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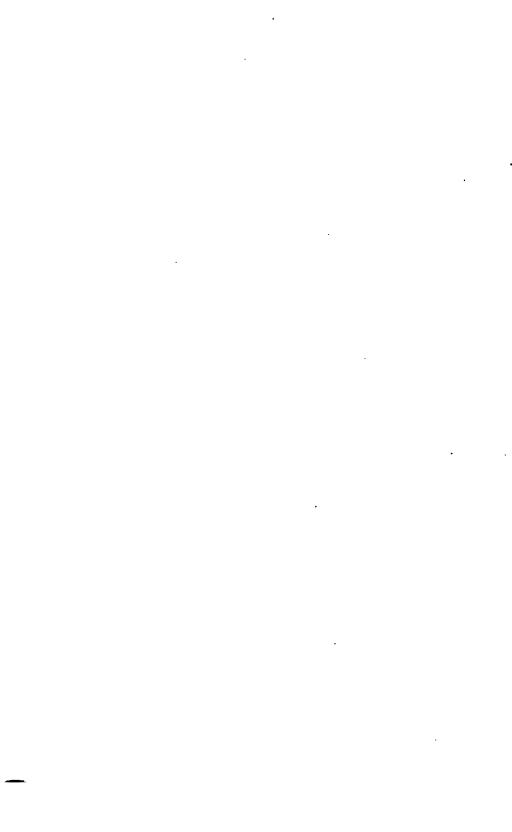
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TRANSACTIONS

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THE OSSIANIC SOCIETY.

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TRANSACTIONS

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THE OSSIANIC SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR

1856.

VOL. IV.

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DUBLIN:

PRINTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL,

FOR THE USB OF THE MEMBERS.

1859.

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Laojche klannujzheachca;

OR,

FENIAN POEMS,

BDITED BY
JOHN O'DALY.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE OSSIANIC SOCIETY, By JOHN O'DALY, 9, ANGLESEA-STREET.

1859.

PRINTED BY GOODWIN, SON, AND NETHERCOTT, 79, MARLBOROUGH-STREET, DUBLIN.

The Ossianic Society,

FOUNDED on St. Patrick's Day, 1853, for the Preservation and Publication of MSS. in the Irish Language, illustrative of the Fenian period of Irish History, &c., with Literal Translations and Notes.

OFFICERS ELECTED ON THE 17TH MARCH, 1858.

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EDWARD WM. O'BRIEN, Esq., 40, Trinity College, Dublin.

Nonorary Secretacy:

MR. JOHN O'DALY, 9, Anglesey-street, Dublin.

THE main object of the Society is to publish manuscripts, consisting of Poems, Tales, and Romances, illustrative of the Fenian period of Irish History; and other documents illustrative of the Ancient History of Ireland in the Irish language and character, with literal translations, and notes explanatory of the text.

Subscriptions (5s. per annum) are received by the Treasurer, by any member of the Council, and by the Honorary Secretary, with whom the publications of the Society lie for distribution, and from whom pros-

pectuses can be obtained.

GENERAL RULES.

- 1. That the Society shall be called the OSSIANIC SOCIETY, and that its object shall be the publication of Irish Manuscripts relating to the Fenian period of our history, and other historical documents, with literal translations and notes.
- 2. That the management of the Society shall be vested in a President, Vice-presidents, and Council, each of whom must necessarily be an Irish scholar. The President, Vice-presidents, and Council of the Society shall be elected annually by the members, at a General Meeting, to be held on the Seventeenth Day of March, the Anniversary of the Society, or on the following Monday, in case St. Patrick's Day shall fall on a Sunday Notice of such meeting being given by public advertisement, inviting all the members to attend.
- 3. That the President and Council shall have power to elect a Treasurer and Secretary from the Members of the Council.
- 4. The receipts and disbursements of the Society shall be audited annually by two Auditors, elected by the Council; and the Auditors' Report shall be published and distributed among the members.
- 5. In the absence of the President or Vice-President, the Members of Council present shall be at liberty to appoint a Chairman, who will not thereby lose his right to vote. Three members of the Council to form a quorum.
- 6. The funds of the Society shall be disbursed in payment of expenses incident to discharging the liabilities of the Society, especially in the publication department, and no avoidable expenses shall be incurred.
- 7. Every member shall be entitled to receive ONE COPY of the Society's Publications; and twenty extra copies of each work shall be printed for contingencies.
- 8. The funds of the Society shall be lodged in Bank, in the name of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Society, or any three members the Council may deem proper to appoint.
- 9. The Council shall have power to elect additional members, and fill vacancies in its own body.
- 10. Members of Council residing at an inconvenient distance from Dublin shall be at liberty to vote by proxy at elections.
- 11. Membership shall be constituted by the annual payment of Five Shillings, which sum shall become due on the 1st of January in each year.
- 12. The OSSIANIC SOCIETY shall publish every year one volume, or more, if their funds enable them,
- 13. No change shall be made in these Rules, except at a General Meeting, and at the recommendation of the Council; the proposer and seconder of any motion for such change, shall lodge a notice of their intention in writing, with the Secretary, twenty clear days before the day of General Meeting.
- 14 That all matters relating to the Religious and Political differences prevailing in this country, be strictly excluded from the meetings and publications of the Society.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

READ ON THE 17th DAY OF MARCH, 1858.

It is now nearly six years since the Ossianic Society was ushered into existence by a few individuals who saw the neglected and sad state of the MS. literature of their country, and of that portion in particular known as Ossianic, which no one seemed to value.

A meeting was held and a committee of gentlemen, Irish scholars, enrolled themselves determined to commence operations in the vast field open before them, and try the experiment as to whether anything could be done in the shape of printing, and preserving from destruction the poetry, and legends ascribed to Oisin and Caoilte, the ancient bards of Fenian history.

The result of their labours is that there are now three handsome volumes of Ossianic Literature rescued from distruction and in the hands of the members, a fourth is just ready for press and will shortly appear.

These volumes have elicited the warm praise of the Irish as well as of the English press; and the result is that there are now on the roll of the society, five hundred and thirty-two members.

The Council have great gratification in announcing that during the past year, one hundred and five members joined the Society; and it is cheering to find that such a spirit exists in behalf of their labours.

The Council deeply regret the unavoidable delay which has occurred in the publication of their recent volume, "Cónujócaéc Dhiannuba agur Shnainne," which could not be well avoided; as the gentleman who undertook the editing of the book was called out of the country on business on various occasions, while the book was going through press; but care shall be taken in future that delays of this sort shall not occur.

The Council feel great pleasure in calling attention to the labours of kindred societies formed in America and Australia. One established in Philadelphia under the careful management of a committee of Irishmen (of which we may name two most indefatigable members, John Burton and Patrick O'Murphy, Esqrs.), has sent the sum of fourteen pounds, the subscription of members for copies of our last volume.

The Australian Celtic Association, established in Sydney, has sent seven pounds ten shillings, and the books are on their way.

It is cheering to find that in these distant regions of the globe, Irishmen do not forget the literature of their native land; and that they exult at the thought of hearing once more the poems and tales so often recited by the Seancupe, or story-teller, at their father's firesides.

The mission of the Ossianic Society is a noble one, and the Council hope they will receive that support from their countrymen, which will enable them to preserve every fragment—no matter how small or trivial which may throw light on the past glories of their native land.

With this view they come before you this day; their labour is one of love for the neglected literature of their country, and they sincerely hope that an Irish public will meet them in the same spirit.

BOOKS PRINTED BY THE SOCIETY.

- I. Cat 5habna; or, the Prose and Poetical Account of the Battle of Gabhra (Garristown), in the county of Dublin, fought A.D., 283, between Cairbre Liffeachair, king of Leinster, and the Fenian forces of Ireland, in which the latter were conquered, and their ranks finally broken up. Edited by NICEOLAS O'KEARREY, (Out of print.)*
- II. Feji Cibe Chonain Chinn Shleibe; or, The Festivities at the House of Conan of Ceann Sleibhe, a romantic hill which is situated on the borders of the Lake of Inchiquin, in the county of Clare. Edited by N. O'KEARNEY, (Out of print.)

This document contains a colloquy between Fionn and Conan, in which much light is thrown on the Ancient Topography of Munster; and also on the Habits and Customs of the Fenian Chieftains.

- III. Cônujcacc Ohjanmuda Ui Ohujbne agur Shnainne, incion Chormuje meje Ajne; or, an Account of the Pursuit of Diarmuid O'Duibhne and Grace, the daughter of Cormac Mac Airt, Monarch of Ireland in the Third Century, who was married to Fionn Mac Cumhaill, from whom she eloped with Diarmuid. To them are ascribed the Leaba Caillighes (Hage' Beds), so numerous in Ireland. Edited by STANDISH HAYES O'GRADY, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.
- IV. Laorche Flannuigheachta; or, Fenian Poems. Edited by John O'Daly, Honorary Secretary.

BOOKS IN PREPARATION.

- I. Imécace na Chombarme; or the Departure of the Great Bardic Assembly, being the Introduction to the Tain Bo Chuailgne. Edited by Professor Connellan, from the book of Mac Cantaly Rlabae: a vellum MS. of the XIV. Century. In Press.
- II. Cam bo Chualtme; or, the Great Cattle Spoil of Cuailgne (Cooley), in the county of Louth, being a History of the Seven Years' War between Ulster and Connaught; in the reign of Meadhbh, Queen of Connaught, and Conchobhar Mac Nessa, king of Ulster, on account of the famous bull called Donn Chuailgne; and which terminated, according to Roderic O'Flaherty, the Irish chronologist, one year before the Christian era. To be edited by WILLIAM HACKETT.

This very ancient and curious tract comprises three hundred closely-written folios, and contains many interesting details of Mythological Incidents, Pillar Stones, Ogham Incriptions, Tulachs, War Charlots, Leanan Sighes, Mice and Cat Incantations. Together with an account of the Mysterions War Weapon used by Cuchullainn, called Gai Bolg: also Some Account of the early Christian Missionaries in Ireland, and the privileges enjoyed by the chief bard.

- III. Azallam na Seanomnos; or, the Dialogue of the Sages: an Historical Work in Prose and Poetry, full of rare information on the achievements of the Fianna Eirionn; collated with a copy in the Book of Lismore, a vellum manuscript of the Fourteenth Century, by permission of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire. To be edited by John Windele.
- IV. Cai fhing Criaza; or, an Account of the Battle fought at Ventry, in the county of Kerry, in the Third Century of the Christian era, between Daire Donn, Monarch of the World, and the Fenians. To be edited by the Rev. James Goodman, A.B.

This Battle lasted for 366 days; the copy at the disposal of the Society is the earliest known to exist, having been copied from a veilum manuscript of the fifteenth century, now deposited in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, by the Rev. E, D. Cleaver.

 New Editions of Vols. I. and II., now out of print, will be published as soon as the Council receives 250 names to assist in bearing the cost of printing. V. Caż Chnoca; or, the Battle of Castleknock, in the county of Dublin, fought A.D. 273, between Conn Ceadchathach, i.e., Conn of the Hundred Battles, and the Clanna Morna; by his victory in which, Conn obtained the Sovereignty of three Provinces in Ireland, viz. Connaught, Ulster, and Leinster. To be edited by the REV. THADDEUS O'MAHONY.

This tract is copied from a manuscript made by John Murphy of Carrignavar, in the county of Cork, A.D. 1725, and from the fame of the writer as a scribe, no doubt is entertained of the accuracy of the text.

VI. A TRACT ON THE TOPOGRAPHY OF IRELAND; from the Psalter Mac Richard Butler, otherwise called "Saltar na Rann," containing the Derivation of the Names, Local Traditions, and other remarkable circumstances, of the Hills, Mountains, Rivers, Caves, Carns, Rocks, Tulachs, and Monumental remains of Pagan Ireland, but more especially those connected with the deeds of Fionn Mac Chumhaill. To be edited by PROFESSOR CONNELLAN.

Psalter Mac Richard Butler was originally written for Edmond, son of Richard Butler commonly called "Mac Richard," but on his defeat by Thomas, the eighth Earl of Desmond, (who was beheaded in 1467), near the banks of the River Suir, where great numbers of the Butlers' followers were drowned and slain, the book fell into the hands of this Thomas, and was afterwards the property of Sir George Carew, Elizabeth's President of Munster; but finally came into the hands of Archbiahop Laud, who bequeathed it to the Bodlelau Library, Oxford, where it is now preserved, and the Society have permission to make transcripts of its contents.

VII. A TRACT ON THE GREAT ACTIONS OF FINN MAC CUMHAILL, copied from the Psalter of Mac Richard Butler. To be edited by the Rev. Ulick J. Bourke, of St. Jarlath's College, Tuam.*

VIII. A MEMORIAL ON THE DAL-CASSIAN RACE, and the Divisions of Thomond at the Invasion of the English, A.D. 1172: to which is annexed a Short Essay on the Fenii or Standing Militia of Ireland; also, Remarks on some of the Laws and Customs of the Scoti, or Antient Irish, by the late Chevalier O'Gorman; presented to the Society for publication by J. R. Joly, Esq., LL.D., Rathmines.

These manuscripts contain a list of the several families of the Macnamaras, who were named from the houses or lands of inheritance they severally enjoyed; also a list of the several castles in the baronies of Bunratty and Tulia, with the names of the persons who erected them.

IX. Chi Chuaż na Szealajżeacta; or, The Three Sorrows of Storytelling, which relates the tragical fate of the sons of Uisneach, the sons of Tuireann, and the children of Lir, who are represented to have been metamorphosed into swans by their stepmother, Aoife; and in that shape spent seven years on Sruth na Maoile Ruadh, supposed to be that portion of the British Channel which separates Ireland and the Isle of Man.

^{*} This tract appears in the present volume, edited by Dr. O'Donovan.

SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION.

- 1. THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BUCK-INGHAM. Rev. A. NEWDIGATE, Aylesbury, Honorary Secretary,
- 2. THE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY OF THE ARCHDBACONRY OF NORTHAMPTON AND THE COUNTIES OF YORK AND LINCOLN; AND THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BEDFORDSHIRE AND ST ALBANS. Rev. H. D. NICHOLSON, M.A. St. Albans, Herts, Honorary Secretary.
- 3. THE CAMBBIAN INSTITUTE. R. MASON, Esq. High-street, Tenby, Treasurer.
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- 11. THE SURREY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. GEORGE BISH WEBB, Esq., 6, Southampton-street, Covent Garden, London, Honorary Secretary.

Abstract of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Society for the Year ending 1855.

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(Signed)

EDWARD WM. OBRIEN,
Treasurer.

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WILLIAM ELLIOTT HUDSON.

WILLIAM ELLIOTT HUDSON, the subject of this short sketch, the second son of Edward Hudson, a celebrated dentist of Dublin, was born at his father's country residence, Fields of Odin (now Hermitage), near Rathfarnham, in the county of Dublin, August 18th, 1796. He early displayed those fine qualities which afterwards caused him to be so much courted in society when arrived at man's estate. superior talents, together with his natural thirst for knowledge, urged him forward, both during his school and collegiate courses, so that each year he distinguished himself by obtaining either premiums or certificates for superior answering. After he was called to the bar in 1818, he went the Munster Circuit, and his abilities, far beyond the ordinary, soon attracted attention, and brought him in brief after brief, so long as he continued to practice as a circuit barrister. much was he admired in Cork, that such men as the late Recorder Waggett, Rev. Mr. Leslie, Dean Burrowes and others, were accustomed to watch the coaches, when expecting his arrival for the assizes in that city; each endeavouring to anticipate the other in having as their guest, even for a short period, one, whose talents they admired, and whose pleasing and instructive conversation, they so highly appreciated, proceeding as it did from an intellect, well stored with the varied knowledge, which a widely-extended course of reading had supplied to a mind admirably fitted for its reception. In the year 1836, he was appointed Assistant Barrister for the county of Carlow, which post he did not long continue to fill, having

been promoted to the situation of taxing-officer in the common law courts, which office he continued to hold until shortly before his death, when declining health obliged him to retire on a pension, to which he was entitled for his services.

Amongst his other accomplishments, W. E. Hudson early displayed a taste for music, and a musical talent of the highest order. That he had acquired a practical and theoretical knowledge of that science far beyond his compeers, was often tested; and especially by Dr. Russell a highly-gifted clergyman, and himself a great theorist. This gentleman, aware of the acuteness of W. E. Hudson's ear in distinguishing sound, put him to the severest proofs, without a single instance of failure; this induced him to test through young Hudson the accuracy of a theory which he held, that every natural sound, such as the roaring of a furnace, the howling of the storm, thunder, water falling in unison, &c; were all one and the same note, the great A of nature. Day after day for nearly three months Hudson accompanied Dr. Russell from place to place, to catch what he called "natural sounds"; and so elated was he with the proofs given of the perfection of his own theory, that it required the utmost vigilance of his physicians to prevent his intellect becoming impaired. In after years William E. Hudson was the composer of a Te Deum, and several chants, none of which were ever published; he likewise composed a variety of songs, some of which he sent to the press; but his naturally modest and retiring habits prevented him putting himself forward, and thereby caused his fame, either as a literary character or as a musical composer, to have a much more limited circulation than would be expected in the case of a person so highly gifted. When that well known periodical, The Citizen, was tottering to its fall, and had well nigh expired, its publishers made a desperate effort to restore its vitality, by bringing it out, in a new form and under a new name, as the Dublin Monthly Magazine. In this struggle Mr. Hudson lent the assistance of his purse and talents, and chiefly owing to his exertions, it revived for a while; besides contributing to it in a literary way, he brought out in it a collection of Irish airs, the finest published since the days of Bunting, and many of them far surpassing that eminent musician's in arrangement. "His affection," said the editor of the Nation

newspaper, "for all the remains and witnesses of Celtic civilization, was intensified in this instance by a deep and cultivated feeling of the art." *

Mr. Hudson was a member of the principal literary and scientific societies of Dublin in his day, and a constant attendant at their council meetings: his enthusiastic love for his country led him to be ever forward on these occasions, aiding in whatever could throw light on the history and antiquities of Ireland, in forwarding and advancing the scientific labours and discoveries of our fellow-countrymen; or promoting Irish literature. He was one of the original members of the Irish Archæological Society founded in 1840, in whose publications and proceedings he took a deep interest. leading object of this society was the publication of such documents as were calculated to increase our knowledge of Irish history, antiquities, and topography. With him, however, its efficiency and utility have all but expired. Its indications of a feeble existence are now but few and far between. In the year 1845, the editor of the present volume, an enthusiastic lover of the language and antiquities of his country, founded the Celtic Society under the auspices of Mr. Hudson, who took a most active part in its organization, and sus-The editors of its publications were paid out of his pocket, whilst his mind and pen were incessantly at work in their behalf. to secure a favourable reception from an apathetic public. Mr. Hudson was not himself the editor of any of their books, but still the onus of much of the work rested on him, whose judgment and intellect, well stored with historic learning, were ever ready to guide and assist. He revised all their books in their passage through the press, and to him were they indebted for much of the valuable information which the volumes of the Celtic Society contain. only portion of these works which appeared exclusively from his own pen was the appendix to the Leaban na 5-Ceant; or, Book of Rights, consisting of various readings selected from the Book of Baile-an-Mhuta (Ballymote) as compared with the text in the Book of Leacan, and ending with a dissertation on the peculiar sound of

^{*} The Nation, July 2nd, 1853.

some of the letters of the Irish alphabet. His purse was ever open to promote the usefulness of the institution; and on one occasion, a short time previous to its amalgamation with the Irish Archæological Society, at a meeting held at Dr. Wilde's in Westlandrow, he discharged a debt incurred by the council, to the amount of over three hundred pounds! When Mr. John O'Daly arrived from Kilkenny, for the purpose of establishing the Celtic Society, Mr. Hudson was the first to take him warmly by the hand, and support his efforts. He was, in fact, the main spring of the Society, and owing to his exertions it attained a prominence that gave promise of final success. In the year 1853 Mr. O'Daly conceived the idea of forming an Association for the Preservation and Publication of MSS. in the Irish language illustrative of the Fenian period of Irish History, and having consulted Mr. Hudson, then as ever foremost to promote every endeavour to preserve from oblivion, those documents in which our ancestors recorded "all important events connected with their father-land;" he received his warmest encouragement and support. A meeting was called at Anglesca-street on St. Patrick's day, 1859, at which was formed the Ossianic Society. not as a rival but as an auxiliary to other similar institutions. Hudson took an active and lively interest in fostering it to maturity, and a prominent part in its proceedings during the short period of its existence previous to his decease. His health, however, broken down by frequent paralytic attacks, rendered him incapable of affording the Association that help which the Celtic Society had derived from his extensive knowledge and exertions. His death, which occurred on the 23rd of June, 1853, may be truly regarded as a heavy blow and irreparable loss to the best interests of our Society. gave it character, and the interest which he manifested in the undertaking assisted in bringing it into notice.

The success of "The Library of Ireland," and of "The Spirit of the Nation" are in some measure due to Mr. Hudson. Indeed the writer of this paper, has been informed, by Mr. James Duffy, the publisher of these works, that Mr. Hudson advanced three hundred pounds towards defraying the expenses incurred in bringing out the quarto edition of the latter publication.

To obviate the difficulties found so seriously to obstruct the translation of the Brehon laws, arising from the imperfect Irish dictionaries extant, Mr. Hudson opened a subscription, to assist in defraying the expense of the compilation of a work, which would facilitate the study of the ancient records of our country. Of this project the Rev. Dr. Todd thus speaks in his opening address as President of the Royal Irish Academy, April 14th, 1856; "Our late lamented associate Mr. Hudson, to whose patriotism the library of the Academy owes a valuable addition, deposited in my hands, before his death, the sum of £200 in government securities, as a contribution towards the publication of the Irish Dictionary. This sum with the interest since accruing upon it, which I have added to the principal, is all that is available in the way of funds for carrying out this important national object." In addition to this sum (we have been informed) he proposed giving a further subscription of £1000; but his demise took place before he was able to carry his intention into effect. "It will be one of the many permanent monuments of his career,"-says the Nation,* "to write the simple truth of him will sound like the hyperbole of an epitaph. all the systematic attempts to encourage the ancient or modern literature of Ireland, made for the last twenty years, or to create a wider interest in our arts, history and antiquities, one thing may always be safely assumed, whoever shines like a dial-plate on the front of the transaction. William Elliott Hudson was hard at work at the rear; the organizers of it were gathered round his hospitable board; his pen was slaving in its behalf; and his purse opened with a princely munificence to pay its way to success. His contributions to several, totally separate objects within the last few years counted to our certain knowledge, by hundreds of pounds in each And he had the singular property, in common with Davis, of being totally indifferent to any reputation for his share in the work, if only it were done. Nor was his literary enthusiasm, as it sometimes is in this country, restricted to dead ages and institutions, forswearing the future and the present."

^{*} Of July 2nd, 1853.

The Council of the OSSIANIC SOCIETY, fully convinced that William Elliott Hudson had done more for Irish literature than Sir James Ware for its antiquities, and being desirous to pay the best tribute of respect in their power to the memory of one who took so deep an interest in their affairs, whilst it pleased a wise Providence to spare him among them, employed Mr. Geary the eminent photographer, whilst residing in Grafton-street in 1857, to take a likeness of his bust by the celebrated sculptor Christopher Moore, which Mr. Hudson's brothers generously presented to the Royal Irish Academy. "It is an admirable piece of sculpture, and having been taken during his lifetime, before struggling with ill health, it conveys much of his character,—the clear brow of silent speculation, and the delicate lip of cultivated taste; the full beaming eye, was beyond all sculpture."*

To the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, the Council of the Ossianic Society owe a debt of gratitude, for their kindness in permitting Mr. Geary to take the photograph, and they avail themselves of this opportunity to return their heartfelt thanks to that learned body. This photograph has been cut in wood by the eminent engraver Mr. William Oldham of Bedford House, Rathgar, and will in future ornament the title pages of the Transactions of the Ossianic Society; it is but a small token of the esteem and regard that they still, and must ever cherish for the memory of the man—William Elliott Hudson.

* The Nation, July 2nd, 1853.

Dublin, March 1st, 1859.

INTRODUCTION.

ROM the most reliable and best accredited documents respecting the ancient Irish handed down to us, it appears certain that, not only the monarchy itself but likewise all posts of honor and profit, had become hereditary in different septs and families. Purity of blood was held, of course, a national object of the first importance; and the literati, therefore, the conservators

of historical evidence, were regarded as of the highest authority; as they alone could prove the descent and determine the rank and station of the people; hence the necessity of the great number of antiquaries, whom we find supported by national endowments. The monarch and the provincial kings, as well as the nobility and the state officers of the crown, being alike of the royal line of Milesius, great care was taken of their genealogy and descent; and every candidate for these various offices was obliged to give:—lst. proof of descent; 2ndly, of

his having been a knight, (for in each of the provinces there

was an equestrian order); 3rdly, that he had no remarkable deformity or blemish; so that his person might command respect, suitable to his birth and education. No wonder, then, that the genealogies of the different families of the kingdom, of the Milesian race, were preserved with the utmost care. To secure the literati from any temptation to abuse their trust, honorable provision was made for them From their rank they were presumed to be by the state. beyond the reach of corruption; and the laws secured their persons and properties inviolate; so that, from the foundation to the overthrow of the monarchy, a single instance does not occur of any violence being offered to this body of Abuses, however, gradually crept into the bardic institution, mainly arising from the number of idlers who enlisted themselves under its banner; during two or three successive reigns the kingdom was found to be greatly impoverished by their exactions, until it was found necessary to reduce the number.

Though the monarchy as well as all other posts of honor, was elective, yet, to prevent as much as possible, any inconveniences which litigated elections might produce, the successor of the monarch was appointed in his lifetime, and was called Righdhomhna, and this, it is observable, is at this day, we believe, the practice in China and other foreign countries. The Ollamhs or Doctors in the various sciences, who were of the most noble families, had also their successors declared in their own lifetime; and he that was to fill the post of honor, or have command in the state, had his Tanaiste appointed to succeed him in office. This arrangement prevented the evils of incompetency occasionally arising from direct lineal succession.

The provincial kings in their own position, were equal to the monarch in his exalted station. Each had his order of chivalry, of which he was himself the chief. He had his Ard-draoi or high priest, to superintend religion, his marshal, standard-bearer, chief-treasurer, &c., all these appointments were hereditary in families, to which the most distinguished alone in each was chosen by election.

The different military forces of the kingdom were the particular guards of each province. They were a species of standing militia, composed of trained bands called Curaidhe (champions), an order of knighthood into which none were admitted without exhibiting unexceptionable proofs of birth, learning, generosity, valour, and activity.

The particular militia or knights of every province held their head-quarters, or were located near the residence of their chiefs: thus the militia, or knights of Ulster, called Curaidhe-na-Craoibhe-Ruaidhe (champions or heroes of the Red Branch), were stationed at the Royal Fort at Eamhuin (Emania), near Armagh. They were of the Rudrician race, and were commanded in the reign of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, by the famous champion Cuchullin¹, who, according to the annals of Clonmacnoise, and the Chronicon Scotorum, died in the second year of the Christian era; and was succeeded in command by his cousin Conall Cearnach.

Vestiges of the ancient palace of Eamhuin, or Emania,

I At the time that Cuchullin was chief of the knights of Ulster, in the reign of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, (a celebrated prince of the Rudrician race, king of Ulster, and monarch of Ireland), Conrigh Mac Daire, a renowned champion, and chief of the Clanna Deaghaidh in Munster, was treacherously slain by Cuchullin, in revenge of an indignity which Conrigh offered him, by cutting off his hair when asleep, and taking from him the object of their contention—the beautiful Blanaid, a lady whom they brought captive from Scotland. She showed greater attachment to Cuchullin than to Conrigh, and consequently contrived for him an opportunity of perpetrating a horrid and treacherous murder in the palace of Cahirconry, the ruins of which are still extant on Sliabh Mis in Kerry, near which runs the rivulet called Fionn-Ghlaise. For a fuller account of this transaction, see Keating's Ireland, and Smith's Kerry, p. 156, &c.

and of the house of Craoibh Ruadh (Red Branch), adjacent to the palace are still extant, two miles to the west of Armagh, the site retaining the name of the fort of Navan.

The militia or knights of Leinster, were called Curaidhe Ghamhanruighe, or the Damnonians of Gailian, seated at Dun Aellinne, about twelve miles south-east of Almhuin, the place of their head-quarters in that province previous to the time of Fionn's appointment to this post of honour. On his receiving the command, he removed with his force to Almhuin, a place in the county of Kildare, bordering on Hy-Failghe, now Ophaly, which with the adjoining territory he possesses in right of his mother, Murrain Munchaoimh (the fair haired), daughter of Teige Mac Nuadhat. Here he fixed his seat on the far famed hill of Almhuin as a more central point; and the knights of Leinster were from thenceforth called Curaidhe na h-Almhuine, or the heroes of Almhuin.

The militia or knights of Connaught, whose chiefs were the Clanna Morna, of the old Belgian or Firbolg race, have been distinguished by the appellation of Curaidhe Iorrais Dun Domhnainn; a territory in the county of Mayo, their head quarters. The ruins of the Fort of Dun Domhnainn are still extant in Iorras or Erris, the most western part of that county. Goll Mac Morna, according to O'Flaherty (see Ogygia), commanded the Clanna Morna, at the famous battle of Magh Lena, A.D. 192, and was detached by Conn Cedchathach as the most able and expert champion to oppose in person his great competitor Mogh Nuadhat. In that engagement Conan Mac Morna, who is said to have been the grandson of Goll, commanded the Clanna Morna in turn; and ever since the fall of Fionn Ua Baoiscne, A.D. 283, at Rath Bre-

¹ Almhuin. The ruins of the fort of Almhuin are still extant on the west end of the Curragh of Kildare; and what we corruptly call the "Bog of Allen" at this day, was formerly the forest of Almhuin, in which the knights were accustomed to enjoy the pleasures of the chase.

ogha, near the Boyne, by the treacherous hands of Athlach Mac Duibhdrein, had frequent contentions with the Clanna Baoiscne for the captain-generalship of the Fians.

The defection of the Clanna Morna from the rest of their corps at the battle of Gabbra, may be attributed not only to their rivalry for the general command, but also, and more particularly to the murder of Conan, their late captain, by the Clanna Baoiscne or Fianna Finn. In many epic poems written by the bards on the achievements of the Fianna Eireann, this Conan is indiscriminately described by the appellations of Conan Maol Mallachtach Mac Morna, and Conan Mac Garraidhe, and might have been brother to Aedh the son of Garadh, the son of Neamen, the son of Morna, from whom the Clanna Morna were named. He was then king of Connaught, and the last of the Firbolg race who governed that province.

The militia, or knights of Desmond, or South Munster, were called Curaidhe Clanna Deaghaidh, or Ua Deaghaigh, a tribe of the Ernaidhs, of the Heremonian race, who, on being expelled from Ulster by the Clanna Rughraidhe, obtained a principality in South Munster.1 These, some time before the birth of Christ, obtained great power in Munster under their leader Deaghadh, who afterwards became king of that province. His posterity succeeded him in power, in West Munster particularly, and were the champions of Desmond. The territory of Luachair Deaghaidh, in the county of Kerry, was their patrimony. There still remain on the western extremity of Sliabh Mis, the foundations of an enormous cyclopean structure, supposed to be the palace begun by Conrigh Mac Daire, whose history we have briefly glanced at. This part of the mountain commands, perhaps, one of the finest prospects in the world, and still retains the name of Cathair Chonrigh. Fionghlaise, as

¹ Vide O'Flaherty's Ogygia, vol. II., pp. 142, 143.

already stated, runs down the steep hill on which this ruin is based, and discharges itself into the bay of Tralee, a short distance to the north, corresponding exactly with the description given by history of the fort of Dun Deaghaidh. Mac Luigheach, a famous champion of this sept, commanded the Clanna Deaghaidh at the battle of Gabbra, and was slain in that engagement, according to the annals of Innisfallen.

The militia, or knights of Thomond or North Munster, were the Clanna Baoiscne, 'so called from Baoiscne, their principal ancestor, who, according to the Book of Ballimote, now deposited in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, was the second son of Nuada Necht of the royal race of Leinster, and fifth direct ancestor of Fionn the son of Cumhall, the son of Treanmor, the son of Salt, the son of Elton, the son of Baoiscne.

Fionn soon afterwards received the investiture of Formacil na bh-Fian, a district in Hy-Kinsellagh,² concerning which there has been much conjecture, by the donation of his cousin and relative Fiachadh Baiceadha,³ then king of Leinster and youngest son of Cathacir Mor. The Clanna Baoiscne were also called Fianna Finn, whilst Fionn Ua Baoiscne was their leader and before he took the general command. Oisin the son of Fionn was their chief at the battle of Gabhra, in which his son Oscur fell in an ambush, laid for him by Cairbre Liffeachair, monarch of Ireland, A.D. 277.

It is probable that, inasmuch as Ireland was in these early days much exposed to the descents of African and Northern pirates, a strong necessity existed for the formation of these

¹ Clanna Baoisene. For further particulars of this tribe and their territory, see leadan na 5-Ceant (Book of Rights), p. 48, n. g.

² Hy Kinsellagh. Ibid, p. 208, n. g.

³ Fiachadh Baiceadha. See Book of Rights, pp. 200, 203.

corps of militia—one in each province, which Pinkerton has ingeniously conjectured, may have been modelled on the plan of the Roman legions in Britain. According to the Cath Fhinn-tragha, their stations were distributed along the coasts, in the most elevated and inaccessible positions; and in distant view of each other-so as to communicate by signals, the approach of an enemy, and thereby enable them to come to the succour and relief of the fort invaded. Thus, the forts of Iorras Dun Domhnainn in Mayo, and of Cahir Conrigh on Sliabh Mis, in Kerry, though the distance cannot be less than 100 miles were made available; and the one at Eas Aedh Ruaidh mhic Badharn, (now Assaroe), near Ballyshannon, in the county of Donegal, wherein was always posted a strong detachment of the Ulster militia, was brought in view of that of Iorras Dun Domhnainn. These were the coasts most exposed to the southern and northern invaders. But besides this duty as "coast guards," these military orders were charged with the preservation of "law and order" in the interior of the country; they were bound to send certain detachments yearly to protect the persons of their respective kings. Thus, the guards of Eoghan Mor, were called teaghlach, or household troops. Cormac Mac Airt, whose reign shines so refulgent in Irish history, had for his body-guards, one hundred and fifty of the principal knights of the kingdom, besides one thousand household troops to guard his palace. The guards of the kings of Munster, or Leath Mhogha, were the people of Ossory, whose country formed the extreme boundaries of that kingdom; and according to the Book of Rights, ascribed to St. Benignus, we find the duty imposed on this people, by the king of Munster was to wait on him constantly, with a certain number of armed troops. The guards of the king of Desmond, or South Munster, were the Clanna Deaghaidh, as has been already stated, and those of the kings of Thomond, or

North Munster, were a detachment of the Clanna Baoiscne; but in latter times for these were substituted the Dal Cais, a most intrepid body of men. The palace of Brian Boroimhe at Killaloe was called Tigh Chinn Coradh, or the house at the head of the weir. It was the duty of the hereditary standard-bearer to preserve the royal banner; to be amongst the foremost of the troops in action, and in the rear on a retreat—for the troops ever kept their eye on the standard, and when the prince was killed (for he seldom or ever survived a defeat), the standard was struck, which was the signal for a retreat: thus, in the sanguinary battle of Magh Mucruimhe, fought between the monarch Art and Mac Con; on the death of Art we are told by the poet:—

"Do cuit meinze caca Chuino." Conn's battle standard fell.

Next to this officer sat the hereditary treasurer, whose duty it was to see the king's contributions and taxes regularly paid; which was always done on the first of November. These taxes were fixed, and a register kept of them; so that the particular duties, imposed on the different portions of the kingdom, may be the more easily known.

Besides these state officers, there were a chief justice or brehon, to expound the laws, a poet or ollamh, an historian, antiquary, physician, surgeon or liagh, and chief musician; and three stewards of the household with their attendants constantly residing at court. All these different offices were retained in Ulster, and in parts of Munster and Connaught, until the accession of James I. to the

¹ In the reign of Cuchorb, king of Leinster, in the first century, Laighsech, of the progeny of Conall Cearnach, progenitor of the present O'Moras, or O'Mores, obtained from that king a territory, in Leinster, i.e. Laoighis or Leix, called after him, on account of his personal bravery and services. He was at the same time appointed treasurer of Leinster, and privileged to take the fourth place at the council board.

throne of England: thus, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Anno 1601, O'Neill, Prince of Ulster, visited London, in consequence of a promise made by him the previous year to the Queen; and Camden tells us that "he appeared at court with his guards of Gall-oglachs [Gallowglasses] bareheaded, armed with hatchets, their hair flowing in locks on their shoulders, on which were yellow shirts dyed with saffron, with long sleeves, short coats, and thrum jackets; at which strange sight the Londoners marvelled much."

The hereditary marshals of Ulster were the O'Gallaghers; the Mac Cafferies the standard-bearers; the Mac Sweenys captains of the guards, and the O'Gnives the poets.

The hereditary marshals of Leinster were the O'Connors, princes of Ui Fhailge; the standard-bearers were the O'Gormans or Mac Gormans, princes of Hy Mairge or Margy; the O'Dempsys, lords of Clanmalier, were the captains of the guards; the Mac Keoghs were the historiographers; the O'Dorans the brehons; and the O'Mores were the hereditary treasurers.

The hereditary marshals of Connaught were the Mac Dermods; the O'Flaherties were the standard-bearers; the O'Kellys of Hy Many were the treasurers; the Maelconaires the historiographers, &c. We do not find who the other state officers were; but the Mac Firbises were the physicians.

The hereditary marshals of Desmond, or South Munster, were the O'Keeffes; the O'Falveys were the admirals; for we find in "Toraigheacht Cheallachain Chaisil," announced for publication by the Irish Archæological and Celtic Society, that the fleet was commanded by Failbhe Fionn. We do not find who the standard-bearer and treasurer were; but the Mac Egans were the hereditary chief

¹ See a paper on the Inauguration of Cathal Crobhdhearg, king of Connaught, A.D. 1244, published in the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archeological Society for 1853, in which all these offices are noticed.

justices or brehons, the O'Daly's the poets, and the O'Callanans the physicians, in which family leechcraft is still a favorite profession.

The hereditary marshals of Thomond, or North Munster, were the Mac Namaras; the standard-bearers the O'Deas, and the O'Gradys were the captains of the guards until about A.D. 1200, at which time they were succeeded in that trust by the O'Gormans or Mac Gormans, who, being compelled by the Danish or English invaders to abandon their principality of Hy-Mairge in Leinster, removed to Owney and Shingal in the county of Limerick, from whence they were invited to Ibh Breacain (now Ibricane), and were granted that lordship under feudal tenure by Donogh Cairbreach O'Brian, king of Thomond, who appointed them captains of his guards, and adopted them as his chief favorites and counsellors, by the style and title of Fin 5nao U1 Bhniain, by which appellation they are constantly styled in our annals, and in the writings of the Mac Brodins, historiographers of Thomond. Cumheadha (Covey) Mor Mac Gormain was, according to Seaan Mac Rughraidhe Mac Craith, (see Caithreim Thoirdhealbhaidh, or Triumphs of Turlogh), one of Donogh O'Brien's Life Guards in the wars of Thomas de Clare in Thomond, and his son Cumheadha, succeeded him after his death in 1310.

The Mac Clanchies were the hereditary chief justices or brehons of Thomond, the Mac Craiths the historiographers and poets. The O'Nealons and the O'Hickies were the hereditary physicians. All these public officers of the state had sufficient estates allotted to them for their maintenance.

In the Book of Ballimote, it is stated that Nuada Neacht, who reigned monarch of Ireland one year, was the fourth son of Setna Sithbhaic (the peaceable) son of Lughaidh Loithfinn, the progenitor of the royal Lagenian race, and second son of Breasal Breac, or the speckled. From this Nuada Neacht is descended the stock of the Lagenians; he was king of Tara: and it was he who slew Eidirsgeoil Mor, or the Great, the son of the descendant of Iarnaillin, which deed he committed in opposition to Lughaidh Riamhdhearg, and thereupon he became king of Ireland. From the aforesaid Nuada Neacht descended Fionn Ua Baoiscne and the celebrated Caoilte Mac Ronain. For Finn's pedigree see page 285.

Some of our Scottish antiquaries have sought from the mere name to represent Fionn as of Scandinavian or rather Finnish origin! but the attempt is so devoid of proof or evidence, as to be worthy merely of notice as an ingenious paradox. His death occurred, according to the annals of Innisfallen, in A.D. 283, in the fourth year of the reign of Cairbre Liffeachair, when, says our veracious chronicler, fell the celebrated general of the Irish militia, Fionn the son of Cumhall, by the treacherous hand of a fisherman named Athlach, son of Dubhdrenn, who slew him with his fishing spear at Rath Breogha, near the Boyne, whither he had retired in his old age to spend the remainder of his life in tranquillity from the noise and tumult of war.

The collection of poems, which forms the present volume, are taken from copies made by the following scribes:—

The Agallamh is taken from a copy made in 1780 by a Mr. Laurence O'Foran, who kept a village school at Killeen, near Portlaw, in the county of Waterford. It contains besides, many other interesting poems and prose matters relative to the Fenian period of our history.

The battle of Cnoc-an-air, or Hill of Slaughter, was taken from a large volume compiled about the year 1812, by Clare scribes, for the Rev. Thomas Hill, of Cooreclure, a member of our Society; it now belongs to Mr. Blake Foster of Knockmoy, county of Galway, who kindly lent

it, with permission to make any use the Society required of its contents. Those that follow were taken from a manuscript volume of Fenian poems made in 1844, by Mr. Martin Griffin, an intelligent blacksmith who resides at Kilrush in the county of Clare. The poem entitled Tir na n-Og, or Land of Youth, is accounted for by Mr. O'Looney; and Dr. O'Donovan has said all that was necessary regarding the curious and valuable tract which he has, suo more, himself so ably edited.

In conclusion, we feel it our duty, ere we close, to tender the warmest thanks of the Society to the President and Council of the Royal Irish Academy, for the facility they have afforded us in collating our proofs with their valuable collection of manuscripts, whilst our book was passing through the press: also to the Committee of Publication, for their kindness in revising the same.

The English reader will excuse the style, consequent upon our being obliged to adhere as closely as the idioms of the English language would admit to our originals; and although the translation may be occasionally a little rugged and uneven—yet, on close comparison with the original, it will, we think, be found a faithful and correct rendering.

JOHN O'DALY.

Dublin, March 17th, 1859.

Laoithe Liannnizheachta.

azallaah oisin azus phackaic.



SJN 17 rada do fuan,
éiriz ruar a'r éire an e-ralm;
do théiz eu do lút 'r do neare,
518 cuintea cat a'r zleó zanb.

- Ο. Φο τηθίζελη πο λιτ 'η πο πελης, δ πλό πλιμέλης ελί λζ Γιους; λητη λη ζ-είθη ηί'ι πο γρέης, εδί δα έης ηί δητη Ιρος.
- P. Ní čuala zu côm-mait do čeól,¹
 ó túr an domain 'zur aniuż;
 zió caoi anrad, aimżlic, liat,
 ir mait do nianra clian an cnoc.
- Ο. Φο ηιαμαιηητή είμαι απ έπος, α Phaenaie ητ δούε πύη; ητ παίης διήε δο έλη πο έπιέ, α'τ παέ δ-τιαπας ζυέ απ δ-εύητ.

¹ Ceol, music. The musical instruments peculiar to the ancient Irish were the harp and bagpipes. The Dord Fiann was used on hunting excursions, and may be considered the Fenian horn of the chase, like the hunter's horn of our own day; but it must be looked upon as a very simple musical instrument, inasmuch as it was only adapted for the above purpose. But it is believed by Scanchuidhes or reciters

THE DIALOGUE OF OISIN AND PATRICK.



ISIN! long is thy slumber,
Rise up and hear the psalm; [thee,
Thy agility and valor have forsaken
Though thou didst engage in battles and
fierce conflicts.

- O. I have lost my agility and strength,
 Since no battalion survives to Fionn;
 In the clerics is not my pleasure,
 Music after him is not sweet to me.
- P. Thou hast not heard music equally good,
 Since the beginning of the world until this day;
 Tho' thou art aged, silly, and grey [haired],
 Well wouldst thou attend a host on a hill.
- O. I used to attend a host on a hill,
 O Patrick of the morose disposition;
 Ill it becomes thee to traduce my form,
 As I have never been aspersed till now.

of Fenian tales that the *Dord* was also used as a war-trumpet to summon the Fenian chiefs to battle. We are not aware that any specimen of it is preserved in our national museums. For a learned dissertation on ancient Irish musical instruments, see *Cambrensis Eversus*, Vol. I., Ch. IV., edited by the Rev. M. Kelly, D.D., for the Celtic Society.

O. Do cualar ceol ba binne na bun z-ceol, zió món molar cu an cliar; rzalcannac loin Leicheac Laoi, i r an raoió do zníó an Dond Phiann.

Smolać no-binn żleanna Szail,2
no monzain na m-banc az buajn ne chajż;
ba binne liom choro na z-con,
na bo rzol-ra, a clejniż caja

Cnú³ δειμεοιί, Cnú mo cuipp,

απ τ-αδας δεαξ δο δί αξ Γίοηπ;

απ μαίμ δο τειπραδ cuip α'ρ ρμίμε,

δο cuipeaδ τίπη α δ-τοιμείπη τμαίπ.

Βιατηρίο αη ιηξεαή όξη,

ημό δ-της πόιο δ'τεαμ ταοι 'η η-ξμέιη;

ατε απαίη το Chηά δειμεοιί,

ος! α Phατηρίς, δα δίηη α beal!

An da żadah deaz do bi az Fionn,
'n uaih do leizzi iad ro żleann Rac;4
ba binne na adda ciuil,
'r a n-ażaid d'n c-Siuin6 amac.

- 1 Szakannac lon leitheac Lao, the song of the blackbird of Letter Lee. The blackbird, the thrush, the seagull, the eagle and the raven, are the birds most often commemorated by the Fenian muse. The miol murge (our hare), the plat nuab, or red deer, the buck and doe, the tone, or wild boar, and the ci alica, or paol-cu, the wolf, were the objects of their chase. Letter Lee is not yet identified.
- ² Sleann an Szail, i.e., the glen or vale of Scal. In the Miscellany of the Celtic Society, p. 24, the following note appears:—
- "Scal Balbh, i.e., Scal the Stammerer. O'Flaherty says that Bania, daughter of Scal Balbh, king of Finland, was the Queen of Tuathal Teachtmhar, monarch of Ireland, A.D. 130. A personage of the same name seems to have flourished in Ireland, from the many places named after him, as Gleann-an-Scail in the county of Antrim, Leac-an-Scail, a great Cromleac in the county of Kilkenny, and Leacht-an-Scail, i.e., Scal's monument, in the barony of Corcaguiny, county of Kerry."

There is also Bloann an Scall, and Abainn an Scall, about ten miles west of Dingle. Leact an Scall is still in existence. By accenting the letter a in the word Scall these localities would mean the glen of the shade or shadow.

O. I have heard music more melodious than your music,
Tho' greatly thou praisest the clerics;
The song of the blackbird of Letter Lee,
And the melody which the Dord Fiann made.

The very sweet thrush of Gleann-a-sgail,
Or the dashing of the barks touching the strand;
More melodious to me was the cry of the hounds,
Than of thy schools, O chaste cleric.

Little Cnu, Cnu of my heart,
The small dwarf who belonged to Fionn;
When he chaunted tunes and songs,
He put us into deep slumbers.

Blathnaid, the youthful maid,
Who was never betrothed to man under the sun,
Except to little Cnu alone,
O, Patrick, sweet was her mouth.

The twelve hounds which belonged to Fionn,
When they were let loose through Glen Rath;
Were sweeter than musical instruments,
And their face outwards from the Suir.

3 Cnú. Dr. O'Donovan says that Cnu was taken by Fionn near a Sith (a fairy haunt) in Magh Feimhean, an extensive plain situated near Sliabh-na-m-ban in the county of Tipperary, (see leadan na 5-Ceanc, Book of Rights, p. 18, note b), and that he was scarcely tall enough to reach the strings of the harp. From the frequent allusion made to him in Ossianic Poetry, in connection with Fionn, he seems to have been his chief musician, by whose soothing strains the Fenians were lulled into deep and heavy slumbers. Cnú or Cnó, also signifies a nut or kernel; and one of the prettiest ballads ever written by the late Edward Walsh, was entitled "Mo Chraoibhin Cno" (my cluster of nuts) commencing thus:—

"My heart is far from Liffey's tide,
And Dublin town;
It strays beyond the Southern side
Of Cnoc Maol Donn:
Where Ceapa Chuinn hath woodlands green,
Where Abhuin Mhor's waters flow;
Where dwells unsung, unsought, unseen,
Mo Chraolbhin Cno.
Low clustering in her leafy green,
Mo Chraolbhin Cno."

Τα τσέαι beaz ασαμ-τα αμ Fhionn,
η μαδαμαμ αμη αξε εύισ έιμ δέας;
δο ζαδαμαμ μιζ Sασταμ να b-εleab,
'τ δο ευιμεαμαμ εαέ αιμ μιζ δηέας.

Do zabaman an India món,
ba món an neant azur an d-théan;
chíoc Loclainn 'r an India roin,
bo tiz a z-cuid din zo teac Fhinn.

Tuz re naoj z-cata ran Spajn,
'r naoj b-ritcio cat a n-Cininn uill;
ni'l d'n t-rhut 'nah bairtead Chiort,
nac b-tizead a z-cior zo teac Fhinn.

Tuz re oct z-cata ran Spain tear, a'r aindniż Loclainn ain laim leir; ir beact do bi an doman ra na cior, ir e ba niż ain an n-Speiz biz.

4 Bloann Rac, Glen of the Raths. Not traceable in the Four Masters, nor in the publications of the Irish Archaeological Society.

s Sium, the river Suir. This river has its source in Sliabh Ailduin, better known as Greim an Diabhail, (the Devil's Bit mountain), in the county of Tipperary. It takes a circuitous rout by Thurles, Holycross, Caher, Ardfinan, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, and Waterford; and, being joined by the rivers Nore and Barrow, An Fheomasuf An Dheanba (hence the appellation "Sister Rivers"), at Cheek Point, six miles below Waterford, falls into the British Channel. Donnchadh Ruadh Mac Conmara, a Munster Poet of great celebrity, describes its waters thus, (see Poets and Poetry of Munster, p. 48):—

" Цίτσε πα Siuine ας δημέτας 'πα τίοξαις, Coit δαη-έποις Cineαπη Οίζ."

While the waves of the Suir, noble river! ever flow, Near the fair Hills of Eire, O!

The poet Spenser, in his Faerie Queen, describes the scenery of these rivers (with which we happen to be familiarly acquainted), thus. See Book IV., Canto XI., Verse XLIII.:—

"The first, the gentle Shure, that making way
By sweet Clonmell, adornes rich Waterforde;
The next, the stubborne Newre, whose waters gray.
By fair Kilkenny and Rosseponte boord;

I have a little story respecting Fionn,
 We were but fifteen men;
 We took the king of the Saxons, of the feasts,
 And we won a battle against the king of Greece.

We conquered India, the great,
Great was our strength and our might;
The country of Lochlin and eastern India,
Their tribute of gold comes to the house of Fionn.

He fought nine battles in Spain,
And nine score battles in noble Erin;
There is no country from the river in which Christ
was baptised,
Whose tribute did not come to the house of Fionn.

He fought eight battles in southern Spain, And Lochlin's chief king was his captive; Full wholly the world was under tribute to him, 'T was he was king of Minor Greece.

The third, the goodly Barow, which doth heard Great heapes of salmones in his deepe bosome; All which long sundred, doe at last accord To joine in one, ere to the sea they come. So flowing all from one, all one at last become."

Spenser must be in error when attributing the same source to these rivers; as the Barrow rises in Sliabh Bladhma in the Queen's County. But we must presume he followed Giraldus Cambrensis—he being the only writer on Irish history who fell into this mistake. See Haliday's Keating, p. 29, Dub. 1809. Cambrensis Eversus, Vol. I., p. 123. This river formed a fruitful theme for the Munster Poets of the last century; and Eoghan Ruadh O'Suilliobhain, a native of Sliabh Luachra in Kerry, who died A.D. 1784, and is buried at Nohoval near Mill-street, wrote a very beautiful Jacobite ballad to the air of Caiseall Mumhan, in which he introduces it thus:—

" Majbjon brucca le h-aff na Sjujne 'f me 30 tamac-laz faon." Beside the Suir on a dewy morning I was feebly laid.

and a street ballad, which is very popular in Munster, commencing thus:

"The very first day I left Carriok,
Was the twenty-pinth day of last Juna."

describes its scenery most graphically.

- Ο. 20 λημα δαήγα δ' έαη δα έης,

 'τ ζαη πο τρέης α ζ-clujtce 'ηλ ζ-ceốl;

 απ δόηλη ἐμίοη δ'αμίθα απ τ-rluajt,

 δαιη ης τριαχ δο δεμέ δεδ!
 - Ir thuat, a Phathaic, an Tseal, me beit tan eir na b-rean 30 rann; as eirteact ne clian 'r clos, 'r me am feanoin boct ball.
 - Da maintead Flonn agur an Fhlan, do chéigrinnti clian a'r cloiz; do leanrainn an riad rd'n n-gleann, 'r da mian liom dueic an a coir.
 - Jann, a Phachaic, neam an Ohia, b'Fhionn na b-Flann 't ba clainn; bean zuide an an b-flaic, 't nac z-cualad a com-maic ned' linn.
- P. Ν΄ ΙΑΝΝΕΑΟ-ΤΑ ΠΟΛΙΉ Ο΄ Γ΄ ΓΙΟΠΠ,

 Α ΕΊΝ ΞΝΙΝΠ ΝΘ΄ Ν ΘΙΝΙΞ Π΄ ΕΘΑΝΞ;

 'Τ ΞυΝ Β΄ Θ Α ΠΊΑΠ ΝΟ ΠΑ ΙΠΠ,

 ΒΟΙΕ Α ΠΞΙΠΠ ΑΞ ΓΙΑΠΤΆΠ ΤΟΛΙΞ.
- O. Da m-bejtea-pa pappaj an Fhjan,
 a clejnjë na 3-clian 'r na 3-cloz;
 nj tabappa c'ajpe do Ohja,
 na do pjan clian azur p30l.
- P. Ni żpejstinne mac De bi,

 an a dealnis żoin azur żian;

 a Oirin, a żile buiz,

 ir ole nacar duje diol na zelian.

- O. Woe is me that have remained after him,
 My delight not being in games or music;
 But being a withering wretch after the host,
 To me it is sad to be alive!
 - O Patrick, sad is the tale,
 To be after the heroes, thus feeble;
 Listening to clerics and to bells,
 Whilst I am a poor, blind, old man.
 - If Fionn and the Fenians lived,
 I would abandon the clerics and the bells;
 I would follow the deer through the glen,
 And would fain lay hold of his leg.
 - O Patrick, ask heaven of God,
 For Fionn of the Fenians and his clan;
 Pray for the chief,
 Whose equal has not been heard of in your time.
- P. I will not ask heaven for Fionn,
 O subtle man against whom hath risen my ire;
 Since it was his delight in his time,
 To dwell in glens pursuing the noisy chase.
- O. Hadst thou been in company with the Fenians,
 O cleric of the priests and bells;
 Thou wouldst not give heed to God,
 Or to the attending on clerics and schools.
- P. I would not forsake the Son of the living God,
 For all that have been east or west;
 O Oisin, O soft bard,
 Thou wilt fare ill for depreciating the clerics.

- O. Ba mian ne Fionn va b-klaż
 riantan a żon a b-kad ain fliab;
 coin alical az kazbail cuajn,
 mondail a fluajż ba h-a a mian.
- P. Jr jomba mjan do di az Fjonn,
 nac z-cujncean rujm ann da ejr;
 ni majneann Fjonn na a cojn,
 'r ni majnejd cura, a Ojrin rejl.
- Ο. Ιτ πό το τσελί Γιουν να τινν,
 τ να α το ταινίζ με απ ίινν κιαπ;
 α πρεκόλικ, τ α δ-καιί δεδ,
 δ' τεάπη Γιουν καοι όπ να ιαδ.
- P. Jac an bhonnair a'r Fionn d'on,
 ir ole nacar do 'zur duic;
 ta ré a n-irheann a nzeall,
 man do żnidead reall a'r bhuid.

1 Com allca, i.e., wild dogs, wolves. These animals seemingly afforded a vast amount of amusement to the Fenians in their hunting excursions; and until very recently they were not altogether banished from Ireland. In the Irish Penny Journal, there is an article on Natural History by the late H. D. Richardson, a gentleman who devoted much of his time to this pursuit, in which he states that wolves were killed in Wexford in 1730—40; and one on the Wicklow mountains so late as 1770. In the Banquet of Dun na ngedh, &c. published by the Irish Archwological Society, and edited by Dr. O'Donovan (p. 189), it is stated that the last native wolf seen in Ireland was killed on a mountain in the county of Kerry, in the year 1725; and at pp. 64, 65 (idem) we are told that when Dubhdiadh, the Druid, foretold the fate of Congal

- O. A delight to Fionn of the heroes

 Was the cry of his hounds afar on the mountain;

 The wolves starting from their dens,

 The exultation of his hosts, that was his delight.
- P. Many a desire Fionn had,
 Which are disregarded after him,
 Fionn or his hounds live not,
 Nor shalt thou live, O generous Oisin.
- O. A greater loss is Fionn than we,
 And all that have ever lived within our time;
 All that ever passed away and all that are living,
 Fionn was more liberal of his gold than they.
- P. All the gold which Fionn and you bestowed,
 "Tis of no avail to him or thee;
 He is in hell in bondage,
 Because he committed treachery and oppression.
- O. Little do I believe of thy talk,
 O man from Rome of the white books,
 That Fionn, the hospitable chief,
 Could be detained by demon or devil.

Claen, in a most satiric strain, the following reference is made to the wolf: —

"Cuircin ocur buidas diad Ulad."

o timbriccio cina dun 3-cuitad,
chiadriccio cina dun 3-cuitad,
di h-alicantente cina Ulad."

Wolves and flocks of ravens
Shall devour the heads of your heroes,
Until the fine clean sand is reckoned,
The heads of the Ultonians shall not be reckoned.

The only specimen of the Irish wolf-dog now in Ireland, that we are aware of, is in the possession of Mr Conyngham Moore of Strand-street in this city.

- Ο. Φά m-beidir clanna Mônna arciż,

 πό clanna Baoirche, πα είν ba ἐκθαη;

 το δέακεαδαοίρ Γίουν απας,

 πό δο διαδ αν τεας αςα εξίν.
- Φ. Κάιζ ἐδίζε Ειμεληη, τό γελέ,
 ΄ τηλ γελές ζ-ςλέλ δί τλη δ-βέιηη;
 ηί ἐιμδηλοίδη βίονη ληλό,
 χε΄ η πός λ ηθλης λζηγ λ δ-εμείη.
- Ο. Φα παιμεραό γασία ασυς Joll,

 Φιαμπιιό δουν α'ς Ογους αιζ,

 α δ-τιζ δακ όυπ δεαπάν να Φια,

 η δειέ γιονν να δ-γιανν ακ ίαιπ.
- P. Da maintead Faolan azur Joll,
 't a haib ann do'n b-Feinn niam;
 ni ciubhaidir Fionn amac,
 ar an ceac 'na b-ruil a b-rian.
- O. Chéad do hin Fionn ain Dhia, αὐτ θειὰ αζ hian clian a'r rzol; ζηθαν πόη αζ δησηναδ απ όιη, 'r zhear eile ne meiðin a ċon.
- p. A nzeall ne meidin na z-con,
 'r le nian na rzol zać aon la;
 'r zan aine aize ain Dhia,
 aca Fionn na t-Fiann ain laim.

- P. Fionn is in hell in bonds,

 The pleasant man who used to bestow gold;

 In penalty of his disobedience to God,

 He is now in the house of pain in sorrow.
- O. Were the Clanna Morna within,
 Or the Clanna Baoisgne, the mighty men;
 They would take Fionn out,
 Or would have the house to themselves.
- P. The five provinces of Eirin severally,
 And the seven battalions which the Fenians had;
 They could not deliver Fionn,
 Tho' great might be their provess and strength.
- O. If Faolan and Goll lived,
 Diarmuid the brown-haired and Oscar the noble;
 In any house that demon or God ever formed,
 Fionn of the Fenians could not be in bondage.
 - P. If Faolan and Goll lived,
 And all the Fenians that ever were;
 They would not bring Fionn out,
 From the house where he is in pain.
 - O. What did Fionn do to God,

 Except to attend on hosts and schools;

 A great while bestowing gold,

 And another while delighting in his hounds.
 - P. Because of the amusement of the hounds,
 And for attending the schools each day;
 And because he took no heed of God,
 Fionn of the Fenians is in bonds.

¹ That is to say, bardic schools.

Ο. 21 δείμ τυγα, α Ρhατμαίς πα μαπη,
πας δ-τιυδιαδ απ Fhiann Flonn απας;
πα εάιζ εδίζε Gineann les,
ξέ'η πόδη α πεαμτ κασι γεας.

Ta rzeal beaz azam-ra an Fhionn, ni nabaman ann acc cúiz fin beaz; bo zabaman niż Bneazain na b-rleab, le neanc an rleaż zur an laoc.

Φο ζαδαδ Ιηηη Φλάτημη πόμ, πας μιζ Loclainn να long m-bheac; τανταπαμ ζαν βμόν, ζαν ητίος, γ το συμεαπαμ αμ ζ-σίος α δ-καδ.

21 Phathaic, it thuaż an tzeal, an Riż-żeinnie beiż raci żlar; choise zan ainziseact, zan ruat, choise chuajs az comain cat.

Ιτ έασσόη παι παι το θια, όκ α'τ διαδ δο ταδαίκε δο πεας; πίοκ διαίταιδ Γιοπη τκέαπ πα τκαας, ιτκέαπη τακι πα'τ έ α τεας!

20) an thic Chuthaill ra thait znaoi, eirteact he raois! Ohnoma Deinz; coola ra fhut Cara Ruais, 3' r rias Thailline na z-cuan do feilz.

¹ Faoro signifies a voice, hum, or sound.

² Onon beans, literally the red ridge. In the 25 allam na Seanomis, a very curious tract containing a complete history of the Fianna Cinion, it is stated that Onon beans was the ancient name of Drumcliff, a small village in the barony of Carbury, and county of Sligo, remarkable for the remains of an ancient Round Tower. Onom beans was also the ancient name of Dun ba leavislat, now Downpatrick, where a great battle was fought, A.D. 1260, between Brian O'Neill and Hugh mac Felim [O'Conor], and the Galls of the North of Ireland, in which many of the Irish chiefs were slain; which event formed the subject of a long poem

- O. Thou sayest, O Patrick of the psalms,

 That the Fenians could not take Fionn out;

 Nor the five provinces of Erin with them,

 Tho' great might be their individual strength.
 - I have a little story respecting Fionn,
 We were but fifteen men in number;
 We took the king of Britain, of the feasts,
 By the might of our spears and of our heroes.
 - Magnus the Great was taken by us, [ships; The son of the king of Lochlin of the speckled We returned without grief or weariness, And extended our tribute afar.
 - O Patrick, woful is the tale,
 That the Fenian king should be in bonds;
 A heart devoid of spite or hatred,
 A heart stern in maintaining battles.
 - It is not just that God should not feel pleased, At bestowing gold and food on one; Fionn never refused mighty or wretched, Even though cold hell be his doom.
 - Twas the desire of the son of Cumhall of noble mien,
 To listen to the sound of Dromderg;
 To sleep at the stream of Eas Rusidh,
 And to chase the deer of Galway of the bays.

for the pen of Gilla Brighde Mac Conmidne, chief poet of Ulster at the time, published in the *Miscellany* of the Celtic Society, p. 146. Fionn had a son named *Dearg*, whose adventures formed a theme for poetic romance, and from whom the place may derive its name.

²Car Ruaph, or Eas Aedha Ruaidh, Assaroe, the Salmon Leap, a cataract on the river Erne, at the town of Ballyshannon in Tir Chonaill (Tyrconnell), i.e., the country of Conall, which was nearly co-extensive with the present county of Donegal, and takes its name from Conall Gulban, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages.—Book of Rights, p. 34, note p. See also Oss. Soc. Trans., Vol. III., p. 115, note 8.

Ο. Szalcannać lojn Leicheać laoj, conn Rużnajóe¹ az buajn ne chajż; bondan an dajin ó inajż 20haojn,² bújčne an laojż ó Thleann óa inajl.³

Fozan reilze rieibe z-Choc, 6
ruaim na n-or uim filab z-Cua; 5
monzain raoileann Jonnuir 6 tall,
zain na m-babb or cionn an e-rluat.

Τύμηλή τρολε ηλ η-δαμτ με τοηη, Αη-μαί το το Επιμη-της, δηματικ Βηκαί α 3-Choc αη λίη, 'τ τάιμ ηλ τρολό μισ τίαδ 20 μ."

Slaod Opculu az dul do fellz, zoća zadan an Leinz na b-Jihiann; 10 bejć na fujde a mearz na n-dam, da h-e pin do żnać a mjan.

- 1 Conn Rugnarde, the wave of Rughraidhe; a loud surge on Traigh Rudhraidhe, in the Bay of Dundrum in the county of Down, which drowned Rudhraidhe, the son of Partholan.—Four Masters, p. 1189.
- 2 27a5 27) A017, the plain of Maon, otherwise called Maonmhagh, a celebrated plain lying around Loughrea, in the county of Galway, the inheritance of the Clanna Moirne.
 - 3 Jleann ba mail, Glen of the two heroes.
- ⁴ Stlab 5-Croc, Sliabh g-Crot. Now Mount Grud, in the townland of Mount Uniack, parish of Killarory, barony of Clanwilliam, and county of Tipperary. The fort and castle of Dun-g-Crot are situated at the foot of this mountain, in the Glen of Aherlow [near Bansha].—Four Masters, Ed. J. O'D., A.D. 1058, note y.
- Stjab Cua, Sliabh Cua. Now the parish of Seasgnan in the county of Waterford, situated about midway on the road from Clonmel to Dungarvan; and chiefly inhabited by the middle class of farmers, many of whom have amassed considerable wealth by agricultural pursuits.

O. The warbling of the blackbird of Letter Lee,
The wave of Rughraidhe lashing the shore;
The bellowing of the ox of Magh-maoin,
And the lowing of the calf of Gleann-da-mhail.

The resounding of the chase of Sliabh g-Crot,
The noise of the fawns round Sliabh Cua;
The seagulls' scream on Iorrus yonder,
Or the screech of the ravens over the battle-field.

The tossing of the hulls of the barks by the wave,
The yell of the hounds at Drumlish;
The cry of Bran at Cnoc-an-air,
Or the murmur of the streams about Sliabh Mis.

The call of Oscur going to the chase,
The cries of the hounds at Leirg-na-bh-Fiann;
To be sitting amongst the bards,
That was his desire constantly.

A desire of the desires of the generous Oscur, Was to listen to the clashing of shields; To be in battle hacking bones, That was his desire constantly.

Mr. James O'Keeffe, of Mountain Castle in the adjoining parish, Modeligo, holds considerable landed property in this parish. One of the five prerogatives of the King of Cashel was to pass over Sliabh g-Cua with [a band of] fifty, after pacifying the south of Eire.—Book of Rights, p. 5.

• jonnur, Erris. An extensive and wild barony in the north-west of the county of Mayo.—Four Masters.

7 Drusim-Lir. Now Drumlease, an old church in ruins, near the east extremity of Lough Gill, in the barony of Dromahaire, and county of Leitrim.—Four Masters, Ed. J. O'D., A.D. 1860, note i.

⁸ Cnoc-an-ant, the *Hill of Slaughter*. A romantic hill in the county of Kerry, situated near Ballybunian, at which there was a great battle fought by the Fenians in the second century.

* Shab 2017. Now Slieve mish, a mountain in the barony of Troughanackmy, in the county of Kerry. There is also another mountain of the same name in the barony of Lower Antrim in the county of Antrim.—

Book of Rights, p. 23, note x.

O. Se fin beat do cuadman fian,
bo feilt to Formani na b-Fiann;
laim ne h-eadan choic an Scail,
b'feacain cead nata an t-coilean.

Anmanna an da octaju żujnn, do beanad duje a Chajlzjun; beje da n-dejr je chuaż an cuje, monuan je meala an jonecuje.

20e rein 'r an rlait Fionn,
a'r mo mac Orcup na m-beimeann;
'r an te bo buain O Baoirzne ar bhuid,
an reap bub O Duibne, Diapmuib.

Cainiz linn Faolan reanda,
a'r chiun mac Aonceannda Beanna;
Slar, a'r Seann, a'r Soba nan żann,
bo cleace món-eace a z-comlann.

Ταιηης Ιιηη Conan zan ποιης,²

α'r Caol σεασχοιπεας δ'η Θαιημηη;

πας Luzais η απ δαηδα, α'r η απ ταις,

α'r Joll πας 20 διη η δού η τμιμηη.

10 Leinz-na-b-Fiann, an eminence or slope on the side of some hill in Leinster, but not identified, where the Fenlan hunters were wont to muster preparatory to starting for the chase.

¹ Formaoil na b Fian Formaoil of the Fenians. There is a place called Formoyle in the barony of Upper Ossory, in the Queen's County, the estates of William Palliser and Jonah Barrington, Esqrs., also of Mrs. Judith Wheeler, as heirs at law, and Oliver Wheeler, Esq. of Grenane, of which we have a large map on vellum, made in July, 1748, by Thomas Reading. From its contiguity to the Hill of Almhuin in Kildare, where Fionn had his palace, it is likely to be the Formaoil referred to in the text; but there is another Formaoil at Brandon bay in the county of Kerry, to the north of Croc an Scall; and in Professor Connellan's Dissertation on Irish Grammar (Dub. 1834), p. 50, mention is made of a place near Cill Easbuig Broin in the county of Sligo, called Formaoil na b-Fiann, by the Irish-speaking people of the district, who allege that the Formaoils were the hospitals of the Fenians.

O. We went westwards sixteen men in number,
To hunt at Formaoil of the Fenians;
Nigh the face of Cnoc an Scail,
To see the first running of our hounds.

The names of the two mirthful eights
I shall relate, O Tailgin;
To live after them is a sad fate,
Woe and sorrow are my lot.

Myself, and Fionn, the chief,
And my son Oscur of the blows;
And he who delivered O'Baoisgne from bondage,
The black-haired O'Duibhne Diarmuid.

There came with us Faolan the manly,
And the three sons of Aonchearda Bearra;
Glas, and Gearr, and Gobha the generous,
Who were accustomed to great feats in battle.

There came with us Conan without hair,
And Caol, the hundred-wounder, from Eamhuin;
Mac Lughaidh who was neither effeminate nor weak.
And Goll Mac Morna was of the band.

² Conan 3An monns, i.e., Conan without hair. This is the celebrated Conan Maol so often referred to in these poems, and of whom there are many ludicrous stories told. He was called Maol from the loss of his hair, being bald-pated; but the term Maol also signifies a person of low stature, or the humblest menial in any employment. Donnchadh Ruadh Mac Conmara, a Munster poet of the last century, in his Eachtra Ghiolla an Amallain, applies the term thus:—

"Mộn cón ban realad beit tamal mạn mạci beat, at noman, nó at thatad, nó at cantad na chê real." It was not right for me to be for a while like little Maol, Digging, or hoeing, or tossing the clay.

There are various families in Ireland who derive their patronymic from this term, viz. Maolruanaidh, Maolbrighde, Maolmhichil, Maoldamhnaidh, Maoilsheachlainn, Maolmhuire, &c.

Do bi Bhan ain coineill as Fionn, a'r ir agamra do bi Szeolan; Feahan as Diahmuld na m-ban, a'r Udnuaill atman as Orcup.

ejle bneac az Faolan mac Fhinn,
az Jlar mac Uonceannda Beanna, ejejll;
az Jeann, a'r az Joda na n-eac nzlan,
do bi Fead azur Forcajż.

Φο δή Seanc az Conan maol,

α'τ Εητεράς ας Caol ne na έαοδ;

ας Lużajo lajojn 'τ ας Foll,

δο δη Fuaim αζυτ Focham.

Do bi Luar ας Liazan luaimneac, a'r Daccaoin ας Daine buanac; Leim ας Joba zaoice αη ζηίηη, a'r Daol ας Caoilce mac Ronain.

Szaoiltean öúinn zabain mic Ahónna, rá imeallaib choc na b-taintib; rá ciumaraib conponda Chonainn, a a'r beal na loman ne ranaid.

Ur rúd roin 30 beinn Bótain,5 linn da ceólthan an n-adanca; rin Dhaine a 3-coill 30 zuit-binn, a'r iad az ornadail ain taincib.

¹ Thac Ronain, Mac Ronain. The chief occupation of Mac Ronain in the Fenian ranks was to draw lots whenever any spoil was to be divided; hence the epithet Crannchair, of the lot.

² Ojapmujo na m-ban. This is Diarmuid O'Duibhne, the subject of our

O. There was in our company Liagan the nimble,
Together with Daire of the duans;
Gobha Gaoithe and Connor the valiant,
And he of the lots, Cailte Mac Ronan.

Fionn held Bran in a slip,
And 'twas I that held Sgeolann;
Diarmuid of the women held Fearan,
And Oscur held the lucky Adhnuaill.

Faolan, the son of Fionn, held the speckled Eile, And Glas, the son of Aonchearrda Bearra, held Eitill; 'Twas Gearr and Gobha of the pure steeds, Who held Fead and Fostuigh.

Conan the bald held Searc,
And Caol at his side held Eisteacht;
Lughaidh the mighty, and Goll,
Held Fuaim and Fothram.

Liagan, the nimble, held Luadhas,
And Daire of the duans held Dathchaoin;
Gobha Gaoithe, the merry, held Leim,
And Caoilte Mac Ronan held Daol.

We let loose the hounds of Mac Morna,
Throughout the borders of hills in numbers;
Round the borders of Corann of the rocks,
While the fawns led down hill.

Thence eastwards to the peak of Bothar,
Most musical were our horns;
The sweet-voiced men of Daire in the wood,
While shouting at the herds.

third volume, who is said to have had a ball seirce, or beauty spot on his left breast, which caused any woman who saw it to fall in love with him.

- ² Conann, now Keash, or Ceis-chorainn, in the county of Roscommon.
- 4 loman, literally means a lamb, but is here applied to the young deer.
- bejun botain, the peak of Bothar. Not identified.

Ο. Seact b-κιτόιο δαώ allea laidin, δ Rinn-ματαί το Fοίαοι ;² καοταδ καοίτου, κασταδ πομ-τομο, τηίού αμ η-δτ-του α b-γομπαοιι.²

> Sin an ceab la bo γχασίδεαδ τυμπεαπη δ'αμ γασιτίδ con a χ-cluitce; α'γ ηι παιμιουν δα μαίδ α lataiμ υτ! α Phaτμαίς, ατο πητε.

21 Phachaic, it chuaż mite, am feandin zo h-acuinteac; zan neim, zan capa, zan cheoin, az chiall cum airninn zo h-alcoin.

Jan and-fladac Luacan Dheaza, a zan miolea rleide Cuilinn; a zan dul a n-zilandid le Fionn, zan nian rzol man cleaceann.

Jan deadta, zan deanam cheac, zan imint an clearaid luit; zan dul az ruinzid na reilz, da ceind na naid mo duil.

- Εξυηκ α το απότη, λέτο δου δασης,
 η δε αξ δυία το απότα α η-δε άμησασης;
 τημαίη ακ η αριαπαίδ ατά κεσιπάδ,
 δ'ηπότιξ αη βίλιση αξυς ηπότο σάτης.
- Ο. 20) ηπέιξηπ, α Ρηλεπαις, παη έαζέαν έυγα, α έιν απ ένοιδε έσηνημητές; δ δα παιμεραδ Conan απ δαιί, πί ίδιζειδε ίσας δο έιανταν.

¹ Rpn-nacac, a promontary, probably, in *Ibh Rathach*, (Iveragh) county of Kerry. Perhaps Bolus head on Ballinaskellig bay.

² Focao, not identified.

^{*} Fογιπλοή, see p. 18, note 7.

⁴ Luachra, Tom Ciar, one of the ancient kings of Munster, a long range

O. Seven score of strong wild oxen,
From Rinn-rathach to Fochaoi;
Fifty wolves and fifty huge wild boars
Were the spoils of our young hounds at Formsoil.

This was the first day on which were let loose
A portion of our noble hounds in the chase;
And there lives not of those who were present,
Alas! O Patrick, but I.

O Patrick, I am to be pitied, Being a broken-hearted old man; Without sway, without agility, without vigor, Going to mass at the altar.

Without the great chase of Luachair Dheaghaidh, Without the hares of Sliabh Cuilinn; Without going into fights with Fionn, Without attending schools as was my custom.

Without conflicts, without taking of preys,
Without exercising in feats;
Without going to woo or to the chase,
Two amusements which I dearly loved.

- P. Cease, old man, let be thy folly, [done: Enough for thee henceforth what thou hast already Reflect on the pains that are before you, The Fenians are departed and thou shalt depart.
- O. If I depart, O Patrick, mayest thou not be left,
 O man of the ascetic heart;
 Were Conan now alive,
 Thy growling would not be long permitted thee.

of mountain which extends from the harbour of Tralee in Kerry, to the mouth of the Shannon.

⁵ Shab Culling, now Sliabh Guillinn in the county of Armagh.

[•] Committee, i.e. ascetic, literally of the forbidding heart, because the saint forbade him to enjoy many of his pleasures.

O. Da mad é an la do bí Flonn,

a z-cacaib ailne a'r a n-zliad;

cainic an colann zan ceanni

cuzainn zo Sleann da dam.2

Jr cuzad a cânzar ôm ceac rein, ir bneatca dac azur znaoi; az iannaið airze ain an b-Fheinn, ir reidin leo rin a zeill.

Φο ξέαδαιη αιητιού, όη, α' ρ όμως; δίου γιη αξαυ αιη δο συαιηύ; ιπόιξ αποίγ, δο καιό Γιοηή, ιγ πιόιο ίτης το δυί υαιρή.

Ni zéabad ainziod cuzam na ón, a niż-reinnid an żłójn dil; acc cura rein, zan ceile an an b-Feinn, do beic azam man ceile rin.

Jr bhlatan bainra, bo naib an nit, ba m-belbinn-ri zan innaoi nem nae; na belbinn azab-ra man flon, an a b-rul o neain zo rean.

O tuzaję so bijatan ajn s-túję, an Ojejn, a z-clor so'n Fhéinn; cujnime tura ró żeję, muna n-sejnzją reję ljom réin.

Colan san ceann, a headless body, an apparition. There are several legends current amongst the Irish peasantry, regarding headless apparitions. One of these legends, "The Headless Horseman of Shanacloch," by the late Edward Walsh, appeared in the Dublin Penny Journal, Vol. ii. No. 57. pp. 33-35. Another legend of the same character is related of a member of the Cosby family, interred in the vault of the ruined church of Noughval, near Stradbally, in the Queen's County. It was said that at stated periods, a black coach, drawn by four headless

O. Or had it been on the day in which Fionn
Was engaged in glorious battles and conflicts;
When there appeared to us a headless being,
At Gleann da dhaimh.

To thee have I come from my own home,
Of the most brilliant hue and shape;
Requesting a gift of the Fenians,
To which they can give assent.

Thou shalt get silver, gold, and mantles,
As a reward for thy visit;
But depart now, said Fionn,
We think it time thou shouldst go from us.

Silver or gold I will not take,
O royal chief of the pleasant speech; [Fenians,
But thee thyself without concealing it from the
To live with me as my spouse.

By my troth, said the king,

If I were without a wife during my life,
I would not consent to be thy husband,
For all that is from the heaven to the grass.

As thou wert the first to plight thy troth,
Says Oisin, in the hearing of the Fenians:
I adjure thee by a bond,
That thou become my partner.

black horses, with a headless coachman, and a headless footman, had been seen driving at a furious rate, in the dead hour of mid-night, through the village of Stradbally. The coach itself was said to contain one of Cosbys; but the writer of this note does not now recollect the particular individual mentioned.

2 5leany ba bam, the glen of the two oxen. The Four Masters give no account of this locality; but at A.D. 945, there is a Glean Damhain mentioned situate near Dir Inis (the isle of oaks), or Molans, an island

Az ceace bo'n Fheinn cum baile,
na b-eniuin, na z-ceachain, na z-cuizin;
az réacain na mna bob' ailne,
nion cuma leo cé'n cuirze.

Az ceace bo'n colainn zan ceann, bo bi rúb 'ran n-zleann b'an b-ceace; ir ioinda dhaoi do bi ra clú, beic z-cead cú a'r deic z-cead eac.

Deic 3-cead eac 3011a prian,

beic 3-cead cú 3011a 3-coiniall;

beic 3-cead 3iolla ha haib heart,

a'r beic 3-cead rean do'n imceact.

Dejc z-ceab conn na m-bi ón, bejc z-ceab clojbeam coin a'r rzjac; ba mab maojbee bamra, bejc z-ceab bo, cuzar bom ceile an aonló jab.

Do bein rainne d'Oirin riall, ir micio liom chiall dom ceac; do zéabajo cu zac airze uajo, acc zan uirze do buajn leir.

Cainiz rainleoz raoi an b-Feinn, bo huz an rainne raoi an loc; b'imtiz an rainne o roin anuar, zan rior a rzeil zur anocc.

in the river Blackwater, in the barony of Coshmore and Coshbride, in the county of Waterford, near Ballinatray, the seat of the Hon. Mr. Moore, two and a half miles north-west of the town of Youghal. The island is called Molana, from St. Maolanfaidh, its patron saint; and O. When I reflected on my dear,
I put this thought in execution;
I lay beside her without disguise,
Because she was meet to be my wife.

As the Fenians reached their houses,
In groups of threes and fours and fives,
To behold the most noble woman,
It was not indifferent to them who should be first.

When the headless being came,

There was then in the glen; on our coming,

Many a druid of high repute,

Ten hundred hounds and ten hundred steeds.

Ten hundred steeds with their bridles,

Ten hundred hounds with their leashes;

Ten hundred servitors in whom was strength,

Ten hundred heroes in our ranks.

Ten hundred goblets made of gold,

Ten hundred excellent swords and shields;

Were it a boast for me, [there were] ten hundred cows,

I bestowed them on my love in one day.

She gives a ring to the generous Oisin [and says],
Tis time I should depart for my home; [this,
Thou wilt obtain every thing thou desirest from
So that water will not touch it.

A swallow flew among the Fenians, And carried off the ring towards a lake; The ring disappeared ever since, Without any tidings of it unto this night.

in it are the ruins of an abbey of Regular Canons founded in the sixth century by that saint, who was its first abbot. Here was buried Raymond Le Gros, one of the co-adventurers with Strongbow in the invasion of Ireland.—Smith's Waterford, p. 43.

- O. Can nuadi na rzjaćan njabać, 'r éan beaz eile' fuar na béal; az zabail a z-cuand ór an z-ceann, az reinnim na b-ronn ran aedean.
 - Φο δάδας αζυς Γιοηη τέιη,
 αζ τέαζαιη πα η-έαη πε real;
 ζαη τιος, ζαη τιαιητιτζ, τά η-δεαζαιό αη τ-έαη,
 ηλ τιος τζέαια τα ηδεαζαιό αη δεαη.
- P. Jr beaz rin, a beiżinic Fhinn, η καίδ αξαδ μησε αότ real; η reann καπαίμιη παη α ταοί, πα beić αηίτ πα mearz.
- Ο. ધ της ધπρίμητη απ ξίδη τοί, τη παίης δείη ταοδ ης είξη τα είσς; το δάδας αζις Caoilei, πο luab, αζις το δάδηση μαίη παη δοέε.
 - Ceol ne a z-coolad Fionn zan boit, lacainn o loc na b-thi z-Caol; traltannac loin Dhoine an cainn, a a'r buitne an baim o zleann-na-z-Caon.
 - Dha lacainn o Loc Cinne,6

 6a 60ban-coin7 o Loc Weilze;6

 6a zeannriao o'n Wuine call,9

 a'r 6a reabac rleibe z-Conaill.10

'Can nuab, reddish bird. The cuckoo is the bird referred to here, as hovering over them in the air.

² Can bea5 eyle, another little bird. This is the maroz or hedge-sparrow, which pursues the cuckoo in its flight, and is believed to make various attempts to get into its beak when singing.

³ Loc η a b-τηί 5-Caol, the lake of the three Caols. This is the name of a small lough near Kells in the county of Meath.

Doine an Chainn, Derrycarn. Now Derrycarn in the county of Meath.

O. The reddish bird of the grey wings
And another small bird in its beak,
[Were] soaring around over our heads,
Singing their songs in the air.

Fionn and I together were
Gazing at the birds for a while; [flown,
Without knowing or learning where the bird had
Or tidings whither the woman had gone.

- P. That is nought, O noble son of Fionn,
 Thy possession of her was but for awhile;
 Better to remain as thou art,
 Than to be again among them.
- O. O son of Calphurn of the bland speech,
 Woe to him that confides in clerics or bells;
 I and Caoilte, my friend,
 And we were for a time and did not want.

The music to which Fionn slept readily,
Was [the cackling of] the ducks from the lake of
the three Caols;
The singing of the blackbird of Derrycarn,
And the bellowing of the ox of Gleann-na-g-Caor.

The two ducks of Lough Erne,
The two otters from Lough Meilghe;
The two hares of yon brake,
And the two hawks of Sliabh g-Conaill.

B Sleann na 5-Caon, the glen of the berries. Not mentioned by the Four Masters; but there is a Gleann-na-g-Caer in the county of Cork.

⁶ loc Cinne. Now Lough Erne in the county of Fermanagh. Duald M'Firbis and the *Leabhar Gabhala* agree as to the eruption of this lake. See Four Masters, A.M. 3751.

⁷ Dobancom, the otter. A remarkable instance of the voracious propensities of this animal occurred lately at the glen of Aherlow near Bansha in the county of Tipperary. A farmer, named Dwyer, found the throats

Szalcannac loin Thoine an cainn,4
ni cualas niam, ban zo seimin,
cest ba binne tiom na 8,
acc zo m-beisinn ra bun a neis.

of several of his sheep cut after the night, and, determining to watch the thief, took his gun and concealed himself near the flock; when about midnight he observed something in the shape of a large dog attacking the sheep, at which he took deliberate aim and killed him on the spot. On approaching the animal, to his utter surprise it turned out to be a monstrous otter, upwards of four feet long; and although the river Suir, from which it crawled upwards of half a mile by a narrow stream, abounds with salmon and other fish at this season, (June, 1858), yet his propensities for animal food was such that he preferred it to fish, no matter how tender or delicious it tasted.

⁸ Loc 20e1je, the lake of Meilghe. The Four Masters record, under date A.M. 4694, that Meilghe Molbhthach, son of Cobhthach Caol Breagh, after having been seventeen years in the sovereignty of Ireland, fell in the battle of Claire, by Modhchorb. When his grave was digging, Loch Meilghe burst forth over the land in Cairbre, so that it was named after him. It is situated on the confines of the counties of Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Donegal. See Four Masters, A.M. 4694, note h.

- 9 20) upe tall. This must be some adjacent plain or green.
- 10 Shab 5-Conall, the mountain or hill of Conall. Called after Conall Gulban, who was nursed at the Beinn or peak of Gulban, where the hardiest hawks in Ireland were found in the latter end of the fifteenth century.
- 1 Bleann na m-buan, the glen of victories or conquests. Not mentioned by the Four Masters.
 - Drum ne mujt, the ridge by the stream. Unknown.
- ³ Chuacan Chhuim, the Cruachan of Crom. Cruachan was the name of the ancient palace of the kings of Connaught, and was situated near Belanagare, in the county of Roscommon, and is now called Rathcroghan. However, we doubt whether this is the place referred to in the text. Crom was the name of one of the idols of the Pagan Irlsh, to which, according to Dr. Charles O'Conor (Prol. part I. p. 22), the early colonisers up to the time of St. Patrick, offered the firstlings of animals

O. The whistle of the eagle from Gleann na m-buadh,
Or from the rough thicket of the Ridge by the stream;
Or the grouse of Cruachan Chruim,
Or the whistle of the otter of Drum-re-Coir.

The song of the blackbird of Derrycarn,
I never heard, by my troth,
Music more melodious to me than it,
Were I only beneath his nest.

besides other offerings. Here are his words :- " Magh-Sleacht canus ronnim, ar is and ro bai Righ edhal Br. .i. in Crom-Cruach, agus da Idhal deg do clochaibh uime, agus adhelbsain door, agus asse ba De do gach lucht ro gabh Eirinn go toracht Padric. Is do do idhbraitis ced gen gacha sotha, agus primighgen gacha clainde. As cuige do riacht Tigernmus mc Foll. Ri Br dia Samna, co feraibh agus co mnaibh Eir maille fri Dia adhradh eo ro sheacht sat uile idhu coro aemdhetar tuil an edan agus eth a sron, agus faircledha anglun corra anuillend, conebladar teor cethraimhe fher n Er ac na slechtaibh-unde Magh slecht dr." i.e. Campus stragis ita appellatur, quia ibi fuit præcipuum Idolorum Hibernise, nempe Crom-Cruach, et duodecim Idola Saxea circumstantia, et caput ejus ex suro, et hic Deus fuit omnium populorum quotquot posse erunt Hiberniam, usque ad adventum S. Patricii. Huic sacrificaverunt Primogenita cujusque Sobolis, et primogenita filiorum suorum. Hunc Tigernmasius, filius Foll: Rex Hiberniæ, precatus, est die Samnii, cum Viris et mulieribus Hiberniæ, tali adoratione, et ulnas suas rumperent, cadendo et adorando, donec vulneribus infligerent etiam frontes suas, contunderent nasus, et genua, usque ad sanguinem fundendum. Hinc itaque dicitur Magh-Sleacht. Campus Stragis." And O'Flaherty (vide Ogygia, part 3, p. 197, 4to. ed., Lond. 1685), says, "Cromcrusch Idolum, cui Tigernmasius rex, ut supra, cum universo populo suo ex dodrante vitam devoverant, totius regni Idolorum omnium princeps ad Idolomanise in Hibernia per S. Patricium eversionem in campo Moysleuct perstitit; quod reges, et regni proceres summa, stataque sacrorum rituum veneratione colebant; ed quod responsa dare putabatur á populo stulto, et insipiente, cui colebat illud, ut ait Jocelinus." (See Jocelin, in vita S. Patricii, c. 56). Dr. O'Donovan says in a note to the Four Masters under A.D. 1117, that there was a chieftain, named Cromdubh, in Umhall [in Connaught] who was contemporary with St. Patrick, and, though a powerful opponent of his, was afterwards converted by the Saint to Christianity on the day called Domhnach Chroim Dhuibh.

Dojne an Chajnn, Derrycarn. In the Transactions of the Galic

- O. Jr maing dam żlac dajrcead niam, ir ole dom ondin dan liom; ain m-beiż dam zan diad, zan deoc, az déanam chorza a'r únnaiżce.
- P. Νή h-olc, α ἡεαπόηη, δαη Ιροπ,
 δο ἡεαδαηη παοι β-κιτόιδ δαιμή απαιη;
 που π-αποία τίσης α΄ς καθία,
 ης olc α π-αδαίη τω, α ἡεαπόηη.

Society of Dublin (1880), now a rare book, the following beautiful poem will be found at page 194, addressed to one of these birds which frequented Derrycarn wood in the county of Meath; and which is accompanied by a spirited translation from the pen of Mr. William Leahy:...

"Dinn tin, a loin Daine an Chainn!
Ni cualat, an and 't an m-bic,
Ceol dud dinne na do zuc,
Acar cu ta dun do nid.

Legiceol if bigge fa'n m-bit, Mains gae éireang nif 30 fóil, A mic Anèluig ga celoce m-bigg, 'S 50 m-benta anif an do goig.

Azac, man ca azam féin. Da m-beic beinin fzéil an eoin, Do bénca déna zo dian, 'S ní diab c'aine ain dia zo fóil.

A conic locian, na thed zohm, Fuam Mac Cúdan, na ccomn ndenz, An c-on do cici anor, Az tin a tzel duic zo dend,

Dojne an cajnn an coill úb cian, 2) an a n-déindir an Fhian for; Un aille fan caeine a chann, 'S 66 bo cuinead ann an lon.

Szolżajne lojn bojne an Chajny, bujżne an bajn Fhajil na ccaen, Ceol le ccoblab Fjny zo moć, Lačajn ó loż ca ctní ccael.

Cenca fraec um Chruacam cum, febžal bobrom Orum da loc; Jota filam žim na fruat, lonžome cuač čnuc na feot.

Jota Jaban Jlenna caenn, Ir Jam Fhilam caenc na relj ; Camm na ccon az cmal zo moc, Arceac ó chais na ccloc n-benz.

Añ thait do main finn 'i an fhian, Dod annta leo thad na cill, fa dinn leotan fuitle lon, Bota na celoz leo nin din."

TRANSLATION.

Hall tuneful bard of sable wing, Thou warbler sweet of Carna's grove! Not lays more charming will I hear Tho' round th' expansive earth I rove.

- 0. Alas! that I ever received baptism. It affects my honor, I perceive: In being without food and drink, Whilst fasting and praying.
- P. Not so, old man, I am sure, Thou shalt get nine score cakes of bread; With thy fill of wine and meat, Evil thou speakest, old man.

No melody's more soft than thine, While perch'd thy mossy nest beneath; How sad to miss thy soothing song! When harmony divine you breathe.

O son of Alphron, cease thy bells, Cease thy hollow-sounding strain; To Carna's grove thine ear incline,-Thou wilt o'ertake thy psalms again.

O didst thou hear its mournful tale! Didst thou, as I, its story know! Thou wouldst forget thy God awhile, And down thy cheeks would torrents flow.

Found was the bird on Lochlin's plains, (Where purling flows the azure stream) By Comhal's son, for goblets famed, Which bright with golden splendor beam.

You lofty wood is Carna's grove, Which bends to west its awful shade, Where pleased with Nature's wild display, The Fians—noble race! delay'd.

In that retir'd and dusky wood, The bird of sable wing was lay'd: Where the majestic oak extends, His stately boughs in leafy shade.

The sable bird's harmonious note, The lowing hind of Cora's steep, Were wont, at morning's early dawn, To lull the mighty Fionn asleep.

- O. An beal to as prioral lear,

 nan ubaccan e ne rasane;

 so m'reann tion brutsan cize finno,

 na mo cuid do'n commonn.
- P. Φοδ' έ την ανακτά να δ-ροκε,¹
 αζυς κιαδά να νζακδ-άνος;
 ητιεανή κυαίν κό δεί κεαδ,
 ακ τζας δυκ ν-δκοίς-άπειδιή.
- Ο. Νίοη δα ή-θ της δύησης τέησ, αὐτ αμ ίτος αδ δ'τίος α'ς δ'τέδη!; τος αὐ τος τος καις τιας, δεούα πηίς, α'ς ταὐ δα η-όι.
 - Ιτ chas liom Φιαμπυιό ασυτ Foll, ασυτ Feangur ba δίηη σίδη; αη μαίη πας leigtean δύιηη α luas, α Phachaic ημαίδ, ταίηις δ'η Κδιή.
- p. Ba cead linn tu da luad,
 act 30 d-tadain d'aine an Chia an d-túr;
 or anoir ir deine dod' aoir,
 rzuin dod' baoir, a rin zan lút.

The noise which haunts the weedy pond, That into triple straight divides; Where cooling in the crystal wave, The bird of silver plumage glides.

The twitt'ring hens on Croan's heath And from you water-girded hill, The deepening voice of gloomy woe, Sad, pensive, melancholy shrill.

The eagle's scream from Foat's vale, From the tall pine the cuckoo's song; The music of the hounds that fly, The coral-pebbled strand along.

- O. This mouth conversing with thee,

 May [it] never to a priest confess;

 If I would not prefer the crumbs of Fionn's house

 To my share of your entertainments.
- P. That was the picking of the banks,
 And the chase of the craggy hills;
 Hell was his portion at the end,
 Because of your unbelief.
- O. Not so to us indeed,
 But our fill of wine and meat;
 The first of justice and equality at feasts,
 Delicious draughts and all drinking them.

Woe is me Diarmuid and Goll,
And Fergus of the tuneful voice;
Since it is not allowed us to name them,
O Patrick, lately come from Rome.

P. We would allow thee to name them,
But only give thy attention to God first;
Since now thy life is at its end,
Leave off thy folly, O feeble man.

When liv'd brave Fioun, and all his chiefs, The heath did more the heroes please, Than church or bell they'd dearer deem, The sable bird's melodious lays.

¹ Chuarac hab-pone, picking or gleaning of the banks. Here St. Patrick intimates that Fionn's table was not so plentifully supplied after all. That the viands consisted of berries picked up in the bays, and of wild animals captured on the "craggy hills," which were for that reason in poor condition and not easily eaten.

- O. A Phathaic innit dam the hun,
 of azad ata an t-eolur it reamt;
 an leizream mo zadam na mo cu,
 liom zo cuint niż na nzmar?
- P. 21 γεαπότη ατά απ δασίτ, α'τ πας καζαίπ επίς δο είμη οπε; πί δέιστεαπ δο ζάδαπ πά δο εά, δεατ το εάιπε πιζ πα πεαέτ.
- Φα m-baö azampa biaö ajtne an Φhia,
 α'r zo m-biaö mo cũ bom' nêin;
 το βαιπτεοταιη ε bom coin,
 το b'e bo bêanaö biaö öam pêin.
- P. Να h-αδαίμ τιη α τεαπότη,
 α'τ τιι α η-δείμε h-ασίτε;
 ηί coτμαπ, ζαη δμέαζ, αη δμείτ,
 δο δείμιμ αμ πο μίζ-τι.
- Φοδ' ἐεὰμη αση ἐυμαδ απαίη lajbin,
 το δί απ Fhiannaib Είμεαηη;
 τα είξεαμηα απ ἐμαδαίδ,
 ασυς ευγα τέιη, α Chlėiμιζ.
- P. 21 Ομή το παθακ λατη, ἐλημη το δηματικό δυίλε; δοδ΄ τέλη Φία με β-λοτη λό, το Γιατηλίδ Είμελητη υίλε.
- O. 518 caimre anoir zan rlaicear, a'r me ian z-caiciom m'aoire; a Phachaic, na cabain aicir, bo maicib clanna Baoirche.

- O. O Patrick, tell me in confidence,
 As it is thou that hast the best knowledge;
 Will my dog or my hound be let in
 With me, to the court of the king of grace.
- P. O, old man, who art silly,
 And of whom I can get no good;
 Thy dog or thy hound will not be let in
 With thee, to the court of the king of justice.
- O. If it were I that were acquainted with God,
 And that my hound were at hand:
 I would reconcile him with my hound,
 Whoever gave food to myself.
- P. Say not so, O old man,
 And thou at the end of thy life;
 Unjust, without doubt, is the sentence,
 Which thou passest upon my king.
- O. Better were any one mighty hero only,
 Who was in the ranks of the Fians of Eire,
 Than the Lord of piety,
 And thou thyself, O Cleric.
- P. O Oisin of the sharp blades,
 That speakest words of madness;
 God is better for one day,
 Than all the Fians of Eire.
- O. Though I am now deprived of lordship, And am at the close of my life; O Patrick, do not cast reproach, Upon the nobles of the Clana Baoisgne.

- Ο. Φα m-blad αξαπτα Conan, καη mi-labanca na Feinne; δο bniread re δο ceannra, αττίξ απέατζ δο cleine.
- P. Bheit ας τίομτατα απ απ δ-βείπη, α τεαπότη, τη δαστ δο τος; ταιπητής 30 δ-τάτητς δο παε, α'τ 3αδ πας Φε απ δο τοπ.
 - Ara cu appajo, pojpiče, ljat,
 b'imėjė do ėjall a'r do ėpeann;
 lėje dioc an compad djan,
 a'r djajo do leadad a b-plajėear tall.
- O. Do coolar amujt ra'n t-rliab,
 raoj shuce liat an bann chann;
 njon cleace liom leadad zan biab,
 read do biad riad an an z-cnoc ud tall.
- P. 21τα τι αη πεαγιιζαδ α η-δειμε h-αοιγε, | 10|η τίζε δίπεας αχαν καπ; | τεακαιη τίζε καπ πα b-ριαπ, | α'ν τιοκταιδ αιπζιί Φε κασι δ' κεαπη.
- Ο. Φα m-beiðinnri ασυς Feangar rial, ασυς Φιαμπυίο αποίς απ απ m-ball; απη σας γίζε δ'ακ ζαδαπακ κιαπ, σαπ έεαο δο'η έξεικ δο ξεαδαπαοίς απη.
- P. Foil, a Oirín, na marlait an clein, canar bhiatha De an zac ball; muna leizris cu síoc an comhás bian, ir món an pian aca as ceann.

¹ bann chann, tops of trees, i.e., his bed was made of the tender branches of the trees, and of the foliage. The "grey dew" referred

- O. Were Conan with me,
 The reviler of the Fenians;
 He would break thy head,
 Within among thy clerics.
- P. To be ever talking of the Fians,
 O old man, is silly work;
 Remember that thy hour is come,
 And take the son of God in thy behalf.

Thou art old, withered, and hoary,
Thy understanding is gone, and mirth;
Leave off thy vehement talk,
And thy bed shall be in heaven beyond.

- O. I slept out on the mountain,
 Under grey dew on the tops of trees;
 I was never used [to go] to bed without food,
 Whilst there was a deer on yonder hill.
- P. Thou art astray at the close of thy life,

 Between the straight way and the crooked;

 Shun the crooked path of pains,

 And God's angels will come under thy head.
- O. Were I and Fergus the generous,
 And Diarmuid, now on the spot;
 In every path that we ever passed,
 Despite the clerics we would pass.
- P. Cease Oisin, do not insult the clerics,
 Who proclaim God's word every where;
 If thou wilt not leave off thy insolent talk,
 Great is the punishment that awaits thee.

to, is the hoar frost so frequent in the months of September and October.

- Φο δαδαγα αχυγ κίαι τη δ-βίανη,
 α'γ τομο ακ ιαμμαίδ υαίνη α υχίεανη;
 δα τράγα ίχοη πας δ-γάσα αν κίαδ,
 ηα δο είιαμγα δείς χαν έξανη.
- P. Ata su dôlapac zan cjall,

 17 meapa duje pin na dejé dall;

 da b-pujácea do nadane apriá,

 ba môn do cjon an plajčear call.
- O, Dob' afte liom lêim an puic,
 nó nabanc an bhoic idin da fleann;
 na a nzeallann do déalta dam,
 a'r a b-ruifinn do fulc a b-rlaitear tall.
- P. Aza do munifin baoè zan rhoèz, d'imèli do fulz azur do ineann; muna nzlacad zu mo cómainte 'noèz, ni b-rujis zú beje a bur na éall.
- Φά m-beiðinnri ασμτ αν Fhiann απιμό,
 ακ δείηη συσία ας τακκαίης ίανη;
 δ'αμήδεση leaban, αίτακ, α'τ αίσις,
 διαδ κοξά ασμην δεία αδμτ νό έαλι.
- P. Νή μαζό γουντα αὐτ πακ ἐαὶ τυιρ,
 πό πακ ἡκιτ αξ τφαὐτ ὁ ἐleann;
 πό πακ ἡγούζασιὰ ακ πασίλιπη εποίς,
 ξαὰ ἰιὰτ αξαίδ δά καίδ κιαπό απη.
- O. Do badar a m-Beahnna an da Thoill, a b-rocain luct na n-ahm teann; dob' reann liom a n-aite azam, na an thúp ro na m-bacal z-cam.

¹ Lann, a blade, sometimes means the head of a lance or spear. In some copies of the poem the word beann, is incorrectly substituted for lann, by illiterate scribes.

- O. The Fenian chief and myself
 Were in quest of a boar, in a glen,
 Twas worse to me that I saw not the deer,
 Than if thy clerics lost their heads.
- P. Thou art piteous and devoid of sense,

 That is worse for thee than being blind;

 If thou didst get thy sight within,

 Great would be thy attachment to heaven beyond.
- I would take more delight in the bound of the buck,
 Or in looking at badgers between two glens;
 Than in all that thy mouth promiseth to me,
 And all the joys I would get in heaven beyond.
- P. Thy hope is silly and fruitless,

 Thy joyousness and mirth are gone;

 If thou this night receivest not my counsel,

 It shall not be granted to thee to be here or there.
- O. Were I and the Fenians this day
 On the summit of a hill drawing swords;
 Despite of books, clerics and bells,
 We would have our choice of being here or there.
- P. They were but like the smoke of a wisp,
 Or like a rivulet coming from a glen;
 Or like a whirlwind, on the peak of a hill,
 Each clan of you that ever lived.
- O. I was at Bearma-an-da-Ghoill,

 By the class of the stout arms;

 I would prefer their face again,

 To this troop of the crooked croziers.

² R buy na tall, on this side or that. A common Irish phrase for "in this world or the next."

Deapping and a Thoill, i.e., the gap of the two Golls. Not identified.

- P. It mait ath a fior agam,

 ca b-fuil an lic a't con na ceann;

 thinklise by huasab to min,

 a't san luce neine as teace by cabain.
- O. Ný býny lom bo żlón zan rule,

 cia ca cu zlic an bo nann;

 ný čluinim réin read an loin,¹

 bneac an fnut² na conc a nzleann.
- P. Να mealltan τα α 3-comainle an coinp, η maic leó γιη τεαότ αο ceann; παίτ να coda móine an an 3-cuid m-bi3, δ nac m-beannuitiean iad abur na call.
- Φά π-bιαό Szolb Szeine αzam,
 πό Ογουμ zlic πα z-caż δ-σεαπη;
 πί διαδιπασίτ zan reδlπαά αποόσ,
 αμ ἀσπαιμίε cloz πα reαάσ π-beann.
- P 21 Οιγίη, δ δ'ιπόιξ δο όιαιι,

 τια τα δηιαόμα το le τρεατη;

 τη δειτήτη ίτοτη το δ-σπέιτητ απ βτίατη,

 α'τ το ητέαδαιη le Φια τα πεατη.

¹ Fead an loin. The whistle or song of the blackbird.

² Dipeac an inut, a trout in the stream. Aquatic sports formed another of the Fenian amusements, and perhaps Oisin himself was the Izaak Walton of his day. Rowing boats (regattas?) was another custom to which they were much addicted; for at page 49, Vol I. of the Society's Transactions, in a poem of six stanzas copied from the Book of Leinster, a manuscript of the twelfth century, now deposited in Trinity College Library, we find the following passage:—

- P. Well am I aware, [in his head, Where he is [stretched] on a flag-stone and a twist Scourges assailing him with poison.

 And no mighty class coming to his aid,
- O. Not sweet to me [is] thy voice without cheer,
 Tho' thou art clever at thy verses;
 I hear not the blackbird's song,
 A trout in the rivulet, or a boar in the glen.
- P. Be not deceived by the counsel of the flesh,
 They shall be glad to dwell with thee;
 The happiness of the great be on the few,
 As they are not blessed here or there.
- O. Were Scolb Sgeine with me,
 Or the wise Oscur of battles fierce;
 We should not be without flesh this night,
 At the command of the bells of the seven tolls.
- P. Oisin, as thy understanding is gone,

 Accept these tidings with joy;

 I verily believe thou wilt forsake the Fians,

 And that thou wilt walk with the God of heaven.

"Appecand candad fodnud, interpretable to the transport of call call, no tanding on an interpretable."

Music, boating, rewarding,

The prey most difficult I chose;
I would kill a boar in the hard wood,
I would rob a vengeful bird* of its eggs.

[•] This bird is supposed to be the eagle.

- P. Φα δ-καισκεατα πυιησιμ Φέ,
 αξ τυιδε το ξίδατσα συπ κίδαδ;
 η καιμητήσε δίστ ασα τας τόξ,
 η α αξ πυιησιμ βήμη τιδ πόμ α πεατ.
 - Jr reamn zo mon rzealra anoir,
 złójne bil a'r cun jona ceann;
 złac an ajchiże cojn anoir,
 bejn leojninjon abur a'r na cajli tall.
- O. Do caill me mo ciall abur,
 a'r ni ba meara liom na rin;
 bo caillear Fionn an aiz,
 'r na rin allne bo bi rial.
- P. Ata Flonn a'r an Fhlann anolf,
 zo dubhdnac an lic na b-plan;
 zaibre le mac De 'na n-aic,
 a'r ni beid baozal onc beic zan ciall.
- O. Ný cheidim réin do álón anoir, a cleiniá na m-bacal z-cam; zo m-biad Fionn a'r an Fhiann arciá, muna b-ruiádir rulc a beic ann.
- P.

 5 lac an althize coih anoli,
 pul a z-culhtibean flor ad clonn;
 zell do Ohia, a'r beid flor azad,
 cla aco artiż no amuje ta Flonn.

- O. I marvel at thy daring talk,
 O cleric who hast visited every land;
 To say that I would forsake the Fians,
 An open-hearted hospitable people, who were not niggardly.
- P. Didst thou see the people of God
 Seated attired at feasts;
 More plenteous have they of each good cheer,
 Than the people of Fionn, tho' great their consideration.

Better are my tidings now,
Glory bright and strive to attain to it,
Receive true repentance now,
Make atonement here and don't lose heaven.

- O. I have lost my reason here,
 And what I esteemed more than that;
 I have lost Fionn the noble,
 And the fine men, who were generous.
- P. Fionn and the Fenians now are [lying]
 Sorrowful on the flag-stone of pains;
 Take thou [follow] the son of God in their stead,
 And there is no danger of thy being without sense.
- O. I believe not thy talk now,
 O cleric of the crooked staffs;
 That Fionn and the Fenians should be within,
 Unless they found pleasure in being there.
- P. Receive just repentance now,
 Before the summons shall be sent to thee;
 Believe in God, and thou shalt know
 Whether Fionn is in [hell] or out of it.

- O. Dà m-blad Flonn azam a'r mac an Loin, i blar nan dhuid ó tleó na lann; b'almbeoln do clian azur a 5-cloit, ir azunn do beidead an ball.
- P. Nj bias rin coloce an bun z-cun,
 ir reamn an luce are ann;
 mac niż neime sibnear na h-uilc,
 ir mon a cion an suine sall.
- O. 20a'r ball aca muincin De,
 a'r zunab iad na daill ir annra leir;
 ir cormail nac z-cuinread an Fhiann,
 zo ceac na b-pian da rznior.
- Εκαιδτελές οπε α τεληδημη,
 ἐληλη να δηματιά δαίλε;
 δοδ΄ τέλημ Φία με β-λου αλίμ,
 κα γίανηλ Είμελην αίλε.
- O. A Phathaic na bacaile caime, to bein oum theathat bana; to biat to bacal na bhuttan, ba m-biat Orcum to lacaim.
 - Da m-beidead mo mac Orcup azur Dia, lam an lam an Chnoc na b-Fhiann; ba b-faichinne mo mac an lan, deanrainn zun rean lam Dia.
 - Clonnur bob' féldin le Dia, na à clian a beit ni bur feann; na Fionn flait, Rit na b-Fiann, buine fial bo bi han caim?

^{1 27)} Ac An Lope, the name of Fionn Mac Cumhaill's spear.

- O. Were Fionn and Mac an Loin with me,
 Two who never withdrew from the fight of the spears;
 Despite thy clerics and their bells,
 'Tis we that would hold the place.
- P. That would never come to your turn,
 A better tribe dwells there;
 The Son of the King of heaven, who expels evil,
 Great is his love for a blind man.
- O. If the people of God are blind,
 And that the blind are they whom he loves best;
 Tis likely, he would not send the Fenians,
 To the house of pain to be exterminated.
- P. Misery attend thee, old man,
 Who speakest the words of madness;
 God is better for one hour,
 Than all the Fians of Eire.
- O. O Patrick of the crooked crozier,
 Who makes me that impertinent answer;
 Thy crozier would be in atoms,
 Were Oscur present.

Were my son Oscur and God
Hand to hand on Cnoc-na-bh-Fiann,
If I saw my son down,
I would say that God was a strong man.

How could it be that God,
Or his clerics could be better men;
Than Fionn the chief king of the Fenians,
A generous man without a blemish?

² Cnoc na b-Flann, i.e., the hill of the Fenians. Probably Cnoc-an-air, in the county of Kerry, is the hill referred to.

Ο.

σο με η πιαξίας μίξ τα πεαπη;

σο εί τω α ε-Γιαπηαίο βητη,

α'τ ταιο α ε-Γιαπαίο Φε το τεαπη.

Da m-beidead air ann fiot na fuat, bob' feann na rlaitear De;
it ann do nacad Fionn,
a'r a naid aize do'n Fheinn.

A dein cura nac d-ceid fial, zo h-ifneann na d-piann zo dnac; ni naid aon neac 'ran d-Feinn, nac naid fial amearz caic.

Φά b-μαισμότα, α είξημε εάιδ, απ βημαπη ία απ απ b-επαιξί ώδ έθας; πό α Νας Lαιξέαπη² πα τρισέαπ τέμπ, απ απ b-βέιπη ba πόπ δο πέας.

A Phathaic planhaiz so Ohia, an cuinin leir an Phiann so beit bes; no a b-racais re foin na fian, fin bob' feann na iad a nzles?

Νό α δ-γαςαιό γε 'ηα όψιτος γείη, τίδ από ε όγ απ τ-ςιοηη; α ητιαίι, α τ-ςοταδ, ηδ α ηθαπε, γεαμ δο δί σόπ-παιτ le Fionη.

¹ Chair strand. This must refer to the battle of Ventry (Figna Traigh) fought in the third century of the Christian era, between Daire Donn, Monarch of the World, and the Figna Eireann, now in preparation for the Society, from a manuscript of the fourteenth century.

O. All that thou and thy clerics tell,

According to the laws of heaven's king; [Fionn,
These [qualities] were possessed by the Fians of
And they are now powerful in God's kingdom.

Were there a place, above or below, Better than heaven; Tis there Fionn would go, And all he had of the Fenians.

Thou sayest that a hospitable man Never goes to hell of pain; There was not one among the Fenians, That was not hospitable amongst all.

Hadst thou seen, O chaste cleric,

The Fenians one day on you southern strand;

Or at Naas of Leinster of the gentle streams,

Then the Fenians thou wouldst greatly have esteemed.

Patrick, enquire of God,

Whetherhe recollects when the Fenians were alive;
Or hath he seen east or west,
Men their equal, in the time of fight.

Or, hath he seen in his own country,
Tho' high it be above our heads;
In conflict, in battle, or in might,
A man who was equal to Fionn.

² Mar Lajbean, now Nass, in the county of Kildare, a noted place in Fenian history.

- P. Oirin ir binn liom do żlók,

 a'r beannace ror le h-anmuin Fhinn;

 alchir dulun ca melo riad,

 do mandajż an Shlad na m-Ban Fionn.
- - Dha coin déaz an Shliad Luacha,2 da coin món a m-Beannna an Scail;3 da coin a n-iancan an Romain,4 a'r da coin an adain Bhanna.5
 - Dha coin as Cainsin na 5-cloc,6
 a'r ba coin an Loc Inre Ui Chuinn;7
 ba coin a b-Fhormaoil na b-Fiann,8
 a'r ba coin ain Shlab na m-Ban b-Fhonn.
 - 21 Phathaic, a z-cualad tu an t-realz, a mic Calphuinn na pralm ram; man do niżnead le Fionn ina aonan, a'r zan aon neac ann d'Fhiannaid Fail?
- I Shab na m-ban Fronn, from thab, a mountain, na m-ban, of the women, and though fair-haired; literally, the mountain of the fair-haired women, now Sliabh-na-man in the county of Tipperary, which is situated within four miles of the town of Clonniel, and two of Carrick-on-Suir. For the legend of these fair-haired women, see an interesting paper on the Fenian Traditions of Sliabh na m-Ban, in the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, for 1851.
 - ² Shab tuacha, now Sliabh Luachar, in the counties of Cork and Kerry.
 - Deannia an Scall, Gap of Scal. See note, p. 4.
- 4 Roman, now the Rower, an extensive district in the county of Kilkenny, separated by the river Barrow from the town of New Ross.
- s hanna, the river Bann, in the county of Wexford, celebrated by George Ogle in the beautiful song :—

[&]quot;As down by Banna's banks I stray'd.

- P. Oisin, sweet to me is thy voice,
 And a blessing furthermore, on the soul of Fionn;
 Relate to us how many deer
 Were slain at Sliabh-na-m-Ban Fionn.
- O. We loosened one thousand hounds,
 The swiftest, and the most fierce;
 There fell by each hound two stags,
 And as many more, by all the Fenians.
 - Twelve hounds at Sliabh Luachra,
 And two large hounds at Bearrna-an-Scail,
 Two hounds on the west of the Rower,
 And two hounds at the river Bann.
 - Two hounds at Carrigeen of the rocks,
 And two hounds, at the lake of Inchiquin;
 Two hounds at Formaoil of the Fians,
 And two hounds at Sliabh-na-m-Ban-Fionn.
 - O Patrick, hast thou heard of the chase,
 O son of Calphruin of the tuneful psalms;
 How it was made by Fionn alone,
 And no one with him of the Fians of Fail?
- Capping na 5-clot, Carrigeen of the rocks. This is the name of a townland, on the Walsh mountains, in the county of Kilkenny; but whether it is the Carrigeen alluded to in the text we cannot determine.
- The Inre Un Chunn, the lake of Inchiquin, literally, the lough of the Island of O'Quin. This romantic lake is situated in the parish of Kilnaboy, barony of Inchiquin, county of Clare, and is about two miles and a-half in circumference. It is bounded on its western side, by a range of rugged but richly wooded hills. It is from this lake, that the barony takes its name; and the chief or head of the O'Briens, the Marquis of Thomond, took his more ancient title of Earl of Inchiquin. For a very interesting account of the connection of the O'Quin family, with this locality, see the Irish Penny Journal, No. 16, Dublin Journal, &c. Vol. II., pp. 136, 152.
- * Formaoit na b-Flann. This Formaoil is situated between Miltown and Ennis, in the county of Clare.

- P. Ní čualad, a thic an Riz,

 a Oirín zlic na naníoth nzanz;

 aithir dam a'r na can zo,

 ciondur do niznead lib an e-realz?
- Ο. Νή ἐαπαπασίτης απ βηίαπη 3δ, α'τ δηθαζ ίτην νήση ταπίλας ηταπ ; λο τίμηση α'τ λο πεαμτ αμ λαπ, δο τίμηση τλαν ατ 3ας 3ίταδ.
 - Njon fujo clėjneač a z-cill, zjo binn lib a čanajo pralm; oob' feann rocal na an Fhiann, rin nan loc a nzliao žanb.
 - Níon fuló cléineac a z-cill, a Phathaic caoim it binn zlón; bod' féile na Fionn féin, fean nac caol bo bhonnab ón.
 - Dà maintead mac Mônna mean, nó Joll calma nàn can réad; nó mac Ui Dhuidne na m-ban, an laoc do cuinead cac an céad.
 - Da mainread Feanzur file fial, rean a z-canca do nona an an b-Féinn; nó Daine do feinnead zan locc, a nzuc do cloz ní biad mo freir.
 - Φά παιμεραό πας Ταμμαίό πα lann, απ τραμ πάμ ζαπη αζ cup απ άιμ; Ογουμ πό πας Ronain ζηιπη, δο έπδηλη γαη χ-cill ηίομ γλιπ.

- P. I have not heard, O son of the king,
 O wise Oisin of the fierce deeds;
 Relate to me and tell no untruth,
 How the chase was made by ye?
- O. We [the Fenians] never used to tell untruth,
 Falsehood was never attributed to us;
 By truth and the might of our hands,
 We came safe out of every conflict.
 - There never sat a cleric in a church,

 Tho' melodiously ye think they chant psalms,

 More true to his word than the Fians,

 Men who never shrunk from fierce conflicts.
 - A cleric never sat in a church,
 O Patrick mild of the sweet voice;
 More hospitable than Fionn himself,
 A man who was not niggardly, in bestowing gold.
 - If Mac Morna the swift were now alive,
 The mighty Goll, who loved not jewels;
 Or, the son of O'Duibhne of the women,
 The hero who used to engage a hundred in the fight.
 - If Feargus, the hospitable bard, were alive.

 He who used to bestow their songs on the Fenians;

 Or Daire who used to sing without fault,

 In the sound of thy bells, I would take no pleasure.
 - If Mac Garadh of the blades were alive,
 He who was not slow, in making slaughter;
 Oscur or Mac Ronain the cheerful,
 Your droning in the church would not be pleasant.

Ο. Φά παιμγεαό Aodh Beaz πας Fhinn, πό Faolan zhinn nan éann neac; πό Conan Maol do bí zan żhuajz, 17 jad d'fáz me raoj żhuajm le real!

> Nó an c-abac beaz do bí az Flonn, do dulhead zad dulne na dolndim rualn; ha binne liom rualm a méan, na a b-ruil do'n dlein a z-cill a'r a b-cuajd.

Or anoce nad majneann an Fhjann,
na Fjonn rial na n-duar;
do bodan rianran na pralm,
a'r zlón zand na z-cloz mo cluar.

- P. Szujn do béal a feandin fuajne,
 na bi fearda az luad na b-Fiann;
 a'r zo n-deacadan tone man an z-ced,
 a'r zo m-béid zo ded a nzlar na b-pian!
- Ο. Να h-αδαίη τίν, α Phathaic żlic, α'τ νας μαίδ απ δις να απ νεαπό να νχηάς, αον laoc le α τη-δεαμταίδε δυαδ, απ τεαπό αν τ-τίυαιζό, ξίονη αν αιζό.

20 nna m-beidead na zeara do bí an Phionn, a'r nan mian leir bhiread thid; a b-ruil idin neam azur lan, ní claoidridír lam mo hiz.

P. Jr é mo niż-re čealbajż neam, ir é do bejn neame do laoć; ir é do čum an bioż-buan, ir é do bejn bláć na z-chaob.

- O. If Aodh Beag the son of Fionn were alive,
 Or Faolan the jovial who never refused any one;
 Or Conan Maol who was without hair—
 They left me sorrowful for a while!
 - Or the little dwarf whom Fionn had,
 Who put each man into heavy sleep;
 More melodious to me was the sound of his fingers,
 Than all the clerics in church and laity.
 - As tonight the Fenians do not live.

 Or the hospitable Fionn of the gifts;

 The loud chanting of the psalms, [hearing.

 And the hoarse sound of the bells have deafened my
- P. Cease thy talk, pleasant old man,

 Be not henceforth talking about the Fenians;

 For they have passed thee by like a mist,

 And will be for ever, in the fetters of pain!
- O. Say not so, O Patrick the wise,

 For there was not on earth or in heaven of grace,

 Any here able to gain victory,

 Over the head of our host, Fionn the noble.
 - Had it not been for the injunctions imposed on Fionn,
 Which he would not break through;
 All that is between heaven and earth,
 Would not subdue the hand of my king.
- P. It is my king, who formed the heavens,
 It is he, who gives might to the warrior;
 It is he, that created the universe,
 It is he, that gives the blossom of the trees.

- P. It e do dealbaid earga a'r ghian, it e do bein iarg an linn; it e do chucaid gonc a'r rean, ni h-ionann a'r eacca Fhinn.
- Νί αμ ἀμιὰυξαὸ ζομε μα τέιμ,
 ἀυζ πο μιζ-τε τέιμ α δάιὶ;
 αἀε αμ ἀογζαιμε coμρα laoċ,
 αμ ἀογματὸ chiọċ, α'τ αμ ἀ ἀιά.

24 r ruintis, an imint, an reilt, an noctas meinte a s-tuir the ; an imint ritcille, a'r an rnam, a'r an reiteam caic a s-tit an sil.

1 Friceall, Chess. This was the favorite game of the ancient Irish chieftains; and is frequently referred to in the earliest manuscripts extant. In Leadan wa 5-Ceant (Book of Rights), p. lxi. the following account of this game, copied from Leadan wa h-Upbu, a manuscript of the twelfth century, is given; and it will serve as a curious specimen of the language of that period:—

"Cla t-ainm-reo? ol Cochais. Mi ansaint ron, ol re, Wishi bheż leit. Cio dot noat? ol Cochais? Do imbint fiscille frittu, ol re. Am mait re em, ol Cochais, fon fiscill? A friomaddun, ol Wishi. Ata, ol Cochais ind fiscal i n-a coclus, it le in tech ata in fiscell. Ata fund cenae, ol Wishi fiscell nad merro. Da fin onclan nanzie ocur fin oin, ocur funtunus [1 latas] cata hainth font in than di luc lożinam, ocur fen dolz di fizi nond cheduinae. Cenuis Wishi in fiscill ian fin. Imbin, ol Wishi. Mi immenate di ziull, ol Cochas. Cid zell diaf ann? ol Wishi. Cumpa lim, ol Cochais. Roż dia limfa, ol Wishi, ma tá dener no totell caezat zadun n-dubżiat."

"'What is thy name?' said Eochaidh. 'It is not illustrious,' replied the other; 'Midir of Brigh Leith.' 'What brought thee hither?' said Eochaidh. 'To play fithcheall with thee,' replied he. 'Art thou good at fithcheall? said Eochaidh. 'Let us have the proof of it, replied Midir. 'The queen,' said Eochaidh. 'is asleep, and the house in which the fithcheall is belongs to her.' 'There is here,' said Midir, 'a no

- P. It is he, that made the moon and the sun,
 It is, he that brings fish into a lake;
 It is he, that formed field and grass,
 Not like the deeds of Fionn.
- O. 'Twas not in forming fields and grass,
 That my king took delight;
 But in mangling the bodies of heroes,
 In contesting kingdoms and spreading his fame.

In courting, playing, and hunting,
And unfolding his banner, in the front of the fight;
In playing at chess and swimming,
And in beholding all in the house of drinking.

worse fithcheall.' This was true, indeed: it was a board of silver and pure gold, and every angle was illuminated with precious stones, and a man-bag of woven brass wire. Midir then arranges the fithcheall. 'Play,' said Midir. 'I will not, except for a wager,' said Eochaidh, 'What wager shall we stake?' said Midir. 'I care not what,' said Eochaidh. 'I shall have for thee,' said Midir, 'fifty dark grey steeds, if thou win the game.'"

In Hardiman's Irish Minstrelsy, Vol. II., p. 372, there is an Irish poem ascribed to Aldfred, king of the Northumbrian Saxons, and said to have been composed by him, during his exile in Ireland, A.D. 685, in which he describes the Ossorians, as expert hands at the game, in the following stanza:

" Ro bheat ó anoin cosle, A tein aloinn Ofnaishe, Miolla milreach uall mon fmacht, Flanna fíona fibhchiollacht."

I found from Ara to Gle, In the rich country of Ossory, Sweet fruit, strict jurisdiction, Men of truth, chees playing. O. A Phathaic, ca haib do Dhia,
an tan tainic an diar tan leah?
tuz leo bean hiż loclann na lonz,
le'n tuit jomad ronn ran thear?

Νό αη ταη τάμης αη Φεαμχ όμαη, πας μιζ Loclann να τζιας νόικ; ςμέαδ νάμ τομταίζ μιζ να ναοώ, δόιδ αμ δέμηιονναίδ αν τικ ώδικ?

Νό αη ταη ταιητης Ψρατημη πόη, αη τεαμ δα δομό α ηχίεο η τίη; η τογήμα δα παιμτεμό δο μιζ, το τουροσόμο le Flannaid Fhinn.

Nó an tan tainiz Taile mae Theoin,
an rean an an b-Féinn do cuin an t-an;
ní le Dia do tuit an cunad,
act le h-Orcun amearz cac.

Ailleann, mac Babma moin,
le millei Teamain na rluaż b-chean;
nion laim rin, ma main bo niż,
bul ba claojb ace Fionn rein.

Jomba cat, παίδη, α'ς ζίιαδ, δο comônaδ με Γιαπαίδ Γαίι; ηί cualaδ 30 η-δεαμηα έαςτ μίζ ηα ηαοή, ηα 3μη δεαμ3 α ίαιή.

P. Leizimír d'an z-comóncar an zac caob, a reanóin chín aca zan ceill; cuiz zo b-ruil Dia an neam na n-ond, azur Fionn a'r a rloizce uile a b-peinn.

O. O Patrick, where was thy God,
When the two came across the sea; [the ships,
Who carried off the queen of the king of Lochlin of
By whom many fell here in conflict.

Or when the mighty Dearg came,

The son of the king of Lochlin of the golden shields;

Why did not heaven's king protect them,

From the blows of the great man?

Or when Maghnus the great landed, He who was fierce in dread conflict; 'Tis likely, had your king then lived, That he would have joined the Fians of Fionn.

Or when Tailc mac Treoin arrived,
He who on the Fians great slaughter made;
'Twas not by God the hero fell;
But by Oscur in the presence of all.

Ailleann, the son of Badhma the great, [spoiled, By whom Temor of the powerful hosts used to be There did not dare [even] if thy king lived, To go to conquer him but Fionn himself.

Many a battle, victory, and contest,
Was celebrated by the Fians of Fail;
I never heard that any feat was performed
By the king of saints; or that he reddened his hand.

P. Let us cease our comparison on both sides, Withered old man, who art devoid of sense; Understand that God dwells in heaven of the degrees, And Fionn and his hosts are all in pain. Βα ήδη αη ηλίμε τη το Φηία,
 πα παρα το διαί το βρίση το διαί το βρίση το διαί το βρίση το διαί το βρίση το διαί το

Níon fulainz Fionn an read a nae, nead do beid a b-péinn na a nguair; zan ruarzlad an le h-ainzead nó on, le cad nó zleó, zo m-beinead buab.

Jr mait an teann dam an do Ohja, bejt amearz a clian, man taim; zan biad, zan eadac, zan ceol, zan bejt az bhonnad din an daim.

Ταη ξάιμ ηα ηχαδάμ ηλ ηα ττος, χαη δειτ τοιήθαο ρομτ ηλ τυαη; το τισηη α δ-τυαματ δ'εατδάδ αη δίδε, παιτίπη το μιζ πειήε απ' υαττ.

Ταη τηλή, ταη τιαταίδεατ, ταη Γιοηη, ταη τυιμτίδ τιαι-δαη, ταη τρόμε; ταη τυιδεαδ α η-ιοηαδ παμ δα δυαί, ταη τοτίυμη clear lút ηλ τίεδ.

P. Léiz čura do bejť da njom, a mic an Riż da majť clú; zeill do'n té do żnid zać majť, chom do čeann a'r reac do żlún.

O. Great would be the shame for God,

Not to release Fionn, from the shackles of pain;

For if God himself were in bonds,

The chief would fight on his behalf.

Fionn never suffered in his day
Any one to be in pain or difficulty;
Without redeeming him, by silver or gold,
By battle or fight, till he got the victory.

It is a good claim for me on thy God
To be among his clerics, as I am;
Without food, without clothing or music,
Without bestowing gold on bards.

Without the cry of the hounds or of the horns, Without guarding harbours or coasts; For all that I have suffered for lack of food, I forgive heaven's king in my will.

Without bathing, without hunting, without Fionn,
Without courting generous women, without sport,
Without sitting in my place, as was due,
Without learning feats of agility or fighting.

P. Cease recounting them,
O son of the king whose fame was great;
Submit to Him who doeth all good,
Stoop thy head and bend thy knee.

Strike thy breast and shed thy tear,
Believe in Him who is above;
Though thou art amazed at its being said,
"Twas he gained victory over Fionn.

- O. A Phathaic, da m-beidinnti zan ceill, do tzantainn led' clein a z-cinn; ni biad leaban na bacal ban, na cloz thata ann do cill.
 - 21 dubajne Ojrin, mo rzeal enuaż!

 ni dinn liom ruajm do beil;

 zoilreadra zo rnar, ace ni ra Odia,

 ace raoj Fhionn na b-Fiann zan beie bed!
- P. Ψη το ξεαλλαγη αφάρης δύηση, τηθης, γεαόμην, γιατά α'ς γεανης; πραγικό δεαλλαγη τηνηγη αποίρη, τιρούμη το πιξηθάδ λη τογεαλο.¹
- Ο. Νίοη δ'ιοησηλ δάιηη λ δειέ δηδηλέ, λ'η σεληη λη γίδι δειέ δ'λη η-δίε; σιδ δ'θ δο πλοιέτελο ομιίηη σλη σλημε, ιγ δάιηη δοδ' λόδλη δειέ λα σλοι!

1 219 2-70al5, the chase. This poem, which forms part of the 25allam, and generally comes in here in our Irish manuscripts, is printed in full in Miss Brooke's Reliques of Irish Poetry, p. 412, Dub. 1816, with a metrical translation at p. 91, to which we refer the reader. The Rev. Dr. Drummond has also made a highly poetic translation of it, which

O. O Patrick, were I without sense,
I would take off the heads of thy clerics;
There would not be a book or crozier bright,
Or matin bell left in thy church.

Oisin said, sorrowful is my tale!

The sound of thy lips is not sweet to me;
I will cry my fill, but not for God,
But for Fionn and the Fians not being alive!

- P. As thou hast promised, relate to us—
 Forsake, shun, hatred and anger—
 As thou hast promised, relate to us now,
 How the chase was made by you.
- O. No wonder we should be sorrowful,

 Whilst bereft of the head of our host;

 Whoever may boast over us that we are not joyful,

 'Twas we that had cause to weep!

is published in his Ancient Irish Minstrelsy. The legend which gave rise to the Poem of the Chase, is frequently alluded to in Irish Manuscripts, and is interwoven with the romance, entitled "Felf Cife Chonain China Shleibe, which formed the Second Volume of our Transactions. The scene is laid at Sliabh Guillian, in the county of Armagh.

Cath chnoic an air.

O. Do daman uile an Fhian a'r Fionn,
a z-coindionol an an z-cnoc ro fian;
az iming an clearaid lúc,
a'r rinn zo rúdac az caicion liaz.

Cjob epače bújny amlajb pjy,
a bubajne braoj Ceamprač² zo zljny zlje;
jp eazal ljom, a Fhjny na b-Fhjany,
nač pada an rijan zur bojliz bib.

Chead to anoit, so haid Flogn,
le a b-cuizcean lear an z-cuit bodnoin;
a't nac b-ruil lace raci an nzhein,
nac b-ruil ran b-Fheinn rearain leo.

¹ Caρτροῦ ႞ΑΣ, throwing or casting stones. This singular custom was carried on to a great extent in the early part of the present century; and, it is traditionally said that the Dallam or pillar-stones, found in various parts of Ireland, were the "clock τρητς," of the Fenians, and that Fionn Mac Cumhaill himself made no great boast of casting one of these huge rocks from the hill of Almhuin (Allen), where his palace stood, across to the hill of Howth, a distance of about twenty milea. In "Cactua της τρα τη-comantle," or The Adventures of an Ill-advised Son, by Carroll O'Daly, better known on account of his rhyming propensities, as—

"Ceanball buses of n-abran,
Do temposed schedule."
Swarthy Carroll the rhymer,
Who would play a ditty on the harp.

the custom is thus referred to:-

"La ha b-foar 'quajn cafaz mé fan e-fijad, 21'f la ha b-foar do cajêfinh ijoz mar jad."

On the day that the men were mustered, I met them on the hill, On the day that the men were mustered I'd cast a stone as well as any of them.

THE BATTLE OF CNOC AN AIR.

O. WE were all, the Fians and Fionn,
Assembled on this hill to the west;
Practising feats of agility,
And we so mirthful casting stones.

Not long were we so,
When the Druid of Tara, wisely said;
I greatly fear, O Fionn of the Fians!
That the time is not far when thou shalt regret.

What means this, saith Fionn,
That thou foretel our cause of grief;
There is not a hero under the sun,
Who among the Fians cannot find his match.

Carroll O'Daly was the most celebrated wit of his day, as well as the most eccentric character. He was the first harper of his time, and author of that beautiful and soul-stirring song "Ciblin a Rúin," or, Ellen, the secret of my heart, which he composed for the daughter of Kavanagh, the history of which is so well known, that there is no necessity for repeating it here.

² Onas Cearinac, the Druid of Tara. According to our ancient annalists, Tigearnmas, monarch of Ireland, of the race of Heremon, was the first who introduced the worship of idols into Ireland, about nine centuries before the Christian era; and it is stated, that while worshipping the Crom Cruach, the chief deity of the Irish Druids, along with a vast assemblage of his subjects at Magh Sleacht in Breifne, on the feast of Samhuin, one of their Deities (the day dedicated to whose rites was the same as the last day of October), he himself, with three-fourths of his people, were struck dead by lightning, as a punishment from heaven for his introduction of idolatry into the kingdom. See Connellan's Four Masters, p. 75, note. For a learned Dissertation on Druidism in Ireland, see O'Conor's Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores Veteres, Tom. I., Proleg. Pars. 1., pp. XX.—XXXIV.

Ē

- Ο. Chejb uajmre, a Fhinn, na z-chuab lann, zo b-ruil an zoih a nzoiheace baoib; reac na neala rolal úb, az bazah búbac zaoib an zaoib.
 - D'féac Flonn of a clonn ruar, a'r do conainc cuan rola 30 chéan; ir easal liom, do naid an raoi, 30 d-clocraid an-suair an an b-Fhéinn.
 - Do żojn Flonn culze Orcun, a'r bubajne, a cupajo na lann zeap, ir culbe buje a bejė az caoj, reac an říżnih an aedjn.
 - Η ηίζ πα δ-βήμαπη, το πάιδ Ογουκ, πα ζίας δίους πα απθκαπη έπίο; ατα πεακτ α'γ ιώτ αυ ξέαζαϊδ, α'γ τροπ-βίως τρέαπ μεο' ταοίδ.
 - Φο carteaman uple an Fhrann, realad as shinn-amanc na neul; do bi dheam asunn roildin, rúbac. a'r dheam eile dúbac na nsna.
 - Do labajn Conan² do żuż and, azur jr 6 do najö zo bond chéan; nj b-ruil neac d'an achajż dac, addum rein act rean raon.

¹ Méala tola, clouds of blood. The Irish still look upon any changes in the clouds as portentous of some forthcoming event; and here, Fionn foresaw the destruction which awaited the Fenians at Cnoc-an-air.

² Conan was the most noisy person in the Fenian ranks, though, at

O. Believe me, O Fionn of the tempered blades,
That the foe is nigh at hand;
Behold those clouds of blood,
Threatening gloomily side by side.

Fionn gazed above his head,
And he beheld a mighty omen of blood.
I greatly fear, saith the sage,
That a ruin of slaughter will come upon the Fians.

Fionn called Oscur to him,
And said, O hero of the sharp blade,
'Tis likely that thou shalt be mourning;
Behold the portents in the heavens.

O king of the Fenians, saith Oscur, Be not startled, or depressed by them; There is might and strength in thy arms, And a mighty host at thy side.

We, the Fenians, all spent,
Some time keenly beholding the clouds;
Some of us were merry and gladsome,
And others with gloomy countenances.

Conan spoke with a loud voice,
Exclaiming haughtily and proudly;
There is no one whose colour changed,
I confess, but a coward.

the same time, the most contemptible. For an account of his enchantment in the Bruighin Chaorthains, and what he suffered there, we would refer the reader to that curious tract, which will hereafter form one of the Society's publications.

Ο. 21 βήρη τής Cúτηλι ΙΙ, το παίδ απ Φρασι, τιοπόι το διιτσεαπ από δαίι, α'τ ποιηπτεαπ ιαπο leat απ leat, 30 η-δήιηιο καίπε απ τεακτ το πατήλιο ?

> Φο γειτη Γιοη απ Φόηο Γηιατη, α'τ δ'έμεαζαιη γιαδ ιπα πταιη; τα τε τα πα Ιμαίτ ατ τεαίτ, ειδιη έλαιτ, τηιαί, α'τ ταιπ.

Alineocab anoly, an Flonn 30 rion, 3ac neac bam bulbean le'n b'ionnya me; a'r ror 3ac neac ba b-rull bom ruac, ma culpid ruar a belt bom' nein.

Ο. 21 Ογειημ, το μαίο βίση αμ το τύγ, όγ τά μηται α'γ ιάτ, πα το βίαπη; απ το μητητο τά το ια με εάτ, τεατο το παπραίο τα τα τα τη αίι.

> Flarhalzim biot anoir, a Fhinn, an bul cum ruam bob' ail leat; nion maire buit, a'r ba mi-clú, ma'r eazal leat nambe teact.

Νί le h-αηθκαηη μοιή λαιή ċάċ, δο μα καιρη τηθέ cum ruain; ατο της γιος δυίο της τηθέ λίοπ, ταιρθέα παδ δ'κάται απ τας τυαίς.

unia, a pillar, a prop or support, the frame on which a door hangs. Oscur was considered the stoutest and most valiant of the Fenians; hence Fionn designates him as above; but we question whether he bore the O. O Fionn, son of Cumhall, saith the Druid,
Call thy forces in thy presence;
And divide them into two separate bodies,
That they may watch the approach of the foe.

Fionn sounded the Dord Fhiann, And they answered by a shout; Each man vieing to be first, Noble, chief, and host.

I shall now truly discern, saith Fionn, Such of my followers as are attached to me; And also such as do me hate, If they refuse being led by me.

O Oscur, saith Fionn at first,
As thou art the prop and strength of the Fians,
Wilt thou with others watch this night [us.
The approach of the enemy who are making towards

I ask of thee now, O Fionn,
If it be thy wish to take repose;
It would not become thee, but bring ill fame,
If thou fear that foes may come.

'Tis not through dread of any man's hand,
That I would awhile go to rest;
But thou knowest I am accustomed,
To have visions of every danger.

I shall not refuse keeping watch with the rest, There's neither fear nor terror on me; Though I greatly fear, O Fionn, That the most of thy followers are in dread.

palm in heroism from Goll mac Morna; or even his father the poet Oisin. He was killed by Cairbre Lifeachair at the Battle of Gabhra. Vide Transactions, Vol. I., p. 50.

O. Jospear Flonn an Dhiammid Donn,
a'r riarnaizear 30 ceannra do'n faid;
an b-rainrid cu man aon le h-Orcun,
ma'r sonnuine leac me na cac.

21 Thoill calma na z-chuab lann, an cumann leac Riz na b-Fiann; an b-ranraid cú a b-rocain cac, rib chiun nuz bann na nzanz żliad.

Νί h-eazal liom lam δα όμιαδαός, δ τα Ογουμ πα ηχυαγ απ' δαίι; α'γ Φιαμπυιδ ομόδα πα δ-βίαπη, δειδ πήγε παμ ιαδ το la.

Tainic Faolan? do latain Fhinn, a'r do labain 30 riothan, and; a'r dúbaint, a niż na b-Fiann, ni môn linn duit do fuan 30 la.

1 Rún mo chopie, the secret of my heart; or, my heart's treasure. This is still a common phrase in Ireland, but applied only as a term of affection.

* Faolan, or O'Faolain, now anglicised Phelan or Whelan. There were many distinguished persons of this name in ancient times who gave names to territories, tribes, and families in Ireland: such as the Ui Faolain of Leinster, a name rather prominent in the county of Kilkenny at the present day. Dr. O'Donovan writes of them (Vide Leadan na 5, Ceane, Book of Rights, pp. 205-6),—"This was the name of a tribe and territory containing about the northern half of the present county of Kildare. It comprised the baronies of "Clane" and "Salt," and the greater part, if not the entire, of those of "Ikeathy," and "Oughteranny." The town of Nas (Naas), and the churches of Claenadh (Clane), Laithreach Brain (Laraghbrine, near Maynooth), Domhnach Mor Muighe Luadhat (Donaghmore), Cluain Conaire (Cloncurry); and

- O. Fionn calls Diarmuid Donn,

 And he asketh calmly of the sage;

 Wilt thou watch with Oscur,

 If thou art more attached to me than the rest.
 - I never yet flinched, O Fionn,
 In battle or conflict of mighty hosts,
 So that Oscur the treasure of my heart,
 Were before or behind me in time of victory.
 - O valiant Goll of the well-tempered swords,
 Dost thou love the king of the Fians;
 Wilt thou remain with them,
 Ye are the three who gained sway in fierce conflict.
 - I dread not the hardiest hand,
 As Oscur of the feats is with me;
 And valiant Diarmuid of the Fians,
 I will be with them this night.

Faolan came into the presence of Fionn,
And exclaimed fiercely and loudly;
Saying, O Fenian king,
We grudge thee not thy repose this night.

Fiodh Chuillinn (Feighcullen), were in it. After the establishment of surnames, [which happened in the reign of Drian bonomie Brian Boroimhe, or Boru, as the name is often for brevity's sake incorrectly written] the chiefs of this territory took that of Mac Faolain, and soon after, that of O'Brain (Anglice O'Byrne); but they were driven from this level and fertile country, about the year 1202, by Meyler Fitz-Henry and his followers, when they retired into the mountains of Wicklow, where they acquired new settlements for themselves; and in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, they were possessed of more than the southern half of the county of Wicklow." And at p. 222, note b (idem), he says that, "Magh Laighean was another name for the territory of the Ui Faolain. O'Faolain was the chief of a tribe, named Deise, descended from Fiacha Suighdhe, the elder brother of Conn of the Hun-

- Ο. 21 Chonain maoil, σο παιό Γίουπ, ταπ α 3-cuaraib σύδα Leic-ains; ό'r τα ir zainbe uaill-żain binn, cum rzanca ma'r τeact σο'n παίπαιδι
 - 20 a'r dul dam rêin, a Fhinn, do'n uain, az raine an buaine, nó an can; am aonan zan cuile do'n Fhèinn, zo nzoincean mê chem' lan?
 - Νί cuibe δαιτ, α Chonain maoil, διάιταδ Fhinn, δο μαιδ mac Lúżaiδ, ατά πα μίζ δη cionn πα δ-Γίαπη, α 3-comμας, α'τ α m-biαδ, 'τα η-δη.
 - 20) a ta Floun na hiż ór cionn na b-Flann, a mic Lużalo, do naid Conan; ni cormul zun culbe dam, dul am aonan zo h-uaim Leac-aind.1
 - Νί' ι ταπ δ- Γιαπη uile, απ πας Lużać, τεαπ cóm-m-binn δοδ' cló-żuż άπδ, α'r clointió απ Fhian uile δο żlón, πα'r τεαċτ δο'η τόιπ α ηχαπ δο'η Uπδ.
 - Na bị rearda lịon đã luad, a mịc Lúżajö na min żéaz; b'Fhionn na bo'n Fheinn ni nacad ann, cuinim ruar do le mo nae.

dred Battles, who were expelled from Deece or *Deise Teamhrach*, in the county of Meath, by their relative Cormac, the grandson of Conn of the Hundred Battles, about, A.D. 254, when they settled in the county of Waterford about half a century back." One of their descendants, the Rev. John Whelan, P.P. of Modeligo, who died in the year 1819, was as fine a specimen of the old Irish race as one could wish to see.

O. O Conan the bald, saith Fionn, [Ard; Remain thou in the dark recesses of the cave of Leath-As it is thou who can shout most loudly, To warn us of the approach of the enemy.

If to the cave I shall go, O Fionn,
To watch for troubles, or for hosts
Alone, without more of the Fians,
May I be pierced through the middle.

Ill it becometh thee, O Conan the bald,
To refuse Fionn, saith Mac Lughaidh;
Who is king over the Fians,
In battle, in food, and in gold.

Although Fionn be king over the Fians, O son of Lughaidh, saith Conan; "Tis not likely that I must go Alone to the cave of Leath-Ard.

There's not among all the Fenians, saith Mac Lughach,
One who can shout so loudly as thou;
And all the Fenians shall hear thy voice,
If the foe comes near the Ard.

Speak no more of this to me,
O son of Lughaidh of the smooth limbs;
For Fionn or the Fians I shall not go there—
I refuse it during my life.

1 tiapin teat And, the cave of Leath Ard; or, Lahard. Mr. Daniel Sheehan, of Ardagh, Newcastle West, county of Limerick, who has been often on the top of Knockanar, near Ballybunion, says, that there is a cave there, and a spot which to this day is called Lahard; which circumstance alone is sufficient to identify Cηοc-αη-αρη as the scene of the battle.

1

Ο. Θητής απή α Chonain maoil, το παίο Ογείη, α'τ δείο αποτάλι; Υιού Βελς επόθα πας βήμη, α'τ εμίλε πα'τ τηλοί δεατ τ'έλζαι.

> Bein leat Feanaul a'r Bhan luat, Szeolan, Fuaim, a'r Meanazan; Boz-leim a'r Aineac Chluair, a'r imeiz zan zhuaim, a Chonain,

Do zluaje Conan an comajnle Orcuja, b'jonneat re bonar na h-uama; na com azur 208 Beaz mac Fhinn,2 bo leanadan an cam cuajnò.

Το cuald Flonn ann rin cum ruain,

α'r ni cian do bi α ruaimnear ann;

αη ταη δο ramluizead do chid,

Υιοδ Βεας πας Γηιην α δεις ζαν δεανη.

Do ταιτθέαπαδ δο πακ αου κιτ τιυ, 30 καιδ Joll οκόδα α Ιαιώ 31/αδ, le 3αιτ3ίδεας τίοκ-δαςτας, calma, δ'ακ δ'αιυμο Callo πας Cheoin,

Do ήμτζαι ατ α ċοδία το ρηαρ, α'τ δο τοιτ ταιτε δηαοι ηα δ-γιαηη; δ'λη δα τοή-αιηιη δο τίοη, Φηαοι εαίαδαη, η το τεαη ταιτ-τιαίι.

1 Fearian, Specian, Orian, &c. These were the names of some of the Fenian hounds; and Orian, which was Fionn's favorite one, was known by the following marks:—

"Cota buido bi an Dhnan,

21 da caeb dub 'ta can zeal;

Dhuim tuaichido of coanh folz,

It da cluait concha com-denz."

O. Go there, O Conan the bald,
Saith Oscur, and there will be with thee;
Aodh Beag the valiant son of Fionn,
And more if thou require.

Take with thee Fearan, and Bran the swift, Sgeolan, Fuaim, and Mearagan, Bog-Leim and Aireach Chluais, And depart without sullenness, O Conan.

Conan went by the advice of Oscur,
And made towards the door of the cave;
The hounds and Aodh Beag, son of Fionn,
Followed in the track of the host.

Fionn, then, retired to rest,
And not long was he there in repose;
When he saw in his sleep,
That Aodh Beag, the son of Fionn, was beheaded.

He likewise saw,
That Goll the valiant was engaged in battle,
With a mighty powerful champion,
Whose name was Tailc Mac Treoin.

He awoke suddenly from his sleep, And called to him the druid of the Fians, Whose synonyms always were The Druid of art, or man of prescience.

> Yellow legs had Bran, Both her sides black, and her belly white; A speckled back over her loins, And two crimson ears, very red.

^{* 200} bead mac Fhinn. Little Aodh the son of Fionn. This 200 was the youngest son of Fionn. He was called "bead" (small) from his diminutive stature.

⁴ Draof calaban, i.e., the Druid of art, or one skilled in magic or sorcery. In "The Banquet of Dun na n-Gedh," &c., published by the Irish

O. D'fairneir a mún iomlan do'n Dhaoi, ann zac cairdeanad díod rúd; do haid Fionn, a d-raic-ciall rin innir anoir zan moill dúinn.

Clockald huatan an an b-Feinn, a Fhinn, it baozal, do naid an Onad; zidead ni zoinkean an dit ra nzleic, Zoll calma, choda, na Add.

Νίοη δ-καδα απίλα τη δύητη, απ ταπ δο cualaman uaill-żain, δο τείνη Γίονη απ Φοκό Γηίανη, α'τ δ'τρεαζαίη δίαν-τζαίντ Chonain.

Do żluaję Conan na żnean niż, 1 a'r na cojn an lan lúż na bjajż; b'żan Aob Beaz an bnuac na h-uaina, zun clojneab leję ruajm na ęzjaż.

Archeological Society, p. 46, note b, the following curious recipe is given for transforming a poet into a druid:—

"This is the way it is to be done: the poet chews a piece of the flesh of a red pig, or of a dog or cat, and he brings it afterwards on a flag behind the door, and chaunts an incantation upon it, and offers it to idol gods; and his idol gods are brought to him, but he finds them not on the morrow. And he pronounces incantations on his two palms; and his idol gods are also brought to him, in order that his sleep may not be interrupted; and he lays his two palms on his two cheeks, and thus falls asleep; and he is watched in order that no one may disturb or interrupt him, until every thing about which he is engaged is revealed to him, which may be a minute, or two, or three, or as long as the ceremony requires; et ides Imbss discitur, i.e., one palm over the other across his cheeks." But it is said (Idem) that "St. Patrick abolished it, and the Teinm Loeghdha, and declared that whoever should practise them would enjoy neither heaven nor earth, because it was renouncing baptism."

Τρέωη ητ, swift running, fleetness of foot. The Feniaus were remarkable for nimbleness of foot; and one of the qualifications necessary for entering the service was that "the candidate should be a nimble runner; and that in his flight before a chosen body of the Feniaus, he should be able not only to outrun them, but even to defend himself intact against their assaults." Even in modern times the Irish are remarkable

O. He revealeth to the Druid the entire secrets,
Which he saw in each vision of these;
Fionn saith, the meaning of those
Tell us now without delay.

Slaughter awaits the Fenians,
O Fionn, I fear, saith the Druid;
Yet the twain will not be wounded in the conflict,
Goll the noble and valiant, nor Aodh.

Not long were we thus,

When we heard a loud shout;

Fionn sounded the Dord Fhiann,

And the fierce yell of Conan replied.

Conan ran with all his might,
And the hounds in full speed after him;
Aodh Beag remained on the brink of the cave,
'Till he heard the clash of the shields.

for nimbleness of foot; for in a very learned paper on the physical characteristics of the ancient Irish, by Dr. O'Donovan, published in the twenty-third number of the Ulster Journal of Archæology, we find the following allusions to the agility of the Irish quoted from a French author who visited Ireland in Dermod Mac Murrough's reign, and who was eyewitness to the fact:—"They assailed us often both in van and rear, casting their darts with such might, as no habergeon, or coat of mail, were of sufficient proof to resist their force; their darts piercing them through both sides. Our foragers, that strayed from their fellows, were often murdered [killed] by the Irish; for they were nimble and swift of foot, that, like unto stags, they ran over mountains and valleys, whereby we received great annoyance and damage."

And again, quoting Froissart:—"But I shewe you bycause ye should knowe the truth. Ireland is one of the yvele countries of the world to make warre upon, or to bring under subjection, for it is closed strongely and wydely with high forests and great waters, and mareshes, and places [un]inhabytable; it is hard to entre to do them of the countrey anie damage . . For a man of armes beying never so well horsed, and ran as fast as he can, the Yrisshemen wyll ryn afote as faste as he, and overtake hym, yea, and leap up upon his horse behynde him, and drawe him from his horse."

O. Do foinn Fionn an Dônd anif, rul do nainic 1ad Conan maol; chead an rac, do naid Orcun, ca'n coint cugainn, ca b-ruit 2008?

Do bị Loố a n-dapur na h-uama, an can do żluajr mire an lúc; 2 nion amancar o roin can m'air, a'r nion b'o Loö ba meara liom.

Chéad eile do daithid, an Orcun, a Chonain liorda, maoil, zan ceill; cia aco Fionn na b-Fiann, no mire, no cia an rean oile do'n Fhainn.

Ni h-e Flong, cura, 'na nead do'n Fheing, mo daithid a n-am zad beim; zid' zur ionnum tiom bur mait, ni rid mo daithid, add me rein.

Φο żluaje Orcup do lúż zpean, 30 painiz se dopur na h-uajn; do fuaje 208 Beaz mac Fhinn feil, zan andrann, zan eaz, zan buajec.

Chead an rat 200 Bhis thic Fhinn,

an Orcun, ruineat a n-diais an fin thaoil?

a'r namaid taob leat na nit

a leind, nan tuis sun beas d'aoir.

Cια δί αυ τόιμ α δ-ροχαρ δαώ, α'ρ με αμαίζ ο όαδαιμ μα δ-βίαμη; πίομ όμιοτημιζ μ'ημητίη μα μο όμοιδε, μα μο ώμετα μιαώ πίομ ελαοιδεαδ.

¹ Copt, pursuit; one enemy in pursuit of the other.

³ Lút, nimbleness or agility. This and the two following stanzas show how indifferent Conan was about the difficulties the Fenians had to encounter; so that he himself was able to make good his ground by a speedy retreat, realising the old Irish proverb—

O. Fionn sounded the Dord again,
Before Conan the bald arrived;
What means this, saith Oscur,
The pursuers are coming, where is Aodh?

Aodh was at the entrance of the cave, When I left in haste; I have not looked behind since, 'Twas not Aodh that troubled me.

What else thy trouble, saith Oscur,
O Conan, lazy, bald, and devoid of sense;
Whether is it Fionn of the Fians, or I,
Or what other man among the Fians?

It is not Fionn, thou, nor any of the Fenians, Concerns me at the time of each blow; Though I rejoice in the welfare of you all, I care for no one but myself.

Oscur ran with mighty speed,

Till he reached the entrance of the cave;

He found Aodh Beag, the son of Fionn the generous,

Alive without terror, without trouble.

Why is it, Aodh Beag, son of Fionn,
Saith Oscur, [thou] remainest after the bald man,
And the foe nigh thee in full speed,
O child, who perceivedst not thy tender age.

Though the enemy were nigh me,
And I beyond any aid from the Fians;
My intellect or heart faltered not,
Nor was my courage ever subdued.

"It reams upot mare 'na buoic-fearain."

A good run is better than a bad stand.

Or,

He who fights and runs away, Will live to fight another day.

- Ψιέκις δάιμη, α Οιςιη τής βήμη,
 κηίος κατά Chησις απ άικ;
 τή πλαιμέση Ποδ Βέας αδ δάιι,
 α'ς πα σαικ α 5-σας χηίστη πα 5-σιιακ.
- Ο. Choc an ain an choc το ήταη,
 α'τ 30 la an bhata biais sa ξαίμη;
 α Phathaic na m-batal m-ban,
 ηί 3 an κατ τυβαδ αν τ-αίνη.
- P. Να ζίας ταοπ, α Οιγίν έθιί, αζ τπαοιμεαδ απ Γήιουν να δ-Γιανν; ζας απ έαζ α'γ α δ-κυί δεδ, νειώνηδ ιαδ υίδε αςδ Φια.
- Ο. Νίοη πειήηηδ Γιοηή πα δ-Γιαήη,
 α' τη ήοη πειήηηδ Φιαμημίο Ο Φιίδης;
 ηίοη πειήηηδ Ογοίη πα Ιαήη,
 ηλ ηθαό δο η δ-Κέιηη, αός Conan τηιήη.
- P. Φο δηίζ ζαη ηειήηιό³ Γιοηη,
 Φιαμημίο Φοηη α'τ Οτουη αίζ;
 α'τ αη Γήιαηη αιλε παη ιαδ,
 η πλημίο παη Φήια να υζηατ.

^{1 5}lam, a shout, howl, loud talk, or clamour.

² Croc An Am, the hill of slaughter or destruction. Any one visiting Ballybunion in the county of Kerry, noted for its caves, could not better enjoy themselves than by paying a visit to this celebrated hill, which lies quite close to it. The remaining portion of the poem, but somewhat

- O. My grief, my ruin, my sadness,
 O Patrick, who art obedient to God;
 Had Aodh Beag himself lived with me,
 It would be ill for the clerics' clamour.
- P. Relate to us, O Oisin, son of Fionn,

 The conclusion of the battle of Cnoc-an-air;

 Aodh Beag doth not live with thee,

 And question not the clerics' deeds.
- O. Cnoc-an-air is this hill to the west,
 And till the day of judgment 'twill be so called;
 O Patrick of the croziers bright!
 Not without cause did it get the name.
- P. Do not become faint, O Oisin, the generous, Reflecting on Fionn and the Fians; All that departed and those who live, Were as nothing compared to God.
- O. Fionn of the Fians was [more than] nothing,
 And so was Diarmuid O Duibhne;
 Oscur of the spears was [more than] nothing,
 And all the Fians, save Conan, the gay.
- P. Because that Fionn was nothing,
 Diarmuid Donn and Oscur the noble;
 And all the Fenians likewise,
 They live not like the God of grace.

different from our version, will be found in The Transactions of the Gaelic Society. Dub. 1808, p. 199.

³ Nephopo, nothing. Here St. Patrick shows that the Fenian heroes were insignificant beings when compared to the majesty of God.

- Ο. 21 Ρhατμαίς, ηί α η-αιμητίμ ηα δ-Γίαηη, ο δί απ τεαμ τιη Φία απη; ητ δεαμδ δα τη-διαδ τοιμ ηδ τίαμ, 30 γχαμταδ αη Γήμαηη leir α čεαηη.¹
- P. Φο δί Φια απη α υ-αιπητη να δ-βιαπη, απα ηιαιή α'τ δέιδ 30 δημέ; παιηιοπη, αξαι παιητήδ 30 οπίος, η δ-ιοπαηη ταη βλίανη, α δοσπαιη!*
- Ο. 21 Ρηατραίς, πα'ς είοη δο εξέαι, απ τ-θας το δ-ευαίη απ βηίαπη; πα είμητη το δα Ιοαδ, το δ' τος δυαδ οπηα Φία.
- P. Βα παιέ απ βημηπ α'τ α ποηίοπ, α Οιτίπ όπιππ, αότ το απάιπ; παι αδιαδ leó απ τ-αοπ Φια άδ, αποιτ lean δάιππ απ Chnoc-απ-άιμ.
- - Φ' έι ακηλιό Γιοηη δ' Ογουμ αιέ, αη δ-καλιό ταιη⁸ ηα ηχηρο Ιαοό, α δύδαιμο Ογουμ 30 δ-καλιό ιαδ, α' τ 30 ηλιδ α η-ιαπαόσ αμ αη δ- Γειηη.

1 R ceann, his head. This phrase is very common in Ossianic poetry; and the pagan Oisin, must have been sorely irritated by the mild and convincing arguments of the Saint, when he gave vent to such blasphemous expressions. In Mr. O'Grady's copy of the poem the stanza runs thus;—

" 2 Τημετιαίς τη α γασχαί τια δ-Γίατη, τη ευίχες δο Όλια γα δείς απη; τη δεαπό δ'α τη-διαδ τια τιαι, πα δείδεαδ τια Είχεατιπα οη α χ-είοτη."

- O. O Patrick, 'twas not in the time of the Fians,
 That that man God lived;
 Certain if he were east or west,
 The Fians would have stricken off his head.
- P. God was in the time of the Fians,
 Always was and will be for ever,
 He lives and will live to the end,
 Not so with the Fians, poor creature!
- O. O Patrick, if thy tale be true,
 That the Fians are all dead;
 Let me not hear thee boast,
 That it was God that overcame them.
- P. The Fians and their deeds were good,
 Pleasant Oisin, but in this alone,
 They adored not the one true God,
 Now proceed with [the tale of] Cnoc-an-air.
- O. There marched towards the Fians
 Oscur and Aodh Beag in his company;
 More delightful to us was the coming of the two,
 Than had the King of Grace approached.

Fionn inquired of Oscur the noble,
Had he seen a host of heroes brave;
Oscur said that he had seen them,
And that they were in search of the Fians.

O Patrick, if it were in the time of the Fenians, That thy God had been living; Verily, if he were in their way, He would not lord it over them.

² boccan, a pauper, a beggar, a miser, &c.

³ Capp, signifies a multitude, a host, an array, or any other muster or assemblage.

- Ο. Φο ἐλιἐελπλη πλη της το là, λ'τ κίοκ làma các τελέτ το η π-δέις; λ Ρηλτηλίς, πο τζέλι τημαζ! κίοκ δ-τάδα της ἐμιλιδ λη ἐδιπ!¹
- P. Just man it cuimin leat,

 a mic Cumaill, tarz an żleć;

 ajtust a't mo beannact onto

 rzeal tion, a't na can zó?

D'eintioman το moc amac,

Γιαπηα Ειμεαπη πα π-εας τεαπς;

απ απ τ-τους το ίτοη απ τ-τίμας,

πίοη δ'ίσητηα δόιδ τεας το τεαπη.

 $^{^1}$ Cé $_1$ m, which generally signifies a step, is used here to show the difficulty that awaited the Fenians.

² Cars, fame, report.

^{3 5406,} battle, strife, contention.

⁴ Cac, a steed. The earliest record we have of the Fenians having horses is in Azallain na Seanointiz, or Dialogue of the Sages; where it is said, that at a chase at beinn h-Cipin, (the Hill of Howth), a chieftain, named Antún mac beinne buict, son of the king of Britain [England], took away by stealth three hounds belonging to the Fenians, namely—Bran, Sgeolan, and An-uaill; and made for the mountain of Lodan Mac Lir, where he made chase on his arrival. As soon as the Fenians missed the hounds, the following chieftains were despatched after the fugitive, viz., Diarmuid O Duibhne, Goll Mac Morna, Caol from Eamhuin (Emania), Oscur the son of Oisin, Feardubhain the son of Bogha-dearg, Raighne of the broad eyes, son of Fionn; Cainche, son of Fionn; Glas the son of Aonchearda Bearra, and Mac Lughaidh.

- O. Thus we remained till dawn,
 And none dared to approach us;
 O Patrick, my woful tale!
 'Twas not long till our case grew perilous!
- P. Relate, as thou rememberest,
 O son of Cumhall, an account of the fight;
 Relate, and my blessing be on thee,
 A true tale, and tell no lie.
- O. We, the Fenians, never told a lie,

 Falsehood to them was never known;

 But by truth and the might of our arms,

 We came unburt from each conflict.

We went forth early,
The Fians of Eire, of the slender steeds;
Upon this hill the host mustered,
No wonder for them to come in force.

They landed at Inbhear Geiniath, in Britain; and proceeded to the mountain of Lodan Mac Lir; where they were not long when they heard the cry of the hounds, and they surrounded Artuir, and slew himself and all his retinue, and rescued their three favorite hounds. Goll Mac Morna, more cunning than the rest, cast a side-look, and beheld a magnanimous steed with reins of gold; and saw another with a silver bit chased with gold in its mouth; Goll captured both animals, and handed them over to Oscur, who gave them in charge to Diarmuid O Duibhne. They then returned to Ireland; and never halted until they reached old Moynealty, where Fionn was staying at the time; and delivered the two horses to him; one of which was a stallion, and the other a mare, which gave eight births, and eight foals at each birth; and until then the Fenians had no horses, and these foals were distributed amongst the most distinguished in rank of the Fenian chieftains. In some copies it is said that Artuir's life was saved by Oisin.

Βε αη δοδ' αίτης η άτη άτη άτη της το δοραίτε απ βημαπη αξ τεαέτ γαη ίει ης;
 δ'βηση πας Εμπαιίτ, της διίτς,
 δο δε απηαίξ η ίοξαι η απ δημίτ δεί ης.

Cja zú rějn, a njožajn, an Fjonn, jr ajlne njam 'rar bneažča bealb, jr bjnne ljom ruajm bo žlojn, 'na a b-rujl ne ceol zo beanb?

Νιαή-ημαδ-όμοταό,² τη 6 π'αιητή, ηηξίοη Τλαμμαίδ, πας Φλοίατη Φέτη; αμο-μίζ Τμέας, πο παίλας ατη ! δο ηαίτς πο μο Ταίλς πας Τμέτη.

Ο. Chéab do bein da feachad τα, πα δέιη μάη ομη αποίη; αη δο coiminc 30 la αη βηάς, 3αβαίη δο lain ταη α έμοιη?

> Ní zan rát do tuzar ruat, dat an tuail do bí an a thái; da cluar, janball, a'r ceann cair, ta an an b-rean nac mait rzein.

Φο ή μίδιας απ δοίπαπ, το έμί, α'ς πίομ έαζδας απη μίζ πα είαις; ποέαμ ή παστ αέτ είδιε, α βηίπη, α'ς πίομ ζεαίι τη αέ π' απασαίι απο.

Dionrad cu a ințion oiz, do naid 20ac Cumaill, nan claojo' niam; no cuitrid uile an do rzac, na react z-cat ata 'ran b-Phiann.

¹ Leins, a plain, a pathway, or place of meeting. See also note 10, p. 18.
2 Nian nuab-inotae, i.e., the ray of the newest form. This lady is supposed to be the daughter of Garadh the son of Dolar Dein, or the Fierce;

O. A woman more beauteous than the sun, The Fians beheld approaching on the plain; Fionn Mac Cumhaill, I tell thee, Was saluted by the queen of the red mantle.

Who art thou, O queen, saith Fionn,
Of the gentlest mien and loveliest form;
Truly more sweet to me is thy voice,
Than all the strains of music.

Niamh-nuadh-chrothach, is my name,
Daughter of Garraidh, the son of Dolar Dein;
The chief king of Greece, my curse upon him!
Bound me to Tailc Mac Treoin.

Why is it that thou shunnest him,

Do not conceal the fact from me now:

As thy protector till judgment's day,

I take thy hand against his will.

Not without cause did I hate him,
Black as the coal was his skin;
Two ears, a tail, and the head of a cat,
Are upon the man of repulsive countenance.

I walked [travelled] the world thrice,
And did not leave a king or lord,
That I did not implore, but thou, O Fionn,
And a chief never promised me protection from him.

I will protect thee, O youthful daughter,
Saith Mac Cumhaill, who was never conquered;
Or all shall fall for thy sake,
The seven battalions of the Fians.

king of Greece, who forced her to marry Taile Mac Treoin, against her will, and the tale recorded here is the result of that unhappy union.

O. Dan do laim-fi rein, a Fhinn, ir deand linn, 30 n-deannair dneaz; a'r an tê d'n teit me uaid a b-rad, 30 d-cuiceann leir cat a'r cead.

An rean món a deinim lib,

ir é d'faz me le rada d-péinn;

rul an narzad mire leir,

do rzniorad leir raoi do an Thnéiz.

Να σέαη ιοπαμδάδ αγ α ζαιτζε, α κοιτ καιτ απ δακ απ όιπ; όιπ ηι 6-καιτ Ιαοκ καοι απ πχπέιπ, πακ 6-καζαδ καπ 6-γείπη κεαπ α κίδ.

Ιτ σεάμη σο b-τας απαη ασ τεαές, απ ταοιτεαέ Ταιίς ba έπιαιδ ίαπη, πίοη μπίαιξ, α'τ πίοη δεαπηαιξ δ' βηίοπη, αές ιαπηας καέ ταη έεαπη α πηλ.

Cuinmio beic z-ceab na bail, bob' έελην lam a n-aimpin zleó; buine biob nion fill can air, zan cuicim ne Cailc mac Cheoin!

Το συμμελική απή, α'τ θα σόμη α παοιδελική του απήματ, Caoilce πας Rönain; δείς 5-ςελό τζιας τομπ τίατ, του απαιδ σμόδα δ'τελικ.

Φείς 3-ceab ταοιγεας, ημοί 3-ceab laoc, bo δί ταοδ απ ταοδ δ'απ πιιητίπ τέιη; α'τ α Ρήατημίς, απ επείδιπ επιμήδ, τιη απ τεαγταίδ μαίηη δε'η δ-βέιηη. O. By thine own hand, O Fionn,
It is certain thou hast told a lie;
For by him from whom I have fled afar,
Fall a battalion and a hundred.

The great man of whom I speak to you, Is he who has left me long in pain; Before I was bound [wedded] to him, He ravaged Greece twice.

Do not contend about his valour,
O curling locks of the color of gold;
For there lives not a hero under the sun,
Who will not find among the Fians a man his match.

Soon we saw coming towards us,

The chieftain Tailc of the hard spear;

He did not salute or pay homage to Fionn,

But demanded battle on account of his wife.

We sent ten hundred to meet him, Strong of hand in time of war; None of them ever returned. All fell by Tailc Mac Treoin!

We sent there, and of it we should boast Without doubt, Caoilte Mac Ronain, Ten hundred shields blue and green, With the mightiest and best men.

Ten hundred chieftains, nine hundred heroes, Were side by side of our own people; And, O Patrick, of the strict faith, All these we lacked of the Fians. O. Jahnar Orcun cead an Fhjonn, zió doilz liam à do luad, dul do compac an tin moin, an can do conaine die na riuaz.

Ταδαίμ αξαίδ δαίτητα τέιη, α Τhaile τήτε Τμέιη, απ Ογευμ αίξ; δίμ δαίτητε αδγα δίος δο έφατη, α τι-δίοξαί απ δηθαίτη το ξοίη δο Ιαιτίο.

I band, bard or poet. The Irish bards were always ready to chaunt the deeds of their patrons in the most glowing language imaginable; but had they not been patronised they were equally ready to satirize and decry them. In The Tribes and Customs of Hy-many, published by the Irish Archeological Society at p. 104, we find under date A.D. 1351, that "William Boy O'Kelly, who was celebrated by the Irish bards as a prince of unbounded munificence, invited all the professors of art in Ireland to his house, and entertained them during the Christmas holidays." And in the same year, "William Mac Donnough Moyneagh O'Kelly, invited all the Irish poets, brehons, bardes, harpers, gamesters, or common kearroghs, jesters, and others of their kind in Ireland, to his house upon Christmas, where every one of them was well used during the

O. Oscur asketh leave of Fionn,
Though I regret to tell it,
To go to fight the great man,
When he beheld the loss of the host.

Thou shalt get permission from me, saith Fioan, Though I dread thy fall by it; Arise! and take my blessing with thee, Remember thy valour and thy deeds.

Oscur, the noble,
On whose hand there never was a stain;
The mighty hero of the valiant arm,
Went forth till he reached Tailc Mac Trein.

Encounter me, O Tailc Mac Trein,
Saith Oscur of the noble deeds;
For I shall take off thy head,
In revenge for those who were wounded by thy hand.

By thy hand, O noble Oscur,

Though thankful to you are bard and maid;
I shall have thee headless this night,
And the man Fionn shall be mournful.

holidays, and gave contentment to each of them during their departure; so that every one was well pleased, and extolled William for his bounty; one of which assembly composed certain verses in commendation of William and his house, of which the following is the first line:—

"Filip Cheann 50 h-aoin-teac."
The bards of Erin to one house."

For an account of the Irish bards, we would refer the reader to O'Reilly's "Chronological Account of Four Hundred Irish Writers," "The Tribes of Ireland," by Dr. O'Donovan, Walker's "Memoirs," Hardiman's "Irish Minstrelsy," and the Introduction to the "Tain Bo Chuailgne," which will form a future volume of the Society's Transactions.

Ο. Un read cúiz p-oide a'r cúiz la, bị an dịr nan claic a ngliaid; gan biad, gan deoc, an dic ruain, gun cuic Caile ne duad mo mic.

> Φο τόχδαπαμ, αη βήμηη, ογάμο, ταμ έχε απ το τόμαις ξαμέ, ξίεις; ξάμι τα οίπτα της τα μίθα παμ το η βήθηη, α'τ δά ξάμι παοίδτο της έας Chaile.

Φαρ το lapinge, α Thaple app,

ξίδ πας bujõeas τίσε bard πα bean;

τα τα αξατηγα ξαη έεαπη,

α'τ ηί διαιδ απ τεαμ Γιοπη, leath.

Νιαή-ημαδ-όμοτας, πόη αη τσέαί, αη ταη όσημης πέαδ αη άιη; σίατας ηλίηε αη όμιαδ δεαμό, α'ς τιμτεας παηδ α πεας όλις.

Bar na níożna, d'eir zać uilc, ir é 'rmo do cuin an cac, an an z-cnoc ro d'eir an żliaid, do daire an Fhiann Cnoc-an-ain. O. For five nights and five days,

Were the two, who were not feeble, in battle;

Without food, without drink, without sleep,

'Till Tailc fell conquered by my son.

We, the Fenians, raised on high,
After the fierce and rough conflict;
A wailing cry for all we lost of the Fians,
And two shouts of joy for the death of Tailc.

By thy hand, O noble Tailc,

Though not thankful to thee are bard or maid;

I have thee now beheaded,

And the man Fionn shall not be mournful.

Niamh-nuadh-chrothach, sad the tale, When she beheld the extent of the slaughter; Shame overcame her crimsoned face, And she fell lifeless among the slain.

The death of the queen after all ills, Was what preyed most upon us all; This hill after the conflict, The Fenians named Cnoc-an-air.*

* The Hill of Slaughter.

Laoyoh appeartaice na lann ntéar.

Ο. Νίοη δ-μάδα δάμηη, απίλαιδ της,

τιδ πάη τάδας, αοιδιπη, τηπη;

ται τηιαλί το η π-δέμη ταμ lean,

ταιττεαδας δαςτας δα όμιαιδ τηίοπ.

Njon beannalt re do neac, a't njon úmlalt d'Phionn, na do'n Phiann; ace d'flarmalt re do tlon bomb, ca maid an 5-cornam a't an d-enlat?

C14 τα κόιη α ξαιτζίδιξ άιξ,

απ 20δα Βοας ηλη τοαιητοκό οποίδο;

πο οπόλο δο όας δο'η δαί το όα,

câ καδ δο όαπας ημαία τζαμκαια ίξης?

Ní čabaprad duje rzeal ap die, rmuajny a lejnid zup beaz d'adjy; rior mo pújn ní čabaprad do neac, zo b-ražajo me dul d'azallam Fhinn.

Φο δέαμκαο εόλας ότης, αμ βήσηση, α ξαιγτήδης πάιμτε να πήν ξέας; νή καθα ταις αν άις α δ-κτίλ, αμ αν 3-ςνος αμ λεατάδ Ταιλς πάς Τμέιν.

Φο ξίναις 200α Βεαζ απ ίντ, α'τ απ ξαιτζεαδάς 30 δίνε πα διαιζ, 30 παιτις Ιειπζ απ αιπ, 'πα παιδ απ ίαπ Ταιίς πας Τρέιπ.

THE LAY OF MEARGACH OF THE SHARP SPEARS.

Not long were we left thus,
 Though being not pleasant nor gladsome;
 Till there approached [us] from afar,
 A mighty hero of the sternest deeds.

He did not salute any one,

Neither did he do homage to Fionn or the Fians;

But he enquired in a most haughty manner,

Where our protector and chief was.

Who art thou thyself, O valiant champion,
Saith Aodh Beag whose heart trembled not;
Or what brought thee on this erraud,
How far is thy journey when thou departest from us?

I shall not give thee any information at all,
Remember, child, that thou art young;
Knowledge of my secrets I will not give to man,
'Till I can see Fionn and talk to him.

I shall inform thee about Fionn,
O courteous here of the smooth arms;
Not far from thee is the place where he is
On the hill on which Tailc Mac Treoin fell.

And the champion close behind him,
"Till he reached the field of slaughter,
Where Tailc Mac Treoin was slain.

- Ο. Αη ταη δο έσημητ αη Γημητη α'τ Γηση, αη δήτ ώδ ας τεκέτ ηα η-δάηλ, ητ εαςαί Ιση, δο μάιδ αη Φημοη, ημέ ταδα ητ αοιδητη δο Ωθλας Cúiημη II.
 - Un τι Γιοηη, δο μαιό αη γεαμ calma, πα'ς τι, ηί cuibe δο δεαμό laoc, αιηιπ δο τέαμαδ 30 la αη διατά, η ας τι δο τάμαι τα Ταιις πας Τρέιν.
 - Ni do buad no làma do cult, an rean na n-zalimican Talle mac Thein; do com-alnim rein innir anoir, a'r do zeabain rior cia leaz an laoc.
 - 20) εκτειά το μαίδ να Ιαυν νείας νεέας, πο δού-αινιπ, α Fhinn τής Cuthaill; υίος δεάτε ας πο δος αικτή, α'ς νίος Ιπάδαδ Ιεδ το δια ας εκτί.
 - Φο żluaję Ορουη κα żuż an żlojn, α'r δ'κιακταίζ απ leonan τας ττας; απη το δυαίδ το lana α'r το lann, πας πτοιπεσαμ απη τυ το δηάς?
 - Νή b-μη αμ τα από πα δ-τροπ-έδο, α 3-cat πα 3-compac 3 από ξίγαδ; λαό δα τρέμε α η 3 η το πίστη 3 αγτρο, δο δεαμ η πε h-αμπ ομπ πιαπ.
 - Νή δειδηκ πακ την, ακ Οτουκ αιζ, πυνα τίζεα το μα με δυίε δο η Γημανν, α Υθρακιζαίζ να Ιανν νζίας νζέακ, ζοιντεακ το ανν ζο η-αοδαίδ.

- O. When the Fians and Fionn beheld

 These two approaching them;
 I [greatly] fear, saith the Druid, [moured.
 That Mac Cumhaill will not be long so good-hu-
- M. Art thou Fionn? saith the mighty man,
 If thou art it becometh not a great hero,
 Ever to conceal his name;
 Art not thou [the man] that subdued Tailc mac Treoin.
- F. Tell [us] thine own name,
 And thou shalt be told clearly
 That it is not by the might of my hands fell
 The man whose name is Tailc mac Treoin.
 - Stern Meargach of the sharp tempered green blades, Is my name, O Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Arms reddened not on my body, And none could boast of my retreat.
 - Oscur goeth at the sound of the voice,
 And enquireth of the hero, without dread,
 Is it by the victory of thy hand and spear,
 That thou art never wounded.
- M. There is not on earth of the heavy sward, In battle or conflict fierce and tough, A hero stout in feats of valour, That ever reddened me by his arms.
 - Thou shalt not be so, saith the noble Oscur,
 If thy visit to the Fians be not a friendly one,
 O Meargach of the green spears,
 Thou shalt be wounded to the very heart.

- 21). 21, ξαιτζίδιξ, α 3-ίδ, η δεαμδ ίαος, αδ έμιοταιί η δεαμαιμ car, δα ιμείο δο δόις ατ μεαμς μα δ- γιαμη, τιιςτημ αζιτ μαδ μεμί ίαι.
- 7. 20 μη δ- ται δα α α το δα α α α α α το το δεί τ
- 21). Innit dúinn, a 20hic Cúmaill calma, do néin man feallait dam an d-cút; cia leit, no cionnat do cuit, Cailc chéan an neint, 'ra feal nún.
- φ. Φο τίμε Ταιλε πας Τροοιη πόιη, le buab πεαμε-λαιπε Ογεμη αιξ; σο τίμε le Ταιλε, σο'η βημαηη απ σ-τύγ, λίοη σεις 3-ςεασ σ'ψεαμαιδ ςαιδ.
- 21). Nan môn an naine duite, a Fhinn, d'fulaing an nit-bean dob' feanh cail, do dun dum bair leir an b-Fiann, a cuicim ir éag d'Fhiannaid Fail.

- M. O champion, whose appearance is that of a true hero, Thy words I but little regard; Though great thy hope in the strength of the Fians, Thou and they, by my hand, shall fall.
- F. If thou hast but the sway of thine arms,
 Mighty strength of body and action;
 I give thee my hand in pledge,
 That thou shalt be wounded through thine heart.
- M. Relate unto me, O son of mighty Cumhall,
 As thou didst promise at the commencement,
 By whom, or how did fall
 Tailc the strong and powerful and his bright love.
- F. Tailc Mac Treoin the great fell,

 By the power of the strong arm of Oscur the noble;

 There fell by Tailc, at first of the Fians,

 Full ten hundred of spotless men.
- M. Was it not shameful to thee, O Fionn,
 To suffer the princess of the loftiest fame,
 To be put to death by the Fians;
 Her death will bring havoc among the Fians of Fail.
- F. Not I nor any of the Fenians Ordered the death of the woman, But when she beheld the loss of the host, Into the pangs of death she fell.
 - If it be battle thou requirest, saith Fionn,
 For the death of Tailc and his wife;
 Thou shalt have it from one of the Fians,
 Or depart quietly with good will.

- 21). 518 30 b-rull mo rluaiz a b-rozar bam, 1 an taob an choic coir na thaza; ni jantad a 3-conznam, a Fhinn, a'r ni razrad act dinazaib beó.

- γ. Ναη león leatra a Mheanzaiż na lann, δήτ ταη α čeann δο ταίτιπ δο'η γλέιηη; α'τ ζαη δεαηζ-άη δο τάδαίητ αιη τάτ, α'τ α Ιιαζαίτ τεαη τάιδ δο ταίτ leir τέιη.
- 2h. Njon león llompa, a Fhinn na b-Flann,

 ojr na chiun a n-bjol a bajr,

 ba m-blab azab an olnead eile do'n b-Fheinn

 cuicrid zo lein le mo laim.
- 20. Φα έεαδας δυη λαήα α'ς δυη ηχηίοή, α'ς δα ήθιο δυη λίοη δ'έεαηαιδ ςαιδ, η γχαηκαδ λίο το λεαδαδ υαιδ.

In a copy in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy this stanza reads:—

" Cla cald πο flualize caold liom,
η μακκαδ α 3-coηξηαή τώς, α Fhiηη;
η πιαη ίτο η δ'έαξδαι δεό αξυίδ,
α cc δίτ ο ξοιή πο έκοπ-cloidin."

- M. Although my hosts are nigh at hand,
 On the side of the hill beside the shore;
 I shall not ask their aid, O Fionn,
 And I will only leave two of you alive.
- F. Who are these two thou wilt leave alive,
 O Meargach of the hosts, saith Fionn;
 I am astonished that thou shouldst think,
 By thy strength to put us to death.
- M. I am determined to kill all,
 But thee only, and thy son Aodh;
 I shall never leave this hill,
 "Till I repay the death of Tailc mac Treoin.
- F. Is it not sufficient for thee, O Meargach of the blades,
 That two for his death should fall;
 And not deal red slaughter to all the Fians,
 After all the brave men that fell by his hand.
- M. They would not suffice, O Fionn of the Fians, Two nor three for his death; If thou hadst as many more of the Fians They will all fall by my hand.
- F. Do not imagine to thyself, saith Fionn, That I would suffer two or one For the death of Tailc and his wife, Of the Fians to fall by thy hand.
- M. Though great thine arm and thy deeds,
 And though thick thy ranks of noble men,
 I shall not leave 'till judgment day,
 Or satisfaction for their death I shall have from you.

Although my hosts are nigh at hand, I shall not seek their aid, O Fionn; I will only leave of you alive, but two, From the venom of my heavy sword.

- Ο. 21 Phathaic! η čeilread πο μάη,

 τα τίας απόκαιηη Γιοην α'τ απ Γηίανη,

 αός απίαιη Ογουμ να π-δείπεανη,

 ναμ όμις μοιή αου νεας μιαή.
- γ. 21 21) heanzaiż na nzlar lann nzean, bo naib γιοηπ, bo żanb żlón, bo żeabajn compac ab aonanan, nó bul ab bajl bo'n γheinn zo león.
- 20). 20) a'r cuibe leatra, a Fhinn mic Cúmaill, mire do comhac do món fluaz, o fean 30 rean, nó d'aon beim, diulta ni lein duit d'fazail uaim.
- τ. 20) α τη ξελη τι α'τ το τηθαη διηδέλη, τα το κατά Ιηπ Ιελά απ Ιελά, ο διηπε το τέλο τα η τη τη της, Ιαμή τη το το το τη τη Ιελατ.
- 21). Racadra anoir, a Fhinn mic Cúmaill, man a b-ruil azam comnac le razail, d'rior mo rluaz, nac rada uaim, a'r bi ruar zo moc am dail.
- 21). Bíð, an mo teact, do naið eirean,
 an laoc ir calma an an b-Féinn;
 a n-anm 'ra n-èide nómam cum cata,
 zo b-raicread a zníom a'r a zleic.

- O. O Patrick! I shall not my secret conceal,
 That terror struck Fionn and the Fians,
 Save only Oscur of the blows,
 Who never trembled before any one.
- F. O Meargach of the green sharp blades,
 Saith Fionn, in a menacing tone;
 Thou shalt have single combat,
 Or more of the Fians shouldst thou require them.
- M. If it be desirable to thee, O Fionn Mac Cumhaill, That I should fight thy great hosts, One by one, or by one great swoop, Thy request I cannot refuse.
- F. If thou and thy mighty followers Come to fight us man for man, From one to a hundred of the Fenians shall Meet thee with a firm hand.
- M. I shall now depart, O Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Since battle I am to have, To visit my hosts, which are not far from me, And be up early to meet me.
- F. Bring thy hosts with thee here, In the morning if thou like, saith Fionn; No treachery will be played upon thee, We shall be ready on thy arrival.
- M. Have, on my arrival, saith he, The mightiest hero among the Fians; In shield and armour ready to fight, That I may see his prowess in battle.

- O. D'imėjė Meanzaė na lann nzlar, nion read leir zo nainiz a fluaž; do čuin Fionn cionól an an b-Feinn, a'r d'innir doid mead a zuair.
 - Do ninn' react z-catal ann rin bjob, a'r zac noinn an ionad duail; eirciz, an re, lem' comainle rein, ir zainid an daozal uainn.
 - Φο Ιαδαίη απ σ-τάς leir απ έδασ έαξ, δά ηχοιμέι εαξ πα Ιαος πιοη άπ; δ'έιακπαιζ δίοδ σο ζαξ δγάπο, απ σ-τποισκισίς το ζηλέ 'πα έάις.
 - D' έπεα τη αδαμ δ' αδη αδητά δ' βήροηη, το δ-τηριδείδη των α έξωνη το διάτ; α δυδαίντ τωτ να δ-ταρίγεας απραίλ, αξε το lean καδαρίγεας να το το το το το διάτο.
 - 21 δυδαμιτ κατ ηα δ-γεαμ πεόδ'ηας, α 3-κατ ηα α ηξίεδ δα τμέμο ξίμαδ; η η καξβαδαμ γέμη α μίζ καίζ, α'τ ηα κμέμστιδήτ 30 διατ αοη τέμη.
 - 21 dubajue cat na b-rean b-reórac, nan tejbe dojb 30 la an bajr; a'r cat na m-bun fean man an 3-céadha, 30 leanradaoir réin é man tat.

¹ Seact 5-cata, seven battalions. The names of the seven battalions are:—Cat προσ-άη, i.e. the battalion of fresh heroes; which name they bore on account of their fresh-looking complexion; cat η a b-taopreac, the battalion of the chieftains; cat η a b-tean πραδαηγαί, the battalion of the middle-sized men; cat η a b-tean b-tear battalion of the stout men; cat η a b-tean προδαξη, the battalion of the small men; and cat η a υ-μαμήρημαη, the battalion of the rear guards. • If we could find equiva-

O. Meargach of the green blades departed,
And stopped not till he reached his hosts;
Fionn summoned the Fenians,
And informed them of his danger.

He then divided them into seven battalions, And put each division in its own place; Hearken, saith he, to my counsel, Not distant is danger from us.

He first addressed the front battalion, [fresh; Who were named the battalion of heroes smooth and He enquired of them in a loud tone, Would they fight as usual in his cause?

They all at once answered Fionn,

That they for him would ever fight;

The battalion of the chieftains said likewise,

That they would follow the battalion with most hands.

The battalion of the middle-sized men said, In battle or conflict however desperate, That they never deserted their noble king, And would never flinch one step.

The battalion of the middle-aged men said, They would not flinch till the day of death; And the battalion of the stout men said also, That they would follow him like the rest.

lent terms for the above, it would throw some light upon the military history of the ancient Irish. In the Library of Trinity College, there is a Fenian tract, in which the names of all the generals and officers serving under Fionn is given; and this, if published, would probably illustrate the above military distinctions. In the British army there are sappers and miners, pioneers, grenadiers, light infantry, sharp shooters, &c., which terms, perhaps, owe their origin to the various ranks in the army of Fionn Mac Chumhaill.

- O. A púbajue cat na b-reau beaz rór, a'r an cat na n-beojt, na h-jaumanain; zo nababau réin bilior na nynjom, a'r zo leanrabaojr é man cat.¹
 - Do zoin Flonn cuize Orcup,
 man fean cuit an an z-cat mionun;
 a't d'flathaiz de an comhac aoinfin,
 do Wheanzac beantad an b-cur.
 - 21 ουδαίμε Ογευή 30 ο-είμδηκο κόιη, compac δο ταπ έθαση πα δ-βίαση; α'τ πα'τ ευίειπ δαπ, α βίηση, απ τό, 17 θασαί συμ δασσαί δίδ απ δίαιζ.
 - Νή h-αήλαιό γιν ητ σόμι, απ βιονν, δα δίτ δάμνη τα ταιτικ τηίο; ητ τα απ δ-τηθοίμ, α'τ απ δ-τηματ, απ δ-τασα, απ ημαν, α'τ απ η-δίον.
 - Jr ισπαηη δάιηη τιη ηδ τάδ, α βήιηη, απ Οτουμ, ηλ δί δλ Ιυαδ; πλ'ς τυιτιπ δ'αση ποαό δο'η βηθιηη, ηί παόαιδ Ιοις ταση κλ δυαδ.
 - Φο żοιη Flonn Joll ba calma πεαμε, α'r ba chuab zniom rleaż a'r cloibim; α'r b'riarhaiż a n-beanrab comhac, le Weanzac mon bo leac-caoib.
 - A Fhinn, an Joll, 30 zarda zlic, ir rion rin, ni znad leat me; ba mian leat me cun a nzuair, a'r Orcun o'n m-buadaint do beit raon.

O. The battalion of the small men said,
And the battalion behind them, the rear guards,
That they were faithful in their acts,
And that they would follow him like the rest.

Fionn called Oscur to him,
As commander of the battalion of brave heroes,
And asked him if it was in single combat,
He would encounter Meargach first.

Oscur saith, that he would himself,
Give him battle in behalf of the Fians;
And if I fall, O Fionn, saith he,
It is to be feared that you will be danger after me.

It must not be so, saith Fionn,
We would suffer by thy fall;
Thou art our guide, our chief,
Our prop, our path, and our protector.

'Tis all the same to us, O Fionn,
Saith Oscur, do not magnify him;
If a single man of the Fenians fall,
He shall not depart victorious.

Fionn sent for Goll, of powerful strength,
Whose feats of sword and spear were great;
And inquired if he would fight
The great Meargach in single combat.

O Fionn, saith Goll cunningly and wisely, 'Tis true, thou lovest not me; Thou wouldst wish to put me in danger, And Oscur from trouble to be safe.

by which the poet implies that the rear-guards would never desert their colors but fight to the very last.

- F. Nan żeallajt-te led żojl żaon,

 50 5-cujntead tu téjn a nyuajt;

 an mo żonta man żeall cać,

 zan rearam jt najneac uajt!
- 5. Φο żeallar, a Fhinn, το κίοη, το leankainn το τηίοι παι các; τη πατατα αι τ-cúl δ'η τ-cat, πα ταδαπη τας κεαι ε το lain.
- Φο ζοικ Γιοην Φιαμπαιό Φοην,
 α'τ δ'τιατιαίζ Γιοην δε ζο εασίν;
 αν δ-τιαδιαδ εσήμας ασίν τίκ,
 δο Whearzac έμιαίδ να ίσην ηξηγού.
 - Ní načad a z-cólin-żliad zo bnaż, le Weanzać na nzlar lann; a Fhinn, ma'r coicceann an caż, biad cóm majż le rean ann.

 - Do faoilear-ra, an Fionn, an rlait, nac amlaid rin do feallair dúinn, Jac an feallar, an Faolan, ne mo nae ní nacad an J-cúl.
 - Ο' τρατική το σας τεαμ δίοδ απ μας ταδ τηα ασημη legr; α δυδαμιτ σας αση δο' η ζας προηη άγη, δο δεαμπασίο διάιταδ δαίτ.

- F Hast not thou promised of thy own free will,
 That thou wouldst place thyself in jeopardy,
 On my account as each has promised;
 Not to stand [to thy word] is shameful to thee!
- G. I did promise, truly, O Fionn, That I would follow thy deeds like the rest, I shall not flinch from the battle, If every man take his part.
- F. Fionn called forth Diarmuid Donn,
 And he enquired of him, mildly,
 If he would give single combat
 To stern Meargach of the powerful deeds.
 - I shall never engage in single conflict,
 With Meargach of the green blades;
 O Fionn, if the battle be general,
 I shall be as good as any there.
 - He asked Faolan in a loud voice,
 If he would fight for him;
 He said to Fionn of the Fians,
 Thou wouldst not be sorry if I fell there.
 - I imagined, saith Fionn, the chieftain,
 That it was not thus you promised me;
 All that I promised, saith Faolan,
 During my days I shall fulfil.
 - He asketh of every man of them,

 If they would singly go with him;

 Each one of the battalion of the smooth armed men

 We refuse thee.

 [said,

- Ο. Φ'έιακμαιζ παι απ 3-ceadha an παιδ, α 3-cat ha d-taoireac rean laim-teann; δο δέακκαδ bualad lam an laim, δο Ψηθεακτας δάπα πα ητίας lann.
 - 21 dubhadah ujle béal ah béal, nac hajb ream do lampad pin do luad; act 30 hackadaojp le céile, a 3-cac da chéine chom-pluat.
 - Do labajn leó ó ċaż 30 caż,

 α'τ η δ-τααίν η εκό δο'η jomlajn;

 σαί δο ċοπρας Υθρακταίξ η α lann,

 χαι ἐαίτ αη τραπη ακ η α h-janinanajn.
 - Do labajn le zaojreač na n-japinanan a'r njon loc rean japrina o'n nzljac; a búbajnz zač aon bjob zo bejne, zo leanrabaojr ejle Caojn-ljač.
 - Do tot Flonn azur Orcun alt,
 uaill tain orand at muideam;
 na n-lanmanan do taball an cata,
 a'r na react d-thean cata diultait Fhinn.

 - Φο żłac Caoin-liaż éjbe a'r anin, a'r bo buail bêjin čaża 30 τεαπη; ταιηίς Ψεαμταό πα Ιαπη ητίας a'r a fluaż 30 phap an an m-ball.

O. He likewise enquired if there was [arm, Among the battalion of the chieftains, a man of mighty Who would give battle hand to hand,

To fierce Meargach of the green blades.

They all said with one accord, [speak,
That there was not one who would thus presume to
But that they all would go in a body,
In battle, however desperate, of mighty hosts.

He spoke to them from battalion to battalion, And he found none of the whole That would go fight Meargach of the swords, Till the lot fell on the rear guard.

He addressed the chief of the rear guards [who said], We never shrunk from the fight; They all said from first to last, That they would follow Caoin Liath.*

Oscur the noble, and Fionn,
Raised a loud shout of applause;
Boasting that the rear guard engaged in the battle,
After the seven great battalions had refused Fionn.

We all went to rest,
And our repose till dawn was not delightful;
We arose early in the morn,
And 'twas not long till we saw a host,

Caoin Liath took his armour and shield, And fiercely struck the battle-blow; Meargach of the blue spears came With his host immediately to the spot.

* i. e. the gentle grey old man.

- Ο. βιαγκαιζεας Ψρακταά να Ιανν ντιας, το Ψηλας Cúτραι Ι Ι ετιθαν τοινό τίδη; απ δ'θ γιν αν Ιαοά τατακτά, το δί α η θίσε απά α τα άδιναι ?
- F. Νή h-ê 30 δεμήμη, αμ Γιοην πας Cúmaill, ας Cαοιν-Ιιας τημάς να ν-ιαμήμηλη; η το τομας ειδο δο κη Γημανη, το κοπακά ας ê αδ τ-αοναμάν.
- - Do żojn Weanzać rean leje rejn b'an b'ajnim żnajż Donn Doncajn; b'jonyajż an bję a cejle ann ejn, zo calma zlic an Chnoc-an-ajn.
 - Βα Ιίστητα, τεαμταί, τίστητα, το δί Φοηη Φομεάιη α'τ Cασιη-Ιιαέ; ατ τοιη α'τ ατ επθαετώταδ α έθιε, ταη εκαέταη ατ τθίε απ αση ταοδ.
 - Do bi an Fhiann an caob an choic, as amanc an chuc na laoc; a'r Meansac, a'r a fluas ceann, as reiceam le ceann Chaoin-leic.
 - Φο Ιαδαμ Cοηάη 30 δομό τηθαη, 36'η δ-καδα γιαμ θ ο'η η3ίεις; ταραιό δο Ιαή 30 δ-τιτίδ ίθατ Φοηη, α Chaoη-Ιιατ τημαίδ ηα Ιαηη, απ γθ.

O. Meargach of the green blades enquireth
Of Mac Cumhall in a fierce voice,
If he were the conceited hero,
Who was in armour in his presence.

Not I, indeed, saith Fionn Mac Cumhaill, But Caoin Liath, the chief of the rear guard, No other man of the Fenians but he dare venture To fight thee singly.

I'll send, O Fionn, to meet him,
Another hero like himself;
Let them meet face to face,
Saith fierce Meargach of the sharp blades.

Meargach called forth one of his own men, Whose name was Donn Dorcain; Then the two attacked each other, Dexterous and stoutly on Cnoc-an-air.

Fierce, angry, and vengeful,
Were Donn Dorcain and Caoin Liath,
Wounding and cleaving each other,
Without giving way at either side.

The Fians were on the side of the hill,

Beholding the appearance of the heroes;

Meargach and his mighty host

Awaiting the head of Caoin Liath.

Conan spoke haughtily and fiercely,
Though far back from the battle he stood;
Hasten thy hand till thou conquer Donn,
O Caoin Liath, the hardy, of the swords, saith he.

Ο. Φο δί αν δίτ πακ ελαίε τλιαό,
 ατ τεαμμαό το h-ún comp a'r ball;
 δ έστται τη τη τη τους δοίδ,
 τους Φους Φοικάιν ταν έξανν.

Τός δαπαοίδης απ βήμαπ δηάμο, τα μ παοίδες της παη έας Φοηη Φομεάιη Μης απός τα λαπη, εία τάιτις ευχαίτη Καοίη-λιά ταοπ.

Νή ἐξαἀκαδ πεακτ πο lain πα πο ἐπίοιη, le h-αοη πεαὰ δίοδ το bκαὰ; δα m-δαδ τιιτιπ δαπ καη τ-ααὰ, πο ἀίπαδι ηίοκ δ-καδα οπτα Υήμηη.

Un tan conaine Theantac na lann, zo beuz Caoin-liac Donn ro lan; bo żlear a conp cnuc-aluinn, zlan, a n-eide caca madma a'r bair.

Φο żluaję 30 pnap do lażajn Fhinn, a'r a dubajne leję do bond żlón ceann, e rein do żabajl a n-ejde caża, nó 'n laoż do d'reann az e żun ann.

1 20) cửτραδ, literally my grief. Conan knew very well that the Fenians would not regret his death, but on the contrary that they would regard it a boon to be relieved from one upon whom they looked as their stultified vilifler and defamer. In the romantic tale called the Drugeau Chaoncaino, or the Mansion of the Quicken Tree, it is related that Conan and the Fenians entered the Mansion, which they found most sumptuously supplied with all the delicacies peculiar to such a place; and after regaling themselves most comfortably, wondered why they saw no

O. The twain, who were not feeble in battle,
Were freely cleaving bodies and limbs,
From the rising of the sun till evening,
Till Donn Dorcain fell a headless corpse.

We, the Fenians, raised aloud,
A cheer of exultation for the death
Of Meargach's hero, Donn Dorcan,
Though Caoin Liath came to us feebly.

Fionn then said to Conan,

Awhile ago thy talk was fierce;

Try now the strength of thy hand

In single combat with one of the host.

I shall not try the valor of my hands or deeds
With any one of them for ever;
If I fell in the battle,
Lament for me would not be long on thee, O Fionn.

When Meargach of the blades beheld

That Caoin Liath laid Donn low;

He armed his well-proportioned elegant body,
In battle armour for conflict and death.

He went quickly into the presence of Fionn, And said to him in a fierce bold voice, To gird himself in battle armour, Or to send his bravest hero there.

servants or attendants whatever in the place, but saw that the various splendours, and even the doors were vanishing, until it was finally reduced to a mere bot, or hut, save one entrance only. One of the Fenian chiefs from this circumstance suspected it to be a place of treachery, and exhorted the Fenians to leave as fast as they could; but Conan, who remained behind to do more justice to the viands with which the tables were so abundantly supplied, was at length by some spell or other, fastened to the floor where he would have remained had not some of the Fenians

- - Φο ζοιη Γιοηη αμ Βημηαηαη διηη, α'τ ταιηιζ ζαη τζίτ αμ ίαη ιάτ; ητ ηρόμ αη ταμταιτηρ, αμ Ψραμζατ, α ταιημί τιη δ'ταμ δο ίμαδ ίτηη.
- Ο. Νίοη δ-καδα 30 δ-κασαμαμ ας τεαότ,
 Ογουη αιζεαητά η η π-δειμηση η 3-ομιαίδ;
 α λαηη λίοιμο η α δεαγ λαιμό δο δί,
 α Ρηατμαίο! 17 δίο απ κεαμ δο λιαδαίμο.
- P. Ujċnir ὁ úiŋŋ a Oiriŋ ruainc, cioŋŋar bo ċuaið aŋ caċ bo'ŋ bir; ŋō aŋ le Weanzaċ ŋa laŋŋ ŋzlar, bo ċuic bo ŋac, aŋ c-Orcun znoibe!
- Ο.)ηηητηπ ουις, α Ρηλεικαίς, απ ο-εύτ, τη ουίλιξ λίοπ α δείτ παπ εάιπ; α η-οιαίξ Οτευίπ α'τ πα δ-βίαπη, α πεαττ πα τ-ελίαπ ταπ ροίπη απάιπ!
- P. 21 ἐμιαξὰιη δοιὰτ! 1r δαιὰηῖο lêin, παὰ α πεατζ πα ζ-clian διίτ ο ἐίτ τῆ δειὰεα ποιτ δα luab ζαπ ἀείll, α'τ δο leaπτάδ ζο τιαί κιζ πα η-διί.

taken compassion on him, returned and pulled him with all their might and succeeded, but not without leaving the most part of the skin of his back stuck to the floor. It is traditionally recorded by the peasantry O. Fionn replied in a fierce tone, [fallen?

And said, art thou not content with all that have

Meargach answered, and with truth,

That it was not sufficient for the death of Taile!

Fionn called Bunanan the melodious,
And he came without delay in full speed;
Great is the affront, saith Meargach,
To talk of such a man to us.

- M. I shall muster all my mighty hosts,
 Saith Meargach angrily, to Fionn;
 I shall let the heroes loose on each other,
 Of thy Fenian reserves do not speak to me.
- O. Not long was it until we beheld approaching
 Exasperated Oscur of the stern blows,
 His polished blade in his right hand he bore,
 O Patrick! sad is the loss of the man of whom I speak.
- P. Relate to us, O pleasant Oisin,
 How fared the battle with the two;
 Or was it with Meargach of the green blades,
 Thy son fell, the heroic Oscur.
- O. I tell thee, O Patrick, at first,
 That I regret being as I am,
 After Oscur and the Fenians,
 Among the clerics without much bread.
- P. O poor wretch! it is much to be regretted, [beginning; That it was not among the clerics thou wert from the Thou wouldst not now be speaking foolishly, And thou wouldst modestly follow the king of the elements.

that his comrades ran to a flock of sheep which they saw grazing in a field, skinned a huge black ewe, and fastened the skin tightly to Conan's back, by which mark he was known ever after.

- O. D'freszain Flonn do dond żlón,

 a'r dúdaine nac león leae an éuse rór;

 a dúdaine restean, 'r ir do da fíon,
 nan león man díol a n-éaz Chaile!
 - Do żojn Flonn an Bhunanan binn, «'r cainiz zan rzic an lan lúc; ir môn an cancairne, an Meanzac, a famul rin d'fean do luad linn.
- The Source of the state of the
- P. Ψιὰκιτ δάιρη α Οιγιη γιατης, τρουμας δο ἀπαιδ αυ ταὰ δο'η δίς; νδ αν le Ψρακταὰ να Ιαυη ηπίας, δο ἀπιτ δο ήνας, αν τ-Ογτικ προιδε!
- O. Jovietin duje, a Phaenaje, an decup, sur doilis liom a dejè man caim; a vediais Orcuin a'r na defiann, a mears va seclian san poinn anain!
- P. A thuażany bojec! je bajenjo leje,
 nac a mearz na z-clian duje o túr
 nj bejčea 'noje da luad zan céjll,
 a'r do leanrad zo rial niż na n-dúl.

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 How fared the lettle will the two;

 Or was it will Margarit of the green blades,

 Thy son in the latest area.
- O. I tell thee That I will be a large After Court in the State of State Among the way with the state of the s
- P. O poor without it will be to the state of the proving of the state of the state

the many when they are moving in a sale of the skin og dy to be enable.

- O. Thuak zan taire cuzad rain,
 azur zo rion cum do clian;
 na h-adain liom zo leanrainn Dia,
 a'r zo d-chaizrinn thiat na b-Fiann.
- Ο. 21 Phathaic! ma'r ê Dia na nghar, τας απ τάτς τιπ απ απ δ-γείπη; πα της τιας, αση ηίδ luaibris leat led nae.
 - Aichir dam anoir a Phachaic, an é an Dia zhadinah rin a dúbaine; 30 kuz réin duad ah an b-Féinn, a'r zuh d'é irheann ruah! a z-cluid.
- Ν΄ δεάμημό αη Τήμαης α μέτη ημαίς,
 ηα εμείστι Φία τα ταοδ ξίδη;
 ηπης δαπ πάζε θ μυζ δυαδ,
 ςα δ-ευαίμ εξυαίζεσα ζ-ευπάς δδίδ.

I Fuan, cold. The poet seems to have been acquainted with the opinion of some of the schoolmen, that the damned pass from one extremity of

- O. Misery without redress attend thyself,
 And truly thy clerics
 Do not say to me that I would follow God,
 And that I would forsake the chief of the Fians.
- P. Do not be arguing, O Oisin son of Fionn, Tell us how the battle of Cnoc-an-air ended; The Fians were mighty enough, But now they are weak and feeble.
- O. O Patrick! if it be the God of grace
 Who spread that report about the Fians,
 Do not believe from him henceforth
 Anything he tells thee during thy days.

Relate to me now, O Patrick,

If it be that God of love who said,

That he himself conquered the Fians,

And that cold hell is their habitation.

- P. I tell thee, and 'tis no falsehood,
 God's own mouth hath declared to us,
 That those who will not follow his counsel
 A hell of pains will be their dungeon!
- O. The Fenians never followed his counsels,
 Believe not thou God of the feigned speech,
 Tell me if it were HE that obtained victory
 Where he found hosts their match.
- P. It is God who obtained victory over the Fians, And did not ask the aid of battalions or hosts, But his own strength and timely power, And truly his speech is not feigned.

suffering to another, in the next life—from the most intense flames of fire, to the most intolerable degree of cold.

- Ο. Να chejo ηδ ακ bit δα luaδαηη, πα δείκ 30 καζ buaδ ακ αη δ-βέξηης; 3αη γίναζ ηα τόικ ηα δάιί, ηα 3eall 30 bhát ατ é κέιη.
- P. Jr é Dia réin an uile flót, ir é Dia tóin a'r neant cac; ir é Dia nuz buad an an b-Féinn, a'r ní le neant laoc na tóin tan.
- Ο. 21101 και δηίξ το leabain bain,

 α'τ το bacaille τα le na ait,

 και τίαηταη το όλος ξίδη από,

 αν δ-και δηθέας ισης παίστεση leat?
- P. 21 Oppin cheid uaim zo pion,
 zać phioral da n-innipim duir an Ohia;
 zo b-puilid zan ćeilz, zan bhéiz,
 a'r zun d'é péin do pedil duinn jad.
- Τας τριοταί δ'αρ αιτριγ δυίτ,
 ηί πόρ πο σείγτ, αστ απάιη;
 παρ α δείρ leat zun ab μαίδ κέιη,
 ρυσ δυαδ αρ αη δ-βείηη αη ασηαράη.
- P. Φο μισ διαδ ακ α δ-τάμησ κός, ό τάς απ δοιμάμη πόμη σο κίος; α'ς δέακκας ακ α δ-τίοτεα πα η-διαίζ, δά τρέμε μαδ 30 δείκε απ τ-γαοίζη.

- O. Believe nothing that he saith,

 If he say that he obtained sway over the Fians,
 Without hosts—without help at hand,
 Or pledge at all but himself.
- P. God himself is all hosts [all powerful],
 God is the might and pursuer of all,
 Tis God who obtained sway over the Fians
 And not by the strength of heroes or pursuit of hosts.
- O. Now, on the virtue of thy white book,
 And thy crozier which lies at its side,
 Under the chiming of thy high-sounding bells,
 Dost thou lie in what thou sayest?
- P. O Oisin, believe me truly,

 Every word that I relate to thee of God;

 Is without guile or falsehood,

 And 'twas himself who taught them to us.
- O. Each word that I have related to thee,

 My query is not much, but only,

 Whether he tell thee that it was by himself alone
 He obtained sway over the Fians.
- P. He obtained sway over all that have been From the beginning of the world surely, And he will, over all that will come after, Though great their might, till the world's end.
- O. Believe not a word he hath ever uttered,

 Nor yet what he may say during his day,

 As he is constantly proclaiming

 That 'twas he who gained victory over the Fians.

- O. Jr cormáil πας δ-κας τα απ βήγαπη, πα δ-τιοπόι ζίγαδ α π-απ ζίεδ; πίομ cormáil μο γγαπτάπ ργαίπ, πα μο cloiz αχ carmaine, α χ-ceδί.
 - Νίοη cormáil le Φια, α Ρηατμαίς, α ή luaż mondalac, διηδεαμο, τάο; η cualajo carz δαστας μιαή, αστ α z-cuininte 'ran clian da clú.
- P. Νίοκ αιτική πητε να απ είτακ,
 δ τάν δαντ τηταπ α παιτ τηίοπ;
 παιτ δο-εκιοεναιτές, α παιτ,
 α Οιγίη, ην εαδ το κίοκ.
- Ο. Νή ξέιμη, Α Ρhατμαίς, δο Φhία, πα τός δοδ' δηιαέμα το lean τίδη; το τομησί έ τέιπ πα α ξυίοπ, ός δυίπε έ δο δίος ταπ καέ, ταπ είδτ.
- P. Ν΄ μακαση τόμι caτα τα τίόξ,
 α Ομήτη 30 δεό τα δάμι;
 ατε μομπραση σούκαπ δο μέμι εμιλιπ,
 α'τ τή δ-γαξαση πηλιεαδ ό τα πάπαρο.
 - Cheid uaim kôp a'r Jeill zo kion, a Oirin baoic nac nghabann Dia; a'r ma'r maic no olc leac e, ir e do coirz heim na b-Fiann.

- P. Thou imaginest that the Fians were mightier
 Than all who ever came and will come hereafter,
 But I believe that God is stronger
 Than thou and they, O old man!
- O. 'Tis likely thou hast not seen the Fians
 Mustered for battle in time of war;
 Not like the humming of the psalms,
 Or the clangor of bells, was their music.
 - Not like unto God, O Patrick,
 Were his [Fionn's] proud illustrious hosts,
 I never heard of any great feat [by him, i.e. God,]
 But what thou and the clerics spread of his fame.
- P. The clerics or I have not told thee
 One-third of his good deeds since the beginning,
 Goodness without end is his goodness,
 O Oisin, it is truly.
- O. I do not submit, O Patrick, to God,

 Nor yet to thy words which are foolish,

 That either he himself or his actions were great,

 As he was a man without battalion or hosts.
- P. He asketh not for the pursuit of battalions or hosts
 For ever, Oisin, in his presence,
 But distributes equally according to merit,
 And he never gets a hurt from his foe.

Believe me still and truly submit,
O silly Oisin who lovest not God,
And whether it seems good or ill to thee,
'Twas he who checked the career of the Fians.

- Ο. Φο canair breaz, η h-e Φia,
 ημι buas na b-γιαηη, η a a m-bar;
 α' γ δα η-δεαμημοίδ ceare η a cocham μιαή,
 δο μοιηηγεωδ το γιαίι απ τ-ακάη.
- P. Rοιηητεαμ leat αμάη α'τ δεοό, δο ξαό σιιδ δά δ-ταξαηη αη όλιαμ; τιιζόιομ λιοη ζιιμ ηλημεαό διις, ηματία α'τ ζιιά δο άαδαιμε δο Φήια.
- O. 20a zeibimre anan a'r beoc,
 a'r ruil zan corz amearz na z-clian;
 a Phathaic! ni mearaim an aon con,
 bo Obia zo b-raiceann an nian.
- P. Clonnar dob řejdin do leat nian, an tan žejdin biad man čáč; nj cormáli zun leat-tumad rin, a Ojrin, ir minic do žlam!
- Ο. 21 Ρημεταίς! τη έπειστητη το Φηία, τητα, τια τη έξιαπ τια εασίη; πα'τ α τη έξιτε το ξεαδιπασίο διαδ, τητ αδ τοποίη απ πίαπ τα ποίτη.
- P. A Oppin na cuph a rum ni bur mo a b-ruathir d'annhos amears na 3-clian; leat-cumas ni seamhadan miam, 'r ir reamh a n-olc na mait na b-Fiann.
- Οι αξυγ αμξυιη όγαμο,
 το τιιτιπ α η-ταιί το τίιας;
 α'γ ηλ μαδαιμτε γαομ ό ηα ηξοιώ,
 τις ηξοικός το τιμίς το δια η δια δια η τους

- O. Thou hast told a falsehood, 'twas not God [death, That obtained sway over the Fians, or caused their And if he ever acted justly or evenly, He would generously share the bread.
- P. Bread and drink is shared with thee,
 Of each meal the clerics get;
 I perceive it is shameful to thee
 Abuse and scandal to give to God.
- O. If I get food and drink,
 And a willing share among the clerics;
 O Patrick! I cannot think on any account
 That thy God seeth my share.
- P. How is it that thou couldst get but half diet,
 Whilst thou gettest food like the rest;
 It is not likely that it is injustice
 O Oisin, how constant is thy clamour!
- O. O Patrick, I would not believe thy God,
 Thou, nor the clerics, who are not mild,
 If it be together [i.e. at one table] we are fed
 That the portion each gets is alike.
- P. O Oisin talk no more, [clerics; Of all the hardships thou hast undergone among the Injustice they never did, [of the Fians. And their worst acts are better than the best deeds
- O. Ills and loud contention

 Mayest fall among thy clerics;

 And may thou not escape their venom,

 For ye are not like the Fenian hosts.

- P. Jr olc liom a řeanoin leit,
 παὶ 100mun leac clein na Dia;
 σιοσκαιό τηλιέ 'παη δίτ leac ê,
 σο δοιλό α η-δαοη ξίας πα δ-ριαπη,
- O. It leon loon so saon that plan,
 beit ameats no z-clian man taim;
 as reiteam an thataid De,
 so noinnear so cool on t-anon.
 - Νί corinúil γιδ πα δώμ η-Φία, le Γίουπ ας μίαμ α'τ ας μοίπη αμαίη, πίομ ώμιμεαμι leir rluas πα δ-Γίανη, α'τ α δ-τίζεαδ πας ίαδ πα δαίι.
 - Ní man rin duicre a'r dod cleik, na d'a bún raon-flaic ir món cail; ir món lib chuazanº doce, zan nian, an bún mearz a cumplace an zolain.
- P. Φοὸ' ιοπάμιη linne a'τ le Φια, α τραηδικ liaż τα δειż δ'ακ μεικ; ηα δειż ταοδ-καιδτεαό lioττα, πακ ιτ ξηάς τατα, α Οιτίη δαοις!
- Ο. A Phaemaic! do déantains do méin, α'τ dod' jossimuls lions téin do Dhia; αός της πίτις lions do luadain, το πιτ duad an Fhioss sa b-Fiass.

¹ Muncan, a burthen, a family. Here Oisin indicates that Fionn would not close his doors or refuse food to any that visited him, no matter how numerous they came.

² Σημαζίαη. This word signifies a person in the most abject state of poverty and want.

- P. It is grievous to me O heary old man,
 That then lovest not the clerics and God;
 A time will come when thou shalt regret it
 Sorrowful in the bonds of pain.
- O. It is enough for me of cruel beads of pain
 To be with the clerics as I am,
 Awaiting the grace of God,
 Who slenderly shares with me the bread.

Not like are ye or your God,

To Fionn sharing and giving bread,

He would feel no burthen in the Fenian hosts,

Or in all who came in his presence besides them.

Not so with thee and thy clerics,
Or thy chief though great his fame;
Ye grudge a poor feeble wretch
To dwell among you, O crying horde.

- P. We and God would rejoice
 O hoary old man, that thou wert of our way,
 Nor to be vainly garrulous and tedious
 As thou always art, O silly Oisin!
- O. O Patrick! I would do as thou desirest,
 And 'tis I that would love thy God,
 But only that thou too often proclaimest [Fians.
 That 'twas he who obtained sway over Fionn of the

⁸ Solan signifies one that is constantly crying or growling. The poet uses the expression here in reference to the singing of psalms and hymns by St. Patrick and his choir; for while he himself was obliged to fast, the singing of psalms was not very much to his taste; and, therefore, taunted the saint on every possible occasion.

- P. Βεαηγαίε le catalb ηα b-βηαηη, ba τμέαμηλη μασ α'r ba πραίτ α z-call; αμτριγ σάμηη αποιγ zan bhôn, cια μυχ buaö an τρος an ain!
- Ο. Cία τη τήμα μοτη α δ-τρά τ τύδ,
 α δείτ ακ γιάδα με μοτη τ βάμε:
 λε διάτη το δ

 - Φο δάπυιμ uile an Fhiann,

 a z-cheacaib bian κά bhon zo clác;

 le h-eazal zun cuicim b'an laoc,

 le Weanzac chéan na z-chuab lam.
 - Φο δή rluaż 20 heanzajż na nzlar lann, zan chojče, zan zneann, az rile deón; δ'eazla mandaö a z-ceann chiac, le h-Orcun dian na lann nzean.
 - 21 Phathaic! da m-beitread az réadainn, an zad nian cuilz-béim chuaid; da haid an donpaid na nzand laod, Dia na 'n clein ni beitrea luaid.
- P. 21 Ομήη! τσωοιί τομε το κόιιί, το δηματίμα δωοιτ α'τ lean του τημάτε; τητητ τάμτη τια 'το του τός, το διαιδ απ σηξοίη απ τρος απ ληκ!

- P. Peace be with the battalions of the Fians,
 They were mighty and their fame was great;
 Relate to us now without grief,
 Who gained the victory at Cnoc-an-air?
- O. Though it would be my desire to talk of them,
 And to relate it with much pleasure,
 I shall tell thee if I am served [with food],
 Of the fierce conflict at Cnoc-an-air!

Meargach of the green blades,
And Oscur, engaged fiercely in single combat,
O Patrick! hadst thou seen the two
Thou wouldst not praise the actions of God's only son.

We, the Fenians, all were
Trembling intensely, and in heavy grief,
Apprehensive our hero would fall
By the mighty Meargach of the stern arms.

The hosts of Meargach of the green blades Were spiritless and joyless, shedding tears, Fearing for the fall of their head and chief By Oscur of the severe arm and sharp blades.

- O Patrick! wert thou a spectator
 Of all the traces of the sharp swords
 Which were on the bodies of the stern warriors,
 Thou wouldst not mention God or the clerics.
- P. O Oisin! leave off a while
 Thy silly words, and pursue the tale;
 Tell us which of the twain,
 Was victorious in the action at Cnoc-an-air.

- Ο. 21 20) με από τη δερική το δεακό το δεακό το δακό το δερικό διο δερικό διακό το δερικό το δε
- 20. Νη h-eazal hom bar δδ' laim,

 πα σημ α z-car me, Orcult rell;

 ητ δεαμό hom δο συιση hun,

 α'τ α παιμεαμη δίοδ δοδ' fluaż rein.
- Ο. Ιτ δεαμό Ιοπ α Wheanzaiż chuajó,
 πας ταδα μαίς 30 μη απ δάιτ,
 α'τ 30 δεμίτηκ-τι α'τ δο chom-tluaż,
 Ιιοπτα α'τ le rluaż Fhianna Fail.¹

Οο ζίας Ογευη ζοιή α'ς κηαος, α'ς δο έδς α ίαηη ίαη-δυαδας; δε τημε τε πεαητιατιατία, ζυη έειζε το ίας 20 εαητας επιατό.

Νίοη δ-καδα δο'η Ιαοό αμ ταΙήμης, αη ταη δ'ειμιζ ζαη τίας αμίς; δο ζαδ' ηλιμε ιαμ τιη αη κεαμ, α'ς δο ήθαδυιζ α ηθαμτ 'ςα ζηίοή.

I Flanna Fail, the Fians of Fail. Fail, or init Fail, according to Keating, was one of the ancient names of Ireland. At the Tuatha De Danann invasion the country received this name from a celebrated stone which they brought with them, called the Lat Fail, or Stone of Destiny, and of which the poet writes:—

"O'n 5-cloc fo ta fon' ba fail, ir uafe majocean inir Fail." From this stone which is under my two heels, The Island of Fail is called.

This stone was considered enchanted and held in great veneration for its supposed power of making a terrible noise resembling thunder, which could be heard at a great distance, when one of the royal race of Scythia sat upon it to be crowned. It was then the custom, upon the decease of the reigning monarch, that his successor should sit upon this stone for

- O. O Meargach! saith Oscur aloud,

 My spear has reddened in thy body;

 I have cut thy flesh to the bone,

 And the anguish of death cometh upon thee!
- M. I dread not death by thy hand,
 Be not concerned for me, generous Oscur;
 I verily believe thou shalt fall by us,
 And all that survive of thy hosts.
- O. I verily believe, O stern Meargach,

 That thy death wound is not far from thee,

 And that thou and thy mighty host will fall,

 By me and the hosts of the Fians of Fail.
 - Oscur became furious and vehement,
 And he wielded his all-victorious blade,
 With such heroic courage and might of arm,
 That he laid Meargach the hardy low.
 - Not long was the hero on the ground, When he arose without dread again; Shame then seized the man, And his strength and valor increased.

coronation; but if the candidate so sitting was not of the royal blood of Scythia, neither motion nor noise of any sort proceeded from the stone. All the monarchs of Ireland upon their succession were crowned upon it; and from its great fame, Fergus Mac Earca, first king of Scotland, sent to his brother Murtough, who was then king of Ireland, requesting him to send it to Scotland, in order to be crowned thereon king of that country. He believed thereby that the crown would be more firmly possessed by him and his posterity, by its innate extraordinary virtue. The king of Ireland complied; and about A.D. 513, Fergus received upon it the crown of Scotland. It was preserved with great care at the Abbey of Scone in that country, for the purpose of crowning their kings upon it, until the time of Edward I., king of England, who brought it from Scotland. It is said to be now placed under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, where it has lost all its former virtue and power.

Ο. Φο ċaṛċ aŋ ὑṛ beaġ-laoċ ʒlaŋ,
 ο αṁαρι παρορε 30 h-ιαρ-ρεοιη;
 ʒaŋ ṛiċ, ʒaŋ roraö, ʒaŋ caṇpbe,
 οċ! a Phachaic, a ŋ-ὑιαŋ-ġleó.

Canzadan an dír lam an lam, a'r do żab an ranuiże a rluaż rein, do żluair Orcun zo calma, mean, ran leinz amać nom an b-Pheinn.

Βή δηκασ αζυιηη 30 τύδας, τυαιτις, α'τ δηκασ είλε τά ξημαίτη να ηξηθ, 30 h-θιηξίδ 3ηθιηκ ακ να πάκας, χυη τίουδι αν ηδώπαιο όμχαινη 30 τηθαν.

Φο cuajo Orcup a η-έjde cata, a'r do tlac a apm 'ra rzjat ηα δόjd; σο thiall a z-combajl 'ra z-cojnne, 20 με απχαίτ ήμε, απ τη έαπ leóman.

Ο'ιοηηγαίζ αη δίτ αη δαμα la, αη παίδηη 30 lam-ζηοδ δίαη; αζ ζεαμμάδ α'τ αζ ομέαδουζαδ α δείle, α'τ ηίοη δ-τάδα ζυη ζάιμ² αη βλίαηη.

¹ león, η, a lion. This name is also applied by the poets to a hero, or one who distinguishes himself in battle.

² Jajn, a shout. The Fenians were wont to shout loudly at any signal victory obtained by them, whether in the field or elsewhere; and Donnchadh Ruadh mhic Conmara, in his Cacena Jhjolla an Amallajn, or, Adventures of a Slave of Adversity, thus describes the shout of Charon, the boatman of the Styx:—

O. The two noble brave heroes spent [the time]
From morning's dawn till evening,
Without quarter, without cessation, without delay,
Alas! O Patrick, in severe conflict.

Meargach asketh of Oscur the noble,

If he would relinquish the battle for the night;

Oscur saith "thou shalt have thy desire,"

And they both left separated.

The two came hand in hand,
And the stranger went to his own host;
Oscur strode forth bravely and stoutly,
On the plain before the Fians.

Some of us were merry and humorous,
And others looked sullen in their countenance;
Till the rising of the sun on the morrow,
When the foe mustered around us powerfully.

Oscur went forth in battle armour,

And he took his arms and shield in his hand,

He went onwards to meet

Angry Meargach, the lion of bravery.

The two attacked each other on the second day, In the morning with fierce blows, Cleaving and wounding each the other, And 'twas not long till the Fians shouted.

"Do nus an macam an ban mo méanald,
Do nun té sain órand a'r déiceac,
Le fuaim a soca do chicead na fréanta,
Do cuala an chuinne é a'r cuim ifheann séim ar."

The giant seiz'd my hand with gladden'd soul,
Then louder roar'd than mightiest thunder's roll;
Heaven's high cope trembled at his bellowing shout,
The round world heard, and hell's black depths cried out.

S. Hayes's Translation.

- P. Chéad an rác an táin an Fhiann, a Oirín thinn aithir búinn; na deanmad, aictim, do naid, ir milir¹ do reed ain rúd.
- Ο. Νίοη ξάιμ πλοιότε, α Ρήατημο πάκό!

 σο τός απ βήμαπη απ τημέ άσ;

 ατ τάιμ ταοιπτε α' τ τημότεμοτ,

 τάιμ ζοίαιπ α' τ τάιμος!
- P. Chéad rát an caoineadan an Fhiann, ir rada liom 30 noctain rát, ir cormúil man leanar do laoi, 30 naid Orcun a lion chuad-cair
- - An tan do conancman Orcun an lan, do faoileaman a'r cac zo naib zan anam,2 act nion b-rada do'n laoc chóba, an tan d'éinit deó na fearam!

 - Jr deand lompa an Meanzac na lann, zo m-diad Orcun zo rann zan rpar; azur an cuid eile do'n Fhiann, act tura azur 2008 Beaz amain.

¹ Milit bo 75eol, sweet thy tale. The saint here indicates to Oisin that he was well pleased with his narrative; and urged him to proceed, for it is to be supposed that Oisin grew silent for a time, thinking mournfully of the great achievements he had witnessed of old.

P. Why is it that the Fians shouted,
O pleasant Oisin relate to me;
Do not forget, I implore, thy narration,
Delightful is thy account of it [to me].

[arrived!

- O. Twas not a shout of exultation, O Patrick, recently
 That the Fenians raised at that time,
 But a shout of sorrow and misery,
 A shout of lamentations and [deep] woe!
- P. Why is it that the Fenians wailed?

 I long to hear thee reveal the cause;

 'Tis likely as thy lay goeth on,

 That Oscur was in a perilous position.
- O. This was why the Fenians wailed,
 O Patrick of the clerics, truly;
 The third blow given by Meargach of the blades,
 Left Oscur weak upon the ground.

When we beheld Oscur down,
We and the rest supposed him dead;
But 'twas not long till the valorous hero
Arose alive and stood up.

- O Oscur, saith Fionn of the Fians,
 Thy body was never seen laid
 On the clay of the earth till to-day,
 By any hero however mighty his hand.
- I verily believe, saith Meargach of the blades, That Oscur will be feeble without delay, And the rest of the Fians, But thou and Aodh Beag only.

² 3an anam, literally without spirit, meaning that he was a lifeless corpse.

> Cuimnio, a Orcuin, an Conan maol, bo cuicim bo'n Fhiann zun bic; cuimnio an zac cac chuaio, bo rearmuizir bo rluaizcib Fhinn.

Φο τρηθάς Conan Orcun aiż, α'τ τυς αξαίδ το δάηα αη Wheanzac τηθάη; ηί τακαδ τότ, α Phathaic! κατ δοδ' τέβηη ίδης Ιαος.

Dob' è τώο αη cat ba όγαη, α Phathaic! ηα 3-clian 3αη τό; cat 3αη γογαό, cat 3αη ράγητ, cat 3αη γταοηα α ησαμό τίεο.

Do bị an bịr bob' ailne chear,
Orcun azur Meanzac a bean me;
an bana là an b-teact neoin,
a'r nion h-aitne a z-clo na rzein.

Ní haib ball bà z-conpaib caom, zan hian chéace, ná zoin lann; o bacar cinn, zo bonn cháce, búinne a'r bo các níon theann.

21 Ογειημ! ειμήτητό τιμ led' laμή, δο έτητ τηματαό απ Φίητ Θητ;³ πα ειμέαμ le Μοαηταό αμ τ-cul τί. τή αμέτηδ δίητη τί, αμ Υιοητ τα δ-Υήιαπη.

I batar. This is the name by which the crown of the head is known; and it is generally believed that talented men lose the hair off this part of their head at an early age. The celebrated poet Carolan is represented as a bald-pated man in a print prefixed to Hardiman's Irish Minstrelsy.

O. The Fenians completely defy thee,
Stern Meargach of the green blades;
As I have reddened thy body,
The Fians need not dread thy power.

Remember Oscur, saith Conan Maol,
Thy fall to the Fians will be a loss;
Remember every hard battle
Thou sustained for the hosts of Fionn.

Conan roused the noble Oscur,
And he boldly faced the powerful Meargach;
I have never yet seen, O Patrick,
A better fought battle between two heroes.

That was the battle that was severe,
O Patrick! of the clerics, without doubt;
A battle without cessation, a battle without partiality,
A battle without intermission in fierce conflict.

The two were of the fairest feature,
Oscur and Meargach I say;
On the second day on the approach of evening, [ed.
That their form or appearance could not be distinguish-

There was not a spot of their smooth bodies
Without trace of scars and wounds of blades,
From the top of their heads to the sole of their feet,
To us and the rest it was not pleasant.

O Oscur! remember it was by thy hand,
The wizard of Dunore fell;
If by Meargach thou art vanquished,
We recognise thee not, saith Fionn of the Fians.

² Chace, or bonn thate, used poetically for though, the foot; however, bonn thate, or bonn though, means the sole of the foot.

³ Oun On, i.e., the fortress of gold. There are three localities in Ireland bearing this name—one of which (Dunore) is situated in the county

> Nac cumin leas san sir an air, zun leas do tuis Tails mas Theoin? a'r zac zairzideac a'r shean fluat, do tuz a tuan' an an b-Phenn.

Βα δεαμό linn uile, αη βήμαηη, ηλη δ-καδα δ'η η-δίτ αη σ-έας; δα ξεάμη ζυη δ'αοιδίηη δύίηη, αη δ-συισίη ζαη λύο δο'η έεαμ σμέαη.

Cla έτης απ ταλαή απ λαοό,
α 3-ς μεατά ή έασα σαπ ληπη;
σ'έημξη σο ς αλη α ποαπ απής,
α'ς σύβα ητς, ης σίς το σο'η βηθηπη.

Φο δή απ πεόιη α δ-κοχυν δύιηπ,

α'τ δο ευιχεαδ δο'η βλέιηπ α'τ δο έλέ;

το πο έυιδε απ δήν Ιαοέ,

δο γχυν δ'η πχιεό το ίλ.

Do labajn Fjonn njr na rjn čalma, a'r búbajne zun majre böjb anaon; reaona o'n z-cać bo čojl a čejle, zo h-ejnžíb znějne a manač lae.

A dúbaine Aleanzac na nzlar lann, ir cuide rin, a Fhinn mic Cúmaill, a'r nion tanlaid niam liom a nzleic, laoc ir chéine neanc a'r lút.

of Kerry; the Fort del Or of the Spaniards near Smerwick; the second is now a castellated rock in the southern shore of Cape Clear in Cork; and the third is in the county of Meath. There is an Ossianic Poem in our collection, entitled Caccha an Amadan Anhoin, i.e., The Adventures

O. Dost not thou remember how powerful was Nosniadh, the flower of Dunore; As we recognise not thy countenance, Let us always hear thy voice.

Dost thou not remember after the slaughter, That it was by thee Tailc Mac Treoin fell? And each hero and mighty host, That made a journey towards the Fians.

We, the Fenians all, perceived,
That death was not far from the two;
'Twas not long till we were joyful,
On the feeble fall of the mighty man.

Though the hero fell to the ground,
In the spasms of death, as we thought,
He arose quickly and fiercely again,
And saith, "this is sad for the Fians."

The evening was nigh at hand,
And the Fians and all conceived,
That it was better the two heroes
Should cease from the conflict for the night.

Fionn spoke to the mighty men,
And said it would be to the renown of the two,
To give up the battle of one accord,
Till the rising sun on the morrow.

Meargach of the green blades said,

That is but just, O Fionn Mac Cumhaill;

And I never yet encountered in battle,

A hero mightier in strength and vigour.

of the Big Fool, or Simpleton; in which reference is made to Snuazac of Ohun an Onn, which may refer to either locality. This poem will appear in our Transactions at some future period.

> Φο γχυην απ δήν δεαξ-λαοό δ'η ηχλεδ, απ οιδόε γιη α'ν δα όμεαόταο τηπη; α χ-τοηκρ, α δ-γεδηλ, α'ν α χ-τηαήνα, χαη δηήξη, χαη δλάδ, χαη έριδηπ.

21 κ το πόλικό ακ απάκις lae, δ'ιουπαίξ α celle αυ δίτ το διαυ; δα calma πεακτ α'τ τυίοπ lama, ακ ταlam δα δ-τάιηιτ κιαπ.

Φοδ' μαδ τώδ, α Ρhατμαίς, απ δήτ, δα ξαιμδε, α'τ δα έπειμε α πχίεδ; 'τιτ τεάμμ δο όμιμε αδ αττεαό το σπάπ, λαπ δ'α λαιπί δα δ-τασαδ τότ.

Νή έασας κός δής παι μαδ, α πεαίτε, α ημαή, ηλ δ-εμέαη lúέ; α 5-calmace, α πήμε, α'ς α πήγηεας, α'ς α η-ηπήτε αι πεαήπαη, δαι Ιμοή.

Νή έασαδ α γαιμίνη μόδ αμαση, ας κυλαης τροιη-δέμημε απη ομυαίδ; ας ζεαμμαδ κεόλα, α'ς ομεας όασις, ας γεαγαίη ταη κλεάδ, ταν γυαη.

21 dechejre, a dechejne, 'ra lût, gan cejnce a deronn 'na ndajl; do bj an djr gan rzun d'n ngnjom, do lo no d'ojdte ajn read dejt la.

¹ Lann b'a lain, a sword off their hands. Specimens of the swords used by the ancient Irish can be seen in the hall of the Mansion-house,

O. From this night forth, O stern Meargach,
I will not by thee nor by Fionn;
Neither by night nor by day, nor for ever,
Until either of us is dead.

The two brave heroes relinquished the battle For that night, and sorely wounded, Were their bodies, flesh and bone, Without vigor, without fame, without force.

On the morning of the morrow,

The two encountered each other fiercely;

They were the strongest and mightiest of arm,

That ever came on earth.

These, O Patrick, were twain,
The roughest and mightiest in battle;
The most skilful to strike unto the bone,
A lance off their hand, that I have seen yet.

Two like them have not yet been seen, In strength, in pursuit, or in robust agility; In prowess, in swiftness, and in courage, And in feats of dexterity I apprehend.

I have not seen the like of the two,
In enduring heavy severe blows;
In cleaving flesh, and soft skin,
Or in enduring without food or repose.

In might, in strength, and in agility, Without want of feats or deeds; The two gave not up the action, For day or night during ten days.

Dawson-street, Dublin, which no man of the present day could wield with one arm.

In other copies a b-spearage.

- 21). 21 Ογουιμ! το αν οκυαίδ λαή,
 δ' ακ τητικ απ όδήδαι κιαή;
 δο όμιστη Ιροή το διίρο τα δ-βηίαης.
- Ο. Νή h-8 mo chioc na chioc na b-Fhiann, a Wheapzaiż chuajo na nzlar lann; cuicim man luadain led' laim, an Orcun na naidze ceann.
 - Do żlac Orcup na lann nzeap, meanmujn, cja zup baoż a żnuaż; njop b-rada zo n-dúbajne cap ejr, an ceann żlóp Weapzać, da majć ruan.
 - Βιαίδ τα απ δίτ δίδ ηλ γαση, α 20) θε απζαίζ όπαιδ! απ Ογουπ αίζ; ηδ ζυπ δυίτ απ δίτ οίηη, ηδ δαήγα, παπ πυιζίπ, απ lan.
 - Νίοη δ-γαδα δύιηη ταοδ αη ταοδ, ας γειτεαή α'γ ας ειγτεαός leo; σο παίδ 20εαησαό αη όύι γσειτε, ας Ογουη ηα η-δειπεαηη σ-οημαίδ.
 - Νί δ-τυαίτ τζίτ πα τογαό ό Ογους, ατο χαό δέιτη σοίλς δα λεαχαό το τεαπη, α δ-τδικόεαπη απ σοιθικής όμυαιδ, δο Ψήθεαπτας, τυς δυαίη α σεαπη!

- O. O stern Meargach of the green blades,
 Saith Oscur, stoutly and aloud,
 Great is the shame to us both,
 That the conflict is on our hands so long.
- M. O Oscur! 'tis thou that hast the hardiest hand,
 That ever played with me;
 Thy fall by me will be the end,
 Saith Meargach, and the end of all the Fians.
- O. It is not my end, nor the end of the Fians,
 O stern Meargach of the green blades,
 To fall, as thou sayest, by thy hand,
 Saith Oscur of the stern words.
 - Oscur of the sharp blades assumed

 Courage, though weak was his appearance; [said,
 It was not long afterwards till the boastful Meargach
 It would be well if we took repose.
 - Thou shalt not take food or repose,
 O stern Meargach! saith noble Oscur,
 Until thou art beheaded,
 Or that I, as thou boastest, shall have fallen.
 - Not long were we on both sides,
 Ministering and listening to them;
 Till Meargach was behind his shield,
 Prepared for Oscur of the severe blows.
 - Oscur did not give him rest or quarter, But severely dealt each fierce blow; At the close of the severe combat, Of Meargach he cut his head.

> Τλαιηιχ ηα ἐοιηχτήιδ, α'τ ηα ἐοτήδαιλ, Lοηχαδάη τρας Βριμαιδίη ηα η-εαέ; αιημη τήις Μρααιχαιχ ηα Ιαηη, Τραμδάη δοδ' τόζαιλας α δ-τρεατ.

Ruzaman an laoc calma,
ο απακο πα δ-rean πόη-τηεαη,³
α'τ δ'ιακη το απα βτηιοπη απα δ-τάς,
ου δο δοπηας της 20 λεαηζαίζ τέιν.

Νίοη αοητιής Γιοηη δο'η Ιαοό caib, but δο connac le Ciandan mean; δο cuinead leigear ne a cheadaib, 'r ir zeann zo mo boilig buinn an rean.

¹ To show how various copies of the poem differ; as indeed do all our Ossianic and other compositions, when transcribed by illiterate scribes, we quote the following stanzas from Mr. O'Grady's copy, which was written in 1845, by an intelligent blacksmith, named Griffin, in Kilrush, county of Clare:—

"An curin do A)heanzac teann, ba bond fożallac a d-tűf zleó ; a dűbaint a mac le zlón nan żneann, tizeac ann fean am cóin."

Upon the fall of stout Meargach,
Who was flerce and destructive in the beginning of battle;
His son said in an unpleasant tone,
Let a man meet me here.

O. We, the Fenians, raised a shout of triumph, And the foe a bitter wail; The son of Meargach of the spears said, Let a man from among you come to meet me?

There came in his presence to face him,
Longadan, the son of Brodin, of the steeds;
The name of the son of Meargach of the swords,
[Was] Ciardan, the avenger in battles.

Before I render an account of the battle,*
Pity that Oscur should not be immortalized,
He was covered with huge wounds,
By heroic Meargach of the hard deeds.

We brought the magnanimous hero [with us], From the sight of the great mighty men; And he asketh leave of Fionn first To go fight Meargach's son.

Fionn would not consent that the noble hero, Should go to fight Ciardan the swift; Healing medicine was applied to his wounds, And soon to us it was sad.

2 Again :-

- "Sul a d-euzad euapatzbal an ĉaĉa, Oteun da ĉnuaż zan a ĉun a tuin; do di edini endaĉeaĉ fani, zan eapa zan moadajn zan luiĉ !"
- Before I relate the account of the battle,
 Pity that Oscur would not be noticed;
 He was sick, wounded, and weak,
 Without agility, without sense, without strength!

Again :---

"50 cheards o smart cac."
Mildly from the gaze of the rest.
10

- O. An can d'éaghaman an laoc,
 rince 30 raon an leaba ruain;
 a'r luce rheardail na cómbail,
 canzaman do lacain an caca luadar.
 - Φ'ίοηταιξ Cιαμδάη το calma, ατα Lοηταδάη δα ξαμό τιεός; α'τ ηίομ δ-καδα δόιδ α ητιείς, αη ταη ευιμεαδ πας Βηυαιδίη απ κεός!
 - Φο τίιτ, α Ρhατμαίς, δ'αμ δ-βήθηση, le Cηαμδάτη, α τι-αοτιαμ, ατι τέαδ la; συμτισμένη αν αν τι-διατίδο δαμτισμό δα δαμτισμό δάμτος δάμτος αν τι-διατίδος. 3
 - Do cuit leir an dana ta, zan deanzad an a cheir caoin; da céad rean da calma lúc, a Phatnaic! da búbac an céim.
 - 21η ταη το ἐοηαίριο Joll mac Ajónηα, Cιαρδάη αξ είρηδαδ ηα είμαξ; το ξίμαις κέιη ηα ἐδιήδαιί, α'ς ηίρη β-καδά απ ίαη το β-κμαίη.
 - Jan δ- τιιτιπ δο Chiandan ne Joli, δο ξάιη, δο ξίαιπ, α'τ δο έλοιη εάς; δο ξάιη lê lúcξάιη αη Ρηίαπη, ζίδ' ηλη γλόη ιαδ δ διοπδάδ.
 - Τάιηιζ δεαμδηάταιμ δο Chiandan, δ'an ba com-αιηιη Liazan mean; ba chôba calma e man laoc, a'r an reabar na Féinne d'rôzain cac.

¹ luce prearball, i.e., attendants, or persons to wait upon him, nurses.

² Feób, or reócab, to fade, wither, or decay.

^{*} blat, flower; by which the poet indicates that the flower of the Fenian army were slain in the engagement.

O. When we left our hero,

Feebly laid upon a bed of repose,

And attendants with him,

We made towards the battle I announced.

Ciardan encountered stoutly,
With Longadan the tough in battle,
Nor long were they in the conflict,
When the son of Brodin was put to death!

There fell, O Patrick, of our Fians,
By Ciardan alone, on the first day,
One hundred and ten of hardy men,
Sad to us was the loss of the flower [of our hosts].

There fell by him on the second day,
Without his smooth skin being reddened,
Two hundred men with sinews strong,
O Patrick! sorrowful was the deed.

When Goll Mac Morna beheld
Ciardan sweeping away the hosts,
He himself went forth to meet him,
And 'twas not long till he laid him low.

On the fall of Ciardan by Goll,

He shricked and yelled, and his friends wailed;

The Fenians shouted with gladness,

Though they were not free from sorrow.

A brother of Ciardan arrived,
Whose name was Liagan the active;
He was a hero valorous and stout,
And the bravest of the Fians he challenged.

⁴ D'fozam cat, he proclaimed battle, i.e., he challenged the best among the Fians to combat.

Τάινισ α σ-cómbail leir rúb,
 Céinín mac Lúżaib ba bian lám,
 ηίοη b-raba bóib ασ riúbal,
 ημαίη δί Céinín mac Lużaib an lán.

Τάιτις τεαμ ειλε το βηματι,
τό απ δ'αιτιπ Μαζτιιτ πας λοδαμάιτ,
το τιις τέιτ α'ς ςέαν το τό δ-βέιτη,
λε λιαχάς τρόδα απ ασπαμάτι.

Φο żluaję Conan nan όγαη α z-cat,1
α'ς ηαη γαης cail zajęze ηλ znim;
α z-cómbajł Liazajn, αη teaco do latajn,
ης baot do cuajno α έγη maojł!

Jan b-τεαότ δο Chonan a b-κοζη δο, δο τόζ Liazan το chōba a lain, ir τheire ont an κεαη αη δο τάί, na mire nômab, an Conan.

Njon řearaith Conan an ball,
a'r njon iann rean a čeače a n-aie;
bo žluair bo čojn neača raoi 'n b-Fjann,
a'r bo čajé a lann or a laith.

1 Man blan a 5-cat, not powerful in battle. In this stanza Conan is represented as the greatest of cowards. He never sought praise for any feat he performed, and very justly, because he did nothing to boast of, having exhibited the most glaring acts of cowardice on every occasion. On this

O. There arrived in his company,

Ceirin, the son of Lughaidh, of the vehement hand;

Not long were they engaged,

When Ceirin the son of Lughaidh fell.

Another of the Fianna arrived,
Whose name was Magnus Mac Lobharain;
He with one hundred of our men fell
By Liagan the heroic alone.

Conan, never potent in battle,
And who never sought fame for valour or deeds,
Went to meet Liagan, who when he came in his presence,

Said, "silly is thy visit, thou bald man!"

When Conan came nigh to him,
Liagan fiercely raised his hand;
More dangerous for thee is the man behind,
Than I before thee, saith Conan.

Liagan the heroic looked behind,
And quick was the blow made by Conan;
Before he could look forward,
His head was severed from the neck!

Conan did not maintain his ground,
Nor did he ask any to take his place;
He ran with all haste towards the Fians,
And flung his blade from his hand.

Faolan enquireth of the bald man,
Why he did not maintain his ground;
That he was guilty of a shameful act,
And that 'twas by treachery Liagan fell.

occasion, however, he was cunning enough to alarm his antagonist Liagan, falsely telling him of an attack from the rear; and thus avail himself of the opportunity, whilst he looked backwards, to cut off his head.

Ο. Φα δ-τιζεαδ Ιιοπρα le h-αοηδέηπ,
αη γιααζ τηέαη δο όμη όμη δαιγ;
le ceilz, ηίοη η αη Ιιοπ αη δεαμτ,
α'γ ηί δ-γαζόαοιγ κογς απέαγς να δ-βίανν.

Jmėjė, an Faolan, orand, a'r zlac ad laim do lann anir; a'r rózain cat calma chóda, an rean do'n t-rlóż mar ail, no an dir.

Thiall am bailte, an Faolan,
a'r conzbaid lam liom annr a ngliad;
ma'r cuicim dam le'n ce clockar,
zainm cuzad rean do'n Fhiann.

Ní nacad am aonan ann,
na rór ad bailri, an an rean maol;
da mo cuicim damra a Phaolain,
níon d'e am dam beic az zladdac!

Tain man aon liom, a fin maoil, a'r tabain leat anir do lann; na ran am focain mar ail leat, mar eazal leat cac dod' ceann!

Do thiall Faolan a'r an rean maol, zo nanzadan a naon cor an coir; an ait 'na naid Liazan an lan, a Fhaolain! an Conan, di ad cord?

- O. If I could by one blow

 Put the mighty host to death,

 By artifice, I would not blush at the deed,

 And they would not be sheltered by the Fians.
 - Go, saith Faolan, loudly,
 And take thy sword in thy hand again,
 And proclaim battle fiercely and heroically,
 To one of the host if they will, or to two.
 - I shall not take thy advice, saith Conan, Whoever of you is ashamed of my act, Let himself proclaim battle and fight, Against one or two of the host.
 - Approach with me, saith Faolan,
 And give me a helping hand in the battle;
 If I fall by him that comes,
 Call to thy aid one of the Fians.
 - I shall neither go there alone,

 Nor yet with thee, saith the bald man;

 Were I to fall, O Faolan,

 Then it would be too late for me to call!
 - Come along with me, O bald man, And bring with thee again thy sword; Stay not with me if thou likest, If thou art afraid of losing thy head.
 - Faolan and the bald man proceeded,
 Till they both reached step by step,
 The place where Liagan lay,
 O Faolan! saith Conan, be silent?

Φο τόζ αη κεαμ παοί α ίαηη,
 α' το μιὰ το τεαηη καοί αη δ-βέιηη;
 δ'κόζαιμ βαοίλη αη καὰ το h-αμο,
 αμ κεαδαγ γίος ἀτὰ α τ-κόιψ-ξίεις.

Do τάιηις 30 h-έαρτα η α τόποδαι, λού τομματία δα τάμο 3λόμ; Φαολ-όμαδι δο τημίτ α αμητή, α'τ α λατή γα τζιατ πα δεατ λαιή.

Níon b-kada do'n dír a d-enoid na lann, 30 b-kacaman, a'r da żneann ne cać; Faolan clipde, an nzand laoć, an cúl rzejće az Daolčiad ajn.

Φο τόσβαδαη cac σαητά σημηη, ce'n δοιλίζ α σ-caol της δαη λιασάλη; το τόσβασιαμής σαητά σοιλ της της της της δο γιασίας!

Do cualajo Orcup an n-uaill zain,

an a leaba man a naib zo rann;

ta an cat coicteann an re,

a'r ni beis neat bo'n Phenn nomam raoi teann.

Νίοη δ-ταδα 30 δ-ταςαμαία ας τεαότ, αη Ιαού μεαη calma αη τηθαη Ιώύ; ηίοη δ-τεατ δύητη 3μη αδ θ δί αητη, 3μη δεατημίζ 30 σεατητα δ'βήροητ.

Φο γαοιί me, α γηηη ! αη γε, αη ταη cualais αη ξάιη δοδηδίη; ηας ηαίδ ίαος ογχαρδά αη αη 3-cηος, α'γ δυίης αχυίδ ηα ηαίδ δεδ!

i.e., The dark-haired.

O. The bald man raised his sword
And ran quickly towards the Fians;
Faolan loudly proclaimed battle
To the bravest of the foe single-handed.

There came quickly to meet him,
A valiant hero with bombastic talk,
Daolchiabh was his usual name,
And his shield and spear were in his right hand.

The two were not long fighting with their swords
Till we saw, and to our foes it was a cause of joy,
Faolan the active, our brave hero,
Behind his shield by noble Daolchiabh.

They [the enemy] raised a shout of joy,
Though sorrowful they wept at the death of Liagan;
We raised a shout of wailing
For the failure of his strength by Faolan!

Oscur heard our loud shout
In his bed where he was feebly laid;
The battle is general, saith he,
Before I arrive the Fians will be all beheaded!

It was not long till we saw approaching, The stout swift hero in full speed; We knew not that 'twas he was there Till he courteously saluted Fionn.

I imagined, O Fionn! saith he,
When I heard the sorrowful wail,
That there was not a brave hero left on the hill,
And that not one of you was left alive!

- Ο. Φο δί γαοίαη α'τ Φαοίσιαδ,
 α ησίεδ ασυτ α 5-compac όμυαιδ;
 ασ σεαμιαδ τεδία, copp, α'τ σηαπ,
 α η-απατι αμαση δα όμυας!
 - D'iann Fionn an an laoc calma,
 Orcun aizeanta ir é luabaim,
 bul anir tan air bo'n bún,
 a'r zan ruineac ró lút an tleó.
 - Ní mačad tam m'ajr, a Fhjun čajo!

 am Orcum nam člajť a nzljad;

 nó zo b-rajcread cja aco do'n dír,

 do čujerear ran nzními le h-baz.
 - Do δή Faolan δα τημοσάδ το πόη, ατ Φαοισίαδ το ομόδα, τεαπη; α Fhaolan! αμ Ογουμ πα Ιαπη ητέαμ, τυ τυιτιπ le Φαοι Ιοπη τήση τρεαπη.
 - D'reac Faolan, a'r ba chuais a car, an Orcun le siombas ina żnúir; a flaic na laoc calma, an re, ma curim na cheiz mo cuir.
 - Μα' τ τιιτικό οιιτ le Φαοιόιαδ α βλασίαιτι! σια όιαπ α τροκή τίδή; τιιτεράδρα αξυτ τίμας πα δ-βίαπη, πό τιιτειό Φαοιόιαδ αδ δεοιή.
 - Cuimniż, a Fhaolain! απ Ογουμ τμέαπ, τη δ'ιοπόα Ιαοό το τυίτ Ιετ' Ιαιπ; α'τ παό cuibe δυίτ α η-απαμο τια δ-Γιαπη, ταν γεαταπ le Φαοιόιαδ α η-ταί].

O. Faolan and Daolchiabh were
In battle and hard conflict;
Cleaving flesh, body and bones,
To see them both was pitiful!

Fionn asked the chivalrous hero,
Oscur the magnanimous, I mean,
To go back again to the Dun,
And not to remain under the excitement of the fight.

I shall not return, O noble Fionn!
Saith Oscur who was not feeble in battle,
Until I see which of the two it is
That will fall in the action.

Faolan was greatly overpowered

By Daolchiadh the valiant and stout;

O Faolan! saith Oscur, of the sharp blades,

Thy fall by Daol would not be pleasant to me.

Faolan gazed, and perilous was his position, On Oscur, with grief in his countenance, O prince of heroes brave, saith he, If I fall, forsake not my cause.

If thou fallest by Daolchiabh,
O Faolan! though fierce his great hosts,
The Fenian hosts and I shall fall,
Or Daolchiabh shall fall after thee.

Remember, O Faolan! saith the valiant Oscur,
That many a hero fell by thy hand,
And that it ill becomes thee before the Fians
If thou stand not with Daolchiabh hand to hand.

- Νίοη δ-γαδα δύμη παη γιη,
 30 δ-γασαπαη α'γ δ'αοιδιηη αη γ3θαί;
 Φαοιδίαδ ας γασίαη χαη δεαπη,
 α'γ δο δόχδαπαη χάιη χημηή παη δ'θας!
 - 21 bubanne Orcun bo żuż and,

 e zasab caż unle b'aon eaonb;

 a'r żeaband caż cojeceann zanb,

 zan monll le reanz fluatice Fhinn.
 - Ni rzankadra an Faolan na lann, zo d-cuickid liom cuile do'n c-rlóż; lem' laim kein na h-aonanan, muna z-cunčan le cač me an keóż!
- P. Jηηης, α Οιτίη, α'τ η α can bheaz, πα'τ τίδτι, αη βλιαηη, δοδ' τέαμη διά; από τας από τος τος τέαμη, τέαμη 20 και γιας και τος τάς β.
- Ο. 21 Ρηλεικαίς! ηίση ξηλίζ λείτ απ δ-βείπη, το πόζο τίαδο δο ξαδαίμε δο έλες; ηίση ίσητημη λεό cealς πα πεαης, πεας δο'η δηκατη ηίση δ'έ έλι.
 - Νίοη διάιταιζ αη Γηγαηη με ης ίμης, α 3-cat ης 3-colinearzαη τηθιη ήλόζο, cat colticaτη ηδ αη ασημη, δο ταβαίμε δ'αση δ'ιαμγαδ θ.
- p. Φοδ' ἐμαμαγβδαὶ το κίοη lean, το δ-καξηλοίο εμίο ἐριάταδ κη ἐκὰκ ἐμικηδ, πό κη ἐμιτ κη κεκη δοηδ άδ, δα ηποιητέκη δο ξηκέ leat βκοίλη?

O. Not long were we thus [situated]

Till we saw, and pleasant was the sight,

Daolchiabh by Faolan beheaded,

And we raised for his death a shout of triumph!

Oscur saith in a loud voice,

Let them all come at once,

And they shall encounter a fierce general battle

Without delay from the wrathful Fian-host.

I shall not give up, saith Faolan of the blades, Till more of the host shall fall, By my own hand in single combat, Unless they put me to death.

- P. Relate, O Oisin, and tell no lie,
 If ye, the Fenians, were the most expert,
 Why was it that a determined general battle
 Meargach and his hosts did not encounter at first?
- O. O Patrick! it was not customary with the Fenians
 Not to give choice of the fight to their foes,
 They cherished not treachery nor malice
 "Twas not the fame of any of the tribe.

The Fians refused not to give during their time
Battle or contest of mighty hosts,
General battle, or single combat,
To any one who sought it.

P. Thy narrative follow truly

Till we find how the hard battle ended,

Or did that mighty hero fall,

Whom so often thou calledst Faolan?

- O. Tan êjr Dhaoléjab do cun cum bajr; d'jann Faolan cead an Fhjonn, bul do commac zan cajnde an bic, le laoc ejle do fluaz cajc.
 - Ποητα ηα βέρησε απ ταπ κυαρι, δ'κόζαρι το ομιαίο σατ απ τας; ταρητ Ιαοτ δ'απ δα σότη-αρητη, Οιαπ πας Lactha πα τότηδαρί.
 - D'ionrait an dir deat-laoc a ceile, to thean calma chuaid; nion b-rada tun b'aoidinn duinn; a'r cac to débac raoi lan-thuaim.
 - Ni tuz Faolan an daha bem, tum Chiam mic Latena na z-chuad lann; an tan do concaman az teate, niozam tailce da dheaza znúlt.
 - Do tuje Cjan mac Lacena le Faolan, rul ra 5-cainiz an niożajn cuzajnn; so rzujn an zleć an zac caob, az rejteam na seaż-mna ús.
 - Do rozdad ne cać zanta caoj, an ajthe na njoż-inna dojb, do bi an Phiann na rozd da h-ainanc, a'r i az rion tile dedn!
 - Alph a ceann do bí an pole ónda, a Phachaic! ní 36 dam a maoideam; ní éaca cura na do Dhia, a famul do clab an aon mnaoi.

O. After putting Daolchiabh to death,
Faolan asketh leave of Fionn,
To go fight without any delay
Another hero of the host.

When he obtained the consent of the Fians,

He vehemently proclaimed battle against the foe;

A hero, whose name was

Cian Mac Lachtna, came to meet him.

The two brave heroes attacked each other, Mightily, fiercely, and sternly; 'Twas not long till we rejoiced, And the foe was sorrowful and gloomy.

Faolan had hardly dealt the second blow,
To Cian Mac Lachtna of the hard blades,
When we beheld approaching
A fair princess of noble features.

Cian Mac Lachtna fell by Faolan
Before the princess arrived;
The battle was relinquished on each side,
Waiting the arrival of that fair lady.

The enemy raised a wail of grief
On recognising the princess;
The Fians were silently gazing at her,
Whilst she incessantly shed tears!

On her head were the golden locks,

O Patrick! it is no falsehood to proclaim,
Thou nor thy God never saw
Such hair upon [the head of] any woman.

- Ο. Φ'τιατιαιό τι δο ξίδη δα τούπα, ca μαιό Γιοπη, μίζ πα δ-Γιαπη; πό αμ ταιτ α cèlle caom, πεαμ, α'τ α δίτ πας ca'η ζαδ τιαδ.
 - Cla h-8 so celle caom, an Flonn,
 innir sulum a'r so sir mac;
 ma'r culcim solb an choc an ain,
 so zeabain a s-carz le breic leac?
 - Uppin mo céile ba môn buab, Weanzac chuaid na lann nglar; a'r mo dir mac, Ciandan ba chéan, azur Liazan do di ceann a 5-cac.
 - 21 μίοξαιη όλιδ, δο μλιδ Γιοηη, τια 30 πο ίξοπόλα, ταρα, τμέλη; δο τυιτεαδαμ αη τηιμη μο Ιμαδαιγ, α 3-τατ γα ηχίιαδ δα πρέιδ α ίψτ.
 - Do rznead azur do żajn an niożajn ajż, azur do żnead na bara zo lom chuaż; do ril zo zujne rhara dech, a'r dúbajne, mo bnon! ca b-rujl mo żnjun?
 - Do zluaje an njožajn čajlce,

 zo bjan az ezneada eć'n an;

 zo najnje ej zo beace an aje,

 jna najb a cejle 'ea bje mac an lan.
 - Do cloud an Fhlann anoth 'ra man, a'r bo cloud cae man tab zo clait; or zae caob a'r and bo'n enoc, az etreaec le caot-żue na mna.

She enquireth in a gentle voice, 0. Where was Fionn, the king of the Fians, Or did her gentle husband fall. And where were her two sons?

> Who is thy gentle husband, saith Fionn, Relate to us, and thy two sons; If they fell on the Hill of Slaughter, You will get their history to bring home.

The name of my husband, whose sway was great. [Was] hardy Meargach of the green blades, And my two sons were Ciardan the valiant, And Liagan, who was stout in battle.

O noble princess, saith Fionn, Though accomplished, agile, and mighty, The Three thou speakest of fell In battle and conflict, though great their agility.

The noble princess cried and wailed, And wrung her hands in dismal grief: She shed a bitter flood of tears. And exclaimed! where are my Three?

The bright princess went forth Intensely wailing among the slain, Till she reached the spot. Where her husband and two sons fell.

The Fians mustered east and west. The foe, in like manner, feebly came From every side and peak of the hill, Listening to the caoin of the woman.

Ο. 21 Phathale! η έλεα δο Dhia, δο όλειμ κός, ηλ εά κέιη; πραγατήμι ηλ πηλ άδ, α b-ρεαμγα, α 3-cló, 'γα γ3διή.

An can cainiz or closs sa z-corp, bo fin carrina ar an b-criur, zan capa, zan lúc, zan creoja!

Φ'ατραίξ α h-εαδαη παίτεας, πίν, α δεαμοά ξηίνη 'τα δεαμζ ξημαδ; α leaca, α δεαί, α'τ α ομιτ το ίτη, α ταπμί δο'η έας δα τημαξ ί

Níon b-rada dúinn, a Phathaic! man rin, 30 n-deacaid rí a n-éalaid dáir, Do tógaid an namaid uaill-caoi téan, a'r an Fhiann réin dí raoi díombad!

Φο γασιθασιαμενε α'τ τότ càc, 30 δ-τυαμι δάτ απο 3αο 3αιμιο; 50 τάιηι3 να ομυτ τόιο απίτ, α'τ 50 τάι α3 τασι απο Ιασι σαπο Ιθανας! O. O Patrick! thy God hath not seen,
Nor yet thy clerics, nor thyself,
The equal of that woman,
In figure, form, and countenance.

When she stood over their bodies,
She tore her hair, which was of the colour of gold,
She stretched across the Three
Without movement, energy, or strength!

Her beautiful and smooth forehead changed [colour],
Her sparkling eyes and crimson face,
Her cheeks, mouth, and form all over,
Her equal to face death was woful!

Not long were we, O Patrick! thus,

Till she fell into the swoon of death;

The foe raised a bitter wail,

And the Fians themselves were in grief!

We and the foe imagined,
That she had there died without a moan;
But she assumed her own shape again,
And sung in tears the lay that follows!

laoj anna anhearsaish,

- 1. Allhe finuad-zeal, a n-diaiz a fin azur a diar mac do cuic an choc an ain.
- Ο. 21 21) heanzaiż na nzlar-lann nzean, 1 bob' jomba zliab a'r chom-cac; a b-cionól rluaż a'r aonahain, bo cuic leb' chuab-lain real.

Νίοη δ-γεαγαό της το ηαίδ ηπα τι-διαίξ, επέλες της ηιατί απ δο έσης; 'γ ην δεαμδ Ιοπή τομι εείλτ, α έπαδ, α'ν παό πεαμς λατή δο διαίδ οπε!

Φοδ' έλδα δο έπιαι απ ιπόιαπ, δδ' έξι δα όλοιπ το h-Injr Fail;² δ' ιοπηγαίτε Fhinn ατυς πα b-Flann, δο όκαιτ πο έπιας δο' η m-bar!

¹ This is a good specimen of the ancient Irish caoin or lament, and is also valuable as embodying and representing the belief in omens by the ancient Irish; and sufficiently bears out the opinion entertained by those who closely study the early history of our country, as to the eastern origin of its first colonisers. A fragment of this curious poem has already appeared in print, having been published by the late Philip F. Barron of Waterford, in his Magazine, entitled Ancient Ireland, (See Lamentation of Ala over Mordhaigh, p. 105, Dub. 1835); but a comparison between that and the present version will show considerable variance and difference.

² 1017 Fa₁1, Island of Fail. At p. 130, note 1, referring to this term, we stated, on the authority of Keating, one of the most learned antiquaries of his time, that the 1₁a Fa₁1, from which Ireland received the above name, was removed to Scotland, and thence to Westminster Abbey: where, according to our author, it now lies; but since writing that note, we have consulted Dr. Petrie's Antiquities of Tara Hill, where, at page 150, the learned Doctor states that the Lia Fail is still at Tara, which important discovery, if we might rely on his arguments, would entitle him to the marked thanks of the Irish nation. He states, that after the eventful year, 1798, it was removed from its antient situation in the Rath, called

THE LAY OF THE WIFE OF MEARGACH, I.B. OF AILNE, OF THE BRIGHT COUNTENANCE, OVER HER HUSBAND AND TWO SONS WHO FELL AT CNOC-AN-AIR.

- O. O Meargach of the sharp green blades,
 Many a conflict and severe fight,
 Amidst the hosts and in single combat,
 Came off by thy hardy hand in thy time.
 - I never knew that there remained after them,
 A wound or scar upon thy breast,
 And I feel assured, that it was treachery, love,
 And not the might of arms that overpowered thee!

Long was thy journey afar,

From thine own fair land to Innis Fail;

To visit Fionn and the Fians,

Who treacherously put my Three to death!

the Forradh, to mark the grave of the insurgents, slain at Tara in the outbreak of that year. At p. 162, he gives a woodcut representation of this stone, which he describes as but six feet high above ground, but that its real height is said to be twelve feet. It is a matter of surprise that the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, if they believe this to be the Lia Fail, has made no effort to save such a relic, leaving it thus exposed to destruction. Surely when that body makes such strenuous efforts to rescue matters of minor importance as they often do, they should not leave the Lia Fail to merely mark the graves of rebels on Tara Hill! The identification of the existing stone with the Lia Fail, requires, however, some further corroboration. Taking it that the Lia Fail stood upright originally as at present, and that the monarch inaugurated, stood on the apex of it, while it audibly expressed approbation when the right heir occupied that position, we can hardly conceive that he could have found a locus standi on a space so unfitted for an exhibition of the kind as the narrow-rounded summit of this stone presents. The account given by our bardic historians of the Lia Fail would lead one to believe that it was a small flat stone, such as the one now under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, and not a pillar-stone six feet above ground, and six more below, as Dr. Petrie's account represents it.

- O. Diombas! mo ceile, mo ceann, bo caillear le meant na b-Fiann; mo sir ozlac, mo sir mac, mo sir d'reanait ba zant zlias!
 - 200 ἀιήα! πο διαδ αχυτ πο δεοό! πο ἀιήα! πο ἀρτζ δ ζαὰ αιμδ; πο ἀιήα! πο ἀμια! αι ιπάιαι, α'τ ζυμ ἀαι!lear πο Ιαοάμα αλιά!
 - 200 ἀιτρα! το Φρίτη απ Ιαπ, πο ἀιτρα! το τζαὰ α'τ το τζιαὰ; πο ἀιτρα! 20 εαπζαὰ α'τ ζιαπόλη, πο ἀιτρα Ιιαζάη! δα δηεάζ είιαδ!
 - 200 ἀμήλ! πο ἀριήθαδ λ'η πο ὅ[οη, πο ἀμήλ! πο ὅμιξ αξυη πο ἐθαψη; πο ἀμήλ! δ'θ αγ δοιίδ δ'η οίς, πο ἀμήλ αποὰε! η δ το γαψη!
 - 200 ἀμήλ ! πο lúżζληκ λ'r πο żμελη, πο ἀμήλ ! πο żeλl ληη πλά λης,² πο ἀμήλ ! πο lúż λ'r πο πελης, πο ἀμήλ ! δ ποὰς λπλά το δηλά!
 - 200 cáma! πο τμεσιμ α'τ πο τηιαί, πο cáma! πο πηιαη το la'η bajr, πο cáma! πο ταιττε α'τ πο μειπ, πο cáma! πο laochas ba cais!
 - The cuma! me leaded a'r me ruan, me cuma! me cuajne a'r me ceace; me cuma! m'ejde a'r me blad, me cuma chajde! me chiún rean!

¹ Ceann means also a head, and in pronunciation and signification strongly resembles the Persian word khan.

O. Sorrowful! my husband—my chief,
I lost by the wiles of the Fians,
My two youths—my two sons,
My two men who were flerce in battle!

My grief! my food and my drink!

My grief! my precept everywhere,

My grief! my journey afar,

And that I lost my noble heroes!

My grief! my Dun laid low,
My grief! my shelter and shield,
My grief! Meargach and Ciardan,
My grief Liagan! of the broad chest!

My grief! my ward and defence,
My grief! my strength and might,
My grief it is! and gloom from evil,
My grief this night! to find ye slain!

My grief! my joy and my pleasure,
My grief! my desire in each place;
My grief! my agility and my strength [are gone],
My grief! from this night evermore!

My grief! my guide and my path,

My grief! my love till the day of my death,

My grief! my treasure and my sway,

My grief! my heroes who were noble!

My grief! my bed and my slumbers,
My grief! my visit and my arrival;
My grief! my consoler and my renown,
My sore grief! my three men!

² Aliter, and, height, everywhere.

- Ο. 20ο ἀίτρα! πο παίτε α'τ πο τσειπ, πο ἀίτρα! πο τέαδα α'τ πο ὰαίτσε πο ἀίτρα! πο ἀίτρε α'τ πο παοίν, πο ἀίτρα! πο ἀρί coinble σαίτσε!
 - 200 cúτη ! το captoe a'r το żaol, πο cúτη ! το τριμτικ a'r το capato, πο cúτη ! τη αταικ a'r το τραταικ, πο cúτη a'r το car! τις παικ!
 - 200 ἀιτή | τη ράητα α' η τη βάζιας, το ἀιτή | τη βίλητο τας απ, το ἀιτή | τη τηθίτη α' η τη βόλας, το δογίζ δόλας ! τη το κατη!
 - 200 cúma! το τίκας α'τ το ί απη, πο cúma! το ceaπητας α'τ το ξηλό, πο cúma! το τη α'τ το δαιίε, πο cúma! τη το τραιρε οπ' δαιί!
 - 200 cúma l mo cuan a'r mo calait, mo cúma l mo tairze a'r mo féan; mo cuma l mo mondact a'r mo nizeact, mo cúma a'r mo caoi l rib zo h-éaz!
 - 20) ο εάτη ! την μας το h-10m-ή lan, την εάτη ! την απ απ τίαν ; την εάτη ! την είνη είνη την του ! την εάτη ! την είνη η leothan την είνη !
 - 21)ο ἐμήλ ! m' m | m | το αξυρ m' δ l,

 πο ἐμήλ ! πο ἐεδί αξυρ m' λο | δημομαν ;

 πο ἐμήλ ! πο ξημομαν α' ρ πο δαημεριάς, α

 πο ἐμήλ ἐλημείλ ! ρ lδ είλο | δεε !

^{1 5}ημαγάη, a summer house, such as is found in gentlemen's gardens, where the ladies of the houshold and their attendants take shelter from the burning heat of the sun in the summer season. Grianan also was the

O. My grief! my beauty and my adornment, My grief! my jewels and my wealth, My grief! my treasures and my chattels, My grief! my three valorous torches of chivalry!

My grief! my kindred and my relatives, My grief! my people and my friends, My grief! my father and my mother, My grief and my sorrow! that ye are dead!

My grief! my affection and my welcome, My grief! my health at all times, My grief! my blitheness and my solace, My harsh desolation! that ye are feeble!

My grief! thy spear and thy lance, My grief! thy gentleness and love, My grief! thy country and thy home, My grief! that ye are separated from me!

My grief! my havens and my coasts, My grief! my wealth and my prosperity, My grief! my greatness and my possessions, My grief and my wail! are ye till I die!

My grief! my riches all, My grief! your absence in battle time, My grief! my muster of hosts, My grief! my three heroic lions!

My grief! my games and my festivities, My grief! my songs and my pleasures; My grief! my summerhouse and my train, My crying grief! that ye are feeble!

name by which that portion of a castle or palace set spart, or appropriated for the use of ladies was called-probably our drawing-room or boudoir.

² bannenace, female attendants, ladies in waiting, &c.

- Ο. 200 ἀτήλ | η/ἐρηη αξυρ η/ἐμαδαὸ, πο ἀτήλ | πο ἐμιλη δεληδ Ιλοὸ; πο ἀτήλ οὰ | πο ἀτηλ μαδ | «'ρ α Ιελδαδ αη μηόμαη δο'η βήθηση |
 - D'airin me an an rluad ride thean, bo bi a nyleic or cionn an Duin; a 3-cat le chile a nylincib aeibin, yo naib an lean le buaine bom' thiun!
 - D'aitin me an an d-rozan-zut rize!

 bo feld zo chulun arteat am cluair;

 nan d-rada naim zoim nuad rzeil,

 bun d-enicim ir e do than!
 - D'ajtin me a b-τάς an lae, bo γχας mo τριάς beag-laot liom; ας απαιτο beaga rola na ηξικαό, ηλη b-rilleab καοι buad τάχας!
 - Ο'αιτίη τηθ απ τυτ τια τη-δαόδ, απη δώμ το-αταιμ τρειδίμ τας πεοίη; δ ηταμαδαίμ Ιίοτη το εποτάς εαοτή, τωμ δ-ροτωρ δατη Ιθάη α'ρ δηδη!
 - Je culinin tiom a chiuse ba chéan!

 zur minic me tie do luais;

 da m'imécaét zo h-Cirinn die,

 nac b-reicrinn bur nonaoi raoi buad!

¹ Sluar ripe, fairy host. The recital of the long list of omens in the following stanzas is particularly beautiful and characteristic. A belief in omens is of remote antiquity in Ireland, and, prevails in many parts of the country among the people at the present day. In no other poem in the Irish language is such a long list of omens strung together as in the present one. Allne knew by the legions of fairies she saw in a vision fighting in the air, that her heroes would never return to her alive; also by the hosts in the gless of the sky—by the voice

- O. My grief! my lands and my chase,
 My grief! my three heroes true;
 My grief alas! O my grief are they!
 Conquered afar by the Fians!
 - I knew, by the mighty fairy host,
 That were in conflict over the Dun,
 Fighting each other in the chasms of the air,
 That evil would befall my Three!
 - I knew, by the fairy strain,
 That came direct into mine ear,
 That evil tidings were not far from me,
 Your fall was what it portended!
 - I knew, on the morn of that day,
 On which my three noble heroes parted me,
 On beholding tears of blood on their cheeks,
 That they would not return victorious to me!
 - I knew, by the vulture's croak,

 Over your delightful mansion each evening,
 Since ye parted me in strength and beauty,
 That sorrow and gloom were at hand!
 - Well do I remember, O mighty Three!

 How often I had told to you,

 That if to Eirinn ye did steer,

 I would not see you crowned with victory.

of the sprites of the hill, as it was wasted to her ear on the breeze,—by the mournful cry of the Banshee, which she heard round the Cathair each night, since her heroes departed—by the deep croak of the raven each morning—by the foam of the torrent, when it changed to the colour of blood—by the visits of the eagle every evening and wheeling ominous in flight over the Dun—by the withering branches of the trees before the Dun—and by the black raven, which she saw flying before them on the way on the day that they left for Eirin—by her broken rest at

- Ο. Φ'Αμτη τη της Απ το το τος τος τος τος τος τος Αποροίος Απο
 - D'ajėjų mė a ėpjujų ba ėajė, ap n-beapmad būp n-jall-ėon bįb; nap b-pillead bįb apip le buad, zan cealz o ėluajėcib Phinn!
 - Φ'αιτίη το α τοιρηίε ταιττε!

 τημέ απ εατά απ ταοίδ απ Φάιη;

 απ τη-δείτ απ ταιί le ίτη δάπ δ-τηιαιίί,

 απ τεαίι το πιατή το παίδ α δ-Υιοηή!
 - D'aitin me an cuaind an iolain, zac neoin az rillead or cionn an Dúin; nan b-rada zo z-cluinrinn réin, carz dnoic-rzeil om' thiun!
 - D'ajtin me an tan b'reoit an bile,
 'διη τέας α'ς δυιλε ός comain an Φύιη,
 ηλη τέατ το δυαδ ταη παις δίδ,
 δ cealzaib Fhinn mic Cúmail!
 - Na imcain Flonn! a níosain ais (an Shaine), i na rór imcain an Fhiann; ní le ceils, na le means, bo cuiceadan ann do chian!
 - Ní tuz an níożaln preaznab an bit, (an Thrainne), azur níon tuln rulm na zlón; att leanmúin ba caoine a'r ba caoi, zo prar az ríon tile beón!

night—by the floods of tears which alarmed her in her sleep—by the mournful cry of the favorite hound of Ciardan every evening.—In one dream, she imagines herself to be in the form of a spectre—in another vision, she sees a lake of blood on the site of the Dun; by all which phenomens she conjectured the fall of her heroes. In the Tale of

- O. I knew, by the raven's croaking voice,

 Each morning since ye left me,

 That your fall was true and certain,

 And that ye would not return victorious to your land!
 - I knew, O noble Three,
 In forgetting the leashes of your hounds;
 That ye would not again return with victory,
 Without treachery from the hosts of Fionn!
 - I knew, ye torches of valor!
 By the cascade's stream, near the Dun,
 Having changed into blood at your departure,
 That this guile was ever found in Fionn.
 - I knew, by the eagle's visit

 Each evening over the Dun,

 That ere long I would hear

 Evil tidings from my Three!
 - I knew, when the huge tree withered,
 Both branch and leaves before the Dun,
 That victorious you would never return
 From the wiles of Fionn Mac Cumhail!
 - Do not decry Fionn, O noble princess (saith Grainne), Nor yet decry the Fians; 'Twas not by treachery nor craft, That thy Three [heroes] fell!

The princess made no reply to Grainne, And she heeded not her talk; But continued her caoine and her wail, Incessantly shedding tears!

Deirdre, published in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society (Dub. 1808), similar visions appear to her, respecting Naisi, Ainle, and Ardan.

¹ Spanne, Grace. This lady was the daughter of Cormac Mac Airt, who was monarch of Ireland in the Third Century. She was betrothed to Fionn Mac Cumhaill, but her subsequent amours with Diarmuid O'Duibhne, forms the subject of our Third Volume.

O. D'ajtin me an amanc bun n-diajt,
an la do thiall tid d'n n-Dun;
an eigh an thie nomal amac,
nan comanta mait an tara cuzam?

D'ajtin me an earba ruain, zac ofèce buan ro frocajb beon; om' norzajb o rzan rib hom, nan tuan cúmbajz bibre a fonc.

D'ajtin me an an airling bhoin, bo tearbain mo tuair bam rein; Tun Jeannab mo teann a'r mo lama biom, Jun ribre bo bi Jan neim!

D'ajtin me an Uajtinin binn-żłonac, zadan ba no-feanc lem' Uazan! az zlamżojł zać majojn zo moć, mo tniún zun cinnec bojb an bar!

D'ajtin mê an tan teapbanas sam, an lot fola an ajt an Dújn; τομταμτά 30 μαίδ πο τημίη, δ'η 3-ceil3 ηλη γαοη ημαίη Γίοηη!

Να δί απ αιτιτ βήμη (απ Τμάμησε), α δεαη, τια τμάμοτε δο τμοίδε, τμέτη τεατρα δειτ απ μπτάμησε, πα δ-βίαην πάκδαλας, πα βίοηνο

- O. I knew, on looking after you,

 The day on which ye left the Dun,

 And on the flight of the raven before you,

 That it was no good omen of your return!
 - I knew, by the hounds of Ciardan, Mournfully howling every evening, That ere long, I would hear, my pain! Of your fate, O Three, my dark grief!
 - I knew, by the want of rest,

 Each long night past with tears streaming;

 Down from my eyes since ye left me,

 That such did not forebode luck to you.
 - I knew, by the sorrowful vision
 That revealed my doom to me,
 That my head and hands were cut off,
 That it was ye who were bereft of sway!
 - I knew, by melodious Uaithnin,
 The favorite dog of my Liagan!
 Howling each morning early,
 That death was certain for my Three!
 - I knew, when in a vision I saw,
 A pool of blood where the Dun stood,
 That my Three were vanquished
 By the wiles from which Fionn was never exempt!

Do not reproach Fionn (saith Grainne), O woman, though sorrowful be thy heart, Give up henceforth to be speaking ill, Of the proud Fians, or of Fionn. O. 21 The line! ar riotaly an oir-clab, ba mo lear an enjar ro ar lar; jomean no aiely nior leon lear, man biol 30 beard in m-bay!

Φά δ-καηδαση για 3-εδητή-έη κέην, α κίοξαιν τέητή, ακ 5καιννο Fhinn; α'τ 3αν τεαέτ δο δίοξαλε τής Τρεσην, δ'ν δ-βέηνη νίοκ δδήδ δα δίτ!

Φά m-bab cuicim boib le cocham lann,

zan cealz na meanz, a Shhainne caoin;

ni imcainfinnti an Fhiann,

a'r ni mainio cum fiazain linn!

Φά παιμεαδαση, α μίσξαιη αίξ, η ιπό αιητιδίτ τέιη απ βηίαηη: ητ le ομόδαότ α'τ ηθαμτ α lam, 1 δ' τάξδαδαμ απ lan δο τηιαμ!

Φο έιος καδ leó, α Thrainne, απ σηίοπ, α σ-τας; 'τ ης τος πράιλ σας δ'απλαίδ δή, πό πίος έαιτης σο διαέ δοπ' έπιας.2

Cheid uaim, a niożajn, an Inainne, nac najd cealz ran laim, na meanz, do leaz Meanzac na lann nzlar, a'r do ceilz le neanz de a ceann!

'Aliter "A) An it finden buic, of a 5-cind,
Nac le means do leasad lab."

As their headless bodies bear thee witness,
That it was not by treachery they fell!

2 Aliter "Όο δ'ξέισην, α Σημάμησο, α δειγιης, α λεακό θε colls α'τ le πρασς;

- O. O Grainne! saith the princess of the golden hair,
 If those Three who have fallen were thine,
 Truly, reproach or shame would not suffice thee,
 As satisfaction for their death!
 - Had they remained in their own country,
 O mild princess, saith Grainne of Fionn;
 And not come to be avenged for Mac Treoin,
 From the Fians they would receive no hurt!
 - Had they fallen in fair battle,
 Without deceit or treachery, O gentle Grainne,
 I would not reproach the Fians,
 But they do not survive to bear me witness!
 - Had they survived, O noble princess,

 They themselves would not decry the Fians;

 Twas by valour and might of arm,

 They laid low thy Three!
 - They might, O Grainne, the deed perform,
 By putting them under magic spells, at first;
 And 'tis likely that it was so,
 Or else my Three would never fall.
 - Believe me, O princess, saith Grainne, [arm That there was neither venom nor treachery in the By which fell Meargach of the green blades, And that by might cut off his head!

A'γ A η-bjajā η-bejā cṇaplajāāe δόιδ, A η-bjāceanη Ab le τόιμη eant laηη."

It may be possible, O Grainne, I say,

To slay them by treachery and malice,

And after their being decrepid,

To behead them by the force of swords!

12

- O. Innirin duit ror san bhéas,

 an dir do leas so raon do clann;

 nan cuide aitir do tabaint doid,

 a'r nan b-rearac doid dhaoiseact na means!
 - A Thuainne! an an níosain ais, b'an b'ainim Ailne seal-fhuab; ní cheidim uair, na d'n b-Féinn, zun cuirim dam laocha man luadain.

Na bi rearda linn da luad,

a'r na zlac chid zhuaim na reanz;

ni haid hiam cealz 'ran b-Féinn,

acc zniomanca laocuir azur zairze.

Innirim duic rór zan breiz,
na cainiz riam laoc na cóir na n-dail,
do ruz a m-duad a z-cearc na lann,
a'r zo m-deid amlaid zo la a m-dair!

- 21 Aline! It aluinn thuas a't znaoi, o nac z-cheisin tinn sa luas; innitim suic zo s-cuicris cuille, trul transals linne so mon fluas!
- 21 Thrainne! ar an riogain aig, ar run na 5-chuab-fear do bul d'eag; ta beard doic agampa ar cac, 30 5-cuirpid ar ar an b-Feinn.

Aliter "Leastaid an Phiann a't ní le ceals, cuille an an leans dod' chom-fluas !"

- O. I tell thee again without falsehood,

 The two who laid thy children low,

 That reproach was not due to them,

 And that they knew not sorcery nor guile!
 - O Grainne! saith the noble princess,
 Whose name was Ailne of the fair form;
 I believe not thee nor the Fians,
 That my heroes fell as thou sayest.
 - Do not henceforth to us proclaim, And do not be sullen or angry at it; There never was treachery in the Fians, But feats of heroism and valor.
 - I tell thee still, and 'tis no falsehood, [them, That there never yet came a hero or pursuit to meet That obtained sway [over them] by right of the sword, And that they shall be so till their death!
 - Had they dealt justly or honourably,
 With my Three who were mighty in action;
 And with their victorious mighty hosts,
 Their fall then would not surprise me!
 - O Ailne! of the most elegant shape and form, As thou dost not believe what I say, I tell thee that more will fall, Ere thy great hosts part us!
 - O Grainne! saith the noble princess,
 For the sake of the hardy men who have died,
 I have great hopes that my hosts
 Will deal destruction to the Fians!

The Fians will slay, and not by treachery, More in the field of thy great troops. O. 21 Aline! an Thainne an thinn, it beams linn raid to chiall; cair linn a 'r leir an b-Féinn, to 5-caiceam le cèile deoc a'r blad?

Do diulcuiz Ailne zeal-finad,
an cuinead ruain o Thhainne Fhinn;
a'r a dúdaine nan cuide lei rein,
rlead na rearda o luce a nghin !

Το ηχελημέλη πο copp rom' lan, το παιό Conan το ξαμό ξίδη; το η-γοσκαμητε, α Uline ξεαι-ή η μαδ, μπόλη η αμ γίμας ταν όδης!

21 fin maoil ir znainne deilb, da b-racad an aon leinz ror; ir deand liom zun jocar zo chuajd a n-imcain, a'r da chuaż an rzeol!

Jockajo εά ηίος επιαό, απ Conan, αίτις α'ς ιπέλη τα δ-Γίαπη; δαίπεαδ απ εεαπη όπιτοίε δίοε, πά χειδιπ εεαδ βίητη πα δ-βίαπη.

5 β πόμ τοιμτελήμι ο όσης, α'ς τη λετάπ, λοπ, ανότ ο πλοίλ; α'ς τη μαπαμ-άμπαλά, μίξην-έθιξελά, πελη, παη δελίδ πας παιτ αμ λοά!¹

Do cozbaman ule an Fhlann, zain da bian zneann a'r cac; an can d'imdeanz an bean, an rean maol leam a'r d'imcain.

1 Aliter. "Sealaimte nac maje an laoc."

I promise that the hero is not brave.

O. O Ailne! saith the pleasant Grainne,
I know that thou hast come from afar,
Come with me and with the Fians,
Till we together eat and drink?

Ailne of the bright form declined

The invitation given her by Grainne of Fionn;

And she said it was beneath herself

To partake of cheer from people of their deeds.

May my body be rent in two,
Saith Conan, in a surly voice;
But thou wilt pay, O Ailne bright,
For unjustly stigmatising our hosts.

O bald man of the ugliest aspect,
That I have yet met on any plain;
I apprehend I have sorely paid
For the stigma given, and how sad the tale!

Thou shalt pay more sorely, saith Conan,
For the scandal thou hast given the Fians,
I will cut off thy head of the golden locks,
If I am permitted by Fionn of the Fians.

Though huge and bulky is thy body,
And though flat and bald is thy skull,
And tho' thou art thick-boned, tough-sinewed, swift,
These are marks which ill becomes a hero!

We, the Fenians all, raised
A shout of joy, and so did the foe,
When the woman rebuked and reproached
The silly bald man [Conan].

Ο. Φο żlac an rean maol món řeanz, a'r bo labajn bo żanb żuż anb, cújr caoj azur rnoża beón, zujöjm bo'n říhějnn a'r bo čáč!

Do cannaing a lann ar a chuaill cairge, a'r cug ric ganb cum na mna; bo buail Orcun an chuaib-beim, bo buain ruaim a'r beic ar Chonan!

Φ'uaill Conan, a'r b'reac 30 τριαξ αη Ογουη ηα 3-οριαδ ίαπη ηξέαμ, α δύδαιμο Conan, ηλιμ αη 3ηίοπ, δο 301η η πο είξο δ ταοδ 30 ταοδ!

Νί ζοιητιπη το είβ πα το έσητ, αέτ το δ-τακά της δ'οίς το πέιπη, πίση είμδε της ποέτα το είσιδιπ, απαπακε τηαοί πα πηά πά γτείπ.

Ni b-ruil mo ruim a rzeim na mna, na znúir aluinn, na na znaoi, ir meara liom aicir zan ciall, az imcain na b-Fiann azur Fhinn!

Do żluaję Fionn 'ran Fhiann o'n z-cnoc, a'r Orcun aco na żean cinn niajn; bo żniall cać 'r an niożajn żeim, an a b-caob żein zo pnap man jab.

An na manac cainiz an Fhiann,

an an z-cnoc 'na naib an c-an;

a'r njon b-raba zo b-racaman az ceacc,

Ailne fnúab-zeal azur cac.

Aliter. "50 50 me amult blan cum an ant."
With venom severe towards the slaughter.

O. The bald man became very angry,
And he spoke in a loud rough voice,
A cause of weeping and floods of tears,
I pray for the Fians and their foes!

He drew his sword from its costly scabbard, And made a fierce dart towards the woman; Oscur gave him a hard blow, That made Conan shriek and roar!

Conan howled, and looked piteously,
On Oscur of the sharp-tempered blades,
And he said, shameful is the deed,
Thou hast pierced my breast from side to side!

I would not pierce thy breast nor thy body,
But that I saw thy bad intent;
It was not meet for thee to unsheath thy sword,
On seeing the shape and beauty of the woman!

I am regardless of the beauty of the woman, Of her fine features or her shape; I think worse of the undeserved reproach She has cast on the Fians and Fionn!

Fionn and the Fenians left the hill, And Oscur with them as their guide; The gentle princess and her hosts Sped their own way in haste like them.

In the morning the Fians came
On the hill where lay the slain;
And 'twas not long till we beheld approaching,
Ailne of the bright countenance and her hosts.

γδόη απ΄ ηα μαηχαδαμ τιηη,
το γείηη Φάιμε διηη-ἐαἐ ceoil;
το γείηη γίοηη αη Βαμμ-δυαδ,
α΄ το χαίμη το luar α έμοη-γίος.

21 Allne finad-jeal! an Thainne, an amlaid it all leat dit deat-laoc; do dul a z-comi-thad na lann, no cat conteann an zac taob.

21 Thhainne! an Ailne ba żeal rnuab, ir aitlaib ir cuibe an zać taob; thíocab² bo laocha na b-Fiann, a'r thiocab man iab a z-cóiti-żleic!

Ταίμη όυσαο δο όμιο το Ιαοό (απ Τμάμημε), απ απ λείμς πα η-αοηαμάη; α'τ σοιμεραστα εμιοό το το δ-Γιαπη, σο δ-ευσαίδ επό διαπ απ όπος απ αίμ!

1 bann-buas, sometimes called bann buabalt. This and the Dono Fhiang, were the war-trumpets used by the Fenian chiefs to summon their troops to battle.

² Cnjočab, thirty. Here Ailne proposes to Grainne, that thirty combatants a side should be chosen to decide the conflict, which number they summoned forth in their turn—each calling the bravest hero or combatant in the ranks. Among the names of those so called, the following bear a striking resemblance to some of those of the present day; Thus—Conanan, seems identical with the present Conran; Ruajone, (written Ruajone, in the copy consulted by us in the Royal Irish Academy),

- O. Grainne advanced to meet them,
 And took gentle Ailne by the hand;
 They walked together on the one path,
 And the two approached the front of the hosts.
 - At the time that they reached us,
 Daire sounded the melodious music of battle;
 Fionn sounded the Barr-buadh,
 And called in haste his mighty hosts.
 - O bright Ailne! saith Grainne, Is it thy wish that two heroes, Should fight with their blades, Or a general battle on each side.
 - O Grainne! saith Ailne of the bright countenance, It is thus it should be at either side, Thirty of the Fenian heroes, And thirty their match, to meet!
 - Call to thee thy thirty heroes (saith Grainne),
 On the plain by themselves,
 And I shall call thirty of the Fians,
 Till they give severe battle on Cnoc-an-air!

would go far to identify the name Renehan or Rooney; Corzane or Corzaneac, now Cosgrave, is a name famous in Irish History (see Ossianic Trans. Vol. I.). Cantaine may be the modern name thetule (Hurley) or language, O'Herlihy, whom Dr. O'Brien in his Irish Dictionary, at the end of the letter I, describes as chiefs of a district in the barony of Muskerry; and also states that they were hereditary wardens of the Church of St. Gobnait, at Ballyvourney; and were possessors for many years of the large parish of that name. Smith states that they were chiefs near Macroom. For an interesting account of this family see Connellan's edition of the Four Masters, p. 199, note.

- O. A Thuandain! an Ailne finad-feal, bo tuit led' laim an aon ló, thiún agur céad fean calma mean, tainre as taghad ad teann sleó!
 - 21 Thiabain! an Thainne órand, bo éule led' laimre an aon éaé, en éada agur ré fin déag, rearmaid an éadd ne n'air.
 - 21 20 heanain! an Ailne, chial leac, bo cuzcas an rias mean o'n c-riab, le luar bo sa coir lucinan chuais, ni meaca ir bual buic zlias.
 - A Ruajène! an Thainne an żhinn, ni bhirread rod' choiż an chionan, le deine do coin an lom lúc, bein clirde do rúd a 3-com-dail.
 - A Chonahain! nah faz hiam cham na fiacail flan az laoc, b'an comhaic leat a z-cat na nzleo, mearaim zun coin tu żlaobac.
 - A Chorzaine! απ Τμάιννε το τεανν, το συμπερά αν σεανν τ'ασν-δείνν, πίλε ο'ν τ-coluinn δ'έρακανν ών, ταδαίννε τω α τ-σοινί-λλεις.
 - 21 Caplaine! na món chéace, bo cup an conpaid laoc le nin; ir mearca zun cuide duit eniall, a'r cuinnit an chiún do cuit!

- O. O Thuardan! saith Ailne, of the bright countenance,
 There fell by thy hand in one day,
 One hundred and three mighty swift men,
 Come thou as leader in the fight!
 - O Giabhan! saith Grainne aloud, There fell by thy hand in one battle, Three hundred and sixteen men, Stand thou by his side.
 - O Meanuir! saith Ailne, go forth,
 Thou that hast brought the swift deer from the hill;
 By the swiftness of thy two fleet hardy legs,
 Cowardice is not thy character in battle.
 - O Ruaithne! saith pleasant Grainne,
 Thou wouldst not crush the withered grass,
 When in pursuit [of the foe] by thy fleetness,
 Thou shalt match him in the conflict.
 - O Conaran! who never left
 A bone nor a tooth sound in any hero
 Who engaged thee in battle or conflict,
 I think thou shouldst be called!
 - O Cosgaire! saith Grainne firmly,
 Who would send the head by one blow
 From the body a mile of soft ground,
 I will have thee in the combat.
 - O Earlaire! who left large scars,
 On the bodies of heroes with venom;
 'Tis determined that thou shouldst go,
 And remember the Three who fell!

Φο δί απ δίς δο πηλιδ τέιπ,
 Αιίπε αξας Τκλίηπε, δεαπ βήτης;
 αξ ξαίκη α'ς αξ τοξα πα δ-γεακ,
 τη δίος τρίοδαδ το δεαδτ ακ τα ταοίδ.

Φ'ιοηητιιζεαδαμ πα τμέιη-έιμ α ċέιle,
ταὶ δίτ δίοδ α τ-τοιή-τίιαδ όμιαιδ;
α δ-κοιμόεα η από ταὶ πίομ ήμιμ δο'η ίση,
α Ρήατμαις! αἰτ δίτ δο'η Υήμαης!

21η ταη δο ἐοηαρι αη ဪ, αη τιιτιη 30 διαη αρ ἐλὸ, δο ἐδζδαδαρ τρί χλρέα χριηη, δα ἐιογ α ηχίρη α'γ α η-αρδ.

21 Allne zeal-żnúaż! an Hnainne, ir món an car an zaż zaob; an na laoż ba żnuaż zajrze, zniall leaz 'ra majneann dod' bujdin.

Ní čniallkad kéin na jad rúd, a Thháinne! d'an n-dúitice kéin, no 30 d-cuickid kiad 30 deine, 30 d-kažaid did-keinz an an b-Kéinn!

Ιηημημή όμις, α αμίρε! ηα ηχεαί έλας, 30 π' έε άμη δίδ τα αδού α εδίη, 30 ποέταιη δάη δ-τίη αλαμή μέρη, ηδ τεαμ τχειί η παέαιδ δεδ! O. The two gentle women,
Ailne and Grainne, the wife of Fionn,
Were calling and choosing the men,
Until exactly thirty were mustered at a side.

The mighty men attacked each other,

Each two of them in hand to hand conflict,

At the close of the battle there only survived,

O Patrick! but two of the Fians!

Of our thirty the two survived,
My heart is sick from its recital!
I shall not cease my narrative yet,
O Patrick! from Rome, of the harsh faith.

When the Fians beheld
The foe falling fast,
They raised three cheerful shouts,
Which were heard in valleys and on hills.

O Ailne bright! saith Grainne,
"Tis a sad case on both sides,
The slaughter of the valorous heroes,
Depart with what survives of thy hosts.

Neither they nor I shall go,
O Grainne! to our own country;
Till they fall to the last man,
And are avenged of the Fians!

I tell thee, Ailne! of the fair hands,
That 'twere better for you to cease the pursuit,
Till you reached your own fair country,
Than that no one to bear tidings shall go alive!

Ní chiall buinn, b'an b-cin, an Ailne! 0. 30 enjejm b'jomlan an rluaz; ηο 30 m-beineam linn a n-biożal cac, ceann Fhinn chuab-lam a nzleó.

An can bo cualago pluas na b-Fgann, շենը գո-այգորգծ ոգ արգ նծ! bo felin Flong an Bank-buab, az zajem a fluaz na člújo.

Φο εμιητήξεατιας δ κας από δο'η έπος, an meio oo bi an latain ann; a dubajue Fjonn do żuż and linn, compales a'r biożal bib anojr 30 teann.

Νί μαιδ αμγαιό πα όχιας ποαμ, do fluazicib calma choda Fhinn; nan żlac 30 prap arm a'r éide, a't các san teachad mar tinn.

21 21 line thuab-jeal! It boilb liom, bo nais Floor na z-chuas-żleć; zeallajm buje a'r ni zlón bneize, nac majnread azad aon neac beó!

Do feinn Floun ann rin orano, an Dono le zain-żoin cum zleó; δ'ιοηηταιζεαδαμ α ceile o zac caob, a'r do reahad an thêan cat 30 dian!

Uch, a Pharmaic! bob' & rub an cat, ba theine a'r ba calma lam zliais; d'an curad d'eur an domain, a'r bo'n niożam teann ba bobnon!

O. We shall not proceed to our country, saith Ailne!
Till all our hosts shall fall;
Or that we bring in revenge
The head of Fionn, the firm hand in battle.

When the Fenian hosts had heard,
The hostile declaration of that woman,
Fionn sounded the Barr-buadh,
To summon his hosts in his presence.

We mustered from all parts of the hill, Such of us as were present there; Fionn saith in a loud tone, Battle with vengeance now proclaim.

There was not an aged nor an active hero,
Of the mighty warrior hosts of Fionn,
Who did not instantly take arms and armour,
And the foe without faltering did likewise.

O Ailne the bright! I much regret,
Saith Fionn of the hardy deeds;
I promise thee, and 'tis no falsehood,
That one shall not be left alive to you!

Fionn then vehemently sounded,

The Dord with a call for vengeance to the fight;

They attacked each other at either side,

And the battle was fought furiously!

Alas, O Patrick! that was the battle, [flict, The fiercest and the mightiest of hand to hand con-That was fought since the beginning of the world, And to the stubborn princess 'twas disastrous!

- Φο τημαί Ογουμ α δετίρη πα δεγγαηη, α'η α ίαπη ίροπτα πα δεαη δόιδ; 30 μάπταδαμ τέμη ατυς σας, απ ίεμητ απ άμη α'η απ όδιπητείεδ,
 - 91 Phathaic! η έαημη αξε τίοη, τια την τημαδ-Ιαπαέ τηίοπαέ ταέ; το έμιτεατα μιλε λειτ από-Γιαηη, αξε τημή, α'τ απ πίοξαιη απάμη!
 - Do tuje pan z-cat úd ba zand djan, do ljon fluat na b-Fjann pejn; dejčneadan a'r pe cead pean, do laocha ba zand zljajo!
 - D'imèiż an κίοζαιη 'r an εκιάκ άδ, a'r nion b-rear búinn ca'r zabab leó; ba búbac jad an a b-enjall, cé an namaid jad! ba bobnón!
 - Az rin chioc an cata chuaib,

 a Phachaic núab! na m-bacal m-ban;

 o rin amac do bairt an Fhiann,

 an an z-cnoc ro fian cnoc an ain!
- P. Jηηγ δάιηη, α Οιγίη! 3αη 36, ηα Ιαοόμα ομόδα δο'η βήμαηη; α η-εασημίτ αη ομίοσαδ σαίδ, δο όμις γαη αμ αμ 3-ομός το γίαμ?
- Ο. Τυαρυγτόδη δο δέαραο δυίτ,
 αρ τας ρηθοή- ἐεαρτ ταρό δαος;
 τος τος ρε κας ταρίς πας Τρέιη?

in phacual numb, O Patrick newly arrived. This phrase is very common in Ossianic poetry when St. Patrick's name is introduced, and it goes far to show that these compositions were written immediately on

- O. Oscur went forth at the head of the Fians,
 With his polished sword in his right hand,
 Until they and the foe met,
 On the field of slaughter and conflicts.
 - O Patrick! I relate but the truth,
 Though the foe were hardy and fierce,
 They all fell by the Fians,
 Except three and the princess herself.

There fell in that severe and fierce battle
Of the Fenian hosts,
Six hundred and ten men,
Heroes who were valiant in fight.

The princess and the three departed,
And we know not whither they went;
Sorrowful they were at parting,
And, O Patrick of the clerics, 'twas sad!

Thus ended the severe contest
O Patrick, of the white croziers, lately come;
Henceforth the Fians named
This hill westwards, the hill of slaughter!

- P. Relate to us, O Oisin! without guile,
 The mighty heroes of the Fians,
 Besides the noble thirty [men]
 Who fell in the slaughter on the hill of battles!
- O. An account I shall give thee
 Of the history of each robust hero,
 That fell on the hill by the foe,
 And by that daring man Tailc mac Treoin.

the Saint's arrival in Treland, modern as the language and phraseology of the compositions may appear to us of the present day.

13

αναμαννα να Β-ρκίοαρ-ιαοζκαφ φον γηθίνη Φο έμιτ αμ έπος απ αμη, le rluagh αρλεμταίζη.

Ο. Φο τίμε αμ αη 3-εηος το ή αμ,

Conn Cιαθμας δα ζαμό ζίεδ;

δο δ' τέ αμμ ιδιή α' τ η θαμε α η ζίαδ,

η α κατ Φό κια lear τ τ τόμ!

Ir ann do tuit 'r ir diombad liom, Onallad Flann, ba buan a z-cat; a'r d'impediad an lút a lain żnioin, le mac De bi a'r ni tiubnad cead.

Jr ann do cuie 'r ir cimat linn, Luanan zaoir na d-chom lann; do cuzad an cone d'n e-rliab, le nuic lan dian a tan bball.

Jr απη δο έτις Cηπιαχάη calma, δ'ιτεαδ απ παρε απη αση φροιηη; α'τ δα μίτειο δαιρξίη δο'η αμάη, α'τ δα παιμεαδ δα ξμάιη leir clain πα Roma!

Jr ann bo tuit Caol Luaimneac mean, an lút ba luaite na an żaot; Ciannan na 3-chéact lann chuaib, ba maineab, níon fuainc bob' cléin!

NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL FENIAN HEROES THAT FELL ON CHOC-AN-AIR, BY THE TROOPS OF MEARGACH.

- O. There fell on this western hill

 Conn Ciabhrach the fierce in battle;

 Of firmer hand and might in conflict,

 Than God's hosts of whom thou boastest!
 - 'Twas there fell, and my grief!

 Dralladh Flann, who was firm in the fight, [arms,
 And who would play in regard of agility and feats of
 With the son of the living God, and would not succumb.
 - And O my grief! 'twas there fell,

 Luanan, the wise, of the heavy spears;

 Who would bring the wild boar from the hill,

 By the great swiftness of his robust limbs.
 - "Twas there mighty Cruagan fell,
 Who would devour a cow at one meal,
 With forty cakes of bread,
 Had he lived how he would hate the Roman clerics!
 - Twas there Caol the swift fell,
 Who in swiftness was fleeter than the wind;
 And Ciarnan inflicter of severe wounds;
 Had they lived it would not be pleasant to thy clerics.
 - 'Twas there Dorcan the nimble fell,
 Who was stronger in battle than thy God,
 Who hacked bodies and bones,
 And cheerfully did share the bread.

- Ο. Jr απη δο τίμε Caol διαπάς πεαη, Βοίζαιμε, Seanc, αζιν Cηιαζάη;¹ κατημα ζαμό δο Ιαοκαίδ κημαίδ, πο δατημοίδ ιαδ ματή απ κάη!
 - Jr ann bo tuje Ljazan min żeaz, ba clipte a'r ba thean a z-cat; a'r bo bi az pheartal na b-Fiann, zo pajnyinz, ún, piall, na jeal.
 - Jr απη δο έτιτ 20e απτάπ κασή,

 δα έση έα μέα δέιπ α δ-τησή έleő;

 20e αποτιμέ αξτι Τιαπαδάπ, calma,

 τηι τη δα πός παιέ ταπ τό!
 - Jr ann bo tuje Lonzaine ba théan,
 Cianban bonn ba chearba méinn;
 Sanzan bo corzantac chama,
 201anan a'r Donn-tlaine ba caom.
 - Jr ann bo tuit Ceinin² cor taol,

 Chuaban a'r 2108 na n-ón meann,

 τηιαι bob' ταιμητης cail a'r clú,

 a'r ba mait lút a nzleó na lann.
 - Jr ann do tuit Follaman buadac Bioran, Luaire, Daoire a'r Laiz! Cainte, Lionan, a'r Saine feim. Dnuillead, Bladd, azur Ceanntain.
 - Jr αηη το τυιτ Cύμηλη δεόδα,

 Rojżne, Slojnne, Cjan a'r Bhad;

 Beallajne, Cújnnjn, a'r Meanndan mean,

 Lajrne, Fraoc, Njall a'r Slar.

ι Cημόδαη. This name is similar to the present O'Cregan, and probably the Ulster family of that name descended from him.

O. 'Twas there Caol the poetic and swift fell,
Bolgaire, Searc, and Criagan;
Four stout and hardy heroes,
Alas that they are away from me!

'Twas there fell Liagan of the smooth limbs,
The active and mighty in battle;
He who entertained the Fians,
Plentifully, freely, and generously, in his time.

Twas there gentle Meangan fell,
Whose blow was deadly in fierce battle,
Meanduire and Cianadan the brave,
Three of great worth, without exaggeration!

'Twas there the mighty Lorgaire fell,
Ciardan the brown [haired] of gentlest disposition,
Gargan the hacker of bones,
Mianan and Donn-ghlaire the mild.

Twas there Ceirin, the slender-legged, fell, Cruadan and Aedh, of the golden diadems Three whose fame was wide spread, And who were expert in the fight of spears.

Twas there the victorious Follamhan fell, Biosan, Luaise, Daoise, and Laig; Cainte, Lionan, and Gaine the gentle, Druilleadh, Blaodh, and Cionntair.

Twas there fell Curnan the lively, Roighne, Gloirne, Ciar and Brad, Beallaire, Cuirnin, and Meanndan the swift, Laisne, Fraoch, Niall and Glas.

² Cémív. There are numerous families in Ircland, at the present day bearing this name.

- O. It ann bo inter Whalan na n-eace, i a z-chuabżoil na z-cat ba teann; azur jomab ejle, a Phathaic nuab! nac b-ruilim ba luab anojr ann.
- P. Junit dam Oltín, ma'r cultin leat, ca'n thiallad leat a'r leir an b-Féinn; fan b-razbail an an-choic dib, lean zo ríon a'r na can bneaz!
- O. Do chuinneamain an z-coin 'ran nzabain, a cleinic ró reidim, a'r ní dnéaz; do luadmuin uile dul do reilz, an dnuac a'r an leinz Loca Lein.
 - Jr rada mire, a Pharmaic nuad!

 zan beata az luad duit rzeal;

 ni cormul leat na led' Ohia,

 zun ad jonniume lid clian na me!
- P. Ταδαίμ τυαμιτζθαί να τείζε δύμη, α Ομήν! α'τ καίζ κοτ τ-ιπόλην; μηνητ δύμην αμπάνηνα να 5-του γαοιδε, α'τ να υχαδακ δα δίνη χαὶ α'τ χάικ.
- Ο. 21 Ρhατμαίς! το ξεαδαίη το là an bhát, μητεαίτ α'τ τμάτ αμ αη δ-βείηη; αίμ αμ τ-conalb, α'τ αμ ηταδαίμ τυτ-biηη, μό! με τημαξ αη δίτ α beit δα η-δείτ!

¹ Aliter, na n-sac, of the steeds.

- O. 'Twas there fell Mualan of the exploits,
 In the midst of the battle's rage;
 And many more, O recent Patrick!
 That I cannot now name.
- P. Tell me, Oisin, if thou rememberest, Where you and the Fenians went; When ye left the slaughter hill, Relate truly, and tell no lie!
- O. We gathered our hounds and dogs,
 O Cleric in want! and 'tis no falsehood,
 We all agreed to go and hunt,
 On the banks and plains of Loch Lein.
 - Long am I, O Patrick, lately arrived!
 Without food, telling thee tales;
 'Tis not likely that thou and thy God,
 Would be fonder of the clerics than of me.
- P. Relate to us an account of the chase,
 O Oisin! and leave off thy complaining;
 Tell us the names of the high-bred hounds,
 And the dogs most melodious in voice and cry.
- O. O Patrick! I could till doom's day,
 Go on and tell about the Fians,
 Of our hounds and melodious dogs,
 Alas! how sorrowful to live after them!

sejit locha lejn.

Ο.

5 Ιμαγγεα παοίδης από Ιίση δο παίτη,

ταπ είτ τατα απά με δο η δ-βείπη;

30 παη ταπαίμ απ καιτίς καπ-ξίας ώδ,

απ δημας τιμήταιδ Loca Lein.¹

Ir & rin an loc ir Ailne rzein,

ba b-ruil ro'n nzhein zo beacc;

ir iomba rcon aca o'n b-Feinn,

ann zan bheiz a b-cairze a nocc!

I loc lein, Loch Lein. This was the ancient name of the lakes of Killarney in Kerry, retained to the present day. The O'Cearbhaills or O'Carrolls, of the race of Aedh Beannan, king of Munster, were chiefs of this district, and had their residence there; but the O'Donnchadhas, (of the second branch of whom The O'Donohoe, M.P., is the present lineal representative); who were originally seated in the plain of Caiseal (Cashell), having settled at Loch Lein, dispossessed and reduced the O'Carrolls, with other families descendants of Conaire Mor, and erected a new territory, to which was given the name Eoganacht Locha Lein; and afterwards Eoganacht Ui Dhonnchadha. One of the five prerogatives of the king of Munster, was to remain to enjoy the feast of Loch Lein from one Monday to another; and, according to the poet Benean or Benignus, who is said to have been a disciple of St.

THE CHASE OF LOCH LEIN.

O. We proceeded, such of the Fians as survived,
After the battle of the great slaughter,
Till we reached the verdant plain,
On the banks and borders of Loch Lein.

This is the lake—the fairest to be seen,
That is under the sun truly;
Many treasures belonging to the Fians,
Are in it, doubtless, secured this night.

- P. Relate to us, O generous Oisin,

 How they were left by the Fians in the lake,

 Or whether it be gold or silver,

 And what it is that detains it there?
- O. There are there in the northern side [of the lake]
 Fifty blue-green coats of mail;
 There are in the western side,
 Fifty helmets in one pile!

Patrick, the king of Loch Lein was exempt from paying tribute to the king of Caiseal. Here are his words:—

" τι τη πίξα α 20 άπαιο πότη, α (3) αμη το Charrl η τότη, η βαθημη η το βαθτάς τότη, η κατομέσης, η Lacha Lein."

There are three kings in great Mumha,

Whose tribute to Caiseal is not due;

The king of Gabhran whose hostages are not to be seized on

The king of Rathleann, the king of Loch Lein.

leaban na 5-Ceant, pp. 58, 59.

The following stipends were given by the king of Caiseal to the king of Loch Lein:—Seven steeds, seven drinking horns, and seven shields, and seven hounds (Ib. pp. 68, 69). And at pp. 256, 257, (Idem), we find the

> Ara ann ran taob folh, on a'r sabac zo leon, a'r zoll; rton bob' lomancac le nab, cizeab a z-cein zac la tan mulh.

Cla boilis bo feanóin na n-beols,

a Phaenaic! raoi bhón ba luab,

a naib azuinn bo conaib raoice,

a'r bo sabain suc-binn bo seabain uain.

Φο δί απη Szeolan αzur Βηαη, ι Lomaine, Βηοδ, αzur Lom-lúż, cúiz cona a δ-τύγ γείζε α'γ χηίοπα, πας γχαμαδ σοιδόε le γίοηη!

Do bi az Fionn do żadanajb binne, Uajćnin, Briożnian, azur Uajll-bed; Szeallajne Reaczajne a'r Djan-nar, Callajne, Fiadman a'r Szjanlöz.

Φο δί αίζε Φλαμαίμε αζυς Τμέαη, Luar, Saożan, Seanc a'r Cuaino, Βαμουίμ, Cażbuab, αζυς Γιαγάη, Rabaine, Τηιαμάη, αζυς Έναιμο.

following awards granted by the king of Caiseal to the king of Loch Lein :---

"Do ni Lacha Lôip lebain bliżio cumają chajnocamajl, fici bó acur fichi cac, fichi lonz bó—ni bnoch bneath."

To the kiug of extensive Loch Lein, Is due a friendly return, Twenty cows and twenty steeds, Twenty ships to him—no bad award.

See also Windele's Notices of Cork and Killarney, and Mrs. Hall's Handbook for Killarney. O. There are in the southern side

Ten hundred broad and glittering swords;

Ten hundred shields and the Dord Fhiann,

And the Barr-buadh likewise.

There is in the eastern side
Gold and raiment in plenty, and spoils,
Treasures too many to describe,
That came afar each day across the sea.

Though [it be] doleful for an old man living after them,
O Patrick! to be in sorrow recounting them,
The names of all our well-bred hounds,
And melodious dogs you will get from me.

We had there Sgeolan and Bran,
Lomaire, Brod, and Lom-luth;
Five hounds foremost in the chase and actions
That never parted Fionn!

Fionn had of melodious dogs, Uaithnin, Brioghmhar, and Uaill-bheo; Steallaire, Reachtaire, and Dian-ras, Callaire, Fiadhman, and Sgiarlog.

He had also Manaire and Trean, Luas, Saothar, Searc and Cuaird; Banduir, Cathbuadh, aud Liasan. Radaire, Grianan, and Fuaim.

¹ Here Oisin relates to St. Patrick the names of the principal hounds which the Fenlans brought from Cnoc-an-air; and if we are to rely upon the category, many of the names have something significant about them; —For instance—Brioghmhar, signifies the strong or vigorous; Uaillbheo, a lively howl; Steallaire, spatterer; Dian-ras, swift in the chase; Trean, strong; Luas, swift; Saothar, expeditions; Searc, affection; Cuaird, to go on an errand; Cath-bhuadh, victorious in battle; Radaire, pleasing; Grianan, sunbright; Fuaim, noise; Lom-bhall, bare-limbed; Monaran turf-ranger; Feargach, wrathful; Ras, race.

The classical reader will, no doubt, recollect a similar enumeration of

- O. Do bi aize Lom-ball azur Monanan, Feanzac, Feanan, Bonn azur Rar, Cnazaine, Feinin, azur Ball-un, Mallaine, Théan-lúc azur Rinn-ban.
 - Φο δί αίζε τός Φυαηάη πεακ, Տυαηάη, Βεάμτ, αζυς Feall, Leazaine, Fonaine, αζυς Slioman, Chicine, Lanbanan, αζυς Jeall.
 - 213 rin azabra a Phachaic bain!

 an lion con ailne a'r zabah chean;

 bo huz Fionn o choc an ain,

 zo leinz a'r zo rlearaib Loca Lein.
 - Do by at Orcup bo facit conalb, Fead atur Forcalt, Cluain a'r Facban; Ulne, Whee, Faine, a'r Luar, Daol, Thuain, Ffon a'r Caol.
 - Φο δί 'η η η δαί δο ξαδιαίδ δίηης, Clear, Filleas, Waiz, a'r Ruaiz, Alcan, Farraine, Sic-chuais a'r. Jearr, Φραηαίρε, Reim, Obann a'r Cuan,
 - Do bi aize Lonzaine, Feiceam a'r Bonn, Corzaine, Feam, Bualcan, a'r Fnaoc, Cealzan, Meanz, Pheabaine, a'r Pian, Schacaine, Rian, Jlónan a'r Caom.
 - Do bị az Faolan bo conaib ailne, An-Uaill ażman, Uaill azur Forcaiż, Bancan, Feamaine, Caolan a'r Cuac, Daolan, Suan, Ann a'r Focham.

the names of Acteon's dogs, that pursued their master, transformed into a stag by the goddess Diana, in punishment for having surprised her whilst bathing with her nymphs (Ovid's Metamorphoses, lib. iii.) The Latin poet, however, is neither so tedious nor so unvarying in his enumeration, as the Irish bard, in the present instance, for having given distinctive characteristics to his dogs. He breaks off with the words:—

- O. He had Lom-bhall, and Monaran, Feargach, Fearan, Bonn and Ras, Cnagaire, Feirin, and Ball-ur, Mallaire, Trean-luth, and Rinn-bhar,
 - He had likewise Duanan the swift, Suanan, Beart, and Feall; Leagaire, Foraire, and Sliomhan, Crithire, Larbharan, and Geall.
 - Here thou hast, O Patrick! the fair [haired]
 The number of fine hounds and stout dogs,
 Which Fionn brought from Cnoc-an-air,
 To the plains and borders of Loch Lein!
 - Oscur had of true bred hounds
 Fead and Fostaigh, Cluain and Faobhar,
 Aire, Mire, Faire and Luas,
 Daol, Gruaim, Fior and Caol.
 - He had along with them of melodious dogs Cleas, Filleadh, Maig and Ruaig, Altain, Farraire, Sith-chruaidh and Gearr, Dranaire, Reim, Obann and Cuan.
 - He had Lorgaire, Feitheamh and Bonn, Cosgaire, Feam, Bualtan and Fraoch, Cealgan, Meang, Preabaire and Pian, Stracaire, Rian, Gloran and Caomh.
 - Faolan had of fine hounds
 An-Uaill the lucky, Uaill and Fostaigh,
 Barcan, Feamaire, Caolan and Cuach,
 Daolan, Suan, Arr, and Fothram.
 - " Quosque referre mora est."—Lib. iii., v. 225.

In some of our modern Anglo-Irish hunting songs and ballads, the names of the dogs of the chase are likewise given. Can it be that our bards and song-writers followed a classical model, without a consciousness of the fact?

- O. Do bi aize do żadnajb binn-żlónac, Wandan, Fonedzna, Fian azur Teiliz, Colzan, Farza, Findinan a'r Cneac, Lein-rzmior, Feall, Uaill-binn, a'r Leinz.
 - Do bi aize for Slaffin a'r Beolan,
 Formaoil, Ciamban, Sluaff a'r Louz;
 Chuadhan, Ciambocc, azur Cian-chaird,
 Occan, Jolduain, Flead, adur Forcaid.
 - Do bi az Joll do conaib paojte, Jluaine, Bioza, Cheace a'r Aine; Cian, Radane, Cipdeace a'r Paine, Thean-lát, Baine, Ciejoll a'r Fear.
 - Do bi aize Fulanz azur Cadnon, Fuanan, Caza, azur Teanan; And-leim, San-nuic, azur Incian, Jandan, Fiall, azur Leanan.
 - Do bi aize do żadnajb uaill-binn, Boz-leim, Szić, Jolan azur Coin, Seanban, Jnod-uaill, azur Seachan, Fożluaim, Fead-żain, azur Rancoin.
 - Do bi alze kör Maollin binn, Tuanzaine, Rinz, azur Amalan, Dhanaine, Nin-riacail, azur Schaca, Cluanaine, Thom-zeann, azur Seancan.
 - Do bi oo conaib az Mac Lúzach,1 Seabac, Lúinzeac, azur Cinleac; Môn-cain, Cuman, azur Fuanma, Molan, Szuaba, azur Faoban

1 20) Ac Luzach. This Fenian chief was son of Daire Dearg, son of Fionn Mac Cumhaill. His mother's name was Luigheach—so called from luigh, to swear, because all the females belonging to his household swore that she was a daughter of Fionn. Hence he was called Mac Lu-

O. He had of melodious dogs

Marbhan, Forfhegra, Fiar and Teilig,
Colgan, Fasga, Finomhan and Creach,
Leir-sgrios, Feall, Uaill-bhinn and Leirg.

He had also Glaisin and Beolan, Formacil, Ciarbhan, Gluais and Lorg, Truadhnan, Ciarbhocht and Cian-chuaird, Ochtan, Iolghuair, Fleagh and Fostaigh.

Goll had of noble hounds
Gluaire, Bioga, Creacht and Airc,
Cian, Radharo, Eisdeacht and Pairt,
Trean-luth, Baire, Eitioll and Feas.

He had also Fulang and Eadrom, Fuaran, Eaga, and Teanan, Ard-leim, Sar-ruith, and Imchian, Garbhan, Fiall, and Leanan.

He had of melodious dogs
Bogleim, Sgith, Golan and Toir,
Searbhan, Grod-uaill, and Seachran,
Foghluaim, Fead-ghair, and Rantoir.

He had likewise Maoilin the melodions, Tuargaire, Ring, and Amalan, Dranaire, Nimh-fhiacail, and Straca, Cluanaire, Trom-ghearr, and Searcan.

Mac Lughach had of hounds
Seabhac, Luingeach, and Eirleach,
Mor-than, Cuman, and Fuarma,
Aolan, Sguaba, and Faobhar.

ghach, after his mother's name; because it was considered disgraceful to call him after his father. It was Lughaidh Lamha the Momonian that struck Fionn at the feast in the palace of Tara. Vide Agallamh na Sean-oiridh, or Dialogue of the Sages.

- Φο δί αιζε δο ζαδημιδ δεδδα,
 Lυαδημάη, Seδίαδ, αζυς Τακαδ;
 Cúl-γαορ, Ψήρη-ζαιρε, αζυς Scuain,
 Βιαδάη, Βρυακαίη, αζυς Caraδ.
 - Φο δί αίζε τότ Jomlan chuaiż, Cαομάη, Φυαίμο, αζυτ Cuileóz, 21ηχυίη, Βμεαο-δαίλ, αζυτ Φυηύίμ, 20εαη-δαίλ, Γιοηηδύμη, αζυτ Τρυτίόζ.
 - Φο δή ας Ψας Κοηλην έμηνη, δο έσηληδ Ιμαγέε αξυς γλογέε, Εμαν-έοιμελο, αξυς Ψαλάμητε πελη, Εγλήλας, Úμλας, αξυς Κλογέε.
 - Φο δί αίζε κός Νιατήμας Ιυαίτ, Υιρτήμας, Τυαίκτ, αζυς Νέαι, Θόιας, Ιαδημίη, αζυς Βοίζ γεαης, Υθαρτήμιη, Έραπ, αζυς Τραογτ.
 - Φο δί αίζε δο ξαδημιδ κόξιμα μηρεκό, Chaiplein, Suan, αζυς Τοίςς; Cúinne, Τυαζάη, Φοότ, α'ς Φόιτ, Βυαηάη, Κόιμ, αζυς Κοίτζο.
 - Do bi aize Duandan azur Snap, Loman, Cac, azur Caorzun; Caidin, Jealan, a'r Luaic-żlear, Foicin, Bear, azur Baoire.
 - Φο δί αίζε τός δακδ-υαίμ ξέακ, γυαιτίη, Ταοιηάδ, αζυς λομοάη, Αμμίμε, διοδ-ξάικ, αζυς Τεακο, Γυαηάικ, Βοηρίαιτε, αζυς Παίηάη.

- O. He had of sprightly dogs
 Luadran, Seoladh, and Tacadh,
 Cul-saor, Mion-ghaire, and Stuaim,
 Biadan, Bruachair, and Casadh.
 - He had likewise Iomlan the hardy, Caoran, Duairc, and Cuileog, Arguin, Breac-bhall, and Dunuir, Mear-bhall, Fionnduir, and Truslog.
 - Mac Ronain the social had,
 Of swift and noble hounds,
 Cuan-choimead, and Machaire the swift,
 Cnamhach, Urlach, and Gaoithe.
 - He had also Niamhrach the swift, Ainmhear, Tuairt, and Neall, Eolach, Ladruin, and Bolg the slender, Meanmhuin, Feam, and Traost.
 - He had of well bred dogs Craipleir, Suan, and Toisg, Cuinne, Guagan, Docht, and Doith, Buanan, Foir, and Foisg.
 - He had Duardan and Snap, Loman, Cath, and Caosgur, Caibin, Gealan, and Luaith-ghleas, Foithin, Beas, and Baoise.
 - He had also Garbh-uaill the sharp, Fuaithin, Taomadh, and Lorcan, Alpuire, Grod-ghair, and Tearc, Cuanair, Bonnlaice, and Uamhan.

- O. Do bí az Diahmujo O'Duibne,
 bo conajb raojte a lom lút,
 Cójrih Nojnín azur Féan-leana
 Duilleóz, Léimtaba, azur Clújo.
 - Φο δί αίζε δο ξαδηαίδ γείζε, Cualan, Loinzeac, αζυς 3laim, Φυδ-ζηείδιη, Follaine, αζυς Ιαηναίτ, γυαητάη, 5lamaine, αζυς Ασηναία.
 - Do bi bo conalb as Blap caom,
 Theabaine, Sears, asur 2064-bail,
 Luaban, Bunrac, Seansaine, a'r Chiall,
 Lonsan, Sciallaine, asur Chaccan.
 - Do bi do żadnajb ajze na b-rocajn, Jallan, Corzajn, Thear azur Thúżad; Cjanan, Jajmbin, Falla azur Théan, Rjaman, Seince, Banc azur Chú.
 - Φο δί ας Γεαμζυς ειλε Γόμηη, το conald ba ξηίσηας, λυαιέ; Τιοδάη, Γυαδάς, αζυς Κίν-κυίς, λυαδιάη, Γυμηθαή, Τέιδεαηη αζυς Φάιλ.
 - Do bi alze do żadnajb żlam-binne, Fuażan, Olace, Fion azur Lionan; Cuarae, Bie-binn, azur Jnuazae, Uamae, Bleade, azur Olacean,
 - Φο δί αξαιηγα κόιη, α Phathale! αξυή αξ κάδ ό γιη γυας; α η-έαξιημης ηα ζ-κοη α'ς ηα ηξαδαμ ώδ, δεις ζ-κόαδ αμ ιώς ηας δ-κυμίτη δο ίναδ.

O. Diarmuid O'Duibhne had,
Of noble, fierce, and swift hounds,
Coisir, Noinin, and Gear-leana,
Duilleog, Leim-fhada, and Cluid.

He had of dogs for the chase, Cualan, Loirgeach, and Glaimh, Dubh-ghreidhim, Follaire, and Iarracht, Fuarcan, Glamaire, and Aonaran.

Glas the gentle, had of hounds Treabhaire, Seasg, and Mor-dhail, Luaban, Bunsach, Seangaire, and Triall, Lorgan, Stiallaire, and Trachtan.

He had of dogs along with them, Iallan, Cosgair, Treas and Trughadh, Cianan, Gaimbin, Falla and Trean, Riaman, Seirce, Barc and Cru.

Feargus, Fionn's poet, had,
Of swift and active hounds;
Giodan, Fuadach, and Rin-ruith,
Luadran, Fuinneamh, Geibheann and Duil.

He had of dogs of the sweetest cry, Fusthan, Dlacht, Fior and Lionan, Cuasach, Bith-bhinn, and Gruagach, Uamach, Bleacht, and Dlachtan.

I had myself, O Patrick!

And so had all the rest,

Besides those hounds and dogs,

Ten hundred more for the chase that I do not name.

- P. Junir a Offin, na n-éace chuais!

 laof zan bhéiz na reilze súinn;

 fronzna liom nó fr zeann zun tuic,

 riais leinze an loca ús?
- Ο. 21 Phathaic! α 3-cuala τά απ τ-reil3,2 α ήμο Alphuin πα pralm rain! παη δο μίζης απ δεαπ le Fionn, α τ 3αη αοη πεας απη πα εδήδαι.
- P. Ní bójė 30 3-cuala a mic an ríš!

 a Ojrín žlic, na nzníom nzarz;
 ajėnir bújnn zan cujure budin,
 cjonar bo rižne led an c-realz?
- C. Νί ἐκηπκοιτης απ βηκηπ 36,8 πίοη ἐιιβε ε το ἐκπιίκτας les, le είπηπης α'τ le πεαης απ lain, το ἐιζπκοιτ τιαπ ότ τας τιες.

Νίοη τυιό πελό λο όι ΙΙ,

Α Ρηλεπαίο, τη δίνη κυλίμ ξίδη !

δοδ' κίμιννίζε να Γιονν κείν,

Αν κελή ναμ όλοι δο δησιαδ όμ.

Níon fuló neac a z-cíll,
zió bínn lið a canaið prailm,
bob feann focal na an Fhiann,
fin nan loic a nzleð zanb.

1 Aliter "An flat fln an loca to."

The deer of that lake.

21 5-cuala ru an r-reliz? Have you heard of the chase? The chase referred to here is that of Sliabh Fuaid, (which will be given in a subsequent volume of our Transactions), where Ailne transformed herself

- P. Relate, O Oisin, of the marvellous deeds! Without falsehoods, a lay of the chase; I am mistaken, or you soon slew The deer of the plains of that Lake.
- O. Patrick! have you heard of the chase,
 O son of Alpruin of psalms sublime!
 That the woman caused to Fionn,
 And no one present in his company.
- P. 'Tis not likely I have heard, O son of the king!
 O Oisin the wise, of terrible deeds,
 Relate to us without the sadness of sorrow,
 How the chase was performed by them?
- O. We, the Fians, told no lies,
 Such should not be laid to our charge;
 By truth and the strength of our hands,
 We came unhurt from every battle.
 - A cleric never sat in thy church,
 O Patrick, of the melodious voice!
 More truthful than Fionn himself,
 The man who was not niggardly in bestowing gold.

None sat in a temple,

Though sweet ye think they chant psalms,

More strict of their word than the Fians,

Men who faltered not in fierce conflict.

into a deer in order that the Fenians may give her chase, for the purpose of entrapping them, to be avenged for the death of her husband and sons who fell at Cnoc-an-air.

³ 56, a lie. This expression very frequently occurs in Fenian poetry, because a strict adherence to truth was one of the chief characteristics of the Fians. Even at this day a liar is held in utter contempt by the peasantry.

- O. Da maintead Mac Monna mean, nó Joll calma nan can réad; nó Mac Uj Dhuidne na m-ban, an laoc do cuinead cat an céad!
 - Da maintead Feanzur tile Fhinn, rean a zceint do noinn an an b-Féinn; nó Daine do feinnead zan loct, a nzut na z-cloz ní beit mo tpéir!
 - Φά παιμεραό Ψραμταό πα Ιαπη, απ τραμ πάμ τάπη ατ συμ απ άιμ; Ογουμ α'γ Ψρας Κόπαιη τμίπη, δο όποπα γαπ τ-σι Ι πίση γαπ Ι
 - Φά παιμκελό 200 Βεας πας Γήιηη, πό Γαοίαη ζηιηη πάη έαμη πελέ, πό Conan maol do δί ζαη ζημαίζ, τη ταο δ'έας πε καοι ζημαίπ le real!
 - No'n r-abac beaz so bi az Fionn, so cuipeas zac aon a s-roincim ruain! ba binne liom ruaim a méan, na b-ruil so clein a z-cill 'ra s-ruac!
 - Or anoir nac maineann an Fhiann, na Fionn rialman na n-duar; do bodan rianran na pralm, a'r zlon zand na z-cloz mo cluar.
- P. Szujn do béal a feanóin fuainc!

 na bi rearda az luad na b-Fiann;

 zo n-deacadan tont man an z-ceó,

 a'r zo m-deid zo ded a nzlar na b-pian!

O. Had Mac Morna the swift lived,
Goll the mighty, who loved not gems,
Or Mac Ui Dhuibhne, the beloved of women,
The hero who vanquished one hundred [men in battle]!

Had Fergus, Fionn's poet, lived,
He who distributed justice to the Fians,
Or Daire, whose music was faultless,
To the sound of the bells I'd give no heed.

Had Meargach of the spears lived,
He who was not scanty in dealing slaughter,
Oscur and Mac Ronain the pleasant,
Thy humming in the church would not be agreeable.

Had Aodh Beag, the son of Fionn, lived, Or Faolan the pleasant, who refused not any one, Or Conan the bald, who was without hair, "Tis they who have left me in gloom for a time.

Or the small dwarf, who belonged to Fionn, Who lulled each one into heavy sleep; The sound of his finger was dearer to me Than all thy clerics in church and country.

As it is now that the Fians do not live, Or Fionn the generous, the bestower of rewards, The hum of the psalms and harsh sound of the bells Have deafened my ears.

P. Close thy lips O pleasant old man!

Henceforth do not name the Fians;

They passed off like a mist,

And shall be for ever in bonds of pain.

O. Da mejo clojz ara ad cill,

az reinim a'r az riantan prailm;

ni cheidrinn do dheic an an b-Feinn,

na dheic do cleine act amuil.

Jr minic a coblar amuic an filiab, raoi bhúce liae raoi bann chann; a'r níon cleace liom leaba zan biab, reab beit riabi an an z-cnoc úb tall!

- Νή δίδε απη αξαδ leaba ξαη διαδ,
 δο ξείδε απη εά τεα ἐε πιθαικξίη απαίη,
 α'τ προτζάη πόη δο'η ίπ,
 α'τ cea ἐταπαδ παίπε ξαἐ αση la.
- Ο. Φο conainc me caon caontainn,²

 ba πό ταοι δό πα το πεατζαη;

 α'τ το conainc me puilleoz ειδηελίη,

 ba πό a'τ ba leite πα το δαιηζίη απάιη!

¹ Flab, deer. The most perfect skeletons of this animal, the Cervus Giganteus, as we assume, now known in Ireland, are preserved in the Museums of the Royal Dublin Society, and of Trinity College, where there are three specimens to be seen. There is also a very perfect skeleton in the Belfast Museum, into which we were conducted during a recent visit to that town, by Mr. Robert Mac Adam, a gentleman who takes peculiar interest in matters of archæology; and to whose exertions we believe the Museum of that town is mainly indebted for the vast collection of antiquities therein preserved. This skeleton stands upwards of six feet high, and is perfect in every respect.

² Caon Caonculny, i.e.. The Berry of the Rowan Tree. It is traditionally recorded that, in order to defeat the arguments of St. Patrick, respecting the quantity of food given to Oisin, the latter, though aged and blind, set out, attended by a guide, and on arriving at Glenasmoil, which is supposed to be the valley of the Dodder, near Dublin; the guide called his attention to a huge tree bearing fruit of enormous size, of which Oisin, told him to pluck one and preserve it. Proceeding further in the glen, the guide's attention was attracted by the great size of the ivy leaves which covered the rocks, and which from their immense size overshadowed the valley from one end to the other; of these Oisin

- O. Though many bells are in thy church,

 Chanting and dolefully humming psalms,

 I would not credit thy judgment respecting the Fians,

 Nor the judgment of thy clerics but regard it alike.
 - I often slept abroad on the hill,
 Under grey dew, on the foliage of trees,
 And I was not accustomed to a supperless bed
 While there was a stag on yonder hill!
- P. Thou hast not a bed without food,

 Thou gettest seven cakes of bread,

 And a large roll of butter,

 And a quarter of beef every day.
- O. I saw a berry of the rowan tree
 Twice larger than thy roll;
 And I saw an ivy leaf
 Larger and wider than thy cake of bread.

also directed him to pull a leaf and preserve it. They then proceeded to the Curragh of Kildare, where Oisin sounded the Dord Fhian, which lay concealed under a Dallan, and a flock of blackbirds answered the call, among which was one of enormous size, at which Oisin let loose a favorite hound that after much wrangling killed the bird. They cut off a leg which they brought home, and laid the rowan berry, the ivy leaf, and leg of the blackbird before St. Patrick, to show that Oisin was right, and the Saint wrong in his notions respecting the dietary of Oisin whilst living with the Fenians. A very curious paper on the Fenian traditions of Sliabh-na-m-ban, where the scene of this legend is laid, by Mr. John Dunne of Garryricken, will be found in the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaelogical Society, for 1851, p. 333.

We are informed that large and luxuriant ivy leaves grow at Chapelizod, county Dublin, and also at Glenasmoil, one of which was procured by an official on the Ordnance Survey, and now preserved as an original illustration of the text, in the manuscript volume of "Letters on the Antiquities of the county Dublin," preserved in the Archives of the Irish Ordnance Survey Office; as a proof that the large ivy of former days had not yet degenerated in Ireland. The largest ivy leaf we have seen, grew on the old walls of St. John's Church, Kilkenny, in July, 1858.

Ο. Φο ἐσημις της εκατρατραίο logη, ba τη δια δο ἐκατρατραίο τραμελίη; ης δια διος τρο ἐκατραίο θε τιμες, δειὰ αδ ἐιξη, α δοὰτλίη!

> Je minic do badara zo fiall, a n-Dún an hiż nan żann, an fead mior a z-caicim do'n m-biad, do biad can m'eje zač cionn.

P. It e mo nizri do dealbuiz neam, it e do bein neame na laoc; it e do cum an biot-buan, it e do bein blac na z-chaob.

Jr é do dealduid éarga a'r ghian, ir é do dein iarg an linn; ir é do chucuid gonc a'r réan, ni h-ionann a'r éacca Phinn!

Ο. Νή αη όμυτύταδο τουτ να τέαμ, της πο ηίττε τέην α δύηλ; ατ ατ τουταίη τουταίδ λαος, ατ τουταίη τη τος α'τ ατ τη α δίν!

> Ωη τυιητήδ αη ιπιητε, αη τειίτ, αη πούταδ πειητε α δ-τύτ τίεδ, αη ιπιητε τιτίτίλε α'τ αη τπαπ, α'τ αη τειτεαπ τα α δ-τιτ απ διί.

O. I saw a quarter of a blackbird

Which was larger than thy quarter of beef;

'Tis it that fills my soul with sadness,

To be in thy house thou poor wretch!

I often had pleasant times
In the Dun of the generous king;
What food I [now] use in a month
I would have left after me at each meal there.

Had it not been for the prohibitions which bound Fionn, And that it was not his wish to violate them, All that dwell in heaven and earth Would not vanquish the hand of my king.

P. 'Tis my king made heaven,
'Tis he who gave the hero might,
'Tis he who held eternal life,
'Tis he who gave blossom to the trees.

'Tis he who made the sun and moon,
'Tis he who brings fish into the lakes,
'Tis he who created fields and grass,
Not such were the deeds of Fionn!

O. Tis not the creating of fields and grass
My king took as his choice,
But the hacking of bodies of heroes,
Protecting territories, and spreading his fame.

The wooing, the play, and the chase,

The unfolding of banners in the battle's front,

The playing at chess and swimming,

And the entertainment of all at the festive board.

- Ο. 21 Ρήμτρας! ca καιδ το Φήγα, απ ταπ τάμης απ τής ταπ lean? τας leó bean πίζ Loclann πα long, le'n ταιτ ιοπαδ laoc γαπ τηθας?
 - Νό αη ταη τάιηις 20αξημη πόη, αη γεαη δα δοηδ ξίεδ ηλη τίη ; ηγ τογήμιι δα παίητεαδ δο Φηία, 30 3-τιίδεδτα δε Γιαηναίδ γήμη.
 - Nó an tan tainiz Taile mae Theoin, an tean an an b-Feinn do cuin an t-an! ni led' Dhia do tuit an cunad, at le h-Orcun a mearz cac.
 - αιαπα, πας Βηαόπα πόιη, le mille Τεαπαιη να είδε εμέαν; η το με το Φηία, σαι δα είαοι δα έτο γιονν τέιν.
 - Jr 10mba cat, mabm, a'r zliab, bo comônab le Fiannaib Fhinn; ní cuala 30 n-deannab éact, níż na naom na zun beanz a lam!
- p. Leizeamaoid d'an 3-comóntur an 3ac taob, a feanóin chíon atá 3an ceill; τυί3 30 b-κυί! Φία απ ηθαίη ηλ η-όηδ. α'r Fionn γα flóigte uile a b-peinn!
- O. Ba môn an naine rin do Ohia,

 zan zlar na b-pian do buain d'Phionn,

 a'r Dia réin da m-beit a m-bhoid,

 zo d-choidread an rlait can a ceann.

 1 Alier, Alain.

O. O Patrick! where was thy God,
When the two came across the sea? [the ships,
Who carried off the wife of the king of Lochlin of
On whose account many a hero fell in conflict.

Or when Magnus the Great landed,
He who was in battle fierce,
'Tis likely if thy God had lived
That he would have aided the Fians and Fionn!

Or when Tailc Mac Treoin landed, He who dealt slaughter to the Fians, Tis not by thy God the hero fell, But by Oscur in the midst of the foe!

Or Alama, the son of Badhma the Great, By whom Temor of the brave hosts was pillaged, Thy God dared not, had he lived, Go fight him but Fionn himself.

Many a battle, strife, and conflict,

Was waged by the Fians of Fionn;

I never heard of any deed performed [hand.

By the king of the saints, or that he reddened his

- P. Let us cease our contention on both sides,
 O withered old man devoid of sense!
 Know that God dwells in heaven of the orders,
 And that Fionn and his hosts are in bonds.
- O. Great would be the shame of God

 If he did not release Fionn from his bonds,
 And if God himself, were a captive,
 The chief would fight for his sake.

- Ο. Νίομ ἐιλαης শιοηη αμ τεαδ α κας, πεκὰ α δειὰ α b-ρειηη ηλ ηχιαιτ, αη τιατζιαδ αιμ le αιμχεαδ ηδ δη, α χ-caὰ ηλ ηχιεδ το m-δεακαδ διαδ.
 - Jr majt an ceannac bam an bo Ohja, bejt amearz a cljann man tajm; zan bjab, zan eabac, zan ceol, zan bejt az bnonab ojn an bajm.

 - Ταη τηαίη, ταη τιαδτιίδεας, ταη Γιοηη, 1 τα τιητή τη τιαθάνη, τας τρόμε; τας τιβές αι τοικό πακ δα διαί, τας τοξίιης cleara lút na τίεδο.
- P. A feanóin chion ara an baoir,

 73uin a'r na bi az phioral zan caill;

 maichean le Dia duir a b-rainiz.

 rearra ma'r ail lear a nain.
- O. Saram dure rein na dod' Phia,
 a cleiniż na z-clian ni cabantad;
 zać a ndeannar da mi-nian,
 ni bujdeacar liom onuju a majceam!
- P. It thuaż lom do chuż chion,

 a Ostin! na di az photal zan cest;

 st nash dust, dan lom zo pion,

 armust do fion an mac De!

 ! Aliter, Fono, music, landa, inheritance, &c.

O. Fionn never suffered, in his day,

That any should be in pain or bonds;

Without his ransom by silver or gold,

By battle or conflict, till he won success.

It is sufficient punishment for me from thy God,
To be among his clerics as I am,
Without food, clothing, or music,
Without bestowing gold on bards.

Without the cry of the hounds or the sounding horns,
Without guarding havens and ports,
For what I suffer for lack of food,
I forgive heaven's king in my will!

Without swimming, hunting, or Fionn,
Without wooing modest women, without sports,
Without being seated in my place as was my due,
Without learning feats of agility or war.

- P. O withered old man who art silly,
 Cease henceforth thy foolish talk;
 God will forgive thee all that has passed
 If in future thou follow his laws.
- O. Satisfaction to thyself or thy God,
 O cleric of the clerks! I shall not make;
 All that I have transgressed of his laws,
 I do not thank you to forgive!
- P. I pity thy withered form,
 O Oisin! cease talking such silly words;
 Shameful it is for thee, I believe truly,
 Thy constant mockery of the son of God!

The following Stanzas were written by Caoilte Mac Ronain, on the occasion of some feud arising between the king of Munster and Fionn Mac Cumhaill:—

caojite ro chan.

Compac Fhinn a'r niż Wiman, rocaide da m-biad púdan, ainzri cac diob a ceile, ba cunaca a z-comentze.

A deinimpe nið nað nale, ba ríon dam an rairdine, biaid bhat-rean a h-Almuin, do'n cat roand one a Fhinn.

CAOILTE SANG.

Proclaiming war on thee, O Fionn,
O man of the sweet melodious words;
Because thou hast come to Ceann Con,
Without reproaching, without accusation.

The combat of Fionn with Munster's king, A meeting that gave occasion to grief, One of them plundered the other, Their contention was most heroic.

I say unto thee a plain saying,
That my prediction is true,
There shall be spies at Almhuin,
For the war proclaimed on thee O Fionn.

τjr na n-65.

THE LAND OF YOUTH.

EDITED BY

BRYAN O'LOONEY.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE OSSIANIC SOCIETY.

1859.

The Council of the Ossianic Society do not hold themselves responsible for the authenticity or antiquity of the following poem; but print it as an interesting specimen of the most recent of the Fenian Stories. In the tract which follows it will be found one of the most ancient of the records that describe the exploits of Finn Mac Cumhaill.

WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, ESQ.,

PRESIDENT OF THE OSSIANIC SOCIETY.

Sin,—Pursuant to your wishes, and at your very kind suggestion, I have undertaken the following translation of the Ossianic poem, on Cin na n-65 ("Land of Youth,") in the humble but confident hope that I may, however, unpretending as an Irish scholar, be in some measure instrumental in restoring our neglected love to its former style and standard.

From my knowledge of the Fenian stories, and Ossianic poems which circulate in this country, I would classify them under three different and distinct heads, 1st, Fenian history, which comprises all based upon fact and supported by the ancient records and chronicles of our country, such as Cat Jadha, Cat Chuca and the like, which it would be absurd to discredit against the forcible evidence of our trustworthy annals. 2nd, inventions and poetic fictions which are entertaining, and intended by the authors more to amuse the reader and to embellish history, than, as some say, to impose on his understanding, and claim the credit of truth. 3rd, the poems and prophecies of Fionn, Copholt, Caolte, and others of the Fianna Cinion (Irish Militia), which are very interesting, and I should think entitled to as much credit as the early traditions of any other nation.

Some assume that the genuine old poems and stories cannot be distinguished from the modern fictions, and consequently that they cannot be credited, but that all must be considered worthless. This is a very unjustifiable assumption. The Irish scholar will at once know the composition of the Fenian period, as the language and style is different from that of latter times. From the fourteenth to the beginning of the

eighteenth century, we have another class of poems and romantic tales, which exhibit a later stage of the language, but which are well worthy of attention. My own convicton is that the Ossianic poem on the "Land of Youth" is of this last class and date, and from the testimony of many corroborating facts supported by the result of an inquiry which I instituted at your suggestion, I believe it to have been written by the learned Michael Comyn, contemporaneously with the romance of Conolb mac Stappin, ye. (Torolv the son of Starn), about the year A.D. 1749. By comparing Tin na v-oz with the occasionally interspersed verses in the romance of Torolv the son of Starn, &c. whose author is universally acknowledged to be Michael Comyr., it will be perceived that there is such a similarity and almost identity of style in them as to leave no doubt that they are both the productions of the same master mind. As further proof of this I may state that an illiterate man of my acquaintance can repeat several verses of it, but knows it under no other name but that of Laoj an Compute (Comyn's Lay), and that his father had it from Comyn's manuscript. Another man states in a letter to me, that his copy of it was written in the year 1762 by a celebrated Irish scholar, who lived in Ruan, County of Clare. In this poem we have an account of Cip pa n-baome marke (Land of the good people), the elysium of the Pagan Irish as related to St. Patrick by Oisin, when he returned to Erin after a lapse of more than three hundred years, which he spent in the enjoyment of all bliss, with his charming spouse, the golden headed (haired) Niamh. While Oisin sojourned in the paradise of perpetual youth, it was (it seems falsely) said of him that he was dead, but as those who enter the "Land of the Just" can never die, so Oisin lived until he returned to relate the history of his adventures, and of this happy elysium. The inhabitants, of the eastern countries believed that in the west there was a happy final abode for the just which was called Cip na n-baome marce (Land of the good people.)

This elysium is supposed to be divided into different states and provinces, each governed by its own king or ruler, such as Cin na n-65 (Land of yonth) Cin na m-bee (Land of the Living) Cin na m-bush (Land of virtues) and several others. According to traditional geography and history the "Land of Youth" is the most charming country to be found or imagined, abounding in all that fancy could suggest or man could desire, and bestowing the peculiar virtue of perpetual youth, and hence the name. In the "Land of Virtues," or as some call it, the Land of Victories," (but the latter name I suppose to be a mis-translation, as I have never heard of a battle or strife in this country); it is all peace, tranquility and happiness. As there is no conflict there can be no victory—and there is no virtue to be desired which is not to be had on entering

this country! The "Land of Life" is supposed to give perpetual life to the departed spirits of the just. These are supposed to be located somewhere about the sun's setting point, and have means of approach, chiefly through the seas, lakes and rivers of this world, also through raths, duns and forts. The seas, lakes and rivers act as cooling atmospheres, while the raths, duns and forts, serve as places of ingress and egress to and from them. There are besides, different grand-gates, as it were, throughout the world, such as Cill Scuiffn (Kill Stuifin), situate in Liscannor Bay, supposed to be one of the chief entrances into Cip na η-όz ("Land of youth.") This is said to be a beautiful but small city, marked by the white breaking waves between Loact (Lahinch,) and Lor-Coannum (Liscannor). The white breaking waves, which are always seen in this part of the Bay, are said to be caused by the shallowness of the water over this enchanted little city, which is believed to be seen once in seven years, and of which, it is observed, that those who see it shall depart this world before the lapse of seven years to come; but it is not supposed that those persons die, but change their abode, and transmigrate from this world of toil, into the elysium of the just, i.e. Cin na n-65 (" Land of Youth,") where they shall, at once, become sportive, young and happy, and continue so for ever. It is also believed, that those who see those enchanted spots, are slightly endowed with the gift of prophecy, from the time they see it till they depart this world, and that they pass through this enchanted passage, so magically shewn them, prior to their departure. For further information on Cill Sculpin (Kill Stuifin), read Comyn's Romance, called Cactha Conolb maic Stainh agar a thinh mac (the adventures of Torolv Mac Starn and his three sons). Contiguous to this place is another spot called Cnoc na 1703 noe (Fairy Hill), this was the ancient name of Lahinch, before the death of the Chieftain, O'Connor of Dumhach, (the Sand pits), who had been treacherously slain there, and in memory of whom there had been raised a monument called leace up Concubaja (O'Connor's monument), which in Irish is the present name of this little town, but in its anglicised form Lahinch, or Lahinchy, it has lost all sight of the old derivation. It was called Cnoc na Sponde (Fairy Hill), from its being the meeting place of the fairy nobles of this section of the country, who, it seems, lived on terms of intercourse with the nobles of Cip. na n-o5 (" Land of Youth,") and this hill is traditionally believed to be the place where both tribes met and held their periodical conferences. The nobles of this country are said to live in the great and large duns, fortresses, lisses, and raths, and to act as agents to the nobles of Cin na n-oz ("Land of Youth,") and to those of all the states of the lower paradise. One of the duties of their station is to mark the persons suitable to the lower country, and by their supernatural power they meet or send messengers to

carry off those persons. It is in the shape of a beautiful lady, such as Miam Cinn oim, golden-headed, (haired) Niamh, that this messenger is generally seen. After the human creature whom she has visited has seen her, she vanishes in some magic way, and goes back to her own country. Ere long the person visited will pine away by some formal disease, and will be said to die, but fairy tradition proves that he or she (whichever it may be), does not die, but that they go into this elysium, where they will become young again and live for ever.

There are several such passages in this country, to describe which, would be both needless and endless. Suffice it to mention a few of the greatest celebrity—15 or 15 breafal (O'Breasail's country), 15 lercin, (O'Leihin's country), Inchiquin and Lough Gur. The great Earl of Desmond is supposed to have been submerged in the latter, where he is seen once in every seven years, anxiously awaiting the destined hour of return to his country. On reference to the ancient records and Pagan history of different nations, it will be seen that they have their traditions of Pagan elysiums as well as Ireland.

B. O'LOONEY.

Monreel, October 6th, 1858.

Since the above was written, the Honorary Secretary to the Ossianic Society has been furnished with a similar legend.

9, Anglesea-st., Dublin, Jan. 20th, 1859.

"SIR.

"There is a similar legend to that related in the following poem told of Oisin's descent, and living for three hundred years in Uain na Caonac Slaire (the cavern of the grey sheep), a large cave which is situated at Coolagarronroe, Kilbenny, near Mitchelstown, in the county of Cork. After the printing of this poem had been decided upon, I wrote to Mr. William Williams of Dungarvan, who is a native of the district, for information respecting any legendary lore connected with this cave, from whom I received the following answer, as being current among the peasantry."

J. O'D.

LEGEND OF THE GREY SHEEP'S CAVE AT COOLAGAR-BONROE, NEAR KILBENNY.

"Oisin went into the cave, met a beautiful damsel, after crossing the stream, lived with her for (as he fancied) a few days, wished to revisit the Fenians, obtained consent at last, on condition of not alighting from a white steed, with which she furnished him, stating that it was over 300 years since he came to the cave. He proceeded till he met a carrier, whose cart, containing a bag of sand, was upset; he asked Oisin to help him; unable to raise the bag with one hand, he alighted, on which the steed fied, leaving him a withered, decrepted, blind old man."

"On a certain May morning long ago, a grey sheep was seen to come out of the cave, and to go to a neighbouring farmer's field, where she reremained, until herself and her breed amounted to sixty grey sheep.

"The boy who took care of the sheep, was a widow's only son, a disciple of Pan; for he played on the bag-pipes.

"His master, the farmer, ordered him one fine day to kill one of the sheep, he proceeded to the field for that purpose; but the old sheep knowing his intention, and resolving to frustrate it, bleated three times, which instantly brought all the other black sheep around her, when they disappeared altogether into the cave. The boy followed them but having crossed the enchanted stream which runs through the cave, he was unable to return; as no one ever re-crossed it but Oisin. On reflecting on the anguish his loss and absence would cause his mother, he raised a mournful strain which he accompanied by the music of his bag-pipes. On every May day from that day to this, the lamentations of the boy, and the music of his pipes are heard in the cave."

19010h OJSÍN 2R THÍR N2 N-Ó5, 20an d'aichir tê do Padhuiz naoinéa.

- P. 21 Ομήν ματαί! α τής αν μίζ! δο δ' τεάμη ξυίοτη ζαίτζε 'τ ζίιας; αίτμη δάμην α νοίτ ζαν τήαμης σιουνικ τήαμης ταίκ δίτ να β-γίανη?
- Ο. Ιημεόραο γιη όμις, α Ράσημιζ ημαό, είο δοιίο ίμοη α ίμαο ός από ταιμ είς απ όατα Ταδμα¹ ομμαιό, απη αμ παμδάο, πο ημαμ! απ τ-Ογταμ άξ.
 - La d'a nabamainne uile an Fiann Fionn fial 'ran main dinn ann, 318 30 mba doilb, dùbac an raéal, cain éir an laochaid beit 30 rann!
 - A reilz búinn an maidin ceóbac, a n'imiol bóndaid Loca Léin,² man a naid chainn cúmha da millre blat, 'r céol zac thát zo dinn az éin.
 - Dújrižead linn an eilit maol, do d'fearh leim. nuit 'r lût; di ar 3-coin 'r ar n-zadain zo lein zo dlût 'na deiż ra lan riubal.

Gabbra is not Garristown, but a stream which flows into the Boyne,

¹ Jabna. Garristown in the county of Dublin. See the Introduction to Vol. I. of the Transactions of the Ossianic Society, also the note from Mr. J. Reid in same book, page 112.

LAY OF OISIN ON THE LAND OF YOUTHS; AS HE RELATED IT TO SAINT PATRICK.

- P. O! Noble Oisin, O! son of the king!
 Of greatest actions, valor, and conflicts,
 Relate to us now without despondency,
 How thou livedst after the Fians?
- O. I will tell it thee, O Patrick! lately arrived,
 Though mournful to me to say it aloud:—
 "After the hard battle of Gabhra,
 In which was killed, alas! the noble Oscar.
 - One day we, the Fianna, were all assembled, Generous Fionn and all of us that lived were there; Tho' dark and mournful was our story, After our heroes being overcome.

We were hunting on a misty morning
Nigh the bordering shores of Loch Léin,
Where thro' fragrant trees of sweetest blossoms,
And the mellow music of birds at all times.

We aroused the hornless deer
Of the best bounding, course, and agility;
Our hounds and all our dogs
Were close after in full chase.

not far from the hill of Skreen, near Tara, in the County of Meath.... J. O'D.

² loc leng, the old Irish name of the Lakes of Killarney in the county of Kerry.

Ο. Νίοη δ'έλδα 30 βκασαπαίη α ημαη, απ παηταό όμαη α3 τεκότ όὐξαιηη! αοη πασασή πηλ δο δ'αιlle όμελό, αη cael-eac ban ba πημε lúċ.

> Do γταδαπαίη uile be'n treilz, αη απάριο beilbe πα ηίοξ-πηλ; δο ξαίδ ιοηξαπταγ Γιοηη 'r αη Γιαπη, παό γασαδαη ηιαπό bean cóm bηθας!

Β΄ τομόμη μίοξόα αμ α τεαηη, αξυτ όμας δοηη δε'η ε-τίοδα δαομ; δυαμίσε με μευίταμο δεαμς όμμ, αξ τοίας α δμόζα τίστ το τέαμ.

Β΄ κάιμο όιμ αμ ομοόαδ τίος, ατ 3αό διαλ διίδο δ'α δλαοιά παμ όμ; α μοτ3α 3ομπα, 3λαπα 3αη τπάιδ παμ δηαοη δημότα αμ δάμ αη έσδιμ.

Ba beinze a znuajö 'na an nör,
'r ba zile a rnöö 'na eala an cuinn;
ba millre blar a balram rör,
'na mil a beab nöl che beanz-rionn.

Β΄ τειτρε τημό το τύπτα κασι, σε'η όκ δυίδε δα τλαιης τταιλ, είνης, τια τη τη παίδ 'ταη τ-ταοιτεαλ εαό σο δ'έεακη!

Twas not long 'till we saw, westwards,
 A fleet rider advancing towards us,
 A young maiden of most beautiful appearance,
 On a slender white steed of swiftest power.

We all ceased from the chase,
On seeing the form of the royal maid;
Twas a surprise to Fionn and the Fianns,
They never beheld a woman equal in beauty.

A royal crown was on her head; And a brown mantle of precious silk, Spangled with stars of red gold, Covering her shoes down to the grass.

A gold ring was hanging down
From each yellow curl* of her golden hair;
Her eyes blue, clear, and cloudless,
Like a dew drop on the top of the grass.

Redder were her cheeks than the rose,
Fairer was her visage than the swan upon the wave,
And more sweet was the taste of her balsam lips
Than honey mingled thro' red wine.

A garment wide, long, and smooth,
Covered the white steed;
There was a comely saddle of red gold,
And her right hand held a bridle with a golden bit.

Four shoes well shaped were under him,
Of the yellow gold of the purest quality;
A silver wreath was on the back of his head,
And there was not in the world a steed better.

Perhaps figuratively meaning that such curl was like a loop of gold.

- Ο. Φο ταινίζ τί το λαταίμ την, το λαδαίκ το σασίν συσαγθά α δ-μυαίν; αξυτ α δύδαίκο τί, "α κίξ να δ-Γίανν, τη καθά, σιαν α νοίτ νο συαίκο."
- - " Αιτιρή δύημη, α μίοξαιη ταιρ, τρεαδ κάτ δο τεατ ταμ Ιεαμ α c-cêin; αη θ δο τέι ο δημιτίζ μαιτ, Νό ταδ θ αη δυαιδίμε ατά ομε κέιη?"
 - " Ni he mo celle d'imciż uaim.

 'r ror nion luadad me le haen rean,

 a niż na Feinne ir acinde cail,

 act reanc ir znad do cuzar dod mac!"
 - " Cia aca bom cloin, a intean blait, 'na b-cuzair zhab, no cor zean, na ceil onuinn a noir rat, a'r aithir buinn bo car, a bean?"
 - " Ιημοδραό κόμη τη διητ, α βίηθη, δοδ' πας ζημηη, αμπη-όμιαιδ; Ομήη πραμαπημαό να δ-σμόαη-ίαπ, απ ίαος ασάμη αποιτ δο Ιπαιδ."

- O. She came to the presence of Fionn,
 And spoke with a voice sweet and gentle,
 And she said, "O, king of the Fianna,
 Long and distant is my journey, now."
- F. "Who art thou, thyself, O youthful princess!
 Of fairest form, beauty, and countenance,
 Relate to us the cause of thy story,
 Thine own name and thy country."
 - "Golden-headed Niamh is my name,
 O, sage Fionn of the great hosts,
 Beyond the women of the world I have won esteem,
 I am the fair daughter of the King of Youth."
- F. "Relate to us O amiable princess
 What caused thee to come afar across the sea—
 Is it thy consort has forsaken thee,
 Or what is the affliction that is on thyself."
- N. "Tis not my husband that went from me,
 And as yet I have not been spoken of with any man,*
 O! king of the Fianna of highest repute,
 But affection and love I have given to thy son."
 - "Which of my children [is he] O blooming daughter,
 To whom thou hast given love, or yet affection—
 Do not conceal from us now the cause,
 And relate to us thy case, O woman."
 - "I will tell thee that, O Fionn!
 Thy noble son of the well-tempered arms,
 High-spirited Oisin of the powerful hands,
 Is the champion that I am now speaking of."

[&]quot; i.e., I have not been betrothed to any man.

β. Cheab an ràt a d-cuzair zhaö a inżean alainn an fuile neiö, dom mac rein reacar cac 'r a liace rlaie and ra'n nzhein?"

Νή χαη αδόαμα μής τα δ-βήατη, το έληχας α χ-είατη κα τα δέιτη αές εμαμαγχόλι δ'καζαί αμα ζαίτζε, κεαδώς α φεακταίτη αχώς α πέιτ."

Jr 10mba mac μίζ αζαν αμο-έλαιέ, δο έμς δου ξεαν αζων γίομ-ζηλό, υίομ αουταίζεαν μιατό δ'αευ έεαμ, το δ-τηζαν γεαμο δ'Οιγίυ αιζ !"

O. Pan an lam fin one, a Padnuiz!

318 nan naineac liom man fzeal,

ni naid aen dall diom nac naid a n-znad,

le h-inzean alainn an fuile neid.

Φο ηυζαγ αη α ίαι απ' δόιδ, 'τ δύδηαγ δο ξίδη ζυέ-διηη; τίοη-έασιη καιίτε ηδήλαδ, α ηίοχαιη σίζ δο'η τίη.

"Ir cu ir zile, 'r ir rinne, blaic, ir cu do b'reamh liom man mnaoi; ir cu mo noża can mnaid an domain, a nealcain modamail ir deire znaoi."

" Jeara nac rulanzajo rion-laojo, a Ojrin reil, cujum ad' comajn ceace ljom rein anojr an m'eac, zo nižeam cajn ajr zo Tin na n-oz.

- O. "What is the reason that thou gavest love,
 O! beautiful daughter of the glossy hair,
 To my own son beyond all,
 And multitudes of high lords under the sun."
 - "Tis not without cause, O, king of the Fianna!
 I came afar for him—
 But reports I heard of his prowess,
 The goodness of his person and his mien."
 - "Many a son of a king and a high chief Gave me affection and perpetual love; I never consented to any man "Till I gave love to noble Oisin."
 - "By that hand on thee, O Patrick,
 Though it is not shameful to me as a story,
 There was not a limb of me but was in love
 With the beautiful daughter of the glossy hair."
 - I took her hand in mine,
 And said in speech of sweetest tone,
 "A true, gentle, welcome before thee,
 O young princess to this country!"
 - "Tis thou that art the brightest and the fairest of form,
 "Tis thee I prefer as wife
 Thou art my choice beyond the women of the world
 O mild star of loveliest countenance!"
 - "Obligations unresisted by true heroes
 O generous Oisin I put upon thee
 To come with myself now upon my steed
 Till we arrive at the 'Land of Youth.'

- O. "Sí an tín ir aoibne le razail,
 ir mó cail anoir ra'n n-znéin;
 chainn az chomað le tonnta 'r blat,
 a'r duilleaban az rar an bannaib zéuz.
 - " Jr rainring innce mil'r ríon,
 'r zač uile ní b'a breaca rúil
 ní hačajó cajčeam onc leb' hae,
 bar nó meat ní reicrió cú.
 - "Do żeabajn rlead, imine 'r ól, do żeabajn ceól binn ajn żead; do żeabajn ajnziod azar ón, do żeabajn rór jomad réad.
 - "Do żeabajn cead clojdeam zan żó, żeabajn cead bnat phojl de pjoda daon; żeabajn cead eac jp mjne a n-zleó, 'r żeabajn cead leó de conajb zeun.
 - " Φο ξεαδαικ πιοηη-κίοξδα Riż ηα η-όζ, ηας της κιαπ κός δο ηθας κά'η η-ζκέη, δο δέαηκας δίοη δης δ'οιδός 'ς ίδ, α χ-ςας, α η-ζιεό 'ςα η-χακδ-ξιέας.
 - "Do zeabajų lujų eač cumbajz, cojų, a'r clojbeam cinn-ojų ir clipbe beim; na'ų ceannajz neač niam uab beo, noc conajuc ror an c-anm zeuu.
 - " Φο ξεαδαμι τέαο έμος 'τ léme τηδηί, ξεαδαμι τέαο δό, 'τ τός τέαο λαοξ; ξεαδαμι τέαο τασμα, ποπα λοπμαμό δημ, ξεαδαμι τέαο τεόο πας δεμμί 'γαη τ-γαοξαί.

- O. "It is the most delightful country to be found, Of greatest repute under the sun Trees drooping with fruit and blossom And foliage growing on the tops of boughs.
 - "Abundant, there, are honey and wine
 And everything that eye has beheld,
 There will not come decline on thee with lapse of time,
 Death or decay thou wilt not see.
 - "Thou wilt get feasts, playing, and drink,
 Thou wilt get melodious music on the harp strings,
 Thou wilt get silver and gold,
 Thou wilt get also many jewels.
 - "Thou wilt get, without falsehood, a hundred swords;
 Thou wilt get a hundred satin garments of precious silk,

Thou wiltget a hundred horses the swiftestin conflict, And thou wiltget a hundred with them of keen hounds.

- "Thou wilt get the royal diadem of the 'King of Youth,'
 Which he never yet gave to any person under the sun,
 'Twill protect thee both night and day,
 In battle, in tumult, and in rough conflict.
- "Thou wilt get a fitting coat of protecting mail And a gold headed sword apt for strokes, From which no person ever escaped alive Who, once, saw the sharp weapon.

[satin,
"Thou wilt get a hundred coats of armour and shirts of
Thou wilt get a hundred cows and, also, an hundred
calves,
[fleeces,
Thou wilt get a hundred sheep, with their golden
Thou wilt get a hundred jewels not in this world.

- - " Beabain ceab lack it theine a n-zleo, it clipse for a z-clearalb luk; anméa, éloke, or bo komain, a b-Tin na n-Oz, ma kizin liom.
 - " Do ξεαδαίμ ζας η δ'α η-δυδρυγ leat, α'γ ασίδητα γόγ η κά lein δατήτα 'luab, ξεαδαίμ τραίτε, τραίτε α'γ δηίζε, 'γ διαδγα κέιη αχαδ τραμ τήμασι."
 - " Φίαιταδ ακ bit η δουκκαδ υαιπ, α κίοζαη τ-γυαίκο η ξ-ουαόα η-οικ; η τύ πο κοξα τακ πηλίδ αη δοπαίη, α'τ καταπ le κοηη το Τίκ ηα η-όξ."
 - Alp muly an eic, cuadmain anaon, ain mo beula, do ruid an diż; a dubaint, " a Oirin, ranam zo neid, zo niżeam beul an mana moin."
 - Ann rin d'eintib an c-eac an lút,
 an that hiteamain to ciúmair na thata;
 bo choit é rein ann rin cum riúbail,
 'r bo léit thí thúir ar or and.

- O. "Thou wilt get a hundred virgins gay and young Bright, refulgent, like the sun, Of best form, shape, and appearance, Whose voices are sweeter than the music of birds.
 - "Thou wilt get a hundred heroes most powerful in conflict, And also most expert in feats of agility, In arms and armour waiting on thee In the 'Land of Youth' if thou wilt come with me.
 - "Thou will get everything I promised thee (†)
 And delights, also, which I may not mention,
 Thou wilt get beauty, strength, and power,
 And I myself will be thy wife."
 - "No refusal will I give from me,
 O charming queen of the golden curls!
 Thou art my choice above the women of the world,
 And I will go, with willingness, to the 'Land of
 Youth.'"

On the back of the steed we went together, Before me sat the virgin; She said: "Oisin let us remain quiet, Till we reach the mouth of the great sea."

Then arose the steed swiftly,

When we arrived on the borders of the strand

He shook himself then to pace forward,

And neighed three times aloud.

When Fionn and the Fianna saw,
The steed travelling swiftly,
Facing against the great tide,
They raised three shouts of mourning and grief.

† Every verse with this mark (†) is taken from a MS. which I lately got, and was not in the MS. transcribed for the president or in Mr. Griffin's copy.

- Ο. "21 Οιτίη," ατι Γιοηη, 30 πειμό, τιθίς, " πο εύπαδ τέιη τα αξ ιπέταετ ααιπ; 'τ ξαη τάι αξαιηη απίτ δο έταετ, εύξαπ ταμ αιτ ταοι λαη διαδ!"
 - Ο'αιτεριά α δειίδ αζας α τζειή,

 'τ δο τι τραςα δέας απας;

 ζυς τιμές α δροιηπε, 'τ α άεαι-άπε,
 'τ δύδαιτε, " πο ιδιπ τι, α Οιτίπ ιαιπ!"
 - 21 Ρηασμαίζ, δα σύδας απ τζέαλ, απ τζαπαπμίηπ πε έξειε απη τώς; τζαπαπμίη απ αταπ πε πα πας τέιπ, 17 σύδας, λαζ, ταση δειτ σ'α λιαδ!
 - Φο ρόζας-τα η ατάιμ το ελοίη, ελοίη, 'ταη εοιπαίηη εδάδηλ, τυλίμελη υλό; δ'έλζας γίλη, υίδε αξ απ δ-βέιηη, 'τ δο ήι ηλ δέληλ 'ηυλη δε π' ξηυλίδ!
 - Ir jomba la aojbinn, bior-ra 'r Fionn,
 'r an Fhiann 'nan 3-cionn raoj lan-neim;
 az iminc riccille azar az ol,
 'r az clor ceoil, an buidean ba chean.
- p. 21 Ojrjn baojė, chėjz zo rojl,

 be d' żajrze mon an an b-fejnn;

 cjonnur do cuadajr zo Tjn na n-Óz,

 a'r lean dujnn zan zo an do rzeal.

O. "O Oisin!" said Fionn slowly and sorrowfully,
"Woe it is to me that thou art going from me,
I have not a hope that thou wilt ever again,
Come back to me victorious."

His form and beauty changed,
And showers of tears flowed down,
Till they wet his breast and his bright visage
And he said, "My woe art thou, O, Oisin! in going
from me."

O Patrick, 'twas a melancholy story
Our parting from each other in that place,
The parting of the father from his own son—
'Tis mournful, weak, and faint to be relating it!

I kissed my father sweetly and gently,
And the same affection I got from him;
I bade adieu to all the Fianna,
And the Tears flowed down my cheeks.

Many a delightful day had Fionn and I,
And the Fianna with us in great power,
Been chess-playing and drinking,
And hearing music—the host that was powerful!

A hunting in smooth valleys,
And our sweet-mouthed dogs with us there;
At other times, in the rough conflict;
Slaughtering heroes with great vigour.

P. O! foolish Oisin, forego a while
Thy great actions of the Fenians,
How didst thou go to the "Land of Youth,"
Proceed, faithfully, with thy tale to us.

- Ο. Φο ἐυζαπαικ ακ ζ-cúl δο'η τίκ,

 'r ακ η-αξαιό ζο δίκεας, ζίαη, γιακ;

 δο ἐκαιξ αη πίη-πυικ κδιπαιη,
 'r δο ίξοη 'ηα δκοιηητιό μοπακ η-διαιξ.
 - Φο concamain ιοηχαπειίτ 'ηλη τιάδα, κατρακά, κάιμεταης αξατ καιτίταιη, ριολακίδε τιοημαίτα, αξατ δάιμετο, ξηιαηλή Ιοηημακά, αξατ ρλίλητ.
 - Do concamain, rôp he an e-eaeb,
 eilie maol an leim lúe;
 a'r zaban cluair-beanz, ban,
 az eacrann zo bana 'ran e-riúbal.
 - Do concamain κός, ζαυ ζό,

 αινόια όζ αια τεθαδ-θας δόυυ,

 άδαλλ ότι 'να δθας-λαιώ,

 'τ ή αζ ιπέθαδε αια δάμα να δεσουλ
 - Φο concamain 'na δεδίξ, παιτας όζ απ τέδαδ δάη; ταοι διας concuin δεαιζ τιδίί, 'r cloideam cinn-δίκ 'na δεαγ-ίαιμ.
 - " Cla hlad an dir úd, do cidim, a piożaln caoin, innir dom rac; an bean úd ir ailne znaoi, 'r mancac rliom an eic bain?"
 - "Na cuin ruim 'na b-reicrid cú, a Oirin úmail, 'na b-racair rór, ní b-ruil ionnca uile acc neim-ní 30 nizeam 30 Cin Riz na n-Óz."

O. We turned our backs to the land
And our faces directly due-west,
The smooth sea ebbed before us,
And filled in billows after us.

We saw wonders in our travels,
Cities, courts and castles,
Lime-white mansions and fortresses,
Brilliant summer-houses and palaces.

We saw also, by our sides
A hornless fawn leaping nimbly,
And a red-eared white dog,
Urging it boldly in the chase.

We beheld also, without fiction,
A young maid on a brown steed,
A golden apple in her right hand,
And she going on the top of the waves.

We saw after her,

A young rider on a white steed,

Under a purple, crimson mantle of satin,

And a gold-headed sword in his right hand.

- "Who are you two whom I see,
 O gentle princess, tell me the meaning,
 That woman of most beautiful countenance,
 And the comely rider of the white steed."
- "Heed not what thou wilt see,
 O! gentle Oisin, nor what thou hast yet seen,
 There is in them but nothing,
 Till we reach the land of the 'King of Youth.'"

- O. Do concamain uain a z-ciann,
 palar znianman, ucc-blaic;
 buo bnéażca deild azar zne,
 d'a naid 'ran c-raożal le rażail.
 - " Cια απ δάπ μισχόα, μο-δηθαζ, αξας κός, ης αιίπε δ'α δ-κασαιό κάιί;
 "πα δ-καιίπητο αξ εμιαίι "πα δαιί,
 πο σια ης απο-κίαιέ απη κάο ?"
 - " Ιηξελη κίζ τίκ ηλ m-beo,

 η βλημησόλη τός ληης' λη δύη;

 της Γοήση Βηιβελό δημημε Ιδέλό,

 λεις με τόμηθελης τέλος 'ς λίμος.
 - " 5eata cult τί αιτ απ δ-τηθαπ, zan bean δο δθαπαή δι zo bracac; zo b-ταξαδ τί curaδ πο τίση-laoc, δο τρατήδοδαδ zliac leit lam αιτ lain."
 - "Bejn buad azur beannace, a Njam cinn ojn, nj cualar do céol njam jr reann;
 'na caojn-zuje binn do milir-béoil,
 'r jr môn an bnôn linn bean d'a cail.
 - " Τειχόελη αποιτ δ'α έιστ δου δώυ,
 α'τ δ-έειδης χως δώιση από τε α η-δάη;
 αη πρέαη-Ιλος ώδ δο έως η Ιιοη,
 α χ-cleaταιδ Ιώιέ, πας δαδ χηλέ."

Φο ἐιαδιηση απη τη δοη δίη,
α'τ ἐλητις ἐιξαητη απ πίοξαη ός;
δο δ'ιοπαπη δεαθηκό δι 'τ δο' η ξπέηη,
α'τ δο ἐιητ τι ἐεαδ τάιδε πόπαιη.

¹ Fomon bulleac, i.e. the striking Giant, was the despotic ruler of the "Land of Virtues,"—a country not mentioned in any other copy of this poem that I have seen.

- O. We saw from us afar
 A sunny palace of beautiful front,
 Its form and appearance were the most beauteous
 That were to be found in the world"
 - "What exceeding—fine, royal mansion, And also, the best that eye hath seen, Is this, that we are travelling near to, Or who is high-chief of that place?"
 - "The daughter of the king of the 'Land of Life,' Is queen, yet, in that fortress She was taken by Fomhor Builleach, of Dromloghach, With violent strength of arms and activity.
 - "Obligation she put upon the brave,
 Never to make her a wife,
 Till she got a champion or true hero,
 To stand battle with him hand to hand."
 - "Take success and blessings, O golden-headed Niamh,
 I have never heard better music
 Than the gentle voice of thy sweet mouth,
 Great grief to us is a woman of her condition.
 - "I will go now to visit her to the fortress.

 And it may be for us it is fated

 That that great hero should fall by me,
 In feats of activity as is wont to me."
 - We went then into the fortress,

 To us came the youthful queen,

 Equal in splendor was she to the sun,

 And she bade us a hundred welcomes.

Β΄ culajö be rɨoba bujöe,
 Ακ Απ κἰοζαίπ bo b'ailne rɨöb;
 Α σρεαγ cailce man ala ain τυιπη,
 'τ α ba ζημαίδ δί αίπ δας απ κότ.

Un bat an óin bo bí a rolt, a'r a zonm-norza zlana zan ceó; a beilín meala ain bat na z-caon, 'r a mala caol ba zneanta clób.

Do τάιδεαπαικ απη την τίος, πας η-αοη δίη ακ ςαςαοικ δικ; το leazab cugainn ποκαη δίδ, α'r cuinn δίξε δί lionca beoin.

Φ'ιηη τούιηη τιοτ α' τ τα τ α τπέιλ,

'τ το τίι ηα τούηα le ηα πριαίδ,

α τούδαιτε η τα τ δ-τιιιατό τι δ' α τίμ τειη,

'τ α Γατάς τρέαη το δειτ πο διαή.

- " Β΄ το τογο, α ηίσχαιη όιχ,
 ηχαιη το δείμιη τα τη το δεί ταοιδ;
 α' γ το δείμιη τα το δεί το δεί τη το δε

¹ Although this word resemble the word "beer," the liquors were very different.

O. There was apparel of yellow silk
On the queen of excelling beauty,
Her chalk-white skin was like the swan on the wave,
And her cheeks were of the colour of the rose.

Her hair was of a golden hue,

Her blue eyes clear and cloudless;

Her honey lips of the colour of the berries,

And her slender brows of loveliest form.

Then we there sat down,

Each of us on a chair of gold,

There was laid out for us abundance of food

And drinking-horns filled with beoir.

When we had taken a sufficiency of food, And much sweet drinking wines, Then spoke the mild young princess, And thus said she, "harken to me awhile."

She told us the knowledge and cause of her tale, And the tears flowed down her cheeks; She said, "my return is not to my own country, Whilst the great giant shall be alive."

"Be silent, O young princess!
Give o'er thy grief and do not mourn,
And I give to thee my hand
That the giant of slaughter shall fall by me!"

"There's not a champion now to be found
Of greatest repute under the sun,
To give battle hand to hand
To the bold giant of the hard blows."

- Ο. " Ιπηγηπ όμις, α κίοξαιν όλοι, παι γτασπακ ίμοπ α τεαίτ απ' όλιί, πυπα ο-τυιτρίο ίμοπ, δο δκίτ πο ξέατ, το ο-τυιτρέαο κέμν ακ δο γτατ."

 - Νίοη δεαμπαιά 'τ ηίοη μπίμιξ δύημη, αὐτ δ'τέαὐ α η-ζηύητ μα η-όζ-τήμα, δ'τίαζαιη καὶ αζατ κότήμας τηθαη, α'τ ἀμαδατ τέιμ μομα ἀδτήδαιι.
 - The read the moloce ague the la, to bamule ran nother an tatac als, to balvear gan that de a ceann!
 - 2η τηλέ ἐσηναμης αν δίτ βαν όξ, αν τ-αἐαἐ κόμ το ταον αν λαν; δο λέιταλαν τηί τανέα τηνν, λε κόμ-καριβακό ατας λιέταν!
 - Φο ἐμαδιπαίμ απη την δο'η δών,

 'τ δο δίοδ-τα δμώιξτε, λαξ, ταση;

 αξ τιλεά τολα 30 λαν-ώμ

 α τεαέτ 50 δλώτ ατ πο ἐμέαἐδ!
 - Φο ἐλιηιζ ιηξελη μίζ ηλ m-beó, το είοη λε εόιμιζειη ομπ εέιπ; το όμη ίσε 'r balram am' όπέλδα, 'r το ίση εέιη είλη 'ηλ τέιζ.

O. "I tell to thee, O gentle queen,
I am not daunted at his coming to meet me,
Unless he fall by me, by the strength of my arms,
I will fall myself in thy defence."

Twas not long till we saw approaching
The powerful giant that was most disgusting,
A load was on him of the skins of deer,
And an iron bar in his hand.

He did not salute or bow to us, [maiden, But looked into the countenance of the young Proclaimed battle and great conflict, And I went myself to meet him.

During three nights and three days
We were in the great contest,
Though powerful was he, the valiant giant,
I beheaded him without delay.

When the two young maidens saw

The great giant, lying motionless, weak and low,
They uttered three joyful cries,
With great boasting and merriment.

We then went to the fortress,
And I was bruised, weak and feeble,
Shedding blood in great abundance,
Coming closely out of my wounds.

The daughter of the "King of the Living" came In truth to relieve myself; She put balm and balsam in my wounds, And I was whole after her.

- Ο. Φο ἐληταπλοηκ Ακ b-ρκοηση 30 τάβλό, λ'τ ba πελδηλό δύηση ληση της δ'λ έητ; δο cóητίξελο τάση ληση τλ'η δάσ, Ιελητάλο clújo δε cluin πλ η-έλη.
 - Φο culteamulthe an real mon,

 a b-realic rob-soluin, rantains, held,

 so costar a lia or a leace,

 a'r rshiodar a ainim a n-osam-chaob!
 - 21 κ τα τάλκας, ακ απάκε laoj, δο δάιγιζταικ αγ ακ πέαλ, "η πητίδ δάιπη," ακ μιζεαν απ κίζ, " εκιαλί ζαη γζίτ δ'ακ δ-είκ κδιη."
 - Do żlearamajn ομμαίηη ζαη τέαδ,

 'τ δο żαδαπαίη απ 3-ceab μίτ απ δίζ,

 δυδ δύδας δυδηδηάς τίηη 'ηα δίαιζ,

 'τ ηίοη έλιμε δο'η ζηιαη-δεαη ιοπακ η-δεσίζ!
 - ηί τολη δοιη κόιη, Α Ράδηλης ήδητή, cad do τάηλα do'η ηίσζαιη δίζ ; δ'η Μ γζαηλιημήνο αμλοη λόι, ηδ αμ ήιλι κόιη το τίμ ηλ m-beδ.
- P. Njon jnyirir dajny a Ojrjy zhiny, (†)

 cia'y cin 'ya nabajr rejy;

 rojllriz dajny anojr a h-ajym,

 a'r lean anir nian do rzejl.
- Ο. Τή η η m-buad an τή τω,

 α'τ 30 δειήτη η δηέας απ τ-αιηπ; (†)

 πα τα ζίδητα α δ-τιατατ παμ δί απη,

 δο δία le ζηεαπη, ταδατταίτη ζαίμη.

O. We consumed our feast with pleasure,
And then we were merry after,
In the fortress were prepared for us,
Warm beds of the down of birds.

We buried the great man
In a deep sod-grave, wide and clear,
I raised his flag and monument,
And I wrote his name in Ogham Craobh.

On the morrow, at the appearance of day,
We awoke out of our slumbers,
"It is time for us," said the daughter of the king,
"To go without delay to our own land."

We prepared ourselves without a stay, And we took our leave of the virgin, We were sorrowful and sad after her, And not less after us was the refulgent maid.

- I do not know, O mild Patrick!

 What occurred to the young princess,
 Since the day we both parted her,
 Or whether she herself returned to the Land of Life.
- P. Thou didst not tell us, O pleasant Oisin, What country it is in which thou wast thyself; Reveal to us now its name, And continue again the track of thy story.
- O. That country is the "Land of Virtues,"
 And certainly the name is not miscalled,
 If heaven hath glories as were there,
 To God, with love, I would give praise.

Ο. Φο τυσαιμαίμ αμ σ- τά δο ή δάη, α'τ αμ ττέαδ τάιηη ταοι λαη-μέιμ; 'τ σο πόα λαιτέ λειτ απ εατ δαη, 'ηα σαοτ πάμτα αμ δμαίμ τλέιδ.

> Νίοη δ-μαδα ζυη δομόλιζ αη τρέην, α'τ ζυη είητιο ζαού απη'τ ζαό λημο; δο ίατ αη πόρι-πιμη το τρέαν, 'τ η μαίδ απαρις ζηέησε le κάζαι!!

Sealad dúinn ag amanc na néull,
'r an na néulta bi ra rmúid;
d'irlig an t-anra agar an gaot,
a'r do roillrig Phoedur or an c-ceann.

Φο conncamain ne an b-caoib,

τίη πό-αοιβεαη καοι lan-blac,

α'r maża maireaca, πείδε mín,

α'r δώη ηίοξόα ba πό-βηεαζα.

Νή μαιδ δαό δ'α δ-γεασα γάιλ, δε ζομη άμ, δ'υαιόρε, 'γ δαη; δε όσης μη δεαμζ α'γ δε δυίδε, πας παιδ 'γαη μιος-δηος ταοιπ δο πάδ.

Do bị an an b-caob eile be'n bún, zhianain lonnnaca azur palair; beanca uile be cloca buaba, le lama ruab' azar raon-ceanb.

Níon b-raba 30 b-reacamain cúzainn, az chiall d'n n-bûn ion an 3-cómbail, chí caozab laec bo b'-reann lúc, rzein, cliú, a'r bo b'aoinbe cail.

O. We turned our backs on the fortress,
And our horse under us in full speed,
And swifter was the white steed,
Than March wind on the mountain summit.

Ere long the sky darkened,

And the wind arose in every point,

The great sea lit up strongly,

And sight of the sun was not to be found!

We gazed awhile on the clouds,
And on the stars that were under gloom
The tempest abated and the wind,
And Phoebus brightened o'er our heads.

We beheld by our side,
A most delightful country under full bloom,
And plains, beautiful, smooth and fine,
And a royal fortress of surpassing beauty.

Not a colour that eye has beheld
Of rich blue, green, and white,
Of purple, crimson, and of yellow,
But was in this royal mansion that I am describing.

There were at the other side of the fortress,
Radiant summer-houses and palaces,
Made, all of precious stones,
By the hands of skilful men and great artists.

Ere long we saw approaching
From the fortress to meet us,
Three fifties of champions of best agility,
Appearance, fame and of highest repute,

- Ο. "Cια απ τίπ αλαιπη ή τώτ, α ιπτέαπ τίμιη, πα τιτηοραλ όιπ, ητ δικατά το δια δικατά τώιλ, πό η ή τώτ Τήπ πα π'ότι?"
 - " Jr i zo beimin, a Oirin reil,
 nion innirear bheaz buic b'a caoib,
 ni'l ni b'an żeallar-ra buic rein,
 nac b-ruil roillein azab bo rion."
 - Φο τάιηις τάσαιηη ιουπά δεδίς, τέαδ bean ός δο δ'άιlle ηςδίη; καοι διάτα γίοδα ίζουτα δ'όκ, ας κάιτιμέταδ κόπαιηη δ'ά δ-τίκ κέιν.
 - Φο conneamain anir az teace, bujbean do żlejne, żlan rluaż; azur niż ojndeane, cómaceac, enéan, do b-reann rzejm, dejlb, 'r, rnuad.

 - Φο conneamain az teace 'na bebiż, an bainniożain oz bo b'ainoe cail; a'r caozab bnuinneall millir, coin, bo b'aile clob, jona combail.
 - Αξ τεκέτ δόιδ uile an aon ball, δο labain το ceannra niż na n'ός; ατα α δάδληκε, " ir ê reo Oirin mac řinn, cêile caoin Niam činn δin."

- O. "What beauteous country is that
 O gentle daughter of the golden locks!
 Of best aspect that the eye has seen,
 Or is it the 'Land of Youth?""
 - "It is, truly, O generous Oisin!
 I have not told a lie to you concerning it,
 There is nothing I promised thyself
 But is manifest to thee for ever."

To us, came after that
A hundred maids of exquisite beauty,
Under garments of silk filled with gold,
Welcoming me to their own country.

We saw again approaching,

A multitude of glittering bright host,

And a noble great and powerful king,

Of matchless grace, form and countenance.

There was a yellow shirt of silken satin And a bright golden garment over it, There was a sparkling crown of gold, Radiant and shining upon his head.

We saw coming after him
The young queen of highest repute;
And fifty virgins sweet and mild,
Of most beautiful form in her company.

When all arrived in one spot,

Then courteously spoke the "King of Youth,"

And said, "This is Oisin the son of Fionn,

The gentle consort of 'Golden-headed Niamh!"

- Φο μιζ τέ ομπ απη την αμ laμή,
 αζιι α δάβαιμε α ζ-cóm-aμο δο'η ε-τίδζ;
 " α Οιτίν calma, α ήις απ μίζ,
 céad mile railee μόπαε."
 - "Un tin to jon' an taingir rein, ni ceilread rzeala ont zan zó; ir rada, buan é do raozal, a'r beid tu rein coide oz."
 - "Ni'l aoibhear da'n rmaoinis choide, nac b-ruil ran tin reo ra'd comain, a Oirin, cheid uaim 30 rion, zun mire nis Cin na n-oz."
 - "Az ro an bainniożain caom, a'r m'inżean rein Niam cin cin; bo cualo can min-muln rad' bein, cum beic man ceile aici zo bec."
 - Φο żabar bújbeacar lejr an niż, `
 a'r b'úinluiżear rior bo'n niożajn cojn,
 nion γταδαδ απη γιη 30 hearzajb linn,
 30 μάησαπαίμ μίοζομος μίζ πα τι-ός.
 - Do cainiz naite na cachac caoin,'

 idin tean azar mnaoi ion'an z-combail;

 di tlead a'r tearda ann do tíon,

 an tead deic n-oidce a'r deic la.
 - Φο ρόγαδ me le Njam cinn όιμ, α Ράδμαις ό'η Rόιm μα m-bacul m-ban, γιη man cuabar 30 Cin μα υ-ός, δίο δοιλίο δηδηκό λιοπτα τηλότο.

- O. He took me then by the hand,
 And said, [aloud to the hearing of] the host,
 "O, brave Oisin! O, son of the king!
 A hundred thousand welcomes to you!"
 - "This country into which thou comest,
 I'll not conceal its tidings from you, in truth,
 Long and durable is your life,
 And thou thyself shalt be ever young."
 - "There's not a delight on which the heart hath mused But is in this land awaiting thee; O! Oisin believe me in truth, For I am king of the 'Land of Youth!'"
 - "This is the gentle Queen,
 And my own daughter the Golden-headed Niamh,
 Who went over the smooth seas for thee
 To be her consort for ever."
 - I gave thanks to the King,
 And I bowed down to the gentle Queen,
 Nor staid we there, [but proceeded] soon, [Youth."
 Till we reached the royal mansion of the "King of
 - There came the nobles of the fine fortress,

 Both men and women to meet us;

 There was a feast and banquet continuously there,

 For ten nights and ten days.
 - I espoused "Golden-headed Niamh,"
 O! Patrick from Rome of white croziers!
 That is how I went to the "Land of Youth,"
 Tho woeful and grievous to me to relate.

- P. Lean δάιηη κεαγδα απ δο γχεδί, α Οιγίη δικ ηλ η-ακη η-άκ; ειοηημη δ'κάζδαιη Τίκ ηα η-όζ, ιγ καδα κόγ ίιοη 30 ηοέταικ κάτ.
 - Ιηηης δάμηη αποις le πόκ žκεανη, αη καιδ αση όλανη αξαδ κε Νίακη, ηδ'η καδα δίδις α δ-Όίκ να η'όξ, αιόκις ταν δκόη δάμη δο τξέαλ
- Φο δί αζαπ με Νιαπό όιηη όιμ,
 δε όλοιηη δυδ μο-παίτ ζημοι α'τ τζειπ;
 δο δ'τελμη δειλδ, όμα αζατ τηδό,
 δίτ πας όζ αζατ ιηξελη όλοπ.
 - Φο carcear cheimre rada cian, chi cead bliadain azar nior mo; zun rmaoiniż me zo mba b'e mo mian, Fionn 'ran Fiann d'raicrin beo.
- P. 21 Οιγίη, ε-γυαικε lean bob' τzeal, (†) α'γ ιπηιγ bάιπη ca b-κυιί bo clann; καβαικ bάιπη zan moill a n-αιηπ, α'γ an cκις 'ηα b-κυιίτ ann?
- Ο. Β΄ αξ Νιαή τα πα ζ-σόπαικ, (†)

 Τίκ' πα η-όζ, πα η-beo 'τ πα η-buab;

 τlearz ητ σοκόιη be' η κίζ-δίκ,

 α'τ ιοπαρ τεοιρ πας πίπ δο lúαδ.

Čuz Νιαή αμ πο δίτ πας, (†) αιηπ π'αέαμ α'τ πο δειζ-ήις; Γιοηη οιμδεαμς, ςεαηη πα τίμαζ, 'ταη τ-Οτζαμ οίμ-αμπ-μάαδ. P. Continue for us further thy tale,
O golden Oisin of the slaying arms!
How didst thou leave the "Land of youth,"
I, yet, think it long till you reveal the cause.

Tell to us now with great pleasure,

Hadst thou any children by Niamh,
Or how long wert thou in the "Land of Youth,"
Relate to us, without grief, thy story,

O. I had by Golden-headed Niamh,
Of children of surpassing beauty and bloom,
Of best form, shape, and countenance,
Two young sons and a gentle daughter.

I spent a time protracted in length,
Three hundred years and more,
Until I thought 'twould be my desire
To see Fionn and the Fianna alive.

- P. O pleasant Oisin continue thy story,
 And tell us where are thy children;
 Give us, without delay, their names,
 And the land in which they are.
- Niamh had awaiting them,
 The Land of Youth—the Land of Life, and the land of Virtues:
 A wreath and crown of the kingly gold,
 And many 'ewels I do not mention.

Niamh gave to my two sons

The names of my father and of my good son,

Noble Fionn—head of the hosts—

And Osgar of the red golden arms.

- Ο.
 Τυζυγ τέιη δοπ ελοή-ιηξηη, (†)

 με h-λοητλ Νιλή λη οίμ-είηηη;

 δο δυλό λ πλητε 'γλ ξηθ-ξελη,

 λη τ-λημη τίομ, ρίψη ηλ πόλη."

 - "Oo zeabaju ceab uaju," an an juzean caoin,
 "cib boilb an rzeal liom tu bejt b'a lúab;
 an eazal nan teact buit anir nead ne,
 bom tin rein, a Ojrin buabajt."
 - " Chead je eazal dújnn, a μίοξαιη blajt, 'ταη τ-eac dan do bejt κά'm nêjn; πύιηκιδ αη τ-eolur dújnn zo ram, α'r rillrið rlan ταμ η'αιτ cúξαδ κέιη."
 - " Cúμησης α Ομήη, cab τα πε μαδ, πα leazajn τηλότ αη ταλαή ηθιδ; παό τεαότ συμτ όοιδόε αμής 30 δηλταό, δοη τήη άλαμη-γεο η δ-γυμίμη γειη.
 - " 21 δεικιπ leat-γα ακίγ τα η τό, πα τάικλιητικ κόγ δε'η εαό δαη; πα τιμοκαικ όσιδός το Τίκ πα η-ότ, α Οιγίη όικ πα η-ακιπ η'άιτ.
 - "21 dejnim leat do'n thear react, ma'r teact de'n eac duit rein; 30 m-beidin ad feandin chiona dall, 3an lúit, 3an zheann, 3an nit, 3an léim!

- O. I, myself, gave to my gentle daughter,
 By consent of golden-headed Niamh,
 In virtue of her beauty and loving countenance,
 The true name—Plur-na-mban, [the flower of women.]
 - I asked leave of the king,
 And of my kind spouse—golden-headed Niamh,
 To go to Erinn back again,
 To see Fionn and his great host.
 - "Thou wiltget leave from me," said the gentle daughter,
 "Though 'tis a sorrowful tale to me to hear you
 mention it,
 Lest thou mayest not come again in your life
 To my own land, O victorious Oisin!"
 - "What do we dread, O blooming Queen! Whilst the white steed is at my service, He'll teach me the way with ease, And will return safe back to thyself."
 - "Remember O Oisin! what I am saying, If thou layest foot on level ground, Thou shalt not come again for ever To this fine land in which I am myself.
 - "I say to thee again without guile,
 If thou alightest once off the white steed,
 Thou wilt never more come to the 'Land of Youth,'
 O golden Oisin of the warlike arms!
 - "I say to thee for the third time,
 If thou alightest off the steed thyself,
 That thou wilt be an old man, withered, and blind,
 Without activity, without pleasure, without run,
 without leap.

- O. "Ir boiliż liom, a Ojrin żhinn, (†)

 cu bul zo h Cininn żlar zo beóż;

 ni'l ri anojr amail bo bi;
 'r ni rejerin cojbće Flonn na rlożab.
 - " Νι' λα αποίτ α π-Είμηπη αίλο, (†)

 αὰς αὰ αίτα μίπο 'τ τλόιξτο Ναδιή;

 α Οίτιη ξιηπη τοδ πο φόζ,

 η ὰ αττά τι ἀοιδάς, το Τίμ πα π-όζ."
 - Φ' τέλου τ τιατ ' τια τη τίτ το τη τιατό, (†)

 ' το τίι οπ' ποτζα δοπτα δεοπ;

 α Ράδημης δυδ τη τίτη δηπ.

 α παοδάδ τοιτ απ τίτη δηπ.
 - Do cult ri me raol zeara chualo, (†)
 bul ir teact zan bualne he ban,
 a'r bubalne llom bo buab a m-bhize,
 b'a m-bhirinn iab 'na carrainn rlan.
 - Do żeallar oj zać ni zan bnéaz, zo z-cójnijonrajny rejn a n-dúbajne ri ljom; do čuadar an mujn an ejč bajn, a'r d'razbar rlan az luče an dújn.
 - Φο ρόζαν-γα πο ceile caoin,

 'r ba búbac rinn ας γζαμαδ lei;

 πο δίτ πας, 'r m'inżean όζ,

 δο δί καοι δμόν ας rileab δεακ'!
 - Φο ξίθαγας ομπ cum γιάδαι,
 'τ δο έυζας πο cúl δο Τ΄ τη πα η-όχ;
 δο μιέ αη τ-εαέ 3ο βθαγχαιό κύπ,
 παμ δο μιπη ίιοπ, α'ς le Νιαπ είνη όιμ.

- O. "Tis a woe to me, O loving Oisin,
 That thou ever goest to green Erinn;
 'Tis not now as it has been;
 And thou never shalt see Fionn of the hosts.
 - "There is not now in all Erin,
 But a father of orders and hosts of saints;
 O loving Oisin! here is my kiss,
 Thou wilt never return to the 'Land of Youth!'"
 - I looked up into her countenance with compassion,
 And streams of tears ran from my eyes,
 O Patrick! thou wouldst have pitied her
 Tearing the hair off the golden head.
 - She put me under strict injunctions

 To go and come without touching the lea,

 And said to me by virtue of their power,

 If I broke them that I'd never return safe;
 - I promised her each thing, without a lie,
 That I would fulfil what she said to me;
 I went on the back of the white steed
 And bade farewell to the people of the fortress.
 - I kissed my gentle consort,
 And sorrowful was I in parting from her,
 My two sons, and my young daughter
 Were under grief, shedding tears.
 - I prepared myself for travelling,
 And I turned my back on the "Land of Youth,"
 The steed ran swiftly under me,
 As he had done with me and "golden-headed Niamh."

- Νή h-αιτημετεκή και τσεκί σο beace,
 και σας ηί τα τεκησήλητο ίτου τείη;
 ηδ σο δ-ελίητο πε καίτ ταν η'λίτ,
 σο h-Θίητης tlar να η'τουλο τευδ.
 - Η Ράδημης ηλ η'όμο αξυρ ηλ ηλοιή, ηίοι ηπητελε διέδας δυίς κιλιή κός; τη αξαδ-τα κάς πο τξέιί, 'τ πλη δ'έλςδας κέιη ζία ηλ η-ός.
 - D'a mbelöinn-re rein, a Padhaiz, amail do bior-ra an la úd rein, do cuinrinn do clein zo lein cum dair, a'r ceann an dhazaid ni bead am deiż!
 - D'a brażajnyce rlujnyce 86'n η-αμαη, παη żejbiny zać chać 6 Flony; δο żújöriny čum niż na η-zhar, cu bejż zo rlay δη α όμους.
- Φο ξεαδαίμ αμάη αξας δεοό,
 ταη αοη Ιοότ αποίς μαίπ κέιη;
 ής δίηη Ιίοπ-γα τμέ δο δεόιι.
 γ Ιεαη δύιηη κός ακ δο τζέαι.
- Ο. , An čeače dom fêjn an rin a d-cîn,

 δ'fêačar chuinn an zač uile aind;

 δο rmaoinear ann rin zo fíon,

 πας καίδ ευαίμιτς γίην αzam le razail!
 - Νίοη δ-καδα όση αξαρ ηίοη όμαη, ξο δ-κασα αημαρ αξ τεαότ κα'η όθηη; παροήμαξ πόη ίδη καμαίδ αξυν ήπα, 'τ δο έαπταδαρ απ' ίαταιν κόμη.

- O. Our story is not told in full,
 Of every thing that occurred to myself,
 Until I came again back
 To green Erin of the many jewels.
 - O Patrick of the orders and of the saints, I never yet told you a falsehood, There is to thee the reason of my story, And how I left the "Land of Youth."
 - If I myself had been, O Patrick!

 As I was, that self-same day,
 I would put thy clerics all to death,
 And a head on a neck would not be after me.
 - If I got plenty of the bread

 As I used to get, at all times, from Fionn,
 I would pray to the king of grace
 To have thee safe, over it.
- P. Thou wilt get bread and drink,
 Without any fault now from myself,
 Melodious to me is the voice of thy mouth,
 And continue for us still thy story.
- O. On my coming, then, into the country,
 I looked closely in every direction,
 I thought then in truth
 That the tidings of Fionn were not to be found.
 - 'Twas not long for me nor tedious,
 Till I saw from the west approaching me,
 A great troop of mounted men and women,
 And they came into my own presence.

- - D'riarnúizear rein ann rin bíob rúb, an 3-cualadan Fionn do beit beo; nó an main aon eile de'n Feinn nó chead é an leun do bain doib?
 - " Do cualamainne τηλότ αη τίση, αη πεαητ, αη lúit, αζυτ αη τηέαπ; πας ηαίδ ηιαώ α ταώαίτ τώδ, α b-ρεαηταίηη, α ζ-clú, αζυτ α meinn.
 - "Ir jomba leaban rzniobża rior,
 az ejzrib binn, millir Jaobal;
 nac lein linn ajchir buic zo rion,
 an eaccaib Finn azur an an b-Feinn.
 - " Φο cualamain 30 naib a3 Fionn, mac bub lonnnac rzeim'r clób, 30 b-caini3 bi3-bean raoi na bein, 'rza n-beacaib lei 30 Tin na n-63."
 - Νια η καλα τε η απο σότη μα όδο, πα η τρα η Γροπη 'πα πεας δε η βείπη, δο ξίας α τιμητε α' τ πόμ ε άτη αδό, 'τ δα λαη-δάδας πε μοπα η-δειξ!
 - Níon readar-ra ann rin de'n néim, go luat éargaid gan aon moill; go d-eugar m'agaid go glan néid, an Almain éactac, leatan Laigean.

O. They saluted me kindly and courteously,
And surprise seized every one of them,
On seeing the bulk of my own person,
My form, my appearance, and my countenance.

I myself asked then of them,
Did they hear if Fionn was alive,
Or did any one else of the Fianna live,
Or what disaster had swept them away?

"We have heard tell of Fionn,
For strength, for activity, and for prowess,
That there never was an equal for him
In person, in character, and in mien.

There is many a book written down,

By the melodious sweet sages of the Gaels,

Which we in truth, are unable to relate to thee,

Of the deeds of Fionn and of the Fianna."

We heard that Fionn had
A son of brightest beauty and form,
That there came a young maiden for him
And that he went with her to the "Land of Youth."

When I myself heard that announcement,
That Fionn did not live or any of the Fianna,
I was seized with weariness and great sorrow,
And I was full of melancholy after them!

I did not stop on my course,
Quick and smart without any delay,
Till I set my face straightforward
To Almhuin of great exploits in broad Leinster.

- Ο. Βα πόμ & π'ιουχαυτα αυν τώς,
 υας τεακαιό κύιμε Γινν να τίδιξ;
 υί μαιδ 'να μιουαδ αυν 30 τίση,
 αλε τιαδαίλε, τίσο αχατ πεανντός !
- P. 21 Ομήν! τζιμα αποίτ δε'δ δηδη, τι δο δεοίμ απ Φηία πα η-ζηατ, τα Γίοπη 'ταη Γίαπη τίαμτ το Ιεόμ, α'τ η'! α δ-τόιμιζτη τώς το δηατ.
- Ο. Βα ήδη αη τημαξ της, α βάσηαις, γιουν 30 δηλέ δο δειέ α δ-ρέιν; ηδ τηεαδ έ αν τόιη δο ημ3 αη δμαιδ, 'τα Ιιαέε Ιαοέ τημαιδ δο έμιε Ιειτ κέιν.
- P. Jr é Dia 60 μυζ buað ain Ťionn, a'r ni neant namað na théan-lam, azur an an b-Féinn uile man é, a n-ippeann daon d'a ríon chað!
- Ο. 21 βασμαίζ τείμημες της 'ταν αίς,

 'να δ-καίλ βίονν ακ λαιν αν βίανν,

 'τ νί δ-καίλ ικνανν 'να κλαίτας ανν,

 δο σαίμκους κα σεανντικός ιαδ.
 - 2η α΄ γ απη ατά Ογχαμ πο πας κέιη, αη Ιαος δα τμέιης α δ-τηοπ-ζίες; ηίομ ς καμά τη τρικατη 'η α δ-κίαιτε Φέ, δύιδε αη δ' α πόιο πας τρικατχαμόζαδ!

- O. Great was my surprise there,

 That I did not not see the court of Fionn of the hosts;

 There was not in its place in truth

 But weeds, chick-weeds, and nettles.
 - Alas, O Patrick! and alas, my grief!

 A miserable journey it was to me,
 Without the tidings of Fionn or the Fianna;
 It left me through life under pain.
- P. O Oisin! now desist from thy grief,
 Shed thy tears to the God of Grace,
 Fionn and the Fianna are weak enough,
 And relief is not theirs for ever.
- O. That would be a great pity, O Patrick!

 That Fionn should be in pain, for ever;

 Or what pursuers gained victory over him,

 Since many a hardy hero fell by himself.
- P. It is God who gained victory over Fionn,
 And not the strength of enemy or strong hand,
 And over all the Fianna like him,
 Condemned to hell, they are eternally tormented.
- O. O Patrick! direct me into the place
 In which Fionn is in hands and the Fianna,
 And there is not a hell or a heaven there
 That will put them under subjection.
 - If Osgar my own son be there,
 The hero that was bravest in heavy conflict,
 There is not created in hell, or in the Heaven of God
 A host tho' great, that he would not destroy.

- Ρ. Leizimio σ'αμ η-ιοπαμδαίο αμ χας ταοδ, α'r lean ded' γχέαι, α Οιγίη αιχ; καν δο ταμία δυις 'ηα δείχ, ταμ είγ ηα βείρη βείτ αμ ίαμ!
- Ο. Ιηποόγαο κόιη γιη όμις, α Ράομμιζ, ταμ όιγ πό καζόαι Αιτημίη Lαιζοαη, η μαίδ αση άιτηκαδ 'ηα μαίδ αη Γίαηη, ηδ'η όμαητιίζοας το δίαη ταη αση ποίλι.
 - Un mo żaball dom the żleann an rmoll, do connalne me mon-chulnniużad ann; thi cead rean azur ni da mo, do bi nomam annr' an n-zleann.
 - Φο Ιαδαίμ δυίμε δε'η τηθαδ,
 απας α δύδαίμε το δε πο ός από;
 "ταμη δ'αμ π-ταδαίμ, α μίοπ-ίαοις,
 α'ς κυαγπαί τιμη ας απ π-τημαδ-έας!"
 - Τάμης της απή τη το λαταμή,

 α'τ λίος τός το παμτριμή ας απ τλός;

 δί της απός το τος τος κατιας,

 'τα συν δίοδ τυας, πίον δ'έξιδην λεό!
 - Un cuid aca bi ra'n lic fior, bo biodan b'a z-claoideam zo rann; le chuime an ualaiz moin, bo caill zo leon diod a meabain!
 - Do labajn bujne bo na maojn,
 azur a bubajne, "a njoż-żajrzeabajż ójz;
 ruarzajl rearca an mo bujbean,
 nó bujne bjob, nj bejb beó!"

¹ Bleann an γπόρι, the valley of the thrush, now anglicized Glenasmole.

- P. Let us leave off our controversy on each side And continue thy story, O valiant Oisin! What occurred to thee after that, Subsequently to the Fianna being low.
- O. I, myself will tell thee that, O Patrick!—
 After I left Almhuin of Leinster,
 There was not a residence where the Fianna had been,
 But I searched accurately without any delay.

On my passing thro' the glen of the thrushes, I saw a great assembly there, Three hundred men and more Were before me in the glen.

One of the assembly spoke,

And he said with a loud voice:

"Come to our relief, O kingly champion;

And deliver us from difficulty!"

I, then came forward,
And the host had a large flag of marble,
The weight of the flag was down on them,
And to uphold it, they were unable!

Those that were under the flag below, Were being oppressed, weakly, By the weight of the great load Many of them lost their senses.

One of the stewards spoke
And said:—"O princely young hero!
Forthwith relieve my host,
Or not one of them will be alive."

- Ο. Ιτ ηληπεαά αυ δεαμτ, αυοιτ le μαϋ, α'τ αυ οιμεαδ ατά δ'τεαμαίδ αυυ, υαά τιος ταδ le υεαμτ αυ τ-τίδιζ, αυ ίτος-το έδς δαιί το ίλη-τεαυν."
 - D'a mainead Orzan mac Oirín, do béantad an an líoz-ro 'na dear-laim, do cuintead d'uncan í tan an rluaz, ní bnéaz ir dual dom anoir do nad.
 - Do lujbear an mo cliatan bear,
 'r bo nuzar an an leic am laim;
 le neant azur le lût mo teaz,
 bo cuinear react b-pêinre i ó na hait.
 - Le reiom na leice lan-moin, bo buir zionta oin an eic bain; bo tanzar-ra anuar zo lan-boct, an bonn mo ba cor an an m-ban!
 - Νί τύιτσο τάιτισ πό απιας,
 τα żłac uaman an τ-ολό ban,
 δ'ιπόιζ απ τιπ όμπ τιμβαιί,
 'τ πητο τα ρύδαη 30 laz, τίαιό!
 - Do caillear amanc mo fúl, mo sealb mo żnúir 'r mo rzail, so bior am' feansin bocc sall, zan bniż, zan meabain, zan ains!
 - 21 βάσμαις, γιη αξαό πο γξέαι, παη έαηια δοπ κέιη ξαη ξό; πο διι αξιι π'ιπέεαδε το beade, α'r πο δεαδε ταη π'αιγ ὁ Τήη ηα η-όξ!

- O. 'Tis a shameful deed, that it should now be said,
 And the number of men that is there,
 That the strength of the host is unable
 To lift the flag with great power.
 - If Oscur the son of Oisin lived,
 He would take this flag in his right hand,
 He would fling it in a throw over the host—
 It is not my custom to speak falsehood.
 - I lay upon my right breast,
 And I took the flag in my hand,
 With the strength and activity of my limbs
 I sent it seven perches from its place!
 - With the force of the very large flag,

 The golden girth broke on the white steed;

 I came down full suddenly,

 On the soles of my two feet on the lea.
 - No sooner did I come down,
 Than the white steed took fright,
 He went then on his way,
 And I, in sorrow, both weak and feeble.
 - I lost the sight of my eyes,
 My form, my countenance, and my vigour,
 I was an old man, poor and blind,
 Without strength, understanding, or esteem.
 - Patrick! there is to thee my story,
 As it occurred to myself without a lie,
 My going and my adventures in certain,
 And my returning from the "Land of Youth."

The following Prophecy by Caoilte, respecting *Cluain Cheasain*, deserves preservation; but want of space must excuse our offering a translation:—

Caoile bo chan.

Cluajy Chearajy nó člor amač, zur a b-cajčižeab mac Lúžach, ba Ror mic Cheojy! ron am yzniny ne nae cojžeače an Cajlziny.

αίτ τηδ ταπταμ prailm κό reac, α τ-Cluain Chearain na τ-cleineac; αδ τοπημικ απ Chluain τρειδώθει, κά δαώμαιδ παδ πό δεαππας.

Τό bejť lejžear jr an lain,

κό δί ταη απη ba h-orcaill;

γοηδαϊό ba linn τηαιή απ τ-γκιά,

αδλαδ σκαηπα απ cluain σκοτά.

Τάιης αη ταμμησαίμε ταίμ, Cluain Cearain ας Ταίιζεαηπαίδ, α δάδαίμε Γίοην κιαί καιίζεας, 30 παίς πείψε παοώ αίησίεας.

Τη τιτόιοτ μίοξαιη 30 ηθαότ, δάδαμ αξαιη η πόη αμήπεαμτ; 30 ηίδηη α leara ulle, ποδταιη cleactac cluanuise.

¹ Ros mic Treoin is the old and present Irish name of the town of New Ross in the county of Wexford.

THE BOYISH EXPLOITS

OF

FINN MAC CUMHAILL.

EDITED BY

JOHN O'DONOVAN, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, BERLIN.

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Letter addressed by Dr. John O'Donovan, to the President of the Ossianic Society.

Dublin, Dec. 27th, 1858.

DEAR SIR.—Having, at your request, undertaken to translate into English—to lengthen out the abbreviations, and to fix the grammatical endings of the contracted words, in this notice of the boyish exploits of the celebrated Finn Mac Cumbaill, the Fingal of Mac Pherson's Ossian. I beg to offer you a few observations on the age and importance of the little tract, as well as of the manuscript from which it has been taken. This tract was copied letter for letter, and contraction for contraction from a fragment of the Psalter of Cashel now preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford (Laud. 610), by the Rev. Euseby D. Cleaver, M. A., of Christ Church, Oxford, in 1854, and now curate of S. Barnabas, Pimlico, London, whose progress in the study of the Irish language is truly wonderful, considering the slight advantages of oral instruction which he has possessed. He has copied this little tract so faithfully that I was able to understand it as well as if I had the original manuscript before me. No artist ever copied a portrait or inscription more accurately. This manuscript was examined in the year 1844 by the Rev. Dr. Todd, S.F.T.C.D., who published a full account of its contents in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. 2, p. 336, sq. In 1846 I examined it again with the most anxious care, and published a brief notice of its more important contents in the introduction to Leabhar na g-Ceart. It consists of 292 pages folio, vellum, and was transcribed in 1453 by John Boy O'Clery and others at Pottlerath, in the barony of Crannagh, and county of Kilkenny, for Edmund Butler, the head of the sept of Mac Richard, who afterwards became Earls of Ormonde. This manuscript remained in the possession of Mac Richard Butler till the year 1462, when Ormonde and he were defeated in a battle fought at Baile-an-phoill. now Pilltown, in the barony of Iverk, county of Kilkenny, by Thomas, Earl of Desmond, to whom he was obliged to give up this very copy of the Psalter of Cashel, together with another manuscript (now unknown).

called the Book of Carrick-on-Suir. This fact appears from a memorandum on fol. 110, p. b, of which the following is a literal translation:—

"This was the Psalter of Mac Richard Butler, until the defeat at Baile-an phoill, was given to the Earl of Ormonde, and to Mac Richard by the Earl of Desmond (Thomas), when this book and the book of Carrick, were obtained in the redemption of Mac Richard; and it was this Mac Richard that had these books transcribed for his own use; and they remained in his possession until Thomas, Earl of Desmond, wrested them from him."

The foregoing memorandum was written in the manuscript, while it was in the possession of Thomas, Earl of Desmond, whose name "Thomas, of Desmond," appears in English, in his own hand, on fol. 92, a., See Leabhar sa g-Ceart, Introduction, pp. xxviii—xxx. The publication of this manuscript, as it stands, would be a great desideratum in Irish literature, and I trust that Sir John Romilly will not think it unworthy of his attention.

I am of opinion that this little tract is of great antiquity, and contains, perhaps, the oldest account we have remaining of Finn and his cotemporaries. You will observe that the style is extremely simple, and altogether devoid of that redundancy of epithets which characterises the prose compositions of later ages, which are equalled only by those of "El famoso Feliciano de Silva."

The celebrated Irish antiquary, Duald Mac Firbis, in his genealogical work, pp. 435, 436, gives various pedigrees of the famous Irish hero, Finn Mac Cumhaill. Some deduce his descent from the Orbhraighe of Druim Imnocht, others from the Corco Oiche, a sept of the Ui-Fidhgeinte, who were seated in the present county of Limerick. Some state that he sprung from the Ui-Tairsigh of Ui-Failghe, a plebeian sept, while other genealogists maintain that he came of the Ui-Tairsigh of the Luaighni Teamhrach of Fera-Cul in Bregia, which was one of the three septs from whom the chief leader of the Fians, or Irish militia, was elected. Mac Firbis, however, states that this discrepancy must have arisen from mistaking one Finn for another; but that by far the greater number of the authentic Irish authorities agree in deducing the pedigree of the famous Finn Mac Cumhaill from Nuada Neacht, the fourth son of Sedna Sithbhaic, the ancestor of the kings of Leinster.

By the mother's side, Finn Mac Cumhaill was descended from Tadhg, son of Nuadhat, son of Aice, son of Daite, son of Brocan, son of Fintan of Tuath-Daite in Bregia. This Mac Firbis believes to be his true maternal descent, though others state that his mother was Torba, daughter of Echuman of the Ernaans of Dun-Cearmna (the old head of Kinsale, in the county of Cork), and that he had a half-brother by the mother's side, who was called Finn Mac Gleoir.

Mac Firbis adds that Finn Mac Cumhaill possessed, in right of his office of leader of the Fians, seven ballys, or townlands, out of every tricha-ched, or hundred, in Ireland; that he was born in the third year of the reign of Conn of the Hundred Battles, and died in the year 283.

Some genealogical books give the pedigree of our hero thus :-Finn, son of Cumhall, son of Trénmor, son of Subalt, son of Ealtan, son of Baiscne, son of Nuada Necht: others, Finn, son of Cumhall, son of Baiscne, son of Trénmor, son of Ferdarath, son of Goll, son of Forgall, son of Daire, son of Deaghaidh, son of Sin; but of the various pedigrees of our hero which Mac Firbis has copied from Irish authorities, the following is the only one that can be considered authentic :-

- 1. Nuada Necht,
- 2. Fergus Failge, ancestor of the Kings of Leinster,
- 3. Rossa Ruadh.
- S. So-alt.
- 4. Finn, the poet, king of Leinster,
- 5. Conchobhar Abhraruadh,
- 5. Cairbre Garbhroin,
- 6. Moghcorb, king of Leinster,
- 6. Baeiscne.
- 7. Cucorb, king of Leinster,
- 7. Modh.

8. Nia Corb,

- 8. Buan.
- 9. Cormac Gealtagaoith,
- 9. Fergus,
- 10. Feilimidh Firurglais,
- 10. Trendorn,

- 11. Cathaeir Mor, monarch of Ireland, 11. Trenmor,
 - 12. Cumhall.
- A.D., 177.
- 13. Finn Mac Cumhaill, al. 284.

He had a sister named Sidh, who was proverbial in Ireland for her fleetness of foot, and who was the mother of Caoilte Mac Ronain, also famous in the Fenian tales for his agility. He had another sister, Seogen, who was the mother of Cobhthach, son of Crunnchu.

I have always believed that Finn Mac Cumhaill was a real historical personage, and not a myth or god of war, like the Hercules of the Greeks, the Odin of the Scandinavians, or the Siegfried of the Germans. He was the son-in-law of the famous Cormac Mac Airt monarch of Ireland, and the general of his standing army. He was slain in the year A.D., 284, according to the Annals of Tighernach, a period to which our authentic history unquestionably reaches. (See Ogygia, part iii, c. 70).

This celebrated warrior was, as we have seen, of the regal line of the kings of Leinster, of the Milesian or Scotic race (for my ingenious friend Mr. Herbert F. Hore has theorised in vain to prove him of Scandinavian

origin); he had two residences in Leinster, one at Allen (Almhain,) in the present county of Kildare, and the other at Moyelly in the (now) King's County, both of which descended to him from his ancestors. Pinkerton, the most critical and sceptical writer that has ever treated of Irish and Scottish history, has the following remarkable words, in which he expresses his conviction of Finn's undoubted historical existence:—

"He seems," says he, "to have been a man of great talents for the age, and of celebrity in arms. His formation of a regular standing army, trained to war, in which all the Irish accounts agree, seems to have been a rude imitation of the Roman legions in Britain. The idea, though simple enough, shows prudence, for such a force alone, could have coped with the Romans had they invaded Ireland. But this machine, which surprised a rude age, and seems the basis of all Finn's fame, like some other great schemes, only lived in its author, and expired soon after him."—Inquiry into the History of Scotland, vol. ii, p. 77.

Our own poet and historian, Moore, who read all that had been written by the Mac Phersons and the modern critics on the history of Finn, expresses his conviction that he was a real man of flesh and blood, and no god of war or poetical creation. He concludes his account of him in the following poetical strain.

"It has been the fate of this popular Irish hero, after a long course of traditional renown in his country, where his name still lives, not only in legends and songs, but yet in the more indelible record of scenery connected with his memory, to have been all at once transferred by adoption to another country (Scotland), and start under a new but false shape, into a fresh career of fame."—History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 133.

The only known descendants of our hero, now known to exist, are the Dal-Cais, i.e. O'Briens of Munster and their correlatives. Cormac Cas, king of Munster, who married Samhair (Samaria), the daughter of Finn by Gráine, daughter of Cormac Mac Airt, monarch of Ireland, and had by her, according to the Irish genealogists, three sons, Tinnè and Connla, of whose race nothing is known, and Fearcorb, the progenitor of the Dal Cais, the hereditary enemies of the race of Conn of the Hundred Battles. After the death of Finn, the monarch Cairbre Liffechair, son of Cormac. the grandson of Conn of the Hundred Battles, disbanded and outlawed the Clanna Baeiscnè, of whom Finn was then the head, and retained in his service their enemies, the Clanna-Morna, a military tribe of the Firbolgs of Connacht. The Clanna-Baeiscnè then repaired to Munster to their relative, Fearcorb, who retained them in his service, contrary to the orders of the Irish monarch. This led to the bloody battle of Gabhra (near the Boyne in Meath), in which the two rival military tribes slaughtered each other almost to extermination. In the heat of the action, Oscar, the grandson of Finn (and son of Oisin,) met the monarch

in single combat; but fell, and the monarch retiring from the combat, was met by his own relative Semeon, one of the Fotharta, (a tribe that had been expelled into Leinster) who fell upon him after being severely wounded in the dreadful combat with Oscar, and despatched him by a single blow.

Oisin and Caeilte Mac Ronain survived all the followers of our hero, and are fabled to have lived down to the time of St. Patrick (A.D. 432), to whom they related the wonderful exploits of Finn and his cotemporaries. This, however, is incredible; but it is highly probable that both lived to converse with some Christian missionaries who preceded the great apostle of Ireland, and who found it difficult to convert them from their pagan notions.

There is a very curious dialogue, partly preserved in the book of Lismore, and partly in a MS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, said to have been carried on between Caeilte, son of Ronan, and St. Patrick. This dialogue, notwithstanding ita anachronism, or perhaps rather misnomer, is of great value to the Irish linguist, topographer, and antiquary, on account of the curious ancient forms of the language which it preserves, and the various forts, mounds, sepulchres, plains, mountains, estuaries and rivers which it mentions by their primitive and mediæval names.

Hoping that this tract will soon see the light under your auspices, as President of our Society,

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
JOHN O'DONOVAN.

To

WILLIAM SMITH O'BBIRN, Esq.

President of the Ossianic Society.

2012-3njadarta finn inn so sís.

Ο RALA compinal aiż, ocup impich beabtha, imon pianalzeże ocup im andmaenalzeże Chienn, idin Cumuli mac Chenmoin, ocup Uinzhenn mac Luizech Cuinn, do Luaizne, il do Conco Oche Cuile Choncund don Cumuli pin, ain da didpide h-Ui Tainniiz a tuatrom [il tuat] Cumulil Tonda, inzin Cochamain do Chimull, no co cand Muinne Muncaim. Tucad ianum

cath Cnucha eatunna .i. 151n Cumull ocur Ungneno.

Daine Deans, mac Echajo Fino, mic Compne Jalais, mic Mumeadais, ocur a mac, a. Aed, ic cadame in chacha francad Munshinn. Alim naill don Daine fin Monna Muncaím. Do benan fanum in cach fan fin; do nala sen Luicet ocur Aed, mac Monna, if in chac; zonur Lucet Aed, co nor mill a leth-norc, comb de no lil a ainim Joll ó fin ile e. Do cuiz Lucet la Joll; zonar dan fen cométa connduits a ret restin Cumull ifin

- 1 Chieftainship of the Fians, i.e. the leadership of the Irish militia.
- ² Cumhall. The best account of this military leader will be found in the battle of Cnucha, preserved in the book of Lismore.
- ³ Luaighni, a famous military sept in Menth descended from Luaighni, one of the brothers of Conn of the hundred battles. Ogygia, part iii. c. 57.
- 4 Cuil Contains, a territory situated on the borders of the present counties of Meath and Cavan.
- Cnucha. Connell Magheoghegan states in his translation of the annals of Clonmacnoise, A.D. 726, that this is the place called Castle-knock, [near the river Liffey, county of Dublin.]

THE BOYISH EXPLOITS OF FINN, DOWN HERE.

HERE happened a meeting of valour, and contention of battle, respecting the chieftainship of the Fianns, and the head-stewardship of Erin, between Cumhall, son of

Tréanmór, and Uirgrenn, son of Lughaidh Corr, [one] of the Luaighne,³ i.e. this Cumhall was of the Corca-oiche of Cuil-contuinn,⁴ for of these the Hui-Tairsigh his tribe were [a subsection]. Torba, daughter of Eochaman [one] of the Ernaans, had been the wife of Cumhall, until he married Muireann Munchaemh, [Murinda of the fair neck]. The battle of Cnucha⁵ was afterwards fought between them, i.e. between Cumhall and Uirgrenn.

Daire Dearg, son of Eochaidh Finn, son of Coirpre Galach, son of Muiredhach Muinderg, and his son Aedh, were fighting the battle along with Muirgrenn. Another name for this Daire was Morna Munchaim. The battle was then fought, Luichet and Aedh son of this Morna met together [in single combat] in the battle; Luichet wounded Aedh, and destroyed one of his eyes, so that from this the name of Goll⁶ [Luscus] adhered to him from that time forth. Luichet fell by Goll. The keeper of his own corrbholg⁷ of séds [treasure bag] wounded Cumhall, and

⁶ Goll is glossed Caèch, and means one-eyed, the same as the Latin luscus.

⁷ Cwrrbholg, i.e. a round bag, sed means a jewel or any article of value.

cat. Do tuje Cumull la Joll mac Wohna je ju cath, ocur bejujo a rojob ocur a ceno leje, conjo de eju buj rich bunad jeju Finn ocur mac Wohna, conjo de eju no cet ju reanchajo:—

Joll mac Dane Deinz co mblaio, Mic Echaid Finn, rinn a zail, Mic Cainpne Jalaid co nzail, Mic Muineadaiz a Findmaiz.

Ro mand Joll Luicet na cod, a cath Chuca, nocha bnec, Luicet Finn in zairced zlain La mac Monna do nochain.

Ir leir do tuit Cumull món, I cat Chucha na cath-rloz Mine tucrat in cath tend,

Im rianaidect na h-Éinend.

Batan clanda Mónna irin cath,

Batan clanda Mônna 1711 cath, Ocur Luaizne na Tempach, Ain da leo rianur ren Fail, Fria laim cac niz co nobaiz.

Buj mac ac Cumull co m-buajo, In Finn ruilech raebun chuajo; Finn ocur Joll mon a mblab, Chén bo nonnracan cozab.

Ιαμ γιη δο μοηηγαταμ γιδ, Γιηδ ος Τολί ης εξό ηξημη, Το τομευμη Βαηδ Σίηης δε, Γαη πυίες α Τεπυίη Ιυαίςμε. Δεό δα μαίηπ δο πας Φαίμε,

Con zaed Luicer con aine,
O no zaer mac Luaizne lond,
Daine connuirea nir Joll. 3.

¹ Finnmhagh, otherwise Maghfinn, a plain in the barony of Athlone, county of Roscommon, at this period possessed by the Firbolgs, of whom the Clanna-Morna were a sept.

Cumhall fell by Goll son of Morna in the battle, and carried off his arms and his head; and from this there was a fundamental hatred between Finn and the sons of Morna, concerning which the historian sang:—

"Goll was son of Daire Dearg of fame,
Son of Eochaidh Finn of valiant deeds,
Son of Cairbre Galach of prowess,
Son of Muireadhach of Finnmhagh.\(^1\)
This Goll slew Luichet of hundreds,
In the battle of Cnucha, no falsehood,—
Luichet Finn of noble chivalry,
By the son of Morna fell!
It was by him fell Cumhall the Great,
In the battle of Cnucha of embattled hosts
What they fought this stout battle for,
Was for the Fian leadership in Erin.
The Clanna Morna were in the battle,
And the Luaighni of Teamhair
For the Fiannship of the men of Fail was theirs

Under the hand of each valiant king.

The victorious Cumhall had a son;

The blood shedding Finn of hard weapons,
Finn and Goll of great fame,

Mightily they waged war.

After this they made peace
Finn and Goll, of the hundred deeds,
Until the Banbh Sinna fell
On the plain at Teamhair Luachra,²
Aedh was the name of Daire's son,
Until Luichet wounded him with dexterity,
But since the stout son of Luaighne wounded him
He was called by the name of Goll."

² Teamhair Luachra, a place in Kerry not far from Castle Island, in the district of Sliabh Luachra.

Tophach no accald Cumull a myal 1. Mulphe, ocur beinid ti mac, ocur bena ainm do, 1. Demne. Tic Flaccall mac Concinn ocur Bodhmall, dandnal, ocur in Liath Luacha do raized Mulphe, ocur beinid leo in mac, ain nin lam a macain a bec aicce. Fuidir Mulphe la Sleoin Lam-denz, la ni Lamnaize iandam, coni deiride in nad, Finn mac Sleoin. Luid cha Bodhmall ocur in Liath, ocur in mac leo i roichid Sleidi Bladma. Ro hailed in mac and rin i caide. Deichdin on, an da himda zilla cailcain cinnernac, ocur laech neimnech naimdize, ocur bo macaid Monna pon ci in mic rin, ocur Culca mic Cumuill. Ro ailrec ianum in da banreindiz rin più ne poda è ran ramlaid rin.

The a mataln a cind to mbliadan tan tin deter a mic, ain do hinnerd di a bec ten induc, ocur do no da hecail le mac Monna do. Cid chace achace ar cac farach ina cole, co nainice foichib Slobe Bladma; fozeid in flandoith ocur in mac ina codlad inner, ocur cochaid fi an mac ina huche landain, ocur cimpaize fula he, ocur ticom lanum. Conid and fin do noin na nanna ic multin in a mac—

Coball he ruanan raime, 711.

Cimnar an ingin celebrad do na bankeindéduld jak rin, ocur acbenc kulu nomzaddajr in mac comad in-

¹ Muireann. This was very common as the proper proper name of a woman among the ancient Irish. It is explained in Cormac's Glossary. as meaning mor-fhinn, long-haired.

² Lamhraighe, a people of Kerry in the west of Munster.

^{*} Slinbh Bladhma, i.e. the mountain of Bladhma, (Ogygia III., 16.) now Slieve Bloom on the confines of the King's and Queen's Counties. It is sometimes called Sliabh Smoil. The summit of this mountain is called Mullach Cipeany, the summit of Erin, and from it, the O'Dunnes have taken the motto of Mullach Cipeany abu!

Cumhall left his wife pregnant, i. e. Muirenn,¹ and she brought forth a son, and gave him the name of Deimne. Fiacail the son of Cuchenn, and Bodhmall the Druidess and Liath Luachra came to Muirenn and carried away the son, for his mother durst not keep him with her. Muirenn afterwards married Gleoir the Redhanded, king of Lamhraighe,² from which Finn is called the son of Gleoir. However Bodhmall and Liath taking the boy with them went to the forests of Sliabh Bladma,³ where the boy was nursed secretly. This was indeed necessary, for many a sturdy stalworth youth, and many a venomous inimical hero and angry morose champion of the warriors of Luaighni, and of the sons of Morna, were ready to despatch that boy, and [also] Tulcha the son of Cumhall. But however the two heroines nursed him for a long time in this manner.

His mother came at the end of six years after this to visit her son, for it was told to her, that he was at that place, and she feared the sons of Morna for him, i.e. [might kill him.] But however, she passed from one solitude to another, until she reached the forest of Sliabh Bladhma [Slieve Bloom,] and she found the hunting booth [hut] and the boy asleep therein, and she afterwards lifted him and pressed him to her bosom, and she then pregnant [from her second husband,] and then she composed these quatrains caressing her son:

"Sleep with gentle pleasant slumber, &c."4

The woman afterwards bids farewell to the heroines, and asked them if they would take charge of him till he

⁴ The rest of this Lullaby is lost. Indeed it would appear from the shortness of the sentences, and the abrupt and flighty nature of the composition, that the whole story has been very much condensed, and in some places mutilated.

remeda é, ocur no rondad m mac [alchum m mic] jan rin cun da hinrelza é.

Tainic in macina aenun imach in anaile la and, ocur id condainc [in phar lacha co] na lachain ront in loc. Tanlaic unchun ruichib ocur no tercain a rinntad ocur a heteda di, co tocuin tamnell ruinne, ocur no zabram janum, ocur nor ruc leir do chum na riandoithi. Conid hi rin ced realz Find.

Luippium la aer ceanda jantain pon tethed mac Monna; co mboi po Chottaid accu. Ite a n-anmanda fide, Futh ocur Ruth ocur Rezna Mad-Feda, ocur Temle, ocur Oilpe, ocur Rozein. Tainiz imbuile tainifim and fin, co ndenna cannach de, conid de do zaintea Deimne Mael de. Bi pozlaid a Laizen in tan fin i. Fiaccail mac Codna efide. Do nala din Fiacail i Fid Zaidle pont an aer ceandai, ocur no mand uili act Deimne a aenun; bui fum ac Fiacail mac Codna jan fin ina tiz, a fercinn uaindeoil. Teccait in da banfeindiz du dear co tech Fiacla mic Codnai, pon janain Deimne, ocur do benan doid è; ocur do benait leo a nder hé jantam cur in innad cedna.

Do chualdrom la alle and a aenah amach co hiache 20 at like 30 anoile dun ann, conor faccald in machald of oc imain for faiche in duine. Tierium comind no cominain fhiurum. Tie ian na danach ocur do benav cethnaime inna afaid; tieit anir a thian in a afaid. Cid thact atnafat uile inna afaid fa deoif, ocur do bened-rum leth cluiche fonna uili. Cia hainm fil font,

¹ At them. The original Irish is defective here. The words obviously omitted are supplied in brackets. In Feis tighe Chonain, p. 129, it is stated that Finn in his first chase killed the pras-lacha (widgeon?), and her clutch of twelve young birds.

² Crotta, i.e. Crotta Cliach, now the Galty mountains in the south of the county of Tipperary.

³ Fidh. Gaibhle, now Feegile, in the parish of Cloonsast, north of

should be of heroic age; and the son was afterwards reared by them till he was fit for hunting.

The boy came forth alone on a certain day, and saw the [the pras lacha with her brood of] ducks upon the lake. He made a shot at them, and cut off her feathers and wings, so that she died, and he afterwards took her to the hunting booth: and this was Finn's first chase.

He afterwards went away with certain poets to flee from the sons of Morna; and they had him [concealed] about These were their names, Futh and Ruth, and Regna of Mad Feada, and Teimle, and Oilpe, and Rogein. Here he was seized with the scurvy, so that he became a carrach [scald,] and was thence called Deimne Mael. There was a plunderer in Leinster at this time, by name Fiacuil, son of Codhna. Fiacuil came into Fidh Gaibhle³ upon the poets, and killed them all except Deimne alone, who was afterwards with Fiacuil (in his house in a cold The two heroines came southwards sheskin [marsh]. to the house of Fiacuil, son of Codhna, in search of Deimne, and he was given to them; and they took him from the south to the same place [where they had him previously].

He went forth one day alone [and never halted] till he reached Magh Life, and on the green of a certain Dun [fort] there he saw youths hurling. He went to contend in agility or to hurl along with them. He came with them next day, and they sent the fourth of their number against him. He came again, and they sent the third of their number against him, and finally they went all against him, and he won one game from them all. What is thy name said they?

Portarlington, in the King's County. This was the name of a famous wood in Leinster, in which St. Berchan, the Irish prophet, erected his church of Cloonsast, the ruins of which still remain.

⁴ Magh Liffe, i.e., the plain of the Liffey; a very level plain in the county of Kildare, through which the river Liffey winds its course.

ol riat, Deimne, ol ré. Innirio in machaid drik in dúnaid in ni rin. Wahdaid ride é mad contuicti, mar a cumactachi é, ol re, ni caemramair ni do, ol riat; cuhad Deimne a ainm. Cindar a heccorc, ol ré. Wacaem tuctach, rind, ol riat, ir ainm do Demne Find amlaid rin, ol réream. Conid de rin addentir in machaid ruirum Finn.

Cicrum jan na bainech dia raizio, ocur luid cuccu ina cluichi ro centat a lonza rain anaenrect. Imarairium ruicibrium, ocur tharchaid monterin dib. Luid uaithib a roithnib Slebe Bladma.

The janum 1 chind recemulate jan rin, cur in mbaile cedna. It amlaid batun in machaid is rnam ront in loch bi ina rannad. Thennaizit in machaid eirium imteche dimbada rniu. Linzidrin it in loch cuca ian rin, ocur badid nondun did ron loch, ocur teit rein ra Sliad Bladma ian rin. Cia no daid in machaid, ol cach. Finn, ol riat; conad at rin no leanad Finn é.

Ticrium rece and can Slab Bladma amach, ocur in da banrendid immaille ruir; conacan alma imdicrcin d'azaid alluid ronair in rléde. Monuan cha on in da rencuinn, ni cic dinn arcud neich did rúd accainn. Tic dimra, [ol Finn] ocur nichaid ronno, ocur arcaid da naz did, ocur beinid leir dia rianndoich. Do znirium relz co znacach doid ian rin. Cinió duain rerca, a zille, on na danréneda ruir, ain acaic mic Mônna ron aicill do mandea.

Do luidrium a aenan uadid co niacht loch lein [ocur] or luachain, cun atcuin a amraine ac niz Benthaite and rin; ni no rloindrim irin innad rin he, att cena, ni bui ir in ne rin relzaine a innramla; ar amlaid irbent in ni

¹ Loch Lein, now the Lakes at Killarney in Kerry.

² Luachra, i.e., Luachair Deaghaidh, a district in the now county of Kerry, containing the two Pap mountains.

³ Beantraighe, a district in South Munster, believed to have been coextensive with the barony of Bantry in the county of Cork.

Deimne replied he. The youths tell this to the owner of the dun [fort.] "Do ye kill him if he comes again, if ye are able," said he. We are not able to do aught unto him, replied they; Deimne is his name. What is his appearance?" said he. He is a well-shaped fair [fint] youth, replied they, Deimne shall be named Finn therefore, said he. And hence these young men used to call him Finn,

He came the next day to them, and joined them in their game, they attacked him all together, with their hurlets, but he made at them and prostrated seven of them, and [then] made off from them into the forests of Sliabh Bladhma.

He afterwards returned at the end of a week to the same place. What the youths were at [then] was swimming in the lake which was close by [the dun.] The youths challenged him to swim with them. He plunged into the lake to them, and afterwards drowned nine of them in the lake, and then made to Sliabh Bladhma himself. Who drowned the youths? enquired all. Finn, replied they [i.e. the survivors]. And from this the name of Finn clung to him [among all who heard of this deed of drowning.]

He came forth on one occasion out beyond Sliabh Bladhma, the two heroines being along with him, and they perceived a fleet herd of the wild deer of the forest of the mountain. Alas; said the two old women, that we cannot detain one of these with us. I can, [said Finn] and he ran upon them, and catching two bucks of them, brings them with him to his hunting booth. After this he used to hunt for them constantly. Depart from us now, O young man, said the female warriors to him, for the sons of Morna are watching to kill thee.

He went away from them alone [and halted not,] till he reached Loch Lein¹, and over Luachair,² till he hired in military service, with the king of Bentraighe.³ He did not go by any name here, but there was not at this time a

ruje: bja racbab Cumull mac, ol re, an banlat no bo tura e; act cena, nj cualamunne mac bracbajl bo acht Tulca mac Cumajll, ocur ata rin ac nj Alban in amrajne.

Celebrajorim don hi jan rin, ocur tet uaidib co Cainbuize a Claupaize 1 noin, ocup achuiz 10 a niz rin a n-ampaine. Tic in hi janum ac fiocellact in anaile lo. Tecojeziorim lajr ocur benio rece cluichi diaiz anoile. Cla typa? of in hi. Wac aithis to Luaisnit Temnach, ol ré. Acc, ol 19 m; act 17 tú 19 mac norruc Mujnne bo Cumall, ocur na bi runn ni ir ria, nanuc manbean ron menech-ra. Luid ar jan rin co Cuillind Ó Cuanac, co tec Locain rlait zobann: 19319 no caem lairide il Chuithne a hainm: adnaiz ride znad don zilla. Do benra minzin duje, ol in zoba, cin co recan cia cu. Fajdir in inzin lejr in zilla jancajn. Dėna rleza dam, ol in zilla nir 111 1130bann. Do zni din Lochan di rleiz do. Celeabnaid ban bo Locan ocur luid neime. 21 mic, an Locan, na heins ir in rlize four a m-bi an muc diana ainm in Beo; ir ri no parraid meodon 21)umun. Ocur irred cha do nala bon zilla bul rope in rlize rop mbi in muc. Abnaiz in muce cuice jan rip. Foceindrim on a uncun of rleix ruinni, co na luid thite, co nur rancaid cen anmuin. Beinio-rium dia cenn na muicce leir don zobainn a colbche a 193ine. Ir de rin ata Sliab muice a 20 umainn.

Do luid in Jilla noime jan rin i Connactaid, d'iannaid Chimail mic Thénmoin. Umail no bui ron a réd co

¹ Albain, i.e., Scotland.

² Ciarraighe, now Kerry. The territory so called extended in ancient times only from Tralee to the Shannon. Its more ancient names would appear to have been Cairbrighe, or Corbraighe.

³ Cuilleann O'g-Cuanach. This is the present name of Cullen, in the county of Tipperary, near the borders of the county of Limerick. It originally belonged to the territory of Coonagh, now a barony, in the north-east of the county of Limerick.

hunter like him, and so the king said to him: if Cumhall had left any son, methinks thou art he, but we have not heard of Cumhall having left any son, but Tulcha Mac Cumhaill, but he is in military service with the king of Albain.

He afterwards bids farewell to the king, and goes away from him to Cairbrighe, at this day called Ciarraighe? [Kerry], and he staid with this king in military service. The king came one day to play chess. He [Finn] played against him, and won seven games in succession. Who art thou? said the king. The son of a peasant of the Luaighni of Teamhair, replied he; Not so, said the king; but thou art the son whom Muirenn [my present wife] brought forth for Cumhall; and do not be here any longer, that thou mayest not be killed while under my protection. After this he went to Cuilleann O g-Cuanach's to the house of Lochan, a chief smith: he had a very comely daughter, Cruithne by name; she fell in love with the youth. I will give thee my daughter, said the smith, although I know not who thou art. The daughter then cohabited with the unknown youth. Make lances for me, said the youth, to the smith. Lochan then made two spears for him. He then bade farewell to Lochan, and went his way. My son, said Lochan, do not go on the passage on which the boar called Beo is usually [to be] seen; it has devastated the [whole of Middle Munster. But the youth happened to go on the very pass where the pig was. The pig afterwards rushed at him! but he made a thrust of his spear at it, and drove it through it, so that he left it lifeless, and he brought the head of the pig with him to the smith as a dower for his daughter. From this is derived Sliabh muice in Munster.

The youth then went into Connaught to look for [his uncle] Crimall, son of Trenmor. As he went on his way he heard

⁴ Sliabh Muice. i.e., the Pig's mountain, now Slieve Muck, situated between the town of Tipperary and the glen of Aherlow.

cualajo zul na h-én mna. Lujo raj co n-acca jn mnaj, ocur ba déna rola cech ne rect, ocur da reéjè rola in reache ajle, co mba denz a del. Jrac del denz, a den, ol ré. Uta dejèlin ocum, ol rj; m'oen mac do mandad d'oen laec ronzhanda món do nala cucum. Cia ajnm do mije, ol ré. Slonda a ajnm, ol rj. Jr de aca Ath n-Slonna ocur Tócan n-Slonna ron Maenmuiz, ocur ir ôn del dejnzi rin aca Ath m-Bel Dejnzi ó rin ille. Lujo din Find indezajd in lajch, ocur renaje comlonn ocur do ruje laje é. Jr amlajo imonnu duj rin, ocur conndolz na réd ajzi il reojd Cumuill. Jr de din do nochajn ann rin il liat Luacna. Jr è céd zuin Cumull i cath Cnucha.

Teid I Connactaid ian rin, ocur razeid Chimall ina rendin a n-dichneid caille and, ocur duem don reinreinn maille ruir, ocur ir iad rin do zni relza do. Tócdaid in conndolz din do ocur acrec a reela d cur co deine, ocur amail no mand ren na red. Ceilednaid Finn do Chimall, ocur luid noime d'rozlaim eicri co Finnecer no doi ron Boin. Nin lam umonno deich a n-Éninn cena no co n-dechaid ne rilidect, an eazla mac Uinznenn ocur mac Wonna.

Seche m-bliabna do Finnécir pon Boin oc unnaize jach Linne Feic; ain do buí a cainnnaine do eo Féic do comaile, ocur cen ní na ainrir icin ianum. Fhich in m-bhadan, ocur no h-endad do Deinne umonno in bhadan

¹ Maenmhagh, Moinmoy, a territory lying round Lough Reagh in the present county of Galway; but the situations of Ath-Glonda, i. e. the ford of Glonda, and of Tochar-Glonda, the causeway of Glonda, are now unknown by these names.

² Ath-Beldeirg, i.e., ford of Red mouth, not identified unless it be Ballyderg.

³ The Boinn, i.e. the river Boyne in Meath.

⁴ Here ends folio 119 of the original MS. and on the upper margin of folio 120, in the handwriting of the scribe, is the following observation:—

the wail of one [solitary] woman. He went towards her, and viewed the woman: The first tear she shed was a tear of blood, and the other was a gush of blood, so that her mouth was red. "Thy mouth is red, O woman!" said he-I have cause for it, said she: my only son was killed by a huge ugly hero, who came to me. What is thy son's name? said he. Glonda is his name, said she. From him Ath-Glonda and Tochar-Glonda in Maenmhagh¹ are called, and from this Belderg the name Ath-beldeirg² remains ever since. Finn then went in pursuit of the hero, and they fought a combat, in which he fell by him [Finn.] The way he was situated was, he had the treasure bag with him, i.e., the [bag containing the] treasures of Cumhall. The person who fell here was Liath Luachra, he who first wounded Cumhall in the battle of Cnucha.

He now proceeds into Connaught, and finds Crimall, then an old man, in a desert there, and some of the old Fianns along with him, who were wont to chase for him. He gave him the Corrbholg, and told him the news from beginning to end:—how he had killed the possessor of the treasures. He bids farewell to Crimall, and goes forward to Fineces [who lived at the Boinn³] to learn poetry. He durst not remain in any part of Ireland until he took to learn poetry, from fear of the sons of Uirgrenn, and the sons of Morna.⁴

Seven years Finn-eges remained at the Boinn [Boyne] watching the salmon of Linn-Feic, for it had been prophesied that he would eat the [sacred] salmon of Fec, and that he would be ignorant of nothing afterwards! He caught the salmon, and ordered [his pupil] Deimne to roast

[&]quot; A mujuj je rada co tje Emunn on cojnno."

O Mary [Virgin] it is long till Edmund comes from the meeting. This was Edmund Butler for whom the MS, was transcribed.

⁵ Linn Feic, i. e. the pool of Fec, a deep pool in the River Boyne, near Ferta fer fecc, the ancient name of the village of Slane, on this river.

bo fuine, ocur arbent an file fuir cen ni don bhadan do comale. Do bent in Iila do an bhadan ian na fuine, man comilir ni don bhadan, a Iilla, ol in file. Nico, ol in Iila, act mo óndu do loircer, ocur do nadur im beolu iantain. Cia h-ainm fil ontra, a Iilla, ol ré. Deimne, ol in Iilla. Finn do ainm, ol ré, a Iilla, ocur ir duit tucad in bhadan dia comale, ocur ir tu in Find co fin. Coimlid in Iilla in bhadan iantain. Ir fin tha do hat in fir do Finn il an tan do bened a ondain ina beolu, ocur nocan thia Ceinmlaeza, ocur no faillritea do ianam in ni no bid ina ainfir.

Ro rozlujmyjum in theid be nemtizjur rilid i. Teinm laeza ocur Imur ron Orna, ocur Dicedul dicennald. Ir and rin do noine Finn in laiz ri oc rhomad a éicri:

Certemain cain nee! no rain and cuche!

Canair luin laid lain, dia m-beith Laizaiz ann.

Sainid cai chuaid dean, it rocen rain rain,

Ruidiz tine tin, dhuinne cend caill chaid.

Ceanduid rain ruaill thuth, raizid zhaiz luath linn,

Leataid role roda thaich, tondhid canach tann tinn,

Fuadain ditzell reeill fizine, imhid neid nian nith

neana,

Cuinichean ral ruan, cuizchin blac in bic.
Benaid * * *

¹ Finn is thy name. It appears that our hero had concealed from his master Finn-Egés that he had been known by the name of Finn, after he had drowned the nine boys in Magh-Liffe. But the poet finding that he had first tasted of the salmon of Linn Feic without intending it, saw that the ancient prophecy was fulfilled in him, and that his real name must be Finn. O'Flaherty states that our hero assisted his father-in-law Cormac son of Art, in compiling codes of laws; and the Life of St. Columkille compiled by Manus O'Donnell, states that he possessed the gift of prophecy, and foretold the birth and future greatness of St. Columbkille.

it, and the poet told him not to eat of the salmon. The young man brought him the salmon after cooking it. Hast thou eaten any part of the salmon, O young man? said the poet. "No," replied the young man, but I burned my thumb, and put it into my mouth afterwards. What name is upon thee, O youth? said he. Deimne, replied the youth. "Finn is thy name," O youth," said he, and it was to thee the salmon was [really] given, [in the prophecy] to be eaten [not to me], and thou art the Finn truly. The youth afterwards consumed the salmon, and it was from this the [preternatural] knowledge was given to Finn, i.e., when he used to put his thumb in his mouth, and not through Teinm Laegha [poetical-incantation,] whatever he had been ignorant of used to be revealed to him.

He learned the three compositions which signify the poets, namely the *Teinm Laegha*, the *Imus for Osna*, and the *Dicedul dicennaib*; and it was then Finn composed this poem to prove his poetry:

May-day³ delightful time! how beautiful the color!⁴ The blackbirds sing their full lay, would that Laighaig

were here

The cuckoos⁵ sing in constant⁶ strains, how welcome is the noble

Brilliance of the seasons ever; on the margin of the branchy woods

The summer suaill' skim the stream, the swift horses seek the pool,

The heath spreads out its long hair, the weak fair bogdown grows.

Sudden consternation attacks the signs, the planets in their courses running exert an influence:

The sea is lulled to rest, flowers cover the earth.

² Teinm Laegha. For a curious account of this poetical incantation as given in Cormac's glossary, the reader is referred to the "Battle of Magh Rath," printed for the Archaeological Society, p. 46. It is said that

- St. Patrick abolished the *Teinm Laegha* and the *Imbas for Osna*, as being profane rites, and allowed the poets to use another called *Dichedal do chendaibh*, which was in itself not repugnant to Christianity, as requiring no effering to false gods or demons.
- ³ May-day, certemain, is glossed bellcame by O'Clery. It signifies the beginning of summer.
- ⁴ Color, cuċτ, gl. bat, color, gl. cuṇηητο, gl. 5ηθ, face, countenance, mien.
 - 5 Caj, gl. cuaca, cuckoos.
 - Constant, chuab, gl. bjan.
- 7 Summer smaill, gl. the swallows. The words of this fragment, which was considered to be the first composition of Finn, after having eaten the salmon of the Boyne, is very ancient and exceedingly obscure. The translation is only offered for the consideration of Irish scholars, for it is certain that the meaning of some of the lines are doubtful. The poem obviously wants some lines at the end; and Mr. Cleaver states, that the remaining portion of the manuscript is so defaced as to render it totally illegible.

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ERRATA.

Page 32, note, for 1880, read 1808.

,, 152, stanza 5, line 4, for coann, read coann.
,, 166, ,, 1, ,, 1, insert reference to the word coann.
,, 213, line 1, note, for may read might.

,, 221, stanza 6, line 4, for bonds read pain,

