

An Gaidheal.



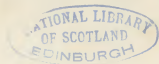
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Part I. 1871-1872

The History of the County of Edinburgh



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(Formerly AN DEO GRÉINE)

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Leabhar XXII.]

An Dàmhar, 1926.

[Earrann 1

A' CHEUD MHOD.

Ma tha neach de ar luchd leughaidh nach eil cho misneachail is bu mhat leis a thaobh aghartas na Gàidhlig, cha bu mhisde leinn a bhi cur 'n a chuinnhe cìod e an t-aghart a thàinig air an aobhar o chumadh a' cheud mhòd anns an Oban Lathurnach. Ged tha cor is deich bliadhna fichead o 'n uair sin tha a' cheud mhòd gle shoilleir ann ar cuimhne. Is ann air latha geal grianach a chruinnich sinn an Talla nan Tìonal; agus ged nach robh ar n-àireamh lionmhor bha gach aon làn dùrachd is dealais. Bu luachmhor an t-inndireadh do 'n obair an òraid a fhuaras o 'n Ollamh Stiùbhard; agus thug an Siorram Mac-mhaighstir Caimbeul misneach is earail. Faodar a thuigsinn nach robh na comh-fharpuisich ach gann, an uair a chualas iad uile air an aon ùrlar an aon latha. Chuir-cadh crìoch mu àird fheasgair air a h-uile deuchainn a bh' ann cadar sheinn is labhairt. Agus an oidhche sin aig cuimh chiuil fhuaras ionadhl òran binn o 'n bhean uasal Seònaid Nic Lachuinn, a thug togail mhòr do cheòl nan Gàidheal mu 'n an ud. Ged a rinneadh gnòthuch a' cheud mhòd ri aon latha chan fhuillear an diugh ceithir latha gu dleasdanas a mhòd a choimhlionadh. Tha so a' nochdadh cìod ann fàs a thàinig air A' Chomunn, agus air a' Mhòd mar mheadhon gu bhi fadadh teine a chuireas blàths is beothachadh feadh nan Gàidheal.

Gidheadh chan fhaodar suspann a' cheud mhòd a thomhas le ùine na coinnemh, no le àireamh na cuideachda. Bha duilich-cadas no dhà a' seasamh an aghaidh a' cheud mhòd. Bha aineolas mar neul trom

a' comhdachadh na dùthcha a thaobh luach na cànan air dhòigh sam bith. Is ann tearc a bha iadsan a bha gabhail suim an da rìreadh de 'n chainnt no de a litreachas. Gun teagamh bha cor fhianuis ann, ar neo rachadh an t-aobhar air chùl gu buileach. Chan e mhaìnn gu robh coigreach aineolach air cànan is ceòl na dùthcha, ach bha a' chuid bu mho de na Gàidhil féin anns an staid cheudna. Cha robh misneach do 'n Ghàidhlig an ceud Achd an Fhoghluin, 1872; agus ni bochd, cha do thog na Gàidhil an guth an uair sin. Bu truagh an cor ud, an coimeas ris an dilseachd a nochd buidheann de Ghàidhil thapaidd as leth na Gàidhlig, ri am daingnichidh Achd an Fhoghluin mu dheireadh, 1918. Sin aon de thoraidhean an ghluasaid so—gu 'n do dhùisg e muinntir suas gu bhi ag agradh còir is cothrom do 'n chànan an clar-foghluin na rìoghachd. Cha bheag an cuideachadh do 'n chainnt gu bheil i a nis 'g a foghlum leis an òigridh. Tha so nas priseile na nì sam bith, gum bi a' Ghàidhlig 'g a togail leis an òigridh, agus air a h-aideachadh mar chuspair an àrd-oilein.

Cìod e an t-aobhar gu 'n do chuireadh mòd rianh air chois? Cìod is tùs do 'n Chomunn Ghàidhealach fhéin? Mar freagairt do na ceistean sin tha sinn ag ràdh nach eil anns a' Chomunn agus anns a' mhòd ach cuid de na nìtibh a dh'èirich o 'n luasgadh a thàinig air beatha na Gàidhealtachd o chionn dhà fhichead bliadhna air ais. Rianh o thoiseach na naodhanh linn deug bha staid na Gàidhealtachd a' sìor dhol am mìosad. Cha robh guth-taghaidh aig an t-sluagh choitcheinn airson ball pàrlamaid. Bha cosnadh gann is doirbh ri fhaotainn. Bha mòran a' fàgail na dùthcha;

agus móran eile de na dh'fhuirich air an cunlachadh far nach gabhadh beo-shlainte fhaotainn. Mu dheireadh thainig a' chùis gu àirde; thàinig crìoch air faghaidean nam feumach. Tha eachdraidh nan làithean ud ag innse gun do thòisich mì-riaghailt, gus am b' éigin do 'n Uachdaranachd an t-arm dearg a chur do na h-eileanan. Gun dàil fhuaras luchd rannsachaidh le cumhachd rìoghail gu bhli sgrùdadh cor nan croiteirean; thàinig Ioseph Chamberlain a thabhairt òraid do na h-eileanaich, agus thug croiteir eileanach òraid anns an Albert Hall an Lunnainn. Gun bhli a' leudachadh mu 'n chùis tha sinn a' creidsinn gur e an aon spiorad a bhrosnuich na Gàidheil an uair ud a thaobh ceartais, agus a ghluais iad mar an ceudna gu bhli deanamh oidheirp air an cànan a chumail beò. Is e an aon ghnè dhaoine a bha air ceann an dà ghluasaid; cuid de 'n fheadhainn a bha dian an aobhar ceartais, is iad a bha 'n an luchd treòrachaidh anns a' ghluasad ud a thug beatha air tìs do 'n Chomunn, agus do 'n cheud mhòd anns an Oban Lathurnach.

OBAN MOD, 1926.

President's Address.

It is now thirty-four years—over three decades—since the first Mòd was held at Oban. Time, indeed, has made its inexorable ravages on that assembly of vision-moved Gaels; for many of them are called hence. We rejoice to know, however, that three of the faithful founders of An Comunn are on this platform to-day. Sheriff MacMaster-Campbell is still with us; and I, along with others, am looking forward to the time when, released from juridical duties, he will, once again, give the influence of his genius and far-seeing constructive abilities to the work that lies ahead of his compatriots. He had worthy coadjutors. We have ex-Provost MacIsaac, inexplosive but resolute, supporting the yielding fight like the King of Morven. Moved, as he was, by the sovereign beauty of Gaelic idealism, he proved himself to be a contributory power in staying the destroying angel on the threshold of a timely Jebuzzite. Let us get close to ex-Provost MacCowan, and you can instantly sense his protest, that he would rather be a barrowman in Gaelic land than a cup-bearer to Pharaoh. He, together with that momentous conclave, received from heaven the meridian radiance

of a poet's vision. Their lips must have been touched by the wild honey of Tir-nan-Og, for we can readily paraphrase the impulse of their heart, which is also a message: "Expect of us to-day what we should deem worthy for a coming generation to receive!"

We also remember the inestimable services which that peer of patriots, Lord Archibald Campbell, rendered to An Comunn in its infancy. John Campbell, the first secretary is gone to Tir-nan-Og, that isle, which, as the Gaelic tale describes it, spreads large to the sun like a beautiful dream of the soul; where distance fades not on the sight; where nearness fatigues not the eye. It had its gently sloping hills of green; nor did they wholly want their clouds. But the clouds were bright and transparent; and each cloud involved in its bosom the source of a stream—a beauteous stream, which, wandering down the steep, was like the faint notes of the half-touched harp to the distant ear. The valleys were open, and free to the ocean; trees, loaded with leaves, which scarcely waved to the light breeze, were scattered on the green declivities and rising grounds. The rude winds walked not on the mountain; no storm took its course in the sky. All was calm and bright. The pure sun of autumn shone from his blue sky on the fields. He hastened not to his repose in the west, nor was he seen to rise in the east. He sits in his mid-day height and looks obliquely on the *Noble Isle*. On the rising hill are the halls of the departed—the high-roof dwellings of the heroes of old.

But Buachail'-Eite is yonder, and Lora croons those self-same notes which Ossian answered in his moods of sorrow; while Oban is enwrapt with a multitude of associations, that come trooping on the memory like the pursuivants of a tangible promise. And so we think of it this moment as when Alice MacDonell of Keppoch, under similar conditions indited her beautiful stanzas thirty-three years ago:

Sweet gem of the highlands, embowered in the mountains,
Bright shine the lights that encircle thy bay;
Float pennant and flag, in thy waters reflected,
Fair Oban, thy shores are much honoured to-day.

An Comunn was thus launched as the salvage department of our national ethics; so the Mòd is the strong-box and guard-room of the Gaelic soul. And they who are enlightened culturally, believe that this Gaelic soul carries a latent divinity, which must not be divorced from its native

element, but wisely instructed and nurtured. Let us, therefore, be apprehensive that, in our fetish for certain forms of modern education, we do not crucify the spiritual magnetism of racial instincts. For, according to Gibbon (a safe enough guide, you will admit), there is a manifest connection between the language and manners of a country. The world of culture loves its Shakespeare. But let us hear what Professor Morley says: "But for early, frequent, and various contacts with the race that produced Ossian, and the quickened northern blood of France, Germanic England would have not produced a Shakespeare." Professor Morley's criticism can be supported by others equally outstanding in the regions of talent and research.

"Preserving the Gaels in a body," wrote the great Dr. Donald Macpherson, over a hundred years ago, "is the only means of preserving their character from degeneration." "Nature respects race, and not hybrids," says the author of "Fragments of Races." "Every race has its own habitat. Detach a colony from the race, and it deteriorates to the crab." The activities of An Comunn, then, are fulfilling a service outside the borders of its people by conserving the remnant of those who carried deep our world to nobler depths, and enlarged the spiritual meaning of our thoughts.

And light of heaven! there is waiting in this very gathering at the moment a latent vitalising force, which, when roused to its potential limits—be the form what it may—will re-create Cuchullin in his mystic chariot, or mounting to his terrace on the clouds, kilt the rainbow about his loins, and proclaim a new message to the sons of men. They, then, who will not help the weak, and those things that are worthy in the culture and art of our people, are not, and can never be, the friends of the beloved Callum-Cille.

The space at our disposal does not permit the recapitulation of the various descriptive accounts that have already appeared in some detail in the leading journals of the country. We feel, however, that special emphasis ought to be laid upon the address delivered at the official opening of the Mod by Mr. R. Montgomery, the President of the American Iona Society. Mr. Montgomery expressed his gratification at being present at the Gaelic Mod. He had never till now visited Scotland, although his ancestors on both sides hailed from the

land of Bruce and Wallace. He narrated how as a consequence of the visit of Mr. Angus Robertson to the United States, a group of prominent citizens formed a Committee in America to assist the Highland Association of Scotland in preserving the Gaelic language and culture through the building of an institution of learning. Before Mr. Robertson had come back to Scotland, the membership of that Committee had increased, and included men of prominence who would not care to be identified with a movement which did not commend itself to their better judgment. It was decided to put their organisation on a permanent basis, and they applied to the Regents of the University of the State of New York to grant them a charter, that they might function in a proper and ordinary manner. This Charter was granted, incorporating the American Iona Society for the establishment of a centre of Gaelic culture to be located in Scotland.

They were moving cautiously in order to avoid unnecessary mistakes. They were aiming at increasing the membership, and then they would begin their publicity work through the Press and other channels. In other words, they had not yet opened their financial campaign; but the preliminary work went on without a halt.

The American Society was composed of American citizens, many of whom had not a drop of Scottish blood in their veins. They were prompted to show their appreciation of what Scotland had done for the better elements of American civilization. At the very least then believed that their plans, when carried to fruition, would tend to promote international goodwill. They were well aware in America that the Scottish Universities rank among the best in the world, and they would be glad to co-operate with them in every way possible. Their desire was not to establish a university of conventional type, but one that would meet the special needs of that area which stretches from Shetland to Argyll. It would stress the useful arts, so that a larger population might be able to live on their native soil in greater comfort. It required two prominent traits of character to undertake and complete the task the American Iona Society had in their mind, viz.: Courage and Perseverance. When he stated that their Society was composed of American citizens, he neglected to state that Mr. Robertson was very careful to see that it included some men with Scottish blood in their veins, knowing as he did they could always count on a Scotsman for these two sterling qualities.

Prize-List.

JUNIOR SECTION.

TUESDAY.

LITERATURE.

Adjudicators—Mr. Donald MacLeod, H.M.I.S., Edinburgh; Rev. Gillespie Campbell, Muckairn; Mr. D. M. Murray, M.A., Alexandria; Mr. George Thomson, M.A., Glasgow; Mr. Alex. Thomson, Glasgow.

Letter, not exceeding two pages of large post quarto paper, supplied by An Comunn on application to the Secretary, on a simple subject chosen from a list sent under sealed cover, to be opened by the Local Examiner after places have been taken for the Competition. The letters are to be written in the presence of the Schoolmaster or Teacher, and the Local Examiner, both of whom must endorse each paper as a guarantee that the conditions have been complied with. The time to be taken is not to exceed two hours. Prizes—1st, 10s.; 2nd, 7s. 6d.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 3s. 6d.; 5th, 2s. 6d.; 6th, 2s. 6d. 1 (equal), Jeannie MacLachlan, Tobermory H.G. School, and Dugald Carmichael, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Christina MacSween, Oban High School; 4, John Fletcher, Broadford Public School; 5, Mary MacInnes, Broadford Public School; 6, Allan Cameron, Tobermory H.G. School.

Writing from Dictation of an unfamiliar Piece of Prose, slowly read by the Teacher or other competent person. Subject to the same conditions and limitations as No. 1 above. Prizes—1st, 10s.; 2nd, 7s. 6d.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 2s. 6d. 1, Dugald Carmichael, Tobermory; 2, Christina MacPherson, Oban; 3, Margaret MacLean, Broadford; 4, Christina MacSween, Oban.

Reproduction in Writing of an unfamiliar Piece of Prose, to be read three times in the hearing of the competitors. Subject to the same conditions and limitations as No. 1, above. Prizes—1st, 10s.; 2nd, 7s. 6d.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 2s. 6d.; 5th, 2s. 6d. 1, Catherine M. Robertson, Broadford; 2, John Fletcher, Broadford; 3, Dugald Carmichael, Tobermory; 4, Katie Fletcher, Broadford; 5, Christina MacSween, Oban High School.

Special Prizes for Teachers—(a) A first, second and third prize of £3, £2 and £1, respectively, will be given to the Teachers whose pupils win the highest average of marks in the foregoing Competitions, Nos. 1 to 3. (b) A first, second and third prize of £3, £2 and £1 respectively, will be given to the Teachers whose Pupils win the highest aggregate marks in the foregoing Competitions, Nos. 1 to 3. In estimating the aggregate, the papers of pupils earning less than 50 per cent. of marks will be excluded. Aggregate—1, Broadford—John MacPherson, M.A., Broadford; 2, Oban—Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School; 3, Tobermory—Miss Mary A. MacCallum, M.A., Tobermory. Average—1, Tobermory—Miss Mary A. MacCallum, M.A.; 2, Oban—Miss M. D. MacQueen; 3, Broadford—John MacPherson, M.A.

Translation of an unseen Piece of Gaelic Prose into English. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s.; 4th, 7s. 6d.; 5th, 5s. 1, Lachlan MacLean, Oban High School; 2, John MacDougall, Oban High School; 3, Calum Iain N. MacLeod, Kirkhill; 4 (equal), Anuie MacLean, Portree H.G. School, and Mary MacRae, Portree H.G. School.

Translation of an unseen piece of English Prose into Gaelic. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s.; 4th, 7s. 6d. 1, Mary MacLuttre, Oban; 2, John

MacDougall, Oban; 3 (equal), Lachlan MacLean, Oban, and Mary MacRae, Portree.

Gaelic Essay. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s.; 4th, 7s. 6d. 1, Mary MacRae, Portree; 2, John MacDougall, Oban; 3, Annie MacLean, Portree; 4, Islay S. Macmillan, Oban.

Translation of Gaelic idioms into their English equivalents. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s.; 4th, 7s. 6d. 1, John MacDougall, Oban; 2, John Fletcher, Broadford; 3, Sarah Macdonald, Oban; 4 (equal), Lachlan MacLean, Oban, and Peggy MacKinnon, Broadford.

Gaelic Essay (Boys) on the life of Abraham. This competition is confined to Juniors between the ages of 12 and 16 years. Prizes—1st, £3 and Gaelic Bible; 2nd, £2 and Gaelic Bible. Prizes presented by Mrs. Stewart, Simla, India. 1, Calum Iain N. MacLeod, Kirkhill.

Gaelic Essay (Girls)—Subject and conditions same as for boys. Prizes—1st, £3 and Gaelic Bible; 2nd, £2 and Gaelic Bible. Prizes presented by Mrs. Stewart, Simla. 1, Mary MacAskill, Oban High School; 2, Peggy MacKinnon, Broadford.

Writing an Essay of from three to four pages (foolscap) on a set subject. This competition is open to pupils in Intermediate and Secondary Schools irrespective of age. Prizes—1st, "Poems of Alexander MacDonald" and Certificate; 2nd, Sinclair's "Oranaiche" and Certificate; 3rd, "Clarsach an Doire" and Certificate. Special prizes may be given for essays of particular merit outwith the prize list. 1, Lachlan MacLean, Oban 2 (equal), Sarah MacDonald, Oban, and Hugh MacAskill, Portree.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Small Hall.

Adjudicators—Mr. Alexr. Thomson, Glasgow; Miss Lucy Cameron, Glasgow.

Reading with Expression a Piece of Prose or Poetry by Native Speakers. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 2s. 6d.; 5th, 2s. 6d. 1, Alasdair Macdonald, Tobermory; 2, Lachlan Maclean, Tobermory; 3, Donaldina MacPhee, Oban High School; 4, Duncan Campbell, Oban High School; 5, Mary MacMaster, Drimnin.

Reading with Expression a Piece of Prose or Poetry by Learners. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 2s. 6d.; 5th, 2s. 6d. 1, Jack Hughes, Tobermory; 2, Aldra Macdonald, Tobermory; 3, Neil Macleod, Oban High School; 4, Morag Ferguson, Minard; 5, Euphemia Maclean, Oban High School.

Reading at Sight an unfamiliar Prose Piece chosen by the Judges. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s.; 4th, 2s. 6d.; 5th, 2s. 6d. Open to all. 1, Christina Macpherson, Oban High School; 2, Christina MacSween, Oban High School; 3, Mary MacMaster, Drimnin; 4, Mary MacAskill, Oban High School; 5, Flora Macdonald, Oban High School.

Reciting from Memory "Am Bothan Beag" (D. MacKechnie). Prizes—1st, 15s. and a copy of MacDougall's "Folk Tales"; 2nd, 10s. and a copy of same book; 3rd, a copy of MacDougall's "Folk Tales." Prizes presented by Miss Malt Williams, W. Wales. 1, Peggy Lowe, Tobermory; 2 (equal), Susan Brown, Luin, and Annie S. MacLellan, Greenock.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, to be followed by conversation on the subject of the narrative, between the competitors and the adjudicators. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. Open to all. 1, Sheenac Cameron, Tobermory; 2nd, Mary MacMaster, Drimnin; 3, Alasdair Macdonald, Tobermory.

Dunollie Road U.F. Hall.

Adjudicator—Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S., Inverness.

For Excellence in Gaelic Conversation, for Boys and Girls. Prizes—1st, 12s. 6d.; 2nd, 7s. 6d. Presented by Miss Malt Williams, W. Wales. 1, Alasdair Macdonald, Drimnin; 2, Alexandra Macmaster, Drimnin.

Conversation between Judges and Competitors on any lesson in Reader III. (Blackie's). Prizes. 1st, £1; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. Presented by Miss Malt Williams, W. Wales. 1, Christina MacSween, Oban High School; 2, Christina Macpherson, Oban High School; 3, Mary MacMaster, Drimnin.

For children under 12 years of age. Boys. Repeating the 96th prose Psalm or first 18 verses of Chapter 10 of St. John's Gospel. Prizes—1st, £1 10s. and Gaelic Bible; 2nd, 15s. and Gaelic Bible; 3rd, 10s. and Gaelic Bible. Prizes from Mrs. Stewart, Simla. 1, Jack Hughes, Tobermory; 2 and 3 (equal), John Bell, Oban High School, and Alister MacInnes, Ballachulish.

Girls. Same as previous competition. 1 and 2 (equal), Margaret Vance, Ballachulish, and Peggy Lowe, Tobermory; 3, Janet Macgill, Greenock.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Large Hall.

Adjudicators—Rev. Donald Lamont, M.A., Blair Atholl, and Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh. Accompanist—Miss Jenny MacCulloch.

Traditional Singing of an unpublished Gaelic Song. No instrumental accompaniment. Prizes—1st, 10s.; 2nd, 6s.; 3rd, 4s.; Prizes presented by Miss Malt Williams, W. Wales. 1, Iain MacGillivray, Connel; 2, Miss Morag MacLellan, Greenock; 3, Emma Brown, Yorkhill.

Solo singing of a Song. Girls. Prescribed Songs—"Mo Chubhrachan" and "An na h-oige." Prizes—1st, £1 and Silver Medal of An Comunn; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. 1, Morag MacLellan, Greenock; 2, Chrissie Maclean, Ibrox; 3, Margaret I. Macdonald, Firhill.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys. Prescribed Songs—"Braith Rusgaich" and "Moladh na Lanndaigh." Prizes 1st, £1 and Silver Medal of An Comunn; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. 1, Alasdair M. Cameron, Port Glasgow; 2, Iain Macgillivray, Connel; 3, Neil Maclean, Pennyghael.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without Chorus, in two-part harmony. Prizes—1st, £5, retention for a year of Mrs. Miller's trophy, and a baton to the Conductor; 2nd, £3. 1, Rothesay Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Choir (b).

Unison Singing Competition for Junior Choirs. Songs prescribed—"Foghnan na h-Alba," "Gur h-e mo run na gillean," and "Puir a Beul." Prizes—1st, £3; 2nd, £2. 1, Rothesay Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Luig Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without chorus, in three-part harmony. The prescribed songs, "Cruinnichibh Cruinn" (test song), and "Chluinn mi na h-eoin," supplied by the Secretary. Choirs had also to prepare a song of their own choice, in two or three-part harmony. At least 50 per cent. of the members must be able to converse in the Gaelic language. Prizes—1st, £5, retention for a year of the "Oban Times" Challenge Trophy, and a baton to the Conductor; 2nd, £3. 1, Oban High School Junior Choir (a); 2, Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Choir.

St. Columba Church Hall.

Adjudicators—Mr. Hector MacDougall, Glasgow, and Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., Glasgow. Accompanist—Mr. Julian Nesbitt, A.T.C.L.

Solo Singing of a Song. Girls. Songs prescribed—"Toir m'ghaidh ri Diura" and "O teamaibh dluth." Prizes—1st, 15s.; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. Prizes presented by the Glasgow High School Ceilidh. 1, Veronica Smart, Rothesay; 2, Agnes Young, Whitehouse; 3, Mary Campbell, Connel.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys. Songs prescribed—"Muile nam Mor-bheann" and "Cruchan Beann." Prizes—1st, 15s.; 2nd, 10s.; 3rd, 5s. Prizes presented by the Glasgow High School Ceilidh. 1, Norman Keay, Aberfeldy; 2, Iain D. MacCallum, Barendine; 3 (equal), Robert Sinclair, Minard, and John Miller, Fort William.

Duet Singing of the Song, "Fath mo mhulaid i bhi thall." Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. 1, Tina Macgregor, Ardrishaig, and C. Brown, Ardrishaig; 2, Colin Munro, Letterwood, and Alex. Munro, Letterwood.

Duet Singing of the Song, "Soiridh." Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. 1, Neil Ross, Maryhill, and Miss Margt. I. Macdonald, Firhill; 2, Miss Annie S. MacLellan, Greenock, and Miss Catherine Mackinnon, Greenock.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys and Girls. Open only to former first prize winners (learners and native speakers). Songs prescribed—"Bruthaichean Ghlinn Braoin," and "Eilean mo Ghaol." Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. 1, Sarah A. Macdonald, Firhill; 2, Neil Ross, Maryhill.

Solo Singing of a Song. Open to Girls over 16 years and under 18 years of age at the date of the Mod. Prizes—1st, £1 5s.; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s. 1, Nan Greenshields, Lochgilhead; 2, Miss Peggy Macinnes, Oban.

SENIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Adjudicators—Rev. Colin Macpherson, M.A., Glencoe Rev. G. Mackenzie, M.A., Kilmore; Mr. John Macpherson, M.A., Broadford; Miss M. D. MacQueen, Oban High School; Rev. John Macinnes, M.A., Connel; and Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S., Inverness.

A Gold Pendant for most distinguished Prize Winner in Literary Competitions. Former winners debarred. Poem on any subject. Prizes—1st, Chaplet; 2nd, £5. 1, Calum Macrae, Glasgow; 2, Norman Macphail, Glasgow.

Essay on "The Gaelic Hymn Writers." Prize—£5. 1, Norman Macleod, Golspie.

One Short Story, not exceeding 500 words. Prize—£2 2s. 1, John MacCormack, F.S.A. (Scot.), Glasgow; 2, Duncan Johnston, Islay.

Gaelic Story, extending to 2000 words or more. The tale may be based on actual historical incidents or local legends. Prize—£5. Prize presented by the Gaelic Society of Glasgow. John Macfadyen.

Gaelic Dialogue. Prize—£5. "Archibald MacCulloch Memorial." Prize presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal. 1, John MacCormick, Glasgow; 2, John Macfadyen, Corkerhill.

Translation into Gaelic of selected English Prose Piece. Prize—£5, by Mr. Robert Macmillan. 1, John MacCormick, Glasgow; 2, Rev. A. D. Maclean, B.D., Ardour.

Essay on any Subject. Prize—£5. 1, John MacCormick, Glasgow; 2, Kenneth Macdonald, Contin.

Gaelic Story, extending to 2000 words or more. The tale may be based on actual historical incidents or local legends. Prize—£5. Prize presented by the Gaelic Society of Glasgow. 1, John MacCormick; 2, Kenneth MacDonald.

WEDNESDAY.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Adjudicators—Gaelic, Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S., and Rev. D. Lamont, M.A., Music, Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., and Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac.

Solo Singing of a Song, confined to members of recognised Shinty Clubs. Prizes—1st, £2 10s.; 2nd, £1 10s.; 3rd, £1. Presented by Mr. Hugh MacCuig, Oban. 1, Ewen MacKenzie, Ballachulish; 2 (equal), Archd. Baxter, Colntraive, and James C. MacPhee, Glasgow.

Oban and Lorn Association War Commemoration Medal (Open), for the best rendering of one of the following songs by Lorn bards, "Morair Ghlinn Urchaidh" (Donnachadh Bàn), "Bìdh fonn oirre doannan" (James Shaw), "S cianail mi bho'n dh'fhalbh an Comunn" (John MacIntyre). (Mod Booklet III.). Prizes—1st, Gold Badge and £1; 2nd, £2. Presented by the Glasgow, Oban and Lorn Association. 1, Alex. F. MacLennan, Abriachan; 2, Miss Nan MacInnes, Luìng.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song connected with the County of Inverness, to be known as the "James Grant Memorial" Prize. Open. Prizes—1st, £2 10s.; 2nd, £1 10s.; 3rd, £1. 1, Miss Nan MacInnes, Luìng; 2, Alex. MacRae, London; 3, Miss Mary MacColl, Ardour.

Gaelic Folk Songs. For the best rendering of two unpublished Gaelic Folk Song Airs. No pianoforte accompaniment allowed in this Competition. Prizes—1st, £1 10s.; 2nd, 10s. 1, James C. MacPhee, Glasgow; 2, John MacDonald, Lismore.

Solo Singing of one of three songs by the late Captain Anderson. The songs prescribed are—"Oran do Liosmor," "Oran Bàta," or "Caipèan Calum Mac-Thorcadail." Prizes, 1st, £2 10s.; 2nd, £1 10s.; 3rd, £1. Presented by Captain Colin Campbell, Ardrossan. 1, Miss Mary Campbell, Easdale; 2, Miss Janet MacPhail, Luìng; 3 (equal), Miss Mary Colquhoun, Glasgow, and Miss Nan MacInnes, Luìng.

THURSDAY.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Small Hall.

Adjudicators—Rev. Donald Lamont, M.A.; Mr. John A. Nicolson, M.A.

Recitation of the Poem, "Aitealan o'n Iar" (MacFadyen), memorised by competitor. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. Open to all. 1, Hugh MacInnes, Duror; 2, Duncan MacCowan, Luìng.

Recitation of the Prose Piece, "Sealladh o mhallach beinne an Earraghaidheal" (Caraid nan Gaidheal). Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. Open to all. 1, Duncan MacCowan, Luìng; 2, John Cameron, Tobermory.

Reading of an unfamiliar Piece of Prose chosen by the Judges. Prizes—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s. Open to all. 1, John Cameron, Tobermory; 2, Duncan MacCowan, Luìng.

Recitation of a Piece of Original Poetry specially composed by the Competitor. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. 1, Calum MacPharlin, Elderslie; 2 (equal), D. B. Fletcher, Morven, and Duncan MacNiven, Islay.

Ancient Folk Tale, preferably unpublished, narrated in the traditional style. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. 1, Peter Fletcher, Oban; 2, Duncan MacCowan, Luìng.

For the Best Prepared Original Gaelic Speech on any subject, not to exceed 10 minutes in delivery. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. 1, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; 2, Miss Jess H. Ferguson, Morven.

Best Acted Dialogue by Two Performers. The words may be selected from any published Gaelic work, or may be specially composed. Not to exceed 15 minutes in delivery. Prizes—1st, £3; 2nd, £2; 3rd, £1. 1, Peter Fletcher and Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; 2, Miss M. Campbell and Miss M. Gillespie, Easdale.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Large Hall.

Adjudicators—Gaelic, Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S.; Music, Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac.

Solo Singing of a Song. Female Voices. Confined to Members of An Comunn Gaidhealach, its Branches, and Affiliated Societies. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. Former gold medallists and first-prize winners for singing excluded. 1, Miss Peggy S. Campbell, Rutherglen; 2, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardour.

Solo Singing of a Song. To encourage the revival of the older or less-known district songs. Prizes—1st, £2 5s.; two second prizes of 15s. each; and three 3rd prizes of 10s. each. Prizes presented by Mrs. Ryan, Roy Bridge. 1, John D. MacPherson, Ballachulish; 2 (equal), Miss Nancy MacDonald, Oban, and Gilbert MacPhail, Islay; 3 (equal), George Sutherland, Glasgow; Miss Johan MacInnes, Breakish, and John MacDonald, Lismore.

A Competition for Seniors in Solo Singing of "Puir à Beul." Prizes (conditionally on sufficient number of competitors entering)—1st, £1 10s.; 2nd, 15s.; 3rd, 10s. 1, Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilthead; 2, Miss Cath. M. Clark, Glasgow; 3, Gilbert MacPhail, Islay.

Solo Singing of the Oran-mor "Marbhrann do Choinneal Iain Camashron." Female Voices. Mod Booklet III. "The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize," £2 10s. Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardour.

St. Columba Church Hall.

Adjudicators—Mr. Hector MacDougall, Glasgow; Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., Glasgow.

Solo Singing. Male Voices. Competitors are confined in the choice of a song to the following. Either of these may be chosen by the competitor. The songs are "Mo run gael dileas," and "A Mhairi Bhàn gur barrail thu." 1st, Gold Medal, Alex. F. MacLennan, Abriachan; 2nd, £5, Roderick MacLeod, Anstruther; 3rd, £3, Gilbert MacPhail, Islay.

Choral Singing of the Songs "Chluinn mi na h-eoin," and "Thug mi gaol do'n fhear bhàn." (A Choisir Chiuil, pp. 28 and 68). Confined to Choirs from Rural Districts, excluding towns of more than 2000 of a population. Prizes—1st, £6; 2nd, £4. Oban Branch of An Comunn. 3rd, £2. Mrs. MacAulay, Oban. 1, Killin Gaelic Choir; 2, Fortingall Gaelic Choir.

Solo Singing of a Song. Male Voices. Confined to Members of An Comunn Gaidhealach, its Branches and Affiliated Societies. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. Former gold medallists and first-prize winners for singing excluded. 1, Dan MacDonald, Glencoe; 2, Robert Shaw, Jura.

Solo Singing of a Song with Clarsach accompaniment. Prizes—1st, £3; 2nd, £2; 3rd, £1. Prizes presented by Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds). 1, Miss Mary M. Colquhoun, Glasgow.

For the Best Rendering of a Song from Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides." Male and Female voices. Competitors must prepare the two following songs—"Binne Bheul" and "We will go a-sailing." Prizes—1st, "Song of the Hebrides," vol. III.; 2nd, "Songs of the Hebrides," vol. III. (paper cover). Presented by Mrs. Kennedy Fraser. 1, Roderick MacLeod, Anstruther; 2, Miss Jane Gallagher, Kirn.

Solo Singing of the Oran-mor "Oisean is Malmhin." Male Voices. Mod Booklet III. "The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize," £2 10s. 1, Alex. F. MacLennan, Abriachan; 2, George A. Sutherland, Glasgow.

Solo Singing. Female Voices. Competitors are confined in the choice of a song to the following. Any one of these may be chosen by the competitor. The songs are "Fhir a dhreas an bealach," "An gille dubh cha treig mi" and "Se mo cheist an gille donn." 1st, Gold Medal, Miss Nan MacInnes, Luing; 2nd, £5, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardgor; 3rd, £3, Miss Margaret Cameron, Inverness.

FRIDAY.

Adjudicators—Gaelic, Rev. Donald Lamont, M.A.; Music, Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac.

Quartette Singing of the Song, "Cruchan Beann." Male Voices only. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. Presented by the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir. 1, "Aeolian" Quartette, Edinburgh; 2, Bowmore Quartette, Islay.

Duet Singing of a Song. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. 1, Miss Anna J. Steven and Ernest G. MacIntosh, Edinburgh; 2, Miss Nancy MacDonald and Alex. Macmaster, Oban.

Quartette Singing of a Song. Mixed Voices. (S.A.T.B.). Competitors to prepare two songs of their own choice, either or both of which they may be asked to sing. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1. 1, London Gaelic Quartette; 2, Ossian Quartette, Edinburgh.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without Chorus, in three or four-part harmony. Male Voices only. The two songs prescribed are "Thug mi 'n oidhche raoir sunndach" and "Tha 'n cota deas aig Ruairidh" (arranged by T. S. Drummond). Prize—£5. A second prize of £3 will be given if three or more choirs compete. 1, Ballachulish Male Voice Choir; 2, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of the Song, "An Gille Guanach" in three-part harmony, arr. by T. S. Drummond, and "An Cronan Muileach" in unison. Female Voices only. Prize—£5. A second prize of £3 will be given if three or more choirs compete. 1, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song in four-part harmony. Mixed Voices. The songs prescribed are "S neo shunndach leam m'aigne" and "Mi 'n shuidhe 'm onar" (Coisir a' Mhoid). Choirs entering this competition must not be composed of any of the members who have passed the Gaelic test for 50 per cent. Gaelic speakers in Competition 60. Prizes—1st, £5; 2nd, £3. 1, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without Chorus, in four-part harmony. The songs prescribed are "Gael na h-Oighe" (test song), "Fallan 's gun dith" (Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac.) and "Och nan och tha mi fo mhulad" (J. N. MacConochie). Prizes—1st, £15, retention for one year of the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, and a baton to the Choir Conductor; 2nd, £10; 3rd, £5. Choirs must consist to the extent of at least 50 per cent. of Gaelic speakers. 1, Oban Gaelic Choir; 2, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 3, London Gaelic Choir.

St. Columba Church Hall.

Adjudicators—Gaelic, Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S.; Music, Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac., and Pipe-Major Wm. Ferguson.

Solo Singing of a Song. Female Voices. Open only to former Mod gold medallists, and first-prize winners for singing. Prize—£3. Miss Molly Campbell, Oban.

Solo Singing of a Song. Male Voices. Open only to former Mod gold medallists, and first-prize winners

for singing. Prize—£3. Stewart MacInnes, Inverness.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey and Reel, on the Pianoforte. Competitors to submit the names of three Marches, three Strathspeys and three Reels, from which the Judges will make a choice. The March will be played twice, and the Strathspey and Reel thrice each, or otherwise as the Judges may direct. The playing of the Strathspeys and Reels is to be preceded by the March. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1 3rd, 10s. This competition is confined strictly to amateurs. 1, Miss Janet MacColl, Riddrie; 2, Miss J. C. MacDonald, Portree; 3, Miss A. J. Carmichael, Taynuilt.

Playing of Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey and Reel on the Violin. Competitors to submit the names of three Song Airs, three Strathspeys and three Reels, from which the Judges will make a choice. The Song Air to be played twice, and the Strathspey and Reel thrice each, or otherwise as the Judges may direct. Confined to amateurs. Prizes—1st, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10s. 1, Alastair B. Kerr, Kinbuck; 2, Robert Gillies, Ardrishaig; 3, John M. Macpherson, London

SUTHERLAND PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Second Provincial Mod for the County of Sutherland was held at Lairg, on Friday, 10th September. The number of competitors forward showed a big advance on the previous year, and the quality of the oral and vocal work showed much improvement. Mr. Hugh MacLean and Miss Margrat Duncan did good work in preparing individuals and choirs. There was a large attendance of the general public during the day's proceedings. The concert in the evening was presided over by the Duke of Sutherland, and Lady Millicent Hawes presented the prizes. There was a huge attendance, and great interest was taken in the whole proceedings.

Prize-List.

JUNIOR SECTION.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading with expression a Piece of Poetry of not less than sixteen and not more than twenty-four lines, chosen by the Competitors—1, Miss Annie Stewart, Durness; 2, Miss Alexandrina MacKenzie, Laird; 3, Miss Marion Betsy MacKay, Laird.

Reciting from Memory "Am Bothan Beag"—1, Miss Annie Stewart, Durness; 2, Miss Catherine M. MacDonald, Laird; 3, Miss Alexandrina MacKenzie, Laird.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song—Girls—"Mo Chùbh-rachan" or "Crodh Chaillein"—1, Miss Jessie Campbell, Durness; 2, Miss Catherine MacKenzie, Tongue; 3, Miss Jessie MacKay (Roy), Embo.

Solo Singing of a Song—Boys—"Hé 'n' clo-dubh" or "Moladh na Lannaidh"—1, John Angus Morrison, Durness; 2, Allan MacDonald Gilmour, Rosehall; 3, Christopher Campbell, Durness.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—Song composed by local bard of the district, whether published or unpublished—1, Miss Jessie Campbell, Durness; 2, John Angus Morrison, Durness; 3, Miss Catherine MacKenzie, Tongue.

Duet Singing of a Song chosen by the Competitors—Voices may consist of Two Girls, Two Boys, or a Boy and a Girl—1, Miss Jessie Campbell and John Angus Morrison, Durness; 2, Miss Bessie Stewart and Christopher Campbell, Durness.

Choral Singing in Two-Part Harmony of "Tir nam Beann Ard" and "An t-Alltan"—1, Durness; 2, Lairg; 3, Embo.

Unison Singing of "Oran Se'lge" and "Puirt á Beul"—1, Tongue; 2 (equal), Brora, Durness, and Lairg.

SENIOR SECTION.

LITERATURE.

Poem or Song on any subject composed by Competitor, not exceeding 50 lines—To be sent to Hon. Secretary not later than 19th June—1, Norman MacLeod Collins, Golspie.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight of an unfamiliar Piece of Prose to be chosen by the Judges—1, Mrs Johan Campbell, Durness; 2, Anthony MacKay, Golspie; 3, J. A. MacKay, Golspie.

Recitation of Rob Donn's "'S aonarach a tha mi 'm bliadhna"—1, Robert G. MacKay, Laird; 2, Miss Betty Donald, Golspie; 3, Anthony MacKay, Golspie.

Reading of a Piece of Prose chosen by the Competitor—1, Mrs Johan Campbell, Durness; 2, Anthony MacKay, Golspie; 3, Robert G. MacKay, Laird.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song—Female Voices—Competitors own choice of Song—1, Miss Jessie B. MacKay, Tongue; 2, Miss MacKenzie, Dornoch; 3, Miss Annie MacDonald, Golspie.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male Voices—Competitors own choice of Song—1, George MacKay, Durness; 2, James MacKay, Rogart; 3, David MacKay, Tongue.

Solo Singing of a Song composed by local bard of the district, whether published or unpublished—1, Miss Jessie B. MacKay, Tongue; 2, Mrs Munro, Tongue; 3, G. S. Campbell, Durness.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male or Female Voices—Competitors to sing their choice of the three songs prescribed, "Mo ngeihan chruinn donn," "An gille dubh, ciar dubh," and "Cumha do Huistein Mac Aoidh"—1, Miss Jessie B. MacKay, Tongue; 2, David MacKay, Tongue; 3, G. S. Campbell, Durness.

Duet Singing of a Song—Same conditions as Junior Section—1, Miss Jessie B. MacKay and Mrs Munro, Tongue.

Choral Singing in Unison of the Songs, "Màiri Bhàn Og" and "Creag Ghuanach"—1, Golspie; 2 (equal), Rogart and Tongue; 3, Durness.

INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

(Open to all ages, and confined to amateurs.)

Bagpipes—Playing of March, Strathspey, and Reel—Each tune to be played twice—1, John

MacKay, Strath Halladale; 2, Robert George MacKay, Laird.

Violin—Playing of a Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey, and Reel—Each tune to be played twice—1, John MacGregor, Dornoch; 2, John Ross, Brora.

DONATION TO FUNDS OF "AN GAIDHEAL."

Mr. J. G. MacKay, of London, has very generously sent a cheque for £5 as a donation to the funds of "An Gaidheal." Mr MacKay's name is already known to our readers as the able translator of several of Campbell of Islay's unpublished Gaelic tales, which appeared from time to time in our columns.

NAIDHEACHD AS AN DUN.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig ceart gu leòir!

Tha iomadh barail air a tabhairt seachad a tha faoin, agus tha iomadh beachd air a sgrìobhadh slos nach eil fìor.

An uair a sgrìobh Tormod Cridheil, mac Charaid nan Gàidheal, gun d'fhalbh gair-eachdaich na cloinne, deagh-chridhealas nam bodach agus na laithean sona "air ite as A' Mhorbhairm" cha robh e ceart idir. Nam biodh an duine tlachdmhor maille ruinn an diugh chitheadh e gu bheil clann Na Morbhairne ri nìreadh fhathast—gu bheil iad a' seinn luinneagan na dùthcha cho binn agus cho eòl-mhor agus a sheinn braithrean agus peathraichean a athar fhéin, an uair a bha iad uile còmhla am Fionn Airigh—gu bheil Alasdair Mór agus na mic theurna, eireachdail aige cho sùrdail agus cho sunndach agus a bha Fionnlagh Plobaire agus Donnchadh Mór riamh (gun tighinn idir air Pàra Mór bochd no air Lachann brònach nan Ceist!)—agus gun danns Donnchadh Mac a' Bhìceair agus Caitriona Camshron, agus Hughie Sinclair agus Ina, Ruidhle Thulachain le uiread shùgraidh agus dealais agus bu chaomh leis fhàicinn!

Agus is ann mar so a tha e ann an Dùn an so (Dùn Bheagain) mar an ceudna—tha a' Ghàidhlig cho glan, slàn agus fìnealta agus a bha a ri linn Ruairidh Mhóir. Tha ceòl agus seinn ann cuideachd. Bha cuirm-chìbèil ann am feasgar roimhe, agus chaidh

a dhearbhadh dhuinn uile a bha a làthair gu bheil a' chanain cho beò agus a tha canain air bith air an t-saoghal.

Is i cuirm-chiùil air leth annasach agus éibhinn a bha innte: dìreach, cha mhór nach robh i na cèilidh eadarainn uile. Bha gach uile dhuine a bha ann cho càirdeil carantach ri chèile. Bha muinntir a' Chaisteil ann—Is e an Ridire Raonull agus a nìghean agus nìghean MhicLeòid agus am bàillidh, Iain MacCoinnich, a chuir a h-uile rud an uidheam. (Leis an airgid a chaidh a chruinneachadh bithidh biadh teth air a thabhairt do an chloinn anns an sgoil gach meadhan-latha ré a' gheamhraidh: nach gasd an gnàths so—cha b'fhuillear do gach sgìre an t-aon ni a dhèanamh, gu h-àraidh anns na sgìreachdan sin anns a bheil na tighean gu maith fada bho an sgoil.)

Bha Mairearad Dhonnchadh ann. Cò a leigeas di-chuimhne oirre no air na h-òrain a ghabh i? Nach robh cèò nan deur 'nar sùilibh an uair a bha i a' seinn Cha till, cha till, cha till MacCrimmon? Nach fhaca sinn Dòmhnall Bàn agus an leannan aige air leitr Chreig a' Chlachain an oidhche mu dheireadh sin? (Ach cò ise—an leannan so? A bheil fhios aig duine sam bith an diugh eadhon ciod è an t-ainm a bha oirre? An c Màiri a bha oirre—an saoil sibh? An robh a cuilean dualach, dubh-dhonn—no an robh i bàn agus cùin—an ribhinn so? Ach chan 'eil fios eadhon aig Miss Tolmie, agus tha eagal orm nach cluinn sinn a chàoidh a nis.)

An sin nach deachaidh sinn uile gus an leanaig anns an robh an crodh lahdunn, Gàidhealach an uair a bha Ealasaid Nic-Leòid, as An Ath Leathan, a' gabhail nan òran sin duinn anns am faca sinn na maighdeanan a' bleoghann a' chruidh, agus an dèidh sin a' toirt an ime as a' mhuidhe?

Thàinig Eleonora Camshron air chéilidh air a' chuideachd. Dh'éirich bean-an-tighe (bean Aonghuis MhicNeacail) agus chuir i fàilte oirre. Chan fhada an sin gus an robh teudan na clàrsaich air gheus. B'i a' bhean-ualas so agus bean-ualas eile, Mn. Toonie NicDhòmhnuill, Port Rìgh, a chruinnich an luchd-seinn ri chèile agus a thug a nall a' bhuidheann mhaighdeanail a fhuir an duais aig Mòd Phort Rìgh.

Bha fear-an-tighe (Aonghas MacNeacail, Port Rìgh) agus a bhean fìor ghasd, agus bha bodach éibhinn eile ann, Uilleam Mac-Neacail. Is e sean saighdear crùbach a bha ann. B'esan an sean fhleasgach gaisgeil agus b'i Leasidh Nic Rath a' mhaighdean a

ghoid a chridhe! Nach ise a tha tapaidh—agus nach ise a tha maith air Port-a-beul, air dannsadh, air seinn agus air beadradh! B'iad Leasidh, bean Iain Mhic an t-Saoir, Mima Friscale, Rodina Nic Phàrlain, Anna Nic Fhearghuis, Siùbhan Nic Dhubbghaill, Seònaid Màiri Jagger agus Anabla Nic Leòid a luaidh an t-aodach. Bha seinn, gnùis agus maise nam ban òga sin mealltach agus ionmhuinn. Is ann a tha e neònach nach robh Bana-Dhòmhnullach 'nam measg: bha té dhiùbh anabarrach bòidheach—thuir bean uasal Ostaig rium, agus sinn a' bruidhinn mu a dèimhinn, "Feumaidh gur i fuil nan Dòmhnallach a tha 'na cuislibh, cò dhiùbh!" Ach thàinig sonas air iomradh—oir dìreach air a' cheart mhionaid sin thàinig bean uasal òg a steach 'nar measg, agus is i Bana-Dhòmhnullach, a Sgìr Innis, a bha innte. Chluich i an fhiodhball, agus ghabh Dòmhnall Dòmhnallach, Port Rìgh, òrain ghasd dhuinn a bha tormanach agus nuallanach. Sheinn Cairtrona Seton Gordon òran na maighdinn-mara, Una Ghil Bhàn; bha Rosach òg, a Cille Mhuire, a' dannsadh, agus thug Alasdair MacAonghais agus Wolridge Gordon iomadh cuairt bhreagh as a' phìob, agus bha sinn uile air ar dòigh gu mòr; agus mur do shiubhail sinn bhuaithe sin tha sinn uile beò fhathast.

I. M., M.-P.

A GAELIC TRANSLATION.

Mr. John N. Macleod is about to publish a Gaelic translation of Martin's "Tour to the Hebrides." The book was originally published in English over two centuries ago, "at a time," as Professor Watson says in his foreword, "when the old customs and ways of thought were still strong; written, too, by an educated and observant Islesman, not by an outsider. It is a document of the utmost value and interest. Mr. J. N. Macleod is doing signal service in making it accessible to Gaelic readers, a task for which he has the special qualifications of being a very competent Gaelic writer, and an Islesman himself."

It is hoped that this Gaelic translation of Martin's unique work may be the means of stimulating the study of social and economic conditions in the Hebrides at a time when the stranger was not found within its gates.

A GAELIC GLOSSARY.

By RONALD BURN, Humanity Department, University, Glasgow.

blast (am): (1) the man, the fellow, *is*, *siòb* Glen Lyon (not known to Corrou or Str. Glass, Coll or Lochaber ns.), Robertson, n. No bad meaning whatsoever: a purely colourless semi-pronoun—v. béist. (2) that woman, *èkeach*: Tìree, Mrs. MacLeod, n. Almost, though not quite, colourless. No insult would be taken by her being so referred to, said Mrs. M. But MacDougall (Coll) says that the (in-)offensiveness would depend on the tone of voice. (3) a sprightly, lively lass: Coll, MacDougall, n. Cf. *balganta*, *ainmhide*, *sgliùrach*, *aotraman*. (4) term of endearment: Rannoch, heard from the lips of old native by my informant, *ἑποχρηστικός*: 's e *blast* laoghach a' tha ann. Cf. Journal of Philology 34.67, p. 9, where Ingram Bywater is said once to have murmured "a beastly dear friend." (5) an illegitimate chance-bairn: Gl. Quoich, Pths., Fisher, n. Common in glen. (6) a worm: Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n. Cf. *beustag* [boiteag, bacoiteag]. (7) of any animal, e.g. beetle whose precise name is unknown—cf. Scotch beastie: Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n. Cf. *biastag*.

biastag: (1) any insect, esp. crawling: earwig, centipede, etc.: Tìree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. *bratag*, *biast*, *piolan*, etc. (2) any worm, slug, etc., whose name is unknown (not of beetle, earwig, etc.); of insects without legs; a wee beastie: Coll, MacDougall, n.: not Tìree. Cf. *diùirdeag*. Also = bait-worm in Coll—cf. *beustag*, *boiteag*, *bacoiteag* (*sgiolag*).

biathadh: (1) act of spreading manure along drills, the feeding the furrows with dung: S. Uist, MacEachen and Bowie, ns.: cf. *uisgealadh*, *lagais*, *gìodan*, *innearadh*. Lochaber uses *sgaoileadh*. (2) act of baiting hook: S.U., MacE., n.; Tìree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Lewis, N. MacLeod, n. Also of feeding cow in S.U. (3) bait of any kind provided it be eatable by fish or land animal, edible bait (*masc.*): Coll, MacDougall, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.; S.U., MacE., n.; T., Mrs. MacL., n.; L., N. MacL., n.: cf. *biadh*, *maodh*, *fuidearag*, *baoid*, etc. Lengthened form of *biadh*?—cf. *ceathabhanach*. (4) act

of preparing bait for hook: S. Uist, MacEachen, n.: cf. *snòdachadh*.

bigein: chicken: Tìree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; S. Uist, not noted; Coll, MacDougall, n.; Jura, Neil Shaw, n.: cf. Dw. 4 and verse s.v. *sglopach* below (where b. = wee bird); cf. *biacaill*, *biodadh*.

bigein! to call chicks: Islay, Duncan Johnston, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.: cf. *blod!* diu-clag! *bhiodaidh!* Big! in Tìree, Coll, Lochaber, L. Ness W., Gruline, Gl. Lyon, big in Islay.

bin(n)id: (1) pig's stomach: L. Ness W., A. J. MacDonald, n.: also of the rennet made therefrom (cf. *bainne-binid*). (2) pig's, calf's, rabbit's, hen's stomach: Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.: cf. Dw. 2.

biod: (1) nest: B. an Fhithich on Mael Chinn Dearg range and opposite Ac'nan-gart, Gl. Shiel: Colin Campbell, head-keeper. (2) rabbit warren: same: cf. *rapaid*, *frith-rathad*, etc. Both considered bad Gaelic.

blod! cry to chickens: chookie! chookie! L. Ness W., A. J. MacDonald, n.: cf. *diugaidh!* *bigein!* diu-clag!

biodadh: baby girl: Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.: cf. *biodan*.

biodadh: a poor wee chookie: Abriachan, A. J. MacDonald, n.: e.g. *bhiodaidh bhochd* the chookie is hurt, *puir wee thingie*—hypocoristic word.

biodan: baby boy: Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.: cf. slang phrase funny little squirt [cf. *bod-saic*] and *biodadh*.

biòirne: (1) reel or bobbin of spinning wheel: Coll, MacDougall, n.: cf. *pirne*, *biuirne*, *téig*, *téic*, etc. (2) bought bobbin: same: (3) bought reel: same.

biòirnean: earthworms: Gl. Coe, Mrs. MacPherson, n., also *boiteagan*. Cf. *biastag*.

biòirne-snàth: reel or bobbin of spinning wheel: Coll, MacDougall, n.

biolarach: same as *lianaarach* (q.v.): long, narrow seaweed-like hay used for bedding in houses and imported (via Liverpool) to Glasgow—from Ireland? Coll, MacDougall, n.; Tìree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.: qs. cress-like tangle? Cf. *feamainn*, *gruagan*, *bracarra*, etc.

AN T-OICHEAR BAN.

Le IAIN MACCORMAIG, A'cheud duais, Mod 1925

CAIB. IV.

Anns a' bhradar 's an robh e, thainig a' bhean-tighe, Peigi Mhòr do'n dorus, "An cluinn sibh le'r cead, fhir a bhaile?" ars ise, "Tha 'Challainn deas."

Mar gu'n rachadh preathal air, thug an t-Oichear Bàn leum as air a chathair le disgeadh. Shlaod e'n sin e fhein: Shìn e 'mach a ghairdeinean, is dh'altaich se e fein. "A Challainn a Pheigi" ars esan 's e 'fasgadh a shùl le riudain, "a Challainn, chuide sinn mata," is dh'èiridh ceann-aotrom a' beicheadh air an ùrlar mar bhalachan. Anns an trannsa dh'orcha bha Eachann Ruadh 's an corr de mhuinntir an tighe, agus mhears a' chuideachd le iolaich chridheil is Eachann a' cluich air an ceann, a steach do'n t-seomar mhòr fhuaraidh, anns an bu tric an do ghleite flaitheas o shean, 'n uair bha armuin Dhuin-duibh lionmhor, agus air an dòigh, fada mu'n d'rinn cadhagan is ialtagan an dachaidhean 's an t-sean mhùr.

Mu'n gann a sguir a phìob, chualas guth taobh a muigh na fàrdaich, mar a chluinnteadh aig iomadh uinneig 's an àm, air oidhche Callainne.

"A Challainn-so, 'Challainne-so,
Bhi-bhoiceann, bual an craicinn,
Cailleach sa chill, Cailleach 'sa chùil,
Cailleach eile taobh an teinich
Bior na goile 's i air chrith
A Challainn-so."

"Thig a steach a sin Iain Bhig, is tog de'd chonalloinn bhruidhne," arsa Peigi Mhòr. "Tha cailleach no dha an so is bior na goile is fallus reamhar air a gnus."

"*Bladhna mhath ur dhuibh uile, 'n uair
thig i steach, agus moran, moran duibh.*"

ars' Iain Beag 'n uair 'thainig e 'steach gu sunntach gogaideach.

"Thainig mise an so an nochd a' shuathadh a chraicinn dhata air leth-cheann Fear Dhuin-duibh anns an t-seann dòigh."

Chaidh am pios craicinn a shuathadh air leth-cheann an Oicheir Bhàin, agus bu mhòr air na seann laithean a bhi na bu shunntaiche aig a' cheart ghnìomh.

Suidhibh a nis mu'n bhòrd agus gheibh a h-uile fear is té agaibh air trinnsear, cailleach bhog bhlaith, is bior 'na goile 's i air chrith," arsa Peigi, 's i fein s na mnathan a' cur mu'n

cuairt nam marag, is stoth chubhraidh na geire ag éiridh na ceò asda.

Bha cuideachd shunntach ghreadhnach mu bhòrd na Callainne an sean mhùr lom-stuadhach Dhuin-Duibh an oidhche ud. Thaomadh lionn còbhrach na channachan a measg na cuideachd. Chluinnteadh fuaim is fonn nan òran fad air astar is shinnedh is shlaodadh na fir mhóra iad fein air cathraichean diosganach a' dol le sùrd ris an t-seisd.

B'e deireadh na cluiche gu'n d'èiridh an t-Oichear Bàn 'na sheasamh air an ùrlar, is dh'iarr e'n t-each a' dhiollaideachadh gun mhoille. "Cuir an diollaid air an each dhonn dhomh a Sheamais" ars'esan. "Cha teid an Nollaig so seachad gun mise 'chur faillte na bliadh'n ùr so fhathast air Iseabal Og a Ghlinne. Ma tha e'm beul na dùthcha gu'n do dhiult a h-athair 's a mathair a làmh domhsa bidh e'm beul na dùthcha cuideachd, agus an deidh na h-oidhche so. nach do dhiult i fein a cridhe dhomh. Air slainnte Iseabail" ars esan 's e 'tògal canna leanna os cionn a chinn 's 'g a thaomadh tioram gu mhàs.

"Slainnte mhòr aice-se, agus fallainneachd còmh'l rithe."

ghlaoidh na bha 'stigh, is thug gloidneachan làna gliong ra chéile os cionn a' bhùird.

Chaidh an t-Oichear Bàn a mach agus lean na bha stigh e. B'e mian gach aoin duibh comhairle 'thuir air fuireach nan cuideachd fhein, a chionn bha iad am beachd gu'm faodadh tuasaid éiridh an cuideachd anns an robh cuid am mì-run da chéile. Ach comhairle cha robh ann do'n Oichear Bhàn, riann no roimhe, 's cha mhò bha i'n drasd ann. A mach a thug e, a cheart cho aotrom sgiobalta 's ged a b'ann a dhol air ceann reismid a bhiodh e. Bha'n t-each donn, is fear gramal 'na cheann, gu h-usaideach air a' chabhraisir dhoirneag, cobhar geal a' leum o bheul, mar a chithear ag éiridh o thigh na mara air latha gaothar, 's e 'cagnadh a' chabstair stallinn fo fhiaclan geala. Leum an t-Oichear Bàn gu lùthach uallach do'n diollaid, agus a' crathadh na cuipe ris a' chuideachd, chuir e na spuirean an clathach a' ghearrain, agus thug an steud bras sinnteg as a chuir sradagan teine as na clachan. Thog na fir 's na mnathan eubh iolagach as a dheidh, a' crathadh an làmh, 's a' smeideadh le boineid 's le searbhadair. A mach an rathad garbh thug an t-each leumnach. A suas an Dail Ghlas, far an robh an gleadhan eigeach a' crathadh a chinn anns a' ghaoidh, dh'fhag na caoraich an rathad gu grad. A sios Allt-na-Coille bha teine a' spreadraich 's an dorchach gach uair a thachradh

doirneag is cruith air a cheile, agus chuir an starrum gluasad air na h-aighean giobagach a fhuair fraon on onfhadh a measg nam màrn frachach.

Rinn a' ghealach baoisgeadh mùgach fo chìrb nan nial sgìodach 'n uair 'fhuair an marcaiche air mullach Dhrum Cruaidh, ach tharruing leatha a ceann gu faiteach, agus dhearrs uinneagan soilleach Ghlinn Aibhnic, an dorchadas no coille thruim gu h-ìosal.

An tiotadh beag eile bha'n t-Oichear Bàn aig a' cheann uidhe. Thug e gleadh air a bhois-chroinn. Dh'fhosgail gille cuaranach an dorus, agus air ball bha e'm broilleach na cuideachd, agus b'e sin a' chuideachd gheadhnach. Bha a sgian-dubh fhein air a stobadh 's a bhòrd mu choinneamh gach òganaich, agus, a' leantuinn a' chleachdaich a bha na chomharr' air sìth. Stob an t-Oichear Bàn a sgian-dubh fhein 's an darach, le "Callainn chridheil duibh uile, agus bliadhna mhath ur 'n uair a thig, i, a chairdein," an guth reachdmhor an t-saighdeir.

"Mar sin duit, a charaid," ghlaoidh na bha stigh comhla.

Thug a' chuideachd an aire gu'n d'thainig aobhneas an gnùis Iseabail, 'n uair a thainig an t-Oichear Bàn a stigh is cha b' fhada gus am fac iad nach robh iad air am mealladh 'n am beachd, gu'm b'e an t-Oichear Bàn a rinn 's a miann.

Lionadh glionneachan, is dh'òladh slàinte. "*Air slàinte Fear agus Bean a Ghlinne, athair is mathair mo cheile gu bhì, a dh'aindeoin co theireadh atharrachadh,*" ars' an t-Oichear Bàn gu h-uaihbreach, 's e 'na sheasamh air an ùrlar, 's an glionne làn togte os cionn a chinn. Cha do fhreagair duine ach Iseabal, agus thug a màthair sùil oirre a reodhadh lasagan nan coinnlean a bha cho lannrach air a' bhòrd. Mu dheireadh, ars ise gu fuar, 's i tionndadh ris an Oicheir, 's a h-aodann mar gu n biodh e air a shnagheadh a cloich, "Tha'm barail a Sheamais, gu robh gu leoir duit a bhì cho earsbsach sin asad fhein, ged a bhiodh Iseabal againne a'd eismeil."

"Iseabal agaibh-se am eismeil-sa, an d'thuirt sibh?" ars an t-Oichear Bàn 's e 'teasachadh, 's a' sealltuinn feadh na cuideachd, 's e 'cìreadh fheusaig mhóir le bhois. "Cha n eil Iseabal am eismeil-sa, na'n eismeil a h-aon eile fo'n ghréin. 'S cha'n eil òganach air sìos fharsuing Dhuin-Duibh na'n Dun-Dubh is fhaigse dha nach biodh ro dheònach a làmh a shineadh dhì air beuloabh sagairt am màireach," ars esan, 's e fhathast air a chasan agus an droch dhriuch air aodann,

"'S i mo chuid-sa Iseabal Og le deagh thoil a h-athar 's a' màthar: S cha'n ann gun ghliog air stàilinn a leiginn-sa na iadsan le sgealb lom fhalamh mar tha thus i. Agus ma' ion 's gur h-eadar e, bheir mi mach i le faobhar a chlaidheimh an comhraig dithis. Sud agad sud a Sheamais Bhàin an Dùin," arsa Tearlach Og Stiubhart, 's e 'ag eiridh 'na sheasamh, leis an dullan a chuir an lionn ann, 's a làmh air dòrn a' chlaidheimh.

"Gun ghliog air stàilinn" ars' an t-Oichear Bàn, facal an deigh facail, air a shocair fhein, agus e sealltuinn air an Stiubhartach le sùil fhìar thàireil. "Gun ghliog air stàilinn" ars' esan a rithist 's e cacadh a chorraige ri sgian dubh an Stiubhartach air a stobadh 's a' bhòrd. "Seall air an te ud, agus cnìr romhad meas a chur air cleachdadh na dùithe. Cùmhnich ille mhat nach ann ag iomain cruith gu màrgaidhean a chuir mise seachd mo laithean idir, 's na bì cho deas a thoirt iomra air ghliog air stàilinn gus an ionsaich thu'n toiseach lann a chluich mòran na's fhearr na chluicheas tu bata calltuinn as deidh daimh."

Bha'n Stiubhartach an dà chuid air a leòn 's air a nàrachadh. Dh'fhas e cho geal ris an anart, agus le sìobhaltachd na maighdinn, thoiseich e air a lethsgul a ghabhail. "Tha mi'n dòchas" ars esan "gu'n toir a' chuideachd maitheanas domh. Tha mi dùilich gu'n do leig mi mi-fhin air dì-chuimhn' cho mòr."

"Sin agad do choir 's do dhlighe, agus sin agad 'n uair a bhiodh tu ann ad dhùine, 's cha'n ann a bhì 'muigheadh ruid nach aithne dhuit," ars' an t-Oichear Bàn. Leis an so shìolaich a bhruidhinn a sìos gu sìochainn. Ma bha meas air fearlas is sgairt an Oicheir Bhàin roimhe sud, bha e 'nis orra le cheile, eadhon aig luchd a mhi-ruin. Bha Fear a Ghlinne fhein tosdach air a' chuis, 's cha d'thuirt Iseabail a bheag, ach an uair a chaidh bruidhinn chàirdeil feadh na cuideachd, ghabh i fath air suidheadh làmh ris an Oicheir. Dh'aithnichteas air a gnùis gu robh i 'toirt dùbhlain do neach fo'n ghréin, 'cur eatorra, agus chuir a màthair seachd a h-àirm 's a lùireach aig an àm. Ach 's e na rinn fear an tighe còir, a cheann a chromadh le fiamh gaire air a ghnùis.

CAIB. V.

Chaidh an Nollaig seachd. Thuinnich gach nì 's an dùthaich 'na aite fein am beagan ùine ach an Tigh Mór a Ghlinne cha robh mòran sunnd. Dh'fhiach a màthair ri Iseabal a thoirt gu rathad, an dàra uair le comhairle, agus an uair eile le muigheadh. Ach aiceachadh cha tigeas a Iseabal. 'Nach tusa, 'ghalathad, a

tha toirt an urrainn do d-athair s do'd màthair, a tha'n rùn t-fhaicinn air do shuidheachadh gu socrach, 'n uair a tha thu'm beachd thu fhein a cheangal ri fear nach 'eil a shuidheachadh ach mar ugh air aran, agus nach robh riamh ach mar an iteag a thig as uchd a' gheoidh. Tuigidh tu gu bheil sin an dàra uair leis an t-sruth s an uair eile leis a' ghaoith, 's i cho aotrom 's cho suarach, s nach 'eil buaidh aig sruth no aig ghaoith airre."

"Agus nach sultmhor cumachdail an t-uchd as an d'fhàinig an iteag, a mhàthair. Air a ghòraiche 's e mo roghainn an t-Oichear Bàn, agus theid mi le m' dheoin a chosg na caille do'n Eaglais Dhuibh an I-Chaluim-Chille, nu'n toir mi air m'aindeoin mo làmh do dh'fhear eile air beulaobh cleire," ar's Iseabal.

"Direach sia" ar's a màthair "mur teid thu Dhun-Dubh am measg nan cadhag, theid thu'n Eaglais Dhuibh am measg nan Cailleach. Ach their mise so riut, Iseabal, mo nighean, nach teid thu 'dh'aon aite dhuibh, ach gu'n teid thu far an cuirear thu. Bheir mise an t-Aba as I 'g ad ionnsuidh, agus, Iseabal, gheibh thu duais na ragmhuinealachd. Cuimhnich sin agus gabh ri'm fhacal-sa."

"Agus a mhàthair" ar's Iseabal, gu ciuin socrach," am bheil dalta na bòine 'dol a bhi orm-sa, falbh leis an fhear a bheir an tairgse 's aird orm? Ciod e 's am bith mo shuidheachadh an deidh sin tha e coltach nach 'eil agam ach cur 'suas leis. An e sin 'ur mian a mhàthair?" "S ann air do shuidheachadh an deidh sin a tha mi 'sealltuinn, Iseabal," ar's a màthair "'s cha'n e thu 'dhol do chùil an eismeil maorach a chladaich, air son na ni t-fhear pòsda riut."

(Ri leantainn.)

THE GREAT FEILL.

Feill propaganda has resulted this month in the formation of the first English branch of An Comunn. This has been started in Liverpool by Mr. Sinclair Coghill, and has an energetic secretary in the Rev. James Hamilton, 96 Huskisson Place.

An additional overseas stall has been promised. This is the outcome of a brief visit paid to Ceylon by Mr. Stuart MacLeod. The Conveners are the Rev. C. Victor and Mrs. MacEchern, St. Andrew's Manse, Colpetty Road, who are themselves coming to Glasgow to take charge of the stall. This will be furnished entirely with articles of Cingalese origin and workmanship, which, being of a more novel and varied character

than those usually sold at bazaars, should command a ready sale. This applies also to the Canadian stall (convener, Alexander Fraser, LL.D., Government House, Toronto), which will contain a variety of Canadian products, and specimens of the arts and crafts of Canada.

A number of money-making events are projected by the Glasgow Highland Societies' Stall Committee, and include a concert on 8th December, organised by the Jura Association; a concert on 10th February, under the auspices of the Sutherland Society, whose Ladies' Committee is also organising "vanishing teas"; an entertainment arranged by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal on 25th December; a whist drive and dance on 8th February, organised by the Ross-shire Association; a "snowball" tea and whist drive and dance, arranged by the Oban and Lorn Association; a concert in Tiree and a whist drive and dance, organised by the Tiree Association; while a stop-watch competition and a prize draw form part of the contribution which the Skye Association are making. Events which have already taken place this autumn include an afternoon whist drive on 21st September, organised by Mrs. Christison, and whist drives arranged in their own homes by Miss Mackenzie and Mrs. Brown. A Christmas Draw and a Highland Ball are also being organised, and details may be learned from Mr. Hugh MacPhee and Mr. Donald Macdonald.

Many branches of An Comunn have already appointed sub-committees to raise funds for the Feill. Their activities include sales, concerts, whist drives, and other entertainments, and, of course, work parties to provide goods for the bazaar. These have also been formed by the various Highland Societies in Glasgow. Mrs. Allan Gilmour and Miss Farquharson, who are convening Sutherland and Ross, respectively, have secured the services of Miss Margrat Duncan for a series of concerts, starting in the middle of October, and it is expected that the interest thus aroused will result in the formation of a number of new Comunn branches, especially in Ross.

Only seven months remain before the Feill takes place, and if it is to bring in the money we require for adequate expansion of An Comunn's work and activities, we must strain every nerve.

At present An Comunn has a large and steadily increasing three-figure deficit—£141 7s 11d in 1924, £201 1s 9d in 1925, and £326 7s 4d in 1926. To spend our capital will only mean that in

a few years' time we shall have again to ask our supporters to carry through another Feill. What we aim at doing in 1927 is to raise so large a capital sum that the annual interest which it will produce, together with the interest on our already invested funds, will enable us to balance our budget each year, and also so to extend our work as to meet the growing demands for organisers and teachers. At the present rate of expenditure, to enable our Treasurer to present a financial statement with no balance on the wrong side, will require the

interest on no less a sum than £8000. No expansion of the work of An Comunn can be contemplated until that sum is in hand. Thereafter, every additional thousand pounds raised will mean fresh work undertaken, more teachers available, new districts tapped, and favourable instead of temporising or adverse replies sent to the appeals for help, of which a steady stream flows in upon our secretary.

The necessary ability and enthusiasm are available. It only remains to focus them on the Feill during the next half-year.

DOMHNUL NÀN TRI LAMH.

THREE-HANDED DONALD.

(Translation by Mr. J. G. MACKAY, London.)

PART II.

"Ma ta," arsa Dòmhnul, "ceangail thusa i, agus gheabh thu cead."

Thàinig e a mach, agus cheangail e le nèapaicin an làmh a bha às a uchd, slos air a chorp.

Thòisich iad le an cuid chlàidheamhnan, is cha b'fhada a bha Mac na Bantraich a' cur iomain-chùil air Dòmhnul nan Tri Làmh.

"A nìs," arsa Dòmhnul nan Tri Làmh, "tha mise, o chionn trì bliadhna, a' suiridh [air]. Nighean Rìgh an Domhain, agus a h-uile gin a tha 'tighinn d'a h-iarraidh, tha mi 'gam marbhadh, agus chan fhulaing i mi fhéin 'fhaicinn."

Thalla, thusa, agus gabhaidh mise cùram de do mhnaoi, [Sìle,] agus de do leanabh—tha mi féin eòlach ga leòir orra,—agus gabh gu teaghlach Rìgh an Domhain, agus an uair a chl Nighean an Rìgh thu, gabhaidh i cus de ghaol a h-anma ort.

Thoir gealltanais dhi gu'm pòs thu i, is bidh an Rìgh agus a' Bhan-rìghinn air a' chuthach nìu d' dhéidhinn, o nach 'eil mise r'a faighinn.

Abair gu'm pòs thu a màireach i, agus an uair a bhitheas an pòsadh gus a dheanamh, abair nach téid pòsadh a dheanamh, gus am faigh thu fiadh blàr as a' phaire.

Thig ise a mach, agus cuilean breac, odhar 'na h-achlais.

"Well then," said Donald, "bind it down thyself, for thou shalt be permitted."

The Widow's Son came out of the chariot, and with a napkin he bound the arm that grew from Donald's breast, bound it down to his body.

Then they began [fighting] with their swords, and it was not long before the Widow's Son was driving Three-handed Donald backwards.⁶

"Now," said Three-handed Donald, "for three years I have been courting the daughter of the King of the World; every one who comes to seek her [hand] do I kill; yet she cannot endure the sight of me."

"Go thou then, whilst I take care of thy wife [Sheila] and thy child—I am well acquainted with them—betake thee to the household of the King of the World. For when the daughter of the King sees thee, she will be inspired with excessive love for thee, the love of her very soul."

"Give her a promise to marry her, and the King and Queen will be mad⁷ about thee [winning her], and because I am not to have her."

"Say thou that thou wilt marry her on the morrow, but when the marriage rite is about to be performed, say thou that there shall be no marriage, until thou gettest a certain white-faced stag from out of the park."

"She will [go indoors and] come forth [again] bringing a little speckled, dun doggie under her arm."

⁶ Donald, in order to further projects of his own, probably made it easy for the Widow's Son to defeat him.

⁷ With joy or grief?

Beir thusa air a' chuidean, is [s]llob is feuch e, is abair nach fac' thu riamh cuilean a's bòidheche na e.

Leum a mach an gàradh, is an cuilean ann ad achlais.

Ruigidh tu [caolas, agus air an taobh thall dheth] eilean, agus caisteal anns an eilean.

Tha leòmhann buidhe anns an eilean, agus mo phiuthair-sa aige, agus chan'eil air an t-saoghal na bheir uaidh i.

Abair ris a' chuidean a dho⁸ a null thar a 'chaolais, agus an leòmhann buidhe a thoirt a nall air chluais do d'ionnsuidh. Chan fhada a bhitheas an cuilean a' leum a mach, is a' dol a null, 's a' toirt a nall an leòmhann buidhe air chluais.

Abair thusa, "Is fortanach an duine mi fhéin, an uair a tha thusa, a leòmhann chiataich, fo mo spòig,⁹ agus an cuilean breac, odhar."

Cràthaidh an leòmhann e fhéin, agus fàsaidh e mòr.¹⁰

Abair a rithisd, gur fortanach an duine thu fhéin, gu'n tàinig an leòmhann fo do spòig, agus an cuilean breac, odhar.

Fàsaidh e fo dhriuchd fhalluis mar a bha e riamh.

Is e sin Mac Rìgh an Deirg an uair a dh'èireas e, agus a thig e o na geasan.

Tha an caolas a tha eadar thu 's an t-eilean, làn de bhioraiche[an] nimhe. [Cha tearnunn duit dol thairis air.]

Tha tobar anns an eilean aig an leòmhann buidhe, is bheir thu [air a' chuidean bhreac, odhar gu'n toir e]¹¹ tri botuil às, agus an uair a shuathar an t-uisge ris an leòmhann buidhe, cha bhi mac màthar air an t-saoghal a's àille na e."

Take hold of the whelp, and stroke it and examine it, and say that thou hast never seen a more beautiful doggie than he.

"Dash out of the garden, with the doggie under thine arm.

"Thou shalt come [to a strait, on the farther side of which is] an island, with a castle in it.

"In that island there is a tawny lion, and it is he who has my sister, and there is no one in the world who can take her from him.

"Tell the little doggie to go across the strait, and bring thee back thence the tawny lion by the ear. The little doggie will not be long dashing out [into the water], going across, and bringing the tawny lion back by the ear.

"Then say thou, 'What a fortunate man I am, seeing that I have thee, thou comely lion, as well as the speckled dun doggie, in my hands.'

"Thereupon the lion will shake himself, and become big.

"Say again, that thou art indeed a fortunate man, seeing that the lion has come into thy hands, as well as the speckled dun doggie.

"Then breaking out into a perspiration, he will become as he ever was [i.e., will be disenchanting, and resume his real form].

"And this is who he is. He is the son of the King of Deirg [as will be clear enough] when he rises erect [in man's shape], and is freed from the enchantments.

"The strait that lies between thee and the island is full of venomous dog-fishes. [It is not safe for thee to cross over it.]

"There is a well in the island belonging to the tawny lion, and thou shalt [cause the speckled dun doggie to]¹¹ bring thence three bottles [full of the well-water], and when the tawny lion has been rubbed over with the well-water, then in all the world there will not be a mother's son more beautiful than he."

⁸ *Dol* and *tighinn*, *going* and *coming*, are frequently aspirated where other verbal nouns would not be.

⁹ More literally "in my paws," or "in my clumsy fists," an expression used by the hero in order to deprecate his own worth, and by contrast to magnify the worth of the lion.

¹⁰ In the MS., the lion is twice referred to with a feminine pronoun in this paragraph. This apparently unwarrantable and ungrammatical phenomenon of changing the gender of some prominent noun or character, occurs in other tales. It may be mere carelessness, or may have some meaning. See No. 268. But the form of the adjective *buidhe*, tawny or yellow, is always masculine, in this tale.

¹¹ Without the words between square brackets, inserted by me, this paragraph would read that the hero crossed the strait. Whereas in a later paragraph he sends the doggie across, which is more likely, because the water was full of dogfishes, which would have (probably) been dangerous to the hero.

[Rinn Mac na Bantraich mar a dh'iarr Dòmhnall, Mac Rìgh Eireann, air. Ràinig e teaghlach Rìgh an Domhain, agus an uair a chunnaic Nighean an Rìgh e, ghabh i cus de ghaol a h-anama air. Thug e gealltanais pòsaidh dhi, agus gu'n pòsadh e a màireach i. Ach an uair a bha am pòsadh gus a dheanamh, thuirte e nach rachadh a dheanamh, gus am faigheadh e am fiadh blàir as a' phaire. Thug i an sin an cuilean breac, odhar da, agus shìob 's dh'fheuch e e, agus thuirte nach fhac' e riamh cuilean a bu bhòidhe na e. Leum e an sin a mach as a' ghàradh far an robh e fhéin is ise, agus an cuilean breac, odhar 'na achlais.]¹²

Ràinig e fhéin 's an cuilean caolas an eilein, agus chuir e a null an cuilean, agus thug an cuilean a nall an leòmhann buidhe air chluais.

"Is fortanach an duine mi fhéin," ars esan, "an uair a tha thusa, a leòmhainn chiataich, fo mo spòig, agus an cuilean breac, odhar."

[Chràth an leòmhann buidhe e fhéin, is dh'fhàs e mòr.

Thuirte Mac na Bantraich a rithisd, "Is fortanach an duine mi fhéin, an uair a thàinig thusa, a leòmhainn chiataich, fo mo spòig, agus an cuilean breac, odhar."

Dh'fhàs an leòmhann buidhe fo dhriuchd fhalluis, mar a bha e riamh.]

Chuir e an cuilean a null [an dara uair], is thug e a nall tri botuill uisge às an tobar.

An uair a shuathadh an t-uisge ris an leòmhann, Mac Rìgh an Deirg, cha robh mac mnatha air an t-soghal a bu bhreagh na e.

[O nach deanadh na bioraichean nimhe dad de chron air Mac Rìgh an Deirg no air a' chuilean],¹³ chaidh iad a null air an eilein, is thug iad a nall [Màiri], Nighean Rìgh Eireann.

(Ri leantainn.)

[The Son of the Widow did as Donald, the Son of the King of Erin, had desired him. He visited the household of the King of the World, and when the King's daughter saw him, she was inspired with excessive love for him, the love of her very soul. He gave her a promise of marriage, and said that he would marry her to-morrow. But when the marriage rite was about to be performed, he said that there should be no marriage, until he got the white-faced stag from out of the park. She then gave him the speckled dun doggie, and he stroked it and examined it, and said he had never seen a more beautiful doggie than he. Then he dashed out of the garden where he and she were, carrying the speckled dun doggie off under his arm.]¹²

He and the doggie came to the strait where the island was, and he sent the doggie across, and it brought back the tawny lion by the ear.

"What a fortunate man I am," said he, "seeing that I have thee, thou comely lion, as well as the speckled dun doggie, in my hands."

[The lion shook himself, and became big.

The Widow's Son said again, "What a fortunate man I am, seeing that thou, oh comely lion, hast fallen into my hands, as well as the speckled dun doggie."

The tawny lion became disenchanting, and resumed his own proper form, but bedewed with sweat.]

He [the Widow's Son] sent the doggie across [the second time], and he brought back three bottles full of the water of the well.

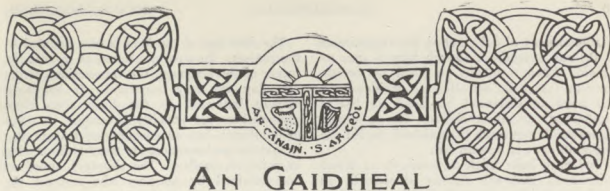
And when the lion, the son of the King of Deirg, had been rubbed with the water, there was never a woman's son in the world more beautiful than he.

[Since the venomous dog-fishes would do no harm to the Son of the King of Deirg or to the doggie¹³], they crossed over to the island, and brought back thence [Mary], the King of Erin's daughter.

(To be continued.)

¹² This paragraph is inserted by me for the sake of continuity. Hector MacLean, usually a laborious and accurate scribe, omitted the incidents of the wooing of the lady and the capture of the magic doggie from his MS., either through inadvertence or because the reciter, Donald MacPhie, failed to relate them. The thread of the story is picked up again after the capture of the doggie.

¹³ The MS. does not say who "they" were who crossed the strait on this occasion. But the warning given by Three-handed Donald regarding the venomous or dangerous dog-fishes suggests that the Widow's Son did not cross. I have therefore inserted a sentence between the usual square brackets to make it appear that it was the Son of the King of Deirg and the doggie who went over.



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Leabhar XXII.]

An t-Samhuin, 1926.

[Earrann 2

NA COISIREAN.

Gun teagamh is taitneach éisdeachd ri coisir ghleusta air a deagh theagasg. An sin gheibhear dearbhadh air ni no dha. Tha taisbeanadh ann air còrachadh a' chiùil, ciod e choinnteachdach is a chuireas am fear deilbh gach pong fa leth an còrdadh ceithir fillte, agus sin gu bhi freagarrach air guthan arda no domhain eadar fhearaibh is mhaibh. Tha cothrom sònruichte aig ceannard na coisir air a spiorad agus a spionnadh fhéin a chur anns an luchd seinn. Is iongantach mar a fhreagras buidhean do stiùireadh aon duine, agus a laimhsicheas e iad mar inneil chiùil fo laimh an fhirchlhuiche. Agus a thuilleadh air sin gheibhear dearbhadh air feabhas an luchd seinn, co dhìu a tha an guthan binn, agus co dhìu a chuir iad dìchioll agus deagh dhrachd ann an cleachdadh ri am an ullachaidh.

Ach a dh' aindeoin cho taitneach is gu faod ceòl coisir a bhi, is ceart gun cumamaid ann ar cuimhne nach ann duinn féin idir a bhuineas an dòigh sheinn so. Cho robh a leithid riamh aig ar sinnsir. Cha chualas coisir no comh-sheirm aig ar n-athraichean. Gun àicheadh sheinneadh iad fonn is seisd aig bainis no aig fheadh—ach cha b' ann air an dòigh so. Ma sheallas sinn air eachdraidh a' chiùil-choisir chì sinn gur e cleachdadh no modh Gearmailt-each a tha ann. Fad iomadh bliadhna anns na Linntean Meadhonach bha an ghnè chiùil sin 'g a chleachdadh an aoradh follaiseach. Is anns an eaglais a thugadh an t-alt so gu deagh ìre air tùs. Tha e coltach gur e am fear ciùil ainmeil sin Bach, a cheud neach a chòraich mith-cheòl, no fuinn choitchionn an t-sluaigh, ann an seann mhodh ciùil nan coisir. Gus an am sin bha mith-cheòl 'g a

sheinn, anns gach dùthaich, gu simplidh còmhnaidh gun fhilleachadh gun chòradh. Bha seirm ann gun chomh-sheirm. Tha muinntir aig a bheil breithneachadh anns a' chùis de 'n bheachd gun tug am modh so atharrachadh nach bu bheag air mith-cheòl; agus tha sin fìor gu leòr a thaobh cuid de na fuinn Ghàidhealach. Cha ruigear a leas a bhi saòilsinn gu bheil modh seinn na coisir a' cumail air cuimhne ni dùthchasail sam bith ach luinneag nan òran a mhàin. Tha sinn an dèil gu bheil cunnart gun caill ar luinneagan tomhas de am maise le bhi 'g an sniamh is 'g an toinneamh gu cruth ris nach iad cleachdta o thùs. Tha na fuinn Ghallda a' caochladh leis gach ceartachadh a tha iad a' faotainn airson feum nan coisirean. Ach faodaidh gur ann mar so a dh'fheumas tachairt. Thig caochladh is fàs air alt a' chiùil; oir cha mhair modh ciùil anns an aon chor an comhnuidh.

Mur eil ar barail cearr tha sinn de 'n bheachd gur é Coisir Ghàidhlig Eaglais Chaluim Chille an Glascho a' cheud bhuidhean fhear is bhan a sheinn òran Gàidhlig anns a' chomh sheirm sin a tha nis air fàs cho coitchionn. Agus is ann fo bhrosnachadh A' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich a chuireadh comhfharpais nan coisirean air chois. Is gann gu bheil geall sam bith air clàr-eagair a mhòid airson a bheil strì cho dian is tha a' tachairt gach bliadhna airson Sgiath nan Coisirean. Tha sin a' nochdadh gu bheil obair nan coisirean a' faotainn gach misneach o 'n Chomum agus o 'n t-sluaigh a tha a' frithealachd nan Mòd. Ma tha modh seinn na coisir gu bhi a chum leas nan òran Gàidhealach, dleasaidh An Comum an t-urram. Tha cùram 'g a chleachdadh chan ann a mhàin a thaobh feabhas ciùil, ach mar an ceudna a thaobh litreachadh na cànan. Mar tha na

bliadhnaichean a' dol seachad tha riaghailtean a' fàs nas cruaidhe a thaobh blas is snas na cànan. Chan e mhàin gu bheil na breith-eamhan furachail, ach tha an chuideacha a tha anns an éisdeachd beachdail gu bhì a' mothachadh do mhearachdan. Tha so uile ag eigneachadh nan comh fharpuiseach gu bhì cho eagnuidh agus is urrainn iad.

Ged nach buin dòigh na còisir do ar dileab shinnisreal, gidheadh feumar aideachadh gu faod mór thairbhe éiridh do cheòl nan Gàidheal mar thoradh—ma theid an gnothuch a stiùireadh gu glie. Feumaidh sinn luchd cìbìl is breith-eamhan fhaotainn a thuigeas ciall nam facal agus gn a' chiùil—sin ir radh, Gàidhil. Ma gheibh sinn sin, cuiridh iadsan an seann cheòl an cruth nuadh ach leanaidh iad ris an t-seann spiorad. Na fuinn sinn a mhair beò fad chiadan bliadhna, a chionn is gu robh maise agus suspainn anna, chan ann le cion cùram a bu chòir an laimheachadh. Tha iad làn de bhuadhan ar sluaigh; ach ma théid an téagag do'n oigridh air mhodh ùr, is buailteach gun caill iad gun dàil mòran de an taitneas agus de an loinn. Le tùr agus foghlum gabhaidh modh na còisir iad feumail an ceòl nan Gàidheal. Faodaidh gur e seinn nan còisirean aon de na meadhanan a bhitheas fathast éifeachdach gu oirdheircas nan òran Gàidhealach a thaisbeanadh do choigrich.

NOTES ON THE MOD.

By the EDITOR.

Much of the success of a Gaelic Mod depends on the place where it is held, and on the spirit in which the event is regarded by the inhabitants. The atmosphere of a Mod is not created by visitors from a distance, but by the local population. In view of this circumstance, the recent Mod in Oban was peculiarly fortunate. It was in Oban that the proper glow and impetus were first imparted to the Mod as an institution. Happily, three of the four original founders still survive; and some of them were still active in the work of preparation, enthusing the younger workers with their own zeal, and guiding them by matured experience. The weather conditions were far from favourable; but even the persistent rain could not damp the ardour of the public. Throughout the several days of the Mod, crowds could be seen standing in a torrent of rain, endeavouring to gain admission to halls which could not provide sufficient accommodation.

The first day of the Mod is now devoted to the juniors. In a certain sense, as regards the future of the language, the transactions of the first day are very important. It has been already indicated in the Press that these competitions are steadily extending in point of numbers; but an encouraging feature also is that the performances are steadily improving in point of quality. The standard aimed at and attained by teachers who instruct the young singers is becoming higher year by year. The musical judges make frequent comment upon this progress; and the Comunn officials have reason to be gratified that the work among the young meets with such appreciation. While the vocal side generally benefits by the attention and applause of larger audiences, it must nevertheless be emphasised that the oral section is a most valuable one. In this department excellent work was done. To the thoughtful Gaelic patriot, no item is quite so cheering as the delivery of beautiful Gaelic by young readers and reciters. We need not dwell here upon the significance of these junior competitions for the transmission of correct spoken Gaelic. This is a line which deserves every encouragement from those Gaels who have the cause at heart, and who possess the means of giving substantial prizes. It appears that the prize is essential even for good Gaels; and in no department is it better deserved than in the junior orals.

The official opening of the Mod took place at noon on Wednesday. The President occupied the chair. Knowing the Gael as he does, he has realised that if you are to persuade the Gael to make a sustained effort you must first of all appeal to his imagination. This quality of appeal characterised the President's address. An interesting message was conveyed by Mr. Montgomery, the President of the American Iona Society. The aims of the Society are summarised in an excerpt in another column of this issue. The audience, as well as the platform party, on the Wednesday included people of all classes and all creeds. The cosmopolitan nature of the gathering might well be accepted as a sign of the purely cultural nature of the whole movement. Men and women agree to leave controversial subjects at home when they come to a Mod. And they also agree to join together in sentiment, sympathy, and especially in action, in order to further the cause, and to create the genuine Mod atmosphere. The Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of Oban were present, and a warm welcome to Oban was extended to the gathering.

The performances on Wednesday were mainly the solo competitions for the James Grant Memorial Prize and the Oban and Lorn Association Commemoration Medal. Mr. Robert MacLeod and Mr. Hugh Hunter, each a Bachelor of Music, and a judge at Musical Festivals north and south, in giving the musical awards, declared that these Gaelic singers would give an excellent account of themselves wherever they went. It is encouraging to know that the Mod, therefore, serves a double purpose—that of a music festival and of a patriotic agent.

We feel constrained to remark on a singular fact which we have observed of late years at Gaelic Mods, namely, the effect, not of the singer on the audience, but of the audience upon the singer. It is an instance of what is called the crowd psychology. This is what we mean. When the Mod comes to a place where the inhabitants are not familiar with Gaelic, a great percentage of the audience are in a semi-critical mood, while many others are partly indifferent, just waiting to see what will happen. We know the mood perfectly from a long experience of audiences, both Highland and Lowland. Singing may differ from speaking, but the psychology of the crowd is the same, whether you sing or speak to them. Now, a singer or speaker feels this critical mood like a stone wall before him, and unless he can break it down or mount over it by sheer force of personality, he is greatly hindered in his performance. But there is no such obstacle as this in Oban. There is not one soul in the audience there who is coldly critical, much less indifferent. You can feel the pulse of an audience just as the medical man feels the pulse of a patient. And the pulse of Gaelic Oban is strong and true.

On the Thursday, decisions were given in senior oral work—recitation of prose and verse, original poetry, reading at sight, ancient folk tale, an original speech, and acted dialogue. In several instances fine elocutionary and dramatic talent was displayed. On the vocal side there was a valuable competition to encourage the revival of the less known district songs. The Port-a-beul, or vocal dance music, was also a bright traditional item. Several choirs made a first appearance at a National Mod in connection with a competition for Rural Choirs. Final decisions were also reached on Thursday in the competitions for the Comunn's Gold Medals (one for men and one for women). Friday was the great field day for Senior Choirs. Some memorable singing was listened to on that day. We note in our

present leading article how choral part singing is not a traditional form in Gaelic music. It is a recent importation, but it has already taken a firm hold. The choral renderings are a new method of interpreting the old airs. This transformation is the contribution of the present age to the old heritage. Here we see under our very eyes a process of musical evolution. There can be no doubt but the choral form is capable of revealing in an impressive manner the resources of Gaelic song. It speaks much for our native singers and our native conductors that they can create and sustain this new thing—the ensemble which results from a blending of our ancient melodies with the modern requirements of choral harmony.

MOD CONCERTS.

It is well nigh impossible in a limited space to do adequate justice to the Evening Concerts during the Mod week. On Tuesday night Sheriff MacMaster Campbell presided over a function provided by the successful competitors in the Junior section. Our own estimate of the atmosphere and of the collective performances is, that it was ahead of any former experience. Not the least interesting was the production of "Am Mòsglath Mór," by the Greenock Gaelic Parish Church Play Party under the direction of Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson. We are indebted to the Paisley Highlanders' Association, Capt. Colin Campbell, Ardrossan, and an anonymous donor for providing funds which made it possible to produce this Prize Children's Play, by Calum MacPharlain. Sheriff MacMaster Campbell's address was in his best and inspiring manner. The prizes were presented by Miss Campbell of Inverneill.

On Wednesday the lady members of the Local Committee organised in the most convincing form a Ceilidh, at which An Comunn's supporters were given an opportunity of meeting one another in a social capacity.

Thursday night was given over to a concert at which Col. A. D. H. MacLean of Ardgour presided, and which must really stand unique. The massed Rural Choirs presented a fine spectacle on the platform, and their performance evoked rounds of applause. In addition to several prize-winners, the contributors included Miss Phemie Marquis, Miss Jenny M. B. Currie, Miss Margrat Duncan, Mr. Neil MacLean, Mr. Roderick MacLeod, and Mr. Allan Hunter. The Executive Council of An Comunn is deeply

grateful to these good singers for their generous services on this and on many other occasions.

Then we got the culmination of the week's proceedings in the two Grand Concerts that took place on Friday evening. Mr. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost presided at the first diet, and His Grace the Duke of Argyll at the second. Mrs. MacDonald, Dunach, one of the most active members of the Local Committee, presented the Shield and Gold Medals to the winners. The Acting Committee are gratefully conscious of the forbearance of the great public which could not be accommodated in either house, and take it as a further evidence that the success of the cause gives precedence to the individual. What an impressive scene would have been witnessed had there been a hall sufficiently large to hold the vast concourse.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of An Comunn was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, on Saturday, 2nd October, at 10 a.m. There was an attendance of over 100 members, and the President, Mr. Angus Robertson, presided. The minute of the previous Annual Meeting was read and approved.

The result of the election of office-bearers was announced as follows:—Vice-Presidents, Rev. Neil Ross, B.D., Laggan; Miss Campbell of Inverneil, M.B.E., J.P. Executive Council—Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth; Miss L. E. Farquharson of Invercauld; Rev. T. S. Macpherson, Campbeltown; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., Pollokshields; Rev. M. N. Munro, M.A., Taynuilt; Messrs. Colin Sinclair, M.A., Crookston; Norman MacLeod, M.A., Cardonald; Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban; Messrs. Alexander Fraser, Yoker, and Donald MacDonald, Inverness.

Mr. John N. MacLeod, Kirkhill, and Dr. A. C. Morrison Larkhall, who were next in order of ballot, will fill the vacancies caused by the election of Rev. Neil Ross and Miss Campbell of Inverneil to the Vice-Presidency.

The Annual Report of the Standing Committees, and Financial Accounts were considered. The Rev. William MacPhail drew attention to the incident during the singing of the Ladies' Oran Mór on Thursday, when competitors were asked to sing certain verses which they had not prepared. It was pointed out that the Oran Mór was a most important competition, and to understand the theme competitors

should have acquainted themselves with the whole poem without necessarily memorising it all. Mr. Neil MacLean suggested that the verses desired to be sung should be starred.

Mr. J. L. Neil drew attention to misprints in Mod music booklets, and suggested that expression marks be omitted, thus allowing conductors freedom of interpretation. He asked that Children's Choral music be confined to two-part harmonies, that unison singing for adult choirs be discontinued, and that no solo part be introduced in choral test songs. The President thanked Mr. Neil for his suggestions, and asked him to submit these in writing for the consideration of the Mod and Music Committee.

Mr. T. D. MacDonald referred to the late issue of the Mod Programme, and Mr. J. R. Bannerman explained the causes of the delay.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell drew attention to the action of the Rev. William MacPhail in the Argyll Education Authority in moving that the special payment made to teachers of Gaelic be withdrawn. This action had been only partially successful, but it had resulted in the Authority deciding to discontinue the payment so far as all future teachers were concerned. She pointed out that this action was bound to be detrimental to the teaching of Gaelic in Argyll, and that, as a matter of fact, it had already resulted in a diminution of the number of teachers giving instruction in the language. Mr. MacPhail explained that the reasons for his action were that the Highland Trust had withdrawn their grants for Gaelic teaching from Argyll because of the payments made by the Authority, and the opinion held by him that Gaelic should now be taught like all other subjects without any special pecuniary inducement having to be offered to the teachers of it. Mrs. Burnley Campbell having pointed out that, as a matter of fact, the Highland Trust Grants had not been withdrawn from Argyll, the matter was passed from.

The President expressed his appreciation of the work of the Oban Mod Committee. He was sure it was the wish of the meeting that An Comunn should put on record their deep appreciation of the services of that Committee. Mr. J. MacDonald, secretary, with Mr. MacGregor Whyte, the convener, and those associated with them had worked hard for the success of the Mod. Every time the Mod came to Oban, those who attended went away with new ideas and a fresh determination to do their best for the cause. He asked the meeting to express their deep appreciation and thanks for the cordial reception and the great

hospitality they had received at the hands of the Oban people.

The Secretary read invitations from Inverness and Dunoon Branches of An Comunn to hold the Mod of 1927 in their respective towns. Provost Stewart, Fort William, addressed the meeting, and said that he represented the united desire of his community for the Mod to be held at Fort William. After a full discussion, Inverness withdrew in favour of Fort William, and while the meeting fully appreciated the request from Dunoon, the majority decided in favour of Fort William. The date of the Mod was left for arrangement between the Executive Council and the local Committee.

The President referred with appreciation to the great services which Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) rendered to the Gaelic movement by the presentation of a Shield for competition by Rural Choirs. The Rural Choir competition which had been on the programme this year for the first time had been a great success, and its institution was likely to produce most valuable results.

A trophy from a well-wisher was intimated by the Rev. Hector Cameron for 100 % Gaelic choirs. This proposal was remitted to the Mod and Music Committee.

Mr. T. D. MacDonald's motion as to the advisability of suiting the date and hour of meeting to the general convenience of the members was remitted to the Preliminary Meeting of the Executive Council for consideration.

THE FEILL.

Miss Gordon of Drimnin made an appeal on behalf of the Feill to be held in Glasgow next year for the purpose of aiding the finances of An Comunn. She pointed out that there would be among others a stall from the East of Scotland, a stall from London, and a stall from Liverpool, where the first An Comunn Branch in England had been started. Stalls were also being organised in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, and South Africa. Miss Gordon expressed the hope that the various Branches in the Highlands would begin working earnestly for the Feill. The money obtained from the Feill would be spent solely in helping to carry out the recognised aims of An Comunn.

On the call of the President the meeting accorded a vote of thanks to Miss Gordon for her report.

PROVINCIAL MODS.

The General Secretary submitted a report on the work of the Provincial Mods. He

pointed out that two local Mods were held in 1913, the year he took up his work for An Comunn—one at Portree and one at Tobermory. In the following year there were local Mods at Ullapool and Lochcarron, and at Dornie. Since the War, and as a result of several propaganda tours by Rev. Mr. Mackay, who was then President, and himself, the ground had been prepared for larger Mods. The first of the Provincial Mods on a large scale was held at Lochgilhead—the centre of Mid-Argyll. The success of that Mod created a great deal of interest, and various Branches of An Comunn put forward claims to the services of a teacher. In that connection he desired to emphasise the fine services which had been rendered by Mr. Hugh MacLean and Miss Margrat Duncan. The funds at their disposal only allowed for the employment of Mr. MacLean for nine months in the year. The ground must be carefully prepared before a Mod could take place. The teaching of Gaelic in schools also helped, and the influence of that was shown very largely at the Mod in the rural competitions. The Propaganda Committee must be able to send out himself as organising secretary, and to employ a teacher of singing, otherwise it would be impossible for An Comunn to extend their work. This would be a serious matter for the whole Gaelic movement, because the success of the movement depended on the work that was being done in the Highlands among Gaelic-speaking people. This year they had eight provincial Mods at Campbeltown, Bowmore, Lochgilhead, Aberfeldy, Lairg, Stornoway, Strontian, and Portree. No Provincial Mod had been held at Oban this year on account of the National Mod. He was sorry that Tobermory did not have a Mod this year in view of the great success of the gathering held there two years ago. At the request of the Committee he paid a visit to the Outer Islands in order to make the work of An Comunn known. At the period of his visit the people were busy peat-cutting, etc., but at Claddach, North Uist, he addressed a meeting of between 30 and 40 people. At the eight Provincial Mods the aggregate number of competitors was 1600. If they added that number to the 1100 odd competitors at the National Mod at Oban, they had a total of almost 3000 people taking part during this year in Mod competitions. They were desirous of having good literary competitions, and it would be a good thing to recommend all Provincial Mods to institute and carry through such competitions. These Provincial Mods undoubtedly strengthened the cause of An Comunn.

Mr. Colin Sinclair made a suggestion that seemed to meet with approval, that An Comunn meetings should be opened with prayer.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The President said the meeting had heard a most interesting statement of progress from the General Secretary. They had also heard the financial statement made by Mr. MacFarlane, Treasurer, and he asked the meeting to give them both a hearty vote of thanks.

Sir Norman Lamont moved a vote of thanks to the President. Mr. Robertson was so constantly with them that they were apt to forget what an enormous amount of work lay in the office of president, and how splendidly Mr. Robertson performed it.

Ex-Provost MacCowan, in seconding, also expressed his very high appreciation of Mr. Robertson's work as President.

The President, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, expressed his appreciation of the splendid work which was being done by Mr. John R. Bannerman, the Convener of the Mod and Music Committee. He was following in the footsteps of Rev. Mr. Munro, Taynuilt, whom they were all pleased to see present at the meeting.

PRELIMINARY MEETING.

The Preliminary Meeting of Executive Council followed the Business Meeting. The following members attended:—Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow; Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Miss Campbell of Inverneill; Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Mrs. L. E. Farquharson of Invercauld; Mr. Donald Graham, Inverness; Sir Norman Lamont of Knockdow; Mrs. MacDonald, Dunach; Messrs. Donald MacDonald, Inverness; John MacDonald, Oban; T. D. MacDonald, Oban; Rev. G. W. Mackay, Killin; Messrs. Hugh MacLean, Greenock; Malcolm MacLeod, Ibrox; Rev. Wm. MacPhail, Ardrishaig; Rev. M. N. Munro, Taynuilt; Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; Messrs. Colin Sinclair, Glasgow; Andrew Stewart, Partick; Robert Macfarlane, treasurer, and Neil Shaw, secretary.

The President, Mr. Angus Robertson, presided.

Mr. Richard M. Montgomery, President, American Iona Society, who was present, addressed the members, and supplemented in outline what he had already said at the official opening.

Miss Campbell of Inverneill returned her thanks for the honour which had been conferred upon her of being appointed a Vice-President of An Comunn, and she hoped to serve faithfully during her term of office. The Council, she continued, had heard with great interest Mr. Montgomery's account of the growth of the American Iona Society. She took the opportunity of putting into words what she considered was the position of An Comunn Gaidhealach and the American Iona Society. An impression was abroad among many supporters of An Comunn that (1) since the inauguration of the American Iona Society the financial side of An Comunn's work was removed from any anxiety or exertion on their part; (2) that the avowed object of the American Iona Society in the creation of a University for the Highlands is also the avowed object of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and (3) that the proceeds of the great Feil are partially to be devoted to the suggested University.

ITS SCOPE AND WORK.

Miss Campbell, continuing, said it was vital to the well-being of An Comunn that this impression should be clearly and definitely removed. Whether in the future the scheme of the American Iona Society regarding the gift to the Highlands of "a Celtic Institution of Higher Learning" came to fruition or not, the fact could not be altered that An Comunn Gaidhealach must stand on its own feet; continuing and increasing its work by the goodwill, energy and work of its own Highland folk. A great effort to secure money for the normal needs of An Comunn was essential, and no thought of future help from overseas, however generous and friendly, must cause them to lessen their efforts. The American Iona Society was completely independent of An Comunn, sympathetic as both were in their mutual love of the Highlands.

The President said he was sure it was the wish of the Executive Council to thank Mr. Montgomery for coming to the meeting and making clear the position of the American Iona Society. He pointed out to this Society that their movement must be apart and outside anything that An Comunn was doing. The American Society had accepted the view, and were acting on it. He heartily supported Miss Campbell in saying that they could not be too emphatic in saying that the movement of the American Society did not relieve An Comunn of their obligations to their own Association. He said quite deliberately, that without such an institution as this in some

form or another, he was afraid Gaelic would not remain a fundamental part of the soul and speech of the Highlander.

OUTCOME OF THE MOVEMENT.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, speaking on behalf of the rank and file of An Comunn, expressed to Mr. Montgomery their appreciation of his presence. They were indebted to him for having come over from America, and for the evidence that he had shown of the genuineness of his interest in the work that An Comunn was carrying on. They were looking forward with great hopefulness to the outcome of the movement in America, and from what they had heard from Mr. Montgomery, and from what they knew of those behind the movement, failure was almost inconceivable. The statement made by Miss Campbell was one with which he concurred. He had maintained all along that whatever was done in America did not relieve the members of An Comunn from responsibility at home. The work of An Comunn was worthy of some sacrifice on its behalf, and they must show American friends that they were worthy of the sympathy and help proposed to be given, by doing what they could for themselves at home. He sincerely trusted that no hopes based upon American help would interfere with the special effort which was being made in Scotland to raise funds for carrying on the work of An Comunn. Whatever was done by the American Iona Society, the work of An Comunn would continue to be as necessary as ever.

The Executive proceeded to elect members to the various Committees as appended.

Mr. T. D. MacDonald's motion, remitted from the Annual Meeting, was considered, and it was left to the President, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, and the Secretary, to devise a suitable time-table for the next meeting of Council and Standing Committees at Stirling on 19th November. The importance of holding the meetings on the same date and at the same place as the Council Meetings was again emphasised.

A most interesting and helpful informal discussion followed on the development of Provincial Mods, and the desirability of securing the services of as many teachers as possible as adjudicators.

The meeting terminated, and the proceedings of an interesting and memorable week were brought to a close.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1926-27.

Finance.—Mr. Alex. Fraser (Convener), Mrs. Christison, Messrs. T. G. Bannerman, J. R.

Bannerman, Charles Campbell, Sir Norman Lamont, Messrs. Iain MacLeod, Malcolm MacLeod, Hugh MacLean, Andrew Stewart, George I. Campbell, Angus MacAulay, the President (*ex-officio*).

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

Publication.—Mr. Malcolm MacLeod (Convener), Dr. George Calder, Mr. John R. Bannerman, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Rev. G. W. MacKay, Mr. Donald MacLean, Sir Norman Lamont, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Rev. T. S. MacPherson, Messrs. Peter MacDougall, Colin Sinclair, Rev. Wm. MacPhail, the President (*ex-officio*), the Editor (*ex-officio*).

Propaganda.—Rev. G. W. MacKay (Convener) Rev. Neil Ross, Rev. Hector Cameron, Mr. George I. Campbell, Miss J. M. B. Currie, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Messrs. T. D. MacDonald, Neil Orr, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Mr. Andrew Stewart, Mrs. Christison, Mr. T. G. Bannerman, the President (*ex-officio*).

Art and Industry.—Miss Campbell of Inverneill (Convener), Mr. Colin Sinclair, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Mrs. Christison, Mrs. Colquhoun, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Messrs. Norman MacLeod, Donald MacDonald, Hugh MacLean, the Hon. Mrs. Godfrey MacDonald, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Mr. George I. Campbell, the President (*ex-officio*).

Mod and Music.—Messrs. John R. Bannerman (Convener), Charles Campbell, Dr. George Calder, Dr. A. C. Morrison, Mrs. Christison, Mrs. Colquhoun, Messrs. Alexander Fraser, Peter MacIntyre, Rev. G. W. MacKay, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Rev. Wm. MacPhail, Rev. Neil Ross, the President (*ex-officio*).

JUDGES' MOD IMPRESSIONS.

JUNIOR LITERARY SECTION COMPETITIONS 4, 5, 6, 7.

By DONALD MACLEOD, H.M.I.S., Edinburgh.

I have pleasure in submitting a short report on the papers worked at these Competitions, which were entrusted to me to correct and evaluate.

4. (a) The average quality of the papers was distinctly meritorious. There was a creditable amount of freedom shown in the reproduction of the passage in English, but the sense and spirit of the original were, in general, closely followed.

(b) The second passage was not at all so well rendered. There was in some cases a tendency to translate too literally, which resulted in somewhat doubtful English. The meaning of several of the Gaelic words and phrases, e.g.—“Coitichionn,” “riaraichte,” “tilleadh anabarrach,” “Comh-fharpuis,” “’na meadhon air . . .,” “Aon de chrìochan àraidh,” “Cumhaichean,” “Caithreimean, fàilteachan,” was not grasped by many of the competitors, and it grated somewhat on the eye as well as on the understanding to find “Ceòl mòr” rendered “great (or big) music.” And again, I do not like to see *Comunn* translated into English. *Comunn*, like the Welsh *Eisteddfod* should by now be regarded as a standard word, worthy of being incorporated into any language.

5. (a) This passage was well translated, some of the writers showing considerable skill and ingenuity in turning an idiomatic English phrase into sterling Gaelic. But *iasg shìgeach* for shell-fish was an atrocity that cropped up now and again.

(b) Generally speaking, the English sentences were admirably rendered into idiomatic Gaelic, and (c) was quite successfully done. The distinction between *sud* and *sin* presented some difficulty to a few.

6. This test yielded some excellent results. Of the various subjects offered, “A Day on the Hills,” was the most popular, but “A Night’s Fishing” made a good second. Much the best work was produced by those who selected the more popular subject. I suppose the hills and glens make a stronger appeal to the imagination of the Gael than does the sea. However, this may be, it is true that, although some distinctly good papers were written on “A Night’s Fishing,” they were usually characterised by a limited vocabulary and a stilted style of expression, while, on the other hand, the hills and their varied setting induced a wonderfully rich vocabulary, and an easy flow of simple and expressive language, showing an appreciation of mountain scenery, that reflected great credit on not a few of the writers. One or two good papers described the writer’s native district, and another, who achieved considerable distinction in more than one of the Competitions, but who just failed to get into the prize-list,

gave a very praiseworthy account of the doings of Prince Charlie during the ‘45. I hope this competitor will try again.

7. So far as the reproduction of the sentences in idiomatic English is concerned, the results were highly gratifying. The “literal translation” was on a different footing, as might be expected. It is next to impossible to render the idiom of a language into another, and the attempt to do so literally spells disaster. For example—“Cha ’n eil m’ eòlas ach gearr ort” in literal English would be something like this—“Not is my knowledge but short on you.” And the best attempt by any competitor was—“My knowledge on you is but short,” which is more English than Gaelic in form. What is wanted is the power to write good, idiomatic Gaelic which is at least reasonably correct as regards orthography and syntax.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that the omission of the accent indicative of the long vowel was not an uncommon fault. Also several writers found difficulty in spelling the aspirated form of words, and in particular the past tense forms of verbs beginning with “f,” such as *faibh, fan, faod*.

This short criticism must be viewed with due regard for the ages of the competitors. These I do not know. But this point apart, I have no hesitation in saying that the competitors were eminently successful.

By HUGH HUNTER, Mus. Bac., Glasgow.

A mere Lowlander is necessarily to some extent an outsider in a festival like the Mod, but even the toughest Lowlander could not fail to catch something of its spirit and enthusiasm. Such a gathering must be invaluable for the preservation and extension of Gaelic culture and nationality, and it is a great pleasure to have a share, even as a partial outsider, in such a Highland festival.

The general level of the singing was unmistakably high, and in some of the classes, the competitors attained a standard that would have achieved considerable success in our biggest Scottish festivals. Even the weakest competitors sang creditably, and gave good promise for the future.

The choice of pieces was admirable for the purposes of such a musical test, and the competitors generally entered into the spirit of the songs with real intelligence and interpretative insight. The voices were pleasing, and the tone production, on the whole, was quite natural and

unforced, always a good feature in singing. Most of the renderings were sympathetic, and showed sincerity of feeling. The phrasing and expression showed good training and careful preparation, but in many cases the singers failed to catch the rhythm of the song.

There is room for improvement in this respect. Although most of the singing was unaccompanied, the intonation, in general, was highly satisfactory. The gold medallists showed fine artistry, and it was a delight to hear them.

The lady who sang, accompanying herself on the Clarsach, gave an exceptionally fine rendering that lingers in one's memory.

An interesting and rather unusual feature of such festivals was the competition for solo singing of "Puirt à Beul." The difficulty of managing the breath was excellently overcome by most of the competitors.

It was gratifying to have so many entries for choir competitions, and the Mod is sure to exercise a beneficial influence on choral singing in many a Highland parish. The choirs I heard showed that they had been carefully and conscientiously trained, and the general level of the singing and interpretation was high. In some cases the balance of parts was defective; and the chording was therefore imperfect, occasionally a somewhat prominent voice tended to spoil the general blend.

The piano and violin classes produced some excellent efforts. In the piano class several of the competitors mismanaged the pedal, thus blurring the effect of the music; but the winner was entirely free from this blemish. The second-prize winner deserves high commendation.

During an interval in the proceedings in the St. Columba Church Hall, I had the pleasure of leading the audience in several well-known songs, including "The Eriskay Love Lilt," "Farewell to Fionary," "The Skye Boat Song," "Crodh Chaillein," and "Fear a' Bhata." This interlude seemed to be highly appreciated and much enjoyed.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

By Pipe-Major WILLIAM FERGUSON, Glasgow.

It was suggested to me at the Mod that a slight criticism from an adjudicator in this section might help competitors at future Mods. I will endeavour to state how the playing impressed me.

PIANO.

No player was note perfect—some very far from being so, especially in the Marches. The rhythm and spirit were generally good, in some

cases, fine. To play any melody, first of all the sounds (notes) must be played. If this is not done, the melody is broken, and no amount of spirit or style can retrieve it. Pipe tunes containing so many short notes may give the impression that a wrong note here and there does not matter, but to anyone who thoroughly knows the tune, wrong notes jar very badly. I think that a little attention to this would make for improvement in the general performance. Another fault is to cram too many embellishments into the tune, thereby upsetting the flow and spoiling the rhythm. Melody should always come first, and no embellishment should interfere with it.

I noticed one competitor had to change her music after each tune. The three tunes should be played as one piece. The changing from the one tune to the other should get special attention and practice—the March in 2-4 or 6-8 time; the Strathspey in C and the Reel in C time. Memorising the music is a great help.

VIOLIN.

The Gaelic melodies were played very correctly, the first-prize winner giving a very fine rendering of his tunes. But had the contest been keener, his mistake in starting the wrong tune might have lost him the prize. Lack of confidence was the outstanding fault with the rest. In their Gaelic Air, especially, they seemed to be afraid of their instrument, but, no doubt, nervousness had a lot to do with this. In this class again, the break from the slow air did not seem to have been considered important, but on the whole it was very good playing.

I think that the contests should be confined to either bagpipes or violin settings. The Strathspey and Reel, as played on the respective instruments, have characteristics of their own which make comparison rather difficult for the adjudicator.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—In Mr. MacCormick's article on the origin of the word, "Ceilidh," he states his opinion that the word is derived from the Latin "cælum."

Is it not possible that the word came from an Eastern word, whether Arabic or Sanscrit, I am not scholar enough to say. "Khel," which is very common in India, which means play of any sort, such as playing a game, a musical instrument, or children or animals playing amongst themselves?

It is pronounced almost as the Scottish word, "Kale," only the "h" after "K" is sounded in Hindustani, though the "h" is often dropped by Europeans.—Yours, etc.,

ALBAN WILSON, Colonel.

Galloway House,
West Burton,
Aysgarth,
Yorks.

THE AMERICAN IONA SOCIETY.

The American Iona Society has recently issued a pamphlet stating the aims for which the Society has been constituted. We give the following excerpt:—

"The American Iona Society is an organisation of Americans whose aim is to persuade all worthy fellow-citizens to give tangible recognition to the fact that many of the finer elements in our civilisation are a heritage from the Scots pioneers, who lived and fought and died for American liberty and progress. After long and careful consideration, the Society is convinced that there could be no more practical and helpful form of recognition than the establishment, near Iona or elsewhere in the Highlands, of a seat of learning, a rallying centre for economic as well as academic pursuits.

"The American Iona Society feels that the idealism and spiritual forces of the world will be greatly diminished if immediate steps are not taken to maintain those ancient impulses of Scottish nationality, which have always so markedly blessed the world. Without regard to ancestry, the Society, therefore, welcomes all good folk in America whose heart goes out to any movement that will so promote the welfare of a proud, uncomplaining race, a section of the Scots, who, for generations, have been neglected, that it may continue, as of old, to make its contribution to culture and leadership in world affairs.

* * * *

"The primary purpose of the American Iona Society is to enlist the co-operation of all thoughtful Americans, for the first time, in giving practical recognition to Scotland for the wonderful contribution she has, century after century, been making to our national welfare. The plan deemed most feasible is to erect and endow a seat of learning.

"True enough, there are universities at Aberdeen, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, but the first three are all on the East Coast, and the fourth is in the Middle South. Strangely enough, the north and west are without a university, although the earliest school in Scotland was founded in the west, at Iona, thirteen hundred years ago. As a rule, American Colleges draw most of their students from a radius of about fifty miles, whereas some of those Scottish districts are more than a day's journey from the nearest university. Four universities were needed several hundred years ago; there is now room and need for another.

"It seems reasonable that Iona University—assuming this name in the meantime—

should be placed in the midst of those Scots whom it is mainly intended to benefit. A suitable site may readily be found a hundred miles and more from any existing university, and yet easily accessible by road or rail or by steamer. About a million persons speak two languages, the old speech of Scotland and the new, and from these folk will come most of the students. It is understood, of course, that the college will be non-sectarian as well as non-political.

"The following courses seem desirable, but this does not mean that they need all be introduced as soon as the university opens, nor does it mean that a knowledge of all is essential for a degree. As in America, short-term courses, without regard to a degree, may vary from one or two weeks to one or two years.

1. *Agriculture.* Long and short courses, making use of Experimental Farm.
2. *Ancient Languages.*
3. *Biology.* Long and short, stressing Fishing Technique—boats, gear, catching methods, curing, canning, distribution.
4. *Botany.* Five hundred isles of Scotland give a chance to study the Age, considering seaweed industry of California and Japan.
5. *Business Administration.* Professor may also be Business Manager with student assistants.
6. *Chemistry.* Emphasis on Industrial Chemistry.
7. *Economics.* Apply principals to marketing of fish, cattle, poultry, tweeds, hosiery, and seaweed by-products.
8. *Education.*
9. *English.*
10. *Gaelic Language and Literature* (Scots, Manx, Irish).
11. *Geology.*
12. *History* (American and Scottish included).
13. *Home Economics.*
14. *Journalism.* Including newspaper, magazine, novel, play, motion picture.
15. *Mathematics and Astronomy.*
16. *Modern Languages.*
17. *Music.*
18. *Philosophy and Psychology.* Clinics in Vocational Guidance.
19. *Physical Education and Hygiene.*
20. *Physics.*
21. *Sociology.*
22. *Vocational Education.* Long courses and short, embracing Textiles (tweeds, rugs, blankets), Dyeing, etc.

FINANCIAL NEEDS.

PURCHASE, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT.

Cost of site, drainage, etc.	£60,000	0	0
Administration buildings, classrooms, etc.	200,000	0	0
Dormitories for 500 students, men and women	60,000	0	0
Library	60,000	0	0
Gymnasium	40,000	0	0
Agricultural experimental station	100,000	0	0
Power plant	100,000	0	0

"This makes a total for purchase, construction, and equipment of the college of £620,000.

"The sum of £1,380,000 is the estimate of the endowment liability, made up as follows:—

Upkeep and improvement of estate ..	£40,000	0	0
Building fund endowment ..	60,000	0	0
Dormitories do. ..	60,000	0	0
Gymnasium do. ..	40,000	0	0
Library do. ..	40,000	0	0
Agricultural experimental station do.	60,000	0	0
Power plant, fuel, etc. ..	100,000	0	0
Presidency ..	40,000	0	0
22 Chairs ..	440,000	0	0
Demonstration fund (seaweed, fish, and tweeds) ..	200,000	0	0
Summer school ..	110,000	0	0
Loan funds for indigent students ..	100,000	0	0
Incidentals ..	100,000	0	0

"Of course, it will not be necessary to wait until the entire amount is subscribed. As soon as the sum of three million dollars (£600,000) has been secured, construction work can begin under the direction of an approved architect.

"Some there are who, dazed by our national prosperity, are tempted to regard Americans as materialists, deficient in the finer instincts of humanity. The truth is there is no more enterprising, no more generous people on earth. Here is a unique opportunity to show our appreciation of a kindred folk, whose loyalty to truth and duty and honour, has compelled universal respect, and whose aid was vital at the birth and development of this great republic. An American school in Scotland will be a beacon, imperishable as the human spirit, spreading light and happiness among generations yet unborn."

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

John MacRae, Esq., Dingwall.
Miss C. H. D. MacLean of Ardgour.
Stewart MacInnes, Esq., Inverness.
D. MacD. Skinner, Esq., Oban.
Miss Elfreda Bruce, Connell.
Hugh MacKay, Esq., London.
Mrs. Mary I. Thom of Canna.

ORDINARY.

Miss Janet MacPhail, Luining.
J. W. MacLure, Esq., Glasgow.
Dr. Effie A. Wharton, Sussex.
Joseph J. Coull, Esq., Acharn.
Miss Annie B. Dow, Lochawe.
Miss Mary MacLeod, Castlebay.
Alasdair MacKechnie, Esq., Stranraer.
James Allan, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., Kilsyth.
Duncan Campbell, Esq., Dalmally.
Miss Catherine MacLean, Arisaig.
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Andrew R. Grindlaw, Esq., Ardrishaig.
William Cameron, Esq., Lochearnhead.
Mrs. W. Cameron, Lochearnhead.
Miss Mary MacKenzie, Lochinver.
Miss Muriel MacDonald, Scourie.
S. Hutcheson, Esq., Inverness.

Neil MacLeod, Esq., Culcabock.
 Alex. F. MacLennan, Esq., Ballachulish.
 Mrs. MacMaster Campbell, Campbeltown.
 Miss Sybil M. Curtis, London.
 Col. R. C. Campbell-Preston of Ardochattan.
 Mrs. Campbell-Preston of Ardochattan.

OBAN MOD DONATIONS.

Already acknowledged £199 1 0

Received at Head Office—

Gaelic Society of London ..	10	10	0
Greenock Highland Society ..	5	0	0
Lochgilthead Branch ..	5	0	0
Paisley Highlanders' Association ..	4	4	0
Oban and Lorn Association ..	3	0	0
Tiree Association ..	3	0	0
Vale of Leven Branch ..	2	2	0
William Hendry, Esq., Glasgow ..	1	1	0
Messrs. A. MacLaren & Son, Glasgow ..	1	1	0
Miss Harriet Stewart, Drimmin ..	1	0	0
J. L. Jamieson, Esq., Edinburgh ..	1	0	0
Archd. Campbell, Esq., Govan ..	1	0	0
Malcolm MacCallum, Esq., Aberfoyle ..	0	15	0
Miss C. Livingston, Whitehouse ..	0	12	0
"Caraid" ..	0	10	6
Roderick MacErlich, Esq., Edinburgh ..	0	10	0
R. G. MacDougall, Esq., London ..	0	10	0
Miss Phemie Marquis, Glasgow ..	0	10	0
Peter MacIntyre, Esq., Glasgow ..	0	10	0
Amounts under 10/- ..	1	3	0

Received at Oban—

Duncan MacLeod, Esq., of Skeabost ..	25	0	0
Oban Town Council ..	20	0	0
Concert at Kilmore, per Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach ..	19	1	0
Mrs. MacLeod, Raasay Lodge ..	5	1	0
H. F. Carmichael, Esq., Worthing ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Bulloch, Fasnaclioich ..	5	0	0
Received in amounts under 10/- ..	4	2	6
Col. A. J. H. MacLean of Ardgour ..	3	3	0
Benderloch Branch of An Comunn ..	3	0	0
Alex. MacGregor, Esq. ..	2	2	0
F. A. MacQuisten, Esq., M.P. ..	2	2	0
Sir Harry Lauder ..	2	2	0
Col. Iain Campbell (Airds) ..	2	0	0
Roderick MacLeod, Esq., Inverness ..	1	1	0
Robert E. Clark, Esq., ..	1	1	0
D. M. MacKinnon, Esq., Oban ..	1	1	0
W. G. MacGillivray, Esq., Oban ..	1	1	0
John Dow, Esq., Glasgow ..	1	1	0
William Chalmers, Esq., Oban ..	1	1	0
Mrs. W. J. Watson, Edinburgh ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Aulay MacKenzie ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Hugh MacDonald ..	1	0	0
Sheriff Wilson ..	1	0	0
Mr. Steedman ..	1	0	0
Miss MacPherson, Oban ..	1	0	0
Mr. MacPhie, Colonsay ..	1	0	0
Angus MacLeod, Esq., Rector, Oban High School ..	1	0	0
Hugh MacCuaig, Esq., Oban ..	1	0	0
Councillor MacLachlan, Oban ..	1	0	0
Former Member of Oban Gaelic Choir ..	0	10	6
Duncan Buchanan, Esq., Oban ..	0	10	6
Duncan MacCallum, Esq., Oban ..	0	10	6
Dugald MacIsaac, Esq., Oban ..	0	10	6
Mrs. Smyllie ..	0	10	0

Dr. and Mrs. John Cameron	0 10 0
Dr. MacDonald	0 10 0
D. MacDougall, Esq., Oban	0 10 0
Messrs. Black & Skinner, Oban	0 10 0
Messrs. R. Forbes & Sons, Oban	0 10 0
T. D. MacDonald, Esq., Oban	0 10 0
Mr. Smith, Oban	0 10 0
Henry Dunn, Esq., Oban	0 10 0
	<hr/>
	£362 11 0

FEILL DONATIONS.

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DATE.

Previously acknowledged	£207 4 4
J. W. MacLure, Esq., Glasgow	1 0 0
Per Mrs. Greenhill Gardyne of Glenforsa (proceeds of Sale, under auspices of Salen (Mull) Branch)	64 14
Per the Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Skye	5 0 0
Per Mrs. de Glyn (Concert at North Bay, Barra)	2 2 0
Per Miss Kythe Kemble, Duncraig Castle (proceeds of Concerts at Kyle and Plockton)	40 0 0
Per Miss Turner, Kilchamaig (Sale of Work)	103 0 0
	<hr/>
	£423 0 8

THE GREAT FEILL.

MAY 30TH TO JUNE 4TH, 1927.

Owing to Mod pressure on our space this month, there is little room available to record Feill progress. The Hon. Mrs. Smythe of Ness Castle, Inverness, has undertaken the convenership of that county, and all those in Inverness-shire, who are organising money-making efforts and collecting goods, are asked to communicate direct with her. The Inverness Branch of An Comunn, which is giving to the Feill the proceeds of every one of its meetings this winter, held its first gathering on 22nd October, when the Town Hall was crowded to hear Mr. Neil MacLean and Miss Jenny B. Currie. The same enthusiastic spirit is shown in South Argyll, whence came a cheque this week for

£103, the proceeds of a sale of work organised by Miss Turner, Kilchamaig. With this spirit animating each one of our members and Branches, there will be no difficulty in raising not merely the £8000 we require to enable us to carry on our present basis, but the additional £12,000, without which no developments in the work of An Comunn can be undertaken, no matter how urgent. If only eighty districts would set themselves the task of raising a sum similar to that sent by Miss Turner, our financial position would be regularised, and it is not difficult to make a long list of areas which could do this. Will not each district think seriously, and act now, so that the financial burden borne by the Executive Committee may be lightened promptly and appreciably?

The Edinburgh Stall Committee, are, next month, reviving the Highland Ball, which was formerly a regular source of income to the Comunn. This will be held in the Assembly Rooms, George Street, and tickets, price £3 3s. the pair, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. W. Shairp, 2 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh. The Ball is being organised by a committee consisting of Lady Seton, Lord James Stewart Murray, Cameron of Lochiel, MacLean of Ardgour, Major Archibald Stirling (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), Captain E. D. Stevenson (Seaforth Highlanders), and Mr. Kenneth Murray.

Several Branches of An Comunn have already notified us that they have either resolved themselves into a Feill Committee or appointed a Special Committee to raise funds and collect goods. In addition to efforts organised by the Branches as such, they are asking their members to undertake and carry through individual small money-making efforts, such as whist drives, bring and buy sales, and pound teas. These are organised in private houses, and run with the minimum of expense. Will Branches which have not yet written to tell us what they are undertaking, please do so in the near future, so that the Feill Committee may have an idea of what support they may hope for? We look forward also to hearing from our isolated members in whose areas no Branch of the Comunn has yet been formed, how much interest they are able to arouse, and what results they will achieve. We would especially remind them that one of the chief objects on which the Feill proceeds will be spent is propaganda and the opening up of new districts.

AN T-OICHEAR BAN.

Le IAIN MACCORMAIG, A'cheud duais, Mod 1925.

CAIB V. (continued).

"Ma theid esan do'n tràigh, a mhàthair, theid mise leis gu toileach toilichte, le m'òrd 's le 'm mhogain 's le'm chliabh," ar's Iseabal.

"S diu nach gabh comhairle, agus an corr chomhairlean cha toir mi ort. Ni mi mar a fhreagar, agus ni thus' Iseabal a ghaoil mar a dh'iarrar ort, agus gabh ri'm fhacal-sa no na gabh," thuirt a mathair 's i 'tionndadh le froinneadh.

B' ann mar sin a thachair an uine gun bhi fada. Thainig an t-Ab' a I. Thug e achmhasan do dh'Iseabal a chionn i bhi dol an aghaidh a pàrantan. Ghéil Iseabal, ach cha b'ann da deoin. Bha'm pòsadh eadar i fhein 's Tearlach Stiubhart ri dol air aghaidh, 's mar bu dluithe 'bha'n t-àm a' tighinn b'ann bu bhàine bha gruaidh Iseabal a' fàs.

Thainig seachduin na bàinnse, agus thainig mar an ceudna an t-Ab' a I, air thighheadas mór do Thigh a Ghlinne, seach an-shid 'g a chumail air ais.

Laigh bròn agus smal nach bu bheag air Iseabal bhochd, 's an uair a ghabhadh i sràid leatha fein feadh na coille bhiodh farmad aice ris na h-eoin a bh'aig an saor thoil fein deanamh mar a thogradh iad.

Ach aon fhreasgar an sin, feasgar no dhà roimh'n bhanais, 's i 'gabhail sraide mar a b'bhàist di, thachair sean bhean oirre air an robh i eolach riamb, agus sheas iad a' bhruidhinn. Dh'fhosgail Iseabal a cridhe do'n t-sean mhanoi. "Na'm bithinn a' dol a bhi'm mhnai aig an aon bu mhath leam cha bhitinn a' caoidh a bhi 'fàgal a bhi'm nighinn òig, ach a Mhór cha do thachair sin," ar's Iseabal 's na deoir a' tuiteam a suilean donn na maise.

"Na biodh bruaillan s am both ort, a rùin," ar's an t-sean bhean, am briathran anns an robh fuaim a ghliocais—

"S beag tha dh'fhios aig Pàp I-the Cìod e tha Rìgh Nimhe 'deanamh."

Be'n t-ìoghnadh gu'n d'thainig na briathran

so air an cois glé ealamh. An lar-na-mhàireach fhein, thainig teachdaire le luathas eich, a' dh'innseadh gu'n d'fhuairleadh Tearlach Stiubhart marbh 'na leabaidh a' mhaduinn ud fhein.

Bha'm pòsadh seachad. Ach beagan is bliadhna an déidh sin bha ullachadh an Tigh a Ghlinne a rithist. An uair so banais Iseabal agus an Oicheir Bhàin. Bha banais mhór ghreadhnach ann cuideachd agus seachduin an deidh an fhleadhachais co thainig an rathad sean Mhùr Dhuin-Duibh ach an duin' usual ma b'fhior, a cheannaich an t-sean oighreachd air am b'òighe an t-Oichear Bàn. Thilg e pasgan phaipearan air a' bhòrd, 's a sin a' suidhe, 's a' sealltuinn air an Oicheir, s an t-Oichear a' sealltuinn air-san le iognadh, ar's esan "sin agad a nis Sheamais Bhàin Oig, do chuid air ais gun dragh gun uallach, agus 's e mo dhòchas s mo dhùrachd gu'n dean thu buil mhath de na dh'fhàg do shinnsearachd agad. Tha mi 'm beachd leis an atharrachadh a thainig ort gu'n dean, agus buaidh is piseach oirbh le cheile." "Ach le'r cead" ar's an t-Oichear Bàn cìod e tha so a' ciallachadh?"

"Tha so," ar's an duin uasal caomh, is Iseabal a' featheamh na aodann 's gun chomas facail aice leis an iognadh a bhuail i, "Dh'fhàg brathair t-athair an oighreachd am laimh-sa. Bha dara leth na teachd-a-steach agam-sa, agus an leth eile aig Abaid I-Chaluin-Chille. Ach nam beadh 's gu'n tilleadh tusa, agus gu'n tigeadh tu gu rian, 's gu'n deanadh tu pòsadh glie, bha thu ri 'd choirichean fhaotuin ann air an ais. Thachair gach ni mar bu mhiann le brathair t-athar, ach tuigidh tu, a Sheamais, gu bheil leth teachd-a-steach na h-Oighreachd agam-sa ri'm bheò. Na dhéidh sin luath no mall 'g an tig am bàs orm-sa, bidh an t-sean Oighreachd so ad sheilbh-sa mar iarmad nan sean flath a thainig romhad."

Bha rachd am muinneal an duin uasal 'n uair bha e bruidhinn, agus cha b'fhearr aigne Iseabal, no eadhon an Oicheir Bhàin fhein ged bu chruaidh e.

Bha iognadh air an dùthaich air fad 'n uair a sgaoil an naidheachd, 's cha bu lugha na iognadh chàich, iognadh athar is màthar Iseabal. Mar an d'thuirt na sean daoine e, "gheibh gach neach mar luthachaichear dà," agus bha e coltach gu'n d'fhuair an t-Oichear Bàn is Iseabal sin. Thug iad ioma latha sona toileichte an Dun-Dubh. Thog iad teaghlach mór eireachdail a bha nan urrad do na daoine o'n d'thainig iad, agus chum an sliadh ceò an Caisteal mór Dhuin-Duibh fad ioma linn.

DOMHNULL NAN TRI LAMH.

THREE-HANDED DONALD.

(Translation by Mr. J. G. MACKAY, London.)

PART III.

An uair a thill iad a nall, cò chunnaic iad aig a' chaolas ach a bhean [Sìle, bean Mac na Bantraich], agus an leanabh, agus Dòmhnall nan Tri Làmh."

Chaidheas a dh'iarraidh Dòmhnall, agus chuir na boirionnaich òga failt' air a chèile. "O!" ars a phiuthair, "nach b'è sìod a' chulaidh oilt 'ga bhreith!"

"Ma ta," ars an Gàidheal [Mac na Bantraich], "an leobhra, is e; ach nan tugadh esan òrdan domhsa, ghearrainn an làmh a tha air a uchd dheth."

"Ma ta," arsa Mac Rìgh an Deirg [a b'è an leomhann buidhe roimhe], "tha oladh an so a bheir craicinn air ann an trì làithean."

[Thug Dòmhnall nan Tri Làmh an t-òrdan daibh, is ghearr iad an treas làmh dheth.]

Chan fhaca duine riamh a h-aon a b' àine na e, an dèidh an làmh a bhì dheth; agus cha robh duine a chunnaic a aghaidh roimhe, a dh'aithnicheadh e. Bha e 'na dhuine ro eireachdail, an uair a chaidh e air cruth eile.

Chaidh iad gu teaghlach Rìgh an Domhain, is an uair a ràinig iad, chunnaic Nighean Rìgh an Domhain Dòmhnall, is chan aithnicheadh i bad dheth. Is i a phòsadh e! Phòs Dòmhnall agus Nighean Rìgh an Domhain.

Cha robh mac aig Rìgh an Domhain idir, agus chrùnadh Dòmhnall 'na rìgh air Rìoghachd an Domhain.

B'è Mac Rìgh Bhaile-fo-Thuinn a bha anns a' chùilean bheag,¹⁴ odhar, agus bha e fo gheasan gu bràth, gus an tugadh e an leomhann buidhe [a b'è Mac Rìgh an Deirg] bhàrr an eilein.

[Dh'fhàg iad Rìgh an Domhain.]

Ràinig iad Eirinn.

Phòs Mac Rìgh an Deirg [Màiri] Nighean Rìgh Eireann, is chaidh e dhachaidh leatha a dh'ionnsuidh a rìoghachd fhéin.

Thuit Eirinn an so air Mac na Bantraich.

Chaidh an cùilean breac [odhar], dhachaidh [a dh']ionnsuidh a rìoghachd fhéin.

When they came back, whom should they see at [the shore of] the strait but his wife [Sìle, the wife of the Widow's Son], and the child, and Three-handed Donald.

They set off to go to [lit. to fetch] Donald, and the young women saluted each other. "O!" said his sister, "what a born figure of horror yonder creature is."

"Well," quoth the Gael [the Widow's Son], "by the books, that is what he is; but if he would give me the order, I would cut off the arm [lit. hand] that springs from his breast."

"Well then," quoth the son of the King of Deirg [he who had been the tawny lion], "there is some ointment here that would [heal him, and] grow a new skin over the place in three days."

[Three-handed Donald gave them command, and they cut off his third arm.]

Never did any man see a more beautiful person than he, after the arm had been cut off; and there was no man who had seen his face before who could have recognized him. He became a very handsome man, when he assumed another shape.

They set out for the household of the King of the World, and when they got there, and the King of the World's daughter saw Donald, she did not recognize him in the least. [Marry him!] She was the very one who would marry him! So Donald married the King of the World's daughter.

The King of the World had no son at all, and so Donald was crowned King of the Kingdom of the World.

The little¹⁵ dun doggie was the son of the King of Town-under-Waves. He was to have remained perpetually enchanted, until he should bring the tawny lion [who was the Son of the King of Deirg] away from the island.

[They left the King of the World.]

They came to Erin.

The Son of the King of Deirg married [Mary], the daughter of the King of Erin, and went home with her to his own Kingdom.

The [Kingdom of] Erin then fell to [the lot of] the Widow's Son.

The speckled [dun] doggie went home to his own Kingdom.

¹⁴ In MS., "Dòmhnall nan trì làmh, agus a bhean, agus an leanabh" = "Three-handed Donald, his wife, and the child," which is obviously wrong and corrupt, seeing that up to the present Donald has neither wife nor child.

¹⁵ The *cùilean* or whelp or doggie was previously spoken of as *breac*, speckled, not *beag*, little.

From the MS. Collections of the late J. F. Campbell of Islay, IAN OG ILE, Vol. XI., Tale 260.—Narrator, Donald MacPhie, South Uist.—Transcriber, Hector MacLean. Recited and transcribed in 1860.

Islay's comment is—"Magic mixed with history." The tale is probably but the remains of a one-time great romance. The following summary may prove acceptable:—

The King of Erin has a son with three hands, Donald, and a daughter, Mary. He adopts a founding, Sheila. The two names, Mary and Sheila, have been given to them by me in order to distinguish the one from the other.

The son is metamorphosed into a hideous monster. We are not told who performed the change, nor why it was done. As a result, presumably, of the metamorphosis, the son kills all who come to court his sister, Mary. He leaves home and goes away, none knowing whither.

The Son of a Highland Widow now appears on the scene, goes to Erin, and sues for the hand of the King's Daughter. The King gives him, not his own daughter, Mary, but the founding, Sheila, whether intentionally or not, does not appear.

The Widow's Son takes his wife, Sheila, off to Scotland, to the Highlands, but before he does so, Mary lays injunctions upon Sheila to come back and see her at the end of a year. Her words suggest that she used some be-spelling incantation, which is now lost.

At the end of the year, the Widow's Son takes Sheila and her child back to Erin, in his chariot, in order that Sheila may keep her promise of visiting Mary. But when they arrive, they find that Mary has been stolen away, no one knows whither.

The hero sets out travelling again with his wife and child, in order, probably, to find Mary.

Some one is discovered to be hanging on to the back of the hero's chariot, and this turns out to be Three-handed Donald; he was last spoken of as a "beist mhór" (great monster), but is now said to be a fine and handsome man. Perhaps this striking change in personal appearance may be due to some event which the reciter had forgotten, or perhaps the change is to be looked upon as a premature anticipation by the reciter or transcriber of a much later event in the story.

At the request of the hero, Three-handed Donald fights with him on even terms, and allows his third arm to be put out of action. This apparent exhibition of chivalry, and the fact that Donald accepts defeat very readily, probably indicate that he desired defeat, an interesting and important point. And the Widow's Son seems to see what Donald wants, for he does not press his advantage home, but seems to accept victory as understood. He was probably as desirous as Donald was that there should be no reality about the fight, for there is no sign of any ardour on the part of either combatant, though this absence of ardour may be due to corruption. And Donald, too, must have known that the other would be chivalrous enough to understand the exigencies of the matter, and therefore chose the Widow's Son as the right person by whom to be defeated. But why should Donald desire defeat? There may have been several reasons. In the first place, defeat would probably break the spells which up to then had made Donald attack and kill all his sister's suitors; for if spells have no power over broken or defective things (a

principle abundantly illustrated in the tale of Dunbhailg or Dunbhuirg¹⁵), it is to be supposed that they would equally have none over broken or defeated men. Thus mimic or symbolic defeat would, in the merry world of magic, be just as efficacious as real defeat (see No. 283), magic being above all things sympathetic, reacting to, and following upon symbol, as readily as if it were reality. Secondly, defeat for Donald meant victory for the Widow's Son, and presumably the hands of the latter would thereby be strengthened for the task, which, as will presently appear, only he could undertake, the task of recovering Donald's lost sister, Mary. Thirdly, the Widow's Son would now be able to act [as intermediary, gooseberry, or proxy¹⁷] on behalf of his defeated enemy, and woo and win the Daughter of the King of the World or Domain, the lady upon whom Donald had set his heart, but to whom his appearance was so horrifying that she could not bear the sight of him. He kills all her suitors, as well as Mary's suitors. Fourthly, success in woo-ing was the first step towards obtaining a magic doggie, speckled and dun, the possession of which was essential to the recovery of Mary.

Accordingly, Donald gives the Widow's Son certain instructions. He is to woo the lady as if intending marriage, but when the marriage is about to be celebrated, to refuse to allow it to take place until he has obtained a certain white-faced stag. This curious request is not explained. It seems utterly irrelevant and unreasonable, though the lady does not seem to think so, but it may perhaps incidentally indicate that in former times a bridegroom was a privileged person, who had the right to make any demand he thought fit, and be sure of having it granted.

The demand for the white-faced stag (an animal which, by the way, does not appear again) will beguile the lady into parting with the magic doggie. The Widow's Son is to run off with the doggie, after first caressing it and uttering a certain magical sentence indicating admiration of it. The sentence may be a substitute for something older, some incantation perhaps, utterance of which ensured the possession of the doggie, and ensured also its allegiance to its new proprietor. Hero and doggie are to repair to a strait full of venomous dogfishes, which were (probably) dangerous to the hero, but which would do no harm to the doggie, because (probably) they would have been subjects of the animal's father, who afterwards turns out to be the King of Town-under-Waves. This mysterious country, Town- or Land-under-Waves, is sometimes the name of a submarine region, and sometimes the name of one of the Isles of the Blessed; the King may either be a Celtic or pre-Celtic Neptune, or perhaps a monarch who reigned over one or all of the Isles of the Blessed: or he may be a fusion of various mythological sovereigns.

On the other side of the strait is an island, containing a tawny lion, a castle, a well of magic water, and Mary. Mary is in the lion's power, and nothing on earth can rescue her from the lion save the doggie. The Widow's Son is to tell the doggie to fetch the lion across to him, which done, he is to address a sentence to the lion indicating admiration of it, and expressing satisfaction at having got hold of both it and the speckled dun doggie. Magic animals, from whom help is expected, are always addressed or spoken of politely, or as being "worthy" creatures.¹⁸ At the first utterance of the

¹⁵ See *Waifs and Strays*, I., Rev. J. G. Campbell, *Superstitions of the Scottish Highlands*, 66, 73-5.

¹⁷ Woo-ing by proxy occurs in No. 354, Campbell of Islay's MS., Vol. XI.

¹⁸ See *W.H. Tales*, IV., p. 312 or 342—I., No. 9, where a horse is addressed as "you worthy horse," and a bear is spoken of as "the worthy bear." Politeness in addressing fairies is also of the utmost importance. Two friendly hounds are spoken of as "the worthies," *Ibid.* I., No. 4, p. 81 or 83.

sentence (which is apparently quite irrelevant to the result to be obtained, suggesting that some other incantation has been lost) the lion will shake himself and become big. At the second utterance, the lion will assume human shape (*lit.*, will grow or become as he ever was), but be bedewed with sweat.¹⁹ Next, the Widow's Son is to send the speckled dun doggie across the strait again to fetch some magic water from the well, in order that the hero may rub the former lion therewith. The latter will then become very beautiful. Thus the lion, who is the Son of the King of Deirg, undergoes, as far as can be guessed, two processes of transformation and one of beautification.

Though the scribe does not say that the Widow's Son wooed the King's Daughter and obtained the magic doggie, it is clear that these events took place. For we are next told that the Widow's Son arrives at the strait and sends the doggie across for the lion. The doggie brings the lion over by the ear, and the hero thereupon utters the prescribed sentence, with the result that the lion grows big. The MS. fails to say that the hero reiterated the sentence, and that the lion thereupon became as he had ever been, but bedewed with sweat, and I have therefore inserted paragraphs to this effect between square brackets, for the sake of connection. The doggie next fetches across three bottles full of the magic water of the magic well, and the lion having been rubbed with the water, becomes beautiful.

The magic or healing water brought from a well located in an island figures in many stories. The well is sometimes spoken of as green, and the island is sometimes spoken of as the Green Isle. The island is sometimes situated at the other side of a strait, or may lie out in the Western Ocean, either alone, or among a group of other islands, the Isles of the Blessed.

Then the Prince of Deirg and the doggie (but probably not the Widow's Son) cross the strait once more to fetch Mary. They bring her back to the mainland, where they now observe Sheila, Sheila's child, and Three-handed Donald waiting for them. The MS. is confused at this point, and says that it was Donald, his wife, and child, who were awaiting them. This must be wrong, seeing that up to this point Donald has no wife.

Donald's appearance horrifies his sister, Mary (a most unusual thing in these tales, in which the wildest wonders are received without any comment or astonishment, and are described without epithet or ornament). But upon Donald's third arm being cut off, his hideousness leaves him, and he becomes a handsome man. They visit Donald's former sweetheart, the Daughter of the King of the World. She fails to recognise the former monster in the handsome Donald, and is now quite willing to marry him. So Donald, the now two-handed Son of Erin's King, becomes King of the Domain or Demesne or World, not King of Erin.

The Prince of Deirg, who, as a lion, had forcibly detained Mary in the magic island, now marries her, and takes her home to his own kingdom, wherever that is or was.

The doggie, Son of the King of Town-under-Waves, goes to his own kingdom, presumably having resumed human shape.²⁰

The Kingdom of Erin falls to the Widow's Son, as the husband of the adopted daughter of Erin's King. (The incident of a hero settling among his wife's people also occurs in Islay's *Popular Tales*, II., No. 38, and MS. Vol. XI., No. 171. See also Dr. Geo. Henderson, *Survivals in Belief among the Celts*, 4n.) Thus Donald, the Prince of Deirg, and the Widow's Son, all marry happily. It is to be observed, however, that the doggie does not.

It is just possible that the Son of the King of Deirg, who is aided by the little dog divinity, is connected with the great Munster tribe of the Deirghthine or Deirgtheine. One of the princes of this tribe, to wit, Eogan, son of Mogh Neid, was assisted by Nuada, a marine god (*Roy. Soc. Antiquaries of Ireland*, Dec. 1919, 150—*Folk Lore*, XXXI., 118). The Prince of Deirg also occurs in another singular story, No. 305, Islay's MS., Vol. XI.

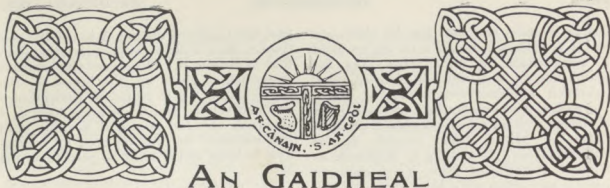
The venomous or dangerous dogfishes are called in our tale *bioraiche* [an] *ninhe*. In *An Faclair*, the singular form, *biorach*, the sharp-pointed, or prickly, or piercing thing, is referred to the *gobag*, or mouthed, biting thing, *squalus acanthias*. But there is another kind of dog-fish, *scyllium catulus*, in Gaelic, *dallag*, or blind thing, which figures in another tale, called "The reason why the dallag (dog-fish) is called the King's-fish." This story (No. 83, Islay's *Popular Tales*, III.) relates that the King of Lochlann quarrelled with Fionn one day over a *dallag* which they had caught when fishing together. Fionn was the first to notice that the *dallag* had taken his hook, but upon hauling the fish on board, it was seen that the King of Lochlann's hook was also embedded in it. Both claimed the fish. They went to law, and the law decided that the fish belonged to Fionn, because he had been the first to notice that it was "laying" on his line. The King of Lochlann, annoyed, went home, and complained to his foster-parents, the Muileartach or Muireartach (*Ibid.*, No. 73), who is usually called a Norse Witch, and the Smith of Songs, to whom she was married. All three came to Erin in order to be revenged, and ever since then the *dallag*, we are (rather inconsequently) told, was called the king's-fish.

It should be noted that the late Professor Sir John Rhys thought that Lochlann, "like the Welsh Llychlyn, before it came to mean the home of the Norsemen, denoted a mysterious country in the lochs or the sea." *Hibbert Lectures*, 1886, p. 355. It is possible, then, that the King of Lochlann, and his foster-parents, were hostile marine divinities, who would naturally resent Fionn's capturing any of their subjects, or sacred fishes. The dangerous dog-fishes in our tale were probably subjects, or messengers perhaps, of the King of Town-under-Waves, seeing that they do no harm to the King's own Son. And the said King may have been confounded with the King of Lochlann in No. 83. In any case, our story is probably of singular importance as a contribution towards the reconstruction of a lost marine mythology, either pre-Celtic or Celtic. But its place in that mythology, and its inner meaning, must be left to the learned to settle.

J. G. McKAY.

¹⁹ Disenchantment is accompanied by sweating in an Irish tale (*West Irish Folk-Tales*, William Larmine, p. 230). The hero in No. 44 (Campbell of Islay's *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*, II.), when raised from the dead, is said to be "in a burst of sweat." A seer, when seeing a painful vision, also perspired. Rev. J. G. Campbell, *Witchcraft and Second Sight in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*, p. 180.

²⁰ For a "little dog divinity who goes to the skies," see Islay's *Pop. Tales*, I., No. 12. See also IV., index, art. dog, and MS., Vol. X, Nos. 156, 159. In Irish myth, a little fox frequently occurs. See *Ibid.*, II., No. 46, Var. 4.



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Leabhar XXII.]

An Dùdlachd, 1926.

[Earrann 3

CEOL NA CLARSAICH.

Is i a' chlàrsach fìor inneal ciùil nan Gàidheal. Ge be cho fad is a thèid sinn air ar n-ais an eachdraidh ar cinnich gheibh sinn gur i a' chruit no a' chlàrsach an inneal air an trice bheil iomradh. A reir nan seann laghanan bha an inneal so a' faotainn urram sònruichte. Chan fhaodadh tràill a làmh a chur air clàrsaich. Chan fhaodadh fear féiche greim a dheanamh air cruit gu fiachan a phàidheadh le luch na cruite. Agus bha urram sònruichte 'g a dhleasadh leis an luchd ealadhain a bha ealanta an cluich na clàrsaich. Thugadh alt na h-inneil so gu ìre ard troimh iomadh ginealach. An Eirinn tha dealbh na cruite air a gearradh an cloich, agus tha corr is dà cheud deug bliadhna o chaidh an dealbh a ghearradh. Tha clàrsach am Baile Atha Cliath a bha air a seinn aig chùirt Rìgh Brian Boromhe o chionn naoi ceud bliadhna. Tha clàrsach aig Clann Dhonnachaidh an Siorramachd Pheirt a tha sia ceud bliadhna de aois. Tha e coltach gu bheil cunntas cinnteach ri sheachnadh mu na seann chruitean sin, a tha nochdadh gu bheil an cleachdadh is an t-alt gle aosmhor am measg nan Gàidheal.

A nuas air feadh nan linntean meadhonach tha litreachas Eirinn a togail fianuis gu robh na clàrsairean pailt agus ealanta. Agus tha an teistean ceudna againn mu chruitearan na h-Alba. Cha robh ceannu cinnidh sam bith aig nach robh clàrsair is bàrd. Bha e 'n a chleachdadh aig clàrsairean Alba dol do Eirinn a dh'ionnsuchadh sgìil is ealantas an ceòl na clàrsaich. Agus air uairibh bha an clàrsair 'n a bhàrd mar an ceudna. Is ann mar sin a bha Ruairidh Moiristean, An Clàrsair Dall, a bha 'n a chlàrsair aig Macleòid an Dùnbheagain

o chionn dà cheud bliadhna air ais. Tha luchd frithealaidh A' Mhòid Ghàidhealaich a nis glé eòlach air *Oran Mòr Mhicleoid*. An uair a dh' fhàs an Clàrsair Dall 'n a sheann duine cho robh e air a chumail na b'fhaide leis an triath ùr a thainig an dèidh "An Iain a dh' eug 's nach beò." Tha an t-òran ag innse mar a thachair am bàrd is Mac Talla nan creag ri chèile "air seacharan bhcan 's an t-sliabh." Thug Mac Talla tarruing air a' chlàrsaich anns na briathran so:

"Dhomhsa b'fhurasda ràdh
Gum bu chuireadh gair nan teud,
Le imirt dhà làmh
Cur a' bhinneis do chàch an cèill;
Rìgh, bu shiùbhlach 'nam chluais
Modhann lùthar le luasgan mheur."

Agus ceud bliadhna roimhe sin thubhairt Niall Mór Mac Mhuirich gun cualas "gair nan clairseach" an Dùnbheagain.

Is ann do na linntean meadhonach a bhuineas móran de na seann òrain Ghàidhlig a tha muinntir a' seinn gun an latha an diugh. An uair a rinneadh na luinneagan agus na fuinn sin air tùs b' i a' chlàrsaich an inneal choitcheinn a' comhlachadh guth an luchd seinn. Tha buaidh anabarrach aig a' chruit mar inneal comhlachaidh. Tha ceòl na clàrsaich binn, ciùin, tiorail; agus cha mhùch is cha bhàth e guth an t-seinneadair. Is gann gu bheil inneal comhlachaidh idir aun a tha mar gum b'eadh cho pearsanta ris a' chlàrsaich. Chuireadh na seann chlàrsairean an luchd òisdeachd gu aoibhneas, gu gul, no gu codal. Tha sinn de'n bheachd gu robh móran de mhaise is de bhuaidh na seann òran comheangailte ri ceòl na clàrsaich. Agus tha sinn a' làn chreidsinn nach cluinnear gu bràth

buaidh is maise nan òran mar bu chòir, gus am bi a' chlàrsach againn a ris aig na Mòd a' comhlachadh an luchd seinn. Tha fios againn uile gu 'n d' rinneadh oidheirp air a' chlàrsaich ath-bheothachadh aig a' Mhòd. Cha robh a' chiùs soirbheachail, oir cha d'fhuair a' chlàrsach riamh a h-àite dligheach aig Mòd. Fhuair a' phiano urram ro-mhór aig ar cruinnichidhean. Is ann aig a' chlàrsaich, ar n-inneal dhùthchasail fhéin, a bu chòir an t-àile is an t-urram sin a bhì. Their cuid gun deachaidh alt na cruite air dlchuimhne; ach tha feadhainn ann fathast a chluicheas a' chlàrsach gu binn. Car son nach biodh an leithid sin a' comhlachadh na seinn aig Mòd an àite na piano. Tha an t-òran mór air aon de na h-òrain a dh'fheumar a sheinn airson bonn-suaicheantais òir A' Choinuinn. Car son nach eil e mar riaghailt againn gu feum an t-òran mór a bhì air a' chomhlachadh le ceòl na clàrsaich? Agus ma tha feum idir air inneal ciùil gu bhì a' comhlachadh guth an luchd seinn aig Mòd, car son nach i a' chlàrsach a dh'fhaodar a chleachdadh. Cha bhuin piano do ar seann cheòl. Is inneal choigreach i. Nach tric a chualas fuaim na piano a' bàthadh na seinn agus a' bodhradh na cuideachda? Cha chanair sin gu bràth mu 'n chlàrsaich, a bha cho urramach an talla nan triath, agus cho ainneil an ceòl nan Gàidheal.

ON GAELIC PRONUNCIATION.

By ANGUS MACLEOD, M.A., B.Sc.,
Rector of Oban High School.

There is a curious claim put forward by Gaelic speakers, which indirectly creates consternation among many Mod competitors and leads Lowlanders to believe that Gaelic is not a language, but an assortment of dialects. This claim, namely, that the pronunciation of Gaelic current in a particular district, or even village, is the one and only correct pronunciation, requires only to be stated in these bald, specific terms, to be instantly refuted.

The disappointment of native Gaelic speakers at the loss of marks in Mod competitions is traceable to this claim; they assume, or assert, that, because they have spoken the language from childhood, they are good, distinct speakers, and that their pronunciation cannot be wrong. This position is quite untenable, as will be shown presently, and a most unfortunate impression is made on outsiders, who are informed

that the Gaelic of district A is not the real Gaelic, since it differs in pronunciation from that of district B. The sooner this arrogant pretension is given up, the better for the Gaelic cause; it is rooted in complacency and narrowness, and no progress towards a standard, cultured speech is possible until this parochial spirit is replaced by willingness to learn and a desire to perpetuate the best.

Let us be quite clear on one point: pronunciation and accent are quite distinct. As regards accent, most of us are in the same case as St. Peter—our speech betrayeth us, and assigns us to our respective native districts—but we need not be unduly perturbed on that score. We are not concerned with the question of accent in this article, which, by the way, owes its origin to certain Mod incidents, and, perhaps, annoyances, with random reflections thereon.

The "annoyances" arose from sitting near people who made running commentaries, generally of a pitying, patronising character, on the Gaelic of individual competitors or choirs. They could get no "blas" in one case (because the intonation differed from their own), they could not understand another (because their vocabulary was obviously limited), and, in short, they might not unfairly be classed with George MacDonald's wasome carle, with his refrain, "You're a' wrang, and a' together a' wrang."

The "incidents" refer to more than one Mod, and they are typical. A certain adjudicator, probably tired and nettled at being asked by a competitor why the latter's Gaelic mark was so low, replied curtly that the competitor spoke Inverness-shire Gaelic. Now the competitor may have made a mistake in inquiring, and he may have made mistakes in pronunciation, but the answer given was surely inadequate; at any rate, it ruined that competitor's confidence in the impartiality of Argyllshire adjudicators.

Another judge indicated a preference for the northern mode of pronouncing "ao," but as it happened that all the competitors gave the more open rendering, the result was not affected.

A third adjudicator showed such thorough familiarity with local pronunciations that his sympathy was perhaps too wide. At any rate, one is inclined to doubt whether a competitor who converts "bàn" into "béin" should receive full marks, or whether "Mary" should be accepted as the pronunciation of "Màiri," although the speaker is

known to belong to a district which has practically eliminated the simple broad vowel sound, "a."

Lastly, there can be no doubt that singers who say "herran" for "theirinn" should be severely penalised.

On the other hand, one gentleman (not a judge this time), in a discussion on pronunciation, declared that in doubtful cases he always asked himself how his mother would have said such and such. Let us apply this criterion to English. Would our friend accept the common Glasgow pronunciation of "water," "butter," "weather," or the Cockney version of "home," "am," "law"? Are we to recognise as standard "gyarden" (garden), "toap" (top), "thoat" (thought), "coop" (cup)? Yet in each case the speaker might cite his parents as witnesses to the accuracy of his rendering. The argument need not be pursued; the usage of home, parish, or county is not necessarily infallible.

The following notes are written in the hope that they may prove helpful to those who may not hitherto have given much consideration to the subject, and that some attempt may be made to establish an accepted standard of Gaelic pronunciation. Mod singing has improved so steadily that now the standard is admittedly high, but this happy result has been attained by constant care and practice, sound training, and continual reference to the standards of modern musical culture, not by assuming that any particular area has a monopoly of good singing. Can we not apply a similar process to Gaelic speech.

One observation on Mod recitations may be made at this stage. In some competitions the impression was left on one's mind (rightly or wrongly) that adjudicators were carried away by mere loudness and assurance. No doubt many of us were taught at school to speak well out in reading or reciting; in fact, it is no exaggeration to say that some teachers encouraged shouting. Nowadays bawling is not acceptable. The recitation sessions of any Musical Festival can teach us a great deal in this connection, and the performances of verse-speaking choirs show how effective restraint may be. For many of the pieces set for Mod competitions, a vigorous or strident rendering seems singularly inappropriate, and makes one wonder if the speaker really appreciates the thought or sentiment of the author.

The main features of good reading or reciting are soon told. Proper phrasing, emphasis, and expression spring naturally

from understanding and sympathy; but in this article we are concerned with the mechanical qualities of good reading (or speech), which may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) *Purity of utterance*, depending on the correctness of vowel sounds;
- (2) *distinctness of utterance*, depending on the proper sounding of consonants; and
- (3) *good articulation*, which depends on the joining of syllables in a word and the separation of consecutive words.

(1) Now, as regards vowel sounds, each district is a law unto itself. Incidental reference has been made to the narrowing of the vowel "a," which turns "màthair" into "mé-thir," "thàinig" into "théinig," "ann" into "eann," etc.; we also noted the difference in regard to "ao," and we might add that "eu" in many districts is rendered as "ia." Other examples will occur to every reader. The following are set down at random:—

- "Airgid" is heard as "erra," or "arra-gioid";
- "coire" differs from district to district in pronunciation as much as corrie does from curry or carry;
- "meas" may be rendered as "mace," "mess," or "miss";
- "duine," in a wide district, cannot be distinguished from "duinne";
- "eil" has been noted as "ull," "ale," and "ell."

This list could be easily extended, but it is sufficient for our present purpose, which is to show that some standard is necessary in regard to purity of utterance. In view of the variation of vowel sounds throughout the Gaelic speaking area, to establish such a standard would appear impossible, until we reflect on the no less varied values given to vowels in English, in spite of which there is a generally accepted standard. Local divergences from the standard are termed "provincialisms," and these receive no consideration from judges in Festival competitions, nor are they recognised in dictionaries. A speaker who says "bal" (ball), "abrode" (abroad), "bote" (bought), "jist" (just), "desspond" (despond), is reckoned an incorrect speaker, from whatever district he hails; but in Gaelic the only standard is local sanction.

(2) When we come to consider the consonants, we find the position much more

difficult, because variation in consonants has produced far-reaching effects, making, in fact, the pronunciation of words in one area scarcely recognisable in another. A few examples will illustrate how far differentiation has proceeded:—

“c”: “breac” is pronounced as “breck” in some districts, as “brech-k” in others (with “ch” hard as in “loch”). The latter make no distinction between “boc” and “bochd.”

“d”: initially as “tch” (almost as “j”) in “de,” generally, but in some parts hard English as “th,” so that “de” sounds like they; similarly in the case of a word like “cairdean.”

“l”: many neglect the aspirated form; some Mod metallists make no distinction in the “l” of “an leònadh” and of “mo leònadh.”

“r”: hard in some districts, lisped in others.

“rt”: universally as “rst” in “ort,” “ceart,” and other monosyllables; in some districts the “s” sound is not used in such words as “thuir,” “sagart”; in one district the “s” has obliterated the “r,” so that “mart” is pronounced as “mas-th.”

“rd”: in some parts hard as in English, “bard” almost like English “bard,” “ceard” as “kyard”; in others, the final “d” is consistently pronounced as “th.” Some districts follow the analogy of “rt” and introduce the “s” in such words as “bòrd,” but it is difficult to retain the “d” sound then—it tends to become “t.” Thus “bùird” has been heard as “bùirt”—another word altogether.

“bh”: initially as everywhere; some districts continue to give it this value when it occurs in the middle of a word, e.g. “easbhuidh,” in others the word is heard as “essy.” In the former we should not expect to hear “gabhail” as “ga-al” or “go-al,” but we do; generally the “bh” is silent in “marbhaidh,” and if not silent it is usually slurred when it occurs terminally, as in “falbh,” “beannaibh.”

“mh”: parallel variations are found here; while “mhor” is universally pronounced like “vore,” the “mh” in “lamh,” “amhach,” etc., is, in the south, either silent or represented by a nasalised “w,” so that “sàmhach”

is rendered as “saw-ach.” The word “amhairc” is heard in various guises, “av-irk,” “aw-irk,” “ow-irk,” “ow-rik,” “air-ic.” The last two perversions afford good illustrations of the results produced by consecutive vowel sounds, and show us that the neglect of consonantal sounds leads to degenerate forms.

These random examples prove that some standard is required for consonants, perhaps even more than for vowels. Standardisation does not imply absolute consistency in the sense that one letter (or group of letters) should have the same phonetic value wherever it occurs, but it does involve an agreement that there is a correct way of pronouncing “labhairt,” for example, and that variations of it should be regarded as localisms, and in competitions penalised accordingly.

(3) The third essential of clear speech, namely, the correct joining of syllables and the proper separation of words, need not be discussed at length. The syllables of a word will be distinct when the consonants receive due attention, and words will stand out clearly when final syllables or letters are distinctly sounded. In English a good speaker would “take care” (not “tay-care”) to say “particular” (not “partic-ler”), “what time” (not “wha-time”), “cool links” (not “cool-inks”), etc. In Gaelic, the prominence given to stressed syllables makes it necessary for speakers to be ever on their guard against a natural tendency to slur unaccented syllables, and run words together. Short cuts frequently produce disagreeable effects—as when “da uair dheug” becomes “dàrùg,” “ceithir la deug” is converted into “colladoug,” or “Calum-alas-c-omhail” does duty for “Calum Alasdair Mhic Dhonnhail.”

Such, then, is the situation with which we are confronted at present in regard to Gaelic pronunciation. Could An Comunn not make an attempt to set up a standard of pronunciation for Mod competitors in the first instance? It is not for any individual to lay down the law in this matter, though many are ready to do so. Prejudice and personal predilection must be overcome, but it should be possible to find a representative committee of men of national outlook, with the requisite knowledge of the language as a literary medium and a living tongue, who would formulate definite proposals.

The present is not an inopportune time to make such an attempt. Gaelic is being

gradually placed on a sound footing as a school subject in the Highlands; children are receiving systematic instruction in reading and writing, and teachers have a great opportunity and commensurate responsibility, not only in regard to correct grammatical expression, but also in the matter of pronunciation, for the teachers' pronunciation is imitated and accepted as authoritative by the pupils. Chaucer says of his Persoun that "he taughte, but first he folwed it himself." In the pronunciation of Gaelic, the teachers may well ask which "it" they should follow. In English they can point to a standard, and spend much time in correcting pronunciation that does not conform to it, but in Gaelic local usage is supreme. They are entitled to look for guidance in this matter to a central organisation concerned with the promotion of Gaelic study in all its aspects. Will An Comunn respond?

Glòir aoibhneach cruth nàduir
A' cur àilleachd le buaidh,
Is feartan urramach, prìseil
Nach gabh innseadh na luaidh.

Bha gach lus a bha 'n teanntachd
'S a rinn fuachd a' gheamhraidh a chnàmh,
'S a chaidh á fianuis 's an dùbhlachd
Nis cho ùr-ghorm fo bhlàth;
Na neòineanan fìor-ghéal
'S an t-sòbhrag fhìnealta 'fàs,
Le 'n duilleagan a' lubadh
Fo dhealt chùbhraidh nan tràth.

Rinn mi gàirdeachas sònraicht
Ri guth ceòlmhor nan eun,
'S mi 'nam shuidhe air an tulaich
'S mi gun mhulad gun fhiamh;
Mi 'g èisdeachd le dùrachd
Ris na ciùil bha gu m' mhiann,
Thug dhomh riarachadh càileachd
'S a rinn mo thàladh gu dian.

CUAIRT MHAIDNE A' BHUACHAILLE.

LE CALUM MAC RATH.
(A Cheud Duais, Mod 1926.)

Anns a' mhaduinn Di-ciadainn
Mun dhearrs a' ghrian troimh na neòil,
Ann am meadhon an t-samhraidh
'N uair bha na beanntan fo chròic,
Thug mise ceum aotrom
Troimh an aonach leam féin,
Dh'ionnsuidh gleannan na maise
Far an caidil an spréidh.

Bu mhór sòlas mo chridhe
'S mi air an t-slighe cho tràth,
'N uair bha samhchear 'sa chruinne,
Gach ainmhidh is duine aig tàmh;
Fois is sìth anns an iarmailt,
Cùbine, tlòralachd 's bàigh,
Beatha thlmeil air tighinn
'S gach ni air tilleadh gu gnàths.

Bha clos air onfhadh na mara,
'S air tonnan greannach le 'n gàir,
Bhiodh a' bualadh ri carraig
Is a' stealladh ri tràigh;
Bha 'n fhaireg gun ghluasad,
Mar ghloine uaine bha 'n sàil,
'S mise 'g imeachd gun chùram
Le mo chù ri mo shàil.

'N uair a ràinig mi 'n gleannan
B' oirdhearc sealladh nam bruach,
Bho na chaochail an doinionn
'S a thainig sonasan nuadh;

Bha na treudan ag imeachd
'S ag ionaltradh thall
Air na raointeanan beairteach
'S am pailteas dhoibh ann;
Gun aire no gun éis orra
Air na réidhleanan feòir,
'S na caoraich le 'n gaoileanan
Maotha mu'n chrò.

Bha na tobraichean lìonmhor
Air na h-ìochdraichean làn,
De 'n fhìor uisge fhallain
'S fhearr na bainne na bà;
Bu tric a thug spionnadh
Do neach tinnis is slàn,
'S a chaisg lota nam mìltean
An gleannan prìseil an àigh.

Bha na seilleanan saothrach
Tionail maoin gu 'n tigh fòid,
'S iad a' deoghal na meala
Far bharra nan ròs;
Gu dìcheallach, dìblidh
Deanamh cinnteach an lòn
Gus 'n uair thigeadh a' ghaillinn
Nach biodh gainne 'nan stòr.

Bha Rìgh nan Solus 'n uair dh'fhàg mi
Ann an àirde nan speur,
Lòchran aoibhneach an t-saoghail,
Tha neo-chaochlaideach, treun;
Thill mise bho m' thurus
Gu mo bhothan tubhaidh an dé,
Far am bu mhiann leam bhì fuireach
Gu'n tig cuireadh mo réis.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 19th November. The following members were present:—

John R. Bannerman, Glasgow; Thomas Gunn Bannerman, Glasgow; Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Miss Campbell of Inverneill; Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Yoker; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Edinburgh; Sir Norman Lamont of Knockdow; Donald MacCorquodale, Glasgow; The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey MacDonald, Skye; Miss C. MacDonald, Pitlochry; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; John MacDonald, Oban; T. D. MacDonald, Oban; Duncan MacIntyre, Kenmore; Rev. George W. MacKay, Killin; Hugh MacLean, Greenock; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Norman MacLeod, Glasgow; Mrs. MacNaughton, Ardachearanbeg; Robert Ritchie, Vale of Leven Branch; Mrs. Renn, Kirkintilloch; Andrew Stewart, Partick; Robert Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, Secretary. Attending—Miss Mary Fraser and George MacKay.

Mr. Angus Robertson, President, was in the chair.

The minutes of previous meetings were read and approved.

The Treasurer submitted a draft of the Oban Mod accounts. This showed an apparent surplus of £420, subject to commission due to the local secretary and claim for entertainment tax. It was hoped that the balance would be over £300. The Treasurer was instructed to note on the face of the accounts that no rent had been charged for the use of the Argyllshire Gathering Hall at Oban.

The Secretary was also instructed to write to the secretary of the Argyllshire Gathering, thanking the stewards for the use of the hall. It was further resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. John MacDonald, local secretary, for his good work, and that of his Committee, which had resulted in such a handsome surplus.

The Education Committee reported on having received draft report of sub-committee of Educational Institute of Scotland adopted after conference with representatives of Education Committee of An Comunn on the teaching of Gaelic in schools. The report was received with much satisfaction.

The Secretary was instructed to ascertain what changes, if any, were being contemplated in the Scheme of the Highland Trust, and report to a future meeting.

The Propaganda Committee recommended the appointment of a third teacher of sing-

ing. It was stated that, to meet the urgent demand for teachers, and to ensure the continuance and development of Provincial Mods, it was essential to employ more teachers. The Committee also recommended that Mr. Hugh MacLean be sent to Skye for six weeks, with Portree as a centre, and that thereafter he be sent to Tiree, Coll, and Ardnamurchan. The services of a teacher were urgently required for Sutherland, and it was recommended that Miss Margrat Duncan be employed for six months to conduct classes in the West and East of Sutherland. Mr. Alex. Fraser, convener of the Finance Committee, pointed out that the funds at the disposal of An Comunn at the present time did not warrant embarking on such an expenditure, but, after considerable discussion, the proposal was approved.

It was resolved that the Secretary should visit as many branches as possible in the near future in the interests of the Feill.

Miss Campbell of Inverneill, convener of Art and Industry Committee, reported that the depot for the sale of Highland goods in the 'Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, had sold goods to the value of over £1000 in the first year of its existence.

Mr. J. R. Bannerman, convener of Mod and Music Committee, in moving the adoption of a minute of his Committee, reported that proof copies of the 1927 Mod syllabus had been submitted, and that arrangements of choral test pieces were nearing completion. The Committee recommended that there be only one issue of the syllabus. The minutes were adopted.

The Secretary reported on the Great Feill arrangements, and these showed much progress since last meeting.

The President referred to the great honour conferred upon Professor Watson, Edinburgh, by the University of Dublin in awarding him the degree of Doctor of Celtic Literature. He also referred to the highest possible honour in his Church being conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Norman MacLean, Edinburgh.

A discussion took place on the method to be followed in the appointment of musical adjudicators, and the matter was left for consideration to the Mod and Music Committee.

It was remitted to the President and Secretary to fix dates of next year's meetings, it being understood that these would approximate as closely as possible to those of the current year.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

GREAT FEILL, 1927.

The various Branches and Societies are now settling down to raise money and organise work parties to provide goods for the stalls. It is difficult to estimate, even roughly, the amount of support we may expect, as people are so averse from putting their hopes on paper, and prefer first to do something, and then to report their achievement. Some idea, however, may be gained from the following reports.

The London Stall Committee has secured the services as Hon. Treasurer of Mr. Robert Dick, Manager of the Union Bank of Scotland, Regent Street. The strike was responsible for postponement of achievements during the summer, but a dance was held at Slater's Restaurant in May by Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Donald MacPhee. On the 4th November the Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland Association gave a dance at the Caxton Hall attended by 200 people. The Committee is issuing shortly an appeal for money and goods, which they are circulating widely, copies going, among others, to all London telephone subscribers with Scottish names. A sale of work was held on 20th November, in the Hall of the Scottish National Church. On 17th December, a Ceilidh will be held in the London Scottish Regimental Hall.

Lady MacDonald writes that the Highland Societies in England have sent into the Treasurer to date, £28 3s, and that many gifts for the Stall have been promised. It is expected that Liverpool, which can boast of having the only English Branch of An Comunn, will organise a separate stall.

The Edinburgh Committee is concentrating at the moment on its Highland Ball on 15th December. Their plans include a Jumble Sale, a Free Gift Sale, and a theatrical performance.

The Glasgow Stall Committee has recently issued, to the Societies co-operating, a brief report of progress. They point out that it has been decided to divide the Stall into sections, each bearing the name or names of the Society which has undertaken to furnish it with goods, e.g., Skye, Atholl and Breadalbane, etc. To these sections are credited the funds raised before the Feill takes place by the Society responsible for the section. In some cases, two or more Associations are combining to equip one section. In addition to organising work parties, Associations have appointed Special Committees to arrange entertainments, sales, dances, whist drives, pound teas, competitions and jumble sales. Among those taking place in the near future are—A Xmas draw, organised by the Atholl and Breadalbane; a cake and candy sale and a Xmas draw;

organised by the Skye; a concert by the Tíree, an entertainment by the Scottish Country Dance Society; a concert by the Mull and Iona; a Xmas draw by the Clan MacNab; a concert by the Islay; a Xmas draw by the High School Ceilidh; a concert by the Inverness-shire; a cake and candy sale by the Ceilidh nan Gàidheal; a concert by the Sutherlandshire; and a concert by the Islay. The Highland Girls' Club have notified a first contribution of £5, the Skye have raised £24 by a prize draw, the Tíree £12 from a concert, and Mrs. Christison £20 from a free gift sale. All Associations have been asked to arrange that a sympathetic reference be made by the chairman or other speaker at each Annual Gathering, and to insert in their programme a short statement of the Feill and its objects. All Associations organising entertainments are asked to note that the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association has generously offered to assist, without remuneration, at any which are being arranged for the benefit of the Feill funds.

The various Branches of An Comunn are beginning to notify their proposals. Fortingall has started a work party, and is organising a concert; Campbelltown organising an entertainment on New Year's Night; Glendaruel a free gift sale; Dunoon a monthly whist drive. I do again urge all Branches and Convensers not to wait to let us know what they are doing until they write to send us the proceeds. It is a tremendous incentive and stimulus to other centres to realise what their neighbours and friends propose to accomplish.

C. M. GORDON.

OBAN MOD DONATION LIST

(FINAL).

Already acknowledged £362 11 0

Received at Head Office—

Gaelic Society of Glasgow 5 0 0

Celtic Society (Jessie MacLachlan

Memorial Prize) 5 0 0

High School Ceilidh 3 3 0

Received at Oban—

John MacMillan, Esq., London 10 10 0

Miss Hall of Tangy 3 3 0

Samuel Dow, Ltd., Glasgow 2 2 0

Chas. W. Mayer, Esq. (Bass & Co.) 2 2 0

Angus MacMillan, Esq. 1 1 0

Dugald MacCallum, Esq., Oban 1 1 0

D. C. MacLean, Esq., Oban 1 1 0

Messrs. Drybrough, Ltd., Edinburgh 1 1 0

Messrs. Arthur Booth & Co., Glasgow 1 1 0

Messrs. Geo. Younger & Son, Alloa 1 1 0

Andrew Ross, Esq., Glasgow 1 1 0

Messrs. James Buchanan & Co., Ltd. 1 1 0

W. J. Capes, Esq., Glasgow 1 1 0

Messrs. Anderson & Shaw, Ltd., Glasgow 1 1 0

Messrs. John Begg, Ltd., Glasgow 1 1 0

Malcolm Campbell, Esq. 1 0 0

£406 2 0

GNIOMH-ORAN.

Le C. M. P.

An so shìos gnìomh-òran (action-song) a tha ri bhith air a sheinn fo aon de chomh-fharpuisean an ath Mhòid, an roinn nan òg. Chuir luchd-treòrachaidh a' Mhòid am follais aig an àm so e le shùil ri cothrom agus ùine gu leòr a thoirt daibh-san leis am bu mhaith dol a steach 'sa chomh-fharpuis, an t-òran agus na tha an comh-cheangal ris a dheagh-theagasg do 'n òigridh a bhios r' a sheinn 's r'a chur an gnìomh.

AN OIGH BH'ANN AM FEARNAN.

Gleus G. SEIS.

Fine.

{ | d : r., f | s : d | 1 : s., r | m : 1., s | d : r., f | s : d |
Oigh bh'ann am Fèarnan; Beum gràidh is dh'fhalbh slàint na h-òigh bh'ann am Fèarnan.

RANN.

D.C.

{ | 1., 1 : 1., 1 | s., s : s., s | f., f : r., s | m : 1., | s | d : r., f |
Cha d'rinn fiosachd; 's cha d'rinn gisreag Feum d'a cridhe 's bearn ann: An òigh so bha'm, etc.

Thàinig léigh, 's ged bha e gleusd,
Bha chungaidh bhreun gun tàbhachd
Do'n òigh so, etc.

Fhuaradh saor, is rùsg e ghaoirdean,
'S rinn e saothair dha-làimh
Do'n òigh so, etc.

Thàinig cléireach cràbhach, creudach,
'S rinn e bheuc, 's cha b' fheàrrde
An òigh so, etc.

Gach ball de 'n àirneis, rinn e 'n càradh,
'S chuir e clàr 'sa ghàirneal
Do'n òigh so, etc.

Thàinig dròbhair, 's ghabh e òran,
'S chaidh am bròn gu cràdh aig
An òigh so, etc.

Rinn e cisean, measair 's miosgan,
Furman 's fiodhan càise
Do'n òigh so, etc.

Thàinig tàillear, 's rinn e àbhachd
Nach d' thug snodha-gàir as
An òigh so, etc.

Bha ealain 's inneleachd anns gach gnìomh,
'S cha d'rinn e nì bha ceàrr
Leis an òigh so, etc.

Thàinig gobhainn lachdunn, odhar,
'S bha i bodhar r'a rànaich:
An òigh so, etc.

Sin dh' fhàs an dithis càirdeil, cridheil,
'S thòisich briotal 's mànan
Gun ghò ann am Fèarnan;

Thàinig oighre, 's thaing e saibhbreas,
'S ghabh i oillt is gràin deth:
An òigh so, etc.

'S thug beum ùr de ghràdh sìrd
Is sùgradh gu Fèarnan.

Thàinig clòbair 's dh' fheuch e briodal,
'S fhuair e clreadh clàduinn
Bho'n òigh so, etc.

Is chi, ma 's beò sibh, gu'n bi còrdadh
'S pòsadh mór am Fèarnan;
'S an òigh bh'ann am Fèarnan

Ach bha cailleach 'san ath bhaile,
'S thug i 'n earail gheàrr bo
Mu'n òigh so, etc.

Slàn beò gun aon leòn,
'S i ceòlar am Fèarnan.

"B' e saor-fiodha tholl a cridhe;
Faigh saor-fiodh g' a chàradh
Do'n òigh so," etc.

Is léir do 'n t-saoghal gur e'n saor
Is fèarr gu gaol a thàladh
Bho thinn-òigh, bho shlàn-òigh,
Le ghrinn dhòigh 's le bhàth dhòigh,
'S gu h-àraidh am Fèarnan.

'S e na leanas na facail agus an ceòl a bhios luchd-na-sèise a' seinn am feadh a bhios na fir-gnìomh ag iomairt a' ghnòthuich tha rompa. Ach is dleas do threòraiche, no do bhan-treòraiche, còisre an obair iomlan a chur an rian a bhios ealanta.

Gleus G. SEIS.

Fine.

{ | d r., d : r., m, f | s : s : d . d | 1, t, 1 : s, m, r | m : 1., s | d, r., d : r., m, f | s : s : d . d |
Heitirinn àrainn ibho abho; So e an t-àbhacas sàr-mhaith; 'S na heitirinn àrainn ibho abho.

RANN.

{ | 1., 1 : 1., 1 | s., s : s., f, m | f., m, f : r., m, s | m : 1., | s | Da capo.
'S fheudair do'n duine bhicleadh dte cleasanta Bheireadh grad leigheas air gràidheig; 'S na

THE MESSAGE OF THE LAIRG MOD.

Mr. Robert Macleod, Mus. Bac., the popular musical judge at Gaelic Mods, has written a brief sketch of the Lairg Mod. Mr. Macleod's comments are always heartening, and are worthy to be read with care by every one who aspires to be a Gaelic singer. He writes :—

“Has such a meeting a message, and if it has, what is that message? To sit for ten hours listening to young and old singing or reciting in the language of their fathers does not seem exciting, yet it was an exciting experience. The audience which filled the Drill Hall, was intensity itself. The stillness during a performance struck one as non-critical in the highest degree. It was the intensity of appreciation—a kind of silent singing in the hearts of the hearers. Surely the language of the music, if not of the words, was conveying some subtle spiritual message which we cannot analyse. Throughout all the sessions, the writer never heard a word of criticism. It was a strange experience to one who can recall heated arguments for and against decisions. If this spirit can be maintained, the Mod is a living force, and will become more and more so as the years go by.

Philosophers are becoming more and more intrigued by the power of music. What is it and why is it? Lairg competitors and Lairg audiences would have convinced them that it is a problem worthy of more and more serious consideration. That it touches on the fringe of the Infinite was the message at Lairg, and the practical conclusion from the performances is that it is a subject which should receive more attention in the schools and rural institutes.

The children's sections were, as is always the case, the most interesting. The standard of singing showed a distinct advance on the performances at Tongue. Their singing of the strathspey and reel was delightful, although their standard of vocal tone could be improved. Why cannot we simply ask the child to produce beautiful sounds and leave them to find this joy which reveals to them the “land of dreams and fantasy.” We feel certain that they are not constantly listening for an echo from this fairy land of sound.

The two-part singing should be encouraged, because, through it, the asperities of tone which might pass unnoticed in the unison singing are aggravated by the non-blending qualities in combination.

Considering the time taken to prepare these children for the Mod, the results only emphasised what would happen if all the schools devoted conscientiously an hour a week to music. The mere fact of singing together and striving to produce beautiful effects is a discipline in restraint and refinement, apart from spiritual values which we are not capable of estimating.

In the adult solo classes, the number of entrants was most encouraging. The average was high, but no outstanding performance gave an ideal to be attained. This was due to the fact that singing was not realised as a matter of pure floating sound. Too great an effort was made to make the voice sound big. This effort destroyed many performances, which would otherwise have risen to artistic heights. In the case of one tenor, however, we had a glimpse of that mystic remoteness and wistfulness which is so characteristic of much of the Gaelic music. The possessor of this attractive voice and style will, if he continues to sing naturally as he is doing, do much for the standard of music throughout the county.

Is it not strange that so many singers have not been attracted by the romanticism of harmony? No four-part or even three-part singing! What a joy is in store for those who set this form of choral singing agoing. The choir at the concert specially organised for this function should do some propaganda work in the county during the winter months. They would be sure of a good reception wherever they went.

Musically, the Mod was a success. Congratulations! But the work must not cease with the Mod. The spirit engendered should be kept alive. The hundreds of people who attended proved that they were hungering for the unknown something which is satisfied by music. Sutherland has a wonderful heritage in song, and singers are there if they be encouraged to raise their voices. Let them retain their simplicity, and start the search after beauty. Beauty will reveal itself as the result of sincerity. All the conditions are favourable, and the writer believes that the awakening evidenced at Lairg is going to effect musical culture throughout the Highlands.

AM MOD.

Tha mi cinnteach gur e seann sgeul a tha ann an iomradh a thabhairt air a' Mhòd an diugh, an uair is dlùithe sinn air Nollaig na air Lùghnasdal; mur a h-abarainn eadhon anns an dòigh so gur e Mòd an Obain a bha mi ag ciallachadh, theagamh gur ann a thogadh sibh bhuir sùilean suas rathad Gearasdan Inbhir-Lochaidh, far am bheil cuirm mhór so na Gàidhlig ri bhi an ath bhliadhna. Ach ged is seann sgeul a thaobh iomradh a thabhairt air Mòd an Obain, chan e a thaobh na buadha a bha aige air ar n-aige-ne; cha seann sgeul leinne e a bha shuas anns an Oban 's a chunnaic gach ni a bha a' dol an sin. A chunnaic gach ni, an d'thubhairt mi! Is sinne gu dearbh nach fhaca! Chan urrainn an cu cam fein a bhi thall 'sa bhos, is far an robh co-fharpaisean a' dol air an aghaidh aig amannan an ceithir tallachan cha robh e an comas neach fo'n ghrèin cluas a thoirt do gach ni a bha a' dol.

Chuireadh an dleasdanas ormsa, is chunnt mi 'na mheas e, air a' bhliadhna so a rithist suidhe gu breith a thabhairt air cuid na Gàidhlig de an obair-san a thainig gu clarfarpais. Anns an iomraidh bhig so chan eil e 'nam chomas dol a steach gu mean air obair gach aoin fa leth a thainig air ar beulaibh, ach their mi so: le an gabhail thar a chéile bha mise co-dhiu, is bha mo chompanach 'na shuidheachadh fein, làn-riarachte leis an dòigh anns an robh a' Ghàidhlig is an ceol air an liubhairt. Gun teagamh bha mòran aig an robh blas na Beurla air an cuid Gàidhlig, ach tha an leisgeal ri ghabhail; ged thà, tha cuid a tha mi a' faicinn a nis aig Mòd bliadhna an déidh bliadhna, agus tha teumannan 'gam bhualadh nach eil iad a' deanamh oidhirp air an t-saoghal gu iad fein a thoirt air aghaidh am fuaimneachadh na Gàidhlig. Riu-san theirinn so: na leigibh leinn a ràdh, oir their sinn e an ùine ghoidh, gur iad na duaisean is nach e leas na cànan a tha air bhuir n-aire. Ach an ni as miosa, iadsan ris am bheil mo bhriathran, chan faic is cha leugh iad so idir. Mar sin sibhse a ghabhas de dhragh so a leughadh cha sibh a tha mi ag ciallachadh! Far an robh aon a' dol suas air clarfarpais is nach leanainn ach gann facal de na theireadh e mur a b'aithne dhomh an t-òran air tus, bha na strìachan a' dol 'na aghaidh gun tàmh. Na biodh sùil aca ris a' chorr. Ged a rachadh aon eadhon cearr anns an fhuaim, fad is gu'n robh de mhisnich aige 's gu'n do chuir e

aghaidh air, b'fhearr e na a phlùchadh eadar a theanga 's a chàirean. Tha an t-seinn math is ro mhath, ach mur eil na facail air am fuaimneachadh air chor is gu'n tuigear brìgh an òrain bha cho math a chur air teudaibh na fìdhle, an òrgan no na clàrsaich. Theireadh iad gu'n robh na seann phiobairean is na clàrsairean cho math air na h-innealan sin 's gu'n tuigte brìgh nam facal ged a b'e òran ùr nach cualas riamb roimhe a bha air a thoirt seachad. Creid-eamaid so no na creideadh, tha mi an dùil gu'm faodadh cuid de ar seinneadairean oidhirpeachadh air cuibhrionn de'n bhuaidh sin a bhi air guth an cinn! Nis chan eil mi a' dol a ràdh a' chorra air an rathad sin; chan eil mi an dùil gu'n d'thubhairt mi tuille 's a' chòir. Air taobh eile de'n chùis, tha mòran eadhon de na fhuair an àrach anns a' Ghàidhealtachd, seadh, anns na h-eileanan, dachaidh na Gàidhlig, an diugh ag call fuaimnean litrichean mar a tha an 'l', agus an 'n' an cuid de fhocail. Tha sinn colach gu leòir air fuaim nan litrichean, "b," "d," "g" is "t," mar a theirear iad anns a' Bheurla. Tha an leisgeal-san a chaidh àrach am measg nan Gall ri a ghabhail ma tha na litrichean sin 'nan enap-starra dhoibh, ach chan eil leisgeal agam do'n neach a their facal mar a tha "fhleasgaich" (Voc.), is fuaim a thoirt do'n "l" mar a tha i anns an fhacal "linne." Chan eil e furasda ann an sgrìobhadh gach fuaim dhiubh sin a shòillearachadh gun mòran bhriathran a chur sìos, ach bha mi a' dùrachdainn uair no dha shuas an sud 'san Oban còig mìonaidean a bhi agam de chuid a chail dadan anns an dòigh so gus an cuirinn air an sùilean dhoibh ni a tha furasda gu leòir a leasachadh. Chan eil mi an dùil gu'n gabh iad gu dona bhuam na thubhairt mi oir is ann gu an leas a tha e.

C'àite a nis am bheil mi a' dol a dh'fhaotainn àite a ghlèidheas na tha agam de mholadh ri dheanamh? Chan fhaigheadh ged a bhiodh "an Gàidheal" air a liubhairt dhomh féin uile gu léir air fhad is air a leud. Saoileam gu bheil mi ag cluinntinn cuid-ciginn a nis ag ràdh, "is e cleas nam ministearan a tha aig Eachann còir, a' tabhairt sgrìos obann oirn an toiseach, ach fathast a' fàgail rathad tearnaidh againn." Fàgaibh mar sin féin e; ach tha iadsan a chaidh gu ruig an t-Oban gu Mòd a' tabhairt dearbhaidh dhuinn nach eil a' Ghàidhlig aig bonn a' bhruthaich fathast is gur ann a tha i a' dìreadh. Tha e a' toirt dùsgadh do ar dòchas gu sònraichte fhàicinn na bha an sud de chloinn, is iad cho fìleanta an cainnt

an sinnsear. Tha e ri fhaicinn gu soillear gu bheil teagasg na Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean a' teannadh ris an toradh ris an robh ar sùil a thoirt gu barr, agus is ann a nis tuille a bhios so a' tighinn am follais na's comharraichte.

Tha mi an dèil gu'n d'fhuair mi barrachd toileachais aig Mòd an Obain na fhuair mi aig an air bith de na bha mi aige bho'n a thòisich mi air dol gu Mòd. Bha e mar gu'n biodh spiorad ar càinain is ar ciùil cadhon anns a' ghaoith, air sgiathaibh an aille is an anail nan daoine. Tha an spiorad so—tha e ri fhaicinn gu soilleir—a' faotainn grèim air an òigridh. Bha iad uile cho dealasach is gur gan a thainig balach no cailin air ar beulaibh nach dùraichd-eamaid duais a thoirt dhoibh; tha fios gu'n robh a' chuid mhór dhiubh nach d'fhuair duais idir, ach air son sin chan eil iad gun an duais. Tha an duais is an sàsachadh intinn aca fein is aig am pàrantan gu bheil iad a' deanamh an dleasdànais ris an teanga dhùthchail, is an uair a thig am an triall gu tir ùr an t-sonais, mar a thig oirn uile uair-eiginn, chan eil fios ciod an duais a dh'fhaodas a bhi a' feitheamh orra idir, no ciod an crùn a bhios an lampaibh luchd am frithealaidh gu a chur mu'n cinn an uair a dhìreas iad ri bruthaichean gorma Tir nan Og.

EACHANN MAC DRUGHAILL.

IMPRESSIONS OF OBAN MOD.

By Rev. DONALD LAMONT, M.A., Blair Atholl.

At the request of the Editor, I have tried to recall the impressions that were made on my mind by the oral and vocal competitions in which I acted as one of the adjudicators at the Mòd. But, first, let me say that although some of the things with which I had to do at the Mòd have already faded out of my memory, or can only be recalled indistinctly, there are three things which remain in my mind as clearly as when they first fell on my ear in Oban—

- (1) Roderick Macleod's singing of *Moladh Beinn Dorain* at the concert on Thursday;
- (2) Certain picturesque phrases and poetic thoughts in the President's speech at the official opening of the Mòd;
- (3) The rendering which the Ballachulish Male Choir gave of the song, "*Tha 'n cota deas aig Ruairidh.*"

For some years back I have adjudicated in the literary competitions, and I have no hesita-

tion in saying that it is much easier to judge in that department than in vocal competitions. That is to say, if a judge has sufficient knowledge and taste and judgment, and can read the papers submitted to him two or three times in the quietness and leisure of his study, there is not much chance of his going far astray in his decisions. In any case, his awards will be reasoned and deliberate. In the oral competitions also (reading and reciting and talking and oratory), decision is fairly easy, and a certain measure of clarity of mind is possible for the adjudicator. But it is different with vocal competitions. When thirty or forty competitors appear before one in quick succession; singing different songs, and these songs of unequal difficulty; some of them quite colourless and others full of feeling and capable of being rendered with dramatic power; some of the singers being native speakers, but slovenly and indistinct in their speech, and others of them being without any knowledge of Gaelic, but artistic in their manner and expression and with good training in the articulation of of Gaelic words, the task of awarding to each competitor a definite number of marks which will indicate their relative merit as regards Gaelic becomes one of extraordinary difficulty. At least, I found it so; and even when one had done one's best, one had always the feeling that one should like to hear them a second time, lest a mistake should have been made.

But one of the things which made my work easier in the vocal competitions was the Memorandum for Judges of Gaelic which was put into my hands before I began. And for the benefit of the competitors at the Mòd, it may be well to write down here two of the Instructions in that Memorandum.

- (1) *The Gaelic Judges should not allow their judgment to be swayed by the musical rendering, or allow such qualities as an excellent voice and high musical culture, or the reverse, to influence their marking.*
- (2) *It should be considered bad pronunciation when a singer gives an English sound to the consonants—t, d, ll, and nn, as in tamh, bata, idir, dìon, till lion, lamh, ball, bann, tinn, etc, etc. (many other sounds likely to be wrong being mentioned.)*

Style and expression and phrasing are matters of opinion, and even good Gaelic judges might differ in the marks awarded by them under these heads, but bad pronunciation is easily detected, and it is generally by their pronunciation that competitors rise or fall.

While the competitions were going on I made private notes in a note-book which I had

beside me, but although it would be rather difficult now to make a connected narrative out of these notes, certain things appear in them which may be of interest to your readers, and which may be set down here in a series of disjointed paragraphs.

The work of the junior vocalists in Competitions 25, 21, and 22 was very satisfactory, a large proportion of them being good native speakers. For the clearness and recitative effect with which she rendered one song, I put Miss Morag Maclellan above all the others, but in these three competitions there was quite a number of competitors, male and female, so good as regards Gaelic, that it was a matter of indifference to me which of them was placed first by the musical judge.

The Gaelic of the Junior Soloists was not nearly so good as that of the Junior Soloists, especially in competition 29. There was an improvement in competition 31, Luing Choir being particularly good in their articulation and phrasing. Two of the songs which were prescribed for the Junior Choirs seemed to me rather difficult—*Cruinnichibh cruinn* and *Foghnar na h-Alba*. The latter is difficult to recite or to utter with pleasing rhythm, even without the music. It seemed to me that the juniors always did better with the lively songs than with songs of a different character, although it was songs of a different character that were oftentimes selected by them when they had a choice.

In Competition 75, the standard of Gaelic was very high. *Oran do Liosmor* was the most difficult of the prescribed songs, but a number of the competitors took it, showing that they had no fear of its difficulty. Miss Nan MacInnes, Luing, and Miss Mary Campbell, Easdale, were among these, and their Gaelic seemed to me to be almost faultless. Another lady from Luing, Miss Janet MacPhail, sang *Oran Bata* with as good recitative effect as anything that I heard during the whole Mod. She sang it without book, and though the words were new to me, I could follow every word she sang without looking at the written text. Curiously enough, a young lady from Glasgow, Miss Mary Colquhoun, was the only competitor who pronounced an aspirated *n* in the word *nighean* correctly, though I have half a dozen words in my note-book opposite her name which had *blas na Beurla* on them. I found this competitor to be one of the cases which exercised my conscience sorely. I received more artistic pleasure from her singing than from any other competitor that I listened to, and if I were free to judge by a general

impression only, I would have put her at the top on every occasion that she appeared, but by Rule No. 1 of the Memorandum, I had to ignore musical culture, and by Rule No. 2, I had to make a mark against her every time my ear caught *blas na Beurla* on an *l*, or a *d*, or a *c*.

The fact that the Mod was held in Oban may have been the cause, but it seemed to me that the best Gaelic speakers were from round about Oban. The competitors from Easdale and Luing were particularly good, but we had rather too much of the song, *Eilean Luing*, a song which seemed to plunge everyone who sang it into the deepest melancholy. I don't know why this should happen. I asked my colleague whether there was anything in the music to cause this dejection of spirit, but he did not think that the music accounted for it.

The articulation of the men in Competition 51 was particularly good. Roderick Macleod, Archd. Baxter, Gilbert MacPhail, and Archd. Campbell being among the best. A few competitors selected the most difficult of the three songs prescribed, *Morair Ghlinn Urchaidh*, an exceedingly difficult piece to articulate well.

The "James Grant Memorial" Competition (female voices) provided the largest variety of songs, as competitors were free to select their own songs. This was pleasant, in the sense that monotony did not brood over the competition, but it made the task of judging more difficult. The songs ranged from comparatively easy ones like *Kishmool's Galley* and *An teid thu leam a ribhinn og*, to difficult ones like *Oran Mor Mhic Leoid*, *Luinneag Mhic Leoid*, and *Oran an t-Samhraidh*. The curious thing was that some competitors who were rather shaky in their Gaelic selected difficult songs that would test the pronunciation and articulation of the best Gaelic throats. Singers who are not sure of their Gaelic should never select such a song as *O Till a leannain*. If they had a little of the wisdom of the serpent they would confine themselves to little mouthfuls of songs that have plenty of *Hi, ro, ho, ro* in them. Several competitors in this class selected songs that did not suit them. One bright, young, golden-haired lassie who, I hope, is enjoying life very well, sang the song,

*Ged tha mo cheann air liathadh
Le diachainnean is bron.*

In the quartette and choral singing, the standard of performance was very high, the Ballachulish Male Voice Choir being outstanding in the excellence of their rendering of one of the test songs. This was the only occasion on which I ever gave full marks.

As regards marks, the practice among judges varies greatly, some keeping marks on a fairly high level and others on a much lower scale. This does not matter in the least, as the important thing is that the merit of competitors relative to each other should be ascertained. Competitors who ask the secretary for their Gaelic marks should not be disappointed, therefore, to learn that they only obtained 76 per cent. or some such mark. It may be that the competitor at the top only obtained 82, and that at the end of the competition the adjudicator would be perfectly willing to add 10 per cent. to the marks all round. It is all a matter of convenience. My own practice, especially when there are many competitors, is not to mark the first competitor too high, so as to leave room at the top if one of outstanding merit should appear.

The whole question of Gaelic judging in choral singing is an exceedingly difficult one, but the difficulty is of a kind which concerns the Mòd and Music Committee of the Comunn Gàidhealach rather than the judges, so that it is unnecessary to discuss the matter here.

Mr. Nicolson acted with me in the competitions for oral delivery (senior). Almost every competitor in this section was from Argyshire, chiefly from the districts round about Oban. The work was quite good, and there was neither blas nor àileadh na Beurla in it. The best work done was in the dialogue competition, but it took place in a small room, and in the presence of about a couple of dozen of an audience. I think it would be well for the Comunn to prescribe a subject for the speech competition, to save competitors from the necessity of having to speechify at large. It should not be impossible to find a suitable topic—say to propose the health of Mr. Lloyd George in Gaelic! Miss Ferguson's speech was the best speech for the printed page, but Miss Nellie Cameron was awarded the first prize on the ground that the first requirement in a speaker is to establish contact with the audience and to hold their attention.

I did my best to hold the balance fairly, between competitors as regards their Gaelic, but I would be the last person in the world to claim that this was done with perfect success. I do not believe it can be done by any human being, and I found it quite impossible to be satisfied in my own mind that the end which I had in view was always secured by strictly adhering to the Instructions to Gaelic Judges in the Memorandum. And yet these rules are very good and useful, and I applied them. This doubt in my mind was increased at the

concert on Thursday evening. There we had four or five of the past masters of Gaelic singing, and their singing was so beautiful and so memorable that I have heard Roderick Macleod singing *Moladh Beinn Dorain* in my dreams, but the thing that troubles one's conscience as an adjudicator is this, that if one had been listening to these great exponents of Gaelic song in a competition, one's pencil would have put down more black marks against them than could be put down against some of the young female competitors who hadn't a word of Gaelic. And yet one felt that the use of the pencil at all would lead one away from the truth rather than towards it. There is a moral in all this, especially for Gaelic adjudicators, but I shall not enlarge on it.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MOD.

By NEIL MACLEAN, M.A., B.Sc.

Ossian's Harp sings Fingal's Praise.—THE MOD.

Those people who had the misfortune to miss the Oban Mod, have, indeed, lost pleasant memories of one of the greatest Highland meetings that probably ever was. The weather was bad, of course, but nobody seemed to mind the weather; everybody was at the Mod. For the want of a better word, we had that wonderful element known as "atmosphere." I hate the word; it is a tasteless word, just as "nice" is another of the same, yet without that magic element, three-fourths of the value of this grand festival would have been lost. That is why smaller places like Oban and Fort William make the Mod such a great success. Big towns like Glasgow cannot foster the same feeling, because the moment you leave the hall, and go into the bustle of the busy city, the magic element has gone, and you are no longer at the Mod. Night and day that atmosphere remained in Oban, and whether one was in one's hotel or house, or in the precincts of the building where such glorious music was heard, everybody felt that they were at the Mod, and the town laid itself out for a week's feasting. How this movement has grown, even in the six years since the Mod was at Oban last!! Soon it will be a ten-day festival, and not one of four or five days; what with rural choirs coming into the movement, that alone will require a day to itself, and, judging by this year's results, it will be one of the finest days of the whole lot; and yet they say that Gaelic is a dying language. As long as that spirit which everyone of us felt so much at

Oban exists, the movement will certainly flourish and go from strength to strength.

Some of the singing was of a very high order indeed. People who took first prizes in Mods that have gone by, would certainly be among the "also-rans," judging by the standard of this year's Mod. Our two Medallists this year were, indeed, very fine, both of them will be a great help to the movement, for they know what they are singing about, and, apart altogether from being endowed with beautiful voices, they have also been endowed with that great sense, namely, of interpreting. Miss MacInnes sings just like a thrush on a briar bush—it happens—and forth the sweet sounds come like oil rising from a well. Her whole bearing and personality was typical of any Highland lass who understood what she was singing about, and how to give the message. Her performances were very striking indeed. No one will forget Mr. MacLennan's renderings of his songs; his "Braith Rusgaich" was a revelation and a wondrous piece of art. There are many others who sang there, whose art is of a very high order. I remember distinctly one young man from the Isles; much will be heard of him, I am sure. These people do not require lessons, they can teach and give points on how a song should be rendered; and, finally, came the choirs. I have already mentioned the rural choirs—ten of them. Whoever would have thought that in the first year in which a rural contest took place, we would find such a display of talent, and such magnificent renderings of choral work? Any one of them would get a creditable appearance at any of our big festivals in the south, but it was left to the Friday for us all to get the thrill which many of us will never forget, at the contest for the supreme award of the Festival. What lovely renderings we had of the test pieces; what a difficult job it must have been to adjudicate, and yet there can be only one winner; but without those who come in in less favourable places, there would be no Mod. The Mod is made by the competitors who appear year by year, and not by those who carry the plums at the early stages. What I consider is the most extraordinary feature of the movement is the excellent spirit of goodwill which exists among all the competitors. We do not get this at Lowland Festivals. At the Mod, it does not matter who wins the prizes, everybody is happy and pleased, and I am sure when it is all over, we all go back to our daily toil feeling much better after the refreshing holiday, proud of the fact that we are a race renowned, not only through prowess in handling

the sword, but through the delicacy of a master mind in dealing with the highest art.

"It's a fine thing to sing," says Sir Harry Lauder. Those of us who were at the Mod will agree that there is a world of truth in that saying. That is what's the matter with the world to-day, we do not sing half enough. If we sing more, and get the spirit of the Mod more often with us, then we would have a better world, a happier world, and strikes would not bother us.

ORAL COMPETITIONS AT THE MOD.

By D. J. MACLEOD, M.A.

The general quality of the work in conversation, reading, and recitation reached a level that can be regarded as distinctly creditable at most points. Candidates were forward in goodly numbers from far and near, often at considerable personal inconvenience, but all anxious and eager to do well in the various tests. A spirit of healthy rivalry was a marked feature of every performance, and though, owing to the number competing, it was late, in the day before the final results could be announced, the halls remained packed with attentive and appreciative audiences right through.

The standard attained, especially in reading and recitation, was particularly sound, displaying accurate word recognition, clear articulation, good phrasing, and correct sounds. One felt that the number of prizes available for distribution was far short of what the various performances deserved, and that Certificates of Merit might, if the idea commended itself to the Comunn, be usefully awarded to candidates who, while not actually on the prize-list, yet secured a fixed minimum of marks.

The level reached in the final trials by the prize-winners reflected much credit upon the children themselves and upon those who taught them. The general standard of the work here compared quite favourably, relatively, with that noted in the senior competitions.

Conversation showed notable fluency, and frank responsiveness on the part of many of the young candidates, and it was only by stiffening the tests considerably that the final selection was ultimately made. Improvement here is, however, possible in the case of even the best competitors. Though fluency, readiness, and resource in conversation are altogether admirable and desirable, accuracy in the use of the language must be regarded as absolutely

essential. No fault was, of course, found with true dialectic forms where these did not violate the rules of grammar or accepted idiom, but much of the conversation revealed slips in inflections and word forms which cannot be corrected too soon. The speech of some otherwise good candidates was marred by such solecisms as "ceann a' chu," "lámh a' bhean," "dà chas," "falt a' chailleag bheag," "sùil a' chearc," "spóg a' chat," etc.

The value of the mental discipline involved in mastering the correct forms and understanding the reasons underlying needs to be emphasised.

The number of adult competitors forward in the solo competitions was so large that it was found necessary on the Wednesday and Thursday to make a selection of the first dozen in each competition as rapidly as possible. Notwithstanding all the dispatch employed, from 9.30 a.m. until 7 p.m., the pressure of work remained continuous. Fortunately, it was, as a rule, of thoroughly good quality from the language point of view, and the outline became quite clear as the competitions proceeded. Notes made on the spot reveal some points of interest that may be usefully summarised. It was clear that the competitors consisted of two main classes, namely, those who were native speakers of the language and those who, while not at home in speaking Gaelic, had been most carefully coached in the language of the pieces professed.

The native speakers, who had studied and practised the correct articulation of the consonants and the true sounds of the vowels and had paid careful attention to phrasing and expression, naturally, secured the highest marks. It was remarkable, however, how well learners of the language, of which many competed, kept themselves in evidence, even in the more difficult senior competitions.

Real dialectic peculiarities were not accounted defects. But these may be pushed too far. *e.g., in—*

"Do bheusan tha ceutach
Is t'èudann tha ro-nàrach."

Vocalic assonance demands that "eu" in "èudann" be pronounced as in "bheusan" and "ceutach," not as "ao" in "aodann."

This type of error indicates careless preparation, and can be easily avoided. Not so easily avoided, apparently, even by some good speakers and singers of Gaelic, is the incorrect enunciation of certain consonants, especially the liquids (l, n, r) and the dentals (d, t). Space will not permit of dealing with all the errors in sound values one would like to draw attention

to, but one or two seem to demand precise mention. The sound values of "l" in certain positions, exhibited as type phonetic decay that cannot be checked too soon. "L" has four distinct sounds in Gaelic, and the following summarised notes may be usefully quoted:—

- (1) "l," initial, unaspirated, and "ll," final, broad, "l" sounded with point of tongue well against front lower gum or teeth, *e.g., là, toll.*
- (2) "l," initial, unaspirated, and "ll," final, slender, resembles "ll" in English word "million," *e.g., léine, pill.*
- (3) "l," aspirated, broad (back l), resembles "l" in English word "hull," *e.g., mo làmh, sàl.*
- (4) "l," aspirated, slender (front l) resembles "l" in English "hill," *e.g., mo léine, mil.*

It was noted that many native speakers had difficulty with (3) and (4), invariably substituting (1) and (2) when pronouncing vowel-flanked initial "l." Similar mispronunciation was noted in case of the other liquids, but not in such striking fashion.

Insistence upon such points may suggest to some that too much may be made of apparent trifles, particularly if their ears do not recognise the distinction, but as Michael Angelo says somewhere, "Trifles make for perfection, and perfection is not a trifle." Such errors were not by any means severely punished, but, naturally, those who produced the truer sounds, got the benefit in the form of higher marks. Any competitor who pronounces "a lamh" ("his hand") and "a lamh" ("her hand") in exactly the same way, may be sure he is wrong. There are sound phonological reasons for the distinction, and the serious student of Gaelic can inform himself of the reasons annexed by consulting Stokes, Calder, or Cameron Gillies ("Elements of Gaelic Grammar.")

The learners of the language had, on the other hand, most difficulty with (1) and (2) and with the dentals, which were articulated, as a rule, with a Saxon flavour.

Those learners of Gaelic who know French would do well to sound Gaelic "d" and "t" as in French, as the French dentals resemble the Gaelic letters in sound value much more closely than the English.

Both native speakers and learners can benefit from a careful study of the sound mechanism of the language. The amount of scientific knowledge necessary is not great, and it will help to secure clearer and more natural expression, and give more precise definition to interpretation. Another point which certain

performances at the Oban Mod seemed to emphasise is the need for close study of the motif of the poem or song professed. It is quite out of place, e.g., to sing the last verse of "Cead deireannach nam beann" with the lusty vigour of youth. Competitors sing all the better for knowing and realising, as intimately as possible, what a song has to say.

A sustained study of the theme, as well as practice in giving due emotional force to cadences, according to the sense of the words, is necessary, if the ideas and feelings of the song are to be brought home to the listener. Well calculated delivery was a feature of the more outstanding performances, the general effect of which was, as it should be, to intensify in the minds of the audience, the ideas of the poet, and so bring out the true force and sentiment of the song.

From these and other points of view, the performances of the nine competing rural choirs were worthy of high praise; the choirs and their trainers had paid careful attention to the linguistic side.

The same has, of course, to be said of the major choirs, whose training, as a whole, on the language side, it was amply clear, had been in experienced and highly competent hands.

BRANCH REPORTS.

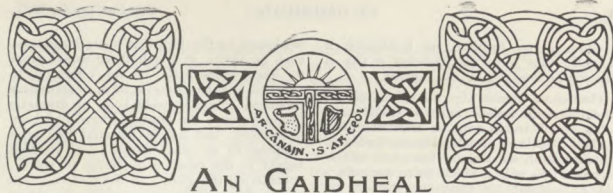
FORTINGALL.—The Annual General Meeting and Ceilidh were held on 5th November, 1926, in Recreation Hall, Mr. A. Stewart, president, in the chair. There was a good attendance despite the inclemency of the weather. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports showed the Branch to be flourishing, with a membership of 65, and the funds in a satisfactory condition. The following were elected Office-bearers for the ensuing year:—Hon. President—Mrs. Molteno of Glenlyon House; Hon. Vice-Presidents—D. J. Molteno, Esq., and P. Anderson, Esq., J.P.; President—Mr. Stewart, Woodend; Vice-Presidents—Mr. J. Fisher, Culdaremore, and Mr. J. Macdougall, Bala-croich; Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. J. W. Ford, Glenlyon House; Members of Committee—Messrs. J. Macdiarmid, Invervar; D. C. Macaulay, School House; J. Fraser, Fortingall; D. Macdiarmid, Garth Lodge; H. Cameron, Ruskich, and J. Campbell, Duneaves. The members of the choir presented their conductor, Mr. J. Macdiarmid, with a silver-mounted baton and Vol. IV. of Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser's Songs. The gifts were gracefully handed over by Miss E. Macgregor. Mr. Macdiarmid suitably replied, and spoke of the pleasure he had in being connected, as conductor, with the choir. The ladies served a refreshing cup of tea, after which an impromptu concert took place, which was ably sustained by many of the members present. A pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" (in the

old-fashioned way). The Committee desire to thank all those who have kindly supported them, both financially and otherwise, during the year.

INVERARAY.—The first meeting of the session of the Inveraray Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the St. Malieu Hall on the evening of Thursday last week. The Lady Elspeth Campbell, Hon. President, presided. All the former office-bearers were re-appointed. Mr. George M. Syme, National Bank, was appointed Hon. Treasurer in room of Mr. D. F. F. Forbes, resigned. Tea was served, and a programme of bagpipe music and songs was submitted.

LAIRG.—At a public meeting held last week, it was decided to form a Branch of An Comunn. Mr. William Ross, Remarstag, was appointed President, and Mr. A. Macneil, Riverview House, Secretary. Quite a number have already enrolled as members, and a Ceilidh is to be held on the last Thursday of each month. It appears that the Mod is bearing fruit here, as it has been the means of inaugurating a movement to revive the Gaelic language. The banner is unfurled, and the writing is legible, "Suas Leis a' Ghaidhlig." Now is the time to rally by sending your names to the Secretary.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The opening meeting of the session was held on Friday evening, 29th October, in Bank Street, Side Room, Public Hall, Alexandria, when a large attendance of members and friends enthusiastic in the Gaelic movement assembled. President Archd. MacGregor presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, ex-president, An Comunn Gaidhealach; Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., of Drimmin; Mr. Donald Murray, and the local Secretary. Mr. MacGregor opened the meeting in a short Gaelic address, and welcomed the members. He then introduced Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, the lecturer for the evening, who proceeded with his lecture—"The Gaelic Outlook." Mr. MacLeod took a general survey of the position, and spoke of features that were promising as well as unfavourable. On a broad view, taking everything into account, he was decidedly of opinion, that the prospects of Gaelic were, for the immediate future, better than they had been for a generation. Mr. Murray, in an eloquent and sympathetic address, expressed a high appreciation of the lecture and moved a vote of thanks to Mr. MacLeod. He also viewed the Gaelic with optimism, and appealed for more support for the "Mother Tongue." Miss C. M. Gordon, organiser of the Great Feil (Bazaar) which is to be held in Glasgow at the end of May, 1927, also spoke, and wished the Branch to give their whole-hearted support in the effort to raise funds for An Comunn. A musical programme was thereafter given, Gaelic songs by Miss May Currie, Scotstoun, Mrs. Peterkin, Alexandria; and Messrs. Donald Fletcher, Glasgow, and Archd. Downie, Jamestown, being much appreciated. Bagpipe selections by Master Roderick Campbell were well received. Mr. James MacGregor made an efficient accompanist at the piano. Tea was served during an interval by an energetic committee. The Chairman intimated that the membership was now up to 115, but the Committee thought that many Highlanders in the district had still to come forward to avail themselves of the opportunity of joining the Gaelic movement. On the call of Mr. Donald Aitken, votes of thanks were given to the entertainers, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by the company singing "Oidhe Mhath Leibh," led by the soloists.



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Leabhar XXII.]

Am Faoilteach, 1927.

[Earrann 4

SEALLADH MU'N CUAIRT.

Aig toiseach Bliadhna ùire tha sinn a' cur fàilte air ar luchd leughaidh anns gach ceàrn, a' guidhe dhaibh sonas agus soirbheachadh. Mar tha bliadhna an dèidh bliadhna dol seachad is dualach a bhi faighneachd cionnus tha cùisean a' gluasad a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Oir is i so a' chrìoch àraidh a chum a bheil An Comunn a' strì, agus mu bheil am mìosachan so a' gabhail a thuruis troimh an dùthaich. A rèir cleachdaidh is còir sealltuinn mu'n cuairt, agus beachd a ghabhail gu sgiobalta air na rinneadh feadh na bliadhna. Agus air tùs tha againn ri aithris gu bheil deagh aghart 'g a dheanamh le teagasg na càinain do'n òigridh anns na sgoiltean. Faodaidh nach eil am feabhas cho sònruichte is bu mhiann le cuid—ach is aobhar taingeachd gu bheil feabhas idir ann, an coimeas ris an dearnad a bha a' bagradh na càinain. Ach anns an t-seachd so bha a' bhliadhna tairbheach; agus bha an toradh ri fhaicinn aig na mòid dhùthchasail feadh an t-samhraidh. Aig na cruinnichidhean sin fhuaras dearbhadh gu bheil leughadh is sgròbhadh na Gàidhlig a' fàs nas coitichionna na bha e—a' nochdadh dhi-chioll nan oileanach is dlùthach an luchd teagaisg. Rinneadh aghart mòr mar an ceudna am measg nan sgoilearan is sine anns na h-ard-sgoiltean, a thaobh na h-àireamh a choisinn teistean an dèidh deuchainn an eòlas air a' chàinain. Fhuaras feabhas air an t-seinn aig còisirean na h-òigridh fo stiùireadh luchd-ciùil A' Chomuinn; agus ghluasad misneach nuadh an uair a chunnacas aig a' mhòd bhliadhnail na deich còisirean inbheach dùthchasail, aig an

chomh-fharpuis ùir airson an leithid. Cha tàinig aghart riamh cho mòr ri so anns an aon bhliadhna.

Ach air an laimh eile is èigin stùil a thabhairt romhainn, agus mothuchadh do na bheil air thoiseach oirnn. Tha buill A' Chomuinn fiosrach a cheana, nach eil ar tighinn a stigh, eadar riadh is eile, ionnan ri ar cosgais o chionn ghoirid; agus mar sin tha e iomchuidh gun deanta oidheirp chruaidh air an t-samhraidh so, a chum ionnhas A' Chomuinn a chur air stéidh làidir. Is i an Fhéill a thachair o chionn fhichead bliadhna, a chum eul-taie ris A' Chomunn gu so. Agus tha dòchas gum bi Féill 1927 mar spionnadh ùr fad bhliadhn-aichean ri teachd. Mur faigh An Comunn cothrom, ciamar théid an obair a dheanamh? Tha an obair cho mòr is cho iarratach is gun dleas i sgioba de luchd saothrach a dh'fheumas an ùine gu léir a thabhairt do'n aobhar. Is aobhar cinneachail a tha ann, nach buin do bhuidhinn seach a chèile, ach a tha mar bhòid is mar dhleasdanas air a h-uile Gàidheal. Tha caochladh nithean ri dheanamh. Ged tha teagasg na seinn gle riatanach, gidheadh tha sinn an dùil gu bheil teagasg na càinain nas iomchuidhe na sin. Airson na crìche sin tha feum air deagh leabhraichean. Tha obair nam bàrd gu sònruichte a' cur feum air sgrùdadh is ceartachadh. Tha an clò mar inneal phrìseil an laimh A' Chomuinn. Their muinntir mòran mu leughadh Gàidhlig; ach is gann gu bheil guth air an fheum a tha air clo-bhualadh ùr, eagnuidh, ceart, air saothair nam bàrd is nan ùghdar. Cho luath is a gheibh An Comunn cothrom tha e iomchuidh gum biodh na leabhraichean 'g an ullachadh—na bàird an eagar cothromach,

a chum is gu foghlum na h-oileinich a chànain, saor a na mearachdhan a tha ri fhaicinn an deasachadh nan ùghdar.

Tha obair mhór aig An Chomunn ri choimhlionadh fathast anns a' Ghàidhealtachd. Gu h-àraidh anns na cèarnaibh anns a bheil Beurla is cleachdaidhean Gallda a' faotainn làmh an uachdar tha nì no dhà a' tachairt. Is ann a bhios nàire air cuid a bhi a' labhairt na Gàidhlig; fasaidd iad aineolach air ceòl is cleachdaidhean an sinnsir. Thig iad mu dheireadh gu bhi a' saòilsinn nach eil luach sam bith anns a' Ghàidhlig. Chan fhada gus an caill iad an eud air taobh na cànain. Is ann sin a tha feum air A' Chomunn. Is ann sin a tha feum gum biodh luchd dreuchd A' Chomuinn a' taghal is a' teagasc, ag earaileachadh is a' dùsgadh na feadhach a tha air fàs cho coma. Is ann an leithididhbh sin de cheàrnaibh a tha grad fheum air meanglain ùra. Agus an uair a thèid meanglain air obair chan eil meadhon is fhearr na mòd beag a chum an teine fhadadh a bhlàth-aicheas agus a bheothaicheas fearachaidhean an luchd àiteichidh. Air a' mhodh sin bidh e comasach do'n Chomunn spiorad duineil a bhrosnuchadh an àiteachan tha fuar balbh, anns a bheil cànain is ceòl ar sinnsir ullamh gu dhol as an t-sealladh.

UTILISING THE MATERIAL.

Specimen Outline of a Gaelic Play.

BY THE EDITOR.

To have pointed out that certain portions of Gaelic literature possess the fidelity and force which render them appropriate to the stage, is not sufficient. There is still the necessity for illustrating, by means of a concrete example, how the material can be adapted to a dramatic setting. The question of form is, indeed, of some importance. For it might be argued that since drama as a literary form was never a native growth among the Gaels, therefore that form is alien to the genius of the Gaelic language. The next inference which would be naturally drawn from such a supposition is, that any attempt to impose an alien form on literary work in Gaelic would always be lacking in spontaneity, and would be accordingly doomed to failure. An objection of that kind, however, would be

weakened by the fact that some languages, such as Latin, in which there would seem to have been little or no tendency to cultivate a native drama, have nevertheless produced a considerable body of dramatic literature once the dramatic form had been introduced, and native material had been adapted to an alien model. And so with regard to the creation of drama in Gaelic, considering the quality of the material, and the need for such an undertaking, the strong probability is, that success would certainly await that form of Gaelic drama which would worthily reflect the history and ideals of the Gael.

The Gaelic material as it now stands is cast in the form of romance, with all its wealth of poetry and saga. The problem for solution is therefore—the transference of the material from the form of romance to that of drama. Seeing that the entire material is permeated with the spirit of romance, the conclusion is drawn that the type of drama which would best convey the qualities of the subject-matter is romantic drama. By romantic drama, we mean a species of play which is not rigid and severe in the presentation of its theme, but which rather allows a lighter, freer touch, and admits of imaginative treatment. The composer of a Gaelic play of the kind contemplated would not need to be bound by the shackles of conventional form. It was a feature of romantic drama in the past, that it did not hesitate to break the fetters which had been imposed on dramatists by the stiff conventions of an older school. The same liberty of movement would require to be permitted to the Gaelic dramatist, to make possible the further evolution of the romantic form of drama, if that should be demanded by the nature or the novelty of his theme. An adequate endeavour to create fresh drama of this type from fresh material would be highly interesting as a literary experiment. It is to be borne in mind that the rehearsal of romance in Gaeldom is now practically a thing of the past. There is no other effective means at the present time of keeping alive in the rising generation an intelligent consciousness of their own antecedents. The material itself, in so far as it is merely committed to writing, and is ceasing to be actually transmitted by oral tradition, loses much of its living interest and charm. It is undoubtedly deprived of the glow which invested the sagas that had been repeated and taught by one age to another. But it is not yet too late to rescue some, at least, of the material

by casting it in the mould of romantic drama. Especially does it appear easier to rescue in this way the more familiar fragments that still retain their glow and fascination for the Gaelic mind.

In order to illustrate by a concrete example how the material of old sagas may be utilised in actual drama, we now venture to suggest a specimen outline which might be amplified into a Gaelic play. Out of a great variety of themes from which a choice could be made, we select Cuchulainn as the subject. While the Red Branch cycle of which he is the central figure would furnish material for a whole group of plays, yet we confine our scheme to prominent incidents in the career of Cuchulainn; and the personality of the hero, as in the case of many plays that derive their titles from one particular character, is the element that unites the different parts of the outline. Cuchulainn has been the ideal hero of the Gael down through the ages. There are mythological features that blend with the human qualities in Cuchulainn. But, notwithstanding a certain vagueness in his personality, he has secured a firm hold on the Gaelic imagination. On that account, it is argued that a play representing some of the principal events in which he takes part, would possess a special power of appeal to the Gaelic public.

The first scene in the first act is entitled, "The Assumption of Arms." It is fitting that a play bearing on the ideal knight of Gaeldom should begin with his inauguration into the order of chivalry. The place is the hall of state in the royal palace of Emania. Conchobar, the king of Ulster, is seated on his throne. The old records are rich in descriptive details for the setting; for example, the silver gong on which the king struck before speaking. The druid Cathbad, who appears in the sagas as a chief councillor to his royal master, narrates the youthful exploits of Cuchulainn. He relates how the young hero got his name, "The Hound of Culann"; how he has already distinguished himself among his peers, the cadets in the school of chivalry; and how, on account of these deeds, he is to be promoted to the knightly order of the Red Branch. Cuchulainn enters. He undertakes the knightly vows. He is informed of the "geasa" or tabus, which attach to the dignity of knighthood. The ceremony of investiture and assumption of arms then proceeds, the king taking a leading part. The scene affords a fit opportunity for

illustrating the vows of chivalry among the ancient Gaels. The occasion is likewise appropriate for unfolding the tenets of military tabu, or the "geasa," the prohibitions which regulated the conduct of the knightly warrior. Minor characters in the scene are a minstrel, a bard, and a senachie. A faithful presentation of the sagas must include these individuals. The exercise of their different arts is easily adapted to the stage.

The second scene of the first act is entitled "The Wooing of Emir," and depicts the hero as a suitor for the hand of his bride. Here emerges an interest which is distinct from the warlike. The subject-matter of the scene indicates that the ideal warrior of the Gaels is not exclusively a man of strife, but that his character is evenly balanced, inasmuch as he also shares the ordinary passions and emotions of humanity. The king of Ulster sends out "nine men through the five provinces of Erin to seek a wife for Cuchulainn"; but there is only one beautiful maiden whom the hero chooses to woo, Emir, the daughter of Forgall the Willy. The hero sets out from Emania in his chariot, which is driven by Laegh, the prince of all charioteers. They come to Luglocha Loga, the Gardens of Lugh, and find Emir with her foster-sisters on the green sward before the rath of Forgall. Emir possesses the six noble gifts of womanhood, the gifts of beauty, of voice, of sweet speech, of needlework, of wisdom, and of chastity. Cuchulainn descends from his chariot, and desires a blessing from Emir, who says, "May Heaven make smooth the path before you"; to which the hero replies, "And you, may you be safe from every harm." The details of a prolonged and most interesting dialogue are found in "The Wooing of Emir." Cuchulainn declares his love, and asks the lady to be his wife; but the maiden declares that she may not marry before her elder sister. All this is meant to test the reality of the hero's plea. He vaunts his exploits and his lineage. The maiden replies that she will not listen to his suit until he has performed many deeds more famous than he has yet done. Provided that he fulfils the conditions which are stipulated by Emir (according to the saga), she gives him to understand that his offer may some day prove acceptable to her. Forgall the Willy, however, disapproves of Cuchulainn's attentions to Emir; appears in disguise at Conchobar's court; praises the feats of Cuchulainn, and persuades the king to send

the hero to finish his military education in the school of the amazon Scathach, in Alba. The secret hope of For gall is that the hero may be slain on this expedition. Cuchulainn takes For gall at his word; but extracts from him a solemn promise to grant the hero's wish when the latter has returned from Alba. Emir's father makes the promise. After going through many dangers, and performing valorous deeds, the hero returns to Ireland; and when he has overcome those friends of Emir who opposed her marriage with Cuchulainn, the hero at last gains Emir for his bride.

The second act deals with some of those events in which our hero figures in the "Cattle Raid of Cuailgne." This first scene introduces Queen Meve (Medb), the strong-willed wife of Aillil, king of Connacht, as the moving spirit in that invasion of Ulster. To deal exhaustively with the topic would, of course, require several plays. But it is quite appropriate, we consider, to represent Queen Meve, when she is about to set out on the enterprise, as receiving due warning from a seer about the destruction which Cuchulainn is to inflict upon her army. The queen appears in consultation with her leading captains. They are discussing a plan of campaign. The queen eloquently rouses their enthusiasm for the undertaking by inciting their hatred against Ulster. She recounts very briefly, but pointedly, the events which moved her to organise the expedition. Presently a maiden appears. The queen addresses her; the maiden replies that she is "a propheticess of the Sidh of Cruachan"; and that she has come to disclose the queen's fortunes in the war against Ulster. When the queen has enquired of her in what state she sees the army of Connacht in the vision, the persistent answer of the visionary is, "I see crimson; I see red." Then she describes the great warrior of Ulster in his rage. The scene is intended to provide a rationale of the great war in which our hero was so prominent; and the circumstances allow scope for the use of the mysterious agency of second-sight as bearing on coming events.

"The Duel with Ferdiad" forms the theme for the second scene of the second act. That encounter is chosen here to illustrate two main points—first, the ancient Gaelic custom of deciding the issue of some phase of war between two armies by a combat between two champions, one from each contending side; and, second, the magnanimous code of honour which is

nowhere better displayed than in the particular duel now under treatment. There is a romantic bond of sentiment between these two men, for they were companions together in the school of arms in Alba. It is under extreme pressure, and from a genuine sense of military duty, that Ferdiad goes forth to fight with his old fellow-pupil. Subject-matter for very appropriate dialogue is furnished in "Tain Bo Cuailgne." The scene represents the combat in the spirit of the ancient text, as far as the technical conditions of the stage permit of such presentation. While some of the details which mark the duel are crude and primitive, yet there is in it at the same time a touch of generous feeling, which mitigates the harshness of a barbarous custom. That the opponents should share each other's food in the intervals of the struggle, and that the victor should mourn over the death of the vanquished, is genuinely Gaelic; the duel itself, and the atmosphere of sentiment surrounding it, convey an interesting impression of ancient Gaelic chivalry.

"The Coming of Lugh" is the designation of the third scene in the second act. The title is intended to keep the spectator in mind of the fact that in the saga the accounts of martial combats are blended with ancient mythology; and it is desirable that this feature of the old sagas should be conserved as far as possible, even in a dramatic adaptation. The topic of the scene is the prowess of Cuchulainn in guarding the boundaries of his native province against the foe, at a time when the rest of the Ulster warriors are suffering from their strange "Debility." The hero is exempt from the complaint. His achievements surprise and terrify the host of Meve. His rage is destructive. He agrees to one condition, however: if Meve sends a champion from her ranks each day to fight with him, the army of Meve may proceed while the duel lasts, but must stand still when the single combat is at an end. The leader of the queen's host is Fergus Mac Roich, an Ultonian, who, on account of his quarrel with Conchobar, has gone over to the side of Connacht. But Fergus still loves Ulster, and he secretly arranges, on certain terms, that he will retire before Cuchulainn at a critical moment later on. But meantime the hero is so fatigued with fighting that he is on the verge of collapse. It is then that the god Lugh, the master of the arts and crafts, comes on the scene, in the guise of

a magnificent warrior, and takes the place of Cuchulainn for three days, holding Meve's host at bay. The hero falls into a three days' sleep, and wakens refreshed in mind and body. It might be objected that to introduce a god into a play is not in keeping with twentieth century custom. Our answer is, that to be national, and faithful to the past, Gaelic drama must reproduce the genuine features of the sagas. The representation of gods intervening in human affairs is not at variance with the usages of classical drama; and the form of romantic drama in Gaelic must have freedom to utilise the ancient heritage of mythology that links the present hour, by an unbroken chain of oral tradition, with a past that is very far distant. The episode is a genuine creation of the Gaelic mind; and though its use in drama is a departure from matter-of-fact methods, yet the imaginative touch is rare, and would probably meet with a response, even so late as the twentieth century, in many a Gaelic heart.

The first scene of the third (and last) act, is entitled "The Sickbed of Cuchulainn." The goddess Fand, the forsaken wife of the sea-god Manannán, sets her affections on Cuchulainn. She and her sister Liban assume the form of two beautiful birds, and come to Emania. The hero unsuccessfully attempts to kill the birds for a present to his wife Emir. The scene represents how two women (Fand and her sister) come to the hero that night, and while the expression on their faces is friendly, yet they belabour him with whips till he is almost dead. He lies weak and speechless for a whole year. At last an embassy comes from Fand with a promise that the hero will be healed provided he agrees to visit the goddess in the Gaelic Elysium. He thereupon sends Laeg, his charioteer, to see that country and bring back a report concerning it. Laeg returns with an enthusiastic account of the glorious region and its inhabitants. Some of the ancient descriptive verses (*Atlantis*, Vols. I. and II.) are to be modernised, set to appropriate music, and sung by the charioteer. Impressed by the favourable report, Cuchulainn goes to the Gaelic Paradise, and remains there for one month. The latter part of the scene shows the rendezvous with the goddess, under the yew-tree at the head of Baile's strand. Emir becomes aware of the appointment; and, accompanied by a group of her maidens, surprises her husband and the goddess. The subject-matter of an effective dialogue is

furnished in the saga itself. Cuchulainn renounces the goddess, and renews loyalty to Emir. The god Manannán, "the rider of the crested waves," takes pity on his forsaken wife, and shakes his green mantle between her and the hero, so that they lose all recollection of one another. And the druids administer a "drink of oblivion" to Emir, so that she forgets her jealousy.

The second scene of the third act (being the last scene of our specimen outline), represents the death of Cuchulainn, and summarises the incidents which immediately lead up to that event. Here, once again, it is necessary to introduce Queen Meve as the instigator of a conspiracy against the hero's life. She has never forgotten the slaughter which he inflicted on her soldiers in the Cattle Raid of Cualgne. She contrives to appeal to the desire for vengeance in the minds of several powerful persons whose fathers Cuchulainn has slain. Among these allies of Queen Meve are Lughaidh, son of Cu Roi of Munster, who fell by the hero's hand; and also Erc, son of Cairbre Niafer, a high-king of Ireland, who was killed by the hero in the battle of Rosnaree. Lughaidh and Erc bring the armies of Munster and of Leinster. Cuchulainn also killed the wizard Calatin, whose children are now zealous to use their malign art of sorcery against the slayer of their father. All these forces unite with the army of Connacht under Meve, who once more decides to invade Ulster at the very season when the warriors of that province are suffering from their magic "Debility." Our hero is the only Ultonian who is exempt from the strange malady; and he is left alone a second time to defend his native province. The king's purpose is to wait for a day or two till the men of Ulster have recovered from their periodical faintness. The invaders advance into Connacht. Conchobar is unwilling that his nephew Cuchulainn should face the enemy single-handed, and orders that Cathbad the druid, along with the women of Ulster, should do their best to dissuade the hero from going forth alone. Cuchulainn is prevailed upon to accompany his friends to "Gleann nam Bodhar," the Valley of the Deaf, where he may not hear the noise of the invading host. But the children of Calatin, using their powers of witchcraft and magic, imitate the din of battle, and the shouting of people in distress, as if the whole province were being harried. Cuchulainn rises in his rage, and proceeds against the foe. Meantime, the prospect of

the hero is darkened by ominous portents. From these signs, and from the breaking of his "geasa" or tabus, he concludes the end of his career is close at hand. In the fight which ensues, he performs great feats as of yore, but is mortally wounded in the body by the spear of Lughaidh. Cuchulainn asks from his foes permission to drink from the pool beside which the fight takes place, and the request is granted. He then ties himself with his belt to a stone pillar, that he may die in a standing position. So passes the ideal hero of the Gaels. The details necessary for the dramatic setting are graphically furnished in the saga. The death of Cuchulainn is vigorously avenged by his cousin, Conal Cearnach.

SLIOCHD NAN SONN.

By JAMES MACLEOD.

Anns an chath chan eil ni cho glan, càbhraidh ris an èuchd a mharbhas suarachas mo chuirp. Cuir righeadh air mo chasan: glasadh air mo chaimnt. Ach air sgàth Dhia na paisg 's an anart mi agus aon bhall ag giùlan aithreachais airson uile.—*Sliochd nan Ron.*

PART I.

Bha Conn MacLeod fo ionnuidh fad uair an uaireadair. Ar leis gu robh e air ailm na "Spaile," nuallaich nan creach ag inntrinn a' dhà chluaise, agus eitheir nam mlie cruadal a' bristeadh fo a chasan.

Ach cha robh an sud ach brudair cadail; oir, an camhaneach an latha 'nuair a dh'èirich e gu uinneig bhig a choimhead na birlinn, bha i cho aigeanach 's a bha i latha riamh, air an laimhrig aig eaglais Chliamhain.

Chaidh Conn air ais a dh'ionnsuidh a leaba, snodha gàire air aodann; na nithean a dh'fhag a chadal luasganach, paisgte an tréine na càraid bh'air an acair aig cois cladaich.

Bu mhath a' bhirllinn airson cadal corrach a thoirt d'a maighstir; is minic a lorg Conn an eucail so 'na cois. Ach 's minic a fhuair e sìth is fois 'na cois mar an ceudna. Cho fhad 's nach éireadh beud do'n "Spàl" chan éireadh beud do Chonn.

Agus chan éireadh tubaist do a h-aon dhiubh agus sròn na h-iubhraich a falcadh nan tonn—a fìacail caoitais fearann.

Cha robh iongantais idir gum biodh Conn eudmhor a thaobh an eitheir. Bha a h-euchdan ainmeil eadar Ceann-an-t-sàile an Eirinn, agus Port-Nis an Leodhas.

An neach nach robh eòlach air "Spàl" Mhic Ailein cha robh eòlas aige 's an Eilean-Fhada—agus ioma eilean eile thairis air.

Bha an t-eitheir sàbhailte: bha Conn a nis cho tearuinte rithe; bha e an tràmh chadal.

Ach ghrad dhùisg e, agus fuam amhuil teud clàrsaich a spealgadh a' chinn. Chomhdaich e a cnàmhan air dòigh air choir-eigin, agus cnamhan e gu ceann eile an tighe.

Bha aon chas a' falbh agus té eile a tighinn air ais, agus buaidh a chinn ag éisdeachd ri guth cho binn 's a chualas riamh air an talamh. Thog e rann no dhà, agus am fonn.

"Carson bhiodh sprochd air mo chridhe

A' dol an coinneamh mo chéile.

'S na e o hì òruinn o,

Ho-ro chall eile;

'S na e o hì òruinn o.

"Sàr ainneir na dùthcha,

A chuir gu 'dùlan clann Eirinn.

'S na e o hì òruinn o, etc.

"Cruinneag ghrinn a' bheoil chumir,
Rogha Ullaidh na Cléatha.

'S na e o hì òruinn o, etc.

"Luchd nan sonn a thog bratach;

Gaisgich fhearail gun fhìotrach.

'S na e o hì òruinn o, etc.

"Bian sleamhain sruth fuaimneach,

Mar bu dual dhoibh 's an réise.

'S na e o hì òruinn o," etc.

Le aon sealladh air an òranaiche chaill Conn a thapachd. Chaidh feartan a' chinn agus a' chuirp troimh-chéile an dòigh a dh'fhàg e cosmhuil ri neach bhiodh a' giùlan cuinge fad laithean a bheatha. Chan eil agad ach am focal a ràdh agus bithidh e deanta; b'e sud rùn-intinn Chuinn.

Ar leis nach robh iasg 's a' chuan cho sùbailte ris an duine a bha e coimhead. Bha e ard: cho caol ri bior; a' chasan suante le éideadh cruadh, séiceach, agus a phearsa suas chum nan guilean, folaichte le comhdach amhuil deise-chruadhach. Bha de'n fheoil pheacaich (na bha ri fhaicinn dhi!) cho dorcha ri barrach; agus folt ruadh-chairtidh sìos air a dhà shùil.

An ceann fìheadh mionaid bha Conn, Tormod a' Mhachair, agus na laòich eile a b'abhaist a bhi comhla ris, a' seòladh am mach a bagh Ròdail, agus aodann nan cnamhan tapaidh an cridhe na h-àirde an iar-thuath.

B'e Stornabhagh a ceann-uidhe. Agus bha fìheadh bonn de òr an t-Sasunnaich gu bhi air an tiomnadh do Chonn mu'n tuiteadh a' ghrian gu eilean Irt. Mar an ceudna,

bha trumpaid-shubhachais gu bhi air a' seinn le creutair boireannach a bha dol a chur muinntir Baile-atha-Cliath an Eirinn 'na caiseart. Agus, 'a theagamh, cha robh rian aig Muldonaich, agus sluagh Bharraidh, faotuin seachad air an uamhas ud. Bha so gu tachairt agus a' bhirllinn air ais aig Dun-aruinn luchdaichte le neamhnuid nach robh samhail ann dhi ach i fein.

Cha robh teagamh aig Conn a thaobh na trompaid; ach cha b'i an té shubhachais. Bha crith luaisgneach a dol a dh'fhàgail cuideigin sac-ghuthach. A thaobh nam boireannach bha e ag creidsinn gu'n deachaidh an cruthachadh slàn, fallain—ban-naoimh bheaga anns gach te dhiubh. Bha iad buadhach cuideachd. Ach bha trom amhuras aige gu robh buaidh nam boireannach slighe gun chuime seachad air a' seasmhachd. Cha robh lide aig an choigreach ach ruinn-mholaidh airson na té a bha e lorg. "Fidhle an aona-phuirt," thubhairt Conn ri Domhnall Bàn. "Gach nì gu a dhualchas. Is leibeideach an dualchas aise fir!"

Chaidh Conn dh'ionnsuigh an eitheir 'ga dhearg aindeoin. Bhi nì-eigin timchioll an choigreach nach robh còrdadh ris. Coltach ris a h-uile Ceilteach, a bha agus a tha anns an t-saoghal, bha smuain dhiomhair intinn, mar gum b'eadh, air buaidh faotuin, agus na smuain nadurra a' dol gu cùl. B'e a bhìadh agus a dheoch an cìocharan neò-fhaicsionnach, co-dhiubh a bha a chomhnuidh anns na cladhan no am mach as na cladhan. Cha robh tlachd 's am bìth aige anna agus iad 's an aon leaba ris!

Cha robh feum aige air a shuidheachadh innseadh do chàch. Am fear nach leughadh smuain a cho-chreutair an Ròdal cha robh còir aige air a bhi ann. Tha so fìor a thaobh nan Gàidheal gus an latha an diugh. Thoisich cainnt is goileam is ceistean 'nuair a thainig an coigreach, air mhuinntireas, 'sa thionndaidh Gàidheil 'n an Gaill. Feumar an diugh slachdan daraich airson na h-oibreach. So!

Bha an t-eitheir a' seòladh mar bu gnàth leatha—eutrom; guineach air a bùird dhosrach a chaireadh air tuinn uaine a' chuain, ciod air bith dòigh a dheònaichadh iad teachd. 'Nam b'ann doineineach cha bhiodh aice ach craiceann fluich, am muigh 's a stigh. 'Nam b'ann seimh, ghearradh i bilean nam mara cho diùid ri maighdinn leis an cheud phòig air uchd a leannain.

An diugh bha cuan rèidh. Bha feum air; agus bha feum aig cach air mar a bh'aig an fhear a bha sgeun-shùileach a coimhead a'

choigrich. Thubhairt Domhnall Bàn air an laimhrig gu'n d' bhuail aon tonn uchd na birlinn le nimh 'na chois. Gidheadh bha Domhnall bòsdail, agus a' sàmhlachadh Choinn ri cuiseig a sheargeas ri iomlaid na h-aon oidheche.

Bha am fear fada, ruadh a ceangal caibhe thairis air ceann an fhalmadair, ach, cha b'ann gun fhios do dhithis a bu dluithe dha. Chuir e dual seachad air gach sliosaid de'n bhata, agus shuidh e air sorachan cho ciùin ri balbhan. Smid cha d'fhuaradh aige. Nuair a leig e a cheann an taic ris an totaidh-dheiridh 's a dhùin e a shùilean chualas ràn air a fhuaradh. Bha aodann Mhic Ailein Ruaidh air an taoman.

Chan eil nì ri aithris an déidh so. Cha do lorgas riamh casan no ceann aig turas na birlinn gus an d'ràinig i Steornabhagh. Agus 's ann ma laimh a bha an cala sin! Fhuaradh beagan. Bha Conn a' labhairt air pàiteachd. "Cha fhliuchadh i gob a' phinn!" dh'aidich e, aig Tuir Ròdail.

Bhuail a' ghaoth air toiseach na càraid le caise mhallaichte.

Bha am bata air chrith. An lionadh' na chaiseart o'n deas, agus onfhadh eagalaich na h-àird eile a' beucadh amhull mille tairneanach 'na choinneamh. Ach cha robh feum air taoman, no uiread agus deise-mhara.

Am meadhon an uamhais chunnacas an coigreach a fosgladh a bhilean.

Bha suil Choinn air amhaich. Cha robh bogha clarsaich 'riamh cho innealta ris na bha sìos air a smig. Bha gnep gorm, dubharach a seasamh le suspuinn an dirlach chuislean a bha cho uaine ri luachair Earraich. Agus mar a gabh sinn cnaimh sgadain mar shamhladh chan fhiosrach mi air nì eile bha cho brùil ris na geugan coal ud. Bha iad a nis air ghleus; Conn air fhioradh, agus càch a fàs fann.

Bha agaidh an t-séamh ràmhach air Corsa Scalpaidh, 's a dhà shùil cho cruinn ri gelaich ròbhairt. Bha Conn a riasladh eadar neamh is talamh—an fhior stuth bha gleidheadh nam partan, agus air an robh uallach nan tonn bhuairesach bha reachd-ghuthach air gach taobh dheth:—

"Tha an ruadh-òr siubhlach feadh mo chrì; An tasgaidh dhise thug gràdh;

Is neamhnuid rionnach doimhne a' chuain Chum òigh nam buadh chur slàn.

Tha cannach geal a' tàmh 's an fhraoch Is seud 's an ghlas-neul ard;

Tròm-thoirteil bithidh mo choran-gaoil Air altair chaoin mo ghraidh."

Am priobadh na sùla bha smuain Choinn air Dun-arminn. Cìod a bha dol a thachairt? An robh an coigreach a' dol a leigeil a chinn le muirn air struth luadh-cheumach, no a' robh 'na bheachd an t-eun a leantuinn gu Muldonaich?

Bha an duine air a mhuin cho luadh ri dealan—a dhà shùil a soilleachadh amhuil dorn-leuis. Bha aghaidh air ceann eile an eitheir.

"An cladach a thoirt dhith! A' fagail na bloighdean an ceann an Eilean-ghlais an Scalpaiddh agus Donn na Cléatha gun diog 'na deireadh!"

Ghàir e, an gàire a bhios air cailin bhig agus sé coinneanan aice air teaghair; ach cho do sguir e bois an sin.

"Donn is ainm dhomhsa. Cha sheas mi eadar Donn agus ruin a chridhe. Ma 's e Gràdh is leamsa e; cha chuir ni bacail orm ach an Eilidriom. Ma 's e miann teachd gu ceann eile an t-saoghail, ged a dh'eireadh feachd as an ionad iochdrach cha dean iad strì ri aon de shliochd nan sonn!"

(*Ri Leantainn.*)

GREAT FEILL.

Our hopes this month have been sadly dashed by an intimation from the Glasgow Corporation that the Kelvin Hall will not, after all, be ready in time for the Feill. The long-drawn-out coal struggle, and consequent shortage of building material, local labour difficulties, and now winter with its short days and bad weather, are responsible for this. In consequence, the Committee were faced with two alternatives:—(1) To postpone the Feill for another year, or (2) drastically to curtail their programme. There have already been two postponements: in 1924, in order to utilise the whole strength of An Comunn in aid of the Highlands Distress Fund, and in 1925, on account of the destruction by fire of the Kelvin Hall. The Committee consider postponement a third time impracticable, and decided to book the St. Andrew's Halls and concentrate their efforts on a bazaar. There will be a Clachan, a Provincial Mod, and various entertainments, but all items requiring considerable floor space will have to be omitted. There will be no military display, no pipe band competitions, and no rally of Scouts and Guides. A number of additional stalls are being arranged, and these now include PERTSHIRE (Convener,

Lady Helen Tod, Tirinie, Blair Atholl), ARGYLLSHIRE (Convener, Mrs. Macnaughton of Ardachearanbeg, Glendaruel), ISLAND (The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Lower Ostaig, Skye), and STIRLINGSHIRE (Mrs. Fanshawe, Dalvey, Aberfoyle, whose husband is M.P. for the county). A bazaar will naturally appeal to a smaller section of the community than the Highland carnival originally proposed, so in order to raise the money needed to enable An Comunn to take advantage of the opportunities now so freely offered to the Executive Committee, we shall have to work steadily for the remaining six months. During this period every effort should be made to secure the financial support of all those who have at heart the aims and objects of An Comunn, but owing to distance or pressure of work cannot be present in Glasgow during the Feill week. Collecting cards have been issued by the Committee, and are being distributed to Comunn members and branches, and through the stall conveners.

The various Highland societies in different parts of the country are responding splendidly to An Comunn's appeal. Thus in Lanarkshire money-making efforts are being arranged in Motherwell, Hamilton, Shotts, Mossend, Wishaw, Hartwood, and probably in Airdrie and Coatbridge also. Clydebank has organised a Christmas draw, and Kirkintilloch is also actively at work. A steady stream of proposals by branches of the Comunn flows into the office—e.g., Clachan intends to have a concert; Roy Bridge, an entertainment; Tobermory, a flag day; Minard, a sale; and Bunessan and Wick promise the proceeds of all money-making efforts made by them during the winter. So far, the effort made by Colonsay (Convener, Mrs. MacPhee) heads the list, the local committee having already raised a sum equivalent to 5s per head of the total population.

Mrs. Iain Campbell reports that the London Stall Committee held a sale of work on 20th November (which took the form of county stalls), and made a profit of £140. It was opened by the Hon. Mrs MacKinnon of Mackinnon. An appeal for funds has been sent to all subscribers with Scottish names in the London Telephone Directory. A large Highland ball will take place in the Hyde Park Hotel on 23rd February, 1927, organised by a very strong committee, of which Lady Margaret Campbell is chairman. T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of York and

H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, have most graciously given their patronage.

The Highland societies united in the Glasgow stall have been very busy this month. Events organised for December include concerts by the Jura, Mull, and Iona, Tiree, and Inverness-shire Associations; sales by the Skye and Ceilidh nan Gaidheal; an afternoon whist drive and an evening whist with ceilidh under the auspices of the Entertainments Committee; and Christmas draws organised by the Sutherland and Atholl and Breadalbane Associations. Mr. Peter Macnab, who very kindly consented to carry on the secretarial work of the Stall Committee when Mr. Bain was compelled through ill-health to give up active work in the summer, asked at the last meeting to be relieved of this work, and Mr. Donald Macdonald, 112 York Drive, Hyndland, was appointed in his place.

For the information of those who are working for the Feill, either at raising money or collecting goods, the names and addresses of the Conveners of the Highland Counties are printed below. The southern stalls will follow next month.

CAITHNESS—Lady Sinclair, Thurso Castle, Thurso.

SUTHERLAND—Mrs. Allan Gilmour, Invernauld, Invershin.

ROSS-SHIRE—Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Coig-na-shee, Newtonmore.

INVERNESS-SHIRE—The Hon. Mrs. Smythe of Ness Castle, Inverness.

ARGYLLSHIRE—Mrs. Macnaughton, Ardachearanbeg, Glendaruel.

On 14th December a meeting of the General Committee was held in the Highlanders' Institute. Progress was reported, and a suggested programme for the Feill Week submitted and approved. There was a very small attendance, and many people sent apologies for absence, alleging that they were now fully occupied with Feill work in their own districts. In view of this fact, it was agreed not again to summon the Committee unless business arose which the President and Secretary considered could not otherwise be dealt with.

C. M. G.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Mr ROSS,—I have to apologise to you for a delay of many months in keeping my promise to send you some notes of suggestions I have touched upon with you and others from time to time. At

present I shall only enter, and very briefly, upon one phase of possible activity, in the hope that the Feill now drawing near will provide money for extended work.

It has long been one of my desires that we should organise a small staff of men and women who would go through the Highlands in the winter months, visiting even the smallest villages, giving informal lectures on Gaelic language and literature, Gaelic music, art, history, social and political, telling the story of the ancient stones and buildings, and retelling the old tales and ballads.

I would have these lecturers (I use the word for want of a better) able to speak in Gaelic and English, for it is better that those who do not know Gaelic should have these things in English than that they should not have them at all, and I would have the speakers provided with lanterns and slides, and all other possible aids. A travelling theatre with actors and singers would have portable instruments. I would like to have travelling exhibitions of objects of Celtic art and industry. Articles of great value could not be taken, but reproductions and pictures would be appreciated.

But also those who go to lecture or sing should have eyes and ears and minds open to learn and to record. Those of each community who might have something to contribute to the evening's interest should be searched out. There is still folk-lore, tradition, and music to be recorded, and probably no place is barren of lore. It is the people who live in the quiet places who have the longest memories, and very often the best stored minds. The fact of local lore being contributed would stimulate interest and appreciation, while the lecturer, in addition to the general information on his subject, should search out any available literature on the locality—its archaeology, folk-lore, the story of its noted men and women.

I feel very strongly that in some such way as this we could give the people in the Highlands a real revival of interest and understanding in their heritage, and mend the broken threads. I feel, too, that the people who remain in the Highlands, and especially in the remoter parts, deserve the best that we can give them. This is a matter in which the branches would find a useful field of work. It is not necessary to go into further details at present, but I am satisfied that such a scheme is workable.

There are other things of great importance which require to be done if the Gaelic language is to make real headway, but which I will at present only mention.

The issue of little books on local history and tradition for use in schools and otherwise has been spoken of repeatedly.

There is also the necessity of making Gaelic literature accessible by the republishing of the works of the poets, of J. F. Campbell's "West Highland Tales," and of other books, in cheap and well-edited form.

Lastly, and not least important, there is the question of how we shall most effectually encourage scholarship among the younger people, for without this no real progress is possible. For this we depend on the Honours Courses now provided by our Universities, and it is our part to enable Gaelic students to take advantage of these courses by providing scholarships that will be of sufficient value to relieve them of financial difficulties.—Yours, etc.,

E. C. C. WATSON.

Edinburgh.

A GAELIC GLOSSARY.

By RONALD BURN, Humanity Department, University, Glasgow.

biorach: a year-old filly (not colt): Braemore, Matheson, n.: colt is loth (cf. on cròcan). = dogfish in S.U.

biorag: (1) stump of branch: Lorne, Neil MacLean, n.: cf. slamhaig, bioran. (2) thorn, prickle: same: bior in Lochaber and Islay. Cf. speach. (3) burnt heather (fem.): Iolairig Lòin na B. past 2000ft. contour above (and about midway between) sources of Allt na Sumaig and A. na' Saithichean (q.v.) Gl. Feshie 64D7 (8?): Ferguson, n.: no doubt named from the sharp little grey branches of which burnt heather consists. Eiteach of bleached heather stumps, fine for making smokeless fire. Cf. bioran-. (4) little twig: Loch Ness W., MacDonald, n.: cf. bioran.

biorain-fraolch: burnt heather stumps: Islay, Johnston, n.

bioran: branch: Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. biorag, barrach (meuran). Bioran=little stick in Coll, Lewis, Tiree, S. Uist, and Islay; cf. tèarr-bhioran.

bioran-fraoch: burnt heather stumps, heather coo among southern shepherds: Braemore, Matheson, n.: said to be sweetest thing for lighting pipe with. Cf. gaisde(an-fr.) and on biorag.

bioran-loisgte: same: Br., M., n.

biosaidh! to call pigeons: Waternish, MacAskill, n. Cf. chan, pios!

biot: churn, any churn that makes butter: N. Tolsta, Lewis, Miss Mary Murray, n.: cf. toir-, miosradh, loinid-, muidhe-deil, peinneachan, fuirneag, cnatachan, crannag. Dw. s.v. crannachan has bite as the Lewis form. But this undoubtedly was not my informant's pronunciation. Crannachan is Lorne word, but in Str. Glass and Torridon c.=switched cream, v. fuarag.

bithich: shall be: (?) Gl. Kingie: Donald MacLennan, who once lived there [v. song s.v. bàta na smùid]; also Kintail, Coll, and Pths., but is mere dialect (I shall not incorporate all my dialectic collectanea).

biulrue: (1) reel of spinning wheel, fastened on snàthad: S. Uist, MacEachen, and 3

other natives; Lorne, Neil MacLean, n.: dial. for piorna?—see Dw. No. 245^a and pirne. The Lochaber 'b' in bleith approaches to a 'p' in sound. This is fixed to the (245¹) séicle (the flyer) or hooks (teeth) on a wishing-bone-shaped instrument on which is reel in middle. Reel is filled uniformly by the hooks being successively spread with thread all along the séicle, which term applies to hooks and frame. Cf. bioirne, téic, deil, etc. (2) bobbin as bought in shop: Lorne, Neil MacLean, n.: cf. pirne(-snàth).

biuirne-cuidhleag: large bobbin or reel of spinning wheel: S. Uist, MacEachen, n.

biuirne-snámh: reel or bobbin: S.U., MacE. n.

biùstadh: act of marking sheep with tar: Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. tèarr-, cìl, smiaradh, beum, etc. Borrowed by those who speak only Gaelic from the Scotch buist. Word not known in S. Uist, where the branding-letter on iron holder is heated and so stamped on to newly-shorn sheep.

biùstair: marker, tarrer: Br., M., n.

blabhd: (1) howling of dog, baying; Braemore, Matheson, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.: cf. comhairt, coirt, tùrsadh, tamhann, tùirseil. (2) senseless bellowing of man likenable to dog's greetin': Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. éigheachd, blabhdail, straidhleadh. (3) noise of spate in stream which runs usually level and quiet and stoneless: Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. glugadach, balbh.

blabhdail: (1) the senseless howl or baying of a dog, greetin' (Tomintoul): long continued howl not staccato yelping howls; also of long bay of joy to greet master;—any non-staccato baying: Coll, MacDougall, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.; Glendale, W. Skye, Rev. Neil Ross, n.; Lorne, Neil MacLean, n. (2) senseless bellowing of man likenable to a dog's baying: Glendale, Ross, n.; Coll, MacDougall, n.; L., MacL., n. (3) blethering, chattering away, newsin' awa': L., MacL., n. Cf. fathull, sglàmhadh, bleedaraich.

(Ri leantainn.)

AN TUATHANACH MAR BHEAN- THE FARMER AS GOODWIFE. TIGHE.

ISLAY'S COLLECTIONS, MS. Vol. XI., 229.

Translation by J. G. McKAY, London.

Bha tuathanach ann roimhe so, 's bhith-eadh e ag obair a mach an còmhnuidh, 's bha e 'ga shàrachadh. Is bha farnad aige ris a' mhnaoi, 's i a stigh a h-uile latha, cho socair 'sa bha i. Is bhithheadh a' bhean ag ràdh gur a h-i a bha air a sàrachadh, 's nach b'e fhéin.

Is e an rud a bh'ann—arsa bean-tighe—

“Feumaidh tu fhéin fuireach a stigh an diugh, 's théid mise a mach. Tha uachdar an sìod, 's feumaidh tu a mhaistreadh, air alt 's gu'm bi ìm againne le ar tràth-maidne; 's cuiridh tu a' bhó do'n phàirc far am b'abhaist di.”

Coma leibh co dhiùbh—chaidh a' bhean a mach, 's shiuthad i air an obair a bha aige-san.

Thug esan làmh air maistreadh an toiseach.

Coma leibh co dhiùbh—an uair a bha esan ag obair air maistreadh, gu de bhuail ach pathadh mór e, 's e 'ga shàrachadh.

Chaidh e an so chun a' bharaille leanna a dh'òl dibhe.

An uair a chaidh e chun a' bharaille leanna, thug e an gòc às, agus cha robh e ach an deidh an gòc a thoirt às, an uair a thàinig muc a stigh.

A mach a ghabh e chun na muice, mu'n buineadh i do'n chrannachan, na mu'n dòrteadh i e.

Chunnaic a' mhuc esan a' tighinn, agus leis an eagal a bha aice roimhe, a mach a ghabh i, 's gu de an taobh a thug i a h-aghaidh ach mu'n chrannachan, agus dòrtear an crannachan.

An so, an uair a chuimhnich e gu'n d'fhàg e am baraille leanna a' sìleadh air a chreachdan,¹ thill e a nios.²

An uair a chuir e an òrdugh am baraille leanna, chunnaic e gu'n robh an t-àm aige an tràth-maidne a chur gu feum.

[Agus o'n a dh'fheumadh e dol do'n tobar a dh'iarraidh uisge], is e an rud a rinn e, chuir e an crannachan air a mhuin [agus thug e leis e], eagal gu'n tigeadh a' mhuc no gu'n dòrteadh i aon bheagan a bh'ann.

There was formerly a farmer, who used to be always working out of doors, and was exceedingly hard put to it. And he used to envy his wife, because she was indoors every day, and was so very much at her ease. But his wife used to say that it was she who was hardworked, and not he at all.

So what happened was this—the good-wife said—

“Thou thyself must stay indoors to-day, while I go out. There is some cream there, which thou must churn, in order that we may have butter at our breakfast; and thou must send the cow to the park, where she has been used to be.”

Never you mind, in any case—out went his wife, and set about doing the work that had been his.

The work to which he first turned his hand was churning.

Well, never mind, in any case—while he was working at churning, what should seize him but a great thirst, for he was being hard put to it.

So he went to the ale-barrel to drink a draught.

When he got to the ale-barrel, he took the spigot out, but hardly had he done so when in came a pig.

Away he went after the pig, lest she should knock against the churn, or spill it.

The pig saw him coming, and with the terror she had of him, out she rushed, and whither should she set her face but towards the churn, and so the churn was spilt

At this point, remembering that he had left the ale-barrel trickling away to waste and causing him loss,¹ he came back indoors.²

When he had set the ale-barrel to rights, he saw that it was high time for him to make the breakfast ready.

[And since he must needs go to the well to fetch water], the thing he did was this—he hoisted the churn on to his back [and took it with him], for fear that the pig might come and spill what little [milk] might still be left in it.

¹ Literally, “dripping on his wounds.” See Notes.

² Literally, “he returned from below.” Compare “thig a nios,” *lit.* “come from below,” i.e. come into the room (which is said when inviting a person standing in the doorway to come in). “Am bheil thu 'dol a sios?” *lit.* “Are you going down or going below?” i.e. Are you going out?

Dh'fhalbh e 's an crannachan air a mhuin, 's an cuman 'na achlais, chun an tobair. Ach an so, an uair a chrom e thar an tobair a thogail an uisge, dhòirt e an crannachan anns an tobar.

Chunnaic e gu'n robh e anns a' chall buileach³ an latha sin.

An uair a bha e 'dol dachaidh, gu de a bha a' bhó aige ach air a' chipean air an robh i an raoir, gun bhiadh, gun sion.—Spion e an cipean as a' ghrunnd, 's dh'fhalbh e dhachaidh ag iomain na bà roimhe a mach.

A nise, bha an tigh aige air a dheanamh suas le cnoc air an dara taobh dheth. Agus is e seòrsa sgràth a bha air an tigh, agus a dhith sgràth, bhitheadh na bà ag ionaltradh air taobh an tighe 's air a mbullach. [Agus an uair a ràinig e], chan fhaca e àite a bu deise na an cipean a chur a sìos anns an luidhear.

Dh'fhalbh e an so a stigh, agus ceanglar ri a chois [an ceann de] an teadhair [a bha a nuas o'n luidhear] a stigh. Agus chuir e poit air an teine gu brochan a dheanamh.

An uair a bha e 'cur na nìnn anns a' phoit, a mhic cridhe! shiuthadh e gu dòigheil air a stiùireadh, taobh an teine.

Gu de rinn a' bhó an so ach dol gu mullach an tighe; 's ge b'e air bith tuisleadh a bhuail a' bhó, sìos a ghabh i air an taobh eile.

Dhragh a' bhó an teadhair, 's thug i fear-an-tighe gu mullach an tighe suas, ['s bha e an sìod os cionn an teine, a cheann fodha, agus a chas a' slaodadh ris an teadhair. Agus ma's i a' bhó bhoichd, ged a bha a ceann 's a casan toisich air an togail gu h-àrd bho'n talamh], cha robh grèim de'n bhó an so a' buailadh air an làr, ach gu'm buaileadh a casan deiridh air éigin ann.

Ach coma co dhiùbh—bha bean-an-tighe 's i a' spealadh, a' gabhail mulaid nach robh i a' faighinn cuireadh chun a tràth-mhaidne.

Smuaintich i nach bitheadh i na b'fhaide a' feitheamh cuireadh, 's dh'fhalbh i gu dol dachaidh.

Ach gu de a' cheud chòmhdhail⁴ a choinnich aig an tigh i, ach a' bhó air a crochadh ri taobh an tighe.

Bha speal 'na dòrn, 's cha robh i 'feitheamh ri a fuasgladh; ach cuirear an speal air an teadhair, 's bhuail a' bhó gu dòigheil air làr, agus a stigh a ghabh ise.

So with the churn on his back, and the milk-pail under his oxters, he went off to the well. But at this point, when he bent over the well to draw the water, he spilt the [contents of the] churn into the well.

He saw that everything was going right against him³ that day.

When he was going home again, where should his cow be but tethered to the peg where she had been the night before, without food, without anything.—He wrenched the tether-peg out of the ground, and home he went, driving the cow before him.

Now one side of his house was formed by a hill. And it was a kind of turf or divots which [formed the roof] of the house, and when wanting grass, the cows used to pasture on the side of the house and on the top of it. [And when he arrived home], he saw no handier place in which to put the tether-peg than down the chimney.

Then he went in, and tied to his foot [the end of] the tether [that was hanging down from the chimney] indoors. And he put the pot on the fire in order to make brose.

When putting the meal into the pot, oh son of my heart! he began stirring it at the side of the fire in a proper business-like way.

What should the cow now do but walk on to the top of the house; and whatever [the fit of] stumbling that attacked that cow was [I know not]; but down she went on the other side.

[In falling] the cow dragged the tether, and hauled the goodman up to the house-top, [and there he was above the fire, head downwards, and his foot hanging to the tether. And as to the poor cow, though her head and her fore-feet were lifted high above the earth], there was no part of her touching the ground, except her hind legs, and even they were barely touching it.

But never mind, anyhow—the goodwife, who was mowing with the scythe, was fretting because she was not getting any invitation to her breakfast.

She determined to wait no longer for an invite, and so off she started to go home.

But what should be the first thing⁴ she met at the house, but the cow hanging to the side of the house.

Now the scythe was in the goodwife's fist, and so she never waited to untie her; she just applied the scythe to the tether, and down plumped the cow to earth in the proper way, and then the goodwife dashed into the house.

³ Literally, in the loss entirely.

⁴ Literally, the first meet-er.

Gu de a nochd rithe an so an uair a chaidh i a stigh, ach fear-an-tighe, 's e an coinneamh a chinn⁵ anns a' phoit bhrochain aice.

Bhuail i an so, an uair a thug i ás a' phoit-bhrochain e, air ceirneannan a chur ris, agus air a leigheas mar a b'fhearr a dh'fhoadadh i.

An uair a fhuair e an so gu'n do leighs-eadh e, chan fhanadh e aon latha a stigh airson bhean-an-tighe, 's e beò.

Tuilleadh, cha robh fear no bean a chitheadh e nach ann ag innseadh [dhaibh] cho math 'sa bha a' bhean aige fhéin a bhith-eadh e.

From the MS. Collections of the late J. F. Campbell of Islay, MS. Vol. XI., No. 229. Collector, Hector MacLean. Narrator, Allen MacDonald of South Uist. Probably recited about 1860-1. A Highland version of "John Grummelie." It is told in very idiomatic language, and was in consequence very difficult to translate. The last paragraph and the one about putting the tetherpeg down the chimney are scarcely susceptible of adequate translation.

Putting an animal on the top of a house in order that it might eat the grass growing there occurs in other drolls, *W.H. Tales*, II., Nos. 48 and 57, Var. 3.

Among the Southern Italians of classical times, "A donkey on the tiles" (of a house) was a metaphor or expression for something that awakened horror. See Dr. H. J. Rose in "Asinus in Tegulis," *Folk-Lore*, XXXIII., pp. 34, 200; Dr. Rose brings together a great many instances of portents and superstitions connected with the presence of an animal on a house-roof, two of these being drawn from Livy. Dr. Rose says—"I learn from my colleague, Prof. Gwynn Jones, that in the Welsh version of *John Grummelie*, the cow, not content with 'letting doon nae milk,' got up on the roof. I very much doubt if *John Grummelie* was originally funny at all, for it deals with the once very serious subject of interference in the magical preserves of the other sex."

Records of ancient rituals and ceremonies, constituting the magical preserves of one sex and performed by that sex to the exclusion of the other, have been found among many nations. The festival of the *Bona Dea* in ancient Rome, for example, was celebrated by women only, men not being allowed even to appear, much less to participate. On one famous occasion, when the festival was being held in the house of Julius Caesar, Clodius, disguised as a woman, obtained admittance. But his masculine voice betrayed him, and a legal trial was the result. His judges, however, were bribed, and he obtained acquittal. Pompeia, Caesar's wife, was suspected of complicity with Clodius, but though this could not be proved, Caesar divorced her, because he said that Caesar's wife must be above suspicion.—Pentheus, a King of Thebes, who hid himself in a tree for the purpose of witnessing the revelries of the Bacchic women, was discovered, pulled down, and torn to pieces by

What should then present [itself] to her [gaze] when she entered, but the goodman, head first,⁵ in her porridge-pot.

Next she busily set to work, when she had taken him out of the porridge-pot, to apply plasters to him, and to heal him as best she might.

Upon this, when the goodman found that he was healed, not another day indoors would he stay for the goodwife, as long as he lived.

Thenceforth, there was never a man or a woman he met, that he would not fall to telling [them] how good his own wife was.

them.—In the Highlands, men who intruded when the women were busy with the *tuathadh*, were liable to get a ducking. See John MacFadyen, *Sgeulaidhe nan Caol*, 43.—At the Oenach of Tailltiu (Telltown, Co. Meath), "the games of the women were not visited by men." *Folk-Lore*, XXXI., 123. Similarly, the Fenian women are represented as knowing the secret of keeping fat and well-nourished during a period of scarcity, and as refraining from imparting their knowledge to their starving men-folk, who in consequence suffer dire privation. The nature of the food the women fed on varies for different versions. *L. na Féinne*, 175-180, *An Sgeulaidhe*, I., 298 (1809), Islay's *West Highland Tales*, III., No. 67—MS. Vol. XI., No. 287. On the other hand, the procession of mummers at the old Highland festival of 'A' Challuinn' appear to have been all male. See *An Deo Gréine*, IX., 56.

"DRIPPING ON HIS WOUNDS." Professor T. F. O'Rahilly says (*Gadeltica*, I., 275, Dublin, 1913)—"The name *ri(ogh)-choinneal*, otherwise *coinnéal righ-thighe*, was given to a candle 'of enormous size, with a great bushy wick,' which it was usual in ancient Ireland to keep burning at night in the presence of a king or chief. 'In the palace it was placed high over his head; during war it blazed outside his tent-door; and on night-marches it was borne before him.' . . . In connection with the *righ-choinneal* there is an interesting point, which seems to have hitherto escaped attention. If we may trust the evidence of several romances (no unsafe guides in such matters) the custom formerly existed of placing a bound captive, whom it was wished to punish or torture, under the dripping of one of these 'royal candles' all night long." The Professor gives several instances of this custom from Irish sources.

This incident of torturing a bound prisoner by placing him beneath a flaming torch, and letting the burning tar or resin drip upon his wounds, must have been well known among the Highlanders in Campbell of Islay's day, for it occurs in other tales among the many that he gathered. In our tale, the metaphor, "dripping on his wounds," is probably based on this incident, and seems very appropriate when referring to the feelings of one, whose affairs, already bad enough, were being aggravated by disastrous loss. The sufferings of the hero in some folk-tale, sorely wounded in battle, who, trussed up by the victor beneath a flaming torch was tortured

⁵ Literally, in the meeting of his head.

still more by the dripping of burning resin upon his raw wounds, offered an obvious analogy with the fate of the farmer who turned goodwife. He, wounded by misfortune, and thoroughly entangled in its net, was to suffer one disaster more, the irremediable loss of the ale, which, in trickling away to waste and in aggravating his plight, might be said to have dripped upon his wounds.

For the incident in question, see *Waifs and Strays*, III., 264—Dr. Geo. Henderson, *Celtic Dragon Myth*, 165—*Zeitschrift für Celt. Phil.*, I., 489, 492—VI., 181, 186, 188—William Larminie, *West Irish Folk-Tales*, 48, 49, 74, 254—Islay's *West Highland Tales* (there are two editions), II., 356 or 372, 453 or 468, III., 235 or 250. In this last example, which confirms Professor O'Rahilly completely, Connal says to a captive—"Thou man that art beneath, wert thou ever before in strait or extremity as great as to be lying under the great board, under the drippings of the waxen torches of the King of Lochlann and mine?"

LOCHABER JUNIOR MOD.

The Lochaber Junior Mod, postponed by want of transport from May, took place in September. The judges who kindly gave their services were the Rev. Dr. Mackinnon, Kilmonivaig; the Rev. Mr. Crawford, Kilmallie; the Rev. Mr. Gollan, Fort William; Mr. John N. Macleod, Knockbain, and Mr. John MacIntyre, Fort William.

Some interesting new features were added to the programme. A "fulling" song, done in character by one school, was very pleasing.

Captain Iain M. Moffat-Pender presided, and gave away the prizes, winning the warm approval of the competitors.

The syllabus for next year's Junior Mod, to be held in the spring, has been for some time in the teachers' hands. Mr. Morrison, Director of Education for the County, will then preside. The fact that Captain Iain M. Moffat-Pender has kindly offered two silver cups for competition to the schools of Lochaber, to be awarded to the best boy and girl pupil in Gaelic reading, writing, and conversation, will induce, it is hoped, a good contingent to come forward and do justice to their teachers. The munificent offer—the first of its kind ever made to the schools of a Highland district—will prove a fitting memorial of the forming of the "Comunn Abrach" in November, 1906, by Mrs. Cameron Lucy and Lochiel; of the Rev. G. Maclean, its

first president, brother of Rev. Dr. Norman; Mr. A. Campbell, the first secretary; the Rev. J. Mackintosh, U.F. Church; the Rev. W. MacIntyre, Mr. Colin Livingstone, ex-Provost P. Macfarlane, the judges who took such pains, and the devoted teachers and secretaries, all of whom gave ungrudgingly of their spare time to the cause, and some of whom have now passed away.

The first Junior Mod of the Comunn Abrach took place in July, 1907, and was held annually until war broke out in 1914, when many Gaelic teachers were scattered. Of the latter, the names of Misses H. Campbell and E. Stewart will be recalled with gratitude. The Mod held at Fort William in 1914, with those of the two previous years, 1912 and 1913, were what is now known as Provincial Mods, adults and juniors competing on the same day. Those held since the conclusion of the war have been Children's Mods only.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

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BOOK REVIEW.

NEW BOOK OF GAELIC SONGS.

The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland: Being the Rhind Lectures on Archaeology (expanded) delivered in 1916. By William J. Watson, M.A., LL.D., Professor of Celtic Languages, Literature, History, and Antiquities in the University of Edinburgh. 30/- net. (Edinburgh: Blackwood.)

Celtic scholarship in Scotland gains fresh weight and authority with the appearance of this book. We say scholarship for three reasons—the philological power and sane judgment displayed in the elucidation of the meaning of Celtic place-names, the historical information conveyed by the facts which emerge in the course of the work, and the wealth of erudition which incidentally appears in a familiar acquaintance with the literary sources. Three interests are skilfully blended—topography, literature, history. The volume is of first-rate importance, as being by far the ablest book ever produced on the Celtic place-names of Scotland. The evidence and apparatus are drawn from classical authors, from the great Irish MSS., from the ancient Welsh writings, from inscriptions in stone, and from the old records of Scotland. In the treatment of names which survive, the professor of Celtic has the advantage of knowing the linguistic forms at all stages, a qualification possessed by few of those who have ventured into this difficult field.

The scope of the work may be summarised under (a) early names from writers such as Pytheas, Tacitus, Ptolemy, Adamnan, etc.; (b) the ancient territorial divisions; (c) general regional survey; (d) special chapters on special features. Matters around which controversy has raged are handled with logical reference to the historical data. As regards the linguistic and racial position in the early part of the Christian era, the author holds with the Irish Nennius, that "The Britons at first filled the whole island with their children from the sea of Icht to the sea of Orcs."—i.e., from the English Channel to the far north. And he would hold with Kuno Meyer that "no Gael ever set his foot on British soil save from a vessel that had put out from Ireland." Regarding the Picts, it is important to keep in view that while all Picts were Cruithnigh—i.e., Britons, all Cruithnigh were not Picts. The Picts were a British tribe who gained the leadership in the North when the Caledonians lost it. Thereafter, the North came to be called Pictland (Pictavia) till the leadership passed from them to the Scots. We have thus the succession—Caledonia, Pictavia, Scotland. There is evidence that settlements from Ireland began to the north of the Wall of Antonine even during the Roman occupation. The early tradition of Eoghanacht in Meams bears out that there were fourth century Gaelic settlements north of the wall, and that Gaelic influence must have been strong in the midlands and the east. An interesting view is adopted on the ground of Welsh, Irish, and Scottish evidence concerning the provinces of Gowrie and of Brechin as being named after Gaelic princes—Gaban and Brychan. The Celtic Church is vitally connected with the old order, and the preservation of records. The enterprise of its missionaries carried its influence far and wide. The author moves with ease among this material, and his guidance will be useful to writers on the Celtic Church, very few, indeed, of whom know anything whatsoever about the sources at first hand!

The book is beautifully printed, and is published under the auspices of the Royal Celtic Society. It is a volume which cannot but appeal to the intelligent Scottish reader. N. R.

There is to be published immediately a new Gaelic Song Book, which will be the biggest value ever offered in Gaelic Song Books. Called "Coisir na Cloinne," it contains forty songs, with their melodies in sol-fa music; many of the songs being arranged in two and three-part harmony. These songs have formed the test songs on the Children's Day at the National Mod during the years 1908 to 1926. The harmonies have been specially composed by well-known musicians, including W. S. Roddie, J. H. W. Nesbitt, W. H. Murray, Frank Sharp, J. N. MacConochie, and G. Ferguson. They are on the whole set on the most suitable key and compass for children's voices, and these choral harmonies are a great improvement on many found in books of a similar class.

It was a happy thought that Messrs. Alex. MacLaren & Sons, the publishers, should have gathered together these songs. Previous to their taking on the publishing of the test songs for children's choral competitions, these were not preserved; but since 1921, the year when they were first responsible as publishers of the annual leaflet of Children's Choral Test Songs, they have kept in view the publishing of such a useful book. When they brought the suggestion before the notice of An Comunn Gaidhealach, they received every encouragement to go ahead with it.

Messrs. MacLaren have also been at great trouble to collect some of the best of the earlier songs, which were in danger of being lost, to include in their booklet. They have had the able assistance of the Rev. M. N. Munro, who has acted as editor of the collection, and also provides a short preface. He was convener of the Mod and Music Committee from 1908 till 1924. The booklet will be published at 6d net.

BRANCH REPORTS.

CONNEL.—Under the auspices of the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, a concert was held in the Public Hall. Rev. John MacInnes, St. Orans, presided, and addressed the audience. Bagpipe selections were rendered by Pipe-Major Cameron, and a programme of songs, readings, etc., was sustained by the following:—Misses F. McLean, Tobermory; Nellie Cameron, Oban; Mrs Scott, Barcaldine; Misses Mackenzie, M'Lucas, Ledaig; M. Campbell, Connel; A. Ferguson, Connel; Mr Peter Fletcher, Oban; and Mr Ian MacCallum, Barcaldine. The accompaniments were played by Mrs Scott, Miss G. Bruce, and Mr Armstrong. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs MacDonald, Ardcattan, and MacKenzie, Kilmore. At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. MacInnes, on behalf of the Society, presented Mr. D. M'Phail with a volume of songs in appreciation of his services as conductor, while a similar gift was handed to Miss M'Vean, for Miss Murray (who was unable to be present), in recognition of her services to the Junior Choir, and to Mr. Armstrong for his assistance to the Choir at the Mod.

FERINTOSH.—A meeting of the Ferintosh Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held, at which Mr. D. Urquhart presided. Despite stormy weather, there was a good attendance, and the various items were well received. Mr. Alex. Duncan gave very pleasing mandoline selections.

Gaelic songs were feelingly rendered by Miss Ella Macleod ("Ho ro bhan o") and Messrs. John Urquhart ("Thug mi gaol do'n fhear bhan" and "Na bheil air m' aire"), Alex. Macleod ("An cluinn thu, leannain?" and "Breacan Mairi Uisdein"), and Duncan Macdonald ("A' bhean agam fhin"). Miss Ella Macleod also sang "Lea Rig" and "Hame o' Mine," while Mr. D. Urquhart gave a Gaelic reading, and Mr. Duncan Macdonald greatly delighted the audience with his humorous readings, "Playing Golf" and "Something Dropped," etc. All the performers had to respond to encores.

GLENELG.—The first Ceilidh of the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, in conjunction with the Mutual Improvement Association, was held in the Reading Room on 3rd December. The crowded hall was gratifying assurance of the place these meetings have obtained in the social life of the district. Mr. Donald Macpherson was in the chair, and a genial atmosphere was quickened when the company had an excellent tea served by the ladies of the Committee. Thereafter bagpipe music was discoursed by Mr. Norman Cameron. Songs were contributed by Messrs. Macrae, Macdonald, MacIure, and Dunnet. Miss W. Macrae gave a delightful rendering of "Hi ho ro 's na ho ro eile," and Mr. John Maclean's humorous reading was thoroughly enjoyed. Gramophone selections given by Mr. D. Macpherson included "Nuair Bha Mi Og." Each item was cordially applauded, and the Chairman moved a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the Ceilidh. This was enthusiastically responded to. On the call of Mr. J. Mackenzie the Chairman was thanked for conducting the Ceilidh so admirably.

LOCHABER.—The Lochaber Branch met for the Ceilidh on the 17th November, the first of the winter session. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity when the Rev. John MacMillan of St. Mun's held his audience enthralled by his vast collection of ancient and beautiful Gaelic poetry. Mr. Morrison, Director of Education, who presided, proposed a vote of thanks, which was heartily accorded.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The second meeting of the session took place on Friday, 26th Nov., in the Upper Lesser Co-operative Hall, Alexandria. Mr. Archibald MacGregor, president, in a few opening remarks in Gaelic, welcomed a large attendance of members and friends. He afterwards introduced Mr. Lachlan H. Gilchrist, Marine Superintendent of the L.N.E. Railway Company, who proceeded thereafter with an interesting lecture, entitled "Clyde Steamers and some Clyde Resorts." Mr. Gilchrist related the story of the making of the facilities the citizens of Glasgow and district now enjoy in the way of rapid transit to and from the Firth of Clyde, and showed how the development of the Clyde coast resorts are inextricably connected with the story of the rise and development of the Clyde Passenger Steamers. The lecture was divided into two parts, the first related to steamers and routes, the second to various historical, romantic

and literary associations connected with the towns and villages on the Firth and adjoining Lochs. Starting with the "Comet" (1812) of Henry Bell, the pioneer of Clyde Passenger Steamers, and finishing with the T.S.S. "King George V. (1926), built at Messrs. Denny's, Dumbarton, Mr. Gilchrist gave a graphic description of progress. In the course of the lecture, many humorous incidents related, were highly appreciated by the audience. The lecture was illustrated throughout with lantern slides and interspersed with Gaelic and Scottish songs by Miss May Currie, Scotstoun; Messrs. Donald, MacIsaac, Glasgow; Archibald Downie, Jamestown. Tea was served during an interval by an energetic committee. Votes of thanks were accorded Mr. Gilchrist, the entertainers, and Chairman, after which the meeting was brought to a close by the company singing "Oidhe Mhath Leibh," led by the soloists.

DUNOON.—There was the usual large turnout at the Ceilidh on 10th December, 1926, in the Imperial Hall, when Major A. J. M. Bennett, C.B.E., T.D., presided. Introducing the speaker, Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., of Knockdow, the Chairman humorously referred to the recent paragraphs in the Press commenting on the indignation expressed in Dunoon at the mutilation of six stately trees on Gallows Hill, where, 300 years ago, 36 Lamonts were executed. He did not know whether the indignation was for the Lamonts who were executed, or for the Campbells who hanged them. (Laughter). It was a good thing that these ancient feuds had all died out. (Applause). He had much pleasure in introducing Sir Norman Lamont, whose gifts were too well-known to them to require any eulogy. (Applause.) Sir Norman said that in a rash moment he had consented to read a paper at one of their meetings on "Some subject of Highland interest." He had put off the date as long as possible in order that he might have time to prepare something on a special subject of interest, but his autumn had been more fully occupied than he anticipated. It was only within the last few days that he had been able to throw hastily together some notes, taken very much at random from his reading of various books dealing with Highland affairs, and more especially with Argyllshire and Dunoon. These he would call "Random Notes from Old Writers on the West Highlands." For over an hour the lecturer gave an enthusiastic audience interesting sketches from these old writers—from a Spanish Ambassador at the Scottish Court in 1498 down to the Statistical Account of Argyllshire in 1815. The vocal and instrumental part of the evening was well sustained by the Misses Gallagher, Rankine, Stevenson, Shaw, McNeil, McKechnie, Stewart and Mrs. Rennie, with Mr. Ponton as piper.

ADVERTISEMENT.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) gives Lessons; 4/- an hour.—"Alpha," c/o An Gaidheal.



EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., *The Manse Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed, business and other communications to 114 W. Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS.—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXII.]

An Gearran, 1927.

[Earrann 5

AN OIDHEIRP MHOR.

O chionn deich mìosan air ais thug sinn iomradh anns an duilleig so air an Fhéill a tha An Comunn a' dol a chumail an Glascho air an t-Samhradh so a' tighinn. Ged nach eil e mar chleachdadh againn a bhli leudachadh tuilleadh is tric ar aon chuspair, tha sinn a' faireachadh ann ar cridhe gur e so aon de na nithibh a dh'fheumar a chur an cuimhne ar luchd leughaidh uair is uair. Is fada o'n chuala sinn sean-fhacal a tha ag ràdh: "Chan ann a h-uile latha bhios Mòd aig Mac an Tòisich." Is cinnteach gur latha sonruichte bha an sud, anns an cruinnicheadh luchd gearrain aig cùirt ceartais, agus anns an tabhradh am brith-camb binn chothromach a mach. Air a' mhòd chaidh na faodaidh sinn a chantainn "nach ann a h-uile latha bhios Féill aig An Chomunn Ghàidhealach." Agus a chionn is nach ann, is cubhaidh cur an cuimhne gach aoin a tha 'n a bhall de 'n Chomunn, gu bheil dleasdanas cudthromach a' feitheamh air; agus ma dhearmaideas e an dleasdanas sin bi e gu mòr ri choireachadh a thaobh nach eil e dleas anns an aobhar. Tha fios againn uile gu bheil e cho buailteach do mhuinntir a bhì riaraichte le *cainnt*. Ma chanas neach mòran briathran tha e an cunnart a bhì toilichte le sin, an dèil gu 'n d' rinn e obair mhòr. Ach mur bi briathran air an leantainn le gnìomharan, tha na facail dìomhain gun toradh 'n an luirg.

Rinn sinn an uiridh luaidh air na còrochan àraidh a tha ri chumail anns an t-sealladh le luchd stiùiridh na Féille. Tha iadsan a' deanamh cho math agus is urrainn iad, ag ullachadh agus a' meòrachadh ciamar is fhearr a ghabhas an

gnothuch cur air aghaidh. Tha iad a' deanamh so air sgàth An Chomuinn. Chan eil teagamh nach i an cheud chrioach shonruichte a tha air thoiseach air An Chomunn, gum biodh tuilleadh de luchd-oibreach againn, a bhiodh air am paigheadh gu freagarrach, a chum is gun tugadh iadsan mar an ceudna an ùine agus an neart do 'n obair, eadhon mar tha an luchd saothrach a tha againn a cheana a' deanamh. Tha feum air tuilleadh de luchd dreuchd gu bhì a' dol a mach air feadh nam meanglan anns gach cèarn. Tha feum air oideachan seinn a theagaisgeas seinn do 'n òigridh agus do na h-inbhich. Tha feum air leabhraichean, chan ann airson sgoiltean a mhàin ach cuideachd airson oileanach; saothair nam bàrd air a cur an eagar gu ceart cùramach. A nis as eagnhais nam meadhonan cha ghabh an obair so àite. Agus is ann leis an Fhéill a bhios na meadhonan sin air an tabhairt do 'n Chomunn. Gach neach a ni an rud is lugha airson na Féille tha e a gabhail pàirt ann an deagh obair air sgàth na Gàidhlig. Bu mhaith an nì nam biodh e ann ar comus a' chùis a dhaingneachadh an intinn an leughadair, a chum is gun dean gach aon a chuid féin de 'n obair.

Air a' Gheamhradh so fhéin tha oidheirp a' dol air a h-aghaidh feadh na rìoghachd a chum cuimhne a chumail air An Bhanrigh Alexandra. Chaidh suim mhòr airgid a chruinneachadh a cheana airson leas nam banaltrum a tha ag altrum nam bochd is nam feumach. Tha sinn aig an am a' beantuinn ris an nì so mar dhearbhadh gun gabh airgead faotainn an uair a chuireas muinntir dùrachd is beothalachd anns a' ghnòthuch. Ach thug sinn fainear o chionn ghoirid gur e dòigh anabarrach gleusda a

ghabh an fheadhainn a tha a' stiùireadh na h-oibreach ud. Cha d'fhàg iad ceàrn de 'n dùthaich gun taghal. Anns na sgìrean as iomallaiche thàinig fear gnothuich le ùghdarras an ainm na Comhairle; agus cha ghabh e diùltadh no doicheall gus an cuireadh e bòid bhiathair air trùr no cheithir anns gach àite. Is e an obair a dh'earb e riu cuir m chuibhl a chumail no meadhon sam bith eile a ghabhail gu airgid a chriunnachadh airson an aobhair thròcairich a ghabh iad as laimh.

A nis faodar an samhlaidh so a chleacdhadh gus a bhi nochdadh ciamar a bhiodh e comasach do 'n Chomunn Ghàidhealach an dòigh cheudna a leantuinn ann a bhi cruinneachadh ionnhaiss. Is aithne dhuinn ceithir nó còig de sgìrean Gàidhealach, as leathoir a chèile, nach cuailaidh riann fhathast smid mu 'n Fhéill, agus a tha gur tur aineolach air na tha dol air aghart, saor o na thachras dhaibh fhaicinn o am gu am anns na paipeirean naidheachd. Tha aobhar againn a chreidsinn gum biodh na sgìrean sin cho toileach ri càch nam biodh iad air an cur fo ghealladh agus air an seòladh a thaobh cìod e bu chòir dhaibh a dheanamh. Tha an luchd dreuchd car gann an àireamh airson gach nì dhuibh sin a dheanamh. Faodaidh gu bheil sinn ag amharc tuilleadh 's a chòir ris na bailtean mòra agus ri coigrich, an uair a tha sinn aig a' cheart am a' gabhail seachad air ar dùthaich agus ar muinntir fhéin. Is ann an glinn na Gàidhealtachd a dh'fheumar a' Ghàidhlig ath-bheothachadh ma théid a beothachadh idir—ach ciamar a bheothaichir a' Ghàidhlig an glinn na Gàidhealtach ma nì sinn dearmad air a' bheagan sluagh a tha a' fuireach anna, gun iarraidh orrasan cuideachd am cuibhrionn fhéin a choimleadh de obair na Féille?

WATER POWER IN THE HIGHLANDS.

By JOHN L. KINLOCH, M.A.

In Celtic literature, Destiny is ever the protagonist; in the Celtic race-life of to-day, the real protagonist is poverty.

For more than two thousand years the Celtic race in the Highlands has preserved its identity against successive waves of invasion. In vain the organised civilisation of Rome and the rough barbarism of Saxon and Viking broke like waves on the Grampians or on the rocky shores of the Western Isles. Nor was the

Norman feudal system ever successfully imposed on the Highlands. So that still to-day, in the distant crofts of Lewis and Harris, you will find houses without bar or lock, that the stranger may enter if he will; and the mother, preparing the family meal, adds a few potatoes or an extra handful to the porridge, as the "guest's portion,"; all because the ancient Gaels were taught the graciousness of hospitality by their Druid priests, centuries before they had ever heard of Christ. But the civilisation of two thousand years is to-day dying before our eyes, dying of poverty. And the tragedy of it is that wealth is now within its grasp, if it were but strong enough to seize it. Will the race be like some prisoner of the Middle Ages, so long kept in dark dungeons that when freedom was granted, he had no power to use it, but crawled about as in a cell? An Comunn is touching the hearts of many men and women; will the enthusiasm engendered recreate a virile race? Culture may live in the hearts of scholars, as Greek culture inspires the minds of men to-day, but Greek civilisation is dead for ever, because the race has passed away. So it inevitably must be in the Highlands; a vigorous race must be restored there, or in less than a generation, Gaelic civilisation will have become as dead as Greek civilisation, even though Gaelic were made a compulsory subject in every University in the world, and Gaelic culture as alive as we all desire to see it.

Successive conquests have destroyed many of the finer qualities of the southern races of Britain, but they have welded and disciplined them into a certain unity, and the strength of unity is slowly overpowering the isolated idealism and independent character of the Celt. We have in our generation seen the last trace of the native Celtic language disappear from Cornwall. In Scotland, in spite of all the activities of the Gaelic societies, each census shows a falling off in the number of Gaelic speakers; I have visited most of the Highlands, and in all Argyll, "the land of the Gael," I know of only two schoolboys of any size who are not ashamed to make the garb of the Gael—so proudly worn by their forefathers and the Highland regiments—their regular school wear. Emigration weekly drains the Highlands. Many of the Gaelic people left are on the verge of poverty, and the place of the Highland chief has often been taken by the alien profiteer.

At this dramatic crisis, the treasure of the mountains has been revealed to them; vast wealth has been spread before them. Will they have strength to use this? There is only one way by which it can be done if the Celtic

civilisation is to remain. The race must be welded into unity. A certain unity can be achieved by the stern discipline of force, or of events—as a class of schoolboys may be disciplined by the strap—but a greater unity can be secured by the unifying force of a common purpose, devotion to a common cause. Such is the only possible unity of the Celtic race; and (since it will be the result of conscious, rational action) it will retain the qualities of genius, and the new culture of the Celtic race will go forward with a message to other races, a message of idealism to enlighten this materialistic age.

This wealth is not “rainbow gold,” disappearing as we reach for it. There is ample evidence of its reality. Already at Foyers and Kinlochleven over a thousand men are employed, where previously there was not even a croft, and in one year £170,000 was divided in wages among the workers, 80% of whom were Highlanders. In about two years' time, nearly three thousand men will be employed at Fort William, and at least a quarter of a million pounds flow into that little township annually. A new town, as large as Gourrock, will spring up at Inverlochy. Repopulation instead of depopulation has begun in those two districts. The great authority for the extensive wealth of “white coal” in the Highlands is the “Report of the Water Power Resources Committee.” It was appointed by the Coalition Government during the War, and its findings are backed by the names of engineers of world-standing. It is my duty merely to lay their evidence before you, in simplified form.

So far, only nine great schemes have been examined thoroughly, but the Committee estimate that the output of these is roughly about half the normal output of Scotland. From these schemes alone, then, the output would be equivalent to that of 3,000,000 tons of coal per annum, or nearly 10,000 tons per working day. Picture this wealth running to waste!

At the time of the Committee's examination, the relative cost of the production of a unit of electricity by coal at Sheffield, compared with the cost by hydro-electric plant in the Highlands, was 0.5d. (a half-penny) to 0.1d. (a tenth of a penny). So that we might safely say that electricity can be produced in the Highlands at a third or a quarter the cost that it can be produced in the Midlands of England. The Highlands, therefore, possess a tremendous advantage in power resources over the present industrial areas.

The proportion of river water-power in England to that in Scotland (chiefly the Highlands) is as 20 to 218; so that Scotland is actually about ten times wealthier in “white coal” than England, and proportionately to population, some seventy or eighty times wealthier. Black coal is a decreasing quantity, and thus becoming yearly dearer to produce, but water power becomes cheaper as the capital cost is paid off. Thus it might quite well happen that the future material prosperity of Britain might be transferred to the Highlands.

Of course, the amount of water-power is limited, but in those nine schemes alone there should be an output equal to about a third of the entire British output of electricity from public supply sources during the year ending March, 1918. Think of London's trams and tubes, and electric railways; of Newcastle, with one of the largest steam generating stations; of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee; of Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, and some four hundred lesser centres. Think of their electrical activities in that year, then try to conceive the potential wealth of the Highlands. And the possibilities of the tides in our lochs have hardly yet been estimated.

But is not all this power like Robinson Crusoe's gold, useless, because we have nothing to spend it on? No, for all experience shows that cheap power soon draws industry, and so it would be here. Besides, we have the great advantage that there are excellent natural harbours near all the power centres, and Scotland is on the trade route between America and European ports north of Hamburg. The new industries likely to be set up in addition to aluminium developments are:—Nitrogen products (very useful in agricultural developments), graphites and abrasives, chemicals, magnesium, carbide, paper-pulp, synthetic stone from the sea sands.

Existing industries would be stimulated and developed. The railways would be electrified, thus cheapening and speeding transport. Farming would be revolutionised with cheap nitrates at the door, and electric plant, making the farmer independent of the weather for gathering his harvests; besides he would have a ready market. Wood pulp factories would help the afforestation schemes. Wool could be spun and woven into tweeds more cheaply than elsewhere. Hides, at present often sent to Europe for treatment, especially from the north-east, could be dealt with at home, and most probably boot factories would be set up. Engineers are increasingly preferring electrically smelted steel. On page 43 of the Report, the

Committee estimate that on pre-war figures, the saving on each ton of steel produced from scrap iron would be 18/8, while on ferro-alloys, requiring three tons of ore to produce one ton of steel, the saving would be £28 the ton as compared with similar work carried out at Sheffield. This saving might enable some of the poor quality ore of the Grampians to be worked at a profit, but on this the Committee make no comment; nor do I know enough to do more than hazard a suggestion.

The one great difficulty which faces those who would develop this scheme is the distance from existing British markets, but I think this is not insuperable. Well-organised coast transport and electrified railways would at least greatly lower the cost of transport. If Canada, with its Niagara power scheme, can place goods at a competitive price on the London market, while paying higher wages than are current here, surely the Highlands could get these same goods equally cheaply on the London market. It is all a matter of initiative and enterprise.

But where is the money to come from for all this development? Experience of late has shown that there is plenty of capital awaiting investment for any financially sound scheme. Unemployed men connote unemployed capital, though this is not always so obvious. The scheme I have outlined would find an outlet for both unemployed men and unemployed capital. The scheme as outlined would cost less than twenty million pounds. The nation has spent during the last few years several hundred millions on the relief of unemployment, for which it has got no material return. A fraction of this spent on such a development scheme would greatly relieve unemployment, and actually result in a saving to the nation.

The real testing question is—have the Highlanders, in a corporate capacity, enough moral courage for so great an adventure? Have they still, as a race, the power of initiative, the power to take united action? Or are they to be broken, as in the days of Rome, by want of unity; as in the days of early Scottish history, by clan divisions; as in the days of Prince Charlie, by personal suspicions, ambitions, and hatreds? To-day they are still broken by poverty, by geographical isolation, by alien landlordism, and by class divisions. Is there now enough race fire to unite them in the great purpose of the development of their native land? None are braver in fighting for their land than they, but in constructive patriotism they have had no experience. They must beat their swords into ploughshares and their machine-guns into turbines, and,

with the same moral courage, rush on construction as they rushed with physical courage on destruction at the call of their country. The whole development of the Highlands must go forward as a unity, one complete scheme:—Water-power, agriculture, industrial development, housing, town-planning, harbours, and transport. Not all at once, perhaps, but in accordance with a plan.

Tradition, sentiment, geographical conditions, all demand that the development of the Highlands should be in accordance with the race-culture of the Gaelic race, but for the economic basis the unit must be Scotland. On this latter point the Commission are very emphatic, and bring forward unanswerable arguments to prove that Scotland, even as opposed to Britain, must be the unit of development of any hydro-electric scheme. Besides, Celt and Saxon are now completely intermingled in almost every corner of our country, and both have contributed to the development of the Scottish nation. Scotland is now one, and an indivisible nation; but two thousand years of life amongst the vastnesses of nature, of the mountains, the moors, the lochs, and the cataracts, have produced in the Highlander a sense of mystery, a sense of the greatness which man attains through close contact with the majesty of Nature, a sense which it would be a great loss to Scotland to destroy, and so I force a unity of purpose through a difference of character. As the mountain gathers the water and brings it in streams to give power and fertility to the valleys, either being poor without the other; so I force a revived Celtic civilisation amidst the hills, bringing from its close contact with the great works of Nature, an idealism and an inspiration to the well-organised, disciplined, and prosperous life of the Lowlands, each enriching the other; the Highlander gaining material prosperity, and contributing in return a new humanism to a united Scottish nation.

SLIOCHD NAN SONN.

By JAMES MACLEOD.

PART II.

Ràinig am bata Steornabhagh mu aon-uair-deug; agus 's ioma smuain bha 'n uchd nan diùnlaoch ré na h-ùine. Bha ùrnuigh uaigneach aig Mac-a'-Chléirich air an taidh-thoisich: Bha e air a bhi tagradh airson smuain fhallain, cheart gun fhios nach deanadh Donn geur-rannsachadh aig ceann na slighe.

Nam biodh e féin agus na bha comhla ris air a bhi cho eudmhor an comh-sheasamh ri cuisean na siorruidhachd bhiodh iad glan mar an t-òr, agus cùbhraidh mar an ubhal. Mo thruaighe! bha Dia air Nèamh, agus an Cléireach air mìr fiodha. Agus sin mar a tha a' chuid mhór againn an diugh!

Bha Port Leodhais sgeun-shùileach a coinhead an eitheir; ach bha dìthis araid air bòrd soithich aig Ceann-a'-bhaigh a shuidh sìos le—dh'fhaoidte, laigse cuirp. "Gach eun gu a nead" tha an sean fhocal ag ràdh. Ach 's ioma eun a lorgeas a nead nach solar fois araon dha féin no do chàch.

Cha robh teagamh fo'n ghréin aig Ioseph Conchar a thaobh turas na bìrlinn. Nì mo a smuainich e gu robh cruthachadh air an t-saoghal a sheòladh air cuan air latha cho borb ach an duine treun a thainig as an aon bhaile ris. Theich e chum na cailin a gheall a phòsadh cosmhuil ri duine agus aghaidh air a' choill.

Bha athair-ceile 'na shuidhe fa chomhair Dhuinn cho balbh ri uaigh. Bha laithean òige sgaoilte m'a choinneamh, agus boireannach beag, iorgalta a' fàsgadh a dà làimh air a cheile.

"Theid bleith mine a dheanamh ort le sliochd do chléibh," bha i 'g radh, "an déidh so, an nì sin air am bì meas agad cuiridh e saighead-bàis air do shiubhal. Cha bhi miann agad ach a h-aon—an reilig fhuar a shealbhadh. Sin cothrom nach faigh thu airson ioma bliadhna!"

Sud no focail a lean Olaf Mac Thearlaich dh'ionnsuigh a thighe. Bha iad cho ur agus ged a bhiodh e aig tràigh Bhuist an Colla ag eisdeachd na té a labhair iad; ach ciod am meaglan air an d'fhuairas Ioseph? Bha beachd laidir aige gu'n lorg Ioseph fhiaclan an Colla ciod air bith aite 's an lorg e 'cheum-imeachd! Cha d'fhruidh an smoin air inntinn Olaf gus am fac e am fear a thachair air a nighinn am Baile-atha-Cliaith an Eirinn air clàr-imeachd a bhata.

Ràinig iad. Chaidh Donn a' chur do sheòmar beag: choisich Olaf gu seòmar a mhnatha bh'air mullach ard an tighe.

"Cha tigeadh an donas gu Steornabhagh air latha cho fadhaich. Agus rinn thu glag toileachais ris an duine a' mach troimh 'n inneig!"

Shuidh e air cathair. Bha Eilidh deònach nì 's am bith, no fear 's am bith a thighinn air àrùinn a tighe ach fear le leth-shuil. Agus b'e sin Ioseph. Roghnaicheadh i dh'fhaoidte "Fear nan Car" féin thairis air fhear dhubh a chuir a' ghaath a deas chum a' Mhuil-a-tuath le pacaid gun rath.

Cha robh smid aig Eilidh. Bha h-ighean a' seinn na h-aibidil-chùil an aghaidh cuilg. Bha an ceòl troimhe-cheile; agus bu leòr sin airson boireannach cho òrdul, ciallach ri Eilidh a chur troimhe-cheile mar an ceudna.

Fad ioma bliadhna bha Eilidh air thigh-easas am Port-nis. B' ann an sin a fhuair i eòlas air Olaf, agus esan am bàta athar, "An Rionag."

Bha i an diugh a' caoidh an latha a chunnaic i 'riamh sròn bata. B'e latha na dunaidh an latha chaidh Muireall air bòrd agus a lean i a h-athair gu Eirinn.

Cha robh aig Olaf ach aon cheòl: bha Muireall gu bhi 's an t-saoghal cho grinn ri asgart an aon duail. Bha e faicinn cobhair na fuiricheadh Muireall mar a bha i!

"'S e latha gun rath thug seachad air Airinnis i," thubhairt Olaf a rithist. "C'àite am bheil i?"

"Fearaich dhi: bithidh i anns a' bhàs a dh'aighearr mar a h-atharraich i, agus mar a nochd i ni-eigin de sheasmhachd!"

"A' robh a' t-amhlair ud ag radh gu cuireadh e Donn fo na casan na nochadh e aghaidh! Cia mar? le tréine cuirp; le gean aodainn; le buaidh a chualas riamh aig duine? Ma tha Dia fìorach air is fear dha teicheadh agus a ghaath fabharach. Cuir-eadh e breid nan toll ri crann giubhais a chum a giulain seachad air sgeirean Thuilm!"

Bha Olaf air chrith.

"Feumaidh ni-eigin bhi an cois nam boireannach ged a b'e oircean muice!" "Am bheil thu dol a' cheangal do nighinn-eadh ri duine a sheòl a' cuan le sgùil eitheir nach earbainn-sa, air loch Bharbhais?"

Ma tha an sgeul a chuala mise o bheil Ioseph fìor tha do nighean cailte ma 's e agus gu faic i sealladh le a sùil air gnùis an amadain so!" "Ach chan fhaic. Bheir mise—"

Bha glag air dorus an t-seòmair. Thainig Muireall a steach le aoidh ged a chaidh i mach le sùilean fìuacha.

Bha Ioseph 'na sheasamh ri taobh an dorus.

"Seadh; ciod a tha na d'run a dheanamh?" Bha Eilidh an iomall nan deur.

"Tha mi ag aideachadh gu'n do gheall mi Donn a phòsadh. Tha mi deònach sin a dheanamh. An tràth so, esan a bhuanaicheas mi gheibh e seilbh orm."

"Thig mallachd Dhia ort airson nam briathran sin. Chaidh cùmhnant a

dheanamh eadar thu féin agus Ioseph. Tha mise airson a h-uile lide a chluinntinn!"

Bha Eilidh ruiteach le feirg a' labhairt nam briathran sin.

PART III.

Bha an seòmar cho balbh ri dùn chlach; cha robh ni mar chomharra air beatha ach boinne cruinn, geur de uisge bha tuiteam chum an urlair. Dhoirtheadh Eilidh fuil a' cridhe airson Ceartais; agus b'e a bhi faicinn na slighe sin cho cam a dh'fhag a sùil fuich. Bha Muireall air dà roghainn a dheanamh, a reir coislaire, 's an aon t-seachduinn cia mar? Co e a rùnaich i an toiseach? Ah!

Ma bha seachas Mhuireall fior chunnaic i Ioseph an toiseach. Thainig Donn agus "An Rionag" fo a cuid cainbe deiseil gu falbh. Bha e cho teth ri bioran eitnich am meadhan na griosaich. An toiseach cha robh ann ach boinne beag de ghaol. Thionndaidh e mar thuil am mionaid de thim. Agus bha an lot buan; oir bha Muireall cho briathrach ri parraid aig ceann a' Ghearraidh—chruaidh an deidh tighinn air ais.

Ach cha robh Eilidh gun dòchas a thaobh na cailin an co-sheasmh ri ionracas is suspuinn; bha i féin air lunn na h-imcheist Labhair i rithe.

"Am bheil thu 'm beachd gu'n d'chuir Dia ròin a' chum an t-saoghail airson sluagh ionnaic a' mhealladh?"

Bha aodann Mhuireall cho geal ri caile. "Chuir mise an dearbh cheist air Ioseph," fhreagair i gu fann. "Chuir an Droch-aon ròin ann, dh'fhaoidte!"

"Cha robh am fear sin riamh ach a' milleadh," thubhairt Eilidh le guth ciùin; "dh'aidich thu dhomhsa, gu robh agus gum bi, gaol agad air Donn. Nach mór gum b'fhearr gaol le failingeadh na do bheatha chaitheadh as eugmhais gaol? Ciod air bith tha cearr air Donn tha e mar a chruthaich Dia e!"

Bha focail eile air bilean na mathar. Bha i dol a' ràdh gu robh Ioseph mar a chruthaich a namhaid e. Ach bha aogag Mhuireall tuilleadh is fann airson nam briathran sin. Cha robh i fada gus an d'fhuair i cinnt gu robh focail 's am bith dh'fhaoidte mì-ìomchuidh airson suidheachadh a geineil. Thuit i seachad le laigse cuirp 's a' mathair a tiormachadh a deòir!

Ghrad ruith Eilidh gu uinneig an t-seòmair. Cha robh duine ri fhaicinn. Thionndaidh i a ceann a' steach; bha

Muireall le suilean cruinne, geala m'a coinneamh.

"Ciod a ni mi ma gheibh e an bhuaidh agus gu'n tig e air mo thoir?"

Dhruid a beul leis na focail sin ann an suidheachadh a dh'fhag a' mathair cosmhuil ri neach aig leaba bàis.

Bha Tormod a' Mhachair a' sas an lion, agus doirneagan beaga de chlachan, am meadhan na birlinn. Bha ceathrar eile air ceann ràimh. Cha robh ceird aig Conn MacLeòid ach a bhi coimhead na grèine air guaillean nan Eileanan-móra Bheireadh e suil an drasd 's a rithist air ròn bha luib na Linne, null o Cheann-a-bhaigh. Bhatar air innseadh dha le cuideigin bh'air bòrd 's an "Rionaig" gu robh dithis dhaoine an deidh geall a chur ris an ròn!

Na ròin a b'fhiosrach le Conn bhiodh iad aig Sgeir-an-teampull an diugh, agus dh'fhaoidte, aig eilean nam Muc a' mair-each. Muir domhainn a bhi dhi air na seòid ud.

Ach bha an Cleireach am mullach nan deud le comradh a theasairg Conn. Bha gnè nan ròn aig tuath tur eadar-dhealaichte ris an ghnè s bh'aig deas!

Geall ris an ròn! Bha Conn a coimhead an duine bhlga dh'innis da na h-uiread. Ged a thigeadh e air ais a dh'innseadh gu' feumadh e falbh le eilean Leòdhais ann an togha cha ghabhaidh e iongantais air an talamh.

Chaidh na lìn a' chur gu cùramach an teis-meadhan na h-oitreach—innleachd a bha dol a chumail an ròin air cladaich tioral. Dh'iomair Conn air ais leis an bhirliin, mìle ceann 'ga choimhead. Chualas ràn eagalach. An ceann greise dh'èirich an ròn mar neach as a rian.

Chan eil fios ciod a thachair an deidh so. Smid cha d'fhuaradh' riamh aig sgìoba na birlinn mu thimchioll an dithis shnambhaichean air oiraich Steornabhaigh.

(*Ri leantainn.*)

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Dr. Edward MacKay, Greenock.
Lady Seton, Edinburgh.
David L. MacIntyre, Esq., V.C., London.
Col. Euing Crawford, D.L., of Auchentroig.
Mrs. Euing Crawford of Auchentroig.

ORDINARY.

Miss A. MacDonald, Kilmuir.
Miss A. V. MacKinnon, London.
Mrs. Munro, Inverness.
Alex. W. Cameron, Esq., Aberfoyle.
Miss Laura Ailine Seymour, Edinburgh.

† In tow.

SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Tha mi a' sgrìobhadh so bho'n àirde tuath. Tha reothadh cruaidh againn bho cheann seachdain agus coitas air gu mair e. Chan 'eil mòran sneachd air a' bhrunnid iosail ach tha còta breagh dheth air na beanntan àrda. Mar a leughas sibh an earrainn eile tha cuairtearachd mhòr agam ri dheanadh eadar so agus meadhon an Earraich. Cho fada agus a chaidh mi tha àite blàth aig ar n-aobhar an cridheachan an t-sluaigh agus cha bhi gairm na Fèille gun fhreagairt. Uidh air n-uidh tha an teachd-air eachd 'gan ruigheachd is chan 'eil iad mall g'a tuigsinn.

* * *

I attended a well-attended meeting of the Mod Local Committee in Fort William in December. Dr. A. C. Miller, Craiglinnhe, was appointed Convener; Rev. R. B. Crawford, Kilmallie, Vice-Convener; Mr. John Warren, National Bank, Treasurer; Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, Solicitor, High Street, Secretary. Mrs. Ryan was appointed Convener of the Ladies' Committee; ex-Provost Stewart, Convener of the Halls Committee, and Provost N. B. Mackenzie, Convener of the Finance Committee. The dates recommended for the Mod are 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th October. Preparatory Communion services are being held by the Presbyterian denominations on the last week of September, the usual Mod week.

* * *

The test song for the Senior Choirs entering for the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield is the well-known and deservedly popular "An t-Eilean Muileach," specially arranged by Mr. M. G. MacCallum, Greenock. For Rural Choirs the songs are "Dùthaich nan Craobh" and "Ho ro gun toigainn air hùgan fhathast." The Challenge Shield presented by Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) will be retained for one year by the choir gaining the highest marks in this competition. This should bring back all last year's competing choirs and a few more.

* * *

For Junior Choirs the songs, in two-part harmony, are "Ri guailibh a chéile" and "So mi'm shìneadh air an t-sliabh." Mr. Norman MacDonald and Mr. T. S. Drummond are responsible for the respective harmonies. The songs prescribed for Unison Singing are "Mo thruaigh léir thu, 'ille bhuidhe," "Hó mo leannan," and

Puirt á beul (strathspey and reel time). Conductors should note that the strathspey and reel must be sung as one piece—that is, there must be no break between the strathspey and the reel. These are dance tunes, and the dance must go merrily on to the end.

* * *

The Oran Mór, "Brataichean na Feinne," will be a good test for the men going forward for the Gold Medal this year. It is considered one of our best Orain Mhóra, and competitors should make a point of memorising every word of it. No one can sing this song otherwise. "Alasdair Ghlinne Garaich," the "Oran Mór" for the ladies, is prescribed for the first time since 1909. Messrs. MacLaren are again publishing Mod solo pieces in their Orain a' Mhoid series. This is their fourth book. The little volume is very popular, giving the songs in a convenient form, and at the moderate price of one shilling per copy.

* * *

There were no less than sixteen gold medallists present at the Oban Mod on the concluding day (Friday), and as our members delight to follow the careers of former medallists, I venture to give their names, and the year in which they gained the honour:—Isobel Munro (Mrs. Christison), 1896; Chrissie MacDonald (Mrs. MacNiven), 1907; Margrat M. Duncan, 1909; Flora MacNeill (Mrs. Pickup), 1919; Cathie MacAskill, 1920; Jenny M. B. Currie, 1923; Mary Campbell, 1924; Nan MacInnes, 1926; Roderick MacLeod, 1894; Allan Hunter, 1899; Murdo MacLeod, 1907; Alastair C. MacLaren, 1910; Neil MacLean, 1921; John M. Bannerman, 1922; Stewart MacInnes, 1925, and Alex. F. MacLennan, 1926.

* * *

Arrangements have been made for the following Provincial Mods:—Kintyre, in Campbeltown, first week in April (altered date); Islay, at Bowmore, 16th June; Dailriada, at Lochgilphead, 21st and 22nd June; Ardnamurchan, at Strontian, 1st July, and Sutherland, at Lairg, 9th September. Mr. Hugh MacLean has been teaching in Skye since December, and is now on his way to Tiree. Miss Duncan is due in Sutherland, where she will teach for six months. Mr. John Forrest is in charge of the Islay classes.

NIALL.

GREAT FEILL.

The Feill Committee, at its last meeting, considered the suggestions of the Mod and Music Committee submitted by Mrs. Colquhoun, and agreed to hold a Provincial Mod in the St. Andrew's Halls on Monday, 30th, and Tuesday, 31st May. This will be open to competitors from Glasgow and the counties of Renfrew, Lanark, and Dumbar-ton. Mrs. Macleod of Skeabost undertook to convene the Highland Art and Industry Stall, of which Miss Campbell of Inverneill is President, and Mr. John Cameron, 136 Wellington Street, Hon. Secretary. Contributions have already been intimated from a number of the Women's Institutes in the Highlands, and Home Industries, Ltd., Edinburgh are sending a gift of £20 worth of goods. Already over 2000 collecting cards have been issued, and one is being sent to each member of An Comunn.

The Glasgow Stall Committee has secured the sole use of a Committee Room at the Highlanders' Institute, Elmbank Street, until June, at a very modest rental. This will be used for general correspondence, meetings of committee, work parties, and classes—a leather and raffia work class is being taught free by Miss Clogg, and meets every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. The Atholl and Breadalbane Association realised £20 by their Xmas Draw, the Sutherland £27 by theirs, Ceilidh nan Gaidheal £35 by their Sale, and Mrs. Colquhoun £20 by her New Year Dance. The other Associations have not yet completed their December returns. The Edinburgh Stall is producing three plays in the Lauriston Hall on 5th March, and on the preceding day Mrs. Kennedy Fraser is giving a concert in the Usher Hall.

Mr. Seton Gordon, the well-known writer, is very kindly giving on behalf of the Feill his interesting lecture (with lantern slides) on "The Golden Eagle." Arrangements are in the hands of Miss Eleanora Cameron, 65 Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, S.W. 10, who is selling tickets at 7s 6d and 5s each. It will take place at 5.30 p.m. at 27 Grosvenor Square, kindly lent by Mrs. Robert Fleming.

The Clydebank Highland Society raised £20 by its Xmas Draw, and is holding a Dance on 3rd February. Kirkintilloch propose a Highland Concert, a Fancy Dress Carnival, and a Whist Drive, and Mrs. Renn will hold a supplementary Sale in her house after the Feill. Several of these are being arranged, with a view to obviating any necessity for selling off surplus goods at a low rate on the last day of the Feill—e.g.,

at Fort William during the Mod Week. Sir Hugh and Lady Alice Shaw Stewart have accepted the Hon. Convener'ship of the Renfrewshire Stall, which, on the initiative of the Greenock Highland Society, is being organised by the Highland Associations in the county.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Forthcoming events notified to the Office include:—

- Jan. 27—Wishaw, Concert (chair, Lord Belhaven and Stenton), organised by Mr. Maclean.
Glasgow, Highlanders' Institute, Concert, organised by the Lewis and Harris Association.
- Feb. 3—Clydebank Highland Association, Dance, Co-operative Hall.
- Feb. 7—Motherwell, Town Hall, Concert, organised by the Highland Association.
- Feb. 8—Glasgow, Whist Drive and Dance, under the auspices of the Ross-shire Association.
- Feb. 10—Glasgow, Concert, organised by the Sutherland Association.
- Feb. 15—Glasgow, Concert, Govan Depot Hall (chair, Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon), organised by the Tramway Highland Committee.
- Feb. 23—Tain, Concert, organised by the local Branch of An Comunn.
London, Highland Ball, Hyde Park Hotel.
Apply for tickets to the Lady Margaret Campbell, Elderfield, Otterbourne, Winchester, or Mrs. Ian Campbell, 36 Grosvenor Place, S.W. Tickets, £2 2s each.

This list would be of much greater interest generally if those organising money-making efforts would enable it to be completed by notifying me of their plans. C. M. GORDON.

DONATIONS.

The following are the donations received to date:—

William Mackay, LL.D.	£5	5	0
Dr. Neil Kerr	5	0	0
Mr. J. Mackintosh, Glasgow	1	0	0
General J. W. Stewart, Canada	10	0	0
Mr. T. B. MacAulay, Canada	5	0	0
Dr. Reid	2	0	0
Mr. Charles Fraser of Relig	2	2	0
Mrs. Macleod, Australia	1	10	0
Mr. F. H. C. MacEwen, Yr., of Bardochit	3	3	0
Dr. Gardiner	1	1	0
Misses Buchanan, Argyllshire	5	0	6
Mr. H. A. Kerr	5	0	0
Miss MacArthur, Moffat Concert	42	15	2
Mr. Nevison, South Africa	5	0	0
Kilmoran Branch, Argyllshire	16	0	0
Hartwood Branch	3	15	0
Queenstown Caledonian Society, South Africa	3	3	0
Comunn nan Fineachan, Dundee	20	0	0
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Glasgow	10	0	0
Mrs. Urquhart, Sheffield, H.S. in E. Stall	10	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Island Stall	37	17	6
Mrs. Stewart, Simla	100	0	0
Miss Turner, Tarbert Concert, Argyllshire	22	10	0
Carry forward	£317	2	2

Brought forward	...	£317	2	2
Mrs. Wragg, per Lady Macdonald, H.S. in E.	...	10	0	0
Mull and Iona Society, per Mr. Campbell	...	15	0	0
On account of Glasgow Stall—				
Per Mr. Simpson	...	21	17	0
Per Miss Munro	...	3	3	0
Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Island Stall	...	15	0	0
Mr. H. G. Leech, South Africa	...	0	5	6
Mr. J. W. MacLure	...	1	0	0
Salen Branch, per Mrs. Grenfell, Proceeds of Sale	...	64	14	4
Per Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Island Stall	...	5	0	0
Per Mrs. de Gleyn, Castlebay Concert, Island Stall	...	2	7	0
Per Miss Kemble, Concerts at Plockton and Kyle, Island Stall	...	40	0	0
Per Miss Turner, Sale at Campbeltown South End, Argyllshire	...	103	0	0
Dr. Mackay, further	...	5	0	0
Per Mr. Simpson, Glasgow Stall	...	35	10	0
Per Miss Alexander, Whist Drive at Bridge of Allan, Stirling Stall	...	15	0	0
Collecting Card, Captain Campbell, No. 492	...	1	0	0
Mr. John Malcolm	...	1	1	0
Mr. Evan Cameron, per Lady Macdonald, H.S. in E.	...	3	3	0
Per Mr. Simpson, Glasgow Stall	...	39	10	0
Per Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Airdour, Concert organised by Miss Mary C. MacColl	...	5	7	6
C. M. G.		£704	0	6

PROPAGANDA TOURS.

The Feill Committee and Propaganda Committee decided that I should visit as many of the Branches as possible in the interests of the Feill and the general aims of An Comunn during the winter months, and in accordance with their instructions I arranged to carry through an intensive propaganda campaign. It is not always easy to arrange a sequence of meetings so that each evening is occupied, but in this respect I have been wonderfully successful, considering the many gatherings which take place at this particular time of the year.

My first meeting was at Roybridge, on 3rd December. Mrs. Ryan arranged a fine ceilidh of the local Branch, and I had the pleasure of addressing an audience of about 150 people. The venue of the National Mod of 1927, of course, is making a strong appeal to the people of Lochaber, and my audience were much interested in that subject. But they were also much interested in the Great Feill, and something will be done in the Brae Lochaber district to help to make it a success.

On 7th December I met with the members of the Mod Local Committee in Fort William, when office-bearers and the various committees necessary to carry the Mod through successfully were appointed.

My next meeting was at Banavie, on 16th December. The Kilmallie Branch, which meets monthly in the hall at Banavie, has been wonderfully successful since its formation four years ago. Under the presidentship of the Rev. R. B. Crawford, minister of the parish, the meetings were carried through in strict accordance with the aims of An Comunn. He is succeeded by Mr. Donald MacLeod, Erracht Farm, who is continuing on the same lines. There was an audience of about 250 people, and the most of the business was carried through in Gaelic. I spoke for a short time in English, so that all would understand fully the purpose of the Great Feill. Mrs. MacLeod, the president's wife, is organising a ladies' work party on behalf of the Inverness-shire Stall.

On 17th December I was present at the monthly ceilidh of the Invergarry Branch. This Branch also has held regular monthly meetings each session since I formed it in October, 1924. There were at least 250 people in the hall when Mr. John MacGillivray, president, opened the meeting. A splendid programme of Gaelic songs, instrumental music, and Gaelic stories was carried through. As at Banavie, I spoke in Gaelic and English during an interval in the programme. The Branch is splendidly served by the genial president, Mrs. Grant, Tomdoun, secretary, and by Mrs. Aitken, Schoolhouse, treasurer. It was agreed to form a work party, and help the other county Branches in their effort to furnish the Inverness-shire Stall with goods of various kinds.

Capt. Finlayson, Chief Constable, very kindly arranged a meeting for me in Dingwall on 21st December, and I met a few interested people in the Council Chambers on that afternoon. The people of Dingwall are holding a bazaar in August next in aid of the building fund of their Town Hall. Nothing much could be expected of them under these circumstances, but Mrs. John MacRae, Heatherley, is acting as collector on behalf of the Feill, and will receive contributions in money or in kind.

I visited Ferintosh on 22nd December. Mr. David Urquhart, M.A., had a typical ceilidh arranged for me, and about 50 people gathered in the Schoolhouse. Although very little Gaelic is spoken in that district now,

Mr. Urquhart has so interested the young people in the language that the ceillidhs of the Ferintosh Branch have become an established institution in the district. All present were unanimous about helping the Feill, and although no particular line of action was defined, I have their assurance that something will be done.

One of the smallest Branches is that of Kilmuir-Easter, over which the Rev. J. C. MacNaught, B.D., presides. Miss MacKenzie, teacher, Scotsburn, is secretary. Regular meetings are held, at which lectures bearing on Celtic subjects are delivered, and for my meeting on 23rd December the subject billed was, "Aims and Objects of the Feill." The attendance was small, but representative. The Committee hope to form a ladies' work party, and a concert is being organised to provide funds for securing working material.

On Saturday (Christmas Day) I was met in Tain by Mr. Murdo MacRae, headmaster, Logie Easter, where we met Provost Ross. A Branch was formed here some time ago, but had not held any meetings since its formation. The Provost accompanied us to the house of Miss MacDonald, who was appointed joint secretary at the first meeting. Owing to bereavement, Miss Macdonald had been unable to pay any attention to public functions. During our interview, however, the names of over thirty people were noted, and it was decided to call a meeting on 15th January, at which I promised to speak on the objects of the Feill.

I returned to Inverness, and spent the week-end with friends, proceeding to Ullapool on Monday, 27th December. Despite the fact that the Branch had not met for some time, and that the weather was extremely boisterous, there was a large attendance in the School. All the ladies present agreed to act on a ladies' committee to form a work party, and it was arranged to hold a meeting on 5th January to form the committee. The money in the hands of the treasurer will enable the work party to start at once.

I returned to headquarters the following day.

On Tuesday, 11th January, I left Glasgow for the far north, opening my campaign in Lairg on the 12th. There is now a very live Branch in Lairg, formed by Mr. Angus MacNeill, secretary of the Provincial Mod. He has willing helpers, and a Gaelic class under the Continuation Class Scheme, conducted by the Rev. J. M. MacLennan of

the Free Church, is meeting with much success. There are thirty-nine names on the roll. Previous to my meeting here I made up the syllabus for the next Provincial Mod, and the announcement of the various prescribed pieces has added to the interest of my meetings. The Lairg Branch is arranging for a concert in aid of Feill funds, and the Gaelic choir are resuming practice.

To suit local circumstances, I allowed the committee at Rogart to postpone their meeting till the following Wednesday, and I travelled to Dornoch, to be the guest of Mr. H. F. Campbell till Saturday. Accompanying Mr. Campbell, I met a number of people interested in the Mod, and arrangements are already made to have senior and junior classes ready to receive Miss Duncan when she visits the district. On Friday, 14th, Mr. Campbell took me to the fishing village of Embo, where we met a number of the fisher-folk, entered their houses, and cracked with them in Gaelic. In one house there was a copy of Dr. Magnus MacLean's "Literature of the Scottish Highlands," which showed unmistakable evidence of frequent handling. Indeed, when a certain song was referred to the man of the house asked his son to turn up page so-and-so, and the point was settled there and then. We spent some time at the bedside of an old man, Peter Fraser, 86 years of age. Finally we called on Mr. Phimster, headmaster. With one or two exceptions, the children are all Gaelic-speaking. They receive instruction in Gaelic ONCE a week.

In the evening we attended a meeting of the Bailvraid Branch. Mr. Campbell presided. The School was packed, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The Embo Gaelic Choir sang several pieces, and solos were well rendered by members. Mr. William Grant, president, and Miss Ria Miller, secretary, are to be congratulated on the success of this Branch. The claims of the Feill are receiving due attention, and an effort is being made to hold a concert in aid of funds in the near future. Mr. Campbell, my host, accompanied me as far as Tain on Saturday on his way to Aberdeen. His interest in the work of An Comunn has never waned, and I was immensely pleased to find him in much improved health.

The meeting at Tain, already referred to, was attended by about 30 people. Provost Ross presided, and additional office-bearers were appointed, viz.:—Vice-presidents—Mrs. Wolfe Murray and Count

de Serra Largo. Miss Macdonald, Cadboll Place, agreed to carry on as secretary, and Mr. MacDonald, bank agent, was appointed treasurer. In my address, which followed the appointment of the foregoing, I reviewed the history of An Comunn since its inception, and gave a full account of the purpose of the Feill. Mr. Murdoch MacRae, headmaster, Logie Easter; Mr. Malcolm MacArthur, headmaster, Nigg; Miss MacKenzie, teacher, Scotsburn; Rev. Mr. Cameron, and Rev. John MacEachern spoke, and it was agreed to hold a concert in aid of the Feill, in Tain, on 25th February. A large committee was appointed, with representatives from each district in the neighbourhood of Tain. I spent the week-end as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. MacRae at Logie Easter Schoolhouse. It is rather remarkable that, in a non-Gaelic-speaking district like Easter Ross there should be six Gaelic-speaking headmasters and one headmistress. Four of these were present at the meeting in Tain, and promised to assist the local committee in every way possible.

I am continuing my propaganda in the County of Sutherland, and hope to give an account of my future meetings in the next number of the magazine.

Many districts are calling for a visit, and I am endeavouring to overtake as many of these as possible. This is a golden opportunity, and while our people in the homeland are clamouring for music teachers, Provincial Mods, and Gaelic classes, no stone must be left unturned until we are in a position to satisfy their wishes.

NIALL.

BARD THURNAIG.

Am Baile Shios,
An Eilean-na-mointich,
7/12/1926.

Gu Coinneach MacDhomhnuill,
Am Baile Ghlascho.

A Choinnich a Laochain,

Tha do sheann Dileas a' cur fàilte eile ort agus e an dòchas gu bheil thu fhein agus Mór agus a' chlann slàn. Is fhada bho gheall mi gun sgrìobhainn, an dràsda agus a rithidh, ach cuimhnich thusa so a Choinnich cha tig as duit-sa ro mhaith a bhí a' sìor-fhaotainn coire agus gun iomradh agad fhéin idir air sgrìobhadh. Cuimhnich a bhodaich am focal fìrinneach, "Feumaidh fear aig am bi càirdean càirdeas a nochdadh." Tha mòran ann a bhios

a' sparradh air càch a bhí a' sgrìobhadh agus chan' eil guth orra fhéin, agus thoir thusa do cheart aire a Choinnich chòir nach bi thu comhla riubh, no bheir mise mo làmh duit nach bi croit air a' phost a' tighinn gu do dhorus-sa.

Ach, arsa tu fhéin, c'aite an stad so agus ciod tha fo an sgithinn aig Fearchair? So agad e, ma ta, am faca tu an leabhar ur so air a bheil "Am Bàrd"? Ma theid agad air, feuch an cuir thu chugam fear aca—tha fios gu bheil iad pailt an Glascho. De a tha ann ach gun robh sinn aig ceilidh an tigh beag ban Mhic Dhughaill anns a' Bhaile Shuas, an oidheche roimhe, mi fhein agus Alasdair am bàrd, agus caraide ur a tha againn o chionn bliadhna, Seumas MacNeacail, fear dìon agus fear marbaidh nam fiadh agus nam bradan. Cha leig mi leas innse dhuit gun d'fhuair sinn aite suidhe, ach innsidh mi dhuit gun d'fhuair Alasdair bochd stocainean tioram agus e air a dhol air a tharsuing, anns an t-seanchas a bha aige, am broinn poll-mona. An uair a bhios ceann Alasdair làn chan' eil aig na casan ach a bhí a' deanamh mar is fhearr a theid aca air, ach co aig an fhearr fios air sin na agad fhein; agus aig latha na comh-stri an uair a chaidh e leis a' chreig. Bha sinn an tigh Mhurchaidh ma ta. Thug sinn greis air seanchas thall agus a bhios gun an tug Murchadh a chathair a null far an robh an solus agus an tug e lamh air tasg nan leabhraichean a' toirt a mhàin leabhar ur agus na seann speuclairean. An ceann tiota, agus e a' toirt sùil air Alasdair thar na speuclairean mar bó toirt sùil thairis air garadh criche, arsa esan, "Alasdair de do bheachd fhéin air so?"

"Seadh, agus de so?" arsa Alasdair.

"Tha so." Agus leugh Murchadh gu reidh simplidh:

"Is glòir-mhor obair Nàduir féin
A' ghrian ag òradh neol nan speur
Cuan na chomh-nard boidheach reidh
Torman Sèimh aig séist nan allt."

Stad e. Agus arsa Seumas agus e a' toirt grad thogail air fhein, "C'aite as an d'fhàinig an fhior-bhardachd?" Cha do charaich Alasdair agus a shùil air sròn na broige, ach arsa esan gu socair, "Seadh, cum air d'aghart."

"Tùrnaig riomhach 's prìseil còrs,
Urlar mìn is grìdeil pòr,
T'ainm cha mhinich neach tha beò,
Is pailt do spòrs 's cha mhisde leam.

"Tùrnaig aoibhinn, Tùrnaig àigh,
Tùrnaig shaoibhir, Tùrnaig làn,
Tùrnaig bheairteach, 's pailte barr,
Far an snàmh an do bhrann donn."

Agus air tionndadh duilleig air ais da:—

“Is ait bhith an diugh ri siubhal sléibh,
Maduinn chùin 'n am éirigh gréin;
Dealt na bhraonaibh air an fheur,
Is ceudan spréidh air barr nan tom.”

Agus a' tionndadh na duilleig a rithisd:—

“Air gach dail tha mart le laogh;
Anns gach glaic tha pailteas naosg;
Air gach stacan coileach fraoich,
Mach nad aonach sgaoth chearc donn.”

“Agus de do bheachd fhéin air sin Alasdair?”

“Tha e glan, dìreach glan: tha mi far an
cuala mi an toiseach e agus is fhada bho nach
cuala mi a leithid.”

Agus gu dìleas, socair, dh'aithris e fhein a
cheud rann ud agus an uair a chuir e crìoch air:

“Torman seimh aig séist nan allt,”

thug e an gnogadh beag soilleir ud da cheann
agus arsa esan, “Is e bàrd a tha sin agus chan
eil dà chainnt air.”

Shìl Murchadh chuige an leabhar; agus ag
cur a bhois eadar dha dhuilleig agus a' cur
cùl an leabhair ris an t-solus leugh Alasdair:

“Am Bard, orain, sgrìobhaidhean, agus
litrichean

Bard Thùrnaig, Alasdair Camshron.”

Chunnaic mise an duine a' bhliadhna a bha
mi aig Ceann Loch Iubh. Chaidh e seachad
oirnn le treud chridh, dìreach an dearbh fhear
a tha anns an dealbh so. Agus is ann aige
a bha an cu-crothaidh!

“Chan' eil fhios,” arsa Murchadh, “nach e
sin an nì mun d' thuit e:

“Is iomadh diulanach a thaig ort,
Eadar Tùrnaig 's Blar na Manchainn,
Iad ag amharc ort le farnad,
'Sinn ag tarraing leis a' mheanbh chrodh—,”

“Nach eil fhios gur e,” arsa Seumas.

“C'aite a Mhurchaidh an d'fhuair thu an
leabhar,” arsa Alasdair.

“Is e Domhnall Iain a chuir dachaidh
chugam e: agus tha mi a' faicinn gu bheil e
air a chur a mach le U. M. Urchardainn agus
a Mhac a tha nam fir reic leabhraichean an
Duneideann. Agus chan' eil e ach dà thasdan,
agus seall fhein air cho snasail, curamach,
agus a tha e air a deanamh, le dealbhan grinn
cuideachd. Chan fhaigheadh tu fiach an
leabhair anns a' Bheurla fhein an diugh gun
seachd is sia sgillinn co dhiu, co dhiu, agus
tha an leabhar Gàidhlig an comhnuidh nas
daoire na an leabhar Beurla agus tha aobhar
air; chan ann gun a bhi furachail faiciollach
a chuireas an gille dubh a' Ghàidhlig ann an

leabhar idir ma tha i gu bhi glan ann. Agus
tha am fear so cho saor bho chearban clò ri
gín a chunnaic mo shùil o chionn fhada nam
fada.”

“Le Iain MacAlasdair Moffatt-Pender,” arsa
Alasdair, “fhearaibh co e an duine? Is e a
tha an so anns an dealbh cuide ris a'
Chamshronach nach e?”

“Is e,” arsa Seumas, “an dearbh dhuine.
Ach stad ort e. Bha mise anns na Hearadh
a cheithir bliadhna an earraich a chaidh agus
bha mi an latha ud eadar an Tairheart agus
Airigh a' Bhuthaich, agus sùil d'an tug mi
chitheadar duine mór bàn, anns an deise
Ghaidhealaich, a nall chugam, agus frig frag
aig a' chloich mheallain air a' cheann cruaidh
gun churachd. Cha robh fhios air domhain
agam ciod a dheanainn na chanainn ach coma
leat, ‘Good-day, sir,’ arsa mi fhein.”

“Tha-latha-maith-ann,” arsa esan agus e a'
stad. Co dhiu is e an latha gaillinn a bha
ann a bhi ann an ceart da rìreadh air neo an
t-iognadh a ghabh mi chan eòl domh, ach
arsa mise agus mi a' deanamh cuis-bhùirdein
dhìom fhéin, “I beg your pardon.”

“Nach' eil,” arsa mo liadh, “frith-rathad
eadar so agus an Tairheart?”

Cha do thuig mi idir e: thuig mi “rathad
eadar so agus an Tairheart,” is mi a thuig,
ach bha corr air “rathad” ann.

“Frith-rathad,” arsa esan. “A bheil da
rathad chum an Tairheart?”

“U tha, tha,” arsa mise, “tha seana rathad
sios glèann Lacasaidh a bhios aig muinntir an
Eilein Anabuich.

Thug e taing domh agus dhealaich sinn gu
càirdeil. Co a bha ann ach an duine uasal a
bha air an Tairheart ag ionnsachadh na
Gàidhlig agus sin agad e an sin.”

“An ta a Sheumais is maith a fhuaras e air
a' Ghàidhlig” arsa Murchadh.

“Nach maith!” arsa Alasdair. “Co nis a
tha agam am MacBhatair?”

Tha fios agad fhein a Choinnich gu bheil
Murchadh Mac Dhughail na ghille an Comunn
Gaidhlig Inbhir-Nis, agus chuala sinne sgèul
air an ollamh a tha na fhìor Ghàidheal.

“De do bheachd fhein air an leabhar a
Murchaidh?” thuit mi fhein.

“Innsidh mise dhut-sa mo bheachd-sa air
an leabhar. Mur' eil mise cli, tha agad anns
an leabhar oidhirp aon-fhlair am Bardachd
agus an seanchas. Gàidhlig nach fhacas
moran de shamhail o chuir Niall Mac Leoid
a mach ‘Clàrsach an Doire.’ 'Is e fìor-sheanchaidh
a tha am Bàrd Thùrnaig. Agus airson nan
litrichean Gàidhlig aige gu dearbh is mi tha
buidheach orra. Ged nach biodh anna

Alasdair ach leasan beag domh-sa agus do Sheumas, gur tighinn ort fhein agus air Alasdair cha bu bheag. Seallaibh-se air na daoine a bha sinn ann, gach fear ag cur rian air litir a chuireadh e gu Canada, gu Astrailia, no eadhoin gu ruige Glascho fhein, agus sinn a' siamaonaich agus ag ochanaich le cion na Beurla, agus fad na h-ùine gun faodamaid a bhi agus plòb nar pluic agus gun sòradh air Gàidhlig—

“An rud nach d'fhuair Niall!”—arsa Alasdair.

“An rud nach d'fhuair Niall!” arsa sibh-se, sin agaibh a' Bheurla, mur i chan i Ghaidhlig—”

“Ach chan' eil anns an sgrìobhadh ach rud eile” arsa Seumas.

“Chan' eil an cion an dèidh agus an cion a' chleachdaidh ach rud eile! Cha mhór a bha anns an dùthaich so nach teicheadh roimh shealladh air mosg o chionn deich bliadhna ach chan' eil fear an duigh innte ris an earbainn beatha féidh ach mar a dh'earbainn e riut fhein agus de a rinn sin?”

“Seadh,” arsa Alasdair, “de mu'n bhàrdachd?”

“Tha gu bheil i gu maith i fhein. Seall air Moladh Thurnaig, air Soraidh le Gearloch, air Soraidh le Turnaig, agus air Marbh-rann Mhic Ghille Mhìcheil, agus chi thu bardachd cho milis, tairis, snasail, le co-fhaireachduinn Bàird, agus geur mhothachadh air luach-mhorachd a' chuspair air a bheil e luaidh, da fein is da leithid, agus a chi thu an rogha nam bàrd. Seall a rithisd air cho soilleir so-thuigsinn agus a tha e leatha agus mar sin cho Gàidhealach agus a tha e. Ma chi sibh-se bàrd no sgrìobhaiche agus c' duilich a thuigsinn de mu bheil e biodh fhios agaibh gur ann a' sgoil nach buineadh do'n Ghàidhlig a thàinig e. Canaidh an Gàidheal a' chainnt, agus sgrìobhaidh e a' chainnt, mar is coir di bhi, furasda a thuigsinn. Agus ma chanas sibh rium “a bheil a h-uile dàn cò-ionnan maith?” arsa ma chanas mi “tha cuid aca toirt barr air a cheile,” nach fhaod mi a radh ribh, nach fhacas an Gàidheal a chuir a shaoghal seachad gun sios na suas air. Agus an uair a tha am bàrd caomh so na lànachd, le grinneas is snas, co-fhaireachduinn is sgoinn, a' moladh a dhachaidh agus a dhuthcha agus a dhilsean, Turnaig agus Gearloch, Fear Inbhidh Iubh is cach, their sinn tha sin dìreach maiseach is mur a bhuineadh dha a bhi.”

An uair a bha sinn air a' mhointich a' dol dachaidh thug Alasdair a' phlob as a bheil agus thug e an sgaile ud di air a bhois chli agus os esan, “A Sheumais nach tu fhein a bha gun seadh nach do thuig thu ‘frith-rathad.’

Sin agadsa ceum no aithghearrad, no rathad far nach' eil rathad.”

“De a nis a tha anns an fhocal, ‘Sitheach?’ ‘Gun ta,’ os esan, ‘chuir thu ceist orm.’ Chadail thu Choinnich. Na di-chuimhnich an leabhar. Bheireadh Murchadh dhomh leughadh dheth; ach b' fhearr leis cruach mhonadh thoirt domh na e, agus cha robh a' mhoine riagh na teine mar a tha i am bliadhna.

Do charaid,

FEARCHAR IAIN MHC IAIN.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

AN 'COMUNN, MRS. WATSON'S LETTER, AND THE WEST HIGHLAND MUSEUM.

Dear Sir,—There will be few who do not wholeheartedly agree with Mrs. Watson's suggestive and stimulating letter in the January number of “An Gàidheal.”

An 'Comunn Gàidhealach may well be congratulated on the growing interest and enthusiasm which is shown in connection with those activities as yet undertaken, such as its *Mods*, *Ceilidhs*, and publications, but the carrying out of Mrs. Watson's and other fresh ideas, is a most necessary development, if the fuller aims of the Society are to be realised.

The writer has been strongly urging for some time that one or more Gaelic speakers, who write shorthand, with as little delay as possible, should make up a Gaelic shorthand, and be sent by An 'Comunn to collect songs, legends, and tales in the Highlands from old inhabitants, for few of the younger ones care, or have the wide repertoire of those now quickly passing away. Even the phonograph, which has many drawbacks, except for preserving the actual beautiful expressions of tones, is not as good as a sympathetic listener, who can, by the fire-side, put down direct, and word perfect, the stories as told by the old people in their native language, with its expressive phrases and turns of words. The advantage of the latter over the listener, who puts them down from memory afterwards, even though he read it over and over again for correction, is obvious.

In addition to Mrs. Watson's suggestions of scholarships at the Scottish Universities, may not some of the *Lairds* be induced to learn again to speak in their mother tongue if Gaelic scholarships and prizes were founded at English as well as Scottish schools and Universities. They would know that competition would be practically limited to Highlanders, such as they, and their chances of winning good.

With regard to lectures in outlying Highland towns and villages, it will, I think, be found that very frequently in recent years, local ministers, doctors, and other enlightened inhabitants have been reading before Y.M.C.A. and other clubs, women's institutes and many small societies, notes and papers on local subjects of considerable interest and value in many ways. If they could be collected, edited and published in some periodical, recognised for that and kindred purposes. Some, in fact, do find their way into the local papers. Here, then, is a source for lecturers, who might be persuaded to repeat them in other

surrounding localities. This is not to suggest that they should supplant Mrs. Watson's perambulating speakers on wider and technical subjects, equipped with lantern specimens and relics.

Now, there appears to be a ready-made centre from which these latter might emanate; namely, the West Highland Museum at Fort William, as yet too little known, which, it is safe to say, would gladly send out such suitable specimens as it could, during the winter months.

The idea is, in fact, one of its own aims.

It would be necessary, however, to increase its collection of Highland objects of all kinds by further gifts, in spite of the surprising number of exhibits, historic and pre-historic, which it has collected during its short existence. A quarterly, half-yearly, or annual publication by the Museum, when funds and support permit, might be the proper medium for the collected legends, etc.

It is the only institution of its kind found west of the line Inverness, Perth, Stirling, and Campbeltown—all of which have their public museums, and, to quote from its leaflet (forwarded, by request, to any applicant) it "has for its aims the collection and preservation of objects and records of archaeological, antiquarian, historical and natural science interest, which by use, manufacture, or association are connected with the West Highlands of Scotland." It is also of educational value; receiving specimens of past and present arts, crafts, materials, and industries. Lectures are held, and a Library for reference is attached, which already contains a large number [upwards of 2000] of books [and pamphlets], old and new, bearing on local subjects. Archaeological research is also undertaken."

Each summer a Loan Exhibition is held—that for 1925 related to Prince Charles and the '45 campaign, when a collection of relics, etc., seldom, if ever, surpassed in that subject, was brought together.

In 1926 the subject was the 79th Regiment (the Cameron Highlanders). In view of the Mod being held at Fort William in 1927, the subjects this year will be Celtic and Gaelic Literature and Art, together with old tartans. Everyone is asked to offer suitable gifts or loans for this exhibition, which will last from 1st July until after the Mod. Several old and new Gaelic books, including music, have recently been added to the Library by gift.

The museum contains some very valuable and rare objects, as well as simple specimens of old everyday life, of which the coming generations will know little, except for such an institution. There are, for example, cruises, quern stones, caucis, brooches, buttons, iron toasters, pothooks, peat cutters and other articles of domestic and agricultural use. There are a few pre-historic exhibits, also coins, medals, weapons, uniforms, articles of clothing, objects connected with dyeing, spinning and weaving, documents, prints and pictures, building stones, slates, timber and other specimens of craft and industry. It is of much greater interest to see these in the midst of their Highland setting, than when removed to the Lowland museums and abroad; and they are, in most cases, more accessible to the local Highland people. There are, however, several obvious gaps to be filled. There is no Highland Targe, no Lochaber Axe, no distaff, for instance, and one specimen only where there should be a series in many of the classes of objects.

At present the Museum is carried on entirely by voluntary contributions and subscriptions by members. In conclusion, therefore, and with the idea, among other reasons, of helping in a practical way to carry

out some of Mrs. Watson's admirable suggestions, may I ask that everyone will support financially, as well as by gifts of objects, this—to use, sir, your own words—"practical concrete means of instructing our people in the knowledge and artistic excellence of many of our Celtic things."—Yours, etc.,

The Honorary Secretary of the Museum
(A Life Member of An Comunn).

Fort William, 15th January, 1927.

FORTHCOMING PAN-CELTIC CONGRESS IN BRITTANY.

Readers of *An Gàidheil* will hear with great interest that our fellow-Celts in Brittany are organising a Pan-Celtic Congress, to be held at Riec, in Finistère, in August next. A Breton committee, acting under the presidency of Monsieur le Vicomte Jean de Saisy de Kerampuil, has been fortunate in securing for secretary Monsieur Jaffrennou, a prominent leader of the Celtic movement in Brittany, who is known to a wide circle under his bardic name of "Taldir."

Delegations from Ireland, Wales, and Scotland are being invited to attend this Congress, and, at the request of Mons. Jaffrennou, Miss Lamont, B.Sc., of Knockdow, has agreed to act as secretary for the Scottish delegation. It is the wish of the Breton committee that this delegation should comprise about a dozen members, including two pipers, and a cordial invitation is extended to the delegates to accept the committee's hospitality for the duration of the Congress. It will be arranged, as far as possible, that the delegates shall be representative of the Celtic movement in Scotland, either as individual workers for that cause or as members of societies standing for its support.

It is scarcely necessary to add that anyone who wishes to accompany the official delegation as a private individual will be made no less welcome, and to one and all who decide on attending the Congress a most interesting, enjoyable, and inspiring visit is assured.

Miss Lamont will be happy to supply, on request, further information regarding the Congress as arrangements proceed, and she will also endeavour to assist intending visitors by answering enquiries regarding the journey to Riec. Applicants for information should address to: Miss Lamont, Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire.

BOOK REVIEW.

SCOTTISH GAELIC STUDIES. Issued from the Celtic Department of the University of Aberdeen. Edited by John Macdonald, M.A. Vol. I., Part II. Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. The magazine is published twice yearly, in May and November, the annual subscription being 15s; price 9s per single copy.

The second number of the new Gaelic magazine opens with an Irish poem on the Marquis of Antrim in his endeavour to help Montrose in the Scottish war of the time in behalf of the Stuarts. The poem is an elegant example of the bardic work of the older days, in the *Deibhidhe* metre. The poem is edited and rendered into fine English by Robin Flower. Professor Fraser of Oxford continues his study of the sounds of the language of the Fèrnaig MS. Professor Fraser states that the author's use of the negative particle *nì*, "is doubtless a literary affectation." In so far as the MS. contains literary affectations, it does not represent the dialect of Kintail. And how are we to feel certain that there are not several such affectations in the MS. The last word has not yet been said on the Fèrnaig MS. A fitting and helpful introduction to these articles would have been a similarly exhaustive study of the *living* dialect of Kintail. This would enable the reader to contrast the present state with the past.

Mr. F. C. Diack has a topographical chapter on "The Sloe in Scottish Gaelic." Some of the etymology appears far fetched. "If *aid* then is for older *oid*, the word can be analysed into "etc." But much depends on "if." There is a character in Shakespeare who says that there is "much virtue in if." Mr. Diack states that *edmund* in the name Baledmund at Moulin and at Ballinlurg is a compound of Gaelic *aid*, "point," and *moin*, the nominative of *monadh*, "hill." If this were a compound, as stated, it would have been *aidmhinn*. The name occurs in Forfar, where these physical features are absent. The name is just Edmund's town, as in London. Mr. Diack has an article also on "The Colchester Caledonian." While Mr. Diack is quite willing to allow a Caledonian in South Britain to use the letter *p*, he will not hear of a North British Caledonian using that letter. That would be allowing too much, for it would show that a Caledonian of North Britain was a Brythonic Celt—and that would not suit Mr. Diack's theory about Scottish Gaelic.

Professor Watson, D. Litt. Celt., edits and translates another Gaelic poem by Giolla Críost Bruileageach from the Book of The Dean of Lismore. The poem was composed between 1430 and 1458. The metre is *Deibhidhe*. The poem is a satire. The method is striking; high praise of Macdiarmid of Mag Luirg, who is contrasted with another chief, Mag Uidhir of Fermanagh, whose worst points are mercilessly handled. Dr. Watson has done the work in his usual masterly way. The poem is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Scottish poetry of that period.

There are two sections of "Varia," one by Professor Fraser and another by Professor Watson. In the latter we meet our old friend Mac Ruslig, whom we were often threatened with when very young. There is also an amusing port-a-beul from Easter Ross, as illustrating the term *no ruar*,

"Alas!" Father Dieckhoff of Fort Augustus has an excellent article on "Some Scottish Dialects." Mr. J. G. Mackay, London, contributes an unpublished sgeulachd with a successful translation. The tale is from the MS. collections of Campbell of Islay, and was taken down in Skye, in 1861, by the late Dr. Alexander Carmichael.

BRANCH REPORTS.

DURNES.—A meeting of this Branch was held in Durnie School on Tuesday, 28th December, 1926. It was agreed to appoint (1) Rev. James Macdonald, President; (2) Mr. George Mackay, Secretary, and (3) Miss Dolly Gunn, Treasurer. An acting Committee is to be appointed at a future meeting. The Secretary reported that 20 meetings, with an average attendance of about 10 members, were held in 1926, for the reading of Gaelic and for Gaelic song. It was agreed to have, at a date to be afterwards fixed, a meeting of the Branch, followed by a concert in aid of the funds.

AN COMUNN GARRANACH.—The fourth Ceilidh took place on Friday, 7th January, and, as usual, the hall was packed. The Secretary had a long and varied programme to hand to the worthy President, Mr. Macgillivray. After a few introductory remarks, he wished all a happy New Year. Mr. D. M'Askill was called upon for pipe selections. He played beautifully, and had to repeat. Then his father, one of our finest Gaelic singers, sang a song which he composed himself. It was splendid, and voted very clever indeed by our Gaelic speakers. Miss C. Ross then favoured with two fine Scots songs, which were much enjoyed. Mr. Macgillivray then gave a Gaelic recitation. Owing to the unavoidable absence of some performers, Mrs. Bryson very kindly sang "Rothesay Bay" by special request, and repeated with "Ye Banks and Braes." Mr. Kerney then sang an English song. Miss A. Robertson danced, in her usual fine style, the Highland Fling, and Mr. Douglas played a few selections on the violin, which were much appreciated. Miss Kennedy sang two Gaelic songs, which brought forth great applause. Mr. J. Maclean sang two songs in Gaelic, which were much enjoyed. Then followed an interval for talk, and the sociable feeling seemed warm and Ceilidh-like. Beautiful violin selections were played during these moments by three of our most helpful and interested Gaelic-speaking members—Messrs. J. Macgillivray, J. M'Lean, and P. Grant. Mr. H. Macdonald gave a long recitation in his usual dramatic style, and had to repeat. Miss E. Aitken danced Sheann Triubhas to fine violin music by Mr. Macgillivray. All thoroughly enjoyed it, and recalled her. She then danced the Irish Jig in attractive style, to music on the violin by Mr. J. M'Lean. Mr. M'Askill having favoured with two Gaelic songs, Mr. Douglas sang two English songs very nicely. Mr. Duncan Ross contributed a few choice selections on the violin and had to repeat. Mr. A. M'Phee gave a humorous lecture on his first visit to Edinburgh, after which Messrs. M'Askill, M'Lean, Grant, and M'Killop sang a sweet chorus with great gusto. Mr. Aitken was called upon, and in his usual quiet way proposed three rousing cheers for all who had in any way helped to make the Ceilidh such a huge success, and especially for those who had come forward at a moment's notice to fill gaps on the programme,

for those who had left up the beautiful hall decorations, and for their worthy President. Mr. Macgillivray then thanked Mr. Aitken for all his kind words, and asked the audience to join in singing, "Auld Lang Syne." Special thanks are due the piper for piping so nicely for the Highland Fling; to Mr. J. Macgillivray for playing for Sheann Triubhas, and to Mr. J. M'Lean for playing for the Irish Jig. Mrs. Macdonald and Miss Fraser were thanked also for the very able way in which they prepared tea for such a large audience at the last Ceilidh.

HARTWOOD.—Hogmanay, 1926-27, as celebrated by the above Society, proved a memorable one, the festivities taking the form of a grand Highland ball, held in the Institution at Hartwood (kindly granted for the occasion by Dr. Neil T. Kerr, President of the local Association). Dr. Kerr and Mrs. Dugald MacVicar led off the grand march, in which over fifty couples took part, with Pipers Malcolm Steel, Angus Kelly, and Donald M'Leod. Thereafter a sequence of old Highland and country dances was thoroughly enjoyed by both old and young. The various clan tartans displayed by those assembled, the appointments of the pipers, together with the coloured lighting effects, produced a most effective display, the background being formed of seasonal greenery blooms, and festooned flags. Reels and Scotchishes were played for by the Ceilidh Pipers, and "The Merry-makers" Orchestra, under Conductor J. Adam, from Newmains, Lanarkshire, played for the other dances. During the interval, when tea was served, Mr. Dugald MacVicar, the worthy Secretary of the Association, favoured with a Gaelic song, which was much appreciated.

LEWIS.—That the Lewis Branch continues to flourish was clearly shown by the large audience which turned up at the Masonic Hall for the second Ceilidh of the present session, the hall being packed to its full capacity, many even having to be content with standing room in the ante-rooms. After a welcome in Gaelic by Mr. Duncan Macdonald, Sandwick, Miss A. Morrison, convener of Social Committee, aided by a band of willing assistants, dispensed tea. A musical and dramatic feast, prepared by Miss A. Macleod, musical convener, was then presented, and, judging by the generous applause, was thoroughly enjoyed. If any item calls for comment, it is, perhaps, the sketch presented by five talented boys, a mirth-provoking farce, which reduced the audience to helpless laughter. Some of their antics, topical and local allusions, and, not least, mistranslations, will live long in the memory. The programme was as follows:—Pipers Finlayson and Maclean (Lewis Pipe Band); song, "Mhicil Mhin." Miss Myra Maciver; reading, "Calum is Bantrach Thormoid," Mr. J. Thomson; song, "'Si luaidh mo chagair, Morag," Miss A. Morrison; songs, "Thainig an Dinc a Steornabhagh" and "An Radan," Mr. K. Macaulay; sketch, Messrs. N. A. R. Mackay, H. Maciver, K. Morrison, R. Macmillan, and C. Macarthur; song, "Gun chrodi gun Aighean," Miss Nancy Macdonald selections, Pipers song, "Seinn an duan so," Mr. Angus Macdonald; song, "Bruthaichean Ghilinn-braoin," Miss Mary B. Lamont; songs, "Gu robh luaidh air na seoid" and "Am Breacan Uallach," Mr. K. Kennedy. The accompanist was Mrs. Campbell. Mr. Macdonald, on behalf of the members, cordially thanked the various performers. Mr. Thomson moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Macdonald for the genial and efficient way in which he had fulfilled his duties.

A happy evening terminated with the singing of "Oidhche Mhath Leibh"—Miss A. Morrison, soloist.

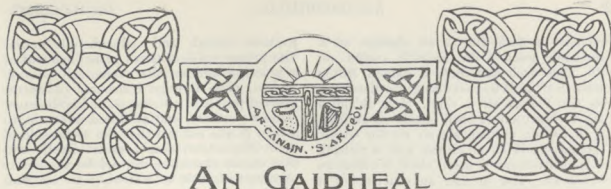
PORTRÉE.—The Portree Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held a Ceilidh in December—Mr. Angus Nicolson, Vice-President, in the chair. The Secretary's report for last year was read. There is now a membership of 110. Office-bearers were elected as follow:—Hon. President, Miss Macdonald, Viewfield; President, Rev. D. Morrison; Vice-Presidents, Mr. A. Nicolson, Scorrybreck, and Mr. D. Macleod, Skeabost; Secretary, Mr. D. M. Fraser; Treasurer, Mr. P. Boyd. Delightful songs were given by Misses Macdonald, Viewfield; A. Ferguson, B. Macleod, S. Kennedy, J. M. Jagger, and Messrs. J. Harrison and William Nicolson. Bagpipe selections by Pipe-Major Macdonald, a recitation by Mrs. Nicolson, Scorrybreck House, and a Gaelic reading by Mr. Angus Nicolson, were much enjoyed.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The first annual dance of this Branch was held on Friday, 14th January, in the Masonic Temple, Alexandria. The gathering was largely attended by local Highlanders, and included Sir Iain Colquhoun, Bart., of Luss, Hon. President; Alasdair Anderson, Esq., Hon. Vice-President; Miss Miller-Weir, Dr. and Mrs. Cullen, Dr. and Mrs. Cook, Capt. and Mrs. Macfarlane, Insp. and Mrs. Scott, Rev. G. G. MacLean, President MacGregor, and other officials. Proceedings were opened with a grand march, conducted by Mr. F. H. MacLeod, Master of Ceremonies, assisted by Mr. Dugald Livingstone, after which a varied programme of dances, consisting of Highland, country, and modern dances, was carried on till the early hours of the morning. The music was in the capable hands of Wilson's Band and Pipers Campbell and Niblick. At an interval Sir Iain Colquhoun took the opportunity of expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present, and congratulated the Branch on the success of the evening, and also for its activities in the Gaelic movement. Mr. Alasdair Anderson also expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present, and congratulated the Committee on the arrangements and success of the evening. Mr. MacGregor, President, returned thanks on behalf of the Committee. An enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne."

WICK.—The second Ceilidh of the session was held on Wednesday evening, 12th January, in the Parish Church Hall, under the auspices of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Mr. R. J. G. Millar presided. Though the evening was very stormy, the hall was filled by an audience who were very appreciative of the programme submitted, and the Ceilidh was spoken of as one of the most successful and enjoyable yet held. Mr. Dugald Mackay, Bettyhill, gave a violin recital of old Sutherland melodies, strathspeys, and reels, for which he had quite an ovation from the audience. Miss Henderson, Wick, played with fine taste and expression a composition by Mr. Mackay, entitled, "A Lullaby of Naver." Gaelic songs were delightfully sung by Miss Kate Mackenzie and Miss Janet Henderson, and Misses Dorothy Gibson and Nana Durrand danced the Highland Fling. Mr. Millar gave a humorous reading. Tea and fruit were served.

ADVERTISEMENT.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) gives Lessons: 4/- an hour.—"Alpha," c/o An Gaidheal.



EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed, business and other communications to 114 W. Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXII.]

Am Màrt, 1927.

[Earrann 6

AN DA CHOR—SEAN IS NUADH.

An uair a tha neach air turus chan fhaod e dearmad a dheanamh air a cheann uidhe. Ma nì e sin is dualach gun teid e air seacharan. Ma tha muinntir a' togail tighe chan fheum iad meud is coltas an tighe a dhìchuimhneachadh. Tha an cheart nì fìor mu shaothair An Chomuinn. A bheil sinn a' cumail crìch an turus ann ar n-aire? A bheil sinn a' ghnàth a' tabhairt faineart cruth agus feum na h-aitreachd a tha sinn cho dìchiollach a' cur suas? Bhiodh e chum buannachd dhuinn uile suidhe sìos air uairibh, agus ar smuain a leagadh gu dùrachdach ris a' cheist—c'àite a bheil turus A' Chomuinn a' treòrachadh? Cluinnidh sinn air gach laimh, tuath is deas, gun tàinig atharrachadh mòr ar an dùthaich o chionn dà bhliadhna dheug air ais. Chunnaic sinn roimhe an sean chor, ach chì sinn a nis an cor nuadh. Agus mar a tha gnothuichean a' caochladh fa chomhair ar sùl, feumaidh caochladh mar an ceudna tighinn air an dòigh anns an coinnich sinn an cor ùr. Cha dean na seann dòighean a' chùis. Oir thàinig a cheart atharrachadh air nithean eile cho maith 's a thàinig air staid na rìghachd. Tha foghlum a' sìor ghluasad gach mìos is bliadhna. Chan eil seachdain nach cluinnear mu dhòighean ùra. Tha gnìomhachas gun tàmh a' sìreadh nithean ùra, cunlhnantan nuadh eadar an luchd muinntir agus am maighistearan. Tha na cinnich féin a' gabhail rian is fearr agus is glice a chum an cuspairean dìosbaireachd a cheartachadh. Agus a thaobh meudachadh èolais chan eil latha nach leugh sinn mu nithean iongantach as ùr—an t-adhar féin 'g a shiubhal le daoine, agus astar nan cuantan móra 'g a

thabhairt as an rathad, air chor is gu labhair duine ri duine ged tha cuid de chrìos an t-saoghail eatorra.

A nis an uair a tha mùthadh cho soilleir ri fhaicinn air gach laimh, cha ruigear a leas a bhi an dèil gu fan cùisean nan Gàidheal aig an aon seasamh a ghnàth. Chan urrainn do Ghàidhìl an latha an diugh cur suas leis na suidhichidhean leis an robh an sinnsear riarichte. Chunnaic iad rìomhadh nan Gall agus lean iad an t-eisimpleir sin a thaobh éididh. Cha chuirear feum no luach nis mò air cuigeil-linn no cloimhe gu snàth grinn a shìomh, agus cho mhò a tha faighneachd air beairt-fhìghe no air breabadair. Chaidh na nithean sin air chùl mar sheann sgeul. Agus a thaobh bìdh cha bhi ginealach an latla so toilichte leis an t-seann dòigh. Feumar biadhan grinne Gallda a cheannach, oir chaidh biadhan fallain ar n-aithrichean a cleachdadh. Ma tha so fìor mu dheidhinn nithibh cho sònruichte ri biadh is aodach is tighean is innlean giùlain, cìod a their sinn mu 'n oilean a chaidh àrach am measg nan seann chorán, oilean nam bàrd, oilean a' chiùil, na h-òrain, an ceòl mòr, an ceòl beag, is gach cuspair eile de 'n ghné sin? Ma leig sinn seachad an seann cìdeadh is an seann bhiadh, carson nach leigeamaid seachad an seann cheòl is an t-seann chànan?

An diugh fhéin tha na Goill a' cumail choinneamhan agus a' cur an cinn ri chèile airson athbheothachadh a thabhairt air càinnt an aithrichean. Tha iad a' creidsinn gum bu mhór am beud gu rachadh seann Bheurla na h-Alban air dìchuimhne. Thubhairt ollamh dhiu fhéin an latha roimhe nach eil an t-seann Bheurla Albannach farsuing beartach gu leòr airson feumalachd an latha an diugh.

Thubhairt e nach ann 's an chainnt ud a sgriobhadh neach a dh' iarruidh annlan an bùth, agus nach ann innte a bhiodh Milton comasach air an dà leabhar dheug ud a dheanamh suas mu Phàras air a chall. Ach dh'aidich e aig a' cheart am gu bheil buaidh shònruichte aig an t-seann chànan sin air na fìor Ghoill, a' greimeachadh air an cridhe, agus a tàthadh an fearachaidhean ri seann cheòl is oilean an aithrichean. Tha so mar an ceudna fìor a thaobh nan Gàidheal agus gach oidheirp a tha iad a' deanamh airson cainnt an sinnsear a chumail beò. Ann an seadh diomhair tha cainnt is ceòl ar dùthcha mar shuspair is mar lòn do chridhe a' Ghàidheil. Faodaidh nithean nuadha a bhi a' tighinn mar dh'fhaodas iad; caochlaidhean am biadh, an éideadh is an inbhe; ach gidheadh cha bhi inntinn an duine air a beathachadh leis na nithibh sin. Chan fhaodar ocras na h-inntinn a shàsachadh le comhfhurtachd o 'n leth a mach. Ma thogas an Gàidheal ri dòigh choigreach, cha bhi e fada a' fàs gle choltach ris na coigrich fhéin agus a' call a chòir bhreith agus 'inbhe mar Ghàidheal. Tha cuid ann a dh' iobradh an còir-breith gum cheist fhaighneachd. Chan fheum an Gàidheal fàs ro-shaoghalta, a dh' aindeoin ciod e their muinntir eile. Ma leigeas e a chuid aignidhean bàs a dh' easbhuidh an lòin sin a tha cho nàdurach dhaibh, cha bhi ann fhéin ach truaghan. Ciamar idir a chumas e suas spiorad a sinnsear ma leigeas e dearmad air a' chànan agus air a' cheòl anns a bheil an spiorad sin air a thasgadh.

THE OLD GAELIC FEILL AS ENTERTAINMENT.

By the EDITOR.

From the dawn of authentic history down to the first quarter of the eleventh century, the social life of Gaeldom in Ireland was much influenced by institutions known as the "Féis," a stated assembly of the nobles and chieftains, and the "Aenach" or Féill, a periodical gathering of the people. Some of the benefits that are derived from the fellowship of city life were conferred by these regular convocations. While the outstanding festivals, such as those of Tara, of Tailtiu (Telltown), and of Carman, might differ from one another in respect of original purpose and method of inauguration, yet for centuries they retained a position of no small importance, because they were the means of supplying some

political, social, and educational needs. The primary aim of these gatherings was of a practical and serious character. Nevertheless, when a huge concourse of warm-hearted people of all classes, and both sexes, came repeatedly, and at stated intervals, to a fair, it was natural that the social side of their disposition should assert itself, and that means should be devised for the entertainment of such as desired to be amused. There is a gregarious instinct in the average person which causes him to be more easily impressed as a unit in a throng than he generally is when alone. In the atmosphere of a crowd there is a magnetic influence which makes the ordinary individual more susceptible than usual to that which is ludicrous or pathetic. And a large company, unless the occasion be a sad or solemn one, does not neglect the faintest pretext for expressing its feelings by laughter or applause.

At a time when acquaintance with reading and writing was confined to a limited circle, the ancient Féill provided the public with the opportunity of gaining a definite notion of the duties of citizenship. On this account, attendance at the gathering was compulsory. No exception was made; and so stringent were the rules regarding attendance and decorous behaviour that their infringement was punishable with death. Some conception of the prevalence of law and order may be drawn from such enactments. In a state of society where the ruling class were able to instil into the minds of the people a due acquaintance with, and respect for, civic rights and obligations, we may reasonably expect that social intercourse and amusements would be likely to develop along healthy lines. In this place we are concerned with the fairs not so much in the sense in which they were aids to a knowledge of laws, traditions, genealogies, and civic duties; or in which they were markets for the exchange of goods; but rather in the narrower sense in which they were incidentally the means of providing and encouraging certain kinds of amusement. "A fair was the occasion of enjoyment to the people—dancing, music, recitation of poetry, feats of arms, . . . and jugglery, formed part of the essential business of it. The king who held the fair awarded prizes to the most successful poets, musicians, and professors and masters of every art." To amuse is one of the leading functions of the stage. And the bardic rehearsals, the vocal and instrumental competitions, the art and

dexterity of jugglers, the eccentricities of professional buffoons, and all the manifestations of the comic with which the crowds were hugely delighted—all these were common at Gaelic fairs. The diversions appear to have satisfied the desire for amusement, and to have served the object of the conventional stage; and there is therefore a sense in which the entertainments may justly be regarded as a substitute for drama.

The Féis or Convention of Tara was, in a political sense, the principal assembly of all. It is fully described in Dr. Petrie's "Essay on Tara." Under the presidency of the High-king, the princes and nobles, the chiefs and ollamhs of all Ireland met in Tara, in November (Samhain), once every three years, or, according to some, once every seven years. The main business of the Convention was to correct and register the annals and genealogies. But the Féis of Tara was also a festival; and, in addition to the more serious part of the transactions, there was banqueting as well as musical and bardic entertainment. The Féis of Tara, however, was not a popular gathering, but an assembly of the leading classes. Its immediate interest for us is that it appears to have been the model of order and seemly behaviour for the aenach or general fair where popular entertainment was specially encouraged.

The aenach was a gathering of all the people of a whole district. The principal fairs, like those of Carman and of Tailtiu, were held on the kalends of August, and were a chronological mark, like the Olympian games in Greece. As to the origin of the fairs, the theory is that they first began as funeral games to commemorate the death of some celebrity. The theory is carried out by the fact that these assemblies took place as a rule in burying-grounds. For example, the fairs of Carman, Tailtiu, Croghan, Tlachtna, and Usnagh, were all held in ancient cemeteries. The gathering of Tailtiu is clearly stated to have been inaugurated as an "oinach rigda," an *agon regale*, or royal fair. The fairs as an institution were found to meet a special want; and in the course of generations, while the primary cause of their inauguration may have been forgotten or disregarded, they developed in an extraordinary degree, until at last they assumed a very important place in the social life of the people. The coming of the Norwegians was the first severe blow to these gatherings. The last celebration of the aenach of Carman (in

Wexford) took place in 1023 A.D., and of that of Tailtiu (Telltown) in 1164 A.D. It is the social element that concerns us here; and in this respect the great fairs, in all probability, bore a close resemblance to one another. It may therefore be sufficient to quote O'Curry's translation of a passage in the Book of Leinster, describing the sights and enjoyments of the fair of Carman:—

" Trumpets, harps, wide-mouthed horns;
Cusighs, timpanists without fail;
Poets and groups of agile jugglers . . .
Satires and sharp-edged phillipps.
Pipers, fiddlers, banded men,
Bonemen and flute-players,
The host of chattering bird-like flyers,
Shouters and loud bellowers . . .
And the noble king by estimate bestows
On each profession its rightful honour."

Amusement at the Gaelic aenach was mainly supplied by professional entertainers; and the success of the gatherings depended in no small measure on the proficiency of the performers. The amusement varied in quality to suit different tastes. The more intellectual quality was incidentally furnished by the "filé" and the bard in the course of poetic contests. Prizes were offered by the kings with the object of encouraging the poets. It is probable that in the first instance the competitors put forth their best efforts rather to secure personal distinction than to amuse the public. Yet the result was none the less effective in affording a source of interest to the crowd. It should never be forgotten that the bardic competitions, which were an outstanding feature of the aenach, maintained the general tone of the gatherings, and furnished incitement and opportunity for the display of natural talent. Regulated emulation was also the happy means of discovering poetic genius. The patronage of kings fostered the literary craft, while it tended to disseminate the love of letters among the people.

Since the ninth century, the two poetical orders, the "filé" and the bard, have been merged into one another, and the two terms have become identical in meaning. But in the earlier period the two orders were quite distinct. The "filé" was the older and more dignified type of poet among the Gaels. The order was divided into seven classes, and the highest position could only be attained by a long and severe course of study. The separate order of the bards, on the other hand, was divided into two main

divisions, the noble and the plebeian. Each sub-division contained eight grades, with metres peculiar to each grade. It is unnecessary here to enter into further details of the history and constitution of the bardic orders. As far as the influence of these varieties of educated men is concerned, we may reasonably conclude that when they met in public competitions they were likely to impart an intellectual tone to the entertainment. The recurrence of these occasions at regular intervals had an elevating effect on popular taste. But the sphere of the "filé" and the bard was not confined to the large public assemblies. They also exercised their calling at the courts of kings, and in the houses of nobles and chieftains. De Jubainville distinctly notes that the part played by the Gaelic "filé" has been taken up by the dramatic artist in modern times. But while the "filé" and the bard helped to meet the popular desire for amusement, there is also an important sense in which they were nearer to the real life of the people than a dramatic artist as such could ever be. In old Gaeldom the tenor of life was coloured by military habits. In these circumstances the rehearsal of warlike traditions was always acceptable. A histrionic performer could only influence his audience in an indirect way. But the "filé" and the bard made a direct appeal. Like Tyrtæus inspiring the Spartans, the Gaelic poets breathed a living enthusiasm into those who went out to an actual fight. No performance on the stage could take the place of the glow and contagion of the orator. It was not likely, therefore, that a class who exercised such an influence over the people would readily surrender their authority in favour of conventional dramatic artists.

The "sgeulaiche" or story-teller was the professional reciter of romance. He appears to have been a person of social consequence. Besides being an adept in the rehearsing of tales, the sgeulaiche frequently undertook the duties of "senchaidh," or genealogist. Latterly the story-teller came to be known by either name, "sgeulaiche" or "seanachaidh." The preservation of many sagas and tales is due to a large extent to these men. They also, no less than the poets, took part in competitions among men of their own class at the Gaelic *aeanaich*; and at smaller assemblies an efficient *senachie* was always sure of an appreciative audience. In our article on Romance, we made fuller reference to the function of the *senachie* as an entertainer, since he was the means of

investing the old tales with living interest for the people. But besides these more intellectual forms of entertainment, the crowd seems to have been pleased with sleight-of-hand, comic shows, and representations of the grotesque. Various kinds of performers are mentioned in the old texts. The Book of the Dun Cow gives a vivid picture of a juggler. "He had ear-clasps of gold in his ears, and a speckled white cloak upon him. He had nine swords in his hand, and nine silvery shields, and nine balls of gold. He throws every one of them up into the air, and not one falls to the ground, and there is but one of them at a time upon his palm, and like the buzzing of bees on a beautiful day was the motion of each passing the other." The term "druth," meaning a professional clown or buffoon, is one that occurs frequently in the ancient literature. The eccentricities of that performer seem to have been much appreciated in ancient Gaeldom. Sometimes the buffoon could appear in a heroic light. In the tract, "Cath Mhucrama," the "druth" or jester Dadera, who resembles his master, Mac Con, in form and features, voluntarily takes his master's place in a duel, and dies in his stead. And although Mac Con eventually becomes High King, and rules in Tara, yet his continual saying after his jester is this: "Since Dadera is departed no laughter is produced; for after Dairine's merry jester there is desolation." Although the duties of a jester or buffoon were probably very different from those of a juggler, yet the two callings are sometimes unduly confused by some modern translators. For example, in the "Tripartite Life," by Whitley Stokes, the word "druth," on page 158, is rendered "buffoon," while on page 204 the dative plural, "druthaib," of the same word, is given as "jugglers." A jester required natural wit and power of repartee; a juggler needed abilities of another kind entirely. While "druth" no doubt meant a professional fool, yet it is also found in a legal tract as indicating a natural imbecile, one of three classes who need guardianship: "Do druthaib, ocus meraibh, ocus dásacht-aibh" (Of idiots, lunatics, and maniacs). The word seems to have borne a primary and a secondary meaning in Gaelic, just as it does in English; and it is in the secondary sense, of a professional fool or jester, that the dramatic feature of impersonation appears.

The popularity of comic exhibitions is further shown by the prominence of yet.

another type of artist, known as the "fuirsire"—a term for which various translations are offered, the more common being once more a buffoon or mountebank. In the St. Gall Glosses 130a, the Latin substantive, "histriones" (comic actors), is glossed by "fuirsiri"; and in the "Tripartite Life" kings are enjoined not to support "histriones." In the Carlsruhe copy of Augustine's "Soliloquy," the Latin word, "mini" (farical plays), is glossed "fuirsreachta." In the same MS. the name of Roscius, the actor, is glossed "fuirsire." That the "fuirsire" were a special kind of uniform during his performance is shown in a mediæval production, "The Vision of Mac Conglinne," edited by Kuno Meyer. Mac Conglinne is a minstrel genius who has a grudge against the Church, which was bitterly opposed to jesters and gleemen: "He put on a short cloak and short garments. In this wise he began juggling for the host from the floor of the royal house."

The performances of the "druth" and the "fuirsire" appear to have been entirely of a comic character; and their efforts were probably the nearest approach to comic drama among the Gaels. Dr. Joyce, in his "Short History of Ireland" (page 90), goes the length of saying that at the fairs there were "masked plays by druith or buffoons." The extent of that kind of amusement may be inferred from the varieties of public entertainers. There is perhaps an undue tendency in modern times to regard almost every one of these performers as a juggler. In "Saltair nan Rann," the verbal form, "furseoracht," is rendered "jugglery" by Whitley Stokes; and in the "Vision of Mac Conglinne," as quoted above, the same form is translated "juggling" by Kuno Meyer. We may be mistaken in our suspicion, but we find it hard to believe that so many of these ancient terms, like "aesa cerdd," "druth," and "fuirsire," can all be correctly equated with the inevitable juggler. We cannot but think that an educated Gael like the author of Carlsruhe gloss on the name of Roscius, in applying the term "fuirsire" to the greatest of Roman actors and the cultured friend of Cicero, must have surely meant by the term something more dignified and intellectual than mere physical dexterity or leger-de-main. In any case, there can be no doubt that the performers to whom such frequent allusions are made in the old records were skilled in their various arts. The persistent mention of

these men in connection with the stated festivals may be accepted as evidence that their calling was of a popular kind. The entertainment which they rendered to the multitudes who assembled at the fairs was probably quite primitive in character; but, so far as it went, there seems every reason to conclude that it discharged the function of the comic stage as a means of amusement. While the demand for mirth was met by the efforts of those who are classed as jugglers and buffoons, the taste of the more thoughtful among the crowd was pleased with the emulation of senachies and bards. In this way the resources of entertainment at the Gaelic fair long served as a substitute for drama; and in later times a similar object was fulfilled by Romance.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

SHAKESPEARE AND THE GAELIC.

Sir,—It is well known that Shakespeare was more than casually informed as to the Gael, both from his tragedy of Macbeth and from internal evidence.

In addition, it has now been found that at least one quotation of Gaelic (Scottish or Irish) is among his plays.

In Henry V., act, IV., sc. 4, occurs the following—"Pistol: Quallitie calime cuture me." This puzzled generations of commentators until Malone, one of the ablest of scholars, found "Calen o cuture me" mentioned as the burden of an old Irish song, which is printed in "A Handful of Pleasant Detites" (1584), with the refrain:—

"When I view your comely grace
Calen O cuture me."

This pretty nearly represents the sound of "Colleen oge astore," or "Calin oge a stoir," the Irish for "Young girl, my treasure."

Another claim is based on a line in "The Macdonald Collection of Gaelic Poetry," 1911, p. 246:—"Chailin oig an stiur thu mi"—"Young maiden, wilt thou guide me."

The greater appropriateness and superior form of the Scottish Gaelic line is apparent at a glance, and, in Scotland, we appear fortunate in having been spared the mixed Gaelic and English words which are so current in Ireland.

Such as "Colleen Bawn," for a fair girl, always represented on the stage with the traditional raven locks supposed to be inseparable from Ireland.

Or again, as lately frequently heard in London music halls:—

"And old Ireland shall be free,
From the centre to the sea;
For the French are on the sea,
Says the 'Shan Van Voght.'"

The last line is meant for "Poor old woman," but hardly recognisable by its spelling, while its pronunciation in an English music hall was left to the taste and fancy of the revellers.

The details above appeared in the "Sunday Times" of 19th December, 1926.—Yours, etc.,

MARTIN MARTIN, Lt.-Col.

Ostaig, Skye, 20th December, 1926.

SLIOCHD NAN SONN.

By JAMES MACLEOD.

PART IV.

Shuidh Olaf Mac Thearlaich air cathair mu choinneamh a mhnatha gun dùrd cainnte. Is iomadh nì a bheir a' bhliadhna mu'n cuairt. Tha e fìor mar an ceudna gu'n tachair mòran an uair no dhà de thìde. Bha an trìuir—Muireall an oisean an t-seòmair—cho balbh ri càrn-cuimhne.

Cha robh teagamh aig Olaf nach robh an dubh-mhurt a' tachairt 's an t-seòmair-fuirich a steach o dhorus a thighe. Cha robh de neart' na chorp na sheasadh air a chasan.

Thainig an tuasaid air aghaidh min air mhin gus an d'ràinig i mullach ard na staidhre. An tiota beag bha Donn a' nochadh 's an dorus, Joseph a crochadh ri deud a chinn. Leig e an duine air lotaidh an tighe amhuil mar a leigeis cait sìos luchag fheòir. Bha suilean Dhoinn mar ghath geallaich.

"Sud an aon doigh air falbh le mucan, a Mhuireall. Aig cho cumhann 's a bhios dorus cuideachd thig iad troimhe!"

"Ciod i do bharail air mo namhaid-sa agus do leannan? Co-dhiubh a b'fhearr leat fail mhuc agus Sliochd na Seice,† no an tonn, glan gorm-bhilleach, agus clamhnas Suarain?"

Dheàrrs a dhà shùil air an fhear a bha' na shineadh.

"Chaidh do bhreith is t-arach air eilean Cholla an achlais Bhuist, ach chaidh t-oileaneachadh an ifrinn. An deachaidh do steòrnadh air Baile-atha-Clìath airson Sliochd nan Sonn a' ceannrachadh? Cha d'fhuair thu tùr airson na h-oibreach sin. Cha mheall thu ach asgart is moll, agus an eitneach shamhraidh, nithean aig am beil am bonn agus a' stèidh os cionn na talamh-ainn. Tha mise fagail agad connaidh gun chonn. Ach bithidh mi tagradh ri Dia chum 's gum bi siorruidheachd chneasda air a deasachadh fo' chomhair!"

Bha Eilidh a coimhead air Muireall 's a mhaduinn agus suain a bhais 'na h-aghaidh,

ach bha i moladh Dhe a' faicinn bàta nam piollagan chnaibe sheòl a' mach seachad air ceann Airinnis. Ràinig Conn Dun-aruin mu'n deachaidh a' ghrian fodha. Thàinig eitheir beag, coal air chumadh fìdhle timchioll na Cruaigh agus Chaidh Donn air bòrd le bilean duinte. Ged a b'e ciste-laidhe bh'air a bhi innte cha bhiodh sgioba an dà eitheir nì na bu tursaiche.

Sheòl an bhirinn gu laimhrig Chliamhain, agus gu othall nan càirdean. Ach bha sluagh Rodil air barrachd comhraidh fhaotuin a' measg nan clachan uaghach air bonn na Tùra.

Bliadhnaichean an deidh so fhuaradh Mac Ailein Ruaidh an ceann an òrain. Cha chuir so iongantas oirnn; oir thainig ginealach as a dhéidh a chuir Bàird na Ghidhealtachd 'na caiseart. Thatar ag innseadh dhuinn nach do dheilbh Mari nighean Alasdair Ruaidh òran gus an d'f'or i ciabhan geala. Bha Mairi a' seinn agus i air a' chìch! Chan eil iomaire no uine againn aison an òrain. Tha sinn a' cur sìos dà rann mar a leanas.

"Tha trì nithean ann gun iarraidh,
Eagal Eudach agus Gaol;
Ach tha an ceathramh 'na mo chliabhsa,
Is b'eigin falbh gun mhiann gun sùnd."

"Seachad aig beanntan na h-Earradh,
Sìos gu Eilean-a'-bhàigh,
Bha 'n t-siorruidheachd a' tighinn air
m'aire
Is gaol mo leannain a' dol bàs."

Tha ar sgeul a' crìochnachadh dubh, dorcha mar a thoisich i. Chan eil fios againn ciod a thachair do Olaf an déidh naidheachd a chluinntuinn ma Cholla. Dh'fhaoidte gum biodh esan comasach air nì-eigin innseadh dhuinn—na b'e sud a thoil mhath fhéin.

Bha Muireall gu bhi saor is boid agus gaol (a reir coslais!) na'n tachradh do Dhonn a bhi cho lughmhor ris an ròn. Chan eil sinn 'ga h-arach. Ach tha sinn ag radh gur e boireannach gun toinìs a dh'éisdeas ri gusgal. Agus cho fhad a righeachas Ceartas bha i cearr a' cur Dhuinn an comhstri nach robh air a' stèidheachadh air cleachdadh gnathaichte. Ach dh'aithnich Donn co bh'aige mas robh e leth-mionaid 's an uisge. Chaidh crìoch air a' mheall-chomhstri leis a' sin.

† Sward.

PAN-CELTIC CONGRESS IN BRITTANY.

A Pan-Celtic Congress, organised by our fellow-Celts of Brittany, is to be held at Riec, in Finistère, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of August, with the object of encouraging intercourse among supporters of the Celtic movement in the various nationalities of Celtic affinities.

At this Congress, however, there will also take place an important and interesting event in the Celtic world, which may be briefly described as the inauguration of an alliance between local industry and native culture. This movement will express itself in a monthly publication called *Le Consortium Breton*, the first number of which is to appear in February, and which will from time to time include articles from Irish, Welsh, and Scottish contributors.

Arrangements for the Congress are being made by a Breton committee acting under the presidency of Monsieur le Vicomte Jean de Saisy de Kerampuill, a prominent industrialist, who is the owner of extensive pottery works at Riec. It augurs well for the success of the congress that this committee has secured as organising secretary an influential leader of the Celtic movement in Brittany—Monsieur Jaffrennou, who is well known to a wide circle of friends and followers under his bardic name of "Taldir."

Delegations from Ireland, Wales, and Scotland are being invited to attend the Congress, and, at the request of Monsieur Jaffrennou, Miss Lamont, B.Sc., of Knockdow, has agreed to act as secretary for the Scottish delegation. It is the wish of the Breton committee that this delegation should comprise about a dozen members, including two pipers, and a cordial invitation is extended to the delegates to accept the committee's hospitality for the duration of the Congress.

Private individuals, who wish to accompany the official delegation, will be made no less welcome at the meetings of the Congress. They should apply for hotel accommodation at Pont Aven, three miles distant by local railway from Riec, and are asked to send their names and addresses to the Scottish secretary.

Miss Lamont will be happy to supply, on request, further information regarding the Congress as arrangements proceed, and she will also endeavour to assist intending visitors by answering enquiries regarding the journey to Riec. Applicants for information should address to Miss Lamont, Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire.

NIGHEAN DHOMHNUILL RHIABHAICH.

By ALEXANDER NICOLSON, M.A.

Air cladaich a bhaile sin, ris an abrain air t-Olach, ann am Braighe Phortri, tha meall mòr, lòn de chreig ghruaimich, a tha na eilean ri muir làn. Theirir an t-"Eilean Tioram" ris; agus tha boghan mealltach a ruith bhuaithe mu thuath, té an deigh té, mar earball ullabheist ri taobh na tràigh.

Tha chuid so de'n fhearann fosgailte ris a chuan mhór, air chor is an uair a dh'éireas gaoth bho'n Earthuath, gun tig onfhadh gailbheach air tuinn, a shiùbhlas gu togarrach gu tìr, gu bhi air an riasladh, 's air am pronnadh, mu na rudhnan sgolbach a tha ga'n cur nan smùid.

Tha an t-shreath sgeirean so a tighinn gu ceann, ann an creig a tha air a sgaradh bho'n ath thé is fhaigse dhi le caolas cumhann, domhnuinn; agus, mar sin, chan fhaigheir ga h-ionnsuidh ach ri cridhe muir-tràigh an àm reothairt. Tha 'n duilleg donn, sùgh-mhòr a fàs ni's blaisde orrise na air aon de chàch; is tha maorach is fallaine a' cinn-eachadh 'na sgoltibh is na cuil. Is caoin le iasg na mara a bhi 'ga tathaich an còmhnuidh, ach bheir an t-iasgair glie, fad cuain da bhàta bhuaithe, oir tha e ro-eòlach air a chunnart a tha fuaighte ri bhi dol tuilleadh 's teann air an rudha sin.

Their seann daoine nan ceàrnaidh so, gur bitheanta a chitheir taisg ag iomairt mu'n cuairt di, 'nuair bhios gathann na galaiche earradhuibh a' dealradh air muir bhuairte; agus gur h-ioma uair a chluinneir seirm thiamhidh bhinn an tuiridh, a' gluasad air osag na h-oidiche, leosan a sheòlas dlùth air sgeir a bhàrr so.

Abrair "Sgeir Ni'n Dhomh'uill Rhiabh-aich" rithe; agus, nar ri ioma àite eile 's na h-Eileanann an Iar, tha sgeula tuirseach ceangailt ritha, —sgeul a dh'innsas ioma seanair gasda dhut le tachdadh air a ghuth, oir is muladach da rìeadh a brìgh.

Bha nighean Dhomh'uill Rhiabhach na mnaoi aig tuathanach a bha tàmh 'sa choimhearsnachd, agus tha e air aithris, gu'n robh a chèile so ionmholt 'nan caithe-beatha, agus toilichte le'n crannchur. Gidheadh, bha e 'n dàn dhaibh a bhi air an sàrachadh le seann-mhaighdinn a bha 'san nàbachd, te a ghabh dèidh mhinidurach air an tuathanach. Bha 'n droch bhoirionnach so air a gonadh, do bhrìgh 's nach robh a ruintean neomheasarra a' faotainn àite sam bith ann an aire an fhir air an robh i 'n tòir. Mu dheireadh, dh'éirich a miann

mimhothachail gu leithid a dh'airde, 's gu'n d'rinn i suas a h-intinn, cur as dhithse a bha a' seasamh eadar i is esan air an robh i 'n geall.

Bu chuillbeartach a leag a bhean chliùcach so a lion. Latha de na làithean, 'nuair a bha fir a bhaile 's a mhonadh, a' cruinneachadh nan caorach air son comharachadh nan uan, thog ise orra gu tigh an tuathanaich, is cho-èignich i bean-an-taighe a dhol leatha do'n tràigh.

Chaidh trìuir phàisdean fhàgail aig an thigh, a maotheran a b' òige fo chùram na té bu shìne, 's gheall a màthair dhaibh nach biodh i fada air falbh uatha.

Cha robh ann ach astar goirid thun a chladaich. Thar a bhearraidh, chite barrach donn nan snaimh a' dearsadh anns a' ghrèin, is iad ga luasgadh a null 's a nall, le gluasad sìor-mhaireannach a' chuain.

Bha latha griannach ciùin ann, aon de'n t-sheòrsa sin, a thig an drasda 's a rithist air na h-Eileanean an Iar, ann an òg mhìos 'n t-Shamhraidh, an uair a bhios nàdur uile aig cìos; nach bi neul a' cur gruaim air aghaidh nan speur, no tonn a togail greann air àilean sìochail na mara.

Bha 'n tràigh fada mach, oir bha reoth-airt mhòr na buille; is thubhairt a bhean-iadaich, gum bu chòir dhaibh feuchainn ri dhol a dh'ionnsuidh sgeir iomallach a bhogha, oir b' ann oirrise bha an duileasg bu bhrisge, 's na sìgean bu mhìlse a' fàs.

'Nuair a ràinig iad faisg air an sgeir, chunnaic iad gu'n robh an caolas cumhann. Ghearr iad ceum sgiobalta thairis air; is cha robh iad fada cruinneachadh an sàth de dhuileasg 's de mhaorach. Bho'n bha an latha blàth thubhairt an t-sheann-mhaighdean gu'm faodadh iad suidhe, car tamuill, air a chreig, is an anail a leigeil; agus chaidh sin a dheanamh.

Tha leithid sin de dh'aimsir buailteach air a thoirt orrasan a bhios sgìth, sioladh seachad le cadal; agus bho'n dh'òibrich i gu dian fad na maidne, thromaich an dùsal air bean an tuathanaich, gus nach b'fhada gus an robh i na trom-shuain.

Cha bu luaithe thug am baobhall guineach fainear gu'n robh a h-innleachd ag oibreachadh gu miann, na ghluais i gu faicollach gu tìr. Thill an sin air an t-sruth, ach cha robh tòrnan bog nan tonn, 's iad a gearradh chuartaigann, mine mu thiomhaill nan sgeirean, ach a sìor-thromachadh a cadail. Bha a' mhuir, mu dheireadh, air èiridh cho àrd mu'n cuairt di, is gu'n dhùisg a bhean thrùagh le gradleum, agus chlisg a cridhe na

còm, 'nuair thug i fainear an staid chunartach, 'san robh i. Bha caolas farsuinn, domhainn, a nis eadar i 's tìr, 's bha feadhainn de na sgeirean air a dhol fodha cheanna B'fhaoin dhi bhì 'g èigheach air son cobhair, oir cha robh h-aon na clainneachd ach a dearg-nàmhaid, a bhà nis ri caithream, oir fhuair i a guidhe air a h-eascaraid.

'Nuair chunnaic am boirionnach bochd nach robh dòigh aic' air a dhol as a gàbhadh, bhùc a bròn a mach ann an cumha mar so:—

" 'S i bhean-iadaich, hao ri, ho ro,
Thug do'n tràigh mi, o hù go.
Mo thruaighe nochd, hao ri, ho ro,
Mo thrìuir phàisdean, o hù go;
Fear dhiu bliadhna, hao ri, ho ro,
'S fear a dhà dhiu, o hù go;
Fear eile dhiu, hao ri, ho ro,
'N aois a thàlaidh, o hù go:
Iarraidh e 'nochd, hae ri, ho ro,
Cìoch a mhàthar, o hù go.
De na dh' iarras, hao ri, ho ro,
'S beag 's feaird e, o hù go.
Thig a churach, hao ri, ho ro,
'N so a màrach, o hù go.
Bi m'athair innt', hao ri, ho ro,
'S mo thrìuir bhràithrean, o hù go;
Bi mae an t-saoir innt', hao ri, ho ro.
Air ramh bràighead, o hù go.
Gheibh iad mise, hao ri, ho ro,
Air mo bhàthadh, o hù go;
'S mo chumailtean donn, hao ri, ho ro,
'M barr 'n t-sàile, o hù go."

Fad iomadh oidheche an déidh sin, cha ghabhadh a' naoidhean a b'òige cur mu thàmh, gus 'n cualas tàladh dianhair air a sheinn, mar bha cuid a smuaintinn, le spiorad na màthar a dh'fhalbh:—

" 'S e thigeadh rim' leanabhsa, banaltrum shunnach;
'S e thigeadh rim' leanabhs', bhi mireagach, mùrneach;
'S e thigeadh rim' leanabhsa, laidhe 'm plaid' ùir leis.

'S truagh nach robh mise nochd sinnte ri thaobhaon,
Ach 's fuar tha mo leabaidh air leacan cuan du'-ghorm."

Cha'n eil guth am beul-aithris, mu'n dainm a bha eadar an tuathanach agus ise a chuir as do 'bhean dhligheach; ach bu mhath an ruith gu'n d'fhuair am boirionnach ainlochdmhor so as, bho'n pheanais a thoill i, air son na h-eucoir mhi-chreasda a chuir i 'n gnìomh.

GREAT FEILL.

The collecting cards, of which nearly 3000 have been issued, are beginning to find their way back to the office accompanied by sums varying from 5/- to £5. We expect to realise a very considerable amount from these cards, as several people, who are still collecting, tell us how kindly they have been received when soliciting subscriptions.

The Edinburgh Stall Committee held a General Meeting in the Goold Hall, on 2nd February, at which it was agreed to arrange a Highland concert in the Usher Hall on a date in May, and to organise a Provincial Mod, probably during the week of the Assemblies. Miss Hay has taken up the work of secretary to the stall, and Mr. MacNaughton, treasurer.

Over 500 two-guinea tickets were sold for the London Highland Ball at Hyde Park Hotel, and Mr. Seton Gordon's lecture on "The Golden Eagle" is being well patronised. The Ball has been "the" event of the month, but there have been various other events, including a most successful "American Tea," held at Hampstead, on Saturday, 5th February, at which over eighty people were present.

The Glasgow Stall Committee has been very active. The leather-work class in the Highlanders' Institute is proving most popular, and, in addition, a class in basket work has been started at 2 Kelvinside Gardens, meeting every Monday. The Ross and Cromarty Association held a whist drive and dance; the Sutherland, a concert; the Tramways Highland Committee, a dance at Partick and a concert at Govan; Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, a Gaelic play, which was so popular, that large numbers were unable to obtain admission, and a repeat performance will be held at a later date. The Magistrates have given permission for a Flag Day, which will be held, probably, on 18th June. This should add a substantial sum to the funds of the Highland Societies' Stall. The new and fashionable "Locarno" has been taken for the night of 31st March. This is to be "The Highlanders' Night Out," with dancing from 8 till 1, and tickets at 6/- each. Mr. Angus Robertson has secured the "Newton Players," who, on our behalf, are running Neol Coward's "The Young Idea" in the Lyric Theatre for four nights, the prices being 4/6, 3/6, 2/6 and 1/6.

Paisley Highlanders are concentrating all their energies on the Feill. A whist drive is held every Tuesday, and the President carried through on 23rd February a whist drive and dance in the Art Galleries.

A mass meeting of members of the three Greenock Highland Societies and those from Gourock and Port-Glasgow was held on Wednesday, the 23rd, Mr. Hugh Maclean, President of the Greenock Highland Society, in the chair. The hall was packed, and a resolution carried by an overwhelming majority in favour of having a Stall at the Feill. An Executive Committee and a Stall Committee have been appointed, and great enthusiasm prevails.

Dumbartonshire Highlanders are also active, and a meeting of representative lady members of Highland Associations in that county is being held in the Highlanders' Institute on Monday, 7th March, to consider plans and exchange ideas.

Other events during the month include a dance arranged by the Clydebank Highland Association; Ceilidhs at Glendaruel and Conchra; a concert in the Town Hall, Motherwell; another concert at Ferintosh, a third at Tain, and yet another at Campbeltown. Other money-making efforts are reported in the Secretary's account of his tours.

With the approach of fine weather, the Island Stall plans great activity, and Captain Moffat Pender, who is so well-known in the Hebrides, starts a tour in the Outer Isles in his yacht at the beginning of May.

C. M. GORDON.

DONATIONS.

Amount already acknowledged	£704	0	6
Sir Thomas Glen Coats	3	0	6
Mr. James Craigie, Collecting Card ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Bertram Goff, Collecting Card ..	0	10	0
Lady Macdonald, per Leeds Caledonian Society	25	0	0
Mr. Atholl Robertson	0	10	0
Rev. Dugald Bell, Collecting Card ..	0	5	0
Dr. Farquhar Macrae	1	0	0
Mrs. de Gleyne, Barra	3	10	0
Miss Jane Campbell, Collecting Card ..	0	6	0
Mr. Charles Guthrie, Collecting Card ..	1	0	0
Ossianic Society, Glasgow Stall	15	12	9
Mr. Hugh Paterson, Collecting Card ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Maitland Stockwell, Collecting Card ..	5	0	0
Miss Kythe Kemble, Collecting Card ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Hugh Rose, Collecting Card ..	2	2	0
Mr. David Russell, Collecting Card ..	1	0	0
Motherwell Concert, per Mr. Maclean ..	41	5	0
Bank Interest	5	8	8
Mr. Arch. Smith, Collecting Card ..	4	1	6
Drimmin, Entertainment and Donations per Miss Harriet Stewart	16	0	0

£831 1 11

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Mar. 1—Glasgow, Highlanders' Institute, Tiree Association, Concert and Dance, 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 4—Edinburgh, Usher Hall, Recital, Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, 8 p.m.
- Mar. 4—Inverness, Ceilidh, Entertainment by Mr. Roderick MacLeod and Party.
- Mar. 5—Edinburgh, Four Celtic Plays, Produced by Miss Orphoot, Laurieston Hall, 2.30 and 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 9—Glasgow, Jura Association, Whist Drive and Dance, Highlanders' Institute, 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 11—Lochinver Concert.
- Mar. 15—Glasgow, Lyric Theatre, Entertainment, 7.30 p.m.
- Mar. 19—Glasgow, Helensburgh, Victoria Halls, Concert.
- Mar. 26—Edinburgh, Jumble Sale, Wesley Hall, Stockbridge.
- Mar. 28—Glasgow, Maryhill, Tramwaymen's Whist Drive and Dance.
- Mar. 30—Glasgow, Lyric Theatre, The Newton Players and 31 in "The Young Idea," by Noel Coward.
- Mar. 31—Glasgow, Locarno, "Highlanders' Night Out," 8 p.m.—1 a.m.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Mrs. W. S. MacKechnie, Glasgow.
Miss Adeline Maclean, Worplesdon.
Dr. Thomas W. Dewar, M.D., Dunblane.

ORDINARY.

J. G. MacKinnon, Esq., Sydney.
Mrs. E. E. Nimmo Smith, Edinburgh.
Donald MacLean, Esq., Lochgilphead.
George Cameron, Esq., Ullapool.
Mrs. A. M. Jack, Stirling.

AMERICAN IONA SOCIETY.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. R. M. Montgomery, President of the American Iona Society, writes:—"The Trustees of the American Iona Society met at the City Club to review their work for the year, 1926, and to discuss plans for 1927.

"Some time ago, a complimentary dinner was given to Mr. Angus Robertson at the Hotel Roosevelt, the toastmaster being Mr. William Peter Hamilton, editor of the *Wall Street Journal*. The speakers were Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. John H. Finley editor of the *New York Times*, Cosmo Hamilton (brother of Sir Philip Gibbs, and gifted as a writer of plays and short stories). The guest of honour, Mr. Angus Robertson, of Glasgow, spoke last in a manner at once impressive and inspiring.

"For the sake of distinguished guests unfamiliar with the Society's history and project, the speakers explained that the American Iona Society never had any thought of Iona as a site for a school or college. The name Iona was chosen so that Americans might not confuse this Society with other organisations linked with the Emerald Isle. In other words, Iona is the spot whence the North and West of Scotland received instruction in the Christian type of civilisation. The institution will be built at whatever site seems to suit a majority of the Scots, whom it is primarily intended to encourage.

"The speakers reminded the members and guests that when Mr. Robertson came first to the United States, he so charmed us with his pictures of Caledonia that we volunteered to pay homage to Scotland in the most practical way conceivable. Scotland has done so much for us that we can never do enough in return. Mr. Robertson asked for no money, but we told him what we should like to be permitted to do for the fishermen, the weavers, the crofters, and other noble Scots. They will get no charity, no dole, but will merely be helped to help themselves.

"Just recently, Edinburgh University very properly accepted a considerable sum from the Rockefeller Foundation to promote Science, and it is absolutely certain that the American Iona Society has no axe to grind. We have no interest in British religion or politics, but we believe that the world will be poorer in chivalry and spirituality if half the territory of Scotland is allowed to become a wilderness. No country on earth is so much respected in the United States as the land of the heather and the bluebell.

"Leading Scots educators will, when the time is ripe, consult with leading American educators in a spirit of kindliness and harmony. We have no desire to antagonize any of the four existing Universities. Ultimately, we hope to be permitted to render service to all the Universities, and to Scotland as a whole."

NOTES.

Readers of the daily Press during the past few weeks must have been struck with the movement which has been started in order to resuscitate the Scots language, the old English of Lowland Scotland. The movement ought to be full of interest for members of An Comunn, because there are certain features of similarity between this and the aim of the Comunn itself, namely, to quicken another language that is in some danger of succumbing to the greater strength of modern English. Patriotic Scotsmen are beginning to feel that there are qualities and merits in Braid Scots for them, which no other tongue can supply. The feeling is, perhaps, an accompaniment of the sense of nationality. A man may be quite a good, sound Imperialist, yet he may at the same time be convinced that the racial unit is the nation. This is not at all antagonistic to the discharge of duty as members of a great empire; but many feel that Scottish things, such as the old language of the Lowlands, are being swallowed up along with much else. The magic of the old words; the associations of ancient melodies; the glamour of Yarrow; the ancient stand for independence; all things dear to the Scottish heart are enshrined in the old Lowland tongue. And just as the Gael strives to preserve his own ancestral heritage, so the Lowland Scot is beginning to awake to the loss which he will incur if he forgets the language of his fathers.



The movement is a general one, from Buchan right down to the Borders. And it does not appear to be the agitation of dreamers. Among the pioneers there are many level-headed men of affairs. The movement has its critics, just as the Gaelic movement has. We notice that the objections raised are identical with those urged against the revival of Gaelic. One critic said that the Broad Scots is limited; not extensive or cultured enough for modern requirements. The same is said about Gaelic. Granted; but no wonder if this is so, when we do not use these tongues for modern uses. The many new things of to-day need a rich, ready vocabulary, which, the critics allege neither Scots nor Gaelic can supply. This may be true, but it is not a sufficient objection. There are more arguments for than against the preservation of the old tongues. The chief argument is that the finest fruits of the racial

mind is enshrined in these ancient languages. Their chief use is cultural, educational, of the spirit. The struggle to preserve an old thing of beauty that we love and value has two meanings—It is an assertion of the intellectual character of Scotsmen, be they Gael or *Gaill*; and it is also a challenge to the utilitarian blight of recent times.

 PROPAGANDA TOURS.

In the last number of the magazine I closed my report with an account of the meeting in Tain.

Early on Monday morning, 17th January, I left Logie Easter Schoolhouse and proceeded by train from Tain Station to Lairg, where I joined the mail-car for Scourie, in the west of Sutherland. I arrived at my destination in the early afternoon, and, after a welcome meal in the hospitable house of Mr. Alexander MacDonald, whose guest I was during my short stay in Scourie, I called on Mr. Fraser, headmaster, and spent some time with him. Only one or two of the senior pupils speak Gaelic, and the subject is not taught in the school. Miss Muriel MacDonald had arranged a meeting for me in the Library Hall, and I was much gratified to find an audience of thirty-five people awaiting me. Mr. John Ross presided, and the meeting was opened by singing "*Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig*." Mr. Ross, who teaches a Gaelic class, had the words of the chorus and one verse written on a blackboard—phonetics and the correct spelling in parallel lines. All present were keenly interested in the Great Feill and the Sutherland Provincial Mod. The Rev. Mr. Martin and Mr. Fraser, headmaster, spoke in favour of the movement, and arrangements were made to form a singing class, and also to do something towards the Feill.

The following morning I travelled to Rhiconich, and in the evening attended a meeting of the Durness Branch in Durine School. The Rev. James MacDonald, minister of the parish, has succeeded the late Rev. Dr. Gunn in the presidency, and presided over the meeting. The attendance was small, but good work has been done by

Miss Dolly Gunn, treasurer, in keeping the Junior Gaelic Choir in practice, and they are now preparing for the Mod. A concert to help the Feill is to be held in the spring-time.

From Rhiconich I travelled back to Lairg per mail-car, and in the evening went on to Rogart. We had a splendid meeting of the re-organised branch in Rogart School. Mr. Mackay, president, was in the chair. I addressed the members in Gaelic and English. Mrs. MacAlpine, secretary; Mr. William Gunn, and Mr. Campbell, headmaster, also spoke. The Gaelic Choir, under the leadership of the president, rendered some songs, and I also contributed to the programme. A concert in aid of Feill funds is arranged.

On Thursday, 20th, I travelled by mail-car from Lairg to Tongue. The number who turned out to the meeting was small, but the night was boisterous and the roads were covered with ice, which made walking both difficult and dangerous. The branch had not met since last year, and a meeting was to be called later to re-organise it. A concert will be held for the Feill, and the singing classes will meet when Miss Duncan arrives.

I returned to Lairg on Friday. It was my intention to be in Lochinver on that evening, but the travelling cinema had preceded me, and I was obliged to remain inactive for one evening.

On Saturday I went to Bonar Bridge, and had a long talk with the Rev. Mr. MacDiarmid, late of Morven. In the evening I journeyed by train to Golspie, where I remained for the week-end. I attended the Gaelic service in the U.F. Church on Sunday.

Miss Anderson, Glencoul; had kindly arranged a meeting for me on Monday evening, and there was a splendid attendance. The Rev. John Mackenzie presided, and intimated an apology from Dr. Simpson, who had hoped to take the chair. Mr. A. N. MacAulay was, unfortunately, from home, as was also Miss Anderson, who had arranged the meeting. Mr. Read, rector, Technical School, attended with about twenty-five of the Gaelic-speaking boys, and I addressed them for a few minutes in Gaelic. Members of the Golspie Gaelic Choir were present, and they undertook to collect for the Feill and arrange a concert, if a suitable date could be arranged. Mr. Read, on behalf of the boys, offered an article of their own workmanship for the Feill.

On Tuesday, 25th, I travelled to Thurso, and spent the afternoon and evening in interviewing prominent members of the branch. No meetings had been held for some time, and I arranged for a meeting to be called on a suitable evening to consider what could be done for the Feill.

Wednesday saw me again on a mail-car, this time making for Melvich, which I selected as the most convenient centre for visiting Strath Halladale. The night was very stormy, but, notwithstanding, a large number of young people of both sexes attended at the school. Mr. John MacKay, first-prize piper at the Sutherland Provincial Mod, presided. Those present were unanimous that I should form a branch of An Comunn, and I did so. Mr. Donald MacDonald, with whom I communicated at the request of Mr. MacDonald, secretary to the Glasgow Highland Societies' Stalls, was appointed secretary. I am much indebted to him for bringing so many people together, and for the opportunity given me to address the people of the Strath on the work of An Comunn and the purpose of the Feill. They arranged for a concert and dance in aid of Feill funds, to be held in April.

On Thursday I went to Bettyhill, and remained over night with my friends in the Free Church Manse. No meeting could be held, on account of members of the Faith Mission having the use of the hall each evening. A concert, however, will be held in March.

I travelled to Wick, via Thurso, on Friday, and attended a regular meeting of the Gaelic Class there. Mr. Millar, president of the branch, presided, and a pleasant evening of song and speech was spent. This was more of a courtesy call, as I knew that the Wick branch was already working for the Feill, and I had attended their annual gathering last year. This branch is in a flourishing condition.

I returned to Lairg on Saturday, and spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Campbell at the Bank House. On Saturday evening I accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Campbell to Bonar Bridge, and remained for some time at the Bank House there with Mr. and Mrs. Munro. Mr. Munro is very interested in the Gaelic movement, and is hopeful of reviving interest in the language locally. Music books have now been sent for use in the school, and I expect several competitors forward at Lairg in September.

On Monday, 31st, I went by mail-car to Lochinver, where Miss Mary Graham and

Mr. Murdo Kerr had arranged a meeting for me. There was a splendid audience, some of whom travelled fourteen miles. Mr. Kerr presided. Following my usual custom, I spoke in Gaelic and English. A party of school children, led by Miss Fraser, teacher, sang two Gaelic songs. A committee of ladies was formed to work for the Feill and arrange a concert.

I returned to Lairg on Tuesday, and in the evening formed a local committee to carry through the Mod. The branches will be asked to nominate representatives.

On Wednesday I travelled as far as Dingwall, and while there visited Mrs. MacRae, local collector. As mentioned in my previous report, Mrs. MacRae cannot hope to do much for the Feill, in view of the forthcoming local bazaar.

I took train to Achnasheen on Thursday, and from there proceeded by mail-car to Gairloch. Mr. John MacGillivray, headmaster, had the meeting well advertised, and the schoolroom was packed when I opened with my address. A committee of ladies was also formed here, care being taken that each district was represented. Collecting cards were distributed. At the close of the business part of the meeting I gave a short song recital. Several members of the audience contributed songs. It was encouraging to learn that some people had travelled ten miles to attend the meeting.

On Friday I took the road again to Achnasheen, and from there travelled by train to Kyle. The "Glencoe" carried me "over the sea to Skye," and landed me at Portree. On arrival there I was informed that a concert, which I had arranged to attend at Bernisdale, had been postponed on account of the death of a young man that same day.

I rested in Portree for the evening, and on Saturday visited several people closely connected with the branch.

On Sunday I attended the Gaelic service in the Parish Church.

Along with Mr. D. M. Fraser, local secretary, I attended a meeting of the branch at Kilmuir on Monday evening, and for the first time during this long tour I was able to dispense with English in putting before my audience the claims of the Feill. The Gaelic Choir sang two songs, under the leadership of Miss Katie Macnab. The Junior Gaelic Choir is being kept in practice by Miss MacAskill. Both these choirs were started by Mr. Hugh MacLean. On the return journey to Portree we called on Dr. MacDonald and discussed Mod and Feill

with Miss Morag MacDonald, teacher, and himself. I left some collecting cards with Miss MacDonald, and these two members will use them to advantage. Miss MacDonald is training a Junior Choir for the Skye Mod.

The Portree Branch held a meeting on Tuesday—Miss J. C. Macdonald, Viewfield, presiding—and I put the claims of the Feill before an attendance of about fifty people. A sale of work is being organised locally, the proceeds from which will be divided between the Skye Pìobaireachd Society and the Feill. Several districts are working towards this object, and it is hoped to raise a good sum.

I returned to Lochcarron via Kyle on Wednesday. This branch had not met for the customary ceildhs this session, but there was a fair attendance in the Drill Hall to meet me. The lady members of the branch committee undertook to work for the Feill, and formed themselves into a special committee for that purpose. Mr. Finlay Murchison presided in the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. Fleming, headmaster.

I had to return to Kyle in order to catch the steamer there for Mallaig next morning, and crossed Strone Ferry for the first time.

I arrived at Arisaig on Thursday afternoon, and was met at the station by several members of the branch. Father MacClymont presided over the largest meeting of my tour, and was supported by other four clergymen: Fathers MacMillan, Glencoe; MacLellan, Moidart; MacNeill, Morar, and MacKinnon, Eigg. It was a real ceildh, and "Maighstair Iain" upheld his reputation as a Gaelic orator. I enjoyed every moment of the meeting, and the Feill and the Lochaber Mod are sure of good support from Arisaig.

I left Arisaig early on Friday morning, and travelled per train via Crianlarich to Killin. I addressed a very large meeting of the branch on the Songs of Duncan Bàn. The Rev. Mr. MacKay presided, and I was assisted in the singing of the bard's songs by the Misses MacLaren. Miss MacWilliam read "Cumha do Mhorair Bhraid-albainn," and Miss Walker recited selected verses from "Cumha an Ughdair dha fein."

I returned home on Saturday, 11th February. This has been the longest of any of my tours, and I feel confident that much useful work will be carried out by the branches visited. I am now leaving for Islay and Jura, and hope also to overtake Mid-Argyll before the Executive meets at Stirling on 12th March.

BRANCH REPORTS.

ARDTALNAIG.—A very successful Ceilidh of this Branch was held in January. Members of the Killin Branch Killin Choir provided the evening's programme, which was much enjoyed. The Rev. G. W. Mackay, Killin, in the course of the evening, addressed the meeting in the interests of the Great Feil.

ABRACH.—An enjoyable concert, organised to augment the funds of An Comunn Abrach, and more particularly to promote the interests of the Juvenile Mod to be held in Fort-William, was given in the Town Hall on Friday, 11th February. Rev. Dr. Morrison presided, and there was an appreciative audience. The management were under obligation to the Ballachulish Gaelic Choir and their popular conductor, Mr. Cochran, for their attendance on the occasion. Gaelic and English songs made a pleasant blend with bagpipe and violin music, and the Gaelic dialogue contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Macleod. Erracht, evoked considerable interest and amusement. Votes of thanks were accorded on the call of Lieut.-Col. A. C. Miller.

BENDERLOCH.—An enjoyable Ceilidh was held in the Victory Hall on the 25th January. There was a good attendance of members and friends. In the absence of the Rev. Mr. MacDonald, the President, Mr. P. MacDonald took the chair. The proceedings opened with bagpipe selections by Pipe-Major Donald Cameron, Barcaldine, and the following artists provided a fine programme: Mrs. Scott (Annetta C. Whyte), Miss MacLueas, Miss N. MacCallum, and Messrs. C. Campbell and I. MacCallum. Tea was served, and the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to all who had taken part, especially to Misses MacKinnon, MacLueas, and Crerar, who were responsible for the tea. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr. N. MacArthur. A dance followed, Mr. A. Kennedy acting as M.C., while music was supplied by Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Ross on the piano, and Mr. Cameron on the bagpipes. The membership of the branch is larger than it has ever been.

BRIDGEND, ISLE OF ISLAY.—On 11th February, the Bridgend Gaelic Choir held a most enjoyable Ceilidh in the Servants' Hall, Islay House. There was a large turnout of members and friends, and a pleasant social evening was passed. The proceedings opened with the singing of the rallying song of "An Comunn," "Suas leis i Ghaidhlig," and thereafter dances followed interspersed with songs, services of tea, fruit and sweets. A most interesting feature of the evening's entertainment was the handing over of gifts to several friends by the choir members. Mrs. Lightbody, Bowmore, had very kindly acted as pianist for the choir during last session, and attended each practice, giving of her best unstintingly. The members were unanimous in their decision of presenting her with a small token of their appreciation, and likewise in the case of Mr. Archibald M'Calman. Lenanbuie, who had acted as their tutor in Gaelic. He also was untiring in his labours of helping the members to acquire a thorough knowledge of the songs on hand, and the high marks gained at the Mod in June last are sufficient testimony of the success of his efforts. Further, the choir wished to show in a tangible form their gratitude to Miss Armour, Islay House, who, since the beginning of the choir practices

in 1924 in the Servants' Hall, had been most courteous and helpful in placing all facilities in the way of the choir members and teachers. Mr. Cameron, Newton Schoolhouse, made the presentations to both ladies—Mrs. Lightbody being presented with a wallet of Treasury Notes, and Miss Armour with a handbag. Mr. Cameron spoke in eulogistic terms of both recipients, and they fittingly replied. Miss MacIntyre, Bridgend Hotel, handed over a silver-mounted walking-stick to Mr. M'Calman, and made a most pleasing address in the mother language. Mr. M'Calman's reply was also delivered in Gaelic, of which language he is a most fluent and descriptive exponent. All present passed a delightful evening, those kindly contributing to the entertainment being as follows: Misses MacIntyre, M'Phee, and Morrison, and Messrs. J. Christie, Hugh Duncan, Neil Shaw, and Archibald Shaw (songs); Mrs. MacIntyre, Mrs. Lightbody, and Miss Aird (pianoforte); Mr. Duncan Cameron (bagpipes); Mr. John M'Phee (violin); Mr. Donald Edwards (melodeon). Mr. G. MacNab performed the duties of M.C. in a most efficient manner, no hitch occurring in the programme. The Ceilidh terminated with the singing of "Oidhe mhat leibh" and the National Anthem.

BUNESSAN.—A meeting of the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach took place in the School on Friday, 4th February, when there was a large gathering of the members and friends from all parts of the parish. The Rev. Neil MacPhail, President, was in the chair, and a fine programme submitted by Mr. J. MacKechnie, Secretary, was gone through and much enjoyed. A Gaelic dialogue between Miss A. MacMillan and Miss K. MacFadyen was given with fine effect. Bagpipe selections were contributed by Mr. M. Macpherson, and a Gaelic reading by Mr. Hugh MacMaster. The following gave Gaelic songs: Mrs. MacDermid, and Messrs. D. Campbell, J. Thomson, A. Fleming, J. Campbell, L. Nicolson, and T. Carnie. On the call of the Chairman a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the artistes.

CONNEL.—The local Branch of An Comunn held a Ceilidh in the Public Hall on Thursday evening of last week, at which the Rev. John MacInnes presided. Notwithstanding the stormy night there was a large attendance, who were treated to an excellent programme. The artistes were: Bagpipe selections, Piper James Stewart, Oban; songs, Misses Irene MacCowan and Nancy MacDonald, Oban; Messrs. C. MacIntyre, Connel; Ian MacGillivray, Connel; and M. Reid, Oban; instrumental selections, Miss Mair (piano), Mr. Mair (saxophone), and Mr. Strain (violin); pianoforte selections, Miss Wallace, Oban. Addresses were delivered during the evening by the Chairman, and Rev. Messrs MacKenzie, Kilmore, and MacDonald, Ardochattan. A dance followed.

DUNOON.—At a Ceilidh on Friday, 11th February, Major Bennett presided, and among those present was Sir Norman Lamont. The lecturer for the evening, Mr. A. J. Ross, M.A., B.Sc., was introduced by Major Bennett, who, in a few words, referred to the manner in which Mr. Ross had identified himself with the life of the community. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ross referred to the disintegrating forces, which, operating in these later years, sounded the knell to conditions which in the past had fostered distinct and

salient characteristics among the Highland people. To those of Highland blood, however, a legacy had been bequeathed. This was of a three-fold nature—a great literature, a definite language, and certain traits of character. The Highlander had always had a great love for nature—animate and inanimate; he lived close to “Nature and her secrets,” and the spirit of the mountain and of the sea; of solitude and of vast spaces, had possessed his soul with an unfathomable intensity, which had found utterance in spontaneous song. The power of spoken Gaelic was felt perhaps most, in the simple but impressive Highland funeral service rendered out-of-doors. Highland pride and Highland hospitality were dealt with, examples being cited and the old Highland woman’s good-bye, “Would it not be the beautiful thing now, if you were coming instead of going.” In his peroration the lecturer pressed home how Highland men and women of to-day were in the position of residuary legatees of a great trust, and that it behoved them so to live and so to work that a vital influence for good would permeate our national life—an influence dedicated and consecrated to the service of mankind. The musical part of the programme was sustained by Mrs. Falconer and Mrs. Rennie, the Misses Black, Tyre, and Fletcher, Messrs. Small and Currie, and the Junior Quartette. The accompanist was Miss Margaret McKechnie and the piper, Mr. Hector McNeill.

FERINTOSH.—The local Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, in fulfilment of a promise to the General Secretary of assistance in making the great Feill of 1927 a record one, held a social meeting on Friday, 11th February, in Ferintosh Public School. Mr. D. Urquhart, M.A., presided over a large attendance. The Ladies’ Committee, actively assisted by the male members of the General Committee, prepared the tea and served the etables in such a way as to earn the compliments of the participants in the quality of the catering. A programme then ensued, which was opened by selections on the bagpipes spiritedly played by Mr. Colin Mackenzie, after which the Chairman, in name of the Committee, extended a cordial welcome to all present before calling upon Mr. James Jack, Treasurer, who addressed the meeting, giving, in a few apt words, an epitome of the work of the Comunn in general, and of the Ferintosh Branch in particular. He pointed out the value of the meetings from social, intellectual, and racial points of view, emphasising the importance of Celtic history, sentiment, and language, and urged on those who wish these to flourish to join the branch. Mr. Donald Mackinnon, sang effectively that mine of simple, bubbling humour, “Posadh Puithar Iain Bhan.” Violin solos by Mr. Hugh Mackay were greatly appreciated. Mr. Duncan Macdonald caused much merriment with his humorous recitation, “Ostriches,” “Playing Golf,” and “Smiles.” His popularity as an entertainer was evident. A song by Mr. John Fraser was another pleasing item. As an instrumentalist, Mr. J. Ross proved himself a great success. “The March of the Cameron Men” and “Gae bring ta me” were splendidly sung by Mr. Donald Macintosh, Knockbain; and Mr. James Urquhart gave enjoyable renderings of his songs. Mr. Alex. Duncan contributed, very pleasingly, a mandoline solo, and Mr. Alex. Nicolson, who sings with intense feeling, rendered effectively “Air faillireim” and “Clachan Glenn Darnaill.” Miss Mabel Hardie’s selections were “Home, Sweet Home” and “The Auld Scots Sangs,” and these were delightfully rendered. Mr. Alex. Macleod contributed the Gaelic song, “An Cluinn thu leanan,” and for this he received rounds of applause. The concluding item, “Oidhech Math Leibh,” was sung with verve by Mr. John Urquhart.

INVERARAY.—The Inveraray Branch held a social meeting and dance in the Territorial Hall on Thursday, 10th February. The hall was crowded by members and their invited guests. Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, Vice-President, extended a welcome to all. The Lady Elspeth Campbell is Hon. President, Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, Rev. John MacLachlan, and Rev. Mr. MacFarlan Barrow are Vice-Presidents; Mr. George M. Sime, National Bank, Treasurer, and Bailie A. J. MacIntyre, Secretary. Each of those, with the assistance of an energetic Committee, spare no efforts in making the work of the Association a success, and much effective work has resulted from the Association in fostering a love for all that Gaelic and the Gaelic language stand for. The dance was engaged in by about seventy couples. Music was supplied by Miss Mima Stewart (piano), Mr. James Maitland (violin), and Pipe-Major Duncan MacArthur (bagpipes). Songs were sung by Messrs. Malcolm Dunn, Archibald MacIntyre, Tullish, and A. MacVicar. The duties of M.C. were carried out by Mr. D. MacBridge. Tea was served during the evening.

INVERNESS.—A Ceilidh, consisting of a concert, tea, and dance, was held in the Merkinch School Hall, on Friday, 11th February, in aid of the funds for the Junior Gaelic Choir. The concert was sustained by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Gall, and by Misses Jeannie Macdonald, Margaret Cameron, Flora Macphee, and Nan Davidson, and Master Donald Macdonald. The pianoforte accompaniments were played by Miss Kennedy. Mr. John Macleod, Vancouver, a brother of Mr. Roderick Macleod, contributed a number of Gaelic solos that delighted the audience. Highland dancing and bagpipe playing by Piper Chisholm and family, and some comic “patter” by Mr. Don. Dallas were also popular. Waulking the Homespun Tweed for the Portree Wool Mill Coy, was performed by Mrs. Gall, Inverness, and Mr. J. N. Macleod, Knockbain, as “Bean agus Fead an tìghe,” ably and happily assisted by Mrs. Macphee, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Menzies, and the Misses Mackenzie, Macdonald, Fletcher, Macdonald, and Fraser. Mr. Donald Calder made a splendid Sassenach, who showed his astonishment of the performance. At the close of the concert, Mr. Murdo Morrison, Director of Education, congratulated the choir, Mrs. Gall, and Miss Kennedy, and presented the certificates won at the recent Musical Festival by members of the choir. The dance which followed was enjoyed. Councillor D. G. Fraser, on behalf of the Junior Choir, thanked Chairman and audience for their support to enable them to compete at the Musical Festival and National Mod.

KILMALLIE.—A Ceilidh was held in the Gordon Smith Cameron Hall, on 20th January, when there was a record attendance. Mr. Donald MacLeod, Erracht, presided during the first half of the evening, after which Mr. Donald MacMillan, Corrybeg, took the chair. The Gaelic play, “Reitach Morag,” staged by Mrs. MacLeod, Erracht, and party, was an outstanding feature. Credit is due to Mrs. MacLeod and her assistants for contributing such an attractive item to the Ceilidh programme. Music was supplied by Pipe-Major Paterson, on the pibhonor, and by Messrs. John Wilson and George MacLean, on the violin. Songs were rendered by Mrs. Campbell, Badabrie, and Mrs. MacMaster, Banavie, also by Messrs. D. R. MacGillivray, Archie Cameron, and Jeff Thomson, and “Puirt a Beul” by Mr. Alan Macdonell.

KILMUR (SKYE).—At a meeting held in the Kilmuir School, on Thursday, 3rd February, a Branch of An

Communn was re-constituted. Mr. Macleod, headmaster, Kilmuir School, was elected president in room of the late Mr. Macnab, F.E.I.S. Miss A. Macdonald, teacher, was re-elected secretary, and Miss C. A. Macnab, Peinona, treasurer. The other members of committee chosen were:—Miss MacAskill, teacher; Miss Morag Mackenzie, Mr. Hector Macdonald, Mr. Robert Gilmour, Mr. Murdo Mackinnon, and Mr. John Mackenzie. The Branch has a membership of twenty-four. Miss C. A. Macnab agreed to carry on the classes commenced by Mr. Hugh MacLean, and it was decided to hold a concert, in aid of the Feill, on the 25th February.

LOCHGILPHEAD.—A special meeting of the local Branch of An Communn was held in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday evening of last week for the primary purpose of making a marriage presentation to Miss Christina M'Tavish, who has acted as Secretary since its inception. The Rev. A. C. Robertson, D.D., presided, and there was an attendance of about sixty ladies and gentlemen. The presentation, which took the form of a handsome silver tea service, together with Treasury Notes, was made by Mrs. Brown, Cemetery Lodge, who complimented Miss M'Tavish on her indefatigable services and congratulated her on the forthcoming happy event. In acknowledging the gift the recipient remarked that the pleasure she derived from her secretarial duties amply rewarded her, but she fully appreciated the kindness shown her by the members. All present were thereafter entertained to tea by Miss M'Tavish, and a delightful musical programme followed. Songs were contributed by Mrs. M'Kellar, Misses M'Nair and M'Allister, and Messrs. W. M'Gregor, J. Carruthers, D. M'Lean, and R. Shaw, and a duet was rendered by Misses W. Smith and M. Drummond.

OBAN.—A large gathering attended the Ceilidh of Gaidhealach, Obanach, in January, when the Gaelic play, "Am Fear a Chaill a Ghaidhlig," was produced with splendid effect by Miss Nellie Cameron, Miss Mary MacNiven, Miss Peggy Campbell, Mr. Alex. MacIntyre, and Mr. Peter Fletcher. The whole sketch was rendered in wonderfully realistic fashion, and for genuine fun could not be surpassed. All the performers heartily entered into the spirit of the piece, and their efforts were thoroughly appreciated by the audience. Mr. Bannatyne gave selections on the violin, and songs were rendered by Miss Margaret Boyd, Mrs. MacIntyre, Mr. Donald Cameron, and Miss K. MacInnes.

PORTRÉE.—An interesting and entertaining Ceilidh, organised by the Portree Branch of An Communn Gaidhealach, was held in the Reading Room, on Friday, 28th January. The Rev. Mr. Morrison, president of the Branch, occupied the chair, and during the evening gave an interesting lecture on the works of Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the great Gaelic bard, during which some of the bard's famous songs were sung by Mr. Thomas Bain. Tea was served by a committee of ladies, while the proceedings were further enlivened by the following artistes, who contributed delightful items to a programme which left nothing to be desired:—Miss Katie Bain, Miss S. Kennedy, Mr. T. Bain, Mr. J. Harrison (songs); Mrs. MacIntyre and Miss Ferguson (duet); Ladies' Choir (songs); Miss Macdonald of Viewfield (pianoforte selections), and Mrs. MacIntyre and Mrs. MacArthur (pianoforte and melodeon selections). The Ceilidh was largely attended, and proved to be one of the most successful ever held in the village.

STORNOWAY.—Under the auspices of the Lewis Branch of An Communn Gaidhealach a Ceilidh was held in the Masonic Hall, on Friday, the 21st inst. The President, Mr. Duncan Macdonald, presided over a large and appreciable audience, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. After a delightful tea had been served by the Social Work Committee, under the supervision of Miss Annie Morrison, Convener, the programme was opened in traditional fashion by bagpipe selections from Pipers Finlayson and Maclean, of the Lewis Pipe Band. A very enjoyable musical programme was presented.

SALEN.—A successful dance, under the auspices of the Salen Branch of An Communn Gaidhealach, was held in the Salen Hall on Wednesday, 12th January. Over sixty people attended.

TAIN.—The Executive Committee of the Branch newly formed at Tain met in the Library on Saturday, 12th February, when final arrangements were made in connection with the concert which is to be held in the Town Hall on the 25th inst. Provost Ross is to preside. The musical programme is in the capable hands of Mrs. Mackay, Heathmount. Mr. Hugh Mackay, a former Mod gold medallist, is to be the chief singer, especially of Gaelic songs, of which he is a splendid exponent. The concert is to be held in aid of the funds of the Feill, which the parent Mod is to hold in June, and it is to be hoped that admirers of the old language in Tain and in the surrounding rural parishes will support the concert.

TOBERMORY.—The fortnightly Ceilidh in connection with the local Branch of An Communn Gaidhealach was held in the School on Wednesday, 2nd February. It is proposed to hold the closing Ceilidh for the session on 16th inst., and to wind up the season with a concert towards the latter end of March, when members hope to have the assistance of several distinguished outsiders in presenting what promises to be a very excellent programme.

VALE OF LEVEN.—A meeting of this Branch was held on Friday, 28th January, in the Upper Lesser Hall of the Co-operative Society, Alexandria, but owing to the exceptionally stormy night the attendance was much below the usual. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. Donald Murray, M.A., Vice-President, took the chair. Mr. Murray, in opening the proceedings in Gaelic, apologised for Mr. MacGregor's absence, and also intimated that Mr. Hugh Munro, Glasgow, was unable to be present to deliver his lecture on Celtic Art as originally arranged. They were fortunate, however, in securing, at the last moment, Captain Archibald Campbell, Glasgow, to give a lecture on "West Highland Folk Lore and Customs." Mr. Campbell was introduced, and then gave an interesting address on the subject. At the close of the lecture, Mr. Murray addressed the meeting again, and told interesting stories of his own experience in confirmation of what Mr. Campbell had related. During the evening, songs in Gaelic were splendidly rendered by Miss Peggy Robertson, Cathcart, and Mr. Allan MacLean, Clydebank. Tea was served during the evening. Councillor Donald M. Aitken called for a vote of thanks for the lecturer, singers, chairman, and others, who had contributed to the success of the evening. "Oidhe Mhath Leibh," sung by the audience, brought the evening to a close.



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Leabhar XXII.]

An Giblein, 1927.

[Earrann 7

SEIRBHEISEAN GAIDHLIG AN LUNNAIN.

Tha e mar chleachdadh a nis aig Gàidhil Lunnain a bhi cumail seirbheis Ghàidhlig uair anns an ràithe. Is àbhaist do na seirbheisean a bhi air an cumail anns a t-seann eaglais Albannaich an Chùirt a' Chrùin. Mar is bitheanta tha na ministearan 'g an taghadh o na ceithir eaglaisean clèireach an Alba. Is iad sin An Eaglais Stéidhichte, an Eaglais Shaor Aonaichte, an Eaglais Shaor, agus an Eaglais Shaor Clèireach. An uair a dh'ainmichear na meaglain sin fa leth, is aobhar taingeachd agus misnich gu bheil aon seirbheis co dhùit anns an cruinnich iad uile aon uair anns na trí mìosan gu bhi ag aoradh anns an aon chomh chomunn mar bhràithrean. Their cuid gur iomadh sochair a gheibhear le bhi dol air thurus fada an measg choigreach. Tha sin go sonruichte fìor mu Ghàidhil Lunnain. Le bhi a' fagail roinnean nan eaglaisean as an déidh an Alba, dh'fhoghlum iad farsuingeachd inntinn. Mar sin tha iad a' nochdadh dhuiinn cionnus a ghabhas aonadh àite an measg nan eaglaisean an Alba féin. Is luachmhor an t-eisimpleir sin, a thuilleadh air a' bheannachd a tha gach neach de'n luchd aoraidh a' faotainn o na seirbheisean Gàidhlig an Lunnain.

Air do Ghàidheal a dhachaidh a dheanamh an Lunnain, tha e a' cur luach as ùr mar is trice, air eòlas is càirdeas a luchd-duthcha féin, agus air an mhodh-aoraidh ris a robh e cleachdta an tùs oige. Tha e soilleir gu leòr ri fhaicinn gu bheil Gàidhil Lunnain a' gabhail suim agus tlachd de 'n t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig. O chionn ghoirid fhuair sinn an t-sochair mhòr so, a bhi 'searmonachadh do 'n choimhthional

Ghàidhlig a chruinnich an Eaglais Cùirt a' Chrùin. Bha sinn a' comradh an déidh lainhe ri cuid a thàinig corr is leth cheud mìle astair gu bhi làthair aig an t-seirbheis. Chan eil iongnadh idir orun gu bheil buaidh tharruing aig an t-seirbheis. Coltach ri aoradh aig Ard Sheanadh nan Eaglaisean an Duneidean, far nach eil còisir no inneal ciùil, tha Gàidhil Lunnain a' leantainn gu dlùth ris an t-seann dòigh. Tha am fear seinn a' seasamh an lathair a' choimhthional, agus a' liubhairt gach sreath de 'n t-salm a reir an nòis a bha coitheadh o shean, agus a tha fathast ri chluinntinn anns an taobh tuath. Faodaidh cuid a bhi de 'n bheachd gu bheil an dòigh so seann fhasanta. Ach tha againn ri aideachadh nach ciallaigh sinn ach ainneamh, deas no tuath, an Gàidhlig no eadhon am Beurla, seinn a bu dhàrachdaiche, agus a bu taitneach na an t-seinn a chualla sinn aig Chùirt a' Chrùin. Mar fhògaraich an dàthaich choimhich, sheinn an coimhthional òran Shìoil le blàths faireachadh: agus thuigis bheachdaich sinn gu bheil an cruinneachadh ud mar mheadhon ùrachaidh air leth do iomadh neach a tha aonarach, ged a tha Sasainn caomhneil agus fialaidh do 'n mhòr chuid de na Gàidhil a tha a' deanamh an dachaidh innte.

Faodar a thuigsinn gun d'rinneadh strì fad bhliadhnaichean gus an tàinig an t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig gu bhi air a suidheachadh mar riaghailt. Tha cosgs àraidh an coimhcheangail ris na seirbheisean, a chionn gu bheil an t-astar fada eadar Lunnain agus na ceàrnaibh iomallach de'n Ghaidhealtachd, as a bheil aig cuid de na searmonaichean ri tighinn air thurus a dh'aon ghnothuch. Bidh ar luchd leughaidh toilichte a chluinntinn gu bheil ceist an ionmhais a nis air bonn daingean.

Tha sinn a' tuigsinn gu bheil duine uasal sonruichte an Lunnain a ghabh saothair mbór gu bhi a' tional mìle punnd Sasunnach, a chum is gum biodh sin mar chalda, agus an riadh 'g a chur gu cosgais nan seirbheisean a phàigheadh. Is i an Eaglais Shaor an Alba an aon eaglais a rinn cuideachadh mar eaglais gus an t-suim sin a chruinneachadh. A nis is ionnmholta an obair an t-airgid ud a thional le saothair cho mór, a chum na seirbheisean Gàidhlig a chumail suas, eadhon an uair a theid an ginealach so seachad. Chan e a mhàin gu bheil sin gu maith a thaobh buannachd spioradail do ar luchd-dùthcha an Lunnain—ach tha an obair luachmhor a thaobh na Gàidhlig féin; agus tha sinn an dùil nach biodh e idir as an rathad ged a bheireadh An Comunn Gàidhealach, buidheachas cridheil do 'n duine uasal a ghabh a leithid de shaothair, agus mar an ceudna do na Gàidhil fhialaidh an Lunnain a chuidich ann a bhi tional an ionmhais. Nach ann an so a tha an t-eisimpleir do Ghàidhil am bailtean móra eile feadh an t-saoghail? Tha Gàidhil Lunnain a' nochdadh cìod a ghabhas deanamh le dealas agus deagh dhùrachd. A thaobh na Gàidhlig tha an dìlseachd 'g a taisbeanadh air dòigh no dha—leis na seirbheisean Gàidhlig, le obair Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnain, agus le bhi cur cois air astar cho fada gus an Mhòd bhliadhnail an Alba.

THE FEILL: A REMINDER AND AN APPEAL.

Though it may doubtless be assumed that every reader of the Magazine is aware of the purpose for which the Feill is being held, it must not be too readily taken for granted that they all realise how vitally important it is that that purpose should be fully achieved. The object in view is, of course, so to augment An Comunn's financial resources that it may be in a position not only to carry out the enterprises to which it is already committed, but to avail itself promptly and fully of the opportunities which are constantly offering themselves for the extension of its sphere of operations. There is "much land still to be possessed," and if it is to be effectively occupied we need more than a mere plan of campaign; we require the sinews of war as well.

The success of the Feill is not in doubt; what the measure of that success is to be is

the question that concerns us now. Are we to be content with a merely moderate success, or are we aiming at and working for such a triumph as will gladden the hearts of lovers of Gaelic everywhere, and prove to the sceptical and indifferent that the friends of the language are cheerfully willing to make sacrifices on its behalf, and to support their words by deeds? Men and women are working assiduously and most unselfishly in cities, towns, and villages on behalf of the Feill, giving freely of their time and thought and means, and gathering gear "by every wile that's justified by honour." One would like to see the same spirit of loyal service and devoted effort being displayed throughout all Gaeldom, and to witness the whole Highlands participating in this great enterprise, ready to contribute to the sowing as well as to share in the future reaping.

The appeal of the Feill is, of course, to those who love the Gaelic language, and who would not willingly see it die. It is difficult to convince those who live in Gaelic-speaking communities, who daily speak Gaelic and hear it spoken, that there is any imminent danger of its disappearance. But there are places, no doubt known to your readers, where twenty years ago, when the last Feill was held, the conditions would have warranted the same confidence, but in which to-day the language is spoken only by the survivors of an older generation, while the young people are growing up but with a very slight acquaintance with it, if they know it at all. That is the process which is going on everywhere, and it is one which will sooner or later result in the extinction of Gaelic as a spoken language if it is not stayed by the work of the schools and by the activities of An Comunn and kindred organizations.

It should be borne in mind by all friends of Gaelic that such an opportunity as is now offered them of showing practically their interest in the efforts that are being made in its behalf is not likely soon to recur. Twenty years have passed since the last Feill was held, and a generation will probably pass before there is another, if it should ever be necessary to have another. It is therefore incumbent upon them, if they attach any value to the work of An Comunn, and think that work worth doing, that they should whole-heartedly assist by their influence, and by their gifts, to make the present effort so complete a success that only

the youngest among them need fear they will live to witness a repetition of it. Many of those who took part in the former Feill are to be found among those who are working most enthusiastically for the one that is approaching. They are so sensible of the benefits that have accrued to the cause of Gaelic as the result of that great pioneer effort that they have no hesitation in again lending their aid.

"Nìthear càrn mòr dhe na clachan beaga." No one should refrain from placing his or her gift upon the altar simply because, by comparison with some other gifts, it may appear paltry. If it be marketable at all, let it be sent in. One of the beautiful things about a bazaar is that it welcomes and can absorb all sorts of gifts, while with reference to this particular bazaar it has to be borne in mind that a great mass of material will be required to furnish forth its sixteen stalls, and to keep stallholders busy selling for four days. Those at headquarters are doing what they can, and they are happy in possessing the services of an organizer of exceptional capacity and experience, but unless they are heartily supported by the districts their efforts can have but a very partial success. Any who are in doubt as to how they can help should communicate with their county or district convener, or with Miss Gordon, 114 West Campbell Street, Glasgow.

The Feill is going to be a very real test as well as a great opportunity—a test of our earnestness and sincerity, and of our willingness to make some sacrifice on behalf of a cause we profess to hold dear. As Highlanders we shall be judged by the result of it; let us see to it that we compel a favourable verdict.

M. M.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Saturday, 12th March. The following members attended:—John R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Thos. G. Bannerman, Glasgow; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Yoker; Col. Greenhill Gardyne of Glenforsa; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Edinburgh; Miss C. MacDonald, Pitlochrie; Donald MacDonald, Inverness; The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey MacDonald, Skye; Mrs. Mac-

Donald of Dunach; Rev. G. W. Mackay, Killin; Ben. B. MacKinnon, Helensburgh; Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, Gigha; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Norman MacLeod, Cardonald; Donald M. Murray, Alexandria; Lord James T. Stewart Murray, Ballinluig; Angus Robertson, Pollokshields; H. S. Shield, Edinburgh; Robert Macfarlane, C.A., treasurer; Neil Shaw, secretary, and Miss Mary Fraser, assistant secretary.

Mr. Angus Robertson, president, was in the chair.

The minute of previous meeting was read and approved.

The treasurer read minutes of meetings of the Finance Committee. The completed Oban Mod accounts were submitted, and showed a balance of £355 10s 2d after paying all expenses, including local secretary's honorarium, which this year amounted to £68. The report was received with much satisfaction.

The Quintin MacLennan Trust was also reported on, and the secretary was authorised to make the Mod competitions under this Trust as well known as possible by advertisement and otherwise.

The treasurer reported that Messrs. Robert Carswell & Co., C.A., auditors, had sold their business. The Committee recommended the appointment of Messrs. Gillespie & Anderson, C.A., 11 West Regent Street, Glasgow, and this was approved.

The Education Committee reported correspondence with the secretaries of the Educational Institute of Scotland, and of the Highlands and Islands Trust. The remit to the Sub-Committee of the E.I.S. on the teaching of Gaelic in Highland schools had not been considered at the time of the meeting, and the Committee agreed to await further information.

The Highland Trust had replied stating their reasons for discontinuing capitation grants to teachers of Gaelic in primary schools in Highland areas, in view of Section 6 (1) of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1918, and Article 16 (vi.) of the Code of Regulations for Day Schools in Scotland, 1923. The Committee await further information as to how these withheld grants are to be applied in future.

Rev. G. W. MacKay, in moving the adoption of the Propaganda Committee minute, said they were carrying on to the best of their ability. They would not be satisfied until they had Provincial Mods all over the country. It was most unfortunate

that Miss Margrat Duncan did not take up the work expected of her, but the secretary had arranged with Mr. H. J. MacDonald, Inverness, and he was taking up duty at Lochinver on 14th March. The secretary reported that Mr. Hugh MacLean, after a short term in Skye, was now in Tiree, and was going on to the Ardnamurchan district on 15th March. Mr. John Forrest was conducting classes in Islay on behalf of An Comunn.

Syllabuses for Provincial Mods for the districts of Kintyre, Cowal, Islay, and Ardnamurchan were laid before the Committee. General satisfaction was expressed at the announcement of a Mod being held in Dunoon embracing the whole Cowal area.

An interesting discussion followed a suggestion by Col. Gunn that a supreme effort should be made to co-ordinate the work of the various standing committees, so as to bring their activities into harmonious effect. While it was pointed out that the existing Advisory Committee was empowered by the Constitution to deal with emergency questions, it was the general feeling that something more direct and permanent should be instituted. Mr. Norman MacLeod supported Col. Gunn's suggestions, which received general approval.

Mr. John R. Bannerman, convener, detailed the various activities of the Mod and Music Committee, with special references to choral settings of this year's songs. It was recommended to lower the pitch of the male voice piece, "Airfeasgar na Calluinn," a semitone. By referring to the staff setting, conductors would have no difficulty in getting the natural pitch of the test song, "An t-Eilean Muileach." The sol-fa was written in a simplified form for the benefit of the lower voices.

Accommodation for Mod competitions had been secured by the Local Committee at Fort William. The selection of a hall for the grand concert was deferred until the Committee's representatives, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun and the convener, conferred with the local members after inspecting the various buildings.

The president read extracts from a letter from Mr. John MacDonald, Oban, in which he made kindly references to Mr. J. R. Bannerman, sympathising with him in his arduous task in connection with Mod music, and complimenting him on his splendid work for the Committee.

The secretary reported on the arrangements being made for the Great Feill. The cash received by the treasurer amounted to about £930, and it was estimated that about £350 were in the hands of the various local treasurers. The Highland Ball held in Edinburgh was highly successful, and resulted in a surplus of £140. The nett result of the London Highland Ball was not yet known, but 540 tickets were sold, and a handsome surplus was anticipated. The secretary asked the members to make good use of the collecting cards sent to them, and to circulate them amongst friends at home and abroad. There were 16 stalls arranged for, and it was fully expected that no stall would yield less than £1000. London and Glasgow were aiming at a much higher figure.

The president expressed his regret that Mrs. Burnley Campbell was prevented from attending owing to indisposition. He extended a hearty welcome to Col. Greenhill (Gardyne of Glenforsa) and Mr. D. M. Murray, Alexandria, who were attending for the first time. He also extended a hearty welcome to the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, Gigha, and said the members felt it a privilege to have him as a fellow-member.

The secretary read a letter from Miss Lamont of Knockdow, in which she extended a cordial invitation to the president and secretary to attend the Pan-Celtic Congress to be held at Riec, Brittany, on 13th, 14th, and 15th, August. The president regretted his inability to accept of the kind invitation, but hoped that some other member of the Council would attend. The secretary was appointed to attend, and Mr. Charles Campbell, Mull and Iona Association, hoped to be able to accompany Mr. Shaw.

On the motion of the president, it was resolved to record their sense of regret at the death of Mrs. MacLean Watt, and their sympathy with the Rev. Dr. MacLean Watt in his loss.

Mrs. Colquhoun raised the question of giving effect to a resolution passed last year to give an English translation of the minutes for the benefit of non-Gaelic-speaking members. The president ruled this resolution as incompetent, in view of the decision arrived at, without qualification, at the annual meeting in Dundee in 1913.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

GREAT FEILL.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Feill Executive took place on 8th March in Glasgow, and considerable progress was made with arrangements. Those present included:—Mr. Malcolm Macleod, vice-convenor, in the chair; Mr. Robert Bain, Mrs. Christison, Mrs. Colquhoun, Mr. Fraser, Mrs. Fanshawe, Mrs. Duncan Macleod, Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Colonel Norman Macleod, Mr. Hugh Maclean, Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, Mrs. Macnaughton, Lord James Stewart Murray, Mr. Angus Robertson, Miss Robertson, and Miss Story; and attending:—Mr. Bannerman, Mr. Hugh Munro, the Secretary, Treasurer, and Organiser. Apologies were intimated from the Duke of Atholl, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Captain George Campbell, Sir Norman Lamont, Sir John Lindsay, Mr. Fred. T. Macleod, Lady Seton, and the Rev. Lauchlan Maclean Watt. It was decided to organise a competition for soloists, both ladies and gentlemen, on the Monday evening, 31st May, and a Gaelic concert on Tuesday evening. Reports were submitted by various stall conveners. The Art and Industry Stall were arranging an exhibition of Celtic Art (convenor, Mr. Hugh Munro), a number of working models of Highland industries, and a stall of goods for sale. In connection with the last, a number of competitions have been arranged with money prizes, the exhibits to be the property of the Feill. Classes of goods for which prizes were offered include tweeds, sports stockings, cardigans, jumpers, shawls, and walking sticks. Mrs. Macnaughton, Argyllshire, is arranging a literary competition, and a number of money-making efforts are being held throughout the county. Mrs. Christison, Glasgow Highland Societies, stated that functions recently held included a dance given by the Ross and Cromarty, a concert by the Sutherland, and a play by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal realising £15. This is to be given again, as many were unable to secure admission. Other efforts included a Free Gift Scheme by the High School Ceilidh, bringing in £10; by the Three Association, clearing £30, and by the Islay, which made £40, less expenses. Future activities include an Entertainment arranged by Mrs. Colquhoun and the Scottish Country Dance Society, in the Lyric Theatre; a Whist Drive and Dance by Clan Cameron; Whist Drive by the Maryhill Tramwaymen,

and an Afternoon Whist in the Highlanders' Institute. Lady Seton, Edinburgh, reported that it was expected that the Celtic Plays would yield a profit of £50, and that there had been a very good house for Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's recital. Mr. Hugh Maclean, Greenock, stated that a joint meeting had been held of the Highlanders in the three Greenock Societies, and of those from Port-Glasgow and Gourock. The Paisley Highlanders were rescinding their previous decision, and would join in a united Renfrewshire Stall. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald (Island Stall) reported that she had secured a considerable amount of support, and Mr. Moffat Pender was starting to tour the Outer Islands at the beginning of May. The accounts for the London Ball had not yet been made up, but as 540 tickets had been sold, it was expected that a substantial profit would be realised. The Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland Society had cleared £15 by their dance, and the St. Andrew's Society gave a donation of £10. Mr. Seton Gordon's lecture on "The Golden Eagle" had realised £46, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Miss Eleanora Cameron and her helpers. Mrs. Steele Smith organised a Whist Drive at the Yorkshire Restaurant, and also held a small sale of work at her house. The Stirlingshire Produce Stall is being divided into sections, *e.g.*, sweets, which is being organised by Mrs. Duncan Macgregor, and support is being given by other Lowland counties. Mr. Malcolm MacInnes has undertaken to convene the Book Stall, in which he will have the assistance of Mr. John Macdonald (editor of the Feill Book), Miss Lily Ross, and others. Considerable activity existed among the Highlanders in Dumbarton. A meeting of representatives from the five Highland Associations in the county had been held, and each society was now busy. Their activities included a flag day, a cake and candy sale, concerts, dances, whist drives, prize draws, sweet-selling, chain teas, and other efforts. Helensburgh held a Highland and Scottish concert in the Victoria Hall on 9th March. One item on the programme was a solo competition for juveniles, the prize being given by Sir Iain Colquhoun. The winners were:—1, Miss Margaret Copland; 2, Miss Lucy Cavan; 3, Mr. Iain Macpherson. A special prize for proficiency in Gaelic was awarded to Miss Effie Martin. Paisley Highlanders are holding a weekly whist drive in the Gaelic Church Hall, and devoting all their energies from now on to the Renfrewshire stall. Mr. Alex. Morrison,

Chief, and his family, organised a whist drive and dance on 2nd March in the Art Galleries, and realised a handsome profit for the Feill.

The following events took place during the last week:—Highland Society concert, Kirkintilloch; concert at Lady MacLeod's House, Park Circus Place, Glasgow; concert at Ardrishaig; jumble sale at Edinburgh; Gaelic play by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal; whist drive and dance, Maryhill Section of Tramway employees; whist drive and dance, Clydebank; whist drive, Mrs. Kelly, Montgomerie Quadrant; Miss M. MacLeod's dance in Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow; concert at Dunoon.

Those who have collecting cards are requested to push on as fast as possible with filling these, and return them to the office.

A number of districts find that when their members ask for gifts of goods for the stalls they are offered perishables, or bulky goods difficult to transport, such as eggs or sheep. They are, in consequence, organising local sales to dispose of such, and it is greatly hoped that many other areas will follow this example.

Goods for the Feill should be sent to c/o Lachlan Mackinnon, Esq., 46 Bath Street, Glasgow, who has kindly consented to store contributions.

Parcels should be addressed to the Convener of the Stall for which they are intended, and bear the name and address of the sender.

Forthcoming Events.

Mar. 30—Killin, Concert.

March 30 and 31, and April 1 and 2—Glasgow, Lyric Theatre, at 7.30, The Newton Players present Noel Coward's "The Young Idea."

Mar. 31—London, Supper Dance, arranged by Mrs. Norman Stewart.

April 2—Glasgow, Highlanders' Institute, Concert, Glasgow Tramway-men's Committee.

April 4—Glasgow, The Locarno, Sauchiehall Street, from 8 to 1, "The Highlanders' Night Out." Tickets, 5s.

April 7—Glasgow, Entertainment by Pupils of Miss Mary B. Maclean, in Athenæum.

April 8—Glasgow, Berkeley Hall, Gaelic Play by the Tíree Association.

Aberfoyle, Concert given by the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

April 11—Clydebank, Concert and Dance.

April 12—Glasgow, Mull and Iona Whist Drive, in Institute.

Paisley, Whist Drive and Dance.

April 16—Rothsay, Flag Day.

April 22—Inverness, Town Hall, Song Recital, Mr. Rory Macleod.

Donations to Feill.

Previously collected	£831	1	11
Archd. Smith, Esq., Collecting Card	4	1	6
D. MacDougall, Esq., Collecting Card	2	6	6
Jura Concert and Dance (Island Stall)	5	10	0
Lanarkshire Highland Association, Motherwell Branch Concert	22	0	0
G. G. McKay, Esq., Hoylake	2	2	0
Thos. Glen, Esq., Collecting Card	1	0	0
Miss M. G. Leitch, Collecting Card	2	12	0
Coventry and District Caledonian Society	1	1	0
Miss Joan Morrison, Collecting Card	1	3	0
Miss Eleanora Cameron, London, proceeds of Mr. Seton Gordon's Lecture	46	7	6
Mrs M'Bean Ross	1	0	0
Tayvallich Branch, per Miss B. Campbell, Argyll	6	0	0
Mrs. Walker, Scottish	0	5	0
Lady MacKie	5	0	0
Miss M'Callum, Dunmore School, Collecting Card	0	3	0
R. Campbell, Esq., Clachan School, Collecting Card	5	6	6
Miss K. Carmichael and Miss C. M'Kenzie, Ormsary School	1	10	0
T. Melville and E. Crawford, Kilmodan School	1	0	0
Mrs. H.	0	2	0
Capt. and Mrs. Foran	5	0	0
Mrs. Semple, Collecting Card	1	5	0
Miss A. F. MacLean	1	1	0
Alex. Stewart, Esq.	0	10	0
Kilmuir Branch, per Miss MacDonald (Island Stall)	4	0	0
Mrs. MacEwen, Muck (Island Stall)	5	0	0
John Mackay, Esq., Collecting Card	0	5	0
Miss Jessie Rose, Collecting Card	0	2	0
Miss Helen Macgregor, Collecting Card	1	1	0
Dundee Highland Society	9	0	0
Miss M. L. Fergusson, Collecting Card	1	12	6
John Boyd, Esq., Collecting Card	0	10	0
Marchioness of Breadalbane	5	0	0
Mrs. Dunlop	3	3	0
Col. and Mrs. Martin	3	3	0
Mr. and Mrs. Don. Cameron	1	0	0
A. Gillespie, Esq., Collecting Card	0	13	6
Mr. and Mrs. James Macfarlane	1	0	0
Will. Cameron, Esq.	2	0	0
Mrs. MacGillivray	3	2	6
A Wellwish	1	1	0
Duncan Maclean, Esq., Collecting Card	0	3	0
Proceeds of Lady Macleod's Concert, per Mrs. Murray	16	0	0

£1005 4 5

COMHRADH.

Eadar Marsalaidh, bean a' ghobhainn,
agus Peigi, bean an tàilleir.

Le IAIN MACCORMAIG, Glaschu.
(A'cheud duais, Mod 1926).

(TIGH A' GHOBHAINN: *Marsalaidh, bean a'ghobhainn a' darnadh stocain. Peigi, bean an tàilleir, a' teachd a steach.*)

PEIGI—Co 'tha 'gleidheadh an tighe so? Tha fios agam nach 'eil Eoghan a stigh codhiu: tha mi 'g a chluinntinn a' gliongail air innein fhathast, chan 'eil fhios cìod e'n ùrlainn a th'air mu'n àm so 'dh'oidhe.

MARSALAI DH—Thig air a-ghaidh, a Pheigi, chan e gu'n ionndrainneadh mi duine, ach tha mi toilichte t'fhaicinn air a shon sin. Dean suidhe taobh an teine, 'ghalad, 's i cho fuar an nochd.

PEIGI—Bha mi 'smaointinn gu'n robh thu leat fhein 's mi 'cluinntinn Eoghain cho dìcheallach 's a' cheardaich ris a' bhrìdein 's an tràigh. Bha uair-eiginn de'n t-saoghal, 's nan cluinn-eadh gliongail 's a' cheardaich aig àm mì-iomchuidh shaoilteadh gu'n robh bàs 's a' bhaile, 's gur th'ann a' deanamh thàirnean air son ciste mhàirbh a bhiodhta.

MARSALAI DH—O 's fhada, 's fhàda o'n 'chaidh i bhuatich sin a Pheigi, agus nach math an coimhche gu'n cum obair na dùthcha 's a' cheardaich e gus an t-àm so. Obair an Earraich, a ghalad. Nach 'eil ùirchuillean is stùic, is gach nì a dh'fheumas crann-treabhaidh, r'an deasachadh.

PEIGI—Uhh ùbh; a dhuine chridhe! 's gu'n ann fhathast ach am Faoilteach!

MARSALAI DH—Chan 'eil, chan 'eil, a ghalad a Pheigi ach 'chan e latha marbhadh nam fiadh latha 'bhiadhadh nan con, mu'n d'fhuirt an seannair e. Cha deanadh e feum sam bith nan tigeadh an tuath air fad le'n cuid obair a dh-aon latha. Nach fhada o'n a chuala tu gur th'ann ma seach a leagar na h-eich.

PEIGI—'S ann; 's ann, a ghalad, ach bho'n tha thu cho math air na sean-fhocail, "nach dall gach aineol." Cìod e'n sgil a th'agamsa, a ghalad, air fearann? Cha'n aithnich mi'n coineilinn seach àiteach a' bhuntàta.

MARSALAI DH—An da tha sin glé neonach, a Pheigi, agus fearann a bhi aig a h-uile duine de do dhaoine. Nach fhada o'n a chuala tu gu'n teid dùthchas an aodann nan creag, ach tha dhùil agam fhein gu'n deach e seachad ortsa.

PEIGI—(a' gaireachdaich)—Gu dearbha fhéin, a Mharsalaidh, rinn e sin agus cha b'ann air

a shocair. Cha do chuir mi ùidh riamh ann an tuathanachas. Ma dh'fhaoidte gur e sin gu'n do phòs mi tàilleir. B'aill leam riamh sùnd an tàilleir na gnùd an tuathanaich. Cha chuala mi riamh an tuathanach ach a' drannail 's a' gnùsdaich.

MARSALAI DH—(a' gaireachdaich)—O; a ghalad, a ghalad, nach èibhinn thu! Nach mór a dh'aithricheamaid 'g ar dìth gnìomh nan tuathanach. Ach eadar dha sgeul cìod i do naidheadhd á "*Baile 'n t-Shuidh.*" Chuala mi gu'n robh thu ann an dé.

PEIGI—An da bha. Mu'n d'fhuirt an sean-fhocail e "an t-aon a shìneas a làmh, sinidh e 'chas," agus sin mar a dh'éirich dhòmhsa. Thug mi'n crìos tomhais an coingheall do Chattrion' Eachainn, is b' eadar dhomh 'dol air mo dhà chois 'g a iarraidh.

MARSALAI DH—Seadh mata, am bheil ùrachadh naidheadhd agad ri linn do thuruis?

PEIGI—An da chan 'eil. Chan 'eil dad ùr a' dol air aghaidh. Ach tha 'nis, ged fhuirt mi sud. Chuala mi, ged nach faca mi i, gu'n d'fhuirg Ceit a' Mhuilleir dachaidh an là roimhe, le car Eoghain Bhàin, 's a falt air a "*bhobadh*" tha iad ag ràdh.

MARSALAI DH—(a' leagail a da laimh air a gluin)—A falt air a "*bhobadh*!"

PEIGI—Seadh, tha coltach leam.

MARSALAI DH—(an guth ard biorach)—A falt air a "*bhobadh*." Cìod e air thalamh 'tha sin?

PEIGI—O nach beag a tha dh'fhios agamsa, a ghalad, ach tha e coltach gu'm bheil e mar sud codhiu. 'S i *Mor an t-Saor* a dh'innis dhòmhs e, agus leis a' bhrèislich's an deachaidh mi saoil an d'fhuirg fodham fharraid cìod e'n rud a th'anns a "*bhobadh*." Rud-eiginn rìomhach air choir-eiginn, bi cinnteach. Cha teid mòran seachad air Ceit Bheag a' Mhuilleir, Ceit Bheag na pròis.

MARSALAI DH—(A' sealltuinn an mullach an tighe 's a lamh r'a beul 's i 'smaointinn)—Air a' "*bhobadh*"—"bòbadh"—stad thus' a nis—"bòbadh," na'm be Màiri an fhigheadair a bh'ann, te a tha 'falt a sìos gu cruachain 'n uair a bhios i 'g a chreadh, dh'abairinn gu robh na balaich an dèigh a phlàmadh le bramasagan. Am bheil cuimhn' agad, a Pheigi, an uair a bha sinn 's an sgoil, an diol a bhiodh aig na balaich oirn, a' tilgeil bhramasagan oirn, gus am bu ghann a' b'urrainn duinn ar cinn a' chreadh, 's ar falt làn bhramasagan. Ach Ceit bheag a Mhuilleir! cha robh de dh'fhalt air a h-aon o'n d'fhuirg i na ghlèidheadh cir chròm.

PEIGI—Nach fhuirg duit, a Mharsalaidh. Am bheil Ceit bheag ach mar gu'm biodh cearc thopnach, 'n uair a dh'eireas i 's a' mhaduinn.

Feumaidh gur e cuach de dh'fhalt fuadain a tha "bòbadh" a' ciallachadh. Tha leithid de dh'ioraltan air nigheanan an là diugh 's gu'n dean iad rud sam bith air son sealltuinn rimheach, 's cha'n eil e 'ciallachadh dad codhiu tha e nàdurra 's nach eil.

MARSALAIDH—Fhuaras agad e, Pheigi. Nach robh pàirt de dh' aon eich ruaidh aig Eachann a' Phuirt aig Ceit Bhig fhein 'na cuaich aon uair. Rud sam bith ach a bhi rimheach. Nach seall thu Seonaid Iseabail! Seall tu'n deirge 'tha 'na gruidhean an uair a thig i mach 's a' mhaduinn, an deidh a leaba fhagail, 's na sìubhl àrd rithe.

PEIGI—Thug thu dìreach as mo bheul e, Mharsalaidh. Gruaidhean dearg air Seonaid Iseabail! Te nach robh boinne fala an aodann duine o'n d'fhainig i, ach lachduinn odhar mar ahlais na caorach. Tha sin a nis eadar mi fhìn 's tu fhein, 's na h-ursannan, a' Mharsalaidh.

MARSALAIDH—(a' bualadh a laimhe air a glùin)—Ach nach stad thus' ort, a Pheigi! Cuiridh mise geall gu'm bheil am "bòbadh" agam.

PEIGI—Seadh a Mharsalaidh!

MARSALAIDH—Cuiridh mi geall a Pheigi gur e 'tha falt air a "bòbadh" a' ciallachadh falt air a ghearradh goirid coltach ris na fir. Nach fhaic thu na dealbhan aca anns na paipceiran a h-uile latha.

PEIGI—Chan 'eil mi 'g radh nach 'eil thu aige, 'Mharsalaidh: Ma tha fasan ùr neonach sam bith ann, leanaidh Ceit Bheag e. Am bheil cuimhne agad an uair a thainig i dhachaidh o chionn dà bhliadhna agus paidhir de na bòtùinnean àrda so oirre. Shaoileadh tu gur th'ann air tighinn o iasgach an sgadain a bha i.

MARSALAIDH—Tha cuimhne agam gu gasda air, a Pheigi, is an uair a rachadh i mach 's an oidhche leis an aodach ghoirid so, ghabhadh i troimh 'na puill mhòna a' leigeil fhaicinn cho feumail 's a bha na bòtùinnean àrda. Bha 'n t-sid cho tioram 's an àm, 's cha robh leisgeal aice ach na blàir mhòna.

PEIGI—Nach beag, eudail, an leisgeal a bheil a' chailleach do'n chill.

MARSALAIDH—Is beag, a ghalad, ach a thaobh a' "bòbadh" so tha coltach leam-sa gu bheil na h-adaichean a thatar a' deanamh an diugh cho cumhang 's nach tiodh a' chuach rimheach fhuilt a b'abhaist a bhi air nigheanan anna. Leis a sin tha na h-adaichean air an sgrogadh air an cinn mar gum biodh seann chuman fodha.

PEIGI—Tha iad sgiobalta, ged 'tha, Mharsalaidh, agus a mach gu'm feumain mi fhalt a "bòbadh" 's iad a b'ail leam na na sgraoidean a bh'ann o chionn bhliadhnachan.

Am bheil cuimhn' agad air an te Ghallda a thainig do thigh an dotair is ad oirre cho leathann ri fasanag? Cha b' urrainn di dol a steach air dorus na h-eaglais gun char a chur 'na ceann mar gu'm biodh mart a' dol do'n stéic. Bu choma leam am fasan ud.

MARSALAIDH—Tha cuimhn' agam oirre, a Pheigi, ach b' aill leam tè dhiubh na na cumain a th'ann an diugh nam b'fheadar dhomh dealachadh ris a chuail fhuilt a th'air mo cheann. Chan e mhàin gur h-urramach dhomh a' chuach a th' air cùl mo chinn ach mu'n d'fhuirt Iain Glas e, gach uair a bhiodh e ri cònspaid, bheil mi dhuit Sgriobtuir air. Nach d'fhuirt Pòl caomh e anns a' cheud litir a chum nam Corintianach, ciod e mar tha e 'g radh a nis? Tha: so e, "Ach ma bhios gruag fhada air mnaoi, is glòir dhi e, oir thugadh a ghruag dhi air son a comhdach."

PEIGI—(gu socrach)—An da, 'Mharsalaidh, a ghalad, a réir mar is léir dhòmh-sa, chan eil mòran suim aig nigheanan an là diugh do chòmhdach ann. Nach ann a tha iad, eudail, leth-ruisgte, coltach ris na—na, ciod ainm a nis a th'air na daoine dubha a tha 's an àite 's an deach an saothach air an robh Para Mór 'na conalaidh. Droch fhàs air bha e air barr mo theangan 's cha bheil mi air, na—na—.

MARSALAIDH—Nach eil na—na—. Tha "I" 's an fhacal codhiu.

PEIGI—Stad thusa 'nis, na—na—na Sìlus.

MARSALAIDH—Na Sìlus! Thug thu as mo bheul e.

PEIGI—Seadh mata, nach ann a tha nigheanan an là diugh a cheart cho lóm ruisgte ris na Sìlus, rud nach freagair anns na siantan fuara so. Ach a thaobh an fhuilt, a Mharsalaidh, feumaidh mi so a radh—tha e a' sàbhaladh mòran dragha, an da chuid anns a' mhaduinn agus anns an oidhche, e bhi air a ghearradh, air a "bòbadh" ma 's e sin a tha ann.

MARSALAIDH—Ciod e mar, a Pheigi? Is ann 'tha dùil agam fhéin, a ghalad, gu bheil taobh blàth agad ris. (A leth-taobh—nach e do cheann prabhac breac-liath a bhiodh luraich air a "bòbadh".)

PEIGI—Tha mar so, a Mharsalaidh. Tha fios agad, feumaidh nigheanan a' bhaile mhóir a bhi aig an gnothuch air a sgroig, mar their iad. Air mulach na mionaid, 's tha e 'sàbhaladh mòran ùine, gu sònruichte, 's a' mhaduinn, seach a bhi 'g a chireadh 's ga thlámhadh is 'ga chur a suas 'na chuaich. Seall tu an uine ghabhas sin.

MARSALAIDH—O! tha mi 'tuigsinn a Pheigi. "Is leisge leisgein dol a laighe 's is seachd leisge leis éiridh." Bheil gur teagamh am "bòbadh" dhaibh caigeann mhionaidean na 's

fhaidhe 'nan suidhe 's an leabaidh a' tachas an ceann. Ach a Pheigi; nan rachadh iad do'n leapannan an àm riaghailteach a dh'oidhche bhiodh iad na b'iasgaidhe a dh'èiridh 's a' mhaduinn, a' dh'òileineachadh an ni a tha 'na ghloir daibh. Thug mi cheana dhuit Sgrìobtuir air.

PEIGI—Ach a Mharsalaidh! co gheibheadh coire dhaibh ged ghabhadh iad an leòir de thoileacheas intinn na h-òige? Saoil am bheil iad a' dol a' dh'fhuireach nan cailleanachan-oidhche r'am beò coltach rium fhèin 's riut fhéin.

MARSALAI DH—Ach an éisd thusa riumsa, a Pheigi, o'n is mi 's sine. Faodaidh gach neach a leòir itheadh gun a' chluasan a shalachadh, agus na tog thusa mi gus an tuit mi. Chan 'eil mi idir an aghaidh fearas-chuideachd, ach ma'n d'fhuir Para Mór e tha gu leoir "measarachd" de'n h-uile rud.

PEIGI—Seadh, seadh, mata, 'ghraidh.

MARSALAI DH—(a' leanbuinn)—A dhuine chridhe am bheil uair a dh'fhoghlas mi'n "*Oban Times*" am faic mi ach "*Chuiist Draibh*" "*Chuiist Draibh*" a h-uile h-oidhche deug 's an t-seachduinn, ge b'e dé air an talamh a tha 's an "*Chuiist Draibh*." Tha mi 'g radh riut a Pheigi gu'm bheil an rud mi-cheutach.

PEIGI—Chan 'eil mi-stuaim sam bith ann, a Mharsalaidh.

MARSALAI DH—Nach 'eil e mi-stuama gu leòir an uair nach urrainn nigheanan òga dol da 'n leapannan an am a chum 's gun teid aca air éiridh 's a' mhaduinn a' dhol gu'n gothuch gun an cinn a lomadh mar 'tha'n capul cutach aig Ruairidh Bàn. De 'eile ach thusa bruidhinn! Seadh!

PEIGI—An dà 'nis saoil an urrainn domh dad a chur a'd aghaidh. Tha Ceit Bheag a' Mhuilleir fhéin 'na deadh eiseimpleir.

MARSALAI DH—Fhuaras agad e. Nighean a màhar agus ogha a seanamhair, carson nach biodh rud gogaideach r'a iarraidh innte. Nach i 'cheud te a chunnaic mi riamh agus uaireadair buidhe air caol a dùirne, agus gu dearbha fhéin cha chreid mi gun robh glog innte, gus an crathadh i a làmh mu'n sealladh i oirre. An sin bhiodh i air deireadh. Dhi-chuimhnich i a rolladh.

PEIGI—O nach 'eil cuimhn' agam air an "*Rustlat*" ma'n d'fhuir i fhéin e! Bu luaithe a chuirinn earbsa anns a' mhuir-làn a' dìreadh ris an sgeir bhuidhe na ann an "*Rustlat*" Ceit Bhig.

MARSALAI DH—Ach éudail, a Pheigi, nach eil iad air caol-duirne nam fear fhéin a nis, is tha e 'sealltuinn cho banail uaireadair beag snarach a bhi air caol-duirne fir!

PEIGI—Tha mi 'g radh riut gu bheil cuid de na fir a cheart cho dona ris na h-igheanan fhéin, a' leantuinn nam fasan ùra. C' aite am faic thu duine òg' diugh agus feusag bheagha a sìos air uchd, ach a h-uile fear a thogas a cheann cho lóm ri sagart?

MARSALAI DH—An da bheil fhios agad, a Pheigi, 's aill leam lom air fad iad seach an topan beag a bhios cuid a' fagail fo'n sronan, clotach ri rud a bhiodh air leas radain.

PEIGI—(An clog a' bualadh)—An e gu bheil e deich uairean cheana. (I ag éiridh a dh'fhalbh.) Tha'n t-àm agamsa mo chasan a thoirt leam is agam ri biadh na muice a fhuir a mach fhatthas.

MARSALAI DH—Is deireadh do gach comunn sgoileadh agus tha mi 'd chomaine air son do chéilidh, ged a tha taobh blàth fhéin agad ris a "bhobadh."

PEIGI—Oidhche mhath leat. Chan 'eil fhios agam nach ann a bhios m'fhalt air a "bhobadh" an ath uair a thig mi ràthad.

MARSALAI DH—Is fhearr dhuit, a ghalad, do shean riobagan liath a bhi sìos mu'd chluasan. Oidhche mhath leat agus fìach nach bi thu fada gu'n tighinn air t-ais. Tha mise leam fhéin a h-uile h-oidhche an ceartair.

PEIGI—Thig mi gun dàil mata. Oidhche mhath leat.

PROPAGANDA TOURS.

When I returned to the office on Monday, 14th February, after my long tour in the North and West, my Jura and Islay itinerary had been arranged, and I was due at Craighouse on Friday, 18th February.

On Wednesday, 16th, I went on a special mission to Rothesay to interview officials of the Bute Branch, and ascertain at first hand what they were doing, or proposed to do, towards the success of the Feill. I was successful in getting together Captain Kennedy (president), Mr. Murdo Mackenzie (representative on Exentive Council), and Mr. John C. MacLean (netting secretary), and we held an informal council on the pier. It was agreed, subject to approval by the General Committee, that the magistrates of the Royal Burgh of Rothesay be approached to sanction a flag day, to be held on a suitable date. I am pleased to record now that the magistrates have granted the Committee's request, and that a flag day will be held on 16th April.

On Friday morning (18th) I travelled to Jura, via Tarbert, arriving early in the after-

noon. Mr. Dan. MacDougall, local secretary, had all arrangements made for a big gathering, and the response was in keeping with the great occasion. Several ladies helped materially by providing cakes, tea bread, etc., sufficient for two services of tea. I reckoned that one-third of the entire population turned out. The Rev. Donald J. Robertson was in the chair, and a splendid programme, sustained by local talent, was successfully carried through.

I spent the week-end at Ardlussa, and on Monday travelled per steamer to Portaskaig, arriving at my destination, Ballygrant, before five o'clock. Mr. Duncan MacIndeor, local secretary, assured me that the ceilidh arranged for would be largely attended, and representative of all classes. So it was. It was one of the biggest ceilidhs I ever attended outside of Glasgow. Mr. Walter MacFadyen, president, was in the chair, and directed a programme as excellent as it was varied. I spoke for about twenty minutes on the objects of the Feill, and was given a patient hearing. Neither the chairman nor myself spoke any English, and when all understood Gaelic why should we? A concert in aid of Feill funds was arranged, and was to be held on an early date.

I travelled with friends from Bowmore, who had attended the ceilidh, as far as Bridgend Hotel, and made that homely and hospitable house my headquarters for the week. The Bridgend Branch had their regular ceilidh the previous week, and a whist drive and dance had been arranged for the particular night I had asked for. I was invited to the party, and was given an opportunity to speak on the Feill. The local Branch is supporting the Feill, and several ladies are working on material for the Island Stall. I visited Miss MacTavish, Newton, one afternoon. I never met any person who is more genuinely interested in Gaelic, and one leaves her presence with the feeling that it is good to be in the movement. She is president of the Bridgend Branch, and although she rarely leaves her home, her influence in the cause she has so much at heart is such that it radiates like a beautiful beam throughout the whole island.

On Wednesday (23rd) I was due at Portcharlotte. I left Bridgend early, so as to call on a few members in the Rhinns. My first call was at the U.F. Manse of Kilchoman to enquire after the health of the Rev. C. M. Robertson, who had been very seriously ill. I was not allowed to see him, but he sent a beautiful message. I was

much heartened by his words, and the assurance that he was steadily improving in health.

I carried on to Port Wemyss, and interviewed Mr. George Anderson and Mr. John MacIver. Both these gentlemen appeared as competitors at the National Mod, and in their own quiet way uphold the best traditions of Portnahaven. They agreed to get up a concert for the Feill, and I know they will do it whole heartedly.

On my return to Portcharlotte I carried through a ceilidh in the school. There were about 80 people present, and for the sake of one or two strangers I spoke for a few minutes in English. My main address was in Gaelic. Mr. Patterson, headmaster, had arranged a nice programme of Gaelic songs. He conducts the Gaelic Choir there. Owing to bereavement, the secretary was unable to attend, but members of committee assured me of support for the Feill.

Mr. John Forrest arranged a concert at Bowmore on Thursday (24th)—Colonel MacTaggart in the chair. There was a good attendance, and I delivered the usual addresses in Gaelic and English. Bowmore supports the Provincial Mod very well, and perhaps on that account we may not receive a large sum for the Feill, but they will do what they can.

On Friday evening, at Port Ellen, there was a splendid turnout in the Memorial Hall, the chief attraction being the play, "Beitidh," which was excellently reproduced by local players, all members of the Branch. Mr. John MacDougall (Kilbride) presided. The entire proceeds, amounting to about £15, were for the Feill, and, in addition to this splendid entertainment, several other functions have been held, and are arranged for, in the cause of the Feill.

I remained overnight with Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, Ardbeg, and, after a duty call on Mr. John MacDougall, president, I returned to Bridgend, and then on to Craigsen, to spend the afternoon with Mr. Donald Gillespie. In the evening Mr. Gillespie, Corsobol, drove me to Kilchoman School for a meeting with local members. On the way through Am Bealach he very kindly stopped the pony and took me over to the stone marking the spot where Lachlann Mór fell after the battle of Tràigh Ghruinn-ard. The tree from which Dubh-Sith fired the fatal arrow no longer remains.

The meeting at Kilchoman was a small one, but my purpose was served, and I

think the Feill and the Islay Mod will benefit as a result of my visit.

I returned to Bridgend after the meeting, and on Monday morning returned homewards. I did not manage to fit in my proposed visit to Mid-Argyll, but I hope to visit that district later. Most of the Branches there have already done something for the Feill. NIALL.

THE BOOK OF THE FEILL.

Interest in the Great Feill is gathering in intensity as the weeks pass by. Not the least important part of the entire enterprise will be the Souvenir Book which we hear is to make its appearance before this month is out. The volume is a compilation of articles on living topics bearing on the work of An Comunn and kindred subjects. A book throbbing with life and enthusiasm is a valuable asset at the right moment. The work has been edited with great ability and zeal by Mr. John Macdonald, M.A., Glasgow. The contributors are native workers in, and supporters of the Gaelic Renaissance, among them being names of persons distinguished in various walks of life. Indeed, the list of writers contains the names of the leading writers of Scotland, both in English and in Gaelic. The book will contain twenty-seven illustrations of Highland scenery and of Gaelic history. We are convinced that the volume will be one of the most varied and attractive books ever offered to the Gaelic public. It is the souvenir volume, which will commemorate the effort which all Gaels will surely put forth on behalf of the Great Feill in June.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

In connection with the Feill, competitions for Gaelic solo singing will be held in the Berkeley Hall, Glasgow, on Monday evening, 30th May. The competitions are open to all who are over sixteen years of age. The songs prescribed are as follows, and competitors are to select one of the three in their respective Class:—Ladies:—"Thir a dhreas an bealach," "An gille dubh, ciar-dubh," and "Mac òg an Iarla Ruaidh." Gentlemen—"O's tu 's gur a tu th' air m'aire," "An nochd gur faoin mo chadal dhomh," and "Till, till Oigh mo rùin." The songs will be found in "Còisir a' Mhòid," I and II.

For the convenience of those intending to be present at the National Mod at Fort William in October, Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, Local Secretary, 66 High Street, has compiled a list of Hotels and apartments, with terms. Several choirs have already booked rooms. Early application to Mr. MacLachlan is advisable. Of course, those who have their favourite hotel may write direct. In view of the additional competition for Rural Choirs and the large number of individual competitors attending the Mod now, accommodation will be fully taxed.

* * * *

While in the act of writing these notes, I received the information that the Town Council of Fort William, the local Lodge of Freemasons, and the Women's Rural Institute are giving their respective halls rent free for Mod purposes. Messrs. Marshall & Pearson will give their large garage free if found suitable for the Grand Concert. The Mod and Music Committee's representatives will have visited Fort William ere this number reaches our readers, and completed hall arrangements. The various bodies mentioned above, deserve the best thanks of An Comunn for their very generous and practical help.

* * * *

Several teachers are preparing for the Action Song Competition, and I hope a number of others will come forward, so as to make the competition as representative as possible. The Paisley Highlanders' Association have always been warm sympathisers of the Mod, and this competition should mark the beginning of a new (to us) form of entertainment. Copies of the specimen song may still be had from this office, and will be sent post free to all enquirers. Conductors requiring copies for their classes should state number required.

* * * *

It is considered the right thing for Chairmen at Highland gatherings in the cities to make a plea for the preservation of Gaelic, but few have done it with so much effect and conviction as the young gentleman who presided at the annual gathering of the Islay Association in the St. Andrew's Hall recently. Mr D. A. Campbell. "The language of the Gael, like the nation of the Gael, is as old as history, being the most closely related to that mother of all European languages, Sanskrit. And if it be true that the soul of a nation is in its language, it will be a sad day for the Highlander when, or if under stress of modern conditions, Gaelic ceases to be a spoken language." The vast audience were not slow to applaud this, and Gaels the world over will find in it inspiration and encouragement. NIALL.

DI-MOLADH PIOB DHOMHNUILL BHAIN.

Le IAIN MACCODRUM.

KEY G OR Ab. Noted by JOHN MACDONALD, Oban, as Sung by his Uncle, JOHN JOHNSTON, Coll.

{ : s₁ | s₁ : s₁ : s₁ | d : d : d | r : m : r | d : s₁ : f | m : r : m | s : — : — | }

A' chainnt a thuirt Iain Gu'n d'labhair e cearr i, Is fheadar dhuinn àich——

{ | — : — : — | — : m : f | m : r : d | r : — : — | — : — : — | — : — : — (s₁) }

———cadh 's a phàigheadh d'a chinn

{ | s₁ : s₁ : s₁ | d : d : d | r : m : r | d : s₁ : s₁ | s₁ : s₁ : s₁ | d : — : — | d | }

Dh'fhag e Mac Cruimein Clann Duilidh is Tearlach, Is Domhnullan Bàn a

Change of time.

{ | r : m : r | d : — : — | f.f : f | f.f : f | f.l : l | s : — : — | m : s₁ }

tharruing gu pris. Orm is beag mòran sgeig agus bleid chòmh——raidh, Thu

{ | s₁ : s₁ : s₁ | d : d : d | r : m : r | d : s₁ : f | m : r : m | s : — : — | }

labhairt na h-uiread 's nach b'urrainn thu chòmhdach, Ach pilleadh gu stòld——

{ | — : — : — | — : m : m | m : r : d | r : — : — | — : — : — | — : — : — s₁ }

———a, Far an do thòisich thu dian Thu

{ | s₁ : s₁ : s₁ | d : d : d | r : m : r | d : s₁ : s₁ | s₁ : d : m | s : — : — | }

labhairt na h-uiread nach b'urrainn thu chòmhdach, Ach pilleadh gu stòld——

{ | — : — : — | — : m : d | r : m : r | d : — : — | — : — : — | — : — : — || }

———a, Far an do thòisich thu dian.

An cual thu cia 'n t-urram an taobh-sa de Lunnain?

Air na plobairean uile b'e MacCruimein an rìgh;

Le pongannan àluinn a b'fhonn-mhoire fàilte,

Thàir'neadh an càileachd gu slàinte fear tinn.

Caismeachd bhinn 's i bras dian ni tais is fiamh fhògradh,

Gaisg agus cruadal, tha buaidh air an òinsich,

Muim' uasal nan Leòdach 'ga spreotadh le spid.

Mu'n cuirear fo h-inneal corra bhinneach na glaothaich,

'S inneadh air aodach na dh'fheumas i 'shnath;

Cha bheag a' chuis dèistinn a bhi 'g èisdeachd a gaoirich,

Dheanadh i agnàidh an taobh a bhiodh blàth.

Riasladh phort, sgrìachail dhos, fhir an droch shaothair,

Bheir i chend eubha 'n am séideadh a gaothair,

Mar ròmhàn bà eaoile 's i faotainn a' bhàis.

THE CONSTITUTION OF A NEW UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND.

The following letter appeared recently in *The Scotsman*, and is here reproduced as being of interest to such as may not have already seen it:—

Sir,—Perhaps you will permit one who acted for several years as Convener of the Education Committee of An Comunn Gaidhealach to supplement the interesting comments and suggestions in regard to the proposed Highland University which appeared in your issue of yesterday. It was suggested by all the contributors, and stressed by my friend, Dr. Donald Maclean, that there should be further conference and consultation on matters of general policy before the Iona Society proceeded to organise the new institution. It is to be presumed that organisation will be on lines which shall conform as far as possible with the provisions of the Universities (Scotland) Acts of 1859, 1889, and 1922. If so, organisation will begin by the appointment of two officers to take the required initiatory steps—a Pro-Chancellor and a Registrar. The first task of the Pro-Chancellor will be to constitute a General Council. Naturally, an invitation to register as members of the General Council would be given to (1) all university graduates who are members of An Comunn Gaidhealach, (2) all university graduates domiciled within the Highland area as defined in the scheme of the Highland Educational Trust, and (3) such university graduates in other parts of the country as might be invited by the Pro-Chancellor to register themselves as members of the General Council. It would fall to the General Council, when constituted, to appoint a representative Business Committee, which would not only prepare business for the meetings of the General Council, but also serve as an Advisory Committee by making representations to the Pro-Chancellor upon matters of policy. The Pro-Chancellor would then constitute a Court of Governors, consisting, to begin with, of eight members, viz.:—The Pro-Chancellor and an assessor, four members elected by the General Council, and the Provost and a member of Council of the Burgh in or near which the new institution would be located. The Court of Governors, when thus constituted, would proceed to frame Statutes and Ordinances regulating the foundation of as many Chairs as would be considered necessary to begin with. When appointments would be made to these Chairs, it would be possible to constitute the *Senatus Academicus*, and the Court of Governors would then be enlarged by the addition of four members elected by the *Senatus*.

In conclusion, let me point out that when the Universities Act of 1889 was passed for Scotland there were only four Universities in England and Wales. A fifth was soon thereafter added by the institution of the University of Wales. There are now fourteen in England and Wales, if the Colleges of Nottingham, Reading, and Southampton are included.

Mr. Macleod referred to the fact that so many Highlanders seek a career in other parts of the Empire. This is merely a phase of the movement of the population. There is an equally strong current of south country people into the Highlands. In Sutherland, for example, not one-twentieth part of those in the learned professions are natives of the county, and it is much the same in the other Highland counties.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. F. CAMPBELL
(Advocate, Aberdeen).

PAN-CELTIC CONGRESS IN BRITTANY.

Arrangements are proceeding for the Pan-Celtic Congress, which is to take place at Riec in Finistère on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of August, and details are now to hand which indicate that this Congress will differ from those which have preceded it in making a more popular appeal.

In the first number of *Le Consortium Breton*, which appeared in February, it is announced that at this Congress learned discussions will be eschewed, and attention will be concentrated on arousing the interest of the people. With this end in view there will be Breton sports and games and dances, exhibitions of national costumes, and competitions in the playing of the *biniou* or Breton bagpipe.

There will also be held, by the "College of the Bards of Brittany," an open-air *Gorsedd*, in which representatives of the Celts of the British Isles will take part, and it is hoped that these Island Celts will include many tourists as well as the official delegates. Then, on Sunday, the 14th, there will be an impressive religious ceremony, at which a many-voiced Celtic choir will render the music. In addition, there will be gay shows and busy markets, and finally a banquet at which large numbers will take part.

Finally, in commemoration of this unique congress, Monsieur Jean de Saisy, who is its moving spirit, will cause to be erected on a heath near Riec five menhirs or standing stones, each inscribed with the name of a famous Breton bard. Among these five names will be that of Théodore Botrel, whose recent and untimely death will cause many visitors to Riec to look back regretfully to his charming and inspired rendering of Breton songs at the Congress at Quimper in 1924.

Scotland's part in the interesting events of these three days will, we hope, not be less than those of the other Celtic nations whose delegates will be fellow-guests, even though hers is the longest distance from Brittany. Already some of the Scottish delegates have been appointed, and include representatives of the following societies:—An Comunn Gaidhealach, The Royal Celtic Society, The Highlanders' Institute (Glasgow), The West Highland Museum (Fort William), The Scottish Pipers' Society (Edinburgh), and others.

AUGUSTA LAMONT.

LATHA 'SA GHLEANN.

Le TORMOD MACPHAIL.

(An Dara Duais, Mod 1926.)

Air maduinn chiuin 's mi coiseachd suas
Troimh uachdar a' Ghlinn Mhòir,
Bha maise 's ciùinealachd mu'n cuairt
Gun ghruaman air na neòil;
A' ghrian ri dealradh oirn a nuas,
Gun uaill aice 'na glòir,
'S a gathan seimh cur driùchd an t-sléibh
Do speuran suas 'na cheò.

Fàile cùbhr' nan lusan ùr
Gu dlùth ri tighinn mu'm shròin,
Mar chungaidh leighis an osag chiùin,
I mùirneach leam r'a h-òl;
'G ath-nuadhachadh a' chuirp tha ciùrrt
Le spionnadh ùr 's gach pòr,
'S a leigheas dhomh nan creuchdan breun
Bha deanamh greim air m'fheòil.

Air feadh nan còs, nam fròg 's nam bruach,
Bha 'n t-sobhrach shuairc is ròs,
Neòineanan a' fàs ri 'n taobh
Fò dhuillich mhin-gheal òig;
Canach bàn am measg an fhraoich,
Fianach finealta 's gach òb,
Lilidhean fo'n uile bhlàth
Ri snàmh air bhàrr nan lòn.

Bha cruineachd, coire is eòrna
Gach taobh de'n ròd a' fàs,
An diasan trom làn toraidh
'S ag abachadh 'sa bhlàths;
An cinn a' crathadh anns a' ghaoith
Mar thuinn a' ruith gu tràigh,
An sud bha'n sealladh miorbhuilleach—
Gach seorsa biadh ri fàs.

An t-allt cho cam 's cho fiarach
Gu dian a' ruith gu tràigh,
Bu tric a bha mi 'g iasgach
Le slat is lion 'na bàigh';
Na bric 's gach iasg bu chiatnach
Gu riarachadh gach càil,
Chaidh òrduchadh mar dhleab dhuinn
Bho thùs le Rìgh nan Gràs.

Dh'fhan mi greis ag eisdeachd
Le spéis ri seinn gach eòin,
Iad ri leum 's ri ceilearadh
Am measg nan geugan òg;
Dh'aindeoin cèil a chuala mi
Gu fuadach chur air bròn,
Cha chuala mi na b'èibhniche
Na chòisir bhinn gun ghò.

An tighean stòir tha dealbhan
Nach ceannaichte leinn le òr,
'Gan gleidheadh suas le cùram
'S iad mùirneach anns gach dòigh;
'S tric 'a bhios mi 'g amharc orr'
Tha mi 'g aideachadh le pròis,
Ach chan 'eil annt' ach sgàilean
Seach àilleachd a' Ghlinn Mhòir.

Ge b'e ait 'san triall mi,
An cian a bhios mi beò,
Mò dhùrachd-sa gu'n tillinn
Do'n ghleann 'san robh mi òg;
'N uair bhios mo latha crìochnaichte
'S a dh'focas mi an deò,
Gu'n càirear mi le'm phàrantan
A dh'araich mi 'nan òig.

THE FORGING OF "THE SWORD OF LIGHT."

Away in the heart of a lonely glen,
That ne'er saw the light of day,
By a red forge stood three mighty men,
And they not of mortal clay.

Smiths, were they, to the Fairy Race;
Ne'er seen by the race of men.
Whose art lies buried deep,
Away in the heart of a glen.

There beat they on their anvil strong,
A blade of wondrous might.
With many a whispered magic spell,
Was forged "The Sword of Light."

CAMPBELL OF SADDLE, F.S.A. (Scot.), J.P.
The Captain of Saddell Castle.

NEW MEMBERS.

LIFE.

Mrs. E. M. MacNeill, Fasnacloich.

ORDINARY.

Father John MacMillan, Glencoe.
Miss Susan MacKenzie, Toberonochy.
Mrs. Rosamund MacLean, Bursledon.
Miss Martin, Stirling.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BERNISDALE.—The annual concert and dance in connection with the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held at Skeabost Farm on 11th February. Colonel K. L. Macdonald, D.S.O., Tote Lodge, occupied the chair, supported by Mrs. Macdonald, Tote Lodge, and the Misses Macdonald, Viewfield. Mr. Munro, secretary, said they all knew the great support Colonel Macdonald and his party rendered to the various gatherings held, and especially to An Comunn. Colonel Macdonald referred to the great work done by the Comunn Gaidhealach in its endeavour to preserve the Gaelic language. He also paid a tribute to Miss Macdonald of Viewfield. The following contributed to the programme:—Bagpipe selections, Pipers D. Munro and MacKenzie; piano and violin selections, Colonel Macdonald and Miss Macdonald, Viewfield; Gaelic songs, Miss Beaton and Miss MacKenzie, Mr. J. Munro, Mr. K. Beaton, Mr. J. Shaw, and Mr. Bain. A dance followed, Mr. A. MacKenzie acting as M.C.

COLONSAY.—The local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach recently held a concert in the spacious dining-room of the Hotel, which was most generously given by Mr. David Clark. The performers were Misses A. Brown, M. Shaw, C. MacGregor, M. and M. B. MacPhee, M. MacKinnon and Mrs. M. MacPhee, Messrs. M. MacIntyre, J. Campbell, D. Clark, and P. Cameron. Messrs. A. MacNeill and D. Munn played selections on the bagpipes, and the accompaniments were played by Mrs. M. MacPhee, Miss M. MacKinnon, and Miss M. Clark. The Rev. Angus MacFadyen, who presided, stated that the entertainment was on behalf of the funds for the work of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and he expressed the hope that every one would do their utmost to help the forthcoming Feill. He complimented the artistes on the very high standard of the programme, and Miss MacGregor, the secretary, on the success of the concert. On the call of Mr. M. MacPhee a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman. The concert concluded with the singing of "Oidhe mhaith leibh" by the company.

CONNEL.—A meeting of the local Branch of An Comunn was held in the Library on 15th February. Mr. MacNeill, Achaleven Schoolhouse, presided over a good attendance. An interesting lecture on "Highland Superstitions and Stories" was delivered by Rev. George MacKenzie, Kilmore.

GLENELG.—Under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Association and An Comunn Gaidhealach, a concert was held in the Public School. The entertainment was organised for the laudable object of contributing to the Pier Fund. Dr. Rutherford, honorary secretary of the Pier Committee, presided, and an excellent programme was submitted. A second performance was given of the Gaelic play, "Coir Samhna Air Leannan." The senior and junior pupils performed their parts with precision. Mr. Donald MacLean, who was heartily encored, related in his characteristic racy style a story of his native Isle of Skye. In response to an insistent encore, Mr. MacLean sang several Gaelic songs with fine effect. Songs were also successfully rendered by Misses Halliday, MacMillan, and MacRae, Messrs. A. Macdonald, J. Cameron, N. MacLure, and Mr. Munro, who received a special meed of applause. He also discoursed bagpipe music in fine style. Recitations were given by the junior pupils, and Mr. J. MacLean. Mr. Donald MacPherson (ex-Inspector,

City of Glasgow Police) gave stirring bagpipe selections. On the call of Mr. J. MacKenzie, Dr. Rutherford received a hearty vote of thanks for presiding. A dance followed.

KINLOCHIEL.—An enjoyable ceilidh in connection with the local Branch of An Comunn was held in Lochielside Hall, on 18th February. There was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. Hugh Stewart, Oakbank, took the chair. The proceedings opened with bagpipe selections by Mr. Hugh M'Varish and Mr. Malcolm Campbell. Gaelic readings were given by Mrs. Stewart, Drumfern, and songs by Miss MacNeill, Kinlochiel; Mrs. Young, Drumbeig, and Mr. Duncan M'Varish, Drumfern. Tea was served by Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. MacMillan. A dance followed, Mr. Murdoch MacLennan, Glendally, acting as M.C.

PORTREE.—An enjoyable ceilidh of the local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Reading Room, when Rev. Mr. Morrison presided. An interesting address was given by the President on the life and work of Duncan Ban MacIntyre, with appropriate selections from the writings of the great Gaelic poet. Renderings of his songs were given at intervals by Mr. J. Bain, a prize-winner at the Mod. Tea was served, after which a pleasant musical programme was carried out. The following took part:—Miss K. Bain (song), Mrs. MacIntyre and Mrs. A. Ferguson (duet), Mr. A. Nicolson (sgeulachan), Miss Kennedy (song), Mrs. MacArthur (melodeon), and Miss MacDonald (piano).

FORTINGALL.—A Gaelic concert, under the auspices of this Branch of An Comunn, in aid of the Great Feill, was held in the Recreation Hall, Mr. A. Campbell, J.P., of Boreland, presiding. The proceedings were opened with bagpipe selections by Mr. J. Fraser, followed by the audience joining in "Sùas leis a Ghaidhlig." The Chairman spoke of the language, literature, and songs of the Gael. He also referred to the sum being raised by their kinsmen in America for its support. The programme included Gaelic and Scottish pieces by the Gaelic Choir, Gaelic songs by Mr. J. MacLean, Miss C. G. MacMartin, Miss K. I. Fraser, Miss K. E. Fraser, and Mr. J. MacDougall, while other songs were contributed by Miss MacMartin, Mr. M. MacCallum, and Mrs. Stewart. Violin solos and step dancing were given by Miss N. MacDougall and Miss E. MacLean. The accompaniments were played by Miss MacDiarmid and Mrs. MacAulay. Votes of thanks were awarded to the artistes and to the Chairman.

TOBERMORY.—The final ceilidh of the session in connection with the local Branch of An Comunn was held in the School on 16th February, when Mr. D. N. Lowe, headmaster of the Higher Grade School, delivered an interesting address on the "Crests and Mottoes—Suaicheantas—of the Highland Clans." His lecture was listened to with keen attention by an appreciative audience. A splendid programme followed, which included bagpipe selections by Mr. Malcolm MacLean, songs by Misses Flora MacLean, Flora MacIntyre, Mary Cameron, Flora MacDonald, and Mrs. D. MacLeod, pianoforte selections by Miss Flora Calder, recitation by Dugald Carmichael, reading by Mr. John Cameron, Drumfin, who presided, and songs by Messrs. John Robertson and John Cameron, Erray.

EMBO AND BALYRAID.—An evening concert in aid of the funds of An Comunn was held in the Village Hall, Embo, on Thursday, 10th February. Dr. MacLachlan, Dornoch, presided over a large

audience drawn from all parts of the county. In his opening remarks the Chairman referred to the good work which was being carried on by the An Comunn throughout Scotland in their efforts to revive the interest in the Gaelic language. Knowing the people of Embo as he did, he could assure his audience that they would that evening be treated to splendid renderings of Gaelic songs, and that along with Lady Millicent Hawes (who was one of the finest judges of singing he had ever met), he held the opinion that the young people of Embo could hold their own with any part of the country in Gaelic singing. The concert was opened by the Embo and Balvraid Choir, who sang "Suis leis a Ghaidhlig." At the finish of the programme the Chairman congratulated the artistes, and on behalf of those present tendered his thanks to the Committee of the local Branch of An Comunn for the splendid evening's entertainment they had provided. Mr. H. Campbell, Dornoch, also endorsed the Chairman's remarks. Mr. Wm. Grant, Fourpenny, president of the Branch, called for a vote of thanks for Dr. MacLachlan for so ably presiding, which was heartily responded to by the audience.

FERINTOSH.—The fortnightly meeting of this Branch took place on Wednesday, when Mr. D. Urquhart presided over a good attendance. Mr. James Jack read a paper on "The Horse," in which he presented a mass of interesting information, which gained the praise of the members, while Mr. D. Urquhart, M.A., read a short humorous paper on "Hens." Gaelic songs were pleasingly sung by Misses W. Urquhart and E. Macleod, and Messrs. A. Macleod, Joe Urquhart, Don. Mackinnon, Alex. Nicolson, and John Maclean. Miss Mabel Hardie contributed Scots songs, and Mr. Alex. Duncan gave selections on the mandoline, while Mr. Duncan Macdonald delighted the audience with his humorous readings. The ceilidh was one of the most successful of the session, and the performers were cordially thanked for the entertainment and instruction their contributions provided. The next meeting takes place on Thursday, 24th March.

LEWIS.—Under the auspices of this Branch, a most enjoyable Gaelic song night was held in the Nicolson Institute, Francis Street, on Wednesday, 2nd March. Mr. Duncan Macdonald, Sandwick, presided over an audience which packed both upstairs rooms to overflowing. The topic for the evening was Hebridean songs, and the fact that Mr. James Thomson, M.A., Bayble, was to deal with the subject was in itself an assurance of something beyond the ordinary. This was remarked upon by the Chairman in opening the proceedings, and it can be said that Mr. Thomson, on a subject so near his heart, excelled himself. At times we knew not which to admire the more, his complete mastery and knowledge of Gaelic song or the beauty and resonance of his English prose. In the short time at his disposal he covered a great area of the vast field of Gaelic song—from the older heroic and paeneyric forms to the lyrics of what we may call our own time—dealing with love and nature, every-day joys and sorrows, and tracing the development and graduation from the one form to the other. After the minds of the audience had thus, as it were, been attuned to harmony, a musical programme of Hebridean songs were presented, Mr. Thomson, in a brief preface to each, giving some information regarding the author and the characteristics illustrated by the various numbers. Of

particular interest was one item, "An Dilcaib," composed by Mr. Thomson himself for the Feill booklet, and sung with great feeling by Miss Annie Macleod, Knuck. The song, as Mr. Thomson said, was an attempt in verse to express our debt for the glorious legacy of song and story bequeathed by our ancestors, and we prophesy for it a wide vogue. A long programme of Gaelic song followed, and was greatly enjoyed. At the conclusion Mr. Macdonald moved votes of thanks to Mr. Thomson, who, he said, was at his very best, and what more could be desired; to Miss Macleod, musical convenor, and the various artistes, especially the Gaelic Choir and Mrs. Campbell, who accompanied. He also appealed to the audience to support, in as far as they could, the Feill for the Gaelic cause to be held in Glasgow in June. Mr. Thomson briefly replied, and the proceedings closed in time-honoured fashion with the singing of "Oidhe Mhath Leilb."

VALE OF LEVEN.—Ample appreciation of the flourishing condition of this Branch was shown on Friday, 25th February, when it met in the Upper Lesser Co-operative Hall, Alexandria. Mr. Archd. MacGregor presided over an attendance of fully 150 members and friends who are supporters of the Gaelic movement, its music, and its literature. Mr. MacGregor opened the proceedings in Gaelic, and intimated that the exchange of dates between Mr. MacBride and Mr. Neil Shaw had been necessary owing to the latter being so much occupied with official propaganda work for the Great Feill, which is being held in Glasgow at the beginning of June. The Chairman then introduced Mr. A. S. MacBride, the lecturer for the evening. Mr. MacBride is a native of the Vale, and a son of the late Mr. A. S. MacBride, who was president of the old Vale of Leven Highland Association. The lecturer's subject, illustrated by lantern slides, was "Far Lochaber and the Island of Skye in Story, Song, and Literature." He gave an interesting account of a walking tour in which he took part some years ago, starting from Loch Lomond, through the far famed West Highlands to Lochaber, and thence "over the sea to Skye." Many places of more than passing interest were shown on the screen, particularly the districts of Glenfinnan and Arisaig, so full of the romance of the '45. Gaelic and Scottish songs were splendidly rendered by Miss Morag Bannerman and Mr. James C. MacPhee, both of Glasgow, while Mr. Archd. Downie, Jamestown, recited some well-chosen lines from Duncan Ban MacLutyr (Moladh Beinn Dorain). Mr. Donald Murray, vice-president, at the close of the lecture, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. MacBride, paid a high compliment to him for his very instructive and stirring address. At an interval tea was served by the Committee, and Piper Roderick Campbell, Alexandria, gave an excellent selection of pipe music. The President reminded the audience of the Great Feill, and intimated the suggestion from the Committee to confirm the appointment of two representatives from our Branch to confer with representatives from other Highland Societies in the county. Mrs. Walter MacFarlane, The Anchorage, Balloch, and Mrs. Donald M. Aitken, Dalvaig Road, Balloch, were unanimously appointed. Near the close of the meeting an excellent rendering of a Mod prize Gaelic duet was given by Miss Bannerman and Mr. MacPhee. Mr. Donald Aitken, vice-president, moved a vote of thanks to the entertainers, and Mr. Murray to the Chairman. "Oidhe Mhath Leilb," sung by the audience, brought the evening to a close.



EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., *The Manse Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed, business and other communications to 114 W. Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

TELEPHONE—*Douglas 1097.*

Leabhar XXII.]

An Cèitean, 1927.

[Earrann 8

AN FHEILL.

Cìod é am feum a rinn an Comunn o chionn fichead bliadhna? Tha an sin ceist a tha furasda gu leòr fhuasgladh do neach sam bith aig a bheil beachd air staid na cànan roimhe sin, an taice ris mar a tha nìthean an diugh. O chionn fichead bliadhna air ais cha mhòr nach robh coigrich tur aineolach air luach a chùil a thàinig a nuas troimh na ginealaich o ar sinnsir. Ach le dùrachd agus dìcheall A' Chomuinn chaidh an chùis a chumail gu cunbhallach fa chomhair nan càirdean sin aig nach eil Gàidhlig, agus thugadh mar an ceudna dearbhadh air maise a' chùil do mhòran eile aig nach robh càirdeas ruinn no eòlas oirnn. Mar thoradh air sin fhuair an ceòl aire nach d'fhuair e rianh roimhe; agus leis an mheadhon sin tha coltas nach bàsaich an chuid so de'n dlèibh co dhiù. Is mòr an nì eadhon gum biodh na fuinn air an togail agus air an cumail beò; agus air a mhodh sin gum biodh buadhan cùil a' Ghàidhil a' tabhairt ùrachaidh do cheòl na rìoghachd. Agus a ris a thaobh na cànan is aithnichte an caochladh a thug An Comunn air beachd nan Gàidheal fhéin anns an nì. Chan eil cho fada o'n bha e mar chleachdadh aig an òigridh an uair a dh'fhagadh iad na glinn agus a rachadh iad do'n bhaile mhòr, a bhi a' leigeil orra nach robh smid Gàidhlig 'n an ceann. Ach a nis le saothair A' Chomuinn tha am beachd truagh sin air a chur air chùl. An diugh is ann a tha uail air a h-uile neach gu bheil eòlas aca air a' chainnt, agus doimheadas air mòran eile nach eil i idir aca. Faodaidh cuid a bhi saoisinn gu robh sin furasda—atharrachadh co domhain ri so a dheanamh;

agus is ann an uair a dh'fheuchas sinn ri beachd an t-sluaigh a thionndadh, a gheibh sinn a mach cìod e cho duilich 's a tha e. Agus a ris cìod e an stùl a rinn an Comunn as leth foghlum na Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Tha sin mar an ceudna aithnichte air chor is nach ruiger a leas leudachadh air. Ach tha sinn aig an am ag ùrachadh cuimhne an leughadair mu ghnòthuichean is còir a chuimhneachadh an uair a tha an Fhéill mhòr a' tarruing dlùth.

Mur bhiodh gun d'fhuair An Comunn cuideachadh cho mòr o chionn fichead bliadhna o'n Fhéill a bha ann an uair sin, cha bhiodh e comasach air an obair a dh'ainmich sin a dheanamh. Thug an Cogadh tilleadh is bacadh anabarrach air an obair sin. Agus chan ann a mhàin air an obair ach air tighinn a stigh an ionmhais. Fad choig bliadhna ri am a' chogaidh bha aire muinntir air nìthean eile air an robh beatha is buaidh is saorsa an crochadh; agus cha robh e comasach dhaibh a bheag a dheanamh an uair sin as leth an aobhair. Ach is iongantach mar tha Freasdal ag oibreachadh. Tha cuimhne againn a bhi an làthair aig corr is fichead seirbheis Gàidhlig anns an Fhraing an am a' Chogaidh. Agus faodaidh nach biodh sinne no an luchd aoraidh eile aig urad is dà sheirbheis Gàidhlig anns an ùine cheudna aig an tigh ri uair sìthe. Cha b'urrainn An Comunn Gàidhealach tòiseachadh le leithid de spionnadh an 1919, mur bhiodh gu robh nìthean domhain ag oibreachadh air taobh a' chànan fad nan coig bliadhna roimhe sin. Ach is e thug lagachadh do 'n Chomunn air dhòigh eile—cìon an ionmhais. Agus is ann air airgid a tha soirbheachadh an

crochadh anns an ghnòthuch so—oir feumar iomadh nì a chumail a' dol a dh'fheumas coisgais. Cha ghabh an obair so deanamh a nis ach leis an sgioba a tha a' tabhairt an làn ùine agus an làn neart do 'n chùis mar a tha iad gu foghainteach agus gu dùrachdach a' deanamh. O am gu am feadh na bliadhna so chaidh, thug sinn an cuimhne an leughadair cìod iad na dleasdanasan a tha An Comunn a' cur roinne fèin, agus cìod iad na feumalachdan mòra a tha ri àireamh airson gum biodh an t-aobhar a' soirbheachadh.

Bha e riamh air a chantuinn mu 'n Ghàidheal nach robh e gu maith airson a bhriathran a dhearbhadh le gnìomh. Ach cho robh sin fìor idir a thaobh nì sam bith anns am biodh a dhealas air a dhùsgadh. Rachadh e "tre thigh teine" ri uchd batail; cha tugadh fairege no cunnart gaiseadh air a ghruaidh. Tha sud a' nochdadh nach eil cion misnich no dlleachd air an uair a thig cùis chruaidh ri 'aghaidh. Is i an chùis chruaidh a tha ri 'aghaidh an diugh, gu bheil a chàinain an cunnart dol bàs, mur faigh i cabhair an ùine gun bhi fada. Is e An Comunn an aon chuspair a tha nis an uidheam is an òrdugh airson a' chabhair sin a thabhairt seachd. Mur faigh An Comunn suim mhòr airgid aig an Fhéill so a' tighinn, cha bhi a comasach air an chabhair a fhrithealadh. Is e so an t-am do gach Gàidheal gus a dhùrachd a dhearbhadh, gè b'e cho beag is gam bith a thabhartas. Chan eil e coltach gum bi cothrom eile ri fhaotainn cho fad is a tha an ginealach so beò. Gabh an cothrom mata cho fad is a tha sin ann ad chomas; agus dearbh air an turas so co dhù, nach eil sin idir fìor, nach bi an Gàidheal deas an uair a dh'èireas cunnart, gus a bhriathran a dhearbhadh le gnìomh.

THE GREAT FEILL.

An outline of the Feill programme is given below. Details of all arrangements will be found in the official souvenir programme, and in the day-by-day leaflet, which will be printed each day of the Feill. This will also contain all information as to the various functions and entertainments being held.

Monday, 30th May—Solo competition for both ladies and gentlemen, in the Berkeley Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 31st May—Grand Gaelic concert, in the Berkeley Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1st June, to Saturday, 4th June, both inclusive—Feill. Stalls in the Grand and Kent Halls. Refreshments in the Pillar Hall and entertainments in the Berkeley and Lower Halls. The Feill will be open from 12 noon to 10 p.m. each day, and there will be community singing of Gaelic songs at the close of every evening in the Berkeley Hall.

Sunday, 5th June—It is hoped to arrange a Gaelic service in the Cathedral.

Mrs. Colquhoun and the Entertainments Committee have arranged an excellent and varied programme for the four days of the Feill. Among those who are giving their services are the Scottish National Players, in "The Glen is Mine"; the Edinburgh Players, in "Deirdre" and "The Sin Eater"; the Scottish Country Dance Society, the Reel and Strathspey Society, the Band of the 1st Royal Scots (by kind permission of Col. N. K. Charters, C.M.G., D.S.O.), the Tramwaymen's Band, the Glasgow Police Pipe Band, and a number of well-known artistes.

Will all those who have collecting cards please return them to the office now. As will be seen below, the response to the appeal of our members has been most satisfactory, and we should now like to complete the returns and know just how much this individual effort has brought to our funds.

Additional sellers are required for one or two of the stalls, notably the Overseas, and any who are willing to help with this, the Refreshment Stall—where 30 waitresses are required on duty at a time, and other helpers for washing up—or anywhere where their services are required, are requested to write at once to Miss C. M. Gordon, 114 West Campbell Street, Glasgow, saying what hours and days they can give.

During the Feill a great centre of attraction will be the Kent Hall, which is being given up to the Highland Art and Industry Section. There will be found a Highland cottage, housing a spinning-wheel and spinner, a loom and weaver, and other working models of Highland industries. All along one side of the hall will be ranged the selling stall, laden with tweeds, baskets, yarn, leather goods, hose, jumpers, walking sticks, and other articles made in remote hamlets in the Highlands and islands. There will also be a section devoted to articles of food specially characteristic of the Highlands, e.g., carrageen. Beyond,

in the ante-room, will be found an exhibition of Celtic Art, arranged by Mr. Hugh Munro.

The Glasgow Highland Societies' Stall is being divided into four sections—Inner Isles, Northern, Central, and the Isle of Skye; London and Stirlingshire each into three. Donors who wish their goods placed upon any special stall are asked to address them to the convener of the one they prefer (see list below), c/o Lachlan Mackinnon, Esq., 46 Bath Street, Glasgow, and to put their own name and address on the parcel. Those who are willing that their gifts shall replenish the stall first showing signs of depletion should send them to Miss C. M. Gordon, at the same address, Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon having very kindly agreed to store all Feill goods. As the Feill lasts four days, vast quantities of goods, to suit all purses, will be required. No one need fear that gifts may be wasted, as it is not proposed to sell off surplus goods at a reduced rate towards the close, but to dispose of these at supplementary sales in different parts of the country, thus giving an opportunity to purchase to many who are unable to attend the Feill. Apropos of money-making efforts which will take place subsequent to the Feill itself, will those who can organise flag days, particularly in holiday resorts, themselves request the necessary permission from the local authorities, and then notify the Glasgow office how many sellers they think they can provide. The requisite boxes and flags will then be despatched free of charge.

STALLHOLDERS.

GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETIES—Convener, Mrs. Christison.	
EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN—Convener, Lady Seton of Abercorn.	
HIGHLAND SOCIETIES IN LONDON—Convener, Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds).	
RENFREWSHIRE—Convener, The Lady Alice Shaw Stewart.	
OVERSEAS—Conveners, Miss Shirley Moor and W. E. C. Reid, Esq.	
HIGHLAND ART AND INDUSTRY—Convener, Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost.	
CEYLON—Conveners, The Rev. C. Victor and Mrs. MacEachern.	
ARGYLLSHIRE—Convener, Mrs. Macnaughton of Ardachearanbeg.	
PERTHSHIRE—Convener, The Lady Helen Tod.	
ISLAND—Convener, The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald.	
STIRLINGSHIRE—Convener, Mrs. Fanshawe, Dalveagh, Aberfoyle.	
GLASGOW AND OVER THE BORDER—Convener, Lady Macdonald of the Isles.	
INVERNESSHIRE—Convener, The Hon. Mrs. Smythe.	
REFRESHMENTS—Convener, Mrs. Hourston, J.P., O.B.E.	

Exigencies of space this month make it impossible to deal adequately with the various money-making efforts throughout the country during the last month, and to forthcoming events. These will speak for themselves in the returns made by the convener of each stall and the list of amounts received by the Feill treasurer.

DONATIONS TO DATE.

Already acknowledged	£1005	4	5
Eastbourne & District Scottish Association		5	0
Miss G. M. Macneill		5	0
Miss Celia Macdonald		2	2
Per The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald, proceeds from Snizort		1	16
Miss Mary C. MacCullum		0	5
Mr Alex. MacAlister, Collecting Card		1	8
Miss C. MacRae		0	5
Miss Flora Hunter, Collecting Card		0	10
Mr Kenneth Cameron		0	10
Miss Mary Campbell, Collecting Card		0	15
Mr W. L. MacGillivray, Collecting Card		1	6
Mrs Neil Campbell, Collecting Card		2	4
Miss Isabella Bell, Collecting Card		0	7
Mr Wm. MacKerrell, Collecting Card		1	4
Miss A. Macdonald, Collecting Card		0	15
Mr John Macdonald, Collecting Card		0	13
Dr. Crichton, Collecting Card		1	1
Miss Catharine Grant, Collecting Card		0	8
Mrs Smith, Collecting Card		0	5
Mrs Gow, Collecting Card		0	6
Miss Macmillan, Collecting Card		1	0
Miss MacArthur, Collecting Card		1	0
Mr Hugh MacLean, Collecting Card		0	18
Miss Morag MacEachern, Collecting Card		1	12
Mrs Medlicott, Collecting Card		1	12
Mr Alistair Macdonald, Collecting Card		1	12
Mr Donald Macdonald, Collecting Card		4	10
Miss Flora MacEachern, Collecting Card		0	12
Mrs Kelly (Bridge Party)		14	0
1st Batt. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders		5	0
Miss Annie Fletcher, Collecting Card		0	18
Mr H. F. Campbell, Collecting Card		1	14
Mr James C. N. Campbell, Collecting Card		0	6
Miss Orphoot, Collecting Card		1	2
Mr Arch. Munn, Collecting Card		1	0
Miss Macfarlane, Collecting Card		1	6
Kildalton and Oa Branch (per Miss MacEachern)		25	0
Mr John Matheson, Collecting Card		1	5
Mr Alex. Logan, Collecting Card		0	5
Miss J. MacVean, Collecting Card		3	19
Mr John Macdonald, Collecting Card		0	14
Mrs Neil Macleod, Collecting Card		0	5
Mrs Jennie Given		1	0
Miss Cameron of Inverallort		0	10
Mrs Craig		1	0
Miss Anna MacLay, Collecting Card		1	10
Mr John Bell, Collecting Card		0	10
Miss Rena MacCulloch, Collecting Card		1	10
Mr Paul MacRae, Collecting Card		1	1
Miss J. G. Campbell, Collecting Card		0	7
Mr Donald Mackay, Collecting Card		1	0
Miss Annie Macmillan, Collecting Card		0	5
Mr Donald MacLachlan, Collecting Card		0	10
Mrs J. ne E. Whyte		1	0
Miss Flossie MacIntyre, Collecting Card		0	13
Lochgilphead Gaelic Singing Class		12	0

Dunoon Branch (Concert)	12 15 9	Rothsay Branch	28 10 6
Miss Jessie Mackinnon	1 0 0	Mrs MacCord—	
Mr D. M. Munro, Collecting Card ...	0 10 0	Collecting Card	0 9 3
Rev. Arch. Ross	2 2 0	Donation	5 0 0
Miss Muriel Macdonald, Collecting Card	3 3 6	Mr Arch. Cameron, Collecting Card ...	0 2 0
Miss Catharine Maclean, Collecting Card	1 2 0	Rev. G. W. Mackay, Collecting Card ...	1 0 0
Mr Hugh MacCowan, Collecting Card	1 5 0	Miss Una Mackay, Collecting Card ...	0 5 0
Mr A. MacFadyen, Collecting Card ...	0 15 0	Mr John Shaw, Collecting Card ...	0 6 0
Mr John Hosack, Collecting Card ...	0 12 6	Mr Arch. Campbell, Collecting Card ...	0 4 0
Miss F. Mackenzie, Collecting Card ...	0 5 0	Miss Mary Paterson, Collecting Card ...	0 12 6
Miss Iseabal MacGill, Collecting Card	3 9 6	Miss Jane Howden	0 5 0
Mr J. Lawrie, Collecting Card ...	0 10 0	Mrs Macdonald, Collecting Card ...	0 8 0
Mr John Macintosh, Collecting Card ...	0 5 0	Mrs Wallace	0 10 0
Mr John Currie, Collecting Card ...	0 5 0	Per Mrs Macnaughton—	
Sir Reginald Macleod, K.C.B. ...	10 0 0	MacLachlan of MacLachlan	5 0 0
Sir Charles Dobell	2 0 0	Miss Sheila Wallace	0 10 0
Mr Cameron, Talisker	2 2 0	Mrs MacEachen, Arisaig	12 4 0
Mrs Thom of Canna (per)	4 18 0		£1422 3 0
Mr Malcolm Macphail (concert at Dal-			
malay)	7 17 6		
2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	5 0 0		
Mrs C. Skinner, Collecting Card ...	0 12 0		
Mrs Jane Fisher, Collecting Card ...	1 0 0		
Mis M. H. Bird	0 10 0		
Ulva Branch	2 0 0		
Mr Murdo Murchison, Collecting Card	0 4 6		
Mrs Bullough of Fasnacloch	20 0 0		
Strontian & Laudale, per Mrs Fletcher	12 10 0		
Mr Ranald Macdonald, C.M.G. ...	1 1 0		
Miss C. Cameron	0 3 6		
Ferintosh Branch	9 6 0		
Mr Alex. Macleod, Collecting Card ...	1 0 0		
Mr David Urquhart	1 1 0		
Mrs David Urquhart	1 1 3		
Mr A. J. MacNeill	0 10 0		
Per Hon. Mrs Godfrey Macdonald ...	35 19 6		
Lanarkshire Highlanders, Hamilton			
Branch	17 0 0		
Mr J. G. M'Kay	5 0 0		
Mr Hugh Mackenzie	0 7 6		
Mrs Paris, c.c., 14s; donation, £1 ...	1 14 0		
Mrs David Matheson	0 5 0		
Mrs Blane, Bridge Tournament, Nairn ...	10 0 0		
Anonymous—Fife	0 5 0		
Concert at Breakish, per Mr Mac-			
pherson	10 0 0		
Miss Ann Johnston	1 5 0		
Miss Annie Macmillan	0 14 0		
Mr Alex. Sinclair—			
Collecting Card	1 1 6		
Donation	5 0 0		
Miss Marion Mackay, Collecting Card	0 10 0		
Dr. Farquhar MacRae, Collecting Card	0 10 0		
The Hon. Mrs Maclean, Proceeds Bring			
and Buy Sale	21 18 9		
Tobermory Branch, per Mr MacGill ...	15 0 0		
Mrs David Boyle, Collecting Card ...	0 17 0		
Per Mrs Macnaughton—			
Mrs Lamont Campbell	5 5 0		
Mrs Geddes of Ardtarig	5 0 0		

AN TE SIN AIR A BHEIL MI'N GEALL.

KEY C

{	r	r	r	d	t	l	s	}
	'N	te	sin	air	a	bheil	mi'n	geall,
{	d	t	l	r	m	r	d	}
	Gruaidh	mar	chaorann	dearg	air	chrann;		
{	r	r	f	f	s	l	r	}
	Cruinneag	bhòidheach	a'	chùil	duinn,			
{	d	s	l	d	m	m	r	
	'S	gil'	thu	na	sneachda	nam	beann.	

Di-luain a ghluais sinn as an tìr
 Leis a' cheilp 's bu mhór a phris;
 Ach mur leig sibh dhachaidh mi,
 Bidh an tuath gun nì no geall.

'N uair thog mi rithe na siùil bhàn,
 'S a ghlaic mi'n ailm ann am làmh,
 Thòisich i ri deanamh bàir,
 'S i toirt làn as bhos is thall.

'N uair thainig m' uair aig an stiùir
 Gu dearbh cha robh an fhaire ciùin;
 'S 'n uair a thug mi riut mo chùil,
 Shil mo shùilean mar an t-all.

Na biodh cùram ort, a ghaoil,
 Ged a sheòlann roimh na caoil;
 Bidh an sgiobair air mo thaobh—
 'S e Mac 'Ille Mhaol a th'ann.

Na biodh cùram ort mu d' lòn,
Ged a sheòlainn air luing mhòir,
Theid i Ghrianaig fo cuid sheòl,
'S theid am bròn a null 'sa nall.

Ach na'm bithinn-sa 'nam shaor
Dheanainn bàta shnàmhadh caoil,
'Dhol a shealltuinn air mo ghaol
Ged robh mhuir 'na caoir 'san àm.

Meòir as grinne 'thàirngeas sgrìob,
Leis a' pheann 'ga chuir a sìos;
Do litrichean gu'm faighinn fhìn
Anns na h-Innsean fada thall.

Feasgar foghar air Cnoc-àrd
Air a' bhuain cha robh thu ceàrr;
'N uair ghlaacte corran leat ad làmh
Dh'fhaodadh càch bhì deanamh bhann.

LOCHABER JUVENILE MOD.

The Lochaber Children's Mod was the largest and most successful yet held, and was fortunate in being favoured with an ideal day. Parents in large numbers, teachers and others interested, crowded the Hall, morning and afternoon, late-comers failing to gain entrance. Great keenness was shown by the various schools in the struggle for the beautiful trophies for Boy and Girl, so generously provided by Captain Iain M. Moffatt Pender.

The presence of the Director of Education for the County, who presided, and who acted as one of the judges, put the children on their mettle and helped to bring out the excellent results achieved. Before distributing the prizes, the Chairman, addressing the gathering in Gaelic and again in English, spoke of the spiritual nature of the Celtic movement and the incalculable loss to the intellectual and spiritual life of the Gael should the progress made fail or falter by our neglect. He commented on the work of An Comunn Abrach and their secretary, Mr Hugh M. Campbell, but their efforts would be unavailing if not abetted by the hearty co-operation of the teachers present, and he would include some who, for various reasons,

were unable to present pupils—Roybridge closed, and Blarmacfaoldach (Miss MacLean) and the teachers of Tom a' Charraidh and Achnacarry. All present, he knew, would unite with him in an expression of their warmest gratitude to the giver of those beautiful silver cups, Captain Iain M. Moffatt Pender. He had indeed done them a great honour, and children, parents, and teachers would send him their sincere thanks for the encouragement he had given them by his kindly deed.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and the singing of "Fàilt do'n Rìgh," closed the Children's Mod of 1927.

PRIZE-LIST.

Reading 5th Chapter of St. Luke's Gospel—1, Annie Cameron, Kinlochiel; 2, Agnes Macdonald, Tulloch.

Reading at Sight from any Gospel, Judges' Choice—1, Kate A. Macdonald, Tulloch; 2, Isa Macleannan, Tulloch.

Spelling from Same—1, Isa Macleannan, Tulloch; 2, Kate Anne Macdonald, Tulloch.

Advanced Reading of Text enclosed—1, Margaret Macdonald, Glenfinnan; 2, Annie Macdonald, Glenfinnan.

Advanced Recitation, Text enclosed—1, Margaret Macdonald, Glenfinnan; 2 (equal), Annie Macdonald, Glenfinnan, and Isa Macleannan, Tulloch.

Elementary Reading, No. 6 in "An Uisgeag"—1, Allan Campbell, Kinlochiel; 2, Agnes Macdonald, Tulloch.

Elementary Recitation, No. 8 in "An Uisgeag"—1, Archie Cumming, Kinlochiel; 2, Morag Macleannan, Tulloch.

Singing, Girls A. Elementary, Pupils' Choice from "An Uisgeag"—1, Louisa Murray, Glenfinnan; 2, Annie Macdonald, Glenfinnan.

Singing, Girls B. Advanced, Words Recited before Sung—1, Margaret Macdonald, Glenfinnan; 2, Pearl Campbell, H.G., Fort William.

Singing, Boys A. Elementary, Pupils' Choice from "An Uisgeag"—1, Allan Macdonald, Glenfinnan; 2, Allan Campbell, Kinlochiel.

Singing, Boys B. Advanced, Words Recited before Sung—1, James Neil, St. Bride's School; 2, John Macdougall, St. Mary's, Fort William.

Singing in Unison, No. 15 in "An Uisgeag"—1, Spean Bridge School; 2, St. Mary's, Fort William.

Choral Singing in Harmony, No. 15 in "An Uisgeag"—1, Spean Bridge School; 2, St. Bride's, Onich.

Gaelic Letter—Margaret Macdonald, Glenfinnan School.

Place Names, collected by Pupils within 2 miles of their respective Schools, sent in by Teacher—Kate Anne Macdonald, Tulloch School.

Special Competition for Advanced Pupils of Fort William H.G. School:

Reading Special Tests—1, Mary A. Currie; 2, Kate MacEachan.

Reciting—1, Mary Anne Currie; 2, Kate MacEachan.

Prize for Youngest Competitor (age 8)—James Murray, Glenfinnan.

EARLY GAELIC SPEECH AND PRACTICE.

I.—The Influence of the Church.

Not very many persons, even of Gaelic speech and descent, have studied the racial conditions of the Gaels in Britain and Ireland prior, say, to the coming of Christianity. Even in Ireland, whence the Gaelic speech and practice of life came to Scotland, the celebrated golden era was post-Christian. It was the time when the Green Isle was covered to a considerable extent with monastic schools, and scholarly leaders had their bands of eager disciples, who spread the name and fame of Irish scholarships as far as Rome, and through many parts of the Continent of Europe. When one of those illustrious leaders, St. Columba, came to what—by the immigration of the Irish Scoti—came to be called Scotland, in the sixth century, he came to a region the barbarity of which can be judged from various points of view, and the civilisation of which began, in a real sense, from that and kindred events of that time.

It is quite amazing to find, from an examination of the Gaelic speech, what the Gaelic people of Ireland and Scotland owe to the contact of the Church. Through ecclesiastical connection, as will appear presently, the racial practice and speech in both countries were brought from a primitive state of barbarism into a richness of vocabulary, and into all refinements of civilisation that they have ever known. We hardly needed Adamnan's "Life" of Columba to tell us that the coronation of King Aedhan of Dalriada by Columba in Iona was "the earliest recorded instance of a Royal coronation in Great Britain." The fact is, the Gaelic speech had no expression till then to signify a coronation—although Ireland had plenty of so-called kings—for the Gaelic "crunadh," crowning, is the Latin "corona," brought by the priests to a land and a people that would have to be taught the significance as well as the name of the act.

MISSIONARY GIFTS.

But it is only by a survey of what was actually brought to the Gaels by those earliest missionaries to Ireland that some adequate idea can be obtained of the primitive attainments of the Gaelic people in Ireland and Scotland before that time. The misleading Ossianic literature—even genuine Ossianic fragments—must be taken

as a throw-back from later civilised times, and of practically no authentic importance as bearing on pre-Christian conditions. Of far greater significance are the multitude of archæological remains—the hill forts, standing stones, grave-mounds, stone cists, and the rest—and these bear out exactly the story that the Gaelic speech itself has to tell when it is given an opportunity of making itself heard.

Now, it would be expected, of course, that the theological vocabulary in general of the Gaelic language came through this ecclesiastical medium. Such is the fact. The creation, "cruthachadh"; the world, "saoghal" (L. *sæculum*); God, "Dia"; Church, "eaglais" (L. through Greek *ecclesia*)—hence Gleneagles, Glen of the Church—namely, St. Mungo's Chapel; the devil, "diabolh" (G. and L. *diabolus*); hell, "ifrinn" (L. *infernum*), and so on, all came to the ancient Gaels in this way, and with them a multitude of classical expressions that re-made the Gaelic speech.

By this means, indeed, the Gaelic people were provided with their Christian names, and ultimately, as the practice arose, of their surnames. It would be expected that, at the beginning, there would be a struggle between the people and the priests over the displacing of such a delightful feminine name as *Suilgorm* (Blue Eyes), or *Finella* (White Shoulders), and other pagan descriptive names, in favour of *Morag* (Sarah), or *Catrina* (Katherine), and such-like Christian names when the Church began to make headway. But even custom was overcome, for the Church had all the advantage of both life and death in its hands, and could dictate its own terms.

It is remarkable that pagan Ireland had no story of the flood before the story reached it with the early missionaries. We know, from Sir James G. Frazer, that the story of the flood was widespread among primitive tribes and peoples, and this shows how insulated the Gaels of Ireland were. The story came to them only with the Book of Genesis, where it appeared as "dile" (L. *diluvium*), a deluge, the traditional catastrophe of the primitive world.

THE SOUL'S SURVIVAL.

Of the more subtle conceptions of pure thought, the idea of the soul would be about the highest. Primitive Gaels had some notion of at least a period of survival after death, as witness the food offerings placed in pre-historic graves. But the idea as afterwards developed was unknown till Christian

times, hence the Gaelic “anam,” the soul (L. anima), speaks for itself. This is one of the cases that guide us in determining approximately even the date—or rather the period—of place-names. The curious name of the place called Killananima, in Leitrim, was clearly applied in post-Christian times, for the ancient form, Coill-an-anma, signifies obviously the Wood of the Soul, and was doubtless, as Joyce suggests, a bequest for the soul's health of the donor, or a near relative.

Church periods, of course, got their designations in the same way. The Gaelic expression “Càisg,” for Easter, is the Latin “pascha” (with the not uncommon initial change of “p” to “c”), and this, too, we find in place-names in Ireland from early Christian times, as in Knocknacaska, in Kerry, meaning the knock, or hill, of Easter. The change from “p” to “c” may be seen in another ecclesiastical expression. The Latin “pulpitum” (English pulpit), a stage or platform for speakers, becomes in Irish and Scots Gaelic “cubaid,” with pronunciation (bar initial consonant), very near the Lowland Scots colloquial form, “poopit.”

It takes us a little further into conditions in pre-Christian times to observe that, so far as known, while the ancient Gaels distinguished the seasons, they had no reckoning of exact periods of time. Accordingly, as light and certitude came to them they express an hour by “uair,” the Latin “hora.” For morning they take the Latin “matutinas” (matin), and make “meduinn,” and for evening they say “feasgar,” the Latin “vesper” (interchange of “p” and “g”). For the names of the days of the week they not only went to this ecclesiastical source, but in the case of Sunday, “Dì-domhnaich,” they adapt “Dies-Domini,” the Lord's Day, and in the case of Thursday, which they call “Dìor-daoin,” they actually signify the day “Between two Fast,”—the fast of Wednesday and the fast of Friday. The thing signified has long since passed away, but the name remains, for “Dìor-daoin” is Thursday to all Gaels, of all denominations or none.—*G. M. Fraser.*

AN OLD SKYE SONG.

Cha'n eil fhios agam cò ughdair an òrain
a leanas. Chuala mi è gu math tric 'nam
òige ann an Eilean a' Chèd.

J. M. 'G.

'N am eirigh anns an mhaduinn domh,
'S mi 'dol a mach gu m' sheirbheis
Gun thachair òigear taitneach rium
Is è carthanach na sheanachas—
Gu'n thaitinn 'fhearas chuidheachd rium
'S ann cuide ris a dh'fhalbh mi,
Gun tug e thar an rothaid mi
'S dh'fhag sud mo ghnothach cearbach.

Dh'fhan mi greis na chomunn
'S bha mi sin a' togairt falbh uaidh,
Is fhuair mi e cho caoimhnail
Is gun dh'fhaighnichd mi dé b'ainm da.
Thubhairt e dean air t'aithis ort,
Glaodh fhathast air an t-searbhant,
Is llon an soitheach sòlasmach
A' theirt' an stòp mar ainm ris.

Ghnòg mi sin an “gurach”
'S chuir mi cuireadh air an t-searbhant:
Smaointich mi bhò'n dh'fhuirich mi
Gu faighinn bun a sheanachais;
Gu'n innseadh de bu shloinneadh da
'S nach cèileadh e de b' ainm' da,
'S ann thubhairt e rium gu faoilteachail
Cha bhith aon diubh ort an dearmad.

Mà tha thu ag iarraidh eòlas orm.
'S gu bheil thu febrach m'ainme
Gu faigh thu sin a mach bhuam
Ann an uine bhig de'm sheanachas
Is mi mac na poite buidhe
Bhios na suidhe an oir a ghealbhain;
'S e an t-eòrna buidhe b'athair domh
'S i 'n atharnach mo sheanmhair.

Mas e thusa an duine sin,
Gu'n robh thu 'd churaidh càlma,
Chan fhaca mi fear eallaich
A bheir barrachd or an Albainn.
'S mo làmh gu'r dèadh fhear ghnothaich thu
'S gu'r comharraicht' gu falbh thu
'S gu'r dànnasair math le fiodhuil thu
'S na d'shuidhe bu tu seanachaidh.

Mo leòmhann trèun tapaidd thu
Cha robh thu lag na leanabail,
Mur deanadh iad do bhaisteadh
Gun robh cuid dheth fheartan ainmeil:
Gu'n dàisgeadh tu fear cadaltach
'S gu lagadh tu fear meannmach
'S gun cuir thu am fear is lapaiche
Am beairt an fhir is calma.

Tha thu na t'fhear trèubhantas
Thu trèubhach foghaint dealbhach
'N uair bhitheas thu air na fèilltean
Bitheadh tu dèileadh ri luchd bharagain;
Chan eil àite an suidheadh iad
Nach glaothadh iad fear d' ainme—
Is tu b'fhanuis air gach cùmhanta
'S bidh trian de 'n chùis na d' earbsa.

SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Thug mi mo chuairtearachd gu crìch airson bliadhna eile. Mar a leugh sibh anns an leabhran so o mhios gu mìos chuir mi ioma rudha is tonn seachad bho Nollaig, ach bha a' leithid de aoibh rium aig ceann an tuisis is nach do mhair na deuchainnean sìubhall is giùlain fada 'nam inntinn. Chan 'eil a nis ach an Fhèill a thoirt gu buil shoirbheachail, le còmhnaidh chairdean dealasach, a chum is gu'm bi e 'n ar comas sealltuinn ris na tha romhainn le sùil bhlàth agus cridhe subhach.

* * *

As I indicated last month, a visit was paid to Fort William by Mrs. Colquhoun, Mr. J. R. Bannerman, and myself, and, with members of the Halls Committee, we inspected the various buildings generously placed at our disposal. Messrs. Marshall & Pearson's Garage has been selected for the Grand Concert on the Friday evening. The proprietor has kindly offered the use of the Picture House for Mod purposes, and it is possible that we will require this spacious hall for solo singing competitions. The local Committee are very active, and are well forward with their arrangements.

* * *

Secretaries of choirs intending to compete at the Fort William Mod are advised to fix up rooms at once. A number of choirs have already done so, but there must be others who are holding back. It is most urgent that accommodation should be fixed now. There is still room for junior choirs in the Highland Hotel. Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, 66 High Street, Fort William, local secretary, will be pleased to help in any way.

* * *

I visited Lochgilphead on 7th April, and presided over a meeting of the Branch. It was arranged to call a general meeting of the Branch to appoint office-bearers for the ensuing session, and consider what support could be given to the Great Feill. A sub-committee was appointed to make arrangements, and, as readers will learn from our Branch reports, the meeting has duly been held, with very satisfactory results.

* * *

I landed in Tiree on 13th April, and on that evening visited Cornaigmore and Bailemartin Schools, preliminary to my ceilidhs on succeeding evenings. There was an encouraging turn-out at Cornaigmore on the evening of the 14th, and a pleasant and

profitable time spent in speech and song. A delightful item was the singing of the Puirt à Beul, "An nighean ghrinn aig Domhull Daraich," by the entire company, Mr. MacLean, headmaster, directing the singing. Several other songs were sung by the audience in unison. The singing pleased me very much.

* * *

The following evening a ceilidh and business meeting was held in Bailemartin School, Mr. D. O. MacLean, Cornaigmore, presiding. Solos, choruses, and community singing were the order in the first part of the programme, at the conclusion of which I gave a Gaelic address. It was unanimously decided to hold a Mod embracing the islands of Tiree and Coll, and office-bearers were appointed from a committee representative of each school district. Mr. Malcolm MacLean was appointed convener; Mr. D. O. MacLean, headmaster, Cornaigmore, secretary; and Miss Sarah MacDonald, Bailemartin School, treasurer.

* * *

The Kintyre Mod is fully reported on in this number. It was the first of eleven Provincial Mods to be held this year. Will members please note date and place of the others, and attend when possible:—Cowal (Dunoon), 14th May; Lewis (Stornoway), 14th and 15th June; Islay (Bowmore), 17th June; Dailriada (Lochgilphead), 21st and 22nd June; Perthshire (Aberfeldy), 24th June; Ardnamurchan (Strontian), 1st July; Tiree and Coll (Cornaigmore), 5th July; Lorn, Mull, and Morvern (Oban), 9th September; Sutherland (Lairg), 9th September; Skye (Portree), date not definitely fixed, but is likely to be in September—two days.

* * *

Gaels would be gratified to read that Mrs. Bessie J. B. MacArthur, known as a devoted worker for An Comunn, and as an able contributor to its magazine, has been awarded the prize of £30 in the Scots Radio Drama Competition for her short play, "The Clan of Lochlann." The play was broadcast on the evening of Thursday, 21st April, and those who were fortunate enough to hear it would endorse the award, as the play had all the fine quality of the author's poetical work. One came under the spell of the supernatural atmosphere from the beginning, and the plot was so skilfully constructed and worked out, with various

haunting touches, to the climax, that Donald's infatuation for the seal-woman seemed as real and thrilling as that of any lover in actual life.

* * *

So true and so fitting was the dialogue, that one could easily and vividly picture Mórág, the seal-woman, sitting alone on the rocks by the sea, and crooning the mysterious airs of the "Land-under-waves," Donald passionately protesting against his mother's antipathy to his beloved Mórág, and the mother, strong-minded and practical, even in dealing with unearthly powers, urging him to get rid of the weird woman whom she believed to be the cause of his ill-luck at the fishing. This striking piece of dramatisation of Hebridean legend gave ample proof that the author could produce something more elaborate and impressive from the same source, and we are sure that fairy lore also would take most interesting dramatic form in her hands. The players showed understanding of both the accent and meaning of the speech of the "dramatis personæ."

NIALL.

COIMHAIRLEACH SGIATHANACH.

By ALEXANDER NICOLSON, M.A.

Faodair a' ràdha nach robh ceàrnaidh eile de'n Ghaidhealtachd anns an d' fhuiling lagh is riaghailt a leithid de thàir 's a ghiùlain iad 'san Eilean Sgiathanach anns na linntinn a dh' fhalbh. Ged a bha luchd-riarachaidh ceartais air an suidheachadh 'san eilean sin ann an drasda 's a rithist, tha e coltach gu leòr nach robh mórán tairbhe nan lorg, riamh gus an do chuir an rìgh Raibeart Brus, mar fhiachaibh air Uisdean, Mormhaor Rois, riaghailt a chumail air a bonn. Bho 'n àm sin, sios gu bliadhna Thearlaich, bha e air a chur mar chomain air a mhorair ceartas a dhioladh do luchd-èucuir.

Cha 'n eil teagamh nach biodh a' mórair, air uairean, ag earbsadh an dleasdanas is ri luchd-ionaid, muinntir, math-a-dh' fhaoidhte, aig an robh barrachd ùghdarrais na bh'aca de thoinsig, agus is ann bho sin a dh' eirich na seanfhacail a tha againn 's a Ghaidhealtachd, a tha leigeil ris dhuinn gu soilleir, cho beag 's a bha daoine cur de mhuighinn antanas a bha riarachadh ceartais 'o shean. "Is càrn, is dìreach an lagh;" "Bheir buidire breth, ach cò bheir ceartas," "Coltach ri ceartas a mhadaidh-rusaidh, lùgach, lùgach, lamalach."

"Cha d' thugadh an Sgìre Mhic Ceallaig breth bu chlaoine;" agus mar sin sios.

Cha 'n eil teagamh, nach bu chulaidh-thruais da rìreadh neach sam bith nach buineadh da chinneadh féin a thigeadh air beulthaobh a mhóirair air son mì-riaghailt a bhiodh air a chur as a leth. Gidheadh, nan éireadh còmhstri eadar buill de luchd-leanmhuinn féin, dheanadh e uile dhìcheall air ceartas a chumail air meidh, cho cothromach 's a leigeadh gliocas, is eòlas leis.

Anns na h-aman sin, an uair thigeadh cuspair deacair mu choinneamh, cha bhiodh e 'n iomcheist, comhairle a ghabhail bho neach 's a choimhearsneachd, a bha sonnaichte air son crìonndachd is tuigse, agus, ri latha fhéin, cha robh 'san Eilean Sgiathanach, bho cheann Shléibhte gu Aird 'ic Fheilain, aon eile, a bha cho iomraiteach air an dòigh sin, ri Taog Mór MacCuinn.

B'e tuathanach a bha 'n Taog, duine miosal, aig an robh gabhail mbath fearainn mu thrì mìle deas air Port-rì'. Tha làrach a thobhta ri faicinn fhathast, agus is ioma bradan meanmacha a chuireadh an falach 'san luachair a tha 'n diugh a' cuartachadh a h-ùrlair.

Theireadh daoine Taog Mór ris, chan ann, gu h-uile, air son a mheadachd gu corporra, ged tha e air aithris nach robh neach eile 's na seachd sgìreachdan, bu deasa, 's bu tomadaiche na esan, ach gu h-àraidh, air son buadhan inntinn, oir bha e suaicheanta, fad is farsuinn, air son teomachd a bheachdan, maille ri ealantachd 'nan cur an céill.

Cha robh fear-fearainn eile 'san eilean, aig an robh sùil cho math ris-san air beathach; is bha chrodh cabrach, calgach, 's a chaoraich, chuimir, mholach, iomraiteach feadh na Gaidhealtachd uile. Bha e na chùis eagail do luchd ceannach spréidhe, oir cha robh ann, a bha cho ruighinn ris ann am bleidigeadh: ach cha robh ni a thogadh inntinn, coltach ri dhòl an greim an Luchd na Beurla; is chuireadh e 'n fheòrlinn dheireannach asdasan latha mhargaidh.

Mas fìor beul-aithris, chaidh gliocas a bha air leth, a bhuileachadh air an diùnnach so, agus is ioma sgéul a tha air a h-innse 'san Eilean Sgiathanach mu 'dheidhinn.

An uair 'bha Domhnall a' chogaidh na mhóirair air fearann cloinn Domhnuill, chaidh cùis a thabhairt na làthair a chuir cruaidh dheuchainn air a bhuidhean mar bhrèitheamh. Dh' eirich comsachadh dealasach eadar dithis de luchd-leanmhuinn, is cha robh e idir furasda réite a dheanamh eatorra.

Air do mhart le Domhnall Choinnich Sheumais a bhi 'g ionnaltradh air bearradh a chladaich,

faisg air baile Uige, tha e coltach gun do chaill i a casan, is gun deachaidh i le creig; agus mar bha an tubaist an dàn dhi, c'àite am buileadh i, ach ann am broinn bàta le Iain Bàn Mac Alasdair, a bha air cruaidh aig bonn na creige.

Le cruadhas na buille, chaidh am bàta na spealgan, is bha bhò na conablach. 'Nuair a fhuairleadh a mach mu'n chall a chaidh a dheanamh, bha na bodaich ag éigheach nan creachan, is cha ghabhadh stad a chur air h-aon seach aon dhiu, gus an deachaidh an gnothach, mu dheireadh, a chur fa combhair a' mhórais.

Bha 'm fear agairt dìongmhalta na bhàrail, gu'm b'ann air a thaobh san a bhiodh ceartas, oir cha b' urrainn am fear eile ràdha nach e bhò-san a bhris am bàta, is cha robh àicheadh air a chhis.

Ach air an laimh eile, bha am fear tagraidh cho rag na bheachd fhéin, gur h-ann aigesan a bha còir air iocadh fhaotainn, oir cha ghabhadh e cur as a bhàrail gu'n tachradh dochair sam bith do'n bhoìn, ged a rachadh i leis a chreig ud, oir bha mhuir glan, is domhainn, aig a bonn, mur b'e far an robh am bàta air a ceangal.

Bha 'n luchd-connspaid cho deas-bhriathrach, 's cho dian an agartachd, 's gu'n robh a' morair air a tharraing, bho thaobh gu taobh, 'nuair a chuireadh gach fear fa leth a bheachdan fhéin air a chùis mu choinneamh. Bha e, mu dheireadh, 'na leithid de iomarbhuidh is gun dh' iarr e orrasan a bha mu thiomchìoll, a sheòladh air duine glie sam bith air oighreachd, a chuidicheadh e chum breith cheart a thoirt air a cheist dhùilich a bha ri fuasgladh. Air ball, dh'ainmich neach a bha làthair, Taog Mac Cuinn, is chaidh marcaiche chur air falbh do Gleann Bharragail gun dàil.

Tràth feargar bha Taog 'sinn dìollaid, 's bha siubhal réidh aig gillean fallain, 's eich sheanga, air an rathad gu Dun Tuilm.

Feumair a chur an ceill an so, gu'n robh ni de èud aig a' mhórais ri Taog, air son a' chliù a bh'aige air son tuigse 's breathnachadh. B'e sin fàth àbhachdais an latha sin, oir bha e làn bhàrail, gu'n robh cùis an so a chuireadh teomachd Thaog gu dùlan, dh'ain-deoin cho ealanta 's gu robh e air a mheasrachadh a meas na tuatha.

Tha e coltach gu leòir gu'n deachaidh Taog a chur 'na fhaireachadh mu rùintean a' mhórais, ach mar dhuine glie chum e 'smuaintean aige fhéin, is dh'imich e stigh do sheòmar a cheartais, mar nach biodh amharus sam bith aige air ceann-fàth a' mhórais.

A' gabhail beachd gu dùrachadach air luchdan tagraidh, dh' fheòirich e co bu leis

am bàta, 's co do 'm buineadh a bhò. Tharraing an t-iasgair ceum air adhart, stobanach beag de throich is bailc air gu chùlthaobh, is fheargair e, le frionas na ghuth, gum b'e a bhàsan a chaidh a mhilleadh; ach sheas an tuathanach far an robh e, lùiriste mòr, sodalach, le cheann crom, is e air chrith le faitheas. "Nise," arsa Taog, is e tabhairt coinneamh do'n iasgair, "tha e soilleir gur h-ann le mart do choimhearsnaich a chaidh am bàta bhriseadh, agus air an aobhar sin, is riatanach dhutsa bhi sireadh éiric: ach air an laimh eile tha e cheart cho cinnteach, mar b' e gu'n robh am bàta air a ceangal far an robh i, nach deachaidh cnaimh de'n bhoìn a bhriseadh, is nach b' eagal di airson a' bhogaidh a gheibheadh i anns a' mhuir.

'Nuair a chual' a' morair am breithneachadh so, rinn e glac-gàire, oir cho-dhùin e gu robh ceist an so a chaidh thar tuigse Thaog, 's gu fairsleachadh i air gu tur. Ach leig Taog mu chluais fealladha' a' mhórais, is chaidh e air adhart a' reusanachadh na cùise leis fhéin, mar gu 'm biodh e caoin-shuarach mu'n stad a chuireadh air a sheannachas. "Sin dìreach mar a thachair," ars' esan, "mhill a' bho' am bàta, 's mhill am bàta bhò." Tha e soilleir, 's cha 'n eil teagamh sam bith air a chuis, mur b'e gu'n do thuit a bho nach do bhriseadh clàr de'n bhàta; is mar an ceudna, mur b'e gu robh am bàta aig bonn na creige, nach do dh' éirich béud do'n bhoìn. Ach tha aon ghnothach cudthromach, nach d' thug sinn gus a so faineas—gnothach eadhon air a bheil a chùis uile 'n crochadh, agus is e sin—mur b'e 'chreag a bhi far 'n robh i, bha bhò slàn na cnàmhan is bha 'm bàta fathast ri chèile.

'Se so a' nise cridhe na ceiste—co do'm buineadh a chreag? "Dhòmhsa," ars' a' morair. "Ma ta," arsa Taog, "is e mo bhàrtaise gu'm féum sinn a chuire uile, a chur as a leth-san a tha gabhail seilbh air a' chreig, agus gu leasaich esan an call a chaidh a dheanamh air gach aon de'n luchd connspaid, le bhi liubhairt an eithar is fheàrr air a chladach do'n iasgair, agus a' mart is luach-mhòra na bhuaile do'n tuathanach, oir tha esan mòran nis comasaiche, na h-aon dhiubhsan, air an luach calla 'dheanamh suas.

Chuir a' morair còir aont' gu togarrach ris a bhinn a thug Taog a mach, 's thug a taing chridheil dha, air son an fhuasglaidh glie a rinn e air a' chuspair chothachail a chaidh a chur mu choinneamh.

Goidid an déigh so, thainig cùis eile fa chomhair a' mhórais a chuir géur-dheuchainn air a ghliocas. Bha dithis bhodach ag iasgair air crio, air cladach Sgoirebreac, agus, mar is bitheannta

thachras 's a cheàrnaidh sin de'n Eilean, dh'éirich onfhadh garbh gu h-obann bho'n tuath, 's chaidh fear de na h-iasgairan a sguabadh le tonn, de'n spiris air 'n robh e na shuidhe. Chuir a nàbuidh siutach air fhéin, dh'fheuch an sàbhaileadh e bheatha; ach bha na creagan cho cas, is thàinig a leithid de laigse air is de bhallachrith, is nach b'urrainn dha nì a dheanamh ach toiseachadh air sibodh dh' shlaith-iasgaich, air son greim a dheanamh air an duine through a bha ga riasladh bho thonn gu tonn aig bonn nan creag.

An deigh ioma oidheirp, chaidh aige mu dheireadh air an dubhan a' chur an greim, ach gu mishealbhach, c'àite an sparradh e an sàs e, ach ann an sùil a choimhearsnaich. Shlaod e 'n truaghan gu tìr, ach chaidh an t-sùil a mhilleadh air a leithid a dhòigh is gu'm b' fheudar a tabhairt as.

Mun do ruith a bhliadhna, chaidh na h-iasgairan a mach air a chéile, is thàinig gnothaichean mu dheireadh gu leithid a dh' àirde, is gun tug am fear cam suas, esan a mhìl a shùil.

Chuir an cruaidh-chothachadh a' morair na leithid de theinn, 's nach robh an còrr aige mu dheidhinn, ach fios a chur air Taog, dh' fheuch an deanadh e rèite eadar na bodaich. Cha bu ruith leis-san ach leum, air son fàth a' ghabhail air a chothrom, oir b' aithne dha am fear cam 's a nàdur tuairteapach ro mhath.

An uair a chuala Taog gearain fear na leth-shuil, leig e air, car tamuill, gu'n robh mòran truais aige ris. Thug so airson àt suas le dòchas, gu'n robh 'thagradh a toirt buaidh. Dh' fhàs e mu dheireadh cho deasbhrithrach, 's gu'm b' fheudar do Thaog grad-stad a chur air sruth a dheasbaireachd; 's theann e fhéin an sin ri binn a thoirt a mach—"Air an dòigh so amhàin," ars' esan, "the agadsa air éric fhaotainn. Feumaidh tu an làrach fhianuisich, thu fhéin a thilgeadh a mach air a mhuir, ann's a cheart àite 'san d' thug an tonn a mach thu, 'nuair a bhios an aimsir cho fiadhaich 's a bha i 'n latha sin a thachair do chiorram. Ma theid agadsa air thu fhéin a shàbhaladh, air a mhodh sin, gun chuideachadh fhaotainn bho neach sam bith, chì mise e iomchaidh dhut a bhì sìreadh làn-dhioladh, ach chan iocair dhuit feòrlinn air dòigh sam bith eile.

Chuir a bhinn so am bodach cam bho abartachd; is tharraing e air ais a chùis, oir bha e tuilleadh is follaiseach dha, nach robh e nis, aon chuid cho easgnaidh, uallach, no idir cho sgìobalta, 's a bha e uaireigin; agus nach biodh ann dha ach buaireadh Freasdail nan gabhadh e ris an dòigh sin a shonraich Taog, dha air son éric fhaotainn.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH'S APPEAL TO THE BLOOD.

At a concert in aid of the Feill in Inverness, on 22nd April, the Rev. Alasdair Maclean, B.D., Daviot, made the following appeal, which applies to all Gaels as well as to any one county:—

An Comunn Gaidhealach—the Highland Brotherhood—is a Society of Highlanders banded together for the purpose of maintaining and increasing Gaelic as a living and spoken tongue throughout the Highlands of Scotland. Founded over thirty years ago, the Society has to its credit a record of success of which it is justly proud. In a practical age it has achieved practical results. These may be tabulated as follows:—It has roused Gaelic-speaking people to an understanding of the fact that their language is one of unsuspected power and beauty—a sacred trust, to be passed on to their children. It has brought the language into the school. It has rescued and revealed to Lowlander and Highlander alike a vast body of folk-lore song which is without peer for loveliness in Europe. And it has laid fresh emphasis and given a new significance to the virtues which, in common with all their Scottish brethren, the Highland people possess to such a striking degree: the love of simplicity, hospitality, courage, and courtesy. Through its president, Mr. Angus Robertson, the prophet of the movement, An Comunn Gaidhealach has touched the imagination of the United States of America, and the project of a Great Gaelic Institution for the well-being of the language and its people has been made possible. By its propaganda, its teachers, its Provincial and Annual Mods, the Society has done well—it wants to do better.

A great Feill or Bazaar, at which it is confidently hoped to realise the sum of £20,000, will be held in June in Glasgow. Everyone is helping, and from the Colonies the gifts of Scottish men and women—Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking alike—are flowing in. We, a proud and ancient Highland county, must do our part. We appeal to every Inverness-shire man and woman, and we say to you: "Are you Highland?" "Do you speak the old tongue?" "Do you desire to save it?" If you do, we do not ask for your gift. We demand it. If you do not speak Gaelic, you are none the less Highland in heart and spirit. The blood of a great race courses through your veins; we appeal to the blood.

"Nithear Carn Mor de Chlachan Beaga."

NEW SOCIETY FOR GAELIC FOLK-LORE.

Our readers will be interested to know that a new Society for gathering and publishing Gaelic folk-lore has just been formed by our brother-Gaels in Ireland. The publications of the Society will be very valuable; and will resemble in character the monumental work done for Scottish Gaelic folk-lore by the late J. F. Campbell of Islay. We have become subscribers already to this new Society, and we would urge upon our readers that they should do the same. They will be richly rewarded, and the cause will be helped.

AN CUMANN LE BEAL-UIDEAS ÉIREANN.

THE FOLKLORE OF IRELAND SOCIETY.

122a St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin.

A Chara,—We are certain that you were glad to learn from the Press recently that this Folklore Society had been established. Until now Ireland alone of the countries of Western Europe had no society of the kind, although possessing a folklore recognised as of the first importance. It is yet possible to save for the nation this traditional lore. To allow it to perish without making an effort to record it for those who will come after us would be an irrevocable loss to all.

The aim of our Society is to collect, examine, arrange, and publish, or put in permanent safe-keeping what still remains of the folklore of our people. We believe that this work must be begun at once, and we solicit the favour of your aid and encouragement in the arduous work which lies before us.

In every district in Ireland much precious material still exists, both in Irish and in English, in the form of tales, songs, beliefs, customs, medicinal lore, proverbs, sayings, prayers, stories in connection with personal, clan, and place-names, and other traditional matter. The greater part of this material has never been published. With the passing of the old generation, the sole custodians of our folklore, this rich inheritance will have gone for ever.

We appeal with confidence to all who cherish the memory of the past, to our people in Ireland, to those of the Ireland overseas, and to all well-wishers to help us in our task of preserving the rich store that still remains of our folk civilisation before it disappears for ever.

The annual membership fee has been fixed at 7s 6d (\$2, life membership, £5 (\$25), the payment of which entitles members to receive, free of cost, copies of our Journal issued for the year in respect of which the fee has been paid. For the present it is intended to issue two numbers of the Society's Journal each year. If sufficient support be accorded to the Society it is hoped to issue special volumes

from time to time at special terms to members of the Society.

We solicit most earnestly the favour of your support.

LE H-URRAIM DUIT, SINN-NE.

Officers—Pádraig O Sióch'hradha, "An Seabhac," President; Oscar D. MacCártha Uileas, B.L., Fionán MacCoim, Secretaries; Douglas Hyde, D. Litt., LL.D., "An Craoibhin Aoihbhinn," Treasurer; Seamas O Duilearga, M.A., Librarian and Editor.

Committee—Donn Piatt, B.A., Liam Gogán, M.A., Fionn Mac Cumhall, Séan O Cuiv, Tomás O Colmáin.

It is intended to issue the first number of the Society's Journal early in the Summer.

Information for Intending Visitors to the Celtic Congress at Riec in Brittany.

1. Visitors are reminded that pass-ports are still necessary for traveling to France. Forms of application for pass-ports must be obtained in advance, and duly signed by a J.P. or other authorised person. Each form must be sent in accompanied by two duplicate photographs of the applicant.

2. Brittany is reached by the Southern Railway Company's Crose-Channel Service of steamers from Southampton to St. Malo, sailing about midnight according to tide, and reaching St. Malo about 8 a.m. As delay is caused in getting through the customs, it is doubtful if a train can be caught earlier than the last, leaving St. Malo at 1.18 p.m. and reaching Quimperlé at 9.55 p.m.

3. Quimperlé is on the main line from St. Malo, and from it a branch line about 10 miles long runs through Riec to Pont-Aven. As the Breton Committee have reserved all available accommodation at Riec for the entertainment of the official delegates who are their guests, private visitors are recommended to apply for hotel accommodation at Pont-Aven or Quimperlé.

4. The following hotels have been communicated with, and have given prices as under:—

Pont-Aven (Finistère).

Hotel Julia—

50 francs for room and three meals a day, plus a 4 per cent. tax.

Castel Hôtel—

Probably from 30 to 40 francs per diem, everything included except tips. Exact prices in June.

Hôtel des Ajoncs d'Or—

Estimated, by adding corresponding increases to 1923 prices, at 23 to 27 francs a day.

Quimperlé (Finistère).

Hôtel du Lion d'Or—

(Recommended by the Syndicate d'Initiative de Quimperlé). About 45 francs a day.

Hôtel du Commerce—

Hôtel de la Gare—

Second-class hotels charging about 35 francs a day.

Visitors should write direct to the hotel where they propose to stay, and engage their own rooms.

The rate of exchange in early April was about 124 francs to the £ sterling.

6. Berths on the steamer should be engaged without further delay, by enclosing 1/- with the order. As the rush to Brittany and Normandy is very great during August, berths cannot be secured at a late date.

6. The cost of a return ticket from Edinburgh to Quimperlé (available for two months) is at present given at £8 8s 9d. This implies travelling 3rd class to Southampton (via Banbury), 2nd class on the steamer, and 2nd on the French railway. Return saloon fare on the steamer is £1 8s extra.

7. The hours of departure of trains and prices of tickets should be verified later by enquiry at a travel agency. Among other agencies who will undertake the booking of berths, supplying application forms for pass-ports, issuing tickets, etc., is the General Steam Navigation Company (Passenger Department), 30 George Street, Edinburgh.

8. Intending visitors are asked to send their names and addresses to Miss Lamont, Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire, who is acting as secretary of the Scottish Delegation to the Celtic Congress at Rice.

SGEUL BHEAG A CEANN LOCH CHILLE CHIARAIN.

Air feasgair sonruichte, bliadhna no dha an deigh dhomh toiseachadh mar lighiche anns a' bhaile so (Ceannloch-Chille-Chiarain) thanig cailleadh 'gam fhaicinn, ag radh gu'n robh nathair an taobh a stigh dhith, a bha 'ga pianadh gu mór, agus ag iarraidh orm an droch nathair so a chur a mach. Chunnac mi air ball gu'n robh i faoin agus nach robh innte ach peasan gun tùr. An toiseach thubhairt mi rithe gu'n robh i cearr —nach robh nathair no nathair innte agus nach robh i ach a smaointean sin. Ach rinn i suidhe gu samhach, agus thubhairt i rium a rithist gu robh nathair an taobh a stigh dhith gu cinnteach agus gu'm b'urrain domhsa a' bheist shalach a chur a mach, oir bha fios aice gur e aon-ghin mhaic a bh'annam.

"Is e aon-ghin mhaic a th'annam gu dearbh," arsa mise. "Ach, mo' thruaighe! Chan eil mi 'nam dhuine glic mar Mhaois no Aaron anns a' Bhìoball a chum miorbhuil a dheanamh no 'nam bhuidseach gu bhì cleachdadh fiosachd."

Ach chia d'rinn mo bhriathran feum sam bith, agus dh'iarr i orm a rithist agus a rithist an nathair a thilgeil a mach, airneo chuireadh an creutair dona am bàs oirre.

Mu dheireadh ghlaodh mi le guth ard "Truis a mach! Thoir am monadh ort!"

A nis, na'n d'thubairt mi gu'm faca mi an sin nathair mhór fhiadhaich a tighinn a mach as a beul agus a snàigeadh gu sgiobalta chun an doras agus a dol car air char do'n mhonadh, mar a dh'iarr mi orre, cha bhithinn ach 'nam bhreugaire. Ach tha mi ag radh gu firinneach, nuair a ghlaodh mi "Truis a mach! Thoir am monadh ort!" bha a' chailleadh air a slànachadh, agus dh'eirich i gu sunndach, a dh'fhagail beannachd leam, agus chaidh i dhachaidh gu dàil, ag radh gu'n do chuir an dotair a mach gu math tapaidh an droch nathair a bha an taobh a stigh dhith.

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

NEW MEMBERS.

Miss Rosamond Conway Lloyd, London.
John MacKenzie, Esq., Edinburgh.
Donald O. MacLean, B.Sc., Cornaigmore.

KINTYRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Kintyre Provincial Mod, under the auspices of Comunn Gaidhealach Cheannloch, was held in Campbeltown, the competitions extending over two days, Thursday and Friday, 7th and 8th April. A comparatively recent institution in this district, the local Mod is advancing by great strides, not only in the area of its operations, but in the level of attainment reached by participants. The latter remark is particularly true of the juveniles, in whom, it may be said, the future and the hope of the movement lies.

The adjudicators at the Mod were:—Music—Mr. Neil Maclean, M.A., B.Sc., Aberdeen; Gaelic—Rev. Hector Cameron, parish minister, Oban. They had an arduous two days of it, the competitions going on almost continuously from 10 a.m. till after 6 p.m. each day. Their work was done with expedition, tact, and fairness, and contributed substantially to the success of the Mod.

Thursday was devoted to the juvenile competitions, for which the entries were

very large, one class alone—Celtic-English singing—bringing forward no fewer than 36 competitors. There was a fine, healthy spirit of comradeship in the gathering, and the awards of the adjudicators were received in a splendid sporting spirit.

Public interest in the progress of the competitions was most encouraging, while in the evening, at a concert in the Town Hall, when the programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, supported by Mr. Neil Maclean and Miss Jenny M. B. Currie, the building was crowded, and the performers received a rousing reception. Miss G. M. Hall, of Tangy, president of Comunn Gaidhealach Cheannloch, presided in a homely and acceptable manner. Mr. Maclean was highly successful in leading the children in community singing, which was a pleasing feature of the proceedings.

SENIOR COMPETITIONS AND CONCERT.

The senior competitions on Friday attracted keen and widespread interest, and at the afternoon session especially the hall was crowded out by eager listeners, who closely followed the progress of the events, and heard with relish and appreciation the comments of the judges on the individual and collective performances.

In the evening a memorable Mod was concluded with a magnificent Highland concert in the Victoria Hall, which was crowded to the door by a keenly appreciative audience, who gave the successful competitors, by whom the programme was principally sustained, an inspiring welcome. Rev. D. M. Cameron, M.A., vice-president of the branch, presided, and gave a short opening address, explaining the origin of early Celtic culture in literature and music, mentioning the causes of its temporary eclipse, and commending its modern revival, not alone in Scotland, but in all the countries of Europe where the Celtic race is to be found. The literature, language, and music of the Celtic race were among the richest in the world, and it was fitting that the movement for its preservation should find support in Kintyre, for here its cradle was to be found.

At an interval the prizes were gracefully presented to the successful competitors by Miss G. M. Hall of Tangy.

Prominent features of the programme were the concerted pieces by the choirs, including the rallying song, "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig," which was the opening number, and the closing 2nd Paraphrase, to the tune

"Campbeltown," sung by the massed choirs.

Miss Jenny M. B. Currie and Mr. Neil Maclean sang several songs with great success, their reception being most enthusiastic. All the prize-winners who performed at the concert did splendidly, and the success of the Mod was capped by a final rally that will live in memory as a tremendous success and an unqualified pleasure.

The customary votes of thanks at the close, proposed by Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, Rev. T. S. Macpherson, and the Chairman, were responded to with great heartiness.

The arrangements for the competitions and the concert were most complete, and were carried through with gratifying smoothness and success. The secretarial duties were again in the capable hands of Mr. Peter J. Campbell, who had the assistance of a keen and competent committee, and all are to be congratulated on the splendid results of their work.

A special word of praise and thanks is due to Miss Jen. Brown, L.R.A.M., for her work as accompanist, which was done in a painstaking and delightfully artistic manner.

PRIZE-LIST.

JUNIOR SECTION. (16 years and under).

GAELIC—LITERATURE.

Writing from Dictation about six verses from St. John's Gospel, Chapter III. Time not to exceed three-quarters of an hour:—1, Maisie Young, Whitehouse; 2, Margaret Kennedy, Whitehouse; 3, James Percival, Whitehouse; 4, Iain M'Niven, Whitehouse; 5, Robert M'Kinlay, Whitehouse.

Translation of about six verses from Gaelic into English, to be selected from St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapters V-VII, inclusive. Time—three-quarters of an hour:—1, Iain M'Niven; 2, Maisie Young; 3, Margaret Kennedy; 4, Robert M'Kinlay; 5, James Percival.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading with expression a Piece of Poetry of not less than 16 and not more than 24 lines, chosen by the competitor:—1, Margaret Kennedy; 2, Phemie Beaton; 3, Maisie Young.

Reading with expression a Piece of Prose of not less than 200 and not more than 250 words, chosen by competitor:—1, Theodocia M'Sporran, Clachan; 2, Tina Campbell, Clachan; 3, Phemie Beaton.

Reciting from memory certain verses of the Poem, "Am faigh a' Ghaidhlig bàs?" :—1, Theodocia MacSporran; 2, Phemie Beaton; 3, Margaret Kennedy.

Acted Dialogue (two performers)—competitors' own selection:—1, Theodocia M'Sporran and Tina Campbell.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song—Girls—Competitors' choice:—1, Elsie Crawford, Whitehouse, and Tina

Campbell, Clachan (equal); 2, Annie Young, Whitehouse; 3, Bella Campbell, Clachan; 4, Gemma Maclean, Carradale; and Amelia Massie, Campbeltown (equal).

Solo Singing of a Song—Boys—Competitors' choice:—1, Duncan C. Stalker, Campbeltown; 2, Iain M'Niven, Whitehouse; 3, John M'Shannon, Campbeltown.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—Competitors to select one from the following—"Caidil gu lo," "Chluinn mi na h-eoin," "Oran seilge," "Do'n Chuthaig":—1, Agnes Young; 2, Duncan C. Stalker; 3, Phemie Beaton.

Duet Singing of a Song, chosen by the competitors:—1, Agnes Young and Iain M'Niven, Whitehouse; 2, Mairi M'Dougall and John M'Bride, Carradale; 3, Mary Galbraith and Sarah MacKinnon, Carradale.

Choral Singing in Unison.—The prescribed songs are "Thug mi goal do'n fhear bhàn" and "Thainn an gille dubh":—1, Whitehouse Junior Choir; 2, Carradale Junior Choir; 3, Highland Church Boys' Choir, Campbeltown; 4, Dalintober School Choir, Campbeltown.

Choral Singing in Two-Part Harmony.—The prescribed songs are "Mo Chubhrachan" and "Mac og an Iarla Ruaidh":—1, Whitehouse Junior Choir; 2, Highland Church Boys' Choir, Campbeltown.

CELTIC SONGS IN ENGLISH.

Solo Singing—Girls—"O, My Boatman":—1, Euphemia M'Innes, Campbeltown; 2, Morag Black, Campbeltown; 3, Mary Coffield, Campbeltown.

Solo Singing—Boys—"The Praise of Islay":—1, James Lambie, Campbeltown; 2, Charles Brown, Campbeltown; 3, Duncan C. Stalker, Campbeltown.

Choral Singing in Unison, of the following two songs, (a) "Agus Ho Mhorag," (b) "O, The Thistle of Scotland":—1, Highland Church Boys' Choir, Campbeltown; 2, Carradale Junior Choir; 3, Dalintober School Choir; 4, Blue Triangle Junior Club Choir, Campbeltown.

Highest Aggregate Marks:—Maise Young, Whitehouse.

SENIOR SECTION.

Gaelic.

Gaelic Composition, not exceeding 400 words, on any subject chosen by the competitor:—1, Catherine Livingstone, Whitehouse.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight a short piece of unfamiliar Gaelic prose:—1, Roderick Mackenzie, Argyll Hotel, Campbeltown; 2, John M'Coll, Campbeltown; 3, Donald Galbraith, Campbeltown.

Reciting from Memory certain prescribed verses of the poem, "Miann a' Bhaird Aodsa":—1, Jessie MacLaren, Southend; 2, Roderick Mackenzie; 3, Marion Falconer, Campbeltown.

Sgeulachd.—Narrating an old Gaelic tale in the traditional manner:—1, Jessie MacLaren; 2, Marion Falconer; 3, Donald Galbraith.

Acted Dialogue (two performers)—Competitors' choice:—1, Susan Macdonald, Killocraw, and John Cameron, Campbeltown; 2, Marion Falconer and Donald Galbraith; 3, Jessie MacLaren and Dugald Campbell, Southend.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—Competitors' choice:—1, Mrs C. M'Kinven, Campbeltown; 2, Morag MacDougall, Whitehouse; 3, Iehbel MacCallum, Southend.

Solo Singing—Male Voices—Competitors' choice:—1, Colin Paterson, Campbeltown; 2, Robert

Currie, Tayinloan; 3, Donald Galbraith, Campbeltown.

Solo Singing—Male and Female Voices—Competitors to select one from the following and to be prepared to sing a second song, if called upon. The second song to be chosen by the competitor from the following—"Air a' Ghille tha mo rùn," "An gille dubh ciar dubh," "Mairi Mhin Mheall Shuileach," "Theid mi g'ad amharc," "Caisteal a' Ghlinne":—1, Robert Currie; 2, Donald Galbraith and Neil Muir, Tayinloan; 3, Morag M'Dougall.

Duet Singing of a Song:—1, Barbara M'Connachie and David M'Kerral; 2, Margaret M'Kinnon and John M'Coll, and Mrs C. M'Kinven and Cathie Thomson (equal); 3, Miss Morrison and Mr Morrison, Campbeltown.

Choral Singing in Harmony of any two of the following—"C'ait an caidil an ribhinn," "Gur moch rinn mi d'usgadh," "Soiridh," "Mo dhachaidh":—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 2, Carradale Gaelic Choir; 3, Southend Gaelic Choir.

CELTIC SONGS IN ENGLISH.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—"A Fairy's Love Song" or "Birlinn of the White Shoulders":—1, Chrissie Black, Campbeltown, and Mary Ronald, Ormsary (equal); 2, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown; 3, Mary Galbraith, Amod, Southend.

Solo Singing—Male Voices—"An Island Shieling Song" or "Kishmul's Galley":—1, David M'Kerral, Brunerican; 2, Hamish Taylor, Machrimore; 3, Arch. M'Kerral, Brunerican.

Choral Singing in Four-Part Harmony of the following two songs—"The Isle of Mull" (arranged by Hugh S. Robertson), "Sound the Pibroch" (arranged by Purcell James Mansfield):—1, Campbeltown Choir; 2, Carradale Choir.

Highest Aggregate in Gaelic Competitions:—Donald Galbraith, 315 out of 400.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BUNESSAN.—The closing Ceilidh in connection with this branch of An Comunn was held. There was a crowded attendance drawn from all parts of the parish and from the neighbouring parish of Iona. The President, Rev. Neil MacPhail, presided. Mr MacKechnie, the Secretary, arranged an excellent programme. Gramophone selections were given by Mr John MacKechnie, and Gaelic songs by Mrs MacDermid, and Messrs L. Nicolson, C. MacDonald, T. Carnie, and J. Thomson. A feature of the evening was the performance of the Gaelic piece, "Am fear a' chail a' Ghaidhlig," those taking part being Messrs A. Fleming, D. Campbell, and the Misses S. MacMillan, C. Campbell, F. Cameron, E. MacKechnie, and A. Whyte. A party of school children also assisted in the piece. The play was well received, and the performers were heartily applauded. The Chairman called for a vote of thanks to the artists and to the performers in the play.

FERINTOSH.—A successful Ceilidh, under the auspices of Comunn Gaidhealach Na Toiseachd, was held in Ferintosh School on Friday evening in aid of the Feill, which is to be held in Glasgow at the end of May. Major Warrand presided over an audience which crowded the schoolroom. After a delightful tea had been served, an excellent programme was submitted. The opening item, bagpipe selections, was contributed by Mr William Mac-

dona'd, and produced the right atmosphere for the numerous Gaelic and Scots songs which followed. Gaelic songs were rendered by Mrs Warrand, Miss Ella Macleod, Mr Donald Mackinnon, Miss W. Urquhart, Mr John N. Macleod; and Scots songs were rendered by Mr William Campbell and Mr D. Mackintosh. Two specially interesting items were fiddle selections by Mrs Warrand, and a group of Mrs Kennedy Fraser's songs was sung by Mr John Macrae, Dingwall. Mr and Miss Mackay gave selections on violin and piano which were well received, as also mandolin solos by Mr Alex. Duncan. During the evening the audience was addressed by Mr John N. Macleod, Knockbain, on the importance of keeping up the Gaelic language. He deplored the fact that Gaelic text-books are so expensive and often beyond the reach of many who would otherwise purchase them. He thought that cheaper Gaelic literature would very much help the movement. At the close, the Chairman expressed the hope that every person present would help to make the "Great Feil" a thorough success. The artists were cordially thanked for their services and also the ladies who had otherwise materially contributed to the success of the evening. On the motion of the President of the local branch of An Comunn (Mr David Urquhart, M. A.), a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Major Warrand for presiding.

GIGHA.—This Branch has just closed a very successful session, considering that the Ceilidhs were not resumed until the fishermen returned from the great herring fishings. The Branch was favoured by a visit from Mr Hugh Mackay, Mod Gold Medallist, who gave a recital of Gaelic and other songs. The surplus from the recital went towards the Feil funds. A whist drive and dance was held on 25th February, also in aid of An Comunn funds, and was highly successful. At the annual business meeting, Mr D. MacGeachy was appointed President; Mr A. MacGowan, secretary; and Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, representative to the Executive Council.

GLENE G.—The local Branch of An Comunn met in a social capacity on Friday, 18th March, to honour their Vice-Convener, Mr Angus Stewart, who has been the mainstay of the Association since its inception. The function took the form of a Ceilidh. Rev. A. MacLaggart, parish minister, presided, and he was accompanied on the platform by Mr Stewart, Dr. Rutherford, and Mr J. MacKenzie, President of the Branch. The Chairman spoke of Mr Stewart's zeal in respect of An Comunn, and commended the branch on its successful winter session. After tea had been served by the ladies associated with An Comunn, the Secretary submitted an excellent programme, consisting of songs, readings, and violin music. A noteworthy feature of the programme was An Comunn Bard's contribution—a song composed and set to music by himself. The bard, Mr Donald MacMillan, is a fine type of Highlander, and in his young days was a prominent figure at athletic gatherings, being specially noted for caber tossing and ball putting. Messrs Munro and MacLean gave excellent violin music. The Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, thanked the artists for their performances. On the call of Mr MacKenzie, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr MacLaggart for presiding. A well attended dance followed.

KILMUR.—A concert in aid of the Feil Funds was held in the Kilmuir School, when Mr Mac-

Lean, headmaster, Staffin School, presided over a large audience. A long and varied programme was provided, outstanding features being the bagpipe selections by pipe-major MacDonald, the singing of the senior and junior choirs, and the sketch, "An te a' chail a' Gaidhlig," by Messrs D. MacLeod, R. Gilmour, H. MacDonald, M. MacKinnon, and J. MacKenzie. The exhibition dancing by Mr Angus MacQueen, Kilmaluag, was highly appreciated. Credit is due to Miss C. A. MacNab and Miss MacAskill for the efficient manner in which they have kept up the choirs started by Mr Hugh MacLean. As a result of the concert, a handsome contribution is being forwarded towards the Feil Fund.

SALEN.—A successful concert and dance, under the auspices of the Salen Branch of An Comunn, was held in the Salen Temperance Hall. As it was not possible for the President, Colonel Gardyne of Glenfora, who is at present at Finavon Castle, Forfar, to be present, Mr D. P. Ferguson, Salen Hotel, presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr Colin MacDougall, St Mary's, Tobermory. An excellent concert programme was submitted, and much enjoyed. The Gaelic play, "Peigi Bheag," in six scenes, was performed by the Salen Gaelic Play Party. Mr W. G. Mackay, Ravensdale, proposed a vote of thanks to the artists and to Mrs MacDougall, who came from Tobermory to help with piano accompaniments. A similar tribute, on the call of Mr MacDougall, was accorded Mr Ferguson. A dance followed. Mr Neil MacLean, Vice-President, performed the duties of M.C. The total drawings amounted to £17, and after all expenses were paid the sum of £10 was forwarded to Mrs Gardyne, Convener for Mull, for the Island Stal Feil Fund.

LOCHGILFHEAD.—The local Branch of An Comunn Gaidheach held their annual general meeting in the H.G. School on 13th April, when about thirty were present. The financial report was considered satisfactory, and approved. An Executive Committee of eleven was appointed with Mr John McKel as President, Mr D. Grant, Hon. Secretary, and Miss McNair, Treasurer. There was considerable discussion as to ways and means of supporting An Comunn in the Great Feil in June, and a committee of six ladies, with Mrs Greenshields as convener, was appointed to make arrangements. It was agreed to hold meetings once a month during the coming winter.

BUTE.—Under the auspices of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhòd, Saturday, 16th April, was observed as a flag day on behalf of the objects of the forthcoming great "Feil" in Glasgow. The Committee Room was in the Tower Street Hall, and here Captain Kennedy, Chairman of the local Branch of An Comunn, was in charge, assisted throughout the day by several members of committee. On such a day the chief difficulty was the getting of a sufficient number of collectors. Under recent conditions, collectors may not be under 15 years of age, and at this particular time of the year most of those of the age mentioned are in employment. However, there were about 20 collectors, several of whom were girls dressed in picturesque Highland garb. Permission for the holding of the flag day was kindly granted by the Magistrates and Town Council, and the event was generally popular. At the close of the day's work, the collecting boxes were taken to the Royal Bank and the money was counted on Monday afternoon. The total amounted to £29 16s 3d.

PRESIDENT, FEILL EXECUTIVE.



THE DUKE OF ATHOLL, K.T.



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Leabhar XXII.]

An t-Og-mhìos, 1927.

[Earrann 9

BUAIDH IS BEANNACHD.

Tha “An Gàidheal” an diugh, an ainm An Chomuinn, a’ cur fàilte chridheil air luchd-frithealaidh na Fèille. Tha e a’ guidhe sonais agus soirbheachaidh do gach aon a nochdas deagh rùn do ’n Chomunn. Cha leigear a leas aig an am a bhi leudachadh air an chrìch mu bheil an Fhéill air a cumail. Tha sinn uile fiosrach air an fheum mhór a tha aig An Chomunn air cul-taice agus cuideachadh. Is mór an chùis gairdeachais gu bheil càirdean an aobhair cho toileach agus cho ònnmhor. Thàinig teachd-aireachd mhaith o iomadh cearn gu robh an t-ullachadh a’ sìor dhol air aghart. Agus o am gu am fhuaras tabhartais a thog gear is sunnd air an luchd-oibreach. Chleachd na buill is na càirdean caochladh mheadhnan gu ionmhas a chruinneachadh; agus is mór an sealladh an luchd-oibreach agus toradh an saothrach fhaicinn cruinn air an aon làraich.

O chionn fichead bliadhna air ais rinn An Comunn oidheip eile de ’n t-seòrsa so; agus is e buannachd na h-oidheip sin a chum cothrom ris An Chomunn troimh na bliadhnaichean. Bha an luchd-saothrach an uair sin cho dìcheallach agus cho dùrachdach ’s a tha iad an diugh fhéin. Ach is iomadh caochladh a thàinig air an t-saoghal o am na ceud Fhéille. Tha aon nì sonruichte a dh’fheumar a chumail anns an aire, an uair a labhras sinn mu bhuann-

achd. Is e sin, gun do thuit luach an airgid gu mór seach mar bha e o chionn fhichead bliadhna. Faodar a ràdh nach fhiach am punnd Sasunnach an diugh ach ceithir tasdain deug an coimeas ris an fhichead tasdan ri am na ceud Fhéille. Is e sin ri ràdh—chaill an cùinneadh an treas cuid de a luach. Ma rinneadh seachd mìle punnd sasunnach aig a’ cheud Fhéill, cha b’fhuilear gun deanta mu dheich mìle aig Féill 1927 gus a’ bhuannachd cheudna a chosnadh do ’n Chomunn.

Agus tha dà chor a dh’aobharaich gu bheil luchd labhairt na Gàidhlig nas tearca an diugh na bha iad o chionn fhichead bliadhna. Mar sin is dualach gum bi an luchd oibreach nas tearca an diugh mar an ceudna. Is e an cheud chor—gu bheil an àireamh a’ dol nas lugha agus nas lugha gach bliadhna a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig; mórán de ’n chloinn gun eòlas idir air an chainnt ged a tha i aig am pàrantan; iomadh teaghlach a’ dol air imrich do thìrean cein; cainnt is cleachd-aidhean nan Gall a’ briseadh a stigh air an Ghàidhealtachd, agus a’ cur na Gàidhlig air chùl a chuid ’s a chuid. Agus is e an dara cor—cor brònach—gun do thuit barr mullaich ar n-òigridh ri uchd an nàmhaid. Cia lìon ceud, dh’fhaodamaid a ràdh, na mìltean, de ar n-òganaich sgairteil Ghàidhealach nach do thill air an ais o ’n chogadh? Nam biodh iad sin air an caomhnadh is mór an togail a bheireadh iad do ’n obair a ghabh An Comunn as laimh; agus tha an call a

thàinig air an dùthaich le 'm bàs 'n a chall muladach do 'n Chomunn agus do 'n Ghàidhlig.

Cluinnidh sinn air gach làimh gu bheil atharrachadh ri fhàicinn anns gach gnòthuch ri linn a' chogaidh. Chan eil nìthan a' seasamh anns an aon staid, co dhìu a tha ainhreith a measg nan cinneach no nach eil; ach tha an caochladh a thug ceithir bliadhna de chogadh air beachd an t-sluaigh fada nas mò na an caochladh a thigeadh ré cheithir fichead bliadhna de am sìthe. Is nì iongantach gu bheil an Comunn a' togail a chinn idir a measg an luasgaidh mhóir a thugadh air an dùthaich. Ach is comharradh cinnteach air beothalachd An Chomuinn gu robh e comasach air seasamh ris an deuchainn. Mean air mhean, mar dh'fhàs meanglain òga á stoc fallain, dh'fhàs meanglain A' Chomuinn an àireamh is an spionnadh. Agus is iad na mòid dhùthchasail toradh nam meanglan. Is ann le eud is blàths nam mòd dhùthchasail a bha an teine air a chumail beò feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Mar chuir sinn sìos uair is uair anns an duilleig so, agus mar tha aon de ar luchd sgrìobhaidh a' cantuinn anns an àireamh so, tha am mòd dhùthchasail air inneal cho éifeachdach is a fhuaradh fhathast a chum a' Ghàidhlig athbheothadh an glinn na Gàidhealtachd.

Is ann am foghlum is an aoradh a tha dòchas airson beatha na cànan. Ma rinn An Comunn strì, a chum éisdeachd fhaotainn o Ugdarraais an Fhoghlum, is éigin cuideachd gu sir agus gun agair An Comunn éisdeachd o chléirean is o Shean-aidhean na h-Eaglais. Feumaidh an chànan tuilleadh urrainn fhaotainn an aoradh follaiseach. Tha iomadh cùbaid Ghàidhealach falamh a chion ministear. Ach tha òganaich am pailteas ann, aig am bheil an toil agus an tàlant, gus a' mhinistrealachd fhoghlum, nam biodh an t-airgid ann gu sin a dheanamh. Bidh caochladh beachd mu an nì so; ach tha sinn an dùil gu bheil fìor chothrom aig An Chomunn air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a chur air aghaidh, le bhì a deanamh strì a chum gu faigheadh na foghlumaichean òga na h-uile misneach gu bhì a' searmonachadh na cànan. Co luath is a thèid an t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig mu làr thèid a' Ghàidhlig fhéin air dearmad gun dàil. Gheibh An Comunn ionmhas mar thoradh air an Fhéill; agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bi luchd riaghlaidh an ionmhais cho mothachail is a dh'fhàdas iad a thaobh an nì so—eadhon nach cum An Comunn air ais lamh-chuidichidh do na h-òganaich a tha ag ullachadh airson na cùbaid Ghàidhlig.

1907-1927.

There are doubtless many among the readers of "An Gaidheal" who can recall the glowing enthusiasm with which the Feill of 1907 was entered upon and carried through. The Feill itself presented a scene fitted to inspire the friends of Gaelic with thankfulness and hope. The stately and spacious St. Andrew's Hall was filled to repletion with a richer store of spoils than ever clan had collected in the palmiest days of raid and foray—given and gathered, not for the enrichment of any one clan, but for behoof of the common heritage of all the clans, their ancient and noble tongue—while the stalls on which these were so temptingly displayed were served by representative Highlanders of all ranks, classes, and creeds. Gentle and simple, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, were united in the enterprise, with no less a personage than a Princess of the Royal House taking a leading part in the proceedings. It was a sight that moved one delightful old Highland lady, whose years then numbered more than the three-score and ten, to say that she felt she could now die happy having seen such a magnificent effort made on behalf of her much-loved Gaelic speech.

A generation earlier the success of that brilliant and perfervid Scot, the late Professor Blackie, in raising a sum sufficient to establish a Chair of Celtic Studies in Edinburgh, had proved that it was possible still to arouse interest and pride in the ancient language of Scotland and to evoke self-denying effort on its behalf. The promoters of the Feill of 1907—among whom the name of Mrs. Burnley-Campbell will always be remembered with gratitude and honour—met with a response which showed the continued existence of a widespread desire to help in the preservation of the language and to arrest its decay. An equally satisfactory response, we believe, awaits the appeal now being renewed after a lapse of twenty years.

It is most gratifying to find so many of those who took part in the Feill of 1907 again actively engaged in the work. Their enthusiasm has not been a passing emotion, they have "kept the faith" and we may infer that they regard the encouragements of the last twenty years as greatly exceeding the disappointments.

The task undertaken by the organisers of the Feill in 1907 was in some respects easier,

but in others more difficult than that of their successors in 1927. Their effort was the first of the kind made by An Comunn; it was a bold and daring venture inspired by a faith and a courage which appealed powerfully to Highland chivalry. Their plan was conceived on a sufficiently grand scale to touch the imagination and to rouse the generous instincts of the people; it promised possibilities of successful work on behalf of Gaelic in directions hitherto untried and which could not be entered upon without adequate means. On the other hand, while they could produce evidence of much good work performed by them, notwithstanding the scantiness of their resources, they had no such record to point to as the promoters of this year's Feill find to the credit of An Comunn. The awakening of local interest as evidenced by the establishment of numerous branches throughout the Gaelic area, the institution of Provincial Mods—one of the most promising of all recent developments—the teaching of Gaelic in schools—in securing which An Comunn had so influential a share—these and others which might be quoted are all achievements on which we can legitimately plume ourselves, and on the strength of which we can with confidence appeal for renewed support.

It is perhaps a pity that the appeal for the Feill should follow so closely on other appeals made on behalf of Highland causes and responded to with such remarkable generosity. Within the last few years, a sum of over £20,000 has been raised for the Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow, and £40,000 for the Highlands and Islands Distress Fund, while no less a sum than £60,000 has been collected for the new Northern Infirmary at Inverness. The generosity of Highlanders and their friends has thus been already severely taxed, but Highland generosity is hard to exhaust and it will doubtless prove triumphantly equal to the further demand now being made upon it.

The St. Andrew's Hall in Glasgow is again to house the Feill. That hall, week after week, throughout the winter season resounds to the cheers of thousands of eager Highlanders and their friends as they applaud the sentiments of loyalty to "tìr agus teanga" that are spoken or sung from the platform. The success of 1907 will be more than repeated if these warm-hearted Gaels make it a matter of duty to come to the Feill and spend as much as they can spare at its stalls.

M. M.

EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN STALL.

It is not likely that Edinburgh's contribution to the Feill of 1927 will equal the contribution to the Feill of 1907. For this several causes, as well as the general economic situation, may be assigned, not the least effective being that the Gaelic population has dropped to slightly over 3300 in Edinburgh and Midlothian. This does not imply that we get assistance only from the Gaelic-speaking people, but it means a great reduction in the centres of radiation.

As a matter of fact, some of the best support has come from people who would find it difficult to locate that drop of Gaelic blood which is the inheritance of practically every Scot. Various ways of raising money have been tried in Edinburgh, but no very novel way has been found. A Highland ball, fortunately held before the influenza epidemic, proved unexpectedly popular, and it is proposed that it should become an annual event as before the War.

The Celtic plays roused much interest and we hope Miss Orphoot will make such plays also an annual event. If she would also give Gaelic plays it would be even better, for she has the knowledge of stagecraft and a strong artistic sense. Though a keen student of the language, Miss Orphoot may not feel equal to the management of a Gaelic play without a Gaelic colleague, but that would be no difficulty. Mrs Kennedy Fraser's concert was popular as always, and as we do not often hear him one may be permitted to make special mention of Hugh Mackay, whom the audience would hardly allow to retire after many recalls; and the same applies to all the members of the Kennedy family. I have always been sorry that An Comunn did not secure Mr Hugh Mackay as a permanent member of its staff and I think that even yet Mr Mackay might be induced to give two or three months of the winter to a Gaelic "Arts League of Service," doing Gaelic plays and sketches and songs in the Highlands.

A jumble sale, a bring-and-buy sale, what and bridge parties, dances, an evening at the Palais, a work party which has met weekly for several months, have been among the ways employed to raise money; while the Highland societies, as a whole, have not yet made the response which might be looked for. Mention must be made of the St. Oran's ceilidh, the Ross and Cromarty Association, the Gaelic Choir and, perhaps,

especially of Tir Nam Beann which held a delightful ceilidh with Gaelic songs, spinning, "luathadh," dancing, tea, good fellowship, and friendliness.

A great Gaelic concert, a joint effort of the Highland societies, was projected, but has been postponed and it is hoped that it will be held in autumn, as well as the local Mod which the Celtic Union was obliged to drop owing to the illness of every member of the Special Committee.

While Lady Seton had not personally had much to do with the inside edge of Gaelic activities before she undertook the convener-ship of this stall, she has shown herself so sincerely anxious to do all she could and so ready to put aside other engagements and attend, and speak at, meetings of the societies and interest their members, that she has made many Highland friends who have sympathised with her in her family anxieties and in her own trying illness which has withdrawn her from their activities at a difficult time.

Of other workers it is unnecessary and would be invidious to speak for are we not working for our own cause and race, and one might as well commend a son for loving and serving his mother.

AN FHEILL.

Mu'm bi na briathran so air an leughadh air taobh-duilleig a' "Ghàidheil" bidh an Fhéill 'na sròl 's 'na h-uigheam, agus Gàidheil as gach cearn de'n dùthaich a' toirt an cuideachaidh seachad. Cuiridh ceithir làithean, ùine nach eil ach gearr laimh air an ùine a thugadh a' suidheachadh na stèidh 's a' deasachadh gach cùis, crìoch air ar n-oidhirpean, cho fada is a tha an Fhéill féin ag gabhail a stigh nan oidhirpean-sin, ach chan e feasgar Di-sathuirne crìoch na h-oidhirp sin idir; chan eil anns an Fhéill ach fosgladh rathaid, is mur biodh nì eile fuaghte rithe ach deanamh is cruinneachadh airgid a mhàin, bha e cho math gun i bhi air a gleidheadh idir. Ach chan ann mar sin a tha. Mar is dlùithe a tha sinn a' tighinn air an Fhéill is ann is comharraichte a tha e ri fhaicinn gu'n do phàigh si i féin mar tha an dòigh is prìseile na an airgid is an òr.

Dhùis an Fhéill dealas is féin-àicheadh am bròilichean nan Gàidheal iad féin, is thug i toradh sònraichte a mach anns an dòigh 'san do nochd i mar tha fathast spiorad togarrach, is spiorad dùthchasach, ged a bha e aig amannan ionnas 'na chadal, air ar giùlan mar shluagh. Tha àrd is iosal, mòr is beag, sean is òg ag cur an aghaidh air

an aon cheann-uidhe; agus tha so eadhon ri fhaicinn anntasan nach d'fhuaire de luigheasachadh a' Ghàidhlig a bhi air am bilibh mar chainnt mhàtharail idir. An tuille urraim dhoibh air son an oidhirpean is an dilseachd. Dhùinne a ghabh làmh anns an Fhéill thug an spiorad càirdeil a nochd a' mhòr chuid misneach dhùinn ann a bhi a' sìor-dhol air aghaidh, le dearbhadh gu bheil càirdean air ar cùl an iomadh àite. "Is fearr caraid 'sa chùirt na crùn 'san sporan," arsa an seann fhear, is tha e cho fìor an obair as leth na Gàidhlig ri cùirt lagha no còmh-dhail nam fiath. Chan e an t-airgid an t-aon nì a tha a dhìth, a tha ri shìreadh no a tha ri màirsinn. Na'm faigheamaid làn-rùn nan Gàidheal a chosnadh, an spéis do'n t-seann chàinain a dhùsgadh, oir chan eil i marbh ach 'na cadal, le dearb-bheachd air a teasraiginn a' tarraing an dùrachd, bhiodh an cath leinn ged nach biodh Fhéill idir againn, no da sgillinn am màileid ar n-ionmhais gu an suathadh ri chéile. Tha sinn ag cosnadh làn-rùn nan Gàidheal is chan eil teagamh ann, is deagh-rùn bho bharrachd is na Gàidheil. Eadhon an diugh féin, is tha mi a' sgrìobhadh so ceithir la-deug mu'm fosglar an Fhéill tha dearbhadh againn air bàidh ruinn féin is ri ar n-oidhirpean a bhi a' tighinn am follais an iomadh cearn. Tha e ri fhaicinn gu soilleir gu bheil cuid nach do ghabh riamh suim dhinn féin no de na nithean a bha sinn ag cumail an taic ri ar bith, is nach d'imich air an aon slighe ruinn idir, ag cur stad 'nan ceum is a' feoraich co iad so a tha air an aomadh is air an co-eigneachadh 'na leithid de dhòigh air sgàth càinain dhùthchail, no cìod i idir a' chàinain sin a fhuair a leithid de bhuaidh orra. Agus tha an stad beag a nì iad, theagamh, 'gan cur gu smuaintean. Is docha gu'n lean iad air an seann imeachd aig an am, ach chan eil e do-chreidsinn nach eil teud beag air beantainn ris 'nan cridhe, is co aige tha fios nach e an ginealach a tha fathast taobh thall nan sgòthan a thuigeas làn-bhrìgh nam pong 's a bheir gu buil e.

Cha chluinnear cho tric an diugh idir a' cheist ud air a feoraich a sgithich sinn iomadh uair anns an am a dh'fhalbh; is e sin "cìod am feum a tha anns a' Ghàidhlig?" Tha e air a thoirt fa-near gur mòr sin a feum is feum gach càinain eile de a seòrsa air feadh an t-saoghail uile, is nach iad na cuspairean a chàrnas ionnhas suas na h-aon nithean a tha gu leas a' chinne-daonda an uair a thig deireadh an là. Chan eil càinain fo 'n ghrèin nach eil a feum féin innte is a h-ionnhas féin aice 'na gnè, is tha sinn a' tagar nach

eil a' Ghàidhlig co-dhiu air deireadh air a peathraichean feadh an t-saoghail.

Chan ann le aran a mhàin a bheathaichear mac an duine, agus cha mhó is e reic is ceannach agus airgid a mhàin a ni Féill, Féill mar a tha sinne an dùil a bhi againn. Feumaidh dearrsadh eile a bhi 'na teismeadhoin gu Gàidheil a thàladh chuide, an dearrsadh a dh'fhoillsicheas an spiorad dùthchail eadar-dhealaichte bho oidhirpean malairt. Gun teagamh feumaidh an dà ni a bhi á laimh a chèile. Chan eil an Soisgeul naomh féin air a chraobh-sgaol-eadh an duigh, is cha robh, as eugmhais airgid. Chan eil mi an dùil gu'm faighear coire dhomh le "soisgeul" a ràdh ris an teachdaireachd a tha againne an so do ar luchd-dùthcha. Tha càinain againn is tha i saor do gach neach a thogras a làmh a shineadh no a eanchainn uigheamachadh air a son. Tha dileab againn is a chòir féin aig gach Gàidheal oirre; agus cha lùghdaich e a luach cho ònmhor is 'gam bi iadsan a thagras an còir. Is cinnteach gur i sgeul thaitneach a tha an sin; tha i sean, ach tha i fathast nuadh.

Ma gheabh sinn na Gàidheil cruinn am Baile Ghlascho an toiseach an Og-mhios, an spiorad sin 'gan riaghladh le làn-bheachd an càinain a sheasamh, is an teachdaireach cheudna air a giùlan uapa gu ruig na Gàidheil an iomall gach tìre, tha a' chànain sin tearuinn air cheann an àil a thig 'nar déidh. Gun sin, ged a bhiodh sporan ar n-ionnmhais ag cur thairis chan eil dàn eile a' feitheamh oirre ach a dhol bàs.

Tha airgid feumail, ged thà, agus cha b'e ach an t-amadan a dh'iùltadh e. Chan fhaod sinn a dhiùltainn gu air feum a dheanamh dheth: b'e sin aobhar is crìoch na Féille. Tha na craobhan ri an cur, agus tha airgid a dhith air cheann na saothrach sin; ach gu sìgh a tharruing gu barr nan geug, is na geugan sin a chur fo shnòdhach ùr-ghorm samhraidh, is e deagh-rùn, dealas is dilseachd nan Gàidheal iad féin a tha bhuainn, agus gun am faotainn tha ar n-obair gun stàth.

Ciod tuille a tha ri ràdh? Chan eil ni ach a chur air shùilb nan Gàidheal gur a motha meas dhaoine eile orra féin mar is motha am meas-san is an chràm do an càinain is do gach ni a tha 'gan comharrachadh a mach mar shluagh. Is truagh agus is diblidh an inbhe-san a thig ri taobh na slighe gach barrantas cinneadail a thugadh dhoibh, càinain mar am prìomh aon, is a sgeadaich iad féin an riochd slìgh eile. Bheir sin dlmeas orra féin is air na daoine a thug bith

dhoibh, is cha shluagh fa leth iad na's fhaide.

Reic aon eile a chòir-bhreith air son na shàsaicheadh a bhrù de'n bhiadh, is mhall-aich a ghineil e iomadh uair uaithe sin. Cuireamaidne luach na's àirde air ar còir-bhreith féin a chum is nach mallaichear ar n-aoinn leo-san a thig 'nar déidh.

EACHANN MAC DRUGHAILL.

GREAT FEILL.

After many delays, and some disappointments, the Great Feill is now well under way, and if only the response throughout the country is equal to what we know it to be in parts which have sent to us reports, there is no doubt whatever that our efforts will be crowned with success. The Fiery Cross has been carried throughout the length and breadth of the land. It has burned with particular brightness in Colonsay, where work during the past year has resulted in a donation to the funds of the Island Stall of no less than £100—a magnificent average of 10/- for every house in the island. It has appeared in Cambridge, where a very successful Highland Ball was held this month. Pipers from the Scots Guards played the reels, and many dancers wore the kilt or their clan tartan sash. Representatives were present from a number of well-known Highland families, and Mrs. Fyfe, Mrs. de Glehn, Mr. Kinloch, Yr., of Kinloch, Mr. Ian Lindsay, and Mrs. Stewart Fotheringham, who formed the Committee, are greatly to be congratulated on their efforts.

No ball has come near the splendid result achieved in London, where a sum of over £527 was cleared. London's recent activities include a second tea given by Mrs. T. L. Maclean, bringing the result of her efforts up to over £20. Yet another substantial contribution to the stall was made by the Gaelic Society at their meeting on 19th May, when a collection was taken amounting to £21.

Our Highland Week starts on 30th May, in the Berkeley Hall, at 7.30, with solo competitions for ladies and gentlemen. Parchment certificates will be given to all who score not less than 85 per cent., and the winner will be awarded the Special Feill Pendant. The judges are Mr. Gilbert Esplin (music) and Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A. (Gaelic).

On Tuesday there will be a grand Gaelic concert, over which Maclean of Ardour will

preside. The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association are responsible for the greater part of this entertainment, which will include waulking songs and puirt-a-beul.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday is to be broadcast. The band of the 1st Royal Scots will play, and the Countess of Cassillis opens the Feill, the Duke of Atholl, president of the Feill Executive, taking the chair.

In the evening the Clan MacRae Pipe Band will be with us, and the Scottish National Players give a performance of three Scottish plays—"The Change House," by John Brandane; "The Scarecrow," by J. A. Ferguson, and "A Valuable Rival," by Neil Grant, recently played by them at Balmoral by Royal Command.

On 2nd June the Glasgow Police Pipe Band will play, and Lady Elspeth Campbell declare the Feill open. The Chairman on this day is Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isles.

In the evening there will be a performance by the Scottish Country Dance Society, and reel and strathspey playing by the Highland Reel and Strathspey Society. Miss Anne Ballantine, Mr. Frank Gordon, Mr. George Hutchison, Miss Cathie B. MacLean, and Mr. Andrew Colquhoun will also assist.

On Friday, 3rd June, the Duchess of Atholl is coming specially from London to open the Feill, and Sir Iain Colquhoun, who has fortunately returned from Africa in time to be with us, will take the chair. The Glasgow Tramwaymen's Band will be in attendance to continue the sturdy support given to the Glasgow Highland Society Stall by the men in this branch of the Corporation service.

Special attention is drawn to the lecture to be given at 5 p.m. on this day by the Rev. Kenneth Macleod of Gigha on "Musical Legends of the Isles." He will be assisted by Miss Margaret Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, who, together with Mr. Macleod, did such splendid work in rescuing from oblivion Gaelic and Hebridean music. Mrs. Burnley Campbell, convener of the Feill Executive, will be in the chair.

There will be a grand Highland and Scottish concert in the evening, in which the following artistes are very kindly taking part:—Miss Elsie Black (contralto), Miss Florence MacBride (violinist), Mr. William MacCulloch (entertainer), Mr. John Bannerman (Mod medallist), Miss Phemie Marquis

(soprano), Mr. Mathew Nisbet (baritone), and Mr. Gilbert Esplin (accompanist).

Saturday is the closing day of the Feill, which will be declared open by Lady Hermione Cameron. The chair will be taken by Sir Donald MacAlister, a native Gaelic speaker, and an unwearrying supporter of An Comunn.

During the afternoon the Edinburgh Celtic Players are coming over to give a performance of "The Sin Eater," which created so much interest when they produced it last February in aid of the funds of the Edinburgh Stall. They are also giving two performances of "Deirdre," before each of which Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) will sing to her clarsach "Deirdre's Farewell."

The Rev. Lauchlan MacLean Watt has arranged a Gaelic service in the Cathedral for 3 p.m. on Sunday, 5th June, as a fitting conclusion to our week. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan, who needs no introduction, least of all to readers of "An Gaidheal." The Rev. J. Malcolm Munro of St. Columba's, Glasgow, and the Rev. Malcolm Macleod of John Knox and Tradston U.F. Church, will also take part. The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and the St. Columba Gaelic Choir will lead the singing, and Mr. Neil Orr, conductor of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir, will act as a precentor.

It is hoped to raise by the Feill a sum sufficient to enable An Comunn to extend and develop its work. But there is yet another way in which everyone, rich or poor, gentle or simple, can aid the Association in its work, namely, by increasing its membership. Some are indefatigable in their efforts. From both Miss Eleanora Cameron and Mr. Moffat Pender come a steady stream of new members, amounting in each case to between thirty and forty during the past twelve months. We are not all such efficient recruiting sergeants, but surely it is not beyond the power of every member to enrol at least one during the next fortnight. Miss Mary Fraser (assistant secretary) will be in charge of an information bureau and recruiting office in St. Andrew's Halls during the Feill. Each of us know one or more individuals who only need to have the claims of An Comunn brought before them to be enthusiastic adherents. Let us see that they are enrolled at Miss Fraser's office, or their enrolment forms posted to her before 4th June.

LONDON AND THE FEILL.

By LACHLAN CAMPBELL.

Is toigh leam a' Ghàidhlig, a bàrdachd 's a ceòl,

Is tric thog i nios sinn 'n uair bhiodhmaid
fo leòn

'S i dh'ionnsaich sinn tràth ann an làithean
ar n-òig,

'S nach fàg sinn gu bràth gus an laigh sinn
fo 'n fhòd.

The feeling that inspired the Ledaig bard thus to speak of our mother tongue likewise holds fast all true-hearted Gaels, and strong as is the consciousness of it in the life of the people in the homeland, kinsfolk south of the Tweed are animated with a spirit of at least similar force. It, therefore, is not surprising that Gaels, especially in London, have always manifested keen interest in and appreciation of all things Celtic. Living as they do in a cosmopolitan Metropolis, where culture and commerce hold equal sway, contrast is ever in evidence, even though desire may not always be satisfied; and in the comparisons that inevitably arise, some characteristic qualities of the North Country obtain a distinction that are peculiarly pleasing. Chief among these is one's mother tongue, the exile's closest friend; and, while the wealth of expression of it and the rich vocalisation of Gaelic generally are common property, one must leave one's country fully to appreciate the symbolic charm that, binding Gael to Gael, entwines it. This factor mainly explains the attitude of London Gaels to their heritage of language; and when some time ago they learned that, in the furtherance of the interests of Gaelic, An Comunn Gaidhealach intended to hold a Feill Mhor in Glasgow this month, they immediately asked leave to take part in the good work. Consent having been granted, a meeting of leading Gaels was called, whereupon a Council representing all the Highland and the principal Lowland Societies in London was formed into a Branch of the parent Association. Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) was appointed convener; Mr. W. S. Morrison, M.A., and Mrs. Allison Morrison, joint hon. secretaries, and Mr. Robert Dick, West End manager of the Union Bank of Scotland, Ltd., hon. treasurer. No Council could have had more efficient and enthusiastic officials; indeed, the organising ability and tireless energy displayed throughout by these so excellent friends was of the utmost value. Appropriately, and by the claim of a birthright in which all others acquiesced, the Gaelic

Society of London was granted the honour of contributing the first donation to the funds of the Branch, and also of giving a loan for initial campaign expenses.

The first public venture was a sale of work, held in the hall of the Scottish National Church, Covent Garden, W.C., on a Saturday afternoon in November. It was opened by Mrs. Mackinnon of Mackinnon, and was a complete success. In the following month a ceilidh, over which Colonel Iain M. Campbell (Airds) presided, took place in the London Scottish Drill Hall, Buckingham Palace Gate, S.W. It fulfilled liberally the expectation of the promoters. The New Year began with American and other territorially planned tea parties, and a succession of whist drives, dances, concerts, the end of which is not yet. February witnessed two events, each of importance. The first was a lime-light lecture on the Golden Eagle by Mr. Seton Gordon, B.A. (Oxon.), and at the meeting of which Cameron of Lochiel was chairman. The repute of the lecturer, and the hope of obtaining first-hand knowledge and seeing views of the king of birds at home in the Grampians, brought together a large concourse of people. They were rewarded richly, and the coffers of the Branch benefited greatly. But in respect of pride of place financially, the great ball held in the Hyde Park Hotel, S.W., easily comes first. Gaels, of course, predominated in the assembly, and the beauty of colour and distinction of character, the good cheer and homely atmosphere, all combined to make the occasion unique and supreme among West End social functions. Fittingly, the Gaelic Society of London rounded up the enterprises of kinsfolk here a fortnight ago by turning the last of its monthly meetings for the season into a ceilidh. An opportunity was thus given the members and friends of making a direct and official offering to the Feill branch funds, and as the London Gaelic Choir admirably sustained the programme, the proceedings were in all respects successful.

The activities of the Branch are transferred now to the first city in Gaeldom, where for the next few days the convener and the other ladies associated with her will, at An Fhéill Mhór, present to the generous citizens of Saint Mungo wares of value and worth such as should assure a ready clearance. In that certain event, the reward of those who give quickly will be equalled only by the satisfaction thus afforded to the energetic and enthusiastic sellers of the south country.

SOME OF THE STALL CONVENERS.



Mrs. Smythe,
Convener, Inverness-shire Stall.



Lady Seton,
Convener, Edinburgh and Midlothian Stall.



The Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald,
Convener, Island Stall.



Lady Macdonald of the Isles,
Convener, Glasgow and Over the Border Stall.



Mrs. Fanshawe,
Convener, Stirlingshire Stall.

GREAT FEILL.

DONATIONS TO DATE.

Already acknowledged	£1422	3	0	
Miss E. K. Menzies, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Alex. Cameron, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss Ina MacCallum, Collecting Card ...	0	15	0	
Rev. D. J. Robertson, Collecting Card ...	1	0	0	
J. H. Sinclair Coghill, Collecting Card ...	1	0	0	
Kenneth Cameron, Collecting Card ...	8	0	0	
George Cameron, Collecting Card ...	5	0	0	
Rev. Don. MacCallum, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss Janet MacPhail, Collecting Card ...	0	15	0	
Capt. Angus Robertson, Collecting Card ...	0	15	0	
Mr. and Mrs. John Macdonald, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Mrs. Allison, Collected	5	0	0	
Alasdair Cameron, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss Edith Brown, Collecting Card ...	0	8	6	
Miss Jessie B. MacKay, Collecting Card ...	0	3	6	
Miss C. MacKenzie, Collecting Card ...	0	13	0	
John MacArthur, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Newton Public School, Islay, Collecting Card ...	0	8	10	
Wm. MacDonald, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Miss E. Drummond Hay, Collecting Card ...	0	6	0	
Miss Cath. Stevens, Collecting Card ...	1	10	0	
Dr. D. Macdonald, Collecting Card ...	1	1	0	
Miss Nan MacInnes, Collecting Card ...	2	2	6	
W. E. C. Reid, Dunedin, N.Z. ...	5	0	0	
D. Macfarlane, Esq., Collecting Card ...	1	14	0	
Miss Maggie MacLennan, Collecting Card ...	0	11	6	
John Greenshields, Esq., Collecting Card ...	3	7	3	
Ardishaig Branch, per Malcolm MacAlpine, Esq. ...	10	3	0	
John Smith, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Hugh MacKay, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	2	6	
Donald Sutherland, Collecting Card ...	0	6	0	
Donald Campbell, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	11	0	
Angus MacMillan, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Miss Catherine Chisholm, Collecting Card ...	0	13	3	
Miss Effie MacLennan and Miss Cath. MacLeod, Collecting Card ...	0	8	7	
R. W. MacLennan, Esq., Collecting Card ...	3	16	7	
Donald Fraser and Angus MacLeod, Collecting Card ...	0	9	0	
Miss Mary MacRae, Collecting Card ...	0	6	0	
Miss C. Chisholm and Miss J. MacKay, Collecting Card ...	1	14	6	
John MacBride, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Alexander MacKay, Esq., Johannesburg ...	2	2	0	
Neil MacInnes, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	7	6	
Rev. Alex. Boyd, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss M. C. MacTavish, Collecting Card ...	3	2	0	
Miss Mary MacRae, Collecting Card ...	0	3	6	
John Campbell, Esq., Collecting Card ...	1	10	0	
James MacLean, Esq., Sheffield ...	0	10	6	
James C. Hay, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	12	3	
Mr. Lochhead, Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Finlay Ross, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Liverpool Caledonian Association ...	5	5	0	
Miss E. Waldegrave, London ...	0	5	0	
Roderick MacErlich, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Donald MacIndoe, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Mrs. Robert Munro, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss S. C. MacIntyre, Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Miss H. Kemble, Laggan ...	11	11	0	
D. B. Watson, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	2	6	
Don. MacKerlich, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	11	6	
Archd. Smith, Collecting Card ...	1	0	0	
Duncan MacCowan, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	4	0	
Tain Branch	18	0	0	
Miss Farquharson of Invercauld ...	5	0	0	
D. Grant, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Mrs. Horace Kemble, Laggan (additional) ...	0	9	0	
Miss Gates, Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Donald Campbell, Esq., Collecting Card ...	1	8	0	
Alasdair Ross, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
R. Chisholm, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	18	0	
Duncan Young, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	12	6	
Per Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearanbeg, Argyll Stall ...	196	3	9	
Malcolm MacPhee, Esq., Collecting Card ...	4	7	0	
Robert Shaw, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Thomas Henderson, Esq., Collecting Card ...	5	0	0	
W. G. Niven, Esq., Glasgow ...	1	1	0	
J. MacLennan, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	5	0	
Mr. Hugh Morrison, M.P., of Islay, Island Stall ...	10	0	0	
J. MacKillop, Esq., Island Stall ...	1	0	0	
Evan Fraser, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	7	6	
John MacCormick, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	6	0	
A. J. Matheson, Esq., Collecting Card ...	0	15	0	
Mr. and Mrs. John MacKay, Collecting Card ...	0	10	0	
Capt. Arthur MacGregor, Collecting Card ...	0	10	6	
Gilbert MacIntyre, Esq., Collecting Card ...	2	5	0	
Miss Morag Macdonald, Collecting Card ...	0	13	6	
Gometra Branch, Island Stall ...	4	10	0	
Mrs. Stewart of Coll, Island Stall ...	45	0	0	
Morven Branch, Argyll Stall ...	8	8	0	
Miss Mary MacKenzie, Collecting Card ...	0	16	6	
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Ranald Mackinnon	1	0	0	
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Mrs. Herdman	5	0	0	
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Onich Branch	2	0	0	
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Mr. Alex. Gilchrist	0	5	0	
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Donald Macleod, M.A., Collecting Card ...	0	15	0	
Robert J. Stewart, Collecting Card ...	0	17	6	
Alexander Macfarlane, Collecting Card ...	1	0	0	
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Mrs. Flora Johnston, Collecting Card ...	1	1	0	
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Captain George Campbell, Yr., of Sucoth	5	5	0	
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St. Columba's Gaelic Choir, Glasgow	5 0 0
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Angus MacLeod, Esq.	0 14 0
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THE REV. MR. MACKAY.

The University of St. Andrews has announced its intention of conferring the degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Rev. George William Mackay, M.A., minister of Killin. The announcement has given great satisfaction in Comunn circles, as in the Highlands generally; for Mr. Mackay's name is one that is known far and wide for zeal and activity in the work of the Church and in the interests of An Comunn. First and foremost he is the preacher and pastor—his preaching being characterised by culture, eloquence, and spiritual insight; while his personal qualities of kindness, sympathy, and wise counsel, have long endeared him to his people. Abundant evidence of this was lately given on the occasion of his semi-jubilee as minister, when his congregation and other friends testified to their high sense of his work and worth. As convener of the Gaelic Hymn Book Committee, and as an active member for many years on other Committees of the General Assembly, he rendered great service to the Church. It was in the manse of Killin that the New Testament was translated into Scottish Gaelic; and the mantle of Dr. Stewart has fallen on Mr.

Mackay; for it is by his devotion to the Gaelic cause that Mr. Mackay is more intimately known outside the professional circle of the Church. He has for many years been the convener of the Propaganda Committee of An Comunn. Sparring neither time nor energy, he has infused not a little of his own earnest enthusiasm into many branches, from Sutherland, his native county, to Perthshire, the county of his adoption. He also occupied for three years, during the onerous time of post-war reconstruction, the distinguished position of president of An Comunn. We join with many others in hearty felicitations, and in wishing Mr. Mackay long life and health to enjoy the well-deserved honour that he is about to receive. N. R.

THE CALL OF THE BLOOD.

By REV. KENNETH MACLEOD.

Some generations ago, a great ship was wrecked off the Small Isles of Clanranald, and out of the many on board only one reached the shore alive, a young lad of foreign ways and speech. Years after, he said: "At first everything was strange to me, and my heart was like to break within me, until one day I heard the tune I had always, somehow, been longing to hear."

And the people understood what had happened: that from beyond the sea and from beyond the years and from beyond the tales, one of their own blood had at last come home.

A hunger has come to my heart,

An itch and a lilt and a tale;

I see but an isle and a creek,

A boat that is longing to sail—

So raise we the tune of our blood,

And cry we for joy that we see

The isle that is nowhere at all,

Yet was and forever shall be.

The call of the boat and the isle,

The call of the dream from the sea,

The call of the tune to the blood,

Their call is the hunger in me—

So raise we the tune of our blood,

And cry we for joy that we see

The isle that is nowhere at all,

Yet was and forever shall be.

Now sail we by dream to yon isle

That riseth by night like a moon,

Where love is the air that we breathe,

And sighs are but sounds in the tune—

So raise we this tune of our blood,

And cry we for joy that we see

The isle that is nowhere at all,

Yet was and forever shall be.

NAIDHEACHD NA FEILLE ANNS AN EILEAN FHADA.

*Chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs, agus is mise
a tha ag ràdh sin ribh.*

IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

A' Chànain uasal!

Cànain nan Gàidheal!

Cànain uasal nan Gàidheal!

Cànain nan Gàidheal uasal!

"An robh sibh riann anns na
h-eileanan?"

"Bha."

"Agus ciod é am beachd a tha agaibh
orra?"

"Chunnaic mi beanntan agus creagan
agus monaidhean agus lochan agus uillt gu
leòir."

"Agus ciod é mu dhéidhinn nan daoine
a tha ann?"

"O! tha daoine ann ceart gu leòir."

"An robh sibh a' bruidhinn riù?"

"Cha robh—mòran."

"C'arson?"

"Bhruidhinn mi uaireannan ris an duine
a bha 'na ghille agam."

"Ach is ann anns a' Bheurla a bha sibh
a' bruidhinn ris?"

"Is ann."

"*Is ann!*" Ah! a chairdean, togaibh
oirbh! Tha sinn uile eòlach air na daoine
sin a their 'Is ann' ris a' cheist mu dheir-
eadh.

* * * * *

Tha feasgar grinn ann; tha ciùineas agus
solus na grèine air feadh na tìre.

Tha mi a' dlùthachadh air Dùn Charlabh-
aigh, ann an Leòdhas. Tha naidheachd
na Féille agam ri craobh-sgaioleadh am
measg sluagh an Dùin. Cha chuala iad
mòran mu a déidhinn fhathast—tha e
coltach, oir cha robh fhios, có dhùibh, aig
Cairistiona Nic Aoidh gu bheil a leithid gu
bhith ann, agus is ann an 'Dùn Cottage,'
ri taobh an rathaid mhóir, a tha Cairistiona
a' fuireach! (Gidheadh cuiridh i pàidhear
stocainnean suas chum na Féille, fhathast,
tha i ag ràdh—an creutair coibhneil.)

B' ann ri Niall MacLeòid, a bha 'na
sheasamh aig dorus an tighe aige, a
bhruidhinn mi an toiseach. Sheall esan
an tigh aig bean Dhòmhnuill Mhic
Dhòmhnuill dhomh. Tha an tigh aice
dreach mu choinne an tighe aige fhéin.
Dh'fhoighnich mi dhith an robh mòran anns
a' bhaile so ag obair airson na Féille.

"Chan eil," thuirteise, "tha a h-uile
duine trang an dràst—cha b'urrainn domh
fhéin dad a dhèanamh na's mó. Nam
biodh ùine againn is maith dh'fhaoidte gum

biodh rud air choireigin agam deiseil, ach
bha an ùine cho goidid—cha b'urrainn duinn
dad a dhèanamh—cha b'urrainn."

"Tha sibh ceart," thuirteise, "tha obair
an earraich ann a nis. Tha mi duilich gu
bheil mi a' cur dragh oirbh, an dràst, mar
tha."

"Chan eil sibh a' cur dragh orm, chan
eil—ach cha chreid mi gu bheil mi 'gur
n-aithneachadh—dé their iad ribh?"

"Is e 'Bodach na Féille' a their feadhainn
rium," arsa mise.

"Bodach na Féille! Agus có as a tha
sibh?"

"Is ann as an Fhraing a tha mi."

"As an Fhraing! Agus dé bha sibh a'
dèanamh anns an Fhraing?"

"Bha mi ag ionnsachadh na Fraingis."

"Ag ionnsachadh na Fraingis! O! a
chiall!—ach nach tig sibh a steach?"

Agus is ann mar sin a tha sinn a'
dèanamh obair na Féille ann an Leòdhas.
Cha chreid mi gum bi pàidhear stocainnean
eile aig an Fhéil na's bòidheche na am
pàidhear a tha bean Dhòmhnuill Mhic
Dhòmhnuill, Dùn Charlabhaigh a' fighe.

"Agus is ann airson na Gàidhlig a bhios
sibh 'gan dèanamh," thuirteise, "mar a
bha mi 'ga fàgail."

"*Is ann!*" thuirteise, "tha mi a' tuigsinn
an rud a nis. O! ceart gu leòir—nì mi na's
urrainn domh."

Chaidh mi beagan na's fhaide air aghart
do ionnsuigh an Dùin fhéin. Bha seathnar
no seachdnar ag obair gu cruaidh air an
fhearainn aca. Bha cuid a' cladhach, cuid
a' leasachadh, cuid a' sgaioleadh na
feamainn.

"Tha feasgar breagh ann," thuirteise mi ris
an duine a b'fhaige orm. B'e so Iain Mac-
Phàil—Iain Thormoid Ruaidh.

"Tha—tha deagh fheasgar ann," thuirteise
esan. Bha còmhraidh againn ri chèile car
treis. Tha Iain de an bheachd gum bi
samhradh maith ann fhathast. Uidh air
n-uidh bha càch a' tighinn na bu dlùithe
oirm. Mu dheireadh bha Murchadh Mac
Illeathain—Murchadh Iain an t-Saoir, agus
a' bhean òg, bhòidheach aige, Màiri Uilleim,
ri ar taobh.

An sin thòisich naidheachd na Féille a
rithist—!

Ah! A Mhàiri Uilleim agus Iain
Thormoid Ruaidh, nach mise a tha a' toirt
taing dhuibh airson mar a thug sibh
misneach dhomh; airson mar a bha sibh
comh-fhulangach—agus nach sibh-se, a
thug an clisgeadh beag as aibh féin an uair
a chuala sibh nach biodh Féil eile ann
airson fichead bliadhna, agus an uair a

smuainich sibh nach biodh cothrom eile agaih a rithist air a bhith a' cuideachadh le aobhar na Gàidhlig—airson fichead bliadhna cò dhiùbh. Ah! Bha sibh comh-fhulangach. Agus is ann le comh-fhulangas nan Gàidheal fhéin a bhios a' Ghàidhlig air a cumail beò, làidir.

Is ann.

* * * * *

An déidh sin chaidh mi gu Steòrnabhaigh. B'e so am feasgar an uair a bha luchd-riaghlaidh Chomunn Gàidhealach Leòdhais a' cruinneachadh le chèile gu bhith a' suidheachadh agus a' cur an uidheam a h-uile rud do thaobh cuirm-chiùil mhór na Féille.

Is e Donnchadh Mac Dhòmhnuill, Sanda-bheag, fear na cathrach. Tha na maighdeannan-usal Anna Nic Leòid, Cnoc, agus Alina Nic Leòid, Steòrnabhaigh a làthair; mar an ceudna tha Seumas Mac Thòmhais, am barra-bhàrd, Huisdein Mac Mhathain, Iain Mac Iomhair, Lacasdail, Dòmhnall Mac Leòid, Cnoc, Alasdair Mac Leòid, Steòrnabhaigh, Aonghas Mac Dhòmhnuill, Steòrnabhaigh, agus Alasdair Urchardainn, an Rùnaire, a làthair. Tha iad uile 'nan sgoilearan foghlumte—tha iad uile air leth dìleas do an chànan mhàthaireil aca. Tha bàigh aca rithe, agus tha iad uile air leth teòma air a teagasg do an chloinn. An uair a bha mi còmhla riù am feasgar so dh'fhaicir mi gur iad-san, dà-rìreadh, na h-ard-sgoilearan cruinn còmhla. Cha robh ach Alasdair Mór a Bearnaraidh a dhìth oinn.

Gu robh buaidh aig na maighistearan-sgoile agus aig na bana-mhaighistearan-sgoile air feadh nan Eilean. Gu robh maith aca uile airson na tha iad a' dèanamh airson na cànan, agus, air an am so fhéin, airson na Féille. Is iad-san a tha a' cumail bratach na cànan a' snàmh air a' ghaoith. Gu ma fada a mhealas iad an cliù sin a tha cho dlìgheach dhoibh, anns gach deagh bheus agus anns gach deagh ghnìomh. 'Gu robh dealt na maidne daonnan 'gan urrachadh, agus gu robh reultan nèimhe 'gan treòrachadh ri taobh na mara anns an fheasgar an uair a bhios sith agus coibhneas anns gach cridhe.

Ah! Eileanaich mo ghràidh!

Ah! Eileanan nam fras agus na grèine fa seach!

Ach dé bhios ann mur eil bhuir canain ann—?

Is ann anns na h-Eileanan agaih a tha i fhathast làidir.

Is ann!

Cumaih làidir gu bràth i!

THE MOD'S FUTURE.

It should be regarded as a most heartening sign concerning An Comunn that it finds itself with too much to do. An increasing interest by its public in its doings and a healthily developing business, even if it is outpacing the staff, prove the need for An Comunn and are all to the future good.

It is quite another matter that the facilities for doing all that is required are at the moment inadequate. That trouble being merely an economic one the obvious course for An Comunn is to show good and sufficient cause for an increase of resources. The rest may confidently be left with its people.

A very evident instance, then of the serious limitations under which the work has to be carried on is provided by An Comunn's own headquarters. The accommodation there is palpably insufficient, while the average amount of work to be done in it, let alone the peak load, puts, to say the least of it, unfair pressure on the staff. It should be said, however, that the friendly Gaelic atmosphere of the place and the unfailing optimism of its staff, saves the situation to a happy degree. As so much else depends on it this probably is the first department which will require revision and relief.

The conditions obtaining at the office are more or less similar in every section of An Comunn's wide field of operations. Take the case again of the National Mod. It has touched the zenith of its present possibilities. As is well known its programme is now full. It has been sectionised as far as is workable. The tyranny of the clock will not yield in the least to allow more items into the programme nor even to accommodate comfortably those that are in already. It is a time-crushed schedule from the moment the Mod commences on Tuesday morning till the midnight finish on the following Friday. Unquestionably the stage is reached when a re-organisation on progressive lines should be considered; a re-organisation which would in the first place provide to it a due measure of relief and allow wisely for its future development. However much has been achieved in the past there are still great ideals to be striven for and progress must be the watch-word. What the precise lines of progress should be is the question now ripe for discussion.

For one thing the relationship between the National and the Provincial Mod has not,

so far, been sufficiently definite. That should now, perhaps, be made more apparent and intimate. At present the Mod is doing not only the work of a National Institution but also, in effect, work proper to a Provincial one. In the circumstances that now exist it might well shed the latter. Should not, indeed, the only access to the National Mod in all oral and solo singing departments, excepting perhaps a few special competitions, be through Provincial Mods? These Provincial Mods which are setting up on all sides are the cheering hope of An Comunn. They use only the real native substance. It is of the literary and musical quality in their own midst that they make their Mods. They are doing their work well, so well indeed, that in many instances the general quality of the oral work dealt with by them would do great credit to a National Mod. Moreover, they fend very well for themselves financially. By means of them there is good ground for hoping that peaceful penetration and enthusiastic expansion will proceed until every part of the highlands has taken the opportunity of appreciating and developing its own native genius.

The problem would be to co-ordinate the work of the local Mods with that of the National Mod. The local Mods would be the first affected. They should all have to study the same programme, in whole or in part, and only the winners, and perhaps those gaining a high percentage of marks in any particular competition, would be eligible to enter the same but final competition at the National Mod. The system would, no doubt, beget many more Mods—a matter much to be desired in itself—and an organisation of judging officers appointed by An Comunn would become necessary in order that a general standard of merit and marking should be established and maintained. The considered purpose of the adjudicators would be to assure the highest possible standard of talent at National Mod competitions.

Choirs would require for the present to have continued to them the existing direct access. They are all very highly trained and not yet so numerous as to require any process of selection.

There would be some difficulty in making an arrangement that would provide a suitable avenue to individuals residing outwith the Highlands. It would be necessary to establish Comunn sectional centres throughout the country and to hold in each a district

Mod, or where the local branch was not large enough a National Mod Selection Competition, these meetings to be held as nearly before the date of the National Mod as might be convenient. Judging officers from An Comunn headquarters would be present at all such competitions, with full adjudicating powers. The sectional centre proper to an intending competitor would be that nearest his place of permanent residence.

It would, in the meantime, be essential to institute a fund for the sole and special purpose of assisting branches in the Highlands to send competitors to the National Mod. Every welcome and encouragement would, of course, be extended otherwise to persons resident outside of the Highlands but, naturally, the first great interest of An Comunn would be to further the opportunities of the Gael, living the life of the Gael, in the land of the Gael.

Sooner or later, the Mod will have to raise its status generally to satisfy the newer conditions and to hold authoritatively the position it should occupy as the supreme court of adjudication. Even as it is, the Mod is more than a Musical Festival or high holiday of An Comunn, held once a year, for a few days in some particular town, commencing and ending there in its usefulness. It has greater significance. It is a noble institution belonging to and representative of the whole Gaelic people and the gauge of a certain important phase of their national condition.

It has come to be a very special requirement in modern Highland life and that requirement will no doubt increase in urgency as the Gael continues to realise himself and seeks to have and enjoy those beautiful features of life which are peculiarly his own.

A re-organisation of the Mod on some such lines as those suggested would relieve it of inappropriate work, give it a new importance and dignity, and assure it of a great future as a really National Institution.

Progress, however, is largely dependent on means. The Mod, like other hard-pressed departments of An Comunn's activities, is calling out for progress. The response will depend upon the means provided. As the warrant for amplifying the working resources is now so undoubted, the time is meet for exercising faith and hope that the necessary augmentation will somehow arrive.

J. R. B.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Tha an Fhéill a' teannadh dlùth agus tha cairdean lionmhor, le guth is gnìomh, ag ullachadh fa chomhar na seachdainne mòire sin. Bidh mòran sluagh a' teannadh air baile mòr Ghlascho a chuideachadh—'s a cheannach—aig an Fhéill. Tha an sinuain sin a' toirt gu m'aire rann de shean òran a chuala mi agus tha dòchas agam gum bi e cho fìor mu dheidhinn na Fèille 'sa bha e am beachd a' bhàird:

Thig iad o na mullaichean,

Cho lionmhor ris na truideagan,

A choinhead air mo chruinneag-sa;

A luirichead 'sa bòidhchead.

The Local Committee at Fort William are working whole-heartedly to make this year's National Mod an unqualified success. Already they have collected locally a sum of over £100. The Ladies' Committee has been particularly active, and in our next number the full list of subscribers will be published. With this number members will receive the annual appeal for Mod funds, and the Committee earnestly hope that former contributors will respond in their usual generous way, and that the great work of the Mod will make an especial appeal to new members.

Our space this month has been almost entirely given over to Feill purposes and arrangements, and our branch reports are consequently being held over, along with other matter. The branches have been particularly active this session, and many of them have made valuable contributions in money and kind to the Great Feill fund. Moran taing dhoibh uile gu leir agus buaidh leo.

NIALL.

AN ARRAN JUNE.

Queen June, each day, wears gown bedight
With jewels rare for our delight;
A turquoise sky, a sapphire sea,
A ruby rose, an emerald lea,
And hawthorn pearls, and amethyst
Sweet violets by dewdrops kissed;
Enhanced by flaming banks of gold
Of gorse and broom in wealth untold.
At dusk she dons, for night's repose,
A robe of misty blue and rose
Adorned with many a diamond star
Whose lustre sparkles from afar;
A fairy moon lends silver beams
To light her to the land of dreams.

MORAR MACLEAN BANNATYNE.

"VOICES FROM THE HILLS"

(GUTHAN O NA BEANTAIBH).

A Memento of the Gaelic Rally, 1927. Edited by John Macdonald, M.A. Published by An Comunn Gaidhealach, and printed by Archibald Sinclair, Glasgow. Pp. xviii., plus 303, 10ins. by 8in. Price, 6/6.

In connection with the Gaelic revival in Scotland, no volume of such rich and varied interest as this has yet appeared. "Voices from the Hills" was first intended to be of an occasional character. It was to be a souvenir of the Feill of 1927; but it has become this and a great deal more. The response to the editor's request for contributions was so gracious and abundant that the result, in bulk and in quality, has gone far beyond the limits of an occasional volume. The intrinsic merit of the book itself, apart from the event which called it into being, will assure for the volume a permanent place in the literature of the movement. There are over eighty different contributors to the literary portion; and there are twenty names associated with its fine illustrations which give an additional charm to the "Voices from the Hills." Considering the very high standard and the large number of articles in the volume, we feel that it would be invidious to make a selection in this review. But we may mention such names in the literary world as Neil Munro and John Buchan; in Celtic learning as Professors Watson, Douglas Hyde, and Fraser, Oxford; and in politics as Ian Macpherson, Lloyd George, and Ramsay Macdonald. Among the artists are John Duncan, R.S.A.; Pittendriugh Macgillivray, R.S.A., and Sir D. Y. Cameron, R.A., R.S.A.

We have seen several volumes of a commemorative nature bearing on centenaries of universities and other institutions, but we can truly say that we have not yet seen a volume having such variety as "Voices from the Hills." There are English and Gaelic, prose and verse; reproductions from pencil, brush, and camera; history and fiction; patriotic and antiquarian themes—all handled with the ease of intimate knowledge and mastery. It is refreshing to have in one view, as here, the opinions of trained minds, from the learned professions, from the artistic world, from business, and from many other walks of life demanding a liberal education, and all expressed with sympathy and enthusiasm, about the Gael, his prospects, and his language. The book is a treasure-house of Gaelic lore, which ought to be in the hands of all readers who are interested in the Gael or his country. The editor, Mr. John Macdonald, deserves the highest commendation for the efficient manner in which he has brought together so rich an argosy.

The printing and paper are excellent, and all who handle the book must agree that the price is remarkably moderate in these post-war days. It is ardently hoped that lovers of Gaelic will possess themselves of this outstanding volume by so many representative men.

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Leabhar XXII.]

An t-Iuchar, 1927.

[Earrann 10

BUIDHEACHAS.

Tha an Féill a nis thairis; agus thugadh gu crìch chothromaich na rùntan a bha aig an luchd stiùiridh anns an t-sealladh. A chionn is gur e am mìosachan so guth An Chomuinn, tha mòr-bhuidheachas 'g a thabhairt an so, an ainn na Comhairle, do 'n luchd saothrach a rinn an obair cho dùrachdach; agus mar an ceudna do na càirdean lionmhor anns gach cearn a rinn cuideachadh leis an Fhéill, le airgid agus le tabhartais. Chan eil àicheadh nach faigh cuis na Gàidhlig brosnuchadh nach beag mar thoradh air làithean na Fèille. Bheir an t-suim eireachdail airgid cothrom as ùr do 'n Chomunn air crìochan àraidh a choimhlionadh. Tha an deagh-ghean agus an gnìomh a' tabhairt neart is misneach far an robh laigse agus cu-dòchas a' tòiseachadh ri briseadh a stigh. Mar sin thàinig cabhair an deagh am. Ach a thùilleadh air luach an ionmhais, is prìseil an nì gun do nochdadh a leithid de dheagh-ghean do 'n Ghàidhlig féin. Chaidh aire na rìoghachd, troimh na paipeirean naidheachd, a tharruing gach latha, gu luach na càinain, le briathran an luchd labhairt, agus le fialaidheachd nan càirdean. Nochd na Gàidhlig nach biodh iad riarachte gus an taisbeanadh iad an deagh-rùn le gnìomharan. An lorg so is cinnteach gu bheil iomadh neach, tuath is deas, a ghabh beachd air obair A' Chomuinn, nach tug faineart an nì gu so féin. Air an aobhar so tha an uair fàbharach gu cuireadh a thabhairt dhaibh tighinn a stigh do 'n Chomunn gun dàil. Gach ball a leughas so, thugadh e faineart, gur i an t-seirbheis is fearr is urrainn sinn a dheanamh do 'n Chomunn caraid air choireigin a thabhairt a stigh do 'n Chomunn mun bi crìoch air an Iuchar Shamhraidh.

Anns na làithean so, air do 'n Chomunn cuideachadh cho toirteil fhaotainn bidh cuid de na càirdean a' meòrachachadh air na meadhonan is fearr gus an càinain a chumail suas. Tha feadhainn de 'n bheachd gun deantar sin le cleachdadh a chibil. Tha an ceòl gun teagamb 'n a 'arrann de 'n dileab. Ach feumaidh sinn an aire a thabhairt nach bi sinn air ar mealladh anns an nì so. Cha ruig sinn a leas a bhi an dùil gun cum sinn is còisirean an càinain beò. Tha sinn cho measail air ceòl ris gach dara neach. Ach tha sinn deimhin nach cum na còisirean nì sam bith suas ach an ceòl fhéin. Ged ghliðhte beò an ceòl faodaidh a' chàinain bhi a' dol bàs gu luath. Tha sinn am beachd gur còir do 'n Chomunn a nis oidheip as ùr a dheanamh as leth na cainnte. An iomadh sgrì de 'n Ghaidhealtachd tha làithean na càinain air an cunntas. Ciamar? Tha a chionn gu bheil an òigridh aineolach air cainnt am pàrantan. Tha sin a' ciallachadh gu faigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs cho luath is a dh' eugas aon ghinealach. Agus ma cheaduirear so nas fhaide, tha làithean na Gàidhlig gu cinnteach air an cunntas. Ma tha sin fìor feumaidh An Comunn ionnsaigh a dheanamh nas dalma na rinn e riamh roimhe. Anns a' cheud dol a mach feumair tuilleadh urrainn agus aire a thabhairt do na comhfar-puisean a bhineas do labhairt agus do sgrìobhadh na càinain. Thèid na ceudan a dh' èisdeachd na seinn. Cha téid ach glé bheag a dh' èisdeachd na labhairt. Tha an mhòr chuid de 'n t-sluagh coma, tha e coltach, ma chluinneas iad ceòl, biodh an labhairt a' deanamh mar a dh' fhaodas i. Feumair so atharrachadh. Feumair gnothuichean a riaghladh, chan ann a réir aignidhean nan coimhthional air latha Mòid, ach a réir feumalachd an aobhair agus na càinain.

Agus is e an dara ni a tha ri atharrachadh—cor na Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean. O chionn ochd bliadhna air ais, le saothair nach bu bheag, fhuaradh Achd Parlamaid, a tha ag orduchadh gun teagaisgear an cànan do 'n chloinn anns na ceàrnaibh anns a bheil i fathast coitichionn. Is e sin an aon mheadhon is fearr gu mòr, agus is e an aon ni is còir do 'n Chomunn seasamh air. Feumar tilleadh uair is uair ris an tagradh so, gu bràth gus am faigh sinn éisdeachd. Tha obair an ath-leasaichidh so ri dheanamh an glinn na Gaidhealtachd far a bheil a' chànan fathast beò. A cheana rinn cuid de na h-Ughdara is gu maith, a thaobh cothrom a thabhairt do 'n Ghàidhlig anns na sgoiltean. Ach tha cuid eile dhiu nach d' rinn an deasdanas idir anns a' chùis. Feumaidh na h-Ughdara is tuilleadh aire, tuilleadh ùine, agus tuilleadh airgid a chur ar leth a chum teagasg na Gàidhlig. Diùltaidh iad sin a dheanamh; agus is e sin aobhar na comhstri a dh'fhemas An Comunn a chumail suas gus an faighear buaidh. Ma their sinn gu diùid, ciùin, "Rinn sinn na b' urrainn duinn; chuir sinn impidh uair is uair air na h-Ughdara is, agus cha tug cuid dhiu cluas no geill do ar guth." Ciod e ma 's eadh. Theing seachad air na h-Ughdara is. Ruig an sluagh a thagh iad. Fosgail sùilean an t-sluaigh a tha 'taghadh nam ball agus a' paigheadh an airgid; agus aig an ath Thaghadh an 1928, chì sinn am faigh ar n-impidh éisdeachd.

THE GREAT FEILL.

£10,500 realised.

Although the Feill did not actually open till Wednesday, 1st June, the evenings of 30th and 31st May were occupied by introductory entertainments.

On Monday evening, Gaelic solo competitions were held in the Berkeley Hall, over which Mr. Iain Moffatt-Pender presided. The adjudicators were: Gaelic, Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., and music, Mr. Gilbert Esplin. Seventeen competitors had entered, of whom four were gentlemen. The attendance of the public at the opening meeting was not up to expectations, no doubt in some measure due to many committee meetings in connection with the Feill. A gold pendant was awarded in each section, and the winners were:—Miss Madge Campbell Brown, Lochgilphead, and Neil A. MacInnes, Dennistoun. A short sketch, "Twixt the Soup and the Savoury," closed the

evening's entertainment. The President moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, making fitting reference to his zeal on behalf of the Feill.

There was a large audience on Tuesday evening to enjoy the fare provided by the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Choir, conducted by Mr. J. N. MacConochie, M.A. Colonel MacLean of Ardgour presided, and gave a fine address on the objects of the Feill, and the work of An Comunn in general. The choir provided delightful choral items from their repertoire, also solos and duets. One feature of the fine programme was the singing of puirt á beul, to which a quartette of young girls danced. The choir and conductor were cordially thanked for their services to the Feill by the Chairman. Mr. Malcolm MacLeod proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel MacLean for presiding.

FIRST DAY.

The spacious St. Andrew's Hall was filled when the platform party took their seats prompt at noon on Wednesday, 1st June. The Band of the 1st Royal Scots (by kind permission of Colonel Charteris, C.M.G., D.S.O.) discoursed selections.

The proceedings were opened with a short address of welcome in Gaelic from Mr. Angus Robertson, the president. Mr. Robertson said:—Chuireadh mar fhiachaibh ormsa gun Bheurla chur am feum ann a bhi cur fàilte air cruinneachadh an latha mhoir so. Is cinnteach gur e an aobhar nach 'eil canain eile is urrainn blàths na Gàidhlig no nan Gàidheal a chur an cèill cho fiachail, no idir cho faireachail. Nan robh Fionn an làthair nach e dh' iarradh air Oisein téud na cruic a bhualadh le sunnd. Oir bhiodh a chridhe lan le taingeachadh dhaibhsan a thug ulaidh is ullachadh a chum 's gu'm maireadh spiorad na Gàidhlig beò. Tha reachd-rùn a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach a' taomadh le bàidh airson 'ur deadh-chàirdeis is 'ur gnìomhachais. 'Nar measg cha bhi sprochd air suinn; bidh ceòl is òl an tìdh gach fir; is clàr an laimh gach fìlìdh is mnaoi òig. Tha spiorad is aigne nan Gàidheal, mar dhlomhaireachd mhaiseach a' sruthadh fhathasd 'nar measg bho na mìltean cian.

The Rev. J. M. Munro, M.A., St. Columba Church, offered a short prayer in Gaelic, after which the Duke of Atholl, K.T., president of the Feill Executive, and chairman at the official opening, in the course of his address, said they had met to open the Great Feill of An Comunn Gaidhealach, whereby it was hoped to raise sufficient funds to enable the Association to

carry out more efficiently the aims and objects which they had in view. He would like to explain that An Comunn Gàidhealach was a sane, patriotic body, with sane, patriotic ideals. They would all, of course, love to see the Highlands flourishing "like a green bay tree," they would like to see poverty abolished, and they would like to have every one able to speak their ancient native language, they would like to see the abolition of all misery and unhappiness, but they knew that these, alas! were but ideals, though ideals at least towards which they should strive as a society. At the same time, it formed a chain round them in the Highlands which bound them together and made them remember that they were a united component part of Great Britain. The romance of their history, their traditions, the names of their hills and glens, their love one for another, which he might embody in the expression *esprit de corps*, would be very different if they let the Gaelic language slip away. It was a common heritage which they had, and which others did not possess. While we do what we can, he continued, to maintain its teaching in the schools, we realise that it can exist as a live tongue only if spoken in the homes, and in that direction our chief efforts must lie. Last, but not least, our endeavours to preserve it have no political signification whatsoever. But behind it all they wanted to keep the enthusiasm—yes, the romance—the honesty and the drive of the Highlander, and they were as interested as an association in keeping alive all these characteristics as they were in anything else. It was by toil that one of the finest races in the world had been evolved; and it was for them to help the Scottish Highlander in his task, and to maintain all that was best in their history, and to foster the spirit of loyalty and patriotism, and the desire to stand on their own feet, and also to stand one by the other. Their watchword must ever be: *M'onaire, mo dhachaidh, mo Dhia* (My honour, my home, and my God).

AN COMUNN'S WORK.

The Countess of Cassillis, in opening the Feill, said that men and women in all parts of the world were interested in it. Highlanders at home and abroad shared the vision which inspired An Comunn in its work. The association was doing great work. In music alone it had done valuable service in keeping alive the old airs. What airs were sweeter than the old Scottish airs, what music more stirring than the tunes of the pipes!

In its effort to preserve the Gaelic language, An Comunn provided teachers all through the Highlands, and it encouraged vocalists and choirs by the prize competitions at the annual Mod. It collected the true history of the Highlands, and sought to maintain the best traditions and customs of the land. There was gratification in knowing that, thanks to An Comunn Gàidhealach, the entirely Gaelic-speaking child could now learn its first lessons in its own language, and that any child could receive lessons in Gaelic in the Highlands. Obviously that was right, for how could they tell the children to honour their father and mother if they did not even know the language of their immediate forbears. Through An Comunn there ran all the old glorious clan spirit; the association embraced all creeds and all interests, bound together by love of country. That patriotism had been signally expressed in the late war. She appealed for the encouragement of Home Industries by the wider buying of its beautifully artistic and practically useful products. There was a merit in homespun that she thought was deserving of greater recognition. In buying these articles they would have the satisfaction of knowing that they would be aiding in the retention in Scottish Gaeldom of the very fine native population who inhabited the land that their forefathers had lived on for hundreds of years.

The Rev. Dr. MacLean Watt, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Countess of Cassillis, said that if the Gaelic language was to be preserved, it must be through the lips of the women. It was certainly the duty of every Highlander, man and woman, to see that the language of the Celt, and all it stood for, should not die.

On a motion of Mrs. Burnley Campbell, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Duke of Atholl for presiding.

The large attendance at the Feill was continued in the evening, when the principal part of the proceedings were the presentation in the Berkeley Hall of three Scots plays by the Scottish National Players. There was a good attendance, and the pieces given, which were all cordially received, were "The Change House," a Highland tragedy, by John Brandane; "The Scarecrow," a Hallowe'en fantasy by J. A. Ferguson; and "A Valuable Rival," a comedy by Neil F. Grant, which was one of the plays performed by the Players to the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle.

SECOND DAY.

The proceedings of the second day were formally opened by the Lady Elspeth Campbell, with Sir Alexander MacDonald of the Isles in the chair. As on the previous day, there was a galaxy of perfervid Gaels on the platform, including representatives of Highland nobility and prominent citizens of Glasgow of Highland origin. Many members of the platform party, and also a large proportion of those in the body of the hall, wore Highland dress, and the gathering, in its display of tartans, presented a colourful and picturesque spectacle.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said it was refreshing to find a band of men and women proclaiming to a tired world the virtue of Celtic culture and the advantage of the originality and individuality of the Highland race. In their passage through Europe, some 2000 years ago, the Celts made themselves masters of any land which appeared to them to be worthy of conquest. Among other distinctions, the Highlander had a language of his own, a language worthy of a race of warriors, but one that was also mightily convincing on the lips of lovers. They had in the bagpipes an incomparable music for leading to battle, mourning the dead, or charming the dainty feet of dancers. In their Home Industries they had in the shawl and the homespun tweed articles for which there were no adequate substitutes in the world. These were things which should be preserved for their intrinsic value, quite independent of sentimental reasons. The race had grand traditional qualities in their clan fellowship, in their unswerving fidelity to those who once won their love, in their graces of hospitality and generosity and simplicity, and in their Celtic courage. These characteristics were human treasures which it behoved a nation to cherish.

GAELIC IN EDUCATION.

Lady Elspeth Campbell, in performing the opening ceremony, said that one of the laudable objects of An Comunn was to promote harmony and friendship among Highlanders wherever they might be. And surely An Comunn had attained more than a small measure of success in that direction at that gathering. There they had together Campbells, Camerons, MacAllisters, MacDonalds, MacLeans, MacLeods, MacPhails, and Murrays—she was careful to observe strict alphabetical order—and men and women of

every clan one could think of. They were all gathered in amity instead of in enmity, remembering their meeting grounds and forgetful of their parting grounds. They were there with the common object of helping the movement for the furtherance of the arts, crafts, language, literature, and social welfare of their country. Alluding to the work of An Comunn in the interests of the native language, she mentioned an experience of her own in giving away the prizes in the Dunoon school. The Gaelic-speaking children were very much a minority, but when it came to the winners of prizes the successes of this minority were simply astounding. Gaelic had been no bar to the progress of these children, but indeed an asset. She believed that a bilingual boy or girl was capable of a more thorough understanding of the words that he or she was using, and, therefore, could use those words to better advantage. In concluding, she directed attention to the great variety of articles of Highland production which was on sale at the bazaar, and appealed to the gathering to buy for prospective as well as for immediate needs.

Sheriff J. R. N. MacPhail, K.C., proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Elspeth Campbell. Highlanders, he said, had ideals that were well worth preserving. To do so they must not merely defend these ideals; they must carry on a propaganda in their favour. They were not above enrolling proselytes even from the ranks of the Saxons.

Sir John M. MacLeod, Bt., proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said there were no people in the world whose traditions were carried on and fostered so fully as those of the Scottish race.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod appealed for a substantial reinforcement of the membership of An Comunn Gaidhealach, remarking that the Feill would have failed in one of its objects if they did not secure as one of its results an addition to the strength of An Comunn.

The music was provided by the Glasgow Police Pipe Band, under Pipe-Major William Gray. They played in the forenoon and afternoon. In the evening the Glasgow Caledonian Strathspey and Reel Society, the Scottish Country Dance Society, and a party of solo singers gave an entertainment in the Berkeley Hall, and the British Legion (Partick) Pipe Band, under Pipe-Major N. Maclellan, played selections in the Grand Hall of the Feill.

THIRD DAY.

A large company, which included the Duchess of Rutland, Lady Colquhoun of Luss, Lady Eva Heathcote, Lady Wilson, Lady Helen Tod, Lady Seton of Abercorn, and many members of distinguished Highland families wearing clan tartans, was present at the opening of the third day of the Feill. Sir Iain Colquhoun, Bt., of Luss, presided, and the opening ceremony was performed by the Duchess of Atholl.

Sir Iain Colquhoun said that this was the third day of the Great Feill, and, so far as he could forecast, its success was assured. When the original scheme was formulated, its wide scope and ambitious aims frightened many people, himself among the number; they had thought that too much was being attempted, and they were apprehensive as to the results. He was delighted, however, to say that they had been entirely wrong, and that those who went so gallantly on in face of such comment were right, and had splendidly justified their beliefs. That they could count upon the enthusiastic support and co-operation of every Gael worthy of the name they knew, but that their enthusiasm would react upon that much larger section of the Scottish population that had no connection whatever with the Highlands they could not know for certain. He thought, therefore, they ought to give their warmest thanks to the loyal friends who had shown such ready sympathy and understanding of the aims and ideals of the Feill.

GAELIC EDUCATION.

The Duchess of Atholl, after reference to the admirable and acceptable work performed by An Comunn in the provision of teachers in music and handicrafts in the Highlands, said these were not alone the objects for which the Feill had been organised. One of the other purposes was the furtherance of education in Gaelic. She did not doubt that much had already been said as to the importance of Gaelic-speaking teachers from the point of view of the preservation of Gaelic. She desired, however, to stress the importance of the provision of Gaelic-speaking teachers for Gaelic-speaking children, particularly when they first came to school, from the point of view of education. It was a matter of common acceptance among educationists that one of the first aims of education must be to arouse interest and understanding in the child instead of merely causing the memorisation of lessons, and that one of the

surest and quickest ways of arousing interest was to relate what the child was taught at school to the daily life he saw around him and in his home. It was obvious that unless they had for Gaelic-speaking children teachers who could speak to them in their own language, these efforts would not be realised. The education of the Highland Gaelic-speaking child, when it first came to school, was bound to be much more mechanical if not taught by some one who talked to him in his mother tongue, giving illustrations from daily life and familiar things, and bringing out the interest which made education something living and vital. Therefore, it seemed to her that the appointment of Gaelic-speaking infant teachers was extremely important from the educational point of view, and she would suggest to the many girls from the Highlands, who left their homes to be trained as teachers, that there could not be hardly any more important or delightful vocation than to train as infant teachers, in order to be able to return to the Gaelic-speaking districts, there to instruct the children in their own tongue. She thought they would all agree as to the educational value of bi-lingual education. The knowledge of a second language was of real cultural value only if they were carrying it far enough to be able to read with interest and appreciation in that second language, so as to enter into a second medium of thought and expression, and understand something of the mentality of a second race. If they bore in mind that fact, it was obvious, for native reasons, that more cultural value would be derived by the child, who, having learned to speak Gaelic in the home, studied Gaelic at the school in order to be able to read and write in it, than would be derived by the child who made it a second language at the age of twelve—which she thought to be the usual age for taking up languages—and who perhaps left school at the age of fourteen. She was pleased to know that the Scottish Education Department recognised the cultural value of Gaelic as a second language to those children who were not proceeding to the University, and whose school life might terminate at an early age. She was glad, she said in conclusion, to think that this Feill was furthering, among their objects, these two purposes, which seemed to her to be of great importance from the educational point of view. It seemed to her that if they could secure this teaching in Gaelic for young Gaelic-speaking children, and this later

teaching for those who were not proceeding to the University, they should have done something substantial, not only to ensure continued life, but expanding life, as they hoped, for the language so dear to every Highlander, but they would also have helped greatly to that kindling of interest and broadening of vision, that relating of school to life which would give fresh purpose and stimulus to the work in school, which were constant and important aims always before those who laboured for what she deemed to be the very great cause of education.

The Rev. Malcolm MacLeod made a strong appeal to those present to become members of An Comunn.

Colonel Norman MacLeod proposed a vote of thanks to Her Grace, and Colonel Euing Crawford proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Iain Colquhoun.

In the afternoon the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod gave an address on the musical legends of the Isles, which was illustrated by Hebridean songs rendered by Miss Kennedy-Fraser and Miss Margaret Kennedy. Gaelic and Scottish songs comprised the programme of a concert in the evening. Bagpipe music was provided during the day by Glasgow Tramways Pipe Band, and in the evening by the Clan Macrae Pipe Band. A fine concert was given in the evening in the Berkeley Hall by well-known artists. There was a large attendance, presided over by Sir Norman Lamont.

FOURTH DAY.

Principal Sir Donald MacAlister, Bart., who presided, stated that he was a trustee of the Feill fund of An Comunn. With his colleagues he had a share in administering for the objects of An Comunn the few thousands that were placed in their charge as the product of the last Feill held a good many years ago, and if it were possible to double or treble the fund he would be pleased and happy. Every live thing grew, and An Comunn was a live thing which, as it grew, needed more sustenance. The well-being of the Highlander in heart and mind and spirit was the avowed aim and purpose of An Comunn's existence. He had a spiritual heritage in his language, his song, his music, his historic traditions, which would waste away and leave him poor indeed unless it was fostered by active sympathy and increased by wise cultivation.

If they could make the Highlander realise his great spiritual and intellectual inheritance, make him more eager to enter upon it for

himself, make him more able to appropriate and enhance it for the benefit of himself and his children and his fellow-Highlanders, then he (Sir Donald) said to An Comunn and its agents—"God speed to you; your enterprise is twice blessed." To those who were there as its non-Highland helpers and friends he would say that—"If they felt even dimly that there was something peculiar and typical about the Highlander that enriched the complex blend they knew as the British character, if they recalled that his spirit of loyalty and patriotic self-sacrifice had in times of peril again and again moved him to rush into the foremost ranks of the country's line of defence then as citizens of the Empire they should not withhold their support from this effort to preserve the special Highland flavour and to acknowledge the special debt we owed to our Highland defenders.

In calling attention to the book of the Feill, entitled "Voices from the Hills," compiled by Mr. John MacDonald, Sir Donald MacAlister said it was a beautiful book, full of graceful and gracious pictures by artists who knew and loved the Highlands. It was a treasure-house of prose and verse in English and Gaelic on all the manifold aspects of Highland life, Highland story, and Highland imagination.

HIGHLAND COMRADESHIP.

Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochiel, in declaring the Feill open, said she appreciated the honour done her in asking her to perform the ceremony, because nowhere in the Highlands would they find a greater love of Celtic art and literature, of Highland music and tradition, than in Lochaber. For that reason they greatly rejoiced that the Mod was to be held in their midst in the autumn. They were very glad to learn that nearly £8000 had been obtained already, and they hoped that a great many more sums would come in, so that the work of An Comunn might go on unfettered by the lack of funds. What had helped to make the Feill so successful was the spirit of enthusiasm which had been shown on all sides. There was hardly a glen in the north which had not sent its quota of work to the Feill, while another factor which had contributed very largely to the success of the Feill had been the generous response made to their appeal by those of Highland extraction who were now living overseas. They thanked those friends for their spirit of Highland comradeship, which had shown itself again, as in the past, such a valuable asset in our national life.

Mr. Angus Robertson proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Hermione Cameron.

AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE.

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, Campbeltown, in seconding, said that the addresses of some of the speakers at the Feill had contained a slight note of pessimism in regard to the future of Gaelic. Personally, he did not feel the slightest pessimism. He was an optimist to the core where Gaelic was concerned. Across the Channel there was a nation who to a considerable extent were Gaelic, and to-day in that country there were six times more Gaelic speakers than there were at the formation of An Comunn. In the second place there were in the Highlands of Scotland to-day—and he thought his estimate was a conservative one—six times more children undergoing instruction in the Gaelic language than there were when An Comunn came into existence.

The Rev. G. W. MacKay, Killin, who proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said it was sad to see the Highland Glens being depleted and thousands of Gaelic-speaking people migrating to lands beyond the seas.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell, convener of the Feill Executive, thanked all who had helped in the promotion of the Feill, and, in particular, acknowledged the services of Miss C. M. Gordon, the Feill organiser.

GAELIC MESSAGE TO PRINCE OF WALES.

A suggestion was made by Mrs. Burnley Campbell that a telegram should be sent to their patron, the Prince of Wales and Lord of the Isles, informing him of the result of the Feill.

Acting on this suggestion, the Executive in the evening sent the following telegram to the Prince of Wales:—

“Tha'n t-urram agam innseadh do bhuir Mórachd Rìoghail gu'n do shoirbheich saothair na Feille moire ann an Glascho gu ire deich mìle punnd Sasunnach.—Aonghas Mac-Dhonnachaidh. Ceann Suidhe A'Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich.”

The President received the following acknowledgement from H.R.H.:—“The Prince of Wales, as patron of the Highland Association, wishes me to convey to you his congratulations on the Association having raised so considerable a sum for the furtherance of its work as stated in your telegram of June 4.”

(Signed) A. LASCELLES,
Asst. Private Secretary.

In the afternoon and evening the Edinburgh Celtic Players gave performances of two pieces—“The Sin Eater,” a one-act play from Fiona MacLeod's story of the same name; and “Deirdre,” by W. B. Yeats. Mr. Iain Campbell (Airds), sang “Deirdre's Farewell” to a Clarsach accompaniment.

The Clan MacRae Pipe Band played selections during the evening.

Between 3000 and 4000 people paid for admission on Saturday afternoon.

ROUND THE STALLS.

(From the *Glasgow Herald*.)

If one does not speak Gaelic one's entrance into the St. Andrew's Halls is rather an adventure. On all sides is the Gaelic spoken—by the women at the spinning wheels, by the man from Lewis weaving tweed, and by the basket-maker from Lochgilphead. In a little corner at the side of the Stirlingshire stall sits Mrs. Johnstone from Barra, a “spawwife” and a busy spinner. Neither she nor two of the Skye spinners have any English; but Mrs. Johnstone is very conversational—through an interpreter.

All the available floor space has been utilised for the stalls. The octagon entrance houses the Ceylon stall (which specialises in tea), an interesting bookstall, and a stall heaped with a varied collection of gifts from friends across the sea. Here, too, is an information bureau, where one may be apprised as to the aims and achievements of An Comunn. The stalls in the main hall, over which hang An Comunn banners and targes, are named after the counties and the isles, and each of them display many products of Scottish home industries. At the Island Stall there are baskets made by Angus Macleod, the blind basket-maker of Mìavaig, Harris. A picture of Iona by Mr. F. C. B. Caddell, and one by Mr. Finlay MacKinnon are to be seen at the London Stall, which also has some beautiful Bruges pottery and laces, exquisite miniatures, and Chinese and Oriental goods for sale. Two exhibits made from oat straw, one a clocking-hen's nest and the other a horse's collar, attracted interest at the Islands Stall. These come from Colonsay, a small island which has done much to aid the Feill, the contribution from the islanders amounting to £100, an average of 10/- for each inhabitant.

ART AND INDUSTRY.

The Highland art and industry section is a little world apart, for here there is the basket-maker from Lochgilphead, the two spinners from Skye, the tweed weaver from Lewis, and the tapestry weaver, and Tigh Seonaid (Janet's House), the Highland cottage, complete in every detail, further gives the illusion of one having been wafted to the hillsides, where there is the tang of the peat in the air and the grey smoke curls upwards. The domestic industries of the crofters are never out of date. Tapestry, woven on the loom which is to be seen at work, adorns several hats and scarves on sale at the stall. The rugs are interesting because of their

Celtic patterns. An unfinished specimen gives the layman or laywoman a fine conception of how these articles are worked into definite designs. Janet's House has a little garden in front, where a native of Strome Ferry, Mrs. Macdonald, sits spinning. There is the atmosphere of Highland homeliness hovering about the interior. The porridge pot is over the fire, and the blue and white china on the dresser gleams in the light from the peat fire. The bedroom is a replica of such a room to be found in a Highland but-and-ben. It has the bed with curtain draperies, and the little, low dressing-table frilled with spotted muslin.

SPIRIT OF THE FORTY-FIVE.

In the room devoted to Celtic art and historic relics many interesting objects on loan have connections with Prince Charlie. The christening robe of the kings of Scotland, in which Prince Charlie is said to have been wrapped, is a miracle of fine embroidery, showing the coat of arms of Scotland before the Union. There is also a chair which has been preserved by a Skye family since Prince Charlie took refuge in the farm-house belonging to Alexander Martin. The spirit of the '45 breathes o'er the room. For here are claymores, both cross-hilted and basket-hilted, by the famous Andrew de Ferrara, and also ugly-looking Spanish muskets used by the Highlanders. The claymore belonging to a noted leader in the Montrose Wars, John Campbell of Bragleen, is on view, and the exhibition includes replicas of the gold ornaments found at Pirmill in 1921, and a hawthorn stick belonging to the late Sir John C. McNeill, V.C., of Colonsay.

SEIRBHIS GHÀIDHLIG.

Air là na Sàbaid an deidh na Fèilte Mòire chumadh seirbhis Ghaidhlig an Ard-Eaglais baile Ghlascho. Bha so mar a bu chòir, air ann an craobh-sgaileadh eòlas agus litreachas na Gàidhealtachd tha e iomchuidh agus ceart gu'n cumamaid fa chomhar ar shlaigh an tomhas saibheil de spioradalachd agus fìor chràbhadh a bha co-cheangailte ris na daoine bho'n d'thainig sinn. Bha seachdain shorrhreachail againn agus chruinnich 1400 de chairdean a' Chomuinn a nochdadh an aidmheileachd nach ann bhuainn fhein a thig gach beannachd.

B'e an t-urra Niall Ros, Lagan, an searmonaiche agus labhair e bho 'n cheann-teagaisg "An toigh leat mise?" Bha a chainnt simplidh agus dhruidhteach agus thaitinn a bhriathran ris a' chomhthional mhór a bha 'ga eisdeachd. Leugh an t-urra Tearlach Mac Fhionghainn earrainn de sgrìobtuir an t-Seann

Tiomnaidh agus rinn e ùrnuigh dhùrachdach, a bhriathran taghta agus a ghuth taitneach a lionadh an tighe. B'e an t-urra. Calum Mac Leoid a leugh as an Tionnadh Nuadh. B'e mar an ceudna, a chnir suas ùrnuigh an eadar-ghuidhe, agus rinn i drùdhadh air moran de'n chuideachd. Bha an t-seinn fo stiùireadh an uasail, Niall Orra, agus ghiulain-eadh a chuid so de'n t-seirbhis, mar a chuid eile, a reir an t-seann nòs. Bha buill Choisirean Eaglais Chaluim Chille agus Cheolraidh Ghaidhlig Ghlascho an lathair a' tabhairt cuideachaidh do 'n chomh-thional.

Thogadh an tabhartas le ochd de bhuill a' Chomuinn 's an Ceann Suidhe air an ceann, agus iad nile sgèadaichte 's an eideadh Ghaidhealach.

Cho-dhùinadh an t-seirbhis chiatach so leis an Ollamh Urr Lachlann MacGilleathan Mac Bhàtar, ministear na h-Ard Eaglais. Tha sinn gu mòr 'na chomain air son a' chothruim a thug e dhuinn aoradh a dheanamh 'n ar cainnt fein an taobh a stigh na seann lùchairt ghreadhnaich so. Tha dòchas againn gu'n lean beannachd an cois na seirbhis. Tha sinn a' creidsinn gu'n lean.

THE DAY AFTER THE FAIR.

I write not of the financial consequences of the Great Feill. These, it happens, cannot be properly reckoned until the full tale is told; and there are, it is pleasing to know, many pounds yet to reach the treasury. Meanwhile, there is increased confidence in the future of our movement from the assurance that the capital funds of An Comunn are in the fair way of being doubled. My real purpose in communicating with An Gaidheal is to transmit certain impressions begotten of somewhat frequent visits to St. Andrew's Halls during the four fateful days of the Feill. And I say at once, that the most prominent of my recollections is of a pervasive, communal, friendliness, which, in association with the resolution of all concerned to advance the cause of Gaelic, produced an atmosphere so genial, and so happy, that one felt glad of his Highland descent. It is often asserted that there is no passport so effective to the world-wide traveller as a working knowledge of Gaelic, and we sometimes hear of experiences which tend to corroborate the claim that there is a Freemasonry among true Gaels which no corresponding tie can transcend. Never, then, was the strength of the Gaelic tie better evidenced than during the period of

the Great Feill. It would, of course, be ungracious to suggest that the participants in the patriotic endeavour were Gaels all; on the contrary, there were not a few ladies and gentlemen, Lowland and English both, whose zeal in the cause did not fall short of that of those of purely Highland origin. There was an English lady at the head of one of the Highland county stalls, whose devotion to the Gaelic Renaissance recalled the epoch in Irish history when the Anglo-Norman invaders became so saturated by Gaelic influences that their countrymen in England characterised them *Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores*. The magic of the Gaelic genius, Mrs. Stopford Greens tells us in her delightful work on Irish nationality, was so potent that it transmuted the hostility of the Anglo-Normans into whole-hearted adoption of the manners and customs, and even of the language of the Gaelic people, who had, by the fortune of war, fallen under their subjection. Except for the absence of any sort of subject relationship, who shall say that we are not at the beginning of a Scottish period when the cultural reconstruction of the Gael will involve reactions on his non-Gaelic fellow-countrymen similar in kind, if not in degree, to the transformation which, centuries ago, carried the result that the alien English became more Irish than the Irish. Let this be as it may, it forms one of the major gratifications by workers in the Gaelic revival that their efforts are approved, and in many cases reinforced, by ladies and gentlemen who are entirely unconnected with the Highlands.

The general organisation of the Feill was admirable. People who compared the event with occasions of a similar description unrelated to Highland life and endeavour were unanimous that Highlanders had nothing to learn of the gentle art which makes appeal to the sympathetic pocket. The booths, constant in their enthusiastic trading, the exhibitions of native industries, and the other objects of Highland historical interest, each in its own way, intriguing the sympathetic visitor, and the reproduction of a Highland cottage in the charge of a Highland lady whose personation of the hostess was acclaimed perfect; these were outstanding features. But there were others which, in no small measure, contributed to the overheard success. There was a refreshment department which, for efficiency, could not be surpassed by the professional establishments outside; there was a military band on the opening day, and on

the subsequent days bands of pipers, all of them excellent, and all of them inspiring; and distributed over the days there were concerts, plays, competitions musical, and competitions industrial, and one evening there was a song-lecture, adequate, these events of themselves, to constitute a Highland festival of high distinction.

Then there were the four opening ceremonies. And of these there was unanimity—that never was bazaar favoured with addresses more completely appropriate and more uniformly excellent. All the speakers, it is correct to say, were not equally assured of the ultimate recovery of Gaelic and its kindred culture; but in the one or two instances where apprehension was stronger than hope, there was no sort of misgiving that the wish was father to the thought. There was articulate now and then a longing for the restoration of the pristine, not to say primitive, in the lives of the people of the Highlands and Islands, and incidentally there was a certain shrinking from the industrialism which is speedily following the application to manufacture of that water power which, more than elsewhere in the kingdom, resides in our country of the hills. There is, it may be admitted, a certain emotional appeal in the contemplation of the Highlands as a modern Arcady where the concern of the people was limited to the care of the herd, the pursuit of the chase, and the manipulation of the spinning wheel; but one's difficulty is to make discovery of any reason why it is the Highlands alone that should be constrained to leave untapped the resources which a bountiful Providence has supplied. I know that among the reasons for the aspiration after a simple communal life for the Highlands is the dread that Gaelic cannot survive amid the conditions which surround a busy industrial life. All good Highlanders must respect this feeling, but it is apt to be forgotten that Gaelic not only survived, but propagated, during that period of Highland industrial activity, which, more intense at certain times than others, spread over the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Should anyone care to make research into the archives of the ironworks of Ardnarmurchan, Glengarry, and Lorn, the powder works of Melfort and Kames, the lead mines of Strontian and Islay, and of the construction of the two Highland canals, it will be found that it was not the native workers who sacrificed their language to that of the

English and Lowland pioneers, but rather it was the latter who adopted the language, and with it the customs of their Gaelic neighbours. The coal mines of Wales and the slate quarries of Ballachulish and Kilbrandon are living illustrations of the vitalising effect of a closely-grouped community in preserving and stimulating what is best in the racial possessions of a people. If there be, as there may, influences pertaining to the new industries, which may threaten to denaturalise industrially grouped Highlanders, be it the care of An Comunn to preserve these workers as one hundred per cent. Gaels. For which reason propaganda, special and persistent, should be directed to centres like Kinlochleven, Inverlochy, and Foyers—propaganda which, I feel confident, will find a ready response from the Highlanders, and especially the Islanders, who are engaged in the great aluminium industry. It will not be difficult to persuade these intelligent men that to sacrifice their Gaelic traits is to deform their intellectual and spiritual being. And there is thus nothing for the devoted Gael to be afraid of in the industrial development of the Highlands; and there is a great deal to be deeply grateful for.

From whatever angle the Feill may be viewed, it was a notable achievement. It strengthened the sinews of An Comunn for fresh and more intensive endeavour; it supplied an arena for the reconstruction of old friendships and the creation of new; it stimulated the resolve of many to pursue more energetically than before the preservation and development of all that is of good report in the culture of our race; and it gave opportunity for demonstrating that where there is genuine enthusiasm for Gaelic there is a fraternity, of some significance in these particular days, which links the castle with the cottage. Canon Kingsley put it that there was no bond to compare with the bond of a common misfortune; Highlanders have awakened to realise that there is no bond stronger than that which arises from the possession of a common language. A language, too, as experienced by the vast congregation which joined in the Gaelic psalm in the fane of St. Mungo on the Sabbath following the Feill, is as sublime a medium in the highest exercises of life as it is expressive beyond the common in the ordinary concerns of our every-day existence.

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL.

Campbeltown.

THE LATE DR. JOHN L. ROBERTSON, H.M.I.S.

We regret to record the death of this distinguished Highlander. It is probably true that no man in our time has left a deeper impression upon the educational life of the Northern Highland area than Dr. Robertson. For many years he was not only inspector, but also administrator in the wide district under his charge. Himself a competent Gaelic scholar, he was a warm supporter of the teaching of Gaelic in schools. He had a special pride in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, the secondary school of his native Island, in which the teaching of Gaelic in its higher stages has long been a conspicuous feature.

Successful Provincial Mods have been held at Stornoway, Bowmore, Lochgilphead, and Aberfeldy full details of which will be given in our next number

GREAT FEILL DONATIONS.

A list is published this month of a number of donations given to Stall Conveners, and not hitherto acknowledged in "An Gaidheal." This list is not exhaustive, nor does it take into account the numerous gifts of goods for sale. To Lady Helen Tod alone were sent over 2500 articles for the Perthshire Stall, and, in addition to those sent to the various stall conveners, a number were sent to this office with a note saying they were to be placed on the stall first showing signs of depletion. It has not been possible to acknowledge each donation individually, and I take this opportunity of thanking donors for the generous response, which caused the different stalls to be so well laden. It is not possible yet to publish a balance sheet, as money is still coming in, and a number of money-making efforts are yet to take place. A small sale is being organised by Mrs. Fletcher at Strontian on 1st July, the day of the Ardnamurchan Mod. A larger one will be held in Taynuilt in early July. The Inverness-shire Stall Committee, which is organising a Flag Day at the end of this month, is also holding a supplementary sale on either 10th or 17th September, and are adding a Cake, Candy, Game, and Produce Stall. Yet another sale will be held in Fort

William during the Mod Week, and Flag Days will take place in Oban, Inverness, and other places. Edinburgh proposes a big Highland Concert in the early autumn; there is to be a Jumble Sale at St. Boswell's, and some money-making effort organised by the Monklands Highland Society. Any further communications with regard to the Feill should be addressed to me at Drimnin, Argyll, but before leaving Glasgow, I should like to thank all those whose efforts resulted in such a pleasant and financially successful Bazaar. C. M. GORDON.

LONDON STALL.

Mrs. Lindsay (of Lunga)	£1 0 0
E. T. Campbell, Esq., M.P.	5 5 0
Mrs. E. T. Campbell	5 5 0
R. Kelso, Esq.	2 2 0
Mrs. Duncan Cameron	5 5 0
W. O. MacDougall, Esq. (of Lunga)	2 0 0
Mrs. Mary C. Steele Smith	1 5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Colin M. Campbell	0 10 0
Sir J. Ludovic Grant, Bart., LL.D.	1 0 0
Hugh A. Kelso, Esq.	1 1 0
St. Andrew Society (London)	10 0 0
Iain Campbell, Esq.	1 0 0
Prof. Walter Seton of Abercorn	2 2 0
Mrs. Helen Fraser, Garioch	1 1 0
Col. M'Leod Robertson, D.S.O.	1 0 0
London Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland Association	15 0 0
In Memory of Georgiana MacLean	5 0 0
Professor Sir Ewen MacLean	2 2 0
Mrs. Ure	2 2 0
Mrs. Arbuthnot	1 0 0
J. Cameron Alexander, Esq.	0 10 0
Leslie Urquhart, Esq.	5 0 0
Argyllshire Club	10 10 0
Collected by Miss Isobel Murray	2 2 6
Angus Clark, Esq.	1 0 0
The Lady Eva Heathcote	2 0 0
Lachlan Campbell, Esq.	10 10 0
Sir Robert M'Alpine, Bart.	2 2 0
Gaelic Society of London	21 0 0
Miss Hutchinson	0 15 0
P. H. Abercrombie, Esq., M.D.	1 1 0
Miss C. MacVinish	0 10 0
Major Loudon Greenlees	5 0 0
A. MacKenzie Livingstone, Esq., M.P.	5 5 0
David Greig, Esq.	5 5 0
London Highland Club	4 4 0
Lord Glendyne	20 0 0
Hugh Morrison, Esq., M.P.	5 0 0
R. M. Robertson, Esq.	2 2 0
R. M. Gillies, Esq.	1 0 0
F. W. H. Hutchinson, Esq.	1 0 0
Lady Sutherland	5 0 0
Capt. Walter Greenlees	2 2 0
The Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave	1 0 0
Major Duncan Campbell of Inverneil	1 0 0
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Stalker	2 0 0
George Wingate, Esq., C.A.	10 0 0
Miss MacDonell of Keppoch	0 10 0
John MacMillan, Esq.	10 0 0
G. R. MacKenzie, Esq.	5 0 0
Miss Lucy Hingley	3 3 0
Mrs. Cameron-Bingham	1 1 0
James Leith, Esq.	10 0 0
Mrs. S. L. Lucas Tooth	1 0 0
Andrew Agnew, Esq., C.B.E.	5 0 0

SALE OF WORK.

Argyllshire Stall—per Mrs. Steele Smith	£52 0 0
Inverness Stall—per Mrs. T. L. MacLean	27 1 6
Lewis and Harris Stall—per Mrs. Stewart	27 1 8
Perthshire Stall and Refreshments—per Mrs. Moffett	25 12 10
Ross and Cromarty Stall—per Mrs. Reid	13 6 4
Wrapping-up Stall—per Mr. MacIntyre	0 5 0
	£145 7 4
Less Expenses	4 11 0
	£140 16 4
Proceeds of Highland Ball—per Major Norman MacLeod	527 3 4
Proceeds of Dance—per Mrs. Mary Stewart	6 0 0
Proceeds of Bridge and Whist Drives—per Mrs. Steele Smith	11 11 0
Proceeds of "At Home"—per Mrs. Steele Smith	7 15 0
Proceeds of Whist Drive—per Mrs. Doris Bain	12 2 0
Proceeds of "American" and "Charity" Teas—per Mrs. T. L. MacLean	21 0 0
	£954 0 2

ARGYLLSHIRE STALL (Additional).

Mr. and Mrs. D. Clarke	£0 5 0
W. Sinclair, Esq., Weem House, Lochgilphead	1 0 0
Per Wm. Forman, Esq., Lochgoilhead—Clay Pigeon Shoot and Donations	10 1 0
Per Hon. Mrs. MacLean of Ardgour—Additional proceeds of Sale	0 10 0
Tarbert Higher Grade School—Collecting Cards, per James Irving, Esq.	8 10 0
Rev. John Cameron, Kilmoran	1 0 0
Per Lady Primrose—Sums collected in Dunoon District	6 0 0
Lady Murray of Elibank—An Cala, Easdale	5 0 0
Additional Jumble Sale (Glenaruel)	1 5 0
Stronafian School Children—Collecting Cards, per Miss Macpherson	2 12 6
Mr. and Mrs. Macfarlane, Redcot, Tarbert	1 0 0
General Douglas of Mains	5 0 0
Mrs. Caird, Greenock	2 0 0
Miss Livingston, Whitehouse—2nd Collecting Card	0 8 0
Col. A. J. H. Maclean of Ardgour	2 0 0
An Comunn Gàidhealach Ionaora—per Mrs. MacIntyre	10 18 0
Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour	2 0 0
Mrs. Selater, The Rectory, Ballachulish	10 0 0
Mrs. Flora Cameron	5 0 0
An Comunn, at Lochgilphead (additional) Messrs. MacBrayne, Ltd., Glasgow	0 7 0
Miss MacMillan and Mrs. Black, Ingleside, Tarbert	0 10 0
Dalmally—Collecting Card, per Mrs. MacRae, Schoolhouse	1 6 0
Mrs. Chevallier-Parker, Fairlie	1 0 0
Colintraive School—Collecting Cards, per Miss Brackenridge	2 4 0
Mr. Smith, Douglas Pier	0 5 0
Dr. Julia C. MacLachlan, Glasgow	1 0 0

Donations from Campbeltown—per Miss Hall of Tanga	4 0 0	Major Loch	1 1 0
Donations from Cairndow	0 11 6	Mrs. Lamont Campbell	3 3 0
Mrs. Fraser-Campbell, Alt-na-Craig, Ardriahag	2 0 0	Dr. and Miss Blaikie	1 0 0
Ledaig Branch of An Comunn—per P. MacDonald, Esq.	3 0 0	Sir Patrick Ford	5 0 0
Donations from Blairmore and District—per Miss Turnbull	3 3 6	Sir Alex. Grant	2 2 0
Acharacle and Glenborrodale Districts—per Mrs. A. M. Fletcher	15 1 0	Proceeds of St. Oran's Church "Ceilidh"	5 0 0
Kilchoan District—per Mrs. A. M. Fletcher	7 6 0	Miss Howden	1 1 0
Donations—per Mrs. Stewart of Achnacone	6 10 0	C. E. Price, Esq.	1 1 0
Miss Campbell, Innellan	1 0 0	Sir J. Lorne Macleod	3 3 0
Mrs. Gascoigne of Craiginsh	2 2 0	Miss Wilson	1 0 0
Mrs. Bullough, Dunbeg, Onich	3 3 0	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mackay	5 5 0
Mrs. Macfarlan	1 5 0	Lady Elphinstone	1 0 0
Proceeds of Concert and Dance at Kilberry—per Mrs. Campbell of Killyberry	24 0 6	Highland Ball Proceeds	75 4 0
Mrs. William Mackinnon of Loup House, Kintyre	2 0 0	Mrs. Kennedy Fraser's Concert	25 0 0
Mrs. Birkmyre of Ardpatrik	10 0 0	Proceeds of Celtic Plays (subject to entertainment tax)	62 6 6
Mr. Macfeat, Colintrava	1 0 0	Jumble Sale Proceeds	28 1 11
Miss K. A. Mackinnon of Balinakil	5 0 0	Mrs. M'Diarmid's Bridge Drive	10 0 0
Lochgillhead Branch (additional)	0 12 6	Bonally Tower Sale	44 6 0
		"Tir nam Beann"	21 0 0
		Edinburgh Gaelic Choir	5 5 0
		Duncan Stewart, Esq.	1 15 0
		Donations under £1 and sundry receipts	13 15 0
		Mr. Shield	1 1 0
	<u>£182 16 6</u>		<u>£334 12 5</u>

PERTHSHIRE STALL.

Blair Atholl and Struan Parish—by Ladies of the Gaelic Society	£23 2 0	The Hon Mrs. Smyth of Ness Castle	£100 0 0
Pitlochry Branch of An Comunn—per Miss Christina MacDonald	53 0 0	Fort William Branch—per Miss J. Macdonald	5 5 0
Ballinluig—per Miss W. G. MacIntosh	31 0 0	Noel N. Wills, Esq., Invergarry	10 0 0
Aberfeldy—per Miss Menzies	4 19 6	Mrs. Stirling, Culloden House, Inverness	2 2 0
Strathgath—per Miss Johnston	2 3 0	The Hon. Mrs. Maxwell, Inverness	2 0 0
Rannoch Station—per Mrs. MacDiarmid	6 6 6	The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. MacLellan, Inverness	5 0 0
Kinloch Rannoch Branch—per Miss Cameron	26 15 0	Mrs. E. C. Ryan, Roy Bridge	5 0 0
Perth Gaelic Society—per Mrs. MacPherson	20 3 6	Mrs. Robertson-Mathieson, Glendevon, by Dollar	1 0 0
Glencarse—per Hon. Mrs. Drummond of Megginch	10 4 0	Mrs. Caldwell, Morar House, Morar	3 3 0
Callander—per Miss M. Stewart	10 0 0	Mrs. Stuart Watson, Inverness	1 0 0
Crieff—per Miss J. Cameron	5 0 0	Miss K. G. Martin, Inverness—Proceeds of Whist Drive	20 0 0
Locheanhead and Balquhadder—per Lady MacGregor of MacGregor	16 13 0	Mrs. MacLean, the Manse of Daviot, Daviot	3 0 0
St. Fillans—per Miss Stewart of Ardvorlich	8 12 0	W. Macdonald, Esq., 30 Falkland Mansions, Jordanhill, Glasgow—per Miss Morag Macdonald	1 0 0
Killin Branch—per Miss MacWilliam and Miss Mary MacLaren	30 0 0	Miss Morag Macdonald, Inverness—Proceeds of Free Gift Sale	25 4 6
Fortingall Branch—per J. W. Ford, Esq.	9 4 6	Cake and Candy Sale—per Mrs. MacLean, Daviot	30 2 4
Fearnan and Kenmore Branch—per Joseph J. Coull, Esq.	10 0 0		<u>£213 16 10</u>
Fincastle—Collected by Miss MacGlashan	1 12 6		
Lawers—Collected by Miss MacFarquhar	3 4 6		
Mrs. MacLaren, Balquhadder	1 1 0		
	<u>£273 1 0</u>		
Collected personally by Lady Helen Tod	270 11 0		
	<u>£543 12 0</u>		

INVERNESS-SHIRE STALL.

ISLAND STALL.

(In addition to those previously acknowledged.)

EDINBURGH AND MIDLOTHIAN STALL.

Mrs. Bartholomew	£10 0 0	A. V. Abdy, Esq.	£5 0 0
L. St. C. Bartholomew, Esq.	2 2 0	Mrs. Edith M. Hilleary	12 12 0
Anonymous	4 0 0	M. M. Macdonald, Esq.	5 0 0
Mrs. Watson	1 0 0	Major M'Kinnon	4 10 0
		Mrs. Graham, Kyleakin	2 0 0
		Miss Eveline K. Alexander	7 7 0
		Mrs. Naomi A. Beckett	5 0 0
		Duncan MacLeod, Esq., Skeabost	25 0 0
		Barra	7 3 10
		Rev. J. Mackenzie, Stornoway	2 4 0
		Barra	0 13 0
		Miss Abdy	2 0 0
		Mrs. Graham, Kyle	4 10 0

Lady Dobell	5 0 0
Carbost	4 7 0
Rev. S. Macdonald, Uig	0 10 0
Elgol	0 14 0
Mr. Thompson	5 0 0
Mrs. Hervey, Beardsolm	1 0 0
Mr. Macdonald, Kirkhill	1 0 0
Major H. Macdonald	5 5 0
Miss Kennedy, Tarskivaig	1 0 0
Aird	0 3 8
Mrs. M'Aulay, Lewis	1 14 6
Ferindonald	6 5 0
Miss Christina Macdonald	0 10 0
Mrs. Ross, Sleat	4 10 0
Edinbane	1 2 6
Mrs. Macdonald, Bernera, Uig	1 5 6
Lochboisdale	24 11 0
Miss Cathie Macdonald	0 5 0
Mrs. Macdonald, Bernera	1 5 6
North Uist	10 11 0
South Uist	14 0 0
Castlebay	7 3 10
Jura	1 10 0
Mallaig	5 0 0
Mrs. Thom, Canna	7 0 0
Captain Shaw	3 0 0
The Marchioness of Bute	2 2 0
Small Donations	0 4 0
Collecting Card—Lewis	2 4 0
Lady Kirkpatrick	3 0 0
Rev. A. Macfadyen	1 0 0
Miss Hannah Macdonald	3 2 6
John Macdonald, Esq.	4 0 0
Ferindonald	2 0 0
Miss MacLean, Lewis	0 13 0
Balranald	9 5 8
MacLeod of MacLeod	5 0 0
Nurse MacGowan	0 6 0
Dr. Seton Watson	2 0 0
Mrs. Laing, South Uist	7 1 0
A. Macdonald, Esq.	1 0 0
J. G. Mackay, Esq.	2 2 0
Rev. J. Macdonald, Uig	0 10 0
Dr. Norman Maclean	2 2 0
John Macdonald, Esq.—Concert	0 10 0
L. S. Mackinnon, Esq.	5 0 0
Sir Murdoch Macdonald	2 2 0
Raasay	0 10 0
Mrs. Kemble	5 0 0
Sir Henry Bell	2 2 0
Kyleakin—Cards	2 0 0
Ardayas—Cards	2 2 6
W. Runciman, Esq.	2 2 0
Gigha	5 0 0
Duisdale—Card	2 11 0
Lewis and Barra	5 5 0
Kenneth Macleod, Esq.	5 0 0
Sir George Bullough	2 2 0
Miss Maclean	0 1 0
Miss Claudia Macdonald	5 0 0
A. D. Mackinnon, Esq.	2 0 0
Mrs. J. C. Mackay	2 2 0

£294 15 0

GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETIES' STALL.

The following sums were collected by the Highland Societies organised in sections, and with the exception of Skye figures do not include Stall drawings:—

1. Northern Section—	
Sutherland	£53 2 6

Ross and Cromarty	2 0 0
Clydebank	82 15 11
Bowling	26 16 6
Lewis and Harris	135 16 0
Gairloch and Lochbroom	35 10 4
2. Skye	182 19 1
3. Inner Isles—	
Mull and Iona	65 6 6
Tiree	74 0 0
Islay	64 0 0
4. Central—	
Atholl and Breadalbane	176 0 0
Oban and Lorn	4 0 0
Highland Girls' Club	5 0 0
Mid-Argyll	21 0 0
<hr/>	
	£928 6 10

THE HIGHLAND ART AND INDUSTRY STALL.

Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost	£20 0 0
Miss Mary B. MacLean	10 0 0
Aberdeen University Celtic Society—	
Proceeds of Concert, per H. L. Mac-	
Kenzie, Esq.	7 7 0
Per J. B. Lawrie, Esq.	7 0 0
Rhunahearine Scholars and Others—	
Proceeds of Concert, per Miss Daisy	
Morton Macdonald	6 15 0
Per Miss Seonaid Ferguson	6 0 0
Liverpool Gaelic Service Committee—per	
Mr. Mackinnon	6 0 0
Dunmore Work Party—per Miss Campbell	
of Inverneill	5 2 0
Hon. Mrs. M'Gilchrist	5 0 0
Mrs. Crichton and Miss Bowman—Proceeds	
of Jacobite Minstrelsy Recital	3 4 0
Mrs. Ledingham	2 0 0
Mrs. Donald MacLeod	1 1 0
Dr. J. Cairns Christie	1 0 0
Per Mr. Cameron	1 0 0
Mrs. M. Taylor	1 0 0
Per Mrs. Margaret Kelso	0 10 0
Mrs. A. M. Macrae	0 10 0
Mrs. Crothwaite	0 5 0
<hr/>	
	£83 14 0

Mrs. MacLeod has pleasure in announcing that the winners in the Competition in connection with the Highland Art and Industry Stall are as undernoted, and she thanks the Competitors for their donations:—
Gentlemen's Sports Stockings. 1st Prize—Mrs. Macpherson, The Bungalow, Tioran, Aros, Mull; 2nd Prize—Miss Morag MacKenzie, Redcliff, Portree.
Shawls. 1st Prize—Mrs. Annie M. Macrae, Heatherley, Dingwall.
Walking Stick. 1st Prize—Mr. M'Nab, 27 Chesser Crescent, Edinburgh.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF DONATIONS SENT DIRECT TO THE OFFICE.

Mrs. Macnaughton, Argyll	£0 2 9
Mrs. Wragg, Sheffield	9 0 0
John Macleod—Collecting Card	0 10 0
Kilmartin Branch, Argyll	15 0 0
Mr. MacCallum—Collecting Card	0 10 0
Sir Robert Usher, Bart., of Norton and	
Wells	2 2 0
Eastbourne Scottish Women's Association	5 0 0

Miss E. M. Mackintosh	0 3 3	Per Mrs. Colquhoun (additional)	12 2 0
Wick Branch—per R. J. G. Millar, Esq.	5 12 6	Per the Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald,	
Miss Marie M. C. Gordon—Collect. Card ..	1 15 0	Dunvogan	0 11 0
Arch. Campbell, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	0 12 0	Miss Maclean, Advasar	0 9 0
H. C. Carmichael, Esq., Worthing ..	2 2 0	Paisley Highlanders (additional)	25 3 0
Per Miss Margaret MacLachlan, Connel		Mrs. MacNaughton (addit. Stall takings) ..	4 10 0
Branch (additional)	4 12 0	Per Rev. W. MacNab, Ullapool—	
Arch. MacCalman, Esq.—Collecting Card	1 0 0	Mr. MacLay	0 12 0
Donald Cameron, Esq.—Collecting Card	0 12 0	D. MacLay, Esq.	0 2 0
Pipe-Major Ross—Collecting Card ..	0 10 0	John Stewart, Esq.	0 11 0
Miss J. MacCallum—Collecting Card ..	0 11 0	James Stewart, Esq.	1 0 0
Evan Maclean, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Beal	1 6 0
Miss Morag Paterson—Collecting Card ..	1 12 7	Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria ..	6 5 0
M. Macleod, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	1 10 0	Per Mrs. Iain Campbell, London ..	26 7 0
Donald Macgregor, Esq.—Collect. Card ..	0 5 0	Per Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	25 4 8
Minard Branch, Argyll	5 0 0	Per Miss Stewart	0 16 0
Kilmeny Branch, Islay	10 0 0	Per Miss MacLeod, G.H.S. Stall, Northern	
Johnstone MacFie, Esq., M.D.	1 1 0	Section	0 9 10½
Wick Branch	25 0 0	Per Mr. Murray, Sutherland Association	2 2 6
Ex-Provost Smith—Collecting Card ..	1 0 0	Per Miss MacKinnon, Inner Isles ..	68 16 3
Per Dr. Alex. Fraser, Toronto	20 0 0	Gaelic Society of Regina	2 5 4
Miss MacIndoe—Collecting Card ..	0 4 6	"Clach"	2 0 0
Bowmore Branch—per Arch. Cameron, Esq.	15 0 0		
Kenneth Cameron, Esq.—Collecting Card			
(additional)	4 5 0		
Luss Highland Gathering	5 0 0		
Bernard N. Laffler, Esq.	2 0 0		
Miss E. Bassin—Collecting Card ..	1 0 0		
Paisley Highlanders—per W. Morrison,			
Esq.	61 16 0		
Mrs. Allan Gilmour (instalment), Suther-			
land	50 4 3		
Mrs. Macpherson—Collecting Card ..	1 0 0		
A. J. Macmillan, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	0 5 0		
Mme. Pitoy—Collecting Card	0 5 0		
Captain Finlayson—Collecting Card ..	0 17 0		
Bridgend Branch	13 10 0		
Mrs. Macpherson (additional)	1 10 0		
Do. Do.	1 12 3		
Miss Noble	0 5 0		
1st Seaforth Highlanders	5 0 0		
Mrs. Macpherson (additional)	0 13 0		
Per Mrs. Thompson, Stirlingshire ..	6 0 0		
Donald Macdonald, Esq.—Collect. Card	3 7 0		
Andrew Riddell, Esq.	10 0 0		
D. Macdonald, Esq.	1 0 0		
Miss Johan MacInnes—Collecting Card ..	1 4 6		
Peter Cameron, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	1 2 0		
T. J. Currie, Esq.—Collecting Card ..	0 10 9		
Per the Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald,			
Islaid	3 11 0		
Per Session Clerk, Glasgow Cathedral ..	24 12 9		
Per Mrs. Thompson, Stirlingshire ..	2 15 0		
Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association ..	20 0 0		
Rev. W. MacPhail—Collecting Card ..	0 10 0		
Per Hugh MacCorquodale, Esq., Glasgow			
Gaelic Society (additional)	2 4 0		
Per Mrs. MacCaskill	5 14 6		
The Lady Marjorie Mackenzie of Gairloch	3 3 0		
Miss Annie MacPhail—Collecting Card ..	1 1 0		
Per Mrs. Harold Thompson, Stirlingshire	0 5 0		
Rogart Branch, Concert	3 0 0		
Per the Hon. Mrs. Godfrey Macdonald,			
Islaid	5 6 0		
Per Mrs. Colquhoun, Entertainments ..	2 4 0		
Per Mrs. Allan Gilmour, Sutherland (addit.)	105 16 0		
Per Mrs. MacPhee, Colonsay (additional) ..	1 3 0		
M. D. Anderson, Esq.	1 0 0		
Per Miss Macleod, G.H.S. Stall, Northern			
Section	1 10 6		
Per Miss Lucy Cameron—Collect. Cards	2 11 6		
Lady Colquhoun of Luss	5 0 0		
Hartwood Branch	7 3 0		

£682 2 2½

THE LATE REV. CHAS. M. ROBERTSON.

We regret very much to record the death of the Rev. Chas. M. Robertson, Minister of the United Free Church, Kilchoman, Islay. Mr. Robertson was a highly competent Gaelic scholar, and was regarded as an authority on dialects and place names, of which he had made close and prolonged study. An article from his pen on his favourite subject appears in the book of the Feill—*Voices from the Hills*.

CELTIC CONGRESS.

(THE OFFICIAL CELTIC CONGRESS).

It has now been arranged that the proceedings of the coming Celtic Congress will commence on Monday, 18th July, and will conclude on Wednesday, 27th July, the sessions of the Congress being held at the University College Buildings, Bangor. A most interesting programme of papers by distinguished Celtic scholars has been arranged, dealing amongst other matters, with:—

The Irish Language Commission and Irish Educational Policy.

The Welsh Language Commission and Welsh Educational Policy.

Celtic Art.

Early Celtic Missionaries.

Study of Celtic Law.

The Early Church in Ireland.

Celtic Studies and Scottish Universities.

Modern Wales and its Ideals.

Ancient and Mediæval Wales.

Some Stray Notes on Welsh Antiquities.

Possibilities of Adult Education in Wales.

Excursions to places of notable archæological interest are being arranged, together with concerts of Celtic Music and performances of Irish, Welsh, and Scottish Plays, with other social functions.

The meetings have been arranged to precede the Welsh National Eisteddfod, which opens at Holyhead, on Monday, 1st August.

It is urged that all intending to attend the Congress should communicate as promptly as possible with—

MISS MAY ROBERT,
Glanrhydfadog, Deiniolen, Caernarvon,
N. Wales.

PAN-CELTIC CONGRESS in BRITTANY, 12th to 15th August, 1927.

This Congress, as already announced in the March and April numbers of *An Gaidheal*, is being organised by our Breton kinsmen, under the leadership of the Vicomte Jean de Saisy de Keranpuill and the bard Taldir Jaffrennou. Delegations from our own and the other Celtic countries have not only been invited to attend, but have most generously been offered hospitality during their stay at Riec.

We are now able to announce the names of those Scottish societies and institutions which have accepted invitations to appoint delegates, and at the same time to give a list of those who are herewith welcomed as their nominees:—

Royal Celtic Society—The Right Hon. the Earl of Cassillis.

Stewart Society—The Countess of Cassillis.
An Comunn Gaidhealach—Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary; Mr. Charles Campbell, President, Mull and Iona Association.

West Highland Museum, Fort-William—Dr. Miller, Chairman of Committee (or other representative to be appointed by him).

Scottish Home Rule Association—(Delegate to be appointed).

Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow—Mrs. Christison; Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., editor of *Voices from the Hills*.

Scottish Pipers' Association, Edinburgh—Mr. Iain Moffat Pender.

Highland Pipers' Society, Edinburgh—Mr. Malcolm Johnston, Secretary; Miss Augusta Lamont, B.Sc., Secretary to the Scottish Delegation.

Intending visitors to the Congress are reminded that information regarding the journey

to Riec and hotel accommodation in the neighbourhood was given in the May number of *An Gaidheal*. Names and addresses of those proposing to attend the Congress should be sent to Miss Lamont, Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire.

COWAL PROVINCIAL MOD.

There was a good entry for all the events in the successful Mod held in the Burgh Hall, Dunoon, on 14th May. Major Bennett, as chairman, briefly welcomed the competitors, and introduced the adjudicators—Mr. Gilbert Esplin (music), and Messrs. Angus MacDonald and Neil Shaw (Gaelic). The successful competitors were as follows:

JUNIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery—Reading Poetry—1, Rachel MacKellar, Glendaruel; 2, Morag MacEwan, Glendaruel; 3, Cathie Cumming, Dalilongart.

Reading Prose—1, Ellie Gillies, Glendaruel; 2, Rachel MacKellar; 3, Daisy Helm, Glendaruel, and Marion MacNeill, Dunoon.

Solo Singing—1, Rachel MacKellar; 2, Isabel Galbraith, Dunoon; 3, Chrissie MacKechnie, Dunoon.

Choral Singing in Harmony—1, Dunoon Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Glendaruel Junior Female Gaelic Choir.

SENIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery—Reading at Sight Unfamiliar Piece of Prose—1, Duncan Black, Dunoon; 2, Annie Cumming, Dalilongart, and Mary MacDougall, Dunoon.

Reciting Poetry—1, Mary MacDougall; 2, Annie Cumming; 3, Mary Johnstone, Dunoon.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Jack Urquhart, Dunoon.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Mary Tyre, Dunoon; 2, Margaret Fletcher, Dunoon.

ADULT SECTION.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, Margaret Lindsay, Dunoon; 2, Daisy Black, Colntraive.

Solo Singing (Males)—1, Archd. Baxter, Colntraive; 2, John Campbell, Kilman.

Solo Singing (Males and Females)—1, Margaret Lindsay; 2, Archd. Baxter; 3, John Campbell.

Playing on Bagpipes—March, Strathspey, and Reel—1, Malcolm Brander; 2, Hector MacNeil.

Although competitions were confined to Cowal, students attending Dunoon Grammar School from other districts in the county were eligible to enter. Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale and Miss Lamont of Knockdow, both prominently identified with the work of An Comunn, attended during the contests. They were also present at the concert which followed at 8 p.m., when the successful competitors appeared as well as other performers.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Angus Robertson, the President, who put in a strenuous week at the Feill, expressed himself at the close as being delighted with the sum raised. In thanking all who had contributed to the success of the Feill, Mr. Robertson said:—"The call of the blood is a real one to the Gael. His language contains it in a magnetic measure, and as he feels so he demonstrates. The soul of a race naturally turns to that language which best expresses the heights and depths of its spiritual vitality. Thousands from all part of the world who, with racial pride share this feeling, gave unmistakable evidence of their loyalty by their contributions to the Great Feill. To them it meant and means more than a money-raising effort; it was a home-gathering of their surviving ideals. To those who have helped and not seen our gathering in the St. Andrew's Halls during the week, our unbounded thanks are due. But how can we estimate the services of those who have been working in remote parts, and followed the 'fruits of their labours by kind and invaluable services during the period of the Feill. The Stall Conveners are to be congratulated on the success with which they enlisted the services of loyal workers. The Executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach fully appreciate the vast amount of work done by those actively engaged for months past in preparing for the Feill, and the result of their efforts is one which is regarded as highly gratifying, as well as creditable, to all concerned. Personally, and on behalf of An Comunn, I sincerely thank all who assisted in strengthening our hands for the great work that lies ahead."

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

It will be observed that a long list of new members is recorded this month. These were mainly obtained at the Feill, and they form one of the many useful results following from that great undertaking. There is a wide field from which to glean new recruits, and members are asked to lose no opportunity of inviting others to join.

The attention of members is specially directed to the Feill book, *Voices from the Hills*, which has won for itself such warm commendations from all quarters. The book should be in the hands of all who love the Gaidhealtachd and the Gaelic tongue. The book is published from this office at 7/3, post free; two copies, 13/9.

* * * *

Acknowledgment should be made of the generous measure of publicity given to the Feill by the Glasgow Press, and by the Scottish Press generally. We are much indebted to them, and would ask them to accept of our cordial thanks.

NIALL.

FORT-WILLIAM MOD DONATIONS.

Received at Head Office—

Edinburgh Gaelic Choir	£3 0 0
Glasgow Celtic Society	5 0 0
Gaelic Society of Perth	3 0 0
James Craigie, Esq., Perth	0 5 0
High School Ceilidh, Glasgow	3 3 6
Donald MacGregor, Esq., Kilsyth	0 2 0
Gaelic Society of Glasgow	5 0 0
Gaelic Society of London	10 10 0
Lewis and Harris Association	2 2 0
Edinburgh Gaelic Choir	1 1 0
Mrs. Macnaughton of Ardachearnabeg	3 0 0
Rothsay Branch	3 3 0

Received at Fort-William—

Miss Juliet Macdonald, Lochaber	£5 5 0
Proceeds of Special Ceilidh at Invergarry— per Mrs. Grant, Invergarry	4 10 7
Order of the Eastern Star, Fort-William (Inverlochty Chapter)	10 0 0
Kilmallie Branch of An Comunn	5 0 0
Teas—per Local Ladies' Committee	20 2 6
Whist Drive and Dance at Fort-William— per Ladies' Committee	12 11 1
Proceeds of Gaelic Play at Fort-William, organised by Kilmallie Branch and Local Ladies' Committee	17 10 8
Part proceeds of Concert at Fort-William —per Miss Anderson, L.R.A.M.	12 0 0
Whist Drive and Dance at Fort-William— per a number of Ladies	20 15 0
Cake and Candy Sale at Fort-William— per Local Ladies' Committee	83 6 2
	<hr/> £230 7 6 <hr/>

EDINBURGH—JOHN GRANT, 31 George IV Bridge.
W. M. URQUHART & SON, 11 Queensferry Street.
OBAN—HUGH MACDONALD, Esplanade. D. MACKAY, George St.
GLASGOW—W. HOLMES & Co., Ltd., 76 Mitchell Street.

GLASGOW—JOHN MENZIES & Co., Ltd., 80 West Nile Street.
ALEX. M'LAUREN & SON, 360 Argyle Street.
INVERNESS—WILLIAM MACKAY, 27 High Street.
And Branch Secretaries



EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communications should be addressed; business and other communications to 114 West Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS—Runaire, Glasgow.

TELEPHONE—Douglas 1097.

Leabhar XXII.]

An Lunnasdal, 1927.

[Earrann 11

TIR IS TEANGA.

Is cinnteach gur diomhain a bhi ro thrìc a' cuimhneachadh air na linn-tean a dh'fhalbh. Anns na timean dripeil cabhagach anns a bheil sinn beò, tha an ùine tuilleadh is goirid gu bhi 'g a togail le dian-smuain air na dh'fhalbh 's nach till air ais gu bràth. Cho luath 's a bheir iomradh air eachdraidh no caint nan Gaidheal is e am freagradh a gheibhear gu tric, gum bu bhuanachdaile gu mòr do na Gaidhil an aire a thionndadh gu dleasdanas an latha so fhéin, agus ri feumalachd an ama ri teachd. Ach tha na làithean a dh'fhalbh, cho daingean ann ar smuain is nach faodar an dearmad. A dh'aindeoin cho suarach is a chuirear eachdraidh nan Gaidheal le ar luchd riaghlaidh, gidheadh nithear othail gu leor ri seann làithean na h-Eipheit agus Nineveh. Theid ùine is foghlum is airgead am pailteas a bhuileachadh air seann nithean nach robh riamh 'n am bunait is 'n am buanachd do 'n Impireachd Bhreathunnaich mar a bha innleachd is spiorad nan Gaidheal. Agus is e son de na cuspairean a tha feitheamh oirnn mar chineil fa leith, an fhirinn so a chur air shùilean gu glie ach gu dian do ar luchd riaghlaidh, gu bheil eachdraidh a' Ghaidhil cho airidh air meas ri móran de na seann nithean mu bheil ar n-airgead-ne—airgead nan eisean coitichionn—'g a chur a mach an oil-thighean is air dhòighcan eile. Cuirear ionnhas na rioghachd ullamh gu leòr air Sanscrit agus Arabic—ach is e glé bheag da rìreadh a theid a chur a mach o 'n sporan chumanta, airson leas na Gaidhlig, a tha cho sean ri aon diubh sud, agus fada nas dluiteh dhuinn féin agus do ar dùthaich. Chan fhaigh ar cànan ceartas anns an t-seadh so gus an tog sinn fhéin na sgoileirean—

sgoileirean a sheasas ri guala na Frangach is nan Gearmailteach am foghlum Ceilteach. Cho luath is a dh' éireas sgoilearan a bhios fileanta, fiosrach, foghainteach cuiridh iadsan an céill an chuis so le làn ùghdarras. Agus faodaidh an uair sin gu fosglair inntinn agus sporan an luchd riaghlaidh gu tuilleadh ceartais a nochdadh do ar cànan.

Mar dhearbhadh air an cheangal a tha eadar tìr is teanga faodar ainmeachadh gur ann am beanntaibh na Gaidhealtachd as fhearr a shoirbhicheas na mòid. Co dhìis is e mòd dùthchasail no mòd cinneachail, tha sin fìor. Tha nì éigin ann am fradharc cuain is ghlèan a tha gu tur càirdeil do ghnè nam mòd. Chan fhaighear so air sràidean an bhaile mhóir. Anns na bailtean móra is ann a tha mòd air aineol—tha na coran mun cuairt cho eucoltach ris na seann suidhichidhean anns an d' rinnadh na h-òrain is na sgeulachdan air tùs. Chunnacas so uair no dha a thaobh nam mòd a chaidh a chumail anns an Oban agus an Gearasdan Lochabar. Tha nàbachd is torman a' chuain a' tabhairt gluasad domhain do spiorad nan seinneadair. Chan eil osag ghaoithe a thig a nuas ó na mullaichean nach cuir cagar an cluais nan comhfharpuiscach. Ged is cinnteach gu saoil cuid nach eil an so ach fhad de bhruidhinn, gidheadh tha sinn an dùil nach eil staid cho nàdurach do sgeulachd 'g a h-innse, no do òran 'g a sheinn, ris na seallaidhean maiseach mun cuairt air an Oban Lathurnach, no air Lochabar nan craobh, fo dhubhar Beinn Neibheis, ceann feadhna na mìle beann. Chan eil taobh air an tionndaidh sinn nach coinnich air sùil gu h-aoibhneach ri cruth àluinn na tìre. Is i so an tìr a thug deachdadh cho dian do ar bàird. Ag amharc air coltas na dùthcha—so fhuair iad cuspair freagarrach ri sheinn. Is gann gu

bheil creag no coire fo cheò nam beann an Lochabar nach deachaidh a luaidh am bàrdachd, a' tabhairt lànachd do ar cànan, agus moladh do ar tìr.

Tha am mòd cinneachail 1927 gu bhì air a chumail an ùine ghoirid an Lochabar. Tha cuimhne aig mòran air na laithean sona sundach a chuir sinn seachad aig Mòd a' Ghearsdain o chionn coig bliadhna air ais. Thàinig am mòd an uair sin, chan ann mar choigreach a dh'ionnsuidh choimheach, ach mar charaid measail gràdhach a dh' ionnsuidh a chàirdean féin. Bha fàilte is furan a' dealradh anns gach gnùis. Thug Prothaist is Coimhairle a' bhaile gabhail-romhe chaoimheil do 'n mhòd. Agus a reir coltais tha e 'n am beachd an deagh-ghean ceudna a thaisbeanadh a rithist air an fhoghar so a tighinn. Tha e tuilleadh is tràth fathast gu barail eagnaidh a thabhairt air àireamh nan comhfharpuiseach. Air an t-samhradh so bha na mòid bheaga air leith soirbheachail. Tha sin an comhnuidh na dheagh chomharradh gum bi am pailteas de luchd deuchainn a' tighinn air aghairt gus an mhòd mhór. Ach ged is taitneach a bhì a' cluinntinn na seinn o bhliadhna gu bliadhna, tha iomadh nì cruaidh is cudthromach air thoiseach oirnn; coir no dha ri aghairt; tagradh no dha ri sheasamh; batal no dha ri chur. Chan e mhàin gu feum sinn shìlean cuid de ar muintir féin fhogladh—iadsan a tha coma co dhiu cia mar a thachras—ach tha againn rì comhstri dhian a chumail suas, cha dean nas lugha na sin feum, gus am faigh sinn ar coir laghail a reir Achd an Fhoghlum, gum bi a' chànan 'g a teagasg do 'n òigridh. Mur deanar so, chan eil anns a' chorr ach call saothrach.

THE ETHICS OF THE GAEL.

By Rev. A. J. MORRISON, M.A., Thurso.

It is not the object of this paper to trace the moral history of the Celtic races, but rather to summarise the ideals which they have cherished from time immemorial. We do not claim for them a monopoly of the virtues, nor do we regard them as "creatures too bright and good for human nature's daily food." Yet we hold that they have always held definite moral convictions to which they have never been ashamed to give articulate expression. To the ethics of our modern day, Gaeldom has thus rendered a distinctive and valuable contribution.

Among the virtues which the Celt has ever passionately admired the first place must be given to bravery. This shining quality was prized not merely for its usefulness, but for its own sake. We find references to it in ancient literature, notably in Aristotle's Ethics and Sallust's Histories. Upon it Alexander the Great set a high premium. When about to undertake the conquest of Asia in 334 B.C., he first made a compact with the Celts who dwelt by the Ionian Gulf in order to secure his Greek dominions from attack during his absence. Military valour right down to our own time has captivated the racial imagination. But it is in the old poetry of the race itself that the trait is best illustrated, for there we find it incarnated in Cuchullin, the Celtic Hercules. His fortune was miraculous. In agonising combat he fought foe after foe single-handed until at length he was so covered with wounds that he could not bear his clothes to touch his skin, but had to hold them off with hazel-sticks and fill the spaces in between with grass. There was not a place on him the size of a needle-point that had not a wound in it, except his left hand which held the shield.

Closely allied to this is another typical Celtic virtue—fidelity to a cause once espoused. The loyalties of the race have been deep-seated and unimpeachable. Ossian himself would go to the place of woe with the Feinn rather than to an Elysium with cold-blooded ascetics. The story of Prince Charlie has brought this trait into bold relief. Opinions may differ about the Prince himself, but there can be only one opinion about the splendid loyalty and devotion of his followers. Jacobite song is in itself a priceless dower of the '45. Some nameless men went voluntarily to the extreme of sacrifice for the cause, not risking the less for it because it was ultimately regarded as a forlorn hope. In the autumn of 1746, Prince Charlie was believed to be in the neighbourhood of Fort-Augustus, and Cumberland's soldiers were searching for him. Now it happened that near the spot there lived a man who bore a close resemblance to the Prince: height, colouring, gait, figure, were the same. Cumberland's soldiers met this man, and immediately saw the resemblance. To make sure, they began to question him, rather bluntly and clumsily. "Are you Charles Edward Stuart?" they asked. In a flash the man realised the situation, and saw his opportunity to save the Prince. "Well, what do you think?" he

replied coolly. "We think you are," was the answer, "do you deny it?" Proudly the man drew himself up, as proudly as a King might, "I do not," he said. The soldiers thereupon arrested the brave fellow and took him away to London. Meanwhile, there was a fortnight's lull in the search for the Prince, and in that lull Charles Edward Stuart escaped to France. In London the mistake was discovered and the man, who had given himself up for his leader, was put to death for his loyalty to the Jacobite cause.

Ingenuity and inventiveness form a third and notable item in the racial scheme. The relics of ancient Celtic art-work tell of a civilisation wonderfully developed, such as those discovered in 1846 in a great neropolis near Salzburg in Austria, dating, it is believed, from the seventh century preceding the Christian era. Cæsar, in his careful and critical account of the Celts as he knew them in Gaul, makes reference to their zeal for knowledge. The Druids, for educational as well as religious reasons, were exempted from all military service and all payment of taxes. For some four centuries of the Christian era, Ireland—a typically Celtic island—was the refuge of learning and the source of literary and philosophic culture for half Europe. Brilliance and versatility of all kinds have, from the first, appealed to the race. Nowhere is education more highly valued than among our Hebridean peasantry, and nowhere does the youthful mind show greater natural intelligence. The Gael has a pretty native wit, enshrined in a host of striking and luminous proverbs. The wisdom may be the same as we find in the aphorisms of other races, but there is an unusual shrewdness and flavour in the Gaelic idiom. In especial, Highland bards were masters of quick wit, sometimes slyly humorous, showing an impish love of mischief, at other times grimly ironical and sarcastic. In North Uist lived the noted poet MacCodrum. Someone who had heard of his fame wished to interview him, and set out for the bard's residence. Near the entrance to the village the visitor met a man of whom he asked some directions. "Is the bard at home?" "Well," replied the man, "he was at home just before I left." "How can I find his house?" "You will observe," was the reply, "that the bard's house is thatched only on one side." On arriving at the village, the stranger could nowhere see a house thatched only on one side. As he looked around in bewilderment, a villager came up and asked if he could help him.

The visitor told the whole story, detailing the directions he had already received. The villager listened and smiled. "I perceive," he said, "that it was the bard himself whom you met, for the bard was certainly at home before he left, and, as for the house, that is it right in front of you, and it is true that it is thatched only on one side—the outside."

The courtesy of the Gael has become proverbial—it is so marked a feature of his character. Refinement of taste and native delicacy of feeling are everywhere in evidence. It is one of the best legacies our ancient feudalism, now itself a thing of the past, has bequeathed to us, and it lends an old world charm to the Highland custom of even our modern day. An unlettered crofter addresses some honoured guest, and there is an amazing dignity in his speech and gesture. To this are united in the Gaelic mentality the evangelic virtues of liberality and hospitality to strangers. The most outstanding literary testimony to this is Dr. Johnson's "Tour to the Hebrides," and it is all the more remarkable because it is quite obvious that in other respects that great writer had failed fully to appreciate the Celtic genius. Upon purity of morals, the race has also set the highest value. An excellent illustration of this is found in Tennyson's presentation of the noble Celtic epic, the Arthurian legend. The motif of "The Idylls of the King," is the superb and incomparable beauty of chastity. The Celtic ideal finds expression in the immortal words, "My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure."

Finally, the Gaels have a genuine admiration for reverence. Though a brave, they are not a braggart race. The inner life of the spirit is nearer to them than to those who are intellectually less nimble. The Celt can never be adequately portrayed till justice is done to this vital element in his character. Both Scott and R. L. Stevenson, masters though they were in the realm of letters, failed just here, in the one case, by making the Celt simply the embodiment of the storied past, and, in the other, by presenting him as an ordinary figure of imaginative romance. It was only a child of the soil like Neil Munro, imbued with the perfervid genius and spiritual intensity of the race, who could bring to light the native mysticism and spirituality of the Gael, and he has done it with consummate skill and grace. This flair for the other-worldly has given the thought of the unseen a haunting witchery and beauty, envisaged

in Tir nan Og—the happy land of immortal youth. It is thus quite wide of the mark to depict Celtic religion as morbid fatalism. The austerities of theology are softened and mellowed by mysticism, and a divine discontent gives a soaring wing to a lofty and serene faith. Materialism and impiety are foreign to all our tribe, and if we fall into those errors we do so in despite to our own native genius. The representatives of the spiritual world, from the ancient Druids down to the modern Christian preacher, have consistently commanded the veneration and attachment of the race. “Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal, ach mairidh gaol is ceòl.” The temporal order vanishes, leaving “not a rack behind,” but the realm invisible but yet most real which is of love and melody all compact, endures. “The world passeth away and the fashion thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

The three chief vices of which the Celts have been accused are laziness, pride, and lack of truthfulness, but we can confidently claim at the very least as much immunity from these as any other race. We do not indeed pretend that the past has been free from mistakes, but is it of any avail to-day to point the finger of scorn at those who have gone before? Assuredly not. It is not by penalising the past, but by doing it reverence, that we can go forward hopefully to the attainment of our high ideals in the future. We can make the achievements of the older day—and these have been truly noble—stepping-stones to greater things still in the time that is yet to be. Therefore, our motto will always be that ancient and honourable one, “Lean gu dluth ri cliù do shìnnisr.”

AIR EALAIN SGRIOBHADH EACHDRAIDH.

MIR DE BHOLINGBROKE AIR A TIONNDADH GU
GAIDHLIG ALBANN. LE RUARAI DH ARASCAIN
IS MHAIRR.

Ma bhios mòran eachdraidh sgrìobhte againn is gu bheil an stuth as am bheileas 'ga deanamh pailt tomadach, foghnaidh eadhon na tha bréagach dhi gus an fhìrinn a chur an cèill. Is i cuid breathneachaidh sa' chùis an t-òr a dhealachadh o'n smùr, agus le cobhair ràidhean air an tarruing bho iomadh ùghdar fa leth co-chruinneachadh de eachdraidh a ghabhas creidsinn a dheasachadh air ar son, rud nach

gabhadh deanamh le comhnadh fir seach fir dhuibh, ach a gheibh ar làn aontachadh, agus a dhuisgeas ar moladh air fad, ma thèid a dheanamh le cunbhaill, is gu'm bi an riochdachadh a bhios 'na chois fo stiùradh fosgarrachd. Oir, ma ghabhas so deanamh—agus chan eil cinnt nach d'fhuair e deanamh le soirbheas uair no dhà roimhe so—le cobhair ùghdairean a sgrìobh a dh'aon ghnòthach air son chàich uile a mhealladh, nach ann gu mòr na's fhusa agus na's éifeachdaiche na sin a ghabhas a' cheart tùrn deanamh le comhnadh na feadhnaich a sgrìobh gu barrachd brìgh, agus le tuille spéis do'n fhìrinn. Far a bheil àireamh mhór de sgrìobhadairean ann, an sin bithidh an comhnuidh cuid a sgrìobhas gu fìrinneach is mar sin as am bi e comasach duinn làn earbsa a chur, aon chuid do bhrìgh gu bheil na sgrìobhadairean so fo eagal roimh thruailladh eachdraidh, eagal gu'm biodh iad air am faighinn a mach anns a'ghìomh sin, is gu'n coisinn iad daibh féin tàir an àite cliù an cois sin, no do bhrìgh gu bheil aobhar na fìrinne fìor mheasail leo air a sgàth féin. Ach an déidh sin, is cinnteach an gnothach gu bheil eadhon a' cheud chuid dhiubh so buailteach air mearachd agus faillinn. Air am mealladh le barail is caomh leo, no le faireachduinn air chor-eigin is nàdurra daibh, feuchaidh iad air uairibh ri dath nach buin dìth le còir a chur air an fhìrinn, no an rud ciatach ceudna a cheiltinn air an leughadair, amhuil mar a rinn—ma's fìor an sgeul aig Lucian—dealbhadair àraid, aig an robh ri tharruing uair duine mòr, aig nach robh 'na cheann ach aon sùil. Thug an dealbhadair ionnsaigh air a' ghnòthach a chaidh earbsadh ris a choimhlionadh le bhì cur ri obair mar nach biodh aige ri tharruing de'n duine ach a mhàin a leth-aghaidh! Tha Montaigne a' gearain gu trom mu na meamhrachain sgrìobhte aig Du Bellay gu bheil na h-ùghdairean a' tionndadh gach tùrn agus tachartas a thèid a chur fo iomradh anna gu leas is cliù am maighstir féin, ged nach robh aobhar gearain air bith cho fad sa bha suim iomlan de na sgrìobhaidhean sin air a ghabhail a staigh. Is làn is airdh briathran a' bhodaich chòir ath-innsadh an so. Their esan, “de contourner le jeuement des evenemens souvent contre raison à notre avantage, et d'obmettre tout ce qu'il y a de chatouilleux en la vie de leur maître, ils en font mestier.” Sgrìobhadairean mar an fheadhainn so, fàgaidh iad le an deòin air uairibh slighe na fìrinne; ach is mòr m' eagal gu bheil feadhainn eile ann a ni a' cheart rud, air cho fìrinneach 'nan nàdur agus a dh'fhaodas iad a bhì.

A thaobh eachdraidh, is docha leinn le reuson fianuis ar linn féin seach fianais linn-tean eile; ach có e is urrainn a ràdh le firinn gur earbsach a h-uile fianuis de 'n t-seòrsa air a bheil na sgrìobhadairean a' deanamh feum anns na leabhraichean aca? Is tric a tha an fhianuis sin air a truailleadh le mearachd, agus le claon-bharail cuideachd. Tha mi féin cho làidir de'n bheachd so is gu bheil mi a' cur romham (ma théid slàinte is ùine leigil dhomh gus rud a tha am bheachd a choimhlionadh, 's e sin seòrsa de eachdraidh air an rìoghachd so féin bho àm thiginn na ban-rìgh Anna nach maireann gus an crùn gu ruig sith Utrecht); tha mi a' cur romham gun a bheag idir de fheum a dheanamh air fios no fianuis air bith a théid a thairgse dhomh chum sin ach a mhàin air stuth eachdraidh as am bheil mi féin làn earbsach, agus cuideachd a chaidh a sgrudadh leam air dhòigh gu ro dlùth cùramach roimh làmh. Ach a thaobh na feadhach eile a dh' ainmich mi, ged a tha iad am bitheantas cuimhneach gu leòr air an fhirinn, an déidh sin, is léir an gnothach gu bheil iadsan cuideachd cho buailteach air mearachd ri càch; ach an déidh sin is gu léir saoilidh mi nach eil an claonadh làidir so gu mearachd a th'orra na 's leòr gu neo-earbsachd a eachdraidh air fad a dheanamh éigheach oirnn. Far a bheil earbsachd a thaobh eachdraidh a dhith oirnn, faodar an fhirinn m' a déidhinn fhaighinn a mach le bhi cur eachdraidh sgrìobhte an coimeas ri eachdraidh sgrìobhte amhail mar a bhuileas neach sradaig a mach le bhi a' bualadh stàillinn ri aghaidh aillbhinn. Agus far a bheil beachdan agus baraileachan sgrìobhadairean fo amharus againn, tha sinn saor gu ar cunbail féin a chur an cleachdadh, a' creidsinn no a' dèilbhadh a chreidsinn dìreach mar a chì sinn iomchuidh, no a' cur am beachdan agus am baraileachan am fiachaibh duinn an déidh duinn an rannsachadh agus an sgrùdadh mar is còir, agus cuideachd an cur air mheidh combla ri mìr no dhà de cheadachd. Foghnaidh, tha mi meas, glé bheag de chunbhalas gus fìor mheud nam mìrean so a réiteachadh; agus gu 'm feum sinn sin a dheanamh air mhodh a fhreagras ri inntinn agus ri suidheachadh nan ùghdar iad féin, oir gach ri dhuibh so bheil iad buaidh anns a' chùis. Tha Montaigne a' breithneachadh (ach is ann a tha e a' meudachadh an nì rud beag), nach gnàth le Guicciardini gnìomh no gnothach air bith a shuideachadh air deach-rùn, ach a h-uile fear dhiubh air am bheil iomradh aige anns an eachdraiche aige a shealltuinn air mar droch-fhàs de 'n nàdur daonda. Agus thatar a' tilgeil rud-eigin mar so air Tacitus mar an

ceudna; ach a dh'aindeoin gach lethsgèul smeorail agus tagradh labhrach a tha an t-ùghdar so a' cur an cèill air son mhuinntir eile ann an aon de na sgrìobhaidhean aige, leugh thusa na coimeasan aig Plutarch ann an cainnt air bith is àill leat ach tha mise co-dhuibh air an aon bharail ri Bodin, gur e Grèugach a b'ùghdar daibh air fad. A dh' aon fhocal, na cothruim a b' àbhaist a bhi ann, agus air an d' thug cuid fàth roimhe so air a bhia' truailleadh eachdraidh, tha iad sin a' dol an lughad a nis ann an iomadh cèarn, agus ann an iomadh cèarn eile air an dol às gu tur, ionnus gu bheil an fhirinn a nis ga cur féin am fiachaibh agus a' toirt buaidh, seadh eadhon ann an cèarnaibh nach do leig dhiubh fathast de bhi toirt ùmhail do 'n fhoill agus do 'n bhréig 'nam beatha chumanta, agus far nach ceadachd do 'n fhirinn—gu bhàig innseadh mu 'n déidhinn an rud is fearr a ghabhas innseadh mu'n timchioll—a' tighinn an làthair ach an déidh dith siubhal troimh làmhnan as nach tric a thig i slàn iomlan, gun smal gun spot.

THE CLERGY AND AN COMUNN.

It has sometimes been charged against the Highland clergy that their attitude towards the Gaelic language has been either indifferent or frankly hostile. The charge is not altogether unfounded. For at least two generations the form of religious teaching to which Highlanders have been accustomed has taught them to regard their own poetry and music as evil arts. With certain exceptions the ministers of former days failed to realise that a race is rich in the highest things which has produced a wealth of music and of song. In comparatively recent times it was the religious fashion in the Highlands to repress the emotional and artistic qualities of the people and to persuade them to believe that to sing the glory of summer, the song of birds, the scent of flowers, the babble of brooks, or the love of a man for a maid—was to endanger their immortal souls. And even now, places are not unknown to us wherein the activities of An Comunn are frowned upon, because the motive that inspires them is not understood.

There are signs that a brighter day has dawned. Protestant ministers of all denominations have taken a leading share in the work of An Comunn during the whole period of its history. Wherever an active Branch is in existence, a minister is at the heart of it. In the promotion and organisa-

tion of Provincial Mods the local clergy are the leaders. Ministers compose one third of the Elective Members of the Executive Council, while a large proportion of branches and affiliated Societies are represented in the Executive by ministers. They take a large share in Committee work and the contribution thus made by them to the administrative work of An Comunn is of considerable importance. On the whole, may it not be claimed for the average Highland minister of to-day that his zeal in the cause of Gaelic goes a long way to atone for the apathy of his predecessors? At the National and at Provincial Mods the work of Gaelic adjudication has from the beginning been entrusted for the most part to ministers, and from the circumstance that their services in this capacity are in constant demand, it may be assumed that they fulfil the task allotted to them with competency and fairness.

Amid an army of workers there are some whose conspicuous service merits more than a passing reference. It is not possible, even if it were desirable, to appraise the value of individual contributions to the common cause, but two notable exceptions must be made. The Rev. M. N. Munro, Taynuilt, by his work as Convener of the Mod and Music Committee during the most testing and critical years has placed all lovers of Gaelic music under a debt of lasting gratitude. The two volumes of "Coisir a Mhòid," containing the choicest of solo and choral pieces that have been rendered at the National Mod for a quarter of a century, are largely the result of his unwearied labours. Gems of rarest beauty, preserved in these publications, have been rescued from oblivion by a Highland minister whose musical taste is equalled only by his gift of spiritual insight. When, in years to come, those who come after us prepare the Roll of our Celtic Immortals the name of Malcolm Munro will stand beside those of Marjory Kennedy Fraser and Kenneth Macleod.

An article professing to set forth the share taken by ministers in our movement could not be complete without a reference to the Rev. George W. Mackay, minister of Killin. I think the statement will not be contradicted that if the Highland clergy of the past century were one half as earnest lovers of our ancient tongue as he, the need for An Comunn Gaidhealach would not have arisen. Dr. Mackay is a Celt of the Celts, incapable of half-heartedness in any enter-

prise to which he puts his hand. During nearly the whole course of An Comunn's career he has been in the van of the fight, inspiring others with his zeal and hopefulness. Those who know the inner history of the "Gaelic Clause" in the Education Act of 1918 know also that the "Gaelic Petition," signed by 18,000 Highlanders, turned the scale in the Scottish Grand Committee in favour of the clause. The Petition was organised by An Comunn at the instigation of Dr. Mackay. From the large number of signatures which came from the County of Perth we may safely assume that had there been a George Mackay in every Highland County, the signatures would be numbered not in tens but in hundreds of thousands. All lovers of Gaelic will rejoice that his outstanding service to the Church of which he is an honoured minister as well as to the land of which he is an honoured son has been recently recognised by his Alma Mater. *Buaidh is piseach leis!*

The minister of a Highland Parish still wields an influence in the affairs of the Community wherein his lot is cast. It is generally true that where a Gaelic-speaking people enjoy the ministrations of a man who loves the language of his fathers, the people love it, and are proud to speak it, to sing its songs and to cherish everything in their race and blood for which it stands. The Highland minister that is wise in the things of the Spirit realises the power of Gaelic as a medium of appeal, for to the Highlander it is the language of the heart.

CILLE CHIARAIN.

TUATHA DE DANAAN.

By BESSIE B. MACARTHUR.

From dark recesses of an Aryan age,
Across the centuries they grope their way;
Dim, powerful shapes that secret warfare wage
Upon the foes of ancient chivalry.
Once more a writhing Fomor† they must fight,
A modern foe of fierce insidious breath;
For giants of Sloth and Apathy unite
The gods of old Romance to do to death,
O Lugh‡ Lamh-fad†, arise with flaming sword!
With banners of the Fairy Host unfurled!
And scatter wide the dark, mis-shapen horde,
Imperiling the beauty of the world!
Then shall thy shining legions greet the morn,
And wonder on the earth shall be re-born!

*Ancient Celtic gods. †Flowers of Darkness. ‡The sun-god.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 15th July. The following members were present:—Mr. John R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Rev. George Calder, D.Litt., Glasgow; Mr. Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Miss Farquharson of Invercauld; Messrs. Alexander Fraser, Yoker; Donald Graham, M.A., Inverness; Miss C. MacDonald, Pitlochrie; Mrs. Macdonald of Dunach; Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness; Rev. G. W. Mackay, D.D., Killin; Messrs. Ben. B. MacKinnon, Helensburgh; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Rev. T. S. Macpherson, Campbeltown; Messrs. Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Lewis Branch; Neil Orr, Edinburgh; Angus Robertson, Glasgow; H. S. Shield, Edinburgh; Neil Shaw, Secretary, and George MacKay, for the treasurer.

The President, Mr. Angus Robertson, was in the Chair, and, after the reading and adoption of the minutes, he extended to the Rev. Dr. Mackay, Killin, the congratulations and best wishes of the members of An Comunn on the high honour conferred upon him by his *Alma Mater*. Dr. Mackay replied in Gaelic and English, thanking the President and members for their felicitations.

The President expressed sympathy with the widow and relatives of the late Rev. Charles M. Robertson, Islay, and the Secretary was instructed to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Robertson. The death of Mr. Archd. Ferguson, for many years conductor of St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir, was feelingly referred to by the President, and it was agreed to record an expression of sympathy in the minutes.

Minute of the Finance Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Alexander Fraser, Convener, was adopted.

The Education Committee reported the receipt of a letter from the Educational Institute of Scotland intimating the finding of the General Council on the subject of Gaelic teaching in schools. The findings were:—(1) In the case of children with a knowledge of English and Gaelic, English should be the medium of instruction; (2) to Gaelic-speaking children, reading can be taught without difficulty in the senior division, and a beginning with writing can be made, together with an introduction to grammar; (3) in advanced and secondary departments the arrangements for

the teaching of Gaelic should be similar to those holding for other languages. The Education Committee were disappointed to find so little that was new or specially helpful in these findings, and regretted that the recommendations originally agreed to at the joint conference between the Institute's sub-committee and representatives of An Comunn had not been adopted.

Mr Malcolm MacLeod said it was obvious the Institute had gone on a definite principle. They had confined themselves to points bearing upon the place of Gaelic in the curriculum, and had cut out those recommendations which bore upon the duties of Authorities and the Department, and which pointed out the influence which teachers might exert in inculcating a healthy sentiment towards Gaelic in the community. They had also, as a result of a vote, rejected the recommendation that in the case of children not knowing English, Gaelic should be used as the medium of instruction. This was a regrettable and surprising decision.

The Rev. T. S. Macpherson, Campbeltown, thought the Educational Institute had come to their decisions without sufficient knowledge, and he suggested that a further effort should be made to get them to change their views.

The Chairman said the matter would not be allowed to drop.

Letter from the Secretary of the Highland Trust was read, stating that the capitation grants for the teaching of Gaelic had been discontinued, and that the money set free would be devoted to supplementing the salaries of teachers of Gaelic and of Greek in Highland Schools.

The Publication Committee reported that they had entered into a contract with the Yeats Agency, Glasgow, for advertising in the magazine, whereby it was hoped to reduce very considerably the annual loss. "Rosg Gaidhlig," it was reported, was in the hands of the printers, and was expected to be ready for the commencement of the winter session of the schools.

The Propaganda Committee reported applications for teachers of singing from various districts, to commence duty early in the session. It was agreed to await the allocation of the Feill funds before making any appointment.

It was reported by the Mod and Music Committee that local arrangements in Connection with the Fort William Mod were proceeding satisfactorily. Dr. Mackay made an appeal for a portion of the Mod time-table to be devoted to Oral competitions without

any counter attraction in the way of Vocal Competitions. The Committee agreed to endeavour this year to take up the Oraidean and Dialogues in the Large Hall and have no vocal competitions going on simultaneously. Application for financial assistance to bring a Junior Choir to the National Mod was considered, but the Committee regretted they were not in a position to entertain it. It is proposed to introduce, by way of experiment, in the 1928 Junior Choral items, the descant system. Several songs were mentioned, provisionally, for the Senior Choral items.

A print of the reports of Committees, and of the Financial Statement for the year ending 31st May, 1927, which had been previously posted to members for their consideration, were gone over and approved. The loss for the year is £154, compared with a debit balance of £326 last year.

The secretary submitted the following statement of accounts in connection with the recent Great Feill held in Glasgow. The total receipts to date amounted to £11,000 6s. 1d., but he pointed out that the accounts would not be closed for some time yet, the expectation being that the final realisation would be considerably larger. The expenses amounted to £2496 2s.

The Chairman, expressing thanks to all who had worked for the Feill, suggested that they should make the Feill a sort of institution in connection with An Comunn—possibly every ten years or so.

The Rev. Dr. Mackay, Killin, expressed the hope that when the money from the Feill came to be allocated, they would agree to appoint more music teachers, and have better organisation, with some statesmanlike plan of operation for the whole Highlands.

On the motion of Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow, remit was made to the Finance Committee, together with the Conveners of the other standing committees, to consider as to the allocation of the funds from the Feill, in view of the necessary annual requirements of An Comunn in the way of ordinary administration, and the special work which might be undertaken in view of the new resources at their disposal and to report to a special meeting to be held in September.

GREAT FEILL, AS AT 15TH JULY, 1927.

General Donations	£874 11 1
Glasgow Highland Societies' Stall	1659 5 3
" Over the Border	275 14 8
Argyllshire	941 10 8
Island	1438 5 1
Inverness-shire	463 16 3

Overseas	225 7 9
Stirlingshire	391 15 10
London	1116 16 0
Highland Art and Industry	359 8 1
Renfrewshire	811 8 2
Edinburgh and Midlothian	350 1 11
Ceylon	29 0 7
Parcels	7 15 2
Perthshire	754 11 6
Refreshments	332 9 9
Bookstall (includes sales of <i>Voices from the Hills</i> at St. Andrew's Halls..)	275 4 3
Entrance Money	420 11 7
Entertainments	215 13 8
Interest	8 3 10

<i>Add</i> Proceeds of Newton Players' Entertainment	£10,951 11 1
	48 15 0
	£11,000 6 1
<i>Less</i> Expenses to date	2496 2 0
	£8504 4 1
Whereof War Stock	£100 0 0
Deposit Receipt	8174 1 1
Bank and in hand	230 3 0
	£8504 4 1
Expenses include cost of <i>Voices from the Hills</i>	£420 0 0
And Entertainment Tax Deposits which will be recovered.. ..	£53 0 0

Nominations for offices of President, one Vice-President, and ten members of Executive Council were received.

Mr. Angus Robertson, on being nominated for another term of the presidency, intimated that he had decided not to seek re-election. He pointed out that he had already held office for five years, and that he would have resigned three years ago but for the Feill. His experience in the chair had been a pleasant and fragrant one, he said. Other nominations received for the presidency were Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, Campbelltown; the Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; and the Rev. Malcolm Macleod, M.A., Pollok-shields.

The President extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Iain Moffatt-Pender, who represents the Lewis Branch.

Mr. Moffatt-Pender gave notice that at the annual meeting he would move that the headquarters of An Comunn should be changed to Stornoway, and that an inner society, in which Gaelic only would be spoken, should be formed within An Comunn. The time had arrived for something big, he said. They had had their Feill. They had wakened up Gaeldom, and Gaeldom was just waiting to be led. They had done much good work, but each year the Gaelic fringe became far more

attenuated. Farther and farther west each succeeding census slid the demarcation line of the Gaelic-speaking area, and it was now almost in Skye. Mr. Pender expressed doubt as to whether they could affect the heart of Gaeldom from Glasgow. Interest in the Gaelic cause was very warm just now. The schoolmasters and schoolmistresses were all enthusiastic. They were all speaking about An Comunn. Now was the time to get right into the heart of Gaeldom.

Notices of the following motions were given :—

By Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin—"That Section 28 (Constitution and Rules, Standing Committees) be altered as follows :—

"The Executive Council shall, at the Preliminary Meeting in each year, appoint from among its own members Seven Standing Committees, viz., a Finance Committee, an Education Committee, a Publication Committee, a Propaganda Committee, an Art and Industry Committee, Mod Committee, and a Music Committee.

"That in regard to Section 35 (6) (Duties of Standing Committees), Section 6 shall read as follows :—The Music Committee shall endeavour to collect Folk Songs and promote the cultivation of Gaelic Music and Song. That an additional Section (Section 7) be added as follows :—The Mod Committee shall prepare the Syllabus and the Prize-list of the Mod for the approval of the Executive Council, and shall be responsible to the Executive Council for the conduct of the Mod."

By Capt. Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Lewis :—
"(1) That the Headquarters of An Comunn be changed to Stornoway; (2) That a Gaelic Society, consisting of Gaelic-speaking members only, be formed within An Comunn."

By Norman MacLeod, M.A., Cardonald :—
Rule 36 of the Constitution and Rules to read as follows :—The President, Vice-Presidents and Conveners of the Standing Committees shall form an Advisory Committee. It shall be the business of this Committee to formulate the general policy of An Comunn, and to direct and co-ordinate the activities of the Standing Committees; it shall be responsible for all arrangements connected with the election of the President, Vice-Presidents, and the Executive Council. The Committee shall hold not less than three meetings per year, and five members will form a quorum."

By Fred. T. MacLeod, F.S.A. (Scot.), Edinburgh :—"That this Annual Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach instruct the Secretary to give effect, in the future, to the terms of the unanimous Resolution passed by the Executive Council at their meeting held in Stirling on 5th March, 1926, that an English translation of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Council shall be provided for the benefit of the non-Gaelic-speaking members."

By Donald MacDonald, Inverness :—"That members elected to the Executive Council who fail to attend, at least, one meeting per annum without reasonable cause, shall not be eligible for re-election for a term."

AN T-OIGHR' OG.

GLEUS D. (*Six-Pulse Measure*).

{ | m :—: | s :—: s | l :—: | l : s : m }
O hì 's na hì i - ù - o,

{ | r :—: m | s :—: s | l :—: | d' :—: r' |
Hì rì rì 's na hì iù—o,

{ | m' :—: m' | m' :—: r' | d' :—: | l :—: s |
O hì rì 's na hì iù—o

{ | l :—: l | d' :—: l | l : s :—: | m :—: }
'S e mo ràn an t-Oighr' òg.

Oighr' òig á Dunbheagain,
Nam pìoban 's nam feadan,
'S nì gu'n deanadh do fhreagairt
Le fead cinn a' mheòir.

'S e 's fhasan do'n àrmunnt,
'Bhì falbh anns gach àite,
Le ghillea 's le 'bhàta,
'Bha àluinn 's gach dòigh.

Cha bhiodh ormsa bonn èiraim,
Ach thu fhéin 'bhi 'ga stiùireadh,
Ged a bhiodh a' mhuir dhùbh-ghorm
Tigh'nn dlùth do'n t-slaith bheòil.

Tha àbhlán 'ad ghàradh,
Agus peuran a' fàs ann,
Tha do chrodh air bhàrr fàsaich,
'S tha do bhàta fo sheòl.

'S ann aig gairmeadh a' choilich,
Fhuair nì sgeula na foill' ort;
Chaidh thu seachad an fhaghail,
'S cha do thaghail thu òirn.

Sgùirdh mise 'ga d' iargain,
Bh'o'n nach fhaigh mi thu 'm bliadhna,
Ach, so mo làmh nach mi chiad te
Fhuair briathran do bheòil.

SOP AS GACH SEID.

All who attended the national mòd in Fort William, in 1922, can easily recall the cordiality which marked the occasion. It was an event which kindled a fire in Lochaber, the warm glow of which has not died down in ashes, but lives at this moment ready to break soon into flame in the enthusiasm of another national mòd. The Town Council and people of Fort William hailed the mòd with great kindness, and with the experience of 1922 so vivid in our recollection we anticipate a similar welcome for the gathering in October. Preparations are so well under way that the forthcoming mòd will not suffer by comparison with any previous assembly of An Comunn. A district favoured by nature with scenery so sublime is a fitting rendezvous for the festival; and if the majesty of the mountains inspired the native bards, it may also well inspire to-day the singers of their songs.

* * * *

The occasion of the mòd affords a good opportunity to visitors to inspect the exhibits in the West Highland Museum at Fort William. It is greatly to the credit of the authorities of the Museum that they have taken measures to collect on one spot so many articles of Gaelic and of Scottish interest. We hold that the display of the skill of our fathers in certain of the arts and crafts is the practical complement to the other side of their mentality, which they have so happily expressed in the songs and folk-lore which they left us. Many of the exhibits have historical value; and all visitors to the Gaelic Mòd should make a point of showing their appreciation of the Highland Museum—an institution whose aim is somewhat similar to the objects of An Comunn itself, namely, to create an interest in and preserve the knowledge of the history and culture of our people.

* * * *

We were privileged to be present recently at two provincial mòds—Perthshire and Ardnarmurchan. Year by year there is a steady advance in the quality of the work at these gatherings. The performers, whether junior or adult, are encouraged by the loyal appreciation of large audiences drawn from the respective areas—in some cases people came from long distances. At Aberfeldy there were many present from remote parts of the country. While a certain touch of emulation cannot be absent from the competitions, yet the rivalry was very friendly, and in every instance the spirit of the gatherings was genial indeed. In Ardnarmurchan we were greatly impressed

with the pure quality of the Gaelic. Several groups of youthful competitors came from remote districts which have not yet been invaded by English influence to any appreciable extent. The choral singing was unique in this respect, that the intimate mastery of Gaelic possessed by the singers gave their work a sense of absolute reality in expression.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The following extract is from the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Schools for the Western Division of Scotland:—

"After several years of steady expansion, the number of Schools giving systematic instruction in Gaelic is practically stationary at a point between 70 and 80. The chief strongholds of Gaelic are the Islands, and on the mainland—Ardnamurchan, Morven, and the districts round Oban and Ballachulish, and in all these areas—in the opinion of Mr. Macdonald, who, as usual, supplies me with the information—the teaching of Gaelic not only helps to maintain the use of the language, but also exercises a good influence on the general education of the children. In the districts of Cowal, Kintyre, and Lochgilphead, the hold of Gaelic is less secure, and the efforts of the teachers consequently less successful. The supply of Gaelic books for home reading is being steadily increased, the Oban Library in particular is assuming quite satisfactory proportions. . . One point of practical importance is emphasised by Mr. Macdonald—that at all stages, the teachers should adhere to the proper values of the Gaelic vowels and consonants, and not allow them to be corrupted by assimilation to the English usage."

We still await a report on the progress of Gaelic teaching in the counties of Inverness, Ross, and Sutherland.

* * * *

An uair a bha mi ag ullachadh na duilleig so air son a' chlà fhuair mi litir bho'n Urra. Calum MacLeòid a tha aig an àm an I Chaluim Chille. Tha e ag innseadh dhomh nach 'eil a' Ghàidhlig marbh 'san eilean iomraiteach sin fhathast agus is math leam a seùl. Bha seirbhis Ghàidhlig aige an t-Sàbaid roimhe air mullach cruic agus bha, ach beag, sluagh an eilein uile mu'n cuairt air. B'e Mgr Mac an Rothaich Friseal, a bha roimhe so 'na Fhear-ceasnachaidh sgoilean, a bha an ceann na seinn agus rinn e an dleasdanas sin gu ro-thaitneach. Bidh ar leughadairean toilichte a chluinntinn gu bheil meas air an t-seirbhis Ghàidhlig air a' Ghaidhealtachd fhathast agus o bheil ar caraidean urramach bhiodh Focal na Fìrinn air a' luibhairt le fìor spiorad cràbhaidh—gu dùrachdach agus gu' soilleir. Tha muinntir an eilein ag radh nach robh leithid na seirbhis Ghàidhlig so an I Chaluim Chille bho na dh'fhag na Manaich e,

As bearing upon the report of the Education Committee at the last Executive Meeting, the following extract from the *Scots Observer*, whose attitude to our movement is invariably sympathetic and helpful, will be read with interest :—

“We do not wonder at the disappointment of An Comunn Gaidhealach with the findings of the General Council of the Educational Institute of Scotland regarding Gaelic teaching in Schools. The attitude to Gaelic expressed by these findings is fairly well summed up in a famous couplet—

Thou shalt not kill, but needst not strive
officially to keep alive.

In other words, Gaelic is to be tolerated and not to be encouraged. That is not sufficient, Gaelic, as the ancient tongue of all Scotland and a live language in many parts of it, is entitled to better and more special treatment than other languages. In particular, there ought to be a native Gaelic-speaking teacher in every Highland school. It is time for all good Highlanders to give active support to An Comunn in this matter.”

* * * *

It was interesting to observe that at the dedication of the National Memorial at Edinburgh to Scotsmen and Scotswomen, who fell in the Great War, the benediction was pronounced first in Gaelic and then in English. As one writer put it, “it seemed fitting that the words of blessing should first be uttered in the ancient language of Scotland, as affording a peculiarly National and Caledonian significance to a great act of patriotic homage.”

It is worthy of note that the name which will be most closely associated with this Memorial—in its conception and execution—is that of a Gaelic-speaking Highlander, His Grace the Duke of Atholl.

* * * *

June is the popular month for the holding of Provincial Mods. Four of these gatherings have been held since the Feill. I attended this year at Bowmore, Lochgilphead, and Aberfeldy, and can testify from experience of previous Mods at these centres, to the splendid work achieved. It is particularly encouraging to find a steady increase in the number of Juniors coming forward in the Oral section each year, and to note the marked improvement

in their capacity to read fluently and correctly. This, in the main, must be attributed to the teaching of Gaelic in the schools. In the case of Senior competitors, much improvement is noticeable, and a wider knowledge of Gaelic literature is gained by repeated appearances at these Mods.

I am not able at this date to give in detail the number of entries for the Fort William Mod, but readers will be interested to know that the entries for the Lovat and Tullochbairdine Shield constitute a record. Choirs are coming from Campbeltown, Edinburgh, Fort William, Glasgow, Greenock, Inverness, London, and Oban.

THE LEWIS MOD.

The fourth Annual Mod, under the auspices of the Lewis Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held at Stornoway, on 14th and 15th June. The competitions from first to last and the Grand Concert on Wednesday evening, with which the festival concluded, were a great delight and inspiration to all interested in the preservation of the Gaelic language. Last year's experience led the Committee this year to spread the competitions over two days, and this was a decided improvement. On Tuesday the Oral and Junior Solo and Duet singing competitions were judged in the United Free English Church Hall. Next day the Choral singing, Senior Vocal competitions, and Piping were taken in the Lewis Picture House. As in former years, the written work was adjudicated on by Messrs. D. J. Macleod, H.M.I.S., and A. L. Macdonald, H.M.I.S. The other adjudicators were—Oral work—Mr. Donald Maciver F.E.I.S., Glennan, Bayble; Singing—Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mus.B., Glasgow (for music), with Rev. R. Morison, Stornoway, and Rev. K. Cameron, Stornoway, as Language Assessors. The judges for Pipe Music were Pipe-Major D. Macleod, Lewis Pipe Band; Pipe-Major Kenneth Macleod, Arnol, and William Ross, Marybank.

The following is a list of the prize-winners in the various sections :—

LITERATURE (RURAL SCHOOLS).

Gaelic Essays—1, Mary B. Macleod, Bayble; 2, Isabella Macdonald, Lionel; 3, Mary Maclean, Lionel;

4, William Maclean, Lionel; 5, Mary Macleod (b), Bayble.

Writing from Dictation—Murdina Reid, Laxdale; 2, Murdo Macsween, Bayble; 3, Mary Macleod (a), Bayble; 4, Isabella Macdonald, Lionel, and Mary A. Smith, Laxdale, equal.

Reproduction of Unseen Prose Passage—1, Mary Macleod (a), Bayble; 2, Mary Maclean, Lionel; 3, Johanna Mackenzie, Lionel; 4, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 5, Isabella Macdonald, Lionel.

Translation of Gaelic into English—1, William Maclean, Lionel; 2, Alice MacLennan, Sandwickhill; 3, Marion Brown, Laxdale, and Mary Macleod (a), Bayble, equal; 5, Murdina Smith, Bayble.

Translation of English into Gaelic—1, Isabella Macdonald, Lionel; 2, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 3, Alice MacLennan, Sandwick; 4, Mary A. Smith, Laxdale; 5, Mary Maclean, Lionel.

Translation of Gaelic Idioms—1, Marion Brown, Laxdale; 2, Isabella Macdonald, Lionel; 3, Alice MacLennan, Sandwickhill; 4, Johanna F. Mackenzie, Laxdale; 5, Calum M. Macleod, Laxdale.

NICOLSON INSTITUTE.

Gaelic Essay—1, Catherine Murray; 2, D. R. Mackenzie; 3, Christy A. Mackenzie; 4, Donald Macgregor; 5, Donald M. Murray.

Dictation—1, Isabella Morrison; 2, Johanna Macdonald and Christina Macritchie (equal); 4, Donald M. Murray; 5, Donald R. Mackenzie.

Reproduction of Unseen Prose Passage—1, Christina Macritchie; 2, Christy A. Mackenzie; 3, Mary Macleod; 4, Angus Macleod; 5, Catherine Murray.

Translation of Gaelic into English—1, Donald John Matheson; 2, Catherine Murray; 3, Christina A. Mackenzie; 4, Catherine Maciver; 5, Angus Macleod.

Translation of English into Gaelic—1, Catherine Murray; 2, Christina Macritchie; 3, Donald J. Matheson; 4, D. R. Mackenzie; 5, Angus Macleod.

Translation of Gaelic Idioms—1, Christina A. Mackenzie; 2, Catherine Murray; 3, Donald Macgregor and Angus Macleod (equal); 5, Johanna Macdonald.

ORAL DELIVERY (RURAL SCHOOLS).

Reading Acts (first five chapters)—1, Jessie Maciver, Knock; 2, Murdina Reid, Laxdale; 3, Alexina Munro, Laxdale, and Margaret Macrae, Sandwick (equal); 5, Peggy A. Macleod, Sandwick, Annie Smith, Bragar, and Alexina Maciver, Knock (equal).

Reading (Gospels of Mark and Luke)—1, Annie Smith, Bragar; 2, Alexina Munro, Laxdale, and Mary A. Smith, Laxdale (equal); 4, Jessie Maciver, Knock; 5, Murdina Reid, Laxdale.

Reading (Learners' Section)—1, Douglas Macdonald; 2, Katie M. Watson.

Reciting of Mointeach Leodhais—1, Jessie Maciver, Knock; 2, Murdina Munro, Knock; 3, Maggie Maciver, Bragar; 4, Joey Mackenzie, Laxdale.

Traditional Story Narration—1, Maggie Maciver, Bragar, and Iain Murray, Sandwick (equal); 3, Alex. J. Morrison, Sandwick.

NICOLSON INSTITUTE.

Reading Acts (first five chapters)—1, Nancy Macleod and Donald Mackenzie (equal); 3, Christy A. Macleod, Jessie Macleod, and Malcolm Macdonald (equal).

Reading (Gospels of Mark and Luke)—1, Donald Mackenzie; 2, Malcolm Macdonald.

Reciting of Mointeach Leodhais—1, Donald R. Mackenzie; 2, Annabella Matheson.

Traditional Story Narration—1, Chrissie Macdonald.

VOCAL MUSIC (JUNIOR SECTION).

Two-part Singing (Shield Competition)—1, Nicolson Institute; 2, Sandwick.

Unison Singing (Cup Competition)—1, Nicolson Institute (b); 2, Nicolson Institute (a); 3, Knock School.

Waulking—1, Laxdale (b); 2, Laxdale (a).

Solo Singing—Prescribed—(Boys)—1 (special prize of £1, presented by Count de Sassy), Iain Mackenzie, Nicolson Institute; 2, Donald Macgregor, Laxdale; 3, Alexander Mackenzie, Sandwick.

Solo Singing—Prescribed—(Girls)—1 (special prize, presented by the Lewis and Harris Association), Annie Macleod, Laxdale; 2, Margaret Mackay, Laxdale; 3, Joey Mackenzie, Laxdale; 4, Mary Macleod, Knock; 5, Catherine Macsween, Sandwick; 6, Jessie M. Stewart, and Alexina Munro, Laxdale, equal.

Solo Singing—Own Choice—(Boys)—1, Iain Watson, Nicolson Institute; 2, Kenneth MacLennan, Nicolson Institute; 3, Colin Macleod, Nicolson Institute, and George S. Macleod, Nicolson Institute, equal; 5, Iain Mackenzie, Nicolson Institute, and Joseph Maclean, Sandwick, equal.

Solo Singing—Own Choice—(Girls)—1, Joey Macleod, Laxdale; 2, Mary Macleod, Knock, and Catherine Macleod, Lionel, equal; 4, Annie Macleod, Laxdale; 5, Catherine Macsween, Sandwick; 6, Helen Macritchie, Lionel, and Murdina Munro, Knock, equal; 6, Etta Maclean, Sandwick.

Solo Singing (Girls over 16 and under 18)—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute; 3, Ethel Fraser, Nicolson Institute, and Etta Macleod, Laxdale, equal; 4, Jessie Campbell, Laxdale.

Solo Singing (Boys and Girls)—(Best rendering of local traditional songs)—1 (special prize of 10s presented anonymously), Alex. Mackenzie, Sandwick, and Catherine Macsween, Sandwick, equal.

Duet Singing—1, Jean Morrison and Mary Grant, Nicolson Institute; 2, Catherine Macsween and Roderick Macdonald, Sandwick; 3, David Macdonald and Joseph Maclean, Sandwick.

Piping (March, Strathspey, and Reel)—Aird-a-Bhaigh Cup Competition—1, Francis Mackay, Laxdale; 2, Alexander Maciver, Melbost; 3, Angus Maciver, Laxdale; 4, Hugh Graham, Stornoway.

Piping (Slow March)—1, Alex. Maciver, Melbost; 2, Francis Mackay, Laxdale; 3, Hugh Graham, Stornoway; 4, Charles Hunter, Mossend.

Solo Singing of Two Songs (Macleod Medal Competition)—1, Roderick Macdonald, Sandwick; 2, Donald Macgregor, Laxdale, and Iain Watson, Nicolson Institute, equal; 4, Joseph Maclean, Sandwick.

SENIOR SECTION.

Solo Singing—Own Choice—(Female Voices)—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute; 2, Mary B. Lamont, Stornoway, and Nancy Macdonald, Stornoway, equal.

Solo Singing of the Oran-Mor—"Alasdair Ghlinne Garaidh"—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute.

Duet Singing—1, Ina Macritchie and Mary A. Macdonald, Laxdale; 2, Jessie Campbell and Etta Macleod, Laxdale.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Telling of Traditional Story (prizes presented by Royal Celtic Society)—1, (£2) Matilda Macdonald, Sandwick; 2 (£1), Hector Maciver, Shawbost; 3, Alice Macleannan, Sandwick.

The Mod concluded with a grand concert on the evening of the concluding day in the Lewis Picture House. Capt. Iain M. Moffatt-Pender introduced the Lady Helen Tod who presided.

Her Ladyship received a most cordial reception, and gave an interesting address, concluding her remarks in Gaelic.

Mr. Tod also addressed the gathering, and made the pleasing announcement that a lady friend in France had forwarded a cheque for £50 to defray the cost of sending two choirs to compete at Fort William. Mr. Tod and Lady Helen gave a similar amount, and Capt. Moffatt-Pender had offered to defray the expenses of a choir himself. Altogether, five choirs were thus provided for. The announcements were received with great cheering.

The Rev. Donald Lamont, M.A., Blair Atholl, also spoke.

Provost Bain proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Helen Tod for presiding.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE MOD (STORNOWAY).

BY A SPECTATOR.

The 1927 Local Mod at Stornoway proved a huge success, and is an institution which shows progress each year.

The crowds who came to hear the various competitions should prove to all who decry the Gaelic as a dead or dying language that "there is life in the old dog yet," as the saying goes.

Though many adult Gaelic enthusiasts were present, and notable people from the mainland, not to mention those interesting folk from far Brittany, in their quaint costume, the greatest enthusiasts of all were the children themselves—representatives from almost every village of the Lews.

This was their day, and so long as the youth of the Island maintain their interest in, and love for their mother tongue, the Gaelic language, airs, and customs can never die.

The number of entrants for the Literary competitions was much greater than ever, and the results showed much careful training on the part of those behind the scenes.

The Musical section was of most interest to the general public, for so many children were involved in these events, that parents and friends turned out to see how they got on.

There was such a great number this year that two halls had to be utilised on Tuesday (7th June).

The duet and solo numbers were numerous.

The number of choirs which came forward was rather disappointing, and there was nothing like the keen, sporty competition of the last Mod, in particular, when Laxdale, Back, Bayble, Sandwick and Knock had a tussle for the plum, or coveted prize of the Mod, the Ex-Provost K. Mackenzie Shield.

Laxdale, of course, we knew, was debarred from entering this year, having won the Shield two years in succession. Bayble, unfortunately, were prevented from competing through an epidemic of measles in their district.

But where was the Back Choir, and Knock?

One had looked forward with pleasure to hearing the former, having pleasant recollections of their last year's performance, under their painstaking and capable conductress, Miss C. Matheson.

As it was, there were only two choirs forward, the Nicolson Institute Choir, and the Sandwick Choir, with every advantage in favour of the former, which we were informed had more than a sprinkling of rural talent. The Sandwick Choir is much to be congratulated upon having come forward every year since the inception of the Local Mod.

It was a great pleasure to see another choir competing this year from the furthest north of the Island—the Lionel Choir—to partake in the Unison Song Competitions. They made a very brave show; there is very fine material to work upon, and if their training continues they will be a force to be reckoned with in future Mods. We wish them great success.

Some of the soloists showed much talent, and the outstanding singer of the Mod was Miss Mary Morrison, whose singing took the hearts of the audience by storm.

As to the piping, it is wonderful how these young boys can manipulate their instruments. So long as these lads take an interest in their national music, the wail of the pipes and their

rousing notes will never become relics of the past. Congratulations to Mr. Francis Mackay, who won the "Aird a Bhaigh" Cup, the coveted prize of this section.

Last, but not by any means least, the Waulking Songs, in which two choirs from Laxdale entered for competition. These were varied and delightfully rendered. The words were very distinct, and the children shewed pleasure and understanding in the rendering.

Their trainer, Miss Margaret I. Macarthur, is much to be congratulated upon the results thereof.

THE ISLAY PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Islay Provincial Mod, under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held at Bowmore, on 17th June. Competitors turned out in large numbers, and competition was keen. The absence, through illness, of Mr. John Forrest, An Comunn's Singing Teacher in Islay, was felt. The adjudicators were Mr. N. Orr, Schoolhouse, Liberton; Mr. Shaw, Secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach; and Mr. John R. Bannerman, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The latter presided at the Concert in the evening, which was sustained by First Prize winners. During the concert, Miss MacTavish, Newton House, gracefully presented Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cups and the Glasgow Islay Association and Mr. J. T. Christie's Medals to the successful winners. The following is a list of the Prize-winners:—

JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading at Sight an Unfamiliar Prose Piece—1 (Mr. Christie's Medal), Angus M'Kinnon, Skerrols; 2, Archibald M'Intyre, Islay House; 3, Effie M'Dougall, Keils.

Reciting from Memory—1, Fred. Holden, Dunlossit; 2, Katie Stewart, Pennyraig; 3, Charles M'Dougall, Port Ellen.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1 (Glasgow Islay Association's Medal), Agnes M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Mary Mair, Portwemyss; 3, Joan Shaw, Octomore; 4, Margaret Carmichael, Port Ellen; 5, Marion M'Farlane, Bowmore.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1 (Glasgow Islay Association's Medal), Fred. Holden, Dunlossit; 2, Hugh M'Eachern, Port Ellen; 3, Alexander Sutherland, Portwemyss; 4, Angus M'Kechnie, Bowmore.

Cannatairachd—1, Bessie M'Gilvray, Port Ellen; 2, Alexander Sutherland, Portwemyss.

Duet Singing—1, Mary M'Neil and Mary Mair, Portwemyss; 2, Patricia Cameron and Katie Johnstone, Bowmore; 3, Jessie M'Lean and Jeanie Thomson, Mulindry.

Choral Singing in Two-part Harmony—1 (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup), Keils Junior Choir; 2, Port Ellen Junior Choir; 3, Bowmore Junior Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Bowmore Junior Choir; 2, Keils Junior Choir; 3, Port Ellen Junior Choir.

Pianoforte Playing—1, Effie Cameron, Bowmore; 2, Patricia Cameron, Bowmore; 3, Nanny Hutton Sutherland, Bridgend.

SENIOR SECTION.

Recitation of a Piece of Poetry—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rocksaid; 2, Alex. M'Arthur, Lagavulin.

Recitation of an Original Piece of Poetry—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rocksaid.

SGEULACHD—1, Malcolm M'Intyre, Colonsay; 2, Duncan M'Niven, Rocksaid.

Royal Celtic Society's Competition—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rocksaid.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1 (Glasgow Islay Association's Medal), Margaret M'Phee, Lenanbuie; 2, Flora M'Indoor, Bowmore; 3, Barbara M'Intyre, Colonsay; 4, Mary Harris, Portcharlotte; 5, Mary L. M'Lean, Portcharlotte; 6, Jean M'Gilvray, Port Ellen.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1 (Glasgow Islay Association's Medal), Malcolm M'Intyre, Colonsay; 2, Hugh Duncan, Bridgend; 3, Duncan M'Niven, Rocksaid; 4, Alastair M'Indoor, Portcharlotte; 5, Archibald Carmichael, Ballygrant; 6, Neil M'Naughton, Cruach.

Cannatairachd—1, Barbara M'Intyre, Colonsay; 2, Archibald Carmichael, Ballygrant; 3, Malcolm M'Intyre, Colonsay.

Duet Singing—1, Misses M'Indoor and M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Misses Blair and Stirling, Keils; 3, Misses Clark, Portcharlotte.

Quartette (Male Voices)—1, M'Eachern Quartette; 2, Cruach Quartette; 3, Port Ellen Quartette.

Violin Playing—1, Archie Turner, Portcharlotte; 2, Malcolm M'Lellan, Coull; 3, George M'Callum, Port Ellen.

Pianoforte Playing—1, Mary M'Dougall, Bowmore; 2, Mary M'Gilvray, Port Ellen; 3, Mary L. M'Lean, Portcharlotte.

Choral Singing in Four-part Harmony—1 (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup), Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 2, Port Ellen Gaelic Choir; 3, Portcharlotte Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Three-part Harmony—1, Portcharlotte Ladies' Choir; 2, Port Ellen Ladies' Choir; 3, Kilmeny Ladies' Choir.

THE MID-ARGYLL PROVINCIAL MOD.

Mod Dhalriada was held at Lochgilhead, on 21st and 22nd June. The total entries numbered over 200. Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth, Convener for the Mod Committee, presided over the various competitions. Most of the events gave rise to lively competition. There were over 60 competitors in the Junior Oral competitions, and this was an encouraging feature of the Mod. The Junior choral singing was specially good. A new feature among the juniors was the competition in essay writing. Much interest was taken in the decorative art competition among the Seniors. Nine designs were submitted, and several of the competitors showed considerable talent.

The judges were :—Gaelic, Rev. T. S. Macpherson, Campbeltown; Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Arrochar; and Mr. Neil Shaw, secretary of An Comunn; singing and music, Mr. A. M. Henderson, A.R.C.M., Glasgow; country dances, Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich; Highland dancing and piping, the Hon. Justice Archibald Campbell, K.C.; Celtic decorative art, Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., Mid Argyll Association.

THE PRIZE LIST.

LITERATURE.

Letter Written in presence of Judges—1, Mary Crawford.

Writing Unfamiliar Piece from Dictation—1, Phemie Macdougall.

Translation into English (Learners)—1, Duncan MacLulich.

Translation into Gaelic (Open)—1, Phemie Macdougall.

Composition into Gaelic—1, Phemie Macdougall.

ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading Gaelic Poetry (Learners)—1, Marion Macalister.

Reading Gaelic Prose (Learners)—1, Bessie MacLulich.

Reading Unfamiliar Piece (Open)—1, Phemie Macdougall.

Reciting (Open)—1, Phemie Macdougall.

Reciting (Learners)—1, Marion Ferguson.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Jean Mitchell.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, D. M. Macalpine.

Solo Singing (Girls and Boys)—1, Nan McLellan.

Solo Singing (Girls and Boys under 12)—1, Rachel Ferguson.

Cannataireachd (Girls and Boys)—1, D. M. Macalpine.

Duet Singing—1, Kitty Brown and Tina Macgregor.

Choral Singing—1, Minard Junior Gaelic Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Minard Junior Choir and Lochgilhead Junior Gaelic Choir (equal).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Piano Playing—1, Jean Mitchell.

Bagpipe Chanter—1, Ian Greenshields.

Dancing Highland Fling—1, Chrissie Maclellan.

SENIOR SECTION (LITERATURE).

Letter Writing—1, John Urquhart, Lochgilhead School; 2, Miss Mary Macmillan, Lochgilhead School.

Place Names. (For best list of old place names in Mid Argyll, with traditional or historical notes; special prize by the Royal Celtic Society)—1, Carleton R. S. Malcolm, Lochgilhead.

Translation. Special prize by Lady Elspeth Campbell of Argyll for the best translation into English of a song sung at this Mod—1, Carleton R. S. Malcolm.

ORAL.

Reading—1, Miss Iseabal MacGill, Lochgilhead; 2, John Urquhart, Lochgilhead; 3, Miss Mary MacMillan, Lochgilhead.

Recitation (Poetry)—1, Miss Christina MacLulich, Kilmartin; 2, John Urquhart; 3, Miss Iseabal MacGill.

Dialogue, Special prize presented by Dr. Ross, Lochgilhead—1, Mrs. Bruce and Miss Iseabal MacGill, Lochgilhead.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solos (Ladies)—1, Miss E. M. Campbell, Inveraray; 2, Miss Nan Greenshields, Lochgilhead; 3, Miss Margaret B. Ferguson, Ardrishaig.

Solos (Gentlemen)—1, H. C. MacAlpine, Ardrishaig; 2, Robert Sinclair, Lochgilhead; 3, Donald Martin, Lochgilhead.

Solos (Test Songs)—1, Miss E. M. Campbell; 2, Miss Susan MacAllister, Lochgilhead; 3, Miss Mary Macgregor, Ardrishaig.

Cannataireachd (Puirt à Beul). Special prize by Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Succoth—1, H. C. MacAlpine; 2 (equal), Neil Maclean, Kilmartin and Hugh Livingstone, Dounie.

Gaelic Folk Songs, for best rendering of an unpublished Gaelic Folk Song. Special prize by Mrs. Neil MacLean (Miss Jenny M. B. Currie)—1 (equal), Miss Nan Greenshields and Miss Susan MacAllister.

Oran Mor (Male Voices). Special prize by Capt. George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth—1, Robert Sinclair.

Duets—1, Misses Annie MacBrayne and Catherine Mitchell, Ardrishaig; 2, Misses Nan Greenshields and Susan MacAllister.

Quartettes. Special prize presented by Mrs. Brown, Lochgilhead—1, Ardrishaig Quartette (Misses A. MacBrayne and C. Mitchell, Messrs. H. MacAlpine and R. Gillies).

Choral Harmony. Silver cup presented by Sir William Sutherland—1, Lochgilhead Gaelic Choir; 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Bagpipes (March, Strathspey and Reel)—1, John MacCallum, Kilmartin; 2, George MacKinnon, Lochgilhead.

Bagpipes (Piobaireachd). Special prize by the Mid Argyll Pipers' Society—1, George MacKinnon; 2, Nicol MacCallum, Kilmartin.

DECORATIVE ART.

Special prize by Mid Argyll Association for a Book-plate Design, 3 ins. by 4 ins., in conventional Celtic style—1, Mrs. Kenneth, Stronachullin; 2, James H. Herriot, Lochgilhead.

Concerts were held on each evening, Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., presiding over the Junior Concert, and Lady Elspeth Campbell over the Senior Concert. Miss Nan MacInnes and Mr. Chas. MacColl, gold medallists, assisted at both concerts.

GREAT FEILL DONATIONS.

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R. Elder Cunningham, Esq., Paisley, per per Mr. C. J. Stuart	0	10	0
Arran, per Mrs. C. Robertson	23	16	2
Edinburgh Stall, per Mr. MacNaughton	90	8	10
Lady Helen Tod	21	10	8
Col. G. H. Black	0	10	0

£339 4 6

Sums collected by the Clan Macrae Association, and by Friends in Arran, not already acknowledged—			
Clan Macrae Association!	£79	0	0
Arran	22	7	6
Hull Caledonian Society	22	2	6

FORT WILLIAM MOD DONATIONS.

Previously acknowledged	£230	7	6
<i>Received at Head Office—</i>			
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Glasgow Skye Association	3	3	0
Earl of Cassillis	1	1	0
"Obol Mór"	1	0	0
Col. Martin Martin	0	10	0

<i>Received at Fort William—</i>			
Proceeds of Concert and Dance at Spean Bridge, per Mrs. Ryan, Roy Bridge, and Ladies at Spean Bridge	23	2	0
	£262	6	6

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Leabhar XXII.]

An t-Sultuin, 1927.

[Earrann 12

BUILLE DO 'N GHÀIDHLIG.

Is lionmhor ana-cothrom a tha ar cànanain a' faotainn. Ach tha bliadhnaichean o nach d' fhuair i buille cho tàireil 's a fhuair i o bhuidheann de mhaighstearan sgoile Albannach o chionn ghoidh. Thugadh an chùis so a cheana fa chomhair coinneamh na Comhairle aig An Chomunn Ghaidhealach an Sruibhlea air a' mhòs a chaidh. Is còir ar gearrain a dheanamh aithnichte do ar buill anns gach cearn, a chum is gum beachdaich iad nas mionaidiche air an dòigh anns a bheil an bhuidheann so de luchd teagasg na cloinne ag amharc air a' Ghaidhlig. Mar chaidh ainmeachadh anns a' bhreacadh a fhuaras mu choinneamh na Comhairle, is e a' cheud rùn a dheònuich buidheann nan oidean-foghlum:—Far a bheil clann a thuigeas Gaidhlig agus Beurla, is ann am Beurla a dh'fheumas iad an cuid teagasg faotainn. A nis is neonach an riaghailt so o dhaoine a tha fo ainm dhaoine foghlumaichte iad fhéin. Tha sinn a' faicinn far a bheil clann aig a bheil eòlas air Gaidhlig agus Beurla, gur i a' Ghaidhlig is cainnt mhàtharail dhaibh. Tha sin fìor ach beag air fad. Mar sin tha e ri thuigsinn gur i a' Ghaidhlig as fhearr is aithne dhaibh, a chionn is gur h-i a dh' ionnsaich iad an toiseach. Agus shaoileadh neach a rèir tùr nadurra, gur i a' chaint sin a tha mar chaint mhàtharail do leanabh, gur h-i sin a' chànan is freagarraiche ga na ceud cheuman eòlais a theagasg dha. Cluinidh sinn bòlaich gu leor aig luchd teagasg na h-òigridh an diugh mu dhéighinn laghanan na h-intinn. Gach fear is airde guth is foghlum, chan eil riaghailt ùr ris an cuir e aonta, ar leis, nach feum a bhi suidhichte air "*child psychology*," mo thruaighe. Is beag da rìreadh a tha de choltas "*psychology*" de

ghnè sam bith air an lagh ùr so a rùnaich buidheann de mhaighstearan sgoile Albannach roimhe. Mar is luaithe a thuigeas iad *child psychology*, is ann as fhearr do 'n chloinn Ghaidhealach a tha gu mi-fhortanach fo ughdarras a leithid sud de luchd-riaghlaidh. Tha e air innse dhuinn le cuid de fhir cheasnuichidh nan sgoiltean gu bheil a' chlann Ghaidhealach aig nach robh ach Gaidhlig an uair a chaidh iad do 'n sgoil an toiseach, agus a fhuair na ceud cheuman de 'm fiosrachadh troimh 'n chaint mhàtharail—gu bheil iad sin fada nas géire na an seòrsa ceudna a bha fo mhaighstear sgoile aig nach robh eòlas air caint nan Gaidheal.

Is e an dara ni a dheònaich buidheann nan oidean-foghlum, gu bheil e tràth gu leor toiseachadh air leughadh Gaidhlig an uair a ruigeas an sgoilear suas gu ìre gu maith fada air aghairt anns an sgoil. Chan eil an so gu leir ach leisgeal faoin gus a' Ghaidhlig a chumail a mach as na sgoiltean cho fada is as urrainn dhaibh. Bhiodh e gu mòr na bu duineile, agus pailt cho onarach dhaibh sud a' chaint aiceadh gu tur. Ach is gann gu bheil de mhìnsich aca na nì sin. Tha eagal orra gum biodh an mhòr chuid de shluagh na Gaidhealtachd diombach feargach. Agus o nach dàna leis na mhaighstearan sgoile a tha de'n intinn so, am beachd ud a chur an ceill gu follaiseach, gabhaidh iad meadhon cuilbheirteach gus an chrìoch cheudna a thabairt mu 'n cuairt: Cum a mach a' Ghaidhlig as na sgoiltean gu deireadh an chùrsa; beul-sios air na Gaidhlig le 'n seann chaint gu snas gun bhuannachd; b' fhearr leinn gu'n cailleadh i an deò an diugh fhéin, agus nach cuireadh i bacadh no dragh nas mò aig luchd foghlum cho foghainteach cumhachdach ainmeil ruinne. Ma tha sochair no buannachd intinn idir ri

fhaoitinn o leughadh Gaidhlig, feumaidh an sgoilear tòiseachadh aig am a leigeas leis beagan de 'n litreachas a thuigsinn mu fàg e an sgoil. Gabhaidh a' chainnt so deanamh 'n a cuspair foghlum, ag àiteachadh tuigse, cuimhne, is buadhan eile an sgoileir. Agus ma tha sinn a dol a chur ùine idir air Gaidhlig cuirimid i air dhòigh a bhios a reir gliocais. Tha laimhseachadh na Gaidhlig leis na h-uaislibh a chuir an aonta ris an rùn ud, a' nochdadh dhuint gu bheil mòran aca fathast ri ionnsachadh mu fhìor fhoghlum agus mu 'n Ghaidhlig.

Is e an treas beachd a rùnaich an bhuidheann cheudna—nach faigh a' Gaidhlig aire no cothrom sam bith thairis air canain eile. Tha an lagh so còltach ri lagh Gallda. Ach an ainn na bheil de shaoir na de spiorad air siubhal a' Ghaidheil, am bi e riarichte le sin? Tha sinn a' creidsinn gu bheil sinn a' faicinn luach nan cainntean cho soilleir ris gach dara Gall. Tha sinn a' creidsinn gu bheil Gearmailt cho measail ri Gàidhlig leis na h-uaislibh a shuidhich an reachd so an la roimhe. Ach is e a tha anns a' Ghaidhlig ach cànan bheò a bhuineas do ar sluagh féin, agus mar sin is còir dhi bhith air bonn eadar dhealaichte o chainnt choigreach mar a ta Fraingis no Gearmailt, ged is mór, luachmhor na cainntean ud. Cìod e a tha agaih air, a mhuinntir A' Chomuinn, ach gu bheil gach lagh tàireil mar so, a tha a' feuchainn ri ar cainnt a chumail fodha, gu bheil sin a' dearbhadh gu bheil an glan uair againn dùsgadh. Car son a leigeas tu le Gall innse dhuit, no eadhon òrduchadh dhuit, cìod is còir, dhuit a dheanamh ri do chànan fhéin. Cumadh na Goill an aire air an gnothuch fhein agus bi gu leor dhaibh sin. An gnothuichean foghlum tha deibhir eadar Sasuinn is Alba. An gnothuch so na cànan, biodh a' cheart deibhir eadar a' Ghalldach is a' Ghaidhealtachd, is e sin, biodh gach riaghailt deanta gu ghlic, ceart, a réir feum na cuise.

EARLY GAELIC SPEECH AND PRACTICE.

By G. M. FRASER.

II.—FOOD, ROADS, AND BURIAL.

In our last paper we noted the indebtedness of Gaelic to early ecclesiastical sources for many expressions (and the practices signified) relating to higher aspects of life.

But the same was the case in reference to very common, every-day affairs.

The food of the ancient Gaels, for example, improved with Christian civilisation. It must have been a very simple life they lived—although, doubtless, happy enough in a way—in their tribal huts, eating the simplest fruits of the earth, or the produce of the hunt, the life of barbaric tribes in some parts of the world to this day. Missionaries from Domasi, for example, tell us that one of the gifts most desired by natives in the bush is a little salt. The Irish and Scots Gaels were evidently in a similar state as regards condiment, for apart from "salann" (L., sal), Gaels have no expression for salt except round-about phrases that indicate something that gives taste or savour to the meal.

But the adaptability of Gaelic in taking on new expressions—from current English, especially—is remarkable. In present-day Gaelic a railway is "rathadiarainn"—iron-road (chemin-de-fer), and a motor car is "carbada-ola"—oil-chariot. A late introduction was the expression "buntata," Gaelic for potato, which may remind readers of "Lorna Doone" that in Devonshire it was first called "batata" till the country people there turned it into "tatie."

ROADLESS SCOTLAND.

It is singular that although there were roads of some celebrity in pre-Christian Ireland, no roads existed in Gaelic Scotland or the Islands till comparatively recent times. Indeed, Scottish Gaelic did not use even the ancient Irish expressions to signify a road—neither the thing nor the name existed in Scotland. The Irish annals tell of five notable roads leading to Tara, in Meath, seat of the central palace of the kings. Usually a road was "bothar," supposed to be derived from "bo," a cow, because it was wide enough for cattle to be driven upon it. But the roads of Tara were "slighe," more important than "bothar," and may denote an actually hewn or made road. No roads of that kind were in use in Scotland till the current expressions "rathad," a road, and "sraid," a street, were adapted—with "Rathad Mór" for a highway, literally the "Big Road" of Uncle Remus.

Let me say that the expression "sraid" for a street has been used by Gaelic writers for at least two centuries in Scotland, but, in historical periods, that is a comparatively short time. Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the most popular Gaelic poet, used it in the eighteenth century. But Duncan Ban, who

had no English, but never hesitated to adapt suitable English words from his English-speaking comrades in arms, gives us some very strange expressions of this kind in his songs—"puinnse" for a dram of punch, "staidhse" for a lady's corsets, even "cann'daidh" for candy, and "reusar" for razor, the name and the use of either of which might well have made Duncan's Gaelic forbears turn in their graves.

It is a reflection on the Gaelic clan system in Scotland that road-making was not only neglected but discouraged in the Highlands and Islands for long centuries. Even now, the reproach is only being slowly removed—and by alien official means. "With respect to roads," says a Gaelic writer, speaking to his own folk, in their own tongue, as recently as 1920, "many a quarter of the Highlands and Islands are in the same condition in which they were in the days of the Romans." We know from first-hand evidence how intensely opposed were all classes of Gaelic people to the roads of General Wade, 1726-37, not from political motives specially, but from fear of a new thing penetrating into their ancient habits of life.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

In only one other sphere of practice can we, for the present, discuss the illumination by Gaelic speech of early ways of life—the practice of the Gaels in regard to burial of the dead. If we did not know from archæology we should know from Gaelic speech and literature that burial-grounds, or graveyards, were unknown before Christian times. The very first burial-ground, properly so called, in Scotland, I daresay, was the celebrated Reilig Odhrain of Iona, the burial-place of Oran, where may be seen those amazing lines of gravestones, some with inscriptions in Irish and others in Scottish Gaelic, the most distinguished graveyard in Scotland, rival of Westminster Abbey itself as the mortuary of kings. Here lie eight and forty kings of Scotland, four kings of England, eight Norse kings, and one or two kings of France.

Now "reilig" for a cemetery is the Latin "reliquiæ," remains, which shows the source of the practice as well as the name. It was an early Christian introduction. The expression was in use in Ireland before Columba came to the Western Islands of Scotland, and may still be found in Ireland in very ancient place-names. The most famous of them all, a royal burying-place, like the "reilig" of Iona, is the Reilig-nan-

Riogh, Graveyard of the Kings, near the royal palace of Cruachan, in Connaught.

In Scotland, however, "reilig" for a graveyard was not much used. The expression "cladh" came to be very common, and as it implies the idea of a dug place (for "cladh" means, besides graveyard, a ditch, or bank), it applies well enough to a cemetery.

But, clearly, burial among the Gaels in pre-Christian times (apart from sepulchre in stone circles), was solitary. I have sometimes found a grave-mound near a prehistoric hut foundation, which suggests burial sometimes near the former home of the departed. This was done, we remember, among the ancient Hebrews, for in 2 Kings xxi. 18 we are told that Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house. But oftener, as in the case of Joshua, the hero, the burial was in a solitary grave, in a "uaigh," the common expression both in the Bible and in Gaelic letters. It is significant that "uaigh" is old Irish Gaelic for a cave, and that "uaigneach" is a Gaelic adjective meaning secret, or lonesome. The practice, at any rate, of solitary burial was very common and widespread, as we can see from the multitude of solitary prehistoric grave-mounds that still exist in the waste moorlands and hills of Scotland.

DOMHNALL MAC IAIN MHIC SHEAMUIS.

LE ALASDAIR MAC NEACAIL, M.A.

Mu 'n am aimhreiteach sin 's an deachaidh Banrigh Màiri a sgiùrsadh a Albainn, rugadh anns a' Chaisteil Uaine, ann an Sleibht, fear a bha ri bhì air a mheas ro-iomraiteach, am beul-aithris 's an dàin, anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. B' e sin Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis.

B' e a sheanair, Seamus Gruamach ("Seamus a' Chaisteil," mar a theirte ris), bràthair do Dhòmhnall Gruamach, ceann feadhna Chlann Dhòmhnall; agus tha ioma teaghlach mìosail air an sloinneadh airsan 's an Eilean Sgiathanach, gu h-àraidh Dòmhnallaich Chinnseborg; agus b' ann de 'n t-sliochd sin a bha an Ridire Seamus Dòmhnallach, a bha bho chionn ghoidid na Ard Chomhairleach, ann an Cùirt an t-Seisein an Dun-Eideann.

An uair a bha Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis mu sheachd bliadhna diag a

dh' aois, fhuair e cuireadh, a Eilean Eiriscaidh an Caolas Bharraidh, sealbh a ghabhail air fearann a mhuime, té ris an abradh iad Nic Còiseam, a ghabh mor cheann air. Dh' fhàs e suas an sin gu bhì na òigear sgairteil, dealasach gu glomh, agus cliùtach na chaithe-beatha. Cha robh neach 's na h-eileanan mu 'n cuairt a chuireadh a chlach cho fada risan, no idir a leumadh cho ard ris. Tha e air a radh gu robh, "a neart mar dharag na doire, a chumadh cho dìreach ri giuthas a ghlinne, 's a chorp cho sùbailte ri cuile na lòn." Measg luchd basbaireachd cha robh ann a thigeadh suas ris, is thug a chlaidheamh san, "An Lannire Riabhach," mar a theireadh e ris, buaidh a mach an ioma cruaidh chath.

An uair a bha e mu chóig bliadhna fìchead a dh' aois, dh' éirich còmhstri fhuilteach eadar Clann Dhòmhnuill 's Clann Mhic Leòid. Ghabh Dhòmhnull Gorm, ceann feadhna Chlann Dhòmhnuill, piuthar do Ruairi Mór Dhunbheagan mar mnaoi, le posadh clithlamhach, agus a reir cuid de luchd-sgeoil, cha robh i ach ùine ghoirid pòsda an uair a thachair dochar do aon de a suilean, is dh' fhàs i cam. Is e bun a bh' ann gun d' fhannaich gaol a fir; is chuir e dhachaidh i an ceann na bliadhna, a marcaid air lair cham, le giollan cam na ceann, is cuilean cam na cois.

An uair a rainig an còmhlan leibideach so Dun Bheagan, las Ruairi Mór suas le feirg, is bhòidich e, bho 'n bha each cho dearmadach 's nach d' rinn iad tein' aigheir, aig toiseach a chòrdaidh pòsaidh seo, gun tugadh esan an deadh aire gu 'm biodh lasuir nach b' fhuasda 'mùchadh air a fadadh a nis, bho 'n bhriseadh e.

Mar sin, thug Ruairi Mór sgrìob gharbh air Tròtarnis, is rinn Dhòmhnull Gorm spùineadh guineach air na Hearnadh. Chaidh Ruairi Mór an sin do Uibhist is chuir e a charaid fhéin, Mac Dhòmhnuill Ghlais na Droighnich, le feachd a chreachadh an eilean uile. Tha e air aithris nach d' fhag iad speir, air raon no monadh, nach do sgìoblaich iad leotha; chruinnich iad a chreach, mu Eaglais na Trianaid, an Càirinis, far an do ghabh iad tàmh fad dà latha, air sgàth anail a thoirt do 'n spreidh, mu 'n tòisicheadh iad air an iomain do na Hearnadh.

Fhuair Dhòmhnull Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis sanas, an Eilean Eiriscaidh, mu 'n mhillleadh a chaidh a dheanamh air fearann a chinnidh; is thog e air le dusan gille-mór, is rinn iad gun dàil air Uibhist. Thachair fogarrach orra aig faoghail, is

thubhairt Dhòmhnull Mac Iain ris, "Tha latha buain foghair agam ort." "Ma tha," ars' am fear eile, "chan fhad 'a bhios"; is thionndaidh e air a shàil, is lean e iad. Tacan an dèidh sin, choinnich fear eil' orra, is e falbh a tharruing mhòna do thuathanach 's a' còimhearsnachd. Dh' fhaighnich Dhòmhnull Mac Iain dheth, ciod e an tuarasad a bha e faotainn. "Coig sgillinn," ars' esan. "Coisich còmhla ruinne," arsa Mac Iain, "'s gheibh thu duais gu math nas fèarr, is urram nach bi faoin na luirg." Dh' falbh fear na mòna leotha cuideachd, 's cha b' fhada gu 'n do lean fear eile iad, air chor is gu robh sia duine diag a nis anns a' chomhlan.

An uair a ràinig iad Càirinis, moch sa mhaduinn, bha "Clann a Chapuill" mar a theirte ri Clann Mhic Leòid, ri feadh, is iad an deigh damh de 'n chreic a mharbhadh. Rinn Dhòmhnull Mac Iain tri buidhnean de chuid dhaoine. Chuir e coignear, air cùl enuic, mu astar mille bho 'n eaglais; coignear eile mu leth mhille bhuaithe; is dh' àithn e do chàch iad a dhol cho faisg air an nàmh ri urchail saighead; iad cuimse mhath a ghabhail; is gach neach dhìu aon de Chlann Mhic Leòid a mharbhadh. Bha aca an sin ri teicheadh nan deann dh' ionnsaidh an dara buidheann; seasamh còmhla rìusan, is feuchainn ri aircamh de na Leòdaich a chur ri talamh. Bha 'n cleas ceudna ri dheanamh an uair a ruigeadh iad a chuideachd a b' fhaide air falbh o 'n eaglais; is thachair gach cùis gu a miann.

An uair thug Clann Leòid an aire do 'n phrasgan shuarach, a thug ionnsaidh orra 'n toiseach, bhrùc iad a mach nan deigh, mar chaoraich a buaile, gun fhaiceal, gun ordugh, air chor is nach b' fhada gus robh coignear dhìu ri làr. Chaidh a dha urad a chur sìos, an uair a ràinig na Dòmhnullaich a bhuidheann a bha mu leth mhille bho 'n eaglais; 's bha cor 's deich thar fhichead de na Leòdaich air a marbhadh an uair a ràinig iad an còmhlan a b' fhaide air falbh.

Rinn na Dòmhnullaich seasamh an sin, is thug iad fainear gu robh an cruinn a' tilgeadh na b' fhaide na bha boghan Chlann Leòid, is ghabh iad fàth air a chothrom seo gu luath, air chor is an uair bha saigheadan chàich a' tuiteam gearr, bha an cuidsan a' teigeil an nàmhaid gu bras air gach taobh.

Mu dheireadh chaidh a leithid de sgathadh a dheanamh air na Leòdaich 's gu robh an dà bhuidheann ion 'sa bhì co-ionnan an neart; is tharraing na Dòmhnullaich na b' fhaig air a naimhdean. Ach dhol iad gu daor air an dànadas, oir chuireadh saighead

gu smèòirn ann an sliasaid Dhòmhnuill 'is Iain, is bha e gun fheum tuilleadh 'san tuasaid. Gidheadh, cho do chuir sin giorag air a chuid dhaoine, a shabaidich cho fearail, 's gun ruag iad a naimhdean gu tur. Chaidh ceannard nan Leòdach, 's a chuideachd a theinn maille ris, a mharbhadh air traigh a Bhaile Shear; àite ris 'n can iad, "Oitir Mhic Dhòmhnuill Ghlais," gus an latha 'n diugh; agus cha d' fhuair ach dithis as beò bho 'n còmhbraig.

Nis bha Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis air a chiùradh le 'leòn, agus tha e air a ràidhtinn, gu 'n do lean a mhuime e, gun fhios da, gus an d' ràinig i taobh tuath Eilean Ghrimisaidh, dìreach an uair chaidh crìoch air a chath. Rinn i eigeach air taobh thall na faoghala; chualaidh a dalt' i, 's dh' aithnich e guth. Dh' àithn' e do dhithis a bha frithealadh dha, iad a dhol ga h-iarraidh; agus gu dearbh, bu mhath a b' fhiach i an t-shaothair.

Tha e coltach, gur h-e ise a thug an gath as fheòil, agus air dhi a bhi deanamh gnìomh lighiche, bha i aig an am cheudna a cur òran ri cheile, 's bannal ghrugach aice togail an fhùinn, air chor 's gu 'n cumadh iad suas intinn-san a bha air a leòn:—

Mhic Dhòmhnuill a laogh mo chéille,

Hi ri ri ho u,

Gur moch a chuala tu m' éigheach;

Ho ro hò, hi ri

Chall eile bho hi o ro ho,

Fhreagair thu 'n traigh, 's an la a' glasadh,

Hi ri ri ho u,

Bhuail thu maidhm air Slol a Chapuill,

Ho ro hò, hi ri

Chall eile bho hi o ro ho,

Slol na làire, blàire bacadh,

B' fheudar gu'm e brod an lèigh a bha an Nic Còiseam, oir an ceann tri seachduinean, an deigh seo, thog Dòmhnall Mac Iain 's a chuid ghillean, orra do'n Eilean Sgiathanach, a chur an ceill do Dhòmhnall Gorm mar a thachair an Chàirinis. Cha robh an sgioba fada air astar bho thìr, an uair dh' éirich doinionn ghailbheach le sneachda dùmhlaich bho 'n Earra Dheas, air chor is gum b' eiginn dhaibh ruith le gaoith do Rhodhadal, 's na Hearnadh.

Nis cha robh an sin dhaibh ach a dhol bho chunnart gu gàbhadh, oir thachair gu robh Ruairi Mór Dhunbheagain ann an Rodhadal 's an am, is neart math dhaoine na chuideachd. Bha aige mar ghille-bùird, balach smeacharra de Chlann Mhic Criomain, a bha na dhalta do Dòmhnall Mac Iain 'ic Sheamuis, agus bha ceann air leth aige air

oide. Cha bu luaithe a chual' e gu 'n tàinig a ghòisdidh air tìr 's na Hearnadh, na bha e fo mhòran cùraim, cia mar a rachadh aige air comaracha a dheanamh ris.

Air do 'n ghaoith a bhi seideadh garbh a muigh, dh' fhosgail Ruairi Mór an doras, ach bu ghrad a thill e air ais, 's oiteag fhuar na gailinn a sguabadh a steach na dheigh. "Mo thruaighe," arsa' esan, "iadsan a tha 'nochd ri cnoc: tha oidhche' ann cho fiadh-aich 's gu 'n d' thugainn aoidheachd dom' dhearg-namhaid 'nam biodh feum aig' air." "Tha mi ga d' ghabhail air t-fhacal," arsa Mac Criomain, "tha Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis, ann an uamh aig a chladach 's e ri port agus is mòr fheum air furtachd." "Thoir cuireadh an seo dha," arsa Mac Leòid, 's na cuirte corrag air fèin, no air a chuid ghillean, fhad 's a bhitheas iad fo chabraibh mo thighe-sa."

Thug Mac Criomain air na chruinnleum thun a chladaich, agus an uair a thill e, le Dòmhnall Mac Iain is le sgioba, bha Clann Mhic Leòid aig biadh. Chaidh àite dheanamh do 'n luchd fuadain gun dàil, agus bu doirbh dhaibhsan a bha taobh shìos an t-saluinn cumail bho cheile.

Mu dheireadh bhruc fhearachdan a mach air fear de Chlann 'ic Leòid, is thubhairt e, "Tri seachduinean bho 'n diugh, latha Chairinis." Air ball, bha gach sonn air a bhonn, 's na sgiannan dubha a dearsadh an solus nan coinnlean. Dh' éirich Ruairi Mór le tamailt na ghnùis, is fearg na ghuth, 's dh' òrduich e dhaibh suidhe sìos, 's am biodagan a chur an truall; 's thug e coinneamh chruaidh orra air son an giùlain michiataich ri luchd aoidheachd. Chuir sin bacadh, car tamuill, air an iorghuill; is air dhaibh a bhi uile aig fois a rithist, dh' fhaighnich Ruairi Mór de Dhomhnull Mac Iain, co air an deanadh e cheud spadadh, nan robh an tuasaid air a dhol air adhart. "Na robh a h-aon de m' chuideachds a air a bhualadh," arsa' esan, "bha mise air an eun a b' airde 'san ealtainn a thoirt a nuas, agus b' e sin thusa."

An uair thainig am a dhol a chadal, bha leapaichean air an deanamh ann an sobhal mór do na Dòmhnullaich, ach chaidh cuireadh a thoirt do 'n ceannard, an oidheche chur seachad ann an tigh a mhorair. Gidheadh dhiult e an tairge, ag radh nach robh e na chleachdadh riamh dha, a bhi air a sgaradh bho luchd-leannmhunn, 's nach bu toil leis briseadh air a nòs sin 'n deigh na thachair cheana. Dh' fhalbh e, mar sin, còmhla ri chuid dhaoine 's ghabh iad mu thàmh 's an t-sobhal.

Tacan mu 'n bhris an latha, chaidh Mac Iain a dhùsgadh le cabhaig, 's thug e 'n aire do Mhac Criomain os cionn a leapa. Chuir am balach an ceill dha, gu 'n robh cùm air a dheanamh le Clann 'ic Leòid, an sobhal 's na bh' ann a chur nan teine, agus gu 'm bu chòir dhaibh teicheadh gun dàil, oir bha soirbheas a nise fàbharrach, air son ath-ionnsguigh a thoirt air seòladh.

Rinn Clann Dhòmhnuill air a chlacadh air ball, 's cha b' fhada gus 'n robh 'm birlinn fo h-uigheam, 's a cùrsa air a shuidheachadh air Eilean-a-cheò. Cha robh iad ach gann is cala fhàgail, 'nuair thug iad fainear, ann 'n ciaradh na maidne, gu robh 'n sobhal anns na chuir iad seachad an oidheche na theine. An sin thog fear de 'n sgioba suas a phìob, 's chluich e 'm port deacair sin, "Tha 'n Duthuill air Mac Leòid."

Tha e coltach nach d' fhan Ruairi Mór fada anns na Hearnadh an deigh seo, ach gu 'n d' thug e air gu Diuc Earra Ghàidheal, dh' fheuch am faigheadh e cuideachadh an aghaidh Clann Dhòmhnuill. Air dha a bhì air falbh, ghabh na Dòmhnallaich cothrom air sgriob eile a thoirt air Tir Leòid, 's chaidh creachadh garbh a dheanamh air fearann Mhinginis, is Bhràcadail.

Air feasgar araidh, 's a bhliadna sia ceud diag 's a h-aon, rainig na Dòmhnallaich coire fìadhaich 's a Chuilthionn, ris 'n abrair bho 'n uair sin, "Coire na Creiche." Leig iad leis an sprèidh ionnatradh air urlar a choire; 's an deigh do gach laoch a bhreacan a bhogadh 'san allt, 's fhàsgadh cho teann 's a b' urrain da, rinn e leabaidh 'san fhracoch cho socrach 's a dh' fhaodadh e.

Gun fhios daibh, 's gun fhaireachadh, thainig na Leòdaich orra fo chomann Alasdair Oig Mhinginis, is neart mór de Chlann Torcuill 'na fheachd. Chaidh blar fuileachdach a chur fad ré na h-oidheche, 's bu chianail an sealladh, an gathan sìochail na gealaich, gaisgich threun an cruaidh streup ri chèile, 's an t-slochd uaigneach sin, agus sgreadaich oillteil a bhàis, an drasda 's a rithist, a dusgadh mac-talla nan creag uamhalta a tha mu 'n cuairt da.

Chunnacas am briseadh an latha, gu 'n deachaidh beumadh garbh a dheanamh air na Leòdaich. Rinneadh greim air deich thar fhichead dhiu, 's bha iad fo chis fad corr is bliadhna, gus an deachaidh rèite a dheanamh le eadar mheadhoin an rìgh, 's a bhliadhna sia ceud diag 's a trì.

Tha beul-aithris a cur an ceill, nach robh dìonnlaoch eile 's a bhlar, a bheireadh barr air Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis; is bha feum air fhéin 's air an "Lainnire

Riabhach" an oidhech' ud. Bha 'n cuiridh seo na bhàrd, cho math ri bhì na ghaisteach, is tha e deanamh luaidh air Blàr Coire na Creiche, ann an "Torram" mar seo:—

"Latha dhomh 's a Chuillionn chreagach,
Chuala mi phìob-mhór ga spreigeadh,
Nuallan a chruidh laogh 'ga freagairt;
Bha beul-sios air luchd an leadain,
Bha larach nam bròg 's an eabar;
'S e Clann Dhòmhnuill rinn an leagadh,"

agus mar sin air adhart.

Phòs Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis, nighean Mhic Dhòmhnuill na Ceapaich; agus tha e coltach gu robh esan 's a' bhuidhinn a dh' fhalbh leis an treun-fhear sgairteil sin, "An Ciaran Mabach," a leanail tòrachd air mortairean na Ceapaich. Chaochail a bhean gle òg, is dh' fhag i dìthis mhac, is aon nighean aige. Phòs an nighean Mac Leòid Ghèsto, 's bha a h-athair a fuireach còmhla rithe, an deigh dha Eiriscaidh fhàgail. Thoisich e 'n sin ri drobhaireachd; agus tha e air aithris gum b' esan a chiad Eileanach a thug treud spréidhe gu féill na h-Eaglaise Brice—gnothach a bha air a mheas mar èuchd air leth, 's an latha sin, 'n uair a bha luchd-reubainn cho dàna 's gu robh iad a' cur an Rìgh fhein gu dhùbhlán, le spèineadh 's le meirle.

Bha e air a shaoilsin 's an am sin, na thàir air leth, do neach inbheach, a bhì ri malairt, no bhì eadhon a deanamh obair sam bith eile, ach cogadh, is creachadh, is sealg; air chor is gum bu chaomh le Fear Ghèsto a bhì toirt beum as athair-céile, no "Aireach Liath nam Bò," mar a theireadh e ris, air son na h-òibre leibidich ris na theann e na sheann-aois.

Faodair, uime sin, a thuigsinn nach robh Dòmhnall Mac Iain idir toilleicht an tigh Ghèsto, mar a tha e leigil ris dhuinn an rannan eile dh'fhag e, ris an canair, "Oran Bràthainn." Air do dhìthis mhaighdean a bhì bleth grana, an cultigh an Gèsto, thug e 'n aire nach robh fonn an òrain, mar a b' abhaist, cumail coimhreachd ri fuaim na bràthain. Tha e air a ràdh gu 'n do chronaich e iad air son an dearmad air 'n t-seann chleachdadh; agus air dhaibh a fhreagairt, nach robh rannan freagarrach aca, thog e mac a nighinn air a ghluin, 's rinn e 'n t-òran seo do ogha, 's na h-òighean ag iomairt na bràthain:—

"Hu o hi ri ibh o
Cia mar tha thu fhìr 'n taighe,
Hu o hi ri ibh o.
Tha mi mar a bha mi roimhe—Hu o hi . . .
Gun mhìre, gun cheol, gun aighear.

'S mi thug na trì seòid dha t-athair:
 Làireach, is clogad is claidheamh;
 Thug mi sin dha 's deagh bhean taighe,
 Bean a riaraicheadh na maithéan.
 Mhic nan gorm-shuilean a Mùideart,
 Cha b' e deatach dhubb an dùdain,
 Chleachd thusa bhi 'n turlach d' athar,
 Ach fir og ri losgadh fùdair

Ri mire, ri mùirn, 's ri aighear."

'Nuair bha 'm bard Iain Lom 'san Eilean Sgiathanach, fheuch am broснаicheadh e 'n Ridire Alasdair Mór, Ceann feadhna, Chlann Dhòmhnuill an Eilean, air son àr-a-mach a dheanamh nan aghaidhsan a mbort Clann na Ceapaich, chual' e mu 'n staid 's an robh Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis, 's bha e cho diombach de 'n mhorair, nach d' thug fearann do 'n neach sin a rinn urad ann an aobhar a luchd-cinnidh, 's gu 'n 'thill e air ais a dh' aon sgrìob do Dhun-Tuilm. Sheinn e 'n sin aoir, a bha cho làn de bheumadh, 's de gheur-mhagadh, 's gu 'n d' thubhairt am morair ris mu dheireadh. "An ainm 'n Uile-chumhachdaich, cuir fosadh air do theang." "Tha tuilleadh agam ri chann-tainn," ars' am bàrd. "Thubhairt thu tuilleadh 's a chòir cheana," ars' am morair. "Am beil àite agad, ma ta, do Dòmhnall Mac Iain," ars' am bàrd. "Gheibh sinn aite dha," ars' am morair. "Mur a faigh," ars' Iain Lam, "cluinneadh tu air a chluais is buidh' e. 'S e bun a bh' ann, gu 'n d' fhuair Dòmhnall Mac Iain Mhic Sheamuis gabhail mhath fearainn ris 'n abair "A Chuidreach," 's an Eilean Sgiathanach agus bha 'shliochd a sealbhachadh Cinnseborg fad ioma linn. Chaochail e 's a bhliadhna sia ciad diag da fhichead 's a deich, làn de dh' aois, 's fo mhór mheas, aig gach neach do 'm b' aithne e.

GAELIC AS A SPECIFIC SUBJECT.

Norwood,
 Campbelltown,
 Argyll,
 2nd August, 1927.

The Editor,
 An Gaidheal,
 Glasgow.

Dear Sir,—In the article contributed by me to the programme of the recent Feill of An Comunn Gaidhealach, there occur the following passages:—

Concurrently with the competitive arrangements, the Executive took immediate cognisance of the teaching of Gaelic in

the schools, and, fortunate in possessing as one of their number, Mr. Duncan Reid, an accomplished Gaelic scholar and teacher, they commissioned Mr. Reid with, if I remember right, the collaboration of Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane, to prepare a school book adapted to the meagre allowance made by the Education Code of the period in favour of Gaelic teaching. The book, "Gaelic as a Specific Subject," was the result, and, I believe, the provision thus made for Highland scholars to systematise their acquaintance with their mother tongue was found to be of substantial value.

It happens to be more than thirty-six years since the Council of An Comunn first decided to proceed to the preparation of the text book, "Gaelic as a Specific Subject," and when I wrote the passages quoted above, I did so entirely from my recollection of the resolution and what followed therefrom, and without that reference to the records of An Comunn, which distance from Headquarters prevented me from making. And I now discover that in one particular my memory was at fault. From the minutes of the Executive Council of 30th May, 1891, I find that among other Committees then appointed, there was an Education Committee "with full powers to prepare School Books suitable for requirements of Code, with due regard to the financial support received," and that this Education Committee consisted of Messrs. Malcolm Macfarlane (Convener), Reid, White, Neil M'Leod, Magnus MacLean, Alexander Macdonald, and John Murray.

It was thus Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane, and not Mr. Duncan Reid, who was Convener of the Committee, and, my memory refreshed by perusal of the old minutes, I make acknowledgment to Mr. Macfarlane that it was he and not Mr. Reid (now gone from us) upon whom devolved the greater portion of the work which would necessarily fall upon a Convener. Frankly, it was in my mind that Mr. Reid had been Convener, and now that the minutes demonstrate otherwise, it is but fair to Mr. Macfarlane that the principal credit for the book should be accorded to him. It is, of course, impossible for anyone who was not a member of the Education Committee to say how much was the share in the production of the volume of each of the remanent members; but the recollection clings that, although in a secondary way, Mr. Reid was able to make contribution of some value to the work.

Kindly insert this letter in your next issue.

Yours faithfully,
 J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL.

NIGHEAN DONN NAM MALA CROM.

GLEUS F.

EOSHAN MAC COLLA.

Seisd.

{ , s | 1 . 1 : m . , r | d . t₁ : l₁ . , m | m . , m : f . m . , r | m : m . , }
 'S a nighean donn nam mala crom, a nighean donn nan caoin — shul

{ , s | 1 . , t : d¹ . , t | 1 . , s : m . , s | m . , r , d : d . , r | m : m . , }
 A nighean donn bho'm binne fonn, Gur mór mo gheall air t'fhaot—ainn

{ , s | 1 . 1 : m . , r | d . t₁ : l₁ . , ||
 A nighean donn nam mala crom.

Rann.

{ , m | m . , m : f . m . , r | m . , m : m . , s | m . , m : f . m . , r | m : m . , }
 A nighean donn as grinne cruth, As binne guth 's as caoin—e

{ , s | 1 . , t : d¹ . , t | 1 . , s : m . , s | m . , r , d : d . , r | m : m . , ||
 Ge geal an cobhar air an t-sruth, 'sann bhiodh e dubh ri d' thaobh—sa.

Mo rùn a chaileag luinneagach, Deadh bhanarach
 na spréidhe

'S nach geill an seòmar uinneagach, Dh'aon
 chruinneag tha'n Duneideann.

Te eil' air bith d'a sgiamhaichead, Na t'fhianuis-
 sa cha leir dhomb,

'S nann tha thu measg nan nionagan, ceart
 mar tha ghrian measg reultan.

O's truagh bhi 'n so air Galldachd, 'Nuair
 tha'n samhradh is mo cheud-rùn

A' strìth co's grinne dhearras nis air airighean
 Ghlinn-crèran.

A rùin nam biodh tu deonach air, 's ar cèirdan
 uile réidh ruinn,

Cha chuirinn tuille dàlach ann; am màireach
 bu leam fhéin thu.

ST. BRIDE'S, LOCH RANZA.

A DAY IN MAY.

[Mentioned in Sir Walter Scott's "Lord of the
 Isles" as the Convent Home of Isobel Bruce, King
 Robert's sister.]

I gazed to-day upon the spot
 Where once a chapel stood,
 And thought how blest had been the lot
 Of those who knelt in suppliant mood,
 To worship there, and gather strength
 For life's vicissitude;
 The wondrous beauty of the place
 Must have instilled their souls with grace.

And when at length, in holy calm,
 They lay with folded hands,
 When kindly Death's all-healing balm
 Their cares had soothed, came sorrowing
 bands

Of friends—who bowed in reverent grief
 Resigned to God's demands—
 To bear them thence, in peace profound,
 To rest within that hallowed ground.
 The great and silent hills keep guard
 Like faithful sentinels;
 And blooming, 'mid the emerald sward,
 Are violets fair and sweet bluebells,
 While amber streams croon lullaby
 Through drowsy sunflecked dells;
 From far away the cuckoo's note
 Upon the honied air doth float.

Ah, blest! thrice blest indeed are they,
 'Mid scenes so fair, to find repose
 In dreamless sleep, till the Great Day,
 From all life's fretting cares and woes;
 This thought within my inmost heart
 Like benediction glows,
 And God grant that in time to be
 I, too, shall find such sanctuary.

MORAG MACLEAN BANNATYNE.

SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Bha mi comhla ri cuideachd laghach air a' mhios so chaidh aig co-chruinneachadh Ceilteach an baile Riec-sur-Belón am Breatunn na Frainge. Bha mòran sluagh ann as gach earrann Cheilteach agus fhuair sinn uile rogha 's tagha 'n fhàilte agus dì-beatha. Thug naoi carbadan ola a mheud dhinn agus a ghabh an t-aisea g' m'fhàidh fichead mìle troimh dhùthaich chòmhnard, bhòidheach gu ar ceann uidhe. Air gach taobh de'n rathad bha na craobhan a' lùbadh fo chudthrom nan ubhal.

An la 'r na mhàireach dhuinn air ruigheachd chur an t-uasal fughanta, Vicomte de Saisy, sinn an uidheam siubhail le na trì plobairean Albannach air ceann na cuideachd agus muinntir eile na h-Alba aig an sàil. B'iad na plobairean Calum MacIain, Duneideann, Iain M. Moffatt-Pender agus mi fhéin. B'e ceud ghnathach an latha deas-ghnàthan nan Druidean a chuir an cleachdadh agus anns an nì so ghabh na Cuinrich an toiseach. Chuireadh urram air luchd litreachais agus bàird na dùthcha anns an robh sinn agus 'na dheidh sin thugadh cothrom do aon as gach buidheann Cheilteach labhairt 'na chàinain féin ris a' chruinneachadh mhór a bha mu'n cuairt.

Chuir sinn a suas na ploban a rithis agus chaidh ar seòladh gu tigh na cuirme. Shuidh dà mhìle pearsa sìos fo'n aon chromadh tighe gu tràth bidh soghar. Bha òraidean goirid, òrain is ceòl pìoba againn an deidh sin, agus chuireadh seachad an còrr de'n fheasgar ri fheadhachas air a' bhlàr a muigh. Air an oidhech bha dannsadh aig muinntir òg na dùthcha am feadh agus a bha sinne a' coimhead gu gear anns na speuran air na soluis iomadhach a bha spreadhadh air gach taobh.

Bheir Mgr. Iain Domhnallach mion-chunntas air gach nì a thachair anns an ath aireamh agus mar sin cha sgrìobh mise tuilleadh aig an àm. Ach mìle taing do'n uasal chòir agus do gach neach eile a rinn an turas togarrach, sona dhuinn. * * *

The entries for the Fort William Mod are as follows:—Junior Section—Literary, 206; Oral, 132; Duet and Solo, 125; Choral, 16—479. Senior Section—Literary, 25; Oral, 37; Duet and Solo, 404; Choral, 41; Instrumental, 18; Compilation, 2—527; total, 1006. This is 147 less than Oban, but there are fewer Solo competitions. It is, however, 365 more than at the previous Mod in Fort William in 1922. Rural Choirs number six, and are from the following districts:—Brae-Lochaber, Connel, Cullipool, Duror, Fortingall, and Killin. Junior Choirs are forward for the first time from Lewis (two) and Mòrdart.

Arrangements are well forward locally. The garage is at the disposal of the Committee from Thursday afternoon onwards. The Rural Choir Concert will be held in the garage on Thursday evening, and Senior Choral competitions will also be held there on Friday. The Grand Concert arrangements are as in previous years, viz., First Concert, 6.30 p.m. Second Concert, 9 p.m. Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell will take the chair on Thursday evening. Colonel MacLean of Ardgour will preside at the first concert on Friday, and Cameron of Lochiel at the second concert.

* * *

Prices of admission to Concerts are as formerly:—Tuesday and Thursday, 3/6 (Reserved) and 2/4. Friday, 5/9 (Reserved) and 3/6. Application for reserved seat tickets (with return postage) should meantime be made to the local secretary, Mr D. MacLachlan, 66 High Street, Fort William. The Ceilidh, which has become a feature of the Mods now, will be held on Wednesday evening.

* * *

An interesting ceremony took place at Killin on 2nd July, when Col. and Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds) presented the "Sgiath Latharna" (Lorn Shield) to the Killin Choir, who gained the first prize at the Oban Mod, where the Rural Choir competition was inaugurated. Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, President of the local Branch, presided. Colonel Campbell addressed the company, and Mrs. Campbell, in handing over the trophy, complimented the Choir on their fine performance at Oban. Tea was served, and a happy hour spent, the Choir members giving songs and choruses. The great interest shown by Colonel and Mrs. Campbell in the Mod, and everything connected with Gaeldom, is well known. The presentation of this handsome Shield ensures the keenest interest in the Rural Choir competition, and the donors deserve the sincere and cordial thanks of all.

* * *

It is always a pleasure to record the success of members and those closely connected with the movement. Mr. R. Johnston MacDonald, elder son of Mr. John MacDonald, conductor of the Oban Gaelic Choir, has passed his final examination in law at Edinburgh. Mr. MacDonald was for some time secretary of the Oban Branch, and, like his father, takes a keen and practical interest in all things pertaining to his native Highlands. Gu robh gach soirbheachadh aige anns na bheil air thoiseach air agus saoghal fada dha.

NIALL.

SOP AS GACH SEID.

All who are genuinely interested in the preservation of Gaelic culture must regard, with a sense of disappointment, the recent findings of the Educational Institute of Scotland about the teaching of Gaelic. Why is there not an Educational Institute for Great Britain? Just because between England and Scotland there are inherent differences of environment, temperament, traditions, ideals, yea, of industries, produce, customs—differences in everything. Hence the need for different legislation. Even between England and Wales it was soon discovered that there were points where adjustments were required. The Welsh had more spirit than to accept their code of rules about the Welsh language from outsiders, who did not seem to appreciate its value for Welshmen, much less its value as an item of linguistic culture.

Now the decision of the Educational Institute of Scotland compels us to begin thinking for ourselves. We are beginning to think that within the bounds of dear old Scotland, too, there are differences, not only of language, but of temperaments and racial ideals. Only the Gael himself can intelligently say what his language means to him. Only he can put a proper value on his own ancestral antecedents. He must not be content to accept the value set on these by an outsider however well-meaning. If the Gael, whether chief or humble crofter, is the man who pays the rates and taxes, and if the county is the educational unit, the day must come when Gaelic shall have decent treatment. Wales insisted on fair consideration for Welsh; so will we for Gaelic.

Where a child knows Gaelic and English, English shall be the medium of instruction. Where a child already knows Gaelic and English, we conclude that he knows Gaelic better, as being its mother tongue. To insist on instructing any child in a language other than its mother tongue, does not show that the educational institute pays much heed to child psychology. Educated Highlanders need to take note of the primitive, crude methods implied by the new rule, anent Gaelic being shoved aside, when the pupil knows some Gaelic and English. The postponing of Gaelic to a late stage of the school course is, we believe, a pretext to have as little as possible of that unwelcome subject. The attitude indicated by the decision of the Educational Institute is one

which An Comunn Gaidhealach will have to oppose all along the line.

Owing to the fact that Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, one of the founders of An Comunn, has been nominated for President, Rev. Neil Ross and Rev. Malcolm Macleod have both withdrawn their names, so that the Sheriff's name should be put forward unopposed.

 “LE CONSORTIUM BRETON.”

“Le Consortium Breton” is a new review of about 100 pages, published in French and Breton. It is a monthly illustrated magazine. The *Directeur* is Jean de Saisy de Keranpuil, and the *Administrateur* is François Jaffrennon (barde Taldir), Docteur de l'Université de Rennes. The aim of the new review is to deal with the chief interests of Brittany—language, literature, industry, commerce, marine, agriculture, legislation, sciences, history and archaeology. The number before us (Vol. 2, No. 7), is of special interest as giving a full account of the recent tour of four Breton gentlemen through Scotland. The visit had more than a sentimental value. M. de Saisy pointed out in Stornoway “les buts de notre visite, dont le principal est la création de relations commerciales directes et d'échanges entre les communautés celtiques de Grande-Bretagne et de France.” Up till now the relations between Celtic communities mainly consisted in exchange of opinions at an occasional congress. But if the relations were made more practical, if the exchange were commercial and industrial, as well as intellectual, then the Celts would draw closer together in mutual interest and understanding. The article gives, in a refreshing manner, the impression made by our country and people on the distinguished visitors from Brittany.

 SOME BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF
GAELIC POETRY.

By SETON GORDON, B.A. (Oxon.).

The Celtic poets were near to nature. They lived, they dreamed, they mused, in wild and lonely places. In their keen ears was the murmur of the unchanging yet eternal sea; the murmur of the wind as it swept in at unhurried speed from the vast Atlantic; the cries of the birds. And so the names of many of these birds are found in their verses, and the names of many animals also. That great Gaelic poet,

Donnachadh Ban, was a trained naturalist. He did not, it is true, live within sound of the sea, but the hills and their birds and beasts he knew intimately. In Beinn Dorain and in Coire Cheathaich we learn to know something of the spirit of the hills; of the birds, the beasts, the mountain plants.

In Gaelic poetry there are mentioned some birds and beasts which are found no longer in Scotland. It is interesting, for example, to find the name beul-bhinn, which is usually translated as the nightingale. In no part of Scotland is the nightingale found at the present day. Perhaps in past times it found its way further north than at present. Can it be possible that the bird sung of was the almost equally beautiful and melodious song thrush, and not the nightingale?

Some of the animals of Gaelic poetry are long since extinct in the British Isles. The wild boar (torc nimhe) for example. How many centuries must it be since it roamed the Old Caledonian Forest! The elk (os) had been banished from Alba at a still earlier date. The wolf, which is sometimes sung of as "faol" and sometimes as "madadh alluidh," lingered longer. Two hundred years ago the wolf might have been seen. One tradition has it that the last wolf was killed by the Lochiel of the day.

The wolf has given its name to many place names. In the Forest of Mar there is a long heathery hollow in a lonely part of the forest known as Clais a' Mhadaidh, that is "The Wolf's Hollow." There is usually a deer drive each autumn in this part of the forest, and the rifles lie hidden in the hollow where doubtless some old wolf had his lair. King Edward, King George, the Prince of Wales, have all laid in wait for the stag in that hollow. Were it better known it would go down to posterity as a historical spot.

No poet who lived near the sea could fail to observe the solan goose or gannet (sulaire). It is a delightful bird; a powerful flier and a keen fisherman. No storm has yet swept the western ocean that has caused the sulaire to seek shelter. He is abroad in the fiercest storm; his long wings pressed back against his side, his keen eye searching the seething waste of waters below him for the silvery herring and the swift-swimming mackerel. The downward rush, and the headlong dive of the solan are wonderful things to watch. The bird does not, like the eagle and the peregrine falcon, close its wings during the downward stoop but holds them half open until the actual moment of

submerging. The bones of the solan goose are full of air spaces. This makes the bird unusually buoyant, and sometimes when he has dived to a great depth he shoots out of the water, when he re-appears upon the surface, just like a cork popping out of a bottle.

Hirt is the chief nesting place of the solan. At sunset in summer, through the Sound of Barra and the Sound of Harris, many solans pass westwards. They have fished perhaps off the coast of Mull, or in the sea lochs of An t-Eilean Sgiathanach, and are now returning home to their mates and their young ones on the lonely cliffs of Saint Kilda. To see them fly unerringly towards that invisible isle on the rim of the ocean is to wonder at their knowledge of the plains of the Atlantic—a knowledge that far transcends any possessed by us humans.

The luaisreag or storm petrel has sometimes been called gobhar a' chuain, or the goat of the ocean. This name has been given to it because of its extraordinary song. The storm petrel is a very small bird. It is black, with a white rump, is no larger than a swallow, and is nocturnal. It is believed that to see a storm petrel in broad daylight is a sign of a coming storm. This belief is well grounded, because in fine weather the storm petrel sleeps on the surface of the Atlantic during the hours of sunshine. But if the day be dark, close, oppressive—as it is so often before a storm breaks—the storm petrels may be seen like ocean swallows flitting across the dark surface of the sea. When feeding the storm petrel hovers just above each breaking wave, and as it seems to be walking on the water it was of old named the peterel or little Peter, since it walked upon the waves as Saint Peter did of old. To camp upon an uninhabited island where a colony of storm petrels have their home is a memorable experience. During the hours of sunshine the island is noiseless, but as dusk settles over the sea-girt isle a curious purring sound mingles with the surf. This sound increases momentarily, and then small bat-like figures may be seen to emerge from the crannies amongst the rounded pebbles of the shore above high water-mark. The storm petrels—for such the small dark objects are—fly backwards and forwards throughout the short summer night. Before a storm their purring cries change, and they make wild music that seems almost unearthly and is quite impossible to describe.

By sunrise each storm petrel is back in its dark cranny once more, and the isle is again silent, save for the boom of the tireless Atlantic surf.

NATIVE DYES.

Native dyes used in former times in the manufacture of tartans and tweeds in Skye and Uist, collected in 1887 by H. H. Mackenzie, Esq., Edinburgh, factor for North Uist, and life member of An Comunn:—

Alder bark with copperas; Rusg Fearna le copar; black.

Ash root; Freamh uinninn; yellow.

Blaeberry with gall nuts; Dearcagan fraoich le cnomhan seirbh; dark brown.

Blaeberry with alum; Dearcagan fraoich le alm; blue.

Bog myrtle; Roid; yellow.

Bracken root; Bun an roinich; yellow.

Bramble root and bark; Bun 'us rusg smeuran; dark orange.

Broom; Beallaidh; green.

Cress (wild); Biolaire; violet.

Crowberry with alum; Caoran fiadhaig le alm; brown.

Dandelion; Bearnan-brìde; magenta.

Dock root; Bun na copag; black.

Dulse; Duilleasg; brown.

Elder; Drumanach; yellow-green.

Elder with alum; Drumanach le alm; blue.

Fuller's Thistle with copperas; Lus an Fhucadair; green.

Gorse root and bark; Freamh 'us rusg conaig; yellow-green.

Heather; Fraoch; yellow.

Heather with alum and indigo and copperas; Fraoch le alm 'us guirmean; green.

Iris root; Bun seilisteir; fawn or grey.

Knapweed; Lus Mór; grey.

Knapweed with alum; Lus Mór le alm; bronze green.

Lichen; Crotal; yellow-brown.

Lichen Cupmoss; Crotal Coinneach; purple.

Lichen Rock; Crotal nan Creag; rusty red or brown, according to quantity.

Lichen White; Crotal Geal; crimson.

Lichen Limestone; Crotal Cloich Aoil; red.

Lichen Dark; Crotal Dubh; dark red.

Myrtle with indigo; Roid le guirmean; blue-green.

Nettle; Feanndag; light green.

Rue Root; Bun an ruidh; scarlet.

Ragweed top; Bar Buadharlan; yellow.

Soot; Suidh; snuff brown.

Sundew; Lus na fearnaich; purple.

Sundew with ammonia; Lus na fearnaich; bright yellow.

St. John's Wort; Lus Chalum Chille; yellow.

Teasel; Lus an Fhucadair; yellow.

Trefoil; Tribhilleach; light bronze green.

Tormentil; Leanartach; rusty red.

Waterflag root with copperas; Bun seilisteir; black.

Water Lily; Cart Loch; brick red.

MI-FHORTAN IAIN RUaidh.

Le IAIN MAC CORMAIC.

Bha Mairi Nic Caluim

Na caileig cho grinn

'S a b'urrainn duit fhaicinn an còdhail:

Beul sìobhalta meachair,

Nach leaghadh an t-im,

'Si suairce, ro-bhanail is boidheach.

'N uair 'bhiodh i 's a' chlachan

A' cantuinn nan salm,

Bha 'guth-cinn 'na fharmaid mhnath'-uaisle,

'S cha robh gille 's a' bhaile nach laigheadh a shuil

Air ainmhir ghil chiuin a' chuil-dualaich.

Bha Ruairidh MacCrimmain

'N a' ghill' air deagh dhòigh,

Le fearann gu leòir is crodh buaile:

'S cha robh caileag air astar

Air an iarradh e còir,

Nach rachadh le treòir do'n Bhail-Uachdrach.

Ach b'e Mairi Nic Caluim

A chagar 's a' rùn,

'S chaidh Ruairidh glé fhaiteach mu 'tuaiream

Ghabh is' e air fhacal: chaidh banais air dòigh:

'S bha i'n sin 'na' mnaoi' oig 's a Bhail-Uachdrach.

'N uair 'chithinn le cheil' iad,

La Feill no air Dòmbnach,

'Dol an Chlachan, no'n còdhail nan uaislean;

Gruaidh Mairi mar bharrguc, 's cho dearg ris an ròs,

O', 's ann agam 'bha fàrmad ri Ruairidh.

Ach thainig an t-Earrach,

Le fheannadh 's le fhuachd,

Chuir e eu-slaist' bha buan ann an Ruairidh:

Shin air car tamuill: ach bu leaba dha'n uaigh,

'S dh'fhag e Mairi, le buaile Bhail-Uachdrach.

'N uair 'chithinn an ainurr
 Gun neach ach i fhein
 Bhiodh truimid a ceum' cur truais orm,
 Thu mi tairgse dhi: Ghabh i mi:
 Cha bu ruith leath ach leum;
 'S tha mi 'nis an ceann spreidh mar bha Ruairidh.

'Nis, corr uair, air gach là
 Theid mi sràid ionns' a' chlaisidh:
 Theid mi sgriobag leam fhein feadh nan
 uaignean:

'S ann an sìochain 'an fheasgair
 Nì mi seasamh glé thrìc
 Nu choinneamh na lica th'air Ruairidh.

E 'na shineadh gu socrach,
 Fo'n phloc anns a' chill,
 'S gun sion a' cur dragh' air na bruaillein:
 'O mhoch-thrath gu annoch,
 Tha e 'seallbhachadh sìth,
 O, 's ann agam 'bha fàrmad ri Ruairidh'.

COIGNEAR ARAIDH.

Chan e an tigh a nì an céilidh, ged is maith taitneach seomar greidhte seasgair agus ged is eridheil teine dearg is iad na fir a nì an céilidh; is ann anns a' chuideachd a bhios an tlachd. Agus a réir a' chomuinn biodh bhur ceangal ri céilidh. Far eil a' chuideachd fughail cha chall a bhi a' céilidh; ach far nach eil seachainn e. Cuimhnich gu bheil buaidh aig do chuideachd ort: is ann coltach ri do chuideachd a bhios an duine thu fhéin.

Is toigh leam a bhi a' céilidh air Aonghas. Tha e sean, aois cheithir fichead bliadhna. Duine beag, aotrom, na phearsa, agus e nis mall na chlaisneachd. Tha e snasail, cha bhi roineag air a thrusgan agus tha a cheann liath agus fheusag air an cheadh gu réidh. Tha e socair min na dhoigh agus chuireadh e stòladh air cuideachd sam bith. Chan eil e féineil na idir gearaineach. Gabhaidh e do naidheachd gu fiosrach. Tha cuimhne fhada aige agus iomradh taitneach air na daoine a bha ann an uair a bha e òg.

Is toigh leam a bhi a' céilidh air Domhnall. Is e duine còir a tha ann. Tha a bhean còir agus tha a chlann còir, cha bhi dìth ort nam fardaich, ach còiread Dhomhnaill chan i an dì-beatha sin a tha an uachdar, ged nach eil sin air chall, is e tha sonraichte an còiread an duine ciall is fosgarrachd is grinneas ris an canadh na daoine o shean an uaisle. Bidh tu na do duine nas ciuine agus nas treise ri linn a bhi tacan comhla ris.

Ach an taice ri tigh Dhomhnaill tha tigh aig Domhnall eile. Is e clann an dà bhràthar

a tha annta ach cha do dh'fhàg sin na fir coltach ri chòile. Is e "Car an amhaich" a tha aig cuid air an dara Domhnall, ach chan ann gun fhios car son. An d' thuirteach air bith nì nach do chòrd ris, tha e air ball na choileach dearg; an d' thuirteach air bith nì nach do chreid e, tha bhreug aige! Agus an uair a theid e mar sin a mach air duine eile chan eil ceann crìoch air a chamachdaireachd. Is eigin duinn a bhi a' falbh a lion fear agus fear. Is ann anns an trod as fhearr a bhios esan air a dhòigh. Aineolach, tuasaideach, camachdach. Ach an déidh sin uile, nach eil fearas chuideachd aig cuid ri linn? Tha agus cùis theagaisg. Chan eil Domhnall bochd furasda cur suas leis agus cha bhiodh e réidh ri fhaileas.

Agus tha bean aige, Mór Ruadh, agus dh' fhaodadh tu Mor Ruadh bi a bteadh a thoirt oirre. Chan iognadh fàrdach Dhomhnaill a bhi mar a tha i. Feumaidh tu do shuil a chumail air an té so. Tha i daonnan fo a h-armachd a chum cuideigin a chràdh. Chan eil deoiridh nar measg nach maslaich i. Bithear ga cur air ais agus ga fàgail bradach ach chan eil dìth bathais oirre. "Am faca tu fhéin sin a nis?" arsa fear gleusda agus i ris an droch sgeul. "Chan fhaca mise e ach chuala mi e; agus tha e coltach gu leòir gu bheil an fhìrinn ann." Coltach ann no coltach as, chan eil an fhìrinn ann agus tha mise a' glacadh fianuisean ort." Cha do smuainich an t-olc nach do rinn an t-olc. Bean gun nàire de as miosa?

Caite am fagainn Fionnlagh. Sin agad duine tuisgeach. An uair a bhios a' chuideachd suilbhir le rian agus toileachas faodaidh tu fios a bhi agad mur eil Fionnlagh nam measg nach eil fada o bha e nam measg. Gun bruailein do chach tha esan gan stiùireadh agus gan treoireachadh air aghart agus gam brosnachadh le gleus cho seimh agus nach cuir e dragh air dhùil. A bheil an comhradh a dol taobh nach eil buanachdail tha Fionnlagh a' toirt ceum air thoiseach agus a dha shùl an airde agus a rithidh tha còthorm an aiteis againn air a' mhulach chomhnard. Bheir e seachas o fhear seach fear, agus nì a tha e math air labhairt chan eil e nas miosa air éisdeachd. Cridhe gach comuinn Fionnlagh. Gum bu fada beo thu a laochain le do shaoibhreas tlachdmhor suairceis agus do chalachd don mhaith.

Fhad agus a bhios Aonghas agus Domhnall agus Fionnlagh againn tha sinn gu maith dheth: an uair nach bi ann ach Mor agus Domhnall—gach fear aig a thoil—

ARACH.

PERTSHIRE MOD.

The Fourth Perthshire Provincial Mod was held at Aberfeldy, on Friday, 24th June. There were over 200 entries, which compared favourably with previous years. The adjudicators were:—Gaelic—Mrs. W. J. Watson and Miss Morag MacDonald, M.A., Edinburg; Rev. Neil Ross, B.D., Laggan, and Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow. Vocal Music—Miss Phemie Marquis, Glasgow, and Robert MacLeod, Mus.Bac., Edinburgh. Instrumental (Piano and Violin)—Mr. Iain Menzies, Edinburg; Bagpipes—Mr. Bett, Aberfeldy, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow.

The Grand Concert in the evening was largely attended, Lord James Stewart Murray presiding. The Lady Helen Tod presented the prizes during an interval in the programme.

PRIZE LIST.

JUNIOR SECTION.

Oral Delivery (Reading with Expression)—1, Betty Balmer, Struan School; 2, Jeanie S. Robertson, Strathummel School; 3, John D. Fraser, Strathummel School; 4, James Dryden, Strathummel School.

Reading Piece of Prose—1, Alasdair Carter, Ballinluig; 2, Phemie M'Lean, Fortingall.

Reading at Sight—1, Phemie M'Lean, Fortingall; 2, Alasdair Carter, Ballinluig.

Narrative—1, Jeanie C. Robertson, Strathummel; 2 (equal), Kate M'Dougall and Helen M'Gregor, Fortingall. (Prizes presented by Royal Celtic Society.)

Gaelic Conversation—1, Alasdair Carter, Ballinluig; 2, Jessie Macdougall, Lawers; 3, Ellen Macgregor, Killin.

Oral—Reciting—1, Alasdair Carter, Ballinluig; 2, Catherine Stewart, Blair Atholl; 3, John W. Fraser; 4, Edward Johnstone.

Repetition—1, Alasdair Carter; 2 (equal), Catherine Stewart and D. Finlayson.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Jean M'Lauchlan, Pitlochry; 2, Jessie M'Kenzie, Aberfeldy; 3, Helen Fraser, Kenmore.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Angus Macgregor, Killin; 2, George Coull, Acharn.

Solo Singing (Girls or Boys)—1, Jessie M'Kenzie, Aberfeldy; 2 and 3 (equal), Jean M'Lauchlan, Pitlochry, and George Coull, Acharn.

Duet Singing—1, Helen Fraser and Cathie Harris, Kenmore; 2, Agnes M'Kinnon and Cathie Ross, Killin; 3, (equal) Chrissie Coull and George Coull, and Catherine M'Pherson and Ian M'Pherson, Kinloch Rannoch.

Unison Singing—1, Killin Junior Choir; 2, Kenmore.

SENIOR SECTION.

Gaelic Story—1, Miss Alexis Stewart, Fortingall.

Oral (Read at Sight)—1, Miss C. MacDonald, Blair Atholl; 2, Duncan M'Nicol, Acharn; 3, Jessie A. M'Millan, Auchterarder.

Reading (Selected Passages)—1, Miss Phemie Dewar, Kenmore; 2, Miss MacRae, Kenmore.

Reading Passages selected by Judge from An Daol—1, Miss C. MacDonald, Blair Atholl; 2 and 3 (equal),

Mrs. M'Intyre, Kenmore, and Duncan M'Nicol, Acharn. Oral (Recitation)—1, Miss C. MacDonald, Blair Atholl; 2, Christie MacDonald, Acharn; 3, Miss Agnes Paterson, Kenmore.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, Miss Helen Robertson, Pitlochry; 2, Mrs. Macgregor, Strathay; 3, Miss K. MacDougall, Fortingall.

Solo Singing of Various Songs—1, Donald Campbell, Pitlochry; 2, Mrs. Panton, Pitlochry; 3, John M'Pherson, Kinloch Rannoch.

Solo Singing of Unpublished Perthshire Song—1, Mrs. Panton, Pitlochry.

Duet Singing—1, Miss K. MacDougall and Mrs. Stewart, Fortingall; 2, Jas. Coul and Miss Nan Thomson, Acharn.

Choral Singing—1, Fortingall Choir; 2, Kenmore and Fearnach Choir.

INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

Violin—1, Miss Nan MacDougall, Fortingall; 2, Miss Grace Miller, Pitlochry.

Pianoforte—1, Miss M. Ramage, Glenfincastle; 2, Miss Millie Menzies, Dall; 3, Miss Ross, Struan.

Bagpipes—1, Jas. M'Kercher, Aberfeldy; 2, Angus MacDonald, Claggan; 3, James Menzies, Rannoch.

ARDNAMURCHAN PROVINCIAL MOD.

A Mod for the district of Ardnamurchan was held at Strontian on 1st July. This event, which is now firmly established as one of the outstanding yearly happenings in the district, attracted officials, competitors, and spectators from all parts of Ardnamurchan to the most central point—Strontian. The gathering was held in the new commodious Hall, the generous gift of Colonel Hamilton-Leigh. Under the capable guidance of Maclean of Ardour and of the Hon. Secretary, Miss D. C. MacIntyre, the proceedings passed off without a hitch. The judges in Gaelic and music did their work efficiently and tactfully. Great interest in the adjudications was taken by the general public, who paid tribute to outstanding performances, irrespective of the districts involved. A notable feature was the excellent Gaelic. On the vocal side a marked advance from last year's standard was noted in almost every competition, and much of this can be attributed to the fine teaching of Mr. Hugh Maclean, who spent some weeks in the district prior to the Mod.

A concert was held in the evening under the chairmanship of Maclean of Ardour, who has all along been the moving spirit of the Ardnamurchan Mod, and to whose fine personality much of its success is due. The programme was sustained by the first prize winners, assisted by Miss May L. Smylie, Miss Phemie Marquis, Mr. Neil Shaw, and Miss M. C. MacColl, accompanist.

During the evening the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. Fletcher, Glenborrodale.

Thereafter, Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan, addressed the large gathering on the aims and ideals of the Gaelic movement.

The adjudicators were:—

Gaelic—Rev. G. MacKenzie, Kilmore; Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; Rev. A. D. Maclean, Ardgour; Rev. Dr. MacKinnon, Kilmonivaig; Rev. C. Macpherson, Ballachulish; and Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow.

Vocal—Mr. John MacDonald, Oban; Mrs. Colquhoun (Miss Phemie Marquis), Glasgow; and Mr. Donald MacMillan, Fort William.

Violin—Provost N. B. Mackenzie, Fort William.

Bagpipes—Captain MacDonald, Kingairloch; and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow.

THE PRIZE LIST.

JUNIOR SECTION (Oral).

Reading with expression a Piece of Prose or Poetry—1, John MacDonald, Mingarry; 2, Roderick MacDonald, Mingarry; 3, Catherine MacLennan, Kilchoan.

Reading at Sight an Unfamiliar Prose Piece—1, Mary MacMaster, Drimnin; 2, John MacDonald, Mingarry; 3, John MacDonald, Moss, Mingarry.

Reciting from Memory "Latha 'sa Ghleann"—1, Mary MacMaster; 2 and 3, Catherine MacLennan, Glenborrodale, and John Macmaster, Drimnin (equal); 4, Iain Cameron, Achacrae.

For excellence in Gaelic Conversation—1, Roderick MacDonald; 2, Iain Cameron; 3, Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin.

Acted Dialogue—1, Dolina MacLean and Alex. D. MacLachlan; 2, Mary MacMaster and Peggy MacLachlan; 3, James MacLennan and John MacMaster.

VOCAL.

Solo Singing of a Song (Girls) "An Ciocharan" or "Callart"—1, Peggy MacKinnon, Mingarry; 2, Barbara Johnston, Mingarry; 3, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin.

Solo Singing (Boys and Girls)—Song composed by local bard, whether published or unpublished—1, Barbara Johnston; 2, Mary Johnston, Mingarry; 3, May MacKinnon, Mingarry.

Unison Singing of "Mo Chubhrachan" and "Moladh na Lannaidh"—Mingarry Junior Choir.

SENIOR SECTION.

Reading at Sight of an Unfamiliar Piece of Prose—1, Mr. Alastair Cameron, Strontian; 2, Miss Ena Cameron, Achacrae.

Reading of "Blar Ionbhar-Heitein"—1, Miss Ena Cameron; 2, Miss A. MacFarlane, Achaphuble.

Reading of a Piece of Prose—1, Mr. Donald Cameron, Conaglen; 2, Miss A. MacFarlane; 3, Miss Ena Cameron.

Sgeulachd—1, Mr. Donald MacMillan, Lochelside; 2, Miss Ena Cameron.

VOCAL.

Solo Singing of a Song (Female Voices)—1, Miss Mary A. Carmichael, Ardgour; 2, Miss Tomasina Lawrie, Trislaig; 3, Miss Bella Cameron, Ardgour.

Solo Singing of a Song (Male Voices)—1, Mr. Archibald MacNaughton, Achacrae; 2, Mr. Charles MacInnes, Dorlin; 3, Mr. Donald Cameron, Achacrae.

Solo Singing of a Song composed by local bard, whether published or unpublished—1, Miss M. A. Carmichael; 2, Mr. Donald Cameron; 3, Mr. A. MacNaughton.

Solo Singing of a Song (Male and Female Voices)—Competitors to sing their choice of the four songs prescribed—"Mo Robairneach Gaolach," "Oran do Iain Breac Macleoid," "Mairi Bhan Dhail an Eas," and "Is trom leam an airigh"—1, Miss Catherine C. MacColl, Ardgour; 2, Mr. John MacDiarmid, Strontian; 3, Mr. Charles MacInnes, Dorlin.

Learners (Male and Female)—Miss D. C. MacIntyre, Ardgour.

Choral Singing in Unison of the Songs "Gu ma slan a chi mi" and "Ri guallibh a cheile"—1, Ardgour Ladies' Choir; 2, Achacrae Senior and Moidart Senior Choir (equal).

INSTRUMENTAL.

Violin—Playing of a Gaelic Song Air (Strathspey and Reel)—Dugald MacPherson, Ardgour.

Bagpipes (Playing of March, Strathspey, and Reel)—1, John MacPherson, Moidart; 2, Alex. Cameron Ardtornish; 3, Iain MacLennan, Glenborrodale; 4, Donald Cameron, Morven.

TIREE PROVINCIAL MOD.

There were over 200 entries for the successful Mod held at Cornaig School on 5th July. Mr. Hugh Hunter, music judge, offered valuable and practical advice to the vocalists, and spoke very highly of what he had heard. The Gaelic adjudicators, Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Mr. Neil Shaw, and Rev. George MacKenzie were unanimous in their praise of the oral and literary work, although in the readings and recitations the delivery was sometimes faulty. The concert following the Mod brought together all the leading prize-winners, and, in addition, very much appreciated items were rendered by Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; Mr. Hugh Kennedy, Tiree Association piper; Mr. Neil Shaw, and Mr. Hugh MacLean, An Comunn Gaidhealach teacher, whose recent work in Tiree has done so much to raise the standard of vocal music. Mr. J. R. Bannerman was a popular and interesting Chairman. At the close, Rev. G. MacKenzie paid high tribute to the work of the local Committee, especially Mr. D. O. MacLean, M.C., the organising secretary, who, in addition to his secretarial duties, had presented two successful choirs and many prize-winning soloists.

Others who contributed to the success of the Mod were Miss MacKenzie, who was in charge of the catering; Miss MacDiarmid, Cornaig, who had collected and arranged the entries; and Mr. Robert Macleod, Ruaisg, who, during the two sessions, had kept the items to time table.

JUNIOR SECTION—UNDER 14—(LITERATURE).

Gaelic Letter—1, Cath. Maclean, Balemartine;
2, Mary F. MacKechnie, Cornaig; 3, Netta Maclean,
Heylipol; 4, Alexine MacDonald, Balemartine;
5, Nina Maclean, Scarinish.

ORAL.

Reading at Sight—1, Mary F. MacKechnie, Cornaig;
2, Annie Maclean, Ruaig; 3, Bella MacDonald, Cornaig.
Reciting from Memory—1, Morag Maclean, Scarinish;
2, Nina Maclean; 3, Flora MacKinnon and Hugh
MacLeod, Cornaig.

Reading a Prescribed Piece of Prose—1, Nina
Maclean; 2, May D. MacPhail, Balemartine; 3, Netta
Maclean.

Reading at Sight (Open to all pupils of Tíree and
Coll)—1, Mary Kennedy, Cornaig; Chrissie Campbell,
Cornaig; 3, Chrissie MacFadyen and Duncan MacNeil,
Cornaig.

VOCAL MUSIC (UNDER 16).

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Andrew Young, Balemartine;
2, Dugald MacDonald, Heylipol; 3, Ian MacDonald,
Cornaig.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Jessie Maclean, Cornaig
Choir; 2, Flora MacKinnon, Cornaig; 3, Netta
Maclean.

Duet Singing—1, Flora MacKinnon and Bella
MacDonald; 2, Margt. Sinclair and Netta Maclean,
Heylipol.

Choral Singing (Two-part Harmony)—1, Cornaig
Choir; 2, Heylipol Choir.

Choral Singing (Unison)—1, Heylipol Choir; 2,
Cornaig Choir; 3, Balemartine Choir.

SENIOR SECTION (LITERATURE).

Gaelic Essay (Open to non-resident as well as resident
natives)—1, Mary F. MacDonald, Kilmoluaig; 2, Sarah
F. MacDonald, Ruaig; 3, Chrissie MacIver, Heylipol.

Reproduction in Gaelic (Confined to pupils of Con-
tinuation School)—1, Mary F. MacDonald, Cornaig
School; 2, Janet Maclean, Cornaig School.

ORAL.

Reading at Sight—1, Mary Kennedy, Cornaig
School; 2, Mary F. MacDonald, Kilmoluaig, and
Katie MacKechnie, Cornaig School.

Reciting a poem by a Coll or Tíree bard—1, Flora
MacDonald, Balephuil; 2, Chrissie MacInnes, Ruaig;
3, Mary Kennedy, Cornaig School.

Dialogue (acted)—1, Sarah F. MacDonald and
Chrissie MacIver; 2, Flora and Mary MacDonald;
3, Alick Campbell and Duncan MacNeill.

Sgeulachd—1, Sarah F. MacDonald, Ruaig; 2, Flora
MacDonald, Balephuil.

VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1, Lachlan Brown,
Cornaig Choir; 2, Alick MacKechnie, Cornaig Choir;
3, John Buntain, Balemartine Choir, and John Mac-
Donald, Cornaig Choir.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, Mary Kennedy,
Cornaig Choir; 2, Helen Inglis, Ruaig; 3, May Mac-
Phail, Cornaig Choir.

Solo Singing (Unpublished Local Song)—1, Helen
Inglis; 2, John MacDonald; 3, Alick MacKechnie,
and John Buntain.

Solo Singing (Open)—1, Mary Kennedy; 2, Helen
Inglis; 3, May MacPhail; 4, Marion MacKechnie,
Cornaig, and Ina Campbell, Balemartine.

Duet Singing—Mary Kennedy and May MacPhail.
Choral Singing (Unison)—Cornaig Choir.

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BRANCH REPORT.

VALE OF LEVEN.—The annual outing of the Vale
of Leven Branch took place on Saturday, 2nd July.
This year the gathering place was in a field on "the
bonnie, bonnie banks," a few hundred yards north of
Luss. The day was bright and warm, and a very
hearty welcome was given by Capt. MacDonald and
his crew to 150 members and friends who
joined the steamer at Balloch. During the
afternoon and on the return journey, Mr. Roderick
Campbell gave bagpipe selections. At an interval all
gathered on the foreshore in the shade of the trees,
and tea was served. Rev. Alasdair Campbell, M.A.,
Luss, offered a prayer in Gaelic. To many it brought
back memories of open-air meetings in the Highlands
at Communion time in the days of their youth. At the
conclusion of the sports programme, Mr. J. Alasdair
Anderson, Tullichewan, presented the prizes. An
exceedingly pleasant return journey to Balloch Pier,
and a happy parting there, brought to a close a day
that all voted a memorable one. The catering, in
every way.

GREAT FEILL DONATIONS.

Received at Head Office—

Portree—Island Stall, One-third proceeds	
Bazaar and Dance	£45 14 11
Glasgow Uist, and Barra Association ..	7 0 0
The Lady Helen Tod, Blair Atholl ..	1 0 0
Glasgow Gairloch and Lochbroom Associa- tion, per Miss MacIver	0 5 0
Kilberry and Ormisdary Concert and Dance	2 17 2
Proceeds from Sale at Jagnuill	19 0 0
	£75 17 1

FORT WILLIAM MOD DONATIONS.

Previously acknowledged £262 6 6

Received at Head Office—

Miss Malt Williams, W. Wales	5 0 0
Miss M. E. Maitland Stockwell, Strathguy	2 2 0
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Miss Bena MacCulloch, Kilniver	1 0 0
Duncan MacCowan, Esq., Luining	0 2 6
Received at Fort William—	
Miss Phemie Marquis, Glasgow	0 10 0
	£273 2 0

NEW MEMBERS.

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And Branch Secretaries

The first of these is the fact that the United States is a young nation, and its history is therefore a history of growth and development. It is a history of the struggle for independence, of the struggle for the right of self-government, and of the struggle for the right of peace.

The second of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of immigrants. It is a nation of people who have come from many different parts of the world, and who have brought with them many different customs and traditions. This has made the United States a nation of many races and many languages.

The third of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of pioneers. It is a nation of people who have gone to the frontiers, who have explored the unknown, and who have discovered new lands and new resources. This has made the United States a nation of discovery and of invention.

The fourth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of freedom. It is a nation of people who have fought for the right of free speech, for the right of free press, and for the right of free assembly. This has made the United States a nation of liberty and of justice.

The fifth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of progress. It is a nation of people who have always been looking forward, who have always been trying to do better, and who have always been trying to make the world a better place. This has made the United States a nation of progress and of achievement.

The sixth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of peace. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in peace, who have always been trying to settle their disputes by peaceful means, and who have always been trying to make the world a more peaceful place. This has made the United States a nation of peace and of harmony.

The seventh of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of unity. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live together in unity, who have always been trying to work together for the common good, and who have always been trying to make the world a more united place. This has made the United States a nation of unity and of strength.

The eighth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of hope. It is a nation of people who have always been looking forward with hope, who have always been trying to make the future a better one, and who have always been trying to make the world a more hopeful place. This has made the United States a nation of hope and of optimism.

The ninth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of love. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in love, who have always been trying to love their neighbors as themselves, and who have always been trying to make the world a more loving place. This has made the United States a nation of love and of compassion.

The tenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of faith. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in faith, who have always been trying to believe in the good, and who have always been trying to make the world a more faithful place. This has made the United States a nation of faith and of belief.

The eleventh of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of courage. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in courage, who have always been trying to stand up for the right, and who have always been trying to make the world a more courageous place. This has made the United States a nation of courage and of bravery.

The twelfth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of wisdom. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in wisdom, who have always been trying to learn from the past, and who have always been trying to make the world a more wise place. This has made the United States a nation of wisdom and of knowledge.

The thirteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of justice. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in justice, who have always been trying to do what is right, and who have always been trying to make the world a more just place. This has made the United States a nation of justice and of fairness.

The fourteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of mercy. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in mercy, who have always been trying to be kind to others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more merciful place. This has made the United States a nation of mercy and of compassion.

The fifteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of kindness. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in kindness, who have always been trying to be nice to others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more kind place. This has made the United States a nation of kindness and of gentleness.

The sixteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of patience. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in patience, who have always been trying to wait for the right time, and who have always been trying to make the world a more patient place. This has made the United States a nation of patience and of calmness.

The seventeenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of humility. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in humility, who have always been trying to be modest, and who have always been trying to make the world a more humble place. This has made the United States a nation of humility and of modesty.

The eighteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of honesty. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in honesty, who have always been trying to tell the truth, and who have always been trying to make the world a more honest place. This has made the United States a nation of honesty and of integrity.

The nineteenth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of loyalty. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in loyalty, who have always been trying to be faithful, and who have always been trying to make the world a more loyal place. This has made the United States a nation of loyalty and of devotion.

The twentieth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of respect. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in respect, who have always been trying to honor others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more respectful place. This has made the United States a nation of respect and of honor.

The twenty-first of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of tolerance. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in tolerance, who have always been trying to accept others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more tolerant place. This has made the United States a nation of tolerance and of understanding.

The twenty-second of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of compassion. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in compassion, who have always been trying to care for others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more compassionate place. This has made the United States a nation of compassion and of sympathy.

The twenty-third of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of forgiveness. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in forgiveness, who have always been trying to forgive others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more forgiving place. This has made the United States a nation of forgiveness and of mercy.

The twenty-fourth of these is the fact that the United States is a nation of love. It is a nation of people who have always been trying to live in love, who have always been trying to love others, and who have always been trying to make the world a more loving place. This has made the United States a nation of love and of compassion.



