

Angus Natheson

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ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

TODD LECTURE SERIES

VOLUME XIV

KUNO MEYER, PH.D.

THE DEATH-TALES OF THE ULSTER HEROES



DUBLIN

HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO. LTD.

LONDON: WILLIAMS & NORGATE

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(REPRINTED 1937)

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P R E F A C E

It is a remarkable accident that, except in one instance, so very few copies of the death-tales of the chief warriors attached to King Conchobar's court at Emain Macha should have come down to us. Indeed, if it were not for one comparatively late manuscript now preserved outside Ireland, in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, we should have to rely for our knowledge of most of these stories almost entirely on Keating's *History of Ireland*. Under these circumstances it has seemed to me that I could hardly render a better service to Irish studies than to preserve these stories, by transcribing and publishing them, from the accidents and the natural decay to which they are exposed as long as they exist in a single manuscript copy only.

In the well-known list of Irish tales preserved in the Book of Leinster and elsewhere, under the title *oitte*, i.e. 'tragical or violent deaths,' eight death-stories of Ulster heroes are enumerated as follows: the deaths of Cúchulinn, of Conall (i.e. Conall Cernach), of Celtchar, of Blái the Hospitaller, of Lóegaire, of Fergus (mac Róich), of King Conchobar himself, and of Fiamain.

The *Death of Cúchulinn* forms an episode in the story called *Brislech Mór Maige Murthemne*; and extracts from the version in the Book of Leinster have been edited and translated by Whitley Stokes, in the *Revue Celtique*, vol. III., p. 175 ff. It is curious that, apart from this twelfth-century version, we have no copies older than the eighteenth century. These modern copies are enumerated by Prof. D'Arbois de Jubainville in his *Catalogue de la Littérature Épique de l'Irlande*, p. 15.

The *Death of Conall Cernach* is told in a tale, the full title

of which is 'The Cherishing of Conall Cernach in Cruachan, and the Death of Ailill and of Conall Cernach.' It has been edited and translated by me, from the only two existing manuscripts, in the first volume of the *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie*, p. 102 ff.

The *Death of Celtchar son of Uthechar* is found in a very fragmentary and illegible condition in the Book of Leinster, p. 118 b. Fortunately there exists a second complete copy in the Edinburgh ms. xl, pp. 9-11.¹ It has not hitherto been edited or translated.

The *Death of Blái the Hospitaller* has been preserved only in the Edinburgh ms., where it occupies pp. 11-13. It is here for the first time edited and translated.

Of the *Death of Lóegaire Búadach* we have only one ancient copy, again in the Edinburgh ms., pp. 8-9, hitherto unpublished. There is a shorter and later version, which is practically that of Keating's *History*, contained in two eighteenth-century MSS. in the Royal Irish Academy, numbered 23. B. 21, p. 176, and 23. G. 21, p. 142, respectively. Copies of these I owe to the kindness of Mr. R. Irvine Best.

The *Death of Fergus mac Róich* is also preserved in a single copy only, again to be found in the Edinburgh ms., p. 5. Our only source hitherto has been Keating's version.

The only tale among those enumerated above which has reached us in fairly numerous copies is that of the *Death of Conchobar*. Prof. D'Arbois de Jubainville, *l.c.*, p. 13, enumerates four manuscripts² in addition to Keating's account, which is also that of 23. G. 21, and 23. B. 21. To these a fifth must be added, the version in the Edinburgh ms. xl, pp. 1-3, which is unfortunately illegible at the beginning. Mr. Edward Gwynn has

¹ For a full account of the contents of this manuscript, one of the most valuable in the Edinburgh collection, see my article in the *Celtic Magazine* for 1887, pp. 208-218.

² The Stowe ms. cited by him is now marked D. 4. 2. The copy of *Aided Chonchobuir* is found on fol. 54 a 2.

1 Another copy of that version is in the Stowe MS.
D. 4. 2, fol. 54 a 2.

kindly supplied me with a transcript of the version contained in the *Liber Flavus Fergusiorum*; and Mr. R. I. Best has copied, and placed at my disposal, the version in 23. N. 10, a ms. in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.

The tale last mentioned in the list, that of the *Death of Fiamain*, seems now lost. At least, so far as I know, no copy of it has yet been discovered; nor does Keating give any account of it. Fiamain mac Forrói is mentioned in *Tochmarc Emire* as one of those Irish youths who were learning feats of arms with Scáthach in Britain when Cúchulinn came there for the same purpose (see *Zeitschr.* III., p. 250, § 67); and in the poem at the end of that tale (*ib.*, p. 262, l. 8) a Fiamain is enumerated among the young warriors in the *Cráb Rúad* at *Emain Macha*. But whether this was Fiamain mac Forrói or some other Fiamain is doubtful. The only other references to the former that I can find are—first, one in Cináed húa Hartacáin's poem on the deaths of some of the nobles of Erin, which has been edited and translated by Whitley Stokes in *Revue Celtique*, vol. XXIII., p. 303 ff. Here he is said to have been slain at *Dún mBinne*,¹ a fort that has not been identified. A battle of *Duma Beinne* is mentioned in *Cath Maige Rath*, p. 211. The other reference to Fiamain mac Forrói occurs in a poem in that tale, p. 213: 'Seven battles around *Cathir Conrói*, the wrecking of *Fiamain mac Forrói*, the wrecking of *Cúrói*, together with the seventeen sons of *Deda*.'

In addition to these Ulster death-tales, the Edinburgh manuscript contains an account of the death of the redoubtable Connaught warrior *Cet mac Magach*. Of this story, as it has not hitherto been published, I add an edition and translation.

K. M.

¹ *Forbais Dúin Binni* is the title of a tale mentioned in the list in the *Book of Leinster*, p. 189 c; but no copy of it is known.

THE DEATH-TALES OF THE ULSTER HEROES

I. THE DEATH OF CONCHOBAR

WE possess, as stated on page vi, five manuscript copies of *Aided Chonchobuir*, apart from the account contained in Keating's History. They all differ materially, so that it seemed desirable to print them *in extenso*. The version in the Edinburgh ms. xl is partly illegible; but it appears to be identical in its opening with that of the Book of Leinster.

As is common in the tradition of the oldest Irish tales, these five manuscripts either represent different versions of various ages, or attempts to bring these versions into harmony with each other. We can distinguish the following three different accounts of the events which led to Conchobar's death.

Once when the men of Ulster were at a gathering, the sun was darkened and the moon turned into the colour of blood. On Conchobar's question as to the cause of this disturbance, the druid Cathbad tells the story of the Crucifixion, dwelling on the fact that Conchobar and Christ were born on the same night. Compare the *Compert Conchobuir*, "Revue Celtique," vi., p. 180. This is the account contained in the third version of the *Liber Flavus Fergusiorum* (§ 4). Slight variants of this version are to be found in the account of the Book of Leinster (§ 11), where an earthquake takes the place of the eclipse of the sun, and where the druid's name is not mentioned, and in the Edinburgh account (§ 11), in which Conchobar addresses his question to all his druids.

A second version places the gathering at Muirthemne. There, on a certain day, Bachrach, a Leinster poet, arrives from abroad,¹ and on the question for news tells the story of the Crucifixion which he

¹ The manuscript, indeed, says (Lib. Flav., § 1) that he came from Leinster, though it makes Conchobar ask him for news of *Alba* (i.e. Great Britain) and *Leth Moga* (the southern half of Ireland), for which we should unquestionably read *Letha* (i.e. the Continent). For from meaning either 'Latium' or 'Brittany,' *Letha* has practically come to denote the Continent.

has heard on the Continent or in Great Britain. This is the account given most fully in the first version of the *Liber Flavus* (§ 1), mentioned briefly in the Stowe manuscript (§ 1), and given as a variant in the Book of Leinster (§ 13).

In a third version, the Roman consul Altus visits Conchobar, either with presents from Tiberius (23. N. 10, § 1, and *Liber Flavus*, § 2), or to exact tribute for Octavian (Book of Leinster, § 14), and being himself a Christian, relates the story of the Crucifixion.

All versions end very nearly alike; only the account in the Book of Leinster breaks off shortly without mentioning Conchobar's death. The other versions say that Conchobar's pity roused him to fury; he uttered a *rhetoric* beginning '*Ba aprainn,*' seized his weapons, and rushed madly about, either as far as the sea (*Lib. Flav.*, § 4) or cutting down the wood on Lettir Lámraige (Edinburgh and Stowe version); Mesgegra's brain starts out of his head, and he dies a Christian, the blood gushing from his head being his baptism.

Two late versions—those in the Edinburgh and in the Stowe manuscripts—add the further history of Mesgegra's brain, the existence of which is revealed by God to Buite mac Brónaig, abbot of Monasterboice († ca. A.D. 520), who uses it as a pillow, whence it is known by the name of *adart Buiti*. In support of this, the Stowe version quotes a poem by Cináed húa Hartacáin, a poet who died in A.D. 975, another copy of which may be found in the Book of Leinster, p. 150 a, l. 26.

Lastly, in the Edinburgh version, the incident of Cenn Berraide, who, in all other accounts, carried the king on his back after he had been wounded by Cet at the Ford of Daire Dá Báeth, is shifted and added on at the end, where it is quite out of place.

AIDED CHONCHOBUIR

Version A

From the Book of Leinster, p. 123*b*, and the Edinburgh ms. xl, p. 2.

1. Bāi mesça mór for Ulto fecht n-and i nEmain Macha. Docuridar *didiu* immarbāga móra 7 comrama eturro .i. etir Chonall 7 Coinculaind 7 Lōegaire. 'Tucaid dam-sa' ar Conall 'inchind Me[i]ssgegra co ro-acilliur ócu na comram.'¹ Ba bēs d' Ultaib ind inbaid sin cach curaid nomarbdaís ar galaib óenfir nogatta a n-inchind assa cendaib 7 *commesct[h]a* ael airthib co ndēnad liathróite crúade díb. Ocus intan nobitis i n-immarbāig nō chomramaib dobertis dōib co mbītis inna lāmaib.

2. 'Maith, a Chonchobuir,' ar Conall, 'na co ndernat óic na comram écht fōn innas-[s]a ar galaib² óinfir, nīdat tūalngi comram frim-sa.' 'Is fir ón,' ar Conchobuir.

3. Doratad iarum forsin forud fora mbíd dogrēs ind inchind. Luid cách a lethi arnabārach dia cluchiu. Dolluid *dano* Cet mac Matach do chūairt ectra la Ulto. Bēist ass andsam robói i nHērinn in Cet. *Iseid* dolluid-*side* dar faidchi na hEmna 7 tri lāechcind leis do Ultaib.

4. Intan batar na ónmitē 'co cluchiu do inchind Me[i]ssgegra, *isseid* atbert ind ónmit fri araile. Rocluinedar Cet aní sin. Ethaid side in n-inchind al-láim indala n-ái 7 berid leiss, ó rofitir Cet robói i tarngere do Messgegra a dīgail iarna écaib. Cach cath 7 cach irga[1] nobíd do Chonnachtaib fri Ulto dobered Cet in n-inchind inna chriss dús in tetarthad écht n-amra d' Ultaib do marbad di.

¹ *chomram* Fes.

² *galam* Fes.

THE DEATH OF CONCHOBAR

Version A

1. Once upon a time the men of Ulster were greatly intoxicated in Emain Macha. Thence there arise great contentions and comparison of trophies between them, even between Conall and Cuchulinn and Loegaire. 'Bring me,' said Conall, 'the brain of Mesgegra, so that I may talk to the competing warriors.' At that time it was a custom with the men of Ulster to take the brains out of the head of every warrior whom they slew in single combat, and to mix lime with them, so that they were made into hard balls. And whenever they were in contention or at comparison of trophies, these were brought to them, so that they had them in their hands.

2. 'Well, O Conchobar,' said Conall, 'until the competing warriors perform a deed like this in single combat, they are not capable of comparing trophies with me.' 'That is true,' said Conchobar.

3. Then the brain was put upon the shelf upon which it was always kept. On the morrow every one went his own way to his sport. Then Cet, the son of Matu, went upon a round of adventures in Ulster. This Cet was the most troublesome pest that was in Ireland. This is the way he went, across the green of Emain, having with him three warriors' heads of the men of Ulster.

4. While the jesters (of Emain) were at play with the brain of Mesgegra, this is what one jester said to the other. Cet hears that. He snatches the brain out of the hand of one of them, and carries it off; for he knew that it had been foretold of Mesgegra that he would avenge himself after his death. In every battle and in every combat which the men of Connaught had with those of Ulster, Cet used to carry the brain in his girdle to see whether he could compass a famous deed by slaying a man of Ulster with it.

5. Fecht and *didiu* dolluid-seom intí Cet sair co tue tánai mbó a Feraib Ross. Donarraid i n-íarmóracht *Ulaid* ina diaid. Doriachtatar *dano* Connachtaí dond leith aile dia thessarcain-seom. Fechair eath eturro. Dolluid Conchubur féin issin cath. Conid andsin gādatar mnā Connacht do Conchobur tuidecht for leith do dēscin a delba dóib. Fobth nī rabi for *talmain* delb duini amail deilb Conchobuir .i. etir chruth 7 deilb 7 dechelt, etir mét 7 córe 7 cutrummae, etir rosc 7 folt 7 gile, etir gáis 7 álaig 7 erlabra, etir erriud 7 áne 7 écosc, etir arm 7 immad 7 orddan, etir gnáis 7 gaisced 7 chenēl. Nírbo lochtach tra intí Conchobur. A comairli *immorro* in Cheit rogabsat ná mná ailgis do Chonchobur. Luid iarum for leth a óinur dia dēscin dona mnāib.

6. Dolluid Cet *immorro* co mbúi etir na mná immedón. Nos-indlethar Cet inchind Mesgegra isin tábail 7 nosteile conidtarla immullach Conchobuir co mbátar a dā trīan inna chind 7 co torchair-seom isa cend¹, co tarla fri lár². Focherddat *Ulaid* chuci³ conidruccsat ó Chet. For brú Átha Daire Dā Báeth is and dorochair⁴ Conchobar. Atá a lige and⁵ baile i torchair 7 corthe fria chend 7 corthe fria chossa⁶.

7. Maidid tra for Connachta⁷ co Sciaig⁸ Aird na Con⁹. Dobertar *Ulaid* sair doridisi¹⁰ co Áth Daire Dā Báeth. ‘Mo¹¹ brith-se ass!’ ar Conchobur. ‘Dobér ríge nUlad do neoch nombéra connici mo thech.’ ‘Notbēr-sa,’ ar Cend Berraide, ar a gilla fadéin. Dobeir-side lomain imme 7 nombeir for a muin co Arddachad Slēbe Fuáit. Maidid a chride isin gillu. Conid de sin atá ‘ríge Cind Berraide for *Ulaib*’ .i. in rí for a muin leth ind láí.

8. Conócbad trá in debaid ón tráth co araile dar éis in rí. Co rāimid¹² for *Ulto* iarsin.

¹ Here the Edinburgh ms. becomes legible.

² roime a *talmain* Ed.

³ reithit na fir cuici iarsin Ed.

⁴ adorchair Ed.

⁵ ata a lecht ann 7 a

ligi Ed.

⁶ 7 araili fria bonn Ed.

⁷ sraintes Connacht Ed.

⁸ sciaid L.

⁹ siar add. Ed.

¹⁰ maidid diu for *Ulto* soir Ed.

¹¹ From here to the

5. Once then Cet went eastwards until he took a drove of cows from the men of the Rosses. The men of Ulster overtook him in pursuit after him. Then the men of Connaught came up from the other side to rescue him. A battle is fought between them. Conchobar himself went into the battle. And it was then that the women of Connaught begged Conchobar to come aside so that they might see his shape. For there was not on earth the shape of a human being like the shape of Conchobar, both for beauty and figure and dress, for size and symmetry and proportion, for eye and hair and whiteness, for wisdom and manners and eloquence, for raiment and nobleness and equipment, for weapons and wealth and dignity, for bearing and valour and race. That Conchobar was faultless indeed. However, it was by the advice of Cet that the women importuned Conchobar. Then he went aside alone to be seen by the women.

6. Cet, however, went until he was in the midst of the women. He adjusts the brain of Mesgegra in the sling, and throws it so that it hit the crown of Conchobar's head, so that two-thirds of it entered his head, so that he fell upon his head forward to the ground. The men of Ulster ran towards him, and carried him off from Cet. On the brink of the ford of Daire Dá Báeth^a it was that Conchobar fell. His grave is there where he fell, and a pillar-stone at his head, and another at his feet.

7. The men of Connaught are then routed to Scé Aird na Con.^b The men of Ulster are driven eastwards again to the ford of Daire Dá Báeth. 'Let me be carried out of this!' said Conchobar. 'I shall give the kingship of Ulster to anyone who will carry me as far as my house.' 'I will carry thee,' said Cenn Berraide^c, his own attendant. He puts a cord around him, and carries him upon his back to Ardachad^d of the Fewes. The attendant's heart broke within him. Hence is the saying 'Cenn Berraide's kingship over Ulster,' to wit, the king upon his back for (only) half the day.

8. However, the fight was kept up after the king from one hour of the day to the same hour on the next day, after which the men of Ulster were routed.

end of the § Ed. omits.

¹² muigid Ed.

^a *i.e.* 'the Oakwood of the two foolish ones,' not identified. ^b *i.e.* 'the Hawthorn of the height of the hound (or hounds),' not identified. ^c *i.e.* 'Shorn-head.'

^d *i.e.* 'Highfield,' near Newtown Hamilton, Co. Armagh.

9. Doberar tra a liaig co Conchobar .i. Fingen. Iss ēside nofínnad don dīaid nothēiged¹ don tig in lín nobíd i nǵalur 'sin tig ocus cech galar nobíd and. 'Maith²,' or Fingen, 'dia taltar³ in chloch as do chind biat marb⁴ fo chétōir. Mani tucthar ass *immorro*, not-ícfaind 7 bid athis duit⁵.' 'Is asso dún' ar Ulaid 'ind athis oldás⁶ a éc-som.'

10. Ro-íccad⁷ iarum a chend⁸ 7 rofūaged co snáth⁹ óir¹⁰, ar ba cumma dath fuilf Conchobuir 7 dath inn óir. Ocus asbert in liaig fri Conchobar co mbeth i fomtin .i. ar nā tísad a ferg dó 7 nā digsed for ech 7 nā etraiged mnāi [7 ná rocaithed biad] co anfeta 7 nā rethed.¹¹

11. Robói dano¹² isin chuntabairt sin céin¹³ robo beō .i. secht mbliadna 7 nīrbo eǵnamaid, acht a airisium inna súidi nammā .i. naco cūala Crīst do chrochad do Iudaidib¹⁴. Tānic and *side*¹⁵ crith mór forsna dūli¹⁶ 7 rochrithnaig nem 7 talam la mēt¹⁷ in gnīma darónad and¹⁸ .i. Ísu Crīst mac Dé bí do chrochad cen chinaid.¹⁹ 'Crāet so?' ar Conchobur fria drúid. 'Cia olc mór dognīther isind lathiu-sa indiū?' 'Is fír ōn ém,' ar in drúí. 'Is mór in gnīm sin,' ar Conchobur. 'In fer sin dano' ar in drúí 'i n-ónaidchi rogein 7 rogenis-[s]iu .i. i n-ocht calde *Enair* cen cop inunnd bliadain.'²⁰

12. Is andsin rochreiti²¹ Conchobar.²² Ocus issé sin indara fer²³ rochreti²⁴ do Dīa i nHērinn²⁵ rīa tiachtain creitmi é .i. Morand²⁶ in fer aile. 'Maith tra,' ar Conchobar.²⁷ 'Ba hapraind nadáil cuadríg

¹ .i. Fingin eisidein 7 ise trath nofínded in [sic] diaid notiged Ed. ² tra add. Ed. ³ tucthar Ed. ⁴ asa cend in cloch bid marb Ed. ⁵ rohicfaither 7 biad athais do Ed. ⁶ andas Ed. ⁷ rohicad Ed. ⁸ in cenn Ed. ⁹ snaithi Ed. ¹⁰ e add. Ed., omitting the rest of the sentence. ¹¹ co mbeith a foíditin .i. co na tísad ferg fai[r] 7 na tísad for ech 7 na tísad co mnái 7 na rocaithed biad co hanfeta Ed. ¹² om. Ed. ¹³ in cein Ed. ¹⁴ acht tairisim ina súidi amain cusin uair rocrochad Crīst la Iudaidib Ed. ¹⁵ annsin Ed. ¹⁶ duilib Ed. ¹⁷ meit Ed. ¹⁸ donīther isin lathiu si aniu Ed. ¹⁹ d' Iudaidib amairsecha Ed. ²⁰ cid so? or C. fria druidib 7 cia gnīm mor donīther annso aniu?

9. In the meantime his physician was brought to Conchobar, even Fingen. 'Tis he who would know from the smoke that arose from a house how many were ill in the house, and every disease that was in it. 'Well,' said Fingen, 'if the stone is taken out of thy head, thou wilt be dead forthwith. If it is not taken out, however, I would heal thee, but it will be a blemish for thee.' 'It is easier for us,' said the men of Ulster, 'to bear the blemish than his death.'

10. His head was then healed; and it was stitched with thread of gold, for the colour of Conchobar's hair was the same as the colour of gold. And the physician said to Conchobar that he should be on his guard lest anger should come on him, and that he should not mount a horse, that he should not have connexion with a woman, that he should not eat food greedily, and that he should not run.

11. In that doubtful state, then, he was as long as he lived, even seven years; and he was not capable of action, but remained in his seat only, until he heard that Christ had been crucified by the Jews. At that time a great trembling came over the elements, and the heavens and the earth shook with the enormity of the deed that was then done, even Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, to be crucified without guilt. 'What is this?' said Conchobar to his druid.^a 'What great evil is being done on this day?' 'That is true, indeed,' said the druid [who then tells the story of the Crucifixion]. 'Awful is that deed,' said Conchobar. 'That man, now,' said the druid, 'was born in the same night in which thou wast born, even on the eighth before the calends of January, though the year was not the same.'

12. It was then that Conchobar believed. And he was one of the two men that had believed in God in Ireland before the coming of the

Is fir or na druidi is gnim mor donither and .i. Crist mac De bi do chrochad la Iudaidib .i. fer rogena[ir] a comais frit-si. Bachrach fili do Lagnib ise ro-indis do Chonchobar Crist do chrochad Ed. ²¹ dochreit Ed. ²² do Christ add. Ed. ²³ toisech add. Ed. ²⁴ dochreit Ed. ²⁵ om. Ed. ²⁶ mac Main add. Ed. ²⁷ From here to the end Ed. differs, as follows: 'Dofaetsat mile fer n-armach lim-sa ac tesarcain Christ.' Roling iarsin 'chum a di gai 7 rusbertaig co tenn gurromuigiter ina doru 7 rogab iarum a chlaidem ina laim 7 rogab don caillið uime co ndernaig mag dou

^a to his druids Ed.

nar nagg atumbeoir irricht chrūdachurad cichtis cichtis [sic] mo beoil. *concichlais* crúas mór míled. maidm nitha muáid nimslóig serbairlech. sordnifed soerchobair la *Críst* cóngénaind. gáir báeth baruléim for leth amlan Chomded lanscél céchointir crochad ríg ba moo coirp arí ardrach adamrai. tumcichte ingním itinol tairisem troóin uasal i Coimded coimthecht cóngnam cáin bé la Dia dílgadach dia chobair. cáin forlund fóbenaind. cáin comlund crothfínd *Críst* arnemthuir. nipu scéith ce chéssaitís coirp chriad. ciarbo ar *Críst* cáid cumachtach cia dú dún nadrochem rád dúr derchóinte runortar inarmen mona miad nadríg roachtmar roncráidí crochad *Críst* ma chotócbaimmis ba hassu nadbemmis iar n-ardrach écomnart ūasal rí rocés croich crūaid ar dóine digmaig dia ráith ragaind-se bás achtu flaith for leccaind fochil n-éca nabuni nemthuir necht remiteised dochoimrid mo chride clúas in ardrach nguba ar mu dia indscib nadríg roacht co fír fortacht fritumthá brón báis conatbiur ar omun dom dul druib. cen dūlemaín dígail.’

13. Is and doringni Conchobar in rethoric se dia ro-innis Bachrach drúí de Lagnib do Chonchobur *Críst* do chrochad, dia ra-iarfaig Conchobar: ‘Ciata airde ingantacha so?’ 7 c.

14. Nō dano co mbad é Altus in consul dodechaid ō Ochtauin do chungid in chīsa co Gædelaib no-innised do Chonchobur *Críst* do chrochad.

caill .i. Mag Lamrigi a Feraib Rus 7 ised atbert: ‘is amlaid so do digolainn-si *Críst* for Iudalaid 7 for in lucht rochroch he da roisind iat.’ Lasin feirg sin roling incinn Miscegra asa cinn co tainic a incind fein fair gurbo marb de 7 conid aire sin aderait cach: ‘is nemedac[h] Conchobar trit an durtacht doroine Conchobar.’ Ise in dedenach [deigach ms.] adubairt Conchobar: ‘gidbe nombera-sa cin tairisium fam conuici mo tech,’ ar se (p. 3) . . . ardrigi nUlad nob . . . lam uime 7 berith go hArdachad tSlebi Fuait for a muin . . . isin gilla conid [d]e ata rige Ceinn Beriti for Ultaib .i. in ri for a muin leth in lai. Ro foillsig Dia do Búiti mac Bronaigh incind Miscegra conid hi is adart Buiti anú 7 is nemedach gach aen fora racha incind Miscegra ic dol fria bás 7 ata briathar a breth fodes a Lagnib 7 fortamlus doib iarsin. Conid hi a[i]ded Conchobair conuici sin.

* From this point the Edinburgh version continues as follows: ‘A thousand armed men shall fall by me in the rescue of Christ.’ Thereupon he sprang towards his two lances and brandished them stoutly so that they broke in his hand; and then he took his sword in his hand and attacked the wood around him so that he

Faith, Morann being the other man. 'Well, now,' said Conchobar^a, 'it is a pity,' etc.^b . . . 'without avenging the Creator.'^c

13. This rhetoric Conchobar made when Bachrach, a druid of Leinster, told him that Christ was crucified, when Conchobar asked: 'What wonderful signs are these?' etc.

14. Or, again, it may have been Altus, the consul who had come to the Gaels from Octavian to seek the tribute, who told Conchobar that Christ was crucified.

made a plain of the wood, even Mag Lámraige in the land of the men of the Rosses. And he said this: 'Tis thus I should avenge Christ upon the Jews and upon those that crucified Him, if I could reach them.' Through that fury the brain of Mesgegra sprang out of his head so that his own brains came upon him, so that he died of it. And hence all say: 'A dweller in Heaven is Conchobar for the wish^d which he has uttered.' This is the last thing Conchobar said, 'Whoever would carry me without stopping under me as far as my house,' said he, 'shall have the kingship of Ulster,' &c. [Here follows the story of Cenn Berraide, as above.] God revealed the brain of Mesgegra to Buite the son of Bronach, so that at this day it is Buite's pillow; and everyone upon whom the brain of Mesgegra goes as he goes to death is sure of Heaven. And there is a saying that it will be carried southward into Leinster, and that thereafter Leinster will have superiority. So this is the Death of Conchobar as far as that.

^b I cannot translate the rest of the *rhetoric*.

^c Read *cen dúleman dígail*.

^d I read *dúthracht* for *durtacht*.

Version B

From ms. 23. N. 10 (R.I.A.), p. 1 .

1. Bāi Conchobar mac Nesai fechtus n-ann. Atfēt dō Altus crochad Crīst. Altus *immorro* is hē dothathaiged eo clōemclōdaib sēd ō Tibir mac Augaist rī[g] Rōmān eo Conchobar mac Nesa. Ar ba cuma bātar rechtairea rīg Rōmān in n-aimsir sin for medōn in uetha 7 for indsip fuinid 7 turebālai, eo mba comderb isin mbit[h] nach sgēl n-airdire forcumcad ann.

2. Ba derb 'diu la Conchobur fon n-innus sin in crut[h] foreūa[i]d crochad Crīst. Ar atfēt dō Altus ba hē Crīst dorosat nem 7 talmāin 7 is airi arfōit colainn ar tathereice in cineda dōenai. Ba cretmech Altus, is aire atfēd cec[h] mait[h] im crochad Crīst.

3. Concreid Conchobur do Chrīst 7 is iarum asmbert Conchobur rofestaís fir in betha a chumang oc cathugud fri hIudaídi croc[h]siti Crīst, ma nubet[h] hi comfogus do Chrīst. Is de ismbert Conchubar :

'Ba haprainn nandāil cuart rīg narnaic atum fir hi richt crōadchurad eichtis [mo beōil] *conciuchlis* [erūas] mār militha maidm netho mōith n-imdai slūag searbairleoh soistnefeit soircobur la Crīst congaib geanam gair bāit[h] for let[h] enā lan Coimdid ba rolanscel eichointir crochat[h] fir ba inmoo mo corp canē n-artrīg n-adamrai n-airerni atumcichtæ gnīm fir hi tinōl tairisem triun uaisib in Coimded chāith cumachtaigh can be ein lam dee ndilgodag do cobur can forlonn foabeaba rinn *cach* comlann croit[h]finn la Crīst arnenitir nī bu scīth eichestæ ar Crīst cāth cumachtoch cid dudam̄ dun dercōinti din reil rochuinem nadnea nderagam .i. dīgal duir choirp crochsiti rīg dorearoosat¹ ronort inni menman med nadrig roachta mar roncrāide crochad Crīst ma chutooccaibmis atbelmais ba hasa artrag ēcomnart hōasal rī rocēs croich coirtar doine ndicmaire diasait noregainn hi mbās atumflait for leicib fa chel necombaine inmain artriun do comrath mo chridea cloas imartrach atgubai arumeda inscibin na roacht fir furtacht Crīst fritombrōn bāis cuadbair airomun airimud tomdrub cen duileman dīgail.'

¹ This curious form, which seems to mean 'who has created us,' also occurs in *Imram Brain*, § 48: ónd rīg dorearoosat.

The form which means 'who has created us' (times) etc. cf. *Brúin*, *Brúin* 111, 99.

Version B

1. Once upon a time Altus related to Conchobar mac Nessa the crucifixion of Christ. Altus, however, used to visit Conchobar with exchanges of treasures from Tiberius, the son of Augustus the Roman. For at that time stewards of the King of the Romans were equally over the centre of the world and over the islands of the west and east, so that every famous story that would happen there was equally known in the world.

2. Hence, in that way, the manner in which the crucifixion of Christ happened became known to Conchobar. For Altus told him that it was Christ who had made Heaven and earth, and that to redeem mankind He had assumed flesh. Altus was a believer. 'Tis therefore he told every good thing about the crucifixion of Christ.

3. Conchobar believes in Christ; and then he said that if he were near Christ the men of the world would know what he could do in fighting against the Jews that had crucified Christ. Hence Conchobar said: 'It was a pity,' &c.^a . . . 'without avenging the Creator.'

^a I cannot translate the 'rhetoric' which follows.

4. Is iar sin cotnoscrastur amail bid oc techt hi rōi cathai ar bēlaip Crīst co sesceand asa c[h]inn an inc[h]inn Meisgedra 7 conidebilt ind ar sin. Ised isber[at] dee iarum is ē cēt-gentlide¹ docōid hi flait[h] nimea, fobit[h] robad bat[h]ais dō ind fuil donesemacht² 7 rocreit ē do Chrīst. Finit. Amen.

Version C

From the Liber Flavus Fergusiorum, fo. 105 a 1.

1. [B]udh dāil mōr la hUlltu a Muigh Muirthui[m]ni. Doluidh³ iarum Bochrach fili 7 drāi⁴ do Loighnibh docum na dāla iar toidhicht dō a Laignibh iar foghluim fili[d]ehta. Fiafraiges⁵ Concubur scēla Alban 7 Leatha Mogha dō.

2. ‘Atā sgēl mōr ēimh’ ol sē, ‘dorōnnadh isin bith thoir .i. crochadh rīgh neimhi 7 talman la hIubhdaibh 7 is ē rotirchansat fāidhi 7 drāidhthi. Do ic 7 do teasraguin dāini an domuin do phecadh Adhaim dodeachaid ō nāmneimh co roēt coluinn ō Muiri ōghinghin cen lāthair freasguil, cor'luidh⁶ a crand croichi la hIudhaib do icc an ceineōil dænna. Imon cāise docūaidh ūainn 7 atraacht isin treas lō iarna cēsadh’ .i. roinnis dono Altus, iss ē tigid⁷ co n-aitheasguibh 7 cu sēdaibh 7 co māinibh ō Tibir Śesair Aughuist rīgh Rōmān 7 ō rīg an domhuin co Concubur [mac] Neasa do Eamhuin Macha. Ar ba cuma bādar reachtuireadha rīgh an domuin isinn aimsir sin for meadhōn an beatha 7 a n-innsibh fuinidh⁸ grēine 7 turgabāla, co m[b]a comhderbh isin bith uili nach sgēl airdere⁹ foscumadh ann.

3. Ba derbh le Conchubhur fōn innus sin an cruth foreūaidh crochadh Crīst. Ar ro-innis Altus dō ba hē Crīst dorinni¹⁰ neamh 7

¹ geit rinsin ms. See Version B. ² leg. *donesemart*. Cf. ar écnaire
inna fola doesmart erond, Otia II., p. 97, § 30. ³ doluigh ms ⁴ draigh ms
⁵ fiabraidhus ms ⁶ corluigh ms ⁷ tigi^d ms ⁸ fuinigh ms ⁹ airdrech ms
¹⁰ dorinnidh ms

4. Thereupon he shook himself(?)^a as if he were going into a battlefield in the presence of Christ, so that Mesgegra's brain jumped out of his head, and then he died there. This is what they say,^b that he was the first pagan who went into the Kingdom of Heaven, because the blood which he had shed was a baptism to him, and (because) he had believed in Christ. Finit. Amen.

Version C

1. The men of Ulster were holding a great gathering in the plain of Murthemne. Then towards the gathering came Bochrach, a poet and druid of the men of Leinster, having come out of Leinster after learning poetry. Of him Conchobar asked tidings of Alba and Leth Moga.^c

2. 'There is great tidings indeed,' said he, 'which have happened in the eastern world, even the crucifying of the King of Heaven and Earth by the Jews; and He it is whom seers and druids have prophesied. To save and to rescue the men of the world from the sin of Adam He came from holy heaven; and He assumed flesh from the Virgin Mary without the presence of man^d; and to save the human race He went upon the tree of the cross by command of the Jews. About Easter He went from us and arose on the third day after His suffering,' viz., Altus also had told this. 'Tis he who used to come with messages and with treasures and precious things from Tiberius Caesar Augustus, even the king of the Romans, and the king of the world, to Conchobar son of Ness, to Emain Macha. For at that time stewards of the king of the world were equally over the centre of the world and in the islands of the setting and rising sun, so that every famous story that happened was equally known in the whole world.

3. In that way the manner in which the crucifixion of Christ happened became known to Conchobar. For Altus told him that

^a *cotnoscrastar*, 3 sg. deponent preterite of *con-oscraim* (*con-od-scaraim*).

^b The Irish is corrupt here.

^c See above, p. 2, note.

^d *cen láthair*

freasguil = cen láthair ferdai, Ériu II., p. 198, l. 16.

talumh. Et is aire arroēt colann ō Muiri ōigh ar taithechreich an ceineōil dænna. Ba creidmheach dono Altus fēin. Is aire atfēt arsgēla Crīst co maith. *Conceid Concubur a Crīst.*

4. Nō is amlaid so atcæmnacair hē.

Budh¹ Concubur i ndāil 7 maithi fer nĒirenn uime an lā rocrochadh Crīst². Antan dodechaidh teimheal forsín ngrēin 7 rosūi³ ēsga a ndath fola rofiarfaigh⁴ Concubur *immorro* do Cathbad⁵ dūss cid rombādar na dūile. ‘Do comhalta-sa,’ ar sē, ‘in fer rogēanair a n-ōenaidchi frit, anosa martar docuirthi(?) fair 7 doradadh a croich⁶ hē 7 isē sin chanuid anní sin.’ Atraigi trath Concubur sūas la sodhuin⁷ 7 gabaid a gaisgedh fair 7 atbert: ‘Is ē sin ēimh’ ol sē, ‘mo comalta-sa 7 mo comāis 7 is ē rogēanair a n-ænoidechi frium’ 7 rogob iarum deargail ōtā sin co ro-aacht isin fairrgi 7 cur’luidh⁸ innti conruigi a fiacuil.⁹ Is oc in deargail iarum rogobh Concubur an lāid¹⁰ si: ‘Ba aprainn na hIdhuil co hard iar n-ēguibh righ’ 7 rl.

5. Ocus as iarsin asbert Concubur: ‘Rofeasdais fir in beatha mo cumang ac cathugud fri¹¹ hIudaidhibh¹² tre crochad Crīst dia mbeinn a comfogus dō.’ Is iarsin attraacht 7 rosgobh forsín deargail cur’sceinn incinn Mesgeagra¹³ as a cinn 7 conearbailt Concubur fochētōir. Conadh [d]esin adber[a]t na Gæidhil¹⁴ conadh hē Concubur cēt-geinntlīde¹⁵ docōidh docum neimhi a nĒirinn, fōbith robo baithis dō in fuil dobidg¹⁶ as[a] cinn. Et as annsin rucadh ainim Concobuir a n-ifrinn gu comraiced⁷ Crīst fria¹⁸ ac te:uir¹⁹ na broide a hifrinn, co tue Crīst leis anim Concabair docum neimhi. Finid.

¹ buidh ms ² rēr ms ³ rosuigh ms ⁴ rofiarfaidh ms ⁵ Cathbaidh ms
⁶ croid ms ⁷ soghuin ms ⁸ curluigh ms ⁹ ōruigi ms ¹⁰ laig ms
¹¹ frīth ms ¹² hiughaidhbh ms ¹³ Mesgeadhra ms ¹⁴ ghæidhil ms

it was Christ who had made Heaven and Earth, and that He had assumed flesh from the Virgin Mary for the sake of redeeming the human race. Altus himself, however, was a believer. 'Tis therefore he told the story of Christ well, and Conchobar believed in Christ.

4. Or 'tis thus it happened.

On the day that Christ was crucified, Conchobar was at a gathering, and the nobles of the men of Ireland around him. Now when darkness came upon the sun, and the moon turned into the colour of blood, Conchobar asked of Cathbad what ailed the elements. 'Thy own foster-brother,' said he, 'He who was born on the same night as you, is now undergoing martyrdom and has been put on the cross, and that is what this portends.' At that Conchobar arises and takes his weapons upon him, and he said: 'He is indeed my foster-brother and coeval, and 'tis He that was born in the same night with me,' and then he made an onslaught from thence until he reached the sea, and he went into it up to his teeth. 'Tis during the onslaught then that Conchobar sang this lay: 'Twas a pity that the Jews after a King's death,' &c.

5. And thereupon Conchobar said: 'The men of the world would know what I can do in fighting against the Jews for the sake of the crucifixion of Christ, if I were near Him.' Then he rose and made the onslaught, until Mesgegra's brains jumped out of his head, so that Conchobar died forthwith. Hence the Gaels say that Conchobar was the first pagan who went to Heaven in Ireland, for the blood that sprang out of his head was a baptism to him. And then Conchobar's soul was taken to hell until Christ encountered her as He brought the captive host out of hell, so that Christ took the soul of Conchobar with Him to Heaven. Finit.

¹⁵ geinntlighi ms

¹⁶ doluidgh ms

¹⁷ comfraicead ms

¹⁸ friadha ms

This spelling of the disyllabic *fria* 'versus eam' is evidently intended to distinguish it from *fria* 'to his (her, its).'

¹⁹ leg. tabairt ?

Version D

From the Stowe ms. D. 4. 2, fo. 54 a 3.

Incipit do oidhedh Concubuir mic Nessa annso sīs.

1. Ceat mac Mādach rotheilg in cloich .i. inchind Misedhra rīgh Laighen for Concubur hic Āth Dhaire Dá Bhæth. Finghen fāthliaig Concobuir is é ná rolēig in cloich do thabairt asa chind. Muma *immorro* in cerd iss é dorat cumdach impe ria cenn amuich. Bacrach file do Laighnibh ro-indis do Chonchubar Crīst do chrochad. I Maigh Lāmrighe atchūaidh dó. Is annsin dorochair Concobar ac glanadh in mhaighe. Trí traighthi *sechtmogat* ina fot. Cōica traiged *immorro* i fedh Taidhg mic Céin, ut dixit poeta .i. Flann [Mainistrech] :—

‘Cōica traigedh tōlaibh tlachta fa slōghaib sain[f]ear srianbalce
fad in airdrīgh inar¹ lēir gart², Taidhg mic Céin ótāit Cianacht.

‘Concubur, cloithech a celg, mac noit[h]ech Nessa niabdherg,
airdrīgh Ulad, rodlecht de, dia ro[s]lecht lerg Lāmraidhe.
Ina lecht, nī laimthi liace, fūair trí traighthi *sechtmogat*.’

2. Is don cloich sin romudaig³ Conchobur rochan in fili :—

‘A chloch⁴ thall for elaid⁴ ūair Buite bŭain maic Brōnaig bāin,
ropsa⁵ mind i tressaib tóir dia mba i cind⁶ maic Nessa nāir.

‘Ciapsat⁷ náma dó rot-chelt,⁸ secht mbliadna lána rot-alt⁹ :
dia luid¹⁰ do dīgail Ríg recht, is and fo-frīth¹¹ a lecht latt.

‘Láech frisralais co mbúaid¹² chain fūair lat loimm¹³ tonnaid
iar sin :
for mac Cathbath, cóinsit fir, dális dig di¹⁴ nathrach¹⁵ neim.

¹ leg. 'nar ² In margin nō gaírg ³ romughaid ms ⁴ elaiġ D
⁵ robsat D ⁶ ropsa L ⁶ mbái a cind D ⁷ ciapsam D ⁸ rodoteclt C
⁹ roalt D ¹⁰ doluidh D ¹¹ fōrřith L ¹² commaid L

ms. from a paper of the Stowe ms. D. 4. 2, fo. 54 a 3

Version D

Incipit of the tragic death of Conchobar son of Ness here below.

1. At the Ford of Daire Dá Báeth, Cet mac Mágach threw the stone at Conchobar, viz., the brain of Mesgegra, king of Leinster. Fingen, the wizard-leech of Conchobar, 'tis he who would not let the stone be taken out of his head. Muma, however, the artificer, 'tis he who put a cover around it outside his head. Bachrach, a Leinster poet, told Conchobar that Christ had been crucified. In Mag Lamraige he told it to him. 'Tis there Conchobar fell in clearing the plain. Seventy-three feet was his length. Fifty feet, however, was the length of Tadhg mac Céin, ut dixit poeta, *i.e.* Flann Mainistrech :—

'Fifty feet, with abundance of delights, among hosts of strong-bridled distinguished men, was the length of the high-king in whom honour was conspicuous, of Tadhg mac Céin, from whom are the Cianacht.

'Conchobar, famous was his guile, Ness' celebrated son of ruddy beauty, high-king of Ulster—he deserved it—by whom the slope of Lámraige was cut down. In his grave . . .^a he found seventy-three feet.'

2. Of that stone which ruined Conchobar the poet^b has sung :—

'O stone yonder upon the cold tomb of ever-famous Buite, the blessed son of Brónach, thou wast a diadem in battles of pursuit while thou wast in the head of the noble son of Ness.

'Though thou wast an enemy to him, he hid thee, he nourished thee for seven full years : when he went to avenge the King of laws, 'tis then was found his grave through thee.

'The hero whom thou didst hit victoriously thereafter found through thee a draught of poison : to the son of Cathbad—men wailed—thou didst deal a drink of a serpent's venom.

¹³ lom L fuair in tonnaigh D

¹⁴ dit D

¹⁵ nathraig L

^a I do not understand *ní laimthi liacc.*

^b *i.e.* Cináed húa Hartacáin.

- 'Neimnech dotuc¹ Cet an-dess a tress ard Ailbe fria aiss,
cenn rí^g Emna orgsi leiss, a inchinn Meis-gegra glaiss.
- 'Dotarlaic² dar ārach ūad³ Cet mac Māgach⁴ fri gliaid ngáeth⁵
ón muni rofítir cách co Ath ic⁶ Daire Dá Báeth.
- 'Scóiltis dít, ba mór in⁷ guám, mullach in rí^g rí^gí gíall,
ar is é ba ferr do léech darsa taitned géath is grían.
- 'A ndor-airngred⁸ duit ót áis, mairg Laignech irraba⁹ gnáis,
nīr' scarais¹⁰ frisin rí^g rāin co rosfargbais¹¹ i ndáil¹² báis.
- 'For Lettir Lāmraigi luimm rotgīallsat¹³ druing na fīan find,
do¹⁴ gleō frit chomthach ba gand co torchar¹⁵ and assa chinn.
- 'Fotroilsig¹⁶ Rí rodelb nem do mac Brōnaig ūas brī¹⁷ Breg,
i ndún daingen i n-rotail¹⁸ i fail ilar¹⁹ angel ngel.
- 'Ó chonattail fritt cen brath Buti co rath rúamnai cloth,
tairnit duit in tslúraig²⁰ for ruth²¹ co rochlōemehlais²²
cruth, a chloch. A.
- 'Inchind Meiss-gegra 'sin chath, ropo gleō fri demna²³ troch,
adart Buti co tí bráth bud²⁴ é th'ainm la cách, a chloch. A.'

FINIT.

¹ dothuucc D	² dotharlaic D	³ ruagh D	⁴ Matach L
⁵ nglóed L	⁶ om. L	⁷ om. L	⁸ ann dorighnedh D;
ndorairngered L	⁹ mairg a lagnech imba L	¹⁰ ni rascarais L	
¹¹ cofargbais L	¹² bain add. L	¹³ rogiallsat D	¹⁴ dot L
¹⁵ torcair D	¹⁶ rothoillsidh D	¹⁷ brig D	¹⁸ inattail L
¹⁹ in fail hilliu D	²⁰ in sluagh D	²¹ rath D	²² o rachloais D
²³ demnu L	²⁴ is D		

'Venomous from the south Cet brought thee upon his back from the noble battle of Ailbe, the head of Emain's king thou hast wrecked thereby, O brain of the youthful Mesgegra.

'From the brake,—all know it,—to the Ford at Daire Dá Báeth, Cet mac Mágach^a sent thee in violation of a bond from him for a cunning fight.

'He cleft with thee, the deed was great, the crown of the King's head, a kingdom of hostages, for 'tis he that was the best hero on whom wind and sun would shine.

'What was foretold thee all along,^b woe to the Leinsterman^c in whose company thou wast! thou 'never partedst from the noble^d king until thou leftst him in a meeting with death.

'On the bare slope of Lámraige hosts of fair bands did homage to thee: thy struggle against thy comrade was rare, until thou fellest there out of his head.

'The King who has shaped Heaven has revealed thee to the son of Brónach above Brí Breg; in a strong fortress in which he slept, where there is a multitude of white angels.

'Since Bute with grace of fame has slept on thee without treachery, the hosts have eagerly^e humbled^f themselves to thee, until thou changedst colour, O stone!

'The brain of Mesgegra in the battle, it was a fight against demons of doomed men; "pillow of Bute," until Doom that shall be thy name with every one, O stone!

FINIT.

^a On this form of the name see the notes.

phrase *ót áis* see *Ériu* II., p. 87.

^b For this meaning of the

^d *ráin*, a by-form of *ran*, required by the metre.

^c *i.e.* Mesgegra, who was a Leinster King.

^e *for ruth*, lit. 'a running,'

'speedily.' Cf. *for rith*, *Imram Brain*, II., p. 302, § 5, and see the note, *ib.* p. 304.

^f *tairnit*, present tense, used, as in German and French, of an action that has

been going on for some time and continues up to the present.

II. AIDED LŌEGAIRI BŪADAIG

Version A

From the Edinburgh ms. XL, p. 8.

1. Cid diatā A[i]ded Lōegairi Būadaig?

Nī *hansa*. Āed mac Ainninne dochomraic re Mughain (p. 9) Aitinchairchech 7 ben Conchobair in Mugain¹ sin. Fili Conchobair in tĀed. Rofes fōro a mbeith amlaid.

* 2. Iarsiu rohergabād la Conchobar in fili 7 rochuinnig² in fili comad hī a a[i]ded a bādud³ 7 ro . . .⁴ Conchobar dō inní sin 7 nobërtha iarsin dia bādud dochum gach locha a nĒrinn 7 nocanad som bricht forsan usci, go mbenta *gach* trāig 7 *co* nach bīd banna ann, co nā raibī a nĒrinn abann⁵ nā loch nobāidfed, co ndechus lais do Loch Láí a ndorus tighē [Lōegairi]. Rofēimid som in bricht forsin loch. Antan *didiu* robás ac a bādud, as ann doriacht rechteairi Lōegaire asin lis amach. 'Fē amai, a Lōegaire!' or sē, 'ní frīth a nĒrinn baile a mbāit[e]a in file co ráinic in baili si.' Atracht intí Lōegaire 7 geibid a chlaidem ina láim 7 ac lēim dó imach *benaid* a mullach imon fordorus go ruc in leth iartharach do cloicenn de, co mbōi sprethach a inchi[n]de for a brot 7 romarb som iardain trīchait do lucht in bāití 7 roēlo Aod ūatha 7 atbath Lōegairi iartain. Conid hī A[i]ded Lōegairi connuici sin.

Version B

From mss. 23. B. 21, p. 176, and 23. G. 21, p. 142 (R.I.A.).

An t-ádhbhar fá táinig bás Láoghaire Bhuaadhaig.⁶

File imoro do bhí aig⁷ Conchubhur dá ngoirthidhe⁸ Aodha mac Aininn; 7 do ligheadh air Mhaghán bean Connchubhuir é: 7 air na fionnachtain sin do Chonchubhar as í breith rug air a chur⁹ dá bháthadh go Loch Laoghaire [sic]; 7 tangadar drong ris air fōgradh an ríge gusan loch dá bháthadh; 7 air na faicsin sin do reachtaire Laoghaire Bhuaadhaigh *tét* go Laoghaire 7 adúbhairt nách raibh áit a nĒirinn ina mbáithfidhe an file acht ina dhoras-sin; leis sin loingios Láoghaire amach 7 tarla fárdhorus an tighē re cúl a chinn gur bhris a seicne 7 gur fóireadh an file leis, 7 éagas féin air an láthair sin: gonabh¹⁰ sin Críoch Láoghaire. Bhuaadhaigh.

¹ Magain ² rochuinnig ³ bad7 ⁴ Two or three letters cut off with the edge of the page. ⁵ Perhaps abā
 Read either *dámair* or *āem*.
⁶ No title in G ⁷ ag G ⁸ goirthí G ⁹ ceur B ¹⁰ gon í G

* N. The account of Loegair's death in Rev. Celt. xxv. pp. 320 & 325, where, instead of loch lai, the correct form loch laig, is found.

II. THE DEATH OF LÓEGAIRE BÚADACH

Version A

1. Whence is the tragical death of Lóegaire the Victorious? Not hard to tell. Aed mac Ainninne cohabited with Mugain of the Furzy Hair.^a She was the wife of Conchobar; Aed was a poet of Conchobar's. They were found out.

2. Then the poet was seized by Conchobar's command, and the poet asked that his death might be drowning, and Conchobar granted him that; whereupon he was taken to be drowned to every lake in Ireland; and he would sing a spell upon the water so that it ebbed away until there was not a drop in it^b, so that there was not in Ireland any river or lake that would drown him, until they came with him to Loch Lai in front of Lóegaire's house. He was unable to work the spell upon the lake. However, while they were engaged in drowning him, Lóegaire's steward came out of the *liss*. 'Woe is me, Lóegaire!' he cried. 'They could not find in all Ireland a place in which to drown a poet till they came to this stead.' Lóegaire arose and took his sword in his hand; and as he was leaping forth he strikes the crown of his head against the lintel of the door, so that it took off the hinder part of his skull, and his brains were scattered over his cloak. And thereupon he slew thirty of the drowners, and Aed escaped from them. And then Lóegaire died. So far the Tragical Death of Lóegaire.

^a Aitten-chairchech, more usually called Aitten-chaithech, and corruptly Etan-chaithech. As to the exact meaning see *Ériu* I., p. 117, note *b*.

^bThis would appear to be the sense; but *go mbenta gach tráig* is obscure to me.

III. AIDED CHELTCHAIR MAIC UTHECHAIR

From the Edinburgh ms. lx, p. 9, and the Book of Leinster, p. 118a.

1. Cid diatá Aided Cheltchair maic Uthechair?

Ní hansa. Fer amra robúi de Ultaib¹ .i. Blāi briuga. Secht n-airgeda leis.² Secht fichit bó cecha airgí 7 seisred³ cecha airgí. Tech n-óiged² . . . Ba geiss dó⁴ dano² ben for dāmrud dia thig⁵ cen feiss dó-som⁶ le, meni beth a fer ina fochair. Doluid didiu⁶ Brīg Brethach ben Cheltchair⁷ dia thig-som.⁸ ‘Ní maith a ndoronais,⁹ a ben,’ ar Blāi briuga. ‘Is geiss dam-sa do thuidecht chucum¹⁰ ama^l táncais.’ ‘Is fer trúag,’ ar in ben,¹¹ ‘loites¹² a gessi féin.’¹³ ‘Is fir. Isim senóir-si 7 acum gressacht atái dano,’¹⁴ ar se. Fóid lee¹⁵ in aidchi sin.

2. Dofitir Celtchar inní sin 7 doluid for iarair a mná.¹⁶ Luid Blāi briuga co mbái for lethláim Conchobair isin ríghig.¹⁷ Luid dano Celtchar ina diaid co mbói for lár in ríghige.¹⁸ Is and robái Conchobar 7 Cúchulaind ac imirt fidhille 7 robái bruinne Blai briugad tarsin fidhille etarru 7 clannaid Celtchar in gáí trit co mbái isin cleith iarna cúl, co táinic banna do rind in gáí co mbái forsin fidhille.

3. ‘Amin, a Chúchulaind!’ ar Conchobar. ‘Amin dano¹⁹, a Chonchobair!’ ar Cúchulaind. Toimsit[h]er²⁰ in fidhell ón banna anunn 7 ille²¹ dús cia díb diarbo foicsi²². Foicsi in banna dano²³ do Chonchobar 7 rob siadi co dígail²⁴ farsin. Atbath immorro²⁵ Blai briuga. Atrulla²⁶ Celtchar co mbúi isna Déisib Muman tess²⁷.

¹ fer amra do Ultaib E ² om. E ³ seisr̄ E ⁴ dosom E
⁵ dochom [a thige] L ⁶ om. E ⁷ for oi [gidecht] add. E ⁸ dochum a
 thag[e] L ⁹ ndernus E ¹⁰ thecht cucum E ¹¹ ar in ben om. E
¹² goittes L ¹³ a geis for mnai E ¹⁴ om. E ¹⁵ 7 faidid le E
¹⁶ dolluid side diarra na mna L ¹⁷ co mbai etir Chonchobar . . . in c.
 Batar . . . descuird ó Emuin Macha L ¹⁸ co [m]bui i comf[ocus] . . . L

III. THE DEATH OF CELTCHAR MAC UTHECHAIR

1. Whence is the tragical death of Celtchar mac Uthechair? Not hard to tell. There was a famous man of the men of Ulster, even Blái the Hospitaller. He owned seven herds of cattle, seven score kine in each herd, and a plough-team with each herd. He also kept a guest-house. Now it was a *geis* for him that a woman should come in a company to his house without his sleeping with her, unless her husband were in her company. Then Brig Brethach, wife of Celtchar, went to his house. 'Not good is what thou hast done, woman,' said Blái the Hospitaller. 'Thy coming to me as thou hast come is a *geis* to me.' 'It is a wretched man,' said the woman, 'that violates his own *gessa*.' 'Tis true. I am an old man, and more-over thou art inciting me,' said he. 'That night he sleeps with her.'

2. Celtchar came to know that; and he went to seek his wife. Blái the Hospitaller went until he was by the side of Conchobar in the royal house. Celtchar also went until he was on the floor of the royal house. There were Conchobar and Cúchulinn playing a game of *fidchell*; and Blái the Hospitaller's chest was over the play-board between them. And Celtchar plants a spear through him so that it stuck in the wattle of the wall behind him, so that a drop (of blood) from the point of the spear fell upon the board.

3. 'Forsooth, Cúchulinn!' said Conchobar. 'Indeed, then, Conchobar!' said Cúchulinn. The board is measured from the drop hither and thither to know to which of them it was nearer. Now the drop was nearer to Conchobar, and it was the longer till revenge.* Blái the Hospitaller, however, died.

Celtchar escaped until he was in the land of the Déisi of Munster in the south.^b

¹⁹ om. E ²⁰ foimister E rottomsed L ²¹ alle E ille 7 inuid L

²² cia da bad faici E ²³ om. E ²⁴ siad cosin dic . . . L ²⁵ tra L

²⁶ 7 docuaid E ²⁷ aness E

* *i.e.*, I suppose, Cúchulinn would have avenged the deed on the spot. ^b Now the two baronies of Decies in Co. Waterford.

4. 'Is ole so, a Chonchobair!' ar Ulaid. 'Is toitim Déisi annso. Ropo lór in fer marb diar n-esbud¹ 7 ticed² Celtchar² da tír,' ar Ulaid. 'Ticed dano³,' ar Conchobar, '7 cirged⁴ a mac for a cend 7 téiged i commairge fris⁵.' Ní⁶ gebtha dono cin ind athar forsin⁷ mac iná⁸ cin in maic forsin athair ac Ultaib in tan sin. Luid sidein didiu dia gairm⁹ co mbói thess¹⁰.

5. 'Cid dia tute[h]aidh, a macáin?' or sé. 'Condigid siumh (*sic*) don tír,' uar in gilla. 'Cisse comairce dotaot frim?' ol sé. 'Misi,' ol in gilla. 'Fír,' ol sé. 'Is séimh in muin doberat¹¹ Ulaid ummum-sa techt for muin mo mic.' 'Bid séimh a ainm 7 ainm a cheneóil¹²,' ar in drúí. 'An-sa, a gilla!' for sé, '7 ragat-sa anunn¹³.'

6. Dogníther ón 7 is de atá Semuine isna Déisib.

7. Isí immorro¹⁴ éraice conattech¹⁵ im Blāi briugaid, na trí fochaide ata annsom¹⁶ doticfad¹⁷ la Ultu [ina] remes¹⁸ do dingbáil dfb.

8. Doluid didiu Conganchnes mac Dedad do dígail a bráthar for Ultu .i. Cúruí¹⁹ mac Daire maic Dedad. Rofásaigetar Ultu co mór²⁰. Nínguibtis²¹ gáí nó chloidib, acht noscendis ass amal de chongnu²².

9. 'Dīngaib dín in fochaid seo²³, a Cheltchair!' ar Conchobar. 'Maith ám,' ar Celtchar, 7 luid dia acallaim in Chonganchnis laa n-óen²⁴ co tard muin uime,²⁵ gur gell a ingin dó .i. Níab²⁶ ingen Cheltchair 7 proind céit cecha nóna dia tairiuc. Co tard²⁷ in ben bréic uime co n-epert fris: 'Innis dam-sa,' ar sí, 'amal marbthar tū²⁸.' 'Bera derga iarnaídi do tapairt im²⁹ bonnaib 7 tria mo luirgnib.'

¹ et as lór aoinfer do esbaíd oirn E ² tabhartar Cealtchair E ³ dino E
⁴ eirched E ⁵ bí a comairci fair E ⁶ ní tei . . . L ⁷ for in L
forsan E ⁸ nó L ⁹ di gairm Cheltchair L dá ghair E ¹⁰ aneas E
¹¹ doberait E ¹² chini E ¹³ om. L ¹⁴ tra L ¹⁵ conaitced E
¹⁶ annso L ¹⁷ tic . . . L ¹⁸ ina remes om. E ¹⁹ Conrui E
²⁰ Ultu commor L ²¹ ní gapdis . . . he E ²² noscingtis de amal bid
codna nobendais E ²³ sin E ²⁴ laa and E ²⁵ tarad breit (leg.

4. 'This is bad, O Conchobar!' said the men of Ulster. 'This means the ruin of the Déisi. It was enough that we should lose the man who has died, and let Celtchar come (back) to his land,' said the men of Ulster. 'Let him come, then,' said Conchobar; 'and let his son go for him, and let him be his safeguard.' At that time with the men of Ulster a father's crime was not laid upon his son, nor a son's crime upon the father. So he went to summon him until he was in the south.

5. 'Wherefore hast thou come, my son?' said Celtchar. 'That thou mayst come to thy land,' said the lad. 'What is my safeguard?' 'I,' said the lad. 'True,' said he. 'Subtle is the treachery which the men of Ulster practise upon me, that I should go on my son's guarantee.' 'Subtle shall be his name and the name of his offspring,' said the druid. 'Wait, lad,' said Celtchar, 'and I will go (with thee).'

6. This is done, and hence is Semuine^a in the land of the Déisi.

7. However, this is the fine which was demanded for Blái the Hospitaller, to free them from the three worst pests that would come into Ulster in his time.

8. Then Conganchnes^b mac Dedad went to avenge his brother, even Curoi son of Daire mac Dedad, upon the men of Ulster. He devastated Ulster greatly. Spears or swords hurt him not, but sprang from him as from horn.

9. 'Free us from this pest, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. 'Surely I will,' said Celtchar. And on a certain day he went to converse with the Horny-skin so that he beguiled him, promising to him his daughter, even Niam daughter of Celtchar, as well as a dinner for a hundred every afternoon to be supplied to him. Then the woman beguiled him, saying to him: 'Tell me,' she said, 'how you may be killed.' 'Red-hot iron spits have to be thrust into my soles and

breic) frise L ²⁶ Niam E ²⁷ co tarat L ²⁸ co n-erbairt frie in
n-innas no mair . . . L ²⁹ [bera] iairn it eat derga tri . . . Here the
fragment in L ends.

^a A tribal territory of the Déssi, so called, according to the 'Expulsion of the Déssi' (p. 122), from Semon mac Oenguso maic Celtchair maic Uithechair.

^b i.e. Horn-skin.

Co n-epert si¹ riana hathair co ndernta dá bir móra lais 7 co tardta bricht súain fair 7 co taruimlad slóg mór cuici. 7 dorónad amlaid. Et docóas ar a tarr co tardad na beru co n-ordai^b ina bonnaib 7 sechnóin a smeru con dorchair lais, co tall a cend de, co tardad carn for a cend .i. cloch cachu fir tánaic ann.

10. Et isí fochaid tánaise iarsin .i. in luch donn .i. cuilén fúair mac na baintrebthaigi a cúas omna 7 ronalt an bantrepach co mba mór. Fadeoigh dono dofell ar cóerchu na bantrebthaigi 7 romarb a bú 7 a mac 7 romarb feisin hí féin 7 docóid iarsin co Glenn na Mórmuici. Les gach n-aidchi nofásaighedh la Ultu 7 ina cotlud each dia. ‘Dingaib dín, a Celtchair!’ ar Conchobar, 7 téit Celtchar a fidbaid co tuc cep ferna as 7 gur ro-(p. 11)clas comfada a lama 7 gur roberbh a lusaib tuthmara 7 a mil 7 a mbeoil gur bo bog righin. Téit Celtchar dochum na derca a cotlad in luch dunn 7 gabaid isin derc moch siu tísad in luch dond iarsan orcuin. Tic side 7 a srón a n-áirde la tuth in croinn 7 léicid Celtchar in crann tarsan derc amach cuici. Gabaid in chú ina beolu co tard a fiacla inn 7 rolen na fiacla isin maidi righin. Srengaid Celtchar in crann cuici 7 srengaid in chú isin leth anaill 7 dobeir Celtchar a láim iarsin cep co tard a chridi tar a bēl, co raibi ina dorn 7 ruc a cend lais.

11. *Ocus* in lā a cinn bliadna iarsin bātar būachaillí a tāib cairn Congoncnis, co cūaladar iachtad na cuilén isin cairn 7 rotochladar in carn 7 fūaradar trī cuiléna ann .i. cū odur 7 cū minbrec 7 cū dub. Rucad in cū minbrec a n-ascaid do Mac Dāthó do *Laignib* 7 is impi dotuit sochaidi do feraib *Ērenn* a tig Maic Dāthó 7 Ailbi ainm na con sin, 7 co mad do Cūland cerda dobert[h]a in chú odur 7 in chú dub Daol-

¹ erpert E

through my shins.' Then she told her father that he should have two large spits made, and a sleeping spell put upon them, and that he should gather a large host to himself. And so it was done. And they went on their bellies, and the spears were thrust into his soles with sledge-hammers and right through his marrow, so that he fell by him. And Celtchar cut off his head, over which a cairn was raised, viz. a stone was placed by every man that came there.

10. And this is the second pest, even the Dun Mouse, viz. a whelp which the son of the widow had found in the hollow of an oak, and which the widow had reared till it was big. At last then it turned^a upon the sheep of the widow; and it killed her kine, and her son, and killed herself, and then went to the Glen of the Great Sow.^b Every night it would devastate a *liss* in Ulster, and every day it lay asleep. 'Free us from it, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. And Celtchar went into a wood and brought out a log of alder; and a hole was dug in it as long as his arms, and he boiled it in fragrant herbs and in honey and in grease until it was soft and tough. Celtchar went towards the cave in which the Dun Mouse used to sleep, and he enters the cave early before the Dun Mouse came after the slaughter. It came, and its snout raised high in the air at the smell of the wood. And Celtchar pushes the wood out through the cave towards it. The hound takes it in his jaws, and puts his teeth into it, and the teeth clave in the tough wood. Celtchar pulls the wood towards him; and the hound pulls at the other side; and Celtchar puts his arm along the log (inside) and took its heart out through its jaws so that he had it in his hand. And he took its head with him.

11. And that day, at the end of a year afterwards, cow-herds were by the side of the cairn of Horny-skin, and heard the squealing of whelps in the cairn. And they dug up the cairn and found three whelps in it, viz. a dun hound, and a hound with small spots, and a black hound. The hound with the small spots was given as a present to Mac Dathó of Leinster; and for its sake multitudes of the men of Ireland fell in the house of Mac Dathó, and Ailbe was the name of that hound.^c And it would be to Culand the smith that the

^a *dofell ar* evidently stands for *do-ell for*. Cf. *dosáí forsna cethra* below.

^b Not identified. ^c See the story of Mac Dathó's pig, *Hibernica Minora*, p. 57.

cú Celtchair feisin. Ní léiced side a gabáil do duine acht do Celtchar. Fecht ann ní báí Celtchar abus 7 do léiced in cú amach 7 forfeimditer¹ in muintir a gabáil 7 dosáí forsna cethra 7 forna hindili 7 nomilled hī gach n-aidchi la Ultu fo deoid.²

12. 'Dīnguib *didiu* in fochaid³ ut, a Celtchair!' ar Conchobar. Luid Celtchar dochum in glenna 'na mbōi in cú 7 cét laoch lais 7 gairmid in coin fo thrī, co facadar in coin cucu 7 nosdīrgenn co Celtchar co mbōi ac lige a cos. 'Is trūag ām ann-dognī an cú,' ar cách. 'Ní bīu-sa fot cinaid ní bus mō,' ar Celtchar 7 atnaig builli don lūin Celtchair, co ruc a cride trithi 7 co fūair [bás] iarsin. 'Fé amai!' ar cách. 'As fir,' ar sē la turgbāil an gāi sūas, gur fēimid brōen fola d'fuil na con cuici ar fut an gāi co ndechaid trīt co talmain, co mbo marb de. 7 rolaa[d] a gāir guil 7 rotōgbad a lia 7 a lecht ann. Conid hī sin A[i]ded Blāi Briugad 7 Congoncnis 7 Celtchair maic Uithechair. Finit.

¹ forfeimgiter E

² deoid E

³ fochaidī E

dun hound was given, and the black hound was Celtchar's own Dóelchú. It let no man take hold of it save Celtchar. Once upon a time Celtchar was not at home, and the hound was let out, and the people of his household could not catch it; and it turned among the cattle and the flocks, and at last it would destroy a living creature every night in Ulster.

12. 'Free us from that pest, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. Celtchar went towards the glen in which the hound was, and a hundred warriors with him, and three times he calls the hound until they saw it coming towards them, making straight for Celtchar until it was licking his feet. 'It is sad, indeed, what the hound does,' said all. 'I will no longer be incriminated for thy sake!' said Celtchar, giving it a blow with the *lúin*^a of Celtchar, so that he brought out its heart, whereupon it died. 'Woe!' cried everybody. 'Tis true,' said he, as he raised the spear, when a drop of the hound's blood ran along the spear and went through him to the ground, so that he died of it. And his lament was set up and his stone and tomb were raised there. So this is the Tragical Death of Blái the Hospitaller, and of Horny-skin, and of Celtchar the son of Uthechar. Finit.

^a See the notes.

IV. AIDED FERGUSA MAIC RÖICH

From the Edinburgh ms. xl, p. 5.

1. CID DIATA A[i]ded Fergus a maic Rōich?

Nī *hansa*. Būi Fergus for luinges i Connachtaib iarna sārugud in macuib *Usnech*, ūair is ē in tres comairci tucad friu 7 Dubthach Dōeltenga 7 Cormac Conlonges mac Conchobair. Bātar *dono* uili tīar forsan loingsis co cend cethri mbliadna *déc* 7 nī an *dono* gul nā crith leo a n*Ultaib*, acht gul 7 crith gach n-oidhchi. Is ē romarb¹ *Fiachraig* mac Conchobair 7 is ē romarb Geirgi mac n*Illeda* 7 as ē romarb¹ Eogan mac Durthact. Is lais tucad in tain² .i. la Fergus. Mōr tra do gnīmaib dorine sium a *tegluch Ailello* 7 *Medba* 7 ba minca nobid som 7 a muinte ar fot in tīre cena nā isin *tegluch*. Trīcha cēt rob ē līn na loingsi 7 is ē roba fer cumtha dō-som a *tegluch Ailello* .i. *Lugaíd* Daillēigis .i. brāthair do Oilill in *Lugaíd* sin.

2. Bātar ann iar ngnīmaib acon loch ar *Mag Āi*. Dūnad mōr leo .i. cluichi³ 7 cēti ann. Laa n-aon ann *dono* luid in slōg uili i[si]n loch dia fothrucaid. ‘Erg sīs, a Fergus,’ ar Ailill ‘7 bāid na firu!’ ‘Nīt maith a n-uscī,’ ar Fergus. Luid-som sīs ar ái sin. Nīr fūlaing a cridi do *Meidb* co ndechaid isin loch. *Mur* docūaid Fergus isin loch dorala ana mbui do *grenaig* 7 do *clochaib* a n-īchtar an loch[a] co raibi for ūachtar uli. Luid *Medb didiu* co raibi for a bruindī-sium 7 a gabla ime 7 co taircell-som in loch annsin 7 rogab ēt Ailill. Doluid *didiu* sūas *Medb*.

3. ‘Is *ālaind* a ndognī⁴ an dam, a *Lugaíd*, 7 an eilit isin loch,’ ar Ailill. ‘Cid nach *gontar*?’ or *Lugaíd* 7 nī tuc urcor n-imraill rīam. ‘Teilg-su dūn orchur *forru*!’ ar Ailill. ‘Impō m’agaíd⁵

¹ romarb- ms² antain intain ms³ cl-ti ms⁴ aundogni ms⁵ mad- ms

IV. THE DEATH OF FERGUS MAC RÓICH

1. Whence is the tragical death of Fergus mac Róich? Not hard to tell.

Fergus was in exile in Connaught after his honour had been violated in the matter of the sons of Usnech; for he was one of the three guarantors that were given to them, the other two being Dubthach Chafertongue and Cormac Conlonges the son of Conchobar. These were all in exile in the west to the end of fourteen years, and (during all that time) wailing and trembling in Ulster never ceased through them,^a but there were wailing and trembling every night. 'Tis he who slew Fiachra the son of Conchobar, and Gerg the son of Illand, and Eogan the son of Durthacht.^b By him, even Fergus, the Táin was brought. Many deeds he did while in the household of Ailill and Medb; and he and his people were more often abroad in the land than in Ailill's household. Three thousand was the number of the exiled company; and his comrade in Ailill's household was Lugaid Dalléces, to wit, a brother of Ailill's was that Lugaid.

2. Once after deeds of valour they were by the lake^c on Mag Ai, where they had a large encampment, in which games and gatherings were held. Now on a certain day the whole host went into the lake to bathe. 'Go down, O Fergus,' said Ailill, 'and drown the men.' 'They are not good in water,' said Fergus. Nevertheless he went down. Medb's heart could not bear that, so that she went into the lake. As Fergus entered the lake, all there was of gravel and of stones at the bottom of the lake came to the surface. Then Medb went till she was on the breast of Fergus, with her legs entwined around him, and then he swam around the lake. And jealousy seized Ailill. Then Medb went up.

3. 'It is delightful what the hart and the doe are doing in the lake, O Lugaid,' said Ailill. 'Why not kill them?' said Lugaid, who had never missed his aim. 'Do thou have a cast at them!' said

^a i.e. through their deeds of vengeance.

^b i.e. the murderer of the sons

of Usnech.

^c i.e. Findloch. See "Revue Celtique," xxiii., p. 338.

cuchtha,' or Lugaid, '7 tabraid gāi dam.' Robūi Fergus aca nige asin loch 7 a bruinni fria 7 tucad a carpat docum Oilello co mbūi ina farrad 7 do teile Lugaid urcor don gāi co mbōi triana druim sīar sechtair¹. (p. 6) 'Doriacht an t-urchur!' ar Lugaid. 'Is fir ou,' ar cāch, 'atāt bruiudi Fergusa.'

4. 'Trūag sin,' ar Lugaid, 'mo chomalta 7 m' fer cumtha do marbad dam-sa cin cinaid.' 'Mo carpat dam-sa!' ar Ailill. Tēit in slōg uili for teiched, cach fer a leth fri tīr etir luinges 7 Connachta. Gataid Fergus² an gāi as 7 teilcid a ndiaid Ailello co ndechaid tresin milco[i]n būi etir dā fertas in carpat. Luid Fergus iarum asin loch 7 nusdīrgenn forsan tulaig a taeib in locha 7 luid a anum as focētōir 7 atā a lige ann fōs. Conid hī A[i]ded Fergus[a] connuici sin.

¹ sechtduir ms

² Fergus ms

Ailill. 'Turn my face towards them!' said Lugaid, 'and bring a lance to me!' Fergus was washing himself in the lake, and his breast was towards them. And his chariot is brought to Ailill, so that it was near him; and Lugaid threw the lance, so that it passed out through his back behind. 'The cast has gone home!' said Lugaid. 'That is true,' said all; 'it is the end^a of Fergus.'

4. 'How sad,' said Lugaid, 'if I should have killed my foster-brother and comrade innocently.' 'My chariot to me!' said Ailill. All the host began to flee, each man towards the shore, both the exiled and the men of Connaught. Fergus draws out the lance and hurls it after Ailill, so that it passed through the deerhound which was between the two hind-shafts of the chariot. Thereupon Fergus came out of the lake, and straightens himself out upon the hill by the side of the lake; and his soul passed out of him forthwith. And his grave is there still. So this is the tragical Death of Fergus so far.

^a There is here an untranslatable play on the word *bruinne*, which means both 'breast' and 'end.'

V. AIDED CHEIT MAIC MĀGACH

Version A

From the Edinburgh ms. xl., p. 7.

1. Cid diatā A[i]ded Ceit maic Māgach?

Nī *hansa*.

Luidh Cet fecht ann a crích nUlad do chuinghi[d] gona duine, inní ba minic lais .i. *Ulaid* do goin, ūair nī dechaid asa nōendin rīam [cen] guin *Ultaig*.

2. Luid sium siar iarum 7 trī nōi¹ cinn do Ultaib lais 7 docuredh iarum Conall Cernach for a lurg co Brēfni Connacht. Laad snechta an gemrid do sunnrad, co fūair Conall a fästig hē ac fuine a chotach² 7 a ara. Bātar *tra* na eochu fōn carpat amuich.

3. 'Is ē Cet so,' ar Conall, '7 nī fiu dūin comrac fris ar a doilghi 7 ar a crōdacht. Is amnus in fer fil [and],' ar Conall. 'Fē amai!' ol in t-ara, 'nī maith tig tar do beōlu, in pēist fil for dīgail Ulad [cen] gabāil tige fair 7 nī meabal *tra* comtuitim duit fris, oir atā dia beōdacht³ connuic so.' 'A athair,' ar Conall, 'nī tibur m' anum do lāith gaili fer nĒrenn 7 dobēr *tra* comartha forsna eochu.' Gadaid Conall dūal a muing na n-eoch 7 dobeir andlochtan a cinn in carpat 7 tēit as sair co hUlu.

4. 'Fē, a Ceit!' ar an t-ara. 'Nī fē,' ar Cet, 'is mait[h] in t-anocul *tuc* for na heocha. Conall so,' ar sē, '7 biaid caradrad de 7 bid maith hē.' 'Fē amae!' or in t-ara, 'in fer rolá ár Connacht do tabairt mēla fort 7 nī toircēba t'ainm co bráth can a bás nó can a rūacad a fescur.' 'Maith ám,' ar Cet. Lotar ina diaid co hĀt[h] Ceit.

¹ The ms has the ordinary compendium for *nó*, with a dot or small *i* over it.

² a acotach ms

³ beogachta ms

V. THE DEATH OF CET MAC MÁGACH

Version A

1. Whence is the Death of Cet mac Magach?

Not hard to tell.

Once upon a time Cet went into Ulster to seek the slaying of a man, a thing he often did (viz., to slay Ulstermen), for from his childhood he never went without the slaughter of an Ulsterman.^a

2. So he went westwards, having the heads of thrice nine men of Ulster with him. And Conall Cernach was then sent upon his track to Brefne in Connaught (for winter-snow had fallen), until in an empty house he found him and his charioteer cooking their meal. The horses, however, were under the chariot outside.

3. 'This is Cet,' said Conall, 'and it is not fitting for us to fight with him on account of his ferocity and his fierceness. He is a savage man,' said Conall. 'Woe!' said the charioteer, 'no good comes over thy lips, not to storm the house in which is the pest that is harrying Ulster, and it is no shame for thee to fall in combat together with him; for such is his courage until now.'^b 'O father,' said Conall, 'I shall not give my life to any hero of the men of Ireland; but I shall put a token upon the horses.' Conall snatches a lock out of the mane of the horses, and puts a wisp upon the front of the chariot, and goes away eastward to Ulster.

4. 'Woe, Cet!' said the charioteer.

'Not woe,' said Cet. 'It is well that he has spared the horses. This is Conall('s doing),' said he, 'and from this there shall be friendship, and it will be well.'

'Woe,' said the charioteer, 'that the man who has made a slaughter of the men of Connaught should put disgrace upon thee, and thy name will not endure till Doom without thy killing him or putting him to flight this evening.' 'Right indeed,' said Cet. They went after him as far as Cet's Ford.

^a Cf. fer ná dechaid asa náindín riam eret robói gáí ina láim cen chenn Connachtaig leis, Zeitschr. i., p. 103, 1.

^b Here the text seems corrupt.

5. 'Amin, a Chonaill!' ar Cet. 'Cid sin, a Ceit?' ar Conall. 'Ní racha as aniu, a clóain,' or Cet. 'Dōig lem,' or Conall ac intód¹ cuici 7 nothúairgenn (p. 8) cāch dīb a chēili co clos fon dīthrub uli a ngnīthech 7 a mbolcfadach 7 gāir na scur 7² an anr³ ac lāigedh na lāth ngaili robātar isin āth, co torchair cechtarde anunn 7 anall. Marb *immorro* Cet fo cētōir 7 dororchair Conall a nēl.

6. Ocus dūscid Conall asa nēl. 'Ber lat na hechu co hUltu,' or sē, 'ar nā romaigset *Connachta* cetus.' Farofēimid in gilla tra a tōcbāil-som ina carpat 7 ceilebraid in gilla dō iarum 7 luid dia tig. 'Olc so tra,' or Conall, 'aonfer do *Connachtaib* 7 rogellus-[s]a ām,' ar sē, 'nach[am] muirfed aonfer do *Chonnachtaib* 7 robo ferr lem nā rīge in domuin nech do *Chonnachtaib* dom athguin co nā ba[d] for aon fer do *Chonnachtaib* nobeith mo marbad.'

7. Bēlchu Brēfni tra, is ē tānic ar tús. 'Cet so,' or sē. 'Conall dono sunna,' ar sē 7 bid⁴ maith an *Ēriu* festa,' or sē, 'ō dotorchair in dā árehoín so doloitsitar an *Ēriu* eturra,' la tabairt a[i]rlaindī a tšlgi for Conall. 'Fair t'irlaind dīm, a athair!' or sē. 'At beō,' ar Bēlchū. 'Nī buide⁵ frit ōn,' ar Conall, 'am beō-sa.' 'Fīr, a Conaill,' ar Bēlchū, 'a[c] cuinci[d] do gona atāi form-sa 7 nī dingēn-sa, oir is marb cena tū.' 'Nī lēmt[h]a cid mo brat do goin,' ar Conall, 'a caillech trūag!' 'Nītmairbfet-sa⁶ tra, acht atā nī cena,' ar sē. 'Notbēr lem dom tig 7 not-īcfaiter acum 7 madat⁷ slān *immorro* caitħfet frit.'

8. Iarsin tra tōcbaid for a muin 7 a leth ina diaid, co rāinic a tech 7 dobeir leaga cucui gur bo slān. 'Bid fīr,' ar Bēlchū fria maccaibh, 'raga in fer sa ūaim 7 nī dingna ar les. Marbaid in fer resiu dech⁸

¹ intógh ms ² Here the ms is illegible. ³ An leg. a n-arad?
⁴ bit ms ⁵ buige ms ⁶ nitmuirbebsom ms ⁷ magat ms ⁸ dech- ms

5. 'Now, Conall!' said Cet.

'What is that, O Cet?' said Conall.

'Thou shalt not escape to-day, O evil one,' said Cet.

'That is my opinion too,' said Conall, turning towards him. And each of them smites the other, so that their shouting and their panting, and the . . . of the horses, and the . . . of their charioteers (?) inciting the heroes who were in the ford were heard throughout the wilderness, until both fell to this side and that. Cet, however, died forthwith, and Conall fell into a swoon.

6. And Conall awoke out of his swoon. 'Take the horses with thee to the men of Ulster,' said he, 'before the men of Connaught . . .'^a However, the lad was unable to lift him into the chariot, and so he bids him farewell, and he went home. 'Now, this is bad,' said Conall, 'that a single man of Connaught should have wounded me,^b while I have vowed that no single man of Connaught should kill me. And I had rather than the kingship of the world that some one of Connaught should wound me again, so that the slaying of me should not rest with one man of Connaught.'

7. Bélchú of Brefne, however, was the first to come there.

'This is Cet,' said he. 'And here is Conall,' said he. 'And henceforth Ireland will be happy, since these two slaughter-hounds have fallen, who ruined Ireland between them.' So saying, he set the butt-end of his spear on Conall. 'Take away^c thy spear from me, O father,' said Conall. 'Thou art alive,' said Bélchú. 'No thanks to thee,' said Conall, 'I am alive.' 'I see it, O Conall,' said Bélchú, 'thou wouldst have me slay thee. But I shall not do so, for thou art dead as it is.' 'Thou wouldst not dare to wound even my cloak,' said Conall, 'thou wretched old woman.' 'I shall not kill thee now, but there is something else. I shall carry thee with me to my house, and thou shalt be healed with me; and when thou art whole, I shall fight with thee.'

8. So then he lifts him on his back, half dragging him behind, until he reached his house. And he brought physicians to him until he was whole. 'It will be even so,' said Bélchú to his sons, 'this man will escape from me and will do us no good. Kill ye the man

^a *romaisget*?
'take heed.'

^b Something like this seems omitted.

^c Literally

úain. Tigid iarum cucui uili amārach d'agaid, co facar-sa in airecul fosclaiethi ar bar cinn 7 marbaid [é] ina lebaid.' Rofitir fer in imnid 7 an uile mōir .i. Conall in mīdūthrecht robōi dō.

9. 'Dūn in tech!' ar Conall fri Bēlcōin. Tēit sair 7 fácaid^b in tech fuslaidhi. 'Mait[h] didiu, a Bēlchú,' ar Conall, 'tarr am lebaid-sa!' 'Nī tō,' or Bēlchū. 'Do cenn dīt-sa,' ar Conall, 'mina tísi isin lebaid.' 'Bid ēicin,' ar Bēlchu. Dūnaid¹ didiu Bēlchú in tech. Iar cotlud do Bēlchōin fuslaid² Conall an tech. Dothecait maic Bēlchon dochum na imdaid³ a mbāi a n-athair 7 doberait a tri sligi trit gur marbsat 7 eirgid Conall iarsin 7 imrid a claidem forra co mbōi spreathach a n-incinni im na fraighthaib 7 beridh a ceithri cinnu lais sair, co rīacht a thech rēsiu roba matin. Conid hī A[i]ded Ceit 7 Bēlchon Brēfni cona maceaib in sin.

Version B

From mss. 23. G. 21, p. 140, and 23. B. 21, p. 174 (R. I. A.).

Ag so síos do bhás Cheit mic Mághach.

1. Ba tréinfear an Ceat so 7 fa biodhbha biothfoghlaidh air Ulltaibh é feadh a ré. Lá n-aon dá ndeachaidh an Ceat so a nUlltaibh ag deanamh díbfeirge amhuil fá gnáith leis go ttarla sneachta mór fán am sin ann; 7 ag tille do 7 trí ceinn laoch air gad aige do marbadh leis 'san turras³ sin, thig Conall Cearnach air a lorg gur chuir fá ghreim é ag Áth Cheat, gur chomruic siad le chéile, gur thuit Ceat 'san chomhlann 7 gur tromghoineadh Conall féin, gur thuit a néal air an láthair iair ttréigion iomaid⁴ fola do. 7 leis sin tig Béalchú Bréifne, tréinfear eile do Chonnachtaibh do láthair. Mar fuair Ceat marbh 7 Conall a certhaibh báis adubhairt gur mhaith an sgéal an dá onnchoin sin dá ttáinig aighmhille Éireann do bheith isna hann-rachtaibh sin.

2. 'As fíor sin,' air Conall, '7 a ndíol a ndearrna mise d'ulc air Chonnachtaibh riamh marbh-sa me!' As uime adubhairt Conall sin do brigh go madh fearr leis ná flaithios Éireann laoch eigin⁴ eile dá

¹ dunaig ms

² fusti ms

³ turruis B

⁴ om. B

before he goes from us! Come then to him all of you to-morrow night, when I will leave the house open before you, and kill him in his bed.' The man of affliction and great woe, even Conall, knew the evil intent which was (harboured) against him.

9. 'Close the house!' said Conall to Bélchú. He goes forward and leaves the house open. 'Well now, Bélchú,' said Conall, 'come into my bed.' 'Nay,' said Bélchú. 'Off with thy head!' said Conall, 'unless thou come into the bed.' 'It must needs be,' said Bélchú. Then Bélchú closed the house. When Bélchú had fallen asleep, Conall opens the house. The sons of Bélchú come towards the bed in which their father was and put their three spears through him, so that they killed him. And then Conall arises and plies his sword upon them, so that their brains were scattered about the walls. And he carries their four heads with him eastward until he reached his house before it was morning. So that is the Death of Cet and of Bélchú of Brefne with his sons.

ghoin ionnus nach beth clú a mharbtha air aonlaoch amháin do Chonnachtaibh. ‘Ní mhuirfid,’ air Béalchú, ‘oir as geall re bheith marbh dhuit an riocht ina bhfuile. Gidheadh, béar liom thú 7 cuirfeadh leighios ort 7 más téarmóidh¹ ód othrus² duit, do dhéan comhrac áenfir leat go ndíoghaltar liom ort gach dochar 7 gach díth dár himreadh leat air Chonnachtaibh.’

3. Agus leis sin cuirios iomchar faoi 7 beirios leis dá thig féin é, gur chuir leighios air ann go beth dá chréachtaibh cneasda. Mar do mheas *umorro* Béalchú eision ag tearnó 7 a neart féin a teacht arís ann, do ghabh eagla ré Conall é 7 ollmhuighthear triur laoch da chlainn ré Béalchoin re marbhadh Chona[i]ll tré feall ’san oidhche air a leabaidh, Gidheadh, fuair Conall dóigh air chogar³ na ceilge sin, 7 an oidhche do bhí a bharr⁴ fán ccloinn teacht ag déanamh na feille, adubhairt Conall le Béalchoin go ccaithfeadh malairt leaptha d’ íághail uaidh no go muirfeadh. 7 leis sin luigheas Béalchú gér leisg é a leabaidh Chonaill 7 do luigh Conall ina leabaidh sin, go ttángadar an triur laoch sin fá chlainn do Bhéalchoin d’ ionsuighe na leaptha ina mbíodh Conall, gur mharbhadar a n-athair a riocht Chonaill.

4. Mar do mhoithigh Conall iad sin iar marbhadh a n-athar ina riocht féin, do ling ortha 7 marbhthar leis iad a ttriur 7 díthcheantar leis iad mar aon lena n-athair, go rug airnamháireach a ccinn dá ecomh-mhaoidheamh go hEamhuin. Gonadh ag muidheamh an ghníomha sin atá an file ’san rann so :

Fá do chearrdaibh Conaill Chearna[igh]
ionnradh Manann, mór an modh,
is goin trí mac Béalchón Bréifne
iár ngoin⁵ athar⁶ na ttrí eon.

Gonadh é sin marbhadh Ceit mic Mághach 7 Bhéalchon gona thriur mac go roich so ; gidheadh as iomdha éacht adhbhal eile do féadfaidhe do chomhmuidheamh air Chonall fuigfom don chur so gan cur síos ann so.

¹ téarnoidh B
⁵ bhéil add. BG

² tothrus G ; tfothras B
⁶ athair BG

³ chogair B

⁴ bhara B

NOTES

- p. 4, § 1, *commesetha*, better *conmesetha*.
- ib., § 3, a *lethi arnabárach*, perhaps miswritten for a *leth iarnabárach*.
- p. 7, § 5. Similar incidents of self-display to women occur in the *Táin Bó Cúalngi* (Cúchulinn), and in *Dindsenchas* 9 (Niall).
- p. 11, l. 1, *Morann*, son of *Móen* add. Ed.
- p. 12, § 2. Perhaps instead of *forcu*[i]d we should read *forcu*[mc]ad as in § 1. But cf. *foreuad* 'has been completed,' Tur. 49. So also *foscumadh*, p. 14, § 2, may be miswritten for *forcumad*.
- p. 15, l. 4. *The blood which he had shed was a baptism to him*. So the Holy Innocents were baptised with their blood. See *Fél.*², p. 468.
- p. 20, l. 2. Note the internal rhyme between *Emna* and (*Meiss-*)*gegra*. Similarly ib., l. 16 (*Meiss-*)*gegra*: *demna*.
- ib., l. 3. As there is internal rhyme in every couplet of this poem, it is evident that Cináed húa Hartacáin wrote *Mágach*, which alone would give the required rhyme with *árach*. In his poem, *Fianna bátar in Emain* ('Rev. Celt.' xxiii., p. 308), *Mágach* rhymes with (*ro*)*lámad*.
- ib., l. 7. Note the internal rhyme between (*dor-*)*aingred* and *Laignech*.
- p. 22, § 2, *co ráinic in baili si*. Here *co ráinic* is either a petrified phrase like *corrici*, or, more likely, *ráinic* is used impersonally like the German *es kam*. The impersonal use of certain verbs, such as *doim*, *do-ice*, and others, deserves special study. Cf. *dorigne lúaithe de*, literally, 'it made ashes of him'; *ó thánic cusna dedenche dó*; *ó rosiacht cusna dedenche dó*, &c.
- p. 24, § 1. Celtchar son of Uthechar,¹ from whom Dún Celtehair, a large fort near Downpatrick, is named, is often mentioned, together with Conall Cernach, Fergus mac Róich, and Lóigaire Búadach, among the older generation of the Ulster heroes. In the story of MacDáthó's Pig, he is called 'a tall, grey, very terrible warrior' (*ldech líath mór forgránna*, § 13). His wife was Brig Brethach (§ 1 and FB. 28). His daughter Níab (§ 9) was the wife of Cormac Condlongas, the son of Conchobor (ib.). One of his sons was called Liath (*Tochm. Etáine*, 16, 19). He had two brothers, Glas and Menn (Henderson, *Fled Br.*, p. 132). He is called *Celtchar na ceilg*, 'C. of the wiles,' in *Serglige Conculaind*, § 29.
- ib., § 2. Blái Briuga's burial-place is mentioned in a poem at the end of *Leabhar na hUidhre* (p. 134b), the fragmentary state of which is greatly to be regretted, as the poem is evidently very old, and we have no second copy. This

¹ He is called mac Uthidir, LU. 121 b, in *Tog. Br. D. D.*, and elsewhere.

poem is entitled, 'The places in which the heads of the Ulster champions are. From the Book of' . . .¹ Only three quatrains are preserved, as follows:—

Hōnd ùair dundánic Fáilbe	d'Eliu iar n-imram ch[urach]
indid dam-se citn' armand	hi fil chend erred Ul[ad].
Íarna thabairt do Maig Breg	do Ráith Emnæ túaith a[
adrnacht cend Conchobuir	for a cholaind im-Machi.
Góeta díag mná Celtchair	cinid ceibind ha hisil
cend Blái Briugad iar n-insu	da néim hEmuin fa des . . .

In his poem beginning *Fianna bátar i nEmain* (*Rev. Celt.* xxiii., p. 308), O'Hartacán says that he died *tria chin mná i ndesciurt Óenaig Macha*.

p. 27, l. 4. According to the *Expulsion of the Déisi* (p. 122), the name of this son of Celtchar's was Óengus.

p. 28, § 10. The monster called *Luch donn*, or *Dun-Mouse*, is also mentioned in the *dindsenchas* of Alend (E. Gwynn, *Metrical Dindsenchas* II., p. 80). In *Fled Bricrend*, §§ 22, 46, the name is applied as an epithet to Loegaire Buadach. Thurneysen's rendering 'Mäusehaut,' as if *luch-thond* (Sagen aus dem alten Irland, p. 35) should be corrected accordingly.

p. 29, l. 5. In *Fled Bricrend*, § 7, Celtchar boasts of having slain Conganchness, and cut off his head.

ib., § 11. A marginal gloss in LU. (p. 61) contradicts the statement here made that the hound of Culand the smith was one of the three hounds that were in the brain of Conganchness. It says that these events happened long after the *Táin*, and that the smith's hound had been brought out of Spain. 'Nirbo é in tres cú robó i n-inchind Conganchnis in cú sin amail is cétfaid do foirind. Ar is do dígail Conrói for Ulaib dodeochaid Conganchnes 7 fota a aithli na Tána cid béside 7 hi cind a secht mbliadna romarb som (.i. Cúchulaind) coin na cerda. Conid bréc amlaid sin cétfaid na fairní út, ar is a Hespáin tucad cú na cerda amail innistir hi curp in sceoil.'

p. 31, l. 1. *Dóelchú*, *Celtchar's own hound*. The name of this hound is also mentioned in the *Dindsenchas* of Sliab Callann (*Rev. Celt.* xvi., p. 53), and in the glosses on O'Hartacán's poem *Fianna bátar i nEmain* (ib. xxiii., p. 320² and 325).

Dóil, i.e. 'Black Chafer' seems to have been a common name for black hounds. One of Maelfothartaig's favourite hounds bore the same name in its diminutive form *Dóiline* (see *Rev. Celt.* xiii., p. 393).

ib., § 12. Celtchar's death is mentioned in O'Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308) as having occurred eastward of Dún Lethglaise, i.e. Downpatrick.³ In the gloss the fatal drop is said to have passed through his head.

¹ Inna binadu hi filet cind erred [n]Ulad in so. Allib[ur] . . .

² Here, in § 15, for *Dóelcu eheleh. m̄c* read *Dóelcú Chelthechair maic [Uthechair]*, and correct the translation on p. 335 accordingly.

³ '*Abath Celtchair cona dáil fri Dún Lethglasse anair.*' Stokes reads *conad ail*, and translates, 'so that it is a shame.' The glossator certainly read *cona dáil* 'with his Dáel,' though this makes a poor rhyme with *anair*.

p. 31, § 12. The *lúin Cheltchair* was a lance found in the Battle of Moytura, whose deadly qualities are thus described in *Brúden Dá Derga*, § 129: 'When it is ripe to pour forth a foeman's blood, a caldron full of blood is needed to quench it when a deed of manslaying is expected from it. Unless it gets that, it will flame on its haft, and will go through its bearer or the master of the palace wherein it is. If it is a thrust that is given by it, it will kill a man at every thrust while it is at that feat, from one hour to another, though it may not reach him. And if it be a cast, it will kill nine men at every cast, and one of the nine will be a king or a crown prince or a chieftain of reavers.' After Celtchar's death, it passed into the hands of Dubthach Dóil Ulad (ib.); Dubthach was himself slain with it by Fedlimid (see Hennessy's edition of *Mesca Ulad*, pp. xiv, vi; 37, 39). At a later period Mac Cécht slew Cuscraid Menn with it (RC. 23, p. 308, § 16).

p. 33, § 1. For these events see the *Longes mac n Usnech*, Ir. Texte, I.

ib., § 2. *They are not good in water.* Cf. the following passage in the *Táin Bó Fráich*. 'Adfiadar dam,' ol Ailill, 'at maith i n-uisciu,' LL. 250 a 17.

ib., § 3. Cf. O Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308):—

Robíth Fergus matan moch do sleig Lugdach i Findloch:
iss é sin in scél dia tá 'Óenét amnas Ailella,'

with the gloss: Ailill isbert fri *Lugdaig* Dalléces: 'álainn connágat in t-ag 7 in elit,' ar sé, .i. Ailill 'isin loch. Imsoei gae forrae, a Lugaid!'

p. 36. There seem to have been other versions of this story differing from those here printed. This I conclude from the following stanza in O Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308):—

I fleid Bélcon ro-lámad cétguine Ceit maice Mágach:
Bélchú Breifne cona chlaind góita do cherddaib Conaill.

'At Belchu's feast the first slaying of Cet mac Magach was planned: Belchu of Breifne, with his children, was slain by Conall's arts.' On this we have the following gloss (ib., p. 326): .i. Conall Cernach romarb Cet a cath (an leg. ac a áth?) 7 ic fled Bélchou rococrathad (leg. rococrad), 'Conall Cernach slew Cet in battle (at his ford? cf. § 4, above), and at Belchu's feast it had been planned.'

ib., § 4. *a fescur*, literally, 'in the evening, before night,' seems to have the secondary meaning of 'at once, immediately.'

p. 38, l. 6, *dororchair*, better *dorochair*.

ib., § 7, *caithfet*, perhaps miswritten for *cathaigfet*.

p. 40, § 9, *fuslaicid Conall an tech*. The ms. has 'fusti,' which might be read *fuslaicthi*, with proleptic neuter pronoun (*i*) referring to *an tech* (better *a tech*).

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GLOSSARY

The first number refers to the page, the second to the paragraph.

- air-lann** *a staff, shaft.* gen. *airlainde* 38, 7. acc. *irlaind*, ib. gen. pl. *maidm na n-urland ria nGerr nGáela for Gullu 'rout of the staves,' Tig. 1024. a rudder, docorustar a lúí (nó urland) fri tír, Corm. s.v. príll.*
- áis** *age.* ót áis *all thy life* 20, 1. 7. See *Ériu* II., p. 87.
- aitin-chairchech** *furzy-haired.* Mugain A. 22, 1. 6. See *Ériu* I., p. 117, note *b*.
- álaig** *behaviour, manners* 6, 5. *álaig*, LU. 91^b17. gen. *dech cecha áilche ainmne*, LL. 294^a38. n. pl. *alcha bár .i. bésa súadh*, CZ. v. dat. *nólinfad in domun dia ailgib 7 dia gaiscedaib*, TTr.² 1501. Hence *su-alraig virtue, du-alraig vice*.
- amárach d'agaid** *to-morrow night* 40, 1. 1. *ragat-sa imárach dadaig in bar ndegaid* RC. 22, p. 23, note 8.
- amin** *indeed, forsooth!* 24, 3. *is ole amein! Otia* ii. 86.
- an-dlochtan** *a wisp, bunch* 36, 3. Cf. *dlocht crema*, Megn. Finn, § 24. *dlochtan crema i criss*, Ir. T. iii. 82.
- an-feta** *violent, a derivative of anfeth.* *co anfeta* 8, 10.
- árach** n. *bond, security.* *dar árach* 20, 1. 3.
- ár-chú** *a slaughter-hound.* *du. nom. in dá archoin* 38, 7.
- ardrach** *sovrán?* a *Rí ardrach adamrai* 10, 12. *iar n-ardrach écomnart*, ib. *i n-ardrach nguba*, ib. artrag 12, 3.
- arnenitir** 12, 3.
- ath-guin** f. *a wounding again.* *dom a.* 38, 6.
- attail** *he slept* 20, 1. 12. [*caolán in áit B. iv. 2. means the wheel that cut it?*]
- beoil** *grease* 20, 10.
- bolcfadach** *a puffing, panting* 38, 1. 4. *b. na tréifer sin la seis ind imrama*, TTr.² 863.
- bricht súain** *a sleeping spell* 28, 1. 2.
- bruinne** (1) *breast*; (2) *brink, end.* *A play upon the double meaning*, 34, 1. 5.
- caithim** *I fight.* *fut. sg. 1 caithfet* frit 38, 7.
- cepp** *a block, log.* *cep ferna* 28, 10. acc. *iarsin cep*, ib. gen. *Áth in Chip*, n.l. AU. 1270. dat. *in indeoin cona cip*, RC. 24, 194. *ató mar chimbid i cipp*, Franc. ms. A (9). dat. pl. *do cheppaib*, LL. 110^a.
- cingim** *I go, march.* *cichtis* 10, 12. *cichestæ* 12, 3.
- clóemclód** = *coímchlód an exchange* 12, 1.
- cloithech** *famous.* *c. a chelg* 18, 1. *nem cloithech*, LB. 111^b.
- coimthecht** *companionship.* *i Coimded coimthecht in the company of the Lord* 10, 12.
- com-derb** *equally certain or known.* *co mba c. isin mbith nach seól n-airdire* 12, 1.

comthach m. a companion. frit chomthach 20, l. 10. mo chomthach, Tochm. Ferbe 533.

con-clíchim trans. *I dash, toss*; intr. *I shake, tremble.* concíuchíis 12, 3.

con-ocbaim (con-od-gabim) *I lift up.* ma chotócbaimmis 10, 12 = ma chu-toocbaibmis 12, 3. conoeba, Ml. 79^c5.

con-oscraim (con-od-scaraim): cotnos-crastar *he shook himself?* 14, 4.

con-tulim *I sleep.* perf. sg. 3 connat-tail 20, l. 14.

cuít a portion of food. gen. ac fuine a chotach 36, 2.

dám-rad n. a company of visitors or guests, a visiting. Laws. for dāmruđ 24, 1.

derc n. a cave. gen. dochum na derca, 20, 10. dat. isin derc, ib. acc. tarsan derc amach ib.

dergail = derg-gail? 16, 4. 5.

dígmaig? rocés croich crúaid ar dóine digmaig (díchmaire 12, 3) 10, 12. ní bia debaid díchmaig de, sídaig mac na mongfinde, LL. 34^b53. ba díchmaig cen díth, SR. 6335. Dauíd díchmaig díl, SR. 6401. 6339. teacait iarum na Fomoire co mbátar i ndíchmaid i Scetno, RC. XII. 86.

dírigim *I make straight, straighten.* nos-dírgenn co Celtechar *he makes straight for C.* 30, 12. oc dírgad chuicca for a slicht, Alex. 307. nus-dírgenn *he straightens himself* 34, 4.

do-airebim? ní toircéba t'ainm co bráth 36, 4.

do-ellaim *I turn aside.* dofell (= do-ell) ar (= for) cóerchu 28, 10. doraell for écnuch na Trinóite, Arch. III. 14. doellsit, Ir. T. III. 240, 169.

do-es-com-orgim *I shed.* ind fuil donesmart (sic leg.) 14, 4. ar écnaire inna fola donesmart erond, Otia Merseiana II. p. 97, § 30.

do-etar-rethim *I overtake, reach.* dis in tetarhad écht 4, 4. dosn-etarraid, LU. 76 a 16. nicon tetarraid béim ná forgab fair 73 a 11.

do-rea-roosat *who has created us* 12, 3. = Imram Brain § 48.

do-sóim *I turn.* dosái forsna cethra 30, l. 3. imsoat, dosoat SR. 1013. tossói som iarum clár clé a charpait fri hEmain, LU. 63 a 24. dasúi Flathgius gilla Find | a gnúis ri gáir écomlaind, LL. 163^b31. tosóifet fria sruthu sruthlinne, RC. 26, 48.

drub delay 12, 3. druib 10, 12. drubh .i. tairisíomh nó combnaidhe, O'Cl. drub cen tathchor, LL. 371 a 15. Cf. drubaim *I linger, r'ay, abide.* ar a fat rodrubastar fo recht nóeb, RC. xx. p. 274.

dúal a plait, lock, tress. acc. gataíđ dúal a muing na n-ech 36, 3. gen. mell for rind cach dúail, Br. Dá D. 1.

elad f. = ailad, Contribb., ulad Wi. a tomb. dat. for elaid úair 18, 2. for a elaid Trip. 158, 12.

engnamaid *valorous* 8, 11.

ethaim *I take, seize, snatch.* ethaid 4, 4. ethaid (= gaibid L.) in luirg n-iairn, Otia II. 86 § 4. ethais giall cach cóicid, ib. 87 § 7. See Zimmier, Kubns Zeitschrift xxx., p. 75.

etraigim (with acc.) *I have to do or meddle with.* ná etraiged mnái 8, 10. ní hetragim dála ban, SR. 3178. ná hettruicidh clann Eoghain! Arch. Soc. I. 42.

fás-tech n. an empty or deserted house. dat. i fástig 36, 2. i fástig notguin triana tuighi súas, CZ. I. 104, 22. acc. fogabat fástech and, D. 4. 2, fo. 52^b2.

fáth-liaig m. *vates medicus, a seer-physician* 18, 11. brithem 7 f. LL. 200^b2. See Aisl. M., p. 145. gen. do thig araile fáthlegha, D. 4. 2, fo. 53^a1.

leg. donesmart

fed extent, length. i fedh Taidg 18, 1.
fertas f. the hind-shaft of a chariot.
 etir dá f. in charpait 34, 4. dat. din
 lorg-fertais chatha, LL. 177^a.

fasta henceforth 38, 7.

fionnachtain a becoming known 22, B.

fo-cerddaim (intrans.) *I rush.* focherd-
 dat Ulaid chuci 6, 6.

fo-fríth was found 18, 2.

fomtiu (verb-noun of fo-menim) f. cau-
 tion, guard. Aisl. M. Index. dat. i
 fomtin 8, 10.

forad m. a shelf. doratad forsín forud
 4, 3. n. pl. faillet foraid forórdai,
 SR. 502.

fortamlas m. prevalence, superiority,
 the upper hand. rogab ciniud indala
 fir f. ar aroile, Bodl. Dinds. 14.

frescol ? cen láthair freasguil 14, 2.
 Cf. cin láthair ferda CZ. vi. 84, 9.

fris-táim *I oppose.* fritumhá brón báis
 10, 12. conná bí ní frestai a mes ón
 so that there is nothing to oppose its
 valuation, Ml. 31^d6.

fúagaim = úagaim, with prothetic f,
I stitch, sew. pret. pass. rofúaged
 co snáth óir 8, 10.

gart generosity, hospitality, honourable
 behaviour. cinnid ar cech crábud
 gart, LB. 77. is cóir gart i coic, Eg.
 1782, 45^a1. LL. 345^c. 270^b23. gen.
 sg. ar mét a garta 7 a gníma, TTr.²
 1335. im dian-garta dām, LL.
 132^b23. acc. pl. rohren fíal-garta
 cen fail, LU. 53a.

gníthech a shouting 38, 1. 4. Cf. gníd
 .i. guth, unde dicitur gnídgál, Corm.
 p. 23. gníoth a shout, uproar, O'R.
 co ngníthaib fiad na slógaib, SR.
 8118.

grenach f. gravel. dat. do grenaig
 32, 2. [^] LL. 197^b22. nirpsa grenach
 cechara, Hib. Min. Rawl. B. 512,
 fo. 111^a2. cona grenchaib airgididib,
 SR. 378.

iachtad a squealing, yelping. i. na
 cuilén 28, 11. i. cech mairb, RC.
 26, 32.

Idal m. an idolater, Jew. n. pl. na
 hÍdhuil 16, 4. Gaelic Maundeville,
 § 2, 16.

imda f. bed. gen. dochum na imdaidí
 40, 9.

indellaim *I make ready, adjust.* nos-
 indlethar 6, 6. I have no other
 instances of this verb in the deponent.
 ní indlium lína ná gosti, Alex. 862.
 ro-indiltea na lína, LU. 41^a12.

intód a turning. ac i. cuici 38, 1. 2.

Iudha a Jew. dat. pl. Iudhaib 14, 2.
 Iubhdaib, ib.

Iudaide a Jew. dat. pl. do Iudaidib 8,
 11. acc. fri hIudaidí 12, 3. O. Ir.
 Iudide, Wb. 1 d 21, 2 a 4.

láidim *I exhort, encourage.* inf. ac
 láided na láth ngaile 38, 1. 5. laoidh-
 eadh .i. greasacht, O'Cl. norlaoidh-
 enn .i. doní ar ngreasacht, ib.
 laoidhedh, FM. 1522. ní dligid duit-
 siu clann Conaill do laidiud ná do
 luaig-gresacht, MR. 154, 1. a laidiud,
 a luath-gresacht, ib. 6. 'ga laidiud,
 'ga luamairecht, ib. 182, 13. luighim
I encourage, abet, O'R.

lochtach faulty, possessed of faults,
 6, 5.

loman f. a rope, cord Wi. acc. sg.
 lomain 6, 7. gen. cú lomna, LL.
 251^b43. acc. pl. is maigr thescas a
 lomna, | noco rí cech rodamna, LL.
 120 marg.

luín f. a lance 30, 12. The length of
 the *u* and the gender are shown in
 the following verses: rí Achaid úir
 íbairdairnig | crathaid (= crothaid)
 in luín lethanmerlig, Ir. T. III., p. 12.
 dia luín .i. dia ghae, RC. xxiii. 325,
 § 15. in luín luáth échtach Celtchair
 'na láim, LL. 2676.

- mád-at** *if (it is that) thou art* 38, 7.
mádat óentadaach-su frinn, TTr.² 1801.
- maite** *wood, timber.* isin maidi righin 28, 10.
- mí-dúthracht** *f. an evil wish* 40, l. 3.
- min-brec** *having small spots.* cú m. 28, 11.
- moch** *early.* moch siu tísad 28, 10.
- mudaigim** *I ruin, destroy* 18, 2. ros-mudaig, ros-mill, Féil. cxlii. rot-marbais, rot-mudaigis, SR. 1680.
- * **múin** (múin?) *a treacherous trick* 26, 5. co tard m. uime 26, 9. in m. doberat Ulaíd immum-sa, doberthar tra múin impu, LL. 289^b5. dóbéra muin n-immi, Ir. T. i., p. 144, 31. dorat muin imbe do chathugud fri Grécu, TTr.² 213.
- múin** *back*, used idiomatically in the phrase for muin mo mic *on my son's guarantee* 26, 5. a lóg mo chuil is mo chelg | ma romgab muin mó cach maírg, Eg. 1782. Cf. do muin *for the sake of.*
- necht** *pure, bright* 10, 12. necht cach glan, Corm. 10 s. v. cruthnecht.
- neimnech** *venomous, virulent* 20, l. 1. O'Mulc. 132.
- nél** *a swoon.* dororchair i nél 38, 5. dúscid asa nél 38, 6. tánic iarom nell ehuice co tarmairt éce cen anmain, LB. 112^b.
- nemedach** *dwelling, or a dweller, in Heaven*, 10 Ed. nimedach, RC. xxiii. 430, 5.
- nem-thuir** ? *cáin comlund crothfind Crist ar nemthuir* 10, 12. nemthuir necht 10, 12. Cf. nemthor mbodba, MR. 170, 10?
- níam-derg** *of ruddy beauty.* niabhderg, 18, 1.
- noithech** *renowned, celebrated*, 18, 1. SR. Index. i Sid n. Nennta, Gwynn, Metr. Dinds. ii. 8. co mesc tuir noithig Nebrúaid, LL. 130^b36.
- ráin**, a by-form of rán = ro-án *very noble.* acc. m. frisin ríg ráin 20, l. 8.
- rechtaire** *m. a steward*, Wi. rechtaire teglaig Conaire, LU. 88^b26. n. pl. rechtairea ríg Rómán 12, 1. reacht-uireadha rígh an domuin 14, 2.
- remi-tiagaim** *I go before, precede.* remiteised 10, 12.
- resiu** conj. *before.* r. dech 38, 8. r. roba matin 40, 9.
- rethoric** *f. a composition in rhymeless verse*, 10, 13. canais in retoric se, LU. 91 a 43. rochan in rithoiric mbic si tria glónsnaíthe filidechta, Eg. 1782. dorigni in retairic sea 7 rochan na runnu sa, LU. 38 a 27. dorigni in rethoric seo, LL. 254^b. See on the word Windisch, Rev. Celt. v., p. 389, and O'Beirne Crowe, Journal of the Arch. and Hist. Association, 1874, p. 129.
- rúacad** *a routing* 36, 4. frith ar-rúacad co rochrúaid, LL. 215^b59. inf. of rúacaim *I rout*, SG. 36, 27.
- rúamna** *f. redness.* co rath rúamnai cloth 20, l. 14. ní rap rannaire rúamna goa! LL. 293^b49.
- ruth** *a running, course.* ní r garit in ruth, LL. 203 a. lúath a ruth, SR. 3107, Aisl. M. 79, 30. for ruth 20, l. 14. SR. 4051.
- seiene** ? *gur bhris a seiene* 22 B.
- séim** *subtle.* is séimh in muin 26, 5.
- seisred** *a plough-team* 24, 1.
- serb-airlech** *of bitter counsel* 10, 12.
- siu** conj. with subj. *before.* siu tísad 28, 10.
- snáth** *a thread.* dat. co snáth óir 8, 10. 'sa snaad *on the line (of an angle)*, Tochm. Em. 31.
- sprethach** *a scattering.* sp. a inchinne 22, 2. 40, 9.

* add. assed lobain muin in Flann, FM866 (I 508, 2)



- snáthe** *a thread.* snáthe far ruisc | **trú** *fated to die, a doomed person.* gen.
 romeбайд, Tochm. Ferbe 599. Cf. | pl. fri demna troch 20, l. 17.
 Three Shafts 21, 27. snaithi find- | Opposite sáeglach *long-lived*, see Ir.
 ruine asa n-ochraib, Ir. T. III. 238, | Nenn. 197, note g. .i. ar tí a tutma
 101. | atá, H. 3. 18, 79^a. ní thesairg trú
sríán-balc *strong-bridled* 18, 1. | teiched, MR. 172, 8. n. pl. dofáeth-
 | aat troich lat, H. 3. 18, 711.
- táin** *f. a drove.* acc. sg. tánai mbó 6, | **túth** *a smell, stench.* la t. in chroinn
 5. | 28, 10. tuth na raibhe *foetor sul-*
tathchreic *redemption* 12, 2. 16, 3. | *phuris*, Aisl. Tund. VII. tuth na
 mane thised in Coimdiu dia t., Lism. | mbachlach aile dochóid immut-so,
 47^b2. | LL. 286^b17.
- tlacht** *i. díten protection,* O'Dav. 1512. | **túthmar** *smelling, fragrant.* a lúsaib
 .i. étach, ib. 1505. .i. écosc, H. 3. | tuthmara 28, 10. tuthmar fer .i.
 18, 650^b. tólaib tlacht 18, 1. gen. | crann fir nó elann, H. 3. 18, p. 34.
 tlachta, Laws IV. 350, 5. acc. pl. | Hence túdmaire *f. smell, fragrance*,
 tlachtu, Féil. Jan. 4. | Ml. 65^c9.

 ADDITIONAL NOTES

p. 18, § 2, for *co mbúaid chain* read with *L commaid chain*, which gives a rhyme with *tonnaid*. With *láech frisralais* compare *conid-rolur-sa frisín fer n-uccut*, LU 63^b 13.

p. 20, l. 4. Perhaps *muni* is here a place-name.

p. 22, § 2. See the account of Loegaire's death in *Rev. Celt.* XXIII., pp. 320 and 325, where, instead of *Loch Lai*, the correct form *Loch Lóig* is found.

 CORRIGENDA.

p. 29, l. 2, for 'them' read 'him'.

p. 30, § 12, l. 1, for 'dídiu' read 'dín'.

FURTHER ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

[The following are found in Meyer's own copy. O. J. B.]

p. vi, last line, *to* 'beginning' *add note* : 'Another copy of this version is in the Stowe MS. C.I.2. fo. 5b-8a.'

p. vii, *add note* : 'Harl. 5280, fo. 57b: Fiamain mac Forai .i. Fiamhain mac Buidb Deirg meic an Daghada a Sid *for* (MS. *fer*) Femhin.'

pp. 3, 5, Conchobar, *add note* : 'Vita Albei (Acta Sanct. Hib., col. 235) : Post hec venit Palladius ad Hyberniam insulam multis annis ante Patricium, ut ibi fidem Dei seminaret. Cumque Palladius Christi passionem regi Conchobir filio Nessa predicasset, rex zelo Dei commotus et nimio furore repletus dixit : Utinam tunc adessem propinquus ego cum viris Hulad ut pro filio Dei totis viribus quasi gigas fortiter pugnarem et liberarem eum. Et cum hoc dixisset statim lapis qui in capite eius multo tempore fuit sursum exilivit et ipse pro suo zelo vitam eternam adipisci meruit. Palladius autem elevavit crucem cedrinam iuxta Stagnum Gerc.'

pp. 10, 15, 'leg. dúleman.'

p. 12, § 2, *for* 'forcūa[i]d' *read* 'forcūad.'

Note, *read* : 'This form, which means 'who has created ages (times)' etc. *Add* : 'See Bergin, Ériu VIII 99.'

p. 13, § 2, *for* 'happened' *read* 'was achieved.'

p. 18, 10-11, Meyer adds : 'From a poem of six stanzas in Laud 610, fo. 74al.' and gives variants.

pp. 18-20, § 2. 'Another copy in the Stowe MS. B.IV.2, fo. 150b.'

p. 26, 1, *for* 'Déisi' *read* 'deise.'

p. 27, 2, *for* 'ruin of the Déisi' *read* 'death of two.'

p. 27, 14, *for* 'Wait' *read* 'Stay thou (here),' *and for* ' (with thee)' *read* 'there.'

p. 33, 16, *for* 'Dalléces' *read* 'the blind poet.'

p. 40, 4, *read* 'fácbaid.'

p. 44, 7, *read* 'cech ind.'

p. 44, 8, 'leg. da-n-eim fadēs[in].'

p. 44, 13, *read* 'Luchdonn, or Mouse-dun.'

p. 46, *read* : Ádam 14, § 2. Blái Briuga. Cúruí mac Dáire. Eogan . . . 32, § 1. in Luchdond. Mugain Aittinchaithech.

p. 48 a, *under ardrach*, *read* 10, l. 4 . . . ib. 11 . . . ib. 14.

p. 48 b, *attail* queried in marg. [inatfail, inatfail B.IV.2, means 'in which thou art.' O. J. B.]

p. 49 a 4 f. b., *read* 'donescsmart.'

p. 49 b 5, *for* 'us' *read* 'ages.'

p. 50 a 10, *for* 'fo-menim' *read* 'fo-moiniur.'

p. 50 a 10, 5 f. b., *after grenach* *add* ' (from griän) .'

p. 51 a, *under muin* *add* : 'assed dobeir maoin im Flann, FM 866 (I 508,3) .'

