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ON THE  
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS  
OF  
THE ANCIENT IRISH.

A SERIES OF LECTURES

DELIVERED BY THE LATE  
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VOL. III.  
LECTURES, VOL. II.

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,  
14 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON,  
AND 20 SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.  
W. B. KELLY, 8 GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.  
SCRIBNER, WELFORD, & CO., NEW YORK.

1873.

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DUBLIN :  
JOHN F. FOWLER, PRINTER,  
3 CROW STREET, DAME STREET.  
258483

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(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Constant references to fringes of gold thread; mention of this ornament in the account of *Medhbh's* visit to her chief Druid in the commencement of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*,—description of *Fedelm* the prophetess weaving a fringe; the fringe sword or lath mentioned in a poem of *Dallan Forgaill* (circa A.D. 560). Ancient laws relating to the pledging of ornaments, etc.; law relating to the pledging of a needle; the pledging of a queen's work bag; the work bag of an *Airech Fcibhe*. The legal

contents of a workbag formed only a small part of a lady's personal ornaments. References to dyeing, weaving, embroidering, etc., in the ancient laws regulating Distress; objects connected with those arts for the recovery of which proceedings might have been taken under those laws. Coloured thread and wool paid as rent or tribute, The dye-stuffs used were of home growth. Legend of St. *Ciaran* and the blue dye stuff called *Glaisin*. Summary of the processes in the textile arts mentioned in the extracts quoted in the lecture. Reference to embroidery in the tale of the *Tochmarc nEimire*, and in the *Dinnseanchas*. *Coca* the embroideress of St. *Columcille*. The knowledge of the Gaedhils about colours shown by the illuminations to the Book of Kells. Reference in the Book of Ballymote to the colours worn by different classes. Cloth of various colours formed part of the tributes or taxes paid as late as the ninth and tenth centuries. Tributes to the king of *Caiseal* according to the Book of Rights from: *Ara*; *Boirinn*; *Leinster*; *Uaithne*; *Duibhneach* and *Drung*; *Corcumruadh*; the *Deise*; *Orbraidhe*. Stipends paid by the king of *Caiseal* to the kings of Kerry; *Raithlenn*; *Ara*. Tributes to the king of Connacht from *Umhall*; the *Greagraidhe*; the *Conmaicne*; the *Ciarraidhe*; the *Luighne*; the *Dealbhna*; *Ui Maine*. Stipends paid by the king of Connacht to the kings of: *Dealbhna*; *Ui Maine*. Tributes to the king of *Aileach* from: the *Cuileantraidhe*; the *Ui Mic Cuertainn*; *Ui Tuirtre*. Stipends paid by the king of *Aileach* to the kings of: *Cinel Boghaine*; *Cinel Enanna*; *Craebh*; *Ui Mic Cuertainn*; *Tulach Og*. Stipends paid by the king of *Oriel* to the kings of: *Ui Breasail*; *Ui Eachach*; *Ui Meith*; *Ui Dortain*; *Ui Briuin Archoill*; *Ui Tuirtre*; *Feara Manach*; *Mughdhorn* and *Ros*. Stipends paid by the king of *Uladh* to the kings of: *Cuailgne*; *Araidhe*; *Cobhais*; *Muirtheimne*. Tributes to the king of *Uladh* from: *Semhne*; *Crothraidhe*; *Cathal*. Gifts to the king of *Tara*. Stipends paid by the king of *Tara* to the kings of: *Magh Lacha*; *Cuircne*; *Ui Beccon*. Tributes to the king of *Tara* from: the *Luighne*; the *Feara Arda*; the *Saithne*; *Gailenga*; the *Ui Beccon*. Stipends paid by the king of *Leinster* to the: *Ui Fealain*; the chief of *Cualann*; *Ui Feilmeadha*; king of *Kaelinn*; *Ui Criomhthannan*. Tributes to the king of *Leinster* from the: *Galls*; *Forthuatha*; *Fotharta*; men of *South Leinster*. Gifts from the monarch of *Erinn* to the king of *Emain Macha*. Stipends of the king of *Emain Macha* to the kings of: *Rathmor*; *Ui Briuin*; *Conmaicne*. Gifts bestowed on the king of *Leinster* by the monarch of *Erinn* whenever he visited *Tara*. Gift of the king of *Leinster* on his return from *Tara* to the king of *Ui Fealain*. Gifts of the monarch of *Erinn* to the king of *Caiseal* when at *Teamhair Luachra*. Stipends given by the king of *Caiseal* at the visitation of the monarch of *Erinn* to the: *Deise*; *Ui Chonail*. Stipends paid by the king of *Connacht* to the kings of: *Ui Maine*; *Luighne*. Colours of winds, according to the preface to the *Seanchas Mór*.



## LECTURE XXV. OF DRESS AND ORNAMENTS IN ANCIENT ERINN

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(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Of *Conaire Mór*, monarch of Erin (circa B.C. 100 to B.C. 50) and the outlawed sons of *Dond Dess*, according to the ancient tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*; the sons of *Dond Dess* associate with the British outlaw *Ingecel* to plunder the coasts of Britain and Erin; the monarch, in returning from *Corca Bhaiscinn* in the Co. Clare, being unable to reach Tara, goes to the court of *Daderg*; *Ingecel* visits the court to ascertain the feasibility of plundering it; he gives descriptions on his return to his companions of those he saw there, and *Ferrogain* identifies them; *Ingecel's* description of the Ultonian warrior *Cormac Conloinges* and his companions; of the *Cruithenthuth* or Picts; of the nine pipe players; of *Tuidle* the house steward; of *Oball*, *Oblini*, and *Coirpre Findmor*, sons of *Conaire Mór*; of the champions *Mal Mac Telbaind*, *Muinremor*, and *Birderg*; of the great Ultonian champion *Conall Cearnach*; of the monarch himself, *Conaire Mór*; of the six cup bearers; of *Tulchinne*, the royal Druid and juggler; of the three swine-herds; of *Causcrach Mend*; of the Saxon princes and their companions; of the king's outriders; of the king's three judges; of the king's nine harpers; of the king's three jugglers; of the three chief cooks; of the king's three poets; of the king's two warders; of the king's nine guardsmen; of the king's two table attendants; of the champions *Sencha*, *Dubthach Dael Uladh*, and *Goibniu*; of *Daderg* himself; of the king's three door keepers; of the British exiles at the court of the monarch; of the three jesters or clowns; of the three drink bearers. Summary of the classes of persons described. The exaggerations of such descriptions scarcely affect their value for the present purpose; very little exaggeration on the whole in the tales of the *Bruighean Daderga* and *Táin Bó Chuailgne*. Antiquity and long continued use of the colour of certain garments shown by the tale of the *Amhra Chonraí*, by *Mac Liag's* elegy on *Tadgh O'Kelly*, and also by a poem of *Gillabhrighde Mac Connmidhe*.

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(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Anonymous notice of Irish Torques; description of two found at Tara; accounts of Torques found in England; no account of Torques in the works of older Irish antiquaries; those found at Tara bought in 1813 by Alderman West of Dublin; the author does not agree with the anonymous as to the mode of production of the Tara Torques. Uses of the Tara Torques; reference to such a ring of gold for the waist in an ancient preface to the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; another reference to such a ring in an account of a dispute about the manner of death of *Fothadh Airgtech* between king *Mongan* and the poet *Dallan Forgaill* from the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; *Cailte's* account of his mode of burial; a hoop or waist-torque among the ornaments placed on *Fothadh's* stone coffin. Story of *Cormac Mac Airt* and *Lugaidh Laga*, showing one of the uses of rings worn on the hands. Ornaments for the neck; the *Muinche*; first used in the time of *Muineamhon* (circa B.C. 1300); mentioned in a poem of *Ferceirtne on Curoi Mac Duire*; also in account of the Battle of *Magh Leana*. The *Niamh Land* or flat crescent of gold worn on the head, as well as on the neck. The Neck-Torque of *Cormac Mac Airt*. Descriptions of the dress and ornaments of *Bec Fola*. The *Muinche* mentioned in the tale of the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's Canoe*", and in the story of *Cano*. *Muinche* and *Land* used also for the neck ornaments of animals and spears. Use of the term *Muintorcs*. Of the *Mael-Land* mentioned in the *Táin Bó Fraich*. The ferrule of a spear called a *Muinche* in the account of the Battle of *Magh Leana*; discovery of such a ring in Kerry; the term also used for the collars of grayhounds, chiefly in Fenian tales. Mention of the *Torc* in its simple form in the Book of Leinster. Of the *Land* or lunette; it formed part of the legal contents of a lady's workbag, and of the inheritance of daughters. The *Land* was worn on the head as well



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LECTURE XXVIII. OF DRESS AND ORNAMENTS IN ANCIENT ERINN

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(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Of Ear-rings: the *Au-Nasc* mentioned in *Cormac's* Glossary, and in the accounts of *Tulehinne* the druid and juggler, and the harpers in the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*. Of the *Gibne*: it was a badge of office, especially of charioteers; it is mentioned in the description of *Rian Gabhra*, *Cuchulaind's* charioteer; and also in a legend about him in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; the word *Gibne* is explained in an ancient glossary in a vellum MS.; the story of *Edain* and *Midir* shows that the *Gibne* was not worn exclusively by charioteers. The spiral ring for the hair mentioned in the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe". Men as well as women divided the hair. Hollow golden balls fastened to the tresses of the hair; mention of such ornaments in the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*; curious poem from the tale of *Eochaidh Fedhleach* and *Edain* (foot note); golden balls for the hair also mentioned in the "Sick Bed of *Cuchulaind*"; two such balls mentioned in the tales of *Bec Fola* and *Bruighean Daderga*, and only one in that of the "Sick Bed". The *Mind oir* or crown not a *Land* or crescent; it is mentioned in the Brehon Laws, and in a tale in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; the second name used in the tale in question proves that the *Mind* covered the head. The *Mind* of *Medb* at the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*. The *Mind* was also worn in Scotland, as is shown by the story of prince *Cano*. Men also wore a golden *Mind*, as appears from the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; this ornament called in other parts of the tale an *Imcind*. The curious *Mind* worn by *Cormac Mac Airt* at the meeting of the States at *Uisnech*.

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199—211

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Story of a *Mind* called the *Barr Bruinn* in the tale of the *Táin Bó Aingen*. Another legend about the same *Mind* from the Book of Lismore; another celebrated *Mind* mentioned in the latter legend; origin of the ancient name of the Lakes of Killarney from that of *Lén Línfhiaclach*, the maker of this second *Mind*. The ancient goldsmiths appear to have worked at or near a gold mine. *Lén* the goldsmith appears to have flourished circa B.C. 300. The names of ancient artists are generally derived from those of their arts, but that of *Len* is derived from a peculiarity of his teeth; this circumstance shows that he was not the legendary representative of his art, but a real artist. Gold ornaments found in a bog near Cullen in the county of Tipperary; circumstances under which they were found, and enumeration of the articles found—note. *Cerdraighe* or ancient territory of the goldsmiths near the present Cullen. Pedigree of the *Cerdraighe* of *Tulach Gossa*; this family of goldsmiths are brought down by this pedigree to circa A.D. 500; the eldest branch became extinct in St. Mo-

*themnioc*, circa A.D. 550; but other branches existed at a much later period. The mineral districts of Silvermines and Meanus are not far from Cullen. The *At* and the *Cleitme*. The *Barr*, *Cennbarr*, *Eobarr*, and *Righbarr*. The goldsmith in ancient times was only an artizan; other artizans of the same class. *Creidne* the first *Cerd* or goldsmith; his death mentioned in a poem of *Flann* of Monasterboice; this poem shows that foreign gold was at one time imported into Ireland. The first recorded smelter of gold in Ireland was a native of Wicklow. References to the making of specific articles not likely to be found in our chronicles; there is, however, abundant evidence of a belief that the metallic ornaments used in Ireland were of native manufacture.

## LECTURE XXX. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN ANCIENT

ERINN

212—233

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Antiquity of the harp in Erinn. The first musical instrument mentioned in Gaedhelic writings is the *Cruit*, or harp, of the *Daghda*, a chief and druid of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*; his curious invocation to his harp; the three musical feats played upon it; examination of the names of this harp; the word *Coir*, forming part of the name of the *Daghda's* harp, came down to modern times, as is shown by a poem of Keating on *Tadhg O'Coiffey*, his harper. The *Daghda's* invocation to his harp further examined; the three musical modes compared to the three seasons of the year in ancient Egypt; myth of the discovery of the lyre; Dr. Burney on the three musical modes of the Greeks; the three Greek modes represented by the Irish three feats; conjectural completion of the text of the *Daghda's* invocation; what were the bellies and pipes of the *Daghda's* harp; ancient painting of a lyre at Portici, with a pipe or flute for cross-bar, mentioned by Dr. Burney. Legend of the origin of the three feats, or modes of harp playing, from the *Táin Bó Fraich*; meaning of the name *Uaithne* in this legend. No mention of strings in the account of the *Daghda's* harp, but they are mentioned in the tale of the *Táin Bó Fraich*. Legend of *Find Mac Cumhaill*; *Scathach* and her magical harp; *Scathach's* harp had three strings; no mention of music having been played at either of the battles of the northern or southern *Magh Tuireadh*; this proves the antiquity of those accounts. The *Daghda's* harp was quadrangular; a Greek harp of the same form represented in the hand of a Grecian Apollo at Rome; example of an Irish quadrangular harp on the *Theca* of an ancient missal. Dr. Ferguson on the antiquity and origin of music in Erinn; musical canon of the Welsh regulated by Irish harpers about A.D. 1100; his account of the *Theca* above mentioned, and of figures of the harp from ancient Irish monumental crosses which resembled the old Egyptian one; he thinks this resemblance supports the Irish traditions; Irish MSS. little studied twenty years ago, but since they have been; from this examination the author thinks the *Fórbolys* and *Tuatha Dé Danann* had nothing to do with Egypt, but that the Milesians had. Migration of the *Tuatha Dé*



*Danann* from Greece; the author does not believe they went into Scandinavia; he believes their cities of *Falias*, *Gorias*, etc., were in Germany; they spoke German, according to the Book of *Lecan*. The similarity of the harps on the monument of Orpheus at Petau in Styria and on the *Theca* of the Stowe MS. may point to Murrhart as the *Murias* of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*.

## LECTURE XXXI. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN ANCIENT

ERINN . . . . . 234—256

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Legendary origin of the Harp according to the tale of *Imtheacht na Trom Dhaimhe*, or the "Adventures of the Great Bardic Company"; *Seanchan's* visit to *Guaire*; interview of *Marbhan*, *Guaire's* brother, with *Seanchan*; *Marbhan's* legend of *Cuil* and *Canoclach Mhór* and the invention of the Harp; his legend of the invention of verse; his legend concerning the *Timpan*; the strand of *Camas* not identified. Signification of the word *Cruit*. The Irish *Timpan* was a stringed instrument. Another etymology for *Cruit*; Isidore not the authority for this explanation. Reference to the *Cruit* in the early history of the Milesians. *Eimher* and *Ereamhon* cast lots for a poet and harper. Skill in music one of the gifts of the *Eberian* or southern race of *Erinn*. Mention of the *Cruit* in the historical tale of *Orgain Dindrigh* or the "destruction of *Dindrigh*". First occurrence of the word *Ceis* in this tale; it occurs again in connection with the assembly of *Drom Ceat*, A.D. 573; *Aidbsi* or *Corus Cronán* mentioned in connection with poems in praise of *St. Colum Cille*, sung at this assembly; meaning of the word *Aidbsi*; the author heard the *Cronán* or throat accompaniment to dirges; origin of the word "crone"; the Irish *Aidbsi* known in Scotland as *Cepóg*; the word *Cepóg* known in Ireland also, as shown by a poem on the death of *Athairne*. The assembly of *Drom Ceat* continued; *Dallan Forgaill's* elegy on *St. Colum Cille*; the word *Ceis* occurs in this poem also; *Ceis* here represents a part of the harp, as shown by a scholium in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; antiquity of the tale of the "Destruction of *Dindrigh*" proved by this scholium; the word *Ceis* glossed in all ancient copies of the elegy on *St. Colum Cille*; scholium on the same poem in the MS. H. 2. 16. T.C.D.; gloss on the poem in *Liber Hymnorum*; parts of the harp surmised to have been the *Ceis*,—the *Cobluighe* or "sisters", and the *Leithrind*; *Leithrind* or half harmony, and *Rind* or full harmony; difficulty of determining what *Ceis* was; it was not a part of the harp; summary of the views of the commentators as to the meaning of *Ceis*. Fourth reference to the word *Ceis* in an ancient tale in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*. Fifth reference to *Ceis* in another ancient poem. *Coir*, another term for harmony, synonymous with *Ceis*; the author concludes that *Ceis* meant either harmony, or the mode of playing with a bass. The word *Gles* mentioned in the scholium in H. 2. 16. is still a living word; the *Crann Gleasta* mentioned in a poem of the eighteenth century; this poem contains the names of the principal parts of the

harp; the names of the different classes of strings are only to be found in the scholium in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* to the elegy on St. Colum Cille.

LECTURE XXXII. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN ANCIENT ERINN . . . . . 258—278

(IX.) MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Reference to the different parts of a harp in a poem of the seventeenth century. The number of strings not mentioned in references to harps, except in two instances; the first is in the tale of the *Iubar Mic Aingis* or the "Yew Tree of *Mac Aingis*"; the instrument mentioned in this tale was not a *Cruit*, but a three stringed *Timpan*; the second reference is to be found in the Book of *Lecan*; and the instrument is eight stringed. The instrument called "Brian Boru's Harp" has thirty strings. Reference to a many stringed harp in the seventeenth century. Attention paid to the harp in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Reference to the *Timpan* as late as the seventeenth century, proving it to have been a stringed instrument. The *Timpan* was distinguished from the *Cruit* or full harp. No very ancient harp preserved. The harp in Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. Petrie's account of it; summary of Dr. Petrie's conclusions. Dr. Petrie's serious charge against the Chevalier O'Gorman. Some curious references to harps belonging to O'Briens which the author has met with: *Mac Conmidhe's* poem on *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien; *Mac Conmidhe's* poem on the harp of the same O'Brien; the poem does not explain how the harp went to Scotland. What became of this harp? Was it the harp presented by Henry the Eighth to the Earl of Clanrickard? Perhaps it suggested the harp-coinage, which was in circulation in Henry the Eighth's time. The Chevalier O'Gorman only mistook one Donogh O'Brien for another. There can be no doubt that this harp did once belong to the Earl of Clanrickard. If the harp was an O'Neill harp, how could its story have been invented and published in the lifetime of those concerned? Arthur O'Neill may have played upon the harp. But it could not have been his; this harp is not an O'Neill, but an O'Brien one; Dr. Petrie's antiquarian difficulties: author's answer; as to the monogram I. H. S.; as to the arms on the escutcheon. The assertion of Dr. Petrie, that the sept of O'Neill is more illustrious than that of O'Brien, is incorrect.

LECTURE XXXIII. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN ANCIENT ERINN . . . . . 279—303

(IX.) MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien sent some prized jewel to Scotland some time before *Mac Conmidhe's* mission for *Donnchadh's* harp. The Four Masters' account of the pursuit of *Muireadhach* O'Daly by O'Donnell; O'Daly sues for peace in three poems, and is forgiven; no copies of these poems existing in Ireland; two of them are at Oxford. The Four Masters' account of O'Daly's banishment not accurate; his poems to Clanrickard and O'Brien give some particulars of his flight. Poem of O'Daly to Morogh O'Brien, giving some account of



the poet after his flight to Scotland. The poet Brian O'Higgins and David Roche of Fermoy. O'Higgins writes a poem to him which is in the Book of Fermoy; this poem gives a somewhat different account of O'Daly's return from that of the Four Masters. O'Daly was perhaps not allowed to leave Scotland without ransom; what was the jewel paid as this ransom? The author believes that it was the harp of O'Brien. This harp did not come back to Ireland directly, and may have passed into the hands of Edward the First, and have been given by Henry the Eighth to Clanrickard. The armorial bearings and monogram not of the same age as the harp. Objects of the author in the previous discussion. Poem on another straying harp of an O'Brien, written in 1570; the O'Brien was Conor Earl of Thomond; the Four Masters' account of his submission to Queen Elizabeth; it was during his short absence that his harp passed into strange hands; the harp in T.C.D. not this harp. Mr. Lanigan's harp. Owners of rare antiquities should place them for a time in the museum of the R.I.A. Some notes on Irish harps by Dr. Petrie.—“He regrets the absence of any ancient harp”; “present indifference to Irish harps and music”; “some ecclesiastical relics preserved”; Dr. Petrie would have preferred the harp of St. Patrick or St. Kevin; “our bogs may yet give us an ancient harp”; Mr. Joy's account of such a harp found in the county Limerick; according to Dr. Petrie, this harp was at least 1,000 years old. What has become of the harps of 1782 and 1792? A harp of 1509. “*Brian Boru's*” harp is the oldest of those known; the Dalway harp is next in age; the inscriptions on this harp imperfectly translated in Mr. Joy's essay. Professor O'Curry's translation of them; Mr. Joy's description of this harp. The harp of the Marquis of Kildare. Harps of the eighteenth century: the one in the possession of Sir Hervey Bruce; the Castle Otway harp; a harp formerly belonging to Mr. Hehir of Limerick; a Magennis harp seen by Dr. Petrie in 1832; the harp in the possession of Sir G. Hodson; the harp in the museum of the R.I.A. purchased from Major Sirr; the so-called harp of Carolan in the museum of the R.I.A. The harps of the present century all made by Egan; one of them in Dr. Petrie's possession. Dr. Petrie's opinion of the exertions of the Harp Society of Belfast. “The Irish harp is dead for ever, but the music won't die”. The harp in Scotland known as that of Mary Queen of Scots. Rev. Mr. Mac Lauchlan's “*Book of the Dean of Lismore*”; it contains three poems ascribed to O'Daly or *Muireadhach Albanach*; Mr. Mac Lauchlan's note on this poet; his description of one of the poems incorrect as regards O'Daly; Mr. Mac Lauchlan not aware that *Muireadhach Albanach* was an Irishman. The author has collected all that he believes authentic on the *Cruit*. The statements about ancient Irish music and musical instruments of Walker and Bunting of no value; these writers did not know the Irish language; the author regrets to have to speak thus of the work of one who has rescued so much of our music.

## LECTURE XXXIV. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 304—326

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Names of musical instruments found in our MSS.—The *Benn-Buabhaill*; the *Corn-Buabhaill* a drinking horn. The *Benn-Chroit*. The *Buinne*. The *Coir-Ceathairchuir*. The *Corn*; the *Cornaire* or horn-player mentioned in the *Táin Bó Fraich*, in the “Courtship of *Ferb*”, and in a legendary version of the Book of Genesis; no reference to trumpets in the *Táin Bó Chualgna*, but the playing of harps in the encampments is mentioned; instance of musicians in the trains of kings and chiefs on military expeditions:—the Battle of *Almhain* and the legend of *Dondbo*. Musical instruments mentioned in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*, and in the poem on the Fair of *Carman*. The *Cornaire*, or horn-blower, also mentioned in the poem on the Banqueting-House of *Tara*. The *Craebh-Ciúil*, or Musical Branch, mentioned in the Tale of *Fled Bricrind* or “*Bricriu's Feast*”; the musical branch a symbol of poets and used for commanding silence, as shown by the Tales of “*Bricriu's Feast*”, and the “Courtship of *Emer*”; the Musical Branch mentioned in the Tale of the “Dialogue of the Two Sages”; and also in the Tale of the “Finding of *Cormac's Branch*”; and lastly in a poem of about the year A.D. 1500; the Musical Branch symbolical of repose and peace; it was analogous to the Turkish silver crescent and bells; some bronze bells in the museum of the R.I.A. belonged perhaps to such an instrument. The bells called “*Crotals*” described in the *Penny Journal*; Dr. Petrie's observations thereon; “*Crotals*” not used by Christian priests; explanation of the term; the Irish words *crothadh*, *crothla*, and *clothra*; they are the only words at all like *crotalum*, except *crotal*, the husks of fruit, i.e. castanets; bells put on the necks of cows, and on horses; the *Crotal* not known in Ireland. The *Crann-Ciúil*, or Musical Tree; it was a generic term for any kind of musical instrument, e.g. a *Cruít*, a *Cuisle*, or tube, or a *Timpan*. The *Cuiseach*: mentioned in the poem on the Fair of *Carman*, and in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*. The *Cuisle Ciúil* another name for *Crann Ciúil*; *Cuisle* a living word meaning a vein, or a kind of cock: mentioned in the Book of Invasions; *Cuisle* explained in H. 3. 18. T.C.D., as a Musical Tree.

## LECTURE XXXV. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 327—350

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The *Fedán*; mentioned in the Book of Lismore; *Fedán* players mentioned in the Brehon Laws. The *Fidil* or Fiddle; mentioned in the poem on the fair of *Carman*, and in a poem written in 1680. The *Guth-Buinde*; mentioned in an Irish life of Alexander the Great; the *Ceólán* also mentioned in this tract; incorrect meaning given to this word in Macleod's and Dewar's Dictionary; *Ceólán* not a diminutive of *ceol*, but the name of a tinkling bell; the *Ceólán* mentioned in the Irish life of St. *Mac Creiche*. The *Guthbuine* also mentioned in an Irish tract on the Siege of Troy. The *Ocht Tedach*. The *Oircin*; mentioned in the Irish Triads; one of the bards of *Seanchan Tor-*



peist's "Great Bardic Company" called *Oircne*; no explanation of *Oircne* known, except that it was the name of the first lap-dog. Of the *Pip* or Pipe, and in the plural *Pipai* or Pipes; mentioned in the poem on the Fair of *Carman*; the only ancient reference to the *Pipaireadha*, or *Piobaire*, or Piper, known to author is in a fragment of Brehon Law. Of the *Stoc*; mentioned in a paraphrase of the Book of Genesis in the *Leabhar Breac*, and in the version of the "Fall of Jericho" in the same book; and again in describing the coming of Antichrist; and in the plural form *Stuic* in the poem on the Fair of *Carman*, and in the *Táin Bó Flidais*. Another instrument, the *Sturgan*, mentioned in this tract; and also in a poem on Bandal lord of Arran. The *Sturganuidhe* or *Sturgan* player mentioned in Keating's "Three Shafts of Death". Specimens of the *Corn*, *Stoc*, and *Sturgan* are probably to be found in the Museum of the R.I.A. The *Corn* was the Roman Cornua. The *Stoc* represents the Roman Buccina. The *Sturgan* corresponds to the Roman Lituus. Mr. R. Ousley's description of the *Stuic* and the *Sturgana* in the Museum of the R.I.A. Ancient Irish wind instruments of graduated scale and compass; the trumpets mentioned in Walker's Irish Bards first described and figured in Smith's History of Cork; Walker's observations on them; they are figured in *Vetusta Monumenta*; a similar trumpet found in England; the author agrees with Walker that there must have been another joint in the trumpets; discrepancy between the figures of Smith and the *Vetusta Monumenta*; Smith's opinion that they were Danish, erroneous; Smith's error that the Cork trumpets formed but one instrument, reproduced by Mr. R. MacAdam; Sir W. Wilde's novel idea of the use of the straight tubes; his idea that they were part of a "Commander's Staff", borrowed from Wagner; Sir William Wilde's illustration of the use of the straight part of a trumpet as a "Commander's Staff", unsatisfactory; his separation of the straight tube from the curved parts in the Museum of the R.I.A. a mistake which ought to be corrected. *Sturgana*, *Stuic*, and *Corna* in the Museums of the Royal Irish Academy, and Trinity College, Dublin.

LECTURE XXXVI. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 351—363

(IX.) MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The word *Teillin*, the name of a harp in Welsh, is not applied in Gaelic to a musical instrument; meaning of *Telyn* according to Owen's Welsh Dictionary; *Telyn* originally perhaps a derisive name; *Caradoc's* account of the introduction of harp music from Ireland into Wales; author unable to find what Welsh word *Caradoc* used for harp; the *Telyn* and *Cruth* were the *Cruit* and *Timpan* of Ireland; Owen's definition of a Welsh *Cruit*. The Irish *Cruit* was a lyre, and not a cithara. The Welsh *Crud* or *Crowd* could not represent the Irish *Cruit*. The Welsh word *Telyn* apparently the same as the Irish *Teillin*, applied to the humming bee and humble bee; *Teillin* occurs in the *Dinnseanchas*; also in a poem about *Marbhan* and *Guairé*; and in one by O'Donnelly written about 1680. The word *Teillin*

applied to the humming of bees; it has become obsolete in Ireland, but not in Scotland; occurs in the Highland Society's dictionary as *Seillean*. *Telyn* could not be a modification of the Greek *Chelys*. Some think the fiddle represents the ancient *Cruit*; the poem on the Fair of *Carman* proves this to be erroneous. Of the *Timpan*: *Cor-mac's* derivation of this word gives us the materials of which the instrument was made; the *Timpan* mentioned in an ancient paraphrase of the Book of Exodus; also in the Tale of the Battle of *Magh Lena*; and in that of the Exile of the Sons of *Duif Dermaid*; another reference in the Dialogue of the Ancient Men; the passage in the latter the only one which explains *Lethrind*; in this passage *Lethrind* signifies the treble part; another description of the *Timpan* given in the Siege of *Dromdamhghaire*. The *Timpan* was a stringed instrument played with a bow; this is fully confirmed by a passage from a vellum MS. compiled by Edmund *O'Deórain* in 1509. The same person may have played the harp and *Timpan*, but they were two distinct professions. The *Timpan* came down to the seventeenth century. Important passage from the Brehon Law respecting the *Timpanist*; it would appear from this that, in addition to the bow, the deeper strings were struck with the nail. Harpers and *Timpanists* are separately mentioned in the *Tochmarc Emeré*. The harper alone always considered of the rank of a *Bó Aire*; the *timpanist*, only when chief *Timpanist* of a king. Relative powers of the harp and *Timpan* illustrated by a legend from the Book of Lismore. Professional names of musical performers; the *Buinnire*; the *Cnaimh-Fhear*; the *Cornair*; the *Cruitire*; the *Cuislennach*; the *Feddánach*; the *Fer Cengail*; the *Gráice*; the *Pipaire*; the *Stocaire*; the *Sturganaidhs*; the *Timpanach*.

## LECTURE XXXVII. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 370—389

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The particular kinds of music mentioned in ancient manuscripts; the *Aidbsi*; the *Cepóc*. *Cepóc* only another name for *Aidbsi*; the word *Cepóc* used in Ireland also, as shown by the Tale of "*Mac Dathó's Pig*", and in an elegy on *Aithirne* the poet. *Aidbsi* or *Cepóc* a kind of *Cronán* or guttural murmur. The *Certan* referred to particularly in the *Cain Adamhnain*. The *Cronán*, mentioned in the account of the assembly of *Drom Ceat*; and also in the Adventures of the "Great Bardic Company". The *Crann-Dord*; it consisted of an accompaniment produced by the clashing of spear handles, as shown by a passage in the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; and in a legend from the Book of Lismore in which the term occurs. Other musical terms used in this tale: the *Dordán*; the *Fodord*; the *Abran*; the *Fead*; the *Dord Fiansa*; the *Dord*; the *Fiansa*; the *Andord*; the latter word occurs in the Tale of the "Sons of *Uisnech*"; this passage shows that the pagan *Gaedhí* sang and played in chorus and in concert; though *Dord* and its derivatives imply music, the word *Dordán* was applied to the notes of thrushes. Character of the *Crann-Dord* shown by a passage from the "Dialogue of the Ancient Men"; and by



another passage from the same Dialogue in a MS. in the Royal Irish Academy; the *Dord-Fiansa* was therefore a kind of wooden gong accompaniment. The *Duchand*, explained as *Luinneog* or music; *Luinneog* obsolete in Ireland, but used in Scotland for a ditty or chorus; *Duchand* was probably a dirge; *Duan*, a laudation; *Duchand* occurs in *Cormac's Glossary* explaining *Esnad*; the latter a moaning air or tune in chorus. The *Esnad*. The Three Musical Modes. The *Géim Druadh* or "Druid's Shout", mentioned in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*. The *Golghaire Bansidhe*, or wail of the *Bansidhe*, mentioned in the *Táin Bó Fraich*; it probably came down to a late period. The *Gúbha*. The *Logairecht* or funeral wail, occurs in *Cormac's Glossary* at the word *Amrath*; meaning of the latter term. The *Luinneog*. The *Samhghúba*, or sea nymph's song as it is explained in an old glossary. The *Sian* or *Sianan*, applied in the Tale of the Battle of the second *Magh Tuireadh* to the whizzing of a spear; applied to a song in the Tale of the Sons of *Uisnech*; and also in the wanderings of the priests *Snedgus* and *Mac Riaghla*; it designated soft plaintive music. *Sirectach* applied to low music; synonymous with *Adbond*; the latter word occurs in the Festology of *Aengus Ceilé Dé*; *Adbond Trirech*, or triple *Adbond*, explained in Michael O'Clery's glossary as the Three Musical Modes; *Trirech* occurs in Zeuss' *Grammatica Celtica*; *Trirech* was applied to a species of lyric poetry; the term *Trirech* not exclusively applied to the music or quantity of verse, but also to a particular kind of laudatory poem; the stanza in question sings to the air of "For Ireland I would not tell who she is".

LECTURE XXXVIII. OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 390—409

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The ancient lyric verse adapted to an ancient air referred to in last lecture; the existence of old lyric compositions having a peculiar structure of rhythm adapted to old airs still existing, unknown in the musical history of any other country; many such known; there exists in the Book of Ballymote a special tract on versification containing specimen verses; the specimens are usually four-lined verses, but they sing to certain simple solemn airs; these are chiefly the poems called Ossianic; the author has heard his father sing the Ossianic poems; and has heard of a very good singer of them named O'Brien; the author only heard one other poem sung to the air of the Ossianic poems; many other old poems would, however, sing to it. The tract on versification contains specimens which must read to music at first sight; three examples selected. The first called *Ocht-Foclach Corranach Beg*, or, "the little eight-line curved verse"; this class of poems written to a melody constructed like that known as the "Black Slender Boy"; description of this kind of verse. The second is the *Ocht Foclach Mór* or "great eight line verse"; this stanza was written to the musical metre of an air of which the first half of "John O'Dwyer of the Glen" is an example; description of this kind of verse. The third is the *Ocht Foclach Mór*

*Corranach*, or "great curving eight line verse"; measure, accents, cadences, and rhyme are the same as in the second. Another specimen of verse from a long poem in the Book of *Lecan*; the kind called *Ocht Foclach hi-Eimhin*, or the "eight line verse of *O' h-Eimhin*"; the *Ui* or *O* prefixed to the name of the author of the poem does not necessarily imply his having lived after the permanent assumption of surnames; description of this kind of poem; this poem written to a different kind of air from the other stanzas quoted; will sing to any one of three well known airs. The author does not say that these verses were written for the airs mentioned, but only that they sing naturally to them. That these stanzas were not written by the writers on Irish prosody to support a theory, is shown by poems in the Tale of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; e.g. the poem containing the dialogue between *Medb* and *Ferdiad*; musical analysis of this poem; there are five poems of the same kind in this tale. The author does not want to establish a theory, but only to direct attention to the subject. Antiquity of the present version of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*: the copy in the *Leabhar na h-Uídhri*; the copy in the Book of Leinster. At least one specimen of the same kind of ancient verse in the *Dinnseanchas*, e.g. in the legend of *Ath Fadad*, or *Ahade*: the *Dinnseanchas*, was written about 590 by *Amergin*, chief poet to *Diarmait*, son of *Fergus Ceirbheoil*; these various compositions are at least 900 years old, and prove that the most enchanting form of Irish music is indigencus. The author is conscious of his unfitness to deal with the subject of music technically; complaint on the neglect of Irish music; appeal to Irishmen in favour of it.

No clear allusion in the very old Irish MSS. to dancing. The modern generic name for dancing is *Rinneadh*; it is sometimes called *Damhsa*; meaning of those terms. *Fonn* and *Port* the modern names for singing and dancing music; Michael O'Clery applies the term *Port* to lyric music in general. *Cor*, in the plural *Cuir*, an old Irish word for music, perhaps connected with *Chorea*; the author suggests that *Port* was anciently, what it is now, a "jig", and *Cor*, a "reel"; "jig" borrowed from the French or Italian. *Rinneadh fada*, "long dance", not an ancient term; applied to a country dance. Conclusion.

## APPENDIX.

I. The Fight of <i>Ferdiad</i> and <i>Cuchulaind</i> , from the <i>Táin Bó Chuailgne</i> . . . . .	412-463
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## CORRIGENDA.

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The following errors have been noticed in preparing the Index

	FOR	READ
Page 4, note 1,	with water,	with water between them.
" 10, line 3,	<i>Utaire</i> ,	<i>Fubaire</i> .
" 18 " 32,	way,	day.
" 20 " 12,	ridges,	<i>Fothairbes</i> .
" 25 " 2,	<i>Cradbh dearg</i> ,	<i>Crobh derg</i> .
" " " 11,	their,	his.
" 26 " 44,	four times seven,	twice seven.
" 27 " 19,	and perfect.	and a perfect.
" 30 " 2,	[of the posts.]	the front posts.
" 31 " 6,	with salt ; and a vessel of sour milk,	with condiments, and a ves- sel of skimmed milk.
" 40 " 13,	the mouth,	a mouth.
" 42 " 6,	<i>Lamhfhada</i> ,	<i>Lamhfada</i> .
" 52 " 36,	on <i>Ollamh</i> ,	an <i>Ollamh</i> .
" 79 " 9,	<i>Midir</i> ,	<i>Mind</i> .
" 90 " 39,	sons,	sons of.
" 92 " 2,	three times three thou- sand men,	three <i>Triucha Ceds</i> in it.
" " " 31,	black-green,	black-gray.
" 93 " 16,	deep-gray,	light-gray.
" " " 23,	a man of hound-like, hateful face,	and he fierce and terrific.
" " " 25,	close napped cloak,	cloak with little capes.
" 94 " 4,	a dark gray long woolled cloak,	a loose fitting dark gra- cloak.
" " " 12,	squinting,	round.
" 96 " 11,	<i>after</i> me there, <i>add</i>	with a glossy curled head c hair upon him.
	FOR	READ
" 99 " 4,	<i>Othme</i> ,	<i>Othine</i> .
" " " 32,	two woodrings,	two kings of <i>Caill</i> .
" " " 48,	of the household youths of,	sons of.
" 101, note 59, col. 1, line 13	6r,	6r.
" 104 line 45,	with <i>Bille</i> ,	with seven <i>Bille</i> .



	FOR	READ
Page 106	„ 19, n <i>Mac</i> ,	<i>Mac</i> .
„ 110, note 71, col. 2, line 11,	ϕηρη,	ϕρηρη.
„ 111, line 6,	fastening,	fastenings.
„ 131 „ 25, m n. <i>Fortharta</i> ,		<i>Fotharta</i> .
„ 136 „ 9,	fifty,	seventy.
„ 149 „ 8,	white shirt and collar.	white collared shirt.
„ „ 29,	sons renowned for valour, sons of <i>Ersand</i> (jamb) and <i>Comlad</i> (door).	
„ 157 „ 15,	after silver and, add veins of gold and silver,	flesh-mangling spears with silver, and <i>Creduma</i> (bronze).
	FOR	READ.
„ 157, note 234, col. 2, line 4,	ατ ιμ ceé ρερ,	ατ οί όη ιμ ceé ρερ.
„ 165, line 3,	yellow silk,	yellow silk with silver upon them.
„ 166, side note line 2, reference of carved in Book of Munster,		reference to carved brooches in Book of Munster.
„ 186, line 40, side note, dress of <i>Riangabhra</i> ,		dress of <i>Laegh</i> , son of <i>Riangabhra</i> .
„ 192 „ 4,	Fair haired woman,	fair woman.
„ 196 „ 2,	places,	pieces.
„ „ 9,	<i>Lacair</i> ,	<i>lán ecair</i> .
„ 197 „ 11,	In a former lecture an account,	In a former lecture I gave an account.
„ 215, note 297,	ίλε ιε,	ίλειε.
„ 202, line 16,	“Lady <i>Nar</i> of <i>Badbh Dearg's</i> mansion”. The lady <i>Nar</i> mentioned in this tale, was daughter of <i>Loch</i> , son of <i>Doire Leith</i> , of the <i>Cruitentuath</i> or Irish Picts, and wife of <i>Crimthan Nia Nar</i> , and not <i>Nar Tuathcaech</i> of <i>Badbh Derg's</i> mansion, who was swineherd to <i>Badbh Derg</i> , and a great warrior. See <i>Dindsenchas</i> , MS. <i>Book of Lecan</i> .	
	FOR	READ
„ 219 „ 20,	rings,	coils.
„ 220 „ 23,	hills,	<i>Sidhe</i> .
„ 245 „ 40,	after last line add: “and it was together they made that music”.	
	FOR	READ
„ 249 „ 6,	the <i>Ceis</i> ,	the musical <i>Ceis</i> .
„ 251, note 328, col. 2, line 1, λεγερ “cure”,		is ρεαρω, parting in <i>Leb. na h-Uidhri</i> , p. 9.
„ 254, line 5,	counter part strings of that part in their proper places,	<i>Lethind</i> with its strings in it.
„ 265 „ 2,	<i>Laoghseal</i> ,	<i>Laoghseach</i> .
„ 266 „ 36,	in position,	in a position.
„ 301 „ 7,	<i>Croibhdhearg</i> ,	<i>Croibhdearg</i> .
„ 305, line 12,	<i>Cruiseach</i>	<i>Cuiseach</i> .



	FOR	READ
Page 308, note 352, col. 1, line 8,	ba caḡ,	ba caḡ.
" 312, note 359, col. 1, line 15,	cuḡla,	cuḡla.
" 313 " 360, col. 2,	vol. ii,	vol. i.
" 328 " 377, col. 2 line, 3,	oo eann,	oo ceann.
" 330, line 26, side note,	also a poem,	also in a poem.
" 342 " 15, side note,	<i>Stuic</i> or <i>Sturgana</i> ,	<i>Stuic</i> and <i>Sturgan</i>
" 344 " 4,	may seem,	may be seen.
" 357 " 17,	Dusky <i>Tellins</i> ,	buzzing <i>Ciarans</i> .
" 364 " 17-18, side note,	there were,	they were.
" " " 5,	<i>Inis Cathargh</i> ,	<i>Inis Cathagh</i> .
" 373 " 20, et seq.,	lady <i>Luain</i> ,	lady <i>Luan</i> .
" 375, note 429, col. 2, line 4,	línḡa,	línḡa.
" 379, line 36,	<i>Dord Fiansa</i> ,	<i>Crann Dord</i> .
" " { " 37, }	<i>Crann Dord</i> ,	<i>Dordfiansa</i> .
" 380 ( " " }	This mistake is repeated, pp. 379-380. See Introduction, p. cclix.	
" 417 " 38,	will kill,	wilt kill.
" 418 " 39,	ocaḡ,	ocaḡ.
" 467 " 2 (marg. note),	352,	252.
" " " 24,	<i>Airè Desa</i> , <i>Airè Tuisi</i> ,	<i>Airè Desa</i> , <i>Ai Ard</i> , <i>Airè Tuisi</i>
" 497 " 37,	a cow,	a new calved cow
" 500 " 39,	bond,	bond <i>Céiles</i> .
" 501 " 38,	ten not,	ten on.

## LECTURE XIX.

[Delivered 6th July, 1839.]

(VII.) OF BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, ETC., in ancient Erin. Of the number and succession of the colonists of ancient Erin. Tradition ascribes no buildings to *Partholon* or his people; their sepulchral mounds at Tallaght near Dublin. Definitions of the *Rath*, the *Dun*, the *Lis*, the *Caiseal*, and the *Cathair*; the latter two were of stone; many modern townland-names derived from these terms; remains of many of these structures still exist. *Rath na Rígh* or "Rath of the Kings", at Tara; the *Teach Mór Mílibh Amus*, or "Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers". Several houses were often included within the same *Rath*, *Dun*, *Lis*, or *Caiseal*. Extent of the demesne lands of Tara. The *Rath* or *Cathair* of *Aileach*; account of its building; the houses within the *Rath* as well as the latter were of stone; why called *Aileach Frigrind*? *Aileach* mentioned by Ptolemy. Account of the *Rath* of *Cruachan* in the *Táin Bo Fraich*. The "House of the Royal Branch". Description of a *Dun* in Fairy Land. The terms *Rath*, *Dun*, and *Lis* applied to the same kind of enclosure. The *Foradh* at Tara. Description of the house of *Crede*. Two classes of builders,—the *Rath*-builder, and the *Caiseal*-builder; list of the professors of both arts from the Book of Leinster. *Dubhaltach Mac Fírbísisigh's* copy of the same list (note); his observations in answer to those who deny the existence of stone-building in ancient Erin. The story of *Bricrind's* Feast; plan of his house; his *grianan* or "sun house"; his invitation to *Conchobar* and the Ultonians; he sows dissensions among the women; the *Briathar Ban Uladh*;—his house was made of wicker-work.

In the last Lecture I concluded what I had to say concerning the Arms, the Military System, and the modes of Warfare, of the ancient Gaedhil. I now proceed to the consideration of their Domestic Life; and, as the erection of dwellings, and with these the adoption of means of defence against external aggression, must have been the first care of every people where society began to be formed, we may naturally commence with the arrangement of their houses and the appliances of comfortable life within them.

In dealing with this subject I shall naturally go back first to the very earliest colonists of ancient Erin; and in doing so, I must premise by repeating the caution I have already intimated,—that here again I adopt the number and succession of these colonists, as I have hitherto done, simply in the order in which I find them in the ancient "Book of Invasions"; because the time has not yet come for entering on the consideration of the grounds upon which those ancient accounts have been, or to what extent they ought to have been, so implicitly relied on by the Gaedhelic writers of the last eighteen hundred years. Without at all then entering at present into any investigation of the

**NOT. XLIX.** long discussed: question of the veracity of our ancient records and traditions, which declare that this island was occupied in succession by the Parthalonians, the Nemedians, the Fírbolgs, the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and, finally, the Milesians or Scoti; or from what countries or by what routes they came hither; it must strike every unprejudiced reader as a very remarkable fact, that the Scoti, who were the last colony, and consequently the historians of the country, should actually have recorded, by name and local position, several distinct monuments, still existing, of three out of the four peoples or races who are said to have occupied the country before themselves. And although much has been incautiously written of the tendency of our old Scotie writers to the wild and romantic in their historical compositions, I cannot discover any sufficient reason why they should concede to their predecessors the credit of being the founders of Tara, the seat of the monarchy, as well as of some others of the most remarkable and historic monuments of the whole country, unless they had been so.

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edecessors.

Etymological speculations and fanciful collations of the ancient Gaedhelic with the Semitic languages, were taken up by a few very incompetent persons in this country within our own memory, and carried to such an extent of absurdity, that both subject and the authors became a bye-word among the truly learned historians and philologists of Europe. Still, etymology and philology must have an important bearing on the ethnological history of Europe. It forms, however, no part of my present plan to enter upon any arguments based on these studies; though I may of course have occasion now and again to refer to proofs or illustrations ascertained by their means.

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irthalon.

It is a remarkable fact, and one not to be despised among the evidences of the extreme antiquity of the tradition, that no account that has come down to us ascribes to the Parthalonian colony the erection of any sort of building, either for residence or defence. *Parthalon* and his people came into the island A.M. 2520, B.C. 2674 (according to the chronology adopted in the Annals of the Four Masters); and although the descendants of this colony are said to have continued in Erin for over three hundred years, still no memorial of them has been preserved save what we may find in a few topographical names derived from those of their chiefs, excepting only the ancient sepulchral mounds still remaining on the hill of *Tamhlacht* (or Tallaght, in the county of Dublin), where the last remnant of this colony are recorded to have been interred, after having been, as it is said, swept off by a plague. The word *tamh* in the Gaedhelic signifies a sudden or unnatural death; and *leacht*

a monumental mound or heap of stones; and hence those ancient LECT. XIX.  
 monumental mounds have from a period beyond the reach of  
 history preserved the name of *Tamhleachta Muinntiré Phar-*  
*tolain*, that is, the Mortality Mounds of the people of *Par-*  
*thalon*.

Thirty years after the destruction of the people of *Parthalon*, The forts of  
Nemhidh.  
 according to the Four Masters, *Nemhidh* came into Erin at  
 the head of a large colony; and although this colony also re-  
 mained in the country for three hundred years, we have no re-  
 cord of any sort of buildings having been erected by them, any  
 more than by their predecessors, excepting two only, both of  
 which are said to have been erected by *Nemhidh* himself;  
 namely, *Rath-Cinn-Eich*, in *Ui Niallain* (now the barony of  
 Oneilland in the county of Armagh); and *Rath Cimbaoith*, in  
*Seimhéné* (which was the ancient name of that part of the sea-  
 board of the present county of Antrim, opposite to which lies  
 Island Magee).

That these *Raths*, or Forts, of *Nemhidh* could not have been  
 of any great extent or importance according to our present no-  
 tions, is evident, since we find it stated in the "Book of In-  
 vasion", that *Rath-Cinn-Eich*, (lit. the Horse-Head-Fort), was  
 built in one day, by four Fomorian brothers, who it would  
 appear were condemned by *Nemhidh*, as prisoners or slaves, to  
 perform the work, but who were put to death the next day  
 lest they should demolish their work again. No trace of these  
 ancient edifices now remains, at least under their ancient names.

It may be as well to state here what is exactly meant by the  
 different words *Rath*, *Dun*, *Lis*, *Caiseal*, and *Cathair*; the pre-  
 vailing names for fortified places of residence, as well as for the  
 fortifications themselves, among the Gaedhil.

The *Rath* was a simple circular wall or enclosure of raised The Rath.  
 earth, enclosing a space of more or less extent, in which stood  
 the residence of the chief and sometimes the dwellings of one  
 or more of the officers or chief men of the tribe or court. Some-  
 times also the *Rath* consisted of two or three concentric walls or  
 circumvallations; but it does not appear that the erection so  
 called was ever intended to be surrounded with water.

The *Dun* was of the same form as the *Rath*, but consisting The Dun.  
 of at least two concentric circular mounds or walls, with a deep  
 trench full of water between them. These were often encircled  
 by a third, or even by a greater number of walls, at increasing  
 distances; but this circumstance made no alteration in the form  
 or in the signification of the name. *Dun* is defined strictly in  
 so authoritative a MS. as the ancient Gaedhelic Law tract pre-  
 served in the vellum MS. H. 3., 18. T. C. D., thus: "*Dun*, i.e.

**NOT. XIX.** two walls with water".<sup>(1)</sup> The same name, according to this derivation, would apply to any boundary or mearing formed of a wet trench between two raised banks or walls of earth.

**Lis.**

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the Lis-  
r or Lis-  
re.

The *Lis*, as far as I have been able to discover, was precisely the same as the *Rath*; the name, however, was applied generally to some sort of fortification, but more particularly those formed of earth. That this was so, we have a curious confirmation, in the life of Saint *Mochuda*, or *Carthach*, (the founder of the once famous ecclesiastical establishment of *Lis-Mór*, now Lismore in the county of Waterford). The life states, that when Saint *Mochuda*, on being driven out of *Rathin* (his great foundation, near the present town of Tullamore, King's County), came to the place on which *Lis-Mór* now stands, with the consent of the king of the *Deisé* he commenced forthwith to raise what is described as a circular enclosure of earth. A religious woman who occupied a small cell in the neighbourhood, perceiving the crowd of monks at work, came up and asked what they were doing. "We are building a small *Lis* here", said saint *Mochuda*. "A small *Lis*! [*Lis Beg*]", said the woman: "this is not a small *Lis*, [*Lis Beg*], but a great *Lis* [*Lis Mór*]", said she; and so we are told, that church ever since continued to be called by that name. It matters little to the present purpose whether this legend is strictly true or not; but it is quite sufficient to show what the ancient Gaedhils understood the word *Lis* to mean.

So much for the *Rath*, the *Dun*, and the *Lis*, all of which were generally built of earth. The *Caiseal* and the *Cathair* are to be distinguished from these especially, because they were generally, if not invariably, built of stone.

**Caiseal**  
**Cathair**

The *Caiseal* was nothing more than a Stone *Rath* or enclosure within which the dwelling-house, and in after times churches, stood; and the *Cathair*, in like manner, was nothing more than a Stone *Dun*, (with loftier and stronger walls), with this exception, that the *Cathair* was not necessarily surrounded with water, as far as I know.

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no.

No reliable analysis of the term *Caiseal* is to be found among the writings of the Gaedhils; but our experience of existing monuments enables us to decide that the *Caiseal* and *Cathair* were both of stone; and that the words are cognate with the British "Caer", the Latin "Castrum", and the English "Castle". There can be no doubt, however, but that our ancient writers often used the terms *Dun*, *Rath*, *Lis*, and *Cathair*, indifferently, to designate a stronghold or well-fortified place; and these terms afterwards came to give names to the towns and cities which in

<sup>(1)</sup> original:—*oán .i. oá élab im uirce.*



time sprang up at or around the various forts so designated, or in which those fortified residences were situated, which naturally became the centres of increasing population. Thus we have *Rath-Gaela*, (now the town of Rathkeale, in the county of Limerick); *Ráth-Naoi* (now the town of Rathnew, in the county of Wicklow); *Dun-Duibh-linné*, (now the city of Dublin); *Dun-Dealca*, (now the town of Dundalk, in the county of Louth); *Dun-Chealtchair*, which was afterwards called *Dun-da-Leath-Ghlas*, (now the town of Downpatrick, in the county of Down); *Lis-Mór*, (now the town of Lismore, in the county of Waterford); *Lis Tuathail*, (now the town of Listowel, in the county of Kerry); *Cathair-Dun-Iascaigh*, (now the town of Cahir, in the county of Tipperary); *Cathair-Chinn-Lis*, (now the town of Caherconlish, in the county of Limerick); etc., etc.

LECT. XIX.

Names of modern towns derived from *Rath*, *Dun*, etc.

Remains of many of the residences and forts known as *Rath*, *Dun*, *Lis*, and *Cathair*, still exist throughout Ireland, some of which belong to the most remote antiquity. The *Cathair* or Stone Fort is seldom or never met with but where stone is in great abundance; such as in the counties of Kerry and Limerick; in Burren, in the county of Clare; and in the Arann Islands, on the coast of Clare, in which there are fine examples of these stone edifices, though singularly enough, still bearing the names of *Duns*, such as *Dun-Ænghuis*, *Dun-Ochaill*, *Dun-Eoghanacht*, and *Dubh Chathair*, (or the Black Fortress), on the great or western island; and *Dun-Chonchraidh*, on the middle island; these remarkable fortresses on the Arann islands, are referred to the *Clann Umoir*, (a *Firbolg* tribe, who occupied the seaboard of Clare and Galway, shortly before the Christian era), excepting one, *Dun-Eoghanacht*. This fort must have been erected after the close of the third century, when the *Eoghanachts*, (that is, the descendants of *Eoghan Mór*, son of *Oilioll Oluim*, king of Munster), took their tribe-title from that chivalrous prince, in whose time, and for centuries afterwards, those islands belonged to Munster.

Remains of *Raths*, *Duns*, etc. still existing.

In any attempt to treat of the early or primitive buildings or habitations of Erin, we must of course give the first place to Tara, which, according to all our old accounts, had been first founded by the *Firbolgs*, the third in the series of the early colonists of the island. In the ancient account of the battle of the first or Southern *Magh Tuireadh*, we are told that the *Firbolgs*, who had been dispersed into three parties on their approach to the Irish coast by a storm, had, on their landing, repaired by one consent to *Rath na Rígh*, (i.e. the Rath or Palace of the Kings), at Tara. And again, when *Breas* goes out from the camp of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* to meet *Sreng*, the *Fir-*

*Rath na Rígh* at Tara.

LECT XIX. bolg warrior whom they saw coming towards them, *Breas* asks *Sreng* where he had slept the night before; and *Sreng* answers, that it was at "the *Rath* of the Kings at Tara".

It is stated in an ancient poem on Tara, the author of which is not known, that the "*Rath* of the Kings" was first founded by *Slaingé*, one of the *Firbolg* chiefs; and it is rather singular that, in the time of *Cuan O'Lothchain*, who died in the year 1024, this same *Rath-na-Righ* was the most conspicuous and by far the most extensive enclosure upon or around the Hill of Tara; and that it was within its ample circuit that, in an earlier era, the palace of the monarch *Cormac Mac Airt*, as well as other edifices, once stood. This will be very plainly seen from the map of ancient Tara, prepared by the officers of the Ordnance Survey, from *Cuan O'Lothchain's* poem (described in a former lecture)<sup>(2)</sup> for the illustration of Dr. Petrie's History of the Antiquities of Tara Hill, published in the year 1839.<sup>(3)</sup>

There were two remarkable buildings at Tara in ancient times, namely, the *Teach Mór Milibh Amus*, i.e. the "Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers"; and the *Teach Midh-chuarta*, i.e. the "Mead-circling House", in other words, the great Banqueting House or Hall of Tara.

The "Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers".

The "great House of the Thousands of Soldiers" was the particular palace of the monarch; it stood within the *Rath-na-Righ*, or Rath of the Kings, and was called also *Tigh-Temrach*, or the House of Tara. Of its extent and magnificence in the time of King *Cormac Mac Airt*, in the middle of the third century, we may form some notion from an ancient poem preserved in the Book of Leinster, and ascribed to *Cormac Filé*, or the poet. The precise time of this writer I have not been able to ascertain, but he must have flourished in or before the middle of the tenth century; since we find *Cineadh O'Hartagan*, who flourished at that period, set down in the Yellow Book of *Lecan*, the Book of Ballymote, and others, as the author of the same poem. Dr. Petrie has published this poem in his essay on the "History and Antiquities of Tara Hill".<sup>(4)</sup>

The following short account of the extent and arrangement of the Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers, is translated from the Book of Leinster (folio 15).

"As regards the arrangement of the Palace of Tara by *Cormac*, it was larger than any house. The *Rath* was nine hundred feet in *Cormac's* time. His own house was seven hundred feet;—[and there were] seven bronze candelabras in the middle of it. [There were] nine mounds around the house. There were three times fifty compartments (*imdadh*) in the house;

<sup>(2)</sup> See Lect. vii., ante, vol. i. p. 140.

<sup>(3)</sup> P. 143.

<sup>(4)</sup> P. 199.

and three times fifty men in each compartment; and three times fifty continuations of compartments (*airé*); and fifty [men] in each of these continuations.

“Three thousand persons, each day, is what *Cormac* used to maintain in pay; besides poets and satirists; and all the strangers who sought the king: Galls; and Romans; and Franks; and Frisians; and Longbards; and Albanians, [i.e., Caledonians]; and Saxons; and *Cruithneans*, [i.e., Picts]; for all these used to seek him, and [it was] with gold and with silver, with steeds and with chariots, [that] he paid them off. They used all come to *Cormac*, because there was not in his time, nor before him, any one more celebrated in honour, and in dignity, and in wisdom, except only Solomon, the son of David”.

It is not easy to conceive how this “Great House” of Tara could have received into its compartments, and sub-compartments, the “thirty thousand men”, which, on the authority both of the prose and the verse account in the Book of Leinster, it is stated to have accommodated; but although no plan of the Great House has been preserved to our time, the plan of the *Teach Midhchuarta*, or Banqueting Hall of Tara, as preserved in the Book of Leinster and in the Yellow Book of *Lecan*, enables us to form some idea of the arrangement. I must, however, add, that even the whole compass of the *Rath-na-Righ*, or Rath of the Kings, within which the “Great House” stood, could not possibly accommodate anything like the number of persons just mentioned. The enclosure of this Rath of the Kings, when measured in 1839 by the officers of the Ordnance Survey,<sup>(5)</sup> was found to measure across, from south-east to north-west, within the ring, only 775 feet.

It may be noted here, that the *Rath*, *Dun*, *Lis*, or *Caiseal*, which formed the fortification of ancient residences, often contained within them more than one house; and thus the whole ancient city of Tara was composed of seven *Duns*, or enclosures, each containing within it a certain number of houses. We learn this fact from an ancient poem of thirty-seven stanzas, of which there is an old paper copy in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, (MS. H. 1, 15). This poem begins:

“The plain of *Temair* was the residence of the kings”.<sup>(6)</sup>

The following are the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, and thirtieth stanzas of this valuable poem:

“The demesne of *Temur* they ploughed not;

It was seven full *bailés* [townlands], seven full *lisses*  
[houses],

<sup>(5)</sup> See *Petrie's History and Antiquities of Tara Hill*, page 128

<sup>(6)</sup> original:—baile na ríge noí tempad.

LECT. XIX.

The “Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers”.

The *Dun*, *Rath*, etc. often contained several houses.



ECT. XIX.

Seven ploughs to each full *lis*;Of the best class land was fair-skinned *Temur*.“The demesne of *Temur* was a pleasant abode;

A mound surrounded it all around;

I know besides the name of every house

Which was in the wealthy *Temur*.—“Seven *duns* in the *Dun* of *Temur*,—

Is it not I that well remember;

Seven score houses in each *dun*,Seven hundred warriors in each brave *dun*”.stant of  
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ira.

We find from this poem that the demesne-lands of Tara, which were never distributed or cultivated, consisted of seven *bailés*, that is, “ballys”, or townlands, as they would be now called; and from an ancient poem which I took occasion to print some years ago in connection with the Historic Tale of the “Battle of *Magh Leana*”,<sup>(7)</sup> it will be found that a *bailé* contained grazing for three hundred cows, and as much of tillage land as seven ploughs could turn over in the year. This was the quantity of land that by law appertained to the *dun* or *lis*. And as the demesne of *Temair* contained seven such *bailés*, the quantity was equal to the feeding of two thousand one hundred cows, and the ploughing of forty-nine ploughs, for a year.

he Rath or  
sthair of  
ileach.

The next great building, in point of antiquity and historical reminiscence, is the great *Rath*, or rather *Cathair*, of *Aileach* (in the county of Derry), so well described by Dr. Petrie, in the Ordnance Memoir of the parish of Templemore. This great *Cathair* is said to have been originally built by the *Daghda*, the celebrated king of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, who planned and fought the battle of the second or northern *Magh Tuireadh*, against the Fomorians. The fort was erected around the grave of his son *Aedh*, (or Hugh), who had been killed through jealousy by *Corrgenn*, a Connacht chieftain.

The history of the death of *Aedh*, and the building of *Aileach*, (or “the Stone Building”), is given at length in a poem preserved in the Book of *Lecan*,<sup>(8)</sup> which poem has been printed, with an English translation, (but with two lines left out at verse 38), by Dr. Petrie, in the above Memoir. The following extract from this curious and important poem, beginning at verse 32, will suffice for my present purpose:

“Then were brought the two good men  
In art expert,

<sup>(7)</sup> *Cath Mhuighé Leana*, etc., pub. by the Celtic Society; Dublin, 1855; pp. 106-7, note (t).

<sup>(8)</sup> See also Lect. vii., *ante*, vol. i. p. 151.

*Garbhan* and *Imcheall*, to *Eochaid* [*Daghda*],

The fair-haired, vindictive;

And he ordered these a *rath* to build,

Around the gentle youth:

That it should be a *rath* of splendid sections—

The finest in Erinn.

*Neid*, son of *Indai*, said to them,

[He] of the severe mind,

That the best hosts in the world could not erect

A building like *Aileach*.

*Garbhan* the active proceeded to dress

And to cut [the stones];

*Imcheall* proceeded to set them

All around in the house.

The building of *Aileach*'s fastness came to an end,

Though it was a laborious process;

The top of the house of the groaning hostages

One stone closed".

In a subsequent verse of this poem, (verse 54), the author says that *Aileach* is the senior, or father of the buildings of Erinn:

"It is the senior of the buildings of Erinn,—

*Aileach Frigrind*:

Greater praise than it deserves,

For it I indite not".

It appears clearly from this very ancient poem that not only was the outer *Rath*, or protective circle of *Aileach*, built of stone by the regular masons *Imcheall* and *Garbhan*; but that the palace and other houses within the enclosure were built also of stone, (nay, even of chipped and cut stone). All these buildings, probably, were circular, as the house or Prison of the Hostages certainly must have been, when, as the poem says, it was "closed at the top with one stone". This, however, is a matter concerning which I shall have something to say in a future Lecture.

This *Rath*  
and its  
houses were  
of stone.

The time to which the first building of *Aileach* may be referred, according to the chronology of the Annals of the Four Masters, would be about seventeen hundred years before the Christian era. But another and much later erection within the same *Rath* of *Aileach* is also spoken of in ancient story, and as having conferred a name upon this celebrated palace.

It is stated further in this poem, that *Aileach* in after ages obtained the name of *Aileach Frigrind*, as it is in fact called in the stanza quoted last. According to another poem<sup>(9)</sup> (written by *Flann* of Monasterboice), and preserved in the Book of Lein-

Why called  
*Aileach*  
*Frigrind*.

<sup>(9)</sup> See Lect. vii., ante, vol. i., p. 153.

LECT. XIX. ster, this *Frigrind* was a famous builder, or architect, as he would be called in our day. Having travelled in Scotland he was well received at the court of *Ubtairé*, the king of that country, where having gained the affections of the king's daughter, the beautiful *Ailech*, she eloped with him, and he returned to his own country with her. Fearing pursuit, however, he claimed the protection of the then monarch of Erin, *Fiacha-Sraibhthine*, (the same who was slain in the battle of *Dubh-Chomar*, in Meath, A.D. 322); and the monarch accorded it at once, and gave them the ancient fort of *Aileach* for their dwelling-place for greater security. Here *Frigrind* built a splendid house of wood for his wife. The material of this house, we are told, was red yew, carved, and emblazoned with gold and bronze; and so thickset with shining gems, that "day and night were equally bright within it". I may observe that *Aileach* is one of the few spots in Erin marked in its proper place by the geographer Ptolemy of Alexandria, who flourished in the second century, or nearly two hundred years before the time of *Frigrind*. By Ptolemy it is distinguished as a royal residence.

*Aileach*  
mentioned  
by Ptolemy.

To proceed to the next in order of importance of the great royal residences of Erin, we find in an ancient tale, called *Táin Bo Fraech*, or the carrying off the cows of *Fraech Mac Fídhaidh*, (a tale which in fact forms part of the *Táin Bo Chuailgné*), a curious instance of the existence of more than one house within the great *Rath* of *Cruachan*, the residence of the kings of Connacht.

*Fraech Mac Fídhaidh* was a famous warrior and chieftain: his mother, *Bé-binn*, was one of the mysterious race of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and by her supernatural powers, according to this tale, her son was enabled to enjoy many advantages both of person and of fortune over other young princes of this time. After some time, accordingly, he was encouraged by his mother to seek an alliance with the celebrated *Ailill* and *Medbh*, the king and queen of Connacht, by proposing for the hand of their beautiful daughter, the celebrated *Finnabhair*, ["the fair-browed"]. So his mother supplied him with a gorgeous outfit; and *Fraech* set out for the palace of *Cruachan*, with a train of fifty young princes in his company, as well as attended by all the usual retinue which accompanied friendly progresses of this kind, such as musicians, players, huntsmen, hounds, etc. Arrived at *Cruachan*, they alight, and take their seats at the door of the royal *Rath*; a steward then comes from king *Ailill* to inquire who they were and whence they came; and he was told (the tale goes on to say) that it was *Fraech Mac Fídhaidh*; and the steward returned and informed the



king and queen: "The man is welcome", said *Ailill* and *Medbh*; "and let them all come into the *lis*", said *Ailill*. LECT. XIX.

"A quarter of the *Dun*", proceeds the story, "was then assigned to them. The manner of that house was this: There were seven companies in it; seven compartments from the fire to the wall, all round the house. Every compartment had a front of bronze. The whole were composed of beautifully carved red yew. Three strips of bronze were in the front of each compartment. Seven strips of bronze from the foundation of the house to the ridge. The house from this out was built of pine, [*gius*]. A covering of oak shingles was what was upon it on the outside. Sixteen windows was the number that were in it, for the purpose of looking out of it and for admitting light into it. A shutter of bronze to each window. A bar of bronze across each shutter; four times seven *ungas* of bronze was what each bar contained. *Ailill* and *Medbh*'s compartment was made altogether of bronze; and it was situated in the middle of the house, with a front of silver and gold around it. There was a silver wand at one side of it, which rose to the ridge of the house, and reached all round it from the one door to the other. Description  
of *Rath  
Cruachain*.

"The arms of the guests were hung up above the arms of all other persons in that house; and they sat themselves down, and were bade welcome".

Such is the description of one of the four "royal houses" which, in the heroic age of our history, that of *Ailill* and *Medbh*, (the century preceding the Christian era), are said to have stood within the ancient *Rath* of *Cruachan*.

The description of the *Craebh-Ruadh*, or house of the "Royal Branch", at *Emania*, the capital city of ancient Ulster, (as described in the Ancient Historic Tale of *Tochmarec nEimiré*, or "the Courtship of the Lady *Emer* by *Cuchulainn*"), agrees very nearly with this description of the house at *Cruachan*; and we know that there were three great Houses at least within the circle of the great *Rath* of *Emania*, raised by queen *Macha*, more than three hundred years before the Christian era. The House  
of the  
Royal  
Branch.

Again, we find the same general features of a royal fort alluded to in a short description of another *Dun*, or enclosure, (preserved in the Book of Ballymote and in the Yellow Book of *Lecan*), in a romantic account of the adventures of king *Cormac Mac Airt* in the Land of Promise, or Fairy-land, of the *Gaedhils*. According to this wild story, as *Cormac* was traversing this unknown land in search of his wife, "he saw another very large, kingly *Dun*, and another palisade of bronze around it; four houses in the *Dun*. He went into the *Dun*; and he saw Description  
of a *Dun* in  
Fairy Land.

**LECT. XIX.** a very large house, with its rafters of bronze, and its wattling of silver, and its thatch of the wings of white birds; and he saw, too, a sparkling well within the *Lis*, and five streams issuing from it, and the hosts around, drinking the waters of these streams”.

The same kind of enclosure called a *dun*, *rath*, or *ka*.

From these various descriptions of Tara, *Aileach*, *Cruachan*, the *Craebh Ruadh*, and the *Dun* in the Land of Promise, it will be seen that our old writers applied the terms *Rath*, *Dun*, and *Lis*, indiscriminately, to the earthen enclosure or fort within which the houses of the ancient Gaedhils stood. We have seen also that these enclosures frequently contained more than one “house”; and we know, from actual existing monuments, that the “*Rath of the Kings*” at Tara contained, besides the “*Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers*”, at least two other remarkable edifices; though, whether they were houses or mere mounds, it remains yet to be shown with certainty. The first of these was the *Mur Tea*, or Mound of *Tea*, the wife of *Eremon*, one of the Milesian brothers who took Erin from the *Tuatha Dé Danann*. It was because *Tea* was, in accordance with her own request, buried in the rampart of this primitive “house”, that the name of *Tea-Mur* (that is, *Tea’s Mur*, or rampart, now Tara), was first given to the hill by the Milesians. A small mound remained still, at the time of *Cuan O’Lothchain*, about the year 1000, as the remains of this once famous mound; but all vestiges of it have now disappeared, though its situation is still pointed out as a little hill which lies to the south, between the *Foradh* and *Cormac’s House*.

The *Foradh* at Tara.

There was a second and more important building within the Rath of the Kings, besides *Cormac’s Great House*. This was the edifice called the *Foradh*, large remains of which still exist, adjoining the Great House of *Cormac*. This does not appear to have been a house at all, but rather, what its name implies, the mound upon which the royal residents of Tara used to sit, to enjoy the sports which were celebrated on the slopes to the west and south of it.

The house of *Credh*.

I introduced into a former Lecture<sup>(10)</sup> a poetical description, from one of the ancient Fenian Poems, of the mansion-house of a young princess of Kerry, in the time of *Finn Mac Cumhail*; but the subject is so appropriate to the purpose of the present Lecture, that I feel I cannot with propriety omit to notice it again here. I allude to the story of the Courtship of *Credh* and *Cael*, preserved in the Book of Lismore in the Royal Irish Academy, which contains the curious poem descriptive of the

<sup>(10)</sup> *Lect. on the M.S. Materials of Ancient Irish History*; p. 309; and *Ann. No. XCIV.*; p. 594.

construction of the lady's mansion, as well as of the rich furniture contained within it. The following verses are those to which I especially allude:

LECT. XIX.  
The house of  
Credé.

- “ Delightful the house in which she is,  
Between men, and children, and women,  
Between druids and musical performers,  
Between cup-bearers and door-keepers.
- “ Between horse-boys who are not shy,  
And table servants who distribute;  
The command of each and all of these  
Hath *Credé* the fair, the yellow-haired.
- “ It would be happy for me to be in her *dun*,  
Among her soft and downy couches.  
Should *Credé* deign to hear [my suit],  
Happy for me would be my journey.
- “ A bowl she has whence berry-juice flows,  
By which she colours her eye-brows black;  
[She has] clear vessels of fermenting ale;  
Cups she has, and beautiful goblets.
- “ The colour [of her *dun*] is like the colour of lime,  
Within it are couches and green rushes;  
Within it are silks and blue mantles;  
Within it are red gold and crystal cups.
- “ Of its *grianan* [sunny chamber] the corner stones  
Are all of silver and of yellow gold;  
Its thatch in stripes of faultless order,  
Of [birds'] wings of brown and crimson-red.
- “ Two door-posts of green I see;  
Nor is its door devoid of beauty;  
Of carved silver, long has it been renowned,  
Is the lintel that is over its door.
- “ *Credé*'s chair is on your right hand,  
The pleasantest of the pleasant it is;  
All over a blaze of Alpine gold,  
At the foot of the beautiful couch.
- “ A gorgeous couch in full array,  
Stands directly above the chair,  
It was made by [or at?] *Tûlé*, in the east,  
Of yellow gold and precious stones.
- “ There is another couch on your right hand,  
Of gold and silver, without defect;  
With curtains, with soft [pillows];  
And with graceful rods of golden bronze.
- “ The household which are in her house,  
To the happiest of conditions have been destined;



LEOT. XIX.  
The house of  
Credé.

- Gray and glossy are their garments,  
Twisted and fair is their flowing hair.
- " Wounded men would sink in sleep,  
Tho' ever so heavily teeming with blood,  
With the warbling of the fairy birds  
From the eaves of her sunny *grianan*.  
\* \* \* \* \*
- " One hundred feet are in *Credé's* house,  
From the one gable to the other;  
And twenty feet in measure,  
There are in the breadth of its noble door.
- " Its portico with its thatch  
Of the wings of birds, blue and yellow;  
Its lawn in front, and its well  
[Formed] of crystal and of *carmogal* [carbuncles?]
- " Four posts to every bed,  
Of gold and of silver gracefully carved;  
A crystal gem between every two posts;  
They are no cause of unpleasantness.
- " There is a vat there of kingly bronze,  
From which flows the pleasant juice of malt;  
There is an apple-tree over the vat,  
In the abundance of its heavy fruit".  
\* \* \* \* \*

This poem is of especial value, inasmuch as it describes with such minuteness not only the form, size, and materials of what a poet in the earliest period of our literature would have regarded as a beautiful house, but also the nature, position, and materials of the principal articles of furniture in a mansion of those primitive times.

To return now to more general considerations:

The *Rath*-  
builder and  
the *Caiseal*-  
builder.

It appears from our ancient authorities, that the pagan Gaedhil had two classes of professional builders: the *Rath-bhuidhé*, or *Rath*-builder, who built the *Rath*, *Dun*, and *Lis*, which were formed of earth; and the *Caisleoir*, or *Caiseal*-builder, who built the *Caiseal*, the *Cathair*, and the *Dun* when it was constructed of stone. These authorities go as far as even to preserve the names of some of the most ancient professors of both arts, not only in Erin, but even in the far east. Thus, the Book of Leinster (fol. 27, b) presents us with the following list, headed: "*Hi sunt nomina virorum componentium lapides*": which I believe is bad Latin for, "These are the names of the men who built in stone".—"Cabar was the *Caiseal* [i.e. stone-work] builder of Tara; *Ilian* was Solomon's *Caiseal* builder. *Canor* was Nimrod's *Caiseal* builder. *Barnib* was the *Caiseal* builder

of Jericho. *Cir* was the *Caiseal* builder of Rome. *Arann* was the *Caiseal* builder of Jerusalem. *Alen* was the *Caiseal* builder of Constantinople. *Buchur* was the *Rath* [i.e. earth-work] builder of Nimrod. *Cingdorn* was *Curoi-Mac-Dairé's* stone (*Caiseal*) builder", [who built for him *Cathair Conroi*, the ruins of which may still exist, somewhere to the west of Tralee, in the county of Kerry]. *Goll-Clochair*, the son of *Bran*, it was that built *Caiseal* [Cashel], the place so-called, for *Ængus Mac Nadfraich*. *Rigrinn* [elsewhere *Frigrinn*] was the stone (*caiseal*) builder of *Aileach*, assisted by *Gablan* the son of *U-Gairbh*. *Traighlethan* was the *Rath*-builder of Tara. *Blocc*, son of *Blar*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Cruachan*. *Blancé*, son of *Dalran*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Emania*. *Balar*, the son of *Buarainech*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Breas* [the king of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*], and who built for him *Rath-Breisi*, in Connacht. *Crichel*, the son of *Dubhchluithé*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Alinn*" (in Leinster). *Dubhaltach Mac Firbissigh*, commonly called Dudley Mac Firbis, the last great antiquary of that celebrated Connacht family, has preserved a copy of this list of builders, in prose and verse, with some slight differences, in the preface to his great genealogical work, compiled in the year 1650.<sup>(1)</sup>

LECT. XIX.

The Rath-builder and the Caiseal-builder.

(1) "Here", he says, "are the names of some of the masons (or builders) who are called the masons (or builders) of the chief stone buildings.—

"*Alian* was Solomon's *Caiseal*-builder. *Cabur* was the *Caiseal*-builder of *Temair*. *Barnib* was the *Caiseal*-builder of Jericho. *Bacus* was the *Rath*-builder of Nimrod. *Cingdorn* was *Curoi Mac Dairé's* *Caiseal*-builder. *Cir* was the *Caiseal*-builder of Rome. *Arann* was the *Caiseal*-builder of Jerusalem. *Oilen* was the *Caiseal*-builder of Constantinople. *Bolc*, the son of *Blar*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Cruachan*. *Goll of Clochar* [now Manister, in the county of Limerick] was the *Caiseal*-builder of *Nadfraech* [who founded the first stone building at the place still called Cashel]. *Casruba* was the *Caiseal* builder of *Ailinn*. *Ringin*, or *Rigrin*, and *Gabhan* the son of *U-Gairbh*, or *Garbhan* the son of *U-Gairbh*, were the two *Caiseal*-builders of *Aileach* [near Derry]. *Traighlethan* was the *Rath*-builder of *Temair*. *Bainché* or *Bailchné*, the son of *Dobhrú*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Emania*. *Balar*, the son of *Buan-lamhach*, was the *Rath*-builder of *Rath-Breisi* [in Connacht]. *Crichel*, the son of *Dubh-chruit*, was the *Rath*-builder of the *Rath of Ailinn*" [in Leinster].

"And these", he continues, "were the chief stone-builders, as the poet says:—

"*Ailian* with Solomon of the hosts,  
A beautiful, noble *Caiseal*-builder;  
With Nimrod, as graceful builder,  
*Caur* it was that built a *Caiseal*.  
"*Barnab* in his own good time,  
Was the *Caiseal*-builder of Jericho's land;  
Rome took *Cir*,—graceful was his chisel;  
*Arann* was the mason of Jerusalem.

"In Constantinople, with activity,  
*Cleothor* was powerful in his art;  
With Nimrod, without fear of weakness,  
*Bacus* the noble was *Rath*-builder.  
"*Curoi's* *Caiseal*-builder was gifted  
*Cingdorn*;  
With the son of *Nadfraech* was  
*Goll of Clochar*;  
*Casruba* was the priceless *Caiseal*-builder,

## LECT. XIX.

Mac Firbis  
on stone  
building in  
ancient  
Erinn.

Mac Firbis, in answer to those who would deny the existence of stone-building in ancient Erinn, offers some fair remarks, from which I quote the following passages:

"It is only because lime-cast walls are not seen standing in the place in which they were erected a thousand and a half, or two thousand, or three thousand and more years since, what it is no wonder should not be; for, shorter than that is the time in which the ground grows over buildings when they are once ruined, or when they fall down of themselves with age. In proof of this, I have myself seen within (the last) sixteen years, many lofty lime-cast castles, built of limestone; and at this day, (having fallen) there remains of them but a mound of earth; and hardly could a person ignorant of their former existence, know that there had been buildings there at all. Let this, and the works that were raised hundreds and thousands of years ago, be put together [compared], and it will be no wonder, were it not for the firmness of the old work over the work of these times, if a stone or an elevation of earth can be recognized in their place. But such is not the case, for such is the durability of the ancient work, that there are great royal *raths* and *lisses* in abundance throughout Erinn; in which there are many hewn, smooth stones, and cellars or apartments, under ground, within their enclosures, such as *Rath Mailcatha*, at Castle Connor, Bally-O'Dowda in *Tir Fhiachrach*, on the brink of the [river] *Muaidhe* [Moy]. There are nine smooth stone cellars under the mound of this rath; and I have been within in it, and I think it is one of the oldest raths in Erinn; and the height of its walls would be a good height for a cow-keep".

I make this quotation from Mac Firbis only for what it is worth; for he does not absolutely assert that the masonry con-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Who used to have great stone-hewing hatchets.</p> <p>"The two <i>Caiseal</i>-builders of armed <i>Aileach</i>,<br/><i>Rigru</i> and <i>Garbhan</i> son of <i>U-Gairbh</i>;<br/><i>Troiglethan</i>, an hereditary beautiful builder,<br/>Was the <i>Rath</i>-builder of the strong king of <i>Temair</i>.</p> <p>"<i>Bolc</i> the son of <i>Blar</i>, from sweet <i>Ath-Blair</i>,<br/>Was the <i>Rath</i>-builder of the circular <i>Cruachan</i>;<br/><i>Bainché</i> the gifted, from <i>Bearbha</i>,</p> | <p>Was the <i>Rath</i>-builder of the noble king of <i>Emania</i>.</p> <p>"<i>Balur</i>, of whom it was worthy,<br/>It was that formed the strong <i>Rath-Breist</i>;<br/><i>Cricel</i> the son of <i>Dubhrath</i>, without reproach,<br/>Was the acute builder of <i>Ailinn</i>.</p> <p>"May the high and happy heavens<br/>Be given to <i>Domhnall</i>, the son of <i>Flanncan</i>,<br/>Who has composed a poem, no indirect numbers,<br/>From <i>Ailian</i> down to <i>Ailinn</i>.<br/>[<i>Ailian</i>]."</p> |
|---|---|

I have not been able to obtain any other reference to *Domhnall*, the son of *Flanncan*, the author of this poem; but I am satisfied the poem as it stands is as old as the tenth century.



ned lime and mortar; and there can be no denial of the existence of stone forts in this country from the earliest times, as indicated not only by our oldest historical records and traditions, but by the very great number of them of the remotest antiquity, which still remain in wonderful preservation.

LECT. XIX.

The following extract from a large fragment of a curious and very ancient tale, preserved in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* (I.A.), will tend to explain more closely the actual mode of building, and the materials of those ancient houses of which I have been speaking. The story is referred to a remote period of Irish History; and the substance of it may be told in a few words.

In the time of *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, the celebrated king of Ulster, who was contemporary of our Saviour, there lived in Ulster a famous satirist, called *Bricrind Nemh-thenga*, or "*Bricrind of the Poisoned Tongue*", (from whom *Loch-Bricrend*, now called *Loch-Brickland*, in the county of Down, derives its name). *Bricrind* was a constant guest at the court of King *Conchobar*, at *Emania*; where it may well be supposed the purchase of silence from his bitter tongue brought him many a gift from a people always, even to this day, peculiarly sensitive to the shafts of satire. This *Bricrind* once proposed to himself to prepare a great feast for the king, the knights of the Royal Branch, and the other nobles of Ulster, and their wives; not, however, out of gratitude or hospitality, but simply to gratify his mere love of mischief, and to work up a serious quarrel, if possible, by exciting such a spirit of envy and jealousy among the ladies, as would draw their husbands into war with one another. In the very commencement of the tale, in which these scenes are related, occurs a passage which I may transcribe directly from the original, because it bears at once on our present subject.

Story of the Feast of Bricrind.

"*Bricrind of the Poisoned Tongue* had a great feast for *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, and for all the Ultonians. A full year was he preparing for the feast. There was built by him, in the meantime, a magnificent house in which to serve up the feast. This house was built by *Bricrind* at *Dun-Rudhraidhe*, probably the exact place now called Dundrum, in the county of [Down], in likeness to [the house of] the Royal Branch at *Main-Macha*, (or *Emania*), except alone that his house excelled in material and art, in beauty and gracefulness, in pillars and facings, in emblazonments and brilliancy, in extent and variety, in porticoes and in doors, all the houses of its time.

"The plan upon which this house was built was on the plan of the *Teach-Midhchuarta*, [i.e. the great Banqueting House of

plan of his house;

**NOT. XIX.** Tara]. [There were] nine couches in it from the fire to the wall: Thirty feet was the height of every gold-gilt bronze front of them all. There was a kingly couch built for *Conchobar* [the king] in the front part of that kingly house, above all the other couches of the house; [and it was] inlaid with carbuncles, and other brilliants besides, and emblazoned with gold, and silver, and carbuncles, and the finest colours of all countries; so that day and night were the same in it. The twelve couches of the twelve heroes of Ulster were built around it. The style of the work, and the material, were equally ponderous. Six horses were [employed] to draw home [from the wood] every post; and [it required] seven of the strong men of Ulster to entwine (or set) every rod; and thirty builders of the chief builders of Erin were [engaged], in the building and the ordering of it.

is grianan  
r sun-  
house;

“ There was a *grianan* (or sun-house) built by *Bricind* for himself, on a range with the couches of *Conchobar* and the heroes of Ulster. That *grianan* was built with carvings and ornaments of admirable variety; and windows of glass were set in it on all sides. There was one of these windows set over his own couch; so that he could see the state of the entire of the great house before him from his couch; [he built this] because he well knew that the [great chiefs of the] Ultonians would not admit him [to feast] into the [same] house [with them].

“ Now, when *Bricind* had finished his great house, and his *grianan*, and furnished both with coverlets and beds and pillows, as well as with a full supply of ale and of food, and when he saw that there was nothing whatever in which it was deficient, of the furniture and the materials of the feast, then he went forth until he arrived at *Emain-Macha*, to invite *Conchobar*, and the nobles of the men of Ulster along with him.

is invita-  
on to Con-  
chobar and  
the Ulto-  
nians;

“ This was the way, now, on which the Ultonians held a *fair* at *Emain-Macha*. He receives welcome there, and he sat at *Conchobar*'s shoulder; and then he addressed *Conchobar* and the Ultonians: ‘Come with me’, said he, ‘to accept a banquet with me’. ‘I am well pleased’, said *Conchobar*, ‘if the Ultonians are pleased’. But *Fergus Mac Róigh*, and the nobles of Ulster answered, and said: ‘We shall not go’, said they, ‘because our dead would be more numerous than our living, after we should be set at variance by *Bricind*, if we were to go to partake of his banquet’. ‘That will be worse for ye, then, indeed’, said he, ‘which I shall do to ye if ye do not come with me’. ‘What is it thou wilt do then?’ said *Conchobar*, ‘if they do not go with thee?’ [They then argue for some time; and at last:] ‘It is better for us to go’, said *Fergus Mac*

*Róigh*; 'what he has said he will verify', said he. But as a precaution against his subtle tongue, *Sencha* the son of *Ailill*, the chief poet of Ulster, advised them: 'Since', said he, 'there is an objection to going with *Bricind*, exact securities from him; and place eight swordsmen around him for the purpose of conveying him out of the house when he has shown them the feast'. So *Fubaidé Ferbeann*, the son of [king] *Conchobar*, went with this message, and told *Bricind*. 'I am well pleased', said *Bricind*, 'to act accordingly'. So the Ultonians went forth from *Emain-Macha*; each division with his king; each battalion with its chief; and each company with its leader".

The story goes on to describe how, on the way, *Bricind* contrived to sow jealousies among all the principal champions, by flattering each separately at the expense of the others; so that, when they took their places in the banqueting house, he could see from his *grianan* that they were soon almost at daggers drawn. It then proceeds.

"It happened just to his desire, that, at this very time, *Fedelm Noí-chridhé*, [i.e. "the Ever-blooming *Fedelm*"] the wife of *Laeghairé Buadhach*, was leaving the house with fifty of her attendant women, to take the cool air outside for a while; and *Bricind* accosted her, and said.—'Well done this night, thou wife of *Laeghairé Buadhach*; it is no nickname to call thee *Fedelm* the ever-blooming, because of the excellence of thy shape, and because of thy intelligence, and because of thy family. *Conchobar*, the king of the chief province of Erin, is thy father, and *Laeghairé Buadhach* thy husband. Now I would not think it too much for thee that none of the women of Ulster should come before thee into the banqueting house; but that it should be after thy heels that the whole band of the women of Ulster should come, [and I say to thee that] if it be thou that shalt be the first to enter the house this night, thou shalt be queen over all the other women of Ulster'. *Fedelm* went forth then as far as three ridges out from the house.

"Immediately after, came out *Lendabair*, the daughter of *Eoghan Mac Duirtheacht* [king of Farney], and wife of *Conall Cearnach* [the great champion]; and *Bricind* addressed her, and said.—'Well done, *Lendabair*', said he; 'it is no nickname to call thee *Lendabair*, [i.e. the Favourite], because thou art the beloved and desired of the men of the whole world, for the splendour and lustre [of thy beauty]. As far as thy husband excels the warriors of the world in beauty and valour, thou excellest the women of Ulster'. And so, though much of flattering praise he had bestowed upon *Fedelm*, he lavished twice as much upon *Lendabair*.

LECT. XIX.  
he sows  
dissension  
among the  
women;

## LECT. XIX.

he sows  
dissension  
among the  
women;

“*Emer*, *Cuchulainn*'s wife, came out next.—‘A safe journey to thee, O *Emer*, daughter of *Forgall Manach*’, said *Bricrind*: ‘thou wife of the best man in Erin: *Emer* of the beautiful hair. The kings and the princes of Erin are at enmity about thee. As far as the sun excels the stars of heaven, so far dost thou excel the women of the whole world, in face, and in shape, and in family, in youth and in lustre, in fame and in dignity, and in eloquence’. So, though great the flattering praise he bestowed on the other women, he lavished twice as much upon *Emer*.

“The three women moved on then till they reached the same place, that is, three ridges from the house; and none of them knew that the other had been spoken to by *Bricrind*. They returned to the house then. They passed over the first ridge with a quiet, graceful, dignified carriage; hardly did any one of them put one foot beyond another. In the second ridge their steps were closer and quicker. The ridge nearest to the house [in getting over it] each woman sought to forcibly take the lead of her companions; and they even took up their dresses to the calves of their legs, vying with each other who should enter the house first; because what *Bricrind* said to each, unknown to the others, was, that she who should first enter the house should be queen of the whole province. And such was the noise they made in their contest to enter the kingly house, that it was like the rush of fifty chariots arriving there; so that they shook the whole kingly house, and the champions started up for their arms, each striking his face against the other throughout the house.

“‘Stop’, said *Sencha*, [the judge], ‘they are not foes that have come there; but it is *Bricrind* that has raised a contest between the women since they have gone out. I swear by the oaths of my territory’, said he, ‘that if the house is not closed against them, their dead will be more numerous than their living’. So the door-keepers shut the door immediately. But *Emer*, the daughter of *Forgall Manach* and wife of *Cuchulainn*, advanced in speed before the other women, and put her back to the door, and hurled the door-keepers from it before the other women came up. Then their husbands stood up in the house, each of them anxious to open the door before his wife, that his own wife should so be the first to enter the house. ‘This will be an evil night’, said *Conchobar* the king. Then he struck his silver pin against the bronze post of his couch; and all immediately took their seats. ‘Be quiet’, said *Sencha* [the judge]; ‘it is not a battle with arms that shall prevail here, but a battle of words’. Each woman then put herself under the protection



of her husband outside: and it was then they delivered those speeches which are called by the poets the *Briatharchath Ban Uladh*, the 'battle-speeches of the women of Ulster'".

LECT. XIX.  
the *Briath-*  
*archath Ban*  
*Uladh*;

We must for the present pass over these long-celebrated speeches, remarkable though they are in point of mere language, as examples of the copiousness and delicacy of the ancient Gaedhelic tongue in terms of laudation, such as these three princesses of Ulster lavished on their husbands on this occasion.

At the conclusion of the harangues, the champions *Laeghairé Buadhach* and *Conall Cearnach* rushed suddenly at the wooden wall of the house, and, knocking a plank out of it, brought in their wives. Not so *Cuchulainn*; "he raised up", the story tells us, "that part of the house which was opposite his couch, so that the stars of heaven were visible from beneath the wall; and it was through this opening that his wife came in to him". And the tale goes on to say that, "*Cuchulainn* then let the house fall down suddenly again, so that he shook the whole fabric, and laid *Bricrind's grianan* prostrate on the ground, so that *Bricrind* himself and his wife were cast into the mire, among the dogs. Then *Bricrind* harangued the Ultonians, and conjured them to restore his house to its original position, as it still remained inclined to one side. And all the champions of the Ultonians united their strength and exerted themselves to restore the balance of the house, but without effect". They then begged of *Cuchulainn* to try his own strength on it, which he did, and alone restored the house to its perpendicular.

This is an extravagant tale in form; and a great part of it may at first sight appear somewhat irrelevant to the purpose of this Lecture. It was proper, however, to give so much at least of the story as to explain the occasion of the singular performance attributed, in the exaggerated language of the poet, to the hero *Cuchulainn*, who fills completely the part of Hercules in our ancient tales. And it happens that none of the other great houses already mentioned have been described, in some respects, with the same minuteness as to form, material, preparation for building, furniture, and internal arrangement, as this celebrated house and *grianan* of *Bricrind*. For instance: we are told that there were six horses to carry home every post or plank of the walls; that it took seven of the stoutest men in Ulster to weave or interlace between the upright posts, each of the stout rods which, like basket-work, filled up the space between these posts; and there were thirty builders or carpenters besides. The rods thus used were, I believe, uniformly of hazle, perhaps because that was the smoothest of all the forest

*Bricrind's*  
house was  
made of  
wicker-  
work.

Lect. XIX. trees. Again, we are told, that this house was supplied with glass windows; and that it was supplied, as well as *Bricrind's* own *grianan*, with coverlets, beds, and pillows. And we learn that the panels and posts of these beds or couches, (for they answered both purposes,) were gorgeously adorned and emblazoned. So that, making due allowance for the poetry of the description, this house of *Bricrind* must have been an elegant, as well as a commodious building; and though we must not take the description as representing more than the poet's ideal of what he would have regarded as a splendid house in his own time, still there can be no doubt but that such edifices as that described, were in their main characteristics the prevailing form of house in ancient times in this country; and in fact the use of the wooden basket-work building, with its decorations, came down, as we shall soon see, to a comparatively late period of our history.<sup>(10)</sup>

[<sup>(10)</sup> See INTRODUCTION on the similar houses of the Gauls and the illustrations from the Colonne Antonine in the Louvre, Figs. 54, 55.]

## LECTURE XX.

[Delivered 12th July, 1859.]

(VII.) OF BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, ETC.; (continued). The descriptions of buildings in our ancient MSS., even when poetical in form, and not strictly accurate as to date, are still valuable for the object of these lectures. Veracity of the evidence respecting the "Great Banqueting Hall" of Tara in the time of *Cormac Mac Airt*, as given by Dr. Petrie; no record of the changes which took place at Tara subsequent to that time. Residences of the monarchs of Erin after the desertion of Tara. Desertion of other celebrated royal residences,—*Emania*, *Cruachan*, etc. Division of the people into classes; this division did not impose perpetuity of caste; increase of wealth enabled a man to pass from one rank to another; crime alone barred this advancement; the qualifications as to furniture and houses of the several classes of *Airés* or landholders; fines for injury to the house of the *Airé Reiré Breithe*; of the *Airé Desa*; of the *Airé-Ard*; of the *Airé Forgaill*; of the king of a territory. Law against damage or disfigurement of buildings and furniture: of the house of a *Bo-Airé*; of the house of an *Airé-Desa*; of the house of an *Airé-Tuise*; of the house of an *Airé-Ard*. Law directing the provision to be made for aged men. Shape of houses in ancient Erin; construction of the round house; reference to the building of such a house in an Irish life of St. *Colman Ela*; a similar story told of St. *Cumin Fada*. No instance recorded of an ecclesiastical edifice built of wicker work; two instances of the building of oratories of wood;—story of the oratory of St. *Moling*; quatrain of *Rumand Mac Colman* on the oratory of *Rethan Ua Suanagh*; account of *Rumand* writing a poem for the *Galls* of Dublin; he carries his wealth to *Cill Belaigh*; statement of seven streets of *Galls* or foreigners at that place; importance of the account of *Rumand*.

It is of very little moment to the history of the country whether the descriptions, preserved in our ancient manuscripts, of the "Great Houses" of the Royal Branch, of *Emania*, in Ulster; of the "Great House" into which *Fraech*, the son of *Fidhath*, was ushered with his followers, at *Cruachan*, in Connacht; or of the "Great House" which *Briarind* built at *Rath Rudhraidhé*, in Ulster (all these accounts referring to the period of the Incarnation), be strictly correct in all their dates, or tinged with somewhat of the story-teller's exaggeration. The imagination of writers say of the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries must have been grounded, at least, on what they were accustomed to see about them; and they must have described (be it indeed with some colouring as to accessories) merely that state of things which still continued in vivid recollection, if not in actual existence, in their time. In this way even the most poetic accounts are important to history; just as those of Homer are so with reference to similar matters, although mixed up with so much of the fabulous and the impossible in action.

ECT XX. As to the character of the "Great House of the Thousands of Soldiers", and the Great Banqueting House at Tara, in the time of *Cormac Mac Airt* (that is, in the middle of the third century), and in the reign of *Laeghairé Mac Neill* (that is, at the time of the coming of Saint Patrick in the fifth century), no candid reader will for a moment refuse credence to the evidences of them published by Dr. Petrie in his admirable Essay on the History and Antiquities of Tara Hill, at least to the extent to which their probable veracity is measured by that thoughtful and most cautious writer.

Of the changes or improvements, if any, in the mansions of Tara, between the death of *Laeghairé Mac Neill* and its total desertion as a royal residence and seat of the central government of the kingdom (about the middle of the sixth century), no record has come down to us, as far as I know. Neither have we any account, that I have seen, of the style or particular character of the dwellings of the monarchs, or of the provincial kings of Erin, who succeeded *Diarmait*, the son of *Fergus Cerrbhéoil*, the last occupier of the Great House of Tara, down to the final overthrow of the monarchy in the twelfth century. For, after the desertion of the ancient seat of the supreme royalty, each of the succeeding monarchs fixed his residence in some part of his own provincial territories; so, the *Clann Colmain*, or Southern *Ui-Neill*, who were the hereditary princes of Tara and Meath, and who subsequently took the name of *O'Maeilsheachlainn*, had their chief seat at *Dun-na-Sciath*, on the bank of *Loch Aininn* (now called Loch Ennel, near Mullingar, in Westmeath); whilst the northern *Ui-Neill*, subsequently represented by the O'Neills, whenever they succeeded to the monarchy, held their court and residence at the ancient provincial palace of *Aileach*, near Derry, of which mention was made in the last Lecture; and when *Brian Borumha* came to the supreme throne in the year 1002, he continued to reside at the celebrated *Ceann-Coradh* (a name which signifies literally, the "Head of the Weir", at the place now called Killaloe, in the county of Clare), a place about a mile south by east from *Grianan-Lachtna*, near *Craig-Liath*, the once noble residence of his great-grandfather *Lachtna*, some traces of which even still remain.

residences  
the  
march of  
inn after  
desertion  
Tara.

So also, when *Torloch Mór O'Conor*, and his son *Rudhraidhe* after him, became monarchs, in the first part of the twelfth century, they had their residence on the bank of *Loch En* (a place now represented, I believe, by the castle of Roscommon). This is sufficiently shown in the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year 1225. For, it appears that, in that



year, Hugh O'Connor having succeeded his father, *Cathal Craibh-dearg* (i.e. "of the Red Hand"), in the kingship, dispossessed an important chief, named *Down-óg Mac Erachtaigh*, of his lands; that *Mac Erachtaigh* invited O'Neill to his assistance against his own king; and that the latter proceeded to Athlone, in the neighbourhood of which he remained two nights, and totally plundered *Loch En*, from whence, we are informed, he carried off O'Connor's jewels. It seems, however, that this place was abandoned afterwards by the O'Conors; as I find, from two contemporaneous poems in my own possession, that *Aedh*, the son of *Eoghan O'Connor*, removed their residence from *Loch En* to *Cluain Fraich* (a place near Strokes-town, in the same county), where he built a residence, in the year 1309. It is in description and praise of this new palace of *Cluain Fraich* that the two poems to which I allude (and to which I shall have occasion to refer again) were written.

It appears from an ancient poem, also in my possession, that *Emania* ceased to be the royal residence of the kings of Ulster after the death of *Ferghus Fogha*, in the year 331; *Cruachan*, to be the residence of the kings of Connacht, after the death of *Raghallach* in 645; *Caiseal* (Cashel), to be the residence of the kings of Munster, after the death of *Cormac Mac Cuilennáin* in 903; *Nás* [now Naas], the residence of the kings of Leinster, after the death of *Cearbhall*, son of *Muiregan*, in 904; and *Aileach*, to be the residence of the kings of Ulster of the *Ui-Neill* line, after the death of *Muircheartach*, the son of *Niall Glun-dubh*, who was killed in a battle with the Danes, at *Ath Firdiadh* (now Ardee), in the year 941. The poem in which these facts are preserved, was written about A.D. 1620, by *Eochaidh O'h-Eoghusa*, for the revived castle of Mac-Dermot's Rock, of *Loch Cé*.

*Emania*,  
*Cruachan*,  
etc., also  
deserted.

Having disposed, so far, of our reference to special buildings and residences of the higher classes, in the more ancient time, we proceed now to the consideration of the dwellings of the less exalted classes, the arrangements of which were, in some respects, regulated by law according to the rank of the owner.

The people in ancient Erin were divided, as I explained on a former occasion,<sup>(1)</sup> into several classes; those who had no land nor dwellings; those who had land at rent not amounting to the value of that number of cows which was required to support the rank of a cow-chief, or rich grazier; those who had the required quantity of land to entitle them to that rank; and the degrees of that rank itself, in accordance with the increased number of cows or their grazing; and lastly, those who inherited

Division of  
the people  
into classes;

<sup>(1)</sup> See Lect. ii., ante, vol. i. p. 33 et seq. [See also Appendix for the entire of the fragment of the *Crith Gabhlach* referred to in Lect. ii.]

LECT. XX. or otherwise obtained any quantity of land for an absolute estate; and of whom, again, there were three ranks.

The general name for a man of any one of these classes was *Airé*, or *Flaith*, that is, something like our landlord; a term which may be applied at the present day to a man who lets ten acres of land, as well as to the man who lets ten thousand.

this division did not impose perpetuity of caste.

The law did not impose perpetuity of caste upon any of those ranks, but left it open for them to ascend still higher in the scale of social dignity, should the prudence or industry of any man, or any of the chances of life, enable him to acquire more land and cattle; provided only that his moral status in society was not impeachable, this being always deemed essential by the social law of the country. Thus, no perjurer, no thief, no receiver of stolen property, no absconder from his lawful debts, no murderer, no homicide, no unlawful or unnecessary wounder of another, could ever legally rise in the scale of society, until he had made full and ample satisfaction, according to law, for his misdeeds. All the professors of the mechanical arts were eligible to rise in rank in the same manner, under the same conditions.

Of the furniture and houses of the several classes of *Airés*:-

I have already in a former Lecture explained from the ancient laws the nature of the different ranks of the *Airés*, or landholders, and the qualification of each rank in point of wealth.<sup>(12)</sup> I shall only here repeat so much of the laws respecting the different classes of society, as regards the size, the furniture, and the appointments of the houses allowed to or required to be kept by each of them, according to his rank; because these laws contain much important information as to our immediate subject.

of the *Og Airé*;

1st, The *Og Airé*, or Young *Airé*. He was required to have a fourth part in a ploughing apparatus, namely, an ox, a sock (or plough-share), a goad, and head-gear for the control of the ox. He had a share in a kiln; a share in a mill; a share in a barn; and an exclusive cooking-caldron. His house was ordained to be nineteen feet long, and his kitchen, or store room, thirteen feet.

of the *Bo Airé*;

2nd, The *Aitheach ar Athrebha*, or *Bo-Airé*, who succeeded his father. He counted his stock by tens: he had ten cows, ten pigs, ten sheep, and a fourth part of a ploughing machine, namely, an ox, a sock, and a goad, and head-gear for control. He had a house twenty feet long, and a store room of fourteen feet.

of the *Bo Airé Febhsa*;

3rd, The *Bo-Airé Febhsa*, or Best Cow-keeper. He had the land of four times seven *Cumhals*: his dwelling house measured

<sup>(12)</sup> *Ubi supra*, p. 35.

twenty-seven feet, and his store room fifteen feet; he had also a share in a mill, in which his family and his refection-companies ground their corn; he had a kiln, a barn, a sheep-house, a cow-house, a calf-house, and a pig-sty; and he had within the enclosure of his dwelling-house six ridges of onions, and one or more of leeks [etc.] LECT. XX.

4th, The *Bo-Airé Gensa*, or Chaste Cow-keeper. The furniture of his house (the dimensions of which are not given) included a large caldron, with its hooks and its bars; a vat for brewing ale; and an ordinary working boiler, with minor vessels; as well as spits, and flesh-forks; kneading-troughs, and skins (to sift meal and flour on); a washing-trough, and a "head-bathing basin"; tubs; candlesticks; knives (or hooks), for cutting or reaping rushes; a rope; an adze; an auger; a saw; shears; a forest-axe, for cutting every quarter's fire-wood;—every item of these without borrowing; and a grinding-stone; a billet-hook; a dagger for slaughtering cattle; perpetual fire, and a candle in a candlestick, without fail [i.e. he was bound to keep a fire always kindled, and lights in the evening]; and perfect ploughing apparatus, with all its necessary works. of the *Bo Airé Gensa*;

5th, The *Airé Reiré Breithé*, or the Judgment-distributing Cow-keeper. He had seven houses; namely, a kiln, a barn, a mill (that is a share in it) for his grinding purposes; a dwelling-house of twenty-seven feet in length, with a store room of twelve feet; a pig-sty; a calf-house; and a sheep-house. of the *Airé Reiré Breithé*;

The fines appointed by law for injury to the house or furniture of a man of this class, may also be quoted as recording some further particulars, thus.—He was entitled to five *sed*s, [the *sed* was sometimes a calf, and sometimes a heifer, or a cow], for a person climbing over the *lis* (or rampart of his house), without his leave; but it was lawful to open its gate from without. Five *sed*s for opening the door of his house without consent; a cow for spying into it; a calf for taking a handful of its thatch off; a year-old calf for two (handfuls); a two-year-old heifer, for an armful; a three-year-old heifer (not bulled), for half a bundle; a cow for a whole bundle, as well as restitution of the straw; five *sed*s for entering his house or his cow-house by breaking the doors; a calf for breaking the withe (of the door) below; a yearling for breaking the withe above; a heifer for breaking a wattle below; an older heifer for breaking a wattle above [that is, should the cow-house door be fastened by a wattle or bar, and not by a twig or gad, below and above]; a yearling for disfiguring the door-posts of the front of his house; a calf for the door-posts of the back of his house. The seventh part of the price of honour of every rank fines for injury to the house or furniture of the fifth class of *Airé*;

LXX. XX. is paid for stealing anything out of his lawn (or green); a calf for disfiguring the lintel of his back door; a yearling for the lintel of his front door; for stripping his couch, if it be a lock (of hair) from its pillow, two pillows are to be paid for it; if it be a lock from the part on which he sits, two skins are to be paid; if it be a lock from the foot, a pair of shoes are to be paid.

From these extracts we may form some idea of the style of the establishment of what, in old times, was looked upon as a farmer or landholder of the middle rank; but there is very much more connected with his position, privileges, and liabilities, too minute to be introduced into a lecture of this kind, and too technical to be understood without explanatory notes, which would lead us too far from our immediate object. All this information, however, will appear in the forthcoming publications of the Brehon Law Commissioners.

of the *Airé-Désa*;

6th, The next *Airé*, or landlord, was the *Airé-Désa*; that is, an *Airé* who possessed *Dés*, or free land derived from his father and grandfather. Of this class of *Airés* there were four ranks, of which the simple *Airé-Désa* was the lowest. The dwelling house of the *Airé-Désa* was twenty-seven feet long, with a proper store house; it was to have eight beds, with their furniture in it, as well as vats and caldrons, and the other vessels becoming the house of an *Airé*, together with keeves.

of the *Airé-Ard*;

7th, The *Airé-Ard*, or High *Airé*, was so called because he was higher than the simple *Airé-Désa*, and took precedence of him. His dwelling house was to be twenty-nine feet in length; his store house nineteen feet. Eight beds were to be in the dwelling house, with their full furniture, befitting the house of an *Airé-Tuisé*, with six *brothrachs* (or couches), with their proper furniture of pillows, and (stuffed) skins for sitting upon: he was also to have proper stands (or racks) in the house, furnished with vessels of yew of various sizes, and iron ones for different kinds of work; and bronze vessels, with a (bronze) boiler, in which would fit a cow, and a pig in bacon, etc.

of the *Airé-Forgaill*;

8th, The *Airé-Forgaill*, the third of this rank of *Airés*, so called because his evidence is good against all those before enumerated, wherever he undertakes to deny a charge; because his qualifications are higher than those of his fellows, as thirty feet was to be the length of his dwelling house, and twenty that of his store house. The furniture of his house was of the highest order.

of the king of a territory.

9th, From those intermediate ranks of society we pass to the king of a territory or province. And the proper establishment for a king who is constantly resident at the head of his



people (or territory) was as follows. Seven score feet of properly measured feet is the measure of his *dun* (or circular fort) each way; seven feet is the thickness of its mound at top; twelve feet at its base. He is a king only when his *dun* is surrounded with *drehta gialna*, that is, with a trench made by his own tenants. Twelve feet is the breadth of its mouth and its depth; and it is as long as the *dun*. Thirty feet is its length at the outside. Clerics are to bless his house; and every one who damages it is to pay a cart load of wattles, and a cart load of rushes by way of fine.

LECT. XX.

Such were, shortly, as indicated by the laws, the different classes of private houses in ancient Erin, as distinguished from those great edifices of which I spoke in the last Lecture. But the Laws contain many passages in which still more minute details concerning the arrangement of personal residences are happily preserved to us.

There is one chapter, or version, in particular, of the special law against damage or disfigurement of buildings and furniture, preserved in another part of the ancient code, which is so curious and precise, that I think it will not be deemed an unnecessary repetition of some part of what has been already said on the subject. This law was specially intended to punish disfigurement by scratching or cutting the door-posts, the columns, and the fronts and heads of beds and couches. It runs as follows.—

Law against damage of houses and furniture:—

“The house of a *Bo-Airé* (or Cow-chief). To disfigure its south door-post, a sheep is paid for it; a lamb for its north door-post: why is the south side more noble? Answer. Because it is it that is in the view of the good man [of the house], who always sits in the north end (or part) of the house: because that is the part in which the good man always sits. Its lintel: a sheep for disfiguring its front; a lamb for the back (or inside). The incasement of his bed (or his couch): a *dairt* [i.e. yearling calf] for it in front; a sheep for the back.

of a *Bo-Airé*;

“The house of an *Airé-Déa*. For cutting its south door-post, there is a *dairt* (or yearling,) paid; a sheep for the northern post. The door of this house receives the finish of a Gaulish axe (*Gaill biail*), and carving (*aurscartadh*). To disfigure (or cut) its south door-post, so as to render it useless, there is a cow paid for it; and a heifer for the other post (at the back of the house); and restitution, [that is, posts in place of them]. It is the same that is paid for its lintel, and the fronts of his beds, (and couches) receive the finish of a channel-plane (*rungcín*): should they be disfigured in front, there is a cow paid; and an heifer for the back. If they be disfigured so as to be rendered

of an *Airé-Déa*;

ART. XX. Unless, there are two door-posts, a cow and a heifer, paid for the front, and two door-posts [of the posts]: a cow only for the back.

"The house of an *airgead*. Each of its doors receive the finish of a *runscin* plane, a *carraig*, and carving (*currcartadh*). For disfiguring its southern door-post, there is a cow paid; and a heifer for the northern. The lintel is paid for its lintel. For disfiguring the front of his bed, or couch, five *seals*, or a cow and an heifer, are paid; and a cow for the backs. For disfiguring it till it is rendered useless, there is half a *cumhal*, or a cow and a-half, paid for the front; and five *seals*, or a cow and an heifer, paid for the back.

"The house of an *airgead*. Its door-posts and the sides of its bed receive the finish of a diversifying plane (*runscin*); and the carvings on his bed must be of the best kind that can be found in any house. For its disfigurement in its southern door-posts, five *seals*, or a cow and a heifer, are paid: a cow for the northern posts. It is the same for its lintel. For disfigurement of the sides of its bed from the front, there is half a *cumhal*, or a cow and a-half, paid: five *seals*, or a cow and a heifer, for the back: for its disfigurement till it is rendered useless, there is a *cumhal*, or three cows, paid for the front, and half a *cumhal* for the back". [etc.]

These regulations contain abundant evidences of the amount of ornament and workmanship bestowed upon our domestic architecture and furniture in the earliest times.

And here, before we pass from the special subject of the houses ordered by law to be kept by particular classes of men, and for particular purposes, let me make one more extract. It is one not merely useful in connection with my immediate subject (as affording yet some further information as to the nature of the construction and furniture of ancient dwelling-houses), but interesting as a very curious instance of the care for the welfare of the people which so very strongly marks our ancestors. It proves that even two thousand years ago our legislators of ancient Erin did not forget the aged and infirm for those of the population who were no longer able to take care of themselves, and who were subsistence upon their own means. The law in question is the law which "supersedes the means of comfort."

"The special law who has been said to say: 'G...'

Law directing provision for the aged.

maintain me'. They come to him; and they say unto him: LECT. XX.  
 'What rent [or maintenance] shall we give thee? How many items of maintenance are allowed by the law?' Answer. Three: maintenance in food, maintenance in attendance, maintenance of milk. The maintenance in food is, half a *bairghin* (or cake) of wheaten meal, with salt; and a vessel of sour milk. The maintenance of attendance is, to wash his body every twentieth night, and to wash his head every Saturday. The maintenance of milk is, one milch-cow every month throughout the year. His house of maintenance is to be seventeen feet long; it is to be woven [as basket-work] till it reaches the lintel of the door; there is to be a wing [or weather-board] between every two weavings from that up to the ridge; there are to be two doorways in it: a door to one, a hurdle to the other. A chest to be at one side of the house, a bed at the other side; it is to have a kitchen [or store-house] to it. In the fort [or enclosure] of maintenance [that is, the little garden within which the house stood], there can fit but four ridges; that is, two ridges at each side of the house: twelve feet is to be the length of each ridge; and eight its breadth. The bundle of firewood of maintenance is to consist of seventeen sticks, each tree of which should be of such size that, if split into four parts, each part would be sufficient for the handle of a forest-axe or hatchet. [As to] the can (*plóit*) of maintenance, seven hands is to be its circumference at the base; six hands in the middle; and four hands at top".

From the measurement of the buildings described in the foregoing extracts, the houses in ancient Érin would appear to have been in some instances of a rectangular or oblong form. There is, however, absolute proof of the existence of round or circular houses, made chiefly, or wholly, of wicker-work; and it is even probable that this was the more general form. The description of them is very simple, and may be compared to the wattle sheep-cots in many parts of Ireland. The material is abundant enough to raise these simple dwellings on the earth. The construction is precisely that of the round houses, with the exception in detail of the sides tapering, and the top of a central cone, built by setting the poles more or less apart, and at the top, and at the base, between the poles, and other details of construction.

**LECT. XX.** wicker or basket-work, until it reached the required height of the wall. In the meantime there was firmly set up in the centre within, a stout post, called a *tuireadh*, of length commensurate with the required height of the roof; into which were inserted by mortices, or otherwise attached, a certain number of rafters, which descended slantingly all round to the tops of the upright posts of the wall, into which they were received by tenon and mortice, or otherwise attached, in the same way as at the roof-tree. The number of these main rafters, as we shall call them, need not, and could not, have been great; because, according as their distance asunder increased as they radiated from the centre, cross-beams or pieces were inserted between them, as often as was needed, until at last a regular shield-roof, with a sharp pitch, was formed above; across the rafters and ribs, thus inserted were then laid bands or laths, or narrow slips of wood, which were fastened with pegs, or with gads, that is, twisted withes, forming a regular network from the top of the roof-tree to the walls. On these, again, were laid or fastened, at short distances, what may be called a sheeting of rods and thin branches of trees, stretching from the roof-tree to the wall. And now, the shell of the house being finished, it was thatched with straw, rushes, or sedge, and neatly fastened down with what are now Anglicised "scollops" (from the Gaedhelic word *scolb*, literally, a thin twig pointed at both ends), an ancient art of which the use, as we all know, is not yet forgotten among us. I cannot say how they stanchted the walls of the round wicker-house, whether with clay, moss, or skins; but it appears, from what we have seen in the last Lecture, that some houses at least were covered with the wings and skins of birds, though probably only by way of ornament. <sup>13</sup>

There is a curious reference to the building of a round wicker-house preserved in the ancient Gaedhelic Life of Saint *Colman Ela*, of *Lann Ela* (now called Lynally, in the King's County). The story is this —

account of  
the building  
of a round  
house in a  
place of St.  
*Colman Ela*.

The celebrated Saint *Baoithin*, the nephew of Saint *Colum Cille*, was placed by the latter under the tuition of Saint *Colman Ela*. *Baoithin*'s understanding was clear and acute enough, but his memory failed him, and all his master's instructions availed him nothing. It happened that one day, Saint *Colman* was so irritated at the dulness of his pupil that he struck him; whereupon the latter fled from the church into the neighbouring wood, to hide himself, to avoid his lessons. Here, however, he discovered a man, alone, building a house; and the

(13) [See INTRODUCTION on the similar Gaulish houses figured on the Colonne Antonine in the Louvre.]



process is described, for the story says, that according as he came to the end of setting or weaving one rod into the wall, he would immediately introduce the head of another; and so worked on, from rod to rod, setting one only at a time. Slow as this process appeared to the young student, still he saw the house rising apace; and he said to himself: "Had I pursued my learning with this assiduity, it is probable that I might have become a scholar". A heavy shower of rain fell at the same time, and *Baoithin* took shelter from it under an oak-tree. Here he perceived a drop of the rain dripping from one leaf of the tree upon a particular spot. The youth pressed his heel upon this spot, forming a little hollow, which was soon filled up by the dripping of the single drop. *Baoithin* said then: "Ah! if I had pursued my learning even by such slow degrees, I would doubtless have become a scholar"; and then he spoke this lay:—

- LECT. XX.
- "Of drops a pond is filled;  
 Of rods a round-house is built;  
 The house which is favoured of God,  
 More and more numerous will be its family.
- "Had I attended to my own lessons  
 At all times and in all places,  
 Tho' small my progress at a time,  
 Still I would acquire sufficient learning
- " [It is a] single rod which the man cuts,  
 And which he weaves upon his house:  
 The house rises pleasantly,  
 Tho' singly he sets the rod.
- " The hollow which my heel hath made,  
 Be thanks to God and Saint Colman,  
 Is filled in every shower by the single drop;  
 The single drop becomes a pool.
- " I make a vow, that while I live,  
 I will not henceforth my lessons abandon;  
 Whatever the difficulty may be to me,  
 It is cultivating learning I shall always be".

A similar story is told of the celebrated Saint *Cumin Fada*, Similar story told of St. Cumin Fada. Bishop of Clonfert (who died A.D. 661), as to his having taken a lesson in perseverance from seeing a little pool formed by the dripping of a single drop, and seeing a house rising to completion by the weaving in of a single rod at a time.

It does not appear that, even so late as this period (the seventh century), stone dwellings were in much repute or use, excepting ecclesiastical edifices; and that these too were frequently if not generally built of wood down to the seventh and eighth centuries, we have the clearest proofs. It appears, how-

LECT. XX. ever, from another passage in the Life of Saint *Colman Ela*, quoted above, that stone buildings must have been occasionally used at the same time as wood. Thus says the Life:

“One of the days that *Colman* was building the causeway which is situated at the rock on the western side [of the Church] [it happened that] there was no one engaged in setting the stones in the walls of the church, nor in the *Caiseal* [*i.e.* the encircling wall], nor in the *Tochar* [*i.e.* the causeway], on that day, who did not receive attendance from *Duinechadh*, who was the “second son of the king of that country, but who thus showed his humility and the fervour of his faith”.

In dealing with the subject of the dwelling houses and other buildings here in the early ages after the introduction of Christianity, it would be impossible to separate the ecclesiastical and the laical buildings; because the builders and architects of both were the same. The same architect planned the great stone church and the belfry, as well as the oratory, which was sometimes built of stone, but more generally of timber, in the first three centuries of our national Church.

It does not appear in any ancient writing with which I am acquainted, that any kind of ecclesiastical edifice was built of basket or wicker work, like the houses of the laity just described. There are, however, at least two instances on record of the actual building of oratories, or small churches for private prayer, of wood, and instances of such interest that I cannot but cite them here. Both are connected with the life of the celebrated builder, *Gobban Saer*, of whom I shall have something to say by and by.

Story of the building of the oratory of St. *Moling*.

The first of these instances is that of the oratory of Saint *Moling* of *Tech Moling* (now Saint Mullin's, in the county of Carlow), and is recorded in the ancient Gaedhelic life of that saint. The story is so singularly told, wild as it is in part, that I cannot but give it in full. But it is, of course, only valuable in our present inquiry as preserving a statement of the materials of which the oratory was built. It is as follows:

“It was at this time the great ancient yew tree called the *Eo Rossa* [*i.e.* the Yew of *Ross*] was blown down. This famous tree became the property of Saint *Molaisé* of *Leithglinn*, who had it cut up and distributed among the saints of Erin. Saint *Moling* went to him and asked him for a share of the Yew of *Ross*; and Saint *Molisé* presented him with as much of it as would make shingles for his oratory. Saint *Moling* then brought *Gobban Saer* to build his oratory. His company consisted of eight carpenters and their eight wives, and eight boys. They continued with the saint for a whole year



without commencing the work, and during this time their entertainment was never the worse. *Gobban* used every morning to press them to go to the wood; and what he said every day was: 'Let us go in the name of the Heavenly Father to-day'. Then at the end of the year he said: 'Let us go in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost'.

LECT. XX.  
Story of the  
building of  
the oratory  
of St.  
*Moling*.

"They went then at the end of the year to the wood, *Saint Moling* and *Gobban*, and having found a suitable tree, they began to cut it down. The first chip that flew from the tree struck *Saint Moling* on the eye and broke it; he drew his cowl over it; and, without informing them of what had happened, he bade them work well, while he should return home to read his office: this he did, and had his eye miraculously healed. *Gobban* and his assistants soon returned from the wood; and the oratory was built forthwith.

"In the meantime *Gobban's* wife, *Ruadsech Derg*, had received a milch cow as a present from the saint. This cow was soon after stolen by a notorious thief named *Drac*, who infested the neighbourhood. The woman went to *Saint Moling* to complain of this. The saint sent a party of his people in search of the thief; and they found him roasting the cow at a large fire on the brink of the Barrow. When he saw them he quickly climbed a high tree which stood near; but one of the men wounded him with a spear, and he fell down into the river and was drowned. The party took up the carcass of the cow, one side of which had been put to the fire; and they rolled it up in the hide, and carried it back to the saint, who by his prayers called it to life again, in the same condition that it had been before, except that the side which had been to the fire remained of a dark gray colour ever after. *Gobban's* wife having heard that the cow had been recovered, came again to the saint requesting that it should be restored to her. To this request, however, *Saint Moling* did not accede; and the woman returned in high anger to her husband.

"*Gobban* had just finished the building of the oratory at this time; and his wife addressed him, and said that she would not henceforth live with him, unless he should demand from the saint as the price of his work what she should name. 'It shall be done so', said *Gobban*. 'Well then', said she, 'the oratory is finished, and accept not any other payment for it but its full of rye'. 'It shall be so done', said *Gobban*. *Gobban* went then to *Saint Moling*; and the latter said to him, 'Make thy own demand now, because it was thy own demand that was promised to thee'. 'I shall', said *Gobban*; 'and it is, that its (the oratory's) full of rye be paid to me'. 'Invert it', said *Saint Moling*, 'and

## LECT. XX.

Story of the  
building of  
the oratory  
of St.  
*Moling*.

turn its mouth up, and it shall be filled for thee'. So *Gobban* applied machinery and force to the oratory, so that he turned it upside down, and not a plank of it went out of its place, and not a joint of a plank gave the smallest way beyond another.

"Saint *Moling*, on hearing his exorbitant demand, sent immediately to his paternal relatives, the *Ui-Deagha*, on all sides, for assistance to meet it; and he spoke the following poem :

- "Grief has seized upon me,  
Between the two mountains,  
*Ui-Deagha* by me upon the east,  
*Ui-Deagha* by me on the west.
- "There has been demanded from me  
The full of a brown oratory  
(A demand that is difficult to me)  
Of bare rye grain.
- "If you should pay this to him,  
He shall not be much a gainer;  
It shall not be malt, of a truth,  
It shall not be seed, nor dried.
- "The *Ui-Deagha*, to serve me,  
Will relieve me from grief;  
Because I must desire  
To remain here in sorrow.

"On receiving this message the *Ui-Deagha* assembled, from the east and from the west, to him, until the hill was covered with them. He then explained to them the demand which had been made upon him. 'If we had the means', said they, 'you should have what you want; but in fact we have not among all *Ui-Deagha* more than the full of this oratory of all kinds of corn'. 'That is true', said he; 'and go ye all to your houses for this night, and come back at rising time on to-morrow, and reserve nothing in the way of corn, and nuts, and apples, and green rushes, until this oratory be filled'. They came on the morrow, and they filled the oratory, and God on this occasion worked a miracle for Saint *Moling*, so that nothing was found in the oratory but bare rye grain. So *Gobban* took away his corn then; and what he discovered it to be, on the next day, was a heap of maggots".

The second of the two instances on record of the building of a wooden *Duirtheach*, or oratory, though not in connection with the name of any architect, and although the passage describing it has already been published in Dr. Petrie's *Essay on the Round Towers* (page 348), is, however, so valuable in relation to my subject, that I cannot omit to give it here.

"It is found", [says Dr. Petrie] "in an account of the cir-



cumstances which occasioned the writing of a poem for the Galls, or foreigners of Dublin, by the celebrated Irish poet Rumann, who has been called by the Irish writers the Virgil of Ireland, and whose death is thus entered in the Annals of Tighernach at the year 747: '*Ruman Mac Colmain, Poeta optimus quievit*'. It refers to the building of the *duirtheach mór*, or great oratory of *Rathain Ua Suanagh*, now Rahen, [near Tullamore] in the King's County; and the original, which is preserved in an ancient vellum MS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, is said to have been copied from the Book of Rathain Ua Suanagh: 'Rumann, son of Colman, i.e. the son of the king of Laegairé, [in Meath], of the race of Niall, royal poet of Ireland, was he that composed this poem, and Laidh Luascach is the name of the measure in which he composed it. He came on a pilgrimage to Rathain in a time of great dearth. It was displeasing to the people of the town that he should come thither, and they said to the architect who was making the great *duirtheach* [or oratory], to refuse admittance to the man of poetry. Upon which the builder said to one of his people: Go meet Rumann, and tell him that he shall not enter the town until he makes a quatrain in which there shall be an enumeration of what boards there are here for the building of the *duirtheach*. And then it was that he composed this quatrain:

LECT. XX.  
Quatrain of  
Rumann on  
the oratory  
of Rathain  
Ua Suanagh.

“ ‘O my Lord! what shall I do  
About these great materials?  
When shall be [seen] in a fair jointed edifice  
These ten hundred boards?’

“ This was the number of boards there, i.e. one thousand boards; and then he could not be refused [*admittance*], since God had revealed to him, through his poetic inspiration, the number of boards which the builder had.

“ He composed a great poem for the Galls of Ath-Cliath [that is, the Foreigners of Dublin] immediately after, but the Galls said that they would not pay him the price of his poem; upon which he composed the celebrated distich in which he said:

Poem of  
Rumann for  
the Galls  
of Dublin.

“ ‘To refuse me, if any one choose, he may’;  
upon which his own award was given him. And the award which he made was a *pinginn* [or penny] from every mean Gall, and two *pinginns* from every noble Gall so that there was not found among them a Gall who did not give him two *pinginns*, because no Gall of them deemed it worth while to be esteemed a mean Gall. And the Galls then told him to praise the sea, that they might know whether his was original

LRCT XX. poetry. Whereupon he praised the sea while he was drunk, when he spoke [as follows]:

“ ‘ A great tempest on the Plain of *Lear*’ ” [*i.e.*, the sea].

“ And he then carried his wealth with him to Cell Belaigh in Magh Constantine [or Constantine’s Plain, near *Rathan*], for this was one of the churches of Ua-Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine belonged to him. For every plain and land which Constantine had cleared belonged to [Saint] Mochuda; so that the plain was named after Constantine. At this time Cell Belaigh had seven streets of Galls [or foreigners] in it; and Rumann gave the third [part] of his wealth to it because of its extent; and a third part to schools; and he took a third part with himself to *Rathan*, where [in course of time] he died, and was buried in the same bed [or tomb] with Ua-Suanaigh, for his great honour with God and [with] man”.

Mention of  
seven streets  
of foreigners  
at *Cill*  
*Belaigh*.

This extract contains for us an undeniably curious piece of history. First, it gives us a clear idea of the materials of which the great oratory at *Rathan* was built, and of the size of it, which could not have been inconsiderable, since there were no less than one thousand planks prepared for its use.

It also supports the old account, which states that Constantine, the king of the Britons (perhaps of *Ailcluaidé* in Scotland) retired from the care of his government, and entered the monastery of *Rathan*, under Saint *Mochuda*, who preceded *Ua-Suanaigh*. All our old martyrologies give this fact, and assign the 11th of March as the festival day of this royal penitent.

A second curious fact established, to my mind at least, by this story, is that of the existence of “ seven streets ” exclusively inhabited by foreign pilgrims or students at *Cill Belaigh*, in the middle of the eighth century. And a third remarkable fact is that of the residence in Dublin of a large population of foreigners so early in this century; for it is only towards the close of that and in the beginning of the succeeding century that our annals begin to notice the descent on our coasts of the hostile foreigners whom we call Danes. There is no doubt, however, but that there were foreigners settled in Dublin, and in other parts of the east and south-east of the island, in the peaceful pursuits of trade and commerce, long before the fierce invaders of the ninth century.

## LECTURE XXI.

[Delivered July 14th, 1859.]

(VII.) OF BUILDINGS, FURNITURE; (continued). Of the *Gobban Saer*; mistakes concerning him; explanation of his name; he was a real personage. Old Irish writers fond of assigning a mythological origin to men of great skill or learning. The legend of *Tuirbhi*, the father of *Gobban Saer*; observations of Dr. Petrie on this legend; error of Dr. Petrie. Story of *Lug Mac Eithlenn*, the *Sabh Ildenach* or "trunk of all arts". *Tuirbhi* a descendant of *Oilioll Oluin*. References to *Gobban Saer* in ancient Gaelic MSS.;—one in the Irish life of *St. Abban*; the name of the place where *Gobban* built the church for *St. Abban* not mentioned; another in the life of *St. Moling*. The name of *Gobban* mentioned in a poem in an ancient Gaelic MSS. of the eighth century;—original and translation of this poem (note); original and translation of a poem of *St. Moling* from the same MS. which is also found in a MS. in Ireland—great importance of this poem (note). Oratories generally built of wood, but sometimes of stone. Ancient law regulating the price to be paid for ecclesiastical buildings;—as to the oratory; as to the *Danh-liag* or stone church; explanation of the rule as to the latter (note); as to the *Cloicteach* or belfry. Explanation of the preceding rule quoted from Dr. Petrie; reasons for re-examining these rules. Dr. Petrie's opinion about the Round Towers unassailable. Law regulating the proportionate stipends of *ollamhs*;—stipends of the *ollamh*-builder; Dr. Petrie's observation on the passage regarding the stipend of the *ollamh*-builder; dwelling houses omitted from the list of buildings; mistake made by Dr. Petrie about the passage concerning the *ollamh*-builder; author's correction of this mistake; meaning of the word *Coictighis*,—new interpretation by the author. Artistic works of the *ollamh*-builder, the *Iubroracht* or working in yew-wood; carving in yew-wood at *Emama* and *Cruachan*, and in Armagh cathedral. Romantic origin of work in yew-wood—legend of *Fintann*, son of *Bochra*; no trace of the doctrine of metempsychosis among the Gaelic; legend of *Fintann*, continued. List of articles of household furniture mentioned in the laws regarding lending or pledging. Law regarding the house of a doctor.

It would have interrupted too much the thread of the last lecture, as well as unreasonably prolonged its length, if I had introduced what I have to say concerning *Gobban Saer*, when I alluded to his works in connection with the wooden oratory of Saint *Moling*. I shall, therefore, begin the present lecture with some observations concerning this remarkable man. This is the more necessary because his name has been associated so long with modern legendary lore, that, I believe, many persons are content to doubt his existence altogether, and to look upon him as an impersonation of building or architecture in our national mythology. Some writers, again, whose want of acquaintance with the ancient language, and whose ignorance of the genuine history and archaeology of the Gaelic, betray them into so many fanciful speculations, nay, even into the assump-

of *Gobban Saer*.

Mistakes about him;

**LECT XXI.** tion of theoretic facts, if I may so call such inventions, accept the *Gobban Saer* indeed as a personage who had a real existence, but, in order to assist in supporting a whole series of false theories concerning the history and the life of our remote ancestors, refer back his era, together with that of the Round Towers, to pre-historic times. It is, therefore, very necessary to show that the celebrated builder in question, as well as his works (some of the Round Towers included), belonged to a time not only quite within the historic period, but more than a century after the time of the mission of Saint Patrick.

And, first, as to the name,—*Gobban Saer*. The man's *Christian* name was *Gobban*,—a word which means literally one with the mouth like the bill of a bird; and the word *saer* signifies, in the old as well as in the modern Gaedhelic, both a carpenter and a mason, and generally a builder; so that *Gobban Saer* signifies, simply, *Gobban* “the Builder”. That *Gobban* is not a fanciful or merely mythological name is well shown by the fact that *Cill-Gobbain*, now Kilgobbin, near Dundrum, in the county of Dublin, is named after a saint of this name. Very little is known of the real history of this remarkable man, and it was only lately that the precise period at which he lived has been with certainty ascertained. Dr. Petrie, in his unanswerable Essay on the Round Towers and other ecclesiastical buildings of Ireland, published in 1845, gives all that could then be found concerning him, among our ancient writings at home and the popular traditions of the country. Some small additional information has, however, been since discovered, which I shall give hereafter.

It is not necessary for my present purpose that I should quote from Dr. Petrie, anything more than his belief in the real existence of *Gobban Saer*, and his high character as an architect,—because the original passages from native Gaedhelic authorities, printed in his beautiful book, I shall give also from the original sources, and with my own independent translation, though these can, indeed, differ but little from the translation given by him, in which I had some small share myself.

Our old Irish writers were very fond of tracing to some romantic and mysterious origin, men who at any time had exhibited artistic or scientific skill, or philosophical knowledge of an uncommon and extraordinary order, and particularly those who were, or who were supposed to be, of *Tuatha Dé Danann* descent. Such were, for instance, *Manannan Mac Lir*, the great mariner; *Diancecht*, the great physician; *Goibniu*, the great smith; *Lug Mac Eithlenn*, the great polytechnic trunk or block; and so on. And so in accordance with this tendency of our ancestors, we find that, in order, it would appear, to give our *Gobban Saer* a claim

explanation  
of his  
name;

a real  
personage.

A mytho-  
logical  
origin  
assigned to  
men of  
great skill or  
learning.



to an hereditary and mysterious excellence in his art, they give him a father of equally mysterious origin and talents. The legend of *Gobban's* father is given in the well-known ancient topographical tract called the *Dinnseanchas*, where it professes to trace the origin of the name of *Traigh Tuirbhi*, now the strand of Turvey on the coast of the county of Dublin. This curious legend, taken from the Books of Lecan and Ballymote, and which is also given by Dr. Petrie, is as follows:—

“The strand of *Tuirbhi*, whence was it named? Answer: It is not unpleasant to tell. *Tuirbhi Traghmhar*, that is, *Tuirbhi* ‘of the Strand’, the father of *Gobban Saer*, it was he that owned it [the strand] and the land. He it was that used to throw a cast of his hatchet from *Tuladh-an-Bhiail*, [that is, Hill of the Hatchet], in the face of the flowing tide, and it used to stop the [flowing of the] sea, and it [the sea] used not come in past it. His true pedigree is not known, unless he was one of the disgraced men who fled from Tara before [that is, from] the *Sabh Ildanach* (or Polytechnic Block), and who remain in the *Diamhraibh* (or deserts) of *Bregia* [now Diamor, in Meath]. Hence the strand of *Tuirbhi dicitur*.”

This legend is next thrown into verse as follows:

- “The strand of *Tuirbhi* received its name,  
According to authors I relate,  
[From] *Tuirbhi* of the strands, [lord] over all strands,  
The affectionate acute father of *Gobban*.  
“His hatchet he would fling after ceasing [from work]  
The rusty-faced, black, big fellow,  
From the pleasant Hill of the Hatchet,  
Which is washed by the great flood.  
“The distance to which his hatchet he used to send,  
The tide beyond [or within] it, flowed not;  
Though *Tuirbhi* in his land in the south was strong,  
It is not known of what stock was his race.  
“Unless he was of the mystical black race,  
Who went out of Tara from the heroic *Lug*,  
It is not known for what benefit he avoided to meet him,  
The man of the feats from the strand of *Tuirbhi*”.

On this wild and unsatisfactory legend the thoughtful and accomplished Doctor Petrie makes the following remarks:

“It is not, of course, intended to offer the preceding extract as strictly historical: in such ancient documents we must be content to look for the substratum of truth beneath the covering of fable with which it is usually encumbered, and not reject the one on account of the improbability of the other; and, viewed in this way, the passage may be regarded as, in many respects,

LECT. XXI.

The legend of *Tuirbhi* the father of *Gobban Saer*.

Dr. Petrie on the foregoing legend.

**ECT. XXI.** of interest and value, for it shows that the artist spoken of was not one of the Scotie or dominant race in Ireland, who are always referred to as light-haired; and further, from the supposition, grounded on the blackness of his hair and his skill in arts, that he might have been of the people that went with Lugaidh Lamhfadha from Tara,—that is, of the Tuatha Dé Danann race, who are always referred to as superior to the Scoti in knowledge of the arts. We learn that in the traditions of the Irish, the Tuatha De Danann were no less distinguished from their conquerors in their personal than in their mental characteristics. The probability, however, is, that Turvey was a foreigner, or descendant of one who brought a knowledge of art into the country, not then known, or at least prevalent”.

Error in preceding observations. There is an error in the reading of the above legend, where it is conjectured that *Tuirbhi*, the reputed father of *Gobban Saer*, was descended from one of the party of artists who went forth from Tara along with *Lug Mac Eithlenn*; that *Lug*, who was the great stock or trunk of all the arts and sciences in Erin, according to our ancient writers,—who was king of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and whose exploits at and before the battle of the second *Magh Tuiredh*, have been already mentioned at considerable length in a former lecture.

Story of Lug Mac Eithlenn.

The story of *Lug* as a man skilled beyond all others in the arts and sciences, is as follows:—When he came first to Tara, he introduced himself as a young man possessed of all the arts and sciences then known, at home and abroad; and hence it was that he was afterwards called the *Sabh Ildanach*, that is, the “stock or trunk of all the arts”. When first he came to the gate of Tara, the door-keeper refused to pass him in unless he was the master of some art or profession. *Lug* said that he was a *saer*, that is, a carpenter or mason, or both. The door-keeper answered that they were not in want of such an artist, as they had a very good one, whose name was *Luchta*, the son of *Luchad*. The young artist then said that he was an excellent smith: “We don’t want such an artist”, said the door-keeper, “as we have a good one already, namely *Colum Cuaillemeach*, professor of the three new designs” [*greisa*]. *Lug* then said that he was a champion: “We don’t want a champion”, said the door-keeper, “since we have a champion, namely, *Ogma*, the son of *Eithlenn*”. “Well then”, said *Lug*, “I am a harper”. “We are not in want of a harper”, said the door-keeper, “since we have a most excellent one, namely, *Abhcan*, the son of *Becelmas*”. “Well then”, said *Lug*, “I am a poet and an antiquarian”. “We don’t want a man of these professions”, said the door-keeper, “because we have already an accomplished professor of these sciences, namely, *En*,

the son of *Ethoman*". "Well then", said *Lug*, "I am a necromancer". "We are not in want of such a man", said the door-keeper, "because our professors of the occult sciences and our druids are very numerous". "Well then, I am a physician", said *Lug*. "We are not in want of a professor of that art", said the door-keeper, "as we have an excellent one already, namely, *Diancecht*". "Well then, I am a good cup-bearer", said *Lug*. "We don't want such an officer", said the door-keeper, "because we are already well supplied with cup-bearers, namely, *Delt*, and *Drucht*, and *Daithe*, and *Taei*, and *Talom*, and *Trog*, and *Glei*, and *Glan*, and *Glesi*". [These, I may observe, are all female names.] "Well then", said *Lug*, "I am an excellent artificer (*cerd*)". "We are not in want of an artificer", said the door-keeper, "as we have already a famous one, namely, *Creidne* the artificer". "Well then", said *Lug*, "go to the king, and ask him if he has in his court any one man who embodies in himself all these arts and professions; and if he has, I shall not remain longer, nor seek to enter Tara". It is needless to say that the king was overjoyed to lay hold of such a wonderful person as *Lug*, and that he was immediately admitted into the palace, and placed in the chair of the *ollamh*, or chief professor of the arts and sciences.

*Lug*, as we have already seen, rendered the *Tuatha Dé Dananns* the most important services in the battle of the second or northern *Magh Tuireadh*, which they fought against the Fomorians, and in which he slew his own grandfather, *Balor* "of the evil eye". After this he became king of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, over whom he reigned forty years, until he was slain by *Mac Cuill*, one of the three sons of *Cermat*, son of the *Daghda Mor*, who were the joint kings of Erin when the *Milesians* arrived, and conquered them.

I have gone into this digression for the purpose of showing that this *Lug*, who was otherwise, or poetically, called the *Sabh Ildanach*, never fled from or left Tara accompanied by any number of artists; but the great probability is, and indeed it is so stated in the prose and verse accounts above quoted, that when the artists of the court of Tara found themselves so far overshadowed by the superior abilities of the newcomer, they retired in disgrace to the solitudes of Bregia, or the eastern parts of Meath, where the fruitful imagination of our romancists preserved them in concealment, even down to *Tuirbhi*, the father of the celebrated *Gobban Saer*, who lived to the close of the seventh century. And notwithstanding the veil of mystery which the poet throws over the lineage of the talented *Tuirbhi*, there can be little doubt but that he was descended, if he ex-

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Story of  
*Lug Mac*  
*Ethlenn*.*Tuirbhi* a  
descendant  
of *Oitoll*  
*Olam*.

LECT. XXI.

isted at all, from no other than *Teige*, the son of *Cian*, son of *Oilioll Oluim*, the celebrated king of Munster. This *Teige*, in the third century, settled in the territory which runs along the coast from the river Boyne [*Boind*] to the river Liffey, where his descendants continued to rule as chiefs until supplanted by the Danes in the ninth century; and their chief descendants were, in latter times, represented in the family of *Mac Cormac*.

References to *Gobban Saer* in ancient Gaelic MSS.;

To proceed, however, with the account of the *Gobban Saer*: I have never had the good fortune to meet with any old written reference to him but in two instances, although I have read a great many of the lives of our Irish saints, with whom, he is believed, on the authority at least of more than one tradition, to have maintained a close professional intercourse. But these two instances conclusively establish the date at which he flourished.

one in the life of St. *Abban*;

We read in the ancient Irish life of Saint *Abban*, a distinguished saint of Leinster, of which I possess a copy, that after he had travelled into Connacht and Munster, and founded many churches in those provinces, he returned to his native province, and decided on settling down there for the future. "There was", says the writer of this life, "a distinguished builder residing convenient to Saint *Abban*, and *Gobban* was his name; and it was his constant occupation to do the work of the saints in every place in which they were; until at length he had lost his sight because of the displeasure of the saints, on account of his dearness and the greatness of his charge. Saint *Abban* went to him to ask him to build a church for him. *Gobban* told him that it was not possible because of his being blind. Saint *Abban* said to him, you shall get your sight while you are doing the work, and it shall go from you again when you have finished the work. And so it was done, and the name of God, and of Saint *Abban*, were magnified by this".<sup>(16)</sup>

The name of the place where *Gobban* built the church not given.

It is to be lamented that the writer of the life does not give the name of the place where *Gobban* built this church for Saint *Abban*. The life states that his chief monastery was at *Camros*, but does not name the chieftaincy. The name *Camros*, however, remains still as that of a townland in the parish of Offerlane, barony of Upperwood, and Queen's County; but I am not aware of the existence of any ecclesiastical ruin remaining in it. There

(16) [original:—*baoi ar aile raon anórad agcomfofur do Aban, acur Goban a ainm, acur no buó e agnatugad, oibneacha na naoim do denam an gac áit ambiosur go no vallad é le hoibne na naoim raon a daoine forda, acur ar méio alóig. teio Abban da iarraig do denam reigleire do, aobert Goban nar do héoir do ar ba vall. arbert Aban riu, do gebair do noig an feó béir aig denam na hoibne, acur aoul áit iar noéanam na hoibne, acur no riorad gac ni díob rin, acur do márad ainm de, acur Abain de rin.]*



is another Camros near Barry's Cross in the county of Carlow. LECT. XXI.  
 This parish of Offerlane is situated in the western side of the Queen's County, adjoining the King's County, where there is a church and parish still called Killabban, situated in the eastern part of the Queen's County, in the barony of Ballyadams, and on the boundary of Kildare. There is reason to think that this may be the real church of Saint *Abban*, and that the name *Camros* is a mistake of some old transcriber, for *Cnamh-ros*, which was certainly situated in the place now occupied by *Cil Abbain*, or in its immediate neighbourhood. Bishop *Ibar*, Saint *Abban's* maternal uncle, died in the year 500; so that *Abban* himself must have lived far into the sixth century.

The second, and only other mention that I have found of *Gobban Saer*, is that in the life of Saint *Moling* (of *Tech Moling*, now Saint Mullin's, on the river Barrow, in the county of Carlow), which I gave in full in the last lecture. This Saint *Moling* fills a distinguished place in the civil as well as in the ecclesiastical history of ancient Erin: his father was chief of the territory of *Ui-Deaghaidh*, in the south-eastern part of the present county of Kilkenny, and his mother was the daughter of a Munster chieftain, of the county of Kerry.

So far, we are able to follow with certainty the history of this celebrated architect of the Milesians. I have, however, the satisfaction of being able to refer, in corroboration of the authenticity of these references to *Gobban* in the lives of the Saints, to a Gaedhelic manuscript so old as the eighth century, now in the monastery of Saint Paul in Carinthia. From this ancient manuscript, through the kindness of my learned friend, Mr. Whitley Stokes, I am in possession of two or three stanzas of a poem, into which the name of *Gobban Saer* enters; but as yet I have not been able to ascertain whether these stanzas stand as mere fragments in the book, or whether they have not been transcribed as specimens by a distinguished scholar, Herr Mone of Carlsruhe. In any case they seem to form only a fragment of a longer poem. The language is very archaic and obscure, so that it is very difficult to make a satisfactory translation of it. I should not indeed have attempted to do so before collating my text with the original manuscript, were it within my reach. The *Suibne Geilt*, to whom the poem is attributed in the ancient codex, ended his life at *Tech Moling* as a much favoured member of the household of St. *Moling*, for whom *Gobban Saer* built the oratory just described. He was therefore coëval with St. *Moling* and with *Gobban Saer*, and his testimony may be regarded as that of an eye witness. This poem consequently affords a piece of very important evi-

The second  
reference to  
*Gobban Saer*

Mention of  
*Gobban* in a  
MS. of the  
8th century.

## LECT. XXI.

Mention of  
Gobban in a  
MS. of the  
8th century

dence in favour of the Christian character of the round towers, if indeed any further evidence beyond what has been already given by Dr. Petrie were needed. The following is the best translation I can offer of it:

*Suibne*, the mad, *Barr Edin*.

A *mairiu* I have heard in Tuaim Inbir,  
Nor is there a house more auspicious,  
With its stars last night,  
With its sun, with its moon.

*Gobban* made there

A black *Conecestar* and a tower,  
My believing in the God of Heaven,  
That raised the choicest towers.

The house of the *Ire Fera Flechod*,  
The place [house] of the chief Virgin he built  
More conspicuous than the orchard's food,  
And it without an *Udnucht* upon it.<sup>(17)</sup>

The same MS. contains two other poems, one a speech of the devil to St. *Moling* after he had failed to seduce him into his own allegiance. It begins:

He is pure gold, he is a nimbus around the sun.

*Suibne* geitc barr edin.

(17) *mairu*\* clun hi tuaim inbir  
ni lan techodair bef feru,  
cona petglannaib speir,  
cona sprein cona ercu.†

‡ Gobban ou pugn in rin  
conecerair‡ duib a'f toir;

inu chpwoecan oia ou nim  
ir hé tuga tóir pootois.

Tech h-ira fepa flechod,§  
maigen na aigder,|| junoi;  
foiltoir bió lubburt  
ore cen nonuét¶ n-imbí.

\* *Mairiu* is perhaps an obsolete form of a verb derived from *maír*=*mór*, great, with the archaic verbal ending *-iu* instead of the more usual *-ughudh*. Cf. *mairiughadh*, *morughadh* to praise, to exalt, to magnify, Cf. also *Murughadh*, building, from *wur*, a stone wall, and *-ughudh*, the participial ending of a verb, and *mur aighim*, I wall in or fortify, etc., so that *mairiu* might also be translated "a house-building".

† These lines indicate the antiquity of the custom of drawing auguries from the heavenly bodies, as to the auspiciousness of commencing a house.

‡ *Conecestar duib*, a black penitentiary or house of mortification, from *cestar*, is mortified or castigated. Cf. *Conae chu*, a house of good fame, a place where renown is fostered and preserved. MS. Egerton 88, Brit. Mus. 80, a. 3. voce, alt. The word may also be read as an obsolete form of *con-secestar*, may be seen, the *f* being elided; and if the *u* in *duib* could be overlooked, and the *o* in *toir* (a tower) made *a*, the line might be read, "That it may be perceptible to you in history".

§ *Ire Fera Flechod*, the land or territory of the *Fera Flechod*.

|| *Aigder*, chief Virgin, the Blessed Virgin, from *aig*, a chief, as in *aige fine*, a family chief, and *der*, a daughter, a virgin, as in *oinder*, a maid.

¶ *Udnucht* was the hurdle roof of a round house, upon which the thatch was laid. It also meant a palisade or hurdle fence which marked an inviolable sanctuary. The absence of an *Udnucht* implies that it was easily accessible to all, and as visible as the apples in an orchard.



Of this poem I have a copy from a vellum MS.<sup>(17a)</sup> of the twelfth century. The second poem is a panegyric on a king of Leinster named *Aedh*, of which the following is a translation: LECT. XXI.

*Aedh* great to promote happiness,  
*Aedh* ready to dispense hospitality,  
 The thorny rod, the most beautiful  
 Of the nobles of cleared *Roerin*.  
 The body which enshrines the wisdom of faith,—  
 A great splendour under choicest thatches,—  
 Who was exalted above all generations  
 Of *Maisten* of smoothest meadows.  
 The son of *Dermot* dear to me,  
 Whatever is desired is not difficult to him.  
 To praise him, richest in treasures,  
 Poems shall be sung by me.  
 Beloved the name,—the fame is not new,—  
 Of *Aedh* who lowered not his dignity;  
 The chaste form, the fame unconcealed,  
 Whose patrimony is the smooth *Liffey*.  
 The descendant of *Muireadhach* without disgrace,  
 A chosen cliff of loudly proclaimed dignity,  
 A descendant whose like has not been found—  
 Or kings of the clans of *Cualann*.  
 The chief, these are his inheritance,—  
 All good be to him [from] God in the highest,—  
 The scion of the reproachless race  
 Of the renowned kings of *Marggae*.  
 He is the stem of a great illustrious noble tree,  
 For battle he is a prop of valour;  
 He is a silver sprig of exalted power,  
 Of the race of a hundred kings, a hundred queens.  
 At ale-drinking emulatory poems are sung  
 Between chivalrous people;  
 Sweet-singing bards extol  
 Through foamy ale the name of *Aedh*. *Aedh* great.<sup>(18)</sup>

When we remember that the book in Carinthia containing these poems is considered by so competent a judge as Herr

<sup>(17a)</sup> 17 on 5lan, 17 nem 5nem.—MS. H. 2, 18, T.C.D., f. 204, b a.; Book of Ballymote, R.I.A., f. 140, b.a.; Book of Lismore, part ii. f. 25, a.a.; MS. Laud. 610, Bodleian Library, Oxford.

<sup>(18)</sup> Aeo oll fpu anouo n-ane,      ou farclu pech each n-home  
 Aeo ponu fpu fuilteo fele,      oi moirten mine m [b]ru5aib.  
 in veil ve5gnait, ar ch5emem      mac 5a5mata oil 5amp5,  
 oi 5im5gnait Roepenn peoe.      cio rap5a5a ni in5a,  
 in chli com5ar cono cpe5aib,—      a mola5 moirpu ma55ib,  
 ollmar fu thocait 5u5aib,—      luait5u5u5 la55ib limp5a.



**LECT. XXI.** Mone to be of the eighth century, and that St. *Abban*, with whom *Gobban* was contemporary, lived perhaps to the middle of the sixth century, or little more than one hundred and fifty years before the presumed date of the codex, we have, I think, good evidence of the real existence of *Gobban Saer* as an architect; and also of the authenticity of our Gaedhelic records, and of the truth of the statements so frequently made in our manuscripts of later date, that they were compiled from more ancient books.

Mention of *Gobban* in a MS. of the 8th century.

Oratories generally built of wood, but sometimes of stone.

I have dwelt too long, I fear, on the subject of these wooden oratories, to which, after all, we have so few historical references; the subject, however, is not an unimportant one, as it shows, as far as we can ascertain, that those edifices were often, probably generally, if not always, built of wood, where that material was most abundant; while it is certain that, in the stony and rocky countries on the south and west coasts, and on the islands, they were built of stone, that being the most abundant and ready material. And the same rule that applies to these sacred edifices will doubtless apply as well to the ordinary edifices for human habitation, whether round, oval, or quadrangular in shape.

Before passing from this subject I must mention another, indeed I may say the most important, reference to the special law which regulated the remuneration for building such edifices in the ancient times; a law which, it is very probable, arose from the circumstance of the exorbitant prices which such distinguished builders as the *Gobban Saer*, and other men of his class of abilities, had put upon their works, in the seventh and eighth centuries. This important regulation is found in a distinct article in a volume of the Brehon Laws,<sup>(19)</sup> and with a notice prefixed recommending special attention to it. The article, as will be seen, deals with the group which, of old, formed a regular ecclesiastical establishment, namely, a *Duirtheach*, or oratory, a *Damh-liag*, or stone-built principal church, and a *Cloiteach*, or belfry, or bell-house, as it is more appro-

inmain na-annm,—níc ut nuabla,—  
 aosa nao aipolis oigna;  
 in cruich glan, clú nao clithe,  
 oian euchaig liphe ligoa.

due mureoairch cen thair,  
 all togu fú oiposuin úallán,  
 aue in fúich nach ammarl—  
 na fú oichlanoaib cualan

ino flaitch, úrreo a oibbae,—  
 each maich só Dé no aiposae,—

in gar fine cen oioail  
 oi fúgaib maipairib marggae.

ir bun cruinn máir miao foerboa,  
 fú báig úr bunao phinoae;  
 úr garne arggairc apoo bpiú,  
 oi chlano chéic fú, ceic fúgnae.

Oc corimain garbair oiana oipenga  
 icir oiperra oana;  
 arbertec baipeni bimoi  
 cri laich linni ann n-aosa.  
 aeo oll.

<sup>(19)</sup> Class H. 3, 17, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.

privately termed in the Gaedhelic, and with the proportionate price paid for the building of each. LECT. XII.

“If it be an Oratory”, [says this rule] “of fifteen feet, or less than that, that is, fifteen feet in its length and ten in its breadth, it is a *samaisc* [or three-year-old heifer] that is paid for every foot of it across, or for every foot and an half in length; this is when it is thatched with rushes; and if it be a covering of shingles, it is a cow for every foot of it across, or for every foot and an half in length. If it be greater than fifteen feet, there is a *samaisc* paid for every two-thirds of a foot across of it, or for every foot in length: this is with its covering of rushes; if it be a covering of shingles, there is a cow for every two-thirds of a foot across of it, or for a foot in length.” as to the Oratory;

“That is the price of the oratories, according to law; and a third of it goes to art [that is, to the builder], and a third to material, and a third to food and to attendance and to smiths; and it is according as smiths may be wanted that this is assigned to them; and half the third goes to the smiths alone [if they be wanted at all], that is, a sixth part; the other sixth to be divided into two parts between food and attendance, one-twelfth to each of them; and if a division should remain, where smiths are not required, it is then to be divided into two parts between food and attendance. If it be a work for which land is required, [that is, the site of which must be purchased], and at which a smith is not, a third [goes] to art, and a third to land, and a third to material and to food and to attendance: half of that [last third] goes to material alone, that is, a sixth; the other sixth goes to food and attendance, that is, a twelfth part to each of them.

“The *Damhliag* [or stone church]. If it be a covering of shingles that is upon it, the price of it is the same as of an oratory which is equal in size to it. If it be a covering of rushes [‘*rushes*’ is clearly a mistake here; and we must read—if it be a roof of stone] that is upon it, the proportion which stone bears to wood, it is that proportion of full price that shall be upon it; and the proportion which wood bears to stone, it is that proportion of half price that shall be upon it; and the division which shall be made of these proportions is, the division which was made at the oratory.”<sup>(20)</sup> as to the Damhliag;

<sup>(20)</sup> It has been found very difficult to understand clearly this very curious old mode of computation, nor has it, up to this day, been clearly explained by any one. I shall, however (with the condition of correcting the word *rushes* in the text to what it really must have been—*stone*), endeavour to explain the meaning of the writer's words, as that meaning appears, at least to my own satisfaction.

The writer says, that when the stone church was roofed with timber and

## LECT. XXI.

as to the  
*Cloicteach*.

“The belfry [*Cloicteach*]. The base of this is measured with the base of the stone church, for determining its proportion; and the excess which is in the length and breadth of the stone church over that, that is, over the measure of the belfry, is the rule for the height of the belfry; and should there be an excess upon it, that is, upon the height of the belfry, as compared with the stone church which is of equal price with it, the proportionate price [of that excess] is to be paid for the belfry”.

The necessity of making the translation as literal as possible, so as to express as nearly as could be done the peculiar idiom of the original, in the latter article, as well as in the two previous ones, renders a short explanation necessary. And yet, the rule laid down here for the height of the round tower or belfry, in proportion to the dimensions of the church, to which it was a mere appendage, is quite simple and intelligible; and as the whole article respecting the three edifices has been published by Doctor Petrie in his “Round Towers”, I may as well quote for you, from that admirable work, the cautious but accurate reading of this rule by its learned author, and the decided proofs of its correct application which his extensive researches enabled him to put on record.

Dr. Petrie's  
explanation  
of the  
preceding  
rules.

“It is not, of course, necessary to my purpose to attempt an explanation of the rule for determining the height of the belfry; yet, as a matter of interest to the reader, I am tempted to hazard a conjecture as to the mode in which it should be understood. It appears then, to me, that by the measurement of the base of the tower, must be meant its external circumference, not its diameter; and, in like manner, the measurement of the base of the *Damhliag* must be its perimeter, or the external measurement of its four sides. If, then, we understand these terms in this manner, and apply the rule as directed, the result will very well agree with the measurements of the existing ancient churches and towers. For example, the cathedral church of Glendalough, as it appears to have been originally constructed, for the present chancel seems an addition of later time,—was fifty-

covered with shingles or boards, the price of building it was the same as the price of building an oratory of the same dimensions altogether of wood. But if the roof were stone [not rushes, which would be nonsense], then the full price which should be paid for it would be determined by the proportions which the price of a house built altogether of stone would bear to one built altogether of wood; and this is clearly explained immediately after, when the writer says of the proportion which wood bears to stone, that that was the half price which should be paid for it. In other words, when the church was stone, and stone-roofed, as was often the case, the price of building it was double that of the wooden oratory of the same dimensions; and the wooden oratory was but half the price of the stone-roofed church. This rule appears to have been modified in after times, as we shall see further on.



five feet in length, giving a perimeter of one hundred and eighty-four feet. If from this we subtract the circumference of the tower, at the base, or foundation, which is fifty-two feet, we shall have a remainder of one hundred and thirty-two feet, as the prescribed height of this structure; for, to its present height of one hundred and ten feet should be added from fifteen to eighteen feet for its conical roof, now wanting, and perhaps a few feet at its base, which are concealed by the accumulation of earth around it. In cases of churches having a chancel as well as nave, the rule thus understood is equally applicable; for instance, the church of Iniscaltra gives a perimeter of one hundred and sixty-two feet, from which deducting forty-six feet, the circumference of the tower, we have one hundred and sixteen feet as the prescribed height of the latter, which cannot be far from the actual original height of the tower; for, to its present height of eighty feet must be added ten or twelve feet for the upper story, which is now wanting, fifteen feet for its conical roof, and a few feet for a portion concealed at its base".<sup>(21)</sup>

It may, as I have observed, appear to some persons that an article which has been already published, which does not deal with the dwellings of the people, but with ecclesiastical buildings, need not be republished here. To such an objection I may answer, that I was myself the first who had the good fortune to discover this most important little tract, in the year 1837, at a time when the round-tower controversy had attracted a degree of critical examination and public discussion which it never enjoyed before. And although the article was published in Dr. Petrie's work, yet, considering the suddenness of its discovery, and the extreme caution observed in its translation, as well as the entire abstinence of the editor from any attempt to deal with the discrepancies and ambiguities of the text, I believe I may, with some advantage, at this distance of time, and with a much more mature acquaintance with such writings now than then, take advantage of this opportunity of re-examining the meaning of this piece, and of leaving on record, to be confirmed or refuted by future inquirers, of greater ability, the reading which I am about to give, and which so little differs from the reading published fourteen years ago, that I am myself surprised that it could have been so well understood then.

I shall also bring under the reader's notice, and chiefly for the reasons just mentioned, another article connected with buildings in ancient Erin. This second piece was also published by Dr. Petrie; for, I may say, there was no reference whatever which, at the time, could be discovered in our ancient manu-

<sup>(21)</sup> Petrie's *Round Towers*, p. 361.

LECT. XXI. scripts bearing in any way on the erection of ecclesiastical and other buildings, that was not pressed into the pages of Dr. Petrie's book; and it is satisfactory to that eminent scholar and artist, and to those who lent their more humble efforts to relieve him of some part of his laborious investigations, to say, that although all our ancient Gaedhelic manuscripts at home, and several in England and in foreign countries, have since that time undergone a much more thorough examination, nothing has been discovered—indeed nothing, I believe, ever can—to throw the smallest doubt upon the clear conclusions on the origin and uses of the round towers of Ireland, to which, after long thought and research, he had come.

Dr. Petrie's opinion about the round towers unassailable.

Law regulating the stipend of *ollamhs*;

The following is the article to which I have just alluded; it is found in a Brehon Law tract preserved in the Book of Ballymote, in the Royal Irish Academy, and also in a fragment of another copy of the same tract preserved in a vellum manuscript of the same date, 1391, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin.<sup>(22)</sup> The tract is one which defines the rank and privileges of all the higher classes of ecclesiastical and civil society, the fines and penalties for injury, death, or dishonour, brought upon any of them, and the public stipends which the chiefs or *ollamhs*, and the other professors in the various departments of literature and the social arts, received from the chiefs, provincial kings, or the monarchs of Erin, when attached to their respective courts. The stipend, however, advanced in proportion to the rank of the patron, as we may easily believe that any of the *ollamh* professors of the monarch received a much higher stipend than he would under a provincial king or a chief of one or more territories. These dignities and stipends were not arbitrarily and immediately conferred by king or chief. The man who aspires to an ollaveship in any profession or art, should submit his works for examination by one or more *ollamhs*, who pronounced judgment on it,<sup>(23)</sup> and if the judgment were favourable, the king, or chief, as the case might be, conferred on the candidate the rank and degree of an *ollamh* or master in all the departments of his profession;—such as, if he were an *ollamh* in building, he should be a master of all the varieties of the arts of a mason and a carpenter. And at the same time that these were necessary qualifications of the *ollamh*, there was a *sai* or chief professor of every one, or more, of these arts, who had also some privileges. It was the same with poets, lawyers, judges, doctors, etc.<sup>(24)</sup>

<sup>(22)</sup> Class H, 2, 16.

<sup>(23)</sup> See *Agallamh an da Shuadh*, or the *Dialogue of the Two Sages*.

<sup>(24)</sup> It is not to be supposed, however, that the *ollamh* in many arts, or the

These proportionate stipends are all set out in the present tract, and the section of it that I have to deal with at present, is that which regards the *ollamh*, or chief professor of the building art, and which is as follows: LECT. XXI

“ If he be an *ollamh* builder he advances to twenty *seas* in his pay; that is, if he be a chief who professes the mastership of the building art, there are twenty-one *seas* assigned to him for his stipend. There are twenty-one cows to the chief master in the building art; and a month's refectations, that is, a month is his full relief of food and attendance; for, although from remote times the chief builder was entitled to more than this in reward of the versatility of his genius, or his being master of many arts in various other departments, the author [of these laws, i.e., the legislator] felt a repugnance to allow him more than an equality with the chief poet, or with the chief professor in languages, or with the chief teacher. Wherefore, what the author [legislator] did was, to allow him to have two principal arts fundamentally, namely, stone-building and wood-building; and of these to have the two noblest exclusively, namely, the *damhliag* [or stone church], and the *duirtheach* [or oratory]. He had twelve cows for these, that is, six cows for each; and his superiority was recognized over the other arts from that out; and he was to take an equivalent to a sixth [of their price] out of each [work of] art of them, that is, his own sixth, six cows for *iubroracht*, [that is, vessels and furniture from the [wood of the] yew-tree]; and six cows for *coictighes*; and six cows for mill-building; take three cows from these [which] added to the twelve cows which he has exclusively, and they make fifteen cows. Four cows for ships, and four cows for *barcas*, and four cows for *curachs* [canoes]; take two cows from these, which added to the fifteen cows above, and they make seventeen cows. Four cows for wooden vessels, namely, vats and tubs, and keeves of oak, and small vessels besides; and two cows for ploughing machinery; one cow out of these added to the seventeen cows above makes eighteen cows. Two cows for causeways, and two cows for stone walls, and two cows for stepping stones [in swamps and rivers]; a cow out of these added to the eighteen cows above, and it makes nineteen cows. Two cows for carvings, and two cows for crosses, and two cows for chariots; a cow out of these added to the nineteen cows above, and it makes twenty cows.

professor of one art or science, was debarred by his public stipend from following his profession at large and receiving its emoluments. This would be quite absurd, because, for instance, in the case of the *ollamh* builder, twenty-one cows would be but a poor reward for the exercise of his versatile genius: he ranked with the chief *ollamh* in poetry, who also received twenty-one cows for his stipend, and twenty-one cows for every poem which he wrote.

Stipend of  
the *ollamh*-  
builder.



LECT. XXI. Two cows for rod [or wicker] houses, and two cows for shields, and two cows for casks; a cow out of these added to the twenty cows above, and it makes twenty-one cows for the chief builder, in that manner; provided he is master of all these arts".<sup>(8)</sup>

Dr. Petrie's  
observation  
on the  
preceding  
passage;

It is but justice to Dr. Petrie to quote his observations on this article, as far as it regarded the object of his Essay. "It is to be regretted", he says, "that of the preceding curious passage, which throws so much light upon the state of society in Ireland anterior to the twelfth century, but two manuscript copies have been found, and of these one is probably a transcript from the other, for it seems in the highest degree probable that by the occasional omission or change of a letter, the sense of the original commentary has been vitiated. Thus, where it is stated that six cows was the payment for kitchen-building, which is the same as that for building a *damhliag*, or *duirtheach*, it would appear much more likely that the word originally used was *cloictighes*, or belfry-building, which we may assume was a much more important labour than the other, and which, if the word be truly *coicthiges* [rectè, *coicthigis*] is omitted altogether, though, as I shall show in the succeeding section from another commentary on the Brehon Laws, ranked amongst the Irish as one of the most distinguished works of the *saer*, or builder. But till some older or better copy of the passage be found, it must of course remain as of no authority in reference to the Round Towers; and I have only alluded to it with a view of directing attention to the manuscript copies of the Brehon Laws not immediately within my reach".

an apparent  
omission in  
the same  
passage:

Such are Dr. Petrie's judicious observations, and it does appear rather strange, at first view, that the *cloicteach*, or round tower, should have found no place in this enumeration of buildings, unless, as he has conjectured, that it might be concealed by misspelling in the word *coictighis*, which only wants the letter *l* after the initial *c* to make it the round tower. Yet, however strange the absence of the *cloicteach* from the list may appear, it is not more so, nor even as much so, as the total absence of all allusion to dwelling-houses, except to the inferior kind which were built with wattles and wicker-work.

There is another remarkable fact that cannot be passed over in the article, and it is this:—It sets out with stating that the *ollamh* or chief builder of a territory received from the chief an annual stipend of twenty-one cows in right of his office; and the writer then goes on to show how these twenty-one cows were calculated, counting one by one the various works of art of which

<sup>(8)</sup> See original and also a similar translation in Dr. Petrie's *Essay on the Round Towers*, p. 341. The original tract is in H. 2, 16, 930, T.C.D.

the *ollamh* was master, and upon the prices paid for which the calculation of that stipend was made. And there is a simple rule laid down for this calculation, namely, that for every building, or work of art, for which six cows were paid, there was a cow allowed to his stipend; not that it was taken from the actual price, and given to him, but calculated on the price. And where single works of art did not cost six cows, the writer groups them into twos and threes until they amount to six cows; and for the *ollamh*-mastery in these arts there is another cow put to his stipend; and so on to the end, where we find the sum total of twenty-one cows, premised in the rule, completely made up, and this without any shortcoming on account of the absence of the *cloicteach* or of the dwelling-house, either of which, most certainly, the word *coictighis* was intended to signify; for it will be clear to any one that a kitchen could not enter into the group of buildings in which it is found.

LECT. XXI.

The mistake—a very natural one in the state of antiquarian researches at the time—into which Dr. Petrie and those who endeavoured to assist him (of whom I was myself one), fell, was this: we thought that the twenty-one cows was the entire actual pay of the *ollamh*-builder; that he received six cows for building an oratory, six cows for building a church, and a cow out of every six cows paid for the other enumerated groups. I have shown, however, that this was not the case. And notwithstanding that we had seen, in a former article, that an oratory of fifteen feet in length and ten feet in breadth, when covered with shingles, and at the rate of a cow for every foot in breadth, cost ten cows, and that the church and the belfry were paid for at the same rate; still, when we found it stated in the present rule that the *ollamh*-builder, in more remote times, received a higher rate than this, we took it for granted, and it is no matter of surprise, that it was a higher price for the building of these several edifices that was meant by it, and that the *cloicteach*, which we thought ought to appear in this group, was, though of equal importance with its fellow-buildings, thrown by some mistake or accident into the next incongruous group, and written inaccurately by leaving the letter *l* out of it.

mistake made by Dr. Petrie about this passage;

This view of the case, however, appears to me to be a mistaken one; and I now believe the calculation of the *ollamh*'s stipend did not imply the appropriation by him of any part of the price paid to any other builder for his work, nor even to himself; but that, on the contrary, if he were the builder of the oratory, the church, and the tower, himself, he was paid the full price set forth in the former rule, quite independently of his stipend of twenty-one cows a year which he received from his

author's correction of this mistake;

LECT XXI. chief in right of his ollveship. In this view of the case, which I am now confident is the correct one, it was not at all necessary to introduce the tower, because of its being clearly implied in the group. I have now to consider the real signification of the word *coictighis*, and endeavour to explain the apparent absence of the dwelling-house from the above list of works.

meaning of  
the word  
*coictighis*;

This word—*coictighis*, is compounded, according to the published translation,—of *coic*, a cook, and *tighis*, the plural of *tigh*, a house, that is, literally, “cook-houses”. But from the fact, as before stated, of finding it grouped with works of so high an order of art as mills, and the manufactures from the yew-wood, we are, of necessity, driven to find another and more congenial signification for it. It is curious enough that, without altering a letter, such a signification, on a further examination of the Brehon Laws, has been found; a signification too, which, leaving the idea of a belfry out, fills up in the most satisfactory manner the other defect which appeared in our list of works, namely, the absence from it of the dwelling-house.

new inter-  
pretation by  
the author.

The word *coic-tighis*, in the sense in which I now propose to take it, will remain still composed of the same identical letters, and compounded exactly of *coic* and *tighis*, as before, the latter part retaining its former proper signification of houses, but the first part changed from “cook” to “five”; so that, in place of translating the compound word “kitchens”, or “cook-houses”, I propose now to translate it “five-houses”, and for the following reasons:—First, it is quite unreasonable to suppose that such an important item as the building of the superior class of dwelling-houses should be omitted from the above list of works, whilst the building of the inferior class—those formed of wattles and wicker work—is introduced, and classed in price with the making of shields and casks, for each of which two cows was the pay of the artist. Secondly, we know now, from these very laws, that the regular establishment of a farmer of the first class, as well as of a chief, consisted of five houses; and that if he were deficient in any one of these houses, he was not entitled to the full privileges and dignity of his rank. Thus saith the law in this respect: that is, “the five privileges are—a great house, a cow-house, a pig-sty, a sheep-house, and a calves’-house”.<sup>(\*)</sup>

Even a slave, when he came to possess these *coic-tighis*, or five-houses, with the lawful stock that required them, became forthwith emancipated.

I need not, I think, pursue this argument any farther, as the object I have in view is, not to criticise any one, but to set

(\*) original:—*icic na cuic turba, tech móir, bo-teac, foil-muc, liar caepach, liar-lacg*—H. 3, 18, p. 121½. T.C.D.



myself and others right as far as I can, in a matter that some years ago presented apparent contradictions which it was then found difficult to explain. But before passing from the immediate subject of these remarks, namely, the article from the Brehon Laws which enumerates the various artistic works of which the *ollamh*-builder was master, I must bring that enumeration or list of works more directly under the reader's notice again.

Artistic  
work of the  
*ollamh*-  
builder;

It may be remembered that the first item in the list is the ecclesiastical establishments, consisting of a wooden oratory, a stone church, and a stone round tower or belfry; and these, we have seen, were the works which required and received the highest exercise of the builder's art, both in stone and wood-work. For the building of these three edifices, according to certain proportions of one with another, the builder received thirty cows; but out of this he was to supply materials, tradesmen, labourers, and sometimes even the site of the edifices. It does not appear, however, that the other requisite buildings which must have formed part of the establishment, were included in the sum of thirty cows, such as a cook house, refectory, dormitory, the ordinary residence of the clergyman, and so forth.

The next exercise of the artist's skill was the *Iubroracht*, or working in *iubar*, or yew-wood. The working in this material must have embraced a wide range of objects, as it formed, with some exceptions, the material of all the most elegant articles of furniture in beds, bed-posts, buckets, cans, mugs, *medars*, [or square mead-drinking mugs], cups, and sometimes large vessels; as well as, we may fairly infer, various other articles of convenience and ornament for the houses of the higher classes of society. The stealing, breaking, or defacing of this class of articles came within the range of the criminal law, which injury to similar articles manufactured from any other native wood, did not. The yew was also largely used in cornices, wainscoting, or some such ornamentation of houses, from the very early times, as may be seen from the description of the palace of the Royal Branch at *Emania*, and of the house assigned to *Fraech*, the son of *Fidhadh*, at *Rath Cruachain*, mentioned in a previous lecture.<sup>(27)</sup> Where the palace of the Royal Branch is described it is said,<sup>(28)</sup> i.e. "ornamentation of the red yew in it". And where the house in *Rath Cruachain* is described, it is said,<sup>(29)</sup> i.e. "an ornamental carving of red yew upon the entire of it". We are told in this tract that the house itself was built of *giús*, what we now

the *Iubro*-  
*racht*, or  
working in  
yew-wood.

Carved yew  
at *Emania*  
and  
*Cruachain*.

(27) Lect. xix., ante, vol. ii. p. 10.

(28) original:—*Érreor óin veice iubar ano.*

(29) original:—*Árreapóroo óo veice iubar fo bprecht mchám uile.*

LECT. XXI. call "deal"; and I am obliged to use the general term ornamentation, because there is nothing from which I could understand the precise character of the work in yew. I have, however, been so fortunate as to meet with one passage, which clearly defines the use to which the yew was put in the particular case to which it refers. This passage occurs in a poem of forty-seven stanzas, or one hundred and eighty-eight lines, written by *Giolla-Brighde Mac Conmidhe*, a distinguished Ulster poet who flourished between the years 1220 and 1250, in praise and description of the cathedral of Armagh founded by Saint Patrick. The only copy of this curious and important poem in Ireland, so far as I am aware, is a fine one in my own possession. The verses 6, 7, and 12, bear particularly on the subject I am at present discussing, and are as follows:

"The church of Armagh, of the polished walls,  
Is not smaller than three churches;  
The foundation of this conspicuous church,  
Is one solid, indestructible rock.

"A capacious shrine of chiselled stone,  
With ample oaken shingles covered;  
Well hath its polished sides been warmed,  
With lime as white as plume of swans.

"Upon the arches of this white-walled church,  
Are festooned clusters of rosey grapes,  
From ancient yew profusely carved;  
This place where books are freely read".<sup>(20)</sup>

Carving in  
yew-wood in  
Armagh  
cathedral.

I have quoted these verses in order to show that down to the middle of the thirteenth century the cathedral of Armagh, though its walls were built with chiselled stone, was covered with oak shingles or boards in place of slates; and in the second place, that the arches at least of that venerable historical edifice were festooned with clusters of the ripe vine-berry, carved from ancient yew, and apparently coloured to imitate the natural grapes, proba-

<sup>(20)</sup> [original:—*Teampaill aird maeda an mhuir cuirp  
ni lughad nairo tui teampaill  
gruan an teampaill bpic baobha  
na lic ceanntrium eacharrda.  
mionn luchomair cloiche cuirpe  
rlinnteach varach uioghuinne  
uo teideash a taob rleatham,  
le heol n-gleigeal n-ferreamail.*

*An rouaigh an teampaill theoibghil,  
caora de na nvearogaiblibh  
remiobar uo gebtha glan  
veighionash leaghta leabar.*

From the Book of *Fearan Connail*.]

bly some part of a more ancient roof of the church itself. From LECT. XXI. this curious fact, for, as a fact I am satisfied to receive it, we may easily imagine in what way the yew was applied to the adornment of the ancient palace of the Royal Branch at *Emania*, the Great House in *Rath Cruachain*, and many others which may be met with in our old writings.

The romantic origin ascribed by the poets to the manufacturing even of vessels for domestic use from the yew-tree, is preserved in our ancient writings. We are told that in the days of the monarch *Dermot Mac Fergusa Cerrbheoil*, who died at Tara in the year 558, there appeared an ancient sage who had outlived the general deluge. This man's name was *Finntann*, the son of *Bochra*, and he was one of the three men who came to Erin along with the lady *Ceasair*, a short time before the deluge. But, as the legend is short, and as it may not be generally known, I shall tell it in a few words, as recorded in the Book of Leinster.

Romantic origin of work in yew-wood :-

When Noah received the command of the Lord to build the ark, and the number of persons he should take into it, he had a fourth son whose name was *Bith*, or *Life*, who was not included in the number. *Bith*, accompanied by his daughter *Ceasair*, went to his father begging to be taken into the ark, but Noah refused, and desired them to take shipping and sail to the western borders of the earth, where, probably, the deluge would not reach them. This they did, in three ships, two of which were lost; but the third, containing fifty women and three men, reached the coast of Kerry, and landed safely in that country. Among the women who arrived in safety was the lady *Ceasair*, and the three men were—her father, *Bith*, *Ladhra*, and *Finntan*, the son of *Bochra*, son of *Bith*, son of Noah. The whole party, however, are stated to have died before the flood came, except *Finntann*, who, when it commenced, was cast into a deep sleep which continued for twelve months, until the waters were dried up, when he found himself in *Dun-Tulcha*, his own former residence, a place situated somewhere near the head of Kenmare Bay, in Kerry. Here he continued to live, contemporaneously with the various succeeding series of colonists, and down, as I have already said, to the time of the monarch *Dermot*, in the middle of the sixth century, before whom he appeared at Tara, accompanied by eighteen companies of his own descendants; but it does not appear who his wife was. To show the antiquity of these tales, and that they are not isolated stories found only in some local compilation, I may mention that, in the very ancient account of the battle of the first or southern *Magh Tuireadh* (fought between the *Firbolgs*

Legend of *Finntann* son of *Bochra*.



**LECT. XXI** and the *Tuatha Dé Danann*), it is stated that the *Firbolgs* sent for *Finntann*, to take his advice on the course they should adopt towards their enemies; and also that thirteen of his sons took part in the battle.

No trace of the doctrine of metempsychosis among the Gaedhil.

While speaking of this *Finntann*, the son of *Bochra*, I wish to correct an error in which some persons have been indulging for many years; namely, that the ancient Gaedhils, Pagan and Christian, believed in the doctrine of the transmigration of souls—in other words, that when people died their earthly existence was not terminated, but that their souls were transferred to other corporeal forms, generally to animals. I would not think it necessary to notice the subject now, however important it would be in connection with the psychology of the Gaedhils, but that the opinion that the belief in metempsychosis did really exist among the people of ancient Erin has been more than once lately put forward with all the pomp of supposed historical data, and on the authority of a gentleman whose mere word has, for many years, been deemed sufficient guarantee for the value of any assertion connected with Irish archæology and history. I have applied myself to test these opinions by the simple evidence of that history to which appeal has been made with so much confidence; and, in the course of an examination of the original of the celebrated legend of *Finntann*, I have found abundant proof of the entire absence of foundation for the reckless assertions which have been made on the authority of this tract. This subject, however, would evidently require so much space for its discussion as to lead me into an unwarrantable digression, if I were to go into it here in full; and I therefore content myself for the present with denying that there are any data in our existing Gaedhelic literature which could give the slightest support to the opinion that the doctrine of metempsychosis existed among the ancient Gaedhils, either Christian or Pagan.

To return then to the account of old *Finntann*, who is said, as I have above mentioned, to have survived the deluge, and whom I left on his arrival at the court of the monarch, *Dermot Mac Fergusa Cerrbheoil*, at Tara (about the middle of the sixth century), I shall now tell, in as few words as possible, how this strange event was supposed to have occurred.

Legend of *Finntann*, son of *Bochra*, continued.

In the time of the monarch *Dermot*, land, it would appear, began to become scarce, and the descendants of *Niall* of the Nine Hostages, who at this time were the owners of all East and West Meath, and who are commonly called by English writers the southern *Hy-Niall*, became dissatisfied with the waste of the great extent of the royal demesne of Tara, which was never allowed to be cultivated, or otherwise to contribute

to the support of the royal establishment. The monarch heard these complaints, and said that he was quite willing to contract the limits of the royal demesne in accordance with their reasonable wishes, provided any one could be found to show that it now exceeded what it had been in all times from the foundation of the monarchy. They then sent for the oldest and most intelligent men of the country. These were *Cennfaeladh*, the successor of Saint Patrick at Armagh; *Fiachra*, the son of *Nadruig*; *Cennfaeladh*, the son of *Ailill*; *Finnchadh* of Leinster; *Cualadh* from *Cruachan*; *Conaladh*; *Bran-Bairne* from Burren, in the county of Clare; *Duban*, the son of *Degha*; and *Tuan Mac-Carrill* (of whom I may have more to say hereafter). The latter five sages were commanded to appear forthwith at Tara; and when they arrived, and heard the point that was proposed to them to settle, they all declined to offer any opinion on it as long as their senior—by an immense distance—in age and in wisdom was still living, and accessible for consultation, namely, *Finntann*, the son of *Bochra*, who was the son of *Bith*, son of Noah, and which *Finntann* resided at *Dun Tulcha*, in the south-west of Kerry.

LECT. XXI.  
Legend of  
*Finntann*,  
son of  
*Bochra*,  
continued.

*Bearran*, *Cennfaeladh*'s servant, went then to request *Finntann*'s appearance at Tara. *Finntann* acceded to the request, and appeared at the palace, accompanied by eighteen companies or bands of men—nine before him, and nine after him—all his own descendants. He received a hearty welcome at Tara from king and people, and, after resting himself, he related to them his own wonderful history, and that of Tara from its very foundation:—"That is very good", said they, when he had finished, "and we should like to know from you an instance of the tenacity of your own memory". "You shall have it", said he: "I passed one day through a wood in West Munster: I brought home with me a red berry of the yew tree, which I planted in the vegetable-garden of my mansion, and it grew there until it was as tall as a man. I then took it out of the garden, and I planted it in the green lawn of my mansion; and it grew in the centre of that lawn until an hundred champions could fit under its foliage, and find shelter there from wind, and rain, and cold, and heat. I remained so, and my yew remained so, spending our time alike, until at last its leaves all fell off from decay. When afterwards I thought of turning it to some profit, I went to it and cut it from its stem, and I made from it seven vats, seven keeves, and seven *stans*, and seven churns, and seven pitchers, and seven *milans* [i.e. an *urna*], and seven *medars*, with hoops for all. I remained still with my yew-vessels, until their hoops all fell off from decay and old age. After this I

LECT. XXI. re-made them, but could only get a keeve out of the vat, and a *stan* out of the keeve, and a mug out of the *stan*, and a *cilorn* [pitcher] out of the mug, and a *milán* [an *urna*] out of the *cilorn*, and a *medar* out of the *milán*; and I leave it to 'Almighty God', said he, "that I do not know where their dust is now, after their dissolution with me from decay".

Such is the legendary account of the first manufacture of household vessels of yew, valuable at least for the list it contains of the different household utensils of the earlier ages.

We find also in the laws concerning the lending or pledging of certain articles of house furniture, that, if they were not restored after one day's notice, a "smart" fine fell upon the persons who overheld them; and among these were the following articles: A flesh fork, and a boiler; a kneading-trough, and a sieve; a wide-mouthed pan, or vat; a narrow-mouthed barrel, or churn; a mirror, for men and women to view themselves in when preparing to attend a fair or assembly; play-things for children, to drive away decline from them, such as "kittens", "pups", balls, "hurlies", etc.; bridles with single and double reins; hatchets and forest-axes; the iron reaping-hook of a widow's house, which she had for reaping the straw and rushes of her house, and also to cut ivy and holly with; the chess-board of a gentleman's house; the salt of a farmer's house; griddles, and gridlets, or the small spatulas with which the cakes were turned on them; candlesticks of various kinds; bellows and flanges, with which to blow the fire in respectable houses; the *cilorn*, or pitcher with a handle at its side; or the *milan*, or *medar*; and any or all of the seven requisites of a gentleman's house, namely, a caldron; a keeve; a water-cask, or bucket; a pan; a plough; a horse-bridle, and a brooch; and all articles manufactured from the yew-tree; and besides these, all beautiful drinking vessels, such as goblets of glass and of silver, with cups, mugs, and flagons of bronze, brass, or copper. These fines extended to the over-holding or withholding of splendid clothes and trinkets, from men and women, at the approach of a fair or assembly, as well as to chariots and various other things.

It would be difficult to bring together and arrange in any readable order, all the various articles of household furniture, domestic economy, and personal ornament, to be met with in our ancient laws and historical and romantic tales and poems. There is, however, a passage in the laws which shows with what jealous care the arrangements for domestic life were guarded by even formal legislation in the olden time. The passage in question has reference to the house of a doctor, and provides as

List of articles of household furniture.

Law regarding the house of a doctor.



follows: " He shall arrange his lawful house; a house of great LECT. XXI. work; it shall not be a dirty, slovenly house; it shall not be one of the three houses; [i.e. a cow-house, pig-house, or sheep-house.] There must be four doors upon it; so that the sick man may perceive it from all sides; and there must be a stream of water passing through its middle".

## LECTURE XXII.

[Delivered July 19th, 1859.]

(VII.) OF BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, &c.; (continued). Stone buildings; *Cathairs* and *Clochans*; O'Flaherty's notice of the *Clochans* of the Arann Islands; *Clochans* still existing in those Islands; *Clochans* on other islands of the western coast. Mr. Du Noyer's account of ancient stone buildings in Kerry; his ethnological comparisons; summary of his views; apart his speculations, his paper is important. Different members of the same family had distinct houses in ancient Erin. Mr. Du Noyer's claim to priority in the discovery of the stone buildings of Kerry inadmissible; Mr. R. Hitchcock had already noticed them; ancient burial grounds also noticed by the latter in the same district. The two names of "Cahers" given by Mr. Du Noyer, not ancient; his opinion of the use of *Dunbeg* fort not correct; this and the other forts did not form a line of fortifications. Instance of a bee-hive house or *Clochans* having been built within the *Rath* of *Aileach*. Limited use of the term *Cathair*; the same term not always applied to the same kind of building. Tale of the dispute about the "champion's share"; Smith's notice of *Shiabá Mis* and *Cathair Conroi*; story of the dispute about the "champion's share" (continued). The "guard room" or "watching seat". The position of *Cathair Conroi* not exactly ascertained. Story of "the slaughter of *Cathair Conroi*". Reference to *Cathair Conroi* in the tale of "the Battle of Ventry Harbour". Modern hypothesis of the inferiority of the Milesians. Stone-building in ancient Erin not exclusively pre-Milesian. The *Aitheach Tuath* or *Atticotti*. The *Firbolgs* still powerful in the sixth century. Town-land names derived from *cathairs*. No evidence that the Milesians were a ruder race than their predecessors in Erin.

Stone  
buildings;

I SHALL conclude the present division of my subject—that of the buildings and domestic furniture of the people of ancient Erin—by some observations upon the stone erections of the primitive periods of our history, and particularly upon those constructed for the purpose of the fortification of the settlement of a tribe, or the palace or court of a king, the remains of some of which fortunately still exist in a state which allows us, even at the present day, to form some conjectures as to the original design of their first builders.

*Cathairs* and  
*Clochans*.

The subject of ancient cyclopean architecture—that is, that of buildings of stone constructed without mortar or application of the mason's hammer—has for a long time occupied the attention of Irish antiquaries, particularly those edifices which are known by the names of *cathairs* and *clochans*. The *cathair* was always a stone fort or wall of enclosure; while the *clochan*, as it is called, is a small hut, generally of one chamber, built of uncemented, undressed stones, usually circular, in the form of a bee-hive, but sometimes oval or lozenge-shaped, and in a few

instances square within though circular without. Both *cathairs* LECT. XXII. and *clochans* are found chiefly, if not exclusively, on the south and west coasts of Ireland, and on the islands of these coasts, but particularly in the district lying to the west and north of the town of Ventry in Kerry.

The first antiquary who appears to have paid any attention to these *clochans* on the western coast, was Roderick O'Flaherty, the author of the *Ogygia*, in his Chorographical Description of West Connacht,—a work written in the year 1684, and which was edited by the late James Hardiman for the Irish Archaeological Society in 1846. O'Flaherty, in describing the Arann Islands, on the coast of Clare, in the Bay of Galway, speaks as follows:—

“The soil is almost paved over with stones, soe as, in some places, nothing is to be seen but large stones with wide openings between them, where cattle break their legs. Scarce any other stones there but limestones, and marble fit for tomb-stones, chymney mantel-trees, and high crosses. Among those stones is very sweet pasture, so that beefe, veal, mutton, are better and earlier in season here than elsewhere; and late there is plenty of cheese and tillage-mucking, and corn is the same with the sea-side tract. In some places the plow goes. On the shore grows samphire in plenty, ringroot or sea-holy, and sea-cabbage. Here are Cornish choughs, with red legs and bills. Here are ayries of hawkes, and birds which never fly but over the sea; and, therefore, are used to be eaten on fasting-days; to catch which people goe down with ropes tyed about them into the caves of cliffs by night, and with a candle-light kill abundance of them. Here are severall wells and pooles, yet in extraordinary dry weather, people must turn their cattell out of the islands, and the corn failes. They have no fuell but cow-dung dried with the sun, unless they bring turf in from the western continent. They have *cloghans*, a kind of building of stones laid one upon another, which are brought to a roof without any manner of mortar or cement them, some of which cabins will hold forty men on their floor; so ancient that no body knows how long agoe any of them was made. Scarcity of wood, and store of fit stones, without peradventure found out the first invention.”<sup>(31)</sup>

O'Flaherty's  
notice of the  
*clochans* of  
Arann;

Of the *clochans* mentioned above by O'Flaherty, several remain still on the Great or Western Island of Arann; some of them in ruins, and others still in a state of good preservation. Of these latter, four or five are to be seen in the immediate vicinity of the beautiful little ruined church called *Tempall an*

*clochans* still  
existing on  
the islands  
of Arann;

<sup>(31)</sup> Page 68.



LECT. XXII. *Cheathrair Aluinn*, or the "Church of the Four Beautiful Persons". These "four beautiful persons", according to the bishop *Malachias O' Cadhla*, or Kiely (who so informed Father John Colgan, about the year 1645), were Saint *Fursa*, Saint *Brendan* of Birr, Saint *Conall*, and Saint *Bearchan*. One of these *clochans* is in almost perfect preservation; it is built of dry stones, and measures about twenty feet in length, about nine in breadth, and nine in height to the top of the arch. It stands north and south, and had three doors, one at each side, nearly in the middle, and one in the east end, and it has a square aperture in the top near the south end, made, probably, to answer the purpose of a chimney. There is a square apartment, now in ruins, projecting from the south jamb side of the door on the western side of this *clochan*, with an entrance immediately at the same jamb, on the outside of the main building; but there is no communication with this apartment from within. The work of the whole is of the rudest and simplest character; and most probably when it was inhabited it must have been covered with sods, or the interstices at least stuffed with moss or mud to keep out the wind. This edifice was occupied by a poor school-master within the memory of some people still living on the island; but it does not appear to have undergone any change whatever from its original condition, during this or any other occuparcy. There are three or four other *clochans* a little to the west of this, but they are now reduced to heaps of ruin; still one or two of them appear to have been circular, and one of them has the remains of a little porch which stood against, and appears even to have entered into, the main wall, immediately adjoining the north jamb of the door in the east side. There may be many more in this immediate neighbourhood, but to one so much burdened with lameness as I am, it would have been a work of no ordinary trouble to move among the rugged rocks and constantly recurring dry stone walls with which the place is beset; and I did not venture to attempt this on the occasion of my late visit to the island.

There is another *clochan*, one at least, in more perfect preservation, situated between Murvey Strand and the Seven Churches of Saint *Brecan*, on the left hand side of the road; but I was not able to visit it. There is another also, in ruins, near *Tempall Benen*, in the eastern part of the island; and there are some two or three, in ruins, within the great stone fortress of *Dun Coneraidh*, on the middle island.

*Clochans on other islands of the W. coast.*

Besides these *clochans* on the Arann Islands, there are four more such edifices of bee-hive form, in ruins, on the island of *Inis-Gluair* on the Connacht coast, together with three small churches. There are others of them again on *Ard-Oilean*, or

High Island, where Saint *Fechin* founded a church in the sixth century. The island of *Inis-Erca* too, near *Inis-Bo-finne* (now Boffin, off the coast of Galway), contains the ruins of an ancient church, called Saint *Leo's* church, and near it is a cross called *Leo's Flag*. On the south shore of this island there is a cave called *Uaimh Leo*, where the saint is said to have passed much of his time in prayer and meditation. There is here also a ruin called *Clochan Leo*, in which he is said to have dwelt. Coming back again southward, we find a *clochan* of the bee-hive shape on the Bishop's Island, a little to the west of the mouth of the bay of Kilkee on the Clare coast. I know this island well from my earliest boyhood, and have seen the *clochan* from the mainland, from which the island is distant but a short space; but I have never been on the island, and can only speak of the precise form of the "bishop's house", as it is popularly called, on the authority of the fishermen, who are almost the only persons able to climb the steep precipitous cliffs which wall it in. I may here mention that the name *clochan* for this, or indeed for any other kind of habitation, is not known in any part of the county of Clare that I am aware of.

I have been induced to go thus minutely into an account of these curious old edifices, on account of some statements made by Mr. George V. Du Noyer in a paper read by him before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting in Dublin in 1857.<sup>(22)</sup> The preface to Mr. Du Noyer's paper is so short that it will occupy less time and space to give it as it stands than if I were to make any analysis of it.

Mr. Du Noyer's account of ancient stone buildings in Kerry.

"The earliest vestiges", says Mr. Du Noyer, "which are still in existence, of any dwellings of the inhabitants of Ireland, consist generally of a simple circular mound of earth, surrounded by one or more fosses and earthen ramparts; but they are for the most part so defaced by time, that archaeologists have passed them by as undeserving of attention. When, however, we find stone buildings of an equally remote period occurring in groups, surrounded by a massive circular wall, as if intended for warlike defences, and in detached houses comprising one, two, or three apartments, more or less circular in plan, and all evincing considerable skill and ingenuity in their designs, the investigation of them is attended with no little interest; for it may throw some light on the social condition of a race who occupied Ireland at a period so remote, that scarcely a trace of their arts has been

<sup>(22)</sup> "On the remains of ancient Stone-built Fortresses and Habitations occurring to the West of Dingle, county of Kerry", and published in the fifty-seventh number of the *Journal of the Archaeological Institute*.

ECT. XXII. preserved to us, and even their specific name as a people has not been rescued from oblivion.

Ir. Du  
oyer's  
ccount of  
cient stone  
uildings in  
erry.

"It was my good fortune", he continues, "in the summer of 1856, while engaged on the Geological Survey of Ireland in the Dingle promontory, to meet with an extensive group of such buildings. They are known as Cahers and Cloghauns,<sup>(29)</sup> and had till then escaped the notice both of tourists and antiquaries. These buildings, amounting probably to seventy or eighty in number, are in the parishes of Ventry, Ballinvogher, and Dunquin, and occupy, in groups as well as singly, the narrow and gently sloping plateau which extends along the southern base of Mount Eagle, from Dunbeg fort or Caher on the east to the village of Coumceenole on the west, a distance of three miles. An ancient bridle-path, still in use, winds along the slope of the hill near the northern limit, and was near the original road which led to them. They occur principally in the townland of Fahan: hence the collection of buildings which I am about to describe, may with propriety be called the ancient Irish city of Fahan. Proceeding west from the coast-guard station at Ventry, along the bridle-road just alluded to, at a short distance south-east of Fahan village, we arrive at a group of small Cloghauns, or beehive shaped huts, which appear to have served as an outpost, to guard the place on that side from any hostile surprise; and close to them, nearer to the sea, are two groups of standing stones called gallauns, which mark the eastern limit of the city.

"The Caher or fort of Dunbeg [little fort], which protected the city of Fahan on the east, is the first of these structures which requires a detailed description. By reference to the map it will be seen that it lies due south of the present village of Fahan on the sea coast. This remarkable fort has been formed by separating the extreme point of an angular headland from the main shore by a massive stone-wall, constructed without cement, from 15 to 25 feet in thickness, and extending 200 feet in length from cliff to cliff. This wall is pierced near its middle by a passage, which is flagged overhead, the doorway to which is at present 3 feet 6 inches high, 2 feet wide at top, and 3 feet at its present base, having a lintel of 7 feet in length; as the passage recedes from the doorway it widens to 8 feet, and becomes arched overhead; to the right hand, and constructed in the thickness of the wall, is a rectangular room—perhaps a guard-room—measuring about 10 feet by 6 feet, and communi-

<sup>(29)</sup> "Caher signifies a circular wall of dry masonry, as well as a fort or stone house of large size. Cloghaun, as here used means, a hut or house formed of dry masonry, with the room or rooms dome-shaped, having each stone overlapping the other, and terminating in a single stone".



cating with the passage by means of a low square opening, LECT. XXII. opposite to which, in the passage, is a broad bench-like seat; a second guard-room, similar to the one just described, has been constructed in the thickness of the wall on the left hand of the main entrance, but unconnected with it, the access to this being from the area of the fort through a low square opening".<sup>(34)</sup>

Further on Mr. Du Noyer gives us a little of that kind of Mr. Du Noyer's ethnological comparisons; speculative ethnology which now too commonly passes for science, and which many writers, too superficial to follow out the true and only method by which archæology, like all other sciences, can progress, namely, patient research and careful induction from facts, usually indulge in to the great injury of true knowledge. As I shall have to notice these speculations of Mr. Du Noyer, I cannot avoid adding the following extract from his paper: "The smallness of the sleeping-chambers and of the entrances leading into them is very remarkable; indeed this addition to the Cloghaun is a singular feature in the habits of the people who used them. Taking both into account, we may suppose that the attainment of warmth by animal heat was the chief object they had in view in their construction; if so, it at once lowers them to the scale of the Esquimaux, whose circular Ing-løe, or stone huts, closely resemble the smaller and more insignificant of our Cloghauns; indeed the resemblance may go even yet further, for it is likely that in many instances there were long covered stone passages, conducting to the door of the Cloghaun, similar in design to the long, low, and straight stone passages, covered with sods, which lead into the winter Ing-løe. When we consider what an important addition to our comfort is a chamber set apart for sleeping in, no matter how small it may be, we are surprised to find that so few of the Cloghauns have this important addition to them; it is sufficient, however, to know that such was sometimes required, and we may regard this fact as evincing some degree of refinement in a people whose habits must have been rude and simple".

These conclusions of Mr. Du Noyer's amount simply to this: summary of his views. that some of the ancient Irish people built beehive-shaped houses of stone, without cement, sometimes of small, and sometimes of comparatively large dimensions, for at this day sixty men might stand together on the floor of some of them; that some of these round houses were divided into two or three apartments; that some of the apartments were pretty large, and some small; and that in some of the buildings there was no second apartment at all. The additional apartments in the former class of buildings were believed by Mr. Du Noyer to be sleeping-rooms; and taking

<sup>(34)</sup> See INTRODUCTION, Figs. 56, 57, and 58.

ECT. XXII. the smallest of them for his rule, he delicately concludes that the sleeping parties were composed of savages of both sexes, huddled together promiscuously for the purposes of animal warmth; and then, arguing from this assumed fact, he at once leaps to the conclusion that such a people must have been lower even than the poor Esquimaux of North America in the scale of human civilization. Then again, this estimate of the people being taken for granted, he deems it conclusive as to the remote antiquity of these dwellings, and of the people who built them; and he unhesitatingly assures us accordingly, that neither the buildings nor the builders have any place in our oldest traditions or historical documents.

It is sufficient to summarize, as I have just done, the conclusions to which Mr. Du Noyer has arrived, to show how illogical and gratuitous they are. It would surely be a waste of time, and not very complimentary to the reader's intelligence, to disprove them. Indeed I would not have noticed them at all, only that the passage affords an admirable example of the modern ethnological theories put forward with such parade by popular writers. Apart from these absurd ethnological comparisons, Mr. Du Noyer's paper is a valuable and important contribution to Irish topographical archæology, illustrated as it is by admirable drawings.

In all the civilized countries in the world there have been, and must continue to be, two extremes of society, one high and one low; and to judge of the high by the low is what no man of intelligence would think of. And so, in the case of the edifices at Glennfahan, if we find the house of one apartment, we also find, alongside of it, perhaps, the strong *cathair* enclosing within it two, three, four, or more, small and large houses; but we are not to infer from this fact that these enclosed houses were inhabited by different families; for we have distinct statements in our ancient records that different members of the same family had distinct houses, and not apartments within the same *rath*, *dun*, *lis*, or *cathair*; that the lord or master had a sleeping-house, his wife a sleeping-house, his sons and daughters, if he had such, separate sleeping-houses, and so on, besides places of reception for strangers and visitors.

I shall presently refer to the buildings described by Mr. Du Noyer, but before doing so I must correct a mistake which he has made regarding the first discovery of the stone buildings of the Dingle promontory. The mistake occurs in the following note which he has appended to his paper: "In reply to some remarks which have reached me relative to the bee-hive houses of the county of Kerry and other districts, especially in the west

different  
members of  
the same  
family had  
distinct  
houses.

Mr. Du  
Noyer's  
statement of  
fact.

of Ireland, I feel called upon to state distinctly that, until I examined and sketched the Fahan buildings, in the summer of 1856, they had lain unknown to, or at least undescribed by, any tourist or antiquary; even that acute observer and recorder of so many of the pre-historic relics of the Dingle promontory, the late lamented Mr. Hitchcock, passed them by without examination".

Now, in justice to the late lamented Richard Hitchcock, it must be said that Mr. Du Noyer does not here deal quite fairly with him. It is true that Mr. Hitchcock did not write, or at least did not publish, any description of the *Clochans* at Ventry; but on the other hand it is certain that he did not pass them by without examination. Mr. Hitchcock's antiquarian researches were chiefly, if not wholly, confined to the discovery and sketching of stones with *ogham* inscriptions, and these he did discover, and preserve in sketches, with wonderful industry and accuracy. His too inadequate means, and the impossibility of his absenting himself long from his official duties in Dublin, could not, of course, permit him such opportunities and so much time for collateral examinations, as Mr. Du Noyer enjoyed in the fulfilment of his professional duties on the Geological Survey of Ireland; but that Mr. Hitchcock saw, and, I believe, examined them, is beyond dispute. For, in a manuscript book of "notes on *oghams*", in Mr. Hitchcock's handwriting, deposited with his other books after his death in the Royal Irish Academy, by his widow, we find at page 103, where he is describing the *ogham* on the *Dunmore* stone in the townland of Coumeenvole, the following words:—"The locality of this *ogham* inscription appears on sheet 52 of the Ordnance Survey of the county [of Kerry], where the stone is named 'monumental pillar'. *Cloghauns* are very numerous to the south-east, and there are also a few *caluragh* burial grounds. The townlands of Coumeenole, South Glanfahan and Fahan, at the sea-side, are actually filled with *cloghauns*".

This note was written in the year 1850, and I think it shows clearly enough that Mr. Hitchcock not only discovered the "cloghauns" at Ventry, but discovered among, or about them, what appears to have escaped Mr. Du Noyer's notice, at least some few *ceallurachs*, that is, sites of ancient churches and burial grounds. And it is not at all improbable that all these beehive houses described by Mr. Du Noyer were in fact but the cells of Christian hermits, like all the other buildings of the same class known along the western coast of Ireland. It is quite clear, however, that the Glanfahan "city", so called, has not yet received a thorough antiquarian examination; and until it shall have been

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not admissible.

Ancient burial ground noticed in the same district.

The buildings described by Mr. Du Noyer are probably Christian.



LECT. XXII. properly investigated, I do not wish to be understood as expressing any positive opinion upon this conjecture.

The names of cahers given by Mr. Du N. not ancient.

Mr. Du Noyer has recovered but two names of "cahers" among the group at Ventry, and both these names, in the form in which he puts them, are grammatically inaccurate: one is *cahernamac-tirech*, which he translates "the stone fort of the wolves"; and the other, *caher-fada-an-dorais*, or the "long fort of the doors". These are certainly names either entirely modern, or else inaccurately taken down. I cannot, however, examine them further at present, and shall therefore return to the immediate subject of this lecture.

The fort of Dun-beg not peculiar.

In the first place, there is nothing extraordinary or peculiar, nor anything necessarily implying a very remote antiquity, in the "caher" or Fort of *Dun-beg* (a word which signifies the little *dun* or fort), on which Mr. Du Noyer expatiates so warmly, and which evidently received its name of *Dun-beg* to distinguish it from *Dun-mór* (or the great fort), also described by Mr. Du Noyer. The latter was constructed in a manner exactly like it, by drawing a thick wall or mound of earth, lined with stones on the inside, across the narrow neck of another point of land which projects into the Atlantic ocean about three miles or so due-west from the *Dun-beg*, a point which forms, I may observe, the most western point of land in Europe.

Mr. Du Noyer's view of the use of *Dun-beg* fort not correct;

Mr. Du Noyer believes that the *Dun-beg* fort in the east was intended as a protection to the supposed "city" of Fahan, which he thinks lay scattered over a distance of three miles west from it; but he gives no place in the protective idea to the *Dun-mór* fort which is at the other end of the line, although it is quite clear that the idea which suggested the erection of the one must have suggested the erection of the other; and if the idea of both was the protection of the presumed "city", there was a very lamentable defect in the design, for, whilst one or both ends of the "city" may have had the benefit of protection from one or both of the forts, the whole sea and land lines in front and rear of the "city" were left without any protection whatever. It cannot, of course, be supposed that a stronghold erected on a point of land projecting considerably into the sea beyond the front line, and at one end of the presumed "city", could have formed any possible protection to it, while its front and rear were quite exposed by water and land; and the same objection holds good as regards the Great Fort at the other end.

this and the other forts did not form part of a line of fortifications;

These forts in fact were not intended for the immediate protection of anything but what happened to be permanently (or at all events occasionally, in time of danger) kept or placed within their walls. If the fort of *Dun-beg* had been multiplied into a

line of forts or "cahers", or continued into such a wall as formed itself, but carried on northwards from it to the harbour of Smerwick, that is, across the entire neck of the head-land, then indeed would there have been a protection for the inhabitants of Fahan, as well as for all the others within this line. Again, there is not anything in the character of these particular *cathairs* and *clochans* to warrant the conclusion that they belong to an age of an antiquity beyond our historic period. And it can be shown from the most ancient historical authorities which we possess, that the two kinds of building to be found at *Glenn Fahan*, namely, the stone forts now called "cahers", and the bee-hive stone houses found within them, now called *clochans*, have their types in one of the most ancient buildings—indeed the most ancient now identified—in Ireland, namely that of *Aileach* in the county of Donegal, of which I have already spoken.

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and are not prehistoric.

This ancient *Rath* of *Aileach*, as you may remember, was originally built by orders of the *Daghda Mór*—the great king of the *Tuatha Dé Dananns*—around the sepulchre of his son, fourteen hundred years it is supposed before the Christian era. We are told that the work was performed by his two *caisleors*, or stone-castle builders, namely *Garbhan* and *Imcheall*. *Garbhan* is recorded to have shaped and chipped the stones, while *Imcheall* set them all round the house, until the laborious work was finished, and until the top of the house called that of the "groaning hostages" was closed by a single stone. This house was one of those within the circle of the great *rath*, which contained, of course, all the various houses or buildings requisite for the establishment of the king even of a very comparatively small number of subjects; the whole ending with that very necessary appendage to a king's palace in those days, a house or prison for hostages and pledges. As this house is described as having been closed at the top with one stone, there can be no doubt of the shape of it,—a shape which was probably common to it with all the others.

A clochan built within the Rath of Aileach.

And here, as to the name of *cathair*: it is remarkable that in the old poem already quoted, as well as in several other pieces in prose and verse which refer to this ancient structure ("the senior or parent of all the edifices of Erin", as the poem calls it)—this stone building never goes by the name of *cathair*. The old poem calls it alternately *rath*, and *dun*, and even *caisleen*, or castle, but never *cathair*; nor do we find any other edifice of the early *Firbolgs*, *Tuatha Dé Danann*, or Milesians, called a *cathair*, except in one instance alone, where it is stated in an ancient poem that Tara was called *Cathair Crofin* in the time of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*. And this fact holds good even to a comparatively

Limited use of the term *cathair*.

LECT. XXII. late period as regards the *Firbolgs*. On their return to Erin — after an absence of several hundred years, after the battle of *Magh Tuireadh* (under the designation of the *Clann Umoir*), the people of this race received liberty from *Ailill* and *Medbh*, the king and queen of Connacht, to settle in the western half and on the sea-board of the present counties of Galway and Clare, as well as in the Arann Islands. And here, where they raised for themselves, as on the Arann Islands, those enormous fortresses of stone, some of which remain in wonderful preservation to this day, these fortresses were never called *cathairs*; and those on the Arann Islands are still, as well as in all ancient times, called *duns*, and named after their respective builders or owners, as *Dun-Ænghuis* and *Dun-Ochail*, on the great island, and *Dun-Conchraidh*, on the middle island. There is also, indeed, on the great island, another most ancient fortress, bearing the name of no particular person, but called simply *Dubh-Chathair*,<sup>(35)</sup> or the “Black *Cathair*”. These are all built of stone, and I imagine simply because no other material could be procured on those rocky islands.

It is remarkable that there are no *clochans*, or bee-hive houses, remaining around any of these great forts, whilst they are found with the Christian churches; save that there are some traces of the ruins of such edifices within the area of *Dun-Conchraidh* on the middle island; though whether they were of the same date as the fortress cannot now be ascertained.

It may be remembered that the period to which the erection of these edifices is referred by all our old writings, is the century immediately preceding the Incarnation. And to show that in those ancient times this people were not wedded to any particular descriptive names for their residences,<sup>(36)</sup> we find from the same authorities, that others of the *Clann Umoir* gave other names to their residences, as in the case of *Daolach*, who, with *Endach*, his brother, settled on the river *Davil* (on the coast of Burren, in the county of Clare), whose dwelling was called *Teach Eandaich*, literally *Eandach's House*; and this house was most undoubtedly built of stone, since other materials are as scarce in the district as in Arann; and as it was intended for a fortress as well as a residence, it must have been of large dimensions, and could not, therefore, have been of the bee-hive

The same term not always applied to the same kind of building.

<sup>(35)</sup> This *Dubh Chathair* would seem to be a common modern name, like Mr. Du Noyer's “Fort of the doors”, etc. This fortress is not apparently coeval with the others on the islands: why has it no name? The name could not have been lost, any more than the others.

<sup>(36)</sup> Just as at the present day large mansions, some of them castellated, are called “halls”, “houses”, “courts”, “manors”, etc. *Cathair* is like the French *chateau* (a castle or grand residence).



shape. This house is not now known, as far as I am aware, LECT. XXII.  
though the locality still bears the ancient name of *Daolach*.

While, however, we have no account of stone-built cities, towns, or even villages, in ancient Erin, it is yet certain that wherever the provincial king, or the chief and leader of a territory, as well as the head of a tribe, had his residence, it was surrounded by a town or village, as the case might be; and that the houses were built of such materials as were most convenient and compatible with the position and resources of the inhabitants. And we may, I think, also reasonably suppose, if we do not actually believe it, that wherever the requirements of position, or the peculiar taste of an individual chief or tribe, made stone the material of the "head-house" of the territory, there the houses of the next in importance at least, if not all the houses of the tribe which must have surrounded it, were built, if possible, of the same material.

As an instance of the character and condition of the *dun*, *rath*, or *cathair*, in very ancient times, I may be permitted to give you here a short extract from an ancient tract preserved in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, a manuscript of about the eleventh century, preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, and so often quoted in the course of these lectures. The story from which I am about to quote is one which grew out of that *Bricrind's Feast*, already described.

*Cuchulainn*, *Conall Cearnach*, and *Laeghaire Buadhach* were the great leading champions of Ulster at the period of, as well as a short time previous to, the Incarnation. Between these three knights of the Royal Branch of Ulster there had been for a long time a dispute as to which of them was best entitled to what was called the *curadh-mir*, or "champion's share" at table at all the great feasts and solemnities of the province. After having submitted their case together with their respective claims, to several parties for arbitration, but without success, they were at last advised to repair to the *cathair*, or mansion of *Curoi Mac Daire*, king of West Munster. And this *cathair* was situated on a shoulder of a high mountain which is said to be called even to this day *Cathair Conroi*, and which is a part of *Sliabh Mis*, situated on the peninsula which separates the bay of Tralee on the north from the bay of Dingle or Castlemaine on the south, in the county of Kerry.

Tale of the dispute about the "champion's share".

As to this mountain, Smith in his *History of Kerry*, published in the year 1756, and at page 156, says: "On the top of this mountain is a circle of massy stones, laid one on the other in the manner of a Danish intrenchment: several of them are from eight to ten cubical feet, but they are all very rude.

Smith's notice of *Sliabh Mis*.

**LECT. XXII.** "From the situation of the place, it resembles a beacon or place of guard to alarm the country; but from the prodigious size of the stones, it rather seems to be a monument of some great action performed near this place, or perhaps a sepulchral trophy raised over some eminent person.

"This piece of antiquity stands on the summit of a conical mountain, which is more than seven hundred yards above the level of the sea, and forms a kind of peninsula between two very fine bays. The country people, from the height and steepness of it, and the largeness of the stones, will have it to be the work and labour of a giant, and it seems indeed wonderful how human strength, unassisted by engines, could possibly raise stones of such a prodigious weight to the summit of so steep and high a mountain".

Dr. Smith adds two notes, one on the way in which stones of enormous size and weight were carried, in comparatively modern times, in other parts of the world, for purposes and to situations similar to the present; and in the other note he gives from Keting's History of Ireland, the popular but ancient story of the destruction of this formidable fortress.

Story of the dispute about the "champion's share", continued.

But to return to our story. The three contending champions of Ulster set out from *Emania*, and in due time arrived at *Cathair Conroi*. *Curoi*, the lord of the fortress, was not at home on their arrival, being absent on a foreign expedition, so that the visitors were received by his wife, the beautiful *Blathnaid*. When night came the lady told the three knights that when her husband was leaving home he acquainted her with this intended visit, and requested that they should keep watch over his palace during their sojourn,—each in turn to watch a night, according to seniority. This request was at once acceded to; and *Laeghaire Buadhach*, the eldest of the three, undertook the watch for the first night.

After this the story proceeds in an exaggerated strain of fable; but even in the midst of the greatest extravagance of incident, it contains so many details of the form and the various appurtenances of an ancient fortified mansion, that I believe I shall best make use of the piece by translating a portion of it with all its extravagance, just as it stands in the original:—

"*Laeghaire Buadhach* then went to the watching the first night, because he was the senior of the three of them. He was in the warder's seat after that until the end of the night, when he saw a champion away from him as far as his eye could reach, on the sea to the west, coming towards him. Huge, and ugly, and hateful appeared this champion to him, for it seemed to him that his head reached the sky in height, and he could plainly see the broad expanse of the ocean between his legs. The phantom

came towards him, with only his two handfuls of oak saplings, and each bare pole of them was sufficient to make the swing-tree of a plough, and no pole of them required the repetition of the one stroke of the sword by which it was cut from its stem. He threw one of these branches at *Laeghaire*, but *Laeghaire* evaded it. He repeated this twice or thrice, but none of them reached *Laeghaire's* body or shield. *Laeghaire* cast at him a spear, but it did not reach him. He stretched his arm towards *Laeghaire* then, and the arm was so long that it reached over the three ridges that were between them at the casting, and he then grasped him in his hand. Though large and though portly a man was *Laeghaire*, he fitted in the one hand of the man whom he encountered, with as much ease as would a child of one year old; and he pressed him between his two palms, in the same way that a chessman is pressed in a groove. When at length he was half dead in that way, he threw a cast of him over the *cathair* from without, so that he fell upon the bench at the door of the royal house [within], and the *cathair* was not opened for that purpose at all. The other two champions and all the inhabitants of the *cathair* thought it was by a leap over the *cathair* that he came from without, in order to leave the watching to the other men. They spent that day together till the evening, when the watch hour came, when *Conall Cearnach* went out to the warder's seat, because he was older than *Cuchulainn*; but he met with exactly the same adventure which *Laeghaire* met with on the previous night. The third night came, and *Cuchulainn* took his place in the warder's seat. This was precisely the night upon which the three green men of *Seiscenn Uairbeoil*, and the three *Buagelltaigh* [or itinerant cow-keepers] of *Bregia*, and the three sons of the musical *Dornmar*, had appointed to come to the *cathair*. It was, too, the night which had been prophesied that the monster which inhabited the lake near the *cathair* would devour the occupants of the whole establishment, both man and beast. *Cuchulainn*, however, continued to watch throughout the night, and he experienced many mishaps. When midnight came, he heard a loud noise approach: 'Speak, speak!' said *Cuchulainn*; 'whoever are there, let them speak if friends, let them attack if foes'. Thereupon there was set up a fearful shout at him. *Cuchulainn* sprang upon them then, so that it was dead the nine men came to the ground. He then cut off their heads and placed them near him in the watching-seat. Suddenly nine more shouted at him; but, to make the story short, he killed the three times nine plunderers in the same manner, and he heaped up their heads and their arms in one heap in the same place. He kept his place after that till the end of the night, tired, weary, and

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 Story of the  
 dispute  
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 tinued.

## LECT. XXII.

Story of the dispute about the "champion's share", continued.

fatigued, when he heard the uprising of the lake, as if it were the noise of a great sea. His ardour induced him, notwithstanding his great fatigue, to go to see the cause of the great noise which he had heard, and he presently perceived the tumult which the monster had produced. It appeared to him that there were thirty cubits of it above the lake. It then raised itself up into the air, and sprang towards the *cathair*; and it so opened its jaws that the vat of a king's house might enter them. He [*Cuchulainn*] then executed his *form-chleas*, and sprang up [in the air too], and with the velocity of a twisting-wheel flew around the monster. He closed his two hands around its neck then, and then directed one of them to its mouth and down its throat, and tore the heart out of it. He then cast it from him upon the ground, and he plied its sword upon it, cutting it to pieces, and carried its head to the watching-seat, where he placed it along with the other heads.

"*Cuchulainn* took some rest after these mighty exploits, until the dawn of the morning, when he saw the great phantom coming from off the western sea towards him". But, without repeating details, it is sufficient for our present purpose to state, that his good fortune and his stout heart and arm stood to him on this occasion as it did in his previous encounters, and that he overthrew the phantom giant, as he did the rest of the enemies of *Curoi's* court.

Our hero then bethought him that his companions, who preceded him in the wardership the two previous nights, must have jumped over the wall of the *cathair*, as they had been seen to fall from the air within, when cast over by the giant, and he determined not to be outdone by them in this stupendous feat. The story then goes on in the same extravagant style of language which we meet in the tale of the battle of *Magh-Rath* (published by the Archæological Society), and in many other such pieces, as follows:—

"He attempted twice to leap over, but he failed. 'Alas I' said he, 'that I have taken so much trouble hitherto to secure the "Champion's share", and to lose it now by failing to take the leap which the other knights have accomplished'. What *Cuchulainn* did at these words was this: He would fly from where he stood, at one time, until his face would come plump against the *cathair*. At another time he would spring up into the air, so that he could see all that was within the *cathair*. At another time he would fall down and sink to his knees in the ground, from the pressure of his ardour and his strength. At another time he would not disturb the dew from the top of the grass, from the buoyancy of his spirit, and the velocity



of his motion, and the vehemence of his action, such was the bounding fury into which he had been excited. At last, in one of these furious fits he flew over the *cathair* from without and alighted in the middle of the *cathair* within, at the door of the royal house; and the place [or print] of his two feet remains still in the flag which is in the middle of the *cathair*, where it stood at the door of the royal house. He entered the house then, and heaved a deep sigh: upon which *Blathnaid*, the daughter of *Midir* and wife of *Curoi*, said: 'That is not a sigh after treachery', said she; 'it is a sigh after victory and triumph'. The daughter of the king of *Firfalgia* indeed knew what difficulties had beset *Cuchulainn* on that night. They had not been long there after that when they saw *Curoi* entering the house, having with him the battle suits of the three nines *Cuchulainn* had slain, together with their heads and the head of the monster. He said then—after having put all the heads down on the floor of the house: 'The youth whose trophies of one night are all these', said he, 'is a youth most qualified to keep perpetual watch over a king's *dun*'. And *Curoi* then awarded *Cuchulainn* the 'Champion's share' at all the feasts of Ulster, and to his wife precedence of all the ladies of Ulster, at feasts, fairs, and assemblies, the queen of the province excepted".

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Story of the dispute about the "champion's share", continued.

I have not, as will be seen, been deterred by the wildness of this very ancient tale from quoting directly from the original, as much of it as bears directly on the condition and circumstances of this ancient *cathair*, of the existence and rational history of which there cannot be the least doubt.

It is of some importance in the discussion on ancient stone edifices, to find still in existence one not only of undoubted authenticity, but even preserving through ages down even to the present day the name of the man for whom it was built, as well as that of the man who built it; for in the list of builders in stone who were attached to certain great men, already quoted from the Book of Leinster, *Cingdorn* is set down as *Curoi Mac-Dáiré's caisleoir*, or stone-builder.

The description of this *cathair* when occupied is important, in as far as it explains on authority the actual use and intention of those small internal and external chambers, the ruins of which are found among the "cahers" and "cloghauns" represented in Mr. Du Noyer's beautiful plates, and to some of which he properly gives the names of "guard rooms". One of these described in connection with *Cathair Conroi* is called a *suidhe-faire*, or "watching-seat", and was one of those situated outside the wall.

The "guard room" or "watching seat".

The royal mansion of *Curoi Mac-Dáiré*, king of West Mun-

**ECT. XXII.** ster, which stood in the middle of this once great *cathair*, was, no doubt, one of considerable dimensions, and built of stone; but unfortunately, as no trace of it is known to remain now, and as no precise description of it is given in our story, we are left to guess that it was probably a building somewhat of the size and form of the house of the royal branch at *Emania*, or of the house in *Rath Cruachain* which I have already described. Even the exact situation of the historic *Cathair Conroi* has not been satisfactorily ascertained; although Dr. Charles Smith in his History of Kerry, already quoted, places it on the very summit of a conical mountain of that name, and describes by this title the highest of the *Sliabh Mis* range, a mountain 2,100 feet above the level of the sea. This, however, could scarcely be correct, as no human dwelling, much less the fortified palace of a king, would be placed in so inaccessible a position. And, therefore, the heaps of large stones which Dr. Smith mentions as existing on the top of this mountain, if they be ancient remains at all, must probably be those of a ruined sepulchral monument, and not those of *Curoi's Cathair*.

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On the Ordnance Survey map *Cathair Conroi* is marked but at an elevation of one thousand feet above the level of the sea, and at or near the source of the little river *Finnghlais*, which runs down the side of the mountain and falls into the bay of Tralee near its western extremity. This would certainly be the proper position for *Cathair Conroi*, according to the old topographical tract called the *Dinnseanchas*, which professes to give the origin of the name of this stream. And as this story too has reference to *Cathair Conroi*, and as the substance of it, given in a few words, may enable some one who hears or reads them to identify with certainty the site of this famous *cathair*, I shall briefly narrate it here.

We have seen before how graciously the lady *Blathnaid*, king *Curoi Mac Dáiré's* wife, had received the three rival champions of Ulster at her court, and how warmly *Curoi* himself, on his return home, had eulogized *Cuchulainn's* valour in guarding his court. Yet, notwithstanding these commendations from *Curoi*, there existed an old cause of dissension between him and *Cuchulainn*. *Curoi's* wife, the beautiful *Blathnaid*, was the daughter of *Midir*, king of the island of *Firfalgia*, which some of our old writers say was a name for the present Isle of Mann. In a successful attack made on this island by the chief heroes of Ulster, headed by *Cuchulainn*, and assisted by *Curoi Mac Dáiré*, who joined them in disguise as a simple champion, the chief prize among the spoils obtained was the king's daughter, this lady *Blathnaid*. Accordingly, on the return of the party to Ulster,

*Cuchulaind*, on the division of the spoil, claimed the fair princess as his share. To this, however, *Curoi Mac Dáiré* objected, and said that, as the highest exploit connected with the assault on *Midir's* court had been performed by him (*Curoi*), he thought it but fair that he should carry off the highest prize. A combat ensued, in which *Curoi's* more mature strength, joined with equal military skill, prevailed over the more youthful *Cuchulaind*. The latter was left vanquished on the field, tied hand-and-foot, and his long hair cut off close to the back of his head by the sword of his proud conqueror. *Curoi* and his beautiful captive set out then, and arrived in due time at the famous *Cathair on Sliabh Mis*. LECT. XXII.

It does not appear that *Cuchulaind* had any subsequent knowledge of the fate of the fair captive until he saw her in the court of her husband; and it seems that it was then for the first time that he discovered who his victorious antagonist for her possession had been, as *Curoi* had gone on the expedition completely disguised. It would seem, however, that some understanding of a friendly nature sprang up between *Cuchulaind* and his fair hostess during his short sojourn at her court, from what we are told in the old story of *Orgain Cathrach Chonrai* (or "the Slaughter of *Cathair Chonrai*"), which was one of the Great Stories the *ollamh* was accustomed and bound to relate before the king. In this old story we are told that, in some time after the visit of the three Ulster knights to *Cathair Chonrai*, the lady *Blathnaid* sent a secret message to *Cuchulaind*, inviting him to come at an appointed time, and well attended, to the foot of the hill upon which her court was situated, and to stop at an appointed place on the brink of the river which flowed down by the *Cathair*, until he should see its waters changing colour, and then rapidly to ascend the mountain to the *Cathair*, where she would contrive to place her husband, unarmed, in his absolute power. All this was done accordingly; and *Cuchulaind* had not remained long watching the flowing water of the river, until he saw it suddenly change in colour from dark to white. This change of colour was produced by the spilling of several tubs of milk into the stream, where it passed by the *Cathair*, by orders of the lady *Blathnaid*; and soon this silent message informed *Cuchulaind* that all was ready. Story of "the Slaughter of Cathair Chonrai".

*Cuchulaind* immediately ascended to the *Cathair*, which he found, as was promised to him, open and unguarded. He found the royal mansion within in the same condition; and, on entering that, the lady *Blathnaid* sitting on a couch by the side of her husband, who lay asleep with his head in her lap, his sword and spears hanging on a rack over the couch. *Cuchulaind's* first care was to secure the sword and spears; and then

LECT. XXII. giving the sleeping warrior a smart prick of his sword in the side, to awaken him—so that it should not be said he slew him while in his sleep—he cut off his head.

The court was next stripped of all its valuables; and *Cuchulaind* with the treacherous *Blathnaid*, taking with them a quantity of rich spoils gathered from all parts of the world, returned in safety to Ulster. If the stream which passed by *Cathair Chonrai* had received a name before this time, it thenceforth lost it, for it is ever since, even to this day, known as the *Finnghlais*, or “white-stream”. And therefore any person taking this white-stream, still so well known in the locality, as his guide, and following it up the mountain, may perhaps discover the ancient *Cathair Chonrai*, some vestiges of which must still exist.

Reference to  
*Cathair  
Chonrai* in  
the tale of  
the “Battle  
of Ventry  
Harbour”.

*Cathair Chonrai* appears to have been well known at the time of writing the old tale called *Cath Finntragha*, or Battle of Ventry Harbour. The name Ventry is a vulgar anglicised form of *Finntraigh*; a name which literally signifies “white-strand”, and which is very applicable to the shore of that famous harbour, which is covered with beautiful white sand.

In this old story we are told that when *Fínd Mac Cumhaill* was marching from the eastern parts of Ireland to the great battle of Ventry, he passed over the river Maige, in the county of Limerick, into *Ciarruidhe Luachra*, or Kerry, and then passed over the long white strand (of the bay) of Tralee, with his left hand to *Cathair na-Claen Ratha*, which was called *Cathair Chonrai*, and to *Sliabh Mis*, and so from that to the mouth of the *Labhrand*, and so on to *Finntraigh* [Ventry].

I cannot take upon myself to say that the places mentioned in this march are all correctly set down; but the reference to *Cathair Chonrai* appears to be correct, as it was after *Fínd* had passed over the strand of Tralee, that he is said to have passed by it leaving it on his left; and this would exactly agree with the position on the map of the river *Finnghlais*, which falls into the western extremity of the bay of Tralee.

Another curious bit of additional information, if it be correct, is supplied by this tale, namely, that *Cathair Chonrai* was also called *Cathair na-Claen Ratha*, that is, the “*Cathair* of the sloping *Rath*”; and probably *Claen Rath*, or “sloping *Rath*” only. And this may lead farther to the identification of the old *Cathair*, since, perhaps, it may be still known under the name of *Cathair na-Claen Ratha*, or of *Claen Rath* only.

So much for the construction, position, and history of one of the most celebrated of the ancient stone buildings of the Milesians, of which we are fortunate in having an example preserved so well in the description of *Cathair Chonrai*.



Some writers, I know not why, have assumed that the more ancient colonists of Erin, the *Firbolgs* and *Tuatha Dé Danann*, from a superiority of knowledge and taste, erected stone buildings in preference to earthen ones; whilst their successors, the Milesians, being of a lower order of intellect, and having reached only a lower scale of cultivation, were content with forts and houses built of earth, or of wood. Nothing could be more unfounded than this assertion. And I have already, I think, fully shown its fallacy by placing before the reader a list of the buildings ascribed during the first occupation of this island, to those two colonies, in which our oldest chronicles and traditions ascribe but the one single stone building of *Aileach*, to the *Firbolgs* and *Tuatha Dé Danann*. And if the *Firbolgs*, who, after centuries of absence, returned to Erin a short time before the Incarnation of our Lord, erected for themselves some fortresses of stone on the western coast of Erin, where no other building material could be found, yet, nothing remains in writing, in tradition, or in any existing monumental ruin, to show that those chiefs of that tribe who at the same time settled inland, in the territories of South Connacht and North Munster, where stone was scarce and other material abundant, built their fortresses and residences of the former and not of the latter. It may also be asked why did not the *Firbolgs* and the *Tuatha Dé Danann* erect some stone building at Tara during their successive occupations of it? Surely, if they preferred stone to wood, they would have been more likely to have indulged that taste at the seat of royalty than elsewhere.

All that can be said in favour of this modern theory of the superiority of the older colonists over the Milesians, is, that tradition ascribes necromantic power and a superiority of inventive genius to the *Tuatha Dé Danann*; but among the specimens of ancient personal decorative art which have come down in such abundance to our own times, nothing has been as yet found to equal in ingenuity, or in artistic taste and excellence, articles, such as brooches, girdles, and torques, in the precious metals, the fabrication of which can be clearly shown to be Milesian.

Then, as regards those stone buildings about the southern and western coasts of Ireland, being all of *Firbolg* or *Tuatha Dé Danann*, or of pre-historic erection, whatever may be said in favour of the hypothesis as regards all places on the coast north of the Shannon, there can certainly be no reason for extending it to the coast south of that river.

There is to be found in the Books of Ballymote and *Lecan*, and in *Dubhaltach Mac Firbhígh's* Book of Genealogies, a

LECT. XXII.

Modern hypothesis of the inferiority of the Milesians.

The most artistic works are Milesian.

Stone buildings not all pre-Milesian.

The *Aileach* *Tuatha* or *Anticott*.

**LECT. XXII.** very curious list of the tribes who took part in the great *Aith-each Tuatha* revolution in the first century, and of the dispersion and enslavement—to some extent—of these tribes, in the same century, by the monarch *Tuathal Teachtmhar*, on recovering the throne of his father, who had been killed in that revolution.<sup>(27)</sup> Those revolutionary tribes are very generally believed to have been the oppressed and degraded descendants of the pre-Milesian colonists; but, although great numbers of them belonged to the earlier races, yet a great many of them belonged to the decayed Milesian race also, as well as to the Picts who had settled in the east of Ireland. These revolutionists have been called *Attacotti* by modern Irish writers; but, whether they really were the *Attacotti* of Romano-British history is a question that, I fear, will never be cleared up. It is, however, certain from the detailed list just alluded to, that they consisted not all of one race, but of a number of tribes belonging to the various races which then inhabited the country. There can be no doubt, however, that among those revolutionary tribes there was a large proportion of the *Firbolg* race, who, from a list of the battles in which they were defeated, appear to have been in valour and social position the most formidable opponents that *Tuathal* had to contend with. And it is not to be supposed that, when these various tribes were reduced to the condition of rent-payers to the state, they therefore disappeared, or even sunk into insignificance. It was not so: for, we find about the close of the sixth century that the whole country of *Ui-Maine*, in the present counties of Galway and Roscommon, was in the actual possession of the *Firbolgs* when, about that time, it was forcibly wrested from them by *Maine Mór* of the race of *Colla da Chrioch*, ancestor of the O'Kellys of that country. There is a curious and somewhat romantic account of this conquest in the *Life of Saint Greallan*, patron of the territory, preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, an extract from which is published in the "Tribes and Customs of Hy-Maine", printed in 1843 by the Irish Archæological Society.

The *Firbolgs* still powerful in the sixth century.

Now, the *Firbolgs* down to the historic times preserved territories and importance; and we have very fair evidence to show that, during a space of more than a thousand years, they held possession, one way or another, of the whole province of Connaught, often as sovereigns. It would be but reasonable, therefore, to expect—if "cahers" and stone-building were peculiar characteristics of their civilization—that vestiges of such building should even still remain, in connection with the townland

<sup>(27)</sup> See in Appendix the note on this subject.

and other topographical names, without any reference to the immediate presence or absence of stone in any particular district of their extensive territory. I have made out a list from the census of 1851 of all the townland names in Ireland, as taken from the Ordnance Survey, into the names of which the word *Cathair* enters, and, as the list is not long, I shall, without going into the local distribution of the names, give a summary of it here.

In the whole province of Ulster there is not one townland taking its name from a *Cathair*. In Leinster there are but two—one in the county of Longford, and one in the Queen's County. In Munster there are 151, distributed as follows among the counties: Clare, 58; Cork, 32; Kerry, 35; Limerick, 17; Tipperary, 5; and Waterford, 4. In Connacht there are 91, distributed as follows: Galway, 67; Mayo, 22, of which there are 15 in the inland barony of Castlemaine; and in Roscommon there are 2; thus showing, among the many thousands of townlands in Ireland, that there are but 244 which take their names from *Cathairs*; whilst the number of names compounded of *Dún*, *Lis*, and *Rath*, is very great, but particularly the latter, which is more than three times the number of all the others. Nor can this paucity of *Cathairs*, to be found at the present day in our topography, be ascribed, to any extent, to modern changes; since we find that they held exactly the same places and proportions in the inquisitions of Leinster and Ulster, taken in the reigns of Elizabeth, James the First, Charles the First, and Charles the Second, and published—so far as these two provinces about thirty years ago, under the direction of the Irish Record Commission.

It is also worth noticing that while the county of Galway preserves the names of sixty-seven *Cathairs*, of these only six are found in the eastern or Shannon-board baronies of the county, while in the neighbouring baronies of Athlone and Moycarne, in the county of Roscommon, there are none to be found. And yet we know that the eastern parts of Galway and Roscommon were the places longest and last held by the *Firbolgs* in Erin.

From all that I have said, then, it may be collected concerning the primitive colonists of Erin, as we find them set down in our chronicles, as well as in our oral traditions, and—what is even more important—in our topographical names, that nothing now remains to show, with any certainty, that the periods of occupation of the various races were marked by any distinct characteristics of civilization or social refinement. And surely it is not to be supposed that the Milesians, who came in the last,

LECT. XXII.

Townland names derived from *Cathairs*.

No evidence that the Milesians were a ruder race than the previous colonists.

LECT. XXII. even if they were, as pretended—a ruder race—would continue to adhere to their own less refined habits and tastes, after they had become masters of the country, and that in presence of superior civilization of their now fallen predecessors, who remained in peace under their rule, and lived in import numbers around them.



## LECTURE XXIII.

[Delivered July 5th, 1860.]

(VIII.)—OF DRESS AND ORNAMENTS. Early sumptuary law regulating the colours of dress, attributed to the monarchs *Tighernmas* and *Eochaidh Edgudach*. Native gold first smelted by *Iuchadan*, and golden ornaments made in Ireland in the reign of *Tighernmas*. The uses of colours to distinguish the several classes of society, also attributed to the same *Eochaidh*; the nature of those colours not specified. Household utensils, ornaments and variously coloured dresses of *Ailill* and *Medhbh* mentioned in the tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*; the material or fashion of the dress not specified. *Medhbh's* preparation for the war of the first *Táin*; description of the parties summoned. Description of the Ultonian clans at the hill of *Slemain*, forming the army in pursuit of *Ailill* and *Medhbh*, by the herald of the latter, *Mac Roth*, from the tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*; his description of *Conchobar Mac Nessa*; of *Causcraid Mend*; of *Sencha*; of *Eogan Mac Durthachta*; of *Loaegaire Buadach*; of *Munremur*; of *Connud*; of *Reochaid*; of *Amargin*; of *Feradach Find Fechnach*; of *Fiachaig* and *Fiachna*; of *Celchair Mac Uthair* and his clann; of *Eirрге Echbel*; of *Mend*, son of *Salcholgan*; of *Fergna*; of *Erce*, son of *Carpri Nia Fer* and his clann; of *Cuchulaind's* clann. Note: *Cuchulaind* is removed to *Muirtheinne* after his fight with *Ferdiadh*, to get the benefit of the healing properties of its stream or river; enumeration of them; while there, *Cethern*, who had gone to his assistance, arrives covered with wounds, and is visited by physicians from the enemy's camp, whom he drives away; *Cuchulaind* then sends for *Fingín Fothlaigh*, who examines each of his wounds, and *Cethern* describes the persons who gave them—his description of *Illand*, son of *Fergus*; of queen *Medhbh*; of *Oll* and *Othine*; of *Bun* and *Meconn*; of *Broen* and *Brudni*, sons of *Teora Soillsi*, king of *Caille*; of *Cormac [Mac] Colomarig* and *Cormac* the son of *Maelefoga*; of *Mane Mathremail*, and *Mane Atlremail*, sons of *Ailill* and *Medhbh*; of the champions from *Iruade* [Norway]; of *Ailill* and his son *Mane*; of the marrow bath by which *Cethern* was healed, whence the name of *Smírammair*, now Smarmore, in the county Louth. *Medhbh* enumerates her dowry to *Ailill*; gifts promised by her to *Long Mac Emonis*; gifts promised by her to *Ferdiadh*; one of those gifts, her celebrated brooch, weighed more than four pounds. Story of *Mac Conglinde*; his extravagant dream; his description of a curious dress of a door-keeper; analysis of the dress—the *Cochall*, the *Ionar*, the *Ochrath*; analysis of *Mac Conglinde's* own dress; his *Leinidh*. Distinction between the *Léine* and the *Leinidh*—the latter was a kilt. Description of the dress of the champion *Eochu Rond* in the tale of the Exile of the Sons of *Duildermaid*; he wore a kilt. Ancient law regulating the wearing of the *Leinidh* or kilt, and the *Ochrath* or pantaloons.

IN the last four lectures I applied myself to the subject of the dwellings of the people of ancient Éirinn, the forms in which their houses and their strong places were built, the materials used, and the manner of building adopted in those early ages. I proceed now to give some account of the personal dress and ornaments, and of the laws connected with dress, its materials and manufacture, as we find them described in our ancient

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writings, as well as the various sumptuary laws by which particular robes and ornaments were regulated in very early times.

Sumptuary law regulating the colours of dress.

First smelting of gold;

and making of golden ornaments.

One of the earliest entries in our ancient books connected with my present subject, and referring to a period usually considered so remote as fifteen hundred years before the Christian era, is a notice of a sumptuary law regulating the colours to be worn in dress. Such a law implies necessarily a considerable advance in the arts connected with weaving and dyeing. The introduction of diversity of colours in dress is attributed to the monarch *Tighernmas*, who is said to have reigned at the remote period just mentioned. To the monarch *Eochaidh Edgudach* or "*Eochaidh*, the cloth designer", is attributed the extension and complete establishment of this early sumptuary law. The Book of Leinster, which is the oldest authority that I am acquainted with on this subject, thus speaks of it: "*Tighernmas*, the son of *Ollaig*, then assumed the sovereignty, and he broke three times nine battles before the end of a year upon the descendants of *Eber*. It was by him that drinking horns (or cups) were first introduced into Erin. It was by him that gold was first smelted [the word used means literally boiled] in Erin, and that colours were first put into cloths (namely—brown, red, and crimson), and ornamental borders. It was by him that ornaments and brooches of gold and silver were first made. *Iuchadan* was the name of the artificer who smelted the gold in the forests on the east side of the river Liffey. And *Tighernmas* was seventy-seven years in the sovereignty, and he nearly extirpated the descendants of *Eber* during that time. And he died in *Magh Slecht*, in the great meeting of *Magh Slecht*, and three-fourths of the men of Erin died along with him, whilst adoring *Crum Cruach*, the king-idol of Erin; and there survived accordingly but one-fourth of the men of Erin. . . . The one-fourth who survived of the men of Erin gave the sovereignty to *Ecchaidh Edgudach*, the son of *Dairé Domthig*, of the seed of *Lugaidh*, the son of *Ith*".<sup>(28)</sup> It

(28) [original:—Sabar tighernmar mac olliaig nige iar clanna conn [? . . .] tam acas bhuirir tpinoi cata ne cino bliadna for claino Eber. Ir leir tuca cuirn atuir in hepen. Ir leir no berbaos or ar tur in hepin, acas [tucad\*] wata for etaige acas corcra [i. ruanna wearga, acas corcra] Ir leir wenad cumtaige acas brett-nara or, acas arsit in hepen. Iuchadan ainm na cepta no berbaos inor hipotraib qar [?] life. Acas bai.

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Word effaced, but was probably that in brackets.

was by this *Eochaidh*, we are told by Keating, on the authority of a similar ancient record in existence in his time, but now lost, that cloth was first coloured crimson, blue, and green, in Erin. It was by him that various colours were introduced into the wearing clothes of Erin, namely, one colour in the clothes of servants; two colours in the clothes of rent-paying farmers; three colours in the clothes of officers; five colours in the clothes of chiefs; six colours in the clothes of *ollamhs* and poets; seven colours in the clothes of kings and queens. It is from this that (says the old book) the custom has grown this day, that all these colours are in the clothes of a bishop.

Although the number of colours, which are here mentioned as having distinguished each of the seven classes into which the people of Erin at so early a period had been divided by the Milesian colonists, are given, yet we have no description specifying what these colours were exactly, which were then employed in dress, excepting brown, red, and crimson, which *Tighernmas* is stated to have previously established. It could scarcely be expected, indeed, that such a description would survive to our times in any other way than by accidental references in the course of history to the costume or wardrobes of particular individuals. And although we may not find any personal description identical with that of the higher classes in the above list, it happens that we have a very ancient reference to, and even an enumeration of, the various colours which were used in the select wardrobe of royalty, at a period which, though far within that of *Tighernmas*, is yet remote enough from us indeed. I allude here to the account of the display of their valuables of all kinds, made by the celebrated *Medbh*, queen of Connacht, and her consort, *Ailill*, as described in the opening of the ancient tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, so often quoted from in the course of these lectures.

*Ailill* and *Medbh*, it may be remembered, flourished in the century immediately preceding the Christian era. The reader will, doubtless, remember the account of their conversation in the palace of *Cruachan*, said to have been the remote origin of the celebrated war of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*. They had been boasting of their respective possessions, and comparing their wealth together, when, at last to settle their dispute, they proceeded to make a complete examination of their furniture and trinkets. They had brought unto them, says the tale, the most brilliant of their jewels and valuables, that they might know which of them had the most of jewels and wealth. There were brought before them also, it continues, their vessels of carved yew, and their two-handled keeves, and their iron vessels; their

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Variety of colours in dress first used to distinguish classes;

exact nature of these colours not specified.

Household utensils, ornaments, and dress of *Ailill* and *Medbh*;

**XXIII.** small wooden vessels; their cauldrons and their small keeves; their rings, and their bracelets, and their robes, and their thumb-rings, and also their clothes; and of these clothes the colours enumerated are these: crimson, and blue, and black, and green, and yellow, and speckled, and pale, and gray, and blay, and striped.<sup>(39)</sup> Now, if we consider the tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, from which the above enumeration is taken, to have been originally written even as late as the time set down for the recovery of a much older version in the seventh century, no one will deny that the list of primary colours which it contains, independently of combinations, is ample enough. But the existing tale bears internal evidence of being composed of fragments of a thoroughly pagan tale connected anew into a connected narrative.

material or  
fashion of  
the dress not  
specified.

It does not appear from the passage in question what the materials of the robes alluded to were, but we may presume that they were native wool and flax, and probably imported silk, or *Siriac*, as it is called in some of our ancient tracts. Neither does it appear of what shape or fashion were the robes, nor of what particular articles they consisted. Indeed almost all our personal descriptions are silent on the number of garments worn by either men or women, as it seldom happens that any distinguished persons, except warriors in or going to battle, are described, and in those cases the description is of a very general character. As instances, however, of the diversity of colours which distinguished various classes in ancient times, and the general character of their clothes, we shall have to draw again to a great extent on the same grand old tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*.

*Medbh's*  
preparation  
for war;

I have in former lectures sufficiently described the origin of the war of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, and need not therefore say anything further on that subject here, and may consequently take up the story where the preparations for the war commence. When queen *Medbh*, stung by the refusal of *Daire Mac Fiachna* to sell or lend his famous bull the *Donn Chuailgne*, had vowed vengeance against the whole province of Ulster, and had determined to get possession of the bull by force, she bethought her of the means of carrying her plans into execution. She accordingly summoned to her court the seven *Mainés* her sons, with all their followers, and their cousins, the seven sons

<sup>(39)</sup> [original:—Tucad vóib anba  
cánu da fetaib co fercar cia vob  
vambao lia féoit, acap móine, acap  
inomaíra. Tucad cúca a n-ena,  
acap a n-oadéa, acap a n-ianlert-  
tar, a milain, acap a létommar,  
acap a n-opolháca. Tucart vana

cucu, a fánne, acap a fálge, acap  
a fornarca, acap a n-óvóire, acap  
a n-erfuoa, eir corcair, acap  
goru, acap vub, acap uáine, buíde,  
acap brecc acap láctna, oon,  
alad, acap riabac.—H. 2. 18. f 41.  
b. col. 1.]



*Magach*, with their followers, and *Cormac Conloingeas*, the son of *Conchobar*, king of Ulster, who had been in exile in her kingdom, with his exiled followers, numbering about fifteen hundred men.

These three parties immediately answered the queen's summons, and appeared before the palace of *Cruachan*; and they are separately described in the tale in the following order. The description, though short, will be found very important for the purpose I have at present in view. The first party came with black uncut hair; they wore green cloaks, with silver brooches; the shirts which they wore next their skin were interwoven with thread of gold. The second company had closely cut hair, light gray cloaks, and pure white shirts next their skin. The third and last party had broad cut, fair yellow, golden loose flowing hair upon them; they wore crimson embroidered cloaks, with stone set brooches over their breasts (in the cloaks) and fine long silken shirts, falling to the insteps of their feet.

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description  
of the  
parties  
summoned  
by her.

But there is yet another passage containing references still more minute, and much more numerous, to the characteristic differences of costume, used by different leaders and their clans (no doubt the far originals of the Scottish tartans), as well as to the details of personal clothing. It is where, after the retreat from Ulster, the army of Connacht under queen *Medbh* is overtaken by the Ulstermen under *Conchobar Mac Nessa* at *Slemain* (now well known as the townland of Sleamhain near Mullingar in the county of Westmeath). Here *Ailill* and *Medbh* held a council; and *Ailill* ordered his herald *Mac Roth*, to go forward to observe the approach of the enemy; and when he had carefully ascertained their military order, their dress, their weapons, and their numbers, to return to him with the information. *Mac Roth* went forth and took up a favourable position at *Slemain*, where he waited until the Ultonian chiefs with their respective clans had arrived, and having viewed and well noted their appearance, he then returned to *Ailill* and *Medbh*, with whom was Fergus the exiled prince of Ulster, to inform them of what he had seen.

Description  
of costume of  
Irish Clanns  
from the  
*Tíán Bo*  
*Chualigne*:

I have already quoted the descriptions of the arms given by *Mac Roth*,<sup>(40)</sup> and shall therefore confine myself now to those of the costume of the warriors of Ulster, both as to colour and materials, only adding figure, face, hair, complexion, etc., which are almost as necessary to our present purpose of endeavouring to form an accurate idea of the appearance of the nobles and chieftains of those early days.

<sup>(40)</sup> Lect. XV., ante, vol. i., p. 315.

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is *Roth's*  
description  
*Conchobar*  
is *Nessa* at  
a hill of  
*Slemain*;

The first party described by *Mac Roth* consisted of three times three thousand men, according to the story; and after describing how they raised a mound for their chief to sit on, the poetic herald continues: "A tall graceful champion of noble, polished, and proud mien, stood at the head of the party. This most beautiful of the kings of the world, stood among his troops with all the signs of obedience, superiority, and command. He wore a mass of fair, yellow, curling drooping hair. He had a pleasing, ruddy countenance. He had a deep blue, sparkling, piercing, terrific eye in his head; and a two branching beard, yellow, and curling upon his chin. He wore a crimson, deep-bordered five folding *Fuan*, or tunic; a gold pin in the tunic over his bosom; [and also] a brilliant white shirt, interwoven with thread of red gold, next his white skin".<sup>(41)</sup> Such is the description of the renowned champion *Conchobar Mac Nessa* himself, the king of Ulster.

*Causcraid*  
*meá*;

The next company at the hill of *Slemain* was under twice three thousand, and, says *Mac Roth*, "this party too was led by a comely man. He had fair yellow hair upon him. He had a glossy curling beard. He wore a green cloak wrapping him about; and there was a bright silver brooch (*Cassan*) in that cloak at his breast. He had a brown-red shirt, interwoven with thread of red gold, next his skin and descending to his knees".<sup>(42)</sup> This was *Causcraid Mend Macha*, son of the king *Conchobar*.

*Sencha*;

The third company is described by *Mac Roth* as similar to the last in order, in number, and in dress. "There was", he said, "a comely broad headed champion at the head of that party, with long, flowing, brown yellow hair; he had a sharp black blue eye rolling restlessly in his head. He had a divided, curling, two-branching narrow (or confined) beard upon his chin. He wore a black-green, long-wooled cloak, wrapped around him; and a foliated brooch (*Delg Duillech*) of *Findruine* in that cloak at his breast. He had a white shirt, with a collar, next his skin. A bright shield with devices in silver hung at his shoulder.

<sup>(41)</sup> [original:—óclac feta feta n-ainapo n-ainomín foruallac in ainnué na buíomín fín. Cárnuú sí flaitib in uomuin feta caemnacair, eirí a flusgair, eirí uruo, acap gnám, acap báig, acap éortuo. Folt fínobuioe íf pé capr veirí uhumneé cóbac fapíoe [.i. fapí]. Cúimríu éaem éorcapglan leir. Nórc nó glapí gortapoa, ífré cícar-ua aduachmar ina éino; uléa ve-gablach ífr í buioe upéapí ba fímech. Fuan corcpa corpcharac cáicé uabuil imbí; eó óir ífrín

bpucc ór abpuinne; léme glégel éulpacac ba veig inléuo uo veig ór fíia gellchneir.—H. 2. 18. f. 66. col. 1.]

<sup>(42)</sup> [original:—fep cáin ano ona, in ainnué na buíomín fín caeoeírrín. Folt fínobuioe fapí. uléa eirí im-éapí imma fímeé. Upac uainoei for-cípuil imme; capán zel aigíe íf in bpucc órabpuínní. léimíoh uoe-veig míleca ba veig inléuo uo veig ór, fíí zel éneirí caupul go glunib uó.—H. 2. 18. f. 66. col. 1.]

A silver-hilted sword in a flaming scabbard at his side. A spear like a column of a king's palace beside him". This champion sat upon a mound of sods in presence (or front) of the first champion (king *Conchobar*) who came to the hill, and his company sat around him.<sup>(43)</sup> "Sweeter to me", continues *Mac Roth*, "than the sound of triangular harps in the hands of professional performers on them, were the melodious sounds of the voice and the eloquence of that young hero, when addressing him who had first come to the hill, and advising him in all things".<sup>(44)</sup> This was *Sencha* the orator: he was king *Conchobar's* chief minister at the time.

"There came another company to the same hill of *Slemain* of *Midhe*", said *Mac Roth*. "A fair, tall, great, man was at the head of that party, of a florid, noble, countenance: with soft brown hair, falling upon him in thin, smooth locks upon his forehead. He had a deep gray cloak wrapped around him, and a silver brooch in the cloak at his breast. He wore a soft white shirt to his skin".<sup>(45)</sup> This was *Eogan Mac Durthachta*, chief of *Fernmaige*, now Farney in the county of Monaghan.

Another clann is described by *Mac Roth* as advancing fiercely and in greater disorder. All of them, he said, had their clothes thrown back. "A large-headed, warlike champion took the front of that party; a man of houndlike, hateful face. He had light grisly hair, and large yellow eyes in his head. He wore a yellow, close-napped cloak upon him; and a gold brooch (*Delg*) in that cloak at his breast. He had a yellow fringed shirt next his skin".<sup>(46)</sup> This was *Loegaire Buadach*, that is "*Loeghaire* the victorious", chief of *Immail* in Ulster.

The next clann is described as having "a thicknecked, corpulent champion at their head; he wore black, short, bushy

<sup>(43)</sup> [original:—*laeð caem cen-  
lechan in aipnuch na buoni in;  
folc uaslað donoburoe fair; Rofc  
uilled uubgorin for foluamain  
ma chno. ulca éicri incarr ipri  
vegablað imédel imma rmeð. Upat  
uubglarr ba loff iporcipul imme;  
uelg uilled oe rinorpine in  
brutt óra brumne. léne gel culpa-  
caé rru éneff. Zel rcaé co tuagm-  
laib argarit inri fair. maeborin  
rro argarit in inriú baoba pa-  
cómim. ture rpgchige rru a airr.—  
H. 2. 18. f. 65. col. 2.]*

<sup>(44)</sup> [original:—*ae ba binne-  
lipra rogor éet menoérott illá-  
maib fuao ica rrrfenim, binofog-  
ruguo a goða acap a rplabra in  
n-ócláig ac acallam in ócláig*

*choerig thamic inri tularig, acap ac  
tabairt caða comairle óó.—H. 2.  
18. f. 65. col. 2.]*

<sup>(45)</sup> [original:—*fer rinorata mór  
maipnuc nabuoni in, ipé rpipta  
gormaned; folc uono temin fair,  
ipé rlim canaioe bar a étun.  
Upat forglarr i rilliuo imme,  
uelg argarit inri brutt ór a brumni.  
lénni gel manairé rru chneff.—  
H. 2. 18. f. 65. col. 1.]*

<sup>(46)</sup> [original:—*laeð cenomar cu-  
pata in aipnuc na buonipin; ipé  
cicarpa uachmar. folc n-errom  
n-gpelliad fair, rúle buoe móra  
na éno. Upat buoe cáclamað  
imme; uelg onbuioe in brutt ór  
abrumne. léne buoe corrcéapach  
rpu chneff.—H. 2. 18. f. 65. col. 1.]*

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hair, and he had a scarred crimson face, and gray sparkling eyes. A wounding shadowy spear over him. A black shield with a hard rim of white bronze hung at his shoulder. He wore a dark gray long-wooled cloak with a brooch of pale gold in that cloak at his breast. A shirt of striped silk lay next his skin. A sword with hilt of ivory, and an ornamentation of gold thread upon the outside of his dress".<sup>(47)</sup> This champion was *Munremur* the son of *Gercin*, chief of the territory of *Modurn* in Ulster.

of Connud;

The next clann had "a broad-faced thickset champion at its head. And he was irritable, and had prominent, dull, and squinting eyes. He wore yellow, close curling hair. A streaked gray cloak hung upon him, with a bronze brooch at the breast. He wore a shirt with a collar, descending to the calves of his legs on him. An ivory-hilted sword hung at his left hip".<sup>(48)</sup> This was *Connud* the son of *Morna*, from *Callaind* in Ulster.

of Reo chaid;

The leader of the next clann described by *Mac Roth* appears to be a specimen of manly beauty according to the herald's ideas. No more comely champion had yet arrived, he says: and he describes him as having a head of bushy red yellow hair; a face broad above and narrow below [the true Celtic head of Ireland]; a deep gray, flashing, flaming, brilliant eye in his head, and pearly white teeth. He wore a white and red cloak or wrapper, and a brooch (*Eó*) of gold in that cloak at his breast. He had on a shirt of kingly silk, turned up with a red hem of gold, next his white skin".<sup>(49)</sup> This was *Reochaid* the son of *Fatheman* from *Rigdond* in Ulster.

of Amargin;

The next clann is distinguished by *Mac Roth* as steady and diversified. "A beautiful, active champion was at the head of

<sup>(47)</sup> [original:—Laéc munremur collaéc in airmuéc na buioin rin; folc oub tóbac fair, gnúir éneoaé éorcaroa fua, noic no glarr lannepoa na chimo. Gae rúlec go forcaoaib uaru. Dubrciat co calao buaio rimorui fair, bratt oobroa ba chuafae imme. Dnetnar bán óir ip in bratt óra bruinne. Léine tnebraro rite fua éner. Claoeb co n-elcaib véc, acar co n-imoenam órmdé ar a etais immaig a neccair.—H. 2. 18. f. 65. col. 1.]

<sup>(48)</sup> [original:—Laéc ceterletan comremur in airmuéc na buioin rin. Iré anirc oobroa. Ire veiric earboa, Crunororc oobroa n-aoáno ina éino. folc buoe noéarr fair. Crunorciat veig co m-bil. calao argar ina imtimchull

uaru; gae rlinoletan, rlegfota na láim. Dnatt ruabaé imme, eo uma irin bruct ar a bruinni. Léni éul-pataé i éaurtul ga forcimb óó. Colg vét iar na éorr-bapait éli.—H. 2. 18. f. 65. b. col. 1.]

<sup>(49)</sup> [original:—ni comrig laéc ip éaemiu ná in laéc fail inarimuc nabuioin rin. folc tóbac veig buoe fair; ageo roéain forletan lair; noic no glarr goiraroa, iré camveloa garéctac na éino. fer cón cutrumma iré rata rocael poletan, béoil veig éanaróe leir; véoit niamoa nemanoa; copp gel énerca. Carrán gelveig i faoi uaru; eó óir ipin bruct ór abruinni. léne ve ríól rig ma veigfílliuo ve veig óir, rin gel éner.—H. 2. 18. f. 65. b. col. 2.]



this company; he wore a blue, fine-bordered shirt next his skin, with carved and interlaced clasps of white bronze, with real buttons of burnished red gold in its openings and breast. He wore above it a cloak mottled with the splendour of all the most beautiful of colours".<sup>(50)</sup> This was *Amargin*, the son of *Ecelsalach* the smith, the good poet from the river *Buais* in Ulster.

The next clann was that of *Feradach Fin Fechnach* of *Slebe* of Feradach Fin Fechnach; *Fuaid* in Ulster, described as a champion entirely fair, hair, eyes, beard, eyebrows, and dress.<sup>(51)</sup>

At the head of the next company the herald describes "two soft youths with two green cloaks wrapped around them, and two brooches (*Cassán*) of shining silver in these cloaks over their breasts; they wore two shirts of smooth yellow silk next their skins".<sup>(52)</sup> These were *Fiachaig* and *Fiachna*, the two younger sons of king *Conchobar* himself. of Fiachaig and Fiachna;

Another clann noted by *Mac Roth* in his poetical report is described as "overwhelming in magnitude; fiery-red in a heat; a battalion in numbers; a rock in strength; a destruction in battle; as thunder in impetuosity. The chieftain at its head was [one certainly of no very enviable style of beauty; for he is described as] "an angry, terrific, hideous man, long-nosed, large-eared, apple-eyed; with coarse, dark-gray hair. He wore a striped cloak, and instead of a brooch, he had a stake (*Cuaille*) of iron in that cloak over his breast, which reached from one shoulder to the other. He wore a coarse, streaked shirt next his skin".<sup>(53)</sup> This was the great *Celtchair Mac Uthair*, from *Dun-da-leth-glass*, now Downpatrick in Ulster. of Celtchair Mac Uthair and his clann;

The next in order among the clans of Ulster is reported by *Mac Roth* as, firm and furious, hideous and terrible; "its leader a champion, one of whose eyes was black, and the other white; a wrynecked man with long hands; he had brown, thick, of Eirрге Echbel;

<sup>(50)</sup> [original:—*laec alaino epcato in ainnuch na buoni rin; goim anaric cael corpéarae, go rcauagab ríe rígeí féta rinorruim, go cnarrib oilei deligéi deirgáir for bepnavaib, acap brollaig do fpu éneff. bpatc bommanaé co m-buair caé uáta ehoirre.*—H. 2. 18. f. 65. b. col. 1.]

<sup>(51)</sup> [original:—*laec rinoburoe in ainnuch na buoni rin. rino uile, in for pain eoir, folc acap porc acap uléa acap dbratéur acap decelt.*—H. 2. 18. f. 66. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(52)</sup> [original:—*Uair máeé óélaé in ainnuc na buonirín. Ua bpatc uairne; forcipul impu, ua éarrán*

*gel argarit ir na bpatcib ár a mbuinnib; uá lene u flemun fícu burce fpu cneirraib.*—H. 2. 18. f. 66. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(53)</sup> [original:—*ir báouo ar méit; ir tene ruao loiri; ir caé arlín; ir alo ar nipe; ir bpat; ar bláruo; ir topanoap éarrige. Fer perg-zaé; uachmar, irgáin, in ainnuc na buoni rin; iré ríónmar, ómar, uball ruire; folc n-garb n-gneliath. bpatc ríabán imme; cuallt iairn irin bpatc ór a buinni, con zeib on guatano go a raiile uó. léne garb érebnair fpu éneff.*—H. 2. 18. f. 66. a. col. 1.]

## XXIII.

curling hair. He wore a black flowing cloak with a brooch of red bronze over his breast; and an embroidered shirt next his skin".<sup>(64)</sup> This was *Eirрге Echbel* from *Bri Ergi* in Ulster.

of *Mend* son  
of *Salchol-*  
*gan*;

We have next a clann with a large fine man at its head. He had foxy red hair, and foxy red large eyes in his head, and he wore a speckled cloak.<sup>(65)</sup> This was *Mend* the son of *Salcholgan*, from the headlands of the river *Boind*.

of *Fergna*;

At the head of the next clann that came to the hill of *Slemain* was a chief described as a long-cheeked swarthy man with black hair upon him, and long-limbed. "He had a red longwooled cloak, with a clasp of white silver in it, over his breast, and a linen shirt next his skin".<sup>(66)</sup> This was *Fergna* the son of *Findonna* the king of *Burach* in Ulster.

of *Ercc* son of  
*Carpri Nia-*  
*Fer* and his  
clann;

Then we have a company described as steady, and different from the other companies: "some of them had red cloaks; others gray cloaks, others blue cloaks, and others cloaks of green, blay, white, and yellow; and these cloaks all floating splendidly and brightly upon them". "There is", said *Mac Roth*, "a red speckled little boy, with a crimson cloak, among them in the centre; he has a brooch (*Eó*) of gold in that cloak over his breast: and a shirt of kingly silk interwoven with red gold next his white skin".<sup>(67)</sup> This was *Ercc* the son of *Carpri Nia-Fer*, monarch of Erinn, and of *Fedilm Nucruthach* (literally *Fedilm* the ever blooming), daughter of king *Conchobar*. This was the *Ercc* mentioned in a former lecture, at whose death his sister *Acaill* died of grief, and was buried on the hill of *Acaill*, so called after her, and now known as the hill of Skreene, near ancient Tara.

of *Cuehu-*  
*latnd's*  
clann.

Lastly a clann is described by *Mac Roth*, which counted, he said, no less than thirty hundred blood red, furious warriors,

<sup>(64)</sup> [original:—*ir h-1 bale bruth-*  
*mar, irri eitig uáchtmar; láec [ana-*  
*rain?] bnuarac belmar inairinuc*  
*na buonirín. ir hé leégleóir, leith*  
*incino, lamparó [in airinuch na bu-*  
*roni rín;] folc uono no éarr fair.*  
*bratt oubluaracac imme; noé cneoa*  
*rín brutt ér a bwinno. léni veig*  
*rcairchi rín cneir.—H. 2. 18. f. 66.*  
*a. col. 1.]*

<sup>(65)</sup> [original:—*fer mór bnerca in*  
*airinuc na buoní rín. folc ruao-*  
*veig fair. síle ruaoberga móra*  
*na chno. síchichir ní crummchir*  
*meóir míleo ceóarnai, uina níg*  
*noic ruao ramóra failer lairr.*  
*bratt brecc imme.—H. 2. 18. f. 66.*  
*a. col. 2.]*

<sup>(66)</sup> [original:—*láec leconfoeta*

*oooróa in airinuc na buoní rín.*  
*folc oub fair; rích bailpao .i.*  
*carrá rata. bratt veig ra éarlái*  
*imme; bnerca bán arcaic ir in*  
*brut ér a bwinno. léni línoi rín*  
*cneir.—H. 2. 18. f. 66. a. col. 2.]*

<sup>(67)</sup> [original:—*ir h-1 forruo éra-*  
*mail nír na buonib aile, aill bnu-*  
*itt veig; aill bnuitt glairr, aill*  
*bnuitt guirm, aill bnuitt uane,*  
*blae [blana], bána, buoe; icrac*  
*alle eprócta uaru. unoroé mac*  
*m-bec m-brecoveig com-brutt éor-*  
*cha ecurru bar meóin báveirín.*  
*éó óir rín brutt ér a bwinno, léne*  
*ve ríól níg ba veiggincliuo ve*  
*veigor rín zel cneir.—H. 2. 18. f.*  
*66. a. col. 2.]*

, clean, dignified, crimson faced men. They had long yellow hair [upon them], splendid, bright countenances, sparkling kingly eyes; and they wore glossy, long, flow-bobes, with noble brooches (*Deilge*) of gold, pure shining belts (*Iarndota*), and shirts of striped silk.<sup>(28)</sup> These were men of *Muirtheimne*, the hereditary patrimony of *Cuchulaind*, the great hero of the tale.

These descriptions are surely specific enough to afford us a vivid glimpse of the dress and accoutrements, as well as personal appearance of the Gaedhelic warriors of two thousand years ago. But the same remarkable tale contains much more on the subject.<sup>(29)</sup>

Original:—*nao uacai trichas- etairge ligoa lenomarra, veilge-  
oi, pianna feochra for veir- óraa argeoa, iarnócaib veir-  
e glain suim chorcara. glana; lénti rici riebnaoe.—H.  
a fáca fimburoi, gnúri álle 2. 18. f. 66. col. 1.]*

All the clans whose dress and personal ornaments are described in the tale belong to the Ultonian party; there are, however, some descriptions, not so full in other parts of the tale of the *Táin Bo Chualigne*, of the Ulster warriors, the sons of Connacht, and the allies of *Aiúill* and *Medhbh*, a few of which are given here, in order to show that, so far at least as that tale is concerned, there is no evidence of difference of costume and arms between the class in the northern and western parts of ancient Erin.

At the great combat between *Ferdiadh* and *Cuchulaind*, the latter was obliged to retire from before the enemy, and betake him to his bed of green grass, in order to obtain relief from the fearful wounds which he had received from *Ferdiadh*. He had not remained long in this position, when some of his northern friends arrived to his assistance; finding him, however, in a very weak and feeble state, they took him away to his native *Muirtheimne*, to whose streams and rivers, and the plants which grew in them, the *Tuatha Dé Danann* communicated healing properties. The names of these healing streams are—*Sais*, *Buain*, *Bithlain*, *Findglais*, *Gleoir*, *Gleanamain*, *Bedg*, *Tadg*, *Leit*, *Rind*, *Bir*, *Brenidé*, *Dicaem*, *Muach*, *Miliuc*, *Comung*, *Culend*, *Gax*, *Drong*, *Delt*, *Dubglas*. While *Cuchulaind* was taking the benefit of these waters, the famous *Cethern*, who was described in Lecture xv. (vol. i., p. 100), as making such haste from the north to the assistance of *Cuchulaind*, could only arm himself with an iron spit, arrived. Making straight for the camp of the invaders, he attacked like a maniac every one he met with, and received in return so many wounds, that he was at length obliged to draw to where *Cuchulaind* was undergoing medical treatment.

When he arrived there, *Cethern* asked *Cuchulaind* to procure him some medical assistance. The latter immediately complied with his request, by inviting several of the Ultonian physicians from the enemy's camp to come out to him, as none of the Ultonian physicians were at the time available. The angry northern warriors, rendered fretful by his many wounds, had no patience for the dilatory deliberations of the doctors, and he accordingly dismissed them with blows and rebuffs, some, as we are told, to a bed of sickness, and some to death. *Cuchulaind*, therefore, sent his charioteer *Laegh* for *Fingin Fathhagh* (or *Fingon*, prophetic leech or physician), king *Conchobar Mac Nessa's* chief physician, to *Ferta Fingin* on the brow of *Slebe Fuaid*, in the present county of Wick. The physician returned with the messenger, and the narrator of the tale avails himself of the dialogue between *Fingin* and his patient in the person of *Cuchulaind*, to introduce to the reader by descriptions of their dress, personal ornaments and arms, several of the champions of the



xxiii.  
Medhbh's  
gifts to  
Ailill.

At the opening of the pillow controversy already spoken of, between queen *Medbh* and her consort *Ailill*, the irritated

invading force. These descriptions it is, which it is proposed to add by way of supplement to those of *Mac Roth* in the text.

"The physician having arrived at *Cethern's* bed, the latter exhibits his wounds to him one by one, and asks his opinion of each.

Fegair fíngin in fuil rín: fín-  
gal ecrom inouchraéad anoro, ale  
bar in liaig, ocar ní bepaó immu-  
cha. Ír fír áim, ale bar Cethefn,  
uom ruáctra oen fep ano curu-  
máile fain; bratt fórm í filliwo  
imme, uelg n-arsic ír in bratt  
ara bhuinne; crommraíach go  
faebur donuolad; fain fleg  
cuicirino in na lám, fága faega-  
blaige na fainpa. Uo bepc in fuil  
fain. Rucrom fuil m-bic uaimpe  
nó. Ra ca fectammar in fep fain,  
ale bar Cuculaino,—Íllano ílar  
éleff mac fergura fain, ocar ní ba  
uáctraé leir uo thuccimpu óa  
lám.—H. 2. 18. f. 61. col. 2.

Fega latt tam in fuil reo óna, a  
mo popa fhingín, bar Cethefn.  
Féair fíngin in fuil rín: Dan  
gala banualad ano ro, ale bar in  
liaig. Ír fír áim, ale bar Cethefn,  
uomruáctra oen ben ano, ben  
éim bánameé, leccan fáca móir,  
monng ór buruó fuppu; bratt con-  
cra genóaiéi impu, eó óir ír in  
bratt ór a bhuinni; fleg uiriué  
uomneé ar uerglappao na lám.  
Ra bepc in fuil rín, fómpa; puc  
rí fuil m-bic uaimpe nó. Raca  
fctammar in mnai rín, ale bar Cuc-  
ulaino,—Meob ingen Echairo feo-  
lig, ingen arojug h épenn, arí óa  
ruáct fan congammumrín. Ua  
buaro ocar éorcor ocar commai-  
uom le gía uo faterteru óa  
lámaib.—H. 2. 18. fol. 61. b. a. col. 1.

Féa latt tam in fuilre no a mo  
popa fhingín, bar Cethefn. Féair  
fíngin in fuilreim.—Galad óa fen-  
neo ano ro, ale bar in liaig. Ír fír  
áim, bar Cethefn, uomruáctar-  
ra uiar ano, óa thoomaile fopaib;  
óa bratt a fómpa í filliwo impu;  
uelgi argaic ír na brattaib ór a  
m-bhuinnib; munóobrac argaic oen-  
gil in bragie déctairnaí oib. Ró-  
ca fctammar in uir fain, ale bar  
Cuculaino,—Óll ocar Othme fain,

"*Fingín* examined that blood: 'This is a light unwilling wound', said the physician, 'and it will not carry thee off very soon'. 'True', said *Cethern*, 'a single man approached me there; a blue cloak wrapped around him, a brooch of silver in that cloak at his breast; a curved shield with sharp carved edges upon his shoulder; a flesh-seeking *slegh* (or light spear) in his hand, and a *Faga Faegablaige* (or a small down-headed spear) near it. It was he that gave this wound; and he got a slight wound from me'. 'We know that man', said *Cuchulaind*, 'he is *Illand*, the accomplished warrior, son of *Fergus*, and he was not desirous that thou shouldst fall by his hand'.

"'Look at this blood [wound] for me, my good *Fingín*', said *Cethern*. *Fingín* examined this blood: 'This is the deed of a haughty woman', said the physician. 'It is true', said *Cethern*, 'there came to me one beautiful, pale, long-faced, woman, with long flowing golden yellow hair upon her; [she had] a crimson cloak, with a brooch of gold in that cloak over her breast; a straight-ridged *slegh* (or light spear) blazing red in her hand. She it was that gave me that wound; and she got a slight wound from me'. 'We know that woman well', said *Cuchulaind*, 'she is *Medhbh*, the daughter of *Echaid Feidlig*, the daughter of the high king of *Erinn* [and queen of *Connacht*]; it is she that came thus unto me. She would have deemed it a great victory and a triumph that thou shouldst have fallen by her hands'.

"'Look at this blood [wound] for me, my good *Fingín*', said *Cethern*. *Fingín* examined that blood: 'This is the deed of two champions', said the physician. 'It is true indeed', said *Cethern*; 'two men came to me there with two glossy curled heads of hair; two blue cloaks wrapped around them; brooches of silver in the cloaks over their breasts; a chain of bright silver around the neck of each of them'. 'We know these two



queen does not hesitate to say to her husband, that she had paid him a high compliment, when she selected him as her

to fain muntin aillla ocar meo-  
ba.—H. 2. 18. f. 61. b. a. col. 1.

Feáa laic tam in fuilreo no a mo  
popa Fingin, for Cethearn. Feáaif  
Fingin in fuilrain:—Domuáca-  
tappa oiaf óac péinne ano, con-  
gnam n-anferoasíoe forro; cu-  
mains bip mnuimfa ceácarnai oib,  
cumaingra in m-bipra tpi rin vana  
nai oibpnam. Feáaif Fingin in fuil  
rin. Dub ule, in fuilreo, ale bar  
mliaig. Trí éiríe oo éraearíe oiaic  
eo n-beimá éiríe oib tríe éiríe,  
ocaf ní fupéanamreá ícc anofo;  
áic oo gebainre oiaicreo oo lof-  
raib íccí ocaf pláirén ní nácaíe  
bercaif immúca. Naia fetammar  
in oif pain, alé bar Cuculaino,—  
Dun ocaf Mecconn pain, oo fain,  
muntin aillla ocaf meoíba. Da  
oúépaic léo gea oo faeáaifcéru oa  
lámaib.—H. 2. 18. f. 61. b. a. col. 1.

Feáa laic tam in fuilrea no a mo  
popa Fingin, ar cethearn. Feáaif  
Fingin in fuilrain:—Derguacur  
oa rig caille anofo, alebar in liaig.  
Íf fip am, bar Cethearn, oomuaá-  
cappa oa óclac aigimna abrac-  
gorma mópa ano, go minoab oip  
uaru; oa bract uane iporéipul  
impu; oa éáirán zel aríe íf na-  
bractaib ar a m-brunnib; oa fleig  
cuicpinni ina lámaib. Íc immaicí  
na fuli oo bercaíar forc, alebar  
in liaig: íc éraef oa éuacaf oiaic,  
eo comarneckacaf penna na n-gae  
inníut, ocaf ní h-áru aicc anofo.  
Na ta fetammar in oif pain, bar  
Cuculaino, Broén ocaf Bruoni  
pam, meic Theora Soillí, oa mac  
rig Caille. Dá buaro, ocaf éorcup,  
ocaf éommaroib leo gia oo páe  
éaifcéru léo.—H. 2. 18. f. 61. b. a.  
col. 1.

Feáa laic tam in fuilrea no a mo  
popa Fingin, ar Cethearn. Feáaif  
Fingin in fuilrain: Conngaf oam-  
brachar anofo, ale bar in liaig.  
Íf fip am, bar Cethearn; oomuaá-  
cappa oiaf cétrígíac ano, fuile

men well', said *Cuchulaind*, 'they are  
*Oll* and *Othme*, of the special house-  
hold of *Ailill* and *Medhbh*'.

"Look at this blood [wound], for  
me, my good *Fingin*', said *Cethern*.  
*Fingin* looked at that blood, [and *Ce-  
thern* said]: 'There came to me two  
young warriors, who have not as yet  
come to full manhood; each of them  
thrust a spit into me, and I wounded  
each of them in return with this spit'.  
*Fingin* examined that blood [wound].  
'This blood is all black', said the  
physician. 'It was through thy  
heart they pierced thee, so that they  
formed a cross in thy heart, and I  
cannot pronounce a cure here; but I  
can procure for thee such plants of  
healing and saving properties as shall  
save thee from an early death'. 'We  
know these two men', said *Cuchu-  
laind*, 'they are *Bun* and *Mecconn*,  
of the special household troops of  
*Ailill* and *Medhbh*. It would be pleas-  
ing to them that thou shouldst receive  
thy death wounds from their hands'.

"Look at this wound for me, my good  
*Fingin*', said *Cethern*. *Fingin* looked  
at this blood [wounds]: 'These are  
the red rush of two woodrings', said  
the leech. 'True', said *Cethern*, 'there  
came to me two fair-faced youths,  
with large blue eyes and with golden  
diadems on them; two green cloaks  
wrapped around them; two brooches  
of bright silver in these cloaks over  
their breasts; and two flesh-seek-  
ing spears in their hands'. 'The  
wounds they have given thee are  
invisible wounds: it is down thy  
throat thou hast received them, where  
the points of the spears met within  
thee, and a cure is not easy here'.  
'We know these two well', said *Cu-  
chulaind*, 'they are *Broen* and *Brudni*,  
of the household youths of *Teora*  
*Soillí*, the two sons of the king of  
*Caille*. They would consider it a vic-  
tory, and a triumph, and a cause of uni-  
versal exultation, that thou shouldst  
receive thy death wounds from them'.

"Look at this blood [wound] for  
me, my good *Fingin*', said *Cethern*.  
*Fingin* looked at that blood [wound].  
'This is the joint deed of two brothers',  
said the physician. 'True indeed',  
said *Cethern*, 'there came two kingly

xxiii.

husband, while he was only a younger son of the king of Leinster; and she reminds him that she had presented him at

buire forpo; bhuitt dubglarra  
fá loir i forcipul impu; veigi  
uillecá do findruiniu ir na brac-  
taib ór a m-brunnib; mánaifi le-  
chan glarra na lamaib. Rata  
fetammar in oif rain, ale bar Cucu-  
lano, Cormac [mac] colomárig  
rain, acar Cormac mac Maelefoga,  
do rain muntir aillla ocar Meo-  
ba. Da tuitraet leo gea do fae-  
daifcefu da lémaib.—H. 2. 18. f. 61.  
b. a. col. 1.

Fecha latt sam in fuilrea no a  
ma popa Fingin, ar Cethern. Fe-  
chait Fingin in fuilrain:—attaó  
da n-vepbraetar anoro, ar in liaig.  
Ir fir am, ale bar Cethern, uom-  
ruactarra diaf maeth ocláó ano,  
icac comcormaile oiblínaib, folc  
carr bar in oara nai oib, folc  
carrbuioe bar araile; da bract  
uanioe i forcipul impu, da éar-  
fan zel arge ir na bractaib ar  
a m-brunnib; da leni oi flemam  
fita buioe fua cneffaib; clauoi  
zelouirn par a cneffaib; da zel  
foiaó co tuagmíab arge fínoí  
foraib; da fleig cáicpuno go fe-  
tanaib arge veigil ma lémaib.  
fia ta fetammar in oif rain, ale bar  
Cuculano.—Manc Mathremail rain,  
ocar Manc átremail, da mac aill-  
la ocar Meobá. Ocar ba buioe ocar  
corcu ocar commarvium leo gae  
no faeáifcefu da lémaib.—H. 2.  
18. f. 61. b. a. col. 2.

Fecha lat sam in fuilrea a mo  
popa Fingin, bar Cethern. Uom-  
ruactar diaf oac féinne ano,  
conngram n-ecpíoe, icc epaíoa  
fepoairoe forpo, etage allmaroa  
mngantaoha impo. Cumang bir  
mnumra cehtarrai oib, cumang-  
ra (bir) epí chectarraí oibpium. Fe-  
chait Fingin in fuil rain: átamairi  
na fuil na beptaetar forp, ale ar  
in liaig, fonoa puboatar féite do  
éiproe mnuet, conoa n-imbir do  
éiproe ic éliaab, immar abull i pa-  
bull, ná mar éepclí i párbulz,  
co náé fail féite icir icá immu-  
lunnz, ocar ní veppenampe icc

champions to me, with yellow hair  
upon them; black gray cloaks with  
fringes wrapped around them; and  
foliated brooches of *Findruiniu* in  
their cloaks at their breasts; broad  
green *Manaisé* (or spears) in their  
hands'. 'We know these two very  
well', said *Cuchulaind*, 'they are  
*Cormac*, [son of] *Colamarig*, and *Cor-  
mac*, the son of *Maelefoga*, of the  
special household of *Aillil* and *Medhbh*.  
It would be delightful to them that  
thou shouldst receive thy death wound  
at their hands'.

"Look at this blood [wound] for  
me, my good *Fingin*', said *Cethern*.  
*Fingin* looked at that blood [wound]:  
'This is the deed of two brothers', said  
the physician. 'True indeed', said  
*Cethern*, 'there came two young war-  
riors to me resembling each other, one  
had curling [dark] hair, and the other  
curling yellow hair; two green cloaks  
wrapped around them, with two  
brooches of bright silver in their cloaks  
at their breasts; two soft smooth shirts  
of yellow silk to their skin; two bright  
hilted swords at their girdles; two  
bright shields with fastenings of  
bright silver upon them; and two flesh  
seeking *sleghs* (or light spears) with  
bright veinings of pure bright silver on  
their handles'. 'We know these two  
very well', said *Cuchulaind*, 'they  
are *Manc Mathremail*, and *Manc  
Athremail*, two sons of *Aillil* and  
*Medhbh*. And they would deem it a  
victory, and a triumph, and a cause of  
universal exultation, that thou shouldst  
fall by their hands'.

"Look at this blood for me, my good  
*Fingin*', said *Cethern*. 'There came to  
me there two young champions with  
clear, noble, manly features, and with  
wonderful foreign clothes upon them.  
Each of them thrust a spit into me,  
and I sent this spit into each of them'.  
*Fingin* examined the wounds [blood]:  
'They have inflicted dangerous wounds  
on thee', said the physician, 'for they  
have severed the strings of thy heart  
within thee, so that it plays in thy  
body like an apple in the air, or a ball  
of thread in an empty sack, so that  
there is not a string sustaining it, and  
I cannot perform any cure in this



outset with twelve suits of robes, a chariot worth three  
 es seven *cumals* (or sixty-three cows), the breadth of his face  
 ed gold, and a bracelet of *Findrúine* or carved white metal  
 ver bronze) to fit his left wrist.<sup>(60)</sup> The breadth of his face  
 ed gold spoken of here, and of which we shall have occa-  
 t to speak again, was doubtless one of those deep crescents  
 ed gold of which there are so many magnificent specimens  
 erved in our national museum in the Royal Irish Academy.  
 Again, when queen *Medbh* is inducing one of her warriors,  
 ed *Long Mac Emonis*, to fight *Cuchulaind* in single com-  
 she "promises him great rewards, namely, twelve suits  
 robes, and a chariot worth four times seven *cumals* or  
 ty-four cows, and her daughter *Fíndabair* to wife."<sup>(61)</sup> And  
 in, when queen *Medbh* summoned *Ferdiadh* to fight *Cuchu-*

Gifts pro-  
 mised by  
*Medbh* to  
*Long Mac*  
*Emonis*.

ro. Ra ta fectamar in oir fain,  
 bar Cuculaino, uir fain de  
 feoib na h-iruasoe forroeglar  
 n toir o Ailill ocar o Meob  
 ais oo gonaru.  
 eca lacc uam in fuilre no a mo  
 a fhingim, bar Cethern. féc-  
 fingim in fuil fain no: impu-  
 mic ocar atar anoro, ale ar  
 ais. Ir fir am, bar Cethern,  
 ruáctarra dá fer móra, zain-  
 oerca ano, zo minoib óir  
 lappais uaru, eppuo ruoatou  
 u, clatou óruuim in clarr  
 a ceppais, zo ferbolzab  
 ic óen zil, zo fuchatarais óir  
 eppiu a neccair. Ra ta fectam-  
 n uir fain, ale bar Cuculaino,  
 ll acar a mac fain mane, con-  
 geib ule. Da buao ocar cor-  
 acar commaroum leo zea no  
 uairteu oia lámair.—H. 2. 18.  
 . b. a. col. 2.

place [here!]. 'We know these two  
 very well', said *Cuchulaind*, 'they are  
 two choice champions of *Irruade*  
 [Norway] who were sent specially by  
*Ailill* and *Medhbh* to kill thee'.

"Look at this blood [wound] for  
 me, my good *Fingin*', said *Cethern*.  
*Fingin* examined the blood [wounds]  
 and said: 'This is the joint piercing of  
 a father and son', said the physician.  
 'True', said *Cethern*, 'there came to  
 me there two large men with flaming  
 eyes, having diadems of lustrous gold  
 on their heads, with kingly dress upon  
 them, with long gold hilted swords at  
 their girdles, in scabbards of bright  
 shining silver, with frettings of mot-  
 tled gold on their lower ends'. 'We  
 know these two very well', said *Cuchu-  
 laind*, 'they are *Ailill* and his son  
*Mainé*, who have inflicted those  
 wounds upon thee. They would think  
 it a victory and a triumph, and a cause  
 of universal exultation, that thou  
 shouldst fall by their hands'."

otwithstanding the unfavourable opinion pronounced by *Fingin* upon some  
*ethern's* wounds, he succeeded, we are told, in curing him, or at least in  
 dling him to share again in the conflict. This he is said to have done by  
 ns of a curious bath formed of the marrow of a great number of cows  
 h *Cuchulaind* had killed for the purpose. The place where this bath was  
 ared received the name of *Smiramair* or the Marrow-bath, which is still  
 arved in that of *Smarmore* in the county of Louth.]

[original:—Tucara cor acar  
 echi uir amail ar uech tét  
 nnát, i. timchad dá feruoc ó-  
 cappa epi féc cumal, com-  
 ic ó-aischi oo uepiz óir, com-  
 n oo rugeó clí oo rinuorpmi.  
 . 2 18. f. 41. b. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(61)</sup> [original:—Zellar meob mo-  
 óma oo, i. timécc óa fer ueg  
 oo eeguo, ocar carpac ceire fecc  
 cumal, ocar rinuabair uonnaoi".—  
 Prof. O'Curry's copy. Fol. 53 of H. 2.  
 18, which must have contained this  
 passage, is now apparently wanting.]

XXIII. *laind* in that great combat described in a former lecture,<sup>(62)</sup> which proved fatal to himself at *Ath Ferdiaidh* (now Ardee) we are told that when he came to the queen's pavilion, "he was honoured and supplied with the best of food, and plied with the choicest, most delicious, and most exhilarating of liquors, until he became intoxicated and hilarious. And he was promised great rewards for undertaking to fight and combat, namely, a chariot worth four times seven *cumals* or eighty-four cows; and suits of clothes for twelve men, of cloth of all colours; and the size of his own territory of the smoothest part of *Magh Ai* (in the present county of Roscommon) free of rent and tribute, and of attendance at court or upon expeditions; without any forcible exaction whatever; and to his son and his grandsons and great-grandsons to the breast of eternity, and end of the world; and the queen's daughter (*F'indabair*) as his wife, and the brooch (*Eó*) of gold which was in (queen *Medbh's* mantle over all that", or, as she is made to say in the copy of the *Táin* preserved in the vellum MS. H. 2. 16. T.C.D.: "My spear brooch (*Duillend-Dealc*) of gold which weighs thirty *Ungas* (or ounces) and thirty half *Ungas* and thirty *Crossachs*, and thirty quarter [*Crossachs*]"<sup>(63)</sup>

Gifts promised by *Medbh* to *Ferdiaidh*;

one of them, a gold brooch, weighed more than four pounds.

Persons often find it difficult to believe that some of the gold bracelets and silver brooches to be seen in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy could, from their massiveness, have ever been worn as personal ornaments; but after this great gold brooch of queen *Medbh*, which, according to our calculation, must have weighed more than four pounds Troy, we need wonder no longer at the weight of those that have come down to us from those remote ages. I have indeed so frequently had occasion to refer to the use of these large heavy pins in narrating more than one historical event or anecdote, that I need scarcely insist on the abundance of evidence we possess as to the use of brooches even larger and heavier than those in the museum of the Academy: and there is in fact a fragment of one such silver brooch in that museum, sufficient to show how easily queen *Macha Mongruadh* might have marked out the tracing of the great *Rath of Emania* with hers.

Story of *Mac Conglinde*;

There is another curious reference to the imaginary costume of an imaginary individual, preserved in the *Leabhar Mór Duna Doighre* (now called the *Leabhar Breac*) in the Royal Irish

<sup>(62)</sup> [See Lect. XIV., *ante*, vol. i., p. 302; and also Appendix, where the whole episode descriptive of this fight is given.]

<sup>(63)</sup> [See Appendix, where the original of this passage will be found as part of the text of the whole episode of the combat of *Cuchulaind* and *Ferdiaidh* ]



Academy; but, although the dress is imaginary as regards its materials (indeed of the most ludicrous character), the description given of it is not the less true and valuable as regards the names and the destination of the different articles spoken of. The tract in which we find this reference, is of a very wild character. I have already briefly alluded to it in a former lecture,<sup>(60)</sup> but I shall have to refer here to some parts of it more specifically.

The story commences with informing us that about the time to which it refers (say about the year 740) there were at the great college of Armagh eight divinity students, who in after life became distinguished personages in their country. One of these students was *Anier Mac Conglinde*, a youth not more distinguished for his literary acquirements, than he was for his natural talent and his inclination for bitter sarcasm and satirical rhyming. *Mac Conglinde* after some time discovered that his vocation for the Church was doubtful, while his preference for poetry and history was every day becoming more and more apparent. At last he retired from Armagh and resorted to his former tutor at Roscommon, where he devoted himself for some time to the cultivation and study of his favourite pursuits. At length he bethought him of the best place in which to commence his practice in his new character; and having heard that *Cathal Mac Finghuine*, king of Munster (who died in 742), was suffering from a demoniac, voracious, unappeasable appetite, he decided upon paying him a visit and endeavour to cure him of his malady. "With this intention *Mac Conglinde*", the story says, "sold the few effects that he possessed for two wheaten cakes and a piece of cured beef; these he put into his book-wallet; after which he shaped for himself a pair of *Cuarans*, or shoes, of brown leather, seven times doubled. He arose early the next morning; tucked his *Leinidh* above his hips; he put on his white cloak of five doubles, firmly wrapped about him, and with an iron pin (*Milech*) in that cloak at his breast.<sup>(61)</sup> Thus accoutred *Mac Conglinde* went on to Cork, where he heard the king of Munster was making a visitation of his territories; and after some adventures he found himself in the royal presence. The young poet had then recourse to various devices to draw

(60) See Lect. IV., ante, vol. i., p. 81.

(61) [original:—*tar fín pecas in do in agair fín. arpaict moch m-bec ríreoi boi acca, .i. for sa iarnabapach; acap gabaro a lenno bairgin do éruinect acap for in árogbail of mellaid a lapuc; chocht fen-faille co tíerí var acap gabaro a lummam fínú for-vor alár; pac fín ina téig libair; tocbalta i forcipal imme; milech acap cumair viciusan corpo co- iarnairge uaru ina bpuitt.—Leabhar-  
vige do donlechar, un. fillte Breac, f. 97. a.]*

XXIII.  
Story of *Mac Conglindé*;

forth the demon which it was believed had taken up his abode in the king's stomach and tormented him with an unappeasable appetite. One of the devices to which he had recourse was, to exhibit to the eyes of the king food of the most tempting character, but, Tantalus-like, in such a way as that although it came up to his lips, he had not the power to touch it. Another of his plans was to give a vivid and tormenting description of plenty of viands and sumptuous food which he had seen in his dreams or his imagination. Nothing can be more grotesque or extravagant than this description as preserved in the piece before us. But though it is impossible not to laugh at it, it contains however much detail of quite serious importance with reference to our present subject.

his extravagant dream;

The extravagance to which I allude may be judged by the commencement of *Mac Conglindé's* story to the king, in which he describes how he was carried in his dream to a lake of new milk, in which stood an island of wheaten bread, and a mansion built of butter, cheese, sweet curds, and various kinds of preparations of milk, as well as of many sorts of flesh and fleshy substances. Having reached the brink of the lake, he found there a little boat made of fat beef, and well graved with suet, with seats of sweet curds, with prow of lard, with stern of butter, with sculls (or paddles) of marrow, and with oars of bacon.

Having found himself rowed over in this singular equipage to this singular island, *Mac Conglindé* landed and walked up to the mansion, where he met the doorkeeper; and of him he speaks in these words, in which the most minute account is given of the several articles of dress worn by such a functionary, and in which the only absurd portion consists of the ludicrous character of the materials of which they were supposed to have been made.

his description of a curious dress of a doorkeeper;

"Comely was the face of that young man", said *Mac Conglindé*; "his name was *Maelsaille* (that is, a person dedicated to fat meat), and he was the son of *Mael-imme* (that is, of a person dedicated to rich butter), who was the son of rich lard. There he stood", continues *Mac Conglindé*, "with his smooth *Assai* or sandals of old hung beef upon his feet; with his *Ochrath* or trews of sweet curds upon his shins; with his *Inar* (tunic, or frock) of fresh fat cow-beef upon his body; with his *Cris* or girdle of salmon fish around him; with his *Cochall*, or cape, of *Túscaidh*, or fat heifer beef, upon his shoulders; with his seven *Corniu* or garlands of butter around his head; with his seven rows of onions in each garland of them separately; with his seven epistles of sausages around his neck, with *Bille*



or bosses of rendered lard upon the head of each epistle of them<sup>11</sup>, (56) XXIII.

I shall not at present follow *Mac Conglindé's* humorous description farther. Let us stop to analyze the doorkeeper's dress, so precisely and minutely noted, and, abstracting from it the absurdities of the fanciful materials mentioned, we can very easily call up the image of a man in the costume of the time. And in fact it happens, most singularly, with the exception of the sandals, the girdle, the garlands, and what is called the *Epistle* or necklace, there is still in existence in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy an ancient and most faithful copy of the doorkeeper's dress: that is, as regards the principal articles of which it consisted, namely the trews, the frock, and the cape.

Of these last three articles of dress it is quite unnecessary to say any more here, as they come within the knowledge of every one. We all know that the *Cochall* is the ordinary cape or short cloak for the shoulder, such as is worn at this day. Secondly, the *Inar*, or tunic, is almost identical with the tight, military frock of modern times, but without a collar of any kind as far as we know. The third article of the dress, the *Ochrath*, or trews, was a very graceful fashion of tight-fitting pantaloons, reaching from the hips to the ankles. These three, it will be remembered, were the principal articles of *Mac Conglindé's* doorkeeper's dress, and they are sufficiently explicit. Not so, however, with *Mac Conglindé's* own dress, as described at the opening of the tale. There we are told that the night before his departure for Roscommon, our young poet made for himself a pair of *Cuarans*, or shoes, of brown leather of seven doubles. He arose in the morning, and of course dressed himself. The particulars of the dress are not given, but we are told that he tucked up his *Leinidh* over his hips, and wrapped his white cloak around his body. Here we have no account of the pantaloons, nor of the frock, because they were close fitting articles, that required no tucking up to facilitate the traveller's motion. The white cloak does not demand any particular attention; but the *Leinidh* which he tucked up above his hips, is an article that has not hitherto attracted the notice of any writer on Irish antiquities.

(56) [original:—ba cam uelb inó-claig rin, acap ba hé a éomámm .i. mac-faílle mac maílmme mic blong, cona arfaib flemna pen-faílle ima bunnu; cona ochraib so bivo reabline maíuragib; cona h-inar bo-faílle imme; cona eip so lethar fipéic taru; cona éoch-

all uicárcaro imme; cona uii. cor-nib imme ima chinu; ocap batap .uii. n-inarpe so fipéammm incaé co-paino uibruoe pólech; cona .uii. n-epirlib so éaelanu inbró fo bra-gair, cona .uii. m-bille so blonag bpuéi for oino caés h-epirlí uib-ruoe.—*Leabhar Breac*, f. 100. b.]



XXIII.  
Distinction  
between the  
*Léine* and  
the *Léinidh*,  
—the latter  
was a kilt.

The word *Leine*, though written in two different ways, and signifying two different things, is and must be invariably pronounced the same way. When it signifies a shirt, as it does at the present day, it is written *Léine*; but when, as in the present case, it signifies a sort of petticoat or kilt, it is then written *Léinidh*; but I am not able to explain the reason of the difference in orthography. I am very well aware that these words have been often thoughtlessly and carelessly written, one for the other, even in very old manuscripts; whenever we find a person described with a *Léine* of some beautiful stuff placed upon his white skin, we may, however, be certain, whatever the orthography may be, that the article spoken of is a shirt. And again, when we find a person described with a *Léinidh* having a costly border or fringe, and descending to his knees, we may be equally certain that the article spoken of was a kilt or petticoat. I happen to have met two references to the word in its latter signification, that leave no doubt of its distinctive character and its assigned place on the human body.

Description  
of the dress  
of the cham-  
pion *Edchu  
Rond*;

In the ancient tale called *Loinges nMac nDuildermaita*, or the Exile of the Sons of *Duuldermait*, we are told that on a certain occasion as *Ailill* and *Medbh*, the king and queen of Connacht, were in their palace of *Cruachan*, the warder of the castle came out and informed the queen that he saw a body of men coming towards them from the south: and then the story says that, "as they were looking out then, they saw the cavalcade upon the plain; and they saw a champion leading them, having on a crimson four-folding cloak, with its four borders of gold upon it; a shield with eight joints of *Findruine* at his back; a *Léinidh* reaching from his knees to his hips; fair yellow hair upon his head, falling down both flanks of the steed he rode; a bunch of thread of gold depending from it of the weight of seven ounces; and it was hence he was called *Edchu Rond* [that is, *Edchu* of the gold thread or wire]. A gray black-spotted stallion under him, [having] a golden mouthpiece in his mouth; two spears with ribs of *Findruine* in his hand, and a gold-hilted sword upon his side".<sup>(67)</sup> This splendid champion was the king of *Ui Maine* in the present counties of Galway and Roscommon, and one of the *Firbolg* race.

he wore a  
kilt.

<sup>(67)</sup>[Original:—*amail nobatar ano  
tar rin, conofacatar inlruais fan  
mag; acat conacatar in loed  
remib, acat brat corpra cethar  
sia bail immi, cona ceoteorais oir  
[recte orais] fair; rciach donoc  
nairlib finorruine fora muin; lene  
cona clar argar immi o aglun co-  
roobruinn; monz finobuoi fair*

*combu for oib rlerais inweich;  
rono oir eirruice roibe comcrom  
.un. nuimgi, ba ve ro hamminigeo  
Eochu Rono fair. Sabair breac glar  
ra forruoiu, conabellie oir rruae;  
uagai cona narnuoiu finorruine  
inalaim, clouois orouuinn for a  
druir.—H. 2. 16. col. 961, line 6.]*

Here, I think, there can be no doubt of the precise character and use of the *Leinidh*; and the following passage from the ancient Gaedhelic Triads, gives us even the very law which regulated the wearing of the *Leinidh*, as well as of the *Ochrath*, or trews; and the length of the hair (or beard). Thus speaks this Triad:

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“ Three legal handbreadths, that are, namely—a handbreadth between his shoes and his *Ochrath*, or pantaloons; a handbreadth between his ear and his beard (or hair); and a handbreadth between the border of his *Leinidh* and his knee.<sup>(68)</sup> ”

Law regulating the wearing of the *Leinidh* or kilt, and the *Ochrath* or pantaloons.

I need not, I think, say another word to show what the *Ochrath* and the *Leinidh* were, but it would appear from the absence of the *Leinidh* in the description of the fat doorkeeper, that that article of dress was not worn by the inferior people, but that it appertained to the higher classes and to the professions. The identification of this article of dress is, I must confess, a late discovery, and time has not allowed me to pursue the subject farther at present; but I have no doubt but that I shall be able hereafter to add to these descriptions some more striking illustrations from some of the illuminations to be met with so often in our ancient books and from our sculptures.<sup>(69)</sup>

<sup>(68)</sup> [original:—*Tri bapa cecca* (.i. *bar eirip curtar aleine agar a glun oligeada*). *bar eirip a uppa* (.i. *(.i. curtar le h-oir no le himoll arain) agar na hairt agar a oenat* (.i. *ait*), *bar eirip a u* (.i. *a cluar*) *agar a beppat* (.i. *mullac a cinn*), *bar eirip curtar aleine agar a glun* (.i. *curtar le h-oir no le himoll an etuis* (.i. *imoll lapaite*)]—H. l. 15. p. 955, line 7.]

<sup>(69)</sup> [Vide postea, Lecture xxv. vol. ii. p. 143, where a striking illustration of the nature of the *Leinidh* is given from the tale of the *Brúighean Da Derga*.]



## LECTURE XXIV.

[Delivered July 10th, 1850.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Constant references to fringes of gold thread; mention of this ornament in the account of *Medbh's* visit to her chief Druid in the commencement of the *Táin Bo Chualygne*,—description of *Fedelm* the prophetess weaving a fringe; the fringe sword or lath mentioned in a poem of *Dallan Forgaill* (circa A.D. 560). Ancient laws relating to the pledging of ornaments, etc.; law relating to the pledging of a needle; the pledging of a queen's work bag; the work bag of an *Airech Feibhe*. The legal contents of a work bag formed only a small part of a lady's personal ornaments. References to dyeing, weaving, embroidering, etc., in the ancient laws regulating Distress; objects connected with those arts for the recovery of which proceedings might have been taken under those laws. Objects connected with the textile arts mentioned in other ancient laws. Coloured thread and wool paid as rent or tribute. The dye-stuffs used were of home growth. Legend of St. *Ciaran* and the blue dye stuff called *Glaissin*. Summary of the processes in the textile arts mentioned in the extracts quoted in the lecture. Reference to embroidery in the tale of the *Tochmarc nEimire*, and in the *Dinnseanchas*. *Coca* the embroideress of St. *Columcille*. The knowledge of the Gaedhils about colours shown by the illuminations to the Book of Kells. Reference in the Book of Ballymote to the colours worn by different classes. Cloth of various colours formed part of the tributes or taxes paid as late as the ninth and tenth centuries. Tributes to the king of *Caiseal* according to the Book of Rights from: *Ara*; *Boirinn*; Leinster; *Uaithne*; *Duibhneach* and *Drung*; *Corcumruadh*; the *Deise*; *Orbraidhe*. Stipends paid by the king of *Caiseal* to the kings of Kerry; *Raithlenn*; *Ara*. Tributes to the king of Connacht from *Umhall*; the *Greagraidhe*; the *Conmaicne*; the *Ciarraidhe*; the *Luighne*; the *Dealbhna Ui Maine*. Stipends paid by the king of Connacht to the kings of: *Dealbhna Ui Maine*. Tributes to the king of *Aileach* from: the *Cuileantraidhe*; the *Ui Mic Caerthainn*; *Ui Tuirtre*. Stipends paid by the king of *Aileach* to the kings of: *Cinel Boghaine*; *Cinel Eanna*; *Craebh*; *Ui Mic Caerthainn*; *Tulach Og*. Stipends paid by the king of *Oriel* to the kings of: *Ui Brea sail*; *Ui Eachach*; *Ui Meith*; *Ui Dortain*; *Ui Briuin Archoill*; *Ui Tuirtre*; *Feara Manach*; *Mughdhorn* and *Ros*. Stipends paid by the king of *Uladh* to the kings of: *Cuailgne*; *Araidhe*; *Cobhais*; *Muirtheimne*. Tributes to the king of *Uladh* from: *Semhne*; *Crothraidhe*; *Cathal*. Gifts to the king of *Tara*. Stipends paid by the king of *Tara* to the kings of: *Magh Lacha*; *Cuirne*; *Ui Becon*. Tributes to the king of *Tara* from: the *Luighne*; the *Feara Arda*; the *Saithne*; *Gailenga*; the *Ui Becon*. Stipends paid by the king of Leinster to the: *Ui Fealainn*; the chief of *Cualann*; *Ui Feilmeadha*; king of *Raeilinn*; *Ui Criomhthannan*. Tributes to the king of Leinster from the: *Galls*; *Forthuatha*; *Fotharta*; men of South Leinster. Gifts from the monarch of *Erinn* to the king of *Emain Macha*. Stipends of the king of *Emain Macha* to the kings of: *Rathmor*; *Ui Briuin*; *Conmaicne*. Gifts bestowed on the king of Leinster by the monarch of *Erinn* whenever he visited *Tara*. Gift of the king of Leinster on his return from *Tara* to the king of *Ui Fealainn*. Gifts of the monarch of *Erinn* to the king of *Caiseal* when at *Teamhair Luachra*. Stipends given by the king of *Caiseal* at the visitation of the monarch of *Erinn* to the: *Deise*; *Ui Chonaill*. Stipends paid by the king of Connacht to the kings of: *Ui Maine*; *Luighne*. Colours of winds, according to the preface to the *Seanchas Mor*.



IN the last lecture, I brought together a considerable number of general descriptions of the costume of kings and warriors armed for battle, taken chiefly from the historic tale of the great war between Connacht and Ulster in the time of *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, about one thousand nine hundred years ago. I purpose in this lecture to give as detailed descriptions of the manufacture of ornamental dresses, as the accounts preserved in our old books will enable me to do.

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We have seen, and shall see hereafter, in the description of the clothes of men and women, constant reference to borders, or fringes of thread of gold and other materials and of various colours. And in fact we find a very circumstantial, and therefore most interesting, reference to the actual manufacture of this beautiful ornament at the beginning of the tale of the *Táin Bo Chualgne*.

When the three great parties already spoken of, consisting of queen *Medbh's* seven sons, their cousins, the seven sons of *Maghach*, *Cormac Conloingeas*, the exiled Ulster prince, and their followers, had arrived at the palace of *Cruachan* and quartered themselves for the time on the surrounding territory, queen *Medbh* herself began to entertain serious thoughts on the probable results of the great war on which she was about to enter. To satisfy herself as far as possible, the queen ordered her chariot and drove to the residence of her chief Druid, and demanded knowledge and prediction of the future from him. "Numbers", said *Medbh*, "shall separate from their companions and from their friends this day, and from their country, and from their lands; from father, and from mother; and if they do not all return in safety, it is upon me their groans and their curses shall be poured out; however, there goes not forth and there remains not at home any one more precious to us than ourselves, and ascertain thou for us", said she, "shall we return or shall we not". And the Druid answered: "Whosoever returns not, you yourself shall return".<sup>(70)</sup>

*Medbh's*  
visit to her  
chief druid  
before the  
great *Táin*:

The story then goes on as follows:

"The charioteer then turned the chariot, and *Medbh* returned back. She saw what was a surprise to her, namely, a single woman sitting upon the shaft of the chariot beside her in her presence. What the woman was doing was, weaving a border with a sword [that is, a lath or rod] of *Fíndruini* (or white

description  
of *Fedelm*  
the proph-  
etess who  
appeared to  
her when  
returning;

<sup>(70)</sup> [original:—So é a b' f' c' a' r' f' f' u' a' d' o' e' m' u' a' c' a' r' f' f' u' a' d' a' i' r' i' o' u' f' u' n' t' m' o' i' u' a' r' m' e' o' b' a' c' a' r' f' f' u' a' d' r' u' í' d' a' c' a' r' f' f' u' a' f' e' r' a' n' t' o' ; f' f' u' a' a' c' h' a' i' r' a' c' a' r' f' f' u' a' m' a' t' a' i' r' a' c' a' r' m' e' n' i' é' i' r' e' t' u' l' i' i' n' i' m' p' l' a' n' t' i' f' o' r' m' a' c' o' m' b' e' n' f' a' c' a' n' o' p' n' a' r' o' a' c' a' r' a' m' a' l' l' a' c' h' t' a' m' . a' r' a' i' r' i' n' i' ]

é' i' t' i' m' m' a' é' a' c' a' r' n' i' a' n' a' n' o' i' f' u' r' a' r' o' i' l' i' u' l' i' n' o' o' l' o' a' m' m' i' t' f' a' b' e' r' r' i' n' a' c' a' r' f' u' n' t' a' r' r' u' o' i' n' i' n' t' e' c' a' m' f' o' n' a' t' e' c' a' m' . a' c' a' r' n' a' p' a' r' o' i' n' o' p' u' i' : "C' i' r' é' n' o' n' a' t' i' c' t' i' c' f' a' r' u' f' e' r' r' i' n' ."—H. 2. 18. f. 42. a. col. 2.]

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bronze) in her right hand, having seven ribs of red gold in its points (or ends). She had a green spot-speckled cloak upon her; and a round heavy headed brooch (*Bretnas*) in that cloak over her breast. Her countenance was crimson, rich-blooded; her eyes gray and sparkling; her lips red and thin; her teeth shining and pearly, so that you would think it was a shower of fair pearls that had been set in her head; like fresh *Partaing* [Coral] were her lips; as sweet as the strings of sweet harps played by the hands of long practised masters, were the sounds of her voice and her fine speech; whiter than the snow shed in one night were her skin and her body appearing through her dress; she had long, even, white feet; and her nails were crimson, well cut, circular, and sharp; she had long fair yellow hair; three wreaths of her hair were braided around her head; and another braid descending as low down as the calves of her legs".<sup>(71)</sup>

Queen *Medbh* questioned this strange visitor as to her name and the cause of her visit. The lady answered that she was a handmaid of her own, from the fairy mansion of *Cruachan*; that her name was *Fedelm* the prophetess; and that she had come to tell her royal mistress beforehand, the losses and misfortunes which would result from the intended expedition. The prophetess then in a poem of ten stanzas, describes minutely the person of *Cuchulaind*, who was to bring such losses and disasters upon the queen; and disappears.

The most remarkable matter in this short description is the fact of the speaker being engaged in weaving a fringe or border in the same way that such an operation is carried on at this day: for the poetical sword which she made use of for the purpose is represented by the less costly sword-like lath of our more matter of fact times. The fringe sword or lath is mentioned also in the ancient and obscure poem, believed to have been written by *Dallan Forgaill* for the shield of *Aedh* or *Hugh*, king of *Oirghialla* or *Oriel* about the year 560.

the weaving of a border or fringe the most important part of this description.

The fringe-sword mentioned in a poem of *Dallan Forgaill* (circa A.D. 560).

<sup>(71)</sup> [original:—*Impáir in t-ána in carrat, acar do táet meob for cúlú. Conaccas ní parihgnas lé, .i. in n-aen mná for ferctair in carrat na farras ina doctum. Is amlaro boi mo mben ic figi éorpcatru acar claoeb finorpuim ina lámh veirt, cona fect n-arlib do veigóir ina veirarb. Bnatc balla-bhecc uani imp; bnectar torpac ében-ceno fin bnatc of a bpuim. Snúir éorpcra épumamec lé; porc glair garpctac lé; beóil veigá chianaroe; veit miamoa nemanoa,*

*anorpLet batar pporra fino-nemano epctair ina censo; cormarl do nua parctaing a beóil; binnoirp ceta meno-énot aca feimn allám-aib pppuas, bino-fogur a gocta acap a cáin uplabra; gileoirp meéca puzeo fpu oen aroci tarolec a cnipt acap a colla, ped a timéac pedctair; traigci pcta pichgela; inéni corpcra, copu, cpuno-gera, lé; folc finobuoi paca foróipoa farru; ce-ora cpullri da fulc imma censo; cpulir aile combenao forcao fpu colpca.—H, 2. 18. f. 42. a col. 2.]*



This singular composition consists of twenty-one stanzas, the fourteenth of which runs as follows: xxiv.

[“ It was not woven with a beam or heddles  
 Nor a wooden lath of the whitest  
 Nor [was it] the handiwork of a dexterous embroidress,  
 Nor did red fastening fasten it.”<sup>(72)</sup>

This is said of the king of Oriel’s shield *Dubhghilla*, and from the negative allusions to the absence of the weaver’s beam, the weaving swords, or heddles, the hand of an expert woman, and the fastening pins in its manufacture, it is evident that the shield was one of those formed of wickerwork or woven laths.

It would be easy to multiply examples of the references to rich borders or laces in our old historic and romantic tales, but the following one or two instances will be sufficient to illustrate this article of our ancient luxury.

The following curious enactments found in the ancient Institutes of Erin commonly called the Brehon Laws, relate to the pledging of certain articles peculiarly appertaining to women, and is of great interest in connection with the present subject. These laws were enacted to provide against the loss or misappropriation of articles of domestic use, as well as of personal adornment and convenience, when these happened to have been pledged and not delivered up when demanded, and upon payment of the sum lent; in which case the overholders were liable to “smart” fines. And these fines varied according to the importance of the article to the owner, as for instance: if a man or woman pledged a ring, a bracelet, or a brooch, and wished to release it on the eve of a great fair or assembly, the disgrace of the owner for having to appear without his proper ornaments or not at all, was included in the calculation of the fine for overholding the article.<sup>(73)</sup> Thus says the law: “If there happens to be a day of solemnity, such as Easter or Christmas, or an assembly, such as a fair, or a convocation of the state, to entertain a question, by a king, or by a synod [of the clergy], if his pledged

Ancient laws relating to the pledging of ornaments and articles belonging to women;

<sup>(72)</sup> [original:—a. nri fizeo aggarman na aclaromb.

Ni caill garman sa fize  
 Ni cloubi cionn co n-gile  
 Ni lamaç oag-mna ojuine  
 Ni oerz aijize garize.—H. 3. 18. p. 560 ]

<sup>(73)</sup> [original:—ma tecmaí lich laiche, no váil, no thorcampaç tuaithe, maní toipe a gell óó, no rét beipó rú, oerli lan loz aenech oo cach, fo miao, la epaice oo neoch oo ruirpemei oi rmaçtaib ocuf aichgenais.—H. 2. 15. f. 30? The whole of the passages from the fragment of the *Seanchas Mór* in H. 2. 15. T.C.D. quoted in this lecture are contained, as well as I can recollect, on pp. 27 to 30 of that MS. It was not available to me for collation, and the references to the pages where given are consequently only approximations.]



**XXIV.** article is not restored to the pledger, that is his brooch, and everything which is composed of [gold or of] silver, or an article equal to it in value, there shall be a fine of dishonour, and other enumerated fines, together with restitution of the pledge [upon the overholder]."<sup>(74)</sup>

The law then goes into more minute details as follows:—  
 "What has the law laid down as the fine of a pledged needle?"

**Answer**—it is a *dairt* [or yearling calf] that is paid as the fine for it. If it be a cloak needle, it is a heifer that is paid as its fine. And it is the same fine that is paid to any person [for needles], but women are the most proper to put them in pledge."<sup>(75)</sup>

This article is further explained as follows: "What does the law lay down as the fine of a pledged needle? **Answer**—A *dairt* [or yearling calf] worth four *screpalls* [of three pennies each] is what is paid as the fine of the needle, that is of the fine needle. That is to say: a yearling calf to every woman whatever as the fine for her needle, except the embroideress, for, as regards her, it is the value of an ounce of silver that shall be paid her as the fine for her needle; provided, however, that this may not be paid her except for the needle with which she works her ornamentation, that is, her embroidery."<sup>(76)</sup>

This article is further explained by another section, which says:—

"The lawful right of the pledged needle of an embroideress is laid down by the law. It is in ornamentation she is paid as far as the value of an ounce of silver; because every woman who is an embroideress is entitled to more profit (or value) than a queen."<sup>(77)</sup>

This is a remarkable instance of protection to skilled industry so many ages ago! The law proceeds:—

<sup>(74)</sup> [original:—*lích laithe, .i. cairc no noclaig, dáil, .i. oenaig, tho-compacc tuaithe, .i. im caingín fú nús, no fenaob, a gellúo, .i. doealg, acar' soneoch ír aicse aipúo, í mac-taib, .i. dáirtib, aichgínaib, .i. na naigse.—H. 2. 15. f. 30?*]

<sup>(75)</sup> [original:—*Cio fóirto no fúirto-geo techta fullema gill ína taite la fime? nún.—Dáirt óipenar inna fullema íoe. maobnacínatár ír colbtach ina fullempíro. noch ír comóir ói cech necht, áct íc mna áca corú óia tabairt ingill.—H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

<sup>(76)</sup> [original:—*Cio fóirto .i. cia ara íamaigea ólizeo fullema gill ína-taite óa íeip' nro íeneáir? Dáirt, .i. dáirte .iii. ícnebull íreab' ípín-ter ina fullempíoe .i. na ína-taite*

*caile .i. dáirt óo cáe mnaí uile a fullema a ína-taite cenmoctú in ópúimí, uair' maó ír íoe ír log nuingí aipúit bíar ói a fullema a ína-taite; no óno, cona beic ím ói áct' ím ína-taite óa nuingead a himóenam, .i. a ópúimechur'. [noch ír comóir .i. neoch íeicim íoneó comóir inní ír óip óu gac íúct' óuine ga m' í. ácht íc mna .i. áct' aipim conó íao na mna ír corú óia tabairt ingill.—H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

<sup>(77)</sup> [original:—*Techta fullema gill ína-taite, ópúimige la fime. imóenmaib óipenar corúicce log nuingé aipúit; aip' ír mo óo thónbu óop'í cachben ber ópúimech lo óaite íugna.—H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

"The lawful right of the pledged needle of an embroideress is laid down in the law. She is paid the value of an ounce of silver in ornamentation [which we may suppose means materials for ornamentation], for every needle which she has [pledged]". "Or it is half an ounce of silver she is paid for the needle with which she works her ornamentation; and the same to her, as to any other woman for every needle which she has from that out. The greater profit [which the embroideress was entitled to beyond the queen], consisted of *Breac-Glas* [green-spotted cloth] and *Srol* [i. e. satin or silk], and fringes (or borders); and that all these ornamentations were worth an ounce of silver".<sup>(77)</sup>

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In the following article the contents of a queen's workbag are minutely recorded.

the pledging  
of a queen's  
work-bag;

"The lawful fine of the pledged workbag of the king's wife. If it contains but two of its lawful articles, there are two ounces of silver paid for it."<sup>(78)</sup>

"If it contains its legitimate property, namely, a veil of one colour, and a *Mind* or crown of gold, and a *Land*, or crescent of gold, and thread of silver. This then is the workbag of the wives of the kings, and when all these articles are in it, three cows (or six heifers) are its fine: and if they are not in it, it is double of every article which is in it [that is paid], until it reaches the three cows, and when it does so reach, it goes no further".<sup>(79)</sup>

And again the law says, "If it contains its legitimate property, namely, a veil of one colour, and thread of silver, and a *Land*, or crescent of gold, and a *Mind* or crown [of gold]—if all these are in it, it is three ounces [of silver that are paid]. If it is one of them that [it contains] it is one ounce that is paid. But if the four articles are in it, it is three cows that are paid for it; and if they are not [in it] it is double [the value] of every article that it contains [that is paid for it] until

<sup>(77)</sup> [original:—*techta fuillema-gill, .i. oligeo fuillema gill rnatance na oipumige. impenmaib, .i. eipmteip log umgi aipgio oimpenam .i. in gaé rnatáro uile bip aicr. no ip leé umgi aipgio oi ip an rnatáro ba mpenano a impenam; acap cut-puma .i. acap ba gaé mnai eile in gaé rnatáro uile bip aice o hromimac. .i. o thopba, .i. so bpeaclap acap rpol, acap corpuarab; acap gurpat riu umge uile na impenma. H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

<sup>(78)</sup> [original:—*techta fuillema gill iadairge mna rúg, .i. oligeo fuil-*

*lema gill iadairge mna in rúg. maó ueroc uib, ic oi umge.—H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

<sup>(79)</sup> [original:—*iadairge, .i. diaq, ma beith cona chothguraib, .i. ma dia rab rú go na tocapaib oligtea-dais, .i. caslle aen baé, acap mho oip, acap lano oip, acap rano aipgio, .i. iadaé ban na rúg reo, acap o beio, na neirí riu mto ip tpi ba ma fuillem, acap mana rabaó, ip oiablaó gaéa neic bip mto no go rú na tpi ba, acap oip rú naó teio tairpib.—H. 2. 15. Vide ante, p. 111.]*

xxiv. it reaches three cows, and when it reaches [the three cows] it goes no further".<sup>(60)</sup>

the work-bag of the wife of an *Airech Feibhe*.

The law then passes from the professional and from the amateur embroideress and from the king's wife, to the wife of an *Airech Feibhe*, or chief of dignity, of whom it says:

"The workbags of the wives of the noble [or lord] grades, that is, a workbag with its legitimate property of [silver] thread, with a veil, and with a diadem of gold, and a silk handkerchief, and if so, there are three heifers paid as its fine; and if these are not in it, it is the double of every article which is in it that is paid until it reaches three heifers".<sup>(61)</sup>

This text is further explained as follows:

"If it be a bag without its legitimate property, namely, a veil, and silver thread, and a crescent of silver, and a diadem of gold; or what contains a painted mask, that is, what contains a painted face, [or mask] for assemblies, namely, the banner or the handkerchief of silk, or the gold thread, that is when it does not contain those things; and if those things were contained in it, three heifers [would have been the lawful fine for it]; but when those [articles] are not in it, it is double the value of everything which is in it until it reaches the three heifers [that is paid for it, but when it so reaches] it goes no further".<sup>(62)</sup> This is a very curious entry regarding ladies' dress, and indicates, I think, a peculiar and advanced state of civilization.

The legal contents of a work bag only a small part of a lady's personal ornaments, etc.

So much then for the legal protection of an embroideress in ancient Erin, and for the legal requisites of what is, I believe, in our times called a lady's workbag or work-box. We must remember, however, that the articles required by law to constitute the contents of a lady's treasure bag, formed only a small, though an important part of the articles intended to grace and decorate her person. Neither her ordinary nor her state garments are enumerated here; neither are her rings, bracelets, clasps, anklets, brooches, necklaces, or torques, nor the

<sup>(60)</sup> [original:—*Teichtaib, .i. caille aen finna, acap rono, acap lano oip, acap mino—ma beir inne uile ic ceopa uinge. ma en oib ep en uinge. no macair na epur mci ip ep ba ina fuilleam; acap mana fuillec ip oiablaoc cach neich mnici co ma ep ba, acap oip ma noco céit tairrib.*—H. 2. 15 f. 28.]

<sup>(61)</sup> [original:—*Teichta fuillema, .i. iadac ban na ngrao flata, .i. iadac cona todar teichta ranoce, gu caille, acap gu mino oip, acap bheirioira, acap ep ramaice ina fuilleam, acap mani uilec reo mci ip*

*oiablaoc gac neic uil mci, no gu ma na ep ramaice.*—H. 2. 15. f. 29. a.]

<sup>(62)</sup> [original:—*Manp iadach, .i. manap triag gan a todog oigtheac, .i. caille, acap rono, acap lano aipic, acap mino oip; ni cona fethal, .i. no ni coimeoap ecorc oála com, .i. in meipgi, no in bpeio ríoa, no in ranoio, uair noco nuil ano mci rin; acap oa mbeé rabaio ep ramaice; uair nac fuil ip oiablaoc gac neic uil mci no go ma na ep ramaice; acap noco céio tairrib.*—H. 2. 15. f. 29. a.]



golden balls, rings, and pins of her hair, all of which articles, we know, were worn by the ladies of those times at the great fairs, assemblies, and state meetings of the country.

In a similar law to that just referred to, we find some details regarding the dyeing of cloth, weaving it, and preparing it for use, all which were employments of women. It is only from these allusions that we can discover clearly what they had to wear in those ancient times. The law I allude to is one regulating the recovery of debts by distress or seizure, and the time allowed for the distrained property to remain in the hands of the owner, in order to give him time to procure means to pay the debt. This law was general and complicated; and the time of stay, as it was called, varied according to circumstances, from the immediate carrying away of the distress, to a period of one, two, three, five, ten, and fifteen days, or more. Two days, however, was the stay of sale of all seizures made on the part of women only, either for their pay as manufacturers, or for articles connected with their manufactures, sold, lent, or taken away from them. The following are the items for the recovery of which women had recourse to the aid of the law, as far as this particular enactment is concerned.

1. The price (or wages) of hand produce [labour], that is, the price of what she produced with her hand, namely, teasing and colouring and weaving (wool), the price or pay being one-tenth part of each work [i.e. of the value of the woven piece].<sup>(83)</sup>

Also for napping [or also sleeking] the cloth, half the wages of the weaving woman, i.e. the wages given, i.e. the price of weaving.<sup>(84)</sup>

2. For materials, such as of gray flax and gray woollen yarn, when upon the spindles.<sup>(85)</sup>

3. For a flax-spinning spindle.<sup>(86)</sup>

4. For a spindle, i.e. a wool-spinning spindle, or a spindle of weft.<sup>(86)</sup>

5. For a foot-bag, that is, a bag [which contains the sorted wool], and which is placed under (or at) the woman's feet, out of which she combs (or cards) her materials, that is, the combing (or carding) bag.<sup>(87)</sup>

<sup>(83)</sup> [original:—*athgabast aile, .i. ep ara anao nait. im log lamcho-  
raio, .i. im log in toparo vo ni pi  
ó lám, .i. bocao, acar bnecao, acar  
rige, .i. wechmar cacha súla.—  
Seanchus Mór, Harleian MSS. 432.  
Brit. Mus. f. 10. a. a.]*

<sup>(84)</sup> [original: *im roburche, .i. leé  
na ruba don mnáí isí, .i. ruba bepp-  
éaí], .i. luas rige.—*Ibid.*]*

<sup>(85)</sup> [original:—*im cach naobur,*  
*.i. glar lín. bír i ferurib, .i. rúáé  
glar ollá.—*Ibid.*]*

<sup>(86)</sup> [original:—*im fercair, .i. lín.  
im rúimastre, .i. ollá no in fercair  
loim, .i. mnóich.—*Ibid.*]*

<sup>(87)</sup> [original:—*im per bolg, .i.  
im in bolg bír ro péir forraige, ar  
a cipann a abur, .i. in cipbole.—*Id.*]*

XXIV

References  
to dyeing,  
weaving,  
embroider-  
ing, etc., in  
the Ancient  
Laws regula-  
ting Dis-  
tress;

objects con-  
nected with  
those arts  
for the re-  
covery of  
which pro-  
ceedings  
might have  
been taken  
under the  
laws.

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objects connected with those arts for the recovery of which proceedings might have been taken under the laws.

6. For a *Feith-Géir*, which puts a sharp [smooth] face upon her weaving.<sup>(88)</sup> [This, I believe, was the sleeking stick or bone which weavers still use to close and flatten linen cloth on the breast beam of the loom while in process of being woven.]

7. For all the weaving implements, i.e. for all the instruments used in weaving, including beams and heddles, that is, weaving rods.<sup>(89)</sup>

8. For the flax scutching-stick, i.e. by which the flax is scutched. For the distaff or flax rock [or for] the spindle for spinning wool.<sup>(90)</sup>

9. For a rolling beam, that is, the beam without the radiating head, without sharp points.<sup>(91)</sup> [This was, I believe, the front beam of the loom upon which the warp was rolled up to be woven.]

10. For a border (or fringe) sword, that is, [the sword or lath] upon which the border (or fringe) is woven.<sup>(92)</sup>

11. For materials, that is, for the finished material, the material which wants only to be woven; that is, the white balls, the white (bleached) thread.<sup>(93)</sup>

12. For the instrument of the manufacturing woman, namely, the winding bars, that is, the tree upon which she prepares the yarn, the winding reel.<sup>(94)</sup> [This was not the vertical reel upon which the skene of yarn was formed from off the spool or the spindle, but it was the horizontal reel upon which the skene of yarn, when taken off the vertical reel, was laid, and wound off into balls or bottoms, as they still call them in the rural districts.]

13. For a border fringe upon itself, [i.e. cloth having a bordered edge or fringe made of its own warp, and not sewed on].<sup>(95)</sup>

14. For the facilitator of her handiwork [namely], that which facilitates to her the work she produces from her hand; the pattern piece of leather, which is placed before her, in which is delineated the pattern of the work.<sup>(96)</sup>

<sup>(88)</sup> [original:—*im fét [no fíó] gear [i. oo beir fét gear uar a fíó].—Ibid.* and vol. i. p. 152 of *Senchus Mór* of Brehon Law Commis.]

<sup>(89)</sup> [original:—*im aiceo fige uile i. comoban na fige oo gearmib ocu' oo claiomib i. na flata fige. Harl. MSS. 432, fol. 10. a. a*]

<sup>(90)</sup> [original:—*im flerc lin, i. oa flercche' in lin. im cuicil, i. cuicil lin, i. in fercar, i. nolla.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(91)</sup> [original:—*im luga'arman, i. luga' garman, no lingua' garman, i. in garman cen buiar [cenbar], i. cen pæbar.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(92)</sup> [original:—*im cloruem cop-*

*chaine, i. ara figche' in cor'chaine.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(93)</sup> [original:—*im abruar, i. abar uar aét a fíó, i. na ceirle gela, i. rúd' fínn.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(94)</sup> [original:—*im comopar na-bairre [i. ni an a comoir'genn in abairre' a h-abruar], i. crann tochar'ái [i. in crann tochar'oa] no tochar' [i. crann'oa beca a cinn cor'ar]. Nabairre, i. gnim an gnim.—Ib.]*

<sup>(95)</sup> [original:—*im cor'ar, i. uirru féin.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(96)</sup> [original:—*im airt' lamtho-paro, i. uraite le in topar' oo gní ó láim; in nuat leob ina fíonairi, i. ruat in gnera innci.—Ibid.*]

This most curious fact, of a pattern, cut or painted, by an artist or designer in leather, was probably made available for figured weaving as well as embroidery and other needlework. Several bones of animals have been discovered, and are now in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, containing patterns of illuminated letters for ancient books, and delicate interlacings for such letters, or for the embellishment of shrines, croziers, covers of books, etc.; and an ancient box or pouch of strong leather, with various interlacings and grotesque figures, embossed by pressure, and which was intended for, and used as, a case for the ancient Book of Armagh, is now preserved, as well as the book itself, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. There is good reason to believe that this case was made in the tenth century.

14. For a wallet with its contents, that is, a bag with what is put to keep in it. For the material, that is, the *Aiteog*, that is, the string that is about it, that is, about its mouth.<sup>(97)</sup>

15. For a *Crioll*, that is, a bag formed of strips of leather stitched together with a thong.<sup>(98)</sup>

[This *Crioll*-making was a trade in itself, but included the making of leather bottles. The maker was called a *Chiaraidhe*, from *Clera*, a word synonymous with *Crioll*; and he was also called a *Pataire*, from *Pait*, a bottle, when he practised that branch of the trade. The brogue-maker, or *Cuaranaigh*, sometimes made bag and bottle making part of his trade.]

16. For a leathern tube-bag, that is a bag (or case) with a wooden tube, that which encased the cosmetic or oil bottle.<sup>(99)</sup>

17. For a *Rinde* [that is, a round wooden bucket].<sup>(100)</sup>

18. For a *Cusal* [that is, a long wooden bin (or box).] These were small wooden repositories of prepared materials, which the women kept in ancient times.<sup>(101)</sup>

19. For a needle [i.e. the thread passes through its eye].<sup>(102)</sup>

20. For ornamentation thread, that is, coloured thread.<sup>(103)</sup>

21. For a *Scaideirc*, that is, the reflector of the woman's image, that is, a mirror.<sup>(104)</sup>

<sup>(97)</sup> [original:—*im iadag cona ecorraig, .i. in iadag cur aní ecarraig innti. in [im] cabrúir, .i. aiteog, .i. in loman bír imbe, .i. im a beolu.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(98)</sup> [original:—*im criol, .i. im criol, cno fuairtheir v'i allab, no cno ariallab.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(99)</sup> [original:—*im cranabolg, .i. lethair, .i. bolg ar ambio cranbelan analluo, .i. bír fon páit foilcti.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(100)</sup> [original:—*im rinde, .i. in ruda.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(101)</sup> [original:—*im churail, .i. gairic, .i. crummo rúimio, .i. cranooiga beca no bír aca anallóc im an abrag.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(102)</sup> [original:—*im rúathair, .i. réc int rúat ina cró.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(103)</sup> [original:—*im rúathic líga, .i. rúat vacta.—Ibid.*]

<sup>(104)</sup> [original:—*im rcaoiric, .i. rcat vepc na mban, .i. rcatán.—Ibid.*]

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objects connected with those arts for the recovery of which proceedings might have been taken under the laws.



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For *Focoisle ben*, that is, anything which one woman borrows from another".<sup>(105)</sup>

Objects connected with the textile arts mentioned in other ancient laws.

To this curious list of articles, connected with the manufacture of domestic clothing, may be added the following few items, which are found in the Brehon Laws, which relate to a separation between husband and wife, when each of the parties took of the common property, as it stood at the time of separation, an amount proportioned to their respective stocks when first married, the property of the wife not resting in her husband under the Irish law. The following is an extract from the law alluded to:

"Four divisions there are upon wool [at the time of separation], of which the woman takes a seventh part, if it be only in the fleece, and a sixth part if it be in flakes, and a third part when almost ready [for the rock], half after oil was put into it, and also when in cloth".<sup>(106)</sup>

"Four divisions there are upon the *Glaisin* [that is, the dye-stuff]. A ninth part for plucking it, a sixth part for bruising it, and until it is applied to the colouring, that is, until the wool passes from the *Glaisin* into the first, or ground colour. A third part, if it has passed out of the first dying into the second. She takes half if it is fully dyed".<sup>(107)</sup>

"Four divisions that are upon flax for her. She takes but a measure of the seed if it is only standing, that is, if the flax be still growing, or in bundles unbroken. She takes a sixth part if it is broken. She takes half if it has passed from the scutch".<sup>(108)</sup>

To these curious references to the materials of cloth, and linen, and their manufacture, to be found in our ancient laws, I shall here add another small item from an ancient tract called the Book of Rights, published by the Celtic Society in the year 1847. This curious book gives an account of the tributes and services paid by the various chiefs and territories of Erin to the provincial and petty kings, and these again to the monarch, as well as the monarch's stipends and presents to these in return.

Among the tributes and services paid to the king of Leinster

Coloured thread and wool paid as rent or tribute.

<sup>(105)</sup> [original:—*focoisleben ar apraile, .i. beir in ben ó céil.*—Harleian MSS. 432. fol. 10. a. a.]

<sup>(106)</sup> [original:—*Cetheora ranoa fuil for oillaimo .i. u in [u. u. ?] mas ar lomras, acar .u. eo alloab, acar ruan a cirecho abalam, leth o vo cae beoil no iur abnur acar etach.*—H. 2. 15.]

<sup>(107)</sup> [original:—*Cetheora bi for glairin, .i. nomas ar na buain .u.*

*eo iar na minuas, co cecht a cro [i. arin nglairin ina cet cro]. Erian iar na cet coas [i. u in cru canairi]. Leth mas co taroe.*—H. 2. 15.]

<sup>(108)</sup> [original:—*Cetheora ranoa si for lin. her cna ruir si mas for a coir bech in lin, no mas ar cuarab cen thuagain. Serreo mas inar-ta [main varat]. Leth soo coi oclar.*—H. 2. 15.]

are the following few: "The burnishing, and renewing, and washing, and cleansing of his court was performed by the *Cocarts* of the lower order of the people; and the supply of his court with crimson [thread] and crimson dye, and red, and light blue thread, and white, and blay, and yellow, and 'bindean wool', from the better class of *Cocarts*".<sup>(109)</sup>

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Here we see how the manufacture of cloth, and the supply of its materials, were distributed among the lower and middle classes of peasants in ancient times, so that it could never cease to be cultivated in a respectable degree, since even the king's wardrobe as well as his presents were supplied from the wool and yarn dyed and spun by them.

Another curious fact connected with those manufactures was, that it appears that the various dye-stuffs were of home growth or produce.

The dye  
stuffs used  
were of  
home  
growth.

The first part of the process of wool dyeing is called in Irish *Ruamadh*, or *Rimeing*, and this is effected by steeping and boiling the wool with the twigs or brushwood of the alder tree, to which they give the name of *Ruaim*, or "*Rime*". This process produces a good reddish brown colour, and forms the ground for black, blue, or red: green I have never seen produced at home, except by one woman, Catherine Collins, an intelligent mantua-maker in Clare, who kept her knowledge a profound secret all her life.

If the colour is to be a black, after the wool is "rimed" as described above, it is again put down with a black sediment, which is taken up from the bottom of certain pools, ponds, and holes, in the bogs and boggy borders of lakes, and which is called *Dubh-Poill* or black of the pond, a stuff which imparted a strong but rather dull black colour; the addition, however, of oak chips or twigs improves the undecided colour to a clear glossy jet black. Now, of course, logwood and copperas, whenever they can be readily got, are generally substituted for the bog stuff and oak chips. In order to dye the same "rimed" wool of a splendid crimson red, they cultivated a plant in

<sup>(109)</sup> [See original in *Leabhar na g-Ceart* or The Book of Rights, p. 218.

The following is the poetical account of these tributes:

The unfree tribes,—a condition not oppressive	A tribute in washing and in cleansing.
That are on his [the king's] own lands;	There is due of the best party of these
Servile rent by them, it is the truth.	<i>Ruu</i> and purple of fine strength
Is to be supplied to the palaces of the chief king.	Red thread, white wool, I will not conceal it,
The tribute which is due of these	Yellow <i>blaán</i> and <i>bindean</i> .
[Is] of fire-bote and wood;	<i>Leabhar na g-Ceart</i> , p. 223.]
[Also] the renewing of his cloaks, constant the practice	

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ancient Erinn which they called *Rudh* and *Roidh*; but as the plant is not now known in the country, I cannot designate it by any more intelligible name. In the ancient laws it classed with corn and onions; and they speak of a ridge of *Rudh* or *Roidh* as they would of a ridge of onions or corn.

The other ingredient already mentioned, which is called *Glaissin*, and with which they produced the various shades of blue, appears to have been the plant now called "woad", formerly much used by dyers.<sup>(110)</sup> The late Mr. Francis Mahony, of Limerick, made a handsome fortune by the cultivation in fields of this plant, and its application to the purposes of dyeing, which he carried on very extensively for many years.

Legend of  
St. Ciaran,  
and the blue  
dye-stuff  
called *Glaissin*.

There is a curious reference to the application of the *Glaissin*, in colouring wool, preserved in the ancient Gaedhelic life of St. *Ciaran* of Clonmacnoise, who died A.D. 548. The following is a literal translation:—

"On a certain day *Ciaran's* mother was preparing *Glaissin*. And when she had it ready to put the cloth into it, then his mother said to him: 'Go out, *Ciaran*', said she, 'people do not deem it lucky to have men in the house with them when they are putting cloth down to be dyed'. 'May there be a dark gray stripe in it then', said *Ciaran*. And so of all the cloth that was put into the *Glaissin*, there was no piece of them without a dark gray stripe in it.

"The *Glaissin* was prepared again, and his mother said to him: 'Go thou out now this time, *Ciaran*, and let there be no dark gray stripe in the cloth this turn'".

It was then he said:

"Allelujah Domine.

May my mother's *Glaissin* be white!

Every time it comes back to thy hand

May it be as white as bone;

Every time it comes out of the boiling,

May it be whiter than curds".

And so every piece of cloth that was put into it after this was white.

"The *Glaissin* was prepared the third time. '*Ciaran*', said his mother, 'do not spoil the *Glaissin* upon me this turn, but let it be blessed by you', [this *Ciaran* did] and after it was blessed by *Ciaran*, there was not made before or after it a *Glaissin* as good as it, for though it were all the cloth of all the *Cinel*

<sup>(110)</sup> [The *Isatis tinctoria* (Lin.) *Glastum* or *Guadam*. The French call it *Pastel*; the Italians, *Guado* and *Glastro*; and the Spaniards, *Pastel* and *Glasto*. See on this subject *Introduction*.]



*Fiachrach* [that is, the people of the south-eastern part of the present county of Galway] that had been put into its after-dye, [i.e. the mother-liquor of the dye vat], it would colour it blue; and it afterwards made blue the hounds and the cats and the trees which it touched".<sup>(111)</sup>

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Legend of St. Ciaran and the blue dye-stuff called *Glaisín*.

This curious legend supplies us with an interesting bit of ancient social history, and it is valuable, not only for the distinct manner in which we are told that manufactured cloth was dyed in the piece, but also for the antiquity of the superstition which deemed it unlucky to have men in the house at the time of putting the cloth into the dye. This superstition does not, to my knowledge, exist now, but there are certain days of the month and week upon which no housewife in Munster would put wool or cloth down to be dyed.

In these few extracts we have allusions to all the processes of the manufacture of cloth in ancient Erinn. In the extracts from the laws, as well as from the Book of Rights given above, we have the processes of dyeing, carding, spinning wool, and weaving it into cloth. We have also the progress of the preparation of flax—the pulling of it out of the ground, the tying of it in bundles, the retting or steeping of it in water, the taking of it up and drying, and tying of it into bundles again; the breaking of it with a mallet, and the scutching of it. [The cloving and hackling are omitted, unless we take the combing, as of the wool, to be the hackling of the flax.] We have it put on the rock or distaff; spun upon the spindle; formed into skenes from off the spindle upon the vertical reel; taken off the vertical reel in skenes; [boiled with home-made potash, and put out on the grass to bleach, which is omitted here, though the bleached thread is spoken of;] we next have the skene when bleached laid on the horizontal reel, and wound up into balls for warping, as well as for weft [warped then upon the wooden pins,

Summary of processes in the textile arts mentioned in foregoing extracts.

(111) [original:—"Ina paidi la do maear Chisraim, oc venum glaisine curro riacé co tabuiré eouig innri. Is ann ro paid a maear rruir. Amad uom a Chisraim ni haosa leorum rru an aemtoig rrua vaéuádo eouig. Sruad oúur annruim on ol Ciaran. Do neod rrua do eoué eucad i rru nglairin ni paidi nac netuó oib cen rruib nuiriu ann. Do rruéir oúur in glairin conoebaric a maear rruirum. Eirru imad van mfeétra a Chisraim acar na bió rruad oúur ann a Chisraim nofa. Ir ann rru do paidrium.

Alleluia domine  
Rob geal glairin mo thum

Ceé tancu am laim  
Rop glitcheu cnaim  
Caé ci a brúe,  
Rop glitcheu rrué.

Ceé eoué oim ve rruad innri ro-baengeal iarrin. Do rruéir an rruer rrué inglairin. A Chisraim ol maear na mill umam innora inglairin acé bennaétra lat hi. Opor beaó umorro Chisraim. Ni veairnao roimpi na naouaig glairin buó commait rruaran ció eoué cen-úil rruaéac uil do bepéi ma har-cain nof rruirpaó acar nofoirpaó ra veoié na conu acar na catu ina crunna rruir acoirpaécei".—*Book of Lismore*, f. 78. b. col. 1.]

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either driven into the walls of a house, or on a frame specially made for the purpose], and then put into the loom and woven.

On the subject of embroidery and elegant needlework, it would be very easy indeed to extend this lecture much farther; but for the present I will content myself with a very few references of striking interest.

Reference to embroidery in the tale of the *Tochmarc nEimire*;

In the ancient tale called *Tochmarc nEimire*, that is, the courtship of the lady *Emer*, described in a former lecture, we are told that when *Cuchulaind*, the great champion of Ulster, came in his chariot from *Emania* to Lusk, in the present county of Dublin (where *Forghall Monach Emer's* father kept his high court of universal hospitality), he found her sitting on the lawn of her father's court surrounded by fifty young ladies, the daughters of the surrounding gentlemen, whom she was instructing in needlework and embroidery.

and in the *Dinseanchas*.

Again, in the ancient topographical tract called the *Dinseanchas*, and in that article of it which professes to give the derivation of the famous and well known hill and Rath of *Maistiu*, now called Mullaghmast in the county of Kildare, we find the following curious passage:

"*Maistiu* [from whom the hill is named] was the born daughter of *Aengus Mac Umor*, and embroideress to *Aengus Mac Inog*. She was the first person that formed the figure of a cross in Erin, in the breast border of *Aengus' tunic*".<sup>(112)</sup> The *Aengus Mac Umor* mentioned here, as the father of the lady *Maistiu*, was that *Aengus* of the *Firbolg* race who, shortly before the Incarnation, built the great stone fort on the great island of *Arann*, so well known to this day as *Dun Aenghuis*, and of which I had much to say in a former lecture. The other *Aengus*, who, I dare say, was the first that was ever decorated with the order of the cross at the hands of a fair lady, was the celebrated *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of *Brugh na Boinne*, or "the Palace of the Boyne", near Slane, of whom so many mythological legends are still preserved in Ireland.

But no sooner did Christianity raise its heavenly banner in our island, than the charming ingenuity of woman was put in requisition to adorn with befitting dignity and splendour the glorious and devoted soldiers of the Cross. St. Patrick kept three embroideresses constantly at work, with, we may be sure, a sufficient staff of assistants. These were *Lupait*, his own sister, and *Erc*, the daughter of king *Daire*, and *Cruintheoris* of *Cengoba*.

Cosa the embroideress of St. Columba Cille.

St. *Columb Cille* also had his special embroideress, whose name

(112) [original:—“*Maistiu ingen gen- comroialb chroiri ppuir aneinn; neach aengusa mac gumoir banoruin- acorrcair brollaich maip aen- gusa'.*—*Book of Lecan*, f. 283. a. b.]

was *Coca*, from whom *Cille Choca*, now Kilcock, in the county of Kildare, is named. This pious lady is mentioned in a note to the *Feilire Aenghus*, or Festology of *Aengus* the *Ceile Dé* or Culdee at her festival day, the 8th of January. This note is as follows: "*Erenat*, the virgin nun, was cook and robe maker to *St. Columb Cillé*, and her church is *Cille Choca* [or Kilcock] in *Cairbre ua Ciardha* [now Carbury, in the county of Kildare]. *Erenat* was her true name, which means an embroideress, because *Ercadh*, in the ancient Gaedhelic was the same as drawing and embroidering now; for it was that virgin who was the embroideress, cutter, and sewer of clothes to *St. Columb Cillé* and his disciples".

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The intimate acquaintance of the ancient Gaedhils of Erin with the cardinal colours in their highest degree of purity, and with a great variety of other shades and tints, can be clearly established by existing evidence of a very certain character. The Book of Kells, which is an ancient copy of the four Gospels, preserved in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, contains in its pictorial representations, as well as in its illuminations of the written text, a display of beautiful colouring, sufficient of itself to prove the taste and knowledge of the beautiful in colours possessed by our remote ancestors. The figures in the Book of Kells are no doubt ecclesiastical and scriptural; but this circumstance does not in the least invalidate our claim to originality in the production and combination of the colours used in the vestments there portrayed. On the contrary, the fact of finding them in illuminations such as these, still preserving all their brilliancy, in a book written, perhaps, about A.D. 590, only bears the stronger evidence to the truthfulness of the use of brilliant dyes in the colouring of costume to which attention has been directed in the course of these lectures. The purity and brilliancy of the green, the blue, the crimson, the scarlet, the yellow, and the purple of the book, like its penmanship, stand perhaps unrivalled, and can only be realized by an actual examination of this very beautiful manuscript itself.

The knowledge of colours of the Gaedhils shown by the Book of Kells.

This book, it has been always believed, was written by the hand of *St. Columb Cillé* himself, the original founder of the church of *Ceanannus*, now called Kells, in the county of Meath; and the following passage from the *Annals of the Four Masters* will show the esteem and veneration in which, from its antiquity and splendour, it was held even at the beginning of the eleventh century:

"The great gospels of [St.] *Columb Cillé* was sacrilegiously stolen at night out of the western sacristy of the great stone church at *Ceanannus* [or Kells]. It was the chief relic of the



XXIV. western world, even as regarded its shrine of human workmanship; and it was found in twenty nights and two months, after all its [ornamentation of] gold had been stolen off it; with sods turned over it".<sup>(113)</sup>

Reference in B. of Ballymote to colours worn by different classes.

I have found in the Book of Ballymote a curious old stanza, headed with these Latin words:

"Ordo vestimentorum per colores"; that is, the order of the cloths according to their colours.

"The following is the stanza:

"Mottled to simpletons; blue to women;  
Crimson to the kings of every host;  
Green and black to noble laymen;  
White to clerics of proper devotion".<sup>(114)</sup>

Clothes of various colours formed part of the tributes or taxes paid as late as the ninth and tenth centuries.

It is probable that this stanza is only a fragment of a longer poem, since we have undoubted authority that at the close of the ninth century (say about the year 900), clothes of various colours such as cloaks, tunics, mantles, and capes, continued to be paid by way of tribute or tax to and by the monarch, the provincial kings, and their subordinate kings. The following stanzas from the Book of Rights will show to what extent this reciprocity of stipends, or presents, and tributes existed between the supreme and petty rulers of the land in ancient times.

Tributes to the king of Cashel from: Ara;

To the kings of Cashel were paid as follows:

"Two hundred wethers from the host were given;  
An hundred hogs in statute tribute;  
An hundred cows that enriched the farmer's dairy;  
An hundred green mantles from the men of Ara."<sup>(115)</sup>

Boirinn;

"A thousand oxen, a thousand cows I exact;  
To the palace in one day I ordain,  
A thousand rams swelled out with wool,  
[And] a thousand cloaks from Boirinn."<sup>(116)</sup>

Leinster;

"He himself, the king of noble Cashel, is entitled  
To three hundred suits of cloths at Samhain [from Leinster];  
To fifty steeds of a dark gray colour  
In readiness for every battle."<sup>(117)</sup>  
"This is what is due, and no falsehood:  
Fifty oxen and fifty cows,  
Fifty steeds with noble bridles,

<sup>(113)</sup> Annals of Four Masters. Dr. O'Donovan's Edition. Year A.D. 1006.

<sup>(114)</sup> Original:—Ordo vestimentorum percoloreꝝ, .i. orona netaꝝ uaine iꝝ sub so laetnaio per uataib. Corcair so nraib fadh flogꝝ uaine iꝝ sub so laetnaio per fno so cleiruib crabaro cruaio

<sup>(115)</sup> Ordo so oruataib, goꝝna so mnaib

[no coin]!—folio 161. b.

<sup>(116)</sup> See for original *Leabhar nu g-Ceart*, p. 44.

<sup>(117)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>(117)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 54.

- And an hundred cloaks of the cloaks of *Umall*.<sup>(118)</sup>
- “ Three hundred hogs from the men of *Uaithne*  
To Cashel without failure;  
Three hundred mantles of bright mixture, [i.e. variegated]  
With an hundred strong milch cows.<sup>(119)</sup>
- “ Thirty short cloaks well stitched,  
Which with crimson are trimmed;  
Thirty good cows from the men of *Duibhneach*,  
Thirty oxen from *Drung*.<sup>(120)</sup>
- “ There are due from the county of *Corcumruadh*  
An hundred sheep, an hundred sows;  
A thousand oxen from brown *Boirinn*,  
A thousand cloaks not white.<sup>(121)</sup>
- “ Ten hundred oxen from the *Deise*,  
A thousand fine sheep,  
A thousand cloaks with white borders,  
A thousand cows after calving.<sup>(122)</sup>
- “ An hundred from the men of *Orbhraidhe*  
Of cows are given to him;  
An hundred white cloaks to fair Cashel,  
An hundred sows for the sty”.<sup>(123)</sup>
- Such were the tributes, including those in clothes, which the king of Cashel received from his tributaries; and from the scanty number of garments with which he presented them in return, it is evident that by far the greater part of his stock was bestowed on persons of inferior rank, in his own tribe perhaps, including his men-at-arms. Thus:—
- “ Seven mantles with wreaths of gold,  
And seven cups for social drinking,  
Seven steeds not accustomed to falter,  
To the king of Kerry of the combats.<sup>(124)</sup>
- “ The prosperous king of *Rathlenn* is entitled  
To the stipend of a brave great man;  
Ten swords, and ten drinking horns,  
Ten red cloaks, ten blue cloaks.<sup>(125)</sup>
- “ The king of *Ara* of beauty is entitled  
From the king of *Eire* of the comely face  
To six swords, six praised shields,  
And six mantles of deep crimson”.<sup>(126)</sup>
- The tributes of the king of Connacht come next, of which our poet says:—
- “ Five score cows long to be praised,

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*Uaithne*;*Duibhneach*  
and *Drung*;*Corcum-*  
*ruadh*;the *Deise*;*Orbhraidhe*.Stipends  
paid by the  
king of  
*Caiseal* to  
the kings of:  
Kerry;*Rathlenn*;*Ara*;Tributes to  
the king of  
Connacht  
from:  
*Umall*;<sup>(118)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 56.<sup>(119)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 64.<sup>(120)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 74.<sup>(119)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 62.<sup>(121)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 66.<sup>(122)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 82.<sup>(120)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 64.<sup>(121)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 66.<sup>(126)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 86.

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- the *Greag-raidhe* ;
- the *Conn-aidne* ;
- the *Ciarr-aidhe* ;
- the *Luighne* ;
- the *Dealbhna* ;
- Ui Maine*.
- Stipends paid by the king of Connacht to the kings of: *Dealbhna* ;
- Ui Maine*.
- Tributes to the king of *Aileach* from: the *Cullen-raidhe* ;
- Five score hogs of broad sides,  
Five score mantles of beautiful colour,  
From *Umall* to the king of Connacht.<sup>(127)</sup>
- “ Three score hogs, great the tribute,  
And three score kingly cloaks,  
Three score milch cows hither come,  
From the *Greagraidhe* of the fine trees.<sup>(128)</sup> ”
- “ Twelve score of costly cloaks,  
Two hundred cows without error in reckoning,  
Eighty hogs of great report  
Are due from the *Conmaicne*.<sup>(129)</sup> ”
- “ Three score red cloaks, not black,  
Three score hogs of long sides,  
From the *Ciarraidhe*,—a hard sentence,—  
And all to be brought hither together.<sup>(130)</sup> ”
- “ Thrice fifty bull-like hogs,  
And all to come hither at *Samhain* ;  
Thrice fifty superb cloaks  
To the king of Connacht and *Cruachan*<sup>(131)</sup>  
[From the *Luighne*]. ”
- “ Three times fifty crimson mantles it is known,  
Without injustice, without transgression,  
Of the *Dealbhna* are these due  
To the king of Connacht at *Cruachan*.<sup>(132)</sup> ”
- “ The great tribute of *Ui Maine* of the plain  
Is well known to every historian ;  
Eighty cloaks, it is no falsehood,  
Eighty hogs, a weighty herd”.<sup>(133)</sup> ”
- Next come the disbursements of the king of Connacht, as our poet sings:—
- “ Entitled is the king of *Dealbhna* of *Druim Leith*  
To six swords and six shields,  
Six steeds, six tunics with gold [embroidery],  
Six drinking horns for banquets.<sup>(134)</sup> ”
- “ Entitled is the king of *Ui Maine* the illustrious  
To seven cloaks, seven horses over the valley,  
Seven hounds to follow the chase,  
And seven bright red tunics”.<sup>(135)</sup> ”
- Next come the tributes paid to the king of *Aileach* or *Tir Eoghain* in Ulster:—
- “ An hundred sheep, and an hundred cloaks, and an hundred cows,

(127) Ibid., p. 98.

(130) Ibid., p. 102.

(133) Ibid., p. 106.

(128) Ibid., p. 98.

(131) Ibid., p. 102.

(134) Ibid., p. 112.

(129) Ibid., p. 100.

(132) Ibid., p. 104.

(135) Ibid., p. 114.



- And an hundred hogs are given to him,  
From the *Cuileantraidhe* of the wars,  
To the king of *Aileach*, beside labour.<sup>(136)</sup>
- “ An hundred beeves from the *Ui Mic Caerthainn*,  
And an hundred hogs—not very trifling,  
Fifty cows in lawful payment,  
Fifty cloaks with white borders.<sup>(137)</sup>
- “ An hundred milch cows from the *Tuathas of Tort* [*Ui Tuirtre*].  
Fifty hogs in bacon, fifty (live) hogs,  
With fifty coloured cloaks to him are given  
From *Dun na h-Uidhre* in one day”.<sup>(138)</sup>
- When the king of *Aileach* was not himself the monarch of Erinn, he was entitled to three hundred suits of clothes from the monarch; and of the distribution of these three hundred suits among the king of *Aileach*'s subordinate kings or chiefs, the poet sings only of the following:—
- “ The king of the *Cinel Boghaine* the firm  
Is entitled to five steeds for cavalry,  
Six shields, six swords, six drinking horns,  
Six green cloaks, six blue cloaks.<sup>(139)</sup>
- “ Entitled is the king of *Cinel Eanna*  
To five beautiful powerful steeds,  
Five shields, five swords for battle,  
Five mantles, five coats of mail.<sup>(140)</sup>
- “ Entitled is the king of *Craebh* to a gift,  
Three strong steeds as a stipend,  
Three shields, three swords of battle,  
Three green cloaks of uniform colour.<sup>(141)</sup>
- “ Entitled is the king of *Ui Mic Caerthainn*  
To three tunics with golden borders,  
Three beautiful statute mantles,  
Three befitting bondwomen.<sup>(142)</sup>
- “ Entitled is the king of *Tulach Og*  
To fifty serviceable foreign bondmen,  
Fifty swords, fifty steeds,  
Fifty white mantles, fifty coats of mail”.<sup>(143)</sup>
- Next comes the king of *Oirghialla* or *Oriel*'s distribution of rich garments among his subordinate kings, of which our poet sings:—
- “ The stipend of the king of *Ui Breasail* is  
Three crimson cloaks of lightning lustre,

XXIV.

the *Ui Mic Caerthainn*;*Ui Tuirtre*.Stipends paid by the king of *Aileach* to the kings of:*Cinel Boghaine*;*Cinel Eanna*;*Craebh*;*Ui Mic Caerthainn*;*Tulach Og*.Stipends paid by the king of *Oriel* to the kings of:  
*Ui Breasail*;<sup>(136)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 120.<sup>(137)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 130.<sup>(138)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 132.<sup>(137)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 122.<sup>(140)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 130.<sup>(143)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 134.<sup>(136)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 124.<sup>(141)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 132.

- XXIV.
- Five shields, five swords of battle,  
Five swift steeds of beautiful colour.<sup>(146)</sup>
- Ui Eachach*; “ Entitled is the king of *Ui Eachach* the noble  
To five crimson square cloaks,  
Five shields, five swords, five drinking horns,  
Five gray dark-forked steeds.<sup>(146)</sup>
- Ui Meith*; “ Entitled is the king of *Ui Meith* the hero,  
From the king of *Macha* [*Oirghialla*] of great assem-  
blies,  
To four swords, four drinking horns,  
Four cloaks, four iron-gray steeds.<sup>(146)</sup>
- Ui Dortain*; “ The stipend of the king of *Ui Dortain* is  
Three crimson cloaks with borders,  
Three shields, three swords of battle,<sup>(147)</sup>  
Three white mantles, three coats of mail.
- Ui Briuin  
Archoill*; “ Entitled is the king of *Ui Briuin Archoill*  
To three tunics with golden borders,  
Six steeds, six heavy bondmen,  
Six befitting bondwomen”.<sup>(148)</sup>
- Ui Tuirtre*; The king of *Ui Tuirtre* was further entitled to gifts from the  
king of *Oirghialla*, such as:—  
“ Eight bay steeds are due to him,  
Eight crimson cloaks of beautiful texture,  
Eight shields, eight swords, eight drinking horns,  
Eight hardworking, dexterous-handed bondmen.<sup>(149)</sup>
- Feara Ma-  
nach*; “ Entitled is the great king of *Feara Manach*  
To five cloaks with golden borders,  
Five shields, five swords of battle,  
Five ships, five coats of mail.
- Mughdhorn  
and Ros* “ Entitled is the king of *Mughdhorn* and *Ros*  
To six bondmen of great vigour,  
Six swords, six shields, six drinking horns,  
Six crimson cloaks, six blue cloaks”.<sup>(150)</sup>
- Stipends  
paid by the  
king of  
*Uladh* to the  
king of:  
*Cuailgne*; Next comes the distribution by the king of *Uladh*, or *Ulidia*,  
that is Down and Antrim, of his gifts among his chiefs, firstly  
to the king of *Cuailgne*, as our poet sings:  
“ Fifty swords, fifty shields,  
Fifty cloaks, fifty gray steeds,  
Fifty capes, fifty pack-saddles,  
And fifty pleasing coats of mail.<sup>(151)</sup>
- Araidhe*; “ Twenty speckled cloaks,—no small present,  
Twenty mantles of softest sheen,

(141) *Ibid.*, p. 146.

(147) *Ibid.*, p. 150.

(150) *Ibid.*, p. 154.

(145) *Ibid.*, p. 148.

(148) *Ibid.*, p. 150.

(151) *Ibid.*, p. 158.

(146) *Ibid.*, p. 148.

(149) *Ibid.*, p. 152.

- Twenty drinking-horns, twenty quern-women,  
To the valorous king of *Araidhe*.<sup>(152)</sup> XXIV.
- “The stipend of the victorious king of *Cobhais*  
Ten drinking horns, ten wounding swords,  
Ten ships to which crews belong,  
Ten cloaks with their borders of gold.<sup>(153)</sup> *Cobhais*;
- “Entitled is the heroic king of *Muirtheimne*—the hero?  
To six tall drinking horns full of ale,  
Ten ships to the champion of *Ealga* [Erinn],  
Ten steeds, ten scarlet tunics”.<sup>(154)</sup> *Muir-*  
*theimne*.
- Next come the tributes paid to the king of *Uladh* by his subordinate chiefs and tribes, among which we find the following, as sung by our poet: Tributes to the king of *Uladh* from:
- “Three times fifty excellent cloaks from *Semhne*,  
This from all,  
Three times fifty excellent dairy cows,  
All within two days.<sup>(155)</sup> *Semhne*;
- “There is due from *Crothraidhe* of the fleet,  
Bear it in thy memory,—  
An hundred wethers, an hundred cows not sickly,  
And an hundred cloaks.<sup>(156)</sup> *Croth-*  
*raidhe*;
- “Three hogs from the lands of *Cathal*,  
Not very severe,  
Three hundred well coloured cloaks,  
He is entitled to in the north”.<sup>(157)</sup> *Cathal*.
- Next comes the hereditary king of Tara and Meath, with his gifts from the monarch, when he was not himself the monarch of Erin; and his own liabilities to the petty kings and chiefs of Meath, as our poet sings. Gifts to king of Tara.
- “An hundred swords, and an hundred shields,  
The king of Tara of lords is entitled to,  
An hundred suits of clothes, and an hundred steeds,  
An hundred white cloaks, and an hundred suits of mail.<sup>(158)</sup> Stipends paid by king of Tara to the king of:
- “Entitled is the king of *Magh Lacha*  
To five shields, five swords of battle,  
Five short cloaks, and five steeds,  
Five white hounds, in a fine leash.<sup>(159)</sup> *Magh*  
*Lacha*;
- “Entitled is the king of *Cuirene* of the shore  
To six shields and six horses,  
Six cloaks and six shepherds,  
Six drinking horns, full, ready for use.<sup>(160)</sup> *Cuirene*;

<sup>(152)</sup> Ibid., p. 158.<sup>(153)</sup> Ibid., p. 170.<sup>(154)</sup> Ibid., p. 178.<sup>(155)</sup> Ibid., p. 164.<sup>(156)</sup> Ibid., p. 170.<sup>(159)</sup> Ibid., p. 178.<sup>(154)</sup> Ibid., p. 166.<sup>(157)</sup> Ibid., p. 172.<sup>(160)</sup> Ibid., p. 180.



- XXIV.**  
*Ui Beccon* ; “ The stipend of the king of *Ui Beccon* is,  
 Five swift ready steeds,  
 Five speckled cloaks of permanent colour,  
 And five swords for battle”.<sup>(161)</sup>
- Tributes to the king of Tara from: the *Luighne* ; Next come the tributes paid to the king of Tara, or Meath, from his territories, and of which the poet sings:—  
 “ Thrice fifty white cloaks, from the *Luighne*,  
 Thrice fifty hogs, as were reckoned,  
 Thrice fifty beeves, without default,  
 To be brought to great *Teamair*.”<sup>(162)</sup>
- The *Feara Arda* ; “ An hundred beeves from the *Feara Arda*,  
 An hundred white wethers besides,  
 An hundred hogs, heavy to be remembered,  
 An hundred cloaks the enumeration of the great *Luighne*.”<sup>(163)</sup>
- the *Saithne* ; “ An hundred best cloaks from the *Saithne*,  
 An hundred sows, a stock of wealth,  
 An hundred beeves from the plains,  
 And an hundred wethers to be slaughtered.”<sup>(164)</sup>
- Gailenga* ; “ Three hundred hogs from the territory of *Gailenga*,  
 Three hundred wethers, three hundred white cloaks,  
 Three hundred oxen, great the relief  
 To the *Claen Raith* [at Tara] ye have heard.”<sup>(165)</sup>
- the *Ui Beccon*. “ Sixty cloaks from the *Ui Beccon*,  
 Sixty beeves, great the strength,  
 With sixty excellent sows,  
 And sixty tunics (?) to the great hill” [of *Teamair*].<sup>(166)</sup>
- Stipends paid by the king of Leinster to the: We come next to the king of Leinster, and his rights and liabilities when not himself monarch of Erin. He was, among other presents from the monarch, entitled to fifty short cloaks and ten kingly mantles. Of the king of Leinster’s liabilities to his tributaries, we take the following stanzas from the poet:—
- Ui Fealain* ; “ Six drinking horns, six rings to the *Ui Fealain*,  
 Six white cloaks at the same time,  
 Six swift steeds, with their caparisons,  
 Though they boast of this it is not brotherhood.”<sup>(167)</sup>
- chief of *Cualand* ; “ Eight ships from the champion to the chief of *Cualand*  
 With sails and with sailing masts,”<sup>(168)</sup>  
 Eight drinking horns, eight keen-edged swords,

<sup>(161)</sup> Ibid., p. 182.

<sup>(162)</sup> Ibid., p. 186

<sup>(163)</sup> Ibid., p. 186.

<sup>(164)</sup> Ibid., p. 186.

<sup>(165)</sup> Ibid., p. 188.

<sup>(166)</sup> Ibid., p. 190.

<sup>(167)</sup> Ibid., p. 204.

<sup>(168)</sup> [Ocht longa ó'n laech do fílaich Cualand,  
 Co seolaib co reol bñataib.

Dr. O'Donovan translates the second line:

“ With sails [and] with satin flags (banners)”.]

- Eight tunics, eight gold worked mantles.
- “Seven steeds to the fair *Ui Feilmeadha*,  
 Vehement men, and vengeful [are they;]  
 Five curved drinking horns, with five cloaks,  
 Five mantles let it be remembered.<sup>(169)</sup>
- “Ten carved clasps to the king of *Raeilinn*,  
 And six royal steeds, I reckon,  
 Six mantles also to the champion,—  
 Six bondsmen to the same warrior.<sup>(170)</sup>
- “Six steeds to the *Ui Criomhthannan* as ordered,  
 Six oxen in good condition,  
 Six drinking horns to hold in their hands,  
 Six mantles without mistake.”<sup>(171)</sup>
- Next comes the tribute received by the king of Leinster from his tributary tribes, from which we select the following, as sung by the poet:—
- “Seven hundred pigs in bacon, seven hundred hogs,  
 Seven hundred oxen, seven hundred good wethers,  
 Seven hundred cloaks, and seven hundred cows,  
 From the lands of the Galls all in one day.<sup>(172)</sup>
- “Two hundred cloaks, no falsehood,  
 An hundred heavy hogs, heavy the herd,  
 And two hundred lively milch cows,  
 From the lands of the tribes of the *Forthuatha*.<sup>(173)</sup>
- “From all the *Fotharta*  
 Are due two hundred prime cows,  
 And two hundred statute cloaks,  
 Two hundred wild oxen tamed.<sup>(174)</sup>
- “Two hundred beeves, great the progeny,  
 Two hundred cloaks, and two hundred milch cows,  
 Two hundred wethers, great the relief  
 From the men of south Leinster.”<sup>(175)</sup>
- We come next to the king of *Emain Macha*, that is *Emania* in middle Ulster, and we have an enumeration of the gifts which the king of that important territory was entitled to from the monarch of Erin, as well as his own liability to his tributary chiefs, and theirs to him in return. From the list of the gifts from the monarch to the petty king, as sung by our poet, we take the following stanza:—
- “Twelve spears on which there is poison,  
 Twelve swords with razor edges,  
 Twelve suits of clothes of all colours,

XXIV.  
*Ui Feilmeadha*;

king of *Raeilinn*;

*Ui Criomhthannan*.

Tributes to the king of Leinster from the:

Galls;

*Forthuatha*;

*Fotharta*;

men of south Leinster.

Gifts from the monarch of Erin to the king of *Emain Macha*.

(169) Ibid., p. 208.

(172) Ibid., p. 218.

(173) Ibid., p. 220.

(170) Ibid., p. 200.

(172) Ibid., p. 220.

(171) Ibid., p. 216.

(174) Ibid., p. 220.

XXIV.

Stipends of the king of *Emania Macha* to the kings of:

For the use of the sons of high chiefs".<sup>(176)</sup>  
 We find the king of *Emania's* gifts of clothes to his tributaries as limited as those made to himself by the monarch of Erin. These gifts appear to have been limited to two chiefs only, the king of *Rath Mor Muighe*, i.e. of *Magh Line*, and the king of the *Conmaicne* in Connacht, who were of remote Ultonian origin. Thus sings the poet:—

*Rathmor*; "Entitled is he [the king of *Rathmor*] shall any ask it?  
 Unless he be king over the men of Ulster,  
 To eight coloured cloaks and two ships,  
 With a bright shield on each shoulder."<sup>(177)</sup>  
*Ui Briuin*; "Entitled is the king of the noble *Ui Briuin*  
 To his truly noble French steed;  
*Conmaicne*. Entitled is the king of the fair *Conmaicne*  
 To a steed and a choice of raiment".<sup>(178)</sup>

Gifts bestowed on the king of Leinster by the monarch whenever he visited Tara.

We are told that whenever the king of Leinster paid a state visit to Tara, he received from the monarch—

"Seven chariots adorned with gold,  
 In which he goes forth to banquets,  
 Seven score suits of well coloured clothes,  
 For the wear of the sons of the high chiefs."<sup>(179)</sup>  
 "Upon which he goes back to his house,  
 The king of Leinster, with the champions,  
 Until he reaches the palace of Nas after a journey  
 Until he distributes his stipends".

Gift of king of Leinster to the king of the *Ui Fealain*.

Among these stipends, however, which the king of Leinster distributed after his return from Tara, we only find one of the chiefs entitled to a present of garments; as the poet sings:—

"Entitled is the king of fair *Ui Fealain*  
 To seven coloured cloaks, for cheerful banquets".<sup>(180)</sup>

Gift of the monarch of Erin to king of *Cashel* when at *Teamhair Luachra*.

We further find in this book, that the monarch of Erin was bound by ancient usage to accept of a periodical invitation to a feast from the king of Cashel at *Teamhair Luachra* (an ancient palace situated in the neighbourhood of Abbeyfeale, on the borders of the counties of Limerick and Kerry). Here the monarch was bound to remain for a week, and in the meantime to hand over to the king of Cashel the gifts and stipends of dependence to which he was entitled from him. Among these were:—

"Eight score of cloaks in cloaks,  
 Eight bright shields over white hands,  
 Seven plough yokes in full range,  
 And seven score short horned cows".<sup>(181)</sup>

<sup>(176)</sup> Ibid., p. 242.      <sup>(177)</sup> Ibid., p. 244.      <sup>(178)</sup> Ibid., p. 246.  
<sup>(179)</sup> Ibid., p. 251.      <sup>(180)</sup> Ibid., p. 250.      <sup>(181)</sup> Ibid., p. 254.

The king of Munster then distributed to his own subordinate chiefs and to their ladies his gifts and stipends in this manner, as sung by the poet:—

“ Eight good steeds of high degree  
Are due to the king of the noble *Deise*,  
And eight green cloaks besides,  
With eight brooches of *Findruine* [or white bronze].<sup>(182)</sup>  
“ Entitled is the king of the fair *Ui Chonail*  
To an Easter dress from the king of *Caiseal*,  
His beautiful sword of shining lustre  
And his spear along with it.”<sup>(183)</sup>

XXIV.  
Stipends given by the king of *Caiseal* at the visitation of the monarch of Erin to the;  
*Deise*;  
*Ui Chonail*.

Again we find the provincial king of Connacht liable, among many other things, to the following items:—

“ Entitled is the king of great *Ui Maine*  
To four drinking horns for drinking occasions;  
To twenty cows and twenty steeds,  
To two hundred suits of clothes—no false award.<sup>(184)</sup>  
“ Entitled is the king of the valiant *Luighne*  
To four shields for victories,  
Four tunics with red gold,  
Four ships, not a bad gift.”<sup>(185)</sup>

Stipends paid by king of Connacht to the kings of;  
*Ui Maine*;

*Luighne*.

I must, however, close here these extracts, having only desired to show at how early a period ornament was systematically applied to dress in ancient Erin. I shall only add one more; because in leaving the subject of dresses of different colours, I cannot but lay before the reader a very curious example of a theory of colours in connection with the phenomena of winds, which I would wish to be able to investigate at much greater length than my narrow limits at present will allow.

Of the acquaintance of the ancient Irish with the nature and combinations of colours, an instance is preserved in the preface to the *Seanchas Mór*, that great law compilation, which is believed to have been compiled in St. Patrick's time. The writer of this preface, which is evidently not as old as the laws themselves, when speaking of the design and order of the creation, gives the following poetical description of the nature and character of winds.

Colours of winds according to *Seanchas Mór*.

“ He (the Lord) then created the colours of the winds, so that the colour of each differs from the other; namely, the white and the crimson; the blue and the green; the yellow and the red; the black and the gray; the speckled and the dark; the dull black (*ciar*) and the grisly. From the east (he continues) comes the crimson wind; from the south, the white; from the

(182) *Ibid.*, p. 256.

(183) *Ibid.*, p. 258.

(184) *Ibid.*, p. 264.

(185) *Ibid.*, p. 264.



XXIV.  
Colours of  
winds ac-  
cording to  
*Seanchas*  
*Mór.*

north, the black; from the west, the dun. The red and the yellow are produced between the white wind and the crimson; the green and the gray are produced between the grisly and the white; the gray and the dull black are produced between the grisly and the jet black; the dark and the mottled are produced between the black and the crimson; and those are all the sub-winds contained in each and all the cardinal winds".<sup>(186)</sup>

It would be a curious speculation to inquire into the meaning of this strange theory of coloured winds; but it contains at a glance evidence at least of the existence, when this most ancient preface was written, of a distinct theory of the relations and combinations of colours.<sup>(187)</sup>

(186) [original:—Ro veib dona va- ta na ngaet, conso rain vat cada gaerte sib fhu spailé, .i. zel ocu corcra, glar ocu uaine, buide ocu veig, sub ocu liat, in alao ocu in cimín, in ciar ocu in oour. Anair in gaet corcra, anear in geal, a tuait an sub, anair an oour. In veig ocu in buide ocu ngaet ngil ocu corcra bit; in uaine ocu in glar ocu in uour ocu in glegil bit; in liat ocu in ciar ocu in uour ocu in ciourub bit; in temin ocu in alao ocu in sub ocu in corcra bit. Coni si fogait in cat pumgait inuín.—Preface to *Seanchas Mór*, Harleian MSS. 482, Brit. Mus.]

(187) [This theory of coloured winds apparently refers to the more characteristic colours which the clouds assume about the rising and setting sun, and which to a certain extent seem to depend upon the wind which blows at the time.]

## LECTURE XXV.

[Delivered July 12th, 1860.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Of *Conaire Mor* monarch of Erin (circa B.C. 100 to B.C. 50) and the outlawed sons of *Dond Dess*, according to the ancient tale of the *Brughean Daderga*; the sons of *Dond Dess* associate with the British outlaw *Ingcél* to plunder the coasts of Britain and Erin; the monarch in returning from *Corca Bhaiscinn* in the Co. Clare, being unable to reach Tara, goes to the court of *Daderg*; *Ingcél* visits the court to ascertain the feasibility of plundering it; he gives descriptions on his return to his companions of those he saw there, and *Ferrogais* identifies them; *Ingcél's* description of the Ultonian warrior *Cor-mac Conloinges* and his companions; of the *Cruithenuth* or Picts; of the nine pipe players; of *Tuidle* the house steward; of *Oball*, *Oblini* and *Coirpre Findmor*, sons of *Conaire Mor*; of the champions *Mal Mac Telbaind*, *Muinremor* and *Birderg*; of the great Ultonian champion *Conall Cearnach*; of the monarch himself, *Conaire Mor*; of the six cup bearers; of *Tulchinne* the royal Druid and juggler; of the three swine-herds; of *Causcrach Mend*; of the Saxon princes and their companions; of the king's outriders; of the king's three judges; of the king's nine harpers; of the king's three jugglers; of the three chief cooks; of the king's three poets; of the king's two warders; of the king's nine guardsmen; of the king's two table attendants; of the champions *Sencha*, *Dubthach Dael Uladh* and *Goimiu*; of *Daderg* himself; of the king's three door keepers; of the British exiles at the court of the monarch; of the three jesters or clowns; of the three drink bearers. Summary of the classes of persons described. The exaggerations of such descriptions scarcely affect their value for the present purpose; very little exaggeration on the whole in the tales of the *Brughean Daderga*, and *Táin Bo Chuaigne*. Antiquity and long continued use of the colour of certain garments shown by the tale of the *Amhra Chonrai*, by *Mac Liag's* elegy on *Tudgh O'Kelly*, and also by a poem of *Gillabrighe Mac Conmidhe*.

IN the last two lectures I gave a short account of the military dress, chiefly in regard to colour and ornaments, of the ancient Irish, as preserved in the old historic tale of the *Táin Bo Chuaigne*. This was followed by a long account from the Brehon Laws and the life of St. *Ciaran* of Clonmacnois, of the mode of colouring and treating wool and flax, preparatory to their being manufactured into cloth, the instruments used in the various processes, and the laws which protected the workers, who, as far as we know, were always women, in the recovery of their wages, and any part of their property when pledged. I shall now proceed to give some account of the civil dress worn in courts, at state assemblies, public fairs, and great festivals, still treating the subject as far as can be in chronological order; and although we have not yet exhausted the rich descriptive stories of the *Táin*

xxv. *Bo Chuailgne*, we shall now draw upon sources scarcely, if at all laid under contribution hitherto; and of these sources the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*, will be the chief. As I have given in a former lecture<sup>(188)</sup> an ample sketch of the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*, I shall only have occasion to describe it here in the briefest manner.

Of *Conaire Mor* and the outlawed sons of *Dond Dess*;

the latter associate with the British outlaw, *Ingcél*, to plunder the coasts;

the monarch unable to reach Tara goes to the court of *Dadery*;

The reign of king *Conaire Mor*, or the Great, who assumed the monarchy of Erin a century before the Incarnation, was prosperous one to his country, and extended to a period of fifty years. His rule of justice was so strict that several lawless and discontented persons were forced to go into exile. Among the most desperate of these outlaws were the monarch's own foster-brothers, the four sons of *Dond Dess*, an important chieftain of Leinster. These refractory youths, with a large party of followers, took to their ships and boats and scoured the coasts of Britain and Scotland as well as of their own country. Having met on the sea with *Ingcél*, the son of the king of Britain, who for his misdeeds had been likewise banished by his own father, both parties entered into a league, the first fruits of which were the plunder and devastation of a great part of the British coast after which they were to make a descent on that of Erin. During this time the Irish monarch had occasion to go into *Corca Bhaiscinn*, in the present county of Clare, to settle some difference which had sprung up between two of the local chieftains. On his return, and when approaching his palace at Tara, with a very small retinue, he found the whole country before him one sheet of fire; the plunderers having landed in his absence and carried fire and sword wherever they went. The king accordingly turned away from Tara, taking the old *Botha Chualand* which was the great road that led from Tara, through Dublin, into Leinster; and having crossed the Liffey in safety he repaired to the court of *Dadery*, which was situated on the river *Dothra*, or *Dodder* (at the place now called from *Bothar na Bruighne*, that is, "the road of the court") near Tallaght in the present county of Dublin. This was one of the six courts of universal hospitality, which at this time were established in Erin; and in this court the monarch was received with the honour which his own dignity and munificence procured for him everywhere within his dominions.

The plunderers having satisfied their vengeance, and loaded their vessels with spoils, put to sea again, and running along the coast in the direction of the hill of Howth, they perceived the monarch and his small but splendid company driving along

(188) [See *Lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History*, Lect. xii., p. 258.]

the road towards Dublin. His own foster-brothers, who were among the leaders on board, immediately recognized him, and guessing the cause of his journeying in such a manner in such a direction, they took proper measures to keep him in view to the end of his journey. xxv.

The British outlaw chief, *Ingcél*, having received information of the monarch's resting place, ran his vessels on shore somewhere to the south of the mouth of the Liffey, and undertook when he came on shore to go with a small party to *Daderg's* court, and ascertain with his own eyes the feasibility of plundering it and killing the monarch. On his return to his people, they formed a circle round him and the five sons of *Dond Dess. Ferrogain*, one of the five foster-brothers, was well acquainted with the monarch, and the functions and names of all the officers and official attendants who formed his ordinary company at Tara, and who attended him on all his excursions. *Ferrogain* therefore questioned the chief as to what he had seen in *Daderg's* court. The chief described the different groups which he had seen there, and *Ferrogain* identified them; and it is this curious dialogue, which constitutes the chief part of the story, and, like the *Táin Bo Chualigne*, contains those minute accounts of costume, etc., for the sake of which I proceeded to make extracts at length.

*Ingcél* visit the court to ascertain the feasibility of plundering it;

gives descriptions of his return there and *Ferrogain* identifies them.

*Ferrogain* speaks first.

"I ask thee, O *Ingcél*! didst thou examine the house well?" said *Ferrogain*.

"My eye cast a rapid glance into it, and I will accept it as my share of the plunder, such as it is", said *Ingcél*.

"Well mightest thou do so if thou didst get it", said *Ferrogain*, "it is the foster-father of us all that is there, the high king of Erin, *Conaire*, the son of *Eterscel*".

"I ask what thou sawest in the champion's seat of the house, before the king's face on the opposite side?" said *Ferrogain*.<sup>(189)</sup>

"I saw there", said he, "a large dark faced man with bright sparkling eyes, beautiful well set teeth, a face narrow below and broad above, and flaxen fair golden hair, upon him. He wore well-fitting clothes; a silver *Milech* or brooch in his cloak, and a gold-hilted sword in his hand. He had a shield with golden bosses; and a flesh-piercing spear in his hand. A manly, comely, crimson countenance has he, and he is beardless".

*Ingcél's* description of *Cormac Conloingel*

(189) [original:—Cáct mobercádaru acéé commat a ingcel? for ferrogain. Rolá mo fáilre luatéuaru ano, acur gébarc im fiádu amail acá ír veitbiríar a ingceíl cianó gabéa ol ferrogain, armarí ulí fíl ano aríorú hÉrionn Conaire mac Éterpceoil. Cáct cío atcon- tárcerú íorú foctúí feruúosa in tíge, írú enéé íon íorú leic anall?—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 61. a. col. a.]



**xxv.** "Pass that man by for the present", said *Ferrogain*; "and after him who didst thou see there?"<sup>(190)</sup>

"I saw there three men behind him, and three men before him, and three men close in front of the same man. Thou wouldst think that it was one mother and one father they had; and they are all of the same age, the same form, the same beauty, and same resemblance. They had long polls of hair; and green cloaks; they had *Tanaslaidhe*, or brooches, of gold in their cloaks; bent shields of red bronze upon them; ribbed spears above them; a bone-hilted sword in the hand of each man of them."<sup>(191)</sup>

Then *Ferrogain* identifies them as *Cormac Conloinges*, the son of *Conchobar*, king of Ulster, and his nine comrades.

"I saw there another couch", said *Ingcél*, "and three men in it—three great brown men, with three round heads of hair, of equal length at poll and forehead. They wore three short, black cowls, reaching to their elbows, and long hoods to their cowls. They had three enormous black swords, and three black shields over them; and three black [handed] broad green spears over them [that is, standing by their sides and reaching above their heads]."

"It is not difficult for me to identify them", said *Ferrogain*: "I am not acquainted in Erin with three such, unless they are those three [champions] from Pictland (*Cruithentuath*), who have passed into exile from their own country, and are now among king *Conaire's* household. Their names are *Dubloinges*, the son of *Trebuait*, and *Trebuait*, the son of *Lonscae*, and *Curnach*, the son of *Ui Faich*. These are the three heroic victory-winning champions of *Cruithentuath* [Pictland]."<sup>(192)</sup>

d of his  
ne com-  
mons

the  
withen-  
sh or  
cia;

<sup>(190)</sup> [original:—Αττόνοαρχ ανθ ολρε, ρερ ζορμained μάρ πορσ ηγλαν ηγλεόροα λαρ, οετ ζεν κορ, ατσο ρόδαετ ρορλετάν, λινο ρολε ρινθ ρορποαε ραη. ρορτι έοη ιμβι; ιμλεε αηρη ιηνα βηυτ, ααυρ ελαοεβ οηροηρη ηαλαίμ. Sciat cocoricpōt oir ραη; ρλεζ εόηρηηηο ηαλαίμ. Cónηρ εόηρ έάηη έοηρπορα λαη, ορέ αηυλαε. Δηλημναε ιη ρερ ρη, ααυρ ιαρ ρη εια αα ανθ.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 61. a. col. 2.]

<sup>(192)</sup> [original:—Αττόνοαρχ ανθ ιμθαε, ααυρ ερηαρ ηηοι—ερη οηορη ρη μόρα, ερη ερηηοεηεδα ροραη, ιε κομλεβρα ρορεόλ ααυρ εεηη. Ερη ζερη εόαηηλ ουβαε ιμρη, κουλη, εέηηηοι ρότα ροη ηα κοέλαηβ. Ερη ελαοηβ ουβα οημόρα λεο, ααυρ εεό ρα ουββοεόοτι ύραηη; ααυρ εεόρα ουβρηεζα λεόαηγλαρρα βαρραηβ. . . ιη ανορα οαμρα ε ραμαιλ. ηη ρεταρρα ηη ηερηη ηερηαρηηη, μαηηοηέ ηη ερηαρ ααυε οη ερηηεηεόαηε, οο οεόεατάρ ρορλοηζαηρ αρα εηη, κοηοα ρη ηη τεγλαε Chonairε. ιεε ανανμανο. Ουβλοηηερ μαε Τρεβύαητ, ααυρ Τρεβυαητ μαε ήη λοηρcae, ααυρ Curnac μαε υη λάηε. Ερη λάηε αα-οεε ζαηβε ζαηρσεο λα ερηηεηαυαηε ηερηαρηηη.—*Ibid*, f. 61. b. col. 1.]

<sup>(191)</sup> [original:—Αττόνοαρχ ανθ ερηαρ ρερ ρηη ανιαη, ααυρ ερηαρ ρηηρ αναη, ααυρ ερηαρ αρ βέλα ηηο ρη εέηηαι. Ααρηλεε ιη οεημαηαηη ααυρ οεηαηαηη οόηβ; ιεε κομάερα, κομέοηε, κομάλη, κομαηηε υη. εέηηηοηεζαε ροραηβ; βηυτ ύαηηοι ιμρη υη; εαναρλαοε οηη ηαμ-βηυτα; ευάηρηεέε ερηεηο ροραηβ;

"I saw there", said *Ingcel*, "a couch and nine persons upon it; they had fair yellow hair, and were like in beauty; they wore speckled, glossy cloaks, and had nine ornamented quadrangular caps (*Tennes*) over them. The emblazonment which is upon these quadrangular caps would be sufficient light for the royal house. These are nine pipe-players who came from the fairy hills of *Bregia* to *Conaire* to do him honour. Their names are *Bind*, *Robind*, *Riarbind*, *Sibe*, *Dibe*, *Deichrind*, *Umal*, *Cumal*, *Ciallgind*. They are the best pipe players in the whole world".<sup>(193)</sup> These nine names, I may observe, are symbolical of the nine perfections or highest performances of music, but, with the exception of the first and second names, they are now unintelligible. The first two names, *Bind* and *Robind*, that is, sweet and more sweet, or melodious and more melodious, are still living words.<sup>(194)</sup>

XXV.  
of the nine  
Pipe  
players;

"I saw there", said *Ingcel*, "a couch with one man on it. He had coarse hair, so coarse that if a sack of wild apples were emptied upon his head, not an apple of them would fall to the ground, but each apple would stick upon his hair. He wore his great woollen cloak around him in the house. "Every discussion that arises in the house about seat or bed", said *Ingcel*, "is submitted to his decision. If a needle dropped in the house, its fall would be heard when he speaks. A huge black tree or mast stands over him; it is like the shaft of a mill with its cogs and wheel and axle. That man", said *Ferrogain*, "is *Tuidle* of Ulster, house-steward to [king] *Conaire*. He is a man", continues *Ferrogain*, "whose decisions are not to be impugned. He is the man that supplies seat, and bed, and food, to every one. It is his household staff (or wand) that stands above him".<sup>(195)</sup>

of *Tuidle*  
the house  
steward;

"I saw another couch there", said *Ingcel*, "and three persons upon it. Three soft youths with three *Sirechdai* [or silken] cloaks upon them, and three brooches (*Bretnassa*) of gold in their cloaks.

of *Oball*,  
*Obllin* and  
*Coirpri*  
*Find Mor*,  
sons of  
*Conaire*  
*Mor*;

<sup>(193)</sup> [original:—*atdonoarc ano imoai acap nonbur inoi; mongae rino buoi forais, ice comallu uile; bpuic bpec lisa impu, acup noi tinnu cechardeine cumtaetas uafais. ba leor fuillre imonug eis a cumtac fil forr na tinnib cechardeuib hipn. . . Nonbur cuplennad imin uonoactatar coConnairu an a airfeclair apu breg ite ananmano—bino, Robino, Riarpino, Sibe, Dibe, Deirpino, Umal, Cumal, Ciallgino. ice cuplennas ata uoc fil im uomon.—Leabhar na h-Uidhre, f. 61. b. col. 2.]*

<sup>(194)</sup> [See *postea*, the lectures on music.]

<sup>(195)</sup> [original:—*atdonoarc ano*

*imoai acap oenper inoi. Mael garb forruoi, cia poepta miac fia-ubull for amail, ni poepteo ubull oib forlap, act noguglao cad ubull for a finna. abrac polomar tapu imonug. Cad nimperam bip im tig imruoiu no lisa im apuic tiasat uli. Do poepta maet imonug, poeclartai a totim intan labrar deor. Duberano mor apu; cormail fpu mol mulino conarctair acap a cenparis acup arimtuu. . . Tuile ulad imin, pectairu teglais Chonairu. ip e cen supuaract a bpeic inonim in. fer conne fuioe, acup lige, acup biao uo ead. ipi alops teglais puil apu.—*Ibid.*, f. 61. b. col. 2.]*

xxv. They had three yellow golden heads of hair. When anger seizes upon them, their golden-yellow hair reaches to the points of their shoulder blades. When they raise their eyes, the hair rises up, so that it descends no lower than the tips of their ears. It is more curled than the forehead of a bleating ram (*retha copad*). A golden shield and a candle of a royal house was over each of them. Every one in the house admires their voice, their deeds, and their words. Continue thy identifications, O *Ferrogain*". *Ferrogain* now shed tears until his cloak in front was wet, and no voice was heard from his head until a third part of the night was past. "Alas!" said *Ferrogain*, "then, I have good cause for what I do; these are *Oball*, and *Oblini*, and *Coirpri Findmor* [that is, the fair and tall], the three sons of the king of Erin".<sup>(196)</sup>

the cham-  
ons  
al Mac  
baind,  
uinre-  
or, and  
irdery;

"I saw there a couch", said *Ingcel*, "and three men in it; three large brown men, having three large brown beards. Long thick legs had they: thicker than the body of a man was every limb of theirs. They had three brown curled heads of hair majestically upon them. They wore red-spotted white kilts. Three black shields with devices of gold, and three flesh-piercing spears, hang above them; and each of them has a bone-hilted sword". These were *Mal Mac Telbaind*, *Muinremor Mac Gerrcind*, and *Birdery Mac Ruain*, three regal stems, three heroes of valour, three victory winning champions of Erin.<sup>(197)</sup>

Then follows a strange description indeed.

the great  
ltonian  
ampion  
small  
sarnach

"I saw there on an ornamented couch", said *Ingcel*, "the most beautiful man among the champions of Erin. He had a splendid crimson cloak upon him. One of his cheeks was whiter than snow. Whiter and more red-tinged than the fox-glove was the other cheek. One of his eyes was bluer than the violet; and the other blacker than the back of a cockchafer. As

<sup>(196)</sup> [original:—ἀκόνοταρσ ἀνο ἰμοσᾶε ἀκυρ τριαρ ἰντο, ἰ. τρι μύετόβλᾶις ἀκυρ τρι βρῆιτ τριέ-σῶι ἰμψυ, τεόρα βρετναρρα ὄρωι ἰννα μβρατταῖβ. Τεόρα μονγα ὀρβυοι φοραῖβ. ἰνταν πολονγατ ἄ βαρηβέυ ταμοινγ ἰν μονγ ὀρβυ-οι ὄυῖβ κοβραῖνε ἄ ἰμμοσᾶε. ἰν βαο κονοβᾶτ ἀρρορε κόνοσᾶῖβ ἰν φοτ κοννάε ἰρλιῦ ἰννο ἄ νυᾶε. Καρριτίρ πετε κοραο. Κοίε ποτ ὄιρ ἀκαρ κάινσελ ριγτίγε ὕαρ καῶᾶε. ἠᾶδ ουοι ριλ ἰρῆν τῖγ ἄρ τᾶεῖρῖ γυῖ, ἀκαρ γνῖμ, ἀκαρ βρεῖτῖρ. Σαμαῖλ λατ ἄ ριρρογαῖν. Ροδί ρερογαῖν κομβορλιυῖ ἄ βρατ φορ ἄ βέλαῖβ, ἀκαρ ἠῖ ἠέταρ γυῖ ἀρραῖνο κο τρι-ἄν ἠα ἠαροῖ. ἄ βεσυ! ὀρ ρερ-ρογαῖν ἰρσεῖβῖρ ὄαμ; ἀνοογῖου,

*Oball*, ἀκαρ *Oblini*, ἀκαρ *Cóirpri* ρῖνομόρ τρι μῖκ ρῖγ ἠερενῖν ἰρῖν — *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 62. a. col. 2.]

<sup>(197)</sup> [original:—ἀκόνοταρ ἀνο ἰμοσᾶε ἀκαρ τριαρ ἰντο; τρισοπορῖρ μόρα, τρι ὄνο βερῖα φοραῖβ. βυῖνο κολβῆᾶε ρεμραε λεῶ: ρεμῖ-τῖρ μεσοῖ ρῖρ καῖ βαλλ ὄῖβ. τρι ὄνο ρυῖτε ῥερα ρορραῖβ κορε-μóρῖνο. Τεόρα λεννα βρεκοεργα ἰμψυ. τρι ουῖβρεῖτ κοτυᾶγ μῖλιβ ὄῖρ, ἀκαρ τεορα ρεγα κοῖρῖνοῖ ὕαρηῖβ; ἀκαρ κλαῖνο ὄετ καῖ ρῖρ ὄῖβ. . . . μάλ μακ τελβαῖνο ἀκαρ μῖν-ρεμορ μακ ζερρῖνο ἀκαρ ὄῖρροεργ μακ ρυαῖν, τρι ρῖγοαῖνᾶε, τρι λαῖε ρυῖτε, τρι λαῖε ἀκαοε ἰρρεῖλ ζαρεο ἰν ἠερενῖν.—*Ibid*, f. 62. b. col. 1.]

large as a reaping basket is the bushy head of golden hair which is upon him. It touches the lower tips of his two shoulder blades. It is more curled than the forehead of a bleating ram".<sup>(198)</sup>

xxv.

This was the celebrated *Conall Cearnach*, one of the great champions of the Royal Branch of Ulster.

"I saw there a couch", said *Ingcél*, "and its ornamentation was more splendid than all the other couches of the court. It is curtained around with silver cloth, and the couch itself is richly ornamented. I saw three persons on it. The outside two of them were fair both of hair and eyebrows, and [their skin was] whiter than snow. Upon the cheeks of each was a beautiful ruddiness. Between them in the middle [sat] a noble champion. He has the ardour and the action of a sovereign, and the wisdom of a historian. The cloak which I saw upon him can be likened only to the mist of a May morning. A different colour and complexion are seen upon it each moment; more splendid than the other is each hue. I saw in the cloak in front of him a wheel brooch of gold that reaches from his chin to his waist. Like unto the sheen of burnished gold is the colour of his hair. Of all the [human] forms of the world that I have seen, his is the most splendid. I saw his gold-hilted sword laid down near him. There was the breadth of a man's hand of the sword exposed out of the scabbard: From that hand's breadth the man who sits at the far end of the house could see even the smallest object by the light of that sword. More melodious is the melodious sound of that sword, than the melodious sounds of the golden pipes which play music in the royal house".<sup>(199)</sup>

of the monarch  
(Conaire  
Mor;

And here follows a poem by *Ingcél* containing a minute description, so minute that I cannot do better than give it here at

(198) [original:—*Atconoapc ano in imoae cumtaetae, fer arcainem vo laetaib hepenn. Dpac capoapcra imbi. Filitir pnetae inoalagruaro vo. Dpac deapitir rion an gnuaro naile. Ir glapoir buga inoala ruit; ir oubitir opuim noail in cruil aile. Meit cliab buana in voapib; rino forpota fil fair. Denaro bnam avaimoae. Ir captirir nete coppao.—Leabhar na b-Uidhre, f. 62. b. col. 2.]*

(199) [original:—*Atconoapc ano imoae acap bacaimiu acometae olvata imoava in cigi olcena. Seolbpac naipsoioimpe, acap cumtaige riu oimoae. Atconoapc epuarinnu. In oiar imecpnac oib pinna oib linuib conapoltaib acap a bpaatib, acap icgilitir pnetae. Ruoiuo noalaino forpnuao ceatar nae. moet*

*oelae eaprio immeoon. Dpac acap gnim ruipet lair, acap comairli rencao. Dpac atconoapc imbi ir cuber acap ceo cetamain. Irainoat acap eapc caeahuairi taobat fair; ailoiu cae vat alailiu. Atconoapc not noir iriu bpac ar a belair avcomat uarmet coaimlino. Ir cormail ruetuilig noir forporet vat a ruit. Oimeo atconoapc ve velbaib beta iri velb ar avoem oib. Atconoapc a claino noipuiriu occo tir. Roboi airtir laime oin claino riu ruaili anectair: anairtir laimiu fer nobio in airtiu in cigi tir cebao ruigie riu forcao in claino. Irbinu bimopoznogoo in claino, oloar bimopozna na curleno noipuae rotanat ceol iriuo rugetis. . —Ibid, f. 62. b. col. 2.]*



xxv.  
of the  
monarch  
Conaire  
Mor;

full length. It mentions almost every article of dress or ornament in which a painter should pourtray an Irish king:—<sup>(200)</sup>

- [" I saw a tall illustrious chief  
Starting forth upon the lovely earth,  
Full-waxing in the springtide of dazzling beauty,  
Of features gentle, yet of proportions bold.
- " I saw a renowned placid king,  
His legitimate place rightfully occupying,—  
From the threshold even to the wall,—  
For his couch.
- " I saw his two blueish-white cheeks,  
Dazzling white, and like unto the dawn  
Upon the stainless colour of snow.  
Two sparkling black pupils  
In dark blue eyes glancing,  
Under an arbour of chafer-black eyelashes.
- " I saw his bright lordly diadem,  
With its regal splendour,  
Radiating its lofty refulgence  
Upon his illustrious face.
- " I saw the splendid *Ardroth*  
Encircling his head,—enwreathing  
With his hair its brightness,  
The sheen of gold most brilliant,—  
Above his curling yellow locks.
- " I saw his many-hued red cloak of lustrous silk,  
With its gorgeous ornamentation of precious gold be-  
spangled upon its surface,  
With its flowing capes dexterously embroidered.
- " I saw in it a great large brooch,  
The long pin was of pure gold;

<sup>(200)</sup> [original:—

Δαίτι φλαίτ νάρτο ναιρεγοαε  
αφα βιτ βυλλετ βύρεοατ βράεταρ,  
ρόιμρε ροβορταε ρεεεβρυε,  
κάιν κρυτ κάλλεταρ.  
Δαίτι κλοεργυε κορποαε,  
κοτρηαίβ ιμμαερετ ραινο εόιρ,—  
κομεεβουο ό έραινο κορραε,—  
ρο α ρυοι.  
Δαίτι ανοάνηραίο ηγορηελα,  
κοηορηεφάμυη ρινο ρυηεετοαε  
ϕυρ νατ ρόεραετ ρηεεταυε.  
οιοίβρύνιβ ρελλ έλαρραιβ έλαμυ  
α ρορσ ρο βύγαδ τεηιμυ αδυμρ-  
ελυ,  
καίντοκυο ιτερεεεετορ ηουβ  
ηοόελαβραε.  
Δαίτι αμυνο ρινο φλαεα,

κοηορηερεετ ρυηρεε,  
ραε οροαν ρυηεαν  
α ηνύιρ κομεεταε.  
Δαίτι άρροηοτ ηιμμαιρρε  
ιμμαεενο,—κο κορρε  
κοηο ρυηελυε ρυηεεερρυ,  
ροροαε ηόροα ολλημαιρρε,—  
ϕι λύρα βεραο βυροεεαρ.  
Δαίτι αβραε ηεργ ηιλοαεαδ ηόηεε  
ρυηε,  
αρ οελεετορ ηοίμαιρρε οηοόρ  
αυροέιρσ ρηεεειρρε ρλυηο,  
αίλ βενο αλαεάιε ηορηοαιεοι.  
Δαίτι οελγ ηανο ολλεοβολ,  
οεόρ υιλι ιηελαρρε;  
λαρραο αρ λύτ λαηερε,  
λαηε α κυαιρτο κοηορηεμαε

Bright shining like a full-moon  
 Was its ring, all around,—a crimson gemmed circlet  
 Of round sparkling pebbles,—  
 Filling the fine front of his noble breast  
 Atwixt his well proportioned fair shoulders.

XIV.  
 of the  
 monarch  
 Conaire  
 Mor;

“ I saw his splendid linen kilt,  
 With its striped silken borders,—  
 A face-reflecting mirror of various hues,  
 The coveted of the eyes of many,—  
 Embracing his noble neck—enriching its beauty.  
 An embroidery of gold upon the lustrous silk—  
 [Extended] from his bosom to his noble knees.<sup>(201)</sup>

“ I saw his long gold-hilted sword,  
 In its scabbard of bright silver,  
 Which through shields on champions cuts,  
 Until it reaches the illustrious blood.

“ I saw his resplendent beautiful shield,  
 That towers above innumerable troops,  
 Inlaid with sparkling gold  
 On its polished rim of white metal,  
 Luminous like a glowing torch.

“ A truncheon of gold, long as a king’s arm,  
 Was near him on his right,  
 Which when grasped by the proud chief,  
 Summons forth, of hardy curly heroes,  
 Three hundred fighting champions  
 Around the victory-winning kingly chief,  
 And vultures from their eyries.  
 It is a court, a woful house I saw.]

“ The noble warrior was asleep, with his legs upon the lap  
 of one of the men, and his head in the lap of the other. He

caera cretín comraicte,  
 congais aronéit noenomairre  
 ecep adá zel gualaino éoir.  
 Acéiu alenit ligdae linne,  
 conno fupprebano fíreccat,—  
 rcaétoerc rceó veib iloaéarig,  
 ingelt fála rocaíre,—  
 cogzaib arméit munentor—  
 róenár ar néim.  
 moenam ór fpu rpuic rreéúirre  
 o adbruno counglune.  
 Acéiu acéaino nórouirn ninclairre,  
 ma rínoúé rínoarúic,  
 arnéro ar éeir[?] cóicrót,  
 conno rírcuair noarúaric nar-  
 úir.

Acéiu arciat necróct nálenoa,  
 fáil uáronongzab óimep,  
 rreéur vior oibleé  
 aréor rceó bil ban brut,  
 rororúas líé luácer.  
 Turu vior inclairri lam rúg,  
 fpu rveir,  
 úingabar rírcúicé tairc  
 caurzaib conno rorcerpu cruo-  
 éarú,  
 rpu ceao corae comlána  
 úarínoarúis narúanaro,  
 fpu borob hi mbroim berúar.  
 úr brúoim bróncúis acéiu.  
 Acéiu flair náro narreúae.—  
 Leabhar na h-Uidhre, f. 68. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(201)</sup> [This passage clearly proves that the *Leimidh* was a kilt or petticoat reaching to the knees. See on this subject Lect. XXIII., ante, vol. ii. p. 106.]

xxv. awoke afterwards out of his sleep, stood up, and spake these words:

“I have dreamed of danger-crowding phantoms,  
A host of creeping treacherous enemies,  
A combat of men upon the [river] *Dothra*;  
And early and alone  
The king of *Teamair* was killed”.<sup>(202)</sup>

“Identify for us, O *Ferrogain*, who it was that spoke that lay”, said *Ingcel*.

“I do know his like”, said *Ferrogain*; “it was not a sight without a king [thou sawest] indeed, it is the king most noble, most dignified, comely, and most powerful that has come of the whole world; the most polished, smooth, and precise that has ever appeared; namely, *Conairé Mór*, the son of *Eterscel*; it is he that was there, the high king of all Erin”.<sup>(203)</sup>

I believe it would be difficult to find in ancient poetry anything nobler or more beautiful than this vivid picture of a chivalrous king of the heroic ages in Erin.

The tale continues:

of the six  
cupbearers;

“I saw there six men in front of the same couch, with fair-yellow hair. They wore green cloaks around them with brooches of red bronze fastening their cloaks; their faces were half red, half white, like *Conall Cearnach's*. Each man of them is practised to throw his cloak around another quicker than a wheel in a cascade, and it is doubtful whether thy eye could follow them. These”, said *Ferrogain*, “are the six cupbearers of the king of *Teamair*, namely, *Uan*, *Broen*, and *Banna* [that is, froth, drop, and stream], *Delt*, and *Drucht*, and *Dathen*.”<sup>(204)</sup>

of *Twichinne*  
the royal  
druid and  
juggler

“I saw there”, continued *Ingcel*, “a large champion in front of the same couch, in the middle of the house. The blemish of baldness was upon him. Whiter than the cotton of the

<sup>(202)</sup> [original:—Robóí iarum in móctócláé inádoeluo, acáí ádoíra inuét moalairí, acáí a éno inuét aráile. Doíruíraíí iarum aríá éoluo, acáí átráíáct, acáí ío-éááin: . . .

Doímmáíráí inneo inneo íabíraí, ílúáí íáén íálíuo námaí, comíraí íer íor Doíraí; íoéíraíe ííí íemíraí moíroí or-íae.—*Leabhar na h-Uídhre*, f. 63. a. col. 2.]

<sup>(203)</sup> [original:—Samáil íeí a ííí-íroíain ííaríoéááin in íarííí. Íín. Doímpá a íamáil íor íeríroíain; ní eííe éenííí ón iní, ííé íí aránoíraíó [ámpá], acáí ar orínoííeí, acáí ar cáíneí, acáí aréúmaéíom éáíneí in

íoíonuo ulí; íí hé íí arbláíem, acáí ar íínne, acáí ar beíoa ío íáíne, í. Conáííe moíraí eíerííeíí; ííé ííí ano aríu íeíenn ulí.—*Ibid.*, f. 63. a. col. 2.]

<sup>(204)</sup> [original:—áíeínoíraíe ano íerííííí ar beíáíí na ííímoíao ééína, moíngá íínoíuoí íoíraí. Doííe íáínoí íímpu, íeííí eíéíoa in áíííílo-éuo ámbíraí; íeí [íeí íeíngá] íeí íabíra amáil Chonáil Céíraí. ío-éíííeí eáí íer ábráí ímáíraíe, acáí íí íuoíroíí íoíáíííbualeí íííngíab ínoí arééí ío íííí . . . Íín. Doímpá on. Sé íaleímaí ííí íem-íá[íh] íííí, í. Uan, acáí Doíóén, acáí Danna, íeííe acáí Doíuét acáí Doíen.—*Ibid.*, f. 63. b. col. 2.]

mountains<sup>(306)</sup> is every hair that grows upon his head. He had ear-clasps of gold in his ears; and a speckled white cloak upon him. He had nine swords in his hand, and nine silvery shields, and nine balls of gold. He throws every one of them up [into the air], and none of them fall to the ground, and there is but one of them at the time upon his palm; and like the buzzing of bees on a beautiful day, was the motion of each passing the other". "Yes", said *Ferrogain*, "I know him; he is *Tulchinne*, the royal druid of the king of *Teamair*; he is *Conaire's* juggler: a man of great powers is that man".<sup>(306)</sup>

xxv.

"I saw three men in the east side of the house", said *Ingcel*,<sup>of the three swine-herds;</sup> "with three black tufts of hair. They wore three green frocks upon them, and three black kilts [plaids or shawls?] wrapped around them. Three forked spears stood above them by the side of the wall. Who were these, *Ferrogain*? They are the king's three chief swine herds, *Dubh*, *Dond*, and *Dorcha*", answered *Ferrogain*.<sup>(307)</sup>

*Ingcel* then describes the dress of the king's head charioteers. As this description is important in connection with the gold ornaments worn on the head, I shall reserve it for a future lecture.<sup>(308)</sup>

"I saw another couch", said *Ingcel*, "eight swordsmen on it, and a young champion between them. He had black hair, and stammers in his speech. All in the court listen to his counsel. The most beautiful of men is he. He wore a shirt, and a white and red cloak, and a silver brooch in his cloak. *Ferrogain* said this was *Causcrach Mend Macha*, [that is stammering *Causcrach* of *Emania*], the son of *Conchobar* [king of Ulster], who is in hostageship with the king [*Conaire*], and his guards are the eight swordsmen around him".<sup>(309)</sup>

of Causcrach Mend;

<sup>(308)</sup> [*Canach sleibe*, the *Eriophorum polystachion* or common Cotton Grass. The name no doubt was applied also to *Eriophorum vaginatum*, or Haretail Cotton Grass, which in Ireland is a much rarer species than the *Eriophorum polystachion*.]

<sup>(306)</sup> [original:—*acconuairc ano boinnóclaeé ar bélaib naímuáe ceanae, for lar in tige. átir máile fair. Finnitir canaé fléibe caé finna árar triana áeno. unarca óir imáó; bpat breclisra imbi. ix. claino ma láim, acar nói rcéit aingoroi, acar ix. nubla óir. fo-berro ceé ai víb inaruae, acar ní tuit ní víb forláir, acar ní bi ácc oen víb for aboir; acar ir cumma acar timitreét beé illo ánlí caéae rec apáile ruar. . . . Nin. limra aramail or ferrogain taul-éinne níg spúé níg tempaé, cler-ramnaé Chonaire inrin: fer comaic*

*móir inn fer rin.—Leabhar na h-Uidhre. f. 63. b. col. 2.]*

<sup>(307)</sup> [original:—*acconuairc triar inarctur in tige, tri ubbercae foruib. Tri forci uámoí impu, tri ublenna tarriu. Tri gabul-zió úarab hitóib fraigeo. . . . Ciarúe a fírrogain. Nin. Ol fer-rozain, tri mucaroi inoig rin, Dub acar Uono acar Uoréa.—Ibid., f. 64. a.]*

<sup>(308)</sup> *Postea*, Lecture xxvii., vol. ii. p. 183.

<sup>(309)</sup> [original:—*acconuairc im-oi náilí, octur clairobeé mri, acar máetocláé etorpo. máeloub fair,*



**xxv.** We have next a description of the dress of apprentice chariot drivers, which I shall also reserve for a future lecture.<sup>(110)</sup>

of the Saxon princes and their companions; "I saw", said *Ingcel*, "in the north side of the house nine men, with nine yellow heads of hair, wearing nine shirts upon them, and nine crimson kilts around them, and without brooches in the cloaks. Nine broad spears and nine curved red shields hung over them. "I know them, said he; "they are *Osal* and his two companions; *Osbrit* the long-handed and his two companions; and *Lindas* and his two companions. These are three Saxon royal princes, who abide with the monarch".<sup>(111)</sup>

of the king's out riders; "I saw three men more", said *Ingcel*; "the three have bald heads upon them; they wear shirts and cloaks wrapped around them; and a whip (or scourge) is in the hand of each. I know them", said he, "they are *Echdrum*, *Echruid*, *Echruathar*, the horse-back boys [or outriders of horse expeditions]. They are the king's three riders, that is, his three esquires (*Ritiri*)".<sup>(112)</sup>

of the king's three judges; "I saw three others on the couch along with them", said *Ingcel*. "A comely man whose head was shorn was the first, and two young men along with him with long hair upon them. They wore three kilts of mixed colours, with a silver brooch in the cloak of each of them. Three swords hung over them at the wall. I know them", said he, "they are *Fergus Ferde*, and *Fersfordae*, and *Domaine Mossud*, the king's three judges".<sup>(113)</sup>

of the king's nine harpers; "I saw nine others in front", said *Ingcel*, "with nine bushy curling heads of hair, nine light blue floating cloaks upon them, and nine brooches of gold in them. Nine crystal rings upon their hands; a thumb-ring of gold upon the thumb of each of them; ear clasps of gold upon the ears of each; a torque of silver around the neck of each. Nine shields with golden emblazons over them on the wall. Nine wands of white silver were in their hands. I know them", said he, "they are the

acaꝝ beþna foꝛmeno leiꝛꝛ. Concuarec acꝛ na bꝛuoni uli aconoeþg. aþloem oi þaioib he. Caioꝛi imbi, acꝛ bꝛac geþoeꝛg, eo aþꝛeic inna bꝛoc. Ro feccuꝛa ꝛin ol feꝛꝛogon, .i. Cuꝛcꝛaio meno maða mac Con-ðobaiꝛ ꝛil hingialnai laꝛ in nið. acoꝛeþaioi inu in eoðtaꝛ ꝛil inuui. —*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 64. a.]

<sup>(110)</sup> [*Postea*, Lecture xxvii., vol. ii., p. 188.]

<sup>(111)</sup> [original:—acconþaꝛe iꝛiwo leið acúaoi oi oi cuꝛ nonbuꝛ, noi monga foꝛ buioi foꝛaib, noi caioꝛi foꝛaꝛti imþu, noi lennae coꝛcꝛaioi caioꝛiu, cenoeþgæ inoib. noi manaiꝛe, noi cꝛomꝛceit þeꝛꝛg uðꝛaib. Ruꝛꝛeþamaꝛi ol re, .i. Oꝛaþe acꝛ a

oð comalca; Oꝛþꝛic lámpoꝛa acꝛ a oð comalca; linoꝛaꝛ acꝛ a oð comalca. Tꝛi ꝛuꝛgoonna oo Saxan-naib ꝛin ꝛileao oconþeꝛꝛg —*Ibid.*, f. 64. a.]

<sup>(112)</sup> [original:—acconþaꝛe cꝛuꝛaꝛ naii, cþoꝛa maða foꝛaib; cꝛi lenci imþu, acꝛ cꝛi bꝛoic hi foꝛ-cepul; ꝛuꝛaigell ilam caðae. Ruꝛ-ꝛeþaꝛa ꝛin olꝛe, .i. eþoꝛuim, eþꝛuoo, eþꝛuacꝛa, cꝛi maꝛcaꝛg inoꝛiꝛg ꝛin, .i. a cꝛi ꝛuꝛuꝛi —*Ibid.*, f. 64. a.]

<sup>(113)</sup> [original:—acconþaꝛe cꝛuꝛaꝛ naii iꝛiwi oimþoi ocaib. feꝛ cain ꝛoꝛað a maðeao hi ceþao, uiocláꝛg leiꝛ co mongaib foꝛaib. cþoꝛa lenoa cumarþoai imþu, eð aþꝛeic imþꝛoc caeð naioib. cꝛi gꝛaꝛeo

king's nine harpers, namely, *Side* and *Dide*, *Dulothe* and *Deich-rinni Caumul*, and *Cellgen*, *Ol* and *Olene*, and *Olchoi*.<sup>(214)</sup>

"I saw three more on the couch", said *Ingcél*, "wearing shirts of full length; carrying quadrangular shields in their hands, with bosses of gold upon them, and having with them balls of silver, and slender long darts. I know them", said he, "they are *Cless* and *Clessine* and *Clessamunn*, the king's three ordinary jugglers".<sup>(215)</sup>

"I saw three men cooking", continued *Ingcél*, "dressed in long aprons (*Berrbroca*); a fair gray-haired man, and two youths along with him". "I know them", said *Ferrogain*; "they are the king's three chief cooks, namely, the *Dagdae*, and his two apprentices, *Seigand Segdae*, the two sons of *Rofir* of the one spit".<sup>(216)</sup>

*Ingcél* next describes the dress of the king's three poets, which to avoid repetition I shall omit here, but the reader will find it in a future lecture.<sup>(217)</sup>

"I saw there", said *Ingcél*, "two young warriors standing over the king, bearing two bent shields and having two great swords. They had red kilts, and brooches of bright silver in their cloaks. They", [said *Ferrogain*,] "are *Bun* and *Meccon*, the king's two wardens, the two sons of *Maffir Thuill*".<sup>(218)</sup>

"I saw", said *Ingcél*, "nine men upon a couch there in front of the same king's couch. They had fair-yellow hair; they wore aprons (*Berrbroca*), and little speckled mantles, and carried protecting shields. Each of them had an ivory-hilted sword in his hand, and every man who attempts to enter the house, they

úarab h; rraig . . . Ruffecap-  
ron olre, fepgur feproe, fepprodae,  
acar uomáine moerru, tpiubice-  
main moerru rin.—*Leabhar na h-Uí-  
dhre*, f. 64. b.]

<sup>(214)</sup> [original:—atconoaric nonhur  
naile riu anair, nói monza cráe-  
báca carra forraib, ix mbhoit  
glarra úarraig impu, ix noelce  
óir inambraicib. ix railge glana  
imáilama; opoanar óir imoróain  
caáae; aúuimpuúc nóir imócaé fir;  
muince aúic it mbraáait caáae.  
ix mbuile connáib opoáib uarib  
hipraig. ix. flera riuoaric ina  
lámaib. Rofecorra rin olre. noi  
eructu inoerru moerru, Sioe acar  
Dioe, Dulothe acar Deicrinni,  
Caumul acar Cellgen, Ol acar  
Olene, acar Olchoi.—*Ibid.*, f. 64. b.]

<sup>(215)</sup> [original:—atconoaric tpiar  
naile riuoarpu, céora caúir;  
hiproicib impu; ríáca cérocau;  
ina lámaib, cocelaib óir forraib,

acar ubla aúgic, acar gai bic inlar-  
ri leu. Rofecupra ol re Cleff,  
acar Cleffine, acar Cleffamunn,  
tpi cleffamnaig moerru rin.—*Ibid.*, f.  
64. b.]

<sup>(216)</sup> [original:—atconoaric tpiar  
oc uénam fuláca imberbrócaib  
inlarrrib; fep finoliat, acar oi  
oclaig na rarrao. Ruffecupra rin  
ol feprogan; tpi puimpuláctone  
inoerru rin, i in Dagdae, acar aóa  
uálcáe, i. Séig, acar Segdae, óa  
mac Rofir oendepo.—*Ibid.*, f. 64. b.]

<sup>(217)</sup> *Postea*, Lecture xxvii., vol. ii.,  
p. 183.]

<sup>(218)</sup> [original:—atconoaric ano dá  
ócláeé innaferrom of cino moerru,  
óá erompriat acar óa beno claiuib  
mara occo. Lenna uerca impu,  
ucler riuoarigic ir na brataib.  
Dun acar Meccon rin olre óe do-  
mecaib in rúg iru, óá mac Moerru  
Thuill.—*Ibid.*, f. 65. a. col. 1.]

**XXV.** threaten to strike with the swords, and no person dares approach the couch without their leave. I know them", said *Ferrogain*, "they are 'the three Early Mornings' of Meath the three symbols of victory of *Bregia*; the three pillars of Mount *Fuad*. These are the king's nine guardsmen", said *Ferrogain*.<sup>(219)</sup>

of the king's two table attendants; "I saw another couch there", said *Ingcel*, "and two men on it, bold, gross and stout-firm. They wore aprons (*Berrbroca*) and their complexions were dark-brown. They had hair short at their polls, and high upon their foreheads. As swift as waterwheel do they run past each other. The one to the [king's] couch, the other to the fire. I know them", said *Ferrogain*—"they are *Nia* and *Bruthni*, [king] *Conaire's* two table attendants"<sup>(220)</sup>

of the champions *Sencha, Dubthach Dael Uladh, and Goibniu*; "I saw", said *Ingcel*, "a couch, the nearest to [king] *Conaire*, and on it three prime champions. They wore black-blue kilts. Every limb of theirs was thicker than the body of a man. They carried black, huge swords, each of them longer than the sword (or lath) of a weaver's beam; they would cut a hair upon water; and the middle-man of them had a great spear in his hand. These were three victory-winning, valiant champions of Erin, namely *Sencha* the beautiful son of *Ailill*, and *Dubthach Dael Uladh*, and *Goibniu* the son of *Lurgnech*; and the spear of *Celtchair Mac Uithidir*, which was in the battle of *Magh Tuireadh*, was in the hand of *Dubthach Dael Uladh*".<sup>(221)</sup> *Celtchair Mac Uithidir* was a famous Ulster champion whose residence was *Dun Cheltchair*, now Downpatrick, in the county of Down. His famous spear here alluded to was traced up to the battle of the second or northern *Magh Tuireadh*. The

<sup>(219)</sup> [original:—ἀρσενος nonbur in imoae ano ar bélaib na imoai [himoae] cecnae mongae finobuoi fupnoib, berrbroca impu; acap coé-léne brecca, acap rceit béimneca fupnoib. Claino oer illám cad fir oib, acap cad fer oo táet iratec, pólóimetar abém corna claino, nilometar nec vul sono imoae cen aipiaract oib. . . Non. Oompa ón tpi moé macnois mto; tpi bú-geitcais bres; tpi forcais slebe fuáit. nonbor cometaroe moisig rin —*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 65. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(220)</sup> [original:—ἀρσενος imoae naile nano, acap oiar inoi icé oam oabéa balcpemra berrbroca impu; icé gomnoonna moisig. Culmon-ga cumpi foroib, icé aiparoa for

etun. icluatiroi pot búale cectar ve recapaire. inoalahaí sono imoai, aláile uontenno. . . Non. Oompa nia acap bpucti oa forr mere Chon-aipe inrin.—*Ibid.*, f. 65. a. col. 1.]

<sup>(221)</sup> [original:—ἀρσενος imoae ar nepam oo Chonaipe, tpi pumladic inoi. lennaoubglarra impu. Remi-tir meoón fir cadball oib. Tpi claino ouba simóna leo, ractir claino ngarmnae caéae; nooiolap-tair finnae forpurciu; lágén móp il-lám moisig meoónais. . . Tpi láid acapoc gaibte garcéo in hepenen, i. Senca mac claino aililla, acap Dub-tac Ooel ulad, acap Goibneno mac Lurgnois; acap inolám Cheltcair mac uéioir forpiet hieat maig tureo, ipi ril illám ouibtec Oail ulad.—*Ibid.*, f. 65. b. col. 2.]

description of it in the tract relating to that battle is highly XXV.  
poetical.

“ I saw another couch there”, said *Ingcel*, “ and one man on it with two *gilles* (or pages) in front of him; one fair, the other black-haired. The champion himself had red hair, and had a red cloak near him. He had crimson cheeks, and beautiful deep blue eyes, and had a green cloak upon him; he wore also a white shirt and collar, with beautiful interweaving [of gold thread] upon him; and a sword with an ivory hilt was in his hand; and he supplies every couch in the court with ale and food, and he is incessant in attending upon the whole company. Identify that man, *O Ferrogain*. I know that man”, said he. “ That, is *Dadery* himself. It was by him the court was built, and since he has taken [up his] residence in it, its doors have never closed, except the side to which the wind blows, it is to that side only that a door is put. Since he has taken to house-keeping, his boiler has never been taken off the fire, but continues ever to boil food for the men of Erinn. And the two who are in front of him, these are two boys, fostersons of his, namely the two sons of the king of Leinster, whose names are *Muredach* and *Corpri*.<sup>(222)</sup>

“ I saw there three men on the floor of the house at the door”, said *Ingcel*, “ they had three clubs with chains in their hands. Each of them is swifter than a wild cat running around the other as they rush towards the door. They wore speckled aprons (*Berrbroca*) and pale cloaks. Identify those for us, *O Ferrogain*. These are the three door-keepers of the king of *Teamair* who are there, namely, *Echur* and *Tochur* and *Techmang*, three sons renowned for valour and combat”.<sup>(223)</sup>

<sup>(222)</sup> [original:—*acconuairc imoae naitle ano, acas oenfer ince, acas va gilla apabelairb; acas oimoinng forairb, in vala hai ir uub, alaitle, ir fmo. folc veing forrimoladec, acas a brait veing lair. Danganuair choi-corua lair, noic noqlar no eain occa, acas brait uainoi immi; lene gel culpatad conoeg inelairi imbi; acas claino conimourno det ina-laim; acas arpic aipectain caea im-uae irin cig uilino acas buo, orre corpalad oc timcneet inelraig uli. Samail l s. a. f. R. nin. Rofecur-ya inna fpuirri, Davengga inrain ir lair vo. Ronnav in bpuigean, acas o gabair tnebao ni no sunait a voirre, niam o vo nigneo act let viambi ingdet, ir fmir bir in eomla. acas o*

*gabair tnebao ni tucceao adairi vo teno, act no bio oc bpuic bio vo repairb hepeni. acas in oiar fil an abelaib va valca vorom, imod mac rin, .i. va mac nig lagen, .i. Mureoac acas Corpri — Leabhar na h-Uidhre, f. 65. b. col. 1.]*

<sup>(223)</sup> [original:—*acconuairc ano tpuar for lair in tige oconuour, teora lora bnebneca inna lamarb. ir luaitoiri riamain caeae oib tim-cull a naitle voocum in vorair. Depn-bhoca impu ite bneca acas bpuic lactnae leo. Samail l s. a. f. R. tpu vorparoe nig Tempad inrin, .i. Echur acas Tochur acur Tecmang, tim-mic errano acas comlav.—Ibid, f. 65. b. col. 2.]*

*of Dadery himself;*

*of the kin three door keepers;*



**XXV.**  
of the  
British out-  
laws at the  
court of the  
monarch;

"I saw there", said *Ingcél*, "a couch, and three times nine men on it; they had fair-yellow hair, and were all of equal beauty. Each wore a small black mantle, and a white hood upon each mantle, and a red tuft upon every hood, and an iron brooch in the breast of each mantle; and each carried a huge black sword under his cloak, and they would sever a hair upon the surface of water; and they had shields with sharp etchings upon them. Identify those for us, O *Ferrogain*". "They", said *Ferrogain*, "are three times nine youthful outlaws of Britain".<sup>(224)</sup>

of the three  
jesters;

"I saw there", said *Ingcél*, "three jesters at the fire. They wore three dark gray cloaks; and if all the men of Erinn were in one place, and though the body of the mother or father of each man of them were lying dead before him, not one of them could refrain from laughing at them". "These were *Mael* (bald), and *Milithi* (pale), and *Admilithi* (more pale), the three jesters of the king of Erinn who are there", said *Ferrogain*.<sup>(225)</sup>

of the three  
drink-  
bearers.

Lastly, and to end my long list of extracts, *Ingcél* says:—  
"I saw there a couch and three persons on it. They wore three gray, floating cloaks around them. A cup of water was before each man of them, and a tuft of watercress<sup>(226)</sup> upon each cup of them". Identify those for us, O *Ferrogain*. "They

<sup>(224)</sup> [original:—*atconuapc an im-  
væe, acap tñi nonbur incti; monga  
fimo buoi fopais, ité comalli. Coe-  
léne tub imcac nóenfer oib, acap  
cenniuo fimo fop cac coeull, acap  
cuirce veig fop cac cenniuo oib,  
acap veig niáirno in aurrion cac  
éocail; acap claino tub viamár  
ró bhuic cac fip oib, acap nooi-  
lartár fínna fopurciu; acap ícéit  
co faebap conuála fopais. Samail  
l. S. a. f. R. nin. Oibeng tñi [naí]*

*míe mbáitpe ví úrecaib inñin.—  
Leabhar na h-Uidhre, f. 65. b. col. 2.]*

<sup>(225)</sup> [original:—*atconuapc ano  
tñiár fupcuicbuoi hieino ceneo. Tñi  
bhuit oopa impu; ono becir fip  
hepen in oen magin, acap énoebet  
colaino amatar no atar ar bélaib  
cac fip oib, ní foelrao nee oib cen  
dáini impu. . . . .  
ñin. máel, acap milícti, acap do-  
milícti, tñi cuicbú níg hepen inñin".—  
*Ibid.*, f. 65. b. col. 2.]*

<sup>(226)</sup> [*Birur*, the *Nasturtium officinale* (R. Brown). The common Spanish name of this plant is *Bérro*. This name is thoroughly Spanish, as is proved by the popular expression *andar á la flor del bérro*, applied to strolling or straggling about, being borrowed from its mode of growth. The Basque name is *Berró-azarra*. Those words are evidently cognate with the Irish, and are, I think, Celtic and not Basque. The Spanish names of several other water-plants are connected with *Bérro*, thus the Great Water Parsnep (*Sium latifolium*) is called *Berrera* and *Berráza*. The common cabbage *Bérsa* also appears to contain the same root. Was the latter name given to cabbage when first introduced as a substitute for Water cress? In Cormac's Glossary (Stokes' edition) the word *biror* is given: *bipor .i. bip cipra no fpuich, hor .i. mong bipor oin mong chiprac norrochaí*. "*Biror*, i.e., grass of a well or stream, *hor* (or *or*), i.e., the mane (that is, the growth). *Biror* consequently means the mane (or growth) of the well or stream". This derivation is at all events ingenious, for there cannot be a doubt that *Birur* contains the same root as *Birci*, a water stream, and *Bir*, a well, a word which is still preserved in the Wallon tongue in the form of *Bure*, though now applied to a coal *pit*, that is, to the deep well or shaft by which the water is pumped up and the coal extracted.]

*Dub* (black), *Dond* (brown), and *Dobur* (dark), the three  
 kbearers of the king of *Teamhair*".<sup>(237)</sup>

XXV.

In this very minute account we have not only a description  
 of the mode of arrangement of a regal household in the king's  
 presence, but descriptions of the dress of several champions, and  
 of the characteristic costumes and insignia of such of the  
 arch's household attendants and officers as happened to ac-  
 company him in his ordinary excursions. We have the monarch  
 self, his sons, his nine wonderful pipers or wind instrument  
 ers, the king's cupbearers, that is the cupbearers of his whole  
 court or company; the king's chief druid-juggler, his three prin-  
 cipal charioteers; their nine apprentice charioteers, his hostages,  
 Saxon princes and their companies, the monarch's equeries  
 outriders, his three judges, his nine harpers, his three ordinary  
 sers, his three cooks, his three poets, his nine guardsmen, and  
 two private table attendants; then we have *Dadery* him-  
 self, the lord of the mansion, the monarch's three doorkeepers,  
 British outlaws or exiles, and finally the king's private drink-  
 ers, who were always prepared with three cups of water and  
 three bunches of watercresses in them. But it may be objected  
 to these descriptions, that the whole story with its gorgeous illus-  
 ions is only poetry, and the romantic creation of a fertile im-  
 agination. There is, no doubt, a certain degree of exaggeration  
 in many of the descriptions, and there are some among those  
 which I have not quoted that are wholly improbable. But  
 the existence of such poetical excrescences, or the introduction  
 of airy mansions or *Tuatha Dé Danann* courts, no more in-  
 validates the descriptions of what was undoubtedly real, though  
 somewhat highly coloured, than the corresponding exaggera-  
 tions and supernatural agencies do those in the *Iliad* of Homer.  
 Indeed, it must be admitted that the descriptions in this tale,  
 as in that of the *Táin Bo Chualigne* also are on the whole very  
 little exaggerated, and bear the stamp of truth upon them. As  
 regards the colours of the various cloaks described, we have  
 many ancient references to them, that there can be no ra-  
 tional doubt of their having existed in remote times. Then as  
 regards the brooches, rings, bracelets, neck torques, diadems,  
 necklaces, and crescents of gold and silver, for the head, neck, and  
 arms, the articles themselves still preserved in such great abun-  
 dance, afford the most complete evidence of the accuracy of  
 the tale; while, with the exception of the extracts from the

Summary of  
 the classes  
 of persons  
 described.

The exagger-  
 ations of  
 such de-  
 scriptions  
 scarcely  
 affect their  
 value;

very little  
 exagger-  
 ation on the  
 whole in the  
 tales of the  
*Bruighean  
 Daderga* and  
*Táin Bo  
 Chualigne*.

[original:—ἀπονομασθε ἀνο φορ καὶ εὐαὶ. Samal. L. S. a. f. n.  
 ἀσας τμηρῶσι. Τριβυρὸς ἔλαρ Που. Dub, ἀσας ὄνοσ, ἀσας ὄοβυρ,  
 ἀσὰς ἰμρυ. Cuaé ὕρε ἀρβέλαῖσ τῶν ὄοσβῶνῶν ἤγῃ Τεμῖαδ ἰμρυ.—  
 τῶν ὄῖβ, ἀσας πορρ ὄο βῖρῶν *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 66. a. col. 2.]

xxv. ancient tale of the *Táin Bo Chuailgne* already quoted, there is no known existing authority for the manner of wearing them so decided or reasonable as this. It is to be regretted indeed that it was not at Tara the scene of this most curious and important tale was laid, as then we should have doubtless had a glowing description of the regal magnificence of the time in its most ample dimensions; but it is no small evidence of the authenticity of the descriptions and incidents of the piece that it is a private house is made in the story to be the scene, and an unexpected incident the cause, of the death of the splendid *Conaire Mór*.

It would be tedious and unprofitable to attempt to trace the modifications of fashion from the eighth down to the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. These, indeed, are periods within which we have scarcely entered at all in the course of these lectures; and although the references to costume during those times are abundant and striking, still, as it is possible that the fashions may have been more or less influenced by the more intimate contact and connection with other countries, they would not tend to throw much light back on the more ancient and far more interesting times which it is the special object of these lectures to illustrate.

antiquity and long-continued use of the colour of certain garments

Of the antiquity and the long continuance of the colour of certain garments in ancient Erin, I may be allowed to refer in conclusion to two very brief, but very valuable instances.

There is an ancient, but very little known tale or piece, treasured in some of our old MSS., under the title of *Amhra Chonrai*, that is, the death song or funeral oration of *Curoi*. This was the celebrated *Curoi Mac Daire*, whose history, and the account of whose residence at *Cathair Chonrai* in the county of Kerry, I have already given at some length in a previous lecture.<sup>(226)</sup>

shown by the tale of *Amhra Chonrai*;

*Curoi*, as, on the occasion just alluded to, I showed had been treacherously killed by the Ulster champion *Cuchulaind*. After his death, his household bard *Ferceirtne* wrote a panegyric on him, in which, among others of his noble deeds, he enumerates the gifts and presents made by him to himself in the course of his professional connection with him. These gifts consisted of drinking horns, ferts, houses, sheep, hogs, bondmaids, garters (*Fernu*) of gold, head pieces or circlets of gold (*Eoburrud óir*), white ancillae or anklets of silver, or of *Findruine*, white discs or dishes of silver, neck rings or torques of gold, a scarlet cloak, scarlet horse-saddles or cloths, balls of gold for jugglery tricks, *Bollans* or small drinking vessels, *Tailliamna*, or slings, *Ructhas*,

<sup>(226)</sup> *Ante*, Lecture xxii., vol. ii. p. 76, et seq.

which are explained as scarlet frocks, hats, white silver brooches, chessboards set with precious stones, bridles, and other gifts too numerous to name in this place. Of all these, however, the only articles we are immediately concerned with here are the scarlet cloaks (*Lor Lethna*), and the *Ructha*, which our ancient writer glosses as either scarlet frocks (*Inar*) or scarlet pantaloons (*Triubhas*).

The colour of the garment in either case is one of rare occurrence, and it is on this account that I have deemed it worth while to quote another passage of a much more recent date, from which the scarlet *Inar*, or frock, would appear to have been a garment of rather general use, or else perhaps the badge of a particular tribe or clann. The passage to which I allude is from a poem by *Mac Liag*, preserved in the fragment of the great Book of *Ui Maine* in the British Museum, and which I have so fully described in a former lecture.<sup>(229)</sup> This poem is an elegy on the death of the bard's patron *Tadhg O'Kelly*, who was killed at the battle of Clontarf, in which he recounts all the exploits and triumphs of his life, and his munificence to all men, but more especially his gifts to himself. Among the many gifts which the sorrowing bard acknowledges to have received from his noble patron, after his various triumphs, he mentions the following, in the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth stanzas of his poem:—

*Tadhg* gave me on the day [of the battle] of *Loch Riach*  
An hundred cows, an hundred swords, an hundred shields,  
An hundred oxen for the ploughing season,  
And an hundred halter horses.

He gave me on the night [of the battle] of *Glennngerg*  
An hundred cloaks and an hundred scarlet frocks,  
Thirty spears of bloodstained points,  
Thirty tables and thirty chess boards.<sup>(230)</sup>

And the use, and therefore the manufacture, of similar dresses of the same bright colours, continued at least two hundred years later, as is proved by a quatrain from a spirited poem written by *Gillabhrighde Mac Conmidhe* for *Donnchadh Cairbrech O'Brien*, upon the occasion of his inauguration at Limerick, after the death of his brave father *Domhnall Mór O'Brien* in the year 1194. I give this stanza from the poet's vivid description of the person and bearing of the young Dalcassian prince, merely to carry

<sup>(229)</sup> [Vide ante, Lecture vi., vol. i., p. 124.]

<sup>(230)</sup> [original:—  
cug tam tadhg la loca riach  
c bo c. clauim, c. ríach,  
c. so damarib ne huair nair,  
acaf c. each navaoasair.

cug tam aithe glinnngerg  
c. bnat, ir c inar noerg,  
crua rleag báruat peirua,  
x [xxx?] ríulbe x [xxx?] ríchille.  
—O'Curry's copy from the original]



xxv. down the chain of evidence regarding colours from the most ancient to the more recent, though still remote, times. The poet speaks the poet:—

A dark brown red mantle, and a gauntlet,  
 A splendid shirt under his glossy hair,  
 A brown satin tunic lustrous and light,  
 A keen fine large eye of bright deep blue.<sup>(231)</sup>

<sup>(231)</sup> [original:—  
 macal dub dunn dearg is laimonn,  
 léime cairrúir fá 'éid ecair,  
 ionnar doinníúil uir éascepuim  
 fán t'áil doinníúil ngeas dui  
 nglair.  
 —O'Conor *Dan's MS.*, O'Curry's ed.  
 vol. ii., p. 641, No.  $\frac{23}{D}$ , R.I.A.]

## LECTURE XXVI.

[Delivered July 17th, 1860.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Very early mention of ornaments of gold, etc., e. g. in the description of *Eladha* the Fomorian king, in the second battle of *Magh Tuireadh*. Champions sometimes wore a finger ring for each king killed. Allusion to bracelets in an ancient poetical name of the river Boyne. Ornaments mentioned in a description of a cavalcade given in an ancient preface to the *Táin Bo Chualgne*; and in the description of another cavalcade in the same tract. Some of the richest descriptions of gold and silver ornaments are to be found in the romantic tale of the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe" (circa A.D. 700). Bronze *Budne* for the hair in Dr. Petrie's collection. Ornaments described in the tale of the *Tochmarc Bec Fola*. Story of *Aithirne Ailgisach*, king *Fergus Fairge*, and the gold brooch found at *Ard Brestine*; the finding of ornaments unconnected with human remains explained by this tale. Mention of a large sized brooch in the legendary history of Queen *Edain*. Ancient law respecting the mode of wearing large brooches. Large brooches mentioned in the tale of the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe". Thistle headed or Scottish brooches; reference to Scottish brooches in the story of *Cano* son of *Gartnan*. Carved brooches mentioned in the tale of the *Brúighean Daderga*. Reference to a carved brooch in the Book of Munster. Another reference to a carved brooch in a poem ascribed to *Oisín*. Brooches of bronze and *Findrúine*. Chased gold pins used down to the beginning of the thirteenth century. Of the different kinds of rings. The *Fainne* used to confine the hair. Hair rings used in the seventeenth century. *Fails* were worn up the whole arm for the purpose of bestowing them upon poets, etc.; example of this from the Book of Lismore. Of the bracelet called a *Budne*.

I PROCEED now to another branch of the subject of dress; that, namely, of the ornaments made of the precious metals, used by the people of ancient Erin.

All our ancient histories and romantic tales abound in references to splendid vesture and personal ornaments of gold, silver, precious stones, and fine bronze, from the first battle of *Magh Tuireadh* (said to have been fought more than seventeen hundred years B.C.), down to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Thus, in the battle of the second, or northern *Magh Tuireadh*, fought between the *Tuatha Dé Danann* and the Fomorians, we are told that *Eladha*, king of the Fomorians, appeared suddenly before a *Tuatha Dé Danann* maiden in Connacht, dressed as follows:—

"He had golden hair down to his two shoulders. He wore a cloak braided with golden thread; a shirt interwoven with threads of gold; and a brooch of gold at his breast, emblazoned with brilliant precious stones. He carried two bright silver

Very early mention of ornaments of gold, etc., e. g.,

in the description of *Eladha*, the Fomorian king.

XXVI. spears, with fine bronze handles, in his hand; a shield of gold over his shoulder; and a gold-hilted sword, with veins of silver and with paps of gold".<sup>(322)</sup>

We are further told, that at parting, the splendid Fomorian left the maiden his ring of gold, which he took off his middle finger.

Champions sometimes wore a finger ring for each king killed.

It would appear, too, that in ancient times (yet times more recent than that of the battle of *Magh Tuireadh*), some champions wore a gold ring on their fingers for every king they had killed in battle. As an instance of this fact, we are told in the Book of *Lecan*, that *Lughaidh Laga*, a prince and warrior of Munster, had slain seven kings in successive battles; of which great achievement the famous *Cormac Mac Airt*, monarch of Érin (whose father, *Art*, was one of the seven), said: "His hand does not conceal from *Laga* what number of kings he has killed"; that is to say, "there were seven *Fails* [*Buindí*], or rings of gold, upon his hand [that is, upon his fingers]".<sup>(323)</sup>

Allusion to bracelets in an ancient poetical name of the river Boyne.

The river Boyne, from the clearness of its waters, was poetically called *Rígh Mnú Nuadhat*; that is, the wrist or forearm of *Nuadhat's* wife. This lady was one of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*; and the poetical allusion to her arm originated from her keeping it constantly covered with rings or bracelets of gold to bestow upon poets and musicians.

Ornaments mentioned in a description of a cavalcade in a preface to the *Táin Bo Chualigne*;

The following gorgeous description of a cavalcade is preserved in one of the ancient prefaces to the *Táin Bo Chualigne*, contained in an ancient vellum manuscript, sold in London in the year 1859, with the books and MSS. of Mr. William Monck Mason, but of which I have a copy. The story relates that *Bodhbh Dearg*, the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of the hill or mountain now called *Sliabh na m-Ban* in the county of Tipperary, went one time on a friendly visit to his cousin *Ochall Oichne*, the great chief of the ancient hill of *Cruachan*, in the county of Roscommon, afterwards the royal residence of the kings of Connacht. The people of Connacht had a great meeting to receive *Bodhbh*, at *Loch Riach* (now *Loch Reagh*). Splendid indeed was the cavalcade that attended *Bodhbh* on the occasion, says the story:—"Seven score chariots and seven score horsemen was their number. And of the same colour were all their steeds; they were speckled; they had silver bri-

<sup>322</sup> [original:—mogg orbuioe fori go aob guailib. Dnat go rreabib oi ornat imbe; alene gona'omle abib de ornat; delc noir ar ab-pumoe, go forranab de lic log-mara aob. Dia gelgae aigioe, acar o'iemcraton rnarai inoib de

creoumae; coicnoit oir uar amuir; clooib orouir go rreabib aig-geac, acar go cicib oir.—Egerton MSS., 5280, Brit. Mus., commencing f. 52.]

<sup>(323)</sup> [See original, note, Lect. xxvii., *postea*, Vol. ii., p. 177.]

dles. There was no person among them who was not the son of a king and a queen. They all wore green cloaks with four crimson *Heo*, or pendants, to each cloak; and silver cloak-brooches (*Broth-Gha*) in all their cloaks; and they wore kilts with red interweavings, and borders or fringes of gold thread upon them, and pendants of white bronze thread upon their leggings or greaves (*Ochrath*), and shoes with clasps (*Indeoil*) of red bronze in them. Their helmets were ornamented with crystal and white bronze; each of them had a collar (*Niamh-Land*) of radiant gold around his neck, with a gem worth a newly calved cow set in it. Each wore a twisted ring (*Bouinde do At*) of gold around him worth thirty ounces (*ungas*) [of gold]. All had white-faced shields, with ornamentations of gold and of silver. They carried flesh-seeking spears, with ribs of gold and silver and red bronze in their sides; and with collars (or rings) of silver upon the necks of the spears. They had gold-hilted swords with the forms of serpents of gold and carbuncles set in them. They astonished the whole assembly by this display".<sup>(234)</sup>

The same tract contains similar descriptions of other cavalcades of a like kind, such as the following short one:

When the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of *Cruachan* saw the magnificence of his southern friends' retinue, he called a secret meeting of his people, and asked them if they were able to appear in the assembly in costumes of equal splendour with those of their visitors? They all answered that they were not; upon which *Ochal*, their chief, said that they were dishonoured for ever, and that they should acknowledge their own poverty. Whilst the noble chief was thus giving vent to his mortification, they saw coming towards them from the north of Connacht a troop of horsemen,—namely, "Three score bridle steeds and three score chariots. All the steeds were black: one would think that it was the sea that had cast them up; they had bridle-bits of gold. The men wore black-gray cloaks, with crimson loops; a wheel-brooch (*Roth*) of gold at the breast of each man of

and in the description of another cavalcade in the same tract.

<sup>(234)</sup> [original:—*un. xx. Carrpat acap un. xx. marcad ba he allion. acap oenoad for a nechuib uile, .i. bpic uile; acap rriem aigisioi rru. micon- bui ann ac mac ruz acap rigno. Druic huamoi impuib uile, acap ceire heo conpra for gad bpuic; mbrothgha arpat inambpacuib hu- lib; acap lence connoberg molao, acap cocortarparib oyrmae impuib. Snatchi rinoirine ar a nochruib; arpai con moeol do cpeumo impuib van. Cennbair connoenunm siglaine acap rinoirine for a cen-*

*uib; miamhlann oir imbragaro cech riu, gem ru laulgaro noig- echtear moa rirrine. Doumoe do ac im ceé for ru xxx.ao huinge. Sceith thulgeulo foruib uile, conn- mcheruib oir ocap arccuro. [acap rleagab coicrinneda conarab or acap argru] ocap cpeumui ma taebuib; ocap go munchip argaro mam- bpaigob na rleg. Claroum oirouir conueluib natrac uoir ocap char- mogul riu. For uaruaruic mou- nuo uile corru noeirum muuimru.]*



them. Kilts of perfect whiteness, with crimson stripes down their sides upon them. Black hair upon every man of them, and so sleek, that you would think it was a cow that licked them all. They carried shields with emblematic carvings, and sharp scolloped rims of *Findruine*, at their shoulders. Ivory set swords at their sides, inlaid with figures of bronze. A pointless spear in the hand of each man of them, with rivets of silver. Fifty coils (*Torrochta*) of burnished gold around each man. They had no sandals on their feet, nor head pieces (*Cennbair*) upon their heads, except a few of them. They did not come directly into the assembly, but set up a camp of their own; after which they came to the assembly—three score in chariots, and the other three score on horseback<sup>77</sup>.<sup>(225)</sup>

This party appears to have come in the same way as *Bodhbh* to the great meeting of the men of Connacht at *Loch Riach*; they were under the command of a man named *Fergna*, chief of that territory in Ulster which afterwards received the name of *Dal Riada*. At this time *Bodhbh Derg* had in his service a professional champion whose name was *Rind*; and it happened also that *Ochall* the Connacht chief had in his service at the same time, and in the same capacity, this champion's brother, whose name was *Falbhar*; but neither of the chiefs knew that their champions were brothers. In the course of the meeting *Bodhbh* challenged his friend *Ochall* to find him a man to match his champion *Rind* in single combat. *Ochall* immediately produced *Falbhar*, and thus the two brothers entered the circus, and unexpectedly met in deadly combat. The battle, however, soon became general; the Connacht men had the worst of it; but the two brothers survived to act other prominent parts in the wild mythological history of these remote times.

Some of the richest descriptions of gold and silver ornaments are to be found in the tale of the Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe.

Among the romantic and highly-coloured descriptions into which personal ornaments of gold and silver enter, some of the richest will be found in the ancient tale of the Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe (*Imramh Curaigh Maelduin*). The incidents of this tale are assigned to a fixed date far within the period of

(225) [original:—i. cxi. xx eib fo a rruanuib, acap cxi. xx carpat. Eib ubu fuchuib uile: in uaplatc ir muir porpauoiruc; bellgib oir rruu huili. Tu ubglarro colluib corcpair impu; roch oir for bruinuib gac rir oib. Leint lainsgeala, connermarth corcpair iar-mao caebuib impu. mbruc cipoub fur gac fer oib, moap latt, ir bo ro leluig cecha. Sceith co fechluib connoualae, acap conuilib

rimuim roailcraigib for a mumb. Colga ueto leo fo a cuuib, co fuiruib humae foaib. moel gae hillaib gac, rir oib, furemannuib airccit. Coeca toracht uoir for-loircti im gac nai. ni batar iallaiccpaino impu, na cembair imo gcennuir, ac huatad oib. Inoerf-gaig nee huir uaprecht, uoforber-tatar inouat; caoerpinlocur cxi. oib a cairpriu, acap hinneochu cxi. xx. ii hinuaprecht.]

our undoubted history—namely, about A.D. 700; and having in a former lecture<sup>(236)</sup> given a full account of the history and nature of the piece, I shall not now go into it again. I proceed at once to the description of the lady in the Twelfth Island reached by the voyagers, when she comes out to them, after their three days of enchanted sleep.

“Upon the fourth day” the story says, “the woman came forth to them, and splendidly did she come there. She wore a white robe and a twisted ring (*Budne*, or *Buinne*) of gold confining her hair. She had golden hair. She had two shoes of silver upon her crimson-white feet; a silver brooch, with chains of gold in her robe; and a striped smock of silk next her white skin.”<sup>(237)</sup>

This story, it is true, is a wild legend of magic; but the description is certainly that of a rich dress, such as the writer was accustomed to regard as beautiful among those worn by the ladies of the very early period in which this tale was written.

It will be perceived that among the personal ornaments of this lady there are two articles that do not often appear in such descriptions, namely, a silver brooch with chains of gold attached; and a spiral ring of gold to confine her hair. This ring was, in fact, used only when the long hair of the head was plaited, or rolled into one roll at the poll; and it was on this roll that the spiral ring was put, to keep it from unrolling, and for an ornament. There are a few ancient specimens of this ornament in plain gold, and some in bronze, preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. But Dr. Petrie's collection contains a beautiful, if not unique one, in gold bronze. This beautiful ring is formed of a hollow or half cylindrical thin fillet of elastic bronze; tapering from a breadth of about three-quarters of an inch at one end, to an obtuse point at the other. It has been coiled up spirally from the broad end, so that the whole fits, circle within circle, in the one great circle at the broad end; or, if the spirals are not pressed home, it will form a regular cone, with all the external appearance of a solid ropelike body. When the hair was rolled up, and the ring put upon it and expanded, from the thick butt of the hair down to its small top, the whole ring, from its convex spiral surface, appeared like a golden rope closely twisted around the hair.<sup>(238)</sup>

Bronze  
*Budne* for  
the hair in  
Dr. Petrie's  
collection.

<sup>(236)</sup> [The only reference to this tale in any previous lecture is to be found at p. 289 of the *Lectures on MS. Materials of Irish History*.]

<sup>(237)</sup> [original:—*í rún de énamus lou rapun uolluro in banfeul an-voctum, acap ba halunn em tanac ann. bpat geal impe, acap buinne*

*oir imm a moing. moing oirou pupi. Da maelan aipit imma corpa geal-corpai; bpectar apcaw conbpep-  
nib oir inabpuc; acap lene ppeb-  
nurwe riru ppa gel cnep.—Leabhar  
na h-Uidhre, fol. 26. b. bot. et seq.,  
and Egerton MSS., 5280, Brit. Mus.]*

<sup>(238)</sup> [See fig. 56.]

XXVI.

It would be impossible for me, with any degree of consecutive arrangement, to press into one lecture all the references to those personal ornaments of gold, silver, bronze, and precious stones, which in the course of my readings I have brought together; and I shall therefore, for the present, content myself with a few only, and first translate the following extract from a very curious story in an ancient MS. written in a very ancient style of diction.

Ornaments described in the tale of *Tochmarc Bec Fola*.

*Diarmait* and *Blathmac*, the two sons of *Aedh Slaine*, were joint monarchs of Erin for eight years, until they were both carried off by the great mortality in the year of our Lord 664. Our legend tells us:—"That *Diarmait*, the son of *Aedh Slaine*—was king of *Temair* [or Tara], and had in pupillage and hostage-ship from the province of Leinster, *Crimthann*, the son of *Aedh* [king of that country]—He [*Diarmait*] went one day to *Ath Truim* [Trim], in the territory of *Laeghairs*, and his pupil *Crimthann* along with him, and attended by but one servant. They saw a woman coming over the ford [on the Boyne] from the western side, in a chariot. "She had on her [feet] two pointless shoes of white-bronze (*Findruine*), ornamented with two gems of precious stones; her kilt was interwoven with thread of gold; she wore a crimson robe, and a brooch of gold, fully chased and beset with many-coloured gems in that robe. She had a necklace of burnished gold around her neck; and a diadem of gold upon her head. She drove two black-gray steeds at her chariot with two golden bridles; and the yoke of the horses had trappings of silver".<sup>(229)</sup> After some parley, *Diarmait* took her with him to *Temair*. She, however, soon cast her attention on his [*Diarmait's*] pupil, that is, upon *Crimthann*, the son of *Aedh*. The youth consented to meet her at *Chuain da Chaileach* (near the place now called Baltinglass, in the county of Wicklow), at the third hour (or nine o'clock) on the Sunday following, in order to elope with her.

The story goes on to say, that:—"The lady, *Bec Fola*, lost her way in the wood of *Dubhthar* [near Baltinglass]; and that, seeing a fire, she went towards it, and there saw a young warrior cooking a pig. He had on a silk tunic of pure crimson, with circlets of gold and of silver; he had a helmet of gold and silver and crystal upon his head; he had meshes and gems of gold upon every lock of his hair, down to the blades of his

<sup>(229)</sup> [original:—*Da'maelarra rin-  
vhuine impe, dá gem do lic log-  
mar eircib; lena foberginolaic  
oir impe; brac corcra, sealg óir  
láneair co mbreáctrao ngem m-  
oatad irin bruc. munci óir for-*

*lorce in a bragar; muno noir for  
a cino. Da each subglara for-  
carrac dá nall óir fhu; cunn-  
cotaugmlaib airgoisib foraib.—  
H. 2. 16. f. 765; H. 3. 18. f. 757.]*

shoulders; he wore two balls of gold upon the two forks or divisions of his hair (in front), each the size of a man's fist. He had a gold-hilted sword at his girdle; and he had two sharp flesh-seeking spears between the leathers of his shield, with rings of white bronze upon them. He wore a many-coloured cloak. His two arms were covered with bracelets of gold and silver up to his elbows".<sup>(240)</sup>

xxvi.

The next example is equally curious. There is a story told in the "Book of Leinster" of a satirical poet of the province of Ulster, in the reign of king *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, whose name was *Aithirne Ailgisach*, or *Aithirne* "the covetous".

Story of  
*Aithirne* and  
the brooch  
of *Ard*  
*Brestine*;

*Aithirne* took it into his head to make a visitation of the other provinces of Erin, for the purpose of raising contributions from the kings and chiefs, under the the terror of his satirical tongue. Having arrived in South Leinster, he met the king and people of that country assembled to meet him at the hill of *Ard Brestine*, a place which still preserves its ancient name, situated near *Ahade* (*Ath Fadat*), about three miles south of *Tullow*, in the county of *Carlow*.

The Leinster men were prepared with rich presents for the poet to purchase off his good words; but the satirist would accept nothing but the most valuable jewel on the hill, though no one knew what or where that jewel was. Whilst the king and his people were at a loss what to do in this difficulty, "there was a young man careering a steed on the hill, and in one of the turns that he made close to the royal seat, the horse threw up a clod of earth from his hinder legs, and which clod fell in the lap of the king, *Fergus Fairge*, who immediately perceived in it a brooch (*Dealg*) of red gold weighing eighty *ungas* or ounces.

"What have I got in my lap, O *Aithirne*?" said the king to the poet. "Thou hast got a brooch (*dealg*) there", said *Aithirne*: and *Aithirne* then recited this verse:—

"A brooch that has been found in *Ard Brestine*,

From the hoofs of a steed it has been got;

Over it have been delivered many just judgments,

When in the cloak of *Maine*, son of *Durthacht*".

(240) [original:—Dorrala for me-  
pugad ann co tpat varochi conta-  
carradar [connoctarlacur, H. 3. 18.  
756, bot.] coin altai cono marbrat  
an milc acap luro ri hiepano for  
techeo. Ambai iun epuno confacai  
in dei for lap na cailli. Luro oo  
cum in teneo. Confacai in oclach  
imoi teni occupnam na muici inar  
ripceoi imo conglanocpar acap  
co carclaidi oir acap arcait; cenn-  
barr oior acap arput acap glainne

im a denn; moocil acap rithiri oir  
im cach n-uual via fult, conici  
clap a va imoi; va uball oir for  
dei gabal amongi, meo fearoornn  
ceactar nai. aclairob orouirinn  
apa epur; acap a va flez coirpinoi  
icir leatar a rceit, co cobruo  
finorune forpa. Brut iloatadh  
[Leit, H. 3. 18. 757]. a va laim  
lana vi failgib oir acap arcait co  
a muillann.—H. 2. 16. col. 766.; H.  
3. 18. 757.]



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"This brooch", said he, "is what I should prefer, because it was my mother's brother that put it into the earth, when defeated in a battle along with the Ultonians, namely, the battle of *Ard Brestine*". The brooch was there given to him.<sup>(241)</sup>

the finding of ornaments unconnected with human remains explained by this tale.

This curious, and probably true story, gives one satisfactory reason why ornaments of the precious metals, and of bronze, as well as arms and various other articles, have been, and still continue to be, turned up from the earth in places where no human remains are to be found. It would appear to have been the custom in ancient as well as in modern times, for retreating individuals or armies, to hide or destroy their most precious treasures, in order that they should not fall into the hands of their pursuers.

Mention of a large-sized brooch in the history of Queen Edain.

Another example of a very large sized brooch occurs at a very early period of history indeed. There is a fragment of a story preserved in *Leubhar na h-Uidhre* in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, relating to the birth and after history of a celebrated lady of ancient Erin, whose name was *Edain*, and who became the wife of the monarch *Eochaidh Fedhleach*, one hundred years before the Incarnation. The lady *Edain* was the reputed daughter of an Ulster chieftain, whose name was *Etar*; and after her birth, the story says:—

"*Edain* was educated at *Inbiur Cichmuini* [in the east of Ulster], by her father *Etar*, and fifty maidens along with her, the daughters of neighbouring chiefs, and who were fed and clothed by *Etar* as the companions of his daughter. One day that all the maidens were bathing in the bay, they saw from the water a horseman riding towards them over the plain. He had under him a curvetting, prancing, broad-rumped, curly maned, curly haired bay steed. He had on a long flowing green cloak, gathered around him, and a shirt interwoven with thread of red gold (under that). A brooch (*Ei*) of gold in his cloak [across] which reached his shoulders at either side. He had a shield of silver, with a rim of gold, at his back, and with trappings of silver and a boss of gold; and he had in his hand a sharp-pointed spear,

<sup>(241)</sup> [original:—Dui tra marcad ic aip imrim a eic ic cilais uorcuicheo uocum na hairiecta nolingeo uaoib. fecc ano uin ocrouo moeic uap colpta. Do cuirioar an teich fot mo' da uibeioib [ar'arcoib] nro aipis uaine ipnoairuict conitar-la mucht ino'rig, .i. fengura fairge [mac nuata necht], conacca red anuolc magio mofoio uonleit ontalmain, iphabatar ce'ru pic' unga uioer'gor. Cio fil imuchter a achairni? ol nri. ata

uelc ano, ol airni; ipnoarberc airni:

Uealc fil inapo d'p'ertim,  
Do cuib eic uorinacht;  
Tar'p' nucas mo' m'p'et ce'rt,  
Imbruc maini mac uirtacc.  
Ire moelgru ropal uampa, opath-  
air, .i. bradair macarra ro'pacab  
ocar uo pat icalah, iar marom  
air eata ropulleu, .i. cat m'p'ert-  
im, ip anoir uopacao uo moelc.  
—Harleian MSS., 5280, Brit. Mus.;  
and H. 2. 18. f. 74. a. a. top.]

covered with rings of gold from its socket to its heel. He wore fair yellow hair, coming over his forehead, and his forehead was bound with a fillet of gold to keep his hair from disorder".<sup>(242)</sup>

This richly-dressed man was *Midir*, the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of *Bri Leith* in the county of Longford, whose history we shall not follow farther at present, since our concern now is with his dress only. And even as to this, the only circumstance connected with it which we shall now direct attention to is the great size of his brooch of gold, and the fact of his wearing it across his breast, reaching from shoulder to shoulder. No brooch of this description has been yet discovered in Ireland. Here, then, is another curious fact illustrative of the way in which these ancient massive brooches were worn. We find, indeed, in a passage from the Brehon Laws, that men were legally bound to wear, or perhaps rather to curtail, their brooches, whether they wore them at their breasts or at their shoulders, in such a way as that they should not be dangerous to the persons around them; a very good proof that they were the large, long-spiked pins, of which specimens are found in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. The following is the passage alluded to:—"Men are guiltless of pins"—[that is, it is safe for the men to wear their brooches]—"upon their shoulders or upon their breasts; provided they don't project too far beyond it; and if they should, the case is to be adjudged by the criminal law".<sup>(243)</sup> Yet these large brooches, and other over large ornaments, continued to be worn. For, we are told in the story of the Navigation of *Maelduin's* ship, already quoted, that the wanderers came to an island, landed, and entered a great house, where—

"They saw ranges (or ranks) upon the wall of the house all round from one door-post to the other: firstly, a range of brooches [*Bretnassa*] of gold and silver, stuck by their shanks into the wall; another range of great necklaces [*Muntoras*], like the hoops of large tubs, made of gold and of silver;

xxvi.  
Ancient law respecting the mode of wearing large brooches;

large brooches mentioned in the tale of the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe".

<sup>(242)</sup> [original:—*Alta isom etain ic inbuar cicmuim la etar, ocar l. ingen impe, oi ingenab turec, acur ba hepreom nooa biatao ocar io neteo ar comatect etaim ainim oo gner. La nana doib an ingenab uilb innoibuar oca potnocro, conacatar in mancad ipan mag-sca don duirciu. Et'oono tuagmar opun forletan capmongac capcar: ec foaruiriu. A rudaibrac uaine nfiluio immi, ocar lene foberg nliuro imbi. Acaí eo oir ina bnuí,*

*porairco agualaino for cad let. Sciad airguroi, comimbiul oir imbi for a muin, rciatrac argric ano, ocar tul noir fair; ocar rleg coicpuno copetan oir impi oirpuno co epo inalaim. Polt fno-buioi fair co hetun, rinde oir for a etun conna teitgeo a polt foagio.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, folio 81, col. 1.]*

<sup>(243)</sup> [The MS. containing this passage not being available to me, I cannot give the original.]

xxvi. and a third range of great swords, with hilts of gold and silver".<sup>(344)</sup>

Now, it matters little to our present purpose, that this is an imaginative and exaggerated description. Our business is with the writer's evident acquaintance with the general existence and use of these precious ornaments in his own country; a fact sufficiently clear from the accuracy of his description.

Thistle-headed brooches.

Among the brooches in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy are some with round knobs, a little below the head, and deeply carved diagonally, so as to give the knob, with its flat-topped head, the exact appearance of a thistle head. I am not aware that our Scottish kindred have as yet put forth any claims to the exclusive right to this ancient type of their modern national emblem. Neither am I aware that they have as yet discovered any specimens of this brooch in their own country, or that there is any particular reference to it, or to any other type, in their ancient writings. The only reference I have met, with regard to Scottish brooches, is found in a very ancient story in my possession, which relates the adventures of *Cano*, the son of *Gartnan*, and grand-nephew to *Aedh Mac Gartnan*, king of Scotland, a contemporary of *St. Colum Cille*.

Reference to Scottish brooches in the story of *Cano* son of *Gartnan*.

This young prince, *Cano*, was compelled to fly from Scotland into Ireland, to avoid the jealousy of his grand-uncle, who had already slain his father, and killed or dispersed all his people. This was about the year 620. After the death of his father, the young prince took counsel with his people, as the story tells us, in these words:—"Well, now", said *Cano*, "it is better that we avoid this man, who has killed my father. We are not nearer to him than the man he has killed". "Where shall we go to?" said his people. "We will go into the land of Erin", said he, "to a friend of ours". He caused canoes to be made. They went to the sea shore. This was the order in which they went down to the sea: fifty warriors; a crimson five-folding cloak upon each man, two flesh-seeking spears in his hand, a shield, with a rim of gold at his back, a gold-hilted sword at his girdle, his gold-yellow hair falling down at his back. This too was the order in which their fifty wives accompanied them: each wore a green cloak, with borders of silver, a smock interwoven with thread of red gold, brooches (*Deilgi*) of gold, with full carvings, bespangled with gems of many colours, necklaces (*Muinct*) of

<sup>(344)</sup> [original:—CONACCATÁR IARFUR  
 TÉORA FÉTA FURORFARIGIO INEUIZE  
 IMMÁCUAIRIO ÓNOURFARINO OIA FALI:  
 FRET ANO ÉETAMUR OI BPECTARFARIB  
 ÓIR ACAR ARFIC ACAR ACORFAR FURORFAR-  
 FIO; ACAR FRET OI MUNCORFARIB ÓIR  
 AFAR ARFIC, MAP ÉIRCLU OUBÉA CE-  
 TÁE; IN ÉFER FRET OICLARBIB MÓR-  
 AIB CONIMOOFRNAB ÓIR AFAR ARFIC.  
 —*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, fol. 26, col. 1.  
 See also Harleian MSS., Tract 1. 5280,  
 Brit. Mus.]

highly burnished gold, a diadem (*Mind*) of gold upon the head of each. The fifty servants that attended them wore tunics of yellow silk. A chess board (*Fithchell*) upon the back of each servant, with men of gold and silver. A bronze *Timpan* (or harp) in the left hand of each servant; and two grayhounds, in a silver chain, in his right hand.<sup>(245)</sup>

Such then, is the very remarkable description of the noble Scottish exile and his retinue, on their visit to the monarch of Erin, *Diarmait*, the son of *Aedh Staine*, who received them hospitably, and rejected all the offers and solicitations of the King of Scotland, to betray them into his hands. I may remark further, in reference to these carved, or thistle-headed brooches, that not one of them has been yet discovered, with any kind of emblazonment or gems or composition; while several of the other types are found richly set with stones.

Again; in the ancient tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*, or *Daderg's* court, we have the monarch *Conaire Mór's* own reasons for seeking the hospitality of *Daderg's* mansion, when forced to fly from Tara, to avoid the plunderers and rebels who made a sudden irruption into the district. This is the monarch's claim on *Daderg*, and in his own words:—" *Daderg* of Leinster", said *Conaire*, "came to solicit gifts from me; and he did not come to find a refusal. I bestowed upon him an hundred high class cows; an hundred fat hogs; an hundred crimson-mixed glossy cloaks; an hundred blue-coloured death-giving swords; ten carved brooches (*Deilci*) of gold; ten keeves, fine noble vessels; ten slaves; ten ewes; three times nine white hounds in their silver chains; with an hundred gifted steeds, as fleet as roebucks."<sup>(246)</sup>

We have another reference to the carved brooch, such as the

<sup>(245)</sup> [original:—Maic tpa or Cano, ir fearb sun imgabail mo fhipre, no marb ar naéairi. Mí fúairiu ar cairvear do mar in fear no marb. Cia leat péma? ar a munteir. Reg-mait itir nérino co m-bracair sun. Do gnitear cupac lair. Lotar uocum tpaéta. Ir amlair do vecharar uochum mara, i. coeca laet; brat corpa coic diabalta im caé nai, sa fleití corrimoi ina laim, reiat co m-buailig oir fúir, cloiseb oruuiru fopa éirí, a mong orbuioe uara air. Ar amlair do veaéuair in coeca ban: brat huaine co cor-éarab aréair, lene co n-veig im-leaó oir, veilgi oir lanecair co m-bréaétpaó n-gem mítoaéat, mumei uóirí foploireti, mino oir fopa éino caéai. In coeca n-gilla mara do fíca buoi impu co n-ar-

guo. fithéll fop mun caé gilla, co fepair oir acar airgíro. Timpan cpeoa in laim éli in gilla; sa míl-éom ar flabpa airgíro ina laim veir. —H. 2. 16. col. 789, mid.]

<sup>(246)</sup> [original:—Daeirga uilagnib, ol Conaire, pánic éucumra em ol Conaire do éungíro arceoa, acar ni éurocro conepra. Rámpura imcet mbó boéána; pann im cet muc mucglarra; pann imcet mbpat cunagarclit etud; pann imcet ngairceó ngorm saéa ngubae; pann im-veió nveilci veipa uoipua; pan im veió noabéa vé oléa veió uonnae; pann im x mogu; pann im x meile; pann im tpi .ix. con nenzel inna flabpaarab airgíroib; pann im c. neé mbuava, híreogangair off nég. —*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 59, col. 1 and 2.]

XXVI.

Carved brooches mentioned in the tale of the *Bruighean Da Derga*.



XXVI.  
Reference of  
carved  
in book of  
Munster.

Scottish ladies are represented above as having worn. This reference is found in the ancient Book of Munster, where we are told that after the unfair death of *Eoghan Mór*, king of Munster, at the hands of the friends of *Conn* of "the Hundred Battles", in the battle of *Magh Leana*, in the King's county, fought A.D. 180, we are told that after this occurrence, *Mac Niadh*, the son of *Eoghan*, the deceased king, threatened *Conn* with a new war unless he was paid the usual *eric*, or composition, for the death of his father. To this condition, we are told, king *Conn* was advised to assent; and therefore there were paid to *Mac Niadh* two hundred riding steeds, and two hundred chariots, and *Conn's* own ring of gold, and his precious carved pin or brooch, and his sword and shield; with two hundred ships, two hundred spears, two hundred swords, two hundred hounds, two hundred slaves, and *Sadhbh Conn's* daughter to wife.

Another  
reference to  
a carved  
brooch in a  
poem  
ascribed to  
*Oisín*.

I shall only give one more reference to this carved brooch which, however, does not in this instance appear under the name *Dealg*, but under that of *Eó*. This reference occurs in an ancient poem; ascribed to *Oisín*, the celebrated son of *Fina Mac Cumhaill*.

It appears that a dispute arose in the presence of *Find Mac Cumhaill* among some of his warriors as to their respective proficiency in chess-playing. The sons of *Cruimchenn* boasted that they would beat the celebrated *Diarmait O'Duibhne* and his comrade at this old game. *Find*, however, made peace between the disputants, and *Oisín* says:—<sup>(247)</sup>

"He, *Diarmait* of the brown hair, then challenged them,  
The sons of *Cruimchenn* of the martial deeds,  
Two *Fails* of gold from each of them  
To stake upon the one game.

"It was not long after getting rid of our anger,  
Till we saw coming towards us over the plain  
A large, beautiful, admirable young champion,  
Stern, manly, and truly brave.

"A silver sandal on his left foot,  
With shining precious stones beset;  
A golden sandal on his right foot:  
Though strange, it was no ungraceful arrangement.

(247) [original:—  
Ror gneannad iao Diarmad Donn,  
mac Cruimcinn conn iolar  
nglonn,  
im dá fail óir ceccaróe  
oo éabairt anaon clúite.  
\* \* \* \* \*

Ḃairno duinn iarrgur dar breireg,  
go bfaicim eugain ran leireg  
óclac mór, álainn, amra,  
roirraig, fearrúda, rioncalma.  
ar arcait ima coir éli,  
go ligait logmara lí;  
ar oirúda ima coir noeir:

"A cloak over his breast the champion bore,  
 And a kilt of fine soft satin;  
 A brooch (*Eó*) well carved of brown gold,  
 In the splendid cloak of graceful points.  
 "A helmet of yellow gold upon his head,  
 With carved lions, at full spring;  
 A green shield at his back was seen,  
 With art of maiden hands displayed".

XXVI.

I have quoted more from this poem than was strictly necessary for my immediate object; but the whole passage is so curious, and at the same time illustrative of the subject of dress and ornament, that I could not well omit any of it. I shall return further on to the first stanza when discussing the subject of *Faile*.

But the splendid pins of ancient times were not always of the precious metals. Besides the brooches of gold and silver to which we have so many ancient references, we have in the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, instances of brooches of *Umha*, or ordinary bronze, and of *Findrúine*, about which we are at a loss to know whether it was a distinct metallic alloy, a kind of white bronze, or gold, or silver, or some special style of carving and ornamentation of white metal.

Brooches of  
 bronze and  
*Findrúine*.

Before passing away from the subject of these old brooches, however, I think I may be justified in giving some reason to think that the use of chased gold pins came down to a comparatively late period. From a poem, written about the year 1190, by *Gillabhrighde Mac Conmidhe*, a distinguished poet of the province of Ulster, for Dermot O'Brien, chief of the Dalcassian race of Munster, and of which I possess, I believe, an unique copy, we discover that the manufacture of costly brooches and such articles had not then gone out of use. The poet complains of some hardships the lay literary orders of Ireland were labouring under at the time, and calls on the great Dalcassian chief to take the lead in redressing and correcting them. He dwells in glowing terms on the beauties and importance of general literature, but more particularly on poetry, which was his own profession. He compares the effect of his art on the words of a language, to the impress of the artist's hand on the raw material of gold; and in illustration of the latter idea, he writes the following stanza:

Chased gold  
 pins used  
 down to the  
 beginning of  
 thirteenth  
 century.

nochar de an tinoell ainneir.  
 bpat or abruinne son láet,  
 is léineo domín fhoill máot;  
 eó iar na eaccor v'or vonn,  
 so di irin mbpat mbláit mbeann-  
 corp.  
 Catbar orburioe ima ceann

go nealtar'b leoman lamveall;  
 fciat uaine ora tpuim gan aet,  
 go nger ingine macúact.  
 —MSS. Royal Irish Academy, No.  
 177 (H. & S. collection), p. 441, bot,  
 and 142, stanza 4.]

xvi.

“The gold brooch (*Dealg*), though it gets the praise,  
When the artist makes it lustrous by his art,  
It is to the artist the praise is really due,  
Who thus has beautified the brooch”<sup>(248)</sup>.

Although I have not exhausted my list of pins under various names, I must through want of space pass for the present to the consideration of some other personal ornaments of the people of ancient Erinn. And as the ornaments nearest to the pins in order and frequency of allusion are perhaps rings, I shall proceed to describe them next.

Of the different kinds of rings.

Of rings there was a great variety, under the various names *Fail*, *Fainne* or *Faidne*, *Fiam*, *Ornasc*, *Dornasc*, *Orduise*, *Budnu* or *Buinne*, *Fornasc*, *Nasc*, *Idh*, etc. The *Fail*, I believe, was an open ring, or bracelet, for the wrist, arm, or ankle. *Fainne* continues to be the ordinary name to this day for a closed finger ring. The *Fiam* was a chain which went round the neck. The *Ornasc* was also a finger-ring. The *Dornasc* was a bracelet for the wrist. The *Orduise* were rings for the thumbs. The *Budnu* was a twisted or corded ring, bracelet, or circle, formed out of one twisted bar or several strands of gold or silver. The *Nasc* was a fillet-ring, or garter, and when compounded with the word *Niadh*, a champion, it signified something like a knight of the garter, exactly as these words are understood at this day, because the *Nasc-Niadh* was in fact worn on the leg; but the wearer was obliged to establish his title to it on the field of battle, sword in hand. In those remote, and, if you will, rude times, the fawning on prime ministers seems to have been but a poor way of obtaining decorations and dignities.

Of the *Fornasc* I cannot well form an idea. The name occurs in the enumeration of the trinkets of king *Aihill* and queen *Medbh* in the opening of the *Táin Bo Chuaigne*, along with the *Fainne*, the *Fail*, and the *Orduise*; and as the word is compounded of the intensitive or super-adjective prefix *for*, and the noun *Nasc*, it very probably was the general name for those splendid gold bracelets, or armlets, which terminate at the extremities in cups of various degrees of depth and regularity of shape

The *Fainne* used to confine the hair.

Of the *Fainne*, or ordinary finger-ring, we find a reference which shows that the article which bore that name was used for other personal purposes. Thus, in the Courtship of *Maine* the Connacht prince, and *Ferb*, the daughter of *Gerg*, preserved in the “Book of Leinster”, we are told of *Maine* and his attendants, that:—

<sup>(248)</sup> [original.—  
an vealg or croh e moltaip,      ar von ceapo ar mó ar moltaoh,  
níamhar ceapo tpechu mochoarbh,      an vealg oo b'achughabh.—  
O'C. MSS., L. of Saints, vol. ii., p. 283.

"They all had green shields; and if they owed a dish of gold, or silver, or bronze, one rivet from the spear of each man would pay it; and all with their hair confined by *Fainnes*, or rings of gold" <sup>(249)</sup> xxvi.

I have already shown in a quotation from the Navigation of *Maelduin's* Ship, and elsewhere, that the hair was sometimes confined by a spiral ring of gold or other metal. This custom came down to a very late period, as we find from a poem of *Eochaidh O'Beoghusa*, poet to Mac Guire of Fermanagh about the year 1630. The subject of this poem, which consists of forty-one stanzas, is a lament on the flagging energies of the Irish in opposing the English oppressor and wrong-doer. In comparing the then living generation with those which had gone before, he bursts into the following passionate strain in the tenth stanza:—

"No youth is now seen in the gage of combat,  
Nor a warrior's armour close by his bed,  
Nor a sword sucking the palm of the hand,  
Nor does the frost bind the ring of the hair" <sup>(250)</sup>

Of the *Fail*, which appears to me to have been an open bracelet, I have already, from the Courtship of *Bec Fola*, given a most important instance of their being worn on the arms all up from the wrist to the shoulder; and the same is told of *Nuada's* wife, a Leinster lady, that she had her arms covered with *Fails* of gold, for the purpose of bestowing them on the poets and other professors of arts who visited her court. That this species of munificence was not of a limited character, many instances could be adduced; but, as the case requires but little if any illustration, a little incident from the ancient tract of the "Dialogue of the Ancient Men", in the "Book of Lismore, will be sufficient as an example.

"*Cailte*, the faithful lieutenant of *Fínd Mac Cumhaill*, being travelling through the country of Connacht on a certain day, met a certain chieftain's wife, attended by ten fair ladies. After some conversation as to whence *Cailte* had come and whither he was going, the lady, perceiving that he had a musician with him, asked:—"Who is this musician in thy company, O *Cailte*?" said the lady. '*Cas Corach*, the son of *Caincín*, the best musician of all the *Tuatha Dé Danann*', said *Cailte*, 'and even the best musician in Erin or *Alba*' [that is, Scotland]. 'His countenance is good', said the lady, 'if his performance is equally good'

<sup>(249)</sup> [I have not been able to find this passage.]

<sup>(250)</sup> [original:—

ní faigtear sílle ag zeall tpeara, ní ceanglann ne doiré fáinne fuilc.  
na tpeallam laóic láim ne cuilc, —MSS. R.I.A. No. 23  
na colcc ag doéol beapnann láithe, p. 66, stanza 10.]

Hair rings used in the seventeenth century.

*Fails* worn up the whole arm, for the purpose of bestowing them upon poets, etc.

example of this from Book of Lismore.



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‘On our word’, said *Cailte*, ‘though good his countenance, h music is better’. ‘Take thy *Timpan*, O young man’, said sh He did take it, and played, and freely performed for her. Th lady then gave him the two *Fails* that were upon her arms”.<sup>a</sup>

It would appear from the first stanza of the poem attribut to *Oisín*, which I quoted above,<sup>(222)</sup> that these *Fails* or armle were sometimes pledged as stakes at the chess board.

the  
bracelet  
led a  
dine.

From the bracelet called the *Fail*, let us now pass to the rin, or bracelet, which was called *Budne*, or *Buinne*. The wor literally means a wave of the sea, or, in domestic art, the wav or strong welt of rods which basket-makers weave like a rop in their work, to give it strength and firmness. In the metall arts, this kind of work was produced by two different mode The first was by twisting a round, square, or flat bar of met so as to give it a spiral or screw form. This is the ordin mode still. The second mode was, by taking a solid square b or prism of metal, and cutting out of it with a chisel along th lines of the longitudinal edges, at the four sides, all the soli metal, to within a thread or line of the centre, and leavin standing, along the edges, a thin leaf of the metal; so that whe the whole is cleared out, what was a solid bar before, now coi sists of a mere skeleton, formed of four thin leaves standing ou at right angles from a central axis, and proceeding, as it wer along its line, from the two solid ends, which were not at a hollowed out. Two specimens of *Budnes*, or ropes of gol manufactured after the latter mode, have been found togeth at Tara, one smaller and more delicate than the other; th smaller one was perhaps intended for a woman. I shall hav more to say on these two ornaments in the next lecture.

(221) original:—Cnet in cairprioéc  
ut atfanna a Chailte? ar an ingen.  
Car Corac mac Camcnoí aiprioéc  
C. O. O. uilí ar Cailte, aḡar in cair-  
prioéc íf ferrí a neirinn aḡar a nal-  
bam. Ar maít a dealb, ar an ingen,  
mafa maich a aiprioec. Oar ar  
m-bricep am, ar Cailte, gró maít a  
dealb, íf ferrí a aiprioéc. Zei  
so timpan a oclais, arri. aḡar ní  
ḡab aḡar noboi íca gefnao, aḡar íc  
raeirfeinn. Tuc íarum an inge  
inua falab boi imma lamuib do.  
*Book of Lismore* (O’Curry’s cop.  
R.I.A.), f. 239. a. col. 1.]  
(222) *Ante*, vol. ii. p. 166.

## LECTURE XXVII.

[Delivered 19th July, 1850.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Anonymous notice of Irish Torques; description of two found at Tara; accounts of Torques found in England; no account of Torques in the works of older Irish antiquaries; those found at Tara bought in 1813 by Alderman West of Dublin; the author does not agree with the anonymous writer as to the mode of production of the Tara Torques. Uses of the Tara Torques; reference to such a ring of gold for the waist in an ancient preface to the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*; another reference to such a ring in an account of a dispute about the manner of death of *Fothadh Airgtech* between king *Mongan* and the poet *Dallan Forgaill* from the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; *Cailte's* account of his mode of burial; a hoop or waist-torque among the ornaments placed on *Fothadh's* stone coffin. Story of *Cormac Mac Airt* and *Lugaidh Laga* showing one of the uses of rings worn on the hands. Ornaments for the neck; the *Muinche*; first used in the time of *Muineamhon* (circa B.C. 1300); mentioned in a poem of *Ferceitne* on *Curoi Mac Daire*; also in account of the Battle of *Magh Leana*. The *Niamh Land* or flat crescent of gold worn on the head, as well as on the neck. The Neck-Torque of *Cormac Mac Airt*. Descriptions of the dress and ornaments of *Bec Fola*. The *Muinche* mentioned in the tale of the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe", and in the story of *Cano*. *Muinche* and *Land* used also for the neck ornaments of animals and spears. Use of the term *Muintorcs*. Of the *Mael-Land* mentioned in the *Táin Bo Fraich*. The ferrule of a spear called a *Muinche* in the account of the Battle of *Magh Leana*; discovery of such a ring in Kerry; the term also used for the collars of grayhounds, chiefly in Fenian tales. Mention of the *Torc* in its simple form in the Book of Leinster. Of the *Land* or lunette; it formed part of the legal contents of a lady's workbag, and of the inheritance of daughters. The *Land* was worn on the head as well as on the neck, as shown by the descriptions of *Conaire Mór's* head charioteer and apprentice charioteers; and also of his poets.

I SHOULD not have ventured to offer so unartistic, and indeed so very dry, a description of the very beautiful ornaments to which I alluded at the end of the last lecture, while I might have availed myself of a very learned and artistic description already published, but that I differ in opinion with the writer of that description, whoever he may be, as to the manner of manufacture and mode of wearing them. The description or account of these ornaments of which I have just spoken appeared anonymously in "Saunders's News-letter" of the 31st of December, 1830; and as it contains all that is known of the history of these articles, and the thoughts and observations of a scholar, I shall quote from it as much as appears pertinent to my present purpose. The article in question is headed "Antiquities: The Irish Torques". After which it proceeds:

Anonymous  
notice of  
Irish  
Torques;

xxvii.  
description  
of two found  
at Tara;

“Two specimens of this ancient, and now extremely rare ornament, were discovered about eighteen years ago, in some reclaimed ground, at Tarah, in the county Meath. They are wreathed bars of pure gold, nearly five feet in length, bent into a circular form, flexible, but returning with elasticity into their natural curved shape; each bar consists of four flat bands, most accurately united along one of their edges, and then closely and spirally twisted throughout the whole length. The extremities end in smooth solid truncated cones, suddenly reflected backwards so as to form two hooks, which can be brought naturally to clasp in one another. Perpendicularly from the base of one of these cones proceeds a gold wire, a quarter of an inch thick and eight inches long, terminating also in a solid conical hook. This last appendage is deficient in every other torque that we have seen or read of, and adds considerable difficulty to what already existed in explaining the use of these expensive and singularly wrought ornaments. The weight of the larger is about twenty-five ounces; of the lesser, fifteen ounces.

accounts of  
Torques  
found in  
England;

“Three particulars contribute to render these ornaments objects of great interest to the antiquarian—their invariably wreathed or twisted form; the perfect purity of the gold they are composed of; and, lastly, there being no other ornament in the use of which so many nations have conspired. The Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and almost every people of ancient Europe, have adorned themselves with them in the early periods of their history. . . . Of English writers Lhuyd is the first who published an account of the torques. The one he describes was found A.D. 1692, at Harlech, Merioneth; its weight, eighty ounces; length, nearly four feet. Another is described by Woodward, in his ‘Collection of Curiosities’, published in 1728. In 1787, a torque weighing thirteen ounces was discovered by a labourer at Ware. Fearing that it might be claimed by the lord of the manor, he sold it to a Jew, who melted it; a drawing, however, had been previously taken, and appeared in the ‘Gentleman’s Magazine’ for September, 1800.

no account  
of Torques in  
the works of  
older Irish  
antiquaries;

“It strikes us as not a little singular that this splendid proof of the ancient wealth and adornment of our island should hitherto have escaped the observation of every Irish antiquarian. No trace whatever can be discovered in the writings of Keating, Ware, Pocock, or Ledwich, which manifests the least acquaintance with it. It has even eluded the research of the patriotic Vallancey.

“The specimens which have given rise to this article”, con-

tinues the writer, "were purchased in the year 1813 by the late Alderman West, and have since remained at his establishment in Skinner Row, open to the inspection of the curious. They are evidently the production of the most remote antiquity, and, with the exception of two others, much smaller in dimensions and inferior in design, are the only relics from the existence of which we can lay claim to an ornament so much prized by the civilized portion of the ancient world. On no other occasion have two torques been discovered together. The regal solidity of the one is contrasted with the feminine lightness of the other; and, if we are allowed to annex any importance to the site where they were found, we consider it rather surprising that monuments such as these should have so long remained unnoticed by the learned.

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those found  
at Tara  
bought in  
1813 by  
Alderman  
West.

"We are induced to offer the foregoing remarks in hopes that the attention of the curious will be directed to the acquisition of these invaluable ornaments, which will be offered for sale, this day, by the executors of the late Mr. West".

With the deepest respect and gratitude to the, to me unknown, writer of this learned and candid article, I feel that I must differ from his assumption and conclusions as to the mode of manufacturing these two particular ornaments, and their object and use. I do not believe—indeed they bear ample evidence to the contrary—that they were produced by twisting a wreathed bar of gold. Neither do I believe that these capacious circlets were ever intended to be worn as torques at the neck, although there is good reason to believe that ornaments of a similar form, but of much narrower compass, were so worn. In support of my first opinion I have only to direct an examination of the article itself, to convince any one, in my mind, that it was chiselled out of a solid bar of gold. In support of my second opinion, as to the object and use of ornaments of this size and type, I trust I shall be able in a few words to show, that they were not ornaments for the neck, as well as what they really were. I believe that they were girdles, or circlets, to go round the body; and it is singular that Gibbon, in his edition of Camden's 'Britannia', comes to the same conclusion, but with some modification; he thought they were belts from which the ancients suspended their quivers of arrows. There appears to me no better way of disposing of this curious and long standing question, than by bringing forward one or two examples from our ancient writings, in which various kinds of personal ornaments are enumerated, and by contrast and external knowledge, to define the use and place of each, and see if among them there

Author does  
not agree  
with anony-  
mous writer  
as to the  
mode of pro-  
duction and  
use of the  
Tara  
Torques;

Uses of the  
Tara  
Torques;



XXVII. shall not be found an appropriate description, name, and place, for these very articles.

reference to such a ring of gold for the waist in an ancient preface to *Táin Bo Chualigna*.

It may be remembered that at the opening of the last lecture, <sup>(153)</sup> I translated from an ancient Gaedhelic MS., a gorgeous description of the cavalcade which attended upon *Bobhdh Dearg*, the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of *Magh Femhen*, in Tipperary, when he went on a visit to his friend *Ochall Oichne*, at the hill of *Cruachan* in Connacht. Upon that occasion we are told that each man of the seven score charioteers and seven score horsemen of the retinue, wore, among other ornaments, a helmet, or cap (*Cend-Barr*), beset with crystal and *Findruine* upon his head; and a radiant blade (*Niamh-Land*) of gold around his neck, with a gem worth a new milch cow set in its centre (*Firsine*); and a wavy ring (*Bouinde do At* or *Bunne do At*) around each man, worth thirty ounces or *ungas* of gold.

Here we have the three most costly articles of personal ornamentation, set out with so much precision as to leave no difficulty whatever about their identification. There is, first, the *Cend-Barr*, or cap, or whatever its form may have been, upon the head, ornamented with crystal stones and *Findruine*. There is, in the second place, the *Niamh-Land*, or radiant crescent, of gold, with a gem worth a new milch cow, around the neck. This was a torque or gorget of the level fashion, and from its name, which is not an uncommon one, it could not possibly have been a spiral or twisted article. Next comes the *Bunne* or *Bouinde do At*, that is, the wavy or twisted ring, which we are told each man wore around him; and from its size, estimated by its value or weight of thirty ounces, it requires no argument to prove that it could only have been worn where we are told, around the body.

Another reference to such a ring from the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*;

dispute about the manner of death of *Fothadh Airgteach* between *Dallan Forgaill* and king *Mongan*;

I shall only give one other reference to the wavy ring, or *Bunne do At*, where it is placed in such a contrast as, like the last case, to leave no room to doubt its use and destination. In an ancient story preserved in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, we are told, that at a certain time a dispute in historical questions arose between *Mongan*, king of Ulster, who died in the year 620, and *Dallan Forgaill*, so well known as the writer of the celebrated elegy on the death of Saint *Colum Cille*. The king *Mongan* one day asked the poet, where and what was the manner of the death of *Fothadh Airgteach* [one of the three *Fothadh* brothers, who reigned conjointly over Erin for one year, between the years of our Lord 284 and 285]; the poet answered that *Fothadh Airgteach* had been slain in the *Dubthir* of Leinster [now Duffern

<sup>(153)</sup> See Lect. xxvi., ante, vol. ii., p. 156.

in the county of Wexford]. The king *Mongan* said that this was not true, whereupon the poet said that he would satirize him for presuming to doubt his veracity, and not only that, but that he would satirize his father, and mother, and grandfather, who were a long time dead; that he would satirize the waters of the country, so that no fish could live or be caught in them; the trees, so that no fruit should be borne by them; and the plains, so that they should for ever remain barren of any produce. The king then agreed to pay to the poet whatever he should demand as far as three times seven cumhals, or sixty-three cows, if in three days' time he should not be able to prove that the poet's account of the death of *Fothadh Airgteach* was not true. This offer was accepted by the poet, out of respect to *Breothigirn*, the king's beautiful and bountiful wife.

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At the end of three days of great anxiety to the king and queen, a strange warrior appeared at their court with the headless handle of a spear in his hand. He made his way into the palace, took his seat near the king, and asked what they were concerned about. "A wager I have made", said *Mongan*, "with yonder poet about the place of death of *Fothadh Airgteach*; he said it happened in *Dubthir* of Leinster: I said it was false".<sup>(280)</sup> The warrior said it was false on the part of the poet. You will be sorry, said *Dallan Forgaill* [the poet], to have contradicted me. I shall not, said the warrior, I shall prove it. "We were along with *Fínd Mac Cumhail*", said the warrior, "on our return from *Alba* [now Scotland], when we met with *Fothadh Airgteach* here at *Ollarbha* [near Larne in the county Antrim]. We fought a battle there. I threw a spear at him", said he, "which passed through him and entered the ground on the other side of him; and it left its iron blade in the ground there. This", said he, "is the handle which was in that spear. The bald rock from which I threw that cast will be found there; and the blade of the spear will be found in the ground; and the tomb of *Fothadh Airgteach* [will

*Cattle's account of Fothadh's death and burial;*

<sup>(280)</sup> [original:—imcomarcap Mongan a filio laa nana, cia haveo fothadh airgteach; arbent fongoll goice im Dubthair Laigen. Arbent Mongan ba go; arbent in fili noo nairreo aro airgus, acur no aerfao a acair, acur a macair, acur a penair, acur vo ceenuo fopanuirciu conna gebta idrc ina imberaib, vo ceenuo for a feoaib cona tihruair torao, forna maige comcir ambhuic caroci cacaclainne. Vo fannaro Mongan aperi vo uircaib cotici recc cumala, no uarecc cumal, no tri

recc cumal:—

Trac mbatar ano aorogapar fer  
 sun raic an oer, abruic hifuncipul imi, acur uicelcur inna lam  
 naobuerec. Toling fupra cranorin  
 tarra teora rade camboi for  
 lar lir; uiruou comboi for lar  
 mo nig taige; uiruou comboi ecer  
 Mongan acur fpaigro for fano-  
 doare. In fili in iartar in taige  
 fuu nig aniar. Segair inccer iun  
 cig, feao mooclaig uoedmic. Cio  
 uatar funo olruou, no gell rom ol  
 Mongan, acur in fili ucuc im aroo

xxvii. be found] near it, a little on the east. There is a stone coffin around him there in the ground. His two *Fails* [or bracelets] of silver, and his *Bunne do At*, and his neck-torque [*Muintore*] of silver, are laid upon his coffin; and there is a rock standing at his tomb; and there is an *Ogham* inscription in the end which is in the ground of the rock; and what is written in it is: ‘*Eochaidh* [or *Fothadh*] *Airgteach* is here, who was killed by *Cailte* in battle, on the side of *Find*. Our warriors buried him as I have described”, continues the young man, “and his funeral obsequies were performed [by us]”.

a hoop, or waist Torque, among the ornaments placed on *Fothadh's* stone coffin.

It remains only to be told, that the warrior who had so timely come to the relief and rescue of king *Mongan* was no other than the spirit of the celebrated *Cailte*, the cousin and special favourite of *Find Mac Cumhaill*. This *Mongan* was the most learned and wise layman of his time: so remarkable were his knowledge and wisdom that people believed him to be *Find Mac Cumhaill* himself; and this belief or fact is asserted in the present legend. It is not, however, with *Mongan* personally that I am at present concerned, but with the important facts, for such I take them to be, connected with the tomb of the monarch *Fothadh Airgteach*. Of some of these facts I hope to make important use in my future lectures, if I be spared, and to the others I shall now refer with as much brevity as possible.

Indeed I have but to call attention back to the articles which are stated in this curious legend to have been deposited upon the stone coffin of king *Fothadh Airgteach*. These were his two *Fails*, or armlets of silver; his two *Bunnes do At*, or twisted hoops, but whether of silver or gold is not stated, and his *Muintore*, or neck-torque of silver. Here, as in the former case—and in the absence of the diadem which is not mentioned—we find the three most important articles of ornament grouped in such a way as to leave no doubt in my mind of the use of each.

foctaro aingctis; arnubairt rom ipin  
 'Oubtor lagen: arnubartta ip zó.  
 arberc in tóclac ba zó vono filio.  
 bio ait lig ol fongoll cille va  
 vummaitegdo. ni baaron ol in  
 tóclac, pnoipctip. bá má rni lac-  
 ra lapin ol in tóclac; adaut ol  
 Mongan nimaitpin bá má rni lapino  
 tra olre vuloomur vialbae. im-  
 marnacmár fpu focturo náingcté h  
 runo accut forolloipbi. póm-  
 mip rcanoul nuno. focarpo ep-  
 cop fair co ped epic colluro hi tal-  
 main fupur anall; acur conpacab a  
 rapno hi talam. ipin anoi celtar  
 pobóo ipin gairin. fugebtar in mael

clac va polura arour; acur fo-  
 gebtar anair rapno ipin tallam;  
 acur fugebtar auluo foctaro aing-  
 ctis fupur anair bic. ata compar  
 clode imbi ano hi tallam. atait  
 a vifáil aingct, acur a vi bunne vo  
 at, acur a muintore aingct for a  
 compar; acur acá corpte ocaularo;  
 ocup ata ogom ipin cino fil hi tal-  
 lam vin corpt; ipin fil ano: eo-  
 cturo aingctéac inro pambí cáilte  
 immaeriuic fpu fino.

Ethe [i. vo gmiter] lar inóclac  
 ariet pamlaio uls acur porepta.—  
*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f 83. b. a. col.  
 2.]

It is remarkable, however, that there are two *Budnes*, or hoops, mentioned here, but whether accurately or not, we have not now the means to ascertain. It is remarkable too, that while we are told the armlets and necklace were of silver, the metal of which the *Budne* or twisted ring was made is not specified: and might not this reserve imply that the article was invariably made of gold?

As I have already stated, *Budne* was a name descriptive of artistic fashion, and not of size or particular destination, and it is therefore that we have found it already confining a lady's hair, and in the following instance adorning a warrior's hands. *Lughaidh Laga*, as stated already, was a distinguished prince and warrior of Munster, brother to *Oilioll Oluim*, the celebrated king of Munster in the middle of the third century, and ancestor of all the great families of that province. When *Cormac Mac Airt* came to the sovereignty of Erin in the year 227, he was immediately opposed by the three *Ferguses*, brothers, princes of Ulster, who drove him out of Tara, and forced him to fly to Munster for relief. His father's sister, *Sadhbh*, was the wife of *Oilioll Oluim*, the king of that province, and to her grandson, *Tadhg*, the son of *Cian*, son of *Oilioll Oluim*, he applied for relief and assistance to regain his inheritance. *Tadhg* consented, but advised the deposed monarch to procure the assistance of *Lughaidh Laga*, his, *Tadhg's*, grand-uncle, who was a superannuated warrior, and who had on a former occasion cut off *Cormac's* father's head in the battle of *Magh Muirimhe* in the county of Galway.

*Cormac* succeeded in this, and the Munstermen, under the command of *Tadhg* and *Lughaidh*, marched into Meath, and past Tara, to the place called *Crinna*, near the present ruined abbey of Mellifont. Here the hostile forces met; the Ulstermen were defeated, the three *Ferguses* killed by *Lughaidh*, who presented their three heads to *Cormac*; whereupon *Cormac* said: "His hand does not conceal from *Laga* that he has slain kings". And this is explained by the statement that he had "seven *Buinni* or twisted rings on his hand or on his fingers". This is found in the Book of *Lecan*, folio 124, a.; but in another reference to the same fact, at folio 137, b. a., of the same book, it is made seven *Failgi* or rings of gold upon his hands.<sup>(255)</sup> Whether the number of these *Budni*, or *Failgi*, worn by the warriors in general in the olden times, bore any relation to the number of

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Story of  
*Cormac Mac  
Airt* and  
*Lughaidh  
Laga*, showing  
use of  
rings on the  
hands.

<sup>(254)</sup> [The original of the passage at f. 124. a. (marg. col. mid.) is:—]r ce arbert Cormac fuit ni deil a cois for Laga nobi nra, .i. spreacht mbuinní oir ina cois no ma meor.

The following is the original of the passage at f. 137. b. a. (top): ni deil a cois for Laga nobi nra cois, .i. spreacht failgi oir ina laim. See also Lect. xxvi., ante, vol. ii., p. 156.]



— XXVII. kings or chiefs slain by them in battle, I cannot say, but in the remark of king *Cormac* upon *Lughaidh's* hand, there is good reason to believe that he implied this curious fact.

Before passing away from this class of ornaments, I mean the ring, I shall have to speak more particularly, but still briefly, of the neck-torques, or gorgets, which have been so often incidentally introduced into those lectures.

Of ornaments  
for the neck.

The necklace, or gorget, like the smaller rings, had several names, such as *Muinche*, *Muintorc*, *Land*, *Fiam*. Of these the *Muinche*, as the word literally signifies, was a generic name for any kind of ring or bracelet for the neck. The *Muintorc*, which is a name compounded of *Muin*, the neck, and *Torc*, a torque, means of course, a neck-torque. The *Land* was simply a blade or leaf of gold or silver, and *Fiam* was a real chain of either of these metals. The *Muinche* and the *Muintorc*, from what is known of them, were evidently blades or leaves of gold or silver, of a certain artistic fashion. While the *Land*, as its name implies, was a simple flat, or level blade of metal; and the *Fiam* was a chain of some fashion, or mode of linking, of which no specimen has as yet come within the range of my knowledge.<sup>(284)</sup>

The  
*Muinche*;

There is mention of a *Muinche*, however, with a qualification, which leads me to think that it was not a blade or leaf of metal, but a wreath, a *Budne*, or twisted ring of metal, on a smaller scale than the *Budne*, which went around the body; this was the *Muinche do At*. It must be admitted too, that the name *Muinche* is often applied to any kind of ring or band for the human neck, or for the neck of a spear, a dog, or for any other purpose of that kind. The following recapitulation of the references to this article of personal ornament which have from time to time been introduced into these lectures may be useful. The first reference to the *Muinche* that I am acquainted with occurs in the "Annals of the Four Masters", so far back as the year of the world's age 3872, or about one thousand three hundred years before the Incarnation. Thus speak the Annals:—

First used in  
the time of  
*Muineam-*  
*hon* (circa  
B.C. 1300);

"At the end of the fifth year of [the Milesian monarch] *Muineamhon*, he died of the plague in *Magh Aidhne*. It was this *Muineamhon* that first placed *Muinches* of gold upon the necks of kings and chiefs in Erin."

And we are told by the old etymologists that this man's real name was *Maine Mór*, or *Maine* the great, but that after his institution of the order of the collar of gold he received and retained the name of *Muineamhon*, that is, of the rich neck, from *muin*, the neck, and *main*, richer.

The next instance of the *Muinche* that I remember occurs in

<sup>(284)</sup> [See fig. 57 (Fig. 3, pl. xvii., *Miscellanea Graphica*)].

the dirge already quoted, which was composed by the poet *Ferceirtne* for his master and patron *Curoi Mac Daire*, king of West Munster, in which he enumerates all the gifts and presents that he had received from the deceased chief, among which he reckons ten *Muinchi do At*, which, if I properly understand the words, were full rings, or bracelets, wreathed and hooked behind.

XXVII.  
mentioned in  
a poem of  
*Ferceirtne*  
on *Curoi*  
*Mac Daire*,

Again: the battle of *Magh Leana* was fought in the year 137, between *Eoghan Mór*, the king of Munster, and *Conn* "of the Hundred Battles", monarch of Érin. A copiously detailed account of this battle and the causes that led to it was published by the Celtic Society in the year 1855, and at page 113 of the volume we find the monarch, when arraying himself for the battle, putting his easy, thick, noble, light *Muinche* upon his neck, and his *Mind Airé Rígh*, or chief king's diadem, upon his head.

also in ac-  
count of  
Battle of  
*Magh Leana*.

I may next refer to the passage already quoted from the visit of *Bobhdh Derg*, the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of Tipperary, to his friend *Ochall* of *Cruachan*, at *Loch Riach* (now *Loch Reagh*) in Connacht, where we are told that each of the seven score charioteers and seven score horsemen who composed his cavalcade wore a *Niamh Land*, or radiant leaf of gold, around his neck. This *Niamh Land*, or splendid flat crescent of gold, was worn not only around the neck, but was also worn upon or over the forehead. This may be seen from the following passage, which occurs in a volume of tales and adventures of *Fínd Mac Cumhail*. The scene of this story is laid on the mountain called *Sliabh Crot*, a historical mountain in the southwest part of the county of Tipperary, and it is told by *Cailte*, one of *Fínd's* most cherished and trusted officers, in the following words:—

The *Niamh*  
*Land*, or flat  
crescent of  
gold, worn  
on the head  
as well as on  
the neck.

"One day", said *Cailte*, "*Mac Cumhail* was upon this mountain, and the Fenian warriors along with him; and we were not long here when we saw a lone woman coming towards us to the mountain. She wore a crimson deep-bordered cloak; a brooch (*Delg*) of enchased yellow gold in that cloak over her breast; and a *Niamh Land* (or radiant crescent) of gold upon her forehead"<sup>(287)</sup>

This lady was a resident of *Benn Edir*, now the hill of Howth in the county of Dublin, but as I shall have occasion to speak of her more at large on a future occasion, I shall not fol-

(287) [original:—Oen uo laistib ua  
raib mac Cumhail ar an telais ro  
ol Cailte, acas an fiann ina farras;  
acas noear cian buinn ann go faca-  
mair an ain ingen cucainn go com-  
oipec gur an enocra. Uraic corpra  
corparac impri; uelg onocbuuoe  
uim urac or a buinne; niamlann  
oir ima hevan.—No. 2-36 of Hodges  
and Smith's collection of MSS. in the  
library of the Royal Irish Academy.]

XXVII. low her history any further here. This is but one of several references of the same kind that I could bring forward.

The neck  
Torque of  
*Cormac Mac  
Airt.*

We may, I think, next refer to the description of king *Cormac Mac Airt's* personal appearance at the great feast of Tara, which has been printed in the first series of my lectures,<sup>(258)</sup> and from which I shall quote the following short passage as strictly pertinent to my present purpose:

"Splendid indeed was *Cormac's* appearance at that assembly, sleek, curling, golden hair upon him. A red shield with engravings and animals of gold, and with trappings of silver upon him. A crimson, sleek, short-napped cloak upon him. A brooch of gold set with precious stones over his breast. A *Muintorc*, or 'neck-torque' of gold around his neck".

This, it must be admitted, is a decided reference to the *Muintorc* or Neck-Torque of gold, but still it does not convey any idea whatever of the particular shape or form of the article itself.

From the time of king *Cormac*, who lived in the middle of the third century, we may pass to that of the famous lady *Bec Fola*, the woman so romantically met, wooed, and won, by the monarch of Erin, *Diarmid*, the son of *Aedh Slaine*, about the year 640, and already described in a previous lecture.<sup>(259)</sup> I shall again quote here, in order to make my summary complete, the passage of the legend describing the lady *Bec Fola's* costume:

Description  
of the dress  
and orna-  
ments of  
*Bec Fola.*

"She had on her [feet] two pointless shoes of *Findruine*, ornamented with two gems of precious stones; her kilt was interwoven with thread of gold; she wore a crimson robe, and a *Dealg* or brooch of gold fully chased and beset with many-coloured gems in that robe. She had a *Muinche* or necklace of burnished gold around her neck".

The *Muinche*  
mentioned in  
tale of the  
"Wander-  
ings of *Maelduin's*  
Canoe";

I may also refer again too, to the story of *Maelduin's* Navigation, or wanderings on the Atlantic Ocean, where they came to an island in which they saw a house, into which they entered, and saw upon the walls all around from door to door a range of brooches (*Bretnassa*) of silver and gold, sticking by their points; and another range of great *Muinchi* like the hoops of a great tub, all of gold and of silver. What has been said of the Scottish women who attended prince *Cano* into Erin, about the year 600, may also be remembered. They wore brooches (*Delgi*) of gold with full carvings, and ornamented with gems of various colours, *Muinchi* of burnished gold (around their necks), and *Minds* or diadems of gold upon their heads.

and in story  
of *Cano.*

I could, were it necessary, multiply references to show the

<sup>(258)</sup> [See *Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish History*, p. 45, and App. xxvi., p. 510.]

<sup>(259)</sup> [Lecture xxvi., ante, vol. ii. p. 160.]

universal use of the *Muinche*, the *Land*, and the *Muintorc*, as ornaments for the neck in ancient and comparatively modern times in this country. The names *Muinche* and *Land*, however, appear to have been common not only to the necklaces of men and women, but also to those of hounds, horses, and inanimate things, such as spears, etc. The *Muintorc*, if wreathed as its name implies, might be used in the same way, excepting as a ring or band, to grace the neck of a spear.

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*Muinche* and *Land* used also for the neck ornaments of animals and spears. Use of the term *Muintorc*.

In the visit of *Fraech Mac Fidhaidh* to *Ailill* and *Medbh*, at the palace of *Cruachan* in Connacht, to demand the hand in marriage of their daughter *Findabair*, and of which I shall have more to say by and bye, we are told that each of the fifty steeds which formed the cavalcade had upon its neck a *Mael-Land* of silver with little bells of gold. The word *Mael-Land* of silver used here would signify literally a pointless blade, or broad band, or crescent of silver, but as no recognizable specimen of this part of horse furniture has come under my notice, or probably exists at all, I cannot say more about it, than to give the simple analysis of the name.

Of the *Mael-Land* mentioned in the *Táin Bo Fraich*.

Again, in the passage already quoted in part from the *Battle of Magh Leana*, where the monarch *Conn* "of the Hundred Battles" is described as arraying and arming himself for the combat, we are told that "he placed his blue, sharp-edged, rich-hilted sword at his convenience; and his strong, triumphant, wonderful, firm, embossed shield, with beautiful devices, upon the convex slope of his back. He grasped his two thick-headed, wide socketed, battle-spears, with their *Muinchi* (or rings) of gold upon their necks, in his right hand". Here the word *Muinche* is applied to the ornamental ferrule, or ring of gold, placed upon the neck of a spear-handle, just where it enters the socket of the spear itself; and it is important enough that we have at least one specimen of what there is good reason to believe to be this particular *Muinche* or spear necklace. This ring, or hoop of pure gold was found many years ago on the estate of the late Daniel O'Connell, of ever glorious memory, in the county of Kerry. It was discovered in a small deposit of ancient bronze, namely—a bronze sword, some bronze hatchets, and a bronze *skian*, or oval-pointed dagger, to the decayed wooden shaft of which it appears to have belonged. These remains of certainly the most remote period of our history, were found under a large stone which stood in a river; and having passed into the hands of the great O'Connell, were subsequently presented by his son Maurice to the Royal Irish Academy, where they have for many years formed one of the most interesting and valuable groups of the collection of antiquities of

The ferrule of a spear called a *Muinche* in the account of the *Battle of Magh Leana*;

discovery of such a ring in Kerry;



that National Institution. The name *Muinche*, as I have already stated, is often found applied to the collars of noble grayhounds in the old books, and chiefly in the poems and tales which record the exploits and adventures of *Find Mac Cumhaill* and his *Fianna*. However, as it is not my intention to burthen these remarks with unnecessary illustrations or an idle display of research, I shall content myself for the present with what I have already said in proof of the existence, and the particular and general use of the *Muinche*, the *Muintorc*, and the *Land*, among the noble classes of Milesians in ancient Erinn.

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the term also used for the collars of grayhounds chiefly in Fenian Tales.

Mention of the *Torc* in its simple form in the Book of Leinster.

I may, however, add that I have found the "torque" mentioned by itself, and not, as usual, compounded with *muin*, the neck, so as to make it a "neck-torque". In this form I have met the name but once; but in that instance it is very curious because its authority states that the articles there mentioned were of foreign manufacture. The passage is in a very curious poem in the "Book of Leinster", written in praise of the ancient palace of *Ailinn* in the county of Kildare. The poem consists of twenty-six stanzas, of which the following is the eleventh:—

"Its sweet music at all hours,  
Its fair ships in the foaming waves,  
Its showers of silver spangles magnificent,  
Its 'torques' of gold from foreign lands".<sup>(260)</sup>

It would be idle to speculate on this curious passage, and I give it here merely for what it is worth.

Of the *Land* or lunette;

From the necklace in its various forms I shall now pass to the next ascending ornament of the person, referred to in our old writings, and this is the *Land*, or crescent, or lunette, as it is generally named at present. To this article as an ornament for the front of the head as well as for the neck, we have such references as shall leave no uncertainty of its very extensive use among those who were by rank entitled to wear it in ancient times. I have already quoted from the Brehon Laws a short article in reference to the work-bag or work-box of a chief's wife, and its legal contents, which consisted of four precious articles, namely, a veil of one colour, and a *Mind*, or diadem of gold for the head, and a blade or lunette of gold, evidently for the neck, and silver thread, or fine wire. If this lady's work-box or bag were stolen, and all these not in it, she was entitled but to the restitution of what had been stolen; whereas, if the legal complement of articles had been in it, she would be entitled to a fine of a breach of aristocratic inviolabi-

It formed part of the legal contents of a lady's work-bag;

<sup>(260)</sup> [original:—  
aceóil bhinn icach ehpát,  
aicin bárc forceonogur flanno,

ἀφαιρη ἀντικε ορησοσι μάρ,  
ἀκυρε δίη ἀ τινὸς γάλλ.—H. 2. 18.  
f. 27, a. b.]

lity, in addition. We find it laid down in our ancient laws xxvii. that:—

“As long as there are sons forthcoming, daughters do not receive any part of a deceased father's property, though he be their father as well as the father of the sons, nor anything but crescents of gold, and *Rand* or thread of silver, and *Bregda*, that is *Bricin*, or thread of various colours [for embroidery]”<sup>(161)</sup>

it formed part of the inheritance of daughters.

However clear it may appear from these and former passages that the *Land*, blade, or crescent of gold, was worn on the neck, the following few passages, out of many, will show with equal clearness that it was also worn on the front of the head, and probably sometimes across the head from ear to ear. The passages in question are from the tale of *Bruighean Da Derga*, and which I alluded to in a previous lecture,<sup>(162)</sup> and will, I think, be sufficient to prove this. These passages occur in the descriptions given by the pirate chief *Ingcél* to *Fer Rogain* of the interior of *Da Derga's* court, and the disposition of the monarch *Conairé Mór* and his people within it.

The Land was worn on the head as well as on the neck, as shown by

“I saw there”, said *Ingcél*, “three other men in front of these. [They wore] three *Lands* [blades or crescents] of gold upon the back of their heads. Three short aprons (*Berrbroca*) upon them of gray linen embroidered with gold. [They had] three short crimson capes (*Cochlini*) upon them, [and carried] goods of red bronze in their hands”.

the description of Conairé Mór's head charioteers,

These were the monarch's three head charioteers, *Cul*, *Fre-cul*, and *Forcul*.<sup>(163)</sup>

“I saw there”, said *Ingcél* again, “nine [men] sitting upon [bare] wooden couches; they wore nine short capes upon them with crimson loops, and a *Land* (blade or crescent) of gold upon the head of each, [and carried] nine goads in their hands”.

and of his apprentice charioteers;

“They”, said *Fer Rogain*, “are nine apprentices who are learning chariot driving from the king's three chief chariot drivers”<sup>(164)</sup>.

“I saw three others there”, said *Ingcél*, “with three *Lands*

and also of his poets.

<sup>(161)</sup> [original:—*ḡein beic mic ann noco bepac, ingina ni so sibao in achar uogref, cio inann achar uob acap so na macaib, cin cob inann, acé maó lanna, acap panna, acap bregda. Lann, .i. oir, acap pann, .i. in rnaite airéic, acap breg da, .i. in bpicin.*—*Acad. collect. R. A., f. 8 b.*

<sup>(162)</sup> Lecture xxv., ante, vol. ii, p. 137. et seq.

<sup>(163)</sup> [original:—*acconapac triap nairi ap ambélaib Téora lanna oir for airéicir a cino; téora bepp-*

*bróca impu uelín glar imoentaí oíor; tri coclíní conepai impu; tri bhoit cpeoumí inaláim. Samailleac rin a fipnogam. Ropfetaí olre, Cul, acap fpecul, acap forcul, tri púmapaio inoipis.*—*Leabhar na h-Uidhr*, f. 64. a.]

<sup>(164)</sup> [original:—*acconapac nonbup forpanumao rúil uóib; nóí coclene impu colubun éopcpai, acap lano oir fur cino caéac, nóí mbpuic inalamaib . . . nóí napaio fo- glomma la tri púmapaio inoipis.*—*Ibid.*, f. 64. a.]

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(blades or crescents) of gold across their heads; [they wore] three speckled cloaks upon them; and three shirts with red interweavings [of gold]. They had three brooches of gold in their cloaks; three wooden spears [hung] over them at the wall".

"I know them", said *Fer Rogain*; "they are the king's three poets, namely, *Sui*, and *Ro Sui*, and *For Sui* [that is, sage, great sage, and greater sage], three of the same age, three brothers, and three sons of *Maphir Rochetuil*".<sup>(266)</sup>

<sup>(266)</sup> [original:—*at conoanc tuiar naile ano; ceona lanua óir ear a cenó; tui bnoic bnoic impu; ceona camu conoeng in clao ceona brec-narra óir ina mbraib; ceona bun-rada uarab hiraig, Ro pecaarra rin, or ferrogin; tui filro inoing rin, .i Sui, acar Ro-Sui, acar for-Sui, tui comair, tui bráir, tui mo Máir Rochetuil —Ibid., l. 64. b. bot.]*

## LECTURE XXVIII.

[Delivered July 23rd, 1880.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Of Ear-rings: the *Au-Nasc* mentioned in *Cormac's Glossary*, and in the accounts of *Tulchinne* the druid and juggler, and the harpers in the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*. Of the *Gibne*: it was a badge of office, especially of charioteers; it is mentioned in the description of *Rian Gabhra*, *Cuchulaind's* charioteer; and also in a legend about him in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; the word *Gibne* is explained in an ancient glossary in a vellum MS.; the story of *Edain* and *Midir* shows that the *Gibne* was not worn exclusively by charioteers. The spiral ring for the hair mentioned in the "Wanderings of *Maelduin's* Canoe". Men as well as women divided the hair. Hollow golden balls fastened to the tresses of the hair; mention of such ornaments in the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*; curious poem from the tale of *Eochaidh Fedhleach* and *Edain* (foot note); golden balls for the hair also mentioned in the "Sick Bed of *Cuchulaind*"; two such balls mentioned in the tales of *Bec Fola* and *Bruighean Daderga*, and only one in that of the "Sick Bed". The *Mind óir* or crown not a *Land* or crescent; it is mentioned in the Brehon Laws, and in a tale in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; the second name used in the tale in question proves that the *Mind* covered the head. The *Mind* of *Medb* at the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*. The *Mind* was also worn in Scotland, as is shown by the story of prince *Cano*. Men also wore a golden *Mind*, as appears from the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*; this ornament called in other parts of the tale an *Imscind*. The curious *Mind* worn by *Cormac Mac Airt* at the meeting of the States at *Uisnech*.

FROM these crescents or lunettes of gold, worn on the front, and sometimes farther back on the head, by men and women, we now pass to the next articles of ornament with which our remote ancestors adorned the head, namely ear-rings. To this class of ornament, however, I have met but few references, and in each case the wearers were men only. This ornament appears under two names, differing apparently in signification. The first name is *Au-Nasc*, or *U-Nasc*, which signifies literally an ear-ring. The second name is *Au-Chuimriuch*, which literally signifies ear-band, or ear-ligature.<sup>(266)</sup> For the precise value of the term *Au-Chuimriuch*, or ear-band, I have not been able to discover any authority further than the plain analysis of the name itself affords; but not so with the *Au-Nasc*, as we have the following clear definition of it in the ancient glossary, so well known as *Cormac's glossary*:

"*Au-Nasc*, that is a ring for the ear, that is a ring of gold which is worn upon the fingers or in the ears of the sons of the free or noble families".

the *Au-Nasc*  
mentioned in  
*Cormac's*  
Glossary;

This explanation is clear enough; perfectly so, indeed, accord-

<sup>(266)</sup> [See Fig. 58.]



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and in the account of *Tuichinnis*, the Druid and juggler,

It may be remembered that in a former lecture of the present course, <sup>(267)</sup> when describing the various groups in the court of *Da Derg*, where the monarch *Conairé Mór* was killed, *Inqcel*, the captain of the piratical assailants, describes the monarch's chief juggler as follows:—

“I saw there a large champion in front of the same couch, in the middle of the house. The blemish of baldness was upon him. Whiter than the cotton of the mountains is every hair that grows upon his head. He had *U-Nasca* or ear-clasps of gold in his ears, and a speckled, glossy cloak upon him”.

and also in that of the harpers in the tale of the *Brúghean Da-derga*.

The second reference to this ornament is found in the same important tale of the Court of *Da Derg*, where the harpers are described in the following words:—<sup>(268)</sup>

“I saw nine others in front, with nine bushy, curling heads of hair, nine light blue floating cloaks upon them, and nine brooches of gold in them. Nine crystal rings upon their hands; an *Ordnasc* or thumbing of gold upon the thumb of each of them; *Au-Chuimriuch* or ear-clasps of gold upon the ears of each; a *Muinche* or torque of silver around the neck of each”.

The *Gibne*

There is another little ornament called a *Gibne*, connected with the head, which, I think, ought not to be overlooked here: it is the band or thread which was tied around the head to keep the hair down on the forehead and in its place otherwise. This ornament, however, appears to have been more particularly a badge of office, peculiar, but not exclusively so, to chariot-drivers, and the only instances of it that I remember, except one, are connected with *Iaegh*, the son of *Rian Gabhra*, charioteer to the celebrated champion *Cuchulaind*. In the great combat fought by that champion against *Ferdiadh*, and which was so fully described in a former lecture, <sup>(269)</sup> we find the following passage in the description of the charioteer's dress:—

mentioned in the description of the dress of *Rian Gabhra*, *Cuchulaind's* charioteer;

“The same charioteer put on his crested, gleaming, quadrangular helmet, with a variety of all colours and all devices, and falling over his two shoulders behind him. This was an addition of gracefulness to him, and not an incumbrance. He then with

<sup>(267)</sup> [See Lect. xxv., ante, vol. ii., p. 144.]

<sup>(268)</sup> [Ubi supra, p. 146.]

<sup>(269)</sup> [Lec., xiv. ante, vol. i. p. 302. See also Appendix for the whole episode of the *Táin Bo Chuilgne*, containing the flight of *Cuchulaind* with *Ferdiadh*.]

his hand placed to his forehead the red-yellow *Gibne*, like a crescent of red gold, of gold which had boiled over the edge of the purifying crucible: and this he put on in order to distinguish his office of charioteer from that of his master [who was the champion]".

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Of the same champion and charioteer there is a very wild legend preserved in the ancient *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, in which the *Gibne* appears again as part of the outfit of the latter. The story is shortly this.

When Saint Patrick first appeared at Tara, and attempted the conversion from paganism of the very obstinate monarch, *Laeghaire Mac Neill*, the latter refused to believe in the true God until the saint should raise to him from the dead *Cuchulaind*, the great champion of Ulster, who had been dead more than four hundred years at the time. The saint did not seem to assent to this condition, but, on the next morning, as the monarch was driving in his chariot northwards from Tara towards the river *Boind* (the present Boyne), the spirit of the famous champion appeared to him, splendidly dressed, with his chariot, horses, and charioteer, the same as when alive. After describing *Cuchulaind* himself, his chariot and horses, the king continues:—"There was a charioteer in front of him in the chariot. He was a lank, tall, stooped, freckle-faced man. He had curling, reddish hair upon his head. He had a *Gibne* of *Findruine* upon his forehead which kept his hair from his face; and *Cuache* (or little cups) of gold upon his poll behind, into which his hair coiled; a small winged *Cochall* or cape on him, with its buttoning at his two elbows. A goad of red gold in his hand by which he urged his horses"<sup>(270)</sup>

and also in a legend about him in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*.

Let us examine what the ornaments of the charioteer were in this case. We have first a *Gibne* or thread of *Findruine* or white bronze upon his forehead, to keep his hair from falling over his face; and little cups at his poll behind, in which his hair was coiled up. Now this is a new piece of ornament, of which I have not found mention anywhere else; nor can I as yet recognize in the large collection in our national museum any article which could answer to this description. As regards the word *Gibne*, just mentioned, I find it explained in an ancient glossary in a vellum MS. in Trinity College, Dublin,

Meaning of *Gibne* explained in an ancient glossary:

<sup>(270)</sup> [original:—*apa apa bélaib*  
*in carpuccin apaité forpéig fán-*  
*foca for bpec, falc foréar for puao*  
*for amulluc. Eirne finorume for*  
*a écan náoleiceu afoit róagro*  
*cuáde ceop for doib cúalao hi*

*carcellao afaic. Coéline ec*  
*teé immi conaupplocuo ap doib*  
*nullemaib. Druicne vorepóir ma*  
*lám vitarcellao a eócu.—**Lea-*  
*bhar na h-Uidhre, f. 74. a. b.]*

as follows:—<sup>(371)</sup> “*Gibne*, that is a thread, as *Laegh* said when giving the description:—‘I saw’ said he, ‘a man on the plain and a *Gibne* of *Findruine* upon his forehead’”. The man who spoke the words was the *Laegh* just mentioned above, *Cuchulaind*’s charioteer, but I have not been able to find the tract from which it is quoted.

the story of *Edain* and *Midir* shows that the *Gibne* was not worn exclusively by charioteers.

For the fact that the fillet, or thread of gold, or other metal which confined the hair on the forehead, and which must have gone round the head, was not exclusively worn by charioteers, I may refer back to the story of the lady *Edain* and *Midir*, the chieftain of *Bri Leith*, in the present county of Longford, given in a former lecture of the present course.<sup>(372)</sup> In this very ancient story it may be remembered that, whilst the lady and her fifty attendant maidens were bathing in the bay of *Inbiur Cichmuini* on the east coast of Ulster, they saw coming towards them over the plain the chieftain *Midir*, mounted on a splendid bay steed. Among the other rich ornaments already described which the horseman wore, was a thread of gold bound upon his forehead, to keep, as the story says, his hair from falling over his face.

There are a few more ornaments connected with the hair of the head, about which I shall now briefly speak. These are the ring, which confined the hair at the poll in one lock or bundle; and the hollow balls of gold in which the front side-locks, or divisions of the hair terminated. I need not refer back to a former lecture of the present course, where I described the beautiful, spiral, and elastic ring for the hair at the poll, in [the late] Dr. Petrie’s fine cabinet of Irish antiquities;<sup>(373)</sup> but I may again call attention to the lady mentioned in the *Navigation*, or wanderings of *Maelduin*’s Ship, where we are told that:—

The spiral ring for the hair mentioned in the “*Navigation of Maelduin*’s Canoe”.

“Upon the fourth day,” the story says, “the woman came forth to them, and splendidly did she come there. She wore a white robe, and a *Budne* or twisted ring of gold confining her hair. She had golden hair. She had two *Maelann* or pointless shoes of silver upon her crimson-white feet; a *Bretnais* or silver brooch, with a chain of gold, in her robe; and a striped smock of silk next her white skin”.<sup>(374)</sup>

I may here observe that the ring for the hair at the poll may be easily distinguished from all other rings, because it must of necessity have been of a spiral form, and gradually diminishing

<sup>(371)</sup> [original:—*ḡibne*, .i. *ḡáite*,  
ut *erc*, *laeg* *actabairt na tuapar-*  
*bála*: *atconnairt ar ré fer irin*  
*maḡ acar ḡibne rinnuine for a*  
*ḡoan*.—H. 3. 18. 469. b. 650. a.]

<sup>(372)</sup> [*Ante*, Lecture xxvi, vol. ii., p. 162.]

<sup>(373)</sup> [*Ibid.*, p. 159.]

<sup>(374)</sup> [*Ibid.*, p. 159.]

from one end to the other, in order to fit the tapering character of the confined poll of hair, which diminished gradually in thickness from the root to the top. Such is the character of the beautiful hair *Budne* in Dr. Petrie's collection, and also of a smaller golden one in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy.

That men as well as women confined, either in one or several divisions, the hair of the poll, will be seen from the following instance. In the story of *Bec Fola* and king *Diarmait*, already several times referred to, we are told that the strange young man whom she met on the brink of a lake, when she lost her way after escaping from her husband's palace, had among other ornaments, meshes, and a net of gold on every lock of his hair behind, reaching down to his shoulders; and two apples, or hollow balls of gold, the size of a man's fist, upon the two locks or forks, to which his hair was divided, but whether at the poll or the temples, we are not told, though it certainly must have been the latter. It would be very difficult to identify any of the hair-rings spoken of here, as they may have been of the ordinary circular form, and not spiral, since they were intended more for ornamenting separate small locks of the hair, than for confining the whole in one tapering bundle. Of the net of gold for the hair mentioned here, it is unnecessary to say anything further, as such nets are still used, not however by gentlemen, but by ladies, to whom in our matter-of-fact and democratic days, ornaments of gold for the hair are exclusively confined.

The next ornament we have to consider is the hollow ball of gold in which the tops of the two front, or rather side-locks, of the hair were generally received and fastened. The references to this ornament are not many, though from its character, simplicity, and luxury, there can be no doubt but that it was in extensive use with men and women in the olden times. Passing over the description of the two balls of gold just given from the story of king *Diarmait* and the lady *Bec Fola*, I have but no more references to this ornament, but one of these is so precise and characteristic as to explain clearly in what way these shells or hollow shells were attached to the hair. The very ancient and valuable tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*, so copiously drawn upon in the course of these lectures, opens with the following poetical passage:—

“There was [of old] an admirable, illustrious king over Erin, whose name was *Eochaidh Fedleach*. He on one occasion passed over the fair-green of *Bri Leith* [in the present county of Longford], where he saw a woman on the brink of a fountain, having a comb and a casket (*Cuirel*) of silver, ornamented with gold, washing her head in a silver basin with

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Men as well as women divided the hair.

Hollow golden balls fastened to the tresses of the hair;

mentioned in the tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*;



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mentioned in  
the tale of the  
Bruighean  
Daderga;

four birds of gold perched upon it, and little sparkling gems of crimson carbuncle (*Carrmogul*) upon the outer edges of the basin. A short, crimson cloak, with a beautiful gloss, lying near her; a *Dualldai* (or brooch) of silver, inlaid with sparkles of gold, in that cloak. A smock, long and warm, gathered and soft, of green silk, with a border of red gold, upon her. Wonderful clasps of gold and of silver at her breast, and at her shoulder-blades, and at her shoulders in that smock, on all sides. The sun shone upon it, while the men [that is the king, and his retinue] were all shaded in red, from the reflection of the gold against the sun, from the green silk. Two golden-yellow tresses upon her head, each of them plaited with four locks or strands, and a ball of gold upon the point of each tress [of the two]. The colour of that hair was like the flowers of the bog firs in the summer, or like red gold immediately after receiving its colouring. And there she was disentangling her hair, and her two arms out through the bosom of her smock".<sup>(175)</sup>

This is a curious description, and the old writer might fairly incur the charge of pure fiction, if we had not still extant, as far as combs, not of silver but of bone, gracefully carved, and little caskets of gold, clasps and fastenings of all sorts, and the balls of gold in which the two plaited tresses of the hair terminated, to prove the accuracy of his description of the ancient personal ornaments.

The name of the remarkable lady of whom we have just spoken was *Edain*, already mentioned; she was the daughter of *Etar*, a *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief, and grandmother of the monarch *Conairé Mór*, the hero of this tale of the *Bruighean Daderga*. When the monarch *Eochaidh Fedleach* had sufficiently observed and admired the beautiful *Edain* at her free toilette, he made proposals of marriage to her, which were at once accepted, and he returned to his palace at Tara in high spirits with his new queen. The lady, however, had not until

<sup>(175)</sup> [original:—*Du* n̄ *amra* *air*-*egsa* f̄or̄ *éire*n̄ *Eochaidh* f̄eol-*leach* a *ainm*, *do* *luirpeacht*; *nann* *uar* *aenach* *m̄breg* *leith* *conaccat* *imnait* f̄or̄ *ur* *in* *cobair*, *acaf* *uiry*, *éuirp̄el* *ar̄ḡit* *conecor* *deor*, *ac̄te* *oc* *folcuo* *alluing* *ar̄ḡit*, *acaf* *ce-ich̄n̄* *heoin* *oir* f̄or̄ *n̄*, *acaf* *gleoir-geimat* *becca* *vicharrmogul* *chor-ctat* *hifor̄fl̄eac̄uib* *n̄a* *luinḡi*. *Urac* *car* *cor̄era* *folochain* *ac̄te*; *suall-**vai* *air̄ḡoisi* *ecoir̄ȳr̄oe* *deor* *oibinnu* *ir̄b̄r̄acc̄t*. *lene* *lebur* *culpatach* *ir̄* *c̄ot̄ac̄* *le* *inor* *veir̄ȳr̄u* *uain̄r̄oe* *foer̄eḡin̄liu* *oir̄mp̄i*. *Tuagm̄la*

*ingantat* *oir̄* *acaf* *air̄ḡet* f̄or̄ *a* *br̄uin̄oi*, *acaf* *a* *foim̄naib*, *acaf* *a* *suallib* *ir̄in̄olene* *vicac̄leith*. *Tair̄neo* *f̄rua* *inḡuan* *cobbar̄oearg* *uona* *repaib* *tur̄olec̄* *in̄oisi* *f̄ur̄in* *nḡnein* *ir̄in* *c̄ic̄u* *uain̄oi*. *Da* *er̄u-**li* *nor̄bur̄oi* f̄or̄ *a* *c̄ino*, *f̄ige* *ceit̄-**pin̄uait* *ceach̄ar̄n̄oe* *acaf* *mell* f̄or̄ *ruo* *cach* *uait* *ba* *cor̄maic* *leo*. *Da* *ch* *in̄o* *foile* *ir̄in* *f̄u* *barr* *naile-**tar̄* *hif̄amp̄ac̄*, *no* *f̄u* *dearḡor* *ir̄* *n̄denam* *a* *uata*. *Ir̄* *ano* *dui* *oc* *cait̄biuch* *a* *fuile* *via* *fulc̄ao*, *acaf* *a* *uataim* *er̄ua* *veic̄* *ar̄eol̄aig* *im-**mach*.—H. 2. 16. col. 716. top.]



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not dwell further upon it here, especially as it is not further necessary for the purpose of my present subject. I may, however, remark that the poem addressed to *Edain* under the title of *Befind*, or Fair-haired Woman, and given in the lecture alluded to, is of undoubted primitive pastoral character, both in construction and in the allusions contained in it, and may in great part be safely referred to a very early period, if not to the age of *Eochaidh Fedhleach* himself.

and in the  
"Sick Bed of  
*Cuchulainn*";

The next and last reference to balls of gold for the hair, of which I shall at present avail myself, is found in the ancient Gaedhelic tale of the "Sick Bed of *Cuchulainn*",<sup>(277)</sup> of which I gave a very complete analysis in a former lecture.<sup>(278)</sup> It may be remembered that a woman with a green cloak, the wife of *Labraid* "the quick hand at sword", a fairy chieftain, was sent from the lady *Fand*, the wife of the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* navigator, *Manannan Mac Lir*, who had fallen in love with him, to invite him to visit her, and assist *Labraid* in a battle, and that his strength would be restored. *Cuchulainn*, before going himself, sent his charioteer *Laegh* to report on the country of *Magh Mell*, or "the Plains of Happiness". *Laegh* goes, and is well received by *Labraid*; and when he returns, he describes, in a poem of twenty-eight stanzas, his visit to *Labraid's* court. The following are the first two stanzas of this poem:—

"I arrived in my happy sportiveness  
At an uncommon residence, though it was common,  
At the court where were scores of troops,  
Where I found *Labraid* of the long flowing hair.

"And I found him in the court,  
Sitting among thousands of weapons,  
Yellow hair upon him of a most splendid colour,  
And an apple of gold closing it".<sup>(279)</sup>

two such  
balls men-  
tioned in the  
Tales of *Bec  
Fola* and  
*Brúighean  
Dadurga*, and  
only one in  
that of the  
"Sick Bed".

In the previous instances there are two balls of gold mentioned, in which the two divisions into which the hair was divided in front terminated; here, however, there is but one ball of gold, which closed or terminated the whole of the hair. It is therefore quite clear that this ball could not have been in front or at the side of the head. It follows, then, that it must

Muc up, last lemnaçt lalino,  
roctia ùm. ano a beirno!  
—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 82.]

It is a golden crown shall be upon  
thy head;  
Fresh pork, banquets of new milk  
and ale,  
Thou shalt have with me there, O  
*Befind!*

(277) [Published in the *Atlantis*, vol. i., p. 362, and vol. ii., p. 96. Dublin, 1858-59.]

(278) [*Ante*, Lect. ix., vol. i., p. 195.]

(279) [See original in *Atlantis*, vol. ii., p. 103.]

ave been at the poll, and that the hair was either confined by ring, or woven into one great plait behind, so that its arrangement was made firm and secure by its terminating point being received into, or passing through, this hollow ball of gold. XXVIII.

It does not appear, as far as I have been able to discover, that women in the olden times confined the hair in coils on the top or back part of the head with pins, brooches, or combs, although there is reason to believe that they did use pins and brooches for some purpose connected with its arrangement.

I shall now pass from the study of the minor ornaments of the head, which I have dwelt upon at such considerable length, to the chief of all, the *Mind óir*, or *Minn óir*, that is, the crown, or diadem of gold, of which we find frequent mention in our ancient writings. That the *Mind óir* was not an ordinary *Land*, that is, a frontlet or crescent of gold, must be at once acknowledged, when we find both mentioned together as different articles belonging to one and the same person, and when, besides this fact, it will be shown that, whilst the *Land* was worn either at the neck or on the forehead [and the back of the head. *vide* p. 183], the *Mind* invariably covered or surrounded the whole of the head. The first reference to the *Mind* or crown, to which I shall call attention, is an article in the Breton Laws, and has been already mentioned in connection with the *Land*, or crescent of gold. In the article in question we are told that the workbag or workbox of a king's wife, when legally furnished, should contain "a veil of one colour, and a *find* (or crown) of gold; and a *Land* (or crescent) of gold; and thread (or fine wire) of silver". This instance alone would be sufficient to prove that the *Mind* and the *Land* of gold were different articles and worn in a different way.

The following passage translated, from an ancient story in one of our oldest MSS., *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, leaves, however, no doubt at all upon this matter. The *Mind*  
*óir*, or  
crown,  
  
not a *Land*,  
or crescent;  
  
mentioned in  
the Brehon  
Laws;

"There was", says this story, "a great fair held at one time at *Taillte* [now absurdly called Teltown in the county Meath] by the Gaedhils [of Erin]. The person who was king of Tara at his time was *Diarmait*, the son of *Fergus Cerbeoil* [who died in the year 588]. The men of Erin took their places upon the stands and benches of the fair-place, each according to his dignity and possession and legal right, as had been at all previous times the custom. The women had a separate stand for themselves along with the king's two wives. The queens who were with [king] *Diarmait* at this time were, *Mairend Mael* [that is, *Mairend* the Bald]; and *Mugain*, the daughter of *Conraidh*, son of *Duach Dond*, of the men of Munster. *Mugain*



**XXVIII.** was deeply envious of *Mairend*<sup>m</sup>, because she was herself barren, whilst *Mairend* was fruitful; "and she called unto her a satirical woman, and told her that she would pay her whatever she desired, if she went up and pulled the *Mind* of gold off the head of queen *Mairend*. The condition of queen *Mairend* was this, that she had no hair upon her head; wherefore she constantly wore a queen's *Mind* to conceal her blemish. The satirical woman went up then to where *Mairend* sat, and pertinaciously pressed her for a gift. The queen said that she had nothing to give her. Thou wilt have this then, said the woman, pulling the golden *Cathbarr*, or diadem off her head. May God and St. *Ciaran* avenge this, said *Mairend*, at the same time clapping her two hands upon her bare head. No person in the assembly, however, had time to notice her disgrace before a mass of flowing golden hair started upon her head, falling down below her shoulder-blades; and all this through the miraculous interposition of St. *Ciaran*" [of Clonmacnois].<sup>(280)</sup>

The second name, *Cathbarr*, used in this tale, proves that the *Mind* covered the head.

With the peculiar morality of the royal court which this very interesting legend reveals, or the miraculous agency which it introduces, we are not concerned here; but the evidence which it affords of the meaning and use of the golden *Mind* is so conclusive as to require no further proof. If, however, further proof were required, the second name, that of *Cathbarr*, under which the diadem is mentioned, would amply supply it. The word *Cathbarr* is now, and has been at all times, well understood to signify a helmet, and in that sense it has come down as the proper name of a man, especially in the O'Donnell family of Donegal, to even so late a period as the year 1700. To call a queen's diadem a helmet would savour a little of robust poetry; but whatever be the idea which it was intended to convey, it is valuable to our inquiries so far as to bear out in full our conception of the character and use of the ancient golden *Mind*.

<sup>(280)</sup> [original:—Dáí tpa mór dé-  
nac mór, féct ano hi tallctin, la  
Diarmait mac Ferguson Ceirbeól.  
Ro horouigic tpa fii hēpen for  
foraioib mo oenuig, .i. caé ar mia-  
oaió, ocuf oánaioib, ocuf olercu-  
nuf ano, amail bágnat corfin. Dáí  
oan foruo ar leit oc na mnáib im  
oá fetig mo nús. Da hiac nigná ba-  
tar hipail Diarmata intanfin, .i.  
Maireno mael ocuf Mugain ingen  
Chonéaró mac Duáé Duino oó pe-  
raio Muman. Dáí tnué mór oc  
Mugain fii Maireno; ocuf arbert  
Mugain fii fin mbancantí oó bepaó  
a breé féin oí oíambepaó a mino  
oíu oó éino na nigna; ar ar amlao  
boi Maireno cenfolc, conio mino  
nigna no bio oc foloc alocta. Ca-  
nic tpa in bancantí coairm imbáí  
Maireno, ocuf bóí oc toctugao  
neic forfu. Arbert in nigná ná  
dáí acci. Dáí oó ocuf fo oíu occaí-  
raing in caébaíru oíra oia éino.  
Dáí ocuf Ciaran nírtoe im orpo, of  
Maireno, oc tabaíre a oálam mo-  
ceno. Níéaruo im orpo oíoneó írru  
tíluag oeruo fúrru, intan forab-  
eac oia himoao in folc fano fler-  
caé foroíra noarar fúrru tíruaíre  
Ciaran.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, folio  
42. b. col. 1.]

I have entered into this discussion because of a statement which has been made, and which has been frequently repeated and looked upon as final—namely, that the kings or queens of ancient Erin did not wear any kind of head ornament which could be called a crown, because in none of our museums of antiquities can any such article be found. It is true the word *Mind* does not convey to the mind any precise or definite idea of the form or details of this diadem; but neither does the Latin word “*corona*”, or the English word “*crown*”, which is formed from it. If there be any advantage at all, it must be on the side of the Gaellic words *Mind* and *Cathbarr*, words which have been shown above to signify a helmet, or complete cap, or article of some such fashion, intended to cover and protect the whole head.

Our next reference to the *Mind* of gold is found in the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, where we are told that when *Medb*, the queen of Connacht, was on her march with her army to ravage the country of Ulster, her progress was conducted in the following order,—She had nine chariots devoted to herself alone: two chariots of these before her, and two chariots after her, and two chariots at either side of her, and a chariot between them in the centre, in which she sat herself. And the reason [we are told] why queen *Medb* observed this order, was to prevent the clods from the hoofs of the horses, or the foam from their mouths, or the mire of a great army, or of great companies, from tarnishing the lustre of her queenly *Mind* of gold.<sup>(281)</sup>

And further of this same *Mind* of gold, we are told that when queen *Medb* and her forces entered the territory of *Cuailgne* (in the present county Louth), they encamped for the night on the brink of a river at a place ever since called *Redde Loiche*. The story proceeds to say that “*Medb* had ordered a comely handmaid of her household who had been in waiting upon her, to go to the river and fetch water for her to drink and wash in. *Loche* was the name of this maiden, and she, *Loche*, then went forth to the river accompanied by fifty women and carrying the queen’s *Mind* of gold above her head. *Cuchulaind*, the opposing champion of Ulster, was concealed near the river, and perceiving the procession of women coming towards him preceded by a beautiful woman with a queenly *Mind* upon her head, whom he believed to be the queen herself, he let fly a stone

(281) [original:—*tr amlatro no im-chigeo meob ocar noi carrait fóti a oenur: sa éarrat nempe oib, [ocar sa éarrat na oiaib], ocar sa charrait rechtar a sa taeb, ocar carrait ecurru ar meobon caoerrin.*

*tr aipe fo gnio meob rin ar na núr tar fócbairge a cruib gnes, no uanrao a glomraib ruán, no denogur moir fluaris, no moir buroen, ar na tifaró uampuguo uon mino óir na rigna.—H. 2. 18. f. 145. a.]*

XXVIII. from his sling at her head, which struck her, broke the *Mind* of gold in three places, and killed the maiden on the spot".<sup>(282)</sup>

The *Mind* was also worn in Scotland, as is shown by the story of Prince *Cano*.

The *Mind* or *Minn* of gold was also worn by the women of the Gaedhil of Scotland, as is shown by the story of prince *Cano*, which I told in a former lecture.<sup>(282)</sup> Each of the wives of the fifty warriors who accompanied the prince in his exile into Ireland, we are told, "wore a green cloak with borders of silver. A smock interwoven with thread of gold. Brooches (*Deilge Lacair*) of gold, with full carvings bespangled with gems of many colours. Necklaces (or 'torques') of highly burnished gold. A *Mind* (or diadem) of gold upon the head of each". As this story belongs to about the year 620, it affords proof of the knowledge and, no doubt, use of such ornaments in Ireland, and I think we may fairly assume in Scotland also, down to so comparatively late a period as the seventh century.

Men also wore a golden *Mind*, as appears from the *Táin Bo Chualigne*;

That the *Mind* of gold, however, was not an ornament peculiar to females, will be seen from the following passage from the same old tale of the *Táin Bo Chualigne*.

"It was at this time", says the story, "the youths of Ulster came southwards from *Emania* [to Louth]. Three times fifty boys, sons of the kings [and chiefs] of Ulster, was their number, under the leadership of *Folloman*, the son of *Conchobar*, king of Ulster. They fought three battles against queen *Medb* and her forces, in which they slew three times their own number, but the boys themselves were all killed except [their leader] *Folloman*, the son of *Conchobar*. *Folloman* vowed that he would never return to *Emania* until he should carry away with him [king] *Ailill's* head and the *Mind* of gold which was over [or upon] it. This, however, [we are told] was not easy to accomplish, for the two sons of *Beithe*, son of *Ban*, [that is] the two sons of king *Ailill's* nurse and fosterfather, came against the young prince and slew him".<sup>(284)</sup>

Farther on in the same story we find this same *Mind* of gold

(282) [original:—Raoir meob fua caem inait comaitecta da muintir teet ar cenó urci, ooil ocairinnalta ooéum na h-aba vi. loé comainm na h-ingen, ocaí oo éaet iarum loé ocaí coica ban impi, ocaí mino n-óir na rigna or a cino. Ocaí foceirio Cuéulaino cloic arpa éaball fupri corpúe bpi in mino n-óir i tri, ocaí coro marb in n-inon inna peio.—H. 2. 18, f. 50. a. a. b.]

(283) See Lect. xxvi., ante, vol. ii., p. 164.

(284) [original:—ir hi rin amreir vol- lotar in macrao á tuais o h-eman

mao; tri coicait mac oo maccaib rig ulao, in follomain mac Concho- bair; ocaí orberreac teora cafa oo- na rluagaib co toréparar a tri com- lin, ocaí toréparar in macrao oan aet follomain mac Concho- bair. Daíar follomain na pagao ar culu co h-eman cobrunni m-bráca ocaí beca co m-behao cenó aililla leir cor in mino óir boi uara. Nir bo peio oopom a nírin, uair oo fártetar dá mac beite mac bán dá mac mumme ocaí aite oo ailill, ocaí no éonac co tor- éair leo.—H. 2. 18. f. 154. a. b.]

designated by another name, that of *Imscim*, or *Imscing*, as may be seen from the following passage.

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called in another part of this tale an *Imscim*.

“Then the men of Erin desired *Taman* the buffoon to put on a suit of king *Ailill*'s clothes and his *Imscim* of gold, and go down to the ford of the river which was in their presence. He [the buffoon] did put on king *Ailill*'s clothes and his *Imscim* of gold, and went down to the ford. *Cuchulaind* perceived him, and taking him for king *Ailill* himself, he cast at him a stone from his *Cranntabaill* or sling, which struck and killed him on the spot.”<sup>(285)</sup>

In a former lecture,<sup>(286)</sup> an account of the occasion and manner in which the celebrated monarch *Cormac Mac Airt* was deprived of his eye in his palace at Tara by *Aengus Gai Buafnech*, that is *Aengus* of “the poisoned spear”, his own cousin, and chief of the *Deisé*, in the present barony of Deece in the county of Meath. When the king received this injury, he was obliged to abdicate the throne in favour of his son, *Cairbre Lifechair*, because it was declared by the ancient laws and customs of the nation, that no man with any personal blemish or defect should ever be king of Tara. *Cormac* then retired to the palace of *Acaill*, now the hill of Screen near Tara, where he compiled the Book of *Acaill*, a volume of Laws. King *Cormac* did not submit tamely to the injury offered to his person, and the desecration of the sacred precincts of Tara and the violation of its ancient privileges. But he had been a constitutional monarch, and in place of calling out the national and regal power of the state against the offender, he called a national convention at the ancient place of meetings of the states, the hill of *Uisnech* in Westmeath; and before this assembly he summoned the offender to come forward and justify his regicidal act or receive the punishment due to so heinous a crime. The great meeting took place at the hill of *Uisnech*, where, we are told, “*Cormac* came with a king's *Mind* with him upon his head, with four-and-twenty small leaves of red gold, furnished with springs and rollers of white silver to maintain and suspend them, for the purpose of covering his injured eye and save his face from the disgrace”.

Curious  
Mind worn  
by *Cormac  
Mac Airt* at  
the meeting  
of the States  
at *Uisnech*.

(285) [original:—ano rin na nair-  
reagar fir h-ereno ni Tamun orúch  
eiguo aílilla ocar a imrcimm nor-  
ua so gabail immi, ocar teét far  
in n-át baó nasonairrú sóib. noza-  
barcar rom noezuo náililla ocar  
a imrcimm óroa immi, ocar tanc  
bar in n-át . . . . . Do éonac  
cúculaino e ocar inoar leir in

ecmar a férra ocar a eolair ba ré  
aílill baí ano fadórrin, ocar bo  
rrechú cloid arf a cranntabaill  
uas far, conart Tamun orút can  
anmain bar rin náeh ipraibí.—H. 2.  
18. f. 56. a. b. mid.]

(286) [See *Lectures on the MS. Mate-  
rials of Ancient Irish History*, p. 48.]



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I need not dwell further on this curious specimen of the kingly *Mind*, or the curious mechanism of the twenty-four leaves of red gold attached to it for the concealment of the king's blemish. These leaves must have been, I should think, small bits of gold leaf arranged and fastened together like the folds of plate armour, but I must confess my inability to comprehend the functions of the springs and rollers, or travellers, mentioned in connection with them.

## LECTURE XXIX.

[Delivered July 26th, 1859.]

(VIII.) DRESS AND ORNAMENTS (continued). Story of a *Mind* called the *Barr Bruinn* in the tale of the *Táin Bo Aingen*. Another legend about the same *Mind* from the Book of Lismore; another celebrated *Mind* mentioned in the latter legend; origin of the ancient name of the Lakes of Killarney from that of *Lén Linfhiacloch* the maker of this second *Mind*. The ancient goldsmiths appear to have worked at or near a gold mine. *Lén* the goldsmith appears to have flourished *circa* B.C. 300. The names of ancient artists are generally derived from those of their arts, but that of *Lén* is derived from a peculiarity of his teeth; this circumstance shows that he was not the legendary representative of his art, but a real artist. Gold ornaments found in a bog near Cullen in the county of Tipperary; circumstances under which they were found, and enumeration of the articles found—note. *Cerdraighe* or ancient territory of the goldsmiths near the present Cullen. Pedigree of the *Cerdraighe* of *Tulach Gossa*; this family of goldsmiths are brought down by this pedigree to *circa* A.D. 500; the eldest branch became extinct in St. *Mothemnioc*, *circa* A.D. 550; but other branches existed at a much later period. The mineral districts of Silvermines and Meanus are not far from Cullen. The *At* and *Cleitme*. The *Barr*, *Cennbarr*, *Eobarr*, and *Righbarr*. The goldsmith in ancient times was only an artizan; other artizans of the same class. *Creidne* the first *Cerd* or goldsmith; his death mentioned in a poem of *Flann* of Monasterboice; this poem shows that foreign gold was at one time imported into Ireland. The first recorded smelter of gold in Ireland was a native of Wicklow. References to the making of specific articles not likely to be found in our Chronicles; there is, however, abundant evidence of a belief that the metallic ornaments used in Ireland were of native manufacture.

THERE is a very curious story about a *Mind*, or diadem of gold, preserved in the very ancient tale of the *Táin Bo Aingen* in the Book of Leinster. The story commences by telling us that *Ailill* and *Medb*, the king and queen of Connacht, so often mentioned in the course of these lectures, were one dark November eve enjoying themselves in their ancient palace of *Cruachan* (in the county of Roscommon, not far from Carrick-on-Shannon). Their majesties had had two culprits hung upon a tree the previous day; and king *Ailill*, in order to test the courage of his household, offered his own gold-hilted sword as a reward to whoever should go out to the gallows trees and tie a gad or twisted twig upon the leg of one of the still hanging culprits. This offer was accepted by a spirited young man whose name was *Nera*, who went forth in the darkness of the night and performed his work with becoming courage. However, upon *Nera*'s return towards the palace, he saw, as he thought, that building on fire, and he met a host of men on

Story of a *Mind* called the *Barr Bruinn* in the tale of the *Táin Bo Aingen*.

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 Story of a  
*Mind* called  
 the *Barr*  
*Bruinn* in  
 the tale of  
 the *Táin Bó*  
*Aíngen*.

the way who seemed to have plundered and set fire to the royal mansion. The men passed *Nera* without seeming to notice him, and he, anxious to know who they were, followed them as closely as he durst for that purpose. He had not far to go, however, as the party soon entered the well known cave of the hill of *Cruachan*, and *Nera*, still keeping at a respectable distance behind them, entered the cave after them. The lame man of the party discovered his entrance, and he was taken before the king of the royal residence of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, which was supposed to exist, invisibly to external human eyes, within the cave. The king demanded and received an account from *Nera* how and why he had intruded into his secret palace. "Go", said the king, "to yonder house, where thou wilt find a lone woman, who will receive thee with kindness when thou tellest her that it is by me thou hast been sent and thou shalt come every day to this mansion with a bundle of firewood for our kitchen".

*Nera* did as he was ordered. While thus occupied, *Nera* noticed every day a blind man leaving the door of the mansion carrying a lame man upon his back, until they reached the brink of a fountain which was at a short distance from the house, where they sat down; to this place he followed them unperceived. "It is not there", said the blind man. "It is indeed", said the lame man, "and let us go back now", said he. *Nera* inquired of the woman about this matter. "Why", said he, "do the blind and the lame men frequent the fountain?" "They frequent the *Barr* which is in the fountain", said the woman, "that is, *Mind* (or diadem) of gold which the king wears on his head and it is there it is kept". "Why is it that these two persons frequent it?" said *Nera*. "Because", said the woman, "they are the persons that are most trusted by the king".<sup>(287)</sup>

*Nera* soon after, through the ingenuity of his wife, returned to his own people at *Cruachan*, and described to king *Aili*

(287) [original:—Ene don taig uo tall tra, ol in ri, aca bean sentuma ano, acar venao maic fpu, abair fua ir uaim no fater cucu, acar tairri acac oia co cuail conoais uon taigrea. Uo gnurum iarum an ni rin amail arbneth fpu, fear-dio iarum in bean failte fpu, acar arbert rochen uuro olri; mopa h-e inpu no chinno ille ire em, ol nera. No theisead nera iarum co cuail conoais uon uun cac oia, adait ar in uun amad, cach oia ara cimo, uall, acar bacach for amum,

no theisoir combisoir for ur i cibrao i n-uorur in uoine. "Ni f ano, ol in uall. Fil eicm, ol in b. cach, tagam ar uim, ol in bacac Ro iarpaet nera iarum in ni f uon mna. Cio tathaisit, ol fe, uall acur an bacac uon cibrait tathaisit in m-barr fil uin cibrait ol in ben, eoon minnoir bir for cir mo pu, ir ano uo coirecair. C ar moio in uiaf ucet nochataisit ol nera. uim. Ol ri, uair roba. iao no bo tairri laim pu."—H. 16. col. 659 and 660.]

what he had seen in the cave. This was the time at which *Fergus Mac Roigh* and the other Ulster champions who exiled themselves after the treacherous death of the sons of *Uisneach*, arrived at *Cruachan*. King *Ailill*, availing himself of the presence of these valiant warriors, resolved with their aid to possess himself of the reported treasures of the cave of *Cruachan*, and accordingly on the November eve following, he, with a strong party, and through the contrivance of *Nera's* wife, entered the subterranean mansion, and plundered it of all its treasures, including the diadem of gold which was called the *Barr Bruinn* or *Bruinn's* diadem.

It appears that this *Mind* or diadem was lost or rather carried back again by some unexplained agency to the same fountain in the cave from which it had been brought. This legendary statement is found in another ancient story preserved in that important part of the ancient "Book of Lismore", so singularly recovered some time since from the city of Cork. The story is shortly this. *Fingin Mac Luchta*, who was king of Munster about the year of our Lord 190, resided at his palace at *Druim Fingin*, or Fineen's Hill, in the county of Waterford. There was a certain prophetess from *Sliabh na m-Ban* in Tipperary, that visited him on every November eve, and related to him all the occurrences that took place in Erin on that sacred night, and the results that should issue from them until that night twelvemonths. On one of those November eves that this lady visited the king, she related to him with peculiar emphasis one circumstance that happened on that night, and this was nothing else than the birth of the subsequently great monarch of Erin, Conn of "the Hundred Battles". The birth of this great king and warrior was, according to our prophetess, ushered in with many strange and wonderful occurrences, all of which, however, were of a favourable character, and presaged the happy results to his country which were to result from the actions and reign of its future monarch. From the many singular and important events thus referred to in connection with that auspicious time, I have selected the following brief items, as quite pertinent to the subject of the present lecture, and bringing the older story of the golden diadem, called the *Barr Bruinn*, a few centuries later down than the *Tuin Bo Aingen* just described.

The conversation between the king *Fingin* and the prophetess was carried on by way of question and answer.

"And what are the other wonders of this night?" said king *Fingin*. "These", said the woman.—"The three chief articles of manufacture in Erin are this night found and revealed,

XXIX

Another legend about the same *Mind* from the Book of Lismore;



**XXIX.** namely, the *Barr* (or diadem) of *Bruinn*, the son of *Smetra* : it was the *Cerd* (or artificer) of *Aengus*, son of *Umór*, that made it. It is a *Cathbarr* (or helmet) of the pure crimson of eastern countries, with a ball of gold above it as large as a man's head, and a hundred strings around it of mixed [or variegated] carbuncle, and a hundred combed tufts of red burnished gold ; and stitched with a hundred threads (or wires) of *Findruine* (or white bronze) in a variety of compartments. And it has been a great number of years in concealment in the fountain of the hill of *Cruachan* till this night, to save it from the *Mór Rigain*, [a celebrated *Tuatha Dé Danann* princess,] and so it has remained under cover of the earth until this night. And [another article, said she], the chess of *Crimthann Niad-Nair* [in the eighth year of whose reign the Saviour was born] which he brought away with him from *Aenuch Fínd* when he went with the lady *Nar* of *Bodhbh Derg's* mansion [in Tipperary] on an adventure to the secret recesses of the sea, and which [chess] has been concealed in the *Rath* of *Uisnech* [in Westmeath] until this night. And [continued the prophetess] the *Mind* (or diadem) of *Laeghaire*, the son of *Luchta Laimfínn*, (or *Luchta* of the white hands), which was made by *Lén Linfhiacloch*, the son of *Banbulga*, and which has been found this night by the three daughters of *Fainde Mac Dubraith*, in *Sídh Fíndacha* [now *Sliabh g-Cuillenn* in Ulster] after having been concealed there since the time of the birth of *Conchobar Abrathruadh* [monarch of Erin, who was slain in the year of our Saviour's birth], until this night".<sup>(288)</sup>

ther cele-  
ted *Mind*  
ationed  
his  
and;

It would seem that when these stories were written, it was a common occurrence, as it is now, to dig up from the earth ancient, elegant, and costly articles of the kind above mentioned, of the former existence and disappearance of which there still remained authentic written history, or a vivid and well-credited tradition.

<sup>(288)</sup> [original — Ocur cró .b. nairi [?] for fíngin. nín, or an bean.—Teora púmaicse eínen innoct fo fíut ocur fo foillíngtea, .i. barr Bruinn meic Smetrac: Cearo dengura meic Umóir do rigne, .i. cathbarr do corcair glain thipe nanoino [?] ocur ubull oir uara, ba meic fer cínó, ocur cet fínachegna imme von carphocal cumurca, ocur cet calcheí círcorera do venor for loírcéi; ocur ceao nonn fínoruinne aca uaimbrectrao. Ita lina bhada na fo síchleít icíppat ríde Cruadain, ar in mór ríguin curanoct;

ita íarum focelear talman curanoct. fíocéal crímtain maó nair tucca haenuch fínó oia luíó la nair tuatáeacé íppó buíob fo nóctra combóí fo oíatharab na fairge, aca fo síchleít írín Raích inoírfínech curanoct. Mínn Laegaire, meic Luéta Laimfínn, do rigne Len Linfhiacloch, mac Banbulga, baíma foruaratcur inoct teora hígina fainole mac Dubraith, a Síó Fíndacha ar na beaó fo síchleít o gem Concubair Abraíruaíob, gur anoct". —*Book of Lismore*, vel. copy by Joseph O'Longan, f. 138, p. 2, col. 1, top.]

To *Lén Linfhiacloch*, the maker of the second *Mind*, or diadem, mentioned above, namely that of *Laeghaire*, the son of *Luchta* of the white hands, I have found another reference, which places his time, his character as an artist, and his identity with one or two Irish localities, in a light that cannot fail to give satisfaction to every genuine lover of Irish antiquarian researches.

XXIX.  
the name of  
the maker of  
the second  
*Mind*, *Lén*  
*Linfhiac-*  
*loch*, the  
origin of the  
ancient  
name of the  
Lakes of  
Killarney.

In the very ancient Gaedhelic tract called the *Dinnseanchas*, or the etymological history of many of the most remarkable hills, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc., in Erin, we find an article devoted to the origin of the name of *Loch Lein*, now the celebrated lake of Killarney. In this article we are told that *Lén Linfhiacloch* was *Cerd* (or goldsmith), to the chieftain *Bodhbh Dearg's* noble mansion at *Sliabh na m-Ban* in Tipperary; that he went to this lake to make splendid vessels for *Fand*, the daughter of *Flidas*; and every night after his day's work was over, he would cast his anvil from him eastwards to the place called *Inneoin* (or anvil) near Clonmel, and he would throw three showers about him from his anvil, a shower of water, a shower of fire, and a shower of pure crimson gems; and the story adds that *Nemannach* (the artificer) used to do the same when shaping (gold) cups for king *Conchobar Mac Nessa* (king of Ulster) in the north. And *Lén* met his death at this lake, and hence the name *Loch Lein*, or *Lén's* lake.

The prose account is followed by an ancient poem of thirteen stanzas, in which the history of *Loch Lein* is further discussed; but as my present concern is alone with the artificer, I shall only quote those stanzas which have special reference to him, namely the fourth, fifth, and sixth, which are as follows:

“ I have heard of *Lén* with his many hammers,  
Having been upon the margin of its yellow strand,  
Where he fashioned without mishap, or flaw,  
Splendid vessels for *Fand*, the daughter of *Flidas*.

“ From *Bodhbh's* court went forth reproachless  
*Lén Linfhiacloch*, the son of *Bolcad*,  
The firm son of *Bandad* of high renown,  
The good son of *Blamad*, son of *Gomer*.

“ Whether a chariot or a *Mind* of gold,  
Whether a cup, or a musical instrument,  
Was required from him by distinguished men,  
It was quickly made before that night.”<sup>(289)</sup>

(289) [original:—

<p>do chuala len colm uirio, oo bith forbuirio a bliach buirio, diarctum cantriamge artalair,</p>	<p>namleartar fainoi flioair, oio buioh fuchearo canchar, lén linfhiacloch, mac bolcario,</p>
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XXIX.  
The ancient goldsmith appears to have worked at or near the mine.

Lén, the goldsmith, appears to have flourished circa a.c. 300.

The names of artists often derived from the art.

but that of Lén not.

It would appear from this curious and valuable quotation, as well as from others that could be adduced, that the ancient custom in Ireland was, that the artist, or goldsmith, sometimes went to the gold or silver mine himself, and dug, or procured to be dug for him, the precious mineral, to smelt, or, as it is called in our ancient books, to boil the metal on the spot, in small quantities, whenever the locality suited, and then and there fabricate and fashion those splendid articles, the delicate mechanism of some of which is found to puzzle and astonish the most expert workmen of the present day, notwithstanding the great improvement in the processes and tools of the mechanical arts. This appears to me to be the explanation of that stanza of the poem which says that *Lén* went with many hammers or sledges to the borders of *Loch Lein*, where he actually made the splendid cups for the lady *Fand*, daughter of *Flidas*. But who was the lady *Fand* for whom these *Niamlestar*, or splendid vessels, were made? She was the daughter of *Flidas Foltchain*, that is, *Flidas* of "the beautiful hair", and sister by her mother to *Nia Seghamain*, of the Eberian race of Munster, who reigned as monarch of Erin from the year of the world 4881 to 4887, when he was slain by *Enna Aighneach*, who succeeded him. So that, according to the chronology of the Annals of the Four Masters, the gifted artist *Lén*, and his royal patroness the princess *Fand*, flourished about three hundred years before the Incarnation of our Lord; and far within the sway of the Milesian dynasty.

I must confess that of all the references to native gold and famous native gold-workers which I have hitherto met, or may meet hereafter, this appears to me to be the most important. In the case of other artists of this class, the name of the artist is often derived from the art itself, or from the metal on which it is exercised. Thus, in the case of *Credne*, the celebrated *Cerd* or goldsmith of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and of whom we will have to speak hereafter, his name was derived from *credh*, the ore of the precious metals in which he worked, and, consequently, the fact of his real existence might be very fairly questioned, as savouring a little of the poetical and mythological. But in the case of *Lén Linfhiacloch* no such objection can be made, since the name is not descriptive of the art or the metal, but of the man proper, and signifying simply, *Lén* of "the many teeth", meaning evidently that he was remarkable for high, or a double row of teeth

blocach mac banairio blaobhí,  
veḡ mac blamaro, mac foimair;  
cío carbas, cío caibair oir,  
cío cuach, cío cairéi cúil coir,

to lean farrí veagblaooe,  
ba gnim aobal nra naróce.  
*Book of Lecan, f. 239. a. a.]*

But the following short article from the Brehon Laws settles completely the question of the native manufactures of these precious personal ornaments:—

“The law book tells us”, says the commentator, “that the weight of the *Land óir* (or crescent of gold) was paid in silver to the *Cerd* or artist for making it”.

We are told also in the same laws that the artists who made the articles of adornment and household splendour for a king, or a chief, were entitled to half the fine for injury to their property, or insult or injury to their persons, which would be paid to the king or chief himself for a like injury. This shows in what respect artists in the precious metals were held by the nobles, and the security afforded them by the laws of ancient Erinn.

In Guthrie’s “General Gazetteer”, published in Dublin in 1791, we find, as well as in other authorities, the following paragraph:

“Cullen, a fair town in the county of Tipperary, province of Munster; fairs on 28th October. At the bog near this place was found a golden crown weighing six ounces; many other curiosities have been discovered in it, particularly some gorgets of gold, and gold-handled swords: for which reason it goes under the name of the golden bog”.

This bog of Cullen is situated in the parish of Cullen, barony of Clanwilliam, and county of Tipperary, and on the immediate border of the county of Limerick. From time immemorial gold has been found in all conditions of preparation, from the primitive ore to the most beautiful of fashioned ornament, nay, even the very crucibles—small bronze saucepans, with the gold arrested in its progress of smelting or boiling—have been found in this bog and its neighbourhood. Within the last fourteen years, I have myself seen two bars of pure gold turned up out of this bog or its neighbourhood; the finders are not anxious to enlighten one much as to which. One of these bars was about five inches in length, an inch and a half in breadth, and more than half an inch in thickness. The other was somewhat smaller, but being plain bars without any artistic feature, they were not unfortunately secured by the Royal Irish Academy, and consequently they passed into the hands of a goldsmith, who of course has long since melted them down.<sup>(290)</sup>

<sup>(290)</sup> [In the year 1773 Governor T. Pownall exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London, two swords, and some other fragments, said to have been found in a bog at Cullen, in the county of Tipperary, on the lands of Lord Milton. On the 10th of February, 1774, he read a paper on the subject, which was afterwards published, illustrated by a plate, in vol. iii. (p. 555), of the *Archæologia* for 1775. So far as we can judge from the drawings, the swords

XXIX.

The native  
manufacture  
of gold ornaments  
proved by  
the Brehon  
Laws.

Gold ornaments  
found in a bog near  
Cullen, in the county  
of Tipperary.



## XXIX.

Gold ornaments found in a bog near Cullen, in the county of Tipperary.

To return, however, to the golden bog of Cullen. It is not at all unreasonable to assume that this bog was anciently a

exhibited to the Society were not peculiar, being of one of the usual forms of bronze swords. The other object figured in the plate is a low conoidal disc of gold about four inches in diameter at the base. The apex of the conoid is chased so as to form a small stellated ornament; this is surrounded by the usual ridge, like chasings which are found on many Irish gold ornaments. These ridges form a series of complete concentric circles near the apex, but as they approach the base, the form being a conoid, and not a cone, they can only form segments of circles. Around the base, however, there is a border of complete circular ridges—the ridges being much larger than the centre ones. On the inner side of this border is a zigzag ornament which presents the appearance of rays pointing towards the centre or apex. This ornamentation does not go round the entire border, being wanting for about thirty degrees of the circle at the shortest slant-height of the conoid, that is, where it is nearest the stellated apex. Its conoidal shape would seem to show that it could not have been the boss of a shield, which it otherwise resembles. Governor Pownall thinks that it formed part of the gold plating of a wooden idol—this particular ornament being intended for the teat or nipple of the breast. The following is his account of the matter :

“The fragment, which was said to be part of an image found at the same time, is of a black wood, entirely covered and plated with thin gold, and seems to have been part of the breasts, the teat or nipple of which is radiated in hammered or chased work, in lines radiating from a centre, as is usual in the images of the sun; and round the periphery, or setting on of the breast, there are like radiations in a specific number, with other linear ornaments. There is another fragment of the same kind of wood which seems to be a fragment of an Ammonian horn; there are in it the golden studs or rivets by which it may be supposed to have been also plated with gold. The first account I had of this image was, that it was of an human form, with a *lion's face*; then, that it was indeed biform, but of what sort not specified. I have since been informed that the image, whatever it was, was of a size sufficient to make a gate post, to which use it was affixed”.

It must be confessed that the evidence connecting the gold conoids with the image is not very satisfactory; for it appears by the report of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, given by Governor Pownall, that the finding of the image occurred above sixty years before, and he found no one in the neighbourhood of Cullen who remembered anything about it. That some kind of carved wooden image was really found there, there appears to be no reasonable doubt; but whether it had golden nipples and was biformed, we have unfortunately no satisfactory evidence.

The report of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong above alluded to, is a chronicle of the discoveries of gold ornaments, bronze weapons, etc., found in the same small bog near Cullen, between the years 1731 and 1753, made by a Mr. Nash, and between the years 1760 and 1773 by a Mr. Cleary. The golden articles found consisted of two chased cups, bosses, pieces of tube, plates, and ribbons, some of the former chased, gold wire, rings or ferrules, pommels of swords, the point of a scabbard, pieces with the links of a chain attached, a number of ingots, a quantity of small bits or clippings, amounting in all to above six pounds. The bronze articles consisted of a bronze cauldron and a quadrangular vessel, seven socketed spears five inches long with parts of the wooden shafts; thirteen socketed spears ten inches long with handles of quartered ash six feet long; two swords with pieces of gold attached to the rivets of the handle; a sword weighing 2lbs. 5oz., having a piece of white metal, called in the report pewter, inlaid in the bronze near the pommel; in this white metal was inlaid in copper, what are described as resembling four figures of 1; a piece of bronze tube; thirteen whole swords much hacked and notched; and forty-three parts of swords of the handle ends, and twenty-nine of the point ends; three ingots weighing

wooded valley, resorted to by a party, or parties, of gold smelters and smiths, on account, perhaps, of its contiguity to a gold mine, as well as the convenience of charcoal. But independently of these positive and assumed circumstances, there is extant a historical reference to this precise locality, which, I believe, identifies it with a family and a race of workers in the finer metals. There was anciently in this district a small chiefdom called *Cerdraighe*, that is the territory of the goldsmiths; and this territory, as well as the tribe who owned and occupied it, had received the name from a man who bore it as his distinctive title in right of his profession of a *Cerd* or goldsmith. The tribe of the *Cerdraighe* were descended from *Oilioll Oluim*, the celebrated king of Munster, who died A.D. 234, and their pedigree is thus given in the "Book of Leinster":

XXIX.

"The pedigree of the *Cerdraighe* of *Tulach Gossa*, that is, they were named *Cerdraighe* because every man of them was a *Cerd* (or goldsmith) for seven generations.

*Cerdraighe*  
or the territory of the  
goldsmiths  
near Cullen

Pedigree of  
the *Cerdraighe*  
of  
*Tulach*  
*Gossa*;

"*Oilioll Oluim* had a son whose name was *Tighernach*, who had a son *Cerdraighe* (or the king's goldsmith), who had a son *Cerd Beg* (or the little, or young goldsmith), who had a son *Cerdan*, the still more diminutive goldsmith, who had a son *Senach*, who had a son *Temnen*, who had a son *Lugaidh*, who had a son *Carban*, who had a son St. *Mothemnioc*, who, being a holy priest and not married, the family in this line became extinct in him; and the race of goldsmiths must have ceased in his father *Carban*, who was the sixth generation from *Cerdraighe*, the first of the artists, and grandson of king *Oilioll Oluim*".<sup>(291)</sup>

Tlbs.; a piece of about 1lb. weight of what seemed to have been the residue left in the ladle after casting some article.

The number of articles noticed in this report must bear a very insignificant proportion to those actually found and silently disposed of by the peasantry during the last century. Indeed O'Halloran states (*History of Ireland*, vol. ii, p. 92; Dublin, 1819) that a gold crown was found in this bog in 1744, which he saw himself, and which, he says, was "like the close crowns of the eastern princes". From the number, as well as the variety of the articles, it seems certain, therefore, that gold and bronze working must have been anciently carried on in the district. It would appear that nothing had been found in cutting away the upper six feet of the peat, except the trunks of different kinds of trees, all of which, with the exception of those of the oak and fir, were rotten, and some horns, which from their size (they were said to be large enough to have a circle of about three feet in diameter described on each palm), may have been those of the red deer. It was in the second cutting below six feet that the first objects were discovered in 1731. The depth at which the articles were found, their number and character, and the interesting relation established in the text by Professor O'Curry between this locality and the tribe of the *Cerdraighe*, invest the bog of Cullen with special interest.]

<sup>(291)</sup> [original:—*Genealóid Cerdraighe Tuilce Gossa, .i. Cerdraighe anmhuí, ar ba Cerdac cáe fer oib co* *mor ferrur. Mothemnioc (.i. Temnen) mac Carban, mac Lugeda mac Themen, mac Thennen mac Senais,*

xxix.  
 this family  
 of go.d-  
 smiths is  
 thus brought  
 down to circa  
 A.D. 500;

According to genealogical computations, the years of these seven generations would be 210, to which if we add the years of *Oilioll Oluim* himself and his immediate son *Tighernach*, the father of *Cerdraighe*, the last of the seven generations of artists would come down to the year 474, or say in round numbers to the year 500. And so we find that the trade and art of gold manufacture if not of gold smelting and mining, was carried on in this district, probably in this very spot, during the long period of 221 years. It is a singular fact that there still exists, some five miles to the west of Cullen, but in the county of Limerick, a well-known townland bearing the name of *Baile na g-Ceard*, or the town of the goldsmiths. I am, however, with great regret obliged to acknowledge that I have not as yet been able to discover the exact situation of *Tulach Gossa*, the ancient patrimonial residence of the family.

the eldest  
 branch be-  
 came extinct  
 in St.  
*Mothemnioc*,  
 circa A.D.  
 530;

But although this, the eldest, line of the family became extinct in the person of St. *Mothemnioc*, say about the year 530, it is quite certain that the whole race had not become so, as may be collected from an ancient Gaedhelic tract in my possession. This curious tract contains a more detailed account than the "Book of Rights", quoted in a former lecture, of the services rendered to the king of Cashel by several of the chieftaincies of the province of Munster, as well as of the particular territories which by ancient custom and privilege, supplied his court with certain officers. Thus, his doctors were furnished him by the *Dail Mughaidhe* in Tipperary; his harpers by the *Corcoiche* in the county of Limerick; his *Cerds*, or gold and silversmiths, and his *Umhaidhe*, or bronze-workers, from the *Cerdraighe*; the steward of his milch-cows and dairies from the *Boinraighe*; his poets and scholars from the *Muscraighe* of Ormond; and so on.

and other  
 branches  
 existed at a  
 much later  
 period.

The mineral  
 districts of  
 Silvermines  
 and Meanus  
 not far from  
 Cullen.

It is worth mentioning here, that the mineral district of Silvermines, in the county of Tipperary, is only about twelve or fifteen miles to the north of Cullen, and that the ancient mineral land of *Mianus*, now Meanus in the county of Limerick, is only about the same distance to the west of that town.

I cannot conceal the satisfaction I feel in being able to connect the discovery of gold in all conditions of smelting and manufacture in this place, with a race of workers in the same metal, resident on the very spot, or in some contiguous locality, whose ancestry, term of existence, and period of time, I have, I trust, established on such satisfactory grounds as will be deemed sufficient for all the purposes of general history.

mac CERDRAIN, mac CERDABICE —H. 2. 18. fol. 222. b., lower corner.]  
 mac THIGERNACH mac AILELLA OLUIM.

Of the other names of a covering or ornament for the head, which have come under my notice in my readings among our ancient manuscripts, I shall give only a very brief notice, setting them down in alphabetical order. These names are:—*At*; *Barr*; *Cathbarr*; *Cenn Barr*; *Cleitme*; and *Eo-Barr*.

The *At* had the same signification as the present English word "hat". The old British name was the same as the Gaelic, and had the same declensional forms, and, in my opinion, was borrowed from it. This word *At* signifies simply an ornamental case or covering; and the authority for the application of the name to an ornamental covering, or hat, for the head is found in the ancient elegy pronounced by the poet *Ferceirtne* on his prince and patron *Curoi Mac Dairé*, the king of West Munster. The poet, in enumerating the many gifts received by him from the bountiful deceased prince, counts ten *Cleitmes*; and an ancient glossarist explains the *Cleitme* to have been a *Righbarr* or *At*, that is, a king's radiating helmet, or a hat. The word *Cleitme* is also explained in a maxim of the Brehon Laws in this way:—

"Lattice precedes crest", that is, says the ancient commentator, "I prefer that the lattice walls of the house be built before the *Cleitme* (or crest)" (292)

The *Barr*, which enters into the compound words *Cennbarr*, *Eobarr*, and *Righbarr*, signifies, like the *Cleitme*, a radius or crest compounded with *cenn*, the head; *eo*, the top, and *righ*, a king. When compounded with *cath*, a battle, as in the word and name *Cathbarr*, it signifies properly a battle cap or battle helmet, and not a mere ornamental crest, appendage, cap, or hat.

Having now completed what I had to say about the personal ornaments of the people of ancient Erin, it only remains to say a few words on their artificers. The *Cerd* or goldsmith was not included among the professors of the free and liberal arts in ancient Erin, although he was entitled to some high privileges. He belonged to the *Daer Nemhidh*, or base professors, that is, the higher class of artizans, of which we have a list in the Brehon Laws. Among these were the *Saer* or carpenter, the *Gobha* or blacksmith, the *Umhaidhe* the bronze worker, and the *Cerd* or smith, who worked in the precious metals. These several professions were considered to be base, because they performed the duties of their professions with their hands or fists. In connection with these higher artizans may also be mentioned the *Rinnaidhe*, or engraver, and the *Ersco-*

(292) [original:—Do fect clíach cleitche, .i. ar fectectas lium clíach íctoir in tígí, so cennam ar ouí, anar cleitme a mullaig.—*Felire beg*, 21. 23. a. a.]

XXIX.

The *At* and *Cleitme*.The *Barr*, *Cennbarr*, *Eobarr*, and *Righbarr*.

The goldsmith was only an artizan;

other artizans of the same class.



## LECTURE XXX.

[Delivered 10th June, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN ANCIENT ERINN. Antiquity of the harp in Erinn. The first musical instrument mentioned in Gaedhelic writings is the *Cruit*, or harp, of the *Daghda*, a chief and druid of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*; his curious invocation to his harp; the three musical feats played upon it; examination of the names of this harp; the word *Coir*, forming part of the name of the *Daghda's* harp, came down to modern times, as is shown by a poem of Keating on *Tadgh O'Coiffey*, his harper. The *Daghda's* invocation to his harp further examined; the three musical modes compared to the three seasons of the year in ancient Egypt; myth of the discovery of the lyre; Dr. Burney on the three musical modes of the Greeks; the three Greek modes represented by the Irish three feats; conjectural completion of the text of the *Daghda's* invocation; what were the bellies and pipes of the *Daghda's* harp; ancient painting of a lyre at Portici, with a pipe or flute for cross-bar, mentioned by Dr. Burney. Legend of the origin of the three feats, or modes of harp playing, from the *Táin Bo Fraich*; meaning of the name *Uaihne* in this legend. No mention of strings in the account of the *Daghda's* harp, but they are mentioned in the tale of the *Táin Bo Fraich*. Legend of *Find Mac Cumhaill*; *Seathach* and her magical harp; *Seathach's* harp had three strings; no mention of music having been played at either of the battles of the northern or southern *Magh Tuireadh*; this proves the antiquity of those accounts. The *Daghda's* harp was quadrangular; a Greek harp of the same form represented in the hand of a Grecian Apollo at Rome; example of Irish quadrangular harp on *theca* of an ancient missal. Dr. Ferguson on the antiquity and origin of music in Erinn; musical canon of the Welsh regulated by Irish harpers about A.D. 1100; his account of the *theca* above mentioned, and of figures of the harp from ancient Irish monumental crosses which resembled the old Egyptian one; he thinks this resemblance supports the Irish traditions; Irish MSS. little studied twenty years ago, but since then they have been; from this examination the author thinks the *Firbolgs* and *Tuatha Dé Danann* had nothing to do with Egypt, but that the Milesians had. Migration of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* from Greece; the author does not believe they went into Scandinavia; he believes their cities of *Fálias*, *Gorias*, etc., were in Germany; they spoke German according to the *Book of Lecan*. The similarity of the harps on the monument of Orpheus at Petau in Styria and on the *theca* of the Stowe MS. may point to Murrhart as the *Murias* of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*.

Antiquity of  
the harp in  
Erinn.

THE early cultivation of music and melody, and a special respect for the professors of the art, bespeak a peculiar civilization which implies no small degree of refinement of habit and of taste in a people. If there ever was a people gifted with a musical soul and sensibility in a higher degree than another, I would venture to assert that the Gaedhil of ancient Erinn were that people.

In no country in Europe, at least I believe so, is the antiquity and influence of the harp thrown so far back into the

darker regions of history as in Erinn. Our traditions are more distinct than those of the Greeks; for, they give time and place, name and occasion. Ours is not the shadowy myth of Orpheus going to the realms of Pluto, and by his lyre softening the obdurate heart of the grim monarch of the infernal abodes. It possesses something much more of real life, and belongs more to definite history. It is, indeed, a remote tradition; but, it is identified with a people and with persons whose history, though obscure and exaggerated, is still embodied in our oldest chronicles, and has never departed from the memories of our living romances and popular traditions. And, from the very remotest period to which our oldest traditions with any degree of circumstantiality refer, we find music, musical instruments, musical performers, and the power and influence of music, spoken of.

The first musical instrument to which we have any reference in our Gaelic writings, is the *Cruit*, or harp; and this reference is found in the history of that mysterious people called the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, of whom so much has been said in the course of these lectures. The reference to which I allude is found in the ancient detailed account of the battle of the second, or northern *Magh Tuireadh*, described in a former lecture; a battle which was gained by the *Tuatha Dé Danann* against those early piratical visitors of our shores, commonly called the Fomorians. This battle was fought, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters", in the year of the world 3330, or about eighteen hundred years before the Incarnation; and it was fought at *Magh Tuireadh*, a place still well known, situated in the parish of *Cill Mhic Trena*, barony of Tirerill (*Tir Oiliolla*), and county of Sligo.<sup>(295)</sup>

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The first musical instrument referred to in Gaelic writings

The Fomorians having been defeated with great slaughter, such of them as were still able, retreated from the field, under their surviving leader *Breas*, who had been captured, but obtained his liberty by a stratagem. The story proceeds in these words:—

"*Lugh* [the *Tuatha Dé Danann* king] and the *Daghda* [their great chief and druid] and *Ogma* [their bravest champion] followed the Fomorians, because they had carried off the *Daghda's* harper, *Uaithne* was his name. They [the pursuers] soon reached the banqueting house in which they [the Fomorian chiefs] *Breas*, the son of *Elathan*, and *Elathan*, the son of *Delbath*, were and where they found the harp hanging upon the wall. This was the harp in which the music was spell-bound, so that it would not answer when called forth, until the *Daghda* evoked it, when he said what follows here down:

is the *Cruit*, or harp, of the *Daghda*, a chief of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*;

<sup>(295)</sup> See about this battle, Lect. xii., ante, vol. i. p. 248.

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his invocation to his harp;

“Come *Durdabla*; come *Cóircethairchuir*; come *Samh* come *Gamh* [that is, come summer, come winter] from the mouths of harps, and bellies and pipes. Two names now ha the harp; namely, *Durdabla*, and *Cóircethairchuir*. The har came forth from the wall then, and killed nine persons [in its passage]; and it came to the *Daghda*; and he played for them th three [musical] feats which give distinction to a harper, namely the *Suantraighe* [which from its deep murmuring caused sleep] the *Gentraighe* [which from its merriment caused laughter]; and the *Goltraighe* [which from its melting plaintiveness caused crying]. He played them the *Goltraighe* until their women cried tears. He played them the *Gentraighe* until their women and youths burst into laughter. He played them the *Suantraigh* until the entire host fell asleep. It was through that sleep the [the three champions] escaped from those [the Fomorians] who were desirous to kill them.”<sup>(198)</sup>

the three musical feats played upon it.

Examination of the names of the harp;

I must confess that these names applied to the harp of the great *Daghda*, and the musical sounds which he evoked from it—evidently descriptive names, as they are—are among the most unmanageable phrases I have ever met. The first name applied here to the harp, *Durdabla*, can, by taking its component part at their ordinary value, be analysed in this way: *Durd*, or *dord* a murmur, and *abla*, the possessive case of *aball*, a sweet apple tree. The second name, *Coircethairchuir*, can be analysed in the same way: *Coir*, signifies arrangement, adjustment, and *ce thairchuir*, compounded of *cehair*, four, and *cor*, an angle, or rather a beak like the beak of an anvil, signifies quadrubeaked or quadrangular; so that the second name would simply signify the quadrubeaked or quadrangular harmonious instrument.

the word *Coir* came down to modern times, as shown by a poem of Keating.

The word *Cóir*, as applied to the proper tuning or harmonizing of a harp, or any musical instrument, came down to my own early days; and we have a good instance of its ap

<sup>(198)</sup> [original:—Loutur a noiaro na fomoraé ono lúg acas an Dagdou agas Ogmá ar cruithne [an Dagda ponucrao leo, uaitniu a ainm.] Roraíao ierum a fletted amboi bnear mac Elatán, acas Elatán mac Uelbait, irann boi in crót for in fpaigto. Ippu incruithin ar a neaife na ceola connarofogruaroretar tria gairm conoeáit in Dagda in can acberit anporir. Tair Daupvablao, tair Coircetaréuir, tair Sam, tair Sam (tair imbolo a) a beola crót acas bols acur bunne. Oá naimm ono batar for an cruithin, i. Duivabla acas coircethair-

chuir. Uoluro an crót arfan fpoit ianiam, acas marbaó ix. mar; acas canuic uocum an Dagda; acas fepainnre (?) a tréaoi for anmichit cruithni uoib, i. Súantraigi acas gennetraigi, acas golltraigi. Sepainn golltraigi uoib congolrac amna veapáca. Sepainn gennetraigi uoib conebriot amna acas a macraich. Sepainn Suantraigi uoit concuileo an trluaró. Ir veret uenlatai arpuir flán uoib cu ma uail a nfoin.—Battle of *Magh Tuireadh*, Harleian MSS. 5280, Brit Mus. f. 59. a. last line.]

plication in the beautiful verses of the Rev. Doctor Geoffrey Keating, the historian, on his harper *Tadhg O' Cobthaigh*, or *O' Coffey*. In this poem he commences by asking, who is it that plays the enchanting music that dispels all the ills that man is heir to; and he goes on to enumerate several of the celebrated musicians of ancient Erin, for any of whom he might be mistaken; he then answers himself in the fifth and sixth stanzas of the poem, which are as follow:—

“ It is not any one that I have here named,  
Of the necromantic *Tuatha Dé Danann*;  
Nor of any race from these hither,  
That has struck the *Cóir* of the harp.  
“ *Tadhg O' Cobthaigh* of beauteous form,—  
The chief beguiler of women,  
The intelligent concordance of all difficult tunes,  
The thrill of music and of harmony”.<sup>(297)</sup>

The term *Cóir*, for tune, or being in tune, and *Cornghadh*, for putting in tune or order, appears to apply more properly to a wind instrument, as may be seen from “ *O'Davoren's Ancient Irish Glossary*”, at the word—*Indell*,—to set or put in order, where he applies the word *Glés* to the tuning of the *Cruit* or harp; and the word *Corúighther*, to the tuning of the *Cuisleanna*, or pipes.<sup>(298)</sup>

But, to return to the account of the harp of the *Daghda*.

The two first names seem to symbolize the distinctive qualities, and the mechanical formation of his wonderful harp; but, in the remaining words of the address, he seems to invoke it in its varied musical character, when he says:—“ Come summer, come winter [from] the mouths of harps and bags and pipes”. It is difficult to understand these figurative invocations; but the difficulty of attempting an explanation of them is greatly increased by the circumstance that there seems to be a defect in this copy of the tract, the only one known to me; for something is left out between the word “ winter”, and the words—“ mouths of harps and bags and pipes”. It naturally occurs to ask—why it is, that the three seasons into which the year was formerly divided are not mentioned?—why it is the summer and the winter only, leaving out the spring? When first I saw

The *Daghda's* invocation to his harp further examined.

<sup>(297)</sup> [original:—

Mi haoin neac o'ap arphar ann,  
Do Thuasairb uoilpe óé Danann;  
Na o'fóir o'n am fain ile it,  
A o'aimhig cóir na crúite.

Ταός ó Κοβθαίγ κρούε έορπα.—  
βρνανάν βρέσγτα βαντροέτα,  
ταίενο ίύιλ φφύετ γαέ φυμν,

Crúite an éúil 'pan éocepail.  
—MSS. Egerton, 111, Brit. Mus., p.  
282, col. 2.]

<sup>(298)</sup> [original:—*inóell*, .i. glér,  
ut ept, *inóell* epot, *cuisleannaig* ceo  
.i. gléaragéer na epota, acap cor-  
aigéer na *Cuisleanna*.]



xxx.

this passage, it occurred to me that there were two seasons left out by some mistake, the spring and the autumn; but then, this number would not agree with the three musical feats, which, it is stated, gave the dignity of *Ollamh*, or doctor in music, to the professor of the harp. I found, however, that there was a very ancient authority for the three seasons of the year only being indicated or represented by three musical feats, corresponding to the Greek Modes. It is referred to in "Burney's General History of Music".

The three musical modes compared to three seasons of the year in ancient Egypt;

In speaking of a celebrated benefactor of the ancient Egyptians, Dr. Burney says that, "He was the first who out of the coarse and rude dialects of his time formed a regular language, and appellatives to the most useful things; he likewise invented the first characters or letters, and even regulated the harmony of words and phrases; he instituted several rites and ceremonies relative to the worship of the gods, and communicated to mankind the first principles of astronomy. He afterwards suggested to them, as amusements, wrestling and dancing, and invented the lyre, to which he gave three strings, in allusion to the seasons of the year: for these three strings, producing three different sounds—the grave, the mean, and the acute, the grave answered to winter, the mean to spring, and the acute to summer.

myth of the discovery of the lyre;

"Among the various opinions", continues Dr. Burney, "of the several ancient writers who have mentioned this circumstance, and confined the invention to the Egyptian Mercury, that of Apollodorus is the most intelligible and probable:—'The Nile', says this writer, 'after having overflowed the whole country of Egypt, when it returned within its natural bounds, left on the shore a great number of dead animals of various kinds, and among the rest a tortoise, the flesh of which being dried and wasted by the sun, nothing was left within the shell but nerves and cartilages, and these being braced and contracted by desiccation, were rendered sonorous. Mercury, in walking along the banks of the Nile, happening to strike his foot against the shell of this tortoise, was so pleased with the sound it produced, that it suggested to him the first idea of a lyre, which he afterwards constructed in the form of a tortoise, and strung it with dried sinews of dead animals'".<sup>(299)</sup>

Dr. Burney on the three musical modes of the Greeks;

Dr. Burney has the following observations also<sup>(300)</sup> upon what he calls the three musical modes, which may, I think, be regarded as explanatory of the three feats of music among the Gædhil:—

<sup>(299)</sup> Burney's *General History of Music*, vol. i., p. 199.

<sup>(300)</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 194.

"Herodotus, in tracing the genealogy of the Dorians, one of the most ancient people of Greece, makes them natives of Egypt, and as the three musical modes of highest antiquity among the Greeks, are the Dorian, Phrygian, and Lydian, it is likely that the Egyptian colony which peopled the Dorian province, brought with them the music and instruments of their native country".

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I have introduced these quotations here from Dr. Burney's work, with the view of showing the probability that our three ancient musical feats of sleeping, laughing, and crying, are represented, after the Egyptian or Greek manner, by the grave, the mean, and the acute; or winter, spring, and summer. And that, if so, there is one of them, the spring (*Errach* or *Imbolc*), left out in our copy of the *Daghda's* invocation of his harp. It is very evident indeed, that there is a defect here, because the preposition *a*, from, is absent between *Gamh*, or winter; and the words *beóla Crot*, *acas Bolg*, *acas Buinne*—that is, mouths of harps and bags and pipes, which immediately follow, and the precise connection of which, on account of this defect, cannot be insisted upon.

the three  
Greek modes  
represented  
by the Irish  
three feats;

If, then, this opinion be correct, the *Daghda's* invocation would run in this way: come, *Durdabla*; come, *Cóircethair-chuir*; come, *Samh* (that is, summer); come, *Gamh* (that is, winter); come, *Imbolc* (that is, spring), from the mouths of harps and bags and pipes: and another fact comes here in aid of this reading; for that the ancient Irish, at some remote period, did divide the year into the three seasons of *Samh*, summer, *Gamh*, winter, and *Imbolc*, spring (omitting the *Foghmhar*, or autumn), is quite evident from the fact, that *Cormac Mac Cuileannain* and the other old glossarists, explain *Samhain*, or November eve, by *Samh*, summer, and *fuin*, the end; that is, the end of *Samh*, or summer. That the year was also divided into four seasons at one time, and into but two at another time, will be seen from a chapter "On the Division of the Year among the ancient Irish", printed in the Introduction to the "Book of Rights" (p. xlviij.), published by the Celtic Society in 1847.

conjectural  
completion  
of the text of  
*Daghda's* in-  
vocation.

Another difficulty presents itself in this extraordinary address of the *Daghda* to his harp. What were the bellies or bags (for the word *bolg*, in the original means either), and the pipes from which he calls forth the mysterious music? It is clear from the context, that there was but the one instrument present, the *Daghda's* own harp; and it must therefore follow that these were parts of it, each contributing its share to the production of the music. We can easily understand the belly to mean the sound-board or box; but then, what was the pipe?

What were  
the bellies  
and pipes of  
the *Daghda's*  
harp?

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I must express my inability to answer this question. There is, however, a passage in Dr. Burney's work which is worth mentioning in connection with it, though it contains only a hint of what might possibly account for the mention of the pipe or tube alluded to by the *Daghda*.

Ancient painting of a lyre, with a flute for the bridge.

"In one of the ancient paintings at Portici", says Dr. Burney, "I saw a lyre with a pipe or flute for the cross-bar or bridge at the top; whether this tube was used as a wind instrument to accompany the lyre, or only a pitch-pipe, I know not; nor within the course of my inquiries has any example of such a junction occurred elsewhere"<sup>(301)</sup>

This is indeed a very loose account for our purpose; one that suggests nothing more than a vague hint: for we cannot learn from it anything of the precise form of the harp, or of the age and circumstances of the painting which Dr. Burney says he saw, nor to what period of antiquity his words "ancient paintings" might be referred. It would, however, be truly a remarkable fact in relation to our present inquiry, if there be still extant an ancient classic painting of a harp suggesting so curious an explanation (as far as we can understand it) of our most ancient account of the *Daghda's* harp, as regards the union of the tube with that instrument, whatever the particular use of that tube might have been. It seems to me evident indeed, as I have already said, from the *Daghda's* callings forth the music of summer, winter, and spring, from the mouths of *Cruit*, belly, and tube, that the latter did really contribute its own share to the sounds of the instrument: and hence, the very obscure words of our ancient text would receive some explanation, or at least some remarkable corroboration, if we are to depend upon the singular account of Dr. Burney.

Legend of the origin of the three feats or modes of harp-playing from the *Táin Bo Fraeich*.

Let me, however, return to the subject of the three feats of harp-music, to which I have suggested an analogy in the three Greek modes. Concerning the origin of these three feats, there is extant a very ancient and singularly wild legend. The story forms one of the preludes to the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, and is preserved under the name of *Táin Bo Fraeich*, or the plunder of *Fraeich's* cows. Of this *Fraeich* I had occasion to speak in a former lecture, when describing some of the houses which formed part of the ancient palace of *Cruachan*, in Connacht,<sup>(302)</sup> but I shall have to introduce him here again.

*Fraeich* was the son of *Fidhadh*, and a chieftain of West Connacht. His mother's name was *Bebinn* (a name which literally signifies the melodious woman), one of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and sister to that lady *Boand* from whom the river

<sup>(301)</sup> *Ubi supra*, vol. i., p. 493.

<sup>(302)</sup> See Lect. xix., ante, vol. ii., p. 10.

Boyne (*Boind*) derives its name. This young chief, we are told, confident in the splendour of his retinue and in his own beauty of figure, proposed to himself to solicit the hand in marriage of no less celebrated a beauty than the princess *Findabar* (or "the fair-browed"), the daughter of *Ailill* and *Medb*, the king and queen of Connacht; and being sumptuously supplied with an outfit and attendance from the rich resources of *Tuath Dé Danann* wealth, by his aunt the lady *Boand*, he set out for the palace of *Cruachan* without any announcement of his intended visit. The description of his accoutrements is so rich that I am tempted to give it entire.

The story proceeds to tell us that:—"He went southwards to his mother's sister, that is to *Boand*, in the plain of *Bregia*; and she gave him fifty black-blue cloaks, whose colour was like the backs of cockchafers, each cloak had four blue ears [or lap-pets]; and a brooch of red gold to each cloak. She gave him besides fifty splendid white shirts with fastenings of gold; and fifty shields of silver with borders of gold. She gave him a great hard spear, flaming like the candle of a royal house, to place in the hand of each man of his party, and fifty rings of burnished gold upon each spear, all of them set off with carbuncles, and their handles studded with precious stones. They would light up the plain the same as the glittering light of the sun. And she gave him fifty gold-hilted swords, and fifty soft-gray steeds, on which his men sat; all with bridle-bits of gold, with a crescent of gold and bells of silver on the neck of each steed of them. And they had fifty crimson saddles, with pendants of silver thread, and with buckles of gold and silver, and with wonderful fastenings upon them (the steeds); and their riders had fifty horse-switches of *Findruine*, with a crook of gold upon the head of each horse-switch, in their hands; and they had besides, seven grayhounds in chains of silver, and a ball of gold upon (the chain) between each pair of them. They wore shoes of red bronze (*Cred-Uma*); and there was no colour which approached them that they did not reflect it. They had seven trumpeters among them, with trumpets of gold and silver, wearing many coloured raiments. Their hair was light golden; and they had splendid white shirts upon them. There were three buffoons preceding the party with silver-gilt coronets upon their heads, and each carried a shield with emblematic carvings upon it; and crested heads, and ribs of red bronze in the centres of these shields; and there were three harpers, each with the appearance of a king, both as to his dress, and his arms, and his steed".<sup>(303)</sup>

(303) [original:—*ἄλλο ἰσχυρὸν ποσὲρ σο γίαρ ἄ μαζαρ εἶον (σο βοῖνο) σο*

XXX.

Legend of the origin of the three /eats or modes of harp-playing from the *Táin Bo Fráich*.



## XXX.

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Having arrived at *Cruachan*, the party were hospitably received, and entertained for several days. One day after dinner, king *Ailill* spoke to *Fraech*, and requested that the harps should be played for them; and the story then tells us that:—

“This was the condition of these [harps]. There were harp-bags of the skins of otters about them, ornamented with coral, (*Partaing*) with an ornamentation of gold and of silver over that, lined inside with snow-white roebuck skins; and these again overlaid with black-gray strips [of skin]; and linen cloths, as white as the swan's coat, wrapped around the strings. Harps of gold, and silver, and *Findruine*, with figures of serpents, and birds, and grayhounds upon them. These figures were made of gold and of silver. Accordingly as the strings vibrated [these figures] ran around the men. They [the harpers] played for them then, until twelve men of *Ailill's* and *Medb's* household died of crying and emotion. Three comely men indeed were these [harpers], and sweet was the music which they played. And they were the three sons of *Uaithne* [the harper] that were there. These were, indeed the three illustrious men so much spoken of, namely—*Goltraighe*, and *Suantraighe*, and *Gentraighe* [that is literally—crying music, sleeping music, and laughing music]. These three now were three brothers. *Boand* from the hills was the mother of the three. And it was this kind of music that *Uaithne* [their father] played upon the *Daghda's* harp; and, it was from it the three [sons] were named. At the time that the woman [their mother] was in labour, it was then he [the husband] played the harp. When then the woman

imbar 1 maig breg; acap sobent  
ono, caeca brat n-oubgorim, acap ba  
cormail a vach fpu oimimni n-odili,  
cefora dai oubglara for cach brat;  
acap milech oerfori la cach m-  
brat caeca lena dangel co tuaro-  
milais oir umpu; acap caeca rciat  
airforoi conimlib oir umpu. Oen  
gai cruaoad mor 1 foillrichir nuz  
caimvell nuztaigi 1 laim cac fir oib;  
caeca toract oi or oplaircti im gac  
n-gai, eimicruoa vo charpmocol  
foais amf uili, acap ir vo lecaib  
logmarab imoentai [anair iarin] a  
n-urouirinn,—no larctair in faicoi  
amail naitimib gnene; acap caeca  
clairoeb n-orouirno leo, acap caeca  
gaboi m-bocglar fo ruoe; acap  
pellce [beilge] oir fpu uili acap  
muillino [maellano argat co clui-  
cui oir] oir co cluicimiu for bpa-  
gaito cach ech oib: acap caeca cranu  
[acparrn] corora co rnatib argat

ertib, acap co rblanab oir acap ar  
gaito, acap co cenomilais ingantab  
forais impu; acap caeca echlar  
finoruine co m-baccan oroa for  
cino caca hechlarci ina lamais;  
acap reet milcom rlabraois air-  
gno, acap ubull oir for cach [oir  
cech nae] rlabrao oib. Brocca cre-  
oumae umpu; acap ni raibi oad nar  
beit intib. Seet corraire leo co  
corraib orobab acap airforois, co  
netaigib illbachacha umpu; co  
mongaib orobab finburio forais, co  
lentib etroctab umpu. Datar cru  
ouirch nemib co minois [airgno]  
fooir for a cenobab; rceith co  
rechlaib conoualacha for cach nae;  
acap co cirtbachlaib impu, acap co  
neraobab creoumae iar na lar  
[taebaib] ina rciach baobab forais.  
Tuar cruicire co n-egore nuz im cad  
n-ai icir etairib, acap armu, acap  
eochu.—H. 2. 16. col. 649.]

was in her labour, it was crying and mourning with her in the intensity of her pains at the beginning. It was laughing and joy with her in the middle of them, at the pleasure of having brought forth two sons. It was repose and tranquillity with her on the birth of the last son after the weight of the labour; and it was on that account that each of them was named after a third part of the music. *Boand* then awoke from the repose. 'Accept thou thy three sons, O passionate *Uaithne*', said she, 'in return for thy generosity; namely, crying music (*Goltraighe*); and laughing music (*Geantraighe*); and sleeping music (*Suantraighe*); for men will [hereafter] die of hearing their ear-tuning if they go to play for *M. db* and *Ailill* [that is, when attuning their harps to their own ears]'".

"These sons", the story continues, "were afterwards nursed until they were men, and they it was whom *Fraech* took with him on his visit to court the princess *Findabar*, so that they played music at the desire of *Ailill*".<sup>(304)</sup>

This passage is, as I have said, from one of the most ancient of the historic tales; and I suppose I need hardly observe that it is by no means to be taken literally. It is, in fact, but an early form of one of our most ancient myths or legends, accounting for the lost history of the invention of music, or its introduction into the country; and, while on the one hand the words here used as proper names, are really words descriptive of the various kinds of music in which the most

XXX.

Legend of the origin of the three fests or modes of harp-playing from the *Táin Bn Fraech*.

<sup>(304)</sup> [original:—*ir amlao do ba-  
dar ríde ono. Croctuilcc do croic-  
nib doobarcon umpu, cona n-imoen-  
am do parctainis, imoenam uoir acap  
o'airgeo fairsíve anuar, bian n-erb  
oin impu ar-meoon; roialla tub-  
glara ima meooníroe; acap bhuic  
lin giliter ruan n-geiri imna ceta.  
Crota vi ór acap airgeo acap fín-  
ruime, co n-velbaib n-athrac, acap  
én acap miléon forarib. Vi ór acap  
airgeo na velba rin; amail noíloir-  
roir na ceta impechtoir im na ríru  
imacuiric na vealba rin. Senoir  
oair iarum co n-aposcar va fer oec  
do muntir aililla, acap meoba  
laccac acap coirri. Da can tra in  
triarra, acap ba bino an ceol do  
ríonrac; acap baobar h-ecru meic h-  
uithni anníru. Tríao tra fo in truar  
uirthoric arberar, eoon goltraigi,  
acap gentraigi, acap suantraigi.  
Tri uerbrachair tra in truar rai  
berino [doimo] a ríobair a macair  
acruir. Acap ir oin cheneolra fe-  
paimo uithni eruit in Dagóair; acap*

*ir ve ainmnigther a truar. In can  
robar an ben oc lamnac ir ano ro  
fentorem in éruit. Ora bai iarum in-  
bean oclomnac ba gol acap maing-  
lee la guine na n-roan itoraic. Da  
gen acap gairu acap raitce ar meoon,  
eoon ar imcholtam inoa mac do  
bheitc. Da ruan acap ailgine ara  
bheitce in mac veromach, eoon ar  
trume na bheitc; conao airu ro  
hainmnigero truar [truar] in chiul  
oib. Do uirair iarum inboano ar  
an ruan. Arpuim ríru olri do tri  
meic a uithni arpoimíru olri do  
tri maccu a uithni lan bhoia fo  
bich fele [file], eoon golltraigi,  
acap gentraigi, acap suantraigi, ar  
ferarib rceo innaib va taerora la  
meob acap ailill dobelao ríru la  
cluair á-gléra oib. Ailiter ma  
meic rco tra iarruioiu, comoar  
mora, acap conoair e tuc fraech  
lar do tocmoric rínoabrac. cop-  
baobair ocan ronn la bheitc n  
aililla.—H. 2. 16. col. 650.]*

**XXX.** ancient of musicians were practised, the very form of the myth itself proves how very ancient—how far before the farthest back commencement of the historic period, must have been the cultivation of an already regularly developed music in Erin, at least among that superior race which preceded the Milesian colony.

Meaning of  
the name  
*Uaithne*.

The word *Uaithne*, the name given as that of the *Daghda's* harper, and father of the three musical sons, has three different significations in the ancient *Gaethelic* language, namely, a post, or pillar, female parturition, and concord or harmony in poetry or music; so that, if the name be symbolical at all, it must be in the last sense.

It may be proper to pause here for a moment, and inquire what was the actual mechanical agency by which these three mechanical feats, or modes, or their wonderful effects, were produced.

No mention  
of strings in  
the *Daghda's*  
harp; but  
they are  
mentioned  
in the *Táin*  
*Bo Fraich*.

It may be remembered that in this allusion to the *Daghda's* own harp, the *Durd-abla*, there is no mention of any number of strings, or of strings at all, whilst in the description of the harps of the three sons of *Uaithne* in the palace of *Cruachan*, there is a clear reference to the strings, which not only produced the music, but also by their vibrations set the serpents, birds, and grayhounds, with which the harps were adorned, in motion. Here, however, there is no allusion to the number of the strings, and we are therefore still at a loss on that head.

The following curious story, taken from the old tract so often mentioned in the course of these lectures, called *Agallamh na Seanorach*, or the Dialogue of the Old Men, and which recounts a great many of the achievements and adventures of the celebrated champion, *Find Mac Cumhaill*, seems to show that the earliest harp was a three stringed instrument.

Legend of  
*Find Mac*  
*Cumhaill*,  
*Scathach* and  
her magical  
harp;

One day, we are told, that *Find* was hunting in that part of Erin which is now known as the county of Donegal, attended by only eight chosen companions from among his warriors. Having sat down to take rest on the well-known mountain of *Bearnas Mór*, his party started a huge wild boar, and sent their dogs after him; but the boar killed them all except *Bran*, *Find's* own celebrated hound, which conquered and captured him. The boar, on being captured, screamed loudly and violently, whereupon a man of giant size came forth as it were from the hill, and requested of *Find* that his hog should be set at liberty. The eight men attacked him, but he soon vanquished, and bound them in tight bonds. He then invited *Find* to his *Sidh*, or enchanted mansion at *Glenndeirgdeis*, an

invitation which *Find* and his friends gladly accepted. When they came to the door of the mansion, the giant struck the boar with his magical wand, and turned him into a young woman of great beauty. He then struck himself with the same wand, and restored himself to his natural size and beauty. The whole party then entered the mansion, where they were hospitably received, and sat down to a feast which had been specially prepared for them, presided over by the host's beautiful daughter, whose name was *Scathach*, or "the shadowy". *Find* fell in love with this fair damsel, and asked her from her father in marriage. Her father, of course, assented; and the champion and the fairy lady were forthwith united on the spot. Feasting and music continued until the hour of rest had arrived, when *Find* retired to the apartment assigned him, expecting to be soon followed by his bride.

XXX.  
Legend of  
*Find Mac*  
*Cunholl*,  
*Scathach* and  
her magical  
harp;

So far the story. The following passage from the original poem, in which the whole is told, appears to me to support the idea of a three-stringed harp; and I translate it in full because in it such an instrument is described, possessing all the same wonderful gifts that distinguished the *Daghda's* own harp.<sup>(305)</sup>

"The noble bed is prepared;

*Find* is the first to approach it;

*Scathach* asked before retiring,

The loan of the musician's harp.

"The household harp was one of three strings,

Methinks it was a pleasant jewel:

A string of iron, a string of noble bronze,

And a string of entire silver.

"The names of the not heavy strings

Were *Suantorrglés*; *Geantorrglés* the great;

*Goltarrglés* was the other string,

Which sends all men to crying.

"If the pure *Goiltearglés* be played

For the heavy hosts of the earth,

The hosts of the world without delay

Would all be sent to constant crying.

"If the merry *Gentorrglés* be played

For the hosts of the earth, without heavy execution,

(305) [original :—

Deirgáiréar an ionna ann,  
Táorcca fionn na comhóil;  
Diar Sgáadá ruil do luig,  
Iarácá Crúice in aipriú.  
Crúic baol irúig ar éirí téad,  
Dár liom fá rúicéar in réad:  
Téad diapann, teud uuma an,  
An ceolna uarccos ionlán.

Annonn na téad naí érom  
Suantoirglér; geantoirglér oll;  
Goltarrglér an téad oile,  
Churruar cád ar éiamóire.  
Da rúntear an goiltearglér glan.  
Do fluagáir troma an talmum,  
Sloig an uóimh fan uolba  
Do beir míle acc biot úogha.



xxx.

- They would all be laughing from it,  
From the hour of the one day to the same of the next.
- “ If the free *Suantorrglés* were played  
To the hosts of the wide universe,  
The men of the world,—great the wonder,—  
Would fall into a long sleep.
- “ The gifted maiden plays  
The slow sonorous *Suantorrglés*,  
Until his heavy repose fell  
Upon the son of *Muirin* [*Fínd*] the highly gifted.
- “ To deep sleep, above all others, she sent  
*Bran*, and the eight warriors,—  
Until the middle of the following day  
They continued in their deep sleep.
- “ When the sun had arisen over the woods,  
To them it was no mighty loss;  
Where they found themselves was at *Bearnas*,  
Which showed their diminished power”.

The date of this curious poem cannot be fixed with any precision, but, in its present condition, it may be very fairly ascribed to the early part of the twelfth century, though I am satisfied that it is many centuries older. The question of age of the composition itself, however, is of very little moment to us, since it is with the very curious tradition preserved in it our concern lies; and the later the poem, the more curious would the existence of this clearly very remote tradition be. According to it, the fabled *Cruit* of the magical mansion of *Glenn-deirgdeis* had three strings; whilst the additional information that of these strings one was of iron, another of bronze, and the third of silver, shows that all these materials were used for different harp strings before the time of the writer; while, even if his reference to them be taken as the work of the poet's fancy, they may also be regarded as intended to represent the grave, the middle, and the acute musical modes already spoken of.

Scathach's  
harp had  
three  
strings.

Farther on in this, and in the lecture that shall next follow

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Da feinnticé an geantorrglér gáó<br/>Do flúag an talmuin gan tnom ár,<br/>Do beoif acc gárneóe,<br/>On tpat naómor go noile.</p> <p>Da feinnticé an rúantorrglérráor<br/>Do fluaóuib beata na mbraon,<br/>Fir dohuin,—mór an móó,<br/>Do beicir na ríor doólaó.</p> <p>Seinnir an ingean fácaó<br/>An ruan ceárléar ríor gnaóac<br/>No gur éit a ceórréimrúain</p> | <p>An mac Murrne go mór buaó.<br/>Cuirfir na ceórrúan tar cáé<br/>Dran,—íran coótar ócclaó,<br/>Go meádan laoi mor an móó<br/>Robóar na ceólaó.</p> <p>Anúair vo éirig grian orrióó,<br/>Uhoibrióó níor dáóbaí ancion;<br/>Ann roáóar imbéaruir,<br/>Ser luóa Leo a ceigearuir.</p> <p>—MS. No. <math>\frac{22}{22}</math> R.I.A., p. 420, bot.]</p> |
|---|--|

it, the existence of an ancient three-stringed harp, or *Timpan*, <sup>xxx</sup> will receive much additional corroboration.

To return to the account of the *Daghda's* harp in the story of the battle of the second, or northern *Magh Tuireadh*; that harp which its master called from the wall where it hung by the names *Durdabla*, and *Cóircethairchuir*, and in playing upon which he is described as evoking music from the mouths of harps, and bellies and pipes.

No mention of music having been played at either of the battles of the two *Magh Tuireadhs*, and no allusion made to musicians in the account of them;

I have already endeavoured to show that the bellies and pipes, which he invokes, were component parts of the same harp; but, should I be mistaken, and that the tube alluded to was an independent instrument—in short a trumpet, then, indeed, it will appear very strange that with these references to the possession of music and martial musical instruments by the *Tuatha Dé Danann* at the time, there is nevertheless no mention whatever made of music of any kind having been played preparatory to, or in either of the battles of the two *Magh Tuireadhs*; and further, that *Lugh*, the great philosophical chief, who marshalled the *Tuatha Dé Danann* forces for the second battle, whilst he calls on the smith, the brazier, the carpenter, the hunters, the druids, the poets, etc., for their assistance in the coming battle (and, in doing so, is made to give an enumeration, apparently, of all classes about to be engaged in it), makes no mention whatever of any musician.

This is an important fact, and speaks much for the very great antiquity of the original accounts of these primitive battles of the Firbolgs, Fomorians, and *Tuatha Dé Danann*; for, certainly, if they had been historical romances of more modern times, full of the poetic embellishments of the *Táin Bo Chualigne*, for example, and of other pieces even of this ancient class, there can be little doubt that in the enumeration of the professional parties mentioned by *Lugh*, the military performers on tubes and horns would have been included.<sup>(306)</sup>

this proves their antiquity.

As far, then, as we can ascertain with any degree of probability, the great *Daghda* invoked but the musical powers of his harp alone, excluding any idea of an independent musical tube, pipe, or trumpet; and, consequently, if there was a pipe at all, it formed part of that harp.

I have already endeavoured to show from one of the names of the harp, that it was of a quadrubeaked or quadrangular

The *Daghda's* harp was quadrangular;

<sup>(306)</sup> I may also add here that I have not found any mention of music or of musical instruments among the Firbolgs in what has come down to us of their history; nor do I remember having met an instance of music having been played at any battle.

**xxx.** form; but it is curious, that, of the various forms of the harp and lyre taken from ancient Greek sculptures, and figured in the first volume of Dr. Burney's book, there is but one, No. 8, plate v., of precisely a quadrangular form; and this is a parallelogram with six strings, as represented in the hand of a Grecian Apollo, in the Capitoline Museum at Rome. This figure is an oblong square, with a sounding chamber, or belly, and somewhat resembles the high back of an old-fashioned chair. It is clumsy-looking in design, and apparently coarse in its mechanical details, considerably inferior to what we should be inclined to figure in our minds as consistent with the artistic skill of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*. These were themselves undoubtedly Greeks by education, if not by remote race, but they, or some others of our earliest colonists, have left in Erin specimens of mechanical art in metals—the only material that could live to our times—which are not, I believe, excelled by anything of their kind that antiquarian researches have discovered in either Greece or Rome. It may be then that the *Tuatha Dé Danann* quadrangular harp, if not exactly the same, had been modelled, and, perhaps, improved upon the early Egypto-Grecian harp.

a Greek harp of same form on ancient sculptures

example of Irish quadrangular harp on *theca* of an ancient missal.

One curious example, at least, of the quadrangular harp of ancient Erin is still extant in a carving on the shrine, or *theca*, of an ancient missal of the Irish Church, now unhappily, in the possession of Lord Ashburnham, in England. But, as the description of this figure, as well as other important points in the history of our ancient musical instruments, are so ably treated in a "Dissertation on the Antiquity of the Harp and Bagpipe in Ireland", written by my learned and accomplished friend, Samuel Ferguson, Esq., and published in Bunting's "Ancient Music of Ireland",<sup>(307)</sup> I shall quote the passage, in preference to anything I could myself say on the subject.

Mr. Ferguson on the antiquity and origin of music in Erin;

Mr. Ferguson, after discussing the description of the music of Ireland written by Giraldus Cambrensis about the year 1180, continues his argument as follows:—

"Assuming, then, that the Irish, in the latter end of the twelfth century, possessed an instrument fit for the performance of such harp airs as were then known, with their appropriate basses, we come next to inquire how long had they possessed it. For, as Guido of Arezzo, the inventor, or at least revivor of counterpoint among the Italians, lived somewhat more than a century before that time, a suspicion reasonably arises, that they may have had their acquaintance with their improved style and method of playing from continental instruction. In answering the question proposed, and clearing away the preliminary objections, we

<sup>(307)</sup> Dublin, Hodges and Smith, 1840, p. 46.

draw our first assistance from the evidence of the Welsh. They, as is well known, had their musical canon regulated by Irish harpers about A.D. 1100. This they would hardly have submitted to had they not considered their instructors the greater proficient in the art; and yet the Welsh had before this time been noted for singing and performing in concert. But it may be objected by that numerous class, who would refer everything creditable among the ancient Irish to a Danish origin (confounding the Danes of the middle ages with the Tuath de Danans of tradition), that they were Danish-Irish to whom Griffith ap Conan referred for these instructions, namely, to Aulaf, king of Dublin, the son of Sitrick; and that, of the harpers sent by the Hiberno-Danish monarch, one only, Mathuloch Gwyddell, is mentioned as Irish, while the chief musician, Olar Gerdawwr, is manifestly one of the Ostmen. To this it may be answered, that there is no trace of northern phraseology in the Irish or Welsh musical nomenclature, but that, on the contrary, much, if not all, even of the Welsh vocabulary is pure Irish. Farther, that the harp, known from time immemorial to the Irish as *Cruit* and *Clairseach*, has never borne its Teutonic designation of *Hearpa* in any other of the languages of the united kingdom than the English; and finally, that these musical congresses, so far from being confined to the Danes of Dublin, were customary among the native Irish; for, not to dwell on similar assemblies at an earlier period, we find, that, at a meeting, identical in its character and objects, held before an Irish petty king, at Glendaloch, immediately after the one in question, the regulations of the Welsh synod were confirmed<sup>(306)</sup>.

xxx.  
musical canon of the Welsh regulated by Irish harpers about A.D. 1100;

“But, fortunately, the question rests on evidence of a more tangible nature than mere historical statement. Two monuments, one of the eleventh, and the other of a much earlier century, are now to be submitted, on which we have authentic contemporaneous delineations of the Irish harp executed by Irish artists.

Dr. Ferguson's account of the *theca* above mentioned;

“The first is the ornamental cover, or ‘*theca*’ of an Irish manuscript, containing, among other writings, a liturgy of the seventh century, now preserved at Stowe, in the library of the Duke of Buckingham, and elaborately described by Doctor Charles O’Conor in his catalogue of the MSS. of this magnificent collection.<sup>(309)</sup> The age of the ornamental cover is ascertained by the inscriptions remaining on it, from which it appears to have been made by Donnchadh *O’Tagan*, an artificer

(306) Welsh Archaeology, vol. iii. p. 625.

(309) Vol. i., Appen. i.



xxx. of the Irish monastery of Clonmacnoise, for *Donnchadh*, the son of Brian [*Boromha*], king of Ireland, and for *Maccraith O'Donnchadh*, king of Cashel, during the lifetimes and reign of the former, and, probably, during the lifetime of the latter also. But it is stated in the *Annals of Tighearnach* that *Donnchadh* was expelled from the sovereignty in the year 1064, and died the year after, and that *Maccraith*, king of Cashel, died in 1052. The 'theca' must therefore have been executed prior at least to the year 1064. Now, among the ornaments of this cover are five delineations of the harp of that period, containing, however, two pairs of duplicates, *fac similes* of which are given at the end of the second volume of O'Connor's '*Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores Veteres*', whence the subjoined engravings have been accurately copied.

"The first, probably owing to the minuteness of the scale on which it is engraved on the silver plate of the *theca*, is unsatisfactory as to the shape of the instrument, which appears not of a triangular form, but of a quadrangular form, and is represented with only two strings, the latter feature being, however, a manifest defect in the drawing. It is nevertheless valuable, as showing that the mode of holding and playing on the instrument had altered in nothing from the practice of the eleventh century, at the time when the MS. of *Cambrensis*, already alluded to, was illustrated.<sup>(310)</sup>

"The harps in the second ornament are represented on a large scale, but still not sufficiently so to enable the artist to show more than four or five strings on each. This piece of early Irish art, which combines embossing, enamelling, jewelling, and engraving, is thus described by Doctor O'Connor: 'Of the three central ornaments (*i.e.* of each marginal side) two are plates of silver; the third is the brazen image of a man dressed in a tunic, tightly fitted to his body, girdled round the waist, and reaching to the knees. The legs and feet are bare; the hands and arms are also bare, and are extended round two harps, which support the arms on either side. The heads of the harps resemble in shape a small *cornu ammonis* of blue enamelled glass, and in the breast of the figure a small square hole is filled with a garnet'.

and of figures  
of harps  
from ancient  
Irish monu-  
mental  
crosses re-  
sembling old  
Egyptian  
one;

"The instrument", Mr. Ferguson continues, "submitted to the reader from the other monument above referred to, is evidently of a much older date. The musical inquirer and general antiquary cannot fail to regard it with interest: *for it is the first specimen of a harp without a fore pillar that has hitherto been found out of Egypt*; and, but for the recent confirmation of

<sup>(310)</sup> The harp alluded to here is a triangular one. See "p 37 of the *Introd.*"

Bruce's testimony with regard to its Egyptian prototype, might perhaps be received with equal incredulity; for, to the original difficulty of supposing such an instrument capable of supporting the tension of its strings, is now added the startling presumption that the Irish have had their harp originally out of Egypt. [The drawing follows here.] The drawing is taken from one of the ornamental compartments of a sculptured cross, at the old church of Ullard, in the county of Kilkenny. From the style of the workmanship, as well as from the worn condition of the cross, it seems older than the similar monument at Monasterboice, which is known to have been set up before the year 830. The sculpture is rude; the circular rim which binds the arms of the cross together is not pierced in the quadrants; and many of the figures originally represented in relief are now wholly abraded. It is difficult to determine whether the number of strings represented is six or seven; but, as has been already remarked, accuracy in this respect cannot be expected either in sculptures or in many picturesque drawings. One hand only of the performer is shown, it probably being beyond the art of the sculptor to exhibit the other; and this, which is the right hand, is stretched, as in all the preceding examples, towards the longer strings of the instrument. The harp is also held on the knee as in the other instances; the only difference between the sculpture here and the first engraving on the *theca* of the Stowe MS., being, that the Ullard harp to all appearance has no front arm or pillar. In both cases the musician is naked; and yet both are associated with representations of churchmen and others in rich dresses; but it will be recollected that, in the hands of the figure in the ornamented tunic on the *theca*, there are represented harps of a perfect form; while that played by the naked musician in the adjoining compartment, is very nude in structure, and strongly resembles the Ullard instrument. Hence, we must by no means receive the latter as conclusive evidence that, at the time of its being sculptured, there was no other description of harp in use".

Mr. Ferguson continues further his learned discussion on the harp, and its progress to perfection, from its first fabulous invention by the Egyptian Mercury from the shell of a dead tortoise, as we have seen already, first the feeble bow or three-sided, to the four-sided, and from that to the triangular form. And from these circumstances the learned writer urges the probable truth of our ancient "bardic traditions" of the progress of the early colonists of Ireland from Egypt through Scythia; and he then continues as follows:—

"There can be no question of the fact, that at a very early

he thinks  
this resem-  
blance sup-  
ports the  
Irish tradi-  
tions.

xxx. period, a strong tide of civilization flowed into the east of Europe from the Nile, and thence spread northward and westward; and there are many grounds, extrinsic to this inquiry, on which it appears that a strong argument may be raised for intimate international relations between the original inhabitants of these islands and the ancient occupants of the east of Europe. If the various points of resemblance and even identity, on which such an argument might be rested, were advanced, it would probably appear something more than a coincidence, that in a monument erected at Petau, in Styria, during the lifetime of the emperor Aurelius, the Thracian Orpheus should be represented performing on an instrument in all respects resembling that on the *theca* of the Stowe MS.,<sup>(311)</sup> being in fact, what has just been surmised to be the Egyptian harp in a transition state, after it had received its forearm, and before it had acquired its perfect triangular form by the incorporation of the sounding chamber with the other upright" [here the figure is introduced].

It may be thought that I have quoted too copiously from Mr. Ferguson's essay; and that his arguments may have little to do with the bare accumulation of facts practically recorded, as they stand in our ancient chronicles, which was all that I ever proposed to myself here to make. But, although much of what he states in the able paper from which I quote has been known to us through other channels, yet I feel it due to him, as well as to my desire to strengthen my own opinions by the coincidence of his, to select his work especially for reference in this place.

Irish MSS.  
little studied  
twenty years  
ago, but  
since then  
they have  
been;

Even so recently as twenty years ago, when Dr. Petrie wrote his essay on the harp, improperly called *Brian Boromha's* harp, now in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, the magnificent remains of ancient historical writings in our native tongue had been but little studied or examined. And those who did pretend to examine them never could find in them any thing that was of real value to true historical and antiquarian investigation. Within that time, however, these venerable records have undergone considerable examination; close readings have suggested and sustained new views and ideas, confirmed some old traditionary assertions, and are now opening up the true paths by which alone we can hope to become thoroughly acquainted with the origin, history, and vestiges of the people whose history our records profess to be.

I cannot, however, consistently with what I have read in these our ancient records, assent to the idea that the more pri-

<sup>(311)</sup> *Montfaucon*, vi. p. 252.



mitive colonists of Erinn, such as the Firbolgs and *Tuatha Dé Danann*, came indirectly from, or had any connection whatever with, the land of Egypt. The Milesians, I believe, had; but I am not at present concerned with that famous colony.

All our ancient traditions and writings are collected and chronologically set down in what is called the "Book of Conquests or Invasions"; and the account there preserved is just this: we are told that the lady *Cesar* came to this island "from Palestine before the Flood" (whatever that may mean); that *Partholon* came out of Migdonia in Greece, some three hundred years after the flood; that after the destruction of *Partholon's* people, *Nemidh* and his people came from the same country, or at least from that part of Scythia which our Gaedhelic writers say had been peopled by a Greek colony. That the Nemidians again, after a considerable time, were overpowered by the sea-robbers called Fomorians, and fled from the country in three parties; that one of these parties settled on the nearest coast of Britain, chiefly in the present island of Anglesea; that another of them went back to Greece, or at least to Thrace, which was then part of Greece, or subject to it; and that the third party settled in what are called the islands in the north of Greece. And we are told that this latter party were the people who afterwards took, or received, the name of *Tuatha Dé Danann*; a name said by some of our ancient etymologists to signify the people of the deities of science, because they venerated their professors of the social and occult sciences as deities.

These *Tuatha Dé Danann* are said to have inhabited that part of Greece in which the famous city of Athens was situated; and this territory having been invaded by a fleet from Syria, they are stated to have exercised their druidical powers in favour of their own friends successfully for some time; but their spells having become counteracted by a Syrian druid, they fled from Greece northwards and westwards (into Germany), and over the north of Europe (into Denmark, Sweden, and Norway), and on their way they are recorded to have established themselves and to have brought their arts into the four cities of *Falias*, *Gorias*, *Finias*, and *Murias*—those arts which they afterwards brought into Erinn.

This is the common account of their travels, as may be seen reported in Keating and O'Flaherty, but not in older chronicles. I am inclined to dissent from this account of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, as far as regards their having passed into Norway and Sweden. I think there is no good reason to believe that they ever inhabited these countries. As far as I am aware, no city is known to have existed in any one of these countries whose

xxx.  
from this examination the author thinks the Firbolgs and Tuatha Dé Danann had nothing to do with Egypt, but that the Milesians had.

Migration of the Tuatha Dé Danann from Greece;

the author does not believe they went into Scandinavia;



XXX.  
he believes  
their cities  
of *Falias*,  
*Gorias*, etc.,  
were in Ger-  
many;

name resembles in any way any of the names of the four cities mentioned above. Not so, however, with Germany. I am certain that every one will at once perceive the close affinity, if not indeed complete identity, of *Falias*, and Westphalia; *Gorias* and Goritia, or Görtz; *Finias* and Vienna, or Pinneburg; *Murias* and Murrhart, all names of cities in Germany. And, without burthening this discussion with a collation of *Tuatha Dé Danann* and German personal names, I have still a very strong argument to adduce in favour of my opinion. It is this.

they spoke  
German, ac-  
cording to  
the Book of  
*Lecan*.

In a short article preserved in the Book of *Lecan* on the languages spoken by the different colonists who invaded ancient Erin, we are told that German was the language of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, and that they spoke Latin, Greek, and Gaedhelic too.<sup>(312)</sup> Now, it is quite certain that the old Gaedhelic writers would not confound the German with the Swedish or Norse languages; and, that therefore, whoever wrote this very old article had no idea that the *Tuatha Dé Danann* had ever been in these countries, or taught their arts and sciences in them.

I have gone into this, I fear, too long digression, for the purpose of endeavouring to show some remote reason for the quadrangular form of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* harp.

The simi-  
larity of the  
harps on the  
monument of  
Orpheus  
at Petau in  
Styria and  
on the *theca*  
may point to  
Murrhart  
as the  
*Tuatha Dé*  
*Danann*  
*Murias*.

You will remember that it has been already stated in the quotation from Mr. Ferguson's essay on the harp, that, in a monument erected at Petau in Styria, during the life of the emperor Aurelius, the Thracian Orpheus is represented performing on an instrument in all respects resembling the quadrangular harp on the *theca* of the Stowe MS. Now, Petau, where this monument stands, is an ancient town of Styria, on the river Drave, 35 miles north-east of Cilly, and 109 south of Vienna. And it is, indeed, a singular coincidence that the river Muer, upon which the town of Murrhart, already mentioned, is situated, and from which it takes its name, is only about sixteen miles east from the town of Petau. And if we could suppose that the present German town of Murrhart, or any other town on the river Muer, and taking its name from it, could be

(312) [Ébna 'o Cheapair, acap Fíeg 'o Parthalan; Fíec acap Laven la Nemed cona muinten; Fíec acap Laven acap Únechnair ac Fearaib 'bolc, acap Úelgair acú i nÉrenn; acap Ferman ac Tuathaib 'e Danann; Laven acap Fíeg acap Fainvelg leo for. Fainvelg acap Laven la macaib Mileao — Book of *Lecan*, fol. 229, b. col. 1. bot.]

Hebrew [was the language] of *Cesar*, and Greek of *Parthalon*; Greek and Latin of *Nemed* and of his people; Greek and Latin and British of the *Firbolgs*, and who also had the Belgic in Ireland; and German of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*; who also had Latin, and Greek and Gaedhelic; Gaedhelic and Latin of the sons of *Milesius*.

A similar account is preserved in a poem in the Book of *Lismore* (O'Curry's coll., l. 1. A., fol. 160, b. a. mid.)

the ancient city of Murias, one of those into which the *Tuatha Dé Danann* brought their arts, then indeed, notwithstanding a wide distance in chronology, we might fairly enough imagine whence the quadrangular harp of the great *Daghda* came, and why the Thracian harp, which would appear to have been its prototype, appears on the Styrian monument.

It must be admitted that the chronological difference between the arrival of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* in Ireland, and the erection of the Styrian monument, which took place in the third century of the Christian era, is very great, being more than fifteen hundred years, according to the chronology of the *Annals of the Four Masters*. But even so, we have no reason to think that ancient manners and customs did not, with little change, cover great spaces of time in various parts of the world, perhaps peculiarly situated and inhabited by people of peculiar dispositions. We know that at this day there is a traditional music preserved among the gypsies of Hungary, quite distinct in character from, and uninfluenced by, the more cultivated music of surrounding nations. We know that Thrace, where the quadrangular harp is believed to have been in early use, was part of that Greece in which the *Tuatha Dé Danann* cultivated and taught their arts and sciences; and if we compare the time which may have elapsed between the time of the invention of the quadrangular harp in Egypt, and of its being adopted in Greece by the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, with the time which elapsed in Ireland between the battle of *Magh Tuireadh*, where the harp is first mentioned, and the time of *Donogh*, the son of *Brian Boromha*, in whose reign, about the year 1060, the square harp was put on the *theca* or shrine of the *Stowe MS.*, we will plainly see that notwithstanding the probable improvements and changes of time, old forms and old customs must have prevailed in Ireland at least for over two thousand years. To carry this discussion out to its legitimate conclusions, however, would require much more time, and I may say much greater abilities, than I can bring to it; and if I have by no inconsiderable expense of research and thought succeeded in presenting this interesting, and indeed most important, subject in a new point of view, I am quite content with having plucked a few green leaves from this new tree of knowledge, leaving to more competent and successful investigators to pluck the ripe fruit of success, which certainly awaits the hand of the honest and industrious inquirer in this difficult and devious path.

XXX.

The similarity of the harps on the monument of Orpheus at Petau in Styria and on the *theca* may point to Murphart as the *Tuatha Dé Danann Murias*.

## LECTURE XXXI.

(Delivered 12th June, 1862.)

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Legendary origin of the Harp according to the tale of *Imtheacht na Trom Dhaimhe*, or the "Adventures of the Great Bardic Company"; *Seanchan's* visit to *Guaire*; interview of *Marbhan*, *Guaire's* brother, with *Seanchan*; *Marbhan's* legend of *Cuil* and *Canoclach Mhór* and the invention of the Harp; his legend of the invention of verse; his legend concerning the *Timpan*; the strand of *Camas* not identified. Signification of the word *Cruit*. The Irish *Timpan* was a stringed instrument. Another etymology for *Cruit*; *Isidore* not the authority for this explanation. Reference to the *Cruit* in the early history of the Milesians. *Eimher* and *Ereamhon* cast lots for a poet and harper. Skill in music one of the gifts of the *Eberian* or southern race of Erin. Mention of the *Cruit* in the historical tale of *Orgain Dindrigh* or the "destruction of *Dindrigh*". First occurrence of the word *Ceis* in this tale; it occurs again in connection with the assembly of *Drom Ceat*, A.D. 573; *Aidbsi* or *Corus Cronán* mentioned in connection with poems in praise of *St. Colum Cille*, sung at this assembly; meaning of the word *Aidbsi*; the author heard the *Cronán* or throat accompaniment to dirges; origin of the word "crone"; the Irish *Aidbsi* known in Scotland as *Cepóg*; the word *Cepóg* known in Ireland also, as shown by a poem on the death of *Athairne*. The assembly of *Drom Ceat* continued; *Dallan Fergail's* elegy on *St. Colum Cille*; the word *Ceis* occurs in this poem also; *Ceis* here represents a part of the harp, as shown by a scholium in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; antiquity of the tale of the "Destruction of *Dindrigh*" proved by this scholium; the word *Ceis* glossed in all ancient copies of the elegy on *St. Colum Cille*; scholium on the same poem in the MS. H. 2. 16. T.C.D.; gloss on the poem in *Liber Hymnorum*; parts of the harp surmised to have been the *Ceis*,—the *Coblúighe* or "sisters", and the *Leith-rind*; *Leithrind* or half harmony, and *Rind* or full harmony; difficulty of determining what *Ceis* was; it was not a part of the harp; summary of the views of the commentators as to the meaning of *Ceis*. Fourth reference to the word *Ceis* in an ancient tale in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*. Fifth reference to *Ceis* in another ancient poem. *Coir*, another term for harmony, synonymous with *Ceis*; the author concludes that *Ceis* meant either harmony, or the mode of playing with a bass. The word *Gléis* mentioned in the scholium in H. 2. 16. is still a living word; the *Crann Gleasta* mentioned in a poem of the eighteenth century; this poem contains the names of the principal parts of the harp; the names of the different classes of strings are only to be found in the scholium in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* to the elegy on *St. Colum Cille*.

So far, I have endeavoured to throw some light on the remote origin and the practical use of the Irish lyre; a light, if it be such, drawn, I must acknowledge, as much from inferences and probabilities, as from actual historical statements. But the ancient Gaedhelic literature is not entirely silent on the origin of the harp, any more than that of Greece; and the similarity of the two legends is so striking, that I must briefly narrate ours here.

Of the ancient tale called *Imtheacht na Trom Dhaimhe*, or the



Adventures of the Great Bardic Company, I gave a short, but rather free sketch in a former lecture.<sup>(313)</sup> At the risk of repeating something of what I said on that occasion, I must here again preface the portion of that tale which bears upon my present subject by a few observations sufficient to introduce the personages of the tale upon the scene.

XXXI.  
 Legendary origin of the harp according to the tale of the "Adventures of the Great Company";

On the death, in the year 592, of the poet *Dallan Forgaill*, the celebrated panegyrist of *St. Colum Cille*, and chief poet of Erinn, the vacant *Ollamh's* mantle and chair were by the unanimous voice of the profession, conferred on the young poet *Seanchan*.

It was the custom in those hospitable days, when a new chief-poet *Ollamh* of Erinn succeeded to the vacant place, that he selected, as a matter of high distinction, either the monarch of Erinn, at or near Tara, or some provincial king at his provincial court, to honour with his first visit. This pleasant custom *Seanchan* was resolved should not fail in his hands, and consulting his knowledge of the generous habits of the different kings in Erinn, he determined to bestow on *Guaire*, called the Hospitable, king of Connacht, the honour of the first visit of the new *Ard Ollamh*, or chief poet of Erinn. Thither, then, he went with his wife and children, and his accompanying retinue of *ollamhs*, tutors, and pupils, horses, dogs, and so forth. They were hospitably received and entertained by king *Guaire*; but soon some of them began to be pettish, and to ask for delicacies which were out of season and not procurable. The hospitable host was deeply pained when he found that he could not satisfy the desires of his unreasonable guests; but he had a brother named *Marbhan*, who some time previously had retired from court to the solitude of *Glenn Dallun*, where he led the life of a recluse, devoting his time to prayer, meditation, and philosophical reflections. To this gifted man the king repaired for counsel and assistance in his difficulty; nor was he disappointed, as the brother freed him from all his difficulties, and followed him shortly after to his court.

*Seanchan's* visit to *Guaire*;

*Marbhan* having arrived at *Guaire's* court, introduced himself at once to *Seanchan* and his learned, though cumbersome, company; and having expressed a desire to hear some of their musical performances, vocal and instrumental, his wish was freely complied with by various performers, with all of which, however, he seemed dissatisfied. The performance so far was, it seems, of the vocal character, and of the species called *Cronan* (a word which might be translated "purring"), a kind of monotonous chaunt, of which I shall have occasion to speak in a future

interview of *Marbhan*, *Guaire's* brother, with *Seanchan*;

<sup>(313)</sup> Lecture iv., *anté*, vol. i., p. 86.



xxxI. lecture. At this stage of the interview between the recluse and the poets, one of the latter came forward and offered to give him a specimen of his art, upon which the following dialogue took place between them:—

*Marbhan's legend of Ceol and Canoclach Mhor and the invention of the harp;*

“What art wilt thou display for me, and what is thy name?” said *Marbhan*. “I am a good *ollamh* of *Seanchan's* in my art”, said he, “and my name is *Casmael* the *Cruitire* (harper)”. “I wish to ask thee, *Casmael* the harper”, said *Marbhan*, “what was it that the *Cruit* was at first derived from; and who it was that composed the first song; and which of them was the first invented—the *Cruit*, or the *Timpan*?” “I do not know that, thou prophet of heaven and earth”, said *Casmael*. “I know it”, said *Marbhan*, “and I will tell it to thee:—There once lived a couple [a man and his wife], *Cuil* the son of *Midhuel* was the man, and *Canoclach Mhor* was his wife. And the wife conceived a hatred to him, and she was [always] flying from him through woods and wildernesses; and he continued to follow her constantly. And one day that the woman came to the sea shore of *Camas*, and was walking over the strand, she met a skeleton of a whale on the strand, and she heard the sounds of the wind passing through the sinews of the whale on the strand; and she fell asleep from the sounds. And her husband came after her [and found her asleep]; and he perceived that it was from the sounds the sleep fell upon her. And he then went forward into the wood, and made the form of the *Cruit*; and he put strings from the sinews of the whale into it; and that was the first *Cruit* that was ever made

*his legend of the invention of verse;*

“And again”, continues *Marbhan*, “*Lamec Bigamas* had two sons, *Jubal* and *Tubal Cain* were their names. One son of them was a smith, namely, *Jubal*; and he discovered from sounds of two sledges [on the anvil] in the forge one day, that it was verses (or notes) of equal length they spoke, and he composed a verse upon that cause, and that was the first verse that was ever composed”.

*his legend concerning the tympan;*

The tale goes on:—Another person in the house then said: “I will display an art for thee”. “Who art thou”, said *Marbhan*, “and what art dost thou profess?” “I am the *ollamh*-*Timpanist* of the great company”, said he, “and *Cairche Ceolbhinn* (i.e. *Cairche* of the sweet music) “is my name”. “I wish to ask, then, *Cairche*”, said *Marbhan*, “why is the *Timpan* called *Timpan Naimh* [or saint's *Timpan*], and yet no saint ever took a *Timpan* into his hands?” “I do not know”, said the *timpanist*. “Then I will tell it to thee”, said *Marbhan*. “At the time that Noah, the son of *Lamech*, went into the ark, he took with him a number of instruments of music

into it, together with a *Timpan*, which one of his sons had, who knew how to play it; and they remained in the ark during the time that the deluge was pouring down. Afterwards, when Noah and his children went forth from the ark, and his son was desirous to take the *Timpan* away with him". "Thou shalt not take it", said Noah, "until thou hast left its price [with me.]" The son asked him what the price was. He answered that he should require no greater price than to name the *Timpan* from himself. The son granted that price to his father; so that Noah's *Timpan* is its name from that time down; and that is not what ye, the ignorant timpanists, call it, but *Timpan* of the saints".<sup>(314)</sup>

These are, indeed, two curious legends, well worthy, for more reasons than one, of careful consideration and comparison with the legends and traditions of other early nations. The legend of Tubal reminds us at once of Pythagoras, who is said to have been led to discover the musical effect of vibrations of a chord by observing the sound of various blows on an anvil; though the Irish legend (for the rest more vague) does not appear to bear on the tones so much as on the rhythm of music. The strand of *Camas*, on which the skeleton of the sea monster was found, cannot be identified, as there are a great many places of the name in Ireland. It was probably at the mouth of the lower Bann in the county of Antrim. The names of the husband and wife in the story are, of course, fictitious; and they are not in meaning symbolical of music in any way that I can discover. The word *Cruit*, which is our most ancient name for the harp, signifies literally, a sharp high breast, such as of a goose, a heron (miscalled a crane), or a curlew; indeed the Gaelic name of the curlew is *crottach*, or the sharp high breasted; it is what is commonly termed a chicken breast or chicken breasted. The word *Cruit*, at the present day, when signifying a personal deformity, is often applied to a hump on the back. This, however, is incorrect; and the more proper words *dronn*, *dronnog*, and *dronnaghe* are, in fact, also living words among the better informed speakers of the Irish language. As to the story of Noah's *Timpan* (*Timpan Naoi*), I must confess that I have never met with another reference to that name. Yet, the name, at least in its reputed corrupt form of *Timpan Naoinh*, or saint's *Timpan*, must have been well known in this country, otherwise the story would have never been written to correct it. And the story itself points to an early belief in the great anti-

<sup>(314)</sup> [See for original of these passages "*Imtheacht na Tromdhaimhe*", edited, with a translation, by Professor Connellan; Transactions of the Ossianic Society, vol. 5, p. 96. See also Book of Lismore, O'Longan's vel. copy, R. I. A., f. 191. a. b.]

XXXI.

the strand of  
*Camas* not  
identified.

Signification  
of the word  
*Cruit*.

xxxii.  
The Irish  
*Timpan* was  
a stringed  
instrument.

Another  
etymology  
for *Cruit*;

quity, and in the eastern origin of the instrument. But, a greater mystery than this attaches to the instrument itself, which the Gaedhil called a *Timpan*. We know that the English Tymbal and Latin Tympanum mean a drum of some sort; but it is beyond all doubt that the Irish *Timpan* spoken of in our ancient Irish MSS., was a stringed instrument, one of the kinds of harp, as I shall afterwards show.

The account just given is not, however, the only one of the origin of the *Cruit*. There is a very old and somewhat different etymology of the word given in an ancient Gaedhelic tract in my possession. This very ancient tract is a critical discussion on the origin and arrangement of the Book of Psalms, with the order for singing and playing them in the Jewish temple, made by king David himself. The following literal translation of the opening of this tract will give an idea of its character, as well as furnish the reference to the etymology of the *Cruit* just alluded to:—

“The title which is in the front of this book is ‘Brightness to the minds of the Learned’. Its name in the Hebrew is *Hesperalim*, that is, a Volume of Hymns, in the same way that Liber Psalmorum (or Book of Psalms) is named, for the word psalm, or hymn of praise, is its interpretation. It is asked what is the name of this book in Hebrew, in Greek, in Latin? Answer. Nabla [is its name] in Hebrew; Psalterium in Greek; Laudatorium, or Organum, in the Latin. It is asked, why it was named by that name? Answer. From the *Cruit* through which David chaunted the psalms; for, Nabla was its name in Hebrew, Psalterium in Greek, Laudatorium, or Organum in Latin; in as much as Organum is a generic name for all musical instruments, because of its great nobleness. Nabla, however, is not a generic name for every musical instrument, but Cithera is the generic name for *Cruits*. Cithera, that is, Pectoralis; that is, the breast instrument; for as much, as that it is at the breast it is played. The Nabla is a ten-stringed *Cruit*; that is, which is furnished with ten strings, which are played with ten fingers; in which the ten commandments are concentrated. It is down upon it [that is at top] that its belly [or sounding chamber] is placed; and it is downwards it is played, or that music is performed on it. This name [of Nabla] is transferred, so that it is become the name of this Book, which is bound by the ten strings of the patriarchal law, upon which are played *de supremis mysteriis Spiritus Sanctis*; that is, ‘the high noble mysteries of the Holy Spirit.’

“Psalterium. This is a Greek word; it is the derivative name of the book. These five words were invented in relation to each other, namely, Psalmus, Psalterium, Psalmista, Psalmo-



dum, Psallo. It is asked: Whence came this nomenclature? Answer: What Isidore says is, that Psalmista is the name of the man who plays; Psalterium, what is played upon; Psalmodium, the name of the music which is played; Psallo, the words of the man who plays. . . . What David did in the latter times was: He selected four choice thousands of the sons of Israel to sing the psalms perpetually, without any interruption whatever. A third part of them at the choir; a third at *Croit*; and a third between choir and *Croit*. That which is entitled to the name of Psalmus is that which is arranged and practised upon the *Croit*. That which has a right to the name of Canticum, is that which is practised by the choir, and is chanted from the *Croit*. That which has a right to the name of Canticum Psalmus is what is carried from the *Croit* to the choir. That which has a right to be called Canticum Psalmi, is what is carried from the choir to the *Croit*”<sup>(313)</sup>

I am inclined to think that, although Isidore (a writer of the fifth century) is quoted in this tract in connection with the Psalms, it is not on his authority that the derivations of *Cithera* and *Cruit* are given, as may be seen from the following extract from his *Etymology*:—

Isidore not the authority for this explanation.

<sup>(313)</sup> [original:—[1r] he titol ril mopech an liuboipre “caitne oo menmonoub na legnoe”. 1re a ainm irano epre herpercalim, .i. uoliumn uminorum ainm arperur liber psalmorum ar unoi, 1r psalma 1r laur no innur etercester. Ceact cia ainm anliuboipre a eppu, a spes, il Latin? Nm. Nable mo- eppa; psaltium 1r an spes; Lau- uatorium, no Organum 1r an la- uim. Ceact can no ainmizad oo moainmpen? Nm. Oin croit cpe- rapocadoin Dabuid na palmo, .i. Nable a hainm ipen uebru, psalto- rium in spico, Lauuacorum, no Organum in Latin; ar mo 1r Organum 1r ainm ceneluch uicech ciul ar noaipchur. Nable moipno ni hainm cenelad oo ced croit act, 1r citera ainm cenelad cecha croite. Citera, .i. Pectoraliu, in brunoe ue, .i. terpan ni rensoir for puin- uib. Nable Cruit decoe, .i. cocar- ipretar o a x. tetaib, pennair o x. meruib, imacompacut na ueic tim- na. Fuire moair bto abolz oi ruoiu; acap ipenouar rennoir, noc forpiter ciul moe. Tarimberar oi inre conuo ainm den liubopio, contairpeter o a x. tetaib an raé-

to petorloic, uoinpoin uepupremir niuiterir rpiucur panctir; oi nio urump uairlib an rpiuca noib. psalterium fon spesoa inren; 1r- ped ainm uepuaroid forrenlibopra. Arcaiter na coic ium comconner- cae, .i. psalmu, psalterium, psal- miuca, psalmodium, psallo. Ceact, can oo roic antainmicaoio? Nm. 1rped 1rper Eiruoib, . . . psaltir ainm an fir nocreino; psalte- rium mo rensoir ann; psalmo- dium ainm an ciul rensoir ann; psallo brecur mo fir nocrenouair. (MSS. Harleian, 5280, Br. Mus., f. 11. a. top.) . . . 1rped ueirigne Dabaro pu- uegenoeu: toi roecco ceirpe milie cogair ue macoib 1rpacl pueceol acap gnacozao na psalm uignep, cenad toipmure eter. Trian uipn fir claur; trian pte croit; trian eter claur acap croit. 1r ou ar uir ann 1r psalmur uenoi aipet, acap gnataceter hi croit. Ar oo ar uir ainm 1rCanticum uini gnacoi- geao pue claur, acap canar o croit, 1r ou 1r uir anoi 1r Canticum psalmur uini bepor o croit a claur. Ar oo 1r uir mo 1r Canticum psal- mi uonoi oo bepor aclaur hicroit. —*Ibid.*, f. 13. a. mid.]



xxx.

"The form of the *Cithera* at first", says Isidore, "is said to have been like the human breast; because, as the voice [issues] from the breast, so from it [the *Cithera*] the sound is emitted; and it was named from that cause. For, in the Doric language the breast is called *Cithara*. . . . This is the difference between the *Psalterium* and the *Cithara*. The *Psalterium* has at the top [or upper side] that concave wood whence the sound is yielded, and the chords are struck downwards, and sound from above [or at the top]. The *Cithara* has the concavity of the wood underneath. There are ten chords used in the Hebrew *Psalterium*, from the number of the Decalogue".<sup>(16)</sup>

Passing on from this glimpse of an etymological connection between the *Cruit* and the harp of Greece, I proceed to the further consideration of the musical instruments of the ancient Gaedhil, such as we find them spoken of in our own ancient writings.

Reference to the *Cruit* in the early history of the Milesians.

The next reference to the *Cruit* is found in the history of the Milesians, who conquered and succeeded the *Tuatha Dé Danann* in Erin. After the total overthrow of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* power by the Milesians in the battle of *Taille*, in Meath, and the erection of their own power and government in its place, we are told (in the ancient "Book of Invasions") that the two leading brothers, *Eimher* (or *Eber*) and *Ereamhon* (or *Eremon*), divided the country between them, the first taking the southern half, and the second the northern half for his share. They next (as this record informs us) divided the surviving leaders, servants, and soldiers of the expedition, until nothing more remained for division but two professional men, a poet and a *Cruitire*, or harper, who had come on the expedition. The name of the poet was *Cir*, the son of *Cis*, and that of the *Cruitire* was *Cindfind*. Each of the brothers put forward a claim to both, but at last they agreed to decide their pretensions by lot. *Eimher's* lot fell upon the *Cruitire*, and *Ereamhon's* on the poet. The following quatrains commemorative of this curious event are quoted in the same ancient "Book of Invasions"; they are also quoted by Dr. Keating from the "Psaltair of Cashel":—

*Eimher* and *Ereamhon* cast lots for a poet and harper.

"The two sons of Milesius of bright renown,  
Conquered *Eire* and *Alba*.

Along with them hither came

A comely poet and a *Cruitire* (or harper).

"*Cir*, the son of *Cis*, was the fair haired poet;

The name of the *Cruitire* was *Cindfind*;

For the sons of Milesius of bright renown,

<sup>(16)</sup> Isidore, *Etym*, lib. ii., cap. 22.

His *Cruit* was played by the *Cruitire*.

“ These kings of many battles,  
Who took the sovereignty of Erinn,  
They made the clear sprightly contention,  
*Eimher* and *Ereamhon*.

“ They then nobly cast lots  
Upon the great professional men,  
Until to the southern leader fell  
The tuneful, accomplished *Cruitire*.

“ The sweetness of string-music, blandness, valour,  
In the south, in the south of Erinn are found;  
It so shall be to the end of time  
With the illustrious race of *Eimher*.

“ There fell to the share of the northern man  
The professor of poetry with his noble gifts.  
It is a matter of boast with the north that with them has  
remained

Excellence in poetry, and its chief abode”<sup>(317)</sup>

It is a singular fact to find that so early and so late as the time of the holy *Cormac Mac Cuileannain* (A.D. 900), the author of the “*Psaltair of Cashel*”, there should exist a tradition that preëminence in music, in blandness, and in personal strength, were of the most ancient times the peculiar natural gifts of the Eberian, or southern race of Ireland. This indeed is not the only place in which the same fact is alluded to, for in an ancient Gaelic tract in my possession, which purports to be an account of a meeting held at Tara in the time of king *Diarmait*, about the year A.D. 550, and at which the celebrated *Finntaan* was present, that ancient sage, in speaking of the characteristics of the west, east, north, and south of Erinn, uses these words:—  
“ Her cataracts, her fairs (or assemblies), her kings, her warriors, her professors, her wheat, her melody, her harmony, her amuse-

Skill in music one of the gifts of the Eberian or Southern race of Erinn.

<sup>(317)</sup> [original :—  
Dá mac míle míad nórdam,  
Sabrac éunn ír albam.  
leo do muscator alle,  
file caom ír cruítire.  
Cíu mac Cíu, an file fionn;  
ann don chruítire Cíu fionn;  
la macaib míle míad ngle,  
Seaphnaíu cruít an cruítire.  
na flaithe comolar nórdam,  
Sabrac Ríge na héreann,  
Síníreat cogle meir an glór,  
Eimher acap Ereamhon.  
Do chuítire éramhon co han  
Íman aer nána nórdam,  
Co cearta don fíor anóer

an cruítire coir coídear.  
Ceitbinné cíu, caoine, órem,  
ínóer, inóercept éreann;  
ír amíad bíar co brac mbí.  
as íol aipeagóa éimír.  
Do nálu don fíor acuaró  
an tollam gur an ollbuáro.  
ar nóf baga tuaité vórnacht  
Soí vana acap ollamnacht. Da.  
—O’Clery’s Book of Invasions, R.I.A.,  
f. 81. A slightly different version of  
this poem has been already given in  
vol. i. p. 4. The editor did not wish,  
however, to omit it here, especially  
as it afforded him an opportunity of  
printing the original.]

xxxI.

ments, her wisdom, her dignity, her order, her learning, her teaching, her championship, her chess-playing, her rashness, her passion, her poetry, her advocacy (or lawyership), her hospitality, her residences, her shipping, her fertility, all are from her southern parts in the south.<sup>(318)</sup>

After what has been said in the last lecture of the great *Daghda* and his *Cruit*, and of *Uaithne* and his three sons and their *Cruits*, and the Milesian *Cruitire* just mentioned, the next historical reference to the *Cruit* and its power, known to me, is found in a historical tale described in a former lecture.<sup>(319)</sup> I allude to the ancient historic tale which gives an account of the early life and fortunes of *Labraid Loingsiuch*, monarch of Erin about four hundred years before the Incarnation.

Mention of the *Cruit* in the historical tale of the "Destruction of Dindriugh".

The father and grandfather of this prince were murdered by his granduncle, *Cobhthach Cael*, while he was yet a child; and he was committed to the care of two retainers of his father's house—namely, *Ferceirtne*, the poet, and *Craiftine*, the *Cruitire*, or harper. When the young prince grew up, his presence gave uneasiness to his cruel granduncle, and his tutors fearing for his safety, fled with him into West Munster, where they were hospitably received by *Scoriath*, the king of *Tir Morcha*. This *Scoriath* had a beautiful daughter whose name was *Moriath*; and, as often happens under similar circumstances, an attachment was soon formed between this young lady and the Leinster prince. The mother soon detected the mutual partiality of the young people, and accordingly she contrived so to manage her household arrangements, that they could never find an opportunity of being so long together alone as would allow them to give expression to their thoughts. The young prince's faithful tutors saw clearly enough the state of affairs, and *Craiftine*, the *Cruitire*, determined to lend them his aid. At this time *Scoriath* invited the nobles of his territory to a great feast. The young lovers immediately held council, through the means of the poet, and the *Cruitire*, and they formed a plan of action. When the time came, the company arrived; and in the course of the feast, the cup, the tale, and the song as usual went round. *Craiftine*, the most famous of harpers, was requested in his turn to perform, a request with which he readily complied; but gradually he led them on from a joyous to a more seductive strain; and

<sup>(318)</sup> [original:—a hepa, a hoena-  
151, a uonua, a uiberga, a ruéi, a  
cruithnecht, a ceolchaitreacht, a  
binuif, a hairpoead, a hecna, a  
hairmitiu, a feif, a foglam, a  
foirceatal, a fianra, a fichéllacht,  
a bene, a uircepe, a filróecht, a

fechemnuif, afele, a foruif, a tarcaif,  
a tonéaif, ara uercent anuuar.—  
H. 2. 16. col. 746, mid.; and B. of  
*Lecan*, f. 277. b. a.]

<sup>(319)</sup> [See Lect. on the MS. Materials, etc., p. 251.]



quences were those which always followed the *Suan-* (or sleeping mode): the queen and all the company were into a happy state of unconsciousness, and the young time enough to open their minds in words, and pledge words of love and fidelity to each other. The queen was the first to awaken from the trance into which had thrown his audience; and although she found her still innocently reclining at her side, still (says she) she guessed all that had happened, and quickly roused till slumbering husband: "Arise, *Scoriath*", said she, "daughter respire the breath of a plighted wife; hear her secret of her love has passed away from her". "Not who has got it", said the king, "but the druids poets shall lose their heads if they do not discover who this". The tale goes on. "It would be a disgrace to king", said *Ferceirtne*, "to put thine own people to death". "And shall be struck off thee", said king *Scoriath*, "if it not tell me". "Tell it", said [prince] *Labraid*, "it is that I alone should suffer". It was then *Ferceirtne* conceal not that it was the musical *Ceis* of *Craiftine's* at put upon the hosts a death sleep, so that friendship aged between *Main* [that is *Labraid*] and the youth-*ath* of *Morca*; *Labraid* is above all price. It was, said he, "that embraced her after you were all sent by *Craiftine's Cruit*". He (the poet) saved his people means. "Good then", said [king] *Scoriath*, "we have light of a husband for our daughter till this night, so we we loved her; but though we had been choosing could not select a better than he] whom God has sent a banquet be prepared in the house", said he, "and wife be given away to *Labraid*; and I shall not part until he is king of *Leinster (Laighin)*".<sup>(320)</sup> The wife was then given to *Labraid*, we are told; and some afterwards, a muster of the men of *Munster* was made

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Mention of the *Cruit* in the historical tale of the "Destruction of *Dindriugh*".

g:—Eirig a Scopuá, oppr. beclao a caí anal mna lán- nte a hoimaro iar noulam uaoi. . . ni conpéar cia acino uona oimioib acar oib oppr mani fintar cia bno ainim suir, ar feir- so muicirí so marbaó. i oicra fen, ar Scopuá, u. abair, ar Labraio, ir uzgao ammoenir. Irano ycheirtu. Ni celt ceir éruit Chrairtine cocar- r luagu ruanbar, conp-

peé coibnear iter reeo main mo- juá macraét Morca; mo céé luag Labraio. Labraio, arpe, conpóaric fpe iar forcalgao so éruit Chrair- tine. Romerctrom a muicter a fu- roe. Maíé éra ar Scopuách, ni conpárlarramni cele uiar nngin connoét, ara feirc lino cia no beuir ica éoga fuidé . . . so rao uia sun. Dentar ol irin cig, oppr, acar tabar aben for laim Labraio; ocu' ni rearra fuir oppr conpóru laigen.—H. 2. 16.c ol. 755, mid.; and H. 2. 18. f. 204. b. b.]



xxxl.  
Mention of  
the *Cruit* in  
the historical  
tale of the  
"Destruction  
of *Dindri-  
gh*".

and placed at his command, with whom he marched back into Leinster. He advanced to the walls of *Dindriugh* [near *Leithghlinn*, or *Leighlin*, in the county of Carlow], the palace of his father and grandfather; and here again the magical power of *Craiftine*'s musical skill was called into requisition. When they came to the ramparts of *Dindriugh*, they held a council of war, and the decision that they came to was, that *Craiftine* should mount the rampart, and play the sleeping strain (*Suantraighe*) for the parties inside, whilst his own friends were to lie down with their faces to the ground, and their fingers in their ears, so that they should not hear the music. This was done accordingly; and the result of course was that the guards within were slaughtered, and the palace taken.

*Moriath*, *Labraid*'s young wife, however (says the story), did not think it honourable to put her fingers into her ears against her own cherished music, and therefore she fell into a sleep which continued three days; for no one dared to move her. This circumstance is preserved in the following quatrain, quoted in this very ancient tract, from the poet *Fland Mac Lonain*, who died in the year 891; an extract which sufficiently marks the great antiquity of this celebrated tale:

"In the same way that noble *Moriath* slept,  
Before the hosts of *Morca*, a long repose;  
When they destroyed *Dindriugh*—an ungallant deed—  
When the head-sleeping *Ceis* sent forth its music"<sup>(321)</sup>

I gave on a former occasion a full account of this ancient tale of the Destruction of *Dindriugh*;<sup>(322)</sup> and I introduce this reference to it again, only to call particular attention to two passages so remarkable as to the ancient Irish *Cruit*, and the three wonderful musical strains, or feats of performance which marked the *Cruitire* of eminence. Of themselves these references would give us but very little actual knowledge of the precise character of the *Cruit*, if the word *Ceis*, which occurs three times at periods remote from each other, in connection with the *Cruit*, did not occur also in another piece of composition of a period lying somewhere near midway between these periods.

When king *Scoriath* threatened *Ferceirtne* with the loss of his head, the poet's words were these: I conceal not that it was the musical *Ceis*, of *Craiftine*'s *Cruit*, that put upon the hosts a death sleep", etc.<sup>(323)</sup> This, the first occurrence of the word *Ceis*

First occur-  
rence of the  
word *Ceis* in  
this tale;

<sup>(321)</sup> [original:—  
Feib concatail muirnach muad,  
fiad fluas Morca mocaé feol;  
Dianoré Dmórúg—nem cín tpep—  
Diarparaino ceip cenocoll ceol.  
—*Ibid.* H. 2. 16. col. 755, bot.]

<sup>(322)</sup> [See Lectures on MS. Materials, etc., p. 252.]

<sup>(323)</sup> [See *ante*, vol. ii, p. 243.]

that I have met with, is referred to a sentence said to have been spoken by a poet who flourished about four hundred years before the Incarnation of our Lord, according to the chronology of the "Annals of the Four Masters". It occurs again under date of the year 592, in reference to the passage to which attention is now to be directed, though, I fear, in a discursive way.

In a former lecture, I gave an account of the National Assembly called by the monarch *Aedh Mac Ainmire* (A.D. 573) with a view to banish the surplus professors and students of the sciences out of the country, in consequence of the too great increase of their numbers as a privileged class, and the exorbitance of their demands upon the working people, and held at *Drom Ceat* (near the present town of Limavady [*Leim-a-Mha-daigh*], in the county of Derry).

*St. Colum Cille* having heard of this meeting and its objects, and being a great patron of literature, came over from his island home at *I*, or *Iona*, whither he had retired from the world to appease the king and the people, and quite unexpectedly appeared at the meeting. The poets at this time, with *Dallan Forghall* as their chief, were collected in all their numbers, in the vicinity of the hill of meeting, anxiously awaiting their fate; but their anxiety was soon relieved, as their able advocate had so much influence with the monarch and his people, as to procure a satisfactory termination to the misunderstanding between them and their poets.

The poets, on learning this happy turn in their favour, arose with their chiefs at their head, and went in a body to the meeting, each man of them who had a company (that is, who was a master) having a laudatory poem for the saint; and the chief of each band, we are told, sang his poem (all in chorus); and *Aidbsi*, that is *Corus Cronáin*, (that is, scientific purring chorus) was the name of that music [i.e. the air to which they sang] and it was the most excellent of music, as *Colman Mac Lenene* said:

"As the blackbird to the swans,

As the ounce to the *Dirna*,

As the shapes of plebeian women to the shapes of queens,

As any other king to *Domnall*,

As a single murmur to an *Aidbsi*,

As a rushlight to a candle,

So is any other sword [compared] to my sword".<sup>(324)</sup>

<sup>(324)</sup> [original:—

.i. vepeib na luin, farrmas ne neta

Luin oc heolais,

.i. viorra aom comair moir na ac viorraib.

uiz: o viorraib,

XXXI.  
occurs again  
in connection  
with the  
Assembly of  
*Drom Ceat*,  
A.D. 573;

*Aidbsi*, or  
*Corus Cronáin*, men-  
tioned in  
connection  
with poems  
in praise of  
*St. Colum  
Cille* sung at  
this Assem-  
bly;



XXXI.

That is to say, according to an interlined gloss on these lines : as the blackbirds are contemptible near the swans ; as the ounce is contemptible near the *Dirna* ; [the name for a large mass of metal] ; as all kings are contemptible near king *Domnall* ; as all music is contemptible near the *Aidbsi* ; as one small candle is contemptible near a large royal candle ; so was any other sword contemptible compared to his own sword. The sword would appear to have been a present from some great man to the poet. It will be seen that one of these seven lines (quoted from some ancient poem) cites an example of their author's low estimate of all kinds and combinations of music compared to the *Aidbsi*, which was that which was sung by the poets for St. *Colum Cille*.

meaning of  
the word  
*Aidbsi* ;

The word *Aidbsi* in its simple, ordinary signification, means nothing more than great, or greatness ; but, in its technical musical signification, it means the singing of a multitude in chorus. It would appear, however, that the *Aidbsi* was not the music to which the body of the poem in praise of St. *Colum Cille* was sung, because this was the performance of each person for himself, but it was the low murmuring accompaniment or chorus, in which the crowd took part at the end of each verse, and which, from its name of *Crónán*, must have been produced in the throat, like the purring of a cat. The word *Aidbsi* would appear to have been used also to denote the lamentation at great funerals, where one man or one woman sang the praises of the dead to a specially appropriate air, of which many varieties still live, and in which the whole concourse of the funeral took part, by taking up along with the singer, at the end of each verse, this curious, murmuring chorus ; the sound of which, though produced in the throat, was not unmusical or monotonous, but one capable of various modifications of distinct, musical tones, ascending from the deepest bass to the highest treble.

the author  
heard the  
*Crónán*, or  
throat  
accompani-  
ment to  
dirges ;

I have, myself, often heard with pleasure this *Crónán*, or throat accompaniment, without words, performed to old Irish dirges ; and I very well know how it was produced, and could even attempt an imitation of it. But, I have never heard the *Crónán* fully sung in concert ; and I have known only two men

críóta ban náeteē o criocharb rígha,  
ríg ic Domnall,

.i. verpól cáe céol rarrmas arobri,  
soipó ic arobri,

.i. verpól oenčaimnell bec hí rarrmas cainte more  
suanó oc cainnill,

.i. cláreob

colc oc mo choilece. Acas innóeneēt so gñitir in ceol  
rín.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 3. a. b. line 6.]

who were proficient in it; one of them was my own father; the other was John Molony, a younger and better performer. They were both large men. My father sang Irish songs better than any man I ever knew; but John Molony could not sing at all.

XXXI.

Many of our popular writers speak of an old woman "croning" in the corner; they mean by this that she is humming some sort of a tune. The word "croning", however, is a misapplied and shortened form of "cronaning", which is an Anglicised way of saying that she was singing a *Crónán*, which, as I have just said, was not humming, but a kind of purring. They have gone so far indeed as to form a generic noun from the corrupt word "croning"; and the word "crone", as an old woman, is now to be found in the English dictionaries, on the presumption, it may be observed, that every woman is old who hums in imitation of the old Irish *Crónán*!

origin of the word "crone";

There may be many persons still living in various parts of Ireland, who have heard this *Crónán* from their fathers; and there may be some who can produce it; but in my youthful days, and within the range of my acquaintance, though I have known many to attempt it, I never knew but the two persons already mentioned who succeeded in it.

The same practice of lauding the living and lamenting the dead, and in the same way, was anciently followed in Scotland; but what in Ireland was called *Aidbsi*, was there called *Cepóg*. This word *Cepóg* was well known in Ireland too; and it is singular to find that in neither country is either of these words now remembered. Both words, however, are entered in O'Reilly's "Irish-English Dictionary", but without sufficient explanation; and Stewart, in his "Gaelic Dictionary", has the word *Aidhbhsi* explained in the same way as O'Reilly, but he has not the *Cepóg*. That the word *Cepóg* for a song of praise or elegy, was well known in ancient Ireland as in Scotland, will be seen from a short story, preserved in the "Book of Ballymote" [which will be found in Lecture xxxvii., where the words *Aidbsi* and *Cepóg* are very fully discussed in their appropriate place].

the Irish *Aidbsi* known in Scotland as *Cepóg*;

the word *Cepóg* known in Ireland also.

But to return to St. *Colum Cille* and *Dallan Forgall*. The poets having chaunted their laudatory poems and performed their wonderful musical strain for their friend and patron, the chief poet of Erin and head of all the others, whose name was *Dallan Forgall*, that is (*Forgall* the blind), came forward chaunting the commencement of an extempore poem in praise of St. *Colum Cille*. But when he had sung the first verse of it, the saint stopped him, saying that the strain was an elegiac one, and should not be composed until after his death. And he further

The Assembly of *Drom Ceat* continued:



XXXI.  
Dallan For-  
gall's elegy  
on St. Colum  
Cille;

said to the poet: "In whatever place you are, you shall hear of my death when it occurs".

After this the meeting of *Drom Ceat* broke up. St. *Colum Cille* returned to his home at *I*, or *Iona*, and the poets dispersed themselves throughout the country, in strict accordance with the arrangements made for them at the great meeting. Now, seven years after that event, the chief poet *Dallan For-gall* was travelling with his retinue in the neighbourhood of *Loch Uair* (now Loch Owel, near the present town of Mullingar in Westmeath), and they were overtaken on the road by a strange horseman. Some of the poet's people asked the stranger if he had any news; and he answered that he had what was bad news for the *Ui Neill* (that is, for the people of Meath and Ulster), for that their great patron St. *Colum Cille* was dead. The moment the chief poet, *Dallan Forgall*, heard these words, he recollected what the saint had told him, and that he also charged him, that the very words in which his death should be announced to him, should be the words with which his poem on his death should commence; and immediately the poet commenced in the words of the stranger:

"It is not good news for the *Ui Neill*".<sup>(325)</sup>

And making straight for *Port Loman*, on the brink of the above lake, had finished his poem when he arrived there.

the word  
*Ceis* again  
occurs in  
this poem

It is in this very ancient and celebrated poem that the passage occurs to which I desire to direct notice: for in the nineteenth line the poet describes Ireland and Scotland after the loss of their great saint in these words:

"A *Cruit* without a *Ceis*, a church without an abbot".<sup>(326)</sup>

*Ceis* here  
represents  
part of the  
harp,

That the *Ceis* mentioned here, as well as in the former references to it, in the story of the princess *Moriath*, and *Craiftine's Cruit*, is represented as an essential part of the harp, and of remote antiquity, will be apparent from the following gloss, or rather commentary on the above line of *Dallan Forgall's* poem, as it is found in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, of which the existing copy was made before the year 1106. And it is strange indeed that at this early time, and while the harp or *Cruit* was still the distinguishing instrument of the nation, that any doubt or difficulty could exist as to the precise signification and use of the *Ceis*.

as shown by  
a scholium  
in *Leabhar  
na h-Uidhre*;

Thus speaks the commentator just alluded to: "*Ceis*, that is, a means of fastening; or a path to the knowledge of the music; or *Ceis* is the name of a small *Cruit* which accompanies a large *Cruit* in co-playing; or, it is the name of the little pin (or key) which retains the string in the wood of the *Cruit*; or [it is the

<sup>(325)</sup> [original:—*hí v̄irceóil v̄'ib n̄éll.*]

<sup>(326)</sup> [original:—*īr cr̄ut cen ceīr, īr c̄éll cen ab̄ar.*]

name of] the *Cobhluigi* [the two strings called the sisters]; or it is the name of the heavy string [or bass]; or, the *Ceis* in the *Cruit* is what keeps the counterpart with its strings in it, as the poet said, that is, *Nos*, the son of *Find*, cecinit; or *Ferceirtne* the poet:

“ I conceal not [said he] that it was the *Ceis* of *Craiftine’s Cruit* That threw the host into a death sleep, Until *Labraid* and *Moriath* of *Morca* were united;— Beyond all price did she prize *Labraid*, Sweeter than all the music was the *Cruit*, Which was played for *Labraid*, *Loingsiuch Lore*; Though the prince was before that dumb, *Craiftine’s Ceis* was not concealed”.<sup>(327)</sup>

Even these stanzas have an interlined gloss, but it could not be made appreciable to the ear; and I must also indeed admit that it is difficult for a popular audience to catch the force and point of so necessarily stiff and close a translation as I have found myself bound to give of this important commentary.

It may be perceived that the commentator quotes two stanzas from *Ferceirtne’s* answer to king *Scoriath*, the father of the princess *Moriath*; but he appears to be uncertain whether the words

antiquity of the tale of the “Destruction of *Dindrigh*” proved by this schollum;

(327) [original:—

.i. ceif cat arctosa, no coi vif in ciuil;  
 If cruit cen ceif, if cell cen abair,  
 .i. céif ainm do éruit bic bír i comaitéet cruite móre hicomrinn;  
 no ainm son veigain bic fortar in ceit himmuoe na cróte;  
 no dona coblaigib; no ainm son trom éet; no ifi in ceif ifi cruite  
 an ní congbar in léirino cona étaib inti, ut vixit poeta, nof  
 mac fimo cecinit; no feréertne file.  
 .i. ní roéel nof mac fimo no feréertne fili. .i. cruitepe  
 Nicelt ceif ceol ve cruite Craiftine  
 .i. vo pac .i. bar covalta  
 corelarfar for fluaza ruanbar  
 .i. p̄  
 conferit coibniur, eteri rceo main Moruadet macracht  
 .i. p̄ gentif  
 Morca;  
 .i. labras vo loingsiuc arba balb  
 bamo lé cech log labriero,  
 ba binniu céé ceol in criot  
 .i. labras loingsiuc mac dihol mac veg mac ugaini moir  
 arrete laibriaro loingsrec loic.  
 .i. eiar vo balb nemi rin  
 ciarboóét for iune in ri  
 ni no éelt ceif Craiftini.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, f. 5. a.  
 a. top.]



XXXI.

were really to be ascribed to *Ferceirtne*, or to *Nos*, the son of *Find*, a poet to whom I have never met any other allusion. And this uncertainty places the antiquity and authenticity of the old tale of the Destruction of *Dindrih* in a much higher and more important light; because, if its tradition or history had not been of remote antiquity, there could scarcely be any doubt about the identity of the poet at the early time at which this commentator must have lived. And we further collect from this commentary, that there must, in ancient times, have existed a much more extensive and detailed version of the destruction of *Dindrih*, than the short condensed tract which is now extant; and that it contained a whole poem of the character of the additional ancient stanza quoted in this commentary,—that stanza which declares that “Sweeter than all music was the *Cruit*”, which *Craiftine* played.

the word  
*Ceis* glossed  
in all ancient  
copies of the  
elegy on St.  
*Colum Cille*.

It is strange indeed, as I have already observed, that at so early a date as about the year 1100, when our copy of the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* was made, there should have been any difficulty as to the precise signification of the word *Ceis*; and not only then, but when the “*Liber Hymnorum*” was written, which was about the year 900; and not only at that time, but at a time much farther back—in fact at whatever time *Dallan Forgall*'s elegy for St. *Colum Cille* first came to require an explanatory gloss. It is not only in the copy of this celebrated poem preserved in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre* that the gloss on the word *Ceis* is found, but in all the ancient copies of it that I am acquainted with, and which amount to four, namely, that already referred to in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, another in H. 2. 16, or the “*Yellow Book of Lecan*”, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin; another in the “*Liber Hymnorum*” in the same library, and another in a vellum MS., lately purchased by the British Museum, at the sale of Mr. William Monck Mason's library.

The quotation and commentary that I have just quoted, are taken, as I mentioned, from the ancient *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*; but the following version of the same commentary is taken from the other ancient copy of the meeting at *Drom Ceat*, and the poem on St. *Colum Cille*, preserved in the “*Yellow Book of Lecan*”, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin.

Scholium in  
MS. H. 2. 16.  
T.C.D.;

This version is as follows: “A *Cruit* without a *Ceis* (are Ireland and Scotland after him), that is, without a means of securing the strings [below], that is, without a knot [on the ends of the strings]. Or without *Cobhluighe* [that is, the strings called the sisters]; or they are a *Cruit* without a heavy string [a bass], or a *Cruit* without a string of knowledge such as *Cairbre* the harper had; that is the string of knowledge, which was in

*Cairbre's* harp; [and whenever he struck that string] there was not from the rising of the sun to its going down any secret of which he was ignorant. Ireland and Scotland, then, are a *Cruit* without a *Ceis* after him [St. Colum Cille], or, that it was for a small *Cruit*, *Ceis* was the name, and it was along with a large *Cruit* it used to be played; for the fine strings were in the small *Cruit*, and the heavy strings in the great *Cruit*, and it was together they were played; and Erin and Scotland are [as] a *Cruit* without a *Ceis* after him, as the poet said, and it was *Dallan* himself that sang:—

“The cure of a physician without a medicine-bag,  
The parting of the marrow from the bone,  
Singing with a *Cruit* without a *Ceis*,  
Such are we after our noble protector”.

“Or”, continues the commentator, “it was a *Cruit* without any one of the three tunings (*Glésa*) which served to *Craifstine* the harper, namely *Suantraigh*, and *Goltraigh*, and *Gentraigh*, for the sleeping, the crying, and the laughing modes”<sup>(328)</sup>

The copy in the British Museum adds nothing of value, except the words fastening below, introduced into the last version.

The following is the short version in the “*Liber Hymnorum*”: gloss in *Liber Hymnorum*;

“*Ceis* is the name of a small *Cruit* which accompanied a large *Cruit* at playing upon; or the name of a nail on which the strings called *Lethrind* were fastened; or the name of the little pin; or the name of the [strings called the] *Cobhluighe* (or sisters); or the name of the heavy string”<sup>(329)</sup>

The word *Lethrind* we shall come to presently; it means here, probably, the treble strings.

Among the other parts of the harp which the commentator surmises the *Ceis* to have been, were the *Cobhluighe* and the *Lethrind*. Now, the word *Cobhla*, which is the singular of parts of the harp surmised to have been the *Ceis*,—the *Cobhluighe*, or “sisters”, and the *Lethrind*;

<sup>(328)</sup> [original:—*Ar epot cen céir, .i. cen cae rair, .i. cen earraíom. no cen coblaig; no ar cruít cen epom theit, no ar cruít cen teo fir amail no boi ic Cairbhu; .i. an téo fir no bu a cruít Cairbhu; acas an tan no glúaireo an teo rin, mbro o tuicbaíl co fúineao ni a nairfir do. Ir cruít cen teo fir éirí acas alba oia eppream, no comao da éruít bic buo ainm céir, acas maílle re cruít moir; no penntea uair na goloca irín éruít big, acas na epom éavao rin éruít moir, acas amail no penntea; acas ar éruít cen éol éirí acas alba oia éir; ut poeta oiaic, acas comao e Dóllan ren oiaic.*

*Ar leiger lega cenler, ar veavail rmeapa fir rmuar, ir ampan fir cruít cen céir, Sinn veir ar nargaru uair.*  
no ar cruít cen gler do na tri gler-  
raib do fognaoír do Chraifstine  
cruítirí, .i. ruantraig, acas zoll-  
traig, acas zentraig, acas rin an-  
annmann.—H. 2. 16. col. 689.]

<sup>(329)</sup> [original:—*Ceir ainm do cruít bic bir hi comatecht cruít móru h-ica reinn; no ainm do éarraing ar a mbi in lethrinno; no ainm don veigam bic; no ainm dona coblaigib; no don epom theit.—E. 4. 2. Liber Hymnorum (in ampa Colum), f. 82. b.]*



XXXI. *Cobhluighe*, is explained in our ancient glossaries as *Camhlúth*, that is, simultaneous motion; and it is in this sense that *Comhladh* is the ancient name of a door; because, as stated in *Cor-mac's Glossary*, it moves simultaneously upon its hinges above and below.

It is remarkable that in the long apocryphal list of the names of the harp strings, printed by the late Edward Bunting in his "Ancient Music of Ireland", the word *Cobhluighe* occurs twice. In the first place, at page 21, concealed under the slightly corrupt orthography of *Caomhluighe*, and translated, "lying together"; and, in the second place, at page 32, where it is correctly enough written *comhluighe*, and translated, "stretched together". There can be no doubt, then, that Bunting's *Caomhluighe*, and our commentator's *Cobhluighe*, mean one and the same thing; and the following foot-note in Bunting's book, page 21, will very well maintain the etymology which I have ventured to give above, as well as the identity of the names of these strings:

"*Caomhluighe*, called by the harpers 'the sisters', were two strings in unison, which were the first tuned to the proper pitch; they answered to the tenor G, fourth string on the violin, and nearly divided the instrument into bass and treble".

That the practice of harmony—the use of the musical chord, existed in Ireland from a very remote period, is clearly shown in the commentary given above, where the writer at one time surmises that, perhaps, *Ceis* was the name of a small harp which accompanied a large harp; indicating that the large harp contained the heavy or bass strings, whilst the small harp contained the thin or treble strings, and that it was together they were played. Now, the harmonious unison of the two harps, when playing together—small string against large string, and large string against small string—exactly produces musical harmony.

*Leithrind*, or  
half har-  
mony, and

It is evident that the word *Leithrind*, or half harmony, was not originally intended for either the large or the small harp, but for a constituent part of a single harp—namely, that part which held either the bass or the treble strings, divided by the *cobhluighe*, or "sisters".

*Rind*, or full  
harmony;

Along with this, in O'Davoren's "Irish Glossary", compiled in the latter half of the sixteenth century, I find the word *Rind*, i.e. music, with corresponding music against it.<sup>(330)</sup> In other words, *Rind* was music consisting of full harmony, while *Leithrind*, or half *Rind*, was one or either of the two corresponding parts which produced the harmonious whole, and these parts were the bass and treble notes, or the bass and treble strings—

<sup>(330)</sup> [original:—*Rinn a. ceol co curtoir na aghao.*]

the *Trom Theada*, and the *Goloca*, or the heavy and the thin strings, either of which, the commentator on *Dallan Forgaill's* elegy on *St. Colum Cille* surmised to be the *Ceis* mentioned in that poem, and without which the harp had lost its life and harmony.

So far I have endeavoured to give a description of the harp, and an idea of its musical powers, such as I could frame from the statements found in our most ancient historic tales and romantic writings. I am sorry to have to acknowledge, however, that I am not able to decide with certainty upon what the *Ceis* of the *Cruit* precisely was; but why should I take blame to myself for my shortcomings on this point, when we see how uncertain were the writers even of the eleventh and earlier centuries as to the exact meaning of this same word? All this difficulty of understanding this ancient term, however, goes to show the extreme antiquity of the harp, either as a complex whole, or as formed of two independent but imperfect parts—namely, the large and the small harps, the combination, or the co-playing of which was necessary to make a perfect harmonious whole. But, though I cannot speak with authority as to what exactly the *Ceis* was, yet there is good reason to think that it was no material part of the harp after all, but that the word signifies simply the harmonized tones or tune of the instrument. We have seen that on different occasions, the father, mother, and household of the princess *Moriath*, and herself afterwards, slept profoundly under the magical spell of the *Ceis* of *Craiftine's* harp. Surely it could not have been any material part of the harp, except the strings, that could have produced this extraordinary effect. Surely it could only have been the richness of the harmony of the instrument as so played. It is not easy to say whether the word *Ceis* refers to that harmony or that mode of playing, or to a necessary portion of the particular kind of harp played on.

We have seen from the words ascribed to the poet *Ferceirtne* in answer to *Scoriath*, the king of West Munster, that "I conceal not that it was the *Ceis* of *Craiftine's* harp" which sent the king with his household to sleep; and, strange to say, we find the scholiast on these lines in the eleventh and earlier centuries quite at a loss to understand what it was precisely that this word *Ceis* signified. The scholiast in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, copied before the year 1106, surmises, etymologically, that *Ceis* is a condensation of the two words *Cai Astuda*, that is, a means of fastening, or *Coi d'fis in ciuil*, that is, a path to the knowledge of the music; or that *Ceis* was the name of a small harp which accompanied a large harp in co-playing; or that it

XXXI.

difficulty of  
determining  
what *Ceis*  
was;

not a part of  
the harp;

summary of  
the views of  
the commen-  
tators as to  
meaning of  
*Ceis*.



XXXI.

was the name of the little pin which retains the string in the wood [that is, the harmonic curve] of the harp; or that it was the name of the strings which are called "the sisters", or of the bass string; or that the *Ceis* in the harp was what kept the counterpart strings of that part in their proper places in the harp. Again, in the scholium on the same line of *Dallan For-gall's* poem in the "Yellow Book of Lecan", compiled in the year 1391, we find that a harp without a *Ceis* was a harp without a means of tightening, that is, without a knot (on the ends of the string below), that is, without a fastening pin; or without a bass string; or without a string of knowledge such as *Cairbre* the harper (of whom I happen to know nothing more) had in his harp; or that *Ceis* was the name of a small harp which was played along with a large harp, for that the small strings were in the small harp, while the heavy strings were in the large harp; or that it was a harp without a *Glés* (that is a tuning) of the three *Glésa* which were known to *Craiftine* the harper, namely, the sleeping tune, the crying tune, and the laughing tune.

A fourth reference to the *Ceis* is found in the very ancient tale of *Toghail Bruidhne Da Choga*, or the Destruction of the mansion of the Two Equal Masters, who were two smiths by profession.

Fourth refer-  
ence to the  
word *Ceis* in  
an ancient  
tale in *Leab-*  
*har na h-*  
*Uidhre*.

It may be remembered from former lectures, that *Fergus Mac Roigh*, the celebrated prince of Ulster, had exiled himself in Connacht after the tragical death of the sons of *Uisnech* while under his protection, by command of *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, the king of Ulster. *Fergus* was accompanied in his exile by *Cormac Conloinges*, son of king *Conchobar*. On the death of the latter, his son *Cormac* was invited back to Ulster, and having accepted the invitation, he set out from *Rath Cruachain* in Roscommon, crossed the Shannon at Athlone, and sought rest for the night at the mansion of the two smiths. [The ruined fort of this mansion is shown still on the hill of *Bruágh-ean Mhor* or the Great Mansion, in the parish of Drumaney, barony of Kilkenny West, and county of Westmeath]. The house was beset in the night by the men of Leinster, and *Cormac* with the most of his people killed.

The tale of this slaughter relates that *Cormac* had been the former lover of a Connacht lady named *Sceamb*, who afterwards became the wife of a famous harper named *Craiftine*; and it is stated that on the night of the attack on *Cormac*, *Craiftine*, in a fit of jealousy, attended outside with his harp, and played for him a *Ceis Cendtoll*, that is, a head-sleeping, or a debilitating *Ceis*, or tune which left him an easy prey to his enemies.

A fifth reference to a *Cruit*, or harp without a *Ceis*, is found

in an ancient poem of general instructions to a new king, but evidently intended for a king of Munster, probably for *Cormac Mac Cuileannain* in the ninth century. The poem consists of thirty-seven quatrains, in the twenty-third of which the poet, dilating on the advantages of a good king to his people, says:

“ This world is every man’s world in his turn,  
 There is no prophet but the true God;  
 Like a company without a chief, like a harp without a  
*Ceis*,  
 Are the people after their king”.<sup>(331)</sup>

Another term for the harmony or proper tune of the harp was *Coir* (which literally signifies propriety), as has been already shown in speaking of the great *Tuath Dé Danann* harp, and in the quotation from Dr. Keating’s poem on his harper. The following passage from the Brehon Laws will illustrate this fact:

“ *Coir* is concealed from harps when one string is broken, that is *Coir* is completely concealed from the harp when one string is wanting to it, so that its harmony (or *Coicetal*) is destroyed, according to propriety. The *Coir* (or propriety) of harmony is dissolved, that is, the *Coir* (or propriety) of playing is concealed, when one string of the harp has been broken”.<sup>(332)</sup>

Now from all of the foregoing commentaries, and notwithstanding their uncertainty in many respects, it is, I think, a reasonable deduction on the whole, independently of the words of *Ferceirtne* and *Mac Lonain*, that the *Ceis* was the mere harmony of the harp, or that the word denoted only the mode of playing upon it in harmony, that is, with a bass. This point would seem to be in fact decided by the last paragraph of the scholium from the “Yellow Book of *Lecan*”, which supposes the harp without a *Ceis* to be a harp without any one of the three *Glésa*, or tunings, by which *Craiftine*, as well as the other older harpers, produced such wonderful effect. Now it happens that the word *Glés*, which is here put for *Ceis*, has been a living word from the oldest times down to our own, and always understood to signify preparing, setting, or tuning; and not only this, but the name of the tuning-key itself is still on ancient record, and in such a position as to leave no doubt

XXXI.  
 Fifth reference to *Ceis* in an ancient poem.

*Coir* another term for harmony, synonymous with *Ceis*;

Author concludes that *Ceis* meant either harmony or the mode of playing with a bass.

The word *Glés* mentioned in scholium in H. 2. 16, a living word;

(331) [original:—

an bioē-ro ar bioē caic ar uair,  
 ni bpuil fear ácc ríada ríor;  
 cuire gan cenn, cruic gan ceir  
 ramail na tuait v'eir an ríú.

O'Conor Don MSS., R.I.A., p. 917.]

(332) [original:—Oiciallat coir a  
 cpoctab conbongar den céo, .i.  
 abal viciethar a cóir ar in cruic o

bui earbasad don ceo eirte, conio  
 eipilcmach a coicetal uimpe vo  
 reir cóir. Tairchmether coir a coi-  
 cetal, .i. viciethar coir, in tream-  
 ma obruirter don ceo in cruic.—  
 H. 3. 17. 438. Vide imécét na tnom  
 vaithe, Betham MSS., R.I.A., cxx. p.  
 39.]



xxx. whatever of what it was, and its close relation to the word *Glés*. The name of this instrument was *Crann-Glésa*, or tuning-tree; and we find it mentioned in the Brehon Laws among the articles for which there was a special law for their prompt recovery, if borrowed and not duly returned. Here it is called *Comhobair gach ciuil, edhon Crann Glésa*, that is, "The instrument of all music, namely, the *Crann Glésa*, or tuning tree". [H. 3. 17. p. 403½.] With this instrument of course the strings were strictly tuned, so as to make it possible to play in full harmony of chords.

the *Crann-Gléasta* mentioned in a poem of the 18th century;

And again. In a single stanza, some hundreds of years old, preserved in a paper MS. of about the year 1740, in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, and prophetic of the decline of the harp in this country, the poet says:

"The *Crann-Gléasta* will be lost,  
Strings will be thickly broken,  
The *Corr* will drop out of the *Lamhchrann*,  
And the *Com* will go down the stream".<sup>(333)</sup>

this poem contains the names of the principal parts of the harp;

This is an important stanza, for it gives us distinctly, what is exceedingly rare to be met with, the names of the chief members, or parts of the harp. The *Crann Gléasta* is clearly the tuning tree or key; the *Corr* is the cross tree, or harmonic curve; the *Lamhchrann* is the front pillar, and the *Com* is the belly or sound-board. The only loss is, that we have not in this, or in any other stanza, the distinctive names of the different classes of strings, such as *Trom-Théda* for the heavy string; *Cobhluighe*, for the strings called the sisters; and *Golóca*, for the light strings. These names indeed I have only met in the above scholium on *Dallan Forgall's* elegy on *St. Colum Cille*.

the names of the different classes of strings only found in this scholium to the elegy on *St. Colum Cille*.

<sup>(333)</sup> [original]:—Caillfeap an crann gléasta,  
Driifear céad go tuig,  
Tuitfid in corr ar in lámhcrann,  
I' rocaid an com ne rrué.—H. 4. 20. f. 92.]

## LECTURE XXXII.

[Delivered June 17th, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Reference to the different parts of a harp in a poem of the seventeenth century. The number of strings not mentioned in references to harps, except in two instances; the first is in the tale of the *Iubar Mic Aingis* or the "Yew Tree of *Mac Aingis*"; the instrument mentioned in this tale was not a *Cruit*, but a three stringed *Timpan*; the second reference is to be found in the Book of *Lecan*, and the instrument is eight stringed. The instrument called "Brian Boru's Harp" has thirty strings. Reference to a many stringed harp in the seventeenth century. Attention paid to the harp in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. References to the *Timpan* as late as the seventeenth century, proving it to have been a stringed instrument. The *Timpan* was distinguished from the *Cruit* or full harp. No very ancient harp preserved. The harp in Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. Petrie's account of it; summary of Dr. Petrie's conclusions. Dr. Petrie's serious charge against the Chevalier O'Gorman. Some curious references to harps belonging to O'Briens which the author has met with: *Mac Connidhe's* poem on *Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien*; *Mac Connidhe's* poem on the harp of the same O'Brien; the poem does not explain how the harp went to Scotland. What became of this harp? Was it the harp presented by Henry the Eighth to the Earl of Clanrickard? Perhaps it suggested the harp-coinage, which was in circulation in Henry the Eighth's time. The Chevalier O'Gorman only mistook one Donogh O'Brien for another. There can be no doubt that this harp did once belong to the Earl of Clanrickard. If the harp was an O'Neill harp, how could its story have been invented and published in the lifetime of those concerned? Arthur O'Neill may have played upon the harp, but it could not have been his; this harp is not an O'Neill, but an O'Brien one; Dr. Petrie's antiquarian difficulties: author's answer; as to the monogram I. H. S.; as to the arms on the escutcheon. The assertion of Dr. Petrie, that the sept of O'Neill is more illustrious than that of O'Brien, is incorrect.

At the close of the last Lecture I quoted a stanza containing an old authority for the names of the three principal parts of the harp. But even in comparatively modern times also we may find authority for these names, and for the form of the instrument, which seems to have remained the same.

I have in my possession a curious poem of twenty-six quatrains, written by Pierce Ferriter, of Ferriter's Cove, on the coast of the county of Kerry, about the year 1640, on a harp which had been presented to him. Pierce Ferriter was a gentleman and a scholar, a poet and a musician; and he wrote this Gaedhelic poem in praise of a certain harp which was presented to him by Mr. Edmond *Mac an Daill*, the son of Mr. *Donnell Mac an Daill*, of *Magh Lorg*, in the county of Roscommon. In this poem he speaks of the harp under both the Gaedhelic names of *Cruit* and *Clairseach* (the former, of course, being by

Reference to the different parts of a harp in a poem of the seventeenth century.

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Reference to  
the different  
parts of a  
harp in a  
poem of the  
seventeenth  
century.

far the more ancient name); and, as there are some interesting details introduced into his verses, I may quote a few stanzas of them here. At the tenth stanza, the poet, speaking of his harp, calls it—

“The key of music and its gate,  
The wealth, the abode of poetry;  
The skilful, neat Irishwoman,  
The richly festive moaner.

“Children in dire sickness, men in deep wounds,  
Sleep at the sounds of its crimson board;  
The merry witch has chased all sorrow,  
The festive home of music and delight.

“It found a *Cor* in a fruitful wood in [*Magh*] *Aoi*;  
And a *Lamh-chrann* in the Fort of *Seantraoi*,—  
The rich sonorous discourser of the musical notes;  
And a comely *Com* from *Eas dá Econn*.

“It found *Mac Sithduill* to plan it,  
It found *Cathal* to be its artificer,  
And *Beannnglan*,—great the honour,—  
Got [to do] its fastenings of gold and its emblazoning.

“Excellent indeed was its other adorer in gold,  
*Parthalon More Mac Cathail*,  
The harp of the gold and of the gems,  
The prince of decorators is *Parthalon*.”<sup>(330)</sup>

This harp, the poet says, found its *Corr*, that is, its harmonic curve, or crosstree, was found in the fruitful woods of *Magh Aoi*, in the plains of Roscommon. It found its *Lamhchrann*, that is, its front pillar was found at the fort of *Seantraoi* (a place I am unable to identify); and it found its *Com*, that is, its sound-board was found at *Eas da Econn*, now the falls of Ballyshannon, in the county of Donegal. In the same language he goes on to name the artificers. So it was *Mac Sithduill* that designed it, and *Cathal* that made it; and it was bound and emblazoned by *Beannnglan*, and it was decorated with gold and gems by *Parthalon Mor Mac Cathail*. So that in this instance, so great was

<sup>(334)</sup> [original:—  
Eochar an deóil ra éomla,  
ionnmur, teag na halaóna;  
an éipeannac garoa glan,  
geimeannac blaíoa biaómar.  
Aor pínálar, pínónta,  
coolaro nír an cclar ccorra;  
an beo baob vonbrón vobur,  
ceol aob an oil ran aobnir.  
Fuair corr a cnuar éoil i naoi  
acar lamchrann a lior Sentraroi,—  
brearóac maólonn na cclar  
ccorr;—

ir caom éom ó ear [ra] Econn.  
Fuair mac Sithduill dá ruidéac,  
fuair Cathal dá ceorúgeac,  
ir fuair beannnglan, mór an móo,  
a ceanglaó vór ra hionnloó.  
Maíe a hoínéaro eile sun,  
páréalán mór mac Cathail,  
clairreac an óir rna nallán,  
vóis na prairreac páréalán.  
—Miscellaneous Poems, chiefly copied  
from the O'Connor Don's Book,  
O'Curry MSS., Cath. Univ., p. 294.]



the care bestowed on the manufacture of a harp, that it engaged the professional skill of four distinct artists,—the modeller, the wood-worker and carpenter, the binder and emblazoner, and the decorator; and the services of these artizans are referred to as if their occupations were in the usual course, each of them living by his own independent art. The shape and general design of the ancient harp, and the materials used in its framework, are then frequently alluded to; but there is, unfortunately, one great omission in all the references to the harp that I have met with—I mean the absence of any allusion to the number of strings which it properly contained. I have, indeed, met one or two references to harps of a certain limited number of strings; but it is evident from their being so particularized, that they were exceptions to the general rule. To these references I have next to direct your attention.

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The number of strings not mentioned in references to harps except in two instances:

The first of them, and which is contained in the tale called *Iubhar Mic Aingis*, or the Yew Tree of *Mac Aingis* (which alludes to a harp of the kind called *Timpan*), is of undoubtedly great antiquity, though the tale is one of those belonging to the most fabulous class, as far as the incident connected with the harp is concerned. The tale is preserved in very old language in the "Book of Leinster", and may be shortly stated as follows:—

the first is in the tale of the "Yew Tree of *Mac Aingis*";

*Oilioll Oluim* (the ancestor of the great families of south and north Munster, and who was king of that province, died after a long reign, in the year of our Lord 234), was married to *Sadhbh* (or *Sabia*), the daughter of the monarch of Erinn *Conn* of the Hundred Battles, and widow of *Mac Niadh*, a distinguished Munster prince; and *Sadhbh* had a son by her first husband, named *Lugaidh*, more popularly called *Mac Con*, and several sons by *Oilioll*, her second husband, the eldest of whom was *Eoghan Mór*, or Eugene the Great. So much as to the personages mentioned in this story, which proceeds as follows:

"At a certain time [this] *Eoghan*, the son of *Oilioll* [*Oluim*], and *Lugaidh Mac Con*, his stepbrother, set out to pay a visit to *Art*, the son of *Conn* [monarch of Erinn], their mother's brother, who was then on a visit in Connacht, for the purpose of receiving some bridle-steeds from him. Now, as they were passing over the river *Maigh* or *Maigue* [at *Caher-ass*, in the county of Limerick], they heard music in a yew tree over the cataract, [and saw a little man playing there]. After that they returned back again to *Oilioll* with him, that is, with the [little] man whom they took out of the tree; because they were disputing about him [as to who should have him], so that *Oilioll* might give judgment between them. He was a little man, with three strings in his *Timpan*. 'What is your name?' [said



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*Oilioll*. 'Fer-fi, the son of *Eogabhal*' [said he]. 'What has brought ye back?' said *Oilioll*. 'We are disputing about this man' [said they]. 'What sort of man is he?' [said *Oilioll*]. 'A good timpanist' [said they]. 'Let his music be played for us' [said *Oilioll*]. 'It shall be done', said he. So he played for them the crying tune (*Goltraighe*), and he put them to crying and lamenting and tear-shedding, and he was requested to desist from it. And then he played the laughing tune (*Gen-traighe*), till they laughed with mouths so wide open, that all but their lungs were visible. He then played the sleeping tune (*Suantraighe*) for them, until they were cast into a sleep [so deep, that it lasted] from that hour till the same hour next day". "He then", continues the story, "went away from them to the place whence he was brought, leaving a bad feeling between them, such as he particularly wished should exist".<sup>(335)</sup>

The bad feeling which the little timpanist left between the stepbrothers arose not so much in regard to himself, as about the ownership of the wonderful yew tree in which he was found, and which appeared to have sprung up spontaneously by necromantic art for their misfortune.

The remainder of this wild story is too long for my present purpose, and it is therefore sufficient to say, that the little man was one of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* race from the neighbouring hill of Knockany (*Cnoc Ainé*). The famous *Tuatha Dé Danann* lady, *Aine*, from whom this hill takes its name, had been some short time previously abused, and herself and her brother *Eogabhal* slain in a fit of anger, by king *Oilioll Oluim*, and it was to have revenge for this deed that the little timpanist, *Fer-fi*, the son of *Eogabhal*, raised up the phantom yew tree at the falls of *Caher-ass*, in order to excite a dispute between the sons and the stepson of *Oilioll*. In this he succeeded to the full. *Oilioll* awarded the yew tree to his own son *Eoghan*, and *Mac Con* charged him with partiality, and challenged him, with all

(335) [original:—Luro van feét aile, Eogan mac aílilla acap lugaro mac Con, .i. a comalta co airt mac Cunnó díambáí for cuairt Connáct, so tabairt eé rrian úao, .i. brach-air macar so Eogan. Oc teét voib feé an maḡ co cuálatar in ceol iiriuoir íbair roíbúí oiriuoir. De-rait leo co h-aílill airtuiri, .i. inper tuérat airtuoir; arbatar oc inperain imne, corrucao brieit voib. Fer bec, tu théct ina thimrán. Ciataim? Fer-fi mac Eogabail. Cio dobrintat? Or aílill. Acaam oc inperain imhoirra. Cinnar fir-

ro? Timpanad maich. Sentar vún a ceol, or aílill. Oogentar oipe. Rofepaim voíb van gol-trioe, conao coarpartat inḡol, acap i eóí, acap veipóimuo. Rogerr só anao ve. Rofeino van, šentrioe, conao coarpartar inḡen inḡaire, áct noptar eenaí arcaim. Rofephaim voíb van ruantrioige conao coarpartar inḡan on tréct coarpartle. A-rullaireom iairiuoir aillech via tuoio acap foracab oipóimtel ecurru ar bairprian leir.—H. 2. 18. f. 206. b. b.]

his forces, to a battle, at a time to be fixed afterwards. When the appointed time came, both parties met at the hill of *Cenn-Abra*t, in the neighbourhood of Kilfinan, on the borders of the counties of Cork and Limerick, where a battle ensued, in which *Mac Con* was defeated, and forced to fly the country. He went into Scotland, but in some years returned with a large force of Scottish or Pictish and British adventurers, who sailed round by the south coast of Erin, and entered the bay of Galway, and there, in the neighbourhood of Oranmore, at a place called *Magh Mucruimhé*, a battle was fought between them and the monarch *Art* and his forces, aided by his nephews, the seven sons of *Oilioll Oluim*, and the forces of Munster, under the leadership of *Eoghan Mór*, the eldest of them. This celebrated battle, which forms one of the cardinal points of the history of the period, proved fatal to the royal arms, the monarch himself having been slain in it, as well as *Eoghan Mór* and all the other six sons of *Oilioll Oluim*. So the little timpanist, *Fér-fi*, the son of *Eogabhail*, had ample revenge for the death of his father and his aunt.

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There is a metrical version of the part of this story which relates to the little timpanist and the phantom yew tree preserved also in the "Book of Leinster". I believe *Cormac Mac Cuileannain* was the author of this piece, and that it was copied into the "Book of Leinster" from his "Psalter of Cashel". The authority, then, for this distinct allusion to the *Timpan* is old and high enough.

It must be observed that the three stringed instrument mentioned in this story, is not called a *Cruit*, or harp, but a *Timpan*. But even though it were not a *Cruit* of the ordinary kind, it certainly must have been some species of it; and it is important to know, on authority so undoubted, that the *Timpan* was a stringed instrument, and therefore some kind of harp, though perhaps of an inferior class.

the instrument mentioned in this tale was not a *Cruit*, but a three-stringed *Timpan*;

The next reference to an instrument with a definite number of strings, is found in the "Book of *Lecan*", in the library of the Royal Irish Academy; and this, as well as the last, was probably taken from the "Saltair of Cashel"; and the instrument referred to must also have been of a peculiar character both in shape and size.

the second reference is in the Book of *Lecan*;

I may premise that the *Feidlimid Mac Crimthain* mentioned in this story was king of Munster and monarch of Erin, a distinguished scholar and a scribe or writer of books, and that he died at Cashel in the year 845. The *Ui Cormaic* mentioned in it were a tribe of the *Eoghanachts*, or Eugeniens of *Ui Fidh-gheinte*, who at an earlier period crossed the Shannon and the



xxxii. Fergus and settled beyond the latter in the northern part of *Corca-Bhaiscind*, their territory being nearly coextensive with the present barony of Islands in the county of Clare. In this story we are told that:

and the instrument is eight-stringed.

"On a certain day in the season of autumn, as *Feidhlimidh Mac Crimhthainn*, monarch of Erin, was in Cashel of the kings, there came to him the abbot of a church of the *Ui Cormaic*, and he sat on the couch, and he took his little eight-stringed [instrument] (*Ocht-Tedach*) unto him from his girdle, and he played sweet music, and sang a poem to it, and he sang these words there.—

"Beware! beware! O chief and father!

Does the king of the *Eoghanacht* hear?

A tribe who are by the Shannon on the north:

Woe is it that they have ever gone into exile!

"The *Ui Cormaic*, O *Feidlimid*!

Do not love thy music-making;

The *Corca-Bhaiscind*, because of their strength,

Vouchsafe not justice to the *Eoghanachts*.

"My residence has been plundered;

And the men are not yet impeached;

The shrieks of its clerics and of its bells

Are not heard this day by *Feidlimid*.

"*Ui Cormaic* and *Tradraidhi*

Are much in want of relief;

They are from their friends far away,

And their great hardship is manifest.

"They are in want of relief,

The *Ui Cormaic* and *Tradraidhi*;

It is not now usual with [any one of] them

To be two days in his abbotship.<sup>(326)</sup>

[*i.e.*, such is the danger that no abbot, even, can be sure of his place for two days.]

(326) [original:—In aroile lo uain  
foḡamair no bi ferolimio mac  
Criméain nḡ éruio iCairil na nḡ.  
uoiracht oirchinveach éillí uo huib  
Cormac chuici ocuḡ no fúró ar in  
colba, ocaḡ call a ochtédvaich  
mbic chuici ara chruḡ acar no re-  
pairo ceol mbimo, acar noḡob láro  
lé, acar no paio na briaichra ra  
ano.

Abadou abaro athair!

in clumeano nḡ éoganaacht?

tuach píl ne Sinaio a tuaro:

maḡḡ uo chuaro anveoraveét!

hí cormaic, a ferolimio,

ni chaparo uo cheolaraét;

Corcobaircimo ara nert,  
moamio ceḡt uéogaveét.

Rohaircéo mo baḡlra

ir fir gan aneilgíro;

ḡair a cleirveach ira clóc

ni éluin moét ferolimio.

hí Cormaic ir Traorairí

reḡaro aleaḡ foḡuétin;

rao ona tuachairb reḡairb,

iraomain amon veḡir.

Recaio aleaḡ foḡuichin,

i Cormaic ir Traorairí;

ni caḡair anoir la cach

moa trach in aboairne. Δ

—Book of Lecan, folio 183. a. a.]

What the effect of this singular appeal of the abbot from *Corca Bhaiscind* on the learned and just king *Feidlimid* was, we are not told; but we may presume that justice was rendered where it was due. It is, however, in reference to the musical instrument mentioned in it that the little article is of value to our present purpose. The date of king *Feidlimid*'s death supplies us with two rather important historical facts; the first, that the tribe of the *Ui Cormaic* must have crossed the Shannon to the north some time before the year 845; and the second, that a portable eight-stringed harp was then an established instrument in the country; but whether as peculiar to the Church, or in common use, I am not at present able to say. There is no particular name given to this instrument, more than its being merely said that the abbot brought forth his little "eight-stringed" [harp] from his girdle; yet I think we need not hesitate to take it to have been a small eight-stringed harp; and we must look upon it as a small and light one indeed, when he could conveniently carry it at his girdle from Clare to Cashel. I confess myself unable to draw any conclusions from this little "eight-stringed" [instrument], as I cannot compare its compass with any musical standard of an earlier date: not having ever met with any reference to such standard, we must therefore come much farther down before we can speak with any certainty of the usual number of strings of the Irish harp, if it really had a standard number.

In the old harp preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, commonly called "Brian Boru's harp", and to which reference was made in my last lecture, the number of the strings is thirty; and we are told by Mr. Bunting, in the last volume of his "Ancient Music of Ireland", page 23, that this was the usual number of strings found on all the harps at the Belfast meeting in 1792. Yet, we find in the same writer's dissertation on the harp made for Sir John Fitzgerald of Cloyne, in the county of Cork, in the year 1621, that it contained forty-five strings.

An instance of authority for the use of a considerable number of strings in the harp, occurs in a fragment of a quaint English manuscript history of Kerry, written some time in the first half, I think, of the last century, and now preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, in which we find at page 45, the following reference to a distinguished harper in that county: "As to the harp-playing, said county could well bragg, having the chiefest master of that instrument in the kingdom in his time, Mr. Nicholas Pierce of Clonmaurice, not only for his singular capacity of composing lamentations, funerals, additions

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The instrument called "Brian Boru's harp" has thirty strings.

Reference to a many-stringed harp in the seventeenth century.



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and elevations, etc., but also by completing said instrument with more wires than ever before his time were used".

The writer of this tract does not speak of the precise time at which Mr. Pierce flourished; but we have his time from other sources, and in language which bears out the eulogium of our anonymous author on him. It appears that Mr. Pierce was blind, since we find him called, with reverence, "Blind Nicholas", in Pierce Ferriter's poem on his harp, already referred to. But, besides this reference, we have three distinct poems, by three different authors, written exclusively in his praise: one by *Ferflatha O'Gnimh*, a native of Ulster, who flourished about the year 1640, who calls him the *Craiftiné* of Cashel; another by *Maelmuiré Mac-an Bhaird*, of the county Donegal; the third is anonymous, and must, of course, have been written at the same time. The two latter of these curious poems are preserved in the O'Conor Don's volume of ancient poems, and will be found at pages 17 and 20 of my transcript from that volume.<sup>(327)</sup> *O'Gnimh's* poem is in my own possession.

Attention paid to the harp in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Going back to a still earlier date we find the following curious entry in in the "Annals of *Loch Cé*" at the year 1225, showing that attention was paid long before to the improvement of the instrument.

"*Aedh* (or Hugh), the son of *Donnslebhe O'Sochlachann*, vicar of *Cunga*, a professor of singing and harp-tuning, as well as having invented a tuning (or arrangement) for himself that had not been done before him; and he was a proficient in all arts both of poetry and engraving and writing, and of all the arts that man executes. He died this year".<sup>(328)</sup>

What *O'Sochlachann's* arrangement of the harp was, however, whether an addition to, or diminution of the number of strings, or a new arrangement of the old number, whatever that might have been, our chronicler, unfortunately, does not say.

References to the *Timpan* as late as seventeenth century, proving it to have been a stringed instrument.

I have one reference more, though of a comparatively modern date, to the strings of the harp, or rather of the *Timpan*, and which I deem of sufficient value to add to these already brought forward. About the year 1680, a controversy sprang up among some of the bards of Ulster, as to what race, by ancient right, the armorial bearing of Ulster—the "Red Hand", belonged. Some person named *Cornac*, said or wrote something, which I have never seen, to the effect, that the Red Hand be-

<sup>(327)</sup> [Now in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.]

<sup>(328)</sup> [original:—*deò mac Duinn. ocuf ba rai in gac ceirto, ior san ocuf gribodact, ocuf rai bento, ocuf ar gach nealadum so in duime, so gleara, mapoen i glear so vea nam so fein nac veapnad pemte, ocuf ba rai in gac ceirto, ior san ocuf gribodact, ocuf rai bento, ocuf ar gach nealadum so in duime, so es an bliadain i m.—Annals of *Loch Cé* (H. i. 19).]*

longed by right to the *Clann Neill*; but he was called to account for saying so by *Diarmait*, the son of *Laoighseal Mac an Bhaird*, (called in English Louis Ward), who wrote a poem of seventeen quatrains, in which he adduces many historical reasons to prove that the Red Hand of Ulster belonged by right to the Ulidians of the Rudrician or Irian race, of whom *Mac Enis* (or *Magenis*) of the county Down was the chief. This poem begins:

“O Cormac! remember what is right;  
Take not from the Irian blood its honour.  
Justice is the best argument:

The race is not now in bountiful affluence”<sup>(339)</sup>

To this poem an answer was given by *Eoghan O'Donnghaile*, or O'Donnely, in a very clever poem of many stanzas, but of which I have never been able to procure more than the first thirty. O'Donnely claims the “Red Hand” for the *Clann Neill*, and deals severely with his opponent's historical facts. The third stanza of this poem runs as follows:

“Three strings not of sweet melody,  
I perceive in the middle of thy *Timpan*;  
Small their power; bitter their sound;  
They are no proof for the mighty great hand”<sup>(340)</sup>

It is true that the *Timpan* and its three strings are spoken of only figuratively here, as representing *Mac an Bhaird's* historical assertion, and its three principal authorities; still the reference is curious, affording another proof of what I have said of the *Timpan*, by showing that even so late as the close of the seventeenth century, the *Timpan*, or *Tympanum*, was known in this country as a stringed instrument, and not by any means as a drum instrument of any kind. The humorous last will of Thomas Dease, Bishop of Meath, one of the Council of Kilkenny, 1643, speaks of the *Clairseach* or harp, and the *Timpan*.

There was, however, a distinction between the *Cruit*, or full harp, and the *Timpan*, as may be seen from the following passage from the Brehon laws in which the *Cruitirè*, or harper, is recognized as one of the distinguished artists, in a special clause in the following words:

“A *Cruit*; that is, this is a *Cruit* in place of a *Timpan*, or a *Cruit* in its own proper state. This is the only species of music; that is, it is the only profession of music,—which is entitled to

The *Timpan* was distinguished from the *Cruit* or full harp.

(339) [original:—  
A Chorpmaic curinnig an dóir;  
na bean tfeuil in anonóir.  
Iní a dóir easra in ferr:  
ní veig éóála an fúirenn.  
—H. and S. MSS., 208, R.I.A., cat. p. 616; 23. H. i. h. p. 49. top.]

(340) [original:—  
Tui ceasa nac binn vein,  
vo éim ar lár vo éiompan;  
beag a mbuig; fearb a ngloir;  
ní veapbad ar an laim lan moir.  
—*Ibid*, p. 60, top.]



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be ennobled; that is, which is entitled to *Enechland*; [that is, to a fine in right of insult to the honour, as well as for personal injury to the performer], even though it does not attend on the illustrious, that is, although it is not retained by a nobleman, but it being noble in its own right".<sup>(341)</sup>

Here again we have the *Cruit*, or harp proper, and the *Timpan* as a species of harp, placed in such a relative position as to render it difficult to distinguish between them, although there is certainly a marked distinction.

No very ancient harp preserved.

It is very unfortunate that we cannot point to any examples in preservation, of any very ancient harp, an examination of which might at once solve the problems left unexplained in any of the many references I have given, to the power of this instrument as used by the great musicians of the golden age of ancient Irish civilization. There is, however, one valuable specimen of a purely Irish harp in existence, and one of the most beautiful workmanship too; though it is one of small size, and of an age not many centuries removed from our own time. I allude to the harp preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, with some observations upon which I may properly conclude this portion of my subject.

The harp in T.C.D.;

This harp has been the theme of much learned discussion already; and I confess I feel myself incompetent to offer any arguments concerning the theories broached upon the subject. It would, indeed, be a work of some effrontery, without a much greater share of historical, artistic, and antiquarian knowledge than I possess, to enter at all into a critical discussion of the evidences presented by this harp itself as to the period and style of instrument to which it belonged, after the cautious and accurate pen of such a writer as Dr. Petrie had recorded a decided opinion upon the matter.

Still in justice to Dr. Petrie himself, as well as to the cause of truthful investigation, of which he has long been a champion, though not with the view of offering opposition to any of his conclusions, I feel impelled to say a few words on the probable history of this harp; because I believe I am in position to place before him and the public some interesting facts hitherto unobserved, which may throw no little light on the subject.

In order, however, to introduce to you the few facts to which I allude, as bearing, I believe, on this subject, and for the better understanding of their point and value, I must premise by

(341) [original:—Cruit, .i. cruic ar timpan rin no cruic urru boden. 17 he den ban cruic innren, .i. ipe oen ban oirfirteo oligeor rairi, .i.

oliger enclano cenimtero la hon-  
van, .i. cen corab malle re huafal  
aet abeas arafaro a cenur.—H. 2.  
16. p. 941.]

making another quotation from Dr. Petrie's "Memoir of an Ancient Harp preserved in Trinity College".

"The harp", says Dr. Petrie, "preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, and popularly known as the harp of Brian Boru, is not only the most ancient instrument of the kind known to exist in Ireland, but is, in all probability, the oldest harp now remaining in Europe. Still, however, it is very far from being of the remote age to which it is popularly supposed to belong; and the legendary story on which the supposition is grounded, and which has been fabricated to raise its antiquity and increase its historical interest, is but a clumsy forgery, which will not bear for a moment the test of critical antiquarian examination. We are told that Donogh, the son and successor of the celebrated Brian Boru, who was killed at the battle of Clontarf in 1014, having succeeded his brother Teigue in 1023, was deposed by his nephew, in consequence of which he retired to Rome, carrying with him the crown, harp, and *other* regalia of his father, which he presented to the Pope, in order to obtain absolution. 'Adrian the Fourth, surnamed Breakspear, alleged this circumstance as one of the principal titles he claimed to this kingdom, in his bull transferring it to Henry the Second. These regalia were kept in the Vatican till the Pope sent the harp to Henry the Eighth, with the title of Defender of the Faith, but kept the crown, which was of massive gold. Henry gave the harp to the first Earl of Clanricarde, in whose family it remained till the beginning of the last century, when it came by a lady of the De Burg family into that of Mac Mahon of Clenagh, in the county of Clare, after whose death it passed into the possession of Commissioner Macnamara of Limerick. In 1782 it was presented to the Right Honourable William [Burton] Conyngham, who deposited it in Trinity College, Dublin'. Such is the story, as framed by the Chevalier O'Gorman, by whom the harp was given to Colonel Burton Conyngham, and, as is usual, in the fabrication of most romantic legends, the fictitious allegations are so engrafted on real historical facts, the fable is so intermixed with truth, that few readers would think of doubting one more than the other, and even if they should doubt, would have the power of distinguishing between them".<sup>(342)</sup>

"It is scarcely necessary", continues Dr. Petrie, "to pursue the examination of this further, except, perhaps, to remark that the allegations in it respecting the gift of the harp from the Pope to king Henry the Eighth, and again from king Henry to the Earl of Clanricarde, have no better authority to rest on

<sup>(342)</sup> Bunting's *Ancient Music of Ireland*, p. 40.

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account of  
it;



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than that of the chevalier himself. There is, however, one statement appended to the story, as an evidence of its truth, which should not be passed over in silence, as it exhibits in an equal degree the antiquarian ignorance and the daring mendacity of the writer. This statement is, that on the front arm of the harp 'are chased in silver the arms of the O'Brien family—the bloody hand supported by lions'. As already remarked by Mr. Moore, the circumstance of arms being on an instrument is fatal to its reputed antiquity, as the hereditary use of armorial ensigns was not introduced into Europe until the time of the crusades, and was not established in England until the reign of Henry the Third. The statement is altogether erroneous. The supporters are not lions, but dogs, probably wolf dogs, and the arms are not those of the O'Brien family, but of the more illustrious sept of O'Neil; and it is an interesting circumstance in the history of this harp, that the person who last awoke its long dormant harmonies, was a minstrel descended from the same royal race to whom it originally owed its existence, the celebrated Arthur O'Neill having played it through the streets of Limerick in the year 1760.<sup>(343)</sup>

"The legend so long connected with this interesting relic being now disposed of", continues Dr. Petrie, "it only remains to inquire—

"I. To what age the instrument belongs? and

"II. Whether it was originally intended for secular, or for ecclesiastical purposes?

"The first question might be determined by the skilful antiquary with sufficient accuracy from the style of workmanship of the armorial bearings already noticed, which evidently belongs to the close of the fourteenth, or, more probably, to the early part of the fifteenth century; and the general character of the interlaced ornaments on the harp, though derived from an earlier age, also points to the same period. But though hitherto unnoticed, there is one feature observable among those ornaments which decides this question with still greater certainty, namely, the letters I. H. S. carved in relievo in the Gothic or black-letter character, in general use at that period, and which is not found on monuments of an earlier age.

"That this harp did not belong to the class of bardic instruments, but rather to that smaller class used chiefly by the Irish ecclesiastics, as accompaniments to their voices in singing their hymns, would seem most probable from its very small size, which would unfit it for being used by the minstrel at the

<sup>(343)</sup> It is strange that Bunting, from whose volume I quote Dr. Petrie's Essay, should never have heard of this story.

festive board; and this conclusion seems to acquire support from the sacred monogram already noticed as being carved upon it".

So far Dr. Petrie, whose opinions on this curious old harp I have given in full in his own words, lest by any chance any account of them in mine should fail to convey their full force and meaning.

If I understand these observations aright, they amount to this:—

I. That the harp now in Trinity College, Dublin, and popularly known as *Brian Boru's* harp, is not, and could not have been, the harp of that illustrious monarch.

II. That there is no probability, much less certainty, that Donogh, the son of that *Brian* (who went on a pilgrimage to Rome about the year 1064), took with him this harp, along with the crown and other regalia of his great father, and made a present of it to the Pope.

III. That it is not true that another pope, in the early part of the sixteenth century, say in or about the year 1520, made a present of that same harp to Henry the Eighth, king of England; or that king Henry made a present of it to the first Earl of Clanrickard; or that from the Clanrickard family it passed, by the marriage of a lady of that house, into the family of Mac Mahon of Claenach in the county of Clare, ancestor of the present brave Duke of Magenta; or that it was next found in the possession of Commissioner Macnamara of Limerick; or that, in 1782, it was presented to Colonel Burton Conyngham, by the Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman; and that, finally, this whole story and history of the harp in question was false and unfounded, and a mere invention and fabrication by the same Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman.

This appears to me to be a very serious charge against any man, and one which ought not, I think, to have been made, unless grounded on his own precise words, and those words set out in the text; and it is a charge which I should be sorry to believe the Chevalier O'Gorman at all capable of deserving. There is in fact sufficient evidence that O'Gorman (or Mac Gorman, as he should have called himself) did really write or communicate verbally this, or some such account, either to Colonel Conyngham, to whom Mr. Ousely, and not O'Gorman, presented the harp, or to General Vallancey, who published it in his "Collectanea" (p. 32), as furnished by O'Gorman. It is very probable, indeed, that O'Gorman did write the story, as published by Vallancey, and by Walker in his "Irish Bards" (p. 61); but that he invented the whole story, and, for the first time gave to the instrument the name by which it has ever

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since been known, is surely more than questionable. For, though short the time since the year 1788, when Vallancey published this story, many an old tradition, originally founded in fact (however distorted afterwards), has disappeared since then; and the absence of evidence of such tradition is by no means to be taken as proof that it had no existence in the time of O'Gorman.

Some curious references to harps of the O'Briens:

I have been led into these observations by the circumstance of having met with one or two curious facts in connection with harps which at one time did belong to distinguished members of the great O'Brien family, one or either of which may have been the remote foundation of the story current concerning this harp, said to have belonged to *Brian Boromha*. But, whether they really were so or not, they are of themselves of sufficient interest to justify the propriety of introducing them into the discussion of a subject upon which so many learned dissertations, and so few genuine authorities or tangibly authentic references, have been produced.

There is in the possession of the O'Conor Don a manuscript volume of family and historical poems, in the Irish language, of various dates, say from the tenth to the seventeenth century. This volume, which is beautifully written, was compiled at Ostend in Belgium, in the year 1631, for a Captain Alexander Mac Donnell; but the compiler's name does not appear in it in its present somewhat damaged state. From this beautiful volume I copied, some years ago, one thousand quarto pages of my own writing, containing one hundred and fifty-eight rare family poems, of which, with a very few exceptions, no copies are known to me elsewhere in Ireland. Among these precious family records, I have fallen upon one which, as much for its gracefulness of composition as for its peculiar historic value as a very old authority bearing upon our present subject, I have always looked upon with great interest. The poem to which I allude was written by *Gilla-Brighde Mac Conmidhe*, otherwise called *Gilla-Brighde Albanach*, or of Scotland: he was so called because he was accustomed to spend so much of his time in that country; for, being a native of Ulster, the neighbouring land of Scotland came within his professional province as much as any part of Ireland.

*Mac Conmidhe's poem on Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien;*

*Mac Conmidhe* must have been born, I believe, about the year 1180, since we find him writing a poem descriptive of *Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien*, when he became chief of this name and of the Dalcassian tribes, which happened in the year 1204, that chieftain dying in the year 1242. In this poem the composer describes a vision in which he was carried on the deck

of a ship to the city of Limerick, and how there he saw a young man sitting in the chieftain's chair or throne. He then describes this chief in glowing terms, giving an account not only of his personal appearance and costume, but also of his various accomplishments; and, among the latter, he makes special mention of music, to which he alludes in the following complimentary stanza, the third of the poem:

“Strings as sweet as his conversation,  
On a willow harp no fingers have played;  
Nor have the youth's white fingers touched  
An instrument sweeter than his own mouth”.<sup>(344)</sup>

This *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien was the first who took the distinctive chieftain name of “The O'Brien”; he was the son of *Domhnall Mór* O'Brien, the last king of Munster, who died in the year 1194.

It would appear that the warm feelings which inspired this poem, and the connection between the bard and the chieftain in whose praise it was written, did not terminate with the occasion of its composition. On the contrary, we can gather from *Mac Conmidhe's* second poem—that which bears more directly on our subject—that, in many years afterwards, he had been sent by the same *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien on a special mission into Scotland to gain back—either freely, or by repurchase for an equivalent in Irish sheep—the small, sweet harp of the same O'Brien, which, by some means that I have not been able clearly to ascertain, had previously passed into that country.

It was on the occasion of this mission that *Mac Conmidhe* wrote this second poem; and as no words of mine could explain so well as the poem itself, either its historic value, or its beauty as a composition, and as the piece is not a long one, I may as well give it unbroken, in the following closely literal translation:—

“Bring unto me the harp (*Cruit*) of my king,  
Until upon it I forget my grief—  
A man's grief is soon banished  
By the notes of that sweet-sounding tree.  
“He to whom this music-tree belonged  
Was a noble youth of sweetest performance.  
Many an inspired song has he sweetly sung  
To that elegant, sweet-voiced instrument.  
“Many a splendid jewel has he bestowed

*Mac Conmidhe's*  
poem on the  
harp of the  
same  
O'Brien;

<sup>(344)</sup> [original:—  
Téasa buó coirbhinn ne a coirbhád,  
ar clarrfoileac ní rí feinn méar;  
r ní rí feinn glanlath an gilla

ó r gán buó binne ná a béal.  
—Miscellaneous Poems, chiefly copied  
from the O'Connor Don's Book,  
O'Curry MSS., Cath. Univ., p. 252.]



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*Mac Con-  
midhe's*  
poem on the  
harp of the  
same  
O'Brien;

- From behind this gem-set tree;  
Often has he distributed the spoils of the race of *Conn*,  
With its graceful curve placed to his shoulder.
- "Beloved the hand that struck  
The thin, slender-sided board:  
A tall, brave youth was he who played upon it  
With dexterous hand, with perfect facility.
- "Whenever his hand touched  
That home of music in perfection,  
Its prolonged, soft, deep sigh  
Took away from all of us our grief.
- "When into the hall would come  
The race of *Cas* of the waving hair,  
A harp with pathetic strings within  
Welcomed the comely men of *Cashel*.
- "The maiden became known to all men,  
Throughout the soft-bordered lands of *Banba*:  
It is the harp of *Donnchadh*! cried every one—  
The slender, thin, and fragrant tree.
- "O'Brien's harp! sweet its melody  
At the head of the banquet of fair *Gabhran*;  
Oh! how the pillar of bright *Gabhran* called forth  
The melting tones of the thrilling chords.
- "No son of a bright *Gaedhil* shall get  
The harp of O'Brien of the flowing hair;  
No son of a foreigner shall obtain  
The graceful, gem-set, fairy instrument!
- "Woe! to have thought of sending to beg thee,  
Thou harp of the chieftain of fair *Limerick*—  
Woe! to have thought of sending to purchase thee  
For a rich flock of *Erinn's* sheep.
- "Sweet to me is thy melodious soft voice,  
O maid! who wast once the arch-kings',  
Thy sprightly voice to me is sweet,  
Thou maiden from the island of *Erinn*.
- "If to me were permitted in this eastern land  
The life of the evergreen yew tree  
The noble chief of *Brendon's* hill,  
His hand-harp I would keep in repair.
- "Beloved to me—it is natural for me—  
Are the beautiful woods of *Scotland*.  
Though strange, I love dearer still  
This tree from the woods of *Erinn*".<sup>(345)</sup>

(345) [original:—  
ταβροῖδ' εὐγάμ' εἰπυτ μο' πρῶς,

ἔο' εἰρεῖζιμ' οὐρηε' μ' ἰμφοῖσθ,—  
ἀ βρόν' οὐα' βυῖνς οὐ οὐμνε

is the address of *Mac Conmidhe*; but it is needless to say that it is impossible in a severe literal translation to do any thing like justice to the fervour and heartfelt pathos of this original poem.

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The character of the poem, however, is such that it gives us a clear idea of the circumstances under which O'Brien's hand-harp was carried into Scotland; but that it had gone there at the time, when *Mac Conmidhe* was sent to recover it, either freely or as the equivalent of Irish sheep, we have authority here that cannot be questioned. It is equally certain that the mission of the diplomatic poet was a failure, and that the proverbial taste of the Scotsman for our Irish mutton gave way to his higher appreciation of our ancient music, as evoked from this celebrated harp. How then, became of this harp? Did it remain in the hands of the chief, or king of Scotland till the conquest of that country by Edward the Third, king of England, who died in the year 1307, but who had previously carried away from the palace of Scone, in Scotland, the ancient inaugural and other regalia of the old Scottish monarchs, and deposited them in Westminster Abbey in London? May it be the harp of *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien was by any means among the spoils? and if that were possible, could it have remained unnoticed and unappreciated at Westminster, the name of its original owner traditionally attached to it,

the poem does not explain how the harp went to Scotland.

What became of this harp?

Ar an éiríonn cumpairde.  
 Naibe an crann cuil  
 A raon go rinn tairíuiri.  
 Páiríann do gab go spinn  
 I mblac-éirann nglan ngué-  
 ra.  
 Do aluinn do fogair  
 L an éiríonn tflabradóis;  
 Do bhonn cras ó Coimn,  
 Ar glan pé aghaloinn.  
 An bar do beanaó  
 Ar tana tairib-leabar:  
 Feang nairac ga reinn;  
 Eaglaímac go noisídearb.  
 Do tairgleaó a lámh  
 Buró cuil go cómlán,  
 Naó leabar mín móir  
 Anso óinn ar noobróin.  
 Do tairgeaó ar tteac  
 Thair na ocul noisimneac,  
 Go tteasuib tairaga ar tairis  
 Goib cuanna Cairil.  
 Aitne ar an ingin,  
 In mbanba mboisimlis  
 Donnchadaí ar gac uine,—  
 Mhána cúmpairde.  
 Duan! binn a horgáin

ne huét bpleisge bfrionngábráin;  
 Ó beanaó tairag Sabrain glon,  
 Ar gáin tairag ar na téasair.  
 Ni bfrige mac Saoróil gíl  
 Cuir tairian ar bairi oisimnis;  
 Mac allmairóis ni fagaib  
 An tflabradóis tairóamail!  
 Mairis do rmuain cur péas éungis,  
 A éruit flaca pionnlumnis,—  
 No do rmuain cur péas deannaó  
 Ar éraó uain éirionnac.  
 Binn liom do gúe mair mín,  
 A bean do bi gan airóis;  
 Do gúe mair is mair liom,  
 A bean a huir éirionn.  
 Da léigéi tam fan tair éoir  
 Raogal na flairi ubair  
 Aóuirpe ban-éuir brianuinn  
 Alam-éruit do leiréguinn.  
 Onthoin leamra,—óicéar tam,—  
 Tairóburde aille alban  
 Gíó iongnac ar anhra leam  
 Ann éirannra tairóbaró éiréann.  
 Tabuiró.

—O'Connor Donn's MSS., O'Curry's copy, R.I.A., p. 228. b.]



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Was it the harp presented by Henry VIII. to the Earl of Clanrickard?

till the time of Henry the Eighth, who, it is said, presented a celebrated harp to the earl of Clanrickard, as the harp of a Donogh O'Brien?

Perhaps it suggested the idea of the harp coinage,

It may indeed seem strange that, if Henry did present the harp to any one at this time, it was not Morrogh O'Brien that he should have selected for the gift, who deserted to the English and was created Earl of Thomond by him on the 1st of July, 1543, on the same day and at the same time that the Norman-Irish chief, Mac William Burke, exchanged his chieftain title for that of Earl of Clanrickard. This, however, is a question that cannot be cleared up now. But, assuming for a moment that this harp was preserved in Westminster when Henry the Eighth came to the throne in the year 1509, would it be too much to believe that it was the celebrity of this ancient instrument that suggested to that execrable monarch the first idea of placing the harp in the arms of Ireland, in the fashion of the heraldry of the time, and impressing it upon his coinage in this country? I cannot think the idea very fanciful.

which was in circulation in Henry VIII's time.

That the harp-coinage was in circulation in Ireland in Henry's time is well known; and the following brief extract from the Lord Deputy and council of Ireland to Henry the Eighth, dated at Dublin, the 15th of May, in the thirty-fifth year of that king's reign, and a few weeks before the creations of the earls of Thomond and Clanrickard, affords a curious illustration of this fact:

"Fynally, for that ther ys no sterling money to be had within this your realme, thies gentlemen which now resorte to your highnes, wer utterly dysfurnished of money to bryng them thither, I, your magesties deputie, lent O'Brien an hundred pounds sterling in harp grotes, in default of other money, which I have delivered to your tresorer".

The Chevalier O'Gorman only mistook one Donogh O'Brien for another.

Supposing—believing, indeed, as I do—that the harp now in Trinity College, was given by Henry the Eighth to Clanrickard as the harp of a Donogh O'Brien, all then that the Chevalier O'Gorman, or some person before his time whose statements he followed, could have done was, to substitute a wrong name, that of Donogh the son of *Brian Boromha*, for *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien; for it is scarcely possible that O'Gorman or any one else could think of inventing the entire story; or that a tradition should be current that Henry the Eighth gave the earl of Clanrickard a harp at all, unless some such harp had been really presented or asserted to have been so presented, by the Clanrickard family. If O'Gorman had invented the story, how did it happen that he should not have selected the O'Brien himself, the newly created Earl of Thomond, as the recipient

of the royal gift? This, one would think, would make the invention much more appropriate and plausible, and should, in the absence of the question of the armorial bearings raised by Dr. Petrie, scarcely leave any room to deny the story by mere argument alone. It cannot, I think, be well denied, and indeed it has not been denied, that this particular harp did once belong to the Clanrickard family; that it passed from them with its traditional history (perhaps through the Mac Mahons of Claenach, in the county of Clare), certainly at last into the hands of Counsellor Macnamara of Limerick; and that from him it came into the possession of Ralph Ousely, who in 1782 presented it to Colonel Burton Conyngham.

Now, if this harp be a relic of the O'Neill family, and if as such it was played by the celebrated Arthur O'Neill in Limerick in the year 1760, how did it happen to have passed from him into the hands of Counsellor Macnamara? And how, too, could a story so glaringly false as this charged upon the Chevalier O'Gorman, be put so unblushingly before the world in conversation, in broad print in No. 13 of Vallancey's "Collectanea", 1788, while all those parties were still living? Arthur O'Neill himself lived down to the year 1818.

Arthur O'Neill, according to Mr. Bunting (p. 80), made a professional tour of the four provinces when he was but nineteen years of age, and as he was born in the year 1734, the year in which Carolan died, this tour must have been made in 1753. It may be presumed that in this tour he must have passed through Limerick, and sojourned for some time in that hospitable city. Was this the harp he played at the time, as well as on the occasion of his alleged second visit in 1760? and if it was, how can it be believed for a moment that he could have quietly left it there, and parted for ever with so venerable a memorial of the noble sept from which he was so proud to claim descent? It could not be. It is entirely improbable. Is it not more probable, then, that this old harp was at the time in the possession of Counsellor Macnamara, whose hereditary hospitality, we may well suppose, the gifted young minstrel must have largely shared? And is it not very probable that during his visit with this gentleman, this venerable harp was brought under his notice; that he strung and tuned it anew; and that he did actually play it, not indeed as an itinerant through the streets of Limerick, for that was beneath him, but as a matter of courtesy to his host and his other patrons in the city? There can scarcely be a doubt but that the instrument was known as an O'Brien harp at this time, and that the Clanrickard tradition was well known, so that all that O'Gorman,

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There can be no doubt that this harp did once belong to the Clanrickard.

If the harp was an O'Neill harp, how could its story have been invented and published in the lifetime of those concerned?

Arthur O'Neill may have played upon this harp, but it could not have been his;



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or whoever first framed the story, appears really to have done, was to endeavour to account for the way in which it came to Henry the Eighth. In doing this, he merely identified with it the name of the wrong Donogh, as being the most likely person of the name to fit the story, for of *Donnchadh Cairbreach's* harp, I dare say, he had never heard.

this harp is not an O'Neill but an O'Brien one;

Dr. Petrie's antiquarian difficulties;

author's answer: as to monogram I. H. S.;

As far, then, as history, probability, and legitimate inference go, this is not an O'Neill, but an O'Brien harp. But then come Dr. Petrie's antiquarian difficulties; and I must confess that they are not easily if at all to be got over. Dr. Petrie's three objections are:—1. That the carving of the harp, though an imitation of an old style of carving, is not as old as the thirteenth century; 2. That the practice of carving the monogram I. H. S. in black letter, is not as old as that century; 3. That armorial bearings were not known in England till the reign of king Henry the Third, who began his reign in 1216, and died in 1272; that there are arms on the harp; and that they are not those of the O'Briens, but those of the more illustrious sept of the O'Neills.

To the first objection I can say nothing more than that I believe it would be very difficult to find now any specimen of carving and design of the close of the fourteenth, or beginning of the fifteenth century, presenting the peculiar character of the tracery of the upright pillar of this harp, and that no such specimen has been shown to exist. Then as to the monogram I. H. S., I cannot doubt but that the letters so boldly, yet so rudely, carved in the curved bar of the harp, were intended to represent the sacred symbol. The H is rudely and inaccurately formed; and the S, the third letter of the monogram, is represented by a C; and this is more in accordance with the older Irish form of the sacred monogram, such as it is found in existing Irish MS. of the very early part of the fifteenth century, which may well carry us back still farther. There is an instance of this, for example, in the copy of *Cormac's Glossary* now in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, and which, there is reason to believe, formed at one time part of the great Book of *Dun Doighre*, now known as the *Leabhar Breac*, or Speckled Book, and which was compiled before the year 1412. In this copy of the Glossary, I say, we find the letter I in the Glossary commenced with the monogram *1hC*, in hoc nomine est nomen nostri salutaris; and whether older copies of the Glossary had it written in the same way or not, I cannot say, as we have not an older copy now known. I may state, however, that in the other large portion of the great Book of *Dun Doighre* which remains, this symbol is not to be found, excepting at folio 100 b; but this is not in the original hand. Again, in part I. of the

book called the *Liber Flavus*, or Yellow Book, compiled in the year 1437, the monogram I. H. C. occurs in the top margin in two places.

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It would indeed be easy to multiply instances of its occurrence in this form, and always in the top margin, in books of this and subsequent dates. It does not, however, appear in *Leabhar na h-Úidhre*, compiled before the year 1106; the Book of Leinster, compiled before the year 1150; the Book of Ballymote, compiled in 1391; or the Book of *Lecan*, compiled in 1413. In all these, and other books of their time, it is the word Emanuel, either written at length or in a contracted form, that appears in the place of the I. H. C. and always in the top margin, without any regard to the subject of the page underneath.

Upon an examination, then, of a regular succession of books from, say the year 1150 to the year 1500, it is not easy to determine with precision the time at which the old Emanuel was abandoned, and the monogram I. H. C. generally adopted.

As regards the monogram under discussion, however, I do not feel myself justified in disagreeing with such an authority as Dr. Petrie, that it cannot be older than the close of the fourteenth, or beginning of the fifteenth century. Indeed, I may even doubt that it is so old. But when I examine the workmanship of this harp, I may well doubt the conclusion he would draw from it; for I must say that I cannot believe that this monogram, so very rudely cut as it is, was ever executed by the same masterly hand that carved the other decorations of the instrument. It appears, indeed, that the place occupied now by this monogram was originally left vacant for some design, whether intended to be of a religious or a heraldic character. It is remarkable that whilst every other item of the carving is blunted and worn from age and friction, the outlines of the monogram now to be seen there are quite sharp and fresh. Is it unreasonable, then, to believe that the very old escutcheon now nailed to the hollow originally filled by a crystal, was designed to occupy the place now held by the monogram? The workmanship of the escutcheon appears to me to be much older than the monogram.

Dr. Petrie asserts that the arms of this escutcheon, namely, <sup>is to the</sup> an erect forearm and open hand with a shield, are not those of <sup>arms on the</sup> the O'Briens, but of the more illustrious sept of the O'Neills. <sup>escutcheon;</sup> Into the heraldic mystery of these arms I am quite incompetent to enter, but I may be allowed to say from their external features, that they appear to belong as much to the O'Briens as to the O'Neills. Even at the present day the chief emblems of both families are radically the same; though I am quite certain



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that the use of the upright arm by the O'Briens is of an elder date than the Red Hand of the O'Neills. Indeed it was openly and publicly asserted in the seventeenth century by writers of the *Clann 'Neill* race themselves, that the Red Hand was the right of Magenis, but that the O'Neills wrested it to themselves, and have continued to usurp it to this day <sup>(346)</sup>

The assertion of Dr. Petrie that the sept of O'Neill is more illustrious than that of O'Brien is incorrect.

I cannot but express my regret at the disparaging comparison which Dr. Petrie in his essay has thought well to draw, when he says that: "The arms on the harp are not those of the O'Brien's family, but of the more illustrious sept of O'Neill". It is true that, before the year 1002, the sept of O'Neill, in connection and concert, now with one now with another kindred sept of the same race, and either backed or unchecked by the two great provinces of Leinster and Connacht, did contrive to keep the regal power, such as it was, in its hands, to the wrong and prejudice of the single southern province, with its comparatively limited territory and military resources. But it would be utterly untrue to assert that the O'Neills were ever more brave, more munificent, more magnificent, or more true men than the O'Briens. Let the antiquarian and historian compare, even at this day, the ruined churches, abbeys, and castles of Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary, with those of O'Neill's country, and he will have little difficulty in settling with himself, from evidence the most enduring and conclusive, which sept has left behind the greater number and the noblest monuments of taste, of dignity, and of munificence. Let him take up our ancient manuscripts, our annals and our poetry, and he will find that the O'Brien name, in prose and verse, completely overshadows that of O'Neill. Let us then hear no more of this strange claim to superiority at the expense of a race to whose exploits we owe some of the most brilliant passages of our national history. Both races gave us great and noble princes: let our only feeling be, regret that they are of the past.

<sup>(346)</sup> [See ante, vol. ii., p. 264.]

## LECTURE XXXIII.

(Delivered 26th June, 1862.)

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien sent some prized jewel to Scotland some time before *Mac Connidhe's* mission for *Donnchad's* harp. The Four Masters' account of the pursuit of *Muireadhach* O'Daly by O'Donnell; O'Daly sues for peace in three poems, and is forgiven; no copies of these poems existing in Ireland; two of them are at Oxford. The Four Masters' account of O'Daly's banishment not accurate; his poems to Clanrickard and O'Brien give some particulars of his flight. Poem of O'Daly to Morogh O'Brien, giving some account of the poet after his flight to Scotland. The poet Brian O'Higgins and David Roche of Fermoy. O'Higgins writes a poem to him which is in the Book of Fermoy; this poem gives a somewhat different account of O'Daly's return from that of the Four Masters. O'Daly was perhaps not allowed to leave Scotland without ransom; what was the jewel paid as this ransom? The author believes that it was the harp of O'Brien. This harp did not come back to Ireland directly, and may have passed into the hands of Edward the First, and have been given by Henry the Eighth to Clanrickard. The armorial bearings and monogram not of the same age as the harp. Objects of the author in the previous discussion. Poem on another straying harp of an O'Brien, written in 1570; the O'Brien was Conor Earl of Thomond; the Four Masters' account of his submission to Queen Elizabeth; it was during his short absence that his harp passed into strange hands; the harp in T.C.D. not this harp. Mr. Lanigan's harp. Owners of rare antiquities should place them for a time in the museum of the R.I.A. Some notes on Irish harps by Dr. Petrie.—“He regrets the absence of any ancient harp”; “present indifference to Irish harps and music”; “some ecclesiastical relics preserved”; Dr. Petrie would have preferred the harp of St. Patrick or St. Kevin; “our bogs may yet give us an ancient harp”; Mr. Joy's account of such a harp found in the county Limerick; according to Dr. Petrie, this harp was at least 1000 years old. What has become of the harps of 1782 and 1792? A harp of 1509. “*Brian Boru's*” harp is the oldest of those now known; the Dalway harp is next in age; the inscriptions on this harp imperfectly translated in Mr. Joy's essay. Professor O'Curry's translation of them; Mr. Joy's description of this harp. The harp of the Marquis of Kildare. Harps of the eighteenth century: the one in the possession of Sir Hervey Bruce; the Castle Otway harp; a harp formerly belonging to Mr. Hehir of Limerick; a Magennis harp seen by Dr. Petrie in 1832; the harp in the possession of Sir G. Hodson; the harp in the museum of the R.I.A. purchased from Major Sirr; the so-called harp of Carolan in the museum of the R.I.A. The harps of the present century all made by Egan; one of them in Dr. Petrie's possession. Dr. Petrie's opinion of the exertions of the Harp Society of Belfast. “The Irish harp is dead for ever, but the music won't die”. The harp in Scotland known as that of Mary Queen of Scots. Rev. Mr. Mac Lauchlan's “Book of the Dean of Lismore”; it contains three poems ascribed to O'Daly or *Muireadhach Albanach*; Mr. Mac Lauchlan's note on this poet; his description of one of the poems incorrect as regards O'Daly; Mr. Mac Lauchlan not aware that *Muireadhach Albanach* was an Irishman. The author has collected all that he believes authentic on the *Cruit*. The statements about ancient Irish music and musical instruments of Walker and Bunting



XXXIII. of no value; these writers did not know the Irish language; the author regrets to have to speak thus of the work of one who has rescued so much of our music.

IN the last lecture I ventured to suggest some reasons for entertaining the opinion, that the instrument preserved in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin, and popularly known as Brian Boru's harp, was really the harp of *Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien*, the sixth in descent from the great hero of Clontarf. I showed, with certainty, that some time, say about the year 1230, the poet *Mac Conmidhe* had been sent into Scotland to endeavour to bring back from that country the harp of *Donnchadh*, and which was certainly then in the possession of some potentate there. My next duty ought to be, to show, if possible, some probable cause for its having gone into that country at all. And it is singular enough that I have good authority to show that, some time before, this noble O'Brien did really send into Scotland some precious and much-prized jewel for a generous purpose and in a princely spirit. To make intelligible what occurs to me as connecting this act of the O'Brien with the subject of the present discussion, I shall first cite from the "Annals of the Four Masters", the following short entry in that invaluable record, which is set down under date 1213.—

*Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien sent some Jewel to Scotland.*

Pursuit of the poet O'Daly by O'Donnell, according to "Four Masters".

"*Finn O'Brodlachain*, steward to the O'Donnell, that is *Donnell Mór* (prince of *Tir-Chonnail*), went into Connaught to collect O'Donnell's rent. The first place that he went to was *Cairpre* of Drumcliffe. He there went with his attendants to the house of the poet *Muireadhach O'Daly*, of Lissadill, where he fell to offering great abuse to the poet, for he was very exacting on behalf of a powerful man (not that it was his master that advised him to it). The poet was incensed by him, and he took up a keen-edged hatchet in his hand, and gave him a blow which left him dead without life. He went then himself to avoid O'Donnell, into *Clanrickard's* country. When O'Donnell came to know this, he collected a large force and went in pursuit of him, and he stopped not until he reached *Derry O'Donnell* in *Clanrickard*, which [place] received its name from his having been encamped there. He commenced spoiling and burning the country until *Mac William* at last submitted to him, and sent *Muireadhach* [O'Daly] into *Thomond* for protection. O'Donnell went after him, and fell to devastate and spoil that country too, until *Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien* sent *Muireadhach* away from him to the people of *Limerick*. O'Donnell followed him to the gate of *Limerick*, which he besieged from his camp at *Moin Ui Dhomhnaile* (which from him is named). The people of *Limerick* sent *Muireadhach* away from them by

order of O'Donnell; so that he found no shelter, but to be conveyed from hand to hand until he reached Dublin.

"O'Donnell returned home on that occasion, after having traversed and made a complete circuit of Connaught.

"He made another expedition again without delay and without rest, in that same year, to Dublin, until the people of Dublin were forced to send *Muireadhach* away from them into Scotland; and there he remained until he composed three laudatory poems, imploring peace, forgiveness, and protection from O'Donnell; and one of the three was:

'Oh! Donnell, good hand for [granting] peace', etc.

Peace was granted him for his laudations, and O'Donnell took him into his friendship afterwards, and gave him a holding and land, according to his wishes".

Of the three poems addressed by O'Daly to O'Donnell, no copies are known to me to be extant in Ireland. There are, however, two of them preserved in the Bodleian Library in Oxford in the vellum MS. which contains O'Donnell's life of *St. Colum Cille*. One of these is that which is quoted above by the Four Masters; and it consists of thirty-eight stanzas. The other is addressed to O'Donnell's son, *Domhnall Oge*, written in the fifteenth year of the poet's exile, and descriptive of his sorrows and his wanderings on the Continent and up the Mediterranean Sea. This most curious poem consists of 29 stanzas, beginning:

"Long is it since I have drank the Lethean drink".

There was a good deal more in the history of O'Daly's banishment than the Four Masters have recorded in this article; and there is some reason to think that part of what they have recorded partakes more of Donegal tradition than of historic fact. Of O'Daly's flying into the Clanrickard territory there is sufficient authority still extant in a remarkable poem addressed by the fugitive to Mac William Burke, the powerful chief of that territory, in which he avows his name and his crime, and implores protection. It is certain, too, that O'Daly passed into Thomond from Clanrickard, for, there is extant a poem addressed by him at the time to *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien, chief of that country, and of which the following is the first stanza:—

"Let me have my own bed, oh! *Donnchadh*,  
I am entitled to honour from thy curled head;  
I shall not be driven eastwards from Ireland [into Scotland]

In the reign of the noble fair-haired chief".<sup>(347)</sup>

<sup>(347)</sup> [original:—

mo leaba fein dam a donnchad  
o ligim cadar do cúl car  
ní leagair roir inn a heirinn

ne linn an gloin ceibfinn car.  
—Betham MS., <sup>29</sup>c. 12. p. 73.]

XXXIII.

O'Daly sued for peace in three poems, and is forgiven.

No copies of these poems in Ireland; two of them at Oxford.

The account of O'Daly's banishment in "Four Masters" not accurate;

his poems to Clanrickard and O'Brien give some particulars of his flight.



XXXIII.

This poem may, I think, be assigned to the year 1216, or thereabouts, a time that O'Brien, owing to family broils and English interference, was not in the best condition to shelter the fugitive from the vengeance of his pursuer; and O'Daly was compelled ultimately to fly to Scotland, where it appears he found shelter and protection from the Mac Donnells, Lords of the Isles, particularly the Clanranald. It will be seen, however, from Brian O'Higgins' poem, to which I shall come bye and bye, that it was against the advice and prohibition of the men of Thomond that he left that country.

O'Daly's history, from his flight to Scotland to his peace with O'Donnell and his return to his native country, would have been lost to us, were it not for the existence of his own poems, already mentioned, addressed to the O'Donnells, father and son; another addressed from Scotland to *Morogh* and *Donnchadh* O'Brien; and a fourth poem, addressed by Brian O'Higgin, a Connacht poet, to David Roche of Fermoy in the county of Cork, about the year 1450.

Poem of  
O'Daly to  
Morogh  
O'Brien,  
giving some  
account of  
the poet  
after his  
flight to  
Scotland.

O'Daly's poem is addressed to Morogh, the son of Brian O'Brien, who was the uncle of *Donnchadh Cairbreach*. It is a vigorous piece of composition, devoted chiefly to the praise and personal description of the young prince, who, from the poet, would appear to have been the heir apparent, or *tanaiste* to his cousin *Donnchadh Cairbreach*. This poem, of which I possess a copy (made by myself from a vellum MS. in the British Museum), consists of twenty-six stanzas, of which the following is the first:—

“ Guess who I am, O *Murchadh*,

Good is your inheritance of a well-directed cast;  
Your father excelled all his acquaintance,  
[He excelled] the arranged battalions”.<sup>(348)</sup>

He continues then in the four stanzas which next follow, to address him thus:—“ Guess what my profession is; guess what my name is; guess what country I come from”. He then informs O'Brien that he has come from beyond the Mediterranean Sea; that he has been going about the world; that *Muireadhach Albanach*, or *Muireadhach* of Scotland, is his name; and that he is certain the *Clann Bloid* (that is the O'Briens, etc.) would take charge of him and protect him, even though he had committed theft itself. And so, after a good deal of strong praise and favourable prognostication of the

<sup>(348)</sup> [original:—

Tomair cía mór a murchad,  
maíe so buchtúy deagurcáir;  
so éino tabair ar aithní

ar na cathaib coraighi.  
—Additional MS. (vellum), 19,995.  
Brit. Mus., f. 4. a. top.]

future, the poet comes to the last stanza, in which he addresses *Donnchadh Cairbreach*, and which runs as follows:— xxxiii.

“ Permit me to return to my country,  
 O *Donnchadh Cairbreach* of the smooth skin,  
 Out of Scotland of the feasts and of the grassy [fields],  
 Of steeds, of spears, [or, of suet], and of islands:  
 My run to Erinn on my return,  
 How soon shall I make! And guess”<sup>(319)</sup>

It is not to be understood that O'Daly was in Ireland at the time that he addressed this poem to *Murchadh*, the cousin of *Donnchadh O'Brien*, though intended for the more powerful chief himself. He not only asks *Murchadh* to guess who he is, but he admits distinctly that he has never seen his face or made his acquaintance.

After this poem we have no direct account of O'Daly but what the Four Masters state of the means by which he conciliated O'Donnell, and his having been received into favour by him on his return. This, however, is not the account of O'Daly's return contained in the poem of O'Higgin, above mentioned, a poem which is preserved in the old Book of Fermoy, a volume compiled in the year 1463. Brian O'Higgin, the author of this poem, was one of a learned family of bards and teachers of the province of Connacht. His name and fame appear to have reached the ears of David Roche, who at this time dispensed the hospitalities of a chieftain at his princely residence at Fermoy, in the county of Cork. The book called the Book of Fermoy was, in fact, compiled for this nobleman, in his own house, by the numerous poets and scholars who, by invitation, chance, or otherwise, repaired to him; and this is the reason that the book exhibits so many varieties of handwritings, each literary man writing his own poem or piece into it. Among the many scholars, then, who received an invitation to the court of Fermoy (and sufficient expenses for the journey, as he himself states) was Brian O'Higgin; and the present poem, in praise of the lord of that mansion, bears evidence to the fact that the author's reception was flattering and remunerative. It appears, however, that the bard was so well pleased with the hospitalities of the south that he felt inclined to abandon even the plains of Roscommon for the rich valleys of Munster. Nor does he hesitate to hint this desire rather broadly to David Roche; but as he appears anxious to save himself from a charge of singularity in

The poet  
 Brian  
 O'Higgins,  
 and David  
 Roche of  
 Fermoy.

O'Higgins  
 writes a  
 poem to him  
 which is in  
 the "Book  
 of Fermoy".

<sup>(319)</sup> [original:—  
 Ceadaig tampa dul am éir,  
 a Donnchadh Cairbreach enermín,  
 a halbain fíeóraig féraig,  
 ngegaró, ngeraig, nolenaig:

ma suairg i nEirinn tar máir,  
 m luait tégaim. Ir comair.  
 —Additional MS. (vellum), 19,995.  
 Brit. Mus., f. 4. b. mid.]



XXKIII. preferring a strange country and people to his own, he, in the following stanzas, adduces the case of *Muireadhach* O'Daly in such a way as to lead us to think that the means through which he returned from Scotland were not exactly those recorded by the Four Masters. Thus speaks O'Higgin:—

This poem gives a somewhat different account of O'Daly's return from that of the "Four Masters".

"To abandon his native land,  
On account of an insult to his profession,  
Against the command of the southern land:  
So did once a poet of my own peers.

"The jewel of *Donnchadh Cairbreach* having been sent  
To release the chief poet of Scotland,  
This it was that brought him over the sea,  
Though it was a coming upon chance.

"His attention on the foreign Isles  
He [*Donnchadh*] bestowed but a short time,  
He brought *Muireadhach* over the sea,  
Though he was an adopted son in Alba.

"When he [*Muireadhach*] was importuned,  
At an after time, to go to his native place,  
Seldom did he thither go  
From the Dalcassians, as we have heard.

"My allusions to him have now come to an end,  
To that *Donnchadh*, O David!  
You and I are just like these  
Two comrades in poetic science".<sup>(350)</sup>

And it was thus, by the example of O'Daly's preference of the O'Briens and Thomond to the O'Donnells and his native Connaught, that Brian O'Higgin justified his own preference of Roche and south Munster to his native province and its chiefs.

There can scarcely be any doubt of the correctness of the scrap of history contained in these few verses. The harsh course of O'Donnell, and the friendly interference of O'Brien in the case of O'Daly, must have been subjects of such interest to succeeding bards that we may be satisfied they were preserved with vivid accuracy.

(350) [original:—

Tréigean a tíre bunaro,  
Ar anonoir d'eladám,  
Dár aithne na tíre éir:  
Do fíne maithgín veigéir.  
Seoir Donnchadh Cairbreig doéur  
Ar cenn ollaman Albu,  
Do bíat ro a tecta tar tuinn,  
Gur teachta fa tuarum,  
A dgas ar innrib fall  
ní tabrao aé do tamall,  
tuc fe Muireadac tar muir,

gur fúneadac hé análdam.  
Da tuaso asilgúir aih,  
érad eigin uil na uathad,  
a óaul tapair gur annum  
o Dail Cair, do culamar.  
Ar m' farglib gur namic éiré,  
oon Donnchad fín, a Dairbít  
meiri acar fíb íppamla  
'roá feiri fír ealaúna.  
—Book of Fermoy, R. I. A., f. 117,  
bb.]

It is, however, with the ransom sent into Scotland to release O'Daly that our chief concern lies now. We are to suppose that the Mac Donnells, or perhaps the king of Scotland,—for O'Daly was *Ollamh*, or chief poet, of all Scotland,—perhaps, I say, that either of these powerful parties would not allow him to pass out of it, without demanding some remarkable compensation for so great a loss,—something, in fact, which they hoped would not be given. What, then, was the jewel (*seoid*) which O'Brien sent over to purchase the liberty of his favourite bard, and enable him to return to his own country? It could not be money; and it could scarcely be cattle, the only other commodity that could have value in both countries at the time. We know, indeed, from *Mac Conmidhe's* poem, that whoever the person was in Scotland who had possession of O'Brien's harp, refused to part with it, either freely or for compensation in Irish sheep. And this clearly enough shows that property of this kind was deemed of less value in Scotland than the harp of an Irish chief; and it shows also, we may fairly argue, that so rich a treasure as the gifted poet could not be parted with in the same country for any amount of the ordinary commodities of Ireland.

What was it then that brought O'Brien's harp into Scotland at this particular time? I may state here that *Mac Conmidhe's* poem appears to be defective at the end. It does not, according to an invariable ancient usage, end with the same word with which it begins; and if it had been perfect, it is more than probable that we should have had some allusion to the circumstances under which the instrument had passed into Scotland. We have no direct authority on the subject; but from the allusions I have referred to, I may express my own belief that the harp was the jewel sent there to release *Maireadhach O'Daly* from the difficulties which stood in the way of his return to his own country.

The next question is, whether that harp ever came back direct to Ireland? and to this question I think we may answer with all the probability of truth, that it did not; for we have it on the authority of *Mac Conmidhe's* poem, that its restoration could not be obtained for love or money, at least in the owner's time. And now we may further ask, whether it is possible that the harp now preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, with its traditional history, such as it is, may be no other than this very harp of O'Brien? I answer that it possibly may be so; and that whether this harp passed from Scotland into England along with the regalia in the time of Edward the First; or whether it came there in any other way before

XXXIII.  
O'Daly was perhaps not allowed to leave Scotland without ransom.

What was the jewel paid as this ransom?

The author believes that it was the harp of O'Brien.

This harp did not come back to Ireland directly,

and may have passed into the hands of Edward I.,



XXXIII.  
and have  
been given  
by Henry  
VIII. to  
Clanrick-  
ard.

The armorial  
bearings and  
monogram  
not of same  
date as the  
harp.

Objects of  
the author  
in this dis-  
cussion.

Poem on  
another  
straying  
harp of an  
O'Brien.

or after that time the tradition of its having been given by King Henry the Eighth to the Earl of Clanrickard, and of its having continued a long time in the Clanrickard family, under the name of Donogh O'Brien's harp, remains uncontradicted by any evidence or by any logical argument.

Then, as regards the armorial bearings, by the character of which the age of this harp has been attempted to be determined, I venture to say that those armorial bearings, what family soever they may have belonged to, were no part of the original harp; and that there is not upon the entire instrument a spot left vacant in which they could fit, excepting that alone which is now occupied in the harmonic curve by the monogram I. H. C., so rude and inferior in artistic design and execution to the rest of the carving, into which it would appear to have been inserted, probably by some possessor of the instrument after it had passed from the hands of its original owner.

In this tedious and perhaps shadowy discussion on the *Brian Boru* harp, I trust I shall be believed when I say, that I have had no object in view but the elucidation, as far as possible, of its true history; or if not that, the nearest possible guess at it; such a guess as might reasonably be given, from the few facts and circumstances that I have adduced, and which appear to me to supply coincidences bearing with remarkable point upon the subject. I don't want to offer any flat contradiction to high authority. I wish to place before these authorities such facts only as I have collected since Dr. Petrie's Essay was published, in the hope that if they do not lead to the certainty of the truth, they may be found useful landmarks in the further prosecution of this interesting antiquarian inquiry. And still further, to show that I am not trusting merely to speculations of my own in opposition to the opinions of well informed men, and that there is nothing at all improbable in what I have ventured to suggest as to the wanderings of the harp of *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien, I may here notice a reference to the straying harp of another distinguished, but much later nobleman of the great O'Brien family. This harp, indeed, might come within the range of Dr. Petrie's antiquarian tests, as to its age; but, if it is still extant, it is not accompanied by any known legend that would lead to its identification.

The reference to this harp that I have just mentioned, is found in an anonymous poem of considerable merit, which, like *Mac Conmidhe's* poem on *Donnchadh Cairbreach's* harp, was addressed to it, when heard played by a stranger, by the disconsolate bard of its exiled owner. This poem consist of ten quatrains, so appropriate to the present subject, and certainly

so valuable a corroboration of an important historical event, that I shall give a literal translation of the whole of it. It is as follows:

XXXIII

- “Musical thou art, O harp of my king!  
 The plaint of thy strings has brought me to grief;  
 It is little that my mind was not deranged  
 When I heard thy voice while being tuned.
- “Seldom hast thou been seen upon a visitation,  
 O fount of music! who hath gained every prize!  
 Thou beautiful harp of the *Ollamhs* of [*Clann*] *Táil*.  
 Oftener was the visit of nobles to thee!
- “Thou musical, fine-pointed, speckled harp!  
 Thou hast seen a time—did we of it wish to tell—  
 When to thee were sung the poems of sages,  
 For which *Ua Duach* [O'Brien] paid steeds and gold.
- “Many a hand ran over thy ribs,  
 In that bright mansion, where pleasure reigned;  
 Thou of the noble breast, delightful and free,  
 Until thou didst allow him to sail over the waves.
- “Thou musical harp of the race of Brian—  
 After them no one should in greatness trust,  
 Whilst I am like *Torna* after *Niall*,  
 And thou among strangers after my king!
- “The foreigners have driven beyond the sea  
 The Earl of the *Clann Táil*—what greater wo!  
 From that time thither I have heard no harp  
 That has not a tone of wailing in its notes.
- “Alas! that the fair, bountiful man did not consent,  
 The heir of the O'Briens, who gained all sway,  
 To suffer base deeds without anger  
 And guard himself against English treachery.
- “Their oppressive demands were not borne  
 By the beloved of Cashel, of the foam white skin  
 His glowing billow of kingly blood [could not bear it],  
 Its consequence, alas! has come upon us.
- “Erinn has ceased to live of the sorrows of the king,  
 Completely has her career gone down,  
 The nut produce of Inis Fail has ceased,  
 The happiness of all men has ceased, and their music.
- “Sweet, O'Gilligan, are thy notes,  
 Sweet the voice of the strings in thy fingers;  
 Still 't was sweeter to me in the time of *Ua Luire*  
 [O'Brien],  
 Tho' this harp is always sweet for its music!<sup>(351)</sup>

Poem on  
 another  
 straying  
 harp of an  
 O'Brien.

(351) [original:—

ceoldear rin a cruic mo ríge!

rom éur a rinim fianra do éeo;

ruail nácaim raobaó mo cruic,

so cuala do gúe doo gúar



## XXXIII.

written in  
1670;the O'Brien  
was  
Conor, Earl  
of Thomond;the "Four  
Masters"  
account of  
his submis-  
sion to Q.  
Elizabeth;

This poem, whoever may have been the author of it, must have been written in the year 1570; for it was in that year, as we are told by the Annals of the Four Masters, that Conor O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, in consequence of the dissensions of his own people and the pressure of the English power, came to terms with the Earl of Ormond, Queen Elizabeth's representative, and promised to be counselled by him. The following is the account of this event, as chronicled by the Four Masters:—

"He [the earl] gave up his towns, namely, Clonroad, Clarmor [now Clare Castle], and Bunratty, into the hands of the Earl of Ormond; and Donnell O'Brien and other chieftains of Thomond, whom the earl had as prisoners, were set at liberty, as were also the prisoners held by the president. The earl was afterwards seized with sorrow and regret for having given up his towns and prisoners, for he now retained only one of all his fortresses, namely, *Magh O'm-Bracain*, and in this he left ever-faithful warders; he resolved that he would never submit himself to the law or the mercy of the council of Ireland, choosing rather to be a wanderer and an outlaw, and even to abandon his estates and his fine patrimony, than to go among them. He afterwards concealed himself for some time in Clanmaurice [in Kerry], from whence he passed, about the festival of St. John, into France, where he stopped for some time. He afterwards went to England, and received favour, pardon, and honour from the queen of England, who sent letters to the council of Ireland, commanding them to honour the earl, and he returned to Ireland in the winter of the same year".

It must, then, have been in the precise year 1570 the above poem was written, for that was the year in which O'Brien was

anóim leat tfaicim ar cuairt,  
a ceolfaoi do fuair gac geall!  
a éruit éaem ollamna táil,  
fa mince cuairt éais do ceann!  
a éruit ceolcár beanncór bpeac!  
tarair feal,—gá tadm do—  
do geabtaí moe laeite ruad,  
ar a tteuc ua vuac eie ir óp.  
Mór lam polacaó fav éneaf,  
fan mur ngeal, a bpaitee mur-  
inn;  
a mópda bhuinne feargair fæp,  
gur leig tu a éaeb ne tuinn.  
a éruit ceolcár clainne bhruan,—  
a ttepean na noisag mur éoir bpué,  
ir mipe mar tórna tar eir neill,  
ir curf ar eacra veir mo níg.  
Do curpéav allmupair tar fáil,  
lapla ó táil—cia epaó ar mó!  
ó fom aleie ni éuala éruit,

naé bpaio foéar guil na glór.  
ar tpuag nar aentair an pno pal,  
ua na mbpuan, ne mberéar bapp,  
fulang élam beir: cul ne feisg,  
beir ara coomne ar ceisg nfall;  
mur fuilngeav vaerie a mberé  
leannan caipil, éneaf mar éunn;  
a tonn moipac pola níg—  
tapla a veapcav, papior tuinn.  
Tairnig éne vaépa an níg,  
do éavó uile rir a féol,  
tairnig eno meaf érué fáil,  
tairnig aibnef éais fa ceol.  
Binn, a úi gilligain do glór,  
binn gofa na tteó av meóp,  
binne lam i a bpaicéir ti luip,  
ge binn i an éruit ara ceol.  
Ceolcár.  
—O'Curry MSS., C.U.I., Lives of  
Saints, vol. ii., p. 48.]

forced to fly over the sea from the English power. It is curious, however, to find that within the comparatively short time the earl was absent his harp had passed into a strange country, if not into strange hands; for, although the poet praises the performance of O'Gilligan, who appears to have been the possessor of this harp at the time, O'Gilligan is not a Munster name, and the bearer of that name could scarcely be expected to be raised to the distinction of chief *Ollamh* in music to the *Clann Tail*, or O'Briens, in preference to the musicians of their own country and race.

XXXIII.  
It was during his short absence that his harp passed into strange hands;

The harp now in Trinity College could not have been this harp of the Earl of Thomond, unless indeed that the latter harp might have come down some hundreds of years as an heirloom in the family; but this is not probable; and if this straying harp of Conor O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, of the year 1570, be in existence at all, it is not identified.

the harp in T. C. D. not this harp.

There is an old harp in the possession of John Lanigan, Esq., of Castle Fogarty, in the county of Tipperary; and I have heard Mr. Lanigan say that it exactly resembles in size and carving the harp in Trinity College, of which he saw a cast in the Royal Irish Academy. Mr. Lanigan's harp, however, has not been seen by any person who has given his attention to its comparative style and age, or who was qualified in any way to form and express an opinion on it. It is much to be regretted, and a great loss to inquiries of this kind, that the owners of rare relics of antiquity are not at all times willing to place for a time these curious remains in the Royal Irish Academy, where they could be properly examined and compared, duly understood, and appreciated by the general public as well as by the antiquary. There are generous exceptions to this rule, as in the case of Sir Richard O'Donnell, Bart., of Newport, county of Mayo, who has for many years allowed his precious relic, the *Cathach*, to add to the richness of the splendid museum of the Royal Irish Academy, and it would be greatly to be desired that his liberal example were more generally followed.

Mr. Lanigan's harp.

Owners of rare antiquities should place them for a time in the museum of the R.I.A.

In continuation of these observations of mine, and tracing still farther down the existence and abode of a few other surviving harps of the later times, the following communication from my own and Ireland's distinguished friend, Dr. Petrie, will, I am sure, be received with all the attention and respect due to his revered name. Thus writes Dr. Petrie.—

Some notes on Irish harps by Dr. Petrie.

“To the lovers of ancient Irish melody—a body, I regret to say, small in number amongst the educated classes in Ireland—it is a matter of deep regret that no very ancient specimen remains to us of the instrument which gave that melody a grace

“He regrets the absence of any ancient harp”;



XXXIII. of form and depth of feeling which that of no other country has ever equalled, or will ever surpass. As a nation, indeed, we have been and are hopelessly indifferent in the matter. We suppose the Irish harp to have been a barbarous instrument, and believe the music to which it gave birth to be at best but rude and unsuited to civilized ears; and in truth it is not of a kind to touch the feelings or satisfy the conventional taste of society as at present constituted.

"present indifference to Irish harps and music";

"Some ecclesiastical relics preserved";

"The religious sentiment, so strongly characteristic of the Gaedhelic mind, has, in despite of so many adverse circumstances, preserved to us a few relics of those saintly men who by their zeal in the propagation of Christianity, both at home and abroad, obtained for their country the title of *Insula Sanctorum*; and these relics are no less interesting as touching memorials of the good men of a remote age, than valuable as specimens exhibiting an intimacy with the elegant arts which without them would probably be more than doubted.

"Dr. Petrie would have preferred the harp of St. Patrick or St. Kevin";

"Highly, however, as I appreciate these remains, I confess that I would rather have possessed the harp of the apostle Patrick, or that of the gentle Keven of Glandalough, which we know to have been so long preserved, than their bells, shrines, or croziers, or any other of their relics; for such were only memorials of their professional existence, while their harps would present to our imagination the existence of that sensibility to 'the concordance of sweet sounds' which the Creator has bestowed upon man, as the most sensuous and pure of his leisure enjoyments. Unhappily, such touching memorials, however, we can never possess

"our bogs may yet give us an ancient harp";

"But we may still indulge the hope that our bogs, which have preserved for us so many interesting remains illustrative of the progress in civilization of our forefathers, may still conserve and present to us a specimen of our ancient harp; for at least one such they have already given us in our own time, but it seems to have been uncared for, and, consequently,—destroyed!

"Mr. Joy's account of such a harp found in the county of Limerick";

"The late Mr. Henry Joy, of Belfast, in his learned and admirable 'Historical Critical Dissertation on the Harp', printed in the late Mr. Edward Bunting's 'General Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland' (vol. i.: London, 1811), has informed us that—

"About ten or eleven years ago, a curious harp was found in the county of Limerick, on the estate of Sir Richard Harte, by whom it was given to the late Dr. O'Halloran. On the death of that gentleman it was thrown into a lumber room, and thence removed by a cook, who consigned it to the flames. Its

exact figure we have not been able to obtain. Several gentlemen who saw it, declare that it totally differed in construction from the instrument now known in Ireland; that it was smaller in size, and still retained three metal strings, with pins for several others. It was raised by labourers at the depth of twelve spits or spadings under the earth in Coolness Moss, near Newcastle, between Limerick and Killarney. It seems extraordinary that any vestige of metal strings or pins should have remained, notwithstanding the qualities attributed to moss water'.

"From the great depth at which this harp was found", continues Dr. Petrie, "it could hardly have been less than one thousand years old. Nor is it improbable that amongst the harps belonging to the harpers of the last century and early part of the present, some of them may have been of a respectable though inferior antiquity to the Limerick harp. What, it may be asked, has become of the harps of the seven harpers who met at Granard in 1782, and the ten harpers at Belfast in 1792? Most of them, no doubt, have been used for firewood. Yet I have been informed by the late Mr. Christopher Dillon Bellew, and his lady, of Mount Bellew, in the county of Galway, that for many years a very aged harper, who was very probably one of those who attended the harp meetings, used, in making his annual rounds at the houses of the Connaught gentry, stop at their mansion for a fortnight, and that on those occasions they were always much struck with the antique character of his harp. 'It was', they said, 'small, and but simply ornamented', and on the front of the pillar, or forearm, there was a brass plate, on which was inscribed the name of the maker and the date—1509. The poor harper had often expressed his intention of bequeathing this harp to his kind entertainers; but a summer came without bringing him to his accustomed haunts, and the harp was never forwarded, nor its fate ascertained.

"Of the harps now remaining to us, that preserved in the museum of Trinity College, and popularly called '*Brian Boru's*', but which I would call 'O'Neill's', is, probably, the oldest. But, there can be no doubt of its being the work of a much later age than that of the Munster king; and it may be questioned if the ancient harps preserved in Scotland, and which are probably of Irish manufacture, are not of equal or even earlier antiquity. (The next in age is the Fitzgerald, or, as it is now popularly called, the Dalway harp, having been in the possession of that old Antrim family for a considerable number of years. Of this harp, unhappily, only fragments remain, namely, the harmonic curve, or pin-board, and the fore-arm;

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"According to Dr. Petrie this harp was at least 1000 years old".

"What has become of the harps of 1782 and 1792?"

"A harp of 1509";

"'Brian Boru's' harp is the oldest of those now known";

"the Dalway harp next in age";



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the sound-board having been lost or destroyed. These fragments are, however, of great interest, not only on account of their elaborate and tasteful ornamentations, but, perhaps, still more from their being in great part covered with Latin and Irish inscriptions. From these inscriptions we learn that the harp was made for one of the Desmond Fitzgeralds, namely, John McEdmond Fitzgerald of *Cluain*, or Cloyne, whose arms are handsomely chased on the front of the fore-pillar, surmounted by the arms of England. It presents us also with the name of the maker, 'Donatus, Filius Thadei', and the date of its fabrication, 1621; and, in the Irish language and letters, the names of the servants of the household.

"the inscription on this harp imperfectly translated in Mr. Joy's essay"

"These inscriptions having been imperfectly translated in Mr. Joy's Essay, but recently read correctly by yourself, and printed for private distribution by the late Dr. Robert Ball, I think it desirable to give them a more secure record in your lectures as interesting memorials of domestic life in Ireland at that period".

"Professor O'Curry's translation of them";

The following is my translation of these Irish inscriptions:—

"These are they who were servitors to John Fitz Edmond [Fitz Gerald], at Cluain [Cloyne], at the time that I was made, viz.: the Steward there was James Fitz John; and Maurice Walsh was our Superintendent; and Dermot Fitz John, Wine Butler; and John Ruadhan was Beer Butler; and Philip Fitz Donnel was Cook there, Anno Domini 1621.

"Teige O'Ruarc was Chamberlain there, and James Russel was House Marshal; and Maurice Fitz Thomas and Maurice Fitz Edmond; these were all discreet attendants upon him. Philip Fitzteige Magrath was Tailor there; Donnchadh Fitz Teige was his Carpenter,—it was he that made me.

"Giollapatríck Mac Cridan was my Musician and Harmonist; and if I could have found a better, him should I have, and Dermot M'Cridan along with him, two highly accomplished men, whom I had to nurse me. And on every one of these, may God have mercy on them all".<sup>(347)</sup>

<sup>(347)</sup> [original:—] 1714070 uob feo-  
manais ag Seadan mac Emainn  
Seapalt, a gcluain, an tan uo-  
ponas mui, .i. uobo foibairt ann  
Semur mac Seadan; acap Muiur  
brianach uoba faomantac; acap  
Diarmuro mac Seadan buitileir fionn;  
acap Seadan Ruoban buitileir na beo-  
rac; acap Philip mac Donnaisll ba  
cócairt ann, anno Domino 1621.

Taos O Ruairc ba feomraoort  
ann, acap Semur Ruirel ba mara-

gal tige; acap Muiur mac Tumair  
acap Muiur mac Emainn; ba fionn-  
anais vheirgecebeada iso fo uile.  
Philip mac Taos me Cris ba taib-  
uir ann; Donn[ai]l mac Taos na  
ra[e]r uo fon.

Giollapaport mba Crisain uoba  
feap ceoil acap oiraport uam; acap  
ba fhaigin ni buit feap ir fe uo  
bheas, acap Diarmuro mac Crisain  
maile feir, uair uo cfaib'glanna,  
uo bi agampa uom alimnen. acap gal

“According to an old custom”, Mr. Joy writes, “the instrument is supposed to be animated; and, among other matters, informs us of the names of two harpers who had produced the finest music on it; these were, it seems, Giolla Patrick M’Cridan and Diarmad M’Cridan”. This harp, which was nearly twice the size of the last noticed, has been thus described by Mr. Joy:—“By the pins, which remain almost entire, it is found to have contained in the row forty-five strings, besides seven in the centre, probably for unisons to others, making in all fifty-two strings. In consequence of the sound-board being lost, different attempts to ascertain its scale have been unsuccessful. It contained twenty-four strings more than the noted harp called Brian Boiromhe’s; and in point of workmanship, is beyond comparison superior to it, both for the elegance of its crowded ornaments, and for the general execution of those parts on which the general correctness of a musical instrument depends. The opposite side is equally beautiful with that of which the delineation is given; the fore-pillar appears to be sallow, the harmonic curve of yew.

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“Description of this harp”.

“The instrument, in truth, deserves the epithet claimed by the inscription on itself—‘*Ego sum Regina Cithararum*’”.

“As following in age as well as in importance”, continues Dr. Petrie, “the harp I have next to notice is, by a curious coincidence, also a Fitzgerald one—it is the harp of the great parent family of Kildare, and is happily in their keeping. The size and proportions of this harp are about the same as those of the Cloyne harp; and, like the latter, it is richly, but less elaborately ornamented. In both harps, too, the style of the ornamentation is generally characteristic of an earlier age than that of their manufacture, as proved by the coats of arms and inscriptions upon them. In the Kildare harp, the inscription is,

“The harp of the Marquis of Kildare”.

εαν οιαβ ζο ηθεαρνα οια ζηραα οητα  
ροη ηηε.

Beside the Irish inscription there is, in large Roman letters, near the figure of a queen, at the end of the harmonic curve,  
I<sup>o</sup>E & EB ME FIERI FECERUNT  
EGO SUM REGINA CITHARA-  
RUM.

Upon the bow the royal arms of England are carved; and it is to be remarked that the quartering for Ireland exhibits a harp which is a good representation of that known as the harp of Brian Boromha. Under the royal arms are those of Sir John Fitz-Edmond Fitzgerald, of Cloyne, im-

paled with those of his wife, the Hon. Ellen Barry, daughter of Viscount Buttevant; he was married in 1611, and died in 1640. The mottoes under the arms appear to be, “Virescit vulnere virtus, Boutez en avant”. Upon the edge of the bow were Latin inscriptions (now partly lost); there remain, “Plecto vinco rego. . . . monstra viros. musica Dei donum. distractas solatur musica mentes. ut sonus . . . . transit sic gloria mundi. Vincit veritas”. Upon the inside of the bow, in large letters, is inscribed, “Donatus filius Thadei me fecit, spes mea in Deo”.]



XXXIII. indeed, a very simple one, namely, the letters R. F. G., and, in Arabic numerals, the date, 1672. Yet, brief as this inscription is, coupled with the escutcheon of arms above which it is carved, it is quite sufficient to identify the particular Fitzgerald for whom the harp was made. The escutcheon, which is carved in high relief upon the fore-pillar, exhibits the arms of the Kildare Fitzgeralds—pearl, a saltire, ruby; but they are charged with a crescent, to denote that they belong to the second son of the chief of the family; and thus informed, we are enabled by a reference to Lodge's Peerage, to determine, with certainty, that the R. F. G. of 1672, was Robert, the second son of George, the sixteenth earl of Kildare—who brought the name of Robert into that noble house—and who, during the minority of his nephew, John, the eighteenth earl, who was born in 1661, was appointed by the king to the government of the county. He was born in 1637, and he died in January 1697-8. On the death of George, the sixteenth earl, in 1707, the earldom passed to a second Robert, born in 1675, who was his first cousin, being the son of his uncle, for whom the harp was made, and from him, in a direct line, is descended the present estimable marquis, by whom, in the ancient castle of the family, at Kilkea, the harp is now most carefully conserved, and of his race may it never want conservators.

"Harps of the eighteenth century":

"I have now noticed all the harps of an age anterior to the eighteenth century known to me as existing in Ireland, and I have next to speak of those of a later age. The earliest harps of the eighteenth century which I have seen were made by Cormac Kelly, at Ballynascreen, in the county of Londonderry, 'a district', as Mr. Bunting informs us, 'long famous for the construction of such instruments'. Of these harps, the most remarkable is that preserved at Downhall, the seat of Sir Hervey Bruce, Bart., in the same county, and which had belonged till the time of his death to Denis Hampson, the well-known harper of Magilligan, who died in 1807, at the age of 112 years. Its sides and front are made of white willow, and the back of bog fir, patched with copper and iron plates, and the following lines are sculptured on it:—

"the one in the possession of Sir Hervey Bruce":

'In the days of Noah I was grown,  
After his flood I've not been seen,  
Until seventeen hundred and two:—I was found  
By Cormac Kelly, under ground;  
He raised me up to that degree,  
Queen of music they call me'.

"the Castle Otway harp":

"A second, by the same maker, is preserved at Castle Otway, in the county of Tipperary, the seat of Captain Robert Jocelyn

Otway, R.N. and D.L., and bears the date 1707. This harp was the property of the harper and fiddler, Patrick Quin, a native of Portadown, in the county of Armagh, and who was the youngest of the harpers who attended at the assembly in July, 1792, Hampson being the eldest. Quin was brought to Dublin in 1809, as the only survivor of the old harpers, by the unfortunate John Bernard Trotter, who had made a visionary and fruitless attempt to organize a Harp Society, through whose patronage a school for the instruction of a new race of harpers might be established, of which Quin was to be the teacher; and many Dublin septuagenarians like myself may remember his performance at a Commemoration of Handel at the Rotundo in that year, and which was got up with the view to promote this object.

"A third harp of this period, which was, and, as I trust, is still preserved in the county of Limerick, is also, according to Mr. Bunting, the manufacture of this maker, and engravings of it are given in Walker's 'Irish Bards', and in Ledwich's 'Antiquities of Ireland'. But there can scarcely exist a doubt that my old friend was in error in this statement; for, in addition to the fact that this harp, in its form and style of ornamentation, differs essentially from those of Cormac, we have the statement of Mr. William Ousley, of Limerick, who drew the harp and supplied the information respecting it for Walker, that it bore the inscription 'Made by John Kelly, 1726'. It was also of greater size than any of the harps of Cormac Kelly, and which were never more than four feet in height; for we are informed that this harp was five feet high, and contained thirty-three strings. In 1783 this harp was in the possession of Mr. John Hehir, of Limerick. What has since become of it I know not.

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"a harp  
formerly  
belonging to  
Mr. Hehir of  
Limerick";

"Superior in many respects to any of the harps of this period I have now noticed, was one which, through the kindness of a friend, I had the pleasure of seeing in 1832, and of which, unhappily, I can now speak only from a faded recollection. It was at that time the property or in the keeping of a country solicitor, who had his Dublin office on Bachelor's Walk, and who was then out of town. This harp was of moderate size, about four feet in height, and, with the exception of a fracture which it was obvious it had recently received, was in the most perfect state of preservation. Its colour was that of a precious and well cared for Cremona violin, and no instrument of that class could exceed it in the beauty and perfection of its workmanship, while, from the antique character of its ornamentation, one would suppose it an instrument of much antiquity, but for the presence of an inscription which gives its history

"a Magennis  
harp seen by  
Dr. Petrie in  
1832";



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and the year of its making. This inscription was not, as usual, engraved on the woodwork of the harp, but written in the Irish language and characters on parchment, which was under glass, on the sound-board, and, amongst other matters which I forget, it informed us that it was the property of a Captain Art Magennis, of some place in the county of Down, for whom it was made in the year 1725, or thereabout. Shortly after my seeing the instrument, the friend to whose kindness I was indebted for the privilege emigrated to America, where he died, and its owner having given up his lodgings, I could learn nothing from his successor as to his town and country residences. I can only, therefore, indulge the hope, I confess a feeble one, that this interesting memorial of a past state of feeling and condition of society in Ireland may have escaped the usual fate of such relics, and I have a pleasure in penning this imperfect notice of it, from the hope that, if it yet exists, such notice may lead to our acquiring a knowledge of its locality, and perhaps to a conserving appreciation of its interest and value.

"the harp in  
the possession  
of Sir G.  
Hodson";

"To this period I think we should also ascribe the harp preserved with an honoured place in the hall of Hollybrook House, county of Wicklow, the beautiful seat of Sir George F. J. Hodson, Bart. It is of small size, and without ornament or inscription. But it is not without a peculiar interest; for its presence carries our minds back to the joyous days in that district of the ancestor of Sir George, the 'Robin Adair' of many an old song. Which of us has not heard the 'You are welcome to Puckstown, Robin Adair', manufactured into 'You're welcome to Paxton, Robin Adair' by the Scotch, and for a long time claimed as their own? or the still more popular ballad 'The Kilruddery Fox Hunt', in the opinion of Ritson, the best ballad-poem in the English language, in which we are told triumphantly that 'Robert Adair, too, was with us that day'? That line will preserve his name and memory for ever. And it also reminds us that in those days of simple living, social Irish merriment, and unconventional freedom of manners, the sound of the Irish harp, and the melodies of Ireland, whether gay or tender, were not forgotten; for the first of these songs was associated with the exquisitely beautiful and impassioned "Eileen aroon"; and the second with the tempered mirthfulness of 'Sighile ni Gara'. And, for my own part, I confess that I cannot banish from my mind the impression that there existed at this period, in the romantic district of the Bray river, a poet of the type of the ancient bards—one who combined with the powers of song the gift of composing exciting rhymes for the purpose of the hour. And he often presents himself to

my imagination, seated in the old mansion of Hollybrooke, with Robert Adair and the bold hunters of Kilruddery—himself no doubt one of them—singing, with the accompaniment of this very harp, those simple songs which are yet remembered, and give pleasure in the remembrance, not only in the locality that gave them birth, but even in distant countries that have little knowledge or conception of its beauty.

“To this period may also be ascribed the harp preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, though indeed there is, in my opinion, a possibility of its being of an earlier age. It is of medium size and of good workmanship, but its only ornamentation consists of a bird's head which adorns the fore pillar. This harp came into the possession of the Academy by the purchase of the second collection of Irish antiquities made by the late Major Sirr, his first and better collection having been disposed of to a Glasgow picture dealer, coupled with the singular condition that none of them should be offered for sale in Ireland; and I need hardly add, that, as a consequence, the whole collection passed into the hands of Scotch and English antiquaries.

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“the harp in the R. I. A., purchased from Major Sirr”;

“The Academy also possesses another harp, which, if it had any just claim to the name it bears—‘Carolan’s’—would be viewed by appreciators of musical genius with a deep interest. But, though it was sold to the Academy as such by a person who represented himself as the lineal descendant of the great minstrel, I have no doubt that he was a wretched impostor, whose statement was wholly unworthy of belief. We have trustworthy evidence that Carolan's harp was burned by the servants of Mac Dermot Roe at Alderford House, in which Carolan died. And even if such evidence were wanting, the character of the harp itself would belie the assertion; for it is of the rudest form and workmanship, and without any characteristic of Carolan's time. In short, I think it is a clumsy piece of work of the early part of the present century, and wholly unworthy a place in the great museum in which it is deposited.

“the so-called harp of Carolan in the R.I.A.”

“I have now noticed all the old harps which have come under my own observation, and—with the exception of the Lanigan harp, in the county of Tipperary, which I have never seen, but I believe to be old—all those of whose present existence I have become cognizant. I have now, therefore, only to say a few words in reference to the harps manufactured in our own time.

“As far as I know, these harps are all the manufacture of Egan, the eminent Dublin harp-maker, and owe their origin to the necessity of providing instruments for a new race of harpers, the pupils of the school of the Belfast Harp Society. These

“Harps of the present century all made by Egan”;



xxxiii. harps were of good form and size, about the height of pedal harps, rich in tone, and of excellent workmanship. But they were wholly without ornament, and had nothing about them to remind us of 'the loved harp of other days'. Where are these harps now? To what purpose have they been applied, now that their players have disappeared from amongst us? I cannot say. One, indeed, is in my own possession, and is an existing memorial of a great triumph of religious liberty—a triumph which I trust will yet obliterate the painful recollection of past divisions and sufferings, and unite Irishmen of all classes and creeds in the bonds of peace and brotherly affection. Many of us must, like myself, remember the triumphal procession of O'Connell through the leading streets of our city in 1829, after the passing of the Emancipation Act. The hero of the day was seated in a triumphal car, richly decorated with laurels; standing on his left hand, his henchman—one of my boy friends—the noble and lionhearted, and yet gentle, but not overwise Tom Steele; and seated before, but below them, a venerable minstrel, with abundant silvery locks and beard, arrayed in the supposed costume of the bardic race, and apparently drawing from his harp the joyous melodies of his country fitting for the occasion. It is true that he might as well have been a 'man who had no music in his soul', striking an instrument which could give forth no sound: for the never-ceasing Irish shout, which I believe is allowed to be far superior to all other shouts, of the assembled thousands who preceded, and surrounded, and followed the car, was a jealous shout, and would allow no other sound to be heard. The harp of that day was the one which is now mine; and the harper, whose appearance indicated a centogenarian age, and from whom, in a subsequent year, I bought it, was M'Loughlin, one of the *young* harpers of the Belfast school.

"one of them in Dr. Petrie's possession".

"Dr. Petrie's opinion of the exertions of the Harp Society of Belfast".

"The effort of the people of the north to perpetuate the existence of the harp in Ireland, by trying to give a harper's skill to a number of poor blind boys, was at once a benevolent and a patriotic one; but it was a delusion. The harp at the time was virtually dead; and such effort could give it for a while only a sort of galvanized vitality. The selection of blind boys, without any greater regard for their musical capacities than the possession of the organ of hearing, for a calling which doomed them to a wandering life, depending for existence mainly, if not wholly, on the sympathies of the poorer classes, and necessarily conducive to the formation of intemperate habits, was not a well-considered benevolence, and should never have had any fair hope of success. And besides, there were no competent

teachers, imbued with a refined sense of the beauty of our finest melodies, to instruct them; none to select for them the most touching of those melodies, and unite them, anew, with a simple but correct harmony, such as has been preserved traditionally by the harpers of Wales, and give to their calling a continuance and a patronage not yet wholly extinguished. Thus imperfectly instructed—ignorant of counterpoint, and with a knowledge of only a few of our melodies, rarely of the first class, and scarcely ever perfectly preserved, how could it be expected that their performance could be tolerated by cultivated ears, accustomed to the 'tunes of the day', which are often of great beauty, and always correct and effective in their harmonies? But, even if it were otherwise—if those blind boys had been taught to play with skill and correctness the melodies of Ireland—the only melodies suited to their instrument—there was no longer in the country a generally diffused Celtic sentiment,—no national feeling, independent of class prejudices, like that of Scotland! A new phase of society, of which the struggle for wealth and the enjoyments of luxury are the characteristic features, has taken the place of that simpler one which gave a zest to the purer enjoyments, springing from man's sensibilities. Fashion will not now allow us to exhibit depth of feeling, or marked individuality of character. As a great poet has expressed this change.

“The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:  
Little we see in nature that is ours;

We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!”

“No. The Irish harp cannot be brought back to life: 't is dead for ever! And, even the music which it had created will never be felt again as it has been felt. But, it won't die. A few minds, possessing the deeper sensibilities of our nature, and strong enough to spurn the deadening influences of fashion, will always be found, who, in the enjoyment of such music, will look for a solace amidst

“the Irish harp is dead for ever, but the music won't die”.

“‘The fretful stir and fever of the world’”.

Passing from this valuable communication of Dr. Petrie, I shall now take up the thread of my own observations.

There is a harp in Scotland known as the harp of Mary Queen of Scots, described in “Gunn's Historical Enquiry”, and said to resemble in a remarkable degree the Trinity College harp; but it has not, I believe, been yet examined by any person properly qualified to say how far this resemblance really exists. This may, for all we really know, be the harp of *Donnchadh Cairbreach O'Brien*.

The harp in Scotland known as that of Mary Queen of Scots.



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So far I have endeavoured to collect such references to the form, compass, and arrangement of the ancient harp,—our characteristic national instrument of music,—as well as to the history of the few existing examples of it known to us, as I have been able to gather in my readings of our ancient lore. But before I proceed to the next branch of my subject, and as I have said so much of *Muireadhach Albanach* O'Daly, I must be pardoned another short digression, in order to allow me to correct an error into which a learned Scottish writer, of whose acquaintance I feel proud to boast, has lately fallen respecting this celebrated Irish bard.

Rev. Mr. Mac Lauchlan's "Book of the Dean of Lismore";

The gentleman to whom I allude is the Reverend Thomas Mac Lauchlan of Edinburgh, who has within the present year published, with translation and notes, a volume of Gaelic poems selected from the Book of the Dean of Lismore in Scotland (a MS. of the year 1529). This book is a valuable contribution to the Gaelic literature of Ireland and Scotland. It is a work of great labour, most creditably executed, being enriched, besides the labours of the editor himself, by a long and deeply interesting introduction and additional notes from the learned pen of another valued friend of mine, William Forbes Skene, Esq., of Edinburgh. This is not, indeed, the place to enter into the merits of Mr. Mac Lauchlan's work, though I cannot resist the opportunity which the occurrence of *Muireadhach* O'Daly's name in it affords me of bearing my humble testimony to its merits. Among the curious selection of Ossianic and other poems in the volume, there are three short poems of a religious character ascribed to *Muireadhach Albanach* (O'Daly), of which I do not know of any copies existing in Ireland; and at page 109, in which is printed a poem ascribed to a John Mac Murrich, Mr. Mac Lauchlan appends the following note: "This John McMurrich, or McVurrich, was in all likelihood a member of the family who were so long bards to Clanranald, and who derived their name from their great ancestor in the thirteenth century, Muireach Albanach". And again, at page 157, where the first of O'Daly's poems occurs, the following note is appended:

it contains three poems ascribed to O'Daly or *Muireadhach Albanach*;

Mr. Mac Lauchlan's note on this poet;

"Murdoch of Scotland was the first of the great race of Mac Vurrichs, bards to Macdonald of Clanranald. From all that can be gathered regarding him, he was an ecclesiastic, and, according to the measure of light he possessed, a man of earnest and sincere religion. It was not known, until this volume of Dean McGregor's was searched, that any remains of his compositions existed; but here we find several, all very much of the same character. There is one long poem to the cross, which

appears to have been modelled on the early Latin hymns. Murdock of Scotland, or *Muireadhach Albanach*, would appear to have lived between A.D. 1180 and 1220. Mr. Standish H. O'Grady, late President of the Ossianic Society of Dublin, kindly sent to the writer some years ago a poem, still preserved in Ireland, containing a dialogue between *Muireadhach* and 'Cathal Croibhdhearg', the red-handed Cathal O'Connor, king of Connaught, on the occasion of their embracing a religious life. Cathal's 'florish' is known to have been between A.D. 1184 and 1225".

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Mr. Mac Lauchlan prints the poem here, but the description of it is incorrect as far as O'Daly is concerned, for it contains no allusion whatever to his having embraced a religious life. On the contrary, he strongly urges the warrior king not to sheathe his sword, but rather to whet it for more battles, in place of whetting his knife for the purpose of tonsuring his head; and Cathal of the Red Hand did continue fighting his battles up to the year of his death in A.D. 1224, though he died in the habit of a Cistercian monk, in the abbey of *Cnoc Muaidh*, in the county of Galway, an abbey which he had himself founded in the year 1190.<sup>(348)</sup> Even in this poem O'Daly does not forget to pay a high and affectionate compliment to his friend *Donnchadh Cairbreach* O'Brien; but it is doubtful that he was in Ireland at all at the time of writing it. I possess a fine copy of this curious poem.

his description of one of the poems incorrect as regards O'Daly;

It does not appear that Mr. Mac Lauchlan was aware that *Muireadhach Albanach* was an Irishman, but such he certainly was; and if the Mac Murdochs, or Mac Vuirrichs, of Scotland, are descended from him, they are the only posterity he is known to have left. For although his own pedigree is preserved by the O'Clerys and Mac Firis, they do not seem to know that he had left any descendants. *Muireadhach Albanach* O'Daly, or, as he was called, *Muireadhach* of *Lios an-Doill*, was the third of six brothers, the second of whom was *Donnchadh Mor* O'Daly, abbot of Boyle, in the county of Roscommon, author of many religious Irish poems, some of them of great beauty, particularly those in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The abbot died in the year 1244, and it is possible that some of the poems ascribed to his brother were his. This branch of the learned O'Daly family is set down by the O'Clerys and Mac Firis as the O'Dalys of Breifne, and not of Meath, as some say. They were descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages, and of the same race as the O'Neills, or *Cinael Eoghain*.

Mr. Mac Lauchlan not aware that *Muireadhach Albanach* was an Irishman.

From this digression I now return to my proper subject, and

(348) See the Annals of the Four Masters, A.D. 1224.



XXXIII. I shall accordingly proceed with our investigation into the records of the musical instruments used and the music performed in ancient Erinn.

The author has collected all that he believes authentic on the *Cruit*.

The harp, of course, was the chief instrument employed in that music. And it is concerning the use of the harp that the greater part of the apocryphal statements current concerning ancient music have been made. I have here collected all that I believe to be really authentic on the subject of the perfect harp, or *Cruit*; the remainder of what I have to say upon this class of instrument will come in more properly when I have to speak of the *Telyn*, or Welsh harp, and to lay before the reader more full account of the *Timpán*. I have here but to add a few words by way of caution as to the speculations of some of the more popular writers on the subject.

The statements about ancient Irish music and musical instruments of Walker and Bunting are of no value;

Much has been confidently written on the ancient Irish music and musical instruments, particularly by Mr. Joseph Cooper Walker and Mr. Edward Bunting; the former chiefly from imagination, and the latter from induction, aided by a high musical education; for Mr. Bunting's actual knowledge, or rather notions, of the ancient Irish harp, and the peculiarities of ancient Irish music, were derived by him only from the degenerate body of harpers who held their last synod in Belfast in the year 1792. That the information derived by him from those professors was apocryphal and corrupt will clearly be seen from the long list of musical terms published in his last volume (1840), all of which, with few exceptions (as I shall show by and bye), are, I may at once say, mere forgeries, or else the most commonplace and vulgar Hibernicisms of English terms supplied him by his informants, whoever they were. Mr. Bunting was not an Irish scholar. It may appear strange that in all that has been written on the subject of Irish music and musical instruments down to our own time, no example or instance of the performances in ancient times on the harp, or any other musical instrument, either singly or in concert, has been published on anything like authority by our musical writers. The reason of this, however, is obvious enough. These writers had no acquaintance with our ancient literature; they did not even understand our language; they had a reference to *Craiftine* and his wonderful harp from Keting, a few references to horns or trumpets in what are called the poems of Oisín, and to these their own imagination and effrontery made large additions.

these writers did not know the Irish language;

It is with the greatest reluctance that I venture to offer such strong remarks on the compilation published by Mr. Bunting, who has rescued so much of our precious music from loss and oblivion; but I must say, that it would have been more to his

credit if he had left the whole discussion of the ancient Irish harp in such judicious hands as those of George Petrie and others of his stamp, whose deep learning and perfect conscientiousness would always keep them within the bounds of actual knowledge or fair rational induction. As for Mr. Cooper Walker, he appears to have been the sport of every pretender to antiquarian knowledge, but more especially the dupe of an unscrupulous person of the name of Beaufort,—not the learned author of the “Memoir of a Map of Ireland”, but another clergyman of the name,—who unblushingly pawned his pretended knowledge of facts on the well-intentioned but credulous Walker.

XXXIII.

the author  
regrets to  
have to  
speak thus  
of one who  
has rescued  
so much of  
our music.



## LECTURE XXXIV.

[Delivered July 1st, 1860.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). Names of musical instruments found in our MSS.—The *Benn-Buabhaill*; the *Corn-Buabhaill* a drinking horn. The *Benn-Chroit*. The *Buinne*. The *Coir-Ceathairchuir*. The *Corn*; the *Cornaire* or horn-player mentioned in the *Táin Bo Fraich*, in the "Courtship of *Ferb*", and in a legendary version of the Book of Genesis; no reference to trumpets in the *Táin Bo Chualgne*, but the playing of harps in the encampments is mentioned; instance of musicians in the trains of kings and chiefs on military expeditions:—the Battle of *Almhain* and the legend of *Dondbo*. Musical instruments mentioned in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*, and in the poem on the fair of *Carman*. The *Cornaire*, or horn-blower, also mentioned in the poem on the Banqueting-House of Tara. The *Craebh-Ciúil*, or Musical Branch, mentioned in the Tale of *Fledh Bricrind* or "*Bricriu's Feast*"; the musical branch a symbol of poets and used for commanding silence, as shown by the Tales of "*Bricriu's Feast*", and the "Courtship of *Emer*"; the Musical Branch mentioned in the Tale of the "Dialogue of the Two Sages"; and also in the Tale of the "Finding of *Cormac's Branch*"; and lastly in a poem of about the year A.D. 1500; the Musical Branch symbolical of repose and peace; it was analogous to the Turkish silver crescent and bells; some bronze bells in the museum of the R.I.A. belonged perhaps to such an instrument. The bells called "*Crotals*" described in the "*Penny Journal*"; Dr. Petrie's observations thereon; "*Crotals*" not used by Christian priests; explanation of the term; the Irish words *crothadh*, *crothla*, and *clothra*; they are the only words at all like *crotalum*, except *crotal*, the husks of fruit, i.e. castanets; bells put on the necks of cows, and on horses; the *Crotal* not known in Ireland,—everything written about it is pure invention. The *Crann-Ciúil*, or Musical Tree; it was a generic term for any kind of musical instrument, as is shown by a passage from the Book of Lismore, where it is a *Cruit*; *Cuisle*, a tube, explained in a vellum MS. as a Musical Tree; in another place in the Book of Lismore it is a *Timpan* that is so called. The *Cuiseach*: mentioned in the poem on the fair of *Carman*, and in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*. The *Cuisle Ciúil* another name for *Crann Ciúil*; *Cuisle* a living word meaning a vein, or a kind of cock; mentioned in the Book of Invasions; *Cuisle* explained, in H. 3. 18. T.C.D., as a Musical Tree.

It is not at all satisfactory, nor is it to be wondered at, that, although we find several musical instruments mentioned by name in our ancient writings, we have so few of them now existing among the specimens of ancient art preserved in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. Those instruments have for ages ceased to be known in Ireland, and are now only occasionally found buried deep in the earth, from which they are from time to time recovered to bear their unimpeachable evidence to a remote era of civilization and art in the country. The best way, perhaps, in which we could enter upon the study of these objects would be to first give in alphabetical order

a list of such musical instruments as I have found mentioned in old Gaedhelic writings, and then give in the same order a literal translation of these names as far as I can, together with the circumstances and ancient authorities in which they are found. After that I shall give (with such explanations as I can offer) the names for musical performers, and for the various species of music, and the occasions upon which they are mentioned, as far as I have been able to collect them.

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The number of instruments, then, amounts to twenty, and the following are their names:

*Benn-buabhaill*; *Benn-Chroit*; *Buinde* or *Buinne*; *Coir-Ceathairchuir*; *Corn*; *Craebh-Ciúil*; *Cram-Ciúil*; *Cruit*; *Cruiseach*; *Cuisle-Ciúil*; *Feadán*; *Fidil*; *Guth-Buinde*; *Ocht-Tedach*; *Oircin*; *Pip* or *Pipai*; *Stoc*; *Sturgan*; *Teillin*; *Timpan*.

Names of musical instruments found in MSS.

The first instrument, *Benn-buabhaill*, was certainly a compound name, formed from *benn*, a horn, and *buabhall*, a buffalo or wild ox. This real horn, as an instrument of music, is not mentioned, as far as I have found, in any composition older than those mediæval poems and writings known as the Finian tales and poems, so called because they pretend to record chiefly the life and achievements of *Find Mac Cumhaill*, and his warriors. In the modern copies of these pieces the name of this instrument is written *Barra-Buadh*, but this is manifestly a corruption from the old correct form of *Benn-Buabhaill*. The name will be found in several of the Finian poems, and in the Finian tale so well known as the *Bruighean Chaerthainn*, in all of which it is made the chief instrument by which the champion *Find* called his troops together for war or the chase. Mention of the use of the natural horn occurs, but under another name and for a different purpose, in other places where it is called a *Corn-Buabhaill*,—*corn* and *benn* both being names for a horn; but under this name it is always applied to a drinking cup or drinking horn, and not to a musical instrument;—as, for instance, in the Finian tract in the Book of Lismore:—“And the young warrior gave its full in a *Corn-Buabhaill* out of the cask of ale which he had, to *Cailte*”<sup>(349)</sup> Many other instances could be adduced of this use of the *Corn-Buabhaill*.

The *Benn-Buabhaill*.

The *Corn-Buabhaill* a drinking horn.

The second instrument, *Benn-Chroit*, is explained in an ancient glossary thus: “The strings of a *Benn-Crot*, that is, the strings of a pinnaced (or triangular) *Cruit*, that is of a *Timpan*”<sup>(350)</sup> This is a curious interpretation, and if correct, it

The *Benn-Chroit*.

(349) [original:—Οουρ τuc αν τuc-  
lac a lan a mbeiano-buafball ar m  
oabuz meava boi aige oo Cailti.—  
Book of Lismore, fol. 339 [141] a. a.]

(350) [original:—Τεταμβεαννορος,  
i. na crot mbeannaç, i. na timpan.  
—H. 4. 22. 67 or 65].



XXXIV. would lead to the opinion that the real ancient *Cruit* was quadrangular, while the *Timpan* was triangular. The phrase, "As sweet as the strings of *Benn-Crot*", occurs very often in our ancient tales; and in deriving the name of *Geide Ollgothach*, or *Geide* of the great voice, one of our ante-Christian kings, we are told in the Book of Leinster and other equally ancient authorities, that he was so called because, from the peaceful, harmonious character of his reign, the people heard each other's words and voices with the same delight as if they had been the strings of the triangular [*? melodious*] harps, or *Benn-Chrotta*.

The third instrument is the *Buinde* or *Buinne*; and we have the best definition of its form that can be desired, from the old text quoted in Zeuss' "Grammatica Celtica", vol. I., p. 481, where we find: *Roboi buinne fochosmuilius nadarcae side*, that is "a cornet horn; which means that it was a trumpet in shape of a horn". The learned author of the "Grammatica Celtica" merely gives the passages for grammatical purposes from a codex at Milan in Italy, containing a commentary on the Psalms of David; but this passage contains an important authority for the meaning of the word *Buinne*, since the MS. is one of the ninth century. Again the same authority has, at page 77 of the same volume: *angaibther isind buinniu, no croit*, which is glossed thus: "quod canitur; i.e. tibia vel crotta"; that is, "what is chanted on the tibia, or the harp". Now *Tibia* is not exactly a horn, or an instrument of the horn form, but a flute, fife, or clarionet; but of such an instrument no ancient specimen that I know of has come down to our times. I have not met with the name *Buinne* itself as applying to any instrument of music in my readings of ancient Gaedhelic original writings; but the *Buiniré*, or performer on the *Buinne*, is mentioned in the ancient poem on the *Teach Midchuarta*, or Banqueting Hall of Tara; and he is placed at the same table with the *Cornair*, or horn-player, in the plan of that hall published by Dr. Petrie in his Essay on the Antiquities of Tara.

The fourth instrument is the *Coir Ceathairchuir*,—the great harp of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, so amply discussed in a former lecture; but, whether this was one of the special names for this particular harp, or the name of a particular fashion, or class of harps, it is at present quite beyond our reach to ascertain.

The fifth instrument on my list is the *Corn*; a word which simply and literally signifies a horn, but which, certainly, was applied only to a metallic instrument of music of the trumpet kind. Of this fact, as well as of the use of the *Corn*, we have many examples, of which the following will be sufficient for our present purpose. In the very ancient tale of the *Táin Bo*

The Coir  
Ceathair  
chuir.

The Corn;

*Fraich*, already quoted in former lectures (where the three harpers, the sons of *Uathne* and *Boand* who attended *Fraech* on his matrimonial visit to the palace of *Cruachan*, are described) we are told that the young prince was attended in his progress by seven *Cornaire*, or *Corn* players.

XXXIV.  
The *Cor-*  
*nair* or  
horn player  
mentioned  
in the *Tain*  
*Bo Fraich*;

"There were", says the tale, "seven *Cornaire*s along with them, who had *Corns* of gold and of silver, and who wore clothes of various colours; their hair was fair-yellow, as if of gold, and they wore brilliant white shirts".<sup>(351)</sup>

We have a description of another group of *Cornaire* from a different source, and a different tale of equal antiquity, exactly similar; I mean that in the tale called *Tochmarc Feirbé*, or the Courtship of *Ferb*; and which is one of the most celebrated of its class. *Ferb* was the beautiful daughter of *Gerg*, the chief of *Glenn-Geirg*, in Ulster, and she was beloved by *Máine*, one of the sons of *Ailill* and *Medb*, the celebrated king and queen of Connacht. We are told that this young prince having, with the consent of his father and mother, determined on paying a visit to the court of the lady *Ferb*'s father, for the purpose of making a formal demand of her hand in marriage, he set out at the head of a splendid cavalcade to his father's palace of *Cruachan* to show himself to his royal parents and to receive their benediction and good wishes. Nothing can be more gorgeous than the description in this tale of prince *Máine*, and the cavalcade that attended his progress, as may be seen from the following short extract, which it will be observed includes the mention of the *Cornaire* or trumpeters, and of the *Cruitire* or harpers, as well as of the druids of the cavalcade.

"There were seven grayhounds attending his [prince *Mainé*'s] in the chariot, in chains of silver, with balls of gold upon each chain, so that the tingling of the balls against the chains would be music sufficient [for the march]. There was no known colour that was not to be seen upon these grayhounds. There were seven *Cornaire*, with *Corna* of gold and of silver, wearing clothes of many colours, and all having fair-yellow hair. Three druids also went in front of them, who wore *Minda* (or diadems) of silver upon their heads and speckled cloaks over their dresses, and who carried shields of bronze ornamented with red copper. Three *Cruitire* (or harpers) accompanied them; each of kingly aspect, and arrayed in a crimson cloak. It was so they arrived on the green of (the palace of) *Cruachan*; and they ran their three assembly-races upon the green of *Cruachan*".<sup>(352)</sup>

in the  
"Courtship  
of *Ferb*";

<sup>(351)</sup> [original already given; ante, Lect. xxx., vol. ii., p. 220.]

<sup>(352)</sup> [original:—*Secc milcom im- ma carpat i'rlabratuib d'irgic, agur*  
20 B



## xxxiv.

After this the story tells us they went forth on their journey, which, however, happened to turn out an unfavourable one.

Of this fine old tale there remains a beautiful copy in the Book of Leinster, with the loss of, perhaps, a page at the beginning. I quote only that part of it in which the *Cornaire* are introduced.

and in a  
legendary  
version of  
the Book of  
Genesis;

The next reference to the *Corn* is from a very different source indeed, but it is one that sufficiently well defines the character and use of the instrument. It is to be found in a beautiful legendary version of the Book of Genesis, the creation of Adam and Eve, their temptation and fall, and expulsion from Eden.

"And it was then", says this legend, "that Adam heard the voice of Michael the Archangel, saying to Gabriel: 'Let a *Corn* and a *Stoc Focra* be sounded by thee, until they are heard throughout the seven heavens; and go all of ye to the presence of your Creator. And arise, all ye armies and host of angels of the seven heavens, until ye repair along with your Creator to paradise'".<sup>(353)</sup>

There can scarcely remain a doubt that the *Corn* spoken of here was the long curving trumpet of which we have such a magnificent specimen in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, which is an instrument of the most powerful character;<sup>(354)</sup> and it appears to me equally certain that the *Stoc* was a clarion, a smaller, a more shrill and sharp-sounding instrument, of which, as far as we can surmise, no specimen has come down

ubull oir for ceð flabrac, combaleor ceol fogur na nubull fpu na flabracas; noco rabi uach na rabi rna Conas. Batar aice moir ferrur cornaire, co cornas oir, acur aric leo, conetacis illacacais impu, co mongas rinbuice foras. Ba tar tri rui nempu comuacais arisoiris uara cennas, combaccas breccas impu, acur corciacais umarais acur conarnas ois creuamais foras. Tri cruictri conecore rusa for ceacae macomair imbraccas corpcas. Rancatar rarrin tachim rin co cruac-ham, acur ropercac a tri ruarphim acasig for raicci na cruachna.—H. 2. 18. fol 189. a. a. and a. b.

This passage is very similar to the corresponding one from the *Tain Bo Fraich*, given in lecture xxx. (*vide* vol. ii., p. 219). The buffoons, or as they ought perhaps more properly to be called jugglers, in the latter being here called Druids.]

<sup>(353)</sup> [original:—Conno ann rin icualac doam gut mhiclmh arcan-gil acaras pu Gabriel angel, reinnter olre corn acur rtooc focra lib co cluinn a ronn fona .an. nimb; acur epcio uile icomacil barnouileman; acur epcio uile afluog acur a arbhru angel na .an. nime conoecharo maraen rra bui nouileman uocum parour.—*Leabhar Breac*, folio, 46. a. a. bot.]

<sup>(354)</sup> This grand instrument, fig. 61, when the two pieces are joined, measures eight feet five inches in length. The opening at the large end is three and a half inches wide, and five-eighths of an inch at the small end. There must have been another piece at least, as well as a mouth-piece. There is also in the Academy's museum the middle-piece of another great horn, fortunately preserving those circular bosses at the ends by which it was connected with the other two pieces.

to our time. Of this instrument, however, I shall have to speak again under its proper head.<sup>(355)</sup>

It is remarkable that there is no reference to instruments of the trumpet kind in the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, nor in the *Brúighnean Daderga*, two tales of a very warlike character, in which the mention of such instruments might naturally be expected. Indeed the only reference to music in the *Táin Bo Chuailgne* is where we are told that when the marching forces halted at night, they were regaled with the music of the harp and other instruments at and after dinner. Another instance of the attendance of musical performers upon kings and chiefs on their royal progresses and military expeditions, is found in the detailed account of the battle of *Almhain* (now the hill of Allen, in the county of Kildare) fought in the year 718; and this account contains so much that relates to our present subject, that although I have already used it in a former lecture,<sup>(356)</sup> I must go into it at some length here.

XXXIV

no reference to trumpets in the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, but there is to the playing of harps in the encampments;

instance of musicians in the train of kings and chiefs on military expeditions:

In the year 718, the monarch of Erin, *Fergal*, the son of *Maelduin*, of the northern *Ui Neill* race, and who at the time resided at *Aileach* (near Derry), proposed to re-impose, and levy from the people of Leinster, the old Borromean Tribute which had been remitted to them a few years previously by the then monarch, *Finnachta*, at the solicitation of *St. Moling*. He accordingly made great preparations for this dangerous expedition, as will be seen from the following extract:—

“Long, indeed, was this muster being made; for what every man of the *Leith Chuinn* (or *Conn's* half, i.e. the northern half of Erin to whom the summons came) used to say, was: ‘If *Donnbo* goes upon the expedition, I will’. Now *Donnbo* was the son of a widow belonging to the *Fera-Rois* (of the county of *Muineachan* or *Monaghan*); he had never gone away from his mother’s house one day or one night; and there was not in all Erin one more comely, or of better shape or face, or more graceful symmetry, than he; he was the best at singing amusing verses and telling of royal stories in the world; he was the best to equip horses, and to mount spears, and to plait hair; and his was the best mind in acuteness of intellect and in honour.”<sup>(357)</sup>

Legend of *Donnbo*.

<sup>(355)</sup> [See *postea*, Lect. xxxvi.]

<sup>(356)</sup> [See Lect. xviii., *ante*, vol. i., p.

389.]

<sup>(357)</sup> [Original:—*Da fada tra no-bár ag an t-inolraim; uair arreb do beireó gac fear do Leit Chuinn gur a roidead fúaccrad, i. “d’á o’c’i Donnbo ar an fhuasgáó pagavora”, Donnbo imurro mac baintreab-*

*éaiqe eirpde vpepaib Kopp; agar ni veacaro lá na aróci a tairg a mácar imac maib; acar ni parbe i n-Eirinn uile buó conne, no buó ferru crué no veib, no venam máp. Ni paba i n-Eirinn uile buó griaóda, no buó regaine máp, acar ar uad buó ferru man eppa acar niggela for vómon; ar e buó ferru do gleréac,*



XXXIV.  
Legend of  
Donnbo  
(continued).

Such was the description of *Donnbo*, the widow's son, who appeared so precious, we are told, in his mother's eyes, that when the king summoned him to his standard, she would not allow him to go until she had gotten the security of *St. Colum Cille*, through his representative *Mael Mac Failbhe*, that he should return to his home from Leinster in safety. Not so, however, was the young man's fate, as the sequel will show.

King *Fergal* having completed his preparations, set out from *Aileach* upon his southern march, and in due time and after much toil, reached *Cluain Dobhuil*, at *Almhain*, where he encamped and set up his own pavilion. It was then, the story says, that *Fergal* said to *Donnbo*: "Make amusement for us, *O Donnbo!* because thou art the best minstrel in Erin, namely, at *Cuiseachs*, at pipes (or tubes), and at harps, and at poems, and at traditions, and at the royal stories of Erin; and to-morrow morning we shall give battle to the Leinstermen." "Not so", said *Donnbo*, "I am not able to amuse thee this night; nor can I exhibit one single feat of all these to-night. But, wherever thou art to-morrow night, if I be alive, I shall make amusement for thee. Let then the royal buffoon, *Ua Maighlinne*, amuse thee to-night". So *Ua Maighlinne* was called to them then; and he commenced to narrate the battles and triumphs of *Leth-Chuinn* and Leinster from the destruction of *Tuaim Teanbath*, that is *Dind Righ*, in which *Cobhthach Cael-m Breagh* was killed, down to that time; and they slept not much that night, because of their great dread of the Leinstermen and the great tempest. For this was the eve of the festival of *St. Finnian* in the winter" (that is, the 11th of December).<sup>(358)</sup>

The story goes on to relate that the battle was fought on the next morning, and that the northerns were defeated with the loss of nine thousand men, including the monarch *Fergal* him-

acaf vo moyma fleš, ašaf vo-piše  
folc, acuf buo fer pi aicne [i. ing-  
ne innlecta] na emec.—Three  
Fragments of Irish Annals, pub. by  
I.A.S., p. 34; vide also H. 2. 16. 939;  
and Book of Fermoy, fol. 79. b.b.]

<sup>(358)</sup> [original:—af anoirin arpent  
fergal fua Donnbo: vena aipri-  
veo voin, a Donnbo! pobit ar tu  
ar veac aiprioe fuil in-oirinn, .i. i  
cuirig, ašaf i cuirlenroib, ašaf i  
cipricib, ašaf panosib, ašaf paio-  
recoib, ašaf pišreleab eipenn;  
ašaf ip in maoinri imbapac vo be-  
pan-ne cae vo laigrib. ac, ar  
Donnbo, ni cumgaimri aiprioe vuit-  
ri anoct, ašaf nimca don gnioth oib  
rin uile vo tarobrin anoct. ašaf

cipri aipri i pabairi a mrapac, ašaf  
imbeora, vo vena aiprioe vuitri.  
Venaš imuppo an pišorue hua mai-  
šleine aiprioe vuit anoct. Tušab  
hua maigleni cueda iapctain; po  
šabpavoe og moirin cae, ašaf com-  
pana leite Chunn ašaf laigen o to-  
šail tuama tenbae, .i. Deanaš Rig,  
in pa marbae Cobtae Caolbpeš,  
comri an aipriur rin, ašaf ni ba  
mop covalta vo pinnebleo in aro-  
chi rin, pa meo eagla leo laigri,  
ašaf le meo na vooinne, .i. uair  
arocí fele fhinnian gaimpórin.—  
Three Fragments of Irish Annals,  
pub. by I. A. S., p. 38; vide also H. 2.  
16. 939; and Book of Fermoy, fol. 79,  
b. b.]

self, and almost all the northern chiefs. It was *Aedh Menn*, a Leinster chief, that slew *Fergal*, but not before he had first slain the minstrel *Donnbo*, who appears to have lost his life in the special defence of the king. The buffoon, *Ua Maighlinne*, was taken prisoner; and we are told he was commanded to give his "buffoon's roar" (whatever that performance was), and that he did so. And the tale lays particular emphasis upon this performance, for we are told that loud and melodious was this roar; and that *Ua Maighlinne's* roar remained with the buffoons of Erin from that time to the time of the writer. This was not all, however, for we are further told that king *Fergal's* head was then cut off, and the buffoon's head was also cut off; and that the echo of the buffoon's roar continued to reverberate in the air for three days and three nights: a feat clearly showing to what class of the wonderful the tale I quote belongs. Then comes the passage in which the allusion to musical instruments occurs, in connection with which I shall quote this singular fiction.

"It was at *Condail* of the kings" (now Old Connall in the county of Kildare), continues the story, "that the Leinstermen encamped that night, drinking wine and mead pleasantly and in good spirits, after having fought the battle, and each of them relating his triumphs merrily and cheerfully. Then *Murchadh*, the son of *Bran* (king of Leinster), said: 'I would give a chariot worth four *cumhals* (that is, twelve cows) and a steed, and my dress, to any champion who would go to the field of slaughter, and who would bring us a token from it'. 'I will go', said *Baethghalach*, a champion of Munster. So he put on his battle-dress of battle and combat, and reached the spot where (king) *Fergal's* body was; and he heard something near, above him, in the air, which said, for he heard it all: 'Here is a command to you from the king of the seven heavens. Make amusement for your master to-night, that is, for *Fergal*, the son of *Maelduin*, though you have all of you, the professional men, fallen here, both *Cuisleannochu* (that is, pipers), and *Cornaire* (that is, trumpeters), and *Cruitire* (that is, harpers); yet, let not terror nor debility prevent you this night from performing for *Fergal*'. And then the warrior heard the music both of singers, and trumpeters, and fifiers, and harpers; and he heard the variety of music, and he never heard before nor after better music. And he heard in a cluster of rushes near him a *Dord-Fiansa* (or wild song), the sweetest of all the world's music. The warrior went towards it. 'Do not come near me', said the head to him. 'I ask who thou art?' said the warrior. 'I am the head of *Donnbo*', said the head, 'and I was bound in a bond

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Legend of  
*Donnbo*  
(continued).



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Legend of  
*Donnbo*  
(continued).

last night to amuse the king this night; and do not you interrupt me!' 'Where is *Fergal's* body here?' said the warrior. 'It is it that shines beyond thee there', said the head. 'I ask', said the warrior, 'shall I take thee also away with me? It is thou that I prefer to take'. 'I prefer that nothing whatever should carry me away', said the head, 'unless Christ, the Son of God, should take me', continued the head; 'thou must give the guarantee of Christ that thou wilt bring me back to my body again'. 'I shall certainly bring thee (back)', said the warrior; and so the warrior returned with the head to *Condail* the same night, and he found the Leinstermen still drinking on his arrival.

"'Hast thou brought a token with thee?' said king *Murchadh*. 'I have', answered the warrior, 'the head of *Donnbo*'. 'Place it on yonder post', said (king) *Murchadh*. The whole host then knew it to be the head of *Donnbo*; and this was what they all said: 'Pity thy fate, O *Donnbo*! Comely was thy face! make amusement for us this night, the same as thou didst for thy lord yesterday'. So he turned his face to the wall of the house, in order that it should be the darker for him; and he raised his *Dord Fiansa* (or wild song) on high, and it was the sweetest of all music upon the surface of the earth! So that the host were all crying and lamenting from the plaintiveness and softness of the melody".<sup>(300)</sup>

<sup>(300)</sup> [original:—1 conoail na n-  
baccur laigin an arde, ag ol fua  
meoia arccur an caea go fuba  
poimenmae, agar cae uioe ag in-  
rin a comraha, iriao meoraig meo-  
daoin. Ar anoirin na riao Murcha  
mac Brian: "oo bearaime carpat  
ceipe cumala, agar mo ead, agar  
m' eppa, uon laoc no paead irin  
arhae, agar oo bepaed comar-  
eugaim ar". Raead-ra ar baot-  
gala, laoc uim[n] Muham. Febr  
a caeppa caea agar comlanna  
uime, go raimis go hairin i mba  
copp feargail; go curla ni i nea-  
gairgair irin aeop or a cinn, con-  
oepepe: ar clopp uile, timar-  
uioe o nio fect nime. Uena air-  
uioe o bui ceigerna anoet, i. o'fergal  
mac Maolbuin, cia oo roepra-  
air funn uile in bar naoiruana  
eoir curleanoeu, agar corraire,  
agar, cruicire; na cairmecca  
epfuac no heg comnairc rib  
o'airuioe anoet oi feargall. Go  
ceuala iaram an toglac an  
cuirig. agar an ceol p-  
reatae. Go ceuala oan 'ran cum

luacra ba nera oo an toiro-  
rianra, ba binne in ceol  
hirin oioac ciuil in uo-  
main.—B. of Fermoy, f. 80, a.  
b.]. Uio an toglac na uo-  
cum. na cair ar m'air,  
ar an cenn fup. Cepe, cia tu?  
ar an toglac. Nin mife  
cenn o uinnbo, ar an cenn,  
agar narom po naromeo  
fup a peir air-  
uioe an nio anoet; agar na  
epcoioe oam! Caroe copp  
fopgail funn, ar an toglac?  
[ire a copp in cairemae  
mac nio anall, ar in ceano,  
cepe ar in toclae cia no ber  
lium.—H. 2. 16. 939. et seq.]  
"ar tu ar uoae lim",  
nom bepa, ar ann cenn;  
aet nioe cuir uoo eim  
ua nom ruga fa tu  
me ar amur mo colla  
oo nio. Uo beir egin,  
ar an toglac; agar  
imoi an toglac agar  
an cenn-lair comige  
Conoail, agar fuair  
laigin ag ol ar a  
cenn 'in arde cenna.  
An tuagar comar-  
tae lae? ar Murcha.  
Tuagar, ar an toglac  
ceno uinnbo. Fopaim  
ar an fuairne ut tall,  
ar Murcha. Tu-  
gar an fluag uile  
airne fair fup be  
cenn uinnbo; agar  
areo po-

However wild this strange story may be, the composition affords evidence sufficient to show, that in the middle ages, say in the seventh and eighth centuries, it was the custom in Erin that music and song should attend on military expeditions, if not to cheer them on to the battle-field, at least to keep up their spirits and to dissipate the gloom which must naturally hang over an army on the night preceding the day of battle; and so also we gather from the context, that it was customary for the victors to celebrate their triumphs with wine, ale, music, and song. I may here observe that the musical instruments mentioned in this story were the *Cuiseach*, the *Cuisle*, the *Cruit*, and the *Corn*. Of the *Cruit* I have already said much; of the others I shall have more to say further on.

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Musical instruments mentioned in the Tale of the "Battle of Almhain";

This represents one class of those occasions on which we find the music of the horn player referred to.

Again, in the ancient poem preserved in the Book of Leinster, and described in a former lecture, which gives an account of the sports and entertainments practised at the fair of *Carman*<sup>(300)</sup> (now Wexford) in ancient times, we find several instruments of music mentioned as having been in requisition at these great national or provincial assemblies. This poem was written by *Fulartach*, a native of Leinster, about the year 1000; and, in speaking of and enumerating the various kinds of these entertainments, the poet tells us (at the fifty-fifth stanza), that among its favourite sources of enjoyment were the *Stuic*, the *Cruta*, the wide-mouthed *Corna*, the *Cuiseacha*, the *Timpain*, the *Pipai* (or pipes), the Fiddles, the *Fir-Cengail*, the *Cuamh-fhir*, and the *Cuislennachs*. I may observe that the last three names are those of performers, derived from the names of their instruments, of each of which I propose to speak under its particular head.

and the poem on the Fair of *Carman*.

The *Cornair*, or horn-blower, is mentioned also in the ancient poem on the arrangement of the Banqueting House of Tara, the *Teach Midhchuarta*; and we find the particular place assigned to him in that great house marked on the plan of it published by Dr. Petrie in his "History of the Antiquities of Tara".

The *Cornair* or horn-blower also mentioned in the poem on the Banqueting House of Tara.

The sixth instrument on our list is the *Craebh Ciuil*, or Musical Branch.

The *Craebh Ciuil* or Musical Branch;

μῦσῶν τε οὐλε: σὴν γὰρ εὖ τῆ ἀθῆνῆ-  
 νό! βά εαοῦ το θεαλβ, θενα ἀρ-  
 ρῖοε θύνην ἀνοετ, φεβ το μῦσῶν  
 ποτ τῆ εαρνα ἰμβυαρά. ἰμορῖ-  
 τερ ἀ ἀρῖο [φραῖνὸ ἰν τῆρ ἀρ οαῖς  
 comas πορὰ το.—H. 2. 16. 939. *et*  
*seq.*]; ἀγὰρ ἀτταετ ἀ πορῶ-φῆα  
 ἀτταετ ἀρ ἀρῖο, [combabinoi each  
 céol ἀρ tuino calman—H. 2. 16.

939. *et seq.*] γο μβάετταρ οὐλε ἀς  
 εαοι ἀγὰρ ἀς τῶν γῶ [ῖα τῶν ἀρῖο]  
 ἀγὰρ ἰν τῶν γῶ ἰν οὐλε πορὰν.  
 —H. 2. 16. 939. *et seq.*—Three Frag-  
 ments of Irish Annals, pub. by I.A.S.,  
 p. 46.

<sup>(300)</sup> [See Lect. II., *ante*, vol. ii. p. 38; and also Appendix, for the original of this important poem.]



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pole, upon which a cluster of bells was suspended; something, perhaps, like the crescent with its bells, which, borrowed from the Turks within our memory, held a rather conspicuous place in the military bands of the British army. It is, perhaps, scarcely correct to call this a musical instrument, as we do not find it mentioned any where in connection with other instruments of music. The first reference to a musical branch that I have met is in the very ancient tale of *Fledh Bricriud* (*Bricriu's* feast), fully described in a former lecture.<sup>(361)</sup>

mentioned  
in the Tale  
of *Fledh*  
*Bricriud* or  
"*Bricriu's*  
Feast";

When at this feast the wives of the great champions of Ulster had got into a warm war of words in support of the merits of their respective husbands, the husbands themselves being present became excited, and ready to step beyond the limits of wordy argument to test the assertions of their spouses on the spot. As the passage is a very short one, I may as well give the following translation of it from the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*:

"The house became a babel of words again with the women, in a contention about their husbands and themselves. And the husbands showed a disposition to quarrel again, namely, *Conall* [*Cearnach*], and *Laeghaire Buadhach*, and *Cuchulaind*. Then *Sencha* [the poet] son of *Ailill* arose, and he shook the *Craebh Shencha*, or *Sencha's* Branch, whereupon all the Ultonians were silent to hear him".<sup>(362)</sup>

This *Sencha* was a distinguished scholar and poet, and held, besides, the post of chief judge to *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, king of Ulster at this time. In a former lecture<sup>(363)</sup> I have given a description of his person, arms, and dress, as told by *Mac Roth*, to *Ailill* and *Medbh*, the king and Queen of Connacht, at Sleimhain, in Westmeath, quoted from the *Tain Bo Chuailgne*.

the Musical  
Branch a  
symbol of  
poets, and  
used for  
commanding  
silence

That the Musical Branch was an appendage peculiar to the poets, and probably for the double purpose of distinction and of commanding silence, as in the present case, may be inferred from another passage in the same tale of *Bricriu's* Feast, on the occasion of the first commotion of the women and their husbands referred to in the passage just quoted above. The contention in this case arose among the women when outside the house, as to who should be the first to get in, whereupon the tale says:

<sup>(361)</sup> [See *Lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History*, p. 346; and also Lecture xix., ante, vol. ii. p. 17.]

<sup>(362)</sup> [original:—Do rala in ced m-araitreab briaear oc na mnab, so fionn oc marbadg eter a ferab ocu riat ferur. Co folcmarec

inonny comery weba ionny, .i. Conall ocu loegaire ocu cuculainn. Arpac Senca mac ailella pocpoie in Craebh Senca, ocu con-toirec ula[ulcu] uli rru.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, fol. 67 a. b. et seq.]

<sup>(363)</sup> [See Lecture xxiii., ante, vol. ii. p. 92.]



“Their husbands arose in the house; each man of them (anxious) to open the door for his wife, so that she should be the first woman to enter the house. ‘It will be an evil night’, said (king) *Conchobar*; and he struck the red bronze post of the couch with the spike of silver which he held in his hand, upon which the whole host sat down”.<sup>(364)</sup>

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as shown by “*Bricriu's Feast*”.

That this was not an accidental circumstance as regards the king's means of commanding peace and silence, we have ample evidence from the following passage in the *Tóchmarc n-Eimire* (or, the Courtship of *Emer* and *Cuchulaind*), in which the same king *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, and his palace, the Royal Branch of *Emania*, are described:

“*Conchobar's* couch was placed in the front of the house; it was ornamented with plates of silver, and it had posts of red bronze, with gilding of gold on their heads, inlaid with gems of carbuncle, so that day and night were of equal light in it. There was a plate of silver [i.e. a kind of gong] over the king, reaching to the roof of the royal house; and whenever *Conchobar* struck with the royal wand this plate, the Ultonians all were silent”.<sup>(365)</sup>

and the “*Courtship of Emer*”;

The next reference to the *Craebh Ciuil*, or Musical Branch, is to be found in the ancient tale called *Agallamh an da Shuadh*, or the Dialogue of the two Sages or Professors, of which I gave a free analysis in a former lecture when treating of the pieces called ancient prophecies.<sup>(366)</sup> I shall give here a short analysis of the story by way of preface to the particular passage bearing upon my present subject.

the Musical Branch mentioned in the tale of the “*Dialogue of the Two Sages*”;

*Adhna*, a learned man of the province of Connacht, was chief poet of Ulster, and attached to the court of the above *Conchobar Mac Nessa* at *Emania*, about the time of the Incarnation. This *Adhna* had a son, *Neithe*, who, after finishing his education at home, passed into Scotland, to add to his learning and knowledge of the world in the schools there. After spending some time there, at the school of a celebrated philosopher of the name of *Eochaidh Echbheoil*, he returned with a few companions to his father at *Emania*. When he reached that royal palace,

<sup>(364)</sup> [original:—[Conéiget a riu a riu tuis; laíroan caé fer tuis so orlogus ría na mnái combao aben ceéna tírao írre teé aréúr. Dio oic inoáois, or Concobar; bepario acéó naréic ío bóí maláim ríurín nuáitní ephéuma in namíoa. Con-vepícar in orléais innaíruoi.—*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, folio 67. a. b. et seq.]

aríco, co nuáitníb ephéumaí, co- léíruo oír for a cenóab, co nge- moib corpmogul mtrí, comma com- pólaf laa ocup aóaicc ínte. Zóna rceíl aríco uaf an ríé co arólíor an ríé; in nam no bualeo Con- cobar co fíeré rígoaí an rceíl, con- caíteí uláio ulíe ríur.—MSS. Eger- ton 5280, Brit. Mus.]

<sup>(365)</sup> [original:—Inoae Concobar inoáipenech in tuis, co ríoaíaoíob

<sup>(366)</sup> [See *Lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History.*]

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the Musical  
Branch men-  
tioned in the  
tale of the  
"Dialogue  
of the Two  
Sages";

however, he discovered that his father had died a few days previously; and having entered the court, he found the *Ollamh's* or chief poet's chair which his father had filled, empty, with the chief poet's splendid cloak laid on the back of it, as no successor to the learned deceased had been yet appointed. The young man without hesitation put on the cloak and sat in the chair; but, shortly after the poet *Ferceirtne*, who was the presumptive successor to the vacant chair, walked in, and to his astonishment found it already occupied by a youthful stranger. *Ferceirtne* questioned him as to the chair and cloak of which he had possessed himself. The young man answered that his learning was his title to them, and he proposed to maintain it by a public discussion. The challenge was accepted, and the discussion was carried on in presence of king *Conchobar* and the nobles of Ulster; and this is the discussion, the report of which is what has ever since been called the *Agallamh an da Shuadh*, or the Dialogue of the two Sages or Professors. It is not, however, with the dialogue itself that we are at present concerned, but with a passage in the preface to it, which, in the following words, gives an account of the young poet's setting out from Scotland with his companions:

"*Neidhe* then set out from *Cenn Tiré* (now Kentire), and went from that to *Rinn Snog*. He after that set out from *Port Righ* (in Scotland) over the sea, and landed at *Rind Roiss* (in Ulster): from this he set out over *Seimhne*, and over *Lath-airne* [now Larne], and over *Magh Line*, and over *Ollarbha*, and over *Tulach Rusc*, and over *Ard-Sleibhe*, and over *Craib Telca*, and over *Magh-Ercaithi*, and over the [river] *Banna* upper, and over *Glenn Righi*, and over the territories of *Ui Breasail* [in Armagh], and over *Ard Sailech*, that is *Ardmacha*, and over the hill of the palace of *Emhain* [or *Emania*]. And it is how he made his journey with a silver branch over him. This was what the *Anradhs* [that is the poets of the second order] carried over them; and it was a Branch of gold that the chief poets, that is the *Ollamhs*, carried over them; and it was a Branch of bronze that all other poets besides these carried over them."<sup>(367)</sup>

(367) [original: — Opoictha dóib  
tíre a ceirca documlairet do Chino  
Tíre, ocuf luro iar rin do Rino Snóc.  
Documlairet iarum a Púrt Ríe uar  
fuirge, corragabatar iRino Roir:  
araroe for Semnu for Latarum,  
for Magh Line, for Ollorbaí. for  
Tulaig Roir, for Aró Sleibe, for  
Craib Telca, for Magh nErcate, for  
Banna iar nuactar, for Glenn

Ríe, for tuacha in-mbrepail, for  
Aró Sailec, fuirraitei Aró .M. in-  
ois, for ríe bhuig na hEma. Ir  
amlaro van do cumlaí in mac, ocuf  
creab argoire uaro. Iar iReo  
nobio uar na hanroair; creab óir  
imorro uar na ollamain; creab  
umai uar na filio ar éna.—H. 2. 18.  
folio 142. b. a. mid.]



This is a curious passage, as preserving to us an interesting feature in the professional equipment of the several degrees of the poets in the olden times, and one, too, hitherto unnoticed by all writers on Irish antiquities.

The third reference to a *Craebh Ciuil* or Musical Branch is found in an ancient tale, entitled, "The Finding of Cormac's Branch",—copies of which are preserved in the Books of Ballymote and Fermoy in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, and the Yellow Book of Lecan in the library of Trinity College. *Cormac Mac Airt*, the hero of this story, was monarch of Erin in the middle of the third century; and the following is the opening passage of the tale, which gives an account of the way in which he obtained this Branch, as told in the Book of Fermoy.

"One time that *Cormac*, the grandson of *Conn* [of the hundred battles] was in *Liabh-Truim* [another name for Tara], he saw coming towards him on the green of the palace, a stately fair-gray-headed warrior. The warrior came up carrying in his hand a Branch of Peace, with three apples (or balls) of red gold upon it; and it is not known to what particular kind of wood it belonged. And when he [the warrior] shook it, sweeter than the world's music was the music which the apples produced; and all the wounded and sick men of the earth would go to sleep and repose with the music, and no sorrow or depression could rest upon the person who heard it".<sup>(368)</sup>

It is not necessary to our present purpose to enter farther into the details of this story, or show how king *Cormac* obtained, lost, and regained this wonderful Branch: it is proper to state, however, that, as long as *Cormac* had it, he used it in the same way that the poet *Sencha* used his Branch at *Bricriu's* feast, and king *Conchobar* his silver spike and wand, namely, to shake it, and produce peace and silence in his palace, whenever the high spirits of his courtiers approached the point of disturbance at the feast.

The next and last reference to a Musical Branch that I have met is of modern date, compared to those already given; but it is not the less valuable on that account, because, although the name is but figuratively applied to a harp, the figure is correctly carried out by ascribing to the particular harp referred to, the magically soothing properties of a Musical Branch.

<sup>(368)</sup> [original:—*fechtur so bi Cormac huCruinn aIacruim, copacearó aenoclach pururta finnliat agi ar fagti in uim. Ir amla so bi an tocIach ocu craeb ríóamail anailaim, cocti hublarb vergoir purpe; ocu ní fer ca ríó hí; ocu an tan*

*poctatead hí ba binne anac ceol an beata úile acanóir na hubla; ocu rócoirelóir fer[arib fonta agur aer galair] an beata leirn ceol rín, ocu nacabit cúma na ríim ar na dáimib no eirtead an ceol rín.*  
—Book of Fermoy, folio 62 a. b.]

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and also in the Tale of "The Finding of Cormac's Branch";

and lastly in a poem of about the year A.D. 1500;



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This reference is found in a sweet little Gaedhelic poem of eighteen stanzas, of which I possess a very good copy. The name and time of the author are unknown to me; but I should suppose that he flourished about the year 1500. The author appears to have been, or pretends to have been, abandoned or neglected by his friends and patrons; and in this state he addresses the poem to his historical manuscript book, calling on it to come to him, and not to abandon him like his other dear friends. He charges the book to come to him accompanied with his paper, his pens, his book of poems, and his handbook of arithmetic and astronomy, by means of which he was enabled to calculate chronology since the Deluge, and to count the stars of heaven. This brings him to the eighth stanza, which, with the ninth, tenth, and eleventh, he devotes to his harp, as will be seen from the following literal translation:—

“Do not forget the Musical Branch,  
The red-boarded, dry, sweet-toned [instrument],  
The soft-voiced, melodious moaner;  
Which is a sleeping sedative to the mind.

“Do; bring me the musical lyre,  
Speaking, brilliant, plaintive,  
Polished, well-seasoned throughout,  
Fine-stringed, and carved all round.

“Whenever I see the artistic harp,  
The great brown-shaded, smooth-sided [instrument]  
Under the bounding ardour of my swift-moving fingers  
It excites my mind despite itself;

“Until I have played thrilling sweet tunes  
From the very tips of my furiously rapid fingers,  
Warm, thick-wove, and grave,  
Filtered, hard-fingered, even”.<sup>(369)</sup>

The Musical Branch symbolical of repose and peace;

I scarcely need say any more to prove that the *Craebh Ciúil*, or Musical Branch, was an instrument indicative or symbolic of repose and peace, and used by those who were qualified by station or profession to command it. The particular form or parts of the Musical Branch we have now no means of discovering; but, from the qualities ascribed to the branches of the poet

<sup>(369)</sup> [original:—

Na veim dearmuó uon Chraobh  
Ciúil,  
Dearg éilpúiré, tírim, tairgúir,  
uallanac bog, fúacá binn;  
Ír ruanan coráilta úincinn.  
Dáilíó dáin an líric loinneac,  
eangac, eavrocté, ioglanac,  
maíh gneanta, raóairé ar fúo,  
teileabair, coóairte tiomcol.  
an tan aóirú an éiláiréac dearmuac,

Donnrgáileac móir, mínleargac,  
fa ghuoifeing rúilíur mo meoir  
Uo dhroguis muicinn dáintheoin  
Fur rinnioó linn crúire cor fúoc  
Ufíurinn mo meoir bhúiré ghuo,  
go tírim, tuíú deantaac, tírom,  
Síleac, crúicéarac, coórom.  
—O'Curry MSS., Cath. Univ., Historical Poems, vol. iv. p. 549, mid.]

*Sencha* and of king *Cormac*, we may assume that it resembled, in effect at least, if not in shape, the silver crescent of the Turks, with its gently-tingling bells, or that which, copied from it, some years ago had a place in British military bands. It happens that there are at present in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy two sets of little bells formed like hollow musket bullets, with stems, which may probably have formed parts of an instrument of this kind. One set of these bells consists at present of fifteen loose bells; they are formed of bronze of an ancient kind, having two small holes at both sides of the stem, and without any enclosure. The other set consists of thirteen; they are formed of a more modern kind of brass or bronze, and are a little smaller than the former, and not so regularly globular. They have each two similar perforations, and contain each of them a small loose ball or pea within, made, I suppose, of the same metal. They are at present—and were so when purchased by the Academy—slung loosely by their stems on a piece of wire bent into a series of regular bends, and the whole of them formed into a hoop or ring, like a cogged crown wheel, with a diameter of about four inches. Now, if this ring were fixed horizontally at the top of a thin pole or wand, and so shaken, the little bells being each slung upon its own bend of the wire, they could produce a small tingling noise, or music it may be, though certainly not of a very soothing quality. But I cannot refer to them as by any means an example of the effective instrument whose music is described in the ancient writings I have quoted.

There is another class of bells preserved in our national museum, of a different form from those just described, and of most undoubtedly remote antiquity. These bells were noticed in the "Dublin Penny Journal"<sup>(370)</sup> by a correspondent who signs himself with the letter B. The article is headed, "Ancient Irish Bells and Crotals", and goes on as follows:

"The annexed wood-cuts represent some ancient Irish bells, which, with a great variety of 'skeynes', 'celts', spears and arrow-heads, gongs, metallic pans, and other relics of antiquity, were found a few years ago in a bog near Birr in the King's county. Many specimens of the curiosities just enumerated, as well as of other rare remains of ancient times, including that antique work in metal called *Barnán Coolawn* [*Bearnán Cúlann*] (upwards of nine hundred years old), of which an account [a very silly account indeed] is given in the fourteenth volume of the 'Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy', are now in the collection of T. L. Cooke, Esq., of Birr. The bells are of

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it was analogous to the Turkish silver crescent and bells;

bronze bells in the museum of the R.I.A. belonged perhaps to such an instrument.

The bells called "Crotals" described in the "Penny Journal";

(370) No. 47, vol. i., p. 376, May 18th, 1833.



XXXIV.  
The bells  
called  
"Crotals"  
described in  
the "Penny  
Journal":

bell-metal, and appear as if gilt. No. 1 is five inches long by two and one and a-half in the greatest diameter; and No. 2 is three by two inches and a quarter.

"These bells were formerly called Crotals or bell-cymbals, and are supposed to have been used by the clergy. They consisted, as Dr. Ledwich writes, and as the specimens before us prove, of two hollow demispheres of bell-metal, joined together and enclosing a small piece of the same substance, to serve the use of a tongue or clapper, and produce the sound. The learned antiquary just referred to says, on the authority of John Sarisher, 'The Crotal seems not to have been a bardic instrument, but the bell-cymbal used by the clergy, and denominated a Crotalum by the Latins'. He adds, 'it was also used by the Roman pagan priests'.

"The name", continues this writer, "seems to be derived from the Irish *crotal*, a husk or pod, which was metaphorically used to express a cymbal. The venerable General Vallancey, in the twelfth number of his 'Collectanea', intimates that bells might have been employed by the Irish druids, and adduces instances of the ancient augurs having used them in pronouncing their oracles. Walker, in his 'History of the Irish Bards', vol. i., p. 127, tells us that these bells were formerly used by the priests to frighten ghosts".

Doctor Petrie, the learned editor of the "Penny Journal", offers the following observation on the communication from B, of which I have given the above extract.

"The ancient religious bells of the Irish, thus briefly noticed by our respectable correspondent B, is a subject of considerable interest, and which we shall return to in a future number at some length; we shall, therefore, only observe now that the bells represented by our correspondent, 1 and 2, as well as a third which we here add from the museum of the Dean of St. Patrick's, and which was found in the same bog, are evidently of that description called Crotal, or bell-cymbal—two of which were always connected together by means of a flexible rod. Beauford, in his essay on the ancient Irish musical instruments, published in Ledwich's 'Irish Antiquities', gives a plate of what he and Ledwich supposed to be the form of the Irish Crotals, but which are in reality only sheep-bells of the seventeenth century, and of which we subjoin a specimen from our own collection. The Crotals given above are the only true specimens of the kind which we have heard of as being found in Ireland; a great number of brazen trumpets, of the same metal, gilt in the same manner, and apparently the work of the same workman, were found along with them. These trumpets



are in the possession of Lord Oxmantown [the late earl of Rosse], the Dean of St. Patrick's, and Mr. Cooke, of Parsonstown". xxxiv.

Of the collections of Irish antiquities alluded to in the preceding observations of Dr. Petrie, that of the Dean of St. Patrick's has since that time passed into the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, that of Mr. Cooke to the British Museum; but of Lord Rosse's collection I know nothing. If it were not humiliating to our national pride and degrading to our self-respect, it would be amusing to read these bold attempts of such ignorant, unscrupulous fabricators of facts, as Ledwich, Beauford, and Vallancey, to impose their audacious forgeries on our presumed ignorance of the written and existing records of our national history. A boldness to be the more wondered at from the well known fact, that not one of the three ever read, or ever could read, one chapter, one page, or one sentence of that history in the native tongue, although it encircled them all round in ponderous volumes, five, six, seven and more hundreds of years old. It is true that the Christian priests from St. Patrick down had the use of bells for the ordinary ecclesiastical purposes, but these were of the ordinary shape, round or square, open below, and with regular clappers of the ordinary kind. It is not true, however, as far as the most extensive reading leads, that *Crotals*, or *Crotalum*, were ever used by our Christian priests for any purpose whatsoever. In fact, the word "crotal" does not exist at all in the Gaedhelic language. It is a modern corruption of the Latin word, thus explained in "Ainsworth's Dictionary":

*crotals* not used by Christian priests;

"Crotali, or crotaliorum, jewels so worn that they jingle as they strike against one another. Crotalum, an instrument made of two brass plates or bones, which being struck together made a kind of music; a castanet".

explanation of the term

Now I ask, whether there is the remotest resemblance between the "Crotals" or brass plates described here from Pliny and Cicero, and these curious bell-shaped instruments which are to be found in our national museum? I have, in former lectures, from time to time had occasion to describe poets, musicians, and druids in the actual exercise of their respective professions; but in no instance of these, nor anywhere else, have I found "Crotals", or bells of any kind forming any part of their professional paraphernalia, excepting in the instance of the poets and their Musical Branches, already described in this lecture. To follow these most impudent, because most ignorant, writers farther on the present subject, would be a positive waste of time and patience, and I shall therefore leave them for the present, and conclude this part of my subject with a few more words on the word Crotal, or Crotalum.

xxxiv.  
the Irish  
words  
*crothadh*,  
*crothla*, and  
*clothra*;

It would, perhaps, be a question of some philological interest to collate the Latin word *Crotalum* with the Gaedhelic word *Crothadh*, to shake, and *Crothla*, and *Clothra*, anything which makes a noise by shaking. My meaning will be understood by giving the translation of the signification of these two words, as I find it in a Brehon Law Glossary, compiled by *Domhnall O'Dubhdabhoirenn*, or O'Davoren, an accomplished scholar and gentleman of Burren, in my native county of Clare, in the year 1569. The following are the glosses:—

“*Clothra*, that is, a thing which is heard being shaken, such as it is [in the Laws]: ‘If it be a dog that is accustomed to spring upon people, there must be an alarm of a bell or a *Clothra* around its neck, that is, a little bell at its neck, or something else which is heard shaking [or ringing] when it is going to commit a trespass’.

“*Crothla*, such as the warning of a cross or a *Crothla*, that is, to pass over what is shaken there, that is, the forbidding *drolan* (or hasp), that is, the *Crothla* which is placed upon the garden door of the garden of an exile of God [that is, of a recluse or pilgrim]”.<sup>(371)</sup>

From this curious explanation of the word *Crothla* we learn two interesting facts: the first, that in olden times in our country, the law allowed no person to enter into the hermitage of a religious recluse without due notice of his approach; and secondly, that the advance or garden door of this hermitage was furnished with a cross, hasp, or something else, which was struck against the door, like our knockers, or shaken, as the iron hasp of the door continues to be to this day, in the country parts of Ireland.

they are the  
only words  
at all like  
*Crotalum*

These two words, then, *Clothra* and *Crothla*, which actually mean the same thing, are the only words that I am acquainted with in the Gaedhelic language, which at all approach the Latin word *crotalum*; but we see clearly, from their assigned signification, that they are really as unlike bells of any kind as the crotalum or castanet itself. There is, to be sure, as the writer in the “Penny Journal” says, the word *crotal*, signifying the husks of fruit, or the scales of fish, and such like; but there is no great reason to imagine that the Gaedhils improvised the name of a bell from so remote and dissimilar an idea. We know

except  
*crotal* the  
husks of  
fruit, i.e.  
castanets;

(371) [original:—Clothra, .i. ní clu-  
ntear agra crothad, amais ata [. . .]  
mas eá foilmead bío urrogra  
cluicc, no clothra fo a bragaic, .i.  
cluigín ima bragaic, no ní eile ic  
cluimrichead agra crothad in tan

ticra vo genadh foála. O'Davoren,  
voce *Clothra*.

Crothla, ut, urrogra croitri no  
crothla, .i. sul feá an microthar ann, .i.  
in drolan urrogra, .i. crothla bír ar  
soirur airtirí, airtirí an veoraro  
vé. O'Davoren, voce *Crothla*.]



from the Brehon Laws that cows of the first class or quality in ancient times were, for distinction, furnished with bells (called *Cluig*) at their necks, and that cows so furnished were by law inviolate, so that they could not be taken in distraint even under a process of law, and if stolen or injured, the penalty was much higher than that which attached to the same offence when committed upon ordinary cows [v. *Senchus Mor*, vol. i. p. 143, pub. by Brehon Law Com.]. We know, too, that horses were furnished with little bells, sometimes of silver and gold, at their necks, long before the introduction of Christianity into this country. An instance of this fact is preserved in the very ancient tale of the *Táin Bo Fraich*, where we are told that *Fraech*, of whom so much has already been spoken in these lectures, when going to *Cruachan* to pay his addresses to the princess *Fíndabair*, went with a cortege of fifty horsemen in rich array, and each horse furnished, among other things, with a crescent of gold, and little golden *clogs*, or bells, at its neck. But again, I assert that there is no such instrument as a *Crotal* known in the Gaedhelic language, and that all that has been written about it for the last eighty years in books, and read in papers before the Royal Irish Academy, is pure fabrication, founded on the assumption of a fact that never had existence.

Having, as I trust, disposed for ever of the "Crotal" as having been an ancient Irish instrument of music, I shall turn from this rather long digression, and again take up the alphabetical list, at the word next in order, namely, the *Crann Ciúil*, or Musical Tree; and, in the first place, I must observe that the word tree, in this as well as in various other instances, does not mean a tree in the ordinary sense of a growing plant. When I use the word here, I do so in translation of the Irish word *Crann*, and exactly in the sense in which we understand the word tree in some compound English words, as a spade-tree, an axle-tree, a boot-tree, a saddle-tree, and others of the same class. The *Crann Ciúil*, or Musical Tree, would imply by the very form of the words that the instrument was made of wood, but beyond this, even if so far, its natural signification does not extend. Indeed, I might say that the word *Crann-Ciúil* is a generic term for almost any kind of musical instrument; and as a discussion on the subject would be of little value, I shall content myself with two examples of this use of the term. In the old Book of Lismore, we find the following conversation recorded as having taken place between *Cailte* (the surviving historian of *Fínd Mac Cumhail*), and St. Patrick:—

"It was then", says the story, "that St. Patrick asked *Cailte* if they had musicians in the *Fenian* troops. 'We had, indeed'

XXXIV.  
bells put on  
necks of  
cows;

and on  
horses;

the *Crotal*  
not known  
in Ireland—  
everything  
written  
about it pure  
invention.

The *Crann  
Ciúil* or  
Musical  
Tree;

It was a  
generic  
term for any  
kind of  
musical  
instrument,



XXXIV. said *Cailte*, 'the one best musician that could be found in Erinn or in Alba'. 'What was his name?' said St. Patrick. '*Cnu Deroil*', said *Cailte*. 'Where was he found?' said St. Patrick. 'Between *Crotta Cliach* and *Sidh Ban Find* (now *Sliabh na m-Ban*, in Tipperary) in the south', said *Cailte*. 'What was his description?' said St. Patrick. 'Four handsbreadths for *Find* was his height; and three handsbreadths for him was the height of the *Crann Ciúil* which he played', said *Cailte*. 'The other musicians of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* became jealous of him', said he, 'and turned him out of their court. *Find*', continues *Cailte*, 'happened to go on that day to *Sidh Ban Find* to a chase and hunt, and he sat there upon a raised mound. The Fenian chief having looked about him, perceived the little man tuning and playing his *Cruit* (or harp) upon the bank near him; and there he sat with his fair yellow hair floating down his back to his hips. And when he saw *Find* he came up to him, and put his hand into his hand [as a token of submission], for he [*Find*] was the first person he met after coming out of the [fairy] hill. And he continued to play his *Cruit* in *Find*'s presence until the rest of the Fenian warriors came up. And when they came up they heard the enchanting fairy music. Good, O beloved *Find*', said the *Fianna*, 'this is one of the three best gifts that you have ever received'. And he continued with him [*Find*] afterwards till his death"<sup>(372)</sup>

as is shown by a passage from the Book of Lismore,

when it is a *Cruit*;

*Cuisle*, a tube, explained in a vellum MS. as a Musical Tree;

In this short article it will be seen that what was first described as a *Crann Ciúil*, or Musical Tree, of three hands in height, is twice afterwards described as a *Cruit*, or harp; and yet, in an ancient glossary preserved in a vellum MS. in the library of Trinity College, Dublin,<sup>(373)</sup> we find the word *Cuisle* (a tube) explained as a *Crann Ciúil*, or Musical Tree. We are told further in the same old Book of Lismore, that while *Cailte*

<sup>(372)</sup> [original:—*Ír anoirín no riarraigis pátraig do Chailte in ríabatar aipreicig acuibrí iún feinn. Do bí umorpo ar Cailte in taen aipreicé ír fepir do bí a neirunn na a naldain. Ca hainm iún ar pátraig. Cnu Deroil ar Cailte, caic arpué e ar pátraig. Erser Crota Cliach acur Sídh Bann bfeinn tír ar Cailte. Cret a tuararcbaíl ar pátraig. Ceitpe uirunn feinn do bí ma aipoi, acur tíu uirunn do írín Crano Ciúil do feimeo, acur aipreicig Tuata De Dannaín do iúnno tuac iúr. Iuro feinn inla iún co Sibhan feinn riar do feilig acur orragáe, acur fúróir ar in bhrice forbuig anoirín. Sílir íarum in flait feime pecha*

*confaca in fep bec ac fepnáv, acur ac rairfeinn a cruici ar in fós ina focair, acur ír amlaro nobui, acur folt fava fínnbuoi co clar a va lear rair, acur ar raic iún feinn taimic va ionnraigis, acur tue alam na laim, or are ceo'uime éarila do he íar tuioéct ar in tíro amach, acur nobui oc feinn acruici ariavnuirí feinn no íu tanca-tar in fiann, acur ar techt doib accualatar in ceol rreéctae ríó. Maic a anum a fíinn ar an fiann, are put in tpey turcaipé ac fepir ruarair iuañ, acur do bí ac feinn no ío ruarí bár. Book of Lismore, fol. 205 a.b.]*

<sup>(373)</sup> [original:—H. 3. 18. f. 415.]

was on a visit to the king of Ulster, a young man came to the court dressed as a minstrel, and carrying his *Timpan* at his back. This young stranger turned out to be *Cas Corach*, son of *Bodhbh Derg*, the great *Tuatha Dé Danann* chief of *Magh Femen* in Tipperary, who had come to make acquaintance with *Cailte*, and add to his stock of story and song from the inexhaustible stores of the veteran Fenian warrior. *Cailte* received the young man with kindness and encouragement, and introduced him to St. Patrick, who was highly pleased with his wonderful performance on his *Timpan* or harp. The saint received his confession of faith, for which, and for his delightful performance, he promised him heaven, in the following words:

“Heaven is thine”, said St. Patrick, “and may thy art be one of the three last arts by which a person shall realize his benefit in Erin; and though the unwelcome which may be intended for a man of thy art, when he has played his music and [told] his stories, may be great, he shall not be any longer unwelcome; and the professors of thy art shall be at all times the couch fellows of kings, and they shall be prosperous provided they be not lazy”. And then he (*Cas Corach*) put up his *Crann Cúil* into its keep-place.<sup>(374)</sup>

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in another place in the Book of Lismore a *Timpan* is so called.

From these few extracts, quite enough for my purpose, we see clearly that the term *Crann Cúil* was applied indiscriminately to a *Cruit* or harp, a *Cuisle* or tube, and a *Timpan*, which was certainly a stringed instrument of the harp kind.

The next instrument in alphabetical order is the *Cruit*, of which I have already treated in the former lectures.

Next in order is the instrument, the name of which is written *Cuiseach*, a word not obsolete, but which, from the position of gradation that it holds in relation to the other instruments mentioned along with it, I should take to signify a reed, or some such instrument of a very simple order. To this instrument I have never met more than two references, the first of which is in the ancient poem on the fair of *Carman* described in a former lecture,<sup>(375)</sup> and which I have also referred to in this lecture in connection with musical instruments. Among those I mentioned *Cuiseachs*. The word which actually occurs in the poem is *Cusigh*, which I take to be the plural of *Cuiseach* [? plur. *Cuiseacha*], and to signify reeds or small pipes. The

The *Cuiseach*:

mentioned in the poem on the fair of *Carman*,

<sup>(374)</sup> [original:—nem dúit ar pátraic, acur gubab; an tpeaf ealaosa ar a faguib nech a leapaosa fua depeao an Erinn hi; acur sío moir in toichroill diaf ne fear healaosan acé conoerua aipriteo, acur connoiri pcela gan soiceall poime, ar

pátraic; acur fear leapda nís tpe bitu net healaosun, acur roirbear soib acé naé dearmaic lerge. Ocur no currium a Crann Cúil ina com-eao. Book of Lismore, f. 223 a.b.]

<sup>(375)</sup> [See Lecture ii., ante, vol. i. p. 38.]



XXXIV.  
and in the  
Tale of the  
Battle of  
*Almhain*.

next, and only other reference that I have met to the *Cuiseach*, is found in the passage from the ancient account of the battle of *Almhain* which I have quoted above, where king *Fergal*, addressing *Donnbo*, says: "Make amusement for us, O *Donnbo*, because thou art the best minstrel in Erin, namely, at *Cuiseachs*<sup>(376)</sup> at pipes (or tubes), and at harps, etc. In this combination of instruments we find the *Cuiseach* placed first, before the *Cuisle* (or tube) and the harp; leaving us room to infer that it was the minor or simplest instrument of the three. However, as I am not able to throw any further light upon the history or identification of this instrument, I shall pass from it for the present, leaving to future investigation the chance of carrying the inquiry farther.

The *Cuisle Ciuil*  
another  
name for  
*Crann Ciuil*;

*cuisle* a  
living word  
meaning a  
vein, or a  
kind of  
cock;

mentioned  
in the latter  
sense in the  
Book of  
Invasions;

*Cuisle*  
explained in  
H. 3. 18.  
T. C. D. as a  
Musical  
Tree.

The next instrument in alphabetical order is the *Cuisle Ciuil* (or musical tube). This is, simply, another name for the *Crann Ciuil*, or musical tree; and it is from this form of the name that the designation of the performers is derived, namely, that of *Cuislennach*, or tube performer, whilst there is no attempt at deriving a performer's name from the form "*Crann Ciuil*". The word *Cuisle* is a living one at this day, as well as in more ancient times, and is applied both to the veins of the living body through which the blood courses from the heart to the extremities, and also to a piece of reed, or hollowed wood, such as in country public houses is, or was in my youthful days, used with a stopper, in tapping a keg of whiskey or cask of ale, before the convenience of regular cocks for this purpose penetrated to the rural districts. In this sense it was also called *canaile*, or canal. And it is in these latter senses that it is mentioned in the ancient Book of Invasions of Ireland, in the story of the misbehaviour of *Dealgnad*, Parthalon's wife. This lady is stated, in this very old account, to have given her paramour a drink of ale from a special cask reserved for her husband, of which she was always entrusted with the *Cuisle* of gold through which the liquor was drawn. In the ancient poem which repeats the prose account of *Dealgnad*'s misbehaviour, the *Cuisle* is glossed as *Corn Cael*, that is, a thin or slender horn or tube; and in an ancient glossary preserved in the vellum M.S. classed H. 3. 18. T.C.D., folio 415, *Cuisle* is explained as *Crann Ciuil*, or a musical tree. This old example of the word sufficiently indicates that a musical instrument of this name must have been of the pipe or tube class, and probably one of slight or thin bore.

(376) See *supra*, p. 310.



## LECTURE XXXV.

[Delivered 4th July, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The *Fedán*; mentioned in the Book of Lismore; *Fedán* players mentioned in the Brehon Laws. The *Fidil* or Fiddle; mentioned in the poem on the fair of *Carman*; and in a poem written in 1680. The *Guth-Buánde*; mentioned in an Irish life of Alexander the Great; the *Ceólán* also mentioned in this tract; incorrect meaning given to this word in Macleod's and Dewar's Dictionary; *Ceólán* not a diminutive of *ceol*, but the name of a tinkling bell; the *Ceólán* mentioned in the Irish life of St. *Mac Creiche*. The *Guthbuánde* also mentioned in an Irish tract on the Siege of Troy. The *Oct Tedach*. The *Oircin*; mentioned in the Irish Triads; one of the bards of *Seanchan Torpeist's* "Great Bardic Company" called *Oircne*; no explanation of *Oircne* known, except that it was the name of the first lap-dog. Of the *Pip* or Pipe, and in the plural *Pipai* or Pipes; mentioned in the poem on the fair of *Carman*; the only ancient reference to the *Pipaireadha*, or *Piobaire*, or Piper, known to author is in a fragment of Brehon Law. Of the *Stoc*; mentioned in a paraphrase of the Book of Genesis in the *Leabhar Breac*, and in the version of the "Fall of Jericho" in the same book; and again in describing the coming of Antichrist; and in the plural form *Stuic* in the poem on the fair of *Carman*, and in the *Táin Bo Flidais*. Another instrument, the *Sturgan*, mentioned in this tract; and also in a poem on Randal lord of Arann. The *Sturganuidhe* or *Sturgan* player mentioned in Keating's "Three Shafts of Death". Specimens of the *Corn*, *Stoc*, and *Sturgan* are probably to be found in the museum of the R.I.A. The *Corn* was the Roman Cornua; specimens in the museum of the R.I.A. The *Stoc* represents the Roman Buccina. The *Sturgan* corresponds to the Roman Lituus. Mr. R. Ousley's description of the *Stuic* and the *Sturgana* in the museum of the R.I.A.; the specimens in the Academy's museum are parts of two instruments, and not of one; ancient Irish wind instruments of graduated scale and compass; the trumpets mentioned in Walker's "Irish Bards" first described and figured in Smith's History of Cork; Walker's observations on them; they are figured in *Vetusta Monumenta*; a similar trumpet found in England; the author agrees with Walker that there must have been another joint in the trumpets; discrepancy between the figures of Smith and the *Vetusta Monumenta*; Smith's opinion that they were Danish, erroneous; Smith's error that the Cork trumpets formed but one instrument, reproduced by Mr. R. MacAdam; Sir W. Wilde's novel idea of the use of the straight tubes; his idea that they were part of a "Commander's Staff", borrowed from Wagner; Sir William Wilde's illustration of the use of the straight part of a trumpet as a "Commander's Staff", unsatisfactory; his separation of the straight tube from the curved parts in the Museum of the R.I.A. a mistake which ought to be corrected. *Sturgana*, *Stuic*, and *Corna* in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, and Trinity College, Dublin.

THE next musical instrument in alphabetical order from the list The *Fedán*; which I gave in my last lecture is the *Fedán*. The word *Fedán*, in the living language, signifies a thin, slender, musical pipe, or tube, and in the old medical manuscripts the term is applied to

xxxv. a fistula. It was probably a whistle, since *fed* is the term, both ancient and modern, for a whistling with the mouth, and *Fedán* would therefore simply signify a whistling instrument. I don't remember having met with more than one written reference to this instrument, namely, in the Dialogue of the Ancient Men in the Book of Lismore. It is where *Cailte* is relating to St. Patrick how the palace of Tara was set on fire every November eve by *Ailean*, the son of *Midna*, a famous chief of the *Tuatha Dé Danann* race, who resided in the fairy mansion of *Sliabh Cuilluin* in Ulster. This chief, it appeared, was accustomed to approach Tara, playing one or more musical instruments in such soft and soothing strains, as to throw its guardians into a dead sleep till he had accomplished his purpose, for, as *Cailte* says, "even women in labour and wounded champions would be put to sleep by the plaintive fairy music, and the sweetly-tuned strain of song which the skilful performer raised who burned Tara every year".

This soothing musician, however, was killed at last by *Find Mac Cumhaill*, with a spear given to him by *Fiach Mac Conga*, a friend of his fathers; and, when giving him the spear, we are told that *Fiach* said to him: "When you hear the fairy music and the sweet-stringed *Timpan* and the melodious-sounding *Fedán*, uncover the blade of this spear, and apply its sharp edge to your forehead, or to some other member of your members, and it will keep you from falling asleep until *Ailean* comes within reach of you"<sup>(377)</sup> *Find* took this good advice, and when *Ailean* approached Tara, he found himself detected accordingly, and fled to his residence, followed closely by *Find*, who overtook and slew him as he was entering the door of his own mansion.

mentioned  
in the Book  
of Lismore;

*Fedán*  
players  
mentioned  
in the  
Brehon  
Laws.

In an ancient Brehon Law tract in the Book of Ballymote [f. 186. b. a. top], which gives a list of the rank and pay of the various professions, the *Fedánaigh*, or *Fedán* players, are set down among those who performed at the fairs and public sports.

The *Fidil* or  
fiddle;

The next musical instrument in alphabetical order is the *Fidil* or Fiddle, to which, however, I have met but two references in our old MSS., one considerably older than the other; but I cannot say that the old term *Fidil* was applied to the same kind of instrument as our present Fiddle. The first

(377) [original:—*uair do coel-  
dair mna cononair, ocus laech  
leoirce nurn ceol rreccad rui,  
ocus nurn ngasan nglertu ngur-  
binn do canad in fir roinemar rui  
no loirce Temair gada bliadain  
(.i. aillen mac mrona) . . . irann  
do parp rrad, map acclumpe in ceol*

*rue ocus an timpan teirbinn ocus  
an pewan rogurpbinn, ben a cumrad  
do eann na cruirig agur tabuir  
reo teoan, no reball eli uot bal-  
laib, agur ni leirce spain na rlea-  
si neme coirad uirt. Book of Lis-  
more, f. 212. b.b.]*



of these references is found in the version of the poem descriptive of the ancient fair of *Carman*, referred to in the last lecture, which is found in the Book of Leinster (a MS. of about the year 1150). Among the various instruments of music and musicians mentioned in this poem as having been present at this great assembly, are *Fidli*, or Fiddles;<sup>(378)</sup> the old word differing from the modern in having one *d* only, in accordance with the genius of the Gaedhelic language.

XXXV.  
mentioned  
in the poem  
on the fair  
of *Carman*;

The second place in which I have met with the word "Fiddle" is in a poem written about the year 1680 by *Eoghan O'Donnghaile* (or Eugene O'Donnelly), a native of Ulster, for a harper, whose Christian name was *Feidhlimy*, who paid him a visit. The poet's praise is conveyed chiefly in a negative strain, not describing the artistic perfections of his visitor and his harp, but the defects and blemishes which they have not. This very clever poem consists of fifteen quatrains, of which the following, the third quatrain, will give a very good idea of the character of the whole:

and in a  
poem writ-  
ten in 1680.

"You are not Eugene of the bad tuning,  
Who has the blubbing *Fidioll*;  
It is not you who have the shifting posture,—  
And there are no startings in your nerves"<sup>(379)</sup>

Here the fiddle is written *Fidioll*; and it is a curious fact that at the present day, in Munster at least, the instrument is called violin in speaking Irish, and fiddle in English; nor have the people any notion that the latter is the older name in their language. The word Fiddle is, I believe, an old word in the Saxon language too.

The next musical instrument in alphabetical order to which I have met with any historical reference, is the *Guth-buinde*, a word compounded of *guth*, the human voice, and *Buinde* or *Buinne*, a pipe or tube; probably some kind of speaking trumpet. I have never met this instrument named in any purely Gaedhelic composition, nor at all but in two instances, both of which are translations from the Latin. The first reference to the *Guth-buinde* is found in the life of Alexander the Great, translated from *Orus*, an unknown author, and preserved in the great book of *Dun Doighre*, or *Leabhar Breac*, in the library of the Royal Irish Academy,<sup>(380)</sup> into which it was copied from the ancient Book

The *Guth-  
Buinde*;

mentioned  
in an Irish  
life of Alex-  
ander the  
Great;

<sup>(378)</sup> [See lecture ii. *ante*, vol. i. p. 46; and see Appendix for the original of the whole poem.]

<sup>(379)</sup> [original:—  
ní tu Eogan ír olc inmoll,  
á g a mbi an fíodoll maor gáin;

ní hionat bíof an bócaí,—  
ní bíonn ímroírad anoo ímaoran.  
—O'Curry MSS. Cath. Univ. His-  
torical poems, vol. iv. p. 405.]

<sup>(380)</sup> [Fol. 105, a. b.]



## XXXV.

The *Guth-buinde* mentioned in an Irish life of Alexander the Great;

of Saint *Berchan* of *Chuain Sosta*, now Cloonsost, in the King's county.<sup>(381)</sup>

The passage in which this reference occurs follows Alexander's epistle to his tutor Aristotle, in which he informs him of his victory over the great king Darius, and his subsequent overthrow of Por (Porus), king of India, whose chief city he captured and pillaged, and whom he then pursued into the country of the Bactrians, that is, as the story says, the country of the *Serrdha*, a people who manufactured for themselves clothes from the moss which grew upon the leaves of trees. The historian then goes on to say, that—

"Great was the army of Alexander at this time. Two hundred and fifty thousand foot soldiers, and thirty thousand horsemen, and one thousand elephants carrying gold and silver for them; and four hundred four-horse chariots; and two thousand [?] (ordinary [sic]ed, B. of Ballymote]) chariots; and two thousand mules; and fifty *Cassiandras*, that is a certain description of beasts of burden, and five hundred camels; and two score thousand [?] *Sumadas* (or nags) and *Mallas* (or mules) and oxen, and asses, and horses besides for carrying wheat. The herds were countless which were there to supply flesh meat to the army. It was straps of gold they had to whip the elephants and the camels, and the mules and the royal steeds with, when necessary. The arms and the helmets of the army were carved and ornamented by [order of] Alexander, with red gold and precious gems; in the same way were the *Guth-buinde* with their golden *Céólána* adorned by him. Though it had been by night this army had marched they would have light sufficient from their clothes, and from their arms, adorned with gold and silver, and from their gems of precious stones, the same as if each man were a king".<sup>(382)</sup> All this

<sup>(381)</sup> [The copy of this tract in the *Leabhar Breac* is imperfect, but there is a complete but not so good a one in the Book of Ballymote. At f. 93. a. a. of the *Leabhar Breac* copy it is stated that the account is taken from Orus. Theophilus O'Flanagan has written at the beginning of the tract in the Book of Ballymote, in red ink, that the account is from the Latin of Justinus. The Orus alluded to is Paul Orosius, who drew the materials for his chapters relating to Alexander from Justinus. So that both statements are to a certain extent true. The tract appears to be to a certain extent an original work compiled from various sources, especially the two named. Professor O'Curry made a rough translation of this tract shortly before his death, which it is to be hoped will soon be published, along with several others relating to classical and mediæval history.]

<sup>(382)</sup> [Da mor trác r'lógaó Alaxan-dair an mbuio rin .l. for. cc. m. so trác'íeada, ocuf .xxx. mile mar-cach, ocuf .x. c. elepinnce oc im-meóan óir ocuf arsaic soib; ocuf .cccc. cecharrao; ocuf .cc.x. cairp-éech; ocuf .xx.c. so mularib; ocuf

.l. so cairmanóais, .i. araisle an-mannaib beiraro aipe, ocuf .u.c. camall; ocuf .xx. [m.] so ruimeóais, ocuf malla, ocuf soama, ocuf ar-na, ocuf echaib ar óena r'na hóm-char cruineéca. Da v'pime na hal-ma batar ann r'ruiciméiceé feola

gold and silver, and these gems with which Alexander enriched his army, were taken from the treasury of *Por*, king of India, whose chief city he had taken and pillaged. Among the articles beautified and adorned from the precious stores of *Por's* unfortunate city, were the *Guth-buinde*, with their golden *Ceólána*. From the component parts of this word, namely, *Guth*, the voice, and *Buinde*, a tube, one would be inclined to infer that the instrument was a speaking trumpet; but it is rather a puzzle to understand how, if it were a speaking trumpet, it should have such appendages as *Ceólána*, that is, musical bells, attached to it!

XXXV.  
the *Ceólan* also mentioned in this tract;

Of the name *Ceólán* itself, no authoritative signification has been hitherto published by any of our Irish lexicographers or historians. In Shaw's "Gaelic Dictionary", published in London in the year 1780, he gives *Ceólán*, as a little bell; and Edward O'Reilly, in his "Irish-English Dictionary", printed in Dublin in 1817, follows Shaw exactly. Not so, however, the Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Dewar, in their Dictionary of the "Gaelic Language", printed in Glasgow in 1839, scorning to follow their own countryman Shaw, or the Irishman O'Reilly, they strike out a new path for themselves, and very learnedly tell us that *Ceólán* is a "diminutive of *Ceol*, faint music; a tender soft air". It is surprising to see two educated gentlemen, well versed, too, in the spoken dialect of the Gaedhelic of Scotland, fall into such a grammatical error as this. *Ceol*, in Irish, has no diminutive, any more than "music" in English; and if it had, it should be *Ceoilín*. *Ceólán*, then, is not a diminutive of *Ceol*, music; but it is a descriptive name for a sweet tingling, or chiming bell; and it cannot, as far as I am aware, be applied properly to any thing else. That it was a bell of some musical power, will be clearly enough understood from the passage in the Irish life of *St. Mac Creiche*, which I shall now quote.

Incorrect meaning given to this word in Macleod and Dewar's Dictionary.

*Ceólán* not a diminutive of *ceol*, but the name of a tinkling bell;

*St. Mac Creiche* was the contemporary and bosom friend of *St. Ailbhe* of *Imliuch Ibhair* (now *Émly* in the county of Tipperary), and must have been born before the death of *St. Patrick*. He was the founder of several churches in the present county of *Clare*, only one of which is named from him, namely,

the *Ceólan* mentioned in the Irish life of *St. Mac Creiche*.

uona flogaib. ialla óraa tra no-  
bitir fua fpoisib na nelepinu ocuf  
na camall, ocuf na mul, ocuf na  
nech puga in tan ba himarcarae.  
Ropnoao ocuf no eparat arim ocuf  
caébarri na flog la halaxanuar,  
uo uerzón ocuf uo gemmaib log-  
marais; rocumuaigeo lair tra

pon inour rin na guthbuinoe cona-  
ceolanaib opoaib. Ciamao auaio  
no iméigir in flogrim ba folar  
uoir oia neireoaib, ocuf oia narim-  
cumuaigib uoir, ocuf uiafcar, oia  
gemmaib leas lógmar amail bio  
nig ceé fer. *Leabhar Breac*, fol 95,  
a.b ]



XXXV.  
the *Ceolán*  
mentioned  
in the Irish  
life of St.  
*Mac Creiche*.

*Cill Mic Creiche*, near Innistimon in that county. In the early part of the sixth century, we are told, among other pestilential visitations which afflicted that country, was a dreadful amphibious monster called *Broic-Seach* (or the badger-monster), which suddenly appeared in *Loch Broicsighe*, or *Broicseach's* lake, a lake not now known by this name,<sup>(383)</sup> but situated in the ancient territory of *Cineal Fermaic*, a district comprised in the present barony of Inchiquin, in the county of Clare, and some ten miles east by north of *Cill Mic Creiche*. The havoc which this monster caused among the people of the district and their cattle, induced them to call upon their clergy to exercise their sacred powers for its abatement. This call was readily responded to by the clergy, who, headed by saints *Maeldalna*, *Mac Aiblen*, and *Blathmac*, attended a great meeting of the people on a certain day. It happened at this time that the monster was chasing the cattle of the district up to the very precincts of the assembly. The ecclesiastics felt much alarmed, and what they did, says the legend, was to ring their bells (*Cluico*) and their *Ceólána*, and make a great noise with their reliquaries and their croziers; and the [people of the] country shouted with them, both men, women, and children".<sup>(384)</sup> These proceedings, however, only gave additional vehemence and ferocity to the monster, so that the people were forced to disperse in all directions; and it was reserved for St. *Mac Creiche* to relieve them afterwards by chaining their enemy for ever at the bottom of its own lake. I have recounted this curious legend in detail, because this is the only precise and unmistakable reference I can recollect to have ever met to the name and use of the *Ceólán*.

The *Guth-*  
*buinde* also  
mentioned  
in an Irish  
tract on the  
Siege of  
Troy.

The second reference to the *Guthbuinde* that I have met is found in an ancient Irish translation of the Argonautic Expedition, and the Destruction of Troy, preserved in the Book of Ballymote, in the library of the Royal Irish Academy (a MS. book compiled in the year 1391), and of the same piece there is also a large fragment preserved in the Book of Leinster. The

<sup>(383)</sup> [The lake anciently called *Loch Broigseach*, that is, the "Badger's Lake", and now called *Loch-na-Ratha*, the "Lake of the Rath", is situated at the foot of the hill on which the old church of *Rath Blathmach* stands, in the parish of Rath, and barony of Inchiquin, and about two miles W. by S. from the town of Corofin. High up on the precipitous side of a hill, close to the lake, there is a hole or cavern, still called *Poll na Brocuidhe*, or the "Badger's Hole". The *Ceólána* alluded to in the legend are traditionally

well remembered in the parish just named, and have, with other objects supposed to have belonged to Saint *Blathmac*, passed into the possession of the Royal Irish Academy.]

<sup>(384)</sup> [original:—*ḡabair eccla, acur uaébar moir na cleirig, acur apéó vo nonpat a ccluicc acur a cceolána vo buain acur tuargnaó moir va minnaib acur va mbaélaib; acur vo ḡairpíot an tír léo fearaib, macaib mnaib.* Life of Saint *Mac Creha*, O'Curry's MSS., Cath. Univ. Lives of Saints, vol. I, p. 345, bot.]



passage in question occurs at folio 239, b. of the Book of Ballymote, where the second attack upon the city of Troy is described, beginning as follows:

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"These were the kings and the chiefs who came to the battle from the Greeks: Agamemnon, the son of Ateri, son of Pilop, son of Tantal, son of Mercury, son of Jove, son of Saturn; and Menelaus his brother; and Achilles, and Patrocul, and the two Ajaxes, namely, Ajax the son of Olei, and Ajax the son of Talamon; and Ulysses, and Diomed, Nestor, and Polimnestor, and Palamides, and Mnestius, and many other leaders. All these high kings and chiefs of the Greeks came to the battle this day. It was a beautiful sight to look at them when they had arranged the battle. The sky blazed with the lustre and splendour of the various many coloured vestures, and the carbuncle gems of all colours, and the gold and silver *Guth-Buinde*, and the emblazoned battle shields, and the splendid various weapons which were over them."<sup>(385)</sup>

I have not been able to find any passages to agree, exactly, in phraseology with these in any version of the Life of Alexander, or of the Siege of Troy; and, consequently, no equivalent of the name *Guth-buinde*, in any other language, has as yet been found; so that I am unable, with any precision, to ascertain the nature of the instrument.

The next musical instrument in alphabetical order on my list is the *Ocht-tedach*, literally the eight-stringed, which must from its very name, have been an instrument of the harp kind with eight strings. To this instrument I have met with but one reference. That reference, however, with its associations, is as good as many, and evidently typifies a class of instruments which must have been in extensive use, and probably with a particular profession, namely, the ecclesiastical. As, however, the legend of this instrument, and the curious metrical address of the abbot of *Ui Cormaic to Feidhlemidh Mac Crimhthainn*, king of Munster, have been amply dealt with in a previous lecture, it is not necessary to repeat the account I have already given of it.<sup>(386)</sup>

The Ocht Tedach.

<sup>(385)</sup> [original:—Itsepo nuz ocyr tairuz tangavar iun cat o tpecaib. Agmemnon mac Ateri, mac Pilop, mac Tancail, mac Mercury, mac Ioid, mac Saturn, agyr Menelaus abratari, ocyr Aicil, ocyr Patrocul, ocyr na va diax; .i. diax mac Olei, ocyr diax mac Talamon, ocyr Uilixer, ocyr Diomio, nestor ocyr polimnestor ocyr palamioes, ocyr mnestiur, ocyr tairuz moa ele. Tancavar tra na huile airtuz ocyr tairuz tpeca iun cat in laim. va

caem tra afaireti icaregao iar conuguo voib in cata. Rolatatar in taer vo wellpao ocyr vo taitneam na elact nepramail niloatadh, na ngem carpmocal cae vaeta, ocyr na ngutbuioe opdae, ocyr airtori, ocyr na caerciae comocetai, ocyr na nam nalainn nilapoa bavap uarrai. Book of Ballymote, f. 239, b.a.]

<sup>(386)</sup> [See Lecture xxxii., ante, vol. ii. p. 261 et seq.]

## xxxv.

The *Oircin*;mentioned  
in the Irish  
Triads;

The next musical instrument, if indeed instrument it can be called, to which I have met reference, is the *Oircin*. To this *Oircin* I have met but one reference, and that not in connection with any other musical instrument, or with musical performance, but in comparison with other instruments. The name *Oircin* occurs in the ancient tract of which the ancient Irish triads form part. These tracts form a collection of short, pointed, wise sayings,—affirmative, negative, and comparative; and they are generally known as king *Cormac Mac Airt's* instructions to his son *Cairbre*. The section of these instructions in which the name *Oircin* occurs, is the comparative, and consists of twenty-four comparative affirmatives, beginning thus: "Every man is wise till he sells his inheritance". That is, any other act of folly is wisdom compared to the folly of selling one's inheritance. The next is: "Every one is a fool till he purchases land". That is to say, that all other exercises of prudence or acquisition of wealth was simple folly, compared to the purchase of land in perpetuity. These ancient sayings are curious evidences of the importance which at all times attached to the possession in fee of land in Ireland.

The nineteenth of these wise sayings runs thus: "All music is the music of cats, compared to the music of the *Cruit*". That is to say, all other music is but caterwauling, compared to the harp. And, in the twenty-third, we are told that "the sweetest of all music is the music of the *Oircin*".<sup>(387)</sup>

I have failed to find any further reference to this instrument, if instrument it was at all; and I have mentioned it merely for the purpose of pointing the attention of future archaeological readers to the fact of such a reference being extant. I should, however, note here, that among the great company of bards who attended *Seanchan Torpeist*, the chief poet of Erin, in his visit to the court of *Guairé*, king of Connacht, as described in a former lecture,<sup>(388)</sup> there was one who was named *Oircne*, that is *Oircne*, the repeater, chief *Ollamh*, or professor of north Munster; but, unfortunately, the nature of his profession is not explained, any further than what his name implies. The name *Oircne*, however, must have been derived from *Oircin*, in the same way that *Cruitire*, a harper, is derived from *Cruit*, a harp. For the word *Oircne*, I have not found any explanation, but that it was the name of a specially gifted lap-dog or small

one of the  
bards of  
*Seanchan  
Torpeist's*  
"Great  
Bardic  
Company"  
called  
*Oircne*;

no explanation  
of *Oir-  
cne* known,  
except that  
it was the  
name of the  
first lap-  
dog.

<sup>(387)</sup> [original:—

1. ƒaet caé coranao neic a forp-  
baí.
2. baet caé colluaigir tpe.
19. caro caé ceol co cruic.

23. mírem caé ceol, ceol m-  
uorcin.—H. 2. 18. f. 235. a. col. 4.  
mid.; H. 2. 17. f. 179, et seq.]

<sup>(388)</sup> [See Lecture xxxi., ante, vol.  
ii. p. 235.]



hound; but I do not know what relation existed between the dog and the musical performer, or professional *Oircne*. I may, however, remark that, according to the Brehon Laws, no one was allowed to have a lap-dog called *Oircne* but a *brugaidh*, or farmer, a queen, a doctor, and a harper.

XXXV.

The next musical instrument in alphabetical order to which I have met any reference are the *Pipai* or pipes. To this instrument itself, under this, its proper name, I have met with but one ancient reference, and that in the poem in the Book of Leinster, already so often quoted in the course of these lectures: I allude to the poem describing the games and sports of the ancient fair of *Carman*, now the town of Wexford. In the list of musical instruments preserved in that poem, as having been in use at this great provincial fair, we find the *Pipai*, or pipes; and there is no reason to think these *Pipai* were not the bag-pipes of the times, whatever their simple or complex character may have been. *Pip*, or in the plural *Pipai*, that is pipe or pipes, continues to be the name of the bag-pipes to this day in Ireland. The following fugitive stanza, more than a century old, and taken down by me in 1855 from the lips of Mr. P. Mac Donogh, a native of Castlebar, in the county of Mayo, but now of the British Museum, preserves the Connacht popular name of the pipes. The first two lines of the stanza appear to have been addressed to an itinerant piper on his return from his wanderings to the residence of some hospitable patron; and the second two lines are significantly characteristic of the long established habits ascribed to this particular class of performers.

Of the *Pipai* or Pipes;

mentioned in the poem on *Carman*;

“Play up the pipes, and thou shalt have payment,  
Give us that melody which we have not for some time heard”.

“The key is in the door, and draw us a horn of drink,  
The pipes are thirsty; but they shall be so no more”<sup>(389)</sup>.

Mr. Mac Donogh sings this stanza to a delicious simple air, of which he gave me an accurate score, to add to the ample and select collection of our great collector, Dr. Petrie.

Like the pipes themselves, I have not met in any ancient composition more than one reference to the *Pipaireadha*, or pipers. This reference is preserved in a fragment of our ancient laws consisting of but one single sheet of four pages, now bound up at the end of the ancient volume of laws so often referred to in the course of these lectures, and classed H. 3. 18. in the lib-

the only ancient reference to the *Pipaireadha* or Pipers known to the author is a fragment of Brehon Law.

<sup>(389)</sup> original:—

Seinn tuar na pipai, is geaba tuar  
violaiseact,  
ta bairt uinn an binn uo, na cual-  
amair go f6il.

atá an eodair anna uoir, asur  
carrainc coru uige uinn,  
'ed tarc ar na pipai, aec ní biat6  
nir mó.



xxxv. rary of Trinity College, Dublin. The article contains a list of the fines or recompense paid to professors of the mechanical arts for insults or bodily injury, and concludes in these words:

"These are base, that is, inferior professions, and are entitled to the same amount of fines as the *Pipaireadha*, or pipers; and the *Clesamhnaigh*, or jugglers; and the *Cornaireadha*, or trumpeters; and the *Cuislennaigh*, or pipe blowers".<sup>(390)</sup> This paragraph is valuable so far as to show that the *Cuislennach* or pipe-blower was a different person from the *Pipaire*, or piper.

Of the *Stoc*;

The next of the musical instruments in alphabetical order to which I have reference is the *Stoc*. The only instance of the occurrence of this instrument, in its singular form, that I have met, is found in the passage from the paraphrase of the Book of *Genesis*, preserved in the Book of *Dun Doighre*, or *Leabhar Breac*, which I quoted in a previous lecture.<sup>(391)</sup>

mentioned  
in a para-  
phrase of  
the Book of  
*Genesis* in  
the *Leabhar  
Breac*.

In the passage referred to it will be seen that the *Corn*, that is a horn or trumpet, and the *Stoc Focra*, or alarm *Stoc*, are commanded to be sounded at the same time, and in such a way as to lead us to think that two distinct instruments are spoken of, namely, the *Corn* or horn, for congregating or calling attention, and the *Stoc Focra*, or alarm trumpet, to sound the marching blast. Could the ancient Irish writers have had any old romantic commentary on the following verses from the Old Testament (*Numbers*, chapter x.), which authorized them to make a distinction between the two silver trumpets which the Lord ordered Moses to make, one for mustering the tribes, and one to sound the march?

"1. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

"2. Make thee two trumpets of beaten silver wherewith thou mayst call together the multitude when the camp is to be removed.

"3. And when thou shalt sound the trumpets, all the multitude shall gather unto thee to the door of the tabernacle of the covenant.

"4. If thou sound but once, the princes and the heads of the multitude of Israel shall come to thee.

"5. But if the sound of the trumpets be longer, and with interruptions, they that are on the east side shall first go forward.

"6. And at the second sounding and like noise of the trumpet, they who lie on the south side, shall take up their tents. And

<sup>(390)</sup> [original:—*Daer nemto tpa, i. naireada, ocu na cuislennais.*—II. *foadana na ghratoru tuar, ocu coih eneclann ias ocu na pipaireada,* <sup>(391)</sup> [See Lecture xxxiv., ante, vol. ii. p. 308.]

after this manner shall the rest do, when the trumpets shall sound for a march.

“ 7. But when the people is to be gathered together, the sound of the trumpets shall be plain, and they shall not make a broken sound”.

XXXV.  
mentioned  
in a para-  
phrase of  
the Book of  
Genesis in  
the *Leabhar  
Breac*,

Here it does not appear very clear whether the assembling trumpets, and the alarm or marching trumpet, were one and the same instrument, or whether the two were sounded at the same time and for the same purpose or not; but I believe they were not.

We have in the same great authority another curious instance of the actual natural horn and the trumpet, from *Joshue*, chapter vi.

“ 1. Now Jericho was close shut up and fenced, for fear of the children of Israel, and no man durst go out or come in.

“ 2. And the Lord said to Joshue: Behold I have given into thy hands Jericho, and the king thereof and all the valiant men.

“ 3. Go round about the city, all ye fighting men, once a day. So shall ye do for six days.

“ 4. And on the seventh day the priests shall take the seven trumpets which are used in the jubilee, and shall go before the ark of the covenant: and you shall go about the city seven times, and the priests shall sound the seven trumpets.

“ 5. And when the voice of the trumpet shall give a longer and broken time, and shall sound in your ears, all the people shall shout together with a very great shout, and the walls of the city shall fall to the ground, and they shall enter in, every one at the place against which they shall stand”.

These five verses of the sixth chapter of *Joshue* are taken from the Douay Bible, but other translations and commentators call these trumpets which were sounded against the walls of Jericho, trumpets of rams' horns. I need not follow these quotations further; it is sufficient to say, that these trumpets continue to be spoken of down to the fall of the city of Jericho at the seventeenth verse of the chapter. The following passage from the historical version of the fall of Jericho, from the Book of *Dun Doighre*, will show what the ancient Irish translator calls the trumpets of rams' horns.

and in the  
version of  
the “ Fall of  
Jericho” in  
the same  
book;

“ They [the Israelites] spread their flocks and their hosts over the beautiful, wonderful plains of Jericho, that is, the chief city of Canaan. They collected their hosts and their scourers, and their battalions around about the city. There were seven strong impregnable walls around that city. There were sounded by the sons of Israel seven powerful choice *Stuic* around the seven



xxxv. walls of the city for a week, and a wall each day was what they knocked down".<sup>(392)</sup>

and again in describing the coming of Antichrist;

Again, in the same old book, where the coming of Antichrist, and his combat with, and overthrow of, Enoch and Elias are related, we find the passage of which the following is the translation:

"The day of judgment then will approach. Tuba canet Michael, et omnes resurgunt. Michael the archangel will sound his *Stoc*, and all [the dead] shall arise from their graves".<sup>(393)</sup>

And in the plural form *Stuic* in the poem on the fair of *Carman* and in the *Táin Bo Flidais*.

The *Stoc*, in its plural form of *Stuic*, is found in the enumeration of the musical instruments in the ancient poem on the fair of *Carman*, already referred to; and it occurs again in a more military sense in an ancient tale called *Táin Bo Flidais*, or the Cow Spoil of *Flidas*. This *Flidas* was a lady of great beauty and accomplishment, the wife of *Ailill Finn*, or *Ailill* the fair-haired, a valiant and powerful chief of *Irris* in Connacht, in the century preceding the Incarnation. This was the time at which *Ailill* and *Medb*, the celebrated king and queen of Connacht, were preparing to set out on that famous expedition into Ulster, so well known as the *Táin Bo Chuailgne*, to which frequent reference has been made in the course of these lectures. Preparatory to setting out on this expedition, these royal personages collected voluntary contributions from their provincial subjects, in the way of supplies for their army. One of the Connacht chiefs most celebrated for his flocks and herds was this *Ailill Finn*, or the fair-haired; and to him the king and queen sent a friendly request for a contribution to their commissariat. *Fergus*, the prince of Ulster, who was at this time in exile at the Connacht court, asked and obtained permission to go with this request to the court of *Ailill* the Fair-haired. But *Fergus* had motives of his own for preferring this request: he had seen and loved *Ailill's* wife, the beautiful *Flidas*, and he sought to make this an opportunity to see and converse with her in her own court. *Ailill* the Fair-haired, however, was not without his suspicions of the true motives of this visit, and when, therefore, *Fergus* arrived at his court, he received him coldly, refused him the supply, but offered him the hospitality

(392) [original:—Ro ríppet a cneáda ocus a fíois for muigib aille ex-amlá heico .i. ppimcathair na cannanta, timpaigic a fíois ocus a rípe ocus a caéa imon cathraig imacuairt. Seét múir daingne oichoglarde imon cathraig rin. Ro fennit oc maccu írael .an. ríuic trena togharoe im .an. mura na

cathrach co cenó pectmame .i. muir ceé loei íreo no legoir pempu.—*Leabhar Breac*, fol. 52. b. a.]

(393) [original:—Comfocrigio lathi brata iarrin. Tuba canet Michael et omnes resurgunt. Senfio Michael a rtooc conpéct in uli aranaonactib.—*Leabhar Breac*, fol. 52. b. a.]



of his house. *Fergus* refused this offer, whereupon a quarrel ensued, in which he was himself captured with two of his party, and twenty more of them killed, whilst the other eight fled to the royal palace of *Cruachan*, and apprised the king and queen of the dangerous state in which they left their chief. This news was not tamely received by king *Ailill* and queen *Medb*. They immediately set out with a large force, and having arrived at the fort of *Ailill* the Fair-haired, they laid siege to it, and after a long struggle, took and plundered it, killing himself and all its other brave defenders. It is in describing the attack on the fort of *Ailill* the Fair-haired the *Stoc* is mentioned. The passage is as follows:

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“And then arose the men of the four great provinces of Erin, and the dark exiles [of Ulster] along with them; and they were excited greatly by *Ailill* and *Fergus* and *Medb*; and they altogether faced the fortress; and they sounded their *Stuic*, and their *Sturgana* in proclamation of battle, and they raised tremendous terrific shouts”<sup>(394)</sup>

Another instrument the *Sturgana* mentioned in this tract;

This passage leaves no doubt of the ordinary use of the *Stoc*, whatever might have been its precise form. But we have here, along with the *Stoc*, another instrument, evidently of the trumpet kind, namely, the *Sturgán*. Of the *Sturgán* I have never met with any mention but the present, and two more, which, though coming down to comparatively recent times, do not throw any additional light on the kind or quality of the instrument.

There is a poem in my possession, written for Randall, Lord of the island of Arann, in the Frith of Clyde in Scotland. This Randall was of Danish extraction, and the grandson of Godfrey Meranach, lord of the Danes of Dublin, who died in the year 1095. Randall, the subject of this poem, and who flourished about the year 1180, was of the Irish race by his mother's side; and in right of this descent, the poet exhorts him to come over to Ireland and establish his right to the throne of Tara. The poem consists of fifty stanzas. The stanza which contains the reference to the *Sturgán* is the last, and is as follows:

And also a poem on Randall lord of Arran.

“O Randall, thou best of the world's kings,  
 Thou king to whom my warm affection clings;  
 After thee around O'Colman's Hill,  
 There will be a concert of *Stuic* and *Sturgána*”<sup>(395)</sup>

<sup>(394)</sup> [original:—*acur no epeceap ceitpe holl-cuigro epeno ano rin, acur in dubloingear map den juu, acur no gneir otilll go mop, acur ferpeur, acur medb iac, acur tucrat anaisgei a naenpect ap in sunao, acur no fenoit a Stuic acur a Scurgana leo i comfuastra caea,*

*ocur no eozbapan gairi avobli uat-mara.*—H. 2. 16. col. 354.]

<sup>(395)</sup> [original:—*A Ragnail a nig in womnan a nu va tabraim talgnao do vaig um Cnoc o Colman biao organ, rroc, ir rcuigan.*]

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The O'Colman's hill spoken of here, was the Hill of Tara, so called in allusion to the O'Melachlainn family, the hereditary kings of Tara, but whose tribe name was *Clann Colmain*. In this stanza, as in the passage just quoted above, we have the *Stoc* and *Sturgan* in connection with military display.

The *Sturganuidhe* or *Sturgan* player mentioned in Keating's Three Shafts of Death.

In the Rev. Doctor Geoffrey Keating's learned religious work, so well known under the name of the Three Shafts of Death, book 3, article 18, occurs the following paragraph:

"We read at *St. Matthew*, chapter ix., these words: 'Domine filia mea modo mortua, est, veni et impone manum tuam super eam, et vivet'. That is, 'Lord, my daughter is now dead: come and put thy hand upon her, and she shall be alive'. These words are found in *Matt.*, chap. ix., verses 18, 23, 24, 25, as follows:

"18. While he spoke these things unto them, behold there came a certain ruler and worshipped him, saying, 'My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live'.

"23. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

"24. He said unto them, 'Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth'. And they laughed him to scorn.

"25. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose'".

On this miracle Dr. Keating has the following short commentary:

"Understand that Christ did three things at the time of performing this miracle. Firstly, he put out of the house the crowd which were in it, both *Storganuidhe*, or *Sturgan* players; *Oirfidioch*, or musician, and *Piopaire*, or piper".<sup>(395)</sup>

Specimens of the *Corn*, *Stoc* and *Sturgan* are probably to be found in the museum of the R.I.A. The *Corn* the Roman *Cornua*; specimens in the museum of the R.I.A.

From all that I have read and seen of the *Corn*, the *Stoc*, and the *Sturgan*, the three chief military musical instruments of our remote ancestors, I have no doubt but we have ancient specimens of each of them still extant in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy.

I am satisfied that the *Corn* was the *Cornua* of the ancient Romans, which was bended almost round, and of which we have two, though still imperfect specimens in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. Each of these instruments consists in its

<sup>(395)</sup> [original:—λέγειτε δὲ μάτα ἄνθρωποι. καὶ ἐπιθεῖς τὴν χεῖρα σου ἐπὶ τὴν θυγατέρα αὐτῆς, καὶ ζήσεται. ἡ δὲ θυγατέρα αὐτῆς ἦν νεκρὰ. καὶ ἐπιθεῖς τὴν χεῖρα σου ἐπὶ τὴν θυγατέρα αὐτῆς, καὶ ζήσεται. καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἐκεῖθεν, εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὸ οἶκος αὐτοῦ, καὶ εὗρε τὴν θυγατέρα αὐτοῦ ζῆσαν. καὶ ἐκείνη ἦν νεκρὰ. καὶ ἐκείνη ἦν νεκρὰ. καὶ ἐκείνη ἦν νεκρὰ.]

neite pe linn na miorbailleir so deanaim. ar tur so cur ar an ttead an trocraire so bi ann, iomr fcorzanarode, oirfidioch acur piobaire. Mar an ceasda.—From a copy by Andrew Mac Curtin of Dunogain in the Co. of Clare, made in the year 1709; it will also be found at p. 351 MS. Egerton, 184, Brit. Museum.]

cuig so noerhanar chriote cri



present state of two curved pieces, which were joined together for use by means of the boss which may be perceived on the small end of one of them, into which boss the end of each piece was received and made air-tight. It is evident that each instrument has lost one or more curved pieces, which had been attached in the same way, and continued until they formed the required circle of the instrument. They must have also had an ornamented mouthpiece, to correspond with the beautifully decorated disk which adorns the orifice of the one which has the boss just referred to. That these instruments consisted originally of three pieces at least, we have, I think, ample evidence in the fact of the middle piece of a third *Corn*, still retaining upon its ends the original bosses into which the ends of the other two pieces were received and attached. These unique *Corns* are composed of ancient bronze, not cast or welded, but joined by a riveted band of the same metal, which runs within the cylinder along the concave side, and upon which the edges of the moulded horn, which was originally a flat plate, are beautifully and, to modern artizans incomprehensibly, riveted down, the flat heads of the rivets being on the inside.

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The second of these instruments, the *Stoc*, represents, I am satisfied, the *Buccina* of the ancient Romans. The *Buccina* is described in Rees' Encyclopaedia as "an ancient military metallic instrument crooked like a horn used in war. The word", he continues, "comes from *bucca*, mouth, and *cano*, I sing". In no description, however, of the Roman *Buccina* that I am aware of, is there any definite reference to the way in which the instrument was blown; whether from the smaller end, in the ordinary way, or from an orifice in the side or in the concave surface. Indeed from the fact that the name *Buccina* is derived from *bucca*, the mouth, and *cano*, I sing, there appears good reason to think that the instrument was a speaking trumpet of a deep, loud, but not shrill compass.

The *Stoc*  
represents  
the Roman  
*Buccina*.

It is remarkable that no specimen of a straight trumpet, pipe, or tube of any kind, of a musical character, has yet been discovered any where that I know of.

The third of these instruments is that which I have ventured to identify as the *Sturgán*; and when we compare the following short description of the Roman *Lituus* from Rees' Encyclopaedia, and the figure of that instrument given in that work, with specimens in the Academy's museum, it requires no argument to prove that, however they may differ a little in the exact shape of the curve, they are identically the same in original conception and use.

The *Sturgán*  
corresponds  
to the  
Roman  
*Lituus*.

"The *Lituus*", says the writer in Rees' Encyclopaedia, "which



xxxv. was almost straight, but crooked at the extremity, in the form of the augur's staff, whence its name, was a species of clarion or octave trumpet, made of metal, and extremely loud and shrill, used for horse, as the straight trumpet was for foot. The Lituus, among medallists, was the wand or staff, twisted at the top, used by the augurs, made in the form of a crozier, and the badge of the augurship. . . . . Aulus Gellius says it was bigger in the place where it was crooked than elsewhere".

The *Sturgán*, it will be seen, like the *Corn*, was composed of at least two parts, and perhaps of a third, with a bowl or mouth-piece; still, as far as we know of, no specimen of the instrument has yet been discovered consisting of more than two joints.

Mr. R. Ousley's description of the *Stuic* or *Sturgana* in the museum of the R.L.A.;

Of the *Stuic* and *Sturgana* in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, the following brief account by Mr. Ralph Ousley, is preserved in the second volume of the Transactions of that learned body, for the year 1788, as follows:—

"An Account of three Metal Trumpets found in the county of Limerick, in the year 1787, by Ralph Ousley, Esq., M.R.I.A., communicated by Joseph Cooper Walker, Esq., Secretary to the Committee of Antiquities. [Read March 29, 1788.]

"As every attempt", says Mr. Ousley, "to elucidate the antiquities of this country has of late been favourably received, the following short description of three uncommon musical instruments is with great deference offered to the Royal Irish Academy.

"These trumpets were found by a peasant cutting turf in the bog of *Carrick O'Gunnell*, county of Limerick, in the month of May, 1787, and by him sold to a brazier in the city of Limerick, who reserved them for the present possessor. They are of a rich mixed metal, neither copper nor brass, but inclining rather to a copper colour. They resemble strongly those described in Walker's Historical Memoirs of the Irish Bards (page 109, Appendix), except in the middle, which differs from any I ever heard of, and is, I believe, an unique. This tube is  $23\frac{6}{10}$  inches long, of one entire piece, and has a loop in the centre to run a cord through. At each end it has four holes, corresponding to four in each trumpet, through which two pins or pegs fastened the instrument. Both trumpets were fixed on the middle piece, like the points of a German flute, when first found, and very firm with rust and dirt, but the pins were lost. I should imagine this tube was only to hang them up by: Doctor Fisher (a celebrated performer on the violin, and doctor of music in the University of Oxford), who saw them with me in Limerick, conjectures fig. I. and II. are first and second. The mouth or large end of fig II. is four and a-half inches diameter,

being one inch wider than the other. Fig. III. is the *Stoc* or *Staic*, a sort of speaking trumpet described by Colonel Vallancey in the *Collectanea*, No. XIII., page 46, and *Historical Memoirs of Irish Bards*, page 83. The mouth-hole is oval,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  wide, and was cut across by the turf spade; but the other two and middle piece are in fine preservation. They are all ornamented with little conical teats or projections at each end, as in the drawing, viz., four at the small end, and four near each extremity of the middle piece. Fig I. and fig III. have four holes at the wide ends, which seems as if some other tube was to be fastened occasionally within them, perhaps in the manner of Lord Drogheda's, described by Colonel Vallancey. It is natural to think there must have been mouth-pieces for fig. I. and II., but none were found with them, nor with any others, I believe, in the kingdom, being made, probably, of perishable materials. The three trumpets and middle piece weigh 9 lbs.  $11\frac{1}{2}$  oz., viz.: middle piece, 1 lb. 11 oz.; fig. I., 2 lbs.; fig. II., 2 lbs.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; fig. III., 3 lbs. 7 oz. A very curious brass spur-rowel of  $2\frac{3}{10}$  inches diameter, and eight prongs or rays, was dug up with the trumpets, and is now in my possession.

“RALPH OUSLEY.

“Millsborough, near Castlereagh, August 15, 1787”.

The trumpets so accurately described in Mr. Ousley's communication are now in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, and the drawings which accompany Mr. Ousley's paper are correct representations of them. It will, however, be apparent to any man of common sense that the three instruments could never have been the parts of only one instrument, as they might be supposed to have been, from the state in which they were found. To make sure that such was not the case, I have examined the originals, and the result of that examination enables me to assert positively, that they are parts of two, not of one instrument. For upon applying the straight tube to the smaller end of the larger trumpet, I found the opening of the latter much too wide for either of its ends, and that the rivet holes of neither end would match the holes of the opening. Again, upon applying the straight piece to the opening of the smaller trumpet, I found that one end fitted exactly, holes and all, showing by this simple method how easy it would have been for Mr. Ousley to satisfy himself that the two curved pieces were never intended to form with the one straight piece but one instrument. We may very well suppose, indeed, that the rivets which the finder of the trumpets said were lost by him, had not been present at all, and therefore that the two curved

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the specimens in the Academy's museum are parts of two instruments, and not of one;



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pieces, if at all found as represented, were stuck only temporarily in some moment of hurry upon the one straight piece. The four holes at the wide ends of each of the curved pieces were for fastening a disk, such as may seem upon one of the *Corns* in the Academy's museum, and not, as Vallancey surmised, to fasten another tube to them.

Although this, or some such argument, would be sufficient of itself to prove that these were parts of two, not of one instrument, still we are not trusting to mere argument alone to put the assertion beyond dispute. It will be remembered that in Mr. Ousley's communication he says that these trumpets, then in his possession, resembled strongly those described in Walker's Historical Memoir of the Irish Bards, page 109 of the Appendix, excepting in the middle piece. It is singular that the instruments thus referred to should consist of three distinct specimens; and so like those of Mr. Ousley's are they, that, at first view, they could scarcely be distinguished from one another. And this fact suggests good reason to think, that in ancient times in Ireland these wind instruments were grouped in instruments of graduated scale and compass; the great *Corn* forming the deep loud bass, and those others diminishing in compass and increasing in shrillness down to the smallest sizes of *Storgan* which are in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy. There may have been still smaller, but as yet none such have been met with.

ancient  
Irish wind  
instruments  
of graduated  
scale and  
compass;

the trumpets  
mentioned  
in Walker's  
"Irish  
Bards" first  
described  
and figured  
in Smith's  
History of  
Cork;

The trumpets to which Mr. Ousley refers us in Walker's Memoir of the Irish Bards, published in 1786, were originally described and figured in Smith's History of Cork, vol. ii. p. 404, published in 1750.

"In a bog between *Cork* and *Mallow*", writes Charles Smith, "a few years ago, were discovered several brass trumpets, some of which are now in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Somerville of Castlehaven. One of them resembles that given us by Sir Thomas Molyneux in the Appendix to Boate's Natural History of Ireland. These of ours are drawn from the originals by a scale which shows their dimensions; the smaller end was entirely closed, the hole they sounded them by was at the side D, fig. 1, and not at the end as in our modern trumpets. It is not well known what kind of noise those who had skill in sounding this instrument could make before it had been injured by time; at present it gives but a very dull, heavy, uncouth noise, that cannot be heard at any great distance.<sup>(397)</sup> If the method of filling the German flute was lost, and a person was to find one, it

<sup>(397)</sup> Smith has a note here from Diodorus Siculus.



would be very difficult to guess what kind of sound it might afford; and the same may be said of our trumpets.

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“Fig. 2. is a kind of double trumpet, open at both ends, with no hole in the side as the former.

“From A to A are two brass pipes better than half an inch diameter; these pipes had been soldered at B, but at A A they exactly enter the small ends of the curved part of the instrument. The curved parts are both of a size; if joined when the pipe B was whole, it was impossible by blowing in the wider end to make any musical sound; but by blowing into either small end with one or both pipes fixed, it might have afforded no inharmonious noise. The wider, as well as the smaller ends of these instruments, are ornamented with a row of small pyramids, as in the figure. They are of cast brass, very smooth on the outside, but not quite so thin as a common brass trumpet. They undoubtedly belonged to the Danes, from their being found in one of their intrenchments, and there were thirteen or fourteen more discovered at the same time; but these were the most perfect and uncommon, particularly fig. 2”.

That Smith, any more than Ousley, bestowed but little of close examination upon these trumpets which he figures, will be sufficiently evident from the following reference to them taken from the Appendix to Walker's Memoir of the Irish Bards, page 109:

“About thirty years since, the trumpets delivered above were found in a bog between Cork and Mallow. They were bought by a brazier in Cork, who was just going to melt them down, when they were rescued from his hands by the Rev Mr. Somerville of Castlehaven. Being afterwards exposed to sale, they were purchased by the Rev. Mr. Archdall for Dr. Pococke, bishop of Meath, to whom he was then chaplain. On the bishop's decease his valuable collection of curiosities was sold by auction in London. The trumpets fortunately getting into the possession of the Antiquarian Society of London, engravings of them appeared in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, a work which was conducted by that learned body. The engravings were illustrated by the following observations:

Walker's observations on them; .

they are figured in *Vetusta Monumenta*;

“‘Fig. I. II. III. Three brass trumpets found (with ten or a dozen more) in a bog between Cork and Mallow, in the kingdom of Ireland. They are imagined to be some of those instruments which the northern nations made use of in battle. ‘They have amongst them’, says Diodorus Siculus, speaking of the Gauls, ‘trumpets, peculiar as well to themselves as to other nations: these, by inflation, emit an hoarse sound, well suited to the din of battle’. ‘And’, says Polybius, ‘the parade and

xxxv. tumult of the army of the Celts terrified the Romans. For there was amongst them an infinite number of horns and trumpets which, with the shout of the whole army in concert, made a clamour so terrible and so loud, that every surrounding echo was awakened, and all the adjacent country seemed to join in the horrible din'.

"Of these, fig. III. consists of one piece of fine brass, closed at the small end, near which it has a large oval hole for sounding, in the manner of the German flute at this day. The two rings were probably designed to receive a string, by which it was to be carried or supported. Fig. I. and II. are of a different construction; they consist of two pieces, viz., a curve pipe and a small straight tube, fitted exactly to enter into the small end of it. These were not sounded as the former, but from the end, in the manner of a common trumpet. The mouthpiece to both seems wanting.

"More of this sort were found some years ago, near Carrickfergus, in the north of Ireland, two of which were brought to England, and are possibly the same which are now deposited in the British Museum'"<sup>(398)</sup>

Walker adds the following observations, which show what any man with ordinary discernment might see, that he did not believe these two curved and two straight tubes were ever intended to form but one instrument:

"Colonel Vallancey consulted Dr. Burney respecting these trumpets; the doctor and he concurred in opinion that fig. I. II. might have been a kind of musical trumpet. But the drawing does not show the instrument complete; there was certainly another joint. One Mr. Rawle, a gentleman of London, possesses a trumpet very much resembling the one in question, but with two joints and a perfect mouthpiece. This trumpet was found in England".

a similar  
instrument  
found in  
England;

author  
agrees with  
Walker that  
there must  
have been  
another  
joint in the  
trumpets;  
discrepancy  
between the  
figs. of  
Smith and  
the Vet.  
Mon.;

So far Mr. Walker, and I have only to repeat that I agree with him fully in the opinion, indeed I may say certainty, that there must have been another joint to each of these trumpets, and that that joint, whether long or short, if not itself the mouthpiece, must have contained the mouthpiece.

I need not point attention to the discrepancy between the uniform figures of these two curved tubes, given by Smith, and the engravings of them, which must be more accurate, published in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, in which there is a marked difference to be seen between the suddenness of the curve in one from that of the other. A similar difference of curve will be seen in these two trumpets, figured as one by Mr. Ousley in the

<sup>(399)</sup> See *Vetusta Monumenta*, vol. ii., 1789, plate xx.



Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. Smith's opinion, xxxv. that these were Danish trumpets, because they were found in a Danish entrenchment, is as fallacious as his drawings evidently are. The Danes had no such trumpets at any time in this country, and the absurdity of their ever having an entrenchment in the bog in which these instruments were found does not require one word of refutation. Smith's opinion that they were Danish erroneous;

I should not perhaps have dwelt so long on, I might say, the self-evident proof that the one group of these tubes, and consisting of three pieces, found in the county of Limerick, and the other, consisting of four pieces, found in the county of Cork, did not each form one but two instruments, if the contrary had not been put on record by such men as Smith and Ousley in their day, and reiterated, as regards the Cork tubes, in our own time. For, in the April number for 1860, of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, edited by Mr. Robert Mac Adam of Belfast, and in a clever article written on Irish trumpets by that gentleman himself, we find Smith's engravings of the Cork trumpets, and his idea of their having formed but one instrument, reprinted, without any attempt on the part of the writer to show the utter absurdity of such an idea. Smith's error that the Cork trumpets formed but one instrument reproduced by Mr. R. Mac Adam;

Dr. [now Sir William R.] Wilde, however, in his *Catalogue of the Antiquities of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy*, page 624, takes a different, and to us in Ireland, a very novel view of the straight piece of tube found with these instruments. After shortly referring to Smith, Ousley, and Walker's account of them, Sir William Wilde says: Sir W. Wilde's novel idea of the use of the straight tubes;

"One of these resembles No. 12 in our museum (see figs. 526 and 529), with a lateral aperture or mouth-hole; the other two were simple curved horns, like fig. 524; but with these were found pieces of straight tubing, like that represented by Ousley, and which were then believed to have formed parts of these trumpets. It does not, however, follow that they were portions of, or in any way attached to the horns with which they were discovered; and if (as we believe) they were portions of a commander's staff, as stated at page 492 (see fig. 360), it was not an unlikely place for such articles to be found, where the commander of a battalion had also his speaking-trumpet, as well as his trumpeters beside him, when he fell in battle. That a curved trumpet, attached to each end of a straight tube four feet long, could not be of any use known or conjectured in the present day, is manifest. The subject, however, requires further illustration!" And so indeed the subject did require further illustration, and Sir William Wilde would have materially aided, if not altogether supplied that illustration, had he, as he ought to have done,



xxxv. given the engravings of these trumpets from Smith and the *Vetusta Monumenta*, neither of which he has done; for then he would have given to his readers the opportunity of using their own eyes, a very important aid in such an inquiry. It has, to some extent, been the custom with some Irish antiquaries to bow with great deference to the opinion of foreign writers, perhaps more from a desire to show their acquaintance with works in other languages, than from any real convictions of the soundness of such opinions. I should be sorry to assert that Sir William Wilde's opinion of the straight tube in question was a mere imitation; but why otherwise he should adopt it is to me a difficulty. His reason, however, will be found in the following extract and engravings from his catalogue, pages 490, 491, 492, where he is describing certain faulchion-shaped weapons, of which there are a good many in the museum:—"Heretofore these articles have been denominated 'war-scythes', and vague notions have existed as to the way in which they were used, as already stated at page 450. Their precise use may now, however, be learned from the following: In Holstein, Mecklenburg, and Saxony, bronze implements, with blades similar to some of those now under consideration, have been discovered, and to these the German antiquaries have given the name of *Commandostab*, a sort of military baton. Three of these have been figured in Wagner's *Handbuch der Alterthümer*, from fig. 1281 of which is copied the accompanying illustration, in which the blade corresponds, in many respects, with several of those in the *Academy*, and of which fig. 358 is the type. In the same work we find the curved variety, with a blade precisely similar to figs. 329 and 330, also represented. In the hill of Osterburg in Saxony, where the article here figured was discovered, there were found along with it one thousand urns, several stone war-axes (celts), and twelve oval metal disks, supposed by Wagner to have been attached occasionally to the commander's staff in signaling.[!] The handles were hollow tubes, strengthened by wooden staves, which projected below a considerable distance, and thus also added to their length.

"Among the bronze articles heretofore unexplained in our collection is a hollow tube,  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in diameter, No. 296 in rail case O, with a moveable ring in the middle, and furnished with four circles of spikes (four in each row), two near the centre, and one at each end, where the collars and rivet holes show that it had been attached to other portions. Hitherto, this article has been regarded as a portion of a trumpet, and would appear to be [it really is] that figured as such in vol. ii. of the *Transactions of the Academy*, and de-

his idea that they were a part of a "Commander's Staff", borrowed from Wagner;

scribed by Ralph Ousley, Esq., one of our earliest collectors of antiquities; it was found in the county of Limerick in 1787. The trumpets found along with it are still in the Academy, and are described under the head of musical instruments. During the past year another and very beautiful form of bronze battle-axe blade has been procured from the bog of Rock Forest, near Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary; it is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $8\frac{5}{8}$  measured along the base, where it has two perfect rivet-holes and two notches, as shown in the accompanying illustration, the lower portion of which represents the tube alluded to, the dotted line above marking its probable termination at top. It is possible, however, that the socket for holding the blade may have projected beyond the line of the shaft".

The illustration which Sir William Wilde prints of the application of the Rock Forest war-scythe to the tube found with the Ousley trumpets, must appear rather unsatisfactory; for, if the too cumbersome tube were, as he says, "strengthened by wooden staves, which projected below to a considerable distance, and this also added to the length", then, indeed, not only would the collars or rings upon the tube be hidden by the overlapping laths, but the handle would then be too clumsy and too meaningless, either as a lever for so light a military weapon, or a graceful "commander's staff". It may be worth while to state that, in old Irish wars and battles, as far as they have come down to us, the "commanders" were always armed and equipped like the ordinary warrior, but in a more superb degree, trusting more to the example of their swords or spears, and the power of their arms, to raise and direct the courage of their followers, than the simple wave of so out-of-the-way a "*commandostab*" as that figured by either Wagner or Wilde.

Sir William Wilde, in submission to the Wagner doctrine, has, in his arrangement of the Academy's museum, taken the straight tube in question away from the trumpets joined to which it was found, and placed it in company and connection with the war-scythes, swords, and spear-heads in the department assigned to them. This appears to me to be a grave mistake, and one which must be corrected, if not by Sir William Wilde himself, then, by the authority of the Academy, by restoring it to the place in its kindred group which it has filled for more than fifty years. I do not wish to enter here on any criticism of Sir Wm Wilde's catalogue, however I may dissent from many of his antiquarian dogmas. As a descriptive catalogue, it has its value; but the antiquarian speculations in which the writer indulges rather too freely, might, in my opinion, have been reserved for a more mature stage in the author's antiquarian studies.

XXXV.

Sir W. Wilde's illustration of the use of the straight part of a trumpet as a Commander's Staff unsatisfactory;

his separation of the straight tube from the curved parts in the Mus. of the R.I.A., a mistake which ought to be corrected.

**XXXV.**  
*Sturgana,*  
*Stuic* and  
*Corns* in the  
museum of  
the R.I.A.  
and T.C.D.

Of these trumpets it only remains for me to say, that of the *Sturgana*, or *Lituus*, there are in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy the curved parts of four, differing more or less in size, and a straight piece which fits one of them. Of the *Stuic* or *Stocs* blown into from the side, there are four perfect ones and a broken one, of different sizes; and in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, there are two very neat, small specimens of the same instrument. Of the *Corn*, or great horn, we have, as already stated, two fine specimens, consisting each of a curve and middle piece, and the middle piece of a third. Many more of these trumpets are known to exist, but I shall speak only of those I have myself seen, and those engraved in the *Vetusta Monumenta*.



## LECTURE XXXVI.

[Delivered July 23rd, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The word *Teillin*, the name of a harp in Welsh, is not applied in Gaedhelic to a musical instrument; meaning of *Telyn* according to Owen's Welsh Dictionary; *Telyn* originally perhaps a derisive name; *Caradoc's* account of the introduction of harp music from Ireland into Wales; author unable to find what Welsh word *Caradoc* used for harp; the *Telyn* and *Cruth* were the *Cruit* and *Timpan* of Ireland; Owen's definition of a Welsh *Cruit*. The Irish *Cruit* was a lyre, and not a cithara. The Welsh *Crud* or *Crowd* could not represent the Irish *Cruit*. The Welsh word *Telyn* apparently the same as the Irish *Teillin*, applied to the humming bee and humble bee; *Teillin* occurs in the *Dinnseanchas*; also in a poem about *Marbhan* and *Guaire*; and in one by O'Donnelly written about 1680. The word *Teillin* applied to the humming of bees; it has become obsolete in Ireland, but not in Scotland; occurs in the Highland Society's dictionary as *Seillean*. *Telyn* could not be a modification of the Greek *chelys*. Some think the fiddle represents the ancient *Cruit*; the poem on the fair of *Carman* proves this to be erroneous. Of the *Timpan*: *Cormac's* derivation of this word gives us the materials of which the instrument was made; the *Timpan* mentioned in an ancient paraphrase of the Book of Exodus; also in the Tale of the Battle of *Magh Lena*; and in that of the Exile of the Sons of *Duil Dermait*; another reference in the Dialogue of the Ancient Men; the passage in the latter the only one which explains *Lethrind*; in this passage *Lethrind* signified the treble part; another description of the *Timpan* given in the Siege of *Dromdamghaire*. The *Timpan* was a stringed instrument played with a bow; this is fully confirmed by a passage from a vellum MS.; which also shows that the harper and timpanist were not necessarily distinct professions; this MS. was compiled by Edmund O'Deorain near St. *Senan's* lake; the passage was copied into it or first written in 1509; the same person may have played the harp and *Timpan*, but they were two distinct professions. The *Timpan* came down to the seventeenth century. Important passage from Brehon Law respecting the Timpanist; it would appear from this that, in addition to the bow, the deeper strings were struck with the nail. Harpers and Timpanists are separately mentioned in the *Tochmarc Eimere*. The harper alone always considered of the rank of the *Bo Aire*; the timpanist, only when chief Timpanist of a king. Relative power of harp and *Timpan* illustrated by a legend from the Book of Lismore. Professional names of musical performers: the *Buinnire*; the *Cnaimh-Fhear*; the *Cornair*; the *Cruaire*; the *Cuislemach*; the *Fedánach*; the *Fer Cengail*; the *Graice*; the *Pipaire*; the *Stocaire*; the *Sturganaidhe*; the *Timpanach*.

THE next musical instrument (if I may so use the term), and the nineteenth on my list, is the *Teillinn*. But, although I have, for an object which shall immediately be seen, taken this word, *Teillinn*, into my list of names of musical instruments, I have never met it so applied in the Irish language. The word *Teillinn*, however, is the name for a harp in the Welsh language; whilst the name for a fiddle, in the same language, is

The word *Teillin*, the name of a harp in Welsh, is not applied in Gaedhelic to a musical instrument;

xxxv. *Cruit*, or *Cruth*, as the Welsh write it; and I have heard respectable Irish antiquaries give it as their opinion that *Teillinn* was really the ancient Gaedhelic or Celtic name for the harp, as well as *Cruit* for the fiddle; and this on the mere assumption that the Welsh form must be correct, because they choose to regard it as a more primitive dialect of the ancient Celtic than the Gaedhelic. I do not mean to controvert these opinions by argument here; but I shall bring forward the few instances (very few, I am sorry to say) in which I have met the word *Teillinn* in my Gaedhelic readings, not, indeed (as already stated), as the name of an instrument of music, but so closely connected with music, as to throw some doubt on the correctness of the opinions just alluded to, as well as upon the antiquity and correct application of the name *Teillinn* to the *Cruit*, or harp, in the Welsh language.

meaning of  
*Telyn*  
according to  
Owen's  
Welsh  
Dictionary.

In William Owen's Welsh Dictionary, printed in London in 1803, we find the word *Telyn* thus explained:—" *Telyn*: what is stretched; what is compact or straight; what is in even row; a harp; also the ribs and whole side of a carcass, when divided into two". This, I think, is a very poor explanation of the word upon which to assume that it is to be taken to mean a harp. If *Telyn* signifies nothing more than "what is stretched, what is compact or straight, (or) what is even in a row", I don't see why the term should have been applied to the harp, any more than to the web in a weaver's loom, the lines on a ropemaker's spindles, the shrouds of a ship, or anything else in which any number of threads or lines are stretched straight, compact, and even. The name, so far, would be a merely arbitrary and conventional one, without the smallest reference to shape or form. It would appear, indeed, from the application of the word to the ribs and whole side of a carcass, that the Welsh might have had a tradition of our legend of the harp having been first taken from the playing of the wind upon the skeleton of a whale on the shore of the strand of Camas. If so, then, wherever this legend came from, it would have been common to the Gaedhelic and Britons, at some remote period; though, whilst the former retain it in its integrity, the latter remembered but a misty fragment of it, implying, in their sense, no relation whatever to the harp, to its actual form or characteristics. There was, however, a time, I am confident, when the name *Telyn* did apply properly to, and was well understood to describe, the then Welsh harp; or, rather the comparatively powerless instrument which stood the Welsh in place of that Irish harp, which, in after time, was introduced into their country. Indeed there is some reason to think that it was directly from Ireland that the



Welsh got the word "*Telyn*", as a derisive name for a powerless buzzing instrument of music, perhaps of the guitar kind; and that with the decay of their language, they in some way, now inexplicable, retained the derisive name *Telyn* to denote the superior instrument, and transferred the real ancient Irish name of that instrument, the *Cruit*, to another altogether different and inferior.

XXXVI.

*Telyn* originally perhaps a derisive name;

The old native historian of Wales, so well known as Caradoc of Lhancarvan, who died about the year 1156, when speaking of *Gruffyth ap Conan*, prince of North Wales, who died in the year 1136, writes as follows:—

Caradoc's account of the introduction of harp music from Ireland into Wales;

"There were several good and wholesome *Laws* and *Statutes* enacted in his time; and, among the rest, he reformed the great disorders of the Welsh minstrels, which were then grown to great abuse. Of these [minstrels] there were three sorts in Wales; the first were called *Beirdh* [or Bards], who composed several songs and odes of various measures, wherein the poet's skill was not only required, but also natural endowment or a vein, which the Latins term *Furos Poeticus*. These, likewise, kept the records of all gentlemen's arms and pedigrees, and were principally esteemed among all the degrees of the Welsh poets. The next were such as plaid upon musical instruments, chiefly the harp and crowd, which music *Gruffyth ap Conan* first brought over into Wales; who, having been born in Ireland, and descended by his mother's side of Irish parents, brought with him from thence several skilful musicians, who invented all the instruments as were plaid upon in Wales. The last sort [or class] were called *Athchanaidh*, whose business it was to sing to the instruments plaid upon by another".<sup>(398)</sup>

These are remarkable words from a native Welsh writer, who wrote in his native language, and flourished at the very time in which, as he informs us, the prince *Gruffyth ap Conan* introduced the Irish music, Irish musical instruments, and Irish instrument-makers, for the first time into his native country. Caradoc wrote in the Welsh language. I quote from an English translation, good enough for general purposes, but unfortunately not so for my present one, to ascertain the precise names by which Caradoc speaks of the harp and *Cruth*. After various applications to native Welsh scholars, I have failed to obtain any satisfactory information on this subject, and therefore feel myself compelled to believe that Humphry Lloyd, the first translator of Caradoc (about the year 1540?), has taken these terms as he found them in his original. Supposing that

author unable to find what Welsh words Caradoc used for harp;

<sup>(398)</sup> Caradoc of Lhancarvan's *The Hist. of Wales*, p. 158. W. Wynne's edition. Lond. 1697.



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the *Telyn*  
and *Cruth*  
were the  
*Cruit* and  
*Timpan* of  
Ireland;

Caradoc, in his history, used the terms *Telyn* and *Cruth* to denote the chief instruments of music which *Gruffyth ap Conan* had a short time before introduced into Wales from Ireland, it will appear very strange that such a writer should designate these new instruments by names known in his own country only, and not by the names which they bore in the country whence they had been taken. It is quite clear, however, that the instruments mentioned here as the *Telyn* and *Cruth* were the *Cruit* and *Timpan* of Ireland; and I am only at a loss to understand how it has happened that the names have been confounded in Wales, so far as to give to our *Cruit* or harp the name of *Telyn*, and to our *Timpan* the name of *Cruit*, which was the ancient proper name for our harp.

Owen's  
definition of  
a Welsh  
*Cruit*

I have already quoted from Owen's Welsh and English Dictionary, his definition of a *Telyn*. I shall now quote from the same author his definition of a Welsh *Cruit*: "*Cruth*", says Owen, is "any body swelling out or bulging; a paunch; a kind of box scooped out of a piece of wood, and rounded, except on the side where the excavation is made, which is flat and covered with a board ending in a tail, to hang it up by, when it appears much like a bottle, having a hole in the upper part of the rotundity through which it is filled. It is used mostly to hold salt; and hence a salt-box of any form is called *Crowth Halen*; [that is a salt *cruit*]; also a musical instrument with six strings, the two lowest of which are touched by the thumb, whilst the others are touched with a bow. It is much on the same principle with the violin, of which it is the prototype; and the term [*Cruth*] is now indiscriminately used for both".

So far, Mr Owen; and, without entering into any criticism on the application of the term *Cruit* to anything swelled out or to any kind of box, we can clearly understand that his *Cruth* is, in fact, the ancient *Testudo*, the body of which was formed like the shell of a tortoise, an object which would very well answer his description of the meaning of the word.

The Irish  
*Cruit*  
was a lyre,  
and not a  
Cithera.

In a former lecture I showed that the harp which king David played, was called a *Cruit* in an Irish tract, as old, at least, as the year 800;—that it had ten strings, to represent the ten commandments; and that it was played with the ten fingers. It is surely clear that this *Cruit* must have been a lyre; that is, an instrument which, from the time of Pindar, was distinguished from the Cithera, by having the strings free at both sides, whilst the Cithera is described to have had the strings drawn partly across the sounding board, and consequently over a bridge; thus leaving them free, but at one side only. Our harp, then, represents the true ancient lyre; and, from the time of the battle

of *Magh Tuireadh*, down to, I believe, the seventeenth century, I am certain it bore no other name than *Cruit*, excepting in those places where it seems to be alluded to under the name *Timpan*. I am equally certain that we have never borrowed the instrument, nor its name, from our neighbours and ancient Celtic cousins—the Britons; but that, if anything, they have borrowed it from us.

The Welsh *Cruth*, or *Crowd*, then, as described by Owen, with its six strings, and played with a bow, could not represent the ancient lyre, our *Cruit*; and the only ancient instrument which it really does represent in form appears to be the *Testudo*, or *Chelys*, so called from its likeness to a tortoise shell. If, however, the term *Telyn*, which the Welsh apply to their present harp, be an ancient form, and not a modification (as it is suggested by some Welsh authorities that it may be) of the word *Chelys*, a tortoise shell, and if it be intended to be a name descriptive of the power and quality of the instrument, then we have in the Gaedhelic language a word identical with it in sound and orthography, and indicative of a peculiar kind of music, if not derisively of a musical instrument. The word that I allude to is written *Teillin*, whilst the Welsh word pronounced in the same way, is written *Telyn*, which is apparently only a phonetic from our word. Of the occurrence of this ancient Irish word in composition, I have never met with more than three instances, in each of which it is used in reference to the buzzing or humming of bees, if not to that of the humble or larger wild buzzing bee in particular.

The first of these references to the word *Teillin* is found in the ancient topographical tract called the *Dinnseanchas*, so often quoted in the course of these lectures, and in that article of it which gives the legendary origin of the hill of *Bri Leith*, in the present county of Longford. The story is shortly this:—

*Liath* (or the gray man), the son of *Celtchair* of *Cualand* [in the county of Wicklow], was the comeliest son of a chief among the *Sidhe* [or fairy nobles] of Erin; and he fell in love with *Bri*, called *Bri* of the freckled face, daughter of *Midir*, called *Midir* of the valiant deeds, son of *Indiu*, son of *Echtach*. *Bri* went with her attendant maidens to the Mound of the maidens, (*ferta na ninghen*) by the side of Tara, [to meet her lover, and] *Liath* came with his attendant youths to the Hill of Pursuit, (*Tulach na Hiarmaitrigh*) [to meet her and carry her off in elopement]. They failed, however, to approach each other nearer than this, by reason of the warders of the court of *Midir* [the lady's father], whose showers of darts were as thick as *Teillin* Bees upon a summer's day. And they wounded *Celt-*

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The Welsh *Cruth* or *Crowd* could not represent the Irish *Cruit*.

The Welsh word *Telyn* apparently the same as the Irish *Teillin*, applied to the humming bee and humble bee.

*Teillin* occurs in the *Dinnseanchas*;



XXXVI. *lan*, the servant of *Liath*, so that he died. The maiden returned to *Bri Leith* [her father's mansion,] where she died of a broken heart. And *Liath* said:—"Although I have not obtained the maiden, it is my name she shall bear". That is *Bri Leith*, that is *Bri*, who was owned by *Liath*; and hence the name of the hill at which she died; and which had previously been called *Sidh Midir*, or *Midir's* fairy mansion.<sup>(400)</sup>

The value of this passage for our present purpose lies in the statement, that the showers of offensive missiles hurled by the battlement warders of *Midir's* court were as thick as *Teillinn*, or humming wild bees, upon a fine summer's day.

also in a  
poem about  
*Marbhan*  
and *Guaire*;

The next and second reference to the *Teillinn* is found in an ancient, and I believe well-authenticated poem, which is ascribed to a royal recluse of Connacht, who flourished about the year 640, and whose historic name was *Marbhan*, or the dead. This *Marbhan* was brother to *Guaire* the hospitable, king of Connacht, who died in the year 662. In the prime of life he abandoned his brother's court, and his share of his father's inheritance, and retired to the deep shades of a valley at a considerable distance, called *Glenn an Scail*, there, in seclusion and solitude, to devote his life to the service of God and the contemplation of heavenly things. After some time his brother, king *Guaire*, paid a visit to the recluse, and endeavoured to induce him to leave his solitude and return once more to the abode of man and the comforts of his own hospitable court. On this occasion the king addressed his brother in verse, and the brother answered in the same way. Of king *Guaire's* poem I have found but two stanzas—the first and the last; but of *Marbhan's* answer I have got thirty-one stanzas, which, I believe, formed the entire of it. Thus speaks king *Guaire* :—

"O *Marbhan* ! thou recluse,

Why sleepest thou not upon a bed?

Thou sleepest oftener abroad,

With uneasy head in the middle of a fir-tree".<sup>(401)</sup>

<sup>(400)</sup> [original:—*bri Leith, canar  
no hainnigeó .m. Liath mac  
Celtchar Chualano, ipe mac flato  
caine boi hi procarib Erenn.  
Cura canartar ipe bri mbuac  
mbuc ingen mtoir mor glonobag  
mic Inoui Echteag. Do choas ono  
bri ocuf a hingenaro co fenta na  
nngen i taeb Tempac. Luro Liac  
lin a macaro co mboi i taulac na  
harmarig. Confeimoiyet compac  
nibao nefam fua carbleoraib ipe  
mtoir; ar ba lip beé ceilleoin illo  
ainne impeagra a noisbratice co*

*pa bipeo leo CoClán, gilla Leie, co  
napao. Imfoi m ingen co bri Leith  
cota bipeo a curo imce. Ocur ac-  
bert Liac: cen coroara m ingen, ipe  
no ammpri bier fuppi, i bri Léie. a.  
bri, ip la Liac.—H. 3. folio 70. b.  
T.C.D.; Book of Lecan, f. 261. a. a.]*

<sup>(401)</sup> [original:—

a. *Marban*

*a Marban! a oithribuag,  
cio na coela for colcaig?  
fa menci uoto feir amois,  
cento uopois for lap ochtgaig]*



To this friendly interrogation, the recluse answers, in thirty-one stanzas, beginning:—

“ I shall not sleep upon a bed,  
 Even though offered safety there;  
 There are numbers abroad  
 Who would rise up to censure me!”<sup>(402)</sup>

*Marbhan* then goes on to say that of the friends of their youth and schoolfellows, a few only now remain; and he describes how, when he was abandoning the world, he distributed his little personal property among them. He then, in glowing terms, describes his little hermitage in the wood, and the natural beauties of water, shrub, tree, beast, and insect, that surround him and yield him food and consolation of body and mind. Among his musicians he enumerates the redbreast, the cuckoo, and the *Ciarann*, or beautiful large mottled wild bee, of which he says:—

“ Dusky *Telins*, round-bodied buzzers,  
 A gentle chorus;  
 The cackle of the wild-geese at approach of November,  
 The hoarse note of the merle-hen”<sup>(403)</sup>

The next and third reference to the term *Teillinn* that I have met with is much later. It is found in a poem written by Eugene *O'Donnghaile*, or *O'Donnelly*, who flourished so late as about the year 1680. This poem, as stated in a former lecture,<sup>(404)</sup> was written in praise of and bidding welcome to a harper whose Christian name was *Feidhlimy*. The poet's praises were bestowed negatively, by showing the imperfections which the subject of his praise has not; and after having disposed of the performance, he then turns to the instrument, with which he deals in the same way, as will be seen from the following, which is the ninth stanza:—

“ It is not you that has the perverse harp,  
 Which makes the clattering noise upon the strings;  
 It is not it that has a confused tone  
 Like a *Teillinn* buzzing in the summer heat”<sup>(405)</sup>

Now, from these three instances of the word *Teillinn* we can plainly see that it is applied to the humming of bees, and,

(402) [original:—  
 ní con coctium for colcaig,  
 se becheur com implanuo;  
 acaro rocaídi amoiḡ  
 acraig hoc imiprauo.]

(403) [original:—  
 teillinn ciarann, ceirtan cruinnos,  
 cionan remh;  
 siḡraimo caóin ḡair re ramain,  
 renn ḡairú ceir.]

(404) [See Lect. xxxv., ante, vol. ii., p. 329.]

(405) [original:—  
 ní haḡao ata an clairreé cporoa,  
 so ḡnó an bporḡur an teaoair;  
 ní hinnte ata an ḡuḡ bódar  
 mar teilleann alabairc a neib-  
 ioll.]

and in one  
 by O'Don-  
 nelly  
 about 1680.

XXXVI.  
The word  
*Teillin*  
applied to  
the hum-  
ming of  
bees:  
it has  
become  
obsolete in  
Ireland, but  
not in  
Scotland;

as in the last instance, to the humming bee itself, buzzing in the summer heat. It is strange that this word, which was known so late as 1680, has not found its way into any of our more ancient glossaries, or any of the several Irish lexicons of the last hundred and fifty years; neither is it, as far as I know, remembered in the spoken language in any part of the country. Not so, however, in the Highlands of Scotland. Here the word is still preserved in its original signification, and almost in its original orthography, the only modification being the substitution of the letter "S" for the initial letter T, and such details as must have arisen in consequence of the word having been taken from the spoken pronunciation, and not from any ancient written source. Shaw, the father of Scottish lexicographers, and who printed his work in 1780, gives the word as "*Seilloin*, a bee, humble bee". But this is the genitive form of the word, and, with the exception of the initial letter S, agrees exactly with the form in the *Dinnsean-chas of Bri Leith*, where the words are written *Beich Teilleoin*, or humming bees. The Highland Society's Dictionary gives *Seillean dubh*, or black *Seillean*, as the equivalent for the humble or humble bee; and this also, with the exception of the initial letter, agrees with the dusky *Teillinns* of *Marbhan* the hermit's poem.

occurs in the  
Highland  
Society's  
Dictionary  
as *Seillean*.

*Telyn* could  
not be a  
modification  
of the Greek  
*Chelys*.

What, after all, if the Welsh term *Telyn* were at one time, then, but a name of contempt for a powerless harp or some other musical instrument? As for its being a transition form of the classic word *Chelys*, a tortoise shell, I have the authority of my learned friend [the late] Dr. Siegfried, to say that the transition of *ch* to *t* is unheard of between the Welsh and Greek or Latin languages.

Some think  
the fiddle  
represents  
the ancient  
*Cruit*;

I shall not dwell farther on the words *Telyn* and *Cruth*, as applied by the Welsh to their musical instruments; but, as some friends of mine are inclined to think that it is the fiddle that really represents the ancient *Cruit* both of Ireland and Wales, I may direct attention only to the extracts from the old poem on the fair of *Carman*, in which *Cruits*, Timpani, and Fiddles, are enumerated:

the poem on  
the fair of  
*Carman*  
proves this  
to be  
erroneous.

"These are its peculiar privileges:  
Trumpets, *Cruits*, open-mouthed horns,  
*Cuiseachs*, timpanists without tiring,  
Poets and poetasters,

"Pipes, fiddles, shackle men,  
Bonemen and tube-players,



A host of quill-men and of ornamental style-men,  
Of roarsers and of loud bellowers”<sup>(406)</sup>

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The twentieth and last instrument of music on my list is the *Timpan*, of which, although I have said much already, I have yet to say a little more here, so far as to quote some of the instances in which I have met it in the old books. The first reference to the *Timpan* that I shall produce is an attempt at the derivation, or rather analysis, of the name, taken from *Cormac's* Glossary, compiled about the year 900:—“*Timpan*, i. e. from *tim*, soft, i. e. the sally tree, and *bán*, i. e. bronze; of which (two) materials it is made, or, as it were, *Simpan*, from symphonia, sweetness”<sup>(407)</sup>

Of the  
*Timpan* :

*Cormac's*  
derivation of  
this word

With the speculations involved in this etymology we have little to do at present; but, the statement of the instrument being of sally-wood, and bronze or brass (as it may be supposed, the frame of wood, and the strings of brass), is of some value, as coming from an authority so old as *Cormac*.

gives us the  
materials of  
which it was  
made;

The next place in which I meet the word *Timpan* is in the free translation of the Book of *Exodus* in the Great Book of *Dun Doighre*, where we are told, that after the Israelites had come up from the Red Sea, they assembled, “the men at the one side of Moses and Aaron, and the assembly of the women around Mirian; that is, Mirian the daughter of Amram and sister of Moses, and she playing a *Timpan*”: “So Mary the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went forth after her with timbrels and with dances”<sup>(408)</sup> Now this passage agrees with *Exodus*, chap. xv., verse 20, where the instrument which Mirian played is called a timbrel, which at the present day would mean a tambourine or some such instrument, though it is certain that such was not the instrument which the Irish translator had in view.

the *Timpan*  
mentioned  
in an ancient  
paraphrase  
of *Exodus*;

The word *Timpan* next occurs in the ancient historic tale of the Battle of *Magh Lena* (page 50), where *Eoghan Mór*, king

also in the  
tale of the  
Battle of  
*Magh Lena*;

<sup>(406)</sup> [The greater part of this poem, according to the two versions of it found in the Books of Ballymote and Leinster, has been already given in *Lect. ii.*, vol. i., p. 41 *et seq.* The two stanzas given here are from the version in the Book of Leinster, and differ somewhat from those given in *Lect. ii.* This poem is of such very great importance in connection with the manners and customs of the ancient Irish, that the Editor thinks it desirable to publish the whole of the original text, with a complete translation, in *Appen. III.*]

<sup>(407)</sup> [original:—*Timpan*, .i. tim, .i. bocc, .i. fál, acap bán, .i. uma búr-mncti, vel quasi *Simpan* a symphonia, i. e. from the melodiousness.]

<sup>(408)</sup> [original:—*na fir son vana lech so Moyre ocuf imm aron, ocuf oipecht namban imm Muire; .i. Muire ingen Amram fuir so Moyre i ríoe, ocuf rí oc fennammm Timpan, ocuf occantain éiml ar den fir cach ic molao mac ve.—*Leabhar Breacc*, fol. 49. b. b. line 41.]*



xxxvi. of Munster in the second century, on his return from Spain to the Island of *Cregraidhe* in Berehaven, is received by the lady *Eadan*, whom he addresses in the following words:

"That is well, O high-minded *Eadan*!

Who ownest the battle-victorious bark;  
O glory of women, dost thou still survive  
In this island, where we were once before?"

To this address *Eadan* answers:

"Yes; the splendid chess-board still is here,  
On which we played on the noble couch;  
The pleasant sunny chamber also remains,  
Where the sweet-stringed *Timpan* was heard".<sup>(109)</sup>

This stanza puts the character of the timpan beyond all question.

and in that  
of the Exile  
of the sons  
of *Duil*  
*Dermaid*;

So again, in another ancient tale, that of the *Loinges Mac Duil Dermaid*, or the exile of the sons of *Duil Dermaid*, which is referred to the period of the Incarnation, in which we are given an account of how the great Ulster champion *Cuchulaind* had been placed under the obligation to discover the retreat of these exiles. In this tale *Cuchulaind* sets out upon the sea, and sails to what appears to be the Western Islands of Scotland, and after describing his arrival at the first island, the tale says that "*Cuchulaind* landed upon the island, and came to a house with pillars of *Findruine*, or white bronze, in which he saw three times fifty couches, with a chessboard (*Fidchell*), a draught-board (*Brandub*), and a *Timpan* hung up over each of them".<sup>(110)</sup> But here the particular nature of the *Timpan* is not described.

another  
reference  
in the  
Dialogue of  
the Ancient  
Men;

Another curious reference to a splendid *Timpan* is found in the old romantic tract so often referred to in these lectures, the *Agallamh na Seanorach*, or Dialogue of the Ancient Men.

According to this piece, once that *Cailte* (one of the personages called ancient men) was sojourning with the king of Munster near Cashel in Tipperary, among many questions which the king asked the old man was, the reason why a certain ancient earthen fort which stood in their neighbourhood was called *Lis an Bhantrachta*, or the Mansion of the Ladies. *Cailte* answered that this old mansion had been selected by his former friend and commander, *Find Mac Cumhail*, as a place for the manufacture and embroidery of cloth for the special use of himself and his *Fianna* or warriors, and that the women there had a source of pleasure and delight beyond any other known com-

<sup>(109)</sup> [See *Battle of Magh Leana*, published by the Celtic Society, 1855, p. 50.]

<sup>(110)</sup> [original:—*ḡabair Cúchulainn*  
*í n-íonán, aḡair íonán, connaccas*

*a tech cona uairtib fionnruib*  
*an, coraccas tu coeasat imoae*  
*íonán cū, fíochell, ocair bhanuib,*  
*ocair Timpan huair caé imoae—H. 2.*  
16. col. 762, mid.]

pany of ladies, namely, a *Timpan*, which was played by the three daughters of the king of *Ui Ceinsealigh* (a district in the present county of Wexford), whose names were *Finnchas* (or the Crisp-Fair-Haired), and *Fionnbruinne* (or the Fair-Breasted) and *Finn-Inghean* (or the Fair-Daughter). "And this", continues *Cailte*, "was the description of that *Timpan*. It had its *Lethrind* (or treble-strings) of silver, and its pins (or keys) of gold, and its (bass) strings of *Findruine* (or white bronze); and wounded champions and warriors, however sore their sufferings, [and women in labour] would sleep under the influence of the plaintive fairy music which those princesses used to play for the maidens. And this", continues *Cailte*, "was the reason this old fort had been called *Lis-an-Bhanntrachta* (or the Mansion of the Ladies)".<sup>(11)</sup>

XXXVI.

This is a curious passage, as being the only practical allusion I have ever met to the word *Lethrind*, which strictly signifies one half the musical strings; a term which clearly enough points to harmony, or the use of two different sets of strings one played with another. You will remember that this word *Lethrind* is one of the guessed explanations quoted in a former lecture as to the signification of the word *Ceis*. It is curious, too, that in Walshe's Latin-Irish Dictionary, compiled about 1690 (?) the author, at the word musical, puts the word *Rind* for melodia. Now, *Lethrind* would mean half this melodia; that is, I suppose, the treble of the bass played. In the instance of the *Timpan*, described by *Cailte*, it must have signified the treble part.

the passage in the latter the only one which explains *Lethrind*.

Another short but curious description of a *Timpan*, is found in the ancient tale of the *Forbais*, or siege of *Dromdamghaire*, now *Cnoc Luinge* or Knocklong, in the south-east corner of the county of Limerick. As I have already given the history of this tale, in connection with Druids and druidism.<sup>(12)</sup> I may at once proceed to that part of the tale connected with my present subject. At the opening of the tale, it is stated that *Cormac* was accustomed to shut himself up in a sacred chamber for the purpose of studying the laws and the wisest mode of administering them. He had, it seems, often heard his people

*Lethrind* in this passage signified the treble part;

another description of the *Timpan* given in the "siege of *Dromdamghaire*".

<sup>(11)</sup> [original:—*Timpan*, bec acu cona leithrinn airtic, ocuf cona veiltib oir buití [ocuf cona teuib rinnoraine (R.L.A. MSS., No 23. L. 22. p. 397) curad acuf caite mtead impeannoib (*Ibid.*)] ocuf mna re gur lamnav ro co covaittear fuirín ceol rípectad ríde so nírín in tíur ingeirín rín son banntráct.—Book of Lismore, f. 233. b. a

*Timpan* bec ro boi ac na mnab, cona leithrinn airtic baín, con veiltib oir buití, cona teuib rinnoraine. A small *Timpan* the women had, With its *Lethrind* of bright silver, With its pins of yellow gold, With its strings of *Findruine*. —*Ibid.* f. 233. b. b., and R.L.A. MSS., No. 23. L. 22. pp. 396, 397.]

The following is the metrical version of this passage:—

<sup>(12)</sup> See Lec. X., ante, vol. i., p. 212.



xxxvi. speak of *Aengus Mac Inog*, the famous *Tuath Dé Danann* chief, and his palace of *Brugh-na-Boinne* (or palace of the Boyne, near Slane); and he had heard these stories with incredulity until one day that he happened to delay in his hall of judgment after all his attendants had gone away; looking around him, he perceived a comely youth at the far end of the hall, with whose person he was unacquainted, but whom he instinctively recognized at once as that of the very famous *Aengus*, of whose existence he had been so incredulous. To make sure, he asked the youth if he were really *Aengus*, and the youth answered that he was. So *Cormac* put some questions to him as to the destinies of his future, and after he had obtained a somewhat favourable answer, the youth disappeared. On *Cormac's* return to his nobles, he described his interview with the seer in a poem of six quatrains; and it is from this poem that I have to quote the following, which are the first four verses of it:—

“ There appeared to me, upon the brow of *Temair*

A splendid youth of noble mien;  
More beautiful than all beauty was his form,  
And his dress ornamented with gold.

“ He held a silver *Timpan* in his hand;  
Of red gold were the strings of that *Timpan*;  
Sweeter than all music under heaven  
Were the sounds of the strings of that *Timpan*.

“ A wand with melody of music sweet an hundred fold;  
Over it [the *Timpan*] were two birds;  
And the birds, no silly mode,  
Used to be playing upon it.

“ He sat beside me in pleasant fashion;  
He played for me his delicious sweet music;  
He prophesied most powerfully then,  
That which was intoxication to my mind”.<sup>(413)</sup>

The *Timpan* was a stringed instrument played with a bow;

Now, although this account of king *Cormac's* interview with the fairy chief of the *Tuatha-Dé-Danann* be the mere invention of the imagination, still the poem affords another proof that the *Timpan* was a stringed instrument; and, what is much more important to our purpose, it shows that it was an instrument

<sup>(413)</sup> [original:—

Ṭarfaṛ vāh, ar bhu Ṭemraé  
ócláé alunn ilbealbac;  
caime ina gac caem scuth,  
ciméugac oir na eogú.  
Ṭimpan aṛicit ana laim;  
ra hoṛ veapṛ teta an cimpan;  
binne ina gac ceol fo nith  
foṛur tet a cimpan rin.  
Ṭleap gucapṛe .c. ceol cam;

uaṛa éinn foṛa nenaib;  
ocur na heom, nṛ thóṛ meṛ,  
bitir oca aṛpṛeṛé.  
Do furo acum epaim nṛunn;  
reṛpaimṛ uom iceol caein bin;  
ṭarfaṛ co raithpenn rapṛom,  
ba heṛ meṛpṛ uom menmoim.—  
Book of Lismore, O'Curry's copy,  
R.I.A., f. 169, a. b.]



played on with a wand and hair, words that plainly enough describe a fiddle-bow. So that at length we may consider that we have arrived at a clear determination of the hitherto undecided difference between the *Cruit*, or harp, and the *Timpan*, as well as of the latter being a stringed instrument, and not a drum, such as the name would imply. And this description will go far also to sustain our former view of the misnomers of the Welsh *Telyn* and *Cruth*, as there can now be little doubt that our *Cruit* is their *Telyn*, and our *Timpan* their *Cruth*.

XXXVI.

One short reference more to the character of the *Timpan*; and the difference between that instrument and the *Cruit* or harp, and I have done with the subject. In a vellum MS. in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, chiefly occupied with Brehon Laws, there occurs the following curious note, standing by itself, and unconnected with any other subject:

this is fully confirmed by a passage from a vellum MS;

“There are three qualities that give distinction to a *Cruit* (or harp), namely, the Crying Mode, the Laughing Mode, and the Sleeping Mode. The *Timpanist* has a wand, and hair, and doubling (or repetition). The harper has exclusive harping at this day against these. The *Timpanist* has exclusive timpaning (or *Timpan* playing) at this day against these.”<sup>(14)</sup>

This curious, but to me somewhat obscure note, although not explicit enough to enable us to comprehend the meaning of the word doubling or repetition, is sufficiently clear on two points that are of importance to our discussion. First, it shows distinctly that the *Cruit* was of a very different and of a higher order than the *Timpan*; for that the three distinguishing and ennobling species of music, or melody, those which produced on the hearers the effect of crying, laughing, and sleeping, were peculiar to the *Cruit* only, and above the power of the *Timpan*. And secondly, it proves beyond all controversy that the *Timpan*, like that described by king *Cormac*, was played with a wand and hair, or, in other words, with a bow. It goes farther, indeed, than this, for we can plainly gather from it, this very curious fact, that, in the more ancient times the *Cruitire*, or harpist, and the *Timpanach*, or timpanist, did not of necessity form two distinct classes of performers, but that both the harp and the *Timpan* were common to the same performer. And this will at once account for the hitherto unexplained reason, that we so often find in the ancient Gaedhelic writings the same performer spoken of as a choice harpist and a choice timpanist.

which also shows that the harper and timpanist were not necessarily distinct professions;

<sup>(14)</sup> [original:—*τρειθε νεμτιγ-εθερ κρουτ, ζολκρουιγερ, γενεκρουιγερ, ψαντεκρουιγερ. φλεκαε ακυρ εμναο ακυρ καιρεο ακον τιμπαναε, ιμαρ- κρουιγ κρουιγρεετ ακον κρουιγερ ιμοιυ να η-αγουιριυ. ιμαρκερουιγ τιμπαναετα ακον τιμπανουιγ ιμοιυ να ηαγαυε ριν.*—H. 3. 18. f. 87.]

XXXVI.  
this MS. was  
compiled by  
Edmund  
O'Deórain  
near St.  
Senan's lake;

the passage  
was copied  
into it or first  
written in  
1609;  
the same  
person may  
have played  
the harp and  
Timpan, but  
there were  
two distinct  
professions.

The *Timpan*  
came down  
to the 17th  
century.

Important  
passage from  
Brehon Law  
respecting  
the *Timpan*-  
ist;

The MS. in which this note is found, was transcribed on the brink of *Loch Senain*, or St. *Senan's* lake, in the year 1509, by Edmund *O'Deórain*. This lake had its name from the circumstance of St. *Senan*, the founder of the churches and round tower of Scattery Island (*Inis Cathargh*), near Kilrush, in the lower Shannon, having been born there about the year 540. This lake is well known to me. It lies about five miles to the east of the town of Kilrush in the county of Clare; and the ruins of an ancient church and oratory still mark the spot on which St. *Senan* was born; they are situated on the north side of the lake, near the east end. This book, then, having been compiled in the year 1509, the note on the harp and *Timpan* must have been copied from an older book, or written by the scribe himself, for the first time, that year. In either case it is plain that at this time, or possibly long before, the playing on the harp and on the *Timpan* had become distinct professions, notwithstanding that, as a matter of course, any person might play both instruments, though the professor but of one. From many sources we have authority to believe that the *Timpan* came down concurrently with the harp to the close of the seventeenth century; but what became of it then, or whether it merged into our present fiddle, I am quite at a loss to know. We find the harp, *Timpan*, and fiddle, mentioned in the ancient poem on the fair of Carman as already mentioned; and we have them again mentioned in Eugene O'Donnelly's poems, about the year 1680; but from that time down, I am not certain of having met with any reference whatsoever to the *Timpan*.

To the above valuable passage taken from Edmund *O'Deórain's* book of 1509, I may be permitted to add one short extract more from an article in the Brehon Laws, which provided as to wounds and injury to the person. The passage is as follows:

"If the top of his finger, from the root of the nail, or above the black, has been cut off a person, he is entitled to compensation for his [injured body], and a fine [for his outraged] honour, in proportion to the severity of the wound. If the blood has been drawn while cutting his nail off, he is entitled to the fine for blood-shedding for it. If it be from the black [circle] out that his nail has been taken off him, he is entitled to the same fine as for a white [or bloodless] blow; and if he be a *Timpanist*, then there is a quill [or feather] nail for him besides, by way of restitution".<sup>(415)</sup>

<sup>(415)</sup> [original:—ma benaó barr a éilann fo truma na cneíóí. no ma meoip, ó bun na hingne, no ó cha a roferató fuiliúgao air ac buam a suban ruar se, corppoiré agar ene- ingin se, ir éiric fuiliúgao do ano.



This last reference to the *Timpan* so plainly implies its character, that nothing more need be said upon the subject. A question, however, for the first time arises out of the above extract from the Brehon Laws, and it is this: was the quill really used as a substitute for the bow, or, as we have it in this law, was it used as a substitute for the nail of the finger, or for the thumb, perhaps? It is not easy to determine this question with certainty: but it may easily be conceived as affording an explanation of how the two extra strings of the instrument now called *Cruit* by the Welsh were played. We may imagine the *Timpan* in fact to have been a kind of fiddle, played with a bow, but with two additional deeper strings, struck with the thumb or thumb-nail, so that if that nail were injured, it would be necessary to supply it with an artificial one.

It would appear from this that in addition to the bow the deeper strings were struck with the nail.

It is remarkable too, as just mentioned above, how constantly we find the *Cruit* and the *Timpan* accompanying each other, and that this is no modern confusion of the one with the other may be seen from a passage of the *Tochmarc Emire*, or courtship of the lady *Emer*, already referred to. The passage has reference to the splendour of the palace of the Royal Branch of the kings of Ulster at *Emania*, in the time of king *Conchobhar Mac Nessa*, and is as follows:

Harpers and timpanists are separately mentioned in the *Tochmarc Emire*.

“Great and numerous were the assemblies of that royal house; and of admirable performers, in gymnastics; and in singing; and in playing; for gymnasts contended; and poets sang; and Harpers and Timpanists played there”.<sup>(416)</sup>

And again, in the Brehon Laws, we find that the *Cruit*, or harp, was the only instrument of music, the chief performer, or *Ollamh*, of which was recognized by the law as of the same grade as the best of the three classes of the gentry, or *Bó-Airech* class, so as to be entitled to four cows as his *Enechland*, or honour-price: that is, so as to be entitled, in case of personal injury or insult, to four cows for the insult to his wounded honour, in addition to whatever the fine and penalty for the actual injury may have been. It was only the chief or *Ollamh Cruitire*, or harpist, that was entitled to this distinction; and he was so entitled whether he was the state musician of a chief or king or not. The chief, or *Ollamh-Timpanist*, when he happened to be the chief musician of a chief or king, was indeed entitled to the

The harper alone always considered of the rank of *Bó Airech*;

the timpanist only when chief timpanist of a king.

μαρ ὁ οὐδαν ρυαρ πο βενασ οε α  
 ινγυ, ειρικ βανδειμε ανν; ασυρ ινγυ  
 ειτε τον τινπαναε αρ ρον αιθηζενα  
 μαρ οε οο βενασ. - E. 3. 5. p. 44. col. 2.  
<sup>(416)</sup> [original:—δοι μαρ οο ιμμασ  
 οεσε τυρκομροικε ιρ αν ιγσεεδ; οσυρ  
 οε αιρρεοαιβ αοαμπαιβ αρειλιρ οε;

οσυρ αρρενοσσε; οσυρ αρκαντε ανν;  
 εσον αρειλιρτε ερρωσ; αρκαντιρ ρι-  
 το; αρρενοιρ ομυτικιμε οσυρ τινπαν-  
 οικ. — O’C.’s copy from Egerton MS.  
 5280. f. 17. Brit. Mus., p. 43; H. 2.  
 18. f. 78.]



xxxvi. same *Enechland*, or honour-price, as the chief *Cruitire* or harper; but not otherwise.

Relative power of Harp and Timpan illustrated by a legend from the B. of Lismore.

Of the relative power and compass of the *Timpan* and *Cruit* we have also a curious instance in the Book of Lismore, in that tract so often quoted in these lectures, the *Agallamh na-Sean-norach*, or Dialogue of the Old Men. In this tract we are told that *Cailte*, the cousin and one of the chief captains under *Find Mac Cumhaill*, was sojourning at the fort of *Ilbhreac*, a *Tuath Dé Danann* at *Eas Ruaidh* (now the Falls of Ballyshannon, in the county Donegal). The time of *Cailte's* visit was at the approach of November Eve; and when that night, so portentous in our fairy mythology, approached, the noble lord of the mansion, with his household and retainers, exhibited considerable uneasiness and alarm. On *Cailte* inquiring the cause of this, he was told that, on every November Eve, three large birds of a black colour came to the lawn of the mansion, and killed one or more of the youths amusing themselves there; and they were then expecting their visit. Accordingly, the night preceding the fatal eve was spent in council by the court of *Ilbhreac*, and in the morning they all went out upon the lawn to await the coming of the birds. Here they arranged themselves in groups, while the youths of the mansion commenced to play at the national game of hurling; and the story goes on:—"The *Tuatha Dé Danann* came to see the hurling; and there was brought to them a chess (*Fiteall*) for every six of them; and draughts (*Bronnait*) for every five; and a *Timpan* for every ten; and a *Cruit* for every hundred; and a vigorous, accomplished tube-player (*Cruislennach*) for every nine."<sup>(17)</sup>

According to the scale of value or power suggested in this account, it will be seen that the *Cruit* was considered to have ten times that of the *Timpan*, or, in other words, that one *Cruit* was deemed equal to ten *Timpans*. There may be some exaggeration in the figures; but there can be no doubt of the very superior place which the *Cruit* held above the *Timpan* in the estimation of the original writer, as well as in that of all subsequent transcribers of the story.

So far I have, not without much labour, and I fear at tedious length, endeavoured to gather together, from all the sources available to me, such scattered and even minute references to all the ancient Irish instruments of music as would enable the reader to form some definite idea of their respective characters

<sup>(17)</sup> [original:—Ocuir do eirgtooir cuicir; ocuir timpan gada veichen-bair; ocuir cruic gada.c.; ocuir cuirlina feigi forbericaca gada nonbair. —Book of Lismore, fol. 237. b. a.]

and identity. I shall now, in as few words as I can, proceed to give some account of the professional names of the performers on these instruments, and then (in the next lecture) a few of the ancient names of vocal and instrumental music, and, in the same way that I have taken the order of the instruments themselves, that is, alphabetically, so shall I proceed with the present list.

XXXVI.

Professional names of musical performers

The first name on my list is *Buinnire*, or that of the musician who performed on the *Buinne*, which was some sort of tube, whether of the flute or fife or of the clarionet kind, as I have already mentioned. In the plan of the *Teach Midh-chuarta*, or great Banqueting Hall of Tara, published in Dr. Petre's History and Antiquities of Tara, the *Buinnire* is assigned a place in the same compartment as the *Cornair*, or horn-blower.

the *Buinnire*;

The second name on my list is *Cnaimh-fhear*, a word which literally signifies a bone-man, though he is mentioned in the list of musical instruments and performers given in the ancient poem on the ancient fair of *Carman*,<sup>(418)</sup> already so frequently mentioned. What the instrument made of bone was upon which this performer played, I am not able to say; possibly some sort of castanets. We can only guess; for, unfortunately, our national museum at the Royal Irish Academy does not furnish us with any ancient specimen of such instruments.

the *Cnaimh-fhear*;

The third performer in alphabetical order is the *Cornair*, or great horn-blower. He is set down in the Brehon Laws among the meaner class of artists, and not entitled to price of honour, or any recognition of dignity above a mechanic. The *Cornaire*, as has just been shown above, has his place with the *Buinnire* in the great Banqueting Hall of Tara. The *Cornaire* is mentioned in the Progress of *Frasch*, the son of *Fidad*, in his visit to *Cruachan*, the royal palace of Connacht, to court the princess *Findabar*, as described at length in a former lecture;<sup>(419)</sup> and he is also mentioned in the Progress of *Mainé*, the brother of the same princess, in his visit to the residence of *Gerg* of *Glennnerg* in Ulster, to court the lady *Ferb*, that chieftain's daughter.<sup>(420)</sup>

the *Cornair*;

The fourth on my list is the *Cruitire* or harper. He is also mentioned in the two last-mentioned tales. He is assigned a special place in the Banqueting Hall of Tara, and accompanied by the *Timpanach*, or *Timpan* player. The *Cruitire* has a special place in the elaborate description of the state feast in the *Bruí*

the *Cruitire*;

<sup>(418)</sup> [Book of Leinster, fol. 152. And see Lect. ii., *ante.*, vol. i. p. 46.]

<sup>(419)</sup> [See Lect. xxx., *ante.*, vol. ii. p. 219; also Lect. xxxiv., vol. ii. p. 307.]

<sup>(420)</sup> [See Lect. xxxiv., *ante.*, vol. ii. p. 307.]



XXXVI. *ghean Da-Derga*, where, as we have seen in a former lecture,<sup>(421)</sup> they formed a group of nine performers.

the *Cuislennach*;

The fifth, is the *Cuislennach*, who played the *Cuislenna Ciudl*, or musical tubes, whatever they were. These performers have a distinct compartment assigned them in the accounts of the Banqueting Hall of Tara and the *Bruigheann Da Derga*. They are also grouped with the *Cruitire* and the *Timpanach*, in playing *Congal Claen*, the prince of Ulster, to sleep on the eve of the battle of *Magh Rath*.<sup>(422)</sup> Both the *Cuislennach* and the *Cornair* are likewise mentioned in the lament of the lady *Deirdre* for the sons of *Uisnech*, printed in the edition of that very ancient tale contributed by me to the *Atlantis*.<sup>(423)</sup>

the *Feddach*;

The next, or sixth performer in alphabetical order is the *Fedánach* or performer on the *Fedan*, which was a shrill pipe or whistle. *Fead* is still the common name for a whistle with the mouth; and *Feadan* is still the name for any thin tube or pipe. I have met only one reference to this performer, and that among the lower class of musicians mentioned in the Brehon Laws, as attending great fairs and assemblies.

the *Fercengail*;

The seventh performer is the *Fercengail*, a word which literally means a man of ties, bonds, or bindings: what this name is really intended to signify, as indicative of the man's profession, or whether he was strictly a musician of any kind at all, I am at a loss to know. I find the name mentioned (and in the plural number) only in the old poem on the fair of *Carman*, already referred to, among the performers at that assembly.

the *Graice*;

The eighth class of performers are the *Graice* (literally croakers), who are otherwise called *Coirne*, or horn players, and who, as already described, produced from some description of horns, croaking sounds described as like those of ravens; probably of the same use in concerted music as those of the modern bassoon. They are mentioned in the Brehon Law as persons who were not entitled to any legal recognition of their profession.

the *Pipaire*;

The ninth performer on my list is the *Pipaire*, or piper, who is mentioned in the Brehon Laws among the lower class of artists, ranking with the mechanics. The piper and fiddler are both referred to by implication in the old poem on the fair of *Carman*, where pipes and fiddles are enumerated among the musical instruments. *Ergolan* and *Scalfartach* are names for a piper preserved in some of our latter-day glossaries; but, as both words imply a loud noise, they must apply to that species of

<sup>(421)</sup> [See Lect. xxv., *ante*, vol. ii., p. 146.]

<sup>(422)</sup> See the ancient historic tale of the Battle of Magh Rath, published by Irish Archaeological Society, p. 168.

<sup>(423)</sup> No. VI., p. 410.



pipes which we know at present as the Highland Pipes of Scotland. XXXVII.

The tenth performer on my list is the *Stocaire*, that is, the performer on the *Stoc*, or short curved horn or speaking trumpet; the ancient Buccina, of which so much has already been said in a previous lecture. the *Stocaire* ;

The eleventh performer on the list is the *Sturganaidhe*, that is, the performer on the *Sturgan*, or Lituus of the ancients; regarding which the reader is referred to the passage already quoted from the Rev. Dr. Keating's Three Shafts of Death. the *Sturgan-aidhe* ;

The twelfth and last on my list is the *Timpanach*, or *Timpanach*, player, of whose instrument so much has been said already. the *Timpanach*.

## LECTURE XXXVII.

[Delivered 10th July, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (continued). The particular kinds of music mentioned in ancient manuscripts: the *Aidbsi*; the *Cepóc*; gloss on *Aidbsi* showing that *Cepóc* was only another name for it; the word *Cepóc* used in Ireland also, as shown by the Tale of "*Mac Dathó's Pig*", and in an elegy on *Aithirne* the poet. *Aidbsi* or *Cepóc* a kind of *Cronán* or guttural murmur. The *Certan*, referred to particularly in the *Cain Adamnóin*. The *Cronán*; mentioned in the account of the assembly of *Drom Ceat*; and also in the Adventures of the "Great Bardic Company". The *Crann-Dord*; it consisted of an accompaniment produced by the clashing of spear handles, as shown by a passage in the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; and in a legend from the Book of Lismore in which the term occurs. Other musical terms used in this tale: the *Dordán*; the *Fodord*; the *Abran*; the *Fead*; the *Dord Fiansa*; the *Dord*; the *Fiansa*; the *Andord*; the latter word occurs in the Tale of the "Sons of *Uisnech*"; this passage shows that the pagan Gaedhil sang and played in chorus and in concert; though *Dord* and its derivatives imply music, the word *Dordán* was applied to the notes of thrushes. Character of the *Crann-Dord* shown by a passage from the "Dialogue of the Ancient Men"; and by another passage from the same Dialogue in a MS. in the Royal Irish Academy; the *Dord-Fiansa* was therefore a kind of wooden gong accompaniment. The *Duchand*, explained as *Luinneog* or music; *Luinneog* obsolete in Ireland, but used in Scotland for a ditty or chorus; *Duchand* was probably a dirge; *Duan*, a laudation; *Duchand* occurs in *Cormac's Glossary* explaining *Esnad*; the latter a moaning air or tune in chorus. The *Esnad*. The Three Musical Modes. The *Géim Druadh* or "Druid's Shout", mentioned in the Tale of the Battle of *Almhain*. The *Golghaire Banside*, or wail of the *Banside*, mentioned in the *Táin Bó Fraich*; it probably came down to a late period. The *Gubha*. The *Logairecht* or funeral wail, occurs in *Cormac's Glossary* at the word *Anrath*; meaning of the latter term. The *Luinneog*. The *Samhghuba*, or sea nymph's song as it is explained in an old glossary. The *Sion* or *Sianan*, applied in the Tale of the Battle of the second *Magh Tuireadh* to the whizzing of a spear; applied to a song in the Tale of the Sons of *Uisnech*; and also in the wanderings of the priests *Snedgus* and *Mac Riaghla*; it designates soft plaintive music. *Siretack* applied to slow music; synonymous with *Adbond*; the latter word occurs in the Festology of *Aengus Ceilé Dé*; *Adbond Trírech*, or triple *Adbond*, explained in Michael O'Clery's glossary as the Three Musical Modes; *Trírech* occurs in *Zeuss' Grammatica Celtica*; *Trírech* was applied to a species of lyric poetry, as is shown by a passage in the Book of Leinster; the term *Trírech* not exclusively applied to the music or quantity of verse, but also to a particular kind of laudatory poem; the stanza in question sings to the air of: "For Ireland I would not tell who she is".

The particular kinds of music mentioned in ancient MS.:

FROM the names of the musical instruments and of the performers upon them, I shall now pass to such few names of particular kinds of music as I have met with in my readings,—setting them down also in alphabetical order. Before going

into this list, I shall only premise, by observing that *Ceól* is the common name for music of all kinds; and *Ceolchairecht* is the verbal form, "a playing"; and that *Abhrann* (compounded of *Abh*, sweet, and *Rann*, a verse) is the name for a song of any measure, sung to a *Foun* or tune. XXXVII.

The first species of music, in alphabetical order, is the *Aidbsi*, The *Aidbsi*; or great chorus, or vocal concert, such as that sung by the assembled poets of Erin in honour of *St. Colum Cille*, at the meeting of *Drom Ceat*, in the year 590. This meeting and this music have been amply treated of in a former lecture.

The second word in order, denoting music, is *Cepóc*; but the *Cepóc*; this was merely a name used by the people of *Alba* (or Scotland) to express the same performance, known amongst us as the *Aidbsi*, just mentioned. For this fact we have the authority of the gloss on a fragment of a beautiful copy of *Dallan Forgaill's* elegy on the death of *St. Colum Cille*, preserved in an ancient vellum MS., lately in the possession of Mr. William Monck Mason of London. This gloss or explanation is upon the word *Aidbsi* itself, and is as follows:—

"*Aidbsi* was the name of the music or *Cronán* which the greater part of the men of Erin used to perform at this time; and *Cepóc* is its name with the men of Scotland, as the Scottish poet said:— gloss on *Aidbsi* showing that *Cepóc* was only another name for it;

"It is better to praise the king of *Loch*

By performing our *Cepóc*".<sup>(424)</sup>

I am not able to say what part of Scotland this district called *Loch* was, for the king of which the poet proposed to raise the great chorus, which was perhaps a funeral song. It is a pity that our Scottish cousins of the Gadelian race have not preserved, as far as we yet know, any really ancient fragments of their early literature, for such a literature they certainly must have had. Even the single piece of which we have here but the two first lines, would be worth volumes of the spurious traditional poems of *Oisín*, to which the very best Gaelic scholars of that country attach such importance. As to the word *Cepóc*, it will be seen from the two following references that the use of it was not confined exclusively to Scotland, but that it was also common to Ireland. In the ancient tale of *Mac Dathó's Pig*, described at considerable length in a former lecture,<sup>(425)</sup> we are told, that *Mac Dathó* (whose real name was *Mesraeda*) was a prince of South Leinster, who flourished about the time of the Incar- the word *Cepóc* used in Ireland also, as shown by the Tale of "*Mac Dathó's Pig*";

<sup>(424)</sup> [original:—*Διούρι διννι ιν χιούι, νο ιν κρονάν νο κνιούι αρ- θούι βρεπ νερενν ιν ταν ιν; οκυρ Cepóc α διννι αε περαιβ αλβαν αμαι ατρεπ ιν φιλε αλβαναχ:—*

*Fepp molaó níg Lóicce*  
 "Oo venum an Chepoicce.  
 —*Amhra Choll. Chille, Mason, p. 20. a.*  
<sup>(425)</sup> [See Lect. on MS. Materials of  
 Irish History, App. III., n. 49, p. 486.]



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the word  
*Cepóc* used  
in Ireland  
also as  
shown by  
the Tale of  
*Mac Dathó's*  
*Pig*;

nation. It appears that he had reared a hound whose fame spread all over Erin. So messengers came from *Ailill* and *Medb*, the king and queen of Connacht, begging from him a present of his hound; and at the same time, other messengers arrived on the same errand from the equally powerful prince *Conchobar Mac Nessa*, king of Ulster. *Mac Dathó* saw in this coincidence a chance of being able to involve the two northern provinces in a conflict, or perhaps a war, which must tend to weaken the power of both, and thereby to strengthen that of his own province. Accordingly, he told the messengers of the two kings respectively, that he had already promised the hound to the master of the other, and that he saw no way of getting out of the difficulty but by both kings, with their nobles and choicest warriors, coming to his court at an appointed time to a feast which he would prepare for them; and where he might probably so arrange between them as to extricate himself from the difficulty. The emissaries of the two provincial kings accepted for them this invitation; and at the appointed time both potentates, each attended by a select band of nobles and warriors, arrived at *Mac Dathó's* court, which appears to have been situated in the southern extremity of the present county of Carlow. Their host prepared for them by ostentatiously killing for the occasion his famous pig,<sup>(426)</sup> and, as he anticipated, the rival parties quarrelled about the cutting up and distribution of this food for heroes. A conflict ensued; blood was spilled in abundance; and at last the men of Connacht retreated northward, whither they were followed by the Ultonians.

The story then tells us that when *Conchobar* arrived in the pursuit at the heath of *Fearbile* (in Westmeath), he came up with *Ferloga*, the charioteer of the king and queen of Connacht, who, it would appear, had deserted his post and concealed himself in the heath; and just as the king of Ulster was passing by, the charioteer started up and sprang into the chariot behind him, clasping his neck with both his hands. "Ransom thy head, O *Conchobar*!" said he. "Thou shalt have thy demand", said *Conchobar*. "It is not great, indeed", said *Ferloga*; "it is only that thou shalt take me along with you to *Emhain Macha* [the palace of *Emania*], and that the young women and girls of Ulster shall sing a *Cepóc* around me every evening, and each of them say: '*Ferloga* is my favourite'".<sup>(427)</sup> To these rather fanciful

(426) Some account of this wonderful animal will be found in the edition of the *Battle of Magh Leana*, published by the Celtic Society, page 14, note n.

(427) [original:—ic ceét iar fpaéc- na gab aceno vax aon. Beir buoc nao mroo ior, in ano sonaplaic n-anacuil, a Chonchobair! aipe. Ferloga, .i. afa aolilla, ceur no liong tognair, ar Conchobar. ni ba moir, iin capput ar cúl Chonchobair co ar ferloga, .i. mo bpeit lat so

conditions king *Conchobar* was obliged to submit. The charioteer was brought to *Emania*; and in twelve months' time (the story tells us) he was conveyed over the river Shannon at Athlone, with a present to the king and queen of Connacht of king *Conchobar*'s two favourite steeds with their golden bridles; but we are told nothing more of his relations with the maidens of Ulster.

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The third and final reference to the *Cepóc* is, like the last, from an Ulster tale of the same period as the last; and although I have had to give a sketch of the tale incidentally at some length in the second lecture of the present course, still, as this is the place in which it should appear in its proper order of illustration, I shall introduce it again in as few words as possible.

and in an  
elegy on  
*Aithirne*,  
the poet.

After the tragical death of the sons of *Uisneach* on the green of *Emania*, through the malignant contrivance of the same king *Conchobar*, and the death for grief of them of the lady *Deirdri* in a year after, king *Conchobar*, we are told, fell into a state of grief and melancholy from which no effort of his courtiers could rouse him. At last it was proposed to search the province for the most beautiful maiden to be found in it, and to bring her to him to be his wife, in place of the unfortunate *Deirdri*. This was done; and a young lady, whose name was *Luain*, was selected and brought in triumph to *Emania*, where she was solemnly espoused by the king, after which happy event he soon forgot his grief and recovered his cheerfulness. It was at this time that *Aithirne* the poet flourished in Ulster: that vindictive poet and satirist who was known as *Aithirne Ailgesach*, or the importunate. He had two sons who were poets also, whose names were *Cuingedach* and *Abhartach*; and when they heard of the king's marriage with the lady *Luain*, they repaired to her to solicit the customary wedding presents. However, when they saw her, they both fell desperately in love with her, and each of them secretly sought her favour. These solicitations the young queen rejected with scorn, whereupon both the father and the sons satirized her so furiously that her face (according to the superstition of the time about the magical power of a poet's incantations) is said to have broken out in blotches, and she was forced to hide herself from public gaze in her father's house, where she soon died of shame and grief. Thereupon the king, furious, instigated the Ulstermen to take vengeance upon *Aithirne*; and they repaired straight way to his residence, where they killed, not only himself, but his two sons and his two daughters, and levelled the house with the ground.

*eman macha, ocuf mná oentuma gabail éepocce céé nona imum.—H. ulao, ocuf a n-ingena macraét to 2. 18. f. 73. b. a.]*



**XXXVII.** The story proceeds to inform us that the other great poets of Ulster felt indignant at this profanation, as an indignity to their order, and that *Amergin* the poet pronounced an oration over the bodies of the slain (couched in the obscure language of the professional bards of the time), condemnatory of the act of the Ultonians, and lamenting the untimely death of *Aithirne*. This oration he afterwards put into the form of a poem of twenty-four lines, of which the following is the first:—

“*Aithirne’s* grave, dig ye not here”.

It is in this curious poem that the following quatrain occurs, which contains the word *Cepóc*, with which we are at present concerned:—

“ I will make a *Cepóc* here,  
And I will make his lamentation;  
And here I will set up his tombstone;  
And here I will make his graceful grave”<sup>(428)</sup>.

From these three examples of the application of the term *Cepóc* we gather that the music for which, in common with *Aidbsi*, it was the name, was not, strictly speaking, reserved for any particular occasion, but that it might be used on occasions of joy, as in the cases of the meeting of *Dromceat* and the charioteer at *Emania*; and in grief, as (I think) in the case of the Scottish poet and the king of *Loch*, and certainly in that of the lament for *Aithirne*. Indeed the only distinction that appears to attach to the *Aidbsi* or *Cepóc* is, that it was a *Cronán* or purring, commenced in the chest or throat, on a low key, and rising gradually to the highest treble. It must, too, to have any effect, have been sung by a multitude; and there cannot be much doubt but the Irish funeral cry, as it is called, of our times is a remnant (though perhaps only a degenerate, uncultivated remnant) of the ancient *Aidbsi* or *Cepóc* of the Gaedhil. Even so late as the seventeenth century, Mr. Nicholas Pierce, the great harper of the county of Kerry, composed, or rather revived, some remarkable funeral lamentations, which came down to my own time, and I dare say are still chaunted in regular parts of bass and treble, by the voices of men and women, in concert, at funerals in the South of Ireland.

**The Certan;** The second species of music in alphabetical order is the *Certan*, which is mentioned in the curious poem of the hermit *Marbhan* on his residence in the wilderness, already described; and it is there spoken of as if it were the sharp chirping of some

*Aidbsi* or  
*Cepóc* a kind  
of *Cronán* or  
guttural  
murmur.

(428) [original:—  
Do vena cepóc runna,  
.Acas vo vena aguba;  
Acas raigret runna a lecc;

Δαγ वो वैन अ चाएरए.  
—H. 2. 17. p. 468, and Book of Bally-  
mote, fol. 142. a. b.]



bird or insect. The *Certan* is mentioned also in a treatise on Irish grammar, in a MS. in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, where it is spoken of as a low and weak effusion of the lower class *Cronán*, or purring performances. The *Certan* is, however, somewhat more minutely referred to in the ancient *Cáin Adamhnain*, or law of Saint *Adamnan*. This law was made in the year 700, through the instrumentality or interposition of St. *Adamnan*. The object of this law was to prohibit women from being allowed to appear in fights and battles, and also to free female slaves from the degradation of abject bondage. The history of this curious and characteristic law may be told in a few words. It is said that St. *Adamnan* and his mother were once travelling through the country of *Bregia* in East Meath, near the present town of Drogheda, and that, when they came to the ford of the river (where, it would appear, there was then no bridge), St. *Adamnan* addressed his mother, and spoke in this way: "Get up on my back, my dearest mother", said he. "I shall not", answered she. "Why so? What dost thou mean?" said he. "I shall not, because thou art not a son that cares for his mother", said she. "Who", said he, "is more careful than I? Do I not constantly fasten thee to my back to carry thee everywhere, from one place to another, raising thee up safe from water and from wet? I do not know of any sort of service that a son of man pays to his mother that I do not pay to thee, except alone the *Certan*, which women perform with the long flesh-hooks of men-cooks. And since I do not indeed perform this *Certan*, I shall, at least, make a sweet harp (*Cruit*) to amuse thee, mother; and it shall have a yoke of *Findrúine* (or white bronze) upon it";<sup>(429)</sup> and so on.

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referred to particularly in the *Cáin Adamhnain*, or law of St. *Adamnan*.

Here we have a distinct and circumstantial, though still somewhat obscure, reference to the *Certan*. We cannot see why or how any thing like a flesh-hook should or could be turned into a musical instrument of any kind, and yet the words in the original are quite plain and intelligible. At all events, the instrument, whatever it was, appears to have been one exclusively used by women; though by what means they produced the sounds, and of what nature the sounds of the instrument were, we are entirely at a loss to know.

(429) [original:—Cio on? Cio tairiu? or peirium. Cía ar goiriu innaíra? Congbairm cuir dar foéruí ocat immarcóir ar eé bairi inarairle, ocuircgabair riu fuad acur ferat. Nircear goire oo gneé mac uirne dia maéair na uenuiriu uoiriu, ácc mac Ceartan oo gniac mna leabar bael baclat oca. Uair naorponaim in certan riu, oo gencar crot binn linnra uoir, hic ut erpitiut; acur iur rionnoruine erci.—*Cáin Adamnain*, H. 3. 18. f. 291.]

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The *Cronán*;mentioned in the account of the Assembly of *Drom Ceat*; and also in the "Adventures of the Great Bardic Company".

The third species of music in alphabetical order is the *Cronán*, or purring, so freely discussed in a former lecture of this course. The word *Cronán* represents a sort of musical sound performed in the throat, for which the word purring is a very inadequate equivalent; though it may, to some extent, express the nature of the sound. The *Cronán* is mentioned in explanation of the term *Aidbsi*, in the account of the laudatory chaunt of the assembly of poets, raised in honour of St. *Colum Cille*, at the meeting of *Drom Ceat*, in the year 590.<sup>(430)</sup> The term occurs also in the account of the *Imtheacht-na-trom-Daimhe*, or Adventures of the Great Bardic Company, who, under their chief poet *Seanchan*, visited the court of *Guairé*, the hospitable king of Connacht, in the first half of the seventh century, an account amply described in a former lecture. The *Cronánaigh*, or *Cronán* performers are classed with the *Feadanaigh*, or whistle or pipe-players, in the Brehon Law tract on the different degrees of artists, preserved in the Book of Ballymote. The *Cronán* appears to have been a favourite performance with *Fínd Mac Cúmhail* and his warriors, as will be seen when we come to the term *Dordán*.

The *Crann-Dord*;

The fourth species of music, in alphabetical order, is the *Crann-Dord*.

It consisted of an accompaniment produced by the clashing of spear handles, as shown by a passage in the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*;

This term is compounded of the two words *Crann*, a tree, and *Dord*, a low humming noise or tune; and from this composition of the name and other circumstances to be mentioned, we may, I think, safely believe that originally the sounds designated by this name were produced by the measured clashing together of wooden poles or spear handles, although the term was sometimes extended to sounds somewhat dissimilar in volume and produced by a different agency. The following passage from the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, descriptive of the *Dond Chuailgne*, or great brown bull of that territory, will sustain the latter assertion:

"It was one of the gifts of the *Dond Chuailgne* that the *Crann-dord* which he performed every evening at coming home to his fastness and his cow-house and his cow-stand, was music and entertainment sufficient for the persons who were at the northern extremity, the southern extremity, and in the centre of the entire cantred of *Cuailgne*".<sup>(431)</sup>

There can be no doubt but that part of the word which refers to the *Crann* or tree in the compound name, would, in such

<sup>(430)</sup> See Lecture xxxi., *ante*, p. 245, *λεόν κείον, οσαρ αηρητι ποσοφρι ι ταιρητιρο, οσαρ ιν-οερτιρο, οσαρ*

<sup>(431)</sup> [original:—*ba so buaobab tuinocualnge cranoooro so ghib caé nona ic traetan ar ammur* — *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, H. 2. 18. f. 50 a. *αληρ οσαρ αλέρ οσαρ α macharo, ba a. mid.*]



a case as this at least, be misapplied in using the word in reference to the measured bellowing of the celebrated bull; and therefore, it may be contended the name must have been derived from the compounding of some other agent with a low murmuring sound. This will, I think, be found clearly established by the following references to the terms *Dord*, *Dordán*, and *Dord-Fiansa*, found chiefly in the ancient Book of Lismore.

The story describes how *Cailte*, the cousin, and one of the favourite captains of *Find Mac Cumhaill*, was travelling, when an old man, in the district comprised in the present county of Kerry, attended by a few of his superannuated companions in arms. They came one day to the ancient *Carn* or sepulchral heap of stones of *Letir Duibh*, and sat down for rest and refreshment at the foot of the *Carn*, on the brink of a stream. And whilst resting here, the herdsmen and shepherds of the neighbouring herds and flocks came and sat over *Cailte* on the *Carn*, and began to regale him with music and melody. And *Cailte* was charmed with the music, because, says the story, it was like the *Dord-Fiansa* [that is the murmuring music of *Find* and his warriors]. And he commanded his servant to be silent and to continue his fishing in the stream; and he then composed a poem of which the following quatrains will sufficiently show the character of the sort of music indicated by the terms *Dord*, *Dordán*, *Fodard*, *Fead*, and *Crann-Dord*:—

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legend from the Book of Lismore, in which this term occurs.

Other musical terms used in this tale;

- “ The shepherds of *Dubh*, from *Drom Leis*,  
 Imitate those who have gone before them;  
 Sweet music the equal of this  
 Was the *Dordán* of the three sons of *Dithreabhach*.
- “ The *Cronán* of *Faelchu* from *Fid Garb*;  
 The *Fodhord* of *Fland* from the slopes of *Latharn*;  
 The *Abran* of *Faelan*; the *Fead* of *Laind*;  
 The notes of the three sons of *Conchaid*.
- “ *Find* himself, and *Fland*, son of *Echaidh*,  
*Diarmait*, *Raighne*, of the large eyes,  
 The *Dord-Fiansa* did sweetly sing;  
 It was sung, too, by *Cailte* of *Collamar*,
- “ At the fair of *Cruachan*, when of old  
 We chanted the *Dord* when going to visit;  
 Sweet were the notes of the *Fiansa* on the march,  
 All men were glad to hear it”<sup>(432)</sup>.

(432) [original :—  
 Δεοταρε ουιθ ο θυμιμ λαιρ,  
 ανατεριρ φυαβραιε να νειρ;  
 υινο σεολ α μακραιηλα παν  
 υορποαν τρι μειε νδιτρεαδατς.  
 κροναν φαολεον α προ γαρβ,

φοθορο φλαιο νο λειγ λαταρν,  
 αβραν φαολαν; φεο λαιμο;  
 φογυρ τρι μειε κονειανοε.  
 φινο φειν, ιφ φλαιν μαε εοχαε,  
 υιαρμαιτ, ραιγνε, πορκεταν,



**XXXVII.** Here we have a group of words to represent the different kinds of song supposed to have been used by *Find Mac Cumhaill* and his warriors; words intended to distinguish the various modifications of what appears to have been their ordinary, simple, vocal music. First, the *Dordán*, which, from the diminutive termination *an* of the name, seems to imply light murmuring sounds. Second, the *Fodord*, or, literally, under-murmur, implying the deepest and lowest murmuring sounds. Third, the *Abran*, which continues to this day to be the name for a song to any tune or measure. Fourth, the *Fead*, a term which continues to this day to be the name of a whistle with the mouth. Fifth, the *Dord-Fiansa*, a term which I should understand to signify a hunting whoop or wild song. Sixth, the *Dord* itself, which certainly means murmuring sounds in the ordinary measure. Seventh, the *Fiansa*, which, standing by itself, is a term quite new to me, and which I should take to be a species of military chorus or concert, peculiar to the *Fianna*, that is, to *Find Mac Cumhaill* and his warriors. There is another modification of the *Dord*, not introduced by *Caille* into this curious poem: this is the *Andord*, or literally, Non-*dord* (for the particle *an* is deprivative in sense); that is, it is not exactly a *Dord* or murmur, but something next to it or higher than it. The word occurs in the following stanza from the lament of *Deirdre* in the tragical fate of the Sons of *Uisnech*:—

the *Dordán*;the *Fodord*;the *Abran*;the *Fead*;the *Dord-Fiansa*;the *Dord*;the *Fiansa*;the *Andord*;

the latter word occurs in the Tale of the "Sons of Uisnech";

[“The heavy wave-voice of *Nois*,  
It was sweet music for ear to be ever hearing;  
*Ardan's Coblach* was good;  
And *Ainle's Andord* towards his wild hut”.]

The whole of this ancient tale is published in the sixth number of the *Atlantis*, and the following note is appended to this quatrain at page 410:—“The heavy wave-voice of *Noisi*—that is, the loud bass voice of *Noisi*; the *Coblach*, or intermediate tones, or somewhat higher notes of *Dardan* [recté *Ardan*]; and the still higher notes of *Ainle* when returning to their huts in the evening. This is an important passage to show that the pagan or ancient *Gaedhil* sang and played in chorus and in concert. The words used are taken from the names applied to the different tones of the strings of the ancient harp. The tone of that part of the harp lower than the middle, but not quite so low as the longest and deepest strings, was called *Dord*, which may be translated ‘bass’. Below that were the deepest of all

the passage shows that the pagan *Gaedhil* sang and played in chorus and in concert;

Canait in uorpo fianra ar fuin;  
Canait Caite Callamair.

Αἰσθητὰς Ἐρμῆδος, ῥοβῶς  
Κανταῖτ ὑορπο ἀρ ἠουὺ ἀρ καε;

Da bino foḡur fianra ar fead,  
Da maḡ le cāc a eirtead.

—Book of Lismore, part ii. folio 60.  
b. b.]

the strings, and to denote these the particle *fo* was prefixed to the word *Dord*; *Fo-Dord*, the 'deep bass'. On the other side, the tones of the next shorter strings to the *Dord* or bass strings, above the *Cobhlaighe*, or middle strings, were called *An-Dord*, adding the negative particle *an*, to signify literally 'not bass'. Their tones answered, perhaps, to the modern tenor".

Still, notwithstanding that the word *Dord*, with its various modifications, as far as we are able to determine, invariably implies music or sounds of a deep tone; yet, in the lines already quoted in a former lecture from the poem on the hermitage of *Marbhan*, brother of *Guaire*, king of Connacht, we find that recluse enumerating among the various notes of the sylvan choir which regaled his ears, *Dordán* of the thrushes (*smólcha*), a term which, compared with the more shrill and less voluble notes of other birds, was appropriate enough. As to the real nature and character of the *Crann-Dord*, or tree music, already mentioned, the following two examples will be sufficient to show its character and the proper derivation of the name, although the word itself does not occur in these passages.

In the Dialogue of the Ancient Men, so often quoted in these lectures, and in that part of it in which the famous *Cailte*, whilst seated on the hill of Ardpatrik, in the county of Limerick, relates to St. Patrick the story of the courtship and espousals of *Coel O'Nemhain* and the princess *Credhi*, daughter of the king of Munster; and how it was from that hill that *Find* and his warriors went forth to accompany *Coel* on his love mission, as well as to fight the famous battle of *Finntraigh* (the white strand, now Ventry harbour in the bay of Dingle in Kerry), the following is the passage:—"And we determined on the battle on this hill (said *Cailte*), and we went forward over the sides of hills, and rocks, and highlands, until we reached *Loch Cuirrè* in the west of Erin; and we came to the court [of the princess of Munster], and we performed the *Dord-Fiansa* with the trees (or handles) of our beautiful gold-socketed spears".<sup>(433)</sup> Now, there can be no doubt but that the music designated here by *Cailte* by the name of *Dord-Fiansa* was equally entitled to be called *Crann-Dord*, which it really was, as having been produced by the *Cranna*, or trees of their spears; and, if there could have been any reason to give it a different name, it must have arisen from the circumstance that the *Cran-Dord* of the

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though *Dord* and its derivatives implies music, the word *Dordán* was applied to the notes of thrushes.

Character of the *Crann-Dord* shown by

a passage from the "Dialogue of the Ancient Men":

<sup>(433)</sup> [original:—Ocuir so aileob-mair in each son ulao rin, ocuir tancamar romuinn tar caebuib chos, ocuir cairrad, ocuir tulach, cu loe cuirre amarrdar Eireann; ocuir

tancamar cu uorur in Tirra, ocuir so canram in Dorso Fianra re crann-naib ar rleg nurr nor crat.—Book of Lismore, f. 206.]



XXXVII. *Fianna*, or Fenian warriors, differed, perhaps, in its martial quality from that produced by the same agency by other performers and for other purposes.

and by another passage from the same Dialogue in a MS. in the R.L.A.;

Another reference to the *Dord-Fiansa*, as produced by the handles of spears, occurs in a fragment of the same Dialogue of the Ancient Men, preserved in another MS. in the Royal Irish Academy. In this case *Oisin*, the celebrated son of *Find Mac Cumhaill*, relates to St. Patrick how his (*Oisin's*) father, *Find*, fell in love with *Berach Breac*, or the Freckled, the beautiful daughter of *Cas Chuailgne*, king of Ulster. The old bard, in a poem of ninety-four quatrains, relates here how his father marched with his warriors, in full military pomp, to the gates of *Emania*, the palace of the king of Ulster, to demand from that prince the hand of his beautiful daughter, *Berach* the Freckled, in marriage. Having arrived at the palace gates, the bard says, in the sixth stanza of the poem:

“We chaunted with the trees of our spears  
A *Dord-Fiansa*, with the voice of our men,  
At the gate of green *Emania*,  
For the assembly of the Red Branch”<sup>(434)</sup>

the *Dord-Fiansa* was therefore a kind of wooden gong accompaniment.

If we read this quatrain aright, the Fenian warriors mixed their voices (how high or low does not appear) with the sounds produced by the clashing of their spear-handles; so that, in fact, the *Dord-Fiansa* was a species of wooden gong music, produced by the striking together the handles of a number of brazen spears, so as to accompany or blend with the voices of a chorus of singers.

The *Duchand*; explained as *Luinneog* or music; *Luinneog* obsolete in Ireland, but used in Scotland for a ditty or chorus;

The fifth species of music in alphabetical order is the *Duchand*. This word is explained in O'Davoren's Glossary, as *Luinneog no Ceol*, that is, “*Luinneog*, or music”. The word *Luinneog* is now obsolete in Ireland, but it still remains, or did until lately remain, in the Highlands of Scotland, and it is explained in the Highland Society's Dictionary, as a song, a chorus; the last of which meanings I believe to be the most correct; but from finding the word *Duthchonna* often in conjunction with the word *Doghraing*, grieving or lamenting, I should be inclined to think that the music of which it was the name, was of a melancholy or dirge-like character. In the description of a festive entertainment in the old tale of the Triumphs of *Conghal Claringneach*, we are told that poems (*Duana*) and *Duchonda* were sung for the company; from which we may perhaps infer

*Duchand* was probably a dirge;

<sup>(434)</sup> [original:—  
Canmaro le ciannaib ar rleḡ  
Óró Fianna, foḡar ar fear,

Ἀνοοῖα ἔμνα ὑμνε,  
Ὅσοι κοινισοὶ καὶ κραεβρωσθε.  
—MS. R.I.A., H. & Sm., No. 2. p. 251.]



that the poems or *Duana* were laudations of the living heroes, whilst the *Duchonda* were the dirges of the meritorious dead. The word *Duchand* occurs in *Cormac's Glossary*, in the explanation of the word *Esnad*, as follows: "*Esnad*, i.e. it is not a *Nath*, but a *Duchand*; for *Esnad* was the name of the music which the *Fianna* used to perform around the *fulacht fiansa*".<sup>(435)</sup> From this explanation it would appear that the word *Esnad* was compounded of *es*, a negative particle, equal to *non* in English, and *nath*, the name of any composition; so that the *Esnad* was a something not a poem or metrical composition, but only a *Duchand*, or mere musical moaning air or tune in chorus; and that this was what the *Fianna*, that is *Find Mac Cumhaill's* warriors, chaunted around their *fulacht fiansa*, which were the rude cooking pits constructed by the warrior hunters after the day's chase, in which their well-earned meal was cooked, partly by baking between or upon red-hot stones, and partly on wooden roasting spits before their great fires. It was while assembled round these fires, before and during their long repasts, that they used to perform the music alluded to.

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*Duana* a laudation; *Duchand* occurs in *Cormac's Glossary* explaining *Esnad*;

the latter a moaning air or tune in chorus.

The sixth species of music in alphabetical order is the *Esnad* just described. The *Esnad*.

The seventh of those enumerated in our ancient writings is the group of three modes so often mentioned already, namely, the *Gentraighe*, or laughing mode; the *Goltraighe*, or crying mode; and the *Suantraighe*, or sleeping mode. Unfortunately, I can add nothing specific upon these styles of musical composition.

The Three Musical Modes.

The next in order is a kind of musical performance called the *Géim Druadh*, or Druid's Shout, referred to in the ancient account of the battle of *Almhain* (now the Hill of Allen, in the county of Kildare), and which I have already given in full in a former Lecture, to which the reader is referred.<sup>(436)</sup>

The *Géim Druadh*, or "Druids' Shout"; mentioned in the Tale of the "Battle of *Almhain*".

Of this wonderful Druid's Shout, or whoop, or whatever it was, I have never met with any other notice but the one just referred to. But there seems no reason to doubt that the shout of *O'Maighlind*, *Fergal's* Druid, continued to be popularly known and preserved by the musicians of Ireland down to the year 1391 when the vellum MS.<sup>(437)</sup> containing the historical tale of the battle of *Almhain* was compiled.

The ninth species of music in alphabetical order is the *Golghaire Bansidhe*, or the *Wail of the Bansidhes* (or fairy-women);

The *Golghaire Bansidhe*, or *Wail of the Bansidhe*;

<sup>(435)</sup> [original:—*esnao*, .i. nath, *acét* n̄ *tuchano*; *ap̄* ba *nefnao* amm n̄ *chiu*l̄ n̄ *gn̄o*ir̄ na *fianae* um an *b̄fulacht fianrae*.—*Cormac's Gloss.*, *voc. Esnad*.]

<sup>(436)</sup> *Ante*, vol. ii. p. 309.

<sup>(437)</sup> Class H. 2. 16. Trinity College, Dublin.

xxxvii. and like the Druid's shout, to this cry, or wail, I have never met more than one reference, namely, in the story of *Fraech Mac Fidaid*. It will be remembered that this *Fraech* went to the palace of *Cruachan* in Connacht, to demand the hand in marriage of the beautiful princess *Findabar*; and that he was accompanied, among other officers of his train, by the three sons of *Uaithne*, the famous harpers, who gave names to the three musical modes just mentioned above. As I have already given the preliminary story of this tale,<sup>(438)</sup> I need not repeat it here, but pass at once to that part of the tale itself where the young prince, after being wounded by the river-monster, is taken by his attendants back to the palace to be treated for his wounds. The story tells us that his litter was preceded by his *Cornairidh* (or horn-players); and that so exquisite was their wailing performance that sixty youths of the household of king *Ailill* and queen *Medb* actually died of the melting plaintiveness of their music. They entered the court at last, and *Fraech* was placed in a medicated bath prepared for him by order of the king. He was then taken out and put to bed, upon which (continues the tale) there was heard around the palace of *Cruachan* a loud wailing or *Golghaire*. And immediately there were seen an hundred and fifty women dressed in crimson tunics, and green *Cennbarra*, or head-dresses, and wearing silver brooches on their breasts, in the vicinity of the palace. Some went out to them to learn their history, and to know whom it was that they bewailed. It is *Fraech* the son of *Fidaid*, said one of them, that we bewail, the most heroic youth of all the fairy mansions of Erin. *Fraech* then heard the *Golghaire* (or wail) of the women. Raise me up from this place immediately, said *Fraech* to his people. This is the wail of my mother, and of the women of the (river) *Boind*. He was then carried out, and they collected around him, and took him away from the palace of *Cruachan*. Great, says the story, was the bemoaning in the household of *Ailill* and *Medb* on that night; but they were delighted on the evening of the following day to see him coming back to them accompanied by fifty women, and he perfectly cured, without defacement or blemish. These women were all of the same age, the same features, the same loveliness, the same nobleness, the same splendour, the same symmetry of form, and the countenances of *Bansidhe* (or fairy women) on each of them, so that no one of them could be distinguished from another. Some of the people of the court were nearly suffocated in the pressure of the crowd to see them. They left him then at the door of the

mentioned  
in the Tale  
of the Táin  
Bó Fraech;

(438) See Lecture xxx., ante, vol. ii. p. 218.



court, and they renewed their wail at departing from him, so that several of the people of the court swooned at its overpowering effect; and it is from this event that the musicians of Erin have retained the species of music called the *Golghaire*, or wail, of the *Bansidhe* to this day.<sup>(439)</sup>

This curious tale is preserved in the Book of Leinster, a MS. compiled about the year 1150; and I trust that the length of the extract will be found sufficiently compensated for by the scrap of *Bansidhe* mythology, and the clear evidence which it contains of the wonderful powers of our ancient musicians, as well as of the tender susceptibility of our remote ancestors to the influence of their performances. I am not aware that any trace of these old fairy strains is now to be found among our long neglected native musicians, at least with any name or traditional history; but I have no doubt but that the *Bensidhe's* wail came down to a late period, though, perhaps, under a degenerate name and with some distortions, under the pretence of improvement, to meet the depraved taste of a mixed and declining race of people.

it probably came down to a late period.

The tenth species of music in alphabetical order was the *Gúbha*, a word which literally signifies sighing or moaning in grief. I cannot, however, say with certainty that the *Gúbha* came properly within the strict range of what can be termed vocal music, though I have authority to show that special funeral assemblies were held, which were called *Aenach Gúbha*, or moaning or mourning assemblies; but whether the lamentation was of a low moaning character or of the more ordinary passionate kind, I have not been able to ascertain.

The *Gúbha*.

(439) [original:—Acorraire iarum riamrom uodum uoini Cruachan; ronoaro ruroe riam iarum con arda tpi fichio reji uo macaemaib aililla ocur meoba ara riraat an tpenma. Uo thegao iarum irin sun, acag teio fhaech irin foeracaro, conerug ban curi in uoine uile uime oia blit, acag oia folcero a cno. Uo bepar ar iarum acag uo gniar uergao uo. Co cuala ni, an folgairie for Cruacham, ai ma farrao conacca na tpi chaecaro ban cona n-inaruib coreruib, cona cenobaruib uaimuib, cona milearib airg-uuib for a mbrunuib. Uagari eueu oia fir a rcel, uir oia no charret. fhaech mac firoaro om, ol bean uib, iruo chainmtoni, mac upe-tell rug rtoe eprino uili. Larooain no chluin fhaech a ngolgaru na mban. Uom obbaro ar tpa, ol fpa-

ech fpa munter. Sol mo mac-harra ro, ol re, acag na m-ban m-boinne. Tocabar imach larooain; uo egaro uime, acag bepar ar in Cruacham. Da mox uo a ecame i teglach aililla acag meoba in arochi rin; conaccarar iarum im tpaé nona ar na marach; uo earo chuco acag caeca ban uime, ir he og plán, gan on, gan amib, gan ebaro. Comaera na mna uili, comuelba, comchaimne, comairia, comaili, comcrota, con-ecorc ban rtoe umpu, cona bai aieue nech uib fech araili. Dec naro muchao uaine umpu. Uagaro uao iarum in-uorur mlir acagao a ngol epruib, oc uul uao con carraoar na uaine barar irin uunao ar censo; ir de rin aca folgaru banrtoe la haer ciuil epruo.—H. 2. 16. 646.]



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The *Logairecht* or funeral wall;

occurs in *Cormac's* Gloss. at the word *Amrath*;

meaning of the latter term.

The *Luinneog*.

The *Sámhghúbha*, or sea nymph's song;

It is mentioned in an old glossary.

The eleventh species of music (vocal) was the *Logairecht*. This was simply the wild and scarcely regulated Irish funeral cry; that cry which is heard even to this day in the south and west of Ireland, raised and sustained chiefly by the women who follow a hearse or funeral to the grave. At the present day the cry is called *Logóireacht*, but in *Cormac's* Glossary, a compilation of about the year 890, it is called *Logairecht*, and occurs in the explanation of the word *Amrath*. Now, the word *Amrath* is compounded of *am*, a negative particle, equal to the English non, and *rath*, which means the stock, bounty, or wages which a chief or landlord gave to a tenant or follower for rent and services that were to be returned to the chief or lord in accordance with stipulations mutually entered into. That was the affirmative *rath*; but the *Amrath* or non-*rath* was the bounty or payment given to the people who cried and lamented at the funeral of the chief, lord, or any body else, and for which bounty there was no further return ever to be made.

The twelfth species of music is the *Luinneog*; but all that could be said on the subject of this species has been said already under the word *Duchand*. The *Luinneog* is still the chorus or burden of a song in Scotland.

The thirteenth in alphabetical order is the *Sámhghúbha*, which is the old Irish name for the song of the *Murduchain*, that is, the sirens, mermaids, or sea-nymphs. The word *Sámhghúbha* appears to have been compounded of *sámh*, which signifies ease, tranquillity, or a sense of entrancing happiness, and *gúbha*, a plaintive, slow, melancholy moaning air or tune. The sirens or sea-nymphs who, in ancient classical mythology, are said to have practised this species of music, were able by the bewitching sweetness of their strains to draw mariners upon the rocks and then destroy them; and in the narrative of the wanderings and voyages of the Milesian or rather Gadelian tribes before their arrival in Spain, and ultimately in Ireland, we are told (in the Book of Invasions) that upon their passing through the Pontic Sea, between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, they were advised by their druids to stuff their ears with soft wax in order that they should not hear the music of the *Murduchans*, or mermaids, who were accustomed to sing to the mariners until they set them asleep, when they sprang on them and killed them. I have never met the word *Sámhghúbha* in any composition, but I find it in an old Irish Glossary in my possession, where it is said to be the name of the sirens [vide also O'Reilly, *in voc.*]; but this, unless figurative, is clearly a mistake or a mistranscript, as any Irish scholar will at once perceive.

The fourteenth species of music in alphabetical order is the

*Sian*, or *Sianan*. Whether this was any particular species of music, or only a popular name for a song or tune, I am not able to decide, as I have met only three references to it, two of which refer to the human voice, and one to the whizzing or whistling of a spear or dart, winging its way through the air. The oldest reference to the word *Sian*, in a musical sense, is found in the description of the Battle of the second or northern *Magh Tuireadh*, fought between the *Tuatha Dé Danann* and the *Fomorians*, where the clangour and clatter of the men and weapons are spoken of as follows: "The shout of the champions; the clashing of the shields; the flashing and clangour of the swords and of the *Colg dets*; the whistle and twang of the darts; the flying *Sian* of the spears and javelins; and the battle crash of the arms".<sup>(440)</sup> It is very difficult, indeed, to draw any distinction between the words whistle, twang, and *Sian* in this passage, and the writer seems only to give to the same, or nearly the same, sounds a variety of undistinguishable names.

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The *Sian*, or *Sianan*;

applied in the Tale of the Battle of the Second *Magh Tuireadh* to the whizzing of a spear;

The next place in which I have met with the word *Sian* is in the lament of *Deirdre* for the Sons of *Uisnech*, where she says:—

applied to a song in the tale of the "Sons of *Uisnech*;

"Sweet with *Conchobar* the king  
Are the pipers and trumpeters;  
Sweeter to me the *cloth nell*,  
A *Sian* which the sons of *Uisle* sang".<sup>(441)</sup>

Here the word *Sian* refers to the song which the sons of *Uisle* sang.

The third place in which I have met the *Sian*, or *Sianan*, is in the wanderings of *St. Colum Cille's* two priests, *Snedgus* and *Mac Riaghla*, who, on their return from Ireland to Iona on the coast of Scotland, were driven into the northern seas. Here they were driven for some time from one strange island to another, until at last, as they were approaching a new island, they heard the sweet voices of women singing on the shore, when immediately they recognized the music, and said: "This is the *Sianan* of the women of *Erinn*". These were Irish women belonging to a clann of people of the *Fera Rois*, or men of Ross, who had shortly before been forcibly sent out upon the sea at the mouth of the river Boyne, and driven by the winds to this island.<sup>(442)</sup>

and also in the wanderings of the priests *Snedgus* and *Mac Riaghla*;

From these two last instances of the word *Sian*, or *Sianan*, it would appear that it designated some kind of soft, plaintive

it designated soft plaintive music.

<sup>(440)</sup> [original:—*ḡair na laech-  
raoi, ocuḡ pperimb na rciath, lo-  
morath ocuḡ feogairi na claiom,  
ocuḡ na calc noeo, ciraui ocuḡ  
ḡuuoegur na raigrobolc, ocuḡ  
rian eciguo na rogaro ocuḡ na n-  
gabluoh, ocuḡ pperbemnech na*

*naim*.—Second Battle of *Magh Tuireadh*, M<sup>s</sup>. Egerton, 5280, Brit. Mus., O.C.'s copy, p. 28.]

<sup>(441)</sup> [See *Atlantis*, No. vi., p. 410.]

<sup>(442)</sup> [See *Lectures on the M<sup>s</sup>. Materials of Ancient Irish History*, p. 334.]



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music, such as one would expect to hear from the Sons of *Uisnech* and from the *Fera Rois*, both of whom were in forcible exile from their native country.

*Sirechtach*  
applied to  
slow music;

synonymous  
with *Ad-  
bond*;

the latter  
word occurs  
in the Fest-  
ology of  
*Aengus Ceilidh  
Dá*.

*Sirechtach* was an adjectival term applied to music of a slow, plaintive, enchanting kind; and hence we often find in ancient tales the phrase *ceol sirechtach sidhe*, from *ceol*, music; *sirechtach*, slow or prolonged; and *sidhe*, fairy or enchanting. This term *Sirechtach* is explained in another place by the word *Adbond*, which in its turn is explained *bind*, that is, sweet or melodious. The word *Adbond* occurs again in such a way as to signify a song or a tune, as in a note in the Festology of *Aengus Ceilidh Dé*, or the Culdee, on the festival day of *St. Mochae* of *Oendruim*, now Island Magee, on the coast of the county of Antrim. *St. Mochae* was a disciple of *St. Patrick*, and his festival is held on the 21st of June. This note tells us that one day he went out from his church upon the island, and that he turned into a little grove in its neighbourhood, where he sat down under a tree for prayer and contemplation. While sitting here he saw a bird of uncommon plumage perch upon a tree near him, and sing so sweetly that he could not take his eyes off it nor shut his ears against its notes for a full hour, when it ceased and flew away to the next tree. Here the bird resumed its melody, and again riveted the attention of the saint for another hour, when he flew away to another tree immediately near. Here again he renewed his enchanting notes, absorbing more than ever *St. Mochae's* whole mind and attention for another hour, after which he flew away and disappeared. *St. Mochae*, after reflecting some time on the strange appearance of this wonderful bird and his wonderful music, arose and returned to his church. The way back, however, appeared very strange to him. The grove in which he had sat had disappeared, and its place was occupied by a cultivated field. The path by which he reached it was no longer to be seen, the way having been crossed with hedges and ditches. At length he made his way to his church, but he found the edifice much altered since he had left it but three hours before. He saw there priests and monks, indeed; but he had never seen their faces before, and when he told them that he was *Mochae*, the original founder of their church, they smiled at him in pity, believing that he was some wandering pilgrim whose religious enthusiasm had got the better of his reason. They asked him why he believed himself to be *St. Mochae*, and he told them the story of the wonderful bird. "My good friend", said they, "you must be under some delusion, for our holy patron, the blessed *Mochae*, went to heaven one hundred and fifty years ago". On hearing



is, *Mochae* besought the priest to hear his confession and prepare him for death. This was done, and immediately after his soul passed to heaven, and his body dropped into ashes and are bones. On this beautiful legend an ancient poem, quoted in the Festology, says:

“For the gentle *Mochae* there sang,  
The bird from the heavens,  
Three *Adbonds*, from the top of the tree,  
Each *Adbond* being fifty years.”<sup>(443)</sup>

Father Michael O’Clery, in his glossary of ancient Irish words and phrases, gives the words *Adbond Trirech*, or triple *adbond*, which he explains as a tune of music in which three parts are understood, namely, *Gentraighe*, *Goltraighe*, and *Suanraighe*. These, it will be recollected, are the three musical modes of the ancient Irish, of which we have already said so much. The word *Trirech* occurs in Zeuss’ *Grammatica Celtica*, vol. ii. page 929, in an ancient stanza, which he quotes as an example of the rhyme or assonance of ancient Irish versification. The author of this quatrain would appear to have been a student, pursuing his studies in the solitude of a wood or grove, or else dreaming or imagining himself in such a place, when he says:

*Adbond Trirech*, or triple *Adbond*, explained in Michael O’Clery’s gloss as the Three Musical modes; *Trirech* occurs in Zeuss’ *Gram. Celt.*;

Dom farcaí fíobairde fáel,  
Fomcham lóir lúin lúas nao céil  
huar mo lebrán molintech.  
Fomcham trírech inna nén.  
Marraith rēcc cēim marroa  
áitne a máleatan.

[I was upon the wild wood’s visitation,  
The blackbirds sweetly sang notes which I conceal not.  
Over my many-lined little book.  
Melodious was the *Trirech* of the birds.  
’T was my much-loved, long-coveted treasure  
To understand their warbling.]<sup>(444)</sup>

<sup>(443)</sup> [original:—  
o éacham ‘o mochoe cham  
in ténan ‘ona nemoasb  
tri haoboino ‘o bairi inchpoino  
‘l. bliasain cech ‘oboino.  
-*Felire*, 21st July.]

<sup>(444)</sup> [Zeuss gives the Irish thus:—  
Dom | farcaí | fíobairde | fáel  
omcham || lóir | lúin | lúas nao  
‘l. huar mo lebrán | molintech  
omcham trírech inna nén || ma-  
raich rēcc cēim | marroa áitne  
| máleatan.]

Mr. W. Stokes gives part of this stanza thus:—

Dom ‘farcaí fíobairde fáel  
Fom’ cham lóir lúin lúach, nao  
céil  
uar mo lebrán molintech  
Fom’ cham trírech inna nén.  
The grove makes a festival for me;  
A blackbird’s swift lay sings to me—  
I will not hide it—  
Over my many lined booklet  
A trilling (?) of the birds sings to me”.  
—“Irish Glosses”, p. 70.]



the name, description, and residence of the person for whom he wrote. But, from the specimen verse here given, it is evident that it was for God, His attributes, and His kingdom, the poem was written.

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The stanza under consideration, as I have already stated, consists of eight lines, and will sing in two parts to the ancient air popularly known in the south of Ireland as: "*Ar Eire nis inneosfainn cé hi*", or, "For Ireland I would not tell who she is". An air also known as set to the words of the song of "Nancy, the pride of the west", and in Scotland known as that of the song, "Tweed side".<sup>(46)</sup> This leads me, however, to the consideration of another subject, which I must postpone to my next lecture.

the stanza  
quoted sings  
to the air of  
"For Ireland  
I would not  
tell who she  
is".

<sup>(46)</sup> See an eloquent and elegant discussion on the parentage, Scotch or Irish, of this sweet melody, a discussion provoked by myself, in Dr. Petrie's *Ancient Music of Ireland*, vol. i. p. 97.



## LECTURE XXXVIII.

[Delivered July 15th, 1862.]

(IX.) OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (concluded). The ancient lyric verse adapted to an ancient air referred to in last lecture; the existence of old lyric compositions having a peculiar structure of rhythm adapted to old airs still existing unknown in the musical history of any other country; many such known; there exists in the Book of Ballymote a special tract on versification containing specimen verses; the specimens are usually four lined verses; but they sing to certain simple solemn airs; these are chiefly the poems called Ossianic; the author has heard his father sing the Ossianic poems; and has heard of a very good singer of them named O'Brien; the author only heard one other poem sung to the air of the Ossianic poems; many other old poems would however sing to it. The tract on versification contains specimens which must read to music at first sight; three examples selected. The first called *Ocht-Foclach Corranach Beg*, or, "the little eight-line curved verse"; this class of poems written to a melody constructed like that known as the "Black Slender Boy"; description of this kind of verse. The second is the *Ocht Foclach Mór* or "great eight line verse"; this stanza was written to the musical metre of an air of which the first half of "John O'Dwyer of the Glen" is an example; description of this kind of verse. The third is the *Ocht Foclach Mór Corranach*, or "great curving eight line verse"; measure, accents, cadences, and rhyme are the same as in the second. Another specimen of verse from a long poem in the Book of *Lecan*; the kind called *Ocht Foclach hi-Eimhin*, or the "eight line verse of *O' h-Eimhin*"; the *Ui* or *O* prefixed to the name of the author of the poem does not necessarily imply his having lived after the permanent assumption of surnames; description of this kind of poem; this poem written to a different air from the other stanzas quoted; will sing to any one of three well known airs. The author does not say that these verses were written for the airs mentioned, but only that they sing naturally to them. That these stanzas were not written by the writers on Irish prosody to support a theory, as shown by poems in the Tale of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*; e.g. the poem containing the dialogue between *Medb* and *Ferdiad*; musical analysis of this poem; there are five poems of the same kind in this tale. The author does not want to establish a theory, but only to direct attention to the subject. Antiquity of the present version of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*: the copy in the *Leabhar na h-Úidhre*; the copy in the Book of Leinster. At least one specimen of the same kind of ancient verse in the *Dinnseanchas*, e.g. in the legend of *Ath Fadad*, or *Ahade*: the *Dinnseanchas* was written about 590 by *Amergin* chief poet to *Diarmait*, son of *Fergus Ceirbhaoil*; these various compositions are at least 900 years old, and prove that the most enchanting form of Irish music is indigenous. The author is conscious of his unfitness to deal with the subject of music technically; complaint on the neglect of Irish music; appeal to Irishmen in favour of it.

No clear allusion in very old Irish MSS. to dancing. The modern generic name for dancing is *Rinnceadh*; it is sometimes called *Damhsa*; meaning of those terms. *Fonn* and *Port* the modern names for singing and dancing music; Michael O'Clery applies the term *Port* to lyric music in general; *Cor*, in the plural *Cuir*, an old Irish word for music, perhaps connected with *Chórea*; the author suggests that *Port* was anciently, what it is now, a

"jig", and *Cor*, a "reel"; "jig" borrowed from the French or Italian. *Rennceadh fada*, "long dance", not an ancient term; applied to a country dance. Conclusion. XXXVIII.

At the conclusion of my last lecture I gave an instance of ancient Irish lyric verse perfectly adapting itself to one of those ancient Irish airs which have come down to us in a form, if not primitive, at least nearly that in which they must have been performed a thousand, probably even more than two thousand years ago. I allude to those verses of *Cormac Mac Cuilennain*, now almost a thousand years old, which sing to the air of "*Ar Eire ni inneosfainn ce hi*"; or, "For Ireland I would not tell who she is". I cannot, indeed, say that these particular verses were written to that particular air. I adduce it only as an interesting fact, that a fragment of a lyric poem, ascribed to a writer of the ninth century, and actually preserved in a MS. book so old as the year 1150, presents a peculiar structure of rhythm exactly corresponding with that of certain ancient Irish musical compositions still popular and well known, though traditionally as of the highest antiquity, one of which is the air I have named. I believe such a fact is unknown in the musical history of any other nation in Europe. And yet in ours, I believe, very many such instances could be adduced of ancient lyric music still in existence, in minutely exact agreement with forms of lyric poetry, used not only in, but peculiar to, the most ancient periods of our native literature. It would, however, be the work, not of a passing notice here, but rather of a course of lectures in itself, to investigate the numerous examples by means of which I think this connection of the existing remains of our ancient music with the earliest eras of our national civilization may be demonstrated. And the task itself is one which I should far rather see undertaken (with what assistance I could venture to offer him) by some master of Irish music as well as of Irish antiquities, such as our illustrious fellow-countryman, Dr. Petrie, than imperfectly accomplished in any such lectures as I, by myself, could lay before the public. We are by no means, then, confined to a solitary specimen of ancient Irish lyric composition, such as that which I quoted on the last evening; nor even to any vague deductions based on the chance analysis of such remains; for the Book of Ballymote, compiled from older books in the year 1391, contains a special tract on versification, in which specimen verses are given of all the poetic measures known to or practised by the ancient Irish.

Generally these specimens are verses of four lines only; so that, if intended for a musical accompaniment, the range of the

The ancient lyric verse adapted to an ancient air referred to in last lecture;

the existence of old lyric compositions having a peculiar structure of rhythm adapted to old airs still existing unknown in the musical history of any other country;

many such known;

there exists a special tract on versification containing specimen verses;



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the specimens are usually four-lined verses; but they sing to certain simple solemn airs; these are chiefly the poems called Ossianic;

the author has heard his father sing the Ossianic poems;

and has heard of a very good singer of them named O'Brien;

the author only heard one other poem sung to the air of the Ossianic poems;

air was limited, and it must have been but little varied. Yet there are several ancient poems in this measure extant that will very well sing to particular airs, generally of a simple, solemn, or melancholy character. Of these I may mention the class of poems popularly called Ossianic, from their authorship being ascribed to *Oisín*, the famous son of *Finn Mac Cumhaill*. These so-called Ossianic verses are generally composed of seven syllables to the line, with alternate rhymes and a peculiarly delicate and exact rhythm, without return or burden of any kind. I have heard my father sing these Ossianic poems, and remember distinctly the air and the manner of their singing; and I have heard that there was, about the time that I was born, and of course beyond my recollection, a man named Anthony O'Brien, a schoolmaster, who spent much of his time in my father's house, and who was the best singer of Oisín's poems that his contemporaries had ever heard. He had a rich and powerful voice, and often, on a calm summer day, he used to go with a party into a boat on the Lower Shannon, at my native place, where the river is eight miles wide, and having rowed to the middle of the river, they used to lie on their oars there to uncork their whiskey jar and make themselves happy, on which occasions Anthony O'Brien was always prepared to sing his choicest pieces, among which were no greater favourites than *Oisín's* poems. So powerful was the singer's voice that it often reached the shores at either side of the boat in Clare and Kerry, and often called the labouring men and women from the neighbouring fields at both sides down to the water's edge to enjoy the strains of such music (and such performance of it) as I fear is not often in these days to be heard even on the favoured banks of the soft flowing queen of Irish rivers.

I do not remember having heard any other poem sung to the air of these Ossianic pieces but one, and that one is a beautiful ancient hymn to the Blessed Virgin, some seven hundred or more years old. My father sang this hymn, and well too, almost every night, so that the words and the air have been impressed on my memory from the earliest dawn of life. This sweet poem consists of twelve stanzas of four lines each, beginning:

"Direct me how to praise thee,—  
Though I am not a master in poetry.—  
O thou of the angelic countenance, without fault!  
Thou who hast given the milk of thy breast to save me"<sup>(446)</sup>

(446) [original:—  
Scúpaos me uos molaó  
Cia náó ollam me am eigr,—  
A gnúir anglíóe, gan loct!

Ἐὺς ἠὺγάδ τ'ἔτα uom ἠέγτεαδ.  
—O'Longan's Irish MSS. R.I.A., No.  
93  
C. 30 p. 69.]



The air of this hymn is not popular; I never heard it sung but by my own father. I know it myself very well, and I know several old poems that will sing to it, such as the above poems ascribed to *Oisin*, the son of *Find Mac Cumhail*, and the great religious poem called "The Festology of *Aengus Ceile Dé*", written in the year 798.

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many other old poems would however sing to it;

Besides a great variety of specimens of the four-line verse, under various technical names, the tract in the Book of Ballymote contains a few specimens of a decidedly lyric character—verses which, from the measured positions of the accented vowels and cadences, must at first sight read to music. From these I have selected three of the longest kind of verse that occurs among them; but I may add that the names by which they are distinguished are names that do not occur in the prosody of any Irish grammar compiled or published within the last three hundred years.

the tract on versification contains specimens which must read to music at first sight; three examples selected—

The first of these specimens is a stanza of sixteen lines, called the *Ochtfoclach Corranach Beg*, that is literally, "The little eight-line curved verse". To make this name intelligible, it is necessary to state that the meaning of the word "*corranach*", or curved, in this name refers to the second part of eight lines which are added to the first eight lines, so as to make sixteen, in order to fill up the "curve", "turn", or second part of the tune. The example given here is certainly a Munster production, and appears to have been taken from a satirical poem written on some pretender to the divine art, who would indeed appear to have been a pupil to the author. It runs as follows:

The first called *Ochtfoclach Corranach Beg*, or "the little eight-line curved verse";

Ocht Foclach corranach beg.

Δ ορνιθ na n'Óeiri, acloicceano céiri,  
 Ni bia sa n'noeiri, a muig os nabuaib;  
 Δ ορνιθ ne feiri, noóo d'umpreiri,  
 Noóo fomceiri so éuaó so chial;  
 Imchig adúini! ich im ir uiri,  
 Roich uiri ian nuiri, doiu coróin;  
 Δ loican luigi, a bolcan buiri,  
 For tolclan tuigi, ma nóin a mar.<sup>(47)</sup>

*The Little Eight-line Curved Verse.*

Thou fool of the *Deisi*, thou head of the small pig,  
 After us the cows shall not enjoy their plains;  
 Thou forsaker of science, not obedient to me,  
 'T is not under my counsel thy sense has vanished;

(47) [Book of Ballymote, folio 160. a. b.]

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Go off, O man! eat butter and eggs,  
 Seek tutor after tutor, pursue [thy way] to Rome;  
 O Lorcan of the vows, O yellow *Bulcan*,  
 Upon the bare board, ere eve approaches from the  
 west.

this class of  
 poem  
 written to a  
 melody  
 constructed  
 like that  
 known as  
 "the Black  
 Slender  
 Boy";

Now, any one with an ordinary ear for Irish music, will at once see that the poem, of which this is a curious example, was written to a melody constructed precisely like that of the beautiful and well-known air, called in our times the *Buachaill Cael-dubh*, or the "Black Slender Boy". This delightful air will be found in Dr. Petrie's *Ancient Music of Ireland*, vol. i., page 19, where three different versions of it are printed; none of them, I am sorry to say, agreeing exactly with my own impression of it, or with the song which accompanies them in that volume, and which was contributed by me. The air, as Dr. Petrie decides, is especially a Munster one; but those who supplied him with these settings of it were either unable to do it full justice, or must have taken it down in some other province.

descripti on  
 of this kind  
 of verse.

I shall not undertake to scan our specimen verse, with reference to this exceedingly ancient air—indeed that is beyond my ability; but I will explain its peculiarity, and we shall then see how it differs from other metres, and by what peculiarities it may be distinguished. The first three lines of each of the four quatrains of which the stanza is composed, consist each of five syllables; the last word of each being a word of two syllables, with a strongly marked vowel assonance, indeed nearly a perfect rhyme. The fourth line of each quatrain consists but of four syllables, and the last word a monosyllable. The last words of the first and third quatrains do not make any rhyme or assonance with each other or with any other line in the stanza. The last words of the second and fourth quatrains make an assonance with each other, but not with any other word or line in the whole stanza. These peculiarities cannot, of course, be made apparent in a literal English translation; but an ordinary ear will detect them in the original:

The second  
 is the *Ocht-foclach Mór*, or  
 "great eight-  
 line verse";

The second specimen is a stanza of eight lines; a stanza which is called the *Ocht foclach Mór*, or great eight line verse. From the context, these lines would appear to have been taken from a dialogue between the author and a student, who appears to be returning from his literary studies, at some place called *Cluain*, (very probably *Cluain Mac Nois*, now Clonmacnoise, in the King's county) and that it was at Kildare this interview with the author took place. The following is the stanza:—



## Ochtróclach móir.

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Canar tic mac leGINO?  
 TICIM Ó CHLUAIN CELBINO;  
 IAR LEASO MOLEGINO  
 TEGIM RIR CO SORO.  
 INOIR FCELA CLUANA.  
 INOIRPET,—NA CUALA  
 SINNAIS IMAHUADA  
 ETAT BPUANA BOLG.

*Great eight-line verse.*

Whence comest thou, O student?  
 I come from *Cluain Celbind* [of sweet music];  
 After reading my lesson,  
 I go down to *Sord* [Swords].  
 Tell [us] the news of *Cluain*.  
 I will tell it,—hast thou not heard  
 That the foxes of *Imahuadha*<sup>(448)</sup>  
 Have found [and] consumed the satchels.

These "satchels" were made of leather to hold books; and it may well be supposed that the offending "foxes" were only figurative of some objectionable persons, who found access to them.

Like the former stanza, any one with an ear for Irish music will, indeed must, at once perceive that this stanza was written to the musical metre of which the first half of that beautiful air, called now "*Seaghan O'Duibhir an Ghleanna*", or "*John O'Dwyer of the Glenn*", is an example. This specimen is called "the great eight-line verse", only because it has not that curve or turn, as it is called, which we understand to signify a full second part of eight lines, or two quatrains, like the first, which would be sung to the full double measure of the air, such as we know "*John O'Dwyer of the Glenn*" at the present day. This is a curious and important specimen of a verse and its music; and will, I may be allowed to hope, supply some valuable matter of discussion to Dr. Petrie, in that analysis of the Ancient Music of Ireland, so long expected from his learned pen.

The three first lines of each of the two quatrains of which this stanza is composed, consist of six syllables each, the last word of each consisting of two syllables and an assonance, or indeed, I might say, rhyme. The fourth line of each quatrain

this stanza was written to the musical metre of an air of which the first half of "John O'Dwyer of the Glenn" is an example;

description of this kind of verse.

(448) [Perhaps this may be Timahoe, in the Queen's County; the author's MS. has "about its graves".]



**XXXVIII.** consists but of five syllables, the last word of each being a monosyllable, and in assonance with each other.

The third is the *Ochtfoclach Mor Chorrnach*, or "great curving eight line verse";

The third specimen is a stanza of sixteen lines, called the "*Ochtfoclach Mor Chorrnach*", or great curving eight-line verse, and runs as follows:—

Ochtfoclac mor chorranac.

Domhnall ua Duibdala, in raineo Cill Dara  
 In bhactuis no in tana, rucad uao co Sorro;  
 Raimis Sligeo nDala zemb miye maria:  
 Mo cnuoe mo cara, ua Concorb na ceairt,  
 Mac daingin Mael Caba, oo bhainn Inber Crara,  
 Cona milib ana, connatib na noiro,—  
 Caelac feoa ar faga, uairi zepza acar zala,  
 Iarano leza ilaim laza, loiz vhaiziu ar vealz.<sup>(449)</sup>

*Great curving eight-line verse.*

*Domhnall Ua Duibdala* has pursued to Kildare  
 The plunder or the spoil, which was carried from him to  
 Swords;  
 At *Slighed n-Dala* was heard the loud maddened bellow-  
 ing [of the cows]:  
 The friend of my heart, the descendant of *Concorb* of the  
 "poets",  
 The son of *Mael Caba's* daughter, from the banks of  
*Inber Crara*,  
 With his noble equipments, with the insignia of heroes  
 of valour,—  
 A spear with slender wooden haft in time of strife and  
 combat,  
 A surgeon's lancet in a surgeon's hand, a thorn upon a  
 blackthorn staff.

This stanza, too, as well as the others, is of a satirical, humor-  
 ous character, and appears to have some reference to the stanza  
 immediately preceding; and to have arisen out of the dialogue  
 between the author and the student returning from Clonmacnoise  
 to Swords. This stanza, however, pretends to view the stu-  
 dent in the light of a person who has been plundered of either  
 captives or cattle, in search of which he is made to be on his  
 way to Swords. The poet says that the maddened bellowing  
 of the cows was heard upon *Slighed n-Dala*, which was the name  
 of the ancient road that led from the passage across the Shannon  
 (now called Shannon Bridge, near Clonmacnoise) to Tara. He  
 speaks of the youth under the name of *Domhnall Ua Duibdala*,  
 the friend of his heart, and descendant of *Con Corb* of the artists.

<sup>(449)</sup> [Book of Ballymote, fol. 160. a. b.]

He next styles him the son of *Maelcaba's* daughter, from the brink of *Inbher Crara* (an *Inbher*, or river, with the situation of which I am unacquainted). And next the poet ridicules the hostile equipment of the young man for so daring an undertaking as the pursuit and recovery of his property. The slender handle of his spear; the blade of that spear like a lancet in the weak hand of a surgeon; the handle and blade together, being of no more formidable a character than a blackthorn staff mounted with a single thorn!

It is a question whether any of these three specimens ever formed part of any lengthened piece; or whether, from their resemblance in lightness of character and sarcastic point, they were not fugitive stanzas written by way of "nonsense verses", as mere examples of rhyme and metre adapted to the rhythm of the known music of the day. Most of the prosodial illustrations of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries are fugitive quatrains of a witty but fantastic character; and it is not at all improbable but that this was a custom derived from more remote times. This stanza was certainly written by the man who wrote the preceding stanza, or half-stanza of eight lines; it was evidently written at the same time, and on the same subject, but merely, as it were, an example for adaptation to the full or double measure of the tune. The measure, accents, cadences, and rhyme, are precisely the same as in the half-stanza, and will sing to the full length of the air of *Seaghan O'Duibhir an Ghleanna*; or, in other words, agree with the measure of the lyrical stanza called in ancient times the *Ocht-foclach Mor Chorrnach*, or "great eight-line curving verse".

I have one example more to give of this species of verse, but it is not a mere prosodial specimen, but part of a very ancient and very long poem of which a fine full copy is still extant. This poem is preserved in the Book of Lecan, in the Royal Irish Academy, and consists of seventy-nine stanzas of sixteen lines each, making 1264 lines in all. The poem is a religious one, devoted to the praise and supplication of God, the happiness of the good; and the doom of the wicked at the day of judgment. The poem is entitled, *In Ochtfoclach ui hi-Eimhin*, that is, "the eight-line verse of *O'h-Eimhin*", and, as at present written out, consists of eight lines to the stanza. But, although this is its present arrangement, it is evident from various reasons, into which I need not enter in detail, that the stanza originally consisted of sixteen lines, or two stanzas of the present arrangement, and consequently, that the piece should be classed under the name of the *Ocht-foclach Mor Chorrnach*, or the "great eight-line return verse".

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measure, accents, cadences, and rhyme, are the same as in the second.

Another specimen of verse from a long poem in the B. of Lecan;

this kind called *Ochtfoclach hi-Eimhin*, or the "great eight line verse of *O'h-Eimhin*".



xxxviii. The *Ui* or *O'* prefixed to the name of the author of this poem does not necessarily imply his having lived after the permanent assumption of surnames;

description of this kind of poem;

The *Ui* or *O'* prefixed to the name of the author of this poem does not necessarily imply his having lived after the permanent assumption of surnames; the establishment of permanently fixed family surnames, at the beginning of the eleventh century; it merely means that he was the grandson or descendant of a person named *Emin*. The prefixes *Mac* and *O'* (that is, son and grandson) had been in use in Ireland long before their establishment as distinctive prefixes to distinct and permanently fixed family names, though, until about the year 1000, they were never transmissible to posterity; so that the son of this *O' h-Eimhin* would not have been bound by any law or custom to call himself "*O' h-Eimhin*", unless he should prefer, for his time, to be named after his great-grandfather "*Emin*", rather than from his immediate father or grandfather, whatever their Christian names may have been. Whoever this *O' h-Eimhin* may have been, I have no doubt that this poem was written not later than the year 900.

This poem, like the preceding full lyrical stanza, consists of sixteen lines, or four distinct quatrains to the stanza. The three first lines consist each of six syllables; the last word of each containing three syllables, and forming an assonance or vowel rhyme, each with the other two. The fourth line of each quatrain, however, contains but four syllables, ending with a monosyllable, and not in assonance with the preceding three lines, but each does with the others throughout the four quatrains. The rhymes or final assonances of the lines in this poem are not, in any instance, as in the preceding stanzas, marked by long or full-sounding vowels; still the accents are decided and natural. These conditions, however, could not be detected in the mere literal translations of the former, any more than in that of the present, which runs as follows:

In ochtfoclach hi Eimhin.

Dia moí uom imoiten,  
 Dia moí uom imveoail,  
 Dia moí uom foirceaoal,  
 Dia moí im fáil,  
 Dia moí uom chairdearao,  
 Dia moí uom imraoao,  
 Dia moí uom imignaao,  
 Dia moí uom romain.  
 In taéair moí muinterach,  
 Mo choimtoí cumaétoach,  
 Comrích mo chomairlí,  
 Cuir cachtbarraoach;  
 M' oítoí, ocuí m' anmchara,—



Mac muirín ingne,  
Riú in iugthús, iúg nime,  
Riú bíl ór maith.<sup>(450)</sup>

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*The eight-line verse of O'h-Eimhin.*

May the great God shelter me,  
May the great God protect me,  
May the great God instruct me,  
May the great God be in my company,  
May the great God bless me,  
May the great God contemplate me,  
May the great God be always with me,  
May the great God save me.  
The great merciful Father,  
My powerful God-head,  
The chief of my counsel,—  
Christ the helmet of battle;  
My teacher, and my soul's friend,—  
The Son of Mary the virgin,  
The King of the royal palace, King of Heaven,  
The kingly tree of all grace.

The trisyllabic termination of the leading lines of this remarkable poem would seem to indicate that the words were intended to be sung to an air different from those of the preceding stanzas; but whether this is or is not the reason, it is certain that it will not sing to music of the metre either of the air of the *Buachaill Cael Dubh*, or that of *Seaghan O'Duibhir an Ghleanna*, although it will sing quite smoothly to that of any one of three other well known airs, which differ as much from each other as they differ from the preceding airs. These three airs are: first, that which is so well known in connexion with the modern songs of Mary Lemoire, the Exile of Erin, and some others; second, the air now commonly known by the modern name of the *Rogaire Dubh*, or Black Rogue, sometimes called the Black Joke (but not the Black Joke, as published by Moore); third, a well known ancient air, popular in modern times only as a dance in Munster, and known to pipers under the name of the Humours of Glin. All these airs are, I believe very old, and the two last were not originally quick airs at all.

Now, I do not say—I cannot say, that any one of these specimen verses that I have given was actually written to any one

<sup>(450)</sup> [Book of Lecan, fol. 170. b. a.]

this poem written to a different air from the stanzas quoted;

will sing to any one of three well known airs.

Author does not say that these verses were written for the airs

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mentioned,  
but only that  
they sing  
naturally to  
them.

of the airs which I have for the moment assigned to them. I only say that they will sing smoothly and naturally to these airs; and as my only object is to show that lyric music and melody were well known and practised in Ireland in ancient times, I feel that, even after my own unscientific way, I have sufficiently established that fact.

That these  
stanzas were  
not written  
by the  
writer on  
Irish  
Prosody to  
support a  
theory is  
shown by  
poems in the  
*Táin Bó  
Chuailgne*;

But that the specimens which I have just given from our ancient Irish prosody were not, all at least, mere stanzas compiled by the author of that tract for the illustration of a theory, there still exist means of a most conclusive character to prove. Such evidence we may find, for example, in the tale so often referred to of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne* which in the form in which it is preserved in *Leabhar na-h-Uidhri*, and in the Book of Leinster, is assigned to a period in or about the year 600. In this tale the verses I am about to refer to occur where *Medb*, the queen of Connacht, endeavours to rouse against the invincible *Cuchulaind* the scarcely less redoubtable warrior, *Ferdiad*, a famous champion from the western borders of Connacht, to whom she offers not only the freedom of his lands for ever, but also the hand of her beautiful daughter in marriage, as well as many other important gifts, if he would sustain her cause against *Cuchulaind*, his former friend and fellow-student in the military schools of Ireland and Scotland. The conversation between the queen and her champion, and the terms of their compact, are then given in a poem of ten stanzas, consisting each of eight lines, except the last, of which but four lines remain.

e. g. the  
poem  
containing  
the dialogue  
between  
*Medb* and  
*Ferdiad*;

The queen begins the dialogue as follows:—

M.    Rat fia luac mói m-buinne,  
       rat éuit maige i' chaille,  
       na raibe do élainne  
       anriu co tí bráth,  
       a Fhírioiar mic Damáin,  
       eipssi suin i' gabáil.  
       atetha ar ceé anáil,  
       cío dait gan a gabáil  
       [a ní gabáir cáé?]

F. O.    Mí gebrá gan árác;  
       dais ním láec gan lámac.  
       buo tromm fóim i m-bárac,  
       buo fóiréin in ferom.  
       cú dán comainm Cularo;  
       i' amnar in n-urriano;—  
       ní fupura a fulang;  
       buo cairpéach in teiom.



- XXXVIII.
- M. [I will give a great reward in rings,  
 With thy share of plain and forest,  
 And the freedom of thy children,  
 From this day to the end of time,—  
 O *Ferdiad*, son of *Daman*,  
 O champion of wounds and conquests.  
 Thou hast come out of every strife,  
 Why dost thou not receive that which others  
 would accept?
- F. I will not accept it without guarantee;  
 For a champion without security I will not be.  
 Heavily will it press on me to-morrow,  
 Terrible will be the battle.  
 Hound indeed is the name of *Culand*;  
 He is fierce in combat,—  
 'Tis not easy to withstand him;  
 Fearless will be the fight.]

And in this manner the dialogue is carried on to the end, until queen *Medb* grants all that *Ferdiad* requires, and until he accepts the post of her champion.<sup>(451)</sup>

The reader will have perceived, that as at present arranged in the old book, each stanza of this ancient poem consists of eight lines or two quatrains. The first three lines of each quatrain consist each of six syllables, ending with a word of two syllables, and are in well-marked assonance; whilst the fourth line of each quatrain consists but of five syllables, ending with a word of one syllable, not in assonance with the final words of the leading lines, but fully agreeing with the other. Now, according to the rule derived from the prosodial tract in the Book of Ballymote, this stanza belongs to the species of the *Ochtfoclach Mór*, or great eight-line verse, and will at once, like the former stanza of the same measure, sing to the first part of the air of "John O'Dwyer of the Glenn"; and if the response of the second speaker be taken into the measure of the music, it will flow smoothly and naturally into a second part, making the full measure of the whole air; in fact, the whole would be a musical recitative, carried on within the rigid limits of a well-defined and clearly ascertained piece of old lyric music; and then the full stanza would come under the name and class of the *Ochtfoclach Mór Choranaich*, or great eight-line return or double verse.

There are five poems in this style preserved in the *Táin Bó*

<sup>(451)</sup> [See Appendix I., p. 413., where the whole of the episode of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, relating to the combat of *Ferdiad* and *Cuchulaind* is given as an example of that great tale.]



## XXXVIII.

there are  
five poems  
of the same  
kind in this  
tale.

*Chuailgne*. The first (that already described) is the dialogue between queen *Medb* and the champion *Ferdiad*. The second is a poem of three stanzas of eight lines each, spoken or sung between *Ferdiad* and his own charioteer, in which the latter urges his master not to undertake the combat with *Cuchulaind*. The third is between the same charioteer and his master, in which the latter is informed of the approach of *Cuchulaind* to the ford of battle. This consists also of three stanzas of eight lines each, and would, indeed, appear to be a continuation of the preceding three stanzas, with as much of prose between them as was sufficient to explain the continuation of the dialogue. The fourth is a dialogue of three stanzas, between *Ferdiad* and his charioteer, in which he speaks confidently of his own success in the approaching combat. The fifth is a dialogue of nine stanzas, of eight lines each, between the champions themselves, that is, *Cuchulaind* and *Ferdiad*. In this dialogue *Cuchulaind* upbraids his opponent for coming against him in a mercenary spirit, while he is standing alone in defence of his patrimony and his province, against powerful and countless enemies. He reminds him, too, of the happy time they had spent together at the military college of the lady *Scathach* in Scotland, and the lesson of mutual friendship and fidelity, and the gifts of arms which that lady gave them.

It is curious that, although the last four of these poems are composed of odd numbers of stanzas of eight lines each, and make in all eighteen such stanzas, yet that if we compound these eighteen stanzas, or perhaps we ought to say half stanzas, they will exactly make nine full stanzas of sixteen lines each, and thus fill up the full measure of the air which we have provisionally assigned to them.

the author  
does not  
want to  
establish a  
theory, but  
only to  
direct  
attention to  
the subject.

In speaking thus of these various poems in connection with particular music, it must be understood that I want to establish no theory. I wish merely to place these curious ancient remains in such positions as might perhaps enable more competent persons to investigate further the structure at least of those classes of our national melodies to which I have referred. The task is rather for Dr. Petrie than for me to undertake as it ought to be undertaken.

Antiquity of  
the present  
version of  
the *Táin Bó  
Chuailgne* :

As to the antiquity of the present version of the tale of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, in which those latter five poems are found, I have already, in a former lecture,<sup>(422)</sup> pressed all the authorities that I could find into the discussion of that important subject, so that I may now state, in a few words only, the drift of the

(422) See Lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History, Lect. II. p. 32.

evidences brought together upon that occasion. Saint *Ciaran*, xxxviii.  
 the founder of the church at Clonmacnoise in ancient Westmeath the copy in  
 and who died in the year 548, wrote this story with his own *Leabhar*  
 hand into a book which was called *Leabhar na h-Uidhri*, which *na h-Uidhri*;  
 book must of course have remained at Clonmacnoise for hundreds  
 of years afterwards. There is a fragment of a large vellum  
 book now in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, which  
 was written at the same Clonmacnoise by a famous scribe named  
*Maelmuire*, the son of *Ceilechar*, who was killed there in the  
 year 1106. This fragment of *Maelmuire's* book contains a large  
 fragment of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, though, unfortunately, not  
 the combat of *Cuchulaind* and *Ferdiad*, that part, with the  
 remainder of the story, being lost. This book of *Maelmuire* has  
 come down to us under the name of *Leabhar na h-Uidhri* also,  
 from which we may very fairly infer that it originally contained  
 a full transcript of St. *Ciaran's* original *Leabhar na h-Uidhri*,  
 or at least as much of it as remained or was legible at the time,  
 as well as other pieces collected or compiled from other ancient  
 books, several of which are named by the writer. St. *Ciaran*  
 died while in the prime of life, in 548; and if we suppose that  
 he wrote his book, say in the year 540, and that *Maelmuire*  
 copied it in the year 1100, that is six years before his death,  
 we would find that the age of the book would then be but 560  
 years, an age by no means remarkable for a book which must  
 have been preserved with religious care, and which, very prob-  
 ably, came down to the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

The same tale is also preserved in the Book of Leinster, the copy in  
 an almost contemporary manuscript, a large folio volume, of the Book of  
 which a large portion of about 400 pages remains still in, with Leinster.  
 few exceptions, beautiful preservation. This book was written  
 about the year 1150, by *Finn MacGorman*, who died as bishop  
 of Kildare in the year 1160, so that at this day it is at least  
 712 years old. This book, then, which is nearly as old as  
*Leabhar na h-Uidhri*, contains a beautiful copy of the *Táin Bó*  
*Chuailgne*; and it is from this copy that I have taken the last  
 five specimens of lyric verse to which I have called attention.  
 So that, in fact, we have now in *Leabhar na h-Uidhri*, by the  
 intervention of but a single hand, the *Táin Bó Chuailgne* (as  
 much of it as remains there) in the same state probably that it  
 came from the hand of St. *Ciaran* some time before the year 548.  
 But although the copy in the Book of Leinster is not so old, it  
 was not taken from *Maelmuire's*, but from some other ancient  
 copy of the tale, and with some different readings; and *Mael-*  
*muire* himself observes, in some places, that other books con-  
 tained readings of some passages different from his own.



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At least one specimen of the same kind of ancient verse in the *Dinnseanchas*: e. g. in the legend of *Ath Fadad*, or *Ahade*;

We have not, however, to depend entirely on the specimen stanzas from the prosodial tract in the Book of Ballymote, and the five poems in the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, for examples of ancient Irish lyric poetry, as it happens that there is to be found also in the very ancient topographical tract called the *Dinnseanchas*, at least one specimen of this kind of verse. The ancient legend in which this poem is found is preserved in the vellum MSS., the Books of Leinster, Ballymote, and *Lecan*. The place, of the name of which the story professes to give the etymology, is *Ath Fadad*, or the ford of *Fadad* (now *Ahade* on the river *Slaney*), about four miles below the town of *Tullow*, in the county of *Carlow*. The story is a short one, and the substance of it may be told in a few words. A battle was once fought among the men of *Leinster* themselves, that is, between *Etan Cend Derg* (of the *Red-Head*) with his household; and *Liath* of *Doire Leith* (at *Loch Lurcan*), with his children (namely, *Fadad* his son, and *Doe* and *Caichne*, his two daughters) for the right to the produce or fishing of the river *Barrow*; and *Liath* was killed in this battle. Some time after, *Fadad*, the son of *Liath*, with his two sisters, *Doe* and *Caichne*, mustered their friends, and another battle was fought at the same ford, in which *Fadad* was killed; and it was on that account that the ford obtained the name of *Ath Fadad*, or the ford of *Fadad*, a name which it retains to this day under the slightly anglicised form of *Ahade*. It would appear that before this last battle, *Etan* of the *Red-Head* endeavoured to deter *Fadad* from undertaking it; and the dialogue which passed between them on the occasion is preserved in a poem of five stanzas of eight lines each, which are precisely of the same measure and structure as those which have just been given from the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*, and like them, will sing to the same airs. *Etan* of the *Red-Head* begins the dialogue as follows:

Etan. Mo nuair ní forcaáir,  
 ní ba veoch do blathait;   
 ní beir for maáair  
 mac orin amach.  
 Fáad o'loch Lurcan  
 ábair fhuib in tuosaí  
 do fáeth do gaebulgach  
 fhu laigníb icath.

Faad. Ticra Doe ní veeneoch,  
 Co línó ir co míleoch  
 Co nairm n'áiríoch n'áiríoch  
 Do chuim choicimí c'ruair;



Τίτραι Καίχνη κοβραο  
 Κοναρη ναομαρι ναρραο;  
 Ρομαο ταρβαρι ναρραοιβ  
 Αρι βερεαρ βυαο. [B. of *Lecan*, f. 335, a. a.]

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*Etan.* [Alas, they are not of the living,  
 Nor will thy fame be better;  
 To a mother shall not be born  
 A son henceforth.  
*Fadad* from *Loch Lorcan*,  
 The author says to you,  
 Was killed with sharp-piercing lances  
 By the Leinstermen in battle.

*Fadad.* [*Doe* will come not late,  
 With numbers and with heroes  
 With weapons sharp and straight  
 To make a hard battle;  
*Caichne* the victorious will come  
 With fierce revengeful arms;  
 I say, over your mercenary forces  
 It is he who will take victory.]

We need not pause to examine the probability or improbability of this story, for the determination of the question is of no importance to our present inquiry. With regard to its antiquity, there are some circumstances preserved in another version of it, in the Books of Ballymote and *Lecan*, which would refer it to the latter part of the sixth century; say about the year 590. I may remind the reader that the original compilation of the exceedingly curious topographical tract, called the *Dinnseanchas*, is ascribed to *Amargin*, who was chief poet to *Diarmait*, the son of *Fergus Ceirbheoil*, monarch of Erin, in whose time Tara was cursed and deserted, and who died in the year 558. But, without insisting on the correctness of the dates ascribed to the different compositions in which these specimens of versification are found, we may, without any fear of doubt or reasonable contradiction, throw them back a distance, at least, of nine hundred years from our own times; and this, with the aid of the strong testimony borne in detail by the libeller of the Irish *Geraldus Cambrensis* in the twelfth century, is assuredly quite sufficient to show that our music, in its most enchanting form, is purely native, independent of any Saxon, Danish, or Norman aid.

the *Dinnseanchas* was written about 590 by *Amargin*, chief poet to *Diarmait*, son of *Fergus Ceirbheoil*;

these various compositions are at least 900 years old;

and prove that the most enchanting form of Irish music is indigenous.

I am fully and painfully conscious of my utter unfitness to

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Author  
conscious of  
his unfitness  
to deal with  
the subject  
of music  
technically;

he wishes  
merely to  
record what  
little he  
knows  
himself.

Complaint on  
the neglect  
of Irish  
music;

appeal to  
Irishmen in  
favour of it.

deal intelligibly, much less, efficiently, with a subject so delicate, and requiring more or less of a technical musical education, as that upon which I have endeavoured in this lecture to set down some of the ideas which have occurred to me. Indeed, nothing on earth could induce me to touch upon it at all, but the desire, before I am called out of this world, to put on record, for the benefit of my dear country and for the assistance of future investigators, even the little rude acquaintance I have been able to make with a subject which has been the delight of my life from its earliest dawn to the present day. Oh! why do not Irishmen cultivate, encourage, cherish, and hoard up in their innermost souls, the priceless treasure of never-failing consolation and delight afforded by their matchless music, if but worthily understood and performed? Why have we banished to contempt, to poverty, and to the pauper's grave, the ever good-humoured and often talented, though, in their neglected state, but too ill-instructed, wandering professors of this, the proudest remnant of our ancient inheritance? and why, may not I also ask, has not Dr. Petrie been supported in the effort lately made to bring out his great collection of ancient airs? How is it that there could not be found in all Ireland as many subscribers of a pound a year, for two or three years, as would bring out a yearly volume of this splendid collection?—Oh! while it is not yet too late, let me even here entreat the coöperation of my countrymen in securing its completion, before that peculiarly gifted man, who has spent the greater part of a long life in collecting it, is snatched away from us for ever. It is little you know him; but I know him well, and I do not hesitate to say, that when you have once lost him, you shall never again look upon his like. How unlike the English! How immeasurably unlike the Scotch! There is scarcely in all Scotland, from the thrifty and well-taught labourer and mechanic up to the lordliest duke, a man in whose house volumes of the noble music of his native country, as well as of every scrap of national poetry or song, both in Gaelic and English, that from time to time issues from the active press of his country, may not be found.

Having ventured so far to touch upon the subject of song and song-music, I have yet to say a few words, a very few words indeed, on dancing and dancing-music.

No clear  
allusion in  
very old  
Irish MSS. to  
dancing.

It is strange, and will, I am sure, appear to my readers almost incredible, that, as far as I have ever read, there is no reference that can be identified as containing a clear allusion to dancing in any of our really ancient MS. books. The present general, or generic, name for dancing, is *Rinneadh*, but sometimes it is called



*Damhsa.* The word *Rinneadh* is formed of *rinn*, an old name for a foot, and *ceadh*, a mere active termination like *ing* in English; so that from this plain analysis we might describe the word *Rinn-ceadh* to mean simply *Foot-ing*; and although we cannot find any ancient authority for its use, still we cannot but accept it as a correct native term, requiring little, if any, explanation to describe the action to which it has been given as the name. The term *Damhsa*, however, is not so easily analyzed or applied to that action; and I should, therefore, take it not to be an Irish term at all, but rather a Hibernicized form of the English word *dance*, for take, for example, this word *dance* in that form in which, among modern European languages, it most nearly approaches ours, the form *dansa*, and it will be seen that our term *damhsa* bears so direct a resemblance to it, that we can scarcely think of tracing it to any other source. The difference lies merely in that between *n* in the one and *m* in the other; a difference that can very easily be accounted for from the Irish preference to soft or aspirated and smooth consonants to those of a harder or harsher sound. The Gaedhils of Scotland have, in their older dictionaries, exactly our terms *Rinneadh* and *Damhsa*; but, singularly enough, Macleod and Dewar's Dictionary of the Gaelic Language (second edition, published at Glasgow in 1839), has the word *Damhsa*, but it refers us to *Dannsa* as the more correct form, though without giving any reason whatever for doing so.

The ordinary native name now known in Ireland for singing music is *Fonn*, and for dancing music, *Port*. The former is a very old word; but I have never met an instance of the latter in the older writings, though it occurs in medieval tales; but Father Michael O'Clery, in his Glossary, published in 1643, applies the term *Port* to lyric music in general in his explanation of the words *Adbond Trivech*. In some of the later middle-age tales, we sometimes meet with descriptions of social assemblies, in which it is said: "*Do sinneadh puirt agus cuir doibh*", that is, "*Ports and Cors were played for them*". Now, this word *Cor*, of which *Cuir* is the plural, is an old Irish word for music; and I may say that, wherever and whenever I met these two words *Ports* and *Cors*, I always understood them as signifying, if not dances, at least merry dancing tunes, such as we are now acquainted with. The *Cor*, however, has a precedent, if not its origin, in the Latin word *chœrea*, which is explained, "a dance where many dance together; a ball". If I were to indulge in a little etymological speculation, I would venture to say that the *Port* was, as it really now is, the same as our *Jig*; while the *Cor*, which in Irish means a twist, a turn about, or out of a direct line, would very well describe the character of

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The modern generic name for dancing is *Rinneadh*; it is sometimes called *Damhsa*; meaning of those terms.

*Fonn* and *Port*, the modern names for singing and dancing music; M. O'Clery applies the term *Port* to lyric music in general;

*Cor*, in the plural *Cuir*, an old Irish word for music—perhaps connected with *Chœrea*; author suggests that *Port* was anciently what it is now, a "jig", and *Cor* a "reel".



**xxxviii.** the dance now called a Reel. Where the term Reel for a dance came from is not easily known, since it is not recognized by Webster in any such sense. Here is what Webster says: "Reel, from the Swedish *Ragla*, to stagger, to incline or move in walking, first to one side, and then to the other". It is curious to find that this Swedish word *Ragla*, from which Webster derives the word Reel, to stagger, would, by the interpolation of the aspirate *h* after *g*, form, as far as sound is concerned, a regular Irish genitive case of reel. For, if the word were written *Raghla*, it should be pronounced *Reela*, while its nominative form should be *Raghail*, and should be pronounced reel. The older Scotch dictionaries have the word reel as merely a *Rinneadh*, or dance, without distinction from a Jig; but Macleod and Dewar make a Gaelic word for it, in accordance with the pronunciation, and print it *Righil*. My own present impression is, that the name may have come from Sweden or Norway into Scotland in modern times, and from that passed into Ireland.

"jig" borrowed from the French or Italian. *Rinneadh Fada* not an ancient term; applied to a "country dance".

The modern term Jig for a certain kind of dance, is certainly taken from the French word *gigue*, or the Italian *giga*.

The term *Rinneadh Fada*, or long dance, which is so often introduced by modern writers, is not to be found in any manuscript Irish writing that I have ever seen. It appears to be a modern descriptive name for what is called a country dance, which is itself but a corruption of the French words "Contre Danse", a name merely descriptive of the simple arrangement of the dancers in two lines opposite to one another.

Conclusion.

With these few words as to dancing I here conclude this division of my general subject. I have, of necessity, abridged it; for it would have been impossible to go in detail into anything like a series of disquisitions upon what we may suppose to have been the exact forms, ornaments, and styles of our ancient musical instruments; and it would have been impossible as yet to give in detail any intelligible account of the employment of those instruments among our ancestors on all the various occasions on which our unequalled national music was in old times called into requisition. I have collected only some of the reliable authorities on the different parts of the subject, but still, as in the case of the other subjects which I have treated, by way of example only. Neither have I attempted to deal with subjects of music and dancing in themselves; because this would not be the place (even if I were the qualified person) to deal with them as they ought to be dealt with. I do not trespass on Dr. Petrie's province, but endeavour only to prepare the way for what, I hope, all will demand of him to complete for us, as I

believe he only, of living men, can really explain what is yet xxxviii  
untaught on the music of Erinn. It has been my province only  
to allude to the subject as one of those connected with the great  
subject of this entire course.—The Social Customs and Manners  
of Life among the People of Ancient Erinn.

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**APPENDIX.**

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I.

THE FIGHT OF FERDIAD AND CUCHULAIND.

AN EPISODE FROM THE ANCIENT TALE OF

THE TÁIN BÓ CHUAILGNE,

OR

THE CATTLE PREY OF COOLEY.

*The original text from the vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, known as the Book of Leinster (Class H. 2. 18), with a literal Translation.*

The oldest copy of this tale known to exist is preserved in the vellum MS. known as the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, in the library of the Royal Irish Academy. This copy is, however, now imperfect at the end, and does not contain the "Fight of Ferdiad"—one of the finest episodes in the whole tale. It is to be regretted that the copy in this venerable manuscript is not complete, as it preserves the antique forms and the archaic purity of the language much better than any other existing one. There are, however, two ancient copies of the tale preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. The one in the vellum MS. H. 2. 16, which is, however, imperfect at the beginning, and differs somewhat from the older copies, to which it is inferior in form and in language. The second, which is the most complete copy known to us to exist, is contained in the vellum MS. Class H. 2. 18, better known as the Book of Leinster. This copy is perfect, and is nearly as old as that preserved in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*.

Although the grammatical endings are better preserved in the fragment in the *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, the copy in the Book of Leinster is very nearly of the same antiquity; and the language, though a good deal modified in the antique forms and grammatical endings, is still very archaic and difficult.

The text of the MS. has been scrupulously followed, the only changes made being the lengthening out of the contractions, for which the Editor is indebted to the copy of the whole *Táin* made by Professor O'Curry from the Book of Leinster, and collated by him with all the ancient copies known to him, and now in the library of the Catholic University; and also the division of some words, and the punctuation of the whole. As the object the Editor has had in view in publishing this episode is to give an example of true Gaelic poetry, as distinguished from the inferior modernized legends and the confused jumble of traditions of various periods which Macpherson and others have fused together, and fabricated into the so-called poems of Ossian, to the prejudice of all that remains of genuine Ossianic poetry, he does not think it necessary to give various readings from other MSS., or to illustrate this tract as he would have wished to do if he did not expect soon to see the whole of the Tale of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne* published, and fully illustrated as it ought to be.

The marginal references to the Irish text indicate the folio and page of the original in the MS. H. 2. 18.



## COMRAC FHIRDEAD INSO.

H. 2. 18. fol.  
57. a. a.

Iʒ anoirin na imriarad oc fesaiab h-Ehenn, cia bad cõiri vo comlonn ocas vo comrac la Coinculainn na h-uair na maicni muçi ar na bárach. Iʒ reo na mairetar uile, com-bad é Fesaiad, mac Damain, mic Dáire, in milio móri éal-ma ofesaiab Domnand. Dais ba cormail ocas ba comadar a comlon acas a comrac. Ac oen muinne da rinreтар ceim gnimrada gaille ocas garciv da na foglaim: ac reáth-aig, ocas ac Uatáig, ocas ac díre. Ocas ní baí immairear neich oib ac ariale, adt cleir in gae bulga ac Coinculainn. Cio eo ón ba conganéirrac Fesaiad ac comlonn ocas ac comrac na laeð ar ác na agiorve. Iʒ anoirin na ráitea ferra ocas teðtareva ar cenó Fhivriad. Ra eiarтар, ocas na eitcheтар, ocas na peppetar Fesaiad na teðta rin, ocas ni thánc leó, dais rařiri a ní ma rabadar vo,—vo comlonn ocas vo comrac ne éarait, ne doclé, ocas ne comalta, ne fepin-diad mac n-Damain mic Dáire, [ne Coinculainn], ocas ní thánc leó.

Iʒ anoirin ráitte Meob na vpiith ocas na glámma, ocas na ciuasreppa ar cenó Fhivriad, ar co n-veintáir teópa aepa forraigce dó, ocas teópa glamma vicenó, go tócbairt teópa bolga bar a agiv,—ail ocas anim, ocas achiř; mur buo maib a detóiri, bad maib ne civo nomarve munu thireo. Tanc Fesaiad leo var cenó a enig, dais ba h-urru leppium a túttim vo gair gaille, ocas garciv, ocas eng-nama, ná a túttim ve gairb díre, ocas eparig, ocas im-veigta. Ocas a va maét, na riavairve ocas na řuchá-leo é, ocas na valeo lino řo óla řo éain řo meřc řair, řori bo meřc meoariéain é. Ocas na zelta comada mópa vó, ar in comlonn, ocas ar in comrac vo venam .i. carpat cethri řeét cumal; ocas timthacht va řer veé vetgvo cača vača; ocas co méit a řerainn ve min Maige h-Di, řan éain, [řan chobach, ocas cen vnav cen řluairheo], cen ecenóail va mac, ocas va ua, ocas va iarmua, řo bhuinne m-bráča, ocas beřa; ocas řinvabairi vo én mnái, ocas in teó óri bae i m-brutt Meoba řair anuar. Iʒ amlair na baí Meob gá ráva, ocas na beřc na briačpa anv, ocas na pečair Fesaiad.

Rac na luac móri m-buinne,  
rac éuit maige ř charlle,

## THE FIGHT OF FERDIAD.

And then it was discussed by the men of Eiriu, who should go to combat and do battle with Cuchulaind at the early hour of the morning of the morrow. What they all said was, that it was Ferdiad, son of Daman, son of Dáre, the great and valiant warrior of the men of Donnand. For their mode of combat and fight was equal and alike. They had learned the science of arms, bravery and valour with the same tutors: with Scáthach, and with Uathach, and with Aife. And neither of them had an advantage over the other, except that Cuchulaind had the feat of the Gai Bulg. Nevertheless Ferdiad was clad in a skin-protecting armour to give combat and battle to a hero at the ford against him. Messages and messengers were then sent for Ferdiad. Ferdiad denied, and declined, and refused those messengers, and he came not with them, because he knew wherefore they wanted him—to fight and combat with his own friend, and companion, and fellow pupil, Cuchulaind, and he came not with them.

Ferdiad selected to fight Cuchulaind ;

He is invited by Medb ;

It is then Medb sent the druids, and the satirists, and the violent excitors for Ferdiad, that they might compose three repressing satires, and three hilltop satires for him, that they might raise three blisters on his face,—shame, blemish, and disgrace; so that if he died not immediately, he would be dead before the end of nine days, if he came not with them. Ferdiad came with them for sake of his honour, for he preferred to fall rather by the shafts of valour, gallantry, and bravery, than by those of satire, abuse, and reproach. And when he arrived he was received with honour, and attendance, and he was served with pleasant, sweet, intoxicating liquor, so that he became intoxicated and gently merry. And great rewards were promised him for making the combat and the fight, namely: a chariot [worth] four times seven cumals; and the outfit of twelve men of clothes of every colour; and the extent of his own territory of the level plain of Magh Aié, free of tribute, without purchase and without courts or legions, without peril to his son, and to his grandson, and to their descendants, to the end of time and life; and Findabar as his wedded wife, and the golden brooch which was in Medb's cloak in addition to all these. And thus was Medb saying, and she spake these words there, and Ferdiad answered.—

Medb sends druids and satirists ;

to save his honour he comes ;

he is welcomed and promised rewards ;

I will give a great reward in rings,  
With thy share of plain and forest,

Dialogue between Medb and Ferdiad ;

ol. 87. a. a.

- na raibe do élainne  
 anou co tí brath,  
 a fhíoríao mic Dámáin,  
 eirssi suin ír gabáil.  
 atcecha ar ceé anáil,  
 cio vaic gan a gabáil  
 (—a ní gabar cáé?—)
- f. o. Ní zebra gan áráé;  
 vaig nim láeé gan lámác.  
 buo tnomm fóim i m-báráé,  
 buo fóitrien in feiom.  
 cú dán comainm Culano;  
 ír amnar in n-uriano;  
 ní fúrua a fúlans;—  
 buo cairpdech in ceiom.
- m. Raíat laich nat láma,  
 noéa raéa ar vála:  
 rnéin ocar eic ána  
 va beicatar nit láim,  
 a fhíoríao in n-ága.  
 váig írat vuni vána,  
 vampa bat fer zráva  
 reé cách, gan naé cáin.
- f. o. Ní raéa gan ráta  
 vo éluéi na h-áta.  
 meiao collá m-brácha  
 zo m-brué ír co m-bríg.  
 noéa zeb zé erci,  
 ze na bech vom rérci,  
 gan znéin ocar érci  
 la muir ocar tír.
- m. Sachan: vuit a fúimeé;  
 naircru zorbac buioé  
 for veirr nuí ír nuimeé,  
 vo raéat nat láim.  
 fuil funo naéat tuilrea—  
 raíra cáé ní éungrea,  
 vaig na ferr co maibrea  
 in fer tic ic váil.
- f. o. Ní zéb gan ré curu,—  
 ní ba ní bar lugu,—  
 ful vo néor mo muou  
 i m-bail i m-biac fluaig.  
 va nam éorireo maroarc,  
 cinnret cun cup comnare,



Dialogue  
between  
Medb and  
Ferdiaid ;

And the freedom of thy children  
From this day till the end of time,  
O Ferdiad, son of Daman,  
O champion of wounds and conquests ;  
Thou hast come out of every strife :  
Why dost thou not receive  
(—that which others would accept ?—)

F. I will not accept it without guarantee ;  
For a champion without security I will not be.  
Heavily will it press upon me to-morrow,  
Terrible will be the battle.  
Hound indeed is the name of Culand ;  
He is fierce in combat ;  
'T is not easy to withstand him ;  
Fearless will be the fight.

M. I will give a champion's guarantee,  
That thou shalt not be required at assemblies :  
Bridles and noble steeds  
Shall into thy hands be given,  
O Ferdiad of valour.  
Because thou art a brave man,  
To me thou shalt be a bosom friend  
Above all others, free of all tribute.

F. I will not go without securities  
To the contest of the ford.  
It will live [in fame] unto the judgment day  
In full vigour and in force.  
I will not accept though I die,  
Though thou excitest me in language,  
Without the sun and moon  
Together with the sea and land.

M. Thou shalt have all : 't is to thyself to delay it ;  
Bind us until thou art satisfied  
Upon the right hand of kings and princes,  
Who will become thy security.  
Here is one who will not refuse thee—  
I will give thee whatever thou desirest,  
For I well know that thou will kill  
The man who comes against thee.

F. I will not accept without six securities,—  
It shall not be any less,—  
Before my destruction is wrought  
There where hosts will be.  
Even if my fame should be disparaged,  
I will advance though the strength be equal,



Till I make the battle  
With Cuchulaind the brave.

Dialogue  
between  
Medb and  
Ferdiaid.

M. Though it be Domnal in his chariot,  
Or Niaman of the slaughter,  
Though they are the patrons of the bards,  
Even these, though difficult, I will give;  
Bind it upon Morand;  
If thou wishest for certain fulfilment,  
Bind Carpri Min of Manand,  
And our two sons, bind.

F. O Medb, abounding in venom,  
Thou art not a sweet-tempered spouse to a consort;  
It is true thou art the Brachail  
Of Cruachan of the ramparts,  
With lofty speech and despotic power.  
Send me the beautiful speckled satin,  
Give me thy gold and thy silver,  
Since to me thou hast proffered them.

M. Art thou not the leading champion,  
To whom I give a hooked pin?  
From this day till Sunday,  
The respite shall not be longer.  
O thou famed and renowned hero,  
All the splendid jewels of the earth  
Shall to thee be also given;  
And all in fulness I will give.

Findabar of the champions,  
The princess of the west of Elgga,  
On the slaying of the hound, of the feats,  
O Ferdiaid, [to thee] I will give.

And then did Medb bind Ferdiaid to combat and fight with six champions on the morrow, or to make combat and fight with Cuchulaind, whichever he thought easier. Ferdiaid bound her, as he thought, on the sureties of the aforesaid six for the fulfilment of the promise of the rewards that was made to him should Cuchulaind fall by him.

Mutual  
binding of  
Medb and  
Ferdiaid.

Then his horses were harnessed for Fergus, and his chariot was yoked, and he went forward to where Cuchulaind was, to tell him of it. Cuchulaind bade him welcome. "I am happy at thy coming, O my good friend, Fergus", said Cuchulaind. "I gladly accept that welcome, my pupil", said Fergus. "But what I have come for is to tell thee who the person is that comes to combat and fight with thee at the hour of early morning to-morrow". "We will listen to thee then", said Cuchulaind. "Thine own friend and companion and

Fergus  
visits  
Cuchulaind,

and warns  
him of the  
approaching  
fight;



Fol. 57. a. b. ʊo  omalta;  -feri com lirr, ocar comgarco, ocar com-  
gnima, feroido mac  amain mic  ame, in milro m r  alma  
 feruib  omnaro. "Accear ar cobair", bar Cuculaino,  
"n  na[r]  a l  uthracamar ar cara  o  uroe t". "Ir aipe  
rein iarum", ale bar ferisur, "ar a n-aiuchlea ocar ara n-  
aipelma,  a z n  mar ca  conarnecar comluno ocar comrac  
ruic for tain b  Cualnge von  urra feroido mac  amain  
mic  ame". "Ac ura ruio am", bar Cuculaino, "ac forcuo  
ocar ac imfure  cethri n-oll oicoe nh- reno oluan taite  
samna co tate imbuilz, ocar ni ruocar trais te ro ne n-  
oenferi rir in ne rin, ocar ir  ois lim n  m  b rat remi-  
rium". Acar irramlao na ba  ferisur za r o za ba zluzao,  
ocar na beric na bria ra, ocar na necair Cuculaino.

  Chuculaino comal n-ge,

at iu ir mitiz  uit eirge;

ata ruio  ucut na feriz

feroido mac  amain  ne  veiriz.

Cc.   t ra ruio, ni re l renz,  
ac tren farcuo fer nh- reno;

ni ruocar for te eo trais

ar ara  omluno oenferi.

F. Amnar in fer va lae feriz  
ar lurr    laoib c o veiriz.  
cner congna im fheroido na n- ronz,  
rir ni zeib ca  na comlono.

Cc. b  torc—na ta air  o r el,  
  fherisur nan-arm n-imth n;

 ar ca  ferano,  ar ca  rono,

 amra, no on, ecomlono.

F. Amnar in fer, fichrib zal  
no on furur    roe ao;  
nerc c t na churr,—calma in moo,—  
nin zeib ruio, nin terc raebor.

Cc. Mao  ia comairrem bar  t,  
mirri ir feroido garco gn t,

n  ba  in rcarao zan r e :

buo ferizac ar raeban gle .

F. Rapao ferri lem ano   luaz,  
  Cuculaino  laoeb ruao,

combao t  na berao rair

corcuri fheroido  ummarais.

Cc.   tuirra b ethri co m-b iz,  
zon commairre oc immarib iz,  
ir mirri buaoizref ve

fellow pupil; thy co-feat, and co-deed, and co-valour-man, Ferdiad, son of Daman, son of Dáre, the great and valiant champion of the men of Domnand". "We give our word", said Cuchulaind, "it is not to fight ourselves we desire our friend to come". "It is now, therefore", said Fergus, "that thou requirest to be cautious and prepared, because, unlike any of those who have given thee combat and battle on the Táin Bó Chuailgne on this occasion is Ferdiad son of Daman, son of Dáre". "I am here", said Cuchulaind, "detaining and delaying the four great provinces of Eiriu since the first Monday of the beginning of Samhain [November] to the beginning of Imbulc [spring], and I have not yielded one foot in retreat before any one man during that time, and neither will I, I trust, yield before him". And so did Fergus continue to speak to put him on his guard, and he spake these words, and Cuchulaind answered.

- F. O Cuchulaind brave in battle,  
I see 't is time for thee to arise;  
Here comes to thee with anger  
Ferdiad, son of Daman of the ruddy face.
- C. I am here, it is no light task,  
Valiantly detaining the men of Eiriu;  
I have not yielded a foot in retreat  
To shun the combat of any man.
- F. Fearless is the man in his excited rage  
Because of his blood-red sword.  
A skin-protecting armour wears Ferdiad of the troops,  
Against it prevaieth not battle or combat.
- C. Be silent—urge not thy story,  
O Fergus of the arms brave;  
On any land, on any ground,  
I was not his inferior in battle.
- F. Fierce is the man, in battles brave,  
'T is not easy to vanquish him;  
The strength of a hundred is in his body—gallant  
his bearing—  
Spears pierce him not, swords cut him not.
- C. Should we happen to meet at a ford,  
I and Ferdiad of never-failing valour,  
It shall not be a separation without history:  
Fierce will be our sharp conflict.
- F. I should prefer to a high reward,  
O Cuchulaind of the blood-stained sword,  
That it were thee that carried eastward  
The purple of the haughty Ferdiad.
- C. I pledge my word and my vow,  
Though we may be much alike in the combat,  
That it is I who shall gain the victory

Dialogue  
between  
Fergus and  
Cuchulaind.

Fol. 57. a. b.

- bañ mac n-Damáin mic Dáire.
- F. *Ir me tariglaim na rluagu faoi—  
luag mo fáraige ó 'Ultaib.  
lim éancatari a tíub,—  
a cupair a caé mlro.*
- Cc. *Munbuo Conchobair na cérr  
parao éruair in comaoceff;  
ní thánc Meob maige in Scáil  
tuirur baó mo congáir.*
- F. *Ra faoi gnim ir mó bañ do Láim—  
gleó na Feoríao mac n-Damáin;  
airm éruair catao carroa baino  
bíó acur, a Chuculaino. A.*

Tánc Feisgur neme doócum an-óunair ocas longfuiric. Luro Feoríao doócum a rúpia ocas a muntiri, ocas na éuair doób maé n-áraig do thairraéctain do Meob faoi iméomlonó ocas iméomriac na reirriur cupao ar na báraé, na iméomlonó ocas iméomriac na Coméulaino a oenuri viambao arpu leirr. Da éuair doób no máé n-áraig do éar-raéctain doorum foir Meob im éuir in t-feirri cupao éetna im na comaois na gellaó doó do chomallaó iurr maó da taetrao Cuculaino leirr.

Niurair rúbaig ramaig robbionad [luét purple Fhíoríao in aghair rin]; áé rairat rúbaig robbionais doemenmaig; doig na reatari airim conoirraicir na dá éuair acas na dá éliath beirair éét, co taetrao céctari oib anó, nó co taetraicir a n-óir; ocas dam neéctari oib; doig leorom gombao é a tigeina féin; vaig ní ba réro comlonó no comriac na Comculaino foir táim bó Cualnge.

Ra choatail Feoríao toirraé na h-aroóí corio ériomm, ocas a éánc veiréo na h-aroóh, na éuair a coéluo uao, ocas na luro a merci ve, ocas da baí ceiré in éomlano, ocas in chomriac faoi. Ocas na gab láim ar a ariair ar a n-gabao a eoó ocas ar a n-ivleo a cárrac. Ra gab in t-aria ga im-thairmeirc imme. Ra paó feiri duib [anao ma oúl anriin], airé in gilla, [uair ní mó molar duibe na vimolar\*].

Bí toiré oim, a gilla, ar Feoríao, [uair in gabam toirmeirc oclac imo in riubal ro], ocas ir amlairo na boi ga máó, ocas na beir na briaéna anó, ocas na rreacair in gilla.

- F. *Tiaigaim irriú dáil rea  
do éoríam imo fírréa,  
goirrem in n-áira—  
áth foir n-geina mbaoó—*



Of the son of Daman, son of Dáre.

- F. It is I that gathered the forces eastward—  
 In revenge of my dishonour by the Ultonians.  
 With me they have come from their lands,—  
 Their champions and their battle warriors.
- C. If Conchobar had not been in his debility  
 Hard would have been the strife;  
 Medb of Magh an Scail had not made  
 An expedition of louder shoutings.
- F. A greater deed awaiteth thy hand—  
 To battle with Ferdiad son of Daman;  
 Hardened bloody weapons with obdurate points  
 Do thou have with thee, O Cuchulaind!

Fergus came back to the court and encampment. Ferdiad went to his tent and to his people, and told them that he was firmly bound by Medb to give combat and fight to six champions on the morrow, or to combat and fight with Cuchulaind alone if he thought it easier. He told how he had firmly bound Medb with the security of the same six champions for the fulfilment of the promise of rewards, should Cuchulaind fall by him.

Ferdiad tells his people of his bond to Medb;

The inmates of Ferdiad's tent were not cheerful, happy, or in melancholy pleasure on that night; but they were cheerless, sorrowful, and dispirited; because they knew that wherever the two champions and the two hundred-slaying heroes met, that either of them should fall there, or that both of them would fall; and if it should be one of them, they were certain it would be their own master; because it was not possible to make combat or fight with Cuchulaind on the Táin Bó Chuailgne.

their anxiety on his account.

Ferdiad slept the beginning of the night very heavily, and when the latter part of the night came, his sleep departed from him, and his intoxication had vanished, and the anxiety of the fight and the battle pressed upon him. And he commanded his charioteer to harness his horses and yoke his chariot. The charioteer began to dissuade him from it. It would be better for thee [to stay than to go there], said the servant, for to thee my approval of it is not more than my disapproval.\*

Ferdiad awakes and orders his chariot to be yoked;

his charioteer dissuades him from the combat;

Be silent now, my servant, said Ferdiad [for we will not be persuaded by any youth from this journey], and so was he saying, and he spake these words then, and the servant answered him.—

- F. Let us go to this challenge  
 To vanquish this man,  
 Till we reach this ford—  
 A ford over which the raven will croak—

Dialogue between Ferdiad and his charioteer;

\* An idiomatic mode of saying he disapproved of it. The phrase is still current.

Fol. 87. a. b

ι comοαίλ Conculaino,  
 οα guin tpe chreit cumainz  
 ζοηηuca tpiε upraino,  
 coηop oe buf maib.

δ. Ra παο ξεηη ούιθ αναο.  
 ní ba min φαη mbazar;  
 biao neé oiamba ζαλαη;  
 βαη ρcaπαο buo ηnéio,  
 techc ι n-οáιλ áιc υλαο;  
 ιη οal οia m-bia puθαη;  
 ιη φατα βαη éuman;  
 μαηηz ηαζαη ιη ηéim.

ρ. Νι coηη ana ηάοι,  
 ní h-opaηη maο náηe;  
 ní olezαη οim ále;  
 ní anφαη φαο οáιz.  
 bí coηc, οim, á ζιλλai;  
 bío calma áη ηίηc ηιηηι;  
 ξεηη cειηηη na cιηηηι;  
 [ciaζam ιη ιη οáιλ.]\* τ.

Ra ζabaic á eich φηοιαο ocaη ηa ιηoleo á éαηπαc, ocaη táηic ηeme co áτ ιη chomηaic, ocaη tháηic lá cona lán-foiηηι οó áηo ιηηι.

"Μαιε, á ζιλλai", βαη ξεηοιαο. "Scαη oam φοηccha ocaη φοηzemen mo chaηπαic φóm áηoηo, co ηo éobuηι mo thηom-chaηηcηim ηuaηι ocaη choctulca áηoηo, οáιz ηι ηa choctαη oειηeo na h-αoχcηι ηa ceηc ιη chomλaino ocaη ιη chomηaic".

Ra ρcoηη ιη ζιλλai na eic Ra οηcουη ιη caηπαc φοe, τοιηηι á éηoméαηηcηim coctulca φαηι. ●

Imchupa Conculaino ηυνθα ιηηoηηα. Νι eημαéτ ηηoe ιηηι co táηic láa cona lán foiηηe oo, οáιz na h-αηηαιηηηηηη ηηι h-éηeno, ιη ecla ηo ιη uamun oo beηiao φαηι, μαoθα η-eηηzeo. Ocaη ó táηic láa cona lán foiηηι, ηa ζab láim áηι (a) áηiao áηι á η-ζabaο á eoéo, ocaη áηι á η-ιηoleo á éαηπαc. "Μαιη á ζιλλai", βαη Cuculaino, "ζεib áηι η-eich ούηι, ocaη ιηηιλλ áηι caηπαc, οáιz ιη mocheηzεé ιη laech ηa οáιλ ηαηι η-οáιλ, ξεηοιαο mac 'Oamain mic 'Oáηe".

Ιη ζabéa na eic, ιη ιηηιλει ιη caηπαc, cιηoηηu áηo, ocaη ní táηι ooε ζαηcιuo. Ιη áηo ηηι cιηηηη ιη cuηι cetaé, clep-φαηηac, cαηη buααé, claioeb oειηz Cuculaino mac Sual-taηι ιηα chaηπαc. Ζυηa ζαηηηetaηι ιηηe boccáηaiz, ocaη bananaiz, ocaη ζeηιcι ζιηηoι, ocaη oemna aeóηι 'Oáιz οa beηιcηη Tuata Dé 'Danann á η-ζαηηuo ιηηηηηuηι, combao móti á ζηáηι, ocaη á ecla, ocaη á uηuaο, ocaη á uηuaηaηι

To battle with Cuchulaind,  
To wound him through his strong body  
To crush his valour through him,  
So that of it he shall die.

Dialogue  
between  
Ferdiaid and  
his chariot-  
eer.

S. It were better for thee to stay.  
Thy threats are not gentle ;  
One there will be to whom it will be disease ;  
Thy parting will be distressful,  
To encounter the chief [hero] of Ulster ;  
It is a meeting of which grief will come ;  
Long will it be remembered ;  
Who is he who goeth that journey.

F. What thou sayest is not right,  
A brave champion should not refuse ;  
It is not our inheritance ;  
I therefore will not longer stay.  
Be silent, then, my servant ;  
We will be brave in the field of battle ;  
Valour is better than timidity ;  
[Let us go to the challenge\*].

Ferdiaid's horses were harnessed and his chariot yoked, and he came forward to the ford of the battle, and the day with its full lights had now come upon him there. he goes to the ford :

"Good, my servant", said Ferdiaid, "spread for me the cushions and skins of my chariot under me here, until I take my deep rest of repose and sleep here, because I slept not the end of the night through the anxiety of the combat and the battle". and sleeps in his chariot.

The servant unharnessed the horses. He arranged [the cushions and skins of] the chariot under him, and his heavy repose of sleep came upon him.

The history of Cuchulaind here now I will tell. He arose not at all until the day with all its light had come, in order that the men of Eiriu should not say that it was fear or dread that induced him, if he had arisen. And when day with all its lights came, he commanded his charioteer to harness his horses and yoke his chariot. Why Cuchulaind did not arise early that day :  
"Good, my servant", said Cuchulaind, "harness our horses for us, and yoke our chariot, for he is an early rising champion who cometh to meet us to-day, Ferdiaid, son of Daman, son of Dáire". he orders his chariot :

The horses are harnessed, the chariot is yoked, step thou into it, and it will not disparage thy valour. And then the battle-fighting, dexterous, battle-winning, red-sworded hero, Cuchulaind, son of Sualtam, sprang into his chariot. And there shouted around him Bocanachs, and Bananachs, and Geniti Glindi, and demons of the air. For the Tuatha Dé Danann were used to set up their Bocannachs and other beings shout around him.

\* H. 2. 16. 614.



in caé caeth, ocaŕ in caé caethroí, incaé comluno, ocaŕ in  
caé comruc i teigeo.

Fol. 58. a. a. Níŕ bo éian o'arao Fhíroiao co cuala in ní in fŕaim, ocaŕ  
in foérom, ocaŕ in fŕoenen, in toim, in toimann, ocaŕ in fŕe-  
tan, ocaŕ in fŕeibí, .i. fŕeolŕuŕ na fŕeac clíŕŕ, ocaŕ fŕic-  
nech na fŕeŕ, ocaŕ ŕlonobéimneé na claoeb, ocaŕ bŕeifim-  
nech in chathbairŕ, ocaŕ o'ronŕar na luŕuŕ, ocaŕ imchommlt  
na n-aim, uechŕaioeé na cler, teteimneé na tét, ocaŕ  
nualŕuŕich na ŕot, ocaŕ culŕaŕne in éarpat, ocaŕ barr-  
chairne na n-ech, ocaŕ tŕommcóblach in éumao ocaŕ in chath-  
mleo ŕoóum in náta oá fŕaigŕo. Tánic in ŕilla ocaŕ  
foŕŕomairŕ a láim foŕi a éigerna. "Maŕé a Fhíroiao", barŕ in  
ŕilla, "comeŕuŕ, ocaŕ acácar ŕuno éucut ŕoóum in n-acha".  
Ocaŕ ŕa beŕt in ŕilla na bŕiaéŕa ano.—

Acchlunim cul carpat  
ŕa cuing n-alaino n-arŕaŕ  
iŕ ŕuath ŕiŕ co foŕbairŕ.  
ar ŕhoic carpat éŕuao;  
oar bŕeŕ Roŕ, oar bŕaine  
fochenŕar in fŕige  
ŕeé bun báiŕe in báiŕe—  
iŕ buaoac a m-buao

Iŕ cú aŕuŕoéé aigŕeŕ,  
iŕ carŕeé ŕlan ŕeiber,  
iŕ ŕeboc ŕaŕi ŕlaroŕŕ  
a eocho fávŕŕ.  
iŕ cŕíoacra in cua  
iŕ ŕemin ŕonŕua.  
ŕa ŕŕŕ ní ba tua  
ŕo beŕi oún in tŕeŕŕ.

Maŕuŕ bŕar iŕin tulaig  
ar cino in éon cubao.  
barŕ ŕaŕuŕeŕŕa anuŕaio  
tŕeŕao ŕipeo éuin—  
cú na h-Emna Maéa,  
cu co n-ŕeib caé ŕaéa,  
cu éŕici, cú caéa,  
ŕo élunim, ŕar éluin Δτ.

"Maŕch, a ŕilla", barŕ Fŕoiao, "ŕa ŕac maŕa moŕar in  
ŕeŕ ŕain ó thánac ó tŕiŕ? ocaŕ iŕ ŕuail nac ŕaéa conair ŕait  
a ŕio méŕ ŕoŕ moŕar; ocaŕ barŕ aŕuŕeŕt aŕill ocaŕ Meob  
ŕamŕa ŕo caéŕat in ŕeŕi ŕain lemm. Ocaŕ ŕaig iŕ ŕar  
ceno luŕŕe loéŕŕŕarŕ lempŕa colluat é. Ocaŕ iŕ mŕichŕ

shouts around him, so that the hatred, and the fear, and the abhorrence, and the great terror of him should be the greater in every battle, in every battle-field, in every combat, and in every fight into which he went.

And it was not long till Ferdiad's charioteer heard the noise [approaching, i. e.] the clamour, and the rattle, and the whistling, and the tramp, and the thunder, the clatter, and the buzz, namely, the shield-noise of the missive shields, and the hissing of the spears, and the loud clangour of the swords, and the tinkling of the helmet, and the ringing of the armour, and the friction of the arms; the dangling of the missive weapons, the straining of the ropes, and the loud clattering of the wheels, and the creaking of the chariot, and the tramping of the horses, and the triumphant advance of the champion and the warrior towards the ford approaching him. The servant came and placed his hand on his lord. "Good, O Ferdiad!" said the servant, "arise, here they come to thee to the ford". And the servant spake these words there.—

Ferdiad's charioteer hears the chariot approaching;

and awakes his lord;

I hear the creaking of a chariot  
 With a beautiful silver yoke  
 And the form of a full grown man in it.  
 It is the roll of a warlike chariot;  
 Over Breg Ross, over Braine  
 They come over the highway  
 By the foot of Báile-in-Bile—  
 It is gifted with victories,

describes the chariot and its occupant;

He is a heroic hound who urges it,  
 He is a trusty charioteer who yokes it,  
 He is a noble hawk who speeds  
 His horses towards the south.  
 He is a martial hero,  
 He is [the presage of] bloody slaughter.  
 Surely 't is not with indexterity  
 He will give us the battle.

Woe to him who is on the hillock  
 Awaiting the hound of valour.  
 I foretold last year  
 That there would come a heroic hound—  
 The hound of Emain Macha,  
 A hound with complexion of all colours,  
 The hound of a territory, the hound of battle,  
 I hear, I have heard.

and foretels evil to his master;

"Good, my servant", said Ferdiad, "wherefore is it that thou hast been lauding that man ever since he came from his home? and it is likely that thou art not without wages for thy great praise of him; and Ailill and Medb have foretold that that man will fall by me. And certain it is that for sake of reward he shall be

Ferdiad upbraids him for praising Cuchulaind;

Fol. 58. a. a in chobair". Ocar na beire na briaetra ano, ocar na recair in  
 zilla.—

f. Ir micéig in chabair;  
 bí corc óin, na m-blaodais,  
 nair bu gním arcosail.  
 vairs ní bráth vair bvuach  
 mac éi éurao Cualnge  
 co n-aoabhair ualle?  
 vairs ir vair cenú luage  
 locheithair colluach.

z. Máe chim cupair Cualnge  
 co n-aoabhair ualle,  
 níh teiceo téit uanne,  
 aét ir cucaino tic,  
 rechio, ir ní no mall;  
 zio no zaeé ní no zano,  
 mar úurci ó'forall,  
 na marchoiraino tpucc.

f. Suair naé fotha [con air]  
 a no mée nar molairr;  
 za fáth ma na chozair  
 ó éanac ó tiz?  
 ir innorra thócbair,  
 atát aca fuacairr;  
 ní thecat va fuacairr,  
 aét achiqmich. m.

Níh bó éian v'airao fíroiao via m-boí ano co facca ní,  
 in cairpat cáin cúicimno cethir mno, zollúé, zolluar zo  
 lán zliccup, zo pupaill uanise, zo cheit chraertana,  
 éraertim, éleirair, éolzjata, éurata; ar va n-écaib  
 luatha léimnecha, ó mairi, bulio, beozair, bolzjóin, ué  
 leéna, beóéimoi, blenáira, barrlethna, corrcáela, forc-  
 trena, formánca fua. Ec liath lepletan, luzléimneé,  
 lebormonzach, rán vaia éuing von chárpat. Ec vob  
 vualac, vubhairr, vromleatan fan éuing anaill.

Va ramalta na rebacc va élairr illó cruaszáiti; ná na  
 ríoi perzáiti eirraiz illó máira, vair maní macairi; ná na tet  
 az n-allao ar na éetgluaracé vo éonair vo éétrói, vó ec  
 Conculaino immon cairpat, marbao ar licc áin tenctoi; con  
 crothrat ocar con beiretat in talmain, na tricci na túrma.

Acar va maéet Cuculaino vócum in n-áca. Tarrairair  
 fíroiao vair fan leit verceptacé mo áca. Verrro Cucu-  
 laino báir rán leit tuarceptac.

Fíuir fíroiao fairte fíú Conculaino. "Mo éen vo éiccu



quickly slain by me. And it is time for the relief". And he spake these words there, and the servant answered:

F. It is time for the relief;  
 Be silent then, don't extol,  
 That it be not a deferred deed of prophecy.  
 Surely 't is not a betrayal on the brink [of battle]  
 If thou seest the champion of Cuailgne  
 With his ostentatiousness of fame?  
 Surely, for the sake of reward,  
 He shall soon be slain.

Dialogue  
 between  
 Ferdiad  
 and his  
 charioteer.

S. If I see the champion of Cuailgne  
 With his ostentatiousness of fame,  
 It is not in retreat he goeth from us,  
 But it is towards us he cometh,  
 He runneth, and 't is not very slowly;  
 Though fleet as wind, not with difficulty,  
 But like water from a high cliff,  
 Or like the rapid thunder.

F. It seems thou art not without rewards  
 For thy great praises of him;  
 Why else hast thou chosen to do so  
 Since he has come from his home?  
 And now, when he appeareth,  
 Thou art proclaiming him;  
 Thou comest not to attack him,  
 But for glorifying him.

Ferdiad's charioteer was not long there until he saw something, the beautiful, flesh-seeking, four-peaked chariot, with speed, with velocity, with full cunning, with a green pavilion, with a thin-bodied, dry-bodied, high-weaponed, long-speared, warlike Creit [body of the chariot]; upon two fleet-bounding, large eared, fierce, prancing, whale-bellied, broad-chested, lively-hearted, high-flanked, wide-hoofed, slender-legged, broad-rumped, resolute horses under it. A gray, broad-hipped, fleet, bounding, long maned steed under the one yoke of the chariot. A black tufty-maned, ready-going, broad backed steed under the other yoke.

Description  
 of Cuchulaind's  
 chariot and  
 horses;

Like unto a hawk [swooping] from a cliff on a day of hard wind; or like a sweeping gust of the spring wind on a March day, over a smooth plain; or like the fleetness of a wild stag on his being first started by the hounds in his first field, were Cuchulaind's two horses with the chariot, as though they were on fiery flags; so that the earth shook and trembled with the velocity of their motion.

and of the  
 fleetness of  
 their  
 advance.

And Cuchulaind reached the ford. Ferdiad came on the south side of the ford. Cuchulaind drew up on the north side.

Ferdiad bade welcome to Cuchulaind. "I am happy at thy

Fol. 58. a. a. Δ Cuculaino", βαρ φερσοιασ. "Ταριγγι λιμ νι ινο φαλτι μασ  
 cor τράχτρα", βαρ Cuculaino; "ocaf ινοιυ νι σέναιμ ταριγγι  
 ve έενο. Δcaφ Δ φηιοσιασ", βαρ Cuculaino, "μα πο έοριύ  
 σαμπα φάλτι ο φερτχαιη φηιτρυ, να σαιτρυ Δ φερτχαιη ηυμ-  
 φα. σαις ιφ τύ σαρμαέτ ιη cηich ocaφ ιη coiceo ι τύρα, ocaφ  
 νι μα χόιη σαιτρυ τιέταιη σο έομλυνο ocaφ σο έομπαc  
 ηυμπα, ocaφ μα πα έοριυσαμπα σολ σο έομλυνο ocaφ σο  
 έομπαc ηυτρυ. Όαις ιφ ηομυτρυ ατάc μο ηηάρα ocaφ μο  
 μεic, ocaφ μο maccaémi, m'eic ocaφ m'έcηασα, m'albi ocaφ  
 m'έιτι ocaφ m'ινοιι". "Μαιέ Δ Cuculaino", βαρ φερσοιασ,  
 "cio ηοc τυτρυ σο έομλυνο ocaφ σο έομπαc ηυμπα ιτιη?  
 Όαις σά m-bammaη ac Scácais ocaφ ac Uacais ocaφ ac  
 Δίφι, ιφ τυτρυ βα φοηδρεη ηυthalma σαμπα .ι. μα αρμασ μο  
 f'lega ocaφ μα σειηγεσ μο λεπατο.

"Ιφ φη άμ", Δλε βαρ Cuculaino, "αρ οice, ocaφ αρ οίτιοεί  
 σο ηηηεα σαιτρυ, ocaφ νι ηι φηη τασαρcaail θα τύρα ιηοιυ  
 ιτιη: αέτ νι φιλ βαρ φηη biηh λαέχ ηαέ σηηγεβρα ιηοιυ".  
 Ocaφ ιφ αποφηη φεφαη ceéταρμαι σιδ acηcoφφηη η-acζέη  
 η-accharaηαρμαι ηα ηαιλε; ocaφ ηαβεηc φερσοιασ ηα βηιαέηα  
 αησ, ocaφ ηα ηεcαιη Cuculaino.

F. Cio ηα τυc, Δ έυα,  
 σο έηοιc ηα ηιαó ηυα?  
 δυσ cηοσeης σα χηηυα  
 αρ αναλαib έ-έc;  
 μαηης σο τηυηυ;  
 δυσ acóσ ηα η-αιηeφ,  
 ηυcφα Δ λεφφ σο λεγεφφ,  
 μασ σα ηηφ σο τεέ.

Cc. Όσ vecharo ηέ νόχαib,  
 ιηη τοηc ηηέcηη ηηέταις,  
 ηe cacaib, ηe cétaib:—  
 σοc έυηηυ φηη λιησ,  
 σ'φειης ηυc, ιφ σοc ηιομασ,  
 βαρ cομπαc céτ cοηηη,  
 cοηησ σαιc βαφ φοζαl  
 σο έοφηοη σο χηηησ.

F. Fail ηυησ ηeé ηαc ηέλα,  
 ιφ ηηηηη ηαc ηεηα.  
 σάις ιφ σίηη φαcηηη (.ι. τιο)  
 cοηυγυσ Δ cυηηασ  
 ι φασαηηη Uλασ,  
 ζοηοη cίηη βαφ έυαηη  
 ζοηοη σόib буφ σίηη.

[A line wanting—the stanza is not in H. 2. 16. or H. 1. 13.]

coming, O Cuchulaind", said Ferdiad. "The welcome would have been acceptable to me until this time", said Cuchulaind; "but this day I deem it not acceptable as friendship indeed. And Ferdiad", said Cuchulaind, "it were fitter that I bade thee welcome than that thou shouldst welcome me, because it is thou that hast come to me into the country and province in which I am, and it was not proper for thee to come to combat and fight with me, but it were more fit that I went to combat and fight with thee. Because it is out before thee my women and my children, and my youths, my horses and my steeds, my flocks, and my herds and my cattle are". "Good, O Cuchulaind", said Ferdiad, "what has brought thee to combat and to fight with me at all? Because when we were with Scáthach and with Uathach and with Aífe, thou wert my attendant man, namely to tie up my spears and to prepare my bed".

Ferdiad  
welcomes  
Cuchulaind;

Cuchulaind  
upbraids  
him for  
coming to  
fight him;

and Ferdiad  
retorts;

"It is true, indeed", said Cuchulaind, "but it was then as younger and junior to thee, I used to do so for thee; and this, however, is not the story that will be told hereafter of this day. For there is not in the world a champion that I would not fight this day". And it was then each of them uttered sharp, unfriendly invectives against the other; and Ferdiad spake these words there, and Cuchulaind answered.—

F. What has brought thee, O hound,  
To combat with a strong champion?  
Crimson-red shall flow thy blood  
Over the trappings of thy steeds;  
Wo is thy journey;  
Long shall it be told,  
Thou shalt need to be healed,  
Shouldst thou [alive] reach thy house.

Dialogue  
between  
Ferdia and  
Cuchulaind  
in which  
they upbraid  
each other.

C. I went to combat with warriors,  
With lordly chiefs of hosts,  
With battalions, with hundreds:—  
To put thee under the water,  
To do battle with thee, and to slay thee,  
In our first path of battle,  
So that 't is thou shalt suffer  
In protecting thy head.

F. Here is one who will reproach thee,  
'T is I that will do it.  
Truly it is by me shall be accomplished  
The overthrow of their champion  
In presence of the Ultonians,  
So that it shall long be remembered  
That the loss was theirs.

[Line wanting.]



Fol. 58. a. a.

- Cc. Car cinnar conorícam?  
 in ar collaib cneitrem?  
 ʒio leino nairrícam  
 do éomrac ar áé  
 in ar claidib cnuadaib,  
 ná 'narí nennaib ruadaib,  
 do t-ʒlaidí níc ʒluadaib,  
 má thánic a érach?
- F. Re funiud, ne n-aidí,  
 maot eicen aíríte,  
 comrac daic ne bairche, (.i. ʒliab).  
 ní ba bán in ʒléo;  
 ʒlaid acot ʒairíru  
 na n-ʒabartar aillíru.  
 buo olc doib in caidíru  
 maéthar thairíru ír tneó.
- Cc. Dac mala i m-beirín m-baeʒail,  
 tánic cenó do ʒaeʒail;  
 imberéarí ʒort ʒáebairí  
 ní ba ʒóill in ʒáth;  
 buo móʒlonnaé bair.  
 conoríca caé daír  
 ní ba toereé tuar tú  
 anoiú ʒo tí b'ráé.
- F. Beirí ar nín do noíud,  
 ír tú ír b'iarí ʒorí doíon,  
 níc ʒia luad na loʒuo,  
 noat doíí óí ʒuirí,  
 ír moíí maé ʒicíí.  
 a éíúe moí eoin i t'ic;  
 ac ʒilla co n-ʒicíí,  
 ʒan ʒarceó, ʒan ʒur.
- Cc. Da m-bammar ac Scatais,  
 allop ʒarceó ʒnaéais,  
 ír a'ioén imíeromír;  
 imchéígmír caé ʒicé.  
 tu mo éocne c'íúe;  
 tu m'áicme tu m'ííne.  
 ní ʒuarí maé baó oile.  
 ba ʒuirían do oíth.
- F. Ro móíí ʒacbaí éineé,  
 conna ʒerínam ʒeibeé;  
 ʒiul ʒairímer in cailech  
 baíú do éeno ar bíí,  
 a Cuculainó Cualnge.

Fol. 58. a. b.

- C. How then shall we encounter?  
 Is it on our chariots we shall fight?  
 In what order shall we go to battle,  
 To fight upon the ford?  
 Is it with hard swords,  
 Or is it with bloody spears,  
 To hew thee down with thy hosts,  
 If the time has come?
- F. Ere the setting [of the sun], ere the night,  
 If thou must be told,  
 Thou shalt fight against a mountain.  
 It shall not be a bloodless battle;  
 The Ultonians will extol thee  
 Thence thou wilt impetuous grow.  
 Sad to them will be the spectre  
 That over and through them will pass.
- C. Thou hast fallen into the gap of danger,  
 The end of thy life hath come;  
 Sharp weapons shall be plied on thee,  
 It shall not be a deed of treachery;  
 Pompous thou wilt be  
 Until we both encounter.  
 Thou shalt not be a battle chief  
 From this day to the end of time.
- F. Desist from thy vauntings,  
 Thou art the greatest vaunter in the world,  
 Nor pay nor reward hast thou received,  
 Thou art not the champion of champions,  
 It is I that well know it.  
 Thou heart of the bird in a cage;  
 Thou art a giggling fellow,  
 Without valour, without action.
- C. When we were with Scathach,  
 In right of [our] respective bravery,  
 Together we used to practise;  
 Together we went to every battle.  
 Thou wert my heart-companion;  
 Thou wert my tribe, thou wert my family.  
 One dearer found I never.  
 Woful would be thy destruction.
- F. Much of thy honour shalt thou lose,  
 It boots not that we hold contention;  
 Before the cock croweth  
 Thy head shall be on a stake,  
 O Cuchulaind of Cuailgne.

Dialogue  
 between  
 Ferdiad and  
 Cuchulaind  
 in which  
 they upbraid  
 each other.

Fol. 58. a b.

ποτ ζαβ βαλε ιφ βυαορη,  
 ποτρη κας ολε uanne  
 υαις ιφ υαιτ α οιν. C.

"Math, a Fhiviao", bar Cuculaino, "niri doim uuitriu  
 taidain vo domluno ocar vo dompac numpu tpu molaδ ocar  
 etarcorrait dililla ocar Meuba; ocar cas oen tamc ni iuc  
 buavo na bipreδ doib: ocar va moδmatu limmra; ocar ni  
 mo bepar buavo na bipreδ uuitriu; ocar ma paδdairiu limm.  
 Iy amlaro ma bai za maδ, ocar maδerit na briaδra, ocar ma  
 zab feruiao [1] cloitcēt fuyr.

Na tairi eucam, a laich lain!  
 a Fhiviao mic Damain!

ιφ meppu uuit na m-bia ve,  
 con tihpe bpon poδaroe;

Na tairi eucam uari fih cept—  
 ιφ limra adā vo tiglēt.  
 cio na bpiethano uait nammā  
 mo gleōra ma mileoā?

Naδat n-oiuchleo ilayri clepp,  
 zuyrat coricra, congancerr,  
 in n-ingen ar a tai oc baiz  
 ni ba let, a mic Damain.

Fineabairi ingean Meuba,  
 ze beit o'febar a velba,  
 in ingen, zio caem a ciut,  
 noδor tibrea ne cetlut.

Findabairi ingen in iis,  
 mo pāth atberari a fih,  
 poδaroe mat tapc bpiic,  
 ocar vo loitc vo lethit.

Na bpiyr forim luzi zan ferr,  
 na bpiyr cis—na bpiyr cairuor,  
 na bpiyr bpiethu baiz,  
 na tairi eucam, a laich lain.

Ra oaleo vo coicait laec  
 in ingen, ni val ombaēt.  
 ιφ limmra ma paio alleēt.  
 ni iucrat uaim adt epanoδerit.

Zia pamaerr menmaδ ferbaēt,  
 aca m-bai teglac vaqlaec,  
 zar uari zuyr fuyriuyr a bpiut—  
 ma maibar vin oen upciur.

Spub Dairie, ferib ferige a zal,  
 ba iun bale na cet m-ban.



Thou art seized with madness and grief,  
All evil from us shalt thou have  
Because thou it is that art in fault.

“Good, O Ferdiad”, said Cuchulaind, “it was not proper for thee to have come to combat and fight with me through the instigation and intermeddling of Ailill and Medb; and to none of those who came before thee has it given victory or success: and they all fell by me; and neither shall it win victory or increase [of fame] for thee; by me shalt thou fall”. Thus was he saying, and he spake these words, and Ferdiad listened to him.

Cuchulaind reproaches Ferdiad, and boasts that he shall not be victorious;

Come not unto me, O powerful champion!

O Ferdiad, son of Daman!

Worse to thee what shall come of it,

Though it will bring universal wo;

Poem of Cuchulaind in which he reproaches Ferdiad,

Come not to me in violation of rightful justice—

In my hands is thy last end.

Why hast thou not considered ere this time

My combat with champions?

Art thou not bought with diverse arms,

A purple girdle, a skin-protecting armour?

The maiden for whom thou makest battle

Shall not be thine, O son of Daman.

Findabar the daughter of Medb,

Though it be for the comeliness of her figure,

The maiden, though fair her form,

Will not be given thee to first enjoy.

Findabar the daughter of the king,

The reward which has been proffered thee,

To numbers before thee has been falsely promised,

And many like thee has [she] wounded.

Break not with me thy vow, not to combat,

Break not the bond—break not friendship,

Break not thy plighted word.

Come not to me, O champion bold.

and appeals to him not to break their bond of friendship;

Unto fifty champions has been proffered

The maiden, not slight the gift.

By me they have been sent to their graves,

From me they carried only a just fate.

and tells the fate of the other champions with whom he had fought;

Though vauntingly spirited was Ferbáeth,

Who had a household of brave men,

Short the time until his rage I lowered—

I killed him by the one cast.

Srub Daire, bitter the decline of his valour,

The repository of the secrets of hundreds of women.

Fol. 58. a. b.

mór a blað alt þa báí thán,  
ni þan, átt óþi, na etgáð.  
Dambáð vðam þa nauóméa in bein  
þurtib cenó na coicev cain,  
nocho veisþramoþe vo éliab,  
teþþ na tuaió, na tiasi na tasi.

“Maith, a Þhioiáð”, þari Cuculainó, “íþ aipe þin na þa  
éoiþ vuitþiu tiáctain vo éomluno ocaþ vo éomþuc þuþa.  
Vðais va m-bammari ac Scaðais, ocaþ ac Uathais, ocaþ ac  
Airi, íþ ari óén imthéigmiþ caé caé ocaþ caé caéþiói, caé com-  
luno ocaþ cac comþiac, caé þro ocaþ caé fáragé, caé voreða  
ocaþ caé viamari. Ocaþ íþ amlaió þa báí þa ríða, ocaþ þa-  
berþ na þriáþa avó.

Ropóþari cocle cþiui,  
þiopóþari caemþe caille,  
þiopóþari þin chomþeigþioe,  
conculmiþ þroméocluo.  
ari þrom níðaiþ  
icþichaiþ, ilib echþriannaib,  
ari óen imþeioþiþ imþeigmiþ  
caé þro, þoþcetul þin Scaðais.

“A Chuculainó éaem éleþragé”, þari Þeþioiáð, “þa éinoþem  
ceiþvo comvðana, þa élóirét cuiþ caþiaþiavó, boþþiþa vo  
éetþuine; na cumþis in comalþar, a éva naéat éobþiaþari—  
a éva naéat éobþiaþari”.

“Ro fáta atám amlaióþeo þavéþta”, þari Þeþioiáð; “ocaþ  
þa þarcevo ari a þagam inoiu, a Chuculainó?” “Laþru vo  
þoga þarció éavóchi inoiu”, þari Cuculainó; “vðais íþ tu  
vðaiáét in n-áth ari túþ”.

“Invat meþaiþþiu icþiþ”, þari Þeþioiáð, “íþ na aþuþcþib  
þarció a nimþiþ ac Scathais, ocaþ ac Uathais, ocaþ ac  
Aipe?” “Íþ amm meþaiþ am écin”, þari Cuculainó.

“Maþa meþaiþ tecam [þoþþia”, ari Þeþioiáð]. Vo éuataþi  
þari a n-aþuþcþiþ þarció. Ra þabþataþi vðá þeiat éliþ éo-  
maþvðatácha þoþþio, ocaþ a n-óét n-ócaþéliþþ, ocaþ a n-óét  
cletþini, ocaþ a n-óét cuiþþ n-óét, ocaþ a n-óét n-þoénaþta  
néit Imþéitþiþ uatha ocaþ éuccu þari beocho laille amlé.  
Ni thelþtiþ nav aþuþtiþ. Ra þab caé við ac viðþuþgun  
aþaile vina éleþþaiþ þin á vðiþlar na matne muéþe þo miþe  
mevoin lái, þo þa éloeretaþi a n-il éleþþaþioða þa tilib ocaþ  
éobþiaþaiþ þa þeiat éliþ. Þia þa báí v’þeþar inó inoi-  
þuþicéi, þa boi v’þeþar na h-imvøþla na þa þuliz ocaþ na þa  
þoþvøþþ caéh við þari aþaile þuþ in þé þin.

“Scuþþeim vin þarcevøþa þovéþta, a Cuculainó”, þari Þeþi-



Great at one time was his high renown,  
Not silver thread, but gold, was in his clothes.

Though it were to me the woman was betrothed  
On whom the chiefs of the fair province smile,  
I would not crimson thy body,  
South or north, west or east.

“Good, O Ferdiad”, said Cuchulaind, “therefore it is that thou shouldst not have come to combat and to fight with me. For when we were with Scathach, and with Uathach, and with Aife, it was together we used to go to every battle and every battle-field, to every fight and every combat, to every forest and every wilderness, through every darkness and every difficulty”. And thus was he saying, and he spake these words there :

Cuchulaind  
continues his  
reproaches ;

We were heart companions,  
We were comrades in assemblies,  
We were fellows of the same bed,  
Where we used to sleep the deep sleep.  
To hard battles,  
In countries many and far distant,  
Together we used to practise and go  
Through each forest, learning with Scathach.

and alludes  
to their  
ancient  
friendship ;

“O Cuchulaind of the beautiful feats”, said Ferdiad, “though we have studied arts of equal science, and though I have heard our bonds of friendship, of me shall come thy first wounds ; remember not the companionship, O Hound, it shall not avail thee—O Hound, it shall not avail thee”.

Ferdiad  
answers ;

“Too long have we remained this way now”, said Ferdiad ; “and what arms shall we resort to to-day, Cuchulaind ?” “Thine this day is the choice of arms till night”, said Cuchulaind ; “for it was thou that first reached the ford”.

proposes  
to select  
weapons.

“Dost thou remember at all”, said Ferdiad, “the missive weapons we used to practise with Scathach, and with Uathach, and with Aife ?” “I remember them indeed”, said Cuchulaind.

First day—  
weapons for  
first combat ;

“If thou rememberest, let us resort [to them], said Ferdiad.] They resorted to their missive weapons. They took two emblematic missive shields upon them, and their eight turned handled spears, and their eight little quill spears, and their eight ivory-hilted swords, and their eight sharp ivory-hafted spears. They used to fly from them and to them like bees on the wing on a fine day. There was no cast that did not hit. Each continued to shoot at the other with those missiles from the twilight of the early morning to the mean midday, until all their missiles were blunted against the faces and bosses of the missive shields. And although the shooting was most excellent, so good was the defence that neither of them bled or reddened the other during that time.

i.e. javelins ;

“Let us drop these feats now, Cuchulaind”, said Ferdiad, “for

end of first  
combat ;



Fol. 58. a. b. οἶαο, ὄαις νί ὄε ῥεο τίε ἀνι ν-ετῆρῆλεόο". "Scuipem ám écin ma thánic a thráth", bap Cuculaino.

Ra pcoipῆretar. Pocheipῆretar a cleipῆtao uaṭaib illamaib a n-apao. "Ἐα ῥαρceο ipῆragam i ῥεῤῥα, a Cuculaino?" bap ῥεῤῥiao. "Letῥu ὄο ποga ῥαιῥeio éairoé", bap Cuculaino, "ὄαις ιῥ tú ὄο μιαṭ in n-át ἀνι túῥ". "Tiaḡam iaipum", bap ῥεῤῥiao, "bap ἀνι ῥlegaib ῥneitti, ῥnaῥta, ῥlemuncῥuaoi, ḡo ῥuanemnaib lin lán éatut inoib". "Tecam ám écin", bap Cuculaino. Ιῥ ἀνοῤῥin μα ḡabrṭar ὄá éotut ῥeiac éom-ὄainḡi ῥoῤῥio. ὄá éuatar bap a ῥlegaib ῥnaitti, ῥnaῥta, ῥlemun chῥuaoi, ḡo ῥuanemnaib lin lánéotut inoi.

Ra ḡab cáe ὄib ac ὄibupḡun apaile ὄi na ῥlegaib á mῥe meὄoin lái ḡo ṭῥáth ῥunio nóna. ḡia μαὄui ὄῥeḡar na h-imὄeḡla, μαὄui ὄῥeḡar inὄoimὄoibairḡéi, ḡo πο ῥuiliz, ocaῥ ḡo πο ῥoῤῥeḡis, ocaῥ ḡo μα chῥeectḡaiz cach ὄib bap apaile ῥῥ in ῥe ῥin.

"Scuipem ὄe ῥoὄaim baὄeῤῥa a Cuculaino", bap ῥεῤῥiao. "Scuipem ám écin ma éánic a éῥáé", bap Cuculaino.

Ra pcoipῆretar. ὄhacéipῆret a n-aium uachu illámaib a n-apao. Tánic cáe ὄib ὄinoῤῥaizῥo apaile aῥῥ a aicḡle, ocaῥ μαḡeῤῥ cáe ὄib lám ὄari ḡῥáḡic apaile, ocaῥ μα éaiῥibiῥ teóῥa póe. Ra báṭar a n-eié in oen ῥcuῥ in n-aióci ῥin, ocaῥ a n-apaio ic oen tenio; ocaῥ ḡo ḡnῥeṭar a n-apaio coῥῥari leῤῥa úῥiluaéḡa ὄoib, ḡo ῥῥichὄoῤῥaib ῥeῥi n-ḡona ῥῥiu. Tancatar ῥiallaé icci ocaῥ leḡῥi ὄa n-icc ocaῥ ὄa leizet, ocaῥ pocheipῆretar lubi ocaῥ loῤῥa icci ocaῥ ῥlánῥen μα cneὄaib ocaῥ cῥeéṭaib, ῥá n-álṭaib ocaῥ μα n-ilḡonaib. Cáe luib ocaῥ cac loῤῥa icci ocaῥ ῥlánῥen μα ḡeῤῥhea μα cneὄaib ocaῥ cῥeéṭaib, álṭaib ocaῥ ilḡonaib Conculaino, μα ionaicṭea comῥaino uao ὄib ὄari áé ῥiaῥi ὄῥḡiῥoiao, na μαḡḡaiṭiῥ ῥῥi h-éῥeno, ὄa tuiteo ῥeῤῥiao leῤῥium, ba h-immairṭaio leḡῥi ὄa ḡeῤῥaio ῥaiῥi.

Cach biao, ocaῥ cáe lino, ῥoóla, ῥoéariéain ῥo meῥe ὄa ḡeῤῥhea ó ῥeῥaib h-éῥeno ὄῥḡiῥoiao, ὄa ionaicṭea comῥaino uao ὄib ὄari áé ῥaṭuaic ὄo Coinculaino; ὄaiz μαῥṭar lia biaṭṭaiz ῥḡiῥoiao ἀνοá biaṭṭaiz Conculaino. Rapṭar biaṭṭaiz ῥῥi-h-éῥeno uli ὄῥḡiῥoiao ἀνι Choinculaino ὄo oingḡaib ὄib. Rapṭar biaṭṭaiz ὄῥeḡa ὄana, ὄo Coinculaino. Ticitῥi ὄa acalὄaim ῥῥi ὄé, .i. cáe n-aióci.

ὄeῤῥeṭar ἀνο in n-aióci ῥin. Aṭῥáthṭatar ḡo moé ἀνι na báῥiac ocaῥ tancatar ῥiomῥu co áth in comῥaic. "Ἐα ῥαρceο ἀνι a μαḡam inoiu, a ῥḡiῥoiao?" bap Cuculaino. "Letṭῥu ὄο ποga n-ḡaῥeio éairoéi", bap ῥεῤῥiao, "ὄaiz ιῥ

it is not by such our battle will be decided". "Let us desist, indeed, if the time hath come", said Cuchulaind.

They ceased. They cast away their missiles into the hands of their charioteers. "What weapons shall we resort to now, O Cuchulaind?" said Ferdiad. "To thee belongs the choice of arms till night", said Cuchulaind, "because thou it was that first reached the ford". "Let us then", said Ferdiad, "resort to our straight, elegant, smooth, hardened spears, with their perfectly hardened flaxen strings in them". "Let us now, indeed", said Cuchulaind. And it was then they took two stout protecting shields upon them. They resorted to their straight, elegant, smooth, hardened spears, with their perfectly hardened flaxen strings in them.

they select  
weapons for  
second  
combat:  
i.e. spears  
with strings;

Each of them continued to shoot at the other with the spears from the middle of mid-day till even-tide. And though the defence was most excellent, still the shooting was so good, that each of them bled, and reddened, and wounded the other in that time.

"Let us desist from this now for the present, O Cuchulaind", said Ferdiad. "Let us, indeed, desist if the time hath come", said Cuchulaind.

end of first  
day's fight-  
ing;

They ceased. They threw away their arms from them into the hands of their charioteers. Each of them approached the other forthwith, and each put his hands around the other's neck, and gave him three kisses. Their horses were in the same paddock that night, and their charioteers at the same fire; and their charioteers spread beds of green rushes for them, with wounded men's pillows to them. The professors of healing and curing came to heal and cure them, and they applied herbs and plants of healing and curing to their stabs and their cuts and their gashes, and to all their wounds. Of every herb and of every healing and curing plant that was put to the stabs and cuts and gashes and to all the wounds of Cuchulaind, he would send an equal portion from him westward over the ford to Ferdiad, so that the men of Eiriu might not be able to say, should Ferdiad fall by him, that it was by better means of cure that he was enabled [to kill him].

knightly  
interchange  
of civilities  
after the  
fight.

Of each kind of food, and of palatable, pleasant, intoxicating drink that was sent by the men of Eiriu to Ferdiad, he would send a fair moiety over the ford northwards to Cuchulaind; because the purveyors of Ferdiad were more numerous than the purveyors of Cuchulaind. All the men of Eiriu were purveyors to Ferdiad for beating off Cuchulaind from them. The Bregians only were purveyors to Cuchulaind. They were used to come to converse with him at dusk, *i.e.*, every night.

They rested there that night. They arose early the next morning and came forward to the ford of battle. "What weapons shall we resort to to-day, O Ferdiad?" said Cuchulaind. "To thee belongs the choice of arms until night", said Ferdiad, "because it was I

Second day:



Fol. 68. a. a. murr̄i bari moega mo moega n-garcio ir mo lathi luro". "Tia-gam iarium", bari Cuculaino, "bari ar manairib móra mur-niuda inoiu; váig ir foicriu lino vonás in t-imrubao inoiu, anoa vono moibur̄gun inné".

"Gab̄tari ar n-eic̄ oún ocar̄ molitepi ar cappaic, co n-vepnam caúguo v̄ari neáib ocar̄ v̄ari cappaic inoiu". "Tecam am ecin", bari Ferriao.

Ir an̄o rin̄ ma gab̄ratari vá lētan r̄ciath lán v̄angni for̄mo in Lá rin̄. Da chuatar̄i bari a manairib móra mur-niucha in Lá rin̄.

Ra gab̄ cách̄ oib̄ bari tollao, ocar̄ bari t̄reogao, bari mūt, ocar̄ bari t̄reogao auaile, á v̄or̄blār̄ na matne muchi, zo t̄r̄áth̄ fun̄no nóna. Dambao b̄er̄ eóin ar luamain vo t̄ēc̄t̄ t̄ri c̄or̄p̄ao voene, vo paḡt̄air̄ t̄ri na c̄or̄p̄aib in Lá rin̄, zo m-bept̄air̄ na t̄ōt̄a r̄ola ocar̄ r̄eóla t̄ri na c̄neoaib ocar̄ t̄ri na c̄r̄ēc̄taib, in n̄ēlaib ocar̄ in ār̄iaib r̄ēc̄tair̄. Ocar̄ á t̄h̄anic̄ t̄r̄áth̄ fun̄no nóna, mart̄ari r̄c̄īta a n-eic̄, ocar̄ mart̄ari mer̄c̄niḡ a n-ariao, ocar̄ mart̄ari r̄c̄īta rom̄ r̄aveir̄in,—na c̄ur̄iao ocar̄ na laith̄ gaile. "Scuipem̄ ve r̄odain̄ b̄avep̄ta a F̄hir̄veao", bari Cuculaino, "váiḡ ir̄ ār̄c̄īta ar n-eic̄ ocar̄ ic̄ mer̄c̄niḡ ar n-ariao; ocar̄ in̄ t̄r̄áth̄ āta r̄c̄īta iat, eio v̄únni na b̄ao r̄c̄ītha rin̄o van? Ocar̄ ir̄ am̄lar̄o ma b̄úí ḡá r̄ávo, ocar̄ māber̄t̄ na b̄riuār̄ia an̄o:

Ní v̄leḡar̄ oin̄ cucl̄aiḡi (bari érium)

ma fom̄or̄c̄aib̄ fer̄om̄;  
cuip̄t̄er̄i r̄ó̄c̄u a n-ur̄ic̄om̄aib̄,  
a mo r̄caic̄ an̄ veilm̄.

"Scuipem̄ am̄ ecin̄, ma t̄anic̄ a t̄r̄á̄t̄", bari Ferriao. Ra r̄c̄or̄p̄et̄ari.

F̄á̄c̄er̄ip̄er̄et̄ a n-arium̄ uat̄u ill̄amaib̄ a n-ariao. T̄anic̄ cá̄c̄ oib̄ o'inn̄aiḡio a céile. Ra ber̄t̄ cāc̄ lám̄ v̄ari b̄r̄áiḡit̄ auaile, ocar̄ ma t̄air̄ib̄ir̄i t̄eóma r̄óc̄. Ra b̄átari a n-eic̄ in̄ ōen̄ r̄c̄ur̄i in̄ aiv̄eí rin̄, ocar̄ a n-ariao oc̄ oen̄ ten̄to.

Vo gn̄ip̄et̄ a n-ariao c̄or̄p̄air̄i lep̄ta úr̄luuār̄ia v̄oib̄ zo r̄r̄ith̄avaip̄taib̄ fer̄i n-gona r̄riu. Tancatar̄i r̄iallac̄ ic̄ci ocar̄ leiḡir̄ va r̄ech̄ium̄ ocar̄ vá r̄é̄ḡao, ocar̄ va r̄or̄com̄ét̄ in̄ n-aiv̄eí rin̄; váiḡ ní ní aile ma c̄um̄get̄ari v̄oib̄, ma h-ac-béile a c̄neo, ocar̄ a c̄r̄ēc̄ta, a n-ál̄ta ocar̄ a n-ik̄gona, āc̄t̄ ip̄tha ocar̄ éle ocar̄ ar̄it̄ana vo c̄ur̄i r̄iu, vo t̄hair̄mer̄c̄ a r̄ola, ocar̄ a r̄ull̄iuḡu ocar̄ a n-gaē cr̄ó. Cāc̄ ip̄tha ocar̄ ḡac̄ ele ocar̄ ḡac̄ or̄it̄ana vo ber̄t̄ea ma c̄neoaib̄ ocar̄ ma c̄r̄ēc̄taib̄ Con̄c̄ulaino, ma r̄on̄aic̄t̄ea c̄om̄p̄aino uao v̄oib̄ v̄ari á̄t̄ r̄iari v̄'F̄ir̄riao. Cāc̄ b̄iao, ocar̄ cāc̄ lino, r̄oóla, r̄ōc̄ar̄c̄ain̄ rom̄er̄c̄ ma ber̄t̄hea o fer̄iaib̄ h-er̄ieno vo F̄hir̄riao, ma h-vo-



that had my choice of weapons in the days that have passed". weapons for second day's fight.— heavy broad spears;  
 "Let us then", said Cuchulaind, "resort to our great broad spears this day; because we shall be nearer to our battle by the thrusting this day, than we were by the shooting yesterday".

"Let our horses be harnessed for us and our chariots yoked, that we may do battle from our horses and from our chariots to-day". "Let us do so, indeed", said Ferdiad.

And it is then they took two broad full-firm shields upon them that day. They resorted to their great broad spears on that day.

Each of them continued to pierce, and to wound, to redden, fierceness of the combat;  
 and to lacerate the other, from the twilight of the early morning until evening's close. If it were the custom for birds in their flight to pass through the bodies of men, they could have passed through their bodies on that day, and they might carry pieces of flesh and blood through their stabs and cuts, into the clouds and sky all round. And when evening's close came, their horses were fatigued, and their charioteers were dispirited, and they were fatigued themselves, also—the champions and the heroes of valour. "Let us desist from this now, O Ferdiad", said Cuchulaind, "for our horses are fatigued and our charioteers are dispirited; and when they are fatigued, why should not we be fatigued too?" And so was he saying, and he spake these words there:

We are not bound to persevere (said he)  
 With Fomorian obstinacy;  
 Let the cause be put in abeyance,  
 Now that the din of combat is over.

"Let us desist now, indeed, if the time has come", said Ferdiad. and of combat;  
 They ceased.

They threw their arms from them into the hands of their charioteers. Each of them came towards the other. Each of them put his hands round the neck of the other, and bestowed three kisses on him. Their horses were in the same enclosure, and their charioteers at the same fire. repetition of knightly civilities;

Their charioteers made beds of green rushes for them with pillows the charioteers prepare beds for the wounded warriors;  
 for wounded men to them. The professors of healing and curing came to examine and take care of them that night; for they could do nothing more for them, because of the dangerous severity of their stabs, and their cuts, and their gashes, and their numerous wounds, than to apply witchcraft and incantations and charms to them, to staunch their blood, and their bleeding and gory mortal wounds. Every spell and incantation and charm that was applied to the stabs and cuts of Cuchulaind, he sent a full moiety of them over the ford westwards to Ferdiad. All sorts of food, and of palatable, pleasant, intoxicating drink that were sent by the men of Eiriu to Ferdiad, he would send a moiety of them over the they interchange medicines and food.

ol. 59. a. a. naictea comhaino uad oib dāi āth foēuaiē uo Choinēulaino. Uais partari lia biattaig fihiois anōā biattaig Conculaino. Uais partari biattaig fih h-ērieno uili u'fihiois ar uingbail Choinēulaino uib. Raptari biattaig h'iega no uo Choinēulaino. Ticcīr uā iacallaim fhi uē, .i. caē n-aiōē.

Deppetar in n-aiōēi rin anō. Atrāāctatar co moē ar na bariāc, ocar tancatar iempo co āc in chomraic. Ra cōn-uais Cucūlaino miuēlb ocar miemēl mōri in lā rin bari fērioiā. "I' olc atairiu inoiu a f'ihioeā", bari Cucūlaino. "Ra uorichais ē-fōlc inoiu, ocar ma f'uanmiz uo moic, ocar uā ēuair uo ēriūt ocar uo uēlb ocar uo uenam uic". "Nih ēeclaru na ar ē-uamain fōimra rain inoiu ām", bari fērioiā, "uāiz nī fūil in h-ērieno inoiu lāēc naoingebra". Ocar ma būi Cucūlaino ac ēcāim ocar ac arichipeēt, ocar riaberit na briaēra, anō ocar ma rēcari fērioiā.

- Cc. A f'ihioeā, mara thū,  
uemin limm i' ac lom ēriū,  
tiroāct ar comairli mnā  
uo cōmluno rit cōmalta.
- F. u. A Chuēulaino, comall n-gāit,  
a f'ih ānriat, a f'ih laiē,  
i' ēicen uo neōc a ēēēt  
co rin fōt fōir a m-bia ēigleēt.
- Cc. Firoabairi, ingean Meoba,  
zia beit u'fēbar a uēlba,  
a tabairt uair nī ar uo fēric,  
āc uo moar uo riagneit.
- F. Fiomēta mo neit a ēianairb  
a ēu cor in caem riagair,  
neē bar ēalmu noco cloir,  
cor inoiu nocon f'uariorr.
- Cc. Tu fōreia a fail uē,  
a mic Uamāin mic Uārie  
tīāctair ar comairle mnā  
u'imēlarobēo rit chomalta.
- F. Ua rēcairino zan tiorit i' tū,  
ziorair comalrai, a ēaem ēū,  
buo olc mo briachari i' mo blao  
ic airill i' ac Meob Chriucān.
- Cc. Noco taro biao uā belairb,  
ocar noco moō mo zenair,  
uo rīz na rīgair can ēērr,  
bar a n-uēriainōre ē-amleir.
- F. A Chuēulaino tolarb gal,



led northwards to Cuchulaind. Because the purveyors of Ferdiad were more numerous than those of Cuchulaind. For all the men of Eiriu were purveyors to Ferdiad for his warding off Cuchulaind from them. The Bregians only were purveyors to Cuchulaind. They used to come to talk to him at dusk, *i.e.*, at night.

They rested there that night. They arose early the next morning, and they came forward to the ford of battle. Cuchulaind perceived an ill visaged and a greatly lowering cloud on Ferdiad that day. "Badly dost thou appear this day, O Ferdiad", said Cuchulaind. "Thy hair has become dark this day, and thy face has become drowsy, and thine own form and features and appearance have departed from thee". "It is not from fear or terror of me that I am so this day", said Ferdiad, "for there is not in Eiriu this day a champion that I could not subdue". And Cuchulaind ceased complaining and bemoaning, and he spake these words, and Ferdiad answered.

Third day;  
the meeting;

- C. O Ferdiad, if it be thou,  
 Certain am I that thou art a degraded being,  
 To have come at the bidding of a woman  
 To fight with thy fellow-pupil.
- F. O Cuchulaind, inflictor of wounds,  
 O valiant man, O true champion,  
 A man is constrained to come  
 Unto the sod where his final grave shall be.
- C. Findabar, the daughter of Medb,  
 Though it be through her superior beauty,  
 Her bestowal upon thee was not for thy love,  
 But to test thy kingly might.
- F. My might was tested long ago  
 O hound of the gentle rule,  
 Of none more valiant have I heard,  
 Nor to this day did I ever meet.
- C. Thou art the cause of all that has happened,  
 O son of Daman, son of Dáre,  
 To have come by the counsel of a woman  
 To measure swords with thy fellow-pupil.
- F. If I had returned without combat with thee,  
 Though we are fellow-pupils, O graceful hound,  
 Bad should be my word and my fame  
 With Ailill and with Medb of Cruachan.
- C. Not one has yet put food unto his lips  
 Nor has there yet been born  
 Of king or queen without disgrace  
 One for whom I would do thee evil.
- F. O Cuchulaind of battle-triumphs,

dialogue  
 between  
 Cuchulaind  
 and Ferdiad,  
 in which the  
 former  
 reproaches  
 the latter for  
 having come  
 to fight with  
 his friend;



Fol. 59. a. a.

ní tú, áct Meob, maímaíneṛtaí,  
bémaru buair ocaí blair,  
ní foirt atát a cmaro.

Cc. Ír caéṛ crío mo éirde cam,  
hec naé maícloṛṛ maí anmaí,  
ní comnaíṛt linn linn ḡal  
comiac maí, a Fhíroeo. Δ.

“Meio a táiriu ac ceṛraéṛ foimṛa inoiu”, baí Feṛioio.  
“ḡa ḡaṛceṛ foí a maḡam inoiu?” “Letṛu do maḡa ḡaṛcio  
éairéi, inoiu”, baí Cuculaino, “oáig ír maíri baí maéḡa in  
laé luio”. “Tiaḡam iaíam”, baí Feṛioio, “baí ari clairóib  
triomma toṛṛbulleéa inoiu, oáig ír faíriu linn doṛoáḡ in  
n-imṛlaio inoiu, anóá doṛo imṛubao inóé”. “Tecam ám  
écin”, baí Cuculaino. Ír anoirin ma ḡabṛataí oá lebor ícaé  
lán móia foimṛo in lá maí. Do chuataí baí a clairóib  
triomma toṛṛbulleéa. Ra ḡab cách oib baí ílaroe, ocaí baí  
íleétao, baí aírlech ocaí baí eṛroḡain, ḡomba maíeíṛi ma  
cento maí maí caé thoṛoéṛ, ocaí ḡaé éimmi do beimeo cáé oib  
ve ḡuallib, ocaí ve íliartaib, ocaí ve ílinneoéaib aṛaile.

Ra ḡab cáé oib ac ílaroe aṛaile, maí cóim maí, á doṛblaṛṛ  
na maíni maí co triáṛh funio nóna.

“Scuim do foṛain baṛeṛta, a Cuculaino”, baí Feṛioio.  
“Scuim ám écin, ma éanic a triáṛ”, baí Cuculaino. Ra  
ícoṛṛetaí.

Fádeimṛeṛtaí a n-aíim uairib illamaib a n-aíao. ḡií  
bo éompaicṛi oá íubaé, íámaé, íobbbíonaé, íomenmaé, ma  
paṛaícaícaí oá noṛubaé, n-oobbbíonaé, n-oomenmach, a  
ícaícaí, in n-airéi maí.

Maí maḡataí a n-eíé in oen ícuí in n-airéi maí. Maí maḡataí  
a n-aíao ac oen tenio. Veṛṛetaí in n-airéi maí anó.

Ír anó maí aṛmaéṛ Feṛioio ḡo moé ari na bámaé ocaí  
taícaí maíe a oenuí co áṛh inchoṛmaic. Oáig maí íṛiṛi  
maí pé maí lá eṛeṛḡleoio in choṛmaí ocaí in choṛmaic;  
ocaí maí íṛiṛi co táeṛtao neéṛtaí ve oib in lá maí anó,  
noco táeṛtaíṛi a n-oíṛ.

Ír anoirin maí ḡabaṛtaíṛom a éaṛheimṛo caṛha ocaí com-  
laino ocaí comaic immi, maí taícaíṛin do Choínéulaino oá  
íairḡo. Ocaí baí doṛn éaṛ eimṛo éaṛha ocaí comlaino ocaí  
éompaic: Ra ḡabaṛtaí a íuaṛṛbrióic íneṛnaíve íríól, cona  
cimarí oíṛiṛi bṛice íma, íma ḡell chneṛṛ. Ra ḡabaṛtaí  
íuaéṛbrióic n-oṛoṛ leṛṛaí, n-veḡíuaṛtaí taíṛṛṛíve immaic a  
neéṛtaí. Ra ḡabaṛtaí maíuóloich móim maíeí cloí maílino  
taíṛṛṛíve immaic a neéṛtaí. Ra ḡabaṛtaí a íuaéṛbrióic n-im-  
oanḡin, n-imoomain, n-iaímaíve, do íuṛin aṛleḡéa, oáí in  
maíuóloic móim maíeí cloí maílino, ari ecla ocaí ari uamun

It was not thee, but Medb, that betrayed me,  
Take thou victory and fame,  
Thine is not the fault.

C. My faithful heart is a clot of blood,  
From me my soul hath nearly parted,  
I have not strength for feats of valour  
To fight with thee, O Ferdiad.

“Much as thou complainest of me this day”, said Ferdiad. choice of weapons,— heavy swords;  
“To what arms shall we resort to-day?” “To thee belongs the choice of arms till night, this day”, said Cuchulaind, “because it was I that took it the days that have passed”. “Let us then”, said Ferdiad, “resort to our heavy hard-smiting swords this day, for we are nearer the end of the battle by the hewing to-day, than by the thrusting yesterday”. “Let us do so indeed”, said Cuchulaind. And then they took two long very great shields upon them on that day. They resorted to their heavy hard-smiting swords. Each of them began to hew and cut down, to slaughter and destroy, until larger than the head of an infant of a month old, was every piece and every lump which each of them cut away from the shoulders, and from the thighs, and from the shoulder blades of the other.

Each of them continued to hew the other in that manner from the dawn of the early morning till the hour of evening's close.

“Let us desist now from this, O Cuchulaind”, said Ferdiad. End of third day's combat;  
“Let us desist now, indeed, if the time hath come”, said Cuchulaind. They ceased.

They cast their arms from them into the hands of their charioteers. Though it was the meeting—pleasant, happy, griefless, and spirited, of two [men], it was the separation—mournful, sorrowful, dispirited, of two [men], that night.

Their horses were not in the same enclosure that night. Their charioteers were not at the same fire. They rested that night there. no interchange of civilities on the third night.

Then Ferdiad arose early next morning and went forward alone to the ford of battle. For he knew that that day would decide the battle and the fight; and he knew that either of them should fall on that day there, or that they would both fall. Fourth day:

And it was then he put on his battle suit of battle and combat and fight, before the coming of Cuchulaind unto him. And that battle suit of battle and combat and fight was [as follows]: He put on his apron of striped silk, with its border of spangled gold upon it, next his white skin. He put on his apron of brown leather, well sewn over that outside on the lower part [of his body]. He put on a huge stone as big as a millstone over that outside on his lower part. He put on his firm, deep apron of iron, of purified iron, over the huge stone as large as a millstone, through fear and dread of the Gae Bulg on that day. He put his crested helmet of battle, Ferdiad puts on his armour;



Fol. 59. b. a.

in gae bulga in lá rin. Ra gabartar a éirí éatbairi cacha, ocar comlaino, ocar comraic, imma cheno, bari ra m-bátarí ceépracha gemm, carimoccul, a caé aén éumtaé; ar na ecurí ve chruan, ocar éurtail, ocar carimocail, ocar ve lubib roillí airtchí beáto. Ra gabartar a íleis m-bairiis, m-baireno baile ina vepláim. Ra gabartar a élaroeb caméuagac cáta bari a éliu, cona urrojin óri, ocar cona mul eltaib ve veis óri. Ra gabartar a rciac móri m-bua-baléam bari a tuagleis a oimma, bari ra m-bátarí coica cobriao, bari a tailfuo toic cairrelbca bari caé comraio oib, cenmoéa in comraio moiri meonais vo veis óri.

Ba éeipio Ferioiao cleiriua ána ileiua ingantaéa imua bari aipio in lá rain, nav roeglaino ac neé aile ruam, ac mumme na ac aite, na ac Scathais, na ac Uathais, na ac Aipe, acé a n-venum uao féin in lá rain in agio Conculaino.

Da maéa Cuculaino voéum in n-áca nó, ocar ra éonnaic na cleiriua ána ileiua ingantaéa imua ba éeipio Ferioiao bari aipio. “Aécíriu íút, a mo rópa lais, na cleiriua ána ileiua ingantaéa imua roceipio Ferioiao bari aipio, ocar bocotaroferi (.i. rogebra) damra ar n-uairi innoira na cleiriua út, ocar ír aipe rin maó roimra bur roén moiu, ar a n-veinaru mo hírao ocar mo glámao ocar olc vo ráua rim, go rop móite éirí m-íirí ocar m-íeris roiomm. Maó romum bur roén, no ar a n-veinaru mo múnoo, ocar mo moloo ocar maéiuí vo ráo rrim, go rop móti lim mo menma”. “Da gentarí am écin, a Chucuc[laino]”, bari laeg.

Ír ano rin ra gabartar Cuculaino ono, a éateiriuo cáta, ocar éomluino, ocar comraic imbi. Ocar roceipio cleiriua ána ileiua ingantaéa imua bari aipio in lá rain, nav roeglaino ac neoc aile ruam; ac Scathais, na ac Uathais na ac Aipe. Ac éonraic Ferioiao na cleiriua rain, ocar ra íitiri go ruigbica vo ar nuairi íat.

“Da garceo aia ragam a Fhioveao?” bari Cuculaino. “Lettru vo roga garcio charóci”, bari Ferioiao. “Tiaam farí cluici in n-áca íarum”, bari Cuculaino. “Tecam am”, bari Ferioiao. Síubairt Ferioiao in ní rein, ír aipí ír voilíu leirí va magao, vaig ra íitiri ír arí ra roirigeo Cuculaino coé caurí ocar cac caémileo conruiceo rruir bari cluchi in n-ácha.

Ba móri in gnim amí va iungneo bari rino ac in lá rain,— na va maó na va áhruicé; va eirigi íaréairí éoirpa; va láim chionaicéi maéa ocar éairibeirca ocar tuararíail íaríthairí thuaríre in domain; va anéain vil garcio Gaedel; ocar va eóairí garcio Gaedel, a comraicthi vo chéim maíri



and combat, and fight on his head, on which were forty [four, H. 2. 17. f. 116. a. a ] gems, carbuncles, in each compartment; and it was studded with Cruan, and crystal, and carbuncles, and with brilliant rubies of the eastern world. He took his destructive, sharp-pointed, strong spear, into his right hand. He took his curved sword of battle upon his left side, with its golden hilt, with its pomels of red gold. He took his great, large-bossed, beautiful shield on the slope of his back, on which were fifty bosses, upon each of which bosses a full-grown hog would fit, not to mention the great central boss of red gold.

Ferdiad displayed many noble, varied, wonderful feats on high on that day, which he had never learned with any other person, neither with nurse or with tutor, or with Scathach, or with Uathach, or with Aife, but which were invented by himself that day against Cuchulaind. he performs many feats;

Cuchulaind came to the ford, and he saw the noble, varied, wonderful, numerous feats which Ferdiad displayed on high. "I perceive these, my friend, Laeg", [said Cuchulaind,] "the noble, varied, wonderful, numerous feats which Ferdiad displays on high, and all these feats will be tried on me in succession, and therefore it is that if it be I that shall begin to yield this day, thou art to excite, reproach, and speak evil to me, so that the ire of my rage and anger shall grow the more on me. If it be I that prevaileth, then shalt thou laud me, and praise me, and speak good words to me, that my courage may be the greater". "It shall so be done indeed, O Cuchulaind", said Laeg. Cuchulaind perceiving this instructs his charioteer;

And it was then Cuchulaind put his battle-suit of battle, and of combat and of fight on him. And he displayed noble, varied, wonderful, numerous feats on high on that day, that he never learned from anybody else; neither with Scathach, or with Uathach, or with Aife. Ferdiad saw those feats, and he knew they would be plied against him in succession. he arms for the fight;

"What weapons shall we resort to, O Ferdiad?" said Cuchulaind. "To thee belongs thy choice of weapons till night", said Ferdiad. "Let us try the Ford Feat then", said Cuchulaind. "Let us indeed", said Ferdiad. Although Ferdiad thus spoke his consent, it was a cause of grief to him to speak so, because he knew that Cuchulaind was used to destroy every hero and every champion who contended with him in the Feat of the Ford. weapons selected,—the "Ford Feat";

Great was the deed, now, that was performed on that day at the ford—the two heroes; the two warriors; the two champions of western Europe; the two gift and present and stipend-bestowing hands of the north-west of the world; the two beloved pillars of the valour of the Gaedhils; and the two keys of the bravery the fight;

Fol. 59. b. a.

την ινολαδ̄ οσαρ̄ εταρ̄κορ̄γαῑτ̄ Δῑιλλᾱ οσαρ̄ Μεοβᾱ. Ὅα  
 ζαβ̄ καδ̄ οἴβ̄ ᾱτ̄ οἴβυρ̄γυν̄ ἀμᾱιλε̄ ὄνᾱ κλερ̄ραῑοῑβ̄ τ̄ιν̄ ἄ  
 ὄρ̄βλαρ̄τ̄τ̄ nā māt̄nī mūcī ζο̄ μο̄ῑοῑ με̄οιν̄ λάῑ. Οσαρ̄ ὄ  
 τ̄h̄anic̄ με̄οῖn̄ λάῑ nā φ̄ε̄ὸφ̄αῑζ̄ε̄ρ̄ε̄τᾱρ̄ῑ φ̄ε̄ρ̄ζ̄γᾱ nā φ̄ε̄ρ̄ῑ,  
 οσαρ̄ nā ὀμφ̄αῑρ̄ῑζ̄ε̄ρ̄ε̄τᾱρ̄ῑ cāch̄ οἴβ̄ ὄᾱ nāīlē. Ἴφ̄ ἀνο̄ τ̄ιν̄ εἰ̄νο̄ῑφ̄  
 Cuculainō φ̄ε̄ct̄nōēn̄ ἀνο̄ ὄο̄ ῡr̄ in̄ n̄-āchā, ζο̄ m̄-baí̄ φ̄ār̄ī cōb̄  
 φ̄āiō φ̄c̄ēīt̄ φ̄h̄īφ̄ōēāō mic̄ Ὅamáin̄ ὄο̄ ἔ̄t̄p̄āct̄ām̄ ἄ εἰ̄nō ὄο̄  
 būalāō ὄār̄ī bil̄ in̄ φ̄c̄ēīt̄h̄ ār̄ī n̄-uāc̄tār̄ī. Ἴφ̄ ἀνο̄τ̄ιν̄ nā bēr̄it̄  
 φ̄ēr̄ōīāō béim̄ ὄā ull̄īnō cl̄é̄ τ̄in̄ φ̄c̄īāt̄h̄ cōm̄ōār̄ nālā Cucu-  
 lainō uāō mār̄ī é̄n̄ bār̄ī ῡr̄ in̄ n̄-āchā. εἰ̄nōῑφ̄ Cuculainō ὄ'ῡr̄  
 in̄ n̄-á̄tā ār̄īφ̄ cō m̄-baí̄ φ̄ār̄ī cōb̄φ̄āiō φ̄c̄ēīt̄ φ̄h̄īφ̄ōēāō mic̄ Ὅam-  
 áin̄, ὄο̄ ἔ̄t̄ār̄īφ̄āc̄t̄ām̄ ἄ εἰ̄nō ὄο̄ būalāō ὄār̄ī bil̄ in̄ φ̄c̄ēīt̄ ār̄ī  
 n̄-uāc̄tār̄ī. Rā bēr̄it̄ φ̄ēr̄ōīāō béim̄ ὄā ζ̄l̄ún̄ cl̄é̄ τ̄in̄ φ̄c̄īāt̄  
 ζōm̄ōār̄ nālā Cuculainō uāō mār̄ī mac̄ m̄-bec̄ bār̄ī ῡr̄ in̄  
 n̄-á̄tā.

Ἀρ̄ῑζ̄ῑφ̄ Λ̄áēζ̄ in̄ ní̄ φ̄ēin̄. “Am̄aē”, ἄlē bār̄ī, Λ̄áēζ̄, “nāt̄ é̄ūr̄  
 in̄ cāt̄m̄īl̄īō φ̄āil̄ ic̄ t̄-āḡīō mār̄ī ch̄ú̄nār̄ bēn̄ bá̄rō ἄ mac̄.  
 Rōt̄ φ̄n̄īζ̄ēr̄tār̄ī mār̄ī φ̄n̄ēζ̄ār̄ī cūīp̄ ἄ Lun̄ōū. Rāt̄ mēlār̄tār̄ī  
 mār̄ī m̄īl̄īφ̄ mūlēnō mūāōb̄h̄āīc̄. Rāt̄ φ̄ēζ̄ōār̄tār̄ī mār̄ī t̄h̄īēz̄-  
 ōār̄ φ̄ōōb̄ om̄nārō. Rāt̄ nār̄c̄ēr̄tār̄ī mār̄ī nār̄c̄ēr̄-φ̄é̄īt̄h̄ φ̄īōū.  
 Rār̄ lé̄ic̄ φ̄ōr̄t̄ φ̄ēīb̄ nār̄ lé̄ic̄ φ̄é̄īζ̄ φ̄ōr̄ī m̄īnt̄ū, cōnāc̄ φ̄āil̄  
 ὄō ὄl̄ūīζ̄, nā ὄō ὄuāl̄, nā ὄō ὄīl̄ in̄ ζ̄āil̄ nā nā ζ̄āīr̄c̄ēō ζο̄  
 b̄r̄un̄nī m̄-b̄r̄īá̄tā ōcār̄ bēt̄h̄ā bāōēr̄tā, ἄ φ̄īr̄ūcī φ̄īābār̄īc̄ī bic̄,  
 bār̄ī loēζ̄.

Ἴφ̄ ἀνο̄φ̄āim̄ ἄτ̄p̄āá̄t̄ Cuculainō ill̄uār̄ nā ζ̄āīc̄ī, οσαρ̄ in̄  
 ἄt̄l̄āim̄ī nā φ̄ān̄ōl̄ī, οσαρ̄ ī n̄-φ̄r̄ēm̄m̄ī in̄ ὄp̄ēcāin̄, οσαρ̄ in̄ n̄īφ̄ē  
 [in̄ lēōgāin̄ ī nēll̄ōīb̄ ētār̄ībūāp̄āc̄ā] in̄ n̄-á̄ēōīr̄ī in̄ t̄h̄īēr̄ φ̄ēc̄t̄, ζο̄  
 m̄-baí̄ φ̄ār̄ī ὀμφ̄āiō φ̄c̄ēīt̄ φ̄h̄īφ̄ōēāō mic̄ Ὅamain̄, ὄō t̄h̄ēt̄ār̄ī-  
 φ̄āc̄t̄ām̄ ἄ ch̄īnō ὄā būalāō ὄār̄ī bil̄ ἄ φ̄c̄ēīt̄ ār̄ī n̄-uāc̄tār̄ī.  
 Ἴφ̄ ἀνο̄τ̄ιν̄ nābēr̄it̄ in̄ cāt̄m̄īl̄īō c̄h̄ōc̄āō bār̄ī τ̄in̄ φ̄c̄īāt̄, cōm̄ōār̄  
 nālā Cuculainō uāō bār̄ī lār̄ī in̄ n̄-á̄tā, mār̄ī bāō é̄ nāc̄ār̄ī  
 lēb̄āō nām̄ ic̄r̄ī.

Ἴφ̄ ἀνο̄ τ̄ιν̄ nā ὀc̄ēt̄ nār̄t̄p̄āō im̄ Ch̄oim̄é̄ulāin̄ō, ζο̄ nāōr̄ l̄īn̄  
 ἄt̄t̄ οσαρ̄ in̄φ̄īc̄ēr̄ī, mār̄ī ān̄á̄il̄ ill̄é̄r̄, cō n̄-φ̄ēr̄īnā t̄h̄uāīζ̄ n̄-uāc̄-  
 mār̄ī, n̄-āc̄b̄é̄il̄, n̄-īl̄ōá̄c̄āīζ̄, n̄-in̄ζ̄ān̄tāīζ̄ ὄē; ζο̄ m̄-bā mēc̄īt̄īr̄ī  
 nā φ̄ōm̄ó̄īr̄ī, nā nāē φ̄ēr̄ī mār̄īā, in̄ m̄īl̄īō m̄ó̄r̄ī é̄al̄mā, ὄr̄ ch̄īnō  
 φ̄h̄īφ̄ōēāō ī cēr̄t̄ ἄr̄īōōī.

Ὅā φ̄é̄ ὄl̄ú̄r̄ n̄-īmāīφ̄ic̄ ὄā nāōn̄φ̄ātār̄ī, ζο̄ nā ὀμφ̄āīc̄ēr̄ētār̄ī ἄ  
 εἰ̄nō ār̄ī n̄-uāc̄tār̄ī, οσαρ̄ ἄ cōr̄p̄ā ār̄ī n̄ īc̄t̄ār̄ī, οσαρ̄ ἄll̄amā ār̄ī  
 n̄-ī̄m̄ēōῖn̄ ὄār̄ī b̄īl̄īb̄ οσαρ̄ cōb̄h̄āōāīb̄ nā φ̄c̄īāt̄. Ὅā φ̄é̄ ὄl̄ú̄r̄  
 n̄-īmāīφ̄ic̄ ὄā nāōn̄φ̄āōār̄ī, ζο̄ nāō ὄl̄ūīζ̄r̄ēt̄ οσαρ̄ ζο̄ nāō ὄl̄ōīn̄ζ̄r̄ēt̄  
 ἄ φ̄c̄ēīt̄ ὄ ἄ m̄-b̄īl̄īb̄ ζο̄ ἄ m̄ b̄r̄īōn̄t̄īb̄. Ὅā φ̄é̄ ὄl̄ú̄r̄ n̄-īmāīφ̄ic̄  
 ὄā nāōn̄φ̄ātār̄ī, ζο̄ nāō φ̄īll̄r̄ētār̄ī, οσαρ̄ ζο̄ nāō lūp̄r̄ātār̄ī, οσαρ̄ ζο̄ nāō  
 ζ̄ūāp̄āīζ̄r̄ētār̄ī ἄ φ̄l̄ēgā, ὄ ἄ nāēn̄nāīb̄ ζο̄ ἄ n̄-ε̄r̄l̄annāīb̄. Ὅā  
 φ̄é̄ ὄl̄ú̄r̄ n̄-īmāīφ̄ic̄ ὄā nāōn̄φ̄ātār̄ī, ζο̄ nāō ζ̄ār̄r̄ētār̄ī bōcc̄á̄nāīζ̄,



of the Gaedhils, to be brought to fight from afar through the instigation and the intermeddling of Ailil and Medb. Each of them began to shoot at the other with those missive weapons from the dawn of early morning to the middle of midday. And when midday came the ire of the men became more furious, and each of them drew nearer to the other. And then it was that Cuchulaind, on one occasion, sprang from the brink of the ford, and came on the boss of the shield of Ferdiad, son of Daman, for the purpose of striking his head over the rim of his shield from above. And it was then that Ferdiad gave the shield a blow of his left elbow, and cast Cuchulaind from him like a bird on the brink of the ford. Cuchulaind sprang from the brink of the ford again till he came on the boss of the shield of Ferdiad, son of Daman, for the purpose of striking his head over the rim of his shield from above. Ferdiad gave the shield a stroke of his left knee, and cast Cuchulaind from him like a little child on the brink of the ford.

Laeg perceived that act. "Alas, indeed", said Laeg, "the warrior who is against thee casts thee away as a lewd woman would cast her child. He throws thee as foam is thrown by the river. He grinds thee as a mill would grind fresh malt. He pierces thee as the felling axe would pierce the oak. He binds thee as the woodbine binds the tree. He darts on thee as the hawk darts on small birds, so that henceforth thou hast not call, or right, or claim to valour or bravery to the end of time and life, thou little fairy phantom", said Laeg.

Laeg reproaches Cuchulaind

Then up sprang Cuchulaind with the rapidity of the wind, and with the readiness of the swallow, and with the fierceness of the dragon, and the strength [of the lion, into the troubled clouds of] the air the third time, until he alighted on the boss of the shield of Ferdiad, son of Daman, to endeavour to strike his head over the rim of his shield from above. And then it was the warrior gave the shield a shake, and cast Cuchulaind from him into the middle of the ford, the same as if he had never before been cast off at all.

the latter renews the attack;

And it was then that Cuchulaind's first distortion came on, and he was filled with swelling and great fulness, like breath in a bladder, until he became a terrible, fearful, many coloured, wonderful Tuaig (giant); and he became as big as a Fomor, or man of the sea, the great and valiant champion, in perfect height over Ferdiad.

his distortion;

So close was the fight they made now, that their heads met above, and their feet below, and their arms in the middle over the rims and bosses of their shields. So close was the fight they made, that they cleft and loosened their shields from their rims to their centres. So close was the fight which they made, that they turned, and bent, and shivered their spears, from their points to their hafts. Such was the closeness of the fight which they made, that the Bocanachs and Bananachs, and wild people of the glens, and demons of the air, screamed from the rims of their shields, and from the hilts of their

description of their hand-to-hand combat;



ocaf banánaig, ocaf zenniti zlinoi, ocuf demnu aeóin, vo bilib a rciat, ocaf v'imvornais a claiueb, ocaf v'epilannab a rleg. Da ré olúr n-immairic va monratar, zo malafetar in n-abaino ar a cuip ocuf arfa cumaéta, som ba imvair inoluigéte inuergiti vo níz nó nízain ar lar in n-áta, conná báí banna v'urci ano, acht muni rileo ino iur in ruatfaoais ocaf iur in floetmavais va iunzretar na va cupao ocaf na va caémilro bar lar in n-áta.

Fol. 60. a. a.

Da ré olúr n-immairic va monratar, zo mo memair vo zraizib zaevel rreóin ocaf rreimnis, diallaib ocuf váraét, zo mo marret a n-roi ocuf a n-epcomail, allómna ocaf alletréna; zo mo memair ve mnaib, ocaf maccaemaib, ocaf minvoemib, miolaisib ocaf meiraisib fer nh-érentu tui rin vunu riar veff.

Úatar iun ar faebar éleff claiueb iur in pé rin. If ano rin na riáct Ferriao uairbaezuil ano feét for Comculaino, ocaf na beir béim vin éulz vét vó, zo na folais na éliab, zo toricari a éru na éruir, cori b'forruamanva in t-áth vo éru a cuip in caémileo. Ni ferlangair Cuculaino a ní réim, a na zab Ferriao bar a briat balc bemmenais, ocaf fótalbemmennais ocaf muavalbemmennais móra fair. Ocaf conattaét in n-zae bulza bar laez mac Riangabra. If amlair na baivoe: na rrué na inuileas ocaf illavair a éoiré na teilgéta; álav oengae leir ac teét i n-vuni, ocaf trichu faruino iu taitmeé, ocaf ní zatta a cuip vuni zo corzairéa immi. Ocaf atcuala Ferriao in n-zae m-bolza v'imvair, na beir béim vin rciath rir v'anacul ichtair a cuip. Vo ruairao Cuculaino in ceirzgae velgét vo lar a veirainni var bil in rreith, ocaf var briollac in chonganéir, zoi bo moén in leé n-alltariac ve ar tregtav a chivoe na éliab.

Rabert Ferriao béim vin rciat ruar v'anacul uáctair a cuip, ziaribi "in éobair iar n-arru". Da inuill in zilla in zae m-bolza iur in rrué, ocaf na iuráil Cuculaino illavair a éoiri, ocaf tarlaic iout n'uróir ve bar ferriao, co n-deáro tui rin ruatbhóic n-imvanzin n-imvomain, n-iarnavoe, vo iun athlegéta, zoi nóe bhuir in muavéloic máir méti cloí mulino itruí, co n-deáro var timthiect a cuip an, zoi bo lán cac n-alt ocaf cac n-áge ve va forruinuib. "Leoi rain baverta", ale bar ferriao, "va iocarra ve fein. Déct atá ní éna if tén unnuir ar vo veir. Acaf níri bo éoiri var ma éuitriméa vot laim". If malair na bóí za ráo, ocaf rabert na briatáir.

Achú na cleff cain,

níri veir var mo zuin.

swords, and from the hafts of their spears. Such was the closeness of the fight which they made, that they cast the river out of its bed and out of its course, so that it might have been a reclining and reposing couch for a king or for a queen in the middle of the ford, so that there was not a drop of water in it, unless it dropped into it by the trampling and the hewing which the two champions and the two heroes made in the middle of the ford.

Such was the intensity of the fight which they made that, the stud of the Gaedhils darted away in fright and shyness, with fury and madness, breaking their chains and their yokes, their ropes and their traces; and that the women, and youths, and small people, and camp-followers, and non-combatants of the men of Eiriu, broke out of the camp south-westwards.

They were at the edge-feat of swords during the time. And it was then that Ferdiad found an unguarded moment upon Cuchulaind, and he gave him a stroke of the straight-edged sword, and buried it in his body, till his blood fell into his girdle, until the ford became reddened with the gore from the body of the battle-warrior. Cuchulaind could not endure this, for Ferdiad continued his unguarded stout strokes, and his quick strokes, and his tremendous great blows at him. And he asked Laeg, son of Rianganabra, for the Gae Bulg. The manner of that was this: it used to be set down the stream and cast from between the toes; it made the wound of one spear in entering the body, but it had thirty barbs to open, and could not be drawn out of a person's body until it was cut open. And when Ferdiad heard the Gae-Bulg mentioned, he made a stroke of the shield down to protect his lower body. Cuchulaind thrust the unerring thorny spear off the centre of his palm over the rim of the shield, and through the breast of the skin-protecting armour, so that its farther half was visible after piercing his heart in his body.

Ferdiad gave a stroke of his shield up to protect the upper part of his body, though it was "the relief after the danger". The servant set the Gae-Bulg down the stream, and Cuchulaind caught it between the toes of his foot, and he threw an unerring cast of it at Ferdiad, and it passed through the firm deep iron apron of wrought iron, and broke the great stone, which was as large as a mill-stone, in three, and passed through the protections of his body into him, so that every crevice and every cavity of him was filled with its barbs. "That is enough now, indeed", said Ferdiad, "I fall of that. But I may say, indeed, that I am sickly now after thee. And it did not behove thee that I should fall by thy hand". So was he saying, and he spake these words.—

O Hound of the beautiful feats,  
It was not befitting thee to kill me.

his dying  
words;

Fol. 60. a. a.

lecc in loct nom len.  
 iſ foſc na feſi m'fuit.  
 Ni loſſrae na tſoið  
 ſecait beſnaio m-bſait.  
 iſ ſalaſi mo ſut.  
 uð, vo ſcaſao ſcaith.  
 Mébaic m'arſae ſuioð.  
 mo ðmoſeſe iſ cſú.  
 ni ma na ſeſaſ báiſ.  
 va ſoðaiſ a chú. Δ.

Rabert Cuculaino ſioi va ſaiſio aſſ a aiðle ocaſ na  
 iao a vá láim chaſiſ, ocaſ tuarſaib leiſſ cona aſim ocaſ  
 cona eſſiuo ocaſ cona eſſuo vaſi áth ſaſuaio é, ſombao  
 na áth aſuaio na beit in coſcuſi, ocaſ nabat na áth aſiaſ  
 ac ſeſaib h-ðſeno.

Óa léic Cuculaino aſi láſi ſeſnoiaio; ocaſ vo ſoðaiſ nél,  
 ocaſ táim, ocaſ taſſi baſi Coiſculaino aſi éino ſſiſnoiaio aſo.  
 Ac ðonnaic láeſ a ní ſin, ocaſ aſſáſſeſſaſi ſiſi h-ðſeno  
 uile vo tiétain vá ſaiſio. “Maith, a Chucuc[laino]”, baſi  
 láeſ, “comerſ baſeſſa, ocaſ va ſoiſſeſſe ſiſi h-ðſeno vaſi  
 ſaiſio, ocaſ ní ba cumlano oéſſiſi o'émaiſ uúinn, aſa ſoðaiſ  
 ſeſnoiaio mac Óamain mic Óáſe laſſu”.

“Can vaſſaſi eirſi, a ſilla”, baſi éſium, “ocaſ in tí va  
 ſoðaiſ limm?” Iſ aſlaio na baí in ſilla ſa ſáio, ocaſ na-  
 beſſe na bſiaðſa aſo, ocaſ na ſeſaiſi Cuculaino.

- l. Eſiſ, a áſcu Eſna,  
 cóſu a éac uuit moſi menma.  
 na láſi uít ſſeſnoiaio na n-ðſonſ.  
 veſnao iſ cſuaio vo ðomlonò.
- Cc. ſaðana vaſi menma móſi?  
 ſam immaſſe baſeſſe ocaſ bſiðſ,  
 ichle in n-éctá vo ſiſſiſiuſ  
 iſſi in ðuiſſe na éſuaio élaioðiuſ.
- l. Ní na cóſi vaſi a éáſiuo:  
 coſu vaſi a ðommaioſium.  
 ſaſ ſácaib in ſáio ſinneð,  
 caſneð, cſeðtað, cſoſinoeçh.
- Cc. Óa m-benaſ mo leçh cóſiſ ſláim,  
 uím iſ coſi benaſ mo leð láim;  
 cſuaſ! nað ſeſnoiaio boí aſi eðaiſ  
 cſi biéu na bié beðaio.
- l. ſeſſi leoſom na n-veſnao ðe—  
 na inſenaib cſaebſuaioe.  
 ſeſſium o'éc, cſuſu o'anao.  
 leð ní bec baſi m' bié ſcaſao.



Thine is the fault of my certain ruin.  
On thee 't is best to have my blood.

The wretches escape not  
Who go into the gap of destruction.  
My voice is diseased.  
Alas, I depart, my end hath come.

My lacerated ribs are bursting.  
My heart is all gore.  
Not well have I given battle.  
Thou hast killed me, O Hound.

Cuchulaind ran towards him after that and clasped his two arms about him, and lifted him with his arms and his armour and his clothes across the ford northwards, in order that the slain should be by the ford on the north, and not by the ford on the west with the men of Eiriu.

the victor  
carries off  
the body of  
the slain;

Cuchulaind laid Ferdiad down then; and a trance, and a faint, and a weakness fell on Cuchulaind over Ferdiad there. Laeg saw that, and the men of Eiriu all arose to come to him. "Good, O Cuchulaind", said Laeg, "arise now, for the men of Eiriu are coming to us, and it is not single combat they will give us, since Ferdiad, son of Daman, son of Dáre, has fallen by thee".

the victor  
faints;

Laeg urges  
him to  
arise;

"What availeth me to arise, O servant", said he, "after him that hath fallen by me?" And so was the servant saying, and he spake these words, and Cuchulaind answered.

L. Arise, O slaughter hound of Emania,  
Exultation now beseemeth thee better.  
Ferdiad of the hosts has fallen by thee.  
Truly thy combat was hard.

Dialogue  
between  
Laeg and  
Cuchulaind;

C. What availeth me high spirit now?  
To madness and grief I am driven,  
After the deed I have done  
And the body I have severely sworded.

L. It is not due of thee to lament him:  
It were fitter for thee to exult in it.  
At thee he flung the flying pointed spears,  
Malicious, wounding, blood-streaming.

C. Even though he had cut my one leg off me,  
And had he severed my one arm;  
Alas! that Ferdiad mounts not his steeds  
Through the endless time of perpetual life.

L. More pleasing to them is what thou hast done—  
To the women of the Craebh Ruaidh.  
He to die, thou to have remained.  
To them seemeth not too small [the numbers] who  
have parted for ever.

Fol. 60. a. a.

An Ló éanaé a Cualnge  
 inoiaio Meoba mói zluape,  
 iŕ ái váini le oo m-blair,  
 na maibair va mlevaib.  
 Ní na éotlaif iŕráma  
 i n-veŕaio va mói éana.  
 Ziari b'uaŕeo vo váim malle,  
 mói maicne ba moé é-eiŕge. e.

Ra gab Cuculaino ac écaime ocaŕ ac aŕiŕíeéŕ Fhivoeao ano, ocaŕ na beŕt na bŕiaéŕa.

“Maic, a Fhivoeao, bá uŕŕan vaic naé nech voino ſial-  
 laiz na ſitŕi ma cheŕt ſnimpavaŕa ſaile ocaŕ ſaŕſeio na  
 acallaif me comŕiaéŕain vóin comŕiac n-immairic. Va uŕŕan  
 vaic naé laeſ mac Rianſabŕa, muamnaŕſaŕi comairle aŕi co  
 maltaif. Va uŕŕan vaic naé aſheŕc ſiŕi ſlan Feſſſura ſoŕi  
 emair. Va uŕŕan vuit naé Conall caém, coŕicapaéŕ, commaio-  
 meé, caébuadaé, cobŕaŕſaŕi, comairle aŕi comaltaif. Váiz  
 na ſeŕataŕi in ſiŕi ſin na ſiſne ſein ſabaſ ſnimpava  
 cut-  
 ſumma commóŕa Connaéŕaiz muſſu ſo bŕunni m-bŕiáŕa ocaŕ  
 beſha. Váiz maŕo iaŕtaif ino ſiŕi ſein ve ſeſſaib, na vólib,  
 na válaib, na bŕiaéŕaib bŕéŕ inſill\* ban cenŕ ſino Con-  
 naéŕ, eſſi imbeŕit ſcell ocaŕ ſeiaé, eſſi imbeŕit ſae ocaŕ  
 élaŕoeb, eſſi imbeŕit m-bŕianoub ocaŕ ſrochell, eſſi im-  
 beŕit eé ocaŕ éaŕpaŕ, ní ba lám laic leŕaŕaſ [laſaſ] caŕna  
 caŕpaŕ, maŕi Fheŕinoiaŕ nel n-váŕa, ní ba buŕuo beŕna  
 baŕoŕi beŕoŕeiz vo ſeŕaib ſeiaéŕa ſeáé bŕucci, ní ba Cŕu-  
 áŕain coſſenaſ, ſebaſ cuŕu cutſumma muſſu ſo bŕunni  
 m-bŕiáŕa ocaŕ beá baŕeſſa, a mic vŕeſeŕeſſeiz ‘Oamáin’,  
 baŕi Cuculaino. Iŕ ano ſin na eŕiſ Cuculaino aſ éino  
 Fhivoeao. “Maic a Fhivoeao”, baŕi Cuculaino, “iŕ mói  
 in bŕiaſh ocaŕ in tŕeſcun va beŕtataŕi ſiŕi h-éſeno ſoŕt, vo  
 éhaŕaſſe vo comluno ocaŕ vo éomŕuc muſſa. Váiz ní  
 ſeio comluno na comŕiac muſſa baŕi Táim Vó Chuaſlſe.  
 Iŕ amlaio na bá ſa máo, ocaŕ ſabeſſe na bŕiaéŕa.

Fol. 60. b. a.

A Fhivoeao, aŕi voŕ éloe bŕiaſh.  
 uŕŕan vo vól veſenaé,  
 tuŕſu v'éc, miſſi v'ánaŕ.  
 ſiŕi uŕŕan aŕi ſiŕi ſeſaŕo.  
 Maŕo vammaſaŕi alla anall  
 ac ſeáŕaiz, buavaiz vŕhuanano  
 vaŕi lino ſo bŕiúŕe bŕiaſſ  
 noéŕo biaŕ aŕi n-áſeſaŕoſeſ.  
 Inmain lem vo muſſiuŕo máin,  
 inmain vo chŕiúŕ caem comlán,

\* [ſingill, H. 1. 13. 281.]

From the day that thou camest out of Cuailgne  
 After Medb of great glory,  
 It is to her a grievous slaughter of [her] people,  
 All thou hast slain of her champions.

Thou hadst not slept in repose  
 After thy great plundered flocks,  
 Though few thy company along with thee  
 Many [were] the mornings of thy early arising.

Cuchulaind began to lament and moan for Ferdiad there, and he said these words:

Well, O Ferdiad, it was unhappy for thee that it was not some  
 of the heroes who knew my real deeds of valour and prowess  
 hadst consulted before thou hadst come to meet me in the too  
 battle conflict. It was unhappy for thee that it was not Laeg,  
 Rianganbra, thou hadst consulted about our fellow-pupilship.  
 It was unhappy for thee that thou didst not ask the truly sincere ad-  
 vice of Fergus. It was unhappy for thee that it was not the comely,  
 exultive, battle-victorious Conall thou hadst consulted for  
 respecting our fellow-pupilship. For well do these men know  
 here will not be born a being of the Connacians who will per-  
 deeds equal to thine till the end of time and life. For if thou  
 consulted these men respecting the places, the assemblies, the  
 things, the false promises of the fair-haired women of Connaught,  
 playing at targets and shields, about playing at spears and  
 chess, about playing backgammon and chess, about playing at  
 and chariots, they would not have found the arm of a cham-  
 that would wound the flesh of a hero, like the cloud-coloured  
 ad, nor one to raise the inviting croak of the red-mouthed vul-  
 o the many coloured flocks, nor one that will contend for Cru-  
 o, who shall equal thee to the end of time and life henceforth,  
 -cheeked son of Daman", said Cuchulaind. And then Cuchu-  
 stood over Ferdiad. "Well, O Ferdiad", said Cuchulaind,  
 at was the treachery and abandonment played on thee by the  
 of Eiriu, to bring thee to combat and fight with me. For it  
 ot easy to combat and fight with me on the Táin Bó Chuail-

Lament of  
 the victor  
 over the  
 slain:

And so was he saying, and he spake these words:

O Ferdiad, treachery has defeated thee.  
 Unhappy was thy last fate,  
 Thou to die, I to remain.  
 Sorrowful for ever is our perpetual separation.

When we were far away, beyond  
 With Scathach, the gifted Buanand,  
 We then resolved that till the end of time  
 We should not be hostile to each other.

Dear to me was thy beautiful ruddiness,  
 Dear to me thy comely perfect form,



Fol 66. b. a.

inmain do noic glarr glanba,  
 inmain t-álais is t-irlabna  
 ní síng sin tseir tindi éneir  
 ní síng fers na ferachar  
 ní na éonzaib fciat ar leirs lán,  
 t-aitéiriu a mic veirs Damáin  
 ní tharla nimm runo core,  
 ab a ceap oenfer aife,  
 os macramla galaid gliao,—  
 ní fuapar runo, a Fhíroiao.  
 Fínoabair ingean Meoba,  
 gé beir o'febar a velba  
 is gat im ganem, na im smian  
 a caobriu ouiriu, a Fhíroiao. Δ.

Rá gab Cuculaino ac fegao Fíroiao ano. “Maith a mo  
 popa láis”, bar Cuculaino, “faobais Fheirnoiao baodeta,  
 ocar ben a eiriuo ocar a étsuo ve, so faccuirra in velz ar  
 a n-veirna in comluno ocar in comrac. Tanic laez, ocar na  
 faobais Fheirnoiao. Ra ben a eiriuo ocar a étsuo ve, ocar  
 na éonnaic in velz, ocar na gab zá écaine ocar za aitchi-  
 rect, ocar habert na bmaera.

Duirran! a eó óir  
 a Fhíroiao na n-dám,  
 a balc bennis buain,  
 ba buavao do lám,  
 Do bair buve bhar,  
 ba car, ba cáin réc;  
 so éirir ouillech maeth  
 immut táeb zu t-éc.  
 Ar comaltar cáin;  
 faoarc rúla ráir;  
 so fciat so m-bil óir;  
 th-frocell ba riu máin.  
 Do éurim uom láim  
 tuci nar bé éóir.  
 ní na éoinruno éain  
 duirran! a eó óir! O.

“Maith a mo popa láis”, bar Cuculaino, “corcair Fheir-  
 noiao faodeta, ocar benin n-gae m-bolza ar; váis ní fec-  
 aimpé beir in écair m'airim”.

Tanic laez ocar na éoréair Fheirnoiao, ocar na ben in  
 n-gae m-bolza ar, ocar na éonnaic rium a arim fuilec fori-  
 veis na taeb Fhíroiao, ocar habert na bmaera.

Δ Fhíroiao! is truas in vál!  
 t-acrin dam so ruao no bán;

Dear to me thy gray clear-blue eye,  
 Dear to me thy wisdom and thy eloquence.  
 There hath not come to the body-cutting combat  
 There hath not been angered by manly exertion  
 There hath not held up shield on the field of spears,  
 Thine equal, O ruddy son of Daman.

Never until now have I met,  
 Since I slew Aife's only son,  
 Thy like in deeds of battle,  
 Never have I found, O Ferdiad.

Findabar the daughter of Medb,  
 Notwithstanding her excellent beauty  
 It is putting a gad on the sand or sunbeam  
 For thee to expect her, O Ferdiad.

Cuchulaind then continued to gaze on Ferdiad. "Well, my friend Laeg", said Cuchulaind, "strip Ferdiad now, and take his armour and his clothes off him, that I may see the brooch for the sake of which he undertook the combat and the fight". Laeg came, and he stripped Ferdiad. He took his armour and his clothes off him, and he saw the pin, and he began to lament and moan for him, and he spake these words.

the body of  
the slain is  
stripped in  
order that  
the victor  
may see  
Medb's  
brooch;

Alas! O golden brooch!  
 O Ferdiad of the poets,  
 O stout hero of slaughtering blows,  
 Valiant was thine arm,

lamentation  
of the victor  
on seeing the  
brooch;

Thy yellow flowing hair,  
 The curled, the beauteous jewel;  
 Thy soft foliated girdle  
 Upon thy side till thy death.

Delightful thy fellow-pupilship;  
 Beaming noble eyes;  
 Thy shield with its golden rim;  
 Thy chess which was worth riches,

Thy fall by my hand  
 I feel it was not right.  
 It was not a friendly consummation  
 Alas! O golden brooch! Alas!

"Good, O my friend Laeg", said Cuchulaind, "open Ferdiad now, and take the Gae-Bulg out of him; for I cannot afford to be without my weapon".

the body is  
opened  
and the  
Gae Bulg  
taken out of  
him;

Laeg came and opened Ferdiad, and took the Gae-Bulg out of him, and he saw his weapon bloody and red-coloured by the side of Ferdiad, and he spake these words.

O Ferdiad! sorrowful is the fate!  
 That I should see thee so gory and pale;

Fol 60. b. a.

murrí gan m'arim do nigi,  
 curru ic éorrai chrioligi.  
 Máo dammamairi alla anairi  
 ac Scatais, ir ac Uatais,  
 nocho betir beóil bána  
 etraino, ir airim i lága.  
 Δ ουβαιρε Scátac go rcentb  
 a atherc ruanaio no uerb;  
 erigro uli oon éac éarr.  
 bai ríora Fermain garbglarr.  
 Δ ουβαιρετa na Fhernoiaio,  
 ocar na Lugairo, lán fial,  
 ocar na mac m-Daetaim m-báin,  
 teét uín in agro Fermain.  
 Loomair go h-aílle in éomraic  
 ar leirig loca lino Fhormaic.  
 tucram chetru chét immac  
 a inorib na n-Achirreé.  
 Da m-bara ir Ferioio in n-áig  
 i n-oorur oune Fermain,  
 no marbura Rino mac Niúil,  
 no marbar Ruao mac Finníuil.  
 Ra marb Ferioio ar in leirig  
 dláth mac Calbai chlarobeb veirig.  
 nomarb Lugairo,—feri uaiare uian,—  
 Mugairne maria Torrman.  
 Ra marbara ar n-oula innoio,  
 ceéru éoicair ferri feriglono,  
 no marb Ferioio—uairc in oriem—  
 oam n-orieimeo ir oam n-oileno.  
 Ra airigrem uín n-Fermáin n-glícc.  
 ár farigi letan linobrucc,  
 tucram Fermán i m-betaro  
 lino go Scatais ríachletain.  
 Da nairc ar mummy go m-blao  
 ar oíó cotais ir oéntao,  
 conna betir ar feriga  
 etir rini rino Elga.  
 Truas in maten, maten mairc,  
 norbí mac Damáin oítraié.  
 uéan, do éara in cara  
 oara ualuir oig n-veirig fála!  
 Dambao ano acéinoírea t-éc,  
 etir míleoib mói Dnéc,



- I having my weapon yet unwashed,  
And thou a blood streaming mass.
- When we were away in the east  
With Scathach, and with Uathach,  
There would not have been angry words  
Between us, and weapons of destruction.
- Scathach eloquently spoke  
In words of truly warlike import;  
Go ye all to the furious battle  
Which will be fought by German the terrible.
- I said unto Ferdiad,  
And to Lugaid, the ever generous,  
And to the son of Baetan the fair,  
Come [we] all of us against German.
- We came all of us to the battle ground  
On the shore of the lake of Lind Formait.  
With us we brought four hundred out  
Of the islands of the Athisech.
- As I and Ferdiad the brave were  
In the door of German's court,  
I slew Rind, the son of Niul,  
I killed Ruad, the son of Finniul.
- Ferdiad slew upon the shore  
Bláth, the son of Calba of the red swords.  
Lugaid killed—a surly fierce man—  
Mugarne of the Torrian sea.
- I killed upon our going into the court  
Four times fifty men of stern valour,  
Ferdiad killed—surly was the party—  
A clambering ox and a water ox.
- We pillaged the court of the wily German.  
Over the broad sea of spangled waters,  
We brought German alive  
With us to Scathach of the broad shield.
- Our famous tutoress then bound  
Our battle valour and amity,  
So that our angers should not be [opposed]  
Among the fair tribes of Elga.
- Sorrowful the morning, a Tuesday morning,  
That the son of Daman was bereft of strength.  
Alas, I loved the friend  
To whom I have served a drink of red blood!
- If it were there I saw thy death,  
Among the great heroes of Greece,

the victor  
again  
laments  
the slain,

and recounts  
the story of  
a warlike  
expedition  
which they  
made  
together:

after which  
they were  
bound in  
perpetual  
amity:

he continues  
to lament  
his fallen  
friend:

Fol. 60. b. b.

ní beinorí i m-beáiro oar tóir—  
 zombao aróen acbailméir.

Ir tpuas a ní narra oe:  
 narí n-daltanais Scáéde,  
 miiri cpiéctac ba éru puao,  
 tuirru zan éarpu o'imluao.

Ir tpuas a ní narra oe:  
 narí n-daltanais Scátaíde,  
 miiri cpiéctac dá éru zarb,  
 ocar tuirru úli marb.

Ir tpuas a ní narra oe:  
 narí n-daltanais Scataíge,  
 tuirru ó'éc—miiri beó bpar.

ir zleó ferze in feracaf. Δ.

"Maith, a Chucuc[laino]", barí laez, "pacbam in n-áthra  
 faoerpa. Ir mo faata acám ano". "faicrimmit am écin, ámo  
 popa láiz", barí Cuculaino, "acé ir clúci ocar ir záini  
 lempa cac comlonó ocar cac compac oa pónar i farrao  
 comlaino ocar éompaic fhioiaó".

Ocar ir amlao na báí za ráo, ocar maberé na bmaépa.

Clúci cac, zaine cac,  
 zo poié ferioiaó ir in n-át;  
 inuno foglain ppié oún,  
 innuno mozpaím ráé,  
 inuno mummi máeé  
 parrlainni reé cac.

Clúci cac, zaine cac,  
 zo poié ferioiaó ir in n-áth;  
 inuno airéi ar uach oúinn,  
 inuno zarceo znát.  
 Scáéac tuc oa rciaé, oamra  
 ir o'ferioiaó triáth.

Clúci cac, zaine cac,  
 zo poié ferioiaó ir in n-át;  
 inmain uacni óri  
 na fupmiur ar áth,  
 a tarbza na tuach,  
 ba calma na cách!

Clúci cac, zaine cac,  
 zo poié ferioiaó ir in n-át;  
 in leoman larrmain lonó,  
 in tonó baéth óorri  
 immar bpiáth.

[MS. defective]

Clúci cac, zaine cac,

I should not be alive after thee—  
For it is together we should die.

Sad is the deed which has come of it :  
We, the pupils of Scathach,  
I all wounded and red with gore,  
Thou thy chariot no longer driving.

Sad the deed which has come of it :  
We the pupils of Scathach,  
I wounded and rough with gore,  
And thou entirely dead.

Sad the deed which has come of it :  
We, the pupils of Scathach,  
Thou to have died—I alive and strong.  
The battle was an angry combat.

“Good, O Cuchulaind”, said Laeg, “let us leave this ford now. Too long are we here”. “We shall leave now, indeed, O my friend Laeg”, said Cuchulaind; “but every other combat and fight that I have made was to me as a game and a sport compared with the combat and the fight of Ferdiad”.

Laeg urges  
him to leave  
the ford;  
he prepares  
to go;

And so he was saying, and he spake the words.

Each was a game, each was a sport,  
Until Ferdiad came into the ford;  
Alike was the tuition we received,  
Alike were we called to rewards,  
Alike was our tender tutoress  
Who distinguished us above all others.

he magnifies  
his recent  
combat and  
enulogises his  
opponent.

Each was a game, each was a sport,  
Until Ferdiad came into the ford;  
Alike were our individual habits,  
Alike our ordinary achievements.  
It was Scathach that gave two shields, to me  
And to Ferdiad at the same time.

Each was a game, each was a sport.  
Until Ferdiad came into the ford;  
Dear to me the pillar of gold  
Whom I vanquished on the ford;  
Who assaulting the tribes,  
Was more valiant than all!

Each was a game, each was a sport,  
Until Ferdiad came into the ford,  
The lion fiery and furious,  
The swelling hideous wave  
Threatening destruction.

[MS. defective.]

Each was a game, each was a sport,



Fol. 60. b. b.

ʒo noíe fepnoíao íʒʒ in n-áth.  
 inoan limpa fep oíl oíao;—  
 íʒ am oíao ma bíao ʒo bʒác.  
 inoé ba metitʒi ʒliab;—  
 inoíu ní fuil ve áct a ʒcáth.

Tʒi oíʒime na tána  
 va noáʒatʒi oom Láma,  
 ʒoʒmna bó, ʒep, ocaʒ eé,  
 ʒo vaʒ laioíuʒ aʒ caé leé.

ʒiʒbaé línmaʒa na ʒluaiʒ  
 tanʒatʒi aʒʒ Chʒuaáain éʒuaio,  
 Mo tʒín íʒ luʒu leti,  
 ʒo maʒbaʒ oom ʒaʒb éluéi.

Noóo taʒla co caé tʒó,  
 ní ma áct banba va bʒú.  
 níʒi ma éino ve muʒi na tʒi,  
 ve maccaib ʒiʒ duo fepi clú.

C.

Áioeo fʒiʒnoíao ʒonnoíʒiʒn.

Until Ferdiad came into the ford.  
 Dear to me the beloved Ferdiad;—  
 It shall hang over me for ever.  
 Yesterday he was larger than a mountain;  
 To-day there remains of him but his shadow.

The three countless [legions] of the Táin  
 They all have fallen by my hands,  
 Their choicest cows, men, and horses,  
 I have slaughtered on either side.

The victor  
 boasts of his  
 feats.

Though more numerous were the hosts  
 That came out from destructive Cruachan,  
 Though my numbers were less by one half,  
 I killed them by my fierce contest.

There has not come to a gory battle,  
 Nor has Banba nursed upon her breast,  
 There has not come off sea or land  
 Of the sons of kings, one of better fame.

The victor  
 extols the  
 slain.

The Fate of Ferdiad so far.

1  
1

1  
1

1  
1



## II.

### TWO OLD LAW TRACTS

ON

### THE CLASSES OF SOCIETY AND THEIR PRIVILEGES AMONG THE ANCIENT IRISH.

*From the vellum MS. H. 3. 18., in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.*

WITH LITERAL TRANSLATIONS.

#### 1. THE CRITH-GABLACH.

This, undoubtedly the most important document yet published on the social organization of the Gaedhil, or, indeed of the Celtic peoples of Europe, appears not to have been known in its complete form by Professor O'Curry, who has made the fragment of it known to him the subject of much valuable discussion in Lectures II., vol. i., and XX., vol. ii. The vellum MS. H. 3. 18. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, contains three unconnected fragments, from two of which the following copy of the whole tract has been made out. The first and larger fragment commences with part of a sentence (at the words *ber b'ro ceth-rap*, etc.), at page 1 of the MS. It is certain, however, that the Tract was originally complete in the first part of the MS., for what is now page 1 appears to have been formerly page 9: the first three leaves being so much defaced that they could not be read, and were not therefore taken into account in newly paging the MS., or by Dr. O'Donovan in his Descriptive Catalogue of the MSS. in the Library of Trinity College. The fourth leaf, which would have been pages 7 and 8 of this MS., has been torn away, and with it the first part of the Tract is thus lost from this part of it; as is clearly proved by a small portion of the lower end of the leaf which remains, and which contains some words and parts of words belonging to this Tract, the last being the connecting word between the lost part and the fragment now remaining. This word forms part of the sentence: *C'ro nou m-ber in ferpa [a b'ó a'p'echur? ar] ber b'ro ceth-rap no coic'ur beic h'í comar'bur b'ó a'p'eó*, etc. "Why has this man not obtained [his Bó-aireship? Because] it is the custom to have four or five in the Comarship

of a Bó-Aire", etc. The words within the brackets are upon the remaining corner of the lost leaf, while the remainder of the sentence, beginning with the words *Uer bvo*, etc., is upon what is now p. 1 of the MS. There can then be no doubt that this copy of the Tract was originally complete. The page before the lost leaf is written in large characters, but so much defaced that it cannot now be read: it probably contained an introduction to the Tract.

The second fragment, and which contains the beginning of the tract, is found at p. 252 of the MS., and without title. The part common to both fragments led Mr. Bryan O'Looney to discover the connecting link between them, and thus we have been enabled to give this valuable tract in its complete form from the same MS. The translation of the first fragment was made by Mr. O'Looney. Professor O'Curry left a readable translation of the second part, which has served as the basis of the following one. The letters O'L. and O'C. on the margin, indicate the parts first translated by each respectively. The text of the copy in the beginning of the MS. being more correct than that of the second, which formed part of a different tract, has been accordingly adopted here, so far as it goes.

The third fragment is to be found on p. 419 of the MS. H. 3. 18., and consists of only a few paragraphs from the middle of the tract. With the exception of these three fragments, no other copy of the tract, or of any part of it, is known. The MS. H. 3. 18., like so many of our MS., is a mere scrap-book, into which the compiler copied everything he deemed worthy of preservation. It does not appear that the copyist recognized those three fragments, which were evidently copied from different MSS., as belonging to the same tract. Edward O'Reilly, in his *Irish Writers*, under the year 696, refers to the MS. H. 3. 18., and describes the tract, or at all events the chief fragment, as "a law tract on the privileges and punishments of persons in different ranks in society", and believed it to have been part of a great compilation of laws known as the *ua lea-bap seas na fuithime* or *fuithibéi*, or The Twelve Books of the *Fuithrim*. At p. 78 a. of the MS. H. 4. 22. T. C. D., are to be found a few glosses under the heading "*incipit maétnaioite na cana fuithibéi*", which show that at the period when those glosses were copied, the compilation in question existed. Judging from those glosses, from the internal evidence of the *Crith Gablach* itself, and many other considerations which cannot be entered into here, it is very probable that the *Crith Gablach* did really form part of the code of laws known as the *Cain Fuithime*, compiled by *Amergin*, son of *Amalgad*, son of *Maelruan*, a distinguished poet, and a native of the *Decies*, in the time of *Finghin*, king of Munster, who died A.D. 694. Professor O'Curry has given an interesting account of this great Code of Laws from the MS. H. 3. 18., in vol. i., pp. 31 and 32, of the preceding lectures. But whether the *Crith Gablach* was once part of that code or not, there can be no doubt that it belongs to the middle or end of the seventh century.



## AN CRITH GABLACH.

CIO AN NENPER CMT ZABLAC? NIN. AN INOI CHENAF IN H. 2. 18. p. 352. O'L.  
 FEAR TUAITE VIA VASPOLTAIB HI TUAIE CO NAIRIMTHEM MA  
 ZHAC TECTA IMBI I TUAIE: NO ANAIB VO ZABLAIB I FOOLA-  
 THEM ZHAC TUAITE.

CAIR. CIRLIM FOOLA FORFUIOIB? A. UH. CIO AF A FOROAILTI  
 ZHAC TUAITE? A URLANN ZHAC NECALPA, AN NACH ZHAC BIF A  
 NECLAIF IF COIR CIA BEE A URLANN I TUAIE, VEG FORTAIS, <sup>(453)</sup> NO  
 OITIG, NO FIATHAIFE, NO BHECTEMNAECTA, O EACH VO ALAIBU.

CERC. CADEAT ZHAC TUAIE? FEH MIOBA, BO AHE, AHE  
 OERA, AHE AHO, AHE THIFE, AHE FORGILL, OCUR MU.

### THE CRITH GABLACH.

What is it that is called Crith Gablach? Answer. The thing  
 which the man of the tribe accumulates from his benefits in the  
 territory till he is admitted to the rank of the legitimate possessors  
 of the territory: or other increase [of property] by which distinc-  
 tion is given to the grades of the people.

Quære. Into how many grades are they [the people] divided?  
 [Answer.] Into seven grades. In what manner are the grades of  
 the people distinguished? In the same manner as the ecclesiastical  
 grades, because it is proper that the grades which are in the  
 church should be also in the people, for proof, or denial, or witness,  
 or judgment, between man and man.

Quære. What are the grades of the people? A Fer-Midba, <sup>The privi-  
 leged grades.</sup>  
 a Bó-Aire, <sup>(454)</sup> an Aire-Desa, <sup>(455)</sup> an Aire-Tuise, <sup>(456)</sup> an Aire-For-  
 gaill, <sup>(457)</sup> and a Ri.

<sup>(453)</sup> *Fortig*, a law term which means  
 proof for the negation, denial, or rebut-  
 ting of a case at law.

<sup>(454)</sup> *Aire*. The ruling classes among  
 the ancient Irish were called *Aires*.  
 The corresponding term among the old  
 Welsh was *Argheydd*, which signifies  
 a lord. These terms are, perhaps, to  
 be connected with the parallel forms  
 of the Sanskrit root *arh* and *argh*.  
 From *arh* we have *arha*, honourable,  
*arhaná*, honour. The Gothic *Airus*,  
 man, ambassador, with its cognate  
 forms: Old Saxon *eru*, Old Norse *ár*,  
*ári*, agent, ambassador, may also be  
 connected with *Aire*. Another inter-  
 esting cognate form is the Scythian  
*aiwop*, man. The Rugian man's name  
*E. arich* (Zeuss, *Die Deutschen u. die*

*Nachbarstämme*, 486), is undoubt-  
 edly another relative, connected with  
 a probable Gothic *aira*, and with the  
 Old High German *era*, *haera*, Frisian  
*ere*, Old Saxon *era*, Ang. Saxon *are*,  
*ár*, splendour, glory, honour. New  
 High German *Ehre*, honour, and many  
 other sister forms. With *argh* we  
 may connect the Greek *ἀρχη*, sove-  
 reignty, power, in the plural *αἱ ἀρ-  
 χαι*, authorities, magistrates; *ἀρχω*  
 to govern, and *ἄρχων* a ruler;  
*ἀρχι* in arch-bishops, etc.; Gothic  
*airknis* [or *airkns*?] good, holy; and  
 the Welsh *Arglwydd* above men-  
 tioned. The Sanskrit derivative *ar-  
 gha*, *arghya*, honour, offerings to the  
 gods, reward, and the Gothic *airknis*,  
 suggest a possible, and if it could be



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Gablach.  
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252  
'L.

Μαο α ολιγο Fenechar, η menbuo funn φοροαλτεν να  
αιη. ηστιαοι. Για menbau βο αιρε cona οοτ φοολαο, αιρε

The privi-  
leged grades.

In the same way that they are entitled to the Fenechas,<sup>(458)</sup> it is so they are divided into these seven grades. What are the ranks of the Bó-Aire with his eight (different) grades, Aire-Desa, Aire-Ech-

established, an interesting connection between the origin of the terms expressive of civil rule, and the priestly function.

In the Yaçna we meet with the word *airya*, which is the Zend representative of the Sanskrit *âyra*, from the root *r* (*ar*)=Zend *ērē*, to gain, to acquire. As an adjective, it means "venerable"; and as a noun it is the proper name from which has come the term "Aryan", now almost universally given to the Indo-European races and languages. Bopp compares the Old High German *êra*, above cited, and its cognate forms, with *arya*. It may be that this is so, and that the Irish *Aire* represented not only in blood but in name the primitive *Aryas*.

The modern German title "*Herr*", and its cognate forms in the German and Scandinavian dialects, is usually connected with the Gothic *hazjan*, to praise, O. H. G. *haer*, *heri*, venerable; the O. H. German comparative *heroro*, *haeroro*, etc., elder, major, etc., Anglo Saxon *Herra*, *Hearra*, Lord. Are these forms really connected with *hazjan*, or may they not be rather connected with the roots above, and therefore with our *Aire*?

There were two classes of *Aires*: 1. those who possessed "*Deis*", that is, who were owners of the soil; and 2. those whose wealth consisted of cattle and other personal property. The first class of *Aires* were distinguished as *Flaiths*, the "*Wlad*" of the Slavonians, and the "*Hlaford*" of the Anglo-Saxons. They constituted the "*Haute Noblesse*", and corresponded to the *Eorls*, *Eorlcundmen*, or *Twelfhaendmen* of the Anglo-Saxons. The second class were known as *Bó-Aires*, that is "*Cow Aires*", and corresponded to the Anglo-Saxon "*Sixhaendmen*", *Sithcundmen*, or *Thanes*.

<sup>(455)</sup> *Aire Desa*, the lowest grade of

the *Flaiths*, or *Aires* who possessed *Deis* or real property. See vol. i. p. 37, and App. pp. 493, 494, and 516.

<sup>(456)</sup> *Aire Tuise*, i.e., the leading *Aire*; he took precedence in right of birth, and his rank, rights, and privileges were greater than those of most of the other *Aires*. He appears to have acted as a kind of president of the *Flaiths* on occasions of elections, etc. See vol. i. p. 37, App. pp. 499, and 516.

<sup>(457)</sup> *Aire Forgaill*, i.e. the testifying *Aire*. He was the *Flaith* next in rank after the *Righ* or king and his *Tanist*. One of his functions, from which he derived his name, was that of determining the qualifications, privileges, and rights of the suitors of the court and the various public functionaries. He corresponded to the *Canghellawer* of the Welsh; and was the prototype of the Cancellarius Regis in the mediæval states. Every *Righ* or king had his *Aire Forgaill*; and as there were three ranks of kings, there were also three ranks of *Aire Forgaills*; the *Aire Forgaill* of a *Righ Tuatha*; the *Aire Forgaill* of a *Righ Mor Tuatha*; and the *Aire Forgaill* of a *Righ Cuicidh* or provincial king. The *Ard Righ Erind* or high king had likewise an *Aire Forgaill*; we are not however in a position to determine whether, when the monarch was also provincial king, which was generally the case, he had two *Aire Forgaills*, one as monarch and one as *Righ Cuicidh*.

<sup>(458)</sup> See App., note 479, p. 472.

<sup>(459)</sup> *Aire Echa* was the *Flaith* who commanded the permanent military levy of the territory, consisting of five men equipped with arms. He was the king's Master of the Horse, and corresponded to the "Constable of the Host", the "Stallere" or "Constabularius Regis" of the Anglo-Saxon kings. See vol. i. p. 37, and App. p. 497.

depa, aipe ecta, aipe aipo, aipe tuire, aipe forgaill, ta-  
naire ni, ocuip ni? Casceat foollab bo aipech? Da fer  
mibotha, ocuip occ-aime, ocuip aitech, ocuip bo aipe febra,

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ta,<sup>(459)</sup> Aire-Ard,<sup>(460)</sup> Aire-Tuise, Aire-Forgaill, Tanaise-Ri,<sup>(461)</sup> and a  
Ri? What are the ranks of a Bó-Aire? Two Fer-Midbotha,<sup>(462)</sup> and a  
and an Oc-Aire,<sup>(463)</sup> and an Aithech,<sup>(464)</sup> and a Bó-Aire-Febsa,<sup>(465)</sup>

The privi-  
leged grades.

<sup>(460)</sup> *Aire Ard*, i.e., the High Aire. A *Flaith* who was higher in rank than the *Aire Desa*, and whose duties, rights, and privileges, were greater than those of the other grades of the nobility; he had precedence of the *Aire Desa*, and came next in rank, etc., to the *Aire Tuise*. See vol. i. p. 37, and Appendix, p. 497-8, and 515.

<sup>(461)</sup> *Tanaise Ri*, i.e., the Tanist of a king. He was next in rank to the king; and was elected as presumptive successor to the king by the people. His rank was much higher, and his rights and privileges much greater than those of the other nobles. See vol. i. p. 38, and App. p. 501.

<sup>(462)</sup> See App., note 481, p. 473.

<sup>(463)</sup> See App. note 511, p. 479.

<sup>(464)</sup> *Aithech*, *Athig*, *Athaig*, a word which has formed the subject of much discussion as to its true meaning. It corresponds to the Welsh *Taeog* in derivation and to a certain extent in meaning. It means literally "house-father", for there can be no doubt that it is a derivative of the old Irish *Aite*, nurturer, for *Aitte* (Zeuss, 1056, and Stokes' Irish Glosses, No 1078), corresponding to the Gothic *Atta*, father, of which many sister forms are to be found in the Old German dialects. A gloss in the *Liber Hymnorum* supports this primitive meaning of the word "*Athig* .i. *Fir muintir*", real family; the following gloss also supports it: "*Athaig* .i. *icadwighe ut est Athach tigh turc acus a setig*" — *Athaig*, i.e., payee, ut est, the *Athach* is the chief [i.e. the man of the house] and his wife" (MS. H. 3. 18. p. 5). As head of a house, the *Aithech* paid the tribute or rent levied by the *Flaith*, and hence his name became synonymous with "payee". The *Flaiths* who constituted the ruling classes, and no doubt many, if not most of the *Bó-Aires* also, belonged, as

do the ruling classes in every other country, to the last intrusive race, and, like all conquerors, must have imposed as much of the burden of maintaining the state as the subject race could bear. Hence the better class of the latter in Eiriu, who were able to retain the position of independent householders, became mere tenants to the former. In time, such of the ruling class as were unable to maintain their position as *Flaiths*, sunk into the condition of *Aithechs*, when they did not descend to be mere retainers. In this way the *Aithech* became synonymous with "tenant", as distinguished from *Flaith*, or lord. The term *Flaith Athaig*, shows that an ancient proprietor might have even retained considerable possessions on payment of rent. Strictly speaking the *Bó Aires* were *Aithechs*, at least in all *Tuaths* where there were *Flaiths*. But the privileges which they acquired gradually transformed them into a gentry or intermediate aristocracy, so that the term *Aithech* gradually became restricted to those who did not possess sufficient wealth to be reckoned *Bó-Aires*. The *Aithech* in this more restricted sense, was a free man in the same sense that the Saxon *Ceorl*, or churl, and one class of the Welsh *Taeogs*, were free. See INTRODUCTION for a discussion of the whole subject of the occupation of land and the position of the occupiers amongst the ancient Irish.

<sup>(465)</sup> *Bó Aire Febsa*, i.e., the lowest grade of *Bó Aires*, a man who had merely the qualifications of the minor grade of the cow-owner nobility. He had twelve cows, and was entitled to fees or fines under the laws according to his dignity. See vol. i. p. 35; H. 3. 18. 257; see also Appendix, p. 484; and the different grades of *Bó Aire*.



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The privi-  
leged grades.

ocur mbriuisfer, ocur fer foelai, ocur aire coirruig. Carve  
imtach, ocur naom, ocur raic, ocur fiaonaire, ocur loz

and a Brughfer,<sup>(466)</sup> and a Fer-Fothlai,<sup>(467)</sup> and an Aire-Cosraing.<sup>(468)</sup>  
What is the Imthach,<sup>(469)</sup> and the Naidm,<sup>(470)</sup> and the Raith,<sup>(471)</sup> and

<sup>(466)</sup> See App. note 531, p. 485.

<sup>(467)</sup> *Fer Fothlai*, i.e., a man of wealth. He was so called because he had more cattle than his own land could support; he let them out on hire to tenants, and paid his serving tenants in cattle. He was called the leader of *Bó Aires*, because of his wealth; and he was progressing to the rank of *Aire Desa* (i.e., a landlord). See vol. i. p. 36; and App. pp. 490-1.

<sup>(468)</sup> *Aire Cosraing*, i.e. the binding *Aire*, was a *Bó Aire* who represented the executive authority of the chief or king, in assemblies of the people and courts, which he appears to have had the authority to summon. He also was the provost of the chief or king over his *Ceiles*, *Bothachs*, *Sen-Cleithe* and *Fuidirs*, acting for them in all civil and criminal suits, contracts, etc., and determining the amount of dues and tolls in the shape of *Biatha*, *Bes Tigi*, etc., to which they were liable; and all of which as fiscal officer he settled. His title of *Cosraing* or *Nascaire*, as he was also called, was derived especially from his being the representative of the chief's *Ceiles*, etc., in all contracts and obligations. Though the executive officer of the chief or king he was elected by the people. As each chief or *Righ Tuatha*, *Righ Mor Tuatha*, and provincial king had an *Aire Cosraing*, there were at least three ranks of them, corresponding to the three ranks of *Aire Forgaills*. The *Aire Cosraing* was one of the Irish representatives of the Anglo-Saxon "Gerefa", of which there were, as is well known, several ranks also. Thus the *Aire Cosraing* of a *Tuath* corresponded to the "Gerefa" of the Hundred, and the *Aire Cosraing* of a *Mor Tuath*, to the Shire "Gerefa", who is now represented by the county Sheriffs or "Shire-reeves". The Welsh *Maer*, a title also known in Ireland and Scotland, was also the representative

of the *Aire Cosraing*. See more on this subject in INTRODUCTION.

<sup>(469)</sup> *Imthach* (lit. progress, migration, departure, or adventure), but here it means rank, state, affluence, or position in society, in which sense the word is still used all over Munster.

<sup>(470)</sup> *Naidm*, literally a knot, that is a contract. All contracts, in order to be valid, should be made in the presence of a person privileged to execute them. This privileged person was called *Fer Nadma*, and corresponded to the *Gwr-Nod* or Nodman of the Welsh Laws. The editor of the Ancient Laws of Wales explains *Gwr-Nod* as a man of note or mark; the cognate Irish word shows that this explanation is incorrect. *Naidm* is the Latin *Nexum*, and the *Fer Nadma* or binder was like the *Libripens* who officiated in all transfers of *res mancipi per aes et libram*. The Irish functionary who bound the *Naidm* or *Nexum* appears to have had many responsibilities which there is no evidence to show that the Roman one undertook. He also acted in contracts and bargains which would not have been included in those considered by Roman Law necessary to be made *per aes et libram*. Thus, according to a passage in the MS. H. 3. 18, T.C.D. p. 20, the "knotter" was bound: to see that the *Naidm* or *Nexum* which he made was not in any way infringed upon, to give evidence on oath on the subject, and to honestly enforce the fulfilment of the contract. In the curt and elliptical language of the Brehon Laws, the *Naidm* or *Nexum* is put for the "knotter" or *Fer Nadma*. In the making of every contract, besides the latter functionary, two other persons should be present, a *Raith* or surety, and *Fiadnaise* or witness, "because it is a *Naidm* [recte a *Fernadma*] that binds, and it is a *Raith* that promises, and it is a *Fiadnaise* that proves the lawfulness of the suit" (MS. H. 3. 18. 22).



nenech, ocuf biaða, ocuf oþmauf, ocuf rnaða, ocuf tauif-  
 the Fiadnaise,<sup>(472)</sup> and the Loghenech,<sup>(473)</sup> and the Biatha,<sup>(474)</sup> and

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 leges.

*Naidm*, like *Nexum*, may be connected with the Sanskrit root *nah* = Zend *naz*, to bring together, to join, to enchain.

<sup>(471)</sup> *Raith* is usually, as in the foregoing note, explained as a bail or surety. According to the editor of the Welsh Laws, a *Rhaith* was a "verdict", of which there were different kinds according to the number of compurgators. Like *Naidm*, the *Raith* is put for the person who gives the decision. He was not strictly speaking a compurgator, but either a bail who bore testimony to the character and good faith of a party to a suit or contract, and promised that he should appear when called upon to fulfil a contract, or appear in court; or a person who was consulted respecting contracts, sales, etc.—an adviser in fact. His legal functions as bail appear to have been confined to the first hearing of a cause. *Raith*, in the sense of decision or counsel given, is perhaps to be connected with the Gothic *redan*, Old High German *rātan*, to consult, persuade, Anglo-Saxon *rædan* to give counsel, and many other Germanic and Scandinavian forms, including the New High German *Rath*, a councillor. We may also connect with it the Italian *rota*, Lithuanian *rotā*, a meeting of council. The cognate Irish words: *raidh*, which O'Reilly translates "arbitrator", and which in many passages of Irish MSS. means a decision of a meeting or assembly, *rād*h to speak, *comhradh* conversation, the Lithuanian *rodas*, Lettish *rādu*, Polish *rada* counsel, are perhaps also to be connected with Gothic *redan* and not with *rodjan*.

<sup>(472)</sup> *Fiadnaise*, a witness. According to Dr. Ebel the latter English word is derived from *Fiadnaise*. See note 470, on *Naidm*, p. 470.

<sup>(473)</sup> There are four terms referring to the face used in the Laws: *Loghenech*, *Enechland*, *Enechrucice*, *Enechrigris*. *Loghenech* is always put for honour-price, or fine for any insult offered to a man's honour, which fine might be great or small in proportion

to the rank of the offended person. *Enechland* was the fine due to a person for any insult, indignity, or injury done to any person or thing under his protection or sanctuary. That there was an essential difference between *Enechland* (an *Eiric* or fine) and *Loghenech* (honour price) is shown by the following curious gloss: "The *Aigne* (i.e. an arguer, i.e. a counsellor) was not entitled to *Loghenech*, because he was classed with the *Cainte* or satirist. He was only entitled to *Enechland* or *Eiric*, for the injury or insult which he had received; and the *Enechland* was as follows: for the counsellor who dispenses judgment, nine cows; for the pleading counsellor, six cows; for the highest rank of junior counsellor, four cows; for the next in order three cows (MS. H. 3. 18. p. 518). *Enechland* appears to have corresponded to the Welsh *Gwynnebwarth*, which the editor of the Ancient Laws glosses "face-shame". Another word occurs in the Welsh Laws, *Gwynnebwerth*, which is considered to be legally synonymous with the word just mentioned, but which is glossed in the same work as "face-worth". If these words are distinct they must have had different legal significations like the Irish words. *Gwynnebwarth* may perhaps be compounded of two words equivalent to the Irish words, *enech*, face, and *gart*, interest or fine, i.e. the full fine or honour price, while *gwynnebwerth* may be formed from words corresponding to the Irish words, *enech*, face, and *bert* = *dliged*, a legal fine. *Enechrucice* was a face-reddening reproach, i.e., "a blood-red face such as if your mother's son or your sister's son had taken an illegitimate companion". It was also applied to the insult offered to a tribe in which a murder was committed. (See in text under *Aire Echta*, p. 497.) (H. 3. 18. p. 120). *Enechrigris*, a dishonour such as that of receiving stolen goods (*ibid.*). *Enech* is always translated "face", and this meaning has been adopted here; but if we may connect it with the Sanskrit *enas* = Zend *enōd*,

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eneic, ocuf ber tigi caé ae? Nin. Amóil ar in cain fe-neáar:

“Ara ferri gnaða fene  
fhu mef ainechta doimthei”.

Their privileges.

the Othraus,<sup>(475)</sup> and the Snadha,<sup>(476)</sup> and the Taurcreic,<sup>(477)</sup> and the Bes Tigi<sup>(478)</sup> of each of them? Answer. It is as laid down in the Cain Fenechas:<sup>(479)</sup>

“For whosoever is known to be of the Gradh Fine,<sup>(480)</sup>  
To the rank of the Aireship he is reckoned”.

offence, nuisance, the primitive meaning of the word must have been an insult or offence producing a blush on the face.

<sup>(474)</sup> *Biatha*. Part of the rent which the *Flaith* received from his *Ceiles* consisted of certain stated victuals, or *Biatha*. It was the *Daer Ceili* only who were bound to give refection, as in Wales, where the *Dauenbwyd* of the vassals represented the *Biatha* of the Irish base clients.

<sup>(475)</sup> See App. note 501, p. 476.

<sup>(476)</sup> *Snadha*, means literally crossing or traversing. This word in the Laws means the protection and maintenance which one tribe or grade of society was bound to give to its co-grade, or any other grade, entitled to traverse its territory. *Snadha* is the equivalent of the term *Navdd* used in the Welsh Laws for the legal protection which the king, his officers, and other persons of the higher classes had the privilege of according. See App. pp. 474-5, 481.

<sup>(477)</sup> *Taurcreic* was the term used for the stipends or gifts which a king or chieftain bestowed upon those who “commended” themselves and made homage to him as king or chief. The amount of *Taurcreic* depended both on the rank of the giver and of the receiver. The cattle and other property thus given received the name of *Sed Taurclaide*. The Book of Rights, edited for the Celtic Society by Dr. John O’Donovan, gives the nature and value of the *Taurcreic* of the king of Eiriu and of the provincial kings to the minor kings or sub-reguli. The word *Rath* is sometimes used for *Taurcreic*, but there was an important distinction between them. *Rath*, i.e. wages, was the term applied to the cattle or other property given by a *Flaith* to his *Ceiles*. These cattle

were only a loan, and reverted to the lord. If a *Ceile* gave more *Bes Tigi* to the lord than he was bound to give, the *Flaith* or lord gave him additional *Rath* in proportion to the *ardaig* or excess of his payment over his rent. But this additional *Rath* was looked upon as an absolute gift to the *Ceile*.

<sup>(478)</sup> *Bes Tigi*, i.e. house tribute or rent. This was a stated rent or tribute in kind paid to a *Flaith* by every subject who had received his *Taurcreic* or stipend. The *Bes Tigi* was given by the free or *Saer Ceili*. This was also the case with the *Gwestva* of the Welsh (which is the same as the Irish *Bes Tigi*), which was fee farm rent, paid in kind by the free vills to the lord. The vassals gave refection, *Dauenbwyd*, the free vills *Gwestva*. H. 2. 15. f. 47.; and H. 3. 18. p. 2. See App. pp. 477-8, etc.

<sup>(479)</sup> *Cain Fenechas*. “The laws which are made by the Church, the people, and the *Flaith*, that is, what is called *Fenechas*” (H. 3. 18. p. 257 b. see O’C.’s Gloss.). *Cain* always implies a regular law, the *Cain Fenechas* forming what may be called the constitution of the whole nation; while the *Cain Urrudhas* were the customs or customary laws of the several *Tuatha*, or tribes, or of the provinces. The still more local By-Law was called a *Nos Tuatha*, and the inter-territorial treaty, or compact, a *Cairde*. The laws relating to the Occupancy of Land seem to have applied to every part of the country, and to have constituted so important a part of the *Fenechas* that *Cain Fenechas* is explained in M. S. H. 3. 18. p. 283, as “the Law of Occupancy in Land”.

<sup>(480)</sup> *Gradh Fine*, the legal grades of the nobility and gentry.



Ἐὰν ἔρη μισθοῦ α. ἔρη μισθοῦ. — Ἰμτοῦγ ἤμαχτα, ἰμτοῦγ  
 ο τρηναῖαι κο δαιρη. Ἰρηε λογ α ενεχ, οια δαι, οια  
 οἰγυμ, οια εραμ, οια ραμυξ, — Ἰρηε ρατοη α παρομ, οουρ α

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Two Fer Midbotha, i.e. a Fer Midboth.<sup>(481)</sup> He is an Imtuig <sup>Fer</sup>midboth. Smachta, he is a Toing,<sup>(482)</sup> from a needle to a Dairt. It is his Log Enech<sup>(483)</sup> for his satire, for his Diguin,<sup>(484)</sup> for his Esain,<sup>(485)</sup> for his Sarugh,<sup>(486)</sup>—it is it that defines his Naidm and his Raith and his

<sup>(481)</sup> A *Fer Midbotha* appears to have been any one under a judgment of a court. There were accordingly several classes of persons included under this category. Thus a minor who was not of sufficient age to undertake the management of his property, or to fulfil the duties which his rank and property entailed upon him, appears to have been included in the category. Those whose paternal property was encumbered by debt; those who wasted their own property and ran into debt, and were under a *Nexum*; those who had committed homicide and were condemned to pay *Dire*, etc., constituted other classes of *Fer Midboth*.

<sup>(482)</sup> *Toing*, an oath, that is, of a compurgator. The *Fer Midboth* in the text is described as being *Imtoing*, "he is an oath", and *Imtuig Smachta*, "he is an oath of fine or penalty", which imply different functions in each case. As an oath simply, he could be a compurgator in all cases where the value in litigation did not exceed a heifer, or where he only counted to that extent. As a *Toing Smachta* I suppose him to have acted as compurgator, or in inquisitions, etc., in all petty cases of trespass, etc., in which *Smachts*, or fines, were summarily inflicted in the *Brugh's* court. As in the case of *Naidm*, *Raith*, etc., the oath is put for the person. The giver of the oath was properly a *Fer Tonga*. He was clearly the same as the "Ferdingus", or "Ferthingmen", of Anglo-Norman law. As the *Toing*, or oath of each grade differed in value, we can easily understand why the *Ferdingi*, mentioned in the twenty-ninth chapter of the laws of Henry the First, were ranked among the freemen of the lowest class, while in the statute of

the gild at Berwick, A.D. 1284, the Ferthingmen are classed after the aldermen of the gild and before the decani. Thus the Irish laws fully explain a difficulty which has hitherto puzzled the legal antiquaries and historians of England. See "Ancient Laws and Institutes of England", p. 231.

<sup>(483)</sup> See App. note 473, p. 471.

<sup>(484)</sup> *Diguin* was the protection or sanctuary which legally belonged to the dwellings of the privileged classes, and for the forcible trespass or wilful violation of which the owner was entitled to special *Enechland*. The extent of the ground about the house to which the right of sanctuary extended was called a *Maigin Digona* or "demesne of Sanctuary", and varied in extent according to the rank of the owner. See note 537, on *Cnairseach*, *post*, p. 488.

<sup>(485)</sup> *Esain* was the hindrance offered to a suitor by which he was prevented from appearing at courts or assemblies, etc., and which he could legally plead as an excuse for his non-appearance. A person so hindered could claim *Enechland*, that is damages, from those who were the cause of the hindrance. The Irish *Esain* represented the "Essoign" of the Norman law, and appears to have embraced the same categories, such as *Malum vie*, *seu de malo venendi*, or the Norman "Commune Essonium", etc.

<sup>(486)</sup> *Sarughudh*, an insult or assault not amounting to the shedding of blood; female violation, the violation of a church or ecclesiastical dignity; the violation of any sanctuary. It is well explained in H. 3. 18, p. 159, etc. The Irish *Sarughudh* corresponded to the Welsh *Saraet* or *Sarhaet*, insult, which was also put for the fine or damages due for the offence.



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ματ̄ οκυρ̄ ᾱ ριασθαίρε, οκυρ̄ ᾱ αιτιρε. Δ̄ βιαθᾱ ᾱοναρι:  
Αγρ̄, οκυρ̄ ζυαυρ̄, νο̄ ᾱριβυρι; νο̄ ολιζ̄ ιμβ. Σ̄ναρισ̄ ᾱ com-  
ζ̄ιασ̄ ταρῑ ᾱτυαῑ ρ̄αθερῑν, οκυρ̄ βιαδ̄ταρῑ λειρ̄ cō πο̄εοχαισ̄  
ταρῑ ο̄μυχ.

Ο̄ιο̄ ᾱριᾱ νεπερῑ ρ̄ερῑ μῑοβο̄σ̄ ο̄ον̄ ρ̄ιρ̄ ρ̄ο? Ᾱριᾱ νο̄ ο̄ο̄ ν̄ῑcet  
[ν̄ο̄īcet] ᾱμμᾱῑο̄ ᾱσ̄ο̄λιζ̄ιο̄ ᾱλ̄τ̄ρῑμα, οκυρ̄ νᾱο̄ ρ̄οιζ̄ ρ̄ε̄ρ̄τᾱιζ̄.  
In ρ̄ο̄ρ̄μᾱῑθε̄ρῑ ᾱε̄ρ̄ ρ̄αῑρη̄ε̄τε̄ch̄ ο̄ον̄ ρ̄ιρ̄ μῑοβο̄σ̄ ῑμᾱ  
τυῑνζ̄ ρ̄μᾱch̄τα? ρ̄ο̄ρ̄μᾱῑθε̄ρῑ ᾱε̄ρ̄ cēīt̄hēōriā m̄bl̄iāσ̄an̄  
nōeζ̄. Īr̄ ᾱῑpē νο̄ com̄p̄uc̄ ῑnōη̄ζ̄ῑ nā ρ̄ιασ̄θαίρε, ᾱρ̄ νο̄ h̄-in-

Ferimidboth. Fiadnaise and his Aitire.<sup>(487)</sup> His Biatha to himself alone: Ass<sup>(488)</sup> and Grus<sup>(489)</sup> or Arba;<sup>(490)</sup> he is not entitled to butter. His compeers traverse his territory throughout, and he feeds them till they pass outside the bounds of his territory.

Why is this man called Fer-midboth? Because his tribe does not pay its lawful fosterage, and because it is not easy to sue it.

Is there a particular age at which the Fer Midba becomes eligible as a Tuing Smachta? He is eligible at the age of fourteen years. And it is the reason that he does not be a witness before

<sup>(487)</sup> *Aitire*, i.e., a security between two parties. He is described as a man between two *Feichems* or parties to a suit, or like that which binds or goes between the eye and the brow. There were three denominations of *Aitire*, viz.: the *Aitire Luige*, that is, the oath-bound *Aitire*; the *Aitire Fosme*, the *Aitire* of adoption, "resting" or "staying"; and the *Aitire Nadma*, the binding or knotting *Aitire*. If an *Aitire* became bail or surety for a person under a bond or *Naidm*, that is became an *Aitire Nadma*, or according to Roman Law a "Nexus", and that the obligation was not duly discharged at the stated time, and that the person for whom he was bail was not forthcoming, the *Aitire* became a *Cimbid*, or "victim", that is, his life was forfeit, but might be ransomed for seven Cumals, the price of a "victim". The condition of a *Cimbid* corresponded to that of a Roman "Nexus" when he became "addictus". The Irish law of "Nexum" was however more humane. The *Aitire Fosme* was the legal guardian of a minor, who was sometimes called *Mac Faesma* or the son of adoption, corresponding to our ward in Chancery. The *Aitire* who becomes bail after a judgment had been given, in order to stay execution, appears also to have been

called an *Aitire Fosme*. If such a surety further entered into a bond before a *Fer Nadma* making himself fully responsible for the debt, he became an *Aitire Nadma* or "Nexus". *Aitire* seems to have been formed from *Aite* a nurturer, and *Aire*, that is he was a nurturing or fostering *Aire*. An *Ait-Urnaide* would be the nurturer or sponsor of a suit or pleading; and *Ait-urnaide* is perhaps the true origin of "attorney", and not that given by Diez, who connects it with "tornare".

<sup>(488)</sup> *Ass*, New milk.

<sup>(489)</sup> *Grus*, also *Gruth*, *Gruaten*, groats; Anglo-Saxon *grut*, Old High German *gruzè*, New High German *grütze*. There has been borrowing here on one side or the other; it is probable, however, that it took place from the Celtic, as we have a Welsh *grual* corresponding to the Old French *gruel*, whence the English *gruel*. The following gloss shows that in Irish *Grus* was applied to gruel or porridge also: ζ̄υαυρ̄, ζ̄υαῡ, ζ̄υαῡτε̄ν, ῑ. ᾱ ζ̄υο̄η̄το̄ ο̄ῑβο, ῑ. ρ̄ε̄ᾱῑβ̄λῑν, νο̄ β̄ρᾱη̄-ρ̄ε̄ch. H. 2. 16.

<sup>(490)</sup> *Arba*, *orba*, or *orbar*, the nom. singular of *Orbaind*, corn or grain of any kind. It is generally used in the sense of corn meal.





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bíada, ocuf log nainne amairce eaboda; áct bío coitcinn  
ólzigr cáe ngráó do ghráóib tuáite i coruf ógrua. Tongar  
fru coruf ocuf anmáin, ocuf do teit áitne ar fear fearuf in  
fuil, icoruf ógrua, in boin áonáig tar fot cruach. In aró  
nimeo díóite díeim aróian tola rluáig ina urgeill tarneife,  
cen lepario arcuile líáig; itarso lego co deopor in arplaine,  
ina íarplaine. Ir rlan lin lina (no lino) lepta arnaóó  
co foruf tuáite.

Second Fer  
Midboth.

together with his Eboda;<sup>(500)</sup> but every grade of the grades of the people is alike responsible for the amount of the sick maintenance. They make oath on the body and on the soul, and an Aitire is given for the man who sheds the blood, [according to] the Corus Othrusa<sup>(501)</sup> for the purpose of protection through every place of assembly. In high sanctuary he is to be kept, to be protected from the hard assaults of hosts, as a redeemed hostage, while he (i.e. the wounded man) lies upon the bed of a physician:—the physician certifies that the wound is curable, and becomes responsible for the after cure of it. The Slan<sup>(502)</sup> of the Lin is a responsibility that extends to the Forus Tuatha.<sup>(503)</sup>

in the text it means not only liat, but all things requisite for the cure, comfort, and nourishment of the Othrus or patient, as is shown by the following gloss.—“*Lin, Linn, or Len*, i.e. all remedial requisites, or all things necessary to the bedridden patient; ut est, let there be no want of medicinal remedies, that is, let there be no bad medicinal attendance, or bad cure-attendance, or a bad bed, or bad curative medicines; and he shall have security against neglect”. MS. Egerton, Brit. Mus. 88, 88, a. 2, 3.

<sup>(500)</sup> *Eboda*, paid advocates, counselors, attorneys. Vide *fairbe*:—

*Fairbe* .i. fear eibe, ut fear fairbe .i. fear fear eibe doí .i. an fear bíor óg fear eibe na curi maígró neic ar loí.

*Fairbe*, i.e. a true advocate, ut *Fear Fairbe*, i.e. a man who is a true advocate in a suit; i.e. the man who advocates a case faithfully against a person for fees (rewards).—Mac Firbis' Glossary.

<sup>(501)</sup> *Corus Othrusa*, i.e. the knowledge of the laws providing for the maintenance, care, and medical attendance of the sick and wounded. See note 528, App. *Folach nOthrusa*, p. 433.

<sup>(502)</sup> *Slan* was the entire liability

incurred when an *Aitire* was given for the fulfilment of the stipulations of a bond. It represented an admission of the liability to the whole of the principal and costs, equivalent to the modern marking of a judgment.

<sup>(503)</sup> *Corus Tuatha*—that is the true knowledge of the *Aireacht*, or nobility, or that which is in perfect accordance with the *Aireacht* (or grades of the) nobility of the territory. *Corus Tuatha* is the knowledge of the grades of the territory, their respective rights, privileges, and responsibilities, in accordance to which any liability which fell upon the tribe, or was a general charge on the territory, could be levied on the several grades according to their ranks and property.

*Forus*, i.e., a house; the appointed or lawful place of payment (O'C.'s Gloss.) *Forus Tuatha* (i.e., the mansion of the territory or people), the house of the *Aire Forgaill*, which was the lawful place for the payment of all charges which extended to the *Corus Tuatha* (i.e., to the grades in proportion to rank). It was his function to pay all such charges, and he had the right to levy the amount on the nobles of the territory, and to distrain when any of the grades refused to pay their portion.



Caveat a folai corai o each fpu, a cupéar aítire fpu buit? Reir lego:—os fpuceét for mata, mana eta nech arpe-  
 paó o fpu cinaió combi ar egin vo bonzar; ir co nos  
 vire,<sup>(504)</sup> ocuf eneclán fpo miaó. Arzaritei cio tpe eonze  
 mozoár, teit ocuf amááarí fpoí folac. Uachtar ar leam-  
 laét nó hi tpuí, a coicci, i nomao, a noechmao, a noomnac.

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In forcmaitheo o ééteoraib blianaib deo co fúctiú co  
 cuairt uléaro? Cia beit ararogbao vo arpechar puarín po  
 ba cuairtoio, ni ica a luza acht alluza ferí mroboá. Cia  
 beit zin zabail noibai oana, co cune, ni téit a luize o fpu  
 mroboá beof. Bit a éurceic coic reaió. Molc cona  
 forair ber a tige. Arre ber oen cinneoa inuín, ferí na  
 tpeabairí relb na ferann vo faveiín. Forair in muilc: oi  
 baiúin deo, imbi, nem-beoil, imgláice, cainne co cennaib,

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 p. 253.

What are his lawful benefits from them for the payment of  
 which an Aitire is given? According to the physician,—the  
 entire fulfilment of the bail, unless he can be exculpated from  
 absolute guilt so that the liability is virtually dissolved; and  
 the entire Dire,<sup>(504)</sup> and the full amount of the Enechland. Any three  
 friends whom he appoints are called upon, they and his mother  
 go with him upon Folach.<sup>(505)</sup> He is entitled to cream on new  
 milk on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, and on Sundays.

Second Fer  
 Midboth.

Is he made eligible from [the age of] fourteen years to twenty  
 till he [his face] is encircled with beard? Any person whomsoever  
 who has been elected to a Bó-aiship before he has been encircled  
 [with beard] there is paid in his price but the price of a Fer Midba.  
 Though he has not taken possession of patrimony [land] until he is  
 bearded, his price does not exceed that of a Fer Midba still. His  
 Taurcreic is five seds. His Bes Tigi is a wether with its accom-  
 paniments. He must be the last survivor of a family, a man who  
 possesses neither property nor land of his own. The accompani-  
 ments of the wether: twelve loaves, butter, Nembeoil,<sup>(506)</sup> Im-

<sup>(504)</sup> *Dire* was the fine or penalty to which a man was entitled for injury to any of his property. The amount of the *Dire* was fixed by law according to the amount of the injury and to the rank of the owner of the injured property. *Dire* corresponded to the Welsh *Diry*, which, like the corresponding Irish word, appears to have originally varied in amount, but in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was almost always twelve kine. The Anglo-Saxon *Were* or compensation paid for personal injuries or bloodshed is undoubtedly cognate with the Irish *Dire*. *Dire*, like *Sarughudh* and other

words, originally meant the injury, and were afterwards put for the fine. It is apparently related to the Sanskrit *dru*, to wound, and must have consequently been the penalty or "damages" for bodily injury.

*Corpdiré* was the fine paid to a person for bodily injury to himself.—H. 4. 22, p. 54; and O'Curry's Gloss.

<sup>(505)</sup> See note 528 on *Folach*, *post.* p. 483.

<sup>(506)</sup> *Nemb-eoil* appears to have been some kind of beer or other drink. The second part of the word seems to represent the Ang. Sax. *Ealo* Old Norse *Öl*, English *Ale*. The liquor





oínecht huad insoit oia tneire iar focra; tman a úinn ocuf a meíca ocuf a leíca, ocuf a eíca, 'so flait.

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Oc Aire,—ir aríu a aiecharaí. Cio aia neperi oc aie? Ar oitíu a aiecharí, ceoh [gró] acht uaire ir nue o ío gab tneabao. Carve a toíacht? Folaí reíca lair: .iii. mbae, cona tarb, .iii. mucá co muc, íoríar, .iii. caíe, capul íar íognum, ocuf ímíum. Tíu tíu .iii. cumal íer, íe tíu mbo ía [fene] ímíu; íoloing .iii. mbuu co cenn mbliatona, .i. adáíteí .iii. mba ínn, íaccaíb ín íeíctíao mbóin oia blíatona a íochraíó ín tíe. Cethraíme aracharí lair: Óam, íoc, bíot, cenníre [cenníoraíó], combí tuallíng coíre; cuit a náíó, ímmuíínn, íraball, ícaball cócuí. Méc a éíge, mou tíg íncíí arí. .iii. íraígeíe .x. améí ííoe,

honour-price and of his fruits and his cattle sheds and his cows to the Flaith.

Oc-Aire,—his Aireship is higher. Why is he called Oc-Aire? From the youngness of his Aireship, howbeit, it is from a grand-sire he has inherited property.<sup>(511)</sup> What is his stability (wealth)? He has properties sevenfold [viz.]: seven cows, and a bull, seven pigs, and a Muc Forais,<sup>(512)</sup> seven sheep, a horse for working, and [a horse] for riding. He has land sufficient to maintain three times seven Cumals<sup>(513)</sup> (twenty-one cows); then on the pasture land of the tribe, he supports seven cows for a whole year, i.e., he feeds seven cows upon it (the tribe land), he leaves the seventh cow at the end of the year to pay for the land (grass). He has the four essentials for ploughing [viz.] an ox, a sock, a yoke, a halter to enable him to control him [the ox]; he has a share in a kiln, in a mill, in a barn, and in a Scaball Cocuis.<sup>(514)</sup> The size of his house is greater than that of a Tigh Incis.<sup>(515)</sup> Seventeen feet is

Oc-Aire.

<sup>(511)</sup> *Oc Aire*. It is very doubtful whether the interpretation given to *Oc* in the text be correct. We find in the laws a class of officials called *Sicc Oc*, in which *Oc* certainly does not mean young, but appears rather to be connected with Gothic: *ogjan* to terrify, O. H. German *aki*, discipline. If this suggestion be correct, the *Oc Aire* was probably the crier of the court, who maintained order, and arraigned the prisoners, etc.

<sup>(512)</sup> *Muc Forais*, a household or house-fed pig. O'C.'s Gloss.

<sup>(513)</sup> *Cumal*, a mulct or fine generally of three cows, leviable for most offences. There appear to have been several kinds of *Cumals*, e.g.: "*Aire Ardwo Cumals* (of *Cumal Cana*) is his *Enechland*". The *Cumal Cana* would appear to have been the *Cumal* of the

National Law of the kingdom, and of a fixed quantity and value, while other *Cumals* were of arbitrary quantity and value according to the *Urrudhas*, or customal, or customary laws (H. 3. 18.176. a.). The *Cumal* was the Welsh *Camwrw*, which was also three cows, and was leviable for all offences except theft, violence, and fighting, for which *Dirwy* (Irish *Dire*) amounting to twelve kine, was leviable. Vide, note, 504, on *Dire*, App. p. 477.

<sup>(514)</sup> *Scaball Cocuis*, a cooking pot, H. 3. 18, 253 top. O'C.'s Gloss.; and Cormac in *voc. Caire*.

<sup>(515)</sup> A house of small dimensions, built for an old man who gives up his land to his friends or pupils on the condition that they shall maintain him. Vide Lect. xx., vol. ii. pp. 30-31.



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ῥῶτι cō ῥῶῃῃῃῃῃ, ῶτεν ἰῃῃ cāc ῶῃῃ ῥῃῃῃῃῃῃῃ cō cleite,  
ῶá ῥῃῃῃῃ ἄῃῃ, comla ἄῃ ἄῃῃῃῃ, cliacl ἄῃ ἄῃῃῃ, ῥῃ ἄῃ  
ῃῃ cliaclia cen tulῃῃῃ, ῥῃῃῃῃῃῃ cōil ἰῃῃῃ, clari ῃῃῃῃῃ,  
ῃῃῃῃ cācl ῃῃ cāῃῃῃῃ. Ἰῃ ῃῃ tech noc ἄῃῃῃῃ, ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃ  
.x. ἄῃῃῃῃῃ. ῤῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃ .x. ἄῃῃῃῃ. [ῃῃ] ἄῃ ἄῃ ῃῃ ῃῃῃ  
ἄ ἄῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ἄ ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ. Ὀcῃ ῃῃῃ ἄ ῃῃῃῃῃῃ, ἰce .x. ῃῃῃῃ  
ῃῃῃῃ. Ἰῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃ ῃῃῃῃ ῃῃ ῃῃῃῃ, ἄῃ Ἰῃ ῃῃ  
clῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃῃῃ: Ἰῃ ῃῃ clῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ἄ ῃῃῃῃ; .x. ῃῃῃῃ  
ῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃῃ; ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃ.  
ῤῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃ cōῃῃ ῃῃῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ἄ ῃῃῃῃ; ῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃῃ ῃῃῃ ῃῃ ῃῃ

Oc-Aire.

the size of it [the Tech Incis], woven to the lintel, a weather board between every two weavings from that up to the roof-ridge, two doorways upon it, a door to one of them, a hurdle to the other, and it without breaks or bulges, a roof of hazel upon it, and a board of oak between every two beds. The house of the Oc-Aire is larger, nineteen feet is its size (length). Thirteen feet is (the length of) his back-house. Or [he is a man] with whom his father has divided his Bes Tigi. Eight cows are his Taurcreic, that is ten Seds then. It is double the Taurcreic of the grade which is before (next under) him, because it is from land his rank is derived; it is from land his price is also derived; he is entitled to ten Seds<sup>(516)</sup> for his Taurcreic; his territory also contributes to his wealth. A Dartaid Inidi<sup>(516)</sup> with its supply of food is his Bes Tigi; he has a belly-

<sup>(516)</sup> *Sed*, a standard of value among the Gaedhil by which rents, fines, stipends, and prices were determined. Every kind of property was estimated by this standard, the unit being a milch cow, which was the prime *Sed*. From the king down to the *Dae* fines and stipends were paid in *Cumals*, equal to three cows; or in prime *Seds*; but from the *Dae* down they were paid in *Seds* of small cattle, and valuables of different kinds, in proportion to the rank, as laid down by the law. *Sed Bó Ceathra* was a *Sed* made up of small cattle; *Sed Bó Dile*, a *Sed* made up of any or different kinds of live stock; *Sed Marbh Dile*, a *Sed* of movable chattels, made up of inanimate objects; *Sed Bó-Slabra* was made up of every class of well bred cattle and thorough bred horses. *Coibche*, *Tochraí*, and *Tindsraí* constituted other kinds of *Seds*: *Coibchi* was a name for valuable cloths, personal ornaments, etc; *Tochraí* was a name for well bred sheep, and small pigs, etc; *Tindsraí* was the name

applied to gold, silver, and bronze articles of every country. The *Clithar Sed*, or king *Sed*, as the name indicates, was superior to all other *Seds*. It was the term applied to a prime cow when she was six years old, and when she had three calves: she was then at her highest value, and was worth twenty-four screpals. The last mentioned kind of *Sed* shows that while an average aged milch cow constituted the general unit of value of a *Sed*, the term *Sed* was also applied to cattle of different ages, and consequently of different values; thus *Sed Gobla* was the name for a yearling bull or yearling heifer, and was the smallest of all *Seds*. Yearling bulls and heifers of one year and up to two were also called by the name *Dairt*. Among the Continental Saxons the yearling ox was equivalent to the lesser "solidus", while an ox of sixteen months and upwards was equivalent to the greater "solidus". The heifer, if bulled at two years was called a *Dartaid*. A *Dairt* in the third year

leiccar la boim, no tine orolaiže inna chumbu coim,  
 ir tri meich mbriacha, ocuf leit meich tarai. Ar, amail  
 iabul turchreaca in žmaro ir irliu, turchreic in žmaro  
 ardu; ir diabal romaine, vono, bér a tige. Snaoiž a  
 nžriád, ar ni rnaoiž nač žriád nech ber ardu. Diathao  
 ir só, vi ar ocuf žmur, no arbaim; ni vliž imb; cuao  
 orolac x. vi vmaumcu ar lemłacč cečtar nai, ocuf bai-  
 inoimic, no vi baižin ban fuine. Aduir for foluc; imb  
 óiu a tjeiri, a coice, a nomao, a nvechmao, i noomnac  
 i reoit lož a anech, acč ic reoit bo rlabria. Uipe naitime  
 Cio dia neimnaiter vórom in tpeoit [.i. in boim] ro?  
 1. Dia doim, dia erain, dia vžuin, dia tparmuž, so lorcaó

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ce of fat pork and a hog cured in bacon<sup>(617)</sup> with a cow, or a hog  
 h flesh one inch high, in proper joints, and three bags of malt,  
 l half a bag of wheat. Because it is equal to double the  
 arcreic of the grade which is lower that the Taurereic of the  
 her grade is; he is therefore entitled to double benefits for  
 Bes Tigi. He traverses his compeers, but he traverses no  
 de not as high as his own. He is entitled to the mainte-  
 nce of two of new milk, and groats, or corn-meal. He is not  
 itled to butter; a Cuad of twelve inches<sup>(618)</sup> of thick milk  
 on new milk every second day, a Bairgin Indriuc, or two  
 irgins of Banfuine.<sup>(619)</sup> Two upon Folach; butter at meals on  
 rd, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, and on Sundays. His honour  
 ce is three Sed, but they are Sed, of Bó Slabra.<sup>(620)</sup> He is  
 itled to the Dire of an Aitire. For what is this Sed (i.e. the  
 v) awarded to him? Answer. For his satire, for his Esain,  
 his Diguin, for his Sarugh, for the burning of his house,

Oe-Aire.

shrove-tide was called a *Dartaid-*  
*e*. A heifer in her third year  
 until she was bulled was a *Sam-*  
 ; before being bulled she was  
 eed at twelve screpalls, and after  
 g bulled at sixteen screpalls. A  
 fer of three years was a *Colpdach*.  
 Gothic *Kalbo*, O.H.G. *Kalbo*,  
*alpa*, and Ang. S. *Kalf* and *Cealf*,  
 gl. *Calf*. A full-grown heifer about  
 calve was called a *Laulghach*, and  
 considered of equal value with the  
 ighing ox. *Sed* is perhaps con-  
 ted with Gothic *Saths* or *Sads*,  
 icient.—See M.S. T.C.D. H. 3. 18.  
 ; see also pp. 632, 651; H. 2. 17,  
 158, etc.

quod etiamnunc quotannis e Gallia  
 apportantur Romam pernae tomaci-  
 nae et taniacae [*al. tanacae*], et petas-  
 siones. De magnitudine Gallicarum  
 succidiarum Cato scribit". Varro,  
*Re Rustica*, ii. c. 4.

<sup>(618)</sup> *Cuad*, a wooden bowl or cup.  
 According to a marginal gloss in H.  
 3. 17. col. 658. a. T. C. D., a *Cuad*  
 of twelve inches, was one which was six  
 inches high, and six inches in dia-  
 meter.

<sup>(619)</sup> The *Bairgin Indriuc* perfect,  
 or household cake, appears to have  
 been the same as the *Bairgin Ferfuine*,  
 which was a cake or loaf sufficient for  
 one man's meal, and to have been equal  
 to two *Bairgins* of *Banfuine*, which  
 was a loaf sufficient for one woman's  
 meal.

<sup>(620)</sup> *Bó-slabra*. Vide note 516 on  
*Sed*, App., p. 480.

<sup>(617)</sup> *Timeiccas*, or smoke-cured ba-  
 , represents the Gallo-Roman word  
 NIACAE. "E queis [porcis] succi-  
 Galli optimas et maximas facere  
 suserunt. Optimarum signum,



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α τῆσι, οἰα τυροησθαι, το ζαιτ ἀρ ἄ λετ [amuz], το ζαιτ ιου; οἰροησιρ ἀμνα, αινζιου, — ἀτ ἀρβρετ λα [rene]. λετ οἰμε ζαχ ζηαιτ εἰαιθε φορ ἀμνα, οκυρ ἄ ινζιου, οκυρ ἄ μαδ; ἀτ μαο μαο οορμαινε, no mac beḡ elosaich μῖα ηζαιου, cethriacha φορμυοιό λοζ ἄ eneē, ηρεο ιμα τοιου, οκυρ τέο φορ ἄ ναου, οκυρ ἄ ναιθ, οκυρ ἄ αιτιρε, οκυρ ἄ ριασθαιρι, ορ ιν οα ρετ τερβανασ αιρε [chur], ηυαιρε ναο νοζ φορμυζα ἄ τῆσι, οκυρ ναο ηηρῖαιθ ρηου ἀμαιλ ζαδ βο αιου, ἀρ λοιγεο ἄ ρολαο.

Αιθεχ ἀρ ἀρεδα ἄ οειχρθε<sup>(522)</sup> ἄ ουαρρθε, .ι. οειχ μβαι λαρ, .x. μυα, .x. αιουζ; cethriame ἀροθαιρ, .ι. οαμ, οκυρ ροο, οκυρ βηοο, οκυρ cennar ηυρ; tech ριχιτ τρῖαιζεο λερ, εἰοα ηρchai οετρα τρῖαιζε οηεζ; ιιι. ρεοιτ ἄ οἰμε οια αιρ, οια εραιν, οια οιζου, οια ραρυζ. Ιμορτοιου, ἀρ ναου, ηρ ραθ, ηρ αιτιρε, ηρ ρεχαιμ, ηρ ριασθαιρι ρηου; οειχ μβα ἄ τυρρεοicc; φορζζου οἰνε, οκυρ τῖνε οα μερ, ιμα εἰμβυ οοη,

Uc-Aire.

for his plunder, for a theft on the outside of it, for a theft from the interior of it; for the violation of his wife or of his daughter,— but it is a judgment which belongs to the tribe.<sup>(521)</sup> He is entitled to half the Dire of every grade of the people for his wife, and his daughter, and his son; but if he be the son of a meretricious woman, or a son who has strayed from his obedience to his guardians, his honour price then is one-fourth of them, and the same for his Toing, and they are also for his Naidm, and his Raith, and his Aitire, and for his witness, because it is in two Seds his Aire[ship] is manifested, and because the income of his house is not in its fulness, and that he is not capable of becoming a surety with them like every Bó-Aire, on account of the smallness of his wealth.

Althech ar a  
Threba.

Althech ar a Threba (i.e., a tribe tenant in his paternal home), his cattle are tenfold, viz., he has ten cows, and ten pigs, and ten sheep; and the four essentials for ploughing, viz., an ox, and a sock, and a yoke, and a halter; he has a house of twenty feet, with a back-house of fourteen feet. His fine for his satire, for his Esain, for his Diguin, for his Sarugh, is four Seds. He is a Toing, he is a Naidm, he is a Raith, he is an Aitire, he is a plaintiff, and a witness for them; ten cows are his Taurereic; he has a Forggu Dine<sup>(523)</sup> and a salted hog with flesh two fingers [inches] high, in

<sup>(521)</sup> i.e., it is a case which is to be adjudged by the tribunals of, and according to the laws of the tribe.

<sup>(522)</sup> οειχ οειχθε, ten of tens, MS., p. 252.

<sup>(523)</sup> Forggu dine, the choicest or best cattle. Forgab, foods, i.e., a supply of food which is given to the Flaith by his tenants and vassals at certain festive seasons of the year; it was generally given between the Kalends and Shrovetide (H. 3. 17.

p. 423). The following gloss on Forcam, which is synonymous with Forgab, will serve to give an idea of what this food consisted. "Forcam or Forgab (offal; mince meats?) It is supplied between two Cairis (festivals?), i.e. food which is supplied between Shrove Sunday and [Ash-] Wednesday; or, that it was the feast of the festival between the Kalends and Shrove [-Tuesday]; or it is between two festivals it is supplied, i.e. between



ocur ceðre (no ceðir) meich briaècha, ocur friolan airmeide The Crith Gablach. H. 3. 18. p. 253. O'L.  
 vi tara. Ire bér aige tincuir, ioiri eirna, ocur letrai.  
 Ire aitec baicriòe mho dia mbe ina enza cin zaic, cin briarò,  
 cin zuin uime aét lá a caèa, no nech uoraò a cenn fairi,  
 of hé cana lanamnar coiri, ocúr uenmai in ainib ocur uom-  
 nachaib, ocur corzaraib. Cio nos mber in ferro a bo  
 aipechar? Ar ber bio cethiari no coicuir beic hi comar- H. 3. 18. pp. 1 and 253. O'C.  
 bur bo aipec, conach arfa bo aipe uo caè ae. Diahaò  
 ueiri uó vi arf ocur zuuiri no arbaumm, imb in uoom-  
 nachaib. Seircol carraim lafosaan, uleirc, camnenn,  
 falano. Uir uó for folach. Imu uo ala triac.

proper joints, and four bags of malt, and a Fidlan Armeide of Aithech ar a Threba.  
 wheat.<sup>(524)</sup> His Bes Tigi is furniture [of all kinds] both iron imple-  
 ments and vessels. Then he is an Aithech Baitsidhe [bachelor of Bó-  
 Aireship],<sup>(525)</sup> if he be in his innocence without theft, without plun-  
 der, without wounding a man but on the day of battle, or a person  
 who has given him defiant provocation, and that he has a law-  
 ful wife, and that he observes the Fridays, and the Sundays,  
 and the Lents. Why has this man not obtained a Bó-aireship?  
 Because it is the custom to have four or five in the Comarship<sup>(526)</sup>  
 of a Bó-Aire, so that it is not easy to call each of them a Bó-  
 Aire. The feeding of two for him of new milk and groats or of  
 corn-meal and butter on Sundays. He is entitled to seasoned fowl,  
 Dulsc,<sup>(527)</sup> onions [or garlic], and salt. Two for him on Folach  
 Othrusa.<sup>(528)</sup> Butter for him every second day.

the Kalends and Shrove [-Tuesday], or between Easter and May; i.e. *Moroga* (or *Caelana*), (i.e. sausages) and *Chathain* (neck, and breast pieces?), and *Dromana* (backs or chines). The *Furnaide* (lean meats), and the *Forcam* (offal), or the same [supply might be given in] round meats, i.e. joints (bacon, pork, or beef).

<sup>(524)</sup> *Fidlan Airmeide*, a firkin or small cask, such as is still used for butter. It was formerly used as a dry measure. *Airmed* was applied to a measure of bulk, and *Airbid* to a measure of weight.

<sup>(525)</sup> *Aithech Baitsidhe* appears to have been a tenant entitled to the lowest degree of the Aireship, i.e., he was "tenant Bachelor of *Airechus*".

<sup>(526)</sup> *Comarship* literally means "successorship"; here it means co-occupancy.

<sup>(527)</sup> Commonly called "Dillisk", the *Duilliosg* of the Highland, and

the *Dulsc* of the Lowland, Scotch. It is the *Rhodymenia Palmata* of botanists. As an example of the absurd etymologies current in books, wherein the authors, not being able to make a word Saxon, seek in every language, except the indigenous Celtic dialects for its origin, I may mention that of *Dulsc* from the Latin *dulcis*!

<sup>(528)</sup> *Folach Othrusa*—the care and maintenance of a wounded person by him who wounded him (or by the next of kin in his territory whose rank was equal to that of the wounded man), in his own house and at his expense. If the person who inflicted the wound had no house, and was otherwise unable to support the wounded person, the *Aire Fine* was bound to provide for his maintenance, and he could then levy the amount on the branch of the tribe families to whom the offender belonged. Kings, bishops, chief poets, and others of the distinguished classes,

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Bo Aire Febsa cto dia neiper? An is do buaid ata a aipecharr ocuf a eneclann. Tiri da .iii. cumal leir. Tech .iii. tpaigeo .xx. it, co naicheai coic tpaigto noeac; cuit immuiliunn conair mil a muintiri ocuf a adama; aith, gaball, liar caimech, liar laeg, mucroil: It hé mrii .iii. cleitiu ó noipenar caé boairu. Biiro oi bas .x. leir; leé naiaéairi; capul fognuma, ocuf ech immumme. Oi bas .x. a éairacpeice; colpdaic ppieno cona timthug béf a éigi, in tpaimbaid ocuf in gaimbaid. Coic feoit ma oipiu do-neoch iir gheir do, via eneclann. Cto do bii na coic feótu do eneclann in bo airis? Nin. A gnuma: Set a naoma; rét a raici; rét a fiaonairi; rét a aitiiri; rét a fo-raigéti, ocuf a bithemnaif foii mbhuighect. Imtaing coic

H. 3. 18. p. 254.

Bó-Aire-Febsa.

Bó-Aire-Febsa, why so called? Because it is from cows his rank and honour price are derived. He holds the land of twice seven Cumals; a house of twenty-seven feet, with a back-house of fifteen feet; a share in a mill in which his family and his people may grind; a kiln, a barn, a sheep-pen, a calf-house, a pig-stye. These then are the seven prime possessions from which each Bó-Aire is qualified. He has twelve cows; half ploughing;<sup>(529)</sup> a working horse, and a riding steed. Twelve cows are his Taurcreic; a Colpdach Firend<sup>(530)</sup> with its accompaniments, is his Bes Tigi, in summer food and in winter food. Five Seds to him in his Dire for everything that is an insult to him, for his honour price. What is it that entitles the Bó-Aire to five Seds for his honour price? Answer: His deeds: A Sed for his Naidm; a Sed for his Raith; a Sed for his evidence; a Sed for his Aitire; a Sed for his arbitra-

and also women, did not go on *Foluch* to those who wounded them, but got its value and remained at their own homes.

The class of food and attendance to which each man was entitled was fixed by the law in proportion to his rank, in the same way as his *Corpdiré* (vide note p. 477), his *Logenech* (note 473, p. 471), and his *Enechland*. The family or tribe of the offender was obliged to entertain a certain number of the friends of the *Othrus* or wounded person, and provide the necessary attendance for the latter, e.g., physicians, nursetenders, nightwatchers; they were also bound to send a person to do the work of the *Othrus*, while under medical treatment, and, in a word, to defray all the expenses of his illness. If the patient died of injury, the family or tribe of the

offender was accountable to that of the wounded man for the offender, and also for the price of the life of a man; and in case he recovered without a blemish, they had only to pay the fines; but if a blemish was occasioned by the wound, the price of it, which was fixed by law according to the nature of the blemish and the rank of the wounded person, should be paid in addition.

<sup>(529)</sup> half ploughing, i.e., half the necessary implements, etc., for ploughing.

<sup>(530)</sup> *Colpdach Firend*. The simple *Colpdach* was a three year old heifer. The *Colpdach Firend* literally means a male *Colpdach*, that is, a three year old bull. It may possibly also mean a prime three year old heifer. But the first interpretation is most likely to be the correct one.



ρεου, διαδαι φορ α παισιν, ουρ α παιτ, ουρ α αιτη, ουρ α  
 ριασιν. Α διαδαι τριου; τριαρ σο φορ φολαδ. Imbim  
 σο ι ποηρι, ι τρηρι, ι κοικιο, ινο νομαρ, ι ηοechmaρ, ι  
 ηοomnach. Φη κάinnenn no ραλλετ σο ταρρυν. Νι τερ-  
 ban σο φολταρ ιn bo αιηρ τερban οια οίηου.

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Μβρuiηερ εισ αρα ηειρεη? Οι λιν α ηρuiηε. Τιη τη  
 .αι. cumal λαρuiηε; ιρε bo αιηε ηειρε ηειρε; bo αιηε  
 ηειρε co cάch ιn chιuηh α τηηε, ιnna άταιη κοριαη: αιηε  
 cona ιmbiuiη cona λοηηηαιη; οαβαδ ιn ηοιηηηοελταρ ηειρε;  
 αιηε ροηnuma φολερταρ, ιτη ηηna ουρ λοητε ουρ χοι-  
 οiu cona ηειρεσαρ;<sup>(522)</sup> αμββuiη ιηολαι, ουρ λονη φοιλετε;

tion and for his judgment in Brugh-Law. He is a Toing of five  
 Seds, that is what he is entitled to for his Naidm, his Raith, his  
 Aitire, and his evidence. He is entitled to the feeding of three  
 together with himself; three for him upon Folach. Butter for  
 him on second, third, fifth, ninth, tenth, and on Sundays. Strong  
 onions for him, or salt meat with condiments. Anything that is  
 deficient of the deserts of the Bó-Aire shall be wanting to his Dire.

Bó-Aire  
 Febas.

Mbruiηer,<sup>(521)</sup> why so called? From the extent of his lands.  
 He hath the land of three times seven Cumals; he is the Bó-  
 Aire for giving judgment; a Bó-Aire who instructs the people, by  
 the arrangement of his household furniture in its proper places:  
 a boiler with its spits and its skewers; a keeve in which broth  
 is distributed; a serving pot with minor vessels, both irons and  
 kneading troughs and wooden mugs with their ladles;<sup>(522)</sup> a washing

Mbruiη-  
 fer.

<sup>(521)</sup> The *Brugh Fer* was one of the most important functionaries of the ancient Irish commonwealth. He was a *Bó-Aire* who enjoyed great immunities as regards exactions, mulcts, and amercements, and considerable appanages in order to afford hospitality and assistance to all public functionaries and persons entitled to maintenance at the public expense. The *Brugh*, in virtue of his office, appears to have enjoyed the privilege of having a *Dun* or wall and fosse about his house. It was at his residence the election of the chieftain or *Righ Tuatha* took place. The territory in which this residence was situated, consisting of twelve *Seisreachs* or plough-lands, constituted a *Brugh-Baille*, or as we might say, a "borough township". The *Brugh* corresponded to the *Breyr* or "mote-man" of South Wales, and appears to have acted as judge or magistrate, aided by other *Bó-Aires*, in all disputes between

neighbours about pasturage, trespass of cattle, etc. The practice of this court was regulated by what was called *Brugh-recht* or *Brugh-law*, corresponding to the "Burlaw" or "Birlaw" of Scotland. The word may be safely connected with the Gothic *Baurgs*, a town, O. H. German *Buruc*; M. H. German *Burc*; Anglo-Saxon, Old Saxon, etc., *Burg*; English *Burgh*, *Burgh*, *Borough*; Greek, *πόργος*; Macedonian *βόργος*. As the chief function of the *Brugh* consisted in delivering judgment in disputes and arbitrations, it may perhaps be connected with the Sanskrit root *bru* = Zend *mru*, to speak, to say. See INTRODUCTION.

<sup>(522)</sup> In H. 3. 18. p. 254, the word used is *λεερασας*, ladles, but it is almost obliterated. *ηειρεσαρ* appears to represent the Welsh *Hestawr*, which is a modern form of *Lestar*. See *Lestar*, note 549, p. 495.



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oíochta; cainoelbha; rcena buana áine; lomna; tál; tapachan; tuimere; oíar fíochmánn eipit; áicceó fognama cacha raité: Cach noeilm de cen iaracht; lia fóicair, fíoba; bíal; gáí gona cethra; teine bithbéó; cainoel fóir cainoelbha cen meth; óg nárađair cona huile comorair.

Ite iníó tra gnuma bo áirg ríre bhuíche. Oit oí íain inna éig óo gíer, ían áirg ocuf ían choíma. Féir tpi ríuba: ríuib tuíre fóchlaio fócltar áinechruice cach áirgíur; ríub tine fóir cíuic; ríuba áirachair fó íunn [coltar], áir imtuolanz gábalá íuz, no érruic, no ríuao, no bhuíthomun óo íout, ríu tarra cacha óama. Féir tpi míach inna éig óo gíer cech raité: míach mbíacha; míach múir luacha ríu áithcumba náige oia ceithíur; míach gúailí ríu éinnna. Secc tíge lair: áith, rábalo, múilenn,—acuit íruioiu comó náir-mil, tech .uu. tráigeo fíchit, írcha .uu. tráigeo noec, múcfoil, líar loeg, líar cáirech. Fíchí bo, óa tarbb, ré óom, fíchí muc, fíchí coirech; ceithíur tuíre fórair, oí bhuí, each rílarra, ríuan cíuan; ré méich óec í talmaín.

Mbráigh-  
fer.

trough, and a bathing basin; tubs; candelabra;<sup>(533)</sup> knives for reaping rushes; a rope; an adze; an auger; a saw; a shears for clipping trees; implements for every quarter's work: Every item of these [shall he have] without borrowing; a grinding stone, a bill-hook, a hatchet, a spear for killing cattle, an ever-living fire, a candle upon a candelabrum without fail; a perfect plough, and all that appertains to it.

These, then, are the characteristics of the Bó-Aire who dispenses judgment. He has two vats in his house constantly, a vat of new milk and a vat of ale. He is a man who has three snouts: the snout of a rooting hog at all times, to shiver (or break) the blushes of his face; a snout of bacon upon the hooks; and the snout of a couler under the earth, for the purpose of sustaining the visits of a king, or bishop, or a poet, or a judge from off the road, and for the entertainment of all companies. He is a man who has three sacks in his house each quarter perpetually: a sack of malt; a sack of bulrushes for dressing the wounds of his cattle; a sack of coals for [forging] the irons. He has seven houses: a kiln, a barn, a mill,—a share in it, and in all that it grinds, a house of twenty-seven feet; a back-house of seventeen feet, a pig-stye, a calf-house, a sheep-house. Twenty cows, two bulls, six bullocks, twenty hogs, twenty sheep; four house-fed hogs, two sows, a riding steed, a bridle of Cruan.<sup>(534)</sup> Six-

<sup>(533)</sup> *Candelóra*, i.e. a straight wand upon which the luminous fire is, and it must be in every man's house (or in the house of every Aire).

Cainoelbha, .i. oeil oíreáé fó á mbi in bpeo caitnemaá acuf e co-óaire (.i. iteé cac óuinne). Mac Fírb. Glos.

<sup>(534)</sup> *Cruan*, from many passages, would appear to have been enamel, either set in like gems or covering the whole metal as a greenish glass. In other places it may mean some alloy—but I think the first meaning is the true one.

Ταταί καιηι humani i tallai toricc. Techtuig φατηχι imbié  
 βιατ καιηι cen immiηι. Cethapóá noíllata leiφ acap a  
 ben. A ben ingen a chomgriao in na choiη cetmuntepaiφ.  
 Of he maith alluga, a naiom, a paié, a φιασnaire, a  
 aitiηe, a ón, a aiplicuo; zen φait, cen bñait, cen zuin  
 uinne. Oí chumal a thupriéicc. Bó cona timchuch, béφ  
 a thige itηi φaim mbiaó ocup φaim biaó. Tñai i oam i  
 tuaié. Tñuηi oo φopi φolach: Imb oo cocapñuoo oo φñéφ.  
 Snaóio a chomgriao. Sall bó i tñuηi, i coicéi, i nomaió, i  
 nvechmaió, i noomnach. Imtoing φe φeotu; ηφ naiom; ηφ  
 paié; ηφ aitiηi; ηφ φeichem;<sup>(535)</sup> ηφ φιασnaire φñu;—ηφ a oφ  
 eneclann. Aét it .u. φeotu i noul tñai a leiφ vichmaiηcc;  
 vileφ a oφolguo vomaich. Coic φeoiφ in oφφolguo a thige  
 vichmaiηc; bo i nveφin ino; oaptaio inolaí oe; oaiηc ina  
 oó; colpaoach i naiηbiηi; φamaiηch illeithbeηc; bo i mbeηc,  
 ocup aitézin a tuize. Coic φeoiφ i noul tñua tech, tñua liaφ  
 oi bñuηuoo a comlai; oaptaio i φleηc tñi; oaiηc i φleηc  
 tñai; φamaiηc i cleit tñi; colpaoach i cleit tuaiφ. Oaiηc i

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teen sacks [of seed] in the ground. He has a brass pot in which  
 a hog fits. He has a suitable lawn in which sheep stay at all times  
 without being driven off. He has four friends with him and his  
 wife. His wife, the daughter of his own co-grade, in her proper  
 bridal virginity. His oath is good, his Naidm, his Raith, his  
 evidence, his Aitiηe, his loan, his lending on security and interest;  
 [he must be] without theft, without robbery, without wounding [or  
 killing] any person. Two Cumals are his Taurcreic. A cow  
 with her accompaniments is his Bes Tigi both of winter and sum-  
 mer food. Three are his company in the territory. Three for him  
 on Folach; he is entitled to butter with salt-meat at all times.  
 He traverses his co-dignitaries. He is entitled to bacon on third,  
 on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, on Sundays. He is a Toing of  
 six Seds; he is a Naidm; he is a Raith; he is an Aitiηe; he  
 is a suitor; he is a witness for them;—that is his full honour  
 price. But he has five Seds for going within his yard unlawfully;  
 it is lawful to open it for his good. Five Seds for unlawfully  
 opening his house; a cow for looking into it; a Dartaid<sup>(536)</sup> for  
 a lock [of thatch] from it; a Dairt<sup>(536)</sup> for taking two; a Colp-  
 dach<sup>(536)</sup> for an armful; a Samaisc<sup>(536)</sup> for half a truss; a cow for a  
 truss, and restitution of the straw. Five Seds for going through his  
 house or his cattle yard by breaking its door; a Dartaid for its [the  
 door's] lower lath; a Dairt for the upper lath; a Samaisc for a  
 lower wattle; a Colpdach for an upper wattle. A Dairt for the

Mbrugh-  
 (cf.

<sup>(535)</sup> *Feichem*, i.e., a party in a suit; he might be either the plaintiff or de-  
 fendant. <sup>(536)</sup> See note 516 on *Sed*, App. p. 480.



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nauphain aih-thiu tige; dairtaid i nauphain iarthair tige.

Leeth loḡ enech caḡ zhaio tuaiti i nḡait naobiaí ar a aih-  
liu; aih maio i nḡait ince. Aihchur rnerio caḡ leeth iḡ é  
corur a aihliu. Leḡ uine foruir forunora. Uiler ocuf  
inolei uobruuo for lai tige. Uiler caḡ mochoém, inolei  
cach noichaém. Uiler ói ocuf arḡat ocuf huiat. In-  
leḡ cach nombur caḡ rreḡ arḡorur for lai.

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Dairt i crano nairuo éiar; dairtaid i crann nairuo uo  
chein, ocuf dairt la haithḡin cach nae, cio coém cio vi-  
coém. Dairt caḡ aráire co rraḡ. Uiler ninolei nairuo  
uobruuo. Uiler ní beḡ iḡlu oḡuo; inolei ní beḡ aruo

lough-  
tr.

front door-post of his house; a Dartaid for the back door-post of  
his house.

Half the honour price of every grade of society for stealing any-  
thing out of his yard; a seventh for stealing into it. The direct  
cast [of the Cnairseach<sup>(537)</sup>] in all directions [from the door of his  
house] is the proper extent of his yard. Half the Dire of the  
house for the enclosed ridge.<sup>(538)</sup> He may, or may not, have a  
water well in the floor of his house. All precious things are law-  
ful, all things not precious are unlawful. Gold and silver and bronze  
are lawful. All troughs, and seats which are disarranged on the  
floor are unlawful.

A Dairt for the western lintel of the dairy; a Dartaid for cutting  
or breaking down the dairy-lintel, and a Dairt together with resti-  
tution of everything, be it small or non-small. A Dairt for every  
sheet of matting to the roof. He may or may not have a water  
well in his dairy. Lawful what is lower in order; unlawful what

<sup>(537)</sup> *Cnairseach*, a kind of crooked  
staff shod with iron, somewhat like a  
short "Alpenstock". The distance  
which the *Cnairseach* could be thrown  
by a *Bó Airech* was the measure of  
his *Maigin Digona*, or "field of sanc-  
tuary", already described in note 484  
on *Digun*, p. 473. So that the *Airlis*  
of a *Bó-Aire* probably marked the  
extent of his field of sanctuary.

<sup>(538)</sup> *Indra*, a ridge. In the sense in  
which it is used in the text it means the  
enclosed garden which surrounded the  
house, and in which onions and other  
vegetables, and fruit, etc., were grown.  
This *Indra* or ridge was equal to nine  
ridges or beds in breadth (H. 3. 18. p.  
571; and O'C.'s Gloss.), and it was  
surrounded by a special kind of fence,  
the crossing of which was called *dal*  
*tar Indra*, "i.e. going beyond the

[fence of the] nine ridge garden", for  
which, and for any trespass done to  
the garden, there were certain stated  
penalties, such as that mentioned in  
the text. In the account of *Bricriu's*  
*Feast*, in Lect. xix. vol. ii. p. 19, the  
nine ridges mentioned therein evident-  
ly mean such an enclosed garden. In  
North Wales, the ancient mile, or more  
properly league, consisted of 1,000  
"lands", *tyr*, which, according to the  
Ancient Laws of Wales, were called in  
modern Welsh (that is, the Welsh of  
the thirteenth or fourteenth century,  
which was modern to the compiler of  
the Venedotian Code), *Grun*, a ridge  
equal to nine yards in length. The  
*Indra* or garden being nine ordinary  
*Indras* or ridges wide, and each such  
ridge being one yard wide, it corres-  
ponded to the Welsh *Grun*.



ορησ. Foranu chuile a chumac oipech nairuoi. Noer nua  
via erair

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Oipech nimua: diamolai vo chinu adairt, oipenar uas  
cheircail; diamolai doneoch bir fo ruioiu, oipenar uasga-  
mun; diamolai vi doirraib, oipenar uas arraib; diamolai  
vo rraiz, ain nua via erair; diam tochuir tar censo, ret  
inn, ocuf aithgin.

Oiler ocuf inoleff inimmio: Oiler ruioe ocuf frieff-  
ligi inni, ocuf cia biontar inni co comarua cinn irruioiu;  
innleff inni ber aruou cinn; vi loairgg oipenaiter reot  
mao maieru chu a let iarmoiá.

Mleth oicmarice immuiliunn mruzfiri, coic reot, ocuf  
vire mine melai oicmaric, ocuf loz aenech via toichne a  
ua mam. Via ma bionuao, aineclann caich ara ai, ocuf  
aithgin la tarigell mlethe. Maua aith no bionntar  
oicmarice, bo co noairt a oipe, ocuf aithgin. Oiler ni  
no bionntar inni, det adairimm tuarggar fori lai, ocuf  
arrechta ret faveffnei. Oipe a rabail, coic reot, ocuf  
aithgin conneoé no bionntar ann. Oipe a mucfolach,  
coic reoic mucaib, ocuf aithgin. Oipe a bela colpoadi;  
a let via ruda: Ria me imbi, ir colpoad i ruoiu.

is higher in order. Breaking into his storehouse is the same fine  
as the dairy. He must get new rushes for its matting. Mbrugh-  
fer.

The fine of a couch: If it be from the pillow that a lock is torn, a  
good pillow is paid for it; if the part for sitting on is stripped of a lock,  
a good cushion is paid; if the feet are stripped, good shoes [i.e. a co-  
vering] are paid; if it be a lock from the back roof, new rushes are  
paid for its matting; if it be an upsetting, a Sed for it, and restitution.

Of what is lawful and unlawful for a bed: It is lawful to sit and  
recline on it; even though it should be damaged to the height of  
the head; anything higher than the head is unlawful; for its tester  
a Sed is awarded, and it may progress to one-half after that [in  
proportion to the damage].

Grinding without leave in the mill of a Brugh Fer, five Seds, and  
the forfeiture of the meal that is unlawfully ground, and his honour  
price should he be deprived of two handsfull. Should it be damaged,  
it is the honour price of the party whose it is that is paid for it,  
and restitution, with a fine for the grinding. If it be a kiln that is  
unlawfully damaged, a cow with a heifer is its fine, and restitution  
also. Any damage done to it is lawful, except what is torn down  
of it, and its own proper coverings. The Dire of his barn is five  
Seds, and restitution for every damage done to it. The Dire of his  
pig-stye, is five Seds of pigs, and restitution. The Dire of his hatchet,  
is a Colpdach; half of that for his Fidba<sup>(539)</sup>. In the fencing sea-  
son, a Colpdach is the fine for it.

<sup>(539)</sup> *Fidba*, some kind of bill-hook. Its exact character may be

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Fer fothlai cio ara neiperi? Iré memibi bo Airechaib  
mhin, ar in ní fótlen a bo airechur do taurcheicc ceili for-  
chaid a cethrai, a bo, a mucc, a cáirge, nao fo chomlaing a  
thír faveirin, ocuf nao éta meicc ar thír, ní iuc a leff  
faveirin, tabeir i taurcheicc céile. Cairi romaine réc in  
nrii rin? Somaine zrain vóib. Lóg zépta cacha bó do  
zrain arba bío. Ar ní olig aithech mbriat corp flaiti.  
Cere cum ir flait an taithech oin bo airechur, in duir  
fuit faithec? In tan mbir diaból nairhech veira lair, ir  
ann ir airi verra.

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Dia neperi bo aire memibi bo airechaibh, beiro vob  
veircuio dia taurcheia céileu. Nach aire veira cono  
moib de fú ve, .i. diaból nairch veira. Ocht peot illog  
a enech. Ní ar mruigéir, nam in tan oin diablaí feib  
mbo airech ir anó ir airi veira; ar ní cumraizi ainm  
ngraio vorum, dia do moimai a meclann, corin anall. Im-  
toing ocht peotu; ir nairm, ir maí, ir aithiu, ir fechem, ir

Fer-Fothlai.

A Fer-Fothlai, why so called? He takes precedence of the  
Bó-Aires, because his Bó-aireship extends to the payment of  
Ceiles by the excess of his cattle, i.e., his cows, his hogs, his sheep,  
which his own land cannot sustain, and which he cannot sell for  
land, and which he does not himself want, he gives as wages to his  
Ceiles. What are the profits of that man's cows? An equivalent of  
grain he gets from them. The value of the milk of each cow in  
corn grain he gets. For an Aithech is not entitled to malt  
until he is a Flaith. When does the Aithech become a Flaith  
out of the Bó-Aireship, entitled to go into a lawn?<sup>(340)</sup> When  
he has double as much as the Aire-Desa, it is then he is an Aire-  
Desa.

When a Bó-Aire is said to be a leader of Bó-Aires, he bears  
superiority from them by the payment of his Ceiles. He is not an  
Aire Desa until he has two with two, i.e., double what the Bó-Aire  
has. Eight Seds is his honour price. It is not among Brughfers  
he is counted, when he doubles the property of a Bó-Aire, it is  
then he is an Aire-Desa; for the title of the superior grade is not  
conferred upon him up to that, though his honour price is increased.  
He is a Toing of eight Seds; he is a Naidm, a Raith, an Aitire,

easily realized from the following  
description:—"A proper *Fidba* which  
gnaws not the timber, with its proper  
dimensions: its socket a fist; its crook  
three fingers; its edge a span; its  
snout or bill three fingers; its breadth  
at the back—its haft one inch, half

an inch at the middle, and a third of  
an inch at the snout or bill".

<sup>(340)</sup> That is, entitled to go into, or  
live within a *Dun*, which has an en-  
closed lawn or pleasure-ground around  
it. No one below the rank of a *Flaith*  
was entitled to a residence of this  
class.



ριαθναϊρε ρηυ. Cetheora cumalai a thuracraic. Do cona  
 τιντθαδ cechla bliathanan bér a tigi: Colpoach ρηενν Lee  
 in mbliathan naiti .An. τραιγιϑ ριϑιτ a tchech; a .uu. nœc  
 a aμcha. Cethraρ lin a vama: Im co ταιρρυν vó vó ϑρηρ.  
 Cethraρ vó ρορ ρολach. ϑυρρυνvout cethraρ Sall vó hi  
 τρηρ, i .u. τi, i nomao, i nœchmaith, i noomnach. Iρ voin  
 ϑραϑ ρο aρcaim Fenechur:

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"Θλιγιτ ρηϕλαϊτε ρορραvο  
 ρορ ρειρ ηυvœ.  
 Ro ραιgh ann-ϕλαϊth leé aithgin—  
 moine mozerρ inana vœic ρεoiτ ροeriaτ  
 ρεgaτ .u. ρεoiτ cunvapaéa  
 combi ogh innpaiaic naithgina,

aρ ιvbaill leé o φαill necρmacht.

Aιpe Coιρρινϑ cio aρα nepeρ? Aρ in ni conρpenza tuath,  
 ocup ρi, ocup ρenoϑ ται cenn a chemuil. Na vliϑ a ϕλαν  
 vœib ρορ cυρu bel, acht aτvœaimet vœ thuyrech, ocup aυρ-  
 labpa ρεμvœ. Iρ hé aιpe ρine innpin; tobeρi ϑell ται  
 ceann a ϕine vœ ηυϑ ocup ρenoϑ, ocup aep ceρvœ, vœa τιμορϑ-  
 ϑain vœ ρειρ. Cia μεit in ϑill vœ beρ? ϑell coic ρεoiτ  
 vœneó ρoϑ mbi,—vœ aρϑϑaτ, no uma, no ibυρ. Cate ϕλαν a

a suitor, and a witness for them. Four Cumals is his Taur-  
 creic. His Bes Tigi is a cow with her accompaniments every second  
 year, a Colpdach Firend<sup>(541)</sup> with her the other year. Twenty-seven  
 feet his house; seventeen feet his back house. Four is the num-  
 ber of his retinue: they get butter with condiments at all times.  
 Four for him on Folach. He is entitled to entertainment for four.  
 Meat for him on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, on Sundays.  
 It is of this grade the Fenechas says:

Fer-Fothlal.

"The true Flaith is entitled to excess  
 In accordance with his counting.  
 The An-Flaith receives but half restitution—  
 If the price of the damage exceeds not ten Seds,  
 It is five lawful Seds he receives,  
 Which amounts to a perfect, faithful restitution",

The  
 An-Flaith

—for one-half is forfeited in lieu of the despotic rule, or lordship.

An Aire-Coisring, why so called? Because he binds the people,  
 the king, and the synod for his tribe. They are not bound to give  
 him a fee for binding engagements; but they concede to him leader-  
 ship, and to speak before (or for) them. He is the Aire-Fine (family-  
 chief); he gives a pledge for his people to king and synod, and pro-  
 fessional men, to restrain them in obedience [to the law]. How  
 great is the pledge he gives? A pledge of five Seds of whatever  
 kind it may be—of silver, of bronze, or of yew. What is the Slan

Aire-Cois-  
 ring.

(541) See note 503, App. p. 484.



The Crith  
Gablach.  
H. 3 18. pp.  
2, 255, and  
256

gill? Bo cacha arochi no fia tapa cenn, tapa tinnagair cenn co vechmaro; fuillem in gill ocuf inberucc a gni-miu, ocuf los a enech iar na miau iarruioiu, maia gell coir do mata. Or maio do mata forchiaro ngill, ir los a enech, ocuf a gell plan cona fuillem do aippe amail ro-uain. Cere cum do tuitt a gell? Dia murr. Caitte a plan amail ro-uain? Bo cecha arochi no fia no pollaigear tap cenn neich cengell cenfugell, ve amel ar inorubaric mar. Coic feot van co vechmaro Co fo thiu an tucht rin: Ire plan a gill inpo;\* irre van fuillem a fet dian-vafera i cumtach. Noi feoit a enechclann.

H 3 18. pp.  
3, 255, and  
419.

Ir naim, ir raith, ir fiaonaire, ir fechem, ir aitari fhu. Coic cumala a taupreicc. Bo cona thimtag, ocuf colpuac rpeno cona forrair i ngaimiuo, co rambiuo, ber a thige. Tech truchat traigeo, co nreai noi troigeo noeacc. Coic-cium a damam. Imb oo, ferccol tappain. Sall oo i tuiiri, i coicciu, i nomaro, i noechmaro, in noomnach. Ir os los a mech cech gnaio oirunn, nin, mani aippeuat a folaro, a ar na torthairer ir naib fechtuib hi tuittet enech caich. Ca-teatruo? Nin: A aer i torgabail cen gell via mcaib;

Aire-Cois-  
tug

of his pledge? A cow every night that passes, is what is given in security of them, as far as the tenth; the interest of the pledge and the fine of his deed, and his honour price in full besides, if it is a lawful pledge that has been given. But if an excess of pledge has been given, it is the price of his honour, and the full price of his pledge with its interest that is to be restored to him in that case. Question. When does his pledge fall [i.e. become forfeit]? After a month. What is the Slan in that case? A cow every night is given in full fine for every one for whom there is not pledge or security, as we have said. Five Seds as far as ten nights. Having thrice paid in this manner: This then is the Slan of his pledge; This then is the interest of his Seds if they have been richly ornamented. His honour price is nine Seds.

He is a Naidm, he is a Raith; he is a witness, he is a suitor, he is an Aire for them. His Taurreic is five Cumals. A cow with her accompaniments, and a Colpdach Firend with sufficient food in winter, till the time of summer food [i.e. pasturage], are his Bes Tigi. A house of thirty feet, with a back house of nineteen feet. Five are his company. Butter for him, and salt fowls. Bacon for him on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, on Sundays. The honour price of every grade of these is perfect, unless their deeds diminish it, i.e., if they have not fallen into any of the seven things by which the honour of each is forfeit. What are they? Answer: To have been satirized for misdeeds

\* Ire ono fuillem inpo, "This is also its interest", H. 3. 18. p. 419.

ζυ ριασθαιρι; ζύ τερτ; αϊρεσ νασμα; ελυσ παθαϊζι; The Crith Gablach. H. 3. 18. pp 2, 255, and 419. O'C.  
 ουλ τρια αιτιν im ni oi chuac ριυη; cacc ρορ a enech.  
 Cere cro oi nig oi incuib neich inna .uu. ρα? Nin. Nach  
 ρal ar lenna ainech duine bit a τρι oca diúnach, .i. ρλειc,  
 ocup urce, ocup anaic. Ipeú ip ρλειc, cétamur fóiritiu in  
 mibenmai ρia uoimb, acap in zell náo ριυη ριυη aithepach,  
 in turci imorpio, icc nech acball τρια mizomiu; anaic,  
 penait in mibenmai ρepi lebor. Ité foalai bo aipech inro,  
 tepét cach ngrao bep ριυηiu alail.

Ip iaypunn so mhpcauait ζιασθα inna ρλαϊτε.

Forup ρlatha, .i. ρλαϊθ o ueip co ριζ. Cηλιρ ριυηleeta  
 ρορ ριυηib? A ρecht. Cateac? Aiu ueipra, aiu eetai,  
 aipe apoc, aiu túri, aiu ρορζzail, tánaip ριζ, ocup  
 ριζ. Cio notai ρaepoc? Anueip, a nolizic cac ae, cio becc,  
 cio moop. Capi. Caitti ueip ρlathai? Oég ulizic [ρορ-  
 taich, MS. p. 419] comoitin uana. Oichuppin cetheopai  
 ueipi so ρλαϊtib: Sen chomoitiu thuaite; a uán i tuait,  
 im uán túpiz, no tánaip thupiz i tuait, ρechip uán

without having regard to his honour; false witness; false testi-  
 mony; an intentional fraudulent knotting; to abscond from his  
 guarantee; to break through his pledge in anything for which  
 he became security; to befoul his face [or his honour]. Question.  
 What is it that washes from a person's face [i.e. his honour] these  
 seven blemishes? Answer. Every foulness that attaches to a per-  
 son's face [i.e. honour], there are three things to wash it—viz.,  
 Sleic [soap], and water, and linen cloth. What Sleic is: firstly,  
 a confession of the misdeeds in the presence of people, and a pro-  
 mise not to return to them again; the water now is the saving  
 restitution given to the person who has suffered through the mis-  
 deeds; the cloth—the penance of the misdeeds according to books,  
 These are the divisions [or distinctions] of the Bó-Aires, every  
 higher grade takes precedence of the other. And after these the  
 grades of the Flaiths [estated men] commence.

Aire-Cols-  
ring.

The true knowledge of a Flaith—viz., a Flaith from a Deis to a  
 king. How many grades of distinction are these divided into?  
 Seven. Which are they? Aire-Déa, Aire-Echtaí, Aire-Ard, Aire-  
 Tuisi, Aire-Forgaill, Tanaisi Ri, and a Ri. What is [it] that enno-  
 bles them? Their Deis,<sup>(542)</sup> the rights of each, whether small  
 or great. Question. What is the Deis of a Flaith? They are  
 justly owed the protection of their rank. Four rights belong to a  
 Flaith: The prescriptive protection of the Tuath; his rank in the  
 Tuath, with his rank of leader, or Tanist leader in the Tuath,  
 each rank of them; his bond Ceiles,<sup>(543)</sup> his free Ceiles, his Sen-

Grades of  
the Flaiths.

<sup>(542)</sup> *Deis*, i.e. fee-simple land.—Mac follower. There were two kinds of  
Firbis and O'Curry's Glossaries. *Ceiles*, the *Sner Ceile* or fretenant, and

<sup>(543)</sup> *Ceile*, a tenant, a dependent, a the *Daer Ceile* or base *Ceile*. See



The Crith Gablach. H. 3. 18. pp. 3, 255, and 419. O'G.

uib; a céili gíallnai, a roéir cheili, a seimcleithe; im-  
raebair cach gíallnai, eirlinníú glenomón; bótarf ocuf  
fuidirf ro a tiri tabairf, ar it moó a muine,—maithim  
ma beith fognum uib ro flaitiub co nómao naó; it  
bothairf it fuidirf it seimcleite iarimoá.

Áirf uérf, cío arf neperf? Ár inoi if oia uérf uíenarf.  
Niméa bo áirf, if oia buaib uíenarf fíó. Cairi tothaáct  
áirf uérf? Deich céli leif—coic céli gíallna, ocuf coic  
raerf céli. A coic céli gíallna, úligró biachaó naircenn ro  
cach ae: Óó cona timtúó, ocuf colpdach fírenn, ocuf tiri

cleithe;<sup>(544)</sup> the cutting of every bond, the punishment of culprits; Bothachs<sup>(545)</sup> and Fuidirs<sup>(546)</sup> he brings upon his land, in order that his wealth may be the greater,—they are set at large [i.e. naturalized]<sup>(547)</sup> if there be service from them to the Flaiths, to the ninth generation; they are Bothachs, they are Fuidirs, they are Sen-cleithe notwithstanding.

Aire-Desa.

Aire-Desa, why so called? Because of the fact that it is according to his property in land his Dire is regulated. Not so the Bo-Aire, it is according to his cows his Dire is regulated. What is the property of an Aire-Desa? He has ten Ceiles—five bond Ceiles, and five Saer Ceiles. His five bond Ceiles,—he is entitled to a fixed rent in provisions from each of them: A cow with her accompaniments, and a Colpdach Firend, and three Dartaid, every win-

at-will on the land of a Flaith. See INTRODUCTION.

INTRODUCTION for further information on the relations of the higher classes and the Ceiles.  
<sup>(544)</sup> *Sen Cleithe*, hereditary followers, that is, families of followers who have adhered to the family of a Flaith for three successive generations. The Flaith and his descendants were bound to give aid and protection to his *Sen Cleithe* and their descendants. *Cleith*, *Cleithe*, i.e. the best or the head, or the head of the tribe, or the highest chief of the tribe. To the *Cleith* belongs the responsibility of the crime, i.e. to the chief of the tribe crime is carried when the criminal absconds—that is, he becomes responsible for the legal fines, etc. H. 2. 15, p. 121; see also *Cach Cleithe*, H. 3. 18. 15. Hence *Sen-Cleithe*, a follower of a chief. See INTRODUCTION.

<sup>(545)</sup> *Bothach*, a cottier tenant, of which there were two classes, corresponding to the two classes of *Ceiles*, the *Saer Bothach* or free cottier, and the *Daer Bothach* or base cottier. They were in a limited sense tenants-

<sup>(546)</sup> *Fuidir*, a foreigner, that is one not recognized as a member of the tribe, but who has got the privilege of domicile. There were seven classes of *Fuidirs* under various denominations in a Tuath; but there were two principal classes of *Fuidirs*, the *Saer Fuidir*, who might at any time relinquish his land or domicile, and who appears to have generally, if not always, belonged to the privileged classes in his own native territory; and the *Daer Fuidir* or *Fuidir Fagnam* or serving or slave tenant, who either belonged to the base class in his own territory or had lost his privileges. The *Fuidirs* were in part, the true tenants-at-will. See INTRODUCTION.

<sup>(547)</sup> *Maithim*. This appears to be the sense in which the word is to be understood here; because when a *Fuidir* family had served a Flaith family during nine generations, they became legally entitled to remain on the estate, but only as *Fuidirs*. From having no security of tenure they got perpetuity of tenure, and hence were, so far, improved.





The Crith  
Gablach.  
ii. 3. 18. pp.  
3 and 256.  
O'C.

oligiud a cheiliu cirtaib coim cáin. Cairioi conneoch a tallen; lepaio daltu, comalctu, fiur, mnái, macc mgin. Aca ruidiu fom íobur [i. e. íobér] íar coimur fine, ocuf tuaiti, ocuf flaeta, ocuf eclara, ocuf pechtza, ocuf chairu. Sé cumala a taureice o flait. Ói baí cona thimtach-tai béf a thigi i ngaim, cona íambiu. Ech íliarta comatár, co íuan arzza. Ceáir ech lair co nglar íuanais; ocuf clot delz nungza. Cetminter oligtech comchenuil comatár fon óen timtach. .x íeoir a enechclann Immur toing, íf naíom, íf íath, íf áitir, íf íeichem, íf íraíonair ííu. Seííer a íam i tuait. Imb óo ío ííer cotairuo

Alre-Desa.

the rights of his Ceiles, according to the statutes of appropriate law. Friendship to every one who comes; beds for foster children, foster brothers [or school-fellows], men, women, boys, girls. He is correct in the proprieties of his family according to the laws of the tribe, of his chief, and of the church, and of the national law, and of truces or local compacts. Six Cumals is his Taurcreic from his Flaith. Two cows with their accompaniments his Bes Tigi in winter, with their summer food. A riding steed becoming his rank, with a silver bridle. He has four steeds [besides] with green bridles; and a precious stone-brooch, worth an Unga.<sup>(550)</sup> A lawful wife of his own rank and equal, under the same attire.<sup>(551)</sup> Ten Seds for his honour price. He is a Toing, he is a Naidm, he is a Raith, he is an Aitire, he is a plaintiff, and a witness for them. Six his company in the territory; butter for him at all times, and seasoned salt meats. He is then a Flaith

"Hestor" is at present a measure containing two bushels.

The term *Dirna* mentioned above appears to have been used as the name of a measure of weight as well as of volume (see Lect. xxxi. vol. II. p. 245). As a measure of volume it appears to have varied in size. Probably the one referred to above was the *Dirna Umaid*, or bronze *Dirna*; a measure which was equal to a man's full drink, and the price of which was two and a-half pence (12th or 13th century?) MS. H. 3. 18. loose sheet at p. 445.

<sup>(550)</sup> *Unga*, i.e. a technical term for the sum of a legal penalty or reward, as *Unga Cana Donnai*, thus: "Colp-wác uin no allos íf unga cana íomnaí ííu"—"A heifer now, or the price of her, is the amount of the *Unga* of the *Cain Donnai* (Sunday Law)", *Leabhar Breac*, fol. 102, a. b. bot.

The amount or value of the *Unga* was not always the same; for example, it is made to be much less in another gloss in the same MS., fol. 73, a. a., and in O'Curry's copy of the Register of Clonmacnois, p. 5, we find the *Unga* as follows:—"The *Unga Mor* (or big *Unga*) was ten shillings, and the *Unga Beg* (or small *Unga*) was twenty pence".—*Vide* O'Curry's Glossary.

<sup>(551)</sup> That is, she should dress as the class in society to which he belonged did, or in other words she should be of equal rank with himself. From this it would appear that at the period when these laws were in force, the different classes were distinguished by different kinds of dress; and custom, if not law, operated against the intermarriage of the higher with the lower classes of the community.



φαλλετ. ἵππυ φλαετ μνελειθε ἰνῆν. Σεππῆν δὲ φορ φοlach; The Crith Gabloch. H. 3. 18. pp. 3 and 256. O. C.  
 φορρῦγαδὸ φορρῆν; ἰμβ οcυρ φαλλ δὲ ἰ νοῖρῆν, ἰ τῆρῆν, ἰ  
 coicid, ἰ nomaid, ἰ nvechmaid, ἰ noomnach. Cio do ber na  
 .x. φοετῦ δὲ οἰνῦ ἰνῆρῆν ῖν? Cόic φοεit δ εἶγε φαθερῆν  
 cétamur; οcυρ δ cόic ἀρ ἰν coictige. Δοῖο ηγιάλλna cen ní  
 ἀρεῖna no ἀρtha ἀρεchur, οἱ φολταῖb—beccaid οcυρ μοῖam,  
 ἀρ nά οἰά pecht μάταρ.

Δῖπε εἶται, cio ἀρα νεπερ? Δῖ ἰνῶι ἀρ ναῖπε [na ἀρε]  
 cόicῆρ φαcαβαρ ῖνν δένυμ νέχτα ἰ cαῖρῶοιυ, co cenn mír, οἱ  
 οἰγαῖl enechruccai τυαῖτῆ οἰα νδένταρ δεδenguin οἰνε.  
 Μανῖ δερματ co cenn mír δὲ τιαγατ φορ cαῖρῶοι. Nallenat  
 δ λεπθαῖ, chucai anall, cía ποηγονat οἰνε οἰν cαῖρῶοιυ—  
 ἰν cόicῆρ checnaῖ—ἀρ compen ἀῖνν εἶτα ταῖα cenn. Na τέit  
 τίμ na humac ἀῖνν ἰνῶ, acht λεπθα λογα bo βερῆτιυρ οἰα  
 οἰα ναῖρῆτιυth pechtaiρ co cenn cαῖρῶοι, ἀρ lín δ chomairge,  
 οcυρ δ chapat. Δ οam οcυρ δ φοlach amail ἀῖννδ οἰεῖαι  
 οἰεῖτιρ.

Δῖπε ἀρῶο, cio ἀρα νεπερ? Δῖ ἰνῶι ἀρ ναῖρῶοι οἰοαρ  
 ἀρε βερα, οcυρ ἀρε οοτῖετ. Fiche ceili λειρ: .x. ceile

Mucleithe.<sup>(552)</sup> Six for him on Folach; entertainment for six;  
 butter and bacon for him on second, on third, on fifth, on ninth,  
 on tenth, and on Sunday. Why are there ten Seds in the fine of  
 this man? Five Seds in right of his own house firstly; and five  
 for the cook-house or refectory. He is supplied by his paying  
 tenants without anything being wanting or deficient in his Aireship,  
 of his perquisites—be they small or great, for it is not by law it is  
 ruled.

Aire-Echtaí, why so called? Because it is as the Aire [or Aire-Echtaí,  
 chief] of five men he is assigned to perform his functions to  
 enforce the observance of the "Peace", for a month, to avenge  
 the insult offered to a tribe through the violent death of a  
 person. If he does not [avenge] before the end of a month, he  
 [i.e. the homicide] comes under the "Peace" laws. Whatever  
 follows him into his bed [house], should they have killed a person  
 under the "Peace"—the same five men—the Aire-Echtaí pays  
 for it for them. He does not receive the land or territory of an Aire  
 for this, but only vessels of the value of a cow, which, now, are given  
 for their maintenance outside during the "Peace", from the number  
 of their clients and friends. He is entitled to his suite and his  
 Folach, like those of the Aire-Desa.

Aire-Ard [High Aire], why so called? Because of the fact that Aire-Ard,  
 he is higher than the Aire Desa, and he precedes him. He has twenty

<sup>(552)</sup> This term is obscure, but per- of the swine in the forests, and of the  
 haps means that he was then the *Flaith* hunting of those forests.  
 or chief over the swine-herds in charge



e Crith  
blach,  
R 18. pp.  
and 256.

4 and  
1.

ἑτάλληνα, οὐρα ἄ παρκεῖται. Ἀ θεῖχ κεῖται ἑτάλληνα, — οἱ βα  
 cona timchug só huaidoib, ocuṛ tṛi colpoachdai fṛinnn, ocuṛ  
 coic dartaoid caich ḡaimṛo, cona ḡammṛo. Ἀρκαῖρεθεṛ  
 ἄ ἐέλιυ, cuṛ ocuṛ chaimṛo; cach nḡrao ar ic nṛliu buo  
 só ἰ ceῖṛine Cóic ṛeot ἄ loḡ ἄ enech. Immuṛ toing, ἢ  
 náiom, ἢ ṛach, ἢ daitṛi, ἢ ṛechem, ἢ ṛiaonairi fṛuá. Cṛo oἱ  
 beṛi coic ṛeotu ἄ so aineclann soṛ fṛiṛo? Coic ṛeot só  
 céouṛ ar dóthaét ἰ tigi ṛaoṛin; ṛét céa céli oia nṛliḡ  
 bhachad naircennca. Moṛṛeṛeṛ ἄ daim ino ἄ tuaitḡ.  
 Coic fṛi ṛo leith. Imb cotairṛunn soib so ḡṛeṛ. Moṛ-  
 ṛeṛuṛ ṛoṛ ṛolué. Fṛoṛḡuṛo moṛṛeṛi. Sall ocuṛ imb so  
 cotairṛunn, ἰ noṛṛi, ἰ tṛiṛi, ἰ cóicṛo, ἰ nomais, ἰ nṛechmaio,  
 ἰ nṛomnach. au. cumala ἄ thaṛreic. Teoṛi [ἄ] ba cona  
 timchaé béṛ ἄ tairḡ. .xx. Lanamain ἄ cóṛuṛ ṛoṛ cuṛ o ca-  
 laino co inṛ.

re-Ard.

Ceiles: ten bond Ceiles and ten free Ceiles. His ten bond  
 Ceiles—two cows with their accompaniments to him from them,  
 and three Colpdachs Firind, and five Dartaid every winter,  
 together with their summer food. He restrains his Ceiles,  
 under the engagements and the "Peace"; every grade which is  
 lower than himself is in obedience to him. His honour price is  
 Fifteen Seds. He is a Toing, a Naidm, a Raith, an Aitire, a  
 plaintiff, and a witness for them. What gives this man fifteen  
 Seds for his honour price? Five Seds for him first for the stability  
 of his own house; a Sed for every Ceile from whom he is enti-  
 tled to fixed rent in provisions. Seven are his suite in his territory.  
 Five men are his Foleithe.<sup>(563)</sup> They are always entitled to butter  
 and condiments. Seven on Folach. The maintenance of seven.  
 Bacon and butter, with condiments, are supplied them on second,  
 on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, and on Sundays. Seven  
 Cumals are his Taurreic. Three cows with their accompaniments  
 are his Bes Tigi. Twenty couples are his right upon Coshering  
 from the Kalends to Shrovetide.

<sup>(563)</sup> The *Foleithe* of a *Flaith* ap-  
 pears to have been a kind of retinue  
 or body-guard of retainers, which ac-  
 companied him when he held a judi-  
 cial court or attended the popular as-  
 semblies. It is evidently related to  
 the "Liti", "Lathen", "Litones" or  
 "Lassi" of the German nations, a  
 class below the nobility and above the  
 serfs. In the new high German *Geleit*,  
 we have almost the very word. The  
*Foleithe* included the persons who  
 acted as *Naidms*, *Raiths*, *Fiadnaise*,  
 etc. Several Hundreds were some-  
 times united in Kent under the name

of "Lathes", and having the same  
 jurisdiction as a Hundred. In other  
 parts of England too the Hundred was  
 sometimes called a "Leta", as for ex-  
 ample, the "Leta de Brinkelow" in  
 Warwickshire. The name of "Leth-  
 ing" given to the military levy in  
 some parts of the north of England  
 in Anglo-Saxon times, is undoubtedly  
 connected with "Leta", on the one  
 hand, and *Foleithe* on the other.  
 "Leet", as in Court-Leet, "Leudes",  
 "Lieges", etc., are also no doubt to  
 be connected. See INTRODUCTION.

Διη τῶν. ceo ari nepen? Διη ινοι ιη τοιρεch a ciniul, The Crith Gablach, H. 3. 18. pp. 4 and 256. O'C.  
 ocuy uopet ari nariu. .iii. ceili .xx. laruio—c6ic ceili .x.  
 zialna, [6cuy] va roericeli .x. lai. A ch6ili zialna: ceth-  
 eoiri bai cona timchuch d6 h6u6aib, acuy .u. colpacha firinn,  
 ocuy r6 daiuioi cach zaimiu, cona rambiu. Ocht cumala  
 a thaurreic 6 iuz. Cetheoiri bai cona timtad6 b6r a taizi.  
 Ochta a d6m ina tuait. Seiuu r6 leichi. Imb cotar-  
 funn d6 uo zner. Ochta r6i foluch. Forruzuo ochta.  
 Imb uo cotarfunn ocuy coim no ari, ari ic zella, i noiri, i  
 tuiu, i nomaiu, [i nomaiu], i noechmai, i noomnach. Fi6  
 reot a eneclann. Immu r6ing, i narom, i rait, i aitiu,  
 i fechem, i fiaonairi riu. Δe compen mat acra cen  
 aipech, cen aipicuo. Tucha lanamna aice r6i cai o ca-  
 laiu co himt, ari i a lin biata bir a lin r6i cai. Noi  
 tuz6au .xx. a tech, a noi .x. a aipchai. Ocht nimu  
 iuoi tiz, cona noz tincau tiz. Δiuuz tuiu, im r6 brothacha  
 cona coiy tincau, iuoi coicaili ocuy zaimiu riuoi. Spe-

Aire-Tuisi [Leading Aire], why so called? Aire-Tuisi. Because of the fact that his race is superior, and that he takes precedence of the Aire Ard. He has twenty-seven Ceiles—fifteen bond Ceiles, twelve free Ceiles. His bond Ceiles: four cows with their accompaniments to him from them, and five Colpdachs Firind and six Dartuids every winter, together with their summer food. Eight Cumals are his Taurreic from his king. Four cows with their accompaniments are his Bes Tigi. Eight are his suite in his territory. Six his Foleithe. He is entitled to butter with condiments at all times. Eight upon Folach. The maintenance of eight. Butter with condiments is supplied them, and ale or new milk, because he is entitled to it on second, on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, and on Sundays. Twenty Seds are his honour price. He is a Toing, he is a Naidm, he is a Raith, he is an Aitire, he is a plaintiff in a suit, and a witness for them. He pays if he is sued, without litigation, and without borrowing. He has thirty couples on Coshering from the Kalends to Shrovetide: for it is in proportion to the amount of his Biatha,<sup>(554)</sup> his number upon visitation [Coshering] is. Twenty-nine feet his house, nineteen [feet] his back-house. Eight beds in the house, with their perfect furniture equal to the house of an Aire-Tuisi, with six couches<sup>(555)</sup> properly furnished with pillows and sitting cushions. Suitable furniture

<sup>(554)</sup> See note 474, App. p. 472.

<sup>(555)</sup> *Brothach* always means a "blanket", though here translated "couch". As the permanent beds are already mentioned, it is probable that the meaning of the passage is that he should have six spare blankets, with a suitable number of pillows and

sitting cushions, so that he could make up six additional beds when occasion required; the sitting cushions serving during the day as seats, and at night as beds. These cushions were made of skins stuffed with feathers.



The Crith Gablach, H. 3. 18. pp. 4 and 256.

tha corai irin cig, air oboi [ibai] cach meit, ocuf iain cach gnima ocuf huma, letrai im chaim i talla boin co tinne. Céili-coemeḗtai lair, ire oi [iraei] iathair puḡ. Da echruan .x. im iuan [ruan] noiri, alairi arḡḡair. Ni airc do vpaeti milchu, laechair, oicca. Lia a ben bithi acced cecha laubrai. La aithair cona óḡ coruf vligḡeḡ. Da ápal do fori tpeo. Cetminter co coruf lán pecta lanamna com ceniul: Combi lan congḡnam i tuait do aroboenair, do noillecáir, do ḡill, do ḡiall, do cairioiu tar cenn ceniul, tar cuchi, ocuf i tech ḡlata. Ar neat córuv iuáith a athair ocuf a ienathair. Docum baig a ḡlan aia fornerit. Forioing forḡmair arto nírlu, ocuf forḡmnaḡ a noillig.

End of tract beginning at p. 252 of MS.

Aire forḡḡaill, cu aia neperi? Ar ir he forḡḡella for na ḡraoa do iuimirem nach airim inoa tochriathair imimrena, huairne arnuair a febur inoaḡá a celi. Cethraḡa céili la ruoe: richi celi ḡiallra, ocuf ríci roercéili. A richi [ceili] ḡialnai, coic bai cona tímḡḡ do huaoair, ocuf

Aire-Tuisi.

in the house with perfect workmanship,<sup>(556)</sup> and iron household tools for every work, and bronze vessels, together with a meat vessel<sup>(557)</sup> in which a cow and a hog will fit. He has an espoused wife, and he is in the free pay of the king. Twelve bridle-steeds, with a golden bridle, and another of silver. He is not liable for trespass by his grayhound, his calves, his young pigs. To his wife belongs the right to be consulted on every subject. He has a plough with its proper full set of implements. Two horses for him upon his journey. A virgin wife in the full propriety of matrimonial law, of equal tribe with himself: So that he shall have full assistance in the territory of prosecutors, of Noillechs,<sup>(558)</sup> of pledges, of hostages, to give, in order to secure the "Peace" for his tribe, outside of his territory, and into the house of the Flaith. He assumes the lawful fulfilment of the responsibilities of his father and grandfather. He redeems their guarantee of his own strength. He swears the grades that are lower than him, and he dissolves their enmities.<sup>(559)</sup>

Aire-Forḡaill.

Aire-Forḡaill, why so named? Because it is he that testifies as to character for the grades we have enumerated in every place they go to, to deny a charge, because his wealth is greater than that of his Ceiles. He has forty Ceiles; twenty bond Ceiles, and twenty free Ceiles. From his twenty bond he has five cows with

<sup>(556)</sup> Ornamental work in yew.

<sup>(557)</sup> Not a boiler or pot, but a vessel in which meat was salted, and which was usually kept behind the door of the house with meat preserved in it, to save the honour of the chief of the house. See O'Curry Gloss. at cairpe.

<sup>(558)</sup> *Noillechs*, a name given in the courts to the class of nobles who sat behind the judges, and acted as arbitrators.

<sup>(559)</sup> i.e., adjudges their disputes.



ré colpdaige fhuinn, ocuf noi ndairtaroe ceé zaimhu, cona rammbiuo. Coic feot déac a enechlann. Immuf toing, if nairm, if maé, if aitari, if fechem, if fiaonairi fhu. Fer-chor cen aipeé, cen aiplicuo cia thaccraí. Noi cumala a thaur-  
 criecc o mar flait. Cóicc bai cona thimtué ber a thige. Nonbur a dam inna tuaé. Moirerepi folethe. Imm vo cotarpon, ocuf faille, ocuf cuim no arf, ár ic zellaí i noifri, i tuiiri, i coicuo, in nomao, i noeémaro, i noompach. Triáa thiaigeo a teé, .xx. thiaigeo a iúcaí. A rreataí tige, a foluo, a cleé, a ech rrem, a comopari caé raíthe, a cetmuntepur a coruir oliguo.

The Crith Gablach, H. 3. 18. p. 4. O'C.

Tanarri mué, ceo aia neperi? Ar moí fhuaricci tuath huilí [vo muíu] cen cornum fhu. Coic fenclethe foreraio laiff fech aipuz forzgalil. Dechnebur a dam i tuaé; óctari folaiti; dechnenbur fo folach; co cetnu óríur; co ninnrucuf cleite; collín eochmaroe; co comopari ceé raíthe; co cetmuntepur oliguo. Dech cumalaí a thaurhiccecc. Sé bai béf a éige. Triáa feo a enechlann. Immuf toing, if nairm, if raith, if aitari, if fechem, if fiaonairi fhu. Ferchor cen aipeé, cen aipluccao cia éacraí.

their accompaniments, and six Colpdachs Firind, and nine Dartaid's every winter, together with their summer-food. Fifteen Seds are his honour price. He is a Toing, a Naidm, a Raith, an Aitire, a plaintiff in a suit, and a witness for them. He pays without litigation, or without borrowing when sued. Nine Cumals are his Taurcreic from the great Flaith. Five cows with their accompaniments are his Bes Tigi. Nine are his company in his territory. Seven are his Foleithe. He gets butter with condiments and bacon, and ale or new milk, for he is entitled to them, on second, on third, on fifth, on ninth, on tenth, on Sundays. Thirty feet his house, twenty feet his back house. His household furniture; his wealth; his prime cattle; his bridle steeds; his working implements for the work of every quarter [of the year]; his espoused wife according to established law.

Aire Forgaill.

Tanasi Righ [the tanist of a king], why so called? Because it is the whole territory [or people] that elects him without opposition to him. He has five Sencleithe more than the Aire-Forgaill. Ten are his company in the territory; eight his Foleithe; ten not Folach; with the same legal propriety; with the worthiness of a chief; with his full complement of horses; with implements for the work of each quarter of the year; with a lawful espoused wife. Ten Cumals are his Taurcreic. Six cows are his Bes Tigi. Thirty Seds his honour price. He is a Toing, a Naidm, a Raith, an Aitire, a party in a suit, and a witness for them. He pays without court litigation, or borrowing on a pledge, if he is sued.

Tanasi Righ.

The Crith  
Gablach,  
H. 2. 18. p. 4.  
O'C.

Ri, cio ara neperi? Ar inoi muget chumactui cunnhu? [cunnhu?] for a tuatai. Cair cirliu foilai for muzaib? Teoir foilai. Cateat? Ru ben, ru buven, ru bunaro cad cinn. Rii benn cetamur, ceo ar a neperi? Ir he ru tuaiti inrin, lar mbiat .iii. ngraro fene cona fofoilab i ceilrine;

H. 3. 18. p. 6.

ar ir he benna flata vo muimurum. Uu. cumalai a enechclann—cumal ceo pumgraro bir fo a cumactu. Imur toing, ir nairon, ir maot, ir airtiu, ir fechem, ir fiaonaire fhu; feriof cen ariet, cen ariucco cia tacra. Da feru oec a oam na tuaiti; nonbur foletiu; uechenbur for folach for a corur biata. Oí cumal .x. a taurcreic. Se ba ber a thige.

Rii buiven, cio ara neperioe? Ar inoi ar nauhmia va buiven, no teora mbuiven;—reot .c. cacha buivne; ire ru teora tuat, no cetheora tuat inrin. Oot cumala a enechclann; huame vo foila ilgiallu—a oao, no a tui, no cethair, amail arietin [fenechur no Cormac Mac Airt]

The differ-  
ent ranks  
of kings.

Ri [a king], why so called? Because he possesses the power of binding over his people. It is asked how many are the ranks of kings. Three ranks. Which are they? A king with horns, a king of companies, a king the origin (or foundation) of all chiefs. The

The Rii Ben.

king of horns first, why so called? He is the king of tribes, who has the seven grades of the tribe with their tributaries in submission to him; for they are the horns of a Flaith which we have mentioned. Seven Cumals are his honour price—a Cumal for every prime grade that is subject to him. He is a Toing, he is a Naidm, he is a Raith, he is an Aitire, he is a plaintiff and a witness for them. He pays without court litigation or borrowing on a pledge when sued. Twelve men are his company in his territory; nine his Foleithe; ten on Folach according to his prescribed lawful maintenance. Twelve Cumals are his Taurcreic. Six cows are his Bes Tigi.

The Rii  
Buiden.

The king of companies, why so called? Because he is the leader of two battalions, or three battalions;—seven hundred in each company;<sup>(560)</sup> he is the king of three territories, or of four territories then. Eight Cumals are his honour price; for he takes many hostages (or pledges)—two, or three, or four, as it is said [by either the Fenechas or Cormac Mac Airt].

<sup>(560)</sup> There were three grades of kings: 1, the *Riigh Tuatha* or *Rii Ben*, who was chief of a *Tuath* or tribe, *Triucha Cead*, or 30 Hundreds, equivalent to a modern Barony; 2, the *Riigh Mor Tuatha*, *Ri Buiden*, or *Riigh Ruireach*, who had three, four, or more

“Tribe Kings” or *Riigh Tuathas* under him, equivalent to a modern county; and 3, the *Riigh Cuicidh*, *Rii Bunaid Cach Cin*, or “Provincial Kings”, one of whom was generally *Ard Riigh Eirind*, or High King of Eiriu.



“Ri Michuairdου μερφαυ pecht,  
 Na demozau merc maá,  
 Oligio cumal for a pecht  
 Oo a vhuu dan”.

The Crith  
 Gablach,  
 H. 3. 18. p. 8.  
 O’C.

Cechiu fídit fer a vám ina tuait; va fer veacc fo leithi Coic cumala vécc a thaurcraicc. Oct mbai bép a tigi Iy vífolais ní buven: Oét cumala aya zellat a folac. Immuir toing, iy naim, iy rath, iy aitari, iy fechem, iy fiaonairi fhuu; ferthor cen aipeé cen aiplicuo cia thacrao.

Ri bunaid cech cinn, ono, cuo aya neperi? Ari noí iy fo cumáctu a éunoiuz buo cech cenn nav cimmaruzs a coim-viu: huape foricét céé cenn ber tpeppai inní berétreppa;— ipe níi mupech inin. Oa .un. cumala a enechclainni,— huape mbite ní ocuy tuácai fo cumáctu ocuy a chunoiuz. Immtoing, va .un. cumalai, iy naim, iy rath, iy aipre, iy fechem, iy fiaonairi fhuú. Tpuca a vám inna tuait; pecht céé folethe oo cunoiuz la cach.

Oífolais níi mupech, ocuy ní éicir, ocuy bhuáaro, i ngra-vaib tuaiti; leé folac céé gíáio oo a macc oligthes, oo

“The king of Michuaird of moderate inebriations,  
 Who obscures not his intellect with heavy intoxication,  
 He is entitled to a Cumal and seven,  
 To be paid him for the Dire of his state”.

The Ri-  
 Buiden.

Four-score men are his company in his territory; twelve men his Foleithe. Fifteen Cumals are his Taurreic. Eight cows his Bes Tigi. A king of companies is non-Folach: <sup>(561)</sup> Eight Cumals are pledged to him for his Folach. He is a Toing, he is a Naidm, he is a Raith, he is an Aitire, he is a party in a suit, and a witness for them; and he pays without litigation or borrowing when sued.

A king the origin of all chiefs, why so named? Because of the fact that it is under his control every chief is, who cannot be reduced to obedience by his own lord: For every chief who is the higher, constrains whosoever is lower;—he is then a king of kings. His honour price twice seven Cumals is,—for kings and peoples do be under his power and his direction. He is a Toing of twice seven Cumals, he is a Naidm, a Raith, an Aitire, a party to a suit, and a witness for them. Thirty are his company in his territory; seven hundred his Foleithe when governing the people.

The Ri  
 Bunaid.

A king king, and a poet king, and a Brugaid, are non-Folach among the grades of the people; he is entitled to half the Folach of every grade for his lawful son, for his wife;—for it is

The Folach  
 of different  
 ranks.

<sup>(561)</sup> Is nonsustainable that is, if he was wounded, he was not carried to the house of the man who inflicted the

wound for his *Folach Othrusa*—it was paid him in his own house. See 5.35. R.I.A.



The Crith Gablach. H. 3. 18. p. 5 O'G.

á mnáí;—ár ír leit céé oligthig, cethnamas cáé moligthig. Dan amur a folac a incaib maicc no céli. Rechtaim, téd-taim folongthar leé folac a flathi. Sniit cumala canom a ngimo a folach fo a mbiachad lia flaité. Cach dán vo gni áicvi flatha, no ecalra, folongar leé folach a miav caich ara áicvi vo gni. Folach cech gnao a eclair fo comgnao tuaiti. Cáé mathair lia mac. for folac via marathar.

Ité folai flata vo muimirem imaberat füllechtai flaitchemnair a romóinib réc. Cair ciave ar rpuithiu—in púí fa chuac? Ír rpuithiu in púí. Cia vo comrpuithe? Ar ír tuat oimithier púí, ni púí oimithier tuaiti. Cateat folait púí vo tuaiti not noimithier? Noail tar a cenn fpu púí oc [c]ur [oc cur, no oc cor] cuchi. Írtoing tob; fortoing huatuib .un. cumala. Teit i combreith, i compriandairi fpu púí tar cenn a chuaiti. Oligit conua bpuhemain fíman vóib. Oligit zell tar a cenn. Oligit foluch amail folongar. Oligit nav ngellaí oenach forpu nav cummell tuath ule áévo comaithe. Teopa tomaltu áca corai vo púí for a tuaitia: Oenach, ocuf vól vo cunorpech, ocuf

The Folach of different ranks.

half for every lawful, one-fourth for every unlawful. The wives of mercenaries have Folach in right of their sons or husbands. Stewards, and couriers, are sustained with half the Folach of their Flaith. They arrange that their share in Folach corresponds with their feeding by their Flaith. Every profession that performs the work of a Flaith, or of a church, is sustained with half Folach according to the grade whose work he performs. The Folach of every grade in the church is the same as that of its co-grade in the laity. Every mother goes with her son upon Folach, the same as his father.

Obligations of a king.

Those ranks of Lords which we have enumerated, are those which receive the marks of Lordship from the amount of their property. It is asked which is the higher—the king or the people? The king is higher. What makes him higher? Because it is the people that ordain the king, not the king that ordains the people. What are the obligations of a king to the people that ordain him? He arbitrates for them with the king at the boundary of the territory. He is Toing for them; for his oath he gets seven Cumals from them. He goes into co-judgment, into co-evidence with the king for his people. They are entitled that he should keep righteous judges for them. They are entitled to pledges for the same. They are entitled to support as they support. They are entitled that he promises not a fair upon them at which the people at large shall not assemble with equal immunity. Three levies the king is justly entitled to from his people: A fair, and an assembly for rectifying the affairs of the

to comraic do curch. Is tuaithe cammae, comarzzuo oen-  
 aig. Is nuig ni zellar ar oenoch, act ropc6iri ni zellur.

The Crith  
 Gablach,  
 H. 3. 18. p. 5.  
 O.C.

Cair, cirliri ata c6irai do nuig do ziull for a tuata? A  
 tpu. Cateat? Zell flažo, Zell pechtze, Zell cairsoi, ar  
 ic lieira tuaithe huli inrin.

Cair, cirliri fl6žo ata choorai do nuig do ziull for a  
 tuaithe? A tpi. Cateat? Složo hi curch a me66n fpu  
 inonair6e fl6žo thairri; fl6žo do hori curchi fpu forc6in  
 fpu ocuf 6ligio, conic noib cath no cairsoe; fl6žo tar  
 curch fpu tuait6 aratlui.

A taat van, ceitheorai pechtzi zellur nuig for a tuaithe  
 Cateat? Rechtzi fenechar c6tamur; ic tuatha do  
 veziiret; is nuig no 66luthai na teorai pechtzi eile,  
 is ni do 66mmairz; pechtzi iar cath tom6ommam  
 fuppu, do no 66luthat a tuatha iarom ar namma conbba  
 66ib; ocuf pechtzi iar nounebai; ocuf pechtzi nuig,  
 amail non zab pechtzi nuig Cairil, la M6main. Arataat  
 teorai pechtzi ata c6irai do nuig do ziull for a tuatha:  
 Rechtzi do in6arbbu echtarimul, .i. fpu Saxonu; ocuf  
 pechtzi fpu tuar torao; ocuf pecht6 c6ettme adannai,  
 amail non ngab pehta adannain.

people, and a convention of the government of the territory. It  
 is the people that congregate, and contribute to the fair. And a  
 king does not bind them to a fair, because it is only when it is  
 appropriate he promises it.

Obligations  
 of a king.

It is asked, how many pledges is a king entitled to from his peo-  
 ple? Three. Which are they? A pledge for hostings, a pledge  
 for right, a pledge for peace, for all these things are for the good  
 of the people.

Rights of a  
 king.

It is asked, how many hostings it is right for a king to bind upon  
 his people? Three. Which are they? A hosting within the terri-  
 tory for the purpose of preparing a hosting beyond it; a hosting to  
 the boundary of the territory to proclaim right and law, whether it  
 be by battle or peace; a hosting over the boundary against an  
 aggressive territory.

There are now four lawful rights which a king binds upon his  
 people. What are they? The rights of Fenechas firstly; it is the  
 people that enforce it; it is the king that exercises the other three  
 rights, and it is the king that enforces them: a right after a battle  
 has been broken upon them, to consolidate his people then, so that  
 they be not disbanded; and a right after a mortality; and the right  
 of a king; such as the right of the king of Cashel, in Munster. For  
 there are three rights which it is proper for a king to exercise upon  
 his people: a right to drive out foreign races, i.e. Saxons; and a  
 right for the supply of fruits [or other produce]; and a right to  
 kindle religion, such as the Law of Adamnan.

\* observance of the laws of fine the freemen.



The Crith  
Gablach,  
H. 3. 18. p. 6.  
O'C.

Ité folairu fih flaitheaman inro for a tuatha; ocuf ni if  
forige foin na ecin, na fornuir. Rop rlan etariggairiech  
fihon itih lobhu ocuf tpuunu.

Ataat van a tpu aili totachmat vo miz. Rop fepi cach  
leitil lan vligro. Rop fepi fpecmairec fihf. Rop foruf  
ainmnet.

Ataat cethairi toraic vo beiat vire naithiz vo miz.  
Cateat? A thoraic fori teora loiggairib alich: loigg  
forigea, loigg famtairi, loigg pammai; ar cen mbif foraib  
iraitrech. A taraioc a aenui; ar ni copuf vo miz imtheet a  
aenui. Ireo laa inrin fortoigg ben a aonui a macc fori  
miz; la na tabui neich a tefc det namá. Ataa mi nav  
nimtet ni det cethairi. Cia cethairi? Ri, ocuf bpuitheman,  
ocuf viar i manchune. Cia mi in nimtet in tuet rin? Mi  
riltai. A sum inna vicularo vna oc techro, ar mi vo bep  
vihu naithiz vo. Det mav treo vo coi, ar if amlaro  
roon vpenataru vi cularo miz ara incharb.

Ata vna fecht monail i copuf miz: .i. domnach, vo ol  
corima, ar ni flaiti teeta nav ingella lait ar cach noom-  
nich; luan, vo bpuithemnar, vo chocceitav tuath; Mairt

Rights of a  
king.

These are the rights which a righteous king has over his people; and he exacts them not by falsehood, nor by force, nor by despotic might. His fostering care must be perfect to them all, both weak and strong.

Qualities of  
a king.

There are now three other qualities that pertain to the qualifications of a king. He must be a man fully qualified in every respect. He must be a man anxious to preserve knowledge. He must be the seat of equity.

Ways in  
which the  
dignity of a  
king is  
lowered.

There are four stoopings that bring the fine of an Aithech<sup>(562)</sup> or plebeian to a king. What are they? His stooping to the three shafts of an Aithech: The handle of a pitchfork, the handle of an axe, the handle of a spade; for as long as he is at them, he is an Aithech. His stooping to go alone; for it is not proper for a king to travel alone. That would be the day upon which a woman alone could swear her child upon a king; a day upon which no one else could give testimony but herself alone. There is a month in which the king travels but with four only. What four are they? A king, a judge, and two servants. In what month does he travel in that manner? The month of seed-sowing. To get wounded in the back, now, in retreating from a battle field gives him the Dire of an Aithech. But if it is through him it [the weapon] has passed, Dire is paid for the back of a king, the same as for his front.

Occupations  
of a king.

There are, now, seven occupations in the law of a king—viz., Sunday, at ale-drinking, for he is not a lawful Flaith who does not distribute ale every Sunday; Monday, at legislation, for the

(562) See ante, note 464, App. p. 469.



oic fíochúil; Cétuin do veicru mílchon oic toirponn; The Crith Gablach, H. 3. 18. p. 6. O'C.  
 Taradain do lanamnar; Áinóiden do methaib ech; Sačairn do bhethaib.

Átaat tñu toichneoi fñur na ñuibe corao (no tocrao) ñus: Cia bech ñu im choime iar ñoul tñut; toichnuo iar nélano aise via folaro, acht ní ño fñuter oilec via ñuin; toichnuuch iar netiué, ar ír mo ñoflí olóáar don, huare ñoflí loğ a enech.

Čair. Cia ír cóir ocup ír tečtai do óenum bió ñus? Fepñ-  
 nio tñu fopñğaib. Čateat fñoi? Fep fopñğsaib fopñğab  
 fopñ a comlonn, co tñéğoa in fep tñia fciath. Fep Ğaiber  
 fep beoğabail, ocup arit nğaib i ñoi. Fep benar óam oen  
 bemmm nao fñóle. Fep fopñğaib cimbio cen auñluo. Fep  
 fopñğaib eclann ar belai b fñuağ, co tuit oi aen fopñğub.

Átaat ono tñu auññach nao acclaoat ñus: Eññech ar  
 tuait arñolu oco ñnoñnuo; eññech in tan mbir ñu a  
 nechčair leir ma thuaie fñoeirñ, man ñoa ñuim; eññech  
 oifeircc fñabñai i ñoithñai b, iar tuñoecht čair epich. Áo-

government of the tribe; Tuesday, at chess; Wednesday, seeing Occupations of a king  
 grayhounds coursing; Thursday, at the pleasures of love; Friday,  
 at horse-racing; Saturday, at judgment.

There are three fastings which bring no disgrace to a king: [Fast-  
 ing], when the king has a boiler which has leaked; fasting when The fastings of a king.  
 a stranger has run away with his supplies, but no men have been  
 sent to kill him [the absconder]; fasting after being refused [his  
 supplies], for it is then his right to do so is greatest, because  
 he is entitled to his honour price.

Quere. Who is it that is fit and lawful to make the food Who should be the king's cook?  
 of a king? A champion of three captures. Which are they? A  
 man-captive whom he captures in his combat, after he has pierced  
 the man through his shield. A man who has captured a man in  
 living caption, and whom he has captured on the battle-field. A  
 man who slays an ox with one stroke without default in the deed.  
 A man who captures a Cimbid or "victim"<sup>(563)</sup> without a scuffle. A  
 man who captures an assassin (or outlaw) in the front of an army,  
 until he falls by one thrust.

There are three extraordinary levies, which a king is not held Levies for which a king is not responsible.  
 responsible for; a levy upon a territory in revolt into which  
 he goes to subjugate it; a levy when he has an extern king  
 with him in his own territory, if his court is not sufficient to sup-  
 ply him; a levy of dry cattle in a waste,<sup>(564)</sup> after having gone

<sup>(563)</sup> A condemned person, whether for crime, or merely a "nexus" who had become "addictus". See note 470 on *Naidm*, ante, App. p. 470.

<sup>(564)</sup> That is land which had come into the hands of the chief through

failure of heirs, confiscation, etc., and the management of which had not as yet been assumed by the proper authorities. It also included lands the ownership of which was disputed, etc. The *Brough* of the district

Crith  
lach,  
s. 18. p. 8.

γενεσθαι ηυαο σο καθ βερα cethpai, ναο α περιηπεχ η νοτε-  
nach, ναο αιχγενεθαι η ταιρεχ, αοτμαο ινορηυη ηηο-  
ολιγεθεχ.

Κατι χορηυ ονοο ηυζ βιρ ηι φορηυ σο ζρηρρ αη χηηη α  
τουατι? .ιιι. ριχιη τραιγεο, οι τραιγεοιβ ηηηαιαοοιβ, μεττ ηι  
ουηε καθ λειη; .ιιι. τραιγιο τειγετ α θαλμαθα, οα  
τραιγ .x. οηα α οοηηα. Ιρ ανη ιρ ηυζ αν ταν, σοτ ηημελλατ  
ορηεηα ζιαιηα. Κατι ηη ορηεητ ζιαιηαι? Οα τραιγ .x.  
λεηηετ α βελ, οορηυ α οοηηαι; οορηυ ι φοτ ρηι ουη; τρηχο  
τραιγι α φοτ ι ηεχηαιη. Κλειηυζ σο οένυη ιοιζι α χηιζι.  
Καρη κοιλ, καρη οηηε εεχ ρηη οια ηοζβαι. Ιηο ρλαηη  
bachoηο ηο ολιζ οένυη α ουηι, αετ α χεχη ηαμμα. Ηη.  
τραιγιο τρηχοη ιεχη. Οι ηηηοαι .x. ηη ηυζοιζ, οο ρε-  
ηαι τεχ ηυζ; αμυιρ ηυζ ηι ροιρηυ. Καρη οη-ηε αμυιρ  
ατα κορηαι λα ηυζ? Ρεη ρορηυρ οι ρηι, ρεη ρορηυρ οι ζαβαι,  
over the boundary. He makes restitution for every class of cattle  
which belongs not to the last levy, for which he makes no restitu-  
tion at first, but if it be an unlawful foray [he must make restitu-  
tion].

ights of a  
king as to  
house-  
hold.

What are the lawful rights of the king who dwells perpetually  
at the head of his people? Seven score feet, of lawful feet, is the  
size of his Dun every way; seven feet is the depth into the  
ground; twelve feet now is its base. It is then only he is a king,  
when he is encircled by the Drecht Gialnai. What is the Drecht  
Gialnai [ditch of allegiance]? Twelve feet is the breadth of its  
mouth, and of its base; and its length encircles the Dun;  
thirty feet is the length it is out [i.e. from the Dun]. It is  
clerics that make the prayers of his house. A cart for firewood,  
and a cart for lending for every man who may require it. The  
Flaith Bachald<sup>(565)</sup> is not entitled to have his Dun built for him, but  
only his house. Seven feet and thirty is his house. Twelve beds  
in the royal mansion, with the array of a king's house; the body  
guard of the king in the south. It is asked who are the body-  
guard that a king ought to have? A man whom he has freed

appears to have had the usufruct of  
all such lands for a certain time, after  
which they passed into the possession  
of the *Righ Tuatha*, who held them  
as part of the *terra regis*, until they  
were regranted, or the dispute finally  
settled; hence the right of the king  
to levy his supplies there.

<sup>(565)</sup> The *Flaith Bachald* appears to  
have been the *Tanist* of a *Flaith*, a  
man fully qualified in every way by  
wealth, family, and rank, but not  
the ruling *Flaith*. *Bachald* is equi-  
valent to *somaine fiatha*, that is,

having all the qualifications of a  
*Flaith*. *Flaith do arngair a bith  
bachald* was a *Flaith* who had ruined  
his estate, his rank, and his hon-  
our; he was one of the seven per-  
sons not entitled to *Enechland* or *Dire*  
(H. 3. 17. T.C.D., p. 372; and Eger-  
ton MS. 88. Brit. Mus.) The *Flaith  
Bachald* was perhaps equivalent to  
the *Athelings* of the Anglo-Saxons,  
that is, members of the ruling family,  
any one of whom was eligible to be  
elected *Tanist* or *Righ*.



feir foerur oi cimmroecht; feir foerur oi fognum oi doeribochur oi doer furofer. Ni bi occai feir foerur a moi; ar nach rompe, no ar nach rubai, ar foethaib, ar connalbi. Cia lin oi amraib ar coir la rí? Cethnar, .i. ríge, ocuf reitlith, ocuf da taebtaio, ite a nanmann. Ite ada choraí vo buith i foitriu taige rí, ara choemtecht a taig immach, imais i tech. Feir gill vo gialonaib fhuu anar. Cia maoirí? Feir laf mbi tiri .iii. cumal, forbi a fetaib itri flaith ocuf ansoin, ocuf choir fem tectai fhuuoi mar. Da ama iarfuoi; eccir iarfuoi; cicuti iarfuoi; curleannaig, corrair, cleamnai a nairtiur foitri. Ir innleé eliu, fochlu pennio: pergnio fhu forngairi nooir; a charri ar belaid cechtirnaeí vo gner, fhu cumarce churim-tigi; roericeí na flata fhu anar:—Oer inrin bio coemtecht vo flait; gel iarfuoi; burchem iarfuoi; i ben, no a burchem fhuoi inmar; ru iarfuoi; gel oichma i nglairib i nairtiur fochlaí.

The Crith Gablach, H. 3. 18. p. 6. O'C.

from death, a man whom he has freed from jail,<sup>(666)</sup> a man whom he has freed from the condition of a Cimmid or "victim", a man whom he frees from the servitude of bond Bothach-ship or from bond Fuidir-ship. He does not have a man whom he saves on the battle field; who has been forced to retreat, or who has been wounded, neither for castigation, nor for friendship. How many body-guards-men are proper for a king? Four, viz., a front-man, a reteman, and two sidemen, are their names. It is they that are proper to be in the southern part of a king's house, to guard him on the outside of his house, in a plain, in a house. A pledged man of the hostages by these behind. What is his rank? A man who has the land of seven Cumals, recognizable for his wealth both by his chief and his church, and his own lawful family faced forward seated by these behind. Two wardens behind these; poets behind these; harpers behind these; pipe players, horn players, and jugglers, in the back part of the south side. In the other side of the house in the champion's seat: warriors to guard the door; his spear in front of each of them at all times, to guard against the revel of the Ale House; the Flaith's privileged Ceiles behind them:—These are the parties who are the companions of the Flaith; hostages behind these; judges behind these; his wife, or his judge, faced forwards behind him; kings behind these; unredeemed hostages in locks in the east side of the champion's couch.

Rights of a king as to his household.

<sup>(666)</sup> *Gabail*, i.e., arrestation. A person under arrest being said to be in *Gabail*, that term no doubt gradually came to signify the place where the prisoner was secured. It is therefore probable that *Gabail* and the cognate words in other Celtic dialects appear

to be the true origin of the English word *gaol*, *jail*, O. French, *gaole*, *jaiole*, modern French, *geôle*, Spanish, *gayola*, Portuguese, *gaola*, Italian, *gabbia*, and not Latin, *cavea*, as is usually assumed.



The Crith  
Gabraeh,  
H. B. 18. p. 7.  
O'C.

Rii tuaithe. D'í fepaib' deacc' do leppaib' tuaithe following  
tuath fadóerrin fua tairceóu. Dá fep' deac' óna' dam  
erruic, ói lerib' ecelry' ocuf' tuaithe imteit' caderin. Ar  
ni macu tuath damrao' nuz' ocuf' erruic, óiam' ói fneff  
fof' nzelac. Dam' ruab' óna' ói fepub' deac. Cia' de' ir-  
muichiu, in nuz' fa' erruc? Irmuichiu' erruc, huafu' ar' némaiz'  
nuz' fobith' crieime. Tuafguib' erruc' óno' a'glun' nua' nuz'.  
Óligechy' b'nechum' la' nuz' mo' bo' b'nechum' caderin. Amair'  
ar' in can' fenechar':

"Maó be nuz'  
no' ferrry' necht' flata'  
fo' thoth' iar' mbiaó'  
mercbair' a' flóiz'

The retinue  
of a king  
and a  
bishop.

Rii Tuaithe. Twelve men [are his retinue], when for the good  
of a Tuath, they are supported by the people on their excu-  
sions. Twelve men now are the retinue of a bishop, when he  
travels for the good of the church and the people. For the people  
could not sustain the retinues of a king and of a bishop, if they  
were constantly feeding on them. The company of the Suad<sup>(567)</sup>  
now is twelve men. Which is the higher, a king or bishop? The  
bishop is higher, because he binds the king in virtue of faith. A  
bishop, however, raises his knee to a king.

The retinue  
of a Sai.

It is lawful for a king to have a judge with him though he is  
himself a judge. As the Law of Fenechas says:—

Occupations  
of the Alo  
House.

"If he be a king  
Who knoweth a king's lawful rights  
With bounty, after meals  
He regales his hosts.<sup>(568)</sup>

<sup>(567)</sup> *Suad*, or *Sai*, was the title of the class of literary men (poets, historiographers etc.) The highest rank of each profession was called an *Ollamh*—thus *Ollamh Brethemnas* was the highest rank of judge. The highest rank of *Sai* was accordingly styled an *Ollamh* also. He had the same rank as a *Rígh Ruireach*; and was entitled to the same number in his retinue and to the same *Dire*. Cassiodorus (*Variar. Libr. I. Epistola, xxiv.*) speaks of a certain Nandius a *Saio* (*Gen. Saionis*), who acted as a kind of nuncio or ambassador to the Gothic king Theodoric. Other forms also occur, *Sajo*, *Sagio*, *Sago*, but always in Latin texts. Diefenbach suggests that the Gothic form may have been *Sagja*. In Anglo-Saxon we have *Secga*, *Secg*, an ambassador, and in Old Frisian in combinations *Sega* e.g. *ásega*, a judge, corresponding to Old Sax. *éosago*. O. H. German *ésgo*. In the laws of the

Salic Franks we also find mention of a class of persons called *Sagibarones*. It is worthy of remark that the Irish Historical Tales always give the function of ambassador to a *Sai*. The Anglo-Saxon *Secga*, suggests a relationship with the Irish *Sicc Oc*, a name given to certain persons who formed part of the judicial courts, and performed the function apparently of announcing the decisions of the court. The Gothic *Saio* or *Sagio*, appears also to have signified a person who pronounced the sentence of the court. An old gloss mentioned by Diefenbach gives *Saio* poenator, which corresponds with the Spanish *Sayon*, an executioner. The term has thus descended from being the name of the highest legal functionary to that of the lowest.

<sup>(568)</sup> That is, his officials, *Foleithe*, retainers, and mercenaries, etc.

rabadu cuimmitigí,  
 cuimeirca,  
 meir tuí,  
 comur foirias,  
 foirberta tuí,  
 Dúchle meiríao  
 Moir mun mhuirnechtai,  
 mrozas coiruch,  
 cori cuaine.  
 córuir iúoe,  
 iann itir comoribbo,  
 comaitig do sámmam.  
 Sall comlaino caithigí  
 irtooa, anagraitto iú,  
 iaiti commairigí  
 chorur co feirur,  
 réuib ralb.  
 Slán cech comaitheir,

The Irish  
 Gablach,  
 H. 3. 18. p. 7.  
 O'C.

The business<sup>(569)</sup> of the Ale House:  
 Verification of contracts,  
 Appraisalment of land,  
 Measurement by pole,  
 Increase of Dire,  
 Taxing the assessment  
 Of chief tolls of Brugh-law,<sup>(570)</sup>  
 Extending boundaries,  
 Planting boundary stakes  
 According to law of allotment,  
 Dividing between Comarbs,<sup>(571)</sup>  
 Recognizing coöcupancies,  
 Adjudging foreign prisoners of war,  
 Adjusting the disputes of kings,  
 Giving security of sanctuary,  
 Promulgating the law,  
 Receiving Seds,<sup>(572)</sup>  
 The Slán<sup>(573)</sup> of each Commaithches,<sup>(574)</sup>

Occupations  
 of the Ale  
 House.

<sup>(569)</sup> *Sabaid*, plural of *Sab*, which means literally a block or prop,—anything strong which supports. In the Laws, as here, *Sabaid* signifies persons powerful by their influence, props of the state such as the chiefs, champions, *Aires*, poets, etc., who sat with the king in the banquet hall, while engaged in the business of the state, in which the *Sabs* assisted as a council. In the translation of the text, the functions of the *Sabaid*

are put for the council, and paraphrased as "business of the Banquet Hall".

<sup>(570)</sup> See note 531, App. p. 485.

<sup>(571)</sup> That is, determining the proportionate share of the capital, income, and responsibilities of each member of a copartnership or guild.

<sup>(572)</sup> See note 516, App. p. 480.

<sup>(573)</sup> See note 502, App. p. 476.

<sup>(574)</sup> See INTRODUCTION for an explanation of this term.



The Crith Gablach.  
H. 3. 18. p. 7.  
O'C.

cuntau gellaib,  
gelltau rmaictuib miach;  
molauga luag noiru.  
Diu nauirba.  
O daitaid co dait.  
oochum colpoadi,  
co coic rétu cingit'.

Occupations  
of the Ale  
House.

Pledges are given,  
Sack<sup>(975)</sup> fines are promised,  
Increasing the amount of Dires,—  
The Dire of inheritance,  
From a Dairt to a Dartaid.  
Up to a Colpdach,  
And to five Seds it progresses.

(975) *Smachtaib miach*, "sack-fines". *Smacht* appears everywhere in the Laws to mean tributes or rent in kind, or simple fines under the general law. *Miach*, in its original literal and general sense, means a sack, and is frequently used in the sense of bushel, peck, can, bucket, or other vessel of any shape or material; but in such cases it appears to have been so called from its being able to contain the same quantity as the *Miach* or sack; e.g. the *Miach Lestar*, a sack vessel, that is a vessel which contained the same quantity as the sack, and *Coidmiach*—from *Coid* or *Cuad*, a wooden vessel, and *Miach*, a sack; that is a wooden vessel or bucket, which contained a *Miach* or sack. In the *Tain Bó Flidais* it is expressly applied to a water vessel, but, as in the cases just mentioned, its name may have indicated its capacity. It is difficult to determine the capacity of the *Miach*, and therefore the value of the sack-fines, because it would appear to have been a variable measure, the capacity and quality of which depended upon the rank of the parties who received and paid the fines, and no doubt also upon the locality. The barrel or standard measure for grain which varied so much with the kind of grain and with the locality, is probably the modern representative of the ancient *Miach*. The following gloss will give some idea of the comparative capacity and value of the sack of different kinds of grain: *Miach Cruithnechta*, a sack of wheat. One-third of hulls hath the oats, i.e. it has one-third of husks upon it, i.e. upon the

oats. It is in the proportion of two to three of food [shelled grain] that the oats is to the barley, and in the proportion of one to three in price; because a *Screpall* is the price of the sack of wheat, and two pence for the sack of barley, and one penny for the sack of oats. Eight score loaves in the sack of wheat, and six score loaves in the sack of barley, and four score loaves in the sack of oats. It is in the proportion of two to three of food [shelled grain] that the oats is to the barley here; and in the proportion of one to three the oats is to the wheat, and of one-third in price. It is in the proportion of three to four of *Arba* [i.e. corn meal or good shelled grain] that the barley is to the wheat, and of two-thirds in price; and no other corn ranks in this proportion but oats and barley, nor is it in the same ratio that any one of them all yields loaves:—that is eight score loaves of *Banfhúine* are in the sack of wheat; and that is equal to four-score loaves of *Ferfhúine*; and four-score loaves of *Banfhúine* in the sack of barley; and that is equal to two-score loaves of *Ferfhúine*; and two score loaves of *Banfhúine* in the sack of oats; and that is equal to one-score loaves of *Ferfhúine*; but the wheat has a precedence, for it is the most noble, and the barley has an excess of *Taes* (dough) for malting, or for ale, over the oats, and that is the [reason of the] difference of price between them" (H. 3. 18. 279). O'Curry's Glossary, voce-*Miach Cruithneachta*.



## 2. A LAW TRACT WITHOUT A TITLE, ON THE CLASSES OF SOCIETY.

This Tract will be found interesting in connection with the foregoing one, as it gives the titles of the different state officials by whom the government was administered, and a brief but distinct account of the rank, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of each, and of several other grades and officials of ancient Gaelic society not mentioned in the *Crith Gablach*. It forms in the vellum MS. H. 3. 18. T.C.D., one of a series of tracts on the classification and privileges, etc., of the various grades of learned men, and of the orders of the ancient Irish Church. The descriptions of these classes are brief, but it has not been thought necessary to give them here, especially as the subject of the classification of the learned classes will be treated of in the *INTRODUCTION*.

Cuirliú cogarmáno teétarve maoleéda? Nín: a re .xxx. H. 3. 18. p. 15. a.  
 it, .i. Tuat, Rí Rí, Ríú Tuaití, Aire Fongill, Aire Aro, Aire Tuire, Aire Desa, Aire Fine, Idna, Ansruth, Dae, Ogflaithem, Lethflaithem, Flaithem Oenesera, Bó Aire, Tanuise Bó Aire Tuiri, Huaitne, Seirthiud, Fas Faigde, Bogeltaé Faithche, Aithech Baitse, Oinmit, Midlach, Reim, Riascaire, Sindach Brothlaighe.

Cuirliú a nólige iar maóáigeét inbeolairt is na maoleé-  
 taib? Nín: A noi. Co fectar cia meit i nártaitheir cáé  
 oib, itir a lin, ocuf a nuaitse; itir a mbiathad, ocuf a  
 neparin; itir a nguin, ocuf a noiguin; itir a rar, ocuf a  
 farugad; itir a faeram, ocuf a turthugad; itir a nene-  
 lann ocuf a nenechruice, ocuf a neneégris.

How many recognized titles of honour are there? Answer: <sup>Titles of Honour.</sup> Twenty-six, viz., a chief King, a King-king, a King of tribe (or territory), Aire Forgaill, Aire Ard, Aire Tuisi, Aire Desa, Aire Fine, Idna, Ansruth, Dae, Og-Flaithem, Leth-Flaithem, Flaithem Oenesera, Bó-Aire, Tanaise-Bó-Aire Tuisi, Huaitne, Seirthiud, Fas Faigthe, Bogeltach Faithche, Aithech-Baitse, Oinmit, Midlach, Reim, Riascaire, Sindach Brothlaighe.

What is the extent of their lawful privileges as they progress in each rank of these distinctions? Answer: <sup>Their Privileges.</sup> Their recognition, until it has been ascertained what are to be assigned to each of them, both as to their retinue and his own person; as to his Biathad, and their Esain; as to their wounding, and their Diguin; as to his insult and his Sarughudh; as to his Faesam<sup>(576)</sup> and his Turthugadh; as to his Enechland, and his Enechruice, and his Enechgris.

<sup>(576)</sup> An explanation of these terms will be found in the *INTRODUCTION*.





loḡ cimeṣa ṽo cumalaib cáinib—  
co a .un. raizer aithirne [aitirne]  
ceno cača cunnoren”.

H. 3. 18. 1  
15.

Comoilur dia ṽigun, no dia raruḡuṽ, no ḡruaíṽe ḡur

“Rig tuaiti toimer co a .un. :  
ṽliḡiṽo dia raruḡaṽo rceṽ ḡruaíṽe,  
cumal inruic co a reēt,  
raimitheir raerbneṽuib Cormaic”.

Aire Ard, i. Forḡill, i. tar cenn tuaitē; comraera rru  
a cáin ocuṽ a cairṽe, ocuṽ ni he ar ṽo nairc congiallṽa na  
ṽliḡeo flata; ocuṽ aḡuṽeṽrom na tuata, ocuṽ ir ruḡ ar  
ṽo nairc. ṽliḡiṽo a raerbiaṽaṽo coruice .xxx. oc learuḡuṽo  
tuaitē. ṽliḡiṽo .un. leēt cumal inruaice dia ṽigun, dia  
raruḡuṽo, amaíl irberc Cormaic:

“Aire Ard airo neme  
cona tuaitē terairḡ,  
ṽliḡiṽo dia raruḡuṽo,  
rceṽ aḡēte erain,  
.un. lana leēt cumal,  
ar caē nupconn co ruice .un.”.

The price of a Cimid<sup>(577)</sup> of precious Cumals—

Ri Ri.

To seven his fine progresses  
In lieu of every violation of right”.

He is entitled to equal retribution for his Diguin, and for his Sa-  
rughudh, and for his cheek reddening.

“Rig Tuatha, to seven his fine progresses :  
For his Sarughudh, for his cheek reddening he is entitled  
To a full Cumal, to seven progressing ;  
Established by the just judgments of Cormac”.

Rig Tuath

Aire Ard, i.e., who testifies, i.e., in behalf of the people ; and he  
legalizes them under laws and treaties, and they cannot bind him in  
submission to the chieftaincy laws ; and he vindicates the people,  
and it is a king that binds him. He is entitled to his free main-  
tenance as far as thirty, while adjusting the territory. He is en-  
titled to seven full half Cumals for his Diguin, for his Sarughudh,  
as Cormac said :

Aire Ard  
Forgill.

“Aire Ard of high sanctuary  
For the protection of his people.  
He is entitled for his Sarughudh,  
Also for his rank-Esain,  
To seven full half Cumals ;  
From every chief as far as seven”.

(577) See note 487, App. p. 474.



H. 2. 18. p.  
15.

Διη Τυρι: το πετ fine comcenel do co μης, ocuf a πο  
 ρlabna. Ολιζιό ραερβιαθαό xx., in tan bir ac lepuζυό  
 τυαιτε. Τεορια let cumala ina αφαιη, ocuf ina ραρυζυό,  
 ut dicitur Cormac:

“ Cain bepa do cach αιμζ τυρι,  
 οια ραρυζυό, οια εραιη,  
 τεορια leiηe letcumala,  
 la diabul ρυηηηυο cin αιηβημαο”.

Διη νερα, .i. ρεη conae νειρ nachari ocuf a τρεναθαη,  
 اماηι atcota μιαιη, ocuf do ταιηχιυο. Ολιζιό ραερβιαθαό  
 νειcneβυηη οο a τυαιτε. Ολιζιό cumal cac ain co μοηρε-  
 ρυηη οια ραρυζυό, no οια εραιη:

“ Διη νερα οιχιλι  
 οια οηζυηη, οια ραρυζυό,  
 ολιζιό ρlan cumal  
 cac ain co μοηρερεαιη,  
 la οιαβλαο ρυηηηυο  
 οο τοηταιβη”.

Διη fine ριηοαθαη, .i. ρεη do et fine οιαμβι αιπο ρετα  
 co ρλαιτε. Ολιζιό ραερβιαθαό .iii. ηη a τυαιτε; ολιζιό cumal  
 cac a laime co cethρυη οια ραρυζυό no οια εραιη; ut dicitur  
 Cormac:

Aire Tuisl.

Aire Tuisi. He is known to be of a tribe equal in family  
 and personal property to a king. He is entitled to the free main-  
 tenance of twenty, while adjusting the territory. He is entitled  
 to three half Cumals for his Sarughudh and for his Esain, ut  
 dicitur Cormac:

“ The fine to be given to every Aire Tuisi  
 For his Sarughudh, for his Esain,  
 Is three full half Cumals,  
 With double supplies without diminution”.

Aire Desa.

Aire Desa, i.e., a man who has the property of his father and  
 grandfather, as they always possessed, and as they accumulated.  
 He is entitled to the free maintenance of ten in the territory. He is  
 entitled to a Cumal from every one as far as seven for his Sarug-  
 hudh, or for his Esain.

“ Aire Desa as restitution,  
 For his Sarughudh, for his Esain,  
 He is entitled to a full Cumal  
 From every one as far as seven,  
 With double supplies  
 Of provisions”.

Aire Fine.

Aire Fine, be it known, i.e., a man who is of family of equal rank  
 with a Flaith. He is entitled to the free maintenance of six from  
 his tribe [territory]; he is entitled to a Cumal from every one as  
 far as four for his Sarughudh, and for his Esain, ut dicitur Cormac:

"Aire fine fínóachair a teóta,  
 oia sarrughudh oia triomgheraib,  
 rceo air inóligéig, rceo aigte erain,  
 óligró cumal cáda laime co cethur".

H. 3. 18. p.  
15.

Idna, i. fepi oca mbi rochraiti o macuib bepari oo, ocuf oo bharuib, combi .xxx. uir gairgeoad. Óligró raeirbiahad .ui. ir oca fine; óligró leé cumal co triair oia sarrughudh, oia erain, ut dixit Cormac:

"Idna an óiumraé,  
 rloino Coirpne lífeáir  
 oia óligró oia sarrughudh,  
 rceo ai erain an fír,—  
 óligró leir leé cumal—  
 co tri fír rreio,  
 la óiablaó fuirruio.  
 Connma iméarair Cormac".

Ansruth, i. fepi inóich a mennit ocuf a eiré Sum óume oo in cáé triairi oo ceiruib raithuib na blióna. Ni bef uairiu .xx. fu eirich a neóairi. Saerbiahad oo cáda leéte, no gáda cleéte ma tuairh; óligró trian cumailé oia sarrughudh, ocuf oia erain; ocuf óligró gairceó mraic má eneclann:

"Aire Fine let his lawful rights be known,  
 For his Sarughudh, for his heavy insult,  
 For his unlawful satire, for his rank-Esain,  
 He is entitled to a Cumal from each to four".

Aire Fine.

Idna, i.e., a man who has a great number of sons born to him, Idna. and of brothers, till they number thirty fighting men. He is entitled to free maintenance for six with his tribe; he is entitled to a half Cumal from each, to three for his Sarughudh, for his Esain, ut dixit Cormac:

"Idna the arrogant man,  
 Cairpri Lifechair defined  
 The fine for his Sarughudh,  
 For the rank-Esain of the man,—  
 He is entitled to a full half Cumal—  
 To three men it progresses,  
 With double rations.  
 As awarded him by Cormac".

Ansruth, i.e., a man who vindicates his people and his terri- Ansruth. tory. He has the killing of a man in each division of the four quarters of the year. He does not have less than twenty men going into a neighbouring territory. He is entitled to free maintenance from every Leet,<sup>(578)</sup> or from every chief in his territory; he is entitled to one-third of a Cumal for his Sarughudh, and for his Esain; and he is entitled to a perfect sword for his honour price.

<sup>(578)</sup> See note 553, on *Foleithe*, p. 498.



H. s. 18. p.  
15.

“Anruth an imoich  
a cnucl cethar aith,  
conair zaire uao;  
co noliúó via erain  
aith cumal ceit tman,  
rceo zaireó ninniaic  
fhu muamna muir”.

“Dae, i. fer imeita fir ar a laime, connad tariteo a com-  
lonn; so fic a zierra cen adall fine aco. Oligio a rae-  
biathao ocuf a amuf o cad leite, ocuf leé tman cumale  
via erain, no via sarruó, ocuf zaireó no timéad, ut  
dicitur Cormac:

“Dae, aith ara fhem laime,  
luitei, combi trelam, tenn—  
oligio cumal leé tman,  
fua cuinnre cuét,  
ara oinrem la oich tlaéta”.

Oda rein tra ni cumalaib a noime, adt a reotuib bó  
cethruib, no bó flabra—

Og flaithem, i. fer tui reinclithe cona comorbais teéta.  
Oligio raebiathao veichnebuir. Oligio .x. reotu beo  
oile via sarruó no via erain.

Ansruth.

“Ansruth the protector  
Of the territory on the four sides,  
He guards off from it;  
For his Esain he is entitled  
To one full-third of a high Cumal,  
With a perfect suit of valour arms  
For battle conflict”.

Dae.

Dae, i.e., a man who vindicates justice by his strength, so  
that he cannot be overpowered in battle; he may be reproached  
without dishonour to his tribe. He is entitled to his free mainte-  
nance for himself and his mercenaries from each Leet, and one-  
third of a Cumal for his Esain, or for his Sarughudh, and a sword  
or a suit of clothes, ut dicitur Cormac:

“Dae noble, because of his powerful hand,  
He must be fierce, equipped in arms, and brave—  
He is entitled to a Cumal one-third,  
For face reddening,  
For his reproach and face insult.

From those [grades] now it is not in Cumals their Dire is paid,  
but in Seds of Bó Cethruib or B Slabrad.

Og Flaithem.

Og Flaithem, i.e., a man who has three Sen-cleithe with their  
lawful Comorbs. He is entitled to the free maintenance of ten  
men; he is entitled to ten Seds of chattels for his Sarughudh or  
for his Esain.

(179) See note 516, on *Sed*, App. p. 480.



Leth Flaithem, .i. fepi da cleithe cona comorbuid tē-  
 taib. Oligiō rāerbiathad oētair, ocuf .u. feotu oia rāru-  
 zud ocuf [oia] eřain. H. 3. 18.p  
15.

Flaithem oen eřca .i. fepi den cleithe, cona mup ocuf a  
 comorbuid techta. Oligiō rāerbiathad coicir, ocuf .iiii.  
 feotu beō rlabra oia eřain, ocuf oia rāruzd.

Bó Aire, .i. fepi řelba bunuid cona inuid, no inuid o  
 tiri, .x. mba lair; ocuf ni zoin duine aēt a ló cacha. Ni  
 tōing luige aēt řo den a mbliadain; oligiō rāerbiathad  
 .iiii. a tuaiti, ocuf tiri feotu bó rlabra oia rāruzd, ocuf  
 oia eřain.

Tanuir mō Aire. Oēt mba lair, a řorup, cona inuid o  
 tiri. Oligiō rāerbiathad tiri i tuaiti, ocuf da feoit bó  
 rlabra ina oire.

Huaitne řonluing ocuf řurēllaghar in řepi, .i. řurēllget  
 tiriōz ocuf arōeilgen. řepi řolainz einēc zřepa cin imluad  
 řine. Oligiō rāerbiathad veiri ocuf boin let řab[ala] .u.  
 feotu oiařa rāruzd, oia eřain.

Leth Flaithem, i.e., a man who has two [Sen-]cleithe, with  
 their lawful Comorbs. He is entitled to the free maintenance Leth Flaith-  
em.  
 of eight men, and five Seds for his Sarughudh, and for his Esain.

Flaithem oen escra, i.e., a man who has one [Sen-]cleithe, with  
 his residence and his lawful Comorbs. He is entitled to the free Flaithem oen  
escra.  
 maintenance of five men, and to four Seds of Beó-Slabrad for his  
 Sarughudh, and for his Esain.

Bó Aire, i.e., a man who possesses a hereditary Selb with its Bó Aire  
 habitation, or a habitation with its appropriate share of land, with  
 ten cows; and who does not kill a man unless on the day of  
 battle. He does not make oath but once a year; he is entitled  
 to the free maintenance of four persons from his territory, and  
 three Seds of Bó Slabrad for his Sarughudh and for his Esain.

Tanuisse Bó Aire. He has eight cows, his residence, and suf- Tanuisse  
Bó Aire.  
 ficient land to maintain them. He is entitled to the free main-  
 tenance of three persons in his territory, and to two seds in Bó  
 Slabrad for his Dire.

Huaitne řonluing ocuf řisellaghar in řepi. "This man is a Huaitne  
řonluing,  
etc.  
 pillar of endurance and attendance", i.e., he attends the wants of  
 the wretched and the wandering poor. He is a man who suffers  
 the reddening of his face without insult to his tribe. He is entitled  
 to the free maintenance of two persons, and a Boin Lethgabala,<sup>(580)</sup>  
 He is entitled to five Seds for his Sarughudh and for his Esain.

<sup>(580)</sup> Besides the regular stated  
 rents and contributions under the  
 name of *Biatha*, *Bes Tigi*, *Folach*,  
*Cai*, *Fossugud*, etc., there were occa-  
 sionally special levies or rates in aid,  
 to provide for certain wants of the  
 chief, judges, and others, such as

the *Errechs* or forced loans of a king,  
*Biatad Congbala*, supplies for a con-  
 vocation for the promulgation of a  
 law. Of this kind, too, was the *Boin*  
*Lethgabala*, or rate in aid of a cow  
 levied to meet the requisition of the  
 officer for the relief of the poor.

H. 3. 18. p.  
15.

Seiréiuo, .i. oclac do daḡcenel, no fer forais, no mac túirig, .i. do nera do fer túirig oc tardecc anuaid, no a nuaid, no uair no bo cairc a dchar, no daḡ a cinel, no ara ḡair. Uligiú faerbiachad i tuaid, ocuf a ben, ocuf ram-  
 H. 3. 18. p.  
16.

rairce focail; ocuf colpach inaeneclann, via air, via ainmeo.  
 Na nai ngrada veiomach fo, ni teḡtair uligiú via mbreḡ i nairecur, na uamrad, na uire rainputhach, mana narra fealb, no ḡaer, no rochmaite. Ni caemthet uire vi theḡta, na vi thir, na do chmair na hanpolta, uair narat inuairce naoma, na maite, na haitire, na naill, na fiaonairce.

Far faigde, .i. fer no crega a uéir, ocuf a ferann, ocuf a feib ocuf na teḡta fo tuaid co leir na cleite; ocuf co fpeirce cuile caith, ocuf nitat uiler, uos coir fu ḡalar no

Seirthind.

Seirthind, i.e., a young man of good family, or a Fer Forais,<sup>(581)</sup> or the son of a nobleman; he follows next after a chief in proceeding to an assembly or to a Dun, or because his father was a chief, or in right of his descent or of his profession. He is entitled to his free maintenance in the territory for himself and his wife, and to be politely addressed; and to a Colpdach for his honour price, and for his satire, and for his disparagement.

Those last nine grades, the law does not entitle them to the rank of the nobility, or to any special Dire unless they have either property, profession, or hosts. They do not get Dire by inheritance, or by land, or by wealth accumulated by oppression, because they are not eligible as Naidms, or Raiths, or Aitires, or Naillechs, or witnesses.

Fas Faigthe.

Fas Faigthe, i.e., a man who has squandered his property and his land, and his own estate, and the legal privileges to which he is entitled in his territory, to the manifest knowledge of the chieftain; and though he attends the places of battle, yet it avails him not,

<sup>(581)</sup> *Fer Forais*. *Forus* was a habitation or official residence of a dignitary of the *Tuath*, at which the fiscal business and a certain part of the legal business of the district was transacted. Thus, for instance, the yard or *Airlis* of a *Forus* was used as a "Pound"; pledges and goods and chattels distrained were kept there, legal fines and contributions levied by the *Flaith*, etc., were paid there (see note 503, App. p. 476). The proprietor of such a house was the *Fer Forais* or *Fer Airlisi*; he could receive payment of the principal sum and costs of a plaint or judgment, and deliver the pledges or articles distrained; when the dis-

tress was alleged to be illegal, he might return the articles distrained on the defendant giving sufficient security. The *Forus* was in fact the "office" of a court, and every one entitled to act as magistrate had a *Forus*. There were seven principal *Foruses* in a *Tuath*, viz.: the *Forus Olloman*, or *Forus* of the *Ollamh*; *Forus Breithe-man*, or *Forus* of the *Brehon*; *Forus Airech etir da Aire Forus Airech Forgaill*; *Forus Aire Tuisi*; *Forus Airech Aird*; *Forus Airech Desa*. *Forus* appears to be related to *Fo-radh*=Latin *Forum*. Brit. Mus. MSS. Egerton 88, 59 b. a. *et seq.*







H. 3. 18. p.  
16.

ona], nōentari meari ocuf fonachtaíoe, .i. fosgeniḡ. Mí  
 slíḡ uíre in feri rín.

Míolach, [.i. míolaiḡ,] .i. míóellach, .i. ferna maḡaib fealb.  
 na hoibá, na tḡebao, na tḡebéari so. No, míolach, .i.  
 meōon eḡlach inrín, arí inni ír mellach o uelb ocuf cíníuil,  
 cona uamna cimeōa inrín tari cenō tuaiḡe.

Reimm óno, .i. fúirreoirí no óruith; náḡ feri so beir  
 remmaō fo coip ocuf a enech. Mí slíḡ uíre, uair teit ara  
 míḡ arí beluib ríuaḡ ocuf rocharíoe.

Riascaire, .i. loimḡrech inrín, arí imḡaib a chenel ocuf a  
 fine, colíth cáin ocuf meḡḡe, ocuf bró ómaḡc so maḡc, no  
 o rleib [so rleib]. No riascaire, .i. rathmaíḡe uaeḡ so  
 ríuith ocuf eclair. Mí slíḡinn uíre.

Síndach brothlaíḡe, .i. bḡuaḡ caḡ bró, só itḡ uíur ocuf  
 mólur, no cuma lair cḡóbeōh bḡuóder no so meala.

Seadacht ara míuithar uinne: cḡuith, ocuf cenel, tḡr ocuf  
 tḡebao, uán ocuf móbuḡ ocuf inḡrucur.

count of whom he is made a fool of and laughed at, i.e., a Fosgen-  
 nigh, i.e., a laughing-stock. That man is not entitled to Dire.

Midlach.

Midlach, i.e., a non-resident, i.e., a man without possessions, i.e.,  
 a man who has not occupied land or property, who does not  
 work, or for whom there is no work done. Or, Midlach, i.e., he is  
 the centre of deception, because he is deceitful in his appearance  
 and in his nature, so that he is the material of a Cimíd<sup>(583)</sup> then  
 upon his Tuath.

Reimm.

Reimm now, i.e., a juggler or a clown; every man who dis-  
 torts his body or his face. He is not entitled to Dire, because he  
 distorts himself out of his real state in presence of assemblies and  
 crowds.

Riascaire.

Riascaire, i.e., he is an outlaw, because he absconds from his  
 family and from his tribe, to evade law and justice, and he  
 goes from wilderness to wilderness, or from mountain to moun-  
 tain. Or Riascaire, i.e., an ignoble rathbuilder for chiefs and  
 ecclesiastics. He is not entitled to Dire.

Síndach  
Brothlaíḡe

Síndach Brothlaíḡe, i.e., the dregs of every kind of food for him,  
 both lawful and unlawful, or he cares not what he eats or consumes.

Sechta as a midither duine. The seven things by which man  
 is ennobled, viz., beauty and family, land and habitation, profes-  
 sion and wealth, and righteousness.

[The classification and account of the privileges of the various  
 classes of churchmen, literary and professional men, follow here in  
 MS. H. 3. 18. T.C.D.]

(583) Cimíd, i.e. Cimbíd, see note 487, App. p. 474.

### III.

## THE ANCIENT FAIR OF CARMAN.

*From the Book of Ballymote in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy; and the MS. H. 2. 18. commonly known as the Book of Leinster, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.*

WITH A LITERAL TRANSLATION.

The great fairs anciently held in Ireland were not, like their modern representatives, mere markets, but were assemblies of the people to celebrate funeral games, and other religious rites, during pagan times, to hold parliaments, promulgate laws, listen to the recitation of tales and poems, engage in, or witness, contests in feats of arms, horse racing, and other popular games. They were analogous in many ways to the Olympian, and other celebrated games of ancient Greece. The most—indeed, so far as the Editor knows, the only—satisfactory account we possess of any of those important meetings of the people, is that of the triennial fair held at Carman, now Wexford. This account consists of fragments of one or more poems preserved in the Book of Leinster, the Book of Ballymote, the MS. H. 2. 16. in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, and the MS. H. 3. 3. in the same library. The copies in the three last named manuscripts are substantially the same, and are principally occupied with an account of the origin of the name "Carman" and of the institution of the fair. The poem in the Book of Ballymote looks at first sight like a complete poem; but a closer examination shows that part of it at least is made up of more or less unconnected stanzas. Whether the transcriber of the MS. arranged the poem as it now stands from previous fragments, or merely copied the version of a previous transcriber, it is now perhaps impossible to determine. The copy in the Book of Leinster is apparently complete. Prof. O'Curry has given a translation of a fragment of it in his second lecture (see vol. i. p. 44 *et seq.*). This portion, which fortunately describes the fair itself, is manifestly the end of a long poem, of which the previous part is described in the lecture just referred to as illegible. It appears, however, that he laboured hard to decipher the illegible part, for among his papers has been found a copy of the poem containing twenty-five stanzas more than he had used in his lectures. This copy has all the appearance of having been made from a MS. difficult to be deciphered, and shows that he had expended much labour on the task. Among those unused stanzas are several that are identical with some of those found in the latter part of the copy in the Book of Ballymote, and others which, though agreeing in the subjects, and often in the words of whole lines, present some important deviations from those in the latter MS. This circumstance seems to show that all the fragments belonged originally to one continuous poem or to a series of connected



poems; that the commencement of the poem is preserved in the Book of Ballymote, and apparently the whole in the Book of Leinster, the commencement being, however, almost illegible; and that the two copies overlap, and thus afford us a more or less complete copy of the whole. That this was also the opinion of Prof. O'Curry is proved by his efforts to construct a continuous text of the whole poem out of the two MSS.

The very great importance of this poem for the ancient history of Ireland, the fact that only a portion of it has been translated by Prof. O'Curry, and that portion given in his lectures without the original text, have induced the Editor to print the entire of the latter so far as it can be completed from the Books of Ballymote and Leinster, following in the case of the latter the transcript of Prof. O'Curry. From stanza 1 to 24 inclusive, the text is that of the Book of Ballymote, with the exception of stanza 14, which is inserted from Professor O'Curry's transcript, into what appears to be its proper position. From stanza 25 inclusive, the transcript of Prof. O'Curry is followed; the stanzas 25 to 48 inclusive being the part which he did not use in his lectures, and consequently did not translate, and which he probably had not deciphered when he wrote his second lecture.

The stanzas which are common to the Books of Ballymote and Leinster are those numbered 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 70, 71, 72, 77 in the following pages. From this it will be seen that the copy in the former MS. is not a fragment complete as far as it goes, but an abridged version, either deliberately made, or, what is more probable, taken down from the dictation of some one who only remembered occasional stanzas. As has been above stated, some of the stanzas common to the two MSS. differ more or less. In such cases, the text follows the Book of Leinster, and the variations are printed from the Book of Ballymote as foot notes. The latter MS., contains a stanza which ought from its position to come between stanzas 69 and 70, but which is not found in the Book of Leinster copy. As the poem is now arranged it would be out of place there; the only place where it could have been introduced without interfering with the narrative of the poem, is perhaps between stanzas 76 and 77. But as there is obviously something else wanting, it could not be introduced into the poem without injury to its continuity, and it has accordingly been put in a foot note.

In order to make the following edition of the poem as complete as possible, two prose introductions are also given; the one in the text from the Book of Ballymote; that given in the foot note, imperfect in the beginning and obscure in some passages, is from Prof. O'Curry's copy, and apparently belonging to the version of the Book of Leinster. The two stanzas with which the last introduction commences appear to have been the first two stanzas of a poem relating the history of the seven chief cemeteries of Eriu, namely *Tailtiu*, *Cruachan*, the *Brugh* of the Boyne, *Carman*, *Cuile*, *Tallacht*, and *Teamar of Dun Finntain*. The subject is of very great interest, and the poem may perhaps be still preserved in some Irish MSS. But if so, it is probably, like the following poem on Carman, only to be found in detached fragments in various MSS., and hitherto unknown in its complete form.

The old vellum MS. in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, known as the *Leabhar na h-Uidhve*, contains two tracts on the ancient Cemetery of *Cruachan* the first of which begins on fol. 41, b. b., and is headed *pencaṛ na pelec tṛṇo*, or "the History of the Cemeteries here". It opens with a prose introduction which



has been printed with a translation by Dr. Petrie, at p. 96 of his *Essays on the Origin and Uses of the Round Towers*, etc., and which he considers to have been the entire of the *Senchas na Relec*. It is, however, only the prose introduction to a series of pieces in prose and verse, on the Cemetery of *Cruachan*, which are to be found in the same MS., as parts of the two tracts above mentioned. Thus immediately following the introduction printed by Dr. Petrie, is a poem of eighty-eight verses attributed to *Cuan O'Lochain*, who died A.D. 1024, on the death of *Cormac Mac Airt*, and his burial at *Ros na Righ* on the Boyne, and also on the burial of many of the distinguished nobles and chiefs of Eiriu. It begins: "ΔΗΡΗΝ Δ ΜΑΓΙ ΜΙC ΉΘΟΟC", on fol. 42, a. b., and ends on fol. 42. b. a. The second tract is on the burial of King *Dathi*, commencing on fol. 35, b. a., with a short prose introduction, which is followed by a poem of two stanzas addressed to the palace and Cemetery of *Cruachan*, by *Torna Eigeas*. Professor O'Curry has given a literal translation of this poem at p. 71, vol. i. of the present series of lectures, but without the original text, which begins: "Δ ΤΑ ΨΟΤΡΑ ΗΙ ΉΡΗ ΨΗΘ ΨΑΙ". This is followed by a short poem of *Dorban*, in which are preserved the names of many of the nobles and chief poets buried at *Cruachan*, and which has been also published by Dr. Petrie in the work above mentioned. This poem ends on fol. 36, a. a., with the same words with which the first tract begins on fol. 41. b. b., namely, *ΚΟΝΙΟ ΨΕΝΔΑΡ ΝΑ ΨΕΛΕC ΙΗΡΗΝ*. "That is the History of the Cemeteries". Thus according with the well known custom of old writers, who invariably ended their poems and other pieces with the same words with which they commenced, in order to indicate that the piece so far was complete. It would thence appear that the two tracts just described, though now separated from each other in the MS., and the end placed before the beginning, were originally parts of a large, and no doubt once complete history of the ancient pagan cemeteries of Eiriu. We have now no means of ascertaining how much of this history has been lost, but it is very probable that the two stanzas of the poem at the beginning of the second introduction to the following poem, on the "Fair of Carman", formed part of the *Senchas na Relec*. It may be, too, that the poem on the "Fair of Carman", itself, as well as a poem on the "Fair of Tailtiu", which has not yet been published, also belonged to the same collection.

Professor O'Curry, in making out his copy of the text of the part of the poem contained in the Book of Leinster, made some emendations, no doubt the result of a more careful examination of the obscure text of the original. This will explain in part any variations in the translation of the whole poem, which the Editor thought it desirable to add to the following edition of the text, from that given by Professor O'Curry himself of the parts which he quoted in his second lecture.

It was the Editor's intention at first to add copious notes explanatory of the persons whose names are mentioned in the following poem, and to endeavour to deduce from it some chronological data—and from this point of view the poem is very important; but this he soon found would require a very long time. Not wishing to delay the publication of the Lectures longer, he leaves to another time or to other hands this task.

## aenach carman.

B. of Bally-  
mote, fol.  
193, b. a.

Carimun canair no hainmneò. Nin; tmuar fei tanzadar  
a hAthan, azar oen ben leo, .i. tui mic Dibaro, mac Doirici,  
mac Aincheir iad .i. Dian azar Dub, azur Doctur a nanmann,  
azar Carimen ainm a mathair.

Tua bhuctu, azar vicecla, azar cantana no luiteo in  
mathair cae maigin; tua fogail azur epinorucur imorpo  
no milloir na fii.

Dolodar, vona, co hErienn ar ulc fii Tuata D. D. uocoll  
eta na hinoripe forpo. Ole iaram la Tuat D. D. innrin;  
oo luro Ai, mac Olloman o fileo; azar Cieroenbel o cain-  
tib; azar Luz Laeban, .i. mac Cairi, o thuroib; azur De-  
cuille o na bantuaithib oo ceual forporom; azar ni por-  
carrac fiiu cori cuirret in tmuar fei dar muir, azar facrac  
angiallu ifur .i. Carimen a maear, ar na tirdar co hEie a  
fiiichir; azur tucrac via cino inrecta norfoghao, na tic-  
faroir aiet beé muir im h-Eie.

Da marb ifur a mathair rin oo cumaro ma giallaeé; azur  
pocuinzig for Tuatha D. D. airm inaicroea conastair a  
haenuch ano, azar combao é a h-ainm no beith an aenac rin;  
azar in maigin rinn; ocur unoe Carman azur aenac Carman.  
Azar fogmiret T. D. D. hinnrin aiet badar in hEie.

No ata, sean Jarman tainic in vezar .i.iii. neic n-Echeé  
tuc Lena, Mac Merpoeda, azar Uca, inzen Oeca, ru Cepta a  
maear in mac rin; azar baben ren Merpoedra mac Dato  
ru laigen.

Iarom badar, ono, maraen la Lena, ic petad in buair rin,  
hic Sen, mac Duib; azar Locar luat, mac Smiaraig; azar  
Sunair, mac Succair; azar Altae, mac Duilb; azur Motur,  
mac Larraig. For fuair ren Jarman ic Rait Dig, fii dun  
mic Dato anner. Marbair Uca iarum, conabannroet, azar  
in milro tucrac in mbuair, azar tucrac ren Jarmun leir  
a buair comag Merca, in fine Duib, iar na briet vorom a  
ru Finnchar irleb Monaro, i n-Albain; conabaé Merca ar



## THE FAIR OF CARMAN.

Carman, why so called? Answer. Three men who came from Athens, and one woman with them, i.e., the three sons of Dibad, son of Dorcha, son of Ainchés, i.e., Dian, Dubh, and Dothur, were their names, and Carman was the name of their mother. Introduc-  
tion.

By charms, and spells, and incantations the mother blighted every place, and it was through magical devastation and dishonesty that the men dealt out destruction.

They, however, came to Eriu to bring evil upon the Tuatha Dé Danann by blighting the fertility of this isle upon them. The Tuatha Dé Danann were incensed at this; and they sent against them Ai, the son of Ollamh, on the part of their Poets; and Credenbel on the part of their Satirists; and Lug Laeban, i.e., the son of Cacher, on the part of their Druids; and Becuille on the part of their Witches, to pronounce incantations against them; and they never parted from them until they forced the three men over the sea, and they left a pledge behind them, i.e., Carman, their mother, that they would never again return to Eriu; and they swore by the divinities they adored, that they would not return as long as the sea encircled Eriu.

Their mother, however, soon died of the grief of her hostage-ship; and she requested of the Tuatha Dé Danann that they would celebrate her fair in the place where she should be buried, and that the fair and the place should retain her name for ever; and hence Carman and the fair of Carman. And the Tuatha Dé Danann celebrated this fair as long as they occupied Eriu.

“Another version is that old Garman had followed the seven cows of Eochaidh, which cows had been carried off by Lena, the son of Mesroed; and Uca, the daughter of Oeca, king of Cert, was his mother, and she was the wife of Mesceagra, son of Dathó, king of Leinster.

There were also along with Lena, driving these cows away, Sen, the son of Durb; and Locar the swift, son of Smirach; and Gunnat, the son of Succat; and Altach, son of Dulbh; and Motur, the son of Largach. Old Garman discovered them at Rath Beg, on the south side of Dathó's Dun. He killed Uca then, with her women, and the men who took away the cows, and old Garman drove away his cows to the plain of Mesc, the daughter of Bodb, whom he had carried away from Sidh Finnchaidh in Sliab Monad, in Alba; and Mesc died of shame in this place, and her grave was made



B. of Bally-  
mote, fol.  
193, b. a.

naife iſin maiginſin, aſar foclar a feic ano, .i. feic Mercá,  
ingim buiob, aſar iucrat .iiii. mic Dao. .i. Meſ Seoa, aſar  
Meſ Roeda, aſar Meſ Deoa, acar Meſ Delmon ſoſi ren ſar-  
mun<sup>(584)</sup> iſin maigin ſin, aſar vo ceapí fean ſarman ano; aſar  
foclara a feic ann, aſar conait epin aenuc nguba vo ſnim  
ano; aſar combet a ainm inaenac ſin aſar in maigin ſin vo  
ſpíer: aſur unoe Capmun aſur ren Capmunvo ainmniugaob.

Aſar foſnucir laigin in ſin apí tpebaib aſar apí teallaigib,  
ca Caſair moſi. Ní ſarlaig Caſair, umoſſio, Capman, acé  
oia maicnoe aſur ocellaigib foſeſin, aſur nemſur la ſil  
Roſa ſailſi, a foſgabail; aſar a nſeoſaio, iluſſ maenaig;  
ut ſunt laigſi aſar foſairt.

Seét nſpáirni ano, aſar .iiii. main ſſi aſav bpeca aſur  
vo ceapíca a cuicío ſſi tſí bliavnaib.

Iſ ano foſnucir laigin veaſgabair in laicí nſeoſenaé ve,  
iſ ve aſoſeſar ecſpíer Oſairſi. Foſuo a muſ ſoſi veſ ſi Cap-  
mun, ſoſuo ſi .h. ſailſi ſoſi a cliu; aſar iſ amlaó aman.

Ní Kaſlano Auguſt no teigſoſi ino, aſar iſ feacávo Au-  
guſt no cigſoſi aſ; aſar ſac tſpíer bliavain foſnucſoſi; aſar  
vo bliavain ſſia caſpíec.

Lxxx. aſar v. bliavain oſoſnucí an cetna aenac ano, cur  
in vaſa bliavain xl. ſlacar Octauam Auguſt, iſſoſeſaſi  
Cſpíer.

Ich aſar bliét voib apí a venum, aſar cen ſoſſian coigſo  
in heſien ſoſaib, aſar ſpíer maſlaig leo, aſar ſuba la caé  
ſainſpíeb, aſar caé meſ maſtaoſpín, lina lanu o upcib.  
Aſar meé aſar mochleéi muſ oca voib, muna venut in ſin.  
Eiſtſig.

1. Eſtíó a laigniu na lecht,  
a ſluaiſ oſaigſi maſ cheſt,  
co ſaſbav uaim aſ ceé aſſo,  
caem ſencaſ capmun cloé aſſo.
2. Capman cete oenaig ſeíl,  
co ſaícti poenaig ſio ſeſo;  
in tſluaiſ tictſi oia caíme,  
apí ſiſtſi a ſlan ſpáirni.

<sup>(584)</sup> This GARMAN may perhaps be the German of the *Táin Bó Chuailgne*.  
See the Fight of *Ferdiad*, ante, Appendix, p. 459.

, namely, the grave of Mesc, the daughter of Bodb, and the sons of Mac Datho, namely, Mes Sed, and Mes Roed, and Ded, and Mes Delmon, overtook old Garman at this place, and Garman<sup>(564)</sup> fell by them there; and they made his grave there, so he begged of them to institute a fair of mourning for him; and that the fair and the place should bear his name for ever; and hence Carman and old Carmund have their names".

and the people of Leinster celebrated this fair by their tribes and their families, down to the time of Cathair Mór. Cathair, however, bequeathed Carman to his own sons and their families, and gave the precedence to the race of Ros Failgi, their dependents, and their exiles; to continue the fair; namely, the Laigsi the Fothairt.

There were seven races there, and a week for considering the laws and the rights of the province for three years.

It was on the last day that the Leinstermen of Gabhra south of their fair, which was called the steed-contest of the Ossorians. Forud of their king was on the right of the king of Carman, Forud of the king of O Failge on his left; and their women were seated in the same manner.

It was on the Kalends of August they assembled there, and it was on the sixth of August they used to leave it; and every third year they were wont to hold it; and two years for the variations.

It was five hundred and eighty years since the first fair was held here, to the forty-second year of the reign of Octavius Augustus, which Christ was born.

Wine and milk [were promised] to them for holding it, and that the sway of no province in Eriu should be upon them, and bravely heroes with them, and prosperity in every household, and every fruit in great abundance, and plentiful supplies from their rivers. And failure and early grayness of their young kings, if they did not hold it.<sup>(565)</sup> Listen.

1. Listen, O Lagenians of the monuments,  
Ye truth-upholding hosts,  
Until you get from me, from every source,  
The pleasant history of far-famed Carman.
2. Carman, the field of a splendid fair,  
With a widespread unobstructed green  
The hosts who came to celebrate it,  
On it they contested their noble races.

<sup>565</sup> The following somewhat different version of the prose introduction, though imperfect, is very interesting, because it shows that the celebrated ancient Fairs appear to have been always held around the ancient pagan deities:—



3. *Iſ peilec nſ inſuaim nán,*  
*cſo ſainſepic ſluaz co ſaepſhſaio;*  
*ſailmop ōo ōumaib ōála,*  
*ōa ſlog bunaro biſſhſaſa.*

4. *Ōo camuſo nſgaim iſ nſ,*  
*ō'ſaſuſo ōigal iſ niſnim,*  
*bat minci ſinſ'luais ſogmaſ,*  
*ōaſi ſlimſhuaro ſaep ſen Capmuſin.*

*Sen Garman canic inoegaro .u.ii.*  
*neſc Echach, tuc Lena mac Meſ-*  
*ſeſa ſ.*

*uii. pſumpſeize h-ſhenn ut ōixic.*

*ſta ſuno .uii. nſeiz ōlarſe:*  
*neſc Thaltſen nſa ōoga,*  
*neſc Cruaſna cimariſ,*  
*ocur neſc in ōroga,*

*Neſc Capmaſin cuiſeſaiz,*  
*ſenaſ Cuile cocintaib,*  
*maſſſa mumiſſe Paſcalain,*  
*ocur Temari ōum ſintain.*

*ſ iſ amlarſo ōo ſhicit inſſenaſſa,*  
*iaſ ſhebaib ocuſ cenelaib ocuſ*  
*ſellaizib, co Caſair Maſ; ocuſ niſ*  
*ſaſlaic Cathair, imoſſo, ſſc ōa*  
*macnoſe ſoſeſin, ocuſ nemthuſ le*  
*ſil Roſa ſailge, a ſoſgabaſil ocuſ a*  
*nſeſoſaio, illuſiz inſſenaiz, ut .u.ii.*  
*laiz ſi ocuſ ſoſhaſſe; ocuſ iſ Leo*  
*ſin a cori ocuſ a comariſi ic ſul*  
*mo ocuſ ic tuſeſc ſſſ, ſſ caſ nec-*  
*ſaſi. Uii. n-ſhſaſſi ano in caſ ló,*  
*ocuſ .uii. laa ſſua ſenam, [aiſſo]*  
*ocuſ ſheſa ocuſ coiceſſa a coicſo*  
*ſſua ſſi bliſſonaib. iſ ano no*  
*chimoſi ſſſaſſe, imoſſo, in laſe*  
*ſeſenaſ ſe, ocuſ cuariſ ſeſ laſe*  
*nſa ſcuſ; iſ ſe ſſheſaſ ſeſſeſſ*  
*ſſſaſſe. ſoſuſo a nſ ſoſ a ſeſſ*  
*nſ lagán, ocuſ ſoſuſo nſ hua ſail-*  
*ge ſoſ a chlu; iſ amlarſo a mnas.*

Old Garman, who came in pursuit of the seven cows of Echad, which were carried off by Len the son of Mesroed, etc.

The seven principal cemeteries of Eriu, *ut dixit*.—

These are the seven sepulchral cemeteries:

The cemetery of Taité to be chosen,

The cemetery of Cruschan of sadness,

And the cemetery of the Brugh,

The cemetery of Carman of heroes, Oenach Cuile with its appropriations,

The mortuary of the people of Parthalon,

And Teamar of Dun Fintan.

Thus it is they used to hold this fair, by their tribes and families and households, to the time of Cathair Mor; and Cathair, however, bequeathed not Carman unto any but to his own descendants, and the precedence he bequeathed to the race of Ros Failge, their followers and their exiles, to continue the fair *ut* the seven Laigsechs and the Fotharts; and to them belongs [the right] to celebrate it, and to secure it from every disaster [while] going thither and returning thence. There were seven races there every day, and seven days for celebrating it, and for considering the laws and rights of the province for three years. It was on the last day of it the Ossorians held their fair, and they coursed it every day before closing; and hence it was called the steed contest of the Ossorians. The Forud of their king was on the right hand of the king of Leinster, and the Forud of the king of Ua Failge was on his left hand; and in the same manner their women.



3. The renowned field is the cemetery of kings,  
The dearly loved of noble grades ;  
There are many meeting mounds,  
For their ever loved ancestral hosts.

4. To mourn for queens and for kings,  
To denounce aggression and tyranny,  
Often were the fair hosts in autumn  
Upon the smooth brow of noble old Carman.

Kalaino August no tectir ino,  
i ferio August tictir ar. Cēc  
bliaðain 'so gniðea; ocuf 'oa  
ðain fua tairac. lxxx ocuf  
cēt bliaðain oioznaio in ðec  
æ i Carman, corin ðara bliað-  
xl. [oo flætur] Octauam Au-  
gustingeni Cpuic.

in marzgaio ano .i. marzgaio  
ocuf ecaig; marzgaio beoðnuo,  
cuf Ech, etc.; marzga gall ocuf  
naio icceicc oir ocuf argaic,  
luēt cēc ðana, efer þymðan  
fouðan, ocuf mēonic icc peicc  
ic tēpenao a n-ðieēt ocuf a  
gziō 'oo nuz; ocuf eþneo ar cēc  
ar ðir ocuf ir 'ðigeō 'oo peicc  
ðaircin ocuf 'oo ðlofæcē.

h ocuf blicht ðoib ar a ðenam,  
cen forþnan coiceo neðþano  
aib, ðēt co no ainet, ocuf co no  
rceet, fepaib, mnaaib, maccaib  
ingenaib, ðeopano, aþpno,  
aib ocuf clēpcaib; mēta, ocuf  
la cāc þaimþeib, ocuf cāc  
f māra ðarðþin, ocuf lina lān  
rcib, ocuf almuire co tū lā-

eē imoþro ocuf mēti ocuf mo-  
na fepaib, ocuf nuzlaic, ocuf,  
; ocuf tuicim a fepano no a  
; on ti ticra tairuz, fū nuzlaic,  
mna; mead nuz ðca, eþno  
tāc, ocuf maui, meni ðerntar;  
ulartach, cc.

On the Kalends of August they as-  
sembled there, and on the sixth of Au-  
gust they left it. Every third year  
they were wont to hold it; and [it  
took] two years for the preparations.  
It was five hundred and eighty years  
from the holding of the first fair in  
Carman, to the forty-second year of  
[the reign of] Octavius Augustus,  
in which year Christ was born.

Three markets there, viz., a market  
of food and clothes; a market of live  
stock, cows and horses, etc.; a market  
of foreigners and exiles selling gold  
and silver, etc. The professors of  
every art, both the noble arts and  
the base arts, and non-professionals  
were there selling and exhibiting  
their compositions and their profes-  
sional works to kings; and rewards  
were given for every [work of] art  
that was just or lawful to be sold, or  
exhibited, or listened to.

Corn and milk [were promised] to  
them for holding it, and that the sway  
of any invading province should not be  
over them, but that they should ob-  
serve the Fridays, and that they  
should fast, men, women, boys, maid-  
ens, as well as exiles, chiefs, cham-  
pions, and clerics. [They were also  
promised] prosperity and comfort in  
every household, and fruits of every  
kind in abundance, and abundant sup-  
plies from their waters, and fertility to  
the land of Leinster. And, moreover,  
that decay and failure and early gray-  
ness should come upon their men,  
kingly heroes, and women; and the  
forfeiture of his land or its price from  
him who evades it, men, kingly heroes,  
and women; [and that failure of]  
young kings, mean clothes, and bald-  
ness would come on them unless they  
celebrated it, Ut Fulartach cc.

5. In rŷr, no in rŷr co mēt ʒal,  
no in ben co net anbal,  
tuc ainm cen mer marŷnaro,  
tuc ainm oīler oēs Carman?
6. Ni rŷr, iŷ ni rŷr rŷrʒac,  
ach aenben oīan, oiberʒac,  
ʒluar a tarmun iŷa tarŷm,  
o ruar Carman a cet ainm.
7. Carmun, ben mic Oīaro oēn,  
mic Ooirce oīrmaiz oās féil,  
mic Anceir, co met maēa,  
ba cenō arōmeir ilēacha.
8. Nir tailceō tarŷc tarba,  
rŷr rairŷeic na raerbanba,  
oais ba rŷrmaiz ceē amm tarŷ,  
clano mic Oīaro ra maēar.
9. Cenʒrac rŷar ōon ōara cur,  
Oīan aʒur Oūb aʒur Oochur,  
ono Aēain arōben anar,  
aʒur Carmen a machar.
10. Fōʒnoir<sup>(566)</sup> im Tuachaib Oē,—  
ino aer nuāāar<sup>(567)</sup> naimcīve,—  
coruo caē thalman co rŷaiz:  
bo fōʒal, aōbal ecar.
11. Carmun ar caē bŷicē co m-blaro,  
arōcʒleo caē m-blīcē m-boŷŷoīaro,  
iar nʒleicc ar caē ōan nar ōlēcē,  
na meic rŷra āʒ rŷra anŷeēc.
12. ōa luāē ŷoŷarāiz Tuāē Oē,  
ŷoŷbŷarāiz uāē i ramʒné;  
ar ceē nomʒnim ʒŷiŷet ŷo,  
rŷiŷet a comlin chucco.
13. Cŷiēnbel ba raibao rŷn,  
iŷ luʒ laibac mac Cairŷr;  
ŷecuille ar caē ŷae narāʒ,  
acar Ai mac Ollaman.
14. Ro ŷarōŷeo ŷiu iar ŷoētān,—  
in ceŷŷar cŷuaro comŷoīarīl,—  
ben rŷno iceno ŷarŷarāar,  
rŷar ŷer ōon rŷuŷr ŷeribŷāēar.

(566) no mīlŷr in other copies.

(567) A ō has been elided here; the word was originally n-ōuāāar, in mod-

5. Was it men, or was it a man of great valour,  
Or was it a woman of violent jealousy,  
Gave the name without the merit of noble deeds,—  
Bestowed the true name of beautiful Carman?
6. It was not men, and it was not a fierce man,  
But a single woman fierce, rapacious,  
Great her rustling and her tramp,  
From whom Carman received its first name.
7. Carman, the wife of the fierce Mac Dibad,  
Son of Dorcha, of legions and choice hospitality,  
The son of Ancges, of rich rewards,  
The renowned hero of many battles.
8. They sought not the profits of industry,  
Through ardent love of noble Banba,  
For they were at all times toilers in the east,—  
The sons of Mac Dibad and their mother.
9. At length they westwards came,  
Dian and Dubh and Dothur,  
From delightful Athens westward,  
And Carman their mother.
10. They used to destroy upon the Tuatha Dé,—  
The wicked malignant race,—  
The produce of every land unto the shore:  
It was a great, an oppressive evil.
11. Carman by all powerful spells,  
Destroyed every growing productive fruit,  
After each unlawful art being tried [by]  
The sons with violence, with injustice.
12. Soon as the Tuatha Dé perceived  
What deprived them of their summer bloom,  
For every evil deed which they wrought,  
They hurled an equal deed upon them.
13. Critenbel, he was a Sab,<sup>(588)</sup>  
And Lug Laibech, son of Cachir;  
Becuille in every field entangled them,  
And Ai the son of Ollam.<sup>(589)</sup>
14. They said to them when they arrived,—  
The four warriors of equal valour,—  
Here is a woman instead of your mother,  
Three men for your three brothers.

Irish a cognate form of *rochar*, evil,—the opposite of *rochar*, good. The word as written in the text, would mean *nuáchar*, a companion, consort, husband, or wife.

<sup>(588)</sup> See note, 569, App. p. 511.

<sup>(589)</sup> These names also occur in the tale of the second battle of *Magh Tuired*.



15. Βαρ ουιθ νι μοζαιν μοζα,  
 νι μοζαιθ, νι φαρι τοζα;  
 φαβαιθ ζο ζλε ζμυνο ζιαιλ,  
 εριθ α η-εμυνο οεντριμαρ.
16. Να ρηρηθ οο χηυοαρι υαιν,—  
 ρηι α ρυαα αο μοζμυαιθ;  
 αιρι βαο βεν λεο φαβαιθ ρυνο,  
 Καρμυν, βεο να ρηι αμυανζ.
17. Καθ ρηι υαρι να τεαρι ρλάν,  
 μυρι, μιλ, νεν, αλαμ τονοβάν,  
 να τρηατ τερη να τυρι εινθ,  
 αειν νο βειθ μυρι ιμ η-εμυνο.
18. Καρμαν, ρυα βαρ ιρ βάριθ,  
 νοραιολεο α ρεναινεο,  
 ρυαιρι α ηαιριθ, μαρ ρο υλεετ,  
 ετηι υαιμυθ να η-ομυνορηετ.
19. Τανκαρ ρυνο, τηια ζαινε ζηό,  
 υια αινε, υια αετ ζυβο,  
 λε τυαιθ υε υαρι φαρημαζ ραιν,  
 αετνα οεναθ αοιρ Καρμαιν.
20. Ρετηαν Καρμαιν, αια μοελαρθ,  
 ιν φαζβαιθ, νο ιν ρεαβαιρι,  
 ιαρι μερ αεθ υεζ ααρι υιλ,  
 υρηρ μαα ελαοαν, ειρηθ. ε.
21. Αετηι ριθιθ αοια αετ αιμ,  
 ραιλ υαο, ριθρεα, οο βλιαοηαιθ,  
 ο Καρμαιν ρο ερηι ααετ,  
 αο ραλμζειν ιρη ιαρι η-οοεηνααετ.
22. Α υα βλιαοαιν, τηιχατ, αειτηι αετ,  
 ο ζειν Αρηιη,—νι ραεθ ιν ρετ—  
 αο Αρηιηηαν ορ Καρμυιν ααετ,  
 αο Παρηαια ναυβαλ νετρηαετ.
23. Αοια ρηι τηιχατ, αεν τηιρη ταρη,  
 οο λαρηιθ, ρηια Αρηιηη αιαιριθ,  
 α νυαιλ ορ η-εμυνο μοραιζ,  
 υιτ ευαιν αελβινο, α Καρμαιι ε
24. Αοια ρηιζ αοιαιη<sup>(590)</sup> ραετηαε ρε,  
 οο λαεθμυαιθ να αρηιηηαιθ,  
 ο Αρηιηηηαν, αομυαρι να ανεο,  
 αο υιαρημαιη υορηιημαρ υορηιηεν.

(590) See note 502, App. p. 476.

(591) That is the four elements.

15. Death to ye we choose not nor desire,  
It is neither [our] pleasure or free choice;  
Assign with openness a proper pledge,  
And depart out of Eriu each of you three.
16. Those men then from us departed,—  
They were expelled with great difficulty;  
Though a woman of theirs they left there,  
Carman, alive in her narrow cell.
17. Every oath from which there is no release—<sup>(590)</sup>  
Sea, fire, Heaven, and the fair-faced Earth,—<sup>(591)</sup>  
That in power or weakness they ne'er would return,  
As long as the sea encircled Eriu.
18. Carman, who gave death and battles,  
Once so destructive with her spells,  
Received her fate, as she well deserved,  
Among the oaks of these firm mounds.
19. Hither came, to celebrate her [funeral] rites,  
To lament her, to inaugurate her Guba,<sup>(592)</sup>  
The Tuatha Dé, upon the noble beautiful plain:  
This was the first regular fair of Carman.
20. The grave of Carman, by whom was it dug?  
Will you learn, or do you know?  
According to all our beloved forefathers,  
It was Bres, son of Eladan. Listen.
21. Four score and five fair hundreds,  
Is the number, not false, of years,  
From Carman of demoniac spells,  
To the manifested birth of Jesus after humanity.<sup>(593)</sup>
22. Two years, thirty, and four hundred,  
From the birth of Christ—not small the span—  
To Crimthan over Carman's plain,  
To Patrick the great and glorious.
23. Five kings and thirty, without neglect of the tryst  
Of Leinstermen, before the faith of Christ,  
Their fame extended over Eriu,  
From thy sweet-sounding harbour, O Carman.
24. Five and fifty vigilant kings,  
Of the champions of Christianity,  
From Crimthan, inflictor of wounds,  
To Diarmad Dornmas Durgen.

<sup>(590)</sup> Wailings for the dead. See vol. ii. pp. 383, 384.

<sup>(592)</sup> That is, after he had assumed human nature.

<sup>(593)</sup> u. l. 10 πϛ, i.e. five times fifty kings.—H. 3 3.

25. Oét mic Solaím lin a rlog,  
 'Dono h-Ír, Ebeir, ír h-Éremon,  
 Amairgín, Colpcha cenénao,  
 h-Éreac'h Fébrua, ír Ériennán.
26. Ropiao gain maítha ino oenais,  
 ceé tracaíe ne thien maíoim,  
 oc toét ino, oc tuíveét arf,  
 co tainic creitem n-amnar.
27. O Thuait 'Dé co Claino Mileo,  
 ba óin roban ír mífere;  
 o Claino Mileo ba gnim n-gle  
 ba óin co Pátraic Machae.
28. Nem, talam, gnian, erca, ír muir.  
 toirchi, tnu, ocuf tuícuir,  
 beoil, cluara, ruilí raobtha,  
 cora, lama, ríoin, ír vea.
29. Eich, clairoib, carrait caime,  
 gá, rceith, oíeá voeine,  
 oíuchit, meff, oaiten, la ouli,  
 la ír adais, trais tíoituilí.
30. 'oo maírat gain uile a nóg,  
 buíomí 'Danba cen bité b'ón,—  
 conna bechí fo ábairí chéit,—  
 ceé tréar bliadaim tarí tarímerc.
31. 'ooinget gentí gaevel,  
 í Carmain, ne thienmaíoem;  
 oenac cen cáin, cen cinaro,  
 cen gnim ais, cen eííroain.
32. Luét bairtí Cíur na celio,  
 í Carmain, ír 'dais, ír veimín,  
 ír mo 'olegait cíur arí teét,  
 o Cíur caíra cíurtaíveét.
33. Rígi ocuf naem h-Éreno,  
 im Pátraic, ír im Cíimthann,  
 íat maíthienfáírat cac cat,  
 ío bennacírat in oenac.
34. A .ix. tíúcat oenac arí,  
 'oo bichí of b'ruacáib Carman;  
 coica ía thienmedon cíur,  
 ó h-Éremon co Pátraic.
35. A coic ceíru veíé 'datta,  
 arí ríerí oenais allatta;  
 o 'Díerál 'Díoenac cen bíat  
 coríu n-oenac n-veoenac.



25. The eight sons of Gollamh with their full host,  
Dond, Ir, Eber, and Heremon,  
Amergin, Colptha the griefless,  
Ereach Febria, and Erennan.
26. These were the upholders of the fair,  
To be ever highly boasted of,  
Coming thither, going thence ;  
To the advent of the all-ruling faith.
27. Of the Tuatha Dé to the sons of Miledh,  
Was a race of upright women and brave men ;  
Of the sons of Miledh of bright deeds  
Was the race to Patrick of Macha.
28. Heaven, Earth, sun, moon, and sea,  
Fruits, fire, and riches,  
Mouths, ears, alluring eyes,  
Feet, hands, noses, and teeth.
29. Steeds, swords, beautiful chariots,  
Spears, shields, human faces,  
Dew, fruits, blossoms, and foliage,  
Day and night, a heavy flooded shore.
30. These in fulness all were there,  
The tribes of Banba without lasting grief,—  
To be under the protection of the fair,  
Every third year without prohibition.
31. The gentiles of the Gaedhil did celebrate,  
In Carman, to be highly boasted of,  
A fair without [breach of] law, without crime,  
Without a deed of violence, without dishonour.
32. The followers of Christ's baptism deny not,  
That in Carman, right true,  
More regular became the tryst  
From Christ to the [introduction] of Christianity.
33. The kings and the saints of Eriu,  
With Patrick, and with Crimthan,  
Each clan they bravely controlled,  
The fair they blessed.
34. Nine times thirty high fairs,  
Were celebrated over the shores of Carman,  
Fifty in its high central tryst,  
From Heremon to Patrick.
35. Five four tens<sup>(595)</sup> is the date  
Over which the noble fair extended,  
From Breasal Broenach without guile  
To the last holding of the fair.

(595) Five, and four tens, i.e. 540 years.

36. o Chrimthuno in chrota cain  
o Chachair . . . . .  
a naoi raglana cen maino,  
na ril Labraoa laechmaill.
37. Se nis dec no veibaig nam,  
ceé rui, ceé fencáir solam;  
o Chaimun na cuan craebaé,  
oo nat rluag ran rlat oenaé.
38. A h-ocht a 'Dothra doinich,—  
rluag rochla na rrimairim,—  
gniret oenaé coim Carmain  
fo glair, ir fo glan aimaib.
39. A oo déc cen nuó imhairn,  
ooenaigib uirna acmair;  
oo éuru gníoa in gairco,  
on t-ril nígua arno Martiu.
40. A coic a ríogaible gairg,  
richret of Carmain élotaro;  
oenaé rairbir, co rreáib,  
co rairlib, co rruan-éáib.
41. Seiruir von raigri neimnis,  
oo ril Dnefáil Dnic beimnis;  
rluag rino na raglaib funno,  
of éruair Carmain éhetguinig.
42. Patraic, Dnigir immalle,  
Caemgin ir Colam Cille;  
iat ir airthech ar ceé rluag,  
na no laiméir amairrluag.
43. Oenaé na naeb neit dia chur,  
ar tur ir ceit Dia éoruguo;  
oenaé aronig flaitir glain,  
irreó bir ina veáir.
44. Cluchi ban laigen iar ló,  
on rrluag na zel—ni nao ngó:  
bantiaé naé bec meir immaé,  
irreó a ceti in rreir oenaé.
45. Lairg focharc, rora a m-blaó,  
leo vaireir coá na m-ban;  
ir leo laigin lin a réo,  
na vaáirir va h-iméomet.
46. Ra níguaannaib rruithi runo,  
in coiceo cluá i Carmunno;

(596) See note 567, App. p. 510.

36. From Crimthan of the comely form,  
From Cathair . . . . .  
Nine were celebrated without intermission  
By the race of Labrad, the princely hero.
37. Sixteen kings to me have been recorded,  
By every Sai,<sup>(896)</sup> and profound historian,  
From Carman of the branchy harbours,  
Who brought hosts unto the noble fair.
38. Eight from the populous Dodder,—  
Renowned hosts ever to be boasted of,—  
They celebrated the regular fair of Carman  
With pomp and with bright arms.
39. Twelve, without an error in the counting,  
Of festive fairs I acknowledge,  
To the fierce champion, of valour,  
Of the regal race of noble Maistiu.
40. Five from Fídgabhla the stern,  
Celebrated over Carman of high renown,  
A rich fair, with bridles,<sup>(897)</sup>  
With saddles, with bridle-steeds.
41. Six by the royal triumphant heir,  
Of the race of Breasal Breac of mighty blows—  
A fair host with resplendent spears,  
Over the cell of the battle-wounding Carman.
42. Patrick and Bridget together,  
Caemgen and Colum Cille,  
They are dominant over every host,  
And they durst not be “cavalcaded”.
43. The fair of the saints, with pomp is celebrated,  
’T is meet at first to pay homage to God,  
The fair of the high king of bright heaven,  
It is after the [latter] it comes.
44. The fair of the women of Leinster in the afternoon,  
A noble most delightful host—’t is no false assertion:  
Women whose fame is not small abroad,  
Their fair is the third fair.
45. The Laisechs of Fothairt, wide their fame:  
To them is the stewardship of the coteries of the women:  
Leinster with all her jewels to them belongs,  
The chosen men for its protection.
46. To mirthful royal princes belongs  
The fifth game at Carman;

<sup>(897)</sup> The *Sreith* was the double reined or parade bridle, as distinguished from the *Srian* (= *sreith* + *ean*) i.e. the one-reined bridle.



- rluais enis h-Éireno, máreo,  
 doib na têngell in ferreo.
47. Fā deoio La Clannaib Conola,  
 cluáí Capmun uas comga,  
 reá cét rluas, raeir in roáar,—  
 of cáé roen, ir nígchoruo.
48. Seét cluchi, marí uamairí uair,  
 irreo forracaib Pátraic,  
 in cáé La na reátmairí rain,  
 arí barí reáclairí ríí eírúo. E.
49. Oo níirí Láirín in rain,  
 iarí třebaib, iarí tellairíb,  
 o Labraio Longreá lí rluas,<sup>(690)</sup>  
 ca Cathairí comreá clethruaó.
50. Níí fárlaic Cathairí Capmairí,  
 áét oia maicní moirí uobairí;  
 na thoirrach co fárobhíí rain,  
 ríl Rora fálege reáaro.
51. Foruo níí Áirgac Róirí ain,<sup>(691)</sup>  
 forí veirí níí Capmuin caemnairí;  
 oia Láim élí cenóaro, bhíí n-uairí,  
 foruo níí Fáible Fé-Cluairí;
52. Irí loiríí na ríl lúgaoá loirí  
 Láiríé, mac Conaillí Cenómoirí;  
 irí fóthairíe náé taróilí taré,  
 cen uairíí oia níáirímoáét.

<sup>(690)</sup> Lí rluas, glittering hosts. In that is, he was patron of bards. Both the Book of Ballymote version this is terms are equally applicable to prince made líí rúaó, i.e. of many poets, *Labrad*.

<sup>(691)</sup> The matter of stanzas 51, 52, and 53 is given in four stanzas in the Book of Ballymote, as follows:—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>           26. Foruo níí Áirgac Róirí ain,<br/>           forí veirí níí Capmuin caem<br/>           naírí;<br/>           oia clu, rííí gáé lúégarí<br/>           luino,<br/>           foruo níí Cruachaní clet<br/>           cuíríí;         </p> | <p>           26. The <i>Forud</i> of the noble king of<br/> <i>Airget-Roe</i>,<br/>           On the right of the king of beau-<br/>           tiful Carman;<br/>           On his left, with all athletic<br/>           sports,<br/>           The <i>Forud</i> of the king of Crua-<br/>           chan—the lofty hero;*         </p> |
| <p>           27. Irí loiríí na ríl lúgaoá loirí<br/>           Láiríé, mac Conaillí Ceno-<br/>           moirí;         </p>   | <p>           27. And the progeny of the numerous<br/>           race of Lugad<br/>           Laigsech, son of Conall Cend-<br/>           moir;         </p>   |

\* The Cruachan here meant is Cruachan Clenta or Offaly.

- The host of Eriu's bounteous men, with their jewels,  
To them the sixth fair is assigned.
47. After this the Clan Cunla follow,  
The fair of Carman duly celebrating,  
Beyond each host, a noble race,—  
On every field, a royal progeny.
48. Seven games, as to you we have told,  
That is what Patrick ordained,  
On every day of the sportive week,  
Enjoying that to sweet devotions they should ever  
listen. Listen.
49. The Leinstermen continued to hold this fair,  
By their tribes, by their families,  
From Labrad Longsech of glittering hosts,  
To the powerful red-speared Cathair.
50. Cathair bequeathed Carman,  
Only to his own great and powerful race;  
At their head with splendour bright,  
The race of Ros Failge we behold.
51. The *Forud* <sup>(600)</sup> of the noble king of Airget Ros,  
On the right of the king of beautiful Carman;  
On his left hand stands, in right of inheritance,  
The Forud of the king of Gaible Gé-Cluain;
52. And the progeny of the numerous race of Lugad  
Laigsich, son of Conall Cendmor;  
And the Fotharts who knew no thirst,  
Without derogation to their ancestral inheritance.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>ir fothairt co fairsibí fet,—<br/>cenobairbí sion sídoimeo.</p>   | <p>And the Fotharts rich in jewels—<br/>Not degrading to the noble guardians.</p>  |
| <p>28. h<sub>1</sub> kalaino augyrt cen ail,<br/>tiagobair ino zac tref bliad-<br/>ain,<br/>agcair .vii. ngrairne im gnim<br/>gle,</p>                   | <p>28. On the Kalends of August with-<br/>out fail,<br/>They repaired thither every third<br/>year;<br/>They contested seven well-fought<br/>races,</p>  |
| <p>reét laite na reétmairne.</p>   | <p>On the seven days of the week.</p>  |
| <p>29. ano luairgoir f<sub>1</sub>u baga bil,<br/>cepta acar cana in cois<br/>[ce],—<br/>ceé reét maigla co rogar,—<br/>ceé tref bliadain a corogao.</p> | <p>29. There they proclaimed in friendly<br/>words,<br/>The rights and laws of the pro-<br/>vince;—<br/>Every right of law they pro-<br/>claimed,—<br/>Every third year they revised<br/>them.</p> |

<sup>(600)</sup> A *Forud* was the place in which each king sat surrounded by his *Sabaid* or counsellors, and his *Dam* or retinue. The seat of the king seems to have been on the top of a mound which was surrounded by an earthen wall or rampart. *Forud* is cognate with *Forus*, the residence of a magistrate, and with the Latin *Forum*.

53. 1 Kalaino Augur cen ail,  
 ciaḡait mo ceḡ tref bliadain;  
 ano luadit co vana ar vaiḡ,  
 ceit ceḡ cana ocuf corḡaro.
54. Aca, tobaḡ, fpuḡhīr fiaḡ,—  
 ecnaḡ ecraite arpuo,  
 nī lamar la ḡraifrin inḡaro,—  
 elao, aithnī, aḡḡabail.
55. Cen uil fer in aipeḡt m-ban,  
 cen mna in aipeaḡt fer finoglan;  
 maḡ aiteo n īr [o] ḡlunḡer,  
 ciḡ aḡfer. ciḡ aḡmuinḡer.
56. Cipé tī vaḡr peḡt narriḡ,—  
 Uenen co beaḡt na buanḡerib,—  
 na beḡ ar ár na fine,  
 aḡt a bár na biḡhbīne.
57. 1r iat a aḡa olla:—  
 rḡuic, cḡuicī, cuiḡn ḡraeḡtolla,  
 cuiḡḡ, timpaḡ cen ḡuamna,  
 filio ocuf faen ḡliara;
58. Fianpuḡh fīno,—raḡh cen uochḡa,—  
 toḡla, tana, toḡmoḡca,  
 rliḡriḡe, īr uile feḡa;  
 aera, pūne pomeḡa;
59. Aḡoḡc, moḡcaḡa, mḡail,  
 īr tecurca fīna fīḡhail,  
 oubláio, uinoḡenḡuīr vaḡt,  
 tecurca Caiḡpu ocuf Corḡaic;
60. Na ferḡa, im ferīr ḡuim Temḡa,  
 oenaḡe, im oenaḡ Emna,  
 annallaḡ ano, īr fīr ro,  
 caḡ maḡo mo maḡnaḡ ḡreḡo;
61. Scel tellaḡ Temḡa,—naḡ timm,—  
 pīr ceḡ ḡpuḡhat in h-ḡhīno,  
 banḡenḡar buḡomī baḡa,  
 buḡomī, ḡerī, ḡabala;
62. Ueīḡ ḡimna Chathair Cetaḡ  
 oia claino, na ceim mḡḡmetaḡ;  
 foḡib ceḡ uimī maḡr īr uleḡt,  
 combet uile co a eḡḡeḡt. E

<sup>(601)</sup> *Airecht*, a legal assembly or court. (See Introduction, p. cclxii.) This law for the protection of females appears to have prevailed among the Ancient Irish at all the national Assemblies and Fairs. See the poem on



53. On the Kalends of August without fail,  
They repaired thither every third year;  
There aloud with boldness they proclaimed  
The rights of every law, and the restraints.
54. To sue, to levy, to controvert debts,—  
The abuse of steeds in their career,  
Is not allowed to contending racers,—  
Elovements, arrests, distrains.
55. That no man goes into the women's Airecht,<sup>(601)</sup>  
That no women go into the Airecht of fair clean men;  
That no abduction is heard of,  
Nor repudiation of husbands or of wives.
56. Whoever transgresses the law of the assembly,—  
Which Benen with accuracy indelibly wrote,—<sup>(602)</sup>  
Cannot be spared upon family composition,  
But he must die for his transgression.
57. These are its many great privileges:—  
Trumpets, Cruits, wide-mouthed horns,  
Cuisig, Timpanists without weariness,  
Poets and petty rhymesters;
58. Fenian tales of Find,—an untiring entertainment,—  
Destructions, Cattle-preys, Courtships,  
Inscribed tablets, and books of trees,  
Satires, and sharp edged runes;
59. Proverbs, maxims, royal precepts,  
And the truthful instruction of Fithal,  
Occult poetry, topographical etymologies,  
The precepts of Cairpri and of Cormac;
60. The Feasts, with the great Feast of Teamar,  
Fairs, with the fair of Emania,  
Annals there are verified,  
Every division into which Eriu was divided;
61. The history of the household of Teamar—not insignificant,  
The knowledge of every territory in Eriu,  
The history of the women of illustrious families,  
Of Courts, Prohibitions, Conquests;
62. The noble Testament of Cathair the great  
To his descendants, to direct the steps of royal rule  
Each one sits in his lawful place,  
So that all attend to them to listen. Listen.

the Fair of *Tailte* in the *Dindsenchas of Tailte*, and also in Keating's History  
reign of *Tuathal Techtmar*, A.D. 79.

<sup>(602)</sup> See Note 14, vol. i., p. 45.



63. Pipes, fiddles, chainmen,  
Bone-men, and tube-players,  
A crowd of babbling painted masks,  
Roarers and loud bellowers.
64. They all exert their utmost powers  
For the magnanimous king of the Barrow;  
Until the noble king in proper measure bestows  
Upon each art its rightful meed.
65. Elopements, slaughters, musical choruses,  
The accurate synchronisms of noble races,  
The succession of the sovereign kings of Bregia,  
Their battles, and their stern valour.
66. Such is the arrangement of the fair,  
By the lively ever happy host;—  
May they receive from the Lord  
A land with choicest fruits.
67. They, Leinster's saints, celebrate next day,—  
The saints of the alliance—'t is no evil deed—  
Over Carman's bounteous lake, with solemnity,  
Masses, adorations, and psalm-singing.
68. They fast in the autumn, good the deed,  
At Carman, all of them together,—  
The Leinstermen without lack of humour,—  
Against injustice, against oppression.
69. The clergy and the laity of Leinster all,  
And the stainless women of the worthy men.  
God, who knows how well they merit,  
To their noble prayers will listen. Listen.
70. The hospitality of the Hy Drona,  
And the steed contest of the men of Ossory,  
And the clash of spear-handles,  
From the entire host, that was the end.
71. Though we had called it Mesc's grave  
It were not mockery, it were not enmity;  
[For Mesc] and old crooked Garman, her husband.  
Here in far ancient times were buried.
72. Even if from those the name had been derived  
By hosts of etymological writers,  
It were just, no doubt, and it were lawful,  
O Leinstermen of the monuments, listen.



73. Rath ar fichit ir buanblao,  
 i fail fluas ro tat talman:  
 ralmrailec corhablao,  
 i fail rainfere raei Charmain.
74. Seét n-oumai cen taroliuo de,  
 oo cáiniuo maib co mence;  
 seét maige, tarmain cen teé,  
 ro cluide Charmain chaintéé
75. Tiu maigao rin tír treoiarig:—  
 maigao bio, maigao beo chái,  
 maigao moí na n-gall n-íreagá,  
 i m-bio ói ir aró étaé.
76. Fán na n-ec, fan na fuine,  
 fan na m-banóal fii oruine;  
 ferí oo fluas n-gaipeé  
 níí máioeo, níí imcáineo.
77. Fíl ara nemoenam de,—<sup>(600)</sup>  
 maib, meti, moé-leite,  
 iu cen géin, cen gíunni,  
 cen feile, cen fíinne.<sup>(601)</sup>
78. Co re ba bhuagá bára,  
 fluas linnáir lír labraoa;  
 caé fluas, naé raigtheé bio recc,  
 laimthei, ocuf ní laimet. E.
79. Failte ic fluas nemoa na noeb,  
 Dam ic oia delboa, vezcaem;  
 níí corraeth buionib noíruig,  
 iu caé n-atecuingio eíruo. E

<sup>(600)</sup> The following stanza from the Book of Ballymote, indicating the advantages to be gained by holding the fair, seems to show that there is a gap of perhaps two stanzas here, and that this stanza is one of them: it is the thirtieth stanza in the Book of Ballymote (where it comes after the one numbered 29 in the foot note, page 535 *supra*), and is there obviously out of place. The only place where it could be introduced without disturbing the narrative of the poem would be after this stanza: it has however been thought better to give it as a foot note, than to introduce it into this part of the poem which is taken from the Book of Leinster.

30. Fíth, bliét, ríé, rama, rona,  
 lina lona leptaola,

Corn, milk, peace, ease, prosperity,  
 Waters full in great abundance,

73. Twenty-one raths of enduring fame,  
In which hosts are under earth confined:  
A conspicuous cemetery of high renown,  
By the side of delightful noble Carman.
74. Seven mounds without touching each other,  
Where the dead have often been lamented;  
Seven plains, sacred without a house,  
For the funeral games of Carman.
75. Three markets in that auspicious country:—  
A market of food, a market of live stock,  
And the great market of the foreign Greeks,  
Where gold and noble clothes were wont to be.
76. The slope of the steeds, the slope of the cooking;  
The slope of the embroidering women;  
To no man of the friendly hosts  
Will they give adulation, will they give reproach.
77. There comes of not celebrating it,—<sup>(607)</sup>  
Baldness, failure, and early grayness,  
Kings without wisdom, without elegance,  
Without hospitality, without truthfulness.<sup>(608)</sup>
78. Hitherto warlike and brave have been  
The numerous hosts of Labrad's house;  
All assailing hosts, are compelled to be shy;  
They are challenged, and they challenge not.
79. A welcome with the saintly Host of Heaven,  
May I receive, with the beautiful, all-perfect God;  
The King of graceful hosts may I reach,  
A king who to every prayer will listen! Listen.

ἦν ἡδὲ-λαῖς, κοκομβάισι εἰσο,  
οἰρημαῖς φορημαῖσι φορ ἔρη.

True kingly heroes, with loyalty  
to chiefs,  
With triumph of heroic hosts of  
Eriu.

<sup>(608)</sup> The following is the version of this stanza in the Book of Ballymote:—

32. ƒaṡ ḁṛ a nemoenoim se—  
maile, ṡṛ meich, ṡṛ moðlece,  
ṡṛ ṡana conamble ṡil,  
so ḁḁaṡṡoib ana. eṛciṡ.

There comes of its not being holden  
Baldness, decay, early grayness,  
With many other evil fates,  
To the noble Leinstermen. Listen.

FINIS.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles, including the names of the authors and the titles of their works. This list is organized in a structured manner, likely serving as a table of contents or a reference list for the document.



# GLOSSARIAL INDEX

## OF IRISH WORDS.

[In the case of important terms, such as *Aire*, etc., which are of frequent occurrence, only the references to places where their explanation is to be found are given here; the other references will be found in the General Index.]

- Abairsech*, a manufacturing woman, iii. 116.
- Abh*, sweet (see *Abhrann*), iii. 371.
- Abh a cear*, since I slew [the death of], iii. 456.
- Abhrann*, a song of any tune or measure, iii. 371, 377, 378.
- Abrus*, material, iii. 115, n. 87.
- Aco*, to him or with them, iii. 518.
- Ach*, a groan or sigh (see *Aileach*), ii. 152.
- Achadh*, a field, or division of land, i. clxxxii.
- Acht-comaithe*, with equal immunity iii. 504.
- Aera*, to sue, iii. 499.
- Adabraid n-aílle*, ostentatiousness of fame, iii. 428.
- Adaírt*, a pillow, iii. 489.
- Adand*, a small candle, iii. 246 (see *Caimill*).
- Adannaí*, kindle, ignite, iii. 505.
- Adbelad*, will die, iii. 221.
- Adbond*, bind, sweet or melodious, a song or tune, iii. 386, 387.
- Adbond Trírech*, a triple *Adbond*, a tune in which three parts are understood, namely, *genntraighe*, *goltraighe*, and *suantraighe*, iii. 387.
- Adbreth*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Anradh*, ii. 171.
- Adgenedar*, *Aithgenethar*, to make restitution, iii. 508.
- Adgiallat*, they submit, or owe allegiance to, iii. 514.
- Adhal*, dishonour, blemish, or disgrace, iii. 518.
- Adid*, his two, iii. 497.
- Admilíthí*, more pale: one of the jesters of Conaire Mór, monarch of Eriu, so called, iii. 150.
- Aedh* or *Udh*, "a spark of fire", from which is derived *Aedh*, the proper Christian name of a man, Anglicised Hugh, ii. 132.
- Aenach*, a fair, or general assembly, i. cclv.
- Aenach Gubha*, a moaning or mourning assembly, iii. 383.
- Aes Sidhe*, "dwellers in the hills", "the fairy people", ii. 198.
- Agell do*, [his pledge to him, i.e., he is entitled to] his brooch and everything composed of gold and of silver—his pledged article, whatever it be, iii. 112.
- Agid*, *In Agid*, face to face, against the face of, iii. 458.
- A h-Athain*, "from Athens", iii. 526-7.
- A h-Espain*, "out of Spain", iii. 210.
- Aicbeile*, dangerous severity, etc., iii. 440.
- Aiced-Fige*, weaving implements, iii. 116.
- Aicdí*, work of art, iii. 504.
- Aidbenaib*, prosecutors, iii. 500.
- Aidbsí*, great or greatness; its technical signification in music was the singing of a multitude in chorus, iii. 246, 247.
- Aidbsí*, *corus cronáin*, a kind of guttural or purring chorus; a great chorus or vocal concert (see *Cepóc*), iii. 245, 371, 374, 376.
- Aideadh Uladh*, the deaths of the Ultonians, ii. 94.
- Ai Esain*, same as *Aigthe Esain*, rank-*Esain*, iii. 517.
- Aige*, a stranger, iii. 507.
- Aighthe Esain*, the proportional increase of a man's *Esain* due to his special rank or honour, iii. 515 (see *Esain*).

- Aigne*, an arguer, or pleading counsellor, *i.* cxxiii, cclii, cclxxiii.
- Ail*, a fence, a stake fence, *i.* clxxx, cxxxii, xcxi, ccl.
- „ *comarbus*, a divisional fence between the lands of co-heirs, or shares of gavelled land, *i.* clxxxi.
- Ail*, a stone; *Ach*, a groan or sigh, hence *Aileach*, *ii.* 152.
- Ail bend Alatuath n-dronaicde*, flowing capes dexterously embroidered, *iii.* 142.
- Ailestar*, *Ailastair*, the bog firs (*recte*, *Iris pseudacorus*, or common flag or *Iris*, now called *Felestrom*), *i.* lxxiii; *iii.* 190.
- Ailgine*, tranquillity, etc., *iii.* 221.
- Ail*, other, *iii.* 506.
- Ailsed-nadma*, intentional fraudulent knotting, *iii.* 493.
- Ainsir na c-curadh*, the time of a champion's military education, *ii.* 367.
- Ain*, *Aine*, rushes, *iii.* 486, 489.
- Aindiden*, Friday, *iii.* 507.
- Ainmed*, disparagement, *iii.* 514, 520.
- Aibernad*, diminution, curtailment, *iii.* 516.
- Airbid*, a measure of weight, *iii.* 483, *n.* 524.
- Airbi*, a wooden fence, *i.* ccxiv.
- Airbir*, an armful [*recte*, a shoulder bundle or load], *iii.* 487.
- Aircend*, a defined boundary or limit, *i.* ccl.
- Airchinnech*, a lay vicar, a land steward [of monastery or church land], *i.* cclii; *ii.* 31, 169.
- Airchisecht*, bemoaning, *iii.* 442, 454.
- Airech Feibhe*, a chief of dignity, *iii.* 114, and 126-7.
- Aire*, a lord, a title of distinction, *iii.* 468.
- Airech*, litigation here, *iii.* 499.
- Airecht*, a court, *ii.* 20.
- Airecht Fodeisin*, his own court, *i.e.*
- „ the court of the *Righ*, or court of king's bench, of a *Righ Tuatha*, *i.* cclxix, cclxvi, cclxxii.
- „ *Foleith*, a court leet, cclxii, cclxxii.
- „ *Urnaide*, a court of pleas, *i.* cclxiii, cclxxii.
- Aire Ard*, the steward of a king, *i.* cclxiv; *iii.* 469, 515.
- „ *Cosraing*, the Gerefa or Reeve of a *Fine*, *i.* cciii, cclxvii, cclxviii; *iii.* 470, 491.
- Aire Desa*, the lowest grade of *Flath*, *i.* ccxxiv, cclxvii; *iii.* 468, 494, 516.
- „ *Echtai*, a high constable of a *Crick* or territory, *i.* cclxv, cclxvii; *iii.* 468, 497.
- „ *Fine*, the chief of kindred of a *Fine*, *i.* cci, cclxvii; *iii.* 516.
- „ *Forgaill*, an officer who corresponds to the Welsh *Canghellor* or chancellor, *i.* cclxiii; *iii.* 468, 500.
- „ *Tuise*, commander of the levy of a *Tuath*, cf. *Dux* (*Duc-s*) and *A. Sax. Here-tog*, cclxiii; *iii.* 468, 469, 499, 516.
- Airel*, rooms, or compartments [in a house], *iii.* 7.
- Aireman*, *Airemh*, a ploughman, *i.* ci.
- Airgetlach*, a general name for a metallic ore, *i.* ccccix.
- Airigis* (perceives), he perceived, *iii.* 448.
- Airigtib gaisced*, missive weapons of valour, *ii.* 303.
- Airillud*, good works, *iii.* 514.
- Airinech*, a frontage, *i.* cccxvi.
- Airitiuth*, maintenance, *iii.* 497.
- Airlucud*, *Airluccud*, borrowing or lending on a pledge, *iii.* 487, 49, 487.
- Airliche ar da cleth*, chief or highest advisers; the members of the council of each *Fine*; the *Cuicer na Fine*, or the five chiefs of kindred of a *Fine*, *i.* cclxviii.
- Airlis*, a yard of a *Forus*, or enclosed paddock in which cattle were impounded, see note on *Fer Forais*, *i.* cclxxx, ccci, ccxiv, *iii.* 520.
- Airmed*, a measure of bulk, *iii.* 483.
- Airhind*=*Airbind*, oats, *i.* cclclxiv.
- Airthiur*, the east, *Airthiur Foitsi*, the back part of the south side of the seat or couch, *iii.* 509.
- Aisneis cleith*, a private information against a nobleman, *i.* cclxiv.
- „ *meirle*, a thief's information, *i.* cclxxxii.
- Aite*, a tutor, *iii.* 446.
- Aitech Comaide*, father or chief of a *Comaitches*, copartnership or gild, *i.* ccxvi.
- Aiteog*, a string which is put about the mouth of a bag, *iii.* 117.
- Aith*, a kiln, *iii.* 486.
- Aithcumba n-aige*, dressing of wounds, *iii.* 486.
- Aithech*, a tenant, a plebeian, *ii.* 36, *iii.* 469, 500.



- Aithech ar a Treba*, a tribe tenant on his ancestral home iii. 482, more correctly, the head of a co-partnership or gild, i. cci.
- Aithech Baisé, Aithech Baisidhe*, a man who aspired to belong to the privileged grades of society, a Bachelor of Bó-Aireship, a tenant bachelor of *Airechus*, probably connected with the Latin and Romance terms *Baccalaria* and *Bacale*, i. ccl, ccli, iii. 438, 524.
- Aitherach*, a gain, iii. 493.
- Aithgin*, dat. pl. *Aithginnaib*, the equal of, restitution, ii. cxxiv, clxxxiii, celxxx, celxxxii, cxcxi, cxcxi; ii. 112, 456, 487, 489.
- Aitire*, a security between two parties, a bail, cxvii, cxviii, celxxv, celxxxiv, celxxxv, cxcxi; iii. 474.
- Aitire Foesma*, an *Aitire* of adoption, that is, a security for the liabilities incurred in affiliating a distant relative or a stranger to a *Fine*, i. cxcxi; iii. 474.
- Aitire Luige*, an oath-bound *Aitire*, iii. 474, n. 487.
- Aitire Nadma*, the binding or knotting *Aitire*; a security bound by a *Naidm* or bond, corresponding to the nexus of Roman law, i. cxcxi; iii. 474.
- Aithirne, Aithrine*, fixed lawful fines, rights, and privileges, iii. 514.
- Aithlimi*, readiness, swiftness, iii. 448.
- Alad*, a wound, iii. 450.
- Alaile, Alaill*, the other, iii. 480, 493.
- Alaili*, another—the other, iii. 500.
- Alamu*, her hands, see *Almhain*, i. cccii.
- Alanaí*, one of them, iii. 480.
- Albanach*, an Albanian or native of Alba, now Scotland, i. clxv.
- All*, the reins of a chariot; also the eyes or projections on the yoke through which the reins passed, i. cccclxxxi, cccclxxxii.
- „ *Dualach*, a piece of harness almost identical with the *Cuirpi dualach*, or peaked straddle of the present time, i. cccclxxxi, cccclxxxii.
- „ *oir*, golden bridles, iii. 160.
- Alla*, away (far off), iii. 456, 458.
- Allaid*, a wild stag, iii. 428.
- Allugg*, his oath, iii. 487.
- Almsona*, alms, i. ccxl.
- Al-Tuath*, another territory, and used for a man of another *Tuath* or territory, cf. A. Sax. *elpeódig*, strange; Welsh *Altud*, a foreigner, i. cxxviii.
- Alla*, gashes, iii. 440.
- Ama*, wardens, iii. 509.
- Amae*, alas, indeed, iii. 448.
- Amais*, mercenaries [military retainers] ii. 389, 90, 91, 92.
- Amh*, indeed, iii. 430, 460.
- Amh eckin*, now indeed, iii. 460.
- Amhrath, non-rath*, the bounty or payment given to the people who cried and lamented at the funeral of the chief, lord, or any body else, and for which bounty there was no further return ever to be made. It is compounded of the negative particle *Amh*, non, and *Rath*, wages, etc., iii. 384.
- Amhus*, or *Amhuis*, mercenaries corresponding to the Gaulish *Am-bacti*, i. cxiii, cxxxvi; ii. 389. See *Amais*.
- Ammbur Indlait*, a washing trough, iii. 486.
- Amrus*, suspicion, information based on suspicion, i. celxxvii.
- Amsaib*, body-guards-men, iii. 509. See *Amais*.
- Amuis righ*, the body-guard of a king, iii. 508. See *Amais*.
- Anad*, a stay, i. cclxxxii, celxxxiv.
- Anagraitto*, disputes, quarrels, etc., iii. 511.
- Anáil*, strife, iii. 416.
- Anair*, a species of negative laudatory poem, ii. 173.
- Anamán*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Ollamh*. The great *Anamán* was a species of poem which contained four different measures of composition, namely the *Nath*, the *Anair*, the *Laid*, and the *Eman*, and it was composed by an *Ollamh* only, ii. 171, 173.
- Andoin*, the church, iii. 509.
- Andord, Non-Dord* (for the particle *an* is deprivative in sense), that is, it is not exactly a *Dord* or murmur, but something higher than it, iii. 378, 379. See *Cob-laighe*.
- Anedghe*, dishonour (impurity, want of innocence), iii. 514.
- Anflaith, Anflath*, a rich tenant farmer, who has wealth, but is not a *Flath* or true lord; a middle man, ii. 36; iii. 491.
- Anfoladh*, misdeeds, iii. 514.



- Anfolta*=(*Anfolad*), misdeeds, oppression, iii. 520.  
*Anoi*, their recognition, etc., iii. 513.  
*Anradh*, a poet of the second order, ii. 171, 217; iii. 316.  
*Anruith*, a warrior, iii. 446.  
*Ansruth*, a man who vindicates the honour of his territory and people, a kind of territorial high constable, i. cccxvi; iii. 513, 517.  
*Antengtaid ar da Feth Airecht no Danaig*, eloquent men having a recognized position derived from land or noble professions; they were the selected representatives of the *Fine*, corresponding to the Welsh *Taisbantyle*, i. cclxviii.  
*Aoir*, satire, iii. 481.  
*Aos Ealadan*, men of science, i. cccxxx.  
*Apa* (same as *oba*), to shun (to refuse), iii. 420.  
*Apad*, a legal notice, i. cclxxxiii, cclxxxv.  
 „ *nadma Aitire*, notice of bail bond, i. cclxxxv.  
*Apdatar*, they died, iii. 220, 221.  
*Apdaines*, persons whose rank was proclaimed or legally admitted, i. clxxxvii.  
*Ar*, for *Albert*, i.e. says or did say, iii. 510.  
*Arach*, guarantee, iii. 416.  
*Aracol*, a room or compartment, i. cccxl.  
*Araicecht*, the grammar of the pupils, ii. 172.  
*Araid*, charioteers, iii. 444, etc.  
*Arathar*, a plough, iii. 500.  
*Arba*=*orba*=*orbar*, pl. *Orbain*, modern *arbar*, corn, or corn-meal or shelled grain, i. cclxii, cclcxv; iii. 474.  
*Arclisde*, gymnasts, iii. 365.  
*Arquirether*, he restrains, iii. 498.  
*Ardaig*, excess, iii. 472.  
*Ardan*, a pigin, a drinking vessel, i. ccclv; iii. 495.  
*Ard Arcon imod Toisi*, high nobles of great state. *Flaths* entitled to hold an *Airecht Foleith* or manorial court, i. cclxviii.  
*Ard neme*, high sanctuary, iii. 515.  
*Ard Righ*, high or paramount king, corresponding to the British *Gwaledig*, and the Anglo-Saxon *Bretwalda*, i. cccxxxi.  
*Ard Solus*, hill of light, or hill upon which a signal light was burned, i. cccxviii.  
*Ardreth*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Cana*, ii. 171.  
*Arfuin*, *Arfoimsin*, accept thou [or I present to thee], iii. 221.  
*Arggat*, or *Airgat*, silver, i. ccccxix; iii. 491.  
*Arra*, a charge, i. cclxxxii.  
*Arracur*, filing a charge, i. cclxxxix.  
*Arsendtee*, singing? (*recte*, songsters), iii. 365.  
*Art Fine*, the principal man of a *Fine*, i. cciv.  
*Arthana*, charms, iii. 440.  
*Asathu*, in revolt, aggressive, iii. 505.  
*Asana*, asses, iii. 330.  
*Ascria*, wanting, iii. 497.  
*Asne*, it is he, iii. 497.  
*Ass*, new milk, i. cclcxxi; iii. 474, 499.  
*Ass*, pl. *Assai*, a sandal, a shoe. This term is frequently applied to women's shoes and bishops' sandals, both of which were sometimes made of *Findruine*, i. cclcxv, cccxviii, dclxii; iii. 104, 105, 157, 166.  
*Assu*, danger [*recte*, to want, to require], iii. 450.  
*Astaither*, assigned or confirmed to, iii. 513.  
*Astha*, deficient, iii. 497.  
*At*, a hat, an ornamental covering for the head (see *Righ Barr*), cf. Eng. *Hat*, Germ. *Hut*, Old Norse *Hötr*, i. cccxv; iii. 209.  
*Atball*, to suffer or fall, iii. 493.  
*Atchisiu*, I perceive, iii. 446.  
*Atcomren*, he pays, iii. 499.  
*Atcota*, they had, or they possessed, iii. 516.  
*Atguidhetsom*, he vindicates, represents, iii. 515.  
*Athachs*, tenants, but in this place used for such persons as performed the household service of a noble, or person of rank, i. dclxii.  
*Athchanaidh* (a reciter), a class of poet whose business it was to sing to the instruments played upon by another, iii. 353.  
*Athchardes*, hostility, iii. 454.  
*Athgabail*, a second or counter distress; the Withernam of the Anglo-Saxons, i. cclxxxv.  
 „ *Imbleogain*, a counter distress levied on a kinsman, i. cccxi.  
*Athigmith*, glorifying, iii. 428.

- Ath Solus*, ford of light, or ford at which a signal light was burned, i. cccxviii.
- Ath-urnaide*, the nurturer or sponsor of a suit or pleading, probably the true origin of "Attorney", iii. 474.
- Atlendai*, to injure, to diminish, iii. 514.
- Atlu*, reproach, insult, iii. 514.
- Atndamait*, they concede, iii. 491.
- Atod*, long [space of time], iii. 430.
- Atracht*, arose [or did rise], iii. 444.
- Atraigstar*, they rose up, iii. 452.
- Att*, swelling, iii. 448.
- Auchuimíuch n-oir*, ear-clasps of gold, iii. 146-7, 185, 186.
- Aue*, a grandson, iii. 495, 548.
- Aurcrait*, to diminish.
- Au-Nasc, U-Nasc*, an ear-ring, "a ring for the ear, that is, a ring of gold which is worn upon the fingers or in the ears of the sons of the free or noble families", *Cor. Glossary*, iii. 185-6.
- Aurrach, Eirrech, Errech*, an extraordinary levy, iii. 507.
- Aurscartadh*, carving [or ornamentation], iii. 29, 30.
- Aurslon*, the breast of a mantle [rects, a fastening in the breast or opening of a mantle], iii. 150.
- Baar*, top or head, i. cccxvii.
- Bacanaig*, hobgoblins, ii. 301.
- Baccan*, a crook, etc., iii. 219, 220.
- Bachall*, a bishop's crozier, i. cclxxxix.
- Badsta*, now at once, forthwith, iii. 452, 456.
- Badb*, a raven, a vulture; *Fors n-gera in badb*, over which the raven will croak, iii. 422.
- Badhba*, conspicuous, iii. 58.
- Baegul*, unguarded: *uair baeguil*, an unguarded moment, iii. 450.
- Bai*, nom. plu. and gen. sing. of *Bó*, a cow, iii. 498, 501.
- Baí Braise*, sudden death, ii. 372.
- Baidhbhi*, gen. of *Baadh*; *Baidhbhi belderg*, of the red-mouthed vulture, *Badbh* is properly speaking a raven, or carrion crow, but here it must be a vulture, iii. 454.
- Bhaiceirdset* [same as *Focherdsat*], they threw, iii. 438.
- Baile*, the equivalent of the Latin *Pagus*, i. lxxxi.
- Baile Biatach*, the *Baile* of the vic-tualler or steward, i. xci, xciii. cliii, cc.
- Baile Maoir*, steward's town, i. cliii.
- " *an gabhainn*, smith's town, i. ccvii.
- " *na cerd*, the town of the *Cerd* or worker in precious metals, i. ccvii.
- Bairchi, i. Sliabh Bairche*, i.e. a mountain, iii. 432.
- Bairgin*, or *Bairghin*, a cake or loaf of bread, *Bairgin Indruic*, a full household cake or loaf, *Bairgin Banfhúine*, a loaf or cake sufficient for one woman's meal, *Bairgin Ferfhúine*, a cake or loaf sufficient for a man's meal, i. cxlii, ccclix, ccclxiv, ccclxvi, iii. 31, 481, 512.
- Ballyboe*, a division of land, i. lxxxix.
- Ban amus*, wives of mercenaries [mercenary women], iii. 504.
- Bananaig, Bananachs*, iii. 424, 425, 449, 450.
- Ban-ghresa*, woman's work, ii. 133.
- Banna*, a drop; it was also the name of one of the six cupbearers of *Coinaire Mór*, monarch of Eriu, iii. 144.
- Bansidhe, Bensidhe*, fairy women, ii. 131, iii. 381, 382, 383.
- Barc*, a bond or hostage (?) i. dexti.
- Barfísa*, will be fought, iii. 458.
- Barr*, a mind, diadem, or crest, iii. 202, 209, 200. *Cathbarr, Cenn Barr, Cleitme, Eo Barr*, all different names for a covering or ornament for the head, iii. 209, etc.
- Barr Bruinn, Bruinn's* [golden] diadem, iii. 199 to 202; a square cap like the old French Berret, and Spanish Barrete, i. cccxvii.
- Barra Buadh*, the name of the instrument with which *Fínd Mac Cumhaill* called out his troops for war or for the chase; it is a corrupt form of the ancient word *Benn-Buabhaill*, or Buffalo-horn or trumpet, iii. 305.
- Barréd*, a warm covering for the head, worn chiefly by women, i. cccxcvi.
- Bassab*, low drinking bowls or basins. The English word "basin", contains the same root, iii. 478.
- Basschaire-na n-ech*, tramping of the horses, iii. 426.
- Basslethna*, wide-hoofed, iii. 428.
- Beanna Flatha*, horns of a *Flath* [of sovereignty], iii. 502.
- Bean Comorba*, a co-heiress, i. cxix.
- Beanchara*, a female friend, i. dcxliiii.



- Becc*, small; abl. pl., *Beccaib* [with small things], iii. 497.
- Bedgaig*, prancing, iii. 428.
- Beim co famus*, [the subducing blow] cutting off his opponent's hair with his sword, ii. 372.
- Beirn*, a boat, *Beirn-Brócc*, boat-shaped shoes, i. cccxcviii.
- Bellec ór*, *Beilge oir*, bridle bits of gold, iii. 219, 220.
- Bellgídh oir*, bridle bits of gold, iii. 157-8.
- Belra formend*, stammering speech, iii. 145.
- Bemmim*, a stroke, a blow, iii. 507.
- Ben baid*, a lewd woman, Cf. Eng. *bawd*, iii. 448.
- Benn*, a horn, iii. 305.
- Benn-crot*, a pinnacled (or triangular) *cruit*; a *timpan*, iii. 305, 306.
- Benn Buabhail*, a buffalo [or wild ox] horn, compounded of *Benn*, a horn, and *Buabhail*, gen. of *Buaball*, a buffalo, a musical instrument so called, iii. 305.
- Beo caindel*, a living candle, i.e. positive evidence for the defence, i. cclxxix.
- Beochride*, lively-hearted, iii. 428.
- Beolegud*, living deposits, i.e. witnesses, i. xcii.
- Beoil*, ale [lard, drawn butter, etc.] i. dcccix; iii. 118.
- Beolo Crot*, mouths of harps, iii. 217.
- Beor Lochlanach*, "Norse beer", or popularly "Danish beer", i. cclxxviii.
- Berla Feine*, technical law [language of the *Fenechas*], ii. 25.
- Berra Airechta*, decisions of a court, i. cclxviii.
- Berrach*, a junior barrister, i. cclxxiv.
- Berrath*, i.e. *mullach a cinn*; *Berrath*, that is the top of the head, iii. 107.
- Berrbrocc*, an apron, nearly corresponding to the modern petticoat called a kilt; the term appears to have been also applied to a part of a suit of skirted armour, the *Vorderschurz* of the Germans, and the large *Brayette* of the French. Cf. Gaulish *Braccas* or *Bracae*, i. cclxxxiii, cclxxiv, cccclxxiv; iii. 147-8, 149, 183.
- Bes Tigi*, house tribute or rent in kind paid to a *Flath* by his free or *Saer Ceili*; the *Gwes-Tva* or rent of Welsh tenants; cf. also Welsh *Gwaesav*, i. cxiii, cxl, cxlii, cccxvii; iii. 478.
- Bhothais*, the right of having *Bothachs* or cottier tenants, iii. 494. See *Both* and *Bothach*.
- Biad Prointige*, refectory commons, cf. Latin *Prandium*, i. cccclxviii.
- Biadhadh naircenncaí*, *Biathadh naircenn*, a fixed rent in provisions paid to a *Flath* by his bond or *Daer Ceili*, iii. 494, 498.
- Bial*, a bill-hook, billet-axe, or hatchet, i. exci, cccxi; iii. 486.
- Bian n-erb*, [snow-white] roebuck skins, iii. 220, 221.
- Biata congála*, supplies of food for a convocation, etc., iii. 519.
- Biatad*, the food-supplies which formed part of the rent of *Daer Ceili*, i. cxii., cxliv, cexl, dclxii.
- Biatha*, a rent in kind paid to the *Flath* by his bond or *Daer Ceili*, iii. 471.
- Biattaig*, purveyors, iii. 438, 442.
- Bil*, a rim (as *bil na sceithe*, the rim of the shield), iii. 456.
- Bille*, bosses [small cups or dishes], iii. 104, 105.
- Binidean*, the same as *Binit*, and perhaps the same as the colour called *Bindean*, which was probably produced from the flowers of *Galium verum* i. ccccii.
- Binnit*, *Binnet*, rennet, a name also apparently given to the *Galium verum*, or bed straw, i. cccclxviii, ccccii.
- Bir*, (an iron) spit or spear, a lance, i. ccccxxxii; ii. 313; a lance [a spit, a skewer], 348; a stake, iii. 432.
- Birit*, a sow, iii. 486.
- Birur*, watercress, i. cccclxvi; iii. 151, 250.
- Bith*, constant (vide *bolc*, etc.), and ii. 133.
- Blad*, fame, iii. 442.
- Bladmar*, renowned, iii. 418.
- Blai*, a fence, a legal boundary, i. clxxxii.
- Blatnig*, famed, iii. 418.
- Blath n-én n-éte gnaith*, a bird plume of the usual feather, i. cccclxxxii.
- Blathach*, buttermilk, iii. 478.
- Bleith*, the costs of a distress, i. exci.
- Blenarda*, high-flanked, iii. 428.
- Blethach*, the same as *Bocaire*, which see.
- Blonoc*, lard, i. dclx.



d for *do*; "*acas bo srethi*", as a "*Cranntabail uadh*" and he cast at him a stone his *Cranntabail* (sling), *iii.*

, a man who has a habitation  
ee farm lands sufficient to  
ain ten or more cows, etc.,  
9.

teasing [combing of wool]  
5.

*ig*, see *Bacanaig*, *iii.* 424,

an oatmeal cake, baked by  
supported in an upright posi-  
before the fire, *i.* cccxlv.

*uib*, *Bó slabraí*, *Seds* of, see  
*n Sed*, *iii.* 480.

*lfer*, *i.e.* *fogebsa*, *i.e.* will be  
(plied) against me, *iii.* 446.

habitation or house, *i.* lxxviii

*th fáithe*, a cow-keeper,  
n who keeps or cares cows  
the grass land of his (*Selb*)

l.

vultures, *iii.* 143.

*thgabala*, a rate in aid of a  
vied to meet the requisition

officer for the relief of the  
*iii.* 519.

*h Laighen*, the cow-tribute  
nster, *i.* xxxiii; *iii.* 313.

*Bith-Thellaigh*, bellows, son  
stant fireplace, *ii.* 133.

bag or belly, *iii.* 217.

, whale-bellied, *iii.* 428.

a small drinking vessel, cf.  
rse *Bolli*, a bowl, Ang. Sax.

, German *Bolle*, English  
*i.* cccvi; *iii.* 152.

*a, Borhuma*, gen. of *Boireamh*,  
he cow tribute". See *Brian*

*ma.*

*ra*, well bred cows, *iii.* 480,

cabin or shed, *i.* cxv.

, a cottier, corresponding to  
*lordarius*, *Cottarius*, and *Co-*

*is* of Domesday Book. See  
*i.* cxv, clxxxvi.

the modern name of a *Both*  
in, cf. the "Bothy" of Scot-

*i.* cxv.

*h*, a cow-house, *i.* cxxv.

*r*, a fat ox, cf. German *Thier*,  
*xv.*

*Braccas*, a tartan-like trou-  
*i.* cccxci.

gen. *Braich*, or *Bracha*, malt ;

cf. Welsh and Cornish *Brag*,  
whence. Welsh *Bragaud*, old Eng-  
lish *Bragot*, modern English  
*Bracket*, a kind of sweet ale, cf.  
also *Braga*, Russian white beer, *i.*  
cxli, ccxxxviii, cccclxxiii, dextlii.

*Brachail*, a Bellona, *iii.* 418.

*Braid*, plunder, *i.* cciv.

*Brandabh*, *Erandub*, *Bronnaib*,  
draughts, backgammon, or some  
similar game, *ii.* 359; *iii.* 366.

*Brandub*, a draughtboard, *iii.* 360.

*Brat*, a plaid or cloak, corresponding  
in some measure to the Roman  
*Sagum*, *i.* cccclxxxiii, cccclxxxviii.

" *corcra cortharach*, a crimson  
deep-bordered cloak. [a bordered  
purple cloak], *iii.* 179.

" *posta*, a marriage cloak, veil, or  
cloth, *i.* clxxv.

*Brath*=*Brach*, which see.

*Breacan mac Ban-ghresa*, blanket,  
son of woman's work, *ii.* 133.

*Breac-glas*, green or gray-spotted  
cloth, *iii.* 113.

*Breacan, Breccan*, a blanket, pro-  
perly any tartan like woollen cloth,  
*ii.* 133.

*Brec dergúhir sion*, more red-tinged  
than the fox-glove, *iii.* 140, 141.

*Breacadh*, colouring, *iii.* 115.

*Breeste gairid*, short or knee breeches,  
*i.* cccclxxxv.

*Bregda*, *i.e.*, an *Bricin*, that is, thread  
of various colours [for embroidery],  
*iii.* 183.

*Breid sida*, a silk handkerchief, *iii.*  
114.

*Breisénnéach*, tinkling [of the helmet],  
*iii.* 426.

*Breitheamnastair*, "judicavit", *i.*  
cclxxv.

*Brepnib oir*, with chains of gold, *iii.*  
159.

*Bretha Fír Coire*, "judgments of  
true calling", judgments obtained  
by *Crancur* or lot, as in the case of  
persons claiming to be members of  
a *Fine*, *i.* cliv, clxvi.

*Bretha Chreidne*, the judgments of  
*Creidne*, *iii.* 210.

*Bretha Neimidh*, laws of privileges,  
*ii.* 172. *Bretha Neimidh*, rules  
and precedents of the courts of  
*Neimids*, *i.* cclxiii.

*Brethem*, no *Dobeir*, judges or givers,  
—those who gave the *Berra*  
*Airechta* or decisions of the king's  
court; they were the same as those

- called dispensers of justice, and were judges of inferior rank to the presiding judges, *i.* cclxviii, cclxxii, cclxxiv.
- Bretheman*, a Brehon or judge, *i.* cclxiv.
- Bretnas*, pl. *Bretnassa*, dat. pl. *Bretnassaib*, a brooch [a large headed pin], *iii.* 110, 139, 140, 159, 163, 164, 180, 188.
- Briatharchath Ban Uladh*, the battle speeches [wordy war] of the women of Ulster, *iii.* 21.
- Bricin*, see *Brigda*.
- Brichtu*, charms, *iii.* 526, 527.
- Brisidh*, to break, put for killed here, *ii.* 293.
- Briseadh grisaig*, breaking of cinders, a peculiar legal process of punishment, *i.* cclxxviii.
- Bró*, a quern or hand-mill, *i.* cclcx.
- Brocc*, a shoe [a living word], *Brocca cred-uma*, shoes of red bronze, *i.* cccxcvii; *iii.* 219, 220. *Brócc aile*, a thong-stitched shoe, sometimes made of horse-skin, *i.* cccxcviii.
- Brod muc feneda*, a roast pig [from *Brod*, a spit, *muc* a pig, and *finedh*, to roast or cook], *i.* lxxxvi. See also Proc. R. I. A., Irish MS. Series I., p. 178.
- Broen*, a drop, *iii.* 144.
- Broga croicne capuil*, horse-skin shoes, *i.* dcxl.
- Broit*, pl. of *Brod*, a goad, a spit.
- Broit creduma*, goads of red bronze, *iii.* 183.
- Brontar*, is damaged [worn or broken], *iii.* 489.
- Brosnacha*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Sai*, *ii.* 171.
- Brot*, a yoke (a goad), *iii.* 479.
- Brotha*, small casks or barrels, *i.* cccxvi, cccxix, cccxxi.
- Brotha* [gen. of *broth*, passion], *brotha*, passionate, *iii.* 221.
- Brothachs* [recte, *Brothrachs*], woollen blankets, etc., *i.* cccxlii.
- Brothgha*, cloak-brooches, *iii.* 157.
- Brothrach*, pl. *Brothracha*, couches, [blankets, etc.], *i.* cccxix; *iii.* 28.
- Brú*, the breast [womb], *iii.* 462.
- Bruar*, dregs, *iii.* 522.
- Brugad*, *Brugaid*, *Brughaidh*. See *Brugh-Fer*, *i.* ccxliv; *ii.* 31, 368; *iii.* 503.
- Brugh*, the residence of a *Brughfer*, where elections were held, and around which grew the borough town, cf. Goth. *Baurgs*, A. Sax. *Burh*, O. Norse, *Burshap*, right of citizenship, *Bursprak*, a place of assembly, *i.* clx, clxi.
- "*Bhaile*, the township of a *Brugh*, corresponding probably to the districts called *Burhs*, *i.* cccxxviii.
- "*fer*, the man of the *Brugh*, a local magistrate having jurisdiction in all disputes concerning trespass of land, pasturage, tillage, forestry, and all other agricultural matters, cf. Welsh *Breyr*, *i.* cccxlix.
- Brugh Recht*, *Brugh-law*, or law of the court of the *Brughfer*, the "Bir-law" of Scotland, *i.* ccl, cclxxi.
- Bruidhes*, he eats, *iii.* 522.
- Bruid-gine*, the gnashing of the mouth *ii.* 372.
- Bruindfíne*, the womb-sons and daughters of heresses, or daughters of the *Gradh Fine*. From *Bruind*, the womb, *i.* clxiii.
- Bruine*, the neck and breast, corresponding to the Greek *θώραξ*, a hauberk or shirt of mail; cf. Irish *Brú* and *Bruind*, the womb, Old French *Broigne*, *Brunie* Provençal *Bronha*, Medieval Latin *Brugna*, Gothic *Brunjo*, O. High German, *Brunne*, A. Sax. *Byrne*, Old Sax. *Brunjo*, O. Norse *Brynja*, Old Slavonic, *Brynja*, *i.* cccclxxxiii, cccclxxiv.
- Bruine*, a goad:—*Bruine dī derg ór in a lam dia tarcellad a eóchu*, i.e., "a goad of red gold in his hand by which he urged his horses", *ii.* 187.
- Bruth*, broth, *i.* cccxlviii; *iii.* 485.
- Buabhall*, a buffalo or wild ox, *iii.* 305.
- Buafad*, venom, *iii.* 418.
- Buagellaigh*, cow keepers, etc., *iii.* 77.
- Buafneach*, venomed, or poisonous, vide *gae buafneach*, "the venomed spear", *ii.* 205, 324; *iii.* 197.
- \* *Buaille*, a cow keeper or bawn, *ii.* 344.
- Buanadh*, permanent soldiers of the kings of Eriu (the *Fianna Éireann*), *ii.* 379.
- Buccanaig*, see *Bacanaig*, *iii.* 424.
- Budne*, or *Buinne*, a twisted or corded ring, bracelet, or circle, formed out of one twisted bar or several strands of gold or silver: a helix or spiral coil used by ladies for confining the hair. Also twisted



- rings worn on the hands or fingers by ladies and warriors, see *Failgi*, i. ccccvii; iii. 168, 170, 172, 188.
- Bugherane*, bog-bean or buck-bean, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, i. ccccv.
- Buiden*, a battalion of seven hundred men, iii. 502.
- Buidhechair*, i. e. the *Buidhe Conaill*, or "yellow disease", which ravaged Erin, etc., in the time of Diarmait and Blathmach, A.D. 664, ii. 91.
- Buinde do at*, or *Bunne do at*, a wavy or twisted ring worn around the waist, iii. 176, 177, 174, 157.
- Buine*, *Buinde*, or *Buinne*, a horn trumpet: *Roboi buinne fochosmilius n-adarcæ side*, there was a cornet horn, it was in the shape of a horn:—(*Zeuss*, vol. i., p. 481); a *n-galther isind buinnu*, no *croit*, quod canitur tibia vel crotta, what is chaunted on the tibia or the harp (*Zeuss*, vol. i., p. 77), a pipe or tube. Cf. Latin *Buccina*, Romance *Buisine*, i. dxxx; iii. 306, 329, 367.
- Buinne* (*m-buinne*), rings, iii. 414.
- Buinne*, pipes, iii. 217.
- Buinire*, *Buinnire*, *Bunaire*, the professional name of a musician who performed on the *Buine*, or *Buinne*, or tube, i. dxxi; iii. 367.
- Buindi*, rings, see *Fail*.
- Burdoon*, from the French *Bourdon*, not the *Burden* or refrain of a song, but a species of *Faux Bourdon*, in which three or more voices took part in the singing, i. devii.
- Cacc* for a *enech*, to be foul his honour (or face), iii. 493.
- Cachae*, each or every one, iii. 494.
- Cach nae*, everything, iii. 488.
- Cadhas*, honour, iii. 281.
- Cadesin*, same as *Fodesin*, he himself, his own, iii. 510.
- Cadhoin*, wild-geese, iii. 367.
- Caelana*, sausages, see *Forgaib*, iii. 104, 105, 482. *Caelana Tona*, bottom or belly-pudding, the same as *Mucruicht*, i. ccclix.
- Caer-clis*, a sling-ball, a missive ball, see *Tathlum*, ii. 253, 252, 288, 289, 294.
- Caer Comraic*, "a ball of convergent ribs or lines", a mosaic *Caerclis* so called, ii. 253.
- Cai*, "coshering", i. cxl.
- Cai Astuda*, means of fastening, iii. 253.
- Caich*, gen. of *cach* or *cách*, each, all, or every one, iii. 492.
- Caichen do da Naill*, testifiers of two oaths—the *Toings* or oathmen of the plaintiff, and the compurgators of the defendant, i. cclxvii.
- Caile*, chalk, i. cccclxx.
- Cailches*, tufts (or tassels), iii. 202.
- Caille*, a veil, cf. German *Hulla*, i. cccxciv; iii. 113, 114.
- Caimsi*, a loose blouse or smock-frock reaching to the knees, and sometimes to the middle of the calves of the legs. From the middle Latin *Camisia*, i. cccclxxxii.
- Cain*, statute law; also a tribute, or booty seized as a legal fine, cf. Anglo-Saxon *Cyne* in *Cyne-bot*, the king's share of legal fines, i. cccxxiv, cclii, cclxxii, cclxxxii, cccxx.
- Cain Breathach*, of mild judgments, ii. 21.
- Cain Comithe acas comgaite*, law of co-eating and co-stealing, i. cciv, cclxxvii.
- Cain*, *Cormaic*, "Cormac's law", a name given to "the twelve books of laws which Amergin compiled for the men of West Munster, the laws were called *Cain Cormaic*, or the laws of Cormac, at the instance of Cormac, the owner or chief, of the plain of *Fuithrim*, between the Lake of Killarney and the Mangerton Mountain in the county of Kerry, i. cclxxii; ii. 32, iii. 466.
- Cain Domnaig*, "Sunday law", ii. 32, 33. This law brought from Rome by St. Conall, son of Caelan, founder of the ancient church of Inis Cail (now Iniskeel), near the mouth of the Gweebarra bay, barony of Boylagh, county Donegal, was not promulgated for about a century after the death of St. Conall (circa 594?). Imperfect copies of this most curious tract are preserved in *Leab. Breac*, R.I.A., Yellow Book of Lecan, (class H. 2, 16, T. C. D.). A perfect copy in MS. Harleian, 5280, British Museum, and a copy from the latter in the O'Curry MSS., C.U.D.
- Cain Fenechas*, law of the *Fines*. The whole of the laws, both common and statute, by which ancient



- Irish society was regulated, was called by this name, *i. cclxxii*; it also sometimes means the law of occupancy of land, see *iii. 472*.
- Cain Fuithrime*, see *Cain Cormaic*.
- Cain urrudhas*, customary or customary laws of the several tribes, or of the provinces, *iii. 472*.
- Caindelbrai*, *Caindelbra*, a candle-brum, *iii. 486*.
- Cainne*, *Cainnin*, *Cainnenn*, or *Cainnind*, onions (leeks) or some such thing, *iii. 478, 483*; vide *Fircainnind*, *iii. 104, 105*.
- Caimill*, a candle, *iii. 246*.
- Cainthech*, malicious, *iii. 452*.
- Cair*, a festival, see *Forgaib*.
- Cair*, quære (or where), *iii. 490*.
- Cairced*, doubling [repetition or resonance], *iii. 363*.
- Cairda* [recte *Cairde*] interterritorial laws and contracts, etc., *i. cxlii*.
- Cairde*, peace, friendship, amity, an interterritorial treaty or compact, [of peace and amity]; *i. cxlii, iii. 472, 505*.
- Cairddi*, friendship, *iii. 496*.
- Caire*, a cauldron or boiler, also a vessel for preserving meat, *i. cclcxix, dclxii*; *iii. 485, 495, 500*.
- „ *umae*, a brouze boiler in which cooked meats were always kept in readiness, *i. cclcxix*.
- „ *cuic dorn*, a five-fist cauldron, *i. dclxxxix*.
- „ *colbthaige*, the meat-boiler of a *Brugh*, so called on account of its being large enough to contain or boil a *Colbthach* or heifer, *i. ccccxxxii*.
- „ *fognuma*, a serving pot (vessel), *iii. 485*.
- Caireaman*, a shoemaker, *i. cii*.
- Cairi*, see *Caire*.
- Cairte Dearg*, the "red stone",—the stone under which king Dathi was buried in *Relig-na-Righ*.
- Caisel*, *Caiseal*, an encircling stone wall, a stone building, a castle, *i. ccxiv*; *iii. 14, 15, 16, 34*.
- Caisleoir*, a caiseal-builder, *iii. 14, 73, 79*.
- Cathair*, now *Cahir*, a chair or seat; a circular wall of dry masonry, a stone fort. The British "Caer", the Latin "Castrum", and the English "castle", *iii. 4, 5, 68*.
- Cathair Ataig*, a bishop's seat, *i. clvi*.
- Calad-Bolg* (the hard bulging), the sword of *Leite*, *ii. 320*.
- Calaind*, Kalends, *iii. 498*.
- Calaraigh*, sites of ancient churches and burial grounds, *iii. 71*.
- Caná*, plural of *Cain*, which see.
- Canach*, a general term for moss and other mountain and marsh plants, but specially applied to the *Hypnum cupressiforme*, used for dyeing, *i. cccci*.
- Canach Sleibe*, cotton of the mountain, the *Eriophorum polystachion* or common Cotton grass, *iii. 144, 145*.
- Canale*, a canal, the *cuisle* or tube sometimes so called, *iii. 326*.
- Cantana*, incantations, *iii. 526, 527*.
- Canticum*, *Canticum Psalmi*, *Canticum Psalmus*, musical terms, *iii. 239*.
- Caogdach*, "fifty-man", the title of the lowest professor in a great public school, *iii. 84*.
- Caomdai*, beds, compartments, *iii. 480*.
- Caomhluighe*, or *Comhluighe*, a corrupt form of *cobluighe*, which see, *iii. 252*.
- Cap*, a bier or car, *i. cccclxxv*.
- Capall*, a horse, *i. cccclxxv*.
- Capell-lands*, or horse lands, *i. xcii, cliii*.
- Carcair na n-giall*, the prison of the hostages at Tara, *ii. 16*.
- Cardda*, obdurate, *iii. 422*.
- Carrmocaill*, gen. of *Carmogal*, *Carrmogul*, carbuncles, *iii. 14, 444*; *Carrmogul corcraí*, crimson carbuncles, *iii. 190*.
- Carpat cethri secht cumal*, a chariot worth four times seven *Cumals*, *iii. 414*.
- Carr*, a cart, or car, *i. cccclxxvi*; *iii. 508*.
- Carr sliumain*, a sliding car, cf. German *Schleife*, *i. cccclxxvi*.
- Carn*, a pile of stones made by each of a party going to a battle depositing a stone; each of the survivors afterwards taking away his stone; so that the number of stones that remained represented the number slain. The *Carn* was also piled over a grave, *i. cccxxxv*.
- „ *cinn Cúrb*, the carn of *Cúrb's* head, *i. cccxxxvii*.
- „ *an aen Fir*, the one man's *Carn*, *i. cccxxxvii*.
- Carra* (i.e. *carraic*), a rock, *i. cxxi*.
- Cassán*, a brooch, *iii. 95, 100*.
- Casriandaib*, a certain description of beasts of burden, *iii. 330*.

- Cath*, war, battle, *i.* ccccxli, ccccxlviii; a battalion (3,000 men), *ii.* 381.
- Cath Barr*, a war hat or helmet, *i.* cccxcv.
- Cath Carpat Serda*, a scythed war chariot, *i.* cccclxxxii.
- Cathach* (book) of battles, shrine of St. Colum Cille's copy of the gospels so called, see *ii.* 163.
- Cathbar*, a helmet, *iii.* 167, 194, 202, 209, 426. See *Barr*.
- Catherriud*, a battle-suit, *iii.* 444.
- Cath-Mhiledh*, a champion (or commander) over a battalion, *i.* cclxiv, *ii.* 138.
- Cath cro*, a gory battle, *iii.* 462.
- Cathroi*, a battle-field, *iii.* 436.
- Catad*, hardened, *iii.* 422.
- Cateatside*, what, or who, are they? *iii.* 492.
- Caur* [same as *Curad*], a hero, *iii.* 446.
- Ceann-Barr*, a covering or ornament for the head (a crest or diadem), *iii.* 209.
- Ceann feadhna-cead*, the captain of an hundred men, *ii.* 381.
- Ceann-Corca*, crimson-headed [flowers], *i.* dclxliii.
- Ceardecha*, a forge, *i.* ccccxv.
- Ceasnaidhean*, enchanted sleep, [child-birth, pains or debility], *ii.* 319.
- Ceathramadh maoir*, the *Maer's* or steward's quarter, *i.* cliii.
- Cechtirnaei*, each or every one of them, *iii.* 509.
- Céd Couche*, the bridal gift at the first marriage of a woman, *i.* clxxiv.
- Ceile*, a client or vassal, a tenant, *i.* xcvi; *ii.* 34, 37; *iii.* 493, 494.
- Ceile Coem* [*í* *echtai*], an espoused wife, *iii.* 500.
- Ceilsine*, submission, allegiance, tenancy, *i.* clxxxv, cclxxxviii, cclxviii; *ii.* 34; *iii.* 502.
- Cew*, a merle-hen, *iii.* 357.
- Ceirtle gela*, balls of white bleached thread, *iii.* 116.
- Ceis*, a tune, vide *Ceis cendtoll*, *iii.* 243, 254; a condensation of the two words *Cai Astuda*, means of fastening, 253; or a path to the knowledge of the music; or *Ceis* is the name of a small *Cruit* which accompanies a large *Cruit* in co-playing; or it is the name of the little pin (or key) which retains the string in the wood of the *Cruit*; or [it is the name of] the *Coblúigi* [the two strings called the sisters]; or it is the name of the heavy string [for bass]; or the *Ceis* in the *Cruit* is what keeps the counterpart with its strings in it, etc. (*Leabhar na h-Uidhre*), *iii.* 248, 250, 253, etc.; or the name of the small *Cruit* which accompanied a large *Cruit* at playing upon; or the name of a nail on which the strings called *Lethrind* were fastened; or the name of the little pin; or the name of the strings called the *Coblúighe* (or sisters); or the name of the heavy string (*Liber. Hymnorum*), *iii.* 251, 253, etc.
- Ceis cendtoll*, a head sleeping, or debilitating *Ceis* or tune, *iii.* 254.
- Ceiss*, some kind of vessel, *i.* cclxxviii.
- Cend-barr*, or *Cenn-barr*, a helmet or cap, *iii.* 174, 209.
- Cenbert*, a hat or helmet, *i.* cxv.
- Cennbair*, head pieces, *iii.* 158.
- Cendfeadhna Céd*, a leader of one-hundred, *i.* cclxiv.
- Cengal* (*Fer Cengal*), cognate with the Old French *Ginguer*, to move the feet. See *Fer Cengal*, *i.* dxli.
- Cenud*, *Ceniud*, a conical hood attached to a *Cochall*, *i.* cccxc, cccxi.
- Cenniud find*, a white hood for a mantle or cloak, *iii.* 150.
- Cennas*, (a head gier), a halter (same as *Cennose* and *Cenfhosaidh*, which see *iii.* 482).
- Cennose*, *Cennfhosaidh*, a head-gear, a halter to control the ox at the plough, etc., *iii.* 479.
- Ceó cetamain*, the mist of a May morning [the May mist], *iii.* 141.
- Ceol*, a generic name for music of all kinds, *iii.* 371.
- Ceolán*, pl. *Ceolana*, a tinkling bell or tintinnabulum; also elongated pear-shaped or globular closed bells, the medieval *Crotal*, the French *Grelot*, *i.* dxxvi, dlxxxvii; *iii.* 330, 331, 332.
- Ceolchairecht*, a playing, *iii.* 371.
- Cepóc*, or *Cepóg*, a panegyric, a funeral chorus, see *Aidbs*, *i.* cccxxiv; *iii.* 247, 371.
- Cerd*, a smith who worked in the precious metals, a goldsmith, an artificer, an armourer, *i.* ccelii; *ii.* 322-3, 362; *iii.* 43, 202, 204, 207, 208, 209, 210.



- Cerdan*, the smaller goldsmith, iii. 207.
- Cerdbeg*, the little (or young) goldsmith, iii. 207.
- Cerdraighe*, a tribe of hereditary goldsmiths, iii. 207.
- Certan*, a low and weak species of the lower class of *Cronán*, or purring performance, iii. 375.
- Cesc*, quære, iii. 467, 490.
- Cess*, debility, iii. 4:2.
- Cetamus*, first, firstly, iii. 493.
- Cetal Noith*, "the illustrious narrative"; an ancient grammatical term, the name of an ancient poetic rhythm and measure. It is that to which *Fiacc's* metrical *Life of St. Patrick* is written, ii. 74-5.
- Cetals*, measured addresses or orations, ii. 173.
- Cethardiabail*, four-folding, iii. 106.
- Cethir-rind*, four-peaked (four-speared), iii. 428.
- Cethrai*, quadrupeds,—cows, pigs, sheep, etc., iii. 490.
- Cethraime Arathair*, four essentials of ploughing, iii. 479.
- Cétluth*, to first enjoy (to first lie with), iii. 434.
- Cetmúnter*, *Cetmúntir*, a wife, a virgin wife, iii. 496, 500.
- Cetmúntir dligtech*, a lawful wife, iii. 496.
- Cetmúnterais coir*, proper bridal virginity, iii. 487.
- Cetmúnterus*, espoused wife, [first espousal], iii. 501.
- Charr*, (a *charr*), his spear, iii. 509.
- Chercaill*, (*dag chercaill*) a good pillow, ii. 489.
- Choccertad*, (*do choccertad*) for the government, iii. 506.
- Ciar*, a dull black colour, iii. 133, 134.
- Ciarann*, a beautiful, large, mottled, wild bee, iii. 403.
- Ciar bo docht*, *Ciar bo balb remi sin*, "though he was before that dumb", iii. 327.
- Cig* [*Cing*], a bond (a contract), iii. 434.
- Cilorn*, *Cilurn*, a pitcher with a handle at its side, it was usually made of yew wood, but a *Cilurn umaide*, or bronze *cilurn*, is mentioned (i. dextli), i. cclvi, ccclxviii; iii. 62.
- Ciamhaire*, crying, iii. 223.
- Cimbid*, a victim in the power of a plaintiff, i.e., a nexus when he became addictus, i. cxx, cclxxxv, cccxii, iii. 474.
- Cimidecht*, the condition of a victim, iii. 509.
- Cindas*, springs or did spring, iii. 448.
- Cind Fine*, the children of the senior chief in a family, i. clxiii.
- Cindl*, a race, cf. Welsh *Cenedl* and Greek *Γένος*, i. lxxviii, cxviii.
- Cing*, to progress, to rise above, to come to (or to go), i. cccxxix, iii. 456.
- Cing*, a man who has excelled every *Mal* (prince or king); a man who has progressed above every *Fíle*; it is the name for a man who is ennobled by having been placed above what is ennobled, cf. A.-Sax. *Cyning*, O. H. German *Chuninc*, English, *King*, i. cccxviii.
- Cinntech*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Ch*, ii. 171.
- Cintaib coir Cain*, statutes of appropriate law, iii. 496.
- Cir cathbarr*, a crested helmet, iii. 444.
- Cir Boly*, a combing bag, i. ccclix.
- Circlaib oir acas arcait*, with circlets of gold and of silver, iii. 160, 161.
- Cis*, rent, tribute, i. cccxxxix.
- " *Flatha*, tribute from *Flaths*, i. cccxxviii, cclx.
- " *n-incis*, a special allowance made for the support of superannuated members of a *Fine*, i. clxv.
- Ciste Cranachain*, "a cake of the *Cranachan*", a cake which was baked with the *Cranachan* or three-pronged baking stick, i. cccclxiv.
- Cislir*, how many, iii. 513.
- Cisne*, who are they? iii. 508.
- Cladh Criche*, a territorial boundary, i. cccclxxix, dextl.
- Claide*, earth and clay dug out of a grave, a trench, etc., i. cccxxxx.
- Claidheamh*, a sword, cf. Welsh *Cledyf*, i. cccclxiv; ii. 225, 295. See *Claidem*.
- Claidem*, a sword, cf. Latin *Gladus*, a sword or glaive, i. ccccxviii, ccccliv-vi. *Claidem Mór*, a large sword, the Scotch "claymore", Welsh, *Llawmawr*.
- Claidem corthair*, a border or fringe sword or lath, upon which a border or fringe was woven, iii. 116.
- Claidheamh* a sword, generally flag-



- leaf-shaped and pointed, and invariably double-edged", see *Claidem*, i. ccccxliv; ii. 255, 295.
- Claidibini*, little swords, ii. 301.
- Claidmib*, na *Slata Fige*,—*Claidmib*, that is, the weaving rods, the heddles, iii. 116.
- Claind det*, an ivory-hilted sword, iii. 147-8.
- Clairseach*, a harp, iii. 227, 257, 265.
- Clais*, a cliff, iii. 428.
- Cland*, a sword worn by distinguished warriors as a badge of championship or knighthood, i. ccccliv.
- Cland* or *Clann*, children, a family or house, representing the Latin *Gens*. In its territorial and general sense it comprised all the *Flaths* of a *Tuath* with their respective *Fines*, i. lxxviii, lxxix, clxvii.
- Clanna*, boundary planters, i. clxxxii.
- Clais*, *Clavis*, a choir, iii. 239.
- Cleas-cait*, the cat feat, ii. 372. *Cleas-clatenech*, the feathered dart feat, ii. 372-373. *Cleas for analaibh*, the feat of his breathings, ii. 372.
- Cleasa*, feats, ii. 371.
- Cleith*, a wattle, iii. 487.
- Cleith*, chief or head of a tribe, the highest or best person or thing, i. c; iii. 494.
- Cleithe*, the roof-ridge of a house, iii. 480.
- Cloithiu*, possessions (houses), iii. 484.
- Cleitme*, a *Righ-Barr*, or *At*, a king's radiating helmet or hat, a crest, i. ccccxv, ccccxvi; ii. 209.
- Clera*, a word synonymous with *crioll*. See *crioll*, iii. 117.
- Clesamnai*, jugglers, iii. 509.
- Clesamhnaighe*, jugglers, iii. 336.
- Clesrada ana*, noble feats, iii. 446.
- Clesraidib*, missive weapons, iii. 448.
- Cless*, *Clessamun*, *Clessine*, a juggler, iii. 147.
- Clethe*, prime cattle, iii. 501.
- Cletin*, *Cleitín*, a short little quill spear, i. ccccxxxvi, ccccxlv, ccccxlvi; ii. 301, 303; iii. 436. *Cetine*, Cuchulaind's spear, so called, ii. 298-299.
- Clí*, an order of poets, ii. 171, 217.
- Clíabh Inar*, a body *Inar*, a jerkin, i. cccxxxviii, cccclxxxvi.
- Clíaraidhe*, a *Criollaire*, a man who made bags, bottles, and all such things of leather, iii. 117.
- Clíathain*, neck and breast pieces, see *Forgab*.
- Clíthar-sed*, or king *sed*, see *Sed*, iii. 480.
- Clocc*, a bell, Latin *clocca*. See *Clog*, i. dxxxiv, dxxxv.
- Cloch ind abaind*, the river stone, or sounding flag, near the water's edge, i. cccxviii.
- Cloch uachtair*, the upper stone of the quern, i. cccclx.
- Clochann*, or *Clochán*, as here used means a beehive-shaped hut or house formed of dry masonry, having each stone overlapping the other, and terminating in a single stone, i. cccviii, *et seq.*; iii. 64-75.
- Clog*, gen. sing. and nom. pl. *Cluic*, or *Cluicc*, a bell, iii. 323, 332.
- Cloictech*, gen. *Cloictigi*, the bell house known as a round tower, a belfry, i. dxxxvi; iii. 48, 50, 54.
- Cloin*, a name for the body of a chariot, i. cccclxxxviii.
- Cloth delgg n-ungga*, a gem-set brooch worth an *unga*, iii. 496.
- Clothach*, renowned, illustrious, iii. 514.
- Clothra*, a thing which is heard being shaken, iii. 322.
- Cluas*, the ear, but used here in the sense of the evidence of an ear-witness, i. clxxxvii, clxxxviii.
- Cluas n-glesa*, ear-tuning (of a harp, etc.), iii. 221.
- Cluiche Coentech*, the funeral rite; singing of dirges, and other rites and ceremonies of the dead, i. cccxxiii, cccxxv-vi.
- Cluchi*, a game, iii. 460.
- Cluicine*, *Cluicini*, little bells, i. dxxxv, dxxxvi.
- Cluínim*, I hear (see *Rar cluín*), iii. 426.
- Cnaimh-fhear*, pl. *Cnamhfir*, a bone man, a musical performer on the bones, iii. 313, 367, 544.
- Cnairseach*, probably a sledge or large hammer, i. clvi, cccxx, iii. 488.
- Cneitfem*, we shall fight, iii. 432.
- Cned*, stabs [wounds inflicted by stabs], iii. 440.
- Cnes congna*, a skin protecting armour, made apparently of plates of horn, i. cccclxxv, iii. 420.
- Cnes Lena*, a skin shirt, i.e. a shirt worn next the skin, i. cccclxxxii.
- Cnoc*, in the sense of a tomb or monument of the dead was a round or conical hill or mound raised

- over a grave, i. cccxxix, cccxxxv, dcccxxviii.
- Cobach*, purchase, iii. 414.
- Cobhla*, pl. *Comhluth*, simultaneous motion, [more correctly, lying or stretching together], iii. 251, 252.
- Coblaighe*, or *Cobhluighe*, or *Cobluigi*, the middle strings [the music of] which was called *An-Dord*, adding the negative particle *an* to signify literally *not bass* (see *Andord*), the two strings (of the *Cruit*), called the sisters of the harp, iii. 379; iii. 248-9, (see *Ceis*), 250, 251, 252, 256.
- Cobhlach*, intermediate [notes] tones, etc., iii. 378.
- Cobrad*, *Comraid*, bosses [as of a shield], iii. 436, 446.
- Cocart*, [a servant or villanus, *B.* of *Rights*, p. 200, n.], tenants who gave service in dyeing, etc., and in dye-stuffs, i. cccvii; iii. 119.
- Cochall*, a short cloak or cape, the Gallo-Roman *Cucullus*, sometimes occurring in the combination *Bardo-Cucullus*, cf. English *Cowl*, i. cccxc-ccccxxii; iii. 104, 105, 150, 187, 224.
- Cochle*, a companion, iii. 418.
- Cochlin*, diminutive of *Cochal* or *Cuchul*, pl. *cochlini*,—small hooded capes, which represented the Gallo-Roman *Cucullio*, i. cccxci, ccccxxxiii; iii. 183. *Cochlini gobach*, bill-pointed little cochalls, i. dcl.
- Cochlene dub*, small black mantles, iii. 150. *Cochlene brecca*, little speckled mantles, iii. 147-8.
- Cochne cride*, a heart companion, iii. 432.
- Coemtecht*, companions, iii. 509.
- Choemtecht*, guard, protection, iii. 509.
- Co Festar*, till it has been ascertained, iii. 513.
- Coi d-fis in ciuil*, a path to the knowledge of the music, iii. 253.
- Coi*, passed or went, iii. 506.
- Coibeche*, valuable or rich clothes, personal ornaments, etc., given as a marriage gift, iii. 27, 29, 480; a legal gift which the bridegroom gave to the bride after her marriage, the Welsh *Cowyll*, the German *Morgangaba*, the Norse *Hindradagsgaf*, i. clxxiii, clxxiv.
- Coibsená*, confessions, i. cexl.
- Coicedal*, *Coicetal*, harmony, iii. 215, 255.
- Coicrich*, boundaries, iii. 511.
- Coicrind*, flesh-piercing, flesh-seeking; *Sleg* *coicrindi*, a flesh-seeking spear, iii. 137, 138, 161.
- Coicti*, fifth (fifth day), iii. 477.
- Coictige*, cook-house, iii. 497.
- Coic-ighis*, five houses, iii. 56 [see different meanings of, and mistake about, iii. 54-56].
- Coicroth*, the umbo of a shield, sometimes also a rim, i. ccccxxxviii. *Coicroth oir*, a golden rim, or a golden umbo of a shield, iii. 137, 138.
- Coidiu*, wooden mugs (drinking vessels), iii. 485.
- Coidmiach*, a bucket or peck which contained a *Miach* or sack, iii. 512.
- Coisund*, consumption, iii. 456.
- Coipe* or *Coife*, a simple cap with a *Caille* or veil, i. cccciv.
- Coir*, propriety, iii. 255. *Coir Anmann*, appropriate etymology of names, ii. 11; a tract on the etymology of proper names so called, ii. 237.
- Coir*, tune, or being in tune, iii. 214, 215, 255. *Coir Ceathairchuir*, the name of the great harp of the Tuatha De Danann god, the *Dagda*, iii. 214, 306. [The true meaning of *Coir* when used in a musical sense is key or mode, which is that of its Welsh representative *Cyvoir*. *Coir Ceathairchuir*, the name of the mythical harp of the *Dagda*, meant, consequently, that the harp could be tuned in four keys, and not that it was quadrangular.]
- Coire*, a pot, ii. 133. *Coire mac Cruadghobhann*, pot, son of hardy smith, ii. 133. *Coire sainte*, "pot of avarice", ii. 56. See *Caire*.
- Coirm*, ale, iii. 498. See *Cuirm*.
- Coirte Flatha*, the pillar stone of the *Flath*, i. clxxxvii.
- Coisbert*, covering for the feet, shoes, boots, etc., i. cxv.
- Coisir Chonnachtach*, the banqueting house of the Connaught people at Tara, ii. 15.
- Coitend Fiadnaise*, a disinterested witness, i. cclxxix.
- Colbach*, a heifer, iii. 112.
- Colc*, *Colg*, a sword, i. ccccxxxviii-ix; ii. 243; iii. 246. *Colgdet*, a tooth-hilted or straight-edged sword, ii. 301. *Colg-dets*, ivory-hilted small swords, i. ccccxxxviii, ccccclvi; ii. 303.
- Colúth*, to evade, to shun, ii. 522.



- Colpdach, Colphach*, a heifer three years old, *i.* clxxxiii; *iii.* 475. See *Sed. Colpdach Fíven*, a three year old bull, etc., *iii.* 484.
- Com*, the belly or sound-board [of the harp, the waist], *iii.* 256, 358.
- Comada*, dat. pl. *Comadaibh*, rewards, *iii.* 414, 418.
- Comadas*, fit, becoming, appropriate, *iii.* 496.
- Comae*, to congregate, to contribute to, *iii.* 505.
- Comairce*, safe conduct or protection, which a man was entitled to after he left a house where he had remained on *cai* or *coshering*, *iii.* 513, 576.
- Comairge*, clients (followers), *iii.* 497.
- Comairsem*, we meet, *iii.* 420.
- Comaitacht*, companionship, *iii.* 162, 163.
- Comaití*, neighbours, *i.* cciv. See *Comaitheachs*.
- Comaitheachs, comaitheachs*, co-tenants or copartners, *i.* cxii, cxci.
- Comaitches, Comaitches*, a gild or copartnership, *i.* clix, clxxx, cciv, ccxvi; *Comaitches Comaide*, co-occupancy of *Comaitches*, that is, of copartners, *i.* clxxx, ccxvi.
- Comalta*, stepbrothers (fellow-pupils, etc.), *iii.* 260.
- Comarship*, succession, co-occupancy, *iii.* 483.
- Comardathacha*, emblematic [having devices carved or worked upon them], *iii.* 436.
- Comdasrula*, so that he cast, *iii.* 448.
- Comdiin*, protection, *iii.* 493.
- Comfhaicsestar*, they drew nearer to each other [the contest became closer], *iii.* 448.
- Comgrad*, co-grade, *iii.* 504.
- Comhadhasa*, the *Duthaig* or whole people of a territory, *i.* cxvii, cxviii.
- Comhobair gach ciuil, edon crann glesa*, the instrument of all music, namely, the *Crann-glesa*, or tuning tree, *iii.* 256.
- Comla*, a door; a hole in the upper stone of the quern through which the corn was admitted from the hopper, or from the hand in the hand-quern, *i.* cccxl.
- catha*, "gate of battle", the name of *Celthair Mac Uthaitir's* shield, *i.* cccclxxii; *ii.* 333.
- Comobair na Fige*, all the instruments used in weaving, *iii.* 116.
- Comopair na bairse*, the instrument of the manufacturing woman, namely, the winding bars, the tree upon which she prepares the yarn, the winding reel [bars], *iii.* 116.
- Comopar cach raíthe*, working implements for the work of every quarter of the year, *iii.* 501.
- Comorb, Comarb*, a co-heir, *i.* clxxxi, clxxxiii, cclxxv.
- Comracut*, concentrated, *iii.* 238.
- Comraid*, see *Cobrad*.
- Comthuagach*, curved; *Claideb Comthuagach catha*, a curved sword of battle, *iii.* 446.
- Conagtais*, that they would celebrate, *iii.* 526-7.
- Conairgaile uad*, wards (beats) off from, *iii.* 518.
- Conabath*, died, or did die, *iii.* 526-7.
- Conbba*, disbanded (or broken up), *iii.* 505.
- Conbongar*, is broken, *iii.* 255.
- Condriced*, to contend (to meet or engage with), *iii.* 446.
- Condricim*, we shall encounter, *iii.* 432.
- Concestar*, a house of penitence? *iii.* 46.
- Confe*, recognized or confirmed, *iii.* 514.
- Consted*, a collective or common feast, *i.* cxviii.
- Congan*, pl. *Congna*, a horn, *i.* cccclxxv.
- Conganness, Congan cnessach, Conganchnis*, a skin-protecting armour, a coat of mail probably made of plates of horn, *i.* cccclxxiv; *iii.* 434, 414, 450.
- Congilda*, a partnership for co-grazing, *i.* cciv, ccxvi, ccl, celi. See *Comaitches*.
- Congilt*, co-grazing, *i.* ccxvi.
- Congla, Congelt*, co-grazing, *iii.* 478.
- Co n-inrucus Cleithe*, with the *Inrucus*, worthiness of a chief, *iii.* 501.
- Conit roib*, whether it be, *iii.* 505.
- Conn Conda Secha*, chiefs of kindred, who attended court to give testimony for the members of their *Fine*, to accept the verdict of the court, and give bail for any of them against whom a judgment was registered, *i.* cclxviii.
- Connatacht*, he asked, *iii.* 450.
- Connalbi*, friendship, *iii.* 509.



- Consrenga*, he binds, iii. 491.  
*Contarrisseter*, is bound, iii. 238, 315.  
*Contoiseth*, became silent, iii. 314.  
*Conugud*, overthrow, iii. 430.  
*Cor*, a kind of dance or dance tune, iii. 407, 408.  
*Corcailli*, pillows, iii. 499.  
*Corca*, oats, i. cccxlii.  
*Corcur*, or *Corcar*, a purple colour obtained by the action of ammonia on lichens, chiefly the *Lecanora tartarea* and *L. parella*, i. cccc. The shade of colour is compared to that of the berries of the yew tree. *Corcur buicle* lustrous purple (?); *Corcair maige*, crimson of the plain, i. dclxiii.  
*Corcieh n-Errid*, the champion's salmon-sault or leap, ii. 372.  
*Corn*, a horn, a metallic instrument of music of the trumpet kind, iii. 305, 306, 307, 308, 313, 336, 340, 350. *Corn cael*, a thin or slender horn or tube, a *cram ciuil*, iii. 324, 326.  
*Cornair*, *Cornoir*, a horn-blower, a trumpeter, iii. 219, 306, 307, 308, 311, 312, 313, 367, 382, 509.  
*Cornair*, a great horn-blower, a professional name for a musician, iii. 367.  
*Cornaireadha*, trumpeters, iii. 336.  
*Corn-Buabhaill*, a drinking cup or drinking horn, not a musical instrument, iii. 305.  
*Corniu*, garlands, etc., iii. 104-5.  
*Corp*, until, iii. 490. *Corp Dír*, a fine paid to a person for bodily injury done to himself, i. cxviii, cxxviii, clxxvii, cxcii, iii. 477.  
*Corr*, the cross tree, or harmonic curve [of the harp], iii. 256, 258.  
*Corthair* a border or fringe, dat. plural *Corthoraib*, iii. 113, 116.  
*Corus*, right, appropriate, iii. 498. *Corus a airlis*, the proper extent of his yard, iii. 488. *Corus biata*, prescribed lawful maintenance, iii. 502. *Corus Cronain*, a scientific purring chorus, iii. 245. *Corus dligid*, according to (established) law, iii. 501. *Corus othrusa*, the laws providing for the maintenance, care, and medical attendance of the sick and wounded, iii. 476. *Corus Tincur*, proper or lawful furniture, iii. 499. *Corus Tuatha*, the true knowledge of the rank, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the various grades of a *Tuath*, or people of a territory, iii. 476.  
*Corughadh*, putting in tune or order [the tuning of a harp or other musical instrument], iii. 214, 215.  
*Coselastar*, i.e. *do rat*, that cast or threw [that set, or put, or that gave], iii. 249.  
*Cosnum*, opposition, contention, iii. 501.  
*Cot*, or *Cotha*, an enclosure; a place set apart at *Aenachs* for women called *Cota na m-Ban*. The French *Coterie* is obviously related to this word. The word is also cognate with the English *cot*, *cottage*, etc., and with the *cotarius* and *cotarellus* of Domesday Book, the *Cotsellas* and the German *Kothsass*, *Erb*, and *Mark-Kotter*. The *Cot* was apparently the enclosed land upon which a *Both* was erected, so that *Bothach* was the same as *Cottier*, as is shown by the name *Coitindhe chill inghine Baoith*, applied to the commons of Killinaboy in the county of Clare, from its villages of *Coitins* or cottagers, cabins. These cottagers were freeholders, possessing *Cots* on the commons of Killinaboy, who earned a livelihood as day-labourers until they were starved out by want of employment during the famine of 1847-8-9, and the misery and disease that followed. The Forty-shilling Freeholders, whose rights were unjustly swept away in 1829, like those of the higher classes of freeholders and copyholders at an earlier period, were *Saer Bothachs* or free *Cottini*, i. cxvi, cclvi, iii. *Cotarsunn*, with condiments, iii. 498.  
*Craebh ciuil*, a musical branch, i. dxxxvi-vii viii; iii. 313, 317, 318.  
*Craebhaigh*, branchy, [a branch, or tree cutter], ii. 133.  
*Craebh-Dearg*, red branch, i. cccxxxvii; ii. 332.  
*Craebh ruadh*, red branch, one of the Royal Houses of Emania, ii. 9, 10, 332; iii. 453.  
*Craes*, mouth, vide *Craeslainaidh*, ii. 133.  
*Craisech*, a broad-blade spear, with an oval, not a pointed end (a *Firbolg* weapon), i. cccxxxvii, cccxxxviii, cccclvi; ii. 235, 241, 243, 255, 262, 295, 344, 345. *Craisecha crannrem-*

- ra catha*, thick-handled battle *Craisechs* (spears), *ii.* 241.
- Crait*, *Chraít* (*crait-cro*), wealth, property, *iii.* 520.
- Cranachan*, a three-legged stool, upon which the oatmeal-cake was supported before the fire, *i.* cccclxiv.
- Cramcur*, *Cranncur*, casting lot, *i.* clxiv, cclxxix, cclxxxii.
- Crandbolg lethair*, a leathern tube-bag, *i.* cccclvii; *iii.* 117.
- Cranm cuil*, musical tree, a generic term for any kind of musical instrument, *i.* dxxxaiii; *iii.* 323, 324, 325, 326.
- Cranm Dord*, "tree music", a species of music produced by the striking together of the handles of a number of spears so as to accompany or blend with the voices of a chorus of singers [this meaning is by mistake applied to *Dord-Fiansa* at *iii.* p. 380]; this word has also been applied to the measured bellowing of the celebrated brown bull of Cuailgne, in the tale of the *Táin Bó Chualgne*, *i.* cclix; *iii.* 376-7, 379, 380, 432; see *Dord-Fiansa*.
- Cranm glesa*, or *gleasta*, the tuning tree [of a harp] or cross bar in which the pegs are inserted, *iii.* 256.
- Cranntabaill*, a sling, or rather a kind of cross-bow for shooting stones or metal balls. The word has the same meaning as the French *Fustibale*, and the German *Stock-Schleuder*, *i.* cccclxi, cccclxii; *iii.* 195, 197, 291, 294.
- Creachtach*, wounding [woundful], *iii.* 452.
- Crech Torretnach*, free wages given in return for the *Biatad* of eight persons, *i.* cxi.
- Crechta*, cuts [wounds], *iii.* 440.
- Cred*, tin, *i.* ccccix, *n.* 748; *Cred-Ume*, or *Cred-Uma*, that is, *Cred-copper* or bronze; *Credne*, the first worker in bronze, his name derived from, *i.* cccci, cccclvi, cccclxviii, cccclvi, dclxii; *iii.* 138, 219, 210, 220.
- Cret* or *Creit*, the *capsus* or body of a chariot. Cf. Latin *Crates*, English *Crate*. The *Cret* proper was the bottom and shell of the body of the chariot; the *Cret cuain* was the compartment in which the seat, or the reclining or resting couch was sheltered, and the *Cret cro* was the part where the champion stood when fighting, or when he wished to show himself, *i.* cccclxxviii, cccclxxxii; *iii.* 428.
- Cretime*, gen. of *Cretem*, religion, *iii.* 505.
- Criathur*, a sieve;—*cumang*, a narrow sieve;—*cairceach*, a hair sieve for preparing flour to dust over *Bairgins*, buns, etc., *i.* cccclx.
- Crich*, *Crioch*, a territory, *i.* lxxxii, cliv, clxxxii, cxcviii, cccxlv.
- Crimall*, the blood-spotted, the *Luin Celtchair*, so called, *ii.* 325.
- Criol*, a chest, *ii.* 133. *Criol mac Craeslinaidh*, "chest, son of fill-mouth", *ii.* 133.
- Crioll*, a bag formed of strips of leather stitched together with a thong, *i.* cccclviii; *iii.* 117.
- Cris*, a girdle, the *Zona* of the Romans, Welsh *Crys*, *i.* c.cclxxx, cccclxxxii, cccclxxxvi, cccxcvi; *iii.* 104-5.
- Crith gablach*, a law tract on the classification and privileges, etc., of the grades of society, *ii.* 35; *iii.* 468, *et seq.*
- Crithir cuil*, thrill of music, *iii.* 215.
- Cruitire*, a harper, *iii.* 236, 265, 266, 240, 241, 242, 307, 311, 367.
- Crobh-Dearg*, red hand, *iii.* 25.
- Cro-derg*, blood red, *i.* cccxxxvii.
- Croi*, now *Cró*, a shed, a hut, *i.* cccclxvi.
- Crolindech*, blood-streaming, *iii.* 452.
- Crón*, *i.* ccccxxxvi. See *Cruan*.
- Cronan* [a sort of musical purring], a throat accompaniment without words; it was also called *Aidbsi* in Ireland, and *Cepóc* in Scotland, *iii.* 235, 246, 371, 375, 376, 377.
- Cronanaighe*, a professional name for the musician who performed the *Cronán*, *iii.* 376.
- Cronoc cumdaige*, a preserving or cinerary urn, *i.* cccxxxiii.
- Crossach*, a standard of weight for gold, silver, etc., *iii.* 102.
- Crotal*, the *Parmelia Saxatilis* and *P. omphalodes*, which give a yellowish brown dye, *i.* cccci.
- Crottach*, chicken-breasted, sharp, or high-breasted; it is also the Gaedhlic name for the curlew, *iii.* 237.
- Crothla*, such as the warning of a cross or a *Crothla*, that is to pass



- over what is shaken there, the forbidding *drolan* (or hasp), that is, the *Crothla* which is placed upon the garden door of the garden of an exile of God [of a recluse or pilgrim], *iii.* 322.
- Cru*, blood, death, *iii.* 450, 508.
- Cruadh*, hardy (hard), *ii.* 133.
- Cruaidín Caidid-cheann*, the hard hard-headed, the name of the sword of Cuchulaind, which came down as an heir-loom through the family to Socht, son of Fithal, *ii.* 322.
- Cruan*, probably amber, but sometimes applied to enamelled metal, or ornaments in which amber was used with enamel; the plate or ornamented metal in which the ornaments were set seems also to have been sometimes included under the term, *i.* ccclv, ccccxvii, cccclxxxii.
- Cruitnecht*, wheat, *i.* cccxii, dclxii.
- Crut*, *Crot*, *Cruit*, a stringed musical instrument, supposed to have been the harp, cf. the British *Chrotta* in Venantius Fortunatus, the Old Welsh *Crud*, modern Welsh *Croth*, English *Crouds*, or *Crowd*, *i.* ccccxvi, diii, div, dx, dxiii, dxix, dxixii; *iii.* 213, 244, 261, 266.
- Cruta*, pl. of *Cruit*, *iii.* 313.
- Cu*, gen. *Conn*, *Con*, *Coin*, a hound; hence the British man's name *Cuneglasus*, the yellow or tawny hound, *i.* ccccxvii.
- Cuache di ór*, little cups of gold [upon his poll behind, into which his hair coiled], *iii.* 187. *Cuagh mac Tormora*, "Wooden Mug, son of Turner".
- Cuacleithe* or *Cuach Cleithe*, a wicker cup roof, *i.* cccxix, cccclxv.
- Cuad*, *cuagh*, a wooden bowl or cup, or more correctly a mug, *i.* ccclv, cccclvi; *ii.* 133; *iii.* 481, 495.
- Cuailne Guirt*, stakes which marked the extent of a *Gort*, *i.* cxxxv.
- Cuaille*, a stake [of iron here] used as a pin in a cloak, *iii.* 95.
- Cuairt ulcaid*, encircled with beard. See it, *iii.* 477.
- Cualne*, boundary stakes, *iii.* 511.
- Cuarans*, skin shoes, *i.* cccxci, cccxcvii, cccxcviii, cccc; *iii.* 103, 105.
- Cuaranaigh*, a brogue-maker; he also made *criolls*, leather bags, and *paits*, or leather bottles, *iii.* 117.
- Cuarisceith cred*, bent shields of *Cred*.
- Cuar Sgiath*, a hollow, humpy shield, formed like a *Cuacleitha* or humpy cup-roof, *i.* cccclxv, *iii.* 138.
- Cúb*, the cup in the cross-bar of the quern in which the *Milaire* or pivot worked. The word is also applied in a general way to the *Cub* and *Comla*, *i.e.* the cup and doorway of the quern itself, *i.* ccclx.
- Cuglass*, a "water hound", a term applied in the laws to a foreigner from beyond the sea who married an Irish woman, *i.* cxix.
- Cui*, *Cai*, coshering, visitation, etc., *iii.* 495, 498.
- Cuic mera na Fine*, the five fingers of the *Fine*, *i.* clxiv. See *Cuicer na Fine*.
- Cuicer na Fine*, the five of the *Fine*, that is, the five *Gialls* or pledges of the *Fine*, *i.e.* the family council of five, corresponding to the "Four men and the Reeve" of an Anglo-Saxon Township, *i.* clxiv, ccliii, cclxviii, cclxxx.
- Cuicidh*, a province composed of five *Mór Tuatha*, *i.* lxxxiv.
- Cuicil*, *cuicil lin*, a distaff, the flax rock, *iii.* 116.
- Cuicirind*, flesh-seeking, *iii.* 428.
- Cuig Rath Cedach*, five pledges, or guarantors of one hundred of chattels, *i.* cxxiv, cxxv, clix, cciv, cclx, cclxxv.
- Cuilche*, sack-cloth, some kind of coarse cloth, cf. *Culcais*, quilts, rugs, *i.* cccclxi.
- Cuilg n-deit*, ivory hilted swords, *iii.* 436.
- Cuilmen*, the greatest book taught or known in the public schools of Eriu, *ii.* 84.
- Cuil Tech*, a store house, *i.* cccclxix.
- Cuin*, when, *iii.* 490.
- Cuindsen*—This word appears to be the accusative sing. of *cuinse*, the face; the old nom. form is *cuindo*, the face, which probably contains the root of *countenance*; but as used here it appears to convey the sense in which the word is used at present, namely, a covenant, a bond, any stated lawful right, *iii.* 515.



- Cuing*, a curved yoke, i. cccclxxx.
- Cuirce derg*, a red tuft [a tassel], iii. 150.
- Cuirel*, a casket? [a curling pin or comb, "cirr, *chuirrel argit conecor deor, acthe oc foleud alluung argit*, having a curling comb of silver ornamented with gold, washing her head in a silver basin"], iii. 189, 190.
- Cuirm*, gen. *Corma* or *Chorma*, ale, i. cclii, cxcix, cclii, cclix, cccxiii, cccclxix, cccclxxi, cccclxxii, cccclxxvi, cccclxxvii; iii. 506.
- Cuirmtech*, gen. *Cuirmtigi*, *Cuirmtighe*, an ale house, i. cclii, cclix, cccclxxi; iii. 511, 514.
- Cuirpi Dualach*, a peaked straddle. The *Cuirpi* was the wooden straddle shaped to fit across the horse's back; the *Duals* were the two peaks or pegs which kept the reins from falling down. The *Dual* is represented by the *Stuirn* or pegs of the modern basket straddle in which the baskets are hung, i. cccclxxxi.
- Cuiseach*, pl. *Cuiseacha*, a reed or some such instrument, iii. 310, 313, 325. *Cuisigh*, reeds or small pipes, iii. 325, 326. [This word ought perhaps to have been written without the final *h*, *cuisig*, in which case it would refer to the performers on the *cuiseach*, and not to the instrument itself, as the context shows in the poem on the *Fair of Carman*.]
- Cuisle*, a tube, iii. 324, 326, a tube or cock for tapping an ale cask, i. cclix. *Cuisle ciuil*, a musical tube, another name for the *crann ciuil*, or musical tree, iii. 326.
- Cuisleanna*, dat. pl. *Cuisleandóib*, pipes or tubes [bag-pipes], iii. 215, 310.
- Cuislennach*, *cuislennaigh*, the name of the performer or performers on the *Cuislenna ciuil*, or musical tubes, not the pipers or *pipaireadh*, iii. 313, 326, 366, 368, 336, 509.
- Cuisleannchu*, [recte, *cuisleandchu*], pipers, iii. 311. *Cuislenna ciuil*, musical tubes, iii. 368.
- Cuitech Fuait*, funeral games in honour of the dead, i. ccexxvi.
- Cul*, a name for the caps or body of a chariot, i. cccclxxviii.
- Cul Airecht*, "rear court", the court of appeal, i. cclxii, cclxx, cclxxi, cclxxiii.
- Culcáis*, a quilt, i. cxcix.
- Culgaire in carpaid*, creaking of the chariot, iii. 426.
- Culg-det*, a straight edged sword, iii. 450.
- Culpat*, *culpait* a hood for covering the head, i. cccxcv; the term is sometimes applied to a collar worn on the neck, but which probably had something attached for covering the head, vide *lens gel culpatach*, a shirt with a white collar, iii. 93.
- Cumal*, *cumhal*, three cows, i. lxxxix, clvi, clvii, clxv, clxxx, clxxxii, cxcii, cclxiii, dclxiii; ii. 35, 60, iii. 29, 30, 101, 102, 139, 311, 479.
- Cumalaibh cáinibh*, precious *cumals*, iii. 514.
- Cumal Dé*, God's *Cumal*, food supplied by a *Ceile* at the death of his *Flath* or lord, i. cxii.
- Cumasc curmtigi*, the revel of the ale house, iii. 509.
- Cumbach Nadmá*, breaking or discharging of a bond, i. cclxxxv.
- Cunnrigh*, binding, iii. 502.
- Cumsaigh*, is conferred upon, iii. 490.
- Cumthach*, ornament, or ornamentation here, iii. 492.
- Cundrech*, governing, government, 504.
- Chundring*, direction, (control, or sway), iii. 503.
- Cup* [same as *gurab*, that it be], iii. 416.
- Cur n-iach n-Erred*, a champion's salmon-sault, i. cxcix.
- Curad*, pl. *Curada*, a champion, i. cccxxix.
- Curach*, a canoe, i. dclxiii; iii. 53.
- Curathmír*, *Curadmír*, the champion's share, i. cclcvii, cclclxv.
- Curn*, a drinking horn made of an ox-horn, i. cccvi.
- Curthar*, a border or fringe put to the facings of clothes, border of lace, iii. 107.
- Curu-bel*, binding engagements (or persons who had power to bind them), iii. 491.
- Cusal*, a long wooden bin (or box); also small wooden repositories of prepared materials [of wool and flax] which the women kept in ancient times, i. cclix; iii. 117.
- Cuisigh* (recte *cuiseach*), a reed or musical pipe, iii. 325; ii. 45.
- Dabach*, *Dobach*, a keeve or tub;

- Dabaig*, keeves, *i.* ccelvi, ccelxvi, ccelxxii, ccelxxiii; *iii.* 485, 495.
- Dabcha*, tubs, *i.* ccelvii, ccelix.
- Dae*, the peace constable and commander of the armed levy of a *Fine*; he was the representative of the Welsh *Dialwr*, and the A. Sax. Ward Reeve, *i.* ccelvi, ccelvii, ccli, cclxxvii; *iii.* 518.
- Daer*, base, see the following words; this word is also used in the sense of sequestration, *i.* clxx.
- " *Accinti*, *Agenti*, base followers of a *Flath*, see *Daer Aicillne*, *i.* cxv, cxviii, cxxxv.
- " *Aicillne*, base non-professional followers and tenants of a *Flath* or lord, *i.* cxv, cccxxviii.
- " *Bothach*, base farm labourers of a *Flath* or lord, who occupied a *Both* or cabin on his demesne, *i.* cxv, cxvi. See *Saer Bothach* and *Cot*.
- " *Celes* or *Ceiles*, base tenants or villeins, corresponding to the Welsh *Taogs*, *i.* cxiv, cxxviii, ccccii.
- " *Fuidir*, see *Fuidir*.
- Daer-Nemid*, or *Nemidh*, base professors, *i.* cvvii; *iii.* 209.
- Dagdaine*, good-men, nobles, *i.* cccxxix.
- Dailleman*, *Dalemain*, cupbearers (or drink-bearers), *i.* cii; *iii.* 144.
- Dairt*, a generic name for yearling bulls, and heifers of one year and up to two years old, *i.* clxxvi, clxxxiii; *iii.* 29, 112, 480, 516. See *Dartaid*.
- Dagh*, good; *Dagh-shuaithe*, "good yarn" [texture], *ii.* 133.
- Dal*, *Dail*, an assembly where laws were enacted, *i.* ccliv.
- Dalius*, I have served, *iii.* 458.
- Dám*, retinue or company, the *Geferscipe* or *Folgoth* of the Anglo-Saxons, and the *Gefolge* of the Germans, *i.* cccxxv. *Damam*, company or retinue, *iii.* 491, 492, 496.
- Damrad*, retinues, companies, *iii.* 510. See *Lin*.
- Dam*, pl. *Dama*, an ox, *i.* ccl, *iii.* 330, 479. *Dam n-Dreúmed*, a clambering (or wild) ox; *Dam n-Dilend*, a water ox, *iii.* 458. *Dam Dabach*, an ox-tub, or tub large enough to contain a whole ox; also a "Testudo" made with shields, *i.* cccclxix.
- Damhliag*, a stone-built, principal church, *ii.* 48, 49, 53.
- Da n-All n-dualach dronudi* [recte *dronbudi*], two rich yellow *All dualach*, *i.* cccclxxxii, see *All dualach*.
- Damna*, material, *Damna cinneda*, the material of a culprit, *iii.* 522. *Damna Righ*, the material of a king, *i.* cccxxii, cccxxiii.
- Damsa*, *Damhsa*, dancing, *iii.* 407.
- Dan*, now, also, moreover, same as *dana*, *dna*, and *ano*, *iii.* 506.
- Dáo*, two, *iii.* 502.
- Dartaid*, a two year old heifer if bulled at that age. A yearling heifer entering on her second year was also commonly called a *Dartaid*, *i.* clxxxiii. *Dartaid Inide*, a heifer at shrove-tide (when passing into her third year), see *Sed*.
- Dartaire*, pl. *Dartairidhe*, square sods used for building sod fences and graves of the *Mur* kind where stones could not be obtained, *i.* cccxxii.
- Dechmad*, tenth (tenth day); *Deich Deichde*, ten of tens; *Deichside*, tenfold, *iii.* 477, 482, 492.
- Dechnebur*, *Dechnebur*, ten men, *iii.* 501.
- Dedail*, parting [separating] *iii.* 250.
- Dedenguin duine*, violent death of a person, *iii.* 497.
- Dedlutha*, exercised or enforced by, *iii.* 505.
- De fri de*, two with two, double (or two to one), *iii.* 490.
- Degshuaitai*, well sewn (or stitched), *ii.* 444.
- Dequiset*, they enforce, *iii.* 505.
- Deibech*, contention, *iii.* 432.
- Deidínach*, last, *iii.* 520.
- Deilbh Caemh*, the comely form, *i.* cccxxiv.
- Deil-clis*, the common sling, *i.* cccclxi, *iii.* 292, 294.
- Deirged*, to prepare, *iii.* 430.
- Delg*, *Dealg*, a thorn, a plain breast pin or brooch, *i.* cclxxvii, cclxli.
- Delg duillech*, a foliated brooch, *iii.* 92. *Delg or dath buide*, a brooch of enchased yellow coloured gold, *ii.* 179. *Delg creda*, a brooch of *Cred* or tin, or of bronze coated with tin, *iii.* 144. *Delg niarind*, an iron brooch (pin), *ii.* 150. *Deilci derca diorda*, carved brooches of gold [recte, brooches of red gold], *iii.*



165. *Deici oir*, brooches of gold, iii. 146, 147. *Deilge lacair* (*recte, lan ecair*), brooches fully carved [*recte* ornamented], iii. 196. *Deilgi oir*, brooches of gold, iii. 164, 165.
- Delgaib*, (dat. and abl. pl.) brooches, pins or keys [of a *Timpan*], iii. 361.
- Demna Aeoir*, demons of the air, ii. 301, iii. 424.
- Demogaid*, to obscure, to diminish, to tarnish, iii. 503.
- Denemairgg*, that enforces, iii. 505.
- Deoraidh*, a wanderer, a stranger, i. cxxi, cxxv. *Deoraidh Dé*, a pilgrim, of God, clvi.
- Derbforgail*, the law term for a false charge of impropriety made by a husband against his wife, a defamation of character. The woman thus charged was sometimes called *Derbforgaill*, so that this legal term has been sometimes mistaken for a true proper name of a woman, and indeed appears to have been so used in later times. This mistake was made in the case of the wife of Fergal O'Rorc, who is maliciously said to have eloped with Diarmat Mac Morrough, king of Leinster, i. clxxvi.
- Derbfine*, relatives from the fifth to the ninth degree, i. clxiii, clxv, clxvi.
- Derc*, a grave, a hole or pit, i. ccxxxix. *Derc talnan*, a hole or pit in the ground, i. dxxxix, dxxl.
- Derg fine*, or "red-[handed]" *Fine*, i. clxvi.
- Dergud*, a bed, i. ccxxxix.
- Deroil*, contemptible, iii. 245, 246.
- Des, Deis*, gen. *Desai*, free land, an estate, ancestral lands, i. c, clviii; ii. 37, iii. 28, 490, 493.
- Dessetar*, they rested, iii. 444.
- Dessid*, to draw up, to take a stand, to remain, iii. 428.
- Dia*, with, iii. 507.
- Diabal Gae*, a double spear, a military fork, i. ccxxlvii-viii.
- Diabul corach*, *no do fille*, literally a folder up, or doubler, of justice, i.e. persons who drew up or prepared cases for the pleader, like the attorneys of our courts. They seem to have been the equivalent of the Welsh *Kanllau* or *guider*, i. ccxxiii, cclxvii, cclxxii.
- Diallait oeraig*, an assembly cloak, i. ccclxxvii, ccclxxviii.
- Diam*, if they were [*recte*, if it were], iii. 510.
- Diamhraibh*, deserts, iii. 41.
- Dian*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Fochlachan*, ii. 171.
- Dias*, a shears, i. cccxi.
- Diasa*, for his [contracted from *dia-as-a*, to him-out-of-his, he is entitled to in lieu of his, etc.], iii. 519.
- Diatlu a data*, for his reproach at an assembly (akin to *sallai*, revolt, which see), iii. 514.
- Dibad*, property of a deceased person; cf. Welsh *Difaith*, usually considered to mean unappropriated property, but properly meaning, like the Irish *Dibad*, the property before it was divided among the heirs, i. clxiii, cccxi.
- Diberga*, warriors, [free-booters, vikings], iii. 241, 242.
- Diburgun*, throwing, casting, shooting, iii. 436, 448.
- Dichetal do chennaibh*, "the great extempore recital", a peculiar rite of Druidical divination, which did not come under the prohibition of St. Patrick, because there was no sacrifice to, or invocation of idols in it, ii. 125, 172, 209.
- Dicella*, spells, iii. 526, 527.
- Diciallath, Dielúthar*, is covered or concealed, iii. 255.
- Dichli*, restitution here (lit. cover, concealment), iii. 516.
- Diclúther*, is concealed, is dissolved, etc., iii. 255.
- Dichmaire, Dichmairece*, without leave, unlawfully, iii. 487, 489.
- Did*, two, see *Adid*.
- Didhna*, coverings, i. cccxi.
- Didla*, to cut, see *Didlastais*.
- Didlastais*, they would cut, iii. 150.
- Difholaigh, non-Folach*, iii. 503, see *Folach*.
- Digail*, revenges, i. cxii.
- Digbaid*, forfeitures, i. clxxxviii.
- Diguin*, strictly speaking, a wound, but usually used in the sense of a blood fine, equivalent to the *Galanas* of Welsh law, and the *Galnes* of Old Scotch law. Used in the genitive form in the term *Maigin Digona*, it meant the extent of sanctuary, within which no person could be wounded or arrested without legal process. The word may



- be connected with Latin, *dignitas*, i. ci, clvi, ccxcv; iii. 473.
- Düb*, from them, iii. 494.
- Dillata*, friends (favourites), iii. 487.
- Dilse*, a legal assignment, i. clxxxviii.
- Dineoch rod mbi*, of whatever kind it may be, iii. 491.
- D'innagid*, towards each other, iii. 440.
- Dimseanchus*, topography, ii. 172; an ancient topographical tract so called, iii. 41.
- Diraind*, waste or mountain lands, i. clx.
- Dire*, a fine or penalty as restitution for injury done to a man's property, and equivalent to the Welsh *Dirwy*, and Anglo-Saxon *Wer*, or *Wergild*. *Corp dire* was the fine paid to a person for bodily injury to himself, or any of his immediate family, i. cxvii, ccxxxiii, ccxcv; iii. 477.
- Dire meba cana*, fine of violation of *Cain*; the exact equivalent of the A. S. *Cynebot*, i. ccxxxiv.
- Dirna*, abl. pl. *Dirnaib*, a vessel used as a measure, and containing a man's full drink; a large measure (or weight), a large mass of metal; iii. 245, 246, 495, 496.
- Dirim*, innumerable, countless [regions], iii. 462.
- Direnatar*, *Dirinethar*, is paid [awarded], iii. 489, 506.
- Diten*, (a shelter), a weather board, iii. 480.
- Dithig*, denial, negation, etc., iii. 467.
- Dithma*, unredeemed [in O'D.'s supplement to O'Reilly's *Irish Dictionary*, this word is explained, "discharged or released", etc., in the passages there cited the word should have been more correctly translated "detention", and "period of detention". The passage in the text of the *Crith Gablach* shows that the word means unredeemed, forfeited, etc., e.g., *gel dithma i n-glasib i nairthur fochlai*, unredeemed hostages in locks in the east side of the champion's couch], iii. 509.
- Dithraib*, a waste, iii. 507.
- Dithraicht*, bereft of strength, iii. 458.
- Diubarcan*, shooting, i. cccliii, cccliv. See *Diburgun*.
- Dubarcu*, a general name for darts of all kinds, and arrows shot with a bow, i. cccliii-iv.
- Diuchled*, bought (rewarded), iii. 434.
- Diunsach*, arrogant, iii. 517.
- Dligidh*, is entitled to, iii. 519, etc.
- Dligi bes brathir*, a mode of expurgation, according to which an accused person made oath on the gospels that he or she had no knowledge of the crime. This oath was made sometimes at the house of the accused, i. cclxxviii, cclxxi.
- Dligi doith dithack*, a solemn oath of denial made by an accused person at an altar, and corroborated by the oath of a "worthy" person, i. cclxxviii.
- Dloingset*, they cleft or loosened, iii. 448.
- Dlui Fulla*, or fluttering wisp, a wisp of straw, hay, or grass, on which a charm or incantation was pronounced for a person. It was called *Dlui Fulla* (*recte Fullon*), from *Dlui*, a wisp, and *Fullon* or *Fulla*, the name of the druid who first practised the art of pronouncing charms or incantations on a wisp of straw or hay, etc., hence *Dlui Fullon* literally means *Fulla* or *Fullon's wisp*, ii. 203, 204.
- Dluthat*, to consolidate, iii. 505.
- Dna*, now, also, moreover, it is the same as *dan*, *dana*, *dno*, iii. 506.
- Dno*, see *Dna*, iii. 507.
- Dobur*, water, dark, etc. One of the drink-bearers of *Conaire Mór*, monarch of Eriu, was so called, i. lxxiv; iii. 151, 227.
- Dobachs*, see *Dabachs*.
- Dobcha*, see *Dabcha*.
- Docerd*, disgrace (malevolence, malpractices), iii. 514.
- Documbaig*, he redeems, dissolves, loosens, iii. 500.
- Do et*, is known, iii. 516. See *do fet*.
- Do fet*, is known, iii. 516. See *do et*.
- Dofet*, precedes, iii. 497.
- Doghraing*, grieving, or lamenting, etc., iii. 380.
- Doich*, suspicion, i. cclxxvii.
- Doilfe*, [occult] necromantic, iii. 215.
- Doilgn*, cause of grief [saddening], iii. 446.
- Domna*, base of, iii. 508.
- Dond*, honour, i. cxxiii, cxxiv.
- Dond*, brown; one of the drink-bearers of *Conaire Mór*, monarch

- of Eriu, was so called, *i* lxxiv, *iii*. 151.
- Dorblas*, twilight, *iii*. 436.
- Dorcha*, dark, *i*. lxxiv.
- Dord*, bass, murmuring sounds in the ordinary measure, *i*. dxxviii; *iii*. 377, 379, 378.
- Dordan*, light murmuring sounds, the notes or warbling of thrushes, *iii*. 377, 378.
- Dord-Fiansa*, the battle cry or war chorus; it appears to have been also applied to a hunting whoop, or to any wild song sung in chorus, *i*. dxxxvi; *iii*. 311, 312, 377, 378, 380. In vol. *iii*, p. 380, this word is confounded with *Crann dord*, and hence incorrectly described as a species of wooden gong music, etc.
- Dorman*, gen. *Dormaine*, a meretricious woman, *iii*. 482.
- Dornasc*, a bracelet for the wrist, *iii*. 168. See *Ordnasc*.
- Do rout*, from off the road, *iii*. 486.
- Dos Doss*, a branch or pole; an order of poets, *ii*. 171, 217.
- Dosaire*, an officer who carried and planted the *Dos* or court pole, *i*. cclxiii.
- Dos Airechta*, a pole stuck in the ground as a symbol of authority to indicate the sitting and sanctuary of an *Airsecht Foleith*, or Leet Court, *i*. cclxiii.
- Dosli, Doslú*, right, that which a man has a right to, or to which he is lawfully entitled, *iii*. 507.
- Doss*, a champion, *iii*. 432.
- Dot nimcellat*, encircled by, *iii*. 508.
- Draethi*, trespass, *iii*. 500.
- Draumce, Draunchu*, thick milk (or skim milk), *iii*. 478, 481.
- Drecht gialna*, a trench made around the *Dun* of a king by his own tenants (or subjects), *iii*. 29; a ditch of allegiance, *iii*. 508. The true meaning of the term was, however, the wall and fosse which surrounded the king's *Dun* for the safety of the *Gialls* or pledges of allegiance, *i*. cxxxviii, cccv.
- Dreim fri foghuist*, climbing against a rock, so as to stand straight at its top, *ii*. 372.
- Dreimni*, fierceness, *iii*. 448.
- Drisechan Caorach*, a kind of pudding made of sheep's blood, called in Cork a *Drishheen*, *i*. cccclxix.
- Droch*, the wheel of a chariot, cf. Greek *ρρόχος*, N. H. G. *drechen*, *i*. cccclxxviii-ix.
- Drochta*, tubs, *iii*. 486.
- Drolan*, a hasp, *iii*. 322.
- Dromana*, backs or chins, see *Forgab*.
- Dron argda*, rich silvery; *Dron orda*, rich golden, *i*. cccclxxx.
- Droncherd*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Dos*, *ii*. 171.
- Drongar na lurigi*, the ringing of the armour, *iii*. 426.
- Dronn, Dronnog*, a hump, *Dronnaighe*, humpy-backed, *iii*. 237.
- D uid, Drnadh*, "doctus", learned, *ii*. 48 (and note, 17.)
- Druim Criaich*, a proper name composed of *druim*, a hill, *cri*, the heart, and *ach*, a sigh or moan; a name given to this hill from the fact that upon it *Eochadh Feidhlech* received the heads of his three rebellious sons, and that his heart never after ceased to send forth sighs and moans, *ii*. 145, 146.
- Druinech, or Druannech*, gen. *Druinge*, an embroideress, *iii*. 112.
- Druith*, buffoons, *iii*. 219, 220.
- Drunchli*, "the chief head", a literary professor who knew the whole course of learning, *ii*. 84.
- Drumnech*, curved, arched as applied to a yoke adapted to the shape of the horses' back, *i*. cccclxxx. The word *Druimnech* is used also in the sense of strong, rich, high coloured.
- Du*, a foss (as of a *Dun*), *iii*. 514.
- Dual*, a brush or lock of hair, *iii*. 210.
- Dualaighe*, a painter or brushman, from *dual*, a brush, *iii*. 210.
- Dualdai*, a brooch? [*dualdai* implies plurality, and the true meaning is perhaps hooks or clasps. *Dualdai airgdai eorside de ór obinu isi brat*, hooks or clasps of silver inlaid with burnished gold in the cloak], *iii*. 190.
- Duan*, pl. *Duana*, a poem or song of laudation of living heroes, *iii*. 381.
- Duban*, the black, from *dub* black, the name of the shield made for *Cuchulaind* by *Mac Enge*, *ii*. 329, 330.
- Dubfine, i.e.* the black, dark, or obscure *Fine*, a term applied to the



- members of a family whose degree of consanguinity was doubtful, *i.* clxiv.
- Dubhghilla*, "the black page", the shield of *Aedh*, king of *Oirghiall*, *iii.* 111.
- Duchand*, pl. *Duchonda*, *i.e.* a *tuinnog*, or music [of a melancholy or dirge like character], *iii.* 380, 381.
- Ducoll*, to blight, to destroy, *iii.* 526, 527.
- Duille feda*, *Duili fedha*, "Books of Trees", *i.e.* inscribed tablets, *i.* cccxlvi; *ii.* 173; *iii.* 542.
- Duillech*, foliated, *iii.* 456.
- Duilemain*, the Creator, *iii.* 308.
- Duillend Deal*, a thorny or a speared brooch, *iii.* 102.
- Duinn*, honour price (benefits of lawful rank), *iii.* 479.
- Duir ime*, a quick hedge, *i.* cxci.
- Duirtheach*, an oratory, *iii.* 36, 37, 48, 49, 53.
- Dul*, *Dula*, legal property and other qualifications, cattle, etc., *i.* cxxiv, cxxv.
- Dulbrass*, ready, going, *iii.* 428.
- Dulesc*, literally water leaf, the "dillisk", or *Rhodymenia palmata*, *i.* cccxvii; *iii.* 483.
- Dum*, *Duma*, pl. *Dumai*, a tumulus or burial mound containing a chamber (*Dum*, cf. Latin *domus*) for the ashes or bodies of the dead, *i.* cccxxviii, cccxxix, cccxxxv, cccxxxvii, cccxxxix. *Duma na n-Gall*, the mound or tomb of the foreigners at Tara, *i.* cccxxvi. The term was also applied to the slopes or high ground on the margin of a flat plain, *i.* ccccxxxiv.
- Dun*, "two walls with water between them", the mounds and ditch which protected the residence of a *Righ* or king, cf. Welsh *Din*, Norse *Tun*, German *Zaun*, *i.* lxxxvii, cccv; *iii.* 3, 4, 7, 8, 29, 508.
- Dunbai*, a mortality, *iii.* 505.
- Durd* or *Dord*, a murmur, *iii.* 214.
- Dord-Abla*, a name of the *Dagda's* harp, *iii.* 214.
- Duthaig*, natives or people legally belonging to the *Fines* of a *Tuath* or territory, *i.* clxiv, clxvi, cxcviii.
- Duthaig Daine*, the people at large; persons outside the seventeenth degree of kinship, who were not entitled to a share of the *Dibad* of deceased members of a *Fine*, *i.* clxiii, clxiv, clxv.
- Each shasta*, a riding steed, *iii.* 486.
- Eaboda*, *Eboda*, paid advocates, counsellors, attorneys. See *Ebe*, and *Fairbe*, *iii.* 476.
- Ebe*, *Fir Ebe* or *Fairbe*, the fully qualified attorney entitled to practise in the higher courts, *i.* cclxxiii.
- Ecaini*, complaining [*recte*, lamenting], *iii.* 442.
- Ecendal*, peril [prejudice], *iii.* 414.
- Echlas*, a horse switch or whip, *iii.* 219, 220.
- Ech dond tuagmar*, a curveting, prancing bay steed, *iii.* 162-3. *Ech imurime*, a riding steel. *Ech-sreim*, bridle-steeds, *iii.* 501.
- Echrais Ulaidh*, the Assembly House of Ulster at Tara, *ii.* 15.
- Echtarcimuil*, foreign races, *i.e.* Saxons, *iii.* 505.
- Ecin*, force, compulsion, *iii.* 506.
- Eclann*, an assassin (or outlaw), *iii.* 507.
- Eclais*, a church, *i.* cxxviii. *Eclais glán*, pure or stainless church, *i.* clvi.
- Eena*, wisdom; *Gradh Ecna*, grades or professors of knowledge or wisdom, *i.* clvi.
- Eesmacht*, see *Neesmacht*, *iii.* 191.
- Eibhioll*, the summer heat, *iii.* 357.
- Eigés*, a sage, one of the grades of poets, *ii.* 171.
- Eipiltinach*, destroyed [dead] *iii.* 255.
- Eirgg*, a champion, *iii.* 416.
- Eirither*, is paid, *iii.* 112.
- Eirrgi*, champions, *iii.* 446.
- Eishinniu*, punishment (or punishing), *iii.* 494.
- Eitirgleo*, the deciding or final combat. "*La etergleoid in chomlaid ocus in chomraic*, *i.e.*, the day which would decide the battle and the fight", *iii.* 444.
- Eithne*, the proper name of a woman, but which literally means the sweet kernel of a nut, *ii.* 290.
- Eithrach*, perjury, *i.* cciv.
- Ele*, incantations, *iii.* 440.
- Email*, *d'email duinn*, they will give or concede to us, *iii.* 452.
- Emnad*, hair, *ii.* 363.
- Eman* (*recte Eman?*), a species of metre, *ii.* 172-3.
- Endce*, innocence, *iii.* 514.
- Enech*, literally the face, but used



- figuratively to express honour, *i.* cxiii.
- Enechgris*, a change of colour of the face caused by some act which brought dishonour on a family, such as that of receiving stolen goods, etc., *i.* ccxcv; see note on *Loqh-Enech*, *iii.* 471.
- Enecland*, *Enechland*, *Enechlann*, honour price, a fine in right of insult to the honour, the amount of which depended on the rank of the person, *i.* ccxxxiii, ccxcv; *iii.* 266, 471.
- Enechrúice*, gen. *Ennechrúicai*, a face-reddening or blushing, caused by some act or scandal which brought shame on a family, *i.* ccxcv; see note on *Loghenech*, *iii.* 471.
- Engai*, innocence, *iii.* 483.
- Engnam*, bravery, *iii.* 414.
- Enncai*, soup, broth, or pottage, *iii.* 495.
- Eó*, a brooch, *iii.* 94, 96, 102. *Eó iar na eaccor d'or donn*, a brooch well carved of brown gold, *iii.* 167.
- Eó*, the top; hence *Eó-Barr*, a hat, a head-dress or ornament worn on the head, *iii.* 207, 209. *Eoburud áir*, head pieces or circlets of gold [more probably ear-rings of some peculiar form], *iii.* 152.
- h-Eo*, pendants: *h-Eo corcra for cach brut*, crimson pendants upon each cloak, *i.* ccxcxi; *iii.* 157. *Eó airgit*, a silver brooch, *iii.* 145. *Eó áir*, a brooch of gold, *iii.* 162, 163.
- Eochraid*, some kind of literary composition, *iii.* 173.
- Eochraide*, gen. plu. of *Each*, a steed, *iii.* 501.
- Eó Feasa*, "Salmon of knowledge", from *eó*, a salmon, and *feasa*, gen. of *fis*, knowledge, *ii.* 143, 144.
- Eola*, dat. pl. *h-Eolaib*, swans, *iii.* 245.
- Eo Rossa*, the yew tree of Ross, *ii.* 330, *iii.* 34.
- Eorna*, barley, *i.* cclxii, cclxiv.
- Epistle*, a necklace, *iii.* 104, 105.
- Er*, *Err*, *Erad*, a champion, a commander; *Er coga*, war chief; *Er catha*, battle chief; *Erad criche*, the commander of the levy of a *Crich*; *Er toga*, elected leader of the military force, corresponding to the Anglo-Saxon *Heretoga*, and the Scandinavian *Fylkir*, *i.* lxxxii, cv, ccxxxii.
- Erca*, cows, cattle, *iii.* 479.
- Ercadh*, pattern drawing and embroidery, *iii.* 123.
- Ercmall*, yokes (harness), *iii.* 450.
- Eric*, *Eiric*, a fine, composition for death, *ii.* 324; *iii.* 166.
- Erenat*, an embroideress, *iii.* 123.
- Erlannaib* (dat. and abl. pl. of *Erlann*), hafts or handles, *iii.* 448.
- Erlar chaich*, a fore-hall, corresponding to the *Golf* of Norse houses, *i.* cccli.
- Ereman*, a ploughman, *i.* cii, where it is incorrectly printed *Ereman*.
- Erna*, irons for suspending the *Caire* or cauldron, etc., *i.* ccclix; *iii.* 483.
- Erned*, rewards, cf. O. Norse *arna*, to earn, etc.; A. Sax. *ge-earnian* to earn, to merit; English to *earn*, *iii.* 531.
- Errach* (or *Imbule*), the spring (season), *iii.* 217.
- Errach*, a forced loan to which a king was entitled under certain circumstances, *iii.* 519, 507-8.
- Erscoiridhe* [recte, *Erscoiridhe*], a carver, that is, a wood engraver, or ornamental worker in wood, *iii.* 209-10.
- Esain*, hindrance offered to a suitor, by which he was prevented from appearing at courts or assemblies, etc.; the same as the *Essoign* or *Essoin* of the English law, the *Essoine* of French law, and the *Essoinzie* of Scotch law, *i.* ccxciii; *iii.* 473.
- Escra*, a vessel or a measure which contained one-third of the full of the *Lestar lulaice*, *iii.* 118, 495. A drinking cup, *i.* clxxiv, dclxii, see *Tinascra*. *Escrai*, water vessels, *i.* ccclix; *iii.* 495.
- Esert*, a defaulting tenant, or insolvent copartner in a *Comaitches*, cf. old English law term *Ossart*, appropriation, *i.* exci.
- Esimraic*, "unworthy" persons, that is, persons not legally qualified, or who had committed crimes, or who made base or unlawful use of their privileges, and were thereby rendered unworthy or disqualified from giving evidence, or doing other legal acts of a free man, *i.* cclxxvii.
- Esnad*, a word compounded of *Es*, a negative particle equal to *non* in

- English, and *Nath*, the name of any [metrical] composition; so the *Es-Nath* was a something not a poem or a metrical composition, but a *Duchand*, i.e. a musical moaning air or tune in chorus, iii. 381.
- Espuc*, gen. of *Epscup*, *Espuc*, a bishop, iii. 510.
- Eta*, fertility, produce, iii. 526-7.
- Eta*, can or is able, *nad eta*, cannot or is not able, iii. 490.
- Etarcoisat*, intermeddling, iii. 448.
- Etargairecht*, fostering care, friendship, iii. 506.
- Eterbuasach*, troubled, confused, perhaps more correctly, hovering, iii. 448.
- Fa*, or; *Cia de is[s]riuthiu*, in *ri fa espuc*? which is the higher, a king, or a bishop, iii. 510.
- Faccarsa*, that I may see, iii. 456.
- Facrith* (i. *tic*, it shall come), be accomplished, iii. 430.
- Fadare sula sair*, long beaming noble eyes, iii. 456.
- Fadesin*, *Fadesin*, his own, himself, iii. 490, 498.
- Fadesta*, the same as *Badesta*, the modern *Feasda*, forthwith, now, presently, iii. 460.
- Faebhar-Chleas*, the small sharp-edged shield feat, ii. 372, 373.
- Faen-Chleas*, the prostrate feat, ii. 372.
- Faesam*, the right possessed by freemen of entertaining strangers for a certain time, varying with the rank of the host, without being obliged to give bail or security for the guests, i. cccxiii; iii. 513.
- Faethaisiu limm*, thou shalt fall by me, iii. 434.
- Faga Faegablaige*, *Faga Fagablach*, *Foga Fogablaigi*, a small down-headed spear [a military fork], i. ccccxlv, ccccxlvii, ccccxlviii; iii. 98.
- Faga*, *Fagha*, a short spear, a javelin, a dart, see *Faga Faegablaige*, i. cccxxxviii; iii. 317.
- Fagnam*, *Fognam*, serving; here it means the attendance and supplies of food which a *Flath* was entitled to get from his *Ceiles*, i. cxliii; iii. 509.
- Fail*, dat. and abl. pl. *Fa lgib*, an open ring or bracelet for the wrist, arm, or ankle, iii. 156, 166 168-170, 176. *Fail-dearg-doid*, red rings on hands [red hand rings], iii. 211.
- Failge glana*, bright, polished, or crystal rings, iii. 146, 147, 161.
- Faine Maighdena*, a maiden's ring due to the king by every maiden at her marriage. It corresponded to the Welsh *Gobyr merch*, or king's share of the bride price, or *Amobyr*, i. cxxi.
- Faine*, *Fainne*, the ordinary finger-ring; also a ring for confining the hair, iii. 168, 169.
- Fairbe*, a paid advocate, a counsellor, a man who pleads, or advocates a case against another for fees, [not an advocate but an attorney, see *Ebe*], i. cclxxiii; iii. 476.
- Faineis*, an information based on the positive knowledge of one or more eye-witnesses, i. cclxxvii, cclxxix.
- Faitche*, the enclosed ground or lawn about a homestead, i. cxxxv, clv, clvi, cccxxiv, cccxi, cccvii, cccvii, cccxv, cccxviii. *Sechter Faitche*, outer farm, or pasture land beyond the *Faitche*, i. cxxxv.
- Fal*, a fence; the word is used also in the sense of the establishment of a prescriptive right, i. cxlv, clxxxvi, clxxxvii. [The reference at foot of note 226, p. cxlv, vol. i to p. clxxvii, should be to p.p. clxxxvii].
- Fairged*, proffered, iii. 418.
- Farrindi*, barbs, iii. 450.
- Fas Faighe*, a squandering nobleman reduced to beggary by his own extravagance, iii. 520, 521.
- Fasc*, a summons, setting forth the nature of a plaint, i. cclxxxii, cclxxxiii.
- Fastad*, an attachment, the "attachiamenta bonorum" of Anglo-Norman law, i. cclxxxii.
- Fastad nadma*, fastening of a bond, i. cclxxxv.
- Fathan*, or *Fahan*, shelter, an enclosure, cf. *Faitche*, Goth. *bifahan*, i. cxlv, ccvii-viii.
- Feadanaghe*, the musician who played on the whistle or pipe (or *Feadan*, tube), iii. 376.
- Fearan bó le fine*, tribe cow land, the common grazing land of a *Fine* or tribe, i. clv.
- Fearan comnaithes*, tribe land held in copartnership, i. clviii. See *Fearan congilta fine*.
- Fearan comaide crithe*, see *Fearan congilta fine*.



- congilda fine*, tribe land occupied by *Congilda*, or association. *clviii*, *ccxvi*.
- fine*, tribe land, *i. clv*.
- fuidri*, *fuidir* land, or that of the demesne land of a lord which he let to others and others as tenants-at-will, *clliii*, *ccxxv*.
- Fuidir*, the alder tree, *Alnus glutinosa*, *cccvi*.
- Fuidir*, goodness, wealth, rank, etc., *clv*.
- Fuidir*, one night's entertainment, *i. cxl*, *cxliii*; *iii. 495*.
- Fuidir*, a whistle made with the wood, *iii. 328*, *368*, *377*, *378*.
- Fuidir*, thin, slender, musical or pipe or thin tube; in medical use, a fistula, a whistling instrument, *iii. 327*, *228*, *368*.
- Fuidir*, *Fedanaigh*, *Feadanaighe*, a pipe played on the *Fedán*, *iii. 58*, *376*.
- see *Fén*.
- Fuidir*, furious, *iii. 366*.
- Fuidir*, real estate, property, riches, cation, *i. clxxii*, *iii. 490*.
- Fuidir*, a suitor, a party in a suit, plaintiff or plaintiff, *iii. 487*.
- Fuidir*, *ochtair*, eight-power, *i. e.* pronged or having the power of eight spears, *i. dclx*.
- Fuidir*, abl. pl. with spindles, *iii. 115*.
- Fuidir*, *Feis*, feast or meeting, a convention, "Feis Droma Ceata", the convention of *Drom Ceat*, *Feis Teambrach*, the Feast of *Teambrach*, *i. xxxiii*, *ccliii*; *ii. 12*, *14-19*.
- Fuidir*, *arca*, a species of poetry proper to the order of poet called *arca*, *ii. 171*.
- Fuidir*, *odbine*, *iii. 448*.
- Fuidir*, *fer*, the sleeking stick or bone which weavers still use to close and draw up the linen cloth on the breast of the loom while in process of being woven, *iii. 116*.
- Fuidir*, wooden fence, the same as *fer*, *i. cxci*.
- Fuidir*, *pupil*, *i. ccccxxxiv*.
- Fuidir*, *Feidh*, *Feidhan*, a bier or coffin, *Zeuss* glosses it *Flaustrum*, *Zeuss* Norse, *vagn*, A.-Sax.
- Fuidir*, English wagon, O. H. N., *wagan*, N. H. German, Latin *vehere*, *i. ccccxxvii*.
- Fenechas*, *Fenechus*, the general tribe and territorial law of the whole kingdom, or what might be called the national code, as it embraced all the laws regulating the occupation of land, and the social and territorial relations of all the *Fines* of the nation, *i. clxxvi*, *clxxvii*, *clxxxix*; *ii. 31*; *iii. 468*, *472*.
- Feneda*, warriors, *i. ccxxix*.
- Feneog*, a window, from the Norse *vindauga*, literally "wind eye", whence English *window*, *i. ccclii*.
- Fenster*, a window, derived from the Latin *Fenestra*, *i. ccclii*.
- Fechoiraigstar*, became more furious or infuriated, *iii. 448*.
- Feorling*, a coin corresponding in value to the *Cingeog* or farthing, *i. ccclxiv*.
- Ferachas*, manly exertion, angry combat, *iii. 456*, *460*.
- Fer beogabail*, a man in living captivity, a man captured alive on the battle-field, *iii. 507*.
- Ferbolgs*, pawns for chess-playing, *i. cccl*.
- Fer cengail*, a "man of ties or bonds", more probably, however, one who danced the kind of dance known in the twelfth century as the *Espringale* or "springende tentz" of the Germans. A similar kind of springing dance, accompanied by a singing chorus of dance tunes, came down in Ireland to very recent times, *i. dxi*; *iii. 313*, *368*.
- Fer fene*, *Fer fine*, family chief, or tribe representative, *iii. 475*.
- Fer forais*, or *foruis*, a *Forus* man, an *Aire*, whose house constituted a *Forus*, *i. cclxxxiii*, *cclxxxv*, *cccxxviii*; *iii. 520*.
- Fer fororggab*, *fororggab*, a man captive, whom he has captured in battle, *iii. 507*.
- Fer fothla*, *Fer fothlai*, or *Anflath*, a wealthy middle-man, the wealthiest of the *Bo Aires*, so called from the abundance of his *Folad* or wealth, *ii. 36*, *iii. 470*, *490*, *491*, *491*.
- Ferga*, of champions, or, of the combats, *iii. 418*.
- Fergill*, a hostage man, *iii. 509*.
- Fergio*, a warrior, a champion, *iii. 507*, *509*.
- Fer gigaola*, a giggle dancer, see *Cengal* and *Fer cengail*, *i. dxi*.



- Fer legend*, or *Ferlegem*, a lector or law teacher, see *Fer leighinn*, i. cclii.
- Fer leighinn*, head professor, or chief master in a literary school, ii. 84, 90, 168.
- Fer luigi*, an oathman, the same as *Fer tonga*, i. cclxxxvi.
- Fermidba*, see *Fermidbotha*, i. ccxlii; iii. 467.
- Fer midbotha*, any man under judgment of court, or not entitled by law as a free man in his own right, i. clxxxv, ccxli; iii. 467, 469, 473, 475-479.
- Fer nãdna*, a knot-man, a magistrate who acted in making and proving the knot or bond of all legal contracts, i. ccxxv-vi; iii. 470, 474.
- Fernu*, garters [girdles], iii. 152.
- Fersad*, a club; *Fersad iarain*, an iron club, a *Ferbolg* weapon, ii. 256.
- Fert*, a mound, a grave, i. ccliii, cccvi, ccxxi, ccxxix, ccxli, dcxxxvii-dcxxxix. *Fert maigne no aonaig*, the mound of the assembly field or fair field, i. ccxxx; *Ferta na ngingen*, the mound of the maidens at Tara, i. ccxxx.
- Fertais*, pl. *Fertsi*, a spindle, the spindles of the axle-tree of a chariot or wagon, i. ccclxxiv; *Fertais lín*, a flax spinning spindle, iii. 115.
- Ferthos*, he pays, iii. 501.
- Fer tonga*, *Fer toing*, a qualified oathman, who gave sworn testimony for a plaintiff or defendant, the "*Ferdingus*" or "*Ferthingman*" of English law, i. ccii, cclxxxvi, cclxxxix, ccxc; iii. 473.
- Fessir*, knoweth, iii. 510.
- Fesius*, [recte *Fesmí*] themselves, iii. 314.
- Fethal*, a symbol, a mask or veil, iii. 114.
- Fethana*, flat rings for spear rivets [recte, sinews; *Fethana agus cuislena* and *chuirp*, the sinews and veins of the body], ii. 241.
- Fethlaib condualacha*, *Fethlaib condualae*, emblematic carvings, iii. 158, 219, 220.
- Fetorloic*, patriarchal: *rachto fetorloic*, patriarchal law, iii. 239.
- Fia*, in presence of, iii. 493.
- Fiachach*, a defendant who became liable for the *Fiacha rechtge*, or costs, etc., of a process, i. cclxxx.
- Fiacha rechtge*, *Fiacha rechta*, law costs, etc., i. cclxxx, ccxcii.
- Fiadnaise*, *Fiadnasi*, pl. *Fiadnasa*, a witness, one who proves the lawfulness of a suit, i. clxxxv, clxxxviii, ccxxxix, ccxlii, cclxxxix; iii. 467, 470, 471.
- Fialach icce acas leigis*, professors of healing and curing, iii. 440.
- Fialaig nom fialach*, heroes (comrades), iii. 454.
- Fiam*, a chain, a peculiar kind of ornament of gold, silver, etc., worn round the neck, iii. 168, 178.
- Fiaman*, a wild cat [a hare], iii. 149.
- Fianbhotha*, hunting tents, ii. 380.
- Fiann*, mercenaries or militia retained by kings and chieftains to enforce the laws and to ward off enemies. *Fianna Éireann*, national militia or standing army of *Eris*, ii. 376, et seq. See *Amuis*.
- Fianna fineadha*, champions of families (or tribes), ii. 376, 377.
- Fiansa*, a species of military chorus or concert peculiar to the *Fianna*, to *Find Mac Cumhaill* and his warriors, iii. 377, 378.
- Fiarlann*, pl. *Fiarlanna*, a curved blade, i. ccccxxxvii; ii. 239.
- Fibtha do da crecha*, i.e. axe-men of two cuttings, the apparitors who took charge of prisoners at the bar, and to whom traversers surrendered, i. cclxvii.
- Fieighth*, twenty, iii. 477.
- Fidba*, *Fidbha*, a kind of bill-hook, i. exci, ccclxi; iii. 486, 489. *Fidbha mac Fò Chraebhaigh*, hatchet, son of Tree Cutter; ii. 133.
- Fidbac* [h], a bow, ii. 287.
- Fidbach*, a wood gland, filberts, acorns, cf. Sanskrit *bhag*, Greek *φάγω*, i. ccclxiii.
- Fidchell*, *Fidchill*, *Fidcheall*, *Fidchell*, a chessboard, chess, ii. 359; iii. 165, 360, 366, 454, 507.
- Fidil*, *Fidioll*, pl. *Fidli*, *Fiodaill*, a fiddle, cf. A. S. *Fithel*, Old English, *Fidil*, O. H. German, *Fidula*, i. dxxiv-vii; iii. 313, 328, 329, 379.
- Fidlan airmeide*, a firkin or small cask, formerly used as a dry measure, iii. 483.
- Fidlestár*, a name for every kind of drinking vessel made of wood, both *Ardans* and *Cuads*, iii. 495.

- Fidren*, whistling, iii. 426.  
*Fidu*, a tree, iii. 448.  
*Figi*, weaving, iii. 115.  
*File*, a poet, i. cxxviii, etc.; ii. 48, 171. See *Fíleadh*.  
*Fíleadh*, poets, philosophers, ii. 56, 208.  
*Fíledeacht*, poetry, philosophy, ii. 171-173.  
*Fílidh*, i. clvi; ii. 171. See *Fíleadh*.  
*Fíllind erred nair*, the "whirl of a valiant champion", iii. 372.  
*Find Fine*, "white Fine", the legitimate family, i. clxiv. See *Fine*.  
*Fíndathar*, be it known, iii. 516, 517.  
*Fíndiuch*, a scabbard, iii. 143.  
*Fíndlestar umaide*, a bright bronze vessel, iii. 495.  
*Fíndruine*, or *Fíndruini*, white bronze, i.e. a bronze containing a large proportion of tin, or bronze coated with tin, or perhaps some alloy of silver; sometimes used for ornamentation i. cccclxvi; iii. 101, 174.  
*Fine*, or *Fínead*, a family or house, cf. Latin *affinitas*, *affinis*, i. clxii.  
 " *cis Flatha*, the lord's rent-paying *Fine*, or family of tenants, i. clxvi.  
 " *duthaig*, the hereditary family entitled to share property according to the law of Gavelkind, corresponding to the original A.-Saxon *Mæght*, i. clxiv, clxvi.  
 " *íngolach*, see *Dergfíne*.  
 " *Flatha*, the whole of the *Ceiles*, and other tenants and followers of a *Flath* or lord, i. cxvi.  
 " *fognuna*, the serving *Fine* or family—the free and base *Ceiles* of a *Flath*, i. clxvii.  
 " *occomail*, members of a *Fine* who had been in exile, or who were out of their own country, and were received back into their *Fine* by *Fír Cairé* or by lot-casting, i. clxvi.  
 " *tacair*, *Fine*, or family by affiliation, i. clxv.  
*Fínead*, see *Fine*.  
*Fíneca*, i. clxx, see *Fenechas*.  
*Fíni*, tribes, iii. 458.  
*Fínnchas*, the Crisp-Fair-Haired, a female name, iii. 361.  
*Fír Cairé*, true calling, i. clxiv.  
*Fír Dé*, "truth of God", expurgation on the gospels, or at an altar, i. cciv, cclxxxix, cclxxxvii.  
*Fír Eba*, a true, that is, a fully qualified attorney, i. cclxxiii.  
*Fírcainnind*, *Fír cainnenn*, true or strong onions or garlic, iii. 104, 105, 485.  
*Fíreman*, a witness, a compurgator, i. cii.  
*Fír*, *Fírian*, true, righteous, iii. 504-506.  
*Fír Flathamán*, true right of a king, iii. 506.  
*Fír Teist*, true testification, compurgation, i. cclxxxii.  
*Firis*, he or she bade: *Firis Failte*, he bade welcome, iii. 428.  
*Fírsinne*, the centre [radiation from], iii. 174.  
*Flathem Oen escra*, a small proprietor, not having property to qualify him as a *Flath*, i. cclxxxiii; iii. 573.  
*Flath*, *Flaith*, a lord, a nobleman, an estates gentleman, whose rank, etc., was derived from his having an estate in land for which he paid no rent himself, and which he let for rent to *Ceiles* (tenants) *Flath* is often used in the sense of landlord in the laws, etc. See ii. 34, 37, 38, iii. 493, et seq. *Flath bachald*, the *Flath* who invested an incoming *Flath* or *Ríg* with the *Bachald* (= *Bachal*) or staff of office, and who acted as marshal, not the *Tanist*, as explained in iii. 508, n. 565. *Flath nucléithe* has been explained in note 552, iii. 497, as the steward of swine herds. It may also be explained as formed from *cleith*, the best, the highest, a term applied to men as well as to cattle, and the prefix *mu*, the superlative degree of *mór*, great, that is, the highest *cleith* or chief. *Flath nucléithe* may therefore mean a man of the best family, and eligible for the highest offices, but not necessarily holding any.  
*Flath Ceilfíne*, the chief of the *Gel Fíne*, the chief proprietor in a *Fine*, i. clxxi, cciv.  
*Fled*, pl. *Fleda*, a banquet, e.g. *Fled Bricrind*, "Bricriu's Feast", i. cclci; *Fleda Comadhása*, common feasts, that is, banquets of the whole people, or supplies given by all the people of a territory to a king who attended a court, or made an expedition outside his territory, i. ccxiv.



- Flesc*, a wand, a lath, a blunt spear, or the bar of a door, etc., i. clvi, iii. 363, 487. *Flesc lan*, a flax scutching stick, iii. 116.
- Flescach*, a *Flesc* bearer, the retainer of a *Flath* who threw the *Flesc*, or *Cnairsech*, i. clvi.
- Foach*, marshes, rough, and waste lands, i. clx.
- Fobiad fiach*, a charge for debts or damages, i. cciv.
- Fobiada*, food-rents, i. cxliv.
- Fobith*, because, in virtue of, iii. 510.
- Fobrith*, napping, [also pressing, or sleeking] of cloth, iii. 115.
- Fochairech*, one of the parts or books into which *Filedocht* or the philosophy and poetry of the Gaedhil was divided, and which formed the special study of the grade of *Fíle* called the *Eiges*, ii. 171.
- Fochair*, i.e. its haft, i.e. the horn end of the *Cnairsech*, i. clvi, n. 267.
- Fochlach*, one of the orders or grades of *Fíle*, ii. 217.
- Fochlachan*, "a learner of words", [properly a teacher] an order of poet, ii. 171, 172.
- Fochlu*, an elevated seat or bench on which the master of the house sat; it corresponded to the *Oendvegi* of the Nurse houses, i. ccclix, cccl.
- Fochlu Fennid*, champion's seat, i. ccclix; iii. 509.
- Fochóire*, native education, iii. 84.
- Fochonlaing*, to sustain, to feed or support, iii. 490.
- Fo-Chraebhaigh*, i.e. branch or tree-cutter, ii. 113.
- Fochraic*, *Fochraich*, pay, reward, i. cccxxxiv; iii. 479.
- Focoisle ben ar a raille*, anything which one woman takes or borrows from another, iii. 118.
- Fodaer*, a base bondsman, i. cxxv.
- Fodb*, a felling axe, iii. 448.
- Fod-beim*, *Fodhbeim*, the "sod-blow", with a sword, etc., ii. 372.
- Fodessin*, his own, himself, iii. 497.
- Fodlai*, divisions, ranks, etc., iii. 502.
- Fodord*, under murmur, that is the deepest and lowest murmuring sounds; dec. bass, iii. 377, 378.
- Foga*, *Fogha*, *Fogad*, pl. *Fogaid*, a javelin, a short spear, i. ccccxli; ii. 295; *Foga Fogaiblaige*, *Foga Fogaiblaigi*, a *Foga* with prongs, a military fork like the Sturm-gabel of the Germans, i. ccccxlvi, ccccxlvii. See *Faga*, and *Gabal Gicca*.
- Fogelt*, the cost of grazing cattle under restraint; the pound-field fee of modern times, i. cxci, ccxvi.
- Foghmhar*, autumn, iii. 217.
- Foglaim*, education, ii. 372.
- Foglantidh*, "the teacher", the title of the professor of the *Fochairé* or native education in the public schools of *Eriu*, ii. 84.
- Foglomantai*, learners, apprentices, i. ccccxxxxiv.
- Fognitset*, they celebrated they made, iii. 526, 527.
- Fogur*, tingling, iii. 308.
- Foil muc*, a pig-stye, i. cxxv.
- Fóill*, treachery, iii. 432.
- Foirceallaigh*, lecturer, the title of the professor of grammar, astronomy, and general science in the great public schools of *Erinn*, ii. 84.
- Foisitiu*, confession, iii. 493.
- Foisiu*, the south, iii. 508.
- Folach*, maintenance, attendance, etc., i. cclxxx; iii. 477.
- Folach Othrusa*, *Folach n-Othrusa*, the care and maintenance of a wounded person by him who wounded him or by his tribe, i. cclxxx; iii. 475, 483.
- Folad*, property, riches, etc., iii. 479.
- Folai*, benefits, rights, iii. 477. *Folaid*, rights, privileges, etc., iii. 506; obligations, iii. 504; prescribed supplies, iii. 507; deeds, iii. 492. *Folud*, wealth, iii. 501.
- Foleith*, the *Leet* or company of a *Flath*, i. cccxxxv; iii. 498. *Foleithin*, his *Foleith*, retinue or *Leet*, iii. 502. Cf. A. S. *Leode*, N. H. German *Geleute*.
- Folestrai*, small or minor vessels, iii. 485.
- Folongar*, are supported, iii. 504.
- Folongthar*, are sustained, iii. 504.
- Folchain*, beautiful hair, iii. 204.
- Foluch*, [maintenance], a cooking pit, i. dcccxxxix. See *Fulacht Fiansa*.
- Fonachtaide*, a *fosgenigh*, an object of ridicule, a laughing-stock, iii. 522.
- Fonaidm*, the right of bail, or knot, which a chief of household possessed in favour of all those for whom he was legally responsible, i. cccxciv.
- Fonaidhm niadh for rinnibh slegh* the coiling or knotting of a cham-



- pion around the blades [*recte* points], of upright spears, *ii.* 372.
- Fonlaing*, the same as *Folaing*, to endure, to suffer, to bear or support, *iii.* 519.
- Fonnad*, the frame of a chariot, upon which was placed the *Cret* or *capnus*, *i.* cccclxxviii.
- Fop*, a ball or boss. *Fop a thona*, the ball of his rump, *i.* dcxl.
- Foradh*, a seat; a mound or bench as *Forad na Teamrach* at Tara, *i.* cccxxiii; *iii.* 12. See *Forud* and *Forus*.
- Foran*, power, might, aggressive force; *Foranu chuille*, breaking into his storehouse by force or without permission, *ii.* 489.
- Forbais*, a siege, *iii.* 361.
- Forbera*, to increase (increases) *iii.* 478.
- Forberta*, diminution, remission, [*recte*, defuuing, perfecting], *iii.* 511.
- Forcam*, offal. See *Forgaib*.
- Forcmaither*, is qualified or made eligible, *ii.* 477.
- Forcraid*, excess, more than, *iii.* 490, 491, 492, 501.
- Forcsin*, to proclaim, to establish, *iii.* 505.
- Forcuir*, to violate; *Forcuir a mna*, a *ingine*, the violation of his wife, or of his daughter, *iii.* 482.
- Fordorus*, the door of the outer circumvallation of a *Dun*, *i.* ccv.
- Forgab*, *Forgaib*, contributions of certain kinds of provisions paid to the *Flath* at specified festivals, *i.* cxi; *iii.* 482.
- Forge*, to exact, *iii.* 506.
- Forgemen*, cushions, *ii.* 424.
- Forggab*, captures, *iii.* 507.
- Forggab*, a thrust, *iii.* 507.
- Forgyu-dine*, the choicest or best cattle, etc., *ii.* 482.
- Forranca*, resolute, bold, *iii.* 428.
- Forromair*, to place upon, to press or strike, *iii.* 426.
- Forged*, to destroy, to slay, *iii.* 446.
- Forles*, *Forless*, an outer *Less* or yard; the door of the principal house leading into the *Les* or enclosed ground of a *Dun*, *i.* cclxx, dcxli.
- Form-chleas* the great prowess feat of *Cuchulainn's Roth chles* or wheel feat, *ii.* 78.
- Formius*, I vanquished, *iii.* 460.
- Formna*, choicest or best of, *iii.* 462.
- Formasc*, a generic name for clasps, bracelets, rings, and probably for those gold ornaments which terminate at the extremities in cups of various degrees of depth and regularity of shape, *iii.* 168.
- Forngairi*, to guard, to ward off, *iii.* 509.
- Formurt*, despotic might, *iii.* 506.
- Forrain*, a portion of personal estate or property bequeathed by a *Flath*, *i.* clxxxviii.
- Forrach*, a measure of length, the Irish "Rope", equivalent to the modern chain, *i.* clxxx.
- Fortaig*, proof, etc., *ii.* 467.
- Fortcha*, the skins *i.e.* coverings of the chariot, *iii.* 424.
- Fortche*, curtains, hangings; *Fortche uanaide*, green hangings, *i.* cccclxxxi.
- Fortgella*, to testify, testifies, *iii.* 500.
- Fortoigg*, to prove upon, to swear upon, *iii.* App. 506.
- Forttrena*, brave rumped, *Forlethan*, broad rumped, *iii.* 428.
- Forud*, a seat, a mound, a bench; the place on which a king sat surrounded by his *Sabaid* when at an *Aenach*, etc., *i.* dcxxxviii; *iii.* 541. See *Foradh* and *Forus*.
- Forun forlethan*, aggressive, broad rumped, *iii.* 162, 163.
- Forus*, the house or residence of a magistrate, whose *Airlis* constituted a pound. Cf. *Forudh*, the seat or bench of the place of assembly at Tara, *Forud*, the raised mound, or benches where a king and his retinue sat at a fair, Latin *Forum*, English *Fair*, French *Foire*, etc., *i.* cccxxiii, cexlvi, cexlix; *iii.* 476. *Forus ainmnet*, a seat (or centre) of equity, *iii.* 506. *Forus Flatha*, the true knowledge of a *Flath*, [used here for *Corus Flatha*] *iii.* 493. *Forus Tuathu*, the mansion of a territory, etc. See *Corus Tuathu*, *iii.* 476.
- Fosernnat*, he dissolves (settles or adjudges), *iii.* 500.
- Fos-juair*, he found, *iii.* 526, 527.
- Fosgenigh*, a laughing-stock, an object of ridicule, the same as *Fonachtaide*, which see, *iii.* 522.
- Fosngelait*, they feed upon, *iii.* 510.

- Fossair*, accompaniments, sufficient supply of food, iii. 492.
- Fossugadh*, entertainment, maintenance, iii. 497, 498, 499.
- Fostud*, detaining, iii. 420.
- Fotal-bemennaib*, abl. pl., with quick or vehement strokes, iii. 450.
- Fótlén*, adheres, extends to, iii. 490.
- Fothrom*, rattle, iii. 426.
- Foun*, a tune, the air of a song, iii. 371.
- Fozla*, to take or receive, iii. 502.
- Fracc*, a wife, cf. O. H. G. *Frouwa*, *Frúwá*, etc., a woman, the goddess *Fráa*, N. H. G. *Foran*, Swedish and New Lower German, *Frúken*, a young girl, etc., i. cccclxxvi.
- Fraech-mheas*, health fruit, the modern *Fraochain*, *Fraochoga*, the *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *V. uliginosum*, commonly called "Frochans" or "whorts", i. cccclxxviii.
- Fraig*, the back or roof of a house; a limit, a wall, iii. 489.
- Frecairec*, to enquire for, to obtain, to preserve, iii. 506.
- Frepá*, to exculpate, to free from guilt or charge, to cure, iii. 477.
- Frepaid*, to cure, no *Frepaid*, incurable, iii. 521.
- Friam*, clamour, iii. 426.
- Fri de*, i.e., *cech naidhche*, at dusk, i.e. every night, iii. 442.
- Frisaici*, are consulted, they appoint, or elect, or respond? iii. 501.
- Frisellagar*, *Frisellget*, attendance, attends to or supplies, iii. 519.
- Freisligi*, to recline upon, 489.
- Frisúndi uniar*, faced forward behind him. *Súndi*, him, *súdiu*, these or those, in them, e.g., *fríu*, with them, *fríu aniar*, behind them, iii. 509.
- Frihadortaib*, abl. pl., with pillows, etc., iii. 440.
- Frihfáithce*, with a *Fáithche*, i.e. residing in a house or *Dun*, which has an enclosed lawn, or *Fáithche* around it, iii. 490.
- Frihisi* (a *fríhisi*), again, iii. 526-7.
- Friu*, for, with, or to them (always in the tract here referred to), iii. 492, 492.
- Fhuaithe*, a post, a pillar, i. cccxxxviii, cccclxxxvii; iii. 311, 312. See *Uaithe*, *Huaithe*.
- Fuan*, a tunic, iii. 92. *Fuan geise*, swan's coat (or down), iii. 220, 221.
- Fuath*, a pattern (or image), iii. 116.
- Fuathbroic*, an apron, iii. 444.
- Fuba* and *Ruba*, hewing and cutting, chasing, killing, and warding off, services rendered to a lord in clearing underwood, etc., and in chasing and keeping off wolves, foxes, wild dogs, plunderers, etc., i. cxii, cxci.
- Fugell*, security, iii. 492.
- Fub*, lacerated (pierced), iii. 452.
- Fuidhle*, default (in a deed), 507.
- Fuidir*, a foreigner, a base tenant, not belonging to a tribe, and who held either at the will of the lord, or by special agreement, i. cxvii; iii. 449.
- " *auca set*, a tenant who was selected by a lord in preference to others, and to whom he gave land and cattle, i. cxxiii.
- " *craí findgal*, convicts guilty of capital crimes, i. cxx.
- " *della fri fine*, a man who separated himself from his *Fine* or family, i. cxxii.
- " *focsail a aithreab*, a man who abandoned his home and tribe, i. cxxii.
- " *grian*, a land *Fuidir*, a metayer, "a sky farmer", i. cxxii.
- Fuidris*, *Fuidirship*, or *Fuidir-land* iii. 494.
- Fuillehta*, distinctions, orders, or ranks of society, iii. 493.
- Fuillém*, *Fuillim*, interest upon a pledge or loan, iii. 112, 114, 492.
- Fuiríud*, rations, refectations, etc. (same as *Suorbíathadh*, free maintenance, here), i. cxii; iii. 495, 516.
- Fuiríud*, entertainment, i. cxii. See *Furíud*.
- Fuirmid*, one of the grades of *Fíle*, ii. 171.
- Fulacht-fiansa*, the cooking pits of the *Fians* or warriors of Finn Mac Cumhaill, iii. 381.
- Furbadh*, the Caesarean operation (hence *MacFurbaidhe*), iii. 290.
- Furis*, the front part of a chariot, probably the charioteer's seat, i. cccclxxxii.
- Furnaide*, lean meats, see *Forgaib*.
- Fursunduth*, entertainment, iii. 491.
- Gab taim*, he enjoined, he commanded, iii. 422.
- Gabail*, a distress, also arrestation or committal to jail, a jail, a gallows, i. clxxxii, cclxxxv; iii. 508.
- Gabail cotozal*, a distress with as-



- tion or carrying away of the  
els seized, *i.* cclxxxiv, cclxxxv.  
gen. *Gabla*), a fork, also ap-  
to the branches of trees, of a  
*r*, etc., cf. German *Gabel*, *i.*  
*i.* clxiii, ccccxlvi.  
*ined*, gavelkind, A. Saxon  
*l* or *Gafol*, *i.* clxix.  
*ine*, gavel or gabella, the  
ling branches of a *Fine* or  
*i.* lxxxv, clxiii.  
*gici*, a military fork, *i.*  
lvii.  
a blacksmith, *iii.* 209.  
a steed, a horse, *iii.* 219, 220.  
*picca rothach feidhm ochtair*,  
eled eight-pronged [of eight  
*r*] military fork, *i.* dclx. See  
*Jogablaige*.  
*i*, gen. sing. and nom. pl. *gai*,  
spears, javelins, *i.* ccccxi;  
0; a heavy spear, *ii.* 316,  
*Gae-bolg*, *Gae-bulga*, the  
y-dart", *i.* ccccxxiv; *ii.* 302,  
310, 372, *iii.* 415. *Gae buiif-*  
*i*, the venomous spear, one of  
ames of the *Luin Chiltchair*,  
cxxxii; *ii.* 325-6-7. *Gae*  
"a sunbeam", a name for a  
for-nothing man, *iii.* 521.  
javelin, *ii.* 300.  
falsehood, *iii.* 506.  
*i*, "shame spear", *e g.* *Cor-*  
*Faileng*, *Cornac* Shamespear,  
0.  
*ail* (gen. form of *Gall bhial*),  
ish, or perhaps simply a fo-  
axe; a cooper's adze, *iii.* 29.  
*bhiadh*, winter food, *iii.* 487.  
*u*, cushions, *iii.* 499.  
*id*, *Gaimrid* (the same as  
*hre*), winter, *iii.* 492, 495.  
sport, amusement, *iii.* 460.  
shortness; *Gair-secte*, short  
*Gair-ré*, that is, *re-ghair*, [*no*  
*i*, a short span of life], *Cor-*  
*ii.* 217, 218.  
*h*, a sword, an equipment of  
*iii.* 517, 518. See also *ii.*  
etc.  
left, *i.* cciv.  
winter, *iii.* 214, 217.  
*i*, a cushion, *iii.* 489.  
*amhnach*, the "cruel grave",  
the grave of the two daughters  
the monarch *Tuathal Techt-*  
at Rath Inil, *iii.* 386.  
*b*, [weaving] beams, *iii.* 116.  
drawn out of, *iii.* 450.
- Geanntorrglés*, one of the three  
strings of Scathach's magical harp,  
so called because it had the pecu-  
liar gift of causing all who heard  
it strung to burst into laughter and  
rejoicings; one of the ancient  
keys or musical modes of the  
Irish, *iii.* 220, 221, 223.  
*Gear Chonaill*, the short spear of  
Congall, *ii.* 342.  
*Geim Druadh*, a Druid's shout, or  
whoop, etc., *iii.* 381.  
*Geinti Glíndí*, wild people of the glen,  
mythological beings so called, *ii.*  
301; *iii.* 424, 425, 450.  
*Geifíne*, or *Gelfíne*, the pledges of  
the *Fine*, or the family council;  
used also in the sense of relatives  
to the fifth degree, who consti-  
tuted the pledges, *i.* clxiii, clxiv,  
clxv, clxix, cclxxx, cclxxxi, cccxi.  
*Gelt*, or *Gilt*, to graze, *i.* ccxvi.  
*Gellas*, he binds, *ii.* 505.  
*Gena* (same as *Dena*), to do, *iii.* 430.  
*Geitraighe*, *Geantraighe*, one of the  
three musical feats which gave dis-  
tinction to a harper, and which  
characterised the harp and harper  
of the *Daghda*. The word is  
derived from *gen*, laughter or mer-  
riment, and *traighe*, time or mode,  
and was evidently the name of one  
of the ancient Irish musical keys,  
*i.* dcccxiv, dcccxxvi; *iii.* 214, 220-  
21, 260, 381.  
*Gert*, gen. *Gertha* milk, *iii.* 490.  
*Gialda*, to be pledged or bound by  
giving security, *i.* ccxvi.  
*Gialdnaib*, abl. pl. hostages, *iii.* 509.  
*Gibne*, or *Gipne*, a band, fillet, or  
thread of gold, silver, or *Fíndruine*,  
worn around the head to keep the  
hair down on the forehead and in  
its proper place; also a crescent of  
red gold worn by charioteers to  
keep their hair in its proper place,  
and also as a distinguishing mark  
of their profession, *iii.* 186-188.  
*Giegil*, giggling, *iii.* 432.  
*Gigne*, will be [was] born, *iii.* 454.  
*Gíleach*, the spike or spear of a shield;  
*Gíleach cuach coicrindí*, a flesh  
mangling cup spear, *i.* ccccix.  
*Gill*, *Giall*, *Gial*, a pledge, a hostage,  
clxiv, ccxvi, ccccxxviii, ccv; *iii.*  
491, 492; *Giall Cerda*, hostages  
given for the fulfilment of treaties  
and other interterritorial contracts  
and laws, *i.* dclxi.



- Gilla*, a servant, a page, *ii.* 344; *iii.* 149.
- Girsat*, *Girrsat*, a sort of girdle or sash; *Girsat corca*, a purple waist-scarf *i.* cccclxxx; *iii.* 434.
- Giull*, *Gell*, to exercise [*recte*, to bind, to get pledges, hostages or security for the fulfilment of], a pledge, *iii.* 505.
- Giuis*, pine wood, now bog deal, *i.* cccxlviii, dextli. Incorrectly written *Giis* in *iii.* 11, 57, 58.
- Glaissin*, *Isatis tinctoria*, dyer's woad, and the blue dye-stuff prepared from it, the *Glastum* of the Gauls, *i.* cccciii; *iii.* 118, 120, 121.
- Glam dichinn*, "satire from the hill tops", *ii.* 216-218.
- Glanba*, clear blue, *iii.* 456.
- Glas*. There are probably two distinct words of this form: 1, *Glas*, signifying green when applied to fields, etc., but gray-blue or bluish gray when applied to other objects; 2, *Glas*, signifying yellow, *i.* ccccxv-vi, ccccxlv; *iii.* 275. *Glas sriennub*, with yellow bridles, translated green in *iii.* 496.
- Glasfir*, kindred from beyond the sea, *i.* clxv.
- Gled*, a kind of cane sword, used by a class of bullies called *Gleidires*, cf. Welsh *Gleddyrr*, *i.* ccccxlv.
- Gleidire*, a gladiator, or fighting bully who fought with the *Gled*, *i.* ccccxlv.
- Glenomon*, a culprit, *i.* cii; *iii.* 494.
- Gles*, to prepare, to tune a harp or *Cruit*, *iii.* 215; *Glésa*, tuning, *iii.* 250, 254, 255.
- Gletten*, an obstinate, hard-fought battle, *i.* ccccxlv.
- Glond-beimneach*, loud clangour, *iii.* 426.
- Glúair*, gen. *Glúaire*, glory, ostentation, *iii.* 454.
- Gnaim*, corn, madder, and other cultivated crops, *i.* cxxii.
- Gni*, he does, *iii.* 521.
- Gnmu*, a deed or deeds, *iii.* 492.
- Goba*, gen. *Ghobhann*, a smith, *ii.* 133.
- Goimiu*, gen. *Goiknenn*, the mythical smith of the *Tuatha Dé Danand*, *ii.* 247, 248.
- Golghaire Bansidhe*, the wail of the *Bansidhes* (or fairy women), *iii.* 381-383.
- Golóca*, the light or thin strings [of the harp], *iii.* 253, 256.
- Goltargles*, one of the strings of *Scathach's* magical harp, which causing all who heard it strung to burst out in constant crying and lamentation; tuning a harp in one of the ancient keys, *iii.* 223.
- Goltraighe*, one of the three musical feats which give distinction to a harper, from *gol*, crying, and *traighe*, time or mode; one of the ancient keys of Irish music, *i.* dcccxiv, dcccxxvi; 214, 220, 221, 250, 260, 381.
- Gorm*, blue; certain shades of blue, approaching the green called *Glasghorm*, *ii.* 275.
- Gort*, a garden, an enclosed field, cf. Gothic, *garda*, Welsh, *garth*, *i.* xviii-ix, cxxxv, cxxxvi, cccxvi.
- Goth*, *Gath*, a spear, *i.* ccccxli, ccccxlvi; *Gothnada*, little darts, or perhaps rather arrows, *i.* ccccxxxviii, ccccxlvi-ix, ccccxl; *ii.* 301; *Gothnatta neil*, ivory-hafted spears, or rather bone or walrus-ivory-pointed darts, *iii.* 436; *Gotha-n-det*, ivory-shafted spears, more correctly bone walrus ivory, etc., pointed darts, *i.* ccccxxxviii, ccccxlvi, ccccxl; *ii.* 301, 303; *Goth manais*, a broad war spear, *i.* ccccxxvi, ccccxi.
- Gradh Ecailsi*, the different grades of ecclesiastics, *i.* clvi; *Gradh Fine*, the members of a *Fine* who belonged to the privileged classes, that is, were *Aires*, and had full political rights, derived from the possession of land, *i.* clxiii, clxxii-iii; *Gradh Flatha*, the different grades of *Flaths*, *i.* clxxiii.
- Graice* (croakers), a class of *Coirnaire*, or horn players, who produced a croaking noise like ravens, *iii.* 368.
- Greggaib*, dat. pl. stud horses, *iii.* 450.
- Gresa*, designs? [*recte* *Gres-teora nuagres*, three new arts, finishing feats]. Here it means the *Gres Ceardchan*, the forge finishing of a weapon by the smith—tempering, polishing, and whetting, *ii.* 42.
- Gres*, gen. of *Gresa*, embroidery, figured weaving, ornamentation, etc., *iii.* 106.
- Gresedh-gruadh*, cheek-reddening, insult, *iii.* 514.
- Gress*, constant digress, constantly *iii.* 510.

- Gressa*, reproach, insult, iii. 518.
- Grianan*, a summer house, a chamber placed in a sunny aspect, i. cccii, cccclxxxi; iii. 13; *Grianan na n-Inghean*, the sunny house of the daughters at Tara, ii. 16.
- Grisach*, cinders, figuratively used for "shame"; *Grisach dearg inso*, "red cinders here", used in the sense of "burning shame", i. cclxxviii.
- Grith in ceoil*, the melody of the music, cf. sanskrit *grī*, to sing, i. dxxxii.
- Gruaide gris*, cheek reddening, or redness, iii. 515.
- Grus, Gruiten, Gruth*, groats, coarsely ground meal, cf. Anglo-Saxon *Grut*, i. cclxxv; iii. 474.
- Gú*, a lie, a falsehood; the same as *gó*, iii. 493; *Gu forgaille*, false testimony, i. cccxxxix.
- Gual*, gen. *Guail, Guaili*, charcoal, i. cclxxii, cclxxii; iii. 486.
- Guasaigestar*, they shivered or shook, iii. 448.
- Guba, Gubha*, sighing or moaning in grief; part of the ancient funeral rite, i. cccxxi, cccxxii, cccxxiv, cccxxv, cccxxvi dexti; iii. 383; *Gubai*, sorrowful, *Eithne in Gubai, Eithne* the sorrowful, ii. 196. See also *Sámhghúba*, iii. 384.
- Guin*, death, a wound, i. cciv; iii. 450.
- Guth*, the human voice, iii. 329; *Guthbuine, Guthbuande*, speaking or sounding trumpets, i. dxxx-i; iii. 329-331, 333.
- Heisedar* (or *Leisedar*), laddles for broth; probably a loan word from the Welsh, i. cclxix.
- Herenech*, the representative or steward in a *Fine*, of a church or monastic establishment having a share in the property of the *Fine*; a lay vicar, i. cclxxx.
- Iadaig, Tiag*, a bag, or wallet, iii. 113, 117.
- Iaernn* [sharp-pointed] irons, i. cccxxxiii; ii. 300.
- Ialachrand, Iallaicraind*, sandals, shoes made probably of raw skin, worn by the *Tuatha Dé Danand*, i. cccxviii; iii. 158.
- Ian*, a vat, a brewing vat; sometimes applied to a drinking vessel, i. cclxvi, cclxix, cclxxi; *Ian ol aiss*, a bowl for drinking new milk, iii. 478; *Ian ais, ian chorma*, a vat of new milk, a vat of ale, i. cclxxi; iii. 486.
- Iarfine*, relatives from the ninth to the thirteenth degree, i. clxiii-iv.
- Iarmhua*, descendants (great-grandchildren), iii. 414.
- Iarmotha*, notwithstanding, iii. 494.
- Iarn cach gnina*, iron household implements, tools, iii. 500.
- Iarn-dota*, gauntlets, iii. 97.
- Iarsudhiu*, behind them, iii. 509.
- Iathu*, lands, territories, etc., iii. 514.
- Ibar, Ibur, yew*, iii. 500; "*Ibar alainn fíahbhaidhe*, the yew the finest of timber; first name of the *Luin Cheltchair*, iii. 325, 491.
- Icairdiú* [*I Caúrdiú*], within the provisions of the *Cairde* or interterritorial laws, iii. 497.
- Id*, pl. *Idi*, a chain, a collar, a wreath or collar made of a twig or rod of wood twisted round a pole or pillar stone, and upon which was inscribed an oghamic legend, i. cccxliv; iii. 450.
- Idna*, the father of a numerous family of fighting men, iii. 517.
- Idnaicthea*, would, or used to send, iii. 438.
- Iern n-guala, Ieinguail*, probably means the "house of the coal" or brew-house, where the wort was boiled over a charcoal fire; cf. A. Sax. *aern*, a house, a room, i. cclxxi.
- Ilgiallu*, many hostages, iii. 502.
- Ilgona*, many wounds, all the wounds, iii. 440.
- Im*, a preposition, to, for, with, on, about, iii. 500; *Im h-Ere*, around Eriu, iii. 526-7.
- Imairic*, fight, battle, iii. 448.
- Imarchor n-delend*, the proper carrying or using of the charioteer's switch, ii. 372.
- Imb*, butter, now written *Im*, but invariably written *Imb* in this tract, iii. 487, 492, 496, 498, etc.
- Imbas fórosnai*, "illumination by the palms of the hands", a species of Druidical divination prohibited by St. Patrick, 208, 227; a species of poetical composition connected with the Druidical rite so called, ii. 135, 172.
- Imbleogain*, kinsmen, i. cclxxxvi.
- Imbolc, Imbulg*, the spring season, iii. 217, 420.



- Imchommilt na n-arm*, the friction of the arms, *iii.* 426.
- Imda*, *Immda*, pl. *Imdai*, or *Immdai*, a bed, *i.* cccxlvii-viii, dcxxix; *iii.* 499.
- Imdadh*, compartments, couches, seats, etc., *iii.* 6.
- Imdegail*, gen. *Imdegla*, defence, protection, *iii.* 438.
- Imdenam Druinechus*, ornamentation, embroidery, etc., *iii.* 112, 113.
- Indith*, *Indich*, *Indiuch*, to vindicate, to guard, to protect, a man who protects or guards others, *iii.* 495-6, 517, 518.
- Ime*, *Imi* a fence, *i.* clxxxii, exci; *Ime indruic*, a perfect fence or legal boundary, *i.* clxxxiii.
- Imfaebair*, cutting, loosening of bonds, etc., *iii.* 494.
- Imfureach*, delaying, *iii.* 420.
- Imgabail*, to avoid, to shun, *i.* lxxxv.
- Imglaiice*, a handful, table accompaniments, the Oponia of the Romans, *i.* cccxvi; *iii.* 477, 478.
- Imbuadh*, the same as the modern *Amhluadh*, disturbance, insult, dishonour, *iii.* 519.
- Imluada*, see *Shlaignte*, *i.* ccxxii.
- Immaich*, outside of, *iii.* 444.
- Imnid* a couch, a bed, *iii.* 489. See *Imda*.
- Imirgi*, driving out, *iii.* 487.
- Imostaing*, *Immustaing*, he is a *Toing* (an oath), *i.e.* he was qualified to swear, *iii.* 482, 496, 498, 499, 501, 502, 503.
- Imram*, *Imramh*, rowing; a wandering on the sea; *Imramh curaigh Macildun*, "wandering of *Maelduin's* boat", an ancient tale, so called, *iii.* 158; *Imram coraig Ua Corra*, wandering of the boat of the sons of *Ua Corra*, an ancient tale so called, *i.* dclxiii.
- Inrubud*, thrusting, fighting with the *Manais* or great spear, *iii.* 493.
- Imseña*, to deny a charge, *iii.* 500.
- Imscim*, *Imscing*, a name for the *Mind* or diadem worn by *Ailill*, king of Connaught, at the *Táin Bó Chuaigne*; *Imscim n-oir*, a diadem of gold, *iii.* 197.
- Imslaidi*, hewing (with a sword in battle), *iii.* 444.
- Imtheacht*, rank, state, affluence, or position in society, but literally progress, migration, going, departure, or adventure, *iii.* 470; *Imtheacht na Trom Dhainhe*, "adventures or progress of the Great Company", a tale so called, *iii.* 234, 235.
- Imtheigmis*, we used to go, *iii.* 436.
- Imtoltain*, wish, desire, at the pleasure of, etc., *iii.* 221.
- Inaicfidea* [*In-adhnaicfidhea*], should or would be buried, *iii.* 526.
- Inar*, *Ionnar*, a tunic, a jacket, *i.* cccclxxxvi; *iii.* 104, 105, 153, 154; *Inar aodhar*, a bright coloured tunic, *i.* dclx; *Inar n-derg*, a scarlet frock, *iii.* 153; *Inar sirecdaí*, a silken tunic, *iii.* 161.
- Inbir*, dat. pl. *Inbiurb*, a spit, a skewer, *iii.* 485.
- Incaib*, in right of, *iii.* 504.
- Incaib*, *Inchaitb*, dat. pl. of *Inech*=*Enech*, the face, the front, and figuratively honour; *co nincuib ordadib*, with golden emblazonments [with golden faces], *iii.* 147, 492, 504, 506.
- Indar linsa*, dear to me, *iii.* 460.
- Indarbu*, banishing, driving out, *iii.* 505.
- Indbas*, wealth, wisdom, *iii.* 522.
- Indéch*, west, *iii.* 115.
- Indell*, to arrange, to set or put in order, *iii.* 215.
- Indeoil*, clasps or buckles of shoes, 157.
- Indergithi*, fit to repose in, to strip and sleep in, *iii.* 450.
- Indericc*, fine, payment, *iii.* 492.
- Indeib cloiche*, a naked stone chamber over a grave, etc., *i.* cccxxx-i.
- Indfine*, relatives from the thirteenth to the seventeenth degree, *i.* clxiii.
- In diss*, on second, *iii.* 499.
- Indlach*, instigation, *iii.* 448.
- Indled*, to yoke. *Indled a carpat*, to yoke his chariot, *iii.* 422-424.
- Indles*, unlawful, *iii.* 488. See *Dilis*.
- Indnaide*, preparing, igniting, *iii.* 505.
- Indra*, a ridge, a certain measure of land; an enclosed garden annexed to a house, and in which onions and other vegetables and fruit, were grown, *iii.* 488.
- Indrubart*, have said; *amhai as indrubartmar*, as we have said, *iii.* 492.
- Indruic*, *Inraic*, *Inraic*, whole, perfect. When applied to persons it means "worthy", that is, worthy man qualified to give evidence and perform other legal functions, *i.* cclxv-vi, cclxxvii.



*nind-dligthech*, an unlawful  
 , iii. 508.

s. righteousness, iii. 514.

fulness, swelling, iii. 448.

L, to watch, seize, guard, re-

take care of, i. lxxxv.

to distribute, iii. 506.

*nít*, Shrovetide, iii. 495, 493.

ese, iii. 493.

it, in it, iii. 489.

ritchcraft, spells, magic cures,

0.

*Irchai*, (i.e. *iar-chai*), a back

, iii. 480, 482.

(*iar-raith*), that which re-

with the heirs or successors

a parent or ancestor, whether

abilities or privileges, iii.

of Norway, iii. 101.

adjusting, settling, etc., iii.

in it, iii. 486.

falls or is forfeited, iii. 491.

is they; these are they, iii.

is entitled to, iii. 499.

ayers, iii. 508.

*thaladh*], after, iii. 452.

that which is lower, iii.

the yew tree; the wood of the  
 tree, i. cxcix; iii. 57.

*cht*, vessels and furniture

of the wood of the yew tree,

, working in yew wood, con-

g in the making of the orna-

mental facings and carvings on the

s and furniture, and also in

furniture itself, and the wooden

s], iii. 53, 57, 58.

modern *Ladhar*, a prong, a

*illadair a chossi*, between the

of his foot, iii. 450.

i, heroes, i. ccxxix.

*id*, a form of the gen. plu. of

, a calf, iii. 509.

a lay, cf. German *Lied*, i.

viii; ii. 172; *Laidh Luascach*,

name of a species of poetry;

in which the poet *Ruaman*,

of *Colman*, composed his poem

oratory of *Rathan ua Suan*-

iii. 37.

*Laighin*, a heavy spear; the

sh lance, i. xxi, ccxxxviii,

lv; ii. 256-259. *Laighen Lea-*

*ghlas*, pl. *Laighne Leathna*

[not *ghlais*], "the broad

green thrusting-spear", the broad

green (or, as it may here mean,

yellow) blades of the Gauls, whence

*Lagen*, Leinster, ii. 156-158, 262,

295.

*Lúith*, *Lath*=*Cuirm*, ale, i. ccxxxii;

iii. 506.

*Lamhchrann*, the fore pillar of a

harp, iii. 256, 358.

*Lamvad*, parturition, child-birth, iii.

221.

*Lamthoraid*, hand produce, the work

produced by hand-labour, etc., iii.

115.

*Lamhonn*, a gauntlet, iii. 154.

*Lamhogha*, choice hands, ii. 133.

*Lanannas*, pleasures of love, iii. 507.

*Land*, or *Lann*, a blade, or leaf, a

crest, lunette, or frontlet of

gold or silver, iii. 113, 114, 182,

183, 178, 193, 204. It was applied

to a necklace, whether for men or

women, or to ornaments for spears

and other inanimate objects when

used after the manner of a neck-

lace, iii. 181, 182. In the tale of

the *Brudin Daderga*, charioteers

are described as having *Lanna óir*

on the back of the head, iii. 183.

*Lassaman*, fiery, flaming, furious,

e.g. *Leoman lassaman*, a furious

lion. *Laoch lassaman*, a fierce war-

rior, iii. 460.

*Laulghach*, a full grown heifer about

to calve, the term is now applied

to a milch cow, iii. 481.

*Leac*, see *Liacc*.

*Leacán laoich Mílidh*, a warrior

champion's semi-flat stone, ii. 276,

277.

*Lsamlacht*, new milk, iii. 477.

*Lear*, the plain of the sea, iii. 38.

*Leasgudh*, adjusting, instructing,

fostering, etc., iii. 505.

*Lebhad*, cast or thrown, iii. 448.

*Lecad*, an act or deed which binds a

person indissolubly, i. clxxxvii.

*Lecht*, *Leacht*, a stone sepulchral

monument, of unfashioned stones

of various sizes piled over a grave

or chamber, i. ccxxxii-ii; *Leacht*

*an fhir mhairbh*, the dead man's

*Lecht*, i. ccxxxix.

*Lee*, with her, iii. 491.

*Lego*, gen. of *Liagh*, a physician, iii.

475.

*Leim dar neimh*, i.e. a leap over a

fence [a leap over the particular

kind of thorn fence called the *Eim*,

- or *Ime*, which marked the *Nimedh* or sanctuary, the breaking of which was a violation of sanctuary according to the ancient laws]. See H. 3, 15, 85, etc., ii. 372.
- Leinidh, Leined*, a kilt, or petticoat, i. cccclxxxii; iii. 103-107; *Leined do min shroil mhaoth*, a kilt of fine soft satin, iii. 167; *Lenda cum-ascdai*, kilts of mixed colours, iii. 146.
- Leine, Leno, Lena*, a kind of inner garment which hung down to the knees, or below the knees, forming a kilt, i. cccclxxviii-cccclxxx, cccclxxxii; *Leno fo derg inliud imbi*, a shirt [recte, a kilt] interwoven with thread of gold upon him, iii. 162, 163; *Leno fo derg indlaid óir impe*, a *Leno*, or kilt with interweavings of red gold upon her, iii. 160; *Leno fri geal cnas*, a shirt to the white skin, i. cccclxxxii; iii. 104-107, 143; *Leno gel colptach co n-derg inlaid óir*, a white collared *Leno* with red ornamentations of gold, i. cccclxxxiii.
- Leirg*, a bed, a plain, etc., i. cccclxi.
- Leiter*, a written deed or conveyance, i. clxxxviii.
- Leithbért*, a truss (an armful), iii. 487.
- Leithe*, a *Leet*, as in court-leet; *o cach leithe*, from every *Leet*, iii. 518.
- Leithrind*, the treble string of the *Cruit*? half harmony, iii. 251, 252.
- Leluig*, licked, *Bó rolelaig*, it was a cow that licked, iii. 158.
- Lente*, kilts, iii. 157.
- Leoman*, a lion? i. cccclxxi; ii. 327.
- Lepaid*, beds, iii. 496.
- Les*, a physician's medicine-bag, or chest, iii. 250.
- Lesan*, a bag; *Lessan mac Dagh-shuaithe*, "Bag, son of good yarn", ii. 133.
- Les leihan*, broad hipped [recte, ribbed], iii. 428.
- Lesca*, gen. plu. of *Lias*, a cattle shed or yard, iii. 479.
- Lestar*, pl. *Lestra, Lestrái*, vessels; every kind of drinking vessels, i. cccclv, cccclvi; iii. 495. The *Lestar* varied in size and shape, and might be made of any material whatever, gold, silver, bronze, wood. *Lestar cumdachtai*, a richly ornamented or precious *Lestar*. *Lestar lulaice*, a *Lestar* which held the milk of a newly calved cow, iii. Cf. Welsh *Hestawr, Hestor*.
- Leth Flaithem*, "a half sir", or poor gentleman; one whose property was not sufficient to entitle him to the privileges of a *Flath*, i. clxxxiii; iii. 519.
- Leth narathoir*, half the necessary implements for ploughing, iii. 484.
- Lethe*=*clethe*, a chief or nobleman entitled to a *Foleithe*, that is, who had "sack and soke", and was entitled to hold a court-*Leet*, iii. 517.
- Lethrena*, their traces [leathers], iii. 450.
- Lethrind*, treble strings [of a *Tinpan*], iii. 361.
- Liach*, plu. *Liachrada*, a ladle, iii. 485.
- Lia*, a stone, a flag, a headstone, i. clxxxvii, ccccli; *Lia forcaid*, a grinding stone, i. cccclxi; iii. 486; *Lia lainhe*, a hand stone, ii. 287; *Lia lamha laich* (also *laoich*), a champion's hand-stone, i. cccclxxxviii, cccclvi; ii. 263, 264, 275, 295; *Lia mol*, the shaft-stone of a mill, i. cccclx; *Lia mhbron*, a grinding stone, i. cccclxxxiv.
- Liag, Lúic*, a flag-stone, fl. t. stone, i. ccxcix, cccxxx; *Liag Fíad, Fíad's* champion flat-stone, ii. 283, 284; *Liag Mairgene, Mairgen's* sling-stone, ii. 289. *Lúic tailne*, a sling-stone, see *Tathlum*, i. cccclxxxviii, cccclxi; ii. 250, 288, 295; *Lúic curad*, a champion's flat-stone, ii. 283-286.
- Liag*, gen. *Liaigh, Leaga*, dat. and abl. *Lego, Legho*, a leech or doctor, i. cccxcix; iii. 475-477; *Fingin fath-liag, Fingin*, the prophetic leech, iii. 97.
- Liás, Liás Bó*, a cattle yard, i. cccclxvi; iii. 487; *Liás*, or *Liass cairech*, a sheep-house, or sheep-pen; *Lias laegh, Lias laogh*, a calf-house, i. cxxv; iii. 484, 486.
- Lúic*, see *Liag*, flag-stone.
- Lin*, flax, linen cloth, lint for dressing wounds, etc., iii. 475.
- Lín*, number, amount of; *Lin a dama*, the number of his retinue, iii. 491, 499, 501; also applied to the retinue itself, iii. 513.
- Lín, Lind*, ale, etc. See *Lúan*.
- Lindamnus*, dangerous waters, an angry sea, iii. 210.



es, a cattle yard, *i.* clxxvi, iii; iii. 487. There seems to be no clear distinction between the following word; the mental idea in both is an engorged mound or rampart.

, a homestead surrounded by a part or earthen fence, corresponding to the Welsh *Llys*, *i.* cciv; iii. 4, 7, 8, 27.

*the, Caise no nollaig*, a day of emnity, Easter or Christmas ii. 111, 112.

, a tester, a cover, iii. 489.

"the wasting" or sale of lined chattels, *i.* cclxxiv, cv.

reak, *recte*, wretched people, 6.

the price of a thing, wages, *re-* *i.* ccxcv; iii. 115; *Log enech*, honour-price, the fine for an insult offered to a man's rank, and the amount of which depended on his rank, *i.* cxix, viii, ccxcv; ii. 174; iii. 471; *lanannais*, bride-price, corresponding to the *Brautkauf* of the Germans, and the *Munder* and *gafe* of the Norsemen, *i.* cxix; *Log leaga*, leech-fee, the fee of a doctor, *i.* ccxxxiv.

*acht*, a funeral cry, iii. 384. See *acht* in *Corn. Glos.*

*indich*, west, iii. 115.

, a churnstaff [hand-work],

3. *Loimda mac Lomthogha*, a staff, son of choice hands [hand-work, son of choice hands], 1.

knearing troughs, *i.* ccllix; 5.

strings, cords, or ropes, iii. 150.

a. *Luin*, a blackbird, iii. 245. various, iii. 460.

a ship, a boat shaped house, xxxix; *Long Laghen*, the latter house at Tara, ii. 15; *Munhan*, the Munster House at Tara, ii. 15; a boat-shaped vessel, bath, *e.g.*, *Long foilche*, a bog basin, *i.* cclcv; iii. 486.

*Lurg*, a handle, a shaft; *brebneca*, clubs with chains, lined clubs, iii. 149; *Lorgai*, the shafts of an *Aithech*—the handle of a pitchfork, of an axe, of a spade; *Lorg fersad iarain*,

a spiked iron club or mace, corresponding to the German "*Morgens- stern*", *i.* ccccxviii, cccclxii; ii. 224; *Lorg fergga*, the handle of a pitchfork; *Lorg rammai*, the handle of a spade; *Lorgg samthaigi*, the handle of an axe, *i.* ccllix; iii. 506; *Lorgga*, spits, skewers and other iron implements belonging to the cooking boiler, iii. 485.

*Lor lethna*? scarlet cloaks, iii. 153, [*Loa lethna* is probably older; *Loa* being a form of the nom. plu. of *Lua*, a red or scarlet cloak, and *lethna*, the plural form of the adjective *lethan*, broad; *Loa lethna* would consequently be "broad scarlet cloaks"].

*Luathrinde*, ashes engraver, a name given by *Dubditha* to the prong of the fork by which the devices of *Cuchulaind's* shield were engraved, ii. 329, *et seq.*

*Lucht Tighe*, family, household troops, etc., ii. 392.

*Lugarmain*, the front beam of the loom upon which the warp was rolled, iii. 116.

*Lugnasad*, games and other funeral rites instituted by *Lug*, or *Lugad*, and celebrated at *Tailtiu*, *Cruachan*, etc., on *Lama's* or *Lamma's* day (first of August), *i.* ccxxxvi; ii. 343.

*Luin Chelchir*, *Celtchair's* spear, ii. 325.

*Luinneog*, music, a chorus, a song or ditty, iii. 380, 384. Cf. *Lon*, a blackbird.

*Lumman*, a name for a shield, etc., *i.* cclxxi; ii. 327.

*Lundu*, a river, iii. 448.

*Maá*, great, heavy, excessive, iii. 503.

*Mac Faesma*, "a son of adoption", pl. *Mic Faesma*, "children of adoption", that is, persons adopted into a family or *Fine*; a minor was also called a *Mac Faesma*, *i.* clxv; iii. 474.

*Mac Mecnachan*, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Fuirmid*, ii. 171.

*Maclan airgit*, shoes of silver, iii. 159, 188.

*Mad*, a hero, iii. 446.

*Mad*, when, iii. 454.

*Mael Imme*, "servant of butter", iii. 104, 105.



- Mael Land airgit*, a simple broad band or crescent of silver, iii. 181; *Mael Land*, an ornament of silver with little bells of gold [worn on the necks of riding steeds in royal processions], iii. 181.
- Muelsaille*, "servant of fat meat", iii. 104, 105.
- Magh Reim*, the plain of the sea, cf. Goth. *rinnan*, O. Norse, *renna*, Sanskr. *ri*, Greek, *ῥίω*, i. xxii.
- Maidset*, they broke, iii. 450.
- Maign*, a place; *Maign Digona*, "a demesne of sanctuary"; *Maign Set*, i. clv-vi, cccxxxiv; iii. 473, 488, 526, 527.
- Main*, richer, [recte, riches], iii. 178.
- Maithim*, set at large, naturalized, improved, forgiven, iii. 494.
- Malla*, mules, iii. 330.
- Mán*, a handful, iii. 489.
- Manais*, pl. *Manaisi*, dat. pl. *Manaisib*, a broad trowel-shaped thrusting spear, a heavy spear, i. cccclxxxvii, cccclxi; ii. 238, 255, 262, 295, 298, 317; iii. 100, 146, 440. *Manais leathan-ghlas*, a broad green spear, ii. 316. *Manaisibh muir-neacha*, with great heavy spears, ii. 304.
- Manchaine*, *Manchuine*, service. *I manchaine*, in attendance, iii. 506; the special services which an heir gave his lord, and in a more limited sense a heriot, i. cxi-cxii.
- Man cor sin* [*iman cor sin*], in that manner, iii. 444.
- Mani*, unless, iii. 492.
- Mani dernat*, if he have not done it, iii. 497.
- Maothal*, meal; food consisting of nut-meal and milk, oatmeal and milk, cheese, etc., i. cclcxv.
- Mat*, *Mad*, if, iii. 499.
- Matal*, a mantle, a cloak, the Norse *Móttul*, i. cccclxxxviii; iii. 154.
- Mathluath*, a *Dal* or assembly of the *Raths* and householders of a *Fine*; also an assembly of the chief men of a *Tuath*, cf. Goth. *Mathel*, A. Sax. *Methel*, O. H. German and O. Saxon, *Mahal*, a harangue, a place of assembly, Middle Latin *Malthum*, a convocation, i. clxxxix, ccliii, cclx.
- M-Ba*, *M-Bae*, *M-Buu*, gen. forms of *Bó*, a cow; dat. and abl. *M-Bom*, iii. 479.
- Mbis*, when he has, iii. 490.
- M-Braith*, of destruction, iii. 452.
- Mbruighrechta*, gen. of *Bruighrecht*, iii. 475.
- Mbruth ciridub*, black hair, iii. 158.
- Meada*, of ale [recte, of *Mead*, or *Mede*], iii. 305.
- Mear*, to befool, to mock, or deride, iii. 522.
- Meath*, to fail, to wither; to destroy, i. cclliii.
- Mebait*, are bursting, iii. 452.
- Mecon*, the parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*, i. cccclxvi.
- Medar*, a yew vessel, smaller than the *Milan*, a mead-drinking mug, but also used for drinking beer. It was probably not a square vessel, as stated in vol. iii. p. 57, as it was reckoned among the hooped vessels by *Finntan*, i. cclclvi; iii. 57, 61, 62.
- Mede*, metheglin, cf. German *Metu*, A. Sax. *Medu* or *Meodu*, O. Norse *Mjóðr*, i. cccclxxvii.
- Meil Bretha* ("good judgments"). A book of laws drawn up by *Bodann*, the chief judge of Tara in the time of *Conn* of the Hundred Battles, for the future conduct of juvenile sports. The enactment of this law was due to *Fuainnech*, the daughter of king *Conn*, ii. 30.
- Meirge*, a banner or handkerchief of silk, etc. [here it means a lady's silk veil], iii. 114.
- Melastar*, he grinds [recte, thou art ground], iii. 448.
- Mell*, a ball (of gold) worn by ladies on the points of the tresses of their hair when plaited, iii. 190.
- Mellach*, deceitful, iii. 522.
- Memaíd*, frightened to flight, iii. 450.
- Mendat fadeisin*, his own cherished home, iii. 521.
- Menedoch*, meal and milk, i. cccclx.
- Meni oir*, gold-ore, iii. 210.
- Menmut*, [*mán-ait*], his cherished native place and people, iii. 517.
- Meraguib*, non-combatants (fugitives), iii. 450.
- Mesc*, dat. *Meisce*, intoxication, i. cxxiv; iii. 503; *mesc medarchain*, a gentle merry intoxication, iii. 414; *mescraid recht*, moderate inebriations, iii. 503.
- Mesca*, gen. pl. of *Mes*, fruits, iii. 479.
- Mescaid*, he regales, iii. 510.
- Metithr*, larger than, iii. 460.

- Miach*, a sack, a measure, i. cclxv, dclxiii; iii. 512; *Miach comaitches*, the sack-fine for multure, or as part of the rent of a copartnership, i. cclxiv; *Miach lestar*, a vessel capable of holding a *miach*; *Miach cruithnechta*, a sack of wheat, iii. 512.
- Miad*, *Miadh*, honour, reward; cf. A. S. *méd*, Engl. *meed*, iii. 514, 522.
- Miadlechta*, dat. pl. *Miadlechtaib*, titles of honour, iii. 513.
- Mic cor m-bel*, binding men, chiefs of kindred, i. cclxii.
- Midelb*, an ill visage, iii. 442.
- Midenam*, gen. of *Midenmai*, misdeeds, iii. 493.
- Miahellach*, a deceitful man; one who does not occupy land or possess property; who does not work, or for whom there is no work done, iii. 522. See *Midlach*.
- Midi medon lai*, middle of midday, iii. 448.
- Midithar*, is ennobled, iii. 522.
- Midlach*, *medhon ellach*, the centre of deception. *Midlach miliaig*, a homeless man, or a deceitful man, iii. 522. See *Midhellach*.
- Midlaigib*, camp followers, non-combatants, iii. 450.
- Migninu*, misdeeds, iii. 493.
- Milan*, a vessel smaller than the *Cil-orn*, made of the wood of the yew, i. cclvi; iii. 61-62.
- Milchu*, gen. *Milchon*, a grayhound, iii. 500, 507.
- Milech*, a brooch, iii. 137, 138; *Milech iarnaige*, an iron pin, iii. 103.
- Miliaig* (a *Midlach*), a homeless or deceitful man, iii. 522.
- Mind*, *Minn*, pl. *Minda*, dat. pl. *Mindaib*, a diadem or coronet, i. lxxiv, cclxxxiv, ccxcv; iii. 180, 182, 193-203, 307. *Mind Aird Righ*, diadem of a high king, iii. 179; *Mind n-óir*, or *mind óir*, a diadem of gold, iii. 113, 114, 160, 165; *Mind riogda*, a kingly diadem (a curious one worn by King Cormac Mac Airt, at the meeting of the states at Tara), iii. 196, 197.
- Mintu*, small birds, iii. 448.
- Miodhcuaird*, mead-circling, i. ccclii.
- Mi siltai*, the month of seed sowing, iii. 506.
- Mithemel*, a lowering cloud; a countenance exhibiting dismay and dispiritedness, iii. 442.
- Mithal*, an assembly, a gathering of people, i. ccliii; *Mithal Tuatha*, an assembly of the freeholders of a *Tuath*, called together to make a *Dun*, house, *Fert* or grave, or for some general public purpose, i. ccliii; *Múhal Flatha*, a meeting of the tenants of a *Flath*, called together to give allegiance on his accession, to attend his wake and funeral, or for other purposes, i. ccliii; *Meath Mithli Flatha*, non-attendance at the lord's assembly, i. ccliii.
- Mleth*=*mbleth*, grinding, iii. 489.
- Mocoil acas fithisi*, meshes and gems [recte, clusters and weavings], iii. 161.
- Mointech*, bog moss, i. cccci.
- Molt cona fosair*, a wether with its accompaniments, iii. 477.
- Mna caointe*, mourning women, professional mourning women who performed the lamentation part of the *Cluiche caointe*, i. ccxxiv.
- Monail*, occupations, iii. 506.
- Móo*, greater, superl. of *Mór*, iii. 494.
- Moram*, great (recte, greater things), iii. 497.
- Morglonnach*, pompous, iii. 432.
- Moroga*, sausages, puddings, i. cclclxix; iii. 482.
- Mou*, comparative form of *Mór*; great, iii. 479.
- Mrogad*, extending, enlarging, increasing, iii. 511.
- Mrugrechtai*, gen. of *Brughrecht*, *Brugh Law*, the initial *B* being displaced by a prosthetic *M*, iii. 511.
- Muadalbemmennaib*, abl. pl. tremendous great blows, iii. 450.
- Mucfoil*, gen. *Mucfolach*, a pig-stye, i. cxxv; iii. 484, 486, 489.
- Muc-Forais*, a house-fed pig, i. cclclxix; iii. 479.
- Mucríucht*, bottom or pig-belly pudding, i. cclclxix.
- Mug Eimhe*, "slave of the haft", the name of the first lap-dog brought into Eriu, i. xxxix; ii. 210-212.
- Muilenn*, a mill, iii. 486.
- Muillind argait*, the same as *Mael-land argait*, iii. 219, 220.
- Muin*, the neck, iii. 178, 182.
- Muinche*, pl. *Muinci*, dat. pl. *Muincib*, or *Munchib*, a neck torque, or neck chain; a generic name for any kind of collar, ring, or neck-



- lace for the neck of men, women, dogs, horses, etc., and for the hafts of spears where the head was inserted. In the Fenian poems and tales it is especially used for the collars of noble grayhounds. It was either a blade, or leaf of gold or silver, twisted wire or a twisted wreath. The twisted kind was called a *Muintorc*, nom. pl. *Muintorca*, dat. pl. *Muintorcaib*. *Muinche do at*, a smaller variety of the *Budne do at*, which went round the body, and appears to have been the finest kind, i. lxxiv; iii. 146, 147, 157, 160, 163-165, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 186, 211.
- Muirchuirthe*, the son of a foreigner by a free-born woman, i. ccxxii.
- Muir Luacha*, [modern Irish *Muir-luachra*=*Luachair*], bulrushes, iii. 486.
- Muir Moena*, see *Sruth Moena*, and ii. 186.
- Mummi*, a tutoress, iii. 458.
- Mur*, a wall, a sepulchral monument, a plague-grave; *Mur cloiche*, a stone rampart consisting of a block of dry masonry not less than two feet in height, which marked the graves of such as died of pestilential diseases; where stones could not be obtained, square sods called *Dartairidhe* were used; *Dartaire*, the singular form, has been inadvertently printed in the text, i. ccxxxiii, dcxxxviii-ix.
- Murathóg*, gen. of *Mur Fatha*, an enclosed *Gort* or garden, a kitchen garden, i. ccclxvi.
- Murduchan*, a siren, a mermaid or sea nymph. See *Sámhghúba*, which was the old Irish name for the song of the Sirens, not of the Sirens themselves, as some writers have supposed, iii. 384.
- Nacha ruba*, shall not wound, i. cxi.
- Nad accladat*, not responsible for, does not respond to, iii. 507.
- Nadman*, a functionary corresponding to the Welsh *Gwr Nod*, or *Nodnan*, i. cclxxv-vi.
- Naib*, the dative plural of the definite article *na*. *Is naib sechtaib*, into the seven things (iii. 492), affords an interesting example of the inflexion of the article, and its agreement in number and case with the noun to which it belongs.
- Naidm*, a knot, a contract, or bond, cf. Latin *nexum*; it is used also for *Nadman*, that is, the magistrate who made the *Naidm*, i. cclxii, cclxxv; iii. 470, 471. *Naidm Aitire*, the bond of an *Aitire* or bail, i. cclxxxv.
- Nairide*=*Airide*, (*Ind Airide*, in *d-Airidhe*) a dairy, a store-house, iii. 488.
- Nama*, only, alone, iii. 506.
- Namma*, so that they be not, iii. 505.
- Nanthorsed*, disparagement, iii. 416.
- Narta de*, has come of it, iii. 460.
- Nasc*, a ring, a band, a strap, a fillet-ring, or garter, a bond or tie, i. clxxxviii, cclxvii; ii. 331, 332; iii. 168.
- Nascaire*, a *Nasc*-man, that is, a binder, or knotting-man; a magistrate qualified to make a *Naidm* or bond; another name for *Fer-Nadma* or *Nadman*, i. cclxvii-viii; cclxxv, cclxxvi.
- Nath*, the name of any [metrical] composition. The great and small *Nath* were certain kinds of poems, the learning of which formed the study of the sixth year in a course of *Filedocht*. *Esnath*, *Esnad*, that which is not a metrical composition, but only a *Duchand*, ii. 172, 173; iii. 381.
- Nathrach*, gen. of *Nathair*, a serpent, iii. 157.
- Na Tri Finn Emhna*, "the three Fair Twins", or triplets, [the three *Finn*s of Emania, ii. 261-264.
- Naurrai* [*Aurra*=*Urradh*], a leader or chief, iii. 502.
- N-Dissi*, on second, or second day, iii. 497.
- Nechtair*, *Nechtár*, *I nechtar*, outside, a distance out from, neighbouring, iii. 508, 517.
- N-Ecsmacht*, despotic rule, iii. 491.
- Neime*, a sacred object, a relic upon which an oath was sworn, i. cclxxxix, cxcxi.
- Neimid*, a magistrate, a judge, a sacred person or thing, the higher class of privileged grades, i. cclxiii, cclxii.
- Nel*, a trance, iii. 452.
- Nel Mac Laoich Lasamain*, "Light, [recte, cloud], the son of Blazing Warrior", from *Nel*, "light", [recte, cloud], *Laeach*, "a champion", and *Lasaman*, blazing, brilliant, ii. 132.



- Nemh-thenga*, poisoned [*recte*, poisonous] tongue, iii. 17.
- Nembeoil*, some kind of beer or cider [perhaps rather melted butter, or some savoury kind of sauce], iii. 477.
- Nemed*, a duly qualified "worthy man", i. clxxxiii.
- Nena*, a kind of literary composition forming part of the studies of the ninth and tenth years of the course of *Filadecht*, ii. 173.
- Nenadnim*, a kind of cider made from the wild crab apple, and also from whorts, i. cccclxxviii.
- Nenaise*, to bind, to govern, iii. 514.
- Neper*—*eper*, is said or called, iii. 491, 497.
- Nesa*, nearest or next to; *nesa do seir Tuisigh*, follows next after a chief, iii. 520.
- Niadh*, a champion, iii. 168.
- Niamh Land*, or *Lann (óir)*, a flat crescent of gold, which was worn around the neck, and also upon or over the forehead; e.g. *Niamhlann óir in a hedan*, a radiant crescent of gold upon her forehead, iii. 157, 174, 179, 211.
- Niamhleastar*, a splendid vessel, iii. 204.
- Nicelt*, they did not conceal, iii. 249.
- N-Immdai*, beds, iii. 495.
- Nin*, "id est", that is, etc., iii. 492.
- Noaill*, to arbitrate (to go into co-judgment with), iii. 504.
- Noes*, rushes, *Noes nua*, new rushes, iii. 489.
- Nog*, *n-óg*, perfect, *Nog Cuir*, perfect bonds, i. clxxxviii; *Nog tincur*, perfect furniture, iii. 499.
- Noill*, to swear; used also in the sense of an oath and of the person who administered it, i.e. *Noillecha*, arbitrators or jurats who held sworn inquisitions, and who took part in planting, proclaiming, and ascertaining boundaries, i. clxiv, clxxxii, cclxxxix, ccxc; iii. 500.
- Noilleg*, enmities, disputes, iii. 500.
- Noi-x*, nineteen, iii. 499.
- Nollenat*, that which follows, iii. 497.
- No-luited*, blighted (or used to blight), iii. 526-7.
- Nomad*, ninth, ninth day, iii. 477.
- Nomad naó*, the ninth generation, iii. 494.
- Nomaide*, nine days, iii. 414.
- Nonbur*, nine persons, iii. 501.
- Nosad*, funeral rites or games, i. cccxxvi, cccxxxix.
- Nos Tuatha*, pl. *Nosa Tuatha*, a by-law or territorial custom, i. ccliv; ii. 31; iii. 472.
- Nuairll*, to proclaim or publish, i. clxxxii.
- Nuaiss*, *n-Uais* (comp. of *uas*, noble), greater, more noble, iii. 500.
- Nuallgrith na roth*, loud clattering of the wheels, iii. 426.
- N-uath-ledb*, a piece of leather upon which was made a pattern to be copied by a workwoman, iii. 116.
- N-ue*, a grandsire, iii. 479.
- Nurconn*, *n-Urconn*, a chief man, iii. 515; cf. *Ore a prince*, *Ard Arcon*, high nobles, *Conn conda Secha*, chiefs of kindred.
- O*, from, iii. 495. *O bel acus O tengaig*, "from mouth and from tongue", record of court given". "Ore tenus", i. cclxviii.
- O*, dat. *U*, ears, iii. 145; *O mair*, large-eared, iii. 107, 428.
- Oc-Aire*, a young *Aire* [an *Aire* who held by *soen* or sockage tenure], i. cxli-ii; iii. 479.
- Ocbaidh*, to raise up; *dom ocbaidh*, raise me up, iii. 383.
- Ochar-chlis*, "missive shields", [*recte* missive darts and not shields; a *nocht nochar-chlis*, their eight turned-handled missive darts], ii. 303; iii. 436.
- Ochon Chonchobair*, i.e. *Conchobar's* groaner, the name of *Concobar Mac Nessa's* great shield, i. cccclxxii; ii. 321.
- Ochrath*, pantaloons reaching to the *Ailt*, ankle, iii. 104-107; leggins or greaves, cf. Latin *Oerca*, i. cccclxxxiv-v, cccxciv; iii. 157.
- Ocht-Foclach mór*, a kind of verse having eight lines in a stanza, of which the following varieties are mentioned: *Ocht foclach corranach beg*, or "little eight-lined curved verse"; *Ocht foclach mór chorrónach*, or great eight-lined curved verse; *Ocht foclach h-i Eimín*, or eight-lined verse of *O' h-Eimín*, iii. 393, 394, 395, 397-399.
- Ocht-Tedach*, an eight-stringed musical instrument of the harp or psalterium class, i. dxiii; iii. 262, 263, 333.
- Octigernd*, a petty or tributary king,

- a lord having soke or jurisdiction, *i. ccc.*
- Oé*, to know, to recognize or acknowledge, see *a noi*, *iii. 513.*
- Oen-cinneda*, the last survivor of a family, *iii. 477.*
- Oenmit*, the husband of a bad woman, a cuckold, *iii. 521.*
- Oenuidhe*, gen. of *Oenuch*, a fair, an assembly, *iii. 514.*
- Og-Aire*, see *Oc-Aira*, *i. cclxxx; iii. 26.*
- Og-Flaitheam*, a petty *Flath*, one of an inferior class of nobility holding part of a subdivided estate, corresponding perhaps to the German *Land-Adel.*
- Oilcc*, *Oilc*, men sent to arrest and pursue or execute a criminal; they probably formed the armed retinue of the *Dae*, *i. cclxvi; iii. 507.*
- Oirceal*, a small narrow house, shed, or cellar. In the *Lebhor Brec*, the shed in which Christ was born is called by this name; a mill sluice. *Oirceal an fiona*, a wine cellar, *i. cccx.*
- Oircin*, a musical instrument probably a loan-word from the Latin *Organum*; *Oircine*, a man's name, or rather title, *e.g.* the *Ollamh Oircne*, or chief professor of the *Oircin*. This name might also signify the "repeater", in allusion to the man's profession of repeating or singing, and derived from *oir* or *ór*, the mouth, and *cno*, a loan-word from the Latin *cano*, *i. dxxx; ii. 210, 212; iii. 334-5.*
- Oircne*, a lap-dog, *ii. 210, 212; iii. 334-5.*
- Oirdniter*, is ordained, that ordains, *iii. 504.*
- Oirfidioch*, musicians [fife-players], *iii. 340.*
- Oitidehi*, junior, *iii. 430.*
- Oitiu*, youth, newness, *iii. 479.*
- Olla*, wool, *iii. 115.*
- Ollamh*, the highest rank in any of the learned professions, *ii. 78, 172; iii. 52, 53, 216, 235, 316, 365, 510; Ollamh Aighne*, the highest rank of advocate or pleading barrister, *i. cclxxiii; Ollamh Brethammuis*, chief justice of the *Airecht Fodeisin*, *i. cclxxiii; Ollamh Cruitire*, a chief harper; *Ollamh Ciuil*, an *Ollamh* or doctor of music; *Ollamh Tempanach*, a chief timpanist.
- Omnaid*, *Omnad*, an oak tree; a trunk of any tree, *e.g.* *omnad giuise*, a trunk of a pine tree; *omnad iubair*, a trunk of a yew tree, *iii. 448.*
- On*, a loan (lending), *iii. 487.*
- Or*, *H-or*, a border, limit, extremity, or boundary of any place or thing; *H-or crichi*, the boundary of a territory, *iii. 505.*
- Orb*, an heir, as in *Comorb*, a co-heir, cf. German *Erbe*, *i. clxxxii.*
- Orba*, inherited estate, patrimony, *i. clxxii; Orba cruib is slíasta*, "inheritance of hand and thigh", land settled on a daughter, and which passed away from the *Fine* to the husband and the children of the daughter and their descendants as long as they agreed with the *Fine*, and conformed to the *Fenechas*, or custumal law, *i. clxx.*
- Orbainn*, a generic name for corn, *i. cccxii.*
- Orcca*, young pigs, *iii. 500.*
- Ordain*, renown, *iii. 240, 241.*
- Ordain*, the thumb, *iii. 146-7.*
- Ordd*, order or rank, *iii. 488-9.*
- Ordnasc óir*, a thumb-ring of gold, *iii. 146-7, 186.*
- Orduise*, thumb rings, *iii. 168.*
- Orgain*, slaughter, destruction, plunder, etc., *Orgain Chathrach Chonrai*, the slaughter of *Cathair Conrai*, i.e. the *Cathair* or residence of *Curoi*, *Mac Daire*, King of West Munster, *iii. 81.*
- Ornai*, the name of the sword of *Tethra*, *ii. 254.*
- Ornasc*, a gold ring, a finger ring, a clasp, *iii. 168.*
- Or snath*, gold thread, *i. cccclxxxiii.*
- Os*, a wild deer, hence *Ossairghe*, or *Ossorians*, *ii. 208.*
- Osolgud*, *Ossolggud*, opening, *iii. 487.*
- Otha*, from them, from that, or those, *iii. 364.*
- Othar-chleas*, the invalidating feat, *ii. 352.*
- Othraus*, a person sick or wounded, *ii. 471, 472.*
- Pait*, a leather bottle, cf. *A. Sax. Bytta* or *Butta*, English *Butt* or *Boot*, *i. cccclviii; iii. 117; Pait foilchthi*, a leather bottle with cosmetic and scented oil—literally a bathing or washing bottle, *i. ccclvii; iii. 117.*
- Partaing*, coral, *iii. 110, 220, 221.*



in *dearg*, the berry of the  
 in ash.  
 a maker of leather bottles,  
 ii; iii. 117.  
*rse*, i. ccclxxv.  
 penance, penalty, i. clvi.  
 a foot bag in which sorted  
 kept by carding women, i.  
 ; iii. 115.  
 wooden drinking vessel with  
 ght handle, larger than the  
 r mug, i. ccclv-vi  
 penny, i. cclxxx, cclxxxi,  
 ; iii. 37.  
 g-pipes, Welsh *Pybeu*, i.  
 xiv, dxxxii; iii. 313, 335.  
*ioipaire*, pl. *Pipaireadha*, a  
 i. 335, 336, 340, 363, 369.  
 n, etc., iii. 31.  
 a satchel, a book wallet, i.  
 .  
 friend, a tutor, master, or  
 iii. 446, 456; sometimes  
 "my dear", as in iii. 418.  
 tent, an awning or cover-  
 a chariot, from the Latin  
 i. ccclxxx.  
 nd of dance-music, iii. 407.  
 i, legal limit of pursuit, i.  
 vii.  
 h, decorators, iii. 258.  
 b, prime grade, iii. 502.  
 upper, a meal, from the  
*Frandum*, i. ccclxvi.  
 e spake, he said, iii. 450.  
 special levy, etc., i. ccxl.  
 sustain, etc. *Ni racu*, could  
 ain, iii. 510.  
 ing, i. 414.  
*isa*, I have come, iii. 418.  
*ib*, poems and traditions,  
 ies, iii. 310.  
*lath*, pl. *Ratha*, a bail or  
 a spokesman for another,  
 clxxxviii, cclxii; iii. 416.  
*Rath Trebaire*, a chief of  
 old, i. clxxvi; *Raith com-*  
 security of sanctuary, iii.  
 ruled, iii. 497.  
 spade, i. cxi.  
 e, iii. 454.  
 d, thread; *Rand-airgid*, sil-  
 end, iii. 113, 114, 183.  
 erse (see *Abhrann*), iii. 371.  
 I have heard, iii. 426.  
*istar*, that betrayed me, iii.  
 a, I foretold, iii. 426.

*Ratregdastar*, art pierced, iii. 448.  
*Rath*, wages; the cattle, etc., given  
 by a lord to his *Ceiles*, for which  
 the latter were to pay service, rent,  
 etc., according to mutual agree-  
 ment, i. cx-cxiii; iii. 384, 472.  
*Rath*, a residence surrounded by an  
 earthen rampart; the residence of  
 an *Aire* entitled to act as a *Raith*,  
 i. ccv, ccxxx; iii. 14. See *Lis*  
 and *Dun*.  
*Rathaigis*, he guarantees, iii. 493.  
*Rathbhuidhe*, a *Rath*-builder who con-  
 structed the *Rath*, *Lis*, and *Dun*, iii.  
 14, 15.  
*Rathmaighe*, a *rath* builder, iii. 522.  
*Ratfia*, I will give, iii. 400, 414.  
*Realta na Bh-Fíliodh*, "the star of  
 the poets", i. e., the house of the  
 poets at Tara, ii. 16.  
*Recht*, law, i. cclxxi; iii. 497; *Recht*  
*Adhamnain*, the law of *Adamnan*,  
 iii. 505; *Rechts lanamna*, gen.  
 of marriage law, iii. 500.  
*Rechtair*, pl. *Rechtairi*, a house  
 steward, corresponding to the *Pin-*  
*cerna* or butler of the Anglo-  
 Saxons, i. ccxxxix, cccli, ccclii;  
 iii. 504.  
*Rechtgi*, *Rechtge* (pl. of *Recht*), law-  
 ful rights, iii. 505.  
*Redithma*, the time of detention of  
 hostages, pledges, etc.; and in case  
 of cattle in pound, it meant the  
 time between the expiration of  
 the *Anad* or stay, and the *Re*  
*Fiascla* or time of release, when  
 notice of *Lobad* or wasting, that  
 is, of forfeiture and sale, was  
 given, i. ccxxxiv. See *Dithma*.  
*Refedaib*, "rollers, bodkins, or pins"  
 [recte twisted cords or thongs], ii.  
 300. See *Lebor na h-Uidari*, p.  
 63, col. 1, line 18.  
*Ré Imbi*, the fencing season, iii. 489.  
*Reimm*, a juggler, a clown, iii. 522.  
*Remmad*, distortion of the body and  
 face, iii. 522.  
*Rend*, *Renn*, dat. and abl. pl. *Rennaib*,  
 a point, ii. 300, iii. 448.  
*Repaid*, to cure=*Frepaid*, which see.  
*Repsetar*, they refused, iii. 414.  
*Retha copad*, a bleating ram, iii. 140.  
*Rethaib ech*, horse-racing, iii. 507.  
*Ri*, a king, ii. 469, 502.  
*Riascaire*, an outlaw, a wanderer or  
 exile, a man who absconds from his  
 family, tribe, and territory to evade  
 justice; an ignoble *Rath* builder



- who builds for chiefs and ecclesiastics. Cf. English *rascal*, *iii*. 522.
- Riastartha*, the gigantic distorted, cf. German *Riese*, Old Norse *Risi*, a giant, *i*. cccxxviii.
- Riastrad*, distortion, *iii*. 448.
- Ria less*, to want or require, *iii*. 490.
- Ricce, Rige*, a kingdom, *i*. lxxxiv.
- Richt*, form, appearance, state of being, *iii*. 522.
- Rig, Righ, Rii, Ri*, forms of the generic name of a king. Cf. Gaulish *Rig-s* or *Rix*, Latin *Reg-s*, or *Rex* (see also *Cing*), *i*. cccxxviii, cccxxxi; *iii*. 469, 502, etc.; *Ard Ri Eriud*, the high or paramount king of Ireland, *i*. cccxxxi; *Righ* or *Rii Ben*, king of horns, see *Righ Tuatha*, cccxxix; *iii*. 502; *Rii Buiden*, a king of companies, see *Righ Mór Tuatha*, *i*. cccxxix; *iii*. 502; *Rii bunaid cech einn*, the *Rii Rurech*, or king of kings, see *Righ Cuicidh*, cccxxix; *iii*. 502, 503; *Righ Cuicidh*, one of the provincial kings of the Irish Pentarchy; he was the same as the *Righ Buid* or *Righ Rurech*, *i*. cccxxix; *Ri eicis* or *Righ eigeas*, a king sage, or poet-king, *ii*. 57; *iii*. 503; *Ri Ri*, a king-king, who holds the allegiance of seven tribe kings, *iii*. 574; see *Righ Mór Tuatha*; *Righlath*, a king-*Flath*, or royal chief, *i*. cccxxviii; *Rii Rurech*, the same as the *Righ Cuicidh*; *Rig Treaba*, the king of a tribe, *i*. cccxxx; *Righ Tuatha*, the king or chief of a *Tuath* or *Triucha Céd*; he was the same as the *Righ Ben* or *Righ Benn*, *i*. cccxxix; *Righ Mór Tuatha*, a king of a great *Tuath*, he was the *Dux* or leader of the armed forces of the union of small *Tuaths* comprised in the *Mór Tuath*, and corresponded to the Ealdorman of a Trithing, while the *Rig Tuatha* corresponded to the Ealdorman of a Hundred. The *Righ Mór Tuatha* was also called a *Righ Buiden*, or king of companies, from his office of military leader, *i*. cccxxix, cccxxxi, cclxviii.
- Rigán*, a queen, *i*. ccccl-cllii.
- Righ-Barr*, a royal *Barr* or diadem; any ornament or covering worn by a king on his head, *i*. cccxlv; *iii*. 209.
- Righdanna, Rigdonna*, "the material of a king", a prince, a royal heir, *i*. ccccl, ccccli; *iii*. 146.
- Righ Tech, Rig Tech*, gen. *Righthigh*, "a king house", a kingly or royal residence, *iii*. 508.
- Righthigh*, a frontman. A king was entitled to have four mercenary attendants or body-guardsmen in his retinue, viz.: a *Righthigh* or frontman, a *Scirthith* or rear-man, and two *Taobtaid*, or sidemen, *iii*. 509.
- Rinceadh*, dance, *iii*. 406-408.
- Rind*, "music with corresponding music against it"; melody, *iii*. 252, 361.
- Rinde*, a round wooden bucket, *iii*. 117.
- Rinnaidhe*, an engraver or carver, *iii*. 209.
- Ritiri*, a horseman, an esquire, cf. German *Reiter*, *iii*. 146.
- Robhud*, vauntings, warnings, etc., *iii*. 432.
- Rochair*, has fallen, died, *iii*. 452.
- Rochat*, was sung, *iii*. 514.
- Rochraphair*, you have fallen or died, *iii*. 311, 312.
- Rochratar*, they fell or died, *iii*. 434.
- Rochul*, a shroud or grave cloth, *i*. cccxli, cccclxxxvii, cccxciv.
- Rocuindigh*, did request, *iii*. 526-7.
- Rod*, though: *Rod bo*, though he be (is), *iii*. 510.
- Rodh*, see *Rud, Rudh*.
- Rodslaidius*, I have slaughtered, *iii*. 462.
- Roeglaind*, learned, *iii*. 446.
- Roen*, visible, *iii*. 450.
- Rofia*, that passes, *iii*. 491.
- Rofüter*, have been sent, *iii*. 507.
- Rogbai*, to require or desire for, *iii*. 508.
- Roi*, a battle; a battle-field, *iii*. 506.
- Roidh*, see *Rudh*, *iii*. 119, 120.
- Roilbe*, common mountain pasture, a morass, waste land in general, *i*. clx.
- Roinindeltar*, is distributed, *iii*. 485.
- Romad=Fromad* and *Promad*, to test, to prove, to rouse, *iii*. 442.
- Romre*, retreat, defeat, *iii*. 509.
- Rop*, is, it is, *iii*. 506.
- Ropcovr*, is appropriate, *iii*. 505.
- Ropp*, a tuft; *Ropp do birur*, a tuft of water cress, *iii*. 150, 151.
- Rormai*, is increased, *iii*. 490.
- Rosca catha*, battle songs, war odes, and harangues, *i*. cccxxvii.
- Rosleic*, he darts, bounds, or lets go, *iii*. 448.

- a wheel, cf. Latin *Rota*, *i.* xxviii-ix; *Roth-chleas*, the wheel feat, some such game as wing the sledge or the quoit, *i.* 2; *Roth croi*, *Roth righ*, a royal shield shaped brooch, *ii.* 56-7; *Roth n-óir* a gold wheel brooch, *ii.* 41, 157-8.
- Road*, *iii.* 486.
- Road*, *i.* clx.
- Road*, probably rye, and cognate with Lettish *Rudzi*, *i.* cccxii.
- Rime*, the *Alnus glutinosa*, a tree, the branches of which are used for dyeing wool, *i.* ccccv; *i.* 19.
- Rim*, "riming", the first process of wool dyeing, effected by dipping the wool with the twigs of the alder tree, *iii.* 119. This process is still called *Ruamughadh*, *i.e.*, "colouring".
- Rus*, battle conflict, trial; cf. O. H. G., O. Sax. *krum*, clamor, jactantia, gloria, *i.* German *Ruhm*, fame, *iii.*
- Rud*, warlike, *iii.* 458.
- Rud*, he thrust, *iii.* 450.
- Rud*, wounding, cutting, killing, driving off trespassing cattle, or snatching of prey, etc., *i.* cxii.
- Ruba*, wounded, *iii.* 509.
- Ruchta*, a scarlet frock or tunic, *iii.* 152, 153. See *Inar*.
- Rudh*, *Roidh*, *Rú*, *Run*, *Galium*, a yellow bedstraw, also a cultivated plant, probably made use of for dyeing wool of a red color, *i.* cccvii, dclxiii; *iii.* 119.
- Rig Tuatha*, was entitled to tribute from his subjects every year in the quantity of *Corcur* and of *Rud* the value of one *Scrapal*.
- Rud*, prescription, *i.* clxxxvii, clix, cxc; *Rudrad caecait*, a prescription of fifty [years], *i.* cxvii; *Rudrad trichat*, a prescription of thirty [years], *i.* cxvii.
- Ruddening*, disgrace, literally blighting, *iii.* 507.
- Rud*, ruddiness, *iii.* 454.
- Ruism*, *Ruirmasium*, we have generated or mentioned, *iii.* 500.
- Ruim*, a channel or moulding plane, *ii.* 80.
- Ruriud*, a first crossing or trespassing over a defined boundary, *i.* ccl.
- Rutsu*, with you, to you, *iii.* 454.
- Sab*, pl. *Sabaid*, a prop of state, a councillor of state; *Sabaid* is frequently used in the sense of a council, *i.* cxxxii, clxxxvi, cexlii, cccclxxi; *iii.* 511; *Sabaid Cuirmtigi*, the Council of the Ale House, *i.* cexlii, cclii; *Sabh Ildanach*, the polytechnical block, or trunk of all the arts, a name given to *Lughaidh Mac Eithlín*, *iii.* 40, 42.
- Sabald*, *Sabail*, a barn, *iii.* 479, 486.
- Saer*, a carpenter, a mason, a builder, *iii.* 40-42, 209, 210.
- Saer*, free; *Saer Biathad*, free maintenance, *iii.* 514; *Saer Bothach*, free-service cottiers living in a *Both* or cabin on common or tribe lands, *i.* cxv, clxxxvi. See *Cot*. *Saer Ceile*, a free client or vassal, *i.* cxxxix. *Saer Fuidir*, a free *Fuidir*, *i.* cxvii; *Saer rath*, the gifts or wages given by a lord to a free *Ceile* or vassal, *i.* cx.
- Sai*, a literary title given to historians and other learned men, *i.* ci; *iii.* 510. See *Sued*. *Sai canoine*, a professor of canon law, etc., *ii.* 84; *Sai Treab*, a *Righ Treaba* or tribe king, *i.* cccx x.
- Saiget*, an arrow, a dart, *ii.* 287, 301; *Saiget Bolc*, *Saget Bolc*, *Saighead Bolg*, a belly spear; ore probably an ordinary bow, cf. *sagitta*, an arrow, *i.* cccclii; *ii.* 295, 301.
- Saigid*, unto; *da saigid*, unto him, unto us, *iii.* 444, 452.
- Saig-var*, nomen fontis, whence *Saigir Ciaran* in Ossory, *i.* cccvi.
- Sailti*, salted meat, *i.* cccclix; *Sailti do tarsun*, salt meat with condiments, *iii.* 485.
- Saim biad*, *Saimbiad*, summer food, *iii.* 487, 495.
- Saintrebtha*, householding, household troops, *iii.* 478.
- Sál*, foulness, dirt, dishonour, *iii.* 493.
- Saland*, salt, *iii.* 483.
- Sail*, *Sall*, a generic name for fleshments of all kinds; bacon, *i.* cccclix; *iii.* 487, 492; *Sail t-salnd*, salted meat, the *Sialfacti* of the Norse, *i.* cccclix, cccclxvii.
- Samh*, summer, *iii.* 214. See *Samhain*, *Sámghúba*, *Sambiad*, etc.



- Samach*, happy, iii. 444.
- Samaisc*, a heifer in her third year, not bulled, i. cxi, cxii; iii. 49, 114, 481. See *Sed*.
- Sambiad*, *Sambuid*, summer food, iii. 492, 500.
- Samain*, *Samhain*, gen. *Samna*, November eve, from *samh*, summer, and *fuin*, end, ii. 13; iii. 124, 217, 420.
- Sámhghúba*, the song of the *Murdochans*, mermaids or sea nymphs, from *samh*, which signifies here tranquillity, entrancing happiness, and *gubha*, a slow plaintive air, iii. 384.
- Samhuíther*, arranged, established, confirmed, etc., iii. 515.
- Samseisc focail*, polite address, gentle conversation, iii. 520.
- Santbrecc*, beautifully speckled, iii. 418.
- Sar*, an insult, an assault in which blood was not shed, female violation, violation of sanctuary, i. ccxcv; iii. 473, 482.
- Sarugud*, *Sarugh*, a fine or compensation paid for a *sar*; it was the same as the Welsh *Saraad*, i. cxxviii, clxxvi, cxcxv.
- Satlui*, revolt, aggression, iii. 505.
- Scabal*, a pot; *Scabul cocuis*, a cooking pot, i. ccxcix; iii. 479; *Scabal tigi*, a house or family pot, i. dext.
- Scaiderc*, *Scaiderc*, a mirror, i. cccvii; iii. 117.
- Scalfartach*, a loud, sharp, shrill sound or noise; the chirping of birds; e.g., *scalfartach lon*, chirping of blackbirds; this word is incorrectly explained in some latter day glossaries as a piper, iii. 368.
- Scáthán*, a mirror. See *Scaiderc*, iii. 117.
- Sceinnig*, shyness, wild flight, iii. 450.
- Sceith beinnecha*, protecting shields, iii. 147-8.
- Scell*, a target, iii. 454.
- Sceo gruaidhe*, *gruadhgrissa*, cheek-reddening, iii. 515.
- Scian*, pl. *Scena*, a knife, i. cccxi; *Scian gailia* (recte, *gaili*, gen. of *gail*, slaughter warfare, rage of battle, etc.); there is also a form *gal*, heat, battle, valour, etc.), a curved war knife called by the Scotch a "gully-knife", i. ccccxliv.
- Sciath*, a shield, a scuttle, ii. 330, 331; *Sciath cliss*, pl. *Sciatha cliss*, missive shields, ii. 301; iii. 436; light shields used in fighting with javelins and other missive weapons, i. cccclxv, cccclxvii.
- Sciathrach*, the straps and trappings of a shield, ii. 331; iii. 162, 163.
- Scilde*, see *Skilda*.
- Scolb*, a "scollop", a thin rod or twig, pointed at both ends, and used for fastening thatch, iii. 32.
- Screoin*, fright, iii. 450.
- Screpall*, a standard of value which varied in many cases, but here it is = three pence, i. cclxxx-i; iii. 112.
- Scuaird Lena*, a *Lena* made like the Norse *Skyrta*, i. cccclxxxiii.
- Seur*, an enclosure, a grazing field, a paddock, iii. 444.
- Sdan* (= *stan*), tin, from the Latin *Stannum*, i. ccccix.
- Sdarga*, a shield, i. cccclxv; ii. 344.
- Sebin*, a small wooden mug, i. cccclvi.
- Seagdair*, *Seaghdair*, one of the grades of *Fili*, or poet, ii. 171.
- Seanchaid*, *Senchaid*, persons qualified to make "record of court", i. cxcxi; *Seanchaid n-inroic*, fully qualified *Senchaid*s, i. clxxxii.
- Seanoir*, a senior, i. clvi.
- Sechip*, each of them, iii. 493.
- Sechier Faitche*, an outer farm or lawn annexed to the *Faitche*, farm or lawn proper, i. cxxxv.
- Sechtaib*, seven things, septenary grades, see *Naid*, iii. 492.
- Secib*, together with, outside of, iii. 514.
- Secul*, rye, a loan word from the Latin *Secale*, i. cccclxii.
- Sed*, pl. *Seoit*, *Seoid*, *Seota*, a standard of value by which rents, fines, stipends, and prices were determined. There were many kinds of the *Sed*, but a milch cow represented the prime *Sed*. *Sed-bó-Ceathra*, a *Sed* of small cattle; *Sed-bó-dile*, a *Sed* made up of any or of different kinds of live stock; *Sed-bó-slabra*, a *Sed* made up of every class of well bred cattle and thorough bred horses. *Sed gabla*, a yearling bull, or a yearling heifer, the smallest of all *Seds*. *Sed-marbh-aile*, a *Sed* of moveable chattels made up of inanimate objects; *Seoid turclaide*, *Seds* of



- table chattels, *i.* cxii, clxxxiii; 7, 29, 30, 480, 481.  
 hawk, *iii.* 448.  
 the rear, the back part, see *do seir tuisig*, *iii.* 520.  
 progresses, follows, *iii.* 517.  
 ge, a sick bed, [or bed of de-]; *Seirghige Coinchulaind*, "sick bed of Cuchulaind", *ii.* *iii.* 192, etc.  
 d, a young man of noble race, 20.  
 slabrai, dry cattle, *iii.* 507.  
 ach, a ploughland, *i.* xcii, xcv; a kind of measure of bulk; "a reach of new milk" was proper a quantity sufficient for six sons, *i.* cxxxix.  
 homestead, equivalent to the Irish *Toft*, *i.* cxix, cxxxv, clv.  
 nuib, abl. pl. with rivets, *iii.* 158.  
 aithe, hereditary followers of us, a class of tenants having rights acquired by living in the estate for three generations, *vi.* cxxi; *ii.* 37, 38; *iii.* 493.  
 a, a species of poetry peculiar to the order of poet called *Seagh*, *ii.* 171.  
 some kind of literary composition forming part of the studies in the ninth and tenth years of a course of *Filedacht*, or philosophy, 73.  
 pl. of *Sed*, frequently used in the sense of jewels, precious objects, *iii.* 285.  
 raichte, a silken motion, applied to easy death, *i.* cccclxxvi.  
 f, fowl meat; *Serefheoil na lech feadha*, fowl meat of the cocks; *Sercool tarsain*, ead or salt fowl, *iii.* 483, 492.  
 set with scythes, cf. A. Sax. *sn*, to shear, to cut, O. Eng. *shears*, Modern English *shears*, cclxxxiii.  
 i, some kind of corn or seed, Latin *saurion*, Sansk. *sarū*, *pis nigra*, black mustard, *i.* *iii.*  
 Ced, *i.e.* sixty hundred, six hundred, *ii.* 391.  
 a subdivision of a Ballyboe, v.  
 b zzing, *iii.* 426.  
 clatter, *iii.* 426.  
 driving away, *iii.* 526-7.  
*Sgiorta*, a skirt or shirt, from the Norse *Skyrta*, a shirt, *i.* cccclxxxiii.  
*Sian*, or *Sianan*, soft plaintive music, *iii.* 385, 386; *Sian cauradh*, the champion's war-whoop, *ii.* 372.  
*Sicc Occ*, *Sic Oc*, a name given to Aires having *Sac* and *Soke*, that is, to those entitled to hold the *Airecht Foleithe* or Court Leet, *i.* cccxxxv, cclxii, cclxviii, cclxx; *ii.* 510.  
*Sidhal Brat*, a loose flowing cloak, *ii.* 162, 163.  
*Sidhe*, a fairy mansion; sometimes used for fairy, or fairies, *e.g.*, *stuagh sidhe*, a fairy host, *i.* ccccxlvi; *ii.* 198.  
*Sidlu*=*Satlui*, revolt, *iii.* 507.  
*Sillas*, he looked, *iii.* 324.  
*Sindach Brothlaige*, a term of contempt; literally, a cooking-pit fox, a pot watch-dog, a pot-watcher, applied here to a man of the lowest class of society, who watched and attended the cooking pits and houses of the wealthy, and lived on the offal, whether acquired legally or illegally, *iii.* 522.  
*Sion*, the foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, *brec dergitir sion*, more red-spotted than the foxglove, *iii.* 140, 141.  
*Sirechdái*, silken; *bruit sirechdái*, silken cloaks, or garments, *iii.* 139, 140.  
*Sirechtach*, silken, slow, plaintive, *iii.* 316.  
*Siriac*, silk, *iii.* 90.  
*Sirúh siabarthi*, a fairy phantom, *iii.* 448.  
*Sith aile*, boundary, or peace arbitration, *i.* cxcii.  
*Sith balbad*=*casa fata*, long-limbed, having long legs, *ii.* 96.  
*Sithbe*, the pole of a chariot, etc. *i.* cccclxxx.  
*Skáda Oir*, a golden shield, a loan word from one of the Teutonic languages, *i.* cccclxiv. *Scilde óir*, a plate or flattened piece of gold sometimes given like the *Faíl óir*, by way of reward or gift: "he put his hand into his *bassan* (hand-bag, or purse), and took three *Scildes* of gold out of it, and gave them to him" (Second Battle of *Magh Tuired*). The *Scilde*, which represented a kind of coin, was no

- count named from its resembling the *Skilda* (shield) in shape.
- Slaghad*, hosting, *iii.* 505.
- Slán* represents in the legal sense an admission of the liability for the whole of principal sum and costs, equivalent to the modern marking judgment; also the rehabilitation of a person by the payment of all charges and fines imposed upon him, *i.* cclxxxii; *iii.* 476.
- Sleaghaibh coicrinnecha*, with flesh-seeking spears, *iii.* 157.
- Sleg*, *Slegh*, pl. *Slegha*, a long light spear which was hurled or cast with an amentum, *i.* ccccxxxvii; *ii.* 98, 255, 295, 300, 304, 314, 317, 344, 345, 348, 382. *Sleg coicrind co fethan óir impi*, a sharp pointed spear with rings of gold upon it; a flesh-mangling spear with veins of gold upon it, *iii.* 163; *Sleig coicrinni*, a flesh-seeking spear [recte a five-pronged *Sleg* or military fork?], *iii.* 99.
- Sleich*, soap, *iii.* 493.
- Slegin*, *Slugin*, pl. *Sleigini*, *Sligini*, small light javelins, darts, *i.* ccccxxxviii, ccccxlvi; *ii.* 201.
- Slicrich*, hissing of spears, *iii.* 426.
- Slimred*, *no do nuiben*, cleaners or burnishers, a class of pleaders whose business it was to make the cases of their clients as bright as possible, *i.* cclxviii, cclxxiii.
- Shocht*, a race, a family, cf. *Schlacht*, a race, a family in Ditmarsch, German *Geschlecht*, *i.* ccxviii.
- Slogh comfleda*, the collective feasting of a levy accompanying a *Flath* beyond his own territory, and who, while on the expedition, were entitled to be maintained at the joint expense of the whole territory, *i.* cxcviii.
- Stuagh*, a host, a tribe, *i.* ccliv. See *Shocht*, *Stuaghte*.
- Stuaghte*=*Luaite*, related to *Laeti*, *Leudes*, etc., cf. *Tochomlad*, etc. Ang-Sax. *Léode*, O. H. G. *Leudi*, N. H. German *Leute*, people, *i.* ccxxii.
- Stuaite* (incorrectly printed *Shluaite*, *i.* ccxxii.), see *Stuaghte*.
- Suican*, recte *Sleabhacan*, sloke or slouk, made by boiling the *Porphyra vulgaris* and *Porphyra laciniata*, *i.* ccclxvii.
- Smacht*, pl. *Smachta*, fines, penalties, *i.* cxcl, cccxxxviii, ccxxxix; abl. pl., *Smachtaib miach*, sack fines, *iii.* 512.
- Smiramair*, a marrow bath, *iii.* 101.
- Smolcha*, thrushes, *iii.* 379.
- Smuas*, a bone, *iii.* 250.
- Snadad*, *Snadha*, to traverse, i.e. the right of *Aircs* to cross the lands of others, and to receive protection, hospitality, etc., in accordance to their rank. It represented the Welsh *Nawd*, the initial *s* having been lost in the latter, *i.* cccxlv; *iii.* 472; *Snadigh*, he traverses; a traverser, *iii.* 481.
- Snath*, thread; *Snathe liga*, ornamental or coloured thread, *iii.* 107; *Snath oir*, gold thread.
- Snathait*, a needle, from *snath*, thread, and *set*, a passage, *iii.* 117.
- Snegair*, is thrown, *iii.* 448.
- Sugestar*, thou art thrown, *iii.* 448.
- Snimaire*, a spindle; *Snimaire olla*, a wool-spindle, *iii.* 115.
- Sniithe oir for a etum*, etc., a fillet or thread of gold upon his forehead, *iii.* 163.
- Sobairche*, *Sabairche*, *Hypericum quadrangulum*, *Lin.*, the St. John's Wort, also called the "Herba Sancti Petri", *i.* lxxiii; *ii.* 60, 191.
- Sobronach*, griefless, *iii.* 444.
- Sobus*, *Sobes*, good morals, *iii.* 496.
- Soc*, the sock of a plough, a crow-bar, *i.* cxci; *iii.* 479.
- Soethaib*, for castigations, punishments, *iii.* 509.
- Somaine*, profits, benefits, amount of, the value of, *iii.* 490.
- Somenmach*, spirited, magnanimous, *iii.* 444.
- Sonn*, a sound, from the Latin *sonus*, *iii.* 308.
- Sonnach umaide*, a paling or wall of bronze, *i.* dcxlii.
- Spara*, a spear, cf. O. Norse, *Spior*, English, *spear*, *i.* ccclci.
- Sraigell*, a whip or scourge, *iii.* 146.
- Srethai*, gen. furniture, etc.; *Sreathai tighe*, furniture of a house, *iii.* 500, 501.
- Srebnaid*, striped; gen., *Srebnaide sroil*, of striped satin, *ii.* 301; *iii.* 159.
- Srian*, a bridle; *Srian arggait*, a silver bridle, *iii.* 496; *Srian cruain*, a bridle of *Cruan*, *iii.* 486.
- Sróil*, gen. *Sróil*, satin; *srebnaide sroil*, of striped satin, *ii.* 301; *iii.* 113; *Sróil rig*, kingly satin, *iii.* 96.



a snout of bacon, *iii*.

comp. *Srúithiu*, higher, 504, 510; superl. *Srúitrim* applied to an *Aire* the highest *Aire*, *i*. cclxxvii.

th. kind of literary composing part of the course held during the ninth and tenth centuries, *ii*. 173.

*Staidéir*, a homestead or estate, cf. Ang. Sax. *stede*, as *stead*, German *Stadt*, *i*.

the historian; the title of the author of history in the twelfth century, *ii*. 84.

copy, *i*. cccxlvii.

*Stoc*, a trumpet, a short horn, *iii*. 313, 336-342, *focra*, *Stoc fogri*, *Stoc* warning trumpet for arms, etc., *i*. dxxxix; *ii*. 339, 341, 350, 369.

performer on the *Stoc*,

*Stóilíere*, "roll" stockings, roll stockings made from the roll, *i*. cccxxxv. See *Stoc*.

*Sturgana*, a species of fish, *i*. dxxxi; *iii*. 339-342,

see, pl. *Sturganaidhe*, a fisher, *iii*. 340, 369.

*Stúir*—*Sai*, a literary profession of the highest order, entitled to the title of "Council of the Ale," *ii*. 510.

gen. *Suafadaig*, trample-mixing, *iii*. 450.

*Stóilíog*, hard twisted rope, *iii*. 317.

death sleep, cf. English *stun*, *ii*. 249.

one of the three strings of the harp, which the harper who heard it to fall into a deep sleep; one of the ancient keys of the Irish, *iii*.

*Stóilí*, the sleeping mode. one of the three musical feats that are attributed to a harper; those who are fabled to have fallen into a deep sleep for the time. The word is derived from *stun*, sleep,

and *traigh*, time, *i*. dxxxix, dxxxvi; *iii*. 214, 220, 221, 243, 244, 250, 260.

*Subach*, pleasant, *iii*. 444.

*Suidha*, followers, the suit of a *Rig* or *Flath*, his *Sabaid*, *i*. cxviii.

*Suidiu*, a seat, a place to sit upon, *iii*. 489; *Suidhe faire*, "the watching seat", see *Cathair Conrai*, *iii*. 79.

*Suíf*, to return or fall back into vice, *iii*. 493.

*Súist*, a flail, *i*. cccclxii; *Súist iarainn*, an iron flail, "the Holy Water Sprinkler", or armed whip of medieval warriors, *i*. cccclxxxviii, cccclxii.

*Súith*, the suite of a prince, *i*. clvi. See *Suidha*, *Suad*, *Sai*.

*Suitengaid*, no do *fethaighther*, the *Suíth* or suite of tongues entitled to be heard in court, that is, the *Sabaid* who made record of court, that is, who bore witness to the judgments given and acts done in their presence, *i*. cclxviii.

*Sumadas*, dat. and abl. pl. *Suimedaib*, nags, pack-horses, cf. French, *somme*, *som*, a burden, *iii*. 330.

*Sutaire*, a follower, a suitor; *Sutaire a mathar*, his mother's pet; *Sutaire an tiagherna*, the pet or follower of the landlord, *i*. ci.

*Taball*, gen. *Tabaill*, a sling, *ii*. 252, 288, 289. See *Crann tabaill*.

*Taccraí*, sued, *Cia taccraí*, if sued, *iii*. 501.

*Tachim*, manner, state of being, order, array, *iii*. 307.

*Taeb Airecht*, a side court, a high court for the trial of causes arising between different territories, such as the *Tuaths* forming a *Mór Tuath*, and all questions of *Cairde* or international treaties and laws, *i*. cclviii-cclxxi.

*Taebtaid*, sidemen, *iii*. 509.

*Taetsad*, would fall, *iii*. 422.

*Taetsaís*, they would fall, *iii*. 444.

*Taidhsiu*, i.e. expecting, shadowing, an idiomatic expression still in use in Munster, as in the current phrase: *na bidh da taidhsiu duit féin*, do not be shadowing her (or it) for yourself, that is expecting or hoping for her (or it) for yourself. Cf. *Taidhsí*, a shadow, *iii*. 456.

*Tailiamna*, slings, *iii*. 152.

*Tailm*, a kind of sling. *Cormac* derives it from *tell* and *fuaim*,



- which he explains as "the clashing of the thongs and their clangour", i. cccclxi; ii. 292, 294.
- Tairberta*, pl. gifts, presents, iii. 446.
- Tairchid*, they accumulated, iii. 516.
- Taircella*, secures, governs, iii. 514.
- Tairgell*, a fine, iii. 489.
- Tairide*, [recte, *Tairside*] upon him (H. 2, 18, f. 65, a. a.), iii. 92.
- Tairpthech*, fearless, intrepid, iii. 416.
- Tairriside*, over that, iii. 444.
- Tairsce*, a crossing over, e. g. *Tairsce n-inbe*, crossing over a fence, i. ccl.
- Taiscedi*, excursions, iii. 510.
- Taite*, the beginning of; *Luan taite samna*, the first Monday of the beginning of November, iii. 420.
- Taithbein*, a peculiar blow given with the flat of a sword, ii. 195, 372.
- Taithmeach*, to open, iii. 450.
- Taithne*, brightness, iii. 238.
- Tal*, an adze, i. cclxi.
- Talla*, to contain, to fit in, iii. 500.
- Tam*, *Tamh*, a faint, a sudden or unnatural death, iii. 452; *Tamleacht*, a pestilence *Leacht*, or sepulchral monument, e. g., *Tamhleachta muintire Phartolain*, the graves of the people of *Partolan*, now *Talaght*, near Dublin, i. cccxxxii; iii. 2, 3.
- Tanaise Righ*, *Tanassi Righ*, the Tanist of a king, a man elected during the life time of a *Rig* to be his successor, and who, during the lifetime of the king, was next in rank to him; an heir apparent, ii. 38; iii. 501.
- Tanaiste*, see *Tanaise*, i. cclxi; iii. 282.
- Tanaslaidhe*, brooches, iii. 138.
- Tanaise Bó Airé*, the Tanist of a *Bo Airé*, i. clxxxiii; *Tanaise Bó Airé Tuisi*, the Tanist of a *Bó Airé Tuisi*, iii. 513.
- Taoisech*, a commander or captain, but sometimes used in the sense of a prince, like the corresponding Welsh word *Tyowyswg*, the title by which the chief princes of Wales are called in the Welsh chronicles. The Irish *Righ Thaoisech*, royal or king captain, and the *Taoisech Tuatha*, territorial or cantred captain, who was eligible to be king, corresponded exactly with the Welsh title. The *Aire Tuisi* of the *Crith Gabhlach*, was the same as *Taoisech*, both words being cognate with the Latin *Duc-s* or *Dux*, and the *to*g in Angl.-Sax., *Here-to*g, Germ., *Herzog*, i. cccliii, cccliv; *Taoisech com-óil*, master of banquets, i. cccliv; *Taoiseach caogaid*, the captain of fifty men, ii. 381; *Taoisech Eallaig*, master of chat-tels, etc., i. e. a treasurer, i. cccliv; *Taoiseach nonbair*, the commander of nine men, ii. 381; *Taoisech Scuir*, master of the horse, or commander of the cavalry, i. cccliv; *Taoiseach tri nonbair*, leader of three times nine men, ii. 381.
- Tár*, disparagement, iii. 424.
- Tara*, gen. *Tarai*, wheat, i. ccclxii; iii. 481.
- Taradain*, Thursday, iii. 507.
- Tarathar*, an augur, i. ccclxi.
- Tarbb*, a bull, iii. 486.
- Tarbga*, assaulting, beating off, iii. 460.
- Targlain*, to gather, iii. 422.
- Targu*, a target, i. ccclxv.
- Tarmberar*, is transferred, iii. 238.
- Tarrasair*, he came, iii. 428.
- Tarsun*, *Tarsund*, sautages, seasoned mince-meats, condiments, etc., i. ccclxix, ccclxx; iii. 487, 491, 496, 499.
- Tathlum*, a sling stone, a concrete ball, i. ccexxxvii, cccclxi; ii. 252, 253, 288, 289, 291, 295, 311, 325.
- Taurclaide*, see *Seoid Taurclaide*, i. cxv.
- Taurcrech*, *Taurcreic*, a gift or stipend which a *Flath* gave to such as became his *Ceides*, that is, acknowledged him as their lord, and paid *Biathad* to him. It was also called *Rath*, wages (which see), i. cx, cxii, ccxl, ccclxxxvi; iii. 472, 477, 490.
- Teallach*, gen. *Teallaig*, a fire place, ii. 132.
- Teah*, *Teach*, gen. *Tigh*, a house; *Teach caoel cumang*, a long narrow house, i. ccclx; *Teah darach*, an oak house, i. ccxcix, ccclxviii; *Teah incis*, gen. *Tigh minchis*, a small house provided for a superannuated member of a *Fine*, who gave up his land on condition of receiving maintenance and attendance, i. ccxcviii; iii. 479, 480;

- Tech merage*, the house of a fool, or of a needy wanderer, *i.* cccxv;  
*Tech Midhuarda*, mead-circling house, the banqueting hall at Tara, *i.* cccxvi-vii, dxxxii; *Tech óil*, a drinking house, gen. *Tigh óil*=*Cuirim tech*, an ale house, *i.* cclii; *Tech n-imacalma*, a conversation house, *i.* dxxlii.
- Techta*, inheritance, *iii.* 520.
- Techta*, lawful, *Techta dlighthecha*, legal rights, *iii.* 107.
- Techtairi*, curriers, *iii.* 504.
- Techtaist*, entitled to, *iii.* 520
- Ted-chleas*, *Ted chlis*, a rope feat, or feats, *ii.* 371, 372.
- Teduib*, the bass strings of a *Cruit* or *Timpan*, *iii.* 361.
- Tegin*, or *Tuigin*, an *Ollamh's* cloak, cf. Norse *tign*, *i.* ci.
- Teglech*, a household, *i.* ccel.
- Teilleoin*, humming. See *Beich teilleoin*, humming bees=mod. Gaelic, *Seilloin*; *Teillinn*, humming wild bees, *recte* buzzing or humming bees, *iii.* 355, 356, 357, 358.
- Teist*, testimony; also used for the person who gives it, *i.* cciv, cclxxxix.
- Teinn*, *laeghda*, "the illumination of rhymes", a rite of Druidic divination prohibited by St. Patrick; a rhyme charm, *ii.* 135, 208, 209, 212.
- Tene*, *Teine*, a fire; *Teine bithbeo*, an ever-living fire, *iii.* 486; *Teine* or *Tene geallain*, a blazing or wild fire, *i.* cccxviii; *Tene n-aen beime*, fire of one stroke, *iii.* 132.
- Tesaírg*, to protect, etc., *iii.* 515.
- Teta benn crot*, the strings of a pinnaced or triangular *Cruit*, or of a *Timpan*; [more probably=*binn* or *bind*, sweet, *i.e.* a string of a sweet or melodious *Cruit*], *iii.* 305.
- Teti*, *Tete*, a house, or rather homestead, *e.g.* *Teti Brice*, *Teiti Brec*, "the Speckled House of Emania", corresponding to the Welsh *Tyden* or *Tyden*, *i.* lxxxix, xcvi, clxxix, ccciii; *ii.* 332. *Toiden* occurs several times in the M.S. H. 2. 18. in the sense of a house or homestead, and is evidently the exact equivalent of the Welsh word. Thus, "one time *Moling* was in [his] *Toiden*, he saw *Mael Daborchon*, son of *Cellach*, coming towards him, to ask him for his horse" (*f.* 204 a.); "another time, as *Moling* was in [his] *Toiden*, he saw nine of the *Dibergs* approaching him" (*fol.* 205, a.). "Another day, as *Moling* was in front of his *Toiden*", etc.
- Tetrachtain*, endeavouring to strike, *iii.* 448.
- Thein*, to cut or break down, etc., *iii.* 488.
- Thidnaicthe ratha*, stipend-bestowing, *iii.* 446.
- Tiag*, a bag, a leather wallet, *i.* cclvii-viii; *iii.* 113, 117.
- Tidnagar*, security or pledge, a binding, *iii.* 499.
- Tighearna*, a lord, cf. Welsh, *Teyrn*, Breton, *Mac Tiern*, O. Norse, *tign*=Latin *dign-us*, O. N. *Tignarmathr*, a nobleman, *i.* ci.
- Tii*, cloaks; *Tii dubglasso*, black gray cloaks, *iii.* 157, 158.
- Tilib*, on the faces, literally bosses (of shields), the modern form *Táll*, abl. pl., *Tollaib*, *ii.* 303; *iii.* 436. See *Tul*.
- Timdeibe*, decrease, deficiency, *iii.* 514.
- Timorgain*, to restrain or govern, *iii.* 491.
- Timpan*, a stringed musical instrument one kind of which was played with a bow, *i.* ccccxcviii, dxvii, dxviii; *iii.* 238, 261, 265, 266, 305, 306, 359.
- Timpanach*, a *Timpan* player, *iii.* 367, 369.
- Timthach*, *Timthacht*, outfit, attire, clothes, *i.* cxi; *iii.* 414, 496.
- Timtherecht bech*, the buzzing of bees, *iii.* 145.
- Timthuch*, accompaniments, *iii.* 487, 492, 494.
- Tincur*, *Tinchur*, a marriage portion, *i.* clxxiii; furniture, *iii.* 483, 495.
- Tindsra*, *Tinnsra*, *Tindsraí*, bride-price, a bridal gift, which from the composition of the word, was made up, at least at one period, and for some particular rank, of *Tinde* or *Tinne*, a neck chain, value three *Ungas*, and *Esra*, a drinking vessel, value six *Ungas*, *i.* clxxiv; gold, silver, or bronze articles of every country, *iii.* 480.
- Tinne*, a bacon pig, *i.* ccel; *iii.* 500.
- Tinneicas*, smoke-cured bacon, the Gallo-Roman *Taniacae*, or *Tanaeae*, *i.* cclxix; *iii.* 481.



- Tinne*, a kind of quadrangular cap, iii. 139.
- Tir*, a country, a portion of land; *Tir Cunnail*, the extent of the landed estate of an *Aire* which could be taken in distraint for the fines and other liabilities of his *Fine*; this, in one case at least, was a piece of land twelve *For-rachs* (ropes or chains) long and six wide, i. clxxxv, cccxi.
- Tobar*, a well, a pond; *Tobar tuinne*, or *tuinde*, a mill pond, i. ccclix.
- Tochbhair*, *Thochbhair*, appeareth, or has come, iii. 428.
- Tochair*, a causeway, iii. 34.
- Tochomlad*, pl. *Tochomlada*, the emigration of a military band, i. cccxii. See *Sluaighte*.
- Tochra*, *Tochrai*, well-bred sheep and small pigs, i. clxxv; iii. 480.
- Tocomrac*, *Tocomrach*, a convocation or assembly; *Tocomraec Tuaithe*, a convocation of a *Tuath* for lay or ecclesiastical business, i. ccliv; iii. 111, 112; *Tocomrac do crich*, a convocation or convention of a *Crich* or territory, iii. 505.
- Tochratar*, they went, iii. 500.
- Tochur tar cend*, an upsetting (topsy-turvy), iii. 489.
- Tod*, a residence and land attached, i. cxxii.
- Todacrat*, to pertain to, proper or appropriate to, iii. 506.
- Tofet*, takes precedence of, iii. 493.
- Togarmand*, a title of distinction or honour; *Togarmund techtaide miad-lechta*, recognized or lawful titles of honour, iii. 513.
- Tognall*, a squirrel, ii. 293.
- Toiteog*, a base tenant or *Daer Ceile*, the equivalent of the Welsh *Teog*, i. cxiv.
- Tomadnmaim*, to break up the ranks of an army, and scatter them in disorder; a rout, defeat, an irruption, etc., iii. 505.
- Tomalta*, pl., levies or wastings, iii. 504.
- Toichne*, to fast, to take away; *Toichnedai*, fastings, iii. 489, 507.
- Toifonn*, coursing with dogs, iii. 507.
- Toimduher*, is confided, iii. 514.
- Toimes*, progresses, iii. 515.
- Toing*, an oath; used also for the person who gave it, e.g. *Fer tonga*, an oathman, a compurgator, iii. 473; *Toing luighe*, to make oath, iii. 519.
- Toirm*, a tramp, noise, iii. 426.
- Toraic*, any act which lowered the dignity of a person, iii. 506; a private information made in the presence of *Inraices* or competent magistrates, etc., i. ccliv, cclvi, cclxxvii.
- Torann*, thunder, iii. 426. *Torand-chleas*, the "thunder feat", ii. 372; *Torann* or *Torand no beim tar sgiath*, thunder or shield rattle, i. cccxviii.
- Torc*, a torque, i. cclvi; iii. 182.
- Torc*, a hog, a wild boar; *Torc foch-luide*, a rooting hog, iii. 486.
- Tornoir*, gen. *Tornoira*, a turner, ii. 133.
- Torracht*, a coil; *Torrachta di ór foloicti*, coils of burnished gold, such as those worn round the waist, iii. 153.
- Torthaib*, dat. and abl. pl., food supplies, fruit, vegetables, etc., iii. 516.
- Torthaisct*, they fall, they have fallen, iii. 492.
- Toth*, *Thoth*, bounty, iii. 510.
- Tothacht*, property, position, rank, wealth, stability, independence, iii. 494, 495, 498.
- Traightib innraiccib*, dat. and abl. pl., in lawful feet, that is, in lawful measure, iii. 508.
- Treb*, *Trebb*, a homestead; used also in the sense of a household; a tribe, i. lxxix, clii, ccciv.
- Trebad*, a house; the five *Trebad*s were a residence, a cow-house, a calf shed, a sheep house, and a pig-stye, i. cxxiv-v.
- Trebaire*, a householder, one entitled to act as a guardian, a security, etc.; the buildings, etc., the possession of which constituted a man a householder, i. clxv, clxxxviii, cxc, cci, ccl, cccxiii; iii. 475.
- Tregda*, *Tregdad*, pierced, to pass through, iii. 450, 507.
- Tremaetha*, he binds, controls, holds in allegiance, the same as *nenaise*, to bind, to govern here, iii. 514.
- Treó*, through, iii. 506.
- Trena*, *Trennai*, the three days devoted to the *Guba* or funeral rites of deceased persons of distinction, i. cccxxxi, dxxli.
- Tressai*, higher, more powerful, iii. 503.



- Trian tineoil*, the one-third share of property which the daughter of one of the *Floath*-grade got as her marriage portion, when married to one of the *Gradh Fine* or estated members of a *Fine*. This portion was equal to half the wealth of the bridegroom, hence her share was equal to one-third of the joint wealth, i. clxxiii.
- Triath*, a chief king, iii. 514.
- Trilis*, the modern *Trillsi*, tresses of hair, etc., iii. 190.
- Tricci*, velocity, suddenness, iii. 428.
- Triucha céd*, *Trichu céd*, thirty hundred, a *Tuath* cantred or hundred, the principality of a *Rig Tuatha*. It is represented by the modern barony, i. xcii, ccxxix; ii. 392; iii. 502.
- Tri Cuilceda na Feinne*, the three beddings of the *Fianna*, ii. 389.
- Trirech*, triplex; the name of a species of Irish lyric poetry. This name was not exclusively applied either to the music or the quantity of the verse, but was also applied to a kind of laudatory poem which gave the name and described the person of the subject of the poem, and mentioned where he lived, and hence it was called *Triplex*, when it fulfilled these three conditions, iii. 388.
- Trisi*, the third day, iii. 477.
- Triubas*, *Triubhas*, misprinted sometimes in the text *Trubhas*, a pantaloons or trousers, i. cccxxxiv-cccxxxvi, cccxciv; iii. 153.
- Triunu*, strong powerful men, iii. 506.
- Troich*, wretches, lepers, iii. 452.
- Tromchoblach*, triumphant advance, iii. 426.
- Tromgresuib* (dat. and abl.), heavy insult, iii. 517.
- Trom Theta*, the heavy strings of the harp, iii. 253, 256.
- Trosca*, fasting, i. ccxxxiii, recte, cclxxxiii).
- Trosdan*, a staff or support used by all classes of pilgrims, clerical students, and religious men and women, cf. Goth. *trausti*, O. N. *traust*, O. M. and N. High German, *tröst*, Engl. *trust*, i. cexli.
- T-Saland*, salted; a term applied to salt meat and butter, i. cclxvii.
- Tuagleirg*=*Stuagleirg*, a broad slope, iii. 446.
- Tuagmar*, curvetting, prancing, see *Ech dond*.
- Tuagmila*, dat. and abl. pl. *Tuagmil-aiú*, crooks, clasps or buckles, trappings, iii. 160, 190.
- Tuairgnidhe catha*, the leader of an army in battle, ii. 388.
- Tualaing*, mighty, competent, i. cccxi; *Tualaing coinse*, competent to control, iii. 479.
- Tuarascbail*, description, account, relation, iii. 324.
- Tuarastal*, positive evidence, proof; it is explained in an old gloss as "a door, that is, a means of admitting light to the blind". It appears to have been also used as the name of the gifts given by the higher kings to the inferior kings, the acceptance of which was *positive proof* of fealty, i. cciv, cclxxix; *Tuarastal fastaide fiach*, evidence which fastened the liability of a debt and costs, when the accused failed to clear himself by expurgation, i. cclxxxi.
- Tuarggar*, is torn down or broken, iii. 489.
- Tuarguib*, raises up, iii. 510.
- Tuar torad*, supply of fruits, *frumentarius*, iii. 505.
- Tuath*, originally the people or tribe that occupied a given district, but afterwards the territorial division called also a *Triucha Céd*, a cantred; cf. Goth. *Thiuda*; O. Norse *Thjóth*, O. H. German *Diut*, i. lxxx, lxxxi, xcii, clvi, cccxxix.
- Tuidhen* (recte, *Tuighean*) *filidh*, a poet's gown, ii. 20.
- Tuidlig noir forlosti*, the sheen of burnished gold, iii. 141.
- Tuinnell*, to assemble, ii. 504.
- Tuirc oir a tirib gall*, torques of gold from foreign lands, or from the country of the Gauls, iii. 182.
- Tuircc forais*, gen. and nom. pl. of *Torc forais*, a house-fed hog, iii. 486.
- Tuireadh*, a tower, a stout post or column; iii. 32.
- Tuireasc*, a saw, i. cccxi; iii. 486.
- Tuirm*, gen. *Turma*, motion, tramp; enumeration, iii. 428.
- Tuirnn*, *Tuirnd*, wheat, i. cccxii.
- Tul*, the boss of a shield, iii. 162, 163. See *Tilib*.

- Tulach*, a hillock, a certain form of grave or sepulchral mound, *i.* dxxxvii.
- Tuqgu*, breaks, bulges, holes, *iii.* 480.
- Tum luachra*, a cluster of rushes, *iii.* 311, 312.
- Turcairthe*, gifts, *iii.* 324.
- Turthugadh*, protection, exemption from arrest; the right which a chief of household had of his premises not being liable to be searched without notice and due process of law, *i.* ccxciv; *iii.* 513.
- U, Uo*, the ear, *iii.* 107.
- Ua*, a grandson, *iii.* 414.
- Uadaib*, from them, *iii.* 500.
- Uaithiu*, less than, *iii.* 517.
- Uair, Huair*, because, *iii.* 510.
- Uaithne*, a post, a pillar; parturition; concord in music or poetry, *iii.* 221, 222; *Huaithe fonluing ocus frisellaghav*, "a pillar of endurance and attendance"; a term applied to a man appointed to attend to and supply the wants of the wretched and homeless poor; the relieving officer of the ancient Irish, *iii.* 519; *Uaithne iuil frithir gach fuinn*, the intelligent concordance of all (difficult sounds), *iii.* 215; *Uaithni óir*, a pillar of gold, *iii.* 460.
- Uan*, froth, *iii.* 114.
- Uatha*, alone, by himself; a *n-uatha*, their individual right, *iii.* 513.
- Ubhall*, an apple, a ball; *Ubhall chleas*, the ball feat, *ii.* 372, 373.
- Uchan*, alas! *iii.* 458.
- Udnacht, Udnocht*, a wattle roof, a covering, a railing or palisade, *ii.* 46; *Udnacht coil*, a roof or a palisade of hazel, *iii.* 480.
- Uma, Umha*, gen. *Umac*, copper, ordinary bronze, *iii.* 167, 491; *Cred uma*, red bronze, *iii.* 219; an alloy of a certain shade of red (*Cred* = a mixed colour); tin-copper (*Cred* = tin), *i.* ccccix, n 748.
- Umhaidhe*, a bronze worker, *iii.* 208, 209, 210.
- Umui lestrai, Humai lestrai*, bronze vessels, *iii.* 500.
- Ummairrith*, bronze stream, *i.* ccccxxxvi.
- U-Nasca oir*, ear-clasps of gold, *iii.* 145, 186.
- Unga, Uinge*, an ounce; a technical term for the amount of a legal penalty, reward, or price; there were different kinds of *Ungas*, and the value varied according to the kind and name, *i.* clxxiv, cclxi; *ii.* 37; *iii.* 102, 113, 116, 145, 157, 161, 162, 174, 245; *Unga beg*, the small *Unga*, of the value of twenty pence; *Unga cana donnaig*, the *Unga* or fine of the Sunday law, the value of which was a heifer, or the price of her; *Unga mór*, the big *Unga*, the value of which was ten shillings, *iii.* 496.
- Ur*, the border, e.g. *Ur*, or *Or Tuatha*, the border of a territory, *i.* cxviii.
- Urchomail*, abeyance, *iii.* 440.
- Urgell tareiss*, a redeemed hostage, *iii.* 476.
- Urgnam*, cooking, *iii.* 161.
- Urnaim*, a fast bond, *i.* clxxxviii.
- Urrad*, a counsellor, a bail or surety, *i.* cxx, cxxv, cciv, cclxxi.
- Urramain*, counsellors; *Urramain na criche*, chiefs or chief counsellors of a *Crich* or territory, *i.* cclxxi.
- Urrand, Urraind*, valour, power, supremacy, *iii.* 424; mistranslated combat, *iii.* 416.
- Urrudas, Urrudhas*, common or traditional law, cf. *Angl. Sax.*, or, *N. H. German*, *ur*, ancient, and *A. S. ráed*, counsel, *quesi orráed*, ancient counsel, *i.* cclxvi, cclxviii, cclxxi. It is misprinted *Urrudas* in cclxxxii. See *Urrad*.
- Ussa*, shoes, see *Ass*, *iii.* 107.



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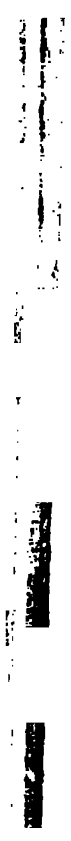


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