

# An Gaidheal.



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# An Gaidheal:

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## AN GAIDHEAL

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*An Dàmhar, 1927.*

[Earrann 1

### OIDHCHE AN CAISTEAL DHUNBHEAGAIN.

O chionn ghoirdh ghabh sinn ar turus gu Eilean a' cheò, far a bheil na ceudan a' taghal am bliadhna. Fhuair sinn cuireadh o 'n uasal chòir, an Ridire Reginald, gu oidhche a chur seachad air acidheachd an Caisteal Dhunbheagain. Is e dh' fhàg an t-sochair so cho mòr ann ar beachd, gu bheil an seann chaisteal cho iomraiteach an eachdraidh. An uair a thàinig am cadail chaidh ar treòrachadh leis an uasal a dh' ainmich sinn, gus an t-Seòmar Bhuidhe, a tha anns a' chearn de 'n chaisteal ris an canair Tùr na Mnà Sìthe. Tha an Seòmar Buidhe mu dheich troighean fichead air faid, agus mu sheachd troighean deug air leud, le dà uinneig fharsuinn, ard, ag amharc a mach os cionn creige a tha ag èirigh as a' mhuir aig bonn na lùchairt. Is e so an earrann de 'n chaisteal anns an cuolas Tàladh na Mnà Sìthe, agus is ann uaidhe sin a fhuair an tùr an t-ainm. Am marbh na h-oidhche, an uair a chaidh na soluis as, bu nàdurach gun cuimhnicheamaid air iomadh sgeul mu nithean a thachair anns an àite so. Agus is lionmhor smuain thaitneach is annasach a thàinig gu ar n-intinn anns an dorachdas. Thug sinn gu mìneachadh faineir na faicil aig an t-seann tàladh: "Chan ann de Chloinn Choinnich thu; chan ann de Chloinn Chuinn thu; de shìol bu docha linn thu; sìol Leoid na long, na lann, na luireach, b' i Tòchlann dùthaich do shìnnisr." Cha b' iongnadh ged thigeadh faicil eile gu ar n-àire o Mhairi Ni 'n Alasdair Ruaidh, a bha a' comhnuidh anns a' chaisteal so ri linn cheithir chinn-cinnidh. Cia tric a chualas a guth air feadh na

seomraichean eudna. Is furasda dealbh is cruth na dream ud a ghairm fa chomhair na h-intinn, air an cheart làraich, am marbh na h-oidhche. Cha bu lugha na sin ar smuain air An Chlàrsair Dhall; oir chualas pocan a chruite gu tric anns an àite so cuideachd, mar a tha e fhéin a' luaidh an "*Oran Mòr Mhic Leoid.*"

Is fregarrach gun tugamaid iomradh an so air luchd-taghail ainmeil a chuir oidhche seachad anns an Tùr Shìthe. B' e aon dhiu sin an t-Ollamh Mac Iain, a bha air chuairt an Dunbheagain an 1773. Gheibhear cunntas mu dheidhinn an taghail ud anns a' bhreacadh a thug Boswell air a' chùis. Cha robh an Sasunnach ainmeil e féin saor o shaobhchreideamh an samhlaichean; agus air a' bhonn sin bhiodh annas aige de na sgeulachdan a bhiodh aig an t-seann mhuinntir mu shìthichean agus nithean eile de 'n t-seòrsa. Ginealach no dhà an déidh turus Mhic Iain thàinig fear taghail clùtach do Dunbheagain. B' e sin an Ridire Walter Scott, a thug aire shonruichte do na nithean luachmhor anns a' chaisteal, agus do na h-uirsgeil a tha 'g an aithris mu 'n timchioll. Chuir esan seachad oidhche anns an Tùr Shìthe; agus is cinnteach gun tug sin sinuaintean no dha gu intinn an sgeulaiche mhóir ud. Is e an tracas fear a theid ainmeachadh an t-Ollamh Tormod Mac Leoid, "*Caraid nan Gaidheal.*" Gheibhear an sgrìobhaidhean an urramaich so naidheachd air na chunnaic is na chuala e an Caisteal Dhunbheagain. Tha e ag ainmeachadh gun d' éisd e ris an fhear mu dheireadh de Chloinn Mhic Cruimein, a' cluich a' phuirt nuallanaich sin, "*Thug mi pòg do lann an Rìgh.*"

Chaidh sochair eile a bhualachadh oirnn an oidhche sin. Fhuair sinn cothrom is cead

piobmhór Mhic Cruimein a thogail air ar gualainn, agus àireamh do phuirt Chloinn Mhic Cruimein fhéin a chluich fad dlùth air uair an uaireadair. Cha chualas ceòl na pioba sin an caisteal Dhunbheagain o chionn corr mór is ceud bliadhna. An uair a bha an inneal ainmeil ud 'g a nochdadh an Wembley chaidh a cur suas le màl is ribheidean; agus is ann mar sin a tha i nis an òrdugh. Tha dà phìob anns a' chaisteal, a bhuineadh do na piobairean measail a bha an Dunbheagain. Tha aon dhiubh sin ris an canair "a' phìob bhreac," a chaidh a dheanamh mar thiodhlac do Phadruig Mór Mac Cruimein. Bha dealbh na pioba sin anns an *Oban Times* o chionn seachdainn no dhà. Bha a' phìob bhreac air chall fad sia fichead bliadhna, gus an d' fhuaras i an ciste dharaich anns a' chaisteal. Laimhsich sinn dà ribheid a rinneadh le Cloinn Mhic

Cruimein; agus tha iad eadardhealaichte o ribheidean an latha an diugh. Is i an dara piob an té sin ris an canadh muinntir "*An Oinseach*." Chan eil innte ach dà dhos. Is i sin a' phìob a bha air a chluich mar phìob an teaghlaich fad cheudan bliadhna, le Cloinn Mhic Cruimein anns a' chaisteal. Agus is i sin a' phìob air an do chluich sinn an oidheche roimhe. Tha deibhir mór air dòigh no dhà eadar ceòl na h-Oinseich, agus pioban na ficheadamh linn. Tha e fada nas taise. Tha e pailt cha fuaimneach ach gidheadh chan eil e cho cruaidh sgreadach ri cuid de shiunnsairean a chluinnear a nis. Tha sin ag éiridh o chumadh na ribheid. Is e tha an so ach cuspair a dh' fheumadh cothrom eile gu sgrìobhadh mu thimchioll. Ach buinidh e gu freagarrach do chuimhne na h-oidheche sin a chuir sinn seachad anns an Tùr Shithe.

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### THE PAN-CELTIC FESTIVAL IN BRITTANY.

By JOHN MACDONALD, M.A., Glasgow.

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The Scottish pipers at the head of the grand procession to Kerco Park, where the Druid and other ceremonies were celebrated.

In the quaint words of Thomas Malory, "Men say that King Arthur is not dead; they say that he shall come again, and he shall win the holy cross, . . . that there is written on his tomb this verse: *Hic jacet*

*Rex quondam, Rexque futurus.*" At all events, during these last weeks his spirit has been marching on, and his banner has been bravely unfurled by the "six Celtic nations."

Such events as our own great Gaelic Feill in Glasgow, the recent pan-Celtic Congress in Bangor (in which we were glad to see that our esteemed Comunn President took a distinguishing part), and, last but not least, the pan-Celtic Festival in Brittany, should afford conclusive proof that the Celtic spirit is still full of vitality and energy, and should be a strong incentive to renewed effort, and a rousing signal for a forward movement. As Mr. E. T. John said at the Bangor Congress, "such meetings serve to knit together the various Celtic communities in the vitalising consciousness of a common heritage and a common destiny." In the untiring pursuit of our individual, special aims, may we not henceforth have in view their convergence in a larger aim—a real Celtic confederacy in the things of the spirit, which, as it has been the rockbed of our British civilisation in the past, will continue to be a regnant force to mould it to still fairer form in the future.

We do not at all forget those who are taking the lead in this co-operative movement in the other Celtic communities, but we Gaels of Scotland wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to our own leader, Miss Augusta Lamont of Knockdow, who, year after year, has devoted a great deal of wise and earnest thought to this dynamic *idea*, and, as a labour of love, has worked assiduously to realise it. I take the liberty of quoting from a letter sent by an influential member of the Breton Association: "We tender to you (Miss Lamont) our gratitude for all the devotion you have shown to the cause which is dear to us. We were proud of the presence of your Scottish delegation, which you were the means of bringing here, and whose memory will be lasting."

This *idea* would give us the feeling of a more spacious atmosphere, and would save us from being too readily depressed by local checks or reverses which might meet us in our own part of the Celtic world. It would make us feel that we were actors on a grander stage, and engaged in a drama of greater significance for our national destiny than we might think. Miss Lamont will excuse this attempt at a translation of part of her reply to the letter referred to above, as it puts clearly and concisely what we all felt from our visit to Brittany: "I regard it as an honour and a privilege to have collaborated with you in promoting the Celtic cause, which you maintain so faithfully and energetically here in Brittany.

Your example and your success will fortify us Celts across the Chanel in our efforts for the same great cause."

At the beginning of the pilgrimage, on 10th August, I was alone on the way to that Celtic peninsula of romance and beauty, Brittany, lashed and laved by turns by the Atlantic waves. One likes to give it its ancient name of "Armorica," which, if we can trust the philologist, is a Celtic word, meaning "the region near the sea," so that, as in our own "Arđnamurchan," one seems to hear in the old name notes of the diapason of the sounding sea. Even though somewhat past the blissful years of thrill and wonder, what could one have but great expectations in view of crossing the Border for the first time, and especially of visiting a land over whose charming scenery and haunting story the spirit of the past still broods with the loveliness of morning twilight, making it the fit home of novelists, artists, and bards. I had felt its lure from reading, long ago, even a little of Loti and Souvestre, though those scraps of book French sadly failed me when I tried to have with its people the intercourse I should have wished. My Gaelic, and their Breton tongue, though from the same Celtic source, looked like strangers at each other, after centuries of separation.

I will just wag my paw, and tell my story! The "Flying Scot" bore us swiftly through various types of landscape, and my mental reactions to the changing scenes through which I passed left me in no doubt that, even after long years of exile *o'n dachaidh fo'n fhuar-bheinn*, I was still a child of Tir nam Beann. The wide fields of the Lowland plains, notwithstanding their promise of "worldly gear," were of slight interest to me, as I remembered the crofts in the glens embosomed in the gloom-wrapt mountains of the North. The Moffat hills awakened pleasing thoughts, with the pure, light mists on their summits, and the blackfaced sheep feeding in quiet contentment on their slopes. Then a blink of Ecclefechan and of Gretna, till the view of the vales and hills of Cumberland gave the "joy of elevated thoughts." On we sped through some of the industrial deserts of "Merrie England," and afterwards, with relief, through the rolling, smiling landscapes to the south, till we arrived at the great Metropolis, where, after a strenuous day spent in seeing a fraction of its historic glories, I could feel the little Gael within me taking on the



stature of an imperial Briton, and could hear him saying proudly, *Civis Britannicus sum!* "I, the heir of all the ages."

Arrived at Southampton about dusk, I soon came upon 'kent' faces, and heard familiar voices, and on board the steamer about to sail for St. Malo I found that the Celts of the different delegations, all in high spirits, formed a considerable part of the human freight. As we had the good fortune to be able to have a *céliúidh* with bards and pipers, some of us had little thought of sleep, so that we sat up together, with Gaelic song and story, till well into the sma' hours ayont the twal'. When, one by one, the others began to drowse and nod, the writer fetched the big blanket from his berth, and wrapt therein, sat on deck (all immune from mal de mer), watching the "imperious surge," which caused some rocking, and the distant, friendly lights of the Channel Islands, and the lights of heaven, until, as he was beginning to feel something of the meaning of Coinneach MacLeod's "Duatharachd na mara," the coast of La Belle France could be seen dimly in the grey dawn to the east. Soon the prosaic folks, who chose sleep rather than a vigil on deck—so missing the chance of being transformed into poets all—were all astir, and after morning ablutions and breakfast we were heading for St. Malo, the chief gateway into Brittany.

St. Malo, a very ancient town, with many of its old-world features still untouched by time, is built on a mass of granite called *Le Rocher*, and is, as one lands, a most impressive sight, with its old ramparts and towers, above which rises the tall spire of its ancient cathedral, making one muse on far-off days, when the shouts of "loud-throated war" mingled with the chimes of church-bells—strange contradiction, which, after all our evolution, remains with us yet! But battlements and bells made us think of the valour and piety of the Breton Celt. The French have always called Brittany—which, as the mainspring of its nationalism, has clung tenaciously to its religion—*un pays de foi*, a land of faith; and to it the Republic may owe more than it knows for the preservation of its soul since the Revolution. Says Renan wistfully of his Breton memories: "O fathers of the obscure tribe by whose fireside I drank in faith in the unseen, humble clan of workers and mariners to whom I owe the vigour of my soul in an exhausted land. . . ."

Before leaving the quay, we had to pass in Indian file before the Customs officers

(*douaniers*), and there was some rummaging in our bags, among our "puir bits o' claise," for things that were not there; but the saving sense of humour made us behave with civility. A black bottle, of a well-known size and shape, was pulled out of one bag, and, under cross-examination, described itself variously as a mascot, a medicine, a talisman, when the "douanier," with a knowing smile, said, "Weeskie." We found a party of our Breton kinsmen awaiting us with heartiest welcome, and with five great charabancs, and soon about 150 delegates were flying through the heart of La Bretagne. From this point till our return it was no leisurely ramble, but a continuous excited rush, so that quiet observation of scenery and people was impossible.

As one passed swiftly for over 100 miles along a first-class, avenue-like road, bordered with tall trees, chestnut, fir, and even birch; through an open, breezy, upland country, with fields of corn mostly in stook, and orchards whose trees were bending under their burden of ruddy apples; past old-world villages with their chapel spires, and old-world folks standing at the doors of their quaint cottages, one felt that here was a land of inexhaustible interest. In some of the fields, lads and lasses were cutting the corn with the old-time sickle, recalling to one's memory a grandfather's stories of the happy reaping days, before these days of soulless machinery, and one was almost waiting to see a living picture of the "Angelus." In a worldly frame of mind, one would like to know about the system of land tenure—if peasant proprietorship, how does it work?—whether the land is fully occupied, and what kind of living it gives.

We had almost begun to feel that we were being turned into some form of "perpetual motion," when about sunset we arrived at our destination, near the north horn of the Bay of Biscay, some of the delegates going to Riec-sur-Bélon, some to Pontaven, and some to Quimperlé. But Riec was the rendezvous for all the banquets, gaieties, and ceremonies, which had been so generously prepared by the Breton Association, under the guidance of its distinguished and patriotic president, Le Vicomte Jean de Saisy, for our royal entertainment. I confess that, until I have time to think quietly, the two chief days of our visit to Riec are to me a kind of splendid phantasmagoria of movement, colour and sound, but I am in no manner of doubt as to the big meaning the great Festival had for, and the indelible



impression it made upon the minds of all the delegates. One prefers to call this memorable meeting a festival, as there were no formal serious speeches or discussions, such as may be associated with the term "Congress"; but our meeting was by no means a mere picnic or a passing festal show, for we had heart-to-heart talks regarding our common Celtic activities, aspirations and plans, from which we hope to see growing a very real and fruitful solidarity.

On the morning of Saturday, 13th August, a great procession, the marshalling of which was supervised by Le Vicomte de Saisy, started from the old little town, and marched to the Park of Kerco. We were naturally proud to see it headed by our Scottish pipers, followed by the Scottish delegates. Then came the Breton musicians, playing their 'binious' (a kind of hornpipe), and following them were the delegates from the other "Celtic fringes," with crowds of Bretons, while druids and bards, in robes of white or blue or green, brought up the rear, and emblazoned Breton banners waved everywhere. The Scottish pipers and the kilned Scottish delegates were far and away the supreme attraction, indeed, they seemed to fascinate the Bretons, and no wonder! Let the reader translate for himself this description by a Breton: "*Les bag-pipes écossais font entendre leur son puissant, en même temps que les binious leur musique aigrelette!*"

Round a sacred cromlech or dolmen, of pre-historic antiquity, the druids and bards gathered, and new druids and bards were solemnly initiated with the traditional rites, after which homage was paid to the memory of illustrious Breton bards at the tall, grey columns (*menhirs*) erected in their honour. The Bretons never forget their bards—those "dead but sceptred sovereigns who still rule our spirits from their urns." A most impressive ceremony was the taking of the oath of fidelity to the Celtic spirit, and the vowing by the sword of Arthur (Excalibur) to be true to the peace and unity of the "six Celtic nations." The sword was borne by Le Vicomte de Guichardière, a most striking figure, like an ideal venerable Highland chief. It is remarkable that Arthur, the national hero of Britain, belongs to what our historians usually call the dispossessed race. Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Britons occupied the land; but the composite race which was formed from their union took as their hero the great king of British legend, making him, too, the theme

of a splendid part of their literature. After these "Gorsedd" proceedings, short but eloquent speeches were delivered by prominent Bretons and delegates in their respective tongues, Breton, Welsh, Manx, Cornish, Erse and Gaelic, the chief spokesmen being, for the Breton Association, Le Vicomte de Saisy and M. Francois Jaffrennou, barde Taldir; for the Welsh delegation, Messrs. Rhys Philips and David Williams; for the Manx, Dr. Harry Leon; for the Cornish, Mr. Morton Nance; for the Irish, Miss O'Farrelly and Mr. Leon O'Broin; and for the Scottish, Colonel Gilbert Gunn and Mr. Neil Shaw.

On the morning of Sunday, 14th August, a great concourse of people were present at the dedication of the new chapel of Sainte Thérèse, over the entrance to which one read these challenging words, said to have been uttered by Saint Therese when dying: "*Je passerai mon ciel à faire du bien sur la terre*" (I shall spend my heaven in doing good on earth). It was a most solemn religious service, reminding one of Communion on the hillside in our Highlands. It was conducted with great reverence and dignity, and the singing was strikingly beautiful and expressive. The evenings of both days were occupied in games, singing, and dancing, while after nightfall, on till midnight, there were magnificent electrical illuminations and pyrotechnic displays all round Riec. One greatly admired the graceful dancing of the young Bretons, and as one came upon a group here and there, singing with great fervour and refinement a Breton rendering of "Old land of my fathers" (*Bro goz ma zadou*), one had to stand and listen with delight.

Returning to St. Malo on Monday evening, a number of the Scottish delegates stayed at the Hotel Notre-Dame Des Grèves in Paramée. On our casually mentioning who we were, the manageress, Mme. Marie Ropers, received us with open arms, exclaiming that she was a Breton, and would make her Scottish kinsmen feel at home! This was the spirit in which we were welcomed throughout Brittany. MM. Le Vicomte de Saisy, F. Jaffrennou (Taldir), Prof. Diverrés and his amiable wife, and all the officials of Le Consortium Breton, vied with each other in their kind attentions to their Celtic kinsmen, so that our memory of our visit will be lasting and inspiring.

All of us felt that the pan-Celtic idea is no mere empty phrase. It imparts a new interest, and gives a great setting to the special work of each of the Celtic com-

munities. There is a Celtic chair in the Breton University of Rennes. What about a special "Congress" of Celtic professors, to form of our traditions, ideals, and literary treasures, a kingdom of the mind, which might give to the world a racial culture of peculiar virtue, as an enriching and ennobling ingredient in our modern civilisation?

Le Vicomte de Saisy, working with practical idealism on the principle that, under the conditions of time and space, a *body* is indispensable to the existence of a *soul*, makes interesting suggestions as to an "Entente commerciale" between the various Celtic groups. This point is worthy of the attention of our experts in Economics. But now the way seems open for a closer communion of mind with mind, which is the enduring bond for a Celtic, as for any other nationalism. Says Renan: "To have the common possession of a rich heritage of memories, to have common glories in the past, to have done great things together, and to will to do the like again—these are

the essentials for a basis on which a national *idea* may be founded."

A record in "An Gàidheal" of the following list of the names of the Scottish delegates may one day be found interesting:—

Col. Gilbert Gunn, Mr. Iain Gunn, Capt. Wm. MacKay, Mrs. Wm. M'Kay, Mr. Alistair MacDonald, Mrs. Alistair MacDonald, Gaelic Society, Inverness.

Mr. Fred. T. MacLeod, Mrs. F. T. MacLeod, Royal Celtic Society; Mr. Calum Johnstone, Mr. D. G. MacLennan, Highland Pipers' Society; Miss Ramsay, Franco-Scottish Society; Mr. Moffat-Pender, Mrs. Moffat-Pender, Scottish Pipers' Society; Miss Buchanan, Miss H. M. Buchanan, Edinburgh.

Mrs. Christison, Mrs. Barron, Miss C. Colquhoun, Highlanders' Institute; Mr. Charles Campbell, Mrs. Charles Campbell, Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Mr. Neil Shaw, An Comunn Gàidhealach; Mrs. Angus Robertson, Miss Robertson, Miss Bertha Robertson, Glasgow.

Miss Muirhead, Scottish Home Rule Association, Bridge of Weir.

Miss MacLaurin, Scottish Home Rule Association, Stirling.

Miss Lamont of Knockdow, B.Sc., Secretary to the Scottish Delegation.



Mons. le Vicomte Jean de Saisy of Keranpuill, delivering, from the pedestal of an ancient "Calvary," an oration at the dedication of the five monuments to the bards.

## SGRIOS NAM PÌOCACH.

Bho AONAS MACAONAS, Croitear, Smearcleit,  
Uidhist-a-Chinn-a-Deas.

Sgrìobhta le ALASDAIR G. MACGILLE MHEICHEL,  
air an 13mh là de cheud mhios na bliadhna, 1865.

Bha ùidh aig Rìgh Coinneach cur as do na Pìocaich. Shuidhich e iomadh dòigh air an sgrìos, ach cha deachaidh leis. Bha a mhac domhain 'sa 'cheann, agus shuidhich esan agus an grèidhear dòigh chum an sgrìos, o'n a dh'fhàirtlich iad air a athair.

Agus b' i so an dòigh—"Falbh thusa," arsa Mac an Rìgh ris a' ghrèidhear, "agus abair ris an iasgair tòiseachadh air iasgach a' bhradain, agus feannadh-builg a dheanamh air a h-uile gin a gheabh e, agus na béin\* a thoirt chugam-sa."

Thug an grèidhear seachad an t-òrdugh a fhuair e, agus rinn an t-iasgair mar a shireadh air, agus thug e béin nam bradan gu cùramach a dh'ionnsuidh Mac an Rìgh. Rinn an sin Mac an Rìgh agus an grèidhear deise le béin nam bradan, agus bha an deise fuathasach iongantach.

Bha i coltach ris na lùirichean aigleanach, uallach (? dualach)† a bhitheadh air laoiach o shean, ri àm càth is comhraig. Ruigeadh i shuas gu mullach a' chinn, agus shìos gu sàil nam bonn! Bha laise is loinnearach soillese aiseid mar bhoillsgeadh bogha nan speur, is dhealradh i anns an òidheche dhùdarra gheamhraidh mar dhealan air beinn an fhéidh.

Chuir Rìgh Coinneach an sin fios a mach fad agus farsuing feadh Alba chun nan diucannan, iarlachan, agus tighearnan, tighinn a chumail cuirm agus cuideachd ris, mar onoir dha féin, agus mar thoileachadh dhaibh-san, aig feòbhas an treuntais agus an gaisge, ri linn bhì 'cur às do na Pìocaich.

Thàinig na h-urracha móra, agus rinneadh cuirm mhór, air an coinnimh.

Sgeadaich an grèidhear e fhéin anns an deise bhoisgeanta a rinneadh air béin nam bradan. An uair a bha na h-uaislean 'nan suidhe aig an dinneir, chaidh e chun uinneig an Rìgh, agus shéid e trompaid, agus ghlaodh e le guth àrd—

"A Rìgh Choinnich! sgrìos na Pìocaich! cuir às daibh! na fàg anam beò dhiubh! Is mise teachdaire a thàinig a nuas o neamh leis an teachdaireachd so chugad-sa, agus bithidh mi nis a' tilleadh a suas an taobh a thàinig mi."

## THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PICTS.

From ANGUS MACINNES, Crofter, of Smearcleit,  
South Uist.

Written by ALASDAIR G. CARMICHAEL, on the  
13th day of the first month of the year, 1865.

King Kenneth desired to extirpate the Picts. He devised many a plan to destroy them, but did not succeed. But his son was a man of deep reflection, and he and the griever contrived a way of destroying them, seeing they had baffled his father.

And this was the plan—"Go thou," said the King's Son to the griever, "and tell the fisherman to begin fishing for salmon. And every fish that he gets, he is to skin bag-wise, and bring the skins to me."

The griever delivered the order he received, and the fisherman did as he was asked, and with great care brought the skins of the salmon to the King's Son. Then the King's Son and the griever made a dress of the salmon-skins, and an awfully wonderful dress it was.

It was like unto the stately (? pleaded) coats of mail, hung with tassels, that heroes of old used to wear in the time of battle and combat. It reached as far up as the top of the head, and as far down as the heel of the foot! And it gave forth flashes, and a clearly-gleaming light like the refulgence of the heavenly bow, and it would glitter in the gloomy winter night like the lightning on the hill of the wild deer.

King Kenneth sent word far and wide throughout Scotland to the dukes, earls, and lords, to come and hold a feasting and assembly with him, as an honour to himself, and also to pleasure them, for their tremendous heroism and bravery would be very valuable, when the time came for destroying the Picts.

The great men came, and a very great feast was prepared in anticipation of their coming.

The griever dressed himself in the shining dress that had been made of the skins of the salmon. When the nobles were seated at dinner, he advanced to the King's window, blew a trumpet, and shouted with a loud voice—

"Oh, King Kenneth! destroy the Picts! exterminate them! leave not a soul of them alive! I am a messenger who has come down from heaven with this message to thee, and I will now ascend again, returning the way I came."

Sheall na h-uaislean air an Rìgh, agus air càch a chèile, agus sheall an Rìgh orra, ach cha d'thubhairt duine diog. Labhair an sin Mac an Rìgh, agus thubhairt e—

“Nach còir coimhead a mach feuch ciod e am fuath a tha'n sìod, no feuch ciod e is mathas da?”

“Is còir coimhead a mach, gu dearbh,” arsa na h-urracha móra.

An uair a shealladh a mach, bha an gréidhear a suas ri aghaidh na beinne mu choinneamh tigh an Rìgh. Dhearc iad air gus an deach e as an t-sealladh.

Thill iad an sin a stigh. “Tha sìod fìor gu leòir, a Rìgh Choinnich. Tha aingeal o neamh an sìod, gu beachdaidh. Tòisich thusa air na Pìocaich, agus bithidh sinne leat, agus chan fhàg sinn Pìocach beò an Albainn.”

Sgaoil na h-urracha móra dachaidh a chruinneachadh an cuid sluaigh agus airm. Thàinig iad a dh'ionnsuidh an Rìgh le an coisrìdh, le an eachraidh, agus le am marcraidh. Shìn iad fhéin agus an Rìgh an sin air na Pìocaich, gus nach d'fhàgadh Pìocach beò as an deaghaidh an Albainn.—Sin an sgrìos mu dheireadh a thugadh air na Pìocaich.

\* “bìain” in *An Gàidheal*, 1872.

† “uallach (? dualach).” So in *An Gàidheal*.—Aigileanach, gaudy, hung with tassels.

The foregoing was published in *An Gàidheal*, I., 266 (1872). It is interesting to find that there was once a Gaelic version of the fable of King Kenneth MacAlpine's extirpation of the Picts. Alasdair G. MacGille Mhicheil, who collected the tale in South Uist in 1865, is probably the late famous Dr. Alexander Carmichael of “*Carmina Gadelica*.”

The salmon was probably at one time, a god. It figures in many curious myths which have yet to be collected together. A gorgeous cloak made of salmon's skins was worn by an Irish hero, Mògh Nuadat. See Eugene O'Curry's *Battle of Magh Leana*, p. 39 (quoted *Proc. Royal Irish Acad.*, xxiv., C8, 147). In one of Campbell of Islay's stories (*West Highland Tales*, I., No. 40), a Scottish hero, with more than his fair share of invention and guile, and who had laid a wager with a bishop that he would kidnap him, procures a dress of salmon's skins in order to masquerade as a supernatural. He waits till evening, then puts on the dress, goes to the bishop's own church, ascends the pulpit, and preaches. In the course of his preaching, he denounces the bishop, whose person he wished to seize. The bishop comes in to listen. He evidently thinks the other is an angel or other messenger from heaven, for he takes to heart what is said to him, and kneels down to pray at the foot of the pulpit. The hero, still acting his part, says that if the bishop will promise sincere repentance, and go along with him, he will grant him forgiveness. The credulous, confiding bishop, consents, and is led to a stable. There the hero, who evidently possesses an exquisite taste in matters dramatic, continues his preaching, keeping the farce up till day comes; then the mask is taken off, the secrets of the prison-house are revealed, and the now infuriated bishop discovers he has lost the wager, and has been kidnapped.

J. G. McKay.

## BREAD AND BUTTER ARGUMENT.

The decline in Gaelic-speaking has been mainly symptomatic of a lack of spirit, of general interest, and of hope. The Gael has lost pride in himself—and no wonder! When he has won it back, I should venture to put two things to him:—(1) I, who am not a Gael, would have learned Gaelic long ere this had it been rationally phonetised, and had there been anyone to teach me. Why should he, whose language it is, and who is at the lug of the law, think it not

The nobles looked at the King, and at each other, and the King looked at them, but nobody said a word. Then spoke the King's Son, and said—

“Were it not as well to look out and see what sort of an apparition that is, or what sort of magic he has?”

“Yes, it certainly was as well to look out,” said the great folks.

When they looked out, the grievance had got some way up in the face of the hill that was opposite the King's house. They gazed at him, until he went out of sight.

Then they returned into the house. “It is true enough, Oh King Kenneth. That was an angel from heaven, most assuredly. Commence operations against the Picts, and we will be with thee, and we will not leave a Pict alive in Scotland.”

The great men dispersed to their homes to gather their people and arms together. They returned to the King again with their foot soldiers, their horses, and their riders. Then they and the King fell upon the Picts, until not a living Pict was left in Scotland to survive them.—That was the last onslaught ever wreaked upon the Picts.

worth learning? (2) He has to work for his living, and Gaelic does not mean extra wages. I have worked for my living since I was a boy, and I have learned three foreign languages, not to add to my income (I never made a penny out of them), but to add to my spiritual enjoyment. Does Gaelic literature afford none, or is the young Gael of to-day incapable of it? Such questions may arouse indignation. They are meant to do so. I hope we shall hear less in future of this bread-and-butter argument against Gaelic.—*William Power* in “*The Scots Observer*.”

## SOP AS GACH SEID.

"Welsh in Education and Life" is the title of the Report of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education, appointed to "inquire into the position of the Welsh language, and to advise as to its promotion in the educational system of Wales." The summary of recommendations include a chapter on the teaching of Welsh in the Boards; "suggestions for the consideration of teachers"; a grant of £500 (public money) for publication of text books for schools, and another grant for university text books; increase in the teaching staff in the Welsh Department of universities; courses of Welsh for teachers, and Welsh to be the medium of instruction wherever possible in training colleges; the mother tongue to be the sole medium of instruction in infant schools; religious instruction, history, nature study, hygiene, and domestic science to be given in Welsh in Welsh-speaking districts; in the law courts, a statutory form of oath and affirmation in Welsh. There are seventy-two recommendations, including all branches.

\* \* \*

The September number of that excellent new magazine, "Le Consortium Breton" (100pp.), comes to hand, giving a detailed account of the recent Festival in Brittany. On the opening day at Riec there was an audience of 15,000. The procession through Riec is headed by three Scottish delegates, "En tête, marchent les bagpipers d'Écosse (M. M. Moffat-Pender, Neil Shaw, et Malcolm Johnston), précédant leur délegation." There is an enumeration of druids, bards, and ovates. Sessions of congress, banquets, and celebrations were carried through with dignity. In the illustrations Scotland gets much honour. In one the Scottish pipers and delegates appear to advantage; and in another the Comunn is honoured in that our capable and popular secretary is privileged to stand with druids on the great druid stone, and to address the vast audience in the name of Scotland. The Celts of Brittany have right royally returned the warm reception which the four gentlemen from Brittany experienced in Scotland lately.

## "VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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

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## NEW MEMBERS.

## ORDINARY.

Miss Flora MacDonald, Glasgow.  
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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A Special Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Friday, 16th September, to consider the allocation of the Great Feill surplus. The following members were present:—J. R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, Campbeltown; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Miss Mary Ferguson, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; D. MacCallum, High School Ceilidh; John MacDonald, Glasgow; Peter MacDougall, Ceilidh nan Gaidheal; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; William MacKenzie, Ceilidh Gaidheil Ghrianaig; Ben B. MacKinnon, Helensburgh; Donald MacLean, Clan MacLean Association; Malcolm MacLeod, Ibrox; Norman MacLeod, Cardonald; Rev. T. S. MacPherson, Campbeltown; Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearanbeg; Peter Macrae, Clan Macrae Association; Iain M. Moffatt Pender, Lewis Branch; Angus Robertson, president; Neil Shaw, secretary; D. B. Dixon and George Mackay for the treasurer. Mr. Angus Robertson, president, occupied the chair.

The minutes of Special Committee (Finance Committee, plus Conveners of other Committees) meetings held on 29th July and 16th September were submitted. The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows:—

The Treasurer submitted figures showing that the average annual deficiency in the accounts of An Comunn from 1920 to 1927 had been £190, and that the net proceeds from the Feill to date amounted to £2668. On the basis of the present expenditure, and making allowance for the deficit on the magazine being reduced by, say, £50 per annum, it would be necessary, in order to provide for this deficiency, and for contemplated increase in the office expenditure, to "fund" a sum of £5000. This would leave a balance of at least £3500 to meet the cost of the additional work it might be resolved to embark upon. After long and careful consideration, it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the sum of £5000 be added to the Endowment Fund of An Comunn, and that the balance of, say, £3500, be invested in such securities as would permit of realisation at short notice, in order that it might be available, as regards capital and revenue, for the immediate extension of An

Comunn's operations. It was pointed out that this sum might be annually added to, and that substantially, if the intention to hold balls in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow each year, in aid of An Comunn funds, were carried out, as there were some reason to believe they would.

With reference to the new work which An Comunn should undertake, the Committee recommend that the appropriate Committees be asked to consider the following among other subjects, and make definite recommendations with regard to them, accompanied by estimates of the approximate expenditure involved, viz.:—The organisation of additional Provincial Mods; the appointment of additional teachers of singing; provision for the more frequent visitation of branches; the revival of the Summer School for Gaelic; the organisation of Local Home Industries, and the organising of efforts to secure the election of members sympathetic to Gaelic to the Education Authorities of the Highland counties.

The Committee, after full consideration, were of opinion that the augmented Feill Trust funds should be managed from An Comunn headquarters, and by An Comunn treasurer.

These recommendations, after discussion, were unanimously approved.

After the special business of the meeting was transacted, an informal conference took place, in the course of which interesting and valuable suggestions were made as to the lines on which future activities of An Comunn should be developed.

## CAISTEAL DOILLEIR.

Thachair dhomh a bhith a' siubhal, bho chionn còrr agus trì fichead bliadhna, gu deas gu Dun-éideann. B'e meadhon a' gheamhraidh a bha ann, agus tha cuimhne agam gu robh an sneachd air an talamh, a' bhliadhna sin, bho thoiseach na Dùdhlachd gu Latha Féill Padruig, agus gu robh na h-aibhnichean air feadh na Gàidhealtachd air an casgadh suas le deigh eadhon gu ruig a' mhuir. Ach cha bhuin so do na tha mi a' dol a thoirt seachd idir, ach dreach a dh'innseadh dhuibh gur ann aig an am sin, air oidheche shoilleir, ghl na galaich làine, a fhuair mi na sgeulachdan a leanas.

Bha sean charaid do m'athair a' gabhail còmhnuidh air slios nam beann sin air a bheil Beanntan Uchdall, eadar Sruibhle agus Peairt. Ged nach eil na beanntan sin

anabarrach àrd tha iad farsuing agus tha iad corrach, agus is iomadh bealach anorach a tha 'gan gearradh. Is ann air enoc fearach làimh ri seana Chaisteal Dòilleir a bha an tigh aig caraid m'athar. B'è aoghaire a bha ann, agus bha na coraich a bha air a chùram ag ionaltradh thairis air monaidhean nam beann gu léir, agus air an dòigh so bha e mion-còlach air gach earrainn nan crìochan.

Thug mi mo shlighe a' mach, air an latha àraidh so, a chum agus gum bithinn dlùth do an aite-tàimh so an uair a dhorchaich-eadh an oidhche dhomh. Ghabh mi an rathad seachad air a' Chraoibh agus troimh Ghleann nan Iolairean agus an sin thug mi am bealach sin orm anns a bheil Tobar na Maighdinn, air an cluinn sibh iomradh gu h-aithghearr.

Bha an sean duine 'na sheanchaidh fìor mhaith. Bha mi sgìth gu leòir an uair a ràinig mi an tigh aige, ach cha b'fhada a mhair an sgiòs. Bha an trìùir againn (esan, bean-an-tighe agus mi fhéin) 'nar suidhe air beulaibh a' ghealbhain agus bha am biadh air chur seachad.

Bha uair ann (a deir mo sheana charaid caomh, agus chì mi fhathast e—a' shùilean gorma agus a' fheusag fhada, gheal a' glacadh an t-soluis bho an teine—agus 'nan laighe aig a chasan an dà chù dhileas aige—Peallagach agus Molach) an uair a bha an sean chaisteal shìos 'na àite mòr. Bha e 'na dhaingeann ainmeil 'na latha. Glé thrìc, an uair a tha mi fhéin agus na coin a' siubhal a' mhonaidh, cuiridh mi iomadh dealbhaidh an céil mu a dhéidhinn—oir tha eachdraidh ann a bhùneas da. Bha Eideard Brùs an so mu 'n deachaidh e gu Sruibhle gu coinne a thoirt do a bhràthair an uair a chuir iad an cath le buaidh air a' bhàl allaidh sin, Allt a' Bhonnaich. Tha e air aithris gun d' fhàgadh mòran nithean luachmhor anns an daingeann. Bha beagan sluaigh air am fàgail ann cuideachd, ach b' iad boirionnaich agus fìor shean daoine a mhàin, oir bha gach uile duine làidir air falbh am feachd an rìgh. O! nach fhaic sibh am prasan beag so air an fheasgar-shamhraidh aig deireadh an Og-mhìos—nach fhaic sibh iad uile cruinn le chéile air mullach a' chaisteil—a' geur-rannsachadh machraichean an t-sratha a dh' fheuchainn am faic iad manadh sam bith a bheir dhoibh naidheachd a Sruibhle—agus a rithist a' togail an sùl chum nam beann, ag aslachadh orra gu cabhair a thoirt do na fr-chogaidh agus treòir dhoibh fhéin? Agus is ann bho na beanntan a fhuair iad smùid gairdeachais na

buaidh mòire! Bha gathan deireadh na gréine fhathast a' tighinn thairis air guala na beinne sin air a bheil Cathair an Rìgh an uair a chuala agus a chunnaic iad dithist sean aoghaire a' cròmadh 'nan cabhaig dhealasaich do an ionnsuigh—a' glaothaich a mach le aighear agus a' nìreadh an cuid cromag ri speur. Bha an dithist so air bhith an mullach Beinn Chluaidh fad an latha, oir chithear as a' bheinn so Cars Shruibhle agus farsuingeachd na dùthcha mu'n cuairt. Bho am éirigh na gréine dh' fhan iad ann; agus a nis, le caithream àrd agus iolaichean lean iad an sean chasan a nuas—bu choingeis leo am feasgar so suil-chrìtheach a' bhoglaich no clachan geura a' gharbhaich! Tuigidh muinntir a' chaisteil a nis gun deachaidh an latha leis a' Bhrùsach agus togar am buidheachas ri nìamh. Agus air an am cheudna chunnacas deàrsadh ann agus gluasad shìos anns an t-srath agus chunnaic iad buidheann mharcaich a' dol seachad 'nan deann-ruith, a' dèanamh airson na h-airde-an-ear—agus cuirear iad a rithist, car tamuill, fo iomagain mhóir. Ach am feadh agus a tha iad a' dearcadh shìos thàinig marcaich eile anns an t-sealladh. Bha e 'na anor, agus bha e a' tighinn a nìos do an ionnsuigh a nall air ruigh a' mhonaidh. Agus is ann an sin a chaidh nighean uasal Fear a' Chaisteil a mach g' a choinneachadh agus chruinnich iad uile mu 'n cuairt dha. Agus chuir nighean Fear a' Chaisteil a làmh air muineal an eich agus thredraich i a steach do an chùirt e. An sin leig am marcaich an naidheachd aige fa sgaol agus bha e air a' urachadh le rogha gach bìdh agus dibhe. Is ann mar so a fhuair iad-san anns a' chaisteal an so an sgeul mu bhuaidh mhóir a' Bhrùis aig Allt a' Bhonnaich!

Chan 'eil fhios agam cò bu leis an Caisteal agus am fearann so an toiseach, ach ghabh na Caimebhaich seilbh air mu mheadhon na còigeamh-linn-deug. Cha chreid mi nach b' e Cailean Mòr, ceud Iarla Earraghaidheal, a gabh air tùs e, a chum agus gum biodh e na b' fhaigse air Dun-éideann agus Sruibhle agus Peairt an uair a bhiodh eireachdas rìgh agus uaislean na h-Alba a' tighinn ri chéile. Bha mac, air an robh Cailean Donn, aig Cailean Mòr, agus tha sgeul ann mu a dhéidhinn.

Bu ghille laghach e. Cha robh e 'na dhuine ro mhóir 'na chom, ach bha e làidir agus luath thar chàich. A nis, a' gabhail còmhnuidh air chùl nan Uchdall bha teaghlach uasal eile. Bha caisteal aca-san

cuideachd. Is ann am measg choilltean brègha agus ri taobh aibhne a sheas e. Ma ta, anns a' chaisteal so bha nighean ro àluinn a' fuireach. B' e a bu ainm dhi Màiri Nic Artair, no, mar theireadh iad rithe, Màiri nan Seachd Gràs.

Bha Cailean Donn agus Màiri air bhith eòlach air a chéile bho laithean an òige. Bu tric a thachair iad air a chéile aig na caisteil aca fhéin agus aig na tighean móra mu 'n cuairt. Bu tric, mar an ceudna, anns a' bheinn. Aig an danns cha robh càraid na b' eutruime no na b' eireachdaile na an dithist so, agus ré iomadh linn, nam biodh neach airidh air moladh airson luathais-choise no cliseachd, theireadh gu robh esan no ise "cho clis ri eun—agus ri Cailean Donn agus Màiri!"

Ach chaidh na laithean seachad—

Agus aon latha grianach bha Cailean Donn a muigh air a' mhonadh leis fhéin. Bha am foghar ann, agus bha na guilbnich ag itealaich gu deas. (Tha mi a' tuigsinn gun toir feadhainn diùb an Spinnt agus Morocco orra gach bliadhna roimh theachd a' gheamhraidh.) Mu thràth feasgair bha Cailean a' leigeil a analach. Bha e 'na shuidhe dìreach os cionn a' bhealaich sin troimh an d' thàinig thu fhéin an diugh, agus bha e a' gabhail beachd air na h-eòin neònach ag éirigh air an sgiathan agus a' cur an gairm dhìubh, agus shaoil leis gum bu chaomh leis fhéin a bhith a' triall air falbh 'nan déidh—an uair a chunnaic e Màiri agus duine maille rithe a' maracadh troimh an bhealach.

Mhòthaich Cailean agus Màiri do a chéile, agus tharruing Cailean suas ri.

"A Chailein," ghlaoth Màiri ris, am feadh a bha e fhathast astar beag uaipe, "bha sinn dìreach a' maracadh do Chaisteal Doilleir gu d' fhaicinn—tha nì àraidh agam ri ràdh riut."

"Seadh, a Mhàiri, m' aon deo-gréine as bòidheche!" arsa Cailean, ach cha do leig e air gun cuala e a' chuid mu dheireadh. "Tha mi air bhith ag amharc air na guilbnich—cha bu mhisde leam a bhith falbh gu deas air an lorg. Cha chreid mi nach gabh mi an t-slighe aca gus na dùthchannan céin latha-eigin!"

"Ma ghabhas, gu robh àgh an fhùr-thuruis ort-sa!" fhreagair Màiri. An sin ruadhach a gruaidhean, agus thuirt i gu cabhagach agus le spàirn, "So Oighe nan Atholach, a Chailein, agus tha e an déidh mo làmh 'iarraidh."

Bha dùil aig Cailean ris an naidheachd, ach bha na facail gathach.

"A bheil e ag iarraidh do phòsadh, a Mhàiri?"

"Tha."

"Ach b' ann air mo shon fhéin a bha thu, nach b' ann, a Mhàiri nan Seachd Gràs?"

"Cha b' ann idir—cha do dh' iarr thu riamh mi."

"Nach do dh' iarr?" arsa Cailean, agus an fhearg 'ga ghabhail, "Ma ta, tha mi 'gad iarraidh a nis. Feumaidh Oighe nan Atholach a bhith a' còthachadh rium-sa airson na làimhe agad."

"Is mise a tha deas," arsa an t-Atholach agus mu 'n robh an tuilleadh seanchais eatorra bha e bhàrr an eich aige. Nochd gach fear a chlaidheamh agus chaidh iad an còmhrag a chéile.

A nis, b' ann air a' cheart reidhlean bhacg sin ri taobh an tobair a chunnaic thu anns a' bhealach a bha iad. Bha a' ghrian fhathast a' deàradh air fear fada a' mhonaidh àrd, ach bha iad-san ann a' bhealach an sgàil nan creag.

Agus bha Cailean 'na bhasbaire còir, mar a bha e toèrn air gach fear-ghleus eile, agus gu luath thug Màiri an aire do chor bochd an Atholach, oir bha e ro shoilleir gun esan a bhiodh an iochdar. Agus eadar dà shàthadh, le stùil a thug Cailean air Màiri, mhòthaich e gu robh i làn imecheist agus an anail 'san uchd aice, agus bha e a' tuigsinn an sin gu robh cridhe Màiri a' dol a mach do an fhear eile agus nach e fhéin roghainn a cridhe a bhiodh an uachdar.

An sin dh' atharraich a fhearg agus a mhiann, agus, air dhòigh agus nach cuireadh Màiri no an t-Atholach umhail air a chleas, dh' iomair e droch cluich agus chuir e e fhéin air an-shocair agus fo chumhachd an Atholach. Agus air dha a bhith air a bhualadh air a ghuailainn, agus an fhuil 'ga nochdadh fhéin, thairg e a chlaidheamh do an fhear eile agus thog e air gu uaigneas a' mhonaidh.

Chaidh e gu deas—chaidh e thairis, air falbh "an déidh nan guilbneach," mar a ghairm iad air.

Thill e an ceann beagan bhliadhnaichean agus dh' fhuirich e maille ri a mhàthair chaoimh anns an t-sean chaisteal, agus tha iomradh Chailein anns an eachdraidh—oir choisinn e cliù do a chinneadh leis a' bhàs ghlòr-mhor a fhuair e aig FLODDEN.

Agus gus an diugh fhéin theirear "Tobar na Maighdinn" ris an fhuaran anns a' bhealach.

Ach air a' Chaisteal thàinig an dà latha. Is ann air a bhliadhna sin a bha



MONTROSE Mór a falbh air feadh na h-Albann agus a' faighinn buaidh air a naimhdean anns gach àite. Chuir e an ruag orra anns an taobh tuath, agus thàinig e mu dheas. Agus bha fhios aca anns a' chaisteal an so gu robh an uair ann, agus gum b' éiginn doibh theicheadh no gheill-eadh, oir ré na h-oidheche an raob bha an speur dearg o lasraichean na créiche. Bha na bailtean beaga troimh an d' thàinig an t-arm aig MONTROSE 'nan teine. Ged a bha dòrlach maith de mo shìnsirean fhéin fo an cheannard mhór sin feumaidh nì 'aideachadh gum b' uamhasach a chreach na daoine aige.

Tràth 'sa' mhaduinn ràinig buidheann mharcach fo OGILVIE Og, Mac Iarla AIRLIE, an Caisteal. B' ann thar a' mhonaidh a thàinig iad, agus bha iad air thoiseach air an fheachd fhóir. Fad an latha thug iad ionnsuigh an déidh ionnsuigh air an t-sean aitreibh. Bha an doras agus na ballachan cho làidir agus nach d' thug iad feacadh asda. Ach dlùth air feasgar fhuair iad a steach. Lóisgeadh an doras mór mu dheireadh, agus cha b' fhada an sin gus an robh an t-àite uile 'na theine.

Bha OGILVIE a shuas air a' chnoc so fhéin, 'na sheasamh ri taobh a eich. Bha e a' coimhead a null air obair an latha, agus dh' éirich na lasraichean na b' àirde agus na b' àirde air ballachan a' chaisteil. Bha a chuid daoine a' tionail mu 'n cuairt dha, agus a' dèanamh deas gu bhith anns an diollaid a rithist, oir bha an latha a' falbh agus bha an oidheche a' tighinn. Fa dheòidh bha iad uile air teachd a nios.

"A bheil muinntir a' chaisteil uile sàbhailte?" dh'fheòraich OGILVIE de a oigfeach.

"Tha, le bhur cead," fhreagair esan, "tha iad uile le chéile thall an sin—gach neach air leth ach aon nighean nach gluaisheadh a mach as."

"Cò ise?" dh'fheòraich OGILVIE.

"Tha iad ag ràdh, a Mhòraire, le bhur cead, gur i nighean bhràthair Earraighaidheal fhéin a tha innte—a' bhain-tighearna Ealasaid Caimbeul—"

"C' àite a bheil i?"

"Thuirte cailleach a bha 'na nuime dhi nach b' urrainn do mhuintir a' chaisteil a thoirt oirre gluasad—gur ann le a deòin féin a tha i a' fuireach an sin—ghlas i i féin anns an t-seòmair as àirde—sin agaibh i— a Mhór-aire—" arsa an t-oigfeach gu bras, agus e a' dearcadh a null gu geur air an togail, "nach fhaic sibh falt buidhe a cinn chruim troimh an uinneig as àirde?"

"An ainm Dhé—nach prasgan oillteil a dh' fhàgadh an sin i?" ghlaodh OGILVIE a mach. Le leum bha e air muin an eich—a sios do 'n allt agus a suas do dhùn a' chaisteil ghabh e fhéin agus an t-each 'nan deanruth—an sin troimh lasraichean an doruis mhóir—le facal cùin 'na chluais fàgar an t-each maith anns a' chùirt—an tiota bha OGILVIE aig doras an t-seòmair a b' àirde—bhris e troimhe leis an tuagh-chogaidh aige—glacair a' mhaighdean agus beirair a nuas 'na paiseanadh i—na lasraichean agus an deathach 'gan cuairt-eachadh—ach ruigear a' chùirt agus an t-each dileas—tìlgear a' mhaighdean thairis air a nuhin agus le a làimh fhéin air an t-srèin bheir OGILVIE aon gharbh-ionnsuigh eile troimh an doras mhór agus tha iad a muigh—

Fhuaradh a mach gu robh a' bhain-tighearna òg a' gabhail tàimh fo bhron leatha fhéin a chionn gu deachaidh fear a cridhe a mharbhadh beagan mhiosan roimhe aig Inbhir Lòchaidh, agus an uair a chunnaic i gu robh naimhdean a cinn-fheadhna an so cuideachd bha a' bheatha so gun tuille tlachd dhi. Ach is e an rud a thachair nach robh a laithean seachd fhathast—oir thàinig i chuige ri h-uine—agus ri h-uine cuideachd fhuair fear eile àite 'na cridhe—agus an uair a thàinig sìth chum na dùtchea a rithist, O! b' ann an sin a bha am pòsadh mór! Leis an so bha an dà theaghlach mhór sin, na Caimbeulaich agus muinntir AIRLIE—a bha cho fada 'nan naimhdean treuna—air an ceangal ri chéile.

O! feumaidh sinn uile a bhith ag obair airson sìthe—oir an uair a chi mi ceò a' mhonaidh ag iadhadh mu làrach a' chaisteil, mar a bha e an latha uamharr sin—agus na lasraichean agus an deathach a' coimh-measgadh le chéile leis, 'nan clearcuibh fiadhaich—is ann a lionar mo chridhe le oillt—"Saoileam nach e so," thair mi rium fhéin, "crioch àraidh an duine."

Chan e! chan e!

Ach dh' atharraich na h-amannan agus laithean na comh-strì. Feumaidh sinn ceud bliadhna a leigeil seachad agus an sin bitidh sgeul nodha againn.

Bha balach aon latha ris a' bhuaich-aillcachd a muigh air a' mhonaidh os a chionn so. Bu latha fuar, fiadhaich e—gaillonnach agus gaibheach—b' ann air éiginn a b' urrainn do an bhalach a bhith 'na sheasamh an aghaidh an t-sneachda ghlibeal a thàinig air an craos na gaoithe tuaithe. Bha a làmh an ag aingealachd leis

an fhuachd—bha iad cho goirt agus gun d' thàinig na deòir 'na shùilean. Dh' iarr e fàsghadh am fròg chreige air chùl cuithe móire. Chuir e a làmh an am fionnadh a' choin aige a shnaig a steach maile ois.

"A choin bhig, dhilleis," arsa am balach, "carson a tha sinn an so 'nar n-éiginn? Carson a tha bochdainn air an t-saoghal—agus sinn air ar sàrachadh air a leithid so de dhòigh—?" Thug e fàidse as a phòcaid agus roinn e ris a' chù e. Uidh air n-uidh bha a thapaidheachd a' tighinn air a h-ais chuige. Shìos fodha chunnac e plathadh de an t-sean chaisteal ghlas, agus thòisich e air smuaineachadh air eachdraidh an àite. Agus chuir sin "na chuimhne smuaintean air JOHN KNOX. "Bha JOHN KNOX mór an sin," thuir an gille ris fhéin, "agus nach b' esan a thubhairt 'Bitheadh foghlum anns an tìr so—bitheadh foghlum air a chraobh-sgoileadh air feadh gach ceàrn de 'n rìoghachd,' " agus leis an sin dh' éirich e; bha a ghruaidhean ros-dhearg an aghaidh an t-sneachda. Cha robh a fhiaclan a' snagartach leis an fhuachd a nis; 'na intinn bha sealladh mór, farsuing. . . .

Ràinig e dachaidh aig beul na h-oidhche. An uair a bha a mhàthair, a phiuthar agus a bhràithrean 'nan suidhe mu 'n cuairt air a' chagailt anns an tigh bhochd aca bha Iain Mac an Abba, oir b' e sin a bu ainm do an ghille, ag uidheamachadh a chuid treal-aich. An sin dhùthaich e ri taobh a mhàthar, agus thuir e.

"A mhàthair, mo ghràdh, tha mi a' dol a mach do an t-saoghal. Thoir do chead dhomh. Feumaidh mi a bhith a' dèanamh rud-eigin airson cor nam bochd. Bheir mi an rathad mór orm anns a' mhadaunn."

Agus cha do bhac a mhàthair e, agus anns a' mhadaunn dh' fhalbh e. Dh' imich e cas-risgte a h-uile ceun gu Lunnainn. B' ann air-san, gu dearbh, a bha àgh an fhìr-thuruis, oir, mu 'n d' thàinig a laithean gu crìch, cha chumadh Poll Mór na h-Aibhne aig Drochaid Lunnainn leth a chuid loingeis. Agus dh' fhàg e mar dhilib aig muinntir na dùthcha so an saobhreas mór aige—a chum agus gun rachadh sgoil a thogail anns am biodh beannachdan foghlum air an taingeadh do an chloinn an fad agus am fagus. Agus ch' thu anns an t-srath an sgoil mhór, uasal. Nach e latha mór a bha ann airson an t-sluaigh an uair a bha Iain bochd agus an cù aige air am meileachadh anns an t-sneachd—agus an uair a chuimhnic e air na faicil. "Bitheadh foghlum anns an tìr." O! nach b' e JOHN KNOX an gaisgeach mór! Agus a nis, mu 'n toir sinn ar leaba oirnn, aithrisidh mi d'reach a h-aon tuilleadh

dhuibh. Thàinig an dealbh so chugam aon latha 'san fhoghar bho chionn thrì no cheithir mìosan. Bha Molach agus Peallagach agus mi fhéin air bhith an dèidh coraich a chaidh air chall. Fhuair sinn shuas ann an còire creagach i. Chaidh a cas a bhristeadh gu dona. Ach bha i tapaidh, agus bha gean maith oirre—cha bu bheag oirre ar faicinn, cò dhiùbh, agus bha foighidinn mhòr aice ruinn am feadh agus a bha sinn 'ga cur ceart. Tha i crùbach fhathast, ach chan eagal dhì—tha i air a dòigh leis an dà chù so—agus an uair a thachras iad air a chéile bithidh gnè de chòmhradh eatorra—mar gun biodh na coin ag ràdh rithe "'cia mar tha thu an diugh?'" Ach cia cho tric, mar a shaoil leam, agus a ch' linn gur iad an fheadhainn chrùbach 'nar meas fhéin mar an ceudna a tha cho tapaidh—agus air a bheil an grinneas—agus a sheallas foighidinn do an comh-chreutairean—agus a bheil a h-uiread de sholus a mach dhuinn. Is ann mar sin a bha duine àrd, liath a thàinig do an chaisteal aon latha anns an t-Sùltuine, anns a' bhliadhna ochd ceud deug agus a naoi-deug. Bha esan crùbach da-rìreadh. Thàinig beagan chairdean còmhla ris. Nach fhaic sinn e a' bruidhinn riù air mullach an arois aosda—agus iad-san ag éisdeachd ris le deagh aire! Tha e a' cur an cèill doibh luach an àite mar dhangeann, agus ag innseadh dhoibh beagan de a eachdraidh. An sin innisidh e dhoibh ainmean nam beann, nan srath agus nam bailtean a chithear bhuaithe. Is ann an uair a tha e a' gluasad a ch' linn gu bheil ceum crùbach ann, ach ch' linn mar an ceudna cho solusach, deàlrach agus a tha a ghnùis—agus gheibhear aoibhneas agus subhachas an cèil a ghutha.

An sin thèid iad uile sìos—thèid iad uile ach e fhéin. Fuirichidh e beagan air deireadh chum agus gun faigh e aon sealladh fhathast air na tha mu 'n cuairt. Anhaicidh e a rithist a null do ionnsuigh Dun-éideann—do ionnsuigh baile a ghràidh. A rithist togaidh e a shùilean ris na beanntan. . . . Mar a tha e a' tionndadh air falbh bheil e a chomhdach-cinn deth. Tha a' ghrìan a' dol fodha, agus tha bathais àrd an duine air a lasadh suas leis an t-solus nèamhaidh. Tha dòl fodha na gréine anns an fhoghar cho iongantach!

Is aobhar ioghnaidh leam nach do sgrìobh SCOTT—oir is e SCOTT a bha ann—sgeul nìu Chaisteal Doilleir, ach cho fad agus is fìosrach dhomh cha d' thug e iomradh air riamh.

IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

## LORN, MULL, AND MORVEN PROVINCIAL MOD.

Under the auspices of Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain, Lorn, Mull, and Morven Provincial Mod was held at Oban on 9th September. With one or two exceptions, entries in the literary, oral, solo, and choral competitions were well up to the figures of former years. The competitions, which were held in the Argyll Square U.F. Church Hall and in the Masonic Hall, Albany Street, were well attended throughout the day, and the arrangements were carried out without a hitch. These were made by a Committee under the presidency of Mr. D. MacGregor Whyte, Oban, with Miss MacDougall treasurer, and Mr. D. MacCorquodale secretary.

The adjudicators, whose decisions were, without exception, well received, were:—Literature—Rev. C. MacPherson, M.A., Ballachulish, and Mr. D. MacPherson, M.A., Appin. Oral Delivery—Rev. G. Mackenzie, B.D., Kilmore, and Mr. A. Munn, Oban. Recitation—Rev. A. Macdonald, M.A., Ardhattan, and Mr. P. Fletcher, Oban. Vocal Music—Junior—Mrs. C. Christison, Glasgow, and Mr. A. MacNeill, Connel; Senior—Rev. H. Cameron, Oban, and Mr. A. M. Henderson, Glasgow.

Competition throughout was remarkably keen, especially in the choral singing classes, where three choirs competed for the Lorn, Mull, and Morven Provincial Mod Trophy. The supreme honour was won by Toberonochy Gaelic Choir.

### THE PRIZE LIST.

#### LITERATURE.

Letter on any subject appertaining to the districts in which competitors reside—1, Donald A. Kennedy, Cornaigmore H.G. School, Tiree; 2, Duncan Macneil, do.; 3, Peggy MacLachlan, Drimnin; 4, Mary Macmaster, Drimnin.

Translation of a piece of Gaelic Prose into English—1, Donald A. Kennedy; 2, Mary Macmaster; 3, Donald Kennedy, Cornaigmore H.G. School; 4, Charlotte Lamont, do.

Translation of English into Gaelic—1, Donald A. Kennedy; 2, Mary Macmaster; 3, Donald Kennedy.

#### ORAL DELIVERY.

##### Junior.

Poetry Reading—1, Mary Macmaster; 2, Alex. Duncan MacLachlan, Drimnin; 3, Dolina MacLean, do.

Prose Reading—1, Mary Macmaster; 2, Peggy MacLachlan; 3, Lizzie MacNiven, Lochawe.

Sight Reading—1, Mary Macmaster; 2, Peggy MacLachlan; 3, Lizzie MacNiven.

Gaelic Conversation—1, Peggy MacLachlan; 2, Mary Macmaster; 3, John Macmaster, Drimnin.

Narrative—1, Mary Macmaster and Peggy MacLachlan (equal); 3, Lizzie MacNiven.

Reciting from Memory—1, Jeannie MacKay, Luing; 2, Mary Macmaster; 3, Collina C. MacKillop, Oban.

##### Senior.

Reading at Sight—Miss Mary MacIntyre, Auchnacraig, Mull.

Recitation—Miss Mary MacIntyre; 2, Miss Chris. S. MacColl, Balvicar.

#### VOCAL MUSIC.

##### Junior.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Lily MacPhail, Luing; 2, Katie MacCormick, do.; 3, Annie Frew, Glencoe. Boys—1, Ian D. MacCallum (a pupil of Mrs Scott, Barcaldine, Ledaig); 2, Ian MacGilvray, Connel; 3, Douglas MacKenzie, Drimnin. Boys and Girls—1, Katie MacCormick; 2, Lily MacPhail; 3, Annie Frew.

Duet Singing—1, Margaret MacLellan and Annie MacPhail, Luing; 2, Collina C. MacKillop and Neil MacLeod, Oban.

Choral Singing in Two-part Harmony—Luing Junior Gaelic Choir.

Unison Singing—Luing Junior Gaelic Choir.

##### Senior.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—1, Miss C. Lamont, Pennycross; 2, Miss F. MacDonald, Pennyghael; 3, Miss Chris. S. MacColl, Balvicar. Male Voices—1, Duncan MacColl, Ballachulish; 2, James Bisset, Glencoe; 3, Dugald MacQuarrie, Toberonochy, and Hugh MacInnes, Duror (equal). Male or Female Voices—1, Duncan MacColl; 2, Miss C. Lamont; 3, Miss F. MacDonald.

Duet Singing—Miss K. MacPherson, Tiroran, and Miss C. Lamont, Pennycross.

Choral Singing of a prescribed Song in Harmony—1, Toberonochy Gaelic Choir; 2, Pennyghael Gaelic Choir; 3, Cullipool Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Harmony—1, and Winners of the Lorn, Mull, and Morven Provincial Mod Trophy, Toberonochy Gaelic Choir; 2, Cullipool Gaelic Choir; 3, Pennyghael Gaelic Choir.

### THE EVENING CONCERT.

The Parish Church Hall, Glencruitten Road, was taxed to its utmost capacity at the concert held in the evening. An excellently varied programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, assisted by the well-known vocalists, Miss Mary Campbell, Easdale, and Mr. Charles MacColl, Ballachulish, both of whom are Mod medallists.

The chair was occupied by the Captain of Dunstaffnage, who gave an inspiring and interesting address.

## SUTHERLAND PROVINCIAL MOD.

The third Sutherland Provincial Mod was held at Lairg on 9th September. The entries were in excess of last year, a gratifying feature being the large number of children taking part in the oral section. There is a steady improvement in the singing, and it was particularly noticeable in the performances of the senior choirs. For the first time their pieces were rendered in four-part harmony, and the results attained reflect great credit on their teachers.

The local Committee are to be congratulated on the success of the Mod. Mr. Angus MacNeill, secretary, and Mr. Alex. MacKintosh, treasurer, gave of their time and experience, and the splendid results are in a large measure due to their enthusiasm and business abilities.

The judges were:—Gaelic—Rev. Dr. Mackay, Killin; Rev. R. L. Ritchie, Creich; Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Glasgow, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow. Music—Mr. Robert M'Leod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh, and Mr. Roderick M'Leod, Inverness. Bagpipe music—Pipe-Major J. Macdonald, Scots Guards, and Pipe-Major Macdonald, Lovat Scouts.

The following is the 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, Cathie M'Donald, Laird; 2, Bessie Stewart, Durness; 3, Bella Sutherland, Durness.

Reciting from memory "Latha anns a' Ghleann"—1, Cathie M'Donald, Laird; 2, Bessie Stewart, Durness; 3, Bella Murray, Farr.

For excellence in Gaelic conversation (between Judge and Competitor)—1, John M'Leod, Kinlochbervie (Sutherland Technical School, Golspie).

##### VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song—Girls—1, Jessie Campbell, Durness; 2, Ella Ross, Embo; 3, Grace Munro, Tongue; 4, Margaret Robertson, Rogart.

Solo Singing of a Song—Boys—1, John Angus Morrison, Durness; 2, Thomas Ross, Embo.

Solo Singing—Girls and Boys—Song composed by Local Bard of the District—1, John Angus Morrison, Durness.

Duet Singing of a Song chosen by the Competitors—1, Jessie Campbell and John Angus Morrison, Durness; 2, Rhoda Matheson and Florence White, Scourie.

Choral Singing in Two-part Harmony of "Cronan" and "Mo Nionag"—1, Brora; 2, Durness; 3, Lairg; 4, Scourie.

Unison Singing of "Maol Ruanaidh" and the Puirt à Beul, "Am Muileann Dubh" and "Domb'll Ban nan Gobhar"—1, Lairg; 2, Durness; 3, Brora and Scourie (equal).

#### SENIOR SECTION.

##### ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight of an Unfamiliar Piece of Prose, to be chosen by the Judges—1, Mrs. Johan

Campbell, Durness; 2, Mr. Hector Mackay, Durness; 3, Miss Dolly White, Durness.

Recitation of Rob Donn's "A Bheataidh Sutharlan"—1, Christopher Muuro, Scourie (Sutherland Technical School, Golspie); 2, Mrs Campbell and Miss Dolly Whyte, Durness.

Reading of a Piece of Prose chosen by the Competitor—1, Mrs. Hector Mackay, Durness; 2, Mrs. Campbell, Durness; 3, Miss Dolly Whyte, Durness, and Kenneth M'Donald, Stoer (Sutherland Technical School, Golspie) (equal).

##### VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing of a Song—Female Voices—1, Miss Amy Mackenzie, Dornoch; 2, Miss M. Mackay, Bettyhill; 3, Miss Jessie Ann Mackay, Embo.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male Voices—1, Mr. James Mackay, Rogart; 2, Mr. George Mackay, Durness; 3, Mr. James Bain, Skelbo.

Solo Singing of a Song composed by Local Bard of the District—1, Mr. Jack Matheson, Tongue; 2, George Mackay, Durness.

Solo Singing of a Song—Male and Female Voices—1, Miss Amy Mackenzie, Dornoch; 2, Mr. Jack Matheson, Tongue; 3, Mrs. Mackay, Durness, and Mr. James Mackay, Rogart (equal).

Choral Singing in Four-part Harmony of the Songs, "Mo Dhomhnullan Fhein" and "Thogainn fonn air lorg an fheidh"—1, Lairg, 84, 88—172; 2, Golspie, 80, 87—167; 3, Rogart, 79, 87—166; 4, Embo, 78, 88—165; 5, Scourie, 77, 86—163; 6, Durness, 75, 86—161.

#### INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

Bagpipes—Playing of March, Strathspey, and Reel—1, William Mackenzie, Forsinard; 2, Donald Manson, Forsinard.

Violin—Playing a Gaelic Song Air, Strathspey, and Reel—1, Miss Isabella Campbell, Dornoch; 2, Mr. George Ross, Scourie.

Pianoforte—Playing a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel—1, Miss Isabella Campbell, Dornoch; 2, Mrs. Grant, Rhiiconich Hotel; 3, Mr. Alex. Morrison, Durness.

The concert in the evening was presided over by Mr. W. Edgar Horne, proprietor of Lairg, who brought a party from Lairg Lodge. The programme was sustained by the principal prize-winners, and by Messrs. Roderick MacLeod, Inverness, and Murdoch MacLeod, Edinburgh. The accommodation of the Drill Hall was taxed to its utmost capacity, many being unable to gain admittance. It was a most enthusiastic gathering, and a fitting termination to a highly successful Mod.

EDINBURGH—JOHN GRANT, 31 George IV Bridge.

W. M. URQUHART & SON, 11 Queensferry Street.

OBAN—HUGH MACDONALD, Esplanade. D. MACKAY, George St.

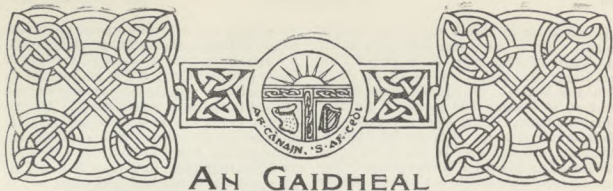
GLASGOW—W. HOLMES & CO., Ltd., 76 Mitchell Street.

GLASGOW—JOHN MENZIES & Co., Ltd., 90 West Nile Street

ALEX. M'LAREN & SON, 360 Argyle Street.

INVERNESS—WILLIAM MACKAY, 27 High Street.

And Branch Secretaries



# AN GAIDHEAL

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Leabhar XXIII.]

An t-Samhain, 1927.

[Earrann 2

## MOD A' GHEARSDAIN, 1927.

Bha gach cor fàbharach. Bha muinntir a' Ghearsdain cho caoibhneil, acidheal, 's a bha iad rianh. Thug probhaist an bhaile, an ainm na Comhairle air a bheil e féin 'n a cheann-suidhe, fáilte chridheil do'n Mhòd a ris, dlreach mar a rinneadh o chionn còig bliadhna air ais. Ach thairis air gach cothrom is e feabhas na h-aimsir a dh'fhag na coinneamhan cho taitneach. Bha an side fliuch fuar fad an fhoghair; ach bidh e taitneach ri chuimhneachadh gun do dh'atharraich sin ri làithean a' Mhòid, agus gun d'fhuair sinn aimsir chiun ghrianach a thog gean air gach cridhe, agus a chuir tlachd air gach cruinneachadh.

Thugadh an cheud latha de 'n Mhòd thairis gu tur do dheuchainn na cloinne. Agus air a' bhliadhna so bha an òigridh làn dheasaichte. B' fhuasda fhaicinn gu robh iad o chionn ghoirid ag ullachadh, agus feadh an t-Samhraidh gun do sheinn iad aig na mòid dhùthchail. Oir bha tomhas de loinn air seinn na h-òigridh am bliadhna nach gabhadh faotainn mar thoradh air mìos no dha a mhàin de chleachdadh. Is gann gu bheil muinntir a' tuigsinn idir cìod e cho luachmhor 's a tha e gum biodh an òigridh mar so a' faighinn misneach is brosnuchadh aig an Mhòd bhliadhnail. Cumaidh iadsan air an cuimhne na h-drain a dh' ionnsaich iad tràth. Agus bu mhór an cuideachadh a gheabhadh iad nan robh luchd teagaisg seinn air am fasdadh gu siubhal o chearn gu cearn a' teagasg nan còisrean òga. Is e so rùn a' Chomuinn; agus tha cuireadh air a chraobh sgoileadh do luchd teagaisg na seinn, gus an saothair a thairgse do 'n Chomunn, fo thuarasdal a chum na crìche so.

Tha meur ùr eile ri ainmeachadh, agus is e sin comh-fharpuis nan còisir dhùthchail. Thàinig ceithir chòisrean de 'n ghnè so air an aghaidh am bliadhna. Is mór am brosnuchadh dhaibhsan gu bheil sgiath eireachdail airgid mar gheall do 'n chòisir a choisneas a' cheud àite. Agus coltach ris na prìomh-chòisrean féin tha an fheadhainn dhùthchail làn de spiorad bràthrachail. Chan eil eud mi-chàirdeal a' cur tilleadh no bacadh air an obair. Is ann mar sin fhéin a bu chòir a bhith. Thug na britheamhan faineir gu bheil feabhas mór ri chluinntin an seinn nan còisir dhùthchail. Is sònruichte an t-aobhar misnich sin. Bu chòir riaghailt a dheanamh, agus meadhon a chleachdadh, a chum gum biodh gach meanglan de 'n Chomunn ag ullachadh còisir, ma tha buill gu leòr anns na meanglain. Nam biodh sin mar chrich àraidh aig na meanglain is iongantach an t-aghart a thigeadh air an t-seinn, agus an lorg sin air leughadh is labhairt na cànan. Ach airson na crìche so a ris tha e iomchuidh gum biodh luchd teagaisg na seinn nas lonmhoire na tha iad aig an am. Co dhiu nochd na còisrean dhùthchail air an turus so gu bheil òganaich is maighdeanan gu leòr air feadh na dùthcha aig a bheil guth is talann, nam biodh teagasg agus seòladh aca feadh a' gheamhraidh, gu bhì a' cumail obair nan còisir air an aghaidh. Tha na cuirmean ciùil a nis air fàs coitcheinn tuath is deas, an Alba is an Sasuinn, agus an dùthchanan eile. Tha eòlas a' chiùil airidh air a leantuinn eadhon mar mheur de dheagh fhoghlum. Do 'n òigridh Ghàidhealaich tha saothar nan còisrean Gàidhlig a' giùlan seadh dùbailt. Tha alt is cleachdadh a' chiùil dhaibh 'n a bhuanachd oileanach; agus tha iad a' cuid-eachadh gu ceòl an sinnsir a chumail air



chuireadh a' cheart am. Ach ged is maith a bhi a' seinn nan òran, tha mòran de bhuill A' Chomuinn de 'n bheachd air an laimh eile, nach eil an chuid sin de 'n Mhòd a bhuineas do labhairt agus briathrachas, a' faotainn idir an aire a bu chòir dha fhaotainn. Thug sinn an cuspair so faineas uair is uair. Ach an àite bhi a' faotainn tuilleadh aire, is ann a tha luchd èisdeachd na labhairt a' fàs nas gainne. Tha comhfharpais na h-aithris a' dol air aghart an seòmar cùil an àite éigin, an uair a tha an mhòr chuid ag èisdeachd na seinn anns na tallachan.

Tha àireamh nan comhfharpaisich a nis air fàs cho mòr aig a' Mhòd bhliadhnaill, agus gur gann a tha e comasach an clàr eagair a chrìochnachadh anns na ceithir latha. Tha feadhainn an dèil gu leasachair so le bhi a' gearradh a mach na comhfharpais an cluich na fìdhle, ged a tha an fhìodhal fada nas dlùithe air ceòl nan Gàidheal na tha a' phiano. Feumar dòigh as fearr na sin air an ùine a chaonadh aig a' Mhòd. Tha tuilleadh 's a chòir de aimsir 'g a chaitheamh aig a' Mhòd mhòr, ag èisdeachd ri cuid de luchd seinn aig nach eil guth no comas gu leòr airson seaseamh air a leithid sin de àrd-ùrlar. An uair a theid sinn gu cruinneachadh mòr nan Cuimreach, cha chluinnear anns gach deuchainn ach an còignear as fhearr de na comhfharpaisich. Tha na brithemhan roimh laimh ag èisdeachd ris an luchd strì, agus a' taghadh na feadhach is toisiche. Is iad sin a sheinneas no a bhruidhneas an làthair an choimhthionail mhòir. Air an dòigh so tha an ùine air a h-uisneachadh gu glic cothromach. A nis dh' fhaodadh An Comunn meadhon mar so a chleachdadh. Bu chòir na Mòid dhùthchail a chur gu feum mar mheadhon taghaidh air cuid co dhui de na comhfharpaisich. Tha deuchainn a cheana air chois a thaobh an eòlais a tha aig na comhfharpaisich air Gàidhlig; agus tha e cheart cho reusanta gun cuirte deuchainn mar an ceudna, a dh' fhaicinn co dhui a tha an comasan ciùil airidh air ùine an t-sluaigh a thogail air àrd-brìlar na talla aig mòd cinneachail.

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### THE NEW PRESIDENT.

That An Comunn should appoint Sheriff Macmaster Campbell as its President is a fitting recognition of his great personal merit as a Gael and a strong supporter of the Gaelic cause. He brings to his new position a deep interest in the

movement, and a mature knowledge of the history of An Comunn at all stages of its growth. A native of the town of Inverness, and born of Gaelic parents, he acquired in his boyhood an easy familiarity with the language and with the lore and traditions of the older days. As a lad he came to live in Fort William, and the noble surroundings of Lochaber were a suitable environment and helped to arouse his enthusiasm for things Highland. In Glasgow he served his apprenticeship to the legal profession; and in 1888 he commenced business in the town of Oban. He took a deep and active interest in the economic movement which was afoot at the time for the betterment of the condition of Highland crofters; and the affectionate title of "Crofter John" is a proof of the great share he took in Highland land law reform. But it was not only in matters economic that he saw and felt the need for reform. He also saw that something must be done from a cultural standpoint, in order to save the language and the music. He was one of the first four men who started An Comunn Gàidhealach. The movement had its genesis in Oban; and we can well believe that the entire conception arose in his original and active mind. We can well recall how he was the dominating and inspiring personality at the first Mod. We can recall his hopefulness, his earnestness, his kindness and his hospitality. His enthusiasm was contagious and irresistible. He made others to share it; and this surely was a great asset in the struggling early days of An Comunn. The indifference of our own people and the discouraging conditions all round might well damp the ardour of leaders. But the leaders held up the flag, and the cause developed slowly as the years passed by. The Sheriff was one of those who never lost heart however formidable the task of reviving the language and music might appear. Since his elevation to the bench the Sheriff, owing to geographical reasons, has not been able to be present at so many meetings of Executive as he should have wished; but it was during the first twenty years of An Comunn's life that he rendered such memorable service to the cause; and An Comunn is fortunate in having as its head a Gael with his mature wisdom, and strong genial personality.

N. R.

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### THE MOD OF 1927.

It has been our privilege to have attended the annual Mod from the beginning of the whole institution. Taking up the method of comparison we are in a position to say that the

Fort William Mod of 1927 does not suffer by being contrasted with any of its predecessors. That living enthusiasm which marked the gathering of five years ago on the same spot did not lose any of its glow and reality. To receive the Mod; to make adequate preparation for a four days' continuous musical festival; to organise so successfully the arrangements for the adequate housing of all the larger gatherings—all this might well tax the capacity of any local committee. In Fort William the complete success of the Mod in every respect has proved the earnestness and thoroughness of those who had the carrying out of the arrangements. The remarkable change in the weather, from wind and rain to sunshine and calm produced its own cheering effect; and the magnificent scenery of Lochaber, the autumn tints of the heather and trees reflected in the glassy sea make a fit setting for a Gaelic festival. The high level of merit in the performers, the cordiality of the inhabitants, and the favourable weather conditions all combined to make the Mod of 1927 a memorable gathering.

Tuesday, the first day of the festival, was, according to precedent, set apart entirely for the vocal and elocutionary competitions of the children. That the influence of An Comunn has already penetrated the far North is shown by the presence at the Mod of a junior choir from Lewis and competitors from Durness. All were accorded a hearty welcome, the Laxdale Choir from Stornoway carrying off the "Oban Times" Shield. The Fort William Junior Choir came second. Excellent work was done by the choirs from Durness, Inverness, Roy Bridge, and Greenock. A steady improvement is noticeable in the junior vocal competitions. On Tuesday evening a junior concert took place in the Town Hall. Mrs. Burnley-Campbell of Ormidale presided, and addressed to the children a most inspiring address commending the value and claims of Gaelic. The presentation of prizes was performed by Miss Maclean of Ardgour. The president made a brief speech in Gaelic. In proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, Colonel Maclean of Ardgour remarked how highly An Comunn appreciated the enthusiasm she continues to show in the interest of Gaelic.

The official opening took place on the Wednesday, when a representative number of the supporters of the cause assembled on the platform and in the Town Hall. The proceedings opened with a Gaelic prayer by Rev. Dr. Mackinnon of Kilmonivaig. Provost Mackenzie of Fort William extended a hearty welcome on

behalf of the Magistrates and Town Council, to the Gaelic Mod. It was felt to be a great honour that the Mod was being held in Lochaber once again within a comparatively short period. He ventured to say that no more loyal supporters of the Gaelic movement could anywhere be found than the people who lived within the bounds of Lochaber. He hoped that the visitors would carry with them pleasant recollections of the Mod, and he assured them that whenever the Mod should again come back to Fort William their welcome would be equally cordial. The President, Mr. Angus Robertson, gave an eloquent oration. The first portion was in Gaelic. He dwelt on the fact that the stranger cannot appreciate the Gael's mentality or point of view; and that being so, it was not to be wondered at if the stranger failed to appreciate the reason why the objects of An Comunn should be deemed of such consequence. In a semi-humorous yet forceful strain he urged on the audience the necessity of giving expression to our racial ideals despite the criticism or even antagonism of those outsiders who did not understand. In English he spoke to the following effect:

To one familiar with the progressive activities of An Comunn during its earlier tenuous years and the awakening sense of our Highland people to-day, the prognostication could readily be formed that the salvation of the Gaelic speech is at hand. Its promoters are encouraged to harbour this faith for two obvious reasons. First, the Gael is regaining consciousness of a pride of race; secondly, and it behoves us to be jealous of its significance—we have gained the sympathy of an outer world. But the tasks of hope, while well on the way, are not yet accomplished. Much remains to be done. "The way to a mother's heart," says the celebrated Jean Paul Richter, "is through her children; the way to a people's heart is through its language." Our primary duty now and always is to teach the parent that it is nothing short of criminal to deprive the Gaelic-speaking child of the early exercise of his spiritual birthright.

Is it not a reasonable and natural proposition to suggest that the teaching of art should form a necessary part of the Highland, and for that matter, the Scottish child's Education? Read the Celtic sagas and you inhale the beautiful fragrance of an intangible world.

I would like to visualise a time when every village in the Highlands will have its magic circle of cultured Gaelic philosophers and bards, where the Ollamh would aspire to recite his seven fifty tales for the inherent glory which the reward of

merit alone can give. The laconic word would then wing its moral to a quickened intelligence; and the value of the proverbs of our language would once again resume their instructive significance. Gaelic and English would thus develop on parallel lines, each the complement of the other.

The contests for the Oban and Lorne Medal and the James Grant Prize occupied most of the time on Wednesday. Competitors were numerous and the level of merit was pronounced to be wonderfully high. On the evening of Wednesday a crowded Ceilidh took place in the Highland Hotel. On Thursday the series of competitions for An Comunn's gold medal was brought to a close. The medallists for this year were Miss Mary C. MacColl, M.A. and Mr. Roderick Macleod, a native of Lewis. Both these singers also made a deep impression in the competitions last year, and they are now to be congratulated on their success. The other soloists who maintained the competitions on such a high standard merit the gratitude of all who were privileged to hear them. It is to be hoped that the future holds success for many of them also. The Rural Choirs proved to be a very popular part of the Mod syllabus. The grand hall, (a huge garage given free by Messrs. Marshall and Pearson) was filled to overflowing. The fine results indicate that a healthy and genuine love of music is obtaining a strong hold in country districts all over Scotland. The friendly emulation of these choirs had as one part of its aim the winning of the beautiful silver trophy shield given by Colonel and Mrs. Ian Campbell (Airds). The successful choir was the Brae Lochaber. The competitions on oral delivery also took place on Thursday. On the same evening a concert was given by rural choirs and several solo winners. The concert was presided over by Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, the president elect. His fine address is of permanent interest, and a summary should here be included:

"From the beginning of the 19th century to the present day there had been in Lochaber a most remarkable chain of Gaelic bards and Gaelic scholars. There was first of all Allan Dall, bard to Colonel Macdonald of Glengarry, who wrote very beautiful poetry which was still sung and recited wherever Gaelic was cherished. He remembered Allan Dall's daughter who was an old lady when he (the chairman) was a boy. She had interesting reminiscences in relation to Prince Charlie for she was acquainted with an old woman who as a girl helped Prince Charlie over the stream at Achnacarry. Without the

help of Ewen MacIachlan the movement led by Colonel Macdonald would not have succeeded. MacIachlan was the secretary and bard of the movement. He was a great classic scholar and he actually translated seven books of the Iliad into Gaelic. Ewen MacIachlan was born in the parish of Kilmallie. He was educated at Fort William. Next in the list was James Munro, who was parish schoolmaster of Kilmonivaig, and one of the foremost Gaelic scholars of his time, and to whom we were indebted for one of the first of our first Gaelic grammars. He also wrote some of the most beautiful lyrics in the Gaelic language. Then there was the marvellous trio of scholars—Dr. Macintyre, Kilmonivaig; Dr. Clark, Kilmallie, and Dr. Stewart of Nether Lochaber, each pre-eminent in his own field. Contemporary with these three notable Gaels was the sweet singer of Lochaber, Mrs. Mary MacKellar. Many of those present including the speaker, could well recollect the great work she accomplished for Highland literature. He was very pleased to observe that at least two of her lyrics were being sung at the present Mod in Lochaber. Her work including her excellent translation of Queen Victoria's book on her visit to the Highlands would long be remembered as a valuable contribution to Gaelic prose. Next on his list was the name of Father Allan Macdonald who had not long passed from their midst. He was one of the most devoted Celtic scholars and one of the finest spirits of his time. He was born in the High Street Fort William and educated in the same Grammar School as Ewen Mackenzie, and as it happened he left Fort William a few months before (the chairman) arrived in the town. Father Macdonald was revered for his gifts as a pastor; he was loved for his loyalty as a friend; he was admired and respected by all who were interested in Gaelic letters, literature, folk lore and song. His works would always live and permeate Celtic literature. These were some of the reasons why it was so appropriate that the Mod should sometimes be held in Lochaber."

Duets and quartette singing and ladies' choirs took the forenoon of Friday; and the afternoon of that day was devoted to the part which is undoubtedly the most absorbing episode of the Mod, namely the senior choral competitions. In this important class eight choirs appeared. A great and well deserved ovation was given to the choir which came all the way from London. In this section the judges had some difficult work to do in awarding precedence, for the performances were in some instances remarkably close to each other. A most popular verdict was the giving of the Lovat and Tulliebardine



Shield to the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir. It is a token of the fine sportsmanlike spirit of the choirs, that this verdict seemed to be as warmly received by the other competing choirs as by the general audience.

The two great concerts on Friday evening were sustained by medallists, first prize winners and combined choirs. The grand hall was crowded at both concerts. Colonel Maclean of Ardgour presided over the first house. He made a speech in which the various elements that contributed to the success of the Mod were happily described and acknowledged; and his closing sentences showed a power of pure eloquence to which we have seldom heard a parallel, when he compared the Gaelic movement to a mountain torrent, which in the earlier stages of its career may meet with many obstructions, but which nevertheless wins its way through scaures and corries, till, helped by the waters of tributary streams it finally joins the great ocean. It was at this function that the crowning of the bard took place. The bard of this year is Mr. Angus Mackechnie, and the ceremony of placing the bardic chaplet on his head was performed by the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour.

The second concert was equally well attended, the chair being taken by Colonel D. W. Cameron of Lochail. The chairman referred specially to the sense of rhythm in Gaelic music. He emphasised the effectiveness of the Mod in fulfilling the function of instilling into Highlanders a love of their music and language. While other societies might exist for this purpose yet it was An Comunn by the institution of Mods that had brought the love of Gaelic into the hearts of the Highland people, and had succeeded where others had failed. At this concert the medals and awards including the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield were presented by the Lady Hermione Cameron. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld made an announcement which deeply interested the audience, that His Majesty the King had accepted from her a copy of "Voices from the Hills." This has also given much satisfaction to the promoters of the Feill.

### The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Business Meeting on the Saturday was one of the largest in the history of An Comunn. When the result of the recent election of office-bearers had been announced, the new President, Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, took the Chair, on the invitation of Mr. Angus Robertson, the retiring president. Speaking

first in Gaelic and then in English the new President thanked An Comunn for the warm welcome extended to him. He hoped that his occupancy of the Chair would be as fruitful as that of the president who had just retired.

A report of a meeting of Executive on 16th September was submitted. At that meeting a report was received from the Finance Committee. The net proceeds from Feill amounted to £8668. It was agreed that a sum of £5000 be added to the Endowment Fund of An Comunn, and that the balance, say £3500, be invested in such securities as would permit of realisation at short notice, in order that it might be available, as regards capital and revenue, for the immediate extension of An Comunn's operations. The Committee were of opinion that the augmented Feill Trust funds should be managed from An Comunn headquarters, and by An Comunn treasurer. These recommendations were unanimously approved by the Council.

The annual meeting adopted this report.

The Secretary intimated on application from Mr. Donald Ross, the hon. secretary of the Inverness Branch, inviting An Comunn to hold the 1928 Mod at Inverness. The local branch undertook to exert every effort to ensure the success of the Mod. A letter from Mr. Smith Laing, the Town Clerk of Inverness was also read, stating that the Inverness Town Council had unanimously agreed to invite An Comunn to hold the next national Mod at Inverness. The Town Council wished to be associated with the application made by the Inverness branch. Mr. Donald Macdonald supported the application assuring the annual meeting that the local committee would see to it that all demands for the housing of the Mod would be fully met. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld moved, ex-Provost Stewart, Fortwilliam seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed that the 1928 Mod be held at Inverness, on the week following the Northern Meeting.

The President proposed that the Secretary record An Comunn's gratitude to the Fort William Committee; an appreciation of the services of Provost Mackenzie, of Dr. Miller, of Mr. Bannerman, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Macfarlane. Rev. Dr. Mackinnon referred to the great work done by the Ladies' Committee, who had raised between £300 and £400 for the Mod.

Dr. Mackay, Killin, moved that a Music Committee be formed which should collect Folk songs and promote the cultivation of Gaelic music and song. Dr. Mackay said that his

object was to divide the Mod and Music Committee into two separate Committees. Mr. Duncan Mackenzie seconded. Rev. Neil Ross moved the previous question, and Mr. Alexr. Fraser seconded. Miss Gordon suggested that a Committee of five should revise the constitution. Mrs. Burnley Campbell seconded. Mr. Robertson pointed out that any fault in the constitution could be amended as occasion arose. Mr. Bannerman said that while the Mod Committee was to do all it used to do, he did not object to a purely Music Committee which could do good work in collecting music. On a division 55 supported Dr. Mackay, and 30 the previous question. But as the number voting for the motion was not equal to two-thirds of those present the motion could not be carried; neither could Miss Gordon's amendment to the motion.

A motion by Mr. Moffat Pender, that the headquarters of An Comunn be changed to Stornoway, was not accepted by the meeting; but Mr. Moffat Pender's motion that a Gaelic circle be formed within An Comunn was unanimously adopted. Mr. F. T. Macleod's motion regarding an English synopsis of the Gaelic minutes of Executive was withdrawn. A motion by Mr. Norman MacLeod, that the Advisory Committee have three stated meetings in the year was accepted.

The President proposed that An Comunn record in its minutes their grateful thanks to Mr. Angus Robertson for his past services to An Comunn. The motion was seconded by Rev. Dr. Mackinnon, and was unanimously adopted. The President left the chair which was taken by Rev. Neil Ross, one of the vice-presidents. Under the head of competent business on agenda, a general discussion followed on the place accorded to oral delivery in the syllabus of the Mod, and in the concerts on Friday evening. It was evident that the scant attention now given to this section is far from satisfactory. Attention was drawn to a case at Inverchaolain, where the Argyll Education Authority had appointed a non-Gaelic speaking teacher, although the parents of the children there had requested that a Gaelic speaking teacher be appointed. This action of the Authority met with the disapproval of the meeting; and after considerable discussion it was resolved that it be remitted to the Education Committee to take what steps might be considered advisable.

A meeting of Executive Council was held at the close of the business meeting and appointments made to the various standing committees.

## Executive Council, 1927-28.

### President:

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

### Vice-Presidents:

Miss CAMPBELL of Inverneill, M.B.E.,  
Ardrishaig;  
Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., The Manse, Laggan;  
Rev. WILLIAM MACPHAIL, The Manse,  
Ardrishaig.

### Executive Council:

ANGUS ROBERTSON, "Dunholme," Hamilton  
Drive, Pollokshields;  
JOHN R. BANNERMAN, "Bellevue," Arrochar;  
Rev. LAUCHLAN MACLEAN WATT, D.D., 1  
Athole Gardens, Glasgow;  
Mrs. MACDONALD of Dunach, Oban;  
DONALD MACDONALD, 12 Cawdor Road,  
Inverness;  
NEIL ORR, F.E.I.S., Schoolhouse, Liberton;  
Miss C. M. GORDON of Drimnin, M.A.,  
Morvern;  
DONALD MACDONALD, 112 York Drive,  
Hyndland;  
JAMES MACLAREN, 360 Argyle Street,  
Glasgow;  
Mrs. BURNLEY CAMPBELL of Ormidale,  
Glendaruel;  
Capt. GEORGE I. CAMPBELL, Yr., of Succoth,  
Crarae Lodge, Minard;  
Miss LOUISE FARQUHARSON of Invercauld,  
Coignashee, Newtonmore;  
Rev. T. S. MACPHERSON, The Manse,  
Campbeltown;  
Rev. MALCOLM MACLEOD, M.A., 85 Leslie  
Street, Pollokshields;  
Rev. M. N. MUNRO, M.A., U.F. Manse,  
Taynuilt;  
COLIN SINCLAIR, M.A., "St. Margaret's,"  
Ralston Avenue, Crookston;  
NORMAN MACLEOD, M.A., 38 Erskine Road,  
Cardonald;  
Rev. HECTOR CAMERON, The Manse, Oban;  
ALEXANDER FRASER, Parkgrove, Bishopston;  
Rev. G. W. MACKAY, D.D., The Manse,  
Killin;  
MALCOLM MACLEOD, 5 Church Road, Ibrox;  
Mrs. NEIL MACLEAN, 64 St. Swithin's  
Street, Aberdeen;  
Rev. GEORGE CALDER, D.Litt., The Univer-  
sity, Glasgow;  
T. D. MACDONALD, Caledonian Mansions,  
Oban;

Mrs. J. R. COLQUHOUN, 27 Windsor Terrace,  
Glasgow;

Rev. J. H. MACFARLANE BARROW, The  
Rectory, Inveraray;

Lord JAMES T. STEWART MURRAY, Cul-an-  
duin, Ballinluig;

JOHN MACDONALD, M.A., 61 West Cumber-  
land Street, Glasgow;

The Hon. Mrs. GODFREY MACDONALD, Lower  
Ostaig, Skye.

#### Standing Committees, 1927-28.

**FINANCE.**—Alexander Fraser (*Convener*),  
Mrs. Christison, Donald MacDonald (Inver-  
ness), J. R. Bannerman, Charles Campbell,  
Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Malcolm MacLeod,  
Hugh MacLean, Andrew Stewart, George I.  
Campbell, Angus MacAulay, the President  
(*ex officio*).

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

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

**PROPAGANDA.**—Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay  
(*Convener*), Rev. Neil Ross, Rev. Hector  
Cameron, George I. Campbell, Iain M.  
Moffatt-Pender, Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun,  
T. D. MacDonald, Neil Orr, Miss Farquhar-  
son of Invercauld, Alexander Fraser, Miss  
C. M. Gordon, Mrs. Christison, the Presi-  
dent (*ex officio*).

**ART AND INDUSTRY.**—Miss Campbell of  
Inverneill (*Convener*), Colin Sinclair, George  
I. Campbell, Mrs. Burnley Campbell, Rev.  
Malcolm MacLeod, Mrs. Christison, Miss  
Lamont of Knockdow, Norman MacLeod,  
Donald MacDonald (Inverness), James  
MacLaren, Hon. Mrs. Godfrey MacDonald,  
Hugh MacLean, the President (*ex officio*).

**MOD AND MUSIC.**—John R. Bannerman  
(*Convener*), Charles Campbell, Dr. George  
Calder, Angus Robertson, Mrs. Christison,  
Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Alexander Fraser,  
Peter MacIntyre, Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay,  
Malcolm MacLeod, Rev. Wm. MacPhail,  
Rev. Neil Ross, the President (*ex officio*).

#### The President's Address.

ADDRESS BY THE RETIRING PRESIDENT, MR.  
ANGUS ROBERTSON, AT THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING OF THE MOD, WITHIN THE TOWN  
HALL, FORT WILLIAM, ON WEDNESDAY,  
5TH OCTOBER, 1927.

To one familiar with the progressive activities of An Comunn during its earlier tenuous years, and the awakening sense of our Highland people to-day, the prognostication could readily be formed that the salvation of the Gaelic speech is at hand. Its promoters are encouraged to harbour this faith for two obvious reasons. Firstly, the Gael is regaining consciousness of a pride of race. Secondly—and it behoves us to be jealous of its significance—we have gained the sympathy of an outer world. Disinterested zeal is the key-word of this national awakening. Patriotic men and women—though we do not fully measure their sacrifice—have, even in the midst of despair, given of their time and substance, so as to preserve for us and for succeeding ages the hierarchy of the Gaelic soul. But the tasks of hope, while well on the way, are not yet accomplished. Much remains to be done. "The way to a mother's heart," says the celebrated Iean Paul Richter, "is through her children; the way to a people's heart is through its language." Our primary duty now, and always is, to teach the parent that it is nothing short of criminal to deprive the Gaelic-speaking child of the early exercise of his spiritual birthright. What, however, is this specific spiritual entity of which the Celt alone is the greatest protagonist? Well, according to impartial enquirers, it is the gift of genius. Such, at any rate, is the verdict of history. "The true glory of the Celt in Europe," writes one of the greatest authorities on architecture, "is his artistic eminence. It is not, perhaps, too much to assert," he adds, "that without his intervention we should not have possessed in modern times a church worthy of admiration, or a picture or a statue we could look at without shame." Art, as such, flourished amongst the Celtic peoples when in the rest of Europe it was well-nigh dead. Our museums contain large varieties of singularly decorative specimens of those periods, from the Brooch of Tara to the Monymusk Reliquary. The imaginative faculty, then, is a precious talent. So let us permit ourselves the justice to believe

that these distinctive creations of the Celtic fancy are but the visible expression of eternal facts—the mystic traceries of the inner dwellings of the Beatitudes. Is it, therefore, not a reasonable and natural proposition to suggest that the teaching of such art should form a necessary part of the Highland—and, for that matter, the Scottish—child's education? If this claim is profitably vouched for—and who, in the light of modern knowledge, so arrant as to deny the ordinance?—I should, in all conscience, expect the child to be taught through his first intelligible medium, his mother tongue. Nothing less will content us. And should authority, by any specious argument, suborn the plea, then authority is a traitor, whether that authority be vested in an elective body or a poppinjay. I agree with that poet-philosopher who valued a ray of beauty above the utilities of the world. This, in a measure, is likewise the fundamental outlook of the average Gael; and many of us would share his unpurchasable joy. We love him, as the world has loved him, for his sacrificing zeal for spiritual truths. Read his sagas, and you inhale the beautiful fragrance of an intangible world. He has been regarded as the great interpreter of the soul, and is thus the confidant of God. As such he appeals to me; as such I wish to retain and contain him in his natural setting. Therein lies the future concern of An Comunn. I should like to visualise a time when every village in the Highlands will have its magic circle of cultured Gaelic philosophers and bards, where the Ollamh would aspire to recite his seven-fifty tales for the inherent glory which the reward of merit alone can give. The laconic word would then wing its moral to a quickened intelligence, and the value of the proverbs of our language would once again resume their instructive significance. Gaelic and English would thus develop on parallel lines, each the complement of the other. Medical men have demonstrated to my satisfaction that a child assimilates more than two languages without strain or trouble. Bi-lingualism is surely a desirable form of efficiency in whatever form it arises. I am prepared to advance the further postulate, that if the average Scots child were taught Gaelic instead of French or Spanish, he was being given the key to a world of intellectual potentialities unapproachable by these or any other foreign language. He has a right to know the language of his blood, the, at one time, spoken speech of the whole Scottish nation, to limit but one of its provisional confines.

Under present conditions, he is surrounded by surviving symbols of his early Gaelic ancestry in the place-names of his country—names which to the initiated breathe the fragrance of poetry—and yet he is entirely ignorant, for the most part, of their meaning, or at best he learns it often from third-hand knowledge. Some day I hope the giant educator will discover this latent dynamic power, and apply its efficacy to the training of our youth. Remember the achievements of the missionary teachings of the early Celtic Church, representatives of which were at the head of every scholastic seminary in Europe for hundreds of years. That subtle, noble, inspiring, soulful, and self-sacrificing influence is still the heritage and gift of our Gaelic-speaking people, and so the four magic letters of IONA may carry a deeper and more passionate note into modern civilisation than the S.P.Q.R. of the Roman Eagles.

### The Prize List.

#### JUNIOR SECTION.

##### LITERATURE.

Adjudicators:—Rev. Gillespie Campbell, Muckairn; Mr. Donald Graham, M.A., Royal Academy, Inverness; Mr. John MacDonald, M.A., Glasgow; Mr. Angus MacMillan, Whiteinch; Mr. Alex. Thomson, Glasgow.

The following is the List of Schools entered:—Broadford Public School, Bunavulin Public School, Cornaigmore H.G. School, Fort William H.G. School, Knockbain Public School, Portree H.G. School, Tobermory H.G. School, and Oban High School.

Group A.—Pupils in or below Qualifying Class.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short, Simple Gaelic Story read by the Teacher. Book prizes.—1, Dolina MacLean, Drimmin; 2, Katie Cameron, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Peggy Lowe, do.; 4, Mairi Yule, do.

Group B.—Pupils in First and Second Years of Post-Qualifying Courses.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short Gaelic Story read by the Teacher, followed by a rendering of the same story in English. Prizes: 1st, 7/6; 2nd, 6/-; 3rd, 5/-; 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 3/6 each.—1, Roderick A. Macdonald, Portree H.G. School; 2, Margt. Robertson, Broadford; 3, Donald A. Kennedy, Cornaigmore H.G. School; 4, Donald Bain, Portree H.G. School; 5, Effie Mackenzie, Broadford; 6, James Robertson, Broadford; 7, Hector Macdonald, do.

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

(1) Writing from Dictation of a Gaelic Prose Passage. Prizes: 1st, 7/6; 2nd, 6/-; 3rd 5/-; 4th, 5th, 6th, 3/6 each.—1, William Kemp, Oban High School; 2, Jane Mackay, Portree H.G. School; 3, Christina MacSween, Oban High School; 4, Catherine M. Robertson, Broadford; 5, Elizabeth Macpherson, St. Columba School, Fort William; 6, Samuel MacLean, Portree Higher Grade School.

(2) Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short Story in English. Prizes: 1st, 10/-; 2nd, 7/6; 3rd, 5/-; 4th, 5th, 6th, 3/6 each.—1, Calum Ian N. MacLeod,

Kirkhill; 2, Catherine M. Robertson, Oban High School; 3, William Kemp, Oban High School; 4, Donald Cameron, Oban High School; 5, Christina MacSween, Broadford; 6, Chrissie Macpherson, Broadford.

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

(1) Translation of an English Prose Passage into Gaelic. Prizes: 1st, 15/-; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 7/6; 4th, 5th, 6th, 5/- each.—1, John MacCuish, Portree H.G. School; 2, Jessie S. MacKinnon, do.; 3, Duncan N. MacCallum, Oban High School; 4, 5, 6, Sarah Kennedy, Portree H.G. School; Hugh B. MacAskill, do.; Christina MacDonald, do.

(2) Translation of Gaelic Prose Passage into English, followed by a rendering into English of Ten Gaelic Idioms. Prizes as for No. 1.—1, John MacCuish, Portree H.G. School; 2, Isabella MacDougall, do.; 3, Neilina MacDonald, do.; 4, 5, 6, Duncan N. MacCallum, Oban High School; John MacDougall, do.; Hugh B. MacAskill, Portree H.G. School.

(3) Gaelic Essay. A choice of three subjects given. Prizes: 1st, £1, 2nd, 15/-; 3rd, 10/-; 4th, 7/6; 5th and 6th, 5/- each.—1, Hugh B. Macaskill, Portree H.G. School; 2, James L. Graham, do.; 3, Robert Robertson, do.; 4, 5, and 6 (equal), Isabel MacDougall, Portree H.G. School; Annie MacLean, do.; Maggie M. MacLean, do.

Group E.—University or Training College Students.

(1) Translation into English of a Gaelic Prose Passage or Poem. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd 15/-; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10/- each.—1, Miss Margaret Campbell, Glasgow Provincial Training College; 2, Miss Jessie A. MacDonald, do; 3, Miss Katie A. MacDonald, do.; 4, Miss Effie Robertson, do.; 5, Miss Mary A. Ferguson, do.

(2) Gaelic Essay on a Literary or a Historical Subject. A choice of four subjects given. Prizes as for No. 1.—1, Miss Effie Robertson; 2, Miss Margaret Campbell; 3 and 4 (equal), Miss Jessie A. MacDonald and Miss Katie MacDonald; 5, Miss Mary A. Ferguson.

Group F.—Evening Continuation Classes or Special Classes.

Reproduction in Gaelic of a Short Gaelic Story. Prizes: 1st, 10/-.—1, Catherine L. Rankin, Oban.

Group G.—Special Competitions.

(1) For Boys.—Essay in Gaelic on the Life of Samuel. Competitors between 12 and 16 years of age. Prizes presented by Mrs. Stewart, Simla, India.—1st, £2 and Gaelic Bible; 2nd, £1 and Gaelic Bible.—1, John K. MacDonald, Portree; 2, Samuel MacLean, do.

(2) For Girls.—Subject, conditions, and prizes as in No. 1. Prizes presented by Mrs. Stewart.—1, Janet Colthart, Oban High School; 2, Mary Cameron, do.

Special Prizes for Teachers.

(1) For the Highest Average Marks. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 15/-; 3rd, 10/-.—Group A—1, Tobermory (Miss Mary C. MacCallum, M.A.). Group B—1, Broadford School (John Macpherson, M.A.); 2, Oban High School (Miss M. D. MacQueen); 3, Cornaigmore (Miss MacLachlan). Group C—1, Oban High School (Miss MacQueen); 2, Portree (Robert Chisholm, M.A.); 3, Broadford (John Macpherson, M.A.). Group D—1, Fort William (D. MacPhail, M.A.); 2, Portree (Robert Chisholm, M.A.); 3, Oban High School (Miss MacQueen).

(2) For the Highest Aggregate Marks (marks under 50 per cent. being excluded). Prizes as in No. 1.—Group A—1, Tobermory (Miss Mary C.

MacCallum, M.A.). Group B—1, Broadford School (John Macpherson, M.A.); 2, Portree (Robert Chisholm, M.A.); 3, Cornaigmore (Miss MacLachlan). Group C—1, Portree (Robert Chisholm, M.A.); 2, Oban High School (Miss MacQueen); 3, Cornaigmore (Miss MacLachlan). Group D—1, Portree (Robert Chisholm, M.A.); 2, Oban High School (Miss MacQueen); 3, Fort William (D. MacPhail, M.A.).

## TUESDAY.

### ORAL DELIVERY.

(Lesser Room, Masonic Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Miss Lucy Cameron, Glasgow; Mr. Alex. Thomson, Glasgow.

Reading with expression a Piece of Prose or Poetry, by Native Speakers. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-; 4th, 2/6; 5th, 2/6.—1, Donald Dunn, Oban High School; 2, Colin Palmer, do.; 3, Donaldina MacPhee, do.; 4, Annie Bell, do.; 5, Archd. MacInnes, do.

Reading with expression a Piece of Prose or Poetry, by Learners. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-; 4th, 2/6; 5th, 2/6.—1, Neil MacLeod, Oban High School; 2, Flora MacCallum, do.; 3, Catherine MacKinnon, Greenock; 4, Cairna MacDonald, Oban High School.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar Prose Piece, chosen by the Judges. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-; 4th, 2/6; 5th, 2/6. Open to all.—1, Donald Dunn, Oban High School; 2, Mary A. Smith, Laxdale; 3, Isa MacKenzie, Oban High School; 4, Donaldina MacPhee, do.; 5, Mary Cameron, do.

For Children under 12 years of age. Boys. Repeating the 33rd prose Psalm or first 17 verses of chapter 16 of St. Luke's Gospel. Prizes: 1st, £1 10/- and Gaelic Bible; 2nd, 15/- and Gaelic Bible; 3rd, 10/- and Gaelic Bible. Prizes from Mrs. Stewart, Simla.—1, Colin Campbell, Greenock. Girls. Same as previous competition.—1, Janet MacGilp, Greenock; 2, Christina Morrison, Laxdale; 3, Annie Campbell, Greenock.

Reciting from memory "Latha 'sa Ghleann" (M. MacRae). Prizes: 1st, 15/- and a copy of "Caraid nan Gaidheal"; 2nd, 10/- and a copy of same book; 3rd, a copy of "Caraid nan Gaidheal." Prizes presented by Miss Maltt Williams, Wales. Open to all.—1, Isabella MacKenzie, Oban High School; 2, Neil MacLeod, do.; 3, Donaldina MacPhee, do.

(West Highland Museum, W.R.I. Room.)

Adjudicators:—Miss Anne Johnston, Barra, and Miss E. Stewart, L.L.A., Glasgow.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, to be followed by conversation on the subject of the narrative between competitors and adjudicators. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/- Open to all.—1, Isabella MacKenzie; 2, Donald Dunn; 3, Donaldina MacPhee, Oban High School.

Excellence in Gaelic Conversation, for Boys and Girls. Prizes: 1st, 12/6; 2nd, 7/6. Prizes presented by Miss Maltt Williams, Wales.—1, Archd. MacInnes, Oban High School; 2, Mary A. Smith, Laxdale.

Conversation between Judges and Competitors. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-. Prizes presented by Miss Maltt Williams, Wales.—1, Donaldina MacPhee; 2, Isabella MacKenzie; 3, Mary Cameron, Oban High School.

### VOCAL MUSIC.

(Masonic Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Rev. Alex. MacKinnon, Ph.D., Kilmonivaig; Music—Herbert Wiseman, M.A., Edinburgh.



Solo Singing of a Song. Girls. Songs prescribed: "Fear a' Bhàta" and "Tha mi sgith." Prizes: 1st, 15/-; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-.—1, Isobel Robertson, Glasgow; 2, Mary Campbell, Connel; 3, Jean Sharp, Greenock.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys. Songs prescribed: "Caol Muile" and "He'n Clò-dubh." Prizes: 1st, 15/-; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-.—1, Colin MacLeod, Inverness; 2, Hugh B. Sutherland, Greenock; 3, Roderick MacKay, Inverness.

Duet Singing of Song, "Chunnacas Bean san Tùr 'na suidhe." Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-.—1, Nan Davidson and Colin MacLeod, Inverness; 2, Flora MacKinnon and Helen MacDermid, Greenock.

Duet Singing of either of the Songs, "Am Bothan Beag" or "Gleann Gollaidh." Confined to Gaelic speakers. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-.—1, Margaret I. MacDonald, Firhill, and Neil B. Ross, Maryhill; 2, Margaret MacGilp and Janet MacGilp, Greenock.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys and Girls. Open only to former first prize winners (learners and native speakers). Songs prescribed: "Allt an t-siùcair" and "Eilean an Fhraoich." Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-.—1, Veronica Smart, Port Bannatyne; 2, Neil B. Ross, Maryhill; 3, Eric MacInnes, Tayvallich.

Solo Singing of a Song. Open to Girls over 16 and under 18 years of age. Prizes: 1st, £1 5/-; 2nd, 15/-.—1, Catherine L. Rankin, Oban; 2, Jessie Campbell, Laxdale.

(Town Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Rev. George MacKenzie, B.D., Kilmore; Music—Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh.

Traditional Singing of an Unpublished Gaelic Song. No instrumental accompaniment. Confined to Gaelic speakers. Prizes: 1st, 10/-; 2nd, 6/-; 3rd, 4/-.—1, Margaret I. MacDonald, Firhill; 2, Neil B. Ross, Maryhill; 3, Annie M. Frew, Glencoe.

Solo Singing of a Song. Girls. Songs prescribed: "An Clocharan" and "Callart." Confined to Gaelic speakers. Prizes: 1st, £1 and the Silver Medal of An Comunn; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-.—1, Janet MacGilp, Greenock; 2, Annie M. Frew; 3, Annie Nicholson, Greenock.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys. Songs prescribed: "Loch-Abart" and "Moch Diluan." Confined to Gaelic speakers. Prizes: 1st, £1 and the Silver Medal of An Comunn; 2nd, 10/-; 3rd, 5/-.—1, Iain MacGillivray, Connel; 2, Eric MacInnes, Tayvallich; 3, Neil Carmichael, Greenock.

Action Song. Prize, £4 4/-, given by the Paisley Highlanders' Association.—1, Greenock Junior Gaelic Choir (a).

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. Songs prescribed: "Ri Guailibh a Cheile" and "So mi'm shineadh air an t-sliabh."—1, Inverness Junior Gaelic Choir (b); 2, Roy Bridge Junior Gaelic Choir.

Unison Singing Competition for Junior Choirs. Songs prescribed: "Mo thruaigh leir thu, 'Ille Bhuidhe," "Ho mo leannan," and "Puir a' Beul." Prizes: 1st, £3; 2nd, £2.—1, Laxdale Junior Gaelic Choir, Lewis; 2, Fort William Junior Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without Chorus, in Two-part Harmony. Prescribed songs: "Ri Guailibh a Cheile" and "So mi'm shineadh air an t-sliabh." At least 50 per cent. of members to be able to converse in Gaelic language. Prizes: 1st,

£5, retention for a year of the "Oban Times" Challenge Trophy and a Baton to the Conductor; 2nd, £3.—1, Laxdale Junior Gaelic Choir, Lewis; 2, Fort William Junior Gaelic Choir.

#### SENIOR SECTION.

##### LITERATURE.

Adjudicators in various competitions:—Mr. Alistair MacDonald, Inverness; Mr. Duncan Shaw, Glasgow; Rev. George MacKenzie, B.D., Kilmore; Rev. Colin MacPherson, M.A., Glencoe; Miss E. F. Stewart, L.L.A., Glasgow; Mr. George Thomson, M.A., Glasgow, and Rev. Kenneth MacLeod, Gigha.

Gold Pendant to most distinguished Prize-winner in the Literary Competitions. Former winners debarred.—Mr. Duncan MacDonald, Sandwick Hill School, Stornoway.

Poem on any subject. Prizes: 1st, Chaplet; 2nd, £5.—1, Angus Mackechnie, Glasgow; 2 (equal), Duncan Johnston and Duncan Macniven, Islay.

One Short Story not exceeding 500 words. Prize, £2 2/-.—1, Duncan Johnston, Islay.

Gaelic Story, extending to 2000 words or more. Tale based on actual historical incidents or local legends. Prize, £5. Prize presented by the Gaelic Society of Glasgow.—1, Duncan MacDonald, Sandwick Hill School, Stornoway.

Gaelic Dialogue, not more than 15 minutes in delivery. Prize, £5. "Archd. MacCulloch Memorial." Prize presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal; 2nd, £2 10/-.—1, Miss Sarah F. MacDonald, Balearmairne, Tiree; 2, Duncan MacDonald, Sandwick Hill School, Stornoway.

Best Collection of "Children's Gaelic Rhymes and Games." Prize, £5, by Mr. Robert MacMillan.—1, Mrs. K. W. Grant, Oban.

Essay on any Subject. Prize, £5.—1, Mr. John MacFadyen, Corkerhill, Glasgow.

Compilation of Unpublished Gaelic Vocal Music. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Miss Joan MacInnes, Breakish, Skye; 2, Mrs. Scott, Balcaldine.

#### WEDNESDAY.

##### VOCAL MUSIC.

(Masonic Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Miss Anne Johnston, Barra; Music—Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac.

For Best Rendering of a Song from Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides." Male and Female Voices. Competitors to prepare "Sea Feast" and "Sea Sounds." Prizes: 1st, "Songs of the Hebrides," Vol. III.; 2nd, "Songs of the Hebrides," Vol. III. Presented by Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser.—1, Miss Jean Cameron, Fort William; 2, Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilphead.

Oban and Lorn Association War Commemoration Medal (Open), for the best rendering of one of following Songs by Lorn Bards, "Oran Duthcha" (Donnchadh Bàn), "O gur mis' tha sona dheth" (Campbell), and "Ditheachadh m' eolais" (Calum C. MacPhail). Prizes: 1st, Gold Badge and £1; 2nd, £2. Prizes presented by Glasgow Oban and Lorn Association.—1, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardgour; 2, James C. M. Campbell, London.

Gaelic Folk Songs. For best rendering of Two Unpublished Gaelic Folk Song Airs. No pianoforte accompaniment allowed. Prizes: 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, 10/-.—1, Miss Cathie M. Clark, Glasgow; 2, Miss Cathie B. MacLean, do.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song connected with County of Inverness. "James Grant Memorial" Prize. Open. Prizes (Ladies): 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, £1.—1, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardgour; 2, Miss Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh.

(Town Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Mr. Alex. Thomson, Glasgow; Music—Mr. Herbert Wiseman, M.A., Edinburgh.

Solo Singing of a Gaelic Song connected with County of Inverness. "James Grant Memorial" Prize. Open. Prizes (Gentlemen): 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, £1.—1, Roderick MacLeod, Anstruther; 2, Alexander MacRae, London.

Final for Oban and Lorn Gold Badge.

## THURSDAY.

ORAL DELIVERY.

(West Highland Museum.)

Adjudicators:—Rev. Colin MacPherson, M.A., Glencoe, and Miss Anne Johnston, Barra.

A Gold Medal awarded to the Competitor gaining the Highest Aggregate Marks in Four Specified Competitions. Gold Medal presented by the Glasgow Skye Association.—Won by Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban.

Recitation of Poem, "Blàr Ionbhar-Cheitein," memorised by Competitor. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-. Open to all.—1, Miss Mary Kennedy, Treen; 2, Roderick Campbell, Clachan.

Recitation of Prose Piece, "Fionnalt." Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd, 10/-. Open to all.—1, Roderick Campbell, Clachan; 2, Miss Mary Kennedy, Treen.

Reading of Unfamiliar Piece of Prose chosen by the Judges. Prizes: 1st, £1; 2nd 10/-. Open to all.—1, Donald Cameron, Ardgour; 2, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban.

Recitation of Piece of Original Poetry specially composed by Competitor. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Duncan MacNiven, Kilchoman; 2, Duncan Johnston, Islay.

Ancient Folk-Tale, narrated in traditional style. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Duncan Johnston, Islay; 2, Donald MacMillan, Corrybeg.

For Best Prepared Original Gaelic Speech on any Subject. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; 2, Duncan MacNiven, Kilchoman.

VOCAL MUSIC.

(Town Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Rev. Alexander MacKinnon, Ph.D.; Music—Mr. Herbert Wiseman, M.A., Edinburgh.

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, Gilbert MacPhail, Ballingrant; 2, William Cameron, Betty.

Solo Singing of the Oran-mor, Alasdair Ghlinne Garaidh. Female Voices. "The Jessie MacLachlan Memorial Prize," £2 10/-.—1, Miss Mary C. MacColl, Ardgour.

Solo Singing of a Song with Clarsach accompaniment. Prize: 1st, £3. Prize presented by Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds).—1, Miss Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh.

Best Acted Dialogue by Two Performers. The words selected from any Published Gaelic Work, or specially composed. Prize: 1st, £3.—1, Sarah F. MacDonald, Treen, and Chris. MacIver, Treen.

Solo Singing. Male Voices. Competitors are confined in the choice of a song to "Mairi bhan Dhail an Eas" and "Is trom leam an airigh." Prizes: 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, £1.—1, Gilbert MacPhail; 2, James C. M. Campbell.

Choral Singing of the Songs, "Duthaich nan Craobh" and "Ho ro gun togainn air hughan

fhathast" (A' Choiris Chiuil, pp. 67 and 82). Confined to Choirs from Rural Districts, excluding towns of more than 2000 of a population. Prizes: 1st, £6 and retention for one year of the "Sgiath Lathurna," presented by Col. and Mrs. Iain Campbell (Airds); 2nd, £4.—1, Brae Lochaber Choir.

Competition for Seniors in Solo Singing of "Puir a Beul." Prizes (conditionally on sufficient number of competitors entering): 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, 15/-; 3rd, 10/-.—1, Miss Flora MacLennan, London; 2, Miss Cathie M. Clark, Glasgow; 3, Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilphead.

(Masonic 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 Edith Campbell, Inveraray; 2, Miss Betsy MacLeod, Broadford.

Solo Singing of the Oran-mor, "Braithchean na Feinne." Male Voices. "The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prize," £2 10/-.—1, James C. M. Campbell, London.

Solo Singing of a Song. To encourage the revival of the older or less known district songs. Prizes: 1st, £2; two 2nd prizes of 15/- each; and three 3rd prizes of 10/- each. Prizes presented by Mrs. Ryan, Roy Bridge.—1, Miss Cathie B. MacLean, Glasgow; 2, Miss Jean Cameron and John MacCallum; 3, Miss Cathie Clark, Gilbert MacPhail, and Betsy MacLeod.

Solo Singing. Female Voices. Competitors confined in choice of song to "Mo Robhairneach Gaolach" and "Oran do Ian Breac MacLeoid." Prizes: 1st, £1 10/-; 2nd, £1.—1, Miss Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh; 2, Miss Jean Cameron, Fort William.

Aggregate Prizes. Males.—1, An Comunn Gold Medal, Rod. MacLeod, Anstruther; 2, James C. M. Campbell; 3, Gilbert MacPhail. Females.—1, An Comunn Gold Medal, Mary C. MacColl, Ardgour; 2, Jean Cameron, Fort William; 3, Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh.

## FRIDAY.

VOCAL MUSIC.

(Town Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S.; Music—Mr. Herbert Wiseman, M.A.

Solo Singing of a Song. Female Voices. Open only to former Mod gold medallists and first-prize winners for singing. Prize: £3.—1, Miss Morag MacDonald, Edinburgh.

Solo Singing of a Song. Male Voices. Open only to former Mod gold medallists and first-prize winners for singing. Prize: £3.—1, James C. M. Campbell.

Duet Singing of a Song. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Miss Anna Stevens, and Ernest G. Mackintosh, Edinburgh; 2, Miss Jessie E. MacKenzie and Miss Millie Chisholm, Inverness.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Adjudicators:—Pipe-Major William Ferguson, Glasgow, and Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac.

Playing of a Highland March, Strathspey, and Reel on the Pianoforte. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10/-. Competition confined strictly to

amateurs.—1, Miss Peggy Robertson, Glasgow; 2, Miss Nancy MacDonald, Partick; 3, Miss Madge C. Brown, Lochgilphead.

Playing of Gaelic Song, Air, Strathspey, and Reel on the Violin. Confined to amateurs. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1; 3rd, 10/.—1, John M. MacPherson, London; 2, Donald MacDonald, Bracara; 3, Miss Isobel Robertson, Glasgow.

VOCAL MUSIC.  
(Grand Hall.)

Adjudicators:—Gaelic—Rev. Dr. A. MacKinnon, Kilmornaig and Mr. D. J. MacLeod, H.M.I.S., Inverness. Music—Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., and Mr. Herbert Wiseman, M.A., Edinburgh.

Quartette Singing of a Song. Mixed Voices. (S.A.T.B.) Competitors to prepare the two songs, "Taobh Abhainn Aora" (Coisir a Mhoid I.) and "Mo roghainn 's mo run" (A Choiris Chiull), either or both of which they may be asked to sing. Prizes: 1st, £2; 2nd, £1.—1, Edinburgh Choir Quartette; 2 (equal), London Gaelic Choir Quartette (2) and London Gaelic Choir Quartette (1).

Quartette Singing of the Song, "Chur mo leannan cul rium fein," setting by Robertson (Bayley & Ferguson). Male Voices Only. Prizes: £2 and £1, presented by the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir.—1, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song with or without Chorus, in Three or Four-part Harmony. Male Voices Only. The two songs prescribed are "An Ataireachd Ard" (arranged Robert MacLeod, Mus.Bac.) and "Air Feasgar na Callainn" (arranged by T. S. Drummond). Prizes: 1st, £5; 2nd, £3.—1, Oban Gaelic Choir; 2, Ballachulish Male Voice Choir and Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (equal).

Choral Singing of the Songs, "MacGriogair o Ruadh Shruith" and "Thainig an Gille Dubh" in Three-part Harmony (arranged by Norman MacDonald). Female Voices Only. Prizes: 1st, £5; 2nd, £3.—1, London Gaelic Choir; 2, Oban Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing of a Song, with or without Chorus, in Four-part Harmony. Songs prescribed: "An t-Eilean Muileach" (test song) (M. G. MacCallum), "Tha'n Samhradh air tighinn" (Hugh Hunter, Mus. Bac.), and "Hugo o laithill o horo." Prizes: 1st, £15, retention for one year of the Lovat and Tulibardine Trophy, and a baton to the Choir Conductor; 2nd, £10; 3rd, £5.—1, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir; 2, London Gaelic Choir; 3, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association.

## IMPRESSIONS AND MEMORIES OF THE MOD.

The annual feast of inspiration has again passed. It is always with a certain feeling of uncertainty that one steps into the first session of the Mod lest its mysterious satisfying benediction shall not be forthcoming. Its spell, however, has lost nothing of its power and it was one continuous crescendo from Tuesday forenoon's solo class till the final choral strains on Friday evening stilled the huge audience in the Grand Hall of Fort William.

Fort William seems an ideal meeting place. Its natural beauty is a great gain but other

places can claim an equal charm. I think its comparative isolation is responsible for the peculiarly Gaelic atmosphere which pervades the real gathering. Competitors do not rush from their daily tasks to compete for prizes as happens in the great cities. They compete in many classes and spend their day moving from class to class comparing impressions, agreeing or disagreeing with the judges' comments, but all the time coming under the spell of Song. Comradeship becomes more and more evident. If any lack friendship here they have themselves to blame. The inherent courtesy of the Gael, smothered perhaps by the conventions of modern life, reblossoms in its native air. The main street of this northern capital thronged each day by the same faces gave one the impression of moving daily amongst a large family and by the end of the week the promenade became a series of nods and smiles. If any man or woman be insensible to this they have missed the great message of the Mod. No modern Festival can produce this effect, and it is to be hoped that the National Meeting will not be allowed to grow in numbers to such an extent as to eradicate this family spirit. The committee should, if necessary, restrict their entries by endeavouring to secure the Provincial prize-winners to compete. Until such times, however, let all come, but remember overcrowding will tend to kill the spirit which at present is working for goodwill and comradeship throughout the country. Once give the kindly soul this experience and he or she will return to the city with a stimulus to reproduce a similar feeling in his family circle, in his office and in the world at large. It is a great object lesson on fraternity.

Such is the all-pervading impression. To come to outstanding events in the programme one can never forget the surprise and artistic delight occasioned by the singing of the children from Laxdale. Their soft tone seemed to have been timed to the sighing of sea-laden breezes of their native island, while their bright tone sparkled as the foam upon the crested billows under the rays of the noonday sun. Mr. M'Iver has genius with children, and he by his example has set a standard which raises children's classes to that of modern ideals. Had the standard been set by a city choir it would have occasioned no surprise but to have the standard set by a choir from one of the inaccessible portions of the Highlands gives one cause to ponder.

In a totally different class came the rendering of the Oran Mór by Mr. Jas. Campbell of London—a rendering such as one may hardly hope to hear surpassed unless some phenom-



ally gifted singer arise with the voice of a Caruso. This singer declaimed his bardic tale with a vision and imagination which made one wonder if the mantle of a bard had ever been thrown across the shoulders of one of his ancestors. His background of vocal tone was charged with foreboding and prophecy. He is a born storyteller of the deeds of his ancestors. The scene was relived by him for us.

Another surprise was forthcoming in the artistic rendering of the "Puir-a-Beul" by Flora MacLennan of London. To transform this mouth-music into an "act-song" was an accomplishment which would have turned many a professional green with envy.

Delicately turned phrases, daintily articulated verbal utterances and well-balanced rhythmic design were the characteristics of this delightful performance. It was a triumph of unconscious art, and left one speculating on the futility of trying to teach to these who have not this inborn "something." Would training have produced this? I am afraid not, nor will it ever.

But the thrills were not yet over. The Edinburgh male voice quartette in their "Loch Leven Lament" touched the high water mark of quartette singing. The ensemble was perfect. By request they repeated their performance, but so subtle and elusive are artistic interpretations that the repeat, while well into the excellent class did not reach to the perfection of the first rendering. This is mentioned to encourage singers and to point out that really exceptional performances are rare.

The combined male voice choirs in "The Call of the Eternal Sea" produced vocal effects which all of us who were present will remember. If ever a melodic phrase awakened spiritual slumberings this one did.

As I have said the Mod was a crescendo, and the finale was the session devoted to mixed choirs. Edinburgh, Glasgow and Oban have all fine records behind them and their singing is always a pleasure to listen to. Any of these choirs may take top place at any time and their results only vary with the fortunes of vocal material at the time. A higher percentage of Gaelic speakers in any of these choirs will add an additional Gaelic flavour which for the time being places that choir in a distinct position of advantage. The Campbeltown Choir deserved credit at its first appearance for its vitality and keenness, the Greenock Choir for its solidity, the Fort William Choir for its artistry and vocal colour and the Inverness Choir for its high average. But the sensation of the evening was

the unexpected rise from comparative obscurity of the London Choir. Their poetic pastoral treatment of "Tha'n Sambradh air tighinn" left a memory of refinement and airy-like fancy which was a model of its kind. They evinced a fine spirit and one of my happiest recollections of last year was a Ceilidh after the Mod at which this small body of singers held a choir practice at 2.30 a.m. Such was their keenness to benefit from their experiences. Could enthusiasm go further.

But Edinburgh scored easily in all-round excellence. Everything was so beautifully finished. The blend and balance of the vocal material—the beautiful tone—the imaginative grandeur displayed in "An t-Eilean Muileach"—the careful gradings of the harmonic masses and the unexaggerated details. It was a popular verdict and their triumph was a real one.

As mentioned at the beginning of these impressions the massed choirs final chorus at the close of the great concert concluded a memorable week. The thrill of the precentors chanting followed by the stately counterpoint might well have moved Handel to inscribe, if not write, one of his immortal choruses for such a body of singers.

One word more—Let me close these impressions in a more personal note, which touched me profoundly. A handshake from the conductor of the Ballachulish Choir (which did not win)—a cordial greeting on my way home through Pitlochry from the Campbelton Choir proceeding south (which did not win)—a bonnet-wave or Gaelic greeting from groups of competitors wending their way homewards from Fort William—all strangers—yes so-called strangers—but friends, through the spirit called forth during that week of October 1927.

ROBERT McLEOD,

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### Adult Competitions.

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By D. J. MACLEOD, M.A., H.M.I.S.

In the great majority of the Senior Competitions the average standard presented in Gaelic was eminently satisfactory: in the case of not a few competitors it was excellent, and many all but obtained full marks. On the language side it is quite clear that competitors have been devoting serious attention to pronunciation, enunciation, expression, style and phrasing. In

Gaelic phrasing demands particular attention as the basis of the spoken language is the phrase and various phonetic changes have to be carefully noted in consequence.

Much clearer articulation of consonants was evident this year and the competitors from the far south and various parts of the Highlands who are "learners" deserve much credit for the proficiency manifested under this head.

Stop consonants, fricatives, guttural spirants and the various sonants were, for the most part, delivered with full Gaelic flavour. It is clear that competitors, whether natural Gaelic speakers or English speakers, do not intend to lose any marks on the language side, if application can prevent it. Of the consonants velar lenated 'l' gave most trouble, and this sound seems now lost to many mainland districts. Palatal sonants were, on the other hand, as a rule, wonderfully correct and clear. None of the vowels seemed to give much trouble, except the 'ao' occasionally: various competitors introduced a marked and quite unnecessary 'yoh' before such words as 'eòlas.' This is dialectic, of course, but nevertheless indicates phonetic change in the direction of ease of pronunciation.

Dialectic pronunciation this year was altogether of acceptable type and in no case was it pushed too far. Eclipses which is, of course, not considered a fault, seems to be at a minimum at Mod competitions but simple vowels were, in spite of the demands of the rhyme, sometimes unjustifiably, diphthongised. Expression and interpretation were generally good: it was clear that the competitors understood what the words had to say.

Of the many excellent items that continue to haunt the memory after the Mod I should like to mention specially (1) 'An ataireachd àrd,' as sung by the Oban Choir and afterwards by the massed choirs conducted by Mr. Robert Macleod. This was a most thrilling rendering of a beautiful Gaelic lyric; it had the strongest possible appeal for those of us present who were born and brought up close to the very spot that inspired the poet. My one regret was that Donald MacIver himself, whose prize poem it is, was not present, in the body, to hear his lines sung to the air composed by John Macdonald, Oban, and harmonised by Robert Macleod. The poet's native island will welcome this addition to their songs for the sake of the author and the wonderful elemental force of the harmonies.

(2) 'Brataichean na Féinne' as sung by James Campbell, London.

(3) 'Birlinn Cholla Chiotaich,' as sung by Gilbert Macphail, Ballygrant, Islay.

Campbell, though young in years, is a great artist, interpreting with perfect taste and colour the substance of the great ballad prescribed for this year's 'Oran Mòr.' The Rev. Fr. John MacMillan, the folklorist, has another version of this ballad differing, in important respects, from the version in the Mòd booklet.

Macphail's song was new to most of us. Its metrical build is very fine and is altogether a vigorous piece which this promising young singer delivered with all the fire of the southern isleman. We should hear of Gilbert Macphail again.

The Gaelic of the eight major choirs was of excellent quality at all points. Of the eight not one choir received from my Gaelic colleague or myself fewer than 90 points.

Occasionally a non-Gaelic sound obtruded itself, but very rarely.

The coaching on the language side in every case must have been in highly competent hands.

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### Junior Vocal Competitions.

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By REV. GEORGE MACKENZIE, B.D.

I adjudicated in Gaelic on the opening day of the Mod in the following Junior Vocal competitions: 21, 22, 25 and the choral competitions. From the point of view of Gaelic all the performances were very satisfactory. If the competitors' knowledge of Gaelic was not quite perfect, yet, it was clear that considerable care had been expended on learning the words of the various songs. In many cases the enunciation was very good, and the general impression was a pleasant one to the Gaelic ear.

In Competition 21—Silver Medal—Girls—of the two songs prescribed—"An Ciocharan" and "Callart" the large majority chose the former. One would have liked that the choice of competitors had fallen more often upon the latter as it certainly gave more scope for showing knowledge of the language.

In the Choral competitions, where a creditable standard was maintained by all the choirs, the outstanding performance was that of the Laxdale Choir. Right away it was evident that wherever this Choir hailed from—and many were not clear on the locality of Laxdale—it had not forgotten to bring its Gaelic with it to the Mod. This choir felt quite at home in all the songs prescribed.

## CIOD E BEAIRTEAS?

An e bhi 'n seilbh air òr is airgiod,  
Air oighreachdan is tighean móra,  
Air seirbhisich 'na 'n deann aig t-òrdugh,  
Is àireamh chon is each is charbad?

An e bhi àrd an cùirtean saoghalt',  
Agus sluagh a' coimhead suas riut,  
Mar gu'm biodh tu d' dhia beag, uaibh-  
reach,  
Cumbhachdach os cionn chlan-daoine?

Cha'n e: thig thusa suas do 'n ghleann,  
'N uair a bhios a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh,  
'S a' sgaioleadh aiteas agus gàire,—  
Agus faic an làn 'bhios ann.—

Faic an treobhaiche 's a' chrann,  
Faic am buachaille gu sùrdail;  
'S an crodh-laigh aig' air a chùram,  
'S faic na caoraich tighinn gu fang.

Faic-sa banarach nam bò,  
Is i 'bleoghann a' chruidh ghuailfhionn;  
Agus cobhar air a cuachan,  
'S laigh mu 'n cuairt di anns a' chrò.

Faic am foghar 's e fo bhàrr,  
Còmhdaichte 'na thrusgan dealrach,  
Fanna-ghlas, geala-bhuidh òr-bhuidh,  
dearg-bhuidh',  
'S ciod ni talmhaidh tha na 's àil'?

Eisd ri ceilear binn nan éun,  
Le 'n guth tiamhaidh, ciùin-bhog, ceòl-  
mhor  
A' freagaradh a chéil' 'an còisir,  
Agus gàirdeas anns gach téud.

'S cluinn an Iar-ghaath tighinn le ciùin-  
ghuth,  
A shanais fonnhor feadh nan raointean,  
Mar gu 'm b' ann a sithean aonaich  
A bha 'sruthadh ceòl a siunnsair.

Faic an dachaidh taobh an fhuarain,  
Far am faighear cridheachan blàtha,  
Leis an docha gaol is càrdeas  
Na saoghal àilleasach is uail as.

Taisg sud uile 'na do smuaintean,  
'S beachdaich air a' Chumbhachd shiorr-  
uidh,  
A tha 'beathachadh 's a' riaghladh,  
Agus lionmhorachd A bhuaidhean.

'S ma gheibh thu 'na do spiorad dìchioll  
Air bhi 'leughadh oibribh Naduir  
Ann na 'n diomhaireachd 's an àilleachd,  
Sud am beairteas a tha prìsèil.

## FORT WILLIAM MOD DONATIONS.

Previously acknowledged ... .. £331 18 0

## RECEIVED AT HEAD OFFICE—

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Greenock Highland Society ...	5	0	0
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Sir Ian Colquhoun of Luss ...	3	0	0
Glasgow Tiree Association ...	3	0	0
Caledonian Society of Sheffield ...	2	2	0
Mrs. MacNaughton, Glendaruel ...	2	0	0
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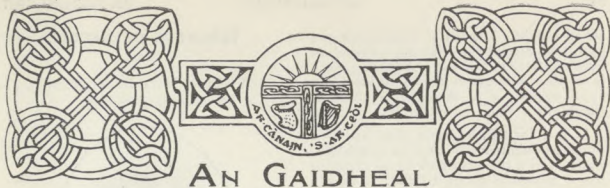
## BOOK REVIEW.

SCOTTISH GAELIC STUDIES. Vol. II., Part I.  
 110 pp. 9/-; twice yearly, 15/- post free.

The first article in this number is by Professor Watson on the Welsh Saint Cadoc, born about 500 A.D., died about 570 A.D. His father was a prince of Glamorgan. He was instructed by an Irish hermit. He visited Cornwall, Brittany, Ireland, and Scotland. There are probable commemorations of this saint in Cambuslang, Kilmadock, St. Madoes, and Chapel Dockie. Documentary evidence is adduced to show the relation of Saint Cadoc to the personal Scottish names, Doig, Doag, Doak. The etymological notes by Prof. O'Rahilly throw fresh light on such terms as airidh, aiteam, adag, dealas, diolain, eireachdas, etc. The note on *sp.* in Gaelic is very full, and is a distinct contribution on that feature. Mr. J. G. Mackay, London, has an unpublished Gaelic tale, with translation, from the MS. collection of the late J. F. Campbell of Islay. The notes and commentary show that the translator is a scientific folk-lorist. The tale represents a unique type. Mr. John Macdonald, M.A., the editor, has a fine article on the peculiar vowel sound that creeps in between some consonants in Gaelic. This is the vowel known as the "svarabhakti." The word is big, but the thing itself is quite simple and familiar—*e.g.*, we spell the word for bull as "tarbh"; but what we really say is "tar(a)bh." Mr. Macdonald has several happy illustrations from Duncan Ban Macintyre. Prof. Watson edits an unpublished Gaelic poem, with translation, on Alasdair mac Colla, from a MS. in Trinity College, Dublin, copied by Miss Knott. There is also a Gaelic tale of the Belling of the Cat (A.D., 1482), from a MS. in R.I.A. Professor Fraser, Oxford, writes some notes on Inverness-shire Gaelic in the seventeenth century. The Wardlaw MS., written between 1656 and the end of the century, is taken as basis, omitting personal and place-names in case the spelling of these should not be the spelling of the author of the MS. The usual arrangement of vowels, consonants, and some other features, as Lenition and Flexion, is followed. Mr. E. J. Gwynn has a long review of Watson's "Celtic Place Names." He concludes: "As a repertory of information, copiously documented, conveniently arranged, and carefully indexed, it is safe to predict that it will long maintain its position as the standard authority on its subject." There is a favourable review by Prof. Watson of "The Law of the Lord's Day in the Celtic Church," by Prof. Donald Maclean, D.D.; and on "Macpherson's Ossian and the Ossianic Controversy," by G. F. Black, Ph.D., New York.

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## AN GAIDHEAL

EDITOR.—Rev. NEIL ROSS, B.D., *The Manse, Laggan, Kingussie, to whom all literary communication<sup>s</sup> should be addressed; business and other communications to 114 West Campbell Street, Glasgow*

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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An Dùlchadh, 1927.*

[Earrann 3

### URRAM DO 'N GHÀIDHLIG.

Cìod tha sinn ag ciallachadh le urram do 'n Ghàidhlig? Tha gur e bhì 'g a labhairt agus 'g a cleachdadh an aon dòigh air am bi sinn comasach air urram do 'n Ghàidhlig a thaisbeanadh. Cha dean comhradh Beurla mu dheidhinn na Gàidhlig an gothuch. Faodaidh sinn gu leòr a chantuinn am Beurla mu 'n chùis, gun a bhèag de chuideachadh a dheanamh le cainnt ar n-athraichean. Leugh sinn o chionn ghoirid earrann ghlic le sgrìobhaiche Albannach, anns a robh e a' cumail a mach gu feum sinn a bhì ag aiseag do 'n Ghàidhlig an nì sin ris an can na Frangaich *prestige*. An uair a chruinnicheas muinntir aig mòd no aig cuirm-chiùil Ghàidhlig, is bochd an nì gur ann aig a' Bheurla a tha am *prestige*. Is i a' Bheurla a tha faotainn urram fad an t-siubhail a chionn is gur i tha muinntir a' bruidheann an uair bu chòir dhaibh labhairt ri chèile an Gàidhlig. O chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean bha sinn shìos aig coinn-eamh mhòr nan Cuimreach. Bha mu sheachd mìle pearsa anns a' chuideachd. Bha iad ann de gach seorsa—ìosal is uasal, bochd is beartach, le foghlum is gun foghlum. Ach bha aon nì ann a bha 'g an ceangal ri chèile mar 'Chuimrich. Agus b' e sin gu robh iad uile a' bruidheann an cànan fèin. Cha chluinnte ach Cuimreach air gach lath fada an latha. An uair a

shuidheadh iad aig bòrd cha robh lideadh Beurla ri chluinntinn. Bhiodh e air a chunntas mar nhl-mhòdh Beurla a chleachdadh air an làraich ud. Bha so a' cur urram air a' Chuimrich. Agus air a' mhòdh cheudna is mithich dhuinne urram a chur air a' Ghàidhlig. Bu chòir lagh a dheanamh gum biodh càin air gach neach a labhradh Beurla aig mòd cho fad is a bhitheas Gàidhlig comasach dhaibh. Gun teagamh tha cuid de chairdean na Gàidhlig nach urrainn a labhairt. Ach a thaobh na feadhna aig a bheil eòlas na cànan, is cùis nàire dhaibhsan mur labhair iad ri chèile an Gàidhlig gach uair a thionailas iad aig mòd no cuirm-chiùil.

Anns an àireamh so féin de *An Ghàidheal* gheibhear breacadh air an obair a thatar a' deanamh aig an am a thaobh na cànan Chuimrich. Chaidh buidheann de dhaoine foghlumte a thaghadh o chionn ghoirid gu bhì a' rannsachadh agus a' meorachadh cìod e an t-àite a tha aig cainnt nan Cuimreach am beatha an t-sluaigh anns an dùthaich sin. Agus tha comas aca mar an ceudna gu bhì a' tabhairt faineir cìod an dòigh anns a fadhar aghart a dheanamh a thaobh cleachdadh na cainnt sin am foghlum, an teagasg, am malairt, anns an eaglais, agus eadhon anns na cùirtean lagha. Tha an bhuidheann ag ràdh gur còir suimean airgid fhaotainn o Ard Rìaghladh na Rìoghachd airson leabhraichean freagarrach gu feum anns na h-oilthighean agus anns na sgoiltean. Tha e coltach gu bheil na Cuimrich a' cur rompa gun cuir iad urram



air an cànan. Tha iad a' deònachadh gun gabh i an t-ionad sin a tha air a thogail an diugh an tomhas mòr leis a' Bheurla. Agus is maith a' mhìsneach dhaibh gu bheil aire agus airgid 'g a fhaotainn o 'n Ard Rìaghladh a chum na crìche so.

Is ann le dùrachd agus dian iartus a fhuair na Cuimrich cho fad so air an aghaidh. Agus an ni a tha comasach do na Cuimrich tha e comasach do na Gàidhil. Anns a cheud dol a mach tha e iomchuidh gu faigheadh a' Ghàidhlig tuilleadh urram anns a' Ghàidhealtachd féin. Gun teagamh chan eil an so ach cuspair a tha a ghnàth air an chlàr-eagair, agus air duilleagan an mhìosachain so. A dh' aindeoin na chaidh a chantuinn agus a sgrìobhadh tha urram do 'n Ghàidhlig tuilleadh is gann. Ged a tha cuid de Ughdarrais an Fhoghlum dileas do 'n Ghàidhlig le bhì 'g a teagasg anns na sgoiltean, gidheadh tha cuid eile de na h-Ughdarrais anns a' Ghàidhealtachd a tha ag àicheadh còir na Gàidhlig, agus 'g a cumail an staid easurramaich le bhì a' diùltadh aite dhi anns na sgoiltean. Cìod is urrainn an Comunn a dheanamh gu bhì a' leasachadh na cùis. Tha na h-Ughdarrais ag atharrachadh uair anns na trì bliadhna. Air an earrach so a' tighinn bi taghadh ùr ann airson Ughdarrais an Fhoghlum. Is urrainn An Comunn gluasad a chum is gun cuir an luchd-taghadh buill a steach a bhios seasmhach air taobh na Gàidhlig. An dèigh gach ni tha dà chumhachd os cionn nan Ughdarrais. Is iad sin Achd an Fhoghlum agus guth an luchd-taghadh. Tha Achd an Fhoghlum fàbharach. Tha guth an luchd-taghadh gu bhì 'g a chleachdadh ann uair eile, an ùine gun bhì fada. Bu chòir do 'n Chomunn an cothrom luachmhor so a ghabhail an deagh am. Bu chòir dhaibh luchd labhairt a chuir a mach, gu h-àraidh far is mò feum orra; luchd labhairt a chuireadh gu h-eagnuidh air shùilibh do 'n t-sluagh cìod e cho iomchuidh 's a tha e, gun cuireadh iad buill do na h-Ughdarrais a chumadh aobhar na Gàidhlig anns an t-sealladh. Air an mhòd so ghabhadh an òigridh tlachd anns a' chainnt, agus bheireadh iad urram dhi, an uair a chitheadh iad gu robh i a' faotainn tuilleadh spéis agus meas o na h-Ughdarrais.

## TEACHERS OF GAELIC.

I.—MISS MARY D. McQUEEN,  
Oban High School.



When the story of the Gaelic revival comes to be reviewed, the work of teachers of Gaelic will receive due recognition. No one can rightly claim to "know" a language who is only able to speak it, and for reading and writing we have to depend on the school, though reading may be taught at home, as many gratefully remember; for a literary and systematic knowledge of a language we have to look to the teacher.

The Oban School Board, largely influenced by the zeal of Dr. Kenneth Campbell for the old language, was probably the first to appoint a specialist teacher in Gaelic, and the first candidates were presented for Lower Gaelic in the Leaving Certificate examination in 1910. The policy of the Board was fully justified, and the first teacher, Miss MacRae, continued to present pupils with much success, until she resigned her post in 1914, when she was succeeded by the subject of our sketch.

In those days, Gaelic teaching was carried on under considerable difficulty: suitable text-books were not available, and "Caraid nan Gàidheal" provided most of the reading matter. The teachers, who in those pre-war years, in spite of many disadvantages, produced work which demonstrated to the Department that Gaelic could be placed on

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### "VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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



the same footing as other languages in schools, deserve no little credit. A higher paper was established in 1916, and Miss McQueen is probably the only teacher in secondary schools who has continuously put forward candidates for Higher Gaelic in the Leaving Certificate examination since the paper was instituted.

The preparation of a scheme of study for this paper was pioneer work of great value and no little difficulty. There was little or nothing to go by; the paper required five or six years of continued study, and the syllabus had to be comparable in standard and scope with those long established in other languages. Miss McQueen's original scheme has been greatly extended in various directions, so that now a pupil who works faithfully through it acquires a sound knowledge of modern Gaelic, some acquaintance with old Gaelic and Irish, and much information regarding Celtic customs, culture, and history. Even a fluent Gaelic speaker requires steady application and skilful guidance to reach the standard required, and examination results show that Miss McQueen's pupils have had such guidance. They all look back with gratitude and pleasure to the hours spent in the Gaelic class-room.

Miss McQueen, in common with other teachers of Gaelic, has often expressed her thanks to An Comunn for the invaluable assistance rendered by the publication of *Leabhraichean Sgoile Gaidhlig*, and *Macleod's Revised Reid's Grammar*; for Higher candidates *Professor Calder's Grammar* is most useful, and *Professor Watson's Bardachd and Rosg* well-nigh indispensable. (The latter is at present, unfortunately, out of print.) The annual grants of the Highlands and Islands Trust have been of great assistance in providing standard text-books and works of reference.

Readers of "An Gàidheal" may have noted from year to year that Oban pupils have a notable record of success in Mod competitions. Miss McQueen recalls putting forward the names of her pupils in the very first year she served as teacher of Gaelic, but the war intervened; since the Mod was resumed, she has put forward competitors every year in the Junior Literary Section, and gained many successes. At five of the post-war Mods, Oban High School has been well represented in the Oral Section as well, again with credit to both competitors and teacher, and on four occasions school choirs competed, gaining the chief prize three times. Miss McQueen was responsible for the language training required.

It is hardly necessary to add that all this has involved much patience and labour, skill and devotion on the part of the teacher. The training of competitors has to be done after school hours, for the syllabus of study and the exigencies of a Secondary School time-table do not permit of encroaching on the usual routine. For her work in this connection, Miss McQueen deserves the thanks and gratitude of all lovers of Gaelic.

The work thus described can be roughly assessed, by examination results and Mod successes—but only roughly. These, after all, are only valuable as visible evidence of good work; things that are seen are temporal, but the inspiration imparted to young minds, the loyalty to An Comunn's ideals, and devotion to the Gaelic cause cannot be measured. "An Gàidheal" gladly pays its tribute to an efficient and faithful worker in the Gaelic field.

#### EADAR DA GHÀIDHEALTACHD.

An uair a bha mise an Eirinn chithinn giullan a' tighinn an a' sgoil agus a leabhraichean fo a' chlais agus bhiodh leabhran beag Gaidhlig nam measg. Is mimic nach biodh aig a' bhrogach ach beagan fhocail a thog e anns an sgoil—na dathan agus ainmean airson n' no dha, agus beo chreutair no dha, an Gaidhlig. Is ann am Baile Atha Cliath a lorg mi a' Ghaidhealtach an uair a chuir mi eolas air fìor dhuine flathail a bha e fhein na beo-fhianuis air an ni a sgrìobh e, Gur e an Gaidheal am fear aig a' bheil a' Ghaidhlig agus gu bheil a' Ghaidhealtachd far eil na Gaidheil. Seall mar so air, cha cho-ionnan *Highlander* agus an Gaidheal. Tha an Gaidheal air a bhonnaibh, agus nainntinn cheart, air machraichean Bheinn-a-bhaoghla, anns an Eilean Fhada; agus tha iad againn air monaidh an Taobh Tuath a tha nam fìor *Highlanders*. Ach nan tachradh Donaidh is Simidh ri Niall mac Eachuinn chanadh Niall còir ri Ruairidh, gu neo-lochdach, 'thachair dà ghall rium.' Agus sin mar a tha chùis an Saor Stàit Eireann. Chan ann thall agus a bhos a tha Gaidhealtachd Eireann ach a mhàin far eil na Gaidheil aig a' bheil a' chainnt mhàtharail.

Air an laimh eile, tha eadar-dhealachadh mor eadar Alba agus Eire anns an ni so. Tha Gaidhealtachd na h-Albann gun ionndrainn air call a thighinn orra ri linn ionmpachadh o Ghaidhealtachd gu Gaidhealtachd. Faoadaidh nach bi so mar so an comhnuidh, cha robh a 'chuis mar so riamh a reir eachdraidh, ach, a' toirt fear as an so agus te as an sud, tha e mar so an diugh. Tha Eire, ma ta, air a chaochladh; is e sin mas

fior na bha iad fhein a' cumail a mach. Chan eil, cha robh, agus cha bhi, Eire leagta ris a' Ghaidhlig! Nach e so a bheir air cuid a bhi ag radh, Faodaidh gu bheil giorra-shaoghail a' feitheamh air a' Ghaidhlig an Albainn ach tha latha fada a' feith-eamh air a' Ghaidhlig a tha an Eirinn. No abair, tha Alba coma co dhiu ach chan eil Eire coma, agus bithidh a bhuil ann. So mar a chuir Ollamh ionraideach Eireannach, Dughlas Uì Huide, an guothuich. Ni Albannach deagh Shasunnach, ni Cuimreach deagh Shasunnach, ach cha do rinn Eireannach Sasunnach ceart riamh agus cha mhotha na sin a tha e coltach gun deau; uime sin, ligeadh mac an Eireannaich dheth a bhi na Shasunnach agus biodh e na Ghaidheal Eireannach. So ma ta an gne smuain on d' thainig an cruthatharrachadh a chithear air Eirinn. Sud a' ghaoth a lion am breidein Eireannach agus leis an do chuir an long rubha dubh iargalta foipe anns an latha a chunnaic ar sùilean.

Cha bhiodh e na iognadh, mar sin, ged a bhiodh Saor Stàit Eireann fo fhiachaibh aig Gaidhealtachd, nach iad cinn-ihùil na Gaidhealtachd a thug an togail mhòr shoilleir so dhith? Agus tha Sasunn ag amharc fo amharas agus os ial ag radh, 'Am breugnaich a h-eachdraidh ionndrainn Eireann air call na Gaidhealtach?' Chi an saoghal am breugnaich no nach breugnaich. Ach cheana rinn Dàil Eireann tùs ceart a chur air obair mhòr. Chuireadh a mach Comhairle-rannsaichidh airson suidheachadh na Gaidhealtach a thoir fa comhair luchd-raigh-laidh. Chuir A'Chomhairle crìoch air an obair a thugadh seachad na deanamh. So an ath ni, de a ni Saor Stàit Eireann a' leasachadh chùisean. Bidh sin an crochadh an tomhais mhoir ri guth an t-shluaigh agus chan fhada gun cluinnear an guth sin agus iomadh tha, chan eil, ann.

De an naidheachd a thug na fir ud air ais on Gaidhealtachd? Thuir iad gu robh mu 258,000 duine-aira' Gaidhealtachd, 147,000 anns na cearnaibh anns a bheil a' Ghaidhlig laidir agus 111,000 anns na cearnaibh anns a bheil i nas laige (Ma bha corr air 80 anns 100 a' labhairt na Gaidhlig bha i laidir; ma bha eadar 25 agus 80 ga labhairt bha i lag). Anns gach ceana tha a' Ghaidhlig a' dol air ais agus a' Bheurla a' tolladh a steach. Tha ionadan ann anns a bheil sluagh aig a bheil Gaidhlig agus gun iad ga cleachdadh. Sin mar a tha cuid an Gaidhealtachd Albann, gu sonruichte air an taobh an Ear. Anns na sgoilean chan eil an t-oilean Gaidhealach mar a bhùineadh dha a bhi. Thatar a' teagais na Gaidhlig anns na h-abannan toisich ach anns na h-Ard Sgoilean chan eil a h-àite fhein air a thoir dith agus chan eil i idir air a cleachdadh mar an oide-fhoghlum, no mar an meadhan trid a bheil eolus air a chompairteachadh ri òigridh. Ach is e is miosa cho gann agus cho neo-nidheamaichte agus a tha luchd-teagais na

Gaidhlig anns na Sgoilean, araon Ard agus Coitichionn. Tha 40 anns 100 aca nach urrainn Gaidhlig a theagais, agus am measg gach 60 eile tha dream air am meas comasach air sin a deanamh aig nach eil an comas. Tha ni-eigin eil an cuairt an fhoghlum a ligeas ceud an coise fo ainm luchd-teagais do dream aig nach eil an t-eòlas feumail. Ma tha na h-Eireannaich (agus na h-Albannaich comhla riubha) gu bhi deanamh tuilleadh agus cleasachd ri oilean Gaidhlig is eigin gum bi an luchd-teagais iad fhéin air an teagais gu snasail, dileas. Bhiodh e air a mheas na chuis-bhùirdein fir a bhi a' teagais Laidionn agus iad fhein aineolach air dlìghe a' chànain sin. Agus cia mar a ni an canan a bhi na Ghaidhlig dreach eile chuir air? Mar sin tha an obair na h-obair chudthromaich aig cuid, an Eirinn, na leth-obair aig cuid eile, agus gun sealltuinn rithe aig càch. Theid aig Dàil Eireann air so a leasachadh ma tha dùrachd ath-leasachaidh annta. Faodaidh iad anns a' ghineil so fhein an t-ath-leasachadh a deanamh. Tha oigridh na Gaidhealtachd aca airson gun deanadh iad luchd-teagais Gaidhlig; tha Tìghean Foghlum aca; agus tha an t-airgid nan làmhnan. A bheil an rathad cho rèidh so an Albainn? Tha an t-Achd Ur againn agus an tomhais rinn e feum cheana. Ach tha e na chunnart gum bithear riarachte ged a bhiodh móran agus a' chòir aca dìreach mar a thogras iad a cumail. Bha an t-sean Rìogheachd, Alba, ainmeil airson lionmhorachd nan Achdan ceudach agus airson cho beag agus a rinneadh airson na h-Achdan móra, iomraideach, a chuir gu buil. Tha cion comais, cion airgid, an aghaidh aghartais agus cion suim agus cion durachd am measg Chomhairlibh. Chan eil dith Tìghean Foghlum air Alba, tha ullachadh glan anns na h-Oilthighean, an Dumeideann, an Glascho, an Obaireadhainn, agus chan eil cearb air an oilean an sin. Tha feum air gum biodh a' mhacraidh Gaidhealach air an treorachadh gu na h-Oilthighean sin agus an uair a ruigeas iad iad nach teid iad seachad air na Foghlumaich a tha ag oileanachadh mic leughann na Gaidhlig.

Dé is cor don Ghaidhlig an cuairt na malairt, an lagha, agus dreuchdan shìbheulta na duthecha? An Eirinn, tha Cuirt an lagha fo 'n Bheurla agus gach gnìomhachas eile comhla ris. Tha na fir-lagha, fir-na-cise, luchd tasgaidh an airgid, agus na cléirich fhein, a' deanamh latha Beurla dheth, agus mar sin a slor-chuideachadh ann a bhi a' mùchadh na Gaidhlig. Tha luchd nam bailtean beaga gu sonraichte air tus ann a bhi a' lèigeil an earbuill leis a' chraicinn.

A bheil a' Ghaidhealtachd a' dol aog? Tha. A bheil a' cuisean do-leigheas? Chan eil. Agus is maith an comharra air Gaidhealtachd Eireann nach eil i riarachte le a suidheachadh. Chan eil a' chuis do-leigheas an uair nach can daoine, Biodh a chlach a bheir i mach aice. C. H.

## RACHAINN 'N AD CHOMHAIL.

From Miss JOHAN MACINNES' PRIZE COLLECTION, Mod 1927.

## KEY F.

.d | r .r : m\_r | d .s\_1 : l\_1 | d .,r : m | l : s .m | d .,r : m | d , s\_1 . - : l\_1 . ||  
 A dh'aindeoin co theireadh e, Rachainn 'nad chòmh-ail, A dh'aindeoin co theireadh e.  
 D.C.

l\_1, l\_1 | d : r , m - . | s : s | l ., l : s .m | l ., s : m\_r . ||  
 Gu'm b'fhearr leam na fortan, A bhi nochd am Pol Ròdhaig

Tha mo ghaol air a' ghille  
 Tha de chinne nan Leòdach.

'S truagh nach faicinn thu tighinn  
 Fhir mo chridhe gun fhòtus.

'S truagh nach faicinn thu tighinn  
 'S mi gu'n ruitheadh 'n ad chòmhail.

Ged a bhiodh an reothadh cruaidh  
 Is sneachda fuar air a' mhòintich.

Chi mi 'm monadh am bliadhna  
 Le droch neul air 's cha neònach.

Ge b'oil le mo chinneadh  
 Dheanainn mireadh ri Dòmhnall.

'S ge b' oil le mo chàirdean  
 Chuirinn fàilte le pòig ort.

'S i do ghruaidh bu ghlan rughadh  
 Tigh'nn bho shiubhal na mòintich.

Tha mo chion air an fhleasgach  
 Dhonn, leadanach, bhòidheach.

'S mi gu'n aithnicheadh do sheasamh  
 Aig an eaglais Di-dòmhnach.

## BOOK REVIEW.

"A Compleat Theory of the Scots Highland Bag p-pe," by Joseph Macdonald. Compiled 1760-1763; first published 1803. A Reprint now published by Alexander Macdonald, Glencona, Inverness. Price 5s., with postage, 5s. 6d. Printed by Aird & Coghill, Glasgow.

This is a fine Reprint of a remarkable book which was composed as far back as 1760 by an enthusiast who was at the same time an expert—a happy combination of qualities for a task like this. Although the work was not published originally till 1803 yet it was composed fully forty years earlier, when as yet the great masters were flourishing, and the golden age of piobaireachd had not passed away. On this ground it is a document that brings us near to the source of authority. While some collections in verbal notation may be perhaps as old as this, yet the difficulty about verbal notation (canntraichd) is the room that exists for dubiety in the interpretation. But in Joseph Macdonald's "Compleat Theory" there is no room left for dubiety. Everything is given with scientific accuracy. The author appears to have been himself a cultured exponent of the music. He appears to have been carefully taught, presumably by excellent teachers. He discerns the essentials for a proper basis in the knowledge of Ceòl Mór. He deals with all the "shakes, introductions, graces, and cuttings; with all the terms of art in which the instrument was originally taught by its first masters in the islands of Sky and Mull." The book has groupings of grace notes which have ceased to be used, perhaps because too difficult! In this book the recent controversialists about Cruinlath may find a solution to their difficulties; at any

rate, Joseph Macdonald is quite clear on the particular A note in question.

Joseph Macdonald was an officer in the Indian Army, and died soon after joining the Army. The MS. of the book was found in Bengal by Sir John Murray Macgregor, who sent it to the author's brother, Rev. Patrick Macdonald of Kilmore, who published his own Highland Melodies in 1784, and the "Theory" in 1803.

The present beautiful Reprint is edited by Mr. Alexander Macdonald, Inverness, who has fulfilled the task with eminent success. He has followed the original faithfully, and in his editor's preface has thrown fresh light on the history of the book. Mr. Macdonald has put all lovers of the pipes under a debt of obligation. All players of piobach ought to secure this work without fail. It would be a useful standard for reference, and a means of contrasting the ways of the old masters with the more recent claims of the new authorities.

## NEW MEMBERS.

## LIFE.

Ian MacLeod, Esq., Glasgow.  
 Malcolm MacInnes, Esq., Skye.

## ORDINARY.

Donald Ross, Esq., Inverness.  
 Miss M. Stewart, Inverness.  
 Robert Ritchie, Esq., Balloch.  
 Mrs. Angus MacKechnie, Drumoyne.  
 Angus MacKechnie, Esq., Gourock.  
 Rev. Neil MacColl, Glasgow.  
 Miss Annabella MacVicar, Morvern.  
 Miss Anne Ramsay Fyfe, Cambridge.

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le  
CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

B'e an nì sonraichte a thionndaidh m'intinn gus am pàipeir so a sgrìobhadh, turus-cuain a ghabh mi o chionn bliadhna no dhà bho abhainn Chluaidh mu'n cuairt taobh tuath Albainn gu baile Tònsberg an Lochlainn.

Bho'n mhionaid a dh'fhàg sinn Grianag gus an deachaidh sinn troimh'n Chaol Arcach agus an robh sinn a mach anns a Mhuir Thuathach, sheòl an soitheach fad an rathaid troimh shean fhearann Lochlannach.

Bha a mhiann orm o chionn fhada tarruing a thoirt anns a mhiosachan againn air a chuid so do ar n-eachdraidh, a creidsinn gu'm biodh e taitneach le buill Chochomunn nan Lochlannach cluinntinn mu'n t-shean Lochlann "Siar-thar-sàile" mar a theirear ris ann ar sean sgeòil. Thug an turus so brosnuchadh as ùr do'm iartus, oir, air slighe an t-soithich a leanachd air a chairt-ihil, agus na stiùraidhean seblaidh air a chuairt so tre fhad oir-thlr siar na h-Alba bha aon, ge b'oil leis, air a bhualadh leis na bha de dh'ainmean nan àitean a leigeadh ris gu'n robh iad às an t-sean chainnt Lochlannach; cuid diubh ann an deise ùr Ghàidhlig a rinn am falach air dhòigh gur gann a dh'aithnichteadh iad, ach cuid eile nach b'urrainn an sinnsearachd a chleith.

Bha ainm an t-soithich anns an d'rinn mi a chuairt so, cho math ris a phort gus an robh i dol, mar mhac-talla às an t-sean eachdraidh Lochlannach, agus a freagairt gu h-anabarrach ris gach nì m'a timchioll.

Oir b'i so am bàt' ur "Ronald," de 10,000 tunna, soitheach briagh, air a togail air Cluaidh mar Thigh-oibre air an t-sàile—mar a dh'fhaodar a ràdh—ann an iasgach nam muca-mara, gus gach nì m'an timchioll a chur gu feum; air son Tigh ainmeil N. Bugge, Tònsberg, agus b'i a cheud soitheach Lochlannach de'n dealbh so a bh'air a togail gu h-àraid air son na h-obair so. Bha i a nis air a rathad dhachaidh gu bhì air a cur an uidheam air son turus gu iasgach nam muca-mara anns a Chuan-reòdhta mu dheas. B'e'n sgiobair aice Captain Stùgard Christensen, fìor shamhuil a mharaidhe Lochlannaich, agus b'ann trid a shuairceas, agus suaiceas Luchd-seilbh a shoithich a fhuair mise an t-sochair a bhì'm aon d'an aoidhean, maille ri àireamh bheag de dhaoine-uaisle agus de mhnathan-uasal, am measg an robh bean a Chaiptein.

Mar a thuirt mi cheana, bha ainm an t-soithich, agus am baile a dh'ionnsuidh an robh i dol, mar mhac-talla a toirt air ais'n ar cuimhne na linntean ri àm nan sean Lochlannach. Is e "Ronald" ainm Beurla an t-sean deagh ainm, Rognvaldr, no Ragnvaldr, a tha tric ri choinneachadh an eachdraidh nan àitean-tuineachaidh Lochlannach "siar-thar-sàile." Agus bheir Tònsberg, suidhichte an roinn-dùthcha Westfold, sean daingneach nan Vikings, na creachadairean-mara tuathach, gu ar cuimhne ionmhas mór ar rioghachd, an Luing Osebergach a chaidh a chladhadh às an talamh aig Oseberg, dlùth air Tònsberg, o chionn mu fhichead bliadhna; an eisimpleir neo-choimeasta coimhlionta sin de dhealbh luinge a bheir dhuinn a thuigsinn uachdranachd nan Lochlannach air a chuan anns na linntean fad às sin, agus a thug comas dhaibh na fearainn siar so a ghleidheadh an làimh fad uibhir de linntean. Faodaidh e bhith gur iomadh long Lochlannach a stiùir a cùrsa gu Westfold air a cheart slighe thar a chuain a bha'n "Ronald" a gabhail air an latha sin mìle bliadhna na déigh!

Tha seadh eile anns an robh e iomchuidh gu'n toireadh an turus so ann am bàt-lasgaich mhuca-mara an t-iartus na bu làidire air ais tuilleadh soluis a thilgeadh air an t-sean Uachdranachd a stéidhich na Vikings "Siar-thar-sàile," agus a thoirt gu

coimhionadh. A réir sean chunntasan, bha iasgach nam muca-mara air a ghiùlan air aghart leis na Lochlannaich cho fada agus a théid sgrìobhadh an eachdraidh air ais, air tès anns a chuid a bu mhò anns a Chuan-ròdhtha mu thuath, agus air oir Ghreunland; tha so air aithris ann an cunntas air Lochlann a sgrìobh Rìgh Alfred Mór Shasuinn, mar an ceudna, agus a chuir e sìos 'na eadar-theangachadh de'n "Eachdraidh Choitcheinn" a sgrìobh an Seanachaidh Romanach Orosius, air do'n chunntas a bhì air a thoirt da le ceannard Lochlannach d'am b'ainm Ottar, a bha 'na sheirbheis. Mar sin cha b'e tuiteamas a mhàin a chuir iasgach an t-saoghail air na muca-mara an làmhnan nan Lochlannach air an la-diugh, a tha 'giùlan na h-oibre so air na seachd cuaintean, eadar Cuan-ròdhtha na h-àirde tuath agus Cuan-ròdhtha na h-àirde deas, bho Chamschatka 's an àirde-n-ear gu Peru 's an àirde-n-iar. Na h-uile bliadhna, tha cabhlach mòr loingis, a sìos bho 17,000 tunna, le làn sgioba de 4000 fear, a chuid is mò dhiubh à Tònsberg, Sandefjord is Larvik, bailtean Westfold, a seòladh do gach ceàrn de'n chruinne, eadhoin cho fada sìos ris a Mhuir Rossach, dlùth air Crann-Deas na cruinne, agus a giùlan air aghart an iasgaich fo shuidheachaidhean ròdhtha nimheil a tha deuchainneach. Aig ceann na h-aimsir tha'n cabhlach a tilleadh, luchd-achichte le uilleadh agus gach toradh eile d'an saothair, gus am bathar a chur a mach aig puirt eadar-dhealaichte 's an Roinn-Eòrpa, agus Stàidean Aonaichte America. Tha beòchd air a gabhail a thuilleadh agus a thèid le gu'm bheil na turuis-cuain sin, a tha gun eisimpleir ann an dùthaich air bì eile, agus nach deanadh duine 'choimeas ann an meudachd no ann an meadhanon ri dùthaich bheag coitich ri Lochlann, a leigeadh ris gur e buaidh an t-sean spioraid de oidheirpeachas misneachail, neo-shocrach a dh'ionnsuidh deuchainn a thoirt air cuisean cunnartach a threòraich iad gu Iceland, Greenland, agus America a bhì air am faotainn a mach leis na Vikings, agus àitean tuineachaidh a bhì air an stéidheachadh 's an dùthaich so, agus tìrean eile 's an Roinn-Eòrpa. Mar sin cha d'atharraich ar sliochd, tha iad a cumail an cliù ri cliù an aithrichean, tha iad fathast gam faireachd-uinn féin air am foirgneadh air aghart gu buaidh fhaotainn thairis air àitean ùr, gu àitean neo-aithnichte an t-saoghail a rannsachadh, agus tha na h-oidheirpean misneachail sin a tagradh nan ceart feartan de threuntas, de dh'innleachdas agus de

mhìsneach a chomharraich na Lochlannaich o shean.

Ann na làithean o shean bha eadar-dhealachadh air a dheanamh eadar *Noreger* no dùthaich nan Lochlannach, agus *Noregsveldi*, no *Rioghachd*—'s e sin, *Uachdranachd*—Lochlainn, a ghabh a stìgh uile thìrean fo thighearnas Rìgh Lochlainn. Bha *Noregsveldi* a gabhail a stìgh cha'n e mhàin Lochlann ach mar an ceudna tìrean fo cheannsal eadar-dhealaichte. Nam measg sin bha air an àireamh, a thuilleadh air Finmark (à chuibhrionn tuathach de Lochlann, a ruigheachd gus an Fhairge Gheal), Iceland, Greenland, agus eileanan nam Faroe, na duthchannan a leanas; na h-Eileana Seoltanach, na h-Arcaibh, na h-Innse-Gall, an t-Eilean Manannach agus Anglesey. Bha na h-Eileana Seoltanach agus na h-Arcaibh nan Iarlachd, am feadh a bha na h-Innse-Gall agus an t-Eilean Manannach nan rioghachd fo uachdranachd Rìgh Lochlainn. Bha aig iarlan nan Arcaibh a thuilleadh air sin, an cuid trid gabhailtas, an cuid trid an dàimh do rìghrean agus do chinn-cinnidh nan Albannach, seilbhean móra a choisinn iad an dùthaich na h-Alba. Tha e air a ràdh mu Iarl Thorfin, am fear dhiubh a bu chumhachdaiche, gu'n robh naoi iarlachdan aige an seilbh—their cuid aon-deug—an Albannach, a bharrachd air na h-Innse-Gall, Galloway 's an taobh Deas, agus móran fearainn an Eirinn. Tha luchd-eachdraidh Albainn ag innseadh gu'n robh anns an dara-linn-deug na h-eileanan uile bho'n Eilean Mhanannach gus na h-Arcaibh, agus air tìr-mór bho Dhunbreatainn 's an taobh deas gu Galloway 's an taobh tuath an seilbh aig na Lochlannaich, mar sin chithear nach bu bheag leud an fhearainn a bha fo uachdranachd Lochlainn an uair a bha a cumhachd aig àirde a tighearnais. Ged nach robh na h-Innse-Gall air tionndadh cho buileach Lochlannach ri Sealtainn agus na h-Arcaibh, far an do ghleidh iad a chaintinn Lochlannach beò a suas gu glé dhlùth air an linn so fhéin, gideadh cha'n 'eìl teagamh nach b' i a chàinain Lochlannach a bu mhò bh'air a labhairt anns na h-Innse-Gall fad cheudan bliadhna; tha cuid de luchd-eachdraidh Albainn ag ràdh eadhoin gu'n do chuir i a Ghàidhlig a leth-taobh anns na h-eileana, gu sonruichte 's an taobh-tuath; tha ainmean nan àitean, a tha gun àireamh—rudhachan, camuis, aibhnichean, lochan-sàile, beanntan, fearainn, &c.—gu dearb a leigeadh ris sin.

(Ri Leantainn.)



## THE WELSH REPORT.

"Welsh in Education and Life," is the title of the report of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education appointed "to inquire into the position of the Welsh language, and to advise as to its promotion in the educational system of Wales." The report is unanimous, and is signed by the fourteen members of the committee. It is a volume of 365 pages, published in Welsh and English at the price of 1s. 6d. It is explained that the committee has no executive or legislative powers: it was appointed to advise the President of the Board of Education. (The attention thus bestowed so far by the British Government on the claims and status of a Celtic language in Wales, might well be an inspiration to An Comunn Gaidhealach to labour and strive until the day will also dawn when attention upon similar lines may be given to our own Celtic language in Scotland. When shall we get a similar report to advise as to the promotion of Gaelic in the educational system of Scotland! And why should it be denied us?)

The first part of the report is historical and general; the second part deals with the present position; and the third and last part bears on problems and lines of solution.

### PRESENT POSITION.

#### HOW WELSH IS FARING IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

The following are the statements and paragraphs, under the headings as enumerated, which are of special importance in the second part of the report dealing with the present position:—

*The policy of regulations of the Board of Education with regard to the use of Welsh in (1) elementary schools, (2) secondary schools, (3) training colleges.*

"The establishment of the Welsh Department in 1907 was an indication that the Board of Education fully accepted the principle that the education of Welsh children should be conducted on lines suitable to the special needs of Wales and that the administration of education in the Principality should be sympathetic towards the utilisation of the Welsh language to the full extent demanded by educational considerations."

As illustrating the striking improvement with regard to the teaching of Welsh in the schools and colleges consequent upon the establishment of the Department the following facts are noted:—

The Inspectorate.—Since 1907 in making appointments to the Welsh inspectorate due weight has been given to a knowledge of Welsh and of Welsh conditions.

The Rural Lore Scheme.—Short courses in connection with this scheme have been held at Jesus College, Oxford, annually since 1922.

Secondary Schools.—When the Central Welsh Board began its work in 1897 only 31 schools out of 79 offered Welsh in the examinations. In 1925 the corresponding numbers were 96 out of 116. In 1906 the number of pupils offering Welsh was 368 out of 1,466. In 1925 we find 1,599 out of 3,929 doing this.

Training Colleges.—In 1907 out of 177 students taking the final certificate only 30 took Welsh. In 1925 the corresponding numbers were 145 out of 307, an increase in percentage of 16.9 to 47.2.

The committee at this point express their deep sense of the nation's obligation to Sir O. M. Edwards and Sir A. T. Davies for their sterling services to Welsh education.

*The policy and action of local education authorities as shown by their schemes and evidence.*

General Criticism.—"One authority states, 'The inclusion of Welsh in the curriculum of the elementary school has always been the declared policy of the authority, but it must be confessed that the authority has not been particularly active in enforcing its policy.' This statement might have come with equal truth from a number of authorities who appear to have been more conscious of the difficulties facing them in the carrying through of roundly-conceived schemes of instruction than of the resources of enthusiasm, knowledge, and co-operation ready to function in support of such schemes."

### LINE OF SOLUTION.

#### CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY OF THE COMMITTEE.

In the third section of the report the committee set forth their constructive policy, and this is, therefore, the section that will command most attention and interest. What the public is most anxiously waiting for are the positive recommendations that the committee have to offer with the view of promoting the teaching of Welsh in the future, and the most important of these will be found in the enumeration which follows. As a pertinent illustration of the general policy advocated by the committee we will quote one paragraph only which is taken

from the section of Part III. which deals with the university :—

“The proposal that a knowledge of Welsh should be required of all candidates for admission to the university has been made to us, but is not supported by any considerable body of opinion. Even were it not contrary to the general policy of our recommendation to use compulsion as a means of promoting the study of the language the proposal would still be, in our opinion, for a long time to come, financially and administratively unpracticable both for the colleges and for the secondary schools.”

The elementary school is regarded as the key to the position and the committee definitely state that if the teaching of Welsh is given its right place in the elementary schools of the country the language may yet be saved. The problem is, however, a complex one owing to the diversity in the geographical distribution of the language, and for the purposes of the report Wales is divided into three areas :—(a) Districts in which the Welsh language predominates ; (b) bilingual districts ; (c) districts in which English predominate, and a special treatment applicable to the separate requirements of each area is advocated.

The following are the main recommendations put forward by the committee :—

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION.

“That inspectors make special references in their reports on individual schools to the teaching and position of Welsh.”

“That a member of the Welsh Inspectorate be charged with the supervision of Welsh teaching in all grades throughout Wales, with functions analogous to those of staff inspectors of the board.”

“That the President of the Board be asked to approach the Treasury with a view to obtaining a grant of £500 a year for five years for the preparation and publication of books suitable for the use of university students in Welsh.”

“That the board should be prepared to recognise the necessity of a more generous allowance of teachers in the case of the duplication of classes in some schools.”

#### UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES.”

“That the teaching staff in the Welsh department of the university colleges be increased.”

“That at least some of the work in such departments as Hebrew, Greek, Philosophy, Economics, and Agriculture be conducted in Welsh.”

“That university extension courses for the study of the drama be instituted as terminal courses and that the university consider the

expediency of appointing an adviser for Welsh dramatic productions.”

“That attention be called to the want of provision, in the university colleges, for training in studies in preparation for public service administration, and that in Wales a higher place among these studies should be assigned to a knowledge of what is characteristic of Wales.”

“That the university approach the Treasury University Grants Committee with the view of obtaining a non-recurrent grant for the publication of books suitable for the use of university students in Welsh.”

“That the University Press Board act as an Advisory Publication Board to guide publishers and to encourage authors in the publication and production of Welsh books for children.”

“That as suggested by the university a committee be set up to deal with orthography and similar matters, including the introduction of new words with a view to the compilation of a technical vocabulary.”

“That all reports issued, whether by the university or the departments on the work in Welsh be published in Welsh as well as in English.”

#### TRAINING COLLEGES AND TRAINING DEPARTMENTS

“That in every training college or training department provision be made for well graded courses in Welsh language and literature. For this purpose a whole-time teacher of Welsh will be necessary in each college or department.”

“That every student in training colleges and training departments follow a course in Welsh language and literature.”

“That Welsh be a medium of instruction not only in Welsh lessons, but in other subjects wherever possible.”

“That the training departments of the University Colleges give every student undergoing elementary training and able to speak Welsh a thorough training in the method of teaching the language.”

“That in every school or department for domestic science provision be made for part of the instruction to be given in Welsh.”

#### LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.

“That more adequate means be devised to secure that schemes for the teaching of Welsh are carried out, and that a due co-ordination be secured from stage to stage throughout the schools in the area.”

“That in infant schools in areas of types (a) and (c) the sole medium of instruction be the mother tongue and no second language be introduced in these departments. The recommenda-

tions respecting areas of type (b) are given in full in the body of the Report."

"That the immediate attention of authorities in such areas as Cardiff and Newport be directed to the Welsh-speaking children."

"That a more generous allowance of teachers be made to those schools where the classes are duplicated and that reasoned representation on the subject be made to the Board of Education accordingly."

"That the examination for admission to secondary schools be reconsidered by authorities, and that a committee be set up by each authority for this purpose, and that less importance be attached to arithmetic in the examination for entrance to secondary schools."

"That the attention of authorities be directed to the practice adopted for many years by leading authorities in England, by which students about to leave training colleges are interviewed by such authorities with a view to selection for appointments."

"That authorities provide courses for teachers, who have no tuition in Welsh and no training in the best methods of teaching Welsh, and refresher courses for teachers already trained."

"That a supplementary allowance be made by each authority for the provision of books and equipment for the teaching of Welsh."

"That authorities encourage experiments in the teaching of Welsh in their schools, and give wide publicity to records and results of such experiments."

"That authorities consider the expediency of a wider use of Welsh in their circulars and notices."

#### CENTRAL WELSH BOARD.

"That all possible steps be taken to help the schools to prevent the balance between Welsh and French being unduly weighted."

"That power to speak Welsh with fluency and correctness be regarded as an essential aim of the instruction, and we recommend that the Central Welsh Board give candidates taking Welsh in Group II. the same opportunities for showing proficiency in Welsh as are already afforded in the case of French and German."

"That the Central Welsh Board use its influence to discourage schools in purely Welsh areas from taking Group II. Welsh in preference to Group I."

#### TEACHERS.

"All teachers of Welsh should have a firm grasp of modern methods of language teaching.

Every staff library should contain a certain number of manuals on this subject for the use of Welsh teachers."

"Welsh should be the language of the Welsh lesson in all districts and in all types of schools."

"We are of opinion that careful speech-training is essential throughout all stages of Welsh teaching."

"In elementary schools situated in districts where the population is predominantly Welsh-speaking, religious instruction, history, nature study, hygiene, domestic science, handwork, and physical training shall be taught in Welsh. Geography might be taught in English and Welsh in co-ordination."

"Many of the difficulties of organisation in bilingual schools could be reduced by the adoption of a system of vertical classification and of the newer methods of language teaching."

"In secondary schools we recommend that pupils with a good colloquial knowledge of Welsh should, for Welsh lessons, be segregated from pupils who do not know the elements of the language."

"We consider it possible to make certain modifications in the time devoted at present to the teaching of arithmetic, history, geography, and nature study, so as to ensure more time for the teaching of Welsh."

#### WELSH SOCIETIES.

"That the societies appeal for funds for the publication of Welsh books."

"That local Welsh societies co-operate to secure that Welsh classes and courses of Welsh study are provided."

"That junior branches of Welsh societies be formed, and that for this purpose the societies co-operate with Welsh school teachers."

#### THE CHURCHES AND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES

"That a much wider use of the language as a medium of instruction in suitable subjects other than Welsh is desirable."

"All students who follow the preliminary arts course to any stage should include Welsh as a subject of that course."

"That all students who have not proceeded beyond the matriculation stage in their general education and do not follow an Arts course receive special consideration and be given a thorough course of instruction in Welsh in the colleges."

"That those churches who have no theological colleges in Wales arrange for their students destined for service in Wales to take a course in Welsh at a Welsh college."

## TIR MHAISEACH NAN CRUACH.

By ANGUS MACKECHNIE.

(First Prize, Fort William Mod, 1927.)

Suas dùthaich nan gaisgeach  
 Nam breacan 's nan cruach,  
 Nam borb-thuiltean cas  
 A ruith tart'rach gu cuan;  
 Tìr àluinn nam badan  
 Nam bradan 's nam bruach,  
 Nan oirthrean sgàirneach  
 'S nan àrd-bheanntan fuar.

Ach 's leòn leam 'bhi 'g innseadh  
 An tìr a b' fhearr buaidh  
 'Ga 'cur fàs le luchd mì-rùin  
 Gu frith do 'n dàmh ruadh;  
 Na h-uachdarain stròidheil  
 Rinn gòrach an t-suaip',  
 Gu cuallach an stòrais  
 A' fògradh na tuath.

Gun ionndrainn mi 'ghruagach  
 Bu dual 'bhi mu'n chrò  
 Agus luinneag a' bhuaichail'  
 'S e cluaineis 'na còir  
 Bu chlannach a cuaillein  
 A shnuadh mar an t-òr  
 Dol 'na fhaineagan dualach  
 'S a gruaidh mar an ròs.

Tha peucag a' bhaile  
 Ged 's maiseach i 'n sròl  
 'Na beusan neo-bhanail  
 'S ro fhearail 's gach dòigh;  
 Gur ruaidhe na chairt dhuit  
 An dreach th' air a meòir  
 Le sùgh an tombaca  
 'S tha 'bhlas air a pòig.

Chi mi tearnadh a' bhearraidh  
 Bho bhealach a' mhàim  
 An Sasunnach peallach  
 'S cha toigh leam a chainnt  
 Le fheileadh mu 'leasan  
 Mo ghreadadh 's mo chall,  
 Le chalpanan preasach  
 'S le easgadan cam.

'Nuair 'dhlreas mi 'n t-àonach  
 'S e caochladh mo leòin  
 Gun bhàta fo h-aodach  
 Tha 'n caolas gun seòl;  
 Na fleasgaich th' air faondradh  
 'S gum b' aotrom an ceòl  
 A' fiaradh an t-saobh shrùth  
 Le saothair nan dòrn.

Bu ro-mhaith air stiùir  
 Na sàr-dhiùnlaidh gun fhuath 's  
 'Nuair 'thòcadh muir-chùil  
 'S na tuinn dhù-ghorm fo ghruaim  
 Ag altrum le cùram  
 An iubhraichean luath  
 Gu seòlaidean ciùine  
 Roimh stùcan a' chuain.

Gum b' ainmeil 's gach cal' iad  
 Mar mbaraichean cruaidh  
 Le ain-teas nach fannaich  
 'S nach crannaich le fuachd,  
 'Nuair 'thearnadh gum rabhadh  
 A' ghaillionn air cuan  
 'Cur àrd-shiùil fo bhannaibh  
 'S na crannagan fuar.

Bu mhath iad 'sa chumasg  
 'S iad 'chuireadh an ruaig  
 Mar leòghanan guineach  
 'Nuair 'chuirte orra gruaim;  
 A' bhoineid mu 'n dosan  
 'Ga sgrogadh a nuas,  
 Mir'-chath anns gach broilleach  
 Is corruich 's gach gruaidh.

Ach llon dhuinn an stòp  
 Air a' bhòrd cuir i 'nall,  
 Cha bhrannndai na h-Olaind  
 Na drògaid na Fraing,  
 Ach fìor-shùgh an eòrna  
 Bùrn mòintich nan gleann  
 An t-slàinte bu toigh leinn  
 Suas! Togaibh i 'chlann!

Suas dùthaich nam breacan  
 Tìr mhaiseach mo luaidh,  
 Leab-àraich nan gaisgeach  
 'S na batail 'thug buaidh;  
 Luchd dlreadh nam bealach  
 Nach fannaich 'san ruaig;  
 'S ged 's ro mhath air faich' iad  
 Cha tàis' iad air cuan.

### SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Cha robh facl agam dhuibh o cheann da mhìosa air ais. Cha ruig mi leas a chur 'n ur cuimhne gu'n robh mòran againn r'a dheanadh an so ag ullachadh air son Mòd Lachabair. Ach co a dheanadh gearan bho 'n a bha am Mòd cho soirbheachail? Tha dòchas agam gu'm faigh mi fuasgladh as a' chùil so an deidh Nollaig a chum cuairt a chur air na h-Eileanan siar agus roinn de'n mhòr-thìr. Gus a sin biodh buill mheuran a' Chomuinn a' dol an uidheam sgairtealachd fa chomhar mo theachd a chur nam Mòdan Dùtheachail air ghealus.

\* \* \*

Miss Mary Fraser, who has been with me in this office for close on five years, has received an appointment in her native Islay, and within a mile of her own home. Throughout the whole of this period, she served An Comunn faithfully and conscientiously, and by her bright manner, courtesy, and tact, she became a general favourite with the numerous callers at the office. Her services at the National Mods were extremely helpful, her devotion to duty relieving those responsible from a certain amount of detail work. Miss Fraser took up her new duties on 1st November, and the best wishes of the members are cordially extended to her for her future welfare. Soirbheachadh math leat, a Mhairi!

\* \* \*

The attendance at the meeting of Executive held at Stirling on 18th November was the largest since the special meeting of Council held at Stirling on 24th May, 1913. The president, the three vice-presidents, and all the conveners were present. Seventeen of the elected members of Council attended, also ten representatives from affiliated societies and two branch representatives.

\* \* \*

The syllabus and test pieces for the National Mod of 1928 are now ready. The Local Committee at Inverness are already at work, and conveners of the various sub-committees are well forward with their arrangements. A concert party, consisting mainly of the Inverness Choir members, are ready to render assistance at functions in support of Mod funds within a reasonable distance of the town.

By the death of Mr. Julian H. W. Nesbitt, Oban, Scotland has lost one of its ablest and most original composers. He did

splendid work for An Comunn in harmonising junior and senior choral pieces. His arrangement of "Tog orm mò phìob" will form a fitting memorial to his genius.

\* \* \*

The late Rev. John MacLachlan, Inveraray, was a faithful and zealous member of An Comunn. He served on the Council for many years, and was re-appointed last September.

\* \* \*

Much indignation has been caused in Gaelic circles at Inveraray by the Presbytery's announcement that a Gaelic-speaking minister is not to be appointed in room of the late Rev. John MacLachlan. Vigorous protests are being made, and we trust these will be successful.

NIALL.

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Executive Council met at Stirling on Friday, 18th November. There were present:—J. R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Rev. James H. Macfarlane Barrow, Inveraray; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Capt. George Campbell of Succoth; Sheriff Macmaster Campbell; Miss Campbell of Inverneil; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alex. D. Cumming, Callander; Mrs. J. Buchanan Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss Louisa Farquharson of Invercauld; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Miss Augusta Lamont of Knockdow; Donald Macdonald, Glasgow; John MacDonald, Glasgow; Peter MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. George W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; William M'Kenzie, Greenock; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Hugh M'Lean, Greenock; Norman MacLeod, Cardonald; M. MacLeod, Glasgow; Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow; Mrs. MacNaughton, Glendaruel; Rev. William MacPhail, Ardrishaig; John A. Nicolson, Glasgow; J. M. Moffatt Pender, Lewis; Angus Robertson, Glasgow; Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; H. S. Shield, Edinburgh; Colin Sinclair, Glasgow; Donald Sutherland, Scone; Robert Macfarlane, C.A., treasurer, and Neil Shaw, secretary. The President, Sheriff MacMaster Campbell, occupied the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the three previous meetings, and these were approved.

Minutes of the Finance Committee were read, and, on the motion of Mr. Alexander Fraser, Convener, were adopted. The



minutes showed that the resignation of Miss Mary Fraser had been accepted with regret and an appreciation of her services recorded.

The Committee recommended the appointment of a male assistant to the Secretary at a salary of £200 per annum, the person so appointed to have a thorough knowledge of Gaelic, and, if possible, to have experience of office administration. It was remitted to the Finance Committee, with powers, to make the appointment.

A draft of the Fort William Mod accounts had been submitted, and these showed an apparent surplus of £412. This was considered very satisfactory.

The Committee resolved that for future Mods the remuneration for local secretaries should be on the following scale:—(a) A payment of £20 be made to the local secretary of each completed Mod irrespective of the financial result of such Mod, and (b) a further payment equal to 10 per cent. on any profit made on the Mod after deducting the aforesaid £20. No commission will be allowed on the interest or dividends arising from the investments of Mod Prize Funds.

The Committee approved of estimates submitted on behalf of the Education Committee for £100 towards the Summer School of Gaelic, and £200 for the Propaganda Committee to meet expenses of teachers of singing and the organiser's visitation of Branches.

The Education Committee reported that, in connection with the action of the Education Authority of Argyll in appointing a non-Gaelic-speaking teacher to Inverchaolain School against the expressed wishes of the parents, they had, in consultation with Mr. John Cameron, solicitor, prepared a letter, which was being sent to the Scotch Education Department and to the Education Authority of Argyll.

The Committee agreed to hold a Summer School of Gaelic for the next three years, and recommended that the School in 1928 should meet in Broadford in the month of August.

It was reported that Gaelic was systematically taught in schools as follows:—Argyle, 68; Inverness, 130; Ross, 68, and Sutherland, 11. No reply had been received from Bute, and no Gaelic teaching was given in Perthshire. The report was approved.

The Publication Committee reported that "Rosg Gàidhlig" was now in type, and expected to be issued soon. The position of the magazine and how it might be improved was considered. There was general agreement that greater variety in the character

of its contents was desirable, and several suggestions made to the editor for his guidance.

The minutes of the Propaganda Committee showed that arrangements for the holding of 17 Provincial Mods had been under consideration. It was hoped that Provincial Mods would be held in the following districts:—Sutherland, North-West Ross (Lochbroom and Gairloch), South-West Ross, Lewis, Skye, Harris, North Uist, South Uist, Perthshire, Tiree, Ardnamurchan, Lorn, Mid-Argyle, Kintyre, Islay, Cowal, and Badenoch.

The Committee recommended the appointment of Mrs. M. C. Gall, Mrs. A. C. Scott, and Mr. Donald Ferguson as teachers of singing for six months, and the employment of two additional teachers whose engagement should not exceed three months. On the motion of the President, it was agreed to grant the Committee a further sum of £80 to meet the additional expenditure.

Captain Campbell of Succoth read a minute of the Art and Industry Committee. Arrangements were being made with Messrs. Briggs, Manchester, to put on the market transfers of Celtic designs supplied by the Committee. Captain Campbell suggested that a prize for Celtic Art be included in the syllabus of the National Mod on the lines of the successful competition held by Mod Dhailriada in 1927. It was agreed to draw the attention of the Mod and Music Committee to this.

On the suggestion of Miss Lamont of Knockdow it was agreed to ask the Education Committee to consider the matter of employing a teacher of Celtic Art at the Summer School. The minute was approved.

Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were held as read, and the convener, Mr. J. R. Bannerman, briefly reviewed the work of the Committee. The Secretary reported on the formation of the Mod Local Committee at Inverness. Mr. Donald Macdonald is convener; Mr. Donald Ross, secretary, and Mr. Hunter (banker), treasurer. Various sub-committees had been formed, and the dates of the Mod proceedings confirmed, viz., 25th to 28th September, 1928.

The Treasurer reported that the surplus from the Great Feill amounted to £8877 18s 4d. It was agreed that the sum of £5000 be added to the endowment fund and that the balance be administered by the Executive for the immediate work of the various committees.

The Council recorded their high appreciation of all those who, by their money and labour, contributed towards the great success of the Feill.

It was remitted to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Malcolm MacLeod, Norman MacLeod, and Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, to consider rules for the operations of the proposed Gaelic Circle, and report to next meeting.

A deputation from the Gaelic Society of Perth, consisting of Mr. Donald Sutherland, M.A., and Bailie Baxter, was received with a view to interesting members in the fund proposed to be formed for preserving the memorial to Dr. James Stewart, at Killin.

### INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITIONS AT FORT WILLIAM MOD.

Pipe-Major WILLIAM FERGUSON.

#### Piano.

The playing in general lacked the vigour and lift of pipe music. The best pieces were "Stirlingshire Militia," "Leaving Lunga," and "Marchioness of Tullibardine," which were all very near note perfect, but required far more spirit and go in them. The "Inverness Gathering" and "Atholl Highlanders" were not pipe settings; in fact, merely a parody on these tunes. The strathspeys and reels wanted a lot of improving. My opinion is, that competitors imagine that the more difficult the piece the better the chance of a prize, forgetting that the piece must be played correctly. The choosing of easier pieces, and thereby giving a finer rendering, would be more profitable. For instance, the lady who played "The Piper's Bonnet" and "Rejected Suitor" found them rather too much for her to get through, let alone render them nicely. However, I by no means suggest that these fine tunes should not be played, granted the player makes a good job of them.

#### Violin.

All but one of the enthusiastic strathspey and reel players—the one being a lady—were all upset with the Gaelic air. It was a pity the lady did not play strathspeys and reels a little better: her Gaelic air was really fine. Here again playing too difficult pieces should be avoided. The gentleman who played "The Sheep Wife" must be commended for his courage, and he made not a bad job, but there were little things, when totalled with the jerky timing of his Gaelic air, that

spoil his effort. Had some of the competitors to play their tunes as often as laid down on the programme, I don't know what would have happened.

I think that two-part tunes should not be played oftener than three times, four-part twice, and six-part once, and a rule added to the effect that music must be memorised or put on one sheet, so that it can be played from start to finish without a stop.

### THE NORWEGIANS IN SCOTLAND.

The Gaelic language and the customs of the Scottish Gael were greatly influenced by the Norse occupation of Western Scotland for four hundred years. A Norwegian scholar has recently published an article in the Norse language dealing with that period from the Norse point of view. We are fortunate in having among us a lady of great erudition, who has been able to translate the article from the Norse language to Gaelic. The first instalment appears in the present number, and this interesting, historical account will be continued in similar instalments through several issues of "An Gàidheal." The translator is Mrs. Catherine Whyte Grant of Oban, a relative of the late Gaelic scholar, Mr. Henry Whyte, admired and well known for many years under the pen-name, "Fionn." Mrs. Grant, it may be recalled, was also the translator of Goethe's "Faust" from German to Gaelic. We feel confident that our Gaelic readers will appreciate the important service which Mrs. Grant has rendered to the Gaelic cause, in putting within our reach such an important article as that on the Norwegian occupation.

### BRANCH REPORTS.

WICK.—The winter session of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach was opened with a public ceilidh in the Parish Church Hall. Despite inclement weather, there was a large attendance, and the programme was greatly enjoyed. During an interval, tea and fruit were served. Mr. R. J. G. Millar, editor, president, who occupied the chair, in a sentence of Gaelic, extended a hearty welcome to the company, and spoke briefly of the work of the branch and the progress of the Celtic movement in general. He also intimated greetings and good wishes from Perth Gaelic Society. The programme opened with bagpipe selections by Piper W. Coghill, and songs were rendered by Mrs. Lamb, Halkirk; Mr. D. Mackay, Wick, and Miss Isobel Bremner, Wick. All the songs were of a Highland character. One by Mrs. Lamb was in Gaelic ("Fear a Bhata"), and Mr. Mackay's were all in Gaelic;

and all the singers, as well as the other contributors to the programme, responded to encores. Miss M. Henderson, Wick, played violin selections with great acceptance; and Mr. A. Cameron, dancing instructor, with three of his pupils, gave a delightful exhibition of Highland dancing in costume, including the spirited dance, "The Argyle Broadwords." Rev. J. Lamb, Halkirk, made a few interesting remarks, and told a number of humorous stories which evoked great merriment. Mrs. Gilbertson acted as accompanist. An exceedingly happy and successful ceilidh, for the organisation of which the committee are deserving of high praise, concluded with the singing of "Oidhe mhath leibh" and "God Save the King."—A Gaelic class meets in the Academy every Friday evening at 7.30 o'clock, and new members will be heartily welcomed. Class ceilidhs are held every second Friday evening.

**BADENOCH: GAELIC CONCERT AT KINGUSSIE.**—On the 21st of October a very successful Gaelic Concert was held at Kingussie. The concert was organised and presided over by Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, who now resides at Newtonmore. The object of the concert was to create interest in the objects of An Comunn, in order that a large Badenoch Branch may be formed having sub-branches in as many places as possible in Badenoch. The programme was sustained by eminent artistes who gave their services. Mr. Neil Maclean and Mrs. Maclean (Miss J. M. B. Currie) came all the way from Aberdeen, and received a rousing reception, as they always do. Mrs. Maclean, the wife of the Parish minister of Daviot and a former Mod Gold Medalist, sang several Gaelic songs with great acceptance. Songs were also rendered by Mrs. Stewart, Newtonmore; Miss Ina Mackay, Laggan; and Mr. Ross Inverness. Mr. John Macpherson, champion piper, rendered some fine selections on the pipes. Addresses bearing on the work of An Comunn, and on the purpose of opening a large comprehensive branch for Badenoch, were given by Miss Farquharson and by Rev. Neil Ross. Rev. Dugald Macfarlane, minister of Kingussie, in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Farquharson, referred to the laudable aim to open the proposed branch. A vote of thanks to the artistes was proposed by Sheriff Grant of Rothiemurchus.

**BENDERLOCH.**—The first Ceilidh of the winter session of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Victory Hall on Friday evening, 28th October. Rev. Mr. MacDonald, the President, presided over a good audience. As all the proceedings were in Gaelic, Mr. MacDonald's address, which was both ably delivered and very interesting, was received with rapt attention by the audience, and was heartily applauded at its close. An excellent programme was thereafter rendered, Mr. MacNicol taking the lead in giving some excellent bagpipe selections. All the artistes had to respond to repeated encores. Both the Ballachulish and Oban singers gave delightful renderings, and provided a feast of music that was thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. Scott (Annetta C. Whyte) played all the accompaniments. At the close, the Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all the artistes who had taken part in the programme, to Mrs. Scott, and to the energetic Secretaries, Miss Crerar and Miss MacKinnon, for carrying out all the arrangements in such an excellent manner. This was heartily given. Songs were contributed by Miss K. MacInnes, Oban; and by Messrs. D. MacDonald, M. MacInnes, E. MacKenzie, and A. F. MacLennan,

Ballachulish; and duets by Misses Ferguson and MacInnes, Oban, and Messrs E. MacKenzie and D. MacDonald, Ballachulish. Mr. P. MacDonald proposed a vote of thanks to Rev. Mr. MacDonald, and the proceedings terminated by the singing of "Oidhe mhath Leibh."

**BUTE.**—At the opening concert held on 11th November, Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, of Ormidale, who presided and was introduced by Captain James Kennedy as a lady who had taken a deep interest in the Gaelic movement and was an ex-President of the Comunn, spoke interestingly on the subject of Gaelic literature. Although she was not a fluent Gaelic speaker, she was happy to say that she could read and write in the language. The aim of An Comunn was the preservation of the Gaelic language and culture. It would be disastrous for Great Britain if the Highland element disappeared, or if little interest was taken in its traditions. A language was the soul of a people, and it was in the cultivation of the language that the smaller peoples were realising their aspirations. Provost MacLachlan, in moving a vote of thanks to Mrs. Burnley Campbell and to the artistes, spoke of the part she had taken in interesting the Bute Education Authority in the teaching of Gaelic in the schools. Following Mrs. Burnley-Campbell's address an excellent musical programme was rendered. Selections were contributed by Rothsay Territorial Pipe Band under command of Pipe-Major Stewart, who himself gave a bagpipe selection at the opening of the programme. The second part of the programme was opened by Mr. J. C. Maclean, secretary of the local branch of the Comunn, with bagpipe selections in his usual fine style. Rothsay Junior Gaelic Choir, under Miss M'Arthur, were in prize-winning form, and gave several excellent numbers. Fine vocal selections, including Scots and Gaelic songs, were given by Miss Jean Jones, the Misses M'Nicol, Miss Annie I. Macmillan, M.A., Miss Veronica Smart, Mr. Allan Maclean, and Mr. J. L. Strachan. The violin selections by Mr. M. A. Reid, A. C. V., were much enjoyed. Mr. Dan Lamont was an efficient accompanist. The concert was one of the best yet put on by Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoide.

**INVERARAY.**—On Thursday, 3rd November, the members of the Inveraray branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held their first fortnightly meeting in the St. Malieu Hall. Rev. Mr. MacFarlan Barrow presided over a large attendance. The Management Committee was re-appointed. The Lady Elspeth Campbell was re-elected President; Rev. Mr. MacFarlan Barrow and Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, Vice-Presidents; Mr. George M. Sime, National Bank, Treasurer; and Mr. Alex. J. MacIntyre, Secretary. Rev. Mr. MacFarlan Barrow, in his opening address, paid a warm tribute to the good work rendered to the branch by the late Rev. John MacLachlan, who was an enthusiastic member, and referred to the loss they had sustained by his passing away. He, as a Vice-President of the branch, did much valuable work. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mrs. and Miss MacLachlan the sympathy of the members of the branch. Tea was served, and Mr. Sime submitted the financial report which was considered very satisfactory. Songs were sung by Miss Jenny Bain, Carloanan, Rev. Mr. MacFarlan Barrow, Mrs. A. J. MacIntyre, Mrs. Stewart, and Mr. A. J. MacIntyre. Miss Clark, South Cromalt Lodge, entertained the meeting to a humorous reading, and Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre told the story of the Ausgan

Bòcan. Bagpipe music was contributed by Pipers Duncan MacArthur and Donald MacLaren.

**KILMUR.**—At a Ceilidh held in the Kilmuir School on the evening of Friday, 23rd October, the members of the Kilmuir branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach and numerous friends met Mr. John Mackenzie, Hungadder, one of the members of the branch, and presented him with a handsome silver cigarette case on the occasion of his departure for Montana, U.S.A. Mr. MacLeod, President of the branch, spoke of Mr. Mackenzie's untiring efforts in connection with the social meetings and general work of An Comunn in Kilmuir, and extended to him the best wishes of all the members. Mr. Norman Gillies, in handing over the gift, referred to the esteem in which Mr. Mackenzie was held in the district and the regret with which his departure was viewed, though he was going to better himself. Mr. Mackenzie suitably replied. Tea was then served to the company by the following ladies:—Miss Margaret Gillespie, Miss C. A. MacNab, Miss MacAskill, Miss Morag Mackenzie, and Miss Macdonald, after which a delightful programme of songs and instrumental music was gone through. Under Miss MacNab's able leadership the choir sang several choruses in an admirable manner. Solos were sung by several present, and bagpipe selections by Mr. Angus Beaton added to the attractions of a most enjoyable evening.

**LAGGAN.**—A Gaelic Ceilidh was held at Laggan on Tuesday, the 15th of November, when a branch of An Comunn was formed. Rev. Neil Ross presided, and explained the necessity for such an organisation in the district. Gaelic songs were happily rendered by Mrs. Gibson, Faigour; Miss Ina Mackay, Craigville; and Mr. Cattanach, Catlodge. Songs were also sung by Mrs. Macgregor, Coull; Miss Milligan, Kinloch Laggan; and Mr. Alexander Gillies. An interesting speech was made by Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, who expressed her appreciation of the Gaelic atmosphere of the Ceilidh, and read an excerpt from a letter from an old lady in Braemar who had a Badenoch connection and whose great grandmother had spoken with Prince Charlie when he passed through the Badenoch district as a fugitive. An excellent reading from the old "Gael" was given by Miss Macdonald, Ivybank. Mr. Dick Macgregor played selections on the bagpipes. Tea was served by a committee of ladies, convened by Mrs. Neil Ross, and was greatly enjoyed. An interval was set apart for Gaelic conversation. It is intended to hold Gaelic classes, an elementary and an advanced class. Laggan branch office-bearers were appointed as follows:—President—Duncan Macpherson, Esq., of Glenstruin; Vice-President—Rev. Neil Ross; Secretary—Mr. Alex. J. Macmillan, headmaster, Cergask; Treasurer, Mr. Archibald Macdonald, gardener, Cluny; and a strong Committee, including Father Duncan Maclean, St. Michael's; Dr. Donald Mackay, Craigville; and Miss Macdonald, Ivybank. There were about fifty people present at the Ceilidh.

**TORRERMORY.**—The usual fortnightly meeting of Comunn Gaidhealach Thobair-Mhoire was held in the School on 9th November. There was an excellent turnout of members and friends. A programme of Gaelic songs, readings, and recitations, arranged by Mr. John Cameron, Drumfin, and Mrs. MacLeod, was given by Mrs. MacPhee, Misses F. Calder and F. MacLaren, Messrs J. Cameron, Drumfin, J. Cameron, Gillian MacLaine, Neil MacKinnon, Hector MacLean, Councillor Mac-

Kay, and Mr. James MacDougall. The Pipe Band under the leadership of Mr. Duncan MacLeod gave several selections, which greatly delighted the company.

**VALE OF LEVEN.**—The opening meeting of the session of the Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held recently in the Co-operative Hall, Alexandria. Mr. Archibald Macgregor, the President, was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The lecturer was Mr. Duncan MacGillivray, M.A., LL.D., Rector, Hillhead High School, Glasgow. Dr. MacGillivray is an Islayman, and an enthusiast in all matters connected with the Highlands and Islands. His subject was "The Highlands in the 18th Century." Many fine records of the period were published, but perhaps the best were those of Mrs. Grant of Laggan, General Stewart of Garth, and the statistical account submitted by the Scottish Clergy. Most of the lecture was devoted to particulars from those three sources. At the end of the lecture, Dr. MacGillivray received an ovation. Tea was served at the interval, and the remainder of the evening was spent in song and story. Mr. John Macinnes, Miss Maciven, and Miss Morrison, all from Glasgow, sang quite a number of Gaelic songs, and Piper Roderick Campbell played selections. Rev. Kenneth MacLennan, B.D., Alexandria, in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. MacGillivray, paid tribute to the distinguished services rendered by the Rector of Hillhead High School to the cause of education in Scotland, and referred to the honour paid him by his Alma Mater. The singing of "Oidheche mhath leibh's beannaehd leibh" brought the evening to an end.

#### DONATIONS TO FEILL FUND.

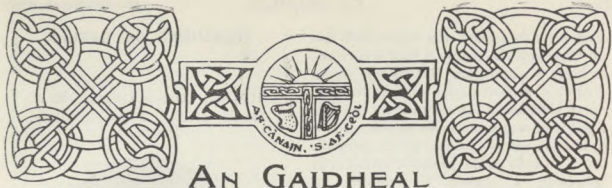
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## AN GAIDHEAL

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Leabhar XXIII.]

*Am Faoilleach, 1928.*

[Earrann 4

### FAILTE BLIADHNA UIRE.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte chridheil aig an am air buill A' Chomuinn anns gach cearn, a' guidhe sonas agus soirbheachadh dhaibh air feadh na bliadhna ùire a tha a nis a' tòiseachadh. Tha an uair freagarrach gu bhi a' cuimhneachadh gu bheil deagh-ghean da chèile ro-ìomchuidh eadar buill A' Chomuinn. Oir tha buaidh na h-oibreach a tha againn anns an t-sealladh, an crochadh gu mòr air dealas is dùrachd. Is còir an dealas is an dùrachd a chumail suas le teachdaireachd a dh'innseas cia mar tha gnòthuichean a' dol air an aghaidh mar tha bliadhna an déidh bliadhna a' ruith seachad.

Mar is fios dhuinn uile tha an òigridh a' dortadh do 'n bhaile mhór, a chionn nach eil innleachd air an gleidheadh air an dùthach. Feumair sùil a chumail air an chùis so, a chum is gun cumair mar an ceudna aire na h-òigridh air a' Ghàidhlig an uair a théid iad do 'n bhaile mhór. Tha e 'n a aobhar taingeachadh gu bheil buidheann no dhà de dheagh Ghàidhlig am bailtean móra an taoibh deas, a tha 'sealltainn gu cùramach as deidh na cùise so. Tha *Ceilidh nan Gàidheal* an Glascho, is *Tir nam Beann* an Duneideann a' deanamh feum mòr le bhi a' brosnuchadh na h-òigridh Ghàidhealach a chum Gàidhlig a thuigsinn agus a labhairt. Tha na coinneamhan sin a' cur seachad ùine shaor na h-òigridh gu buannachdail. Agus tha iad aig an am cheudna a' coimhionadh

na criche a tha aig An Chomunn Ghàidhealach anns an amharc—is e sin a bhi misneachadh nan Gàidheal òga, le earail is eisimpleir, gus an cainnt mhàtharail a chleachdadh. Feadh na bliadhna a thàinig a nis gu ceann rinneadh aghart sonruichte leis na Goill iad fhéin a thaobh beothachadh an cuid ciùil agus cànan. Chaidh féisdean a chumail anns a robh na ceudan comh-fharpuiseach a strì airson dhuaisean, iad uile a' seinn nan seann òran Gallda, a tha cho coltach air iomadh dòigh ri ceòl nan Gàidheal. Cha b' ann a mhàin a thaobh ciùil a thug na Goill ceum air aghart, ach tha iad an deidh comuinn a shuidheachadh gu bhi dùsgadh na seann Bheurla Albannaich. Is còir mothuchadh gu bheil an gluasad so a measg nan Gall glé choltach ri obair A' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich. Tho so a' ciallachadh gu bheil an seann spiorad cinneachail a' moegladh, air eagal mun teid an dlèab shinnsireil a mugh.

Tha buill A' Chomuinn a' fàs nas pailte. Tha an àireamh a nis dlùth air dà cheud deug. A chionn gu bheil iad sin sgairte air feadh gach ceàrn de 'n t-saoghal bu chòir gum biodh ainm is obair A' Chomuinn aithnichte fada is farsuinn. Agus aig toiseach bliadhna eile dh' fhaodamaid deagh earail a thairgsinn do gach ball; agus is e sin gu faigheadh iad caraid as ùr a bhiodh deònach air tighinn a stigh do 'n Chomunn. Mar sin bhiodh an àireamh ag éirigh, agus an t-aobhar 'g a neartachadh. Chan eil

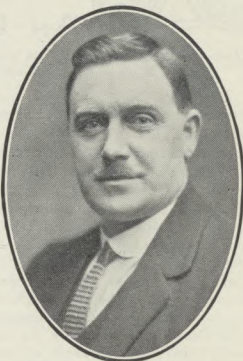


## TEACHERS OF GAELIC.

dòigh anns an urrainn sinn cuideachadh leis An Chomunn cho maith ri buill a chruinneachadh a chum gum bi tuilleadh de na Gàidhlig a' gabhail tlachd anns a' chàinain. Air an bhliadhna a chaidh fhuair An Comunn togail is misneach air modh no dhà. Ged a sgrìobhadh uair is uair mun Fhéill, gidheadh is e so an t-am gu bhi 'gabhail cunntais mun ardachadh a thainig air cùisean na Gàidhlig mar thoradh air an Fhéill. Bha an oidheip choitchionn ud 'n a meadhon air iomadh Gàidheal a bhrosnuchadh gu gnìomh as leth an aobhair. Bu mhaith an toiseach tòisichidh sin. Le bhi deanamh gnìomh tha aire air a tarraim, agus tha dealas a' dùsgadh. Leis gach ullachadh agus saothar a bh' ann bha cor na càinain air a chraobh sgaoileadh; agus thug sin chthrom do mhóran an dùrachd a nochdadh.

A nis tha e soilleir gun tig buil mhaith o 'n ionmhas a chuir an Fhéill an seilbh A' Chomuinn. Is mór an ni gum biodh e comasach do 'n rùnair an tuilleadh ùine a chur air leith gu bhi 'taghal o am gu am air na meanglain deas is tuath, an iar agus an ear. Chan urrainn aon duine, air fheabhas, gach dleasdanas air fad a choimhlonadh, a bhùineas do chléireach gnothuich agus do rùnair taghail. Agus chan eil àicheadh nach bidh buannachd ag éirigh, an uair a bhios na meanglain feadh na dùthcha a' factainn misneach o làthaireachd an rùnair air uairibh. Tha e mar an ceudna 'n a leasachadh gu bheil luchd teagaisg na seinn nas lionmhoire a nis an ainm A' Chomuinn. Tha dùil gum bi aghart air a' cheòl aig na mòid mar thoradh air so; agus tha sinn a' creidsinn nach bi an dùil sin air a mealladh. Tha cuid de mheanglain ùra a' cinneachadh an sud 's an so; agus cluinnear fathast tuilleadh mu dheighinn nan còisirean dùthchasail. Agus an crìochnachadh na h-earrann so bu mhaith leinn ainmeachadh gu bheil feum mór air aghartas agus leasachadh air a' mhìosachan so fhéin. Tha sinn a' tabhairt cuireadh do ar càirdean aig a' bheil comas leis a' pheann gum bi iad cho maith is gun cuir iad earrann d' ar ionnsuidh o am gu am. Chan eil e furasda cuir m' bhlasda, mar gum b' eadh, a sgaoileadh an comhnuidh; agus cha bu mhisde leinn an tuilleadh de luchd cuidichidh gu solar an lòn litreachail a tha e mar fhiaich-aibh oirnn a thairgse do ar n-aoidhean o mhìos gu mìos.

II.—MR. DONALD GRAHAM, M.A.,  
Gaelic Master, Royal Academy,  
Inverness.



A native of Uig, Skye, Mr. Donald Graham received his early education at the village school, where he gained a bursary, which he subsequently held at Kingussie Secondary School. There he had a distinguished career, finishing up as dux of the school. Proceeding to Edinburgh University, he graduated in Arts in 1910, being first prizeman in Celtic.

Always a keen student of the Gaelic language, and a thorough believer in its educational value, he introduced the study of Gaelic into the school curriculum on his appointment to the headmastership of Dunvegan Public School in 1911. As president of the Skye Branch of the Educational Institute of Scotland in 1919, he exerted his influence at the very outset to impress on his colleagues the advisability of putting the Gaelic clause of the 1918 Act into force in their schools.

After a number of years of successful work at Dunvegan, he received an appointment in the Central School, Inverness, from which he was transferred to the Royal Academy in 1922 as teacher of Gaelic. Here

he has been eminently successful, as evidenced by the increasing number of pupils taking Gaelic as part of their course, and the large number of passes at the Leaving Certificate Examination. At the Inverness Mod of 1923 Mr. Graham was one of those who rendered eminent service to An Comunn by showing enthusiasm and earnestness on the spot.

Some years ago an article from his pen appeared in the *Scottish Educational Journal*, in which he expounded his views on Gaelic teaching in the schools. This (the teaching of Gaelic in the schools) he regards primarily not as a matter of propaganda, but as one of duty to the pupil in Gaelic-speaking districts, and in the highest degree justified on educational grounds.

On two occasions he has adjudicated in oral competitions at the Mod—at Perth in 1924, and at Greenock in 1925, and he would have done so again at Fort William last October, only that he was unavoidably prevented at the last moment. These experiences were inspiring ones—particularly so to teachers of Gaelic, whose work of necessity must on occasion partake of a measure of drudgery.

In the resuscitation of the local branch of An Comunn in Inverness a few years ago, Mr. Graham took a leading part, and acted as secretary for a number of years, resigning only this year, when he found that his professional duties prevented his devoting as much time to the work as he would like in order to make it the success that he would wish. For a number of years he also represented the Inverness Branch on the Executive Committee of the parent body, and has at all times striven to keep the Comunn in closer touch with colleagues individually and as a body, for he believes that An Comunn can, by judicious action, play a valuable part in education in the Highlands.

Mr. Graham has been to some extent instrumental in getting the Mod syllabus modified to suit conditions in various types of schools in the north and west. His sympathy for the Gaelic cause is founded on knowledge, and on the conviction that with the loss of the language the Highlander will lose something that is distinctive in his character—a loss which will for generations render him a less valuable citizen. So long as the Gaelic cause is left in the hands of Gaels like Mr. Graham, so long will it be sure to flourish. "A h-uile latha sona dha 's gun là idir dona dha."

### BURN BANAG.\*

Le DONNCHADH MAC IAIN, Ile.

An dara duais co-ionann aig Mòd, 1927.

A' mhaighdean Ileach, ris a' Chruitear,  
agus e a' greasachd gu Caisteal Dhun  
Naomhaig.

Ciod e an sgeula so th'agad, fhir thàladh  
nam pong?

'S tearc griollam fear d'ealdhain, 's minic  
fuireas air Bàrd,

Bu léir dhomh do chhabhag tighinn bho chala  
nan long,

Oir 's geur rinn mi faire bho mhullach nan  
àrd.

Rinn mi freiceadan fada, chaidh mo chadal  
air chall,

Bho mheadhon an Earraich 's ann  
dh'fhairich mi trom,

'S mi'n còmhnuidh a' sireadh air an fhàire  
sud thall,

Coslas bàta no birlinn, cruth cabhlach nan  
tonn.

Ach cha'n fhacas 's cha chualas, gath,  
aogas no guth,

'S mo shùilean ri fradharc 's ri claisteachd  
mo chluais,

Ach an fhaolann a mhain air aodann an  
t-sruth,

'S balbh-bhuille na mara air cladach nach  
gluais.

Ceann-fàth agus aobhar mo bhiod-churam  
mór,

Thainig faineair do gach neach anns an tìr,  
An là chruinnich na laoch fo m' ghaol  
Aonghas Og,

'Nan sreathan tiugh, dùmhail air na leacan  
ud shìos.

'Nan lasraichean teine, gach beinn agus  
bruach,

Bha'n lèus air an linne, gathan soluis a'  
leum,

An dealradh toirt rabhadh do na bras-  
ghillean cruaidh,

Gu'n d'thainig uair a tinnis, gu'n robh  
Albainn 'nam feum.

Gu'n robh Albainn 's i claidhte fo chuibh-  
reach nan daoi,

A' mosgladh 's an uair so le misneach ùr,  
Bho'n bhòidich am Brusach nach biodh fois  
dha a chaoidh,

Gus am briste na geimhlean gu h-ìosal 's an  
ùir.

'Nuair bhà esan air shearbadh 's an nàmh  
air an tòir,

Air a ruagadh le gamhlas troimh chòrsan na  
tìr',

Ghabh e fasnadh fo sgiath an Dòmhnullaich  
chòir,

Am fàth Aonghas Og, Triath Ile 's Chinntìr'.

'N àm dealachadh uaith gu tearuinte slàn,  
Dh' asluich an Rìgh air a' cheathairmeach  
thrèun,  
È ghealladh dha cobhar ann an oidheirp  
ro-dhàn,  
Chum Albainn a shaoradh bho na coigrich  
bhreun.

Sheas an t-Eileanach gaisgeil, cha do chrath  
e a cheann,  
Bha uail agus uaisle 'na ghruaidhean a'  
snàmh,  
'S mar so, labhair an curaidh, air faobhar a  
lainn,  
" 'S e do charaid mo charaid 's do nàmhaid  
mo nàmh,  
Mo bhéid dhuit nach strìochd mi 'n àm  
sineadh 'sa chàs,  
'S leat mo chòmhnadh da-rìreadh 'am mìn  
is an garbh,  
'S leat mo chuid is, mo chuideachd, uile  
dileas gu bàs,  
'S leat mo chlaidheamh 's a chòmhrag,"  
deir an Dòmhnallach garg;

'S air tàillibh a' gheallaidh, 'n uair bha 'n  
t-àm sin air teachd,  
Bha pìob air gach bealach, air gach carraig  
bha ràmh,  
'S o' b' àluinn an sealladh 'n uair chruinnich  
am feachd,  
Agus "Bratach-an-Fhraoich" air Dun  
Naomhaig a' snàmh!

Bho 'n là sheòl a' chabhlaich bha giùlan nan  
sonn,  
Fios no crois cha d' fhuairesas 's cha chualas  
orra brath,  
'S ann dh' fhalaich an cuan iad air cùlthaobh  
nan tonn,  
Fàth mo mhulaid 's mo thùrsa air m'  
iogainn gun rath.

#### AN CRUITEAR.

Ainnir àluinn nam blàth-shuil, 's geur a  
bheachdaich thu chùis,  
B' aineamh leamsa bhi greasad, 's fhada  
ghabhainn-sa e bhuan,  
Tha nì àraidh air m' aire, 's léir a bhlàth  
sud a 'm ghnùis,  
'S tha mi air bàinidh 'ga aithris bho thràth  
mhaduinn luain.

Air dhòmhsa bhi 'm sheasamh air léitir an  
t-sléibh,  
An sliabh àillidh tha 'g iadhadh air Sruibhle  
mu 'n cuairt,

Faicear thall taobh an amair aig Burn Bànag  
nan éuchd,  
Buidhean dileas na h-Alba, na fir mhór-  
lamhach, luath.

Bha 'n Rìgh fo mhi-ghean 's fo nìhl-thlachd  
's an uair,  
'S e fo theagamh mu 'n Ileach, an dean e  
dì-chuimhn' 's an àm?  
An dean e dearmud? An till e an cois  
fhacail, mo thruaigh!  
Is feachd Shasuinn a brùchdadh air Sruibhle  
gu teann?

Ach éisd! Cìod e chluinnear air oiteag  
luaineach na h-òidhch',  
An e farum oillteil fir Shasuinn a' chrom ri  
clais-teachd gach ceann?  
Cha 'n e! Sin e rithis tighinn a nuas anns  
a' ghaoith,  
Binn chaitheam nam pìob bho gharbh-  
chrioch nam beann.

Bu thogarrach, aotrom, ceum uallach nan  
tréun,  
Ag imeachd le sitheadh, na fir làidir, òg  
throm,  
'S 'n uair dhrugh iad 's an t-sealladh air  
faiche nan stéud,  
Neartaich càil na bha 'g amharc, las dòchas  
gach com.

#### BRUS.

" 'S maith a fhuairesas thu charaid, cha  
drinn thu dearmud 's an uair,  
'Bha Albainn na h-éiginn 's gun a càirdean  
ach gann,  
Tha 'n nàmhaid an dràs air an àrdan ud  
shuas,  
Ciad-gu-leth mìle, 's mòr an t-àireamh a  
th' ann."

#### AONGHAS OG.

"Mo Rìgh is mo Thriath! Cha bhrìstinn mo  
bhóid,  
Na'm brìsteadh cha togainn gu slorruidh mo  
cheann,  
Sin mo dhaoine a lathair, deich mìle air an  
fhóid,  
'S iad armaichte uile bho thruaill gu lann.  
'S tha cuideachd a' tighinn, bi iad againn  
gun dàil,  
Ochd mìle làn shàr, taghte, lùthmhor is  
luath,  
Chunna mi'n dé iad a' tarraing dlùth air mo  
shàil,  
Le m' sheirbhiseach dileas, MacCoinnich  
bho thuath."

## AN CATH.

Dh' fhosgail Sasunn an cath le fras ghathan,  
caol, geur,  
Leum a marc-shluagh 's an dòllaid, fhuair  
na stéudan an t-srian,  
'S le tairneineach chruaidh, thoisich caonag  
nan éuchd,  
Aig bristeadh-na-faire mu 'n d' éirich a'  
ghrian.

\* \* \* \* \*

O Albainn aosda nan naomh is nan tréun!  
Tiormaich an deur tha fhuachadh do  
ghruaidh,  
Faic do mhic air an àrfaich le 'n stàil-  
eicnean geur,  
'S cha ghéill iad gu bràth gus am buidhnear  
a' bhuaidh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ceart mar thonnan a buaileadh air carraig  
a' chuain,  
Theid gu neo-ni an neart 's iad a tuiteam air  
falbh,  
'S ann mar sin 'sheas na suinn ris an  
ionnsuidh ro-chruaidh,  
'S a sgap iad na sreathan gun chuma gun  
dealbh.

Gairm-catha Chloinn Dòmh'uill bho dheas-  
laimh a' bhlaìr,  
Chlis an namhaid le uambas, bha dùbhlán  
'sa ghaoir,  
Fraoch Eilean! Fraoch Eilean! dh'éirich  
colgarra àrd,

'S thog gach cinneadh is tréubh le iollach  
an glaoch,  
Cho-fhreagair Clann Donnachadh a' buil-  
gein an àir,  
Na samhanaich threiseil gun mhilleadh gun  
mheang,  
'S gualainn ri gualainn, bho bharr-bròige gu  
sàil,  
Sheas na diùlnaich an làrach, cha tilleadh iad  
eang.

Lean an casgradh oilleil gu dorcha nan  
tràth,  
Lean Sasunn air taosgadh a daoine a nall,  
Thug gaisge do-thuigseach gach ionnsuidh  
gun stàth,  
Ghrad bhrist iad is dh' aom iad is sgaoil iad  
air ball.

O Shasuinn le d' uail, le d' uaibhear 's le  
d' stràichd,  
Le d' an-iochd, le d' mhór-chuis, gabh  
rabhadh 's an am,  
Thoir an aire, gabh earail, tréig do mhagadh  
's do thàir!  
Feuch! na Gàidheil a' d' thaice bho àrd-  
thìr nam beann,

Siol nan sonn nach tug cùlthaobh ri dùth-  
aich no ri nàmh,  
Bho 'n stéidhicheadh an cruinne air bunait  
bho thùs,  
Finne tréubhach nan éuchd bha 'n Albainn  
a' tàmh,  
'N uair bhuailear an Roimhe gu h-ìosal 's an  
ùir,  
Faic d' àrmuinn 'nan sìneadh, fuar, marbh  
air an t-sliabh,  
Faic a nasgaidh do neart, dean caoineadh is  
caoidh,  
Fhuair thu an dioladh a' thoill thu. Phàigh-  
eadh gach fiach,  
Faic do bhraatach 's i srachdte fo chasan  
nan saoi,  
Faic do Rìgh 's e teicheadh, a' mareachd 'na  
dheann,  
Air Dun Bàrr thug e aghaidh 's fios an eagail  
'na chliabh,  
An tòir às a dhéigh 's iad a' casadh air  
teann,  
Mar mhial-choin ri eilid agus faoghaid ri  
fiadh,  
Faic do bhlàth 's e air seargadh le fuar-  
ghaoith nam beann,  
Agus toradh do ghamhlas sint' air an  
t-sliabh,  
Laidh do ghrian air Burn Bàrag, crom le  
tàmait do cheann,  
Sgealbadh do shleagh agus bhristeadh do  
sgiaith.

Gabh mo leisgeul a ghalad, tha mo chabhag  
ro-mhór,  
Cha sgeul-fuadain mo naigheachd ach  
fianuis mo shùil,  
Rinn mi fuireachd le truas, b' e culaidh-  
mhulaid do bhròn,  
Air dhòmhsa bhí siubhal gu àros nan tùr,  
Tha do leannan 's do chàirdean gu sàbhailte  
slàn,  
Sheòl a' chhabhlach seachad air Arainn an  
dé,  
Luaidhear 'an eachdraidh, seinnear binn e  
'an dàn,  
'S theid treise nan gaisgeach a' sìos troimh  
gach ré,  
'S ged chrean sinn gu goirt air, ged dhìol  
sinn air daor,  
Do ghineal ar gineil, rinneadh Alba dhaibh  
saor.

\* Burn Bàrag=Bannockburn. The name is purely Gaelic. "Burn"=water or channel; "Bàrag"=the fish known in English as grise. This form of place-name is more common than appears at first glance, for instance:—Beinn Dobharan, Beinn Laogh, Dun Boc, Dun Breatunn, Ard Gobhar, Pol Madaidh, Loch Bradan, Loch Braon, Port Rìgh, etc., etc., etc. "Allt a' Bhonnaich" for Bannockburn is absurd.

## A HEBRIDEAN ISLAND.

By DR. MAGNUS R. MACKAY.

I sometimes wonder if An Comunn's activities to resuscitate and preserve the Gaelic language, where it is dead, or in the process of decay, do not lead to some neglect of those places where the language is still the mother tongue. It is, of course, laudable to arouse an interest and attempt to preserve the tongue where it is threatened with extinction, but blowing over the ashes of an expiring love can never be so fruitful as fanning the flames of one already vibrant and pulsating. It is, of course, a truism that Gaelic can never die as long as it is spoken in the homes and taught in the schools. But the coming of the railway, and attendant commercial pursuits, especially where people are herded together in towns, are factors in the decay of the old tongue that are hard to counteract. It is in the Western Isles that we have the last line of defence in resisting these hostile influences. And so it is then, that it is there that An Comunn should employ all its forces in encouraging the people to maintain the Gaelic as the language of the hearth, the church, and the market. I do not think the Outer Hebrides, except Lewis (or more correctly Stornoway), send competitors to the Great Mod. Distance and expense militate again this; but one would like to see local Mods held in all parts of the Isles, and so stimulate rivalry between them. With the preservation of Gaelic, one can look for the preservation, in part at least, of old Highland customs that are rapidly passing away. With a new language come other customs and habits that can never be so attractive or so distinctive of the Highland race as those that have passed away; old ways that were woven into the warp and woof of Highland life.

Thirty years ago I lived for a time in Barra, the most southerly of the inhabited islands of the Outer Hebrides. There was epitomised the old Highland life that was general throughout the Highlands a hundred years ago. And what a simple, kindly, charming life that was! Barra is a small island fourteen miles in circumference by road. As you approach it from the sea, the white clean houses of Castlebay slope up from the water's edge. Overlooking the little capital,

there rises the only considerable hill in the whole island. In the bay, and a few hundred yards from the shore, Kismuil Castle rears its ruined shattered walls, and from its eyeless sockets one looks out to Barra Head and the restless sea between. It stands on a rock, and in the old, old days must have been impregnable from assault. This was the ancient home of the MacNeills, chiefs of Barra. Silent now are its halls, and no longer does MacNeill's seneschal proclaim arrogantly from its battlements that MacNeill having dined, all the princes of the earth were now at liberty to do so. Only the seagulls live within the castle walls, and their cry, and the mournful lapping of the waters, alone disturb the solitude. The people of the island, removed "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," had a care-free, unspoilt existence within their own ambit. They were, and still are, overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, and the priests did not seek to place unreasonable restrictions on their innocent amusements. No rigid austere Calvinism frowned on their pleasures or "froze the genial current of the soul." Ceilidhs in each other's houses, to which young and old came, served to pass away long winter evenings, and Boreas' rude blast outside went unheeded, while song, music, dancing, and story sped the laggard hours. With the pipes swelling loudly and free, reels were danced with vigour and abandon far into the night. By the peat fire "sguelachdan" were told with a fertility of thought and imagination that any aspiring writer might well envy. Stories there were to satisfy indiscriminate tastes: stories full of fairies and bogles: of beautiful princesses, who, by their wiles and charms, tamed the great giants who terrified the folk by their unseemly pranks. The giants sometimes married the princesses, and they were ever after gentle and kind. Henceforth their unbelievable strength was only exercised to free the oppressed from their oppressors. There is a huge stone in Barra standing solitary and gray. It was thrown after his absconding wife by a great giant who lived in Eriskay, but whether the offending lady was felled or not, I cannot now remember. But I recall my youthful wonder and admiration for the giant's strength, and my secret envy of his prowess. I am envious of him now, for I refuse to believe, in this age of unbelief, that my hero-worship was founded on a childish delusion!

The ghost stories told were truly appalling, and implicitly accepted as sober truth, for



did not the story-teller (or one noted for his probity and uprightness) see the horrid visions himself? The terrors that stalk by night made the walk homewards afterwards an ordeal before which Christian himself might well have quailed! Nobody felt safe until the warmth of one's blankets induced the benison of dreamless slumber, and the glad rays of the sun of new day put to flight "the phantoms of fright."

Excellent home-spun cloth was made by the women of the island. The making of the cloth was to the accompaniment of waulking songs. At each side of a long table a bevy of women sat, and as they kneaded the cloth their bodies swayed to and fro to the rhythmic swing of the songs they sang. How the chorus rose and fell, and was carried far on the night air—and how these songs with their haunting refrain ring in one's ears to this day.

One grand old Highland custom still survived too. Many of the humble islanders were laid to rest in their narrow cells to the accompaniment of a lament on the pipes. Nowadays pipes are only played at the funeral of some one of note. What a pity that the pipes do not still ring out the coronach at the funeral of peasant and chief alike. But I hope the Barra men go to their lone island grave as they did thirty years ago.

English was hardly ever spoken in the days I write of, Gaelic providing the sole medium of conversation. This must still be so, and it is for An Comunn, I repeat, to foster it by every means in their power, and to encourage the keeping up of such Highland ways as are practicable when alien influences are threatening the Highlanders' very identity.

Yes, thirty years have passed away since, a forlorn figure, I saw, from the deck of the steamer, Barra fade away into the sea mist. One has travelled far and wide since, too, and "many goodly states and kingdoms seen"—but even now one's thoughts fly back to those happy days, and no other days have ever been quite like them. One sees still the old roads, and the old hill paths, that one trod with eager, youthful steps: one feels the scented breeze blow soothingly on the face: old scenes start to life again in memory's magic chambers; and one hears the muffled thunder of the great Atlantic breakers dashing on the sandy beaches and the rocky shore of that sea-girt isle.

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.  
(An dara h-Earrann.)**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le  
CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

II.

Tha muinntir an bitheantas ag amharc air na sean Lochlannaich a thàinig do na ceàrnan sin anns na linn-tean fad às mar a mhàin Vikinger, a thàinig 's a dh'fhaibh o àm gu àm, cha'n 'eil uibhir colais againn orra mar luchd-àiteachaidh a ghabh freumh 's an tìr, mar a dh'fheumadh gu'n robh a chuid a bu mhò dhiubh an uair a dh'fhàg iad athailt cho druighteach agus a tha ainmean nan àitean, agus iomadh nì eile a leigeil ris. Tha 'm facal 'Gall'—a tha 'ciallachadh anns a Ghàidhlig 'coigreach, no neach a tìr eile—daonnan air a ghnàthachadh leis na Gàidhlig ris na Lochlannaich. Mar sin bha na h-Innse-Ghall a ciallachadh Eileana nan Coigreach. Bhiodh, glé choltach, sluagh nan eilean aig an àm sin de chinneadh cho-mheasgaichte de Ghàidhlig is Lochlannaich le bunabhas nan Lochlannach a buadhachadh. Tha na seanachaidhean 'gan gairm Gall-Ghàidhlig, agus tha'n t-ainm "Galloway," far an robh an dà chinneadh air an co-measgadh, air a tharruing, tha e air a ràdh, o'n ainm a thugadh an toiseach do shluagh an àite, is na dhéigh sin do'n dùthaich aca. Tha na sean sgrìobhaidhean Lochlannach mar an ceudna a toirt an ainm so dhaibh, oir tha "Vikinger"—Scotar a ciallachadh "Gall-Ghàidhlig" anns a chaintinn sin.

Gun robh sluagh nan Eilean an cuid Lochlannach tha e air a dhearbhadh trid Chòrdadh Pheairt, tre'n do lùbhair Rìgh Magnus Lagabotr (Fear-càraidh an Lagha), Mac Rìgh Haakon, a suas na h-Innse-Gall do Rìgh Albainn anns a bhliadhna 1266; a réir a Chòrdaidh so bha na Lochlannaich uile saor gu fuireach far an robh iad no imrich a dheanamh do Lochlann le'n cuid 's le'n cuideachd a réir an toil; agus sgrìobh Rìgh Magnus gu luchd nan eilean g'am fuasgladh o'n dlìghe mar lochdrain do Rìgh Lochlainn, agus ag iarraidh orra a bhì dèidh do Rìgh na h-Alba.

Air tìr-mór, far nach do mhair tighearnas Lochlainn tuilleadh na linn no dhà, bhuaidh aich a chànan Lochlannach thairis air a Ghàidhlig 's an àrde tuath, agus bha 'n sluagh an cuid mhór Lochlannach; tha sin ri fhaicinn trid Ìonmhoireachd ainmean nan

àitean a tha air am faotainn an sin mar an ceudna. Tha e air a ràdh gu'm faodar gus an là-diugh mùghadh a dheanamh a mach eadar taobh-dùthcha nan Gàidheal agus nan Lochlannaich, trid cruitheachd nan daoine, mar an ceudna trid blas an cainnt. Tha "Caithness" air an ainm a ghlèidheadh a thug na Lochlannaich dha, 's e sin *Katanes*, ged a tha e air ainmeachadh "Gallaibh" anns a Ghàidhlig (Siormachd nan Gall), agus Sutherland\* an "Sudrland" no Tìrri-Deas aig na Lochlannaich, 's e sin, deas bho na h-Araibh. Tha baile Dingwall—Thingvöllr—Acha-na-Cùirt—a toirt fathast 'n ar cuimhne meadhon frithealaidh an lagha, no riaghladh cùisean na h-Uachdranachd Lochlannach anns na ceàrnaibh sin. Mar dhearbhadh a thuilleadh air cho fada stigh agus a shuidhich na Lochlannaich iad féin anns an dùthaich, faodar a thoirt air aghart, an uair a leag Rìgh Daibhaidh I. anns an dara-linn-deug cis air na Siormachdan Tuathach foidh ainm Pondus Cateniense, bha iad air an stéidheachadh a réir riaghailt nan clesan Lochlannach.

Mun toisich sinn ri beachdachadh air an athailt dhomhain a leag na Lochlannaich o shean air Albainn, agus a lorgan 'n ar latha féin a leanachd, agus na fearainn seachad air an do sheòl an "Ronald" air a turas gu Lochlann a dhealbhadh, bithidh e cho maith eachdraidh ghoirid a thoirt air sean Uachdranachd Lochlann "siar-thàr-sàile."

Is e a cheud ghuth a gheibhear anns na h-eachdraidhean mu na Lochlannaich a bli air am faicinn mu chorsa na h-Alba, gu'n d'fhàinig iad mu'n ochdamh linn; ach is i a bharaill choitichionn 'n ar latha-ne gu'm feum gu'n d'fhàinig iad mòran na bu tràithe na tha na sgrìobhadhichean sin a toirt cunntas air. Tha so na's coltaiche an uair a ghabhas duine beachd air cruth coimhionta an loingeis gu seòladh air a mhuir a thog na Lochlannaich mu A.D. 800-900, mar a chithear an soithichean nan Vikinger a chaidh a ghlèidheadh cho maith, agus a chaidh a chladhach às an talamh aig Oseberg, agus Gokstad an Lochlann, agus d'an robh dealbh de'n dà shoitheach ri'm faicinn anns an roinn Lochlannach de'n Exhibition an Glaschu 's a bhliadhna 1911, agus mu'n d'fhuir daoine fiosrach anns an eòlas sin, nach gabhadh ni mu'n dealbh deanamh na b'fhearr eadhoin anns an latha so féin, bhiodh e mar sin reusanta ri thuigsinn gu'n do ghabh e ùin' fhada gus a choimhiontachd sin a thoirt gu crìch uidh-

air-uidh 's an ealantachd agus anns an oibreachadh a thoirt gu àirde. Mar sin dh'fheumadh e bhì gu'n do sheòl na Lochlannaich an cuan linntean mun deachaidh an cunntas a sgrìobhadh; b'ann an soithichean de'n t-seòrsa sin a fhuair iad a mach Iceland, Greenland, agus Tìr-mór America an àm nan Vikinger. Seadh, tha eadhoin beul-aithris againn gu'n deachaidh cabhlach á dùthchanna an Taobh Tuath gu Albainn gu comhadh a thoirt do na h-Albannaich agus na Cruithnich, a ghuidh air son an cuideachadh an aghaidh feachd nan Rómanach a bha fo Agricola. Thaghail iad aig beul na h-Abhainn-duibhe ach a chionn bìrlinnean nan Rómanach a bhì an sin theann iad air ais a suas gu Abhainn Tatha, far an d'fhàillich cinn fheadhna nan Cruithneach agus nan Gàidheal iad; ach am feadh a bha iad a toirt cuirm dhaibh, thàinig an cabhlach Rómanach gun fhios air na Lochlannaich agus loisgeadh an soithichean, agus chaidh an cabhlach Rómanach na dhéigh sin a long-bhriseadh anns a Chaol Arcach. Faoaidh e bhith ged is sean an naigheachd so mu na Tuathaich a thiginn aig àm cho fad às, gu'm bheil stéidh de dh'fhirinn innte, agus tha mise 'g a toirt seachad mar a fhuair mi i.

B'e Arailt Fionn-fhalt (Harald the Fair-haired) a cheud rìgh Lochlannach a chiosnaich na h-Innse-Gall, ni a ghabh àite ri àm a thurus mòr "siar-thàr-sàile," air dha faighinn thun an rìgh-chathair mar aon rìgh Lochlann 's a bhliadhna 872 A.D. Bha Lochlann gus a so air a gearradh suas an àireamh de rioghachdan beaga, ach rinn Arailt an dinneadh ri chéile nan aon fòidh a làmh fhéin. Seach strìochdadh do'n rìgh shanntach so dh'fhàg mòran dhaoine àrd-intinn-each an oighreachdan, agus thog iad orra thàr a chuain gu dachaidh agus saorsa fhaotainn an ceàrnan eile. Anns an dòigh so fhuaradh a mach Iceland leò, is rinn iad tuineachadh an sin, chaidh mòran diubh "siar-thàr-sàile," agus fhuair iad anns na h-Innse-Gall àitean freagarraich gu fuireach anna agus ionnsuidhean foirmeartach a thoirt air oir-thìr Lochlann, 'g a dheanamh neo-shuaimhneach do Rìgh Arailt. Gu crìoch a chur air na h-ionnsuidhean a bha tighinn gun stad o'n cheàrna sin b'e am prìomh aobhar a thug air Rìgh Arailt an turas so a ghabhail beagan an déigh 872 A.D. Ach is gann a bha Rìgh Arailt air tilleadh gu Lochlann na 'nochd na Vikinger iad fhéin às ùr air a chladaichean; mar sin b'fheudar dha cabhlach ùr a chur a nunn a rithis, ach an uair so fo ughdarras a cheannaidh

\* Cataobh anns a Ghàidhlig.

chumhachdaich Ketil Flatneb, Coire Shròn-leachdaich, Triath Romsdäl, a bha a réir coltais, mar a tha'n Sàga ag Innseadh, anns na h-uisgeachan sin roimh sin, air turus creachaidh. Ghiulain e mach an gnothach gu ro-mhaith, oir tha'n Sàga ag ràdh: "Chuir e fo a cheannsal féin na h-Innse-Gall gu léir agus rinneadh e 'n a Ard-cheannard thairis orra." Ach cha dlòladh e cis do Rìgh Arailt, mar sin rinn an rìgh greim air na h-oighreachdean aige an Lochlann, agus dh'fhògair e a Mhac Bjorn.

Cha'n 'eil e coltach gu'n do chuir an rìgh cabhlach eile a nunn aig an àm sin, a chionn riaghail Cetil thairis air na h-Eileana gu àm a bhàis. B'e aon de na ceannardan a bu chumhachdaiche riamh a riaghail thairis air na h-Innse-Gall agus stéidhich se e féin na bu làidire 'na dhreuchd trid a nigheanan a phòsadh ri daoine inbheach 's an taobh an iar; an déigh a bhàis rinn a mhic imrich gu Iceland, far an d'fhàinig na teaghlachan is ainmeile nuas uapa.

Bha neach eile a bha ainmeil 's an àm sin 's an Iar, Amhladh Fionn (Olaf the White), Rìgh Bhail'-Ath-Cliath, a phòs aon de nigheanan Chetil, a bh'air a sloinne "Aud na h-inntinn dhomhain"; is coltach gu'n do choinnich e fhéin is Cetil an làithean an òige an uair a bhiodh iad siar air turusan creachaidh. Mun do stéidhich e rioghachd làidir nan Lochlannach an Bail'-Ath-Cliath an 853 A.D. rinn e car mór a chluich an Albainn, oir tha e air aithris gu'm b'ann trid a chomhnadh a fhuair Coinneach Mac Ailpein a bhuaidhlàrach thairis air na Cruithnich, mu'n bhliadhna 840, tre an do chrùnadh e a cheud rìgh de shliochd Gàidhealach an Albainn. Tha na sean sgrìobheadairean a tarraing uaithe so gu'n robh Coinneach agus na Lochlannaich ag oibreachadh le chèile, agus cha'n 'eil e neo-choltach gu'n robh Amhladh anns a gnothuch so, oir bha, a réir coltais, arm làidir aige fodha; tha a phòsadh beagan an déigh so ri nighean Choinnich a daingeachadh a bharail so. B'ann trid a mhnatha, dh'fhaoidte, a bha e air son còir a ghabhail air fearann an Albainn, oir gheibh sinn e a' cogadh an aghaidh mic Choinnich; anns a bhliadhna 870 chl sinn e air Cluaidh a séisdeadh daingeach Alclùtha ('s e sin Dùnbreataann an là-diugh), le cabhlach làidir, àite a thug e gu stròchdadh, a tilleadh gu Bail'-Ath-Cliath le mòran cobhartaich agus mòran phrìosanach. Tha luchd-sgrìobhaidh Eirinn ag ràdh gu'n deachaidh e do Lochlann 's a bhliadhna 871, "far an robh cogadh"; tha iad a saolsinn gu'n robh e aig cath Hafra-

fjord an 872, far an d'fhuair Rìgh Arailt Fionnfhalt a bhuaidh mu dheireadh ann an aonadh Lochlann gu léir fo aon rìgh, a chionn tha'n Sàga ag innseadh gu'n robh mòran de na Lochlannaich "Siar-thar-sàile" a gabhail an taobh a bha 'n aghaidh Rìgh Arailt, gu ath-dhlòladh a thoirt air son mar a rinn esan orra-san. Cha'n 'eil ainm Amhlaidh so a teachd f'ar comhair tuilleadh an eachdraidh na h-Eirinn no na h-Alba, agus tha e coltach gu'n do thuit e anns a bhàl so.

Dh'fhàs Torstein Ruadh (Thorstein the Red), mac do Amhladh so agus do Aud, nighean Chetil, na cheannard mór 's an Taobh Siar. An déigh dha rioghachadh thairis air na h-Eileana fad ùine, comhladh ri Helgi, mac do Chetil sròn-leacach, chaidh Torstein do na h-Araibh le a mhàthair Aud. Bha Iarlg Sigurd a riaghladh an so, bràthair de Iarlg nan Sliabh, earaid agus fear-comhairle do Rìgh Arailt, agus athair Iarlg Rolf (d'an tugadh am far-ainm *Ganger Rolf*, a chionn cha robh e ach a b'urraim a ghiùlan, bha e cho trom agus b'fheudar dha cois-eachd), a fhuair Normandie bho rìgh na Fraince agus mar Dhiùc Normandie a bha do aithriche Uilleam Buadhair (William the Conqueror). Dh'fhailtich Sigurd Torstein gu suilbhr e, agus rinn e comh-bhoinn ris, e dhòl comhladh ris gu ionnsuidh a thoirt air tìr-mór Albainn, agus chuir iad leth na dùthcha fodhpa. An déigh bàs Sigurd beagan bhliadhna an déigh sin, bha Torstein air a ghairm 'na rìgh; thuit e 'sa bhàl sla bliadhna an déigh sin, agus fhuair na h-Albannaich cuid mhór d'an dùthaich air ais.

Anns na h-Innse-Gall gheibhear iarlan Lochlannach eile a riaghladh an déigh Torstein agus Helgi, mar Tryggve, Asbjorn, is Guthorm; Asbjorn leis an fharainm droch-thargrach "Skerjablasi," Fearlasaidh-nangseir, a bha air a chur "siar-thar-sàile" le Rìgh Arailt Fionnfhalt, nì a leigeas ris nach d'thug an rìgh gu buileach a suas a thionsgnadh mu'n Taobh an Iar. Thàinig na h-Eileana, co-dhiùbh, car ghreis fo thighearnas chumhachdaich rìghrean Lochlannach Bhail'-Ath-Cliath, agus nam meag sin bha Arailt Mànu Mac Arailt, a bha air ainmeachadh mar "rex plurimarum insularum"—rìgh mhòran eileana—Gudrod, Ragnall, agus Svein.

(Ri Leantainn.)

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{ : d' | m : r : d | r : m . s : s . l | d' : ta . l : s | m . r : d ||

'S tu cruinneag mo chridhe, 'S ann leat a ruithinn air fuadach.

'S ann ort fhéin tha 'n cùl snlomhain,  
Cheart cho dìreach ri luachair,  
Bho chùl do chinn gu do shàiltean,  
Cron ri àireamh cha luaidh ort.

Tha mi 'n geall air tigh'nn dachaidh  
Ged bhios m'athair an gruaim rium,  
'S nuair a thilleas mi 'n ath-bhliadhna  
Bheir mi chaileag mu thuath leam.

Ach 's i nighean an fhìdhleir,  
Is aobhar brìgh do mo bhuairleadh,  
'S mur a faigh mi dhomh fhìn i,  
Gur a cinnteach an uaigh dhomb.

Bheirinn iasg thar bhàrr sàile,  
Fiadh àrd thar nam fuar-bheann;  
Coileach dubh thar bhàrr gheugan  
'S cha bhìodh éis air mo chuachag.

Gur h-e mis' tha fo mhulad  
'S tric snidh' air mo ghruaidhean,  
'Caoidh na cailleig dhuinn, bhòidhich,  
Bhios a' seòladh Di-luain bhuainn.

### TRIENNIAL ELECTION OF EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.

March, 1928.

The Education (Scotland) Act, 1918, Section 6, requires Education Authorities to make "adequate provision" for the teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic-speaking areas.

It is gladly acknowledged that Education Authorities in the Highland counties have made considerable progress in fulfilling this requirement; but while that is true, it is also the case that in certain districts there has been a disposition to interpret the obligation in a somewhat narrow fashion.

The success of what is known as the "Gaelic Clause" depends mainly on the goodwill of the Education Authorities who are directly responsible in this, as in other matters of administration, to the constituents who elect them.

It is imperative that Highland parents and Highland voters generally who value Gaelic, who desire to see it recognised and respected, who wish our Highland children to have the educational advantage of a bilingual education, should see to it that the members they return to the Education

Authorities pledge themselves to carry out fully the terms and the intention of the Act.

The triennial elections take place on the 23rd March, and branches of An Comunn, and individuals interested throughout the areas, should lose no time in taking steps to ensure that candidates sympathetic to Gaelic shall be forthcoming, and that arrangements are made for supporting them at the poll.

A leaflet is being prepared by the Education Committee of An Comunn for the information of electors, and for the use of candidates, and will be issued shortly. Copies may be had from the office by any person interested.

### NEW MEMBERS.

#### LIFE.

Francis S. Cameron Head of Inverailort.

#### ORDINARY.

Peter MacMillan, Esq., Bowmore.  
Madame Brenot, Morbihan, Brittany.  
Mons. Brenot, Morbihan, Brittany.  
Mrs. M. C. MacLean, Ardbeg.  
David Miller, Esq., Helensburgh.  
Mrs. David Miller, Helensburgh.

### SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Bheir so mo dhùrachd  
'S gach rùn is math leam dhuibh,  
Thar roinnean dùthcha  
'S cuan dù-ghorm gailleannach;  
Aig ceann Bliadh'n Uire  
Gu'n lùgairn fallan sibh,  
Gun chnead, gun chùram  
Ach sùndnach, caidreamhach.

\* \* \*

Provincial Mods are now being arranged for in a number of districts. Kintyre and Islay Mods will be held this year in April, Perthshire on 8th June, and Ardnamurchan on the corresponding date to last year—the first Friday of July. Teachers of singing have been placed as follows:—Sutherland, Mr. Hugh MacLean; Lochbroom, Mrs. M. C. Gall; Tiree, Mrs. A. C. Scott; Glendaruel, Mr. Donald Ferguson. It is hoped to have a teacher in Mull early in January.

\* \* \*

The Summer School of Gaelic has been definitely fixed to take place in Broadford, Skye, during the month of August next. Miss Lamont of Knockdow has kindly agreed to act as secretary, and she will report through the columns of the magazine each month as to the progress of arrangements. There will be three classes:—(1) Beginners, (2) Elementary, and (3) Advanced. It is also hoped to have courses in Celtic Art and Gaelic Singing. Members are asked to make this known to their friends, and in every way to help the Education Committee to make the Summer School a success.

\* \* \*

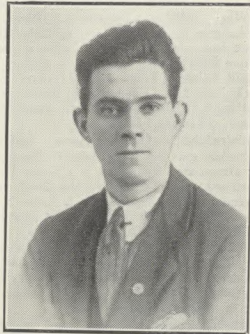
District and Clans Associations have been very active in the cities this session, and annual gatherings have been well attended. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Norman MacLean, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, presided at the Skye Gathering. His interesting address was delightfully interspersed with Gaelic quotations. Referring to Gaelic, he described it as our own ancient language, steeped in beauty and poetry, and that it should be cherished with all the passion of our hearts. It was the language of devotion. We were proud of our poets of the past, who, he was glad to say, still had worthy successors in present-day authors in prose and verse. He emphasised the value of bilingualism. If one had two languages, it was easy to learn a third. His own first language was Gaelic, and he made an appeal to keep the language pure.

Most of our branches are now in full swing, and I would ask secretaries to be good enough to send in reports of their meetings, either to the Editor or myself, not later than the 15th of each month. We are always glad to make room for branch reports. To our members and subscribers abroad the work of the branches is of more than passing interest, and it is our duty to keep everyone informed of all that is being done for the movement. \* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. John MacLeod, president of the London Gaelic Choir, and a loyal member of An Comunn, on his unanimous election, in succession to that good Gael, Mr. Lachlan Campbell, as president of the Gaelic Society of London.

NIALL.

### APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY.



The Finance Committee has unanimously appointed Mr. Hugh MacPhee to the post of assistant. There were over thirty applicants for the post, and from a short list of five drawn up after careful scrutiny of the applications, Mr. MacPhee was chosen.

Mr. MacPhee, who possesses the energy and enthusiasm of youth, is an ardent lover of Gaelic, and a staunch supporter of all that makes for its well-being. He is a member of An Comunn, has rendered valuable voluntary assistance at Mods, and has shown a keen interest in An Comunn's work. He has also gained valuable experience as secretary during the last five years to Ceilidh nan Gaidheal.



## A GAELIC GLOSSARY.

By RONALD BURN, B.A., Humanity Department, University, Glasgow.

**blabhdair:** (1) one noisy about nothing, fussy fellow: Braemore, Matheson, n.; Harris, Ferguson (Salen, Mull), n.; S. Uist, MacEachen, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.: cf. gladhach. (2) one who tells tall stories, romancer: H., F., n.; Br., M., n.; S. U., MacE., n.; T., Mrs. MacL., n.: cf. bradag. (3) a howling babbling person: Br., M., n.; Coll, MacDougall, n.: cf. sglamhaire. (4) babbler, bletherer, bladderskite: Coll, MacD., n.; Gl. Garry (Inv.), Fr. Dieckhoff, from natives; S. U., MacE., n.; T., Mrs. MacL., n.; H., F., n.; L., N. MacL., n.; Br., M., n.: cf. sgeulag, bladag, bleadaire, bleidire, gleomhag, (fathull), sglamhaiche. Tiree has cabach, which in Lewis is used of one fond of clyping. (6) a duffer, a stupid fellow: Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. eabaistear, amaistear, oinisd, sibistear, sliomair.

**blabhdairachd:** (1) blethering, talking nonsense, daft talk: S. Uist, MacEachen, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.; Jura, Neil Shaw, n.: cf. gleomhagaich, sglamhachd, etc. Bòilich in Abernethy for blethering; also boasting (so Lochaber). (2) picking up a person sharp with noise, shouting altercation or interruption by shouting: Garryhilly, S. Uist, Lindsay, n.; cf. sglamhadh, bàirneadh.

**bladag:** big-mouthed woman and at the same time an unthinking untactful talker, a blethering gossip with a large mouth, a bladderskite: Coll, MacDougall, n.: cf. sgeulag, blabhdair, baobach, sglamhaiche, bladag, (fathull), (amaistear), gleomhag, bleadaraich, etc.

**blàr-mòlneadh:** peat bank: Coll, MacDougall, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.; Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n.: cf. bac, sgeir, poll, caisbheag, etc.

**bleadaire:** (1) bletherer: Islay, Johnston, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.: cf. blabhdair, gleomhag, bleidire (2), etc. (2) v. bleidire (1): S. Uist, MacEachen, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.: sgeigire Barr-

ach is bleadaire Baolach (sg. = sarcastic quizzing mocker always taking a rise out of you at wrong time), and cf. sgeuladair, gobairneach. (3) boaster, booster: S. U., MacEachen, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.

**bleadaraich:** (1) gossiping woman; S. Uist (Garryhilly), Lindsay, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Jura, Neil Shaw, n.: cf. blabhdair, etc. (2) g. man as well: Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.; Jura, Neil Shaw, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n. (3) gossip, tittle-tattle: Coll, MacDougall, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Lochaber, Mrs. Spence, n.: cf. fathull, sgeulag, gleomhagaich, sglamhaiche, sgleogaid, blabhdail.

**bleidire:** (1) one given to a combination of flattery, talkativeness, and begging (above all sly begging): Coll, MacDougall, n.; Tiree, Mrs. MacLeod, n.; Braemore, Matheson, n. Air a' bhleid, on the tramp, a-begging, Coll and Tiree. Bleideach known in Braemore. Cf. bleadaire, gleusda, preamall, brosglach, slimear, slaightire, sglögaid. (2) a bletherer: Lewis, N. MacLeod, n.; Garryhilly, S. Uist, Lindsay, n. Cf. bladag, bleadaire.

**bleoghannach:** the milking, quantity of milk produced: Braemore, Matheson, n. See verse under cnead for saying by A' Chailleach Bhiar.

**bleoghannadh:** act of milking: L. Hourn (S.), MacMillan, n.; Waternish, MacAskill, n. Leigeil in Lochaber and L. Suaineart; where bleoghainn also (in Coll and Wat.).

**blian:** sheen: Waternish, MacAskill, n. Belly in W., Coll. Blianadh is basking in W.

**blotalchean:** the wood on which body of cart rests, and through which it is fixed by bolt from box on to axle; it severs trams from axle; the elogs of a coup-cart (plural of bloc): S. Uist (Garryhilly), Lindsay, n.: cf. cairt-, traman, treamsaichean, sgifear, glas, treabhaillear. Eng. blocks.

**blonaid:** fat of hen: Abriachan and Gl. Urquhart: A. J. MacDonald, n. of Abr. (v. blonag in Dw.).

**blonag:** see blonaid: Braemore, Matheson, n.

(Ri leantainn.)

## REGINA GAELIC SOCIETY, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA.

At a meeting of the above Society, among visitors from the City of Moose Jaw were Mrs. Wm. Allen, of the Board of Trade, Supt. Malcolm MacRitchie and Dr. W. J. E. Scott. In addition to the speeches there were a number of Gaelic recitations, songs and bag-pipe selections which were rendered by various artists and thoroughly enjoyed by the Highland audience.

The feature addresses of the evening were delivered by Mrs. Wm. Allen from "*An t-Eilean Neach*," and Dr. Scott. Mrs. Allen chose for her subject an old-time *sgèul* about "St. Bride," describing in simple and fluent Gaelic, after the style of the professional raconteur, the legendary history of the "Mary" of the Gael, and linking it with the nativity of the Christ-child. This was followed by a short discourse on "The Bride's Honey Cake," which revealed the softer side of the Gaelic character, and displayed the love of the Gael for his home, his fireside, and his own kith and kin.

Dr. Scott's address in Gaelic and English, on modern and ancient verse, dealt with "*Ancient Gaelic Minstrelsy*" and was chiefly interesting for its historical value. He showed how poetry was cultivated by all primitive peoples who sought to create and preserve a history of their race; but that on Gaelic soil it followed two parallel courses of development,—the *prehistoric*, or choral form of verse which gave ample scope for community singing; and the *historic*, or artistic form which was brought to perfection by professional bards or minstrels who combined the duties of historian, poet and journalist. The older type was limited in theme to the common interests of the people,—labour, love and the joy of living; the other threw off all restraint and, as illustrated from early Gaelic minstrelsy, embraced fragments of forgotten history, deeds of daring by land and sea; the eternal struggle between right and wrong which left blind Nemesis the final arbiter; besides a mass of literary effusions dealing with science and art, religion, law and letters, and all manner of popular beliefs in fairies, ghosts, witches and warlocks; and stories of humour and tragedy incidental to weddings or funerals, cattle-lifting; and war, wine and women.

A striking peculiarity of all modern Gaelic verse had been to neglect popular ballads and romance, when the bards of other nations were building up the literature of drama and the novel out of the same common sources. The ancient mines of Gaelic poetry and lore had never been

fathomed, and the wonder was that so much had been achieved by the very few, despite the hostility of Englishmen, indifference of Lowlanders, and the national prejudice of Scotsmen in general towards buying Gaelic books which could not be had on loan.

Unlike that of other peoples, the ancient minstrelsy of the Gael was first cultivated in the schools of Druidism where a professional caste of students was trained in the art of delivering oracles in cryptic verse. Some spent twenty years in learning it, and none was permitted to divulge the secrets or mysteries of Druidic faith by the use of any literary signs, characters or symbols legible or intelligible to the common people. Hence, the druids and bards of Gaul employed the Greek alphabet when they wrote about public or private affairs. Throughout Gaeldom they used the Ogham or secret code,—an alphabet of 18 linear signs which had belonged to Iberian syllabaries.

There had come down through the ages a vast body of miscellaneous oral literature which bore the genuine stamp of antiquity and fitly expressed the soul of the race whether its vehicle of speech was old or modern Gaelic. It was not to be compared with the overwhelming mass-production of the Anglo-American Press which served the interests of the bibliographer and was destined to perish rapidly from its spiritual poverty and want.

## THE INVERNESS MOD.

A meeting of the Mod Committee was held at Inverness on 26th November, when there was a large turnout of members. The convener, Mr. Donald Macdonald, presided. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the large number of country headmasters present, showing that these are taking a practical interest in the movement.

Reports were read by the conveners of the sub-committees of the work done to date. In the absence of the Hon. Mrs. Smyth, convener, Mrs. Mackintosh, one of the vice-conveners, gave a report on behalf of the Ladies' Committee, in which she stated that the Hon. Mrs. Smyth is to arrange a fete at Ness Castle in June in aid of the Mod funds. Mrs. Mackintosh also stated that concerts and dances were arranged to be held at Inverness on the 9th December, at Tomatin on the 16th December, and at Dores on the 23rd December. A grand ceillidh is to be held on the 13th January in the Masonic Chapter Rooms, Inverness.

Mr. J. M. Hunter reported on the steps taken by the Halls Committee to secure the necessary hall accommodation for the Mod, and these were considered satisfactory.

Among other items of business conducted was the appointment of an Executive Committee, consisting of the officials and conveners of the various sub-committees.

The usual votes of thanks terminated the business.

### RUNE OF THE WANDERING CLAN.

We are the children of the wandering clan.  
Blown leaves in the autumn wind, no home  
have we!

Grey waves beating on the shore of Time,  
wind-driven, moon-drawn,

There is no rest for such as we!

Wandering stars, lost in eternal night,  
Faint flickering gleams, now seen, now gone!  
White fire in the soul of us!

A wave in the heart of us!

There is no rest for such as we!

O white wind of the spirit! blow swift! blow  
strong!

Shepherd, O wind thy wandering leaves!

Blow peace to the heart of us,

Rest to the soul of us!

White fire, grey wave!

Blow friendship betwixt these twain!

BESSIE J. B. MACARTHUR.

### BRANCH REPORTS.

**BUTE.**—The first regular meeting of session 1927-28 of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoid was held on 25th November, when Capt. Kennedy presided, and there was a large attendance. The lecturer, Mr. John ("Kaid") Maclean, dealt with the Rebellion of 1745, and he afterwards rendered some of his best humorous songs and readings. Pipe-Major P. Stewart gave bagpipe selections, and songs were contributed by Mrs. Stewart, Port-Bannatyne; Miss Veronica Smart, and Mr. James Clark, to pianoforte accompaniments played by Mr. Daniel Lamont. Hon. Sheriff Lyle proposed the votes of thanks.—There was a good attendance at the regular meeting of this association, held in the Tower Street Hall, on 9th December. Mr. Alex. Stewart occupied the chair, and Capt. Kennedy read a valuable paper on "The Old Celtic World from a New Standpoint," and followed this with a Gaelic reading. Mr. M. MacKenzie afterwards read a short paper on "Rothesay and the Gaelic," in the course of which it was mentioned that it was at a Synod meeting in Rothesay in 1654 that the translation into Gaelic of the Shorter Catechism was finally approved, adopted, and ordered to be circulated throughout the Highlands. Thereafter an interesting programme of Gaelic songs was carried through by Mr. J. C.

Maclean, Miss Veronica Smart, and Mrs. Stewart, Port-Bannatyne, and Scottish songs by Miss Thirza Donald, while stirring selections on the pipes were given by Pipe-Major Stewart. Accompaniments to the songs were played by Messrs. Ferguson. All had to respond to vigorous encores. At the close, Mr. William Lyle, in his usual happy manner, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and singers, this bringing the interesting proceedings to a close.

**COLONSAY.**—This Branch since its formation has been very active, and the splendid achievement in leading all districts in support of the Feill is now well known. The membership is 79, and the office-bearers are:—Hon. president, The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal; president, Mrs. Malcolm MacPhee; secretary, Miss C. MacGregor; treasurer, Miss Mairi B. MacPhee.

**DUNOON.**—A meeting of this Branch was held on Friday, 9th December, Mr. D. MacDonald, president, in the chair. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, who took as his subject, "Duncan Ban and His Songs." The lecturer gave a brief account of the bard's life, and mentioned some of his famous contemporaries. Songs illustrative of the poet's genius were rendered by Miss Jean Gallagher, Mr. Donald Fletcher, and the lecturer. During the evening Major Bennet, hon. president, and Col. Iain Campbell (Airds) visited the ceilidh and gave short addresses. The evening was a very pleasant and enjoyable one, and on the call of Father MacDonald Mr. Shaw was heartily thanked for his interesting lecture and songs.

**INVERARAY.**—The fortnightly meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the St. Malieu Hall on Thursday, 17th November. Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, vice-president, presided. After tea a programme of music and recitations was rendered. Songs were sung by Rev. Mr. MacFarlan-Barrow, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, Mrs. Malcolm Dunn, and Mrs. Buchan; pianoforte selections were contributed by Mrs. P. C. Maitland; Miss Campbell contributed a song, the chorus of which was sung by the audience; recitations were given by Mrs. Stewart and Miss Flora Clark; and rousing bagpipe music was played by Piper D. MacLaren. The accompaniments for the singers were played by Miss M. R. MacIntyre. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to all those who had contributed to the programme.

**INVERGARRY.**—The second ceilidh of the winter session in connection with the Glangarry Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was a very successful one, and attracted a large and representative audience to the Coronation Hall, Invergary, on Friday evening. Mr. John Macgillivray, president, was in the chair, and welcomed those present in characteristic style. The programme was as follows:—Bagpipe selections, Mr. Donald Macaskill; Gaelic song, Mr. Angus Macaskill, jun.; English song, Mrs. Bryson; Gaelic story, Rev. A. MacIntyre, U.F. Manse, Fort-Augustus; Gaelic song, Mrs. Aitken; Gaelic song, Mr. John Maclean; Gaelic song, Mr. Ian Macaskill; address, Mr. John Macgillivray, president; violin selections, Mr. John Maclean; recitation, Mr. Bryson; Gaelic song, Mr. James MacPhee; English song, Mrs. Aitken; Gaelic reading, Miss Fraser, North Lodge; recitation, Miss Gray, Port-Macdonell, Invergary; "Auld Lang Syne." Mr. John Macgillivray said he was sure everybody was delighted with their programme, and he called on Mr. Aitken to move a most hearty vote of thanks to the artistes, which motion was enthusiastically responded to. A vote of thanks was

also accorded the worthy chairman, who then called on Mr. Angus Macphee to say a few words. Mr. Macphee said he was delighted with the evening's proceedings, and, in concluding, said that it was evident from the crowded and representative audience present that these ceilidhs had a widespread and enthusiastic support.

**KILDALTON.**—The Port Ellen Sketch Party's opening dance was held in the Memorial Hall on 11th November. It being Hallowe'en Night, a number turned out in fancy costume. Prizes were awarded to Miss Christina MacGibbon and Mr. Lodge for most original costumes. The Junior and Senior Gaelic Choirs had their annual treat on 29th November, when everyone joined heartily in dancing, singing, and games. Tea, fruit, and sweets were served. The most important item of the evening was the presenting of a small token of remembrance from the local Branch to Mr. J. A. Calder, who has been connected with the Kildalton Branch for a number of years. The presentation was made by Mr. D. MacLachlan, M.A. Mr. John MacDougall, president, proposed the usual votes of thanks, and a very pleasant evening was brought to a close.

**KILMALLIE.**—Rev. Mr. Crawford, home from a sojourn in Australia, gave his impressions of that country to a full ceilidh of the local Branch. Mr. MacLeod, Erracht, accompanied by Mr. Weir, Annat, presided. Mrs. Campbell, Miss D. MacAlpine, School Girls, Messrs. F. and D. MacLean, L. MacLaren, J. Cameron, J. Thomson, and A. MacDonell contributed songs; Mrs. Wilson and Mr. J. MacLean a duet. The instrumentalists were Messrs. J. Wilson, G. MacLean, and Mrs. Wilson, who presided at the piano.

**LEWIS.**—The second ceilidh for this season was taken off in the Masonic Hall on 9th December by the Lewis Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and, as usual, there was a very good attendance. It is evident that these ceilidhs, which were started by the Branch only three years ago, have now established themselves in the social life of the community. The speaking and singing are both carried on in Gaelic, and every effort is put forth to make the atmosphere both homely and Highland. At this ceilidh a start was made with community singing of well-known rousing songs, and this innovation has taken so well that at future ceilidhs it will be continued on a larger scale. Mr. Duncan Macdonald, president, in name of the Branch, extended a welcome to all, and thanked the people for their support to the cause at the ceilidhs, at the concerts, and at the Mods. He said that the membership cards for the forthcoming session were now available from the treasurer, Miss A. Macleod, or from other members of the Executive. Much credit is due to Miss Annie Morrison and to the other lady members of the social sub-committee who were in charge of the catering, for the excellent tea they provided, keeping up the high standard they have set from the beginning. Mr. James Thomson, Bayle, in moving a vote of thanks to the artistes and chairman, made special reference to the catering committee, and to the sketch party from Ness, whose acting was the event of the evening. He also made reference to Miss Annie Morrison, Laxdale, who had so often delighted them with her singing at their ceilidhs, and who is shortly to be married. She carried with her, he said, their very best wishes. Thereafter the company sang together, led by the artistes, "Oidhche Mhath Leibh."

**LOCHABER.**—The first gathering of the winter season took place on Thursday evening, 17th

November, when a crowded house accorded a hearty welcome to Mr. John MacCormick, F.S.A. (Scot.), the well-known litterateur and playwright. The chairman for the evening was Mr. Murdo Morrison, Director of Education for the County of Inverness, who introduced Mr. MacCormick to the audience as a distinguished son of the Isle of Mull, and dwelt on the pleasure Mr. MacCormick had given to large and ever-spreading circles by his literary works both in English and Gaelic. Mr. MacCormick, the chairman continued, was the writer of the first Gaelic novel, "Gun d' thug i speis do'n Armunn," published in 1908. He felt sure Mr. MacCormick's paper would be warmly appreciated by a Lochaber audience. Mr. MacCormick chose a humorous subject, "The Introduction of Incubators to his Native Isle," as told by a crofter. He described the effect of this invention on the neighbours of "a thing so unnatural, contrary to reason, if not absolutely impious," and the crofter's own wary attitude before the plausible traveller could induce him to assent to his wife's wishes to purchase. She had been more easily converted to the uses of the invention. She watched her opportunity, biding her time with patience, and at last gained her point, installed her eggs, studied the degrees of heat, and produced large broods of chickens, in spite of the neighbours' forebodings, strange dreams, and weird sights. Her perseverance had, however, the rather sad result of lowering the price of eggs. The theme was so well and wittily described by the speaker, whose rich and idiomatic Gaelic and pleasing accent was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience capable of seizing every point made, that the evening passed very quickly. The Chairman voiced the feelings of all present in offering a very hearty vote of thanks and expressing the hope that the lecturer would again find his way to the Gearasdan. A similar compliment was paid to the chairman on the call of Mr. MacLachlan. Violin music by Mr. L. Wynne, and songs from Misses MacMaster and MacLeod, followed. In compliment to the guest of the evening, "An t-Eilean Muileach" was both played and sung, and the chorus was taken up by the whole audience.

**STRATH HALLADALE.**—A ceilidh was held on 15th November, Mr. Neil MacKay, president, opening the proceedings with a short address in Gaelic. Tea was served, and a full programme of songs was afterwards submitted. Those taking part included Mrs. Ross, Misses J. Sinclair and C. MacKenzie, Rev. Mr. Carmichael, Messrs. J. W. MacBeath, R. MacKay, and W. G. MacKenzie. Mr. J. D. MacKenzie moved a cordial vote of thanks at the close. The ceilidh opened with the singing of "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig," and closed with "Oidhche Mhath Leibh."

**TOBERMORY.**—The usual fortnightly meeting of Comunn Gaidhealach Thobair-Mhoire was held on Wednesday, the 6th December, in the H.G. School. Mr. John Cameron, vice president, was in the chair, and there was a crowded attendance. The Chairman introduced the lecturer for the evening—Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban. Speaking of the lecturer's work on behalf of the Gaelic cause, the Chairman expressed the opinion that few, if any, did more on behalf of the language and customs of our forefathers than the reverend gentleman, who, at considerable trouble, came to address the meeting. His work was particularly noticeable in the west. No one was more welcome, as was evidenced by the bumper house of that evening. The lecturer took as his subject, "Eachdraidh an Eideadh Ghaidhealach," and traced its course through the centuries



until it came to be what it is to-day. The lecture—interspersed as it was with numerous anecdotes—proved highly interesting, and was provocative of considerable discussion. After several of the members had spoken, the Chairman thanked the lecturer for his interesting and instructive address, and particularly for the excellent Gaelic in which the subject was couched. The musical part of the evening's ceilidh was arranged by Bailie MacQuarrie and Mr. Kenneth MacFarlane. Gaelic songs were sung by the Misses M. Morrison and Flora MacLean, and by Messrs James MacDougall, Allan Beaton, John MacKellaich, and Gillian MacLaine. Mr. Duncan MacLeod gave selections on the bagpipes, and Mrs. MacNeillage and Niall MacLean on the piano and violin. All the items were enthusiastically encored. The ceilidh was one of the most successful and enjoyable held during the session. The Comunn is particularly indebted for its success and enthusiasm to the energy and untiring zeal on its behalf of the popular secretary, Miss Mary A. MacLean.

VALE OF LEVEN.—A party from the Helensburgh and Clan Colquhoun Association visited Alexandria on Friday, 25th November. Sir Iain Colquhoun, of Luss, D.S.O., presided, in the Co-operative Hall, over a gathering at which almost every clan in the Highlands was represented. Sir Iain received a great ovation from a crowded hall, and seemed completely at home among his Highland friends. His opening remarks bore this out. There was no function at which he more readily consented to preside than where Highlanders were gathered together. Always would he endeavour to be present at ceilidhean such as this, and the more genuinely Highland the better. He paid a tribute to the Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach in that it had been started on correct lines, and he hoped that the Branch would be kept as exclusive as possible. The programme was sustained by the Helensburgh party. Prominent among them was Mrs. Macfarlane, who sang a number of Gaelic songs with wonderful voice and feeling. Other artistes were Misses Haldane, Handyside, and Martin, and Messrs. Fraser, Paterson, and MacQuarrie. Rev. Kenneth MacLennan, B.D., Alexandria, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, spoke of his many good qualities as a laird, and how ungrudgingly he at all times met the many demands for his services throughout the country. He wished Sir Iain and his family many years of health, happiness, and prosperity in their beautiful home on the lovely banks of Loch Lomond. Mr. Donald Aitken, at the close, thanked for their services the energetic committee who provided tea at the interval, the artistes who provided such an excellent programme, the pipers who gave selections at various periods during the evening, and Mr. James MacGregor, the very efficient and obliging accompanist. The proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

WICK.—The second public ceilidh of the season under the auspices of the Wick Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evening 14th December. Mr. R. J. G. Millar, president, presided over a large and appreciative audience. In his opening remarks the Chairman said the insight of the Gael into the big things of the human spirit—those things that were unchanging to the end of time—was being more and more appreciated by our own people and by other races. The Gaelic movement was out to foster those qualities which formed good character, and which should be perpetuated as far as possible in the life and thought of our people. In this work the

Comunn Gaidhealach was doing fine service, and the local branch was aiding as best it could in the movement. Any surplus from these public ceilidhs was given to local charities, to which they had already contributed £20, and hoped in the future to be able to give more. (Applause.) The programme, which was of a distinctively Highland character, was opened with bagpipe selections by Piper Wm. Coghill. Other contributors were:—Miss K. Mackenzie and Miss Isabel Bremner, Wick (Gaelic and English songs); Miss Maclean, Latheronwheel (violin selections); Mr. Donald Mackay, Shebster (Highland stories and humorous readings); Mr. John Budge, Wick (humorous readings and songs); Mr. David Mackay, Wick (Gaelic songs). All the artistes were cordially received, and had to respond to encores, Mr. Donald Mackay and Mr. John Budge being each twice recalled. Mrs. Gilbertson was accompanist. Tea and fruit were served, and the social ceilidh spirit was warm and cordial throughout, the whole entertainment being greatly enjoyed. The usual votes of thanks were heartily accorded, and the ceilidh concluded with the singing of "Oidliche mhath leibh" and "God Save the King."

## BOOK REVIEW.

THE PICTISH REVIEW. Vol. I., No. 2. Small newspaper size, 12 pages, 1/-. Edited by the Hon. R. Erskine of Marr.

The new periodical has for its object, "to present a Pictish view of things in general; to re-elucidate the values, implicit and explicit, in Pictish history and civilisation; and, further, to impart a turn to current affairs, and the interpretation of them, which shall be conformable to the genius of the Pictish nation. In fine, we propose to restore the name of Pict to the politico cultural map of Scotland, from which it has been banished, for no good reason apparent to us."

In this second number the leading article deals with the Pictish language, a wide field for debate. It refers to the theory held by some that the Picts spoke a Brythonic dialect of Celtic, by others that the genius of their language was rather of the Goidelic or Gaelic type; and also to the Venerable Bede, who distinguishes between Pictish, Welsh, and Gaelic. The writer of the article comes to the conclusion that by the time St. Columba came to Scotland the Pictish language had already been heavily Gaelicised. "On two or three occasions only (so we are led to believe by his biographer) did that saint have need of the services of an interpreter in the course of his journeys through the provinces of the Picts." There is an article on Scottish Gaelic Policy by C. M. Grieve. He says that "the need is to stress the Pictish rather than the Gaelic elements in our Celtic culture. . . . The position can best be illustrated by considering first the great resemblances and then the significant differences between a Pictish and a Gaelic cross. They are both Celtic. Fundamentally they are the same, but they differ in detail." Mr. A. F. Pollock writes ably on Dramatic Art in Scotland. An interesting page on Pictish Roads (an instalment) is by "Fear Siubhail nan Rathad." "Albanicus" writes on Home Rule. The Hon. R. Erskine gives the first of a series of essays on the Picts and Scots. There are delightful Gaelic articles:—"The Need for a Gaelic Cyclopaedia," by Lachlan Macbean; "The Deeds of the Gael," by Angus Henderson; "The Romantic Movement," by the Hon. R. Erskine.





## 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 West Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

TELEGRAMS—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXIII.]

An Gearran 1928.

[Earrann 5

### UGHDARRAIS AN FHOGLUIM.

Air an ath mhios bidh taghadh anns gach siorramachd anns a' Ghaidhealtach airson buill as ìr a chur do Ughdarrais an Fhoghlum. Tha sinn an dùil gur còir aire a tharruinn gu sonraichte gu gnothuch a tha cho cudthromach a thaobh beatha na Gàidhlig. An cath bu deine a chuir An Comunn riamh is ann as leth na cànan a bhi 'g a teagasg fo Achd an Fhoghlum o chionn deich bliadhna air ais. Is ceart gun cumadh An Comunn sùil air na bheileas a' deanamh mar thoradh air an chath sin, agus gu h-àraidh cia mar tha na h-Ughdarrais a' coimhlionadh an orduigh fo bheil iad leis an Achd. Tha eadar-dhealachadh anabarrach eadar na siorramachdan anns an t-seadh so. Tha cuid dhiubh a tha gu dìleas a' tabhairt géill do 'n Achd. Tha Gàidhlig 'g a teagasg ann an còrr is sia fichead sgòil ann an Siorramachd Inbhirnis. An Earraghaidheal tha i 'ga teagasg ann an tuilleadh air trì fichead sgòil; is mu'n aireamh cheudna an Siorramachd Rois. Ach ann an cuid eile tha a' chànan fathast gu mòr air a dearmad. Ciod e ghabhas deanamh a chum an dearmad so a leasachadh? A bheil dleasdanas aig A'Chomunn a thaobh an ni so? Tha sinn de 'n bheachd gu bheil e mar fhìachaibh oirn gach meadhon a chleachdadh a chum gun tabhair na h-Ughdarrais ùra an tuilleadh aire do 'n chùis anns na cearnaibh sin far nach eil cothrom no ceartas aig a' chànan. A dh'aindeoin gach earail a bheir sinn seachad anns an mhiosachan so, faodaidh nach dean sin an chùis mur bi an earail 'ga comhlachadh le gnìomh. Is e an gnìomh iomchuidh aig an am *luchd labhairt* a chur mach am measan t-sluaigh t-sluaigh aig a bheil guth taghaidh, a chum is gun cuir an sluaigh a stigh buill a bhios càirdeil do 'n Gàidhlig. Is cuimhneach leinn am anns

a robh an dòigh so gle fheumail roimhe, mun tàinig an t-Achd. Uair is uair chaidh càirdean na Gàidhlig a chur a stigh do Bhòrd na Sgoile, mar thoradh air saothair nan teachdairean a' chuir An Comunn a mach. Na h-argumaidean a bha éifeachdach an uair sin tha iad a cheart cho éifeachdach fhathast. Is mór am maith a dh'fhaoidte a dheanamh le bhì a' mìneachadh an gnothuigh gu soilleir an cluasan an t-sluaigh choitichionn. Tha buaidh air leth an làthair-eachd is an dùrachd an teachdaire gu bhì a' dùsgadh eud is dealas an luchd taghaidh. Tha brath sgrìobhta gu maith 'n a arte féin; ach air an laimh eile chan eil ni idir cho buadhmoir ris an teachdaireachd phearsanta.

Is còir aig an am so gealladh àraidh fhaotainn o na buill ùra a theid a stigh do na h-Ughdarrais. Is e aon ghealladh sonraichte gun cuidich agus gun ullaich iad foghlumaichean òga, eadar ghillean is nigheanan, gu bhì comasach air Gàidhlig a theagasg an sgoilt ann an Gàidhealtachd. As eugmhais luchd teagaisg chan urrainn na h-Ughdarrais iarratus an Achd a choimhlionadh. Tha suim mhòr aig 'g a chaitheamh an ceart uair, air gleusadh foghlumaichean airson dreachd an teagaisg. Thug adh na h-Ughdarrais Ghaidhealach faineir gum bi an cuid san de 'n òigridh ud, deas gu Gàidhlig a theagasg. Thugadh iad an aire gur còir an cànan a theagasg anns na h-Ard Sgoiltan air 'a Ghaidhealtachd. Tha àireamh mhòr de na sgoilearan is fhearr anns na h-eileanan agus anns an aird an iar, a' tighinn gu Ard-(Sgoil) Chinn-ghiusaidh. Ach mo thruaighe, chan eil Gàidhlig 'g a teagasg anns an sgoil sin. Tha so a' ciallachadh call mòr air gach laimh. Tha an òigridh féin a' call an cothrom air eòlas eagnuidh air an cannt mhàtharail, a dh'aindeoin cia mar ni iad tuairmse leth-sgòdach air Fraingis. Agus tha tuilleadh na sin de chall

anns an ghnòthuch. An uair a theid na h-òganaich so do 'n Oil thig an Duneideann, an Glascho, no an Abaraidhean, chan urrainn dhaibh maith fhaotainn o 'n ard-fhoghlum Ghaidhlig, a chionn is nach d'fhuair iad bunadh eòlais anns an Ard Sgoil anns nach robh Gaidhlig 'g a teagasg. Mar sin tha an àireamh nas gainne a tha a' cur an cuid Gaidhlig gu buil eagnuidh.

Is e gealladh eile is còir fhaotainn, gum bi a' chànain 'g a teagasg anns gach sgoil anns am bi sin air a mhiannachadh leis na pàrantan. Cha leigear a leas aig an am leudachadh air a' chuspair, oir tha teachdaireachd fhoghainteach, an Gaidhlig is am Beurla air an chùis, ri fhaotainn anns an àireamh so de 'n *Ghaidheal*. Ma bhunaicheas cuid de na h-Ughdarrais ùra a' deanamh dearmad agus tàire air a chainnt, is ann aig an luchd taghaidh a tha an choire. Thàinig an t-am, aon turus eile. anns am bi cothrom aig gach Gaidheal a tha 'n a fhear taghaidh, a ghuth a thogail air taobh na cànain, a chum is gu faigh an òigridh sealbh air na còirichean prìseil foghlum a tha air an ceadachadh dhaibh le lagh na rìoghachd, tre ghuth an luchd taghaidh.

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### NOTES AND QUERIES.

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It has frequently happened that interesting information has come to light as the result of queries proposed by readers. We therefore think that a corner might be devoted in our magazine to the discussion of items which could be brought under this category, namely, points of interest which might be usefully treated within one page. We accordingly submit the first Query as follows:—"Can any reader give a complete rendering of the satirical rhyme in which the line appears—'An losgunn Lathurnach air son sgeig.' There are two other districts including Mull characterised; and as neither Nicolson's nor Macdonald's Proverbs contain the lines it would be a good thing to preserve them through the medium of "An Gaidheal."

We trust that some one of our readers familiar with the poetry of Argyllshire may be able to furnish an answer to the above Query.

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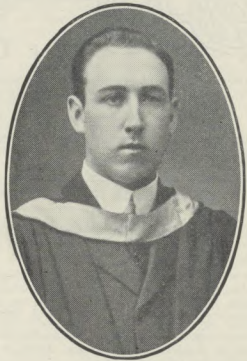
#### "VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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

### GAELIC TEACHERS.

III.—MR. JOHN MACPHERSON, M.A.,  
Broadford, Skye.



Mr. Macpherson is one of the faithful band of enthusiastic teachers who have done so much for the language during the critical time when it was making its way to recognition as a subject of academic study. A native of the Parish of Strath, in Skye, he early acquired a familiar knowledge of the language and its traditions; and throughout the whole course of his University training and professional experience he has been a devoted Student of Gaelic. He received his elementary education in the village schools of Breakish and Broadford. After passing successfully through a secondary course in the Higher Grade School of Kingussie he proceeded to Glasgow University where he graduated Master of Arts. Finishing his professional training under the Glasgow Provincial Committee in 1907 he received an appointment in Bank Street Public School, Irvine, as Senior Assistant Master. After two years he came to his present charge, which was then a three teacher, but is now a five teacher School.

The Parish of Strath, with a population of about eighteen hundred, is happily one of those districts where Gaelic is strong, and where the people have a full appreciation of the value of Gaelic as a spoken language and as a subject of

study. In the days of the School Board this enabled Mr. Macpherson to obtain every facility and encouragement for teaching the language, both on the musical and literary side. Under the more recent educational conditions the same facilities and encouragement have been amply provided. Pupils were presented in Gaelic for the Intermediate Certificate until the latter was discontinued. Still the same preparation of pupils was maintained all along, as is so well attested, ever since 1910, in the record of the Broadford School in the Mod Junior Literary Competitions. The year 1913 is the only exception, when the school had to be closed through a local epidemic. The pupils and parents have shown the keenest interest in the teaching of Gaelic.

Mr. Macpherson has done excellent work as the Secretary of the Strath Branch of An Comunn. We have just referred to the literary side; but constant attention has been given to the musical side all along. He has undertaken the organising of singing classes and has thereby been of great help to the Comunn's singing master. On the last visit of the latter in 1926 the district of Strath sent no less than three different choirs, one senior and two junior to the Skye Provincial Mod at Portree. And those who were present at that Mod and heard the appreciation of the judges, themselves musicians of high standing, must have carried away most vivid impressions of the fine work of these choirs as of others. Mr. Macpherson is an ex-chairman of the Skye Branch of the Educational Institute of Scotland; and he is a teacher's representative on the Skye School Management Committee.

All honour to those who uphold the flag of the old language, and give of their best for its encouragement and preservation.

## TAGHADH BUILL UGHARRAIS AN FHOGLUIM.

ANNS A' MHAIRT, 1928.

A reir lagh na rioghachd tha còir a nis gum bi a' Ghaidhlig air a teagasg anns gach sgòil air an fhìor Ghàidhealtachd. Tha e mar fhìachaibh air Ughdarras an Fhoghlum anns gach cearnaigh faicinn gum bi so deanta. Tha cuid de na h-Ughdarras a' deanamh an dleasdanas a thaobh na cùise so, agus cuid nach 'eil. Agus mar sin tha e ro iomchuidh aig àm taghadh buill Ughdarras an Fhoghlum gur h-an do na daoine a chuireas Achd an Fhoghlum a thaobh na Gàidhlig an cleachdadh a bheir sibh ur comharra.

'S e sin, gum bi eòlas na Gàidhlig air a theagasg do gach sgoileir anns gach sgòil air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Tha sinn uile ag aideachadh gum feum clann na Gàidhealtachd mar chlànn eile na rioghachd a bhì fileanta 'sa' Bheurla agus am foghlum Beurla as fheàrr a ghabhas deanamh a thoirt dhaibh; ach tha an luchd-teagasg as airde agus na daoine as fìosraiche 's as glìce làn dhearbhta gur h-ann le leughadh is sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig a theagasg an toiseach do 'n chlànn aig nach 'eil ach Gàidhlig gur h-ann as fheàrr a dh' ionnsaicheas iad Beurla agus fìor foghlum. Agus a thuilleadh air an sin, tha a' chlànn aig a' bheil foghlum an Gàidhlig agus am Beurla na 's géire agus na's fìosraiche agus na's foghlumite na an fheadhainn aig nach 'eil ach Beurla a mhàin, no an fheadhainn aig a' bheil Gàidhlig-chluais agus beagan Beurla.

Rud eile. Is i a' Ghaidhlig ar cànan fhein, cànan bhàth ar màthar, seann cànan air dùthcha 's ar cinnidh, anns na rinn ar n-aithrichean 's sinn-fhein aoradh do Dhia, agus anns a' bheil ar beatha 's ar n-eachdraidh mar Ghaidheil a' co-sheasamh. Carson, ma ta, nach biodh eòlas aig ar clànn air a leughadh 's air a sgrìobhadh? Tha lagh na rioghachd a nis ag radh gum faod so a bhì aig gach leanabh air a' Ghàidhealtachd ma nì Ughdarras an Fhoghlum an dleasdanas.

Tha a' chùis againn 'nar làmhan fhein. Neach sam bith nach 'eil deònach air an ceartas so a thoirt do'n chlànn agus nach geall sin a dheanamh, na toiribh ur comharra dha air son Ughdarras an Fhoghlum. Agus cuiribh air adhart daoine aig a' bheil dàimh ris a' Ghaidhlig agus ruinne mar Ghaidheil agus a chi gum bi a' Ghaidhlig air a teagasg anns gach sgòil air a' Ghàidhealtachd. Mar sin bithidh am foghlum as fhearr aig a' chlànn. Bidh iad na's fhearr dheth na clann sam bith eile, le dà chànan aca, agus deagh foghlum am Beurla's an Gàidhlig.

Tha daoine ann an Ughdarras an Fhoghlum ann an àitean air a' Ghàidhealtachd nach bu chòir a bhì an sin idir—daoine nach 'eil 'n am fìor Ghaidheil iad-fhein agus aig nach 'eil spéis do fìor foghlum do chlànn na Gàidhealtachd—daoine a dh' fhaodadh a bhì freagarrach gu leòr air son cearnaighdean eile de'n rioghachd. Feuch nach toir sibh bhur comharra dhaibh-san, ach do dhaoine eile a tha na's airidh air an àite mar Ghaidheil. Tha e fìor gu bheil am teagasg buill Ughdarras an Fhoghlum muinntir a rinn an dleasdanas mar Ghaidheil thapaidh cheama. Feuch gu'n seas sibh iadsan. Agus a dh' aindheoin de their na slòigh cha ghloir a dhearbhas ach gnìomb.

LEAN GU DLUTH RI CLIU DO SHINNSIR.

Le ughdarras Ard-chomhairle A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach.

IAIN MACMHAIGHSTIR CAIMBEUL,  
*Ceann Suidhe.*

CALUM MACLEOID, M.A.,  
*Fear-gairme Comhairle an Fhoghluim.*

NIALL MACGHILLE SHEATHANAICH,  
*Rùnaire.*

◆  
**TRIENNIAL ELECTION OF  
EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.**

MARCH, 1928.

The Education (Scotland) Act, 1918, Section 6, requires Education Authorities to make "adequate provision" for the teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic-speaking areas.

It is gladly acknowledged that Education Authorities in the Highland Counties have made considerable progress in fulfilling this requirement but, while that is true, it is also the case that in certain districts there has been a disposition to interpret the obligation in a somewhat narrow fashion. Gaelic is at present taught in 278 schools within the Highland Counties and no one can assert that the general education of the children in these schools suffers because of their instruction in Gaelic. The contrary rather is the fact.

The success of what is known as the Gaelic Clause depends mainly on the goodwill of the Education Authorities who are directly responsible in this, as in other matters of administration, to the constituents who elect them.

It is imperative that Highland parents and Highland voters generally who value Gaelic, who desire to see it recognised and respected, who wish our Highland children to have the educational advantage of bi-lingual education, should see to it that the members they return to the Education Authorities pledge themselves to carry out fully the terms and the intention of the Act.

The triennial Elections take place on 23rd March, and the Branches of An Comunn, and individuals interested throughout the areas, should lose no time in taking steps to ensure that candidates sympathetic to Gaelic shall be forthcoming and that arrangements are made for supporting them at the Poll.

The first essential for a good education is to learn to read and write our own mother-tongue. Gaelic speakers who have not been taught to read and write Gaelic have been deprived of the very foundation on which sound education should be built up.

Instruction in the mother-tongue is at the foundation of all true education. Children must

proceed from the known to the unknown and take one step at a time. The only reasonable way in which the non-English speaking Highland child can be taught is by beginning its instruction in the only language it knows.

There are districts in the Highlands in which the children are bi-lingual and others in which, although the parents know Gaelic, the children do not. In both these cases training in the two languages would not only be a help in the general education of the pupil but would ensure that the child should grow up participating in the national heritage of language, sentiment, tradition and history from which he would otherwise be largely shut out.

It is freely admitted that the best possible education in English should be made available for the Gaelic child, but it is an entirely erroneous impression that the learning of Gaelic and English cannot be carried on simultaneously, or that the study of one is in the slightest degree detrimental to progress in the other. There is overwhelming testimony to show that the bi-lingual scholar, who has been intelligently taught in both languages, is not less but more intelligent, brighter, and with a better grip of English and English composition than the uni-lingual pupil. "The study of a second language is recognised in every civilised country as a powerful means of cultivating the mind, of conferring breadth of view, power of comparison, flexibility, strength."

If the Gaels are to retain their individuality they must preserve their distinctive language. Failing to preserve it, they lose a wealth of tradition which is irreplaceable. Gone for ever will be their knowledge of their songs, their poetry, their legendary history; and even the very place-names of their country will lose their meaning. Language and nationality are inseparable, they are things of the spirit and these we cannot afford to part with. Our language, our nationality, our consciousness that we are Gaels constitute our birthright which we ought jealously to guard and cherish.

Further, the Highlander's religion, his sense of spiritual realities is peculiarly bound up in his language; it has been the medium in which he and his fathers have worshipped God and in which the deepest longings of his heart and needs of his spirit have found their most effective expression. There is a very real sense in which the loss, even the weakening, of his language would be seriously prejudicial to his highest spiritual interests. It is also true that the disappearance of Gaelic from our pulpits would more than perhaps anything else involve its disappearance from general use.

Let Gaelic be taught in the school, spoken in the home, and preached from the pulpit and its future is secure.

### AN EXAMPLE.

This Memorandum is issued by the authority of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and the General Secretary will be pleased to give any guidance which may be sought in relation to the selection of Candidates and the promotion of their Candidature.

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL,  
*President.*

(Rev.) MALCOLM MACLEOD,  
*Convener of Education Committee.*

NEIL SHAW,  
*General Secretary.*

114 WEST CAMPBELL STREET,  
GLASGOW, C.2.

In view of the approaching election for the new Education Authorities, attention should be drawn to the determination of Welsh Authorities to have the Welsh language taught in their schools. *The Scotsman* of 19th January contains the following:—"By the resignation received by the managers yesterday of Miss M. E. Chapman, headmistress of the Infant Department of the National Schools at Aberystwyth, the last English teacher in Cardiganshire will go. . . . Following the example of Glamorganshire the County Education Authority has adopted a resolution that in future no teacher who cannot teach Welsh shall be appointed. There are about 360 teachers in Cardiganshire Elementary Schools, all of whom are Welsh."

Here is an example for Gaelic voters, who wish to see Gaelic as one of the subjects in elementary Schools all over the Highlands. Gaelic is quite as useful and valuable as Welsh, and as worthy to be taught and preserved.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Good method. Delta: this office.

### DH'FHALBH MO RUN AIR AN AISEAG.

From Miss JOHANN MACINNES' Mod Prize Collection.

GLEUS F.

*Seisid:*

{ : l<sub>1</sub>., s<sub>1</sub> | l<sub>1</sub>., r : r | m : m., m | m : r., d | l<sub>1</sub> . d : d., s<sub>1</sub> | l<sub>1</sub>., r : r | m  
Hithill eil-e ho gù, Dh'fhalbh mo run air an aiseag, Hithill eil-e ho gù

*Rann:*

{ : m. m | m., d : r | m . s : m., d | m., r : r . d | l<sub>1</sub> . d ||  
Dh'fhalbh mo run bho chionn bliadhna, Thrial mo chiall bho chionn seachdain.

Bidh an ruadhag 's an laogh aic'  
Aig mo ghaol-sa tighinn dachaidh.

Agus lach a'chinn uaine  
Thig bho bhruachan Loch Arcaig.

Dh'fhalbh mo run air a' bhàta,  
Slàn gu'n till e gu 'dhachaidh.

Bu tu snàmhaich a' chaolais-  
'S nach gladhaidh an t-aiseag.

Agus sgìobair a' bhata,  
Ged a shàraich muir bhras thu.

Bho'n la ghabh thu an fhaodhail  
Cha do roghnaich thu m' fhaicinn.

Bho'n a chuir thu do chùl rium  
Tha fuil bhrùite fo m' aisnean.

Bho'n a chuir thu'n snaim righinn  
'S tric snidh' air mo rasgan.



THE FAIRY LOVER.  
(An Leannan Sith.)

I often wonder how would any of the young men and maidens of our time like to have a flirtation with a fairy lover. It is, of course, rather difficult to say; but the opinion may, perhaps, be risked, that were such a lover likely to turn up, the other party would be there in good time.

In any case, if we believe tradition, the fairy lover was not unknown in the life of the Gaels of the olden times. Numerous legends have come down through the ages testifying to romances here and there between members of the human family and denizens of the fairy world. It would appear that appointments were arranged between human beings—male and female—and their “familiar” from the kingdom of the little people, and that those meetings were observed with all the secrecy more or less usual in human experience. But there was the peculiarity present that, as the time for keeping the appointment was approaching, the human party to it betrayed a feeling of restlessness, even uneasiness, which seemed to inflict discomfort and anxiety in no small measure. Yet to the trysting-place the party would go, apparently in obedience to an irresistible influence or fascination.

In ancient story the fairy lover turns up often in the form and character of a man, while in other cases in that of the water-kelpie. I incline to the belief, however, that the introduction of the latter into the cycle of fairy lover tales is something in the nature of a mix-up. In the great bulk of cases the “water-kelpie” appears as a horse, which lures weary travellers into a pool or loch, where they are drowned. In Gaelic the “water-kelpie” is known always by the name of the “water-horse,” and it is distinctly as such that this denizen of the world of “uncanny” beings figures in the various legends relating its activities in the Central Highlands, particularly on Loch Ness-side and throughout Strathspey. Yet, it must be admitted that the “water-horse” is mentioned in ancient tales as possessing a wonderful power of self-transformation; assuming at one time a human form, at another that of a bird or beast. Foremost by far, however, he appears as a stray-horse, tempting unwary travellers and children to mount him. But as soon as he gets his prey stuck fast to his slimy coat, he dashes off to the nearest pool or lake, where he devours his deluded captive. In the folk-lore of the

Central Highlands, his colour would appear to be a slimy black, and he resembles an ordinary horse in every detail except his wild eyes. Burns, in his “Address to the De’il,” says of him:

“ When thaws dissolve the snawy hoord,  
An’ float the jingling icy boord;  
The water-kelpie’s haunt the foord,  
By your direction,  
And nightly travellers are allur’d  
To their destruction.”

There is an old-world song, which reveals in plaintive tone and word, the story of a “union” between a fairy lover and a maid of the world of mankind. Marion was a daughter of the shieling, where she tended her father’s cattle and carried out the various duties attendant thereon. She was a charming Highland lassie, with a lilt in her step, a song on her lips, and love in her eyes. Her form was as if moulded to infatuate. It was noticed, time after time, that, as the shades of evening were falling, and the soft winds breathed down the glens, lulling, as by a lullaby by kindly spirits sung, the declining day to rest, Marion would steal away, as on tiptoe dancing, and disappear behind the shoulder of a neighbouring hill. Where she was going, she would never tell; but from the extreme restlessness that she betrayed before departing, it was understood that she went to keep tryst with some one whose name she would never divulge. Absent she remained usually for a considerable while, and on her return she looked like having been somewhat roughly handled.

In course of some time, she could conceal matters no longer, and she disappeared one evening as quietly as if spirited away in a mist. Search after search proved unavailing, and she was given up as lost to all for ever more. Months afterwards, however, she turned up at her father’s house with misery written all over her form and face. A few days of illness followed, and, though substantially restored to good health thereafter, yet her troubles ceased not, for every evening, as the day lingered in passing under the mantle of night, there was heard a hollow-sounding, croaking voice, as if coming from depths unknown, crooning in tones weird and uncanny:

“ Marion! Oh! Marion!  
Return to your sonny,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
And you will get from me the withey  
So speckled and pretty,  
A hùbh, a hò.

You will get wine,  
And all your desires,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
But that I shall not arise  
With you of a morning,  
A hùbh, a hò.

There was mist on the ben  
And the rain was falling,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
When there I met  
My pretty maiden,  
A hùbh, a hò.

The nut-brown fair,  
She bore me a son,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
But how unkindly  
She did nurse him!  
A hùbh, a hò.

The calf of my love  
By the side of a hillock,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
Shirtless, cold,  
And without shelter,  
A hùbh, a hò.

Marion! Oh! Marion!  
Look behind you,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
The little rogue  
Is lamenting,  
A hùbh, a hò.

Marion! Oh! Marion!  
Return to your sonny,  
A hùbh, a hò;  
And I will give you the little wand  
So speckled and pretty,  
A hùbh, a hò."

In these words, which are certainly not without a strong dash of natural passion, did this goblin "father" express his emotions, and the sentiments do him some credit, it must be admitted. The ancient poem tells its own tale clearly and plainly. There had been clandestine love-trysts, and Nemesis overtook the parties. Marion left the "father" to look after the child, as sometimes happens to fathers in modern experience.

This legend presents several interesting aspects, and is not without a touch of suggestivity in favour of those who believe that the fairies were simply the remnant of a race which disappeared under pressure from a more advanced people. But I leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

There are slightly different versions of this legend, as regards both words and time, peculiar to various localities, but the story is always substantially the same.

There is also a very old composition in the nature of a lament by a maid to her fairy "familiar." The legend tells that secret intercourse had been carried on between a certain young woman and a fairy, with whom she spent many rapturous hours in his residence, which was situated in a green mound, surrounded by a grotto. A sister, becoming suspicious, she, after having been many times questioned as to her absences, and as to many curious things in her possession, disclosed her secret. The sister, however, communicated her discovery to her three brothers, who, taking advantage of "admittance time" to the fairy dwelling, entered and killed the fairy sweetheart in cold blood. Thus deprived of her lover, the young maid composed a most pathetic lament, in which she deplores her loss, and expresses deep remorse for having ever given away her secret to a sister, whom she refers to as treacherous and faithless. In one of many touching verses, she says "that she will wash his wounds with her tears, and lie beside him in death for ever"—a sentiment suggestive of the tragic story of Deirdre and the Children of Uisneach.

A similar old-world tale forms the subject of a song-lament well known at one time in Badenoch under the name of "An Toman Cuilinn" ("The Holly Mound"). In that instance, also, the maid's three brothers took the secret lover's life, and the sister plaintively mourns his loss in words of sweetest strain.

Then the well-known and popular ancient lullaby, "Buain na Rainich" ("Cutting Ferns") provides another interesting example. The story is to the effect that a young maiden had a fairy sweetheart who used to help her when cutting ferns. Her brothers, suspecting fairy favours, removed their sister to a distant locality, and when her fairy "admirer" missed her he was said to be heard grieving over her absence in this melancholy refrain, all alone "by the cairns."

There is, indeed, quite a number of those "uncanny" romances peculiar to Gaeldom, both as regards the islands and the mainland, and it is not at all unlikely that the old custom of the sheiling might account for at least many of them.

## COMHRADH.

(Eadar Mor, bean an tuathanaich agus Ceit, bean a' mhaighstir—sgoile.)

LE MORAG DHOMHNULACH,  
Baile Mhártainn, Tiriodh.  
(A'cheud duais, Mod 1927).

TIGH AN TUATHANAICH: *Ceit a tighinn air chéilidh.*

MOR—Nach mi tha toilichte t' fhaicinn an nochd! Bha mi 'gabhail fadail nach robh thu tighinn g' ar n-amharc an déidh do thuras do'n bhaile-mhor. Dean suidhe taobh a' ghealbhain. Tha i anabarrach fuar an nochd.

CEIT—Tha i nimheil fuar da-rireadh; ach tha mise air mo dheadh thubhadh le còtaichean dìonach drògaid mo sheana mhatar laghaich. Is iad nach leigeadh fuachd no gaillionn rompa. Sin agad fear a thug i dhomh 'n uair a phòs mi (agus cha b'ann an dé bha'n sin) 's iomadh caitheadh a fhuair e agus tha e fhathast cho ciatach 's ged thigeadh e as a' bheairt.

MOR—Tha thu ceart an sin, a Cheit, ach c'ait' am faigh thu aodach mar sin an diugh? Nach 'eil an dath buidhe agus sgàrlaid sin cho trom làidir an diugh 's a bha e latha riamh. Ach a nis, ciamar a chaidh dhuit air do thuras do Ghlascho? Fhuair thu latha gaillionnach a' tilleadh.

CEIT—Is mise fhuair sin. Cha mhór nach deach mo thoirt gu tuath, agus tha mi 'g in-seadh dhuit gu'n robh mi glé thaingeal 'n uair a bhuail bàta-na-smùide taobh ceidhe Ghot.

MOR—Is mise chreideas a Cheit, ach nach mór a' bheannachd a th' aig daoine 'n diugh anns a cheidhe. An uair mu dheireadh a bha mise air falbh ag amharc Mairi mo nigean, cha robh laimrig ann. Bha'n t-acair mór air a thilgeadh a mach fa chomhair Sgarinnis. Thainig am bàt-aisig a nall g'ar cliathaich eudail nam ban, 's ann innte-se 'chaidh an luchd. Nach ann a chaidh deich bocsachean bathair leis a' Cheannaiche Dhubh a sparradh innte. Mart breac agus dà laogh a bha Calum Mor a' faighinn á Colla; agus seana làir bhàn a cheannaich Iain Eachainn aig an Fhaidhir Mhuilich, is gu dearbh 's i bhean nach robh toilichte a leithid de bheathach leibideach a thoirt a dh' ionsuidh an tigh. Tha fhios gu'n robh Iain bochd aosda is ged thigeadh tuisleadh air 's gu'n tuiteadh e dh' fhanadh an làir chrùbach gus an éireadh e.

CEIT—Ma bha de thùr innte 's gu'n seasadh i ris.

MOR—Nach 'eil fhios agad-sa, Cheit, nach táinig rud riamh á Muile nach robh làn tùir agus tuigse. Ach a nis, dé do naidheachd á baile dubh na deathaich?

CEIT—An dà gu dearbh chan 'eil sgeul thaitneach 's am bith agam ás. Nach ann a bha mi air mo nàrachadh leis an dòigh anns am bheil nighearan an latha 'n diugh air an comhdach. Shaoleadh tu gur caileagan se-bhladh-dèug a th' anns a h-uile tó' an Glascho. Chunnainn mi Ceit Lachuinn, boirionnach, mar tha fhios agad, a tha leth-cheud bliadhna a dh' aois, agus a h-aodach os cionn a glùin.

MOR—Uhh, ùbh, ùbh, a' bheil thu 'g ràdh rium gu'm bheil Ceit Lachuinn, bean le tùr agus tuigse, a'coiseachd na sràide le aodach cho goirid sin. Gu dearbh, chan fhaca mi féin latha riamh a leigeadh i leas móran uail a dheadhadh á calpannan. An robh iad riamh ach caol cnàmhaich mar chasan éilid. Is e mo bheachd-sa, Cheit, gu'm bheil an t-ám aig ministerean an t-soisgeil i féin agus a lethdheadh a chomhairleachadh.

CEIT—Tha eagal orm-sa nach biodh iadsan ni na b'fhèarr ged 'chomhairlicheadh. “Mar thionndaidheas a chòmhlair air a bannaibh, pilleadh an t-amadan r'a ghòraiche.” Chan e mhàin gu'm bheil an aodach cutach goirid, ach chan 'eil e ach air a chur orra mar gu'm tilgeadh tu sean fhios aodaich air bodach-ròcais. O! Eudail, chan ionann 'san uair a' bha sinne òg; is sinn a bha faicilleach gu'm bidheamaid bhùchdail gu h' àrd is gu h-ìosal agus air ar teannachadh gu teann cuimr 's a mheadhon.

MOR—Feumaidh nach b'i na gillean a' cur an làmhnan mu'n cuairt orra gu coibhneil blàth nis idir, a Cheit. Na'm bitheadh, nach 'eil thu fhéin a'smaointinn gu'm biodh iad air an cumadh na b'fhèarr?

CEIT—Saoil thusa nach b'i doighean ùr acad airson nan gnothuichean sin a nis cuideachd!

MOR—Is mise chreideas, a Cheit, ach gu dearbh b' fhèarr leam fhéin an t-seann dòigh. Dè tha thu fhéin ag ràdh?

CEIT—Gun teagamh. Mise, mise, ach na fasin a th'aca 'n diugh. Nach ann a chunnainn mi Ceit a 'dath a fhuil aotrom-buidhe—dath a trugain, tha thu tuigsinn! Och, och, mu'n do dh' fhàg i riamh Srath-bàn bu dosrach, dualach a cuailein, ged tha e gle phrabach an diugh.

MOR—A Cheit, eudail, nach fhad o' a' chuala tu. “Is ionann fàinne òr ann an sròn muice ri maighdean sgiamhach le beagan tuigse.” Bha pròis riamh ann an Ceit. A' bheil cuimhne agad an uair a thàinig i dhachaidh 's an *Hobble oirre*?

CEIT—Is maith sin, a ghalad.

MOR—Is e sin an dearbh bhliadhna a thachair Iain agabhadh fhéin oirre air àird' a mheadhon làtha 's i air a ceum gu tigh a' mhinistear. Gun a bh' air a nàrachadh dh'innis e dh'ith gu'n robh sadach min fhàir air a h-aodann is beagan air a gairdeanan; ach cha b'i a' cholg a b' fhèarr a chuir i oirre ris airson a choibhneis. Cha do

thuig Iain bochd an gnothuch, ach is mise tha dearbhta, nach b'è min-fhlùr no min-chruith-neachd a bh' air Ceit chaomh ach stuth geal eile a tha caileagan a' cleachdadh a chum an craicinn a dheanadh min geal mar aodann déideig. Ach tha fhios gu'n d' innis iad dhuit mar a thachair ann an tigh a' chnuic.

CEIT—Chuala mi e. Bha banais mhòr aca.

MOR—Bha sin aca. Chan 'eil Seonaid is Ruairidh ach òg le cheile ach co dhiubh bithidh sinn a' guidhe “Buaidh is piseach” leo.

Ceit—O'n is ann riut fhéin a tha mi bruidhinn tha eagal orm-sa nach b'i aona chuid buaidh no piseach an sùd. Dé bha'n Ruairidh riamh ach sgaomaire, lùndach, diomhain agus tha mi ag ràdh ruit—“Am fear nach dean ar ri latha fuar cha dean e buain ri latha teth; am fear nach dean obair no gnìomh, cha'n fhaigh e bhìadh feadh nam preas.”

MOR—Is fhìor dhuit, a ghalad.

CEIT—Fhads' a gheibheadh esan e féin a' sgeadachadh gu rìomhach agus togail air gu bàl dannsaidh le Seonaid; cha robh suim aige de'n chòrr.

MOR—Cha robh. Nach 'eil an crann-treabhaidh aige 's a cheann làmh r'a mhàsan taobh na tobhta o Earrach so chaidh. Och, och nan robh athair còir an làthair bu ghoirt a bhiodh a chridhe a leithid de mhi-sgoinn fhaicinn. Chan 'eil fhios agam ciamar a ghabh nigean 's am bith gaol air.

CEIT—Chan 'eil gu dearbh, a Mhor, ach dè ni dhuit a bhì' bruidhinn. A bheil iad an diugh ach a' tarraing leis a' cheud fhear a thig 'n an rathad. Is ann a their aon tè ruit. “Is fèarr aon eun 's an làmh na dhà dheug air iteig”; is their tè eile 's l' crathadh a cinn: “Is fheàrr an crùban na bhì' gun fhear.” Cha'n 'eil feòrach idir, ‘ciamar bhios sid no ciamar bhios so.’’ Aon uair 's gu'm faigh iad gealladh pòsaidh, chan 'eil iad ach mar it a dh' fhalbhas á uchd faoilinn. Tha na gnothuichean cudthromach a tha co-cheangailte ri pòsaidh air an cur gu sàrachas; chan 'eil suim air a thoirt dhaibh agus am bheil e ro anmoch—agus am 'bheil an t-snaim nach gabh fuasgladh air a cur.

MOR—Bha latha ann a dh' fhaodamaid an “t-snaim nach gabh fuasgladh” a ràdh, ach mo chreach! dh' fhalbh sin. Gheibh càraid eadar dhealachadh le glè bheag dragh an diugh. Nach uamhasach r'a smaointinn gu'm bheil e comasach do dhaoine sgaradh a chuir air an nì ris an d' thubhairt Dia “bitheadh iad 'nan aon fheoil.” Fan thusa agus am bi' mìos-nam-pòg seachad aig Seonaid agus Ruairidh agus is mise nach teid an urras nach cluinn thu facail eotorra. Neo-ar-thaing nach 'eil i déidheil uime 'n drasd. Nach robh mi sgìth fad a' gheamhradh so chaidh 'g a h-éideachd a' bòsd cho éireachdail

's a bha Ruairidh air a sgeadachadh. “O na'm faca tu na socs a bh' air aig an danns' an raoir,” ars ise, “bha iad air dearbh dhath na deise agus craobh lurach air gach taobh dhiubh.”

CEIT—Tha eagal orm-sa gu'r ann air an aodach a ghabh ise 'n gaol.

MOR—Eudail mo chridhe, cha b' ise cheud tè 'leig le' h-uabhar a tarraing do'n rib cheudna. Bithidh atharrachadh no dhà 'n sid o'n a chaidh Seonaid ann. Nach ann tha mi 'cluinninn gu'm bheil i airson sean chuibheil-sniomh a mathair-cheile a thigheil a mach air lobhta na bàthaiche gun a bhì 'cur mi-mhais air an t-seomar. Och, och, b' fheàrr dhi-se gu'n robh i cho grèidil, deanadach ri mathair cheile. Cha b'è suidhe sios agus fìos a chuir gu Dallas a dheanadh i airson léine 'rachadh m'a druim. Gu dearbh, cha b'è. Ghearradh i sios paca cotain a thigeadh dhachaidh le min fluir agus am prìoba na sùla bha léine aice cho cumadail 's a thainig riamh á bùth.

CEIT—Tha'n C.O.D. tha'n so an déidh an dunaich a chuir orra. Nach e 'n saoghal th' air atharrachadh.

MOR—Is esan tha sin air atharrachadh, a Cheit, ach chan 'eil mi'n dùil gur h-ann a chum na crìch 's fheàrr tha'n caochladh so. Cha'n fhaic mise gu'm 'bheil iad cho toilichte no idir cho làidir 's a bha iad. Seall a chlann a th'ann am diugh 's ged a bha iad a faighinn deoch bhlàth 's an sgoil fad a gheamhradh so—O ciod so an t-ainm a th' air an rud? Facal cho coltach ri speucalairan 's a chunna' tu riamh, a Cheit.

CEIT—Ri speucalairan, a Mhor! Chan fhiosrach mi facal idir coltach ri speucalairan.

MOR—Fan thusa. Nach tric a chuala mi aig a chlann e. Tha, tha OXO. Nach ann a bha iad a' faotainn deoch-bhlàth dheth so a h-uile latha. Chan 'eil iadsan ach fann a dh' aindeoin sin. Och, och is math tha cuimhne agam-sa 'n uair bha mise anns an sgoil, agus na'm fàginn mo bhrochan gun itheadh 's a mhaduinn bha e air a shìneadh gu fhear 'nam dhorn 'n uair thiginn dhachaidh; ach ma bha, nach d' ionnsaich sin fulangas agus cruadalachd dhunn.

CEIT—Gun teagamh, a Mhor, ach Eudail, nach seall thu an uair a tha e agus dall bhrat na h-oidhche air tuiteam is agam ri dol thar a' mhonaidh oillteil sin.

MOR—Matà, tha iad ag ràdh “Is math an gille-greasaidh an t-eagal” ach tha thu tràth gu leòir. Cha bhì' thu fada dol tarsuing.

CEIT—Tha'n t-ám agam 'bhi tarraing ceum. Bidh' tu fhéin a nall Di-mairt?

MOR—Bithidh. Ma bhios mi beo ris ruigidh mi.

CEIT—Oidhche mhath leat.

MOR—Oidhche mhath leat, matà.

## THE LATE DR. A. C. MILLER, FORTWILLIAM.

### A PERSONAL APPRECIATION.



The passing year left a great sorrow in Lochaber. On the last day of the year the senior Doctor of the ancient province—the highly esteemed Dr. Miller—was called with startling suddenness to his rest: and not alone throughout Lochaber but wherever, the world over, a Lochaber man, or woman resides there is but one sentiment, a feeling of dismay that something has gone from life which no new experiences can possibly replace. Writing these lines, I recall that during my brief stay in Fort-William in the middle 'seventies Dr. Miller and I were boys together, and I recall too that among our group of youths—active, athletic, restless for the most part to proceed to the World of the City—Alick Miller was recognised as a serious, earnest student, resolute to attain, as he did attain, a position of high usefulness and corresponding influence. For many years his path and mine diverged, but I had frequent opportunity for observing his steady advance to a professional career distinguished and prosperous. And, acquainted with my mother's native Lochaber from Glenfinnan to Glenroy, I was ever conscious of the progressive conquest by the Doctor of the hearts of the people of the historic lordship, a people, I may be excused for

saying, whose capacity for loyal friendship and true hospitality is not excelled in any part of Scotland.

Dr. Miller's professional skill was acknowledged far beyond the confines of Lochaber. Whenever the central authorities had occasion to organise any new scheme in relation to the medical interests of the Highlands it was Dr. Miller who was the immediate consultant; and his services during the Great War were of so onerous a sort that it is certain the strain had prejudicial effect on his health. Of his sedulous attention to his own practice there are hundreds, nay, thousands to render testimony. In the principal Square of Fort-William there stands one of the most graceful products of the commemorative architecture of Scotland; it was erected in memory of a beloved physician, Dr. Kennedy, who ministered to the sick and infirm of Lochaber, and the districts immediately beyond the bounds, during the first half of the last century. Dr. Kennedy's name is on the tongue of every native of Lochaber to this day, as that of a great physician and a no less eminent philanthropist. It is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Miller is in the direct line of the succession to Dr. Kennedy: for, eighty and more years after Dr. Kennedy's time, Dr. Miller gave of the same professional qualities and of the same personal benevolences which earned for the elder physician a never-dying fame among the clansfolk of Lochaber.

Of his admirable qualities as a Citizen of Fort-William others with closer acquaintance in more recent years have already spoken and written, and there is beautiful unanimity in their recognition that the rising Burgh, to the development of which Dr. Miller contributed so much, is seriously impoverished by his demise. It is my especial privilege to attest Dr. Miller's whole-hearted devotion to the language and culture of the Highlands. Throughout his career he was ever careful to conserve his own excellent Gaelic and he was unwavering in his advocacy of the restoration of the language to its true and proper place in the life of the Highlands. He was a faithful supporter of An Comunn Gaidhealach and those, like myself, who were present at last year's Fort-William Mod will remember the enthusiasm with which, as Convener of the Mod Local Committee, he directed the activities which resulted in a Mod, for success in every department, second to none in the history of An Comunn.

He has gone from us but his example will inspire others to espouse the Cause for which An Comunn stands: and, because of his distinctive personality, Dr. Miller will long be



remembered in Lochaber, and in many lands besides, as a Highland gentleman *sans peur et sans reproche*.

In the dispensation which has deprived her of her brother, who was her devoted and lifelong companion I extend to Miss Miller the sympathy of every good Highlander. In her bereavement she sorrows in a large company and in the retrospect of her brother's life of constant helpfulness, and of high endeavour successfully achieved, she is possessed of consolations, the most precious and the most abiding.

J. MACMASTER CAMPBELL.

CAMPBELTOWN.

### INVERNESS NATIONAL MOD COMMITTEE.

During the month of December the Local Committee held various functions to raise funds for the National Mod of 1928.

On the 9th a most successful Dance was held in the Markinch School Hall, when upwards of seventy couples were present. Mrs. Macpherson, "Raliadh," and Mrs. Morrison, Crosshill held a Whist Drive at "Raliadh," when some seventeen tables were occupied and a goodly sum was taken to assist the Bric-a-Brac Stall of which these ladies are joint conveners at the Fete to be held at Ness Castle, in June.

On the 16th, Tomatin was visited by a talented number of artistes, secured by Mrs. Mackintosh and Miss Mackenzie, the vice-conveners of the Ladies' Committee and an excellent concert was given to a crowded audience, presided over by Mrs. Mackintosh of Balvraid.

The last function of the month was held at Dores, where a Concert was given on the 23rd.

During January further entertainments are to be held, including a Grand Ceilidh in the Masonic Chapter Rooms, Inverness, on the 13th and a Concert at Struy, on the 27th.

The Committee are greatly indebted to the artistes who gave their services so ungrudgingly at these functions.

### SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

The Education Committee of An Comunn Gaidhealach is actively proceeding with the arrangements for the Summer School of Gaelic, which will be held at Broadford, Isle of Skye, next Summer. The classes, which, through the courtesy of the Inverness County Education Authority, will be held in Broadford School, will begin on Tuesday, 31st July, and will run for one month.

The Committee is fortunate in having secured as teacher of the Advanced Class, Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., of Jordanhill Training College, and hopes shortly to be able to announce the names of teachers for the Elementary and Beginners' Classes who will maintain the high standard of instruction at which it is desired to aim.

The Committee also announces with pleasure that Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., has kindly undertaken to give a Course of Celtic Art, consisting partly of lectures and partly of practical work, and that Mr. Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., Conductor of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir, has been kind enough to accept appointment as instructor to a class of Gaelic Singing.

Intending students, who will be charged a fee of 30s. for attendance at the School, should announce their intention of enrolling by sending their names and addresses to the undersigned. They should make their own arrangements for the accommodation that they require, but it is hoped later to help them in doing this by publishing a list of lodgings in Broadford.

(Miss) AUGUSTA LAMONT,  
*Secretary to the Gaelic Summer School.*

KNOCKDOW, TOWARD, ARGYLLSHIRE.

### SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Suas e 'n Gearran! Is e sin a theireadh na seann daoine ach tha gach mìos is ràithe ach beag, co-ionann 's an linn fhuar, thais so. Bidh sinn beo an dòchas ro-mhath agus theagamh gu'n dearrs grian chaoin oirn fhathast agus gu'n séid osag chiùin, thlàth an t-Samhraidh air ar gnùisean tana, bàna a bheir rughadh is dreach slàinte air ais do ar gruaidhean. Air mo shon fhéin dheth tha mi ag guidhe airson aimsir chneasda an uair a ghabhas mi an cuan-siar is na h-eileanan fo m' ùgh an ùine ghoidir. Cha robh mi mòran a mach as a' chhìil so bho cheann sè mlosan agus tha togair orm gair a' chuain dhù-ghorm a chluinntin a rithist. Agus tha mi cearta coma ged a gheibh mi steall dheth mu na cluasan a' tionndadh Rudha na Cailliche cho fad 'sa chumas iùbhrach an t-simileir dheig a sròn ri Bàgh a' Chaisteil.

\* \* \*

Preparations for Provincial Mods is going on apace and classes where teachers are operating are being well attended. Unfortunately Mrs. Scott, owing to illness, has not been able to take up duty in Tiree but she hopes to be allowed to travel very soon. Mr. John Forrest has again been selected to conduct the Classes in Islay. Mr. Duncan Cameron, Headmaster, Newton, has

taken over the Bridgend Choir which distinguished itself at previous Mods in Islay.

\* \* \*

Mr. Hugh MacLean has reached his "furthest north" and is doing good work in the Strath Halladale district of Sutherland. I formed a Branch there last January and the young people at the head of it have kept regular meetings since. Mr. MacLean will now work his way down the western seaboard towards Durness, Scourie and Lochinver. Mr. Donald Ferguson goes from Glendaruel to Kintyre where he will operate under the auspices of the Campbeltown Branch for six weeks.

\* \* \*

I would direct the attention of readers interested in Celtic Art to the competition sponsored by the Art and Industry Committee. Three prizes of £1, £2 and £1 are offered for a book plate suitable for Mod prizes. A leaflet giving conditions is inserted in the Mod Syllabus and copies may be had, post free, from this office on application. The Art and Industry Committee also propose to hold a sale of Skye Home Industries at Broadford on a date during the term of the Summer School of Gaelic. It is hoped that workers in the Island will take advantage of this to dispose of their goods as well as giving an exhibition of their handicraft.

\* \* \*

The success of Provincial Mods is dependent upon the zeal and enthusiasm of local committees and particularly of the local secretaries. In this connection Mr. Angus MacNeill, Lairg, has done more than any other person to make the Sutherland Mods at Lairg the great success they have been. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. MacNeill and his family in their sudden bereavement. Mrs. MacNeill died after a few days' illness at their home in Lairg.

NIALL.

◆

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.  
(An tras Earrann.)**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le

CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

III.

An deigh sin thàinig na h-Eileana fo Iarlan nan Arcaibh, mu dhùth air crìch an deiceamh linn. An uair a ruig an nachdranachd a h-àirde, fo Iarlag Sigurd an Dòmhail (Sigurd the Stout), (a bha pòsdadh air nighean Chalum, Rìgh Albainn), agus a mhac Iarlag Torfìnn (1014-64).

Bhuidhinn Sigurd an Dòmhail air ais a chuid sin de thìr-mòr na h-Alba a ghleidheadh fo uachdranachd Thorstein Ruadh, agus chuir Torfìnn am fearann na b' fhaide 'n leud. Foidheasan bha an uachdranachd Lochlannach aig àirde a cumhachd an Albainn, oir bha naoi iarlaghdan aige; Gallaobh, Cataobh, Ness, Ross, Moireibh, Garmaran, Buchan, Màr, agus Angus, a thuilleadh air Gallaobh an taobh deas (Galloway) agus na h-Innse-Gall, agus fearann mòr an Eirinn. Tha e air a ràdh gu'n robh e 'na chomh-aimsiriche ri Macbeth, agus 'na fhear comh-nadh dha, agus bha e posdadh ri Ingeborg, nighean do Fhionn Arnesson, Fear Ghicso; agus phòs a nighean-san an treasamh Calum, Rìgh Albainn, agus bha am mac-san Donnachadh car ghreis 'n a rìgh; mar sin chithear gu'n robh aon de shliochd teaghlach nasal nan Giscach a bha cho ainmeil an Lochlann air rìgh-chathair Albainn. Bha aon eile de 'n teaghlach sin 'Calf Arnesson, bràthair do Fhionn, d'am b' fheudar teicheadh à Lochlann, 'na cheannard thairis air na h-Innse-Gall as leth Iarlag Torfìnn.

Began roimh 'n àm so, phòs rìgh Lochlannach eile, Amladh Cuaran, Rìgh Bhail-Ath-Cliath, nighean de Chonstantine Rìgh Albainn, agus tha e coltach gu'n robh eadar-phòsadh mar so a gabhail aite gu tric am measg teaghlach nan Iarlan Albannach agus nan Ceannardan Lochlannach. Tha 'n cleamhnas so a' nochdadh cho làidir agus a bha suidheachadh agus neart nan Lochlannach anns an dùthaich aig an àm; gu'n robh iad 'nan cumhachd a bha ri bhì air am meas anns an rìoghachd agus gu'n robh an eadar-phòsadh so ag èirigh o ghliocas, a chum na Lochlannach a chumail réidh agus an gean math a chosnadh.

An deigh bàs Iarlag Thorfìnn, thill am fearann a bha fodha air tìr-mòr uigh air n-uidh air ais gu lamhan nan Albannach, agus bha a chuid Lochlannach air a dhùnadh a stigh gu Gallaobh agus Cataobh, agus bha iad sin air an ceangal a rithis ri crùn Albainn le Rìgh Uilleam an Leomhan. Thàinig a nis na h-Innse-Gall fo rìghrean Bhail-Ath-Cliath agus an Eilean Mhanannaich, a bh'air an riaghladh le Rìgh Gudrod Crobhan (mac do cheannard Lochlannach, Arait Dubh Ile) a thug an t-Eilean Manannach gu strìochd-adh an 1075, a rinneadh 'na rìgh thairis air na h-Innse-Gall agus an Eilean Mhanannaich. Bha a mhac Lagman a rìoghachadh an uair a thàinig Rìgh Mànu Casrùisgte à Lochlann air a thurus ainmeil gu na h-Eileana an 1093 agus a chuir e 'n t-Eilean Manannach agus na h-Innse-Gall gu maireann fo Chrùn Lochlainn. Bha Calum a Chinn-mhóir aig an àm sin air rìgh-chathair Albainn, agus air tì teannadh a mach an aghaidh Uilleam Ruadh, Rìgh Shasuinn, agus b' fheud-

ar dha còrdadh a dheanamh ri Rìgh Manus, aig an robh a chòir air aideachadh ris gach eilean a bha cho fada bho thir-mòr gu'm b'urrainn long dol eader riù leis an stiùir 'na h-àite. Tha an t-Ollamh Lochlannach Alastair Bugge ag ràdh nach 'eil teagamh nach robh e fo thionsgain aig Mànus sluagh imrich á Lochlann gu an suidheachadh anns na h-Innse-Gall, a chum na fearainn sin a shnuimeadh na bu tinne ri Lochlann. Cha deachaidh aig' air, oir thuit e 's a bhlàr bliadhna na dhéigh sin, ach dhlùthaich eadh na h-Innse Gall na bu tinne na bha iad riann an déigh sin ri Lochlann; cha do phàigh na rìghrean aca eis na b'fhaide, ach air do gach rìgh ùr tighinn gu rìgh-chathair Lochlainn, bha iad a pàigheadh deich marcan òir dha.

Anns an Eilean Mhanannach rinn Rìgh Mànus prìosanach de Lagman, mac Ghudrod, agus chuir e Ingemund thairis air an Eilean agus air na h-Innse-Gall, a bha 'na dhéigh-san air an riaghladh le Sigurd, mac Mhànuis a thàinig gu bhì ainmeil mar Rìgh Sigurd Jorsalafar (Fear-cogaidh-na-Croise) à Lochlann. Air do Mhànuis tuiteam 's a bhlàr, rinneadh Amhladh Bitling, mac a b'oise le Gudrod Crobhan 'n a rìgh thairis air an Eilean Mhanannach agus na h-Innse-Gall, agus fhuair a mhac Gudrod, an 1153, riaghladh 'n a àite.

Anns an am sin thachair nithe cudthromach an eachdraidh nan Eilean. Phòs Raoghailt, nigean le Amhladh Bitling, an ceannard mór Gàidhealach Somhairle, Riaghlair Earraghaidheal, fear aig an robh fuil Lochlannach 'na fhéithean, a réir ainm; oir b'e 'Somhairle' anns a chainnt againne Maraiche-Samhraidh, 's e sin fear a bhiodh a dol a mach anns an t-Samhradh a mhàin a chreachadh nam port. Bha sean mhiosguinn aige an aghaidh nam Lochlannach, oir a réir beul-aithris bha na h-Eileana agus oir-thir Earraghaidheal m'an coinneamh fo riaghladh a shinnsear, agus dh'fhuadaich na Lochlannaich iad. Bhuidhinn Somhairle air ais Earraghaidheal agus anns a bhliadhna 1156 thug e ionnsuidh air a bhrathair-céile Gudrod. An déigh blàr-mara a chur a bha neo-chinnteach rinn iad réite, fhuair Somhairle na h-Eileana mu Dheas, le eilean Cholla agus Bòd, an feadh a ghléidh Gudrod na h-Eileana tuath, le Arran agus an t-Eilean Manannach. Ach beagan ùine 'na dhéigh sin thug Somhairle ionnsuidh ás-ùr air an Eilean Mhanannach agus b'fheudar do Gudrod teicheadh gu Lochlann riomh neart a bu làidire na bh' aige fhéin. 'San dùthaich so bha cogadh a dol air aghart eadar an luchd-àiteachaidh, agus cha robh comhnadh aige ri fhaotainn.

(Ri Leantainn.)

## GREAT FEILL, 1927.

Further proceeds from Edinburgh Highland Ball, per Lady Seton ... ..	£50 0 0
Additional from Colonsay Branch, per Mrs. M. MacPhee ... ..	10 0 0
	£60 0 0

## NEW MEMBERS.

### ORDINARY.

Dr. Ronald Mackinnon, Oldham.  
Dr. Magnus MacKay, Newport (Mon.).

## LONDON GAELIC SOCIETY.

### Critical Review of the Language Movement.

The annual business meeting of the Gaelic Society of London, which was founded in 1777, was notable for a very critical survey of the Gaelic movement in the report of the past year's activities by the honorary secretary, Mr. Angus Clark.

Mr. Lachlan Campbell, the retiring president, was in the chair.

### THE DUTY OF GAELS.

The Secretary, in his report, from which the following extracts are taken, stated that it was now 150 years since the Gaelic Society had raised its standard.

### DECLINE AND DECAY.

Those things which belonged to their people, and for which they stood, had been reduced to a state which made it difficult to refer to them with moderation, and quite impossible to think of them without being grieved in spirit and wounded in soul. Since those far-off days, when a handful of exiled Gaels raised their standard in this great city, the history of their race and language had been one of decline and decay. What of the future? Again and again the Society had, with the utmost pleasure and sincerity, paid tribute to the activities of An Comunn Gàidhealach, and, without reflecting in the least on their work, they would wish that the spirit which made for steady advance and final triumph were increasing more rapidly throughout the land.

### THE VITAL TRUTH.

Had they as a people grasped the vital truth which should be written in letters of fire in every school and church in Scotland: "The soul of a nation is enshrined in its

language, and when that language ceases to vibrate, the nation is dead." It was difficult to believe that a realisation of this great truth was widespread in their country, when they found the authorities in church and school in the very heart of Gaeldom flouting the expressed wishes of communities and denying them the right to have Gaelic preachers and teachers. That led them to think that in many places the spirit and soul of the Gael were wrapt in deep and deadly slumber.

"Gael the world over must realise that nothing less than the complete loss of our mother tongue, the language of a great and ancient race, is at stake. That it is in the utmost danger can no longer be denied, and whether it is to be re-established as a vigorous living language depends upon us, upon our sincerity, enthusiasm, and determination in the years before us. If our cause is to prosper, we must wake up and realise not only the magnitude but the importance and sacredness of our task, and having realised a great truth let each and all of us go forward, proving by word and action that we are heart and soul in a great movement, a movement which, if it ever goes down defeated, means the final downfall of the Gael and the complete eclipse of his nation, but if carried to victory will restore courage, hope, and a new spirit to the land of our fathers, and while establishing in security and strength the priceless heritage of our own language in the hearts of our people will also ensure the immortality of our native land and the ancient race to which we belong."

Mr. Ian Macpherson, M.P., was re-elected Chief of the Society, and Mr. John Macleod, president of the London Gaelic Choir, was unanimously elected president.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

**BRIDGEND.**—On Tuesday, 10th January, the Bridgend Gaelic Choir held a most enjoyable ceilidh in the Servants' Hall, Islay House. Despite the unfavourable weather conditions, there was a splendid mustering of members and friends which augurs well for a large choir membership this year. The choir has been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Cameron, Newton Schoolhouse, as their conductor. The majority of the members are former school pupils of his, so, naturally, his appointment is a most popular one. Mr. Cameron carried through the programme for the evening which commenced with the singing of "Suas leis a'

Ghàidhlig," and songs intermingled with dances were enjoyed with gusto. What helped to make the evening such a happy one was the real ceilidh spirit of comradeship which pervaded through the whole proceedings. Those who so kindly contributed to the programme were Misses M'Colman, M'Ghee, M'Geachy, Clark, and Morrison, and Messrs. Christie, Duncan, and Shaw (songs). The dance music was supplied by Mrs. Lightbody (piano) and Messrs. Cameron and Kyle (violin), to whom the sincere thanks of the members is due. Before dispersing, Mr. Cameron proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hugh and Lady Mary Morrison for their usual kindness in granting the use of the Servants' Hall and also to Miss Weir and staff for their courtesy and help. Mr. Christie then called for a vote of thanks to the musicians, and the evening terminated with the singing of "Oidhe mhath leibh."

**BUTE.**—On 23rd December the General Secretary, Mr. Neil Shaw, paid his annual visit to the Branch and spoke at some length in Gaelic and English on the Great Feill and the work which An Comunn is now able to undertake as a result of its success. Mr. Murdo Mackenzie presided. A programme of Gaelic and Scots songs followed. The annual Old-New Year concert in connection with this society came off on the evening of 12th January in the Tower Street Hall, which was filled. Captain James Kennedy presided, and in his opening remarks sang a Gaelic verse in welcoming the New Year. The popular event of the programme was the singing by Miss Nettie Stewart (Mrs. Harvey) of a couple of Gaelic songs, while at a later stage she sang with harp accompaniment, played by Mr. Chanry, which proved the popular event of the evening. Mr. Allan MacLean, Greenock, in a number of Gaelic songs was also received with much enthusiasm, and in his final song gave a Port-a-beul which was received with much applause. Other vocalists who contributed to the programme included Miss Leckie, Dunoon (a native of Rothesay), Miss Robertson, Miss Veronica Smart, Mr. A. T. Wood, Mr. James Clark, all of whom delighted the audience and responded to hearty encores. During an interval Pipe-Major P. Stewart gave a rousing selection on the pipes, arousing much enthusiasm. At the close of the programme, ex-Bailie Brown moved a hearty vote of thanks to the artistes and to the chairman. The Gaelic parting song was sung by the audience, led by Mr. A. MacLean. A Highland dance followed, and was attended by over 40 couples. Excellent music was supplied by the Chantry Orchestra, and gave much satisfaction.

**CAMPBELTOWN.**—On the occasion of his leaving Campbeltown to take up an appointment at Kinlochleven, Mr. Ronald M'Callum was met on the 7th January by representatives of the Executive of Comunn Gaidhealach Cheannlech and presented with a wallet of Treasury Notes as a tangible reward for his services as piper to the Branch since its inception. In the absence of the President (Miss Hall of Tangy), Mr. Norman Morrison made the presentation. He paid a high tribute to Mr. M'Callum for the services he had rendered the local movement, and expressed the regret of all that he was now leaving the district. He wished Mr. M'Callum God-speed and the very best of luck in the sphere to which he was going. Mr. M'Callum modestly replied.

**COLONSAY.**—The local Branch is having a very successful session. The opening night took the form



of a dance in Kiloran Hall. Since then ceilidhs have been held at which Gaelic songs, music, and stories have been thoroughly enjoyed. Tea is always served by the Ladies' Committee, and the ceilidhs in true Highland fashion finish off with dancing. In December the Branch sent £10 to headquarters, and this added to the magnificent sum of £123 and goods to the value of over £50 raised by this small branch for the Great Feil, has elicited a warm letter of appreciation from the General Secretary.

**FERRINTOSH.**—This Branch of An Comunn held their fortnightly ceilidh on 6th January. Mr. A. Macleod, vice-president of the Branch, presided over a large attendance of members and friends. Gaelic songs were feelingly sung by Misses E. Urquhart and E. Macleod, Messrs A. Nicolson, D. Macdonald, and J. Urquhart; and Scots songs by Miss Mackay and Mr. H. Mackay. Mr. Mackay also contributed violin selections in his usual spirited style. Humorous readings were given by Messrs. D. Macdonald and D. Urquhart, and these were much enjoyed. A pleasing feature of the evening's entertainment was selections on the gramophone by Miss Dingwall, Millburn, which were greatly appreciated. Mr. J. Jack gave a short address explaining the purposes of An Comunn, and entreated the young to become members, thereby upholding and helping to keep alive the language so beloved by every true Gael. A very happy evening terminated with the singing of "Oidhche Mhath Leith" and a vote of thanks to the chairman.

**FORTINGALL.**—The annual general meeting and ceilidh of this Branch was held in the Hall on 28th December, the President, Mr. Stewart, Woodend, in the chair. He congratulated the members of the Branch on their loyalty to the cause. The secretary and treasurer read his annual report, which was highly satisfactory. The office-bearers and committee were reappointed for the ensuing year, and after a refreshing cup of tea an impromptu concert took place in which the following members took part—Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Lumsden, Miss C. I. Fraser, Miss A. Cameron, Messrs J. M'Dougall, jun., and J. Fisher, jun., while Mr. John Fraser ably provided the pipe music. Miss C. C. Ford played the accompaniments. After the usual votes of thanks and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," the company dispersed, all agreed that they had enjoyed a real Highland ceilidh.

**GLENELG.**—The local Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach has had marked success in its activities this winter. Two excellent concerts have been given, at each of which the Gaelic sketch party presented the well-known Gaelic play, "Peigi Bheag," by John McCormick, F.S.A. Scot., Glasgow. A characteristic ceilidh scene, always a feature of these plays, was excellently staged by a clever cast, comprising Misses Macdonald, Macrae, Macmillan, and Messrs Mackenzie, Macdonald, Maclean, Cameron, and Macrae. The essentially realistic manner in which these plays were acted evoked admiration for this enthusiastic party. The vocal part was well sustained by Misses Macrae, Macdonald, Chisholm, and Messrs. Dunnet, Macdonald, Cameron, and MacLure. Mrs. Macrae's delightful rendering of the Skye song, "Nuair bha mi og," was well received. English songs were contributed by Mr. Dunnet and Mr. Stewart, an ex-president of the branch. Mr. John Maclean recited in his imitable style, and Mr. Nicolson had to respond to repeated encores. Beautiful decorations imparted a festive touch to the School on 23rd ult., when

An Comunn's last concert took place. The senior and junior pupils contributed to the programme and performed their parts excellently, their appearance on every concert programme being now specially requested. Bagpipe music was excellently discoursed by Mr. Macpherson and Mr. John Macaskill, until recently a member of the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band and captain of the Glasgow Inverness-shire shinty team. At both concerts the Comunn were fortunate in having as chairman the Rev. Alex. MacIntyre, M.A., parish minister, who takes such a warm interest in all branches of the community. Office-bearers were elected for the current year, viz.:—President, Mr. Donald Macpherson; Miss Cameron, The Schoolhouse, was re-elected secretary and treasurer; and the committee were re-elected *en masse*, a proof of the success which attended their efforts last session.

**INVERARAY.**—The fortnightly meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the St. Malieu Hall on the evening of Thursday, 15th December. Bailie A. J. MacIntyre presided. There was a very large attendance, and all spent a pleasant evening. Gaelic songs were rendered in excellent style by Mr. Duncan MacLachlan, Mrs. Stewart, The Gardens; Miss Cathie MacArthur, Master Wm. Stewart, Mrs. Robert Morrison, Miss Jenny Bain, Mr. MacKenzie, Coillievradh; Miss Janet MacVicar; and stirring bagpipe music by Pipe-Major Duncan MacArthur. Miss Flora Clark entertained the meeting to a humorous Gaelic reading. Bailie MacIntyre also sang a popular Gaelic melody.

**INVERGARRY.**—At a ceilidh held by the Glegarry Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach in the Coronation Hall, Invergary, Mr. John MacGillivray, president, was in the chair. The proceedings were opened by Mr. Donald MacAskill, ceilidh piper, who played stirring bagpipe selections. Sustaining the programme, composed of Gaelic songs, stories, and readings, were Major E. C. Elice, D.S.O., Mr. Angus MacAskill, Mrs. Noble, Miss Sheila Campbell, Fort William; Rev. Cyril von Deickhoff, O.S.B., Fort Augustus; Miss Joyce Grant, Tomdoun; Mr. Ewen Campbell, Fort William; Messrs. MacLean, Grant, and MacGillivray (violin selections); Mr. Angus MacPhee, Mrs. W. Matheson, Mr. John MacLean, Mr. James Macdonald, and Messrs. MacAskill, MacLean, and MacPhee (chorus). Mr. Aitken asked for a hearty vote of thanks to be accorded to all those who had contributed to the success of the Ceilidh, and especially to those who had come from other places. Tea was served during an interval.

**LAGGAN.**—The Gaelic class taught by Mr. Macmillan, headmaster at Gergask, is maintaining its activities. There are 21 on the roll. This adult class is now recognised as a continuation class by the Education Authority of the county. We are looking forward to the coming of the teacher of Gaelic singing in March, and are hopeful that classes may be formed all over Badenoch, to allow us to hold a Gaelic musical festival at Kingussie in the summer. This is an ambition, but there is no reason in the world why the idea should not become an accomplished fact. A very successful ceilidh, under the auspices of the Laggan branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the old school at Balgown on Thursday, 5th January. This recent institution has already become popular, for in spite of the inclement condition of the weather, there was over 50 of an attendance. The committee was increased so as to make it more efficient, and Father



Maclean was appointed as one of the vice-presidents. Rev. Neil Ross presided, and in a few opening remarks commented in Gaelic on the social and intellectual benefits which such meetings as these could impart. Gaelic songs were rendered by Miss Annie Mackay, Miss Mary Macdonald, Dr. Mackay, and Mr. Arch. Macdonald, treasurer. Songs in English were sung by Miss Milligan and Miss Gillies. Miss Maggie Macdonald gave a choice Gaelic rendering from the old "Gael." It was a dialogue on the introduction of the penny post—how the old ideas of the natives were startled by the wonder of a letter coming all the way from London for the sum of one penny! The company were entertained to some lovely piping by Mr. Malcolm Macpherson, Invershin. This distinguished young player on the bagpipe is the fifth generation in succession to attain pre-eminence in the art, and the latest generation, in the person of this representative, will not suffer by comparison with its predecessors. Much Gaelic conversation was sustained, and there was a good deal of community singing, an old habit of the Gaelic people, though apparently new and much admired elsewhere. We flatter ourselves that the Gaelic Mods have encouraged community singing of late years.

**LOCHGILPHEAD.**—The fourth monthly meeting of the Lochgilphead Branch, held on Old New Year's Day, 12th January, took the form of a social evening. A large company listened first of all to bagpipe selections played by Pipe-Corpl. Crawford and then took part in the singing of "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig." Mr. Mackellar presided and welcomed the members in a few remarks. Dancing, under the charge of Mr. Greenshields, took up the greater part of the evening. At intervals, Gaelic and English songs were given by Mrs. Campbell, Miss MacNair, Miss Lang, Miss Nan Greenshields, Mr. MacGregor, and Mr. Robt. Sinc'air, a Gaelic dialogue by Mrs. Bruce and Nurse MacGill, and bagpipe selections by Pipe-Corpl. Crawford and Mr. George Mackinnon. Those present showed their appreciation of all the items in no uncertain fashion. Mr. Archibald Campbell, with his violin, and the pipers played for the dances to the satisfaction of all. Not the least successful feature was the excellent tea given by Mrs. Mackellar who, as well as providing everything, gracefully supervised the serving. The Comunn were indebted to Mrs. Mackellar for her generosity, and they heartily responded to a vote of thanks to her, moved by ex-Provost MacGregor. The President called the attention of electors to the forthcoming Education Authority elections, and the secretary read the paragraph in "An Gaidheal" referring thereto. A very enjoyable evening was concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

**NEWTONMORE.**—The first ceilidh of the Newtonmore Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Hall on Monday evening, when there was a gathering of over 70, including a large proportion of young people. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, vice-president, occupied the chair, and was supported by her colleague in the vice-presidency, Mr. Thomas Grant. The president of the branch is the Right Hon. James Ian Macpherson, M.P. Miss Farquharson extended a hearty welcome to all present, and expressed gratification that such a large number had come to their first ceilidh. A surprisingly large amount of talent was discovered among the company, who arranged themselves in a semi-circle round the room. Gaelic songs were sung by Miss Annie Macdonald, Miss Katie Grant, Messrs. James Cameron, Malcolm Macdonald, Ewen

Macdonald, Angus Maclean, J. Mackinnon, J. Wright, and A. Macaulay, and afforded so much pleasure that encores were numerous. Appropriate and encouraging speeches were made by Mr. Thomas Grant, vice-president, and Mr. John Campbell, Kingussie. Mr. Grant mentioned that he hoped to obtain prizes in the form of medals for the most successful pupils in the musical class which was to be formed. Tea was handed round during the evening, which from the social and musical point of view was of the most enjoyable nature. It was a real ceilidh, where everyone felt at home under the genial chairmanship of Miss Farquharson, who was the life and soul of the gathering. In the course of the proceedings, Miss Sinton, Craigerne, the energetic secretary, enrolled members. Altogether over 60 were enrolled, and of that number 30 intimated their intention to join the class which is being formed to study the language. Mr. Angus Maclean has undertaken to act as teacher. It is expected that the official teacher appointed by An Comunn Gaidhealach will visit the district early in March. It has also been arranged to hold a ceilidh on the second Wednesday of each month. At ceilidhs formal votes of thanks are discouraged, but Miss Farquharson took the opportunity of expressing her indebtedness to the ladies who had prepared the tea.

**ROGART.**—The third annual Gaelic concert and dance, under the auspices of the Rogart Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the Drill Hall, Rogart, on Friday evening. Mr. Angus Macneil, Lairg, presided, and there was a large audience, including a few from neighbouring parishes. The hall was very beautifully decorated for the occasion by Mr. Wm. Mackenzie, and on entering one was struck with the Gaelic word "Fàilte" ("Welcome") at the back of the platform. Mrs. W. Caird Taylor opened the concert programme with selections on the piano. She was followed by the Rogart choir and audience singing the rallying song of the Gael, "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig." In a few brief opening remarks, the chairman thanked his Rogart friends for the great honour they had conferred on him in asking him to preside at their third annual Gaelic concert. Speaking about the Sutherland Mods, the chairman said they had two very successful Mods at Lairg. After paying all expenses, the local treasurer was able to hand over the sum of £80 to headquarters. Last year's Mod was very successful. The music and choruses in four-part harmony were a vast improvement on the first Mod. He was pleased to intimate that they had handed over to headquarters a sum of well over £100, making a total of £180 for the two Mods. He wished to thank Colonel Gunn, a native of Rogart, for the valuable assistance he gave him. It was mainly through his help that they were able to forward such a handsome sum. Mr. Hugh Maclean, Gaelic music teacher, had been sent by headquarters to form and teach Gaelic classes in Sutherland. There was plenty of work for him to do before the month of April, but he trusted he would not be able to leave the county until the next Mod was over. Speaking about the Education (Scotland) Act of 1918, the chairman drew their attention to the clause for the adequate teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic-speaking areas. It was known as the "Gaelic Clause." He trusted that at the forthcoming Sutherland Education Authority election, natives of Rogart would only vote for Gaelic-speaking members or those who pledged themselves to support the "Gaelic Clause."



## 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 West Campbell Street, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXIII.]

*Am Màrt, 1928.*

[Earrann 6

### AN LUCHD TAGHAIDH.

Chan eil e taitneach mar is trice, a bhi a' tilleadh gun dàil ris an aon chuspair anns an duilleig so, mar nach biodh nithean eile gu leòr ann air an faodamaid sgrìobhadh. Ach tha sinn a' cumail a mach nach eil aon chuspair cho iomchuibh aig an am ri bhi a' cur an cuimhne an luchd-taghaidh ciod e cho riatanach is a tha e gun tugadh iad an deagh aire nach dearmaid iad an sochair, agus gun cleachd iad an guth taghaidh a tha aca a nis. Tha sinn fo eagal nach do ghabhadh saothair gu leòr gu bhi a' dùsgadh suas muinntir na Gàidhealtachd fa chomhair an dleasdanas mu Ughdarrais an Fhoghlum. Is mór an nì gu bheil an t-sochair so aig gach aon, fir is mnathan, a tha an ceann tìghe no a' pàigheadh màil, agus a thàinig gu aois àraidh. Nam biodh gnòthuch ann a bhiodh a' cur dragh no uallach orra, bheireadh iad faineach nach leigeadh iad seachad an cothrom a chum an gearan a leasachadh. Ach a thaobh aobhar na Gàidhlig aig am a bhi a' taghadh nan Ughdarras ùra, tha e bochd ri aithris gu bheil mòran de 'n luchd taghadh nach eil a' deanamh cho maith 's a dh'fhacadh iad. Tha so ag éiridh gu mór o chion smaointean agus de chion deagh earail.

Thubhairt duine geur-chuisseach o chionn ghoirid gu bheil muinntir a' pàigheadh cisean na rìoghachd *le mulad*, ach gur ann a tha iad a' pàigheadh cisean na sgìre *le feirg*.

Thugadh an luchd taghadh faineach gur e iad féin a tha a' pàigheadh nan cisean airson an fhoghlum choitcheann; agus an uair a bheir iad sin faineach, faodaidh gun gabh iad an tuilleadh cùraim ciamar a tha an t-airgid sin 'g a chosg leis na h-Ughdarrais. Anns a' cheud dol a mach tha an luchd taghadh a' dlòadh cìs na sgìre, àireamh thasdan mu choinneamh gach punnd Sasunnach de mhàil no de luach seilbhe. Agus tha earrann àraidh de 'n chis so airson foghlum na h-òigridh anns an sgrì no anns an t-siorramachd. Ach faodaidh gun abair neach eigin: "Chan eil an luchd taghadh a' tabhairt uapa ach dà-chòigeamh de 'n chosgais. Tha na trì-chòigeamhan eile a' tighinn o 'n Ard Uachdaranachd." Seadh dìreach. Ach c'àite an d'fhuair an Ard Uachdaranachd an t-airgid sin? Fhuair o 'n luchd taghaidh, a tha a' pàigheadh nan trì-chòigeamh le cisean rìoghachd, dìreach mar tha iad a' pàigheadh an dà-chòigeamh le cisean sgìre. Air gach laimh an tionndaidh thu is e am fear taghadh a tha a' giùlan an callaich; agus nach e esan a tha gun chùram mur nochd e dùrachd, a dheanamh cinnteach gu bheil a chuid ionmhais 'g a chur a dh'ionnsuidh na buil is fearr mar as miannach leis féin.

Ri àm Bùird na Sgoile an uair a bhiodh taghadh a' tachairt, an fheadhainn a bha ag iarraidh a stigh, bha e comasach dhaibh taghal air an t-sluagh aig an robh guth is

cumhachd; agus air uairean bhiodh comhstri gu leòr eadar gach buidheann. Mar an ceudna bha cor is iartus gach oisein de 'n sgrì 'g an cumail anns an t-sealladh; agus bha an sluagh coitichionn a' nochdadh suim de na bha a' dol air aghart. Ach an diugh, fo Achd an Fhoghlaim is ann a tha na sgìrean mar gum biodh iad air an ceangal na 'n aon bheart; bidh guthan 'g an sireadh le càirdean is le coigrich; agus far a' bheil sgrì iomallach le beagan de luchd taghaidh bidh a leithid sin de sgrì buailteach gum bidh i air a dearmad. Ged a tha nithean maith agus ceart anns an Achd ùr is e so aon de na failigidhean a tha air, gu bheil sgìrean iomallach gun dòigh air iad féin a chuid-eachadh. Is e so aon de na h-ana-cothroman a tha ag éirigh, a chionn nach eil a' sgrì a' cunntas nas mò, ach gur i an t-siorramachd a ghabh an t-àite a bha aig an sgrì roimhe.

A nis tha e fìor gur anns na sgìrean iomallach an Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba a gheibhear an t-seann chàinain 'g a cleachdadh. Is nì ro-bhocd mata, mas iad na ceart sgìrean sin a tha a' faotainn ana-cothrom ri am taghaidh. Bhiodh e nàdurach gu seasadh luchd taghaidh nan sgìrean sin airson na càinain, a chionn gu bheil iad an comhnuidh 'g a labhairt, agus gu bheil iad a' tuigsinn a luach. Ach a chionn gu bheil an luchd taghaidh sin gann an àireamh chan urrainn daibh an toil a chur an ghlomh. Mar sin bidh lamh an uachdar aig an àireamh aig nach eil suim sam bith de 'n Ghàidhlig. Faodaidh gur ann mar so a bha cuid de na seann Ughdarrais cho mall gu umhlachd a thabhairt do 'n Achd, a tha ag àithe na gum teagaisgear a' chainnt far an àill leis an t-sluagh. Far bheil siorramachd anns a bheil na sgìrean iomallach tuilleadh is lag, theid neart air cheart, bheirear dùbhlain do 'n lagh, agus fagair a' Ghàidhlig taobh a muigh na comhla. Tha an t-Achd féin fo dheuchainn fathast; is ann le cleachdadh a gheibhear a mach cìod e na leth-sgodan a tha air. Thig uair anns a feumar an t-Achd so athleasachadh mar a chaidh iomadh deagh Achd eile athleasachadh agus a cheartachadh. Feumar cothrom a thabhairt do luchd-taghaidh anns na sgìrean iomallach, a chum is gum bi éifeachd 'n an guth-taghaidh. Faodaidh nach bidh a leithid so de atharrachadh riatanach airson Alba air fad; ach da rìreadh tha feum nòr air athleasachadh anns an Achd a thaobh sgìrean iomallach na Gàidhealtachd.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Good method. Delta: this office.

## Gaelic Teachers.

### IV.—Mr. RODERICK CHISHOLM, M.A., Portree Higher Grade School.



Mr. Chisholm is a native of Glenelg, and received his elementary education in the Public School of Glenelg. Gaining a secondary school bursary, he went to Kingussie Secondary School, which he attended through the higher course preparatory to the university. Proceeding to the University of Edinburgh, he entered on the Arts curriculum there, and passed with distinction in several of the subjects which he studied. One of these was Celtic, under the late Professor Mackinnon. Mr. Chisholm held the medal and first place in his year in the ordinary and the advanced classes. It is a great advantage to teachers of Gaelic when they can have the benefit of university classes in that subject, and also the great help which has been derived from summer schools of Gaelic when these were taught by some of the professors. At the outbreak of the Great War, Mr. Chisholm joined the ranks, and served for a time with the 6th Battalion Royal Scots. He was granted a commission, and served for three years in France and Flanders. He was demobilised from France in October, 1919, with the rank of captain.

On returning to civil life, Mr. Chisholm resumed his studies, and graduated Mester

of Arts in 1920. He was appointed teacher of Gaelic in Portree Higher Grade School in 1922, and during the past six years he has presented pupils with success (few or no failures) for the Highland and Islands Trust bursaries, and for the higher leaving certificate. The special bursary of £50 a year from the Highland Trust, tenable for three years at a Scottish university, was won this year by a Portree pupil. Pupils from this school have had gratifying results at mod competitions.

In addition to his interest in Gaelic, Mr. Chisholm has been an enthusiast on the Gaelic sport of shinty. He played in the Laggan team for the Scottish cup when only in his seventeenth year.

With reference to the value of Gaelic, Mr. Chisholm has expressed his view in the following words:—I am a strong believer in the teaching of Gaelic in Highland schools. Sentiment aside, Gaelic, for its own inherent qualities, its high cultural and developmental value, is worthy of a place in the school curriculum. The child begins life with innate qualities peculiar to the race from which he is sprung, and it is self-evident that his own mother-tongue is the most effective instrument whereby these can be fully developed. As a race, we have traditions and ideals characteristically Celtic, and much that is truly beautiful and worthy of being perpetuated in the life and thought of the whole nation. These traditions and ideals should be made real, active, living factors in the child's life, and in the formation of his character, and that can be done only by giving him a sound knowledge of his native tongue. By no theory of education can Gaelic be denied its due place in our Highland schools. While it is clear that the young Gael requires Gaelic for complete self-realisation, it is equally clear that the future of Gaelic is with the young. If we fail to interest our children in it, and do not give them every opportunity of speaking, reading, and writing it, studying it at first hand, Gaelic must cease to be a living language. And no one who knows anything about it would care to deny that something precious and beautiful had been lost.

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**" VOICES FROM THE HILLS."**

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday, 27th January. The following members were present:—J. R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell, Glasgow; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Miss C. M. Gordon of Drimmin; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Mrs. MacDonald of Dumach; Donald MacDonald, Glasgow; Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D., Killin; William MacKenzie, Greenock; Ben. B. MacKinnon, Helensburgh; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Murdoch MacLean, Wishaw; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Mrs. MacNaughton of Ardachearanbeg; John A. Nicolson, Glasgow; Angus Robertson, Glasgow; Colin Sinclair, Glasgow; Mrs. Stevenson, Glasgow, and Andrew Stewart, Partick.

In attendance:—Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, assistant.

In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Burnley Campbell was called to the chair.

The Secretary read the minute of the previous meeting, which was adopted, and intimated apologies for absence from several members of the Council.

Minutes of three meetings of Finance Committee were submitted and approved. Mr. Hugh MacPhee, who had been unanimously selected by the Committee as assistant to Mr. Shaw, was introduced and welcomed by the Convener and by Mrs. Burnley Campbell.

Minutes of two meetings of the Education Committee were read. It was reported that the Committee had decided to prepare and distribute a circular containing a summary of points likely to be useful to candidates, and that would also be of guidance to sympathetic voters in the ensuing elections.

The list of schools in which Gaelic is taught was gone over, and it was agreed to write the Directors of Education in the Highland areas thanking them for information given, and expressing satisfaction with the progress made in introducing Gaelic in schools in Highland areas. In scrutinising the list, it was observed that there were considerable areas and important schools in which Gaelic is not taught, and it was agreed to communicate with the Director of



Education in each of these areas to enquire if the absence of Gaelic teaching was due to one or more of the following reasons:—(1) That the areas in question are not Gaelic-speaking areas; (2) that no desire has been expressed by parents to have their children taught Gaelic; and (3) that qualified teachers are not available.

Miss Lamont referred to the forthcoming election of Education Authorities, and said that, if possible, arrangements would be made to send speakers to the Highland counties in support of Gaelic candidates.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. MacLeod, moved the adoption of the minutes. The main business, he said, which occupied the attention of the Committee was the action which ought to be taken in connection with the ensuing election of Education Authorities. The Committee had authorised the drawing up of a circular which had met with general approval, and which had been pretty widely distributed, and was still being distributed. The Committee did not look upon this matter as finished, and in moving approval of the minute he had to ask the Executive Council to give the Education Committee power to take any further action that they might deem necessary in connection with the elections in the way of sending speakers to particular districts or in issuing further literature.

Mr. MacLeod pointed out that the arrangements for the summer school at Broadford, Skye, were in capable hands, and he expected that long before the next meeting of the Executive the teaching staff of the summer school would be completed. He hoped a goodly number of students would present themselves.

Miss Lamont pointed out, in regard to the proposed summer school at Broadford, that an attempt was being made to get the course recognised by the Education Department as a qualifying course for teachers. If that recognition was obtained, it would, she thought, be a great inducement to teachers to attend the advanced course.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell stated that there would be, among others, a class for Gaelic singing and a class for Celtic design. She trusted that the school would be a great success, and justify the Comunn in carrying it through.

Mr. MacLeod made the announcement that at the meeting of the Education Committee the previous night in Glasgow, they

had the agreeable intimation from Mrs. Burnley Campbell that the Argyll Education Authority had resolved to appoint a Gaelic-speaking teacher to Inverchaolain School. He thought they ought to express their indebtedness to the Argyll Education Authority for their willingness to reconsider their decision, and for their resolution to appoint a Gaelic-speaking teacher to the school. He suggested at the same time, that the Executive Council should convey their congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Burnley Campbell and Miss Lamont for their unremitting efforts in this matter.

Mrs. Colquhoun, referring to the efforts of the Gaelic-speaking members of the Parish Church at Inveraray to have Gaelic services continued, considered that Lady Elspeth Campbell should be specially thanked for her work in this connection.

Mr. William MacKenzie, Greenock, said that a similar situation might arise at Greenock, and he hoped that, in that event, they would have the support of An Comunn.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod said the matter of the Inveraray Church did not strictly arise under the minutes of the Education Committee, but since it had arisen it might as well be disposed of. Up to a point, their friends in Inveraray had been successful, in the sense that the matter was not finally closed. A Commission from the General Assembly, who had gone to Inveraray, had listened to the petition, and to Lady Elspeth Campbell and others, in support of the petition, and the Commissioners would report to the next General Assembly. There was a possibility, if not a probability, that the reasonable demands of the Gaelic-speaking portion of the congregation at Inveraray would be met.

Rev. Dr. MacKay said he had read the full report of this matter in the "Oban Times." As Mr. MacLeod had pointed out, nothing definite could be done until the meeting of the General Assembly. An expression of sympathy with the people of Inveraray was all that the Executive could do at the present stage. He should be greatly surprised if the General Assembly did not show great sympathy with the Gaelic-speaking portion of the Inveraray congregation. It was the duty of all Highlanders to encourage Gaelic in preaching, in divine worship, in the schools, and in every way possible. Some of the best workers in the Gaelic cause were to be found among the clergy, but at the same time there were



clergy in all denominations who were lukewarm.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell said she was glad to learn that it had been decided to continue Gaelic services at St. Kieran's Church, Glasgow.

Ex-Bailie Campbell said Lady Elspeth Campbell had informed him that the Gaelic-speaking people in the Inveraray district would not go to the English services. The minister of the Episcopal Church could preach in Gaelic, and he had been informed that a number of the Gaelic-speaking people would go there to hear Gaelic, but that, as Lady Elspeth had indicated, would be bad for the Church of Scotland.

On the proposal of Mr. MacLeod, the meeting unanimously adopted the following resolution:—"That the Executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach have been much concerned at the possibility of the Gaelic charge at Inveraray being suppressed. They have watched with sympathetic interest the efforts that have been made to prevent this; they are glad to observe that the matter has not yet been definitely closed, and they desire to express their conviction that the cessation of Gaelic services in Inveraray would be exceedingly regrettable. They are of opinion that the strongly expressed demand of the Gaelic-speaking members of the church should be acceded to, and they trust the General Assembly will so decide. They congratulate the friends at Inveraray on the stand they have made, and they earnestly trust their efforts will be successful."

The minutes were approved.

A minute of the Publication Committee was read and approved. It was reported that the Feill Committee had handed over the remaining copies of "Voices from the Hills," and the Committee would endeavour to dispose of these through the ordinary book-selling channels.

The minutes of the Propaganda Committee showed that the Secretary had reported on the work of music teachers in Sutherlandshire, Ross-shire, Inverness-shire, and Argyll.

It was agreed to appoint Miss Margaret MacDonald, Inverness, as singing teacher, to take up duty in Mull and Ardnamurchan for three months.

A letter was read from Mrs. de Glehn, Cambridge, asking permission to have the newly-formed "Comunn Albanach an Ard

thigh Fhoghlum" affiliated to An Comunn. This was unanimously agreed to.

It was reported that several communications had been received from Miss Farquharson of Invercauld on the conditions with regard to concerts got up in connection with payment of Gaelic singing teachers.

Rev. Dr. MacKay, convener, said the Propaganda Committee recognised the excellent work which had been carried on by Miss Farquharson, and they were anxious to help her and those associated with her in the Provincial Mod movement in the Badenoch district as much as possible.

Dr. MacKay, continuing, said there were 16 Provincial Mods to be held this year.

Mrs. Colquhoun seconded, and the minutes were adopted.

The Art and Industry Committee reported further on the book plate designs competition. They also recommended a competition for needlework, to be done in colours from Celtic design transfers. These transfers will shortly be put on the market by Messrs. Briggs, Manchester.

Mr. Colin Sinclair, in moving approval of the minutes, remarked that the idea originated at the Mid Argyll Provincial Mod of last year, when a most successful competition was carried out. The specimens he saw there were really wonderful bits of work.

Mr. J. A. Nicolson said he was glad to hear that a Gaelic teacher was to be appointed to Inverchaolain School, and also to learn of the attempts that were being made on behalf of the continuance of Gaelic preaching, but there was another matter which must be considered, and that was the steady depletion of the Highland population.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell said Mr. Nicolson had introduced a very difficult question. She had always realised that it was not the language alone which must be seen to, but the question of agriculture. They must, however, be very careful as an Association in going into details of that kind, and they must not involve themselves in anything that touched on politics.

Mr. Nicolson said he would be the first to deprecate an alliance with any political party, but their loyalty to the Highlands must transcend all other loyalties. They ought as an Association to use their influence to further such questions as real Highland home industries.

Mr. Sinclair pointed out that An Comunn had for years been associated with the question of Highland home industries. There was a body known as Highland Home Industries, with which An Comunn had been directly connected, and this body was engaged in helping Highland workers to dispose of their goods.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod said this question was large and difficult, and, from the point of view of An Comunn, surrounded by certain risks. The matter had the intense sympathy of everyone present. There was no one who did not want to see things made more comfortable for the people in the Highlands. They all earnestly desired that a comfortable living should be made possible for all Highlanders, and that the present depletion of the population there should not proceed any further. He was afraid that as an Association, working within their constitution, they could not do very much. They could certainly pass a general resolution calling upon the Government to take such steps as were practicable to improve conditions in matters of transport and of industry generally. In the past An Comunn had been able to some extent to help home industries in the Highlands. It might not be known to everybody, but he might state that the capital which established the Highland Home Industries Association was provided indirectly through the Comunn, and mainly through the efforts of Mrs. Burnley Campbell. When the Highland Home Industries took over the work of encouraging the making of tweed and other industries, the Comunn Committee naturally slackened off because this matter became the sole work of Highland Home Industries. It might be possible again for An Comunn to develop that side, but on the bigger question introduced by Mr. Nicolson he did not think they could go beyond what he had already suggested.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell asked if they could do any good by approaching the Board of Agriculture. That body had an enormous staff, but they had done very little.

Mr. Angus Robertson said he wondered whether An Comunn, without interfering with its constitution in any way, could consider the formation of some body outside themselves, and not responsible to the Comunn, to deal with this question specifically. Help could not come from the Highlanders themselves, who were too few in number. They must appeal to a bigger jury—the electorate of the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Macdonald of Dunach emphasised the necessity of better and cheaper transport. As regards the islands, the transport question was of great importance, and without adequate transport farming in these could not be successfully carried on. They could only get their produce to markets at enormous expense. Steamer communication was bad, and everything suffered. It was perhaps not quite so bad on the mainland, but in the islands, which was now the largest Gaelic-speaking area, matters had become very difficult. As far as she could see, the Board of Agriculture did not seem to have done much good.

The Mod and Music Committee reported on arrangements being made by the Local Committee at Inverness, and these were considered satisfactory. The efforts made locally to raise funds were meeting with splendid success. The Committee was empowered to appoint adjudicators for the National Mod.

The Executive Council considered the question of Gaelic teaching by Linguaphone, and it was remitted to the Education Committee to consider the matter carefully and report to the next meeting.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod read minute of meeting of the Gaelic Circle Sub-Committee. The draft rules were generally approved, and the sub-committee was asked to report again at next meeting.

Mr. Angus Robertson pointed out that there was no record anywhere to commemorate the great work of Sir James MacGregor, the Dean of Lismore. He questioned if there was any single individual in the Highlands whose work had been so corroborative in its evidence towards the authenticity of some of our oldest poetry. He thought it was a reflection on their race that there was no monument to that wonderful and celebrated man in any part of the Highlands. He thought An Comunn as a body should take cognisance of the fact and initiate a movement to commemorate Sir James MacGregor's work, and particularly his contributions to Gaelic.

It was agreed to consider Mr. Robertson's suggestion at a future meeting.

The Executive fixed dates for ensuing meetings of Council as follows:—27th April, 6th July, 29th September, and 23rd November.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mrs Burnley Campbell for presiding brought the meeting to a close.

## COMHRADH

EADAR IAIN RUADH AGUS CALUM BAN, ANN AN TIGH IAIN RUADH, AIG AM NAN ORDUIGHEAN, LE DONNCHADH MAC-DHOMHNAILL, SANNDABAIG, STEORNA-BHAGH. (An dara duais, Mòd 1927.)

(Iain a' tighinn a steach agus a' tòiseachadh ri 'gearradh thombaca air son lionadh na pioba.)

IAIN—A Mhàiri, am bheil thu stigh? Chan 'eil lorg agam ort. Is mòr m'eagal gu'm bheil thu air droch ceann a thoirt do shiubhal nan sitigean. Chan ann le céilidh nan taighean a chumar dachaidh suas. Ach, a bhòrag, fhad 's a chumas bean Nèill Chalum cab riutsa tha thu riarachta gu leòir. Ach, a Mhàiri, a Mhàiri, 's e a bha gòrach am fear a thug dhachaidh thu. Na'm bithinn-sa ri dol a phòsadh a rithist cha b'ann idir á tigh Iain Oig a bheirinn bean. Is mise a ghabhadh taobh an fhuaraidh dheth. Is mi, is mi! Ach dé a ni mise air feasgar Di-sathurn-beag nan Orduighean ma thig coigreach taobh an taighe?

CALUM (a' bualadh aig an doras 's a' tighinn a steach)—Sith 's an teaghlach; sith 's an teaghlach! Tha mi a' faicinn, Iain, nach 'eil thu fhéin is Màiri aig réite. Fàilte 's an teaghlach!

IAIN (ag éirigh ann an coinneamh Chalum)—Ach, a Chalum, an tu a th'ann? Is mise a tha toilichte d'fhaicinn aon uair eile 's an àite. Cha chreid mi nach e dà uair eile a chunna mi riamh thu bho bha sinn còmhla ri 'chèile 's an "Aurora" aig iasgach na Bruaiche. Cuir dhìot do chòta agus dean suidhe 'steach ris an teine, a dheagh charaid. Is iomadh latha toilichte a bh'againn còmhla ri 'chèile; faire, faire!

CALUM—Ach, Iain, nach tu a tha a' cumail ris. Is ann a tha thu ri togail ort bho chunna mi thu aig na h-òrduighean againn. Chan 'eil fù fultein liath 'nad cheann. Dé mar a tha Màiri a' cumail?

IAIN—Tha Màiri bhochd, mar a tha mòran de na mnathan eile, ag éirigh 's a' gearan. Tha i an dràsda shuas a' céilidh air bean Nèill Chalum. Tha i iongantach, bròrag, a reir cùrs' a latha.

CALUM—Bha dùil agam gu'n robh i stigh leis a' bhruidhinn a bh'ort 'nuair a bha mi ri tighinn a steach.

IAIN—Is ann a bha mise a' bruidhinn leam fhéin 's a' trod rithe air son mar a tha i gu falbh nan sitigean.

CALUM—Tha mi'n dòchas nach ann air tòiseachadh ri còmhradh-beag riut fhéin a tha thu. Ma's ann, tha e 'na làn thìde sealltuinn às do dhéidh.

IAIN—Nach fheum duine bochd a th'air fhàgail cho tric 'na aonar bruidhinn ri rudeigin.

CALUM—Chan eil ann am Màiri ach deagh bhean-taighe. Tha i cho math air a dà làimh ri té 's an t-sreith.

IAIN—Chan ann ort a tha a' bhòrag ri làighe. Nam b'ann bhiodh port eile agad.

CALUM—Tha thusa ro throm air Màiri. B'abhast dhuit fhéin a bhí na bu mhiosa na Màiri air a' chéilidh, ach chan eil guth an diugh air a sin.

IAIN—Ach dé mar a tha Sìne, do bhean fhéin? Bha dùil agam a bhí a' dol a shealltuinn oirbh aig Orduighean an Earraich, ach cha deach agam air. Carson nach tug thu leat i?

CALUM—Cha b'urraim dhith a thighinn leis mar a tha i le gaoth na siataig 's na cnàmhan aice. Tha eagal orm gu'm bheil i ro throm air an tea, agus gu'm bheil i ri toirt cus tarruing dhith. Agus chan fheairde an t-siataig aice sin idir.

IAIN—Tha an té a tha ceangailte riùmsa air an aon dòigh. Chan 'eil dad ach tea, tea, bho mhoch gu dubh. Ach b'i sin an tea air am bi ceannach aice air a' cheann thall.

CALUM—Is deagh chaomh leam fhéin copan tea an dràsda 's a' rithist; ach chan 'eil a' phoit aice-sa ri tighinn á tac' an teine fad an latha, agus tha a' bhuil ann.

IAIN—Is fhearr dhomh an coire a chur air air son biadh ullachadh dhuit. Chan 'eil fhios agam nach 'eil thu 'gad tholladh leis an acras ged nach do dh'fhaighnich mi an robh beul ort. Tha mi dìreach air mo nàrachadh. Cha b'ann mar so a choinnich thu fhéin is Sìne chòir riùmsa 'n uair a ràinig mi sibh aig 'ur tigh fhéin. Tha mi ri dol a dh'iarraidh Màiri ach am faigh sinn blasad bidh.

CALUM—Cha ruig thu a leas. Ghabh mise mo bhiaidh ann an tigh Sheòrais Dhuinn. Chan eil càil a dhith bidh orm. Na'm biodh abair thusa, nach biodh sochair 's am bith orm iarraidh. Cha bhiodh fadal ann.

IAIN—Is e do bheatha. Saoilidh mi dìreach gu'n do rinn e ùrachadh dhomh d'fhaicinn aon uair eile. Bithidh tu còmhla ruinn fhéin fad nan Orduighean. Chan ann a h-uile latha a thig do leithid an rathad. Bha mi a' brudair ort an raoir. Feumaidh e bhí gu'm bheil ciall aig cuid de na h-aislingean a bhios sinn ri faicinn as ar cadal.

CALUM—Tha eagal orm nach e na h-Orduighean gu lèir a ghluais bho'n tigh mi, ach an déidh a bh'agam air aon sealladh eile fhaighinn air mo chàirdean a b'abhast

a bhi còmhla rium aig an iasgach agus anns an "Reserve."

IAIN—A Chalum, am bheil cuimhne agad air an oidhche a bha thu a' toirt a chreidsinn oirnn gu'n robh Aonghas, bràthair d'athar ann an carbad iarainn ann an America a bha a' dol cho luath agus gu'n robh puist an "telegraph" cho faisg air a chèile ri faiclan cir-mhìn.

CALUM—Tha glé mhath, ach cha robh agam ach an fhirinn. Chuala mi rud eile a cheart cho iongantach ris a sin aig Dòmhnall Donn. Bha e ag radh 'nuair a bha esan 'na shaighdear gu'm faca e son bhuntàta a rinn biadh a' "Mhess."

IAIN—Ma, feumaidh a bhi gur e buntàta a bha a' fàs bho chruithicheadh an saoghal a bh'ann. Ach chan 'eil mi a' gabhail ris idir mar smior na firinn. "Chan fhiaich briag gun riag leatha."

CALUM (a' deanamh faité gaire)—Iain, tha thusa dìreach mar a bha thu; cha chreid thu rud 'sam bith mur am faca tu fhéin e eadar so 's a' Bhruch, agus mur 'eil e sgrìobht' anns a' Bhìobull. Ach tha rudan iongantach a' tachairt 's an latha 's am bheil sinne beò.

IAIN—Na bi thusa a' creidsinn a h-uile rud a chluinneas tu idir. Cha bhithinn ag éisd-eachd ris na chanas daoine gun chiall de ròpan bhreug. Na toir cluas dhoibh.

CALUM—Am bheil fhios agad dé a chuala mi aig Sìne an latha roimhe, ach gu'm bheil Eaglais an Aonais an dràsda ri dol a dheanamh deaconan agus ministearan de na boireannaich.

IAIN (a' togail a làmhann)—Eisd a dhuine gun chiall! Cò an t-amadan a thubhairt sin rithe? Cha tachair e, cha tachair e!

CALUM (a' fàs rud-eigin feargach)—Nach do leugh Dòmhnall mo bhàthair ann am paipear a' mhinistear e. Bha e ag ràdh gu'm faca e le dhà shùil e anns a' phaipear.

IAIN—Nach tu fhéin a tha fhìoch, a dhuine, 'nuair a chumadh tu do chluas ris a leithid sin de sheanachas air nach 'eil dath no blas na firinn. Deaconan boireann ann am paipear a' mhinistear! Co chuala 'riamh a dhà leithid?

CALUM—Chan 'eil dà dheanamh air nach e an fhirinn a th' ann, agus e ann am paipear an duine dhìadhaidh. Cha ghabhadh iad orra breug a chur ann am paipear a' mhinistear.

IAIN—Nach tu a chail do chiall 's do thuigse ma tha thu ri smaoineachadh gu'm bheil iad a' deanamh paipearan air leth air son nam ministearan! Ma, cha bhiodh iadsan gun obair aca! Shaoilinn duine aig am bheil a' bheag na mhòr de dh'fhoghlum mar a th'agadsa nach biodh e cho furasda a thoir a thaobh le còmhradh chailleachan.

CALUM (a' cumail air fhéin)—Cha mhath a tha fios agam am bheil thusa eadhon a' creidsinn gu'm bheil an saoghal cruinn agus a' dol mu'n cuairt.

IAIN—Chan 'eil mi fhéin; is mi nach eil! Tha Clìseam na Hearradh 's an àirde-deas, agus Suaineibheal Uige 's an àird-an-iar, dìreach mar a bha iad ri mo cheud chuimhne.

CALUM—Ach Iain, eisd thusa riumsa. 'Nuair a tha 'n saoghal a' cur nan car dheth tha thusa a' dol mu'n cuairt còmhla ris.

IAIN—Na'm biodh thigeadh breislich 'nam cheann is thuitinn air mo spògan.

CALUM (a' deanamh sgàl gaire)—Togaidh sinn dheth an dràsda mus teid sinn a mach air a chèile. Bheir sinn ionnsuidh eile air na deaconan boireann ach am faic sinn dé is còir a dheanamh. Thoir seachd do bheachd fhéin air a' chùis. Air mo shon shon fhéin dheth chan 'eil mi idir 'nan aghaidh. Carson a bhitheadh. Tha na boireannaich a nise 's a' Phàrlamaid agus 'nan luchd-lagha.

IAIN (le uamhas a' togail a làmhann)—A Chalum, a Chalum, tha thu a' cur uamhas orm! Ged a bha thusa a riamh suas ri na fasanan ùra cha robh dùil agamsa gu'n robh thu cho gòrach 's a tha thu. Boireannaich 'nan deacoin! Nach ann oirne a rug an latha! Ged a tha cùisean a' coimhead eagalach cha leig Dia cho mòr sinne bhar a làmhann is gu'n leigeadh E le a shluagh fhéin a bhi air an riaghladh le gràisg bhoireannach. O Phòil, O Phòil, na'm biodh tu beò 's tu nach cuireadh suas le a leithid! Tha mise an dòchas gu'n toir Dia dhachaidh mi mus beir a' leithid de latha orm!

CALUM—Cha chanainn idir nach ann a ni iad deacon de Mhàiri agad fhéin mus sguir iad. Tha i cho fada 'na bean-aidich, agus cho math air a teanga is gu'n deanadh i brod an deacoin.

IAIN (ag éirigh 'na sheasamh)—Ma ni, a bhalaich, geibh i an t-sitig an latha sin fhéin. Cùl nan còig rithe fhéin is ri gach eaglais a ni deaconan boireann! Seadh, Màiri againne 'na deacon! Cha tachair e, cha tachair e, fhad 's as beò Iain Ruadh! (Iain ri suidhe)—Ach nach mise a tha gòrach ri bruidhinn air is gur ann a tha thu ri taruing conais asam.

CALUM—Chan ann, gu dearbh. Tha e a cheart cho firinneach is gèid a chanadh am ministear fhéin as a' chùbaid e. Chan fhada gas am bi na deaconan boireann mu na casan againn. Cumaidh Màiri an latha sin ceann a' mhaide riut.

IAIN—Am bheil dad de fhios agad am bheil na ministearan leis? Ma tha,

fàgaidh mise air an tom iad. Is 'coma leam ministèirean a bhios air an riaghladh le boireannaich.

CALUM—Na can facl gus am faic thu boireannaich, agus am falt air a ghearradh dhùbhb mu'n cluasan, a' seasamh aig truinnsèar a' bhroid aig dorus na h-eaglais'.

IAIN—Ma thogras tusa faic iad. Chan eil iarraidh agamsa air! An latha a thachras sin gabhaidh mise mo Bhobull air stòl ri taobh an teine, is chan fhaic eaglais tuilleadh mi.

CALUM—"Chan 'eil duine gun dà latha ach duine gun latha idir." Chi mi fhathast thu glé spailpeil a' dol le Màiri, 's a falt air a ghearradh dhith, do'n t-searmoin.

IAIN—Chan fhaic, chan fhaic! Tha dùil agad gur e thu fhéin a th'ann, a bhalaich!

CALUM—Tha mi a' faicinn, Iain, nach 'eil thu fada le na boireannaich idir. De do bheachd air a' "bhobadh" a tha so?

IAIN (*a' leigeadh osann as*)—Tha mi seachd searbh dheth! 'S e a th'ann a sin rud a tha mi-shoigheulach. 'Nuair a bha mise òg 's ann a bhiodh pròis air na caileagan na'm biodh an cuid fuilth cho fada 's gu'n suidheadh iad air, ach latha na truaighe a thuit oirne, 's ann a tha na còtaichean aca an diugh cho goirid is nach urrainn iad suidhe orra! Chaill iad an ciall 's an nàire! Chan iognadh ged a thigeadh breitheanas air an tìr; mar a thig.

CALUM (*a' deanamh snodha-gàire*)—Chan e mhàin sin, ach tha iad a nise a' faighinn faclan fuadain.

IAIN—Nach ann agam a tha fios agus faireachdainn! Nach do phòs Dòmhnall mo mhac nighean á Steòrnabhagh, agus chan 'eil faicail 'na ceann ach feadhainn a fhuair i bho'n "drugaist." Chaidh Màiri an latha roimhe a shealltuinn oirre, agus dé a rinn bean Dhòmhnail ach chuir i na faclan air a' bhòrd 'nuair a sguir i d' a biadh. Tha Màiri bhochd a' fàs goirid 'san fhradharc agus 's ann a sguab i 'steach deud Anna am measg nan rùsg, is thug i an truinnsèir do'n chù. Bha dùil aig A' bheathach bhochd gur e enaimh a bh'ann an deud Anna agus thòisich e 'ga chagnadh. Bha ceannach aig Màiri air a turas. Cha teid i ann a' rithist air luathair.

CALUM (*a' briseadh air a ghàire*)—Tha e 'na thìde dhuin cead an coise a leigeadh leis na boireannaich, is leis a' "bhobadh," is leis na h-eagluisean, agus tarruing a thoirt air rud-eigin is fhiach an t-saothair.

IAIN (*a' faoilteachadh ris a so*)—Ceart gu leòir, ceart gu leòir; thug thu dìreach as mo bheul e.

CALUM—Tha mi a' faicinn iad air mòran de thaghean-geala a thogail 's an àite so o chionn ghoid.

IAIN—Ma, neo-ar-thàing dhoibh air son sin. 'S e a thog na taighean sin am "Bòrd-o-culture."

CALUM—An e am Bòrd sin a thog an taigh mòr so dhiut fhéin, Iain?

IAIN—Chan e idir, a bhalaich Thog mi as mo phòcaid fhéin e. Ach nach ann a thòisich iad a' tilgeadh orm gur ann le airgid an t-sil 's a' bhuntàta a thog mi e.

CALUM—Nach iad a bha dona 'nuair a chuir iad sin as do leth. Cha mhath an comharra orra fhéin e. Bha dùil aca gur e iad fhéin a bh'ann.

IAIN—Ma, a bhalaich ort, tha feadhainn aca sud a leigeadh orra a bhì cho cràbhach is an uair a bhios tu 'nam measg gu'm feum thu a bhì cho modhail is ged a bhiodh tu ri gabhail "Na Gàirm Eifeachdaich" do'n mhinistèir.

CALUM—Tha thu a cheart cho math air bruidhinn 'sa bha thu 'nuair a bha sinn ris an sgadan. Ach, mo chuimhne, de mar a tha Iain Chalum a bha còmhla ruinn 's a' bhàta bliadhna an sgadain mhòir?

IAIN—Chan 'eil ach meadhonach. Ghearr an dotair rud a bha ri fàs ann an sròin Iain an latha roimhe. Chaidh mi suas a' shealltuinn air, ma, agus 's ann a fhuair mi e 'na shuidhe ris an teine, dùinte 'na chòta mòr, agus prìne ban-altruim aige cruaidh teann mu 'shròin, agus eagal air, bha e ag radh, gu'n robh cus "vent" aice.

CALUM—Feumaidh mi a dhòl a shealltuinn air mus falbh mi. Tha mi 'n dòchas nach e na "Nèrbheas" a th'air tòiseachadh air, bròinein. B'e fhéin an làmh air a' mhuir 'nuair a thigeadh a' chùis gu h-aon is gu dhà.

IAIN—Ma, dhuine, sin an rud nach fhaigh thu an diugh—òigridh a tha 'nan làmhann matha air muir.

CALUM—Bha dùil agam gu'n robh muinntir an àite so a strì ris a' mhuir fhathast. An tug thu fhéin suas e?

IAIN—Cha mhòr nach tug; ach chan urrainn dhuirt an diugh am bàta earbsa ris an òigridh.

CALUM—Tha mi a' creidsinn nach lorgadh iad am puta latha ceòthach mar a dheanadh sinne.

IAIN—Dé a tha thu ag radh? Chan 'eil duine air clàr a' bhaile so a steach air deich bliadhna fichead a lorgadh am puta ann an tuba bhùirn.

CALUM—Tha thu cho geur 's a b'abhaist. Chuir thu dìreach ann an aon fhacal e



IAIN—Chan 'eil dad air an aire an diugh ach obair aig rathaidean, rud ris nach sealladh sinne air ar gualainn.

CALUM—Am bheil duine aca a' faighinn airgid bho 'n "Bhureau."

IAIN—Chan 'eil duine. Cha b'ann air son muinntir na tuatha a chaidh sin a chur a mach ann, ach air son an fheadhainn as fhaide a chaidleas ann an Steòrnabhagh.

CALUM—Thubhairt thu a dh'aoon fhacal e, a dhuine chòir. A h-uile dad do Steòrnabhagh 's gun dad idir dhuinne.

IAIN—Tha làn thlde aig Màiri a thighinn. Feumaidh mi a dhol 'nam ruith 'ga h-iarraidh. Na toir guth rithe mu na deacon bhòireann. Tha eagal orm gur iad a mhilleas mo shaorsa aig na h-òrduighean. Cha bhi mi mionaid air an rathad.

CALUM—Greas ort; na bi fada, ma tha.

### INVERNESS NATIONAL MOD COMMITTEE.

On the 13th of January a most successful ceilidh was held in the Masonic Chapter Rooms, Inverness, when there were about 150 people present. The Rev. A. Maclean Daviot presided, and a splendid programme was submitted.

Strathglass was visited by a talented company of artistes from Inverness on the 27th, when a splendid concert was given to a crowded audience, presided over by Mr. Nicholson, schoolmaster, who made an admirable chairman.

### DONATIONS TO INVERNESS MOD.

RECEIVED AT HEAD OFFICE :	
Atholl and Breadalbane Association	£1 0 0
RECEIVED AT INVERNESS :	
Proceeds of Concert at Tomatin, per Mrs MacKintosh and Miss MacKenzie	10 14 0
Proceeds of Concert at Dores, per Miss MacKenzie	1 5 9
Proceeds of Whist Drive at Daviot, per Mrs. MacLean	4 5 0
Proceeds of Dance of Merkinch School, per Mrs. MacKintosh and Miss MacKenzie	14 8 6
Proceeds of Whist Drive at "Drumblair," per Mr. and Mrs. MacKintosh	11 16 0
Proceeds of Ceilidh at Inverness	10 4 8
Proceeds of Concert at Struy, per Mr. R. Nicolson	8 5 0
	£61 18 11

### DONATIONS TO FEILL FUND.

Clan Macrae Association (additional), per Miss Lucy Cameron	£0 3 9
Clan MacIntyre Association	10 10 4
	£10 14 1

### THE LATE MR. ALEXANDER MACDONALD.

In common with Highlanders throughout the world, we deeply regret the death of Mr. Alexander Macdonald, Inverness, known to readers of his fine articles by the pen-name of "Gleannach." Mr. Macdonald was a native of Glenmoriston; and in his early days acquired a deep knowledge of the language, traditions, and music of that romantic glen. He distinguished himself as a writer of verse in the early years of the Mod; and his book of Gaelic verse, "Heather and Moss," published over twenty years ago, placed him among the prominent Gaelic bards of the twentieth century. A successful business man (he was an accountant to profession), he retired from active business a few years ago. Mr. Macdonald was a moving spirit in the Celtic life of the northern capital for a whole generation. Of a bright and genial disposition, he enjoyed the esteem of a wide circle of friends, whose sympathy now goes out to the members of his family.

A few months ago, Mr. Macdonald published a reprint, with an excellent introduction, of Joseph Macdonald's "Complete Theory of the Bagpipe." That was the last considerable piece of work that appeared from his pen.

### COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO REV. DR. G. W. MACKAY.

Our members and readers will be glad to learn that, in recognition of the honour recently conferred upon him by his Alma Mater, St. Andrews University, and of his invaluable work for many years on behalf of the Gaelic cause, it has been arranged to entertain the Rev. Dr. G. W. Mackay, Killin, to dinner. This pleasant function is to take place in Ferguson & Forrester's Restaurant, 36 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, on 15th March, at 7 p.m., when the president of An Comunn, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., will occupy the chair. It is hoped many of our members will avail themselves of the opportunity of honouring one who has proved himself so eminently worthy of having honour paid to him.

Tickets for the dinner, 8s 6d each, may be had from the General Secretary, Mr. Neil Shaw, 114 West Campbell Street, Glasgow, and it is desirable that early application should be made in order to complete arrangements.

SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.  
(An treas Earrann.)

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le  
CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

## IV.

Dh'fhuirich e an Lochlann, agus tha e air aithris gu'n do chathaich e ann am blàr Oslo air taobh Rìgh Inge Haraldsson, ach thréig se e le 'dhaoinne agus mar sin chaill an rìgh am blàr. Anns na bliadhnanach sin dh'fhàgadh Somhairle gu a shaor thoil fhéin mar riaghlair nan Eileana uile gu àm a bhàis, a thachair aig Renfrew an 1164, an nair a thill Gudrod. Bha a mhac Raognhal 'na rìgh thairis air an Eilean Mhanannach agus na h-Innse-Gall ri tuath, am feadh a bha Raognhal, mac piuthar-athar, thairis air na Innse-Gall mu dheas, an déigh 'athar. Mar so bha dà fheardàimh thairis air na h-Eileana, aon diugh 'na Lochlannach, am fear eile 'na Ghàidheal de shinnsearachd Lochlannach.

A nuas fad iomadh bliadhna bha slìochd Shomhairle a toirt ionnsuidh an tràth 's a rithis gu cuing Rìgh Lochlann a thilgeadh bhàr an amhaich, ach aig an àm sin bha gàirden fhada, làidir aig Lochlann 'na cabhlaich; dh'fhaodadh na rìghrean beaga a bha fo chis dh'riugh a dheanamh, ach na'n rachadh e tuilleadh is fada cha robh aig Rìgh Lochlann ach cabhlach long a chur a nall agus bha iad air ball a' strìochdadh. Mar eisimpleir; anna a bhliadhna 1230 chuir Rìgh Haakon Haakonsson a nall cabhlach de dh' aon-soitheadh-deug fo stuiradh Uspakr, a bha roimhe sin thairis air buidheann de na Birkenbeiner.\* Bha e air ainmeachadh 'na rìgh mar Uspakr Haakon, b'e ogha de Shomhairle a bh' ann mar sin bu Ghàidheal e, glé choltach air a ghleidheadh an Lochlann mar bhraigh-gill, agus air gabhail an seirbheis an rìgh. Ann an Cìol Ile thàinig e 'n aghaidh a bhàithrean Dùghall agus Donnachadh agus fear-cinnidh leò d'am b'ainm Somhairle. Ghlac Uspakr iad uile 'nam prìosanach, ghabh e suas Cluaidh, agus shéisd e Dìghneach Bhòid, far an robh e air a leòn gua bàs anns an ionnsuidh. Chaidh Amladh Dubh,

mac eile do Ghudrod a bha air fhuadach às an Eilean Mhanannach, a dheanamh 'na rìgh às a dhéigh. Mu dheireadh 's coltach gu'n d' fhuair na rìghrean Gàidhealach a mach nach robh maith dhaibh breabadh an aghaidh nan dealg, oir tha 'n Sàga ag ràdh gu'n robh dithis dhiubh de shliochd Shomhairle a fuireach an eùrt Rìgh Haakon Haakonsson an 1247, agus eadhoin a dol leis an rìgh sin a champachadh an aghaidh na Suain. Mar a bu treasa dh'fhàs ughdarras Rìgh na h-Alba, agus uidh air n-uidh mar a bu mhò a chomh-dhaighnicheadh an rìoghachd fodha 's ann a bu mho bha a mhiann air na ceannardan móra sin a thoirt fo smachd, agus tha e reusanta ri thuigsinn gu'n dlùthaicheadh iad ri Lochlann, oir bhiodh tuilleadh saorsa aca ann an tomhas fo Lochlann na bhiodh aca fo Chrùn na h-Alba. Beagan 'na dhéigh so thàinig Ruadhri, athair Rìgh Dhùghaill, mar an ceudna do Lochlann, mar theachdaire—thatar an dùil— bho na ceannardan Gàidhealach eile a bha thairis air na h-Eileana gu Rìgh Haakon gu a bhrosnachadh gu cabhlach a chur a null a chum a chòir a dhìon an aghaidh fòirneadh a stigh Rìgh Albainn. A réir an Sàga chuireadh Ruaidhri thairis air long anns a Chhablaich Mhóir aig Rìgh Haakon a dh'fhàg Lochlann anns a bhliadhna 1263 gu dol " siar-thàr-sàile." Bha Eanraic, mac do Dhùghall, a dh'fhuirich a réir coltais an Lochlann, dh'fhaoidte mar bhragh-gill, dhìnbhèan a bh'air ainmeachadh mar aon a bh'air a chur thairis air long eile; thill e do Lochlann an déigh sin, agus rinneadh barran deth le Rìgh Mánus Lagaboter, Mac Rìgh Haakon, a thàinig gu bh' 'na rìgh 'na dhéigh. Bha ceannardan Gàidhealach eile a bha 'rioghachadh air na h-Eileana air an ainmeachadh a chaidh gu Rìgh Haakon g' a chomhnadh aig an àm sin, am measg an robh Aonghas, Dùghall, cheana air ainmeachadh—agus Ailean, an dara mac aig Ruadhri, uile de shliochd Shomhairle; dhiùlt rìgh Eogan (no Iain) dol leò oir cha bhriseadh e 'chùmhnant ri Alastair III. na h-Alba. B'e ceannard eile a dh'aon e féin ris a chabhlach Lochlannach, Murchadh, tuathanach fo Iarla Theàdhaich a taobh tuath Chìmtire, agus mar a bha nàdurra, Mánus, rìgh an Eilean Mhanannaich, mac de dh'Amladh Dubh; bha feachd nach bu ghann aig na ceannardan sin uile fo 'n làimh, agus bhiodh iad 'nan comhnadh làidir do 'n chabhlach mhór Lochlannach, a bha de àireamh ceud is trì-fichead long.

Ri ùine thàinig Blàr nan Learga, a chomh-dhuintur Rìgh Haakon, gu bh' air a mheudachadh le luchd eachdraidh fada thairis air an nì a bha e.

(Ri Leantainn.)

\* Luchd nam brògan beithe. Buidheann ainmeil a chomharraich iad fhéin anns na cogaidhean dutchail, bha brògan de bheithe air a cheud buidheann diùbh, agus trè an treuntas thàinig am far-ainm gu bh' 'na ainm clùiteach.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Chumadh an ceathramh seirbhis Ghàidhlig an Oilthigh Ghlascho air an 19mh la de'n Ghearran. B'e an t-Olla Urr. Eoghan MacFhraing a bu shearmonaiche agus leugh Ceann an Oilthigh fhéin, an Ridire Domhnall MacAlasdair, agus Ruairidh MacFhionghainn, A.M., na h-earrannan as a' Bhìobull. Bha an t-seinn fo chùram Dhomhnaill Mhic-Colla agus Còisir Chiùil Ghàidhlig Eaglais Chalum Chille. Bha coimhthional mòr an làthair agus tha so fhrìthlach dhoibhsan aig am bheil ùgh ann am buadhan searmonachaidh an t-soisgeil. Cho fada agus a fhrithchealas muinntir na Ghàidhlig aig coinn-eamhan de'n t-seòrsa so chan eagal do'n coir féin do do'n cànan. Gu ma fada bhios an t-seirbhis Ghàidhlig a' faighinn àite urramach an Oilthigh Ghlascho.

\* \* \*

Teachers of music are at present employed in the following districts:—Scourie, Mr. Hugh MacLean; Coigeach, Mrs. Gall; Tìree, Mrs. Scott; Salen and Ulva Ferry, Miss Peggy MacDonald; Kintyre, Mr. Donald Ferguson. I regret to record that Mr. John Forrest, who took up duty in his native Islay on 2nd January, is unable to continue owing to a breakdown in health. Provincial Mods have been fixed to take place on the following dates:—Islay, 12th April; Kintyre, 26th and 27th April; Perthshire, 15th June; Lewis, 19th and 20th June; Skye, 3rd and 4th July. The Cowal Provincial Mod will be held at Dunoon about the end of June.

NIALL.

## SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

The Gaelic Summer School, which, as announced in last month's "Gaidheal," is to be held at Broadford during the month of August, will offer an invaluable opportunity to supporters of the Celtic cause of giving that cause fresh impetus and inspiration. There are many ways in which we can help the work of An Comunn, but there is no way in which we can more effectively forward the main object for which it stands than by each and all of us individually learning, using, and cultivating the Gaelic language.

The Education Committee of An Comunn, which is organising this school, has recognised that there are three classes of people whose needs must be provided for at the school: firstly, there are those who have no

knowledge of Gaelic, and who wish to make a beginning; secondly, there are others who have acquired a certain knowledge of the language but need additional teaching to help them to make further progress; and, thirdly, there are people who are already familiar with Gaelic but desire to attain greater proficiency. The beginners, elementaries, and advanced classes will provide teaching for these three sections, and students of the school will, in addition, have the privilege of being able to attend classes in Celtic art and Gaelic singing.

An Comunn owes a great debt of gratitude to the teachers who have come forward to help in this enterprise. Teaching is a very exacting profession, and for those engaged in it to give up a large share of a well-earned and badly-needed summer holiday is indeed no small contribution to the objects that we have at heart. These teachers will best be thanked by a large enrolment of keen and industrious students, who, by regular attendance and steady work for the whole course, will benefit to the full by the opportunity which is theirs, and thus be a credit to their respective instructors.

Students have already begun to enrol, and others who propose to do so will oblige by sending their names and addresses to the secretary. Intending students should mention, when enrolling, which class or classes they wish to join; this would not tie them down if they should be hesitating as between two classes, but would be of assistance to the Committee in estimating the probable numbers for each class.

Let all who take part in the work of this summer school, whether as teachers, learners, organisers, or in any other capacity, feel that they share to a greater or less extent the responsibility for its success. It is to be no mere holiday trip with a little dilettante study thrown in, but a serious attempt to carry out the principles which we profess and make ourselves more thorough-going and effective members of an organisation which stands for the teaching and use of the Gaelic language. An Comunn Gaidhealach could have undertaken no more important work than the organising of this school. Let us see to it that the attempt is justified by the use that we make of the opportunity provided, and the concentrated endeavour of a united party for one month cannot fail to be fruitful of good results.

AUGUSTA LAMONT,  
Secretary.

Knockdow, Toward,  
Argyllshire.

## DH'FHALBH MO RUN BHO NA CHALA.

FROM MISS JOHANN MACINNES' MOD PRIZE COLLECTION.

GLEUS AB NO A.

*Seisid :*

: m . , r | r , d — : l , . , s | s , . , s : m , . , f | s , : l , . d | s : m . d | m

Dh'fhalbh mo rùn bho na chala, Dh'fhalbh mo rùn o hi ù; 'S thog e siùil

: r . , d | l , . , d : m . , r | r , d — : l , . , s | s , . , s ||

ri na crannaibh Dh'fhalbh mo rùn bho na chala

*Rann :*

: m , . , f | s , . , l : d . d | ta . l , s , l : d | r . m : r . , d | l , . , d ||

Dh'fhalbh mo leannan bhuan do Ghrianaig, Air bàta dubh, dionach, daraich.

Dh'fhalbh mo leannan bhuan do Eirinn,  
As do dhéidh cha bhi mi fallain.Chuala mi gu'n d'rinn thu pòsadh  
'S nach d'fheòraich thu mi gu d'bhanais.Cha robh mi àch caileag ghòrach  
'S rinn an seòladair mo mhealladh.Chuala mi gu'n d'fhuair thu céile  
Theid fo bhréid gu tìr na Gainimh.Ach ma fhuair, gu meal thu fhéin i,  
'S gu'n thu bhi an éiginn mara.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

We have not yet received further light upon the query concerning "An Losgunn Lathurnach" in the February issue. If any of our readers can give the information desired, we shall be grateful. We now propose a fresh query, an answer to which would bring to public knowledge some information about a Lochaber poet. The following is the query:—

John Mackintosh, Brae Lochaber, was a poet, and composed a poem in praise of John Macdonald of Garviemore. He was alive about 1780.—Any information about him will oblige.—Mac.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

BUTE.—Mr. James Duncan, jun., in delivering a lecture to An Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoid on 27th January dealt with the poems of Ossian, and referred to the active part which a former Lord Bute took in assisting Mr. James M'Pherson in his mission through the Highlands collecting the great poet's works, a translated copy of which Napoleon carried with him throughout his campaigns. Mr. Duncan, whose subject was "Has the Glory of the Gael Departed?" suggested that the valuable assistance thus given by Lord Bute should be placed on record in the minutes of An Comunn. The lecture was greatly appreciated by the very large audience, who

gave heartily the vote of thanks proposed to Mr. Duncan by Mr. J. C. MacLean. The artistes—Mrs. Stewart, Miss Macmillan, Miss Drummond, Pipe-Major Stewart, and Mr. D. Lamont, accompanist—were thanked, on the motion of Hon. Sheriff Lyle. To a crowded attendance of members of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoid in Tower Street Hall on 3rd February—Captain James Kennedy in the chair—Lieutenant Alexander Thomson, M.C., D.C.M., delivered a lecture on "A Peep Behind a Hebridean Veil." In a racy and highly interesting manner the lecturer carried the audience with him to the far-flung "Eilean an Fhraoich" (Lewis), touching on the ancient customs of its people, traditions, and fairy lore. Pathetic reference was made to the Iolaire disaster at the entrance to Stornoway Harbour, where so many gallant Lewismen perished on their return after the conclusion of hostilities. Apropos to the lecture, Miss Veronica Smart gave a delightful rendering of "Eilean an Fhraoich," for which she was heartily encored. Mrs. Stewart, Port-Bannatyne, also contributed Gaelic songs; Mr. Jack L. Strachan, Scots songs; Mr. J. C. Maclean, Gaelic songs; Pipe-Major P. Stewart, stirring selections on the bagpipes. Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. D. Lamont played the piano accompaniments. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer by Mr. J. C. Maclean, and a similar tribute to the vocalists, piper, and accompanists, on the motion of Hon. Sheriff-Substitute W. Lyle, met with a hearty response, and closed a most successful meeting.

COLONSAY.—Comunn Gaidhealach Chòlasa held one of their fortnightly meetings at Machrins on 3rd February—Mrs. M'Phee, president, was in the chair. The proceedings were opened by Mr. Angus M'Neill, who played bagpipe selections, after which the

whole company joined in singing "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig." Then followed a good programme of songs and stories, contributed by Misses A. B. M'Neil and M. Shaw, Messrs. N. M'Phee, M. M'Allister, D. Clark, M. M'Intyre, A. J. M'Lellan, and D. Munn. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee, and a very enjoyable evening was concluded by the singing of "Oidhche Mhath Leibh."

**CONNEL.**—A ceilidh was held in the Public Hall last Friday—Rev. John MacInnes, St. Oran's, presided. A programme of songs and music, etc., was submitted. Solos were rendered by Miss Mary Campbell; Miss Brown, Barcaldine; Miss Nellie Cameron, Oban; Miss L. Cowan; Mr. Angus MacGregor; Mr. Colin MacIntyre; Mr. C. Campbell, Barcaldine; Mr. J. Harris, Benderloch; and Mr. J. MacDonald. Highland marches were played by Piper Cameron, Barcaldine. Highland reels were danced by Miss Campbell, Miss MacDonald, Miss MacGillivray, and Miss Paterson. Gaelic readings were given by Miss MacKinnon, Ballachulish. The accompaniments were played by Misses Bruce, Murray, and Sinclair. An address was given by Rev. Mr. MacInnes. The usual votes of thanks were moved by Rev. Mr. MacKenzie.

**FORSINARD.**—The local Branch of An Comunn held a ceilidh on 25th January, this being the closing night of Mr. H. MacLean's period of teaching in the district. About 40 members and friends were present, the ladies of the choir providing a sumptuous tea. Thereafter a very enjoyable evening of song and sentiment was spent, the following contributing to the programme—Mr. H. MacLean, Mr. G. MacDonald, and Miss Q. Mackenzie.

**FORTINGALL.**—One of the most pleasant of the many ceilidhs held under the auspices of the Fortingall Branch was held in the Recreation Rooms on Friday evening, 21st January. The President, Mr. Alex. Stewart, Woodend, occupied the chair, and there was present a very large attendance of members and friends. The proceedings commenced with several well-rendered bagpipe selections by Mr. John Fraser, and thereafter Mr. D. A. C. MacAulay delivered a highly interesting and instructive lecture on "Scotland in the Eighteenth Century." Making a comparative study between these early days and the present time, several of the differences observed referred to the poor conditions of agriculture in the earlier period and the consequent result on the social life of the people. The stormy episodes in the history of our country, the rising of the '15 and the '45, were also commented upon, and the underlying cause of clan division was declared to be found more in the physical nature of the country than in any other source. Later in the evening, occasion was made to express to Mr. J. W. Ford, the indefatigable secretary and treasurer of the Branch, an earnest of the appreciation of the members for his services. In making the presentation, which consisted of a beautiful eight-day clock, suitably inscribed, Mr. Stewart, the president, in an eloquent oration, referred to the gentlemanly qualities of their secretary, his devotion to the work of the Branch, and the tact and courtesy that characterised all his efforts. To acknowledge their deep sense of indebtedness for his invaluable services so willingly given, they experienced much pleasure in presenting him with this beautiful and useful article of household furniture, and they hoped that it would number for him and his family many years of happiness and not a second of sadness. Suitable acknowledgment was made by Mr. Ford, and thereafter the company

was entertained to a hearty tea, kindly provided by Mrs. Ford. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very happy evening to a close.

**INVERARAY.**—The fortnightly meeting of the Inveraray Branch was held in St. Malieu Hall on the evening of Thursday, 26th January. Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, vice-president, presided over a large turnout of members. The attendances at these meetings and the enthusiasm which prevails among the members is convincing proof of how necessary it is to have the services of a Gaelic-speaking minister in the parish. The programme was opened by selections on the piob mhor, discoursed by Pipe-Major Duncan MacArthur. Piano selections were contributed by Mrs. P. C. Maitland, and a Gaelic reading by Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre. Songs (Gaelic and English) were finely rendered by Mrs. John Buchanan, Miss Cathie MacArthur, Mr. Duncan MacLachan, County Buildings; Miss Janet MacVicar, Mrs. Stewart, The Gardens; Mrs. Peter MacIntyre, Mrs. Malcolm Dunn, and Mrs. A. J. MacIntyre. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. P. C. Maitland. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee, and a pleasant evening was spent. A circular from An Comunn Gaidhealach advocating the claims of Gaelic being taught in Argyllshire schools, and bearing, among other well-known names, that of Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, was circulated among those present.

**INVERGARRY.**—The fourth ceilidh of the current winter's series arranged by the Invergarry Branch drew a large audience from all parts of the surrounding glens to the Coronation Hall, Invergarry. The programme, as usual, was an excellent one, and each item was listened to with keen appreciation, but before calling on Mr. Duncan Kennedy to open it with bagpipe music, the Chairman (Mr. Angus Macphee, Bridge of Oich) mentioned that as a dance was to follow their programme that evening was of necessity rather less than those presented at previous ceilidhs. He then called on Mrs. Grant, Tomdoun (secretary), to read the minutes of last meeting, which were duly approved. At the conclusion of a highly successful and enjoyable evening, Rev. James Hill, parish minister, paid a deep tribute of respect to the late Earl Haig. Before clearing the hall in preparation for the dance, the chairman said he was sure they were all very glad to know that their President (Mr. John Macgillivray) was making a good recovery, and they hoped to have him in his usual place at their next ceilidh on 2nd March.

**KINGSUSSIE.**—A well-attended meeting was held in the United Free Church Hall on Friday evening, 20th January, with a view to forming a local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Rev. D. Macfarlane presided. Opening the meeting in a short Gaelic address, the chairman spoke of the necessity for upholding the language and traditions of the Highlands. Although in a measure decay had set in, it was for them to keep the language alive in their midst, and it was to devise ways and means for doing so that they were met that evening. They were there also because of their Gaelic descent and heredity. Many of them deplored the fact that the language was being pushed further West, but still there was a great deal of it left in Badenoch. After all, a nation was vocal through its language, and when it expressed itself through its music and language. The Gaelic language expressed the soul of the Highland people. (Applause.) On the call of the chairman, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld



explained the objects of An Comunn Gaidhealach, an organisation which has now upwards of 3000 members. They could not exist without a language, and for 34 years An Comunn had endeavoured to keep interest in the movement alive. In Inverness, where the Mod was to be held next September, they were doing big things, and she would like to think that as a result of the classes they proposed to form a certain number of Badenoch people would raise their voices at the Mod. By calling themselves the Braigh Bhaideanach Branch, they would be much stronger. At Laggan and Newtonmore a gratifying number had enrolled as ordinary members, and in connection with the class a teacher appointed by An Comunn would shortly be in the district, and she hoped the various classes would be well supported. (Applause.) Mr. C. B. Macpherson of Balavil was appointed president of the Kinnessie Branch, and Rev. D. Macfarlane, Colonel E. Campbell, and Bailie Campbell were appointed vice-presidents. The joint secretaries are Mrs. Macnaughton and Miss Mackay, and Mr. D. Borland undertook to act as treasurer. A large and representative committee of ladies and gentlemen was also appointed. Arrangements were made for a ceilidh to be held in the Parish Church Hall on 2nd March. A vote of thanks to Mr. Macfarlane for presiding was proposed by Mr. Borland.

**KILMALLIE.**—At the monthly meeting of the Branch, Mr. MacLeod, who presided, was accompanied by Rev. Mr. Crawford, Messrs. Weir, Annat, and MacMillan, Corrybeg. Mr. Macmillan in racy Gaelic related the traditional origin of the Lochiel Arms. Songs were sung by Messrs Bell, D. MacLean, Cameron, Thomson, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Wilson, and school children. Violin selections were given by Messrs. Wilson and G. MacLean, while Mrs. Wilson presided at the piano. At intervals, Rev. Mr. Crawford recalled a reminiscence of his Australian tour; Mr. Carr recited "Miann Mhic Chumhail air a Chu," from "Leabhar na Feinne"; and Dr. MacIver read an original dramatic sketch, "Angus MacDonald: An Episode of the Great War."

**LAGGAN.**—The third ceilidh of the Laggan Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Old School, Balgown, on Thursday, 9th February. Although the weather was unfavourable, there was a good attendance. Rev. N. Ross, vice-president of the branch, presided. After his introductory remarks, the chairman recited in a spirited manner the poem—"Am faigh a' Ghàidhlig bas?" Fervent Gaels would reply—"Cha'n fhaigh." Gaelic songs were rendered by Mr. A. Gillies, Miss Ross, Mr. A. Macdonald, and Miss Gillies, while English songs were sung by Mrs. Mackintosh, Messrs. J. Hamilton, L. Mackintosh, A. More, Miss Gillies, and Miss Ross. Miss Macdonald's reading from the old "Gael" was, as usual, greatly enjoyed by the audience. Mr. Macgregor, Coul, played some stirring bagpipe music, and Messrs. Macpherson, Laggan Bridge, were received with much appreciation in their violin selections. A happy feature of the proceedings was, that apart from the Gaelic songs and readings, the songs contributed by the English vocalists were in the main in keeping with the spirit of the gathering. Thus the best traditions of the ceilidh will be fostered and maintained.

**LEWIS.**—The third ceilidh under the auspices of the Branch was held in the Masonic Hall, Stornoway, on Friday. There was a good attendance, a gratifying feature of which was the number of country members present. The arrangements for the

evening's entertainment were in the hands of the President, Mr. Duncan Macdonald, Sandwick, ably seconded by Mr. Angus Macdonald. After a short Gaelic address by the President, tea was dispensed, and thereafter an interesting programme was carried through. At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. A. R. Murray expressed the thanks of the audience to Mr. Macdonald and the various artistes who had contributed to such a happy evening's entertainment. With so varied a programme everything seemed to please, and we were glad to note the enthusiastic appreciation of the various instrumental items, and we hope to hear Mr. Macaskill with his mouth organ soon again. The Sandwick girls seemed supremely happy in their winking songs—many grown-ups must have envied them their total lack of self-consciousness.

**NEWTONMORE.**—The second ceilidh of the Newtonmore Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Lesser Hall on Monday evening, 30th January, when the room was crowded. In the absence of Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Mr. Thomas Grant occupied the chair, and said he was very pleased to see such a large attendance present, which augured well for the movement. They had already a very flourishing branch in Laggan, and he hoped that ere long the same could be said of themselves. He wished to know if they desired a monthly or a fortnightly ceilidh, and on a vote being taken a large majority favoured the latter proposal. Mr. Grant concluded by inviting new members to join the branch. A large number enrolled. An excellent evening's entertainment was then commenced, Gaelic songs being given by Miss Annie Macdonald, Messrs. James Cameron, John Anderson, Angus Maclean, John Wright, John Macaulay, and Malcolm Macdonald. Mrs. Kennedy and Miss M. Stevens gave English songs, while Mr. A. Curley gave appropriate violin selections. After a much appreciated cup of tea, Mr. D. Guthrie gave a Gaelic address, in which he explained how the language was upheld in Canada, and the States even by people who had never seen Scotland. Mr. Guthrie received a very attentive hearing, his remarks being most interesting. Before the company dispersed a number of Gaelic choruses were sung. The classes, which are held every Wednesday evening, are under the tuition at present of Mr. Angus Maclean, Tor Alvie, who evinces a special interest in the movement and has an excellent knowledge of the language. The second class meeting was held last Wednesday night, when there was a good attendance.

The fortnightly ceilidh of the Newtonmore Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Lesser Hall on Monday evening, 13th February. There was a large attendance, many being unable to gain admittance. New members were enrolled. In the absence of Miss Farquharson and Mr. T. Grant, vice-presidents of the branch, the chair was ably occupied by Mr. Angus Maclean, who, after a few well-chosen Gaelic remarks, called on the audience to open the proceedings with the rallying song of An Comunn—"Sua Leas a' Ghàidhlig." An excellent programme was gone through, in which the following were the principal artistes:—Gaelic songs—Messrs. John Anderson, Malcolm Macdonald, Fwen Macdonald, John Wright, and Miss Annie Macdonald; English songs—Mrs. Kennedy, Miss L. Macdonald, and Mr. Geo. Wilson. Violin selections were given by Mr. Alistair Curley, a Gaelic reading by Mr. Angus Maclean, and a few Gaelic stories by Mr. H. Macdonald. All the items were loudly applauded.

During an interval, tea was handed round. A very pleasant evening was spent. At a business meeting held afterwards the hope was expressed that more accommodation might be available by next meeting, and it was decided to hold future ceilidhs on Wednesdays instead of Mondays. The School Management Committee have granted the use of one of the rooms in the school for classes.

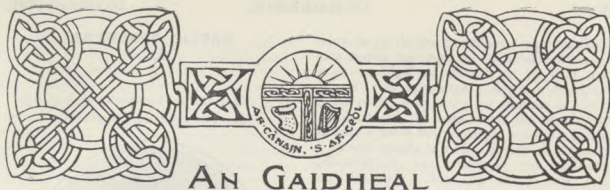
PORT ELLEN.—A ceilidh was held in the Memorial Hall on Friday, 20th January. Mr. M'Dougall, J.P., president of the Branch, occupied the chair. The night being fine, a very large audience filled the hall and enjoyed a lengthy programme of Gaelic so'os, trios, choir pieces, and instrumental music. Mr. M'Dougall, the chairman, gave a fine rendering of the song, "S toigh leam fhéin a' Ghàidhlig," and in response to a rapturous encore sang "Fàillill-6 agus hó-ro éile." Other members taking part in the programme were Mrs. Carmichael and the Misses K. Orr, Betty M'Gilvray, Annie M'Lachlan, C. M'Gibbon, W. Lambourne; the three juniors, Misses Margaret Carmichael, Katie M'Eachern, and Chrissie M'Gibbon; Messrs I. M'Kerrell, D. M'Dougall, Wm. White, P. Campbell, A. M'Arthur, and Islay M'Eachern; pianoforte and violin selections—Mrs Cameron and Mr J. Gordon. The usual votes of thanks brought a very successful evening to a close.

ULLAPOL.—The appointment by An Comunn Gàidhealach of Mrs Gall, Inverness, to the post of teacher of music in Lochbroom has met with a most hearty response from the young people of Ullapool. On the day after her arrival, two strong classes were enrolled—thirty juniors and fifty seniors. To those interested in the cause, the enthusiasm shown by the young ladies and young men of Ullapool is very gratifying. All are anxious that An Comunn may give sufficient tuition to enable them to become competitors at the National Mod at Inverness next September. Mrs. Gall has proved herself a skilful and popular teacher, and An Comunn Gàidhealach, whose influence is now happily being felt in the remotest villages in the Highlands, deserves to be congratulated for its educative work. The president of the local branch of An Comunn is Mr. Cameron, Hill Cottage, and the secretary is the Rev. W. U. Macnab, M.A., The Manse, Ullapool, to either of whom good-willed exiles from Lochbroom may send contributions to help the Branch to put forward competitors at the next National Mod. Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, visited Ullapool on 29th January, and addressed a large audience in the Drill Hall on the occasion of the Singing Class concert. Arrangements are now complete for the holding of the Lochbroom and Gairlach Provincial Mod which has been provisionally fixed for Friday, 13th July.

VALE OF LEVEN.—Rev. Kenneth MacLennan, B.D., was the lecturer at the January meeting of the Vale of Leven Branch of the Highland Society. Mr. Archibald MacGregor presided over a large attendance of members. Mr. MacLennan is a member of the Branch, and always attends the monthly meeting. He began his review of Gaelic literature by pointing out that readers of Scott, Hogg, George Macdonald, Fiona MacLeod, and others, knew how they had caught the spirit of Gaelic poetry, and how subtle is the charm which is given to much of their verse through the influence of Celtic ideas and methods of expression. Scott in particular had found inspiration for his verse in his history, tradition, customs, and beliefs of the

Scottish Gael. A few verses were read from "The Coronach" and "Caidil gu lo." The latter is a lullaby to an infant chief. Reference was made to the earliest collections of Gaelic poetry representing the works of a large number of Gaelic bards. These may be represented by the Book of the Dean of Lismore. This collection was made in the early part of the sixteenth century, and in it are found the earliest M.S. Ossianic poems in Scotland. They are set down in phonetic spelling, and were garnered from recitation, many of them, probably, having been passed on from one "seanachaidh" to another for hundreds of years. During the evening touching reference was made to the late Mr. Hector Macdonald, Mill of Haldane, who died earlier in the week, and who was one of the small band which formed the Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn. Tea was served as usual at the interval, and the evening closed with the singing of "Oidhche mhath Leihh."

WICK.—Wick Parish Church Hall was filled to overflowing on Wednesday evening, 1st February, by an audience eager to witness the reproduction on the stage of a Highland ceilidh as near the actual thing as possible. Many were unable to gain admission and quite a number were content with standing room all through the performance, which proved highly successful in every respect and was received with great enthusiasm. Mr. Millar, president of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach (under whose auspices the ceilidh was organised and carried out), presided, and in a short introductory statement explained the nature of the ceilidh, a large part of which, in song, conversation, and story, was in the Gaelic language. The ceilidh was supposed to take place on the evening of Hogmanay in a little thatched cottage in one of the western isles, and the platform was converted into a representation of the homely kitchen in which it was held. This work had been carried out with great attention to detail by Mr. A. Macdonald, secretary of the Branch. Tea and fruit were served to the audience during an interval. The ceilidh was then continued with the Gaelic choruses, "Horo mo nighean donn bhoidheach" and "Mac og an Iarla Ruaidh." (Here the boys entered and recited their Hogmanay rhymes in English, receiving the same substantial guerdons for their entertainment as before.) Miss Janet Henderson (Catriona) followed with the Gaelic song and chorus, "Buan na Ranich." Mr. David Mackay next sang "An t-Eilean Muileach" and "The March of the Cameron Men" (in Gaelic), and—responding again to the call of the host—Mr. Donald Mackay told more stories. Eachainn himself also sang Gaelic songs, and Mr. Macdonald as Calum Crubach struck up a spirited strathspey and reel on the melodeon, in the midst of which Eachainn and Rob Donn sprang to their feet and danced several steps of the Highland Fling, greatly to the delight of the audience. Mr. Budge sang a comic Highland song, after which "the mirth and fun grew fast and furious" as the whole company joined in the choruses, "Coille Chaoil" and "Am Muilean Dubh," led with great spirit by Eachainn and the Bard. After the parting song and chorus, "Oidhche mhath leihh," had been vigorously sung the actual ceilidh concluded and the guests departed, each one receiving a cordial parting greeting with many requests in Gaelic to come again soon; and the lamp having been blown out the host and hostess "retired" for the night, amid the enthusiastic plaudits of the audience.



# AN GAIDHEAL

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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An Giblein, 1928.*

[Earrann 7

## NA H-UGH DARRAIS AGUS NA CEAIRDEAN.

B' àbhaist eadar-dhealachadh a bhi cadar dreuchd is ceaird. Tha *dreuchd* a' ciallachadh na h-oibreach a tha cubhaidh do phearsa eaglais no do lighiche, do luchd lagha no luchd teagaisg. Chuir na h-Ughdarrais a mach mòran airgid air cuid de na dreuchdan sin. Cha tug iad a bheag airson mhinistirean, oir tha iadsan tuilleadh is gann aig a' cheart am. Tha foghlumaichean an leigheis a' deanamh mar dh' fhaodas iad, agus tha sinn de 'n bheachd nach eil sluagh na rìoghachd a' giùlan uallaich na dreuchd usail so cho toileach is a tha i a' toilltinn. Tha an luchd lagha a' cothachadh air an son fhéin mar is fhearr is urrainn iad. Chan fhaigh iadsan ach glé bheag a sporan coitichionn na rìoghachd airson an cuid-eachadh a' tabhairt a mach an cuid foghlum. Ach is ann aig luchd teagaisg na sgoiltean a tha latha an àigh, a thaobh cothrom is cul-taice ri linn dhaibh a bhi ag ionnsachadh an dreuchd. A chionn gur obair chinneachail foghlum na h-òigridh, is gnòthuch cinneachail a bhi a' foghlum an luchd teagasg mar an ceudna. Is ann air dreuchd an teagasg a tha suim mhòr airgid a' dol aig an am. Chaidh an ni so os cionn riaghailt gu buileach. Tha mìltean de luchd teagasg sgoile anns an dùthaich an duigh, do nach urrainn àite fhaotainn. Fhuair iad sin an cuid uallaichidh air chosgais na rìoghachd. Chaidh an t-airgid a dhòrtadh a mach orra leis na h-Ughdarrais. Thoir fainear an cion toineisg. Cha robh feum sam bith air iomadh mìle pund sasunnach a chur a mach a' foghlum mhiltean de luchd teagasg agus gun obair ann dhaibh! Ach

sud agad gliocas nan Ughdarras, agus cò dh' fhaodas an tilleadh, mur till an luchd taghaidh iad.

Ach air an laimh eile, ciamar tha ag éirigh do na ceairdean. Leis an fhacl *ceaird* tha sinn a' tuigsinn obair gobhainn no greusaiche, obair saoir no clachair—na ceairdean sin nach deanar gnòthuch as an aonais. Chan eil ann ach aimeadas a bhi an dùil gun cum ar dùthaich a ceann os cionn uisge, ma leigear na ceairdean sin air dearmad. Ach an duigh ciamar tha cor an ghnothuch so? Da rìreadh chan eil ach truagh gu leòr. Faodaidh tu astar latha chur tharad gun foghlumaiche-erde fhaicinn air an dùthaich. Thig mi gu ceardach an ghobhainn. Tha an gobha féin a' fàs car crom anns na guaillean le cruas na h-oibreach agus uallach nam bliadhnaichean—ach chan eil gobha òg ri fhaicinn. Bàsaichidh an cheaird so an iomadh sgrì, an uair a dh' eugas an seann gobha. Agus dh' éirich an cleas ceudna do na ceairdean eile. Tha iad uile a' sìor dhol as. Mu ruith fichead bliadhna is e luchd ealadhain ghallda a dh' fheumas dol do ghlinn na Gàidhealtachd, a dheanamh obair sam bith a dh' iarras alt fir-erde. Tha sin a' ciallachadh gur bheil an dùthaich a' dol fàs agus a' dol bàs.

Tha sinn de 'n bheachd nach eil foghlum an latha an duigh a' teagasg do 'n òigridh cìod e cho urramach 's a tha saothar na làmh, no obair chumanta mar theirear. Chan fhiach a nis ach dreuchd anns nach eil a bheag de shalach mheuran. Leis na bheileas a' dòrtadh a mach de airgid air foghlum na h-òigridh tha iad air leth àilgheasach—chan fhiù an cheaird chumanta ris a' robh an athair agus an seanair.

Gheibhear an t-àilgheas neonach so an cuid aig nach eanchainn no buadhan airson aon sam bith de na dreuchdan foghlumaite a thabhairt a mach. Agus aon uair 's gun gabh an smuain so greim orra, chan eil e furasda an cur air an ais a dh' ionnsuchadh ceaird anns am faigheadh iad obair a bhiodh freagarrach dhaibh. Is i a' cheist ciamar a ghabhas am mearachd so ceartachadh. Tha sin soirbh gu leòr. Gabhadh na h-Ughdarrais sealladh nas farsuinge air na tha air a chiallachadh le foghlum—gu bheil an làmh cho feumach air foghlum ris a' cheann. Agus tha ar dùthaich an tràth so fada nas feumaiche air luchd ealadhain na tha sinn air luchd leughaidh. Ma théid na ceairdean am mugha théid ar dùthaich a dholaidh gu tur, agus sin le cion foghlum—seadh foghlum nan ealadhain. Thugadh na h-Ughdarrais so fairear mata. Is e an comhnuidh na daoine eolach, ealanta, gnìomhach, a gheibh ceannas an obair làmh. Tha e ceart gu leòr gun tugta na h-uile cothrom gus na dreuchan a bhuidhinn, do 'n fheadhain sin de 'n òigridh aig a bheil tàlainnt d'a réir; ach airson na mór-chuid, aig nach eil ach comasan cuibheasach, biodh obair-làmh 'g a teagasg; agus na biodh an cinn air an ìonadh le gnothuichean arda air nach urrainn dhaibh ruigheadh.

Ma tha so fìor aig baile, tha e fìor gu h-àraidh an uair a théid muinntir òg a null thar chuantan. Tha gach dearmad a dh'ainmich sinn, maille ri dearmad no dhà eile, ag aobhrachadh gu bheil ar glinn féin a' dol fàs; an sluagh a' deanamh imrich do 'n bhaile mhór. Chan urrainn am baile mór an cumail fada. Feumaidh iad an aghaidh a thabhairt air dùthaich chéin. Is ann mar sin a tha a' tachairt gach seachdain is mìos de 'n bhliadhna. Is ann an uair sin a bhiodh ceaird feumail. Is ann an sin a chite cho luachmhor 's a tha foghlum làmh. Agus air an laimh eile ma tha na glinn ann ar dùthaich ri bhì idir air an àiteachadh tha foghlum nan ealadhain riatanach. Cha ruigear a leas ainmeachadh cia cho dlùth 's a tha beatha na Gàidhlig an crochadh air tuath bhì anns na glinn. Ach thall no bhos, an Alba no an tìr chéin, tha cleachdadh nan ceairdean iomchuidh, agus bu chòr an chùis a chumail gu dian fa chomhair Ughdarrais an fhoghlum.

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#### “ VOICES FROM THE HILLS.”

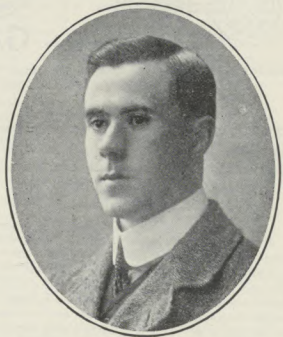
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## Gaelic Teachers.

V.

Mr. JAMES THOMSON, M.A.,  
Bayble School, Stornoway.



Mr. Thomson is a native of Lewis. Entering the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, as a bursar, he studied Gaelic at the feet of Mr. Murdo Morrison, M.A., now Director of Education for Inverness-shire, and of Mr. A. L. Macdonald, M.A., now one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, both of whom were inspiring teachers. Mr. Thomson continued the study of the language at the University of Aberdeen under Mr. John Fraser, now Professor of Celtic at Oxford. Graduating in 1910, Mr. Thomson taught for two years in the South of Scotland, and then succeeded Mr. A. L. Macdonald as Gaelic Master in the Nicolson Institute. He continued in charge of that subject till he was appointed to his present post in 1922. During his period in the Nicolson Institute, except when on war service, Mr. Thomson presented pupils for the Intermediate Certificate in Gaelic, and from 1916 till 1922 he presented pupils successfully for the Higher Grade Leaving Certificate in Gaelic. It is believed that it was largely due to persistent pressure from the Nicolson Institute that the Education Department were moved to set a Higher Grade paper in Gaelic in the Leaving Certificate examination.



Gaelic forms one of the principal subjects of study in Mr. Thomson's present school. All pupils passing through the school receive some instruction in their mother tongue.

Mr. Thomson was the first teacher in Scotland to receive a Chapter V. qualification in Gaelic. He was president for two terms of the Lewis Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and was one of those specially responsible for its formation and for the promotion of the annual Gaelic Mòd in Stormoway. The majority of the teachers who at present teach Gaelic in the Lewis schools have been among his pupils.

In addition to his activity and success as a teacher of the language, Mr. Thomson has shown great capacity as a Gaelic poet. His verse is marked by fine thought and melodious diction. He was crowned with the bardic chaplet at the Mod of 1923. His Gaelic prose possesses a rare charm. It is not too much to say that he is a stylist in this department. His contributions in prose have been universally admired. The graceful style is not too evident in modern Gaelic prose. But Mr. Thomson writes in a literary form which reflects an easy familiarity with the best in Gaelic prose, together with a subtle quality belonging to himself, a poetic touch which imparts a charm without diminishing the force of his words. A teacher of Gaelic possessing these gifts will impress his pupils in such a way that Gaelic literature becomes to them a source of joy and of true culture.

◆

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le

CATRIONA N. GERAND.

V.

Tha Mgr. Raibeart Bremner, M.A. a rannsuich gu mion a stigh 's chùis o na h-uile sgrìobhadh eadar-dhealaichte a ghabhadh faotainn, ann an òraid thaitneach a thug e 'n la-thair bhuill Chomunn Fheallsanaich Ghlasachu o chionn chòig-bliadhna-deug, a toirt mar ùghdarras eachdraiche Albannach, MacDhonnachaidh 'n a obair "Scotland Under Her Early Kings," far am bheil e ag ràdh "frith-bhlàr nan Learga, oir blàr cha ghabhar a ràdh ris." Tha 'm beachd so a réir nan cùisean a thàinig

'n a dhéigh. A réir an Sàga, am feadh a bha Rìgh Haakon aig Muile air a thurus dhachaidh, thug e mar chuibhrionn do Rìgh Dùghall agus a bhràthair Ailein na fearainn a bhuneadh do rìgh Iain roimh sin; do Ruadhri thug e Bòd, agus do Mhurchadh Arran; cha robh sin coltach ri gnìomhan rìgh a teicheadh dhachaidh an déigh call tubaisteach, mar a tha muinntir gu tric 'g a ghairm. Tha ni eile a tha Mgr. Bremner a toirt am follais do nach 'eil muinntir a toirt an aire gu bitheanta, 's e sin, nach do chuir Blàr nan Learga stad air riaghladh nan Lochlannach thairis air na h-Eileana; ged nach 'eil teagamh nach do luathaich bàs Haakon anns na h-Arcaibh air a rathad dhachaidh sin, agus mar an ceudna strìochdadh Mhànuis rìgh an Eilean Mhanannaich a bhliadhna 'na dhéigh sin.

Bha Rìgh Mánus Lagaboter tur eadar-dhealaichte an nàdur bhò 'athair, bha e gaolach air sìth, mar a thuigear o a shloinne, "fear-ceartachaidh an Lagha." Thuigeadh e nach biodh e comasach do Lochlann aig a chrich an déigh uile greim a ghleidheadh air na fearainn céin ud fo riaghladh gramail Rìgh Alastair, a bha gun stad a fàs na bu treasa. Agus trid ùine bhiodh cabhlach aig Albainn a chuireadh gu dùlan uachdranachd Lochlainn anns na h-uisgeachan sin; b'fheudar sin a chur 's a chumntas, oir bha e furasda ri fhàicinn nach robh e 'n comas nan Lochlannach na h-àitean fad uapa a ghleidheadh fodhpa gus a nis mur bhith barrachd an loingeis air a mhuir.

Feumaidh, mar an ceudna, gu'n d'riinn cabhlach mòr Rìgh Haakon drughadh trom air inntinn nan Albannach, gu'n do leigeadh ris dhaibh gu'n robh Lochlann àrd an inbhe mar chumhachd-mara; air neo cha saoilheadh duine gu'n biodh Rìgh Alastair cho deònach gu socrachadh mu thoirt a suas nan Eilean, nan laidhe, mar a dh'fhaodar a ràdh, dreach taobh a mach a dhorus, agus cheana ann an tomhas mòr air strìochdadh dha.

'S e 'thàinig às a ghnòthuch gu'n do choinnich Alastair agus Mánus Lagaboter aig Peairt, 's a bhliadhna 1266 far an do chòrdadh an t-Eilean Manannach agus na h-Innse-Gall a thoirt suas do Rìgh Alastair air dha a ghealltainn 4000 merk a phàigheadh an ceathair bliadhna, 1000 merk 's a bhliadhna, agus 100 merk gu suthainn, a cheud phàigheadh ri bhì air a dheanamh an Ard-Eaglais nan Arcaibh, am Baile-na-h-Eaglais (Kirkwall), roimh 'n cheud latha do mhios deireannach an t-Samhraidh. Bha e air a shocrachadh na b'fhaide gu'n robh ann fear a bhriseadh an còrdadh so ri 10,000 merk a phàigheadh aig òrdugh an Ard-



Easbuigeach, a bha 'n a bhreitheamh air gach taobh. Bha Eanraic, mac Mhànuis, agus Mairearad, nighean Alastair, air an cur fo cheangal pòsaidh. Cha robh gnothuch ri ghabhail ri uachdranach Eaglais Lochlainn, bha còirean Ard-Easbuig Lochlannach Nidàros ri bhi air an cumail suas anns an Eilean Mhanannaich agus anns na h-Innse-Gall; cha d'fhàinig dealachadh a thaobh a chòrdaidh so gu ceud bliadhna an dèigh so. Tha Easbuig na h-Eaglais Shasunnaich a tha thairis orra aig an là-diugh fo 'n tiodal, Bishop of Sodor and Man—'s e sin, Easbuig nan Innse-Gall agus an Eilean Mhanannaich—a toirt 'n ar cuimhne an sean àm an uair a bha an t-Ard-Easbuig aig Nidàros thairis air na fearainn siar sin.

Bha a reir coltais a chis bhliadhnaid do Lochlann air a dhearnad air uairibh an ceann ghràs, oir tha sin a faighinn Rìgh Haakon V., agus esan a thàinig na dhéigh, Eanraic a Pomerània a reusanachadh mu'n chùis; an uair a thàinig a cheud fhear dhiubh gus an rìgh-chathair thagair e gu'n rachadh an t-suim a phàigheadh gun dàil air neo gu'n gabhadh e còir as ùr air na h-Innse-Gall; is coltach gu'n deachaidh e cho fada agus gu'n do ghuidh e air Rìgh Shasunn a chuid-eachadh gus na h-Albannaich fhuadachadh às na h-Eileana. Bha e so beò ri àm Bhruis, agus thàinig iad gu a chéile a thuigsinn anns a bhliadhna 1312, an uair a dhaighinn Rìgh Raibeart Còrdadh Pheairt as ùr air dha na teachdairean Lochlannach a choinneachadh an Inbhirnis. So mar a thòisich an Còrdadh so:—

“Air dhuinn tighinn an ceann a chéile an Inbhirnis an Albainn air an Dì-dòmnaich an dèigh féill nan Abstol Simon is Judas, tha am Prionns Ard an Triath Haquin V. tre ghràs Dé, Rìgh uasal Lochlainn, trid a Theachdairean soluinte, Tighearna Bernerus agus Berkerey, Barran, agus an duine cùramach an Tighearn Ivàrus, Ard-fhear de chléir Eaglais Bhergen agus nan Arcaibh air an aon taobh, agus air an taobh eile 'n a phearsa fhéin am Prionnsa mór, an Triath Raibeart, trid a ghrais cheudna, Rìgh uasal nan Albannach, etc.”

Rinn Rìgh Eanraic o Phomerània, a thàinig as déigh Rìgh Haakon V. tuilleadh na aon uair tagradh ri Seumas II. Rìgh Albainn gu'm pàigheadh e a chis, ach an diomhain. Ann an cùrsa nam bliadhna ruig an dà chuid suim na cise, agus mar an ceudna na bu chòir a phàigheadh mar pheanas air a Chòrdadh a bhriseadh, àirde mhóir, agus air do Rìgh Christian I. tighinn

air an rìgh-chathair mhuigh e arm a thogail 'n a aghaidh. Ach thairg Rìgh na Fràinge, Teàrlach VII. a bhi 'n a eadar-mheadhonair, agus air dhaibh coinneachadh aig Bourges 's a bhliadhna 1460, chuir e fa'n comhair gu'm pòsadh nighean Christian mac Sheumais—a thàinig an dèigh 'athar mar Seumas III. A chum ruigheadh air an urram so, thug an Rìgh Lochlannach a suas gu buileach a chòir an dà chuid air a chis agus na bha ri phàigheadh mar pheanas, cha mhò bhiodh sùil aige ri peighinn 's an àm ri teachd, agus bha e ri 10,000 bonn gulden de thochradh a thoirt mar luach-pheighinn! Bha'n ceangal-pòsaidh air a sgrìobhadh an Beirbhe (Copenhagen) ann an 1468, agus an tochradh ri bhi 60,000 gulden, d'an robh 10,000 ri bhi air an toirt 'n an airgid ullamh, agus na h-Arcaibh air an toirt nan geall car aimsir. Thàinig cabhlach a nall (á Albainn) an ath bhliadhna, ach cha robh an teachd-a-steach ro ghealltanach oir cha ghabhadh tuilleadh na 2000 gulden a sgrìobadh ri cheile an airgid ullamh, mar sin cha robh aca ach na h-Eileana Seoltanach a chur an geall gus an còrr 8000 a dheanadh a suas! Air an dòigh so chaill Lochlann am fuigheal mu dheireadh d' a seilbh “Siar-thàr-sàile” gun a bhuannachd a bu lugha fhactainn m'a choinneamh do 'n dùthaich sin. Cha robh an gnothuch air a chur an làthair Comhairle na Stàide aig Lochlann (Tuathach, Norway) a bha aig an àm so air tighinn fo'n aon rìgh ri Lochlann ri Deas (Denmark) leis an Rìgh a fuireach am Beirbhe. Nach bu tàmailteach a chrìoch so do'n chuid so de dh'eachdraidh Lochlainn (Norway) agus nach b'anabarrach an staid de anfhannachd gus an tugadh an dùthaich sin trid an Aonachaidh ri Lochlann ri Deas an 1450 an uair a bheachdaichas duin' air an t-sealladh chumhachdach, mhòrail a nochdadh le cabhlach Rìgh Haakon an cuaintean Albainn ach gann dà cheud bliadhna roimhe sin! Aig an àm sin bha Lochlann air a cunnantas 'n a tìr chumhachdaich. Dhearbhadh gu'm b'e a h-Aonadh ri Denmark driadh-fhortan a bu mhò a thachair riann do'n dùthaich, a marsainn fad thrl cheud thrl-féachd 's a ceithir bliadhna, gus an do dhùisg Norway suas an 1814 agus nach b'urrainn di cur a suas leis na b'fhaid.

(Ri Leantainn.)

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CLARSAOCH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Good method. Delta: this office.

## CEILIDH NAN GAIDHEAL, TORONTO.

The newly established Gaelic Society of Toronto, *Ceilidh nan Gaidheal*, held a supper and dance, to which Highlanders and Islanders gathered in honour of the occasion. The musical part of the programme was opened with "*Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig*," led by President Finlay MacLeod, followed by bagpipe selections by Pipe-Major MacPherson, who won distinctions at the Banff Highland Gathering, Alberta. Later in the evening, the "chieftain of the pudding race" was piped in with appropriate honours, and received a warm and hearty reception from all.

Among the speakers were Mr. MacDonald, whose Gaelic address briefly described the efforts of President MacLeod and his committee to attract the support of Gaelic-speaking natives, to encourage the use of Gaelic among their members; and coupled his toast for the "Gaelic" with prosperity for the Society whose exclusive aim was to keep up their *litreachas, cànan is ceòl*.

In response to the toast, Dr. W. J. E. Scott described some of his experiences with Gaelic societies on both sides of the Herring Pond, showing that a frequent *casus belli* among them was the neglect of the language in favour of music and sport.

The Gaelic language was one of the oldest in Western Europe, excepting Basque, and the early history and antiquities of the Gael had to a large extent baffled original research so much that Celtic scholars preferred to grind away at textual translation or grammatical studies.

The root of the trouble lay in the fact that Gaelic was a descendant of Celtiberian speech, and the elusive Iberian element was outside the range of Celtic or Aryan linguists. He might easily discuss various aspects of ancient Gaelic religious beliefs to a Chinese audience without its suspecting that he was describing other than Indo-Chinese superstitions. No one had fathomed more than himself the tremendous spiritual gulf between Gael and Teuton, the gulf between oriental civilisation and the age-long barbarism of Central Europe; nor understood better that the propaganda taught as history in the schools was political "bunk," for it cut out the Gael as a factor of no importance. Experience was left to teach the young; and they would again learn from their casualty-lists that the Irish Problem and the Pacific Problem were established on

a common, invisible, and indestructible foundation. The ethnical basis of Gaelic civilisation was Indo-Chinese, or "Iberian" as it was styled in Western Europe.

As a specific example, Dr. Scott cited the word *cim* (silver), which belonged to a remote age, when the silver standard of currency prevailed from China to Pictland. According to Gaelic traditions, the Gaols paid this as tribute to the Fomorian invaders about 3000 years ago; but in the Christian era the Celtic word *airgiod* made it obsolete by the ninth century. It still survived in Basque *chim-ista* (lightning, the "gleaming dart"), and was the 147th Radical of Chinese, denoting "money, or metallic currency." From Equatorial Africa to Zululand, its cognates signified cowries, beads, and metallic currency; and this example of archaic "Gaelic" speech, which could be traced from Ireland to Peking and Zululand, served to illustrate how Gaelic had been grafted on to an aboriginal civilisation of Gaul and Spain, whose speech and culture were derived ultimately from the Far East.

A descendant of the MacLeans, who kept a boat of their own at the time of the Flood, had claimed Gaelic to be the original language of the Garden of Eden, but his arguments were unconvincing, though his language was above reproach. It was a fact, nevertheless, that when scholars like Ewen MacLachlan and other compilers of the Highland Society's Dictionary first tried their 'prentice hands on Gaelic philology, they could not help discovering the presence of an element common to Gaelic and Semitic speech. They believed Hebrew to be the original language, whereas Hebrew scholars know to-day that the pre-Semitic dwellers of Sumer and Akkad were of aboriginal Mongolian stock, speaking an agglutinative language like Basque. His own knowledge of Basque speech extended beyond so modern an age to the far remoter period when it was spoken on the banks of the Yangtsekiang, and as its parent-speech was still living in the Far East, the Iberian element in Gaelic was easily traced. The Spanish origin of the Gael was traditional, but yet a sound and scientific theory.

Dr. Scott argued that the Gael who despised his mother-tongue, really admitted an inferiority complex, for he cut himself adrift from an intellectual heritage which embraced everything that was valued in the history of human progress. The "bread-and-butter" argument was the old excuse of Esau for selling his birthright.

The intelligence of mankind was now reaching that stage of knowledge of good and evil where it had to choose between the yoke of Christ or the rod of the Iron Ruler. When Armageddon came, its preference for the latter would be declared. It would find the Gael again standing up for principles and ideals that were anathema to the spirit of commercialism, and the Great Architect would continue to build His temple on their eternal foundations.

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### NOTES AND QUERIES.

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The press has given wide publicity to a statement recently made by Lord Ashbourne at Dundalk that Gaelic is doomed as far as Scotland is concerned, the people who speak Gaelic are being cleared off the land to Canada, and the language movement is being run by "fashionable people." That a large number of our people emigrate to the Colonies is true, but to say that the Gaelic movement is being run by "fashionable people" is as unfair to these people as it is to our peasantry. A perusal of our Annual Report, with its 1400 names, to say nothing of 3800 branch members, is the best possible answer to his Lordship's statement. Whatever he or any other thinks of the personnel of An Comunn, it has, as an Association, made the Gaelic-speaker feel proud of the language and literature of his ancestors.

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*Re Query*—A Short Notice of John MacIntosh, Brae Lochaber, and some of his Poems will be found in M'Pherson's "An Duanaire" p. 124. A son of his—Alexander MacIntosh—lived at Invercoe House in the early seventies. The Bard was a relation of the Herbalist MacIntosh also a famous man. Hope further information will be forthcoming.—NIC-AN-TOISICH.

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A' Choile'beheag,  
Oban, 5th Mar. 1928.

Dear Mr. Ross,

I see by the last issue of "An Gaidheal" that no one has offered to complete the couplet "An Losgunn Lathurnach, etc."

Well here is the completed article as I have often heard it,—being a Lorn man, and its meaning.

Near the mouth of Loch Feochan (in Lorn) is a high hill overlooking the sea, its top being very much broken up into crags and pinnacles. Looking at it from the sea and when in a certain position, these rocks assume the appearance of a toad (Losgunn) reared up on its lower extremities and with wide open mouth and up-lifted hands it appears to be laughing derisively at something across the water. This explains the first part "An Losgunn Lathurnach ri sgeig."

Right opposite—on the Mull coast near the mouth of Loch Spelve is a rock, which looked at from a certain position on the sea takes the appearance of a man making an obeisance, presumably to the Losgunn. Hence the second part "An Gilmean Muileach ri beic." And the Mull folk don't like it.

"An Losgunn Lathurnach ri Sgeig  
"S An Gilmean Muileach ri beic."

Yours respectfully,

A. MUNN.

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### BOOK REVIEW.

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LONG NAN OG. (The Ship of the Young.) A Gaelic Play. By Donald Sinclair. Published by Comunn Litreachais na h-Alba.

This Gaelic play, in four acts, is a welcome addition to the number of dramatic writings in Scottish Gaelic. The booklet is the first publication of The Society of Scottish Letters. The play indicates how the poetic traditions of the Outer Isles are handed down from one generation to another. In a family circle an old couple pass on to their grandchildren the love of music, of physical deportment, and, above all, the mystic lore of "Tir for Thuinn" (The Land under Waves). In the play the writer shows a thorough knowledge of the youthful mind in picturing the old Gaelic ideals. A little boy comes into the family circle weeping. His boat has been carried out to sea; and the grandparents comfort him by saying that the boat has gone to "Tir for Thuinn," and will return laden with gold. The child believes this and falls asleep. Two acts are occupied with the child's dream of The Land under Waves. On arriving there he is offered his heart's desire, but with a boy's devotion to unworldly possessions he chooses that his little boat be restored to him. He receives it filled with gold in his dream. The conception is simple but very subtle; and we cannot help thinking that there is fine poetic doctrine behind the author's handling of his theme. There is a poem in the play, the subject being the lure of The Land under Waves, a poem which should be utilised for choral work at Gaelic Mods. We think that Mr. Sinclair's play deserves a most favourable reception. A preface by Mr. Angus Henderson sums up the position and prospects of Gaelic drama. The printing and paper are of the best; a very desirable little book to possess.

## MACMHAOILEIN A' CHNAIP.

By DUNCAN JOHNSTON, Islay.

First Prize, Mod, 1927.

“Còir MhicMhaoilein air a' Chnap.”

—Seanfhacal.

Tha còir MhicMhaoilein air Cnapadail a' dol air ais na's fhaide na's urrainnear a lorgadh le neach a tha beò. 'Na latha 's 'na linn, bha MacMhaoilein a' Chnap air a mheas, cha'n e mhain 'na ghaisgeach, ach 'na dhuine anabarrach géur, tuigseach, glic. Leis gu'm bheil daonna an maith an aghaidh an uile, dhùisg droch ghamhlas eadar MacMhaoilein agus gach buidseach a bha ceithir-chuairt air Cnapadail. Chur e na buidseachan g'an dùbhan, agus ré ùine mhóir cha robh toll a dheanamh iadsan anns nach cuireadh esan cnag. Cha robh tubaist, drid-fhort no ubag a ghuidheadh iad dhà nach toireadh esan le smior gliocas gu neo-ni. 'S iomadh uair a' chruinnicheadh iad còmhla aig deargan a' mheadhon oidhche chum bhi dealbh agus a' stobadh bhioran ann an cuirp chreadha air a shealbh, no a' sponadh éill às na mairbh anns an t-seann eaglais.

A réir a' chumhachd a bha iad ag agairt—“Cumhachd an dorchadais”—bu chòir do MhacMhaoilein tuiteam sioc-mharbh 'nuair bhiodh an stob deireannach air a' shàthadh anns a' chorp chreadha air-neo an t-iall mu dheireadh air a' spiodadh às a' mharbh. Ach an deidh sin 's na uile dheidhinn, bhiodh iad air an gonadh gu goirt 'nuair a' chitheadh iad MacMhaoilein gu slàn, foghainteach a' dol mu'n cuairt an ceann a ghnothuich air feadh an t-sluaigh, gun chneed, gun chréuchd, gun chiorram.

Air uair de na h-uairean, thachair do MhacMhaoilein, le buidheann de chuid dhaoine, bhi aig féill ann an Eirionn. Air an tilleadh dhachaidh, agus an oidhche aca, dh'éirich stòirm umhasach anns an linne eadar Ile is Ceanntire. Bha MacMhaoilein 'na mharaische barraichte, ach a réir coslais cha robh e comasach do'n t-soitheach an fhaire 'ruith.

Bha tonnan dù-ghorm na mara le'n creinean geala a' bristeadh 's a buailleadh

a steach air gach taobh. Os cionn toirm an doineann chluinnte caoineadh agus bas-bhualadh mhnathan is phàisdean, srachdadh agus slapail nan seòl, agus fead eagalach na gaoithe a' snlomh 's a' casadh nan sgòd às a' chéile. Thainig fuaradh-froise le cruadhach srann-chòrr, agus le sgread umhasach sgoltadh an seòl-mór 'na dhà bhlaigh. Anns a' ghàbhadh a bh'ann, dh'éirich buidseach ann an riochd maighdean mhara air bàrr uisge aig deireadh na luinge. Rinn i glag gàire, agus ghlaoidh i, aird a cinn—

“A' MhicMhaoilein mhóir a' Chnap, an robh thu ann an càs bu mhiosa na so riamh?”

“Bhà ml!” ars' esan. “C'áite?” ars' ise.

“Eadar an t-éuradh 's an teumairt!” arsa MacMhaoilein.

“Cha b'uilear dhuit feabhas do fhreagairt,” arsa 'bhuidseach, agus le sgrèuch oilleil dh'fhalbh i gu grad le marcachd-sian a' chuain. Ann an tiota chiùinich an soirbheas, shlolaigh an fhaire slos, dheàrrs a' ghealach, thainig na réultan an follais air gorm-bhrat nan spéur, agus gun dochair, gun dosgainn, rainig MacMhaoilein 's a chinn-eadh Cnapadail gu tearuinte slàn, agus cha do chur buidseach dragh air riamh tuille.

'Nuair a bheir sinn fainear gu'm bheil

“Eadar an t-éuradh 's an teumairt” a' ciallachadh an àma chioigailtich sin anns am bheil “mac-an-duine” air a' bhreith chum an t-saoghail, cha'n urrainn duinn gun bhi ag aontachadh leis a' bhuidseach—nach robh dìth feabhais air freagairt MhicMhaoilein

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 SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

## LIST OF LODGINGS IN BROADFORD.

- Broadford Hotel, Proprietor:—Malcolm MacInnes. £4, 17/- per week.  
 Campbell Hotel (Temperance). £4, 4/- per week.  
 Mrs. MacLean, Ardmore.  
 Mrs. MacLean, Seaview.  
 Mrs. MacKay, Dunolly House.  
 Mrs. MacLean, Bayview.  
 Miss MacLeod, Burnbank.  
 Mrs. F. Anderson, Broadford House.

KYLE.

Miss Matheson, Bellfield, Breaknish.

## “ LES ILES ENCHANTÉES.”

LE I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

Bha mi a muigh anns na h-Eileanan aig an am so an uiridh. Och—is truagh leam nach eil mi a muigh an sin am bliadhna cuideachd! C'arson nach eil Féill eile againn a bheireadh a mach a rithist mi!

Ciamar tha na càirdean laghach, teochridheach air an do chuir mi eòlas? Tha mi an dòchas gu bheil iad uile gu maith. Is tric, gu dearbh, a tha iad ann mo smuaintean. A bheil cuimhne aca air an Fhrangach òg a bha còmhla rium? Tha cuimhne aige orra-san, cò dhìubh!

Chunnaic mi am Baile Mór na Frainge an latha roimhe e. Thug e duan air na h-eileanan domh, a chuir e fhéin r'a cheile.

### LE VENT GRIS.

Sous les rafales du Vent Gris  
Les Gaëls qui peuplent les “Iles”  
Ne voient sur leurs rochers stériles  
Que des arbrisseaux rabougris.

La bruyère tremble et frissonne,  
La lande ondule longuement,  
Et tout gémit lugubrement  
Au Vent glacé qui tourbillonne.

Fuyant le vent qui l'éperonne,  
La vague cabrée un moment  
Dressant sa crièrièr d'argent,  
Deferle, s'écroule et bouillonne.

Mais malgré tous les ouragans  
Qui font rage dans les Hébrides,  
Les vieux Gaëls restent valides,  
Jusqu'après quatre-vingt-dix ans.

C'est en luttant dans les tempêtes  
Que les Gaëls restent vaillants;  
Pour rester vigoureux longtemps  
L'orage doit courber nos têtes.

JACQUES BLOCHER.

An uair bha sinn air an turus gu Steòrna-bhaigh thuir mi ris gu robh an aimsir anns na h-eileanan-builtach do bhith gu maith fadhaich. Ach is e a thachair, gu robh aimsir anabarrach brèagh againn airson cala-deug air dhuinn Leòdhas ruigheachd. Dìreach brod na h-aimsir! Bha a' ghrian a' dealradh fad an latha; a h-uile neach a' coimhead gu maith agus gu sona—Nach robh na boirionnaich tapaidh an uair bha iad a' leasachadh an fhearainn!

(A Eileanach mo ghràidh—nach sibh-se a bha coibhneil ris a' chòigreach òg agus rium fhéin—is sibh-se a bha—! Mo mhìle taing dhuibh—agus mo dheich mìle beannachd leibh gu bràth.)

Cò dhìubh, thubhairt am Frangach rium aon latha, agus sinn-ne a' dol a null gu Bearnaraidh Leòdhais anns an eithear aig Eachann Mac Amhlaidh agus a bhràthair:

“*Vous m'avez dit, monsieur, qu'il faisait toujours mauvais temps dans les Iles: c'est tout à fait la contraire! Elles sont superbes —elles sont 'Les Iles Enchantées.'*”

Ach thàinig an dà latha! An uair bha sinn a' dol a null na Faoidhle bho Uibhist a Chinn a Tuath gu Beinn a' Bhaoghla bha an sneachd ann agus bha a' ghaoth fuar gu leòir airson Jacques bochd. Cha chreid mi nach biodh cuimhne aige air an latha ud an uair thàinig spiorad nam bàrd air! Bha a' ghaoth glé fhuar!

## IRISH-SPEAKING CLUBS.

### Debates to Foster Language.

The formation of Irish-speaking clubs, with inter-town debates on topical questions is a new method of encouraging and popularising the Irish language in County Donegal. There are clubs in the towns of Letterkenny and Ballybofey, and “teams” from Loth engaged recently in a debate in Letterkenny as to whether the extension of the franchise to women was a benefit to the country.

Letterkenny was represented by Miss Sheridan, Miss Cahoun, and Messrs. P. M'Geehan, J. Campbell, and E. Tinney; and Ballybofey by Miss M'Loone, Miss Kavanagh, and Messrs. D. M'Glynn, A. O'Boyle, and P. O'Donnell.

It was a battle of wits in which many good speeches were made, particularly by Miss Sheridan and Miss Kavanagh, and the debate, which was held in the Courthouse, was attended by a very large crowd from various parts of the county, whose enthusiasm and ability to follow and appreciate it showed how much alive the native language is in Donegal among native speakers and those who have learned it under the Free State educational system.

The Rev. Professor M'Glynn presided, and from their seats on the bench the very Rev. J. M'Cafferty, Chancellor of Raphoe and president of the Ballybofey Club, and District Justice Walsh, a prominent figure in the Letterkenny Club, listened to the oratorical efforts of their respective teams. One critic said Ballybofey had the best of the argument, but Letterkenny's oratory was superior.—*Scotsman*.



AN T-OG UASAL.

From Miss JOHANN MACINNES' Mod Prize Collection.

GLEUS D

Seid :

{	: s	ta, l, s : d'	m	: r, d	m, f : s	d	}
	Hi	ri na ri	hó	ró	hó hao	ó	

Rann :

{	: d	., d,	d, r : f	s	., s : l, d' —	s	., m : r	d	
	Fa - ca		sibh an t-òg	uasal,	seachad	suas an so	'n dé ?		

Le ghunn' air a ghuallainn  
'Dol a ruagadh an fhéidh.

'S nuair a thigeadh an turadh,  
Bhithinn muigh ris a' ghréin.

'S truagh a rìgh nach mi'n gunna!  
Air an cuireadh tu'n gleus.

Chan innsinn do m' phiuthair  
Meud mo chumha 'n ad dhéidh.

'S truagh a rìgh nach mi'n daga!  
A bhiodh agad ri d'fheum.

Tha sac trom air mo chridhe  
Nach tog fidheall nan teud.

'Nuair a thigeadh an fhras oirn  
Bhithinn paisgte fo d'sgéith.

Na piob-mhór nan coig feadan  
'N uair a fhreagradh i'n gleus.

SEANFHACAIL.

£10,000 GIFT BY MR. DUNCAN  
MACLEOD OF SKEABOST.

1. An leanabh nach ionnsaichear ris a' ghluin chan ionnsaich ris a' ghualainn.
2. Am fear a bhios a bhara a mach suidhidh e air caillbhean corrach.
3. Abradh gach duine a thoil ach is e an sgadan anlan a' bhuntàta.
4. A' trusadh nan sràbh is a' leigeil nam mùillean leis an amhuinn.
5. Bheir fàsgadh na sroine fuil a mach.
6. Bha là eile aig fear na mònach.
7. Bithidh an luaragan luatha na uallachan gille.
8. Bithidh sannt naoidhnear air mnaoi gun sliochd.
9. Chàill e làn na léighe airson imlich a cùla.
10. Chan ann a shìol a' phoca shalainn a tha mi.
11. Cha dean corrach mhilis hm, is cha dean slige fhliuch càise.
12. Far an do chuir thu an gruth cuir 'na shruth am meòg.

SEUMAS MACTHOMAS.

Mr. Duncan MacLeod of Skeabost announced at a dinner given in his honour by the Glasgow Skye Association on 21st March that he was inaugurating a fund for the purpose of giving young men and women of Skye who showed ability a chance of attaining a good position in a profession or business from which they would otherwise be debarred. The amount of the fund would be £10,000. It would be administered by trustees, who would have full power to choose the beneficiaries, the only condition being that the candidates must be Gaelic speaking and of Skye parentage, or whose parents were Hebridean and resided in Skye. In this gift Mr. MacLeod's love for his native island and his language is again strikingly illustrated.

## SECRETARY ON TOUR.

I had not been able to visit many Branches this session on account of changes at the office except those within a few hours' journey by rail or steamer, such as Vale of Leven, Dunoon, Rothsay, Glendaruel and Lochgilphead. Affiliated Societies at Callander, Dundee, Edinburgh, Greenock, Hamilton and Perth claimed attention and I visited each. I also made my annual appearance at the Glasgow High School Ceilidh and Paisley Highlanders' Association.

The demand for teachers of singing was greater this year than ever and the Propaganda Committee were fortunate in being able to place six teachers. The demand still continues, however, and districts have had to be taken in rotation. This condition will continue to exist until the number of persons with the necessary qualifications in Gaelic and music increases sufficiently to permit of the many requests that come to us being acceded to. We crave the indulgence of disappointed committees until such time as we are able to meet their demands.

I paid a flying visit to Ullapool at the end of January and attended a concert under the presidency of Mr. Kenneth Cameron. The programme was sustained by Junior and Senior Choirs, duettists and soloists trained by Mrs. M. C. Gall, our teacher in the Lochbroom district. All acquitted themselves splendidly and Mrs. Gall is to be congratulated on the success of her efforts. The Ullapool Branch is preparing for the Lochbroom and Gairloch Provincial Mod which is to be held at Ullapool on 13th July. The Rev. William MacNab, M.A. is secretary and deserves the best thanks of "An Comunn" for his valuable services in the interests of Gaelic since his appointment to Ullapool.

Miss Peggy MacDonald, Inverness, took up duty as teacher of singing at Salen, Mull, on 1st February. She was able to hold a class at Ulva Ferry concurrently with Salen but failed to form a class at Lochdonhead.

I attended the closing Concert at Salen, on 9th March. Mr. Donald P. Ferguson presided over an enthusiastic audience which filled the Hall to its utmost capacity. The first part of the programme was sustained by the Juniors who rendered Gaelic songs, choral, duets and solos, in a very pleasing manner. The Seniors followed and gave fine performances of four-part songs, duets and solos. The concluding item was the Play "Beitidh" produced by members of the senior class. This was one of the best performances of "Beitidh" I have seen yet. In Miss MacArthur and Mr MacPhail Salen has a

"Cailleach" and "Bodach" that would make a success of any play. Miss MacDonald has done splendid work in the short time she has been on the Island. The Salen Branch has been well served by Miss Annie MacDougall, teacher, for a number of years.

I returned to Oban for the week-end and attended Ceilidh nan Gaidheal on Saturday evening. The Ceilidh is carrying on in Oban the traditions of its parent in Glasgow and is well patronised each Saturday evening. On Sunday I attended the Gaelic service in the Parish Church.

On Monday afternoon I boarded the "Loch-invar" for Craignure. I was welcomed at the Hotel there by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell who accompanied me later to the Ceilidh arranged by Mrs. MacIntyre at Lochdonhead. The Branch here remained inoperative for some years and I set myself to resuscitate it. There was a gathering of about 30 people and I had no difficulty in getting office-bearers and a committee appointed. Mr. Gavin MacColl is President, Mr. Colin Halliday, Secretary, and Miss MacLachlan, the newly-appointed Gaelic speaking teacher, treasurer.

I joined the steamer on Tuesday afternoon and proceeded to Salen where I joined the mail car for Bunnassan. Mr. John MacKechnie, headmaster, had a fine Ceilidh arranged and over 100 people attended. Mr. Angus MacPhail, Iona, presided in his usual happy manner. The Ceilidh opened with bagpipe selections and songs were rendered by members of both sexes. Speeches in Gaelic interspersed the proceedings and several original songs were sung. This Branch has a membership of over 100, this session being the most successful since the Branch was revived by Dr. Mackay and myself in January 1922.

Mr. MacKechnie has been teaching Gaelic in Bunnassan School for about 20 years. Miss Peggy MacDonald has a class of 40 adults at Bunnassan and another of 20 at Pennyghael.

Mrs. MacPhail, The Manse, drove me in to Salen on Wednesday and after lunching with members of the Mull Presbytery I proceeded per steamer to Tobermory to attend the Annual Concert there. This happy gathering is fully reported on under Branch Reports. Gaelic is taught in every department in Tobermory Higher Grade School and Mr. Lowe and his staff deserve our most cordial thanks. I returned from Mull much refreshed and encouraged. I made little use of English at Salen and Tobermory and none at all at the other centres.

NIALL.

### HONOUR TO DR. G. W. MACKAY.

As was to be expected the Complimentary Dinner to the Rev. Dr. G. W. MacKay, Killin, which was held in Ferguson & Forrester's Restaurant, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, on Thursday, 15th March, proved to be a very happy and successful gathering. A large number of friends and well-wishers assembled under the chairmanship of our President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., to do honour to the guest of the evening and to mark their sincere appreciation of his magnificent labours as an active propagandist and leader in the Gaelic movement as also to show their appreciation of the honour recently conferred upon him by his Alma Mater, St. Andrew's University. Seated with the Chairman and Dr. MacKay at the head of the company were Miss Hughina MacKay, Killin; Mr. Angus Robertson; Miss MacLeod, Ibrox; Mr. John R. Bannerman; Miss Jeannie MacKay, Edinburgh; Mr. Malcolm MacLeod; Mr. William Power; Mrs. J. MacMaster Campbell; Mr. Lachlan Macbean; Rev. George Calder, D.Litt.; Mrs. Calder; Mr. Iain Mac A. Moffat-Pender and Mr. T. G. Bannerman.

After the Chairman had given the toast of the King, Mr. William Power, Editor of "The Scots Observer," in an eloquent and inspiring oration proposed the toast of An Comunn Gàidhealach in which he expressed his warm admiration for the ancient spirit of Celticism in its past manifestations and as it was still seen in the life of to-day. It was a shame to Scotland, he said, that our people had so woefully neglected the wonderful heritage of that great and noble language which linked us with our earliest civilization. Despite the discouragements of statistics we should press forward, as without the Gaelic element Scotland would be greatly impoverished. This element lent colour, light, spirituality and meaning to the whole of our national existence, and the only grudge that Lowlanders had against Highlanders was that they had not been faithful enough to their own language and traditions. The best brains of the British Isles were in the Highlands of Scotland.

In acknowledging this stimulating address the Chairman made several observations on the Gaelic position at the moment and made several helpful suggestions especially in connection with the youth of the movement. Referring to the Scottish Academy of Music which was being established in Glasgow he spoke of the possibilities that lay in it for the furthering of Gaelic music. It was not worthy of, or commensurate with the progress that had been made during the

past 32 years that they had not yet in their numbers a judge with the dual qualifications to adjudicate in Gaelic as well as in music. The Society could find that person through the means of this proposed College of Music and he hoped that within five years there would be Bachelors of Music amongst the Gaelic lads and lassies. With regard to the funds for Scholarships he thought he could name several Highland gentlemen who could supply the necessary funds without turning a hair. For any who went forward with such a purpose a splendid career was assured. The members of An Comunn were engaged in a great work in helping to foster the culture of Gaeldom and it was pleasing to reflect how many happy friendships they had formed during years of strenuous activity.

The principal toast of the evening, that of "Our Guest" was given by Mr. Angus Robertson and in a fine oration he referred to Dr. MacKay as a living embodiment of those qualities which made the typical Highland gentleman, and one whose talent and inspiration had been applied to the furtherance of a cause which he had so enduringly at heart. His devoted and unremitting labour as Convener of the Propaganda Committee was well-known to all Members of An Comunn. The fruits of that labour were now to be seen in the number of Branches established and of provincial Mods held throughout the country. Dr. MacKay had been singularly unselfish and ungrudging in his work for An Comunn and he had devoted himself with whole-hearted enthusiasm to advance the important purposes for which An Comunn existed.

In a feeling and eloquent reply Dr. MacKay made happy references to his predecessors in the chair of An Comunn. He declared that his work as a member of the Executive and as Convener of the Propaganda Committee had been a work from which he derived exceeding great pleasure and in which he was still as keenly interested as ever. He emphasised the importance and the extent of the Celtic element in the Scottish character, and was of the opinion that none of our histories, civil or ecclesiastical, did sufficient justice to that aspect. This element was in the highest degree worth preserving.

The company were pleased to have with them Mr. Lachlan Macbean, the Editor of the "Fifeshire Advertiser," and to him was assigned the duty of proposing the toast of TIR NAM BEANN. Mr. Macbean congratulated an t-Ollamh Mac Aoidh who was their guest, or Aoidh, that night and had often brought Aoidh or good cheer to many of their gatherings. In "TIR NAM BEANN" he proposed a toast that

would appeal to every heart. The land of the mountains was above all lands the one we most honoured and loved. Other lands may be famed for material wealth but to theirs was reserved the honour that along with peerless beauty it produced MEN, men of worth and of courage. The land of the mountains was of course a land of awe and aspiration just because it was the home of changing lights and of shadows, of suggestive mists and of great expanses. It's very scenery was the enemy alike of the stupid greed of the callous and the sordid, and the self depreciation of the over bashful Celt. Both of these errors melted away in the mountain air which awakened his true self. Both disappeared amid the mountains in presence of glorious works radiant from the fingers that created them. On the mountain tops as by the ocean strand and in the depth of the silent forest we realise that we are not alone. By our side we feel a kindly presence, that breathes peace, with a sweet breath around us stirring up new hopes and aspirations, purifying our selfishness, calming our sorrows, shaming our fears, cooling the fevers of our covetousness, clarifying our doubts, always conveying a significance more expansive than we altogether understand, proving us larger than we had known. Through such experience which the mountain breathes to him the Gael becomes fully awake, his consciousness becomes alert for he has in the air of his homeland a rich inheritance he can never lose, and in its spirit a power he can often renew as sang the Northern poet—

“O theid sinn, theid sinn, le sùgairt agus aoidh  
O theid sinn, theid sinn gu deònach,  
O theid sinn, theid sinn, thairis air an t-Srùdh  
Gu munntir ar dàimh 'us ar n-eòlais.”

He associated the toast with the well-known name of Mr. Bannerman, who more than most could appreciate its spirit.

The reply by Mr. Bannerman proved to be one of the happiest and most interesting speeches of the evening. In the language of TIR NAM BEANN he regaled the company with an imaginary conversation between himself and the “Cobbler,” that well-known Ben that overlooks Arrochar. The venerable Cobbler from his point of vantage had been a silent spectator of the many changes that followed in the wake of time, and noticeable among these was the passing away of the old language which resounded from the lips of the MacFarlanes or Colquhouns when engaged upon the *creach* or in the more peaceful pursuits of life in the old days. The Gaelic had been replaced by a tongue alien to the hills and bens, that bereft scenes such

as these of much of their interest and left the Cobbler disconsolate in his solitude.

Like Mr. Bannerman, Mr. Iain Moffat-Pender delivered a Gaelic oration, characterised by idiomatic and felicitous diction wherein he expressed the pleasure he had derived from his acquaintance with Dr. MacKay who had been a wonderful example to them all. Although he himself had been absent from the Highlands which he loved, he hoped to return there shortly and help forward the work of An Comunn.

The Rev. George Calder, D.Litt. in giving the toast of “Gaelic Societies at home and abroad” referred to the assistance each of these rendered and also to the work being done by the various colleges and in seats of learning. This toast was replied to by Mr. T. G. Bannerman, an ex-President of the Glasgow Sutherland Association, who as a Sutherlandshire man paid tribute to the admirable qualities of the guest of the evening who was proud to claim Sutherland as his native County.

The toast of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod who referred to the satisfaction felt by the members of An Comunn Gaidhealach when the Sheriff consented to accept the presidency. The President suitably replied.

Bagpipe selections were played and the party ushered in and songs were rendered during the evening by Miss Phemie Marquis and Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn. The duties of Croupiers were discharged by Mr. Donald MacDonald, Inverness and Mr. Donald MacDonald of the Glasgow Sutherland Association, the latter of whom deputised for Mr. Hugh MacLean, Greenock who unfortunately was unable to attend.

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#### MAINTENANCE FUND FOR DR. STEWART'S MONUMENT.

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The Gaelic Society of Perth is making a laudable effort to raise a fund for the upkeep of the monument to Dr. Stewart at Killin, who translated the New Testament into Scottish Gaelic.

Branches of An Comunn, and individuals who appreciate the work done by Dr. Stewart for Gaelic and the Gaelic people, may remit subscriptions to Mr. Craigie, Sandeman Library, Perth.

This is a matter which should be dear to the heart of the Gaelic-speaking Scot at home or abroad.

## GAELIC SOCIETY OF PERTH.

STEWART MEMORIAL, KILLIN.  
Maintenance and Endowment Fund.

Collected at meeting of Society	£6	6	10
Collected from members of the Society	8	8	0
From other contributors—			
Principal Macalister, Glasgow	1	0	0
Mrs. Adeline Maclean, Surrey	0	10	0
Mrs. Bullough, Fasnacloich, Argyll	2	0	0
Victor Tylston Hodgson, Fort William	0	10	0
P. V. C. Haldane, Onich	0	10	0
Dr. George W. Mackay, Killin	0	10	0
Gilbert MacIntyre, Killin	0	10	0
Glasgow Skye Association	2	2	0
Vale of Leven Branch of An Comunn	2	2	0
An Comunn Gaidhealach, Tobermory	1	1	0
T. D. McDonald, Oban	0	10	3
Sums under 10/-	0	10	6
Comunn Gaidhealach an Oban	1	1	0
Stewart Society, Edinburgh	5	0	0
J. R. M. Wedderburn, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Margaret Stewart Calendar	0	6	0
Margaret Stewart, Callander	0	5	0
Harriet Stewart, Oban	0	10	0
	£39	7	7

## LITERATURE.

During the early years of the Mod, there was no more welcome visitor than Mr. J. J. Doyle (Beirt Fear), who was a delegate from the Gaelic League of Ireland. Mr. Doyle, some years ago, retired from his position in the Civil Service, and is now enjoying his well-earned retirement in the desirable town of Rathmines, near Dublin. Mr. Doyle, in course of a busy life, made numerous and valuable contributions to the literature of the Gaelic Revival in Ireland, and it is pleasing to find that in the days of his retirement his mind and pen are active as ever in the cause of the language and culture of his beloved Ireland. Before me now there is a copy of *Beartín Luachra* (A Bundle of Rushes) by Mr. Doyle, and I recognise the book at once as a collection of cleverly written stories, full of charming descriptions of Irish life as it is being lived to-day. Mr. Doyle is faithful to the old Irish script, and one would fain hope that either he, or one of our home scholars, would transliterate the work into the medium better understood by the Scottish Gael. It is quite certain that, if Mr. Doyle's little book was produced in Roman type, it would delight many a Highland household, and prove a worthy accessory to many a Highland ceilidh. Well does the author deserve the compliment paid him by a leading Irish magazine: "The most unwearied worker, and, with the

exception, perhaps, of Father O'Leary, the raciest writer of Irish dialogue living." The book is published by Messrs. M. H. Gill & Son, Dublin.

EÓIN O'DUÍBHNE

## NEW MEMBERS.

## LIFE.

Miss G. M. Hall of Tangy.  
Dr. D. G. Duff, Denbigh.

## ORDINARY.

Miss Marjory MacLean, Ashbourne.  
N. Campbell, Esq., Ulva Ferry.  
M. MacLeod, Esq., Gruline.  
Mrs. F. A. MacLean, Gometra.  
R. W. MacLean, Esq., Gometra.  
Alexander Nicolson, Esq., M.A., Govan.  
Miss Christina Ross, Barnock.  
Ronald P. Wilson, Esq., J.P., Calcutta.  
Patrick Lynch, Esq., J.P., Glasgow.  
John MacKellar, Esq., Lochgilphead.  
Mrs. John MacKellar, Lochgilphead.  
Miss Colina MacRury, Edinburgh.

## NATIONAL MOD, 1928.

The Committee for the 1928 National Mod at Inverness are proceeding apace with preparations, and are making good headway in the gathering of funds. A successful concert was held on 24th February at Kiltarlity. Rev. Dr. Macdonald presided. An excellent programme was enjoyed by a large audience; a dance followed; and the proceeds of concert and dance were for the Mod Fund. An outstanding feature of this season in Inverness was the fancy dress ball in the Northern Meeting's Rooms, organised by Mrs. D. J. MacLeod of Porterfield House. Through this very successful effort a sum of £130 has been added to the Mod Fund. A flag day is to be held on 24th March, and preparations are under way for the fête on 2nd June at Ness Castle.

DONATIONS TO INVERNESS  
MOD FUND.

Previously acknowledged	£61	18	11
RECEIVED AT HEAD OFFICE:			
Vale of Leven Branch	3	3	0
Perth Gaelic Society	2	0	0
James Craige, Esq., Perth	0	5	0
RECEIVED AT INVERNESS:			
Proceeds of Fancy Dress Ball organised by Mrs. D. J. Mac- Leod	130	7	6
	£197	14	5



## BRANCH REPORTS.

**BALVRAID.**—The Balvraid Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held a very successful concert in the school on 24th February. Colonel Gunn, a native of Rogart, occupied the chair. His speech, full of reminiscences, delighted the audience who, on the motion of Mr. William Grant, president of the branch, accorded him a very hearty vote of thanks. The programme was ably sustained by the various artistes, all of whom were repeatedly encored. An Comunn were fortunate in securing the services of Miss MacRae, Garve, whose songs were highly appreciated. Mr. MacKay, Inchomany, also sang several Gaelic songs, as did the Balvraid Embo Choir, under the leadership of Mr. Bain.

**BUTE.**—As anticipated, a crowded audience turned out to hear Mr. James Brown, Greenock, who gave a humorous and highly interesting lime-light lecture entitled "A Trip to Inveraray," to the members of An Comunn Gaidhealach in the Tower Street Hall on Friday, 2nd March. Captain James Kennedy presided. The lecturer dealt with the progress and development of the Clyde pleasure steamers within recent years, also touching on the great popularity which the Clyde coast towns had enjoyed from the earliest days of the steamers. Mountains, rivers, lochs, and other delightful scenes in Glen Ara and Glen Eck claimed particular attention, and many of the slides shown had been awarded distinction by the Greenock Camera Club. The lecture throughout was greatly appreciated, and the many humorous stories told by the lecturer, in his inimitable way, brought forth roars of laughter. Songs were afterwards rendered by Mrs. Stewart, Miss T. Donald, and Miss V. Smart, to pianoforte accompaniments by Mr. D. Lamont. Pipe-Major P. Stewart and Master Martin, whose first appearance as a juvenile piper deserved the hearty applause of the audience, gave stirring selections on the bagpipes. The usual vote of thanks by Mr. J. C. Maclean, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the company, brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

To a large congregation of the Gaelic populace of Rothesay and outlying districts, under the auspices of Comunn Gaidhealach Bhoide, the Rev. Alexander Mackenzie, M.A., North Bute Parish, preached a Gaelic sermon in the Church Hall, Russell Street, on Sabbath evening, 19th February. Mr. Mackenzie took his text from Acts xvii. 27—"Chum gun iarradh iad an Tighearn a dh'fheachain an tarladh dhoibh le mirnansachadh gum faighheadh iad e ged nach eil e fada o gach an againn." The preacher, in idiomatic Gaelic, delivered a highly impressive and eloquent discourse. The praise was led in the traditional manner by Captain James Kennedy, who acted as precentor. The pronouncing of the Benediction followed with the singing of Psalm ciii. :—

"O' m'anam beannaich Thusa nis  
An Dia Iehobhah mór"

which from time immemorial throughout the Highlands it was customary to sing after Communion.

**GLENEG.**—A series of very successful ceilidhs is being held by this branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The choice of subjects is a varied and happy one, and is worthy of and conducive to the interest maintained in these meetings, conducted so efficiently by Mr. Macpherson. On the opening night Mr. Stewart gave a lucid account of the Celts, and his lecture was highly appreciated, as are his

continued efforts on behalf of the branch. Gaelic songs were tastefully rendered, and stirring pipe music was discoursed by Messrs. John Macaskill and Norman Cameron. Mr. Stewart discussed in detail the relative positions of the harper and piper in the household of a Highland chief. It is interesting to note that Macleod of Harris and Glenelg was the last chief to have a harper, the piper having acquired precedence. An excellent account of "Irish Characteristics and Humour" was given by Mr. M'Erlich, who was thanked for his able exposition. Mr. Donald Macmillan, the worthy bard of the branch, has added two new songs to his list. This is not Mr. Macmillan's only claim to fame. Known as the "Champion," he was in the 'nineties a noted ball putter and caber tosser, and has in his possession many valuable trophies.

**GLENGARRY.**—The final ceilidh of the series held during the winter, in connection with the Glengarry branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was perhaps the most successful, and it attracted a very large audience to the Coronation Hall, Invergarry. The Chairman, Mr. Angus Macphee, Bridge of Oich, after having read a letter of apology for absence from Major Ellice of Glengarry, extended a hearty welcome to all present, and, in concluding his remarks, said he was sure they all felt pleased to have with them that evening Mr. Roderick Macleod, Inverness, and Mr. Macleod, Knockbain. The programme was a long and varied one, and gave great pleasure to the large audience present. In recognition of their services to the Glengarry branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Miss Fraser, North Lodge, Invergarry, and Mrs. Macdonald, Hill Cottage, Invergarry, were each presented, during an interval in the programme, with a handsome umbrella, suitably inscribed, by Messrs. Angus Macphee and John A. Macintyre, Killinann. Mr. W. M. Aitken, Schoolhouse, Invergarry, occupied the chair at both presentations. The gifts were suitably acknowledged by Miss Fraser and Mrs. Macdonald. The usual votes of thanks concluded a most enjoyable evening.

**KILLIN.**—On Tuesday the local branch of An Comunn held their monthly ceilidh in the Public Hall, when there was a record attendance of some 150 people, representatives of the district. Mr. J. M'Raw, M.A., occupied the chair. The proceedings were opened by the playing of bagpipe selections by Mr. Donald M'Phail. An enjoyable tea was served by the ladies of the branch. The rallying song, "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig," was afterwards sung, and a long and interesting programme submitted. In the course of his remarks, the chairman referred to the regretted absence of Dr. Mackay. The programme was sustained by local artistes, assisted by a quartette of Fortingall friends, Misses M'Dougall and Ford and Messrs. Ford and M'Dougall. The contributions made by the Fortingall representatives were much appreciated, and they were encored again and again. The items of the programme were:—Violin and pianoforte selection, Misses M'Dougall and Ford; solos by Misses K. M'Naughton, Jean M'Farlane, Agnes M'Kinnon, Lizzie M'Kerchar, and Messrs. M'Lean, Bovain; M'Intyre, Benmore; J. M'Dougall, Fortingall; and Master Angus M'Gregor; recitations by Miss H. M'Gregor and Messrs. A. M'Gregor, M'Intyre, and J. Ford; duet by Misses M'Naughton and Isa M'Intyre; reading, Mr. A. S. Campbell; sgenlach, Mr. Ford. Miss M'Farlane acted as accompanist. Cordial votes of thanks were accorded the Fortingall representatives and others from outside the village, on the motion of Mr. D. M'Laren. Mr. Ford suit-

ably acknowledged. Votes of thanks to the purveyors, the local singers, and the accompanist were heartily given, on the call of Mr. J. Campbell, Tullich. A highly successful meeting was brought to an end by the singing of "Oidheche mhath leibh."

**INVERARAY.**—The members and friends of this Branch of An Comunn held their annual assembly in the Territorial Hall on the evening of Thursday, 1st March. There was a large attendance, and Mrs. Nicol MacIntyre, Vice-President, in a short address, referred to the good results of their past session. Dancing was engaged in with spirit. Mr. Donald MacBride acted as M.C., and excellent music was supplied by the Dalmlaly Orchestra. Bagpipe music was discoursed by Pipe-Major Duncan MacArthur and Piper T. Bond. Light refreshments were supplied in the course of the evening by the Ladies' Committee.

**KINGUSSIE.**—The first ceilidh of the recently-formed Kingussie Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Parish Church Hall on Friday evening of last week, and provided a most enjoyable entertainment. The crowded attendance was representative of all parts of the district, and included members of the Laggan and Newtonmore Branches of An Comunn. Rev. D. Macfarlane, Vice-President, occupied the chair in the absence of the President, Mr. C. B. Macpherson of Balavil, from whom an apology was received. An apology for absence was also intimated from Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach. After bagpipe music, appropriately rendered by Mr. Rod. Munro, the Chairman addressed the audience in Gaelic and English, and appealed to them to do their utmost to keep alive the language of their forefathers, and the music, poetry, and traditions of the Highlands. Mr. Macfarlane expressed the view that such gatherings as that would go a long way in furthering interest in the object they all had so much at heart. An exceptionally fine programme had been arranged by the Hon. Secretaries—Mrs. Macnaughton and Miss Mackay—and was greatly enjoyed by those present. Gaelic songs were well rendered by Mrs. Mackintosh, Drumguish; Miss C. Cumming, Miss Grant, Insh; Miss Lisma Cattanach, and Messrs Malcolm Mackenzie, Lynchait; Malcolm Macdonald, Newtonmore; and Master Rod. Macleod, Kingussie. A much appreciated item was the Gaelic duet sung by Miss Jessie Mackintosh and Miss Cathy Cumming, the voices being beautifully blended. Miss E. A. Macpherson's excellent rendering of two English songs gave variety to the programme, as also did the piano and violin selections, admirably played by Miss Cumming and Mr. G. Urquhart. A feature of the entertainment was the Gaelic play, "Reiteach Moraig," performed with good effect by pupils of Kingussie Secondary School. The performance of the play caused much amusement. The recitations given by the Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan, were much enjoyed, as were the stimulating addresses in Gaelic and English delivered by the Rev. Father Maclean. Community singing of popular Gaelic melodies, led by Mr. Cameron, postmaster, was heartily taken up. Mr. Cameron also acted as accompanist to the various singers. Mr. Thomas Grant, Vice-President of the Newtonmore Branch, also addressed the meeting, and expressed the hope that the engagement of a Gaelic teacher for the district would meet with success, and that the result would justify the sending of a choir to take part in the Mod competitions. Mr. Grant wished the Branch success. During an interval in the programme, a delightful tea was handed round by a committee of ladies, who along with the performers and the Chairman, were accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. John Campbell. A large number afterwards joined the Branch.

**KINLOCHEIL.**—The monthly Ceilidh of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in Lochelside Hall on 8th March. Mr. Hugh Stewart, President, was in the chair. The programme included selections on the piob mhor by Mr. MacVarish and Mr. MacLennan; songs by Mr. Jack Lowrie, Miss Lizzio MacNeil, Misses Maggie and Lillie MacLennan, Mr. Hugh MacEachran, Mrs. MacMillan, Mr. John MacIntyre, Mrs. Young, and Mr. H. MacVarish. Tea was served by Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. MacDonell.

**LAGGAN.**—The fourth and closing ceilidh of the series, under the auspices of the Laggan Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the Old School, Balgown, on Tuesday, 13th March. There was an excellent attendance, and the programme, as usual, was highly appreciated. The Vice-President, Rev. N. Ross, was in the chair. Mr. Macgregor, Coul, opened the proceedings with bagpipe selections, which received well-merited applause. The Gaelic songs contributed by Miss Ross, and Messrs. J. Cattanach, L. Mackintosh, and Ferguson were much appreciated, while English songs were well rendered by Mrs. Macgregor, Miss B. Gillies, Mrs. Mackintosh, and Mr. L. Mackintosh. The Chairman's explanatory references to some of these items proved most interesting and illuminating, giving zest to the whole proceedings. A good deal of enthusiasm was evident, and the company was not slow in joining in the various choruses. Miss Robertson's reading, with its pithy comments on present-day vogue, was much enjoyed by the audience. Mr. Ferguson, who has recently been appointed by An Comunn Gaidhealach as teacher of music in Badenoch, was present, and the formation of a senior choir under his tuition has met with a very gratifying response. Arrangements are now completed for holding a weekly class in Gaelic singing, and we feel confident that under Mr. Ferguson's guidance the Laggan choir will, at some date in the near future, give a good account of itself.

**NEWTONMORE.**—The fortnightly ceilidh organised by the Newtonmore Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Hall on Wednesday evening, and, as on former occasions, attracted a large crowd of enthusiasts. Mr. Malcolm Macdonald presided, and, as is the custom, made a few appropriate remarks in Gaelic, followed by a rousing and humorous English speech. The programme opened with the audience rendering "Sus Leis a' Ghaidhlig." Gaelic and English songs, stories, and recitations were given, and a pleasing item was the clever rendering of two Gaelic songs by Miss Elinor Macdonald, the Chairman's daughter, a girl of tender years. The following were those who contributed:—Gaelic songs—Miss E. Macdonald, Miss L. Macdonald, Miss A. Macdonald, Messrs. James Cameron, John Anderson, and Malcolm Macdonald; Gaelic stories—Messrs. P. Curley, D. Cattanach, John Cattanach; English songs—Mrs. Kennedy, Miss M. Stevens, Messrs. G. E. Smith, and John Wright. An English reading of the history of the Battle of Culloden and incidents which happened at that time was given by Mr. Hugh Macdonald. All the items were well received and applauded. During an interval, when tea was being handed round, the company was treated to violin selections by Mr. Alister Curley. Mr. T. Grant then addressed the company, expressing his pleasure on seeing such a large gathering. He announced that before the next ceilidh the Gaelic teacher would be in the district. A definite date could not therefore be fixed, as the class would be entirely in his hands. Although it was not the ceilidh custom to propose votes of thanks, Mr. Grant thought it fitting to compliment Mr. Macdonald on the able way he carried out the duties of Chairman. Community

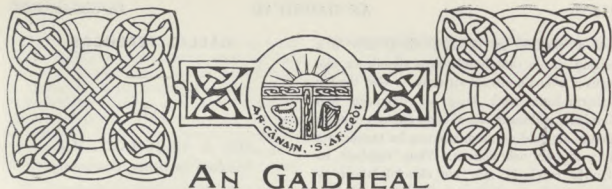
singing of a good old Gaelic song and chorus terminated a very happy evening.

**TOBERMORY.**—The Rev. D. W. MacKenzie, a well-known Gaelic scholar and poet, delighted a large gathering at the Ceilidh on 29th February in an address of pure and fluent Gaelic enriched with excellent anecdotes. Mr. MacKenzie has translated many English poems and songs into Gaelic. He has very much at heart the cause of Gaelic and its place in education. The winter's session of this Branch ended with a "Ceilidh Mór," in the Aros Hall on Wednesday last (March 14). To realise the hold that Gaelic song and story have on the affections of the Gael one had only to look at the crowded and enthusiastic gathering that packed the hall that evening to its utmost capacity. Every part of the Island was well represented, and friends were present from Iona and other districts. The Rev. J. M. Menzies, President of the Branch, was in the chair, and in his opening remarks warmly welcomed the visitors. He made special reference to the claims of Gaelic in the education of Gaelic-speaking children, and to the work done in the County of Argyll, and especially in the schools in Mull for the teaching of Gaelic. The concert programme opened with selections by the Tobermory Pipe Band, under Mr. D. MacLeod. This item was enthusiastically received, and Mr. MacLeod was heartily thanked for his efforts in teaching bagpipe music to the H.G. pupils and others. The vocalists of the evening were Misses Mairi Campbell, Easdale, and Flora MacLean, Tobermory, and Messrs Duncan MacColl, Ballachulish, and Neil Shaw, Glasgow. All the singers were repeatedly encored, and the Gaelic songs roused the audience to great enthusiasm. Miss Campbell is an established favourite in the affections of the Tobermory folks, and her rendering of the old Gaelic songs in clear and beautiful Gaelic simply delighted the people. Mr MacColl was making a first appearance in Tobermory, and his singing deeply impressed the gathering. He is a singer that will make his mark in the Gaelic musical world. Miss MacLean and Mr. Shaw are old favourites, and their efforts were most heartily received. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. A. MacGillp with her usual well-known taste and sympathetic understanding. The "piece de resistance" of the evening was a Gaelic sketch, entitled "Peigi Bheag," by John MacCormick, acted by members of the Comunn Branch. This sketch delighted the audience—all the actors playing their parts splendidly. The following members took part in the play—Mrs. MacPhee, Misses M. A. MacLean, M. MacLean, G. MacDonald, F. MacDonald, M. Morison, and F. MacLean, and Messrs. J. Cameron, sen., J. Cameron, jun., J. Cameron Linnidhu, N. MacKinnon, K. MacFarlane, Sergeant MacKay, and Regie Campbell. While all the players did well, special mention might be made of the sympathetic acting of Mrs. MacPhee (Bean a' Gheusaich), J. Cameron (Greusaich), J. Cameron (Dughall Saor), and N. MacKinnon (Iain Ruadh). The play was a great success in every way, and by universal consent the best so far given by the Branch. During the course of the evening, Mr. Neil Shaw, the energetic and popular Organising Secretary of An Comunn gave a rousing address in Gaelic and English, on the beautiful heritage of the Gael in his language, songs, and music, and the duty of every true Celt to keep alive the best traditions of the past. At the close the Chairman warmly thanked the various people who helped to make that evening such a splendid and unprecedented success, and Mr. Cameron, Vice-President, voiced the company's thanks to the Chairman. The proceeds of the concert and

dance augmented the funds of the Comunn Branch by over £30.

**VALE OF LEVEN.**—Mr. Neil Shaw, Secretary of An Comunn, lectured on "Duncan Ban MacIntyre, the Hunter Bard of Glen Orchy," to the Vale of Leven Branch on Friday, 24th February. Mr. Archibald MacGregor presided. Speaking in Gaelic, the Chairman introduced Mr. Shaw as a man who, with other Gaels, did much to rouse up interest in Gaelic language, literature, and music, and who was also an authority on the subject of his evening's lecture. After a brief sketch of the life of Donnachadh Bàn nan Oran, the speaker devoted the remainder of the evening to singing selections from the best known of the poet's works, preceding each item with a brief story of the song. Mr. Shaw sang selections from "Ben Dorain," "Coire Cheathaich," "Mairi Bhàn òg," "Nic Coisèam," and from a few of the convivial songs. The Gaelic Choir, conducted in Jamestown School, under Miss Belle MacKay, sang a number of their pieces and received a great ovation from the audience. They certainly deserve great praise for the progress they have made in such a comparatively short time. Piper R. Campbell played during the evening. Rev. Kenneth MacLennan, B.D., speaking at the close, gave eloquent praise to Mr. Shaw for his excellent lecture, and his inspiring songs. Tea was served at an interval. Proceedings closed as usual with the singing of the parting song, "Oidhe mhath leibh's beannachd leibh."

**WICK.**—"The Golden Age of Gaelic Poetry" was the title of a very interesting and instructive lecture delivered by Rev. Donald Morrison, M.A., of the Central U.F. Church, Wick, to a large audience in the Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evening, 23rd February, under the auspices of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gàidhloach. Mr. Millar, editor, President of the Branch, occupied the chair, and in introducing the lecturer said the appreciation of things Highland in Wick was a happy tradition coming down from past times. He believed it was largely due to the fact of so many Highland and Gaelic-speaking people coming to the town in the palmy days when Wick was the chief seat of the herring fishing industry in Scotland. If few had fully learnt the Gaelic language from them, many had learnt to appreciate and love their music and singing and some of their quaint social customs. (Applause.) Mr. Morrison then dealt successively with the poetical works of Alexander MacDonald, Duncan Ban MacIntyre, Rob Donn, William Ross, and Ewen MacLachlan, all of whom lived and composed during the period that he thought would be regarded as the golden age of Scottish Gaelic poetry. He described the particular qualities that gave strength and distinction to the work of the bards named, and spoke of the religious tone and lyrical excellence of many of their compositions. With the exception of Eweu MacLachlan, who was a man of scholarly attainments, they were all unlettered men. Rob Donn could not write; and while Duncan Ban MacIntyre could only scrawl his signature, he could retain in his memory as many as 6000 lines of his compositions. The lecture was illustrated by Gaelic songs, sung by Mr. David Mackay, and Gaelic melodies delightfully played on the violin by Miss M. S. Henderson. Mrs Gilbertson was accompanist. Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., and Mr. A. Macdonald, Secretary, put through a number of appropriate Gaelic records on the gramophone. Both the lecture and entertainment were greatly appreciated, and votes of thanks were very heartily accorded. The meeting closed with the singing of "Oidhe mhath leibh," led by Mr. Mackay.



# 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 West Campbell Street, Glasgow*

TELEGRAMS—*Runaire, Glasgow.*

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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An Cèitein, 1928.*

[Earrann 8

## A' CHEILIDH.

Ged tha a' chéilidh 'n a sean chuspair tha i an diugh 'g a cur gu feum nuadh. Is iomadh facal a chaidh a labhairt is a sgrìobhadh mu dheidhinn an chleachdaidh so. Ach is e an t-aobhar mu bheil sinn a' tarruing aire an leugh-adair g a ionnsaidh a nis, gu bheil a' chéilidh o chionn ghoidir air fàs anabarrach measail. Chan eil uair a dh'fhosglaire paipear naidheachd Gaidhealach ré miosan a gheamhraidh nach leughair mu chéilidh 'g a cumail tuath is deas, anns gach cèarn an cruinnich Gaidhil. Go h-àraidh tha an sean nòs ud—eadhon a' chéilidh—a sior fhàs coitchionn agus lonmhor aig meanglain A' Chomuinn feadh na Gaidhealachd, agus eadhon air Ghalldachd. Is e sin a tha deanamh na céilidh cho luachmhor o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean, gu bheil i 'n a meadhon agus 'n a h-inneal a chum obair A' Chomuinn a ghreasad air aghart. Leis sin is coir dhuinn uile a tha a' gabhail na h-oibreach so as laimh, na h-uile meas a chur air cleachdadh no nòs air bith, a tha gasda ann fhéin, is a tha a chum cuideachaidh leis an obair. Agus ma tha a' chéilidh cho feumail an diugh, tha sin a' nochdadh cia mar dh' fhaodas buaidh ùr a bhi air sean chleachdadh.

A nis is ann gu nàdurach a thachair sud a thaobh coinneamhan nam meanglan. Cha d' rinneadh reachd no òrdugh sam bith leis A' Chomunn gum biodh na meanglain a' cumail choinneamhan de 'n cheart ghné so. Ach

mar bha buill nam meanglan a' cruinneachadh uair 's an mhìos, thàinig iad a chuid 's a chuid gu bhi 'faicinn gur e an sean nòs a b'fhearr a fhreagradh oirre; agus mar sin dh' éirich an cleachdadh a ris as ùr. Faodaidh gu bheil sin 'n a chombarradh air soirbheachadh A' Chomuinn, an uair a tha an t-sean dòigh a tighinn air ais gun sireadh gun oidheirp. Tha buidhean no dhá ann, leithid Céilidh nan Gaidheal an Glascho, a chum suas o chionn iomadh bliadhna am modh sin a bha dualach anns na glinn; coinneamh chàirdeil chuireadach, gun facal 'g a labhairt ach Gaidhlig. Faodaidh gun do chum Céilidh nan Gaidheal suas inbhe agus grinneas a' chleachdaidh, agus gu robh sin mar eisimpleir do mhuintir eile. Ma tha sin ceart, rinn Céilidh nan Gaidheal maith mór, ann a bhi à nochdadh dòigh air am faodadh muintir an cuid chruinnichidhean féin a chumadh agus a stiùireadh. Co dhiù tha e coltach gu bheil an nòs sean air ath-bheothachadh gu laidir; agus is mithich a bhi taingeil gur ann mar sin a tha na meanglain 'g an giùlan féin.

Ma dh'fhaighneachdair a' cheist carson a dh'aithbheothaich a' chéilidh as ùr, an uair nach robh sin idir mar crìch àraidh anns an t-sealladh? Is e am freagradh do 'n cheist sin, gu bheil an cleachdadh ud 'n a dhìleab shìnsireal a cheart cho cinnteach 's a tha an ceòl agus a' chànan. An am a bhi ag aiseag air ais cuid de mhaise a' chiùil agus de bheartas na cainnte, cìod e bu dòcha na gun dùisgeadh



nòs a' chéilidh gu beatha; oir is ann 'n a leithid sin de shuidheachadh a chaidh an ceòl agus a' chànain altrum air thùs. Ged thainig atharrachadh nach beag air dòighean nan Gaidheal, gidheadh tha ni eigin annta a chumas greim air cuid de na gnàthan a bu taitniche a bha aig an athraichean. Thug foghlum na Beurla mùthadh mòr air cleachdaidhean a' ghinealaich so. Ri linn na Gaidhlig a dhol air chùl an gnothuichibh coitchionn mar a ta coinneamhan is malairt chaidh dòighean gnothuich nan seana mhuintir air chùl mar an ceudna. Tha coinneamh is cuideachda a nis 'g an seòladh a réir dòigh nan Gall. Tha sin fìor eadhon a thaobh cuiream ciùil fhéin. Cha deanar eireachdas a nis gun fhear-caithreach gun chlar-iomairt, agus gun foirmealachd de sheòrsa no dhà nach robh riamh aig ar sinnsir.

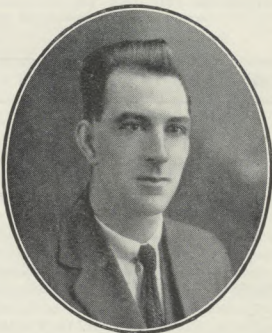
Ach an coimeas ris na nithibh ùra sin tha an t-sean chéilidh 'n a cleachdadh a tha 'g ar treorachadh air ais gu na làithean a dh'fhalbh. Tha i mar dhul no mar shlabhraidh a tha 'g ar ceangal ris an t-sean aimsir. Thig caochlach air dòighean eile o bhliadhna gu bliadhna, ach tha a' chéilidh fhathast cho saor, suilbhir, 's a bha i ri linn ar seanar. Chithear an so plathadh beag de bheatha nan Gaidheal o chionn cheud bliadhna. Ach ciod e am feum a ni sin dhuinn, ars thusa. Is e am feum sònruichte a ni sin dhuinn, gu bheil a' chéilidh ag aiseag dhuinn air ais na suidhichidhean anns am bi e comasach na seann òrain a sheinn agus na seann sgeulachdan innse. An uair a thogas a' chuideachda am fonn tha faireachdaidhean air am blàthachadh, agus tha bàigh ar sluagh 'g ar brosnuchadh. Tha sinn an dùil nach lean an Gaidheal cho dian 's a dh'fhaodadh e ri saothair, gus am bi a chuid aignidhean air an gluasad. Is iomadh argumaid a dh'fhaoidte chleachdadh gus a bhi a' dearbhadh do 'n Ghaidheal gum bu choir dha cainnt is ceòl a dhùthcha a chumail suas. Ach bu bhuadhaiche gu mòr aon fheasgar anns a' chéilidh, gus a chridhe a tharruing le tioralachd a' chiùil, agus a chuid aignidhean a dhùsgadh le fileantachd is buaidh na sean chànain.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Good method. Delta: this office.

## GALIC TEACHERS.

### VI.

MR. A. URQUHART, M.A.,  
Nicolson Institute, Stornoway.



FOR many years the Nicolson Institute has taken a very prominent part in the teaching of the Gaelic language on the higher grade standard. This has contributed largely to a good supply of educated speakers of Gaelic, whether for the clerical or the teaching profession. Mr. Urquhart is now in charge of this subject in the Nicolson Institute, and is successfully carrying on a fine tradition of thoroughness and efficiency in the conducting of that department. It is a most important feature of secondary education in the Highlands, that Gaelic speaking youths within that area should be thoroughly grounded in their native language on the higher grade standard. Otherwise when they proceed to a University or to a Training Centre they cannot become regular students of a graduation Class in Celtic, they cannot graduate in Celtic, with the result that the future supply of Gaelic preachers and teachers are sadly handicapped in their Gaelic qualifications for their professions. In fact, it ought to become without delay a part



of the Comunn's policy to urge most earnestly on the authorities that Gaelic speaking lads from the Highland area should be educated in Gaelic in those secondary schools where Gaelic is being taught on an advanced standard. Indeed, unless this is done, we need not look for scholarly Gaelic attainments among our future teachers, or for dignity or excellence of speech in the Gaelic pulpit of the days to come;

Mr. Urquhart is a native of Polewe in Ross-shire, and received his elementary education under that enthusiastic Gael, Mr. William Cameron (now of Petty), who gave his pupils a thorough grounding in Gaelic, and a greatly increased estimation of its worth. It is now over twenty years since Mr. Urquhart took very creditable places in the literary and oral sections of the national Mòd. Mr. Urquhart received his secondary education in Glasgow (the Hyndland Higher Grade School), afterwards proceeding to Glasgow University where he graduated. He obtained the premier place in the Celtic graduation class of his year. He served for a short time as English master in Cromarty, and was subsequently appointed as Gaelic master in the Nicolson Institute, where the subject is a whole time one. At least, as many pupils take Gaelic for the Higher Leaving Certificate as those who take French. Up to the third year practically fifty per cent. of the pupils take Gaelic.

As this is the only school in the Island with a full secondary course a large proportion of the pupils are from the country districts. It is still with them the language of the playground, and to a great extent *that used in teaching the subject*. This is important. Mr. Urquhart, in common with the other teachers in Lewis, is fully alive to the value of the language—as the whole subject of the teaching of Gaelic was gone into recently by the local branch of the E. I. S., and a list of recommendations and suggestions made for the guidance of teachers. Mr. Urquhart expresses appreciation of the Comunn's School books, especially their correctness and uniformity of spelling. He also values the work of the Lewis Branch of An Comunn for the great encouragement it gives to the young in literary and oral competitions.

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#### "VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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

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#### DEATH OF DR. WILLIAM MACKAY.

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It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Dr. William MacKay of Inverness, which took place on the morning of the 22nd April. Verily, a prince and a mighty man has fallen in our Gaelic Israel. For more than half a century Dr. MacKay has been prominent in all that made for the preservation of the Gaelic language and the elucidation of Highland history. As a scholar his researches in the by-paths of Highland history and his studies in the social life of the old Highlands gave him a place of almost unique authority. His published writings, produced in the scanty leisure hours of an exceptionally busy life, are of real value, and are authoritative on the subjects with which they deal. The fortunes of the living language in our own time were of genuine concern to him.

Dr. MacKay occupied a commanding position in the business and public life of the north of Scotland. The general respect entertained for his character and attainments, and the confidence inspired by his ripe wisdom and sound judgment made him a valuable and influential adherent of any cause with which he identified himself—hence the deep satisfaction with which his acceptance of office as President of An Comunn Gaidhealach was received by the members. He held the position of President from 1909 to 1912. His conduct of the meetings of the Executive Council was marked by dignity, tact, and resourcefulness, while his public utterances on ceremonial occasions, in Gaelic and English, were models of what such pronouncements should be.

Dr. MacKay was one of the founders of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and maintained his interest in it till the end. He was chairman of the first Education Authority elected for the county of Inverness, a fact which helped to secure due attention to the claims of Gaelic in the educational arrangements of the County.

Dr. MacKay, physically and mentally, was cast in a massive mould. He was a man of whom Gaels were justly proud, he has left a splendid record of work well done, and his memory will be long held in honour by his grateful and admiring countrymen. To his sorrowing widow and family the sincere sympathy of the members of An Comunn is offered in their great loss.

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SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus

LOGRAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le

CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

VI.

Dh'fhaodadh Còrdadh Pheairt sgaradh a chur eadar riaghladh Lochlann agus a fearainn Siar; ach cha robh e'n a chomas éifeachd tuineachas nan Lochlannach anna thairis air ceithir cheud bliadhna a dhubhadh a mach; tha e soilleir aig an là-duigh dhuinn matà iomadh lorg dheth fhaicinn 's a chluinntinn ann an daimh-foila, an cainnt, agus litreachas, an ainmean dhaoine is àitean, gnàthas dùthchail, sean-seula agus sean naigheachdan, agus mar sin sìos.

Tha'm fear-eachdraidh Albannach Skene ag ràdh an aon d'a leabhraichean, gu'n robh posadh tric a gabhail àite eadar Lochlannach is Gàidheil, agus "gu'n toireadh sin ainmean Lochlannach a stigh do theaghlaicean Gàidhealach air taobh an athar, ach gu'm faodadh e mar an ceudna an tomhas mòr caochladh a thoirt mu'n cuairt am pearsa is dealbh nan Gàidheal anns na h-Eileana." Tha'm fear-rannsaichaidh *Danish* Worsaae, a chaidh air thurus air feadh nan Eilean, a dearbhadh a cheart nì so 'na oibre. Air dha dol do Leòdhas, tha e 'g ràdh gu'n do bhuail se e gu laidir an t-eadar-dhealachadh seòrsa sliochd a bha 's an Eilean. Aig Ness, mar eisimpleir, dh'fhaodadh aon a chreidsinn gu'n robh e'n Lochlann, tha e'g ràdh, mur bhith a chànain agus na tighean. Tha ùghdar Albannach a chaidh air feadh nan Eilean agus a tha nis air an eachdraidh a sgrìobhadh, a comharrachadh a mach muinntir Leòdhais mar a nochdadh dualchas an aithriche Lochlannach. A thaobh pearsa nan daoine bha leis gu'n robh iadsan a bha de shliochd Lochlannach na bu chumachdala na 'n fheadhainn eile, gu'm biodh e duilich fir a bu chalma fhaotainn na iasgairean agus croiteirean Rudha Robhanais, a tha fathast a taisbeanadh gu neo-mhearachdach 'nam pearsa gu bheil iad do shìol Lochlannaeh, an feadh a tha'n gaol air a mhuir, an ealantachd mar mharraichean agus mar iasgairean thairis orra-san a tha de shliochd nan Gàidheal, agus an tàir do'n chun-nart làthail anns am bheil iad 'nan obair, uile

a nochdadh gun teagamh an daimh do na Lochlannaich o shean.

Tha Leòdhas air a chunntas mar aon de na h-eileana far am bu mhò a bhuaidhaich cumhachd agus nòs nan Lochlannach, agus far an robh na Gàidheil an tomhas beag no mór air am fuadach a mach leò; tha e mar sin taitneach ri leughadh anns na sean leabhraichean-cuimhne an àireamh anabarrach de shaighdearan a chaidh a thrusaidh lies an Arm Bhreatunnach, agus gu sonruichte an cabhlach-cogaidh, as an eilean so a nuas air feadh nam linntean, agus gu h-àraidh anns a chogadh mhór mu dheireadh, agus tha na sgrìobhadh-eagan gu tric ag innseadh sliochd nan Eileanach sin. Tha Leabhar-cuimhne an Eilean Sgitheanaich mar an ceudna, taitneach r'a leughadh. Anns a cheud dà-fhichead bliadhna de 'n linn mu dheireadh bha d'a luchd-àiteachaidh anns an Arm Bhreatunnach:—aon-ar-fhichead Lieutenant agus Major-General, còig-is-dà-fhichead Còirneal, seà ceud Màidsear, Captain agus agus oifigeach *Non-commissioned*, deich mìle saighdear, agus seà fichead piòbaire. Cha b'e 'n droch àireamh sin à eilean de mheudachd an Eilean Sgitheanaich; tha e leigeadh ris gu'm bheil iad de shliochd gaisgeach.

Tha a chànain Ghàidhlig cuideachd, ann an tomhas a nochdadh buaidh nan Lochlannach, agus tha e air aithris gu'm faod duin' aithneachadh gus au là-diugh trid an dolgh-bhruidhne, agus cur nam facal ri chèile, et. c na h-àitean far am bu drùgichte am buaidh; tha a' Ghàidhlig, mar au ceudna air mòran fhacal a ghabhail an iasad às an t-sean chaint Lochlannach, nach ionnan idir ri cànan nan Lochlannach aig au àm so. Tha ann am Machair Ghallda Albainn cainnt a tha uidh air nuidh a dol a cleachduinn a tha glé choltach ris au sean chaint Lochlannach.

Mar a chaidh innseadh cheana, tha na h-Innse-Gall o aon cheann gus a cheann eile làn do ainmean-àite Lochlannach, d'an toirear eisimpleirean 's fhaide air aghart. An eilean Leòdhais tha ceithir ainmean-àite Lochlannach air son aon ainm Gàidhlig; 's an Eilean Sgitheanaich trì an aghaidh dithis Ghàidhlig; am Barvas seachd-ar-fhichead an aghaidh a h-aon; an Uig, còig-deug-ar-fhichead an aghaidh ceithir; an Ile, a h-aon an aghaidh dithis (Ghàidhlig); an Arran a h-aon an aghaidh ochd. Chithear mar sin gu'n robh buaidh an Lochlannach na bu mhò mar a b'fhaide 'théid sinn ri tuath.

(Ri Leantainn.)

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Waverley Hotel, Stirling, on Friday 20th April. The following members were present:—John R. Bannerman, Arrochar; Bailie Baxter, Perth; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Lady Elspeth Campbell, Inverary; Captain George I. Campbell, Yr. of Succoth; Crarae; Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., Campbeltown; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Glasgow; Mrs. J. Buchanan Dunlop, Glasgow; Miss Louisa Farquharson of Invercauld; Alexander Fraser, Bishopton; Colonel A. D. Greenhill Gardyne, of Glenforsa; Miss Augusta Lamont of Knockdow; Mrs. Macdonald of Dunach; T. D. MacDonald, Oban; John MacIntyre, Glasgow; Rev. Dr. G. W. Mackay, Killin; William MacKenzie, Greenock; James MacLaren, Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Glasgow; Norman MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow; Rev. William MacPhail, Ardrishaig; Donald Murray, M.A., Alexandria; Lord James Stewart-Murray, Ballinluig; John A. Nicolson, M.A., Glasgow; Neil Orr, Edinburgh, Iain Mac. A. Moffat Pender, Stornoway; Neil Shaw, Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, C.B.E., President, occupied the chair, and before commencing the business of the evening he felicitated the members who had been elected to the Education Authorities. The minute of previous meeting was read and approved.

The Finance Committee reported receipt of an appeal from the Gaelic Society of Perth soliciting a donation to the capital fund that is being raised for the upkeep and maintenance of the monument to the memory of the Rev. James Stewart at Killin. In view of the decisions formerly come to in regard to similar applications, and the doubtful competency of entertaining such a request, the Committee regretted that they could not see their way to recommend the making of a grant. Bailie Baxter spoke in support of the appeal, and the Chairman having indicated that the object was one which would probably receive the support of individual members, the minute of the Committee was approved.

The minutes of the Education Committee were submitted. With regard to the Lingua-phonie a report was submitted on the inquiries which had been made into the matter by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose. Lady Elspeth Campbell gave further particulars and indicated that along with Mr. Compton MacKenzie, and Mr. Wright, she was prepared

to find £250 towards the cost of providing necessary records. She was of opinion that the financial responsibility of An Comunn in the matter would be very slight. A series of lessons would be provided of which records would be made by a competent speaker, and it was believed that these would be exceedingly helpful to learners of the language. It was reported that the Committee viewed the proposal with the utmost sympathy, and that a further report would be submitted at a future meeting. They had had before them a letter from Mr. James Thomson, Bayble, intimating that he proposed publishing a book of Gaelic poetry for use in schools, which would probably be sold at sixpence. The Committee was of opinion that there was room for such a book and agreed to make a grant, the amount to be determined when the cost of publication was ascertained, or alternatively that An Comunn itself should publish the book with Mr. Thomson as editor. Miss Lamont reported on the Summer School. The opening date was fixed for 19th July.

Minute of Propaganda Committee was submitted. Following the opinion expressed by the Education Committee that means should be taken to interest parents in the advantages of bi-lingual education for their children, and in the duty of making their desires known to the Education Authorities, it was recommended that the services of the General Secretary, Mr. Shaw, should be utilised for this purpose. The Committee recommend that a second teacher of singing be sent to Skye to help to bring forward as many competitors as possible to the Skye Mod.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee was read and approved. It was reported that the Celtic design transfers had been received from Messrs. Briggs, Manchester, who had reported that these were now on sale at all the leading art needle-work shops in Scotland. A new competition in needle-work was approved. This is intended for beginners, and as soon as the designs have been selected the Committee will issue conditions and rules.

The Mod and Music Committee reported that arrangements at Inverness have been going on successfully, and that the local committee have been making strong efforts to make the Mod an outstanding success. It was also reported that Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh, Mr. D. T. Yacimini, Perth, had agreed to act as music adjudicators at the national Mod. Mr. I. M. Moffat Pender reported on the progress made with instituting the Gaelic Circle which will be known as "Clann an Fhraoich." The draft rules were finally adopted.

At the close of the business the President directed the members' attention to the Historical Pageant which is to be held in the grounds of the Garscube Estate towards the end of June in aid of the Dental Hospital funds.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

### THE MOORLANDS OF SKYE.

With the scent of the heather, the brackens' gold fire,  
The scarlet of rowan 'tis the land of desire;  
And, round by the Mosshag, the cannach looks gay  
As myriads of fairies in gala array,  
All dancing and tossing their locks merrily;  
Oh, the moorlands of Skye are a calling to me!

And to the glad senses, in the fresh morning air,  
The bog myrtle's fragrance wafts incense so rare,  
Where dragon flies flash mid the reeds by the pool  
On whose limpid bosom float lilies so cool,  
And the curlew's love-call stirs my soul's ecstasy;  
Oh, the Moorlands of Skye are a-calling to me!

Each sight and each sound causes pulses to thrill  
With rapture as joyous as wild mountain rill;  
The whir of the partridge, the sheep's plaintive bleat  
Weave spells of enchantment which make my heart beat;  
There gracefully poised the red deer I see;  
Oh, the Moorlands of Skye are a-calling to me!

Such magical beauty brings almost a pain,  
And sends the blood coursing like wine to my brain;  
Ah, fain would I gaze on such scenes till I die,  
With the Coolins' stern grandeur entralling mine eye;  
Alas, I must leave them! but far though I be  
In my heart shall those moorlands keep calling me.

MORAG MACLEAN BANNATYNE.

### SEAN FHACAIL.

1. Am fear a thuiteas 's a' pholl bheir e poll as.
2. Aithnichear fear domaig air na sràdaibh.
3. An uair a bhos an deoch a stigh bidh a' chiall a muigh.
4. Sannt nan seachd sagairt air fear gun mhac gun nighinn.
5. Bu chòir tòchd an ime bhi air a' bhlàthaich.
6. Thig fear an t-saoghail fhada as gach cunnart.
7. Cha toir muir no monadh a chuid bho 'n duine shona.
8. Chan ann 's a' h-uile poll monach a gheibhear a leithid.
9. Cha toirear bharr a' chait ach an craicinn.
10. Cò nach ceannaich an droch bhean ach am fear aig am bi i.
11. Cha bhi dàil air aran fuinte no air fodar buailte.
12. Deireadh nan ceannaichean a dhòl a shniomh an t-siomain. S. MCT.

### CLEACHDADH SOLASACH.

An cuid de na ceàrnan de "Piedmont" agus "Savoy" anns am bheil an luchd-àiteachaidh agus iad 'nan clobairean, a' tuineachadh fada-dhealichte bho chéile air na h-Alpan àrda, tha cleachdadh cràbhach, àluinn ann, a ni beagan sòlais do na clobairean as eugmhais cuideachd.

Nuair a dh'fhàgas a ghrian an gleann agus is gann a dhealraicheas a gathan deir-eannach air mullaichean sneachdach nam beann, gheibh an clobair, aig am bheil am both as àirde suidhichte air na binnean, a adharc; agus gladhaidh e, mar gu'm biodh le thrombaid-labhairt "Molaih Dia." Cha luaithe a chluinneas na clobairean dlùth an gladh, agus iadsan 'nan seasamh aig dorsan am bothan, na ghlaodhas iad a ris, an déigh chéile; agus mar so, ré cairteal na h-uair freagraidh am mac-talla o àirde gu h-àirde, o chreig gu creig gus fa dheòidh slòlaidh e as fad air falbh. Bithidh tosd tiamhaidh ann, an déigh fuaim dheireannaich na h-adhairce, agus an sìn tuitidh na clobairean uile 'n air a glùinean, ceann lom, agus an uair a bhitheas an dorchas air na beanntan mun cuairt, gladhaidh an adharc am mach uair eile, "Oidhe Mhaith," cairdeil, agus theid na clobairean a steach na 'n comhnuidhean sonarach, mu thàmh an déigh saothrach an latha. T. D. M.

## SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Fàilte oirbh, a chairdean. Cha robh mòran agam r'a radh ruibh o cheann mìos no dha. Tha obair a' Chomuinn a' dol air a h-aghaidh gu togarrach agus tha aobhar taingeachadh againn gu bheil a' soirbheachadh le chùisean cho gasda. Anns an Ogmhios bidh ochd Mòdan Dùthchail againn agus ma bhios slàinte is cothrom agam bidh mi aig a' chuid as motha dhiubh. Chan 'eil cothrom air ged a tho cuid dhiubh air an aon latha oir feumaidh suidh-eachadh ghnòthaichean aig baile a bhì air a chumail 's an amharc an àm socrachadh air latha mòr a' Mhòid. Tha fhios agam gur e iarrtas gach fìor charaid do'n Ghàidhlig gu'm bì gach buaidh is piseach a' leantuinn an lorg nam Mòdan so.

\* \* \*

It is most encouraging to record that thirteen members of An Comunn and twenty-six Branch members have been elected to the Education Authorities in the Highland area. To these An Comunn offers its hearty congratulations on their success at the polls. A feature well worth noting is the very keen interest shown by the electors in the recent contests and the fact that so many candidates, who were well known Gaelic enthusiasts, were returned. This is most gratifying, and if parents do their duty towards their children's education there is every indication that the year 1928 will be an outstanding one in the history of Gaelic teaching in schools.

\* \* \*

From every indication it is evident that the forthcoming National Mod at Inverness will be an outstanding success. The Local Committee have been very active throughout the winter months promoting a series of social functions from which they have garnered quite a considerable sum towards Mod expenses. The Grand Fête in the grounds of Ness Castle is creating much local interest, and with the presence of the Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George to perform the opening ceremony high expectations are entertained. In order to assist intending visitors to make their arrangements, the Local Committee have compiled and issued a list of Hotels and Boarding Houses where accommodation may be had if early application be made. In view of the large number of

competitors, and the ever increasing number of choirs now coming forward intending visitors should not defer the matter unduly, and then perhaps be disappointed. The following is the list of Establishments that have intimated their terms:

Commercial Hotel	12/6 per day.
Waverley Hotel	12/- per day.
	(Special terms for choirs.)
Neish's Hotel	10/- per day (choirs).
Glenmhor Hotel	10/- per day (choirs).
	Bed and Breakfast 7/6.
Northern Hotel	12/- per day.

\* \* \*

The first of the Provincial Mods, the Kintyre Mod at Campbeltown, passed off successfully on Thursday and Friday, 26th and 27th April. A full detailed account of the proceedings will be given in our next issue. The other districts are now well forward with their arrangements, and the following dates have been selected.

\* \* \*

The Tìree Mod at Cornaigmore, June 7th; Islay, (Bowmore) June 15th; Perthshire (Aberfeldy) June 15th; Cowal, (Dunoon) June 16th; Lewis (Stornoway) June 19th and 20th; Mid-Argyll, (Lochgilhead) June 19th and 20th; Lorn, Mull and Morvern, (Oban) June 22nd; Ardnamurchan (Strontian) June 29th; Skye (Portree) July 3rd and 4th; Lochbroom and Gairloch, (Ullapool) July 13th; Sutherland (Lairg) September 7th.

\* \* \*

The Treasurer, Mr. MacFarlane reminds me that subscriptions for the current year are now due, and that notices have been issued to members. The response has been very gratifying, but there still remains a number who have not yet replied. The work of An Comunn entails heavy expenditure, and I appeal to all those who love their language, and who desire to see the movement progressing to come forward and also endeavour to get their *friends* to become members. Before another issue of *An Gaidheal* appears the headquarters of An Comunn will be removed to larger and more convenient premises at 212 West George Street. Will members please note change of address.

NIALL.



## NA MARAICHEAN.

## GLEUS D

Seisid :

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		Bidh		ionn		gun bhi		trom.		Hog i		ó		air na		maraichean	

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Rann :

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		Maraichean		a'		chuain Ri la		fuair		cha bu		ghrannach	iad.					

Marachean an t-sùgraidh  
Cha dhùisgear gun choinneal iad.

'S mise tha gu cianail  
'S mi 'n Grianaig gun charachadh.

Marachean an t-seòlaidh  
Theid eòlach 's na crannagan.

Chan fhaigh mi caileag òg ann  
A dheònaicheas teannadh rium.

Fhir a' chòta liath-ghlais  
Cha d' fhuairheadh riamh gun cheannach e.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

Thornhill, by Toronto, Canada,  
12th April, 1928.

Sir,

The interesting poem on Bannockburn published in your February number raises a point which to me is new, namely, Burn Bànag as a correct Gaelic form for Bannockburn. I rather doubt it. "Burn," means "water," but not running water as in a river. "Bànag" primarily means something white, applied in some places to grise, which is also quite commonly known as gealag. It appears to me that Burn Bànag in this connection is far fetched.

A paraphrase on "Scots wha hae" introducing Bannockburn, has "Allt a' Bhonnaich." The late Professor MacKinnon also used this name twenty odd years ago at a meeting in Glasgow, probably the Mull and Iona Society, and Nether Lochaber used it more than once in his letters of long ago in the *Inverness Courier*. I do not, however, stand for the "Allt a' Bhonnaich" myself, as I do not know whether or not there may be an old Keltic—Pictish or Gaelic—name for the place. To those who can avail themselves of original sources of research, I commend this subject.

Yours, etc.,

CHARLES H. MACGLASHAN.

THE EDITOR,  
*An Gaidheal*.

It is on record that at a certain period in  
the life of King's College in the University

Aberdeen there was an inhibition which struck at the speaking of English or Scots within the precincts of the College: but that Gaelic was coupled with Latin as a language which the students might speak.—Would any reader conversant with the history of King's College kindly cite the ordinance or other authority bearing on the attitude of the College authorities towards Gaelic. It would be interesting to know the precise date of the ordinance.

E.O.D.

We have news of Gaelic songs and the music of the Highland Clàrsach being broadcast in far Ceylon. Recently the Rev. Victor MacEchern, of Colombo, played the clàrsach, and songs of the Hebrides were heard by ears to whom they were absolutely new. There are several Gaels in that part who take a lively interest in the forward movement in favour of Gaelic in the homeland.

*Ant-oran Mór.* "Bu mhaith liom, más é do thoil é, go ndeanfadh léighthóir éigin a innsint dhom (i geùpla focal) cad is *Oran Mór* ann. Nil aon amhrán don tsórt san againn-ne i nGaedhlig na hEireann. An Amhrán molta cine nó clainne e nó an amhrán é go bhfuil gníomhufocht nó aistíocht (mar rinne nó *coisimeachd*) ag gabháil leis amhrán drámach?

Do rinneas fiafrúighe dhe amhránuidhe nó dhó in a thaobh ach ní raibh aon ró-chúntas acu air."

(i gCorcaigh, in Eirinn.)

S.T.

## LEWIS ASSOCIATION, TORONTO.

At a recent ceildh of this Society, there was a large gathering of members and friends. The programme included Gaelic and Scottish songs of the Hebrides, bagpipe numbers, speeches and recitations. In a felicitous address, the new President, Mr. Peter McLeod, thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, and promised them that with the enthusiastic support of officers and members he hoped to make his year of office as successful as his predecessor's had been.

Among speakers on the platform was Dr. W. J. E. Scott, who said that some remarks he had just heard about the Island of Lewis reminded him of an incident 20 odd years ago in the late Professor MacKinnon's class-room when MacDonald's *Birlinn* was being read and discussed. Commenting on the seamen's garb, the professor said that the kilt was not universally worn by the men of the isles in the past, any more than in MacDonald's time. The speaker's suggestion that the Island's reputation as *Innis nan gaoth* had something to do with the unpopularity of the kilt there, as in Edinburgh and Chicago,—drew forth from the professor a hollow sepulchral groan which was an unflinching answer to students who got their jokes across.

Dr. Scott said that so much had been written about the modern history of their island that he could add little that was original to their stock of knowledge. In the United States he had met Lewismen guarding the safety of the Great Republic by land and sea, and heard others in the Far West of Canada who could recount in racy Gaelic how the decks of British battleships had sometimes run red with the blood of Cockneys who learned to respect the seamen of the Isles after a liberal dose of the fist. Lewis folks were far-travelled, and never felt so much at home as when they were abroad.

In North America the study of Gaelic history was a thing unknown. He wished to remind Highlanders that modern American history was largely a repetition of ancient Gaelic history which had been consigned to the past and neglected in favour of the propagation of so-called "Anglo-Saxon culture." Despite such propaganda, the fact remained that the American Continent had been and would be more and more dominated by the spirit of the Latin-Celtic races, whose undying hostility towards Teutonic nations continued to shape events after a fashion difficult for the Teutonic mind to grasp.

The early history of American colonisation was connected more particularly with Spain, and this fact should remind Highlanders that the origins of the Gaelic people, literature, law, and commerce were traced far back to Spanish sources. As far as Gaelic literary traditions were concerned, the origins of the Gael in Ireland and the Hebrides formed part of the history of ancient Spanish colonisation, the Iberian Peninsula being claimed as the motherland of the Gael.

Such traditions were ignored as myths by writers who tried to interpret what was far beyond their mental powers, many of them being as ignorant of ancient Gaelic to discover the secrets of the old manuscripts, as they were of Basque to decipher still older mysteries. Both were difficult languages to acquire. Their avoidance of the latter was natural. In the Basque country the story goes that the Devil tried to learn the language, with the hope of using it to the people's spiritual detriment. After three years he had learned only three words, when he gave up his task in despair, and fled the country.

Although the Gael had kept his foothold in Lewis, his language had changed with changing political conditions. To-day, English was encroaching on Gaelic ground with the people's consent; previously the island was wholly Gaelic-speaking. Still earlier, the Norsemen held sway, as shown from the ubiquity of Norse place-names compared with the Gaelic ones of recent origin. Before the Viking Age, the language may have been Pictish, introduced from the Mainland; while to the prehistoric period belonged those names of places, islands, and peoples which were alien to Celtic speech.

According to Gaelic tradition, the Fir Bolg aborigines of Ireland who spoke "Gaelic," fled to the Hebrides after the battle of Moytura, about 1890 B.C., and this tradition was accurate in emphasising the extent of Spanish colonisation as far as Skye, Lewis, and remoter islands long centuries before the appearance of Celtic hordes in Central Europe. It was supported by the fact that the oldest island place-names belonged to Iberian speech.

Reference was made to the folk-lore, tales and romances of the Outer Hebrides alluding to the voyages of local heroes to the land of Don Quixote, where they met with marvellous adventures, married Spanish duennas, and lived happily ever after. Part of it followed Basque folk-tales so closely that its antiquity seemed to be no older than the days of the Peninsular War.

Ancient geographers like Pytheas knew of the island as far back as the 4th Century, before Christ. Strabo said that in his time people embarked for *Thule* (Iceland) from *Nerigos*, the northern end of Lewis, whose name appeared in old maps as *Nary* or *Nery*. If Iberian, its meaning "End-height" was clear, the second half of the compound being cognate with Basque *ige*, "a height." The old Iberian form occurred in the place-name *Aigoua*, vel *Oscua*, the words meaning, "The Height or Heap," the latter being pure Basque, and the former the Celtiberian dialect word which had survived in Middle Irish *aighe*, "height." Probably, *Aigoua* was the Iberian prototype of the island-name *Eigg*, the *Scur* of *Eigg* being the most prominent feature that would attract the notice of its aboriginal race.

A remote island whither Lewismen voyaged was *St. Kilda*. The late Dr. Henderson connected its Gaelic name *Hiort* with Middle Irish *irt*, "death," which was a scholastic term derived from Basque *irte*, "death." The native expression: "*O Hiort gu Peairt*," seemed to be of more ancient date than the Irish word *irt*, whose meaning made the phrase ridiculous. The speaker preferred to equate it with the Gaelic phrase of ancient manuscript's "*Ath Cliath in Herut will cosin n-Ath Cliathi i Cualaind*," which embodied the old idea of Gaeldom's extreme breadth in Alba and Erin.

By identifying the form *Hirta* or *Hiort* with Old Irish *Herut*, 3000 years of Hebridean history and tradition were linked together, for *Herut*, was once part of Galway when inhabited by the *Fir Bolgs* who fled to the Hebrides after the First Battle of Moytura. Nor would they have gone thither unless the isles of the Hebrides had been known long before to the peoples of Ireland as settlements of colonists who were of their own kith and kin. Their language was called by no other name than Gaelic, but this could not be Celtic. As evidenced from the history of the island of Lewis, the language had been constantly changing with the times, but the Gael of the Hebrides contrived to maintain his racial supremacy over all other ethnical elements.

### BARD THURNAIG.

Bha Alasdair Camshron ceithir fichead bliadhna a dh' aois air an dara latha deug de an Ghblin. B'e sin an latha sònruichte am Poll Iùbh—nach mór an togail a rinn cairdean a' Bhàird ris an Dior-daoin sin!

Nach robh ceithir fichead bliadhna ann bho 'n chunnaic muinntir na Gàidhealtachd a leithid de dhuine nach fhaic iad, maith dh' fhaoidte, a rithist gu bràth?

Bu mhaith leinn uile a bhith maille ris a' Bhàird an latha sin, gu dearb. Bu mhór an toileachas-inntinn dhuinn an seana ghaisgeach fhaicinn am measg an t-sluaigh aig a bheil urram dha—aig a bheil gràdh air.

Dà-rìreadh is e gaisgeach foghainteach a bha anns a' Bhàrd so 'na latha Airson iomadh bliadhna chum e bratach na càinain a' snàmh ris a' ghaoith—am feadh a bha e 'na chomas thrèoraich e Gàidheil na dùthcha aige—thug e misneach agus cuideachadh dhoibh—thog e a ghuth—chuir e e féin air cheann an airm—thog e, mar an ceudna, a chlaidheamh an àird—mar thog a shinnisr bho shean, agus iad a' dol sìos do an bhàrd airson Ailean an Earrachd.

B'e latha grianach, dealrach a bha ann an uair bha sinn shuas am Poll Iùbh. Ged tha am Bàrd fìor chrùbach a nis, gidheadh thog e air an uair chunnaic e a chairdean a' tighinn do a ionnsuigh, agus choisich e gu tapaidh chum lub air an rathaid aige airson fàilte a chur orra. Bu bhreagh an sealladh, gu deimhinn, an uair rug "Alasdair Mór" a' Beararaidh air làimh air a' Bhàird. Cha do thachair an dithist ud air a chèile riamh roimhe—och—a ghràidh—cò am bodach sin a rinn iomradh air na cnuic agus air na daoine!

Bha Bana-phrionnsa nan sùl gorma—Bean-uasal Inbhir Iùbh—ann, mar an ceudna. Ach cha b'e sin a' cheud uair a chunnaic ise am Bàrd—cha b' e.

Thàinig Murchadh MacCoinnich a nua a Inbhir Asdail agus thàinig Niall MacDhòmhnuill a nall a Gearloch. A Mhurchaidh agus a Néill! Nach b' iad muinntir Pholl Iùbh a bha toilichte bhur faicinn—b' iad-san a bha!

Thàinig fios-dealain a Dun-gìdeann. Cò ach an t-Ollamh MacBhàtair mór a sheòl do ionnsuigh a' Bhàird e. Bha a' ghrian a' dealradh oirnn uile!

\* \* \* \* \*

'San fheasgar dh' fhàg sinn ar beannachd aig a' Bhàrd.

Uaireannan, gun teagamh, anns na linntean ri teachd bithidh na ginealaich a bhios ann an sin a' bruidhinn air Bàrd Thurnaig. Agus aig am dol fodha na gréine an uair chì iad an solus dearg, iongantach air mullach Beinn Airigh a' Charr, air mullach na Maighdinn agus air mullach na Sleaghaich faodaidh fios a bhith aca gum faca sùilean ciùin ar Bàrd ghaolaich a leithid iomadh uair cuideachd.

I, M, M-P.

**SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.**

Opening Date—Thursday, 19th July.

The Education Committee of *An Comunn* hope that the change which has been made in the date of the Summer School will not unduly inconvenience students who have already enrolled. On enquiring of the Education Authorities of the Highland Counties, it was found that in most cases the holidays did not extend beyond the middle of August, and as the Committee desires to meet the convenience of prospective teacher-students, the opening date of the School has been fixed for Thursday, 19th July, instead of the 31st.

Every hope is entertained that the Advanced Class, which will be in the competent hands of Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., of Jordanhill Training College, will be recognised under Article 55, and teachers who desire this recognition are invited to enroll at once.

Provision is also being made, by means of a Beginners' and an Elementary Class, for those who desire to undertake the study of Gaelic for the first time, and for those who have already some slight knowledge of the language. Every encouragement will thus be given to learners at different stages.

Many students of the language classes will no doubt take pleasure in also attending the Class of Gaelic Singing which will be under the leadership of Mr. Neil Orr, conductor of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir. Those whose tastes lean more to Art than to Music, will have the privilege of taking what promises to be an extremely interesting course of Celtic Art under Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., assisted by Miss MacBride of the staff of the Glasgow School of Art.

Those who are interested in the language, literature, art and music of the Highlands, should not miss this opportunity of increasing their knowledge of these national possessions, and, by cultivating these living expressions of the spirit of our race, help in preserving and developing a distinctive and valuable contribution to Scottish culture.

AUGUSTA LAMONT,

Secretary to the Gaelic Summer School,  
Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire.

## LIST OF LODGINGS.

Broadford Hotel, Proprietor:—Malcolm MacInnes. £4, 17/- per week.  
Campbell Hotel (Temperance). £4, 4/- per week.

Mrs. F. Anderson, Broadford House, Broadford.  
Mrs. MacLean, Ardmore,                    "  
Mrs. MacLean, Seaview,                    "  
Mrs. MacKay, Dunolly House,            "  
Miss MacLean, Bayview,                    "  
Miss MacLeod, Burnside,                    "  
Miss Fraser, Laundry,                    "  
Mrs. Robertson, Lime Park,                "  
Mrs. Hector Robertson, Harrapool,        "  
Mrs. Donald Robertson,                    "  
Mrs. J. MacInnes,                            "  
Mrs. Donald MacKinnon, Park Cottage,  
Harrapool, Broadford.  
Miss MacLeod, Burnbank, Harrapool,  
Broadford.

**CLANN AN FHRAOICH.**

Aig a' choinneamh de'n Ard Chomhairle a chumadh an Sruibheala air an fhicheadamh la de'n Ghiblein bha na riaghailtean a dh'ullaich co-chomhairle a' Chròilein Ghàidhlig air an toirt seachad. Bha comhradh taitneach anns a' Ghàidhlig eadar nam ball mu'n Chròilean agus ghabhadh ris na Riaghailtean mar a leanas:—

## NA RIAGHAILTEAN.

Is e CLANN AN FHRAOICH a bheirear mar ainm air a' Chròilean Ghàidhlig.

Tha cead aig ball sam bith de an Chomunn Ghàidhealach, air a bheil a' mhiann, a bhith 'na bhall de CHLANN AN FHRAOICH.

Cha bhi dad aige ri phàidheadh a bharrachd air na tha e a' pàidheadh gu bhith 'na bhall de an Chomunn Ghàidhealach fhéin.

Tha e mar fhiachaibh air CLANN AN FHRAOICH a bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus a bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a mhàin, is e sin ri ràdh, an uair tha a' CHLANN a' bruidhinn ri chèile agus a' sgrìobhadh chum a chèile tha iad 'gan cur air am facal a bhith dileas do an chànan air a h-uile dòigh.

Tha e ceadaichte do na h-uile neach a bhith 'na bhall de CHLANN AN FHRAOICH, (ma tha e cheana 'na bhall de an Chomunn Ghàidhealach) eadhon ged nach eil esan (no ise) ro theòma air a' Ghàidhlig.

Bidh foighidinn aca-san aig a bheil a' Ghàidhlig riu-san aig nach eil i gu h-ìomlan.

Air an aobhar so is e facal suaicheantais CLANN AN FHRAOICH "FOIGHIDINN."

Mar so, bidh suaicheantas beag airgid air a dhealbhadh, air am bi dealbh bad fraoich, agus fo an fhraoch bithidh am facal FOIGHIDINN.

Bidh còir air a toirt do CHLANN AN FHRAOICH an suaicheantas so a ghlu'n, air a' mhodh so a' leigeil ris do chèile gur CLANN AN FHRAOICH iad.

### "CLANN AN FHRAOICH."

At the annual meeting of An Comunn at Fort William last year, a motion by Mr. Moffat Pender was adopted that a Gaelic circle be formed within An Comunn. The circle is now constituted under the title of "Clann an Fhraoich," (The Children of the Heather), and the rules which regulate its activities will appear in due course. The aims and purposes of the circle are only a more intense application of the Comunn's own aim in the use and practice of the Gaelic language. Many of the best supporters of the cause do not, through no fault of theirs, have equal facility in speaking the language as native speakers have. And the object of the circle is to encourage the frequent use and practice of Gaelic in its own meetings and discussions. We wish the proposal every success. We expect that for a long time yet the general business of An Comunn will have to be conducted in the general language, that is, English. But all the same an inner circle like this will afford an opportunity of practising the spoken speech to learners as well as to native speakers.

### MOORLAND MONSTERS.

By D. MATHESON, M.A.

What appears to be the shortest distance between Lewis villages may still be observed in the paths trodden out for us by our distant forebears. These paths are, of course, mere tracks, their formation having become apparent by constant usage down through the ages. But what is distinctly peculiar about these paths is the fact that they do not lead one anywhere near moor lochs. It is clear, that the distance could be considerably shortened by sometimes following the straight forward course afforded along the banks of lochs. Yet the line of least resistance is at this juncture shunned, and a winding path, a respectable distance from the loch, is pursued. In those far off days particularly, there were good reasons why these tracks should avoid the shores of moorland lakes. The Seilich may, by some, be considered a legendary creature, but the truth is that to this very day people are positive in their assertions that they have witnessed the strange monster. These peculiar creatures were far more numerous in bygone ages than they are now. This was, of course, when the use of mills was not known, or, in any case,

very little appreciated. With the advent of mills, however, the water supply of the lochs, in which many of these monsters thrived, became gradually less, so that they had to evacuate their former homes and seek refuge in larger lochs, or, as there is strong reason to believe, in the open ocean. About a hundred years ago certain arrangements were being made with a view to securing a more plentiful supply of water for the working of a mill at Gravir, a village in the south of the Island. The tapping of a very large lake in which one of these monsters lived became necessary, and life in the old home became impossible for the Seilich. The fact that the outgoing stream from this lake was practically downhill all the way favoured very much the forced escape of the harassed creature. A few days later, a slimy trail could be traced from the border of the lake along the stream, and finally, to its outlet into the sea. The unusual phenomenon attracted the attention of every one in the vicinity, and we may imagine the relief experienced in knowing that at long last the dreaded ogre had chosen an ocean home. Some of these fish-shaped specimens measure from forty to sixty feet in length. The head is round, and in many respects resembles that of an animal, but in size it is altogether out of proportion when compared with the rest of the body. The outstanding feature of this animal-shaped head is the huge gaping mouth and small but exceedingly prominent ears, which are said to have a strong resemblance to a rat's. It is believed that these strange monsters are still extant, and that they have an enormous power of suction. Even to this very day a certain loch we know well is avoided by everyone as a consequence of its being a haven of the ugly Seilich. It is usual for young folk especially to keep a prudent distance from this particular lake, since, at any moment, they might be forcibly drawn towards the abode of the dreaded ogre. It is no wonder then that in an age when these monsters thrived contentedly, and were continually a source of danger, that our ancestors should chose the circuitous paths that may still be followed when travelling from village to village.

### MACCRIMMON'S LAMENT.

The mist hangs low on the far distant Coolin's  
 The sea maids moan on the rocks by the shore,  
 For sad is the tune, MacCrimmon is playing  
 "I shall return, return no more."



The night wind takes up his pibroch's wild wailing  
 Carrying it down the Seven Dark Glens,  
 "Oarsmen strong, this is my last sailing,"  
 Rousing the Eagles asleep on the Bens.

To the Children of Lochlan out there on the  
 Skerries  
 MacCrimmon's last Pibroch is borne on the  
 blast,  
 "To me, to me, there is no more returning,"  
 On the Spindrift while blown over them as it  
 passed.

CAMPBELL OF SADDELL,  
 F.S.A. (Scot) J.P.,  
 The Captain of Saddell Castle.

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## GALIC PLACE-NAMES AND ENGLISH.

(TO THE EDITOR OF "AN GAIDHEAL.")

Sir,—May one who is greatly interested in the Gaelic language from the outside—although able to trace his forefathers back to Gaelic-speakers of Glen Urquhart in the eighteenth century—draw attention to a little reform that would be helpful in all those Gaelic writings of the day that are intended for educational and informational use. I mean the advisability of giving—in notes—the English names of, at least, the more obscure places mentioned in Gaelic in the text. In the course of Mrs. Grant's admirable third article on the Rule of the Norsemen in Scotland, in the current issue of "An Gaidheal," we are told that under Torfinn nine Earldoms were held in subjection by him, and there are named. Ross, Buchan, Mar, and Angus are given in their usual English form, and most intelligent Gaels would be able to identify "Gallaobh" (Caithness), "Cataobh" (Sutherland), and "Moreibh" (Moray), but how many, even well educated in the Gaelic language and in history, will at first sight make out the significance of "Garmanan?" The omission of such notes (either at the foot of the page or at the end) is a real defect in the four excellent Gaelic School "Readers" issued under the authority of An Comunn—particularly Volume IV., which is of greatest educational value, and contains much delightful historical and topographical matter, but with local place-names which, as given in Gaelic alone, must be, even for Gaelic readers, very difficult of identification. No doubt, the idea in regard to these is that the teacher should explain these names in class, but, even assuming that the teacher is competent in obscure topography, this leaves out of account that these little books are so admirably compiled that they may well be read in the homes

of Gaelic people with the greatest interest and profit.

May I say that this defect touches most part of all current Gaelic writing. It would not apply, of course, to the leading articles of this friendly little monthly, "An Gaidheal," or even to the excellent Gaelic supplement of "Life and Work," both of which touch little on topographical things—although I have always wondered why Mr. Lamont, in his racy articles, "Anns a' Chathair," for example, in "Life and Work" (as in the section for the current month), uses the form "Cille-sgumain" for Fort Augustus, and not "Cill-Chuimin," or "Cill-a'-Chuimin," meaning the Church of St. Cumin, predecessor of St. Adamnan in the Abbey of Iona. The defect mentioned (as everyone who has read the book knows), entailed loss of interest in the Gaelic versions of Queen Victoria's "Leaves," and "More Leaves" from the journal of her life in the Highlands, and the same is the case with Mr. Angus Robertson's delightful and able novel, "An t-Ogha Mor," which is so much more idiomatic than the mere Gaelic versions from the English books above noted, and ought to be so put out as to conserve for Gaelic readers every particle of cultural and topographical, as well as historical, interest.

But that is not all. It should be possible to carry the matter a little further—particularly for educational advantages. In Miss Grant's articles, above mentioned, we are told of the Norsemen "an Albainn." Why should the footnote not explain why Scotland is called "Alba," "Albann," and so on? "Lochlann" as all intelligent Gaels would know, refers to the home of the Vikings, but it is helpful to have it stated, as was stated in "An Gaidheal" a few months ago, that Sir John Rhys explained the designation as applying, "to a mysterious country in the lochs or the sea." And when Mrs. Grant speaks of the ruler of "Baile-Ath-Cliath" it would be helpful to many even well-educated readers to bring out not only that this is the ancient name of Dublin, but that it is the old natural designation of that city as arising from the ford (ath) of wattle-hurdles (cliath, a hurdle of wattles), by which persons could get safely over the Liffey at that place.

There is one thing more. We all know that error and discrepancy are common in English as well as Gaelic rendering of these interesting place-names, very common even in the otherwise admirable maps of the Ordnance Survey Department. The presentation of accurate forms—or as nearly accurate as can be attained—in current Gaelic literature would induce research, and would help to stimulate Gaelic scholarship generally, as well as make current Gaelic writing more interesting and helpful than it otherwise can be.

Closely allied to the above is the practice—carried to such an extreme extent in the Irish Free State—of Gaelicising personal names, even English names, and actually on the title pages of books, thus not merely obscuring but often perverting truth. Fortunately, this implies mainly a personal disadvantage, affecting those only whose names are so treated, and has little educational or cultural consequence.

I am, etc.,

G. M. FRASER.

Public Library, Aberdeen.

## AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

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## LIFE.

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BENDERLOCK.—The Branch of the An Comunn Gaidhealach held the last Ceilidh of this session on the 12th April in the Victory Hall. Rev. Mr. MacDonald, the President, presided, and was accompanied to the platform by the Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban. The proceedings opened with selections by Pipe-Major Cameron, Barcaldine. The rest of the programme was sustained by the Oban Gaelic Choir, under the excellent leadership of their popular conductor, Mr John MacDonald, to whose courtesy and kindness the local Committee are highly indebted. The programme was contributed to by the full choir, the ladies choir, and the male voice section. Mr. MacDonald proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all the artistes, who had travelled from Oban to give them so enjoyable a musical treat that night. Mr. MacDonald, Oban, proposed a similar compliment to the Chairman. A dance followed with Messrs. Neil Munro and Angus Kennedy as M.C.'s. Bagpipe music was supplied by Mr. Cameron; piano by Mrs. Kennedy; and violins by Messrs. MacKinnon, Kennedy and MacCallum. The arrangements were carried out satisfactorily by Misses Crerar and MacKinnon, Hon. Secretaries. The sum realised is to be given to the Oban Cottage Hospital by the Comunn Gaidhealach.

BUNESSAN.—Under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and in connection with the Singing Classes taught by Miss M. MacDonald a successful concert was held in the School last Friday evening. The concert was sustained by the Junior and Senior Choirs, who gave a good account of themselves. There was a very large attendance, and those present came from such centres as Fionphort and Pennyghael. The Chairman, Rev. Neil MacPhail, congratulated Miss MacDonald on her good work, and expressed the hope that the choir, or at any rate, some of the members would go forward to the Provincial Mod to be held in Oban in June. At the close of the concert the Chairman called for a vote of thanks to the performers and to Miss MacDonald, and this was cordially given. A dance followed.

COLONSAY.—The General Secretary paid a long promised visit to the Island of Colonsay and attended a meeting of the local Branch. The work of An Comunn is very earnestly taken up by the Colonsay members, and the meeting held in Killoran was very largely attended. Mrs. MacPhee, the courteous President of the branch occupied the chair, and expressed the sincere pleasure with which they welcomed Mr. Shaw in the midst once more. Throughout the winter months they had been fortunate in gathering together a band of enthusiasts to whom the claims of their people and their language was no idle charge, and they hoped that in the years to come they would continue to gather strength and make their contribution larger and more worthy of the purposes they followed. During the evening Mr. Shaw thanked the members for their magnificent effort for the great Feil, and said their contribution was the largest in point of view of population that had been received. He was glad that they had been so successful in their efforts, and assured them also of the warm appreciation of the members.

DUNOON.—The annual closing concert of the branch, was held in Tower Street Hall on Friday evening last and despite the inclement nature of the weather there

was a large turnout. Captain James Kennedy presided. A lengthy and varied programme of Gaelic and Scots songs was submitted. A special attraction of the evening was the appearance of the Rothsay Junior Gaelic Choir, under the able leadership of Miss MacArthur. Mr. Alex. Cameron, Glasgow, delighted the audience with selections of "Port a'Beul" songs, and had to respond to repeated encores. Miss V. Smart gave delightful renderings of her Gaelic songs, to the artistic harp accompaniment of Mr. Chantry. Miss Drummond and Miss T. Donald gave charming interpretations of their various songs. Mr. Archd. Baxter, an established favourite with the Communn audiences, was a great success, as also was Mr. James Pinkerton, another local favourite. Pipe-Major Peter Stewart contributed stirring selections on the bag-pipes, and Mr. D. Lamont played the piano accompaniments. The usual vote of thanks by Hon. Sheriff-Substitute William Lyle, and the singing of the National Anthem closed an excellent concert.

**GLENGARRY**—The final Ceilidh of the winter series held by An Communn Gaidhealach took place in Coronation Hall, Invergarry, recently. The audience was a large one. The language and literature of our forebears has a very large place in the activities of Ceilidh an Garranach. The Chairman (Mr. Angus MacPhee, Bridge of Oich), who, before calling on Mrs. Grant, Tomdoun (Secretary), to read the minutes of last meeting, said he was certain they felt honoured to have in their midst that evening Mr. Roderick MacLeod, Inverness, and Mr. J. MacLeod, Schoolhouse, Knockbain. Mr. W. M. Aitken occupied the chair at two pleasant little functions during an interval in the programme, when Miss Fraser, North Lodge, Invergarry, and Mrs. MacDonald, Hill Cottage, do., were made the recipients of handsome umbrellas, suitably inscribed, in appreciation of their connection with the Glengarry branch of An Communn Gaidhealach. Mr. Angus MacPhee and Mr. J. A. MacIntyre, Killfinnan, made the presentations.

**GLENELO**—A series of very successful Ceilidhs has been held by this branch of An Communn Gaidhealach, conducted by Mr. MacPherson. On the opening night Mr. Stewart gave a lucid account of the Celts, which was highly appreciated. Gaelic songs were tastefully rendered, and pipe music was discoursed by Messrs. John MacAskill and Norman Cameron. An excellent account of "Irish Characteristics and Humour" was given by Mr. MacErich, who was thanked for his able exposition. Mr. Donald MacMillan, the worthy bard of the branch, has added two new songs to his list. This, however, is not Mr. MacMillan's only claim to fame.

**HALLADALE (SUTHERLANDSHIRE)**—Under the auspices of Strathalladale branch of An Communn Gaidhealach a grand concert was held in the Public Hall there on 10th April. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. J. G. Millar, editor, president of the Wick branch. There was a good attendance of members and friends, and the concert proved an enjoyable function in every way. The Chairman, who had a very cordial reception, conveyed the hearty greetings of the Wick branch to the friends in Halladale. In the course of his opening remarks he referred to the progress of the Celtic movement both at home and overseas and spoke of the achievements of Highlanders in colonisation. One of the most thrilling stories in British annals was that of the Sutherland Highlanders who in the early years of last century sailed first to Nova Scotia, and thereafter, under the leadership of Rev. Norman MacLeod, went forth in ships of their own construction to Australia

and finally founded the wonderful settlement of Waipu in New Zealand. That story in all its marvellous details was soon to be issued in book form by his good friend and correspondent, Dr. Macdonald of Dunedin. (Applause.) The entertainment consisted of bag-pipe selections by Pipers Aekroyd and Mackay; Gaelic songs by a choir under the leadership of Mr. Hugh Mackay, Trantemore; Gaelic solos by Mrs. Ross, Miss Mackenzie, Mr. Hector Macbeath, Mr. John Mackay, Mr. Mackenzie; duets by Misses Grant and Mackenzie and Misses Macdonald and Mackay; violin selections by Mr. Donaldson. Every number was most credibly performed, and in the second part the choir and individual artistes had to respond to insistent encores. The chairman gave a couple of recitations. The programme went with a swing from beginning to end, and the entertainment was voted one of the best ever held in the historic strath. On the call of Mr. T. Munro, Bighouse, in an eloquent speech, the choir with their leader and the other artistes were awarded an enthusiastic vote of thanks. A similar hearty compliment was given to the chairman on the call of Mr. J. M'Nicol, and the singing of "Oidhe mhath leibh" brought a memorable evening's entertainment to a close. A largely attended dance followed.

**KINLOCHIEL**—The closing Ceilidh of An Communn Gaidhealach was held in Lochielside Hall on 13th April. The Vice-President, Mr. Donald MacMillan, Corrybeg, was in the chair. Songs, stories and recitations were given. Two songs by Miss Dolina MacAlpine, Torlundy, reading by Mrs. Stewart, Drumfern, and step dance by Mrs. Kennedy, Lochyside, were among the items. The programme included Mr. Donald MacLennan. Mrs. Young, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. MacLeod, Erracht; Mr. Hugh Stewart, Oakbank; Mr. John MacIntyre, and Sgeulachd by Mrs. MacLeod, Erracht. Tea was served by Mrs. MacDonell, Drimsallie; Mrs. Stewart, Oakbank; and Mrs. MacMillan, Corrybeg.

**LOCHGILPHEAD**—This branch held their closing Ceilidh of the session in the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 28th March. Mr. J. MacKellar, president, occupied the chair in the absence of Captain George I Campbell, Jr. of Sucooth. When Mr. MacConnochie Kilmartin began his lecture on "Iona," the hall was well filled. He dealt with the history, scenery, and archaeology of the island, his remarks being illustrated by an excellent series of lantern slides. During the lecture Mrs. MacConnochie and Master Robert Sinclair rendered solos in Gaelic and English. After the lecture a programme of singing and dancing was entered upon, solos being sung by Mrs. Campbell, Cairnbaan, and Mr. Wm. MacGregor, Mr. J. Greenshields again gave his services as M.C., and music was supplied by Messrs. George Stewart, Ardrishaig, and Archibald Campbell, Cairnbaan, and Piper Neil Crawford. Tea was served as usual. Before the company dispersed the customary votes of thanks were heartily accorded on the call of the Chairman and of Mr. Greenshields.

**PORT ELLEN**—A Ceilidh was held in the Public School, Ardbeg, on Feb. 24th, and as the weather was fine, the school was full to overflowing. Mr. J. McDougall, J.P., presided. Songs were sung by Messrs. James Currie, Wm. White, Iain McKerrell, Donald McLachlan, and the Misses Katie Orr, Margaret McLennan, Morag McEachern, Flora Graham. Mr. Donald McDougall gave a Gaelic Reading, as also did Mr. A. McArthur, whose reciting of Calum Taillear caused great mirth among the young folk. Gramophone selections were given by Mrs. McLean, and Pianoforte selections by Mr. Islay McEachern. The

usual votes of thanks were proposed by the Rev. James McKinnon, M.A.

Under the auspices of the local branch of An Comunn, a Whist Drive and Dance was held in the Memorial Hall, Port Ellen, on March 23rd. There was a good attendance of members and friends and after two hours of Whist tea was served and then the dancing was started. Prize winners at the whist were as follows:—Ladies.—1st. Miss McDougall, Port-an-Truan. 2nd. Miss Quintin, Port Ellen. Consolation Prize.—Miss Sarah McMillan, Lagavulin. Gents.—1st. Mr. J. J. McKechnie, Post Office, Port Ellen. 2nd. Mr. A. McKechnie, Port Ellen. Consolation Prize.—Mr. Iain McLean, Port Askaig.

**VALE OF LEVEN.**—This Branch held its last ordinary meeting for this session on Friday, 23rd March. Mr. MacGregor presided over a large attendance of members who heard a most interesting lecture on the subject of old Highland Cures, from Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., lecturer in Celtic at the Jordanhill Training College. There was a good deal of common sense behind some of the "cures." A young person complaining of numbness in a sleeping limb was asked to seek outside a piece of wet straw, stick it on his forehead, and on its falling off the limb was sound again. He had unbounded faith in the straw, but the cure was in the walking. The science of botany was studied with great thoroughness in the Highlands for the extraction of dyes, and for the medicinal properties of flowers and herbs. Aided by herbal secrets handed down from generation to generation they were thus able to prescribe for common ailments with a fair amount of success. It is recorded that after battle the wounded were sometimes immersed in a large bath of herbal liquid. Of faith cures there were many, and although it was possible that the actual treatment was of little use, strong faith in its power to do good roused the flagging spirit, and so undoubtedly helped to effect a cure. A hardy man of Harris cured a cold by walking into the sea. He then hurried home, was wrapped in blankets, and on waking up found himself hale and hearty again. The elaborate cure practised for king's evil frequently did more harm than good. The seventh son in a family, with no daughter in the succession, had with the gift of touch the power of cure. There were cures for warts, bad eyesight, Bright's disease, baldness, and the most sensible of all was for those in love. Mr. MacLeod ended his address by giving a few of the very beautiful Gaelic stories about flowers and trees—stories which the mother used to sing to her child as a lullaby. Maelvina, who has lost her child, and would not be comforted, sees the daisies growing bright eyed from the ground, and they soothe for ever her bruised heart. Mr. D. M. Murray, moved a vote of thanks to the speaker. After an interval for tea, Gaelic songs were rendered by the Gaelic Choir, under Miss Mackay, Clydebank, and by Miss Morrison, Glasgow, and Mr. Allan Maclean, Clydebank. Piper Macdonald, Renton, played selections. Miss Mary Maclaren, Balloch, gave recitations, and all provided a first rate entertainment. The singing of the Communn parting song, "Oidheche mhath leibh 's beannachd leibh", brought the proceedings to a close.

**WICK.**—A Highland concert was held under the auspices of Wick branch in the Breadalbane Hall on 11th April. There was a large and appreciative audience. Mr. R. J. G. Millar, editor, president of the branch presided, and in the course of his opening remarks said the branch had been going on successfully with its work during the past session; and the general Celtic movement was progressing not only throughout the Homeland, but also in the Dominions overseas. There was a growing appreciation of the

value to our nation and Empire of all that the movement stood for, and sought to preserve. Stated in a sentence, what they desired to preserve was the language, literature, art, music, sentiment, and social customs of one of the oldest branches of the human race. (Applause.) The artistes included:—Mrs. Alistair Maclean, Manse of Daviot (soprano) Mod gold medalist; Mr. J. B. Munro, Aberdeen, (tenor), Mod and Festival medalist; Mr. Donald Dallas, Inverness (Highland Comedian); Mr. Charles Fraser, Inverness, (entertainer); Mr. A. Grant (violinist), and Mr. J. Fraser (pianist), members of the Highland Strathspey and Reel Society; and Mr. A. Cameron and his troupe of Highland dancers; the pipers were Messrs. W. and J. Coghill; and the accompanist, Mrs. Gilbertson. All the performers had a very cordial reception. During an interval the platform was prepared for an exhibition of waulking by members of the branch. Mr. M. Mackenzie, M.A., was the "bodach" of the house and Mrs. Cochran the "cailleach" while Mr. A. Macdonald, secretary, was "Calum Crubach," the measurer. Mr. John Budge and Mr. David Mackay were neighbours present, and the following ladies took part in the waulking—the cloth on the table for this purpose being a web of Harris tweed specially brought from Stornoway:—Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. G. Calder, Mrs. J. Taylor, Mrs. J. Sinclair, Mrs. Sinclair, Misses N. Miller, E. M. Miller, Ina Calder, A. Mackay, K. Mackenzie, Janet Henderson and Isobel Bremner. Mrs. Begg, Back Bridge Street, did the carding, and Mrs. Jack, Union Street, the spinning. All the participants were in appropriate Highland costume, and the processes went with a fine swing to the delightful verses and choruses sung in Gaelic. There was also some lively patter both in Gaelic and English. Mr. John Budge, during a rest in the operations, told a comical story of a young Highlander's experiences following his first smoke. The whole performance was closely true to reality, and on its conclusion the participants received a vigorous round of applause. The concert was a most successful one in every respect, and was followed by a well-attended dance.

**CEILIDH AT LUSS.**—A very enjoyable and successful Ceilidh was held in Luss on Friday evening, the 6th inst., by the Vale of Leven Gaelic Choir. The programme submitted was a full and varied one, including choruses, solos, violin and bagpipe selections, and solo-dancing. The Rev. Alastair Campbell, the Minister of Luss, made an admirable Chairman, who in a few well chosen remarks introduced the choir to a packed audience. The proceedings were opened by bagpipe selections rendered by Mr. R. Macdonald, Renton, in his usual admirable style, and thereafter the choir and soloists gave excellent renderings of their respective numbers. At the close of the concert Mr. Aitken of Balloch cordially moved a vote of thanks to the Rev. Alastair Campbell for acting as Chairman. "Oidhe Mhath Leibh" was then sung by the choir, the audience joining in the chorus. A very successful dance then followed. Mr. Aitken officiating as M.C. was in a great measure responsible for the success of the dance. A vote of thanks was accorded to the pipers, Messrs. Hepburn and Macdonald, and Misses McNiven and Dempster for supplying the music for the dance, and also to Mr. James MacGregor who accompanied so artistically and sympathetically the artistes in the early part of the evening. The choir committee are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm in endeavouring to awaken and stimulate the Gaelic spirit among people of Highland descent and with Highland sympathies.





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

TELEGRAMS—Runaire, Glasgow.

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Leabhar XXIII.]

An t-Og-mhòs, 1928.

[Earrann 9

### CRAOBHSGAOILEADH GAIDHLIG.

(Chaidh an earrann a leanas a chraobhsgaoileadh a Abaraidhean air an aonamh la deg de 'n Chéitein.)

A chàirdean agus a luchd éisdeachd. Tha mi a' cur faillte oirbh uile. Tha mi toilichte an cothrom so fhaotainn a' bruidheann ribh anns a' Ghaidhlig. Fhuair mi an cothrom luachmhor so o Mhr. Niall MacIlleathain, fear riaghlaidh a' Chraobhsgaoilidh Bhreatunnaich an Abaraidhean. Tha an duine usal sin a' deanamh cuideachadh mór leis a' Ghaidhlig air dòigh no dhà; agus tha dòigh a' chraobhsgaoilidh ro-phrìseil, gu bhith a' deanamh sluagh na rìoghachd eòlach air seinn agus labhairt na Gàidhlig. Tha mi a' tabhairt taing dhàsan gu faod sinn ar guth a chur a mach a measg nan Gàidheal sin a tha a nis ag éisdeachd feadh na dùthcha. Tha mi an dùil gum bu chòir facal a chantuinn mu nì a tha dlùth air intinn nan Gàidheal. Is e sin ciamar is urrainn dhuinn ar cainnt agus ar ceòl a chumail beò. Tha iad le chèile an cunnart mór. Is iomadh nì eile a tha an diugh a' tarraing ar n-aire. Ach ged is iomadh cha bu chòir dhuinn an gnothach so a dhearmad. Oir is ann air an dà nì sin a tha dualchas nan Gàidheal an crochadh. Ged a chaidh so a chantuinn uair is uair, feumar a chantuinn a ris gus an toirear géill dha.

Beachdaich cìod e cho eudmhor 's a tha na Sasunnaich as leth an cànan féin. Cha bhì iad riarichte gus a faigh a' Bheurla làmh an uachdar. Agus tha na Goill a' dusgadh gu bhith a' gleidheadh na seann chainnt a bha aca fhéin. Car son a bhìodh an Gàidheal air dheireadh? Car son a bhìodh esan a' deanamh tàire air a chòir-bhreith? Is fada o chuala sibh an sean fhacal—"An uair chailleas an

Gàidheal a' Ghaidhlig caillidh e gun dàil a mhisneach." Chan e mhàin gun caill e a mhisneach, ach caillidh e eòlas air na nithibh a bu taitneach bha aig a shinnsear, air an comh-radh blasda, am modh eireachdail, an dòigh uasal. Tha a' Ghaidhlig 'g a chumail cuimhneachail air cleachdadh agus treubhantas na muinntir o 'n tàinig e. Tha i 'n a cainnt a tha freagarrach air a nàdur, gus a bhì ag innse a chuid fearachdaidhean mar nach urrainn Beurla an cur an cèill dhàsan, oir cha Ghall no Sasunnach è. Ge be air bith e'ait am bi an Gàidheal, air muir no air tìr, an Albainn no an dùthaich chéin, faodaidh e a chainnt mhàtharail a chumail suas. Feumar a chainnt a theagasg do 'n òigridh; agus ma tha ball sam bith de Ughdarrain an Fhoghlum 'g a m' éisdeachd, tha mi ag guidhe orra gun tabhair iad cothrom do 'n chainnt an sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd. Is còir mar an ceudna a' chànan a theagasg anns na h-ard sgoiltean Gàidhealach. Mur deanar sin cha tig sgoilearachd gu ìre cheart. Cha bhì na foghlumaichean comasach air ceum-foghlum a bhuanachadh anns an Oilthigh; agus bidh sinn gu dona dheth a chionn mhinistearan agus mhaighistearan sgoile aig am bi deagh foghlum Gàidhlig.

A nis a thaobh ceòl nan Gàidheal tha e cho sean ris a' chànan féin. Mar dh'fhàsas fion nas blasda le aois, sin mar tha na h-òrain Ghaidhlig a' fàs nas binne mar tha na linn-tean a' dol thairis. Tha iad a' giùlan comhtharraidh gun d'rinneadh iad air tùs le feadhainn aig a robh an aigidean air an gluasad gu domhain. Mar sin tha iad a' gleidheadh buaidh air fearachd-aidhean an luchd éisdeachd, gu bhith 'g an gluasad an diugh gu aobhneas no gu bròn. Aig na cuirmean ciùil Ghallda, o chionn ghoidh, cluinnear am fonn 'g a thogail leis a' chuid-



eachda. Tha iad fhéin an dùil gur dòigh ùr a tha an so. Ach is e tha ann ach sean dòigh nan Gaidheal. Bu chòir do neach éigin sùilean nan Gall fhosgladh a thaobh an mhearachd fo bheil iad anns an nì so. Cha chan sinn a' bheag aig an am mu cheòl na ploba; no mu cheòl na clàrsaich, an t-sean inneal, bhinn, eireach-dail, a bu chòir a bhi a nis aig a h-uile Mòd a' comhlachadh an luchd seinn.

Is e An Comunn Gaidhealach aig a bheil an obair so mar chrich àraidh. Tha feum air dòigh is riaghailt gus na Gaidhil a tharruing guala ri gualainn. Is e An Comunn am feachd a tha 'cur a' chatha air taobh na Gàidhlig. Bu dual duit féin, a Ghàidhil, a bhi 'n a d' dheagh shaighdear. Dearbh do làmh, agus cuir a stigh t'ainm mar bhall de 'n Chomunn. Faodar An Comunn a shamhlachadh ri craoibh a tha a' sgaoileadh a freumhan a mach feadh gach cèarn anns am faighear Gàidhil. Ach tha a' chraobh ud mar an ceudna a' sgaoileadh a cuid mheanglan, agus a' giùlan toradh trom. Tha a' chànan 'g a leughadh, 'ga labhairt, agus 'g a seinn thall 's a bhos. Agus ma tha spiorad a' Ghàidhil air do shiubhal, cuir do neart anns an obair gun dàil, a chum gum bi thu de'n fheadhain mu'n d'thubhairt Niall Macleòid:

“O buaidh is sonas leis na laovich

Tha seasmhach air a sgàth,

Chaidh àrach ann an Tìr a' fhraoich

Ge sgaoilte 'n diugh an àl;

Ged chaidh an sgapadh air gach taobh

Cha chaochail iad an gnàths,

Chan fhàs an eachdraidh lag le aois,

'S chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs.”

#### SEAN FHACAIL.

1. Am fear a gheibh ainm na moch-eirigh faodaidh e cadal gu meadhon là.
2. Bheir an ceann a mach na casan.
3. Buille air gach craoibh is gun craobh a leagadh.
4. Cha tig thu a lùdaig no dh'òrdaig orm.
5. Cha téid fiachan air beul dùinte.
6. Cha chaomhainn muc sheasg àl.
7. Cù an dà fhéidh is minic a bha fhiadh air chall.
8. Cha d'fhuair droch bhunaich a riamh deagh chorran.
9. Far am bi am pobull dall ni gille cam ministear.
10. Ge mór àrdan a' bhrochain cha téid e na's àirde na'n luath.
11. Ge b'e do'n tug thu a' mhin thoir dhà a' chàth.
12. Is iomadh lodan as an do chuir e still.

S. M'T.

#### GAELIC TEACHERS.

##### VII.

MISS HARRIET STEWART, LL.A.  
Drimnin, Morven.



The district of Drimnin forms the north western portion of the famous parish of Morven Argyllshire. For the last four or five generations the Gaelic tradition has been specially strong in that area, owing to the influence of the Macleods of Morven. It is now over twenty years since Miss Stewart went to Morven. She had not been long there when she found that the ancient traditions of the place, and the Gaelic mentality of the children were such that it would be very desirable to hand on those traditions and maintain the Gaelic standard. In order to be able to do this more effectively Miss Stewart, a native of Perthshire, proceeded to attain greater proficiency in the Gaelic language, by attending classes for teachers at Onich and Broadford. She also attended the senior division under Dr. Calder; and her success in the work received the high approval of the Celtic lecturer in Glasgow.

Miss Stewart took up the teaching of Gaelic with enthusiasm. Her own appreciation of the language and its music was early imparted to her pupils. They made such rapid progress in the subject that before long the pupils from Drimnin School were able to take a prominent place in the junior competitions of local Mòds, and even of the National Mòd itself. And their distinction was not confined to one branch. They had a considerable number of musical

successes. In the literary and oral sections of the work among the young they acquitted themselves with great credit. This is the part that ought to be emphasised. This is the section that gives assurance that the children are really grasping the language. We remember years ago adjudicating in both the literary and oral sections for the young; and the impression made by the pupils from Drimnin was very definite indeed. It was refreshing to find young people who were manifestly able not only to recite in Gaelic, but to recite in such a way as to make it clear that they understood the literary beauty of the classical passages they recited. As some of these pupils grew older they were able to gain further prominence in the proceedings of the Mòd.

The range of an elementary school is, of course, confined to the laying of a solid foundation. It has to be borne in mind that the credit of laying such a foundation is due to many of our elementary schools. Not a few of the advanced pupils who ultimately secure a Leaving Certificate or a University Degree in Gaelic, can surely never forget how much they owe to the thorough grounding they got some years previously in their elementary school. Like a number of other teachers of elementary schools in the Highlands, Miss Stewart has sent out many pupils who had an excellent knowledge of the language, and a fine appreciation even of its literature.

### GAELIC BROADCASTING.

Mr. Neil Maclean, M.A., B.Sc., the Director at the Aberdeen centre of the British Broadcasting Corporation is doing great and patriotic work for Gaelic. It is a valuable thing that the public throughout the whole country should become familiarised to Gaelic music, and even to the language in its spoken form. On the 11th of May, we were invited to broadcast an address in Gaelic; and all Gaels must feel a deep obligation to Mr. Maclean for thus introducing Gaelic speeches as well as vocal Gaelic music whether in choral form or in solo. On the evening mentioned there were no less than six Gaelic solos broadcast; and this along with an address was a considerable programme. Some years ago, in one of our leaders in this magazine, we forecast the possibility of the wireless for Gaelic speech and music; and now by Mr. Maclean's enterprise and patriotism this forecast has been realised. It remains for the Comunn to follow the lead. If the Broadcasting Corporation are to encourage

Gaelic, the Gaels should co-operate by possessing themselves of sets of wireless all over the country. Here is a new and interesting avenue, full of rich opportunities for increasing the use and the knowledge of the Gaelic language and its music.

EDITOR.

### SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN, agus LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le  
CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

#### VII.

Air tìr-mór, gu sonraichte 's an Taobh Tuath, agus dlùth ris a chorsa, tha na h-àit-ainmean lionmhor. Mar is bitheanta tha ainmean nan eilean, nan aibhnichean, nam bàgh, agus nan rudhachan etc. Lochlannach, am feadh a tha ainmean nam beanntan a tha na 's fhaide stigh 's an dùthaich, anns a Ghàidhlig; ged nach 'eil e daonnan mar sin. An Cataibh tha ainmean Lochlannach air a h-uile h-aon de na bailtean is mò a tha dusan mìle o'n chorsa, an Srath-Nàbhuir cha'n 'eil ach aon bhaile de mheadhadh 's am bith, aig astar cethir-mìle-deug o'n chladach aig am bheil ainm Gàidhlig.

De shean ainmean Lochlannach phearsa tha sgaoth ri fhaotainn thairis air fad is leud na h-Alba; sgaoil iad a mach o na h-Eileana agus o'n Ghaidhealtachd, far an d'fhàinig an dà chinneadh an còir a chéile. Bheirar beagan eisimpleir dhiubh so na 's fhaide air adhart. Tha mar au ceudna ainmean phearsanta a tha ri fhaotainn, a tha air an toirt do àitean, gu sonraichte co-cheangailte ri eileana, beanntan etc. mar,—Dùn-Einstein, no Eistein (Oystein, 's an t-sean Lochlannach), Gunna (Gunnar, o shean), Rudha Raonuill (Ragnhildr, o shean), Torcaill-(sean Lochlannach, Thorkil) etc.

Tha sgeulachdan agus beul-aithrisean Gàidhlig ann an tomhas mòr coltach riù-san a tha aig na sean Lochlannaich, agus a tha a' nochdadh buaidhean nan daoine sin; mar an ceudna naigheachdan agus duain anns am bheil Lochlannaich agus Rìgh Lochlann a ghnàth 's gun tàmh a tighinn a stigh. Tha 'n t-urr. Niall MacAoidh ag ràdh 'n a sgrìobhadh "The Influence of the Norse Invasion," "Am measg pearsa a bhuineas do eachdraidh a choinnicheas sinn anns na naigheachdan sin gheibhear Gudred Cróbhan, a thug an t-Eilean Manannach gu strìochdadh agus a stéidhich riaghlairean

Lochlannach an sin; fear eile dhiubh is e Rìgh Mánus Casruisgte à Lochlann, 'noin ainm Mánus. Is coltach gu'n d'rinn an rìgh so athait nach gabh dubhadh as an intinn trid a thurus mór "Siar-thar-Saile," oir cha'nè mhàin gu'm faighear e anns na naigheachdan lìon mhor a tha air am beul-aithris o linn gu linn, ach tha Mánus 'n a ainm a tha tric ri fhaotainn am measg nan Gàidheal 'n ar latha fhéin; mar an ceudna mar shloinne—MacMhànuis. Feumaidh gu'n d' fhuair e eòlas mionaideach a chur air na Gàidheil an uair a ghabh e a leithid de thlachd 'n an earradh gur i a bha e 'caitheamh, nì a thug air a dhaoine fhéin an sloinne "Casruisgte" a thoirt air.

Tha sgrìobhadair Albannach eile, I. F. Caimbeul, a chuir a mach "Sgeulachdan Gàidhealach," a sgrìobhadh leis o bheulathris nan sean daoine, a thàinig a nuas g' an ionnsuidh o linn gu linn; annta sin tha a ghnàth 's gun tàmh còmhraidh air na Lochlannaich. Sheinn sean duine dha "Duan Mhànuis," aon de na h-òrain is taitniche leis an t-sluagh am measg laoidhean Oisein, agus dh'innis e gu dealbhach an gearradh-airm a bh'air sgiath Rìgh Mhànuis, am measg an robh leòmhan,—arsa 'n t-ùghdar—agus gu'n robh an dealbh so a thug e dha air a stéidheachadh gle choltach air leòmhan a dh'fhaodadh a bhì air a bhraataich. Is coltach nach robh fhios aige gu'n robh bratach Rìgh Mhànuis dearg, le leomhan òir (mar a tha air a bhraataich Rìghail Lochlannaich againn aig an àm so), tha mar sin dearbhadh anabarrach taitneach againn air coltas bratach Mhànuis tre bheul-aithris a bha air a thoirt o athair gu mac a nuas o linn gu linn gus a nis.

Lèugh mi o chionn ghoidir mu leabhar a tha ùr ùr thiginn a mach, timcheall air gnathachas muinntir nan Eilean anns an naodhamh-linn-deug, agus bha e air inneadh mar a thrusadh an slugh mu'n cuairt an teallaich 's an oidhche, agus thigeadh na coimhearsnaich a stigh, agus an déigh tosd car ùine bhig thòiseachadh cuideigin ri naigheachd inneadh mu na làithean o shean, is mar a bu bhitheanta b'iad na ceud fhacail, "Bha uair a bha sud nìohean Rìgh Lochlainn, etc., etc.," "Thag mòran de na sgeòil sin a toirt air ais sean nòsan Lochlannach a b' àbhaist a bhì air an cumail suas anns an dùthaich so" ars' an t-Urr. Niall MacAoidh. "Tha'n smuaint gu'n robh na h-Eillana Siar 'n an earrann de Lochlann anns na sean làithean aig aon àm air dol cho domhain ann an intinn nan eileanach is nach eil ach gan sgeul no eachdraidh timcheall orra gun rud-éigin anna mu Lochlann no na Lochlannaich.

Ann an litreachas Gàidhlig mar an ceudna tha mòran de lorgan nan Lochlannach ri choineachadh. Anns na duain aig Oisein tha Lochlannaich a' cluich an roinn is mò anns na cùisean. Tha'n t-Urr. Niall MacAoidh ag ràdh 'n a obair cheana air ainm-achadh, gu 'm bheil mòran de na gaisgich an litreachas nan Gàidheal gu soilleir air am buileachadh le samhlaidheachd nan diathan comhragach Lochlannach. Tha òrd aig Fionn, mar a th'aig Thor, d'am faodar na buillean a chluinntinn thairis air an t-saoghal gu h-iomlan. Coltach ri Odin, tha e gun tàmh a sireadh gliocas; tha iomadh aile eile ri fhaotainn air buaidh eachdraidh nan diathan bréige Lochlannach. Tha'n t-ùghdar so a dol air adhart gu ràdh nan rachadh coimes a dheanadh eadar na sgeòil Ghàidhealach agus na sgeòil Lochlannach gu 'm faiceamaid gu'n robh dà-threasa cuid de 'n fheadhainn Gàidhlig air an deanamh de chungaidh a fhuaradh o na Lochlannaich a rinn tuineachadh an Albainn. Tha mòran de na gnàth-fhacail Ghàidhlig a leigeadh ris so. Tha e de 'n bheachd, ris an nì a ghabhail o thoiseach gu deireadh, gu 'm bheil gnè nan Lochlannach air a chumail beò an tomhas mór an litreachas na Gàidhealtachd agus gu 'm bheil an aile a dh'fhàg e fathast ri fhaireachduinn. Fhuair an Gàidheal, le a mhac-measna beothail, agus 'n a aislingiche mar a tha e, a leas anns an Lochlannach le a ghràdh do'n fhirinn neo-mheasgta, agus a gheilt roimh féin-mhealladh, agus tha e de'n bharaill gu'n d'thug a thighinn dlùth do'n Lochlannach a tha calg-dhireach neocholtach ris fhéin, buannachd sheamshach do'n Gàidheal.

Tha sgrìobhadair Gàidhealach ainmeil eile, an t-Ollamh Mánus MacIlleathain ag ràdh 'n a leabhar "Litreachas nan Ceilteach"; "Tha'n Lochlannach . . . fathast maille ruinn ann an cùiltean diomhair air beatha gu tric gun fhios duinn, 'n ar litreachas agus 'n ar n-eachdraidh. Faodaidh e 'bhith gur ann dà-san a tha sinn an comain air son buanas air cinneadh gus an latha so. Thug e nall leis thàr nan tonn anail na saorsa agus spàirn mhiseachail gu oidheirpeachas agus dhòirt e stigh iad am beatha an t-sluaigh mhòir so againn, mar sin a combhadh ann an togail suas Bhreatainn gu iompaireachd agus ceannas a chumail thairis air cuairtean an t-saoghail gu léir."

Ach tha e ri thuigsinn nach robh a bhuanachd air aon taobh a mhàin, feumaidh gu'n robh e air an dithis. Tha fhios againn gu'n d'ràinig foghlum nan Ceilteach àrde mhór aig an àm sin gu sònraichte an Eirinn; agus tha caldhain linn nan Vikinger, gu aon eisim-

pleir a ghabhail, a taisbeanadh aile làidir nan Ceilteach, ann an dealbh nan ainmhidhean leis an do ghrinnich na Lochlannaich an oibre, an dràgon, an nathair, etc.) a nochdadh sin. A chionn gu'n deachaidh mòran de na Lochlannaich do Iceland as na h-Innse-Gall agus a dh'eadar-phòs iad fhéin agus na Gàidheil, tha iomadh aon de'n bharail gur ann air an aobhar sin a tha litreachas Iceland gun a leth-bhreac eile ri fhaotainn; ach tha muinntir eile ann nach aontaich gu'm bheil a bheag idir de bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig ri chomharrachadh ann. Ciamar sam bith a bha sin, faodar a thuigsinn gu'n d'rinn an dà shliochd an aile fhàgail air a chèile, agus gu'n d'fhuair iad buannachd o' chèile. Faodaidh sinn a smuainteachadh gu'n deachaidh nàdur garg, comh-ragach nan Lochlannach a mhaothachadh an tomhas trid tighinn fad linntean cho teann am fagus ris a chinne Cheilteach a tha na's seimhe na iadsan, agus dh'fhaoidte gu'n do dheasach e an rathad gus an Soisgeul a thoirt a stigh g'an ionnsuidh, oir thàinig e g' an-ionnsuidh o 'n Iar ri linn nan Vikinger. 'San t-seadh so faodar a ràdh gur iad na Lochlannaich a bu mhò a bhannaich o 'n eòlas dlùth a chuir an dà shluagh air a chèile.

(Ri Leantainn.)

## SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC, 1928.

A Summer School of Gaelic, which is being organised by the Education Committee of An Comunn Gàidhealach, will begin its session at Broadford, Skye, on Thursday, 19th July, and will continue for four weeks.

There will be three Gaelic Classes—an Advanced Class, conducted by Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., of Jordanhill Training College; an Elementary Class in charge of Mr. John N. MacLeod of Knockbain School, Inverness shire, and a Beginners' Class, which will be taught by Miss Ann Johnston, Castlebay School, Barra, and (or) Mr. David Urquhart, M.A., of Drumsittall School, North Kessock, Inverness.

Every hope is entertained that the Advanced Class will be recognised under Article 55, and teachers who desire this recognition are invited to enrol at once.

In addition to the three language classes, there will be a class of Celtic Art, consisting of lectures and practical work, conducted by Mr. Colin Sinclair, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., assisted by Miss MacBride of the staff of the Glasgow School of Art; and a class of

Gaelic Singing, conducted by Mr. Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., conductor of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir.

By kind permission of the Inverness County Education Authority, the classes will be held in Broadford School, the Gaelic Classes meeting in the morning, the Art Class in the afternoon, and the Singing Class in the evening.

A fee of 30s, which is payable at the opening of the session, will be charged for attendance at the School, and for this sum students will be entitled to attend a Language Class, and one or both of the other classes.

Students should make their own arrangements for board and lodging, and are recommended to do so without delay.

Those who wish to enrol as students should do so at once by intimating their intention to the secretary. They will thereafter receive in due course a questionnaire from Mr. Norman MacLeod, by means of the answers to which he will decide which of the Gaelic classes they can with most advantage attend, and he will also give advice as to the text-books required.

AUGUSTA (Miss) LAMONT,  
Secretary to the Gaelic  
Summer School.

Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire.

## Celtic Art Class.

*Short Lectures*—Historical Reference, Origins, Development, Characteristics, Styles, Principles of Design, Descriptions of Well-known Objects. *Practical*—Leather work, Batik Work, Painting on Wood, Drawing out of Patterns and Designs, etc.

Students should provide themselves with note-books, pencils, rubber, drawing pins, ruler, water-colours, bottle of China ink, small pen-nibs, sponge, drawing-board ( $\frac{1}{2}$  imperial size) if possible.

Drawing paper will be provided at cost price. Calf-leather, thongs, buttons, etc., will be provided at cost price.

The Teachers will provide punches and tools for leather work, and one or two T squares, set-squares and accessories.

The students need not provide themselves with any text-book.

COLIN SINCLAIR.

CLARSACH.—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches song accompaniment. Good method. Delta: this office.



## CUIBHRIONN DE EACHDRAIDH.

An Eachdraidh Cogaidh nan Seachd Bliahdna sgrìobh "Archenholz" mar a leanas:—

"Am measg nan saighdear a thàinig d'an Ghearmailt bha dà mhìle Gàidheal, agus cha b'fhada gus an tug iad fios do'n nàmhaid mu'n teachd, le am foghaintean is an gleusdachd. Is iad luchd-àiteachaidh nam bean is Innse-Gall na Gàidheil, aig am bheil na h-uiread de chleachdaidhean annasach. Tha iad a deanamh uail gur fìor-sìochd nan seann Albannach iad, nach do cheannsaicheadh riamh leis na Romanach, no le Lochlanaich, no Sasunnaich, no Normanach; agus eadhon gu ruig an là an diugh tha iad a tuineachadh mar na cinn-fheadhna aca a' h-eisimeil an riaghlaidh. Is e an t-sean Ghàidhlig, anns an do sheinn Ossian is cainnt dhaibh, agus maille ris a chainnt sin, gleidhidh iad le gle bheag atharraichidh, an sean aodach, an caithe-beatha agus an gnàthan.

"Air an là an diugh, mar anns na lùithean a dh'fhalbh, seinnidh an Gàidheal sean òrain a shinnsear anns a' bhòthan fhòide: roinnidh e gu toileach a chuid aran-coirce ris a' choigreach allabain ann a dhachaidh fhialaidh: agus leanaidh e mar bu nòs dà, ri a cheann-feadhna, uachdaran air an cuir e barrachd urrainn na air rìgh Shasuinn. Tha na Gàidheil sin, glé chàllaidh agus cleachdta ri cruadaid de na h-ùile ghnè. Tha iad 'nan saighdearan glé fhoghainnteach, sar-mhaith an cumanta ach reasgach fo riaghailt theann: cha giùlain iad briogaisean; ach 'nan àite sin, falluinn olainn stiallaich an crochadh ri na cruachain agus a' tuiteam gus na glùinean. Paisgte ann an leithid so a dh'fhalluinn, caidlidh an Gàidheal fo'n athar gun phàilluinn. Chan eil na còtaichean aca air an giùlain am màlaidean air an dromannan mar le saighdearan eile, ach beulaobh air a' bhroinn, ceangailte am balg ròin. Air na casan giùlainidh iad osan fìchte nach comhdaich ach leth na còise, agus air an cinn boineidean sgeadaichte le ite. Tha mar armachd aca, gunna le biodaig, dithis dhagan 'sa chrìos, claidheamh-mòr agus cuinnsear; mar cheòl-catha drumachean 's pìoban-mhalaidh (*dudel-facken*) agus is mòr am meas a tha air an dara h-inneal dhiubh sin an Alba. Ri an cleachdaidhean-cogaidh seana, annasach buinidh an-t-aon so—gu'n teid damh an toiseach air cheud bhuidheann de gach earrann-feachd air an triall.

"Tha na Gàidheil air am misneach abhaisteach a thaisbeanadh anns a Ghearm-

ailt mar tha, le iomadh euchd ainmeil: am measg chàich—thàinig iad gu h-obann air rèisimeid-eachraidh Fhrangach dlùth ri Dillenburg; dh'fheuch na trùpairean dol air muin an each gu grad, ach ghearradh sìos cuid diubh agus ghlacadh mar phrìosanaich an chuid eile, agus an dèigh sin chaidh na Gàidheil air muin nan each, agus thill iad 'nam marcaichean gu 'n cairtealan."

T. D. M.

## COMUNN GAIDHEALACH ASTRALIA.

We are delighted to receive the following Report of the new Gaelic Society that has just been formed in Australia. Our readers will share with us in the pleasure of seeing the Gaelic cause so warmly supported in the Antipodes:—

Melbourne—11-4-28.

A large and enthusiastic number of Highlanders have formed a Gaelic Society in Melbourne, the title being "Comunn Gaidhealach Astralia."

The objects of An Comunn are the advancement of the Gaelic Language, Literature and Music, and steps have been taken to affiliate with An Comunn in the Old Country.

Already forty members have joined, and we have promises of more support.

Last night's meeting was an example of what can be done in Victoria in the Gaelic interest, as every item in a long programme was in Gaelic.

A Gaelic class has been formed under the tuition of Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon of Broadford, Skye, the pupils, so far, being non-Gaelic speakers, and we have more applications for tuition than we can accept at present owing to the scarcity of books. Some of the most enthusiastic pupils are grey-headed sons of Australia.

The President of An Comunn is Mr. Donald MacKinnon, one-time of Pennyghael, Mull.

Officers of An Comunn Gaidhealach Astralia for 1928:—President—Donald MacKinnon; Vice-Presidents—Alex. MacKenzie, Donald MacGregor and Peter MacL. Matheson; Secretary and Treasurer—Peter Cameron; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer—Lachlan MacKinnon; Pipers—Adam M. Robertson and Angus McRury; Councillors—Wm. MacGowan, Peter N. Matheson, John Urquhart, Alex. Stewart, Alex. MacLeod, and D. MacCormick; Ladies Committee—Mrs. A. M. Robertson, Mrs. D. MacKinnon, Mrs. M. MacLeod, Mrs. Brown and Miss B. MacLeod.

P. A. CAMERON.



## SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Is e Og-mhios mo rùin a thoirleadh na bàird ris a' mhios so ach is e a dh'fhaodas sinne a radh ris an déidh so Am Mòd-mhios, oir is ann aig an àm so as freagarrach na cruinneachaidhean so a chumail. Tha ochd Mòdan Dùthchail ri bhi againn eadar so agus deireadh a' mhios—deich laithean fada Samhraidh air an toirt suas gu h-ìomlan a chuideachadh leis a' Ghàidhlig. Nach mòr agus nach ciatach sin! Sgaoil An Comunn a sgiathan gu math farsuing o cheann beagan bhliadhnan agus do thaobh sin the e feumach a bhi a' toirt aire leughadairean, a nis 'sa rithist, ri reachdan sean agus nuadh. Cha robh cothrom aig òigridh na tìre an cainnt mhàthaireil fhoghlum gu coimhlionta agus cha robh an sluagh coitcheann fhéin a' toirt an urrainn agus a' mheas a bu chòir dhoibh do'n Ghàidhlig. Tha atharachadh mòr air modh teagais air a' Ghàidhealtachd an diugh agus is ann trid saothair A' Chomuinn agus nan càirdean a chaidh ceum air cheum maille ris a thainig an t-athleasachadh so mu'n cuairt. Cha chòir dhùinn sin a leigeil á cuimhne ach gu ma feàrr dhùinn a bhi a' seideadh anail chaoir air a' bheothachan a tha a' togail ceo an sud 'san so air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Thig an tùrlach ri ám.

\* \* \*

The regard of exiled Gaels for their native land is proverbial and a pleasant reminder of this, and also a tribute to the work of An Comunn, is evidenced in a communication that has been received from Melbourne, Australia. A few Gaelic enthusiasts there have met and resolved to form a Society to be known as An Comunn Gàidhealach Astralia. They wish to be linked up with the parent Association, and we gladly welcome them and wish them every success in their efforts. The secretary is P. A. Cameron, 66 Rennie Street, Coburg, Victoria.

\* \* \*

The Order of the Scottish Clans of America have chartered two Anchor Line steamers for their third biennial visit to Scotland, and it is reported that at least 2000 members will arrive in Glasgow on 28th July. The steamers will meet at Merville and sail in company up the Clyde, disembarking their passengers at Yorkhill Wharf on Saturday morning, 28th July.

\* \* \*

The death has occurred at Inverlussa, Jura, of Angus MacKechnie (Aonghas Og) a poet of high merit, adjudged by many to have been even better than his brother "Am Fear Ciuil." Some of his pieces appear in "An t-Oranaiche," "An Lon-dubh," "Dàin Thaghte," and "An Dèò Gréine." His translation of some of Burns' songs were selected for the collection, "Burns in many Languages."

It will interest readers in this connection to know that Miss Elizabeth Fleming, who contributes verses to the *Glasgow Herald* is a grand-daughter of "Am Fear Ciuil." Her upbringing in England has deprived a gifted poetess of a knowledge of Gaelic and Gaeldom.

\* \* \*

The following paragraphs appeared in recent issues of *Scots Observer*. The attitude of our movement of this growingly influential journal has always been warmly sympathetic:—

Miss Augusta Lamont, who has been elected to the Education Authority of Argyll, is a sister of Sir Norman Lamont of Toward. The Lamonts have been in Cowal for centuries, and the present generation has worked strenuously for the community. Miss Lamont is a fluent Gaelic speaker, and as a result of her election to the Authority it is expected that the teaching of Gaelic will be one of her special concerns. She, herself, did not have an opportunity of learning the mother tongue during childhood. It was only upon a resolve to get to know the language that her enthusiasm grew for everything Gaelic, and her progress during the past number of years marks a progress in the work of the Highland Society.

\* \* \*

Gaelic is now taught in almost all schools of Inverness-shire. After Inverness-shire comes Argyll, Ross-shire, and Sutherlandshire. The Highland Association, of whose executive Miss Lamont is a member, is in a most flourishing condition. The object of the Association is to create an interest in Gaelic music and literature in the young, and by this to stay the decay of a language which, although of no commercial value, is perhaps because of that singularly pure and beautiful. The days are gone wherein those who speak Gaelic are treated as social inferiors. The language has reclaimed much of its own territory and is respected everywhere. This happy condition is in large measure due to the efforts of An Comunn Gàidhealach, and to such enthusiasts and voluntary workers as Miss Lamont.

\* \* \*

The Gaelic movement in Scotland has taken the right course in winning the spontaneous interest of the people, and, for the rest, concentrating on the vital matter of Gaelic instruction in schools. The spirit of affectionate comradeship displayed at all the gatherings organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach is an earnest of real success. That spirit will be an attractive feature of the Summer School which An Comunn has arranged to be held at Broadford, Skye, for a month from July 19. Broadford will be a jolly place this summer.

NIALL.

## CHA DIRICH MI'N GLEANNAN.

FROM MISS JOHANN MACINNES'S MOD PRIZE COLLECTION.

GLEUS F

*Seisd :*

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*Rann :*

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D.C.

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	Chaidh	—	mo		shiubhal	—	—		am	—	—		maillead.	—	—	

Cha d'riach mi'n cruadhach  
Le fuaim na cloich-mheallain.

Gus an cluinn mi do phùsadh  
Bidh mi'n dùil ri do bhanais.

Cha d'riach mi mhòintich  
Rinn an t-òigear mo mhealladh.

Bu tu sealgair a' gheòidh-ghlais,  
Làmh a leònadh na h-eala.

Gus an cluinn mi do réiteach  
Bidh mi'n déidh air do leanail.

'San ròn beag ri cois caolais  
Bhuait chan fhaod e bhi fallain.

## GAELIC PLACE-NAMES AND ENGLISH.

(TO THE EDITOR OF *An Gàidheal*.)

Sir,—Permit me, through you, to thank Mr. Fraser for his letter in the current issue of *An Gàidheal*. Letters such as this ought to be most helpful in forwarding the study of Gaelic books, in enlightening us as to the real needs of Gaelic readers, and, as Mr. Fraser suggests, in stimulating an interest in Gaelic scholarship.

He would have had notes appended to my article from the Norse, and to several books which he mentions; also, the proper pronunciation and meaning of place-names. But would not a glossary at the end serve the purpose, and not add too much to the bulk of the various works under consideration? Otherwise, could not a little handbook of place-names and their English equivalents be compiled.

I have so often in my writings given the cause for calling Scotland "Albainn," that I did not care to be constantly repeating myself in this Norse article.

In writing my Gaelic translation, I felt perplexed as to how far it was needful to write the nouns in English as well as in Gaelic, and have given personal names, and especially names of animals and things further on, in the three languages—Old Norse, Gaelic, and English.

It certainly is a joy to discover the meaning of place-names. When in Sutherland a good many years ago, I wondered what the Gaelic of "Scourie" could be? In translating the Norse article I found it is spelt "Scobhairigh," from the Norse "skov" and Gaelic "àirigh"—the forest-shieling, or shieling of the woodland. Who would have expected such a lovely meaning to be masked under the ugly Anglicised "Scourie"! There is a whole world of poetry to be found in the translating of our

island names from the Old Norse, and I have been repaid in infinite measure for the little I have done by the beauty of these names. I began the translation for my own pleasure, but felt, as I proceeded, that others would be as much delighted as I, and so have prepared an English version for publication at an early date.

I hope that Mr. Fraser's letter may bring about some valuable result in the near future.—Yours, etc.,

K. W. GRANT.

Thir Dheasaichte, a charaid,—An facal úd thuir am Frisealach ann *An Gàidheal* an Chéitinn a thaobh an nì tha air a chleachdadh ann an Eirinn eadhon ainmean agus sloinneachan bhì air a sgrìobhadh ann an Ghàidhlig gun riatanas, bu mhath leam freagra thuir air, ler toil-se.

"Closely allied to (this) is the practice carried to such an extreme extent in the Irish Free State of Gaelicising personal names, even English names, and actually on the title pages of books," etc. (G. M. Fraser in *An Gàidheal*).

The Gaelicising of English names is, of course, absurd, but the habit of reducing splendid Gaelic names to a hotch-potch is, in Dr. Douglas Hyde's term, monstrous.

Why "Campbell" instead of *Caimbeal*, and "Muldoon" instead of *O'Maoldùm* and *O'Maoldomhnaigh*; and "Gairloch Dingle, Donnybrook, Kintyre, and the Isle of Skye," instead of *Gearloch an Daingean, Domhnach Broc, Ceann Tìre, and Èilean Sgitheanach*?

The original is full of meaning for the *Gàidheal*, but the monstrosity represents nothing to either *Gàidheal* or *Gàll*. There surely is an "educational and cultural consequence" in restoring the original.

Why should the *Gàidheal*, above all other Europeans, have two forms of place-names, surnames, and Christian names? No Englishman calls himself *Fritz Zimmermann* when in German company, to the confusion of his relatives, who know him as Fred Carpenter, or Fred Chamberlain. Neither does *Jean d'Aubigne* subscribe himself "John St. Aubyn" when he visits England. Why, then, "Hector Robertson" and "Timothy Quilligan" instead of *Eachann MacDhonnchaidh* and *Tadhg O'Colgáin*?

The explanation lies in the fact that the French and English have the mentality of freemen.

Your correspondent seems disturbed at the *Gàidheal* in Ireland restoring his own names of places and persons. This process, in time, will go further, and the names of political divisions inflicted from outside, such as "Co. Limerick," will become *Uì Conaill Gabhra* and *Uì Fighente*, and "Co. Antrim" become *Dál Riada* and *Dál n-Araidhe*, to the confusion, of course, of the non-Gaelic minded. But who amongst us will greet for that? Not the *Clann an Fhraoich*, who propose "an uair tha an Chlann a' brùighinn ri cheile agus a sgrìobhadh chum a chéile tha iad 'g an cur air am facal a bhith dhéas do an chàin air a h-uile dòigh" (*An Gàidheal*, An Céitinn, 1928). Nor yet D. E. W. Edmoungton Scott, in far-away Canada, who say to the *Comunn nan Leodhasach* in Toronto, "that modern American history was largely a repetition of ancient Gaelic history, which had been consigned to the past, and neglected in favour of so-called *Anglo-Saxon culture*. Despite such propaganda, the fact remained that the American continent had been, and would be more and more, dominated by the spirit of the Latin-Celtic races, whose undying hostility towards Teutonic nations continued to shape events after a fashion difficult for the Teutonic mind to grasp" (*An Gàidheal*, An Céitinn, 1928).

And, most assuredly, none of the men of Gaelic Ireland, whose names are known to readers of *An Gàidheal*, will find tears for the passing of the age of darkness.

Go n-eirighe Adh le Clanna Gaedheal thall is a bhfus, sa bhaile is i gcéin!

S. T.

I gCorcaigh, in Eirinn.

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## FAISNEACHD.

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### Pearsan Chill-Malieu.

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B'e Mac a Bhicair a b'aimn do Mhinisteir Chill-Malieu an Inbhir-Aoraidh ri àm an Diùc Ruaidh. Aig an àm sin bha ministeirean na h-Eaglais Easbuigeach fo bhachdadh a chionn gu'n robh a chuid a bu mhò dhiubh fàbharach do phrionnsa Teàrlach, ach bha'n t-sòchair air a dheònachadh do phearsan Chill-Malieu searmoineachadh do'n choimhthional Chléireach agus do'n choimhthional Easbuigeach; an uair a bha a cheud seirbheis thairis chuireadh e a chleòca dheth agus rachadh e troimh an t-seirbheis eile.

An uair a thogadh an drochaid ùr b'esan a chomharraich an t-àite far am bu chòir a togail. Bha cach air son a togail na b'fhaide ghus na shìos, ach thuit esan nach seasamh i dìongmhalta ach an sud.

Dh'innis e gu'n cuireadh peirceall na caorach an crann bhar an fhearainn. Gu'm fàsadh am fearann gu'n cuairt cho daor agus gu'm biodh dà mhàl ann an aon. An sin thuiteadh na màil gus nach biodh nì idir ri fhàigheadh, agus rachadh an lùireach leis an abhainn.

Dh'innis e gu 'n tigeadh *Latha a ghàradh chruim*. Tha 'n gàradh crom so a tòiseachadh aig drochaid a Gheàrrain (Ghearrabhainn), a' dol suas Gleann Sira gu abhainn Chill-bhlathain, a ruith a null gu taobh eile a' ghlinne, a suas bràigh Choille-bhràighd, agus Achanangaol, agus a tighinn a nuas aig an Rudha-fhrangach. Tha'm blàr ri 'chur aig Ath-nan-lann. Tha coille ri bhi air an t-Shròin a chumas am falach an nàmhad. Tha aon de cheithir eaglaisean Cheann-loch-gilp ri bhi 'n a stàbùll aig na h-eich, agus òlaidh am fitheach a leòir fola aig Creag-a-Churraidh. Bha àm a bhàlir so ri bhi, an uair a lìonadh stoc na craoibh chaorainn an toll anns a chloich-mhuillinn ghluim anns an robh i a cinntinn air taobh Dhùn-chuaich, agus a chaitheadh an fhaige a bhruch fo 'n chraoibh sgithich dlùth air drochaid a Ghearrainn.

Bha gorta ann. Thàinig a nighean,—a bha posd aig fear shìos aig a Bhrenachòill —le aon d' a balachain, a dh'fharraid deth c'uin a thigeadh min do'n dùthaich. Thug e freagairt car tarsuim oirre, ag radh "na'm biodh muinntir cùramach gu leòir mu'n rud a bh'aca nach ruigeadh iad leas a bhi an uireas-bhuidh." Chuir i a làmh air ceann a bhalachain agus thuit i, dh'fhao'dte nach biodh esan cho ullamh gu a chuid a chosd. Fhreagair a sheanair, am feadh a bha e mar gu'm b'eadh a' tomas a bhalachain a réir gach facal:—"Eirigh, is éirigh, is éirigh tu gus am bi thu cho àrd gu 'm faigh thu air druim an eich, ach cha luaithe 'bhios tu air a mhùin na thig thu nuas a rithist."

Bha e aig aon àm a' searmoineachadh. Stad e am meadhoin a theagaisg; thuit e gu'm feumadh e co-dhùnadh, a chionn gu'n robh aige ri beatha a shàbhaladh. Mharcaich e gus an d'ruig e Aird-a-Chetil, no an Ath, aig Loch Odha, agus bha e 'n àm duine a bha air oir na drochaid, agus a thuit 'na chadal, a theàrnadh mus do chuir e car dheth fhéin a bheireadh air tuiteam 's an abhainn.

Dh'fhèarich an Diùc dheth am b' aithne dha ciod a ghné bhàis a gheibheadh e? Thuit e; gu'm biodh e air a bhàthadh. "Matà"

ars' an Diùc, "feuchaidh mise, ma 's urrainn domh, gu'm faigh thu bàs a'd leabaidh." Chuir e gu Caisteal Ros-neoithe e, le gille, agus searbhanta, agus bha e 'fantainn an sin.

Air oidhche àraidh chaidh an Caisteal ri theine. Chual am pearsan an othail a thogadh taobh a mach an tìge; dh'fhosgail e 'n uinneag is dh'éisid e. Dh' fheuch e dol a mach air an uinneig. Bha buideal mòr an sin air son ceapadh an uisge. Thuit an sean duine anns a' bhuideal, agus mun d'fhuaradh e bha e air a bhàthadh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Spìon duine a chraobh chaorunn a bha ' cinntinn anns a chloich mhuillinn, agus cha d'rinn e tùrn math na dhéigh gu latha a bhàis. Cha deachaidh leis 'n a obair, agus thachair rud iongantach an uair a bha iad a toirt a chuirp a Dùnéidien. Bhris am bàta nuas eadar Grianag agus Ardshais, agus bha obair aca 'faotainn gu tìr. Bhris cuibheall na cartach a nuas eadar Ceannloch-gilp agus Inbhir-aoraidh an uair a fhuair iad air tìr e. Cha robh e idir 'n a shean duine aig àm a bhàis. Cha'n aithne dhomh ciamar a tha dol do'n chraoibh sgithich a nis, tha iomad bhliadhna o'n a chunnaic mi i, ach bhatar am feum taic a chur rithe, agus ùir m'a bun an déigh gaillionn mhòr an uair a leag mi mo shùil oirre mu dheireadh.

G. K.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Schoolhouse, Callander,  
10th May, 1928.

Sir,—In mediæval times classics were of little importance in the university curriculum in Scotland. The "fad" of those days was the system of *disputation* in logic and philosophy.

Latin was the universal language. Greek did not reach Scotland until 1534. It soon became popular as a subject of study. When James V. and his queen visited Aberdeen in 1541, it is said "ther was exercise and disputationes in all kinds of sciences in the college and sculis with diverse orationunes in Grcke, Latine and uther languages."

The "uther languages" may be inferred from the statute referring to the Grammar School of Aberdeen, printed in the 1553 edition of Vaus's Grammar, by which the pupils were enjoined to speak in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French or Gaelic—"nunquam vernacule." Probably this is the ordinance to which your correspondent "E. O. D.," refers.—Yours etc.,

ALEX. D. CUMMING.

## SOURCES OF SCOTTISH HISTORY.

## Diaries and Memoirs.

For a considerable number of years the publishing house of Æneas Mackay, Stirling, has, from time to time, issued a series of works relating to Scottish life and history, each of these in its turn a valuable contribution to that body of Scottish Letters so notable a feature of our time. The work now under observation well maintains the repute of its predecessors: it constitutes, indeed, a mine of rare material for the research student, at the same time that it intrigues the general reader with contemporary accounts of stirring historical incident which possess the charm of writings not necessarily intended for the public eye. The book is entitled *Scottish Diaries and Memoirs*, and the period which supplies these striking records is that which is embraced in the two centuries—minus four years—which ran between the years 1550 and 1746, a stretch of time which covered some of the greatest happenings in the annals of Scotland.

Several of the Diarists are men whose names are writ large in their country's story personages, like John Knox, Robert Baillie, Sir James Turner, Bishop Burnet, Robert Wodrow, and Marshal Keith, while there are others such as Robert Birrel, David Moysie and Robert Law, with whose names and writing most readers will become acquainted for the first time. But whether the diary is that of recognised notability, or of one whose name is not associated with high event, each and all of the selections attest the wise, discriminating judgment of the editor, Mr. J. G. Fyfe, M.A. The Reformation, the Union first of the Crowns, and then of the Parliaments, the Covenant, the Commonwealth, the Darien Scheme, and the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745; these are some of the Episodes with which the Diaries—and the Memoirs—are concerned, and there is throughout a plenitude of passages of profound interest to those—an increasing band—who in these later days, take special cognisance of the History of the Highlands.

Thus, the Darien diaries tell of the bravery of Campbell of Fonab and his little column of Argyllshire and Perthshire men who, but for the arrival of Spanish Ships of War, would have effectively protected the Colony against any land force the Spaniards could put in the field.

Marshal Keith, whose exile gave Russia, and then Germany, the greatest soldier

of the time, narrates the events of 1715 and the sequel in 1719, which culminated in the Battle of Glenshiel. And, to pass unnoticed numerous other sidelights on the Highlands, which the work contains, Highlanders will be grateful for the excerpts from the Lyon in Mourning, which recall that episode of imperishable memory—the refusal by Highlanders, Jacobite and Hanoverian alike, to betray Prince Charles Edward Stewart for thirty thousand pieces of gold.

Professor Rait writes an appreciative introduction, and the book makes appeal to a wide constituency. Its price is a modest crown.

EWIN O'DUIBHNE.

## MIDSUMMER IN UIST.

By SETON GORDON, B.A. (OXON.)

From Harris grey clouds drove down upon the north wind this midsummer's day. Drifting showers hid the crest of Eaval, and the mist rested on the slopes of Hecla and Beinn Mhor of South Uist. But at mid-day came a clearing of the skies, and the sun shone out over the land of heather, peat bogs, and innumerable lochs that has so great a charm for those who know and love it. Overhead divers passed swiftly, and a skein of geese flew southwards. On a ledge of rock, sheltered from the winds that almost always play upon the Outer Isles, a stunted rowan showed its fresh young leaves and white flowers that scented the keen air. The north wind was keen, but the sun shone warm, and in the shelter of the walls the yellow iris or *seilisdèir* was opening those delicate flowers which the wind so quickly withers.

It is one of the charms of the Isles that the view is wide, even from the little hills, and to-day, where the road tops the hill above Cnocantorrain, I looked westwards over green machair and pale sands to where the swell, breaking white, gleamed upon the flanks of Haskeir. On the far horizon Hirta rose, with the intangibility of great distance upon it. Northward of it was Boreray, the home of innumerable sea fowl, and immediately south of that isle I thought I could distinguish the shape of Stac Lii, the summer home of the solan goose.

Beside the machair at Hougary, and a little inland from it, the fields were white as though a heavy shower of snow had drifted in upon them, or as if white sand lay there.



But as I neared the fields I saw that it was not snow, but a multitude of daisies that spread themselves in a glistening canopy over the ground, and hid the grass that was so tardy in its growth.

Upon the azure sea a small boat seemed to drift idly. She was the mail boat from the Monach Islands, and was steering for Uist with mails and one of the lightkeepers, who was going on leave. It is interesting that a lighthouse should be built upon Shillay, for in the atlas made by Ioannem Blaeu in 1662, upon *Helskyr na Monich* (as *Heiskeir* is there named), a beacon is marked. At that time Monks lived upon the isle, and no doubt it was part of their self-imposed duties to guide any passing vessel in the blackness of a winter's night. Then the monks left the isle, and for long years no beacon glowed from it, until the present lighthouse was built.

Towards afternoon the sky southwards became overcast. Quickly the blue skies were replaced by a leaden pall of clouds, and above Hecla of South Uist a thin white wisp of mist—a sure sign of a coming storm—gathered. Pale green were the sea pools beside the machair; pale green was the sea beside Baleshare, where the long waves broke rhythmically in white foam.

The breeze veered from north to east and freshened. Dimly in the distance the Cuillin hills rose, dun mists upon their slopes. The hills of Harris were blue, and the sky above them was green. At midnight, when the mail steamer entered the bay at Lochmaddy, an easterly gale was sweeping white waves in on the shore, and, as the wind howled through her rigging, it seemed as if for a while December had replaced June.

### ORIGINS OF THE ART OF WRITING AMONG THE GAELS.

At a recent meeting of the Gaelic Society, Toronto, the following interesting address was delivered by Dr. W. J. Edmondston Scott on the "Origins of the Art of Writing among the Gaels." President MacLellan occupied the chair, and was supported by past-Chiefs Cameron, Gordon, Ray, and Gillies, with members and friends. During the evening musical numbers were rendered by several artistes, and a discussion followed the address.

The first difficulty that appalled the beginner in Gaelic, said the speaker, in his opening remarks on the several divisions of

Gaelic literature, was its mode of spelling, which had little to do with pronunciation. Orthography had been studied for about fourteen centuries, and its forms were fixed by early education authorities in the remote age when the advancement of Gaelic letters was a supreme care of the State.

Before the Roman alphabet was introduced with Christianity there had flourished throughout Gaeldom a native script, to which scholars usually attributed a Roman origin. Gaelic literature, nevertheless, regarded Ogam writing as old as Gaelic culture, but its traditions were divided over the question of its Celtic or Iberian origin. Some claimed it to be the invention of Ogmna, the Irish counterpart of Ogmios, a Gaulish deity who patronised letters; while others, with equal emphasis, traced it to Fenius the Sage and his Spanish school. The latter body of traditions definitely linked the art of writing among the Gael with pre-Aryan culture, which had developed it to a high state of perfection ages before Aryans or Semites were heard of in history.

Ogam, writing of Christian times from the third to the eighth centuries, revealed an archaic style of language different from contemporary speech. The gulf between them was in certain respect proved to be wider than that between modern Gaelic and old Gaelic of 1000 A.D. This anomaly suggested that the language of sepulchral inscriptions was not the contemporary vernacular, but some kind of old Celtic or Celtiberian preserved in the ritual of druidism and masoncraft.

Analysis of Ogam proved that it never was a "tree" alphabet, and the arrangement of its sounds no more followed Gaelic rules of precedence in botany than it had depended on any form of Greek or Roman alphabets. There was a scientific reason for the peculiar arrangement of its consonants, but this had nothing to do with Celtic history.

Gaelic traditions claimed for the alphabet invented by Fenius of Spain an antiquity older than Gadelus, the eponymous ancestor of the race. This was true to fact, but obviously they referred to a knowledge of writing, and not the Ogam inscriptions of the Christian era. The Fenian alphabet had consisted of some seventy-five characters, said to be named after each of his pupils; and must have resembled an archaic Iberian syllabary which compared more readily with Cypriote having about sixty-two characters than Phoenician with twenty-two.

## KINTYRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Kintyre Provincial Mod—the fifth since the inception of the movement in this district, under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach—was held in Campbeltown on Thursday and Friday, 26th and 27th April. The weather was fine, and the people who attended the Mod from all parts of the peninsula were able to travel under the most pleasant conditions. The Kintyre Mod grows in interest and in strength year by year. From the beginning each succeeding gathering has shown a marked advance on its predecessors, both in respect of the number of competitors and the level of merit in the competitions generally. Those who have worked hard, and in faith and confidence, in the interests of the Gaelic movement in Kintyre have every reason for pride and gratification at the results of their labours. The Mod of 1928 was a pronounced success, and the steady growth of the movement is shown by the very considerable increase in the entries. This year in the Junior Section the entries numbered 227, as compared with 154 last year, while in the Senior Section entries totalled 119, as against 66 a year ago.

The adjudicators were:—Gaelic—Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., John Knox and Tradeston U.F. Church, Glasgow, assisted by Mr. Neil Shaw, secretary, An Comunn Gaidhealach; vocal music—Mr. A. M. Henderson, L.R.A.M., organist of Westbourne U.F. Church, Glasgow, and of Glasgow University, and Mr. Neil Maclean, M.A., B.Sc., Aberdeen.

The work of both senior and junior competitors was of a particularly high order, and several notable performances were recorded, the feat of three pupils from Clachan School and one from Whitehouse, in securing full marks in Gaelic dictation, being worthy of special mention. The solo singing was very sweet and tuneful, while the duets were particularly well sung, and were very popular with the audiences that heard them.

The choir singing came in for a special meed of praise, Mr. Henderson, the adjudicator, saying he had heard no such good choral performances at any provincial mod which he had attended.

Miss Jen. Brown, L.R.A.M., was the official accompanist, and her work was done with all her customary sympathy and finish.

## The Prize List.

## JUNIOR SECTION.

## LITERATURE.

Letter, not exceeding one page of Ordinary Quarto Notepaper, on any Subject chosen by the Competitor, to be written in presence of a local Supervisor, appointed by An Comunn, and the time taken not to exceed three-quarters of an hour. Maximum marks, 100. Prize-winners:—1, Nan Campbell, Clachan, 96; 2, Tina Campbell, Clachan, 95; 3, Theodocia M'Sporran, Clachan, 94; 4, Phemie Beaton, Whitehouse, 92; 5, Elsie Crawford, Whitehouse, 89.

Writing from Dictation, about six verses from St. John's Gospel, Chapter XV.—1, (all equal), Nan Campbell; Tina Campbell; Theodocia M'Sporran, Alex Percival, Whitehouse, 100; 2, Elsie Crawford; 3, Phemie Beaton and James Percival (equal); 4, Grace Thomson, Whitehouse.

Translation of about six verses from Gaelic into English, to be selected from St. John's Gospel, Chapters VI.-VII., inclusive.—1, Nan Campbell and Tina Campbell; 2, Theodocia M'Sporran and Alex. Percival (equal); 3, James Percival; 4, Alex. M'Kinlay, Whitehouse; 5, Phemie Beaton and Elsie Crawford, (equal); 6, Grace Thomson, John Livingstone, and Willie Mundell, Whitehouse (equal).

## 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, Tina Campbell; 2, Margaret Mitchell, Rhunahaorine; 3, Rose M'Connachie, Rhunahaorine.

Reading with expression a piece of Prose of not less than 200 and not more than 250 words, chosen by the Competitor.—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Jean M'Callum, Peninver; 3, Rose M'Connachie.

Reciting from Memory the Poem "Suas leis a' Ghaidh lig."—1, Tina Campbell; 2, Jean M'Callum; 3, Theodocia M'Sporran.

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, Effie Fisher, Carradale; 2, Tina Campbell, Clachan; 3, Cathie M'Arthur, Peninver.

Solo Singing of a Song. Boys. Competitors' choice.—1, Duncan C. Stalker, Campbeltown; 2, John M'Bride, Carradale; 3, Neil Currie, Rhunahaorine.

Solo Singing. Girls and Boys. Competitors to select one from the following:—"Am Muileann Dubh," "Chi mi na mor-bheanna," "Gur tom, leann a tha mi."—1, Duncan C. Stalker; 2, Tina Campbell; 3, Rose Livingstone, Rhunahaorine.

Solo Singing. Girls and Boys, not over 11 years. One of the following:—"Maol Ruanaidh," "Caidil gu lo."—1, Effie Fisher; 2, Cathie M'Arthur; 3, Daisy Vettes, Peninver.

Duet Singing of a Song chosen by the Competitors (two Girls, two Boys, or a Girl and a Boy).—1, Mary Paterson and Sarah Mackinnon, Carradale; 2, (equal), Grace Thomson and Annie Young, Whitehouse; Morag Black and Cissie M'Innes, Campbeltown; 3, Amelia Massie and Alastair Massie.

Choral Singing in Unison, confined to Children not over 11 years. The songs were:—(a) Gaelic—"Duthaich nan Craobh," (b) English—"Dairde's Farewell to Scotland."—1, Carradale Choir (Miss M'Intyre).

Choral Singing in Unison. The Prescribed Songs were "Cuachag nan Craobh," "Duthaich nan Craobh."—1, Whitehouse Choir (Miss Livingston); 2, (equal) Rhunahorine Choir (Miss M'Lellan) and Carradale Choir (Miss M'Intyre).

Choral Singing in Two-Part Harmony. The prescribed Songs were—"Mo Nionag," "Tha mo Bhreacan Fluch fo'n dile."—1, Whitehouse Choir; 2, Carradale Choir.

#### CELTIC SONGS IN ENGLISH.

Solo Singing. Girls. "The Sailor Laddie."—1, Cissie M'Innes, Campbeltown; 2, Effie Fisher, Carradale; 3, Jemima MacLean, Carradale.

Solo Singing. Boys. "I Love the Highlands"—1, Duncan C. Stalker, Campbeltown; 2, Alastair Massie; 3, Galloway M'Gregor.

Choral Singing in Unison of the following two Songs: "Sea Feast" and "Deirdre's Farewell to Scotland."—1, Carradale Choir.

Highest aggregate marks. Tina Campbell, 702 out of possible 740.

#### SENIOR SECTION.

Royal Celtic Society prize for best paper on place names in Area covered by Kintyre Provincial Mod.—1, Edward Pursell, M.A., Tighnabruaich (a native of Campbeltown).

Gaelic Composition, not exceeding 400 words, on any Subject chosen by the Competitor.—1, Miss C. Livingstone, Whitehouse.

#### ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight a Short Piece of unfamiliar Gaelic Prose.—1, Roderick Mackenzie, Campbeltown; 2, Marion Falconer, Campbeltown; 3, Colin Paterson, Campbeltown.

Reciting from Memory the Poem "Cumha an t-Seana Ghaidheil."—1, Susan Macdonald, Killoccraw; 2, Colin Paterson; 3, Marion Falconer.

Sgeulachd. Narrating an old Gaelic Tale in the traditional manner.—1, Marion Falconer; 2, Donald Galbraith; 3, Susan Macdonald.

Acted Dialogue (two performers) Competitors' Choice.—1, Marion Falconer and Donald Galbraith; 2, (equal) Susan Macdonald and Roderick Mackenzie, and Christina M'Calman and Jessie M'Cuair, Peninver.

#### VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing. Female Voices. Competitors' Choice.—1, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown; 2, Ina Campbell, Clachan; 3, Mary G. Leitch, Torrisdale.

Solo Singing. Male Voices. Competitors' Choice.—1, David M'Kerral, Southend; 2, Wm. Galbraith, Carradale; 3, Roderick Campbell, Clachan.

Solo Singing. Male and Female Voices. Competitors to select one from the following:—"A Fhleasgaich an fhuilt chraobhaich chais," "Seinn an duan so," "An Gaol a thug mi og," "An Ribhinn donn."—1, Neil Muir, Rhunahorine; 2, Jessie M'Cuair, Peninver; 3, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown.

Duet Singing of a Song.—1, Lizzie M'Vear and Frank Kennedy, Campbeltown; 2, Isa Mitchell and Mary G. Leitch, Torrisdale; 3, Ina Campbell and Roderick Campbell, Clachan.

Ladies Chorus. Choral Singing of the Songs. "Buain na Rainich." In English—"Peat Fire Smoothing Prayer."—1, Campbeltown Choir; 2, Carradale Choir.

Male Voice Chorus. Choral Singing of the Songs. "Mhuinntir a 'Ghlinne so." In English—"The Bonnie Earl o' Moray."—1, Dunaverly Choir; 2, Campbeltown Choir.

Mixed Chorus. Choral Singing in Four-part Harmony of any two of the following:—"Mailli Bheag og," "Nic Coiseam," "Caisteal a' Ghlinne."—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 2, Carradale Gaelic Choir.

#### CELTIC SONGS IN ENGLISH.

Solo Singing. Female Voices. "Isle of My Heart" or "Clydeside Love Lilt."—1, Cathie Thomson, Campbeltown; 2, Cissie Fisher, Carradale; 3, (equal), Mary G. Leitch and Liza M'Vear.

Solo Singing. Male Voices. "Lochleven Love Lament" or "Cruachan Ben."—1, James Wylie, Campbeltown; 2, William Cuninghame, Kilkivan; 3, William Galbraith, Carradale.

Choral Singing in Four Part Harmony of the Songs "The Tocherless Lass" and "The Campbells are Coming."—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir; 2, Carradale Gaelic Choir.

Highest Aggregate Marks. Donald Galbraith, 311 out of possible 440.

At the close of the competitions, the Rev. Malcolm MacLeod thanked all the competitors for the fine way in which they had come before the adjudicators. He would go back to Glasgow with the feeling that the language was reviving in this part of Scotland to which it first came. The language has been lost in Kintyre awhile, but it was being brought back, and he congratulated the local branch of An Comunn on the success of their work in the peninsula. He thanked everyone connected with the Mod for the fine courtesy and the kindness with which they had treated the adjudicators.

#### Mod Concerts.

The usual popular Mod concerts were held on Thursday and Friday nights, and attracted packed audiences. The Junior Concert took place in the Town Hall, with Miss G. M. Hall of Tangy, president of Comunn Gaidhealach Ceannloch, in the chair. The young prize-winners, who principally sustained the programme, gave an excellent account of themselves, while Mr. and Mrs. Neil Maclean, by their songs, added to the zest and enjoyment of the evening. Mr. A. M. Henderson contributed pianoforte pieces, which gave great pleasure.

The concluding event of a memorable Mod was the concert in the Victoria Hall on Friday night. The crowded audience and the excellent fare provided by the prize-winners, both in individual and in concerted items, splendidly supported by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Maclean, Mr. Neil Shaw, and Mr. A. M. Henderson, made an inspiring final rally.

Captain George I. Campbell, Yr., of Sucoth, presided at the Grand Concert, and

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell said it was his very pleasant duty to introduce Captain Campbell of Succoth, a gentleman of Mid-Argyll who, young as he is, had already given yeoman service to this great Gaelic cause of theirs. It was a great satisfaction indeed to him (the Sheriff) to see Captain Campbell presiding over this great gathering of Kintyre people, all of one mind in the promotion of the Gaelic cause. He had exceptionally great pleasure in introducing Captain Campbell of Succoth.

Captain Campbell, who was very cordially received, said there were a few points about the Gaelic position he would like to put before them. He was, and had been for a long time, a convinced believer in the value, indeed the necessity, of preserving the old language. To him it was not the language itself that mattered, but those things for which the language stands, and of which it was the only instrument of expression. He believed that Highlanders possessed certain characteristics which are of value, not only to themselves, but also to the nation as a whole. The whole trend to-day in education, in public administration, and in public services, seemed to be towards standardisation, which meant the sacrifice of individual attitude and outlook to the promotion of a type fashioned, as it were, from the same mould, a mere machine, with no vision, no inspiration, no creative impulses. His idea was that the best of our nature had been achieved through the admixture and not through the blending of different types. These types were different races and peoples, with their different outlooks, caused by their different environments and their different traditions and their different languages. They must encourage the Gaelic, because it was the only way in which they could preserve their own peculiar racial characteristics. Therefore, he appealed to them, whether they were fortunate enough to be able to speak the Gaelic or not, to do everything in their power to perpetuate the language. Let them not think the value of Gaelic was purely sentimental. It was something much bigger than that.

The usual votes of thanks were accorded, the Sheriff paying special tribute to Mr. Peter J. Campbell, the hon. secretary, and the members of the committee for the manner in which the arrangements for the Mod had been planned and carried out.

A memorable gathering was brought to a close by the massed choirs singing the Psalm tune, "Dunaverty," and the National Anthem.

## LOCHABER JUVENILE MOD.

The Lochaber Juvenile Mod was held at Fort William on Saturday, 12th May. The judges were Rev. D. MacMichael, Fort William, Rev. R. B. Crawford, Kilmallie, and Rev. A. MacDiarmid, Corpach, who judged the Oral and Literary competitions. Mrs. Christison, Glasgow, and Mr. John N. MacLeod, Kirkhill, judged the Solo and Choral competitions.

At the close of the competitions Mrs. Christison handed over the prizes to the successful competitors. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld moved votes of thanks to the adjudicators, and Mr. MacLeod who presided, brought a very successful gathering to a close by leading the audience in singing the National Anthem in Gaelic.

Reading 1st Chapter St. Marks Gospel—1, Mary Cumming, Higher Grade School, Fort William; 2, Archie Cumming, Kinlochiel.

Spelling from above—1, Agnes MacDonald, Tulloch; 2, John MacDonald, Higher Grade School, Fort William.

Reading from any Gospel at sight—1, John MacKinnon, Public School, Fort William; 2, Mary Cumming, do.

Reading Test Paper—1, Mary Cumming, Public School, Fort William; 2, Archie Cumming, Kinlochiel.

Special Competition—Reading Inverness Mod Test—1, Annie MacMillan, Duncan MacDonald, and Donald Robertson, Banavie School; 2, Cathie Campbell, Banavie School.

Singing (Girls) Elementary—1, Minnie Campbell, Banavie School; 2, Margaret Cameron, St. Mary's Fort William.

Singing (Girls) Advanced—1, Elizabeth Casey, Roy Bridge School; 2, Mary Henderson, Roy Bridge School.

Singing (Boys) Elementary—1, Eric MacSwan, Banavie; 2, Alex. MacInnes, St. Brides.

Singing (Boys) Advanced—1, Neil Cameron, St. Brides; 2, Finlay MacKinnon, St. Mary's, Fort William.

Choirs—1, St. Brides Union; 2, Roy Bridge Union. Harmony—Roy Bridge.

Gaelic Letter—1, Chrissie MacLean, Higher Grade School, Fort William; 2, Catherine Currie, do.

Place-Names—1, Alister Cameron, Public School, Fort William; 2, Mary Cumming, Higher Grade School, Fort William.

Higher Grade Pupils—Reading from "Rosg, Gàidhlig"—1, Catherine Currie, Higher Grade School Fort William; 2, Elizabeth MacPherson, do.

Recitation—1, Catherine Currie; 2, Christina MacLean, Higher Grade School, Fort William.

Translation from Gaelic into English (Prose)—1, Christina MacLean; 2, Catherine Currie.

Translation from Gaelic into English (Poetry)—1, E. MacPherson; 2, Christina MacLean.

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## BRANCH REPORTS.

CONNEL.—The closing Ceilidh of the session was held in the Hall on Tuesday, 1st May, when Rev. John MacInnes presided over a good attendance. A varied programme was gone through, those taking part being Miss Nellie Cameron and Miss Catherine Rankin, Oban; Miss Brown, Mr. Clark Campbell, and Pipe-Major Cameron, Barcaldine; Miss Flora Cameron, Kilvaree; Misses Peggy MacEachern, Mary Campbell, Louvaine Cowan, and Margaret MacKay, Connel. Dancing was engaged in for several hours, excellent music being supplied by a voluntary band, consisting of Messrs. Reid, Downie, Graham, and Robertson.

KILMUIR.—An enjoyable Ceilidh was held in the Kilmuir School on Friday, 28th April, the occasion being the termination of the class held in the district during the last fortnight by Mr. Hugh MacLean,

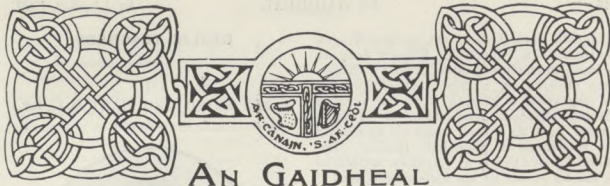
singing master. Dr. MacDonald, Uig, presided over a large audience. After tea, provided by the ladies of the choir, an excellent programme was gone through. Solos were sung by Miss Mary Matheson, Miss C. A. MacNab, Miss Morag MacKenzie, Miss May MacNab, Mr. Hugh MacLean, Mr. H. MacDonald, Mr. M. MacLean, Mr. R. Campbell, Mr. D. Corbett, and Mr. MacInnes. An amusing dialogue by Mr. Alex. MacLeod and Mr. Roderick MacLean and bagpipe selections by Mr. Angus Beaton added to the attractiveness of the evening. The singing of the choir won the admiration of all present. Dr. MacDonald and Mr. MacLeod, President of the local branch of An Comunn, spoke in praise of the delightful style in which the choruses were rendered, and complimented Mr. MacLean and his pupils on the almost incredible success of their fortnight's practice. Miss C. A. MacNab is to continue the class till the Provincial Mod is held in July.

LOCHGILHEAD.—This Branch held in all eight meetings during 1927-28. At the first of these in May 1927, a number of rules drafted by a Committee was finally adopted as a Constitution. A committee of lady members gave considerable assistance to the Argyll Stall at the Great Feill. At one meeting an address was given by Rev. Wm. MacPhail, Ardrishaig; another was addressed by Mr. Neil Shaw. At one Mr. MacConochie, Kilmartin gave an illustrated lecture on Iona, and another took the form of a whist drive and dance. The Branch was active in supporting the return to the Education Authority of candidates favourable to Gaelic as a school subject. At the Annual General Meeting held on 30th April, a committee of eleven was appointed, including as President, Mr. John Mackellar; Treasurer, Miss MacNair; Secretary, Mr. D. Grant. Sixty-one paid membership subscriptions for the Session.

TOROSAY.—An enjoyable and well attended An Comunn Gaidhealach Ceilidh was held in Lochdon Schoolroom on Friday, 2nd May, when the chair was occupied by the President, Mr. MacColl. Songs were rendered by Messrs. G. MacColl, A. Macfarlane, and C. Halliday, and also by Misses G. MacLellan, M. Halliday, and J. MacIntyre. Bagpipe selections were played at intervals by Messrs. J. and A. Cameron. Tea was served by Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. MacKinnon, Mrs. MacIntyre, and Miss MacLachlan.

ARROCHAR.—On Wednesday, 2nd May, the Vale of Leven Gaelic Choir under the able leadership of Miss Belle MacKay, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, journeyed to Arrochar, and held a first class Ceilidh and Dance in the Parish Church Hall. The Programme was a long and varied one, and consisted of Gaelic and Scottish songs. Bagpipe and violin selections, readings, and exhibition of Highland dancing. The choir was happy in their choice of Chairman, Mr. J. R. Bannerman, Arrochar. Mr. Bannerman is well known in Gaelic Circles, and in his opening remarks, referred to the beauty of Gaelic music, and urged his audience to cultivate a love for these beautiful songs. He also explained the various Gaelic items rendered by the soloist, Mr. James MacPhee, and the choir, and thus did much to interest the audience, and arouse their Highland sympathies. At the close of the proceedings the Rev. Hugh S. Winchester, M.A. proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the choir for coming to Arrochar and giving such a splendid entertainment, and he had no doubt of the success of the choir in their work of propaganda to awaken interest in Gaelic song and all things Highland. Mr. Aitken called for a vote of thanks to Mr. Bannerman, who had assisted in making the evening so pleasant. A most successful dance followed. Mr. Aitken acting as M.C.





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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An t-Iuchar, 1928.*

[Earrann 10

### AIG CAISTEAL NEIS.

Air an dara la de 'n Iuchar bha cruinneachadh mór aig Caisteal Neis, dlùth air baile Inbhirneis. Is i a' chrìoch àraidh a bha anns an t-sealladh tuilleadh airgid a thionail, gu bhì a' cuideachadh leis a' Mhòd bhliadhnail a tha ri chumail an Inbhirneis anns an fhoghar. Mar tha soilleir o na cunntais a thugadh a cheana ann am paipearan naidheachd na dùthcha, bha am fète anabarrach soirbheachail. Chaidh còrr is ceithir cheud punnd sasunnach a sholar airson a' Mhòid. Dleasaidh a' chomhairle an Inbhirneis buidheachas is cliù a thaobh na féille so a dh'ullaich iad; agus gu h-àraidh, a' bhean-uasail a thug dhaibh lios mór a' chaisteil, a bha maiseach da rìribh le lusan is duilleach air latha grianach samhraidh. Bha tuilleadh is còig mìle pearsa a làthair.

Is e a dh'fhàg an latha cho sònruichte gun tàinig an t-uasal ainmeal Lloyd George (Llwyd o Wynedd) a dh'fhosgladh na féille, agus gun do labhair e òraid a thug ùrachadh agus misneach do gach Gaidheal a bha anns an éisdeachd. Is mór an t-sochair gun tigeadh duine iomraiteach mar sud a thabhairt earail agus teachdaireachd. Is iomadh neach as ùr a léughas a bhriathran, agus a ghabhas uaidhe sin a mach tuilleadh beachd de 'n Ghàidhlig, a chionn is gun do labhair Lloyd George cho dian a' moladh na seann dileab a bhuineas do na Gàidhil. Chan e a mhàin gun tug e cuideachadh le bhì a' tarruing

mhiltean duine a dh'ionnsaidh na féille, ach thug e brosnuchadh do 'n aobhar nach d'fhuaras a leithid o chionn greise. Anns a cheud dol a mach dh'ullaich e luchd àitichidh na dùthcha, airson fàilte chridheil a chur air a' Mhòd. An uair a chi muinntir gu bheil, daoine cliùtach, na riochachd a' saoilinn mòran, de 'n chèol agus de 'n chàinain, gabhaidh iad féin suim as ùr, gus mu dheireadh an gabh iad tlachd dhiubh, mar is tric a thachair. Ach a bharrachd air sin thàinig Lloyd George le teachdaireachd. Thug e ann ar cuimhne nithean a bhuineas do eachdraidh ar n-sinnsir. Thug e fainear cia mar chum ar n-athraichean an saorsa agus an còir air na beanntan. Ged is fear gnothuich esan; ged is fear e a dh'fheumas a bhreitheachadh a chleachdadh gu mineachd; gidheadh is fear e mar an ceudna aig a bheil sealladh air na seann nithean, agus tuigse air na h-aignidhean a bu chòir a bhì aig daoine saor. Thug e fainear na beanntan. Chuimhnich e, an cainnt shamhlachail, air na faireachdaidhean a tha air an gluasad, an uair a sheallas fear àitichidh nan gleann ris na sléibhteann. A nis as eugmhais na nithibh sin cha deanar gnothuch sam bith is fhìach an t-saothair. Ma chailleas sinn na smuaintean domhain agus diomhair, caillidh sinn a' chuid is uaisle de ar nàdur.

Tha Lloyd George gle eòlach air cor na dùthcha da 'm buin e féin. Thug e iomradh air an strì a rinn na Cuimrich riamh ri aghaidh gach deuchainn agus cruaidh-chàs. Is ann le dùrachd is dealas o 'n cridhe a labhair e òraid

shimplidh dhruaidhteach, mu eachdraidh agus duinealas nan Cuimreach. B'fhearr leinn na mòran gun cluinnte a cheart òraid o'n chainntear cheudna aig a' mhòd bhliadhnail. Oir is iongantach a bhuaidh a tha air òraid o dhuine tàlantach dùrachdach, a chunnaic mòran, agus aig a bheil tuigse air na tha aig a' Ghàidheal ri dheanamh fhathast. Dh' ainmich Lloyd George na paipearan naidheachd a tha aig an am air am foillseachadh anns a' chànan Chuirich. Tha suas ri leth-cheud paipear de 'n t-seòrsa sin ann. Shonraich e an cuideachadh a tha sin a' deanamh leis an aobhar. Tha na Cuimrich a' dearbhadh gu bheil meas aca air an cainnt mhàtharail, an uair a bheir iad trì peighinnean, no eadhon sé sgitlin, air paipear no air miosachan coltach ris "An Ghaidheal." Tha na Cuimrich glé dhùrachdach; ach tha an dùrachd a' dol nas doimhne na briathran a mhain. Feumaidh gu bheil iad aontach ri beagan thasdan a chosg air na paipearan naidheachd, an uair a tha a leithid ann dhiubh, agus iad uile a' pàigheadh, a réir coltais.

Tha na paipearan sin feumail air dòigh no dhà. Tha iad 'n an cuideachadh mór gus barail an t-sluaigh aomadh ris an taobh is miann leis an sgrìobhadair. Tha sin a' near-tachadh an fhàireachaidh chinneadail aig na Cuimrich. Le cànan dhaibh fhéin, buailidh iad air comhairle dhaibh fhéin, agus air an doighean foghlum fhéin mar an ceudna. Agus a rithist that cleachdadh an leughaidh anns a' chainnt Chuirich a' fàgail an t-sluaigh deas foghainteach anns a' chànan. Dh' ainmich Lloyd George trìur no cheithrir de Chuirich a fhuaire a stigh do Thigh nan Cumanta, o chionn deich bliadhna fichead air ais. Thug iad gealladh d'a chéile gu seasadh iad gu duineal airson na cainnt Chuirich, oir b'i sin an cainnt mhàtharail. Dh' éirich gach fear aca gu inbhe urramach an seirbheis a' Chrùin Bhreathnaich; fear dhuibh gu bhi 'n a bhreith-eamh ainmeal; agus fear eile gu bhi 'n a Ard Chomhairliche do 'n Rìgh. Chum iad riamh gu dileas ri an gealladh, gu seasadh iad airson na cànan. Ach cha do chuir sin bacadh orra, o bhi a' faotainn air an aghaidh anns an t-saoghal. Chleachd Lloyd George na briathran so gu bhi a' tabhairt deagh earail air na Gàidhil; oir cha chum a' Ghàidhlig bacadh air fear sam bith. Air an laimh eile is ann a tha i 'n a cuideachadh, 'g a dheanamh nas géire 'n a bhuaidhan, agus nas foghaintiche, mar dhuine nach do chaill a chòir bhreith. Is e daoine de 'n t-seòrsa sin a tha feumail do 'n dùthach aig an am.

## GAELIC TEACHERS.

VIII.

MR. DAVID URQUHART, M.A., L.C.P.  
Drumsmittal.



Mr. Urquhart is a native of Gairloch, and served his apprenticeship as pupil teacher in Inverasdale School in that Parish under the late Mr. Donald Macrae, M.A., a native of Plockton, a painstaking teacher, and an accurate scholar. Gaelic was largely used in the oral work of the lower section. Mr. Urquhart took Gaelic as a subject in the Queen Scholarship Examination, and also for the Highland Trust and Macphail Bursaries. He felt encouraged to take a special interest in the language. He studied at Gordon's College, Aberdeen, and at Aberdeen University, graduating in 1901. He taught for two years in West Lothian and Ayrshire, and returned to the Highlands in 1903 as headmaster of Achiltibuie School, Loch Broom. Here the children were bilingual, and much use was made of Gaelic in the work of instruction.

Mr. Urquhart got in touch with the Herne Bay Press, and read the proofs of Macdonald's Gaelic Dictionary. This tended to deepen his interest in Gaelic. Going to Kyle in 1905, Mr. Urquhart was able to establish Gaelic on the Time Table; and found from observation that the bilingual children were the more intelligent pupils. At first the Gaelic parents did not look with favour on the mother tongue;

but the success of the children at the Mod, and the enthusiasm of the children themselves helped to turn the tide in favour of the language.

While in Kyle Mr. Urquhart studied the Theory and Practice of Education under the London College of Preceptors and obtained the diploma of Licentiate (L.C.P.) in 1908. He wrote a Gaelic Geography of Scotland which appeared in *An Deo Gréine* about 1918. Kyle had a Branch of An Comunn meeting in Erbusaig School, at which the whole proceedings were conducted in Gaelic. Only once, when a non-Gaelic piper attended, did the Chairman use English in announcing this item.

Mr. Urquhart introduced Gaelic in Ferintosh School (1922-27). The children did not know Gaelic, so there was very little encouragement to continue, except that the children were fond of Gaelic songs. In Ferintosh, however, Mr. Urquhart conducted a Gaelic Class for members of An Comunn; and although the classes were small, good progress was made.

Mr. Urquhart was Chairman of the S. W. Ross Branch of the Educational Institute for some years, and subsequently acted as secretary to the same branch. He taught the Junior Class at the Gaelic School, Broadford, 1913, and Inverness, 1920. He wields a facile pen in Gaelic prose.

Mr. Urquhart has noticed that children in districts formerly Gaelic speaking, introduce more of Gaelic idiom into English composition than bilingual children do. He thinks that this is due to the fact that Gaelic idioms were literally translated by the parents, and the children being ignorant of Gaelic, are not able to appreciate the error. The bilingual child on the other hand sees the difference at once. Mr. Urquhart holds that the genius of a people is indissolubly bound with their speech; that the loss of a language weakens the racial spirit; and that the cultural value of the Gaelic tongue is of inestimable importance.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

I am exceedingly obliged to Mr. Alex. D. Cumming for his answer in last issue of An Gaidheal to my query as to the inhibition of Scots, and the permission of Gaelic, in Aberdeen, in the sixteenth century. I have a letter from Mr. G. M. Fraser of the Aberdeen Library on the same subject, and as it is corroborative and elaborative of Mr. Cumming's note I think it well to reproduce the letter. It is as follows:—

I think that through the help of Dr. Douglas Simpson I am now able to give you the source of the inhibition as to the speaking of the Scots vernacular in academic precincts in Aberdeen. It happened in connection with the Grammar School, not King's College. In the Statutes and Laws of 1553, relating to the Grammar School, occurs the following among the "Statutes for the Afternoon":—

"All are to speak Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French (*Gallice*), or Erse (*Hybernice*, i.e., Gaelic), never the vernacular, at least, with those who know Latin."

May I congratulate you, Mr. Editor, on the enrichment of your columns by the products of Mr. Fraser's pen and by those also of Mr. Cumming's. E. O'D.

\* \* \*

There has been considerable discussion of recent years respecting the Chiefship of certain Clans, and the postulate is made by one of the controversialists that not all Highland families may claim the possession of a Chief. Certain clans were content to submerge their identity in a larger clan and from the date of the fusion, it is maintained, the minor clan had to regard the head of the major clan as their tribal chief. It seems to me that this view leaves out of account the Gaelic appellation for Chief—Ceann-cinne, the head of the kin.—Would some student of Clan custom say whether they agree with the contention which I would make that, in spite of the agreement of one Clan to become a subordinate sept of another, the position of Ceann-cinne of the lesser Clan is one which is based upon a natural fact as little capable of modification as the circumstance of paternity?

E. O'D.

\* \* \*

A Charaid Choir. I sent a letter, addressed in Gaelic, to a friend in Castlebay, Barra, the other day, and it was returned to me from Inverness Post Office by next mail, and marked "not known." I think this is a matter to which An Comunn could profitably address its energies at the present time. It seems absurd that a letter, duly stamped, and addressed to "Barraidh," which is almost the same as the English name of the island, should be treated in this way. One cannot blame the Post Office authorities because very few letters, if any at all, directed in Gaelic, pass through our Scottish Post Offices during the year, but if Gaelic speakers, and especially members of

An Comunn Gaidhealach, made it a habit to address their correspondence in Gaelic, then the Postal authorities would be duty bound to have clerks on their staff who could deal with Gaelic addresses. We are much behind our Celtic friends in Wales and Ireland as far as this matter is concerned, and it is high time we were moving on. I can conceive of no better way to interest our people in the study of personal names and place names than addressing their correspondence in Gaelic. One could not make the Gaelic address a rigid rule in all types of letters but when we write to our Gaelic friends why not do so in our own language. "Clann an Fhraoich" could well adopt this suggestion as one of their rules, and An Comunn headquarters with such a capable Gaelic Secretary, should certainly take the lead in issuing at least a share of their correspondence in Gaelic. That itself would insure that so many Gaelic letters would pass through our Post Offices daily. I hope some of the members of An Comunn will give us their views on this point. Such a movement, in my opinion, is absolutely necessary if we are to encourage the literary study and use of our language.

Mise, le meas,  
Sgìre-Mhoire, IAIN N. MACLEOD.  
6 de'n Og-mhios, 1928.

A' Choillebheag  
An t-Oban. 6.6.28.

Fhir Ullachaidh "A' Ghaidheil."

Uasail Urramaich,—Is mise chuir an ca' tuaitheal dhiom fhéin an nair a sgrìobh thu gaibh mu 'n Losguinn agus An Gilmean.

Tha nise muinntir Mhuile ann an rùn nam biodag rium, agus a' maoidheadh ma chuireas mi gu siorruidh cas air tìr 's a' Chrogan, gun tabhair iad bogadh bàthaidh dhomh. Chan eil comas air.

Ach is e tha tabhairh tabhairt dhomh sgrìobhadh d'ur n-ionnsuidh an tràth so a dh' fheuch, o 'n is duine fiosrach sibh, an tabhair sibh soilleireachadh dhunn air a' chùis a leanas.

Tha gnàth-fhocal againn anns a' cheàrn so de 'n dùthaich a tha cantuinn, "Chan eil carraig air nach caochail sruth, ach Carraig Dhubb Boinne nam Biodag."

A nis a bheil e fìor gu bheil an sruth aig a' charrraig so, biodh e a' lìonadh no a' tràghadh, a ghnàth a' ruith an aon rathad gun chaochladh? Agus ma tha, ciod is aobhar da sin?

Mur eil barail gaibh fhéin mu'n chùis, math dh'fhaoidte gu bheil aig cuid de'n luchd leughaidh.

Is mise le mór spéis,

Bhur caraid dileas,  
Gilleasbuig Mac Ille Mhumna.

## FETE AT NESS CASTLE.

### THE EVE OF THE FETE.

On Friday the 1st of June, the evening before the big Fete a successful Concert was held in the Wesleyan Hall, Inverness. The concert was organised by Mr. Roderick Macleod, who also sang with his customary verve and acceptance. The artistes included Miss Margaret Stewart, Edinburgh, Miss Mary B. Maclean, Glasgow, Miss Morag MacDonald, Inverness, and Mr. Murdo Macleod, Edinburgh. A combined choir rendered several Gaelic songs with great effect. Provost MacEwen was in the Chair. Mr. Lloyd George was present, and addressed the audience as follows:—

"Provost MacEwen, fellow-burgesses, and fellow Celts, it is a very great pleasure indeed for me to be here to-night. I have been four days on the road in order to attend this function, and I can assure you that I feel thoroughly requited for the journey. I never in my life enjoyed a concert more thoroughly than I did to-night; not that I understand all that has been said or sung, except that music is a language which appeals to all races and tongues, and Celtic music has an especial appeal to men who, like myself, are Celtic through and through. (Applause.) I do not mind telling you a secret, if you promise you will not repeat it. (Laughter.) I would rather be at a concert like this, listening to the gorgeous and splendid music of the Celt than be at a political meeting. (Laughter.) I beg you not to give me away. I can claim that I certainly heard one of your artistes before. I have heard Mr. Roderick Macleod many years ago at our National Eisteddfod at Carnarvon. (Applause.) We have in Wales held our Festivals almost without a break every year since the days of Elizabeth. Before that we, too, had our 1745. (Laughter and applause.) We had English kings meddling with things that they knew not of, trying to suppress our language, our music, our literature, and our traditions. From the days of Edward down almost to the days of the Tudors we were not allowed to hold our National Mod, but we did it all the same. (Laughter and applause.) We had our ways of holding these mods. (Laughter.) Just as you put a Scottish King on an English throne, we put a Welsh King on an English throne.

"The first thing he did was to restore to us our National Eisteddfod. He did this about the same time that we won the Armada, and it was entirely due to that. (Laughter and applause.) Since then we have held our festivals



without break through the long, eventful centuries—in dark days and bright days, and even in the darkest days of the Great War. When young men were away at the war, old men took their place in the choirs. (Applause.) I remember old men of over 70 years taking the place of young men who had gone to the war. (Applause.) So that right through the centuries without a break since the days of Elizabeth in Wales they had their festivals. (Applause.) I am glad to be here amongst my brother Celts. Mr. Roderick Macleod sang to a gathering of 7000 Welshmen, and we gave him a rapturous and enthusiastic welcome. (Applause.) It was the first time I ever heard Gaelic sung. It had a wonderful effect even upon an unaccustomed ear. Its soft notes, limpid and liquid, were just like your mountain streams. Gaelic is a very musical language, and it has got an especial appeal to you, and it has got an appeal to those who know it not in its very notes and accent. (Applause.) I have heard much of your music to-night, and I am looking forward to hear a great deal more. (Applause.) I have to propose a vote of thanks to the artistes, who have discharged their duties with much ability and skill. With regard to the massed choir which sang so well, it is a very fine combination, made up, I believe, of 200 Highland Celts and one Welshman (the conductor). (Laughter and applause.) The result has been a thrilling success. (Applause.)

“When I heard the playing of the march of the Athole Highlanders, and the singing of ‘The Cameron Men,’ I could well understand the inspiration that made these men fight for Prince Charlie. (Applause.) What was a surprise to me was that you had ten violins in order to make as many notes as one bagpipe. (Laughter and applause.) But I enjoyed the performance enormously. I can well understand what sort of martial inspiration came from such music, and how perfectly it was performed is still within my memory. (Applause.) And then there were the recitations which Miss Maclean gave, and which gave us such joy. I followed the first rather well. (Laughter and applause.) I am a great reader of Burns. When I started I read much more glossary than Burns. (Laughter.) Now I can read Burns without referring to a Scottish dictionary. (Laughter and applause.) The lady’s other recitation I understood—the most of it. (Laughter.) Then there was the pretty melody sung by Miss Macdonald—a very beautiful melody which reminded me of some of the softest melodies of my own native land. (Applause.) As to Miss Stewart, when she

sang about Lochnagar, it reminded me of an experience I had in 1917. Lochnagar is the only Scottish mountain I climbed—or ever intend to climb. (Laughter and applause.) I was very disgusted when I found that it was 200 feet higher than Snowdon. (Renewed laughter.) The song gave such a description of the beauties and grandeur of the place that it brought back to my memory the time I climbed the mountain in pleasant conditions—if you can call it climbing when you are on horseback the whole way.” (Laughter and applause.)

#### “COMIN’ THRO’ THE RYE.”

“As to her song, ‘Comin’ thro’ the rye,’” added the ex-Premier, “the least we say about that the better. (Laughter.) We have all been young. (Renewed laughter.) And the song brings pleasant memories to us all. I have also to propose a vote of thanks to the Provost. He does his duty very well. (Applause.) He spoke very charmingly about my country. I do not know what his politics are, but after what he said about Wales, I don’t care what his politics are. (Laughter and applause.) I would forgive him on the spot. (Renewed laughter.) I thank the Provost very much for the nice things he said about me, and the kind things he said about my own land. (Applause.) In Wales we are standing by our traditions and our language, and we are fighting a great fight for both now. (Applause.) Our young men at the universities are taking the lead, and they are bringing their training and culture into the movement. It is not a political movement, but a cultural movement, an educational movement, and a movement that will restore the best traditions in our country; not merely restore them, but also lead our young people further along the road of culture, so as to make them worthy citizens of Wales, and worthy citizens of the Empire of which we are as proud as any Saxon, Dane, or Scandinavian. (Loud applause.) I am exceedingly anxious not to interrupt the proceedings any further, and I ask you to give a hearty vote of thanks to those who did so much for our enjoyment to-night.” (Loud Applause.)

#### MR. LLOYD GEORGE AT INVERNESS

The fete at Ness Castle on the 2nd of June was a brilliant success. The object of the function was to secure more money for the forthcoming Mòd at Inverness, in September. The Hon. Mrs. Smyth gave the beautiful grounds of Ness Castle for the occasion. By this generous favour she has put An Comunn



under a debt of gratitude. The Town Council of Inverness also gave a warm welcome, and were present at the opening ceremony. The fine speech of Provost MacEwen, welcoming Mr. Lloyd George, and commending the objects of the Fete was received with great appreciation by the five thousand people who passed in through the gates. It was felt that the whole proceedings were a fitting prelude to the Mòd, to kindle enthusiasm and to engage the interest of the inhabitants of the whole area. The weather was ideal; the carnival spirit was abroad; and the vast throng enjoyed a rich feast of eloquence. It is rarely that any orator finds a more inspiring situation than that which awaited the ex-Premier as he stepped on to the rostrum—for auditorium the blue and cloudless vault of the heavens, on every hand a canopy of trees in foliage, and before him an audience throbbing with expectation—the subject the preservation of the racial heritage. We are indebted to the *Inverness Courier* and *The Northern Chronicle* for their excellent reports of the whole proceedings.

Mr. Lloyd George, who was received with cheers, addressed the gathering as “fellow Celts,” and said it was a great privilege to him to be given the opportunity of opening the fete. The weather was very auspicious, and he was delighted to see such a large gathering for the tasks and aims which had been so eloquently expounded by their Provost. “I am delighted,” he said, “to meet my fellow Celts on a purely non-political occasion. (Applause). I am something of a politician (laughter) and politicians seem to be doomed to spend the whole of their lives in conflict with some section or other of their fellow creatures. The soldier has a long respite, fortunately. There are long intervals where he is at peace, but a politician—never. (Laughter). I am really very relieved to find myself in an assembly where I am able to associate myself with them and with all of them of every section and creed without feeling it is my duty to bash any of them on the head.” (Laughter).

He had crossed Britain in order to be present, from the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea, through lands that the Celtic race had held—held for their traditions, held for their kin. The Celts had been driven from the flat lands to the mountains. They had defended the grandeur and the splendour and the beauty of these hills—(applause)—and they had held them against every attack for thousands of years. Wales, Cumberland and Westmoreland, and the Highlands of Scotland—they had all

resisted the Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Norsemen, and now they were being assailed by a much more formidable and insidious empire—the empire of the Philistines. (Laughter). That was the greatest danger of all to Celtic culture, to Celtic tradition, and to the Celtic mission. In Wales they were putting up a great fight for Celtic culture. They had in that small part of Britain about a million people who habitually used the Welsh tongue—(applause)—at the hearth, at the altar, and even in the struggles of politics. He had been reckoning the other day the number of Welsh newspapers. There were 47 weekly newspapers and monthly periodicals published in the Welsh language. (Applause). They had one admirable little publication in Liverpool, they had another in London, and he was confidently assured that they paid their way because, after all, printers and editors were not all of them philanthropists. (Laughter). “It is a real live language,” he declared, “and I venture to say from my acquaintance with Welsh poetry to-day that there is no better poetry written than that which is written by the cultured young Welshman—(applause)—and you can’t contradict me, any of you. (Laughter). But it is a fact. We have got young men passing through our Universities who not only speak Welsh but are proud to do so, making a study of it, writing exquisite prose and poetry in the language, and publishing every year volumes of their works, which are read by thousands and scores of thousands of Welshmen. Welsh culture is a real live thing. We are not dwelling merely upon the memories of the past. The young men are turning out new literature worthy to rank with the finest literature of Europe to-day. (Applause). We are putting up a fight for the language of the Celt, for the traditions of the Celt, for the mission and message of the Celt to humanity.”

“I do not know,” continued the ex-Premier, “what you are doing in the Highlands. I am sorry to see your picturesque dress is disappearing. There is nothing provides for me a more potent argument for women suffrage than the fact that women had the sense when men discarded the kilt to annex it for themselves. (Laughter and hear, hear, from several ladies in the enclosure.) The men will follow suit by-and-by. The language in the Highlands is not quite holding its own from what I hear, but you are beginning to put up a fight. We taught our language first through the Sunday Schools which were started in Wales. Now we are teaching the language in the elementary schools, and in the secondary

schools, and in the universities. (Applause.) We are giving the language a place of honour. We are not treating the language as if we feel it was something we were ashamed of. We are proud of it. We are proud of the great expression it has given through the centuries, of the deepest and noblest sentiments of the human heart—proud of it. We are proud of the services that it has rendered to humanity, and we mean to stand by it against all that may assail it. (Applause.) I want to see the Highlands doing the same. In Ireland they are making a great concentrated effort to revive the old Celtic culture, with what success I am not in a position to tell, but they are making a real heroic and well-organised effort, and I trust the Highlands will do the same. (Applause.) The Celt must get rid of the 'inferiority complex.' There are some people who think that the language stands in the way of material advancement in life. Well, man did not live by bread alone. (Hear, hear.) He must get bread; otherwise he will not live, but to enjoy the things of the imagination we never found the language interfere with our success. Never. When we were travelling to the north we found charabancs full of Saxons coming to enjoy the beauties of the lands that the Celt has held through the centuries for his own race and people, and we made them pay tribute." (Laughter.)

Apart from that, continued Mr. Lloyd George, he remembered very well when he entered the House of Commons there were a number of young Welshmen who could speak the Welsh tongue. He had no recollection that it interfered with their material success. Those members addressed their constituents as fluently and effectively in the Welsh language as they did in English, and there was one great advantage that reporters could not take down what they were saying. What happened to them? One of them became one of the most eminent judges of his day—Sir Samuel Evans. (Applause.) Three or four others held honourable positions under the Crown, and one of them, he was told, became Prime Minister of this country. (Laughter and applause.) He had no doubt he had many deficiencies, but no man was bound to incriminate himself. At anyrate he never found that the Welsh language stood in the way. Some of the most successful men in commerce, in industry, in finance, in law, in medicine were bi-lingual Welshmen. (Applause.) A bi-lingual race had an advantage. It had an intellectual training, and they could see truth from two aspects. If they looked through the English glass, and

is seemed not so clear to them, they should put on the Celtic one. By it they could see further. (Laughter.) The Celtic movement, continued Mr. Lloyd George, was not an attempt to split Great Britain or the British Isles, which were very small, into a number of conflicting races. They were just as attached to the Empire as any Saxon, Dane, or Scandinavian that they could pick out anywhere. They felt that they had as great an interest in it, and they felt that they had as great a share in its inheritance as anybody else. When the country was in peril they rallied to the common flag. (Applause.) So did they in the Highlands. It lent strength, it lent variety, it lent picturesqueness; and it enriched a country if it had a variety of cultures, each adapted to the particular area where it was grown. (Applause.) They did not want the forest to be all of the same trees. They liked variety, and that was what made the beauty of the grounds in which they were now assembled.

"Great Britain was a tartan of races, and he had yet to learn that the texture was weaker because it was tartan. (Applause.) They might say that fundamentally the material was the same, but there was a difference in quality. It was all good, and some of it was of the very best. He would not tell them where the best came from. (Laughter.) Quite frankly he thought it was fairly distributed. Luckily the very best and most enduring was that which had the worst weather to face, and the best wool was mountain bred for that reason. (Applause.) It was not merely variety of quality; it was variety of colour. Just fancy all the world of one colour! Every flower, every animal, every bird, every tree; how sick they would get of that colour. They wanted variety of colour, and the most distinctive colours in this country were Celtic ones. (Applause.) Anybody that used deterrent chemicals in order to take away, whether by economic methods, by social methods, by educational methods, the local colour, the racial colour, he would tell them what that person would do. He would destroy the beauty of the British pattern. He would do worse than that; he would rot the fibre. What was the story of these islands? (Applause.) The Romans got hold of the men of the plains. For three hundred years he devoted his great governing power to destroy the Celtic character of the population and make them Latins. They were not Latins. They tried to make them ashamed of their speech, ashamed of their traditions, ashamed of their race. What was the result? They were denationalised

and became an easy prey to the first heathen invader that had come to their shores. But the men of the hills were never tamed, and thank God for that. (Applause.) In Wales, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and the West of Scotland, and right up to the Highlands, they resisted the Latinising influences of the Romans and preserved their traditions and pride of race, and consequently their virility. (Applause.)

Concluding, the ex-Premier said—"Don't imagine by making imitation Englishmen—sham Englishmen, of Welshmen, of Irishmen and of Highlanders, that you are uniting and strengthening the Empire. You are weakening it every time you do so. Ah no! We have a great tradition; keep it alive and foster it. (Applause.) The influences of the conditions under which we live are bound to have an effect upon the character of the people. Remember that there is no natural scenery that makes such a deep and abiding impression upon the human heart and mind as mountain scenery. (Applause.) Read Wordsworth. He will tell you that. When I was motoring North, I noticed in the lakes the image of the mountains reflected in the waters. I can tell you that the image of the mountains is mirrored in the hearts of the people who live in these glens. (Applause.) It is bound to be. If you live amid the mountains you are forced to look up and lift your eyes to the skies. The horizon of the mountains is in heaven. I appeal to you, not as a politician but as a Celt who believes in tradition. And the mission and the message that started long before the first political party was born. (Applause.) Centuries and centuries ago before one was thought of; and that message will survive when the last of them has disappeared. It is because I believe in that message that I am making an appeal as a Welsh Celt to the Celts of the Highlands to stand by our great traditions and our task in the world." (Loud Applause.)

#### WALES' SERVICE TO HIGHLANDS.

Moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Lloyd George for performing the opening ceremony, Sheriff Macmaster Campbell, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, said the present occasion marked a great day for Inverness, a great day for the Highlands, and a great day for Scotland, when they had the leading Welshman of the time come to them to inspire them, to encourage them, and to exhort them. (Applause.) As many of them knew, however, that was not the first occasion upon which Wales had done yeoman service for the Highlands. The first occasion was away back at the beginning of

the 18th century, when a remarkable Welshman, Edward Lhuyd, a Fellow of Oxford, made up his mind that there was something of value to be ascertained regarding the Celtic life and language of his time; and in his great work, *Archaeologica Britannica*, he showed the world that the languages of the six Celtic nations had sprung from a common root. In that monumental work he pointed the way to the whole of modern philology, not Celtic philology only. The second service which Wales did for the Highlands happened as recently as 1890, when An Comunn Gaidhealach came into existence. The first resolution to which the promoters of that organisation agreed was the following:—"That a committee of four be appointed for the purpose of consulting the authorities of the Welsh Eisteddfod, with a view to obtaining such information as would be necessary to frame a constitution for themselves, and to ascertain and report on the extent of financial support likely to be given to a similar movement in the Highlands." They thereupon proceeded to consult the Welsh authorities, and, in a word, the support—the active support—given by the secretary and the council of the Welsh Eisteddfod Association set them well on the way to the completion of the organisation which eventually was floated. (Applause.) The first constitution of An Comunn Gaidhealach, in fact, was, almost precisely, a copy of the constitution of the Welsh Eisteddfod. The third occasion on which Wales helped the Highlands was when the Education Bill of 1918 was passing through the House of Commons. He would never forget the thrill to himself, and thousands of other Highlanders, when they read one day that Mr. Ian Macpherson came down and informed the Committee which was considering the Bill that he had instructions from Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, to say that he was all in favour of the Gaelic clause. (Applause.) It was not too much to say that the passing of that Gaelic clause was facilitated, if not, indeed, effected, by the support of the Prime Minister of the day. (Applause.) The address which Mr. Lloyd George had delivered that afternoon, Sheriff Campbell continued, would live in the memories of all who had heard it, and would give a considerable impetus to the better organisation of the Highlands in relation to the work of An Comunn Gaidhealach. For these reasons, he asked them to accord Mr. Lloyd George a most enthusiastic vote of thanks. (Loud applause.)

The Hon. Mrs. Smyth, who was received with cheers said:—"As honorary convener of the

local Executive Committee for the National Mod I am very proud to have this duty to perform, to ask you to give a very hearty vote of thanks to our Provost for so ably taking the chair to-day. (Applause). Time does not permit me to say all I would like to say, but I wish you to give Provost Macewen a most hearty vote of thanks. (Applause).

The Hon. Mrs. Smyth then presented Dame Margaret Lloyd George with a memento of the occasion. She said:—"I have very great pleasure in asking Dame Margaret Lloyd George to accept this cushion from my art stall. I never can express to her and her husband all that I feel for their leaving their Welsh home and coming to open this fete for me. (Applause).

A beautiful basket of flowers was presented to Mrs. Smyth by Miss Christine Mackintosh and Master Donald Macdonald on behalf of the Ladies' Committee.

Mrs. Smyth said she was deeply touched by the kind act of the ladies of An Comunn. She would treasure the flowers long after they would pass away as a remembrance of one of the happiest days she had ever spent among them all. (Applause).

Mr. Lloyd George, who was greeted with cheers and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," acknowledged the vote of thanks. He had enjoyed his visit to the Highlands more than he could tell. He had enjoyed the music at the concert the previous night, and also the exquisite beauty of the country. He had never seen it shine with such splendour as on the occasion of his present visit. He thanked Sheriff Macmaster Campbell for his kind words and those present for the way they had received them. He declared the fete open, and said they had better start the fun at once. (Laughter and applause).

The following were the conveners of the stalls, which were arranged in marquee tents;—Art—all the work on this stall was modelled and painted by the Hon. Mrs. Smyth. Bric-a-brac—Mrs. Macpherson, Raliadh, and Mrs. Menzies, Rhuallan, Kingsmills Road. Cake and Candy—The Hon. Mrs. Smyth. Ice cream—Mrs. G. Smith Laing, Glentarff. Produce and Flowers—Miss J. E. Mackenzie, Wells Street. Teas and Refreshments—Mrs. W. Mackay, Netherwood, and Mrs. J. Mackintosh, Beaufort Road. Work—Miss Morag Macdonald, Holly Villa, Cawdor Road, and Miss Mackenzie, 37 Union Road. Parcels—Inverness Boy Scouts.

On the platform in front of the Castle half-hourly concerts were held, under the direction of Miss J. I. Gordon and Miss Rhoda Macleod, the following artistes taking part:—Miss

Phemie Marquis, Miss Margaret Stewart, Miss Morag Macdonald, Miss Mary Maclean (elocutionist), Mr. Stewart MacInnes, and Mr. George Macgregor. The Academy, Abriachan and Merkinch choirs also sung, and displays of dancing were given by Mrs. Dudley's pupils of Elm Park School, Academy pupils under Miss Kerlin, and Merkinch pupils under Miss Campbell. During the afternoon the Inverness Silver Band, the British Legion Pipe Band, and the Inverness Boy Scouts Pipe Band played popular music. Picnic dances were held under the direction of Mrs. D. J. Macleod, Porterfield House, on two platforms, and the music was provided by the St. Louis Orchestra, augmented by drummer and saxophone players from the 2nd Battalion Black Watch.

During the afternoon wireless loud speakers were in operation in various marquees and in front of the Castle. These were kindly given and worked by Messrs W. A. Macleay and Son, Church Street, Inverness.

Luncheons and refreshments were served in a large marquee under the direction of Mr. Geo. Melvin, Castle Street, Inverness.

It is understood that the drawings amounted to about £450. While praise is due to the various conveners, vice-conveners, and their assistants for the success of the Fete, no one will grudge a special meed of praise to Mr. D. Scott Swanston, private secretary to the Hon. Mrs. Smyth, upon whose shoulders an immense burden was placed and who carried out his work with admirable efficiency.

#### Donations to Inverness Mod.

Previously Acknowledged .. ..	£223 18 1
Received at Head Office:—	
Hugh MacLean, Esq., Greenock ..	5 5 0
Glasgow Skye Association .. ..	3 3 0
Miss Elizabeth Campbell, Taynuilt ..	0 5 0
Murdo Morrison, Esq., Niagra, U.S.A. ..	0 2 0
Capt. Alastair MacLaren, Dalmaily ..	0 10 0
Miss MacFarlane, Edinburgh .. ..	0 5 0
Mrs. Andrew Stewart, Dalry .. ..	1 0 0
Mrs. Burnley Campbell .. .. ..	2 0 0
Received at Inverness:—	
H. F. Campbell, Dornoch .. ..	1 1 0
Proceeds of Flag Day Arranged by Ladies Committee .. .. ..	40 0 0
Concert and Dance at Kiltarlity ..	5 5 1
Concert at Culcabock—per Mr. N. MacLeod .. .. ..	3 2 3
Concert at Ardersier, per Mr. D. MacIntosh ..	13 4 3
Concert and Dance at Strathconon, per Mr. J. MacLennan .. .. ..	4 9 0
Dance at Kirkhill, per Messrs J. N. MacLeod and A. MacKenzie ..	8 3 5
Concert at Fort Augustus, per Rev. Father Dieckhoff .. .. ..	14 0 9
Dance at Fort Augustus, per Rev. Father Dieckhoff .. .. ..	6 12 5
Gaelic Class Dance, per Miss Martin ..	25 0 0

£357 6 3



## SECRETARY'S PAGE.

Arrangements in connection with the Summer School of Gaelic that is being held at Broadford, Skye, for one month commencing from 17th inst. are now well in hand. A satisfactory number of students have been enrolled and their is every indication that the school will successfully achieve its purpose.

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During the course of the month I was one of the many hundreds that had the pleasure of being present at the Grand Fete organised by the local committee in the grounds of Ness Castle, kindly granted for the occasion by the Hon. Mrs. Smyth. The venture was an outstanding success, and pleasantly served as an earnest of the committee's efforts on behalf of the Mod. Even at this early date it seems safe to say that the 1928 Inverness Mod will equal any that have gone before.

\* \* \*

The attention of lady members is directed to the special needlework competitions that are being promoted by the Art and Industry committee, particulars of which are as follows: Two prizes of £1 10s. and £1., one offered for the best reproduction in colour of design No. 25. "Whithorn Knot and double circle," suitable for tea cosy, table centre, duchesse set, etc., article left to choice of competitor. First and second prizes of £1 and 10s. are also offered for similar work in design No. 134. "Panel (Trefoil and Centre). These designs in transfer may be obtained from Art Needlework shops, or direct from the office here, price one shilling post free. All work for this competition must reach the office here not later than Saturday, 15th September.

\* \* \*

"The Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes" for, (1) Solo Singing of a song. (2) Playing of Strathspey and Reel on the violin, for which First and Second prizes of £2 and £1 are offered in each competition, are included on the National Mod syllabus. These competitions are confined to candidates who are under 20 years of age, and are natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart and Stratherrick districts.

\* \* \*

The National Mod takes place at Inverness on 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th September. Intending competitors are reminded that they must enter their names with the Secretary, 212 West George Street, Glasgow, not later than Saturday, 21st July.

All interested in piping will welcome the publishing by the Piobaireachd Society of a nicely compiled collection of bagpipe tunes, these constituting the pieces played at the most important of post war gatherings for the coveted awards of the Society. A unique feature of the collection is that in addition to the ordinary setting, there is included a canntaireachd notation for each of the pieces. This collection can only be had from the Secretary, Capt. George I. Campbell, Garscube Estate Offices, Bearsden.

NIALI.

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**FREE GIFT SCHEME ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL MOD, INVERNESS.**

WINNING NUMBERS:—8290, 6254, 6348, 2322, 6572, 424, 3392, 5167, 8314, 2541, 20, 7943, 5240, 9793, 8435, 4247, 2319, 9341, 3430, 5335, 7576, 8847, 6719, 384, 8171, 441, 6291, 2343, 654, 519, 7673, 457, 3906, 5677, 4975, 8318.

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**COMUNN GAIDHEALACH AUSTRALIA.**

Another most enjoyable evening was held in the rooms temporarily rented by Comunn Gaidhealach Astralia, in Swanston Street, Melbourne. There was a large audience present, and though some were Lowland Scots, each one thoroughly enjoyed every item.

Our monthly meetings are held on the same lines as Ceilidhs are held in the long winter evening in the Highlands. Songs, stories, and dances to the music of the pipes make the time pass very quickly. So quickly that some of the members are suggesting a weekly meeting instead of a monthly one, as at present.

The President, Mr. Donald MacKinnon, introduced to last night's meeting a young lady from Kilmacoll, who is an intimate friend of "An Comunn's" secretary, Mr. Neil Shaw. Miss King thanked the members for their rousing welcome in a neat speech.

The Gaelic class is attended by a number of very enthusiastic and painstaking pupils, some of whom are making rapid progress. We expect that in a month or two we shall be able to write our monthly letter to "An Gaidheal" in the proper language—Gaelic.

Gaels at home will be pleased to know that so successful is this young Comunn that a larger Hall has been secured. Visitors from kindred societies will be made heartily welcome.

P. CAMERON, Secretary,  
66, Rennie Street, Coburg, Melbourne.  
9th May, 1927.



## COWAL PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Cowal Provincial Mod, promoted by the Dunoon branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, was held in the Burgh Hall, Dunoon, on Saturday, 16th June, when competitors were present from all parts of Cowal. Miss Lamont of Knockdow, presided, and the adjudicators were:—Music, Mr. Gilbert Esplin, Glasgow; and Gaelic—Mr. Alex. Thomson, Glasgow.

Miss Lamont, in opening the Mod, remarked that such gatherings were promoted to cultivate the language and the music of the Highlands with a desire to preserve, to use, and to cultivate those signs and symbols of nationality. They based their claim for such cultivation on the same grounds as every nation based its claim for the teaching of its own history and literature as well as of its language.

Major Bennett presided at a concert in the evening sustained by the prize-winners and Miss Jean Gallagher, Misses Freeman, and Miss Kent. Mrs. Burnley Campbell, during an interval, presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

The principal prize-winners were:—

## JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading with expression a piece of poetry—1, Nana M'Kellar, Glendaruel; 2, Chrissie M'Kechnie, Dunoon. Reading a piece of prose—1, Nana M'Kellar; 2, Cathie Cumming, Sandbank.

Solo Singing—1, Chrissie M'Kechnie; 2, Daisy Helme, Dunoon; 3, Ellie Gillies, Glendaruel.

Unison singing—1, Kilmopan Junior Choir; 2, Stronafian Junior Choir; 3, Dunoon Junior Choir.

## SENIOR SECTION.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar piece of prose—1, Mary M'Dougall, Dunoon; 2, Mary Campbell, Dunoon. Recitation of a piece of poetry—1, Mary Johnson, Dunoon; 2, Mary M'Dougall.

Solo singing of a song (girls)—1, Margaret Fletcher; 2, Mary M'Dougall; 3, Veronica Smart, Pt. Bannatyne.

Choral singing of a song in harmony—Dunoon Junior Gaelic Choir.

Duet singing—Daisy Black and Mary Tyre.

## ADULT SECTION.

Solo singing of a song (female voices)—1, Mary Tyre; 2, Daisy Black; 3, Mary Johnson.

Solo singing of a song (Male Voices)—1, Archie Baxter, Tighnabraich.

Solo singing of a song (Male and Female Voices)—1, Archie Baxter; 2, Daisy Black; 3, Mary Johnson.

Piping—March, strathspey, and reel—1, Malcolm Brander; 2, Alex. Reid; March—1, Alex. Reid; 2, Archie M'Nicol.

## SPEECH BY MISS LAMONT OF KNOCKDOW

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with great pleasure that I bid you all welcome to the Mod of Comunn Gaidhealach Dhunomhainn. It is a cause of satisfaction to us all that again this year our local Branch of An Comunn has successfully organised another Mod. We all

hope that this Mod will now become an annual event, and that it will gain increasing support as the years go by. To-day we are all looking forward with pleasure to hearing the various songs and recitations and readings of the competitions, and some of us doubtless have high hopes for the success of certain of the competitors. But when we attend a gathering of this kind—whether as members of the audience or as competitors—it is not only, or even mainly, in order to seek pleasure, or in the hope of winning prizes that we come. We come because we love the language and the music of the Highlands, and because we wish to preserve, to use and to cultivate these signs and symbols of our Nationality. We wish also to do what we can to help and to encourage An Comunn Gaidhealach in the work that it is doing for the Gaelic Cause.

On an occasion of this sort it is well that we should pause for a moment and ask ourselves why it is that we care so much for these things—these intangible things—which some other people hold so cheap. There are people who call us mere sentimentalists: I have heard them say: "What is the use of Gaelic?" "It never did me any good," "It is of no commercial value." And not very long since, a respected citizen of Dunoon was heard to remark that it was quite evident that some of us in the Gaelic Movement had "Bees in our Bonnets." Well, I am not sure that that is altogether a bad thing; a bee is a very useful insect, and if we each contribute our bee, we shall have amongst us quite a respectable hive. My hope is that that hive will buzz loud enough to make itself heard, and further, that it will produce sufficient honey to add a little sweetness to life.

When we are countering objections such as those that I have quoted, and seeking to answer the question which we have set ourselves, we can reply that—no matter whether such subjects as Gaelic and Music and Art, are or are not of commercial value—it is not on any such grounds that we base our claim for their cultivation. We base our claim for the teaching of Gaelic on precisely the same ground as those on which any and every other nation bases its claim for the teaching of its own History and Literature, as well as of its Language. History and Literature are of no commercial value, but what a poor-spirited, degenerate nation that would be which set no store by the record of its own past, and no value on the productions of its own geniuses.

Let us recognise, then, that there are subjects worth cultivating outside the sphere of things

connected with material gain, subjects which nevertheless are of intense value because they cluster around a National Ideal, an Ideal which is one of the worthiest and most inspiring incentives to action that we know. If, because we hold these views, people call us mere foolish visionaries, let us remind them of the words of the Wise Man of old:—"Where there is no vision the people perish."

Let me plead with you all therefore, to cherish our Gaelic Speech and Gaelic Song. Those of you who are familiar with the old language, use it, and let the young people grow up using it and loving it as their mother-tongue. Those of you who are learners, redouble your efforts. And those of you who are on the fringe of our movement, or outside it altogether, give us, at least, your sympathy and your understanding; because this cause of ours is part of a greater cause still, a renewed and living conception of our Scottish Nationhood. For us then, in this movement, our motto is: "Gaelic for the Gael," and all Scottish people shoulder to shoulder in preserving all that is distinctive and worth in our National Heritage.

A Chairdean, tha mi toilichte a nis a radh ri bh gu bheil am Mod so fosgailte.

### SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN.

*Owing to pressure on space through necessary reports of fête and mods we regret that Mrs. Grant's instalment on the Norwegian Occupation has had to be held over.—Ed.*

### PERTSHIRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

Improvement in almost every class and an appreciable increase in the entry did much to make the Perthshire Mod, held at Aberfeldy on Friday, 15th June, under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, the most successful yet held. Competitors came from all parts of the county, and despite unpleasant weather in the morning the Mod was well attended.

The adjudicators were:—Vocal—Junior Section—Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban (Gaelic); Miss Phemie Marquis, Glasgow (music). Senior Section—Mrs. Urquhart, Edinburgh (Gaelic); Mr. R. M'Leod, Edinburgh (music). Oral—Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; Mrs. Watson, Edinburgh, and Mrs. Urquhart. Oral and Choral—Mrs. Watson and the Rev. Hector Cameron (Gaelic); Mr. M'Leod (music). Instrumental Sections—Mr. Iain C. Menzies, Edinburgh, and Mr. T. Bett, Aberfeldy.

### JUNIOR SECTION (VOCAL).

Class 1 (Girls)—1, Agnes M'Kinnon, Killin, 89-92, 181; 2, Helen Fraser, Kenmore, 87-90, 177; 3 (equal), Dolly Cameron, Glenlyon, 85-88, 173, and Mary M'Intyre, Blair Atholl, 84-89, 173.

Class 2 (Boys)—1, John Beaton, Acharn, 85-80, 165; 2, Willie Bain, Blair Atholl, 86-77, 163; 3, Angus MacGregor, Killin, 84-78, 167.

Class 3 (Girls or Boys)—1, Agnes M'Kinnon, 95-92, 187; 2, Helen Fraser, 89-93, 182; 3, Jean M'Lauchlan, Pitlochry, 87-92, 179.

Duet Singing—1, Helen Fraser and Cathie Harris, Kenmore, 84-86, 170; 2, Mary Cameron and Agnes M'Nab, Grandtully, 88-77, 165; 3, Mary M'Intyre and George Seaton, Blair Atholl, 82-82, 164. Unison Singing—Kenmore Junior Choir, 87-83, 170.

### ORAL.

Poetry—A (native speakers)—1, Cathie Stewart, Blair Atholl; 2, Effie Robertson, Glenfincastle; 3, Duncan Finlayson. B (non-Gaelic speakers)—1, John MacDonald, Blair Atholl; 2, Christie Menzies, Strath-tummel; 3, Edward Johnstone, Strath-tummel.

Prose-reading—A—1, Cathie Stewart; 2, Effie Robertson; 3, Duncan Finlayson. B—1, Louisa Lamond, Blair Atholl; 2, Agnes Robertson, Blair Atholl; 3, John Fraser, Strath-tummel.

Reading—Selected piece—1, Effie Robertson; 2, Donald MacGregor, Killichonan.

Prose—Sight-reading—1, Effie Robertson.

Gaelic Conversation—1, Helen MacGregor, Killin; 2, Jessie MacDougall, Lawers; 3, Effie Robertson.

Repetition—1, Cathie Stewart; 2, Effie Robertson; 3, Jessie M'Dougall.

Relating narrative based on some local incident, tradition or legend, followed by conversation with judge—1, Helen MacGregor; 2, Jessie MacDougall; 3, Effie Robertson.

### SENIOR SECTION (VOCAL).

Duets—1, Misses C. S. and Elizabeth M'Martin, Lawers, 89-85, 174; 2, Misses Helen and Mary Robertson, Pitlochry, 84-88, 172; 3, Miss Isabella Menzies, Blair Atholl and Mrs. J. Reid, Perth, 80-85, 165.

The adjudicators expressed themselves as very highly pleased with the standard of Gaelic in the class for former first prize-winners. The phrasing generally was capital, although some of the singers would be well advised to choose the song most comfortable to themselves, not the most popular. Results:—1, Miss Elizabeth M'Martin, Lawers, 88-83-87, 258; 2, Miss Mary Robertson, Pitlochry, 87-84-86, 257; 3, Mr. James D. Scott, Kinloch Rannoch, 84-83-87, 254.

Choral Singing (Senior)—1, Killin Gaelic Choir, 163-172, 335; 2, Kenmore and Fearnan Gaelic Choir, 161-173, 334; 3, Fortingall Gaelic Choir, 158-173, 331. Choral Singing (Junior)—1, Kenmore Junior Choir, 70-80, 150.

### VOCAL MUSIC (SENIOR SECTION)

Solo Singing of a song (female voices)—1, Mrs. Leith, Fearnan; 2, Miss E. M'Martin, Lawers; 3, Miss Eva Bryden.

Male voices—1, Christie Macdonald, Acharn; 2, M. M'Callum, Fortingall; 3, D. M'Martin, Lawers.

Male or female—1, Miss Mary Robertson, Pitlochry; 2, Mrs. Leith; 3, Miss Bryden.

Solo singing of an unpublished Perthshire song (male or female voices)—1, Mr. J. D. Scott, Kinloch Rannoch; 2, Mrs. Panton, Pitlochry; 3, Miss I. Menzies, Blair Atholl.

## ORAL DELIVERY.

Junior:—Reciting from memory "An Tigh Soluis," by Neil MacLeod—1, Effie Robertson, Glenfincastle; 2, M. Johnstone, Strathummel; 3, John Fraser, Strathummel.

Senior:—Reading from sight unfamiliar piece of prose chosen by judge—1, A. Carter, Ballinluig; 2, D. M'Nicoll, Acharn; 3, Miss I. Menzies.

Reading selected passages (confined to learners of Gaelic)—1, Miss I. Menzies.

Reading selected passages (confined to native speakers)—1, Mrs. M'Intyre, Kenmore; 2, Mr. C. MacDonald; 3, Mr. A. Carter.

## SENIOR ORAL.

Recitation of piece of Gaelic poetry chosen by the competitor—1, C. M'Donald; 2, A. Carter; 3, Miss A. Paterson, Kenmore.

Acted Dialogue—1, Miss C. M'Donald, Pitlochry, and Miss H. M'Gregor, Pitlochry.

## INSTRUMENTAL.

Violin—1, D. Walker, Strathay; 2, G. Coull, Acharn; 3, J. Smith, Ald Clune.

Pianoforte—Seniors—1, Miss H. Dickson, Blair Atholl; 2, J. Smith, Blair Atholl; 3, Miss J. M'Laughlan, Pitlochry.

Juniors—1, Miss M. L. Ramage, Glenfincastle; 2, Miss A. Menzies, Dull; 3, Miss E. Ross, Struan.

Bagpipes (Strathspeys and Reels)—1, J. M'Kerchar, Aberfeldy; 2, Angus M'Donald, Ardtalnaig. Marches—1, J. Sharp, Ballinluig; 2, A. Irvine, Ballinluig.

Literary Section—Place Names—1, Mr. A. Maclean, Ballinluig; 2, Miss A. M. Stewart, Fortingall.

An appropriate ending to this great day in the Perthshire Highlands was the concert in the evening, sustained by Miss Phemie Marquis (Glasgow) and Mr. Roderick M'Leod (Aberstruther), and the successful competitors at the Mod. Rev. Donald Lamont, Blair Atholl, was in the chair, and the prizes won during the day were gracefully handed over by Lady Helen Tod. Her Ladyship is greatly interested in Gaelic organisations, and she expressed her pleasure at the stimulus which the Mod was giving to the ancient language.

## ISLAY PROVINCIAL MOD.

The 5th annual Islay Provincial Mod was held in the Drill Hall, Bowmore, on 15th June. The entries on this occasion, especially in the senior sections were considerably in advance of previous years. A gratifying feature of the proceedings was the large number of choirs that took part. A high standard of excellence was maintained both in the language and music, and the adjudicators expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the progress made. The adjudicators were Mr. Hector MacDougall, Mr. Neil Shaw, Gaelic, and Mr. Neil Orr, F.E.I.S., Music.

## JUNIOR SECTION.

Reading—Mr. Christie's Medal—1, Effie M'Dougall, Keils; 2, Sarah Fraser, Keils; 3, Lily M'Eachern, Keils.

Reciting—1, Effie M'Dougall, Keils; 2, Bella Ferguson, Portnahaven; 3, Angus Ferguson, Portnahaven and Alex. M'Cormick, Keils (equal).

Solo Singing (Girls)—Glasgow-Islay Assocn. Medal—1, Margaret Carmichael, Port Ellen; 2, Mary Mair, Portwemyss; 3, Joan Shaw, Octomore; 4, Marion M'Farlane, Bowmore; 5, Lily Livingstone and Katie M'Eachern, Port Ellen (equal).

Solo Singing (Boys)—Glasgow Islay Assocn. Medal—1, Angus M'Kechnie, Bowmore; 2, Donald M'Indoor, Keils; 3, Alexander Hay, Portnahaven; 4, Willie Fraser, Keils.

Canntaireachd—1, Marion M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Rena M'Farlane, Bowmore.

Duet Singing—1, Rachael Gray and Marion M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Ian Campbell and Donald M'Indoor, Keils; 3, Margaret Carmichael and Chrissie M'Gibbon, Port Ellen.

Choral Singing—1, Bowmore Junior Choir; 2, Portnahaven Junior Choir; 3, Keils Junior Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Portnahaven Junior Choir; 2, Bowmore Junior Choir; 3, Keils Junior Choir.

Pianoforte—1, Emily Ferguson, Bowmore; 2, Margaret Carmichael, Port Ellen.

## SENIOR SECTION.

Reading—1, Angus M'Kinnon, Skerries.

Recitation—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rockside; 2, Hugh Duncan, Bridgend; 3, Alex. M'Arthur, Lagarulin.

Recitation (Original)—1, Charles M'Niven, Rockside; 2, Calum M'Intyre, Colonsay.

Sgeulachd—1, Calum M'Intyre; 2, James Logan, Bowmore.

Royal Celtic Society's Competition—1, Duncan M'Niven, Rockside.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—Glasgow Islay Assocn. Medal—1, Agnes M'Farlane, Bowmore; 2, Janet Buie, Caol Ila; 3, Mrs. Carmichael, Port Ellen; 4, Flora M'Indoor, Bowmore.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—Glasgow Islay Assocn. Medal—1, Duncan M'Gilvray, Bowmore; 2, Hugh Duncan, Bridgend; 3, Alex. M'Indoor, Portcharlotte; 4, Malcolm Shaw, Keils.

Canntaireachd—1, Arch. Carmichael, Bowmore; 2, Calum M'Intyre; 3, Iain M'Kerrall, Port Ellen.

Duet Singing—1, Misses Gillespie and Harris, Portcharlotte; 2, Misses M'Indoor and M'Farlane, Bowmore; 3, Misses M'Millan and Glen, Bowmore.

Quartette—1, Campbell Quartette, Bowmore; 2, Glen Quartette, Bowmore; 3, Orr Quartette, Port Ellen.

Trio—1, Cruach Trio; 2, Bowmore Trio; 3, M'Dougall Trio, Keils.

Violin—1, John M'Intyre, Bowmore; 2, John Cameron, Bowmore; 3, Peter Weir, Bowmore.

Pianoforte—1, Emily Ferguson, Bowmore; 2, Patricia Cameron, Bowmore; 3, Mary L. M'Lean, Keils.

Choral Singing (Four part harmony)—Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup—1, Bowmore Gaelic Choir; 2, Portcharlotte Gaelic Choir; 3, Port Ellen Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing (Two part harmony)—1, Bridgend Ladies Choir; 2, Bowmore Ladies Choir; 3, Portcharlotte Ladies Choir, Aberfeldy.

A fitting conclusion to a successful day's proceedings was the well attended concert held in the evening. Mr. Neil Shaw the General Secretary presided, and the programme was sustained by the leading prize winner, with Mr. Gilbert MacPhail and Miss Margaret MacNiven two former first prize winners also contributing. Mrs. Iain M. MacTaggart gracefully presented the prizes. Towards the close of the proceedings Mr. Shaw made feeling reference to the passing away of Miss M. C. MacTavish, Newton, for many years a devoted worker in the Gaelic cause. As a tribute to her memory the audience stood respectfully at attention while Gilbert MacPhail rendered MacCrimmon's Lament. The choirs and audience quietly joined in the refrain.

### TIRE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The second annual Tìre Mod was held in Cornaigmore School on June 7th. Crowded audiences attended both sessions and were treated to some very excellent performances. The adjudicators were Mr. Yacamini, Perth, for music; Mr. Neil Shaw, An Comunn Gàidhealach, and Rev. A. MacDonald, Ardhattan, for Gaelic. Thanks to the enthusiastic assistance of the members of Committee, Mr. D. O. MacLean, Provincial Mod secretary, was able to carry through a long programme to time without a hitch.

#### PRIZE WINNERS.—JUNIOR SECTION.

Letter Writing—1, Dolina Maclean, Heylipol; 2, Morag Maclean, Scarinish; 3, Katie MacCallum, Scarinish.

Reading Unfamiliar Prose—1, M. F. MacKechnie, Cornaig; 2, Cath. MacDonald, Cornaig; 3, Dolina Maclean.

Reciting—1, Nina Maclean; 2, Cath. MacDonald; 3, Ac. MacDonald, Balemartine.

Reading—1, Nina Maclean; 2, Ann MacCorquodale, Cornaig; 3, Lachlan MacFadyen, Cornaig.

Reading (Open to all pupils)—1, M. F. MacKechnie; 2, Bella MacDonald, Cornaig; 3, Ann MacCorquodale.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Dugald MacDonald, Heylipol; 2, Lachlan MacFadyen; 3, Hugh Campbell, Balemartine.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Flora MacKinnon, Cornaig; 2, Netta Maclean, Heylipol; 3, Margt. Sinclair, Heylipol.

Duet Singing—1, Flora MacKinnon and Bella MacDonald; 2, Netta Maclean and Margt. Sinclair. Choral Singing (Two-part)—1, Heylipol School; 2, Cornaig School.

Choral Singing (Unison)—Cornaig School; 2, Balemartine School; 3, Heylipol School.

Practice Chanter—1, Ewan MacDonald, Heylipol; 2, Colia MacIntyre, Heylipol.

#### SENIOR SECTION.

Gaelic Essay—1, A. MacKinnon, Cornaig School; 2, Malcolm Maclean, Salum; 3, Chrissie MacFayden, Cornaig School.

Reading—1, Mary F. MacDonald, Kilmoluaig; 2, Chrissie MacFayden; 3, Mary M. Maclean, Cornaig.

Reciting—1, Flora MacDonald, Balephuil; 2, Chrissie Brown, Balemartine; 3, A. MacKinnon.

Gaelic Dialogue—1, F. and M. MacDonald, Balephuil; 2, A. MacKinnon and Ann Kennedy, Cornaig; 3, C. Campbell and C. Brown, Balemartine.

Sgeulachd—1, F. MacDonald; 2, A. MacKinnon. Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1, Lachlan Brown, Cornaig; 2, John Bunting, Balemartine; 3, John Maclean and John Lamont, Cornaig.

Solo Singing (Female voices)—1, Jessie Campbell, Balemartine; 2, Jessie Maclean, Cornaig; 3, May MacPhail, Cornaig.

Solo Singing (Unpublished Tìre song)—1, John Bunting; 2, May MacPhail; 3, Jessie Maclean.

Solo Singing (Championship competition)—1, Jessie Maclean; 2, Jessie Campbell; 3, Lachlan Brown; 4, May MacPhail.

Choral Singing (Two-part)—1, Cornaig Choir; 2, Balemartine Choir.

Choral Singing (Unison)—1, Balemartine Choir; 2, Cornaig Choir.

Pipe Music (March)—1, John Maclean, Cornaigbeg; 2, Malcolm Maclean, Salum; 3, J. D. Lamont, Ruaig.

Pipe Music (March Strathspey and Reel—Open to all comers)—1, John Maclean; 2, Malcolm Maclean; 3, J. D. Lamont.

At a gathering in the evening, presided over by the Rev. A. MacDonald, all the chief prize-winners performed with credit. In addition, songs were rendered by Mr. Neil Shaw and Mrs. A. C. Scott. Mrs. Scott has been on the Island for some time preparing competitors for the Mod.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. MacDonald, who is visiting the Hebrides on holiday from Nigeria; her husband, Dr. MacDonald, and Mr. A. MacLean, Ardenlee, Oban, were present. A crowded and successful day closed with hearty votes of thanks to the judges, the Committee, and all those who contributed to the success of the Mod.

#### MID-ARGYLL PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Seventh Provincial Mod was opened at Lochgilthead in auspicious weather conditions. Large numbers of people attended from the surrounding district. The work of Gaelic teachers in the schools is bearing fruit, there being a marked improvement in pronunciation and a much clearer understanding of poetical rhythm and literary tests manifesting itself. The Rev. Wm. Macphail, Ardrishaig, and Captain George I. Campbell, Yr. of Sucoth, presided during the day, and the judges were—Gaelic, Revs. Kenneth Macleod,



Gigha, T. S. M'Pherson, Campbeltown and Neil Shaw, Glasgow; singing, Mr. A. M. Henderson, A.R.C.M., Glasgow University. The principal prize-winners were:—

## MID-ARGYLL MOD.

## LITERATURE.

Letter-Writing in presence of judges (Learners)—1, Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich; 2, Bessie M'Lullich, Lochgilphead.

Writing Dictated Unfamiliar Prose (Open)—1, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead; 2, Mary Macdougall, Lochgilphead.

Translation into English (Learners)—1, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead; 2, Dolina Kerr, Fairlie, Tayvallich.

Translation into Gaelic (Open)—1, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead; 2, Mary Macdougall, Lochgilphead.

Composition (Open)—1, Mary Macdougall, Lochgilphead.

## ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading poetry chosen by competitors (Learners) 1, Mary MacLachlan, Tayvallich; 2, Lily M'Coll, Tayvallich.

Reading Prose chosen by Competitor (Learners) 1, Duncan M'Lullich, Tayvallich; 2, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead.

Reading Unfamiliar Prose (Open)—1, Mary Macdougall, Lochgilphead; 2, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead.

Reciting from Memory (Open)—1, Mary Macdougall, Lochgilphead; 2, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead.

Reciting from Memory (Learners)—1, Bessie M'Lullich, Lochgilphead; 2, Dugald Campbell, Lochgilphead.

Acted Dialogue (Open)—1, Mary Macdougall and Dugald Campbell; 2, Bessie M'Lullich and Alastair Carmichael.

## VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Peggy M'Nicol, Furnace; 2, Jean Mitchell, Ardrishaig.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Neil M'Phail; 2, Duncan M'Lullich, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing (Girls and Boys)—1, Jean Mitchell, Ardrishaig; 2, Peggy M'Nicol, Furnace.

Solo Singing (Girls and Boys under 12 years)—1, Kate M'Lullich; 2, Crissie M'Lullich.

Best Rendering of *Puirt a Beul* (Girls and Boys)—1, Mary MacLachlan.

Duet Singing—1, Lily M'Coll and Mary MacLachlan; 2, Mary Crawford and Margaret M'Millan, Minard.

Choral Singing—1, Lochgilphead Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Minard Junior Gaelic Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Lochgilphead Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Minard and Tayvallich (equal).

## DANCING.

Highland Fling—1, Henry Macguinness, Tayvallich; 2, Dugald Graham Campbell, Shirvan, Lochgilphead.

Sword Dance—1, Henry Macguinness.

Country Dances—1, Lochgilphead Girl Guides, team No. 1.

Chanter Playing (Beginners)—1, Hamish Ross; 2, Donald Ross, Tighnalinne, Lochgilphead.

Advanced—1, Henry Macguinness; 2, Ian Greenshields, Lochgilphead.

Pianoforte Playing (Boys and Girls)—1, Alasdair M'Donald; 2, Alexandra Downie, Lochgilphead.

## SENIOR SECTION.

Letter Written in Presence of Judge—1, Ian M. Urquhart, Crarae; 2, Phemie MacDougall, Lochgilphead.

Best List of Place Names in Mid-Argyll not shown on one-inch Survey Map—1, C. R. S. Malcolm, Lochgilphead, 150 place names.

Translation into English Prose or Verse of Any Song Sung at this Mod—1, C. R. S. Malcolm; 2, Donald Grant, Lochgilphead.

Oral Delivery, Reading at Sight Unfamiliar Prose—1, Ian M. Urquhart; 2, Phemie MacDougall; 3, Donald Martin, Lochgilphead.

Recitation—1, Mary Stewart, Inveraray; 2, Isabella MacGilp, Lochgilphead.

Sgeulachd Narrating an Old Gaelic Tale—1, Christina M'Lullich, Kilmartin; 2, D. Grant.

Dialogue—1, Mrs. Bruce, Ardrishaig, and Isabella MacGilp; MacGilp; 2, Phemie MacDougall and Hugh MacKillop, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing (Female)—1, Susan MacAllister, Lochgilphead; 2, Nan Greenshields, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing (Males)—1, Robert Sinclair, Crarae; 2, Crawford MacAlpine, Ardrishaig.

Solo Singing (Females and Males)—1, Charles MacInnes, Inveraray; 2, Susan MacAllister.

Canntaireachd, best rendering of "Puirtabeal" (Females and Males)—1, Crawford MacAlpine; 2, Lachlan MacArthur, Inveraray.

Oran Mor, best rendering of "Cumha Alastair Dhuinn" (Males)—1, Robert Sinclair; 2, Donald Martin, Lochgilphead.

Duet Singing—1, Susan MacAllister and Nan Greenshields.

Quartette Singing—1, Misses M'Nair and Winnie Smith, and Messrs. Sinclair and M'Gregor, Lochgilphead.

Choral Singing—1, Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir (360 points); 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir (357).

Chanter Playing (Beginners)—1, Hamish Ross Lochgilphead.

Chanter Playing, unfamiliar piece from music—1, Ian Greenshields, Lochgilphead.

Chanter—March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Henry MacGuinness, Tayvallich; 2, Ian Greenshields.

Pianoforte—March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Alastair MacDonald, Achaheish.

Celtic Art—Best Poster Design—1, Mrs. Kenneth of Oakfield, Lochgilphead.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

NEWTONMORE.—The Newtonmore Hall was well filled on Friday evening, 25th May, on the occasion of the concert organised by the Newtonmore branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach in aid of its funds. Mr. C. B. Macpherson of Balavil occupied the chair, and among others present were Mrs. Macpherson of Glenitrim, Miss Farquharson of Invercauld and Coignashee, Rev. Neil Ross, Laggan; County Councillor T. Grant, Newtonmore; Mrs. and Miss Sinton, etc. Apologies for absence were intimated from the Right Hon. J. I. Macpherson, M.P., and Major Grant of Rothiemurchus. In his opening remarks Mr. Macpherson of Balavil said that for many years the Gaelic language had been allowed to lapse until An Comunn Gaidhealach and



kindred societies came forward and placed it in its rightful position. He remembered well when Gaelic was the language of Newtonmore. People spoke Gaelic, children played in it, and on the shinty field it was invariably heard. It had been said that when children ceased to play in a language, that language was nearing its end. He was hopeful, however, that the efforts made by An Comunn would keep the language a living thing. It was the duty of Highland parents who knew Gaelic to use it, and if parents brought up their children in Gaelic they would be giving An Comunn and kindred societies the greatest assistance. The chairman concluded by appealing to Highland parents to make this little contribution, and by doing so they would ensure that the grand old tongue would be kept alive. (Applause). An excellent programme of pipe and violin music and Gaelic songs was submitted. Mr. R. Munro, Kingussie, played stirring bagpipe selections, and therendering of marches, strathspeys, and reels by the Laggan String Band provided a pleasing variety. The soloists were Mrs. Maclean. Daviot; Mrs. A. Stewart, Newtonmore; Miss C. J. Grant, Newtonmore; Mr. M. Macdonald, Newtonmore, and Mr. Ferguson, Gaelic teacher. Mrs. Maclean is a well-known Gaelic vocalist and Mod medallist, to whom it is always a great pleasure to listen. Duets were well rendered by Mrs. Stewart and Miss L. Macdonald, and these two ladies also appeared in quartettes with Mr. Ferguson and Mr. John Anderson. The local choir were augmented for the occasion by the members of the Laggan choir, and together they made an exceedingly creditable appearance. Opening with the rousing "Suas leis a Ghaidhlig," the choir, under Mr. Ferguson's leadership, sang a number of pieces with good effect, concluding with the National Anthem in Gaelic. The accompaniments for the solos and duets were tastefully played by Mrs. Murray, L.R.A.M., Kingussie.

During an interval in the programme, the Rev. Neil Ross addressed the gathering and congratulated the various branches of An Comunn Gaidhealach throughout the district on the success which had attended their efforts. In Badenoch they now had practically 300 members, and that should go far in preventing the encroachment of English influences.

**KINGUSSIE.**—The Kingussie Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach brought its first session to a close on 31st May, with a very successful ceilidh in the Parish Church Hall. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld, Newtonmore, presided over a large attendance of members and the local public. In her opening remarks Miss Farquharson warmly complimented the members of the Kingussie branch and the other branches in the Badenoch district for their commendable efforts and enthusiasm in helping to promote interest in the revival of the Gaelic language, its music, and traditions. It was gratifying to those of them that were doing what they could in this direction to know that men of the highest culture and learning were now coming forward in support of the movement. As the teaching of the Gaelic was an essential factor for the success of their efforts, they in Badenoch were greatly indebted to the Rev. Neil Ross, of Laggan, vice-president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and the Rev. Father MacLean, who gave their services to teach the language to the members. Mr. Neil Shaw, secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach who was present, gave a stirring address in Gaelic and English. He outlined the increasing activities of the numerous branches in the Highlands and Islands, and paid a tribute to the excellent and efficient work accomplished by the committee and their secretaries in Laggan, Newtonmore, and Kingussie. An attractive musical programme of Gaelic songs,

recitations, and bagpipe selections by Mr. R. Munro Kingussie, was then enjoyed. The Rev. Neil Ross recited in Gaelic "The Battle of Alexandria," and later gave a rousing address. Mr. Macpherson of Balavil, Kingussie, president of the branch, also addressed the ceilidh, and commented on the remarkable revival in the Gaelic, which he hoped would spread and go on. In an interval in the programme, the Rev. Father MacLean was presented by Miss Farquharson, on behalf of the Kingussie branch, with a handsomely bound volume of Gaelic poems as a mark of appreciation for his services as teacher to the branch. Tea was later provided by the lady members of the branch, and, at the close of the proceedings, they were thanked for their kindness by Mr. Borland, who also proposed a vote of thanks to the performers. A similar compliment was passed to Miss Farquharson for presiding, on the call of Bailie Campbell.

**LAGGAN.**—On Wednesday, 23rd May, a successful concert under the auspices of the Laggan Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Gersgack Public School. Rev. N. Ross, B.D., vice-president of the branch, in his opening remarks referred to the work done in support of the Gaelic cause in Laggan during the past months, and the concert that evening was a fitting termination to these activities. The Laggan choir which, under the tuition of Mr. Ferguson, had undergone intensive training during the past few months, made its first public appearance, and it was evident from the reception given that the programme was one which appealed to the Gaelic instincts of the audience. Pipe music, Mr. D. Macgregor; choir, "Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig"; song, Mrs. Gibson; song Mr. Cattanach; song, Miss Ross; piano and violin selections, Mrs. Macgregor and Messrs Macpherson and Cameron; choir, "Màilì bheag og" and "Horo mo chuid chuideachd thu"; song, Mrs. McIntosh; song, Mr. A. Macdonald; song, Mr. Ferguson. Miss Farquharson of Invercauld spoke in appreciative terms of the progress made by the Gaelic cause in Upper Strathspey, and felt sure that the Gaelic language had received a distinct impetus, the results of which would continue to be felt in the district for many years to come. The whole programme reflected great credit on Mr. Ferguson and the individual members of the choir, and one cannot but feel that in Laggan there is a distinct Gaelic revival which augurs well for the future.

**LOCHABER.**—The beautiful silver cups presented by Mr. Iain Moffatt Pender for annual competition by the Lochaber Schools were won this year by the schools of Tulloch and Kinlochail. The names of the successful girl and boy will be engraved on their respective trophies. The Committee had pleasure in placing in the hands of Mr. J. G. Robertson, Head Master of Fort-William Public School, a book presented by its author, the late Dr. William Mackay LL.D. of Craigmonie, Inverness; *History of Urquhart and Glen Morriston* for the use of the school; and in which the names of the foremost H.G. pupils in Celtic of the year, should be inserted. For this year, those of Elizabeth Macpherson and Catherine Currie were selected. All the Literary Competitions of the advanced Gaelic pupils were highly commended by the judges. Further competitions in the junior classes were:—Recitation of Test—1, Janet Stewart, F. W. Public School; (equal)—Archie Cumming, Kinlochail. Recitation of "Craeg Ghuanach"—1, Agnes Macdonald Tulloch; 2, Morag Maclellan, Tulloch School. Reading of "Ceud Ceum"—1, Roderick Macdonald, "St. Mary F. W.," (equal) Allan Campbell; 2, Finlay Mackinnon, (equal) Jessie MacNeil, "St. Mary."



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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An Lunusdal, 1928.*

[Earrann 11

## NA MEANGLAIN AGUS SEIRBHEISEAN GAIDHLIG.

An déidh dhuinn meòrachadh gu tric air a' chùis tha sinn an dùil gur ann an coimh-cheangal ri Aoradh a thainig labhairt na Gàidhlig a dh'ionnsaidh na staid as airde a ràinig e riamh. Is e sin ri ràdh, gur e an searmon Gàidhlig an oidheirp chainnte is eireachdaile agus is buadh-mhoire a chluinneas sinn an diugh an cànan nan Gàidheal. Mar thubhairt sinn uair is uair a cheana, is anns an chrannaig a gheibh thu beachd air suspains agus beartas na cainnte. Chan eil gnòthuch sam bith eile, anns a' bheil a' chànan 'g a nochdadh féin cho taitneach agus cho buanachdail. Is e is aobhar air sin, gu h-beil an t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig a' drùdhadh air a' Ghàidheal a thaobh fhaireachaidhean cràbhach. Tha a leithid sin de sheirbheis a' dùsgadh cuimhne dha mu nìthibh dlomhair, agus mu'n mhuinntir a b' àbhaist a bhì comhla ris anns an eaglais anns na làithean a dh'fhalbh. Chan eil cor a' bhùineas do aignidhean an duine nach gabh innse gu cothromach anns a' chànan so. Chan eil comhsamhlachd air muir no air tìr, anns an doimhne no anns na speuran, nach gabh labhairt gu h-eagnaidh an Ghàidhlig. Agus mar sin tha i dlùth do chridhe nan Gàidheal. Chunnaic sinn sin anns a' Fhraing. An uair a bhiodh feadhain de na saighdearan Gàidhealach air an leònadh gu h-òle, agus iad fann le cion fola, no a' dlùthachadh ris an t-Siorruidheachd, is ann mar bu trice anns a' Ghàidhlig a ghluaiseadh iad am bilean. Is i a' Ghàidhlig a bh'fhearr leo a chluinn-

tinn an uair a tharruingeadh iad an anail mu dheireadh.

Thubhairt Lloyd George an Inbhirneis an la roimhe gur anns na sgoiltean Sàbaid a shàbhail iad cainnt nan Cuimreach. Tha an ràdh sin a' giùlan dà sheadh. Tha e a' nochdadh anns a' cheud àite gur ann le bhì a' teagasg na h-òigridh ann an cànan shonraichte a dh'fhaodar a leithid sin de chànan a chumail beò. Cha ghabh e deanamh air dhòigh eile. Ach is e an dara seadh—gu feumar an òigridh a theagasg anns na nìthibh sin a bhùineas do aoradh, eadhon anns na sgoiltean Sàbaid, mar thug an Cuimreach sinneil so fianuis. Tha gnìomh an aoraidh cudthromach agus sòluimte. Tha an t-urram sin 'g a cheangal féin gu h-iongantach ris a' chànan anns a' bheil aoradh 'g a dheanamh. Mar sin faodar a thuigsinn cia mar tha buaidh shonraichte an crochadh ri cleachdadh na Gàidhlig an aoradh, no eadhon anns an sgoil Shàbaid airson na cloinne. Tha an Comunn 'g cur mar dhleasdanas air na còisirean gun ionnsaich iad aon salm co dhiu a sheinn airson eisimpleir aig Mòd bliadhnaile. Ach is e bhiodh gu math nan cuireadh An Comunn mar dhleasdanas air na meanglain uile gun ionnsaicheadh iad iomadh salm Gàidhlig le seirm fhreagarrach, agus gun cleachdadh iad na sailm sin aig seirbheisean Gàidhlig an coimheangal gu sonraichte ris gach meanglan fa leth.

Is cuimhneach leinn turus no dha air an deachaidh seirbheis Ghàidhlig a chumail ri linn do Ghàidhil a bhì a' crùinneachadh aig Féill no aig Mòd. Tha a leithid sin ceart agus cubhaidh; oir tha e a' cur meas is urram air a' chànan. Ach gu mì-fhortanach tha sin a' tachairt tuilleadh is gann, agus

tha na bliadhnaichean gu luath a' dol seachad, agus a' chainnt a' faotainn a' bhàis gu luath—buille ghoirt a' tuiteam air a ceann anns gach sgrì anns an taghair ministear Gallda far am b'abhaist fear-Gaidhlig a bhi. An cuid de sgìrean mar an Inbhearaora, tha seasamh duineal dùthchail 'g a dheanamh leis na coimhthionail; ach an àitean eile, tha aobhar na Gàidhlig a' dol gu balbh leis an t-sruth. Cìod a nis a ghabhas deanamh mur seas na Gàidheil mar choimhthionail de'n eaglais air taobh na cànan? Is e aon nì ghabhas deanamh gu seas na Gàidhil mata, mar mheanglain de'n Chomunn air taobh nan seirbheisean Gàidhlig, agus gu misnich iad agus gun cuidich iad le an làthaireachd am ministear Gàidhlig is faisge dhaibh, le bhi a' frithealadh gu dìleas aig an t-seirbheis Ghàidhlig. Tha eagal mòr oirn, ma theid an fhìrinn innse an so, nach bi a bheag againn rì chantuinn a bhios a chum urrainn no molaidd do mhòran de na meanglain.

Is aithne dhuinn meanglain, mar a tha meanglain Bhàideanach, a tha ag iarraidh seirbheisean Gàidhlig o na ministearan Gàidhlig anns an nàbacht. Ach tha mòran de na meanglain nach eil a deanamh dad idir airson seirbheis Ghàidhlig a bhi aca. A nis bu chòir do gach meanglain so a chumail anns an aire mar dhleasdanas taitneach. Bu chòir dhaibh an cinn a chur cuideachd agus seirbheis Ghàidhlig a chur an òrdugh. Tha sin a cheart cho iomchuidh rì cuirm-chiùil. Agus bhiodh e cheart cho farasda a dheanamh. Gheibhadh iad fear teagaisg agus fear seinn gun mhòran dragha; agus far a bheil còisir, tha an t-ullachadh deanta ach beag a cheana. Is aithne dhuinn àite anns a bheil meur laidh de'n Chomunn. Tha seirbheis Ghàidhlig anns an àite sin a h-uile Sàbaid. Ach is gann gu faicear aon de bhuill a' mheanglain aig an t-seirbheis. Tha so 'n a aobhar nàire agus 'n a aobhar mualaid. Mar is luaithe a thugeas buill nam meanglain gu bheil seirbheis Ghàidhlig anabarrach luachmhor air gach dòigh, is ann is fearr a nì na meanglain an obair féin. Ged a bhiodh aon seirbheis uair 's a' bhliadhna aig a' Mhòd (rud nach eil), cha bhiodh sin gu leòir. Dh'fheumadh na meanglain uile gluasad, agus an rùn so a chur rompa, gu nochdadh iad an dìlseachd do chainnt an athraichean le bhi 'g a cur gu feum an tràth so is a ris, ann an aoradh follaiseach. Ma nì na meanglain mar sin, cha bhi iad gun mhinistearan a bhios deònach air an deagh obair sin a chuideachadh.

## GAELIC TEACHERS.

IX.

MISS ANNIE JOHNSTONE,  
Castlebay.



There is a great heresy abroad, and one meets with it in unexpected places, to the effect that it is not necessary to trouble about the teaching of the Gaelic language in places where it is still the living speech of the inhabitants. This is a most harmful heresy, and requires to be opposed at every turn. For when once a language ceases to be a living thing in a district, the difficulty of teaching it effectively in the schools becomes greater and greater year by year. Gaelic is still the language of Barra, and we trust it may so continue for many generations to come. But all well-wishers of the language may feel indebted to teachers like Miss Annie Johnstone, herself a native of Barra, and an enthusiastic pioneer in the systematic teaching of the language in Castlebay.

Since childhood, Miss Johnstone has been keenly interested in the old Gaelic songs and legends of her native island. A great knowledge of folk-songs is evidently a gift in the Johnstone family. We remember some years ago in Edinburgh attempting a talk-lecture on Hebridean songs; and were greatly impressed when it was found that one gentleman alone, Miss Johnstone's brother, Mr. Malcolm Johnstone, was able to assist by giving at least a dozen illustrations, and could give more if required, in the grand old traditional style.

Miss Johnstone received her elementary education in Castlebay Public School, and her professional training at Notre Dame Training College. Finishing her training in 1908, she was appointed headmistress of Brevig School, Barra, a post which she relinquished two years later to become first assistant in Castlebay School. When she came to Castlebay School in 1910 as a member of the staff, the school was staffed by English-speaking teachers only. Gaelic was not encouraged. In order to stimulate the interest of the children in their mother tongue, Miss Johnstone arranged little local mods, which proved so attractive that, although all preparation had to be done after school hours (Gaelic having then no place on the school curriculum), the children came eagerly, and gave a good account of themselves at the mods which were held four or five years in succession. Miss Johnstone acknowledges her gratitude to Mr. T. D. Macdonald of Oban for guidance in the organising of these little mods.

Since Castlebay School was made an Intermediate Centre, and Gaelic became a subject of instruction in the school, Miss Johnstone has taught Gaelic in the Senior and Advanced Divisions, and has presented pupils for the Intermediate Certificate. She encourages the children to collect songs and local lore, which become themes for Gaelic and English compositions.

There are now three Gaelic speakers on the staff of Castlebay School, and Gaelic is taught in all the divisions from the infants upwards. Miss Johnstone would be the last to claim undue credit for this advance of Gaelic in the curriculum, but we feel convinced that a great deal of the credit is due to her genial personality, her untiring work for Gaelic, and her love and enthusiasm for the ancient language.

◆

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlannach le  
CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

VIII.

Dìreach mar a gheibhear ann an talamh Lochlainn iomadh nì a bhùneas do linn nan Vikinger, mar sin tha mòran chuimhneachan a tha air tighinn a nuas as a cheart linn air an

cladhach, agus air an toirt am follais gu solus latha á àitean fa leth á talamh Albainn, gu sonruichte 's na h-Eileana, mar a tha airm-chogaidh eireachdail, copain-targaid, àilleagain, fuigheal longeis &c. Fhuaradh a mach mar an ceudna sgrìobhaidhean ann an sean litreachas nan Lochlannach o shean, a bhùneas do linn nan Vikinger.

B'ann tràthail air maduinn àillidh am mise deireannach an t-samhraidh a thog an *S.S. Ronald* a h-acair aig acarsaid Ghrianaig, le sgioba taghta air bòrd de ghillean cho calma agus a mhiannaicheadh duine a shùil a leagail. Chaidh sinn le sgrìob gu h-aighear seachad air Loch Long air taobh deas na luinge, air ainmeachadh 'san Sàga mar Skipafjòrd, no Loch nan Luingeis, (an aon chiallachadh ris an ainm Ghàidhlig). An uair a bha cabhlach Rìgh Haakon 'n a laidhe an Loch-an-eilein an Arainn am fogharadh 1263, chuireadh earrann de thri-fichead lom, fo stuiradh Vigleikr Prestsson, Ivar Holmr, Månus, rìgh an Eilean Mhanannaich, agus ceannardan nan Innse-Gall, rìgh Dùghall agus a bràthair Ailein, Murachadh agus Aonghas, a suas Loch Long gu lòn a thrusadh air son a chabhlach. Ruig iad ceann an Lochs, far an do shlaod iad na bàtaichean a 'b'aoitrime thairis air an tairbeairt eadar Loch Long agus Loch Laomuinn ('san Sàga, Loku Lofni); lom-sgrìos iad an dùthaich mu'n cuairt, agus chaidh earrann a bha fo rìgh Ailein cho fada ri coimhearsnachd baile rìghail Shruilghea. Ann an tilleadh air ais chaidh deich soithichean a long-bhriseadh ann an doiminn an Loch Long, far an sèid a ghaoth gu fadhaich 's an fhogharadh, air do'n loch sin a bhi air a chuartaichadh le monaidhean àrda.

Tha caolas-mara Chluaidh an tomas mór cosmhuil ris an dùthaich ri taobh deas Lochlainn. Tha aonaichean is dromannan àrda air gach taobh de 'n chaolas, le machraichean gorm a tighinn le leathad an sud 's an so a dh'ionnsuidh an uisge, agus ri'n cùlaobh, fad air falbh, beanntan àrda gorm an ceò. Ach tha aon ag iondrainn nan coiltean a tha 'comhdachadh nam monaidhean a bheireadh 'nar cuimhne an dachaidh Lochlannach, oir tha eadhoin na monaidhean is isle an Albainn lom de chraobhan. Air dà thaobh a chaoil, a tha samhail ri Caol Oslo an leud agus an suidheachadh, tha bailtean beaga a dh'ionnsuidh am bi luchd-àiteachaidh Ghlasachu a tathaich gu làn am beòil de 'n àile ghlan fhaotainn.

Tha 'n Caol a nis a fàs na's farsuinge, agus air taobh deas a bhàta tha sinn a dol seachad air an eilean bheag ghorm Bòd, (tha e fo'n ainm sin 'san Sàga, agus thatar 'g a tharruing



o'n chainnt Lochlannaich, ach tha so teagmhach; bhùineadh an dà chuid Bód is Arainn do na h-Innse Gall fo thighearnas Lochlainn. Tha e air aithris gu'm b'e Manus Casruisgte a thog Caisteal Bhaile-Bhòid, no Cill-Bhrùic, a tha nis 'n a làraich; tha e air ainmeachadh bitheanta anns an Sàga mar an "Kastolum i Bötär"—an Caisteal am Bód; chaidh e gun teagamh o làimh gu làimh o àm gu àm, oir bha e 'n seilbh aig na Lochlannaich cho maith ri 'bhi air a ruathar leòd. Ann an 1263 thug airm Rìgh Haakon ionnsuidh air agus ghlac iad e. A réir an Sàga, b'i a chonnspoid mu shealbh Bhòid, Arainn, agus eileana nan Cumraidh a thug anns a chuid a bu mhò gu'n do bhriseadh an socrachadh a bha tighinn gu buil eadar Rìgh Haakon agus Rìgh Alasdair aig an àm sin; bha rìgh Albainn deas gu leanailt mar a bha e, gun chòir air na h-Innse-Gall, ach daingeann ann an tagradh còir air na trì eileana sin, nì a bha nàdurra dha, oir bha iad ag amharc sìos air geata Chaol Chluaidh.

Anns na sean làithean b'e Rothesay a b'ainm de Bhód; an 1295 bha e air a sgrìobhadh Rothersay, Rothersay, agus mar an ceudna Rothirsai, air bhith do'n "ay" no "ai," am facal air son "eilean," aig ceann an ainm, thatar de'n bheachd gu'm bheil e 'seasamh air son "Rudri," (Latin Rothericus) no fear de shliochd Shomhairle a bha 'na aon de na ceannardan an cabhlach Rìgh Haakon; tha'n Sàga ag ràdh gu'n do "thagair e Bód mar a chòir-bhreith," agus tha sinn a faicinn gu'n d'thug Rìgh Haakon da e mar a chuid mun d'fhalbh e; mar sin b'e ciallachadh Rothesay "Eilean Ruadhri." Bha Ivar Holmr, aon de na ceannardan a bh'air an turas a suas Loch Long air a thiodhlacadh am Bód, a réir an Sàga.

Tha àireamh mhath de ainmean Lochlannach am Bód d'am faodar cuid a chur sìos:—Dun Burgidale (*Borgadalr*, Gleann an Dùin), far an deachaidh am facal Gàidhlig "Dùn" a chur ris, ged a tha "Dùn" agus "Borg" do'n aon chiallachadh, an uair a chaidh seadh an fhacail Lochlannaich air di-chuimhn. Is iad ainmean eile:—Langil Langagil, Claisfhada, Ascog (glé choltach *Askvir*, Bàgh a Bhàta); Ardnahe, "hoc," 's an Lochlannach "haug" tòrr; Scalpsie no Scalasaig (Skalpríkr, bàgh-an-eithir); Shalut, sean ainm, "Shawland" (Skogland, Fearann-coillteach); Ardlamont, Kerrylamont, far an e "lamont" am facal Lochlannach, "lagman"; b'e so aig a cheud thoiseach tiodal Fear-na-cathrach an Ardsheanadh na rìoghachd, agus is ciall da "fear-lagha"; b'e so, glé choltach, ainm duine cumhachdach aig an robh am fearann

mar sheilbh a bhùilich e air na h-oighreachan aige an Còmhla no am Bód; bha Kerrylamont air a sgrìobhadh 'Kerlawmond' ann 1488, bhiodh sin a ciallachadh mór-roinn dùthcha na an Lagmans no Lamont; b'e am fear-ionaid air son an oifigich so anns a chòige-linn-deug Lawmondson, Breitheamh Chòmhair, a réir J. K. Hewison, 'n a obair "Bód anns na sean Linn-tean." Dìreach mu choinneamh Bhòid, air tìr-mór, tha'n t-ainm Ormidale, (Ormadlar, Gleann-nan-nathraichean). Tha, mar au ceudna, sean sgrìobhadhean o àm nan Vikinger ri fhaotainn ann am Bód.

### ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS.

At the June Graduation, the University of St. Andrews conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Rev. Dugald Macfarlane, minister of Kingussie Parish. This distinction is richly merited. Dr. Macfarlane has rendered most valuable service to the Church as the capable and faithful minister of a Highland parish, which, notwithstanding its remoteness among the mountains of Badenoch, demands in its minister the city standard of preaching and pastoral efficiency, owing to the great numbers of visitors who come to the place for months on end. This, however, is not the only way in which Dr. Macfarlane has taken a prominent place. For well nigh a generation he has vigorously maintained the work commenced by his predecessor, Dr. Mackenzie, in securing funds for the education of Highland lads for the Gaelic pulpit. In this work his efforts are indefatigable. The annual report, which is regularly announced at the Highland breakfast at Assembly time, testifies to the assiduity and earnestness with which one man can keep an important movement from flagging; and the effort is continued year in and year out. Not a few ministers may look back with gratitude on Dr. Macfarlane's agency in this connection. He has also taken a very distinguished part in the work of the Education Authority of Inverness County. He is Vice-Chairman under the present Authority, as also in the last Authority. In the absence of Principal Macleod, the arduous task of doing the work of the chair falls to Dr. Macfarlane. His kindly disposition, courteous manner, and masterly mind combine to make him the ideal chairman. A native of Tiree, and an



excellent speaker of Gaelic, he has been a member of An Comunn's Executive, and preaches in Gaelic from time to time. He is a strong supporter of the recent movement in the new branches of Badenoch. He is Convener of the Highland Committee of the Assembly. It is to men of this type that the Highlands may look to be their representative in the higher courts of the Church, and even in the highest position which the Church can offer to her loyal servants.

N. R.

Not only the members of An Comunn, but all good Highlanders, will welcome the fitting honour recently conferred on the Editor of *An Gàidheal*, the Rev. Neil Ross of Laggan, by the University of Edinburgh. To obtain the degree of Doctor of Letters is a rare distinction, and is enhanced in the case of Dr. Ross by the fact of its being the first to be conferred by a Scots University on a native Gaelic speaker. But those of us who knew Dr. Ross's life-long pursuit of Celtic studies, are not surprised at his remarkable attainment. A resolution commending the consideration of a suitable memorial to the Dean of Lismore was approved of by An Comunn's Executive in the beginning of this year. Of course, the permanent place of Dean MacGregor's contribution to Gaelic literature is, perhaps, its own best monument. But Dr. Ross has made the task of An Comunn obvious, and in acting along those lines the fruits of the Gaelic movement will be borne in a helpful manner to those who have neither the time nor the opportunity to study the achievements of the old masters in the original. It will also help us, in a measure, to appreciate the services of many of our compatriots who are known to us only by perfunctory references. In appraising the achievement of Dr. Ross, we are by no means unmindful of the scholarly Dr. Watson, who has, in many ways, translated the cultural facets of our language and literature into universal recognition. When thus we find our national aspirations associated with men who combine the precision and directness of the scholar with the responsible éclat of the poet, the appeal to our patriotism is at once effective and sincere. Need we, therefore, assure them all that their merited honours will have an abiding place in the pride and affections of their countrymen.

A. R.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

I had the gratification, when sailing lately on the Firth of Clyde, to hear a small orchestra play "The Road to the Isles." The cornet was specially effective, but, altogether, the three players gave a thrilling interpretation of the stately music. Keeping the words in one's mind, the thought was imperative that here at last was the Highland national song. The effect on me corresponded with the home sickness which is said to overtake the Swiss soldier when the band plays "Ranz de Vaches." I felt, as I am sure other Gaelic listeners felt, a longing—as the Welsh put it, "heraeth"—for old-time scenes and friendships in the Garbh Chriochan. Kenneth MacLeod was never more surely inspired than when he wedded his eloquent words to the pipe tune which adapted itself so well.

I am informed that the tune was originally named "The Highland Brigade at Kroonstadt," and that subsequently it was re-named "The Burning Sands of Egypt." Also, I am told that the present setting has been evolved from a less elaborate original.

There ought to be authoritative information on the history of the great tune, and especially as to its composer. Would some one of your readers versed in pipe music give the desired particulars.

E. O'D.

I was very interested in the remarks of your correspondent in Cork *re* the public use of Gaelic personal and place-names. I heartily agree with him in what he has said on this important subject. A while ago, having occasion to write a letter to one of the Western Isles, I wrote the name of the person to whom it was written, the town, and name of the isle in Gaelic. The letter arrived safely.

While lately in Ireland I observed, at first with some surprise, that it was quite a common thing for letters to be addressed solely in Gaelic. Further, I observed that hundreds of persons there, from professors to schoolboys, habitually use only the Gaelic forms of their names, these even appearing in newspapers printed mainly in English.

I think your correspondent is right when he ascribes the habitual writing of our names in an Anglicized form as due to "an inferiority complex." I challenge Highlanders to show that this is not so.

Again, Gaels here in Scotland seem to accept it as part of Providence's design that all public notices, sign-posts, etc., should be in English only. These should be in Gaelic in the *Gaidhealtachd*, or at least bilingual.

A friend of mine writes me from South Africa that even the very car tickets there are printed in English and Afrikaans.

Truly, I think no people but Highlanders endure the humiliation of the native tongue with such acquiescence, and even approbation! An Comunn should make it one of its objects to remedy this state of affairs. The time has come, when a purely social and literary propaganda is no longer sufficient. Mods, etc., admirable as they are, must be supplemented by a determined effort to make Gaelic not merely a kind of dignified patois, but the predominant tongue of *Tìr nam Beann*.

As I am extremely anxious that this matter should not be allowed to drop, I would like to ask your readers' opinions.

#### USAS LEIS A' GHÀIDHLIG.

Uasail Urramaich,—Nach maith mar tha na litrichean a' tighinn do bhur n-ionnsuigh a nis!

Le bhur cead, bu chaomh leam facal no dhà a ràdh ris an trìùir dhaoine-uasala a sgrìobh chugaibh-se an latha roimhe.

(1) *E. O'D.*—C'arson a tha sibh-se air bhur cur mu'n cuairt do thaobh nan ceannard a bha ann bho shean? An robh ceann-cinne a bheireadh bàrr oirbh féin? Nach sibh féin ceann-cinne na Cloinne as brègha a tha air aghaidh an t-saoghail? Ach—crom a nuas do chluas—chan e Clann Chaimbeul no Siol Dhiarmaid a tha mi ag ciallachadh!

(2) *Mgr. Iain N. MacLeòid.*—Tapadh leibh, gu dearbh, Alasdair Mhóir. Chì sibh!

(3) *Mgr. Gillesbuig Mac Ille Mhunna.*—“Chan eil carraig air nach caochail sruth, ach Carraig Dhubh Boinne nam Biodag.”

Latha a bha ann, bha maighdean-mhara a' gabhail tàimh air a' Charraig so. Bha an latha fìor bhàth, oir bha teas mòr anns a' ghréin, agus thuit i 'na cadal. Bha Iain Bàn Mac Ic Ailein a' dol seachad anns a' bhirlinn aige. Chunnac e i, agus chuir e falm na bìrlinn thairis, chum is gum faiceadh e na b'fhearr i. Ach, is e a thachair gun do dhùisg a' mhaighdean-mhara dìreach aig an dearbh am sin. Ghabh i eagal uamhasach, oir, am feadh agus a bha ise air bhith 'na cadal, thràigh a' mhuir gu mór. Bha i tioram—gun chuideachadh, gun chòmhndadh. Is e a bha

ann, cò dhiùbh, gun do ghlac Iain Bàn i, agus, leis cho fìor bhòidheach agus a bha i, thug Iain Bàn Mac Ic Ailein, an gaisgeach, gaol dhi.

“Iain Bhàin,” ghuidh i air gu tiamhaidh, agus na debrì anns na sùilean mòra aice, “Iain Bhàin, leig as mi an dràst. Theirg dachaidh gu h-Uibhist. Leanaidh mise thu. Leanaidh.”

“C'òine leanas thu mi?” dh'fhoighnich e dhith.

“Leanaidh mi thu an uair a thionndaidheas an sruth. Bithidh mi 'nam mhnaoi dhuit ann an Uibhist, agus beiridh mi clann dhuit.”

Leig Iain Bàn as i mar dh'farr i air. Thog na gillean aige seòl na bìrlinn a rithist, agus thug iad an Cuan-siar agus Uibhist orra gun dàil.

Ach cha do thionndaidh an sruth riamh bho an uair sin, aig a' Charraig Dhubh. Cha do thionndaidh. Gus an latha an diugh tha a' mhaighdean-mhara, aig uaireannan, 'na laithe 'na tàmh oirre—latha brègh, ciùin, an uair bhios grian an t-samhraidh ris. Ach chan eil i uair sam bith 'na cadal a nis—agus, cò dhiùbh, tha i 'ga cumail féin air a comhdachadh le feamainn chum is nach faic na Mullich agus muinntir an Obain i!

Chual a mi Alasdair Mór na Morbhairne ag ràdh:

Lionadh a' chhreachaich.

Is tràghadh an ruic.

Ach aig Carraig Dhubh Boinne nam Biodag is e falt fada dubh na maighdinn uasail so a tha ri fhaicinn. Chan e creanach agus chan e roc a tha an so idir—aig a' Charraig Dhubh!

An do thill Iain Bàn Mac Ic Ailein air a son riamh—an saoil sibh? No, an robh ise airson gun tilleadh e—an saoil sibh?

Cò aig a bheil fios?—Is mise, le meas,

*Bodach a' Mhaoil Ruaidh.*

#### SECRETARY'S NOTES.

It is not possible to give details of Mod entries in this number, but members will be pleased to know that ten rural choirs are coming forward to compete for the Lorn Shield. There is a gratifying increase in the number of entries in the junior literary section and the senior oral section.

\* \* \*

The Summer School of Gaelic was opened at Broadford on 19th July. Twenty pupils were present on the opening day, and more

were on the way. Mr. David Urquhart is in charge of the advanced class. Mr. John N. MacLeod and Miss Ann Johnston are in charge of the elementary and beginners' classes, respectively. Mr. Colin Sinclair, Miss A. M. MacBride, and Mr. Neil Orr were in attendance for the afternoon and evening sessions of the Celtic art class and singing class.

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Many of the members have received a circular concerning a public testimonial to Mr. Dugald Mackay, violinist, Bettyhill, Sutherland, to which it is hoped there will be a generous response. Mr. Mackay has done good service to the Gaelic cause as a collector of old Highland airs, and in various other ways, particularly in voluntary public entertainment as an exponent of reel and strathspey music. The movement for a public recognition is in the hands of Wick Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and subscriptions should be sent to Mr. R. J. G. Millar, Wick, the president, or Mr. Alex. Macdonald, Girnigoe Street, Wick, secretary of that branch.

NIALL.

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The extraordinary meeting of the Executive Council was held at Stirling on Friday, 6th July. The following members were present:—Mrs. Burnley Campbell of Ormidale; John R. Bannerman, Rahane; Dr. George Calder, Glasgow; Capt. Archd. Campbell, Glasgow; ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell, Glasgow; Charles Campbell, Glasgow; Mrs. Christison, Glasgow; Miss Farquharson of Invercauld; Alex. Fraser, Bishopton; Col. Greenhill Gardyne of Glenforsa; Col. Gilbert Gunn, Inverness; Miss Lamont of Knockdow; Miss C. Macdonald, Pitlochrie; Mrs. Macdonald of Dunach; Miss Juliet Macdonald, Lochaber; Donald Macdonald, Inverness; T. D. Macdonald, Brookfield; Rev. Dr. G. W. Mackay, Killin; Dugald MacLean, LL.B., Edinburgh; Hugh MacLean, Greenock; Rev. Malcolm MacLeod, M.A., Glasgow; Malcolm MacLeod, Ibrox; Mrs. Macnaughton of Ardachearanbeg; Rev. M. N. Munro, M.A., Taynuilt; Iain M. Moffatt Pender, Lewis; Andrew Stewart, Glasgow. Attending:—Robert Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer; Neil Shaw, General Secretary, and Hugh MacPhee, Assistant Secretary.

The President, Sheriff J. MacMaster Campbell, was in the chair.

Ex-Bailie Archd. Campbell intimated that Miss Campbell of Inverneill, who was on her way to the meeting, had the misfortune of being involved in an accident to the 'bus with which she was travelling at Cairndow, and was unable to complete the journey. The Secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of the members present to Miss Campbell.

The Chairman referred with satisfaction to the academic honours which had been conferred upon Rev. Neil Ross and Rev. D. Macfarlane. Mr. Ross, who had attained to the dignity of Doctor of Letters at the Edinburgh University, was early associated with the movement of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and had remained connected with it ever since. He was a prominent member of the Executive Council, and editor of An Comunn's magazine. Mr. Macfarlane, who had obtained the degree of Doctor of Divinity, had always been interested in the Gaelic movement, and had done good work on its behalf, although on account of geographical considerations he had not been able to take an active part in the work of the Executive Council.

It was agreed to minute An Comunn's appreciation of the honours conferred on these gentlemen, and to send to each an excerpt from the minute.

A minute of meeting of the Finance Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Alex. Fraser, Convener, was adopted.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Education Committee, which showed that a sub-committee met in Glasgow and conferred with Mr. Compton MacKenzie on the question of recording Gaelic lessons by the Parlophone Company, Ltd. Mr. Compton MacKenzie read a letter which he had received from the Parlophone Company, and in which they had stated in detail what they were willing to do to produce a course of twelve double-sided 12-inch records.

Mr. MacKenzie suggested, and the members concurred, that the recording might be done voluntarily, expenses of travelling only being granted. It was stated that the figures given had been based on a minimum sale of 250 sets, and the company asked for a guarantee that there would be a call for a minimum of this number. The wholesale price quoted would entail a total expenditure of £375. Lady Elspeth Campbell made the announcement at the Executive meeting on 20th April that she and two friends would purchase records to the value of £250. This would leave the

sum of £125 to be guaranteed by An Comunn. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Education Committee take up the matter, that Mr. Norman MacLeod, M.A., be asked to prepare the lessons based on his revised elementary course, and that steps be taken to secure the best possible Gaelic speaker, with a good voice for recording. The Education Committee recommended An Comunn to guarantee the difference between £250 and £375.

The Committee recommended that the General Secretary be asked to do the recording, provided that his voice was suitable for the work.

At a meeting of the Education Committee, held in Stirling on Friday, 6th July, it was reported that Mr. Norman MacLeod had intimated that on account of pressure of work he was unable to undertake the preparation of the lessons required for the recording of a Gaelic course on the Parlophone system.

The Committee, it was further reported, took up the matter of music instructors, and, after discussion, it was recommended that all instructors be asked to attend at the Mod so that one of the music adjudicators would have an opportunity of giving them a demonstration in the art of conducting.

A letter was read from Mr. James Thomson, School House, Bayble, agreeing to the Committee's proposal that he should edit, and that An Comunn should publish, his proposed poetry book for junior classes.

#### A QUESTION OF GUARANTEE.

Rev. Mr. MacLeod, Convener of the Education Committee, moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Moffatt Pender said he considered it was a mistake to guarantee the sum of £125 in connection with the proposed Gaelic records; he thought it would be better if guarantors were procured in order that An Comunn might not be involved in a possible loss. There were one or two instances of enterprises by An Comunn which led them into a certain loss.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod said the Education Committee members had been given to understand that there was likely to be a very real demand for these records when they were ready. It must be remembered that it was only in the event of 250 records not being sold that An Comunn would be called upon; and a reasonable time would be allowed for the sale of the records. The Committee had had representations from different quarters, urging them to issue

these lessons as quickly as possible, as they were expected to be of considerable value to those who were struggling to acquire the language. He was sorry that Mr. Norman MacLeod had found it impossible to prepare the lessons.

Rev. Mr. MacLeod said nothing had been done in that direction so far. The matter was still in the hands of the Committee.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, referring to the making of the proposed records, said he was sure that Mr. Shaw, their secretary, would carry out the work with credit to himself and to An Comunn. He should like, however, to suggest that powers be given to the Committee to modify that arrangement, if necessary. It might be found desirable to have more than one speaker, because it had been suggested that conversation lessons ought to be included in the course.

Mr. Moffatt Pender acquiesced in the Committee's proposal.

The minute of the Committee was approved, as was also a recommendation by Mr. Malcolm MacLeod that the Committee have power to obtain the services of two or more speakers for the making of the records if that was found necessary.

The Propaganda Committee recommended that, in order to overtake the amount of work proposed for next session, eight teachers of singing should be employed at the beginning of the session, and, if the necessity arises, that more be employed. The General Secretary had reported on Provincial Mods, eight of which he had attended since April. Entries exceeded 2000, and the standard of performance in the oral and singing sections was very high. The work done in the schools was reflected in the oral section of the Mods.

The Committee recommended that, in view of the fact that the great mass of the population of the Highlands, including the Gaelic speakers themselves, have no real knowledge of Gaelic from a phonetic and linguistic standpoint, An Comunn should send lecturers of academic distinction through the Highlands, who could explain to the people the real educational and cultural value of Gaelic and of bilingualism.

Rev. Dr. Mackay, in moving the adoption of the Committee minutes, remarked that all the members of the Committee believed that the provincial Mods had performed a very useful function in the work of An Comunn, because there were hundreds of people in the various districts who had no opportunity of attending the national Mods.

There was a great amount of interest and fascination attached to the provincial Mods which provided material for the National Mods. He was glad that they had been able to send out a number of Gaelic teachers to various districts last winter. It was necessary to get as many intelligent and cultured teachers of that kind as possible. There was one thing he wanted to emphasise. The Mods must not be regarded solely as Gaelic singing festivals. An Comunn first and foremost stood for the propagation of the Gaelic language, and he hoped that the oral and literary competitions would be kept more and more to the front at the various gatherings. The suggestion in the report about sending lecturers throughout the Highlands had been made by Colonel Gunn, and all reasonable suggestions on this head would be heartily supported by the Committee. Colonel Gunn had referred to the position of matters in Sutherland with regard to the teaching of Gaelic. There was at present no lack of Gaelic-speaking teachers, and if the Sutherland Authority were willing to appoint such, they could be found. He thought the time had now arrived for ascertaining how many Gaelic-speaking children were actually being taught in the schools of the North Highlands. He also thought the time had arrived when something should be done to provide a satisfactory history of Scotland, written from the Gaelic angle. They must give correct information to the Highland people regarding the past, and instil into the minds of the children and their parents a love for the Gaelic language, and a right sense of the value of the great heritage that had come down to them.

The Chairman said Dr. Mackay had put forth certain proposals eminently worthy of the further consideration of the Executive Council.

#### VALUE OF BI-LINGUALISM.

Colonel Gunn said his point was that the rank and file of the people in the Highlands—the people who lived on crofts and in fishing villages and hamlets—did not to-day realise the value of Gaelic from a phonetic, linguistic, or cultural point of view. Many of these people had the view that Gaelic had only a sentimental value. "Our parents," they said in effect, "may have spoken Gaelic, but it is of no value to us; we want to learn English." When English was not spoken perfectly in the Highlands, the fault was put down to Gaelic. But he (Colonel Gunn) held that if English was not

taught well in the Highland centres, it was not the fault of Gaelic, but the fault of the teachers. It was the duty of An Comunn to drive home to the Highland people—the real Gaelic-speaking people—the value of what they had inherited from their forefathers. He knew how valuable a knowledge of Gaelic was to himself in India when being examined in Oriental languages. The fact that he knew Gaelic gave him a considerable advantage over officers who only knew English. English-speaking officers could not get their tongues round some of the words in the Oriental languages. The Government examiner, who was a Ross-shire man, told Colonel Gunn that he did not ask the English officers to pronounce some of the words, but, he added, "You, as a Gaelic-speaking Highlander, have no difficulty in pronouncing them."

The minute of the Propaganda Committee was approved.

At a meeting of the Mod and Music Committee, held in Stirling on 6th July, the Convener (Mr. Bannerman) reported on his visit to Inverness, where the forthcoming National Mod is to be held. He attended a meeting of the Local Committee and inspected the halls, and was satisfied that the general arrangements were well forward. The headquarters of An Comunn during the Mod were to be in the Caledonian Hotel.

Mr. Bannerman, who moved the adoption of the report, called on Mr. MacDonald, Inverness, to give an account of the position of matters in Inverness.

Mr. MacDonald said all the arrangements for the Mod were well forward, and there was very little to do except such details as arranging the programmes. The Committee had done their best to arouse enthusiasm throughout the northern counties. He had been in personal touch with the railway superintendent in regard to railway fares, and he thought they would obtain considerable concessions. The Committee had also interviewed the various hotel-keepers in Inverness, and the terms granted by them for the benefit of the Mod visitors were most reasonable. The Town Council would give an official reception.

Rev. Dr. MacKay asked if the Inverness Mod Committee had done anything in the way of encouraging the attendance of junior choirs by the grant of financial assistance.

Mr. MacDonald said the Committee had agreed to give some financial help on these lines, and that a special fund was being formed for the purpose.



Mr. MacDonald was thanked for his report.

#### CLANN AN FHRAOICH.

Mr. Moffat Pender read the rules governing the purposes and activities of Clann an Fhraoich, the new Gaelic circle of An Comunn.

It was agreed to strike 250 badges incorporating the design of the circle.

A print of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet had been in the hands of members for some time, and on the motion of the President these were unanimously adopted, subject to audit.

Nominations for the offices of president, one vice-president, and ten members of Council were received.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod pointed out that there was a demand for MacEachran's Gaelic Dictionary which could not now be met. He suggested that it should be remitted to the Publications Committee to get into communication with the proprietors and see whether they were willing to re-issue the book, and on what terms.

The motion was agreed to.

#### CELTIC DELEGATES TO THE MOD.

The Chairman suggested that An Comunn should revert to the practice of pre-war days, and send invitations to representatives of the other five Celtic nations—Brittany, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Wales, and Ireland—to the coming Mod.

Rev. Dr. MacKay moved that the Council send a cordial invitation to the five nations.

Mrs. Burnley Campbell seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Chairman paid a warm tribute to the memory of Dr. William MacKay and Mr. Alister MacDonald, Inverness, both of whom were distinguished Gaelic scholars. He asked the Association to express in their minutes the sense of loss which had been sustained by their death, and that excerpts be sent to the relatives.

The motion was agreed to.

It was reported that a large contingent of the Scottish Clans of America were coming to Scotland on 27th July, and that the Anchor Line Steamship Company had invited representatives from An Comunn to meet them. The Secretary was instructed to attend.

Miss Farquharson of Inverculd intimated that at some future meeting she intended to bring forward a motion with a view to co-ordinating the work of branches in certain areas, so that better results might be obtained.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

## DEATH OF MISS MACTAVISH, NEWTON, ISLAY.

There has to be recorded, with profound regret, the passing away of Miss MacTavish, of Newton, Islay. Her death took place on the 1st of June, after several weeks' illness, which was borne with the gentle resignation and Christian patience which distinguished this much-loved Highland gentlewoman.

Miss MacTavish, being the niece of the late Miss Anne Campbell, came of an old and notable Highland family, and was their last representative in Islay. Her memory will long be warmly cherished, and her loss deeply regretted as one who was imbued with all the best characteristics of the ancient race. She was a fluent Gaelic speaker, and there was nothing she loved more than to hold converse in the ancient tongue. Inspired as she was by her love for the language, literature, music, and traditions of the Highlands, she was a source of inspiration to others. She was deeply interested in, and was a warm supporter of, the present-day Gaelic revival, and An Comunn Gaidhealach in Islay has lost in her one of its best and truest friends.

Her remains were interred in the ancient burying-ground of Kilarrow, and many came from far and near to pay their last tribute of respect to their departed friend. Slowly and sadly she was carried to her last resting-place to the bagpipe strains of the beautiful dirge, "The Flowers o' the Forest", the music she loved so well.

She has left behind her a fragrant memory, which will always whisper, "Lean gu dlùth ri clùid dh' shinnsear."

## DONATIONS TO INVERNESS MOD.

Previously acknowledged	...	...	£357 6 3
Received at Inverness—			
Mr. E. M. McNeill, Fasnacloich	...		1 0 0
William C. McEwen, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh	...	...	1 1 0
Provost MacEwan, Inverness	...	...	2 2 0
J. A. M., Glasgow	...	...	0 4 6
Received at Head Office—			
Capt. and Mrs. Grant Forman, Douglas Pier	...	...	5 0 0
Miss Maltt Williams, Wales	...	...	5 0 0
Neil Munro, Esq., Helensburgh	...	...	2 0 0
Miss Christina Ross, Darvel	...	...	1 5 0
Mrs. Bessie J. B. MacArthur, Edinburgh	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, Mus. Doc.	...	...	1 1 0
Rev. D. MacEachern, B.D., Bower	...	...	0 10 0
Miss R. T. MacDougall of Lunga	...	...	0 10 0
Donald Livingston, Esq., Fort William	...	...	0 7 0
"Caraid"	...	...	0 5 0

## THE MOD AT PORTREE,

3rd and 4th July, 1928.

Perhaps the average Celt (if there is an average Celt) will not admit that a mere Southerner is entitled to give his impressions of a highland mod? Presumably for the reason that, being a Sassenach, he cannot enter into the spirit of the Celt! Is the Celtic spirit such a narrow thing that it does not include all who revere the great traditions of loyalty to the noble past? Is it merely a local manifestation so limited in intention that it desires to keep others out, rather than wide enough in aim to include all who rejoice in the same spirit? If there be such narrow-minded Celts, they were not in evidence at the Portree Mod. What struck the visitor was the evident sincerity of the speakers there. Colonel Macdonald of Tote, Mr. Duncan M'Leod of Skeabost, Mr. Angus Robertson of Glasgow, and Dr. Neil Ross of Laggan, all emphasised the non-utilitarian aspect of the Celtic movement.

The constant warfare between material and intellectual possessions which has marked every phase of human progress since the beginning of time, has been as keenly felt in the Highlands of Scotland as in those larger areas where material wealth was more readily acquired. The stern conditions of mountain life, the uncertainty of climate, the long winters, the continual kaleidoscope of form and colour, has bred a race of philosophers, who, cut off from the snares of material wealth, have turned to the pleasures of the mind, to legend, to art, and to song. Gaelic has been dependent for countless generations on a single form of expression, that of sound. Story telling and singing has been the traditional means of passing on ancient legend. The writing of Gaelic has, until recently, been in the hands of a very few. But now the school children are taught both Gaelic and English, and, by this additional means, in the future the heritage of song and story will be passed on and enriched for the coming generations. Here there is a body of tradition awaiting not only continuation, but expansion. It goes without saying that a Southerner without a knowledge of the Gaelic language can make no comment on the literary aspect of the Mod. Dr. Neil Ross, however, commented very favourably upon the purity of the speech and clearness of the enunciation. Even the least musical of visitors could not

but be impressed and attracted by the musical side of the meetings. It was quite evident that not only the competitors, but also the audience, felt the rhythm of the music to such an extent that it was with difficulty that a proportion of them refrained from accenting the notes of the singers. A musical critic might possibly deplore this audible expression; a sympathetic Southerner would adduce this as evidence that all Celts have a natural feeling for rhythm! Celtic airs are now so well known that it seems hardly necessary to comment on their beauty. Their distinction lies in their naive primitive unexpectedness. The tunes of the musical "know hows" are obvious, those folk airs baffle order and arrangement. One wonders as the air lilt along whether it is entirely unsophisticated, or whether it is a subtle arrangement of predestined notes, and one still keeps wondering! It has no family relationship with commercial music of set pattern, it is too unworldly; it may recognise certain laws, but seldom obeys them; it has all the waywardness of a child, and all a child's charm.

There is no hurry in the Isle of Skye. No railway, with its scheduled trains and insistent time-table, blots the fair landscape. The steamers, which are the visible links with the mainland, do their best, subject to wind and weather. The Mod competitors arrived in boats, in motor charabancs and cars, and on foot. Some of the choirs came forty miles to compete with their fellow-islanders. The free and easy conditions of competition enabled even those who had not entered to compete. Collie and other dogs were evidently quite free to enter, and one of them created a good deal of amusement by mounting and crossing the platform, wagging his tail as he did so. After a good deal of persuasion by the Chairman, Secretary, and several members of the choir, he retired by a side door, only to appear at a later time, having this time used the main entrance! The combined advantage of the daylight saving bill and the long light of those northern isles was exemplified by the prize-giving taking place between 10 and 11 p.m. without any artificial light beyond that obtained from a single candle! No one was upset by these unusual happenings, which seemed normal to a Gaelic Mod. Mr. Robert M'Leod of Edinburgh was the adjudicator for the music of the meetings. His criticisms were of the greatest value and interest, not only to the singers themselves,

but also to the large audiences, who were present at every session. He emphasised the importance of persistent practice, and demonstrated with the massed choirs the variety of effect possible by intelligent and well-considered emphasis. Such a wealth of idea, song, and story, which is enshrined in Gaelic vocal expression, is worthy of unwearying effort on the part of those who would not only enjoy it for themselves, but who also desire to express it for the pleasure of others. It seems a pity that the beautiful ornament, once such a feature of Celtic culture, should have been utterly lost to the present generation. The Committee might offer a prize for Celtic designs, either in leather work or carving; this could easily be done if Arts and Crafts formed a section at the next Mod.

HENRY T. WYSE.

“VOICES FROM THE HILLS.”

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

LEWIS PROVINCIAL MOD.

The fifth annual Mod, under the auspices of the Lewis Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach, was held at Stornoway on Tuesday and Wednesday, 19th and 20th June. On the opening day the oral and junior solo and duet singing competitions were judged in the United Free English Church Hall, and on Wednesday the choral singing and senior vocal competitions and piping were taken in the Lewis Picture House. The following is the prize-list:—

LITERATURE.

RURAL SCHOOLS.

Essay—1, Catherine Macleod, Lìonel; 2, Jessie Macphail, Bragar; 3, Angus Mackenzie, Breasclét; 4, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 5, Angus Macleod, Bragar; 6, Murdina Reid, Laxdale.

Writing from Diction—1, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 2, Alexina Munro, Laxdale; 3, Johanna Macleod, Laxdale; 4, Murdina Reid, Laxdale; 5, Mary A. Maciver, Breasclét; 6, Murdina Smith, Bayble.

Reproduction of Prose Passage—1, Angus Mackenzie, Breasclét; 2, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 3, Murdina Smith, Bayble; 4, Finlay Mackenzie, Lìonel, and Alice MacLennan, Sandwick (equal).

Translation of Gaelic into English—1, Agnes Macdonald, Lìonel; Catherine Macleod, Lìonel; Alice MacLennan, Sandwick; and Murdina Smith, Bayble (equal); 5, Angus Mackenzie, Breasclét; 6, Malcolm M. Morrison, Bragar.

Translation of English into Gaelic—1, Christina Mackay, Bayble; 2, Catherine Macleod, Lìonel; 3, Murdina Smith, Bayble; 4, Angus Mackenzie, Breasclét; 5, Johanna Morrison, Lìonel; 6, Alexina Munro, Laxdale.

Translation of Gaelic Idioms—1, Alice MacLennan, Sandwick; 2, Alexina Munro, Laxdale; 3, Johanna Morrison, Lìonel; 4, Jessie M. Macphail, Bragar, and Mary Macdonald, Lìonel (equal); 6, Murdina Reid, Laxdale.

Original Gaelic Poem—1, Alexina Munro, Laxdale; 2, Malcolm M. Morrison, Bragar.

NICOLSON INSTITUTE.

Essay—1, Johanna Macdonald; 2, Catherine Murray; 3, Malcolm Macdonald; 4, Don. C. Murray; 5, Christina Macritchie; 6, Mary Macleod.

Dictation—1, Christina Macritchie; 2, Malcolm Macdonald and Mary Maclean (equal); 4, Catherine Murray, Mary Macleod, and Johan Macdonald (equal).

Reproduction of Prose Passage—1, Isabella Macdonald; 2, Mary Macleod and Malcolm Macdonald (equal); 4, Janet Macdonald; 5, Mary Maclean and Donald M. Murray (equal).

Gaelic into English—1, Christina Macritchie; 2, Malcolm Macdonald; 3, Murdo A. Nicolson; 4, Christina Macdonald; 5, Mary Maclean; 6, Mary Macleod.

English into Gaelic—1, Johanna Macdonald; 2, Mary Macleod; 3, Donald C. Murray; 4, Malcolm Macdonald; 5, Christina Macritchie; 6, Isabella Macdonald.

Translation of Gaelic Idioms—1, Janet Macdonald; 2, Mary Maclean; 3, Christina Macritchie; 4, Murdo A. Nicolson; 5, Isabella Macdonald; 6, Catherine Murray.

ORAL DELIVERY.

RURAL SCHOOLS.

Reading from Gaelic New Testament (Acts)—1, Jessie M. Macphail, Bragar, and Christina Mackay, Bayble (equal); 3, Angus Macleod, Bragar; 4, Murdina Smith, Bayble, and Annie Matheson, Sandwick (equal).

Reading from Gaelic New Testament (Mark and Luke)—1, Chrissie Mackay, Bayble, and Murdina Smith, Bayble (equal); 3, Angus Macleod, Bragar; 4, Jessie M. Macphail, Bragar; 5, Katie A. Mackenzie, Sandwick; 6, Malcolm Morrison, Bragar.

Reading (Learners' Section)—1, Douglas Macdonald, Sandwick, and John Murray, Sandwick (equal); 3, Katie M. Watson, Sandwick.

Reciting from “Badan Fraoich”—1, Johanna Macleod, Laxdale, and Alexina Munro, Laxdale (equal); 3, Malcolm Morrison, Bragar; Katie A. Smith, Laxdale, and Murdina Reid, Laxdale (equal). Acted Dialogue (two performers)—1, Jessie Macphail and Angus Macleod, Bragar; 2, Catherine MacSween and Alice MacLennan, Sandwick.

Telling of Traditional Story—1, Malcolm Morrison, Bragar; Jessie M. Macphail, Bragar, and Donald W. Macdonald, Sandwick (equal); 4, Angus Macleod, Bragar.

NICOLSON INSTITUTE.

Reading from Gaelic New Testament (Acts)—1, Jessie Macleod; 2, Donald Murray; 3, Margaret Macgregor and Henrietta Macdonald (equal).

Reading from Gaelic New Testament (Mark and Luke)—1, Murdo Nicolson; 2, Margaret Macgregor; 3, Henrietta Macdonald and Donald Murray (equal).

Reciting from "Badan Fraoich"—1, Jessie Macleod; 2, M. Nicolson; 3, Mary Macleod, and John Buchanan (equal).

### VOCAL MUSIC.

#### JUNIOR SECTION.

Choral Singing, Two-part Songs (Shield Competition)—1, Laxdale School; 2, Nicolson Institute.

Choral Singing, Unison (Cup Competition)—1, Knock School and Laxdale School (equal); 3, Bayble School; 4, Lionel School.

Waulking Songs—1, Knock School; 2, Airidhan-tuim School; 3, Laxdale No. 1; 4, Laxdale No. 2.

Solo Singing—Boys—1, George Macleod, Laxdale; 2, Murdo D. Nicolson, Laxdale; 3, Donald M. Munro, Laxdale.

Solo Singing—Girls—1, Kennia Campbell, Bayble; 2, Chrissie Macgregor, Laxdale; 3, Mary A. Macdonald, Laxdale, and Mary A. Smith (equal).

Solo Singing—Boys—Own Choice of Songs—1, G. Stewart Macleod, Nicolson Institute; 2, Iain Murray, Sandwick; 3, Colin A. Macleod, Laxdale.

Solo Singing—Girls—Own Choice of Song—1, Mary A. Macdonald, Knock; 2, Chrissie Macgregor, Laxdale, and Margaret Macgregor, Laxdale (equal); 3, Margaret J. Maciver, Knock.

Solo Singing—Girls, 16 to 18 years—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute; 2, Mary Birnie, Sandwick.

Solo Singing, Local Traditional Song—Boys or Girls—1, Chrissie Macgregor, Laxdale; 2, Etta Mary Macdonald, Laxdale; 3, Katie A. Smith, Laxdale.

Duet Singing—1, Joey Macleod and Annie Macleod, Laxdale, and Margaret A. Mackay and Jessie M. Stewart, Laxdale (equal); 3, Margaret Macgregor and Colin A. Macleod, Laxdale; 4, Chrissie Macgregor and M. Carson, Laxdale.

Bagpipe Music (Competitors under 18)—Marches—1, C. Hunter; 2, F. Mackay; 3, H. Graham. Strathspeys and Reels—1, H. Graham; 2, C. Hunter; 3, F. Mackay.

Ardaibhaigh Cup for Piping—C. Hunter.

#### SENIOR SECTION.

Solo Singing—Female Voices—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute; 2, Mary Birnie, Sandwick; 3, Mary A. Macdonald, Laxdale.

Solo Singing of Oran-Mor—Female Voices—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute; 2, Jessie Campbell, Laxdale; 3, Mary A. Macdonald, Laxdale.

Duet Singing—1, Jessie Campbell and Mary A. Macdonald, Laxdale.

Singing of Unpublished Folk Song Air—1, Mary Morrison, Nicolson Institute.

#### ORAL DELIVERY.

Telling of Hitherto Unpublished Local Historical or Traditional Story (Prizes by Royal Celtic Society)—1, Annie Morrison, Nicolson Institute; Catherine Murray, Nicolson Institute, and Christina Mackay, Bayble (equal); 4, Mardina Smith, Bayble.

The Mod concluded with a grand concert in the Lewis Picture House on Wednesday evening. As in former years, the most successful of the competitors in the vocal competitions contributed an excellent programme of solos, duets, and choruses. The enjoyment of the evening was on this

occasion greatly enhanced by the appearance of Mr. Roderick MacLeod and Miss Rhoda MacLeod, Inverness, who had been acting as musical adjudicators, and who kindly agreed to sing at the concert. They had a most cordial reception, and had to respond to insistent encores. There was a crowded attendance, and Mr Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, who presided, delivered a rousing address.

### LORN, MULL, AND MORVERN PROVINCIAL MOD.

#### Gathering at Oban.

Under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach, the Lorn, Mull, and Morvern Provincial Mod was held in Oban on Friday, 22nd June, the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, St. Columba Parish Church Hall, and Dunollie Road U.F. Church Hall being made available for the competitions. This year the entries totalled over 500, which constitutes a record, being about three times the number of last year. The arrangements were carried out by a Committee consisting of Mr. D. MacGregor Whyte, president; Rev. H. Cameron, Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach, Mr. T. D. MacDonald, Mr. P. Fletcher, Major MacCorquodale, Miss Maxton, Miss N. Cameron, Miss J. MacDonald, with Miss MacDougall, hon. treasurer, and Mr. Neil Cowan, hon. secretary.

The competitors in the junior section showed a good knowledge of Gaelic both on the literary and oral side, and their singing was also admirable.

In the senior section the performances in both solo and choral work were by no means up to the usual standard, a fact which was emphasised by Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh, the music adjudicator, in the course of his remarks on the various competitions. There were, he admitted, as many good voices as formerly, and with more earnest work and care in preparation the competitors were quite capable of producing better results. The prize-winners were well distributed.

The adjudicators, who, needless to say, had an arduous task, were:—Literature—Mr. D. Macpherson, M.A., Appin, and Mr. Archd. MacLean, M.A., Logierait. Oral delivery—Mr. A. Munn, Rev. Hector Cameron, Oban, and Rev. A. MacDonald, Ardhattan; Rev. J. MacInnes, Connel, and Rev. M. M. MacLeod, Oban; Mr. D.

Macpherson, M.A., Appin, and Mr. Peter Fletcher, Oban. Vocal music:—Music—Mr. J. Bannerman and Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh. Gaelic—Mr. A. MacNeil, Connel, and Mr. Neil Shaw, Glasgow.

Letter describing an Ideal Holiday—1, Isabella MacKenzie, Oban High School; 2 and 3 (equal), Dolina M'Phee and Annie Bell, Oban High School; 4, Colin Palmer, Oban High School.

Translation of a piece of Gaelic Prose into English, and a piece of English Prose into Gaelic—1 and 2 (equal), Isabel Paterson, Tobermory H. G. School, and Isabella MacKenzie, Oban High School; 3, Dolina MacPhee, Oban High School.

#### ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading a piece of Poetry—1, Alfena Robertson-Tobermory H.G. School; 2, Dolina MacLean, Drimmin; 3, Colin Palmer, Oban High School.

Reading a piece of Prose—1, Flora MacKinnon, Cornaigmore H.G. School; 2, Lachlan MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, Mary Margaret MacLean, Cornaigmore H.G. School.

Reading at Sight—1, Elizabeth Gillespie, Oban High School; 2, Dolina MacPhee, Oban High School; 3, Peggy Lowe, Tobermory H.G. School.

Short Sgeulachd—1, Catherine MacDonald, Cornaigmore H.G. School; 2 and 3 (equal), Lachlan MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School, and Jessie MacLean, Tobermory H.G. School.

Reciting from Memory—1, Elizabeth Gillespie, Oban High School; 2, Sadie Kennedy, Tobermory H.G. School; 3, William Robertson, Tobermory H.G. School.

#### VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Girls)—1, Flora MacKinnon, Cornaigmore H.G. School; 2, Mary Campbell, Connel; 3, Katie MacCormick, Luing.

Solo Singing (Boys)—1, Donald Dunn, Oban High School; 2, Dugald S. MacDonald, Hillpool School, Tiree; 3, Hamish MacPherson, Strontollier School, by Oban.

Solo Singing (Boys and Girls)—1, Peggy MacEachan, Connel; 2 (equal), Mary Campbell, Connel, and Sarah MacInnes, Oban High School; 3 (equal), Sadie Kennedy Tobermory High School, and Flora MacKinnon, Cornaigmore H.G. School, Tiree.

Duet Singing—1, Netta MacLean and Margaret Sinclair, Hillpool School, Tiree; 2, Peggy MacEachan and Mary Campbell, Connel; 3 (equal), Margaret MacLennan and Jessie MacArthur, Luing, and Annie MacPhail and Flora MacKinnon, Luing.

Choral Singing in Two-Part Harmony—1, Connel Junior Choir; 2, Tobermory School Gaelic Choir; 3, Luing Junior Choir.

Unison Singing—1, Oban High School Choir "B"; 2, Connel Junior Choir; 3, Oban High School Choir "A."

#### SENIOR SECTION.

##### ORAL DELIVERY.

Reading at Sight—1, A. MacKinnon, Tiree.

Recitation—1, Susan Brown, Luing; 2, Ena A. M'Cowan, Luing; 3, A. MacKinnon, Tiree.

Sgeulachd—Narrating old Gaelic Tale in the traditional manner—1, Charles MacDonald, Salen, Aros; 2, A. MacKinnon, Tiree.

#### VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo Singing (Female Voices)—1, M. C. Lamont, Pennyghael; 2, Margaret Black, Bunnassan; 3, Ena A. M'Cowan, Luing.

Solo Singing (Male Voices)—1, James Bissett, Glencoe; 2, John Collie, Taynult; 3, Duncan Kennedy Ballachulish.

Solo Singing (Male or Female Voices)—1, W. MacDonald, Pennyghael; 2, Miss M. C. Lamont, Pennyghael; 3, James Bissett, Glencoe.

Duet Singing—1, James Bissett and Catherine Bissett, Glencoe; 2, Miss M. C. Lamont and H. Lamont, Pennyghael; 3, Joseph MacCall and Duncan Kennedy, Ballachulish.

Choral Singing of a Song in Harmony. Songs prescribed. "Clachan Ghlinn-da-ruadhail," and "Iul an Eileanaich." 1st Prize, £5; 2nd Prize, £3.—1, Glenochy Gaelic Choir; 2, Tobermory Gaelic Choir; 3, Benderloch Gaelic Choir.

Choral Singing in Harmony of the prescribed songs, "Taobh Abhainn Aora" and "Och nan Och! 's mi fo leirtheadh." 1st Prize—Retention for one year of the Lorn, Mull and Morvern Provincial Mod Trophy, for Choirs containing 100 per cent. of Gaelic Speakers, with £3 3s.; 2nd Prize, £3—1, Benderloch Gaelic Choir; 2, Tobermory Gaelic Choir.

A concert was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall in the evening, when there was a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Miss Campbell, of Inverneil, M.B.E., a vice-president of an Comunn Gaidhealach, presided over the gathering. In the course of the evening Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach presented the Lorn, Mull, and Morvern Provincial Mod trophy to the winners—the Benderloch Gaelic Choir. During the interval between the first and second parts of the programme, the Chairman delivered a very interesting address.

#### SKYE PROVINCIAL MOD.

A very successful Provincial Mod was held at Portree, for the Skye district, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd and 4th July. There was a large gathering of people from all parts of the island on both days, as well as an unprecedented number of competitors in all the entries. A keenly contested and lengthy programme was listened to with manifest appreciation, and all the arrangements were carried out smoothly and efficiently.

The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic—Rev. Neil Ross, M.A., D.Litt., Laggan; Mr. John A. Nicolson, M.A., Glasgow; Mr. Neil Shaw, secretary, An Comunn. For vocal music—Mr. Robert MacLeod, Mus. Bac., Edinburgh. For violin playing—Sheriff-Substitute T. Menzies, Portree. For pianoforte playing—Miss Gilmour. For bagpipe music—Mr. Seton Gordon and Mr. Malcolm MacInnes, LL.B.,



The judges for Gaelic, in their final summing-up, expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the quality of the Gaelic, which leaves little to be desired in the way of improvement. Mr Robert Macleod, in his decisions, gave valuable criticism to each competitor, which should prove of great benefit for future occasions.

Tuesday was devoted to the junior section competition, at which Mr. Malcolm Macinnes presided in the forenoon, and Mr. A. M. Murchison in the afternoon. Wednesday was occupied by the seniors' competitions, at which Dr. A. Grant Macdonald, Uig, presided at the first diet, and Colonel K. L. Macdonald, Tote, at the second. On both evenings of the Mod, grand concerts were held in the Territorial Hall, with an overflow concert in the Secondary School Hall. The programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners, and by Miss Phemie Marquis; Mr. Stewart Macinnes, Mod Medallist, and the Rev. Dr. Neil Ross, Laggan, who gave very fine recitations on both evenings, and with great pleasure to his audience.

The chairman at Tuesday's concert was Dr. Neil Ross, and on Wednesday, Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost. The prizes were presented by the Honourable Iona Macdonald, Armadale Castle; and on the following night by Mrs. K. L. Macdonald of Tote. The Committee of Management, who deserve very great credit for the unqualified success of the Mod in every detail, were, on the motion of Mrs. John Macdonald of Redcliffe, awarded a hearty vote of thanks. Special mention should be made of the services of the enthusiastic honorary secretary, Mr. Angus Nicolson, Portree House, who carried out his arduous duties in a most conscientious and meticulous fashion.

The prizes in the junior oral section were gifted by a member of the Inverness Gaelic Society.

#### JUNIOR SECTION.

Literature—Letter, not exceeding two pages of large quarto paper on a simple subject.—(1) By Pupils in H.G. School—1, John Nicolson, Portree; 2, Morag Stewart; 3, Donald Bain. (2) By Juniors—1, John Macpherson, Broadford; 2, Hector Macdonald, Ferindonald; 3, Angus Macdougall, Uig.

Oral Delivery—Reading with expression (learners of Gaelic)—1, Bessie Steele, Dunvegan; 2, Betty Steele, Dunvegan; 3, Cathie Hay, Broadford; special prize—Duncan Macneil, Uig.

Reading at Sight—1, Duncan Macneil, Uig; 2, Cathie Hay, Broadford; 3 (equal), Mary Matheson, Portree, and Katie Macleod, Dunvegan.

Reciting from Memory—1, Cathie Hay, Broadford; 2, John Munro, Broadford; 3, Rebecca Macleod, Broadford.

Gaelic Conversation—1, Ronald Robertson, Broadford; 2, Kate Macleod, Dunvegan; 3, John Robertson, Broadford.

Vocal Music—Solo Singing of a Song (Girls)—1, Bessie Steele, Dunvegan; 2 (equal), Marie Nicolson, Portree, and Betty Steele, Dunvegan; 3, Sheila Macdonald, Uig.

Solo Singing of a Song (Boys)—1, Edward Bullock, Broadford; 2, Hector Macdonald, Broadford; 3, George Harrison, Portree.

Duet Singing—1 (equal), Margaret Steele and Elma Sharpe, Dunvegan; 2, Sadie Matheson and Eileen King, Dunvegan.

Unison Singing—1, Dunvegan Choir; 2, Ardsavar Choir; 3, Broadford Choir.

Choral Singing—1, Broadford Choir; 2, Ardsavar Choir; 3, Dunvegan Choir.

#### SENIOR SECTION.

Literature—Gaelic Poem—1, John M. Matheson Portree; 2, John Macinnes, Ardsavar; 3, James Ramage, Kilmuir.

Essay—1, John Macdougall, Portree; 2, Annie Macpherson, Portree; 3, Isabella Macdougall, Earlish. Unpublished Skye Songs—1, Katie Macnab, Kilmuir; 2, John Macinnes, Broadford; 3, John Nicolson, Uig.

Oral Delivery—Reading at Sight—1, Effie Campbell, Edinbane; 2, (equal) Annie Macdonald and Jane Mackay, Portree; 3, Catherine Robertson, Portree.

Recitation—1, Sarah Kennedy, Portree; 2, Annie Macdonald, Dunvegan; 3, Jane Mackay, Portree.

Sgeulachd—1, John Campbell, Dunvegan; 2, Sarah Kennedy, Portree.

Luathadh—1, Strath party; 2, Uig party.

Vocal Music—Solo Singing (Female). Own Choice—1, Uiga G. Macdonald, Uig; 2, Helen Macdonald, Edinbane; 3, B. Macinnes, Ardsavar.

Solo Singing (Male Voice)—Own Choice—1, Hector Kelly, Braes; 2, Patrick Mackinnon, Broadford; 3, D. Anderson, Ardsavar.

Solo Singing (Female Voice)—Test Song—1, B. Macinnes, Ardsavar; 2, Betsy Macleod, Broadford; 3, Helen Macdonald, Edinbane.

Solo Singing (Test Song)—Male Voices—1, Hector Kelly, Braes; 2, Duncan Corbett, Uig; 3, Patrick Mackinnon, Broadford.

Solo Singing, Skye Song (air unpublished)—1, Hector Kelly, Braes; 2, Joan Macinnes, Broadford; 3, Duncan Corbett, Uig.

Duet Singing—1, Chrissie Mackenzie and Dolly Peacock, Portree; 2, Annie Ferguson and Mima Fraser, Portree; 3, Mrs. A. Mackenzie and Annie Macpherson, Portree.

Unison Singing—1, Kilmuir Choir; 2, Portree Choir; 3, Uig Choir.

Choral Singing—1, Kilmuir Choir; 2, Strath Choir.

#### INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.

Bagpipes (a)—Playing of March—1, Peter Macfarquhar, Snizort; 2, Andrew Stoddart, Portree; 3, Ian Nicolson, Snizort. (b) Playing of March, Strathspey and Reel—1, Peter Macfarquhar, Snizort; 2, Ian Nicolson, Portree; 3, Wm. Mackintosh, Snizort.

Violin—1, A. MacKellaig, Broadford; 2, Patrick Mackinnon.

Pianoforte—1 (equal), Miss Macdonald, Viewfield, and Mrs. Sutherland, Portree.

## ARDNAMURCHAN PROVINCIAL MOD.

The third annual Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod was held at Strontian on Friday, 29th June. Competitors and spectators were present in large numbers in spite of adverse weather conditions, and entries surpassed last year's figures. Several new competitions were introduced, and for the first time the Ardnamurchan silver medals were awarded for male and female voices, the test songs being those set forth for the National Mod. Singing in all competitions showed a distinct advance on last year's standard, and the judges commented favourably upon the good native Gaelic of the district. The organisation of this Mod had been brought to a high standard of efficiency by Maclean of Ardgour, the president, and by Miss D. C. MacIntyre, the hon. secretary, who were greatly assisted in their task by the judges, an energetic Committee, and by an interested audience.

A concert, presided over by Ardgour, was held in the evening. The first prize winners were assisted by Mrs. Colquhoun (Miss Phemie Marquis), Mrs. Scott (Miss Annetta C. Whyte), Captain Alistair MacLaren, and Mr. Neil Shaw. A stirring address was given by Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan. During an interval the prizes were gracefully presented by the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour.

The judges were as follows:—Literature—Rev. A. D. Maclean, B.D., Ardgour. Gaelic—Rev. Dr. MacKinnon, Kilnomivaig; Rev. Dr. Ross, Laggan; Rev. J. MacInnes, Connell; Mr. Neil Shaw, and Mrs. A. C. Scott. Music—Mrs. Colquhoun, Mrs. A. C. Scott, Captain MacLaren, Mr. D. MacMillan, and Major N. B. Mackenzie.

## JUNIOR SECTION.

Literature—1, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin; 2, A. D. MacLachlan, Drimnin.

Reading—1, Morag Cameron, Glenborrodale; 2, John Johnston, Strontian; 3 (equal), Douglas MacKenzie, Drimnin, and Christina Cameron, Glenborrodale.

Unseen Reading—1, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin; 2, Mary MacLennan, Drimnin; 3, Christina Cameron, Glenborrodale, and Archie MacMillan, Drimnin (equal).

Recitation—1, Allan Macpherson, Strontian; 2, John Johnston and Morag Cameron, Glenborrodale (equal); 3, Christina Cameron, Glenborrodale, and Catherine MacLennan, Glenborrodale (equal).

Recitation (Learners)—1, Alexandrina C. MacColl, Ardgour; 2, George Cameron, Strontian; 3, Sandy Cameron, Strontian.

Conversation—1, A. D. MacLachlan, Drimnin; 2, John MacMaster, Drimnin; 3, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin.

Dialogue—1, John MacMaster, Drimnin; and James MacLennan, Drimnin.

## VOCAL MUSIC.

Girls—1, Joan MacLean, Trislaig; 2, Dolly MacDonald, Mingarry; 3, Lily Stewart, Strontian. Boys—1, John Johnston, Strontian; 2, Wm. Macpherson, Strontian.

Unpublished Song—1, Joan MacLean, Trislaig; 2, Jemima MacDonald, do.; 3, Dolina MacLean, Drimnin.

Learners—1, Catherine R. MacLean, Ardgour; 2, Nan C. Pirie, Ardgour; 3, Anne MacLean of Ardgour.

Junior Choirs—1, Mingarry R.C. School Choir (Miss MacPherson); 2, Trislaig P. S. Choir (Miss MacMillan); 3, Ardgour Junior Choir (Miss D. C. Macintyre).

## SENIOR SECTION.

Literature—1, Miss Mary Rankin, Strontian; 2, Mr. D. Cameron, Kilchoan.

Reading at Sight—1, Donald Cameron, Conaglen.

Recitation—1, Annie Macfarlane, Locheilside; 2, Christina Macpherson, Ardgour.

Sguelachd—1, Alastair Cameron, Strontian.

## VOCAL MUSIC.

Solo (Female Voices)—1, Miss Ina M. Lawrie, Garvan; 2, Miss Margaret Connell, Acharacle; 3, Miss Christina M'Coll, Ardgour.

Solo (Male Voices)—1, Donald Fletcher, Kingairloch; 2, John Connell, Acharacle; 3, John MacArthur, Strontian.

Unpublished Song—1, John MacDiarmid, Strontian; 2, Miss Ina M. Lawrie, Garvan; 3, Archibald MacNaughton, Acharacle; 4, Neil Cameron, Acharacle.

Solo (Female Voices) Silver Medal—1, Miss Catherine C. M'Coll, Ardgour; 2, Miss Ina M. Lawrie, Garvan; 3, Miss Margaret MacLennan, Kilchoan.

Solo (Male Voices) Silver Medal—1, Donald Fletcher, Kingairloch; 2, John MacDiarmid, Strontian, and Archibald MacNaughton, Acharacle (equal); 4, Tom Cameron, Strontian.

Puir a Bheil—1, Miss Ina M. Lawrie, Garvan; 2, Miss Margaret MacLellan, Kilchoan; 3, Miss Jessie Macpherson, Mingarry.

Solo (Former 1st Prize Winners)—1, Miss Catherine C. M'Coll, Ardgour; 2, Mr. John MacDiarmid, Strontian; 3, Miss M. A. Carmichael, Ardgour.

Choirs—1, Strontian Choir (Miss MacDonald); 2, Ardgour Choir (Miss D. C. MacIntyre); 3, Acharacle and Moirdart Choir (Miss MacDonald).

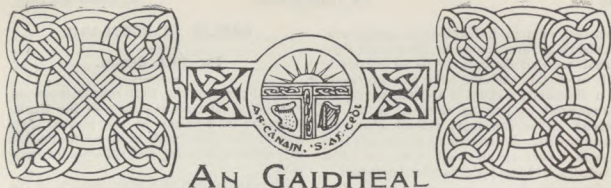
Bagpipes—1, Alexander Cameron, Ardtornish; 2, Iain MacLellan, Glenborrodale; 3, Donald Cameron, Kinloch.

Violin—Hugh Gillies, Acharacle.

Pianoforte—Miss M. Cameron, Duisky.

## INVERNESS MOD

August 25, 26, 27, and 28, 1928



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Leabhar XXIII.]

*An t-Sultuin, 1928.*

[Earrann 12

### COMHAIRLE NA SIORRAMACHD AGUS A' GHÀIDHLIG.

Is gnàth do 'n mhiosachan so cumail saor o bhi a' gabhail taobh seach taobh an argumaid mu ghothuichean sìobhanta. Tha atharraichean móra an dóighean riaghlaidh fa chomhair beachd an t-sluaigh aig an am. Is e aon de na caochlaidhean sin gun tig Ughdarras an Fhòghluim gu crìch, agus gum bi na dleasdanas a bha iad a' deanamh, air an gabhail as laimh le Comhairle na Siorramachd. Chan eil sinn an tràth so a' dol a chantuinn a bheag mu gach mùthadh a tha anns an t-sealladh; ach tha sinn a' creidsinn gum bean an caochladh so ri teagasg na Gàidhlig an sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd. Ma theid na h-Ughdarras thairis feumaidh stiùireadh an fhòghluim tighinn fo bhuidhinn eile—eadhon Comhairle na Siorramachd. Mar sin tha e iomchuidh a' chuis a reusanachadh, a dh'fheuch cia mar thachras—am bi an caochladh so a' neartachadh na cànan, air neo am bi e 'g a lagachadh.

Is fhada o nach cualas mùthaidhean cho cudthromach 'g an iomradh, ris na mùthaidhean móra a tha faineard do Ard Uachdaranachd na riòghachd an ceann mìos no dhà. Chan e a mhàin Ughdarras an Fhòghluim a tha gu bhi air an dubhadh a mach. Tha Comhairlean nan Sgìrean gu bhi a' crìochnachadh mar an ceudna. Tha rùn sonraichte anns an amharc. Is e sin gum bi ghothuichean coitcheionn de gach gnè, eadhon fòghlum, cisean, earraidean,

lighichean, bochdan, cùram mu fhallaineachd is euslaintean, rathaidean móra is drochaidean, agus fichead rud eile nach leigear a leas a chur sìos an so, gum bi iad sin gu léir fo stiùireadh aoin bhuidhne.

A nis feumaidh a' bhuidheann ùr a bhi lìonmhor mus bi iad comasach air àireamh cho mór sin de ghothuichean a gabhail os laimh. An duigh fhéin tha coinneamhan nan Ughdarras a' togail trì no ceithir de làithean air a h-uile turus. Ach tha e duilich a thuigsinn ciomar gheibh a' bhuidheann ùr ùine idir airson gach dleasdanas eile, a tha aig an am so ag agra dh tim is saothair o àireamh dhaoine feadh na Siorramachd. Is e bhios ann gu feumair chisean an fhòghluim a chur fo laimh Fo-Chomhairle (*sub-committee*) de 'n chuideachd ùir. Agus ma thachras sin, tha e soilleir ri fhaicinn nach bi riaghladh an fhòghluim air a choimhlionadh ann faisg cho eagnaigh is a tha e aig an am so. Chan fhaigh fòghlum uiread de aire 's a tha e nis a' faotainn. Chan fhaigh a' Ghaidhlig uiread de aire 's a tha i nis a' faotainn. Is e sin suim na trioblaid. Is e sin a tha 'n a aobhar gearain aig an uair so, ri linn do na h-atharraichean a bhi dlùth air laimh. Agus ma thig na mùthaidhean ud gu tachairt, tha e cho cinnteach 's a tha sinn 'g a sgrìobhadh an so, gu faigh a' Ghaidhlig na's lugha de aire agus de mhìnich na fhuair i fo laimh nan Ughdarras o chionn deich bliadhna. Fhuair sinn dearbhadh a cheana, gu bheil cuid de na h-Ughdarras, mar ata Inbhirneis, a'

nochdadh suim do 'n Ghaidhlig air gach laimh. Faodaidh gu bheil feadhainn eile de na h-Ughdarras nach eil cho fada sin air an aghaidh le cùis na cànaia. Ach tha e fìor gu robh aghart 'g a dheanamh, a chuid 's a chuid, agus gach siorramachd as leth na cainnte. A nis bu bhochd an ni nan tugta tilleadh obann air an aghart sin. Bu bhochd an ni grabhadh agus bacadh a chur air an-Deugh obair, air taobh na cànaia, a bha na h-Ughdarras a' deanamh.

Tha e coltach gur e an t-aobhar mu bheil na h-atharraichean ud ri tachairt, gum bi airgid 'g a chaonadh ; agus mar an ceudna gum bi an obair 'g a coimhionadh na's fhearr fo chùram son sgioba. Tha cuid ag innseadh dhuinn gu bheil a' chosgais ro thom an diugh. Tha tuilleadh de sheirbheisich a' faotainn pàighidh an ceart uair na tha riatanach. Dheanadh àireamh bu lugha de sheirbheisich a' chùis. Faodaidh gu bheil sin fìor. Airson sàbhaladh airgid faodaidh gum bi na caochlaidhean a chum buannachd. Ach is e an gnothuch sònruichte a tha sinn an so a' cur gu dùrachdach fo chomhair A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, is e sin, am bi cothrom na's fhearr aig a' Ghaidhlig, ma theid riaghladh an fhòghluim a chur fo chumhachd beagan dhaoine air Comhairle na Siorramachd ? A bheil dearbhadh gun tabhair iad sin aire mar bu chòir, gu mionaideach, do theagasg na cànaia anns na sgoiltean ? Am bi A' Chomhairle ùr cho ìomhhor agus gum bi uiread de bhuill air Fo-Chomhairle an Fòghluim, is a tha a nis air Ughdarras an Fòghluim anns gach Siorramachd ? Mur bi, is ann mar so a thachras. Cha bhi eòlas aig an àireamh bhig ud air cor agus feumalachd nan sgrìean iomallach. Cha bhi e comasach do'n àireamh bhig ud, ùine agus aire gu leòr a bhuileachadh air cùis an fhòghluim. Cha bhi an gnothuch sin 'g a dheanamh ach gu cabhagach agus gu leth-sgodach. Mar so tha e buailteach gum bi a' Ghaidhlig a' fulang. Cìod is còir dhuinn a dheanamh mata a chum nach tachairso? Is còir dhuinn dìcheall agus faire a chleachdadh. Is còir dhuinn an gnothuch a chur gu soilleir follaiseach fo chomhair an luchd taghadh, a chum gum bi àireamh shonraichte de bhuill Comhairle na Siorramachd càirdeil agus bàigh-eil do 'n Ghaidhlig. Is beag is feairde sinn Achd an Fhòghluim mur tabhair sinn ar ceart aire gum bi òrdugh an Achd, a thaobh na cànaia 'g a chur an ceill gu dìleas feadh na Gaidhealtachd.

#### "VOICES FROM THE HILLS."

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## GAELIC IN SCOTLAND.

### The 1921 Census.

The figures of the 1921 census throw an interesting light on the state of the Gaelic language in Scotland at the present day, and to those who wish to arrest its decline will afford interesting and valuable information.

The distribution of Gaelic speakers in the Highlands is as follows:—

	Bi-lingual	Gaelic only	Total Population	Percentage of
Sutherland .....	8,729	69	49.8	
Ross and Cromarty ..	35,621	4718	57.0	
Inverness .....	35,449	4443	48.4	
Argyll .....	24,629	564	32.8	
Perth .....	6,265	15	5.0	
Nairn .....	527	—	6.0	
Caithness .....	1,003	—	4.6	
Bute .....	1,453	—	4.3	
Moray .....	812	—	2.0	
Dumbaron .....	2,033	—	1.3	
Banff .....	258	—	.3	
Aberdeen .....	405	—	.3	
	117,194	9600		

Total, 126,803 Gaelic speakers.

For Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Argyll, Perth, Bute, Caithness, and Aberdeen, the total was in 1911, 152,671 Gaelic speakers.

These figures are interesting, but it is of greater use to consider the number of Gaelic speakers in the age groups 0-20 and 20-upwards.

	Under 20			Over 20		
	Bi-lingual	Gaelic Only	All Gaelic Speakers as Percentage of Age Group	Bi-lingual	Gaelic only	All Gaelic Speakers as Percentage of Age-Group
Sutherland	1,693	15	30%	7,105	54	58%
Ross	9,833	1,392	47%	25,788	5,326	66%
Inverness	8,997	1,324	57%	26,510	5,119	61%

No figures available for Argyll, Bute, and Perth. In the other counties mentioned in the first list, out of a total of 4,794 Gaelic speakers, only 264 are under 20.

These figures would appear to show that a continual decline in the number of Gaelic speakers must be expected unless proper heed is given to the propaganda of An Comunn. Apparently many people who know Gaelic do not use it in their homes, or at least do not hand it on to their children, and this practice seems to be increasing. As linguistic enumeration commences with children of 3 years, one might expect the majority of Gaelic only speakers to be children of that age, but as has been shown, the reverse is the case, and it must follow that many people who



know English and Gaelic use only English to their children. Unfortunately, figures for the number of children in the age groups 3-4 years speaking Gaelic are only available for the islands. They are as follows:—

Insular Parishes in	1901		1911		1921	
	Percentage of Age Group		Percentage of Age Group		Percentage of Age Group	
Ross	1,044	74.4%	1,068	73.2%	516	65.5%
n verness	1,101	76.2%	1,018	78.9%	624	69.2%
Argyll	269	47.7%	212	44.0%	124	34.0%

No doubt the decline in Gaelic speaking was hastened by the war, and whether any recovery has been made from the war-time decline only the 1931 census will tell us. Nevertheless, it is very depressing to find the proportion of young Gaelic speakers so much smaller than that of old ones. It seems that many parents fear their children will be handicapped if brought up to speak Gaelic first (which is the only practical way it can be kept), and this fear does not seem unreasonable if it is true, as I have heard, that all instruction is given in English. Considerable time must be necessary for the Gaelic-speaking child to learn English before he can learn anything else, whereas the English-speaking child can start at once in his lessons on any subject. Surely such a disadvantage must often outweigh the force of sentiment, and become the radical reason for the decline of our national tongue.

◆ J. L. C.  
**GAELIC SOCIETY OF PERTH.**

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**THE LATE MRS. GRANT.**

All Gaels will learn with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Grant, the author of the series of Gaelic articles which are running in *An Gaidheal*. She was a native of Oban, and was in her 84th year. She possessed a keen intellect, and a strong literary faculty. She had a first rate knowledge of the Gaelic language and its literature. She was also well acquainted with several European languages. She translated Schiller's *William Tell* into Gaelic; and it was from the Norwegian that she translated the series of articles on the Norwegian Occupation, which are still appearing in this magazine.

**SEAN UACHDRANACHD NAN  
LOCHLANNACH AN ALBAINN,  
agus  
LORGAN DETH AIG AN AM SO.**

Air eadar-theangachadh as an  
Lochlanach le

CATRIONA N. GHRAND.

IX.

Tha Caol Chluaidh air leudachadh a mach gu farsuing; air taobh clì na luinge tha oirthir gorm, torrach Inbhir-àir a' boillsgeadh an dealradh-gròin na maidne; tha ar n-àire air a tharruing gu sonraichte ri baile beag nan Leargaidh, far an deachaidh Rìgh Haakon air thr an 1263. Anns a bhliadhna 1911 chaidh Tùr-cuimhne a thogail air son nan gaisgeach a thuit anns a' bhàir air gach taobh an 1263, tha e air a cheart àite air an do chuir iad an cas air tìr; tha e air a chur suas na riochd nan tùr àrd chloiche a thog na Cruithnich gu iad féin a dhìon o na Lochlannaich.

Aig na Leargaidh tha dòrlach ainmean àitean a tha gu soilleir eadar-dhealaichte o na h-ainmean eile anns a' choimhearsnachd; tha aca gun amharus blas Lochlannach; tha so a' neartachadh beachd Mbr. Bremner nach maireann gu'm faod e bhi gu'n do mhair iad an dèidh do thuingeachas Lochlannach a bhi 's an àite; is iad cuid duibh; Noddsdale (Nautsdalr=Glenn an spréidh), Girtley Hill (Grjot-hlid=Leathad-clachach), Langley Hill (Langahlid=Leathad-fada), Greeto Water (Grjot-á=Uisge clachach), Gogo Burn (Gauk-á Sruth na Cuthaige), Haylie (Hey-hlid=Leathad an fheòir), etc.

Mu choinneamh nan Leargaidh tha na Cumraidhean, facal Lochlannach "Kumreyjar" =eileana nan Cuimreach a bha 'g àiteachadh Srath Chluaidh o shean. Laigh cabhlach Rìgh Haakon aig na Cumraidhean an dà chuid roimh agus an dèidh blàr nan Leargaidh, a réir Sàga Rìgh Haakon Haakonsson.

Tha sinn o chionn ghreis a' faotainn plathadh de bhinneanan beanntan Arainn, an t-eilean mór d'am bheil sinn a' dlùthachadh (anns an Sàga air ainmeachadh Herøy no Hersey). Tha'n so dùthaich a tha air fad monadail, le monaidhean àrda, garbh, air an comhdach, ach beag, le ceò, agus mu'm bheil baidealan dorcha de neulaibh usgidh a' tionail a tha toirt thairis air aghaidh na dùthcha gu h-iomlan coslas neo-chàirdheil, fadhaich, tur eadar-dhealaichte bho chladach iosal gorm Inbhir-àir air an taobh eile de'n Chaol. An Arainn tha iomadh nì ri fhaotainn a bheir na Lochlannaich 'n ar cuimhne, gu h-àraidh na



h-àit-ainmean. 'Se 'cheud chamus mór air an téid sinn seachad, Breadhag, Brodik—'s an t-sean chaimt Lochlannaich "Broidavik," no Am Bàgh Leathann; b'e a cheud dòigh air a sgrìobhadh: Brethwic, Braithwick, agus Bradewik. 'S e 'n ath bhàgh Loch an Eilein, aon de na puirt is fearr air a' chorsa siar gu léir, oir tha'n t-eilean beag An t-Eilean Naomh (anns an Sàga, "Melanzy") a' laighe an teis meadhoin an fhosglaigh gu dol a steach, agus mar sin a' seasamh mar dhìon nàdurra; tha cabhlach Bhreatuinn a' dol air acair an sin an uair a tha e 'gabhail turuis mu'n cuairt oir-thir na dùthcha, agus thug e fasnadh do chabhlach mór Rìgh Haakon car ùine an dà chuid roimhe 's an déidh blàr nan Leargaidh am feadh a bha e fhéin agus Rìgh na h-Albann aig baile Inbhir-àir a' socrachadh an gnothuichean. Tha Melanzy, mar a dh'ainmich na Lochlannaich an t-Eilean Naomh an déidh Mholaise, a bha 'fuireach an sin agus gun teagamh a thug an ainmean do na h-àitean sin, 'na chulaidh-déigh do na Lochlannaich. A chionn, anns an uaimh anns am b'abhaist da fanachd agus a tha fathast ri fhacinn, tha sgrìobhaidhean air an gearradh 'nan sean chàinain, an "runic," mar a threair, agus tha so a' toirt móran toileachaidh dhaibh. Bha fos gu'n robh iad ann a chionn iomadh bliadhna, agus sgrìobh an t-Ollamh Lochlannach P. A. Munch, am measg muinntir eile, timcheall orra ach cha b'ann gu 1911 a chaidh rannsachadh a stigh annta le Lochlannaich ealanta anns na sgrìobhaidhean sin agus a chaidh am mineachadh gu ceart; b'iad an t-Ollamh Haakon Schetelig agus an t-Ollamh Månus Olsen air an turus mu'n cuairt an Eilean Bhreatunnach gu amharc a stigh anns na sgrìobhaidhean Runic, a thug an t-eadar-theangachadh eugnuidh do na rùnen Lochlannach anns an uaimh so. Chaidh iad 'nan dithis do'n àite comhla ri Mgr. J. A. Balfour nach maireann, a bha ag amharc as déidh an earrainn Lochlannaich anns an Historical Exhibition an Glaschu, agus comhla ris-san a sgrìobh am pàipeir so. 'Na pàipeir "Na Runes an Cill Mholaise, Air an Eilean Naomh" tha'n t-Ollamh Månus Olsen ag eadar-theangachadh nan sgrìobhaidhean mar a Leanas:—

Gheàrr Neacal à Haen (na runes). 2. Sreinn (cha ghabh an còrr deanamh a mach). 3. Gheàrr Anondur ru (nes). 4. Amundr. 5. Olafr. 6. Joan. 7. Vagleikr Stallare Gheàrr (runes). Is iad uile ainmean phearsa; cuid diubh o'n aon-linne-deug. Tha'n sgrìobhadh mu dheireadh, is mò agus is eireachdaile dhiubh uile, agus nach robh air eadar-theangachadh gu ceart gus a nis, 'na aobhar thoileachadh sonraichte; oir tha'n t-Ollamh Olsen a' leigeil ris gu

bheil againn an so pearsa air am bheil ar n-eachdraidh a toirt deagh eòlas dhuinn, 'se sin àrd-cheann-feadhna Rìgh Haakon, Vagleikr Audunsson, a tha air a ghairm an Sàga Rìgh Haakon Vagleikr Prestsson, tha e air ainmeachadh tuilleadh na aon uair mar cheannard a chabllaich; bha e air a chur air falbh roimh làimh le earrann de'n chabllaich gu Ceannntire gu a lom-sgrìos am feadh a bha Rìgh Haakon 'na laighe leis a chuid mhór de'n chabllaich aig Cearara, mu choinneamh an Obain; mar a chaidh innseadh cheana, bha e mar an ceudna air an turus a suas Loch Long, agus aig Loch Laomainn na dhéidh sin. Tha 'n t-Ollamh Olsen ag ràdh gu bheil an t-ainm so a' tighinn a stigh 'n a dhéidh sin an eachdraidh Lochlainn mar Vagleikr Stallare, mar anns an sgrìobhadh runic. Rinneadh barran deth le rìgh Månus Lagaboter, mac Rìgh Haakon a thàinig 'na dhéidh, agus mar so tha sinn a' faotainn flath mór Lochlannach a bha air an turus Lochlannach mu dheireadh Siar-thar-Sàile air a dheanamh neo-bhàsmhor trid 'ainm a' ghearradh air creig anns an uaimh so air An Eilean Naomh am feadh a bha a' chabhlach 'na laighe an Loch-an-Eilein. Tha 'n t-Ollamh Olsen a' smuainteachadh gu'm faod e 'bhi gu'n do ghabh Neacal o Haen pàirt mar an ceudna ann an turus Rìgh Haakon, agus gu'n do gheàrr e 'ainm an sin aig an aon àm, agus dh'fhaoidte gu'm be Haen an tigh mór sin de'n cheart ainm a bha an Eidsberg, a bha suidhichte aig Folkenborg, far an d'rugadh Rìgh Haakon.

Fhuaradh air an taobh eile de'n chamus o 'n uaimh, air Eilean Arainn, uaigh Viking o chionn dà bhliadhna, agus chaidh a cladhach a mach le Mgr. J. A. Balfour nach maireann; b'i uaigh-luinge a bh'innte, oir bha sparragan-luinge air am faotainn, cho math ri cop targaid, enàmhan loisgte, etc., a bha uile ri fhacinn anns an Historical Exhibition an Glaschu an 1911. Tha'n uaigh shuas air stùc fhollaiseach, le sealladh farsuing dìreach a mach ri muir, àite airigh air son uaigh ceann-feadhna Vikinger. Beagan na's isle na'n uaigh, air leathad a dh' ionnsuidh a' chamuis, mu choinneamh an Eilean Naomh, tha clach àrd 'n a seasamh, a' comharrachadh an àite as an do sheòl Raibeart am Brusach thàr a' chaoil gus an oidheipr dheireannach a thoirt air Albainn a shaoradh o làimh nan Sasunnach, an oidheipr a thàinig gu crìch aig blàr buadh-mhor Allt-a-Bhonnaich, 1314. Bha'n t-Ollamh Haakon Schetelig de'n bharail, air dha a' chlach a rannsachadh gu mion, gu'n do sheas a' chlach an toiseach aig ceann uaigh an Viking shuas air mullach an leathaid, mar a bu nòs anns na sean linntean, agus gu'n deachaidh a toirt a

nuas gus an t-àite 'chomharrachadh far an do ghabh an Rìgh Albannach an t-aiseag ainmeil an eachdraidh a dhùthcha. 'Se ainm an àite nis King's Cross.

Am measg àit-ainmean Lochlannach eile an Arainn faodar iad so a thoirt air adhart:—Sannox (Sannaig a bu choir dha bhì) Sandrik = Camus-gainmhich; Goatfell, sgrìobhadh is sine, Keafefelt, sean Lochlannach Geitafjall = Beinn nan Gobhar; Loch Ranza, sgrìobhadh is sine Locherayn say, Lochrenasy, *Reynis-á* = Abhainn-a-chaorainn; tha'n t-ainm Gàidhlig, Raonasa a' tighinn na's dlùithe do'n t-sean ainm Lochlannach; Catacol, Katta-gil = Clais-nan-cat-fadhaich; Ashdale, Ask-dalr = Gleann-ainn-Uinninn; Seorrodale, sgrìobhadh is sine Skoradel, Skorradalr = Gleann Scorri (ainm duine); Scaftigill, Skaptagill Clais Skapti (ainm duine); North Feorline, For-lendi = Tir eadar muir is monadh; Cleateadh-nan-Sgarbh; tha'n dà fhacal Gàidhlig sin o'n t-sean Lochlannach; Cleateadh, Klettr = Creag, no Sgòr, agus Sgarbh, Skarfr sgarbh, mar sin is ciall do'n ainm Creag-nan-Sgarbh. Faodaidh sinn Pladda 'chur riu sin, sgrìobht' roimhe so: Flada, Flat-ey = Eilean combharrd. Annta sin chan 'eil ach àireamh ro' bheag de àit-ainmean Arainn.

(Rì Leantainn.)

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

I wonder if any one of your readers is in possession of a copy of the poems, published in 1829, of Allan Macintyre, Foxhunter in Kintyre. If so, I should like if the possessor would either sell or lend the volume. I did have the loan of a somewhat mutilated copy—the only one he had—from Mr. Dugald Macintyre, Tobermory, a grandson of Allan's, but I should value much a complete copy of the volume. Macintyre was a poet above the ordinary—his verses not unworthy of his namesake, Duncan Ban, with whom he was on intimate terms. I excerpt the following passage from the notice of Allan in M'Lean's *Typographia Scoto-Gadelica*:—

The author, Allan Macintyre, better known as Ailein nan Sionnach, was a native of the parish of Skipness, Kintyre. He was seventy-five years old when his songs were published. His visits were considered somewhat troublesome, as the host was invariably called upon to feed a large pack of lean

hungry hounds that accompanied the foxhunter. His salutation always was: "Ma's toil leat mo sgial biadh mo choin."

Might I add that Mr. Dugald Macintyre, Allan's grandson, is well known as one of our leading Scottish naturalists, and is a welcome contributor to periodical literature. He is married to a daughter of the Bard Mackinnon, who in the early 'eighties gave us so much sound entertainment in the Glasgow Highland Gatherings of the time. If this should meet Mr. Dugald Macintyre's eye, perhaps he would contribute some of his father's recollections of his father to *An Gaidheal*.

E. O'D.

A' Chaillebheag, An t-Oban,  
Ceud mhios an Fhoghair.

Uasail Urramaich.—Tha sinn gu mòr an comain Bodach na Maoile Ruaidhe air son an sgeul ait a thug e dhuinn anns an àireamh mu dheireadh de'n *Ghaidheal*, mu'n mhaighdinn mhara a tha chomhnuidh air a' Charraig Thuibh.

Ach chan eil roisgeul a' Bhodaich a' toirt a bheag de fhiosrachadh dhuinn air a' chùis. Is e thug orm sgrìobhadh d' ur n-ionnsuidh an toiseach, a dh'fheuch an robh dearbhadh aig neach sam bith de'r luchd-leughaidh, cò dhuì tha an seanfhacal air an d'thug mi ionradh fìor no nach eil. Is e sin:—

"Chan eil carraig air nach caochail sruth,  
Ach Carraig Dhubb Buinne nam Biodag."

Bhithinn gu mòr an comain neach sam bith a bheireadh dhuinn soilleireachadh air a' chùis.

Is mise le mòr mheas, bhur caraid dlleas,

G. MAC ILLE MHUNA.

## SUMMER SCHOOL OF GAELIC.

The Summer School of Gaelic held at Broadford, Skye, from 19th July to 15th August has proved a completely successful venture. The numbers, it is true, were small: thirty, of whom two were deterred from coming, enrolled in the usual way, and a further sixteen, resident in or around Broadford, enrolled for music only. These numbers, however, must not be taken as indicative of the enthusiasm for Gaelic of

non-Gaelic speakers in Scotland. Far from it! The school was the first organised by An Comunn since 1913, and was therefore to some extent experimental, whilst owing to the impossibility of ensuring adequate accommodation, large numbers were not courted.

The students were of all ages, conditions, and occupations, and hailed from places as far apart as Shetland and Palestine. Notable amongst the students and visitors were Mrs. Burnley-Campbell, that veteran worker in the Gaelic cause, who brought her piper; Captain Ian Moffat-Pender, who, though but a recent recruit, is already known from the Butt of Lewis to the Mull of Kintyre as one of the most ardent supporters; Mrs. Macleod of Skeabost, who brought her company of Skye players to entertain and edify us with a performance of Mr. Malcolm M'Innes's delightful Gaelic opera or ballad-play, "Iseabal na h-Airidh"; Mr. Malcolm M'Innes himself; Rev. Dr. Norman Maclean of Edinburgh, who, as befits a Skye man, has fluent Gaelic; Mr. Charles Davidson, lecturer in Spanish at Aberdeen University; Miss Eleanore Cameron, whose art of singing Gaelic songs to the clarsach is worthy of emulation by our young Highland ladies; Mr. Douglas-Macdonald, from the Scots College in Palestine, who had some interesting things to say about the amazing revival of Hebrew as a spoken language after it had been "dead" for two thousand years; and Miss Lamond of Knockdow, who gave so generously of her time to the arduous task of organising the school.

The mornings were devoted to the study of Gaelic, the beginners' class being conducted by Miss Anne Johnstone, the intermediate by Mr. John N. Macleod, and the advanced by Mr. David Urquhart, M.A.

The class of Celtic Art, which met in the afternoons, consisted of a small but extremely enthusiastic group. The principles of Celtic Art were explained by Mr. Colin Sinclair, and for the subsequent designing of the characteristic interlaced patterns the students had only one word, "fascinating." The application of Celtic designs to leather work was supervised by Miss Macbride, of the staff of the Glasgow School of Art.

"The pibroch resembles the Celtic interlacing," a poet-piper once remarked to Mr. Sinclair. May we not hope that an art so

exquisite and so characteristic of our race will soon be taught in all the art classes in Highland schools?

The music class proved extremely popular, and the mingling of visitors and residents as fellow-students added to the pleasantness of our stay in Broadford. The students lived for the most part in the cottages scattered round the bay.

By way of recreation, a weekly ceilidh was held, and on Saturdays there was an excursion to one or other of the many beauty spots on the island. A particularly delightful day was divided between Skeabost and Dunvegan. At the former house the laird of Skeabost and Mrs. Macleod, whose son was attending the school, entertained a large party to lunch. The wild beauty of the landscape without, the geniality and warmth within, the generous table, the toasts proposed in Gaelic (both our host and hostess were fluent Gaelic speakers) and drunk with full Highland honours—it was for most of us a truly unique experience. Then Dunvegan—an enchanted name for all Highlanders—where Sir Reginald Macleod showed us the age-old treasures of the historic mansion, and his daughter, Mrs. Walter, graciously dispensed tea. There followed an hour of music in a setting few will ever forget. We sat looking out over the parapet to the sea and the hills beyond, whilst Mr. Seton Gordon paced the long gallery playing an ancient Macleod pibroch. Gaelic songs, mostly Macleod songs, were sung by members of the party, and our host recalled that in that very room, some three hundred years ago, Mary Macleod, the great Hebridean song-writer, had returned from exile to obtain her chief's pardon.

The long drive home at sunset, the halt at Struan to enjoy more fully the wonderful beauty of the blue Coolins, the visit of some of the party to a wayside cottage where a comely young woman, who was baking bannocks, insisted on regaling her visitors with tumblers of cream, all went to make a memorable day.

Language, art, songs, tramps, and ceilidhs—after four weeks in so wonderful an atmosphere, not one of us but left Skye more deeply attached than ever to the race we had sprung from, and more determined than ever to save all that is best in our ancient civilisation. For that, one thing, and one thing only, is all-essential—the preservation of the Gaelic tongue.

F. M. M'NEILL.

**Impressions of a Visit to the Summer  
School of Gaelic at Broadford,  
on 10th August, 1928.**

Those members of An Comunn Gaidhealach who take an active personal interest in the perpetuation of "ar cànan 's ar ceòl," are aware that a Summer School of Gaelic was arranged to be held at Broadford from 19th July to 15th August of this year. It was not the good fortune of the present writer to be able to join the school, but she was determined at any rate to make a pilgrimage to it, if even for one day only. It may be of some interest to readers of *An Gaidheal* to hear of the pleasant memories retained from that day's contact with those who were willing, and able, to devote a whole month of their summer to the language of their heart.

"Ma ta" (as the old Sgeultairean would be saying), the writer, grasping a dressing-bag and umbrella in place of the pilgrim's shell and staff, was ferried across the Kyle from the mainland, and, after various difficulties of the road were overcome, she found herself at the Schoolhouse at Broadford about the middle of the morning. Fortunately, it happened to be the off-time between the language classes. The members of the school were enjoying a few minutes of conversation among themselves, and it was easy to obtain an interview with the kind and courteous secretary, and with a well-known member of the Executive Council of An Comunn.

Permission having been obtained, the writer took her place in the elementary language class, beside a friend, who was a member of the Summer School. It would be difficult to describe the lesson in detail, but the impression left was of kind, patient, lucid, and thorough teaching, so much so that some of the points dealt with will be unforgettable, and if that is the teaching they get in the Isle of Barra, they are well off. One felt glad, also, that the mental calibre of the class was so high, including a university professor among its members. If an academic interest in the language is added to our national one, another strand is woven into the web of its permanence. Hitherto the higher study of the language has been left too much to scholars, such as Kuno Meyer, who are not of our race.

There were three grades of instruction at the Summer School, and gifted teachers held

intermediate and higher classes for those who were sufficiently advanced to profit by them.

After an interval for luncheon, the Art Class met in an annexe to the school. Various beautiful Celtic designs for leather-work or needlework were hung on the walls; and, owing to the efforts of the Art Committee of An Comunn, it is now possible to obtain some Celtic transfers, such as the "Whithorn knot and double circle," and a panel with "Trefoil in centre and Zoomorphic ends"; also interlaced designs in quaint forms, which will no doubt become very popular for artistic work. The pupils of the Summer School were carrying out some beautiful work in leather under the direction of an inspiring teacher from the Glasgow School of Art.

The evening was devoted to music. On the day we are describing the Music Class took the form of a lecture on the value of the vowels and consonants in Gaelic, both for singing and speaking. This very interesting work was followed by some instruction in key-finding and sight-reading. Owing to a death in the village, it was decided that anything in the nature of a concert would be out of place, so the exercises were kept very quiet; but one felt that a most interesting hour had been spent under the guidance of a teacher who had expert knowledge both of Gaelic and of music. In this way a most enjoyable day was brought to a close.

One or two things were remarkable about the school as a whole. One felt at once at home in a gathering of fellow-Celts. Then there was the impression of the concentration of a faithful few, who would bear away with them the "feu sacré," and light other lamps in the bigger world by their own enthusiasm.

One factor which should greatly help in encouraging the practice of Gaelic is the new society, "Clann an Fhraoich," under whose rules members are pledged to speak to one another in the old language. "Patience" is its watchword. Those who are fluent in Gaelic are to exercise "foighiduin" in helping those who are beginners in speaking; while the latter, in turn, are not to weary in their efforts to acquire the real sounds and niceties of the language. "Mar so bithidh suaicheantas beag airgid air a dhealbhadh, air am bi dealbh bad fraoich, agus fo an fhraoich bithidh am facal Foighiduin."

"Bithidh coir air a toirt do Chlann an Fhraoich,  
An suaicheantas so a ghiùlan, air  
A' mhòd so a' leigeil ris do chéile gur Clann  
An Fhraoich iad."

This little sketch may well conclude with best wishes for the success of this new help in acquiring a speaking knowledge of Gaelic.

E. C. M'KECHNIE.

## GAELIC WORDS EMBEDDED IN THE ENGLISH OF INVERNESS.

### Recollections by a Clach Boy.

The approach of the National Mod awakens memories of Inverness where, in the Seventies I was a stripling, full, I can remember, of the spirit of the old and kindly town. Of these memories one of the most definite is of certain words in the juvenile vocabulary whose source did not then concern us, our gratification being that they gave terse and pithy expression to our meanings. It was after many years, indeed, that the words referred to were discovered to be some of them actual Gaelic vocables, and the remainder more or less traceable to the older language. Like the rest of my companions I was throughout my boyhood ignorant of the language—albeit the first tongue of both my parents—but my mother was ever solicitous I should acquire Gaelic, and a fortuitous migration by our family to Lochaber enabled me at the age of fourteen to repair the omission of my earlier years. It was the working knowledge of the ancient vernacular then acquired that enables me now to interpret, or to attempt to interpret, expressions current in my Inverness days which at the time might as lief be Romany.

I leave it to the leisured philologist to discern how far the survival of so many Gaelic words contributed to the reputation justly possessed by the English of Inverness. What I do in the columns of An Gaidheal is to recall as many as occur to me of these Gaelic expressions, and it may be, variants of Gaelic words which in the days of my youth were still imbedded in the English of the school, the street and the playground. I venture occasionally upon elucidations which I am not certain are always beyond criticism, and nothing will gratify me more than good natured correction. Here then is the list:—

1. *Misafear*, as if it were; obviously from *Mas fhior*.

2. *Pose*, to save money, hence *Pose Box*; derived, I should say, from *Bosd*, Gaelic for *Box*.

3. *Scran*, light or casual food; from *Sgradag*, a small morsel.

4. *Dorcan*, an acorn; Gaelic *Darcán*.

5. *Twig*, to understand; clearly from *Tuig*, to understand.

6. *Speil*, a thin cut of wood; from Gaelic *spealg*, a splinter.

7. *Sigh*, a sixpence; from Gaelic *siath six*.—I can recall my amazement when I went to Glasgow to find that the slang word there for sixpence was "tanner," and not as in Inverness.

8. *Golachan*, an earwig, and sometimes a wood louse; from Gaelic *Gobhlachan*, an earwig.

9. *Scall*, a country servant; from Gaelic *sgalag*, a ploughman, which in its turn is derived from Norse *Skall* servant.

10. *Boush*, an errand for payment; probably from Gaelic *Bois*, the palm of the hand (held out for a coin).

11. *Drein*, a frown, the exact word in Gaelic.

12. *Partan*, a crab. This Gaelic word has been adopted into *Braid Scots*, which contains a good many words originally Gaelic. *Partan*, from the Gaelic, is thus not confined to Inverness.

13. *Croaties*, ground nuts.—There were two kinds of these "meal" and "sweet," and the equivalent term in the lowlands is believed to be "Lucy Arnots." It is hazarded that *Croatie* is derived from the Gaelic *Cno*, a nut, pronounced "Cro."

14. *Eitneach*, scanty or near enough; from the Gaelic *eigineach*, of which *Dwelly's Dictionary* gives, among others, these meanings, needy, needful, poor, niggardly, parsimonious.

15. *Bod*, an old man; contracted from Gaelic *Bodach*.

16. *Crionag*, the little finger; from Gaelic *Crion*, small.

17. *Ruaig*, in Gaelic, Pursuit, flight. Used in Inverness to signify a boy playing truant or otherwise overstaying his presumed absence from home, and consequently afraid to return. A boy in this plight was said to be "On the *Ruaig*."

18. *Rooch*, to strip (of money, or it may be personal articles). The word was generally used with reference to play at marbles when one boy won all those of another boy:—I take it to be a variant of the Gaelic "ruisg," to strip, rather than of the English word *Rook* which, also signifying deprival, does so in



association with the notion of fraud. There was no fraud—simply misfortune—implied in Rooch.

19. *Stuirt*, anger, sulkiness, the precise word in Gaelic.

20. *Spagach*, splay footed, a direct loan from Gaelic.

21. *Orrat*, a small insignificant person; seems to have a Gaelic origin which I am unable to trace, unless it be Urrag, an infant.

22. *Moolie*, a term of endearment to a child; from the Gaelic M'ulaidh, my treasure.

23. *Meadail*, my dear one; from the Gaelic M'eudail.

24. *Fugee*, a challenge by one boy to another to box; from the Gaelic Fuidsidh, a craven.—Dwelly's Dictionary gives the paragraph, "A toirt fuidsidh dha," meaning, challenging him.

25. *Meig*, it does not *make* meaning, it does not matter. I am not sure that this word is imported from Gaelic. The nearest possible derivative I can spot is Meig, to cry, but the word is possibly East Coast Scots.

27. *Slìopach*, clumsy, awkward, the exact word in Gaelic.

28. *Seid*, applied to the explosion of a small heap, or a short line of gunpowder, a common, though dangerous, diversion of Clach boys in the 'seventies. The word is the Gaelic Seid, a puff.

I trust this list may suggest other old Inverness expressions which were borrowed from Gaelic, and that those of my fellow natives to whom they occur may write An Gaidheal with supplementary lists. I conclude with allusion to an Inverness custom of my juvenile days which has often intrigued me since. When fixing sides for a game it was the method, as an alternative to that of selection by the leaders, to order the Macs to play on one side, and the Crops, *i.e.*, the non-Macs—to play on the other, the leaders using some rough and ready system of equalisation when the Macs or the Crops predominated in numbers. I have often wondered whether the division into Macs and Crops was reminiscent of the days when cropped ears denoted the dynastic sympathies of the unfortunate who possessed them. The historical fact that most Macs were Jacobite gives colour to this hypothesis, but there may be another explanation which it would be interesting to hear.

EÒIN O'DUIBHNE.

## THE PARLOPHONE.

It will be a very great pleasure to everyone in Scotland who is interested in Gaelic to know that the new system of acquiring a knowledge of Gaelic by means of gramophone and gramophone records is to be introduced through the agency of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Two of An Comunn's members, Lady Elspeth Campbell and Mr. Compton MacKenzie, are largely responsible for this. Through their combined initiative and generosity, sufficient money has been guaranteed to ensure that An Comunn itself is practically indemnified against possible loss. At any rate, An Comunn and An Comunn's members stand to gain a very great deal, and to lose very little.

Many people have already proved the utility of this method in the study of French and other continental languages. It is very helpful. Of course, one cannot learn a language by this method, and by this method only. It is of very great service, but in the first place there must be the real desire and the will to learn. The Parlophone is as a master who is always at hand—but as a master who can answer no questions! So one must learn up one's grammar and enlarge one's vocabulary apart from the master, apart from the Parlophone.

*One must also converse with native speakers on every possible occasion.*

We wish to express to Lady Elspeth Campbell and to Mr. Compton MacKenzie our gratitude for their having launched the idea in Gaeldom. Though we have recollections, too, of the charming and ever-enthusiastic Mrs. Burnley Campbell walking many miles one hot Saturday forenoon in London last summer in order that the efficaciousness of the Parlophone might be tested! God bless you, Mrs. Burnley Campbell: where would your feet not lead you when interests pertaining to Gaeldom and to Gaelic might be involved

Incidentally, may it be very respectfully suggested that more than "voice" should be requisitioned in the enregistering of the lessons on the records. Argyllshire Gaelic is very good, but, like every other kind of Gaelic, it is only good when it is good—otherwise it may be very bad! It would lend interest to the scheme in general if, as well as the "voice" of the General Secretary, the "voices" of the conveners of both the Education Committee and of the Propaganda

Committee—representing Ross-shire and Sutherlandshire, respectively—and the “voice” of our Editor—representing Inverness-shire—could be reproduced. Then, if only for this purpose alone, inter-county claims would be satisfied.

I. M. M.-P.

### NA TREIG A' GHAIHDLIG!

[We have much pleasure in introducing to our readers Mr. F. H. Van den Broeck of Antwerp, an ardent lover of Gaelic, who has already made wonderful progress in the study of our language, and has even written some interesting letters in it. It is inspiring to us to know how other Celts regard our valuable heritage, and the warning given in the following letter should be taken to heart by every Gael.—ED.]

It may perhaps be considered as an intrusion for one who is neither of Scottish nor Highland birth to interfere in the question of the preservation of the Gaelic language in the Highlands of Scotland, but, as a friend of the Gael and a student of the Gaelic language, I think I may be allowed to warn the Gaelic people against the tendency of forsaking the Gaelic in favour of English.

In my native country, Belgium, the first inhabitants were Celts, and spoke a Celtic language closely related to the Gaelic of Scotland. Such names as *Ardennes* (meaning high grounds), *Arlon* (from *Aro-loin*, the mansion by the pool; compare *Aros* in the Isle of Mull), *Gavre* (the field of the goat, from *Gabhar-airidh*); then names of rivers like *Sambre* (meaning quiet water, from *Samara*, compare with *samhach* in Gaelic), *Ambleve* (meaning river, from *ambi*, in Gaelic *abhainn*), and many others, clearly show their Celtic origin. But how is the situation to-day? We shall soon see that. Celtic, or Gallic, as it is sometimes called, kept its own ground after the Roman conquest by Julius Cæsar, and was still spoken in the country until about the middle of the sixth century (about the time of St. Columba), but then, as the country was conquered by the Franks, the Belgian Celts allowed their own language to disappear and took to that of their conquerors, while in the South, Celtic was gradually being forsaken for a Romanised tongue, which later on became French.

So that nowadays there is no such thing as a Belgian language. One half of the

nation speaks the language of a friendly but, nevertheless, foreign people; the French, and the other half Flemish, which is almost like Dutch, the difference between those two languages being merely one of accent and pronunciation. What a blessing it would have been for the Belgian people had they been able to keep up their original Celtic tongue, and had they had a national tongue during all those long years of struggle for liberty against alien oppressors. The Czechs are a typical example here. How much easier would it have been to maintain the national characteristics of the people had there been such a thing as a distinctive national language.

The same thing applies to Scotland. A Highlander who forsakes the Gaelic and speaks nothing but English ceases to be a Highlander, for what has he in common with the Highlanders who have kept their own property handed down to them by their ancestors—things that cannot be valued in £ s. d.—poetry, music, literature, history even. What has such a Highlander as national characteristic? For a real Highlander, speaking his own language, the name of every hill in his country, of every stream or place, has a meaning, to him they tell a story; but one who has forsaken the old language is a foreigner in the land of his fathers. What does *Cruachan Bann*, or *Taigh na Uillt*, or *Achadh na Cloich*, or *Port Rìgh* convey to his mind? Nothing! They are merely *Ben Cruachan*, *Taynuilt*, *Achnacloch*, *Portree*, meaningless names of a hill and of some towns or villages.

During my last holiday in the Highlands I have met some people who asked me: “What’s the good? Why learn Gaelic? It is not a commercial language,” and so on. May I ask these people a question or two in return? What is your ideal? Money, money, and yet money? But money is not everything in this world. Money never made a race, but it has often made slaves. Tradition, history, language, love of freedom—these are some assets in the making of a race. What is a Highlander who has lost the Gaelic? Is he an Englishman? Certainly not! At most, a “copy” of an Englishman, that is all.

I have taken up the study of the Gaelic language because, during the years I have lived in Scotland, and also elsewhere, I have learned to love the Highlander and the Highlands, and the best way to get to know a people is to acquire their language.

I do want to point out that I am not at all hostile to the English language, far from it; on the contrary, I am a great admirer of English, but the English language ought to leave the Gaelic alone. Let the Highland children learn the two languages. Let the Gaelic language have the same treatment as French has in Canada, and Dutch in South Africa.

Highlanders, do not forsake the language of your ancestors. If you did so, you would be sorry, very sorry, for it, but then it would be too late. Perhaps you do not realise what you possess, a language of your own, but once lost it would be too late to regret it. It can be saved yet; save it, it is your duty. Gaels, do not be shy in presence of Sassenachs, speak Gaelic as often as you can. It is not sufficient to say from time to time, "Na treig a' Ghaidhlig!" Keep the language alive by using it as much as you can. I cannot but congratulate Mr. Iain Moffat-Pender on his idea of creating an association within the Comunn Gaidhealach, "Clann an Fhraoich," whose members pledge themselves to use nothing but Gaelic, either in conversation or in writing to one another. As soon as I shall know Gaelic sufficiently well, I, too, want to become one of the children of the heather and speak nothing but Gaelic when on a visit to the Highlands.

Suais leis a Ghaidhlig!

F. H. VAN DEN BROECK.

Brasschaet, near Antwerp,  
Belgium.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—It is frequently, and, indeed, for the most part, truly said, that the greatest danger to the Gaelic movement is not opposition, but indifference. But I have long doubted whether this is as universally applicable as is usually supposed, and I beg the favour of your columns to put forward an aspect of the present situation which frequently escapes notice.

At one time, no doubt, there was such a difference in dress and social customs between Highlander and Lowlander that it was possible to draw a complete line of demarcation between the two. What is often forgotten is that it was not correct, up till the eighteenth century at least, to draw a distinct line with regard to language. Gaelic was the language of Fife and a great part of the counties of Angus and Aberdeen until a comparatively late period.

Although my father was of Black Isle stock, and the son of Gaelic-speaking parents, I was born and brought up in the land of my mother's ancestors, the Douglasses, and from my intimate knowledge

of the people of Angus and Mearns I venture to believe that many of them would show by no means the same indifference as is usually supposed if opportunity were offered them to study what is, after all, the language of their ancestors also. Some opposition there might be, but I have no doubt in my own mind that if even the academic study of Gaelic were introduced in the higher-grade schools a large number would be found willing to take advantage of it.

Furthermore, the towns of the Lowlands are full of people of actual Highland descent, people who, thanks to our present stupidly anti-national education, are ignorant not only of the language of their fathers, but even of the glorious racial heritage which is theirs. Without doubt, thousands of them also would immediately take advantage of any opportunity to learn Gaelic.

As a mere boy I longed with an indescribable longing to learn the Gaelic tongue, and, in the absence of any opportunity whatever for so doing, I set myself, with the assistance of MacBean's grammar and phrase-book, to learn it in the spare time left me from the study of four other languages and two sciences. I wish to say most emphatically that I never met any opposition, and practically no indifference. Many of my teachers—practically all of Lowland descent—went out of their way to encourage me, and one of them was so enthusiastic that he commenced to study the language himself. My schoolfellows also were helpful, and a considerable number expressed a great desire to do likewise, and were complimentary and envious when, on a cycle tour in the Highlands, I was able to address a few phrases to passers-by in good enough Gaelic to be understood. Two of them learned from me all I knew, and on every possible occasion we used the few words which we had acquired. The pronunciation, no doubt, was execrable, but the right spirit was there.

Only when I went to the University and met Gaelic-speaking students did I encounter the indifference we hear so much about. My blundering attempts at conversation were usually received with an amused contempt; few were willing to render me any assistance whatever, and, indeed, I think I am right in my assertion when I say, and say emphatically, that most of the indifference comes from Highlanders themselves, and Gaelic-speaking Highlanders at that. It is my appreciation of its arduous struggle against this same indifference that is the chief ingredient in my admiration for the splendid work of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

One word more. Can nothing be done for those of us who are Highlanders born south of the line? Surely something could be done to bring the movement into touch with us, and to the notice of those who are quite unconscious of the principles at stake. It is for more and more young men and women who are Gaelic speakers to qualify themselves for teaching the language, and I doubt not that if propaganda were organised not a few of our Lowland authorities would in time signify their willingness to introduce Gaelic into the Leaving Certificate curriculum as an optional subject. The present Gaelic Clause is too narrow. I feel deeply that this aspect of the situation does not receive sufficient attention, but there is no use trying to create a demand if there is no way of producing a supply. Perhaps some of your members could suggest means of making a start with such propaganda, or at least bringing the movement to bear a little more upon this neglected need.

Finally, to those who would ask, "Can any Gaelic come out of Galldom?" I would reply in appropriate phrase, "Come and see!"—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

T. DOUGLAS MACDONALD.

Scots College, Safed, Palestine.

Sir,—I write to thank you for your Gaelic article in the issue for August, in which you put forward a strong and convincing plea for better attendance by members of Branches at the Gaelic services in the towns where Branches exist. It is just a pity you did not make it clear that you do not make any denominational claim, as An Comunn comprehends members of all Christian denominations, and I do not think that there is anything in the Constitution to exclude a Jew or a Mahomedan who became affected with the zeal for Gaelic culture.

But the particular point I wish to emphasise is this: while there is regrettable omission on the part of many members of An Comunn to recognise the Gaelic services, there is even more cause to regret the frequent absence from the Gaelic services in the churches of the members of the families of the preachers themselves. It is common knowledge that comparatively few Gaelic-speaking ministers see to it that their families learn the language, and one feels that until this condition of affairs is remedied a general appeal to those who understand Gaelic will lack driving force. You make correct allusion to the situation in Wales, where the native tongue is being nourished in the Sabbath Schools. It would be well to add, as I seek now to do, that the superior position of Welsh in Wales in comparison with Gaelic in Scotland is largely due to the fact that Welsh clergymen of all denominations make it a point of honour that the members of their families should equip themselves with the tongue of the people. When a similar condition prevails in the Highlands, there will, I trow, be little occasion to deplore ill attendance at Gaelic diets of worship.—Yours truly,

LATHURNACH.

Greenock, 12th August, 1928.

### LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1928.

(GAELIC.—Lower Grade.)

Tuesday, 27th March—10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

*The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question.*

N.B.—Begin each question on a fresh page.

Write legibly and neatly, and leave a reasonable space between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad writing and spelling.

1. Translate into English :—

Bha Iain eòlach air aisridh chumhaing an fhéidh is na h-earba, is b'e thoilcachas-intinn an fhaghaid a leantuinn le òigridh na tìre. Cha robh bearradh no bealach, no aithghearradh

troimh mhonadh, no beul-átha air abhainn, no càrn, no garaidh, air nach robh e mion-eòlach. Ré an t-samhraidh, b'i uamh nan creag a chòmhnuidh: ghluais e o àirigh gu h-àirigh, is cha deachaidh e riamh air falbh falamh o h-aon diubh. Cha bhiodh e gun lòn fhad 's a bhiodh dearc air tom, meas no cnothan an coille; chan fhàilnicheadh a leaba, am feadh 's a gheibheadh e fraoch badanach gorm, a' fàs gu dosrach anns gach àite; agus mar thubhairt e fhéin, bha a chuid tromp soirbh r'an gleusadh. Bha dhachaidh anns gach àite far an laigheadh a' ghrian air; agus còmhla cha do dhruideadh riamh air. Cha robh mhàileid doirbh r'a giùlan; cha robh innte ach a' chlach-theine agus am fadadh spùinge, sgian dubh a dh' fheannadh nam fiadh, ribe a ghlacadh an fhìrean, agus cromag iaruin a lùbadh nan geug. [20]

2. Translate into English :—

*Oran na Samhna.*

Air Oidhche na Samhna bidh ann, bidh ann,  
Buidisichean 's deamhna neo-ghann, neo-ghann;  
Bidh sìthchean le aighir a' marcachd 'san athar,  
'S a' toirt leo mnathan is clann, is clann.  
Bidh móran de dhaoine fo sprochd, fo sprochd,  
'S a' chlann bheag ag caoineadh gu goirt,  
gu goirt;  
Bidh mnathan ag glaodhaich, 's cha bhì iad  
gun aobhar,  
'S na sìthchean 'gan slaodadh do'n chnoc,  
do'n chnoc.

Ged bhios logaidean 's bodaich air falbh, air falbh,

Tha an oidhche sin sona gu dearbh, gu dearbh;  
Gheibh fheasgaichean 's caileagan brath air an leannain,

Le fuisneachd gun mhearachd, gun chearb,  
gun chearb.

Bidh fheasgaichean 's cailean gun tàmh, gun tàmh,

A' falbh feadh gach baile 'g goid càil, 'g goid càil;

Cha bhì gàradh no callaid nach leag iad gu talamh,

'S iad teicheadh leis dhachaidh gun nàir,  
gun nàir. [20]

3. Translate into Gaelic :—

The life of a St. Kilda fowler is perilous indeed. Sometimes he must make his difficult way along scarcely perceptible ledges, where one false step would involve certain death. But the most inaccessible cliffs are always the most thickly crowded with nests, so these are

the goals to be won; the lower cliffs, to which his companions can let him down by strong ropes, are comparatively safe quarters, though dangerous enough. As to the ropes, they are precious property; a good rope is a maiden's dowry, and is the most precious legacy which friend can bequeath to friend. The rope must be about thirty fathoms long, and the best are those made of strong raw cowhide in three-fold twist; this is wrapped round with sheep-skin to prevent the sharp rocks from cutting it. [20]

4. Write in Gaelic a continuous story, based on the following summary, and complete it in your own way. The story should be about one and a half times the length of your answer to Question 3 and should on no account exceed twice that length. Failure to comply with this instruction may lead to a loss of marks:—

*A Morning Walk.*

One morning an Irishman goes out very early in search of game on estate of wealthy gentleman in neighbourhood—turns sharp corner—suddenly meets owner of estate—impossible to avoid him—approaches boldly—inquires of proprietor his reason for being out so early—latter says he is out for a stroll to get an appetite for breakfast—looks at Irishman with suspicion—asks why *he* is out so early—Irishman replies. [20]

(Higher Grade.—First Paper).

Tuesday, 27th March—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

*The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question*

N.B.—Begin each question on a fresh page. Write legibly and neatly, and leave a reasonable space between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad writing.

1. Translate into English:—

Có dhíùbh thachras do neach a bhi sealbhachadh sonais agus sògh an t-saoghail, no tha e an teinn le bochdainn agus trioblaid, tha comhairle dha, no còmhnaidh, a réir fheum, 's na sean-fhacail. Có dhíùbh is e feabhas inn-tinn, stiùradh spioradail, no rabhadh saoghalta tha e sireadh, gheibh e sin o sheanairean a bha thall is a chunnaic, 'nuair a labhras iad ris anns na briathran as usa an tuigsinn, as crionna rabhadh agus teagasg, agus as cuimsiche dh'amaiseas dha air smior na frinne. Chan 'eil oisinn de theampull cridhe an duine

anns nach 'eil lagh no bagradh freagarrach crochta leò. Is mar is ann o'n chridhe thàinig iad, is ann mar sin as fhearr is aithne dhoibh an cridhe ruighinn, agus, le dirichead ghuinich saighde, an làrach 's am bi an cron no an coire a shònradhadh. Bu duilich do luchd-eachdraidh coigreach an dùthchas is an dualchas a chlosonadh gu buileach an àm bhi ag iomradh air sluagh na Gàidhealtachd. Air an Ionadh le mórachd agus greadhnachas gach gnàths deasach, bha da-rìreadh airidh gu leòir, air an dalladh ach gann le measalachd agus fathalachd an dùthcha fhéin, an taice ri suarachas na Gàidhealtachd bhòchd, chan iongnadh idir ged nach robh iarraidh no sùil aig luchd an àilghis ach airson comharraidhean buirbe is allmharachd; do bhrìgh sin bha iad mar bu trice buain nan àirneagan searbha is a' saltairt nan crean meala. [30]

2. Translate into English:—

*Oran Brathan.*

“Beil, a chailleach, a' bhrà, is fear a' tighinn 'gad iarraidh.”

“Ciod e an t-aodach a th'air?”

“Lùireach is bàrlag is sean chraicinn brathan.

Is maide brathan air son claidhímh air a leis.”

“Beilidh mi gu dìonganta i, gu dìonganta i, gu dìonganta i.”

Chì mi fada bhuan thu,  
Mo luaidh ort 's mo rath,  
Ag amharc air a' bhuar  
Ata 'g cluain air an t-srath.

Tha mo luran ort, a ghaoil,  
Tha mo chuilin ort, a ghràidh;  
Thogadh tu mo smùr dhìom:  
Is tu mùirnein nam flath.

Tha sealladh aig mo shùilean  
Thog eallach dhìom is dùiseal,  
Is tha m'aire nis air sùgradh  
Le cùirteir nam flath.

Tha m' fhaireachadh air dùsgadh,  
Cha chailleach ach bean ùr mi;  
Mo ghean air aiseag lùis dhomh,  
Is mo rùn air an t-srath.

Tha m' ulaidh air an fhiùran  
Na nullaichean a shiùbhladh;  
Tha m' fhuil a' dèanadh cùil dhomh,  
'S mo dhiùlnach 'san t-srath. [25]

3. Translate into English:—

Agus is dìomhaoineach an baethadhach beag baoth an damhán allaidh, agus gurab le glocas 7 le géarinnleacht do-ní sé a ordughadh mas



fìor dhó féin, i. tairngidh sé líon gacha taoibhe dhe féin, 7 do-ní sé sin go daingean do-bhrisde go bhfios dó féin, 7 gabhaidh sé a lán do chuil-eógaibh beaga gan éifeacht ann, 7 biaidh dóchas mór aige as féin 7 as a líon lán chuiléog; agus ar an bpoine sin féin tiocfaidh srann gaoithe 7 ní bhia fios cáit a mbí sé féin nó a chuid chuiléog; agus an uair do-gheibh sé ciúine 'na dhiaidh sin, buailidh sé fán inneal chéadna do dhéanamh, 7 tairngidh sé líon as láidire ná an líon roimhe 7 as mó thuilfeas ann, agus biaidh dóchas mór aige as féin ní as mó ná do-bhí aige roimhe; agus an uair shaoilfeas sé féin do bheith comhláidir 7 comhlíonmhor agus bhús mian leis, tiocfaidh srann gaoithe gailbhige chuige ar a nós chéadna, 7 fuadúighear é féin 7 brisdear 7 milltear a líon 7 a chuid chuiléog le silleadh na súla. [20]

7=agus.

(Higher Grade.—Second Paper).

Tuesday, 27th March—2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.

*The value attached to each question is shown in brackets after the question.*

N.B.—Begin each question on a fresh page. Write legibly and neatly, and leave a reasonable space between the lines. Marks will be deducted for bad writing and spelling.

#### SECTION I.

*All the questions in this Section should be attempted.*

1. Write an essay, in Gaelic, on *one* of the following subjects:—

(a) An Geamhradh anns a' Ghàidhealtachd.

(b) Obair latha tòiseachadh. [30]

2. Turn into idiomatic Gaelic:—

(a) I think little of the folk who depreciate their own country.

(b) We think it a pity that so many are forced to emigrate owing to lack of work.

(c) Four of the largest rivers in Scotland are the Spey, the Dee, the Tay, and the Clyde.

(d) One day, as I was walking in the woods, I saw the nests of two little birds whose eggs had been stolen. [10]

3. Translate into English:—

(a) Chumadh i rium gruth is uachdar, Air fhuaireid 's gum biodh an t-earrach.

(b) Is duilich do mhnaoi beanas-tighe

Dhéanamh air na fraighibh fása.

(c) Chan fhuirich muir ri uallach,

Is cha déan bean luath maorach.

(d) Tha uaisle fo thuinn an Clann Lachlainn. [10]

#### SECTION II.

*THREE questions should be attempted from this Section. The answers may be either in Gaelic or in English.*

4. Mention any poems you know which deal with hunting and name their authors. Give a short account of one of them.

5. Give a short account of the field customs of the Old Highlands.

6. Write a note on any *one* of the following: Iain Lom, Alasdair mac Cholla, an Ciaran Mabach, Dornhall á h-Ile. [5]

7. Describe the metres of the following:—

(a) Tha a h-aodann geal mar a' chailc, 'S a corp sneachdaidh air dheagh dhealbh; Maoth leanabh le gibhteann saor, Air nach facas fraoch no fearg.

(b) Biomaid toilicht' leis na thà, O nach d'fhaod sinn bhí na's fearr; Cha bhí ar cuairt an so ach gearr, Is leanaidh sinn an Suaitheas Bàn. [5]

8. What meaning (or meanings) do you attach to any *eight* of the following:—Sonn, fùran, eireachdail, labhar (adjective), àruinn, uchair, dallag, caochan, gearraidh, murlach. [5]

#### SECRETARY'S PAGE.

The Inverness Mod,  
Sept. 25, 26, 27, 28.

The entries for the 1928 Inverness Mod have now been received, and the large number of participants in the many competitions seem well to emphasise the progress that has attended the work of An Comunn within recent years. An analysis of the figures reveals several interesting facts, principal among these being that there has been received a larger number of papers for the Junior Literary competitions than usual. This is also noticeable in the entries received for the Senior Oral competitions. The figures for these competitions constitute new records at post war Mods. The entries

for this year's Junior Literary competitions number 402, and this total is 196 in advance of the highest figures of previous years. This gratifying feature is to be commended as it is with the written and spoken language that the future of Gaelic is concerned, and we trust that this increase will be maintained, or better still, exceeded on future occasions. The total entries number 1138, and are made up as follows:—Junior Oral 64, Literary 402, Solo and Duet 158, Choral 18, Senior Oral 59, Literary 31, Solo and Duet 327, Choral 53, Instrumental 24, Musical Compilation 2.

The competition among rural choirs for the Lorn Shield promises to be very keen. Eleven choirs representing practically the entire Gaelic speaking area will participate, while in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield competition all the old rivals of recent years will again take part.

The programme has been arranged somewhat similarly to that of previous years. Tuesday, the opening day, will be devoted entirely to Junior competitions with the Junior concert in the evening. The Senior competitions commence on Wednesday, and will continue till Friday, when the choir competitions will conclude the proceedings. The official opening takes place on Wednesday at 12 noon, and in the evening a reception will be given to the officials, competitors, and members, in the Town Hall by Provost MacEwan, the Magistrates, and Councillors of the Burgh of Inverness. On Thursday evening the Rural Choir Concert with the Hon. Mrs. Smyth presiding, will take place in the Wesleyan Central Hall. A new departure is this year being made in connection with the Friday evening grand concerts. The practice of holding two concerts one following the other, is being discontinued, and instead the two concerts will be proceeded with concurrently, one in the Wesleyan Central Hall, and the other in the Central Picture House. Sir Archibald Sinclair, M.P., will preside at the concert in the Picture House, and Mr. Compton MacKenzie will perform a similar service in the Wesleyan Hall. Prices of admission has been arranged as follows:—Junior Concert on Tuesday evening, 2s. 4d. and 1s. 2d. Rural Choir Concert on Thursday, 3s. 6d. and 2s. 4d., and the Friday evening concerts, 5s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 2s. 4d. Seats may be booked at Messrs Neil and MacLennan, Academy Street, Inverness, for each of these. It has been arranged that cheap fare facilities will be given by the railway companies during the Mod period. The con-

cessions are:—(1) The issue of return tickets at single fare for the return journey (plus fractions of a penny) to individuals on surrender at the booking office of the authorised voucher, which must bear my signature. (2) For individuals desiring a ticket valid for longer than one day.—Return fare at single fare and a third (plus fractions of threepence) will be issued from all stations in Scotland, including Carlisle and Berwick; the tickets to be valid from day before till day after the Mod. The same conditions regarding voucher are also applicable in this case. (3) Choir parties of not less than twelve adult passengers travelling together to and from the Mod on the same day, can be conveyed at single fare for the double journey (plus fractions of a penny), and (4), choir parties of not less than twelve adult passengers travelling together in each direction, and desiring to stay for one or two days in Inverness, will be conveyed at single fare and a third (plus fractions of threepence) for the double journey on surrender of the usual pleasure party form filled up at booking office at the starting point of the journey. The tickets issued at single fare will be valid for day of issue only, and those issued at single fare and a third will be valid for return within three days. It should be carefully noted that before *individuals* can take advantage of these concessions, all vouchers presented at the booking office must be signed by me, otherwise the full ordinary rates will be charged. These vouchers can only be had from the office here, and will be forwarded on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

I should like to remind all competitors that their co-operation is solicited to ensure the expeditious carrying out of the programme. It is the practice of several to remain in the hall after they have submitted their pieces, and if they would immediately depart to the next hall at which they have to appear, an unnecessary waste of time would be eliminated, and the work of the stewards, would be considerably lessened. Much valuable time is lost, and competitions prolonged unduly in this manner. Strict attention to these observations would prevent a recurrence of this unnecessary delay. There has been this year again much correspondence with competitors regarding their entries. I would once more emphasise the necessity for the careful reading of the rules as printed in the syllabus. This would give competitors a clearer understanding of the conditions, and they would themselves come better prepared.

NIALL

## KYLE PROVINCIAL MOD.

The Kyle Mod on 10th July, the first in that district, was a most gratifying success. Quite a large number of competitors presented themselves. Despite the fact that it rained incessantly all day the proceedings were very largely attended, and the audiences were treated to excellent performances. The judges were Mrs. J. R. Colquhoun, Mrs. MacLeod of Skeabost and Mr. Neil Shaw, An Comunn Gaidhealach.

### PRIZE WINNERS.—JUNIOR SECTION.

Oral Reciting "An Tigh Soluis,"—1, Donald Matheson; 2, Jessie MacRae.

Solo Singing (Girls 8 to 12 years of age)—1, Dolly Mackay and Christina Matheson (equal).

Solo Singing (Girls 12 to 16 years of age)—1, Daisy Matheson; 2, Christina MacDonald.

Solo Singing (Boys 8 to 12 years of age)—1, Christopher Gilles; 2, Kenneth A. Gilles.

Solo Singing (Boys 12 to 16 years of age)—1, Donald MacRae; 2, Donald Matheson.

Solo Singing (Ladies)—1, Mrs. Matheson; 2, Miss J. Pirie.

Solo Singing (Gentlemen)—1, K. J. MacKenzie; 2, Donald MacKenzie.

Duet Singing—Miss M. K. Mackay and Miss Margaret Mackay.

An appropriate conclusion to the days' proceedings was the much enjoyed concert, the programme of which was sustained by the prize winners, with several contributions from Mrs. Colquhoun (Miss Phemie Marquis) and Mr. Shaw. The duties of chairman were discharged by Mr. Shaw, who delivered an inspiring Gaelic and English address.

## AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

### DONATIONS TO INVERNESS MOD.

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Mrs. Jessie Munro, Hunter's Quay.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

**KILLIK.**—At the annual general meeting of the Branch held recently the following office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year. President, Rev. G. W. MacKay, D.D.; Treasurer, Miss B. MacWilliam, Mart House; Secretary, Mr. James Anderson, Laurel Bank. Throughout the session four meetings were held at one of which Mr. James MacRaw, M.A., delivered a highly interesting lecture entitled, "Highland Superstitions." The membership of the branch now stands at 130.

**KILMUR.—SKYE.**—The work of the Branch was reviewed at the recent Business meeting. During the session three Ceilidhs and twelve singing practices were held. Miss Catherine A. MacNab with much acceptance discharged the duties of conductor in connection with the music classes. Mr. Donald MacLeod was appointed President, with Miss C. A. MacNab and Miss A. MacDonald elected Treasurer, and Secretary respectively.

**TAIN—COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.**—On Thursday, 2nd August, the first picnic of Comunn Gaidhealach Baile Dhuthaich (Tain) was held at Shandwick, Nigg, in an ideal spot close by the seaside. Two big charabancs conveyed a large party from Tain, in addition to others, who bicycled. Shortly after arrival a delightful tea was served under the able supervision of Mrs. Fraser, Knockbreck, and Mrs. Munro, Viewfield, with the assistance of other ladies. After tea, most of the company went to explore the coast, and, reassembling, games were heartily indulged in. Before starting for home a second tea was partaken of, and legends regarding "The King's Sons"—a rock in the sea, the "Cromlech," "The Old Pictish Churchyard" by the seashore were told, while several amusing Gaelic stories, which caused much laughter, were related. Mr. Grant, secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fraser and Mrs. Munro for their splendid services, while Mr. MacArthur paid a similar compliment to Mr. Grant and to Mrs. Watt for their untiring work. The weather was ideal, and the picnic was a great success.

**CLARSACH.**—Lady (Edinburgh) teaches Song Accompaniment; good method.—Beta, this Office.









