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CÒMHRAIDHEAN

'AN GAELIG 'S 'AM BEURLA.

LE ROIMH-RADH LE PROFESSOR BLACKIE.

*by*  
*The Rev. D. W. Jones*

CONVERSATIONS

IN

GAELIC AND ENGLISH.

WITH PREFACE BY PROFESSOR BLACKIE.

*SECOND EDITION.*

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## N O T E.

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THIS little book would most probably have never appeared in print but for the encouragement I had the honour to receive from Professor Blackie, who is so well known as an accomplished Gaelic scholar, and a warm advocate of Gaelic and its literature. It is now, with much diffidence, given to the public under his auspices. I hope that it will prove helpful to students of Gaelic, for whose use it is intended, and that some at least of its contents will find an echo in the breast of Highlanders generally, especially those of them living at a distance from their native glens and straths. As a first venture in the field of literature, and the first attempt at doing in a small way for Gaelic what has been so successfully done for the Continental languages, I hope that it will meet with some indulgence at the hands of the critics.

It only remains for me to add that to those who may desire a guide to help them in their efforts to pronounce Gaelic, &c., I cordially recommend *Practical Lessons in Gaelic*, by Donald C. Macpherson, an admirable little book, to be had from Messrs. Mac-lachlan and Stewart, Edinburgh.

THE AUTHOR.



## A FEW REMARKS ON THE STUDY OF GAELIC.



THE Gaelic has generally been esteemed a very difficult language ; and no doubt it has its peculiarities, which I shall mention presently ; but the great hindrances in the way of its acquisition have lain rather in accidental circumstances than in intrinsic difficulty. The double fact that the upper classes in the Highlands, with a few honourable exceptions, do not speak the language of the people, and that it is always more difficult to hold converse with the lower and half educated, or altogether uneducated classes, than with the educated ; this, conjoined with the want of a scientific apparatus of grammatical and lexicographical appliances such as exist in the classical languages, is apt to discourage learners, whose desire to make the acquisition receives no spur from any social necessity of making it. As almost all the common people in the Highlands now speak pretty tolerable English, and in fact are often more forward to speak it on common occasions than to use their mother-tongue, only those residents in the Land of Bens who have a special love for the people, and who delight to identify themselves with genuine Highland sentiment and tradition feel a motive strong enough to induce them to go through the labour of acquiring a new language which cannot boast of any very rich and varied literature to reward their exertions. And those few, as I know from experience, have at the very outset had their ardour sadly cooled by the want of a little book of idiomatic phrases and dialogues on common subjects, such as every

traveller on the Continent carries in his pocket, as the key to the vestibule of German, Italian, French, Russian, or other modern language. The conversational method is the method of nature ; and the entire disuse of it in our great classical schools is one of the chief causes of the slowness and painfulness of the process by which Greek and Latin are acquired by our British youth.\* The want of such a colloquial introduction to Gaelic will, I feel convinced, be felt no more after this little work, to which I feel honoured in having been requested to affix a few words of preface, shall have found its way into general circulation. The vocabulary which it contains may readily be increased by the perusal of the admirable dialogues in the *Caraid nan Gaidhael*, by the late Dr. Macleod, of St. Columba, Glasgow, and the *Highland Tales*, English and Gaelic, by J. F. Campbell (Edinburgh, 1860), to which from my own practice, I feel inclined to add the Gaelic translation of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, to be obtained with other Gaelic books from the publishers of this work, not forgetting, of course, the historical parts of the Old Testament, and the parables of the Gospels.

The strictly philological difficulties of the Gaelic language are of two kinds : those belonging to the vocabulary or material of the language, and those belonging to its phonic and syntactic genius. While in passing from English to French, the Englishman finds some seven-tenths of the words only old friends with new faces, in Gaelic, the inverse proportion is nearer the truth ; out of ten words on which the tyro stumbles only three may bear any resemblance to his previous stock, and these three cannot always be recognised without going through a process of

\* The conversational method, as applied to ancient Greek, I have endeavoured to introduce in my *Greek and English Dialogues* (London, Macmillan, 1871), and the same principle applied to modern Greek will be found in the work of Messrs. Vincent and Dickson (London, Macmillan, 1879).

philological induction, of which the majority of students cannot be supposed to be capable. It is of importance, however, that this induction should be attempted; for it will enable the learner to start with a certain stock of words, very slightly modified from what he already possesses. In order to enjoy this advantage, the learner has only to bear in mind the following simple principles:—(1) That *b* and *g* are only the flat or blunt forms of *p* and *k* or hard *c*; that *d* in the same way is the blunt form of *t*; that *v* is only a softer or vocalized form of *b*; and that *m* is a *b* with fully compressed lips and the breath sent gently through the nose. (2) That in all languages, the carelessness of hasty colloquy combines with the vocalic demands of music (and Gaelic has always been mainly a sung language) in smoothing away consonants in certain positions and presenting the word in a curtailed shape; and this either at the end, as when *tho'* stands for *though*, or at the beginning as when *sample* comes from *example*, or at the middle as when *Père* comes from *Puter*, and *Mère* from *Mater*. (3) That in many languages the pure sound of the consonant is apt to be modified by the addition of a breathing or aspiration, which compound is often marked by the original consonant with the spirant letter added; as when *th* in English or *θ* in Greek appears as the product of an aspiration following the original dental consonant. In the same way the Latin *c* or *k* is softened down to *ch* in Gaelic, as when *deach* stands for *decem* and *each* for *equus*, a horse. (4) In comparing languages, the student must bear in mind that the flexional terminations, as the *us* in *bonus*, are no radical part of the word, and must be discounted. With these principles in his head, the student of Gaelic will in a very short time easily recognise old friends in a number of Gaelic roots, which at first blush may not reveal their parentage to the unpractised eye. Thus, *mios*, a month, will at once be

seen to be identical with *mensis* ; *gabhar*, a goat, with *caper* ; *beatha*, life, with *vita* ; *athar* with *pater* by the dropping of the initial *p* which takes place also in *lan* = *plenus*, and some other roots. A classified list of these transmuted words with their cognates in English, Latin, or German, made, as he picks them up in reading, will materially aid the progress of the student.\*

But the great difficulty in Gaelic lies exactly where foreigners find it in English, viz., in the pronunciation. Here the main thing to be noted is that, as in our English words *though*, *plough*, &c., the final consonant, having been first softened by the aspiration, at last falls off altogether ; so that as a general rule final *gh* or *dh* in Gaelic hardly ever makes any sensible impression on the ear. Likewise in the middle of a word, between two vowels, *gh* and *dh* are habitually softened off, as in the English proper name *Vaughan* ; so that *gabhar*, caper, becomes *gour*, as in *Ardgour*, and other well-known names in Celtic topography. To an Englishman this should certainly not appear strange, delighting as he does in *high*, *sigh*, *thigh*, and other such evanishments of the final consonant of his Saxon roots. But there is a euphonic peculiarity in all the Celtic languages to which neither the Englishman nor any of his Teutonic congeners finds an analogy in his mother tongue, and which, unless firmly grappled with at the outset, will be a cause of constant annoyance to him in the course of his linguistic progress. This peculiarity consists in the habitual modification, or, in some cases, complete obliteration, of the initial consonant of the following word by the contagious influence of the long final vowel of the preceding word. Thus *truaighe* means *woe* ; but when in the common exclamation *mo thruaighe* — *woe*

\* Those who have leisure and inclination to pursue Gaelic Etymology scientifically, will find important aid in *Celtic Studies* by *Ebel*, English by *Sullivan* (London, Williams & Norgate, 1863).

*is me!* the long vowel of *mo* = *mine* immediately precedes, the *t* vanishes altogether, and the pronunciation is *mo chroóai*. So after *gle*, very, *math*, good, becomes *mhath*, i.e., *vah*; *mh* in Gaelic being equivalent to our *v*. This softening of the initial consonant takes place also in the common concord of adjective and substantive, as when *mor*, big, becomes *mhór* when joined to a feminine substantive, in the familiar *Skerry vore* = the big reef. The only way to get over this difficulty is persistently and emphatically from the very first to pronounce all words subject to this change loudly and distinctly in both ways. Thus *tigh*, a house, pronounced *tie*; but *mo thigh*, pronounced *mo high*, my house; and this prefix must be fixed in the ear by repetition as an essential part of the word. A similar method will remove the difficulty felt by so many students in reference to the gender of substantives in German. Instead of the single *buch*, a book, let *das buch*, the book, be firmly fixed in the ear emphatically from the beginning; and in this way the gender in German, or the initial modification in Gaelic, will be learned as easily as the change of terminational syllables in the cases of Greek and Latin nouns.

I have only to add that in a language where pronunciation and spelling differ so much as in Gaelic, no person who can procure one should commence the study without the familiar aid of a good teacher, or, if possible, without the best aid—that of residence for a few months in some remote Highland district. To those who can do neither, MacAlpine's pronouncing Dictionary may confidently be recommended.

Residents and travellers in the Highlands ought also to omit no opportunity of catechising the natives, generally well informed on this point, on the significance of the names of districts and places as they occur. These names being, in nine cases out of ten, pictorial or descriptive in their character,

will, when properly explained, perform the double service of impressing the features of the scenery permanently on the mind of the traveller, and of enriching his vocabulary of the language to an extent of which only a living experience could give him a conception.

COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,  
*1st June, 1880.*



## CÒMHRAIDHEAN GÀIDHEALACH.

### AN STOIRM, THE STORM.

Ciamar a tha 'chuideachd mu'n  
ghealbhan ?

An sibh a th'ann, a Dhòmhnuill ?

'S fhad' o'n Chunnaic sinn sibh.

Ciod a bha 'g 'ur cumail ?

Nach robh mi 'n Glascho o'n bha  
mi 'n so mu dheireadh !

Ciod a chuir a Ghlascho sibh ?

Innsidh mi sin duit.

Bha mi aig banais mo mhic, Seumas.

'S math an gnothuch air an robh  
sibh.

Cha d'thug e tàmh dhomh gus an  
do gheall mi dol ann.

Ciamar a thàinig am baile-mòr  
ruibh ?

Cha d'thàinig ach meadhonach.

Ciod a th'agaibh 'n a aghaidh ?

Tha de dh'ùinich 's de dh'ùpraid  
ann 's nach mòr nach do chuir  
e mo cheann air aimhreit.

An robh sibh ann an carbad na  
smùide ?

Cha robh 's cha bhi.

Tha mi taingeil gu'n d'fhuir mi air  
m'ais do shàmhair a' ghlinne.

Nach fiadhaich an t-sid a th'againn !

Cha chuimhne leam na's fiadhaiche  
aig an àm so 'n bhliadhna.

An cuala sibh mu'n sgiarradh bhrò-  
nach a thachair aig drochaid  
Thatha air oidhche di-dòmh-  
nuich ?

Cha chuala mi focal dheth.

'N nair a bha'n stoirm aig a h-àirde  
thuit an drochaid.

How is the company around the  
fire ?

Is it you, Donald ?

It is a long time since we saw you.

What was keeping you ?

Was I not in Glasgow since I was  
here last !

What sent you to Glasgow ?

I will tell you that.

I was at the wedding of my son,  
James.

You were on a good errand.

He gave me no rest till I promised  
to go to it.

How did the city agree with you ?

It agreed with me but indifferently.

What have you against it ?

There is so much bustle and con-  
fusion in it that it nearly put  
my head wrong.

Were you in the train ?

I was not, and will not be.

I am thankful that I have got back  
to the quiet of the glen.

What wild weather we have !

I do not recollect wilder at this  
season of the year.

Have you heard of the sad accident  
that occurred at the Tay  
Bridge on Sunday night ?

I have not heard a word of it.

When the storm was at its height  
the bridge fell.

Tha mi 'n dochas nach robh carbad-smuide 'dol thairis orra aig an àm.

Bha, agus thuit e leis an drochaid. An do chailleadh gach neach a bha 's a' charbad?

Chailleadh.

Ni Maith 'g ar teasairginn!

Is ciunteach mi gu'm bi cunntas cianail againn mu challdachd aig fairge.

Cha bheag na thachair dheth sin air a' gheamhradh so cheana.

Chuala mi gu'n d'thugadh lom-sgriob air coille 'n Dùin.

Tha iad a' deanamh dheth gu'n do chuireadh gu làr mu mhìle craobh.

An d'rinneadh mòran dolaidh 'am baile nam bùithean?

Chaidh nìneagan a bhriseadh an sud 's an so, mullaichean luidh-eirean a leagail, 'us corra bhàta 'chur fodha.

'N e sin uil' e?

Bha'n t-sràid a tha ri taobh a' chlad-aich air a cladhach, 's bha'm balla 'bha 'cumail taice rithe air an taobh a mach air a bhri-seadh.

Ciamar a chaidh dhuibh-fhéin?

Cha n-fhaod sinn a bhì 'gearan.

Chuala mi gu'n do leagadh aon de na tighean agaibh.

Cha do leagadh; ach chaidh an tubhadh a thoirt bhàrr mullach an t-sabhail.

Nach mìorailteach gu'n do thear-ninn an tigh-còmhnuidh?

Bha de thuramanaich air tacan 's gu'n do shaoil mi gu'm biodh e nuas mu 'r cinn.

Ciamar a dh' fhairich thu aig an àm dheuchainneach sin?

Cha n-urrainn domh na dh'fhairich mi 'chur 'an cainnt a 's freagar-aiche na tha 's na rannan a leanas:—

I hope that a train was not passing over it at the time.

There was, and it fell with the bridge. Were all that were in the train lost?

They were.

May the Good Being preserve us!

I am sure we shall have sad accounts of losses at sea.

The losses that have already occurred at sea this winter are not inconsiderable.

I have heard that a clean sweep was made of Dun wood.

It is estimated that about a thousand trees were brought to the ground.

Was much damage done in the town of shops?

Windows were broken here and there, chimney tops were knocked down, and a few boats were sunk.

Is that all?

The street along the shore was ploughed up, and the wall that supported it on the outside was broken.

How did it fare with yourselves?

We must not complain.

I heard that one of your houses was knocked down.

It is not so; but the thatch was taken off the roof of the barn.

Is it not wonderful that the dwelling-house escaped?

It rocked so much for a short time that I thought that it would fall about our heads.

How did you feel during these trying moments?

I cannot express what I felt in more appropriate language than that of the following verses:—

“ Dh'èirich an fhairge 's shéid a'  
ghaoth,  
'Us b' aobhar oillt an fhuaim  
Do na h-uile aon 's an eadhar fhaoin  
Air faontradh feadh a' chuain.

Ach mac an sgiobair, balachan  
maoth,  
Chual e gun gheilt an toirm;  
Fiamh aiteis àird gu'n robh 'n a  
ghnùis,  
Gun smuairéan air roimh 'n stoirm.  
Dh'fhèdraich a h-aon de'n sgioba  
dheth  
Cionnus bha e cho ciùin,  
'Cha n-'eil eagal dhomh-sa,' fhreag-  
air e,  
'Tha m' athair air an stiuir.' ”

Tha na rannan drùiteach sin air  
tiom' a thoirt air mo chridhe;  
's éigin domhfeasgar math  
fhàgail agaibh agus dol dach-  
aidh.

Cha ghluais sibh ceum gus am faigh  
sibh 'ur cuid de thràth an  
fheasgair.

Tha fuighair aca rium aig an tigh.  
Ma tha biodh; thoir dhomh do  
bhoineid.

Ma tha Màiri 'us thusa air an aon  
sgeul cha n-'eil math dhomh-  
sa cur 'n 'ur n-aghaidh.

“ The curling waves, with awful  
roar,  
A little boat assailed;  
And pallid fear's distracting power  
O'er all on board prevailed;

Save one, the captain's darling  
child,  
Who steadfast viewed the storm,  
And cheerful, with composure,  
smiled  
At danger's threatening form.

'And sport'st thee thus,' a seaman  
cried,  
'While terrors overwhelm?'  
'Why should I fear,' the boy re-  
plied,  
'My father's at the helm! ' ”

These affecting verses have melted  
my heart; I must bid you good  
evening and go home.

You shall not move a step till you  
get your share of the evening  
meal.

They expect me at home.  
If they do, let them; give me your  
bonnet.

If Mary and you are of the same  
mind there is no use in my  
opposing you.

### TUATHANACHAS, FARMING.

Ciamar a tha sibh uile 's an tigh so?  
Tha sinn gu math, gu'n robh math  
agaibh.

Ciamar a tha sibh-fhéin 's na bhuin-  
eas duibh?

Cha n-'eil aobhar gearain againn.  
Thigibh a stigh 'us leigibh 'ur n-  
anail.

So dhuibh cathair taobh an teine.

'S ann agaibh-fhéin a tha'n gealbh-  
an suilbhir 's a' chagailt sgiolta.

How are you all in this house?  
We are well, thank you.

How are you yourself and those  
belonging to you?

We have no cause to complain.  
Come in and rest yourself.

Here is a chair for you beside the  
fire.

You have indeed a cheerful fire  
and a tidy hearth.

Tha 'mhòine pailte 's cha n-'eil  
caomhnadh orra.

'S mòr an t-sochair am pailteas  
connaidh.

An d'thàinig sibh o'n tigh an diugh?  
Thàinig.

Cha bheag an t-astar a choisich  
sibh.

Tha e mu chòig mìle fichead.

Bithidh sibh sgith.

Cha n-urrainn domh a ràdh nach  
'eil.

Am bheil thu 'n sin, a Mhòr?

'D é b' àill leibh?

Am bheil a bhanarach a' bleoghan  
a' chruidh?

Tha.

Falbh a mach agus abair rithe 'n  
soitheach so 'hionadh.

Falbhaidh.

Cùrainnich am bòrd, a Cheit.

C'àit am bheil an t-anart-bùird?

Gheibh thu e 's a' chiste sin thall.

An toir mi nuas an t-aran-cruin-  
eachd 's an t-aran-coirce?

Bheir, agus an t-im 's a' mhulachag  
chàise.

Na caomhnaibh na th' air 'ur beul-  
aobh; 's e 'ur beatha.

Tapadh leibh.

'S i 'mhiu ùr a th' agaibh 's an aran  
so.

'S i; fhuair sinn as a' mhuileann i  
air di-màirt.

'N e so a' cheud deasachadh a bh'  
agaibh dhi?

'S e.

Tha i fìor ghrinn.

Bu chòir dhi 'bhi sin; oir cha n-  
fhaca mi riamh bàrr coirce  
'b'fheàrr na bh'againn am  
bliadhna.

Cia meud mulan a th' agaibh 's an  
iolainn?

Tha sèa-deug againn.

Am bi pailteas fodair agaibh do'n  
chrodh fad a' gheamhraidh 's  
an earrach?

Peats are abundant and are not  
spared.

Abundance of fuel is a great  
privilege.

Have you come from home to-day?  
I have.

You have walked no inconsiderable  
distance.

It is about twenty-five miles.

You are tired.

I cannot say that I am not.

Are you there, Saradh.

What is your will, please?

Is the dairymaid milking the cows?

She is.

Go out and tell her to fill this dish.

I will.

Cover the table, Kate.

Where is the table-cloth?

You will find it in the chest over  
there.

Shall I bring down the wheaten  
and oaten bread?

Yes, and the butter and cheese.

Do not spare what is before you;  
you are welcome.

Thank you.

It is the new meal that you have in  
this bread.

Yes; we got it from the mill on  
Tuesday.

Is this the first baking that you  
have had of it?

Yes.

It is very fine.

It ought to be so; for I never saw  
a better crop of oats than we  
had this year.

How many stacks have you in the  
stack-yard?

We have sixteen.

Will you have plenty of fodder for  
the cattle during winter and  
spring?

Tha mi 'smuaineachadh gu'm bi.  
So fear an tighe 'tighinn.

'S mi 'tha toilicht' 'ur faicinn.  
Tha greis o'n nach robh sibh 's a'  
cheàrn so.

Tha dlùth air bliadhn' ann.  
An d'thug sibh sgeul ùr sam bith a  
nuas as a' ghleann?

Cha d'thug ach gu bheil do  
charaid, Alastair mòr, gu slàn,  
fallain.

Am bheil guth aige air sgriob a  
ghabhail an rathad so?

Cha n-fhiosrach mi gu bheil.

Ciamar a tha 'n t-Uachdaran ùr a'  
tighinn ruibh?

Tha gu ro m'ath.

Am bheil e aoidheil, bàigheil ris an  
t-sluagh?

Tha e, agus tha e 'toirt misneich  
'us cothruim do gach duine  
onarach, dìchiollach air an  
oighreachd.

Is dual da sin; 's e mac an deagh  
athar e.

Chuireadh e iongantas ort an dragh  
a tha e 'gabhail leis an sgoil.

Cha n-'eil ceithir-là-deug 's a'  
bhliadhna nach 'eil e 'g a  
taoghal ma bhios e aig an tigh.

Am bheil am buachaill a stigh?

Tha mi 'n so.

A mach thu do 'n t-sabhal 's thoir  
ultach cheannagan do'n bhàth-  
aich airson a' chruidh.

An e crodh Gallda no Gàidhealach  
a th' agaibh?

'S e crodh Gallda a th' againn air a'  
bhaile so 'us crodh Gàidhealach  
air a' bhail' eile.

'D é 'bhios sibh a' deanamh leis a'  
bhainne?

Tha sinn 'g a chur do'n Oban a  
h-uile là.

Cia meud pinnt a th'aig gach mart?  
Mu chòig pinnt.

Thig sin gu mòran airgid aig deir-  
eachd na bliadhna.

I think we shall.

Here is the man of the house  
coming.

I am very glad to see you.

There is some time since you were  
in this quarter.

There is nearly a year.

Have you brought any fresh news  
down from the glen?

I have not, except that your friend,  
big Alastair, is perfectly well.

Has he any word of taking a trip  
in this direction?

I am not aware that he has.

How do you like the new laird?

Very well.

Is he affable and kind to the  
people?

He is, and he gives encouragement  
and fair play to every honest  
and industrious man on the  
estate.

That is hereditary to him; he is  
the son of a good father.

The trouble he takes with the  
school would surprise you.

There is not a fortnight in the  
year that he does not visit it  
if he be at home.

Is the herd within?

I am here.

Out with you to the barn and  
bring a bundle of wisps to the  
byre for the cattle.

Whether is it Lowland or Highland  
cattle that you have?

We have Lowland cattle on this  
farm and Highland cattle on  
the other farm.

What do you do with the milk?

We send it to Oban every day.

How many pints has each cow?

About five pints.

That will amount to much money  
at the end of the year.

Tha sinn taingeil e 'bhi againn mu choinneamh a' mhàil.	We are thankful to have it for the rent.
Cia meud laogh a bhios sibh a' togail?	How many calves do you rear?
An t-ìomlan de na laoigh Ghàidhealach agus a dhà no trì de na laoigh Ghallda.	All the Highland calves and two or three of the Lowland ones.
'D é 'bhios sibh a' deanamh leis a' chòrr?	What do you do with the rest?
'S àbhaist duinn an reic ris an fheòladair.	We are in the habit of selling them to the butcher.
Co 'cheannaich na gamhn' agaibh am bliadhna?	Who bought your stirks this year?
Chuala mi 'ainm ach cha n-'eil cuimhn' agam air.	I heard his name but do not remember it.
'S coltach gur h-e Gall no Sasunnach a bh' ann.	It is likely that he was either a Lowlander or an Englishman.
Fhuair mise airgid ullamh orra 's tha mi coma.	I received ready money for them and do not care.
Cia meud each a tha sibh a' cumail?	How many horses do you keep?
Trì.	Three.
Am bheil caoraich agaibh?	Have you sheep?
Tha.	We have.
'D é 'n seorsa 'th 'agaibh?	What kind have you?
Caoraich Ghallda.	Lowland sheep.
'D é phris a bhios a' chlàimh am bliadhna?	What price will the wool bring this year?
Cha n-'eil fhios agam; tha i 'g éiridh.	I do not know; it is rising.
Am bheil na h-uain agaibh math?	Are your lambs good?
Tha iad mar nach olc.	They are pretty fair.
Am bheil thu dol a ghabhail aont' ùr de 'n bhaile?	Are you going to take a new lease of the farm?
Cha n-'eil an aont' a th' agam air ruith a mach fhathast.	My present lease has not yet expired.
An d'fhuair thu 'm màl a nuas?	Have you got the rent lowered?
Cha d'fhuair, 's cha n-'eil dùil agam ris.	I have not, and do not expect it.
An téid agad air cumail air d'aghaidh?	Can you manage to hold out?
Feumaidh mi 'bhi strì ris.	I must strive to do so.
Buaidh 'us piseach leat, 'fhir mo chridhe.	May success and prosperity attend you, my dear fellow.

## IASGACH AIR A'MHUIR, SEA-FISHING.

An robh sibh ag iasgach an raoir?	Were you fishing last night?
Bha.	We were.
C' àit an robh sibh?	Where were you?

Bha sinn aig a' Charraig.  
An robh gabhail mhath air an iasg?  
Is ainmic a chunnaic mi na 's fheàrr.

Cia meud a ghlac sibh?  
Seachd ceud.  
Cha robh sibh 'n 'ur tàmh.  
Bha sinn tacan 'g an toirt a stigh  
cho luath 's a b'urrainn sinn.  
Cia meud agaibh a bha 's a' bhàta?

Ceathrar.  
Bha trìùir ag iasgach 'us aon a'  
fannadh, nach robh?  
Tha sibh ceart.  
'N e pìocach no sgadan a bha sibh  
a' faotainn?  
Sgadan.  
An robh iad a' cluich air uachdar  
an uisge?  
'S iad a bha sin; bha'n fhairge mar  
gu'm b'ann air ghoil le'n cluich.  
'N e na slatan no'n lìon a bh'agaibh?

Na slatan; cha robh an lìon deas  
againn.  
'D é 'n seòrsa maghair a bh' agaibh?  
Bha maghar de dh'ite na faoilinn.  
Cia meud maghar is àbhaist a bhi  
air gach slait?  
Corr uair aon 'us corr uair dithis.  
An sibh-fhéin a bhios a' stalcadh  
nan dubhan?  
'S sinn.

Am faca sibh muca-mara?  
Bha té mhòr 'n 'ar cuideachd fad an  
fheasgair.  
'D é mheudachd a bh' innte?  
Tha mi cinnteach gu'n robh i dà  
fhichead troidh air fad.  
An robh i dlùth dhuibh?  
Bha i aon uair cho dlùth 's gu'm  
faodamaid leum air a druim.  
'S math nach robh — còmhla  
ruibh.

Carson?  
Mu'n abradh tu seachd bhiodh iad  
a mach a dhannsa dh'orra.

We were at the Carraig.  
Were the fish taking well?  
I have seldom seen them take  
better.  
How many did you catch?  
Seven hundred.  
You were not idle.  
We were for a while taking them in  
as fast as we could.  
How many of you were in the  
boat?

Four.  
There were three fishing and one  
rowing slowly, were there not?  
You are right.  
Whether was it seath or herring  
that you were catching?  
Herring.  
Were they playing on the surface of  
the water?  
That they were; the sea was as it  
were boiling with their playing.  
Whether was it the rods or the net  
that you had?  
The rods; we had not the net  
ready.  
What kind of bait had you?  
A bait of the gull's feather.  
How many baits is it usual to have  
on each rod?  
Sometimes one and sometimes two.  
Do you dress the hooks yourselves?

We do.  
Did you see whales?  
A large one kept us company all  
the evening.  
What size was it?  
I am sure that it was forty feet  
long.  
Was it near you?  
It was once so near that we might  
have leaped on its back.  
It is well that — were not with  
you.  
Why?  
Before you could say seven they  
would have been out to dance  
upon it.

Tog de d' sgeig, Fhionnlaidh ghéir.

'N e sgeig a thubhairt thu? Bi taingeil nach d'éirich na 's miosa.

Ciamar sin?

'N e nach 'eil thu taingeil nach do smùid i 's an adhar thu,

(Cha chreid mi-fhéin nach 'eil an duin' air mhearaichinn)

Agus nach do shluig i thu 'n déigh sin?

Cha n-'eil math a bhi bruidhinn ruit-sa.

Cha n-'eil.

C'uin a dh'fhàg sibh thall?

Mu naoi uairean an raoir.

Am b'fheudar dhuibh iomram dhachaidh?

Cha b'fheudar; dh'éirich a' ghaoth 's chuir sinn na siùil rithe.

Bha sgairt mhath ghaoith' againn-ne mu dheich uairean.

Cha b'ann na bu luige 'bha i againn-ne 'mach.

An robh dad de dh'fhaige agaibh? Bha i 'n a meallaibh mu'n d' ràinig sinn Cearara.

Co' bh' air an stiùir?

Bha Iain Dheòrsa.

Cha n-amadan a stiùras bàta ri sìd ghairbh.

Fàilt' oirbh, a mhnathan uaisle.

An robh sibhs' ag iasgach?

Tha sinn dìreach air tilleadh uaithe.

Tha mi 'n dochas gu'n do shoirbhich leibh.

Fhuair sinn fichead cudainn agus deich bodaich-ruadha.

B'fhiach e'n t-saothair dhuibh dol a mach.

An d'fheuch sibh riamh iasgach bhàrr nan creag?

Cha d'fheuch.

'S iomadh làn mùrlaig a fhuair mise air an dòigh sin.

Ciamar a théid sinn m'a dhéibhinn?

Give over your off-taking, sharp Finlay.

Is it off-taking you said? Be thankful that worse has not happened.

How that?

Is it the case that you are not thankful that it did not dash you into the air,

(I do believe that the man is crazy)

And that it did not swallow you afterwards?

There is no use in talking to you.

There is not.

When did you leave the other side?

About nine o'clock last night.

Had you to row home?

We had not; the wind rose and we set the sails.

We had a smart breeze about ten o'clock.

It was not weaker with us outside.

Had you anything of a sea?

It ran high before we reached Kerara.

Who was at the helm?

John (son) of George.

He who can steer a boat in rough weather is no fool.

Hail to you, ladies.

Were you fishing?

We have just returned from it.

I hope that you have succeeded.

We got twenty cuddies and ten codlings.

It was worth your while to go out.

Did you ever try fishing off the rocks.

We never did.

Many a basketful I got in that way.

How shall we set about it?



Cha n-'eil agaibh ach àite coltach  
fhaotainn agus an driamlach a  
thilgeil.

'S ann a dh'fheumas sinn 'fheuch-  
ainn feasgar éigin.

Tha mi 'cluinninn gu bheil sibh  
teòm' air iomram.

Théid againn air ràmh iomairt.

Am bheil e fìor gu'n no bhris sibh  
putag an là roimhe?

Tha, 's chuir sinn cas *umbrella* 'n  
a h-àite.

Mo bheannachd oirbh.

Cuiribh na ràimh, an tobhta, agus  
an taoman ann an àitetearuinte.

Slàn leibh air an àm.

You have only to find a likely  
place and cast the line.

We must try it some evening.

I hear that you are expert at rowing.

We can manage to ply an oar.

Is it true that you broke an oar-  
pin the other day?

It is, and we put the handle of an  
umbrella in its place.

My blessing upon you.

Put the oars, the rowing bench, and  
the baler in a safe place.

Farewell for the present.

## LÀ, A DAY.

### A' MHADUINN, THE MORNING.

Am bheil brath idir agad air éirigh?  
'D é 'n uair a tha e?

Tha e fichead mionaid a dhìth air  
de naoi uairean.

An d'fhuair thu cadal math?

Cha do dhùisg mi o'n chaidh mi  
'luidhe gus an d'thàinig sibh a  
stigh.

Bithidh a' bhraiceas deas 'an ùine  
ghoirrid.

Am bheil am pailteas uisge, sèop-  
uinn, 'us shearadairean 's an  
t-seòmar?

Tha.

Am bu mhath leat thu-fhéin fhaile-  
eadh?

Bu mhath.

Tha 'n seòmar-faileidh làmh riut.

Bithibh cho math 's an doras aige  
fhàgail fosgailte.

Ni mi sin.

'D é 'n seòrsa là 'th' ann?

Là grianach, le oiteig de ghaoith an  
ear.

An cual thu riamh—

"Gaoth a deas teas 'us toradh,

Do you intend to get up?

What o'clock is it?

It wants twenty minutes of nine  
o'clock.

Have you slept well?

I did not waken since I lay down  
till you came in.

Breakfast will be ready in a short  
time.

Is there plenty of water, soap, and  
towels in the room?

There is.

Would you wish to have a bath?

I would.

The bath-room is near you.

Be so good as leave its door open.

I will do so.

What kind of day is it?

A sunny day, with a breeze of east  
wind.

Did you ever hear—

"Wind from the south (denotes)  
heat and produce,

Gaoth an iar iasg 'us bainne,

Gaoth a tuath fuachd 'us gaillionn,

Gaoth an ear measair chrannaibh"?\*

'S math is aithne dhomh na facail  
sin, ach 's fhad' o'n chuala mi  
iad.

Wind from the west (denotes) fish  
and milk,

Wind from the north (denotes) cold  
and storm,

Wind from the east (denotes) fruit  
on trees"?\*

I know these words well, but it is  
long since I heard them.

#### A'BHRAICEAS, BREAKFAST.

Iarramaid beannachadh.

Co dhiù 's e *tea* no *coffee* 'ghabhas tu?

Gabhaidh mi *tea*, ma 's e 'ur toil e.

An gabh thu siùcar 'us uachdar  
leatha?

Gabhaidh.

An gabh thu ubh an toiseach no  
iasg no muc-fheoil chrochte.

Gabhaidh mi ubh an toiseach.

Am bheil mòran chearc agaibh?

Tha mu dhà fhichead againn.

C'ait am bheil sibh a' faotainn nam  
breac?

'S an abhuinn ud shìos.

'D é'n t-aran a ghabhas tu?

Gabhaidh mi 'h-aon de na breaca-  
gan cruineachd.

Co dhiù 'ghabhas tu ìm ùr no ìm  
sàillte?

Mhòlainn duit a h-aon de na bon-  
naich-isbein.

An toir sibh dhomh-sa sliseag de'n  
mhuic-fheoil chrochte, 'athair?

Geàrr air do shon fhéin i, 'ille.

Ciamar a tha thu 'dol a chaitheamh  
an là, 'Ailein.

Tha mi 'dol do'n mhonadh a shealg.

'D é 'tha thusa 'dol a dheanamh,  
a Sheònaid?

Tha mi 'dol a sgrìobhadh litrichean  
an toiseach.

'D é 'tha thu 'dol a dheanamh an  
déigh sin?

Let us ask a blessing.

Whether will you take tea or coffee?

I will take tea, if you please.

Will you take sugar and cream  
with it?

I will.

Whether will you take an egg first  
or fish or pork ham?

I will take an egg first.

Have you many hens?

We have about forty.

Where do you get the trout?

In the river down yonder.

What bread will you take?

I will take one of the flour scones.

Whether will you take fresh or  
salted butter?

I would recommend to you one of  
the sausage bannocks.

Will you give me a slice of pork  
ham, father?

Cut it for yourself, lad.

How are you going to spend the  
day, Allan?

I am going to the hill to shoot (lit.  
hunt).

What are you going to do, Janet?

I am going to write letters first.

What are you going to do after  
that?

\* "An old observation on the weather on New Year's Eve."

Tha mi 'dol a leubhadh.  
 'D é 'n leabhar a tha thu 'dol a  
 leubhadh ?  
 Eachdraidh na H-Alba.  
 'S e sin a 's fhearr na sgeulachdan  
 spleadhach.  
 'D é 'tha sibh-fhéin 'dol a dhean-  
 amh, a mhàthair ?  
 Tha mi 'dol do'n bhaile air ghnòth-  
 uch.  
 'D é 'tha sibhse 'dol a dheanamh,  
 'athair ?  
 Thi mi 'dol a chumail mòid air  
 duine truagh a tha iad a cur as  
 a leth gu'n robh e 'sealg gun  
 chead.

I am going to read.  
 What book are you going to read ?  
 The History of Scotland.  
 That is better than fictitious tales.  
 What are you going to do yourself,  
 mother ?  
 I am going to town on business.  
 What are you going to do, father ?  
 I am going to hold a court on a  
 poor man who is accused of  
 poaching.

## AN DÌNNEIR, DINNER.

Ciamar a thàinig thu air d'aghaidh  
 's a' mhonadh ?  
 Mharbh mi sèa eòin ruadha agus dà  
 mhaighich.  
 'S math a fhuaras thu.  
 Am faca tu fèidh ?  
 Chunnaic mi damh briagh air mul-  
 lach a' mhonaidh.  
 An robh e mar astar urchair dhuit ?  
 Bha sàr chothrom agam air a thilg-  
 eil na'm biodh peileirean agam.  
 Am bheil thu sgìth ?  
 Cha n-urrainn domh a ràdh gu bheil.  
 'S iongantach leam sin.  
 Bha 'n t-àileadh cho beothachail 's  
 nach do sgithich an t-saothair  
 mi.  
 Tha 'n dìnneir air a' bhòrd.  
 Thoir thusa sios bean-an-tighe,  
 'Ailein.  
 Tha 'n staidhir farsuing 'us furasd'  
 a thèarnadh.  
 Is eireachdail na cabair-fèidh a th'  
 air a' bhalla.  
 Tha dithis dhiubh air am bheil dà  
 mheur dheug.  
 An gabh thu brot ?

How did you get on in the hill ?  
 I killed six grouse and two hares.  
 You have done well.  
 Did you see deer ?  
 I saw a fine stag on the top of the  
 hill.  
 Was it within gun-shot range of  
 you ?  
 I was very favourably situated for  
 shooting him if I had had balls.  
 Are you tired ?  
 I cannot say that I am.  
 I am surprised at that.  
 The air was so bracing that the  
 exertion did not fatigue me.  
 Dinner is on the table.  
 Take you down the lady of the  
 house, Allan.  
 The stair is broad and easily des-  
 cended.  
 The deer horns on the wall are  
 handsome.  
 There are two of them with twelve  
 points.  
 Will you take broth ?

Gabhaidh, gu'n robh math agaibh.  
An d'fhuair sibh 'ur guothuch a  
dheanamh ?

Fhuair.

Am faigh sibh 's a' bhaile gach  
goireas a bhios a dhìth oirbh ?  
Gheibh ; ach 's àbhaist duinn na  
h-nìbhir de nithe fhaighinn a  
Glascho.

An gabh thu crioman de 'n bhradan ?  
Thoir am buntàta 's an t-ìm leaghte  
an so.

Tha 'm bradan air ùr-thoirt as an  
abhuinn.

Gabh gloine fiona.

Theagamh gur fheàrr leat nìsge-  
beatha.

Gabhaidh mi fion.

Leig leam sliseag de 'n mhairt-  
fheoil so 'chur 'ad iounsuidh.

Cha d'fheuch mi riamh feòil a 's  
blasda 's a 's maotha.

An gabh thu nìs beagan de 'n  
mhuilt-fheoil ?

Tha mi buidheach.

An gabh thu làn spàine de 'n bhiadh  
mhilis so ?

An gabh thu càise ?

An gabh thu ubhal no *orange* ?

'S fheàrr leam flon-dhearc.

Gabh gloine de dh'fhion dearg.

Cuir mu'n cuairt am botul, a Chail-  
ein.

'S fheàrr dhuinn dol do 'n t-seòmar  
's am bheil na mnathan uaisle.

Tha 'n t-uisg' ann.

Cha n-'eil ann ach fras.

Tha 'm paiper-naigheachd air tigh-  
inn.

Thoir h-ugam e.

Thoir dhuinn ceòl, 'Iseabal.

'S math a chluich thu 'm port sin.

Thoir a nìs dhuinn òran.

Ciod a dh'èirich do'n phìobair ?

Cha chuala mi sgàl d' a phìob an  
diugh.

Shiach e 'chas an raoir aig banais  
a' bhrocair.

I will, thank you.

Did you get your business done ?

Yes.

Can you get in the town every con-  
venience that you need ?

Yes ; but we are in the habit of  
getting several things from  
Glasgow.

Will you take a bit of salmon ?

Bring here the potatoes and melted  
butter.

The salmon is fresh from the river.

Take a glass of wine.

Perhaps you prefer whisky.

I will take wine.

Allow me to send you a slice of this  
beef.

I never tasted sweeter and tenderer  
beef.

Will you now take some of the  
mutton ?

I am satisfied.

Will you take a spoonful of this  
pudding ?

Will you take cheese ?

Whether will you take an apple or  
an orange ?

I prefer grapes.

Take a glass of port.

Send round the bottle, Colin.

We had better go to the room where  
the ladies are.

It is raining.

It is only a shower.

The newspaper has come.

Bring it to me.

Give us music, Isabella.

You have played that tune well.

Give us now a song.

What has happened to the piper ?

I have not heard a skirl of his pipes  
to-day.

He sprained his foot last night at  
the fox-hunter's wedding.

Am burraidh ! ach bithibh caoimh-  
neil ris a' ghille bhoehd.

Cha n-e spéis do mhire 's do dh'-  
aidhear a tha 'toirt orm-sa  
piobair a chumail ach gaol a'  
chidh fhéin agus cuimhne nan  
làithean a dh'fhalbh. Cha n-'eil  
ceòl ann a dhrùigheas air mo  
chridhe cosmhuil ris.

Tha' n t-àm ann airson aoraidh.

Buail an clag.

The blockhead ! but be kind to the  
poor lad.

It is not a liking for mirth and  
merriment that makes me keep  
a piper, but love for pipe  
music, and the memory of the  
days that are gone. There is  
no other music that so deeply  
affects my heart.

It is time for worship.

Ring the bell.

### A' BHANAIS, THE WEDDING.

An tu 'th' ann, a Màiri bhàn nam  
mlog-shul ?

'S mi le 'r cead ; am bheil sibh-  
fhéin gu sunndach ?

Mata cha n-'eil ; tha mi air mo  
chlaoidh le sgìos 'us cion cad-  
ail.

Dhì-chuimhnich mi gu'n robh sibh  
aig a' bhanais.

Co 'bhiodh ann mur bithinn-sa, 's  
gu'm bu nìhi fleasgach bean na  
bainnse ?

Bha mòran agaibh r' a dheanamh.

Carson a tha thu 'g ràdh sin ?

An cuala sibh riamh an sean-fhocal,  
"An nì nach cluinn thu 'n  
diugh cha n-aithris thu 'm  
Màireach ?"

Dh'fhaodadh tu innseadh dhomh-sa.

An geall sibh nach tig sibh thairis  
air ?

Geallaidh ; so mo làmh.

'S e mo bharaill nach 'eil i math na  
's leòir air a shon.

'S e mo bharaill-sa nach 'eil caileag  
's an dùthaich a's laghaiche  
na i.

'S i nach 'eil 's nach robh riamh  
laghach.

Mo naire ! a Mhàiri ; cha téid thu-  
sa do'n mhonadh am bliadhna.

'D é 's ciall d' a sin ?

Nach 'eil fhios agad ?

Is it you, fair-haired Mary of the  
smiling eyes ?

It is, with your permission ; are  
you, sir, in good spirits ?

Indeed I am not ; I am worn out  
with fatigue and want of sleep.

I forgot that you were at the wed-  
ding.

Who should be there if I were not,  
seeing that I was the bride's  
best man.

You had much to do.

Why do you say so ?

Have you ever heard the proverb,  
"What you do not hear to-day  
you will not repeat to-morrow ?"

You might tell it to me.

Will you promise not to repeat it ?

I will ; here is my hand.

It is my opinion that she is not  
good enough for him.

It is my opinion that there is not a  
nicer girl in the country.

She is not and never was nice.

For shame ! Mary ; you will not go  
to the hill this year.

What does that mean ?

Do you not know ?

Cha n'-eil.

Ri linn mo sheanar b'abhaisit do'n  
chòrdadh a bhì aca air a' mhon-  
adh ud.

'D é dhe sin ?

Bha leac air a mhullach mu mheud-  
achd lic-lighe air am biodh iad  
a' cur a' bhéidh 's na dibhe.

'D é tha 'n 'ur beachd ?

Tha nach bì còrdadh agad-sa 'm  
bliadhna.

Beannachd leibh ; comhairlicidh mi  
do Mhiss Anna gun gnothuch  
a bhì aice ruibh.

Cha toir i feairt ort.

Chì sinn.

Turus math dhuit, a Màiri laghach.

C'uin a thàinig thu o'n bhanais ?

Mu chòig uairean 's a' mhaduinn.

Cia meud a bh'ann de chuideachd ?

Mu dhà fhichead.

Co 'phòs iad ?

Phòs ministear na sgìreaachd.

Am bheil an sluagh toigheach air ?

Tha, agus is math a dh'fhaodas iad,  
oir tha e càirdeil, aoidheil  
riutha.

'D é 'rinn sibh an déigh dha falbh.

Thòisich sinn air an dannsadh.

Co 'dhannas a' cheud rìghil ?

Dhannas mise le be anna bainnse, 's  
dhannas fear na bainnse le  
'maighdein.

Bha rìghil 'us rìghil againn an déigh  
sin gus an robh sinn sgìth.

An sin leig sibh 'ur n-anail tacan.

Leig, 'us chaidh uisge-beatha 'chur  
mu'n cuairt. An sin thubhairt  
mise, "Tha bean na bainnse 'g  
òl oirbh."

Thubhairt am fleasgach eile, "Tha  
fear na bainnse 'g òl oirbh."

An robh iad a' glaothaich 's a'  
deanamh sgaileagan le 'm  
meòir ?

I do not.

In the time of my grandfather they  
used to hold the contract  
meeting on yon hill.

What of that ?

There was a flag on the top of it  
about the size of a gravestone  
on which they used to put the  
food and drink.

What do you mean ?

I mean that there will be no mar-  
riage contract for you this year.

Good-bye ; I shall advise Miss Ann  
to have nothing to do with  
you.

She will not heed you.

We shall see.

A good journey to you, dainty  
Mary.

When did you come from the  
wedding ?

About five o'clock in the morning.

How many were there of a company ?

About forty.

Who married them ?

The minister of the parish.

Are the people fond of him ?

They are, and they may well be,  
for he is friendly and affable to  
them.

What did you do after he left ?

We began the dancing.

Who danced the first reel ?

I danced with the bride and the  
bridegroom danced with her  
maid.

We had reel after reel after that  
till we were tired.

You then rested yourselves for a  
while.

We did, and whisky was sent  
round. I then said, "The  
bride drinks to you."

The other best man said, "The  
bridegroom drinks to you."

Were they shouting and cracking  
their fingers ?

Bha, 'us shaoileadh sibh air uairibh  
gu'n robh na fir air bàinidh.  
Bhiodh siu a réir an eòlais air mac  
na bracha.

Cha n-abair mi nach 'eil beagan de 'n  
fhìrinn agaibh.

An robh òrain 'g an gabhail ?

Bha, an dràs 's a ris.

'N uair a bhiodh sibh sgìth de  
bhreabadh nan cas.

Dìreach sin.

'D é 'tha "cur reast 's an urlar" a'  
ciallachadh ?

Gu bheil stad ri bhi 's an dannsadh  
car ghreis no gu bheil càraid-  
ean sònruichte 'g a ghleidheil  
dhoibh-fhéin.

'D é 'n uair a bha e 'n uair a shuidh  
sibh gu'r suipeir ?

Bha e deich uairean.

Co 'bh' air ceann a' bhùird ?

Bha mise.

Co 'bh' air ceann shìos a' bhùird ?

Bha athair bean na bainnse.

An robh cuirm shòghar agaibh ?

Bha gach biadh a b'fheàrr againn a  
ghabhadh faotainu 's an dùth-  
aich.

Am bheil na daoine teom' air a'  
bhiadh a ghearradh ?

Bhiodh e 'n a thàmailt do dhuine  
mur biodh fhios aige ciamar a  
ghearradh e ceare no biadh eile.

An robh fala-dhà agaibh ?

Bha na 's leòir.

Am bheil an sluagh tugaideach ?

Tha, mòran diubh.

Am bheil fearas-chuideachd shòn-  
ruichte sam bith aca aig an  
t-suipeir ?

Bithidh iad ri fala-dhà le cnàmhan.

Cuiridh fear uchd circe ris an abrar  
an long no cnàimh lom sam  
bith a dh'innsuidh fir eile, a  
dh'fheumas rann a dheanamh.

Ma tha na fir geur bheir iad àbhachd  
do'n chuideachd.

Yes, and you could fancy at times  
that the men were in a frenzy.

That would be in proportion to  
their acquaintance with the  
son of malt.

I shall not say that there is not  
some truth in your remark.

Were songs sung ?

Yes, now and again.

When you were tired of thumping  
the floor.

Just so.

What does "arresting the floor"  
mean ?

That dancing is to be stopped for a  
while, or that certain couples  
are keeping it for themselves.

What o'clock was it when you sat  
to supper ?

It was ten o'clock.

Who was at the head of the table ?

I was.

Who was at the foot of the table ?

The bride's father.

Had you a sumptuous feast ?

We had the best kinds of food that  
could be got in the country.

Are the men good carvers ?

It would be a disgrace to a man not  
to know how to carve a fowl or  
other food.

Had you fun ?

We had plenty.

Are the people jocose ?

Yes, many of them.

Have they any particular amuse-  
ment at the supper.

They make sport with bones.

Some one will send a fowl's breast  
called the ship or any bare  
bone to another, who must  
make a rhyme.

If the men are sharp-witted they  
will afford sport to the com-  
pany.

Nach 'eil coinneamh aca roimh 'n  
phòsadh a shocrachadh chùis-  
ean ?

Tha dà choinneamh aca' an còrdadh  
mòr 's an còrdadh beag.

'D é 'th' air a dheanamh aig a'  
chòrdadh bheag ?

Tha 'm fear a' tighinn le companach  
gu tigh a leanain gu e-fèin a  
thairgseadh.

Tha 'n còrdadh mòr 'n a leth bha-  
nais.

Tha na càirdean a' cruinneachadh  
taobh air thaobh.

'D e 'tha air a dheanamh aige ?

Tha là na bairne 's gach cùis  
fheumail eil' air an socrachadh.

Feumaidh gu bheil na bairnean  
sin cosgail.

Cha n-eil teagamh nach 'eil.

Nach amaideach na h-nìread a chur  
a mach orra ?

Cha n-'eil an t-uallach orra-san aig  
am bheil a' bhanais.

Camar sin ?

Tha na coimhearsnaich a' cur a stigh  
gach nì 'bhios feumail.

Gu dearbh !

Cuiridh iad cearcan, uibhean, ìm,  
mulachagan càise, 'us nithe  
eile g' an ionnsuidh.

Mar so tha càirdeas agus deagh  
coimhearsnachd air an cumail  
suas.

Tha eagal orm gu bheil tuilleadh 's  
a' chòir de dh'òl a' dol air  
aghaidh aig na còdhailibh sin.

Tha air uairibh ; ach tha na 's lugha  
ann dheth na b' àbhaist.

Gu ma h-ann na 's lugha 'bhios e  
'fàs a h-uile là.

Have they not a meeting before  
marriage to arrange matters ?

They have two meetings—the big  
contract meeting and the little.

What is done at the little contract  
meeting ?

The man comes with a companion  
to his sweetheart's house to  
offer himself.

The big contract meeting is a half  
wedding.

The friends of both parties meet.

What is done at it ?

The wedding day is fixed and other  
necessary arrangements are  
made.

These weddings must be expensive.

No doubt they are.

Is it not folly to spend so much  
on them ?

The burden does not fall on those  
who have the wedding.

How so ?

The neighbours send in all that is  
necessary.

Indeed !

They send them hens, eggs, butter,  
cheeses, and other things.

Thus friendliness and neighbourli-  
ness are kept up.

I fear that too much drinking goes  
on at these meetings.

Yes, at times, but there is less of it  
than used to be.

May it become less every day.

## CRUINNEACHADH GÀIDHEALACH AN OBAIN.

### THE OBAN HIGHLAND GATHERING.

Fàilt air a' mhaighstir-sgoil ; cia  
as a thug sibh a' choisèachd ?

Hail to the schoolmaster ; whence  
have you walked ?



Is coma cia as ; tha mi air mo  
chlaoidh le teas 'us pathadh.  
Rachaibh a stigh, a dhuine ghaol-  
aich.

Ni mi sin gu toileach.

Am bheil thu 'n sin, a Chiorsdan ?  
Tha mi 'tighinn.

So am maighstir-sgoil an impis  
fàilneachadh le pathadh.

Nach e so an là bruthainneach !

Leigibh sibh-fhéin 'n 'ur sìneadh  
air an uirigh.

So ! so ! a nuas deoch do d' charaid.

An gabh sibh deoch mheòig no  
bhlàthaich ?

Meòg ! blàthach ! Nach 'eil deur  
idir 's a' bhotul ?

'S ann air a shon fhéin a ni'n cat  
erònan ; ach a dh'innseadh na  
fìrinn dhì-chuimhnich mi gu'n  
robh a leithid 's an tigh.

An gabh sibh e mar tha e no'n cuir  
mi uisge 'n a cheann ?

'S fheàrr leam deoch mhedig, gu'n  
robh math agad.

Toilichibh sibh-fhéin.

'S fheàird mi sin.

An ann 's an Oban a bha sibh ?

'S ann.

Tha mi cinnteach gu bheil ùpraid  
mhòr ann an dràs le luchd-  
turnis.

Bha othail ann an diugh co dhiù  
nach fhaca mise riamh a leithid.

Ciod air am bheil sibh a' tighinn ?

B' e 'n diugh là nan cluichean  
Gàidhealach.

An do chruinnich mòran sluaigh  
g'am faicinn ?

Tha iad a' deanamh dheth nach  
robh na's lugha na còig mìle  
crùinn.

Cia as a thàinig iad ?

As gach ceàrn de 'n dùthaich mu  
'n cuairt 's a dùthchanan eile.

C' àit an robh a' choinneamh air a  
cunail ?

It does not matter whence ; I am  
exhausted with heat and thirst.  
Go in, dear man.

I will do so willingly  
Are you there, Kirsty ?  
I am coming.

Here is the schoolmaster like to  
faint with thirst.

What a sultry day !

Stretch yourself on the couch.

Come ! come ! bring a drink to  
your friend.

Will you take a drink of whey or  
butter milk.

Whey ! butter milk ! Is there not  
a drop at all in the bottle ?

The cat purs for itself ; but to tell  
the truth I forgot that there  
was such a thing in the house.

Will you take it as it is or shall I  
mix it with water ?

I prefer a drink of whey, thank you.

Please yourself.

I am the better of that.

Is it in Oban that you were ?

Yes.

I am sure that there is much bustle  
in it at present with tourists.

There was a commotion in it to-day  
at any rate such as I never saw.

What do you refer to ?

This was the day of the Highland  
games.

Did many people assemble to see  
them ?

It is computed that not fewer than  
five thousand were assembled.

Whence did they come ?

From every district of the surround-  
ing country, and from other  
countries.

Where was the meeting held ?

Air faiche taobh a mach a' bhaile.  
An robh au sluagh uile air an  
fhaiche aig an aon àm ?

Cha robh ; bha sruth 'us saobh-  
shruth dhiubh air an ais 's air  
an aghaidh eadar am baile 's an  
fhaiche fad an là.

An robh an t-éideadh Gàidhealach  
air mòran diubh ?

Bha e air a' chuid bu mhò de luchd  
na farpais 's air corra 'h-aon de  
na h-naislean.

An robh farpais ann mu chaitheamh  
na cloiche ?

Is dùth dhuith-sa 'cheist sin a chur.

Bha là 'bha mi maith air caitheamh  
na cloiche, ach dh'fhalbh an là  
sin.

Bha farpais ann mu chaitheamh na  
cloiche, mu thilgeil an ùird,  
mu chur char de 'n chabar, mu  
leum, mu ruith, mu dhannsadh,  
's mu phìobaireachd.

Co 'bhuidhinn an duais a b'airde  
airson a' cheud thrì dhiubh sin ?

Fear ris an abrar Dòmhnall  
Dinnie.

Cia meud troidh a thilg e 'chlach  
bu truime ?

Naoi troidhe deug air fhichead.

Cia meud troidh a thilg e 'n t-òrd  
bu truime ?

A dhà dheug 'us còig fichead troidh  
agus naoi òirlich.

A dhuine chridhe ! Nach e 'n  
curaidh e !

Tha iad ag ràdh gu'm b'urrainn e  
'thilgeil na b'fhaide na 'n tog-  
radh e.

An d'fhairich sibh an robh mòran  
de dh'uaislean na dùthcha air  
an fhaiche ?

Cha n-fhaca mi riamh cruinneach-  
adh cho mòr dhiubh.

An robh Professor Blackie, caraid  
nan Gàidheal, ann ?

'S e 'bha, am broilleach na cuid-  
eachd.

On a field outside of the town.

Were all the people on the field at  
the same time ?

They were not ; a stream of them  
was passing and repassing all  
day between the town and the  
field.

Did many of them wear the High-  
land dress ?

It was worn by most of the compe-  
titors and by a few of the  
gentry.

Was there a competition in putting  
the stone ?

It is natural for you to put that  
question.

There was a day when I could put  
the stone well, but that day  
has passed.

There was a competition in putting  
the stone, throwing the hammer,  
tossing the caber, leaping,  
running, dancing, and bagpipe  
playing.

Who won the first prize for the first  
three of these ?

A man called Donald Dinnie.

How many feet did he throw the  
heavy stone ?

Thirty-nine feet.

How many feet did he throw the  
heavy hammer ?

One hundred and twelve feet and  
nine inches.

Dear me ! What a champion he  
is !

It is said that he could have thrown  
it farther had he chosen.

Did you notice if many of the gen-  
tlemen of the county were on  
the field ?

I never saw so large an assembly of  
them.

Was Professor Blackie, the friend  
of the Gael, there ?

He was, in the forefront of the  
company.

Co tuilleadh a chunnaic sibh de na h-naisean ?

Chunnaic mi Morair Bhraid -albainn, Am Morair Dòmhnallach, am Morair Cailean Caimbeul, mac do Mhac Cailein, an Còirn-eal Iain Mac 'Ille Chaluim, agus mòran a bharrachd.

An innis sibh so dhomh ? An robh duaisean air an toirt airson bàrdachd Gàidhealaich ?

Cha robh.

Is diùlich sin.

Cha b'ionann a' chùis ri linn Dhonnachaidh bhàin Mhic-an-t-Saoir.

Nach do bhuidhinn esan duaisean 's an Eaglais-bhric 's an Dun-éideann airson òrain a sgrìobh e ?

Bhuidhinn, agus tha na h-òrain sin air mhaireann gus an la 'n diugh.

Ciod air am bheil iad a' tighinn ?

Air a' Ghaelig 's a' phìob mhòir.

Nach robh miadh air bàrdachd aig na cluichean ainneil a bh'aca 's a' Ghréig o shean.

Bha, agus b'abhaist do na bàird 's do na h-eachdraichean an oib-rean a leughadh aig na coinn-eamhan sin.

'D é 'n seòrsa dhuaisean a bh' air an toirt aca ?

Aig coinneamh mhòir *Olympia* b' e 'n duais crùn de 'n chràibh olaidh fhiadhaich.

Thar leam-fhéin gu'm bu leibideach an duais sin.

B' eadh, innte féin, ach bha cliù anabarrach fuaighte rithe.

Bha 'n duine 'bhuidhinn i air a mheas an duin 'a b'urramaich' am measg nan Greugach.

Nach iongantach nach 'eil na h-uachdarain a toirt misneich do na bàird againn-fhéin ?

'S eadh, 's gur h-i 'Ghaelig cainnt an t-sluaigh.

Who more did you see of the gentlemen ?

I saw Lord Breadalbane, Lord Mac-Donald, Lord Colin Campbell, a son of Mac Cailen, Colonel John Malcolm, and many others.

Will you tell me if prizes were given for Highland poetry ?

There were not.

That is a pity.

It was different in the time of Duncan ban Mac Intyre.

Did he not win prizes in Falkirk and Edinburgh for songs he wrote ?

He did, and these songs survive to the present day.

What is the subject of them ?

Gaelic and the great bagpipe.

Was not poetry in repute at the celebrated games they had in Greece of old.

It was, and the bards and historians used to read their works at these assemblies.

What kind of prizes was given at them ?

At the great assembly of *Olympia* the prize was a crown of the wild olive.

It strikes me that that was a trifling reward.

Yes, in itself ; but there was very great fame connected with it.

He who won it was deemed the most distinguished man among the Greeks.

Is it not surprising that the lairds do not encourage our own bards ?

It is, considering that Gaelic is the language of the people.

Tha na h-uachdarain am bidheantas  
'n an daoine tuigseach, fiosrach.

Tha iad, ach cha n-'eil iad cho  
dealasach mu fhòghlum 's a  
dh'fhaodadh iad.

Na 'm biodh chitheadh iad gur  
h-ann trid na Gaelig amhain  
is urrainn na Gàidheil a bhi  
air an ionnsachadh gu ceart.

Tha e imchuidh uime sin gu'm  
biodh a' Ghàelig air a teagasg  
's na sgoilean.

Nach 'eil e imchuidh cuideachd gu  
'm biodh a' Bheurla air a teag-  
asg annta ?

Gun teagamh ; cha n-fhaodar  
dearmad a dheanamh air a'  
Bheurla.

Is duilich nach 'eil leabhar air a  
chur a mach le Gàelig 'us  
Beurla taobh ri taobh.

'D é 'm math a dheanamh sin ?

Bhiodh e 'n a chuideachadh mòr do'n  
òigridh ann an ionnsachadh  
na Beurla.

Tha mi 'g 'ur tuigsian ; 's ann 'n  
'ur ceann fhéin a tha 'n tùr.

'S mithich dhomh a nis dol air mo  
cheum.

Gu ma math a bhios sibh.

Thugaibh ar beannachd gu 'r céile,  
a' bhean chéillidh, chòir.

The lairds are generally intelligent  
and well-informed men.

They are, but they are not so  
zealous about learning as they  
might be.

If they were they would perceive  
that it is only through the  
medium of Gaelic that High-  
landers can be instructed pro-  
perly.

It is proper, therefore, that Gaelic  
should be taught in the schools.

Is it not proper also that English  
should be taught in them ?

Undoubtedly ; English must not be  
neglected.

It is a pity that a book is not pub-  
lished with Gaelic and English  
side by side.

What good would that do ?

It would be a great assistance to  
the young in learning English.

I understand you ; it is in your  
head that the sense is.

It is time for me now to pursue my  
journey.

May all good attend you.

Give our compliments to your wife,  
the discreet and worthy woman.

## AM BAILE, THE TOWN.

### 1

A ghlinn mo ghràidh carson a  
dh'fhàg mi thu ? Tha mi 'n  
so mar bhò mhaol 'am buaile  
choimhich.

'S truagh mi-fhéin leat ; c'uin a  
sguireas tu de d' ghearan 's de  
d' ochanaich ?

Cha tig am baile so rium gu sìorr-  
uidh, tha mi 'g ràdh riut.

My beloved glen why did I leave  
thee ?

I am here like a polled cow in a  
strange fold.

I am to be pitied with you ; when  
will you cease your complaining  
and wailing ?

This town will never agree with  
me, I tell you.

Mur tig 's ann agad-sa 's cha n-ann  
aig a' bhaile 'tha choire.

'S fheàrr dhuibh sgrìob a ghabhail  
feadh a' bhaile dh'fheuch an  
cuir e saod oirbh.

Tha mi seachd sgùth d' a chabh-  
sair tioram, cruaidh.

Tha sinn air ar cur h-uige gu  
cruaidh le 'r dòighean friona-  
sach.

Tha fhios gu'n seasadh tusa do  
mhàthair an aghaidh d'athar.

'D é 'dh'iarradh sibh nach 'eil  
agaibh :—tigh grinn, seasgair,  
coimhearsnaich shuairce, agus  
iomadh toileachas-inntinn ?

B'fheàrr leam mìle nair na seana  
choimhearsnaich, an sean tigh  
tubhta, agus na garbhlaichean  
m' a thiomchioll.

Tuigidh sibh ri ùine uaisle nam  
bailtean.

Uaisle nam bailtean gu dearbh !  
'S e sin uaisle tholgach an fhas-  
ain, mar thubhairt am bàrd.

Nach bu taitneach a' choinneamh  
aig an robh sinn an oidhche  
roimhe !

'N e 'n t-Soiridh 'tha 'ad bheachd  
no c'ainm so 'th' air ?

An *Soiree*.

Coinneamh na spìocaireachd.

Shaoileadh neach nach d'ith thu  
dad ach domlas o'n thàinig thu  
do'n bhaile.

Cupan de dh'eanghlais, sliseag  
thana de dh'aran-cruineachd,  
agus fiach a bhonn-a-sèa de  
rèisins.

Cha b'ann gu cuirm geòcaireachd a  
bha sinn air ar cuireadh.

Chunnaic mi là 'dh'ithinn air aon  
tràth na bh' air a roinn air  
gach aon a bha 's an àite-  
shuidhe còmhla rium.

Cha n-fhaod e 'bhi nach do thaitinn  
na ministeirean riut.

Mata cha do thaitinn.

D e 'choire 'th' agad dhoibh.

If not you and not the town are to  
blame.

You had better take a turn through  
the town to see if it will put  
you into good humour.

I am sick tired of its dry, hard  
pavement.

We are severely tried by your  
fretful ways.

Of course you would stand by your  
mother against your father.

What could you desire that you  
have not :—a fine snug house,  
affable neighbours, and many  
enjoyments.

I would prefer a thousand times  
the old neighbours, the old  
thatched house, and the rough  
grounds around it.

You will by and by understand  
town gentility.

Town gentility indeed ! That is  
the hollow gentility of fashion,  
as the bard said.

What a pleasant meeting we were  
at the other night !

Do you mean the Soiridh, or what  
is it called ?

The *Soiree*.

The niggardly meeting.

One would be ready to suppose that  
you had eaten nothing but gall  
since you came to town.

A cup of milk-and-water, a thin  
slice of wheaten bread, and a  
half-penny's worth of raisins.

It was not to a feast of gluttony  
that we were invited.

I have seen the day when I could  
eat at one meal what was  
served to all in the seat with  
me.

Surely the ministers pleased you.

They did not.

What fault have you with them ?

Tha gu 'n do ghabh iad mar cheann-teagaisg, "Mol thusa mise agus molaidh mise thusa 's mi fhéin."

Cha d'fhairich sinne anns na tubhairt iad ach comharadh air an càirdeas d' a chèile.

Bha spailpean 'n am measg a chuir 'am chuimhne adhag a bhios a' tathunnaich ris gach neach a thig 'n a rathad.

Nach tu a leig ruith le d'theangaidh !

Co ach esan ! rinn e sud 'us rinn e so ; cha d' rinn e sud 's cha d' riun e so ; 's mu 'n do sguir e thug e beum do dhaoine b' fheàrr 's a' b'fhòghluimte na e fhéin.

Cha robh an gille grinn ach a' deanamh a dhleasnais.

Theagamh nach robh, ach 's coma leam peasain gun mhodh, gun tùr.

Nach peacach dhuit a bhi an aghaidh nam ministeirean ?

Cha n-'eil mise 'n an aghaidh, 's mi nach 'eil.

'S ann coltach ris a tha do sheanachas.

Biodh iad bàigheil, tùrail, fiachail 's cha n-'eil neach ann aig am bi barrachd meas orra na bhios agam-sa.

A thaobh *soirees*, abram gu bheil iad 'n an caitheamh-aimsir thaitneich, tharbheich do shean 's do dh'òg 'n uair a tha iad fo dheagh riaghladh.

S mòr am math a th' air a dheanamh 'n ar là 's 'n ar linn trid sgoilean-sàbaid.

Cha chomasach tuilleadh 's a' chòir a ràdh as an leth.

That they took for their text—  
"Praise you me, and I will praise you and myself."

We perceived nothing in what they said but a token of friendliness to each other.

There was a fop among them who reminded me of a terrier that barks at every one that comes in its way.

How you have given rein to your tongue !

Who but he ! He did this and he did that ; and he did not do this and he did not do that : and before he finished he hit better and more learned men than himself.

The fine lad was only doing his duty.

Perhaps so ; but I do not care for brats without manners or sense.

Is it not sinful of you to be against the ministers ?

I am not against them, not I.

Your conversation indicates as much.

Let them be kindly, sensible, and worthy, and no one will respect them more than I.

With regard to *soirees*, let me say that they are a pleasant and profitable pastime to old and young when they are well conducted.

Great good is being done in our day and generation by means of Sabbath Schools.

It is not possible to say too much in their favour.

Tha cuid-eigin aig an dorus, a Mhairearad.

There is some person at the door, Margaret.

Mur h-'eil mi meallta 's e Eoghann  
a' bhuth' a th' ann.

Am bheil sibh nìle 'n 'ur slàinte 'an  
so?

Thig a nìos, 'Eoghainn; bha sùil  
agam riut an dé.

'N nair a bhà mi deas gus am  
bruthach a dhìreadh thàinig  
sgaoimearan bhàrr *yacht* a  
stigh, 'us b' fheudar dhomh  
feitheamh orra.

'S math an t-àm 'an d'thàinig thu.  
Theab tighinn eadar na mnathan  
'us mise mu dhòighean a'  
bhaile.

'S ann ri dòighean 'us beusan eile  
'bha sibhse cleachda.

'S ann, ach tha gliocas 's an t-sean-  
fhacal, "Beus an àite 's am  
bithear 's e 'nithear."

An téid sibh a mach a ghabhail  
sràid?

Tha sin cho math dhomh 's a bhi  
meananaich 's a' tachas mo  
chinn 'an so fad an là, gun  
sion agam r' a dheanamh.

Thoir a nuas mo bhrògan, a Shiùs-  
aidh.

Nach fheàrr dhuibh na bòtuinnean  
a chur oirbh o'n 's e là na faidh-  
reach a th' ann?

Na bòtuinnean! Togaibh d' ur n-  
amaideachd.

A nuas na brògan gu h-ealamh.

Tha mi nis deas gu dol leat.

Ciamar a thèarnas sinn am bruth-  
ach?

Air fhiaradh.

Nach àillidh, farsuing an sealladh  
a th' againn o'n mhullach so!

Snd calg-dhìreach mu 'r coinneamh  
caol nan loingeas bréid-gheal,  
eadar Muile 's a' Mhorairne.

Sin an Linne Sheileich eadar iad 's  
tir-mòr.

Tha cilean Chearara dlùth dhninn,  
a' cumail dìon' 'us fasgaidh air  
a' chala 's air a' bhaile.

If I am not deceived, it is Ewen of  
the shop.

Are you all well here?

Come forward, Ewen; I expected  
you yesterday.

When I was ready to ascend the  
hill, harum-scarums from a  
yacht came in, and I had to  
attend upon them.

You have come in good time.

The women and I very nearly  
quarrelled about the ways of  
the town.

You have been accustomed to other  
ways and manners.

Yes, but there is wisdom in the  
proverb, "The use and wont of  
the place you dwell in must be  
conformed to."

Will you go out to walk?

It is as well for me to do so as to be  
yawning and scratching my  
head here all day, having no-  
thing to do.

Bring down my shoes, Susan.

Had you not better put on the boots,  
since it is the market day?

The boots! give over your folly.

Bring down the boots quickly. I  
am now ready to accompany you.  
How shall we descend the hill?

Slantwise.

What a beautiful and extensive  
view we have from this height!

Yonder is the sound of white-sailed  
ships, between Mull and Mor-  
ven.

There is the Linne Heilich between  
them and the mainland.

The island of Kerara is near us,  
protecting and sheltering the  
harbour and town

'D é phàirce bheag tha 'n so fodh-  
ainn ?

'S e sin an t-àilean-bhall.

Gabhamaid sìos an rathad so.

Tha sinn a nis air a' chòmhnarl.

'D é 'n stiobull àrd, cuimir a th'  
air an làimh chli ?

'S e sin stiobull na h-eaglais' àire  
nu 'n robh mi 'bnuidhinn ruibh  
air a' bho'n dé.

'S e togail eireachdail a th' innte  
darireadh.

Am bheil i grinn 's an taobh a  
stigh ?

Cha mhòr a tha cho grinn.

Am bheil òrgan innte ?

'S e *harmonium* is ainm do'n inneal-  
chiùil a th' innte.

'D é 'n seòrsa inneal-ciùil a th' ann ?

Tha e car cosmhuil ri *piano* air an  
taobh a mach, ach tha fuaim  
monmhorach, àrd aige mar th'  
aig òrgan.

Chì sibh bùithean de gach seòrsa a  
suas 's a nuas an t-sràid.

'D é 'n tigh àrd, ninneagach a th'  
againn 'an so ?

'S e sin *bank* no tigh-malairt airgid.

'D é 'n riadh a gheibhear ann airson  
airgid ?

Cha n-fhaigh ach dà phunnd 's a  
deich as a cheud punnd Sassun-  
nach.

'D é 'n soitheach-smùide 'tha cho  
farumach le 'clag 's le 'feadaig ?

Té de 'n fheadhainn bheaga 'bhios  
a' dol troimh 'n *chanal*.

Cha n-fhaic mi tigh-òsda o'n  
thàinig sinn a mach.

Tha còig eadar sinn 's an drochaid.

C'àit am bheil obair a' *ghas* ?

Tha i 's an t-sràid chùil.

Nach ann 's a' chala' tha'n loingear ?

Tha ceithir-deng ann de loingear  
dhaoin' uaisle.

What small park is this below us ?

That is the bowling green.

Let us turn down this way.

We are now on level ground.

What lofty and graceful steeple is  
to the left ?

That is the steeple of the church  
about which I was speaking to  
you the day before yesterday.

It is really a handsome building.

Is it elegant within ?

Few are so elegant.

Is there an organ in it ?

The musical instrument in it is  
called a harmonium.

What kind of musical instrument  
is it ?

It is somewhat like a piano outside,  
but it has a loud murmuring  
sound like that of an organ.

You will see shops of every variety  
up and down the street.

What lofty many-windowed house  
have we here ?

That is a bank.

What interest will be received in it  
for money ?

Only two and a half per cent.

What steamboat is it that makes  
such a noise with its bell and  
whistle ?

One of the small ones that goes  
through the canal.

I have not seen an hotel since we  
came out.

There are five between us and the  
bridge.

Where is the gas work ?

It is in the back street.

What a number of ships is in the  
harbour !

There are fourteen gentlemen's ships  
in it.



Sud tigh-sgoil a' bhaile aig bun a' bhruthaich.

Tha sinn a nis aig a' *Phost Office*.

Cia meud uair 's an là 'bhios am post a' dol a mach 's a' tighiuu a stigh?

Dà uair.

'S mòr an goireas sin do 'n dùth-aich.

'N e sin an *dotair* mòr a' dol seachad?

A' cheart duine.

Nach ann air a tha 'chabhag!

Tha de dh'iarraidh aig daoine air 's nach 'eil tàmh no fois aige a là no dh'oidhche.

An duine beannaichte! 'N uair a bha mi air mo dhruim air leabaidh-thinneis cha b'urrainn mo mhàthair a bhi na bu chaomharrum.

Nach ann air muinntir na faidhearach a tha 'n othail!

Tha e coltach ris 'gu bheil forfhais mhath air eich.

Am faic sibh an tigh ud air am bheil aghaidh de chloich ghoireil?

Tha mi 'g a fhaicinn.

'S e sin an tigh-mòid.

An ann 'an sin a bhios an Siorram agus Luchd-riaghlaidh a' bhaile a' cumail mhòdan?

'S ann.

Tha cho math dhuinn so fhàgail mu 'n coinnich sinn luchd-eòlais.

Rachamaid sìos seach a' ceàrdach.

'D é 'n obair a tha 'dol air aghaidh 'an so?

Tha iad ag uidheamachadh ceann-uidhe airson an rathaid-iaruinn.

Tha mi 'cluinninn gu bheil iad 'dol a thogail laimhrig ùire.

Tha iad ag obair orra goirrid uainn.

'D e 'n doimhneachd uisge 'th' aig an àite far am bheil iad 'g a togail?

Yonder is the schoolhouse, at the foot of the brae.

We are now at the Post Office.

How many times a day does the post go out and come in?

Twice.

That is a great convenience to the country.

Is that the big doctor passing?

The very man.

What a hurry he is in!

He is so much in request that he has no rest either day or night.

The blessed man! When I was on my back on a sick bed my mother could not be kinder to me.

What a bustle there is among the market people!

It appears that there is a good demand for horses.

Do you see you house with a free-stone front?

I see it.

That is the Court House.

Is it there that the Sheriff and Magistrates of the town hold courts?

It is.

It is as well for us to leave this lest we meet acquaintances.

Let us go down past the smithy.

What work is going on here?

They are preparing a terminus for the railway.

I hear that they are going to build a new pier.

They are working at it a short distance from us.

What depth of water is there at the place where they are building it?

Mu fhichead troidh aig ìsle làin 's  
mu dhà throidh dheug air  
fhichead aig àirde làin.

Ciamar a tha na clachan air an  
leigeil le leathad ?

Le slabhraidhean agus nlagan iar-  
uinn.

Tha inneal-deathaich aca a dh'oibr-  
eachadh na h-achfhuinn.

Ciamar a tha na clachan air an cur  
'n an àite gu h-ìosal ?

Tha clachairean a' dol sìos.

Ciamar a thèid aca air fuireach gu  
h-ìosal ?

Bheir mi oidhearp air sin a mhìn-  
eachadh dhuibh.

Tha aodach leathraich orra 'tha 'g  
an còmbdachadh o bhonn an  
cosan gu 'n amhaich. Tha clog-  
aid chopair air a cur orra a tha  
aig a h-ìochdar air a dlùthadh  
ris an aodach air dhòigh 's nach  
fhaigh deur uisge 'stigh.

Ciamar a tha e 'tachairt nach 'eil na  
fir air an tacadh ?

Tha pìob de *ghutta-percha* a leigeil  
a stigh àilidh air cùlaobh na  
clogaide.

Cia as a tha 'n t-àileadh a' tighinn ?  
O inneal-àilidh ris am bheil an dara  
ceann de 'n phìob air a theann-  
achadh.

Tha dòigh aca air àilidh shalaich 's  
air anabarr àilidh ghloin a leig-  
eil a mach.

Ciamar a tha iad a' faicinn fo 'n  
uisge ?

Tha trì uinneagan beaga air a'  
chlogaid.

Am bheil an rathad a' dol troimh  
'n chnoc so os ar ceann ?

Tha ; coisicheamaid suas g' a  
ionnsuidh.

'S iomadh tora, òrd, piocaid, geamh-  
lag, 'ns baraile fùdair a  
chuidich gu am bealach so  
'ghearradh.

'S iomadh ; 's bha tora aca 'bha 'g  
obair le cumhachd deathaich.

About twenty feet at low water,  
and about thirty-two feet at  
high water.

How are the stones let down ?

With iron chains and blocks.

They have a steam-engine to work  
the apparatus.

How are the stones put in their  
place under water ?

Masons go down.

How do they manage to remain  
below ?

I shall attempt to explain that to  
you.

They have leather clothes on them,  
that cover from the soles of  
their feet to their neck. A  
copper helmet is put on them,  
and is fitted so tightly at its  
lower end to the clothes that  
no water can get in.

How does it happen that the men  
are not choked ?

A gutta-percha pipe admits air at  
the back of the helmet.

Where does the air come from ?

From an air-engine to which one  
end of the pipe is screwed.

They have a method of letting out  
foul air and excess of pure air.

How do they see under water ?

There are three small windows on  
the helmet.

Does the way pass through this  
hill above us ?

It does ; let us walk up to it.

Many a drill, hammer, pickaxe,  
crowbar, and barrel of powder  
helped to cut this gap.

Yes ; and they had a drill that  
worked by steam power.

Tha sinn a nis air taobh deas a' chnuic.

'N e sud an t-each-iaruinn a' cur nan smùid dheth?

'S e.

An gille! Cha chuir sgìos no cuing-analach air-san.

Nach i 'n togail ud taobh eil' an lochain eaglais na sgìreachd?

S i.

Nach laghach i leis an àilean naine air a beulaobh, an cladh cianail air a cùlaobh, agus a' challaid dhosrach m' a tiomchioll?

Gu ma fada 'bhios an soisgeul air a shearmonachadh iunte ann an cànan ghloin nam beann.

We are now on the south side of the hill.

Is yon the iron horse throwing off its smoke and steam?

It is.

The hero! Neither fatigue nor shortness of breathing will affect him.

Is not yon building on the other side of the lake the parish church?

It is.

Is it not nice, with the green plot in front, the solitary graveyard behind, and the bushy hedge around it?

Long may the Gospel be preached in it in the pure language of the mountains.

## LEABHRAICHEAN GAELIG, GAELIC BOOKS.

### 1

An aithne dhuibh fear a' bhail' ud shuas?

'S aithne dhomh e r' a fhaicinn; 's e sin nil' e.

Cha bu mhòr an call ged nach robh am barrachd eòlais agaibh air.

Tha e coltach ris nach 'eil thu-sa buidheach dheth.

Cha n-'eil, 's tha aobhar agam.

Ciod a thàinig eadaraibh?

Cha téid stad air a theangaidh ghobhlaich a' diomoladh na Gàelig 's gach ni Gàidhealaich.

"Is tric a dhiomol an ceannaich' am bathar bu mhath leis a bhi aige 'n a mhàileid."

Nach dubhairt e rium 'an clàr an aodainn nach 'eil 's a' Ghàelig ach cainnt dhaoine borba, 's nach 'eil leabhraichean innte a 's fhiach an leubhadh!

Cha do labhair e ach a réir an eòlais a th'aige.

Bu chòir dhuibh a ràdh a réir 'ain-eòlais 's a mhi-mhodhalachd.

Do you know the man of the farm up yonder?

I know him by sight, that is all.

It would be no great loss though you should have no further acquaintance with him.

It seems that you are not well pleased with him.

I am not, and I have cause.

What is the cause of quarrel?

His forked tongue does not cease to disparage Gaelic and everything Highland.

Often has the pedlar disparaged the goods that he would wish to have in his pack.

Did he not tell me to my face that Gaelic is no better than a language for savages, and that there are no books in it worth reading!

He only spoke according to the knowledge that he has.

You should say according to his ignorance and rudeness.

Tha thusa tnilleadh 'us crnaidh air.  
Tha ! tha ! cha tig a soitheach le  
goc ach an deoch a théid ann.

Cha sguir thusa de chagnadh  
naimhdean na Gàelig.  
"Is duilich leam," mar thubhairt  
Iain Lom, "nach urrainn domh  
an slugadh."

Am feasgar mu dheireadh a bha  
thu'n so bha seanachas againn  
mu'n Ghàelig.

Bha sin againn, agus bu taitneach  
an seanachas e.

'S fhiach e 'n t-saothair dhuinn air  
an fheasgar so còmhraidh a bhi  
againn mu leabhraichean  
Gàelig.

C' àit an tòisich sinn ?

Aig an toiseach.

Ach e' àit am bheil an toiseach ?

Feumaidh sinn dol air ar n-ais sèa  
no seachd ceud bliadhna.

Am bheil an leabhar a's sine 'th'  
againn an aois sin ?

Tha iad a' deanamh dheth gu bheil.

C' ainm a th' air ?

*Leabhar Dheer.*

'N e ainm àite a th' ann an Deer ?

'S e ainm sgìreachd a th' ann a tha  
'n iar air Ceann-Phadruig, ann  
an siorramachd Aberaidhean.

Co 'sgrìobh e ?

Na manaich ann an tigh-mhanach  
's an sgìreachd.

Ciod air am bheil e 'tighinn ?

'S e earrannan de 'n t-soisgeul ann  
an Laidinn a th' anns a' chuid  
a's mò dheth.

Ciod air am bheil na tha 'n a  
Ghàelig dheth a' tighinn ?

Tha e gu h-àraid a' tighinn air  
fearann a thug cinn-fheadhna  
's a' choimhearsnachd do 'n  
tigh-mhanach.

An ionann Gàelig an leabhair so  
agus a' Ghàelig againn-ne ?

Cha n-ionann ; tha mùthadh eatorra.

You are too hard upon him.

Yes ! yes ! there comes not from a  
cask by a faucet but such liquor  
as it contains.

You will not cease to chew the  
enemies of Gaelic.

"I regret," as John Lom said,  
"that I cannot swallow them."

The last evening that you were  
here we had a talk about Gaelic.

We had, and a pleasant talk it was.

It is worth our while this evening  
to have a conversation about  
Gaelic books.

Where shall we begin ?

At the beginning.

But where is the beginning ?

We must go back six or seven  
hundred years.

Is the oldest book that we have  
that age ?

It is estimated that it is.

What is its name ?

The Book of Deer.

Is Deer the name of a place ?

It is the name of a parish to the  
west of Peterhead, in Aberdeen-  
shire.

Who wrote it ?

The monks in a monastery in the  
parish.

What is its subject ?

The most part of it consists of por-  
tions of the Gospel in Latin.

What is the subject of the Gaelic  
portion of it ?

Chiefly land given to the monastery  
by neighbouring chiefs.

Is the Gaelic of this book the same  
as ours ?

No ; there is a difference between  
them.

'S e 'n ath leabhar a 's sin' a th'  
againn *Leabhar Deadhan Lise*  
*Mòire*, ann an Earraghaidheal.

C'uin a bha 'n leabhar sin air a  
chur r' a chéile ?

'S a' bhliadhna 1512 ; co dhiù bha  
e deas 's a' bhliadhna sin.

Co dhiù 's e eachdraidh no bàrd-  
achd a th' ann ?

Bàrdachd.

C' àit an d'fhuair iad i ?

Air feadh na Gàidhealtachd.

Cia meud dàn a th' ann ?

Tha còrr 'us trì fichead ann, 'us  
ochd air fhichead dhiubh mu'n  
Fhéinn.

Am bheil dàn ann le Oisean ?

A réir an leabhair tha naoi le  
Oisean, dithis le Fergus filidh,  
agus aon le Caoilte Mac Ronain.

Co iad sin ?

Triùir bhàrd na Féinne.

Tha sinn a' fòghlum o so gu'n robh  
iomradh air Oisean 's gu'n robh  
dàn air an cur as a leth o  
cheann còrr 'us trì cheud 'us  
trì fichead bliadhna.

Ciod an seòrsa Gàelig a th' ann ?

An t-aona Ghàelig 's a th' ann an  
Leabhar Dheer.

C'uin a bha e air a chur a mach ?

Tha mu fhichead bliadhna uaithe.

Co 'dh' ullaich e airson a chur a  
mach ?

An T-Ollamh MacLachluinn 'an  
Dun-éideann.

'S e 'cheud leabhar Gàelig a bh'air a  
chlòdh-bhualadh *Leabhar-ùrn-  
uigh Knox*, air eadar-theang-  
achadh gu Gàelig leis an Eas-  
buig Charsallach.

C'uin a thàinig e 'mach ?

'S a' bhliadhna 1567.

Bha e air a chur a mach as ùr leis  
an Ollamh Mac Lachluinn o  
cheann beagan bhliadhnaich-  
ean.

The next oldest book we have is  
"The book of the Dean of  
Lismore," in Argyll.

When was that book put together ?

In the year 1512 ; at least it was  
ready that year.

Whether does it contain history or  
poetry ?

Poetry.

Where did they find it ?

Throughout the Highlands.

How many poems does it contain ?

Upwards of sixty, of which twenty-  
eight are Fingalian.

Are there poems in it by Ossian ?

According to the book there are  
five by Ossian, two by Fergus  
the bard, and one by Caoilte  
Mac Ronain.

Who are these ?

The three Fingalian bards.

We learn from this that mention  
was made of Ossian and poems  
attributed to him upwards of  
three hundred and sixty years  
ago.

What kind of Gaelic does it con-  
tain ?

The same Gaelic as in the Book of  
Deer.

When was it published ?

About twenty years ago ?

Who prepared it for publication ?

Dr. M'Lauchlan, in Edinburgh.

The first Gaelic book printed is  
Knox's Liturgy, translated into  
Gaelic by Bishop Carswell.

When did it come out ?

In the year 1567.

It was republished by Dr. M'Lauch-  
lan a few years ago.

Bu choltach gu'n robh mòran de na Gàidheil comasach air a' Ghàelig a leubhadh 's a' bhliadhna 1567.

Chuir Seanadh Earraghàidheal a mach 'an Gàelig leth cheud de na Sailm 's a' bhliadhna 1659, agus an còrr 's a' bhliadhna 1694.

Bha na Sailm air an cur a mach 'an Gàelig leis an Urramach Iain Kirke, ministear Bhochuidir, 's a' bhliadhna 1684.

Bha Foclair Gàelig air a chur a mach le Alastair Dòmhnallach, am bàrd, 's a' bhliadhna 1740.

Bha 'n *Tiomnadh Nuadh* 'an Gàelig air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1767.

Bha co-chruinneachadh de Ghnàth-fhocail Ghàidhealach air a chur a mach le Mac-an-Tòisich 's a' bhliadhna 1785.

Bha 'n *Sean Tiomnadh* air a chur a mach 'an Gàelig 'n a earrannaibh o'n bhliadhna 1783 gus a' bhliadhna 1801, 'n uair a bha 'n obair crìochnaichte.

Bha na *Sean Dana* air an cur a mach leis an Ollamh Mac-a'-Ghobhainn 's a' bhliadhna 1787.

Cha n-'eil an leabhar so 'nis furasda 'fhaotainn, ach bha dithis d' a dhàin ciatach, "Dàn an Déirg" agus "Tiomnadh Ghuil," air an cur a mach o cheann beagan bhliadhnaichean le C. S. Jerram, M.A. Tha 'Ghàelig agus eadar-theangachadh firinneach, fìor thaitneach, taobh ri taobh. Tha sinn a' moladh an leabhair so d'ar luchd-dùthcha.

Bha Obair Oisein le Mac-Mhuirich air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1806.

Bha Foclair Gàelig Armstrong air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1825, agus Foclair a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich trì bliadhna an déigh sin.

It would appear that many of the Highlanders could read Gaelic in 1567.

The Synod of Argyll published in Gaelic fifty of the Psalms in the year 1659, and the rest of them in the year 1694.

The Psalms were published in Gaelic by the Rev. John Kirke, minister of Balquhiddir, in the year 1684.

A Gaelic Vocabulary was published by Alexander MacDonald, the bard, in the year 1740.

The New Testament in Gaelic was published in the year 1767.

A collection of Gaelic Proverbs was published by Mackintosh in the year 1785.

The Old Testament was published in Gaelic in parts from the year 1783 to the year 1801, when the work was finished.

The Ancient Lays were published by Dr. Smith in the year 1787.

It is not now easy to find this book, but two of its fine lays, "Dearg's Lay," and "Goll's Testament," were published some years ago by C. S. Jerram, M.A. The Gaelic and a faithful and a very pleasant translation stand side by side. We recommend this book to our countrymen.

Ossian's Work, by Macpherson, was published in the year 1806.

Armstrong's Gaelic Dictionary was published in the year 1825, and the Highland Society's Dictionary three years afterwards.

Cha n-fhaod mi crìochnachadh gun iomradh a thoirt air an *Teachdaire Ghàidhealach's*air *Cuairt-car nan Gleann*.

'S ann 's na leabhraichean sin a bha sgrìobhainean Gàelig an Ollaimh Mhic Leòid air an cur a mach an toiseach.

'S airidh iomradh a thoirt air na *Sgeulachan Gàidhealach* a chruinnich I. F. Caimbeul 's air *Dain Oiscan* 'an Gaelig 's 'am Beurla les an Ollamh-Mac a'-Chléirich.

I must not conclude without making mention of the Highland Messenger, and the Courier of the Glens.

It was in these books that the Gaelic writings of Dr. M'Leod were first published.

The Highland Tales collected by J. F. Campbell, and Ossian's Poems in Gaelic and English by Dr. Clerk are worthy of mention.

## 2

Faodaidh sinn a nis bruidhinn mu na bàird air am bheil a' bheag no 'mhòr de dh'eòlas aig Gàidheil am bidheantas.

Bithidh na 's leòir agaibh r' a dheanamh ma bheir sibh iomradh orra uile.

Cha n-urrainn domh sin a dheanamh an dràs.

Ghabhadh e leabhar gu math mòr cunntas a thoirt air na th'ann diubbh.

Na'n abradh neach sam bith rium "C'ait am bheil 'ur bàrdachd r' a fhaotainn?" dh'fhaodainn 'aire a thionndadh ri *Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd Gàidhealach*.

Am bheil òrain nam bàrd uile 's an leabhar sin?

Tha àireamh thaghta ann de dh'òrain le còig 'us dà fhlichead bàrd.

'D é'n seòrsa òran a th'annta?

Orain-mholaidh, òrain-chumhaidh, òrain-ghaoil, òrain-shùgraidh, òrain-chogaidh, òrain mu ràith-ean na bliadhna, òrain spior-adail, agus mar sin sios.

Am bheil gin ann de dh'òrain *Mhàiri Nic Leòid*, ris an abrar *Màiri, Nighean Alastair Ruaidh*?

Tha naoi ann.

We may now speak of the bards of which Highlanders in general have less or more knowledge.

You will have enough to do if you speak of them all.

I cannot do that at present.

It would take a pretty large book to give an account of them all.

Were any one to ask me "Where is your poetry to be found?" I might turn his attention to *The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry*.

Are the songs of all the bards in that book?

There is a choice selection in it of songs by forty-five bards.

What kind of songs are they?

Songs of praise, laments, love songs, songs of mirth, war songs, songs about the seasons of the year, spiritual songs, and so forth.

Are there any in it of the songs of Mary MacLeod, called Mary, the daughter of red-haired Alexander?

There are nine.

C'ait an d'rugadh i ?  
 'An Roudal 's na H-Earradh.  
 C'uin a rugadh i ?  
 'S a' bhliadhna 1569.  
 'D é 'n aois a bha i 'n uair a chaoch-  
 ail i ?

Còig fichead bliadhna 's a còig.  
 Nach robh i 'n a banaltrum 'an  
 teaghlach Mhic Leòid Dhun-  
 bheagain ?

Bha fad iomadh bliadhna.  
 Carson a chuir e i air fògradh do  
 Mhuile ?

A chionn gu'n robh e diombach dhi  
 airson òrain a rinn i.

Nach ann 'n uair a bha i 'm Muile  
 a rinn i 'n t-òran ciatach sin  
 ris an abrar "Luinneag Mhic  
 Leòid" ?

'S ann.

Nach do chuir e bàta 's sgioba g' a  
 toirt dhachaidh 'n uair a chual  
 e mu'n òran so ?

Chuir, ach bha òrdugh aca gun a  
 toirt air bòrd gus an gealladh  
 i nach deanadh i tuilleadh  
 òran.

An d'thug i 'n gealladh a dh'iarradh  
 orra ?

Thug, 'us fhuair i dhachaidh.

An do ghleidh i 'gealladh ?

Rinn i òran do mhac do Mhac  
 Leòid, agus 'n uair a chron-  
 aicheadh i air a shon thubhairt  
 i "Cha n-òran a th'ann ; cha  
 n-eil ann ach crònan."

An urrainn duibh dad de dh'eachd-  
 raidh *Iain Luim*, bàrd Loch-  
 abair, a thoirt dhomh ?

'S e Dòmhnallach a bh' ann de  
 theaghlach na Ceapaich.

'D é 'n linn 's an robh e beo ?

Ann an linn a' cheud 's an dara  
 Teàrlaich, 's 'n a déigh.

Chuala mi gu'n robh e 'n a charaid  
 eudmhor do na Stiùbhartach.

Bha, agus 'n a nàmhaid guineach  
 do rìgh Uilleam 's d'a chàird-  
 ean, na Caimbeulaich.

Where was she born ?

In Roudal, in Harris.

When was she born ?

In the year 1569.

What age was she when she died ?

One hundred and five years.

Was she not a nurse in the family  
 of M'Leod of Dunveagan ?

She was for many years.

Why did he banish her to Mull ?

Because he was displeased with her  
 for a song that she composed.

Was it not when she was in Mull  
 that she composed that fine  
 song called "M'Leod's Ditty" ?

It was.

Did he not send a boat and crew to  
 take her home when he heard  
 of this song ?

He did, but they had orders not to  
 take her on board until she  
 promised that she would make  
 no more songs.

Did she give the promise that was  
 required of her ?

She did, and was allowed to go home.

Did she keep her promise ?

She made a song to a son of M'Leod,  
 and when reproved for it she  
 said, "It is not a song ; it is  
 only a croon".

Can you give me anything of the  
 history of John Lom, the Loch-  
 aber bard ?

He was a MacDonald of the family  
 of Keppoch.

In what age did he live ?

In the age of the first and second  
 Charles, and after it.

I heard that he was a zealous friend  
 of the Stewarts.

He was and a bitter enemy to King  
 William and his friends, the  
 Campbells.



Nach e 'sheòl feachd Mhontròse do dh'Inbher-lòchaidh a chumail còmhhdail ris na Caimbeul-aich?

'S e; agus 's e 'rinn an t-òran ainmeil sin mun' bhlàr ris an abrar "La Inbher-lòchaidh".

'D e 'n seòrsa duine 'bh' ann?

Bha e 'n a dhuine geur-chuiseach, dān, gramail, fiosrach mu ghnòthaichean na linne buaireasaich 's an robh e beò.

C'uin a chaochail e?

Mu'n bhliadhna 1710.

Bha e aois mhòr 'n uair a chaochail e.

Bruinidh sinn a nis mu *Alastair Dòmhnallach*, ris an abrar *Mac Mhaighstir Alastair*.

Rugadh e ann am Mùideart mu'n bhliadhna 1700.

Bha 'athair 'n a mhinisteir de'n Eaglais Easbuigeach ann an Ardnamurchan.

'D e bu dreuchd dha-fhéin?

Bha e 'n a mhaighstir-sgoil sgìreachd 'an Ardnamurchan, 's 'n a fhoirfeach 's an eaglais.

Dh'fheumadh gu'n robh sgoil mhath aige.

Fhuair e 'ionnsachadh ann an oilthigh Ghlascho.

Nach do thionndaidh e ris a' Chreideamh Phàpanach?

Thionndaidh 'n uair a dh'fhalbh e le Prionnsa Teàrlach 's a' bhliadhna 1745.

Nach e 'rinn "Oran nam Fineachan Gàidhealach" agus "Allt an t-siùcair"?

'S e, agus "Am Breacan Uallach," "Fàilte na Mor-thir," "A Bhanarach Dhonn," "Beannachadh Luinge," agus mòran a bharrachd.

Co dhiù 's e-féin no *Donnachadh Bàn Mac-an-t-Saoir* am bàrd a 's fheàrr?

Cha n-'eil mi ro chinnteach.

Was it not he that guided Montrose's army to Inverlochy to meet the Campbells?

Yes; and it was he that composed that celebrated song about the battle, called "The day of Inverlochy".

What kind of man was he?

He was a sagacious, bold, resolute man, well-informed as to the affairs of the turbulent age in which he lived.

When did he die?

About the year 1710.

He was a great age when he died.

We shall now speak about Alexander MacDonald, called the son of Mr. Alexander.

He was born in Muideart about the year 1700.

His father was a minister of the Episcopal Church in Ardnamurchan.

What was his own profession?

He was parish schoolmaster in Ardnamurchan, and an elder in the church.

He must have been a good scholar.

He was educated in Glasgow College.

Did he not turn to the Popish religion?

He did when he went away with Prince Charles in the year 1745.

Was it not he that composed "The Song of the Highland Clans," and the "Sugar Brook"?

Yes, and "The Light Plaid," "Hail to Mòrir," "The Brown-haired dairymaid," "The Blessing of a Ship," and many more.

Whether is he or fair-haired Duncan MacIntyre the better poet?

I am not very sure.

Tha iad le chéile 'n am bàird  
chumhachdach.

Tha Donnachadh Bàn na's fhusa  
'thuigsinn.

Tha tuilleadh fhocal ann am bàrd-  
achd an Dòmhnallaich a chaidh  
a cleachdadh.

C'àit an d'rugadh Donnachadh Bàn ?  
Rugadh e 'an Druimliaghairt 'an  
Gleann-urechaidh, 's a' bhliadh-  
na 1724.

Dh'innseadh dhomh nach b'urrainn,  
da aona chuid leubhadh no  
sgriobhadh.

Cha b'urrainn, ach bha meodhar  
cho math aige 's nach do dhì-  
chuimhnich e focal de na h-  
òrain a rinn e.

Au robh ceàird sam bith aige ?

Bha e 'n toiseach 'n a fhrithear do  
Mhorair Bhraid-Albainn 'an  
Coire-cheathaich 's am Beinn-  
dòrain, agus an deigh sin do  
Dhiùc Earraghàidheal 'am  
Buachail Eite.

Nach robh e 's an arm ?

'N uair a bha e 'n a dhuin' òg bha  
e le Còirneal Caimbeul Choire-  
chumhan 'am blàr na H-Eag-  
laise Brice.

Bha e o 'n bhliadhna 1793 gus a'  
bhliadhna 1799 ann am *Fen-  
cibles* Mhorair Bhraid-albainn.

Bha e na h-uibhir a bhlianaichean  
am am Freiceadan baile Dhun-  
éideann.

C'uin a chaochail e ?

'S a' bhliadhna 1812.

'S iad na h-òrain a 's fhearr a rinn  
e "Beinn-dòrain," "Coire-  
cheathaich," agus "A Mhàiri  
Bhàn Og."

Nach d'eadar-theangaich *Professor  
Blackie* "Beinn-dòrain" gu  
Beurla ?

Dh'eadar-theangaich.

Dh'innseadh dhomh gu'm bheil e  
anabarrach grinn air a dhean-  
amh.

They are both powerful poets.

Duncan Bàn is more easily under-  
stood.

There are more obsolete words in  
MacDonald's poetry.

Where was Duncan Bàn born ?

He was born in Drimliart in Glen-  
orchy, in the year 1724.

I was told that he could neither  
read nor write.

He could not, but he had so good a  
memory that he did not forget  
a word of the songs that he  
composed.

Had he any trade ?

He was first forester to Lord Brea-  
dalbane in Coire-cheathaich and  
Bendorain, and afterwards to  
the Duke of Argyll in Buach-  
aill Eite.

Was he not in the army ?

When he was a young man he was  
with Colonel Campbell of Cor-  
whin at the battle of Falkirk.

He was from the year 1793 to the  
year 1799 in Lord Breadalbane's  
Fencibles.

He was several years in the City  
Guard of Edinburgh.

When did he die ?

In the year 1812.

The best songs that he composed  
are "Bendorain," "Coire-  
cheathaich," and "Young  
Fair Mary".

Did not Professor Blackie translate  
"Bendorain" into English ?

He did.

I have been told that it is very  
finely done.

Tha e ; 's ainmic a leubh mi eadar-  
theangachadh a dh'fhaodar a  
choimeas ris.

C'ait am faic mi e ?

'N a leabhar mu'n Ghàelig 's mu  
bhàird na Gàidhealtachd.

Tha mi duilich nach 'eil ùin' agam  
tuilleadh a ràdh mu na bàird  
air an fheasgar so.

Mata gu dearbh cha ruig sibh leas ;  
fhuair mi cheana mòran eòlais  
uaibh.

'S e do bheatha.

Na'm biodh agam-sa de mheodhair  
a chuimhnicheadh e uile !

I am indebted in this Conversation to several sources of information.

### A' BHAN-RIGH 'S AN TEAGHLACH RÌGHEIL, THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.

Fàilt' air Donnachadh ruadh ; 'd é  
'chuir bho'n tigh thu cho  
tràthail an duigh ?

Chuala mi gu bheil sibh 'dol a chur  
a stigh mulain, agus thàinig  
mi 'dh'fheòraich am bi sibh cho  
math agus an tubhadh a  
ghleidheil air mo shon.

Cha n-'eil thar dà mhìos o'n fhuair  
thu tubhadh nam ; 'd é rinn  
thu leis ?

Chuir mi air an tigh e, ach tha na  
radain air a chur gu tur an  
dolaidh.

'S ann ri fala-dhà a tha thu.

'S ann darireadh a tha mi ; tha iad  
air fàgail mullach an tighe cho  
tolltach ri criathar.

Ma 's ann mar sin a tha chùis bith-  
idh na 's leòir de snidh agaibh.

Snidh ! o'n a thòisich an t-uisge  
cha deachaidh stad air a là no  
'dh'oidheche.

Bithidh am farum a ni e air feadh  
an tighe 'n a sheòrsa ciùil  
shunndaich do d'chluasan.

Tha iomadh seòrsa ciùil ann bu  
shunndaiche leam, ach chuir-

It is ; I have seldom read a trans-  
lation to be compared with it.

Where shall I see it ?

In his book about Gaelic and the  
Highland bards.

I am sorry that I have not time to  
say more about the bards this  
evening.

Indeed you need not ; I have  
already received much infor-  
mation from you.

You are welcome.

If I could only remember it all !

Hail to Duncan roy ; what sent you  
so early from home to-day ?

I heard that you are going to put in  
a stack, and I have come to  
ask if you will be so good as  
keep the thatch for me.

It is not more than two months  
since you got thatch from me ;  
what did you do with it ?

I put it on the house, but the rats  
have quite destroyed it.

You are jesting.

I am in earnest ; they have left the  
roof of the house as full of  
holes as a sieve.

If that is the case you will have  
enough of rain-drops from the  
roof.

Rain-drops ! since the rain began  
they have not ceased either by  
day or by night.

The noise they make through the  
house will be a cheerful kind of  
music to your ears.

There are many kinds of music  
that I would consider more

eadh e sibh-fhéin gu gàireach-daich a bhi 'faicinn an leum-raich a bhios oirnn a null 's a nall g' a sheachnadh.

Tha eagal orm gu'm bi droch dhìol air earnais 's air aodach.

'N uair a bha mi 'cur orm coilleir glan chum gu'm bithinn mar bu chòir dhomh 'n uair a thiginn 'n 'ur làthair-sa thàinig boinne nuas a dh'fhàg comharadh odhar cho mòr ri bonn tasdain air an anart ghrinn, gheal.

Tha 'leithid sin gu math deuchainneach air foighidinn duine.

'S math nach robh sibh 's an éisd-eachd 'n uair a thachair e, oir bha mi 'n sin "cho fiata ri broc liath a bhiodh 'an garaidh".

Cha n-iongantach leam idir gu'n robh.

Saoil sibh ciod a thàinig air Noah 'n uair a leig e na radain a stigh do'n àire?

Sin rud nach do ghabh mi-fhéin riamh fo m' bheachd.

Tha amharus agam, ach cha n-abair mi 'bheag.

Dh'innseadh dhomh gu'n robh thu 's an Oban an dé.

Chaidh mi sios a cheannach snath' a chàradh nan lìon agus a phàigheadh beagan gheòtan a bh'aig na ceannaichean 'am aghaidh.

Agus ciamar a tha baile na h-àilleachd?

Tha e'n sud mar bha e riamh o'n is cuimhne leam-sa e, 'n a thàmh ri taobh na mara 's aig bun a' mhonaidh.

Tha mi 'cluinninn gu bheil sùrd anabarrach ann an dràs leis an each-iaruinn.

Ciamar air bith a tha sin bha e 'n dé cho sàmhach ris a' ghleann uaigneach againn-fhéinn.

cheerful, but it would make yourself laugh to see us jumping hither and thither to avoid them.

I am afraid that both furniture and clothes will be badly used.

When I was putting on a clean collar that I might appear in your presence as I should do, a drop came down that left a dun mark as large as a shilling piece on the fine white linen.

That sort of thing is pretty trying to one's patience.

It is well that you were not within hearing when it happened, for I was at the time as fierce as a grey badger in his den.

I am not at all surprised that you were.

What, think you, came over Noah when he admitted the rats into the ark?

That is a matter that I have never taken into consideration.

I have a suspicion, but I shall say nothing.

I was told that you were in Oban yesterday.

I went down to buy thread to mend the net, and to pay a few trifling debts that the shopkeepers had against me.

And how is the town of beauty?

It is yonder as it was ever since I remember it, resting by the sea-side and at the foot of the hill.

I hear that there is great activity in it at present with the iron horse.

However that is, it was yesterday as quiet as our own solitary glen.

Ciod a b'aobhar d' a sin ?

B'e 'n dé la co-ainm breith na Ban-rìgh, agus bha na bùithean dùinte.

Ciamar a chuir thu seachad d'ùine ?  
Bha mi 'steòcaireachd feadh a' bhaile gus an tilleadh air an t-sruth.

Tha mi cinnteach gu'm facadh tu iomadh ni 'thug toil-inntinn duit.

A dh'innseadh na firinn cha do ghabh mi mòran aire de dh'aon ni a chunnaic mi.

Nach do ghabh ?

'N uair a chuala mi na brataichean bàn-dearg a' plabraich 's a' ghaoith thàinig na làithean a dh'fhalbh agus gu sònraichte a' Bhan-rìgh 's an Teaghlach Rìgheil 'am smuaintean.

Tha fhios agam gu bheil inntinn smuaineachail agad.

Am bheil fhios agaibh gu'n d'fhàinig rugha 'am ghruaidh 'n uair a thug mi fianear cho aineolach 's a tha mi air eachdraidh an teaghlaich inbheich so ?

Tha na 's leòir de dhaoine ionnsaichte 's an t-suidheachadh cheudna.

Bha mi feòruich de'n mhaighstir-sgoil mu'n chuis an là roimhe.

An d'fhuair thu fiosrachadh uaithe.  
Cha d'fhuair ; agus dh'aithnich mi air an oighr' òg nach fhaighinn dad uaithe-san.

Tha sin dìreach mar shaoilinn ; cha n-eil daoine 's an linn so cho dèidheil air sloinntaireachd 's a bha iad 's an linn a thàinig roimpe.

Cha robh 's an dùthaich duin' aig an robh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh de'n t-seòrsa sin na m'athair.

'S iomadh uair a shuidh mi 'g a éisdeachd ag innseadh eachdraidh theaghlaichean na dùthcha.

What was the cause of that ?

Yesterday was the anniversary of the Queen's birthday, and the shops were shut.

How did you spend your time ?

I was sauntering idly through the town till the tide should turn.

I am sure that you saw many things that gratified you.

To tell the truth, I did not pay much attention to anything that I saw.

Did you not ?

When I heard the red and white banners fluttering in the wind, the days that are gone, and especially the Queen and the Royal Family, came into my thoughts.

I know that you have a thoughtful mind.

Do you know that I blushed when I considered how ignorant I am of the history of this exalted family.

Plenty of educated people are similarly situated.

I inquired of the schoolmaster about the subject the other day.

Did you get information from him ?

I did not ; and I knew by the young heir that I would not get anything from him.

That is exactly as I would suppose ; people in the present age are not so fond of genealogy as they were in the preceding age.

There was not a man in the country who had more knowledge of that kind than my father.

Many a time I sat listening to him while he related the history of the families of the country.

Bha meoghair anabharrach aige.  
Bha, agus rinn e buil mhath dhi.

An innis sibh dhomh c'uin a rugadh  
a' Bhan-rìgh Bhictoria ?

Rugadh i air a' cheathramh là  
fichead de cheud mhìos an  
t-samhraidh 's a' bhliadhna  
1819.

Co 'b'athair dhi ?

Bha Diùc *Kent*, ceathramh mac an  
treas rìgh Deòrsa.

Co 'bu mhàthair dhi ?

Bha Bhictoria, Bana-Phrionnsa  
*Shaxe-Coburg*, piuthar Leopold,  
rìgh nam Belgianach, agus  
piuthar Earnest, Diùc Choburg.

C'uin a chaochail a h-athair ?

A' bhliadhna 'n déigh dhi-se 'bhi  
air a breith.

Nach robh teaghlach idir aig bràth-  
air a h-athar, rìgh Uilleam ?

Bha, ach chaochail iad 'n an òige.

C'uin a thàinig i 'dh'ionnsuidh na  
rìgh-chaithreach ?

'S a' bhliadhna 1837, 'n uair a  
chaochail rìgh Uilleam.

C'àit an robh i air a crùnadh ?

Ann an Abait *Westminster* an làth-  
air mhaithean 'us fhlaithlean  
na rìgheachd.

Bu trom an t-uallach a chaidh a  
leagail air neach cho òg.

B'eadh, ach bha luchd-comhairl'  
aice 'g a stiùradh.

Co iad luchd-comhairle na Ban-  
rìgh ?

Iadsan a tha o àm gu àm air an  
taghadh gu bhi 'n an luchd-  
riaghlaidh air gnothaichean na  
rìgheachd.

Co 'tha 'g an taghadh ?

Tha 'Bhan-rìgh 'g an taghadh as a'  
bhuidheann a 's làidire 's a 's  
lionmhoire 's a' Pharlamaid.

Ciamar a chuirear as an dreuchd  
iad 'n uair a dh'fhàsas a Pharl-  
amaid neo-thoilichte leo ?

He had an excellent memory.

He had, and he made good use of  
it.

Will you tell me when Queen Vic-  
toria was born ?

She was born on the twenty-fourth  
day of the first month of sum-  
mer, in the year 1819.

Who was her father ?

The Duke of Kent, the fourth son  
of the third King George.

Who was her mother ?

Victoria, Princess of Saxe-Coburg,  
sister of Leopold, King of the  
Belgians, and sister of Ernest,  
Duke of Coburg.

When did her father die ?

The year after she was born.

Had her father's brother, King  
William, no family ?

He had, but they died in their  
youth.

When did she come to the throne ?

In the year 1837, when King  
William died.

Where was she crowned ?

In Westminster Abbey, in presence  
of the nobles and lords of the  
kingdom.

Heavy was the burden that was  
laid on one so young.

Yes, but she had counsellors guid-  
ing her.

Who are the Queen's counsellors ?

Those who are from time to time  
chosen to rule the affairs of the  
kingdom.

Who chooses them ?

The Queen chooses them from the  
strongest and most numerous  
party in Parliament.

How are they deprived of office  
when Parliament becomes dis-  
satisfied with them ?

'N uair a bhios tuilleadh 'n an aghaidh 's a' Pharlamaid na bhios leo cha n-urrainn iad seasamh.

Nach fhaod iad an greim a ghleidheil gun taing do'n fheadhainn a tha 'n an aghaidh ?

Cha n-fhaod, a chionn gu'n dihltair airgid dhoibh gu gnothaichean na rìgheachd a chur air aghaidh.

Tha mi 'tuigsinn ; is mòr cumhachd an airgid.

Abraibh gu'n téid ni sam bith air aimhreit co a choirichear, a' Bhan-rìgh no a luchd-comhairle ?

A luchd-comhairle ; a réir an lagha tha ise gun choire 's na nithe sin.

C'uin a bha 'Bhan-rìgh agus Prionns' Ailbeart air am pòsadh ?

Ann an toiseach an earraich 's a' bhliadhna 1840.

Nach robh iad daimheil d' a chéile ?

Bha ; b' e Prionns' Ailbeart mac Dhiùc Choburg, brathair màthar na Ban-rìgh.

Ciod am mùthadh a bha eatorra a thaobh aois ?

Bha 'm Prionnsa trì mìosan na 's òige na 'Bhan-rìgh.

An robh dreuchd sam bith aige ann an riaghladh na rìgheachd ?

Cha robh.

Is cinnteach mi nach b'urrainn duine cho math ris 'ùine chur seachad 'an diamhanas.

Bha e gun tàmh a' deanamh math. 'D é 'n teaghlach a bh'aca ?

Còignear nighean agus ceathrar mhac.

C'uin a rugadh Prionnsa *Wales* no na Cuinrig, oighr' a' chrìun ?

Rugadh e 's a' bhliadhna 1841.

'S e Ailbeart Edward no Imhear is ainm dha.

Co ris a tha e pòsda ?

When more are opposed to them in Parliament than are favourable to them they cannot stand.

May they not retain their hold in spite of those that are opposed to them ?

They may not, because money will be refused to them to carry on the affairs of the kingdom.

I understand ; great is the power of money.

Suppose that anything goes wrong, who is blamed, the Queen or her counsellors ?

Her counsellors ; according to the law she is without blame in these things.

When were the Queen and Prince Albert married ?

In the beginning of spring in the year 1840.

Were they not related ?

They were ; Albert was son to the Duke of Coburg, brother to the Queen's mother.

What difference was there between them as regards age ?

The Prince was three months younger than the Queen.

Had he any office in the government of the kingdom ?

He had not.

I am sure that so good a man could not have spent his time in idleness.

He was constantly doing good.

What family had they ?

Five daughters and four sons.

When was the Prince of Wales, heir to the crown, born ?

He was born in the year 1841.

His name is Albert Edward.

To whom is he married ?

Ris a Bhana-Phrionnsa, *Alexandra*,  
nighean a's sine rìgh *Dhenmark*  
agus piuthar rìgh na Gréige.

Tha Alfred, an dara mac, pòsda ris  
a' Bhan-diùc, Mairi, nighean  
Impire *Russia*.

Nach ann air a' mhuir a tha esan?  
'S ann; tha long-chogaidh fo  
'cheannardachd?

'S iad Artair 'us Leopold an dà  
mhac a's òige.

Tha Bhictoria, a' Bana-Phrionnsa  
Rìgheil, pòsda ri Frederick  
Uilleam, Prionnsa *Phrussia*.

Bha 'n dara nighean, Alice, nach  
maireann, pòsda ri Frederick  
Uilliam, Prionnsa *Hesse*.

Tha 'n treas nighean, Helena, pòsda  
ri Frederick, Prionnsa na dùth-  
cha ris an abrar *Schleswig-  
holstein*.

Tha 'cheathramh nighean, Louise,  
pòsda, mar tha fhios aig gach  
Gàidheal, ri Marcus Lathurna,  
Ard-uacharan Chanada.

Tha 'n nighean a's òige, Beatrice,  
gun bhi pòsda.

C'àit am bheil a' Bhan-rìgh mar is  
bidheant' a chòmhnuidh?

Ann an Lùchairt *Windsor*, trì mìle  
fichead a mach a Lunnainn.

C'àit am bi i 'fuireach 'n uair a  
bhios i 'an Lunnainn?

Ann an Lùchairt *Bhuckingham*.

Tha tigh eil' aic' 'an Lunnainn ris  
an abrar *St. James's*.

Tha àit' aice ris an abrar *Osborne*  
ann an Eilean *Wight*.

'S iad *Holyrood* an Dun-éideann  
agus *Bhaile-mhorair* an siorr-  
amachd Abaraidhean na h-àit-  
ean-còmhnuidh a th'aic' 'an  
Albainn.

Tha mi 'cluinninn gu bheil i fìor  
thoigheach air Baile-mhorair.

To the Princess Alexandra, eldest  
daughter of the King of Den-  
mark and sister to the King of  
Greece.

Alfred, the second son, is married  
to the Duchess Mairi, daughter  
of the Emperor of Russia.

Is he not at sea?

He is; a ship of war is under his  
command.

Arthur and Leopold are the two  
youngest sons.

Victoria, the Princess Royal, is  
married to Frederick William,  
Prince of Prussia.

The second daughter, Alice, who is  
not alive, was married to Fre-  
derick William, Prince of  
Hesse.

The third daughter, Helena, is  
married to Frederick, Prince of  
the country called Schleswig-  
holstein.

The fourth daughter, Louise, is  
married, as every Highlander  
knows, to the Marquis of Lorne,  
Governor of Canada.

The youngest daughter, Beatrice, is  
unmarried.

Where does the Queen generally  
reside?

In Windsor Palace, twenty-three  
miles out from London.

Where does she stay when she is  
in London?

In Buckingham Palace.

She has another house in London  
called *St. James's*.

She has a place called Osborne in  
the Isle of Wight.

Holyrood in Edinburgh, and Bal-  
moral in Aberdeenshire, are her  
residences in Scotland.\*

I hear that she is very fond of Bal-  
moral.

\* For some facts and dates above I am indebted to "Sequel to No. IV. Royal School Series".



Tha ; 's ann ann is àbhaist di 'm fogharadh 'chur seachad.

Nach do chuir i 'mach leabhar anns am bheil i 'toirt cunntais air a beatha 's a' Ghàidhealtachd ?

Chuir, agus bu choir do gach neach 's an righeachd a leubhadh.

Carson ?

A chionn nach urrainn neach sam bith a leubhadh gun a thairisneachd 's a speis do'n Bhan-rìgh a bhì air am meudachadh.

Cha n-eil teagamh nach ann mar a's àird' am meas a bhios aig daoine oirre-se a's coltaiche dhoibh a bhì toilichte foipe agus dileas di.

Anns an leabhar so chithear i 'n a mnaoi, 'n a màthair, 'n a nigh-inn, agus 'n a caraid dleasnach.

Na'm biodh am Freasdal cho caoinhneil 'us a càirdeas a chur an rathad so cha' n-ann 'an tigh snidheach a bhiodh Màiri 'us mise.

Chithear i a' nochdadh co-fhulangais leis a mhuinntir a tha ann an nìreasbhuidh 's 'an amhghar, a' taoghal ann an tighean nam bochd, a' co-aontachadh leis an t-sluagh 'n am fearas-chuideachd, a' cumail conaltraidh shuairce r' a seirbheisich, a' dìreadh bheanntan, a' dol thar aibhnichean, a' leigeil fhaicinn air iomadh dòigh gu bheil cridhe blàth aice agus inntinn bhunailteach.

Is mòr am beannachadh do'n dùthaich a leithid a bhì air an rìgh-chathair.

She is ; it is there that she is in the habit of spending the harvest.

Did she not publish a book in which she gives an account of her life in the Highlands ?

She did, and every person in the kingdom should read it.

Why ?

Because no one can read it without having his loyalty to and esteem for the Queen increased.

There is no doubt that the higher the respect people have for her the more likely they are to be contented under her and faithful to her.

In this book she will be seen in the character of a dutiful wife, mother, daughter, and friend.

If Providence were so kind as to send her friendship this way, Mary and I would not be in a leaky house.

She will be seen showing sympathy with those who are in want and affliction, visiting in the houses of the poor, joining the people in their amusements, holding affable conversation with her servants, ascending mountains, crossing rivers, showing in many ways that she has a warm heart, and a constant mind.

It is a great blessing to the country to have such as she on the throne.



# CÒMHRAIDHEAN 'AN GÀELIG 'S 'AM BEURLA.

## A' GHÀELIG, GAELIC.

### 1

Tha sibhse ri leabhranachd, mar is àbhaist.	You are engaged with books as usual.
Tha leabhraichean dhomh-sa mar tha 'acfhuinne do'n fhear-cheàird.	Books are to me, as his tools are to the tradesmen.
Tha mis' air tighinn oirbh mar an sneachd, gun sireadh, gun iarraidh.	I have come upon you like the snow, unsought, and unasked for.
Cha n-'eil idir; tha obair an là seachad agam.	Not at all; my day's work is over.
Co dhiù 's i 'Ghàelig no 'Bheurla, an Laidionn no 'Ghrengais a tha sibh a' cnuasachd an dràs?	Whether are you studying Gaelic or English, Latin or Greek, at present?
A' Ghàelig.	Gaelic.
Cha n-fhaod e bhi nach 'eil sibh coimh-liont' innte mu 'n àm so.	Surely you are perfect in it by this time.
Cha n-urainn domh a ràdh gu bheil.	I cannot say that I am.
Cha n-'eil sibhse furasd' a thoil-eachadh.	You are not easily satisfied.
Tha 'Ghàelig 'us cànainean am bidheantas mar thobar nach traodh.	Gaelic and languages in general are like an exhaustless spring.
Cha n-'eil mi uile gu léir 'g 'ur tuigsinn.	I do not quite understand you.
Tha mi 'ciallachadh gu bheil mòran aig neach r' a fhòghlum mu 'n ruig e air làn eòlas cia b' air bith cho fada 's a dh'fhaodas e bhi 'g an cnuasachd.	I mean that one has much to learn before he attains to full knowledge, however long he may be studying them.
Saoil sibh ciod is ciall do 'n othail a tha mu 'n Ghàelig o cheann beagan bhliadhnaichean?	What do you think is the meaning of the stir that there has been about Gaelic for some years?
Tha daoine fòghluimte air dùsgadh gu mothachadh air a luach.	Learned men have awakened to a sense of its value.
Mata bu mhithich dhoibh; 's iomadh là 'chuir iad suarach i.	It was time for them; they treated it with indifference for many a day.

Tha cuid déidheil air seadh ainm-  
eanan àiteachan fhaotainn a  
mach, agus cha bhuadhaich  
iad gun a' Ghàelig.

Nach 'eil ainmeanan Gàelig air  
mòran àiteachan 's a' Ghalld-  
achd 's 'an Sasunn cho math  
'us anns a' Ghàidhealtachd ?

Tha.

Tha feadhainn eile toigheach air  
sgeulachdan 'us dàin a chruinn-  
eachadb, agus air eòlas fhaot-  
ainn air seana chleachdainnean.

Cha mhò 'ni iadsan a' bheag de  
mhath as eugmhais na Gàelig.

Tha feadhainn eil' ann a tha  
'gabhail tlachd ann an lorgach-  
adh na dainhe 'tha eadar a'  
Ghàelig 'us cànairean eile.

Is cinnteach mi nach 'eil sin furasd'  
a dheanamh.

Cha n-'eil; cha n-e 'h-uile duine  
fòghluimte 'tha murrach air.

Cuiridh sibh comain mhòr orm ma  
bheir sibh dhomh fiosrachadh  
mu 'n chùis.

Feuchaidh mi ri beagan de na leubh  
mi m' a déibhinn a chur mu d'  
choinneamh.

'S sibh-fhéin an t-aon neach a tha  
mi 'faotainn toileach gu m'  
chuideachadh 'n am thoir air  
eòlas.

Thoir leat 's a' cheud dol a mach gu  
bheil cànairean an t-saoghail air  
an roinn 'n an teaghlachibh.

C' ainm a th' air an teaghlach d'  
am buin a' Ghàelig ?

An *Aryan* no 'n *Indo-European*.

An ainmich sibh na cànairean d' am  
bheil an teaghlach so air a  
dheanamh suas ?

Thig mi dh' ionnsuidh sin an ceart  
uair.

Tha mi 'g iarraidh maitheanais.

'N nair a sgaoil an sluagh a bha  
'buidhinn na cànan bu  
mhàthair do na cànairean a  
thàinig a nuas g' ur n-ionns-

Some are desirous to find out the  
meaning of the names of places,  
and they will not succeed with-  
out Gaelic.

Do not many places in the Lowlands  
and in England, as well as in  
the Highlands, bear Gaelic  
names ?

Yes.

Others are fond of collecting tales  
and poems, and of obtaining a  
knowledge of ancient customs.

Neither will they do any good with-  
out Gaelic.

Others take pleasure in tracing the  
affinity that subsists between  
Gaelic and other languages.

I am sure that that is not easily  
done.

It is not; it is not every learned  
man that can do it.

You will oblige me very much by  
giving me information about  
the matter.

I will endeavour to set before you a  
little of what I have read about  
it.

You are yourself the only one whom  
I find willing to help me, in my  
search after knowledge.

Carry away with you at the outset,  
that the languages of the world  
are divided into families.

What is the name of the family that  
Gaelic belongs to ?

The *Aryan* or *Indo-European*.

Will you name the languages of  
which this family is composed ?

I will come to that presently.

I beg pardon.

When the people that spoke the  
mother tongue of the languages  
that have come down to us dis-  
persed, some of them went east-

nidh-ne chaidh cuid dhiubh  
an ear do na H-Innsean agus  
cuid eile dhiubh an iar do 'n  
Roinn-Eòrpa.

'D e 'n dùthaich as an do sgaoil iad ?  
Tha e coltach gur h-ann a *Persia* a  
sgaoil iad.

C' ainm a th' air a' chàinain a bh'  
aig an sgaoth dhiubh a chaidh  
do na H-Innsean ?

An *Sanscrit*.

Am bheil a' chàinain so air a bruidh-  
inn fhathast ?

Cha n-'eil, ach tha i air mhaireann  
ann an leabhraichean.

'Dé na càinainean eile 'bhuineas do'n  
teaghlach so ?

Tha againn an toiseach na càinainean  
mòra sin—a' Ghreugais 's an  
Laidionn.

'S fhad' o 'n bhàsaich iad sin.

Tha 'Ghreugais fhathast beò, slàn,  
ach tha mòran chendan de  
bhliadhnaichean o 'n sguir an  
Laidionn a bhi air a bruidhinn.

An d' fhàg an Laidionn sliochd 'n a  
déigh ?

'S i 'dh' fhàg.

An ainmich sibh iad ?

Càinain na H- Eadailt, na Spàinte,  
Phortugall, na Frainge, agus  
corra 'h- aon eile.

Am bheil tuilleadh chàinainean ann  
a bhuineas do 'n *Aryan* ?

Buinidh dhi a' Bheurla, cainnt na  
Gearmailt, Ruisia, Pholand,  
Bhulgaria, Bohemia, Shervia,  
&c.

Air m' fhocal cha n-'eil aobhar aig  
a' Ghàelig nàir' a ghabhail d' a  
luchd-daimh.

Tha Raonull, Mac Eachainn, aig an  
dorus, ag iarraidh bruidhinn  
ruibh.

Thoir a stigh e do sheòmar na  
dinneireach.

Bithidh mi air m' ais a chlisgeadh.  
Na cuiribh cabhag sam bith oirbh-  
fhéin air mo shon-sa.

ward to the Indies, and others  
of them went westward to  
Europe.

From what country did they disperse.  
It is probable that it was from Persia  
that they dispersed.

What is the name of the language  
spoken by the swarm of them  
that went to India ?

The Sanscrit.

Is this language spoken still ?

It is not, but it survives in books.

What other languages belong to this  
family ?

We have first these great languages  
—the Greek and Latin.

It is long since these died.

Greek is still living and healthy,  
but Latin ceased to be spoken  
many hundreds of years ago.

Did Latin leave a family behind it.

That it did.

Will you name its members ?

The Language of Italy, of Spain,  
of Portugal, of France, and a  
few others.

Are there more languages that belong  
to the *Aryan* ?

There belong to it the English,  
German, Russian, Polish, Bul-  
garian, Bohemian, Servian, &c.

Upon my word, Gaelic has no reason  
to be ashamed of its kindred.

Ronald, son of Hector, is at the door,  
wishing to speak to you.

Bring him in to the dining room.

I shall be back presently.

Do not hurry yourself on my account.

## 2

An saoil sibh am bheil a' Ghàelig air a cothlamadh le focail o chànainean eile?

Tha ann an tomhas, ach tha na 's lugha de dh' fhacail choigreach innte na anns a' chuid a 's mò de chànainean na Roinn-Eòrpa.

Cia as a fhuair i na facail sin?

Fhuair i 'chuid mhòr dhiubh o 'n Laidinn.

Ciamar a fhuair iad a stigh innte?

Trid cumhachd cléir' eaglais na Roinne.

'S ainneamh ni anns nach bi làmh aig a' chléir.

Anns na h- amanan dorcha o shean bha cumhachd mòr aca ann an nithe ainseireil cho math 'us ann an nithe spioradail.

'S e mo bharail-fhéin nach 'eil e chum buannachd do chléir eaglais sam bith a bhi' gabhail mòran gnothuich ri nithe ainseireil.

B'iad luchd-comhairle rìghrean 'us luchd-teagaisg an t-sluaigh, agus is gann a bha eòlas no fòghlum 's an dùthaich ach na bha 'n am measg-sau.

Cha n- iongantach, uime sin, ged fhuair iad nìread buaidh' air a' Ghàelig 's gu'm b' éigin di facail a ghabhail o 'n Laidinn.

Am bi sibh cho math agus cuid de na facail sin ainmeachadh?

So cuid dhiubh 'an Gaelig 's 'an Laidinn:—coisrig—consecrare, sagairt—sacerdos, easbuig—episcopus, coguis—conscientia, faosaid—confessio, creid—credo, cill—cella.

Bheir thu fanear gu bheil a' chuid a 's mò de na facail Laidinn air an giorrachadh 's a' Ghàelig.

Do you think that Gaelic is mixed with words from other languages?

Yes in a measure, but there are fewer foreign words in it than in most of the languages of Europe.

Whence did it receive these words? It got the most of them from Latin.

How did they gain admittance into it?

Through the influence of the clergy of the Church of Rome.

There are few things in which the clergy have not a hand.

In the dark times of old, they had great influence in temporal as well as in spiritual matters.

It is my own opinion that it is not of advantage to the clergy of any Church to interfere much in temporal matters.

They were the counsellors of kings, and the teachers of the people, and there was scarcely any knowledge or learning in the land, except what was among them.

It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that they so prevailed over Gaelic as to compel it to receive words from Latin.

Will you be so good as name some of these words?

Here are some of them in Gaelic and Latin:—coisrig—consecrare, sagairt—sacerdos, easbuig—episcopus, coguis—conscientia, faosaid—confessio, creid—credo, cill—cella.

You will observe that the most of the Latin words are shortened in Gaelic.

An d' thàinig facail a stigh do 'n Ghàelig o chànairean sam bith eile?

Thàinig a' bheag no 'mhòr o chainnt nan Lochlannach.

Cha ruig mi leas 'innseadh dhuit gu bheil facail 's a' Ghàelig a fhuair i o 'n Bheurla.

Tha sin soilleir do n-a h-uile duine.

An innis sibh dhomh ciod a' chainnt a 's dluithe daimh do 'n Ghàelig?

An Laidionn.

An déigh na Laidinn 's iad na cainntean a 's daimheile dhi chainnt na Gearmailt agus a' Bheurla mar bha i mu 'n robh i air a truailleadh le facail o chainntean eile.

Am bheil daimh idir aig a' Ghàelig ris a' Ghreugais?

Tha, ach tha e na 's fhaide 'mach na ris an trì eile.

Ciamar a nithear a mach gu bheil an daimh so eadar a' Ghàelig agus na cainntean sin?

Gabh beachd air cho cosmhuil 's a tha na facail so ri 'chéile:—aon—unus, dà—duo, trì—tres, ochd—octo, mìle—mille, sèa—sex, seachd—septem, agus mar sin sìos.

Buinidh na facail sin do 'n Ghàelig cho math 'us do 'n Laidinn; 's leis an teaghlach 'an coit-chiontas iad.

Cha n-'eil teagamh nach buill iad de 'n aon teaghlach.

Am bheil dad r' a fhaotainn ann an *Grammar* na Gàelig a tha cosmhuil ris na gheibhear ann an *Grammar* nan cainntean eile?

Tha beagan, ach tha e cho mion 's nach 'eil e furasd' a chur ann an Gàelig a thuigeas daoine.

Chomhairlichinn duit leabhar Professor Blackie mu 'n Ghàelig a leubhadh gu cùramach.

Did words enter Gaelic from any other languages?

Fewer or more entered it from the Scandinavian language.

I need not tell you that there are words in Gaelic that it received from English.

That is apparent to every man.

Will you tell me what language has the closest affinity to Gaelic?

Latin.

After Latin the languages that have the closest affinity to Gaelic are German, and English as it was before it was corrupted with words from other languages.

Has Gaelic any affinity with Greek?

Yes, but it is more remote than with the other three.

How can it be made out that this affinity subsists between Gaelic and these languages?

Mark how like these words are to each other:—aon—unus, dà—duo, trì—tres, ochd—octo, mìle—mille, sèa—sex, seachd—septem, and so forth.

These words belong to Gaelic as well as to Latin; they are the general property of the family.

There is no doubt that they are members of the same family.

Is there anything to be found in Gaelic Grammar resembling what may be found in the Grammar of the other languages?

There is a little, but it is so minute that it is not easy to put it into intelligible Gaelic.

I would recommend to you to read carefully Professor Blackie's book about Gaelic.

- Ciod tuilleadh a tha ri ràdh mu 'n chùis?
- Tha mòran de bhun-fhocail 's a' Ghàelig aig am bheil an leth-bhreacan 's an Laidinn gu sònraichte.
- An toir sibh dhomh samhlaidhean?
- Gabh iad so :—can—cano, geum—gemo, greigh—grex, tana—tenuis, tìr—terra, bo—bos, beatha—vita, athair—pater, feasgar—vesper, nochd—noc-tem.
- Gheibhear na ceudan d' an leithidibh sin.
- Is airidh a thoirt fanear nach 'eil na facail a tha freagairt d' a chéile 's an dà chainnt daonau a' tòiseachadh leis an aon litir.
- Ann an coimeas chànaichean, uime sin, tha e feumail a thoirt fanear ciod na fuaimean anns an dara cainnt a tha freagairt do na fuaimean anns a' chainnt eile.
- Tha aon cheist eil' agam ri chur ruibh mu 'n dealaich sinn.
- Cluineam i.
- 'D e 'ur barail mu 'n Ghàelig mar chainnt?
- Tha i fìor fhreagarrach a chur an céill smuaintean, faireachd-uinnean, agus uireasbhuidhean gnàthaichte an duine.
- Nach 'eil i freagarrach airson bàrdachd?
- Tha, agus airson ciùil, sgeòil, sgeulachdan, airson labhairt ri sluagh agus cunntas a thoirt air coltas na cruitheachd.
- Am bheil i freagarrach airson feallsanachd?
- Cha n-'eil.
- Carson?
- A chionn nach 'eil facail fhreagarrach innte?
- Ciamar a thachair sin?
- Chaidh stad a chur air a cinneas.
- What more is there to be said about the matter?
- There are many root-words in Gaelic that have their counterparts in Latin especially.
- Will you give me examples?
- Take these :—can—cano, geum—gemo, greigh—grex, tana—tenuis, tìr—terra, bo—bos, beatha—vita, athair—pater, feasgar—vesper, nochd—noc-tem.
- Hundreds of such as these may be found.
- It is worthy of consideration that the corresponding words do not always begin with the same letter.
- In comparing languages, therefore, it is necessary to consider what sounds in the one language correspond with the sounds in the other.
- I have one other question to put to you before we part.
- Let me hear it.
- What is your opinion of Gaelic as a language?
- It is very well adapted for expressing the ordinary thoughts, feelings, and wants of man.
- Is it not adapted for poetry?
- Yes, and for music, narrative, tales, for oratory and description of the appearances of the creation.
- Is it adapted for philosophy?
- It is not.
- Why?
- Because it does not contain suitable words.
- How did that happen?
- Its growth has been stopped.

Am bheil e 'n a comas àireamh a  
focail a mhendachadh?

Tha gu mòr, agus sin uaipe féin,  
gun bhi fo chomain do chanain  
sam bith eile.

A bharrachd air sin tha i 'n a  
cainnt lìomharra, bhinn-fhoel-  
ach, cheòlmhor.

'S e so barail nan daoine fòghluimte  
a rannsrich a' chùis.

Mòran taing 'us buidheachais  
dhuibh.

Biodh a càirdean uile cho dìleas di  
's a tha sibhise 's cha bhì eagal  
di.

“ Mhair i fòs  
'S cha téid a glòir air chall,  
A dh'aindeoin gò  
'Us mì-run mòr nan Gall.”—*MacDonald*.

#### TURUS-IASGAICH, A FISHING EXCURSION.

Rinn mi guth aig an dorus an dé, ach  
dh'innis an searbhanta dhomh  
gu'n robh sibh o'n bhaile.

Ghabh mi cothrom an là mhaith a  
dhol a dh'iasgach.

Co dhiù 's ann air a' mhuir no air  
abhuinn no air loch uisg' a bha  
sibh ag iasgach?

Bha mi 'g iasgach air Loch Sgamad-  
ail.

'S iomadh àite 's an robh mi, tuath  
'us deas, an ear 's an iar, ach  
cha robh mi riamh aig Loch  
Sgamadail.

Thachair a leithid eile dhomh-fhéin.  
Bha mi air mullach a' Chùirn-  
ghuirm 's aig Loch-an-doirb 's  
an taobh tuath, ach cha robh  
mi riamh air mullach Chruach-  
ain no aig Loch Sgamadail gus  
o chionn ghoirrid.

Is lìomhor iad a tha eòlach air  
àiteachan 's air nithe 'tha fad  
air falbh am feadh a tha iad  
aineolach air àiteachan 's air  
nithe a tha dlùth làimh.

Has it the power of increasing the  
number of its words?

Yes, greatly, and that from itself,  
without being indebted to any  
other language.

Moreover, it is a polished, melodi-  
ous, musical language.

This is the opinion of the learned  
men that have examined the  
matter.

Many thanks to you.

Let all its friends be as faithful to  
it as you are, and it will have  
nothing to fear.

I called at the door yesterday, but  
the servant told me that you  
were from home.

I took the opportunity of the good  
day to go to fish.

Whether was it on the sea or on a  
river, or on a fresh water lake  
that you were fishing?

I was fishing on Loch Scamadale.

I was in many a place, North and  
South, East and West, but I  
was never at Loch Scamadale.

The like happened to myself. I  
was on the top of Cairngorm  
and at Lochendorb in the  
North, but I was never on the  
top of Cruachan or at Loch  
Scamadale till lately.

There are numbers of persons that  
are acquainted with places and  
things that are far off while  
they are ignorant of places and  
things that are near at hand.



'S ann mar sin a thachair do dh'iom-  
adh aon a thaobh na Gàelig.

Tha sibh ceart ; gheibhear na ceud-  
an a chaith mòran d'an ùine ag  
ionnsachadh na Fraingeis agus  
cainnt na Gearmailt aig nach  
'eil smid Ghàelig 'u an ceann  
ged is i 'chainnt a bh'aig na  
daoine o'n d'thàinig iad agus a  
th'aig an t-sluagh a tha iad a'  
chòmhnuidh 'n am measg.

'D é 'n rathad a ghabh sibh do  
Sgamadal ?

Thog mi ris a' bhrudhach bràigh  
Bhaile-nodha 's ghabh mi null  
thar a' mhonaidh.

'D é 'n seòrsa rathaid a th'ann ?

Tha deagh rathad a' fìradh a suas  
taobh a' bhrudhaich gu mull-  
ach a' mhonaidh, ach cha n-'eil  
ann an dèigh sin ach ceum  
garbh tro'n fhraoch.

'D é 'n t-astar a tha eadar Baile-  
nodha 's an loch ?

Theirinn gu bheil mu thuaiream  
trì mìle gu leth ann.

Cia meud mìle 'tha o so gu ruig an  
loch ?

Còig mìle, agus trì mìle gu leth—  
's e sin ochd mìle gu leth.

An do mhothaich sibh am bheil  
coilich 'us cearcan fraoich  
pailte 's a' mhonadh ?

Tha mi 'm barail gu bheil, oir bha  
iad ag éiridh 'n an sgaothaibh  
a h-uile ceann tacain mar  
chaidh mi air m' aghaidh.

Thar leam-fhéin nach 'eil eun ann  
a's briadha na'n coileach-fraoich  
deireadh an fhogharaidh.

Is math is fhiach e 'fhaicinn a'  
spaisdeireachd air ais 's air  
aghaidh gu h-uabhbreach air  
tolman, a chàirean dearg togta  
'n àird os ceann a shùilean,  
agus 'iteach dubh-dhonn a'  
deàrsadh 's a ghréin.

It has been thus with many in  
regard to Gaelic.

You are right ; hundreds will be  
found who have spent much of  
their time in learning French  
and German, but who do not  
know a word of Gaelic, though  
it is the language that was  
spoken by those from whom  
they have sprung, and that is  
spoken by those among whom  
they dwell.

What road did you take to Scama-  
dale.

I struck up the hill above Balino  
and crossed the moor.

What kind of road is it ?

A good road winds along the side  
of the hill to the top of the  
moor, but there is only a  
rough path through the heather  
after that.

What distance is there between  
Balino and the lake.

I should say that there are about  
three miles and a half.

How many miles are there from  
here to the loch ?

Five miles, and three miles and a  
half, that makes eight miles  
and a half.

Did you observe if grouse are plen-  
tiful on the moor ?

I am of opinion that they are, for  
they were rising in coveys  
every now and again as I went  
forward.

I do not think that there is a more  
elegant bird than the cock  
grouse in the end of harvest.

He is well worth being seen strut-  
ting about proudly on a knoll,  
with his red crest erected above  
his eyes, and his dark-brown  
plumage gleaming in the sun.

'D é 'n àine 'ghabh sibh a' dol a null o Bhaile-nodha ?

Mu uair an uaireadair, a' coiseachd air mo shocair.

Tha de dh'uchdain, de chamhanan, 's de lùban 's na monaidhean 's nach 'eil e furasda coiseachd gu luath tharta.

'N uair a ràinig mi 'n taobh thall chunnaic mi sealladh nach dì-chuimhnich mi 'chlisge.

'D é 'n seorsa seallaidh a bh'ann ?

Bha badan de cheò cho geal ris an t-sneachd air mullach Chùirn-liath.

Chithear sin gu tric air na beanntan.

Am feadh a bha mi 'g amharc air thàinig oiteag ghaoithe fodha a reub 'n a stroicean e, a chuibhill mu'n cuairt iad air iomadh dòigh iongantach, agus a thog a suas 's an adhar iad, far an deachaidh iad as an t-sealladh.

'D é 'mheudachd a th'anns an loch ? Tha è mu dhà mhil' air fad 's mu cheithreamh mhil' air leud.

Ciamar a tha e air a shuidheachadh ?

Tha e ann an lag dhomhain eadar na beanntan, a tha 'g éiridh gu cas naithe, 's iad uaine gu'm mullach.

Am bheil coille a' cinntinn air an cliathaichean ?

Cha n-'eil ; na'm biodh cha n-'eil loch 's a' Ghàidhealtachd a bhiodh na b'àillidh na e.

An robh bàt' agaibh 'g a iasgach ? Bha.

Cuiridh mi geall gu'n d'fhuair sibh i làn uisge.

Fhuair, agus ghabh mi mu chòig mionaide fichead 'g a taomadh.

'D e 'n seòrsa taomain a bh'agaibh ? Bha cuach-bhleodhain, a fhuair mi o'n mhnaoi cheanalta 'tha 'chòmhnuidh taobh an loch.

What time did you take to cross from Balino.

About an hour by the watch, walking at my leisure.

There are so many steep ascents, hollows, and windings in the moors that is not easy to walk fast over them.

When I reached the other side I saw a sight that I shall not quickly forget.

What kind of sight was it ?

There was a tuft of mist as white as snow on the top of Carn-liath.

That is often seen on the mountains.

While I was looking at it a gust of wind came under it that tore it in tatters, whirling them round in many curious fashions, and raising them into the air, where they disappeared.

What is the size of the lake ?

It is about two miles long, and a quarter of a mile broad.

How is it situated ?

It lies in a deep hollow between the mountains, that rise abruptly from it and are green to their tops.

Is there wood growing on their flanks ?

There is not ; if there were there would not be a more beautiful lake in the Highlands.

Had you a boat fishing it ?

I had.

I'll wager that you found it full of water.

Yes, and I took about twenty-five minutes to bale it.

What kind of baler had you ?

A milking-pail that I got from the kind woman who lives by the side of the lake.

Am b'ann 'am meadhon an loch a  
bha sibh ag iasgach ?

Cha b'ann ach aig a thaobhan ; tha  
'm meadhon tuilleadh 'us domh-  
ain.

'D é 'n doimhneachd a's freagar-  
aiche ?

Eadar ceithir 'us deich troidhean.

Cha b'urrainn duibh iasgach agus  
iomram aig an aon am.

Cha b'urrainn, ach leig mi leis a'  
bhàta falbh leis a' ghaoith, a'  
toirt làimh air na ràimh an dràs  
's a rìs g' a cumail ceart.

Cia meud breac a ghlac sibh ?  
Fichead.

'D é 'n nùine 'ghabh sibh g' an glac-  
adh ?

Ghlac mi 'chuid a's mò dhiubh ann  
an leth uair.

Cha robh sibh dìomhanach.

Bha iad rè na h-ùine sin a' leum gu  
sùrdail ceithir thimchioll, agus  
's e sin an t-àm a's fheàrr a  
ghabhas iad.

Am bheil sibh eòlach air òrain Mhic  
Mhaighstir Alastair ?

Lèugh mi iad uair 'us uair.

Nach bu nadurra 'sheinn e mu na  
bric !

“ Na bric a' gearradh shùrdag,  
Ri plubraich dhlùth le cheil',  
Taobh-leumraich mear le lùth-  
chleas

A bùrn le mùirn ri gréin ;  
Ri ceapadh chuileag siùbhlach

Le'm bristeadh lùthmhor fhéin ;  
Druim lann-ghorm, 's ball-bhreac  
giùran,  
'S an launnair-chùil mar léig.”

Bha m'aire cho mòr air an iasgach  
's nach do smuainich mi air a'  
cheithreamh sin.

'D é 'n t-àm de'n bhliadhn' a's fheàrr  
gu iasgach air na lochan sin ?

An dara agus an treasa mìos de'n  
t-samhradh.

Was it in the middle of the lake  
that you were fishing ?

It was not, but at its sides ; the  
middle is too deep.

What is the most suitable depth ?

Between four and ten feet.

You could not both fish and row at  
the same time.

I could not, but I let the boat  
drift with the wind, handling  
the oars now and again to keep  
her right.

How many trout did you catch ?  
Twenty.

What time did you take to catch  
them ?

I caught the most of them in the  
course of half an hour.

You were not idle.

They were during that time leaping  
diligently all round, and that  
is the time when they take  
best.

Are you acquainted with the songs  
of the son of Mr. Alexander ?

I have read them often.

How naturally he sang about the  
trout !

“ The trout kept nimbly leaping  
With merry plunge and play ;  
Dimpling the burn with sprightly  
tricks,

Warm in the sunny ray,  
Their blade-blue back and spotted  
gills

Gleamed with gem-like scales ;  
Then with a dash they snapped the  
fly

That careless wandering sails.”  
(*Pattison*).

My attention was so much bent  
upon the fishing that I did not  
think of that stanza.

What is the best season of the year  
for fishing on these lakes ?

The second and third months of  
summer.

- 'D é 'n seòrsa là a's freagaraiche airson an iasgaich ?  
 Là blàth, grianach, le fras nìsg' an dràs 's a rìs, agus gaoth an iar.
- 'D é 'n seòrsa chuileagan a's freagaraiche ?  
 Ma tha'n là soilleir, gun deò gaoith' ann, 's iad cuileagan beaga, dorch a's freagaraiche, ach ma tha'n là dorch, an t-nisge dorch, agus sgairt mhath ghaoith' ann, feumar cuileagan na's mò's na's soilleire 'ghabhail.
- Mur 'eil an t-iasgair eòlach air an loch feumaidh e seòrsa no dhà fheuchainn gus an amais e air an fheadhainn a fhreagras.
- Tha mòran an earbsa ris an dòigh air an tilgear na cuileagan 's air an tairngear iad tro' 'n uisge.
- 'D é na h-àiteachan a's fheàrr gu iasgach ?  
 Far am bheil luibheannach a' cinn-tinn 'us far am bheil uillt a' dol a stigh do'n loch.
- Am bheil bradain 'an Loch Sgamadail ?  
 Tha.
- Ciamar a tha iad 'g a ruigheachd ?  
 Tha iad a' tigheinn a nìos air a-bhuinn Iuchair as a' mhuir 's an earrach agus 's an t-samh-radh.
- Nach 'eil iad toigheach air a bhi ann an aibhnichean 's 'an lochan ?  
 Tha, anabarrach toigheach.
- 'S iomadh uair a chunnaic mi iad a' leum àirde mòire as an uisge ; 'd é 'tha 'toirt orra sin a dheanamh ?  
 Tha e coltach gu bheil iad a' leum mar so chum gu'm faigh iad cuite de sheòrsa mial' a th'orra 'n uair a dh'fhàgas iad an fhaige
- What kind of day is most suitable for the fishing ?  
 A warm, sunny day, with a shower of rain now and then, and a west wind.
- What kind of flies are most suitable ?  
 If the day is clear and windless small and dark-coloured flies are the most suitable, but if the day is dark, the water dark, and a smart breeze blowing, larger and lighter coloured flies must be taken.
- If the fisher is not acquainted with the lake he must try different kinds till he find those that suit.
- Much depends on the manner in which the flies are cast and drawn through the water.
- What are the best places for fishing ?  
 Where weeds grow and where burns enter the lake.\*
- Are there salmon in Loch Scamadale ?  
 There are.
- How do they reach it ?  
 They come up on the river Iuchair from the sea in Spring and Summer.
- Are they not fond of being in rivers and lakes ?  
 Yes, very fond.
- I have often seen them leap a great height out of the water ; what causes them to do that ?  
 It is probable that they leap thus in order to get quit of a kind of louse that adheres to them when they leave the sea.

\* *The Practical Angler*, by W. C. Stewart.

Am faca sibh iad riamh a' leum a suas eas?

Chunnaic iomadh uair; is iongantach, b'òidheach an sealladh e.

Ciamar a tha iad a' toirt na h-oidh-eirp?

Tha iad a' lùbadh an cinn gu'n earball, 's a' toirt duileum air an aghart mar dheanamh cearcall cuilce na'm biodh a dhà cheann air an leigeil as.

Nach tric leo tuiteam air an ais?

'S eadh, ma tha'n t-eas car àrd, ach bheir iad ionnsuidh an déigh ionnsuidh air a' mhullach a ruigheachd gus an soirbhich leo, ma tha sin comasach.

Cha n-'eil teagamh agam nach robh dileag de Chaol Isle agaibh 's a' chliabh a thoirt beothachaidh dhuibh 'n uair a bhiodh sibh sgith de thilgeil na driaml-aich.

Cha robh, ach bha làn searraig agam de *thea* fhuair le siùcar 'us uachdar 'n a mheasg.

Cha shaoilinn gu'n biodh an deoch sin aona chuid blasda no beothachail.

Tha i 'n dà chuid, agus tha mòran 'g a gabhail a roghainn air deoch sam bith eile.

'D é 'n rathad a ghabh sibh a' tigh-inn dachaidh?

Am monadh.

Tha mi cinnteach gu'n robh sibh sgith gu leòir 'n uair a ràinig sibh an tigh.

Bha mi, ach cha bhithinn a chòir cho sgith mur b'e gu'n deachaidh mi air seachran 's a' mhonadh.

'D e chuir air seachran sibh?

Ceò dùmhail a dhùin mu m' thimchioll.

An do choisich sibh air ar n-aghaidh tro' 'n cheò?

Choisich fad trì cheithreamhan na h-uaire, tha mi cinnteach, gus

Did you ever see them leap up a fall?

I did many a time; it is a curious and pretty sight.

How do they make the attempt?

They bend their head to their tail, and spring forward as a hoop of cane would do if both its ends were released.

Do they not often fall back?

Yes, if the fall is rather high, but they will make attempt after attempt to reach the top till they succeed, if that is possible.

I have no doubt that you had a drop of Caol Isle in the basket to refresh you when tired of throwing the line.

I had not, but I had a bottlefull of cold tea mixed with sugar and cream.

I should not suppose that that drink would be either palatable or refreshing.

It is both, and many take it in preference to any other drink.

What road did you take coming home?

The moor.

I am sure that you were tired enough when you reached home.

I was, but I should not have been nearly so tired were it not that I went astray in the moor.

What caused you to go astray?

A thick mist that closed round me.

Did you walk on through the mist?

I did for three quarters of an hour, I am sure, till I came back at

an d'thàinig mi mu dheireadh  
air m'ais a dh'ionnsuidh an àite  
as an d'fhalbh mi.

'N uair a thig an ceò air neach 's a'  
mhonadh 's e 'ghliocas fuireach  
far am bheil e gus an sgaoil e.

Rinn mi sin mu dheireadh. 'Am  
shìneadh air an fhraoch bhad-  
anach, ghorm, air mo shuain-  
eadh 'am bhreacan dùbh-ghlas,  
thàinig na rannan sin le Donn-  
achadh Bàn 'am chuimhne :—

“ 'S mithich teàrnadh do na gleann-  
aibh

O'n tha gruaimich air na beannaibh,  
'S ceathach duinte mu na meallaibh,  
A' cur dallaidh air ar léirsinn.

Bi 'dh sinn beò 'an dòchas ro mhath  
Gu 'm bi 'chùis na's fheàrr an ath  
là,

Gu'm bi gaoth, 'ns grian, 'us talamh,

Mar bu mhath leinn air na sléibh-  
tibh.”

last to the place from which I  
started.

When one is overtaken by the mist  
in the moor it is his wisdom to  
remain where he is till it dis-  
perses.

I did so at last. While reclining  
on the bushy and blue heather,  
wrapped in my dark-grey plaid,  
these verses by Duncan Ban  
came into my memory :—

“ It is time to descend to the glens,

Since there is gloom on the bens,  
And mist enveloping the hills,  
Blinding our vision.

We shall live in good hope  
That matters will be more favour-  
able the next day,

That the wind, the sun, and the  
ground,

Will be as we could wish on the  
mountains.”





















