bràth,
Ma leigear d’ar cànan dol bàs anns an eug.”

Calum MacLeoid.

Tha sinn cruinn an so an nochd fo sgiath bhàlth A’ Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich agus tha sinn toilichte agus taingeil gu bheil sinn ann

an daimh cho dlùth ri Comunn a tha cho ainmeil agus cho cliùiteach ris a’ Chomuinn sin. A dh’aindeoin cò their a chaochladh tha sinne làn dhearbhta gu bheil An Comunn a’ deanamh saothair a tha ro luachmhor airson ar cainnt agus na tha air fhilleadh suas ann ar cainnt, agus a bharrachd air a sin tha sinn a’ creidsinn gu’n tug e bàrr air gach Comunn a bha no a tha, anns an tomhas anns am bheil e toilltinn gu’m biodh Gaidheil a tha measail air an cainnt a’ cur urraim air air sgàth na rinn e agus na tha e a’ deanamh.

Tha fhios gu bheil a luchd càinidh’s a luchd casaid aige, ged a dh’fheumas sinn aideachadh gu’n robh uair a bha iad na bu lionmhoire agus a’ cur barrachd dragha oirnn na tha iad an diugh. Chan ‘eil sinn ‘g ar meas fein iomlan, tha fhios againn nach ‘eil, agus tha sinn ullamh aig àm sam bith èisdeachd ri neach a tha a’ toirt breth air ar gnìomharan, co-dhiu tha iad a’ còrdadh ris no nach ‘eil, ma tha e air a ghluasad le spiorad a’ chairdeis agus ma’s e ar math a tha e a’ sireadh. “Is math an sgàthan sùil caraid” agus an uair a tha caraid ‘g ar comhairleachadh is ‘g ar ceartachadh ma tha sinn glic agus ma tha earbsa againn ‘na bhreithneachadh gabhaidh sinn a chomhairle agus ni sinn oidhirp air na tha cearr a chur ceart. Ach tha sean-fhacal eile ann a tha ag radh, “Ged is fheaird a’ chailleach a garadh chan fheaird i losgadh,” agus thainig e ‘nam cuimhne an uair a leugh mi litir bho fhear a ghairm “Cuairteir nan Gleann,” air fhéin anns a’ phaipeir naidheachd, “An t-Albannach,” an là roimhe. Anns an litir so tha caoidh air a dheanamh air droch chor na Gaidhlig agus mar a tha i a’ sìor dhol as, agus is i barail an t-seòid a sgrìobh i gur e obair a’ Chomuinn Ghaidhealach a dh’aobharaich gu bheil i ann an staid cho truagh. Na’m biodh An Comunn air comhairle an duine ghlic so a ghabhail, comhairle a thug e dhoibh ioma bhliadhna air ais ged nach ‘eil e ag innseadh dhuinn de ghnè comhairle a bha ann, bhiodh sgeul eile r’a h-innseadh air a’ chuis an diugh—is e sin a tha e fhéin ag radh co dhiu. Chuala sinn ‘n ar latha ioma aobhar air a thoirt seachad airson luchd labhairt na Gaidhlig a bhi a’ dol an lughad ach is e sud fear cho neo-nach ‘s cho amaideach ‘sa chuala siun fhathast. Tha e mar gu’n canadh duine gur iad na tighean-soluis is aobhar do shoithichean a bhi a’ dol as an rathad air na creagan. Chan ‘eil e ‘na iognadh gu’m bitheadh obair a’ Chomuinn neo-thorach, ann am barail an duine fhiosraich tha so, an uair a tha luchd riaghlaidh A’ Chomuinn tur aineolach air a’ Ghaidhlig agus

gun suim no bàigh aca dhi. An cuala sibh sud, sibhse tha 'n ur buill de Ard Chomhairle a' Chomuinn agus gu dé mar a tha e a' còrdadh ribh? An fhiaich a leithid sin de bhòilich a bhi 'ga freagairt no an ruig mi leas a bhi a' cur ann 'ur cuimhne nach 'eil ach triuir no ceathrar de luchd riaghlaidh A' Chomuinn am measg nan tri dusan a tha air an taghadh le buill A' Chomuinn do nach aithne Gaidhlig? Agus mur e an gradh a tha aca do'n Gaidhlig, agus am miann a bhi 'ga cumail beò, fallain a tha 'g an gluasad gu bhi a' cosg an tìm, an cuid agus an saothair anns a' chùis, ciod e an duais eile a tha aca? Is iongantach an rud a bheir duine air fhéin a chreidsinn ma 's e gur miann leis a chreidsinn. Ach cha chan mi an còrr mu thimchioll na litreach so no am fear a sgrìobh; cha do rinn e toll anns nach cuireadh an neach as lugha eolais air obair A' Chomuinn cnag.

A' Ghaidhlig bhoehd! Is ioma buille a fhuair i agus is ioma cruaidh chàs a dh'fhuiling i. Is ann a tha e 'na òghnadh ormsa chan e gu bheil a luchd labhairt cho tearc ach gu bheil na h-uidhir dhiubh idir ann. Bha mi a' lèughadh bho cheann ghoidir iomraidhean luchd ceasnachaidh nan sgoiltean anns a' Ghaidhealtachd leth cheud bliadhna air ais agus so agàibh cuid de na beachdan a bha air an cuir sìos anna air a' cheisd, "Am bu chòir Gaidhlig a bhi air a teagasg do'n chloinn anns an sgoil?" (Chan ionann an spiorad a tha air a nochdadh anns na beachdan a leanas agus an spiorad a tha a' riaghaladh am measg luchd-ceasnachaidh an latha 'n duigh.)

"Dh'amhaircinn air teagasg na Gaidhlig anns na sgoiltean," tha fear de na daoine foghlum-achte sud ag radh, "ann an dòigh no ann an cruth sam bith mar fhior mhi-fhortan." Agus bu Gaidheal a sgrìobh na briathran sin.

"Tha a' Ghaidhlig gu luath a' dol á sealladh a chionn gu bheil a chuid as toiniseigele de'n t-sluagh de'n bheachd gu'n cùm i air ais an clann bho bhi faighinn air aghart anns an t-saoghal."

"Chan 'eil a' Ghaidhlig air son feum sam bith ann a bhi a' cur air aghart gnothaichean an t-saoghail."

"Chan 'eil feum sam bith innte air son reic no ceannach."

"Chan 'eil duine a tha a' teagasg cloinne aig am bheil a' Ghaidhlig mar an cainnt mhàthaireil, nach deanadh gairdeachas na'n rachadh cur as dith gu buileach eadar bhun is gheug." A nis, an uair a bha na fir ceasnachaidh a' toirt scachad a leithid sin de theagasg agus 'ga sparradh air na maighstirean sgoile nach

beag an t-òghnadh ged a bhiodh pàrantan is clann a' deanamh dìmeas air an cainnt agus 'ga cur an suarachas.

Bha a' Ghaidhlig gu luath a' dol á sealladh am beachd nan daoine ud, ach tha leth cheud bliadhna bho'n uair sin is cha deach i gu buileach á sealladh fhathast, agus cha teid mur cur na Gaidheil iad fhein an cùl rithe. Thug sibh an aire gur i a' chrìoch àraidh a bha gu bhi aig an fhoghlum anns na sgoiltean gu'm biodh a' chlaun air an uidheamachadh gu bhi a' faighinn am beo shlainnt an taobh a mach de'n Ghaidhealtachd am measg luchd na beurla. Cha robh dùil sam bith gu'm biodh feadhain a fhuair sgoil riarachta le bhi fuireach anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. Cha robh anns a' Ghaidhealtachd is anns na h-eileanan ach cearnaidhean as am bu chòir a bhi teicheadh cho luath 'sa thigeadh an cothrom. Is ann mar sin a bha tachairt, agus is e sin aon obhar gu bheil a' Ghaidhlig a' fàgail na Gaidhealtachd, gu bheil na Gaidheil iad fhéin 'ga fhagail. Ma dh'fhalbhas na Gaidheil falbhaidh a' Ghaidhlig; agus ma dh'fhalbhas an Gaidheal cha bheag an call a bhios an sin do Albainn is do Bhreatainn. Ach tha aire dhaoine air a thionndadh an diugh a dh'ionnsuidh a' chunnairt a tha an sin agus tha sinn an dòchas ann an ùine nach 'eil fad as gu faic sinn meadhanon air an dealbh a bheir cothrom do ar luchd duthcha a bhi a' faighinn an teachd-an-tir 'nan duataich féin gun a bhi fo impidh a bhi 'ga shireadh an duthchannan céin.

Lèugh an Runaire na fìosan a leanas bho chairdean do nach robh e comasach a bhi an lathair.

AN CNOC-BAN, SGIRE MHOIRE,
AN DUDHLACHD 1928.

FHIR MO CHRIDHE,

Moran taing airson 'ur cuiridh gu Ceilidh Clann an Fhraoich air an ath mhios, agus creidibh na'm bithinn-sa na b' fhaigse oirbh na tha mi, gu'm bithinn còmhla ruibh, ged nach biodh ann ach airson crathadh-laimhe fhaighinn air mo charaid, Mgr Moffat-Pender, smior a' Ghàidheil gu a bhàrran, a chur Clann an Fhraoich air chois.

'S fìor thoigh leam fhein an t-ainm Clann an Fhraoich—tha e cho Gàidhealach dìreach ris an fhraoch fhein agus dh' fhoghnadh sin. 'Se an suaicheantas aca a bhi bruidheann na Gàidhlig ri sean agus òg ge b'e àite 's an tachair an luchd-muintir ri a cheile. Bu chòir gu'm biodh an suaicheantas so aig clann nan Gàidheal air fad ged nach biodh Clann an Fhraoich riamh air a chur air chois. Ach chan' eil. 'S fhada uatha ghabh e. A mach bho eileanan

nan Innse-Gall, 's ann glé thearc a chluinnear Gàidheil an diugh a' bruidheann ri a cheile ann an Gàidhlig. Rinn iad tur dhearmad air a h-ionnsachadh do 'n cloinn, agus mar sin chan' eil suim sam bith aig an òigridh tha 'g eirigh suas do na subhaillean sin a bha comharrachadh a mach an athraichean. Ma labhras tu riutha an Gàidhlig, ni iad gàire fanoid na d' aodann—agus chan ann aca tha a' choire idir ach aig am pàrantan a dhiult dhoibh an còir bhreith—cànain nan Gàidheal. Agus an uair a shiubhlas tu feadh na Galldachd agus a thachras tu ri Gàidheil agus bana-Ghàidheil an sin, tha an aon ni fìor—Gaidhlig gu leor aca fhein ach an clann cho Sasunnach ri gràis Piccadilly.

'S mor m' eagal nach' eil sinn idir a' gabhail a stigh cho cumnartach agus a tha cor na Gàidhlig aig an àm so, ach tha mise 'g radh ruibh gu'n deachaidh mo shùilean fhein fhosgladh air a' cheas so bho 'n ghabh mi gnothach ri Iar-Chomhairle a' Chraobh-sgoilidh Tuathach. Chan' eil litir a tha tighinn thugam nach' eil a' luaidh air mar a tha a' Ghàidhlig a' dol gu cùl anns na clachain Ghàidhealach, agus nach 'eil suim aig an òigridh de ni ach feala-dhà agus dannsa. An dé fhein fhuair mi litir bho bhodach còir á clachan a cheart cho Gàidhealach ri Barraidh, agus thuirt e nach b' aithne dha-san duine air an t-slios air an robh e a chuireadh crùn a mach ann an aobhar na Gàidhlig. Dé 'ur beachd air sin, a chàirdean, agus cha sgriobhainn sìos an ni idir mur biodh creideamh agam anns an duine thubhairt e.

Feumaidh An Comunn an aghaidh a thoirt gu grad air ath-bheothachadh na Gàidhlig anns a' Ghàidhealtachd. Feumaidh spiorad mùirn agus spéis do'n cànain a bhà air a ghintinn ann an cridhe a' Ghàidheil, feumar a theagasg dha gu bheil gach subhaile a chuir maise riann air gach gineal bho'n d' thainig e air an suineadh suas gu diomhair anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus ma dh' fhalbhas ise gu'n caill esan a chòir-bhreith agus nach bi ann ach ablach suarach, cuthaigeadh de Ghàidheal agus de Ghall, gun teanga, gun dùthchas agus gun eachdraidh.

Nar leigeadh Dia gu'n tachradh sin.

Mise, le meas mór,
IAIN N. MACLEOID.

Bodach na Gàidhlig.

Is e so an t-ainm air an sloinnean e am measg an t-sluaigh, ach chan e bodach a tha ann idir. Thig e is chan aithne do neach cia as; falbhaidh e is chan eòl do dhuine c'aithe. Ma fhuaras a mach co leis e cha chuala sinne, ni mo is fhios

duinn àite-àirich air tùs no a dhachaidh a nis. Ach ghabh sinn ris mar a tha e.

Tha dreach an fhraoich—fraoch na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean—air a ghruaidh agus Foighidinn sgrìobhta an litrichean soluis air clar aodainn. Ni comhludair ris nuair a thig e air chuairt an t-subhaile cheudna fhadadh agus altruin an cridhe a luchd-gaoil, agus, ar leam, nach sealbhaichear deireadh a sgeòil gun leth-bhreac na foighidinn aige-san a chur air ghleus.

Buaidh is piseach le Bodach na Gàidhlig!

Is mithich leinn fhaicinn fo bhreacan an fhéilidh, trusgan a tha annasach am measg ar luchd-dùthcha. Is iollagach, lùthmhor a cheum thar mhonadh an fhraoich, no subhal nan gleann, le bhoineid bhioraich 'na dhòrn.

Tha caomhalachd 'na bhriathran, is coibhneas 'na dhòigh, is falaidheachd 'na thograidhean. Nuair a sgrìobhas e is e an dall nach leugh.

'Na thighinn tha sèimheachd is fois; 'na fhalbh tha fadach is ionndruinn. Siùbhlaidh e o bhaile gu baile, agus far an tuit an oidheche air gabhaidh e tàmh. Tha a leabaidh an uachdar gach fàrdaich.

Gus an cuala sinn cainnt nan cliar air a bhilean cha do shaoil sinn nach robh a' Ghàidhlig againn. Ach a nis is mithich leinn cànain nan Gall fhògradh as ar tir. Tha an dileab a fhuair sinn uile luachmhor leis-san, agus cha sgithich e a' luaidh air euchdan na chaidh dhachaidh.

Tha na subhaillean a bha tointe 'nan nàduir, agus gnìomh an làmh troimh na linntean a thréig mùirneach aige. Cha leig e air di-chuimhne eachdraidh nan tréun.

Le a chaint, le a thrusgan, le a shaothair agus le a mhaoin tha e brosnachadh gun sgar Gàidheil ar là, mithean is maithean, sean is òg, iad a sheasamh gu dlùth ri clùt an sinnsre.

Fàilte air Bodach na Gàidhlig anns gach cearnaidh de 'n Ghaidhealtachd, buaidh is seirbheachadh le a shaothair, beannachd nan àl gu robh aige.

SEUMAS MACTHOMAS.

Litir a' Chuairteir ann am buth a' Ghriasaiche.

[Tha Seòras Iain air a thighinn dachaidh á Oil-thigh Ghlascho aig àm na Nollaige agus air a dhol air chéilidh do bhùth a' ghriasaiche. An uair a nochd Iain ann an doras na butha bha Coinneach Donn ag innseadh do Uilleam Beag nu dheidhinn na litreach a bh'aig "Cuairtear nan Gleann" anns an "Albannach" an latha ud fhein.]

IAIN—Failte air na cairdean. Tha thusa, a Choinnich, aig a' Ghàidhlig mar a chleachd thu. Is ann duit fhein a thigeadh do theanga fhaighinn timchioll oirre, agus cha b'ann do na h-uile fear. Thug mi leam "an t-Albannach" 'na mo phòcaid ach am faicinn de mar a chòrdadh litir a' Chuairteir ris a' ghriasaiche, agus leughaidh mi dhuibh i facal air an fhacal.

[Thòisich Iain air an litir; chuir an griasaiche gob a' mhinidh 'na bhial; chuir Uilleam thuige a' phìob, agus thug Coinneach a mach a splùcan agus ghearr e spìolag a ceann an tombaca le fhiaclan.]

IAIN—Dé nise blur barail air an litir, fhearaibh?

UILLEAM—Chan eil facal bréige aig an duine chòir. Bhual e dìreach an tarrang air a ceann. Nach iomadh uair a thubhairt mi riut, a Choinnich, gun robh a' Ghàidhlig a' bàsachadh lionadh beag is beag, agus nach eil leasachadh air a' chùis. Cha chùm thu fhein no "An Comunn" beò i ged a sheasadh sibh air ur ceann-dìreach. Cha chùm idir. Chan fhada chluinneas tu facal a ceann òigridh do bhaile ach Beurla chruidh Shasunnach. Tha e cheart cho math dhuit an t-earbulla a leigeadh leis a' chraic'onn.

COINNEACH (*a' toirt tionndadh no dha air an spìolag a' bh'aige 'na phluic*)—Uilleim, a bhalach, 's ann a tha thu bruidhinn ann an aghaidh do sholuis! Chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs ged bu bhuidhe leat fhein is le muinntir nam bailtean móra e. Ma bhual an "Cuairtear" an tarrang air a ceann is ann gu math càin a bhual se i. Chan ann air A'Chomunn Ghaidhealach bu chòir dha bhì sios ach ortsa agus air do sheòrsa, nach eil a' deanamh sion air taobh na cainnt a fhuair iad aig glùn a màthar. Faodaidh nach eil a' Ghàidhlig cho bitheanta air a labhairt 'san Taobh-tuath agus a bha i ri mo chiad chuimhne, ach seall cho luachmhor agus a tha i aig Clann nan Gaidheal ann an trean céine far am bheil ciad mìle de mhltean 'ga labhairt gu fileanta. Is iadsan nach tugadh seachad an dileab a fhuair iad bho na h-atraichean. Cluich a rithist, Uilleim!

IAIN—Sin thu fhein, a Choinnich chòir! Is tu a th' ann fhathast! Tha mi dìreach air an aon fhacal riut.

AN GRIASAICHE—Tha agus mise. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an Cuairtear ceart ann am beagan de na thubhairt e; ach tha taobh eile air a' chùis. Mur a biodh "An Comunn" cha robh an t-àite a th' aice aig a' Ghàidhlig anns na sgòltean Ghaidhealach an duigh. De tha thusa ag radh, Uilleim?

UILLEAM—Chan eil math dhuibh, fhearaibh. Tha'n Ghàidhlig air leabaidh a bàis. Faodaidh

gum bi i beò 'nar latha-ne, ach a ceann cha tog i tuilleadh a chaoidh.

COINNEACH (*ag coimhead gu colgail*)—Bithidh i beò agus seachd neo-r-thaigh dhuit fhein agus do'n Chuairtear! Cha b'ìoghnadh leam ach sibhse cuideachd! Ciod a tha thu fhein no e fhein a' deanamh air taobh na Ghàidhlig? A'Ghàidhlig a' bàsachadh; ma bu nìor an call sin! Chan eil, chan eil, is fhada ghabh e uaithe. Rinn eas-càirdean treubhach gu tric a' feuchainn gu cruaidh, ach thuit iadsan agus sheas ise. Bithidh a'Ghàidhlig, Uilleim, 'na làn neirt 'nuair nach bi lorg ort fhein no air a luchd-tarcuis. Is e a tha dhith oirre a h-àite dligheach fhaighinn, agus cha bhì ise gun sin fhad is beò mise agus a luchd-cuideachaidh gu a bratach a sgaioleadh ri crann. Latha math leibh, fhearaibh. Feumaidh mi a dhol airson nan òisgean.

DONNACHADH DOMHNALLACH

Tha mi glè dhuilich nach teid agam air a bhì an lathair aig Céilidh na Cloinne an Aitreach nan Gaidheal feasgar Diardaoin. B'e mo rùn a bhì an uchd na cuideachd, agus chan e an deoin ach an cnatan a chum as mi. Tha mi an dòchas gu'm bi oidheche chridheil, chairdeil, charthannach agaibh uile, agus gu'm bi gach aigne a' blathachadh fo bhuaidh càinain mhlis bhinn nan gleann 's nam beann. Le meas.

CATRIONA NIDHOMHNUILL.

Cille Chalum.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Mrs. Stewart of Achara, Duror.
George Milne of Craigieil.
Miss Katherine Blair, Ardgor.

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Ruairidh F. MacLennan, Esq., London.
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W. M. Alexander, Esq., Banchory.
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Duncan MacLean, Esq., Glasgow.

SCOTTISH HOME RULE AND THE GAELIC.

In an article under the above title in *An Gaidheal* of January, Colonel Martin Martin uses strange arguments against Scottish Home Rule.

He appears to accept Dr. William MacKay's opinion, which he quotes, that, "the great bulk of Scotsmen are Celtic in race still," and he points out to what a large extent the Gaelic section of that race has penetrated the population of two at least of our large towns. He then goes on to assert that, "it is now proposed to place in purely Lowland hands the destinies of the ancient Caledonians, if the modern Home Rulers have their way."

Whence does Colonel Martin get this strange idea? We may rest assured that Scottish Nationalists desire only fair representation for all sections of our people, and that under a Scottish Parliament all interests, whether Highland or Lowland, urban or rural, agricultural or industrial, would receive due consideration.

But if, as he admits, all Scotland is so largely Celtic in blood, whence the fear that Lowland Scottish parliamentary representatives would be so wanting in "generosity and sympathy" towards the Gael? This exaggeration of distinctions between Scot and Scot, and setting up of a hard and fast line where neither racially, geographically nor linguistically does one exist, seems to be an endeavour to undermine our common sense of Nationhood by fomenting strife among us. To the writer it seems that the admitted Celtic strain in Scotsmen in general, intensifies the bond of union which we feel as children of the same land, and that to attempt to resolve the Scottish nation into its component parts is not only undesirable, but as impossible as to deprive the average Scotsman of his mixed ancestry.

By a prolonged fusion of racial elements we, as a nation, have become what we are, and probably through repeated inter-marriages all down the centuries we may all regard ourselves as descendants of the ancient Caledonians. Colonel Martin must not, however, arrogate to the Gael, for whom he speaks, any exclusive or pre-eminent right to this honourable descent. The Caledonians who repulsed Roman advance, were Celts of the Brythonic stock, and it is this racial element which is held to form the Celtic substratum in the nation at large. The Gaels, or "Scots," did not enter Albainn till a later date when they introduced into the population of the Western Highlands and Galloway a fresh

element originating from Ireland, the "Scotia" of those days.

But to the writer, these two absorbing questions of Racial Origins on the one hand, and Nationalism on the other, are fraught with greater ideas and ideals than mere controversy over questions of historical accuracy or rivalry between factions. Do not some of us feel a new life coursing in our veins when we think of Scotland restored to her nationhood by again taking control of her own destinies? Do we not see new possibilities opening out before us when we recognise, in the many ways in which nationality is striving to express itself, evidence of a new awakening? For surely the movements for the preservation of Gaelic and the Scottish Vernacular, for the cultivation of our native music, art, drama and literature, are all merely parts of one great tendency—the desire for national self-expression; and it is Self-Government alone which will give to our people the freedom and power to develop to the full these things of the intellectual side of life as well as to turn to better account material resources.

If we, as Scotsmen, regained our ancient right to govern our own country, who can doubt that we should rise to the occasion, or that so great, yet welcome, a responsibility would call forth in us all that we have to give of loyalty and service? The spirit of devotion to our country—too long suppressed or diverted into alien or often into paltry channels—would awaken to new life, and Scotland might look to receive what is her due, but of what she has for too long been deprived—the first consideration and best services of her sons and daughters.

The Gaels of the Highlands, who have in the past shown such great devotion to causes which they held dear, can be relied on now to support other Scots of varying degrees of Celtic origin, in this re-awakening of a National Ideal in which their own welfare is inseparable from that of Scotland as a whole. In the development of this National Movement we can feel that the language and the music and the art which we love, are not merely traditional remnants of a past to which we cling, but expressions of a living spirit which is looking forward with hope and eagerness to a new page which history is about to unfold.

AUGUSTA LAMONT.

[NOTE.—Both sides of the question having now been ably submitted we do not intend to publish any further communications on this topic.—ED.]

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Cha robh cothrom agam bho chionn mìos no dha air a bheag de bhriathrachas a dheanamh ri bh tre na duilleig so. Chan eil mi 'nam thamh air a shon sin ged is math leam an uair a bhios cothrom air innseadh dhuibh mar a tha gnothaichean a'dol. Rinn mi beagan cuairtearachd agus tha moran siubhail air m'aire air an Earrach so. The meuran ura a' sgaoileadh gu meanganach agus feumaidh mi ceilidh a thoirt dhoibh dìreach a leigeil ris dhoibh nach eil sinn 'g an dearmad.

* * *

The Education Committee with the approval of the Executive Council have selected Port Ellen, Islay, as the venue of this year's Summer School of Gaelic. It is intended to open the school on 24th July, and continue it for three weeks, closing on 14th August. There will be two Gaelic classes, Advanced and Elementary, Celtic Art Class, and a Singing Class. The fees are 30s. for the whole course, 15s. for the Celtic Art Class only, and 5s. for the Singing Class only. A list of lodging accommodation and charges are being prepared, and will be published in the magazine.

* * *

The Art and Industry Committee are again promoting competitions in connection with this year's National Mod. These are:—(1) A poster for advertising the Mod. (2) Christmas Cards with Celtic designs. (3) Leather work. (4) Needlework. Conditions are being framed and will be available shortly. Readers will be kept informed through the pages of the magazine.

* * *

I travelled to Roy Bridge on 17th January, and made some calls during the day. In the evening a Committee meeting was held in Blar a'Chath (Mrs. Ryan's), and the Branch was re-constituted, and additions made to the Committee. The Brae Lochaber Senior Choir have begun practising for the Perth Mod. The Juniors also have got their music sheets, and are making a beginning shortly. It is fully intended to send these two choirs to Perth in October.

* * *

On the 18th I travelled by train to Invergarry station, and from thence journeyed by mail car to Tomdoun Hotel, at the head of Lochgarry. Mrs. Grant, the hostess, has been Secretary of the Invergarry Branch since its

inception. Regular monthly Ceilidhs have been held during each winter session, and the attendance of members and friends has been large. The enthusiasm of the members is unabated, and the meetings are eagerly looked forward to.

* * *

Mr. Grant conveys the members in remote Glengarry and Glenquoich, about 20 miles in all, in his motors free of charge to each Ceilidh. I wish to make acknowledgement of Mr. and Mrs. Grant's kindly action, and to show how some of the Branches are kept in being by thoughtful acts such as this. Mr. John Mac-Gillivray, the president, presides over the meetings with tact and geniality, and Mrs. Aitken, the Schoolhouse, looks after the finances of the Branch, and submits a balance sheet annually to headquarters. The Ceilidh, at which I attended, was a very large one, and a number of the members from the newly formed Fort Augustus Branch were present. I spoke in Gaelic and English, and helped the programme by singing a few songs, and puirt-a-beul. The membership now stands at 250, a splendid tribute to the painstaking office-bearers.

NIALL.

BOOK REVIEW.

High Country, by Alistair Maclean, B.D., Minister of Daviot. (Northern Publishing Co., Ltd.) 237 viii. pp. Price 5/- net.

This is a volume of forty-eight short sermons, the average length of each covering five pages. It is rarely that one opens a book of discourses where so much thought is compressed in short space. The general effect however is intensified by this compression owing to the terseness and clearness of the style. The author is a master of simple language, the familiar pithy words that means so much when they are made the vehicle of clear thinking. A glance at the table of contents is enough to indicate the wide variety of subjects touched upon; and every topic bears on some vital principle, whether it be the note of cheer and comfort as it often is, or a practical rule of life and conduct. If we mistake not there is here a combination which is not always found in the modern preacher. It is the successful union of what is simple and practical with a form of diction which is distinctly poetic. Here the Gaelic spirit appears in an English garb. The writer shows a full acquaintance with the type of literature suited to his purpose, and shows tact and taste in his quotations. There is a reverent and evangelical strain from beginning to end. It is the evangelism necessary for our day, an evangelism that keeps ever in mind the great truths and facts, but also finds room for every aspect of true culture. The book is most useful and helpful, and should have a wide circulation, especially among Gaels, to whom the author is so well known, and by whom he is so highly esteemed.

CELTIC DESIGN TRANSFERS.

Celtic Design Transfers may be obtained from the following firms:—

Glasgow.—Alex. MacLaren & Sons, 360 Argyle Street.

John Smith and Co., 160 Sauchiehall Street.

J. P. Harrington, Ltd., 3a Hanover Street.

Edinburgh.—Mrs. N. M. Balmorie, 132 George Street.

Miss J. Christie, 38 Bruntisfield Place.

Aberdeen.—Watt & Grant, 225 Union Street.

Misses Esslemont & MacKintosh, Union Street.

J. Bearsley, 17 Bridge Street.

Dundee.—P. & M. Brown, Ltd., Rankin's Court.

Inverness.—Mrs. J. Macdonald, 22 Lombard Street.

London.—John Lewis & Co., Oxford Street.

SEAN FHACAIL.

1. An nì nach gabh nighe cha ghabh fàsadh.
2. An rud dh' àirdich pris na sguaba murainn—an cogadh.
3. B'e sin im a chur do 'n àirigh.
4. Bidh sannt naoidhneair air mnaoi gun sìochd.
5. Chan fhàg e cearc air an spiris agad.
6. Chan uaisle fear na cheàird.
7. Cead na cailliche do 'n laogh mhear.
8. Chuir iad am balgan-suain fo a cheann.
9. Faodaidh tu gu leòr ithe gun do chluasan a shalach.
10. Is lìonmhor bearnach fear gun òrd.
11. Is trom an t-eallach an t-aineolas.
12. Is math a sheòlas fear air a rathad thu nach 'eil math air aoidheachd.

S. M'T.

BRANCH REPORTS.

NEWTONMORE.—One of the most enjoyable and entertaining ceilidhs of the Newtonmore Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, 18th December. Mr. T. Grant presided over a good attendance of members, and the proceedings were opened by Mr. R. A. Macrae with selections of Gaelic songs on the gramophone. A fine programme of Gaelic songs was sustained by the following:—Misses L. Macdonald, K. Grant, A. Macdonald, J. Cattanaich, and Messrs. M. Macdonald and J. Cameron. Mr. Mackinnon, who is always of great assistance at local ceilidhs, also treated the company to a few songs and humorous stories, while an exhibition of the Highland Reel

by Misses K. Grant, J. Cattanaich, and Messrs. J. Mackinnon and M. Macdonald, was much enjoyed, the accompaniments being played by Miss N. Grant (piano) and A. Curley (violin). Miss Grant also played several Gaelic airs. Mr. James Cameron's rendering of "Cead Deireannach nam Beann" was much appreciated. During an interval tea was served by the committee and assistants. The Chairman expressed pleasure in noting the rapid improvement in the speaking of the language since the commencement last year.

WICK.—The periodical public ceilidhs of the Wick Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach have come to be something of an institution in the town, and are always very enjoyable and successful. The second ceilidh of the current session was held in the Parish Church Hall. Mr. Millar, president, presided, and after bagpipe selections by Piper W. Coghill an excellent programme of song and story was gone through. The soloists were Mrs. Sutherland and Mr. J. M. Bruce, each of whom had to respond to hearty encores. Mr. D. Mackay, Shebster, and the Chairman gave humorous recitations, which afforded much merriment. The principal features of the evening, however, were the singing of Gaelic songs and choruses by the Juvenile Choir, which is being trained this session by Miss K. Mackenzie, and the selections played by the Wick Strathspey and Reel Band. The girls and boys to the number of about thirty, who form the Choir, showed remarkable proficiency for their comparatively short period of training, and were loudly applauded. Their enunciation of the Gaelic was quite astonishing, and the young voices blended pleasingly in the heart-stirring Highland melodies. The violinists (with Miss Betty Sutherland at the piano) "put life and mettle in the heels," and their performance of several spirited strathspeys and reels in the typical Scottish style was greatly enjoyed. Tea was served during an interval by the ladies and gentlemen of the committee, the caterer being Mr. Wilfred Weir. At the close, the usual votes of thanks were enthusiastically accorded, and the ceilidh concluded with the vigorous singing of "Oidhe mhaith leibh" and the National Anthem, led by the Juvenile Choir.

ARDGOUR.—A successful concert took place in the School on 14th December, in aid of the local Mod Fund. Miss MacColl, Kiel, the Mod gold medalist of 1927, enlisted the assistance of some fine talent, and Miss Blair, convener of the local Mod Committee, shared in the work of organisation. The room was filled to its utmost capacity despite the wintry weather, and an enjoyable evening was spent. Ardgour presided, and the programme was sustained by Mr. Charles MacColl, the well-known gold medalist, of Ballachulish, Miss Cathy MacColl, Kiel, Mr. John MacDiarmid, Mr. John MacArthur, Miss Joey Boyd, Mr. Angus Nicholson, and Miss Mary MacColl. Rev. A. D. MacLean gave two excellent Gaelic readings. Mr. Dugald MacPherson played the violin. A cordial vote of thanks was given, on the call of the chairman, to all who had contributed to the success of the evening, and another to the chairman, on the call of Rev. A. D. MacLean.

BUTE.—The Bute branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach held their Old New Year Concert in the Tower Street Hall, Rothesay, on 11th January. Captain Kennedy occupied the chair, and speaking first in Gaelic and then in English, wished every one a Happy New Year. He referred to the programme which had been prepared, and which included Miss Margaret MacGill, Greenock, 1928 Mod silver medalist; Miss Janet MacGill,

Greenock, 1927 Mod silver medallist; Miss Veronica Smart, Port Bannatyne, first prize winner in learners' solos at the Greenock and Oban Mods; Mr. Alexander N. Nicolson, conductor of the Greenock Junior Gaelic Choir, which the Rotheray members were delighted to note had such outstanding successes at Inverness Mod last September; Mr. Clark, and Chantray's Orchestra. Mr. James C. MacLean, Secretary, asked for a vote of thanks to the artistes, and especially mentioned those from Greenock. A vote of thanks was also accorded to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. A. N. Nicolson. A dance followed.

BUNESSAN.—In connection with An Comunn Gaidh each a successful ceilidh was held in the School on a recent evening. There was a large attendance over which Rev. Mr. MacPhail presided. He referred to the completion of the memorial to the Mull Bard, Dugald MacPhail, and hoped as many as possible of the members would attend the unveiling ceremony, which is to be some time in the New Year. Bagpipe selections were given by Mr. M. MacPherson, and gramophone selections by Mr. Hugh MacMaster. The chairman recited a popular West Highland tale taken from J. F. Campbell's *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*; and Gaelic songs were rendered by Mrs. MacDiarmid, Mrs. MacKechnie, Miss Maggie Black; and Messrs Thomas Carnie, John Campbell (Taoslin), J. Waugh, Archibald Lamont, Donald Lamont, Allan MacKinnon, and James Barbour.

CONNEL.—The opening ceilidh of the new year was held in the Public Hall on Friday evening last, when there was a good attendance. Rev. John MacInnes presided. An excellent programme had been arranged, and was sustained by many well-known artistes. Tea was served, and a dance followed, music being supplied by Miss Sinclair and Messrs Ewen MacKinnon and Charles Millar. Mr. Ewen Campbell acted as M.C.

EDDERTON.—The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held its second ceilidh of the season in the Public Hall, on Thursday night. Mr. William Macgillivray, president, occupied the chair. Despite the cold and inclement weather, there was a fair attendance. In the absence of any pre-arranged programme, the time was mainly devoted to relating Gaelic stories and anecdotes. Mr. Macdonald, Lidstone, vice-president; Mr. Donald Ross, Cairnlea; and Mr. Findlay Ross, Bogrow—thorough Gaelic enthusiasts—excelled in this special feature. Songs were rendered with much acceptance by Miss Munro, Rhannich, Mr. Alex. Ross, Hill of Edderton, and Mr. William Michael, Rowan Cottage. Tea was served at the interval by the Misses Aird, assisted by other lady members. "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig."

INVERARY.—The first meeting after the New Year of the Inveraray branch was held in the St. Malieu Hall on 10th January. After tea an enjoyable programme of Gaelic and English songs and readings was gone through. A teacher of Gaelic song has been engaged, and will shortly take up duty here. On Wednesday, 26th December, a concert was held in the Courthouse, and was largely attended. The Lady Elspeth Campbell presided, and the programme, which included choice Gaelic songs, was highly appreciated by the audience. The singers were, Mr. Neil Shaw, Miss Phemie Marquis and Miss Margaret MacInnes, Glasgow, with Mr. Hutchieson, Glasgow, an elocutionist. At the close, the artiste's were accorded a rousing vote of thanks, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to The Lady Elspeth Campbell for presiding.

KILLIN.—At the opening Ceilidh of the local branch of An Comunn the presence of Mr. Charles D. M. Ross, solicitor, Crieff, and Mr. John H. MacCallum, President of the Crieff and District Highland Association, drew a large and enthusiastic audience. Dr. W. G. Mackay, President, occupied the chair and gave, along with Mr. MacLaren and Mr. MacCallum, stirring addresses in Gaelic and English. Mr. Ross delivered an excellent address on "The Influence of the Celt." The musical programme included Gaelic part songs and solos, contributed by the Killin Gaelic Mod prize-winning Choir and Misses MacLaren and Macnaughton. Selections on the piob mhor by Mr. Donald Macdiarmid, and violin and piano selections by Miss Stewart and others. The ladies purveyed an excellent tea. Votes of thanks to the speakers, Chairman, artistes and ladies, by Messrs. MacLaren and MacRaw, concluded an enjoyable evening.

KILNINVER.—The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held a successful ceilidh in the Schoolroom recently. Ex-Provost MacCowan presided over a large company, and a truly Celtic spirit was the keynote throughout, the old language holding sway. The chairman, in his address to the ceilidh and with his vocal items, was a host in himself, and he was ably supported by Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban, who delighted all with his witty remarks and stories. The following ladies and gentlemen ably assisted: Miss Lily MacLeod, Miss M. Ferguson, Miss M. Clark, Miss Craig, Miss Betty Glendinning, Miss Matty MacLean, Miss Helen MacGregor; Messrs Anderson, Crichton, MacInnes, MacGregor, Buchanan, and Campbell. Miss MacGregor, the Schoolhouse, accompanied on the piano. A dance followed, at which Mr. John MacLean acted as M.C., and the music was supplied by Piper Buchanan, the Misses Clark, and Messrs MacKenzie and MacMillan. Special thanks are due to the lady members of the committee for their excellent tea.

KINLOCHIEL.—A ceilidh, under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach Ceannlochiall was held in the Hall; Lochielside, at which Mr. MacKellaig, Glenfinnon, vice-president, occupied the chair. Hugh MacVarish, Drumfern, opened the proceedings with bagpipe selections. Songs were sung by Miss MacLeod, Fassfern; Mrs. MacMillan, Lochielside; and the school children, under the leadership of Mr. Cameron, teacher. Other performers were, Allan MacDonald, Glenfinnon; Mrs. Young, Corrybeg; Peggy McDonald, Glenfinnon; and Mary Cumming. Mr. MacKellaig gave an exhibition of dancing shean truibhas and the Highland fling. After a sgeulachd from Donald MacMillan, maist-a-chasaidh, a social cup of tea was handed round by Mrs. MacMillan, Corrybeg; Miss Smith, Station House, and Mrs. Cameron, Schoolhouse. As a typical ceilidh, the proceedings were much enjoyed, and the committee is indebted to Mr. MacKellaig, and to all who helped to make the evening so successful.

TOBERMORY.—The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach met on a recent evening to hear Mr. C. R. Morison, Kengharair, give an historical account and survey of the parish of Kilninian and Kilmore. The lecture displayed the usual thought and depth, and careful research that this lecturer gives to all subjects of interest to the Gael and students. An historical survey of an old parish is an important as well as interesting matter, and it is hoped that such researches as he has made will be placed on permanent record. Mr. John Cameron was in the chair, and during the evening Mr. Duncan MacLeod gave bagpipe selections, while Mr. N. MacLean and Mrs. MacNeillage contributed numbers with the violin and piano.

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Leabhar XXIV.]

Am Màrt, 1929.

[Earrann 6

CEUD BLIADHNA.

Tha ceud bliadhna a nis o chuireadh mìos-
achan Gaidhlig a mach an toiseach. B'e
ainm a' mhìosachain 'An Teachdaire Gaidh-
ealach,' agus b'e ainm an fhìr-cagair an t-Ollamh
Urramach Tormad MacLeòid, no mar theirear
ris gu tric 'Caraid nan Gaidheal.' B'anns a'
bhliadhna 1829 a thàinig a' cheud àireamh am
follais. A réir mar leughas sinn b'e maith
spioradail nan Gaidheal a bha gu sonruichte
anns an amhare. Thug an duine ainmeil ud
an cuimhne a luchd dùthcha cia mar bha I
Chaluim Chille 'n a lòchran o shean; cia mar
shoillsich i anns an dorchadas, a' tabhairt
soluis do 'n tìr so fein agus do chearnaibh eile.
Choltaich e an t-eilean ud ri fuaran de uisge
beò a bha mar iocshlaint do iomadh tìr. Agus
thug e faineas mar chaidh an solus a mhùchadh
agus an tobar a dhùnadh; cionnus a dh'fhàs
an dùthaich mar fhàsach dorch; agus a lean
an dorchadas agus an t-aineolas gu trom a
nuas troimh na linntean meadhonach. Cha
robh am Biobull air eadairtheangadh gu leir
gu Gaidhlig gus mu chuairt fìor toiseach na
naodhamh linn deug! Am b' iongnadh uime
sin ged bha ar sinnsir fada air ais a thaobh
eòlais air an t-òisgeul? Thug Comunn a'
Bhiobuill an Lunnainn cuideachadh mòr gu
bhi a' craobhsghaoileadh na fìrinn an cainnt
gach dùthcha, agus cha do dhearmaid iad a'
Ghaidhealtachd. Ach ged thugadh leabh-

raichean do na Gaidheil, cha b' urrainn do
mhóran dhiu na leabhraichean a leughadh.

Is ann an uair sin a chuireadh air chois
Buidheann nan Sgoilean Gaidhlig. Tha e
fùrasda ri thuigsinn gur sochair anabarrach
mór a bha an sin. Bu phrìseil an cothrom
gu faigheadh muinntir comas air an cainnt
mhàtharail a leughadh air an son féin. Dh'
ionnsaich na mìltean de 'n òigridh agus de na
h-inbhich a' Ghaidhlig a leughadh. A' ged
rinn Comunn nan Sgoilean obair luachmhor
bha iomadh cearn fathast feadh na Gaidh-
ealtachd anns nach robh sgoil no fear teagaisg.
Comhla ris an Ollamh Leòdach bha deagh
charaid eile aig na Gaidhil, eadhon an t-Ollamh
Urramach G. H. Baird, ceannard Oilthigh
Dhuinéideann. Thug esan chis nan Gaidheal
air beulthaobh Ard Sheanadh Eaglais na h-
Alba. Mar thoradh air so chaidh móran eaglais-
ean ùra a thogail feadh na Gaidhealtachd air
chostas an Stàit. Chaidh eaglais ùr a chur suas
an I Chaluim Chille, ged is iomadh linn a bha
na làraichean loma gun aoradh gun fuaim nan
salm. Bha nis na h-uile coltas gum biodh
eòlas a' cinneachadh feadh nan Gaidheal mar
nach d'rinn e riamh roimhe. Chleachd an
t-Ollamh MacLeòid na briathran a leanas:
"Tha dòchas againn gun tànaig a nis an t-am
anns am faodar feum nas coitcheanna a
dheanamh de'n Ghaidhlig mar chànan sgrìobhta
na rinneadh fathast air son maith na muinntir
aig nach eil cainnt ach i; agus air son riarachas
inntinn gach aoine leis an ionmhuinn i mar
chaint bhlasda an òige. Thàinig an t-am
anns am faodar gach gnè de dh'fhiosrachadh
feumail a bha uige so glaise air Gaidhil an

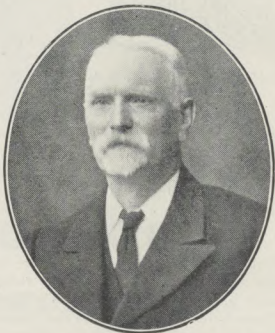
leabhraichean Beurla, a chraobhsgeoileadh air feadh gach glinn as tioraile, agus gach eilein as uaigniche.”

Annas an fheabhas mhór a thàinig 's an am ud air cor nan Gaidheal tha buannachd trillite ri fhaicinn. Tha air tùs an leas spioradail a thaobh na firinn; tha an sin an leudachadh, a thàinig air eòlas ar sinnsir mu nithibh coitichionn, agus fàs ann am fiosrachadh; agus air an treas ceann ainmichidh sinn an ceum air aghart a thugadh an uair a bha cainnt nan Gaidheal air a sgrìobhadh is air a leughadh. Is e sin a dh'fhàg 'An Teachdaire Gaidhealach' cho annasach an diugh gur e a ghabh air tùs as laimh stiùireadh a thairgse troimh chuideachadh a' chlà-bhualaidh. An uair a thàinig a' cheud àireamh a mach tha e coltach nach robh an t-ùghdar glé mhisneachail. Cha robh e ro chinnteach gun tugadh na Gaidhil cothrom dha le bhi a' pàidheadh air son an leabhair bhig a bha air ùr thighinn a mach. Agus ged tha ceud bliadhna o'n latha sin, tha a gearan ceudna ri chluinntinn fathast. Nam biodh an Gaidheal a' cur tuilleadh meas air eòlas troimh a chànain fein, bhiodh tuilleadh misnich aig luchd deanamh leabhraichean gu sgrìobhadh, agus bhiodh barrachd mór de leabhraichean Gaidhlig air a' mhargadh na chithear anns na bùthan-leabhar.

Faodar uair éigin eile iomradh a thabhairt anns a' mhìosachan so air na seann leabhraichean sgoile Gaidhlig, agus mar an ceudna air 'Cuairtear nan Gleann.' Ach an turas so feumaidh sinn crìochnachadh le bhi a' comharrachadh a mach gur e 'An Teachdaire Gaidhealach' a' cheud oidheip a thugadh riamh air *rosg* anns a' Ghaidhlig. Tha sinna a' ciallachadh le *rosg*, an cruth no an cumadh bhriathran anns an do luaidh an t-ùghdar mu ghnòthuichean cumanta, mu bheachdan agus mu chleachdaidhean—eadhon mu gach nì a thachras rinn no dh'èireas duinn o latha gu latha. Gun teagamh bha seorsa de *rosg* anns na seann sgeulachdan. Bha tachartais is gnìomhara 'g an innse; ach is ann air mhodh uaibhreach a bha iad air an innse. Ach bha an *rosg* ùr air mhodh nàdurach, dìreach mar labhras chàirden ri chèile. Bha an dòigh sgrìobhaidh sin gu buileach ùr agus annasach an lreathas nan Gaidheal; agus bha na h-ionraidh agus na comhraidhean air leth feumail gu bh' cumail na canain air chuimhne. Is iomadh facal a bha cleachdta gu leòr o chionn ceud bliadhna air ais, a bhiodh gu tur air an call an diugh mur bhiodh gun deachaidh an cur am feum anns na seann mhìosachain Ghaidhlig.

GAELIC TEACHERS.

Mr. Donald MacIver (late of Bayble, Retired).



Mr. MacIver is a native of Cròlasta in the Parish of Uig, Lewis. His father spent most of his active life as a teacher of Gaelic in Lewis. From this fact we can easily understand how Mr. MacIver was early impressed with the richness and felicity of Gaelic, both as a language, and as a vehicle of instruction. It is possible that the era of the Gaelic Schools was the Golden Age of Gaelic, when men like Mr. MacIver's father, endowed with natural talent and finely equipped in their knowledge of the mother tongue, devoted their whole strength and time to the teaching of the language to both adults and youth. Mr. MacIver received his secondary education in the Nicolson Institute, a school which has a noble record in the educational history of the Island. His professional training he received in the Glasgow Free Church Training College. His first appointment was Limreway in the Parish of Lochs, where he taught for two and a half years. Thereafter, he was in charge of Breasclet School for thirteen years. He then became headmaster of Bayble, a post which he filled with great success for the period of twenty six years. In that period he sent out many pupils who brought much credit to their teacher and their native district.

It has always been a joy to Mr. MacIver to lead his pupils into further knowledge of the Gaelic language. In the Island of Lewis, practically every child, especially in the country, knows only Gaelic when it first goes to school. Trained teachers have frequently observed with delight how the Gaelic child takes readily, and with keen interest, to the reading of the language it already knows and speaks. This evidence is perhaps the most effective argument in favour of using Gaelic extensively at the initial stages of the education of the purely Gaelic child. We can understand how a teacher like Mr. MacIver could, out of a full mind, cast a halo of attractiveness over any of the school subjects, in a language which the children understood so well. The educational value of Gaelic in this respect, needs to be duly impressed upon the rising generation of teachers, who know Gaelic themselves, and who may undertake their professional career in a Gaelic speaking area.

For several years Mr. MacIver has been a successful competitor in verse and prose in literary competitions of the National Mòd. He is still a busy writer of the language on topics of popular interest. For the past five years he has acted as an adjudicator in the literary work at the Lewis Provincial Mòds. He testifies that he is very gratified with the wonderful progress that has been made in the knowledge and use of Gaelic in the Country Schools. He is convinced that too much time is given to teaching a smattering of subjects which leave no permanent impression on the young, while every serious attempt to train them in what is theirs, their own language, clings to them. Mr. MacIver is hale and hearty; and we wish him many long years of health and happiness.

TEAGASG NA GAIDHLIG.

Is i a' Ghaidhlig a' chainnt mhàthaireil a th' aig a' chuid is mo de chloinn na Gàidhealtachd. Gu dearbh, a thaobh nam mìltean duibh, is i a' Ghaidhlig an aona chàinnt a th' aca 'n uair a theid iad do'n sgoil 'n an òige, agus is ann innte a tha iad a' labhairt agus a' smuaineachadh; ach tha e gu tric air iarraidh orra, cho luath agus a gheibhear a steach air ballachan na sgoile iad, tòiseachadh air bruidhinn ann am Beurla, cainnt a tha uile gu leir 'ua coimheach do mhóran duibh.

Tha aca a nis, na bròin, ri beachdachadh gu cruaidh ciod e mar a gheibh iad an teanga

timchioll air a' chàinnt annasaich so. Tha 'n oidhirp chruaidh a tha iad a' deanamh ag cur nan ceann aca 'nam breislich, agus gu dearbh chan eil sin 'na iognadh; oir tha e a nise gu mór air a dhearbhadh le luchdrannasachaidh rian an fhoghlum ma tha aig leanabh òg ri a bheachdan a chur ann an canain air am bheil e aineolach gum bheil maille air a cur air adhartas inntinn '—is e sin ri a radh cha bhi adhartas an leinibh òig ach mall mur eil e air a theagasg anns a' chanain a thuigeas agus a bhruidhneas e, agus anns an dòigh a tha co-chòrdadh ri gluasadan inntinn' an leinibh fein.

Is ann da-rìreadh slaodach a dhìreas snothach na craobhe ma bheil thu 'n rùsg dhith, agus tha e firinneach nach tig móran blàth air buadhan inntinn' an leinibh Ghàidhealach ma tha thu 'ga sgaradh air fàlbh, ann an àm fhoghlum, bho chàinnt a mhàthar, a tha cho fuaighte ri a nadur agus ri a spiorad.

Tha e làn dhearbhta ma bheil thu air leanabh a th' air a' chearraig tòiseachadh ag ionnsachadh sgriobhaidh leis an làimh dheis gum bheil e a' fàs glugach, agus air an dòigh cheudna tha sinne a' làn chreidsinn ma bheil thu air an leanabh aig nach eil ach a' Ghaidhlig a mhàin tòiseachadh air bruidhinn ann am Beurla cho luath agus a theid e do'n sgoil, gum bheil thu ag cur a chinn aige troimhe cheile, agus mar so, gum bheil thu, gun fhios dhuìt fein agus dha-san, a' deanamh a chroin.

Tha 'n leanabh Gàidhealach dheth fein fiamhach gu'n dean e mearachd ann a' labhairt na canaine sin air nach eil e eòlach. Chan eil rud 's am bith is lugha air na gu'm faigheadh neach eile cothrom fanoid air a' chòmhradh aige. Is e sin is aobhar nach eil clann na Gàidhealtachd cho math air freagairt cheist ri clann an Taobh-deas, a thig a mach le rud 'sam bith a thig gu'm bial. Ach an leanabh Gàidhealach cha bhruidhinn e mur eil e cinn-teach às fein.

Mus urrainn duinn dol a steach ann am fìor smuaintean ar co-chreutairean feumaidh eòlas a bhi againn air an cainnt. Is ann tre chàinnt mhàthaireil a gheibh an leanabh Gàidhealach, no leanabh 'sam bith eile, a steach do smuaintean, do chleachdadh, agus do fhairachdain an t-sluaigh am measg am bheil e beò. Cha thuig e iadsan ach a mhàin mar a tha e fein a' smuaineachadh, a bruidhinn, agus a faireachdainn mu nithean anns an dòigh cheudna, agus mar a tha na h-aona nithean aca le chéile 's an amharc.

Is ann bho bheatha ghnìomharrach, bho chleachdadh inntinn', agus bho chanain an leinibh a dh' fheumas fhoghlum sruthadh a

mach. Feumaidh sinn an còmhnuidh a bhi cumail fa chomhair air sùla gur ann le bhi a' fosgladh inntinn' an leinibh gu gabhail a steach gach ni a tha 'ga chuairteachadh is urrainn duinn toirt air fàs ann an eòlas agus ann an gliocas, agus a dh'èireas e suas na's àirde 's na's àirde gu beatha na's oirdheirce. Agus is ann gu h-àraidh ann an eòlas litreachais is fhearr a ghabhas so a bhi deanta—litreachas shimplidh ann an càinnt mhàthaireil an leinibh. Ged nach urrainn da-san, bròinein, leughadh is urrainn do'n bhan-sgoileir leughadh dha agus miann a dhùsgadh 'na anam an deidh litreachais a bhios feumail dha, chan ann a mhàin fhad 's a tha e anns an sgoil ach fad cuairt a bheatha. Leig a' Bheurla thuige mar a tha fulang aig oirre, ach cuimhnich nach cuir thu cus air dhith gu h-àraidh aig tòiseachadh fhoghlaim air eagal gur ann a mhùchas tu c an àite a bhi a' fosgladh inntinn' anns an dòigh a tha co-shìnte ri neart a bhuidhann.

Chan eil riaghailt na's motha ann an rian an fhoghlaim na gum biodh sinn a' tòiseachadh aig na nithean air am bheil an leanab a' cheana eòlach agus 'ga threòrachadh a mach gu faicill-each a dh' ionnsaidh na nithean nach aithne dha fhathast. Agus tha reusan fhein ag giùlan gur ann anns an chàinain a th' aig an leanab a' tighinn do'n sgoil, a ghabhas so a bhi deanta. Chan e mhàin sin ach mur a cùm sinn beò aire an leinibh agus mur a dùsg sinn a thlachd anns na nithean a tha sinn ag ionnsachadh dha cha bhi mòran pisich air ar saothair. Bhiodh e 'n aghaidh naduir gur cumadh tu aire an leinibh beo' no gun duiisgeadh tu a thlachd, mur a cleachdadh tu mar mheadhon gu so a dheanamh, a chàinnt a bhruidhneas agus a thuigeas e fhein.

Chan eil da dheanamh air a chùis nach ann tre chàinnt a mhàthar a theid aig an leinibh Ghàidhealach air an t-adhartas is motha a dheanamh ann an ionnsachadh foghlaim. Ma sgaras tu e bho'n chàinnt a dh'ionnsaich e aig giùin a mhathar chan eil ann deth ach "Bò mhaol ann am buaile choimhich."

Feumar a' Bheurla ionnsachadh dha a chuid 's a chuid, agus an tuilleadh 's an tuilleadh a thoirt da de'n chàinain sin mar a tha e ag éirigh suas ann am buadhan inntinn', gus fadheòidh an tig a' Bheurla gu bhi a' faighinn a cheud àite agus an àite is àirde 's an sgoil. Ach, an àinm an Aigh, na h-ionnsaich dha a' Bheurla air cosgus na Gàidhlig, ach gum b'ann a bhiodh au da chàinain, a' Ghàidhlig 's a' Bheurla, mar dha abhuinn, a thigeadh an ceann a cheile a' siubhal gu seimh socrach a dh'ionn-

saidh na mara agus ag radh ri cheile "Ce b'e co dh'fhàlbhas na thig, cha sgarar sinne gu maireann."

Ged nach biodh iartas 's am bith againn a' Ghàidhlig a chumail beò mar chàinain, gidheadh bu chòir dhuinn, a chùin math na cloinne, a' chàinnt so a chleachdadh mar mheadhon-teagasg, oir is ann á beatha thig beatha, agus chan fhàs an leanab ann an eòlas no ann an gliocas mur a bi frumhan an fhoghlaim ùir a tha sinn a toirt da a' faighinn greime 'na bheatha ghniomharraich fhein agus a deoghal aisde.

Ma tha sinn ag iarraidh gum biodh Beurla mhath aig ar cuid chloinne agus gum bruidheadh iad i gu snasail, comasach air feum a dheanamh de na gnathanas cainnte a bhùneas do'n chàinain sin, feumaidh sinn, aig a' cheart àm, an àite fhein a thoirt do na gnathanas cainnte a bhùneas do'n Ghàidhlig agus an tbeil sinn na's fhearr na dòighean anns am bheil an da chàinain a co-chòrdadh Carson a bhios muinntir an Taobh-deas gu tric a' fanoid air a' Bheurla againne? Tha, dìreach, gum bheil sinne a' deanamh mhearachd gu bitheanta ann an eadar-theangachadh air gnathanas cainnte na Gàidhlig gu Beurla. Agus ciod is coirach gum bheil sin mar sin? Tha, nach deach a' Bheurla ionnsachadh dhuinn 'nar n-òige tre chàinnt ar màthar, am meadhan is fear leis an gabh sin a bhi deanta le buaidh is piseach. Chan eil teagamh 's am bith far am faighear 's an Ghàidhealtachd òigridh a fhuair a' Bheurla ionnsachadh dhaibh le cuideachadh na Gàidhlig nach eil iad na's fileanta anns a' Bheurla na tha iadsan a chaidh a theagasg ann an àite 's an robh a' Ghàidhlig air a cur ann an suarachas.

Tha 'Ghàidhlig anns na sgoilean Gàidhealach a' meudachadh tuigse agus a' toirt am barrachd neirt do mhacmeanna na cloinne, agus aig a' cheart àm a' toirt geòiread inntinn' daibh agus 'gan deanamh na's freagarriche gu feum a dheanamh de gach ni eile a th' air a theagasg dhaibh 's an sgoil. Bha mac-meanna nan Gàidheal a riamh farsuing agus domhain, ach an uair a chailleas an Gàidheal a' Ghàidhlig tha e cinnteach nach bi a mhac-meanna aona chuid farsuing no domhain.

Gheibh thu daoine a chumas a mach riut nach eil reusan 'sam bith a bhi a' teagasg na Gàidhlig do chlann na Gàidhealtachd, oir tha aca dhith mar tha na ni gnòthach dhaibh. Tha iad sud a sior iarraidh oirnn Beurla gu leòir a theagasg do'n chloinn, ach gum ùine a chall a' teagasg na Gàidhlig, oir chan eil feum innte gu airgid a dheanamh. Nach iad luchd-tarcuis na Gàidhlig a tha falamb, a chàirdean!

Mur eil sinne a teagasg sion idir 's na sgoilean ach rudan a tha feumail gu airgid a dheanamh bithidh a bhuil air a cuid sgoilearan. Chan i crìoch àraidh an duine idir: "Faigh de Bheurla 's de dh' airgid na bheir an rathad thu."

Tha barrachd am am beatha an duine agus ann an riaghladh rìoghachd na Beurla le cuid airgid is marsantachd. Tha sinn ag aontachadh leotha gum bheil e air leth feumail gum biodh gach Gàidheal fileanta ann am bruidhinn na Beurla; ach their sinn so riutha, nach e an Gàidheal a tha deanamh dearmaid air càinnt a mhàthar is fileanta idir air labhairt na Beurla. Tha e gu tric a' tachairt gum bheil coimhliontachd ann an labhairt Gàidhlig agus fileantachd ann am bruidhinn Beurla a siubhal ceum air cheum cuideachd. Is ann a tha an dara càinain na cuideachadh mòr do'n chàinain eile; agus carson nach bitheadh.

C'àite am bheil bann na's treasa gu clanna nan Gàidheal a chumail ann an dlùth-cheangal ri chèile na'n chàinain a bh'aig na sinnsirean aca. Ma tha sin mar sin cumamaid suas i agus thugamaid i do'n chloinn 's na sgoilean; chan e a mhàin a cleachdadh mar mheadhon ann an teagasg nithean eile ach a gabhail mar chàinain air a ceann fhein, gus am bi an òigridh comasach air a leughadh, air a bruidhinn 's air a sgrìobhadh gu h-òrdail agus snasail.

An uair a tha 'n leanabh Gàidhealach air a theagasg na òige gu bhì ag cur càinain a mhàthar ann am briathran snasail air an taghadh gu cùramach tha e aig a' cheart àm air uidheamachadh 's air ullachadh gu a bhuanhan inntinn a shuidheachadh 's a shocrachadh air gach nì eile a th' aige ri thoirt leis no ri dheanamh—rud a sheasas dha fad a bheatha 'na ghluasadair cuir agus na chleachdadh inntinn'. Tha mar sin steidh air a leagail air am faod an leanabh àrd thogalaichean an eòlais 's an ghliocais a chur suas agus tha cothrom air a thoirt do'n leanabh fàs suas gu nadurach agus sìneadh a mach air a chuairt thalmhaidh, mar mhar-santa, mar fhoghlumaiche, no mar fhear-ceairde.

Tha sinn toilichte a radh gum bheil chùisean a thaobh na Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean mòran na's gealltanaiche na bha iad 'n uair a bha sinne òg, agus buinidh cliù na buadha sin do'n Chomunn Ghàidhealach air son gach òidhirp a rinn iad gu a h-aite dligheach fhaighinn do'n Ghàidhlig anns na sgoilean Gàidhealach. Taing do Shealbh gur h-urrainn duinn a nise a radh gum bheil càinnt ar mathar a' togail a cinn gu h-àrd, agus nach math gum bheil,

oir mur a biodh is ann iosal, da rìreadh, le nàire bu chòir do na cinn againne a bhith.

Ma nì na parantan agus luchd-teagaisg an cleasdanas agus ma chumas an Comunn air adhart mar a tha e an diugh bithidh a' Ghàidhlig fhathast mar a bha i 'na ban-rìgh air Tir nan Gleann, s nam Beann 's nan Gaisgeach.

DONNACHADH DOMHNALLACH.

WAULKING SONGS.

After nearly a quarter of a century spent in listening for, writing down, and singing the songs of Gaeldom, I have come to the conclusion, that among them there are none more interesting, more ancient, nor more captivating than the labour lilt with the syllable-refrains.

Their general form is fairly stable, but what variety within that form! What ingenuity, what artistic inventiveness, the old melody-makers must have had!

We hear them now mostly from the women who still, here and there, sing at "waulkings." But the songs must have been used, at one time, for all sorts of communal work. And, also, for the sheer joy of singing together, folk must have "lifted" the tunes at any time or season.

At such times, songs of all sorts, joyous or sad, are laid under contribution, but such unison singing of a song in chorus does not, I find, always indicate its true character. Sometimes, a sadly beautiful, pathetic air which I have heard from a singer seated alone in her cottage, I have afterwards heard in chorus completely changed in character, spurred on to fit the mad tossing of the web along the waulking board. But the solo-sung version of the song was its correct interpretation. Such cases, however, are the exception. The waulking songs proper are framed for a rhythmic ruthlessness of forward-driving movement.

These waulkings are invaluable functions for the preservation of traditional song, and we should do all we can to help their survival. Once they pass away completely, it may be very difficult to revive them. There are still,

in the remote Isles, women who have the songs in memory, and with them, and with the rhythm of the work, can inspire the younger women to join in and learn to carry on the tradition in their turn.

I have been thinking of this, and of how we can best help to preserve the custom, and with it the songs.

If the competitive Festival (Mod) form of encouragement were put into motion, we could not expect the Isleswomen, housemothers as they are, to travel to the centres. The adjudicators would have to travel to them, not they to the adjudicators.

A little while ago a waulking was got up specially for me in Barra. Now, there, the home-weaving is dying out, and with it the waulking. Many of the young Gaelic-speaking folk, indeed, had never seen nor heard a waulking. But there were still about a dozen of the older women to be found in the Isle, who had all the traditions alike of the songs and of the cloth manipulating, and we had a long-to-be-remembered night of it in the schoolhouse at North Bay.

Now, might not a similar night or nights be got up in Eriskay, say, the Uists and Benbecula, not to mention Harris and Lewis, the adjudicator or adjudicators, moving from Island to Island recording their impressions, and giving their final awards as between the various Islands.

A real waulking is valuable alike to those taking part, and to those merely looking on. For the singers, the associated bodily movements recall airs and refrains well-nigh forgotten, both the memory and the musical sense being stimulated by the work and by the social gathering. For the looker on, such as myself, (although I have taken a hand at the cloth on occasion) there is the chance of hearing songs from a woman who might not easily recall the same in the grey light of morning. For the waulking festival must always take place after dark, in artificial light, and with all the air of a festive, not of a work-a-day function. The schoolhouse at the North end of Barra is equipped already with a good waulking board, and high forms running down each side for the waulking women. Are there centres in the other Outer Isles where such provision is made or could easily be contrived.

MARJORY KENNEDY FRASER,
C.B.E., Mus. Doc.

NATIONAL MOD,

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.

With the object of assisting to swell the funds necessary for the successful promotion of the Gaelic Mod, to be held in Perth next October, a large and representative committee, comprising well-known county and city people, have arranged to hold a Highland Ball in the City Halls on April 12. Every endeavour is to be made to ensure that the real Highland atmosphere will permeate the function. Tickets will cost 15s.; spectators will be given access to the gallery on payment of a small charge.

Lord James Stewart Murray is convener of the committee, and is supported by Mrs. Alasdair MacGregor of Cardney; Mrs. Stirling of Keir; Mrs. A. K. McLeod; Mrs. Clerk Rattray; Mrs. T. Love; Mrs. R. Pinkerton; Colonel W. Gray; Mrs. John Wood, who is convener of the General Committee; with Mr. T. Harris Hunter, 1 Eden Terrace, Edinburgh Road, as hon. secretary. Mrs. Tom Love, Bellwood, has been appointed convener of the Catering Committee.

The Gaelic Society are to do everything in their power to make the project a success, and are hopeful of good support.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday, 24th January, and the following members were present:

Mr. John R. Bannerman, Rahane; ex-Bailie Alexr. Beaton, Perth; Miss Campbell of Inverneill; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Captain George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Mr. Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach; Mr. Donald MacDonald, Glasgow; Mr. John MacIntyre, Glasgow; Miss Flora MacKinnon, Glasgow; Mr. Alastair C. MacLaren, Dalmally; Mr. James MacLaren, Glasgow; Mr. Murdoch MacLean, Wishaw; Mr. Neil MacLean, Aberdeen; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Mr. Malcolm MacLeod Glasgow; Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearanbeg; Mr. Neil Orr, Edinburgh; Mr. H. S. Shield, Edinburgh; Mr. Colin Sinclair, Glasgow; with Mr. Robert MacFarlane, Treasurer; Mr. Neil Shaw, General

Secretary, and Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

In the absence of the President, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Vice-President was called to the Chair. Prior to commencing the business of the meeting Miss Campbell referred to the great thankfulness with which they learned of the improvement in the health of the King. She also referred to the death of Mrs. Watson, Edinburgh, one of the earliest members of An Comunn, and an earnest and devoted worker on behalf of Gaelic interests. The meeting agreed to send a minute of sympathy to Professor Watson and family.

The Secretary read minute of the previous meeting which was adopted and intimated apologies for absence from several members of the Council.

Two minutes of the Finance Committee were read by the Treasurer, and it was announced that the Inverness Mod had realised a credit balance of £842 2s. 7d.

The Education Committee reported that it was decided to hold this year's Summer School of Gaelic at Port Ellen, Islay, from 24th July till 14th August, and it was agreed to have two classes for Gaelic: one class for Celtic Art, and one class for Gaelic Music. Rev. Malcolm MacLeod intimated that Gaelic was now systematically taught in Highland Schools as follows:—Inverness-shire 136, Ross-shire 72, Sutherlandshire 13, Bute 1. The report from Argyllshire was not available, but assuming the Argyllshire returns to be the same as last year, there were now over 290 schools where Gaelic was one of the subjects taught.

A letter was read from Mr. James Allan, B.Sc., Rector of Kilsyth Academy, urging the Committee to take up the question of standardising Gaelic pronunciation. It was resolved to take no action in the matter meantime. Arising out of the discussion, Mr. Neil MacLean made the suggestion that some effort should be made by persons interested in the language to introduce new words to be employed in connection with scientific and technical subjects. Members were invited to send such new words as would occur to them to the Education Committee for their consideration with a view to their being published in the magazine.

Two minutes of the Propaganda Committee were read and approved. In moving the adoption, Mr. Charles Campbell, in the absence of the Convener Dr. G. W. MacKay, referred to the sum of £1000 that was asked for furthering the work of the Committee. The major part of this amount would be used in connection with singing classes, while the remainder would

be allocated between the two Sub-Committees to cover travelling and incidental expenses. He pointed out that half of the amount spent on Singing Classes was expected to be repaid. The Council agreed to place this sum at the disposal of the Propaganda Committee.

On the suggestion of Mr. MacLean it was agreed that the Propaganda Committee should offer its services in an advisory capacity in connection with the choice of speakers and subjects for broadcasting purposes. The Chairman conveyed to Mr. MacLean their sense of indebtedness for his services in this connection. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod suggested that the B.B.C. be written to, thanking them for the place which they were giving Gaelic in their programmes, and expressing the hope that this policy would be continued, and extended. This was agreed to.

Mr. Colin Sinclair suggested that the Committee might consider the formulating of certain practical reasons why children should be taught Gaelic, and embody these suggestions on a printed leaflet. The members of An Comunn understood why children should be taught Gaelic, but the man in the street did not, and it was very important that he should.

The Art and Industry Committee's minute was submitted. Further particulars in connection with the Rug-making project were intimated, and it was reported that the work was proceeding satisfactorily at Ness, Lewis, under the guidance of Miss Jane MacLeod. The Committee recommended that Celtic Art Competitions be again proceeded with this year, these including: (1) A poster advertising the Mod. (2) Christmas Cards. (3) Leatherwork. (4) Needlework.

The Secretary submitted the Mod and Music Committee's minute, which showed that the services of Mr. H. Plunkett Greene had been secured as one of the music adjudicators at the forthcoming Mod.

The meeting considered a motion by Mr. Neil Orr:—

"That all the members of a choir competing for the Lovat and Tullibardine must pass a test in Gaelic conversation or reading."

Speaking to his motion, Mr. Orr said this meant that one hundred per cent. of any choir competing, instead of fifty as at present, should have some knowledge of Gaelic. The present choirs might be described as patch-work or mongrel choirs.

Mr. A. Fraser, Bishopton, seconded.

An amendment that the subject matter of the motion be remitted to the Mod and Music Committee for consideration and

report, was moved by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, and seconded by Mr. Neil MacLean, and without going to the vote, was accepted by the meeting.

Captain George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth, spoke to the following motion, of which he had given notice :—

“That in future An Comunn, the amount of whose business is yearly increasing, should accept the principle of County Councils and Education Authorities, and hold all Committee Meetings prior to, but in the same place as the Executive Council is to be held, even though it may not be possible to overtake all the business in one day if adequate time be allowed for the work of each Committee. Emergency Meetings only may be called at other times and in other places.”

Mr. Fraser, Bishopton, seconded, with the proviso that it did not apply to the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Colquhoun, Glasgow, moved an amendment that the meetings be held in Glasgow, as it was impossible to give time to them in Stirling, but this found no seconder.

Another amendment was moved by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, that the present arrangement stand.

This was seconded by Mr. Donald Macdonald, Glasgow, and was carried by 19 votes to 4.

Before the members left, this having completed the business, Mr. Neil Orr, for their information read a letter which had been addressed to him by a Miss Mary Pray in Massachusetts, asking particulars on behalf of herself and some other American friends as to how they might attend the next Gaelic Summer School to be held in Scotland. She added that she lived in the Isle of Skye some years ago and Gaelic had always interested her.

Mr. Orr said he had replied, giving the necessary information, and the meeting expressed gratification at the receipt of such an encouraging communication.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

I have, since my last report, covered a good deal of Highland territory, and addressed many meetings.

On 1st February I attended a Ceilidh of the recently formed Branch at Fort Augustus. The Rev. A. MacIntyre, U.F.C., President, was in the Chair, and Miss Bowie, Secretary, with the Committee had arranged a splendid programme, the most interesting of which was the *Luadhadh*, performed by members of the Branch. It was most encouraging to know

that 21 new members were enrolled that evening, bringing the total up to 175. Several members of the Invergarry Branch were present.

I paid a visit to the Kilmodan Branch on 6th February, and was accompanied by Miss Cathie M. Clark. We travelled via Wemyss Bay to Dunoon, where we were met by Mrs. Burnley Campbell's car and conveyed to Ormidale House, and were guests there during our stay in the “Glen.” Unfortunately, owing to a chill, Mrs. Burnley Campbell was unable to perform her duties as President at the Ceilidh in Stronafian School, but Mrs. MacNaughton deputised and carried through the meeting splendidly. There was a very large turn-out of members and friends, and the programme was excellent. There is keen demand for a teacher of singing to prepare choirs and soloists for the Cowal Mod, but the Propaganda Committee have fewer teachers at their command than last year.

Responding to an invitation to form a Branch at Dalmally I travelled thence on 8th February. Mr. John C. Campbell, Doire Chuilinn, had made arrangements for the meeting which was held in the Hall, and over which Mr. George Marjoribanks of Sonachan presided. He opened the meeting in Gaelic, and after the customary addresses in Gaelic and English by myself a Branch was formed. Mr. Marjoribanks is President, and Mr. Campbell, Secretary. Thirteen people paid membership subscriptions, and 19 intimated their intention of enrolling at the next meeting. Gaelic songs were contributed by several members. The Gaelic singing class, conducted by Miss Irene MacCowan, is well attended, and it is hoped to send a choir to Perth. The name of this new Branch is Glenorchy.

On Saturday morning (9th) I took train to Stirling, and joined the Inverness train there at 2.17. I was met at Inverness on my arrival by Mr. Donald MacDonald and Mr. John N. MacLeod, Convener, and secretary respectively of the northern sub-committee. I accompanied Mr. MacLeod to Kirkhill, arriving there about 9.30 p.m. On Sunday evening I returned to Inverness, and on Monday morning proceeded to Garve. Miss Isobel MacKenzie, late teacher at Kinlochluichart, made all arrangements for the meeting, and despite the severe cold and high wind I had an audience of 80 people. Mrs. Stirling of Strathgarve presided, and a fine programme of Gaelic songs and instrumental music was provided. A pleasing feature of the programme was the singing of “Puirt-a-beul” by the school children, conducted by Miss Smith, teacher.

A Branch was formed with Mrs. MacKenzie, The Hotel, as President, and Miss MacKenzie, Alderbank, as Secretary, *pro tem*. This Branch will be known as the Strathgarve Branch. It is intended to have weekly Reading and Singing Classes.

On the 12th I returned to Dingwall, and interviewed officials of the Branch there, viz., Captain Finlayson, Chief Constable; Mr. George Souter, Treasurer; Mr. D. Macdonald, Secretary, and Dean of Guild John MacRae, one of our most active members in the north. A Ceilidh was arranged for the 15th, but owing to previously arranged meetings in Sutherland I could not alter my plans to attend. This Branch has over 140 members, and the Gaelic Class, conducted by Mr. Alistair Fraser, Dingwall Academy, is attended by 50 members. A similar number attends the Gaelic Music Class conducted by Mr. John MacRae.

I proceeded with the 4.5 train in the evening to Bonar Bridge, and was at the school at 7 p.m. This particular corner of Sutherland suffered severely from the universal epidemic, the 'flu, and consequently the meeting was sparsely attended, only 6 people being present. I could not form a Branch under the circumstances, but the names of 17 people, known to be in favour of a Branch, were noted, and Mr. Alex. Munro, Inspector of Poor, kindly undertook to convene a meeting on a later date and, if so desired, form a Branch of An Comunn. Those present were very much in favour of having this Year's Sutherland Provincial Mod held at Bonar Bridge. This, of course, was not in my power to grant or refuse, and the Northern sub-committee have now the matter in hand.

I arrived at Dornoch by train at 2.45, an hour behind scheduled time, and was met by Mr. H. F. Campbell, whose guest I was during my stay. We visited Balvraid in the evening, and had an interview with Miss Ria Miller, Secretary of the very flourishing local Branch. A Gaelic Reading Class has been carried on all winter, and the Balvraid-Embo Gaelic Choir has been kept in practice during the whole session. Mr. R. Barron, H.M.I.S. was to lecture to the members on the 15th, and they were having their big Ceilidh on the 22nd. I am sorry I could not attend, but the Branch is well organised, and the work goes on splendidly.

I addressed an audience of over 30 people at Dornoch on the evening of the 13th, after my return from Balvraid, on the subject, "Orain Mhóra." Dr. MacLachlan presided, and at the close of the song lecture, short

addresses were given by Rev. Dr. Bentick, Mr. H. F. Campbell, and Bailie Campbell.

The following day (14th) was Fast Day at Golspie, but the Rev. John MacKenzie, U.F.C. with whom I had been in correspondence, did not think that a Branch could be carried on successfully without frequent visits from members of An Comunn.

I had a very encouraging meeting in Torbreck Hall in Rogart, on Friday 15th, Mr. John Campbell, Bank House, Lairg, presiding. The Rogart Gaelic Choir rendered some fine Gaelic songs, and other members contributed some nice solos. After reviewing the work of An Comunn I repeated the talk I gave at Dornoch on the "Orain Mhóra." A number of the songs were quite new to most of the audience. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. Sutherland and Mr. William Gunn, and a happy gathering was closed with the singing of the National Anthem in Gaelic.

I proceeded that night to Lairg, and on Saturday morning set about interviewing those members who carried through the Mod so successfully last year and previous years, viz.:—Mr. Davidson, Mr. W. G. M. MacLeod, Mr. A. MacKintosh and Mr. Angus MacNeill. All are as keenly interested in the Mod as in previous years, and in co-operation with the Northern Sub-Committee at Inverness, there is every indication that this year's Mod will equal its predecessors. But to attain this a teacher must be secured and sent to the County immediately.

I returned to Inverness on Saturday 16th, and remained over the week-end as the guest of the Convener, Mr. Donald MacDonald.

On Monday morning (18th), Colonel Gilbert Gunn motored with me to Knockbain, where we interviewed Mr. John N. MacLeod on matters connected with my tour in the Northern area. I left Inverness at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and travelled per motor bus to Fort William, where I arrived at 7.30 p.m.

The forenoon of the 19th was given over to writing report and letters, and in the evening I proceeded to Onich where a fine Ceilidh was held in the Hall. The proceedings were carried on in Gaelic, and local members contributed solos, readings, choral singing, step dancing, and bagpipe music. Ex-Provost Stewart and Dr. MacIver, Fort William, and Mr. J. A. MacIntyre, Glenfinnan, were present, the doctor contributing several humorous Gaelic stories. This Branch owes its existence to the enthusiasm of Mr. John MacNeill and Mr. Archd. Cameron, and their efforts are much appreciated by the community.

I travelled to Morar on the 20th, calling at Arisaig on the way. The meeting was arranged by Canon MacNeill, but he was, that week, attending meetings of the Education Authority at Inverness. He left a note assuring me of his personal support. Mr. Simon MacDonald, Mallaig, presided, and a Branch was formed with Canon MacNeill as President, and Mr. D. J. Boyd, M.A., Mallaig, as Secretary.

The Rev. Father Malcolm MacKinnon presided over the meeting at Arisaig on the evening of the 21st. A Branch was formed with the chairman as President, and Mrs. A. MacEachan, Seaview, as Secretary.

The members of the Lochelshire Branch turned out in full force to my meeting there on the 22nd. Mr. Donald MacMillan, Corrybeg, presided, and a splendid programme was gone through. This little Branch has regular meetings, and its members are very enthusiastic. This closes my present tour for the Northern Sub-Committee.

I have to thank the many kind friends who made this tour so pleasant for me, and to whose enthusiasm in the cause we are so much indebted for successful meetings.

NIALL.

A particularly gratifying feature of the 5th Annual Gaelic Service held in the University on Sunday afternoon last, was the very large congregation that assembled. The Rev. Hector MacLean, M.A., Strath, Skye, was the preacher, and Sir Donald MacAlister, Bart., of Tarbert, the venerable Principal of the University, along with Mr. Ronald MacLeod, Vice-President of the Ossianic Society, read the lessons. The St. Columba Gaelic Choir led the praise, and there was a dignity about the service that fittingly became the occasion.

A meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, at Aberfoyle, on the evening of 13th February, Mr. Malcolm MacIntyre, Schoolmaster, presiding. The hall was well filled with an interested and sympathetic audience. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod spoke on the work of An Comunn, and a programme of Gaelic songs and violin music was provided by Mrs. J. B. Dunlop and friends from Glasgow. At the close of the meeting it was unanimously and enthusiastically resolved to form a Branch of An Comunn.

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CELTIC ART DESIGN COMPETITIONS.

1.—Design for a Poster to advertise the Annual Mod.

The Design to be in Black, with one additional colour, and to contain the following :

"AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

AM MOD. (*In large letters.*)

The Annual Gaelic Mod will be held

At

On

The Badge of An Comunn Gaidhealach should be incorporated in the design.

The overall size of the Poster to be 35 inches high by 22½ inches broad. Prize, £5.

2.—A Card in three colours, to convey Christmas and New Year Greetings.

Dimensions overall—6½ inches by 4½ inches.

The Design shall contain the words—

"NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL AGUS BLIADHNA MHATH UR DHIUBH" with the phrase "FAILTE 'S FURAN" as a subsidiary salutation.

The lettering should be in Celtic character of rendering; and the card should be designed to be read in a vertical position, *i.e.*, the narrow edges forming the top and bottom. Prize—£2.

The prize-winning designs in the above Competitions shall become the property of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

3.—Leather Work. Pochette.

For reproduction of Design No. 171B, "Kilkerran, Argyll."

The work to be embossed in leather.

Competitors are asked to have two copies of design placed horizontally on flap.

Size of Pochette, 9½ inches by 6½ inches approximately, and it should have gussets and thonged margins. Prizes—1st, £1 10s.; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s.

4.—Needlework.

Reproduction in colour of Design No. 159.

Suitable for tea cosy, table centre, etc.

Article left to choice of competitor.

Prizes—1st, £1 10s.; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s.

NOTE.—Designs and Articles must reach the Secretary, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2, not later than 31st August, 1929.

All Work should be delivered in packages containing sealed envelope bearing pen-name on the outside, and the name and address of author within. In

competitions 1 and 2 designs must be submitted flat and between cardboards.

In the event of any of the work submitted not reaching, in the opinion of the adjudicators, a sufficiently high standard, the prizes may not be awarded.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

Arrangements in connection with the Summer School of Gaelic to be held at Port Ellen, Islay, from the 24th July, till 14th August, are proceeding satisfactorily. A large and enthusiastic Committee has been formed with Miss Morag MacEachern, Frederick Crescent, as local Secretary. A list of Boarding Houses has been prepared and given below. It is desired that intending students should make early application for accommodation, and tariff direct. A pleasing feature is that with one exception all proprietors are Gaelic speakers.

HOTELS.

The Islay Hotel, Port Ellen, Islay, Proprietor, Mr. M. Campbell.

Commercial Temperance Hotel, Port Ellen, Proprietor, Mr. M. Mac-Gillivray.

Quinting Temperance Hotel, Port Ellen, Proprietor, Mrs. Quintin.

White Hart Hotel, Port Ellen, Proprietor, Miss MacKechnie.

PRIVATE LODGINGS.

Mrs. Campbell, Pier House, Port Ellen.

Mrs. Sinclair, Pier Road, Port Ellen.

Mrs. Henny, "Lilleville", Port Ellen.

Mrs. N. MacMillan, Charlotte Street, Port Ellen.

Mrs. MacEachern, 29 Charlotte Street, Port Ellen.

BODACH AN RATHAID.

LE D. URCHADAN, A.M.

Bha easlaint' orm agus thug mi sgrìobh a' lorg lusan a dheanadh slainte dhomh mar gheall an lighiche. Co thachair rium ach bodach an rathaid an dèigh a h-uile ròineag a spuilleadh as na dìgean le corran? Bheannaich sinn an la dha chéil, agus an sin thuit mi ris gur e chuir an call orm mar chuir e as da na luibhean beannaichte a bha mi a' sireadh. "De an fheadhaiun bha dhith oirbh?" ars esan. "Bha am Bearnan-Brìghde agus barr nan deanntag." "Ne biodh curam oirbhe, a charaid choir. Fàsaide an ath bhàrr an aithghearr, ach mur eil h

mimhodhail dhomhs' fhaighneachd, de an feum tha anns na deanntagan co-dhiubh?" "Tha an da luibh air am bruich comhla, agus tha an sùgh air òl fìor mhath air tinneas nan airnean agus tinneas a chridh a leasachadh." "Ma tha," ars am bodach, "tha am barrachd leighis an cois dìgean an rathaid na is fìosrach do'n t-sluagh bhochd a tha a' fulang le galair. Innsidh mise rud eile dhuibh. Bha mise uair an eiginn mhóir le gun do thuit a' chioch-shlugain agam. Bha bean mhath aig an robh Eolas na Triànaid a' fuireach thall an so. Leigheiseadh i a h-uile h-eucail ach am bàs. Chaidh mise far an robh i agus thug i gu crois an rathaid mi agus thug i dhomh bileag no dhà de Mac-Rìgh-Bheatuinn ri chagnadh. Bha mi ga mo mhùchadh agus cha b'urrainn mi smid a' radh, ach mu'n d-rainig mi dhachaidh bha an trioblaid air m'fhagail." Agus gu dearbh chan 'eil dhith smid air a' bhodach bho'n la sin. Tha an teanga aige a' bleith mar chlach-mhuillein agus an intinn aige a' meorachadh le loinnearachd air gach ni mu'n iadh a'ghrian. Tha am bodach cho soilleir na bheachdan agus nach téid maor no ministear seachd gun greis chéilidh a dheanamh leis. Mun do fhàg mi e co thàinig an rathad ach gille òg snasail a bha foghlumte grinn. An uair a dh'fhalbh e thuit am bodach, "Sìod agaibh mac mo pheathar. Tha e a' dol na mhinistear anns an Eaglais Steidhichte, ach chan eil cothrom agamsa air sin. Seall sibh-se, a charaid, is e leth-phluthar dhomhsa bu mhathair dha agus cha robh math dhomh comhairle thoirt oirre." Is ann de'n Eaglais Shaoir a bha 'm bodach! Thàinig an sin fear air rothair. Leum e nuas far an robh sinn. Chuir e 'aghaidh air bodach an rathaid agus e a' sguabadh leabhair bhig dhuibh amach as a phocaid agus peann dubh le gob òir air, agus bha e fhéin a' cheart cho dubh sin. "C'ainm a th'ort?" ars esan ri Bodach-an-rathaid. "Chan'eil nàire sam bith orm sin innsadh, thuit am bodach, "ach chan'eil mi idir a' tuigsinn car son tha sibh-se a' fhaighneachd cho stàirneil." "Nach 'eil fhios agad idir," ars am fear dubh, "co ris tha thu a' bruidhinn? Is e mise maor an fhearainn; agus feumaidh tu bruidhinn modhail riun-sa." "Ma tha," ars am Bodach, "gabh romhad. Chan'eil gnothuch sam bith agamsa ri fearann. 'S ann tha mo chridhe cùirte a' faicinn an theoir ghuium a' fàs air an rathad-mhór le dhith nan daoine a' sìgurs maor is uachdarain do dhuth-channan céin. Is ann le corran tha mise ag obair air an rathad an diugh, agus mo luchd-duthcha agus mo chairdean gaoil fada bhuam air taobh thall an t-saoghail a' seinn le cuimhne thlàth, "Thug mi an oidhche raoir 'san airigh, 'agus an àirigh fada fada, air falbh."

BOOK REVIEW.

CARMINA GADELICA. Hymns and Incantations, with Illustrative Notes on Words, Rites and Customs, Dying and Obsolete. Orally collected in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and translated into English by Alexander Carmichael, LL.D. 2 vols., 8 vo., 372 + 400 pp., 32/- net. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh and London.

The first edition, which appeared in 1899, soon ran out of print, and became rare and expensive. This new edition is beautifully printed, and the price is most reasonable. It contains all the material in the early volumes, and slight mistakes have been rectified. The new volumes were prepared for the press by Mrs. Watson, wife of the Professor of Celtic in Edinburgh. She was Dr. Carmichael's daughter. But Mrs. Watson died when the books were being printed. She herself was a fine Celtic scholar, and edited "The Celtic Review" for twelve years. She wrote the preface to the new volumes.

The piety of the faithful in the early Celtic Church found expression in hymns which survived in the western isles to a date quite recent. Dr. Carmichael arrived just in time to collect a large number of these ancient pieces. He concentrated on the literary side. No doubt the hymns were sung to certain airs. A few of the airs have been rescued. But it would be well if some musical expert with a love for the subject could still go over the ground to save the melodies that may survive in the outer isles to this day.

The devotion and polish of the verses indicate that the authors had some culture, and we infer that the authors were men of learning, such as monks or preachers. Certainly the theology of the early Celtic Church is evident in the hymns. But there are traces of ideas older even than Christianity. The frequent references to the sun, moon, and stars point to old mythology. The charm which makes a person invisible (p. 24 of vol. II.) remind us of the power possessed by Manannán, the Sea God. By waving his mantle he could surround his favourite island, the Isle of Man, with a fog to hide it from pirates. The virtues of a pagan god are transferred to Christian saints.

The reality of early faith is shown by invocations of blessing on every form of activity—such manual toil as household tasks, sowing and reaping, milking and herding, fishing and hunting, spinning, weaving, walking—indeed, there is no form of labour but comes under the boon of benediction. And there are lovely fragments of song for sacred days. Of this type are the Christmas Hail and the Song of Hogmanay, the Day of Columba, and the Genealogy of Bride. The English translations are faithful and elegant; but it is only fair to state that, elegant as they are, they often fall short of the grace and charm of the original.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BALVRAID.—On Tuesday evening, the 29th inst., under the auspices of An Comunn, Rev. W. Macleod, F.C., Dornoch, gave a lecture in Balvraid School on "Norse Influence on the Highlands." In spite of the epidemic of influenza in the district, there was a good turnout of members and others.

Mr. W. Grant, President of the Balvraid Branch, acted as chairman. Mr. Macleod treated his subject in an able and masterly manner, and the anecdotes with which he interspersed his lecture were both interesting and amusing.

BENDERLOCH.—A pleasant ceilidh was held in the Victory Hall recently by the members and friends. Rev. Alex. MacDonald, the President, was chairman over a good attendance, and read a Gaelic poem on the Isle of Skye. An English translation was also given. The programme was sustained by Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. MacKenzie (violin selections); Miss MacLucas, Miss Cameron, Mrs. MacColl, and Mr. John MacDonald (Gaelic songs); and Mr. P. MacDonald (Gaelic reading). Tea was served by the ladies, assisted by Messrs. Black, MacArthur, and MacFarlane. A dance followed, music being supplied by Miss Irene MacCowan and Mrs. Kennedy (piano), Messrs. MacKenzie and Scott (violin), and Mr. D. MacLaurin (melodeon). Mr. MacArthur acted as M.C. Votes of thanks were accorded to all the artistes, and to Misses MacKinnon, Carmichael, and Crerar, who were in charge of the arrangements.—Miss Irene MacCowan, Oban, has again taken over the singing class in the Kiel Schoolroom. There has been up till now a good attendance, and the test songs for the forthcoming Mod are being practised.

DINOWALL.—Gaelic has received a much needed flip in Dingwall by the formation of a branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Captain Finlayson, the President, presided at a ceilidh held in the Temperance Hotel last week, and which was attended by over a hundred people. A most enjoyable programme was arranged by Mrs. Macrae, Heatherley, and Mr. Alistair Fraser, and was contributed to by the following:—Misses Sinclair, Beaton, and MacKenzie, Mrs. Mackenzie, Dean of Guild Macrae, and Mr. A. Fraser, dentist. Mr. D. Urquhart, Drumsittal, who has done so much for Gaelic in the Highlands, gave an address in Gaelic, which was greatly appreciated. Mr. D. MacDonald and Dr. Galbraith also spoke. Votes of thanks were awarded to the artistes on the call of Mr J. Campbell, banker, while Bailie Macleannan called for thanks to the ladies who had provided the tea, and to Captain Finlayson for presiding. A Gaelic class and a Gaelic singing class have been formed, the former to be taught by Mr. Alistair Fraser and the latter by Dean of Guild Macrae.

DUNOON.—This branch of An Comunn held their Old New Year ceilidh on 11th January in the Imperial Hall, Dunoon.—Mr. Donald MacDonald, the President, in the chair. The meeting was opened with a selection on the bagpipes by Piper John Smith, and the company sang "Suas leas a Gaidhlig." The lecture for the evening was "The '45; Jacobite Song and Story," given by Mr. John MacCallum, Inellan, assisted by a number of singers, etc. Jacobite songs were sung by Mrs. MacClure, Misses Jean Gallacher and Cathie Lyons, and Messrs. John MacCallum, Peter Bell, and Neville Lyons; Gaelic-Jacobite songs by Misses Jean Gallacher and Morag MacEwan. The company thoroughly enjoyed the stirring tunes of "the '45." The pianists were Misses Moore and Stewart. After the usual votes of thanks, the evening was brought to a close by the company singing the National Anthem in Gaelic. A dance followed, at which Ben Freeman's Dance Band played.

FORT AUGUSTUS.—The Drill Hall housed a very large and enthusiastic gathering representative of the village and district last Friday, the occasion

being the second ceilidh held under the auspices of the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach. Rev. Angus MacIntyre, U.F. Church, presided. The feature of an excellent programme was the lecture given by Rev. Fr. Cyril Von Deickhoff, O.S.B., entitled "Gaelic Place-Names." An able Gaelic scholar—a fact which often surprises many people since the rev. gentleman is Russian by birth—Rev. Fr. Cyril Von Deickhoff was thoroughly at home with his subject, which he treated in a concise and altogether instructive and interesting manner. A musical programme was afterwards submitted. The Fort Augustus branch of An Comunn has now over 140 members. Hearty votes of thanks to all those who helped to make the ceilidh a success were accorded at the close.

GLENEG.—The activities of the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach have been attended with marked success this session. The weekly ceilidhs presided over by Mrs. MacTaggart, The Manse, Glenelg, are well attended and highly appreciated from the cultural and musical standpoints. The subject of the opening ceilidh was an address by Mrs. MacTaggart on the National Mod, at which she was present. Miss Cameron, hon. secretary of the branch, also spoke. The subjects at subsequent ceilidhs were "The Wanderings of Prince Charlie in the Western Isles," an address ably given by Mrs. MacTaggart. A subject of local interest was dealt with in a further lecture, "The Antiquities of Glenelg." Glenelg can boast of antiquities which have been subjects of archaeological study. There are fine specimens of Pictish brochs situated in the picturesque little glen (Glenbeg). Excavations have been carried out in the vicinity of the brochs, and articles have been found which throw considerable light on that remote period. In Glenmore there is still to be seen a hill fort in such a good state of preservation that an accurate description could be given of its structure. Mrs. MacTaggart varied her address by relating legends in connection with these far off times. The Bernera Barracks, gaunt and roofless, are a memorial of the ill-starred Jacobites. They were built in 1719, and command a view of the Sound of Sleat and the hazy eminences of the Isle of Skye. Each evening a musical programme was sustained. The branch is fortunate in having secured the services of Mrs. Scott, one of An Comunn's music teachers. Mrs. Scott is the daughter of the late Mr. Henry Whyte, a noted Celtic writer and composer of songs. That charming song, "Caisteal a Ghlinne," is one of his compositions. There is a large and enthusiastic class, and good work is anticipated. A concert was given by members of An Comunn—Major Mackintosh in the chair. A fine selection of songs (mostly Gaelic) were rendered by the performers, also bagpipe, violin, and piano music. The play chosen was "Am Fear a' chail a' Ghaidhlig," and its humour was thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Cameron is to be congratulated on the way she trains her young actors. A special feature was the playing and singing of Mrs. Scott (Miss Anetta C. Whyte), who is instructing a music class here at present. The thanks of the community are due to Mrs. Mackintosh, The Hotel, who has kindly lent her piano for the use of the singing class.

KILLIN.—At a ceilidh of the Gaelic-speaking members of the branch, Mr. John Macdonald, M.A., Glasgow, read an exceedingly able Gaelic paper on 31st January. The subject was "Lean qu dlùth ri cliù do skinnoir." At a ceilidh held on 15th February, Rev. Dr. Mackay, the President of the branch, delivered a song-lecture (Gaelic songs),

illustrated by Mr. John Morrison, Glasgow, and members of the branch. The last ceilidh for the season will be held on Friday, 22nd March.

LAGGAN.—The third ceilidh of the present session, under the auspices of the Laggan branch, was held in the Old School at Balgown recently. Rev. Dr. Ross occupied the chair. The accommodation was taxed to the full since the weather was favourable, and these meetings have an old charm which bring one back to the peat fire and the clachan of ancient times. The programme contained many Gaelic and some English songs, as well as instrumental music. The vocal contributors were Mrs. Gibson, Miss Graham, Miss Mary Macdonald, Miss Ross, Messrs. Cattanach, Cameron, Duff, Hamilton, Macdonald, and Macintosh. Several members of the Laggan Gaelic Choir sang an old Gaelic song in several parts. The effect was very striking. Violin selections were given by the Laggan String Band, Messrs W. and A. Macpherson and Donald Cameron. Mr. Dick Macgregor played several selections on the bagpipes. In the middle of the proceedings tea was served under the direction of Miss Margaret Macdonald. A silver collection was taken for incidental expenses. The ceilidh was a most successful event, and the time passed all too quickly.

LEODHAI.—The Leodhais branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach held what was probably the best patronised meeting of the session in the Masonic Hall on Friday. A feature of the programme was the number of artistes new to a ceilidh audience. This in no way detracted from its standard nor value, however, and we hope to hear much more of those who have made such an auspicious beginning. Each item was enthusiastically enored, particularly Misses Morrison and Macleod, Galson, who were recalled again and again. Miss Maciver, musical convener, is to be congratulated on the success of the evening—a result in no small measure also contributed to by the singing of Mr. Ferguson, An Comunn's music teacher. Miss Morrison and her capable staff rendered excellent help in preparing and dispensing tea. Mr. D. Macdonald presided with his usual urbanity, while Mr. Angus Macdonald eloquently moved the vote of thanks. It is to be noted that Mr. Ferguson has commenced classes in Carloway and Shawbost this week. It is hoped that full advantage be taken of these, so that the branch may be encouraged to proceed with similar arrangements in other districts.

NEWTONMORE.—Mr. A. Macdonald presided at the first ceilidh of the year of the Newtonmore branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach in the Public Hall, when a very interesting address was given by Rev. Mr. Lamont, Blair Atholl, on the subject of "Ceilidhs in the Highlands in Olden Times." Gaelic songs and recitations were contributed by Miss K. Grant, Miss J. Cattanach, and Messrs. Malcolm Macdonald and John Wright. Violin selections by Mr. A. Curley, and a duet, by Miss K. Grant and Mr. John Anderson, were also much appreciated. On the motion of Mr. Thomas Grant, Rev. Mr. Lamont was thanked for his excellent address, while a high compliment was also paid him by Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, Kingussie.



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EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, D. Litt., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed; business and other communications to 212 West George Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS.—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

TELEPHONE.—*Douglas 1433.*

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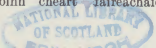
BREITHEAMH NA SEINN.

Ciod e am feum a tha ann an comh-fharpais ? An urrainn dhuinn a bheag a dheanamh gun chomhstri ? A bheil e comasach gum bi ceòl is càinain air an cumail beò gun deuchainn, a chum gu faicear cò is fhearr a sheinneas no a labhras no a sgrìobhas ? Mar fhreagairt do na ceistean sin faodar a ràdh gu bheil comh-fharpais an diugh mar lagh is riaghailt anns gach cùis a bhuineas do bheatha làitheal an t-sluaigh. Tha strì is spàirn ri fhaicinn anns a' sgoil, far an tog a' chlann an cuid eideachaidh. Tha comhstri 'g a teagasg do 'n leanabh anns a' sgoil, agus tha i 'g a leantuin fad a bheatha 'n a dhéidh sin. Cho luath is a dh'fhàgas e an sgoil tha comh-fharpais 'g a choinneachadh air gach laimh, an obair, an cluich, am foghlum, anns na h-ealadhainean, no anns gach gnòthuch ris an cuir e intinn. Is e sin am freagradh do na ceistean aig toiscach na h-earrainn so ; agus is e sin an t-aobhar gu bheil comhstri an obair A'Chomuinn mar tha anns gach obair chudthromach eile, tuath no deas.

Tha duais àraidh mar chrich aig comh-fharpais, cò dhiu is e sgiath-chogaidh airgid no bonn-suaicheantais òir. Tha déidh air buaidh a' brosnuchadh eud an luchd strì ; agus is fìor a thabhairt an seanfhacal, gur e am farnad a ni an treabhadh. Is fortanach mata gu bheil e comasach gum biodh dealas nan Gaidheal òga 'g a ghluasad a réir beus na comh-fharpais a tha an diugh cho cumanta. Mar sin tha strì fèumail gus a bhi a' greasad is a' misneachadh gu gnìomh. Aig an am cheudna, far a bheil deuchainn anns a bheil tàlant an sronuichte 'g an nochdadh féin, mar a tha seinn, tha e iomchuidh gum biodh breitheamh ann, a bheireadh binn cheart

agus chothromach. Tha feum air breitheamh a dh'innseadh do na seinneadairean ciod e na mearachdan a rinn iad ; no cia mar dh'fhaodadh iad an oidheirpean a leasachadh. Mar is eòl do ar luchd leughaidh tha féisdean ciùil an déidh fàs glé lìonmhor feadh na dùthcha. Faodaidh gu robh am mòd againne mar eisimpleir dhaibh o chionn corr is deich bliadhna fichead. Ach cò dhiu tha na féisdean ciùil air àire dìomhghalta a ghabhail an cleachdadh a' ghinealaich so. Thàinig adhart air alt na seinn ; agus thàinig adhart air alt a' bhreithneachaidh. Tha am facal mu dheireadh fìor a thaobh nan Gall a mhàin. Ged thàinig feabhas mòr air seinn anns an ùine sin a measg nan Gaidheal, tha iad fathast cho fada air ais is a bha iad a thaobh breitheamhan làn-dheas gu breith cheart a thabhairt air an t-seinn Ghaidhlig ! Tha sinn a dh'èasbhuidh fear Gaidhlig aig a bheil mar an ceudna ard-cheum ciùil.

Tha cuid am beachd gun dean breitheamh ciùil gun Ghaidhlig an gnòthuch ceart gu leòr airson a bhi a' meas na seinn Ghaidhlig aig mòd. Ach tha sinne de bheachd eile. Is còir dhuinn aobhar a thairgsinn airson ar beachd. Tha seinn na Gaidhlig a nis air fàs cho ealanta is nach dean ni sam bith an gnòthuch ach an ni ceart—agus is e sin breitheamh a thuigeas is a labhras ar cainnt gu cothromach. Thugamaid fainear a' chuis gu glic tùrail. An uair a tha neach a' seinn òrain is fhiach an t-saothair tha dà rud sronuichte ri chumail anns an amharc. Tha air tùs an guth le alt is eòlas an t-seinneadair. Ach air chùil sin tha an spiorad, an rùn, a' chrìoch air fad a tha an intinn an t-seinneadair—ciod e teas a chuid aignidhean, ciod e dùrachd is dealas a chuid faireachaidhean, ciod e am beachd no an



dealbh a tha 'n a smuaintean, ciod e an seadh gu léir a tha e ag iarraidh a chur an céill leis an òran. Anns na seann òrain Ghaidhlig is e smuain agus nòs ar n-athraichean a gheibhear. Is ann troimh 'n chàinain a mhàin is urrainn do neach greim daingean fhaotainn air an t-seann spiorad. Feumaidh am breitheamh a bhi comasach air na coran sin fhaireachadh is a thuigsinn 'n a inntinn fhéin. Cha dean eadar-theangadh an gnothuch. Am breitheamh tha 'na choigreach is e tha aige ach na nithibh a bhuineas do a chuideachd féin, do Ghoill no do Shasunnaich. Gun Ghaidhlig cha tuigear gu coimhionta seadh nan seann òran Gaidhealach. Cha tuigear mith cheòl nan Gaidheal gu coimhionta ach le Gaidheal féin.

Tha dlùth air fichead bliadhna o thugadh a' cheist so fa chomhair A'Chomuinn. Gidheadh cha d'rinneadh a bheag a chum an dith so a leasachadh. Ach o chionn ghoird thug Ceann-suidhe A'Chomuinn, An Siorram Mac-Mhaighstir Caimbeul a' chùis an cuimhne na Comhairle aig coinneamh an Struibhlea. Thug an Siorram gearr iomradh air na rinneadh a cheana; agus thugadh ughdarras dha gus an ni so a thabhairt gu aire Colaiste an Chiùil an Glascho. Gheibhear beachd air an t-suim aighid a bhiodh riatanach airson gillean òga Gaidhealach a chur troimh ad chùrsa foghlum an ceol. Bu mhaith a b'fhiach do'n Chomuinn beagan aighid a chur a mach air a' cheann so. Ma theid an gnothuch air adhart, bu chòir a bhi cinnteach gum biodh mion eòlas aig na foghlumaichean air Gaidhlig agus air eachdraidh is litreachas ar sinnsir. Feumaidh iad sin cho maith ri ar eòlas air nàdur is eachdraidh ciùil. Is i a' chrìoch àraidh gun tugadh na h-òganaich sin a mach ceum foghlum ciùil anns an oil-thigh. Cha dean ceum fosal a' chuis. Feumar an ceum is airde, a chum is gun dleas am breitheamh urram is ughdarras anns a mheas a ni e. Bu chòir gun tugadh am breithamh aig mòd breith air ceòl is cainnt comhladh, mar ni breitheamhan Eireannach aig Oireachtas, agus breitheamhan Cuimreach aig an Eisteddfod.

COMUNN GAIDHEALACH DHUNOMHAINN.

Lecture on Brittany by Miss Lamont of Knockdow.

When the Council of *Comunn Gaidhealach Dhunomhainn* did me the honour of inviting me to give a lecture, I decided without hesitation what my subject should be. It seemed to me

particularly suitable that I should address you on the subject of Brittany—Brittany, that province of France which is inhabited by a Celtic people like ourselves, and has a language-question akin to our own.

It has on two occasions been my privilege to visit Brittany as a member of Scottish Delegations to Celtic Congresses, and though each of these two visits was only of about a fortnight's duration, I had better opportunities of coming into contact with the people of the country, and of learning something of their problems, than I should have had, had I travelled merely as an ordinary tourist.

During those two visits I became greatly interested in the Bretons and their country, and in my case, at least, I can claim that the Celtic Congresses served their purpose well—that purpose being to promote intercourse and understanding between members of the different Celtic nations. In studying the national movements of other countries we can learn much that is useful to ourselves; and a sympathetic understanding of foreign peoples, based on personal acquaintance, is surely the best of all guarantees for friendly foreign relations, and the future peace of Europe.

Before my first visit to Brittany I confess that I knew nothing about the province except its position on the map of France, and the fact that a Celtic language was spoken by its people. Since then it has become such a living and interesting reality to me, that I should like briefly to convey to you some of the impressions that it made. These impressions can be summarised conveniently under four headings:—Language, National Costume, Landscape, and Architecture: and, because it is impossible to understand a people without knowing something of their past, I shall add a brief outline-sketch of the chief facts of their history.

THE LANGUAGE.

The first thing that interests us in Brittany is the language, Breton being a Celtic language closely akin to Welsh and the now extinct Cornish, and with certain affinities (though these are more remote) to our own Gaelic. This language is loved and used by the Breton people, especially in the west of the province, and in it is preserved a great treasury of folklore and songs and traditions. But Breton is not as yet taught in the Elementary Schools,—to have Breton Language and History systematically taught is one of the things which Breton Patriotic Societies are now asking of the French authorities.

Yet Breton is in many ways in a more flourish-

ing condition than Gaelic, and for this reason—because there is a much larger rural population which can find subsistence in its own locality, and has not been depleted by emigration. In Brittany, although there are no very large towns, there are a great many small towns and villages, and a numerous peasantry which supports itself by means of agriculture, fruit-growing, fisheries and dependent industries. The language, therefore, survives because the people are there to talk it, numerous, and self-supporting among the same surroundings, where their ancestors lived and spoke the same language for generations before them.

NATIONAL COSTUME.

Another way in which Breton nationality shows itself is in the tenacity with which the national costume is retained. Among the Breton peasantry national dress is still the everyday dress both for men and women; among townspeople it is more usually only retained, in its more elaborate forms, for full-dress occasions; but, in any case, the wearing of national costume is due more to the *survival* than the *revival* of a custom. The everyday dress is very simple, the foundation colour being usually black, while the women add lace collars and caps which in shape are distinctive of the locality from which the wearer comes. The holiday dress is much more elaborate, colours and embroideries being introduced on apron and scarf; and very charming it is on Sundays and feast-days to see a Breton crowd consisting of men and women, the majority of whom are dressed in their best national finery.

THE LANDSCAPE.

And what of the country itself which forms the setting for these cousins of ours of Lower Brittany? It is a land with a rugged rocky sea-board, interrupted by sheltered bays, and wide stretches of level sand, and with many indentations of the coast in the form of winding estuaries. Inland, there are no high mountains, but the whole country is hilly or undulating. Here and there, there are barren bits of moor, but not of very great extent, and most of the land is taken up by pasture, arable, apple-orchards, or woodland. One of the most striking and characteristic features of the Breton landscape is the hedgerows; no stone dykes and no wire fences, but everywhere, tall, tangled, luxuriant, bushy hedges, which not only clothe the landscape in a very charming and picturesque way, but give very efficient shelter in a country exposed, like our own, to sweeping westerly winds.

BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS.

No one could travel in Brittany without being struck by the beauty of the churches, every village having a church of some architectural merit, built of native stone, and usually dating back to mediæval times. The houses too, are built of stone, and in some towns there are whole streets of picturesque old buildings dating from the fifteenth century, and containing oaken woodwork, and carved oak furniture, which is very characteristic.

But, in Brittany there are many monuments extant, dating from far remoter times than the middle ages, for in many localities Prehistoric Remains are conspicuous and plentiful. These remains are in some cases in the form of stone circles, or huge single standing stones; in other cases there are several parallel rows of standing stones, as in the celebrated alignments of Carnac. These wonderful relics of prehistoric times are of the most absorbing interest, because they carry us back to the very beginning of the country's story, and reveal to us something of a remote past, long before the coming of the Romans, or the earliest records of written history.

HISTORY.

This point in the outward description of the province, brings us, naturally, to its history, of which we shall now endeavour to make a brief survey.

Pre-history and Legend.

The written history of Brittany, or Armorica, as the Romans called it, begins with the invasion of Julius Cæsar, but long before that time the peninsula was inhabited by a people who erected the stone circles and dolmens to which allusion has been made. Although these people have left no written record, they must have been possessed of considerable civilisation, as the remains of their implements and monuments show. We know, also, that this people must have inhabited a country of greater extent than what is now Brittany, for dry land which formerly extended far to seaward is now submerged. How do we know this? Firstly, there are places where, at very low tides, ancient dwellings have been exposed on the shore; and secondly, there is, at least, one place where, a couple of fathoms below the surface of the water, groups of standing stones can be seen at the bottom of the sea, showing that the sea has encroached on what was formerly an inhabited land-surface.

A tale of these inroads of the sea is preserved in a well-known Breton legend called the *Legend of the Town of Is*. The story goes that

the flourishing capital city of good King Grallon was overwhelmed by the rushing tide, and that, while the King himself escaped on horseback from the pursuing waters, it was only when his wicked daughter, Ahès, fell into the waves and was drowned, that the avenging sea stayed its course. When such old legends, which were thought at one time to be mere fairy tales, are found to confirm facts revealed by archaeology, we are on ground that is, at least, as interesting as the written facts of history.

Gauls and Romans.

Although the *Legend of the Town of Is* is usually ascribed to the time of the introduction of Christianity, it seems likely that it really refers to times more remote, and that such inroads of the sea were taking place during the centuries preceding the Christian Era. In any case we know that the early inhabitants—the Dolmen-builders—were invaded and subdued by a Celtic people, the Gauls, possibly some five centuries before the Christian Era. The Gauls of Armorica are known to us through the writings of Roman historians, from whom we learn that they were a civilised people, possessed of a large and well-equipped fleet. In spite of this, however, they were unable to withstand the Romans, who in their turn invaded the country by sea and land under Julius Cæsar, in 57 B.C. For five centuries after Cæsar's invasion Armorica was occupied and ruled by the Romans, who thus introduced a third element into the population. When the Roman Empire crumbled away in the fifth century, the Franks were invading Northern Gaul from across the Rhine, and great disorders resulted in Armorica, which was thus unable to repel a fourth element of population which now invaded its shores.

The British Colonisation.

This time, however, the invasion was a peaceful one, for successive colonies of emigrants from Southern Britain crossed the Channel during the fifth and sixth centuries, and settled in Armorica, fusing with the Gallo-Roman population, and importing their own language and name, as well as introducing the Christian Religion. Now, this is really the most salient fact in Breton History: while the Anglos and Saxons were invading what is now England from the east, off-shoots from the original British population sought less disturbed homes across the Channel, and converted the ancient Armorica into the Brittany of to-day, thus preserving un-Teutonised both the blood and the language of Ancient Britain.

The Franks and Norsemen Repelled.

The Bretons pride themselves on having repelled the Franks, who conquered Northern Gaul, and gave to modern France its name, for it was only during one reign—that of the great Charlemagne—that Brittany came to be included in the Frankish Kingdom. After throwing off the Frankish yoke, the Bretons also successfully repelled the Norse Rovers, who harried their coasts with fire and sword in the tenth century.

The Union of the Crown.

These Norse raids constituted the last of the series of invasions from without, but during the succeeding periods of history, dissensions within interrupted the peaceful development of Brittany, now constituted a Duchy. During the fourteenth century a disputed succession to the Dukedom caused a bitter civil war, and involved Brittany in the Hundred Years' War then raging between France and England. In this way the French Kings gained a footing in the independent Duchy which they coveted, and which they wished to annex. This annexation was finally effected by means of three successive marriages between Kings of France and heiresses of the Ducal House of Brittany, the concluding treaty of union being signed in 1532.

Self-Government and its Loss.

Brittany, however, as a French Province, still retained her own Parliament, and stringent provisions in the Royal Marriage Contracts safe guarded her rights and liberties. These were respected for three centuries, but at the Revolution of 1789, quite illegally, and without mandate from the Breton people, her ancient Parliament and self-governing liberties were abolished. From that time onwards, Brittany, from the point of view of the State, has ceased to be anything more than Five Departments in the Western Peninsula of the Republic. Whether the Bretons will always remain content to have their individuality suppressed in this way, future history will show.

SCOTTISH AND BRETON HISTORY COMPARED.

In studying the History of Brittany, one is very much struck by the close analogy between it and the History of Scotland.

There was for long complete independence, stoutly maintained against encroachments of a powerful and aggressive neighbour. Gradually, and with reluctance, the independence is renounced: firstly, by a union of the Crowns, later by an incorporating union of Parliaments.

The analogy holds good when we consider

the composition of the population. There were, at least, two immigrations of Celtic peoples; there was contact with the Roman Empire; there were invasions of Teutonic tribes which to a greater or less extent were either repelled or absorbed by the existing population. There were also the periods of internal strife and rivalry between factions, resulting in the calling in of foreign aid, and interrupting the periods of peaceful development when the arts flourished and industries prospered.

Then, there is the gradual loss of the language, once spoken throughout the Province, now mostly confined to the west; a gradual diminution of national characteristics and customs, while a colourless cosmopolitanism threatens to permeate the whole and to obliterate all individuality.

Finally, there is the re-awakening—the revolt against this loss of national characteristics and individuality—a growing movement to combat the evils of over-centralisation by means of devolution, a strong endeavour to reconstitute Brittany as Brittany—none the less loyal to the French Republic because of the strong desire which the Bretons have to control their own internal affairs, and to develop on their own lines the material resources of their country, and the intellectual heritage which comes to them as an individual people with a long and honourable past.

FORWARD THE GAELS.

At the concert of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association recently, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, stated that at Foyers, practically the whole of the employees of the aluminium company were Highlanders or of Highland origin, that at Kinlochleven 90 per cent. were Scottish, and 80 per cent. Highland or of Highland parentage, and that there was good reason for believing that the same state of matters would prevail at New Inverlochy. This is very reassuring, and one hopes the same principle will be adhered to, as far as possible, in all the hydro-electric schemes and factories. One effect will be that, granted sympathetic co-operation by Government, there will be a natural linking up between industry and agriculture and forestry in the Highlands. An all-round civilisation is the real objective. Also, there will be a breakaway from the notion that the Gaelic language, literature, music, and so forth are irrevocably

bound up with a Gaeldom wedded entirely to primitive pursuits. In Wales the people do not forsake their native culture when they leave the farm for the factory. There are far more Welsh-speakers in Swansea than there are Gaelic-speakers in Inverness. Sheriff Campbell struck the right notes when he predicted the opening of big branches of An Comunn at the new Highland industrial centres, and when he called upon Highland musicians to study their own language, and carry their native themes and inspiration boldly into the big realm of art music. Gaels everywhere will be grateful to the Sheriff for leading them away from retrospective pessimism and directing their eyes to a rich and glorious future. (*Scots Observer.*)

THE LATE DR. KENNETH CAMPBELL, OBAN.

The death of Dr. Campbell on the 22nd ult., removes another link with the pioneer workers in our Comunn movement. Born in the Parish of Gairloch, Ross-shire, his parents and family removed to Oban, where the late doctor was reared, and where he received his early education. With native grit and perseverance, and entirely as the result of his own individual efforts, he pursued his studies, ultimately qualifying for his profession at Edinburgh University. During his student days he was teacher in St. Kilda, and was a delightful raconteur of his reminiscences of that period.

While not an original member of An Comunn, the Association was still in its infancy when he began taking an intelligent and active part in its work. He conceived the idea of the Great Feill of 1907, and his was the motion passed at the Annual Meeting of the Association held in Dingwall in 1905, which initiated that great event, subsequently brought to such a successful issue through the driving force and organising ability of Mrs. Burnley Campbell.

Dr. Campbell was for several years a member of the Central Executive and one of its Vice-Presidents. He was one of the founders of the Oban Branch, the oldest Branch of An Comunn, and was for many years its President. He was for several years a member, and also Chairman of the old School Board of Oban, and did much to ensure the teaching of Gaelic in Oban High School, still so successfully carried on. He was subsequently a member of the Oban School Management Committee. He was Medical Attendant to the Lorn Combination

Poorhouse, a member of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Committee, held many other public appointments, and only a few weeks ago resigned his membership of Oban Town Council on account of ill health. With a large professional practice, his was a life of untiring and disinterested energy. A chuid de Phàras dha.

AN DRÒBHAIR RUADH.

Thàinig an Dròbhair Ruadh far a' mhaigh agus thearunn e dh' ionnsaigh an t-srath aig dol foithe na gréine; 's mar a rinn e iomadh uair roimhe chaidh e do thigh a charaid, Gilleas-buig Eachainn, ogha bràthair a sheanar, far am bu tric a chuir e seachad oidhche nuair bhiodh e anns a' bhaile. Agus an uair a dhorchaich an oidhche bha na coimhearsnaich a' cruinneachadh a stigh do thigh Ghilleasbuig; a chionn mhòthaicheadh gu'n robh an Dròbhair ann agus gum biodh sgeul aige ri thoirt seachad air cor na dùthcha an coitcheannas agus mu phris nan gamhna gu sònruichte.

An dèidh tacan a thoirt air seachas air iomadh ni, thubhairt a h-aon de 'n chuideachd ris an Dròbhair: "C'ait an deach na bha de iorghuill agus de àr-am-mach o chionn treis mu'n Lìà Fàil? An tug iad an Lìà Fàil air imrich; neo 'n do leig iad leis a'ghnothach bàs gu léir?"

"Ma ta, "ars an Dròbhair," cha chreid mi nach do ghabh iad comhairle Clag Sgàin, An rud nach buin duit, na buin dà."

Arsa Dùghall tàilleir, fear de'n chuideachd: 'Sann a bha sinne am beachd fad iomadh latha gu'n cluinneamaid an làr-na-ohàireach gu'n dhàg i Lunnainn 's gu'n robh i air a Rathad gu Dun-stamhainnis, 's gu'n robh miltean de astar sluagh as a dèidh, agus ceudan phlòbairean a' falbh roimhe."

Ach thubhairt an Dròbhair: "Cha robh an sin ach seachas a bh'aig daoine aig nach robh fios air ciod air an robh iad a' seachas. 'S iomadh sgeul a bha air innseadh mu 'n Lìà-Fàil, aig muinntir an t-saoghail o'n a chualas a' cheud sgeul oirre; agus b' e cheud sgeul a bha iad ag innseadh uimpe: Gur i a' chlach a chuir Iacob fo cheann air oidhche shònraichte far an do chaidh e agus a bhrudair e gu'm fac e fàradh eadar nèamh agus talamh agus ainglean a' dìreadh 's a' teàrnadh air. Ach," ars esan, 's e tionndadh ri fear-an-tighe, "tha mi creidsinn gu'm bi cuimhn' agadsa air bràthair mo sheanar: Am Pensilear Bàn—neo An Pensilear Crùbach mar a theireadh iad

ris. Ged nach fhaca mise riamh e, 's iomadh aon d'a sgeoil a chuala mi aig m' athair. 'Sann ann am Both-chuidir a bha pàrantan a' Phensileir an uair a bha e 'na bhàlach òg, agus b' e ainm bràthair-màthar dha a thugadh air: b' e sin Gill-easbuig, a bha 'na mharsanta ann am Baile-pheairt. Bhiodh Gill-easbuig, bràthair-a-mhàthar a' tighinn do Bhoth-chuidir gu math tric a dh' fhaicinn a pheathar agus a teaghlach; agus ghabh e speis mhór do Ghill-easbuig beag—rud a bha nàdurra gu leòir dha. Ri ùine, nuair a bha Gill-easbuig beag air fàs 'na bhroganach math bhalach, thubhairt am marsanta ri phiuthair aon latha: 'Na 'n leigeadh tu Gill-easbuig òg do Pheairt leam, gu'n cuirinn do 'n sgeoil e. Dh' aontaich i sin a dhèanamh. Nuair a chuala Gill-easbuig beag iomradh air so, thaitinn e ris gu gasda cead fhastainn a dhol do'n bhaile-mhór còmhla ri bràthair-a-mhàthar. Nuair a fhuair eadh gach cùis air dòigh, thog an dà Ghill-easbuig orra do 'n bhaile-mhór.

An dèidh a bhi greis de bhliadhnaich ann am Peairt is coitach gu'n do thionndaidh Gill-easbuig òg am mach gu bhi 'na dheagh sgoilear; agus rinn bràthair-a-mhàthar a suas gu'n cuireadh e do 'n Oilthigh e. Ach, aig an àm so thachair rudeigin a chuir smointean a' mharsanta bun os ceann. Agus thàinig sin gu math obann, cuideachd.

Air oidhche shònraichte, nuair a bu chòir do dhaoine a bhi 'nan tighean féin, agus math-dh'fhaoidteadh 'nan leapannan, cha d'fhàinig Gill-easbuig òg dhachaidh idir, agus cha bu shocrach an oidhche sin do bhràthair-a-mhàthar. B'e cheist, agus a' cheist chruaidh, cuideachd, ciamar a rachadh e do Bhoth-chuidir a dh'ionnsaigh a pheathar a dh'innseadh dhith gu'n deach a mac air chall. Ach chaidh an oidhche seachad agus thàinig a' mhaduinn, 's gun sgeul air Gill-easbuig òg. Beagan an dèidh a' mheadhon là chunnaic am marsanta saighdear a' tighinn a nìos a dh' ionnsaigh an tighe—rud a chuir iongnadh gu leòir air. Ach air do'n t-saighdear tighinn na bu dlùithe dha, thuig e ann am prìobha-na-sùla coid e a thachair. Oir b'e an saighdear Gill-easbuig òg e féin.

Ged a bha am marsanta greis ann an iomagain, leum e as an iomagain gu feirg, agus thug e greis air trod gu guineach agus gu searbh ri mac-a-pheathar; agus am fear sin 'na shuidhe air taobh eile an tighe, 's gun smid a' tighinn as a bheul. Ach dh' fhas am marsanta sgith de 'n trod—dh' fhaoidteadh gu'n do thuig e nach robh e dol a bhi 'na bhuannachd 'sam bith do h-aon ca. Ged a bha e gu h-àrd-ghuthach, fiadhaich car greis, thàinig e gu bhi sèimh socrach. An sin, mar gu'n robh e bruidhinn ris

féin na bu mhotha na bha e ri Gill-easbuig òg, thubhairt e: “Mar a tha, ’s ann a tha; mar a tha ’s ann a bhitheas. Ach nach fhaod e bhi gu’m bheil sin cho maith; gun fhios nach ann a mhillinn-sa an deagh shaighdear a’ deanamh an droch mhinistear.”

Mu’n d’thàinig dorch na h-oidhche sin chaidh Gill-easbuig òg am mach á tigh bráthair-a-mhàthar; agus ’s iomadh ceàrn de ’n t-saoghal a chunnaic e; agus ’s iomadh bliadhna chaidh far a chinn mu’n deach e steach a rithis air an dorus ud.

Beagan an déidh sin dh’ fhàg e Alba agus chaidh e do Shasunn. Thug e greis ann an Lunnainn, agus chunnaic e an Lia-Fàil. Chaidh e an sin do Eirinn, agus thug e ùine mhath ann am Bail-ath-cliaith. Air dha bhi ann an sin, bha e aon latha còmhla ri chompanach a’ gabhail an sràid am mach air oir a’ bhaile. Chunnaic iad trìuir shagairtean a’ tighinn ’nan còmhdaill. An uair a thàinig iad ann an astar iomchuidh dhaibh chur iad an làmh ’nam boineidean do na sagairtean, agus bha iad a’ gabhail seachad. Ach sheas a h-aon de na sagairtean air a shàil rud beag, agus sheall e air na saighdearan ’s e ’g ràdh: “A shaighdearan, cha chreid mi nach eil Gaidhlig Albanach agaibh.”

“Gu leòir dhith” fhreagair iadsan le chéile.

“Cò an àite de Albainn do’m buin sibh?” ars an sagart.

“Tha mis a Both-chuidir” arsa Gilleasbuig; “agus tha mo chompanach á Mùideart.”

“Thàinig mo Rìgh air tìr am Mùideart. Thàinig Tearlach; thàinig Tearlach” ars an sagart. “Is Mùideartach mise cuideachd.”

Agus mar so thàinig iad ann an seanchas ris an t-sagart; agus mun do dhealaich iad gheall iad do’n t-sagart gu’n rachadh iad air chéilidh air. Rinn iad sin; cha b’ann aon uair ach iomadh uair; oir bhiodh iad tric air chéilidh air an t-sagart.

Cha robh an sagart fada gun tuigsinn gu’n d’fhuair Gill-easbuig ionnsachadh nach robh aig an àm ud, co-dhiùbh—cùmanta am measg an t-sluaigh chumanta; agus bhiodh e ag iomradh ri Gill-easbuig air gnothaichean air an robh sean eachdraidh ag iomradh, a bhùineadh do na Gaidheil—neo na Ceiltich mar a theireadh e riù—agus gu’n robh treubhan fathast anns an àirde-n-ear aig am bheil eachdraidh sgrìobhte agus beul-aithris a tha cur mòran soluis air eachdraidh nan Ceilteach: co bhuaidh a thàinig iad; agus na ceàrnan de’n t-saoghal anns am bheil an sliochd ri faotainn an diugh. Anns an dòigh so dh’ionnsaich Gilleasbuig mòran eòlais.

Ach, mu dheireadh, dh’fhàg a’ chuideachd anns an robh e Eirinn. Chaidh e far chuantan. Bha e ann an iomadh cath anns an Fhraing agus san Spàinnt. Chaidh a leonadh ceithir uairean; ach chur an leòn mu dheireadh e nach robh e murrach air a bhi ’na shaighdear. Thàinig e dhachaidh ’na oifigeach, ach crùbach: crùbaiche a léan ris gu uair a bhàis ged a fhuair e aois mhór. Ach, mu’n do shiubhail e, chuir e le ’sheanchas, mòran ri eòlas a choimhearsnaich, air dùthchannan céine, agus na cinnidhean a bha ’gan tuineachadh.

Tha treubhan de na Ceiltich r’am faotainn fathast anns an Airde-n-ear a tha tagradh gur iad féin oighreachan dlìgheach Abraham; a choinn gu’m b’e am prìomh athair Esau, agus gu’m b’esan an t-oighre; a chionn gu’m b’e am mac bu shine aig Isaac, agus nach robh ann an Iacob ach an dearg shlaointire. Agus tha am beachd ri faotainn am measg cuid de ’n t-sluaigh so gu’m b’e na ceud Cheiltich sliochd Shamsoin.

“Ud, ud,” arsa fear de’n chuideachd; cha’n eil am Bìobull a’ toirt iomraidh idir air sliochd a bhi aig Samson; agus cha’n eil e coltach gu’n robh.”

“Cha’n eil am Bìobull” ars am Maighstir-sgoil, “a’ toirt eachdraidh air-a-h-uile treubh a bha ’san àirde-n-ear, neo air gach car a bha dol ’nam measg; ach, dh’aindeoin sin, tha fios againn gu’n robh, an làithean Abraham, coimhearsnachd agus càirdeas eadar na h-Eabhrùich agus na Philistich. Bu bhuachailleann spréidh iad le chéile. Ach tha’m Bìobull ag innseadh dhuinn gu’n do ghabh Samson bean dha féin am measg nam Philisteach, agus rinn e sin dà uair. Agus cha’n eil e sgrìobhte a ruigeas a leas bacadh a chur air neach a chreidsinn gu’n robh sliochd o’n cheud mhnaoi. Cha b’ann o’n mhnaoi mu dheireadh, Delila, bradag a mheall e agus a thug mu’n cuairt a sgrios.”

Tha sin ceart, a mhaighstir-sgoil ars an Dròbhair; agus nach eil bradag air a toirt air lom dhuinn ann an sean òran a th’againn agus an là ’n duigh: òran a rinn fear-eiginn a thrég a leannan e, a tha ’g ràdh:

“Leubh thu m’inntinn mar leubh Dèlla e;
Do bheul am brìodal ’s do chridhe leòn mi;
T’inntinn luaineach mar ghaoth nan cuantan,
Gu’n dhearb do ghluasad mi-shuaimhneas dòmhsa.”

“Chaidh,” ars am maighstir-sgoil, “mac Shamsoin a thogail leis na Philistich, muinntir a mhàthar; ach bha, a réir na sgeòil dàimh aige ris na h-Eabhrùich, muinntir athar; agus ri ùine, nuair a dh’ fhàs a shliochd Ìlloimhor, thòisich iad ri iad féin a chumail leathoireach gun a bhi aon chuid ’nam Philistich neo ’nan

Eabhruich, fo'n ainm "Ceiltich," agus bha iad daonnan a' dol ann an lìonmhoireachd gu linn-tean an déidh Shamsoin. Gus an d'fhàg cuid diubh an Asia agus gu'n d' thàinig iad do'n Roinn-Eòrpa lean iad mar sin, agus, a réir sgeòil cuid de mhuinntireachd na h-àirde 'n ear, tha e air a ràdh gu'n do luigh a' chlach so air an do chaidil Iacob air an raon gun suim 'sam bith a ghabhail dhith na bu mhotha na a h-aon de na clachan eile a bha mu'n cuairt oirre, agus an déidh bàs Iacoib; agus, an sin, gu'n d' thug na h-Eabhruich leo a' chlach agus gu'n robh i aca ann a h-aon de na h-àiteannan aoraidh aca, gus aon uair a bha iad a' cogadh ris na Philistich a fhuair buaidh orra 's a thug bhuapa a' chlach agus gach nì luachmhor a fhuair iad greim air. Ach tha cuid a bhios ag ràdh nach do thog na h-Eabhruich a' chlach idir: gu'm b' iad na Ceiltich, sìochd Shamsoin a thog a' chlach; agus an treubh dhiubh aig an robh i, gu'n tug iad leò as an Asia i do'n Roinn-Eòrpa, agus anns an am 'san d' thàinig Gruaidh abhull gu bhì 'na ban-oighre air ceann-feadhna an treibh sin. A réir sgeòil bha roinn diubh 'san Eadailt fo'n ainm Brusg neo Brusgaich, agus cuideachd anns an Spàinnt fo 'n ainm Basgaich. Ach tha cuid ag ràdh gu'n robh Basgaich r' am faotainn cho fada tuath ri Lochlann—no, co-dhiùb, treibh fo'n ainm Brusgaich, agus gu'm bu Cheiltich iad—oir bu Cheiltich iad uile. Agus anns an àm 'san robh iad cho fada tuath ri Lochlann thachair gu'n do chaochail an ceann-feadhna; agus an neach a thigeadh na bu dlùithe gu bhì 'na oighre air a' cheann-feadhna, b'e caileag òg d'am b' ainm Gruaidh-abhull. Nuair a thàinig a' chailleag so gu innbe agus a bha an treubh an rùn a pòsadh ria h-aon de 'n treubh a bhuineadh dhoibh féin, neo ceann feadhna nan treubhan Ceilteach eile nach robh fuathasach fada bhuapa. Ach, co-dhiùb, dhiùlt Gruaidh-abhull sud a dheanamh; agus ged a chaidh a feuchainn uair no dhà cha deanadh i e. Thubhairt i nach robh i dol a phòsadh fear 'sam bith. Ach chaidh cùisean a chur gu cruidh rithe: gu'm feumadh i aon chuid pòsadh neo an ceannas-feadhna a leigeil dhith uile gu léir. Ach thubhairt i riu nach b'urrainn i fear a phòsadh, a chionn gu'n robh i ann an gaol. Dh' iarr iad oirre innseadh dhoibh có am fear air an robh i ann an gaol. Thubhairt i nach b'urrainn i sud a dheanamh, a chionn nach fhaca i riamh e, agus nach cual i ainm. 'Se sin ri ràdh nach fac i gu corporra e; ach gu'n robh i gu tric 'ga fhaicinn ann am bruidar. Ach cha robh sud a' còrdadh ri luchd-comhairle Gruaidh-abhull, agus thòisich iad air cur gu cruidh rithe.

Am feadh a bha cùisean mar so chruinnich Gruaidh-abhull bàtaichean agus sgìobaichean a bha aice gu samhach air a' chladach. Bha i murrach gu leòir air an sin a dheanamh, oir bha i beartach, agus bha fios aice gu'n robh Ceiltich nach b'aithne do 'n treubh aca féin, ann an àite nach robh fuathasach fada bhuapa. Oir bhiodh maraichean a' dol a dh' ionnsaigh an tréibh a bha'n sud; oir bhiodh iad a' malairt ann an òmar.

An uair a chuir Gruaidh-abhull gu muir le bàtaichean 's le sgìobaichean—rud a b'fheadar a dheanamh anns an oidhche agus mu'n do shoilleirich an là-r-na-mhàireach—bha iad ann an ceò agus gun fhios aca c'àite 'n robh iad) Thug iad làithean agus oidhcheannan, cuideachd, a' falbh mar a chuireadh an sruth agus an soirbheas iad, gun chinnt 'sam bith aca c'àite 'n robh iad. Agus a' cheud chladach a thàinig iad chuige, b'e sin Carnabbal ann a Breatann anns an robh sluagh Ceilteach cuideachd. Dh' fhuirich iad an so greis, gus, air latha sònraichte, chunnacas long mhór a' tighinn agus thubhairt muinntir an àite riu gur e long mharsantachd a bh' innte, agus gu'n d' thàinig i á Eilean-Thùil. Nuair a thàinig an long do'n chladh chaidh Gruaidh-abhull am mach g'a h-ionnsaigh cuideachd. Bha 'n long luchdaichte le nithean luachmhor: airgead agus copar; beòin iomadh creutair, adhaircean agus sligean luachmhor, òmar agus iomadh nì eile. Cheannaich Gruaidh-abhull mòran o'n luing; agus 'nam measg bha meall mór òmar a bha 'na dhithean 's 'na dhaithean ag atharrachadh air iomadh dòigh; agus a stigh ann an cridhe a' mhìll òmar so bha nì ann a bha toirt a suas aire Ghruidh-abhull gu h-anabarrach. B'e sin gu'n robh i lèirsinn gu'n robh dealbh a bh' air taobh eile a' mhìll òmar so a bha na bu duirche 'san dath: rud a bha coltach ri dealbh thìr. An sin thòisich i ri farraid de na maraichean a bha mu'n cuairt, 's i leigeil fhaicinn daibh an rud a bha i a' faicinn anns a' mheall òmar: Am b'aithne dhaibh tìr a bha coltach ris an dealbh so a bha i a' faicinn? Ach cha robh i a' faotainn mòran fiosrachaidh anns an dòigh so. Bha cuid diubh a bha 'g ràdh gu'n robh e coltach ri tìr a chunnaic iad an àiteigin; ach cha b'urrainn daibh innseadh c'àite. Dh' iarr Gruaidh-abhull an sgìobair fhaicinn, agus thàinig e far an robh i. Leig i fhaicinn da an cruth a bha i a' faicinn anns a' mheall òmar, 's i farraid deth am b' aithne dha tìr 'sam bith a bha coltach ris an dealbh so.

(*Ri Leantainn.*)



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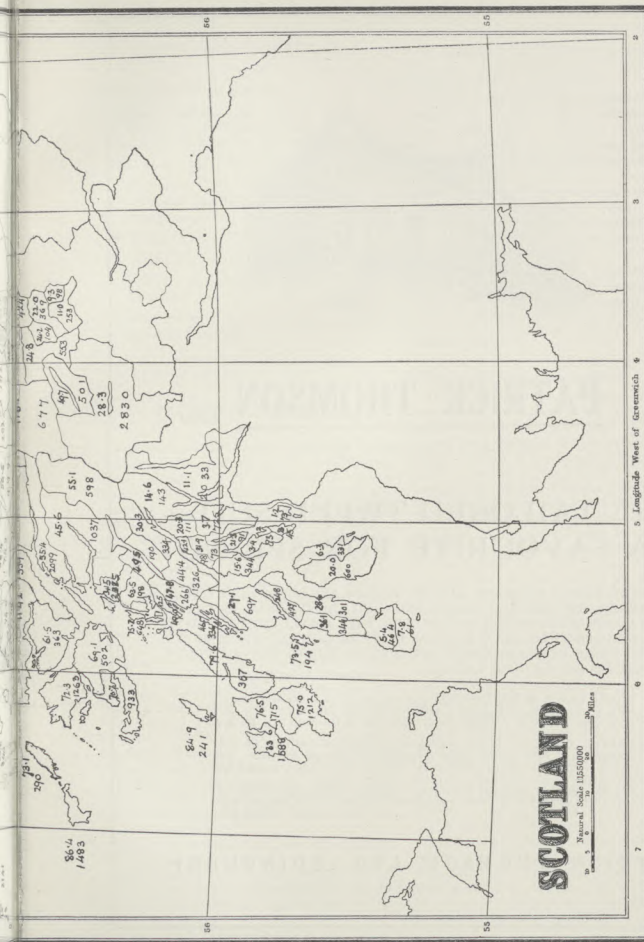
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday, 14th March. Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, Campbeltown, President, was in the chair, and the following members were present:—Mr. John R. Bannerman, Rahane; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Mr. Alex. D. Cumming, Callander; Mrs. J. B. Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss L. E. Farquharson of Invercauld; Mr. Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Rev. Donald Lamont, Blair Atholl; Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness; Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; Mr. T. D. MacDonald, Brookfield; Mr. John MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; Rev. John MacKechnie, B.D., Govan; Miss Flora MacKinnon, Partick; Mr. James MacLaren, Glasgow; Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Taynuilt, and Lord James Stewart Murray, Ballinluig. In attendance, Mr. Robert MacFarlane, C.A., Treasurer, Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

Minute of meeting held on 24th January was read and approved.

The Secretary read letters from the British Broadcasting Corporation, thanking the Association for their letter of appreciation of the Gaelic broadcasts.

A Minute of the Finance Committee was read, and on the motion of the Convener, Mr. Alexander Fraser; was adopted.

The Education Committee reported that the number of schools in the County of Argyll where Gaelic was taught as a subject of instruction was 80, an increase of 13 on last year's return. Branch secretaries had reported on certain schools in their area where no provision was made for Gaelic instruction, and the Committee agreed to communicate with the Authorities concerned. It was agreed to prepare a leaflet to show the practical reasons and advantages for teaching and learning Gaelic. The attention of members was drawn to the list of Hotels and Boarding houses in Port Ellen, which appeared in the recent issue of *An Gaidheal*, and the necessity for early application by those intending to attend the Summer School of Gaelic.

On the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, the Minute was adopted.

Two Minutes of the Publication Committee were read. It was reported that sufficient advertisements had now been obtained to warrant the extension of the magazine to 20 pages. A map of Scotland had been prepared by Mr. John Lorne Campbell, Yr., of Inverneil, showing the different districts with percentage of Gaelic speakers at last Census. It was decided to have the map reproduced in the magazine. The Gaelic Poetry Book prepared by Mr. James Thomson for Schools, will be on the market in a few weeks' time. The selling price was fixed at 1/6 per copy. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Convener, moved the adoption of the Minutes, and these were adopted.

The Propaganda Committee reported on having received reports from the Conveners of the sub-committees, and that good work had been done since the previous meeting. For the Northern Sub-committee new Branches had been formed at Garve, Arisaig, Morar and Bonar Bridge. Provincial Mods were to be held at Kyle for Wester Ross; Newtonmore, for Badenoch; Portree, for Skye; Stornoway, for Lewis, and Lairg for Sutherland. The Rev. Dr. Neil Ross was going on a short lecture tour in Sutherland, beginning about 25th March.

The Southern Sub-committee reported on new branches having been formed at Dalmally, Appin, Ayr, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Tayinloan and Aberfoyle. Provincial Mods were to be held at Campbeltown for Kintyre; Bowmore, for Islay; Lochgilphead, for Mid Argyll; Dumoon, for Cowal; Oban, for Lorn; Strontian,

for Ardnamurchan, Cornaigmore, for Tiree, and Pitlochry for Perthshire.

Teachers of singing were employed in Lewis, Glenshiel, Skye, Badenoch, Ardnamurchan, Lorn and Ross of Mull.

Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness, and Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow, Conveners of the Sub-committees were thanked for the splendid work performed by their respective committees, and on the motion of Rev. Dr. MacKay, the Minutes were approved.

The President referred to the Local Government (Scotland) Bill, which had passed to the House of Lords, and said there had been one serious omission. Education Authorities outside the large cities were being superseded, and County Councils were to be the Education Authorities. There would be an education committee with power to co-opt members as representatives of certain educational interests, and as they were the recognised authority in safeguarding the maintenance and the further progress of the Gaelic they were entitled to ask that they should have representation on these education committees. He moved that the matter be remitted to a special committee to see that their case was well and truly put to the Duke of Atholl, in the full confidence that he would see to it that the proposal was made in the House of Lords that they should have representation on the committees.

This was seconded by Miss L. Farquharson of Invercauld, and unanimously agreed to. It was remitted to the Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Mr. Malcolm Macleod and Mr. John Macdonald—all of Glasgow—to prepare the case.

A Minute of the Art and Industry Committee showed that Miss Jane MacLeod, Greenock, had returned from Lewis, where she had been conducting Rug-making classes for An Comunn, and had reported very favourably on the work performed by the young women of Lewis. Thirty rugs of Celtic design pattern had been made, and were now on sale. Permission was granted the Dunoon Branch of An Comunn to have the Badge of An Comunn incorporated with the Dunoon Coat of Arms in designing the certificates to be awarded to prize-winners at the Cowal Mod.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Vice-Convener, moved the adoption of the Minute, and commented on the excellent work done by Miss MacLeod. The Minute was adopted.

The Mod and Music Committee reported that adjudicators for Perth Mod had been appointed as follows:—Gaelic (Oral and Vocal)—Rev. Alexander MacDonald, M.A., Alloa; Mrs. Alasdair Campbell, Glasgow; Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S., Inverness, and Mr. Angus

L. MacDonald, H.M.I.S., Kilmaccolm. Music—Mr. H. Plunkett Greene, London, and Mr. Arthur Collingwood, F.R.C.O., Aberdeen.

A donation of £20 had been received and accepted from Mr. Duncan MacInnes, New York, Royal Chief of Order of Scottish Clans of America, and it was agreed to allocate this handsome sum to various competitions in the Mod Programme. Mr. MacInnes was thanked most cordially for his generous donation.

The remit from the Executive Council, "that all members of a choir competing for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield must pass a test in Gaelic conversation or reading," had been considered, and the Committee recommended that no alteration be made in the existing Rule, but to make a more stringent application of the test.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Convener, the Minute was adopted.

A Minute of the Advisory Committee was read and the President reported that the committee had considered the question of what further steps could be taken to arrest the decay of Gaelic. The first proposal was one of instituting by An Comunn scholarships in schools of music to be awarded to Gaelic-speaking youths. He stated that this matter was brought up 19 years ago, but nothing was done in the matter. He was sorry to say there was only one Gaelic-speaking person in Scotland to-day in possession of a musical degree, and that was all the progress they had made since 1907. He asked leave that he should, in conjunction with the Principal of the Glasgow College of Music, prepare and submit to the July meeting a scheme giving the curriculum, the cost, and other details of scholarships.

Miss Lamont of Knockdow, said she hoped it would be made clear that these youths whom they would educate would remain in Scotland, and not take the first lucrative post offered in England, America, or the Colonies, but devote their services to Scotland.

It was agreed that the President should consult with the Principal of the Glasgow College of Music. The Committee further suggested that the Scottish Education Department be asked to include in their Annual Report a report on the teaching of Gaelic in the Northern Counties.

The meeting also agreed to a suggestion by the advisory committee that the Secretary of State for Scotland should be asked to consider the advisability of appointing bi-lingual policemen in Gaelic-speaking areas.

The Secretary was asked to give a resume of his various tours to the Highlands on behalf

of the Propaganda Committee. He gave an interesting review of his own work, and informed the members of the procedure at meetings, and how Branches are established. On the motion of the President, Mr. Shaw was thanked for his talk.

The Council appointed a sub-committee consisting of Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Mr. John MacDonald, and Mr. John R. Bannerman, to assist Mr. Neil MacLean in his splendid effort to broadcast a series of interesting talks in Gaelic.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

Members of An Comunn will have read with much interest and gratification of the high honour conferred upon two of our members, the Rev. Roderick MacLeod, Edinburgh, and the Rev. Donald Lamont, Blair-Atholl. They are to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from St. Andrews and Edinburgh Universities respectively. Mr. MacLeod has given splendid and devoted service to the Highlands as Superintendent of the Highland Mission of the U.F. Church, while Mr. Lamont's contributions to Gaelic literature as editor of the Gaelic Supplement of *Life and Work*, are of outstanding merit. *Gu'm meal iad an urram.*

Our President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, presided over the Annual gathering of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association in the City Hall, Glasgow, on 15th March. His address on Scholarships in Music for Gaelic speaking Youths, and the economic conditions likely to follow the establishment of Hydro-electric schemes in the Highlands, was listened to with rapt attention by an audience which was by far the largest seen at a Highland gathering in the City Hall for many years. In addition to choral pieces and solos by members, Mr. Neil MacLean contributed several Gaelic songs. The programme closed with a reproduction of the Mod Prize Play, *Am Fear a chail a Ghaidhlig*. The concert was of all round excellence, and the "G.G." deserves the congratulations of all lovers of Gaelic music and drama.

Annual Business Meetings are now taking the place of the "Socials," and considering depressing conditions in certain Industries, most societies will report a good year.

NIALL.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

A Gaelic Reading Class, conducted by the Rev. D. Ferguson, was started in the town of Ayr, in September of last year. The class was well attended, and the interest was maintained throughout the session. Towards the close the members expressed a desire to have a Branch formed in order to bring them in more direct touch with An Comunn. I accepted an invitation to inaugurate the Branch, and attended a meeting of 50 people in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Ayr, on 25th February. Mr. John MacAskill presided, and we were supported on the platform by Major and Mrs. Stewart (Fasnacloich), and Mr. Colin Fergusson. A Branch was formed with Major Stewart (Fasnacloich), as Hon. President; Mr. MacAskill as President; Mr. Norman MacKinnon, C.A., Treasurer; and Mr. Colin Fergusson, 26 Woodfield Avenue, Secretary. Forty-eight people signed the membership forms passed round at the close.

Members will recall that I visited Appin in December, and interviewed several leading Gaels there. Following up this preliminary visit I arranged for a meeting to be held on Friday, 1st March, the evening on which the Singing Class under Miss MacCowan was to meet. There was a gratifying attendance in the School, presided over by Mr. D. MacPherson, late headmaster. The audience was quite enthusiastic, and a Branch was formed with the following office-bearers:—President, Mr. D. MacPherson; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Livingston and Mr. Alex. Boa; Treasurer, Miss F. MacIntyre; and Secretary, Miss Jessie Black, Portnacraoish.

I attended a meeting of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal (Obanach), on Saturday evening, and spoke on an old time ceilidh in Jura.

On Tuesday, 5th March, I travelled per "Fusilier" from Greenock to Tarbert, and by mail car to Whitehouse. Miss Livingston, teacher, had the meeting well advertised, and by the appointed hour the schoolroom was well filled. Miss Turner of Kilchamaig, was in the chair. The school children opened the proceedings by singing, "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig." There was no difficulty in resuscitating the Branch, and after the election of office-bearers part songs, duets, solos and community singing helped to pass a pleasant hour. Miss Turner of Kilchamaig, is President; Miss C. Livingston, Vice-President; Miss S. MacDougall, Schoolhouse, Treasurer; and Mr. William Campbell, Secretary. I returned to Tarbert after the meeting. I made it my duty to speak to as

many of the fisher-folk in Tarbert as possible, and this, I believe, helped to swell the attendance at the meeting in the evening. The Rev. John M. Gillies, M.A., presided over an audience of fully 100 people. The meeting unanimously decided in favour of forming a Branch, and office-bearers were elected as follows:—President, Rev. John M. Gillies, M.A.; Vice-Presidents, Miss MacDougal and Mr. James MacDougal; Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. James Couper, Union Bank.

The Southern sub-committee had authorised me to intimate at the meeting that a concert would be arranged from Headquarters to give the Branch a set off, and the Committee, which met at the close of the meeting, agreed to hold a Concert on 5th April. I may add that several Gaelic songs were sung by members of the audience and by myself.

I journeyed per mail car to Taynloan on Thursday, and attended a meeting in Killeen School that evening. Mr. Dugald MacFater very kindly motored a party from Taynloan Village to the school. Mr. MacKinven of the Hotel, presided over an attendance of about 25 people. All were unanimous in their desire to have the Branch revived and appointed office-bearers representative of the widely scattered community. President (in absence) Rev. Angus MacMillan, D.S.O.; Vice-President, Mrs. Smith; Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. MacDonald, Beachmeadhonach, Taynloan. This Branch is to be known as the Largieside Branch.

I returned to Glasgow on Friday, and on Saturday officiated as adjudicator at the Arran Musical Festival, held at Whiting Bay. (Gaelic and bagpipe sections).

In my many visitations on behalf of An Comunn I have never experienced so much enthusiasm for the cause of Gaelic as I met with this session. The teaching of the language in the Schools, and the influence of the Provincial Mods are, I believe, mainly responsible for this welcome attitude of the people in the Gaidhealtachd.

NIALL.

BRANCH REPORTS.

ARDNAMURCHAN.—The monthly meeting of the Ardnamurchan branch was held in the Schoolhouse, Killochan. There was a crowded attendance present, and Rev. Mr. MacDonald, parish minister, presided, and introduced the lecturer for the evening, Mr. John Cameron, Drumfin, Chairman of the Tobermory branch, of An Comunn. Mr. Cameron, who is an enthusiast in the cause of Gaelic speech and literature, expressed the great pleasure he felt on finding himself in his

native parish among so many of his old associates and friends. Mr. Cameron gave a brief but masterly survey of the fortunes of the Gaelic language from the time of Malcolm Canmore and through the intervening centuries, pointing out that until the marriage of that Scottish King with Princess Margaret of England in 1066, Gaelic was the Court language in Scotland. By degrees it was tabooed in favour of English, until ultimately, it was a crime to speak it. A programme of songs followed.

BONAR BRIDGE.—At a recent meeting held in the Higher Grade School for the inauguration of a local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach there was a representative gathering. A committee was formed and office-bearers were elected. Mr. Andrew Anderson, South Bonar, accepted the presidency; Mr. Angus Macpherson, Inveran, being vice-president, and Miss N. Clark, Migdale, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Anderson is to give an address at the first regular meeting, which is anticipated with interest. The movement should prove very edifying, and it is hoped it may be very successful.

BUTE.—At the regular meeting of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoid, held recently, an interesting paper dealing with the famous Gaelic poet, "Donnachadh Ban," was read by Mr. James Duncan, jr. At the outset, he said, his attention was first drawn to "Donnachadh Ban," one of the greatest of Gaelic poets, when he first visited his cenotaph on the hillside above Dalnally, but the poet's true monument was Ben Dorain. The greatest part of his life was spent in sight of it. He, as a lyric poet, was the joy of all true Gaels. While he lived to the patriarchial age of 88, it was somewhat remarkable that he was content to live in comparatively obscure situations as gamekeeper, forester, and Town Guard in Edinburgh. The serenity of his true poet was one of the most lovable features of his character, as it was of his poetry. In 1786 the Highland bard was resident in Edinburgh, the year which Burns came and went like a meteor, but the two poets never met. An excellent musical programme followed the lecture.

CONNEL.—Under the auspices of the local branch of An Comunn, an interesting lecture was given in the Public Hall, at which Rev. John MacInnes, President, presided. The speaker was Mr. Donald MacPhail, Glasgow, son of the late Mr. Malcolm MacPhail, Dalnally, the "Bard of Lorn," and the subject of his paper was his father's works. Songs were sung by Misses Mary MacPherson, Peggy MacEachan, Annie Buchanan, and Messrs. Malcolm MacPhail, Alex. MacNab, George MacDonald, and Donald Buchanan.

GLENEG.—At a Ceilidh, Mrs. Scott gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on "The Music of the Gael." The lecturer told the romantic story of the ancient songs of the Highlands, which have been collected by enthusiasts like J. F. Campbell, "Fionn," and Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser during the last 100 years. The Highlander was a natural musician, and his native genius was trained in schools for piping and harping, like Boraig, the McCrimmon's College in Dunvegan, etc. It was when the spirit of Puritanism invaded the Highlands that the ancient music was allowed to languish. Mrs. Scott divided her lecture into patriotic songs, songs of labour—used in rowing and waulking to enable the workers to keep time—love songs, lullabies and laments. These were illustrated by suitable songs, in the singing of which Mrs. Scott was ably assisted by members of her singing class. There was a large and appreciative audience, who greatly enjoyed the entertainment provided for them. Miss Annie Macrae contributed a recitation.

INVERARAY.—The annual dance of the local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Territorial Hall, on 7th March, when about seventy couples assembled. The fortnightly meeting of the Inveraray Communn, where Gaelic tales are told, Gaelic songs are sung, and Gaelic readings are read to large audiences, is doing much excellent service in reviving and upholding the interest in Gaelic in Inveraray. For the dance, music was supplied by Messrs. James Maitland, Donald Munro, Archibald Munro, Archibald MacIntyre, and Philip Devine. Tea was supplied during the evening by the Ladies' Committee.

KINLOCH-RANNOCH.—Under the auspices of the local branch, a very enjoyable concert was given by Fortingall Gaelic Choir to a crowded house—Mr. J. D. Scott, presiding. Selections were given by the local Pipe Band, and the Fortingall Choir then sustained the rest of the programme in a manner which evoked the unstinted praise and appreciation of all present. At the conclusion on the call of Mr. Frank Emslie, the Schoolhouse, votes of thanks were given to the artistes. Mr. MacDiarmid, conductor of the choir, replied.

LEWIS.—The second literary meeting of the session was held in the Nicolson Institute, on 22nd February. Mr. Duncan Macdonald presided over a fair attendance. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Donald Maciver, F.E.L.S., Garrabost. The lecturer chose as his subject, "Ainmean Neomach Leodhais" (Place-Names of Lewis), a subject which has received some prominence of late. In his introductory remarks Mr. Maciver, whose paper was entirely in Gaelic, made reference to the difficulty found in interpreting Lewis place names in particular, owing to Norse influence. It was hard to decide whether the Gaelic of the conquering Scots had there superseded the older language ere the period of the Norse invasions and settlements, but the positive view obtained some credence owing to the existence in the Scandinavian countries of names which could be traced to Gaelic. In the place-names they found Gaelic and Norse, and in some, both languages in conjunction. From a mass of material at his disposal—the fruit of many years' study—Mr. Maciver gave examples—referring in particular to the Stornoway district and Bernera. The various interpretations were listened to with keen interest and great attention, and at the conclusion the lecturer was loudly applauded. Mr. Thomson, Bayble, said Mr. Maciver possessed in great measure the linguistic qualities, the local knowledge and the application necessary for such study, and expressed his own appreciation of such a Gaelic treat as Mr. Maciver's paper. He also expressed the hope that the fruit of Mr. Maciver's labours in this field should yet be published. Mr. A. Macdonald and the Chairman also spoke in laudatory terms of the paper. Songs were rendered during the evening by Mr. Angus Macleod and Miss Matilda Macdonald. The meeting closed with the customary votes of thanks.

NEWTONMORE.—Mr. John Macpherson presided at another Highland ceilidh in the Public Hall, when there was a large attendance of members of the local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach and others. The evening's programme was opened by stirring selections on the bagpipes by Mr. John Macpherson, after which the Gaelic Choir sang "Suas leis a-Ghaidhlig" in spirited fashion. Gaelic solos were rendered by Misses J. Cattanaich and A. Macdonald, and Messrs. John Anderson and Malcolm Macdonald. Misses Curley and Bain and Miss Helen Grant contributed violin and pianoforte music. An interesting item in the proceedings was an old-time Highland supper of "tatties and herrin," which was piped in by Mr. John Macpherson. The customary votes of thanks brought a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment to a close.

PORTREE.—The annual business meeting of the Portree branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Supper Room of the Skye Gathering Hall on Friday evening. Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost occupied the chair, and expressed regret at the absence of the President, Colonel K. L. Macdonald of Tote. A statement of the affairs of the branch was submitted by Major D. M. Fraser, and showed a balance to the credit of the branch, which was considered satisfactory. Office-bearers for the current session were appointed. On the motion of Mr. Macleod of Skeabost, Miss Macdonald of Viewfield was re-appointed hon. president, and Colonel K. L. Macdonald, Tote, was appointed president; vice-presidents—Mr. Macleod of Skeabost, Rev. John Mackay, Portree, and Mr. Angus Nicolson, Portree; hon. secretary and treasurer, Major D. M. Fraser. A strong working committee was also appointed. After the business part of the meeting was concluded, an enjoyable ceilidh followed. The Chairman expressed the pleasure and privilege of those present in having as their guest a distinguished son of an illustrious race, Mr. Compton Mackenzie, who had made for himself an honourable position in the world of letters. They welcomed him to Skye and would promise that, if rumour were true and he was to settle among them, Skye would provide for him all the beauty of scenery, legend, and lore—yes, even fairies to delight him. Mr. Compton Mackenzie said it had been his dream and desire for many long years to come to the islands of the west, for the call of the blood of his ancestors was very strong. He had not been disappointed when he came to these parts. In visiting other parts of the world his expectations had not always been realised. Here he felt at home, and in complete sympathy with his surroundings. He had longed to come to Skye, and yet dreaded it, for he felt that if he did once come he would never want to leave it again. The glamour of it took possession of him. Weather had favoured him, but nothing could excel the beauty of the scene as he looked across at his own island in the Minch—the Shiant Islands—the snow-clad hills of Harris, like cups of gold in the sunlight, and the mountains of Skye, Raasay, and Ross-shire glittering in the clear frosty atmosphere. He was deeply interested in their language, and regretted his inability to speak it. A bilingual race was a rich one. In a business capacity, he was concerned in the sale of gramophone records, and was presently making arrangements for the production of sets of Gaelic lessons and lectures, which should be of immense help to those desiring to learn the language, and which would be produced at a moderate price. Mr. Compton Mackenzie expressed the very great pleasure it gave him to be present at the ceilidh. A short musical programme followed, to which the following contributed:—Mrs. A. Mackenzie and Miss A. Macpherson (duet), Miss A. Ferguson (solo), Misses D. Peacock and C. Mackenzie (duet). Pipe-Major Peter Bain, Scots Guards, played the bagpipes. Community singing of Gaelic songs and choruses followed. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. Gilmour, The Lodge, Portree.

ROY BRIDGE.—Mr. Neil Shaw, secretary and organiser to An Comunn, paid a visit to Brae-Lochaber recently, when advantage was taken of his presence in the district to hold a re-organising meeting of the existing branch and stimulate its local activities. The committee was augmented and gaps among the office-bearers filled, with the following result:—President, Mrs. James Ryan, Roy Bridge; vice-president, Mr. Donald Mac-

Donald, The Hotel, Roy Bridge; secretary, Mr. John MacDonald, The Schoolhouse, Roy Bridge; treasurer, Miss Campbell, Inverlair, Tulloch; members—Mrs. Donald MacDonald, Bohuntine; Mr. James MacDonald, Bunroy; Mr. James MacDonald, Bohentie, Roy Bridge; Mr. Archie MacInnes, Achluachrach; Mr. Angus, Inveroy; Mr. John MacDougall, Schoolhouse, Spean Bridge; Miss Morag MacKenzie, Spean Bridge; Dr. MacKinnon, Manse of Kilmonivaig, Spean Bridge (co-opted); new members—Miss MacDonald, Blarour, Spean Bridge; Mr. James MacDonell, Spean Bridge; and Mr. D. Campbell, Inverlair, who fills the vacancy left by Mr. Cameron, Tulloch Farm, who has left the district. It is hoped that Brae-Lochaber may be represented at the coming Mod at Perth in October by a Senior Rural choir and by a Junior one also. It is also in view to revive and maintain the old traditions, songs, stories, and folk-lore in general of which a store is still to be found in the less-frequented parts of the district.

TOBERMORY.—The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach met on Wednesday, 6th February, in the School, when Mr. MacGregor Whyte gave a paper on "Highland Folklore," dealing with old superstitions, beliefs, and second-sight. He also sang one or two songs during the evening. Others who contributed to the evening's pleasure were Messrs. A. Brown, Duncan Campbell, J. MacKellaich, and J. MacIntosh, whilst Mrs. MacVicar and Miss MacLean also added their numbers. There is no doubt that Mr. MacGregor Whyte fairly carried his audience with him throughout the entire length of a very interesting and engrossing paper, and the very special measure of enjoyment his

address gave was heartily testified by the members in a hearty vote of thanks, on the call of the Chairman, Mr. Cameron, Drimfin.

WICK.—The third and concluding public ceilidh of the current session, under the auspices of Wick branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evening, 6th February. There was a large and appreciative audience, presided over by Mr. R. J. G. Millar, President of the branch, and the happy social ceilidh spirit was much in evidence. The juvenile choir sang the rallying song, "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig." The choir has been under training by Miss K. MacKenzie who, owing to recent bereavement, was unable to be present, but her place was taken by Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., under whose conductorship the young people rendered several fine Gaelic songs, choruses, and lullabies with great acceptance. Miss E. M. Miller was an efficient accompanist in place of Miss MacKenzie. The Wick Strathspey and Reel Band (with Miss Betty Sutherland at the piano) played several sets of marches, strathspeys, and reels in a spirited manner, greatly to the enjoyment of the audience. Miss Wookey, elocutionist, recited appropriate pieces in cultured style, and was heartily encored. In the humorous side of the entertainment Mr. Donald Mackay, Shebster ("In Jenny Horne"), was a host in himself, his readings evoking peals of laughter, and he was recalled again and again. Tea was served during an interval, and a very happy ceilidh concluded with enthusiastic votes of thanks to all who had taken part, the singing of the parting song, "Oidhche mhath leibh," led by the juvenile choir, and the National Anthem.

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TELEGRAMS—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

TELEPHONE—*Douglas 1433.*

Leabhar XXIV.]

An Céitein, 1929.

[Earrann 8

LEABHRAICHEAN AGUS SGOILEIREACHD.

Ma tha muinntir an dùil gun cumar a' Ghaidhlig beò, feumar na meadhanan a chleachdadh airson sin a dheanamh. Feumar a nochdadh gu bheil seadh is brìgh is maise ann ar litreachas. Mur cuir sinn meas air an litreachas is gann gur fhiach dhuinn an t-saothair agus a' chosgais a bhi a' cumail suas na cànan. Is ann a' chionn gu bheil a' Ghaidhlig mar chéis anns a' bheil ionmhas de smuaintean air a' ghleidheadh, is còir dhuinn a' bhi cho eudmhor gus a' cumail beò. Anns a' litreachas gheibhear neamh-nuideoan prìseil de thuigse is de ghliocas. Gu h-àraidh tha sin fìor a' thaobh saothair nam bàrd—dream air an do bhuilich Dia tàlannt, agus a' chuir beachdan grunnail an cèill nach b' urrainn do neach air bith eile a' dheanamh ach iad fhéin. Gun teagamh is iad na bàird a' chuir sgeimh agus loinn air a' chànan. As eugmhais saothair nam bàrd cha chluinnear binneas na cainnte. As eugmhais saothair nam bàrd chan eil buaidh tharunn anns an ionnsachadh, chan eil tlachd anns an obair, chan eil riarachadh aig foghlumaiche no aig luchd teagaisg. An uair a tha neach ag ionnsachadh cainnt eile, cò dhiu is e Greugais no aon de chànan ùra na h-Eòrpa, cìod e tha tabhairt riarachaidh airson a' chuid oibreach? An e bhi cumail cuimhne air facail fa leth, no

air gach caochladh a' bhuineas do na facail no do ghnàths na cànan? Chan e sin idir a' tha aige mar dhuais airson a' shaothrach. Ach is e an duais a' tha aige, na smuaintean arda agus ùra a' tha a' tachairt ris anns an litreachas, a' tha 'fosgladh mar lùchairt fa chomhair.

Ma bheir sinn fainear dòigh nan Eireannach chì sinn gu bheil urram sonruichte aca do'n cuid litreachais féin. Rinn na h-Eireannaich dìchioll air oibre nam bàrd agus oibre eile a' chur an clò air mhodh eagnuidh snasail. Tha mòran de 'n bhàrdacht ainmeil air a' deasachadh le sgoileirean ionnsuichte, agus air a' cur a' mach an leabhraichean gasda, anns a' bheil roimh-ràdh is eadartheangachadh gu Beurla. Tha leithid sin 'n a' chuideachadh mòr do na foghlumaichean, agus do gach aon aig a' bheil dòigh air cànan na h-Eireann a' leughadh gu cothromach. Is luachmhor an nì gum biodh sgrìobhaidhean nan ùghdar ionraiteach air am foillseachadh gu soilleir, agus gach mearachd no leth-sgod air am fàgail a' mach leis an luchd deasachaidh. Tha sin gu feum air dòigh no dhà. Tha e a' cuideachadh na cànan mar chainnt sgrìobhta, anns a' bheil muinntir a' coimhead na riaghailtean a' thaobh litreachaidh. Agus tha an t-eadartheangachadh a' nochdadh eadhon do choigrich cìod an loinn agus an saobh-reas smuain a' tha air an tasgadh suas na Gaidhlig na h-Eireann. Agus ma tha sin fìor a' thaobh Gaidhlig na h-Eireann tha e fìor a' thaobh Gaidhlig na h-Alban mar an ceudna.

Tha e ro iomchuidh dhuinne gum biodh oibre nam bàrd againn fhéin, air an deasachadh gu h-eagnuidh agus gu cùramach le ar cuid sgoilearan féin. Tha àireamh de sgoilearan againn an diugh an Alba, a tha foghainteach agus deònach an obair so a dheanamh nam biodh an t-airgead ri sheachnadh air son na cosgais. Ged a chaidh an obair aig feadhainn de na bàird ainmeil a dheasachadh a cheana, gidheadh tha na leabhraichean sin car daor, is tomadach ri an laimhseachadh. Ged nach biodh an cuid saothair gu léir air an gabhail a stigh, bu mhaith àireamh thaghta de shaothair gach aoine de na bàird. Bhiodh na leabhraichean saor sin gu feum mòr anns na sgoilean, anns na h-oilthighean, agus anns na dachaidhan. Bhiodh binneas nam bàrd 'ga foillseachadh as ùr do chàirdean agus do choigrich.

Agus a nis a thaobh sgoileireachd, chan fhaigh Gaidhlig na h-Alban a h-àite fhéin gu bràth an suilean choigreach, no am measg chainntean eile nan cinneach, gus an eidich sin sgoilearan a bheir a mach am foghlum is airde, a chum is gum bi ughdarras is cudthrom 'n am fianuis air taobh na càinain. Tha sinn anabarrach bochd an diugh anns an t-seadh so. Tha na fìor sgoileirean ro ghann 'n ar measg. Ciod is aobhar da so? Tha cion an airgeid a rithist. Chan eil an t-airgead ri fhaotainn gus cothrom a chumail ri ar foghlumaichean anns an ard oilean. Bu chòir gum biodh dhùaisean ann gu cothrom a thabhairt do na h-òganaich sin aig a bheil comas inntinn air a shon, gu dhol air an aghart a dh'ionnsuidh nan ceuman is airde a ghabhas fhaotainn. Bu chòir gum biodh iad comasach ruigheachd air an teagasg is airde an Alba no an dùthchan eile anns a bheil sgoilearan. Agus an déidh dhaibh sin fhaotainn, thigeadh iad air an ais gu an dùthaich féin; cumadh iad suas cliù ar sluagh a thaobh eòlais; seasadh iad an ionad féin le fìosrachadh agus foghlum; agus an sin thigeadh sgoilearan na Gaidhlig Albanaich a mach as a' chùil, agus chumadh iad suas gu calma còir na Gaidhlig. Is ann mar sin a tha na Cuimrich is na h-Eireannaich a' deanamh; agus an ni tha comasach dhaibhsan tha e comasach dhuinne.

GAELIC TEACHERS.

MR. NORMAN MACLEOD, M.A., GLASGOW.



Mr. Macleod is a native of Aird, Point, in the Island of Lewis. He received his elementary education in the local school, where he also served an apprenticeship as pupil teacher. Having attended the Aberdeen Grammar School for a year he passed the University Preliminary, and entered the Moray House Training College, Edinburgh, in 1903. It was during his period of training that he taught his first Gaelic Class in the Outlook Tower, in connection with the Celtic Union. It was in 1905 that he went to Glasgow, and commenced to teach under the Govan School Board. He entered Glasgow University, and was one of the late Dr. Henderson's students. He conducted Gaelic Continuation Classes in Bellahouston Academy, and for many years afterwards in the Glasgow High School. Mr. Macleod graduated in Glasgow University, with Honours in English. He spent the summer of 1909 in the school of Irish Learning, Dublin, under Professor Osborn Bergin, and later, he attended the Munster School of Irish in County Cork, obtaining the College Certificate for the "Teaching of Irish Gaelic."

During the Great War Mr. Macleod served with the Seaforths, and saw service for four and a half years in Palestine, Egypt, and France. He rose to the rank of Captain. After the Armistice he found himself across

the Rhine—and until August 1919, was in charge of the Army Education Scheme for one of the Brigades of the Rhine Army. On his return to civil life he resumed the teaching of Gaelic Evening Classes in the Glasgow High School, until in 1923, he was appointed Lecturer in Gaelic at the Jordanhill Training College. He is also head of the English Department in John Street Higher Grade School, Bridgeton. In 1912 Mr. Macleod edited the late Mr. Duncan Reid's Elementary Course of Gaelic for An Comunn Gaidhealach. This is widely used in connection with Gaelic teaching.

During his student days Mr. Macleod made his own way independently by gaining scholarships. All along he kept in close touch with his native language both as student and teacher. There are many who owe their acquaintance with Gaelic to his care and enthusiasm for the language. In the post he now holds, of lecturer in the Jordanhill Training College, he wields a valuable influence by instilling into the minds of young teachers under training a respect and love for the old language, which will surely manifest itself in their professional work when they return to teach in the Gaelic area in the North.

“TEACHDAIRE NAN GAIDHEAL.”

Our Gaelic contemporary monthly journal in Nova Scotia, Canada, is maintaining its great vitality and efficiency. The name of the journal, as many of our readers already know, is “Teachdaire nan Gaidheal,” or The Messenger of the Gaels. It can lay a very strong claim to the title indeed, on account of the fact that six of its eight pages (larger in size than the page of our own magazine, “An Gaidheal”) are devoted to Gaelic entirely, whether prose or verse. This is most refreshing and encouraging. It shows that the Gaels of Nova Scotia are giving their support to a magazine which is willing to give so much of its space to the old language. The editor is Mr. James MacNeil; the chairman of the directors is Dr. John Macdonald; the vice-chairman is Mr. A. A. MacIntyre, K.C., and the legal adviser is Mr. Eoghan Ross, K.C. Besides literary matter, there are short articles in Gaelic on books, obituaries, economic, industrial, and political happenings, and even on such recent inventions as the aeroplane. The type is large, clear, and most readable. The editorial work is excellently done. We desire to extend our felicitations to the management on their fine magazine, and to congratulate the Gaels in that quarter

of Canada in having such a Gaelic paper circulating among them. Our Gaels at home should read “Teachdaire nan Gaidheal.” The magazine can be had from James MacNeil, Esq., editor, “Gaelic Herald,” Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. Price, \$1 annually.

AN DROBHAI RUAHDH.

(LE IAIN MACPHAIDEIN.)

II.

Air do'n sgiobair a bhi greis a' beachdachadh airt an dealbh, thubhairt e gu'n robh e a' toirt 'na chuimhne tũr a chunnaic e ann an àiteigin; ach cha b'urrainn da a ràdh c'àite. “Ach” ars esan, “tha seann seòladair agam an so, agus dh'fhaodteadh gu'm bi fios aigesan cò an tũr a th'ann.” Thàinig an seòladair air lom, agus air dha beachdachadh gu dian car greis air an dealbh, thubhairt e ris an sgiobair gu'm robh e coltach ri Tũr Innis-stoth. Dh'innis an sgiobair do Ghruaidh-abhull gu dé a thubhairt an seòladair. “Ach” arsa Gruaidh-abhull, “c'ait am bheil Tũr Innis-stoth?” “Tha,” ars an sgiobair “astar mòr eadar sinn agus Innis-stoth: tha e suas air ceann-a-tuath an eilein so air am bheil sinn, 's tha sinne an so anns a' cheann-a-deas. Tha mòran de mhiltean eadarainn.” “Gu de—” arsa Gruaidh-abhull an ùine a bheireadh tu a' seòladh ann?” “Bhitheadh sin a réir nan sìontan” ars an sgiobair. “Dh'fhaodamaid a ruigheachd ann an seachd làithean. Ma dh'fhaodteadh gu'n tugadh sinn seachd deug.” “An uair a gheibh thu do bhàthar a reic” arsa Gruaidh-abhull, “agus gach ni ann an òrdugh, ma ghabhas tu os làimh na tha mi dol a dh'iarraidh ort, ainmich do dhuais agus gheibh thu i.” “Cluinmeam t'iartras” ars an sgiobair. “Gu'm falbh thu còmhla rium féin agus ri m' luingeis, agus gu'n treòraich thu sinn gu Tũr Innis-stoth.”

Agus an uair a fhuaras gach ni air dòigh agus a dh'aontaich an sgiobair dol leò, chaidh na siùil ris na croinn 's thog iad am mach gu cuan. Làithean an déidh so, ghlaodh an gocaman air Innis-stoth gu'n robh luingeas 'san t-sealladh. An uair a dh'lùthaich Gruaidh-abhull agus a cabhlach ri Innis-stoth chunnaic iad gu'n robh feachd làidir air a chladach rompa. An uair a thàinig an àireamh bu mhotha do'n luingeas air aghart gu àite sònraichte dh'acraich iad uile ach aon bhàta beag air an robh sia ràimh agus fear g'a stiũradh; ann an toiseach a' bhàta bha ainneir 'og lurach. Nuair a chunnaic triath Innis-stoth an sealladh ud dh'òrdaich

e am feachd a bh' air a chùlaibh seasamh air an ais, agus ghabh e féin an sios gu oir na tuinne, 's mu'n gann a bhean sròn a' bhàta do'n ghainneamh bha an triath am mach gu chrios anns an uisge, agus a làmhnan sgaoilte gus an ainneir a ghilacadh. Sgaoil an ainneir a gàirdeanan féin 's i ag ràdh: "Aisling mo chadail, codhail mo dhùsgaidh, mo fhìr agus mo laoch." An sin phaisg i a gàirdeanan, mu'n robh na seudan a' dealradh, mu mhuineal an tréith aig an robh i 'na ghàirdeanan féin, 's e a' tionndadh leatha am mach as an uisge gu san d' fhàg e i air lìanaig ghuirn os cionn na tuinne. An sin chuir i a làmh 'na ahlais, 's i 'g ràdh: "Theid sinn a sios dh'ionnsaigh a' bhàta; tha" arsa Gruaidh-abhull "diomhaireachd buaidh air dream agus air sìochd, anns a' bhàta; agus an taobh a théid mi féin théid an Lia Fàil—'s e sin is ainm dhith." Thugadh an Lia Fàil gu Tùr Innis-stoth air an oidheche ud agus bha seachd criosan òir uimpe.

'S e a bh' ann gu'm do ghabh triath Innis-stoth Gruaidh-abhull mar mhnaoi dha féin agus 'na baintighearna air Innis-stoth agus na bhuineadh dhith. Agus 'nan suidhe air an Lia Fàil ghabh iad orra féin bóidean am pòsaidh. Agus 's ann 'nan suidhe air an Lia Fàil a ghabh iomadh aon de 'n sìochd bóidean an rìgh air féin, agus an crùn air a cheann.

"Ach," arsa h-aon de 'n chuideachd, "ciamar a ghabhar Tùr Innis-stoth tarruing air taobh a stèigh de'n chnap òmar?"

"Cha b'e" ars am Maighstir-sgoil "làmh duine a tharruing an dealbh. 'S e an t-òmar bainne nan craobh. Bha e aon uair cho bog ri céir air a teasachadh, agus anns an dòigh so ghabh e cumadh agus dath nan nithean sin a bha 'n taice ris; agus dh' fhuirich e anns an staid sin, agus chruadhaich e ann an grunnad a' chuain."

"Sin sibh," a mhaighstir-sgoil, "ars am Dròbhair," 's minic a chuir sibh solus air ceist chudromach. Ach, mu'n Lia Fàil; mar a thubhairt mi, thug i linntean ann an Tùr Innis-stoth; agus 's iomadh rìgh Albannach a chrùineadh oirre; agus cha do thachair riamh orm aig am bheil teagamh nach b'e Tùr Innis-stoth nan seann sgeul Dùn-staimhinnis an latha 'n diugh. Air uairean de'n ùine tha e coltach gu'n d' fhàs an sluagh fo iomaguin a chionn gu'n robh na Lochlannaich a' tighinn ro-bhithianta agus iad a' feuchainn ri Dùn-staimhinnis a ghilacadh; agus cha robh teagamh 'sam bith nach i an Lia Fàil a bha 'nam beachd. Agus 's e a rinn iad: an

Lia Fàil a thoirt do dh' I a chum a barrachd dìona fhaotainn; agus as an sin, air a' cheart aobhar, chaidh a' toirt do dh' Eirinn far am faigheadh i baile-dìon na b'fhaide o'n chladach. Agus dh' fhuirich i an sin gus an tug Rìgh Fearghus air aisi nall gu Dùn-staimhinnis."

Arsa Dùghall Tàillear: "Faodaidh sin a bhi uile ceart; ach, co-dhiùbh, cha mhat leam gnòthach 'sam bith bhi againn ris na Philistich." Ach thubhairt am Maighstir-sgoil: Dh' fhaodteadh gu'm bheil tuilleadh gnòthaich agad riutha na shaoileas tu. Gu dé chuir na briathran "Air muir 's air tìr" air brataichean agus air sgiathan ar fineachan féin? Agus nach b' e 'n dealbh-aoraidh a bh'aig na Philistich, cruth duine agus cruth éisg. Cha 'n eil ach ùine ghoirid o na thuit fear de àrd-dhaimh ar dùthcha gu'm bheil a' mhuir 'nar fuil.

Brisidh feachd reachd, ach cha bhris feachd no reachd na tha 'san dàn. Na tha 'san dàn, thig e mar chaisle lùbcharach nan sliabh: gun tosd, gun tilleadh.

Is beag a bha fios aig Rìgh Eideard Shasuinn — "Am fad-luirgneach," mar a theirteadh ris, agus dh' fhaodteadh "Am fad-inheurach" a radh ris cho math—nuair a shaoil e gu'n robh e a' neartachadh a rìgh-chathrach féin, gur ann a bha e ag ullachadh rìgh-chathair Bhreatuinn air an robh rìgh Albannach a' tighinn a shuidhe, air latha nach robh fuathasach fada bhuaidhe.

Ged a ni na sìontan caochladh,

Is beachdan dhaoine, o ghluin gu glùn,

Cho fad 's a chitear long air fàirg,

Biodh sìol na h-Albann air a' chrùn.

LECTURING TOUR IN SUTHERLAND.

(BY THE EDITOR.)

At the instance of the northern section of the Propaganda Committee I made a lecturing tour in the south-east of Sutherland, during the whole of the last week in March. The first meeting was held in Bonar Bridge on the Monday. The School was full. The reception given was most hearty and appreciative. Mr. Angus Macpherson, Inveran, presided. I spoke at considerable length on the lines most apposite to the purpose of propaganda. The Rev. Mr. Ritchie of Creich made an eloquent speech in support of the movement. Gaelic

songs and Highland music on the piano were given by members of the audience. The impression left on one's mind is that the Gaelic spirit is strong in Bonar Bridge as in the other parts which I visited. The meeting was decidedly enthusiastic.

On the Tuesday, my second address was given at Lairg, where an excellent meeting was arranged and presided over by Mr. Macneill, retired postmaster, and an ardent student of Gaelic. The Lairg Gaelic Choir gave several selections. The local mods at Lairg during the past few years have given proof of the vitality of the movement in that area. I found an audience which was already sympathetic, and which required no persuasion to appreciate the value of the old language and music. But one realised how helpful such a meeting could be in linking up the remote branches with the larger body of An Comunn. I am convinced that regular messages of a personal nature, such as this, could do a lot to strengthen the solidarity of our cause.

I proceeded to the Dornoch district on the Wednesday, where a great meeting was held in the School at Balvraid. This was one of the keenest meetings that I ever attended in any part of Scotland. There were over one hundred people present; but the refreshing enthusiasm was the feature which struck me most. Mr. H. F. Campbell, Advocate, Aberdeen, presided. Mr. Campbell is a native of Dornoch, and now stays in the district. I think he has already imparted no small measure of his own ardour in the cause to the workers in that area. Rev. Dr. Bentinck, a good Gael, was prevented from being present through having to attend an engagement at some distance. Several selections were rendered by the composite choir of Balvraid and Embo. There were a number of solos, some of the performers coming all the way from Rogart. There is no lack of keenness and interest in the district around Balvraid.

Thursday's meeting was held in the School in the beautiful district of Rogart. Colonel Gunn is a native of Rogart; and he very kindly took the lead in organising the meeting at Rogart, as well, indeed, as all the five meetings that were held. The success of the series of meetings from the point of view of organisation and arrangement is due to Colonel Gunn. Everything was absolutely prompt, and showed the touch of a skilled organiser. Mr. Campbell, headmaster at Rogart, presided over the meeting. His introductory speech was felicitous. The Rogart Gaelic Choir gave a number of

Gaelic songs. Several members of the choir gave solos. One felt that here were no fresh recruits at all, but on the contrary, that things were well advanced, and that the audience had a fine grasp of the issues at stake.

On the Friday I visited Brora, and addressed an enthusiastic gathering at Golspie. The moving spirit in carrying out the local arrangement at Colonel Gunn's request, was the Rev. Mr. MacKenzie, U.F. Manse. Mr. MacKenzie has already done much for Gaelic in Golspie. For years he has been teaching a Gaelic class in the Technical School among youths from the country area, who are being trained in that fine institution. The chair was taken by Colonel Macaulay, Factor to the Duke of Sutherland. The Colonel is a Lochaber man, and spoke in Gaelic. He impressed on the audience the benefit and advantage of being able to speak two languages. Colonel Macaulay is president of the Golspie branch, and Rev. Mr. MacKenzie, secretary. The branch is to be revived, and to carry on its work.

It will be noticed that this report has an optimistic tone. The optimism is well based as far as the spirit shown at these meetings is concerned. The people are as loyal to the language in Sutherland as in any other county. It is to be hoped that the Education Committee under the new *regime* will be favourable to the teaching of Gaelic in schools, and make provision according to the Act. It rests with the voters, of course, to insist that this shall be the case.

“EADAR DA FHRADHARC.”

'S beag a bha fhios aig Calum dè mar a bha cùisean aig an dachaidh. Bha 'nis coig bliadhna deug 'o'n shèol e'n toiseach na chearnag balaich, ochd bliadhna deug a' dh-aois, eadar Glaschu agus America, ach cha robh bliadhna, na leth-bhlaidhn na eadhoin ràidh dhe'n tìne, nach robh aig Seonaid a mhathair air a chunntadh fichead uair na h-intinn. Bha glé fhaisg air da fhichead bliadhna 'o'n thainig i dh' fhuireach na bana-chompanach do Chalum Seoladair, am Port-na-Long. Bha i fhein agus Calum a faighinn a "Phension," agus mar sin cha robh nithean saoghalta, na goireas sam bith a cuir aon dragh orra, aon a chùile; Ged a bha sianar mhac aice, thuilleadh air Calum, b'e esan a bu docha leatha, na aon eile dè'n teaghlach. Bha'n aon nighean a fhuair i pòsd anns an aon bhaile rithe, dh'fhaodadh i ràdh ann an taic an dorus, agus trìùir dhe'n t-sianar eile, cho luath 's a thainig iad gu ire a' gleac, is 's trì

ri muir le dicheoll, dånadas, agus dleasdanas, le té dhe na bàtaichean ùra, a ruithheadh an agaidh gaoithe gun sèol gun chrann le cumhachd inneil ola. Bha seann Chalum a fear-pòsda, air fàs ro lapach air son a dhol gu muir. Bha na mic chramach, gl'ic agus ro chuimhneach air an dachaidh. Shaoileadh daoine nach robh teaghlach ann am Port-na-Long a' bu shona, tearuinn, agus, toilichte, na teaghlach Chalum Shèoladair, ach is beag a bha fhios aca air gortas cridhe Senaid. Bha deich bliadhna 'o'n fhuair i sgrìob mu dheireadh 'o' Chalum. Cha robh i cinnteach an robh e bèo no marbh. Nam biodh fios aige a liuthad oidhche nach do dh'inn a sùil; agus is ioma deur a thuit o' sùilean air a los! Cuid a theireadh gu robh e 'g òl a h-uile sgillinn a bha e cosnadh. Cuid eile a theireadh gu robh e posd ri boir-eannach dubh ann a Ceann Deas America, ach a dh' aindeoin dé theireadh iad, cha robh Seonaid a' creidsinn facal a bhathas ag ràdh mu dheidhinn. B' ann o ghille a mhuinntir na sgìre a thàinig dhachaidh a Astralia a fhuair iad ann beachd a' b' fhearr a fhuair iad mu dheidhinn. Cha'n eil teagamh sam bith nach do thachair an gille so air Calum, ged nach robh e 'g innse na suidhichean anns am fac se e. 'S iomadh ceisd a chuir Seonaid fhéin air a ghille, gus a faigheadh i gu freumh a ghnòthuich, ach leis gach freagairt tarsuinn a bha e toirt dhi, dh-aithnich i agus cho-dh'inn i nach robh bi-beo a dol gu math le Calum.

Trl miosan an deigh sin thuit air a slàinte, agus cha b' urrain dhi gun a bhi meorachadh 'sa brudrachadh air Calum a latha 'sa dh' oidhche. Aon latha samhraidh choisich i le cèum mall a mach gu creagan os ceann an tighe, agus shuidh i. Bha i smaointeachadh air Calum mar a b'abhaist. Bha i a' gèur amharc a mach air a chuan agus gun a h-àire air ni sam bith ma chuairt dhi. Nuair a h-thionn-daidh i a sùilean co bha na sheasamh air a cùl thaobh ach Calum, a chunnaic a mhathair nuair a thainig e ann am fianuis an tighe, agus e làn chinnteach a làmhnan a chuir air a sùilean, ann an seorsa de fheala-dhà. Thuit Seonaid bho chd seachad agus dh' fhannaich i. Thog Calum i mar gun togadh tu leanabh, agus chrom e sìos air a shocair leatha a dh-ionnsuidh an tighe. Ghabh e steach, agus chuir e mhàth-air na slinedh air uachdar na leapa. Nuair a thainig a' lighiche, agus a thug e leigheas dhi, fhuair i na b'fhearr. Is e tighinn dhachaidh Chaluim gun fhios a chuir roimh, agus ise fhaicinn eadar da fhradharc a rinn an t-òle, ach rinn e math a thighinn dhachaidh.

M. MAC RATH.

HONOURING AN EX-PRESIDENT.

On Tuesday 2nd April, the Lewis and Harris Association in Glasgow assembled to honour their well known fellow Islesman, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Depute Clerk and Treasurer of Education to the Glasgow Education Authority, and an ex-president of An Communn. Mr. Macleod was one of a small group who formed the Lewis and Harris Association; and has ever since been one of its most energetic members in its philanthropic work. He was its President for more than thirty years. Such local societies in the city have not merely a sociable side, but a very practical and benevolent side also. Mr. Macleod's professional career has been in the educational administration of the great city. To that important sphere he has devoted the best years of a busy life. But he has also been able to bestow much thought and leisure on matters which concern the well being of Gaels in Glasgow and beyond it. For twenty-five years he has been on the Executive of An Communn, taking part in the labours of its Committees; and, as all our members are aware, he was for seven years our honoured President. But, perhaps, the most continuous and outstanding part of Mr. Macleod's activity for his countrymen is his chairmanship of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal. For over twenty years he has presided with genial dignity over the weekly gatherings of this unique society—unique in that in all its features, its minutes, lectures, debates, speeches, or songs, nothing but Gaelic is heard. Perhaps the Ceilidh has never yet got its full share of credit for the way in which it has elevated the old language in the esteem of young Highlanders coming to the city. And this institution, too, from the social point of view, has been of great help and value to the youth from the country, bringing them into touch with the fine old traditions, and influencing them to pass their leisure moments profitably and happily together.

At the hands of Mr. R. M. Montgomery, who is now President of the Lewis and Harris Association, Mr. Macleod was made the recipient of a handsome bureau and bookcase, containing books of Celtic interest. Miss Macleod was on the same occasion presented with a dressing case. Miss Macleod has all along shared her brother's kindly enthusiasm for all things which make for the welfare of Gaels in the city. Mr. Macleod replied in a speech marked, as befitted the occasion, by graphic reminiscences in connection with the formation of the Lewis and Harris Association, and other matters of Gaelic interest in the city of Glasgow.

UBHLAN.

DAITHIDH URCHADAN, A.M.

Nach anabarrach an tlachd a tha aig clann nan daoine ann an ùbhlán? Tha lighichean ag innseadh dhuinn gu bheil am meas so fallan; agus comhairlichidh iad dhuinn uiread deth itheadh agus is urrainn duinn fhaighinn; ach cha robh feum sam bith againn air a' chomhairle so fhaotainn, oir tha rud air chor-eigin ann an ubhal abuich a bheir oirnn gun taing dhuinn a bhi làn dheonach eòlas a thoirt da ar carbad air. Ged is nàr aideachadh chan eil teagamh nach toireadh crann ubhal fo throm luchd de ùbhlán gruaidh-dhearg air an fhear is daing-nichte an ùmhlachd do Lagh na Modhanan ùbhlán a thoirt do na deich àithnean fhéin. Na saoil gu bheil mi ag iarraidh ort a chreidsinn leis na faicil ud gun goideadh a h-uile neach de shliochd Adhaimh ùbhlán mur biodh rian eile aige air greim fhaighinn orra. Ach an toireadh tu fhéin làn chreideas do fhear le goile fallan, deagh chàil agus sùil leirseinneach 'na chlaigionn, a theireadh riut gun coisicheadh e seachad air lios le ùbhlán ruiteach a' dideagair-eachd air bràighe a' bhalla gun deo de shànt éirigh 'na bhroilleach air am blasad? Mata is mise am fear nach cuireadh mòran creideas am briathran a thigeadh as a' bheul a chleachdadh a leithid sin de chainnt. Air mo shon fhìn deth is fhada bho chuala mi gun d'fhuirt Seoras Washington,—"Chan urrainn mi breug innseadh; is mise a rinn e;" agus a' cumail air cnuic na firinn mar rinn Seoras is fheadar dhomh an aidmheil a dheanamh nach fhaca mi riamh an sealladh taitneach ud gun an sannt a bhi cho laidir agus gum biodh uisge glas a' brùchdadh bho bhun mo pheircill a bheireadh rabhadh dhomh cho fìor chiatach agus a bhiodh e a bhi a' blaiseagraich air a' mheas thoirmisgte. Nach minic a chualas cuideachd gur e so an dearbh mheas a dh'aom ar ceud sinnsire a slighe an ionracais agus na corach agus a choisinn daibh a bhi air am fuadach as a' ghàradh àluinn anns an do chuir iad seachad làithean an neo-chiontais? Is mór a ghabhainn agus a ràdh gu bheil mi buileach a creidsinn an t-seanchais, agus is fhada bhuam a'ghabh e impidh a chur air neach eile e ghabhail ris an ionradh.

Dh'innis mi cheana gur toigh leam fhéin ùbhlán agus tha mi coma co a chluinneas e; ach cha do choisinn sin domh gu robh an toradh so cho tric air mo bhòrd agus bu mhath

leam agus is ann a thàrmaich ann am inntinn gum bu shuarach dhomh a bhi a dh'easbhuidh annlan cho gasda agus rian agam fhéin air a' chùis a leasachadh. Smaoinich mi gum bithinn sona an la a b'urrainn mi suidh fo mo chran-ubhal fhéin agus a' mheas a chagnadh gun ùbhlán sam bi a thoirt do reachd no àithne. Is e thàinig a' sin gun do chuir mi dh'iarraidh beagan chraobhan ubhal agus leabhar gàrdaireachd. Ged nach robh mòran toinisg agam-sa mu ghréidheadh chraobh-ubhal, bha uiread de bhreithneachadh agam agus a thuig-eadh an seoladh a bha gu pongail air a chur sios anns an leabhar ann am Beurla chruaidh Shasunnaich. An ceann da bhliadhna bu chomasach dhomh itheadh de thoradh nan craobh, agus ged nach robh e uile gu leir 'nam chumachd fagadh a ghabhail bho sgàile na craoibhe, bha an t-abhag agam 'ga shearradh fhéin fo a duilleach, na cearkan 'gan aonagraich aig a bun, agus bu mhór tlachd a' chait ghlais ann a bhi a' dol mu'n cuairt oirre le sùil bheiorach thar a ghuallainn. Bhiodh "eoin bheag na h-ealtuinn" a' ceileireachd dhomh air bharr nan gèag, agus tha teagamh agam gur motha bha còmhachd nan eun a' toirt de thoileachadh dha'n chat na maise agus millseachd nan ubhal. An uair a bhitheann-sa ag òl sòlais a' gealladh an fhoghair agus ag èiseachd ri ceol binn na còisridh iteagach a bha a' gluasad cho sunndach ealamh bho chraobh gu craoibh is ann a bha mo fheasgach an cat glais a' sealg air na seinn-eadairean aoibhinn ud, ach is mise am fear air nach biodh dorran ged nach fhaigheadh fear nan liath-shùil greim de fheoil eoin bho Dhi-luan gu Di-domhnaich, oir bha mi am beachd gum bu dleasdanaiche do'n t-sealgair a bhrù a lionadh le feoil luch is radan na bhi a' dealbh chuilbheartan a chum na h-eoin laghacha a sgrios. An uair a shuidheadh e air mo ghluin agus a bhiodh e ri crònan, co aige tha fhios nach ann a bha e ag innseadh dhomh gun robh farmad aige ris an fheadhainn a bha ag itheadh meas nan craobh, agus gun robh e de'n bheachd gun robh còir aige-san cuideachd air an rud a chordadh ri a chàil fhéin a spionadh deth nam meanglain agus a chur 'na ghoile?

Ma's math leat ùbhlán a bhi agad a chum an riarachadh air do theaghlach agus ma bhios do chognis 'gad agairt mur tig iad gu do bhòrd ann an doigh dha nach fhaigh caraaid na nàmhaid coire, gabh mo chomhairle agus ma tha criomag fhearainn agad cuir ann craobhan ubhal agus bithidh agad ri do bhèan an t-slàinte agus an fhallaineachd a thig bho fheumalachd de bhiadh blasda agus bho shaothair thorach do dha làimhe fhéin.

GAELIC AS A LIVING LANGUAGE.

In an article recently published in "An Gaidheal," *Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig* has asked for the opinion of the readers of our magazine re the public use of Gaelic personal and public names. Let me first of all state that I quite agree with him, and I hope I will be excused once more for giving my own point of view concerning that most important matter: Gaelic as a practical and living language.

It seems to me the obvious boycott of Gaelic as regards public life, for example, in place names, personal names, notices, tickets, etc. together with what has been justly called the inferior race feeling, are the main causes of the position Gaelic has been placed in nowadays. To many people Gaelic appears to be something like a dead language one only meets in books instead of being the living language of a living people. Why is it so? First of all, because nothing is being done to put Gaelic in evidence in the Gaidhealtachd; and secondly, because of that inferior race feeling. Why should it be more fashionable to speak English than Gaelic? Surely such a notion is quite absurd, yet that kind of feeling is not quite dead yet. It is about time it were. This and the indifference to things Gaelic are really what An Comunn Gaidhealach has to fight, if, as it seems to me, any serious progress is to be made in maintaining Gaelic as the language of the Gaidhealtachd.

It is not at all my idea to criticise the splendid work done by An Comunn Gaidhealach, but I think something could perhaps be done in view of restoring Gaelic to its rightful place in the Gaidhealtachd.

Having studied Gaelic by myself for about a year I resolved to spend my holidays in the Gaidhealtachd with a view of hearing the language spoken, and of spending a few weeks in a Gaelic atmosphere. So, about the middle of June, last summer, I arrived at Oban, having chosen that town as the starting point of my wanderings. I must admit that I was sorely disappointed with the state of things in Barra-gaidheal. I was most painfully struck by the almost complete absence of Gaelic everywhere. All signboards, street names, public notices (with the unique exception of the notice mentioning "Crannaig a' Mhinisteir"), were solely in English, one could have imagined oneself in Essex or in Kent, as far as Gaelic was concerned! I visited Tobermory in the hope of finding things a bit more Gaelic there, but it was just the same: no Gaelic, nothing but English! I left Belgium in the hope of

finding Gaelic somehow in evidence in the Gaidhealtachd, but alas, I had to fall back on books. But I am sorry to say that this was easier said than done. During the week preceding the Lorne, Mull and Morvern Mod, it was almost impossible to find a single Gaelic book at Oban. The only book concerning Gaelic I saw in a shop window was T. D. MacDonald's *Gaelic Proverbs*, which I bought. Not even a copy of *An Gaidheal* was to be seen! I have also vainly tried to find a cheap English-Gaelic dictionary similar to Am Briathrachan Beag, but was told that such a thing did not exist. This is a real pity as it would be of great help not only to students, but to school children in the Gaidhealtachd. It should be remembered that to be successful, the Gaelic Movement ought to touch all classes, rich and poor, and it is not every one who can afford 30s. or 42s. for a dictionary. Then I was rather surprised at the predominance given to English during the proceedings of the local Mod. Here almost everything was done in English, and even the ticket I got for the Evening Concert was printed entirely in English! It seemed that Gaelic was a language fit only to be used in songs! Surely this is not so.

During my wanderings in the Mull, Lorne, Appin and Gleanh Comhann districts I have hardly seen one single personal name in the Gaelic form! Why is that so? Are the Gaels ashamed of their names? Why Mackenzie or Cameron instead of MacCoinnich or Camshron?

In my native city, Antwerp, all the street names are both in Flemish and in French—could not something similar be done in the Gaidhealtachd? I am afraid that as long as the Gaels are ashamed of or indifferent to their own beautiful language, and think it more fashionable to prefer English, not much can be hoped in the way of a Gaelic revival.

Another correspondent, S.T. of Corcaigh, has given some very fine suggestions, for example: that Gaels, and especially members of our Association should pledge themselves to the Gaelic form. What he says about the Englishman not calling himself Fritz Zimmermann, when in German company, is quite true. I, for example, would never think of calling myself Brook when in England, or Du Marais when in France, it would be preposterous! Yet that is what is done every day by the Gaels.

It is high time something were done in order to do away with that feeling of inferiority, but as it has often been said before, it is the Gaels themselves who, in many instances, are the cause of the trouble.



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In many shops of the Gaidhealtachd one finds silly post-cards representing Scotsmen with the féileadheachan in ridiculous and often vulgar situations, with supposed to be humorous texts . . . in Braid Scots!

Think of the feelings of a friendly and well disposed foreigner coming to the Gaidhealtachd for the sake of the Gaelic, when he is greeted by ridiculous picture post-cards, and by an almost complete absence of Gaelic! Why should the Gael be ashamed of his language, I wonder? Yet a Gael without the Gaelic is, it appears to me, just as unthinkable as a German without German or a Frenchman who would not be able to utter a single sentence in French. Well, one can easily imagine the impression all that made upon me who had travelled over 600 miles for the sake of the Gaelic!

I am often listening to the Irish Gaelic lessons broadcast from Baile-Ath-Cliath (Dublin), and I think it is a pity that nothing of that kind has been tried in Albainn. Surely even a weekly Gaelic lesson broadcast, say from Aberdeen or Glasgow (or both stations), would be a great stimulus to students. The Gaelic half hours from the Aberdeen station are a real treat, and I do hope they will be continued.

The study of Gaelic and of things related to the Gael has a strong appeal to certain non-Gaelic people I know, who, like myself take a strong interest in things Gaelic, as if we were drawn to it through unknown and unsuspected connections, when there are hundreds of people with good old Gaelic names, who through negligence and indifference, forsake the language that by right ought to be theirs. It is really a sad state of affairs, and I consider that these Gaels taken as a nation are committing a moral suicide.

Gaels, I repeat it, do everything you can to keep the Gaelic alive, to restore it to its rightful position of the language of the Gaidhealtachd, not solely a language of books, for apart from sentimental reasons, I think that the position of Albainn, and of the Gaidhealtachd especially would be anything but enviable if the Gaelic was to become a dead language. It would make Scotland something like an English Colony, solely dependant on England for its intellectual life.

I see with pleasure that Seumas MacThomais and J. L. C. have given their opinion, and some very good suggestions, concerning the same subject, and I cannot but congratulate

L.N. on the contribution given on the same subject. Let us hope that things may change for the better in the near future.

Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig!

F. H. VAN DEN BROECK,
BRASSCHAET, near ANTWERP,
BELGIUM.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

A Highland Ball in aid of National Mod funds was held in the City Hall, Perth, on Friday, 12th April. About 300 people took part in the dance, and the galleries were thronged with spectators. Reels were a feature of the programme, and the bright tartans of those taking part added colour and tone to the gaiety and splendour of the gathering. Lord James Stewart Murray was Convener of the Ball Committee, which is sure to yield a very substantial surplus for Mod purposes.

* * * * *

Provincial Mods have been arranged to take place as follows:—Campbeltown (Kintyre), 9th and 10th May; Dunoon (Cowal), 8th June; Pitlochrie (Perthshire), 14th June; Lochgilphead (Mid-Argyll), 18th and 19th June; Stornoway (Lewis), 20th and 21st June; Bowmore (Islay), 21st June; Oban (Lorn, Mull, and Morvern), 21st and 22nd June; Strontian (Ardnamurchan), 2nd July; Portree (Skye), 3rd and 4th July; Kyle (South-West Ross and Glenelg district), 11th July; Lairg (Sutherland), 6th September. The date for the Tìre Mod has not been decided, and I understand the Lochaber Juvenile Mod will be held as usual.

* * * * *

The Committee charged with making arrangements for the Celtic Congress meetings in Glasgow this year have had several meetings recently. Sub-committees have been formed to arrange for the various functions and lectures, and an appeal has been issued soliciting funds to enable the Committee to offer hospitality to delegates, and meet incidental expenses. Sir Donald MacAlister, K.C.B., is president of the local Executive; Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Convener; Mr. John Cameron, LL.B., 136 Wellington Street, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Robert Macfarlane, C.A., 212 West George Street, Hon. Treasurer.

Will members please note that the dates of the National Mod are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th October.

NIALL.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

Since last report I have visited Callander, Alexandria, Hamilton, Clydebank, Tarbert, Newtonmore, Dunoon, Renfrew, Aberfoyle, and Kinloch Rannoch.

The Gaelic Society of Callander has had a very successful session, and closed with a Grand Ceilidh in the large Hall of the Hydro-pathic on 18th March. Miss Cathie M. Clark, Glasgow, accompanied me, and we contributed to the musical programme. Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., presided, and spoke in Gaelic and English. As a result of my talk an enquiry has been received about forming a Branch of An Comunn in the town of Stirling.

There were 150 people present at the Ceilidh I attended in Alexandria on 22nd March. Mr. Donald Cameron, Vice-President, presided. This Branch has maintained its high place in the life of the Gaels in the Vale of Leven, and the ceilidhean are always well attended. Though not directly under the auspices of the Branch, the Gaelic and Singing Classes under the Continuation Class Scheme are mainly supported by the members. The Gaelic Choir has given its support to many functions of a Highland character in the surrounding districts.

The Hamilton Branch of the Lanarkshire Highlanders' Association is doing good work in the Ducal Town by holding regular ceilidhean. On 27th March I had an audience of between 50 and 60 people in the Liberal Club Rooms, presided over by Mr. John MacLeod, chairman of the Branch. I spoke on the origin and progress of An Comunn, and closed with a recital of incidents connected with my many tours throughout the Highlands.

On the invitation of the President, Mr. Alexander Fraser, I presided over the closing Ceilidh of the Clydebank Highlanders' Association, on 28th March. There were fully 300 people present, and a first class programme was sustained by the Vale of Leven Gaelic Choir under the leadership of Miss Belle MacKay. A party of the Caledonian Strathspey and Reel Society were present and discoursed lively music. I am hopeful of this Association becoming affiliated to An Comunn.

The Concert arranged for Tarbert took place on 5th April. The President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, was in the chair and those who accompanied me were Miss Phemie Marquis, Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilphead; Miss

Mary C. MacNiven, Glasgow, and Mr. Gilbert MacPhail, Islay. The Concert was a splendid success, and gave great pleasure to the large audience present. The artistes named above deserve the best thanks of An Comunn for the readiness with which they came forward, and for the excellence of the programme provided.

I attended the first Badenoch Provincial Mod at Newtonmore on 10th April, but as this very successful gathering is fully reported on another page I need not refer to it further.

I visited Dunoon on 12th April, and interviewed the interim secretary, Mr. William MacInnes. The syllabus for the Cowal Provincial Mod which is to be held on 8th June was published some time ago. Mr. John MacCallum, Headmaster, Innellan, is conducting a Junior Gaelic Choir in Dunoon, and a large number of competitors is expected from the Glendaruel district. A Sale of Work in aid of Mod Funds was held recently, and a Gaelic and English concert arranged for 26th April.

On the instruction of the Southern sub-committee I visited Renfrew on 15th April, and called on several Gaelic speaking people known to be interested in our movement. I have every confidence that a Branch can be formed in Renfrew, and the Committee are keeping the matter before them for the opening of next session.

The Aberfoyle Branch held its first ceilidh on 17th April. Mr. Malcolm MacCallum, president, was in the chair, and was supported by Vice-Presidents Malcolm MacIntyre, M.A., and D. Cameron. The chairman, speaking in Gaelic and English, extended a cordial welcome to members and friends. A fine programme of Gaelic and Scottish songs was gone through, the president leading off with "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig." There is every indication that this Branch will succeed.

A Concert organised by the Kinloch Rannoch Branch took place in the Hall there on 19th April. The Lady Helen Tod presided, and gave a neat speech in Gaelic and English. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Donald Lamont, Miss Debenham and myself. The surplus from this concert goes to support the Provincial Mod which will take place at Pitlochrie in June. This Branch has already sent £15 towards the National Mod at Perth.

NIALL.

SONG-LECTURE.

A musical evening of exceptional interest was organised recently by Mrs. George MacKintosh and Miss Eleanora Cameron at Nairn, in aid of local charities. It took the form of a song-lecture on Highland music, by Mrs. MacKintosh. Lady Sybil Fraser was in the chair, and opened the proceedings with a few words.

Mrs. MacKintosh has a wonderful knowledge of the history of Celtic music, and a love of its haunting charm, and she and Miss Cameron take a great interest in An Comunn Gaidhealach and its objects. The lecturer began by speaking shortly in general terms of the origin of music. The music was first written by the Greeks, though it took thousands of years to write music in the way we know it to-day. The first mention of a keyboard was in the 11th century, and the notes were from 3 to 5 inches broad. However, as she went on to say, there was music long before instruments were thought of, for was there ever an age when people did not sing. And who were the singers. First and foremost, the world's workers, for song and work often went together. The lecturer then spoke of the great debt of gratitude we owed in the Highlands to Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, for her wonderful collection of songs.

Mrs. Kennedy Fraser had the poets' love of the Isles, and was herself a skilled musician, and if it had not been for her and her collaborator the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, these songs, now famous all over the world, might never have been published.

In speaking of the waulking songs, Mrs. MacKintosh quoted Mrs. Fraser's description and the audience had a treat when the charming singer, Miss Morag Macdonald, the recent Mod Medalist from Inverness, sang examples of them, followed by an Triall-Bainnse from the Songs of the Hebrides, and others. Mrs. MacKintosh went on to say, that one example of music by the world worker was an unpaid, 12 hours a day worker, and one who always sang, and always would sing, and that was the mother rocking the cradle; an inspiring subject this has proved to endless composers.

Miss Eleanora Cameron then illustrated this by singing in Gaelic "The Cradle Spell" of Dunvegan, and "Kishmel's Cradle Croon," accompanying herself on the clarsach. The clarsach the lecturer explained was the oldest instrument in the Highlands, and the ideal accompaniment for the Celtic airs; unfortunately, it had died out now, but in old Gaelic songs it is frequently mentioned, and every clan in old days had its bard.

Mr. Roderick MacLeod who very kindly came from Inverness to take part in the concert gave a splendid example of the *oran mór*,

and he also sang "McCrimmon's Lament," with a 'cello obligato, played by Mrs. Cameron. Mrs. MacKintosh herself, a very clever pianist, played an exquisite little Lament for Ian Lom, followed by that delightful reel, "Mrs. MacLeod of Raasay," written by Lord Macdonald of the Isles, with whom, Mrs. MacKintosh reminded her audience, the great composer Mendelssohn stayed at Armadale Castle about 1830. The outcome of his visit being the beautiful overture to the Hebrides.

Perhaps the most popular item of the evening was the illustration of the dancing to the *puirt-a-beul* sang by Miss Morag Macdonald, and danced with amazing grace and skill by Lady Sybil Fraser's little daughter, Fanny, and by Mrs. MacKintosh's daughter Mary. Captain Duncan of the Black Watch sang examples from Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's collection, and a string quintette played Scottish airs arranged by Gustav Holst.

Mrs. Napier's Girl Guides Choir delightfully opened and closed the concert, the "Eriskay Love Lilt" being beautifully sung. Bagpipe music, of course, came into the lecture, and Corporal J. Macdonald of the Black Watch gave selections.

SENTINELS OF THE MOORLAND.

D. MATHESON, M.A.

Cairns were originally intended for monuments, and there is every evidence for believing that they were used as such from very early times by all kinds of people who could associate their conception of durability with rock and stone. Authors have, at different times expressed contradicting views concerning the intention of these, but as a consequence of the finds made in recent explorations, opinion seems to be more decisive in favour of declaring them to have been originally, structures erected out of respect to the dead. These cairns are particularly numerous in the Hebrides, and they are a notable feature of the Lewis landscape. The sacred ceremony of cairn-raising, though still prevalent in some parts is gradually losing its original meaning to the inhabitants of the glens, due, perhaps, to the fact that heaped stones are nowadays unfortunately found useful for less illustrious purposes. For when travelling over the lone moor, one often comes across what would appear to be but a useless heap of stones perched on precipitous summits. If one cares to climb and examine these cairns it is interesting to note that a certain amount of order has been established in the way the stones have been placed on top of one another. A survey of the moorland by means of binoculars would reveal the appearance of many more such cairns, placed at intervals of about a

mile apart, and receding far into the distance. These rugged, sentinel-shaped structures define the boundaries that separate the pasture land of the different villages. When travelling in the vales below, these cairns appear clearly against the sky, suggesting anything but gainly shapes to the many travellers who undertake cross country journeys alone under the shadow of approaching darkness. Yet, as he draws nigh the object of such unnecessary dread, enough remains of glimmering light to guide the wanderer's steps safely to his destined haven.

There are, however, other cairns to be met with occasionally on the lone moor, the foundations of which have been set many centuries ago, and which are still, strange to say, in course of construction. A few of these latter cairns commemorate the place where the body of some dead ancestor was discovered, who probably had lost his way, and succumbed to the severity of the weather, or encountered an armed enemy, such as the renowned Mac-an Tronaich. There is, at least, one such memorial traditionally believed to have been dedicated to the memory of a victim of this notorious outlaw. Other cairns are usually found close to moor lochs, where it was customary for the funeral procession to rest the bier, in order to allay the thirst that a long march to a suitable cemetery entailed. One very conspicuous example of these latter cairns may be seen at Loch na Faolag, just outside the village of Gravir in the south of the Island. It is true that other stimulants stronger than water were freely indulged in on these occasions, but this practise has fortunately died out, and only a few are now able to recollect the revelry that custom demanded at these secluded resting places. Howbeit, these cairns speak of other days, and however irreverent the conduct of these people may appear to us folk, in the more enlightened year of 1929, it is true, that they were feasting with all due respect to the dead. The Carn-cuimhne then, as has already been mentioned, is ever in course of construction. This may appear strange, but it is the custom for every one passing the way to place a stone on these memorials. Even the young children are impressed with the significance of these cairns, and, if through forgetfulness they should pass the heap without contributing, there are instances of them retracing their steps in order to pay their simple homage. The stones in the vicinity of the structure at Loch-na Faolag have all been used, and the writer in boyhood days, with childhood friends, recollects preparing for the ceremony, by providing ourselves with suitable stones long ere reaching the cairn.

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SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

The Summer School of Gaelic will be held this year in Port Ellen, Islay, from 24th July to 4th August. The local secretary is Miss Morag MacEachren, Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, to whom applications for lodgings and any other local information desired should be addressed.

The following teachers have been appointed :—Advanced Class—Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; Elementary Class—Miss Annie Johnstone, Castlebay; Celtic Art Class—Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., Glasgow, and Gaelic Music Class—Mr. Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., Edinburgh.

Those intending to attend the school should enrol early with the general secretary, Mr. Neil Shaw, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2. The following are the fees :—For full course, 30/- each student; Art Class only, 15/-, and Gaelic Singing only, 5/-.

The Committee feel that there should be a large attendance this year, as Islay is

undoubtedly one of the best centres in the West Highlands both for Gaelic and holiday purposes. Port Ellen offers splendid opportunity for boating and bathing, while the famous Machrie Golf Course is within easy reach.

There is a daily steamer service to Islay—on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, direct from Tarbert and Gigha to Port Ellen; and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to Port Askaig, with mail 'bus connection to Port Ellen. Train connects with steamer at Gourrock, leaving Central Station, Glasgow, at 8.35 a.m. Passengers leave steamer "Columbia" at Tarbert and cross over to West Loch Tarbert, where they join the steamer "Pioneer." The steamer is due in Islay about 4.30 p.m.

BADENOCH PROVINCIAL MOD.

The gratifying progress made by the various Gaelic singing and music classes carried on in Badenoch during the past two years under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach resulted in the holding for the first time of a provincial Mod for the district, which was held on Wednesday, 10th April, in Newtonmore Public Hall. There was an entry of about 100 competitors for the different classes, in addition to the choral competition. All the test pieces, both individually and collectively, were carried through with marked success.

Much of the success of the revival of Gaelic music and literature in Badenoch has been due to the efforts of Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, who, since coming to reside in the district, has been an indefatigable worker for the movement. In this she had the wholehearted support of the officials of An Comunn Gaidhealach, including the Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan; Mr. Neil Shaw, the secretary, and other prominent supporters of the language. The arrangements were well carried out by a committee, with Miss Sinton, Newtonmore, as secretary. The proceedings were presided over in the forenoon by Lady Helen Tod, and in the afternoon by Miss Farquharson.

The adjudicators were the Rev. Alistair Maclean, B.D., Daviot, and Mrs. Christison, Glasgow, for the Gaelic; Mr. D. T. Yacimini, Perth, for the music, and Mr. Howat, Grantown, for the instrumental music.

The chief prize-winners were as follows:—Vocal—Girls, under 9—Eleanor Macdonald. Girls, 9 to 11—1, Mary Cameron; 2, Nettie

Mackintosh. Girls, 12 to 14—1, Isabel Leslie; 2, Margt. Kennedy; 3, Emily Fraser. Girls, over 14—Ella Fraser. Boys, 9 to 11—Murdo Mackenzie. Boys, 12 to 14—1, Herbert Thomson; 2, Lachie Macqueen. Junior Choirs (Unison)—1, Newtonmore; 2, Laggan.

Solo Singing—Ladies—1, Miss C. J. Grant, Aultlarie; 2, Miss Jean Cattanaich, Newtonmore; 3, Mrs. Gibson, Kinloch-Laggan. Men—1, Hume Robertson, Kincraig; 2, Allan Macinnes, Dalwhinnie; 3 (equal), John Cattanaich, Laggan, and M. Macdonald, Newtonmore.

Oral Reading at Sight—1, Angus Maclean; 2, Miss Margaret Macdonald; 3, Mrs. Gibson.

Recitation—1, Miss Isobel Graham; 2, Mrs. Gibson.

Sgeulachd—Allan Macinnes.

Duet Singing—1, Mrs. Stewart and Miss L. Macdonald; 2, Miss K. Grant and Hume Robertson.

Solo Singing, Song by a Local Bard—1, Allan Macinnes; 2, Miss C. J. Grant; 3, Miss I. Campbell.

Senior Gaelic Choirs—1, Newtonmore; 2, Laggan; 3, Kincraig.

Violin Playing (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—1, Allister Curley, Newtonmore; 2, Andrew Polson, Dalwhinnie; 3, D. Fraser, Newtonmore.

Special prizes presented by Mrs. J. Macpherson, Inverness, to the boy and girl gaining highest marks in singing were gained by May Cameron and Murdoch Mackenzie.

A concert in the evening by the prize-winners attracted a large attendance. Miss Farquharson presided at the concert.

TORONTO GAELIC CHOIR.

A few weeks ago, the COISIR-CHUIIL GHAIHDHLIG TORONTO held its first Annual Social and Song-Recital in the Hall of the Bloor St. Presbyterian Church, when a large and representative gathering of Highlanders from all parts of the city came to honour the occasion. Tea was served during an interval in a varied programme that was accorded hearty appreciation, the first of its kind to be given in America.

Among the speakers the Rev. Mr. Lamont's address was the most interesting, and he specially recalled old memories of Skye bards, adding some of his reminiscences of the late Neil MacLeod, whom he knew intimately. Mr. McKinlay argued that when Ruthenians, Poles, Italians, Jews, Bulgarians, and others had choirs in the city, it was only right that the Gael should not be behind any other people in this respect; and he was supported in a racy Gaelic speech by Mr. Ian MacLean. Dr. Scott described in Gaelic the aims and objects of the Toronto Gaelic Choir, and his reasons for starting one in the "Queen City" of Ontario. Contrary to what the preceding Gaelic speaker had remarked, he had no intention of having the Choir trained by the best musicians they could get, merely with the view of competing with Scottish Choirs. He had shaken the dust of Scotland off his brogues, and looked to Canada and the United States for a field of enterprise among the Gael. Having no Gaelic choirs to compete with on the American Continent, they were free to select the choicest poetry and music from the whole field of Celtic literature, and the comprehensive character of their first programme gave some indication of their future lines of endeavour in interpreting the spirit of Gaelic music and song.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BALVRAID.—The members of the Balvraid and Embo Gaelic Choir met Miss C. Grant at her home at Skelbo Street, on 1st April, and presented her with a handsome silver teapot on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage. Mr. Wm. Grant, president of the Balvraid Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, presided, and extended to Miss Grant the hearty congratulations of the members of the choir and wished her every happiness and success in the future. He then called upon Mr. J. Bain, conductor, to make the presentation. In a few well chosen words Mr. Bain handed over the gift, which bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Miss C. Grant by the members of the Balvraid and Embo Gaelic Choir on the occasion of her marriage, April, 1929." A very pleasant evening was thereafter spent in song and story, the following contributing to a most delightful programme:—Misses Jessie Mackay, Jessie Fraser, Johanna Mackay, Margaret Cumming, Bella Fraser, Ella Ross, Mrs. Macleod, Messrs John Macleod, James Bain, and William Grant.—Under the auspices of the Balvraid Branch of An Comunn, a song-lecture was given in Balvraid School recently. There was a fair attendance. Mr. H. F. Campbell, Dornoch, acted as chairman. Mr. Macrae, Cambusmore, opened the proceedings with bagpipe selections which greatly delighted the audience. Thereafter a programme of Gaelic and English songs was rendered by the following:—Balvraid-Embo choir, Messrs. J. Mackay, Rogart; Bain, Coul; I. Ross, Embo; Mrs. Macleod, Embo; Misses A. Mackenzie, Dornoch; M. Fraser, Rogart; K. Mackenzie, Rogart; J. Mackay, Embo. During the evening the Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan, addressed the company. He spoke of the necessity for pressing forward the claims of the Gaelic language, and in the course of his address, said he hoped that ere long Gaelic would be taught in every school in the Highlands. The audience showed their appreciation of Dr. Ross's address, and their whole-hearted agreement with his views, by the rapt attention with which they listened, and by the applause they accorded to him. Votes of thanks were afterwards given to the chairman and the artistes. The proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem in Gaelic.

BUNESSAN.—The local Branch held the last Ceilidh for the season in the School recently. There was a good attendance of members, over whom the Rev. Neil MacPhail presided. The Chairman spoke of the Highland Proverbs, and stated there were over 4000 of these, although there might not be more than a couple of hundred in use at the present day. An interesting programme was sustained by the following:—Mrs. MacDiarmid, Miss Flora Ritchie, Mrs. MacPhail, Manse, and by Messrs. John Campbell (Fraochmore), Archibald Lamont, Neil MacCallum, Peter MacKechnie, Thomas Carnie, Donald Lamont (Taoslin), and Robert MacCallum. This branch of An Comunn is in a flourishing condition, and has a membership of over a 100.

BUTE.—The annual closing concert of the Branch was held in Tower Street Hall, Rothesay. It was a very pleasant gathering, and every seat was occupied. Captain Kennedy presided, and there were also on the platform Hon. Sheriff Substitute Lyle, ex-Bailie A. Brown, and Mr. J. C. Maclean, secretary. Mr. John K. McLean (The Kaid) was a host in himself, and his humorous reminiscences and songs kept the audience in spasms of laughter. He seems to improve every year. A very pleasing and excellently varied programme of song, music, and story was submitted, and very much enjoyed. The

artistes contributing were:—Mr. Archd. Baxter, Miss Veronica Smart, Mrs. MacCulloch, Miss J. Jones, Mrs. MacMillan, and Pipe-Major Stewart. Mr. D. Lamont discharged the duties of accompanist with much acceptance.

FORT AUGUSTUS.—The final ceilidh for the season of this branch was held under the genial chairmanship of the president, Rev. Angus Macintyre, U.F., Manse. There was the usual large attendance. The proceedings opened with a bagpipe selection, played in his usual finished and stirring style, by Mr. James Campbell, M.V.O., late piper to Queen Victoria and King Edward. Thereafter Gaelic songs were sung by Mrs. Macgregor, Mrs. Macgower, Miss Rachel Campbell, and Winnie Mackintosh, Messrs. A. Grant, J. Campbell, J. Macdonald, D. Fraser, and John Fraser, and a duet by Messrs. W. Mackintosh and A. Macdonald. Fiddle selections were given by Messrs. Alex. Mackintosh and Finlay Chisholm. Mr. J. Macdonald played on the pipes, "The Road to the Isles," which was afterwards sung by the audience to the accompaniment on the piano by the Rev. Mr. Kesting, The Manse. During the tea interval Miss Macdonald played Gaelic airs on the piano, and Miss Bowie was presented with an attache case, and highly complimented on the competent manner in which she had discharged her duties of secretary. The feature of the evening was an abridged representation of the popular play, *An Airdh*, by the ladies of the committee, over which Mrs. Macgregor, Caledonian Hotel, presided. Exhibitions were given of teasing and carding wool, and spinning, winding and knitting by Mrs. Macgregor, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Macnaughton, and Misses Campbell, Macgregor, Grant, and Macnaughton, and the performance concluded with the spirited dancing of a reel to "Fuir-t-a-beul," sung by Mr. John Macdonald. This branch of the Comunn Gàidhealach, which was formed only last December, has a membership of 175, and, roughly, a similar average attendance. Of the 67 branches shown in the last annual report of Comunn Gàidhealach only three have a larger attendance.

GLENSHEL.—The closing concert of the Singing Classes conducted by Mrs. A. C. Scott, took place in the Hall last Friday evening. Councillor Colin Campbell occupied the chair, and the hall was filled with a large and appreciative audience. Piper Donald MacRae opened the programme with bagpipe selections, followed by the Glensheil Gaelic Choir, who sang several pieces in excellent style. Mrs. A. C. Scott, Mrs. Sorbie, Miss Peggy MacRae, Miss Dolly MacLeod, Mr. Simon Campbell, and Alasdair MacKinnon sang Gaelic numbers. Mr. E. N. Raynor and Mr. T. Sorbie contributed songs in English. Miss Iona MacRae gave recitations. On the motion of Councillor Campbell a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to all who had contributed to the programme. After a similar compliment had been paid to the Chairman, Mrs. Scott asked that a special vote of thanks be given to Mr. T. Sorbie, Schoolhouse, who acted as Secretary of the Committee, and who had spared neither time nor trouble in his efforts to make the concert a success. A well attended dance followed.

INVERNESS.—Mr. David Urquhart, headmaster of Drumsittal Public School, delivered an excellent lecture, in Gaelic, to the members of the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach in the Unionist Rooms recently, his subject being, "The Wanderings of the Celts in Prehistoric Times." Mr. D. Macdonald, president, occupied the chair, and at the close the discussion was taken part in by Colonel Gunn, Messrs. D. Graham, Jas. Mackintosh, the Chairman, and ex-Bailie Murray.

TAIN.—Comunn Gaidhealach Baile Dhùthaich closed the session with a very successful Ceilidh in the U.F. Church Hall, on Friday, 19th April. Mr. M. MacArthur, Schoolhouse, Pitcalnie, Nigg, President of the Branch, opened the proceedings with a short address in Gaelic and English. He welcomed the members and friends, of whom there were about 100 present, and commended the enthusiasm shown for the cause. He announced the intention of the Branch of having a Gaelic Class in the Academy next winter, and urged the members to give them their full support by attending the Class. The programme so ably arranged by Mr. J. Grant, Secretary, opened with pianoforte selections by Miss Urquhart, Rosebank; violin selections by Messrs. MacKay, Sinclair, and Dundas, and Gaelic and English songs by Miss MacKay, Royal Hotel; Mr. Iain Campbell, Fearn, and Mr. Donald Sinclair. All these items were keenly enjoyed by the audience. Original recitations by Miss MacDonald, and short Gaelic stories by Messrs. MacKenzie, Campbell, and the President created much merriemnt, revealing the friendly atmosphere and the true Ceilidh spirit, reminiscent of the Ceilidhean of old around the peat fire. A hearty vote of thanks to the artistes, whose services were much appreciated, was proposed by Mr. Grant, Secretary; and a similar compliment to the ladies of the Committee, who so ably served the tea, proposed by the President, brought a very happy evening to a close.

WICK.—The concluding meeting of Wick branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach for the session took the form of a members' ceilidh, juvenile choir social, and annual

business meeting, held in Pulteneytown Academy, on Friday, 12th April. Mr. Millar, president of the branch, presided over a large attendance, and a very happy evening was spent. Next the business meeting was held. Mr. Millar reviewed the work of the session, which has been a very successful one, there having been no financial loss over all on the various ceilidhs, concert, and other functions of the branch. He specially referred to the good work of the Juvenile Choir, under the tuition of Miss K. M'Kenzie and Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., and to the wonderful proficiency they had attained in the pronunciation of the Gaelic language in singing the Gaelic songs and choruses. He also paid a high compliment to the Wick Strathspey and Reel Band, an offshoot of the branch, organised and led by Mr. Harry Troup, and said their public appearances were always hailed with much appreciation. The office-bearers were appointed as follows:—Hon. president, Sir Archibald Sinclair, M.P.; president, Mr. R. J. G. Millar; vice-president, Miss Georgina D. Sinclair, J.P.; secretary, Mr. Alexander M'Donald; treasurer, Mr. F. R. Cochran. Committee:—Mrs. Geo. M. Calder, Mrs. J. Sinclair, Mrs. F. R. Cochran, Mrs. Taylor (Commercial Hotel), Miss May R. Doull, Miss K. M'Kenzie, Miss E. M. Miller, Miss M. S. Henderson; Messrs. M. Mackenzie, M.A., Dan. Ross, R. Bisset, J. Christie, Wm. Reid, D. G. Henderson, Geo. M. Calder, and Rev. Donald Morrison, M.A.; hon. accompanist, Mrs. Gilbertson; hon. piper, Mr. Wm. Coghill. Tea was then served to all the company by the ladies of the committee, and a happy half-hour was spent in social conversation.



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AN GAIDHEAL

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Leabhar XXIV.]

An t-Og-mhìos, 1929.

[Earrann 9

“LITREACHAS NAN GAIDHEAL.”

Tha dlùth air da fhichead bliadhna o thainig an leabhar feumail so da mach an toiseach. Anns an ùine sin chaidh da chlà de 'n leabhar a cheannach leis an t-sluagh. Agus a nis o chionn beagan laithean, thainig an treas clò, no an treas deasachadh de 'n leabhar a mach fo chùram an t-Siorram Macmhaighsteir Caimbeul, C.B.E., Ceann-suidhe A'Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich. Is e ùghdar an leabhair an t-Ollamh Niall MacNéill, a bha 'n a mhinistear anns an Eaglais Coimhthionalaich an Lunnainn. Bhuineadh an t-Ollamh MacNéill do Eilean Ile. Rugadh e anns a' bhliadhna 1853, agus dh'eug e an 1910. Riamh o bha e gle òg bha déidh mhór aig MacNéill air sgrìobhadh an Gaidhlig. Bha e air thoiseach air móran ann a latha, a thaobh eòlais air litreachas nan Gaidheal; agus is e a' cheud neach a ghabh as laimh eachdraidh an litreachais sin a chur sìos an aon leabhar. Mar sin tha buaidh shonruichte an coimhcheangal ris a' leabhar so, mar cheud oidheirp. Gun teagamh rinneadh aghart an sgoilearachd o chionn da fhichead bliadhna. Tha sin fiòr gu h-àraidh a thaobh a' ghnè sluaigh a bha an Alba roimh an am anns an tàinig na Gaidhil a stigh do'n dùthaich. Ged a tha MacNeill a' deanamh iomraidh air a' cheist sin, gidheadh cha bhuin a' cheist do litreachas, ach do eachdraidh a' chinneich agus na dùthcha. Ach a thaobh cùis an litreachais fhéin, tha breith-

neachadh cothromach aig MacNeill, agus is ann gle annamh a gheibhear cearb anns a' bheachd a tha e a' tabhairt.

Tha an t-ùghdar a' roinn a' chuspair fo thrì cinn,—an t-seann linn gus a' bhliadhna 1000 A.D., an linn mheadhonach gu 1500; agus an linn dheireannach o 1500 gus an diugh fhéin. Tha e a' tarruing aire gu na seann luchd teagaisg ris an canair na Druidhean; agus tha e a' moladh an teagaisg a thaobh an deagh éifeachd a bha aig an teagasg sin air modhanan nan treubhan, 'g an cumail onarach agus treun, an coimeas ri cinnich eile mar bha Greugaich is Romanaich. Mar eiseimplear air so tha e ag ainmeachadh an urram a bha na seann Ghaidhil a' taisbeanadh do mhathan. Agus tha buaidh eile a tha aithnichte, agus is e sin crabbhadh is aoradh. Tha cunntas feumail agus taitneach anns an leabhar mu na laoidhean a tha air lorg mu an naomh Padruig agus Calum Cille. Chan eil teagamh nach robh Alba gu léir fo fhiachaibh do Chalum Cille, agus do'n dà fhear dheug a thainig cuide ris gu I. Tha leth-bhreac anns an leabhar mu dhòigh nam braithean anns a' mhainistir anns an Eilean Naomh. Gheibheir facail choit-chionn mar tha buale, bathaich, sabhall, muileann, bra, capull, currach, gobha, cerd, a tha a' nochdadh gu soilleir gu robh na nithean sin cumanta gu leoir ri linn Chaluim an Eilean I. Tha MacNeill mar an ceudna ag ainmeachadh an luchd oibreach eile a shaothraich comhla

ri Calum Cille agus 'n a dhéidh. Is gann gu bheil earrann idir de eachdraidh Alba is cud-thromaiche na an earrann eadar 700 A.D. agus 1100 A.D. Is ann mu an deicheamh linn a sgrìobhadh an leabhar ainmeil aig Aonghas Cele Dé. Ma ghabhas sinn leabhar Aonghais mar chomharradh chì sinn gu robh bàrdachd, litreachas, agus cràbhadh gu fada air an aghart. Bha laoidhean Laidiunn air an cleachdadh anns an eaglais Cheilteich. Ged a bha eaglais nan Gaidheal an Eirinn saor fad chendan bliadhna o chumhachd na Roimhe, gidheadh cha do chum sin na Gaidhil o bhi a' seinn nan laoidhean Laidiunn.

Ach a thuilleadh air sgrìobhaidhean na h-eaglais tha earrann eile anns an litreachas a bhuineas do na gaisgich ris an abrair an Fhiann. Tha bàrdachd na Fèinne a' gabhail gnothuich ris na linntean meadhonach, ged a chaidh cuid dhi a chruinneachadh anns an linn dheireannaich. Is e Deachan an Liosa Mhóir an Earraghaidheal a thionail aireamh de na seann duine a tha ag innse mu Fhionn is Oisean agus laoidhean eile na Fèinne. Rinneadh an tional bàrdachd sin mun bhliadhna 1512, fada romh aois Mhic Mhuirich a chuir a mach mórán bardachd an ainm Oisein. Agus comhla ri duain is bàrdachd rinneadh mar an ceudna tomhas mór de rosg is de sgeulachdan mu na gaisgich. Bha so a' meudachadh saibhreas na cànan, agus 'g a h-ullachadh airson saothair nam bard anns an linn dheireannaich. Is i an linn ud is taitneiche gu léir, oir is ann do'n earrann sin a bhuineas Donnchadh Bàn, Dìghall Bochanain agus Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair. Tha Mac Néill a' tabhairt breith cheart agus eagnaidh air gach aon diu sin, agus air bàird agus sgrìobhaichean eile a shaothraich an litreachas na Gaidhlig. Tha an leabhar so gu h-àraidh feumail an diugh, an uair a tha coltas dùsgaidh air foghlum na Gaidhlig. Sgrìobh an Siorram Caimbeul caibidil aig crìoch an leabhair mu dheidhinn aghart an litreachais o chionn fichead bliadhna. Tha e ag innse gu cothromach mu na leabhraichean a chuireadh an clò anns an ùine sin; agus mu an obair a tha muinntir a' deanamh air sgàth litreachas agus ceòl nan Gaidheal. Bhiodh an leabhar ùr luachmhor is

freagarrach mar dhuais airson na h-oigridh aig na mòid dhùthchail. Tha an leabhar air a chlo-bhualadh gu gasda, agus taitneach ri leughadh. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi e air a chraobh-sgaoidleadh gu farsuinn, agus gum bi eud agus eòlas nan Gaidheal a' dol am meud mar thoradh air an leabhar thlachdmhor gus a bheil sinn a' tarrainn ar n-aire anns an duilleig so.

NIALL MACLEOID.

LE CALUM MACGILLEATHAIN, A.M.

Is oil leam caradh nan frithe
Is mi bhi Lite na long,
Eadar ceann t-Sailean Siphort
Is rubha Ghrianaig nan tonn;
Agus Uiginish riabhach,
An tric an d' iarr mi damh donn,
'S a bhi tric chon nam bodach
D'am bu chosnadh cas chrom.

Is ann anns an Eilean Sgitheanach a tha Duthaich Mhic Leoid, nach ann? Is ann air Dun-Bheagain as luaithe chuimhnicheas fear a bhios airson "farm-midden," mar a chanadh Ailean Breac a chur ri ainm Mhic Leoid. "My name is Stewart," arsa Ailean a' toirt togail bheag shoilleir air fhein, "Alan Breck they call me. A king's name is good enough for me, though I bear it plain, and have the name of no farm-midden to clap to the hind-end of it." Ro-mhaith Ailein! Is ann air rìghrean Lochlannach a thagradh Clann Mhic Leoid cairdeas agus bha Òsgood MacCoinnich, fear Inbher-Iubh, de'n bheachd gum bu dual do Chlann Mhic Leoid a bhi eireachdail, fir is mnathan. Theireadh feadhainn eile gum buineadh an urram sin do Chlann Mhic Rath; ach tha iad le cheile an diugh dubh is geal beag is mór mar tha cach. Is ann anns an Eilean Fhada as pailte Clann Mhic Leoid agus is ann an Leodhas is na Hearadh a chinnich iad air tùs. Is ann o chlann Thormoid na Hearadh a thainig Teaghlach Dhun-Bheagain fhein agus is ann a Leodhas a thainig teaghlach Rath-arsaidh. B'òc an ceartas a thug Leodhas o chlann Thorcuill agus a chuir Niall Mac Leoid a chum na croiche an Duneideann agus bu gheal an airidh nach robh na Leodaich ach gann air cùl Thearlaich mhic Sheumais mhic Sheumais mhic Thearlaich mhic Thearlaich mhic Sheumais.

Bha an t-ainm Ruairidh gu minig air fir Mhic Leoid agus bha Tormod air mórán aca cuideachd, agus tha fios nach cuireadh iad umhail air Niall mar ainm baistidh. A thuil-

leadh air Niall mac Ruairidh a dh'ainmicheadh a cheana tha Niall eile aig Clann Mhic Leoid air am bi cuimhne fhad 's a mhaireas na Gaidheil, bard iomraiteach Eilean a' cheo; ach chan ann air a h-aon aca a tha mo sheanchas ach air fear eile aca air an robh mi eolach. An uair a bha mi glè òg chaidh mi na mo bhalach cnapach a chum na Gaidhealach agus cho fada agus a b' fhiosrach mi cha robh anns an bhaile anns na thuit mo chrannchur ach dà Ghaidheal, dithis co dhiu anns an t-seadh anns an cleachd luchd na Gaidhlig an t-ainm, is e sin fir aig an robh a' Ghaidhlig. B'e a cheud fear aca an t-Ard mhaighstir-sgoile agus is ann a Cill Fhinn a bha esan agus Mac Eoghainn air; agus b'e an dara fear aon de cheannachan a' bhaile aig an robh buth-bhròg, duine còir a mhuinntir an Eilein Sgithenaich air an robh Niall Mac Leoid. Cha robh seachnadh agam fhein agus aig a' mhaighstir-sgoile air a cheile agus cha robh iarraidh againn air, agus cho luath agus nach breugnachadh na brògan mi thug mi leam caiseart fo'm achlais agus chaidh mi steach do'n buth air an robh NEIL MACLEOD ann an litrichean mòra soilleir ach an càiricheadh e an dà bhròg dhomh. Thug e suil ormsa agus suil air na brògan, agus thug mise a' cheud suil air fhein. Duine gu maith ard deanta trom agus e dorcha san fhalt ach anabarrach finealta ruidhteach glan anns an aghaidh, le mealaidhean bàna, farsuinn, sròn mhor, ard, chuimhir, peirceall comasach, agus am beul uachdair fo fheusaig bhanaidh-ruadh a bha a' cromadh gu cas lan thar a bheoil. Cha robh ball dheth meanbh agus ge b'e taobh air an amhairceadh tu air is e duine eireachail a bha ann. Thoisich sinn ma ta air ball anns a' chainnt mhatharail agus lean sinn oirre gun chaochladh gach uair a bhiomaid cuideachd agus mar sin is tric a bhiomaid air a' Ghaidhealtachd an cridhe na Gaidhealach.

Bha leabhraichean Gaidhlig agus leabhraichean Beurla aige ach cna robh gin idir aige, am mach o'n aon fear fhein, bu mhiosaile aige na leabhar Stiubhartach Ghairt mu Ghaidheil Alba. Thug e dhomhsa an leabhar sin agus cha bu mhisde mo bheachd air na Gaidheil sin dad. Is e sar-Ghaidheal a bha san t-Sinealair Stiubhartach gun teagamh. Is iomadh naidheachd bheag laghach a dh'innis e agus is iomadh t' bheag laghach a dh'innseadh air. Bha an t-Arm anns an robh e, an latha ud, gann a bhiadh agus thainig fear de na saighdearan agus thug e leis e gu cùil uaigneich air choireiginn far an robh ceare aige. Dh'ith an dithis aca a' chearc agus chan eil fhios caite as an d'thainig a' chearc na co bha ga h-ionn-drainn oir is e ceard a bha san t-saighdear agus

bha Ghaidhlig aige agus is i Ghaidhlig a bhi aige a choisinn do'n fhear eile a chuid de'n chirc. Bha ceangal mor mar so eadar oifigich is saighdearan eile a rinn na reiseimeidean Gaidhealach chan ann a mhain smiorail dileas ach air leth daimheil nam measg fhein. Is i Ghaidhlig a choisinn do Chailein Mac an Liubhair, no Cailean Caimbeul mar as trice shloinnear e, gun d' fhuair e neart nan Gaidheal gun ghaiseadh riamh an latha na h-eiginn mar a fhuair Ailean Camshronach an Earachd agus Camshronach an Fhasaidh-fhearna, agus iomadh Ceannard eile roimhe. Cha b'ann san arm a mhain a bha chuis mar so ach a nis o'n chail na Gaidheil a' Ghaidhlig chan eil ann ach am fear mor a bhi mor agus am fear beag agus gun diu na circe aca dha cheile. Is iomadh seanchas taitneach a bha aig Niall Mac Leoid air na saighdearan Gaidhealach o bhliadhna Thearlaich gu ruige an latha anns na sheas an Reismeid Chatach anns an t-sreith dheirg. Bha fear de na sean laoi sin a bha san t-sreith dheirg an uair a bhris iad cath nan aonar air marc-sluagh nan Ruiseanach ag radh, "An uair a chuala mise 'Form-Line' thug mi an t-suil mu dheireadh air a' ghrein." An uair a chuirheadh Cailean Caimbeul o sgiths a' Chrimea ach an cuireadh e cìos air an aramach an India bha an t-Arm fhein sgith agus air an latha ghabh e ceannas air an fheadh mhothaich Reismeid Earraghaidheil gun robh na fir a bha air thoiseach orra anabarrach balbh ri theachd, oir bha fios aca nach e an sugradh a chuir chuca e, agus gun robh e fhein ag amharc iomaganach. "Tha e tighinn fheara," arsa feareiginn, 'thugamaid lollach dha,' agus rinn iad sin. Sheas e air an each mun coinneamh agus thuirt e riubh gum b' iadsan a chuideachd fhein, "agus," os esan, "is ann asabha a tha mi 'g earbsa gun dean sibh an gnothuich air mo shon." "Ni sinne sin," arsa na fir.

Latha de na laithean chaidh da mhinistir a steach a bhuth Mhic Leoid, fear aca Gallda agus fear aca Gaidhealach. Bha fuath a' chridhe aig an fhear Ghallda do'n Ghaidhlig agus cha robh cleith riamh aige air. Thug an da Ghaidheal air naidheachdan air cho laidir agus a bha na bodaich Gaidhealach.

"Na fir mhora bu mhor alladh
Ri linn Alasdair 's Mhontrosa."

"Tut" ars an Gall, "chan eil mi creidsinn gun robh iad cho laidir sin. Tha mi smaoineadhachd gu bheil mi fhein cho laidir 's a bha duine riamh aca." Is e duine mor trom dubh a bh' ann dheth. Thug Mac Leoid air a shocair dheth am bratan beag a bha mu mheadhon agus a cheart cho socair thog e an airde a'

chliath a bha eadar e fhein agus na fir, agus b' iognadh le daoine car son a bha am ministeir ud na ruith suas an t-sraid! Ro mhaith a Mhic Leoid, is tu fhein nach leonadh cuileag ach dh' aithnichteadh tu gaisgeach le buille dha do shuil! Ach bha ministeir am measg nan seoid aige an deidh sin. Is tric a chuala mi aige rann air Maighstir Ruairidh a bha an Ceann-sail-oighre. Cha chuireadh an t-Arm dearg air fheabhas maoin eagail air Maighstir Ruairidh. B'esan boinne geal na cruaidhe. Is ann a theaghlach Mhic Caluim ghairbh Ratharsaidh a bha e. Bha e fhein agus an dall Domhnall Mo-Rotha gle mhor aig a cheile agus ma bha Maighstir Ruairidh de na h-uaislean bha Domhnall fìor bhoedh san chrannchur. Thuirte cuideigun a bha air son a bhi mor ri Ruairidh Mac Leoid gum b' iongantach e bhi cosg uidhir de thide comhla ri Domhnall. "Tha," arsa esan, "duil agam an t-siorruidheachd a churi seachad comhla ris." Chuala mi gun robh Niall Mac Leoid e fhein uaireigin san Arm. Cha ghabhainn iognadh, ged nach tug e riamh iomradh air a leithid. Bha rud ann a bhi air leth samhach uime fhein agus a ghnothuichean fhein. Air a cheart doigh is ann an deidh a bhais a dh' innis am ministeir aige domh gun robh e na bhall dileas anns an eaglais aige. Dh' aithnich e am bàs an uair a thainig e ach bha e deas airson na gairm. Bha a chuid fhein a dh' amghairean na beatha so aige ach cha b'e h-uile fear a dh' aithnichteadh sin air. Bha an cianalas orm an latha chuala mi gun do chaochail e oir mar a thuirte Calum cille "Gaidheal, Gaidheal ionmhuinn ainm."

Gu ma buan a bhios d' eachdraidh
 Agus cliù air do mhacaibh
 Gus an crìonar an talamh
 'S am faisgear na neoil;
 Fhad 's bhios sìoban na mara
 A' bualadh ri carraig
 Bi mo dhùrachd gun deireas
 Do eilean a' cheò.

NON-GAELIC SPEAKING AREAS.

SCOTS COLLEGE,

SAFED, PALESTINE, 1/5/29.

SIR,

You published in the issue of September of last year a letter from myself urging the necessity for paying greater attention to the needs of non-Gaelic-speaking areas, and asking for suggestions from other members. To that

letter no reply has as yet been forthcoming, and I therefore beg to intrude once more upon your space in order to make several suggestions on my own account. I do so as, firstly, knowing by personal experience the trials and difficulties that face one who attempts to learn Gaelic from books, and away from all assistance from native speakers, and, secondly, as having some little experience of teaching a language to youths and adults whose own (Semitic) language is as entirely different in idiom, syntax, and general "idiosyncrasy" as Gaelic is from English.

I think we may take it as proven that there is at present taking place a general awakening of interest in Gaelic. I could from my own experience in this remote and isolated spot give some remarkable instances of it. But I cannot agree with those who give all the credit for this awakening to An Comunn Gaidhealach. For one thing, interest is springing up in places where An Comunn has never been heard of. No, An Comunn can only be regarded as a contributory factor; the root of the matter goes much deeper, and is but another facet of the recent awakening of national consciousness, which has produced, among other things the Scottish National Party and the Scottish Renaissance Movement. Moreover, things being as they are, I believe that An Comunn Gaidhealach now stands at the parting of the ways. Either it must choose a widening and re-orientation of aim which will mean intensification of the purely "Gaelic" element, as against the merely "fashionable" cult of singing Gaelic songs, etc. (in which it is in danger of being bogged)—a development which will probably elevate it into the political plane—or it must continue to concern itself with such things as provincial mods, and give place to some other organisation with wider aims, and a determination to use any expedient to obtain its objective.

But to turn from the broader issue to the more immediate one of satisfying the demand for Gaelic. I think we may safely leave the question of teaching in Highland schools, and consider that the most urgent need at the moment is for suitable literature for those who have to learn Gaelic from books, and very often without a teacher. In the first place we must realise that the old haphazard and undirected method must be abandoned. It presents too many difficulties even to a person like myself with specialised training in linguistic matters, and to any one without such training it is absolutely impossible. Gaelic grammar-books are often excellent and comprehensive

as grammar-books, but to the average learner they are discouraging and worse than useless. Books must be produced forming something like a definite "course," and they must be composed in a scientific manner with the special needs of the average "lay" student in view.

In this matter there are two cardinal points to be observed :—(1) relation of subject-matter to treatment, and (2) the rate and proportion of learning. And we might also mention the form of the book itself.

1.—RELATION OF SUBJECT-MATTER TO TREATMENT.

It is advisable and necessary to sustain the interest of the student not only in the language itself, but also in the subject-matter through which he studies it. That is to say, it is not sufficient for the learner to start with an interest in Gaelic and the intention of acquiring it; his interest must be sustained and increased by the subject-matter dealt with in the book he is studying. The overlooking of this fact has made language study to begin with a trial and an affliction. The intelligent man is eventually bored by pages of, "Have you the button of your grandfather?" "When does the train to Paris leave?" and "The boy takes off his cap to his mother." So in the case of Gaelic the learner has to choose between a book like *Leabhar na Cloinne Bige*, where he is soon bored by "Tha an cat glas" and "Tha an leabhar air a' bhòrd," or a book on a subject which interests him, but where the language is so difficult that he has laboriously to look up every second word, and is before long tired and disheartened. Alternatively, he can try one of the admirable Gaelic grammars where he will have need of much time and patience and unusual determination if he is not to be reduced to bewilderment and despair before he has covered ten pages of its grammatical intricacies and unfamiliar terminology. *What is necessary is a series of books designed for the adult learner where subjects likely to be of some interest to him are treated with something of the simplicity of "Leabhar na Cloinne Bige."* This, of course, would be no easy thing to compose, and could only be attempted by a scholar—but it must be done.

2.—THE RATE AND PROPORTION OF LEARNING.

The rate of learning should be slow at first and gradually increase as time goes on. New words should not be introduced in a haphazard manner, but should be chosen carefully, and

introduced in a definite proportion, certainly at first not more than five to a page. Every word on its first introduction should be italicised, and since efficient learning depends largely on repetition it should occur again several times immediately after. In those later appearances of the word it should appear in its different cases so that the learner will understand the changes for case without reference to a grammar book. Thus, for instance, several examples should be given within two pages of am fraoch, an fhraoich, and air an fhraoich. Also when once a word has been introduced, its compounds and derivatives should appear. Thus *criochnaich*, *criochnaichte*, etc., should follow closely on the introduction of *crioich*. Then every five lessons or so a revision lesson should be introduced which the learner should be capable of reading right through and understanding. This gives him pleasure and an increase of self-confidence. Also, at a given stage of the course he should be able to say, "I now know 30, 100, or 250 words," as the case may be. An inter-linear translation would seem to be useful for the first stages of the course, and the pronunciation of new words would also require to be given. The advantage of this method is that the learner is never presented with a difficulty until he is capable of solving it; thus his self-confidence grows with every step, and his learning becomes a pleasure.

Any one preparing such a course would first choose say 300 common and simple words, arrange them and incorporate them in a definite order in a book of say 100 pages. By the time the learner had got through this he would have a nucleus of 300 words at his finger-tips. A second book would then provide him with a further 300 or 400 words, and introduce him to most of the common idioms. After getting through a third book (which should not take more than a year) he would know about 1,200 common words, and have an excellent basis for a real study of the language and literature, and moreover, the whole thing would have been a pleasure from beginning to end. With opportunity he should now, also, be able to make himself understood in speech.

3.—FORM.

This refers to persons already able to read simple Gaelic. The greatest difficulty I have encountered here is in obtaining books of a handy size, and which contain a vocabulary. I should know much more Gaelic than I do had I been able to obtain books of this kind which could be carried in the pocket, and

referred to at any time. As it is if I want to read Gaelic literature I must have an hour or two to spare and sit down with a ponderous dictionary at my elbow. *There is great need for handy pocket-editions of Gaelic prose and poetry, with vocabulary and notes on the more difficult constructions, just as we have in Latin, etc.*

The above is a very brief and incomplete sketch of the new method adopted in teaching English to students in the East, but it might apply to any language, and I trust it will be useful and suggestive in this case. The present position is that for every person persevering in his Gaelic studies, two give it up in despair. That should not be.

Is mise,

Le meas,

T. Duglas MacDhonnai.

BRAID SCOTS AND THE GAELIC.

SCOTS COLLEGE,
PALESTINE, 16/4/29.

A Charaid Choir,

I was interested the other day in looking through issues of *An Gaidheal* to come across a list of Gaelic words still in use in Inverness. I jotted down a few in daily use in Angus and Mearns, and give them below in the hope that they may be of interest, as serving to illustrate the strong Gaelic infusion in Braid Scots, as well as to support my contention that Gaelic ought to be reintroduced into districts such as this, not only because of those of Highland descent settled there, but for the native stock. The native population of Angus must be much more Celtic or Gaelic than, for instance, that of Lewis, stronghold of Gaelic though it is.

1. *Kep*—to catch, stop or intercept, also to meet, from *ceap*, ditto.

2. *Skale*—to spread or separate (e.g., of a congregation or school); from *sgail*, to spread.

3. *Sploochan*—a tobacco pouch; from *spliuchan*, ditto.

4. *Stoor*—dust; from *stur*, ditto.

5. *Dour*—slow or obstinate; from *dùr*, ditto.

6. *Partan*—a crab; from *partan*, ditto,

7. *Runk*—to strip (in a game of marbles, etc.); perhaps from *ruaig*, rout. E. O'D. gives *ruisg* for the corresponding Inverness "rooch."

8. *Gleg*—intelligent, quick; from *glic*, wise.

9. *Weesht*—first probably "listen" and hence "be quiet"; from *uist*, ditto. Is this *eisd*?

10. *Goloch*—sometimes *hornie goloch*, an earwig; from *gobhlach*, forked or *gobhlachan*, an earwig.

11. *Shauchlin*—awkward, walking awkwardly; from *seochlan*, one who acts awkwardly.

12. *Claik*—to chatter or gossip—is this *clag*?

13. *Shog*—to swing; from *seòg*, ditto.

14. *Brat* or *brattie*, a pinafore.

15. *Quaich*—a drinking cup; from *cuach*, ditto.

16. *Skitter*—to slither, e.g., through mud, etc.; from *sgiodar*, a splashing through bogs or mire.

17. *Sodger*—a soldier; from *saighdear*, ditto.

This is not, as is commonly supposed, a mispronunciation of "soldier," but is from the Gaelic. "Soldier" is from "solda" (Latin *solidus*), pay, and, therefore, soldier means a mercenary; but "saighdear" from "saighead" is the true man of the weapon.

18. *Kimmer*—neighbour, kind friend—is this *cuimir*, neat, trim, tidy?

19. *Skelp*—to slap; from *sgealp*, ditto.

20. *Sneak*—to creep, crawl; from *snaig*, ditto. (Is this word English?)

21. *Thrang*—busy, e.g., "I'm gey thrang wi' work the noo"; from Gaelic *trang*, ditto. This has become "thrang" by confusion with the English, "throng," sometimes used by those who wish to be more proper, e.g., "The streets are throng."

22. *Rug*—to seize hold of and pull, e.g., "rug his hair"; from *rugair*.

23. *Collic*—shepherd's dog; from *cuilean*, a pup.

24. *Ca*—to work or operate, also to send or drive—is this not *cuir*, to send, etc.?

25. *Girn*—to complain or murmur, a disgruntled expression; from *gearan*, a complaint, etc.

26. *Scraich*—to screech; from *sgreuch*, ditto.

27. *Sharger*—a small, withered thing, a "poor thing," the small one in a litter of pigs, etc.—is this not from *searg*, to wither, dry?

28. *Rotten*—a rat; from *rattan*, ditto.

29. *Gey*—very or rather; from *gle*, ditto.

30. *Chap*—to knock—is this *chap*, ditto ?

31. *Crayter*—creature ; from *creutair*.

32. *Corp*—corpse ; from *corp*.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but only a few jotted down at random. Indeed, there is room for considerable research here. Braid Scots is not all Norwegian, as Jamieson tried to make out. Also, there are many peculiar modes of expression in Braid Scots which are probably Gaelic, *e.g.*, “through ither,” which is probably a direct translation of “troimh chèile.”

Is mise,

le meas,

T. Dùglas MacDhomhnuill.

GAELIC LEAVING CERTIFICATE.

LOWER GRADE.

Tuesday, 26th March—10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question.

N.B.—Begin each question on a fresh page.

Write legibly and neatly, and leave a reasonable space between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad writing and spelling.

1. Translate into English :—

Dh'amaid an càirdeas agus an fhialachd cheudna ris an ath-oidhche o'n t-sàr-bhiataiche' iomairteach shìbbhlach, fìtheach dubh Choire nan Creag. Gu gearr-leumnach, claptach, sgiathach, rinn e an t-ìul da air chorràibh a sgiath troimh aisdrih nan gobhar gu còs sgòra dhìonaich creige.

Air an treas oidhche dh'amaid comhdhail agus biatachd nach bu mhiosa air Caomhan o'n dohran-donn, an sgorshuileach, an sìriche teòma easgaidh, air nach biodh cuid fir no gille a dhìth fhad 's a bhiodh i r'a faotainn air muir no air tìr. Ged nach robh 'n a gharaidh r'a èisdeachd ach sgiamhail is meaghalaich chat is bhroc is thaghan is fheòcullan, threòruich se e gun eagal gun sgiansgar, gu taiceil foghanta, gu biorshuileach mion-còlach, gu beul cùirn,

↳ excellent purveyor.

far an d'iarr e air trian d'a sgios agus an oidhche gu h-uile a chur seachad comhla ris. Neo-ar-thaing mur d'fhuair e gabhail aige an oidhche sin comhla ri dohrandonn an t-srutha, an sìorshìubhlach, nam foghnadh iasg de gach seòrsa b'fhearr na chèile, agus leaba thioram sheasgair de dhreamsgal àrd-làin stoirme reothairt agus de fheamainn-chìrean an dubh-chladaich. (20)

2. Translate into English :—

Bha a' bhuidheann rìoghail Ghàidhealach, Gu h-inntinneach borb àrdanach, Air thoiseach mar a b'abhaist daibh, Gu lotach pìceach stàilinneach, Mar nathraichean gun chàirdeas Do aon nàmhaid a bha beò.

Tha clann nan Eilean aonsgeulach ; Co theireadh gun do chaochail iad ? 'S iad an dream nach maolchluasach, 'N uair thàirnte am mire caonnaig iad, Mar bheithir¹ thana craoslachadh², B'fhìor fhaoincis teachd 'n an còir.

Mar mhiolchoin sheanga luathleumnach, Gu h-eangach ingneach tuasaideach, Ri leanailt strì gun fhuarachd ; Ri sìubhal-sith³ a dh' fhuasgail iad Bha Frangaich air an ruagadh, Is iad 'n an ruith mar chuain³ gun treoir. (20)

3. Translate into Gaelic :—

A little green hillock overlooking the old monastery still bears the name of the Abbot's Hill, because here, it was said, St. Columba was wont to sit and meditate while scanning the blue waters, to catch the first glimpse of galleys that might be approaching his isle bearing saints or sinners—perplexed brethren or warriors red-handed from foray—coming to seek his counsel in their difficulties or absolution from their misdeeds. Once the little hill was crowned with one of those tall crosses, the site of which, however, is now marked only by a fragment of the base.

Thence he would look across the narrow straits which separate Iona from the great hills of Mull, and with keen eye discern the approach of pilgrims who chose to shorten their long sea-voyage by traversing Mull's savage mountain glens, and who on reaching the opposite shore had only to cry aloud to attract the attention of the brethren of the monastery,

¹ a huge snake.

² gorging.

³ a pack (of hounds, etc.).

who were ever ready to ferry all comers across the straits, and give them hearty welcome to a shelter and a share of such fare as they themselves possessed. (20)

4. Expand the following summary in Gaelic and complete it in your own way. The story should be about one and a half times the length of your answer to question 3, and should on no account exceed twice that length. Failure to comply with this instruction may lead to a loss of marks.

A Difficult Position.

The chief of the Mackinnons finds himself separated from his followers by the luck of the chase—takes shelter in a cave by the edge of Loch Scavaig (*Sgathabhaig*), a locality frequented by fierce old boars—kindles a fire—proceeds to cook some venison—holds in one hand a large bone off which he is in act of cutting slices for dressing—hears a rustle on dry seaweed in mouth of cave—looks up—sees a dark creature rushing at him with gaping jaws and wicked tusks—with great presence of mind makes good use of the bone. (20)

* * *

HIGHER GRADE.—(FIRST PAPER.)

Tuesday, 26th March—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

1. Translate into English:—

Chan 'eil teagamh nach do chuidich gné na Tìre anns a bheil ar dachaidh agus ar n-eachdraidh thuasaideach ar meas air lùth-mhoireachd cuirp a mheudachadh; chan 'eil neach nach aidich gum bu sluagh na Gàidheil a bha ag cur luach neo-chumanta air maise is air deise—is e sin cumadh—cuirp. Is e stuth na h-inntinne neart agus reachdmhoireachd a buaidhean; is e cumadh na h-inntinne snas agus riaghailteachd a buaidhean. Ma bha an Gall 'n a nàdur foidhidneach màirdealach, bha an Gàidheal sgaitheach dian. Dhuinne tha e 'n a dhealachadh 's an fhuil, air a neartachadh no air a lagachadh a réir foghlum is cleachduinn nan sluagh, ach gun bhàir uair 'sam bith gu buileach air a chlaoidh.

A chum leasachadh buaidhean na h-inntinne, is dòcha nach aithne dhuinn fathast làn-chumhachd foghlum; ach 'n a dhéidh sin uile tha mi a' meas gu bheil e fìor mu'n inntinn agus mu'n chorp "gur buaine dùthchas na oilean." Cha toir na tha de fhoghlum fo'n ghréin sròn a' ghadhair do'n tarbh; is cha mhotha dhèanadh gach maighistir-sgoile a thug

bogha air bois Fionn de Iain Lom, no Oisean de Dhonnchadh Bàn. Tha a' chuimhne làidir agus a' bhrèith chothromach agad o'n bhroinn cho cinnteach is a tha an fhéith righinn no an enàimh cumachdail agad; agus ged is urrainn thu le guillachd fhreagarraich a' chuimhne neartachadh is an fhéith a rìgheachadh, tha e fathast gur "nach tionaillear dearcán-fiona de dhrisibh no figean de na foghannanaibh."

2. Translate into English:—

Cha chùis fharmaid mo leithid,
'S ann tha mi an deaghaidh mo spùillidh;
Bhuin an t-eug dhìom gu buileach
Barr is iomall mo chùirte;
Is fheadar tàmailte fhulang
Gun dìon buille air mo chùlaibh;
Stad mo chlàidheamh 'n a dhuille:
Is bà dhomh fuireach r'a rùsgadh.

Bhuin an t-eug creach gun tòir dhìom
Dh'aindeoin òigridh do dhùthcha;
Dh'fhàg m'aigheadh fo fhòruinn,
Is bhuail e bròg air mo chùineadh;
Is trom a dh'fhuasgail e deoir dhomh,
Bu mhór mo chòir air an dùbladh,
Mu cheann-uidhe nan deòradh
Bhì fo bhòrd ann an dùnadh.

O'n chaidh maille air mo fhradharc,
Is nach tadhaill mi an àirdbheann,
Chuir mi cùl ris an fhiadhach,
Pong chan iarr mi air clàrsaich;
Mo cheòl laighe is éirigh,
M'osnadh gheur air bheag tàbhachd;
Fad mo ré bidh mi 'g acain
A mheud 's a chleachd mi de t'àilleas. (25)

3. Translate into English:—

Is uime fós ghairthear Oilill dhe: ionann iomorro Oilill agus oil oll .i. aithis mhór; agus tarladar trì aithise d'Oilill do lean ris go bás, mar atà a bheith cluasom dó, agus a dhéad do dhubhadh, agus a anal do bheith bréan. Is amhlaidh táinig sin: iar gcaill a chluaise le hAine, amhail adubhramar, do ghabh fearg é, agus leis sin tug sáthadh sleighe tré Aine go talmain, go dtarla rinn na sleighe i gcleachd gur fiaradh i; agus cuiris seisean fá n-a dhéad d'a d'iorghadh an rinn, agus téid an neimh do bhí i rinn na sleighe 'n-a dhéad gur dubhadh do láthair í, agus gur fhás bréantas anaile as sin dó, do lean ris go bás, tré choill¹ na dtrí ngeas do bhí ar an sleigh sin, mar atà gan a rinn do chur i gcleachd, gan a rinn do chur fá dhéad, agus gan bainéacht² do dhéanamh lé;

¹ e choill, owing to the violation.

² slaying of a woman.



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gonadh ó na geasaibh sin do choill tarladar na haithise réamhraidhte dhó, agus ó na haithisibh móra sin adubhradh Oilill .i. oil oll .i. aithis mhór ris mar forainm. (20)

* * *

HIGHER GRADE.—(SECOND PAPER.)

Tuesday, 26th March—2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.

SECTION I.

All the questions in this Section should be attempted.

1. Write an essay in Gaelic, on *one* of the following subjects:—

- (a) An Cuan.
- (b) Aghartasan an latha an diugh anns a' Ghàidhealtachd. (Present day developments in the Highlands). (30)

2. Turn into idiomatic Gaelic:—

- (a) I pretended not to hear what he said.
- (b) The egg is hardly worth the cackle.
- (c) You will not escape alive if these men attack you.
- (d) The four northern counties on the mainland of Scotland are Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, and Inverness. (10)

3. Translate into English:—

- (a) Is beag leam a' phrìs a thairgeadh, agus is beag agam am fear a thairg i.
- (b) Is meanmnach gach moch-thrathach.
- (c) Nan dubhadh an sliabh, Is gun cromadh a' ghrian, Leam bu mhithich bhi triall air chuairt.
- (d) Toradh mara a cuilidh Mhoire— Is e tha cumail éis bhuap'. (10)

SECTION II.

THREE questions should be attempted from this Section.

The answers may be either in Gaelic or in English.

4. Explain the use of the apostrophe in Gaelic. What, if any, is its significance in each of the following? *cha'n 'eil e laidir; a' gluasad; chunnaic e gu'n robh e maith; chaidh e dh' Eirinn; a' mhaduinn; am fear a's lugha 's a' chuideachd.* (5)

5. Re-write the following with any corrections in respect of idiom which you think necessary:—

- (a) Thug an gille an t-airgiod d'a athair, a bha dol do Shasunn.
- (b) Bha e 'n a dhuine onorach air son a bheatha uile.
- (c) Cuin a ghabh na nithean sin àite?
- (d) Chuala mi sgeul glé thoilichte an dé. (5)

6. Give with dates the English terms for the following:—Oidhche nam Bannag; Latha Féill Brighde; an Inid; an Carghas; Latha Bealltuinn; Oidhche Shamhna. (5)

7. Quote a verse from any poem by Mac Mhaighistir Alasdair, or Donnchadh Bàn, or Iain Lom, or Niall MacLeod, and give the substance of the poem in English or in Gaelic. (5)

8. Write a short note on—Lachlann Mór MacMhuirich, Iain Mùideartach, Iain MacCodrum, Iain Ruadh Stiùbhart. (5)

* * *

GAELIC DICTATION.

HIGHER GRADE.—(SECOND PAPER.)

Tuesday, 26th March—1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

This paper must not be seen by any Candidate. To be read out by the Teacher at 1.30 p.m. in the presence of the Supervising Officer.

To be written by the Candidates on the separate sheets provided, which must be collected before the Second Gaelic Paper is distributed.

Directions for Teachers.

1. Read the passage aloud distinctly and deliberately, but not slowly, the object being to bring out the meaning of the whole as clearly as possible.
2. Inform the candidates that they may not ask for the repetition of any word or phrase.
3. Dictate the passage slowly, repeating each group of words (as indicated by vertical lines) twice over, and pronouncing every word very distinctly. The punctuation should be indicated.
4. After an interval of five minutes read the text over again in the same manner as on the first occasion, but do not on any account repeat separate words at the request of individual candidates.

DICTATION.

Is e teas na gréine | a ta toirt fais | do luibhibh
na machrach; agus an uair a sgaoileas i |
caomhalachd na glóir-maidne | mun cuairt di,
bithidh gach creutair | sunndach le a làthair-
eachd, | suilbhair agus aighearach le a tiodh-
lacaibh. | Le a teas | éiridh miltean chuilleagan
sgithach gu beatha. | Clisgidh na h-eoin o'n
cadal, | agus dóirtidh iad a mach | an ceileirean
ceòlmhor | ann an co-sheirm chiuil | an uair
a mhothaicheas iad a blàths. | Le méilich
bheir na treuda buidheachas | air son teachd
na maidne ciuine, | agus innsidh am buar |
le ard-gheumnaich an taingealachd. | Aithrisidh
na gleanntan an ceòl ceudna, | agus freagraidh
na cnuc do'n fhoon. | Bheir teas na gréine |
air gach luibh tha air aghaidh na talmhainn |
fàs gu h-àr ar gorm; | comhdaichidh e na
craobhan le duilleach, | a' mhachair le arbhar
agus meas, | na sléibhteann le buar agus treud-
aibh, | agus cridhe an duine | le gairdeachas
agus taingealachd. (10)

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The new School Poetry Book, *An Dileab*, edited by Mr. James Thomson, M.A., Bayble, for use in Advanced Divisions and Intermediate Classes, is now ready, and may be had direct from this office, price 1/6, or post free, 1/7.

The book contains 38 pieces, and is divided into two parts. The first contains poems suitable for the first year post-qualifying stage, and the selections in the second part are intended for the two subsequent years. Several of the pieces are printed for the first time.

Rosg Gaidhlig is now ready, and may be had from this office, price 3/6, postage, 4d extra.

* * * * *

The young women of Ness, Lewis, who were trained in the art of rug-making by Miss Jane MacLeod, Greenock, under the auspices of An Comunn, have completed 30 rugs, and these are offered for sale. Specimens at various prices may be seen at the office of An Comunn here in Glasgow. The rugs are worked on pure

HOME MADE RUGS.

The Rugs made in Ness, Lewis', under the auspices of the Art and Industry Committee, are now on sale. Particulars of price, etc., may be obtained from An Comunn Office, 212 West George Street, Glasgow.

woollen blanketing, and of worsted spun on the Islands. The Patterns are all of Celtic design specially drawn for this class of work. The workmanship is neat and shows that these fisher girls have an aptitude for this class of work. It also provides them with a certain remuneration at a time when the fishing industry is closed. It is hoped that the public will encourage this new industry by purchasing the rugs and thus show their interest in the handiwork of the girls of the Isles.

* * * * *

It is interesting to note that the Gaelic class students in Paisley have formed themselves into a society for the purpose of promoting a greater interest in Gaelic affairs in the town. Already a number of meetings have been held and a very interesting programme of lectures and social events is being arranged for next session. Mr. Robert MacKenzie, M.A., the teacher of the class is President, and Mr. William Lyle, Secretary. All meetings are held in the local Y.M.C.A. rooms.

NIALL.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to a typographical error which appeared in our last number. The duration of the Summer School at Port Ellen, Islay, is from 24th July to 14th August, and not 4th August as stated in the May number.

Intending students should make early application for lodgings and other local information to Miss Morag MacEachren, Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay. All entries, with fees, should be sent direct to the General Secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2.

SECRETARY'S TOURS.

I left Glasgow on the morning of 30th April, and proceeded direct to Salen, Mull, where I presided over the closing Concert of the Singing Class conducted by Miss Margaret MacDonald. Owing to the lateness of the season the attendance was not so large as on my former visit, but allowing for the seasonal occupations of many of those interested it was quite satisfactory. Both the Junior and Senior choirs made splendid appearances, and Miss MacDonald is to be congratulated on the success of her three week's effort. The Junior Choristers

gave delightful renderings of this year's prescribed Puirt á Beul. Soloists and duettists distinguished themselves in varied selections of Gaelic songs.

On the morning of 1st May I travelled with Mr. Archibald Macfarlane in his motor to Croggan, returning to Craignure in the afternoon. There are only two children in Croggan School neither of whom is Gaelic speaking. At Lochbuie, I was informed, only three pupils attend the school there. A meeting of the Torosay Branch had been arranged for me, and I attended at Lochdonhead School at 8 o'clock in the evening. Only nine members turned out, and after I had examined the Minute Book it was arranged to hold a General Meeting of the Branch on 10th May. I arranged the circular letter calling the meeting, and this was typed at the Head Office, and distributed locally by the Branch Secretary. I am pleased to report now that this meeting was held and was largely attended.

I proceeded to the Ross of Mull on 2nd May, and interviewed Mr. John MacKechnie, the Schoolhouse, Bunessan, Secretary of the Branch. The closing Ceilidh of this Branch had been held, and I was much encouraged to learn from Mr. MacKechnie that the branch membership now exceeds 100. Great interest is taken in the monthly meetings locally.

In the evening I addressed a well attended meeting in Creich School on the work of An Comunn. No attempt was made to form a Branch, as most of the younger people attended the meetings of the Bunessan Branch. Songs were sung by members of the Singing Class. I remained overnight in Fionphort, and on the following forenoon interviewed Mrs. Pettigrew, Ardfnais, on behalf of the local officials, with a view to her taking charge of a composite choir from the Ross of Mull to compete at the Provincial Mod at Oban. In this I was successful and it remains with local members to get the choir selected. Mrs. Pettigrew showed her keen interest in the musical aspirations of the Ross people by training and bringing a choir from Pennyghael to Oban on a previous occasion, gaining second and third places.

I crossed to Iona on Friday afternoon, and for the first time set foot on its sacred soil. I was met by Mr. Angus MacPhail, postmaster, who arranged for my visit purposely to form a Branch of An Comunn. The meeting was arranged for Saturday evening, and in the interval I was shown over the ruins and Cathedral by Dr. Wyse, who was on a short holiday in the island. The meeting was held in the new Public Hall, and presided over by

Mr. Angus MacPhail. There was an attendance of between 40 and 50 people, mostly Gaelic speaking, but to impress on all my hearers the necessity for such an organisation as An Comunn I concluded my remarks in English. A Branch was formed with Mr. MacPhail as President, and Mr. Donald Black, Secretary. There is every indication that the Iona Branch will prove successful. It has a unique opportunity of making the aims and objects of An Comunn known to a wide circle of world travellers.

I returned to the mainland on Monday, 6th May, and attended a meeting in the Hall, Taynuilt, presided over by the Rev. Alexander MacDonald, Ardchattan. There was an attendance of over 80 people, who were all in favour of forming a Branch of An Comunn. The Gaelic Choir, under the direction of Mr. Angus Campbell, contributed greatly to the success of the meeting. Dr. R. R. MacNicol was appointed President of the Branch, and Miss MacIntyre, Corfe House, Secretary. About 36 people enrolled as members at the close. We are much indebted to Dr. MacNicol, Mr. Murray (Headmaster), and Mr. Angus Campbell, for organising such a splendid meeting.

I travelled to Campbeltown on 8th May, and attended at the Kintyre Mod there on the 9th and 10th, as reported on another page.

NIALL.

WORK FOR COMUNN GAIDHEALACH BRANCHES.

Sir,—The session of the various branches of An Comunn Gaidhealach has now drawn to a close, and I should like to make a few suggestions at this time so that secretaries and members of branches can think over them before they draw up their syllabus for the next session. The object of the parent association is the preservation of the Gaelic language, music, literature, and art, and it ought to be the duty of branches to assist in this as much as possible. Though there are some branches who do laudable work in this direction, it has to be admitted that in a number of cases branches exist for the pleasure and enjoyment of their members, and the real work of the association is neglected. A social evening and dance may be a fitting wind up to a session's work, and no exception need be taken to it, but when it is found that all the meetings of a branch consist of social evenings and dances, the utility of the branch is not very evident as far as Gaelic is concerned.

Now, there is a wealth of song and music, as well as many traditional tales, still current among the people in the Highland glens and townships, the gathering and recording of which ought to be taken in hand at once, before it is too late. The general and rapid mode of conveyance that obtains to-day, is bringing the village so near to the town, the hill to the street, that the country people are learning the howling rhapsodies of the music halls only one day later than their city cousins, and the time worn lilts and characteristic songs of the old people are being forgotten and neglected by the rising generation. Here, then, is work for the branches to collect and put on record these songs and traditions. The noting down of music may not be an accomplishment to which all can aspire, but where there is a music teacher of An Comunn working in a district, the member of the branch from their local knowledge of the people, would know of any persons in possession of unpublished tunes, and be able to put them in touch with the music teacher, and so have the melodies noted down.

A class for learning Gaelic, and a reading class are essential in connection with every branch. It would help to stimulate interest if an author was read and studied during a session, as is done in all well regulated literary societies. Lectures would also be instructive and entertaining. And why should the minor bards always be neglected? An evening spent in going over their poetic efforts would show that there are many beautiful songs in the Gaelic language which are never heard on the concert platform. Gaelic vocalists have a very small repertoire, we always hear the same songs and melodies doing duty time after time, as if there was a scarcity of songs.

The most important thing of all is the local place names. They require attention at once. The old Gaelic names are passing away, and English ones are taking their place. If the Gaelic map is ever to eventuate, the sooner they are taken in hand the better, as the generation that know the proper names of places are passing hence. The etymology and interpretation of these names should be gone into. This itself would provide study for many meetings during a session, and when they came to discuss place names the ceilidh members would find that they had a lot to talk about.

It is only by making the work of the branches interesting that An Comunn can hope to keep them together, and arouse a keenness among members for the cause. And if once interest is aroused, enthusiasm will follow, and there

will be no fear of the language for years to come. As matters stand at present, a glance over the reports of branch meetings, appearing in An Gaidheal, show that in almost every case the meeting consisted of a concert and dance. Under these circumstances a branch soon languishes and dies.

May I dare to hope that every branch will adopt one or more of above suggestions in their next winter's session?

JAMES E. SCOTT,
GLASDRUM, FASNACLOICH, ARGYLL.

LONDON MOD.

The third Mod of the Gaelic Society of London which was held in the Scots' Corporation Hall last month, under the auspices of the Gaelic Society of London, was eminently successful in all respects. The competitions were divided into two classes—literary and musical—and the high standard of excellence maintained throughout revealed the careful preparation of the participants, and their real earnestness in the work. The adjudicators were Mr. John R. Bannerman, Rahane, Mr. John MacIver, London, Mr. Angus Robertson, London, and Mr. Lachlan Campbell, London. Miss Kirsty MacLennan, L.R.A.M., discharged the duties of accompanist with much acceptance. The success of this year's Mod encourages the promoters to make it an annual event in the Highland life of London.

PAISLEY MOD.

The first Mod promoted by the Paisley Highlanders Association in the Good Templar Hall, was a great success. The competitions were all confined to juniors except one class promoted for the pupils attending the Gaelic Class in Oakshaw School. Mr. Malcolm MacFarlane, Elderslie, acted as adjudicator, both in language and music in all classes. This Association is to be commended for their enterprise, and the directors have already intimated their decision to make the Mod an annual event. The Mod promoted much public interest, and the hall was well filled with a large and attentive audience, who very much enjoyed the whole proceedings.

KINTYRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Sixth Kintyre Provincial Mod was held in Campbeltown on 9th and 10th May, and proved an unqualified success. There were

270 entries, and it was encouraging to note the high marks gained by the Juniors in the Literary and Oral sections.

The Town Hall was crowded both days by enthusiastic audiences. There was not even standing-room at the Choral competition on Friday afternoon. A number of the more ardent Gaelic speakers attended in the Church Hall in Kirk Street, where the Oral competitions were held. The Rev. Angus MacMillan, Killeen Manse, officiated as chairman and announcer in the Town Hall, while the Rev. T. S. MacPherson acted in a similar capacity in Kirk Street Hall.

Miss Hall of Tangy, President of the Campbelltown Branch, presided at the Junior Concert in the Town Hall on Thursday evening, and also presented the prizes to the winners. There was a splendid audience notwithstanding the counter attraction by way of a political meeting in the Drill Hall.

The closing Concert on Friday evening was presided over by Sheriff J. Macmaster Campbell, President of An Comunn, who delivered a thoughtful and inspiring address. Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilphead, and Mr. Gilbert MacPhail, Islay, ably assisted the Senior Prize winners in sustaining a splendid programme. Ex-Provost Hugh MacCowan, Oban, was present at the gathering, and on the invitation of the Chairman gave a short address, speaking first in Gaelic. It was interesting to have on the platform, after 38 years of gradual progress, two of the original members of An Comunn.

Each concert was closed by the singing of local Psalm tunes. "Dunaverty" by the Junior Choirs, and "Kilkerran" by the Senior Choirs, and the National Anthem. The adjudicators, who spoke very highly of the work of the competitors were:—Gaelic—Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow, and Neil Shaw, General Secretary. Music—Mr. A. M. Henderson, L.R.A.M., Glasgow.

The Prize-list is as under:—

JUNIORS

Letter Writing—1, Margaret Mitchell, Rhunaharaine; 2, Isa Macdonald, Rhunaharaine.

Writing from Dictation—1, Margaret Mitchell; 2, Isa Macdonald, 100.

Translations (Gaelic into English)—1, Isa Macdonald; 2, Margaret Mitchell.

Reading Poetry—1, Margaret Mitchell; 2, Cathie M'Sporran; 3 (equal), Isa Macdonald and Betty Currie; 5, Winnie Hampton; 6, Daisy Vettors.

Reading Prose—1, Cathie M'Arthur; 2, Margaret Mitchell; 3, Cathie M'Sporran; 4 (equal), Jean M'Callum and Betty Currie; 6, Daisy Vettors.

Reciting—1, Margaret Mitchell; 2, Cathie M'Arthur; 3, Betty Currie; 4, Betty Vettors; 5, 6, 7 (equal), Daisy Vettors, Margaret Campbell, Isa Macdonald;

8, Jessie M'Dougall; 9, Cathie M'Sporran; 10, Jessie Campbell.

Dialogue—1, and 2 (equal), Isa Macdonald and Margaret Mitchell.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Rose McConnachie; 2, Jemima M'Lean; 3, Sarah M'Kinnon.

Solo Singing—Boys—1, Galloway M'Gregor; 2, Alasdair Massie; 3, John M'Bride.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—1, Winnie Hampton; 2, Amelia Massie; 3, Rose McConnachie.

Solo Singing (under eleven years)—1, Effie Fisher; 2, Mary M'Kinnon; 3, Pearl M'Diarmid.

Duet Singing—1, Morag Black and Cissie M'Innes; 2, Mary C. Paterson and Sarah M'Kinnon; 3, Margaret Watsham and Effie Muir.

Choral Singing (under eleven years)—1, Carradale; 2, Campbelltown.

Choral Singing in Unison—1, Carradale; 2, Rhunaharaine; 3, Campbelltown.

Choral Singing, Two-part Harmony—1, Carradale; 2, Rhunaharaine.

Celtic Songs in English—Girls—1, Cissie M'Innes; 2, Rose McConnachie; 3 (equal), Rae M'Sporran and Jemima M'Lean.

Celtic Songs in English—Boys—1, David Black; 2, John M'Bride; 3, Galloway M'Gregor.

Choral Singing (English Unison)—Carradale.

Aggregate—Margaret Mitchell, 559 marks out of 600.

SENIORS.

Gaelic Composition—Alasdair Macdonald, Corrylach. Reading at Sight—1, Colin Paterson; 2, Marion Falconer; 3, Robert M'Arthur.

Reciting—1, Susan Macdonald; 2, Colin Paterson; 3, Mary Leitch.

Gaelic Speech—Alasdair Macdonald.

Sgeulachd—1, Marion Falconer; 2, Susan Macdonald, 3 and 4 (equal), Alasdair Macdonald and Mary C. Leitch.

Dialogue—1, Susan Macdonald and Alasdair Macdonald; 2, Marion Falconer and Colin Paterson.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, Mary C. Leitch; 2, Cathie Thomson; 3, Cissie Fisher.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1, Neil J. M'Callum; 2, D. Macintosh; 3 and 4 (equal), Neil Muir and Wm. Buchanan.

Solo Singing (Male and Female Voices)—1, Cathie Thomson; 2, Mary Leitch; 3, Wm. Galbraith.

Duets—1, Isa Mitchell and Mary Leitch; 2, Rose Livingstone and Neil Muir; 3, Maire M'Dougall and Wm. Buchanan.

Male Voice Choirs—Carradale Choir.

Choral Singing (Four-part)—1, Carradale Choir; 2, Killeen Choir.

Celtic Songs (Female Voices)—1, Mary Leitch; 2, Mattie Macintyre; 3, Lizzie Durham.

Celtic Songs (Male Voices)—1, Hamish Taylor; 2, Gilbert Watson; 3, Wm. Cunningham.

Aggregate—Alasdair Macdonald, 648 out of a possible 800.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Literature of the Highlanders, by Nigel MacNeill, LL.D.; edited by J. Macmaster Campbell, C.B.E. 585 pp. Price, 7/6 net. Published by Mackay, Stirling.

It is now close on forty years since Dr. Nigel MacNeill's *Literature of the Highlanders* made its first appearance. It reached a second edition within the author's lifetime. Dr. MacNeill died in 1910. But

the book has been long out of print; and Sheriff Campbell has rendered Gaelic letters a signal service by undertaking and finishing this third edition. The Sheriff has fulfilled his task well, and has added a supplementary chapter, bringing up to date the progress of Gaelic literature since the appearance of the second edition in 1903. Dr. MacNeill's volume is the first consecutive account ever given of the literature of the Scottish Gael. There have been, of course, two other works of a similar character, namely, the volumes of Professor Magnus Maclean, and of Professor Donald Maclean. But MacNeill has the particular feature that he was the pioneer, and that he performed his task when as yet the body of Gaelic scholarship had not been available which has come out in the past thirty years.

The theme is divided under three eras, the ancient, up to 1000 A.D., the middle, up to 1500 A.D., and the modern era, from 1500 A.D., to the present time. It is to be feared that for the first period, as well, indeed, as for a considerable part of the second, we have to rely on the labours of our brother Gaels in Ireland. The Dean of Lismore, another Fernaig M.S., are our main sources for the earlier literature of the Scottish Gael. Dr. MacNeill uses a fine, clear style. His mind was orderly and his pen convincing. In the generation since he wrote, certain advances were made in details, but as regards the general merit and spirit of the works which he reviews, he shows a wonderfully balanced and mature judgment. The faculty of judging the quality of poetry is itself a native gift, and MacNeill had that gift undoubtedly. He has illustrated the nature of Gaelic poetry, by happy renderings into English verse. Some of the best translations into verse in this edition are by Pattison, Dr. Thomas MacLauchlan, and the Rev. John MacNab, Skipness. MacNeill's estimate of Macpherson's *Ossian*, is wise, and in agreement with modern scholarly views, that while Macpherson's *Ossian* contains a little of the old tradition, the bulk of the matter, and nearly all the form are Macpherson's own work. The book deals with religious poetry, descriptive prose, nature poetry, and heroic saga; and this volume should be widely utilised by committees of local Mods as prizes. In fact, the book deserves to be on the shelf of every Gael who wishes to know about Gaelic literature. The type and paper are excellent. The volume is altogether a fine production.

BRANCH REPORTS.

DALMALLY.—A Ceilidh, under the auspices of the Glenorchy branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the Dalmally Drill Hall—Rev. Farquhar MacRae presiding. The programme was entirely sustained by the South Lochawe Dramatic Society, a band of Gaelic enthusiasts, who, under the leadership of Mr. G. E. Marjoribanks, gave an excellent entertainment. The great success of the evening was the play, "Peigi Bheag," which was admirably interpreted. Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking members of the audience were unanimous in their appreciation of the humorous incidents so ably portrayed by the various characters.

DINGWALL.—The local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held their final Ceilidh for the season in the Temperance Hall on a recent date. There was a large attendance, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Captain Finlayson, O.B.E., occupied the chair, and referred to the encouraging season just closed. The number of members now being 162, and he stated he did not see why in the county town the membership

should not reach 200 or more. The attendance at the Gaelic and Singing Classes was about 50. Next season he hoped they would have a concert to finish up with. The office-bearers and members of the Committee were most enthusiastic, and he had every reason to hope that the Dingwall Branch had come to stay, and flourish. On behalf of the members he said he had a very pleasant duty to perform that evening. They all knew how Dean of Guild Macrae and Mr. Alistair Fraser, M.A., very kindly came forward to teach the singing and Gaelic classes respectively, and the members wished to show their appreciation in a tangible way. On behalf of An Comunn he presented Dean of Guild Macrae with a silver cigarette case, and Mr. Fraser with a handsome dressing case, both suitably inscribed. He also presented Mrs. Macrae, Heatherly, with a handsome umbrella in appreciation of her enthusiasm and willing efforts etc., in connection with arranging programmes for the Ceilidh. Dean of Guild Macrae thanked Captain Finlayson for his kind remarks, and the members for such a handsome gift. He felt it an honour to help in any way. Mr. Fraser similarly thanked the members. He was only too pleased to teach the class and help forward the Gaelic movement in every way in his power. The following artistes took part in the programme and were heartily encored. Miss Mackay, Miss Christina MacLennan, Miss Jessie Macrae, Mrs. Mackenzie, Dean of Guild Macrae, Mr. Alistair Fraser, Mr. Tom Mackenzie, and Mr. John Mackenzie. Miss Mackay and Mr. D. Macdonald gave a sketch of "A hen-pecked husband," which was very much enjoyed. During the evening Mr. D. Macdonald, architect, gave a most interesting account of the oldest Scottish Gaelic manuscript. The Rev. Mr. Mackay told some interesting stories during the evening. At the close Councillor Riach thanked Captain Finlayson for so genially presiding. He also thanked the artistes for the splendid programme submitted that evening. Captain Finlayson replied in a few words. They hoped to resume classes in October, when old and new members would be heartily welcomed. The singing of "Oidhche Mhath leibh," and "God Save the King," brought a very happy evening to a close.

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Leabhar XXIV.]

An t-Iuchar, 1929.

[Earrann 10

MAC MHAIGHSTEIR ALASDAIR.

Air a' choigeamh latha deug de'n Og-mhìos chruinnich buidhean de Chomunn Cloinn Domhnuill aig an Eaglais Ròman-aich an Arasaig. Is e an t-aobhar mun do chruinnich iad, gu bhi a' foillseachadh a' chuimhneachan a chaidh ullachadh air stiopal na h-eaglais, airson a' bhàird ainmeil Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair. Is ann fo chruth uaireadair stiopal, no "tràthadair," a tha an cuimhneachan. Ghiùlain Comunn Chloinn Domhnuill a' chosgais. Tha trì aghaidhean air an uaireadair-stiopal. Tha gach aghaidh mu cheithir troighean gu leth air leud; agus tha na h-uairean a' bualadh air seirm de chluig bhinne, a chluinnear aig deagh astar. Tha seann chladh anns an àite; agus is anns a' chladh sin a tha Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair an tiòdhlacadh. Ach gu mì-fhortanach, ged a tha cinnt gu leòr gun deachaidh adhlacadh anns a' chladh ud, gidheadh chan eil neach sam bith an diugh cinnteach c'àite bheil an uaigh aig Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair. Nam biodh muinntir dearbhta mun cheart lag, dh'fhaoitidh carragh cuimhne a chur suas a bu bhuaine na uaireadair. Ach aig an am tha an t-uaireadair freagarrach agus feumail, a' cumail muinntir an cuimhne air caitheamh na h-aimsir, le pòcan binn a tha mar shamhladh air binneas a' bhàird.

Tha sinn an dùil gu bheil an cothrom so ionchuidh gu bhi a' sònrachadh cuid de na h-aobhair airson am bu chòir cuimhne chumail air Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair. Mar is aithne do'n leughadair a cheana is e an

fear so aon de bhàird mhóra na Gàidhealtachd. Fhuair e buadhan nàdurra a bha geur agus cumhachdach. Agus fhuair e mar an ceudna cothrom air foghlum gus na buadhan sin a chuir gu deagh bhuil, co dhùit a thaobh bàrdachd. Is bochd ri aideachadh mu dheidhinn mòran de na bàird air an do bhuilich Freasdal intinn chomasach, gu robh cuid dhiu air an cumail air an ais le cion oilein agus còlais. Ach tha e coltach gu robh Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair ag ionnsuchadh an Oilthigh Ghlascho, agus gu robh e na dheagh sgoilear Laidiunn agus Greugais. Dh'fhosgail sin a chuid bhuadhan air mhodh iongantach. Thug sin misneach dha gu oidheirpean ùra a dheanamh a thaobh a chainnt mhàtharail. Is i Gàidhlig Mhuideart a bha aige air tùs. Chl sinn o'n duan eireachdail a rinn e a' moladh na seann chànan Ghàidhealaich gu robh i uasal saibhear 'n a shùilean. Is e a cheud Ghàidheal a thug a mach a chuid bàrdachd fém an clò, anns a' bhliadhna 1761. Ach fìhead bliadhna roimhe sin chuir e a mach foclair Gàidhlig, a chum is gum biodh oigridh agus oileanaich comasach air a' chànan a thogail na b'fhuasda. Tha sinne an duigh a' feuchainn ris a' Ghàidhlig a chumail suas; agus eadhon mar fhoghlumaiche, eadar dhealaichte o bhàrdachd, cleasaidh Alasdair Mac Domhnuill urram, a chionn is gur e a cheud Ghàidheal mar an ceudna a tharruing aire gu ionnsuchadh na Gàidhlig, le bhi ag ullachadh foclair agus 'g a chur an clò.

Bha sùilean a' bhàird fosgailte gu bhi a' beachdachadh gu h-eagnuidh air obair Naduir. Bha glòir na talmhuin, a' chuain agus nan speur a' dealradh gu soilleir

dhàsan; agus tha e ag innse na chunnaic e, am briathran blasda. Tha òran an t-samhraidh agus òran a' gheamhraidh a' tabhairt dhuinn dealbh an t-saoghail gu léir fo chaochladh cruth. Gun teagamh chuir Mac Thomais am bard Beurla, a mach bardachd mu ràitheachan na bliadhna, eadar 1726 agus 1730, an uair a bha Mac Mhaighsteir Alasdair 'n a dhuine òg. Chan eil sinn cinnteach ciod an éifeachd a bha aig obair Mhic Thomais air Mac Dhomhnuill; ach is dualach a bhi a' creidsinn gu robh Mac Dhomhnuill eòlach air bardachd Mhic Thomais. Co dhiu bha gus nach robh tha saothair a' bhàird Ghàidhealach mu na ràitheachan làn de mhaise agus cumhachd bhriathran. Tha iomadh dealbh agus smuain ri fhaicinn an sud nach faighear anns a' bhàrdachd Bheurla. Chan eil againn ach sealltuinn air moladh Allt an t-Siùcair, gu bhi a tuigsinn ciod an loinn a chuir am bàrd air allt cumanta nach eil dad nas maisiche na ceud allt eile anns an dùthaich. Chan eil lus nach eil a' fàs an sud, lusan a tha cùbhraidh am boladh agus aillidh anns gach dath, maille ri ceileir gach eòin a tha binn ri éisdeachd.

Faodaidh nach eil bàrdachd-mhara sam bith air an cualas iomradh an cainntean na h-Eorpa, a thig suas ri *Beannachadh na Bìrlinn*, no mar theireadh cuid *Sgiobaireachd Clann Ràghaill*. Tha spionnadh agus spiorad anns an obair sin air nach tugadh barr riagh. Tha briathran pailt agus eagnuidh a cur an céill dealbh do'n inntinn, dealbh anns nach eil mearachd no duathar. Tha gluasad an luchd mara làn beatha is misnich; agus chi sinn gu soilleir gach mùthadh a thig air cuan, air neoil, agus air iarmailt. A cheart cho sgàiteach sin tha na duain a bhuineas do chogadh nam fineachan agus gnìomh nan arm. Bha am bàrd 'na oifeagach an armachd Phrionnsa Tearlach. Bha e do'n armachd sin mar anam 'g am brosnuchadh gu gaisge. Chan eil àicheadh nach do chuidich òrain Mhic Mhaighsteir Alasdair le aobhar Thearlaich gu mòr. Tha am bàrd ag arduchadh moladh a' Phrionnsa fo an ainm *Mórag*; agus tha e mar an ceudna a' dùsgadh nam fineachan Ghàidhealach gu éiridh suas air a thaobh. Tha e a deanamh sin le bhi a' mosgladh treuntais nan Gàidheal le cuimhne nan gaisgeach o shean. Tha Leomhann Chloinn Domhnuill mar shuaicheantas air gach beus a bhuineas do'n treubh, agus a tha feumail ri uchd cogaidh—misnich nach taisich romh chunnart, agus neart air nach faigh an namhaid buaidh.

DONALD J. MACLEOD, D.Litt.



Dr. Macleod is a native of the Island of Lewis. Endowed by Nature with the linguistic faculty, he seized early on the riches of the Gaelic language. He listened as a boy to an older generation who still employed with charm and power the fuller life of idiom and phrase that were more common even one generation ago than they are now. Having passed through the secondary course in the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, the young student went to the University of Aberdeen. Here he entered with enthusiasm into the work of the curriculum as well as into the other activities of University life in which Highland students take part. He was an energetic member of the Celtic Society. He specialised in modern languages, and duly proceeded to graduation. After qualifying for the teaching profession he was appointed headmaster of Staffin School in Skye, where he taught for a few years.

Dr. Macleod had not been long a teacher when he was raised to the Inspectorate. He was one of the youngest Inspectors in the country at the time. All along he has shown a special interest in the Gaelic language. In connection with the work of An Comunn, he has acted as adjudicator at several Mods—Perth, Oban, Fort-William. His enlightened remarks on Gaelic phonetics have invariably been valued by competitors. Last year Dr. Macleod was President of the Ossianic Society of Glasgow University. He has, during the past few years, contributed papers of

great value to the "Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness.

In common with his numerous friends and admirers we now desire to extend to Dr. Macleod our hearty congratulations on the rare academic distinction that has been recently conferred upon him by the University of Rennes in Brittany. He has been awarded the French degree of Doctor of Letters (*Docteur ès Lettres*), *avec mention très honorable*. That degree is a very jealously guarded one. This is the first time that it has been given by a French University for distinction in Gaelic. The thesis is on the poetry of Duncan Ban Macintyre which Dr. Macleod has translated into French. The oral part of the examination, the "sustaining" of the thesis, is a formidable matter. It is an ordeal extending over five hours, in French. It lacks nothing of the mediæval severity. The test included a comparative study of the *Légende de la Mort of Aniole le Braz*. The French language, with its dainty, subtle touch, does full justice to the flowing exuberance of Donnachadh Ban. The genius of Macintyre will have the freshness of originality to French readers. And it is a source of great gratification that a French University should be ready to bestow its highest distinction on a Scottish Gael in the field of Celtic studies. Buaidh mhór is saoghal fada dha.

BALLARAT GAELIC CIRCLE.

The Ballarat Gaelic Circle which was instituted just a year ago for the purpose of fostering the study of the Gaelic language and literature, and for reading and conversing in Gaelic, has just issued its annual report. A commendable feature of this report is that it is written in Gaelic with only a short English translation. Since its inception the club has enthusiastically entered upon its work, and already considerable progress has been made in the study of the language. Meetings have been held each month, and during the first year metrical psalms and other portions of the scriptures have been studied, together with the song "Mo Dhachaidh." To assist beginners in learning the language, special text books have been ordered, and these are used each evening in conjunction with the other reading matter.

Mr. Alexander J. Shaw is President and Treasurer, and the Rev. L. S. MacDougall, Secretary. The Preceptor is Mr. Iain MacKinnon.

SCOTTISH LITERARY SOCIETY, TORONTO.

Another new Scottish society in Toronto has been recently established, the *Scottish Literary Society*, whose objects are to promote in Canada the cultivation of Scottish history, literature, music and art. It has already received gratifying support from Scottish people in Toronto, and from beyond the city limits, so that its financial future seems assured. Its first President to be elected is Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott, M.A., D.Litt., who successfully organised the Toronto Gaelic Choir last winter.

At a meeting of the Executive in June, the principal business was projecting the programme for the winter-session, 1929-30, when it was arranged to have a course of nine lectures covering the whole field of Scottish history, ancient and modern, literature and art. The names of eminent speakers, professors and divines, were submitted who had offered their services to the Society, and were made to cover the period ending in December.

It is intended that these gatherings will be held on the third Monday of each month, beginning in September. A Dramatic Committee has been formed with a view to cultivating the study of Scottish plays.

Efforts are also being made to form a Musical Committee of experts to assist in the work of fostering Scottish music in Toronto next Fall, and the Executive feel confident that volunteers will readily assist in organising a Highland Reel and Strathspey orchestra under the Society's auspices.

The Annual subscription is One Dollar, and it is hoped to publish the "Proceedings of the Scottish Literary Society," and issue these annually to members. The meetings, however, will in all cases be open to the general public. The Secretary is Mr. James Kinniburgh, 189 Withrow Avenue, Toronto.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Prepares for Mod. 5/- an hour. "Clarsach:" this office.

NIGHEAN AN T-SAGAIRT OIG.

Le DONNCHADH MACDHOMHNAILL,
Steornabhaigh.

[A' cheud duais, Mod 1927.]

Tha e furasd' a chreidsinn nach robh mórán eòlais aig ar sinnsearan air litreachas. Cha robh mórán feuma aca air leabhraichean. An ni a dh'aithriseadh an t-athair ghleidheadh am mac air chuimhne, oir bha na h-athraichean cho làidir ann am buadhan intinn 's a bha iad ann am buadhan cuirp. Thàinig mar sin mórán eachdraidhean a nuas thugainn tre bheul-aithris, agus 'nam measg' bha an sgeul a leanas. Thàinig Suain, Rìgh Lochluinn, a nall a dh'Eirinn a chogadh le càbhlach mòr. Tha e coltach nach deachaidh an latha gu math leis, agus an uair a chaidh an ruaig a chur air sheòl e a nuas taobh an iar Alba agus an do ràinig e Loch-an-Ròg air taobh-a-siar Eilein Leòdhais.

Tha an loch so 'na acarsaid shàbhailt do luchd na mara ris a h-uile gaoth a shéideas às an adhar. Tha e làn de eileanan bòidheach, beag is mór, agus mar bhan-rìgh orra uile tha Bèarnaraigh mhór anns an bheil ceithir mìle a dh'fhad. Dlùth air, air an taobh mu thuath, tha eilean briagha ìosal, timchioll air mìle a dh'fhad, ris an canar Bèarnaraigh Bheag. 'S e eilean math torach a tha 'so, agus mar sin bha e aig an àm ud làn sluagh. Mar cheann air an t-sluagh 'g a seòladh ann an nithean àimsireil agus spioradail bha an Sagart Og, agus a reir beul-aithris nan athraichean tha e coltach gu'n robh an sluagh a toirt mórán àite dha. Bha daoine aig an àm ud a' saoilinn barrachd de na sagartan na tha a' chuid is motha de'n t-sluagh an diugh a' saoilinn de na ministirean aca fhéin.

Aig an t-Sagairt bha nighean òg a bha ainmeil air son a boidheachd, agus b'e a h-ainm Gealachos. Ged a bha i iomraideach airson a h-àilleachd gabhaidh e a chreidsinn nach robh mórán de fhleasgaich an eilein a ghabhadh a dh'anam orra a dhol a shuirgidh air nighean an t-sagairt. Bha e 'na chleachdadh aig an nighinn a bhi a' gabhail cuairt gach maduinn is feasgar air feadh an eilein. Is iomadh suidhe a rinn i air uachdar Tràigh-an-Teampuill a' coimhead anull taobh na stùghach. Ged nach robh leabhraichean aice air son an leughadh, bha i mion-eòlach air obair a chruthachaidh. Cha robh lus a bha fàs 's an eilean, no ian a bha 'gach thadhal, no iasg a bha 'snamh ri 'shlios air nach robh i eòlach 's air nach robh àinm aice. Is i a

chaidleadh suaimhneach air a cluasaig an déidh uiread de chonaltradh a bhi aice ri obair-nàduir 's cha b'iad clann-nighean an latha 'n diugh a tha a' caitheamh uiread de'm beatha ri faoinceasan an t-saoghail so. Bha sluagh an àite uile a sealltuinn suas rithe mar bhana-phrionnsa.

Aon latha ciùin ceòthach is Gealachos a' gabhail a cuairt-maidne mar a b' àbhaist, 's i mar gu'm biodh i a' bruidhinn ris gach lus bòidheach a bha cho lionnmhór a' fàs air aoilinn na traghad, chuala i fuaim ràmh agus còmhradh dhaoine. Sheas i, 's i a' cumail a cluaise taobh a' chuain ach an deanadh i 'mach de a bh'ann. 'S iad na Lochlunnaich a bha so, agus cho luath 's a nochd a' gheòla rithe a mach às a cheothaidh rinn i air a dàchaidh aig peileir a beatha. Mhothaich Rìgh Suain dhith, agus thàlaidh a bòidheach e cho luath 's a bhuail a shùil oirre. Ann an làrach nam bonn rinn e suas intinn gu'n d'thugadh e leis gu ruige Lochlunn i. Thug e òrdugh do chuid ghillean léum air tìr agus grèim fhaighinn oirre. Fhuair na gillean luath-chasach ud grèim air Gealachos bho chd gun chli 'n uair a bha i a' d'breachd suas ri taobh a Bhaca-mhóir. Ghuidh i orra iad 'ga leigeil às, ach cha d'thugadh iad cluas dhith, or dh'fheumadh iadsan deanamh mar a chaidh iarraidh orra leis an Rìgh. Thoisich i air eigheach ach cha robh cobhair air a son. Bha i a' cur nam buinn-an-taic, ach chaidh a' giùlan air fàlbh le gillean an rìgh. 'Nuair a ràinig iad a' gheòla leatha dh'fheuch an Rìgh ri a sìtheachadh le briathran ciùine, ach cha robh matha dha; bha ise a' gul 's ag eigheach.

Le òrdugh an Rìgh chaidh a' giùlan air bòrd, far an d'fhuair i i-fhéin ann an suidheachadh cràiteach, air a goid air fàlbh bho h-athair 's o 'màthair, 'na prìosanach a' measg dhaoine nach fhac i 'riamh, agus a bha eadar-dhealaichte rithe-se ann an dòighean 's an cainnt. 'N uair a smaoinich i mar a bhiodh a pàrantan maille ri sluagh an eilein 'ga lorg, airson a beò no m'àrth, air feadh an àite, air a' chladach, 's anns gach còs is sgor-creige. Cha b'ìoghnadh ged a ghluaidh i gu cràiteach mar a rinn i. Bheiridh i sùil thianmhaidh air an tìr an dràsda 's a' rithist ach am faiceadh i duine 's am bith ris an eigheadh i air son cobhair a dhèanamh oirre.

Thugadh na h-acraichean air bòrd; chaidh na sìuil a sgaoileadh ri cruinn àrda; thoisich an luchd-cìvil air cluiche, agus sheòl a' chàbhlach air fàlbh gu ruige Lochlunn nam fuar-bheann.

Chaill Gealachos sealladh air eilean a breithe 's a h-àraich; agus cò is urrainn

smoineachadh oirre gu n maòthachadh cridhe 'nuair a thug i an sealladh mu dheireadh air an Tràigh-mhóir far an do chuir i seachd gu neo-lochdach iomadh latha aotrom subhach.

Ann an ùine ghearr bha Alba uile á sealladh, agus ghabh Suain air adhart a null an Cuan-a-tuath le a luingeas chinn-dragoin a' racadh nan tonn.

Cha b'ann na bu shocaire 'na h-inntinn a dh'fhàs Gealachos an uair a thòisich an luchd-ciùil air tuireadh a dhèanamh airson gach sonn a chaidh fhagail marbh leotha 'nan seibhtrich air cladaichean is monaidhean Eirinn. Thionndaidh an ceòl gu bhi na b'aoibhnic 'nuair a chùimhnich an luchd-cluiche gu'n robh iadsan a chàill am beatha 's a' chogadh a nise maille ri Dia Odainn ann a' "Bhalalla," far am biodh iad gu siorraidh buan ag òl á sligean cinn a naimhdean agus a' seinn gu subhach.

Bha'n Rìgh a' dèanamh a dhìchill airson na h-òighe, air an robh uiread de ghaol aige, a dhèanamh subhach, oir bha i fad a turais thar cuan brònach dubhach. Ach a dh'aindeoin 's na dhèanadh esan cha togadh e a cridhe-se. Mu dheireadh nochd iad ri Lochlunn agus thòisich an luchd-ciùil a' cluiche' gu cridheil. Bha greadhnachas mòr air tìr airson ath-philleadh an Rìgh. Ach an uair a chunnaic an sluagh Gealachos chaidh iollach a thogail a sgaoileadh na creagan mar fhàilte do'n mhnaoi òig àillidh a thug an Rìgh dhàchaidh leis às na tìrean cèine fad air fàlbb. Ged a bha an fhàilte a chaidh a chur oirre cridheil agus càirdeil cha do thog sin a cridhe-se; bha i cho dubhach brònach 's a bha i roimhe. 'S e a bha a dhìth oirre-se cead a coise, agus falghinn air ais gu eilean a gràidh.

An dràsda 's a' rithist bhiodh Suain 'ga toirt a mach còmhla ris fhèin a shealg an tuire ach am faigheadh e air toirt oirre a h-inntinn a thogail, ach 's e sin na bh'aige air a shon.

Chuir i seachd bliadhna seachad 's an dòigh so, a h-uile latha de'n uine sin gu trominntinneach, tùrsach, gruamach, gus an robh a nise briseadh air a thighinn air a slàinte le bròn is cianalas.

Latha àraidh 's iad 'nan aonar 's an talla, dh'fheuch e ri reusonachadh dhith gu'n robh i mòran na b'fhearr dheth ann an Lochlunn na bhiodh i ann a' Leòdhas. Ars' esan:

"Na'm biodh tusa am Bèarnaraigh Bheag Cha bhiodh aca fleadh no fonn,
Ach Mactalla chreagan àrda,
'Toirt fianuis air barcadh thonn.

"Fhreagair i gu socair ciùin,
'S deoir bho sùil a ruith gu luath,
Chaidh cha toir mi 'Lochlann rùn,
Le chuid shlèibhtean mùgach fuar."

"Chan eil, cha robh, 's cha bhi Lochlunn leamsa cho gràdhach ri Bèarnaraigh Bheag le chuid sluagh aig am bheil càinnt mo mhàthar agus do'm bheil uiread de ghaol agam. Cha tig an latha a bhios mise sona anns an tìr so. Ach tha agam ri aideachadh gu'n deach' mòr choibhneas a nochdadh dhomh fadna h-ùine a bha mi so. Agus tha mi le mo làn chridhe a' toirt mathanas dhuitse ged a ghoid thu mi. Faodaidh e 'bhi nach b'urrainn dhuit a dhol a steach 'nam fhàireachdainn, agus mar sin tha mise a' gabhail do 'leisgeil. "'S e a thug ormsa," ars' an Rìgh, "do thoirt leam gu'n do thuit mi ann an trom-ghaol ort cho luath 's a bhuail mo shùil ort. Is beag a shaoil mise 'n uair a dh'èirich mi às mo leabaidh air a' mhaduinn chùin cheothach ud seachd bliadhna air ais gu'n robh boireannach air uachdar na tàlmhainn a gheibheadh uiread de bhuaidh air m'inntinn 's air mo chridhe 's a fhuair thusa. Thaitinn d'ailleachd-sa mi cho mòr is nach b'urrainn mi a bhi beò às d'aonais. Is iomadh latha frasach fuar a dh'imich mi thar cuan gu strì, agus is iomadh cath cruaidh a chuir mi anns an d'thug mi a' bhuaidh a mach. Ach rachainn tre theine is tre uisge na'm b'e 's gu'm biodh agam cogadh a chur mus faighinn thu dhomh fhéin. Bha mi 'n dòchas 'n uair a thug mi leam thu gu'n d'thigeadh thu tre ùine gu 'bhi a toirt gràidh dhomh. Is tu m'eadail de mhnathan an domhain, agus bheirinn an saoghal mar a tha e airson do dhèanamh aoibhneach!"

"Tha fhios agam," ars' Gealachos, "nach ann airson mo chron a thug thu leat mi; ach tha e duilich leamsa nach eil e 'nam chomas mo chridhe a thoirt dhuit. Ged a tha thu 'nad Rìgh mòr a choisinn buaidh air iomadh raoin, agus a tha a' toirt barrachd ann an glòir air rìghrean na h-Airde-tuath air fad, chan urrainn mise mo chridhe, a bh'agam air a thoirt seachad 'nam nighinn òig do neach eile, a spionadh le a fheamhaichean às a bhun agus a thoirt dhuit-se. Chan ann cho faoin a sin idir a tha gaol nam ban. Is iomadh latha a bha mi a' sealg an tuire còmhla ruitse 's ri d'uaislean. Bha sibhsa aoibhneach suigearthach, ach bha mise brònach dubhach. Cha dèanadh fleadh no fonn ann an lùchairtean an Rìgh m'inntinn-sa a thogail. 'Nuair a bhiodh sibhsa a' dèanamh gairdeachais 's an talla so bhithinn-se gu bog bàlbb a' fagail na cùirme agus a'

seasamh a' sìleadh nan deur air mullach a' chnuic ud shuas ag iargann na bha uam, agus a' coimhead do'n Aird-an-iar, far am bheil Beàrnaraigh Bheag air am moch a dh'èireas grian 's air an amoch a làigheas i. Eadhon an raoir fhéin thàinig brúadar thugam trì uairean ann an iomlaid na h-oidheche gu'n robh mi air ais ann am Beàrnaraigh Bheag; agus anns a' mhaduinn 'nuair a dhùisg mi thàinig thugam an rann so.

'Ged nach eil mi am Beàrnaraigh Bheag
Na creid nach eil i air m'ùigh,
B' àill leam na h'agh do theach
Bhi a' coimhead nan clach 'sa stùigh.'

A Rìgh, a Rìgh, ma tha cridhe maoth 'nad chliabh na cum mise 'nam phrìosanach na's fhaide. Gabh truas rùmsa, agus bithidh beannachd an Tì is Airde air do cheann gu bràth. O, Bheàrnaraigh Bhig; O, Bheàrnaraigh Bhig, 's tu fhéin 's na tha tàmhachd air do chlàran a tha a' tighinn gu tric air m'aire!'

'Nuair a chuala Rìgh Suain an dòigh air an do labhair i, agus a mhothaich e mar a bha i air a dreach a chall leis an chianalas dh'athnìch e nach robh e chum math 's am bith dha a bhi 'ga gleidheadh na b'fhaide. Rinn e suas inntinn gu'n aisigeadh e beò slàn i do eilean a breithe 's a h-araich. Tha e furasd 'a chreidsinn nach ann le cridhe sùndach a thàinig e gu bhi a' co-dhùnadh gu'm b'e a dhleasdanas a bhean òg mhaiseach a ghoid e às na h-Eileanan-a-siar a liubhairt do a pàrantan a' rithist. Dh'iarr e an té a b'fhearr de an luingeas aige a chur an òrdugh, agus sheòl e le Gealachos gu tìr a gràidh, gus fadheòidh na chuir e air tìr i gu sàbhailt' ann an Caolas Bheàrnaraigh Bhig, an t-àite sin do'n d'thug ise gràdh a bha cho seasmhach.

B'e sud an latha mòr ann an eilean beag, an latha a thill nighean an t-Sagairt Oig. Bha a pàrantan air dòchas a thoirt suas nach fhaiceadh iad a chaidh a beò no a mairbh. Ach bha i 'nise còmhla riutha beò slàn, agus gabhaidh e a chreidsinn gu'n robh mòr ghàirdeachas ann an tigh an t-Sagairt Oig an latha ud. Bha greadhnachas air feadh an eilein air fad airson ath-philleadh Ghealachois, agus dh'fhéumadh gach neach 's an eilean sealladh fhaighinn oirre a' latha a thàinig i. Bha uiread de iognadh air cuid dhiùbh is ged a bhiodh i air éirigh bho na mairbh. Is iomadh cuairt-maidne is cuairt-feasgair a ghabh i tre mhachraichean uaine an eilein bho'n latha ud. Bu tric a chite a cruth àillidh, agus a chluinnta a

guth ceòlmhor binn moch is anmoch ann am Beàrnaraigh Bheag.

Tha e coltach nach do phòs i 'riamh, ged is iomadh fear a bha'n tòir oirre; ach chuir ise roimpe nach biodh cuid no gnothach aice tuilleadh ri leannan an déidh na chaidh i troimhe ré na seachd geamhraidh fhada a chuir i seachad ann a Lochlunn nam fuar-bheann. Dh'fhuirich esan a bha suirghidh oirre na nighinn gun phòsadh cuideachd. Cha b'ann 'na tàmh a bha i a' caitheamh a càrtealan. Bhiodh i a' dèanamh gairdeachais còmhla riu-san a bhiodh subhach agus a' bron còmhla riu-san a bhiodh ri bròn; agus cha robh bochd no beartach 's an àite a dh'fhàsadh tinn nach b' i Gealachos a' bhan-eiridinn a bhiodh aca. 'S ann dhith fhéin a thigeadh a dhol a dhèanamh cobhair air neach a bhiodh ann an tinneas. Bha i beò gus an do dh'fhàs a ceann liath leis an aois, agus 'nuair a chaochail i chaidh a h-adhlacadh air uachdar Tràigh an Teampuill, far am bheil i a' cadal gu samhach ri taobh na mara do'n robh uiread de ghràdh aice ann a làithean a h-òige.

Gaelic in Galloway.

Many people must have been interested in the article which appeared in a recent issue of the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* dealing with the death of Gaelic in Galloway, and putting forward a plea for its resurrection. Such a plea would meet with a ready response from a large number of persons if they realised that the study of Gaelic is a paying proposition. Those who believe that the attempt to rekindle interest in this ancient tongue is a matter of mere sentiment, divorced from all practical considerations, are woefully misinformed.

Gaelic has great practical value in many important respects. A great number of scholars of many nationalities—French, German, Austrian, and Norwegian, to name only a few—have been attracted to its study. These authorities have left on record unequivocal testimony to its great philological value. It cannot be said, however, that this is yet universally recognised, because a Gaelic enthusiast declares that he was once asked by a distinguished classical scholar whether Gaelic, like Hebrew, was written from right to left!

It has been asserted that a knowledge of Gaelic is more useful in the study of the classics than acquaintance with almost any

other modern language. The original Indo-European words common to Gaelic, Greek, and Latin have developed on similar lines, with the result that cognate words are more easily recognised than in the Teutonic and Slavonic languages. It follows that the Gaelic speaker can acquire and remember Greek and Latin vocabularies more readily than one who has no knowledge of Gaelic. In the declension of Greek and Latin nouns, the terror of English-speaking persons, the Gaelic speaker is at home on account of the similarity of the cases in all three languages. In the matter of the verb, too, Gaelic has a decided advantage over many other modern tongues. While English, French, and other languages use auxiliary verbs to express the variations of the tenses which are indicated in Latin by change of termination, the Gaelic linguist can conjugate his own verb and the Latin one side by side. Further, Gaelic has a genuine passive voice, so that a Latin verb in the passive voice consisting of one word, which has to be rendered in English, French, or German by a clumsy paraphrase, can be translated by a single Gaelic word. Many similar facts might be adduced, the cumulative effect of which could not fail to impress the most sceptical reader.

In the study of the Semetic and other Oriental languages, a knowledge of Gaelic is of great service. An Irish teacher of Hebrew informs us that he has often wished that all his pupils knew Gaelic, in order that their progress might not be retarded by difficulties in Hebrew syntax, which would not trouble an Irish speaker, and also in order that their pronunciation might not be of a kind calculated to make the prophets and the patriarchs turn in their sepulchres! He avers that there are many Hebrew usages which have Irish counterparts. He also says that there are peculiarities in Arabic, Persian, and Coptic to which Irish can supply parallels.

The phonetic value of Gaelic as an aid to the mastery of other modern languages is very important. The great phonetician Swete says that English has twenty-three consonantal sounds, French twenty-six, and North German twenty-four. Gaelic has no fewer than fifty-two, and there is not one of these which is not to be found in some other language which is still spoken. On the other hand, English, although it has become an almost perfect instrument for the transmission of thought, has many sounds

which are either peculiar to itself or are to be found only in one or two other languages which are comparatively unimportant. Finally, it is claimed that Gaelic spelling can perfectly represent, and that Gaelic speakers can easily pronounce, the most difficult sounds in Arabic, Armenian, Czech, Chinese, Dutch, German, Hungarian, Hindustani, Russian, and modern Greek.

Some educationists claim that a child can study two languages with but little more effort than is required for one. If that is so, there is no reason why, in the case of Scottish children at least, the second language should not be Gaelic. In many districts in Ireland in which Gaelic is taught, inspectors have reported time and again that it has reacted favourably on the general intelligence of the pupils, and has made for better results all round. These are some of the considerations which induced such a high authority as Professor Heinrich Zimmer, of Berlin, to say that Gaelic possesses a higher educational value than any other modern language he knew of, and which made another famous linguist, Professor York Powell, of Oxford University, declare that it is a good and useful subject, which should be encouraged by anyone who really cares for education in the true sense.

And is it not a solemn thought that the sounds of this still living language were on the lips of men before the mysterious bastions of the Pyramids began their everlasting vigil over the sands of Egypt.—*W. P. Lavin, in "Galloway Standard."*

THE FAERY LOVER.

He comes at night when the moon is white,
A shadow to all but me,
And his step on the fragrant moss is light,
His voice, as the sleeping sea.

Murmurs his love, then silent falls,
When in his gown's green fold
I lie at rest on his soul-less breast,
And play with his brooch of gold.

When the soft night closes behind his feet,
When he glides back into gloom,
The air behind him is perfumed sweet
As with waxy golden broom.

MYFANWY CAMPBELL.

Inveraray.

THE LEGEND OF MAIRENN MAEL AND MUGHAIN.

Mavis the jestress was tired; she had danced before the king, and he had hardly looked her way. She had contorted her little elfish face into a thousand shapes; he had not laughed, and her ready wit had fallen on deaf ears. She curled herself up at the feet of the Queen Mughain, her little dejected figure clad in doublet and tights of rainbow hue; her head fell sideways, with its short raven-black hair, and she slept against the knee of the Queen.

The Queen looked down, and as her great dark eyes rested on the little figure she thought: "This child is like a boy. Would she were a son of mine to bring light to the eyes of my Lord."

Some way off sat Queen Mairenn. Mughain glanced at her, and her eyes hardened; would she could humble this new love of her Lord's in the sight of that brilliant company. Like a thousand daggers jealously torturing her soul—almost must she bleed to death—like a tongue of fire, her hate struck Mairenn, and she lifted her blue frightened eyes to where the great Queen sat. Like a white lily in the glare of the sun, she wilted; lovely colour swept into her pale cheek.

"Without your crown, without your hanging veil, you would not look so beautiful," thought Queen Mughain, for she knew that lovely young Mairenn had no hair. Mughain had nicknamed her "Mael," which is "The Bald," and Mairenn's sorrow was as soft hands on the great Queen's wounded soul.

"Mavis, wake up, child." The Queen's hand shook the sleeper; brown heavy eyes met hers. "Thy desire it shall be thine if thou wilt but carry out a little jest for me, and earn at the same time the applause of the company." The crowned head bent further down, and a low sweet voice whispered a devil's action. Like a wisp of rainbow Mavis rose; light and laughter back in her wicked little face, she sped across the room to the young Mairenn.

The great Queen watched, and the devil painted out the love and graciousness from her countenance.

Mavis was whispering. Her hand crept forward to the young Queen's veil. Like lightning she whipped it off, and the gold crown crashed to the ground. The great company turned as one man, and every eye rested on Mairenn. Queen Mughain's hour of triumph was at hand. "God and Saint

Kieran help me at this need!" The voice of a lost soul rang out through the great hall. Slowly the great Queen turned to watch her rival's humiliation, but before her sat the girl, and to her waist fell glossy golden-sheeney hair, which caught the setting sun like a rippling sea, and almost blinded the curious eyes that fell upon its beauty.

That night, on the short green turf of the castle garden lay the little rainbow figure of Mavis the jestress, white in the moonlight—dead.

MYFANWY CAMPBELL.

Inveraray.

BÒID NA H-AON CHIUIL.

LE SEUMAS MACLEOID.

I.

A reir an t-seallaidh bhoichd a bh'agam bha mi faicinn gu leòr: ubhal, le gruaidhean cho dearg ri céir, air meanglan craoibhe. Eun 'na sheasamh gu muirneach aig ceann clàrsaich, an car-fiaraidh abhaisteach 'na cheann, agus na sùilean beaga, cruinne ud aige a' mion-ramsuchadh na bha de'n fheòil pheacaich air m'iomhaigh. Bha fidheach an sgoir creige, agus ar leam murt de fhuachd air gach feadan ciuil bha 'n ceann a chnàmh.

Chuala mi sgread,—'gu cinnteach glaoth na h-eiginn. Agus an uair a sheall mi rithist gu dùrachdach bha an t-eun beag a' cur seisdar ri deud na clàrsaich le a spòig,—a ribheid bhinn fhéin a' filleadh ris a' cho-sheim a b' àille chuala mi riamh; agus am fidheach (shaoil mi le sgéithe bhriste) an crochadh eadar neamh is talamh.

Dhuig mi: cha robh an sud ach bruarad cadail agus gnùis na gealaich,—mise mar is minic a bha, air seachran oidhche; oir, lorg mi latha no dhà a chum a bhi cur cùl ri carraid an t-saoghail agus m' intinn a shocrachadh air na nithean nach robh an saoghal comasach air a thoirt dhomh. Aig meadhon-latha bha mi seachad sàl na h-Oire; a' ghrian cruinn air aistal nan speur; uisge na Cruidhlaich a' ruith gu séimh air mo laimh dheis, gun uallach air an talamh orm ach mullach na beinne is àille air corsa na Gaidhealtachd fhaicinn le m' shùilean nàdurra.

Bha Carn-na-h-Encoir, suas mu chruachain na beinne, mar a chunnaic mi e roimhe sud,—beul cuimr le a chuid dhitheanan dreachmhor a streap ri fear gorm-bhileach, measgta le maoth-raineach a bha cheana giùlan dreach



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na gréine; fraoch meata, donn-cheannach, agus a h-uile glag beag bha an crochadh ri géig cho foirfe geal ri còmhdaich nan aingeal. Sud an t-àite rùnaich MacTalla airson na cuilim shoghmbhor leis an robh sluagh na h-Aonaiche-móra gu bhi air an tearnadh; agus cha b' urrainn mi dhol seachad air gun bheachdachadh air car an t-saoghail an diugh. B'e ceòl Mhic Talla ith, òl agus bi subhach; agus am maireach theid an geadh a spioladh (le Mac Talla, oir b'esan an Rìgh!) An treas latha bha cairbh a' gheòidh gu bhi air a thilgeil a' measg na mòr-chuideachd,—gach fear is té a dheanadh mar a b'fhearr a b'urrainn dhaibh!

Ràinig mi mullach na beinne. le ni-eigin de gheilt, oir bha guth trom, cianail ag inntrinn mo dhà chluais agus a fàgail mo chuirp fann. Cha robh teud an clàrsaich cho binn no cho fallain ris a' ghuth ud, ach bha ni-eigin fuaighte ris bha cuir gaoir eagail eadar mullach mo chinn agus bonn mo chas. Choisich mi chum na sgàile crèige do'm 'ainm an Ruadh-Or,—mir de chloich tha cho cruinn ri peighinn, agus, gu ìre bhig, a cheart cho tana, agus dh' éisd mi ris na focail a thuit orm gu h-obann mar a dh' éisdeas duine ri earail o Shaoghail nan Seun. Bha na focail mar a leanas:

Rann—"Theich thu bhuam mar bhoillsgeadh gréine,
Mar aiteal séimh a' chomhar-thràth
Ach dh'fhag thu agam cnead na h-eiginn,—
Iomsairt gheur an cuan do ghràidh.

S'èid—"Iubhrìbh i an tig thu, tig thu,
Iubhrìbh i an tig thu ghràidh;
'Sa iubhrìbh i an tig thu idir?
Mar a tig cha bhi mi slàn."

"Tha gach eun le a ribheid chuibhl
Ag aireamh cùbhradhachd an t-sléibh,
Is mise fann an cois an aonaich
A' gleachd ri aobhachd ghil mo chléibh.
"Dhruid na sgàilean bhuam do bhoichead,
Dh'aom na neòil bu lughmhor ceum;
Is dh' éisd mi greis ri fonn nan oran—
Clàrsair òg bu bhinne beul.

"Dh' àrìich e dhomh làithean m'òige
Le meanglan còir nam mìle beus;
Ar leam gu robh thu fhathast comh' rium
Ag gleusadh ceòil, do ghràdh a' réir."

Dhruid na briathran an leithid a dhoigh ionnus gu robh boinne reòdhta air mo dhà shùil. Ar leam gu robh na clachan a sìleadh an coinneamh na cruaidh-spàirn a bha falbh an cois na bardachd aon-sgeulach a thuit air mo chluasan. Bha mi cinnteach gu robh an guth a bha an sud an iomairt nan tuitèan. Ma bha iochd an corp aingeil dh' éisdeadh é ris a' chaitream mhuladach a chaidh suas o chluais na h-Oire!

Dh'èirich mi agus chaidh mi air adhart timchioll na creige. Air uchdan glas suas bhuam bha cailin òg a coimhead 'gam ionnsuigh le dà shùil a' dheoghladh ('nam bharailsa) gaol às na clachan. Cha d'fhainig smid as a beul, ach sgaoil i an sgarb-còmhdaich air an robh i 'na suidhe mar nach biodh ni agamsa ri dhanamh ach suidhe còmhla rithe.

"Tha latha math ann," thubhairt mi leis a' mhodh-labhairt a b'fhearr a bh'agam. Bha mi cinnteach gu robh ceann làn Gàidhlig.

"Tha sin ann," fhreagair i le stòltachd. Nach tusa an gille thàinig chum "An Tormain" an raoir? Tha mise a' fuireach an sin cuid-eachd; agus chuala mi òran agad moch-thrath thug sìleadh air mo shuilean."

"Oran!" thubhairt mise le iongantas.

"Nuair thig mise gu sgr na h-Aonaich cha bhi mi 's a cheann agam ach linn nan Creach. Cha robh agamsa ach tuireadh moch-thrath!"

"Shaoil mise gum b'e seann luinneag chaidil a bh'ann. Dh' fhaoidte gum bheil na focail cho sean ris a' chrotal ach cha dhichuimhnich mise iad gu sìorruidh."

Thuit ciùneas trom timchioll orm, agus thoisich fuar-fhallas ri ruith sìos air clàr mo chinn. Bha an té a bha ri m' thaobh ag coimhead air an adhar, agus deòir thoireil air a gruidhean. Cha robh cannach min an t-samhraidh air éideadh cosmbuil rithe. Bha ni-eigin 'na gnùis agus 'na cleachdaidhean a thug 'na m'chuimhne earail a Ghàidheil do a mhac—"Ma ni thu coire do neach is fearr na thu féin cha bhi donas an ifrinn nach bi sgeig mhagadh ort!"

Am measg na sàmhechair lorg mi cuid de na focail bh'agam 'sa mhaduinn. Ar leam gu robh iad mar so:—

"Cha tig an t-armunn ud dhachaidh,
Cha tog é airteul mo chléibh;
Tha é reodht' anns an anart
Beul nam beannachd 's nam beus."

Carson a bhiodh iad 'na cuimhne gu sìorruidh?

Ach labhair i rium gu cabhagach, agus a' meur sìnte air ceann-bhrat nan speur. "Tha sùil agamsa falbh le carbaid na h-aon-uisreug. Am bheil thu faicinn tighe a' measg na deataich bhàin tha tearnadh a chum na gréine?"

Sheall mi gu dùrachdachd, ach cha robh mi faicinn tigh no turlach.

"Chan eil mi faicinn ni ach glas-neòil."
"Cleachd thusa do shùilean," leasaich i;
"coma leat do na sgòthan ragach is faisge dhuit; amhaire a steach seachad orra."

“Nach eil aitreabh tighe an sin, agus ceò a smàladh as a cheann cho cinnteach 's ged a bhiodh do shùil air aite comhnuidh?”

Thoisich mi tagradh airson foighidinn. Tha fios aig Dia gu robh gu leòr de dheataich 'san t-saoghal 'san robh mi, agus nach leiginn a leas coimhead air a son air ceann an adhair.

Agus fhuair mise mo chuid dhith!

Chuir mi fàine uaireigin chum cailin òig le sùil gu faighinn i mar mhnai. “Tha cus cabhaig ort,” sgrìobh i, “Ach chan eil cothrom agad air: tha thu mar a chruthaich Dia thu!”

Ach feumaidh mi so a' radh: nam bithinn ag éisdeachd combradh mu dheataich o sheann bhean, no o sheann duine, cha bhiodh mo chàil air a bhith cho glaiste. Bha gràin anaman agam air faoineas gun seadh agus an cuspair a bha labhairt cho ion-mhiannaichte leam ris an uisge bha mi ag òl!

Lean i air labhairt an doigh nach robh mise tuigsinn. Ged b'e sud àm a bhithinn air mo thoirt gu cathair breitheanais cha bhithinn, comasach air rian gu a chur air a seachas. Bha cuimhne agam gu'n dh'ainmich i le a bilean ceist a dh'ath-luchdaich fradharc a cinn le deòir.

Thionndaidh i a h-aghaidh—aghaidh a bha nis a giùlan gàire, agus labhair i rium an doigh nàdurra, chàrdeil.

“Tha fios agam air do smuaintean?”

“Cìod iad?” fhreagair mi, le ceud cabhaig.

“Tha thu cuir mi-mheas air neòil an adhair, agus a beathachadh orrasan tha dluth air làimh!

'Nuair a rinn mi oidhirp air labhairt bha i falbh às m'fhianuis sios gualainn na beinne.

(*Ri Leantainn.*)

UP AND COME.

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
Over the bens so wild and so free;

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
Take the sunset road to the Isles of the Sea.

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
From out the Dreamy Isles of the West;

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
Beckoning ye on to the Isles of the Blessed.

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
Where the white foam o'er the Skerries roar;

Up and come, for the West Wind is calling,
Sons of the Birlins, bend to the oar.

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The Captain of Saddell Castle.

ROS NA GREIN' FHEASGAIR.

Air fonn: "Is toigh leam a' Ghàidhealtachd."

Tha dùthchanan céin sa bheil ailleachd tha mór,

Far an t-uir torr' an oidhche mar chlogad gun treòir;

Gun chabhanaich tighinn dhaibh foighed-neach grinn,

Mar tha ciaradh na h-oidhche air srathan is glinn.

Ciar imeachd na h-oidhche a tighinn cho mall,

A' feitheamh air eagal an sgeimheachd a chall;

An sealladh is bòidhche a chunnacas riamh
'S e ròs na gréin' fheasgair a' pògadh muir siar.

Ged is creagach gach cladhach an duthaich nam gleann,

Ged is gruamach air uairean tha sgoran nam beann;

Ged is fuaimneach a' ghàir aig na h-ùillt an am stoirn

Is ceòlmhor na guthan ri chluinntin nam foirm;

Dùisgidh iad aoibhneas an cridheachan treun,

Is innsidh iad sgeul dhuinn ma dh'éisdeas sinn féin;

Ach an sealladh is bòidhche a chunnacas riamh

'S e ròs na gréin' fheasgair a' pògadh muir siar.

An dreach nach gabh dealbhadh le dathan gun dlith,

Nach gabh innse le peann, ach a dhùisgeas gach cridh';

Le smuainteanan neamhaidh 'gar togail a suas,

An éibhneas na soillse is oirdheirce snuadh—

Gach cnoc, creag is comhnard an lannir cho beò,

Is éisdeachd-a-stigh tighinn d'ar n-ionnsuidh-sa leò;

Leis an t-sealladh is bòidhche a chunnacas riamh,

Seadh, ròs na gréin' fheasgair a' pògadh muir siar.

T. D. MACDHÒMHNUILL.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

During the course of the month, the Summer School of Gaelic will be opened in Port Ellen, Islay. Commencing on the 24th July it will remain in session until the 14th August. Up to the present the number of enrolments received does not equal the entries for last year's school at Broadford, but I trust that before the opening date many more will come forward. It is desirable that all who contend being present shall send in their names to the office here as soon as possible, so that arrangements may be completed with little delay. The local Secretary is Miss Morag MacEachren, Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, to whom applications for lodgings and any other local information desired should be addressed. Particulars regarding classes, etc., may be had from the office here.

Under the auspices of the Art and Industry Committee there is again this year promoted several competitions in Celtic Art. These include design for poster to advertise the National Mod; a card in three colours, to convey Christmas and New Year greetings; the reproduction of Celtic design on leatherwork, and needlework competition in colour of specified design. Copies of designs for these two latter competitions may be had from the office, price threepence each. All work in these classes should be delivered in packages containing sealed envelope, bearing pen name on the outside, and the name and address of competitor inside. In competitions 1 and 2, designs must be delivered flat and between cardboards. Designs and articles must reach this office not later than 31st August.

In connection with the National Mod, which this year takes place on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th October, in Perth, I would like to remind all intending competitors to forward their entries to the office as soon as possible. All names must reach the office here not later than Saturday, 27th July.

Arrangements in connection with the Celtic Congress are being satisfactorily proceeded with. This is the first occasion that Glasgow has been favoured as the meeting place of the Congress, and plans are being made worthy of the occasion. The Executive Committee of which Sir Donald MacAlister, Bt., Principal of Glasgow University is Hon. President, and Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Convener, with Mr. John Cameron and Mr. John MacDonald as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, is making very thorough arrangements for the success of the Congress. The meetings will all be held

in the University buildings, and along with the delegates from all the Celtic nations, there will also be present outstanding Celtic scholars, who will lecture and discuss matters of common interest. A pleasing feature of the Congress is that the Corporation of the City have kindly agreed to accord the delegates and officials a Civic Reception. It has also been arranged that a special exhibition of Celtic literature brought together by the City Librarian, Mr. Septimus A. Pitt, will be on view at the Mitchell Library during the period of the Congress.

During the two days of the Mod at Stornoway an exhibition and sale of rugs made in the Ness district by pupils of Miss J. Macleod, Greenock, was held in one of the lower rooms of the Masonic Hall, and attracted much attention. Among the interested spectators who visited the exhibition were Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Macaulay of Montreal, who purchased five of the specimens shown. Mrs. Fisher, Chicago, also purchased two of the rugs, and among the other buyers were Captain Ian Moffatt-Pender and ex-Bailie Stewart. The exhibition and sale was arranged and run by a small committee of the local branch of An Comunn, consisting of ex-Bailie Stewart (convener), Miss Alena Macleod, Miss Annie Morrison, Mr. Murdo Macaulay, and Mr. Malcolm Macaulay. Up till 1928, the work of rug-making in Lewis was confined to Carloway, where it was started, and all over the Island the young people are waiting hopefully for it to come to their district. The market for the rugs is limited at present, and the important point now is to find a wider market. Unless this can be found soon, a work that appeals to the people and which is eminently suited to prevailing conditions in the Island, will remain the monopoly of the few.

Members are reminded that nominations for the Executive Council must be received not later than 12th, when the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council takes place in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling.

NIALL.

COWAL PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Cowal Mod at Dunoon on Saturday, 8th June, was another success. The entries on this occasion were in advance of last year, and a high standard was maintained by the competitors in all classes. The judges were: Gaelic—Mr. John MacDonald, M.A.. Music—Mr. J. N. MacConochie, M.A.

The following were the prize winners:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading with expression a piece of Poetry.—1, Louisa MacKellar; 2, Alister MacKellar.

Reading a piece of Prose chosen by the Competitor.—1, Agnes Weir; 2, Louisa MacKellar.
Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—1, Tom Crawford; 2, Jean Warrand.

Unison Singing.—1, Dunoon Junior Gaelic Choir.

SENIOR SECTION.

Recitation with expression of a piece of Poetry.—1, Jessie Morrison; 2, Chrissie MacKechnie; 3, Morag MacEwan.

Solo Singing of a Song.—1, Rachel MacKellar; 2, Morag MacEwan.

Choral Singing in Harmony.—1, Dunoon Junior Gaelic Choir.

Duet Singing.—1, Rachel MacKellar and Catherine Patrick; 2, Chrissie MacKechnie and Mary Martin.

ADULT SECTION.

Writing of a Gaelic Story.—1, Alexander J. MacLean.
Reading at sight an unfamiliar piece of Gaelic Prose.—1, Mary MacDougall; 2, Agusta Lamont.

Recitation of a piece of Gaelic Poetry.—1, Mary MacDougall; 2, Alex. J. MacLean.

Solo Singing of a Song—Female Voices.—1 (equal), Mary MacDougall and Mary Johnson.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male Voices.—1, Archie Baxter.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male and Female Voices.—1, Daisy Black; 2, Mary Johnson.

The prizes were awarded at the Concert in the Burgh Hall over which Sir Norman Lamont presided.

PERTHSHIRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Annual Perthshire Provincial Mod at Pitlochry on Friday, 14th June, was most successful. There were about 250 competitors present from a wide area, and the standard achieved was equally as high as previously experienced. Throughout the entire proceedings the utmost enthusiasm prevailed, and all the sessions were well patronised, and much interest was evinced in each competition. The Grand Concert, the programme of which was sustained by the leading prize winners, with contributions from Miss Annie I. MacMillan, M.A., and Mr. James C. MacPhee, both of Glasgow, was a fitting finale to a successful Mod. Lord James Stewart Murray presided over the concert, while the prizes were gracefully presented by Lady Helen Tod. Much credit is due to Miss C. MacDonald, the local Secretary, for her work in organising the Mod. The judges were:—Gaelic—Miss Annie I. MacMillan, M.A., Alex. Thomson, Rev. Hector Cameron. Music—Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., and Mr. J. Norman MacConochie, M.A. The Prize-list is as under:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading with expression piece of Poetry (confined to learners of Gaelic)—Native Speakers—1, William MacDonald, Glen Garry; 2, Jeanie Robertson, Strathmummel. Non-Gaelic Speakers—1, Edward Johnstone, Strathmummel School; 2 (equal), Betty Balmer, Struan School, and Agnes Robertson, Blair Atholl School.

Reading Piece of Prose (confined to Learners of Gaelic)—Native Speakers—1, Effie Robertson, Glen Fender; 2, Cathie Stewart, Bridge of Tilt; 3, Jeanie Robertson. Non-Gaelic Speakers—1, Edward Johnstone; 2, Margaret Johnstone, Strathmummel School; 3, Agnes Robertson.

Reading Piece of Prose Chosen by Judge (open to all under 16 years)—1, Effie Robertson.

Reading at sight Prose chosen by Judge (open to all under 16 years)—1, Effie Robertson.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, to be followed by conversation between judge and competitor (open to all under 18 years)—1, Jessie MacDougall, Lawers; 2, Jeanie Robertson.

Gaelic Conversation—1, Helen MacGregor, Killin; 2, Jessie MacDougall; 3, Jeanie Robertson.

Repetition, prose Psalm 23 or St. Luke's Gospel, xxii., 22.30 (open to all under 16)—1, Effie Robertson; 2, Edward Johnstone; 3, Jessie MacDougall.

Reading with expression (open to all between 16 and 18 years)—1, Helen MacGregor.

Reciting from Memory (open to all between 16 and 18)—1, Helen MacGregor.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Jean E. MacDougall, Aberfeldy; 2, Mary MacIntyre, Blair Atholl; 3, Isobel Stewart, Grandtully.

Solo Singing—Boys—1, John MacFarlane, Grandtully; 2, John Beaton, Acharn; 3, William Bain, Blair Atholl.

Solo Singing—Boys or Girls—1, Jean E. MacDougall; 2, (equal), Cathie Beaton and Mary MacIntyre.

Duet Singing—1, Agnes MacNab, Grandtully, and Isobel Stewart, Grandtully; 2, Cathie Beaton and John Beaton, Acharn; 3, Jessie Fraser, Kenmore, and Rene Fraser, Kenmore.

Solo Singing—Girls or Boys between 16 and 18—1, George Coull, Acharn; 2, Jean MacLauchlan, Pitlochry.

Duet Singing—Girls or Boys of 16 to 18 years—1, Chrissie Coull and George Coull, Acharn.

Choral Singing in Unison—1, Pitlochry Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Kinloch Rannoch Junior Gaelic Choir; 3, Kenmore Junior Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of the Songs—1, Pitlochry Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Kinloch Rannoch Junior Gaelic Choir.

LITERARY.

Place names competition—1, Cathie Stewart; 2, (equal), Edward Johnstone, Margaret Johnstone, and Jean Robertson.

Essay or Story in Gaelic—1, Helen Macgregor. Collection of Flowers, giving Gaelic and English Names—1, Hamish Smeaton, Blair Atholl; 2, William Bain, Blair Atholl.

INSTRUMENTAL.

Violin—Playing of a Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey, and Reel—1, James Smith, Aldclune.

Pianoforte—Playing a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel, bagpipe settings—1, Jean E. MacDougall; 2, Jean MacLauchlan, Pitlochry.

Bagpipes—Playing of a March, Strathspey, and Reel (confined to lads under 19 years)—1, Angus MacDonald, Dalnamein, Calvine; 2, James Menzie, Kinloch Rannoch.

SENIOR SECTION.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—1, Isabella Menzies, Blair Atholl; 2, Mrs. Brydone, Faernan; 3, (equal) Helen M. Cameron, Calvine, Miss Frew, Perth, Mrs. Leith, Faernan, and Mrs. Reid, Perth.

Solo Singing—Male Voices—1, John MacDougall, Fortingall; 2, Andrew Eggie, Blair Atholl.

Solo Singing—Male or Female Voices—1, Christie MacDonald, Acharn; 2 (equal), Eva Brydone, Pitlochry, Isabella Menzies, Blair Atholl, and Mrs. K. Panton.

Solo Singing of an Unpublished Perthshire Song—Male or Female Voices—1, Mrs. K. Panton; 2, Isabella Menzies.

Solo Singing open to former first prize-winners—1, John MacDougall, Fortingall; 2, Mrs. K. Panton; 3 (equal), J. D. Scott and J. MacPherson, Kinloch-Rannoch.

Duet Singing—1, Isabella Menzies and Mrs. K. Panton; 2, Helen Robertson, Pitlochry, and Mary Robertson, Perth.

Choral Singing—1, Kenmore and Fearnan Gaelic Choir; 2, Pitlochry Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Harmony—1, Kenmore and Fearnan Gaelic Choir; 2, Pitlochry Gaelic Choir.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Recitation of piece of Gaelic Poetry—1, Christie MacDonald, Acharn; 2, Alastair Carter, Ballinluig.

Reading at sight unfamiliar piece of Prose—1, Kate Maceachan, Kinloch Rannoch; 2, Duncan MacNicoll, Acharn.

Reading passages selected by Judge, to be followed by simple conversation on the passages read (confined to learners)—1, Mrs. Campbell, Kenmore; 2, Miss Dewar, Kenmore.

Reading Passages selected by Judge, to be followed by conversation (confined to native speakers)—1, Mrs. Christie MacDonald, Acharn; 2, Mrs. Duncan MacNicoll, Acharn; 3, Kate Maceachan.

"Sgeulachd." Narrating of an unpublished Perthshire or traditional Gaelic story—1, James D. Scott, Kinloch-Rannoch.

Acted Dialogue—1, Christina Macdonald, Pitlochry, and Helen Macgregor, Pitlochry; 2, Miss C. M. Crichton, Fortingall, and Miss C. G. Crichton, Kelnelyburn.

INSTRUMENTAL.

Violin—Plying of a Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey, and Reel—1, George Coull; 2, Douglas Walker, Strathguy.

Pianoforte—Playing a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel, bagpipe settings—1, Marion L. Ramage, Pitlochry; 2, Elizabeth Ross, Struan.

MID-ARGYLL PROVINCIAL MOD (DALRIADA).

Much interest and enthusiasm was aroused through a wide area by the Dalriada Mod held at Lochgilphead on Tuesday and Wednesday, 18th and 19th June. A most gratifying feature was the large number of entries in the junior section, close on 250 taking part in the competitions. The seniors entries were equally as satisfactory. A high standard was maintained in each of the classes, reflecting upon the careful tuition and the interest taken by the competitors. Tuesday was devoted entirely to the Junior Competitions, and at the concert in the evening, Mr. George Marjoribank's, Sonachan, presided, while Lady Elspeth Campbell rendered a similar honour at the Senior concert on Wednesday evening. Miss Cath. M. Clark, Glasgow, and Mr. Gilbert Macphail, Islay, assisted at each of the concerts.

The judges were:—Gaelic—Rev. John Mac-

Innes, Connel, Rev. Alex. MacDonald, Ardchattan, and Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary An Comunn. Music—Gilbert Esplin, Glasgow, and Pipe-Major James Gordon, Edinburgh.

The prize-winners were:—

LITERATURE.

Letter written in presence of judges—Learners—1, Tina Campbell, Minard; 2, Alasdair Carmichael, Lochgilphead.

Writing unfamiliar prose (open)—1, Mary MacDougall, Lochgilphead; 2, Alasdair Carmichael; 3, Tina Campbell.

Translation—Gaelic into English—Learners—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Alasdair Carmichael; 3, Neil MacPhail, Tayvallich.

Translation—English into Gaelic (open)—1, Mary MacDougall; 2, Neil MacPhail; 3, Jessie MacLachlan, Tayvallich.

Composition in Gaelic (open)—Mary MacDougall.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading Poetry—Learners—1, Tina Campbell, Minard; 2, Joan MacMillan, Minard; 3, Margaret MacMillan, Minard.

Reading Prose—Learners—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Margaret MacMillan; 3, Betty Beaton, Minard.

Reading unfamiliar Prose (open)—1, Dugald Campbell, Ormsary; 2, Henry MacGuinness, Tayvallich; 3, Tina Campbell.

Reciting from memory (open)—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Betty Beaton; 3, Margaret MacConnachie, Furnace.

Reciting from memory—Learners—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Betty Beaton; 3, Margaret MacMillan.

Reciting narrative followed by conversation (open)—Dugald Campbell, Ormsary.

Acted Dialogue (open)—1, Betty Beaton and Tina Campbell, Minard; 2, Mary MacDougall and Willie Crawford, Lochgilphead; 3, Alasdair Carmichael and James Munro, Lochgilphead.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Isobel Campbell, Minard; 3, Elizabeth Gillies, Lochgilphead. Solo Singing—Boys—1, Willie Stewart, Inveraray; 2, Alasdair Carmichael; 3, Alastair MacLachlan and Neil MacPhail, Tayvallich (equal).

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—1, Willie Stewart; 2, Tina Campbell; 3, Margaret and John MacMillan, Minard (equal).

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys under 12—1, Willie Stewart; 2, Maisie MacDonald, Furnace; 3, Isobel Campbell.

Canntaireachd.—Girls and Boys—1, Margaret MacMillan; 2, Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich; 3, Kate MacLullich, Tayvallich.

Duet Singing—1, Lily McColl and Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich; 2, Tina Campbell and Margaret MacMillan, Minard; 3, Mary Crawford and John MacMillan, Minard.

Choral Singing (harmony)—1, Tayvallich Choir; 2, Minard and Furnace Choir; 3, Lochgilphead B Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Minard and Furnace; 2, Lochgilphead A Choir; 3, Tayvallich.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Bagpipes (march)—1, Henry MacGuinness, Tayvallich; 2, Ian Greenshields, Lochgilphead; 3, Hamish Ross, Lochgilphead.

Strathspey and Reel—1, Ian Greenshields; 2, Henry MacGuinness; 3, Robert MacIntyre, Lochgilphead.

Pipes, special March—Boys under 14—1, Robert MacIntyre; 2, Hamish Ross; 3, Angus Greenshields.

DANCING.

Highland Fling—1, Dugald Graham Campbell, Shirvan; 2, Billie Greenshields, Lochgilphead; 3, Molly MacIntyre, Lochgilphead.

Sword Dance—1, Crae MacIntyre, Lochgilphead; 2, Dugald Graham Campbell; 3, Billie Greenshields. Reel of Four—1, Crae MacIntyre; 2, Molly MacIntyre; 3, Robert MacIntyre, Lochgilphead.

SENIOR SECTION.

Letter Writing—1, C. R. S. Malcolm, Lochgilphead; 2, Phemie MacDougall, Lochgilphead.

List of District place names—C. R. S. Malcolm.

Translation—1, C. R. S. Malcolm; 2, Mrs. D. Stewart, Inveraray.

Oral Delivery—Reading unfamiliar Prose—1, Pehmie MacDougall; 2, Donald Martin, Lochgilphead; 3, William Crawford, Lochgilphead.

Reciting Poetry—1, Miss C. M'Lulich, Tayvallich; 2, Neil MacLean, Kilmartin; 3, William Crawford.

Sgeulachd—C. M'Lulich.

Dialogue—Willie Crawford and Hugh M'Killop, Lochgilphead.

Vocal Music—Solo—1, Nan Greenshields, Lochgilphead; 2, Bessie Campbell, Ardrishaig; 3, Margaret B. Ferguson, Ardrishaig.

Male—1, Andrew Grinlaw, Ardrishaig, and Donald Martin, Lochgilphead (equal); 2, Donald MacLean, Lochgilphead.

Female and Male—1, Donald Martin, 2, Jean Mitchell, Ardrishaig; 3, Nan Greenshields.

Cannatairachd—Male and Female—1, Neil MacLean, Kilmartin; 2, Malcolm Clark, Kilmartin; 3, Susie MacAllister, Lochgilphead.

Duet—Susie MacAllister and Nan Greenshields.

Trió—Mrs. M'Kellar, Miss Winnie Smith, and William MacGregor, Lochgilphead.

Quartette—Winnie Smith, Susie MacAllister, William MacGregor, and J. B. Paterson, Lochgilphead.

Choral Singing—Harmony—(Sir William Sutherland Cup)—1, Kilmartin Choir (C. R. S. Malcolm); 2, Minard Choir (Mrs. Crawford, conductor); 3, Lochgilphead (Wm. MacGregor).

Choral Singing—Unison—1, Minard; 2, Lochgilphead; 3, Kilmartin.

Precenting—1, Archibald MacArthur, Kilmartin; 2, Hugh Livingstone, Tayvallich; 3, Lachlan M'Vean, Lochgair.

Celtic art greeting—Card Design—1, Dr. Ross and Dr. M'Calman, Lochgilphead (equal); 3, Anna Munro, Inveraray.

BOOK REVIEWS.

An Dileab, Gaelic Verse for Advanced Divisions and Intermediate Classes, edited by James Thomson, M.A., Bayble, Lewis; published by An Comunn Gàidhealach, 212 West George Street, Glasgow. 50 pp. Price, 1/6.

This excellent little collection of modern pieces in verse forms a companion volume to the text books of An Comunn. "The aim is to provide a graded selection of verse rich in the four essential elements of poetry—music, emotion, imagination, thought—and suitable for boys and girls in Advanced Divisions and Intermediate Classes." The object in view has been successfully carried out. Although some of the pieces are already familiar, yet they are grouped in a fresh setting, and in combination with several poems that appear for the first time. The book is fully abreast of the quality and standard of similar volumes used for purposes of school work in English poetry. This

is the kind of thing required in order to consolidate the study of Gaelic verse in the schools. Any youth who becomes familiar with the volume as a school-book has his mind enriched with some of the best things in recent Gaelic literature. Besides being a text-book, the volume is full of interest and freshness for the general reader. It is evident that the grading and arrangement have been carried out by one who, is himself an experienced teacher as well as a poet, and understands the need for such a book for Gaelic classes.

In MacIachlan's piece on the cuckoo there are, we think, two departures from the familiar rhyme of the piece. One is: 'S mor m'fharmaid riut a chuthag chaomh. Cha dean thu bròn 'nad shiubhal.' The familiar form is, 'a chuthag chòir,' which preserves the rhyme with *bròn*. The other is, 'Is truagh nach b'urrainn domh leat triall. Air astar sgèith 'nar dithis.' Why not *astar sgìath* (gen. plu.). *Sgìath* would be correct, and would rhyme with *triall*. These, however, are very slight points, and are very insignificant compared with the general excellence of the volume, which is clearly printed on good strong paper, and bound in stiff cloth.

Robert Louis Stevenson and The Scottish Highlanders, by David B. Morris, Town Clerk of Stirling; 158 pp. Price, 5/- net. Mackay, Stirling.

Of recent years, and especially since the formation of the Stevenson Society in Edinburgh, there has been a renewal of interest in the personality and literary work of the great author. The present volume is extremely valuable, since it approaches the problem from a fresh standpoint. The writer goes to original documents, and traces the sources from which Stevenson derives his knowledge of the Highlanders, 'how the historical incidents became known to him, and how they inspired him to write his immortal tales.' We are impressed by the scholarly method and the fair and well balanced manner in which the sources are examined. On that account the volume will add considerably to the information of many who know and admire those portions of the novels bearing on Highlanders. Indeed, many of the historical incidents adduced, are themselves as absorbing as any romance could be. The book is beautifully got up.

In *Kidnapped* and *Catriona*, Stevenson has given a literary portraiture of several characters whom he intended for Highlanders, whether he has succeeded or not. Mr. Morris is at his best in Chapter VI on, 'Stevenson and the Celtic character.' He shows a full and clear appreciation of Stevenson's delineations; but he displays also, in our opinion, a very sound understanding of Highlanders and their main characteristics. This is valuable, and is rather rare in writers who undertake to write on Stevenson. Take some of his remarks on *Alan Breck*. "Alan Breck is Stevenson's supreme study of the Highland character. . . . His speech was pointed, humorous and pawky, not given to flights of imagination or eloquence, and perhaps, in these respects more lowland in character than Highland. Some one has suggested that mentally, Alan was more like a Fifer than a Highlander, but the Fifer, indeed, has a strong strain of the Celt. There are certain qualities which distinguish the Highlander which Alan Breck does not disclose. He is lacking in what can best be described as sentiment (not sentimentality), thought arising from deep feeling, and also, in that reserve and self respecting shyness which are generally manifested in the Highland character. Perhaps it was impossible for Stevenson, a Lowlander, to do justice to the qualities of the Highlander, but take him all in all, Alan Breck, as his author has portrayed him, is one of the great characters of fiction."

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TELEGRAMS—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

TELEPHONE—*Douglas 1433.*

Leabhar XXIV.]

An Lunasdal, 1929.

[Earrann 11

FOCLAIR BEURLA GU GAIDHLIG.

Ged dh'fhaodas muinntir móran a sgrìobhadh is a labhairt an diugh mu obair A' Chomuinn, gidheadh tha aon ni fìor—agus is e sin gu feumar a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg do'n òigridh. Is còir an fhìrinn so a chumail an comhnuidh ann ar n-aire. Ged bhiodh gach duine is bean os cionn fichead bliadhna de aois, a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a ghnàth, gidheadh mur tog a' chlann òg a' chàinain chan eil ni is dearbhta na gu faigh i bàs an ùine ghoirid. Is iomchuidh mar sin gu faiceadh is gun tuigeadh buill A' Chomuinn cìod e cho fheumail 's a tha e gun deanamaid saothair chruaidh gus ar seann chainnt a theagasg do'n òigridh. Tha an obair ri a deanamh gu dìleas. An uair a tha neach an dèil obair a dheanamh, cuiridh e feum air inneal gus an obair a chur air aghart. Cìod e an t-inneal a tha dhèidh air fear teagaisg na Gàidhlig? Tha leabhraichean a bhios freagarrach airson na crìche a tha aige anns an t-sealladh. Tha ar maighstirean sgoile a' faotainn an cuid còlais am Beurla agus a réir ghnàths nan Gall. Tha na Goill fiosrach tuigseach gu leòr. Is aithne dhaibh gu maith ciamar is còir an cuid cloinne féin a theagasg ann am Beurla. Car son nach biodh na maighstirean sgoile Gàidhealach a cheart cho foghainteach gus an t-alt ceadna a chleachdadh a thaobh na h-òigridh Ghaidhealaich? Rinn An Comunn deagh thòiseachadh a cheana, le bhi ag ullachadh leabhraichean leughaidh a tha freagarrach air gach aois am measg na cloinne.

Ach ged rinneadh a cheana an deagh thòiseachadh gidheadh tha easbhuidh mhòr fathast ann. Is i an easbhuidh sin *cion foclair Beurla gu Gàidhlig*. Chuala sinn moran a' gearain,

a chionn nach eil leabhar deiseil mar sin ri laimh, gus an cuideachadh gu Gàidhlig ionnsuchadh. Tha e furasda gu leòr do'n fheadhainn a rugadh 's a thogadh am measg na Gàidhlig, deanamh an gnothuich as eugmhais foclair mar is trice; ach air uairibh cha bu mhisde eadhon iadsan cuideachadh de 'n t-seòrsa sin. Gabh beachd air gach meadhon a tha 'g a chur gu feum anns na sgoilean anns a bheil cainntean choigreach 'g an teagasg. Anns a' chuid mhòr de na sgoilean thatar a teagasg Laidiunn no Fraingeis no Gearmailt. Bheir an luchd stiùiridh an deagh aire nach deanar dearmad air na leabhraichean ceart. Chan fhàgair am foghlumaiche as eugmhais foclair a mhinicheas dha seadh nam briathran a tha e a' foghlum. Ach an coimeas ri sin smaoinich cho fada air ar n-ais is a tha sinne. Gu so bha sinn a' fàgail an foghlumaiche gus a bhi a' solar air a shon féin mar a b'fhearr a b' urrainn da. Chan eil a leithid sin ceart no ciallach. Tha sinn an dùil gu bheil cleasdnas a' laidhe air A' Chomunn Ghaidhealach gu meadhonach a chleachdadh, a chum gum bi am mearachd so air a leasachadh an ùine ghearr. Chan e mhàin gu bheil a' chlann òga a' call an cothrom mar thoradh air an easbhuidh sin, ach tha iomadh neach inbheach ann, feadh na dùthcha, aig an tigh is thairis, a chuireadh fàilte chridheil air foclair de'n ghnè a tha sinn a' ciallachadh.

Gun teagamh tha foclairean ann a cheana a tha a' mineachadh nam facal o Bheurla gu Gàidhlig. Ged tha iad sin eagnuidh is luachmhor, gidheadh tha iad car tomadach am meud airson na h-òigridh. Is gann gu bheil iad deiseil gu leòr airson feum anns an sgoil. Nam biodh leabhar na bu lugha ann, mu thrì cheud taobh duilleig, anns nach biodh a mhàin

ach Beurla gu Gaidhlig, tha sinn an dùil gun deanadh sin a' chùis a thaobh tomaid. Ach cha b'fhuilear do leithid sin de fhoclair a bhi eadar dheaichte na ghnè o na leabhraichean a dh'ainmich sinn. Chan e mhàin gum bu chòir do'n fhoclair ùr gun innsadh e brìgh gach *facail*; bu chòir mar an ceudna gu nochdadh e *gnàths* is *cruth* is *nòs* na càinain, nì nach eil na foclairean eile a' deanamh ach an tonhas beag. Tha a' Ghaidhlig aosda; agus mar sin tha am modh labhairt aice, agus suidheachadh nam facal, fada nas duiliche ri'n ionnsachadh na tha càinain ùr sam bith. Agus nì eile—tha iomadh inneachd nodha air fàs cumanta ann ar latha. Bu chòir oidheirp a dheanamh air Gaidhlig a chur gu h-eagnuidh air cuid de na gnothuichean ùra a fhuaradh a mach o chionn ghoidid. Is e sin crìoch a bu chòir a chumail anns an t-sealladh. Tha ar càinain saobhir gu leòr gus ainmean a thabhairt do na h-inneachdan ùra. Anns an t-seadh sin bhiodh eisimpleir nan Eireannach 'n a chuideachadh. Tha iadsan a' meudachadh beartas an càinain féin le facail nuadha mar a bhios sin feumail. Dh' ullach an t-Ollamh Urramach Dinneen foclaire Beurla gu Gaidhlig Eireannaich. Tha am foclaire beag sin mu cheud gu leth taobh duilleig, agus tha e air a chraobh sgaioleadh feadh na h-òigridh an sgoilean na h-Eireann. Agus ma rinn An Comunn Gaidhealach strì chruaidh airson cothrom a thabhairt do'n chàinain gus a ceann a thogail fo dhèidh lagh na rioghachd, bu chòir do'n Chomunn sin mar an ceudna inneal freagarrach a thairgse do'n chloinn, eadhon leabhraichean a bheireadh a h-uile cothrom dhaibh air an càinain ionnsachadh gu ceart.

RECENT GRADUATES.

I.—Rev. Donald Lamont, D.D.

The University of Edinburgh has recently conferred upon the Rev. Donald Lamont, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. The distinction is well deserved. For many years his name has been a familiar one in the Church life of the Highlands. Educated at the University of Edinburgh, he served his probation as assistant to the late Dr. Blair in St. John's Parish, Edinburgh. He had been for some years minister of the Highland parish of Glenurquhart, when he came to his present charge of Blair Atholl. His personal qualities of kindness and sympathy, and his wise counsel have given him a position of great influence. As a preacher he stands in the front rank.

His work for the Gaelic language has been on a great scale, for he has edited the Gaelic supplement of Life and Work for many years. He has produced a very large amount of excellent writing in the Gaelic language. The Supplement is divided into two parts—the Sermon, and *Annas a' Chathair*. The latter is always of a miscellaneous character. Dr. Lamont possesses a happy gift of quiet humour, which has frequently helped to cheer his readers, and has given the human touch to that section of "Life and Work." In the more serious side of the Supplement Dr. Lamont has worthily maintained the best traditions of the Highland pulpit—reverence, dignity, and eloquence. His Gaelic is marked by a graceful style, combining clearness of thought with correctness of idiom and expression.

II.—Rev. Roderick MacLeod, D.D.

Another member of An Comunn to receive the honorary Doctorate of Divinity last month is the Rev. Roderick MacLeod of Tipperlin Road, Edinburgh. He obtained his honour from the University of St. Andrews. A native of Ross-shire he possesses an intimate knowledge of Gaelic. All the more therefore do we welcome the acknowledgement of the worth and work of Highlanders by the great schools of learning. Dr. MacLeod took his Arts course in St. Andrews, and his Divinity training in Glasgow. It is now many years since we first heard his impressive and scholarly discourses. For over twenty years he filled, with great credit and acceptance, a most arduous post as minister of Frognaal Church in London. A few years ago he severed his connection with that church, and came back to Scotland. Dr. MacLeod was immediately appointed as Deputy in the Highlands for the United Free Church. That Church has been happy in her choice. His knowledge of the people, of the language, and of the country are a great asset for his position; and his own genial presence and gracious personality assure him of a Highland welcome always. In Dr. MacLeod, An Comunn, no less than the Church, has a staunch friend and supporter. The members of An Comunn desire to extend to him their hearty congratulations on this fitting honour bestowed on him.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Prepares for Mod. 5/- an hour "Clarsach:" this office.

BÒID NA H-AON CHIUIL.

II.

Bha mi nis a' coimhead an adhair, oir cha robh an còrr agam a dheanainn. Rachainn air mo mhionnan gu robh samhuil fàrdaich tighe air aisteil nan speur; ach cha robh dragh agam dheth. Chaill mi sealladh air biadh is teallach, agus a' bhean chòir a' dheasaich mo bhiadh-maidne. Cha robh ni a dh'ordaich Dia 'nam shealladh ach éisdeachd, —éisdeachd ri carbaid na h-aon-uair-deug.

An àm ciaraidh an fheasgair dh'eirich mi air mo chasan, gun fhios agam ciamar, no carson, agus thill mi an taobh as an d'fhàinig mi; bha mi coimhead na gealaich cruinn ag eiridh 'san airde deas.

Ach ged a bhiodh a'ghealach air cairbe is cipean aig bonn na beinne cha chuireadh e iongantais orm. Bha mo smuain air an té a theich bhuam mar gum biodh i a teicheadh o'n phlàigh. Choisich mi, mo dhachaidh ré na h-uine, 'na 'cuis-eagail. Bha Bàird is bardachd a' ruith air feadh mo chinn, agus eun beag a' càireadh a spuirean air uchd clàrsaich cho ionnmholta ris na caileagan teoma ud bhithinn a' faicinn aig co-fhairpais a' Mhòid.

Lùb mi steach a' measg nan craobh bha cumail ceum air a cheum ri rathad na carbaid. Bha an té a dh'fhag mi roimhe sud air sorachan fiodha air mo laimh chll!

"Carson a dh'fhalbh thu cho cabhagach?" thubhairt mi le ùr-mhisneachd, agus mi a suidhe ri taobh.

"Bha mi 'na làn am," fhreagair i greis an deidh laimhe. "Bha fuaim amhuil fuaim clàrsaich a' tagra rium, mar gum b'eadh, teicheadh."

Mu'n do chuir i crioch air na focail bha m'aghaidh air cridhe na gealaich bha nochdadh le spealg-theas os mo chionn. Chaill mi mo chuimhne, cha robh an-dearbhadh air a' sin. Ach bha mi am beachd gu robh i tighinn air ais.

"Carson a tha thu cho sàmhach," thubhairt i le guth luaisgneach. "Ciod a th'air t-àire?"

"Na focail a chuala mi air mhullach na beinne. Chuala mi thu ag ràdh gu robh thu deònach mo phòsadh."

"Am bheil thu labhairt gu cinnteach?"

"Cho cinnteach ris a' bhàs!" fhreagair mi Thuit an ath-shàmheachair eagalach mu'm thimchioll. Ar leam gu robh àmhuinn dlùth orm, agus toit ghlas a' falbh seachad air bharr nan craobh. Cha d'fhugadh neach as mo cheann

nach robh an sorachan fiodha air an robh mi 'nam shuidhe air chrith.

Shìl mi mo làmh, agus rug mi air a còig meuran. Ged a bha iad còmhdaichte le meataig bha iad cho fuar ri cnap deighe.

"Ciamar a dh'iarraidh tu orm pòsadh agus gun ni seasmhach? Am bheil fios agad idir nach tig aon a chum an t-saoghail gun leigh, ministèir is cladh comhla ris!"

Cha robh ni seasmhach leamsa aig a' cheart àm ach a còig meuran. Bha mi call seallaidh air a briathran, 'sa cleachdaidhean, agus a lorg neart cuip is inntinn an ceann a làimhe. Ach bha i falbh bhuam, lion beag is beag, le aogaisg a' mhairbh.

Bha dubh-bhròn air géig an aiteigin. Ar leam gu robh uaigh 'ga fosgladh, agus cuideigin a' càireadh deòir an dòlais air a' chiste. Bha còmhach a' meuran agam 'nam làimh.

"Carson a thug thu dhìom a' mheatag?" thubhairt i, le lasadh-sùil a chuir m'fheòil air chrith.

"Air mo mhionnan cha tug mise dhìot!" "Ach carson a bhiodh iongantais ort, agus thu air do mheuran a tharruing às mo laimh. Ciod a th'ort? Tha t-aodann mar an t-anart."

"Tha mi tuigsinn," fhreagair i le cùineas; "chuir an guth cianail a bha seinn am measg nan craobh eagail orm. . . ." "Ach cha robh ann ach rabhadh,—meadhon, dh'fhaoidte chum mo thearndadh." "Seall!" ghlaodh i, agus i a togail fàine gu soillse na gealaich. "Feumaidh an dara ceangal-pòsaidh agamsa a bhi am bolg na h-uaghadh; agus chan eil i tri cheud slàt air falbh!"

Bha mi 'ga coimhead a' coiseachd seachad air sgearb de na ghealaich. Ciod an t-àite de chruthachadh Dhia 'san deachaidh a breith is àrach?

Cha robh ceist agam ach i sud. Ma bha i a' cur feum air biadh is uisge bha i tur eadar dhealaichte rusan a b'aithe dhomh, 'sa bha cuir feum air an dà chuid.

Dh'eirich a' ghrian 'sa mhaduinn, agus dh'eirich mise comhla rithe. Bha mi eudmhor a thaobh ainm na cailin, ach cha robh so an dàn. "Tha fios agam gu'n do thachair i riut," thubhairt bean-an-tighe. "Coma leat dhith; chan eil innte ach òinseach a' chur a gaol air seacharan. Bha i an ceangal—pòsaidh ri cuideigin as an àite so; agus tha i smuain-eachadh nach robh a leithid riamh air an talamh. Chan eil ainm agamsa oirre ach "Bòid na h-aon Chiuil."

Tha an "òinseach" beo fhathast,—dhòmhsa, agus bithith gus an dùn am bàs mo shùil.

Chan fhaic beinn na h-Oire Calum Mac-Mhathon gu sìorruidh!

CELTIC HEROES OF ROMAN TIMES.

It is surely a grave defect in our historical textbooks that they dismiss so lightly the period of Celtic history, when our ancestors came into contact with the power of Imperial Rome. Because the records are fragmentary, such knowledge as we possess is all the more precious, and should be presented in some detail rather than be condensed into mere references. A meagre chapter, or a few short paragraphs, is scarcely adequate for impressing on the mind the importance in the history of the Celtic nations of a contact which lasted some five centuries in France, some four hundred years in England, and intermittently for a hundred and fifty years in the southern parts of our own Scotland.

The writer invites a few minutes reflection as a small tribute to each of four heroic figures of this period—illustrious figures of the Celtic stock around whose heads there shine haloes of national devotion and self-sacrifice, illuminating with inspiring radiance the dark times in which they lived. Of these four, one is from Gaul, two from Southern Britain and one from Caledonia.

Vercingetorix.

Taking them in order of time, we look first at the hero of ancient Gaul. From 58 to 52 B.C. Julius Cæsar had been waging his Gallic Wars, and, stubbornly though the Gauls resisted, their want of union facilitated constant encroachments on the part of the Romans.

At last a young chieftain, Vercingetorix, whose father had been burnt to death by the Romans, arose as a leader, and inspiring confidence in the tribes, succeeded in establishing among them union against their common foe. For a brief time the tide turned in favour of the Gauls, but the power of Rome reasserted itself, and Vercingetorix, hard pressed, stood at bay with a garrison in the town of Alesia in central France. For long all the military skill of the most illustrious general of all time, and his trained troops failed to impose defeat or to enforce surrender. At last, attempts by the Gauls outside to deliver the beleaguered town, having ended in a sanguinary defeat, the Gaulish leader lost heart, and decided to sacrifice himself in the hope of placating Roman lust for mastery, and of thus saving from reprisals his faithful and war-worn garrison.

Dressed in the full panoply of war, and mounted on his horse, the young hero rode forth into the Roman camp, and circling the

throne on which Cæsar sat, he halted before him, and without a word flung his weapons at the conqueror's feet. Which of us can estimate, the magnitude of that sacrifice?—the leader who would have died a thousand deaths in battle rather than yield to the hated invader, gives himself up to their cruel power in the hope of mitigating the conqueror's severity towards the people whose liberties all his heroism had failed to maintain.

The magnificence of this act made no appeal to the stern and cruel masters of the world,—not a shred of magnanimity did they evince towards the hero or his surrendered garrison—all in vain was the heroic sacrifice on the part of one who had imputed to his enemies a greatness which they did not possess.

Bitter and cruel were the repressive measures afterwards enacted on the Gauls who defied Roman mastery, and the lot of him whose one desire was to preserve the liberty of his people, or in the end, at least, to ease the yoke of their servitude, was to languish for six years in a Roman prison, then to be dragged out for the ignominy of taking part in Cæsar's triumphal march through Rome, and finally, in 46 B.C., to be saved from further pain and humiliation by the Roman executioner.

Caradoc (Caratacus).

The Claudian conquest of Southern Britain had been proceeding for four years, when in A.D. 47, a new general, Ostorius Scapula, was sent over to take command of the invading Legions. Britain was in a disturbed state, and Roman aggression was being resisted in the South-East, the West, and the North. Caratacus, son of Cunobeline, ruler of the Trinovantes in the South-East of the island, after many battles both victorious and doubtful, had become pre-eminent among the princes of Britain. Finally, at the heads of the indomitable tribes of the West, he took his stand on the frontiers of what is now Wales to meet Ostorius and the Roman army.

The spot was well-chosen, and natural defences were skillfully improved by artificial means. The British chiefs went round exhorting their men, and foremost among them, Caradoc flew hither and thither proclaiming that the hour had come when the choice lay between regaining liberty or accepting slavery for ever. The shouts of applause with which the Britons responded to the appeal of their leader reached the ears of the Roman general, and we are told that he was staggered by so much enthusiasm. He scanned the situation

anxiously, but his soldiers too were keen for action, and he himself was a skilful leader, and in the ensuing battle the courage of the Britons availed nothing against the better arms and discipline of Rome. In spite of valiant resistance the Britons were defeated, and the wife, daughter and brothers of Caradoc were taken captive. Caradoc himself, in his adversity, sought protection from Cartimandua, Queen of the Brigantes, who, to her lasting dishonour betrayed him, and handed him over, bound, to the conquerors.

It is sad to read of Caradoc, who had fought so gallantly for the cause of liberty, being carried a prisoner to Rome. His fame had spread beyond the limits of his own country, and the Emperor Claudius, in order to enhance his own glory, made much parade of exhibiting his royal prisoner to the Roman populace. Caradoc and the members of his family, preceded by his royal Celtic ornaments, were led in procession to the thrones of Claudius and Agrippina. The British King, unlike the members of his family, made no appeal for mercy, but, carrying his head high, he proudly addressed the surrounding throng. He alluded sadly to his own former greatness which entitled him to equality with Caesar. His present humiliating fate was glorious to the Romans, but would it have been so but for his long and stubborn resistance? "If you Romans," he said, "must needs lord it over the world, does it follow that all must welcome your yoke?" In conclusion, he pointed out that the Emperor's vengeance would merely consign his victim to oblivion, but that to grant pardon would forever memorialise the imperial clemency.

Claudius, more merciful than Julius Caesar before him, pardoned the British King and his family, but only in order that perpetual exile, instead of death, should be their bitter lot, for they were never allowed to return to their native land.

Boudicca.

The year 61 A.D. was one of the most eventful of all that stirring period of British contact with Rome, for in it Britain all but succeeded in throwing off the imperial yoke. The Iceni, the powerful tribe which inhabited what are now the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, rose in fierce and indignant rebellion against tyranny and oppression, which even the Roman historian does not attempt to palliate. Prasutagus, King of the Iceni, had, Tacitus tells us, appointed Caesar his heir, along with his own two daughters, hoping thus to save his kingdom and his family

from molestation. But things turned out differently, and the dead King's dominions and private property were plundered by Roman centurions and slaves, his widowed Queen, Boudicca, was flogged and his daughters outraged. Small wonder was it that the Iceni, headed by their Queen, flew to arms, and that they were joined by the Trinovantes, the tribe inhabiting Essex, whose anger was hot against the Roman veterans, settled at Camulodunum (Colchester), for ejecting the native inhabitants from their homes, and driving them from their lands calling them slaves and captives.

Within a short time the insurgent Britons had sacked Camulodunum, and routed the Ninth Legion, which had advanced from Lindum (Lincoln) against them. In turn, Londinium—mentioned for the first time in history as even then a busy trading centre—and Verulamium (near St. Albans) were sacked, and their inhabitants—Roman citizens and British allies—were massacred by fire and sword. Roman ascendancy was trembling in the balance.

Meanwhile, Paulinus Suetonius, the general in command of the Roman forces in Britain, had advanced with two Legions from Mona (Anglesey), where he had been engaged in harshly repressive measures against that last refuge and stronghold of Druidism. The opposing armies met at some unidentified spot west of St. Albans.

Never did the fortune of the Britons appear to be more in the ascendant. Can we not picture to ourselves the commanding figure of Queen Boudicca, as described by Dio Cassius, inciting her troops to deeds of valour for the sake of just vengeance and the hope of liberty? She was tall and fair-haired, piercing of look, and with spirit greater than a woman's, grim of countenance, and rough-voiced. She wore a twisted collar of gold, a rich and varied flowing vest, and a mantle fastened by a brooch. If in this picture there is something harsh and forbidding no less than regal, can we wonder at it? A woman of gentler mould would have been utterly crushed by the treble outrage inflicted on her as Queen, as woman, and as mother, but this scion of the royal stock rose as a tigress at bay, filled with a fierce and bitter desire for vengeance—vengeance which in her age it would have been considered craven to withhold.

What boots it to linger over the account of the battle? It ended in an utter defeat of the Britons, marked by terrible slaughter,

no quarter being given even to women. Seeing that the fortune of war had denied both victory and death in battle to the unhappy British Queen, did she not almost fittingly conclude the tragedy of her life by using a cup of poison to withhold herself from an enemy at whose hands neither she nor her people could look for mercy?

Calgach (Calgacus).

Like a meteor in a dark sky, Calgach, the first hero of Albainn who is known to us by name, appears for a moment in the earliest episode of our written history.

That episode consists of the campaigns of Agricola, Governor of Britain, in the south of Scotland—not, however, till long after known by that name—between 80 and 84 A.D. After having built his chain of forts from Forth to Clyde, this celebrated commander had reconnoitred on the West Coast, and subsequently carried on a campaign in Fife and Angus, finally, in the summer of 84 advancing northwards against the Caledonians, supported by his fleet on the East Coast.

The Caledonians, whose irregular warfare had hitherto considerably harassed, although it had not repelled the Roman advance, now mustered in force to the number of 30,000 under their chosen leader, Calgach. On rising ground, skilfully chosen, at the foot of Mons Graupius (probably on the northern slopes of Strathmore), the native army took up its position to face the invading Legions and their auxiliaries.

Tacitus records that before the battle Calgach harangued his troops, and the Roman historian has been blamed for putting an imaginary speech into the mouth of the Caledonian leader. Yet we cannot but think of this early national hero as calling forth the enthusiasm of his followers by eloquent words inciting to deeds of valour and patriotic devotion—words of indignant protest against the oppressiveness of Roman bondage, and above all, we think of him as alluding with biting scorn to the much-vaunted “Pax Romana” in the words: “They make a desert and call it Peace.” Can we not also picture to ourselves as highly probable that, among the British auxiliaries of the Roman army, there were swift-footed spies who mingled with the camp-followers of the Caledonians on the night before the famous battle, listened to the burning words of the Caledonian leader, and returned hot-foot to Agricola to report on that stirring eloquence, and the enthusiasm which it had evoked?

The battle opened with a success for the Caledonians, whose missiles and scythe-armed

chariots made deadly onslaughts. But Roman discipline and generalship as usual turned the day, and in spite of valiant resistance and repeated rallying, the Caledonians fell back defeated amid great slaughter, into the fastnesses of the neighbouring forests. They are said to have lost 10,000 of their number on that fatal day, and terrible must have been the sight of that stricken field strewn with dead and dying, broken weapons, overturned chariots, and struggling horses. That night the Romans celebrated their victory, and their shouts of triumph mingled with the sorrowful cries of men and women of the vanquished, searching for dead and wounded among the sad wreckage of battle.

On the morrow not a trace of the Caledonians was to be seen. Silence and desolation confronted the invaders, while many of the broken and fugitive natives left behind them smoking ruins of homes, and women and children slaughtered to save them from falling a prey to Roman tyranny.

Whether Calgach fell at Mons Graupius, or lived to rally his clans during the subsequent Roman retreat, we do not know. Be that as it may, to him the honour belongs of having organised resistance, and of having made a gallant and renowned stand to uphold his country's liberty against Roman aggression. Although he suffered defeat it may be doubted whether the Roman victory was not more dearly bought than their historian leads us to suppose. At any rate the Battle of Mons Graupius was not followed up by any further advance into the territory of the Caledonians, or even by military occupation of the area which had been the scene of the campaign. It was already late in the season, and Agricola, apparently feeling his position insecure, fell back by slow stages to winter quarters it is thought behind the line of his own forts. His recall to Rome during the same winter, ended the war, and for another generation Caledonia was as free from invasion as the heart of her hero, Calgach, could have wished.

Let them remembered be,
Names of illustrious four,
Lettered in red and gold,
Honoured for ever more.

In the space of little more than a century these four famous personalities gave lustre to the history of the Celtic peoples of Western Europe, and are surely worthy of living enshrined in our memories. Alike in heroic leadership, and in the tragedy of their careers, they yet stand out with striking individuality, and impress on us that devotion to a worthy

cause deserves fame no less when doomed to failure, than when crowned by success.

To Vircingetorix belongs the palm for sublime self-sacrifice; and, in his long-drawn out suffering of six years' imprisonment, with its cruel accompaniments of preliminary and closing events, we cannot but feel that for him the punishment of life was as bitter as his heroism was supreme.

Caradoc, the successful hero of many battles, finally knew a similar bitterness in the loss of his cause through defeat. And to the sorrow meted out by the fortune of war was added another, perhaps more bitter still—the heart-break of knowing himself betrayed by one of his own people, a fellow sovereign whose assistance he had sought, and whose good faith he had trusted. History does not tell us how long his exile lasted, or how he spent his years of banishment, but we cannot but think that, chafing and pining like a caged lion, he must often have felt that Claudius Cæsar's pardon, accompanied by life-long exile was a worse penalty than his retribution in the form of speedy execution would have been.

If in the British Warrior Queen we see the avenging leader in battle with perhaps little of the woman in her heart, yet still we have in Bonduca the patriotic heroine who staked all and lost all in a desperate endeavour to free herself and her people from foreign thralldom. In the threefold ignominy to which she was subjected, there was enough to goad less proud and less liberty-loving Britons to those cruel acts of revenge to which warring peoples so often descend. When, after all the humiliation, victory and freedom were nearly within her grasp only to be snatched from her again by the tragedy of complete and utter defeat, can we wonder that her cup of bitterness was so full that even her bold spirit could endure no more?

Of the Caledonian leader we know so little that his picture is dimmer to us than those of the other three heroes. He appears only as the trusted chieftain who, inspired by patriotic fervour, led his people in defence of their country fought valiantly, and failed. Yet Calgach is of our own country—the first of a long line of patriots, who down the centuries have given devoted service to Scotland, not only in stress of war, but in times of peace. We must give honour to this first name as we do to those which follow on our national record—a record which is surely not yet closed, but on which names are yet to appear of gallant leaders who will again arouse the spirit of our country, and lead us on to new life and new achievement.

A. LAMONT.

AN T-EILEAN GEASACH.

A' Cheud Duais, Mod 1926.

EADARTHEANGACHADH le IAIN MACCORMAIG.

Air iarrtas an fhir-dheasachaidh, tha mi dol a' dh'inneadh dhuibh naidheachd mu eilein anns an robh mi an la roimhe. Tha se mìle fichead de dh' fhad an Loch Odha, agus aig a' cheann-a-tuath deth, tha e 'g a shnìomh fhein mu bhun nam beann: Beinn Chruachain air an dàra taobh, agus Bein Luibh air an taobh eile, far am bheil Gleann Streabh* agus Gleann Urchuidh ag iomachd troimh bheallaichean am measg nan cnoc, dìreach an ceann. Agus anns an Loch fhein, dìreach aig a' cheann-a-tuath so, tha grunnan boidheach de dh'eileinean beaga leth-oireach, air an còmhach gu dlùth le coille, a sìos gu oir na tuinne.

Tha sgeul annasach ra h-aithris air gach eilein duibh so, agus anns an oidhch' fhada gheamhraidh, bhiodh na seann daoine 'g an innseadh do'n òigridh 'nan suidhe mu'n cuairt na cagait. An deigh nan ùr-sgeulan so a chluinntinn, bhiodh barrachd annais aca 's na h-eileinean so, na bh'aca roimhe agus bha leò gu'n robh iad air an suaimpleadh an diomhaireachd 's am fionn-sgeoil. Tha sgeul mu uile-bheist agus mu chraoibh dhraoidheachd comhcheangailte ri Frach-Eilean, no Eilean Fhraoich. 'Nuair a theid thu air tìr air an eilean so, chì thu gur e àite garbh a th'ann, làn chreag is coille is bhlaithen fiadhain. Slaodaidh tu thu fhein troimh na dlùth phreasan am meadhon an eilein agus cuiridh e ionghnadh ort tobhta seann chaisteil fhaicinn ann agus craobhan uinnsinn is giubhais 'g a chòmhdachadh cho dlùth 's gur gann is leir do'n t-sùil e.

B'e Ceann Feadhna Chloinn 'ic Neachdain a thog an caisteal, so, uine mhór an deigh na h-uile-bheist a bh'anns an eilein, a bhi air a marbhadh. An diomhaireachd a chridhe, bha taobh blàth aig Mac Neachdain ris na Stiubhairtaich, agus b'e run fleadhachas a dheanamh do Phrionnsa Tearlach 's an luchairt so, na'm b'eadh 's gu'n tigeadh e'n rathad, an deigh dha tighinn air tìr am Muideirt. Ach gu mì-fhortanach do Mhac Neachdain, cha d'fhainig am Prionnsa riamh 'na rathad. Tha iuchair na seann lùchairt so 'ra faotuinns gus an latha diugh an Tigh Inbhir-Odha. 'Se Bean Inbhir-Odha, Ban-Chaimbeulach, is ban-uachdaran

* Streabh or sreabh—a stream. "Bradan Sìona na sreabh solto"—salmon from the Shannon of full streams. (Dean of Lismore.)

air an eilean. Tha'n t-eilean air ainmeachadh air Fraoch, seann laoch Ceilteach. Bha Fraoch beò ri linn Ban-Rìghinn Madhbh no Maebh. An litreachas nan Sagsonnach 's e "*Queen Mab*" a theirear rithe. 'Na gnè bha suaip mhath aice ri *Hera*, bean *Shuis*, agus bha Fraoch glè choltach ri *Ioral* air dòigh. Leugh mu loral agus mu *Nigheanan an Fheasgair* (Hesperides) an *litreachas* ealanta sam bith. Tha e 'na ni anabarrach annasach cho coltach ra cheile 's a tha na sean ur-sgeulan Ceilteach, agus an fheadhain Ghreugach no Inseinneach. Bhiodh an sluagh 'g an innseadh da cheile, agus ghleidheadh cuimhn 'orra fad cheudan, no mhlèan bliadhna, mu'n deach an cur an sgrìobhadh.

Bha Fraoch 'na dhuin' eireachdail, calma agus treun, agus thuit Ban-rìghinn Maebh an trom ghaol air. Ach bha Fraoch mar a bha, an gaol air nighean na Ban-rìghinn, *Geal-chean an Fhuilte Chraobhach*, agus thug *Geal-cheann* a gaol dà. 'Nuair thuig a' bhan-rìghinn so, ghabh i miolachd, agus thog eud innte. Leis an sin chuir i mu reir a chum innleachd a dheanamh leis an cuireadh i Fraoch gu bàs.

Chuir i fios air, agus thuit i ris gu robh i anabarrach tinn, 's nach robh a leigheas ann, ach badan de na dearcan draoidheachd a bha cinntinn air a chraoibh chaoirinn am Fraoch-Eilean. Bha a' chraobh a' cur barr mheas di a h-uile mìos, agus ge b'e neach a dh'itheadh de na dearcan dearg 'ud, rachadh bliadhnanach r'a aois agus shlànuicheadh iad a neach a bhiodh leointe. Ach bha' chraobh air a freiceadan le nathair-nimhe, no uile-bheist.

Thuit Fraoch ris a' bhan-rìghinn nach do dhiult e riamh iarrtus bain-tighearn ghrian, ge b'e air bith cho cunnartach 's a bhiodh e. Chaidh e gu cladaich Loch Odha agus shnàmh e nunn gu'n "*Eilean Gheasach*." 'N uair a ràinig e'n cladaich thall, cha robh sion ra fhaicinn. Bha sàmheachair mu'n cuairt. Dh' imich e feadh leapannan de bhuga, is de fhraoch, is e 'g a fhaireachduinn fhein tróm sladach. Gu h-aithghearr mhothuic e do'n chraoibh draoidheachd, agus an nathair 'na cadal foidhe, 's a ceann shnàmh 'snas ri stoc na craoibhe. Gu faicilleach, sàmhach spion e leis badan de na dearcan dearga, agus shnàgain e air fàlhbh. Shnàmh e gu tìr, agus chaidh e far an robh a' bhan-rìghinn 's i 'na laighe. Cheil i air mar a bha i air a mealladh nach do rinn an nathair a dleasdhas.

"Is math a rinn thu," ars' ise, ach ma's miann leat an tuilleadh urraim a chur orm, rach air t-ais agus beir chugam a' chraobh gu h-ionmhan, le a' cuid mheasan uile. Am bi eagal ort sin a' dheanamh air mo shon?"

Cha robh aon ni ann a chuireadh sgàth am Fraoch. Aon uair eile chaidh e sìos gu'n Loch, ach an uair so 'na cadadh cruadhach dealrach, agus a chlaidheamh mòr 'na ghlaic. Chur e 'churachan air bhog, agus dh'iomair e nunn thar na linne dhomhain dhobharra. 'N a seasamh fo chraoibh dharaich air a' chladach a dh'fhàg e 'na d'heigh, bha maighdean an fhuilte chraobhaich, a' feitheamh le eagal 's le uamhas, ciod e mar a' rachadh do Fraoch, a leannan air an turus chunnartach so.

Aon uair eile chaidh Fraoch air tìr air a' chladach chreagach 's a chlaidheamh mòr ruisgte 'na làimh. Sguir tòrman na gaoith, agus mar a thachair da an toiseach, dh'fhairich se e fhein a' fas tróm lùndach.

Rainig e 'chraobh am meadhon na coille, ach nathair cha robh ra faicinn. Spion e á chraobh as a bun, le neirt an fhamhair, gach freumh, 's gach meas, 's gach eile, agus rinn e air a' chladach. Gu h-obann chunnaic e eadar e's am bàta aon lùb de chom na nathrach, ag éiridh nios as an fheur mhòr. An ceann greis thainig a ceann ris, agus a teanga ag iomair a mach 's a stigh 'na beul cho luath ris an dealanach. Thug an uilebheist ionnsuidh ghuinneach air uchd-eideadh Fhraoich, ach cha do rinn i cnead air. An sin thòisich còmhraig sgaiteach. Tharruing Fraoch a chlaidheamh gu clis, ach bu chlise na lann-san, gath na nathrach. Air a cheann mu dheireadh shuain a' nathair i fein 'na duail mu chasan Fhraoich, agus chaidh druim an laoiich ri làr. Chaill e greim air a' chlaidheamh, agus am priobadh bha e air a' chrioslachadh leis na lùban a bha sìor theannachadh uime gus an robh eideadh cruadhach a' dol 'na fheoil. Lasaich an uilebheist a ceanglaidhean car tiotan, 's i cinnnteach as a seilg. Mar an dealan fhuair Fraoch a làmh dheas ma sgaoil, agus le 'bhiodag òir reub e brù na beiste, agus sgar e 'sios am beò-chrios a bha mar chuibhrich air a chomh.

Fhuair e greim air a chlaidheamh a rithist, agus shlaod e 'chraobh gu h-éigneach dh' ionnsuidh a' bhàta. Chaidh e air bòrd a rithist, agus a sealltuinn as a d'heigh, chunnaic e na sguinn a rinn e de'n nathair, 'g an snìomh 's 'g an caradh fhéin 's an fhraoch. Dh'fhàs Fraoch na bu sgithe 's na bu sgithe, ach rinn sruth agus gaoth còmhnaidh air agus fhuair e gu tìr mu dheireadh.

An sud bha nighean na ban-rìghinn 'g a gualadh le bròn. Chunnaic i gu'n robh e air a shàruchadh gu goirt, agus chuidich i e gu lios anns a' choillidh. An sin dh'fhuasgail e eideadh-cruadhach agus fhuair a chreubhag bhrùite, leònta, fois.

Shuainich i a chridhe le soileagan caomh, agus le briathran gaoil. Feadh na h-oidhche



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thainig fuachd a' bhàis an cridhe na càraid. Thainig crìoch air Fraoch, agus cha bu dù do Gheal Cheann an Fhuilte Chraobhaich gu'm maireadh i beò 'na dhéidh. Mar so, riamh o'n àm ud, their iad Fraoch-Eilean ris an eilean. Chaidh na geasan a thuirt deth, agus tha blàithean caoin a' cinninn os cionn cnàmhan na h-uile-bheist. Ach eadhon fhathast, an uair a bhios tu 'g iomachd am measg nam bùga* gorma, agus nan caoran, fairichidh tu thu fhein a' fàs tróm lùndach, air chor agus gu'n abair daoine an diugh fhathast "*An t-Eilean Geasach*" ri Fraoch-Eilean.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 12th July. The following members were present:—A. Anderson, Larbert; John R. Bannerman, Rahane; Miss Campbell of Inverneill; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Bishopston; Donald Graham, Inverness; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Miss MacDonald of Dunach; Miss Christian MacDonald, Pitlochry; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; John MacDonald, Glasgow; T. D. MacDonald, Brookfield; Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, Killin; Rev. John MacKechnie, Glasgow; Alastair C. MacLaren, Dalmally; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardanchearanbeg; Dr. R. R. MacNicol, Taynult; Angus Robertson, London; Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan; Andrew Stewart, Partick; Mrs. MacDonald Stewart, Glasgow; Mrs. Millar Weir, Alexandria. In attendance: Robert MacFarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

The President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, Campbelltown, occupied the chair.

The President said it was pleasant to see such a good attendance of the Executive Council, in view of its being the holiday period. The members had come from far and near, and he was specially glad to see Mr. Angus Robertson, the former president of An Comunn, who had travelled all the way from London. In Mr. Robertson the Executive Council had a great ambassador for their cause in London.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Robert MacFarlane, treasurer, submitting the report of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29th April, emphasised the splendid contribution of £160 which An Comunn had received from the proceeds of the Highland Ball held in London. The Committee expressed great pleasure at this handsome contribution, and extended their cordial thanks to the committee responsible for the Ball.

The President suggested that the Executive Council send their thanks to the Committee in charge of the Ball for their very generous contribution, and this was agreed to.

The Secretary read a Minute of the Education Committee. Arrangements were now complete for the Summer School at Port Ellen. The hope was expressed that a larger number of students would come forward ere the opening date. Miss Lamont of Knockdow and Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., were authorised to represent the Committee in the management of the School.

On the motion of the President, the minute was adopted.

A minute of the Publication Committee was read. It was reported that the new poetry book, "*An Dileab*," edited by Mr. James Thomson, M.A., Bayble, was now ready, and on sale, also the second edition of "*Rosg Gaidhlig*."

Reference was made to the fact that no cheap Gaelic dictionary was at present procurable.

The Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, Killin, remarked that they were trying to interest as many as possible in Gaelic, so that they could share in the cultural heritage they possessed in the language. Teachers, he said, found great difficulty in carrying on a class without a dictionary in which idioms in English were given in Gaelic. Professor MacKinnon, he said, when he conducted classes in Edinburgh, had taken valuable notes of various idioms from students from various parts of the country with the intention of publishing a revision of the Highland Society's dictionary. This was not done, and Dr. MacKay did not know where the notes now were.

Mr. James MacLaren, Glasgow, mentioned that Eneas MacKay, Stirling, was issuing an English-Gaelic dictionary as a companion to the present Gaelic-English dictionary of Malcolm MacFarlane.

The minute was adopted on the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, convener.

THE NORTHERN AREA.

The Secretary read the minutes of a meeting of the Propaganda Committee held at Stirling previous to the meeting of the Executive Council. Reference was made to the work of the Northern Sub-Committee, and it was shown that the Sub-Committee had proposed the desirability of appointing a whole-time organiser for the northern area.

RESIGNATION OF DR. MACKAY.

The Committee reported that owing to ill-health, Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay had intimated his resignation both as convener and member of the Propaganda Committee. Dr. MacKay has been a member of An Comunn for 21 years, and convener of the Propaganda Committee for 15 years.

Dr. MacKay, in reference to his resignation, expressed his appreciation of the help he had received from all the members of the Executive Council. Although he had resigned his convenership of the Propaganda Committee, he would continue to attend the meetings of the Executive Council. He had loved the work of the Gaelic movement, and he loved it still. He owed An Comunn a deep debt of gratitude, for his connection with the movement had enriched his life. He felt that the appointment of sub-committees for the northern and southern areas had been for the good of the movement. It had brought fresh blood and new energy into the work, and each Committee was able to concentrate on a much smaller portion of Gaeldom.

Mr. Bannerman said the Propaganda Sub-Committee seemed to be doing their work in a most expeditious way. He suggested that in future it would perhaps be advisable that the reports of the sub-committees should go before the parent Propaganda Committee, who could thresh out the various matters so that these could be incorporated in one report.

The General Secretary pointed out that it was impossible for him on that occasion to write out a short summary of the proceedings of the parent Committee, which met that afternoon, and also to incorporate in the same report a summary of the work of the Sub-Committees. There had only been three-quarters of an hour between the meeting of the Propaganda Committee and the meeting of the Executive Council.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell said she had never heard anything which gave her greater pleasure than the report of the work which had been accomplished by the Northern

Sub-Committee since its inception. It was real constructive work.

Captain Campbell said it seemed to him as if some drastic change would require to be made in regard to the Propaganda Committee. The two sub-committees were tackling their work with great energy, and it rather looked as if the days of the parent Committee had come to an end, and that the two sub-committees should each report directly to the Executive Council.

The President said Captain Campbell's suggestion was on the right lines, and his proposal, if made at the annual meeting and agreed to, would settle the difficulty in the future.

Dr. MacKay moved the adoption of the minutes of the Propaganda Committee, and Mr. Malcolm MacLeod seconded.

The minutes of the Propaganda Committee were adopted, with the exception of the proposal regarding the appointment of a whole-time organiser to the northern area.

APPRECIATION OF DR. MACKAY.

The President paid a tribute to the work of Dr. MacKay as convener of the Propaganda Committee, which position he had resigned for reasons of health. That resignation the Executive Council received with the deepest and most sincere regret. Dr. MacKay had given most distinguished service to the cause of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Both as president of An Comunn and convener of the Propaganda Committee he had been ever ready to promote the best and higher interests of An Comunn. Dr. MacKay had throughout shown himself a loyal and devoted friend of the Highlands, and of the Gaelic cause, and wherever he went he had radiated the greatest goodwill and friendship. It was their earnest hope and prayer that Dr. MacKay, who had been a friend of every movement which made for the betterment of the Highlands, would soon recover his wonted health and strength. The President concluded by moving that the following resolution be placed on the records of An Comunn:—

"In accepting with sincere regret the resignation of the Rev. Dr. George W. MacKay from the convenership of the Propaganda Committee, the Executive Council resolve to place on record their deep sense of the devoted, valuable, and successful work performed by him for so many years in that office, and an expression of their profound gratitude for the ability, time, and thought he has expended on the

work of that Committee, and on that of the Comunn generally."

Dr. MacKay said he was touched by what the president had said. He was proud of the position he had been able to occupy in the movement, and to have earned the good will of the Executive Council and An Comunn. He would continue to take an interest in the work, and hoped to be able to give what help he could.

On the suggestion of the Northern Sub-Committee, it was agreed to send An Comunn's music teachers to the Summer School in Islay.

Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow, was, on the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, appointed convener of the Propaganda Committee for the time being.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee reported that 12 of the 30 rugs made in Lewis under the auspices of the Committee had been sold, and that every endeavour was being made to dispose of the remainder.

On the motion of Miss Campbell of Inverneill, convener, the minute was adopted.

THE PERTH MOD.

The report of the Mod and Music Committee, which met previous to the Executive Council, showed that the Local Committee were working strenuously to make the forthcoming National Mod at Perth an outstanding success. The sum of £460 had been collected to date.

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. J. R. Bannerman, convener.

MUSICAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Advisory Committee reported that the president, in terms of the authority given him, had conferred with the secretary of the Glasgow College of Music. The appointment of principal, he ascertained, had been unavoidably delayed, and he subsequently learned that the appointment would shortly be made. Thereupon the president would, with all possible expedition, meet the new principal, and evolve with him the details of the projected scheme for the establishment of musical scholarships.

The Secretary reported that he is in course of communication with the examining body in connection with the provisions in Scotland in relation to the propriety of Gaelic being an optional subject not already provided for in the general knowledge examinations.

A print of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet had been in the hands of the members for some time, and, on the motion of the President, these were unanimously adopted, subject to audit.

Nominations for the offices of president, vice-president, and ten members of Executive Council were received.

DELEGATES TO CELTIC CONGRESS.

The President, Rev. Dr. Ross, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Miss Lamont of Knockdow, and Mr. T. D. MacDonald were appointed delegates from An Comunn at the Celtic Congress to be held in Glasgow in September.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion were made:—

By Mr. Angus Robertson—That the rule for excluding choirs who have won the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield for two consecutive years be abolished.

By Mr. Donald MacDonald—That a whole-time organiser, with headquarters at Inverness, be appointed for the Northern area.

By Captain Campbell of Succoth—That the Propaganda Committee cease to exist, and that there be in future a Northern and Southern Propaganda Committee, each Committee to be responsible direct to the Executive Council.

By Mr. T. D. MacDonald—That it be remitted to the Executive Council to consider whether it be advisable and practicable to award a gratuity in excess of the prescribed remuneration to each teacher of music who prepares and qualifies a pupil to continue the teaching of music in his or her district under the auspices of An Comunn, and to give an annual honorarium to such qualifying teacher or teachers carrying on the work to the satisfaction of An Comunn, and that it be obligatory on every such teacher to hold an annual concert with the assistance of the pupils, the proceeds of such concert to be exclusively in aid of the expenditure involved in the services.

By Mrs. Burnley Campbell—That it be remitted to the Publication Committee to consider again the whole question of the position of the magazine and report.

A hearty vote of thanks to the President brought the meeting to a close.

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ISLAY PROVINCIAL MOD.

Bowmore was again the venue of the Islay Provincial Mod, and during the time it was in progress, the 20th June, large audiences were present at each session. The competitions were all very keen, and the quality of the Gaelic was excellent. The prizes were presented at the concert which marked the close of the Mod. The judges were Gaelic, Rev. T. S. MacPherson, Campbeltown. Music, Neil Orr, Edinburgh, and John MacDonald, Oban.

JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading (Mr. Christie's Medal), under 12 years—1, Sarah Fraser, Keils; 2, James Brown, Keils; 3, Neil McCalman, Bowmore.

Reciting—1, Mary A. MacDougall, Keils; 2, Sarah Fraser, Keils; 3, Katie McDougall, Keils.

Solo Singing (Glasgow Islay Assoc. Medal)—Girls—1, Sarah Fraser, Keils; 2, Marion McFarlane, Bowmore; 3, Chrissie McGibbon, Port Ellen; 4, Rena McFarlane, Bowmore; 5, Joan Shaw, Octomore.

Solo Singing (Glasgow Islay Assoc. Medal)—Boys—1, Alastair Hay, Portnahaven; 2, Willie Fraser, Keils; 3, Donald McIndoe, Keils; 4, Donnie Logan, Bowmore.

Canntaireachd—1, Alastair Hay, Portnahaven; 2, Rena McFarlane, Bowmore; 3, Neil McCalman, Bowmore.

Duet Singing—1, Marion McFarlane and Ruby Gilchrist, Bowmore; 2, Chrissie McGibbon and Morris Cameron, Port Ellen; 3, Ian Campbell and Donald McIndoe, Keils.

Choral Singing (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—1, Portnahaven Junior Choir; 2, Bowmore Junior Choir; 3 (equal), Keils Junior Choir and Port Ellen, Junior Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Keils Junior Choir; 2, Portnahaven Junior Choir; 3, Bowmore Junior Choir.

Pianoforte—1, Nettie E. Sunderland; 2, Gilles Jean Whiteford, Kilchomains.

SENIOR SECTION.

Reading—1, Maggie McLennan, Port Ellen; 2, Morag McEachern, Port Ellen; 3, Angus McKechnie, Bowmore.

Recitation—1, Hugh Duncan, Bridgend; 2, Robert Shaw, Jura; 3, Duncan McNiven, Rockside.

Sgeulachd—1, James Logan, Bowmore.

Royal Celtic Society's Competition—1, James Logan, Bowmore.

Solo Singing (Glasgow Islay Assoc. Medal)—Female Voices—1, Mary Gillies, Portcharlotte; 2, Kitty McEachern, Port Ellen; 3, Maisie Harris, Portcharlotte; 4, (equal) Margaret C. Lindsay, Jura, Flora McIndoe, Bowmore, and Mary McNeill, Portnahaven.

Solo Singing (Glasgow Islay Assoc. Medal) Male Voices—1, Colin S. Carmichael, Portcharlotte; 2 (equal), Hugh Duncan, Bridgend and Alex. Sutherland, Portnahaven; 3, Robert Shaw, Jura; 4, Hugh Baker, Portcharlotte.

Canntaireachd—1, Hugh Duncan, Bridgend; 2, (equal), Archibald Carmichael, Bowmore, and Wm. McKenzie, Jura.

Duet Singing—1, Misses Gillies and Clark, Portcharlotte; 2, Misses Glen and McMillan, Bowmore; 3, Miss Gillies and Mr. Carmichael, Portcharlotte.

Quartet—1, McNeill Quartette, Bowmore; 2, Keils Quartette; 3, McGibbon Quartette, Port Ellen.

Trio—1, McNeill Trio, Bowmore; 2, Campbell Trio, Bridgend; 3, Keils Trio.

Pianoforte Playing—1, Patricia Cameron, Bowmore; 2, Emily M. Ferguson, Bowmore.

Choral Singing, Four-part Harmony, (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—1, Keils Gaelic Choir; 2, Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 3, Port Ellen Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing, Two-part Harmony—1, Keils Ladies Choir; 2, Bowmore Ladies Choir; 3, Portnahaven Ladies Choir.

LEWIS MOD.

The Lewis Mod was held in the Masonic Hall and Town Hall, Stornoway, on 20th and 21st June. There were large attendances on both days, and at the closing concert on Friday evening, over which Mr. T. B. MacAulay presided, many were unable to gain admittance. In every respect the Mod was an outstanding success.

The written work was adjudicated on by Dr. Donald J. Macleod, H.M.I.S., and Mr. Angus L. Macdonald, H.M.I.S. Mr. Donald Maciver, F.E.I.S., Garrabost, judged the oral work. The judge in the musical events was Mr. D. T. Yacamin, Perth, with Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow, as language assessor. The piping was judged by Mr. R. M. Montgomery and Mr. D. Murray, Glasgow, and the dancing by Mrs. Campbell, Kenneth Street, and Mr. Murray. The following is the prize-list:—

LITERATURE.

Writing from Dictation—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary M. Macleod and Christina Mackay (equal); 3, Johanna Morrison; 4, Chrissie Macdonald. Landward schools pupils—1, Murdina Reid; 2, Christina A. Stewart (Bayble); 3, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 4, Murdo Macdonald (Lionel); 5, Catherine Maciver (Knock).

Reproduction in Gaelic of English prose, read—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary M. Macleod; 2, Margaret Macgregor; 3, Christina Mackay; 4, Johanna Morrison. Landward schools pupils—1, Murdo Macdonald (Bayble); 2, Allan Smith (Lionel); 3, Christina A. Stewart (Bayble); 4, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 5, Murdo Graham (Bayble); 6, Mary Macdonald (Lionel).

Translation of unseen Gaelic prose into English—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary M. Macleod; 2, Jessie Macleod; 3, Margaret Macgregor; 4, Christina Mackay. Landward schools pupils—1, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 2, Mary Smith; 3, Alexina Munro; 4, Murdina Reid; 5, Murdo Macdonald (Bayble); 6, Catherine Maciver (Knock) and Mary Macdonald (Lionel) (equal).

Translation of unseen English prose into Gaelic—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary M. Macleod; 2, Jessie Macleod; 3, Christina Mackay; 4, Margaret Macdonald. Landward schools pupils—1, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 2, Christina A. Stewart (Bayble); 3, Alexina Munro; 4, Murdo Macdonald (Bayble); 5, Mary Macdonald (Lionel).

Translation of Gaelic Idioms into English—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Margaret Macgregor; 2, Christina Mackay; 3, Jessie Macleod; 4, Johanna Morrison. Landward schools pupils—1, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 2, Mary Macdonald (Sandwick); 3, Alexina Munro; 4, Mary Macdonald (Lionel); 5, Dolina Mackenzie (Sandwick) and Chrissie A. Stewart (Bayble) (equal).

Translation, Gaelic into English (age under 13)—1, Mary Macleod (Knock); 2, Dolina Macleod (Bayble); 3, Margaret Stewart (Laxdale); 4, Margaret Macdonald (Bayble); 5, Ina Campbell (Lionel).

Gaelic Essay—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Chris. Mackay; 2, Mary M. Macleod; 3, Margaret Macgregor; 4, Annie Macdonald. Landward schools pupils—1, Chrissie A. Stewart (Bayble); 2, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 3, Catherine Maciver (Knock); 4, Murdo Macdonald (Bayble); 5, Mary Macdonald (Lionel).

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading prepared pieces of Gaelic prose—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary Martin; 2, Henrietta Macdonald; 3, Alexina Murray; 4, Margaret Macgregor. Landward schools pupils—1, Annabella Macleod (Bayble); 2, Alexina Munro (Laxdale); 3, Annie Maciver (Knock) and Catherine A. Smith (equal); 4, Christina A. Munro (Knock) and Christina A. Stewart (Bayble) (equal).

Reading of unseen pieces of Gaelic prose—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Mary Martin; 2, Henrietta Macdonald; 3, Margaret Macgregor and Jane Mitchell (equal). Landward schools pupils—1, Christina A. Stewart (Bayble); 2, Kennina Campbell (Bayble); 3, Alexina Munro (Laxdale); 4, Alex. A. Morrison (Sandwick), Annabella Macleod (Bayble), and Joey Macleod (Laxdale) (equal).

Reading of Gaelic by learners—1, John Morrison (Knock); 2, Mary Wilson and Katie M. Watson (both Sandwick) (equal).

Reciting of Gaelic poem—Nicolson Institute pupils—1, Henrietta Macdonald and Mary Martin (equal); 2, Margaret Macgregor and Margaret Smith (equal). Landward schools pupils—1, Mary A. Smith (Laxdale); 2, Kennina Campbell (Bayble); 3, Annabella Macleod (Bayble); 4, Chrissie A. Stewart (Bayble), Joey Macleod (Laxdale), and Catherine A. Smith (equal).

Telling of traditional story in Gaelic—1, Annabella Macleod; 2, Kennina Campbell; 3, Chrissie A. Stewart (all of Bayble).

Telling of unpublished Gaelic story belonging to Lewis (for prizes by Royal Celtic Society)—1, Kennina Campbell (Bayble); 2, Annie Morrison (Bernera); 3, Chrissie A. Stewart (Bayble).

VOCAL MUSIC—JUNIOR.

Choral Singing of Two-Part Songs—1, Laxdale Junior Choir (a); 2, Laxdale Junior Choir (b).

Choral Singing in Unison—1, Knock School Choir; 2, Laxdale School Choir; 3, Sandwick School Choir and Bayble School Choir (equal).

Waulking Songs—1, Laxdale; 2, Knock.

Solo Singing (boys)—1, Walter R. Matheson (Laxdale); 2, Colin A. Macleod (Laxdale).

Solo Singing (girls)—1, Kennina Campbell (Bayble); 2, Christina Macgregor (Laxdale); 3, Jessie M. Stewart (Laxdale); 4, Margaret Macgregor (Laxdale); 5, Jessie M. Maclean (Knock) and Ciona Macleod (Knock) (equal).

Solo Singing—own choice of songs (boys)—1, Walter R. Matheson (Laxdale); 2, George S. Macleod (Nicolson Institute); 3, Colin A. Macleod (Laxdale).

Solo Singing—own choice of songs (girls)—1, Catherine Macleod (Lionel); 2, Annie Murray (Lionel); 3, Jessie M. Stewart (Laxdale), Christina Macgregor (Laxdale), and Kennina Campbell (Bayble); 4, Margaret A. Mackay (Laxdale), Catherine A. Smith (Laxdale), Margaret J. Maciver (Knock), and Ciona Macleod (Knock) (equal).

Solo Singing (girls between 16 and 18)—Catherine Macsween (Sandwick). Local traditional song—1, Christina Macgregor (Laxdale); 2, Mary Jane Maciver (Knock), and Mary Macleod (Knock) (equal); 3, Jessie M. Maclean (Knock).

Duet—1, Jessie M. Stewart and Margaret A. Mackay; 2, Mary B. Maclellan and Etta M. Macdonald; 3, Christina Macgregor and Johanna Carson; 4, Catherine A. Smith and Sandra Macdonald and Annie Macleod and Johanna Macleod (equal) (all from Laxdale).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND DANCING

Bagpipe Playing for Ardabhaigh Cup—1, Hugh Graham; 2, John A. Smith; 3, Charles Hunter.

Bagpipe Playing (juniors)—1, John A. Smith; 2, John R. Maclean; 3, Alex. J. Macdonald.

Chanter Playing—1, Cyril Maclellan; 2, Donald Macleod; 3, George Pryde.

Dancing—1, Lexy Matheson; 2, Dinah Macleod; 3, Mabel Macdonald.

VOCAL MUSIC—SENIOR.

Solo Singing (senior section)—1, Myra Maciver (Goathill); 2, Peggy Morrison (Galsion); 3, Catherine Macsween (Sandwick).

Oran Mor—Mary A. Macdonald (Laxdale).

Unpublished Gaelic Folk-Songs—1, Matilda Macdonald (Sandwick); 2, Peggy Morrison (Galsion); 3, Catherine Macsween (Sandwick).

LORN, MULL, AND MORVERN PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Lorn, Mull, and Morvern Provincial Mod was held in Oban on 21st and 22nd June. The Argyllshire Gathering Hall, St. Columba Parish Church Hall, and Dunollie Road U.F. Church Hall were made available for the purpose. There was again a large entry in the various classes, the total number being 454.

The adjudicators were:—Junior Section—Literature—Mr. D. MacPherson, M.A., Appin, and Mr. A. MacLean, M.A., Logierait. Oral Delivery—Mr. A. Munn, Oban; Rev. Father MacMillan, Ballachulish; Rev. Hector Cameron, Rev. A. MacDonald, Ardchattan; Rev. J. MacInnes, Connel, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow, General Secretary of An Comunn Gàidhealach. Vocal Music—Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. B., Edinburgh; Mr. G. Melbourne Loynd, A.R.C.O., Oban; Gaelic—Mr. A. MacNeill, Connel, and Mr. T. D. MacDonald, Brookfield.

JUNIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Letter describing an ideal holiday—1, Dolina MacPhee, Oban High School; 2, Annie Bell, Oban High School; 3 (equal), Colin Palmer, Oban High School; Isabel Paterson and Mary MacPhee, Tobermory H.G. School.

Translation of a simple piece of Gaelic Prose into English, and a simple piece of English Prose into Gaelic—1, Dolina MacPhee; 2, Peggy Lowe, Tobermory H.G. School; 3 (equal), Isabel Paterson and Jessie MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading, with expression, of a piece of Poetry (16 to 24 lines) chosen by competitors—1, Jeanie Campbell, Tobermory H.G. School; 2 and 3 (equal), Jessie MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School; Sadie Kennedy, Tobermory H.G. School; and Annie M. Frew, Glencoe.

Reading a piece of Prose (200 to 250 words) chosen by competitors—1, Hilda Miles, Oban High School; 2, Elizabeth Gillespie, Oban High School; 3, Sadie Kennedy; 4, Colin Palmer.

Reading at Sight an unfamiliar piece of Prose, chosen by Judges (open to all)—1, Jessie MacLean; 2, Catherine MacKechnie, Oban High School; 3, Dolina MacPhee.

Reciting from Memory "An Dubh Ghleannach" (open to all)—1, Sadie Kennedy; 2, Margaret Black, Oban High School; 3 (equal), Jessie MacLean and Colin Palmer.

Short Sgeulachd, followed by a conversation between Judge and Competitor—1, Willie Robertson, Tobermory H.G. School; 2, Mary MacPhee, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Colin Palmer.

Reciting from Memory a short Gaelic Story (250-300 words)—boys and girls, 12 years and under at date of Mod—1, Willie Robertson; 2, Flora MacDougall, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Sadie Kennedy.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song, chosen by competitor (girls)—1, Annie M. Frew; 2, Jessie MacArthur, Luing; 3 (equal), Mary Campbell and Peggy MacEachan, Connel.

Solo Singing of a Song, chosen by competitor (boys)—1, Neil Campbell, Luing; 2 (equal), Hamish

MacPherson and Iain Campbell, Strontoiller School; 3, Alick MacLennan, Luing.

Solo Singing (boys and girls)—1, Jessie MacArthur, Luing; 2, Katie McCormick, Luing; 3, Annie M. Frew.

Solo Singing—boys and girls (12 years and under at date of Mod)—1 (equal), Jemima MacDougall and Margaret MacDougall, Oban High School; 2, Jean D. Wilkinson, Glencoe; 3 (equal), Neil Brown, Luing, and Ishbel Stewart, Oban High School.

Duet Singing of a Song chosen by Competitors—1, Mary Campbell and Peggy MacEachan, Connel; 2, Margaret MacLennan and Alick MacLennan, Luing; 3, Flora MacKinnon and Jessie MacArthur, Luing.

Choral Singing of a Song in Two-Part Harmony—1, Luing Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Oban High School Choir.

Unison Singing of a Song—1, Oban High School Choir; 2, Luing Junior Gaelic Choir; 3, Salen Junior Choir.

SENIOR SECTION.

Prize-list for this Section will appear in a future issue.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

NATIONAL MOD AT PERTH on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th OCTOBER.

Arrangements for the Perth Mod are proceeding satisfactorily. The Local Committee are working strenuously to approach last year's splendid effort at Inverness. It is proposed to hold an open air Fete towards the end of this month or beginning of September. This should add considerably to the funds, and also be the means of bringing the movement to the knowledge of a large public.

* * * * *

The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the City of Perth are giving a Civic Reception to members and competitors on the evening of 2nd October. In this connection I would ask members who intend being in Perth on that date to be good enough to communicate with me so that I may be able to give an approximate number to the Town Clerk, also that Official Invitation may be sent direct. This generous action on the part of the Perth Corporation is much appreciated by members of An Comunn.

* * * * *

I understand that booking has been exceptionally brisk for the Mod, and if there are still any who have not fixed up accommodation, they should at once apply to Mr. Peter Baxter, 31 James Street, Mod Local Secretary. The headquarters of the Executive and Officials will be at the Royal British Hotel. Accommodation there is fully booked up.

NIALL.

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Leabhar XXIV.]

An t-Sultuin, 1929.

[Earrann 12

CEOL-EAGLAIS.

Chan e so an t-àite gu bhi sgrìobhadh mu chràbhadh, no mu aidmheil sam bith seach a chèile. Gidheadh faodar dealachadh a chur eadar gnìomh an aoraidh agus alt na seinn. Ged a bhiodh fìor spiorad a' mholaidh a' làthair, faodaidh dòigh na seinn, air uairibh, a bhi a dh'èasbhuidh snas. Car son a bhiodh sin mar sin anns a' Ghaidhealtachd? Car son nach biodh loinn air gnìomh urramach a' mholaidh, an aoradh teachlaich agus an aoradh follaiseach? Tha sinn an dùil gu bheil e na aobhar bròin gum biodh muinntir ann a tha mi-chùramach ged bhiodh an t-seinn annos an aoradh gun rian òrdail eireachdail. Na daoine tùrail, tàlantach a ghabh beachd air aigne nan Gàidheal, tha iadsan ag innse dhuinn gu bheil gràdh do cheòl mar ghibht a tha glé nàdurach dhuinn. Tha e buailteach dhuinn na faireachaidhean is doimhne a chuir an cèill an ceòl. Is cinnteach gu bheil sin fìor a thaobh cràbhadh a' Ghaidheil. Is e sin ri ràdh, tha e dualach gun cuireadh an Gaidheal meas air ceòl cubhaidh do na faireachaidhean sòlunta a bhineas do chràbhadh is do aoradh. Tha sinn a' ciallachadh le sin gum bu chòir gum biodh ceòl-gutha ann an aoradh a' faotainn aire agus stiùireadh. A dh'aindeoin cho maith 's ga faod buaidh nàdurra a bhi, tha a' bhuaidh sin nas fèarr le foghlum. Ged bhiodh do ghuth binn dheth féin, cha bu mhisde thu stiùireadh is eòlas gu seinn. Agus tha an nì ceudna fìor mu choimhthional. B'fheairde an sluagh coitcheinn eòlas air alt na seinn a tha cubhaidh do'n aoradh, co dhìu is anns an uaigneas no anns an fhollais.

Chan fhaodar àicheadh nach eil seinn na salm fada air ais gu leòr an iomadh coimh-

thional, anns gach buidheann, feadh na Gaidhealtachd. Cìod is aobhar nach tàinig aghart air ceòl-eaglais ri linn an fheabhais a thàinig air fìosrachadh o chionn leth cheud bliadhna ann ar dùthaich? Tha sinn an dùil gu faodar a' chòire a chur an tomas mòr air cuid de na ministearan. Bha tuilleadh 's a chòir de luchd teagaisg anns a' Ghaidhealtachd a bha a' labhairt an aghaidh cùil mar nì anns a robh olc. Is e teagasg truagh aineolach a tha an sin. Cha b'iongantach ged chreideadh an sluagh cumanta a leithid sin, an uair a chluinn-eadh iad, a Shàbaid is a sheachdainn feadhainn de na ministearan, a fhuair tomas foghlum, a' càineadh is a' dubh mhallachadh cùil. Nan èisdeadh neach ri òran diamhain bha e a' riarachadh ana-miann na feòla. Bha sin a cheart cho dona ri breug is braide. Agus bha a bhuil ann. Ghiùlain an teagasg borb sin a thoradh neothaitneach féin. Bha eagal air an òigridh ceòl a chleachdadh; agus an ceann linn no dhà chaill an òigridh agus na h-inbhich mòran de 'n eòlas a bha aig an athraichean air ceòl. Tha e coltach gu robh cor a' chiùil gu maith fada air aghart anns an t-seann eaglais Cheiltich. Chithear sin o na seann laoidhean an *Carmina Gadelica*, a bha air an seinn an aoradh anns an eaglais is anns an dachaidh. Bha fonn sonruichte airson gach laoidh fa leth. Tha sin a' deanamh soilleir cìod e an t-eòlas farsuinn a bha aig an t-sluagh air ceòl anns an t-sean aimsir. Thàinig an sin teagasgan eile nach robh fabharach do cheòl. Tha an Gaidheal air a mhillleadh ma dh'fheumas e a chluasan a dhùnadh roimh cheòl. Fàsaidh e a chuid 's a chuid na chreutair cruaidh, gun tlaich, gun bhàigh, gun eireachdas.

Ach is dòcha gu faighneachd neach—cìod e gnothuch A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich ri ceòl-

eaglais? Shaoil sinne nach eil beantainn aig A' Chomunn ri cràbhadh no ri eaglaisean. Tha sin ceart gu leòr. Ach tha gnothuch aig A' Chomunn ri seinn na Gaidhlig, eadhon ri seinn na salm anns a' chàin sin. Feumar an earrann sin de'n t-seann dileab a chumail suas cho maith ri earrann sam bith eile. Agus tha eòlas air briathran blasda na salm air am fillleadh a stigh an so mar an ceudna. A thaobh aghart na h-oibreach aig A' Chomunn, chan e an aon dòigh a fhreagras anns gach àite. Tha e coltach gu bheil cèilidh is cuirm-chiùil feumail an cuid de chearnaibh. Freagraidh còisir is cròileagan-leughaidh an ceann eile. Car son nach biodh sgòil bheag airson seinn na salm freagarrach anns na h-àiteachan anns am biodh sin feumail? Is còir do 'n Chomunn misneach a thairgse airson seinn na seann salm cho maith ri seinn na seann òran. Beanaidh an dara ni do bheatha ar sluaigh a cheart cho cinnteach ris an ni eile. Faodaidh gu bheil sinn tuilleadh is dian air a bhi a' leanntain anns na ceuman àbhaisteach. Bu chòir dhuinn fàilte a chur air cothrom ùr, agus an cothrom a ghlacadh gus seinn na salm ath-bhecthadh. Tha sinn an dùil nach eil buidheann sam bith ann a sheasadh an aghaidh na h-òigridh o bhi ag ionnsuchadh alt na seinn so, nan cuireadh An Comunn fear teagaisg seinn a mach. Tha a leithid sin de fhear teagaisg ri fhaotainn. Chan eil dad a dlith oirnn ach an òil.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

NATIONAL MOD

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th OCTOBER

I am now able to give the number of entries received for the National Mod at Perth.

The grand total reaches the record figure of 1315, and a brief analysis reveals a most gratifying increase in the language sections. Particularly is this noticeable in the Junior sections. Altogether 13 schools have presented pupils, making a total entry in the Junior literary of 380, a figure which compares most favourably with the numbers reached at the last 1924 Perth Mod. Similar gratifying progress has been experienced in the Junior Oral, 197 children having entered for these competitions, or more than four times the number forward since the Mod was last held in the "Fair City." The same satisfactory advance is experienced in the Senior Sections. The Oral competitions are particularly well patronised, with a total entry of 85, as against 35 in 1924, while the Choirs are coming forward in increasing numbers each year. There is hardly a district throughout the Highlands not repre-

sented in the Rural Choir competition, while all the old friends with the exception of Edinburgh, who of course are debarred this year, on account of being twice winners in succession, will take part in the "Lovat Tulibardine Trophy."

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There is little alteration in the programme of this Mod from previous years. The proceedings will, as usual, commence on Tuesday with the Junior competitions, and the various prize-winners will sustain the programme of the Junior concert in the evening. The Senior competitions commence on Wednesday, and will continue until Friday, when with the choral events the proceedings will be concluded. Thursday afternoon, will, as last year, be devoted entirely to Oral and Rural choir competitions. The official opening of the Mod takes place on Wednesday at 12 noon, in the City Hall, and in the evening the official party, competitors and delegates will be accorded a civic reception by the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the City of Perth. Following the competitions on Thursday, the Rural choir concert will be held, and on Friday evening the Grand Concert which so appropriately terminates the Mod, will be proceeded with. His Grace, the Duke of Atholl, has kindly consented to preside over this function. Fuller and more detailed arrangements will be included in the programme, which will be on sale some time towards the middle of September.

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To enable members to make arrangements for these concerts in advance I give a list of the various prices of admission. Junior Concert on Tuesday evening, 2/4 and 1/2. Rural Choir Concert on Thursday evening, 3/6 (Reserved), 2/4 and 1/2. Grand Concert on Friday evening, 5/9 (Reserved), 3/6, 2/4 and 1/2. Seats may be booked at Messrs Paterson & Sons, Coy., Ltd., 35 South Methven Street, Perth, who have charge of all the concert arrangements.

* * * * *

I am glad to announce that this year arrangements have again been made with the railway companies for the granting of cheap railway facilities to all attending the Mod. It has been agreed that return tickets be issued to Perth at single fare for the return journey—plus fraction of a penny—on any day of the Mod from stations within a radius of 60 miles, including Edinburgh and Glasgow. These tickets will be available for return on day of issue only, juveniles under 14 years of age will

be charged half fare. It was also agreed that return tickets at single fare and a third—plus fractions of 3d be issued to Perth from all stations in Scotland, including Carlisle and Berwick, these tickets to be available from 30th September to 5th October inclusive. Before advantage can be taken of these facilities a voucher must be obtained, which is to be presented at the Railway booking office. These vouchers can only be had from the office here, and will be forwarded on receipt of stamped addressed envelopes. I should like to remind all applicants that all applications for these vouchers should reach the office here not later than Saturday 28th September, as with our absence from the office on Monday, and the office being closed on account of holiday, applications arriving at a later date will not receive attention.

* * * * *

A final word to competitors. Their co-operation to ensure the easy working of the programme is earnestly solicited. It has been the custom with several to remain behind in one room awaiting the result of a competition while their presence was required to take part in other competitions for which they have entered. If competitors would immediately depart from the hall after giving their pieces and proceed direct to the next, much needless waste of time would be saved, and the work of stewards and other officials would be considerably lessened. A little attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. Competitors to whom the Gaelic test is applicable are requested to note particularly the arrangements as detailed in the programme.

* * * * *

The arrangements made for the Celtic Congress seem to indicate that this important event to be held in the last week of September will be as successful as the promoters desire it to be. A very interesting lecture list has been prepared, and outstanding Celtic scholars from each of the countries represented have agreed to be present. The comprehensiveness of the lectures alone without considering the other phases will make the first visit of the Congress to Glasgow a very memorable one. The official programme which includes a full list of the lectures is practically complete, and will be issued very shortly. In addition to the serious work of the Congress, which is well advanced, a very entertaining programme of social events has been arranged. On Monday evening the officials and delegates will be the guests of the Lord Provost and Magistrates of the City at a Civic reception in

the City Chambers. A Scottish concert will be held on Tuesday at which, in addition to a programme of song, it is probable that a Gaelic play will be produced by the Ceilidh nan Gaidheal Dramatic Club. On Wednesday evening an "At Home" will be held in the Ca'doro Restaurant, while on Thursday an opportunity will be afforded the visitors to go sightseeing, or perhaps an informal Ceilidh will yet be arranged. On Friday a Grand International Concert will be held in the Lyric Theatre. The programme will be one of many items. The Scottish contribution will include pipers, Gaelic and Scots songs, and a waulking party. There will also be Irish piping and dancing, and in addition, Irish, Welsh, and Breton folk songs will be submitted. Saturday will be devoted to a tour of the "Three Lochs," with several halts to allow the party to view the various beauty haunts on the way. Most appropriately the proceedings will be concluded with a service in Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday, 29th September, at 3 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Lauchlan MacLean-Watt will officiate, and it is more than probable that it will be taken part in by several of the delegates attending the Congress.

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The Sutherland Provincial Mod will be held at Lairg on Friday, 6th September, and the Tiree Mod on Thursday, 19th September. Eleven Provincial Mods have already been held, and from each district comes reports that these were more successful than previous Mods. I can testify to the advance made by Juniors in most of the districts. They can read with greater ease, and in conversation are more fluent. Perhaps the children are less shy before adjudicators, but their increased knowledge of the language is remarkable.

NIALL.



COMHRADH.

Eadar Anna Bhàn agus Seònaid Dhonn,
bean an tàilleir, ann an tigh Seònaid an
Steòrnabhagh.

Le DONNCHADH MACDHOMHNAILL, Leodhas.

(A' cheud duais aig Mod, 1928.)

SEONaid ('na suidhe 's an t-seòmar a'
leughadh paiper).

ANNA BHAN (a' bualadh aig an doras agus
a' tighinn a steach)—Fàille 'stigh! Ohh,
Ohh, is mi tha sgìth!

SEONaid (ag èirigh 'na seasamh s a'
breith air làimh air Anna Bhàn)—Faire!
faire! An i so Anna Bhàn? Is fhada bho'n
dà latha sin! Cha bu tu bu lugha orm.

Dean suidhe steach ris an teine ach am faigh mi do naidheachd. Cur dhìot do chlebea.

ANNA—Ach, a Sheònaid, dé mar a tha thu fhéin ag cumail? Is fhada bho nach fhaca mi thu.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil guth dhuinn ann. Tha sinn gu léir air ar cois agus an ceann 'ar gairme.

ANNA—Tha mi 'faicinn gu'm bheil thusa mar a b'abhaist aig na paipearan naidheachd. Nach saoilinn nach biodh bean-aidich mar thusa a' leughadh paipair dhealbha. Ach, a Sheònaid, a Sheònaid, b' fhearr dhuit gu mór a bhì aig do Bhlobull! Is iad na paipearan naidheachd a th'ann a tha toirt caoile air an anam aig sluagh an latha 'n diugh.

SEÒNAID—Faodaidh mi bhì leughadh a' phaipir agus a' leughadh a' Bhlobuill cuid-eachd.

ANNA—Chan e dé a dh'fhaodas sinn idir, ach dé tha sinn a' deanamh. Ach, a Sheònaid bho chd, leig seachad do chuid leughaidh air seanachasan faoinè!

SEÒNAID—Ach Anna, gu dé do naidheachd & Glaschu? Cha chreid mi fhìn nach do thog thu ort bho chaidh tu ann.

ANNA—Mo naidheachd-sa & Glaschu? Ma, a chreutair, cha bheag sin, ach is i an naidheachd as fheàrr a th'agam gu'n d'fhuair mi mo chas air trì tioram ann an Leòdhas aon uair eile. Ma's e sud mo cheud turus-sa is e an turus deireach agam.

SEÒNAID—Cha bu tu mi. Na'm biodh nighean agam-sa pòda ann an Glaschu mar a th'agad-sa cha bu ruith leam ach leum ann.

ANNA—Ma thogras tusa ruith is leum ann; ach is i 'n dubh éiginn a chuireas Anna ann a rithist. Fhuair mi mo leòir 's mo dha leòir deth.

SEÒNAID—Ach mo chùimhne, dé mar a tha Màiri do nighean? Chuala mi nach robh i 'na slàinte.

ANNA—Tha Màiri bho chd air a cois a rithist, ach thug an tinneas a bh'ann an latha-dubh dhise, brònag.

SEÒNAID—Dé bha 'cur oirre?

ANNA—Cha bu bheag sin. Bha 'n gréim-mór, ach 's e *pneumonia* a bhios aig muinntir Ghlaschu air an tinneas ud.

SEÒNAID—Bha e feumail dith gu'n robh i cho faisg air na lighichean móra.

ANNA—Lighichean a' bhaile ud, tha iad mar a tha iad! Am bheil fhios agad nach do chuir iad fù fuar-lit fhéin oirre. Cha b'ìoghnadh ged a dh'fhuilaingeadh ise mar a dh'fhuilaing, an creutair.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil mi fhìn ag creidsinn anns na fuar-litean idir. Is iomadh duine

anns an eilean bho chd so a chaidh a mharbhadh leotha.

ANNA—Is iad na fuar-litean an dòigh a bh'aig na h-athraichean air leigheas a' ghreime-mhoir, ach tha dotaran an latha 'n diugh, leis a' phròis, a' smaoineachadh ma chuireas iad gloine ann am beul no ann an achlais an duine thinn gu'm bi cùisean gu math. Seall, cha toir iad fù *medicine* fhéin daibh.

SEÒNAID—Bha mi 'leughadh anns a' phaipear an latha roimhe gu'm bheil lighichean nam bailtean móra air fàs cho sgileil agus gu'm bheil iad comasach air an tinneas-chaitimh fhéin a' leigheas an diugh.

ANNA—Ach 's e thusa 's do phaipearan naidheachd. Creididh tusa rud 's am bith a th'anns a' phaipear.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil math a bhì riutsa. Chan 'eil ort ach do leigeadh seachad. Ach innis domh an dràsda dé mar a chòrd baile mór na h-ùpraid riut?

ANNA—Ma, gu dearbh, is tu thug an t-ainm air! Cha robh gainne air 'ùpraid a' sud a Shàbaid 's a sheachdain. Ach, a Sheònaid, a ghràidh, 's e na chunna mise de dhaoine nach robh mi ag aithneachadh.

SEÒNAID (*a' deanamh faire-gaire*)—Is mise tha làn chreidsinn sin, Anna. Ach nach 'eil fhios agadsa nach deanadh baile mór Ghlaschu a' chùis mur a biodh cuid-eigin ag obair ann air an t-Sàbaid.

ANNA—Ma, bha Clann Israeil a' deanamh a' chùis gun obair-Sàbaid.

SEÒNAID—Bha, ach bha iad sin a' faighinn am bith às an adhar. Chan 'eil màna aig muinntir Ghlaschu idir mar a bh'aig Cloinn Israeil.

ANNA—Ged nach eil, c'arson a bhiodh iad a' briseadh latha 'n Tighearna mar a tha iad? Cha leig thusa leas a bhì dol as a' leth. Chan 'eil math sam bith dhuit.

SEÒNAID—Tha thusa, Anna, ro throm air muinntir Ghlaschu; ach tha mòran a bharrachd de dhaoine matha an: na th'agaibh-se anns am Rudha.

ANNA—Tha, de dhiaidhreachan nam paipair naidheachd agadsa. Cha chuala mi fù altachadh roimh bhìadh no aoradh teaghlach bho dh'fhalbh mi ach uair no dhà. Diadhachd Ghlaschu, far am bheil na bùthan fosgailte an uair a tha 'n searmoin a stigh! Ach c'arson a tha mise 'bruidhinn air searmoinnean Ghlaschu 's gun anna ach an t-ainm gun an tàirbhe, ach "Far am bi 'n sluagh dall na 'n gille cam ministear."

SEÒNAID—An robh thu fhéin, Anna, anns an eaglais an Glaschu idir?

ANNA—Bha, is mise a bha sin. Thug an duine aig Màiri orm a dhol còmhla ris do'n eaglais aige fhéin, ach ma thug cha toir a rithist. An uair a thòisich an t-òrgan mór air nuallaich bha mi air cruinnleum a thoirt asam a mach às an eaglais mur a biodh gu'n gabhadh mo chliamhuinn nàire. Is e a rinn mi spalp mi mo mheòir 'nam chluasan agus shuidh mi far an robh mi, ach bhòidich mise nach fhaicheadh an t-àite ud mise 'rithist.

SEÒNAID—Tha mi 'creidsinn gu'm bheil *wireless* aig an duine aig Màiri.

ANNA—An e sin a rud ud a bhios a' bruidhinn a mach a bucas leis fhéin?

SEÒNAID—'S e, dé mar a chòrd e riut?

ANNA—Bha dùil agamsa, a bhrònag, gur e sgleò a thàinig orm an uair a chuala mi 'n toiseach e. Bha fadaich ormsa gus am faca mi Seumas a' dùnadh a' bhucais air. Chan 'eil sud soisgeulach, a Sheonaid.

SEÒNAID—Shaoilinn gu'n còrdadh na h-òran Ghàidhlig riut co-dhiù, ma chuala tu gin air.

ANNA—Chuala mi oran Ghàidhlig air uair no dhà, agus am bheil fhios agad, ged nach robh mòran de bhlas na Ghàidhlig orra, gu'n do rinn iad ùrachadh dhomh. Ach, a Sheonaid, cha b'e sud an t-séinn a bhiodh againn idir air na h-òran an uair a bhiodh sinn leis a' chroth air an àirigh. Is fhada ghabh e uaithe.

SEÒNAID—Tha dòigh ùr aca air seinn an diugh nach robh againne idir.

ANNA—Dòighean ùra na truaighe! Cha b'iad a thigeadh orm an uair a bha mi aotrom òg—ròdhan thall agus gnùsda bhos mar gu'm biodh bó ag iarraidh a laigh ann. Sin agad dìreach séinn an latha 'n diugh.

SEÒNAID—Tha mi toilichte 'chluinntinn gu'm bheil a' Ghàidhlig a' togail a cinn gu h-àrd ann an Glaschu.

ANNA—Gàidhlig Ghlaschu, tha i mar a tha i. A' chuid dith air nach 'eil blas na Beurla, 's ann a tha i coltach ri gogail nan cearc.

SEÒNAID—Am bheil Gàidhlig aig searbhanta Màiri?

ANNA—Chan 'eil no càil eile ach a' phròis 's an spadaireachd. Searbhantan an latha 'n diugh agus eagal orra 'n lànhan a shalachadh! Tha bhuil orra, na bròin, nach robh iad còmhla ruinne a' buain na mòna le òpar orra suas gu 'n glùin. Chan 'eil dad a sud, a Sheonaid, a ghràidh, ach apranan geala agus ceud mille ribinn. Mur a b' e gur e b' ainm fhìn a bh'òirre cha mhór nach saoilleadh tu gur e fionnach a bh' innte. Bha 'n ceann aice cho lom air a bhearradh ri balach a thigeadh dhachaidh às a' *Mhilitia*.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil a sin ach am fasan ùr, agus feumaidh iadsan a chumail, air neo cha bhi anna ach "Bó mhaol ann am buaile choimhich."

ANNA—Is cinnteach mise, a Sheonaid, nach 'eil thusa le na fasanan grànda ud.

SEÒNAID—Is mise a tha sin, le feadhainn diubbh, co-dhiù. Tha gearradh an fhuil glan agus sgiobalta, gu h-àraidh air na caileagan òga. Tha rudan eile aca leis nach 'eil mi, muigh no mach.

ANNA—An do leugh thu riamh sgrìobhadh an Abstoil Phòil? De tha esan ag radh?

SEÒNAID—Leugh gu tric, ach tha mi de'n bheachd gu'm bheil esan ro throm air na boirionnaich, ach co-dhiù, thoir dhomh an dràsda 'n còrr de do naidheachd.

ANNA—Tha fasan eile aca nach fhaic sinn riamh roimhe. Am bheil fhios agad air a so, ged a thachradh duine a tha fuireach 's an aon tigh riut aig an doras mhór ort cha leig (air aon uair gu'm bheil thu ann. Gabhaidh e seachad cho fuar fad às agus ged a b' e Turcach a bhiodh annad.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil a sin ach modh a' bhaile mhóir. Cha bhruidhinn idir ri duine ann a sin gus am bi fios aca eò e.

ANNA—Chan 'eil diù aca ann an Glaschu de 'n bhàs fhéin. Seall fhéin air a so, chaochail duine a bha fuireach 's an ath dhorus ri Màiri agus cha chuala sinn eadhon gu'n robh e tinn, agus air son tighe-aire dheth cha robh e idir ann. Agus an uair a dh' fhàlbh an t-àdhlaic aige cha robh duine ri fhaicinn ach sreath mhór charbad mar a bhiodh aig an eaglais againn fhìn air Diluain an Orduigh.

SEÒNAID—Chitheadh tusa sin neònach, ach chan 'eil ann ach cleachdadh a' bhaile mhóir.

ANNA—Cùl nan cóig riutha fhéin 's ri 'n cuid chleachdaidhean! Cha b'iad a thigeadh oirne, a chuireil. Cha chuir iad ann an Glaschu *murns* fhéin orra ged a bhiodh am bàs anns an teaghlach aca. An uair a chail mise Dòmhnall anns a' chogadh cho robh fiù a' bhràid a bh' agam le a dhealbhadh nach do chuir mi pios *creipe* air.

SEÒNAID—An robh Màiri ag iarraidh ort a dhol a dh'fhuireach còmhla rithe fhéin do Ghlaschu?

ANNA—Ma bha, is e sin a bh' aice air a shon. B' fhearr leamsa bhi ann an taobh bhòthain bochd fhìn air a' bhuntata 's air an sgadan na bhi 's a' bhaile mhór ged a bhiodh an t-òr 's an t-àirdidh 'na chruachan agam. Eadar e fhein 's an Rudha beannaichte!

SEÒNAID—Ach eadar dha sgeula, an do

thachair Ceit Bhàn ort air do thurus? Am faca tu 'm bheil ise air a falt a ghearradh?

ANNA—Chunna mi na chunna mi! Ma bha Ceit bàna a roimhe, tha i nise bàna, 's chan ann as an leth uair. Nach 'eil i air tòiseachadh air suathadh na mine-flùire rithe fhéin.

SEÒNAID—Am bheil thu ag radh rium? Am bheil ise air tòiseachadh air *powder*?

ANNA—Pùdars, an e thubhairt thu? Ma, a chreutair, an uair a thug an Dotair Moraidh còir, nach maireann, domhsa pùdars air an déideadh 's ann a dh' iarr e orm an gabhail & spàin tea, is chan e 'n suathadh ri m' aodann.

SEÒNAID—Tha iad dìreach air a dhol às an rian. Ged a tha mi le gearradh an fhuilt, tha mi fada, fada, an aghaidh an t-suathaidh a th' aca orra fhéin leis na rudan ud a bhios aca 's na bucais.

ANNA—Chan 'eil ciall no nàire ann. Chi thu feadhainn a tha aois a' *phension* a' falbh na sràide le 'n cotaichean os cionn an glùinean mar gu'm biodh teine 'nan earbuill; ach nach mise a tha gòrach, agus gur ann a tha na h-earbuill aca a nise cho goirid 's nach gabhadh teine a chur riutha. Ach nach saoilleadh tusa, a Sheònaid, gu'n tugadh na ministearan 's na h-èildeirean beum orra air son an dol a mach a th'aca.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil fhios agam an iad na mnathan 's na teaghlaichean aca fhéin as fheàrr de na buic.

ANNA—Is mise nach rachadh an urras!

SEÒNAID—An robh Màiri ag iarraidh ort fhéin aodach a' bhaile mhóir a chur suas?

ANNA—Cha robh sin gu math dhith. Chuirinn-sa orm mo chleòca 's mo ghùn 's mo bhoineid ged a sheasadh a h-uile mac màthar a bh' ann an Glaschu cruaidh ag coimhead rium. Cha b' e an goid a rinn mi!

SEÒNAID—Tha mi creidsinn, Anna, gur e biadh Ghlaschu a bha còrdadh riut.

ANNA—Cha b' e, gu dearbh; chan fhaca mise lite no sgadan sailtite bho dh' fhalbh mi, agus air son na tea a bh' aca bha i cho lag agus cho beag blais ri sùgh a' bhuntata. Bha bainne agus feòl gu leòir aca, ach aig Sealbh fhéin a tha fios co às a thàinig iad. Chan fhaca mise bh' no caora steach air ballachan a' bhaile bha sud.

SEÒNAID—Is math dhaibh-san nach 'eil iad air an sàrachadh le caoraich an Rudha mar a tha sinne. Ach Anna, theid sinne sìos don chidsin dh' fheuch am faigh sinn copan

de thea air a deagh tharruing mar a bhiodh againn air an àirigh.

SEÒNAID is ANNA (*ag éirigh le chèile*).

ANNA (*a' togail a laimh os cionn a sùla*)—Ach, a Sheònaid, gu dé am bucas mór sleamhuinn a th' agad thall 's an oisinn ud?

SEÒNAID—Tha piano a cheannaich mi air son Anna agus Seònaid.

ANNA—A Sheònaid, nach uamhasach dhuit fhéin piano a bhi agad, agus tusa 'nad bheanaidich cho fada!

SEÒNAID—An do leugh thu rianmh gu'n robh Dàibhidh còir fhéin ag cluiche air inneal cùil nan teuda deich?

ANNA (*le uamhas a' togail a laimhe*)—O, chreutair gun chiall, an e sin a tha thu toirt as an fhrlinn bheannaichte sin? 'S e tha inneal cùil nan teuda deich ag ciallachadh na deich àithntean.

SEÒNAID—Chan 'eil ort's ach leigeil leat, ach bha Dàibhidh diadhaidh glé dhéidheil air ceòl, co-dhiù. Agus bha thu fhéin latha-éigin glé mhath air seinn cuideachd. Fuirich ach an toir mi dhuit "Steornabhagh" air a' piano.

ANNA (*a' togail a lamhan g'a bacadh*)—Cha toir, cha toir! Na fuadaich a mach as do thigh mi! Seachainn na Sàilm co-dhiù air, ge b'e air bith dé ni thu ri na h-òranan faoine!

SEÒNAID—Ma, mur a leig thusa leamsa cluich' air a piano feumaidh tu fhéin òran math Gàidhlig a sheinn domhsa.

ANNA—Uist, uist, a Sheònaid! Na 'n cluinneadh am ministear gu'n robh mise seinn òran bheireadh e 'n comanachadh uam.

SEÒNAID (*a' suidhe aig a' phiano*)—Mur a seinn thusa cluichidh mise.

ANNA—Stad, stad, a Sheònaid! Ma gheallas tusa dhòmhsa nach cluinn duine geal e bheir mise dhuit rann no dhà.

SEÒNAID—Chan innis mi ort idir e.

ANNA (*a' seinn ann an guth binn*)—

"An t-eilean a tuath an iomall a' chuain,
An t-eilean 's an d' fhuair mi m' àrach;
Far an d'fhuair mi's mi òg baine fìorghlan ri òl,
'S bha m' anam tighinn beò 's a' fàs leis.
An t-eilean a tuath, an t-eilean tha fuar,
'S e Leòdhas bho thuath mo ghràidh e,
Far nach fhaic mi ri'm bheò bhi sealg no bhi 'g òl,
No lamh' uath no òrd air an t-Sàbaid."

SEÒNAID—Tapadh leatsa, Anna; is ann duit fhéin a thigeadh a dhol a sheinn na Gàidhlig. (*Seònaid is Anna a' fàgail an t-seòmair le chèile*).

THE GAELIC SUMMER SCHOOL.

The three weeks of the Gaelic Summer School have come and gone, and the students who attended the classes at Port Ellen are now scattered to the four winds after an all too brief session most profitably and pleasantly spent. *An Comunn* was fortunate in securing the willing and efficient services of Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., and Miss Anne Johnstone as teachers of the Senior and Junior Gaelic Classes respectively, and under them classes of 10 and 15 students obtained expert instruction and helpful guidance in their study of the language.

The Celtic Art Class was again this year a most interesting and attractive feature of the School, but its commencement was unfortunately delayed for a week. Mr. Colin Sinclair, greatly to the regret of all, was unavoidably prevented, at the last moment, from coming to take charge of this class, and a week was lost before arrangements could be made with Miss MacBride to act as his substitute. The 6 students who attended the Art Class and profited by Miss MacBride's helpful teaching, have reason to be grateful to her for coming to Islay at short notice, and for carrying on the class on the same interesting and inspiring lines so well initiated by Mr. Sinclair and herself at Broadford last year.

Students were fortunate again this year in having Mr. Neil Orr as choirmaster of a class of Gaelic Singing—a class which is always deservedly popular, and which was responsible for an increase to the extent of 4 in the number of students attending the School as compared with last year. Mr. Neil Orr also trained a children's choir, and he and his students, with the assistance of local musical talent, organised two very successful Gaelic concerts and a ceilidh during the school session.

Port Ellen proved to be a very well-chosen spot in which to hold the Summer School. Students met with a hearty welcome from the Islay people, and had the opportunity of hearing Gaelic spoken all around them. In addition, Islay has many attractions to offer to those who find recreation in alternating outdoor life with indoor studies. The beautiful sea coast, consisting of bold rocks and charming sandy bays fringed by the white foam of the Atlantic breakers, the open stretches of moorland traversed by level roads leading here and there to peaceful sheltered nooks, the circling view of blue mountains from Jura and the

Mull of Kintyre to distant Erin, and last, but not least, the famous Celtic Crosses and carved stones which, like the old language, form a link binding us to our ancestors of long ago—all these made an impression which will live long in the memories of the students who attended the School.

The writer knows that she is speaking for her fellow-students as well as for herself, in making grateful acknowledgements alike to *An Comunn Gaidhealach* for providing the School, to the four esteemed teachers for giving of their best for the sake of Celtic Culture, and to the Islay folk for making them all welcome and joining them alike in their studies and in their recreations.

A. LAMONT.

ADVANCED CLASS.

Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow

Students:—Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, of Ormisdale; Miss Elizabeth Campbell, M.A., Linlithgow Academy; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Miss Margaret C. Henny, Port Ellen; Miss Lamont, B.Sc., Knockdow; Miss Alexandrina MacKay, M.A., Kingussie Secondary School; Miss Christina McKechnie, Newton of Kilmeny School, Islay; Mr. John Marchbanks, M.A., Ayr; Mr. George Marjoribanks, Sonachan, Dalmally; Miss Christina Ross, Barnock School.

BEGINNERS' CLASS.

Miss Ann Johnstone, Castlebay.

Students:—Miss Ruth Bickersteth, Edinburgh; Mr. Charles Davidson, Aberdeen University; Miss Catherine Campbell, Edinburgh; Miss Margaret Carmichael, Port Ellen; Mrs. H. C. Dormer, Cornwall; Mrs. MacCallum, Tarbert; Miss Catherine Maclellan, Edinburgh; Miss F. M. McNeill, M.A., Edinburgh; Miss Helen Master, Kalamazoo, U.S.A.; Mr. John Morrison, M.A., Fife; Mr. John Ogilvie, Edinburgh; Miss Catherine Cameron Dey, Baillieston; Miss Annie Campbell, Port Ellen; Mr. A. McKechnie, London; Mr. George Short, Edinburgh.

CLASS OF CELTIC ART.

Miss Anne MacBride, D.A., Glasgow.

Students:—Mr. Alexander Cameron, Port Ellen; Miss Lamont, B.Sc., Knockdow; Miss Margaret A. S. MacCallum, Port Ellen School; Miss F. M. McNeill, M.A., Edinburgh; Mrs. John Marchbanks, Ayr; Miss Helen Master, Kalamazoo, U.S.A.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

IMPRESSIONS OF A PUPIL.

Tuesday 23rd July was a big day in Port Ellen. Inhabitants and visitors thronged to the Pier to see the arrival of the School, and none of us will forget the kindly reception we met with. I daresay we afforded some interest, too, for our ages ranged, I believe, from under 20 to over 60, and there was a fine variety in tartans to be seen among both sexes. The hotels and lodgings of Port Ellen quickly swallowed us up, but before long a general siege began on the quarters of our teacher, Mr. John Macdonald, and his colleague, Miss Annie Johnstone, to find out where and when and how we were going to get to grips with the Gaelic.

It was a fine sense of fitness and courtesy that prompted the folk of Port Ellen (and I strongly suspect our Gaelic music class teacher Mr. Niall Orr, had a hand in the organisation) to have a *ceilidh* for us that first night in the Ramsay Memorial Hall. This gave us an opportunity of coming together, meeting the moving spirits of the town and at the same time enjoying a notably fine and varied concert. The Adult and Children's Choirs gave a delightful performance, and we had the honour and interest of seeing and hearing the Islay Bard, Donnachadh MacIain, recite one of his own inimitable poems, and of listening to a comedy of his composing rendered by local talent. That gave us the spirit of the place straight away.

Next morning we were at it. The first business, of course, was to divide the sheep from the goats, in other words, to sort us into the advanced and elementary classes. This was not difficult, because most of us knew already which class would better suit our stage of learning. I am not accurate in my figures, but I know there were 8 in the senior class and there may have been round about 20 in the other. Far the greater part were ladies. Some pupils were attending for the second time. A fair sprinkling of the local people came in and a visitor or two took advantage of the junior class.

From this day on the classes met every morning except for one day in the week and Sundays. Nominally we sat from 10 to 12.30, but it was generally near 1 p.m. before we rose. A moderate amount of writing and preparation work was taken home, keeping most of us busy till tea time.

In the senior class the result of the examination set on the first day showed, apparently, that it was less advanced than in former years. Anyhow a good deal of time had to be spent in perfecting our knowledge of grammar even the more elementary part of it. As we settled down to the course, the class work was roughly as follows:—a good spell at Reid's grammar, and exercises both ways on what we had gone over; translation into Gaelic of one of Aesop's fables; reading from Leabhar III.; reading and explaining a poem from "An Dileab," with occasional memorisation. It was Mr. Macdonald's practice to read through to the class the chapter from the Reader and the poem for the following day, to familiarise us with the work and impress the pronunciation on us.

As far as possible all talk and explanation was done in Gaelic, and we were encouraged to voice even our troubles in Gaelic. And this leads me to remark on the outstanding mark of all Mr. Macdonald's teaching throughout the course, both in and out of class—his insistence on purity of pronunciation, correct idiom and choice of words. Nothing slovenly or provincial, nothing that was in any sense un-Gaelic, was ever allowed to pass. We felt we were safe in his hands, and that if we could only have enough of him our Gaelic was assured.

My knowledge of the bigger and more elementary class is confined to what I gleaned from others, and to occasional sweet strains wafted through glass doors, when the grapplings of verbal nouns and genitives were mitigated by the exploits of "Tunnag Bhàn Mòire," sung to the most fascinating of *Puirt a beul*, and one longed to be in two places at once. There are no two opinions with any one about Miss Johnstone's methods of teaching Gaelic, and especially her way with beginners—but a word more of that later.

The Celtic Art Class met from 2 to 4.30 p.m. Apparently the appointed teacher could not come, and it was 30th July before Miss A. M'Lean M'Bride arrived to take his place. I did not attend this class myself, my Gaelic being more than enough for me, but I congratulate every member who had the good fortune to study Celtic Art under that gifted and enthusiastic lady.

Last, and certainly not least, the Music Class. Did we find the time a bit long in the evenings? I don't believe we ever did, but if we did, it was because we were wearying to get back at 8 p.m. to our Gaelic Songs—and to Mr. Niall Orr. You will understand how this class caught on when I tell you that



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we started with maybe a dozen, and that before I left the numbers had so swelled that the last pupil was thankful to squeeze in anywhere. The feature of this class was, in my opinion, the amount it got through, and the way it enjoyed doing it. We sat till the light failed and it always seemed too short, but we had the pick of the "Coisir-chiuil" songs: we went through a booklet whose name I forget, but it let those who only read "staff" through to "sol-fah" notation and vice-versa, and we practised the old psalm tunes. The last was for a special Gaelic Service which was held in St. John's Church on the evening of Sunday, 4th August, and was attended by over 300 people. Mr. Orr led the singing himself, intoning each line in advance of the congregation in the old style, and it was a feature of our visit to Islay that those of us who were present will not forget.

The great success of the Music Class was due to a fortunate combination of two facts. There was a fine volume of good natural voice, and Mr. Orr seized on that fact at once and took full advantage of it. He let the choir go ahead and revel in the fine songs, he was not for ever pulling us up to begin again. And when he did put us right, he had a way with him of doing it that many a teacher might envy. No use trying to describe it, but it was something akin to genius, and if Mr. Orr had chosen to turn himself into a Pied Piper and headed for the darkest cave in "Maol na h-Oa 'n lle," we should all have been on his heels.

The School made up for the rigour of the daily work by indulging in an excursion on the Saturday afternoons. The first of these was to the Oa, one of the wildest and most picturesque corners of Islay, where on a high headland stands the massive monument erected by the Americans to their countrymen who were drowned in the submarine attack in Laggan Bay. We were a party of over 20, some being local people. We had tea in the biel of a hillock, and danced the Reel of Tulloch to the piping of a Port Ellen lad. I believe the Highlands, Lowlands, England, and America all took part in this performance, which was prolonged till some of the performers were in an advanced state of exhaustion—one, it is even said, had to be restored by spiritual means. The next Saturday some 30 went in cars to Port-nahaven, crossed to the little island of Orsay, and had tea in the shelter of the great lighthouse there, afterwards visiting the old chapel of pre-reformation days, and the tomb of the ancient MacKay Chief. I think I am right when I say that every detail of every excursion

was mapped out by Mr. Niall Orr for us, and we just followed him like sheep. He left nothing undone for our comfort and enjoyment on any occasion.

Another enjoyable day was at the sheep-dog trials near Bridgend. Unfortunately, it was a terribly windy day which was against good fending work, but a wonderful exhibition was given by a leading member of the Society, whose two dogs brought the sheep between the hurdles into the pen with hardly a minute lost. There was plenty of Gaelic going on that field for those who kept their ears open.

Now I have tried to give some idea of how ably the classes were conducted by our instructors, but these had a far more generous conception of their duty than mere class work. All our four teachers contrived to create around them an atmosphere of culture and scholarship, friendliness and helpfulness, for which every one who had the honour and privilege of meeting them and living with them, will be the richer for life. I can give but one or two examples of this here. I do not believe Miss Johnstone had an hour to herself from morning till night. It was not only that she gave special coaching to those who had started so recently as to find it hard to keep pace with the class. We were always at her for stories and songs and help of all kinds, and not an evening passed when there weren't a good half-dozen of us tumbling into *ceilidh* in her parlour for the pure joy of listening to her Gaelic and the pleasure we took in her cultured, humorous, unassuming self. And if ever the Gaelic had a staunch devoted servant, she has it in Iain MacDhomhnuill. I am ashamed to think of the advantage I took of his generous offer of help. Many a time he was with me from after the singing class to near midnight labouring to take the "blas-na-beurla" off me. In such an atmosphere it was impossible for any one not to absorb some of the true inwardness of the Gaelic and what it stands for. The shyest were coaxed out of fear of hearing their own voices. It is even rumoured that the "Professor" was heard, towards the end of the second week, lisping the word "uisge" (but I'm afraid it wasn't "bùrn-uisge" he meant).

I have only one word of criticism to venture, and it is less a criticism than a statement of what is a necessary difficulty in a language class of this kind. The requirements of various members of the same class—I refer chiefly to the senior—were too different to be completely satisfied by our teacher. Part of our class consisted of pupils who had read Gaelic closely and widely for years, and had written it with

more or less proficiency. This section was badly deficient in speaking and understanding conversational Gaelic, and would fain have concentrated on that. The other section had heard and talked Gaelic in their youth, and had little of this difficulty, but they were hardly able to spell and read, and had not mastered the grammar. Consequently, it was humanly impossible for one teacher, in the limited time, to conduct the class either to his own entire satisfaction or to that of the pupils. It is probable that three teachers are required. I recognise the difficulty of providing these, but suggest that An Comunn may consider this point, the one weak spot in an admirably organised course.

Wae's me! I had to leave in the middle of it all. And so I hope some one else may tell about the concert the School is preparing to give Port Ellen before it leaves, and it should be worth hearing. Many of the local people will be helping with it. And that brings me to my last word which is one of praise and gratitude for the folk of Port Ellen and round about. We met with nothing but the friendly courtesy that has no parallel outside the Islands, it made our pleasure complete, and we shall never forget it.

REPORT OF NORTHERN SUB-COMMITTEE (PROPAGANDA).

In view of the motion which is down for discussion at the annual meeting in Perth, namely: "That a whole-time organiser, with headquarters at Inverness, be appointed for the northern area," the following report of the Northern Sub-Committee, relative to this matter is published for the information of members:—"The Secretary reported that, in terms of a remit from last meeting, the small Committee appointed to consider the question of a whole time Organiser for the Northern Area, met on Saturday, May 11th, and that they report as follows:—

(1) The aims and objects of An Comunn Gaidhealach are not sufficiently well known to the people of the western sea-board of the Highland Counties, including the Outer Hebrides.

(2) The revival of the Gaelic language can never be satisfactorily accomplished until a spirit of true appreciation for that language is created amongst those who still use it in their daily conversation, and from the experience already acquired by the Propaganda Sub-Committee they are fully convinced that it is absolutely impossible for them to extend the work of An Comunn without the services of a

paid official, specially delegated to work in their area.

(3) The work of the Music Teachers engaged by An Comunn can never be of much effect until an organiser, such as we suggest, carefully prepares each district beforehand.

(4) Branches of An Comunn in our Highland districts cannot perform the propaganda work which might be expected of them until we have an Organiser who can visit them frequently in an advisory capacity. An occasional visit from the General Secretary, though highly appreciated, is not sufficient. The personal touch is essential.

(5) The geographical situation and the lack of quick transport, combined with many other local difficulties peculiar to the Highlands, make the work of Gaelic propaganda a very serious problem in our northern districts, and therefore we maintain that, if the preservation and development of Gaelic is to be seriously tackled, special consideration must be given to our area.

The Committee unanimously adopted all the findings above stated, and on the motion of Mr. Donald Graham, seconded by the Chairman, it was agreed to send the following resolution to the Executive Council of An Comunn:—

"That a whole time Organiser, with headquarters at Inverness, be appointed for the Northern Area."

The Committee considering the supreme importance of this resolution decided to ask the Propaganda Committee to recommend the publication of the part of the minute relative thereto in "An Gaidheal."

GAELIC COMPETITION.

We hereby announce that "A Friend of An Gaidheal" has offered a prize of One Guinea for the best List of Gaelic words signifying a mountain, hill, mound, or the like, with the English equivalent. There are numerous terms in Gaelic for various kinds of raised ground, whether peak or sharp summit, or rounded top; wooded or bare; steep or gently sloping; rough or smooth; rocky or grassy; in fact all the contrasts of a mountainous region. The competition is open to any pupil attending an elementary school in the Highlands. Lists of words should reach the editor by the 2nd of October. The competition is intended to sharpen observation, as well as to extend the vocabulary of pupils in a very important line, namely, the description of the physical features of our incomparable country.

OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of a very loyal member of An Comunn, the late Mr. Ronald E. E. Mackinnon, of Strath, Ledaig. On retiring from the Civil Service he took up his residence in the Highlands to which he was ever devoted. Mr. Mackinnon belonged to a family who rendered notable military service to their country. He was a son of the late Captain Edmund Mackinnon, 2nd Life Guards, and a grand nephew of General Henry Mackinnon who fell at the storming of Cuidad Rodrigo in the Peninsular War. The simple funeral service was conducted in true Highland fashion, part of the service being in the Gaelic language, and the coffin being covered with a plaid of Mackinnon tartan. Mr. Mackinnon is survived by his wife and daughter, the latter of whom is giving evidence of a promising career in Art.

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Reading at Sight an unfamiliar piece of Prose chosen by the Judges—1, Christina MacPherson, Oban High School; 2 and 3 (equal), George E. Marjoribanks, Dalmally, and Christina MacSween, Oban High School.

Recitation of "Fàilte Bhraid Albainn"—1, George E. Marjoribanks; 2, Donald MacKinnon, Pennyghael; 3, Catherine L. Rankin, Oban.

Sgeulachd, narrating an old Gaelic Tale in the traditional manner—1 (equal), John Urquhart and Donald Cameron, Oban High School.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song chosen by Competitor (female voices)—1, Annie B. MacCorquodale, Lismore; 2, Susan Brown, Luinig; 3, Catherine Bisset, Glencoe.

Solo Singing of a Song chosen by Competitor (male voices)—1, Hugh MacInnes, Ballachulish; 2, Angus MacDonell, Ballachulish; 3 (equal), John Collie, Bonawe, and Duncan MacMillan, Ballachulish.

Solo Singing (male and female voices)—1, Susan Brown, Luinig; 2, Duncan Kennedy, Ballachulish; 3 (equal), Jessie MacDonald, Taynuilt, and Annie B. MacCorquodale.

Duet Singing—1, James Bisset and Catherine Bisset, Glencoe; 2, Jessie MacDonald and Marion MacLean, Taynuilt; 3, Cathie MacPherson and Duncan MacPherson, Tiroran.

Choral Singing of a Song in Harmony—Songs prescribed, "Till, till oigh mo ruin" and "Chunnaic mi'n damh donn" (Coisir a' Mhoid II.)—1, Tobar-onochy Gaelic Choir; 2, Glenorchy Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Harmony of the prescribed Songs, "A righ gur mi tha aighearach" and "Thug mi'n oidhche raor Sundach" (A' Choiris Chiuil). First prize, Retention for one year of the Lorn, Mull, and Morvern Provincial Mod Trophy, presented by Mr. D. MacDougall, Dungorm, Oban, for choirs containing 100 per cent. of Gaelic speakers, with £3 3s; second prize, £3—1, Ballachulish Mixed Voice Choir; 2, Benderloch Gaelic Choir.

Mr. George E. Marjoribanks, Sonachan, presided over the junior concert on Friday evening, and Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach presented the prizes.

There was a large attendance at the senior concert on Saturday evening, over which Mr. D. MacGregor Whyte, president of the Oban Branch, presided. Miss Hall of Tangy presented the prizes.

ARDNAMURCHAN PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Annual Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod at Strontian, well maintained the reputation of its predecessors, being most successful in all respects. Keen interest was evinced throughout, and competitors in all classes acquitted themselves with distinction. Both the Gaelic and Music judges expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the excellent standard achieved. At the concert in the evening which marked the close of the Mod, the President of An Comunn, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., Campbelltown, who presided, gave a most inspiring address, which was listened to throughout with close attention. The Rev. Neil Ross, B.D., D. Litt., spoke in Gaelic, and in a fine oration, eloquently advocated the claims of the language. In addition to the leading prize-winners, pleasing contributions to a most enjoyable programme, were given by Miss Mary C. MacColl, M.A., Mod Gold Medallist, Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn, and Mr. Hugh MacLean, Music Teacher. The prizes were gracefully presented by the Hon. Mrs. MacLean of Ardgor.

The following gave their services as judges:—Gaelic—Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan; Rev. J. MacInnes, Connel; Rev. Father J. MacMillan, Glencoe; and Mr. Neil Shaw. Literature—Rev. A. D. MacLean, Ardgor. Music—Miss Mary C. MacColl, M.A., Ardgor, and Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., Glasgow.

PRIZE LIST

JUNIOR SECTION

Vocal I. (Girls).—1, Johan Boyd, Ardgor; 2, Alexa MacLean, Kingairloch; 3, Catherine MacLennan, Dalilea.

Vocal II. (Boys).—1, Willie Macpherson, Strontian, 2, Donald Boyd, Ardgor; 3, Dugald Stewart, Strontian and Alex. D. MacLachlan, Drimnin.

Vocal III. Unpublished Song.—1, Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin; 2, Douglas MacKenzie, Drimnin; 3, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin.

Vocal IV. Learners.—1, Isabel MacLean, Ardgor, 2, Anne MacLean of Ardgor; 3, George Wilson, Strontian.

Vocal V. Choirs.—1, Ardgor Junior Choir (Miss D. C. MacIntyre); 2, Strontian Junior Choir (Miss C. MacVicar); 3, Aharacle School Choir (Miss I. Macpherson).

Oral I. Reading at Sight.—1, Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin; 2, Archd. MacMillan, Drimnin; 3, James MacLennan, Drimnin; 4, Ian Thomson, Strontian.

Oral II. Reciting from Memory.—1, Alex. D. MacLachlan, Drimnin; 2, (equal), Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin, and Mary MacKenzie, Drimnin; 3, (equal), John MacMaster, Drimnin, and Kate MacLachlan, Drimnin.

Oral III. Recitation (Learners).—1, Jessie MacLean Kingairloch, 2, Isabel MacLean, Ardgor; 3, Hannah Brown, Kingairloch; 4, (equal) Catriona L. MacLean of Ardgor, and Anne MacLean of Ardgor.

Oral IV. Conversation.—1, Alex MacMillan, Drimnin; 2, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin; 3, (equal), Ian Thomson, Strontian, and James MacLennan, Drimnin.

Oral V. Acted Dialogue.—1, (equal), Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin, and Dolina MacLean, Drimnin; and John MacMaster, Drimnin, and Archie MacMillan, Drimnin.

Junior Literature. Letter.—1, James MacLennan, Drimnin; 2, (equal), Mary MacLennan, Drimnin, and John MacMaster, Drimnin.

Special Prize for Teacher whose Pupils attain Highest Aggregate in Gaelic.—Miss Harriet Stewart, Drimnin.

SENIOR SECTION

Literature. (Best collection of unpublished songs).—1, Mr. Donald MacMillan, Lochelside.

Oral I. (Reading at Sight).—1, Miss Christina MacPherson, Ardgor.

Oral II. (Recitation).—1, Mr. Alastair Cameron, Strontian; 2, (equal), Miss C. MacPherson, Ardgor, and Miss Catherine Cameron, Strontian.

Vocal I. Female Voices (Own choice).—1, Miss Margaret MacLennan, Kilchoan; 2, Miss Margaret Connell, Aharacle; 3, Miss Nan MacCallum, Kilchoan.

Vocal II. Male Voices (own choice).—1, Mr. Angus MacCallum, Kilchoan; 2, Mr. Neil Cameron, Aharacle; 3, Mr. John MacArthur, Strontian.

Vocal III. Unpublished Song.—1, Miss Ina M. Lowrie, Lochelside; 2, Miss Catherine C. MacColl, Ardgor; 3, Mr. Neil Cameron, Aharacle.

Vocal IV. Female Voice Solos (Silver Medal Competition).—1, Miss Mary A. Carmichael, Ardgor; 2, Miss Ina M. Lowrie, Lochelside; 3, Miss Margaret MacLennan, Kilchoan.

Vocal V. Male Voice Solos (Silver Medal Competition).—1, Mr. Archd. MacNaughton, Aharacle; 2, Mr. John MacDiarmid, Strontian; 3, Mr. Neil Cameron, Aharacle.

Vocal VI. Own Choice (Learners).—1, MacLean of Ardgor; 2, Miss Mary Carmichael, Ardgor.

Vocal VII. (Duets).—1, (equal) Miss M. A. Carmichael, Ardgor, and Miss M. Carmichael, Ardgor; and Miss Christine MacIntyre, Ardgor, and Miss D. C. MacIntyre, Ardgor.

Vocal IX. Puirt a' Beul.—1, Miss Ina M. Lowrie, Lochelside.

Vocal X. Former First Prize Winners.—1, Mr. J. MacDiarmid, Strontian; 2, Miss I. M. Lowrie, Lochelside; 3, Miss M. A. Carmichael, Ardgor.

Vocal XI. Choral Singing (Unison).—1, Strontian Senior Choir; 2, Ardgor Senior Choir; 3, Aharacle Senior Choir.

Instrumental I. Bagpipes (Marches).—1, Mr. Neil Smart, Kinlochmoidart; 2, Mr. Angus Beaton, Blach; 3, Mr. Alex. Henry, Morvern.

Instrumental II. Bagpipes (Strathspey and Reel).—1, Mr. Neil Smart; 2, Mr. Alex. Henry; 3, Mr. Angus Beaton.

SKYE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Two days were necessary to overtake the proceedings at the Skye Provincial Mod at Portree although the entries on this occasion were not quite so high as last year. Regret was generally expressed, that the Kilmuir Choir, which did so well at the National Mod last year,

was unable to attend. All districts of the Island were, however, well represented, and the performances were of a very high order. Complimentary remarks were made by Mr. John N. MacLeod, (Gaelic) and by Mr. John MacDonald, Oban, (Music) who acted as judges. Col. Kenneth L. MacDonald, D.S.O., Tote, presided at the competitions on Wednesday, and Mr. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost on Thursday. Concerts were held in the evenings, when all the prize-winners performed. Contributions were also received from Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary of An Comunn, Miss Cathie Clark, Glasgow, and Dr. Malcolm Stewart, Oldham. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Angus Nicolson, the local secretary, who, with his energy and enthusiasm, maintained the success of the Mod.

FIRST DAY'S PRIZE LIST

ORAL DELIVERY

Reading with expression a piece of poetry—1, Bessie Stee'e, Dunvegan; 2, Betty Steele, Dunvegan; 3, Margaret Steele, Netty Steele, Nora Morrison (equal).

Reading at sight—1, Barbara Robertson, Broadford; 2, Rena Ferguson, Dunvegan; 3, John Robertson, Portree.

Reciting from memory—1, Rena Ferguson; 2, Chrissie Campbell, Dunvegan; 3, John Robertson, Broadford.

Excellence in Gaelic conversation—1, Harry R. MacKinnon, Portree; 2, Donald Bain, Portree; 3, Angus MacDougall, Portree.

VOCAL MUSIC

Solo singing of a song (girls under 14)—1, Alexina Campbell, Uig; 2, Nora Ferguson, Dunvegan; 3, Bessie Steele and Mary MacPherson, Dunvegan (equal).

Solo singing (girls under 16)—1, Morag Campbell, Broadford; 2, William Campbell, Uig; 3, Margaret Steele, Dunvegan, and Rebecca MacLeod, Broadford (equal).

Duets—1, Margaret Steele and Elena Sharp, Dunvegan; 2, Eileen King and Sadie Matheson, Dunvegan; 3, Betty Steele and Bessie Steele.

Choral singing of a song in two-part harmony—1, Portree Secondary School Choir; 2, Broadford School Choir; 3, Uig Junior Choir.

Unison singing—1, Broadford School Choir; 2, Dunvegan School Choir; 3, Portree School Choir.

SECOND DAY'S PRIZE LIST

ORAL DELIVERY

Reading at sight—Roderick MacDonald, Portree School; 2, John MacDougall, Portree School; 3, Donald MacLeod, Portree School.

Recitation—Sarah Kennedy, Portree, and Katie R. MacLeod, Dunvegan (equal).

Sgeulachd—Sarah Kennedy.

Acted Dialogue—Misses Mimma Fraser and Annie Ferguson, Portree.

VOCAL MUSIC

Solo singing (female voices)—1, Flora Munro, Breakish; 2, Isobel MacInnes, Portree; 3, Margaret MacDougall, Uig.

Solo singing (male voices)—1, Duncan Corbett, Uig; 2, Walter Ross, Portree; 3, Hugh MacColl, Armadale.

Solo singing (female voices; test song and a choice of other three songs)—1, Flora Munro; 2, Sheila MacDonald, Uig; 3, Cath. MacDonald, Uig; 4, Dolina Peacock, Portree.

Solo singing (male voices; test song and choice of other three songs)—1, Walter Ross; 2, Duncan Corbett; 3, Peter MacKinnon, Breakish.

Solo singing (female voices; former prize-winners)—1, Misses Betty MacLeod, Broadford, and Isobel MacInnes, Portree (equal).

Solo singing (male voices, former prize-winners)—Duncan Corbett.

Solo singing of a Skye song—1, Betty MacLeod; 2, Duncan Corbett.

Duet singing—1, C. MacDonald and A. MacDonald, Dunvegan; 2, Mrs. MacCallum and Miss MacFarlane, Portree; 3, Dolina Peacock and Chrissie MacKenzie, Portree.

Unison singing—1, Portree Choir; 2, Dunvegan Choir; 3, Uig Choir.

Choral singing—Broadford.

INSTRUMENTAL SECTION

Bagpipes (playing a March)—1, P. MacFarquhar, Snizort; 2, A. Stoddart; 3, N. MacKinnon. Strathspeys and Reels—1, A. Stoddart; 2, P. MacFarquhar.

Violin—Peter MacKinnon.

A successful concert was held in the evening, presided over by Mr. John N. MacLeod, Kirkhill.

SOUTH-WEST ROSS AND GLENELG PROVINCIAL MOD.

Widespread interest and enthusiasm was aroused in the district by the Mod held at Kyle on Thursday, 11th July. In view of the fact that this was the first Mod on a large scale, An Comunn and the singing teacher, Mrs. A. C. Scott, are to be congratulated on the high standard of results attained in all departments. A gratifying feature was the large number of entries in all sections, over 250 taking part in the competitions. A record crowd attended the evening concert sustained by the leading prize-winners, Dr. D. J. Macrae, Balmacara, presiding. Lady Hamilton, Balmacara, gracefully presented the prizes. The adjudicators were:—Oral Delivery—Mr. David Urquhart, M.A., and Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon (Hons. Celt.). Musical Section—Mr. John N. MacLeod, Kirkhill, and Mr. A. Dinsdale, F.R.C.O., Dingwall.

THE PRIZE LIST

SENIOR SECTION

Literature. Gaelic Essay—Mary Macrae, Letterfean.

Oral Delivery. Recitation of "Tir mhaiseach nan cruach"—1, Janet MacLeod, Glenelg; 2, Mary Macrae; 3, Mary K. Mackay, Lochcarron.

Reading at sight—1, Isobel Macrae, Kyle; 2, Mary MacKenzie, Lochcarron.

Acted Dialogue—1, Isabella MacDonald and Angus MacDonald, Glenelg; 2, Mrs. Macrae and J. MacKenzie, Glenelg.

Vocal Music.—Solo Singing (Female voices) 1, M. Robertson, Kyle; 2, M. MacDonald, Kyle; 3, Margt. Mackay, Lochcarron.

Solo Singing (Male voices)—1, Neil MacLure, Glenelg; 2, Simon Campbell Glenshiel; 3, William MacLeod, Glenelg.

Medal Competition (Male and Female voices)—1, Simon Campbell; 2, Isobel MacKenzie, Lochcarron; 3, M. Robertson.

Duet Singing—1, Ethel MacDonell and K. MacLeod, Letterfearn; 2, Mrs. Matheson and Mrs MacGregor, Kyle
Unison Singing—1, Kyle Choir; 2, Glenelg Choir.

JUNIOR SECTION

Written Competitions—Reproduction of Gaelic story—1, Isabella MacPherson, Glenelg; 2, Margt. MacKenzie, Glenelg.

Gaelic Letter—Janet MacLeod.

Gaelic Essay—Janet MacLeod.

Oral Delivery—Reading with expression—1, Chrissie Cameron, Glenelg; 2, Donald Matheson, Kyle; 3, Alistair Matheson, Plockton.

Reciting "A' Chuthag"—1, Murdo Matheson; 2 (equal), Eliza Garde, Glenelg, and Peggy MacLennan Lochcarron; 3, Jean Macrae Glenelg.

Gaelic Conversation—1, Donald Matheson; 2, Janet MacLeod; 3, Alistair Matheson.

Vocal Music—Solo Singing (Girls' Medal), own choice—1, Chrissie Matheson, Kyle; 2, (equal), Maisie Smith, Letterfearn, and Christina Cameron, Glenelg; 3 (equal) Mary Bain, Plockton, and Isobel MacKenzie, Plockton.

Solo Singing (Boys' Medal), own choice—1, Kenneth A. Gillies, Plockton; 2, Donald Logan, Letterfearn; 3, (equal), Duncan MacKenzie, Lochcarron, and Donald Macrae, Plockton.

Solo Singing (Boys and Girls), Test Song—1, Chrissie Matheson; 2, Maisie Smith; 3, Alistair MacKinnon, Glenshiel.

Duet Singing—1, Daisy and Chrissie Matheson, Kyle 2, May and Chrissie Cameron, Glenelg.

Unison Singing—1, Kyle Choir; 2, Plockton Choir.

Choral Singing—1, Kyle Choir; 2, Letterfearn Choir.



THE LOCHABER CHILDREN'S MOD.

This gathering took place later in the season than usual, and was fortunate in having perfect summer weather, and a very large attendance.

The judges were:—The Reverend Messrs R. B. Crawford, Kilmallie, David Macmichael, Duncansburgh; Dr. Mackinnon, Kilmonivaig; and Mr. D. Gollan, Fort William, with Mr. John N. Macleod, Kirkhill, and Mr. MacIntyre, Buccleugh Villa.

List of prize winners in the Literary Competitions:—

SENIOR.

Letter Writing—1, Elizabeth Macpherson, Public School; 2, Catherine Brown, Public School; others of much merit were Janet Stewart, Fort William, Public School, and Mary Buntin, Public School.

Translation of Gaelic Prose into English from the Rosg, "The herding of the fawns"—1, Johann Kerr, Fort William Public School; 2, Mary MacMillan, Fort William Public School.

Translation of Gaelic Poetry into English—Subject, "The Highland Costume after the '45"—1, Johann Kerr, Fort William Public School; 2, Elizabeth Macpherson, Fort William Public School.

Place Names within two miles of the school—1, Alastair Cameron, Fort William Public School; 2, Catherine Brown, Fort William Public School; excellent papers were sent by Niall Cameron, St. Brides, and by Jessie MacNeil, St. Mary's.

Reading 1st Chapter of St. John's Gospel—1, Catherine Brown, Public School; 2, Mary Cumming, Public School.

Reading any portion of the Gospel—selected by judges—1, John Macdonald, Fort William Public School; 2, (equal) Iain Mackinnon and Janet Stewart, Fort William Public School.

Reading Test Paper—words to be explained—1, Flora Macdonald, Public School; 2 (equal), Catherine Brown and John Macdonald, Public School.

Spelling—1, Mary Cumming, Public School; 2, Agnes Macdonald, Tulloch School.

Reciting Test Poem—"Tigh Soluis"—1, John Macdonald, Public School; 2 (equal), Annie Macdonald and Iain Macleod, Public School.

Conversation with judges—1, John Macdonald; 2 (equal), Isabella MacMillan and Catherine Brown.

JUNIORS.

Reading "An Ceud Cheum"—1, Allan Campbell, Kinlochail; 2, Angus Grant, St. Mary's.

Reciting Lullaby—1, Morag Macdonald, St. Mary's; 2, Dolina Macdonald, Roy Bridge.

Reciting "Iorram Cuain"—1, Allan Campbell, Kinlochail; 2, Angus Grant, St. Mary's.

Special Competitions for Banavie School pupils—1, Annie MacMillan; 2, Flora Cameron.

The Moffatt Pender Silver Cups for the best boy and girl pupil of the year were awarded to Catherine Brown and John Macdonald.

The Comunn Abrach desire to thank the kind but anonymous donor of ten books sent for the five best pupils, which were awarded to Elizabeth Macpherson, Johann Kerr, Catherine Brown, Flora Macdonell, and John Macdonald, in addition to their other prizes.

Infant Class Recitation—Annie Cameron, Blar-nae-faoldach; Iain Cuthbertson, Blar-nae-faoldach; Jeannie Mitchell, Blar-nae-faoldach.

The prizes to the successful competitors were presented by Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochail, who said:—"She regretted she had not been able to hear more of the competitive singing and reciting which had been going on under the splendid guidance of various friends, but what she had heard made her think that their lot that afternoon was an enviable one, for she felt that to have gained honours in their own native tongue and in their own native music was the finest accomplishment at their ages. She was very glad indeed to be associated with them all that afternoon, and she proposed that next year and for the years to come to offer a prize for competition. She was very glad to hear from Mr. Macleod that the present was the best children's Mod he had attended so far in that district, and that, in his opinion, it had surpassed all previous Mods." With a vote of thanks to Lady Hermione, which was cheered by the children's young voices to the echo, and with the singing of the National Anthem, the Mod terminated.

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