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[DA 11-28]

INTRODUCTION [Beurla] [DA 29]

List of Abbreviations

BGh., Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig: Specimens of Gaelic Poetry; W. J. Watson; Stirling, 1932 (2nd ed.).

Celt. Scot., Celtic Scotland; W. F. Skene; Edinburgh, 1886 (2nd ed.).

CPNS., The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland; W. J. Watson; Edinburgh, 1926.

D., An Duanaire, a New Collection of Gaelic Songs and Poems; Donald Macpherson; Edinburgh, 1868.

Dinn., Irish-English Dictionary; Rev. P. S. Dinneen; Irish Texts Society; Dublin, 1927.

E., Comh-chruinneachidh Orannaigh Gaidhealach; the Eigg Collection; Ranald MacDonald; Edinburgh, 1776.
GB., The Gaelic Bards from 1411 to 1715; A. Maclean Sinclair; Charlottetown, 1890.

M., The Maclagan Collection of Gaelic Manuscripts, made in the latter half of the eighteenth century by the Rev. James Maclagan (1728–1805); in the Library of Glasgow University. (See Prof. Mackinnon’s Catalogue, p.302 ff.).

MC., MacD. Coll., The MacDonald Collection of Gaelic Poetry; Rev. Angus MacDonald and Rev. Archibald MacDonald; Inverness, 1911.

McN., The Manuscript of the Rev. MacDonald MacNicol (1735–1802), for which see Rev. Dr. George Henderson’s paper in Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, xxvii, 340, whence the text of “Do Mhac Dhomhnaill” is taken.

RC., Reliquiae Celticae; the Rev. Alexander Cameron, ed. A. Macbain and J. Kennedy; Inverness, 1892 (I), 1894 (II).

[DA 30]

S., Cochruinneacha Taoghta de Shaothair nam Bard Gaelach; A. and D. Stewart; Edinburgh, 1804.

SO., Sar–Obair nam Bard Gaelach: or the Beauties of Gaelic Poetry; John Mackenzie; Glasgow, 1841 (1st ed.).

T., Comhchruinneacha do Dh’Orain Taoghta Ghaidhealach; Patrick Turner; Edinburgh, 1813.

Wardlaw MS., entitled “Polichronicon seu Polcratia Temporum, or, the True Genealogy of the Frasers”; Master James Fraser, minister of Wardlaw (Kirkhill), begun in 1666, ed. Wm. Mackay for Scottish History Society; Edinburgh, 1905.

Notes on the Sources

The footnotes on the text do not give all the variations of the printed and MS. sources; the omission by any source of a line or stanza is not noted save in one or two cases; nor are the orthographical minutiæ of the MS. versions recorded, as this would serve no useful purpose. The simple principle has been followed of noting variants only when they seem to furnish a clue to the genuine text; and in the formation of the text the few departures made on MS. evidence from printed versions, when they do not depend on matters of fact, as in ll. 840 and 819, depend on the principle that, other things being equal, the more unusual word is the less likely to be corrupt.

E. and S. are generally preferable to SO., since the latter is to a large extent a work of transcription and has a tendency to regularize any unusual feature. In one poem T. has been preferred to
GB., the version of MC. being printed in full in the notes with amended spelling. In four poems the text of BGh. has been followed with two or three trivial variations.

The fusion of different versions has been avoided.

[DA 31]

TABLE OF SOURCES
[Beurla]

[DA 32–33]

Notes on the Maclagan MSS.
[Beurla]

[DA 34]

Notes on the Nat. Lib. MS.
[Beurla]

[TD 1]

GAELIC SONGS OF
MARY MACLEOD

[TD 2]

<gai>
Pòsadh Mhic Leoid

Conaltradh eadar Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh agus Nic Dhomhnaill á Trondairnis.

Hó lail oho
Hóireann ó. (1)

MAIRI

A Mhairearad chridhe
Nic an Tòisich,

Is bliadhna an t-seachdain
O na phòs thu;

Is ann gu d’ bhaile
Thriall am mór shluagh:

Thriall Mac Coinnich
Le Mac Leoid ann:

Thriall Mac Fhionghain
Ann ’s Mac Dhomhnaill.
NIC DHOMHNAILL

An cluinn thu, Mhàiri
So na ceil orm:

Ciòdh i an long ud
Seach an eíthir?

(1) Aithris so an déidh gach rainn.

[TD 3]

[Beurla]

[TD 4]

MAIRI

Don-faighneachd ort!
Cuime an ceilinn?

Ciòdh i tha sud ach
Long mo leinibh?

Tobar fìona
Shìos 'na deireadh,

Is tobar fiòr-uisg'
'Na Ceann eile.

Shìn i taobh ri
Long Mhic Coinnich,

Chuir i bòrd á
Long an Eilein.

Don-faighneachd ort!
Cuim’ nach innsinn?

Ciòdh i sud ach
Long nan rìghrean,

Air an seinnear
Na tri pioban:

Ruairidh òg Mac
Leoid nam pìosan:

Guala dheas mu’n
Iadh an sioda:

Guala thoisgeal
Mu’n iadh na miltean.
Dhireadh mo leanabh
Mullach mhòirbhheann,

[TD 5]
[Beurla]
[TD 6]

Piob ’ga spreigeadh
Leat ’san tòrachd:

Claidheamhna geala
Dhèanadh feòlach:

Targaidean donna
Tollta stròicte.

A Ruairidh Ruairidh
Ruairidh an Dùin ud,

Is tù mo mhire
Is mo cheòl sùgraidh:

Is tù mo phaidirean,
Mo chìr-chùil thu:

Mo ghàradh mheas
Am bi na h-ùbhlan.

Càite a bheil
A h-aon riut coltach,

O nach maireann
Fionn no Oisean,

Diarmaid donn no
Goll no Osgar?

Mi ’nam shuidh
Air chaolas rònach

M’aghaidh air Hirt
Nan ian gorma;

Thàinig bleidean,
Bleidean leòmach,

D’fharraid dhiomsa,
Le càil chomhraidh,

<eng>62. ’Chaolas-rònach, D.; shligeadh, D.<gai>
Ciod e bu bheus
Do shiol Leoid ud.

Fhreagair mi è
Mar bu chòir dhomh:

(Dhomhsa b‘aithne
Beus nan Leòdach:)

“Fìon ’ga ligeadh,
Beoir ’ga h–òl ac’,

Is tres-tarruing
‘Ga cur an stòpa,

Cobhair fheumach,
Riarach’ beòshlaint’”.

A bhean ud thall
A chòir an uisge,

A Trondairnis ’s ann
Thàinig thusa:

‘S e sin a dh’fhàg
Thu an diugh gun trusgan.

NIC DHOMHNAILL

Air do làimh
A chaile bhusdubh,

Chan ’eil mi
Gun òr gun usgar.

Tha mo ghùn dubh
Ur ’nam chiste,

Is mo sgòid-bhràghad,
Chan fhaigh thusa i!

[TD 9]

[Beurla]

[TD 10]
MAIRI

Is iomadh bodach 95
Leathann ceòsach

Agus cailleach
Rògach leòmach

Thigeadh a nall
A cúirt Dhomhnaill, 100

Dh’innseadh gun do
Thriall am mòd air:

Gun do ghlais na
Gaill e an seòmar.

Chugaibh chugaibh
Phrasgain ghealtaich

Thàinig a nall
A Gleann Shealtainn;

Chugaibh ‘sa’ chuan
Mar na farspaich;

Chugaibh ‘san fhraoch
Mar na glaisein,

D’eagal deagh Mhac
Leoid ’gur faicinn.

A’ ghas-ghuib ort,
Is air do sheòrsa! 115

Fàg an tir so,
Tìr nan Leòdach!

Is rach ’gad ghear an
Do chùirt Dhomhnaill! 120

[Mairearad nan Cuireid]

Oran a rinn Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh, is
Mairearad nan cuireid a’ togail oirre gun robh i
leatromach.

Ach, a Mhairearad nan cuireid,
Cuime a chuir thu orm breug:
Hi riri o hiri o hi o.

Gun robh leanabh gun bhaisteadh
Fo aisne mo chléibh’,

Ann an làraich mhic tighearn’ 125
Far nach bithinn ’s tu fhéin.

Cuim’ nach innseadh tu an fhìrinn
Cho cinnteach rium fhéin?

Cha b’ionann do m’athair
Is do t’athair-sa, éisg! 130

Cha b’ionann do m’ bhràithrean
Is do d’ ghàrlaich gun spéis.

Cha b’ionann do ar tighean
An ám laighe do ’n ghréin:

Gum faighte an tigh m’athar-s’
Sitheann ’s cnàimhean an fhéidh: 135

Is e gheibhte an tigh t-athar-s’
Sùgh is cnàimhean an éisg.

An ám direadh o’n bhaile
Is trom ’s gur h-annamh mo cheum. 140

Gur a diombach mi ’n chaile
Thog sgannal nam breug;

Dubh iomall na tuatha,
Buinneag shuarach gun spréidh,

[TD 13]

[Beurla]

[TD 14]

Le farmad ’s le miorun
Chuir michliu orm fhéin; 145

Chuir michliu orm fhéin;

Thog ormsa an droch alladh,
Is ortsa, a Chaluim nam beus,

Air an d’fhàs an cùl dualach
Tha ’na chaualenan réidh, 150

Is e sìos mu d’ dhà shlinnean
Mar an fhidheall fo theud.
Marbhraoin

do Fheaur na Comraich

Tha mise air leaghadh le bròn
O’n là dh’eug thu ’s nach beò
Mu m’fhíùran faidhidneach còir
Uasal aighearach òg
As uaisle shuidheadh mu bhòrd:
Mo chreach t’fhaighinn gun treoir éirigh.

Is tu an laoch gun laigse gun leòn
Macan mingheal gun sgleò;
Fearail finealta an t-òg
De shlochd nam fear mór
D’am bu dual a bhith còir,
’S gum b’fhìù faiteal do bheoil éisdeachd.

Is tu clann na h-irghinn a b’fheàrr,
Glan an fhriamh as an d’fhàs,
Càirdeas rìgh anns gach ball,
Bha sud sgrìobh’ leat am bann
Fo làimh duine gun mheang
Ach thu lìonta de àrdan euchdach.

[TD 15]

[Beurla]

[TD 16]
Thug gach duine gu cràdh,
Is truagh nach d’fhuirich thu slàn
Ri uair cumaisg no blàir
Thoirt tilleadh as do nàmh;
Bu leat urram an là cheutaich.

Bu tù an sgoilear gun diobradh,
Moir as grinne nì sgrìobhadh,
Uasal faidhidneach cinteach,
Bu leat lagh an tigh-sgrìobhadh,
Is tu nach mùchadh an fhirinn;
Sgeul mo chreiche so! shil do chreuchdan.

<eng>185. Fhionnlaidh, S0.; Iolaidh, S., M. 188. air dhoigh buille, S., M; air dhaibh buille, S0.; éis, M.; eis, S., S0. 193. so S.; a thoirt cis dheth do nàmh, S0.; om. M. 195. gun diobradh, S., S0.; ’s an sibhrainn, also spelt phonetically in the margin, M.<gai>

[TD 17]

[Beurla]

[TD 18]

Stad air m’aighear an dé;
Dh’fhalbh mo mharcanta féin;
Chuir mi an ciste an teud;
Dhiùlt an gobha dhomh gleus;
Dh’fhairtlich sud orm ’s gach léigh,
Is chaidh m’onoir, is, mo rìgh, dh’eug thu.

Thuit a’chraobh as a bàrr,
Fhoirs an gràinne gu làr,
Lot thu an cinneadh is chràdh
Air an robh thu mar bhàrr
’Gan dìonadh gach là,
Is mo chreach, bhuinig am bàs teum ort.

An án cuidhe ’nad sheòmar
Chaidh do bhuidheann an òrdugh,
Cha b’ann my aighhear do phòsaidh
Le nighean Iarla Chlann Domhnaill
As do dhéidh mar bu choir dhi;
Is ann chaidh do thasgaidh ‘san t-sròl fo d’ léine.

Ach gur mise tha bochd truagh,
Fiamh a’ ghuil air mo ghruaidh;
Is goirt an gradan a fhuaire,
Marcach deas nan each luath,
Sàr cheannard air sluagh,
Mo chreach, t’fhàgail ri uair m’fhéime.

Ach fhuaire mi m’ài lleagan òg
Mar nach b’àbhaist gun cheòl,
Saoir ri càradh do bhòrd,
Mnàì ri spìonadh an fheoir,
Fir gun tàilisg gun cheòl;
Gur bochd fulang mo sgeoil éisdeachd.

bruise lump M</eng>

[TD 19]

[Beurla]

[TD 20]

An uair a thionail an sluagh
Is ann bha an t-iomsgaradh cruaidh
Mar ghàir sheillean am bruaich
An dèidh na meala thoirt uath;
Is ann bha an t-eireadh bochd truagh
Is iad mu cheannas an t-sluaigh threubhaich.

An Talla am bu ghnàth le Mac Leoid
Gur muladach thà mi,
Is mi gun mhìre gun mhànran
Anns an talla am bu ghnàth le Mac Leoid.

Tigh mór macnasach meadhrach
Nam macaomh ’s nam maighdean,
Far am bu tartarach gleadhraich nan còrn.

Tha do thalla mór priseil
Gun fhasgadh gun dìon ann,
Far am faca mi am fìon bhith ’ga òl.

<eng>232. ’n t iom-sgaradh, M.; ‘n tiom sgaradh, S.; ‘n tioma-sgaradh, SO.
235. ‘n t-eireadh, M., SO.; ‘n teireadh, S. 236. After this, the last line in S. and SO., M. has:
<gai>Ach ga h e tathair bu treis’
Chuir sud mail’ air am feis’d
Bha do bhrath’ren fo leatrom
c
Piob do dheidhse ga greasadha"
d
Ag mo ghradh mar bu deas leis
’s ceinn-fheadhna gan spreigeadh re toighreachd.
</eng>
237. So E., Bgh. Righ! gur muladach, &c., S., SO. ‘S mor mo mhulad ‘s mo phramhan. ‘S mi gun mhacnus gun mharan M.

245. After this verse M. has:

<gai>Aig oighre shiol Tormaid
Fear heaguis cho ’n eol domh
Cha ’n i ’n fhoill a chuir as duit no ’n stroth.
Cuid ga tabhaist ’s ga d’bheusan
A bhi gu fuiltieach tric beun dearg
Air a chuideachda cheir-gheal nan croc.
Leat bu mhian na coin luthmhor, &c.

[TD 21]

[Beurla]

[TD 22]

Och mo dhìobhail mar thachair,
Thàinig dìle air an aitribh:
Is ann is cianail leam tachairt ’na còir.

Shir Tormoid nam bratach,
Fear do dhealbh-sa bu tearc e,
Gun sgeilm a chur asad no bòsd.

Fhuair thu teist is deagh urram
Ann am freasdal gach duine,
Air dheiseachd ’s air uirghioll beoil.

Leat bu mhianach coin lùthmhor
Dhol a shiubhal nan stùcbheann,
Is an gunna nach diùltadh ri h-ord.

Is i do làmh nach robh tuisleach
Dhol a chaithteamh a’ chuspair
Le do bhogha cruaidh ruiteach deagh-neoil.

Glac trom air do shliasaid
An déidh a snaidheadh gun fhiaradh,
Is bàrr dosrach de sgiathaibh an eoin.

Biodh céir ris na crannaibh
Bu neo-éisleanach tarruing,
An uair a leumadh an taifeid o d’ mheoir.

<eng>248. After this, S0. has the verse:

<gai>Chi mi a’ chliar is na dàimhich
A’ tréigsinn na fàrdaich
O nach éisd thu ri fàilte luchd-ceoil.<eng>
262. An déidh a snaidheadh after E., S., SO., BGh. 'S i gun ghaiseadh gun fh iaradh (ghiomh int), M.<gai>

[TD 23]

[Beurla]

[TD 24]

An uair a leigte o d’ làimh i
Cha bhiodh òirleach gun bhàdhadh
Eadar corran a gàinne is an smeoirn.

Ceud soraidh le dùrachd
Uam gu leannan an t-sùgraidh:
Gum b’e m’aighear ’s mo rùn bhith ’nad chòir.

An ám dhuit tighinn gu d’ bhaile
Is tu bu tighearnail gabhail,
An uair a shuidheadh gach caraid mu d’ bhòrd.

Bha thu measail aig uaislean,
Is cha robh beagan mar chruas ort:
Sud an cleachdamh a fhuair thu ad aos òig.

Gum biodh farum air thàilisg
Agus fuaim air a’ chlàrsaich,
Mar a bhuineadh do shàr mhac Mhic Leoid.

Gur h-e bu eachdraidh ’na dhéidh sin
Greis air ursgeil na Féinne,
Is air chuideachda chéirghil nan cròc.

<eng>269. After this, M. has:

'S ann’s a chlachan so shios uam
Tha mo chairdin ’s mo dhislin
Cia mar theid mi na’m fiadhnais aig bron?

'S ann na luighe a’s teampull
Tha m’aighir is m’annsachd
Chaoídh’ cha teid mi fhein ann ’s gun thu beo.<eng>

Thereafter the air is noted in ten bars.

278. ad t aos òig, E.; and so S., SO.<gai>

[TD 25]

[Beurla]

[TD 26]
Marbhrann

do Iain Garbh Mac Ghille Chaluim Ratharsaidh
a chaidh a dhìth le ainneart mara.

Mo bheud is mo chràdh 285
Mar a dh’èirich dà
An fhear ghleusta ghràidh
Bha treun ’san spàirn
Is nach faicear gu bràth an Ratharsaidh.

Bu tù am fear curanta mór 290
Bu mhath cumadh is treoir
O t’uilinn gu d’ dhòrn
O d’ mhullach gu d’ bhròig:
Mhic Mhuire mo leòn
Thu bhith an innis nan ròn is nach faighear thu. 295

Bu tù sealgair a’ gheoidh,
Làmh gun dearmad gun leòn
Air am bu shuarach an t-òr
Thoirt a bhuannachd a’ cheoîl,
Is gun d’fhuair thu na’s leoir is na chaitheadh tu. 300

Bu tù sealgair an fhéidh
Leis an deargta na bén;
Bhidh coin earbsach air éill
Aig an Albannach threuin;
Càite am faca mi féin 305
Aon duine fo’n ghréin
A dhèanadh riut euchd flathasach?

<eng> 295. Innis nan Ròd, M. 306. Re shireadh fuidh ghrein / Aon ni air nach gleusta ghabhadh tu, M.<gai>

[TD 27]

[Beurla]

[TD 28]

Spealp nach diobradh
An cath no an stri thu,
Casan direach 310
Fada finealt:
Mo chreach dhiobhair
Chaidh thu a dhith oirrn
Le neart sine,
Làmh nach diobradh caitheadh oirre. 315

Och m’eudail uam
Gun sgeul ’sa’ chuan
Bu ghlé mhath snuadh
Rí gréin ‘s ri fuachd,
Is e chlaoiadh do shluagh
Nach d’fheud thu an uair a ghabhail orra.

Is math thig gunna nach diùlt
Air curaidh mo rùin
Ann am mullach a’ chuîrn
Is air uilinn nan stùc:
Gum biodh fuil ann air tús an spreadhaidh sin.

Is e dh’fhàg silteach mo shùil
Faicinn t’fhearainn gun sùrd,
Is do bhaile gun smùid
Fo charraig nan sùgh,
Dheagh mhic Chaluim nan tòr á Ratharsaidh.

Mo bheud is mo bhròn
Mar a dh’éirich dhò,
Muir beucach mór
Ag leum mu d’ bhòrd,
Thu féin is do sheoid
An uair reub ur seol
Nach d’fheud sibh treoir a chaiteadh orra.

<eng>326. an tus an spreithidh sin, M.; air tús na spreidh–sin, S.; SO. omits the verse.<gai>

[TD 29]

[Beurla]

[TD 30]

Is tu b’fhàicillich’ ceum
Mu’n taice-sa an dé
De na chunnaic mi féin
Air faiche nan ceud
Air each ’s e ’na leum,
Is cha bu slabhcan gun fheum claidheamh ort.

Is math lùbadh tu pic
O chùlaibh do chinn
An ám rùsgadh a’ ghill
Le ionnsaigh nach till,
Is air mo làimh gum bu chinnteach saighead uat.

Is e an sgeul cràiteach
Do’n mhnaoi a dh’fhàg thu,
Is do t’aon bhàrthair
A shuidh ‘nad àite:
Di-luain Càisge
Chaidh tonn-bhàidhte ort,
Craobh a b’àirde de’n abhall thu.

[TD 31]

[Beurla]

[TD 32]

Tuireadh

A rinn Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh goirid an déis a fàgail an Sgarbaidh.

Hóireann ó ho bhì ó
Hóireann ó ho bhì ó
Hóireann ó ho bhì ó
Ri hóireann ó o hao o!

Is muladach mì, hì ó
Hóireann ó ho bhì ó
O cheann seachdain, hì ó
Ro hóireann ó o hao o,

Is mi an eilean gun
Fhir gun fhasgadh.

Ma dh’fhaodas mì
Théid mì dhachaidh;

Nì mi an t-iomramh
Mar as fhasa,

Do Uilbhinnis
A’ chruidh chaisfhinn,

Far an d’fhuir mi
Gu h-òg m’altrum,

Air bainne chìoch
Nam ban basgheal,

Thall aig Fionnghail
Dhuinn nighean Lachainn,

Is ì ’na banchaig
Ris na martaibh

Aig Ruairidh mór Mac
Leoid nam bratach.

[TD 33]

[Beurla]
‘S ann ’na thig mór
A fuair mi am macnas,


Danns’ le sunnd air
Uurlar farsaing,

An fhidhleireachd ’gam
Chur a chadal,

A’ phiobaireachd
Mo dhùsgadh maidne.


Thoïr mo shoraidh, hò ó
Hóireann ó ho bhì o,
Gu Dùn Bheagain, hì ó
Ro hóireann ó o hao o.


Luinneag Mhic Leoid

Is mi am shuidhe air an tulaich
Fo mhulad ’s fo imcheist,
Is mi ag coimhead air Ile,
Is ann de m’ iongnadh ’s an ám so;
Bha mi uair nach do shaoil mi,
Gus an do chaochail air m’ainsir,
Gun tiginn an taobh so
Dh’amharac Dhiùraidh á Sgarbaidh.


I hurabh o i hoiriunn o,
i hurabh o i hoiriunn o,
I hurabh o i hogaidh ho ro,
hi ri ri rithibh ho i ag o.


Gun tiginn an taobh so
Dh’amharc Dhiùraidh á Sgarbaidh;
Beir mor shoraidh do’n duthaich
Tha fo dhubhar nan garbhbhheann,
Gu Sir Tormod ùr allail
Fhuair ceannas air armailt,
Is gun cainte anns gach fearann
Gum b’airidh fear t’ainm air.


Gun cainte anns gach fearann
Gum b’airidh fear t’ainm air,
Fear do chèille is do ghliocais,
Do mhisnich ’s do mheanmain,
Do chruadail ‘s do ghaisge,
Do dhreach is do dhealbha,
Agus t’fholaichd is t’uaisle
Cha bu shuarach ri leanmhainn.

<eng>394. a, BGh.; a’, E.; a’s, SO. 396. a, E. 409, So BGh., after E.; t-òlachd, SO.<gai>

[TD 37]

[Beurla]

[TD 38]

Agus t’fholaichd is t’uaisle
Cha bu shuarach ri leanmhainn;
D’fhuil dìrich rìgh Lochlainn
B’e sud toiseach do sheanchais.

Tha do chàirdeas so-iarraidh 415
Ris gach Iarla tha an Albainn,
Is ri h-uaislean na h-Eireann:
Cha bhreug ach sgeul dearbhta e.

Is ri h-uaislean na h-Eireann:
Cha bhreug ach sgeul dearbhta e. 420
A Mhic an fhir chliuitich,
Bha gu fiùghantach ainmeil;
Thug barrachd an gliochas
Air gach Ridir bha an Albainn
Ann an cogadh ‘s an siothshaimh,
Is ann an dioladh an airgid.

Ann an cogadh ‘s an siothshaimh,
Is ann an dioladh an airgid.
Is beag an t-iongnadh do mhac-sa
Bhith gu beachdail mòr meanmnach,
Bhith gu fiùghant’ fial farsaing,
O’n a ghlac sibh mar shealbh e:
Clann Ruairidh nam bratach,
Is e mo chreach-sa na dh’fhaltbh dhiubh.

Clann Ruairidh nam bratach, 435
Is e mo chreach-sa na dh’fhaltbh dhiubh;
Ach an aon fhéar a dh’fhuirich
Nior chluinnneam sgeul marbh ort;
Ach, eudail de fhearaibh,
Ge do ghabh mi uat tearbadh
Fhir a’ chuirp as glan cumadh,
Gun uireasbhuidh dealbha.

<eng>425. siothshaimh, BGh.; sio’-chaibh, E.; sio’-chainnt, SO.<gai>
Fhir a’ chuir as glan cumadh,  
Gun uireasbhuidh dealbha;  
Cridhe farsaing fial fearail,  
Is maith thig geal agus dearg ort.  
Sùil ghorm as glan sealladh  
Mar dhearcaig na talmhainn,  
làmh ri gruaidh ruítich  
Mar mhuaig na fearradhris.  
445

làmh ri gruaidh ruítich  
Mar mhuaig na fearradhris.  
Fo thagha na gruaige  
Cùl dualach nan camlùb.  
Gheibhte sud an ad fhàrdaich  
An càradh air ealchainn,  
Miosair is adharc  
Is rogha gach armadh.

Miosair is adharc  
Is rogha gach armadh,  
Agus lanntainean tana  
0’n ceannaibh gu’m barrdhéis.  
Gheibhte sud air gach slios dhiubh  
Isneach is cairbinn,  
Agus iubhair chruaidh fhaveilain  
Le an taifeidean cainbe.  
460

Agus iubhair chruaidh fhaveilain  
Le an taifeidean cainbe,  
Is cuilbheirean caola  
Air an daoiread gun ceannaichte iad;  
Glac nan ceann lìomhta  
Air chur sìos ann am balgaibh  
O iteach an fhìreoin  
Is o shioda na Gaillbhinn.

454. So S0., BGh.; Chuil dualaich, E. 463. Gheibht’ air gach slias dhiu’ sid, E. 465. iubhair chruaidh, S0., BGh. (pl.); iubhar cruaidh, E. 470. air an daoirid, S0.; air a dhaoirid, E. 471. ? crann.<gai>
O iteach an fhìreoin
Is o shìoda na Gailbhinn;
Tha mo chion air a’ churaidh,
Mac Mhuire chur sealbh air.
Is e bu mhìannach le m’ leanabh
Bhith am beannaibh na sealga,
Gabhail aighir na frithe
Is a’ dìreachd nan garbhghlac.

Gabhail aighir na frithe
Is a’ dìreachd nan garbhghlac,
A’ leigeil nan cuilean
Is e bu deireadh do’n fhuran ud
Fuil thoirt air chalgaibh
O luchd nan cèir geala
Is nam falluingean dearga.

O luchd nan cèir geala
Is nam falluingean dearga,
Le do chomhlan dhaoine uaisle
Rachadh cruaidh air an armaibh;
Luchd aithneachadh latha
Is a chaithheadh an fhairge
Is a b’urrainn g’ a seòladh
Gu seòlaid an tarruinte i.

<eng>480. na sealga, E.; nan sealga, SO., BGh.<gai>

[TD 43]
[Beurla]
[TD 44]

Crònan an Taibh

Ri fuaim an taibh
Is uaigneach mo ghean;
Bha mise uair nach b’ e sud m’àbhaist.

Ach pìob nuallanach mhór
Bheireadh buaidh air gach ceòl,
An uair a ghluaise i le meoir Phàdraig.

Gur maireg a bheir géill
Do’n t-saoghal gu léir:
Is tric a chaochail e cheum gàbhaidh.

Gur lìonmhoire a chûrs
Na’n dealt air an dìùchd
Ann am madainn an tús Màighe.
Chan fhacas ri m’ ré
Aon duine fo’n ghréin
Nach tug e ghreis féin dhà sin.

Thoir an t-soraidh so bhuam
Gu talla nan cuach,
Far am biodh tathaich nan truagh dàimheil.

Chun an tighe nach gann
Fo an leathad ud thall,
Far bheil aighhear is ceann mo mhànrain.

Sir Tormod mo rèin,
Olgharach thò,
Foirmeil o thòis t’àbhaist.

A thasgaidh ’s a chiall,
Is e bu chleachdadh duit riamh
Teach farsaing ’s e fial fàilteach.

<eng>499. an Taibh, S.; an Taif E.; an t-sháimh, S0.<gai>

[TD 45]
[Beurla]
[TD 46]

Bhiodh teanal nan cliar
Ré tamaill is cian,
Dh’fhios a’ bhaile am biodh triall chàirdean.

Nàile, chunnaic mi uair
Is glan an lasadh bha ad ghruaidh,
Fo ghruaig chleachdaiach nan dual’ àrbhuidh’.

Fear dìreach deas treun
Bu ro-fhìrinneach beus,
Is e gun mhìghean gun cheum tràilleil;

De’n linnidh b’fheàrr buaidh
Tha ’s na criochaibh mun cuairt,
Clann fhìrinneach Ruairidh lànmhoir.

Chan ’eil cleachdainn mhic righ
No gaisge no gnìomh,
Nach ’eil pearsa mo ghaoil làn deth.

An tréine ’s an lùth,
An ceudfaidh ’s an cliù,
Am féile is an gnùis nàire.

An gaisge is an gnìomh,
Am pailteas neo-chrìon, 545
Am mise is am miann àillteachd.
An cruadal ‘s an toil,
Am buaidh thoirt air sgoil,
An uaisle gun chron càileachd.

Tuigsear nan teud, 550
Purpais gach sgéil,
Susbaint gach céill nàduir.
Gum bu chubhaidh dhuit siod
Mar a thubairt iad ris,
Bu tu an t-ubhal thar mios àrdchraobh.

<eng>546. miann BGh., after E.; miagh, S., SO.<gai>

[TD 47]

[Beurla]

[TD 48]

Leòdach mo rùin,
Seòrsa fhuair cliù,
Cha bu tôiseachadh ūr dhàibh Sir.

Bha fios có sibh
Ann an iomartas rìgh, 560
An uair bu mhuladach stri Theàrlaich.

Slàn Ghàidheil no Ghoill
Gun d’fhuaras oirbh foill,
Dh’aon bhuaireadh gun d’rinn bhur nàmhaid.

Lochlannaich threun 565
Toiseach bhur sgéil,
Sliochd solta bh’air freumh Mhànuis.

Thug Dia dhuit mar ghibht
Bhith mòrdhalach glic;
Chrìosd deònach do d’sliochd bhith àghmhor. 570

Fhuair thu fortan o Dhia,
Bean bu shocraiche cìall,
Is i gu foistinneach fial nàrach:

A bheil eineach is cliù,
Is i gu mhilleadh ’na cúis, 575
Is i gu h-iriósal ciuin càirdeil:

I gun dolaidh fo’n ghréin
Gu toileachadh treud,
Is a folachd a réir bànriginn.

Is tric a riaraich thu cuilm 580
Gun fhiabhras gun tuilg:
Nighean oighre Dhùn-tuilm, slàn duit.

<eng>570. Chrìosd deònaich, E., BGh. Criós dhéonach’, S.; Chrìosd deonaich’, S0.<gai>

[TD 49]

[Beurla]

[TD 50]

An T-Eudach

Duanag a rinn Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh mar gum biodh i ag eudach ri ban-Ilich a mheall a leannan oirre, nam b’fhìor i.

Hirirì ohù robhó,
Roho i ohì o.

Gur a mise tha iar mo chlisgeadh,
Tha loch uisge fo m’ chluasaig.

Ged a théid mi do m’ leabaidh 585
Chan e an cadal as dual domh,

Is a’ bhean tha an Ile
Sior mhidachadh m’euda;

Bhean thug uamsa mo roghainn,
Is gun taghainn thar cheud e. 590

Ach nam bithinn ‘na fianuis,
Gum biodh spionadh air bhréidean.

Chì mi an Fhionnairigh thall ud
Isì gun earras fo’n ghréin oirr’.

Gum faca mise uair a
Bha daoine-uaisle mu d’réidhlean.

Rachadh cuid do’n bheinn–sheilig dhiubh,
Cuid a mharbhadh an éisg dhiubh,

Air Linne na Ciste
Am bi na bric anns an leumraich. 600

Tha mo chean air an lasgair,
Saighdear sgairteil fo sgéith thu.
An uair a thig thu do’n chaisteal
Bheir thu dhachaidh do cheud ghràdh.

<eng>599. Linge, D.<gai>

[TD 51]

[Beurla]

[TD 52]

Ged a tha mi air m’aineol
0’n bhaile fo éislean,

Chan ion do’n bhan-Ilich
Bhith strìth rium mu d’dhéidhinn.

Cumha do Mhac Leoid

Gur e an naidheachd so fhuair mi
A dh’fhuadaich mo chiall uam
Mar nach bitheadh i agam
Is nach fhaca mi riamh i;
Gur e abhall an lios so
Tha mise ag iargain,
E gun abachadh meas air
Ach air briseadh fo chiad-bhàrr.

Gur e sgeula na creiche
Tha mi nise ag éisdeachd,
Gach aon chheadh mar thig orm
Dol an tricid ’s an déinid;
Na chunncas ’s na chualas
Is na fhuaradh o’n cheud là,
Creach nid an t-seabhain,
Air a sgathadh ri aon uair.

Ach a chlann an fhir allail
Bu neo-mhalairtich beusan,
Ann an Lunnainn ’s am Paris
Thug sibh bàrr air na ceudan;
Chaidh nur clìù thairis
Thar talamh na h-Eiphit,
A cheann-uidhe luchd-ealaidh
Is a leannain na féileachd.

<eng>615. So S0.; I gun abuchadh meas oir, S. 619. orm, S.; oirn’, S0. 621. na chunnadh, S.; na chunnaic, S0. 628. om. S.<gai>

[TD 53]
Ach a fhìreamhaich nan curaidh
Is a chuilein nan lèòghann
Is ogha an dá sheanair
Bu chaithreamaich lòisdean,
Càite an robh e ri fhaotainn
Air an taobh-s’ an Roinn Èòrpa?–
Cha b’fhùreas ri fhaighinn
Anns gach rathad bu dòigh dhui bh.

Ach a Ruairidh mhic Iain,
Is goirt leam fhaighinn an sgeul-s’ ort;
Is e mo chreach-sa mac t’athar
Bhith ’na laighe gun éirigh;
Agus Tormod a mhac-san,
A thasgaidh mo chéille!
Gur e aobhar mo ghearain
Gun chaileadh le chéile iad.

Nach mór an sgeul-sgrìobhaidh
Is nach iomnadh leibh féin e,
Duilleach na craoibhe
Nach do sgaoileadh e meanglain,
An robh cliù agus onoir
Agus móladh air deagh bheairt
Gu daonnachdach carthannach
Beannachdach ceutach.

Ge goirt leam an naidheachd
Tha mi faighinn air Ruairidh,
Gun do chorp a bhith as dùthaich
Anns an tuama bu dual duit,
Sgeul eile nach usa
Tha mi clàistinn ’san uair so,
Gar nach toir mi dha creideas,
Gur beag orm ri luaidh e.

<eng>659. ’s Dùthaich, S.; ’san Dùthaich, SO. 663. gar, S.; ged, SO.<gai>

[TD 55]
[Beurla]

[TD 56]
Bhith 'gam fògradh á’n oighreachd,
Is á’n còraichean glana
Is á’m fearainn gun déidh air,
Is ar ranntannan farsaing
Nan rachte ’nam feum sud.

Gun éireadh ’nad aobhar
Clann Raghnall ’s Clann Domhnaill
Agus tigh Mhic Ghille Eathain
Bha daingeann ’nur seòrsa,
Agus fir Ghlinne Garadh
Nall thairis á Cnòideart,
Mar sud is Clann Chamshroin
O champ Inbhir Lòchaídh.

Is beag an t-iongnadh Clann Choinnich
Dhèanamh oireachd mu d’ ghualainn
Is gun robh thu ’nam fineachd
Air t’fhilleadh tri uairean.

Is e mo chreach gun do chinneadh
Bhith mu chruidneachadh t’uain, 685
No glaodh do mhàn–muinntir,
Is nach cluinntear ’san uair–s’ i.

Tha mo cheist air an oighre
Tha a staoidhlé ’sna Hearadh,
Gar nach deach thu ’san tuam ud
Far am bu dual duit o d’ sheanair.

Gur iomadh fuil uaibhreach
A dh’fuaraich ad bhallaibh
De shloinneadh nan rìghrean
Leis na chiosaicheadh Manainn.

<eng>682. eireachd, S.; eiridh SO. 691. gar, S.; ged, SO.<gai>
[TD 57]
[Beurla]
[TD 58]

Is e mo ghaol-sa an sliochd foirmeil
Bh’air sliochd Olghair is Ochraidh,
O bhaile na Boirbhè
Is ann a staoidhleadh tu an toiseach;

Gur iomadh fuil mhòrdha
Bha reòta ’s a’ chorp ud:
De shliochd àrmunn Chinn-tìre,
Iarla Ile agus Rois thu.

Mhic Iain Stiùbhart na h-Apunn,
Ged is gasda an duine òg thu,
Ged tha Stiùbhartaich beachdail,
Iad tapaidh ’n ám fòirneirt,  
Na gabh-sa meanmna no aiteas  
Anns an staid ud nach còir dhuit:  
Cha toir thu i dh’aindeoin  
Is chan fhaigh thu le deoin i.  

Cuime an tigeadh fear coigreach  
Do thagradh ur n-oighreachd?  
Gar nach ’eil e ro dhearbhta  
Gur searbh e ri éisdeachd;  
Ged tha sinne air ar creachadh  
Mu chloinn mhaic an fhir fhéilidh,  
Sliochd Ruairidh mhóir allail,  
Is gur airidh iad féin oirr’.

<eng>715. gar, S.; ged, S0.<gai>

[TD 59]

[Beurla]

[TD 60]

An Crònan

An naidheachd so an dé  
Aighearach è:  
Moladh do’n léigh  
Thug malairt do m’ chéill:  
Nis teannaidh mi féin ri crònan.  

Beannachd do’n bheul  
Dh’aithris an sgeul  
Dh’fhàg fallain mo chré;  
Cha ghearain mi féin  
Na chailleadh ’s na dh’eug  
Is mo leanabh ’nan déidh comhshlàn.  

Nam biodh agamsa fion  
Gum b’ait leam a dhiol  
Air slàinte do thighinn  
Gu d’ chàirdean ’s gu d’ thir;  
Mhic àrmuinn mo ghaoil,  
B’e m’àrdan ’s mo phris  
Alach mo Rìgh thogbhail.  

Is fàth mire dhuinn féin  
Is do ’n chinneadh gu léir  
Do philleadh o’n eug;  
Is milis an sgeul,  
Is binne na gleus orghan.
721 ff. So E., SO.; M has:

725. 'Nis teannaidh, SO.; nois o theannas, E., M.

728. om. SO.; mo chrè, E.; do chreadh, M.

731. So E.; na dheidh, SO.; nan deis (written above deidh) 's beo shlainnt, M.<gai>

[TD 61]

[Beurla]

[TD 62]

Is e m'aiteas gu dearbh
Gun glacar grad shealbh 745
An grunnad farsaing nan sealg
Is an caisteal nan arm
Leis a' mhacaomh d'an ainm Tormod.

Tha mo dhùil-sa ann an Dia
Gur múirneach do thriall 750
Gu dùn ud nan cliar
Far am bu dùthchas do m' thriath
Bhiodh gu fiúghantach fial foirmeil.

Gu dùn turaidheach àrd,
B'e sud innis nam bàrd 755
Is nam filidh ri dàn
Far am bu mhinnig an tàmh:
Cha b'ionad gun bhlàths dhoibh sud.

Gu àros nach crion
Am bi gàirich nam pìob 760
Is nan clàrsach a ris
Le deàrrsadh nam pìos
A' cur sàraidh air fìon
Is 'ga leigeadh an gniomh òircheard.

Buadhach am mac, 765
Uasal an t-slat
D'an dual a bhith ceart
Cruadalach pailt
Duaismhor am beachd
Ruaimneach an neart Leòdach. 770

<eng>756. So E. SO.; M. has:
Far ’m bu mhinig leo tamh
gabhail iomairt re daimh,
cha b’iongantach dhaibh
Righ! bu ro mhor do chairdeas leo sin.<eng>

796. So E., SO.; ruaismhor, gl. grand, M.

770. Ruaineach, explained by làidir, E.<gai>

[TD 63]

[Beurla]

[TD 64]

Fiùran na cluain
Dhùisg ‘san deagh uair,
Is dùth dhuit dol suas
An clù ’s ann am buaidh:
Is dùthchas do m’ luaidh 775
Bhith gu fiùghantach suairc ceoilbhinn.

Fasan bu dual
Fantalach buan,
Socrach ri tuaith,
Cosgail ri cuairt, 780
Coisionta cruaidh
Am brosnachadh sluaigh,
A’ mosgladh an uair fòirneirt.

Lean–sa ’s natréig
Cleachdamh is beus 785
T’aiteim gu léir,
Macanta sèimh,
Pailt ri luchd theud,
Gaisgeil am feum,
Neartmhor an déidh tòrachd. 790

<eng>781. ff. So E., SO.; M. has:

<gai>Tosach dol suas
Cosgaradh cruaidh
Cosant ann uair doruinn.

Tha thu shliochd nam fear ùr,
Tha fo lic ann san uir;
’S e dh’fhag shilteach mo shuil,
Ge do rigeadh mi ’n crun,
Nach fhac mi fear dhiubh
Ach ann gliocas an cliuth sa’ mhorchuis.

Sliochd Olgair nan Lann, &c.
De shliochd Olghair nan lann
Thogadh sòrltean ri crann:
An uair a thòisich iad ann
Cha bu lìonsgaradh gann,
Fir a b’fhirinneach bann,
Prìseil an dream,
Rìoghail gun chall còrach.

Tog colg ort a ghaoil!
Bi ro chalma is gum faod;
Gur dearbhtha dhuit, laoich,
Do chinneadh nach faoin
Thig ort as gach taobh gu d’chomhnadh.

Uasal an treud,
Deas cruadalach treun
Tha an dualchas dhuit féin,
Théid mu d’ghuaillibh ri t’fheum
De shliochd Ruairidh mhóir fhéil;
Cuir-sa suas, a Mhic Dé, an t-òg rìgh.

Tha na Gàidheil gu léir
Cho càirdeach dhuit féin,
Is gur feairrde thu gu t’fheum
Sir Domhnall a Sléit’,
Ceannard nan ceud,
Ceannsgalach treun ròghlic.

Is maith mo bharail ’s mo bheachd
Air na fiùrain as leat
Gu carantach ceart:
Is ann de bharrachd do neirt
Mac mhic Ailein is dà mhac Dhomhnaill.

<eng>819. Mac Mhic Ailein is da Mhac Dhonuill, M.;

<gai>Mac mhic Ailein ’s a mhac
Thig le faram am feachd
Go d’charaid a chasg t’hoirneart,<eng> E. and so S0.<gai>
A Gleann Garadh a nuas
Thig am barantas sluaigh
Nach mealladh ort uair:
Cha bu charantas fuar
Na fir sin o chluain Chnòideart.

Is leat Mac Shimidh o’n Aird,
Is Mac Coinnich Chinn t’Sàil,
Théid ad iomairt gun dàil
Le h-iomadaidh gràidh;
Cha b’iongantach dhàibh
Is gur h-iomadh do phàirt dhoibh sin.

Is goirt an naidheachd ’s gur cruaidh
Mac Ghille Eathain bhith uainn,
Gun a thigheadas suas:
Bha do cheangal ris buan,
T’ursainn-chatha ri uair dòrainn.

B’iomad gasan gun chealg
Bu deas faicheil fo arm
Bheireadh ceartachadh garbh
Is iad a chlàistinn ort fearg
Eadar Breacachadh dearg is Bròlas.

Tha mi ag acain mar chall
Iad a thachairt gun cheann
Fo chasaibh nan Gall
Gun do pearsa bhith ann:
Mo chruidaich-chàs nach gann
Thu bhith fad anns an Fhraing air fögradh.

<eng>836. gasan, explained by “a young man”, E.; garsan, gl.
fleasgach laidir, M.

837. faicheil M.; faicsin E.; faicinn SO.

838. ceartachadh E., SO.; ceartachdain M.

840. Breacachadh (corr. from Breacaisidh) dhearg, M.; gu dearbh is
inserted above the line, evid. to replace dhearg, which is not
erased; Breacachadh thall E.; Bràcadal thall SO.

846. Do bhi’, E.<gai>

[TD 69]

[Beurla]

[TD 70]

A Chriosd, cinnich thu féin
An spionnadh ’s an céill
Gu cinneadail treun
An ionad na dh’eug,
A mhic an fhir nach d’fhuar air beum
Is a ghineadh o’n chré ròghlain.

A Rìgh nan gràs
Bi féin mar ghàrd
Air feum mo ghràidh,
Is dèan oighre slàn
Do’n teaghlach àigh
Bu mheamhrach dàimh,
D’an robh coibhneas air bhàrr sòlais.

[TD 71]

[Beurla]

[TD 72]

Fuigheall

Théid mi le m’ dheoin
Do dhùthaich Mhic Leoid,
M’iùl air a’ mhòr luachach sin.

Bu chois dhomh gum bi
M’eòlas ’san tìr
Leòdach mur pill cruadal mi;

Siùbhlaidh mi an iar
Troimh dhùbhhlachd nan sian
Do’n tür g’am bi triall thuathcheathaír, 865

O’n chualas an sgeul
Buadhach gun bhreug
Rinn acain mo chléibhe fhuadachadh.

Chì mi MacLeoid,
Is priseil an t-òg
Riomhach gu mòr buadhalach,

Bho Olghar nan lann
Chuireadh sròiltean ri crann,
Is Leòdaich an dream uabharra.

Eiridh na fuinn
Ghleusta air na suinn,
Is feumail ri ám cruadail iad,

Na fiùranan garg,
An ám rùsgadh nan arm
Is cliuiteach an t-ainm fhuaras leibh.

Siol Tormoid nan sgiath
Foirmeileach fial, 885
Dh’éireadh do shluagh luathlàmhach;

<eng>862. Mo iūl air a bhord luath-bhineach, M. 867. O vousach nan bian M.

868. n’duil gun raibh mian toirmalach, M. 869 ff. M. has:

<gai>Chualus an de sceul luathbhineach gun bheig ‘S buaghtail an t eud coinbhalbach.

[TD 73]
[Beurla]

[TD 74]

Dealradh nam pìos,
Torman nam pìob,
Is dearbh’ gum bu leibh an dualachas.

Thàinig teachdair do’n tir 890
Gu macanta min,
Is ait leam gach nì chualas leam,

O Dhùn Bheagain nan steud
Anns am freagair luchd-theud
Bheir greis air gach sgeul buaidh-ghlòireach. 895

An uair chuireadh na laoich
Loingeas air chaol
Turus ri gaoith ghluaise leibh,

O bharraibh nan crann
Gu tarriung nam ball
Teannachadh teann suas rithe;

Iomairt gu leoir
Mar ri Mac Leoid
Chàraich fo shròl uain-dhaite i,

Bho Aros an fhion 900
Gu talla nam pìos:
Gum beannaich mo rìgh an t-uasal ud.

<eng>905. Aros by conjecture; àrois SO.; om. M.<gai>

[TD 75]
[Beurla]

[TD 76]
Tha ulaidh orm an uamharrachd,
Mo ghibhte phriseil uasal thu,
Mo leug bu lìonmhor buadhan thu,
Chan fhaigh an rìgh ri t’fhuaasladh thu:
Air m’fhocal fìor o’n fhuair mi thu
Cha tugainn uam air òr thu.

Tha tasgaidh ann an diomhaireachd
O chionn an fhad-s’ de bhliadhnaich; 915
Cha b’airgiod glas ’s cha b’iarann e
Ach Ridire glic riagailteach
Fhuair meas is gliocas iarlaich:
O’n fhuair mi nis ri t’iarraidh thu
Mathadh Dia dhuit e, Shir Domhnall.

Bu chuid mhór de m’araichdean thu,
Mo phreasan snuadhach dealbhach thu,
Mo long bu lionmhor seanchas ort
Bu mheasail buadhail ainmeil thu;
Nan leiginn féin air dearmad thu
Gu dearbhtha cha b’i choir i.

O’s craobh de’n abhall phriseil thu,
De’n mheas bu ghasda brioghalachd,
O ghrunnd na fala firinnich
D’am b’fhasan riamh an rioghalachd:
Nam b’ann do lorg do shinnsir mi
Gun innsinn-se na b’eòl domh.

Gu meal thu féin do staoidhlichean
Is gach fearann tha an oighreachd dhuit,
Dùn-tuilm an talamh deagh-mhaiseach
Am biodh cèir ’ga las’ an coinneiribh
Is fion ’ga òl gu saobhirt ann
Am piosa glasa soillsichte
An tigh farsaing meadhrach ceòlmhor.

<eng>924. Bha measail, MS., acc. to Henderson.<gai>

[TD 77]

[Beurla]

[TD 78]

Do chùirt a b’ fhiorghlan foidearachd
Is bu mhath làmh-sgriobhth’ air paipearan;
Bha cuid do mhiann air maighdeannan
Bhiodh an gùintean sioda fraoidhneiseach
Is iad dúinte sios mu’n staighisean,
Is gun toir iad cìos gun fhaighneachd
Do aon strainnseir thig air fögradh.

Tha deagh ghàrd air th’ainmealachd,
Do chàirdean an t-Iarl Erra-Ghàidhealach,
Mac Cinnich is Morair Tairbeirt leat,
Fir a’ Bhealaich is Bhràid Albann leat,
Gleann Garadh ’s fir nan Garbhchrìoch leat,
Is an Colla is cha bu chearbach e,
Is na Camshronaich o Lòchaidh.

Mac Aoidh nam bratach meanmnach leat,
Siol Airt is Chuinn is Chormaic leat,
Na Collanan ciosail armailteach
Le’n loingeis luchdmhoir ghealbhréidich
Air fairge is iad a’ seòladh.

An codal no bhith an dùsgadh dhuit
Bu leat an Caiptein Mùideartach
Is na dh’éireadh leis de fhiùranaibh,
Is cha bu neart gun dùrachd e,
Is gur beachd leam gum bi biùthas anns
A’ chùis mu’ m bi sibh deònach.

Ghléidhinn prasgan fathast duit:
Siol Torcuill na tha air ghléidheadh dhiubh,
Clann Fhionghain ’s fir an t-Stratha leat;
Bu dileas duit na tighean ud:
Mur cumadh crùn no claidheamh iad
Gum faighinn-sa na’s leoir dhuit.

<eng>941. So by conjecture, or less likely, lamh-sgiath air
saighdearan. MS. has lamh sgrìobh air saighdearan, acc. to
Henderson. 942. Bu chuid, MS. 943. an not in MS. 969. iad not in
MS.<gai>

[TD 79]
[Beurla]
[TD 80]

Aig lionmhorachd do chàirdeis riu
Cha sgrìobh iad air phaipèaran;
Bhid Frisealaich, bidh Granndaich leat,
Bhid Rothaich a thaobh nàduir leat
Nan cumadh iad an àbhaist riut
‘Gad chur ’san àite an còir dhuit.

Dh’éireadh leat na Dubhghlasaich
A thaobh do mhàthar chúramaich:
Bhid cóig ciad gaisgeach cuirteil ann
Is gum b’e fàth mo dhùrachd dhaibh
Iad bhith dhuit cho dùbailte
Is nach diùltadh iad do chomhnadh.

Nan tigeadh airc no éiginn ort
Gun éireadh feachd á Eirinn leat;
Iarl Antruim nan each ceumnach leat 985
Is an sliochd sin Mhic Féilim leat,
Nan cluinnte foirl air fheumalachd
Gun éireadh leat am mó-r-shluagh.

Gun éireadh leat gun amharus
Feachd Iain Mhóir ’s Iain Chathanaich 990
Is an dream dhireach Leathanach
Is fir Chinn-tire is Latharna,
Is gur maireg luchd beurla chaiteadh ort
Is na maithean ud an tòir orr’.

Gur cian ’s gur fad an aimsir 995
0’n chuala mi aig seanchaidhibh
Nar thàinig sibh do na talmhaintean-sa
Gur gniomh a chaidh a dhearbhadh gun
Robh tigh is leth na h-Albann air
A shealbhachadh an cóir dhuibh. 1000

<eng>987. Probably for air th’ fheumalachd. 997. do, -sa suppl. Henderson.<gai>
[TD 81]
[Beurla]
[TD 82]
Luinneag

do Iain mac Shir Tormoid Mhic Leoid air
dhì bràth thombaca fhaotainn uaidh.

Hithill uthill agus ó
hithill ó horiunnan
hithill uthill agus ó
hithill óhó horiunnan
hithill uthill agus ó
hithill ó horiunnan
faililll ó hullill ó
hó ri ghealladh ill an.

Ged a théid mi do m’ leabaidh
Chan e cadal as miannach leam
Aig ro mheud na tuile
Is mo mhuileann gun iarann air;
Tha a’ mholtair ri pàidheadh 1005
Mur cailltear am bliadhna mi,
Is gur feumail domh faighinn
Ged a gheibhinn an iasaid i.

Tha mo chean air a’ chlachair
Rinn m’aigne-sa riarachadh,
Fear mór a’ bheoil mheachair,
Ge tosdach gur briathrach thu:
Gum faighinn air m’fhacal
Na caisteil ged iarrainn iad:
A cheart aindeoin mo stàta,
Gun chàraich sud fiachan orm.

Ged a thubhairt mi riut clachair
Air m’fhacal cha b’fhior dhomh e;
Gur rioghail do shloinneadh
Is gur soilleir ri iarraidh e:

<eng>1001. So S., SO.; Ga do reach mi ’m leabuidh, E.; Ge socair mo leaba M. 1007. So E., S., SO.; gu’m bu mhianach leom agam, M.<gai>

[Fior Leòdach ùr gasda
Foinnidh beachdail glic fialaidh thu,
De shliochd nam fear flathail
Bu mhath an ceann chliaranach.

Ach a mhic ud Shir Tormoid
Gun soirbhich gach bliadhna dhuit
A chur buaidhe air do shliochd-sa
Agus piseach air t’iarmadan;
Is do’n chuid eile chloinn t’athar
Anns gach rathad a thriallas iad,
Gu robh toradh mo dhùrachd
Dol an rùn mar bu mhiannach leam.

An uair a théid thu do’n fhireach
Is ro mhath chinneas am fiadhach leat,
Le do lomhainn chon ghleusta
Ann do dhéidh ’n uair a thrialladh tu:
Sin is cuilbhír caol cinnteach
Cruaidh direach gun fhiaradh ann;
Bu tù sealgair na h-éilde,
A’ choilich is na liath-chirce.

Tha mo chean air an Ruairidh,
Gur luaimneach mu d’ sgeula mi;
Fior bhoinne geal saurc thu,
Am bheil uaisle na peucaige,
Air an d’fhàs an cùl dualach
Is e ’na chuachagan teudbhuidhe;
Sin is urla ghlan shuairce:
Cha bu tuairisgeul breugach e.

<eng>1024. chliaranach, E., S., SO.; chliaran iad, M. 1039. na h-eilid, S., SO. and so E. M. transposes eilid and choilich. The rime seems defective.<gai>

[TD 85]

[Beurla]

[TD 86]

Slàn iomramh dhuit Iain,
Guma rathail a dh’éireas duit,
Is tu mac an deagh athar
Bha gu mathasach meadhrachail,
Bha gu furbhailteach daonnairceach
Faolteachail déirceachail;
Sàr cheannard air trùp thu
Nan cuirte leat feum orra.

Gur àlainn am marcach
Air each an glaic diollaid thu,
Is tu conbhail do phearsa
Ann an cleachdamh mar dh’iarrainn duit:
Thigeadh sud ann ad làimh-sa
Lann Spàinteach ghorm dhias-fhada
Is paidhir mhath phiostal
Air crios nam ball sniomhaineach.

<eng>1056. So E., S., SO.; nan cuirte mar fhiacha e M. 1061. So E., &c.; Thigidgh (sic) sud ort o’n cheardaich, M.<gai>

[TD 87]

[Beurla]

[TD 88]

Marbhhrann

do Shir Tormod Mac Leoid a dh’eug air an treas là de’n Mhàirt, anns a’ bhliadhna

1705

Cha sùrd cadail
An rùn-s’ air m’aigne,
Mo shùil frasach
Gun sùrd macnais
'S a' chùirt a chleachd mi
Sgeul ùr ait ri éisdeachd. 1070

Is trom an cudthrom so dhrùidh,
Dh’fhàg mo chuislein gun lùth,
Is tric snighe mo shùl
A’ tuiteam gu dlùth,
Chaill mi iuchair mo chùil: 1075
An cuideachd luchd-ciul cha téid mi.

Mo neart ’s mo threoir
Fo thasgaidh bhòrd,
Sàr mhac Mhic Leoid 1080
Nam bratach sròil,
Bu phailt mu’n òr,
Bu bhinn caismeachd sgoil
Aig luchd-astair is cеoil na h-Eireann.

Có neach d’an eòl
Fear t’ fhasaín beò 1085
Amblasdach beoil
Is am maise neoil,
An gaisge gleois
An ceart ’s an còir,
Gun airceas no sgleò féile? 1090

<eng>1072. So BGh., after SO.; an lùs E. 1075. chùil BGh., SO., E.; ? chiuil.<gai>

[TD 89]

[Beurla]

[TD 90]

Dh’fhalbh mo shòlas:
Marbh mo Leòdach 1095
Calma cròdha
Meanmnach ròghlic;
Dhearbh mo sgooil-sa
Seanchas eòlais
Gun chearb foghluim:
Dealbhach ròghlan t’éagasg.

An treas là de’n Mhàirt
Dh’fhalbh m’aighhear gu bràth; 1100
B’i sud saighead mo chràidh
Bhith ’g amharc do bhàis,
A ghnùis fhlathasach àilt,
A dheagh mhic rathail
An àrmuinn euchdaich. 1105

Mac Ruairidh reachdmhoir
Uaibhrich bheachdail,
Bu bhuaídh leatsa
Dualchas farsaing,
Snuadh ghlainne pearsa,
Cruadal ’s smachd gun eucoir.

Uaill is aiteas
Is ann bhuat gu faichte,
Ri uair ceartais
Fuasgladh facail
Gun ghruais gum lasan
Gu suairce snasda reusant’.

Fo bhùird an cistidh
Chaidh grunnd a’ ghliocais,
Fear fiùghant miosail
Cuilmeach gibhteil,
An robh cliù gun bhristeadh:
Chaidh ùr fo lic air m’eudail.

<eng>1118. So E., BGh.; na ciste, S0.<gai>

[TD 91]

[Beurla]

[TD 92]

Gnùis na glaine
Chuireadh sunnd air fearaibh,
Air each crùidheadh ceannard
Is lann ùr thana ort
Am beairt dhlùth dhainginn
Air cùl nan clannfhalt teubhuidh’.

Is iomadh fear aineoil
Is aoidh ’s luchd ealaidh
Bheir turnais tamall
Air crùintidh mhalairt
Air iùl ’s air aithne:
Bu chiù gu aithris bhregon e.

Bu tu an t-slothsaimh charaid
Ri ám tighinn gu baile,
Ol dian aig fearaibh
Gun strì gun charraid,
Is bu mhiann leat mar riut
Luchd innse air annas sgeula.

Bu tric uidh chàirdean
Gu d’ dhùn ãghmhór
Suilbhir fàilteach
Cuilmmhor stàtaill
Gun bhuirb gun àrdan,
Gun diùlt air mhàl nan déirceach.

Thu á sliochd Olghair
Bu mhór morghail,
Nan seòl corrbheann
Is nan còrn gormghlas,
Nan ceòl orghan
Is nan seòd bu bhorb ri éiginn.

<eng>1125. sunnd, S0.; sùnt, E.; sùrd, BGh. 1144. fàilteach, S0.,
BGh.; àilteach, E.<gai>

[TD 93]

[Beurla]

[TD 94]

Bha leth do shloinnidh
Ri siol Cholla
Nan cios troma
Is nam pios soilleir,
Bho chòigeamh Chonnacht:
Bu lionmhôr do loingeas bréidgheal.

Is iomadh gàir dhalta
Is mnài bhasbhualt’
Ri là tasgaidh:
Chan fhàth aiteis
Do d’ chàirdean t’ fhaicsin
Fo clàr glaiste:
Mo thruaighe, chreach an t-eug sinn!

Inghean Sheumais nan crùn,
Bean-chéile ghlan úr,
Thug i ceud-gràdh d’a rùn,
Bu mhòr a h-aobhar ri sunnd
An uair a shealladh i an gnùis a céile.

Is i fhras nach ciuin
A thàinig as ùr,
A shrac ar siuil
Is a bhrist ar stiuar
Is ar cairt mhaith iuill
Is ar taice cúil
Is ar caidreabh ciuil
Bhidh againn ’nad thùr éibhinn.

Is mòr an ionndrainn tha bhuainn
Air a dùnadh ’san uaigh,
Ar cùinneadh ’s ar buaidh,
Ar cùram ’s ar n-uaill,
Is ar sügradh gun ghruaím:
Is fada air chuimhe na fhuair mi féin deth. 1185

<eng>1158 So BGh.; Coinneachd, E.; Coinneach, SO.<gai>

[TD 95]

[Beurla]

[TD 96]

Cumha

do Shir Tormod Mac Leoid.

Mo chràdhghal bochd
Mar a thà mi nochd
Is mi gun tàmh gun fhois gun sunnd.

Gun sùrd ri stàth
Gun dùil ri bhith slàn, 1190
Chaidh mo shùgradh gu bràth air chùl.

Chaill mo shusbaint a càil,
Fàth mo thûrsaidh gach là,
Is mi sior-ursgeul air gnàths mo rùin.

Mu dheagh mhac Ruairidh nan long, 1195
Lamh llòbhraigeadh bhonn,
Is bha measail air fonn luchd-ciuil.

Is e bhith smuainteachadh ort
A chràidh mi am chorp
Is a chnàmh na roisg bho m’ shùil. 1200

Mi ri smuaintean bochd truagh
Is ri iomradh baoth buan
Is mi ’gad ionndrainn-sa uam: ’s tu b’fhiù.

Ag ionndrainn Leòdach mo ghaoil
 Bhith ’san t-sròl-anart chaoil 1205
 Gun chomhdach r’a thaobh ach bùird.

O’n là ghlasadh do bheul
Gun deach airc air luchd-theud
An uair sgapadh tu fhéin na crùin.

Thog na filidh ort sgeul 1210
Fhad ’s a dh’imich an ceum
Nach fhaca iad na b’fhéile gnùis.

[TD 97]
This lament for Iain Garbh of Raasay is in Còisir a’ Mhòid (I. 50) ascribed to Mary MacLeod, on what authority is not stated. Raasay tradition, as I am told by Mr. Alexander Nicolson and others, unhesitatingly ascribes it to Iain Garbh’s sister, and this fact, along with the style of the song itself, makes it, I think, certain that Mary was not the author. Mr. Nicolson has collected in Raasay a less complete version. The free rendering is in the metre of the original.

Och nan och ’s mi fo léireadh
mar a dh’èirich do’n ghaisgeach;
Chan ’eil sealgair na sithe
an diugh am frìth nam beann casa.

Bha mi uair nach do shaoil mi,
geid is faoin bhi 'ga agradh,
Gun rachadh do bhàdhadh
gu bràth air cuan farsaing;

Fhad 's a sheasadh an stiuir dhith
's tu air cùl a buil bheairte,
Dh'aindeoín ànradh nan, dùilean
agus úpraid na mara;

Fhad 's a dh'fhanadh ri chéile
a cuid dhealgan 's a h-acuinn,
Is gum b'urrainn dhi géilleadh
do d’ làimh threun air an aigeann.

Ach b'i an doineann bha iargalt,
le gaoth á’n iar-thuath 's cruaidh fhrasan:
Thog i a’ mhuir 'na mill dhùbhghorm
's smuais i an iùbhrach 'na sadan.

Hù o ro hó io hó hùg oireann o,
hó a o hù, éile e hó,
hù o ro hó io hó bhà,
hó ro bha, hiu ra bhó, hiu o ró,
hú o ro hó io hó hùg oireann o,
faill ill ó laill io hó.

[TD 101]
[Beurla]
[TD 102]

<eng>The following anonymous elegy on Sir Norman MacLeod of Bernera
has been edited and translated by Professor Watson (see Northern
Chronicle for 19th April, 1922) from a manuscript in the National
Library of Scotland. It is included as a specimen of classic poetry
for comparison with the style of Mary MacLeod’s composition on the
same theme. For its vocabulary Dinneen should be consulted. In Rel.
Celt. (II, 264) is another classic elegy on Sir Norman, of which a
better version is found in Nat. Lib., Box No. 3.<gai>

Marbhraisinn sior Tormóid Mic Leoid
ar n-a sgríobhadh ann so, do ég an treas lá do’n
mhí Mháirt, ar ndeich(el?) a cluig, ano dom
1705

Rug an fheibhe a terme as teach,
ag sin go léir ar loimchreach;
amhghar ar éigsibh gach fhóid:
an t-adhbhar tréigsin Tormóid.
A seal féin fuair an t-eineach,
ag so an díle dheireadhach;
a dhrud fá chré do chadal
rug a ré go Roghadal.

Síor Tormód do thaobh tréighe,
‘s é lá do chlú a céidfréimhe;
caoineadh budh ceart da áirmhíbh:
aoinfhear go seacht subhailcibh.

Mac Ruaidhri do riar dáimhe
riamh aoinfhear do bholmáine;
mo thogha-sa do bhraith bladh:
urusa aír mhaith a mholaigh.

A thoirbheartas le teas ngráidh,
eólus go n-eagna lomláín;
ceart nár cham do thuath tire:
neart ann le fuath faibríghe.

[TD 103]
[Beurla]
[TD 104]

Mar táid dúile agus daoine
‘s na Hearadh d’a égcaoine,
ó’n muir-si a bhfoltaibh na bhfiodh,
‘s gan tuigsi ar foclaibh fileadh.

Slán le h-eólus Innsi Gall
ar tteasdóil d’ fhéinnidh Fhionnghall;
ar lén tré éaludh anma
‘s gan léghudh sgéla sgolardha.

O nach maireann mac MhicLeoid,
ná h-iarrthar ‘n-a nduais deighsheoid
‘s gan fiaidhain ar cham tar cháir,
nó ar riaghail rann tar rabháin.

‘S é le h-ég no gur athruigh
as an bhaile, a Bearnnathraigh,
a Dhé mhóir, ag riarudh rann
dob é grianbhrugh óil Fhionnghall.

Fáth bróin diomhbaíne an duine,
fa lór d’ adhbhur eólchuire;
fir domhùin ‘s a ngnaoi d’a ngad,
‘s nach foghain faoi acht f . . . .

Fuair mac MhicLeoid, lór a mét,
clú tar laochaibh a leithéid;
ó fhuil a thoirm i ngach tír,
do chur a ainm a n-imhchin.

Do líon a bhrón-sin gach brugh
a ccrích cinnidh a mháthar;
ó fuil fólir Cuinn a cceasaibh:
guil slóigh an fhuinn Uibhisdigh.

Dóibhsion is doirbh an deadhail,
gan súgradh ’n a sein-treabhaibh
laoich as buirbe ag bualadh bhos:
duilge is luathghal an Leódhus.

[TD 105]
[Beurla]

[TD 106]

Ré fearuibh Sgí do sgaradh
an tréighe ’s an tromaradh;
mur do ghéd an chumha a ccáil,
’s ní lugha a béd a mBarráigh.

Atá a ccláruibh na comhra
ceann na foirneadh feasamhla;
’s an uaigh-sí, ’ga cor a cceilt,
uaíse fhola agus airmbeirt.

Aiceacht múinte gach mhic óig
’n a luighe fá lic Thormóid;
in an tomus lán time;
mar sanas an suaidh-fhile.

O fhuil Leoid lór do ceileadh
d’a saoitheacht, d’ar sáir-cheineal;
’s gach gnás budh dualghus do’n druing,
tré bhás gach suachus seachuinn.

Seacht gcéad dég ’s a cúig gan chol,
ég Thormóid, doirbh an deadhol;
é comháireamh is é sin
annáladh Dé go deimhin.

Ní fhuil tréinfhear ag toidheacht
do mhaicne nó mór-oireacht,
o’n bhás tré luathchar nach lag:
uathmhar an cás comhrug.

Rug.

[TD 107]
[Beurla]
NOTES

[NOTE.—For the information in the notes the chief sources are the well-known and indispensable histories and clan histories, especially Browne’s History of the Highlands and Clans, Mitchell’s History of the Highlands and Gaelic Scotland, Mackenzie’s History of the Mackenzies, of the MacLeods, and of the MacDonalds, and the great Clan Donald of the Rev. Dr. Archibald MacDonald and the Rev. Dr. Angus MacDonald. Outside these the source is generally specified; and I trust that where the number of the page has not been given the passage will be easily found by a list of contents, index, &c.]

POSADH MHIC LEOID

This so-called “Conversation between Mary MacLeod and Nic Dhomhnaill” presents some puzzling problems. First, a section of it closely resembles part of the “Tàladh Dhomhnaill Ghuirm le a Mhuime” contributed to the Gael (V. 68) by Dr. Alexander Carmichael and printed in BGh. with some improvements from Dr. Carmichael’s later and much fuller version. The two poems should be compared, and contrasted, in their entirety, but especially with ll. 13 ff. of the text cf. BGh. 6516 ff.:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Nàile nàile hò} & \quad \text{nàile gu triall} \\
\text{Moch a màireach gun d’fhaighnich a’ bhean} & \quad \text{na, có i an long ud} \\
\text{De’n mhnaoi eile:} & \quad \text{‘s a’ chuan Chananach?} \\
\text{Siar an eirthir} & \quad \text{c’uim an ceilinn?} \\
\text{Don-bìdh ort!} & \quad \text{Có ach long Dhomhnaill long mo leinibh} \\
\text{Có ach long Dhomhnaill} & \quad \text{Long mo righ-sa long nan Eilean.} \\
\text{Is mór leam an trom} & \quad \text{atà ‘san eathar.} \\
\text{Tha stiuir òir oirr’} & \quad \text{trí chroinn sheilich.} \\
\text{Gu bheil tobar fiona} & \quad \text{shìos ‘na deireadh} \\
\text{Is tobar fìruisg’} & \quad \text{‘s a’ cheann eile;} \\
\end{align*}
\]

and with ll. 75 ff. cf. BGh. 6542:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Oíl fìonais beoir ad champa.} \\
\end{align*}
\]
What may be the relation between the two will be considered later.

Next we have the difficulty of the second line (Nic an Tòisich) and the heading (Nic Dhomhnaill á Trondairnis); how can the same woman bear both designations? It seems probable, indeed almost certain, that the lady meant is Marjory (Mairearad of l. 1), daughter of Macintosh of that ilk, who married Domhnall Gorm of Sleat in or immediately before 1614; if then ll. 3 and 4 are to be taken literally, the first section of the poem was composed in or before 1615 and not by Mary MacLeod. This section seems to end at l. 10.

We then come to a section which shows the closest correspondence with the Tàladh, but which is in praise not of Donald Gorm but of a Ruairidh òg Mac Leoid, who is said, apparently, to have equalled Mackenzie and surpassed MacDonald. In view of that correspondence we can say quite definitely that Mary was not the author, in the proper sense, of this section. As we have no clue to the date, we cannot say which Roderick MacLeod is meant, or whether he was a contemporary of Mary MacLeod. If she had any hand in the composition as it stands, she was adapting to her own use the lines we find in the Tàladh. It is very likely, as the Rev. Malcolm Maclean points out to me, that the Conaltradh, the Tàladh and many other poems have embedded in them much older fragments, which are akin in spirit to the old tales; these fragments formed the stock in trade of the poets, which they did not hesitate to use, and among them are the lines common to the Conaltradh and the Tàladh. This section ends at l. 60.

The rest of the poem is in baser style; it is inferior in language and versification, its spirit is that of a tàmailt or an aoir, and its taste is doubtful—altogether a declension from the heroic fervour of the central part of the poem. Its style is by no means that of Mary MacLeod, and it was clearly composed at a time when MacDonald and MacLeod were at bitter enmity, which was the case during Sir Roderick Mór’s time (d. 1626) but not during Mary’s poetic career.

1. Mairearad: Marjory, daughter of the chief of Macintosh, was the third wife of Domhnall Gorm Mór VII of Sleat; in

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1614, no doubt on his marriage or soon after, he made provision for her by granting her a charter of lands in Sleat. It is unusual but not impossible that the wife of MacDonald should be styled Nic Dhomhnaill; we should rather have expected Bean Mhic Dhomhnaill. Again, the usual Gaelic equivalent for Marjory is Marsaill; but Marjory, Margery, and Margaret are the same name. There seems little doubt of the identification. This Donald Gorm is the same whose name is associated with the Tàladh.

23 ff. Shin i taobh, &c.: “She drew alongside Mackenzie’s boat,” i.e. she was the equal of the other in sailing, and MacLeod was the equal of Mackenzie, no small boast in the days when Mackenzie’s
power was paramount over all the northwest—“có bheireadh geall ri Mac Coinnich?” Such seems to be the secondary meaning, though Mary may be speaking of friendship and alliance.

Chuir i bòrd, &c.: We may take bòrd to mean a tack in sailing, though it appears not to be used in this sense in Scotland now; “she outsailed the island boat by a tack, outstripped her by the distance covered in a tack.” Or we may take bòrd in its ordinary meaning of a plank: “she knocked a plank out of the island boat,” perhaps by some such feat as “bumping”. In any case the meaning is that she outsailed or surpassed the island boat. What then is long an Eilein? An t-Eilean is Skye, and in view of this and of long Dhomhnaill … long nan eilean in the Tàladh it seems certain that the island boat symbolizes MacDonald of Sleat. MacLeod then surpassed MacDonald, and was equalled only by Mackenzie—the same championship of MacLeod against MacDonald as we find in the last section of the poem.

33. Ruairidh: who this Ruairidh chief of MacLeod was is uncertain.

48. an Dùn: Dunvegan.

58. Fionn: the leader of the Fiann, of whom Diarmaid Ua Duibhne was one, flourished in the third century A.D. His son was Ossian, and Ossian’s son was Oscar. Goll mac Morna was the chief warrior of the Clann Morna, and a frequent opponent of Fionn. Cuchulainn (fl. c. A.D. 1), the Fiann, Ossian and Oscar are mentioned in the Tàladh Dhomhnaill Ghuirm.

62. Caolas rònach: if this is a place-name it is a curious one, and I have not been able to find it; more likely “a seal-haunted strait”.

80. Supply do before the verbal noun riarachadh: “a useful help towards completing one’s sense of satisfaction at a meal.”

83. Trondairnis: i.e. from Dùn-tuilm, the principal residence of MacDonald at this time.

100. Domhnall: almost certainly Donald Gorm Mór who died in 1616 or 1617. The Sir Donald who died in 1643 was summoned to appear before the Covenanting Parliament in Edinburgh in 1641, to answer for rendering assistance to Charles I; while Sir Donald the tenth chief continued his resistance to King William’s government even after Killiecrankie, and only submitted after his castle of Sleat had been bombarded by two government ships of war. It does not appear, however, that either of these was actually imprisoned; and the reference in ll. 103, 104, is no doubt to the imprisonment of Donald Gorm Mór by the King and Privy Council of Scotland in 1589 and 1608.

108. Gleann Shealtainn, anglicized Glen Haultin, in Trotternish, east of Snizort.
A specimen of the Tâmait.

This is the earliest poem of certain date ascribed to Mary. Its subject is Roderick Mackenzie of Applecross, who died on 6th July, 1646. His father, Alexander Mackenzie of Coul and Applecross, was an illegitimate son of Colin Cam of Kintail, and brother of Kenneth first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail and Sir Roderick of Cóigeach, the Tutor of Kintail. Roderick died before his father (ll. 236 a and b), and never succeeded to the estate of Coul, but received Applecross as his patrimony during his father's lifetime.

165. Clann na h-irghinn: Roderick's mother was Annabella, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie I. of Fairburn, who was the illegitimate son of Roderick Mór Mackenzie I. of Achilty and a daughter of William Dubh MacLeod of Harris and Dunvegan.

172 A' Chomraich, “the sanctuary” of St. Maelrubha (A.D. 642–722) who founded the monastery of Applecross in A.D. 673. The sanctuary had a radius of six miles, and appears to have been marked by stone crosses (CPNS.). The Gaelic for “in Applecross” is still “air a' Chomraich”.

173. gàir is the accus. of respect, limiting the sphere in which adj. is to be understood; “great in respect of shout;” the other exx. of this acc. are in ll. 274, 318, 339, 441, 447, 533, 535, 572, 626, 636, 795, 910, 928, 940, 1212.

176. Strictly, great-great-grandfather.

185. Glaic Fhionnlaigh is beside the shore between Milton and Camusterrach, on the other side of the road from Milton loch at a distance of 30 or 40 yards. An old wall running from the loch to the glaic is called gàradh Fhionnlaigh. There is no local tradition of a battle, but a piece of level ground 150 or 200 yards away is called Blàr Dubh.

203. I owe the reading in the text to Dr. D. J. Macleod: “I laid by my harp in a coffer” makes excellent sense, especially in view of the following line. Taking ciste nan teud of all the sources, ciste is coffin, and the teudan are the ropes by which it is lowered. The other seems distinctly better.

204. an gobha: “the smith,” (who possibly nailed up the coffin), “denied me gleus,” i.e. the mood appropriate to music; the sense is obscure.
216. nighean Iarla Chlann Domhnaill: the reference, if we are to take it literally, is obscure; but the expression is probably a figurative one. Roderick’s wife was Fionnghal, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie of Redcastle.

224. t’fhàgail: note subjective use of the pronoun, “thy leaving (of me)”; contrast “Is neo-roghainn leam t’fhàgail,” “I am reluctant to leave thee.”

228. ? as a sign of grief.

236c. Roderick had no full brothers; he had, however, three half brothers, sons of his father’s second marriage. These lines, though clearly corrupt, seem to be genuine.

AN TALLA AM BU GHNATH

This famous song, which in E. is headed Le Nighein Alastair ruaidh do Shir Toramaid Mac Leoid, was composed, says [TD 114]

John Mackenzie, “on the Laird being sick and dying. He playfully asked Mary what kind of a lament she would make for him. Flattered by such a question, she replied that it would certainly be a very mournful one. ‘Come nearer me,’ said the aged and infirm chief, ‘and let me hear part of it.’ Mary, it is said, readily complied, and sung, ex tempore, that celebrated poem.”

We have no reason to disbelieve the substantial truth of this tradition; yet it seems probable from the whole tone of the poem that it was composed on the occasion of a minor illness rather than when Sir Norman was actually on his deathbed. Again, it seems likely that there was some considerable interval between its composition and Sir Norman’s death; for the only obvious reason for the survival of a tradition that the elegy was composed before his death would be that the poem became fairly widely known while its subject was known to be alive and well.

239. Mac Leoid: it seems almost certain that here for once Mary improperly applies this style to an other than the chief; yet the reference may be to the castle of Dunvegan and not to Sir Norman’s own house in Bernera.

263. bàrr is probably the duine-uasal’s crest of one eagle’s feather, but may refer to the feathered or bushy (dosrach) arrow-butts protruding from the mouth of the quiver.


283. An Fhiann: see note on l. 58.
Mr. James Fraser, in his Polichronicon under the year 1671, writes as follows (I owe this reference to Mr. A. Nicolson):

“This April the Earle of Seaforth duelling in the Lewes, a dreadful accident happened. His lady being brought to bed there, the Earle sent for John Garve M’kleud, Laird of Rarzay, to witness the christning; and, after the treat and solemnity of the feast, Rarsay takes leave to goe home, and, after a rant of drinking uppon the shoare, went aboord off his birling and sailed away with a strong north gale off wind; and whither

by giving too much saile and no ballast, or the unskillfulness off the seamen, or that they could not mannage the strong Dut(ch) canvas saile, the boat whelmd, and all the men dround in view of the cost. The Laird and 16 of his kinsmen, the prime, perished; non of them ever found; a grewhound or two cast ashore dead; and pieces of the birling. One Alexander Mackleod in Lewes the night before had voice warning him thrice not to goe at (all) with Rarsey, for all would drown in there return; yet he went with him, being infatuat, and drown (with) the rest. This account I had from Alexander his brother the summer after. Drunkness did the (mischeife).”

We may take it, therefore, that Iain Garbh died at Easter (l. 354), 1671; and as he was served heir to his father in 1648, the tradition that he died at the age of twenty-one must be discarded. From l. 352 it is clear that he was succeeded by his brother; in Origines Parochiales (II, i, 348) it is stated that “in 1688 Janet and Giles MacLeods, alias MacAlasdair mhic Ghille Chaluim (sisters of Iain Garbh) were served heirs of line, conquest, and provision to their father Alexander Macleod”; and we may suppose that it was on the death of this brother that the representation of the family devolved upon Alexander, son of John, brother of Iain Garbh’s father.

Iain’s size and strength are still a tradition in Skye, and especially in Raasay; among several songs composed upon him are two elegies by his sister, one of which (Och nan och ’s mi fo léireadh) is in Còisir a’ Mhòid ascribed to Mary MacLeod; (1) the other, a magnificent lament, begins:

Mi am shuidh air an fhaoighlinn
Is mi gun fhaoilte gun fhuran,
Cha tog mi fonn aotrom
O Dhi-haoine mo dhunaidh,

with which cf. l. 354. Pàdraig Mór’s piobaireachd, Cumha Iain
Ghairbh, is well known. The tradition that witchcraft brought about his drowning is related in Clàrsach na Coille, p. 290, and in J. Gregorson Campbell’s Witchcraft and Second-sight in the Highlands, p. 25.

297. “a hand unerring and unblemished, undamaged.”

(1) I accept as conclusive the Raasay tradition which, I am told, ascribes the song to Iain Garbh’s sister and not to Mary MacLeod; see p. 100.

The sense is like that of “gun leòn làimhe gun laige,” (Eachann Bacach, do Shir Lachlann Triath Dhubhaird).

315. oirre refers to the boat; “a hand that would not cease from causing her to speed.”

321. a ghabhail orra: “to reach them.”

329. do bhaile gun smùid, &c.: we might be tempted to take this as referring to Iain Garbh’s house in Clachan, Raasay, though the description by no means suits the place; but the “homestead without smoke under the wave-lashed rock” is Iain’s watery grave: cf. the lament mentioned above:

<gai>
Nochd gur h-ìosal do chluasag
Fo lic fhuaraidh na tuinne;
Is ann an clachan na tràghad (or gun tràghadh)
Tha mo ghràdh-sa ‘na uirigh.
<eng>

The verses quoted I owe to Mr. Samuel Maclean of Raasay; they and others will be found in Songs of the Hebrides, II, 102.

347. rùsgadh a’ ghill: geall, a wager, stake, pledge, is common in poetry, and is used in several idiomatic phrases of which this is perhaps the commonest of the promise or pledge made by a warrior to do good execution in battle. Rùsgadh here seems to have the meaning of “make known, announce”; cf. “an àill leat mise a rùsgadh ceol duit?”; an alternative meaning would be “make a clean sweep of”, in reference to the pledge or promise of the opponent. Cf. S. 498:

<gai>
Gun leòn gun sgios, gu bràth cha phill
Gus an téid na gill a chur leo;
<eng>

Iain Lom, Oran do Dhomhnall mac Dhomhnaill mac Thriath Shléite:

<gai>
Dol a shiubhal nan stùcbheann,
Anns an uidhe gun chùram
Leis a’ bhuidhinn roimh ’n rùisgte na gill.

<eng>

Further examples are collected and discussed in BGh., whence the above explanation is taken.

352. In Maclean Sinclair’s Gaelic Bards (I, 95) it is said that Iain had two brothers; Mackenzie (History of the

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MacLeods, 369) says that he was an only son. The tradition of Raasay supports the former; one brother perished with him, and one remained to succeed him.

TUIREADH

The heading given to this song in the Duanaire is a strong confirmation of the tradition, vouched for by the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod among others, that a part of Mary’s exile was spent in Scarba. The heading in turn is perhaps confirmed to some extent by the third and fourth lines, which certainly suit Scarba better than Mull whose traditional claim is better known. Unfortunately we get no precise information from the poem either on this point or regarding Mary’s early history.

365. Uilbhinnis, Ullinish, a district in Bracadale in Skye. The following lines are not incompatible with the tradition that Mary was born in Harris.

375. As Sir Roderick Mor died in 1626, these lines are not inconsistent with the tentative suggestion of 1615 as the year of Mary’s birth; a slightly earlier date would perhaps suit them better, however, while any later date is to be rejected. Tradition records that she was in service in Dunvegan Castle, and it is quite possible that she entered that service when she was eleven or less, before Sir Roderick’s death.

LUINNEAG MHIC LEOID

This is among the best known of all Mary’s songs. It is addressed to Sir Norman of Bernera (l. 399), and was of course composed during her exile. Why it should be known as “MacLeod’s Lilt” is not very clear, as Sir Norman was never MacLeod, a style reserved for the chief.

394. Dhiùraidh á Sgarbaidh: the decision between the various readings is an important one. I have followed BGh. because (1) it seems clear that for a part of her exile Mary was in Scarba (see notes on Tuireadh and introduction); (2) a of E. is not nearly so
likely to be the result of corruption as is or agus; (3) á is still heard from traditional singers, for example in Raasay, as Mr. John Maclean tells me.

397. do’n dùthaich, i.e. Harris, as appears from l. 399.

400. A reference to Sir Norman’s Lieut.-Colonelcy of the force of 700 men raised by Sir Roderick of Talisker in 1650 in response to a proclamation issued by King Charles II on his arrival in Scotland.

413. For the MacLeods’ Norse descent see note to l. 696.

416. We need not trouble to take literally this poetic exaggeration; cf. S. 113, Oran do Lochiall, le Gille-easbuig Domhnallach:

<gai>
Chan ‘eil fineadh feadh Alba am bheil buaidh
Nach ‘eil Camshronaich fuaigh’ riu gu beachd.
<eng>

417. A reference to the Irish connexions of the MacDonalds, to whom Sir Norman was related through his second wife, the daughter of Sir James MacDonald of Sleat, and through his mother, Isabel, daughter of Donald MacDonald of Glen Garry, after whom Sir Roderick Mór’s five sons were called “cóignear mhac uasal Iseabail”.

Éire, f. gen. Éireann, dat. Éirinn.

433 ff. We do not know when Sir Norman’s two younger brothers, William of Hamer and Donald of Greshornish, died; his elder brothers, Iain Mór and Sir Roderick of Talisker, died in 1649 and 1675 respectively; the poem is therefore later than 1675.

438. Note nìor with pres. subj. expressing a negative wish; now obsolete. Nìor is nì (neg.) and the particle ro.

459 ff. It is noticeable that the place given to the bow is now secondary to that of firearms. Mr. James Fraser, who was born in 1634, died in 1709, and commenced his Polichronicon in 1666, notes there that “that manly art” (of archery) “is wearing away by degrees, and the gun takeing place”. The last battle fought in Scotland in which bows are recorded to have been used was also the last clan battle, that of Maol Ruadh (Mulroy) in Lochaber, between the MacDonallds of Keppoch, under Colla nam bó, and the Mackintoshes of Moy (see T., p. 142, 143 ff.); it took place in 1688. See further BGh. 310.

471. The translation adopts the conjecture crann.

474. Commerce between Galway and the western isles may have been
direct, or through the Lowland ports. It is interesting to note that sìoda na Gailbhinn is still known in Skye and Lewis as applied to a delicate kind of grass.

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497. g’a seòladh: the obsolete construction of urrainn with gu illustrates the original meaning of urrainn, a guarantor, security, hence an authorized or competent person; urrainn gu, a fit person to. See vocab.

CRÒNAN AN TAIBH

From ll. 504 and 514 ff. it seems that Mary was not in either Skye or Harris when she composed this poem. From this and the general tone we may conclude that the poem belongs to the period of her exile; yet we cannot be precise as to its date, and it therefore affords no valuable evidence in that connexion. It is clear only that it was composed after 1666 (l. 582 n.); and no poem of her exile can be shown to be earlier than that date. A fragment was sung to Miss Tolmie in Bracadale and is printed in her Collection (98).

504. Pàdraig Mór Mac Cruimein, the famous piper of Sir Roderick Mór, on whose death he composed the Cumha Ruairidh Mhóir:

The original Gaelic:

<gai>
Tog orm mo phìob is théid mi dhachaidh,  
Is duilich leam fhéin, mo léir mar thachair;  
Tog orm mo phìob 's mì air mo chràdh  
Mu Ruairidh Mór, mu Ruairidh Mór.

Tog orm mo phìob, tha mi sgìth,  
Is mur faigh mi i théid mi dhachaidh;  
Tog orm mo phìob, tha mi sgìth  
Is mì air mo chràdh mu Ruairidh Mór.

Tog orm mo phìob, tha mi sgìth,  
Is mur faigh mi i théid mi dhachaidh;  
Clàrsach no pìob cha tog mo chrìdh,  
Cha bheò fear mo ghràidh, Ruairidh Mór.  
<eng>

Pàdraig is said to have accompanied Roderick of Talisker to London after the restoration of Charles II, and to have composed there the piobaireachd “Thug mi pòg do làimh an Rìgh” on being allowed to kiss the King’s hand on that occasion (e.g. Mackenzie’s Hist. of the MacLeods, p. 103). From the Polichronicon, however, a contemporary account, it appears that the incident occurred in May, 1651, when

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the King’s army, a few weeks before the battle of Inverkeithing, was gathering at Stirling, and that the MacCrimmon concerned was not
Patrick but John. The passage runs as follows (Wardlaw MS., p. 379):

“It was pretty in a morning (the King) in parad viewing the regiments and bragads. He saw no less than 80 pipers in a croud bareheaded, and John M’gyurmen in the midle covered. He asked What society that was? It was told his Majesty: Sir, yow are our King, and yonder old man in the midle is the Prince of Pipers. He cald him by name, and, coming to the King, kneeling, his Majesty reacht him his hand to kiss; and instantly played an extemporanian part Fuoris Pööge i spoge i Rhī (Fuaras pòg o spòg an Righ), I got a kiss of the Kings hand; of which he and they all were vain.” The MacCrimmon family are fully discussed in Mr. Fred. T. MacLeod’s recent “The MacCrimmons of Skye”.

513. nach tug e, &c.: a sentiment very common in Gaelic poetry.

518. an tigh: The walls of Sir Norman’s house, in the north-east of Bernera, are still standing; see introd., p. xiv.

521. Olgharach: see note to l. 791.


551. For a similar expression cf. l. 1085.

558. Sir: “the dignity of knighthood is no new beginning for them”; Sir Norman’s father, Roderick Mór, was knighted in 1613.

561. Teàrlach: Charles II. Some account of the part played in the second civil war by Sir Norman and Sir Roderick is given in the notes to Marbhrrann do Shir Tormod.

562. Slàn is rightly explained in a footnote in E. by “defiance”; “I defy Gael or Saxon (to show) that deceit was found on you” (BGh.).

564. dh’ is for do, used idiomatically in the sense of despite; cf. Seumas MacShithich (?), Oran Gaoil: Sruth d’a chaisid cha chum air m’ais mi,” “the stream despite its swiftness will not hold me back”.

565. Lochlannaich: see note to l. 696.

567. Mànuṣ: the MacLeod genealogy according to Irish

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MSS., printed in Skene’s Celt. Scot., has: “Manus óg mac/Magnus na luingi luaithe mic/Magnus Aircín mic/Iamhar uallach.” “The period of Manus óg would be the early part of the ninth century, when the Norse settlements in the Isles were in progress” (BGh.).

568 ff. These stanzas added in praise of Sir Norman’s lady are in the manner of the classic panegyric; see introduction p. xxvi. Sir Norman married in 1666 as his second wife Catherine eldest daughter of Sir James MacDonald IX of Sleat; her sister Florence was the wife
of Iain Breac of Harris and Dunvegan.

**AN T-EUDACH**

593. an Fhionnairigh: on the coast of Morvern, lying across the sound of Mull from Aros (thall ud); and we may suppose Mary composed the poem while in exile in Aros (l. 905).

599. Linne na Ciste is a deep pool about three miles up the Fiunary burn, and lying beneath a fall. Immediately below this pool is a ford, and close by are a number of cairns on which in former days, when conveying a funeral across the ford, they were accustomed to rest the coffin (ciste). The path followed on these occasions is still partly traceable. (I owe this difficult identification to Miss C. M. MacVicar, Loch Aline.)

**CUMHA DO MHAC LEOID**

The formal subject of the lament is Roderick, seventeenth chief of Harris and Dunvegan, who succeeded his father Iain Breac in 1693; in fact, however, it deals also with his younger brother Norman, who, as Roderick had no son, was his prospective heir and did actually succeed him. We must suppose that news reached Mary, whether during her exile or later, of the death of both Roderick and Norman, by what cause we have no information. Roderick’s character, his abandonment of the traditional mode of life of a Gaelic noble, and his neglect of Dunvegan castle and its inmates made him an unpopular chief and were strongly censured by his father’s bard, Roderick Morrison, an Clàrsair Dall, in the famous Òran Mór Mhic Leoid; whether or not it was Roderick that caused Mary’s exile, she received his death without much regret. She praises his ancestors, and her praise of them and of Norman serves as a signal contrast to her silence regarding his personal qualities. Of her much warmer feeling towards Norman there is further proof in the following poem, which she composed on hearing that he had not after all shared his brother’s fate. Roderick died in 1699, and the poem can be assigned with certainty to that year.

615. gun abachadh meas: Roderick’s only child was a daughter; Norman was not yet married; William, the third and only other brother, was probably already dead.

620. Note the idiom: “becoming more frequent and more severe”, lit., “going into frequency, &c.”; cf. dol am feabhas, improving.

621. chunnncas, 3 sg. past passive of faic; so chualas; except in a few cases, this termination is now replaced by –adh; chunnadh of S. is a barbarous formation in this termination.
624. aon uair, pron. éan uair, as often; so éan fhear, &c.

625. a chlann: this and the following plurals are to be noted. an fhir allail: Iain Breac.

635. ogha, addressed to Roderick only.

an dà sheanair: his father’s father was Iain Mór, his mother’s Sir James MacDonald IX of Sleat.

637 ff. The construction is loose, and of the nature of an aposiopesis; the noun or relative to which e refers is not expressed, but easily understood.

641. Iain Breac Mac Leoid.

645. Tormod a mhac-san: Norman his i.e. Iain Breac’s son, not as has been supposed Roderick’s own son.

659. as: a form of anns an (occurring before t and d in Scottish Gael., but Dinneen, s.v. i (in), quotes other cases for Irish).

661. nach usa: an understatement; the Crònán shows how much stronger was her feeling for Norman than for Roderick.

668. ’gam fògradh: the reference is to the accession of Stewart of Appin to the estates of MacLeod which might follow the extinction of the male line; cf. below.

671. is ar ranntannan: the absolute construction.

672. sud refers back to am in ’nam: lit. “if it should be gone into need of those”; rachte is the pass. subj. impersonal.

674. Clann Domhnaill simpliciter are here the MacDonalds of Sleat. The term usually includes the clan in all its branches.

677. Gleann Garadh, Glen Garry, in Inverness-shire; distinguish Gleann Garadh in Perthshire.

683. ’nam fineachd, &c.: Roderick was nephew of Margaret daughter of Sir John Mackenzie of Tarbat (wife of his uncle Roderick), grandson of Sibella daughter of Kenneth first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail (wife of Iain Mór his grandfather), and husband of Lady Isabel Mackenzie daughter of Kenneth third Earl of Seaforth and of Isabel daughter of Sir John Mackenzie of Tarbat and sister of the first Earl of Cromarty.

685. From this and l. 691 it seems that Roderick died away from home. The burial place of the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan was in Harris (cf. the heading of the lament for Sir Roderick Mór mentioned on p. xxxii). It has always been regarded in the Highlands as a
misfortune to die and be buried away from home; the case of Thomas Lord Fraser, who was buried in Kilmuir as a sign of “the great love he bore the family of MacLeod”, is mentioned in the note to l. 825. Sir Roderick Mòr was buried in the Chanonry of Ross (Fortrose Cathedral), where his recumbent grave-stone is still legible.

689. air an oighre: i.e. Norman, Roderick’s prospective heir.

690. staoidhle ‘sna Hearadh: as stated in the note to l. 696, Harris was, whether rightly or wrongly, regarded by tradition as the original possession of the Siol Tormoid or MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan, though they had also held Glenelg since about 1343. Mackenzie, in discussing claims to the chiefship (History, p. 7) says that “in several royal charters, and other authentic documents, where the heads of the families are mentioned, the representatives of Tormod (are) usually styled MacLeods of Harris”, and this is the case in literature. Now that Harris no longer belongs to the MacLeods the chief is generally known as MacLeoid Dhún Bheagain.

696. Manainn: Harald, lawful king, under Hacon, king of Norway, of the Norwegian kingdom of Man and the Isles after 1265, was succeeded in that kingdom by his only son Leodus. Leodus married Adama d. of Ferquhar earl of Ross

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(cf. l. 704) and had two sons, Torkell and Dormeth. To Torkell, the elder, he gave Lewis and Waternish; to Dormeth he gave Harris and his other lands in Skye, which was about the fourth part of what he gave to his eldest son. All their descendants “toock ther patronimick from Leod, sone to Harald, both thos who descendit of Torquill, . . . as thos who descendit of Dormeith, or, as the Highlanders pronounced, Tormett, heritor of the Herries.” Such is the account of the genealogy of Clan Leod given in the History of the Family of Mackenzie, written by the first Earl of Cromarty, Mary’s contemporary; and there is little doubt that this represents the tradition on which Mary is touching. The MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan are still commonly called Siol Tormoid, those of Lewis Siol Torcuill. A variation of this tradition is that Leod married the d. of Mac Raild, a Danish knight, and through her acquired her father’s lands including Dunvegan.

The whole of this account is rejected by Skene as the fabrication of the Earl, owing to the absence of literary evidence for such a genealogy before the writing of his work in 1669; the Chronicle of Man, a document of the greatest importance because contemporary with the events it narrates, makes no mention of Leod, although up to the year 1265 the Earl’s history is in close agreement with it; but the Chronicle is at this stage meagre; between 1265 and 1274 it records only (1266) the transference of the kingdom of Man and the Isles to Alexander king of the Scots; this the Earl places in 1270 or immediately after, saying that Alexander “gave to Harald . . . the Illes of Lewis, and that pairt of the Sky which he found then in the Norwegiane possessioun, viz. Vaternes, Meignanes, and the Herries,
to be holdin in wassalladge of him and his successores, Kings of Scotland.” The absence of positive statement in the Chronicle is not to be taken as proof of the contrary; early poems dealing with the genealogy of MacLeod, did we possess them, might well show what is most likely to be the case, that the Earl is recounting current tradition. In the present context we are concerned not with the truth of that tradition, but with the fact that Mary was well acquainted with and used it (see Celt. Scot. and Highlanders; Chron. of Man, i, 110; Sir Wm. Fraser’s Earls of Cromartie, ii, 509 ff.).

Another account is given in Mr. James Fraser’s Polichronicon, commenced in 1666 (Ward. MS., p. 40): “Duncan (son of

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King Malcolm) enjoyed the crown but a very short time, with great trouble from England, quhen he is killed by M’kpeudar (MacPeter), Thain of Merns, by the former Donalds procurement, who, to strengthen himselfe in his kingdom, conduced with Sueno 2, King of Novarrow, for assistance to recover the crown, he gave him the north and west Isles, which his race possesses to this day, viz. the Mackleuds. For Leodus, the sone of Oliverius Norwegie, possessed the Lewes, called so from Leodus, who had 4 sones, Torcil, Tormoid, Teah, and Teascil, who divided the country among them, Torcil possessing the Lewis, Tormoid the Haris, and the other two, parcels among them; upon them 4 the poet in that language gives this distich on

Schlichd Oliver shin nach duair baistig, tha buon maslig;
Ta Tormodich, agus Torkil, Teah, is Teaskill.

The clan Torkil in Lewis were the stoutest and prettiest men, but a wicked bloody crew whom neither law nor reason could guid or moddell, destroying one another, till in end they were all expelled that country, and the M’Kenzies now possess it. The poet gave them this satyr:

She mi varrell er Chland Leod gir cossvil ead re Poir i Duse
The shin mis i is mo, Ichis i te is Oig Tuse.

Is e mo bharail air Chlann Leoid, gur cosmhail iad ri pòir ... (?)
An té is sine, ma’s i as mó, itheas i an té as òige an tús.”

The Norse descent of the Clan Leod is a favourite theme with Mary; cf. l. 791 and note.

698. Olghar: see note to l. 791. Ochraidh: not identified.

699. Boirbhe, Beirbhe (N. Björgvín), Bergen, one of the principal
cities of Norway. This is perhaps the only name of a place in Scandinavia which survives in modern Sc. Gaelic, and it has the article in Gaelic, an unusual feature in Norse names.

703. De shliochn àrmunn Chinn-tìre: a poetically general

reference to Norman’s descent on his mother’s side from the MacDonalds of Sleat. To understand what was in Mary’s mind we must recall the struggles of Somerled, grandfather of Donald the eponymus of the Clan, to assert Gaelic sway in Argyll and the Isles against the Norse. Somerled, whose capacity for leadership put him in a position of such power that the Chronicle of Man credits him with the intention of conquering the whole of Scotland, and who met his death by treachery at Renfrew in the year 1164 while leading an army against the King of Scotland, defeated Godred the feudal King of Man and the Isles in a sea-fight off the north shore of Islay in 1156. The result of this was a brief peace between Gael and Norseman, on condition of Somerled receiving the Isles south of the point of Ardnamurchan, a territory which included Kintyre, and which was the ancient patrimony and earliest possession of the Clan Cholla in Scotland. On Somerled’s death these central territories of Islay and Kintyre went to his son Reginald, on whose death, in 1207, they passed to Donald the eponymous progenitor of Clan Donald. I do not think we have here any special reference to the family of MacAllister of Loup in Kintyre, said to be descended from Alasdair, second son of Donald and therefore an early cadet branch of Clan Donald. Islay and Kintyre remained central possessions of the Lords of the Isles, though at intervals in their history they acquired very large additions of territory.

The most important of these was the Earldom of Ross. A legitimate claim to it was advanced by Donald, fifth in descent from Donald son of Reginald, on behalf of his wife, Lady Mary Leslie, who became Countess of Ross in her own right. This claim Donald vindicated at the battle of Harlaw, in Aberdeenshire, in 1411, against an army sent to meet him by the Duke of Albany and led by the Earl of Mar. The united forces of Scotland, however, were too strong to permit him to take possession of Ross; the Earldom was bestowed by Albany in his capacity of regent of Scotland on his son the Earl of Buchan; it reverted to the crown in 1424; and it was probably not until soon after the death of James I, in 1437, that Donald’s son, Alexander, was granted possession of the title and estates of Ross, probably by the regents of the young king James II, in right of his mother, Countess of Ross. Alexander’s son John, the last Lord of the Isles, in consequence of many acts of war by himself and his son Angus against

the crown of Scotland, was divested of the Earldom of Ross, and, in 1493, of all his other titles and estates.
There was then no earldom of Islay, but the Lords of the Isles being designated “de Ile”, “of Islay”, and being, as we have seen, Earls of Ross, Mary combines the two; so does Iain Lom, “Do Dhomhnaill Gorm Og Mac Dhomhnaill Shléite”:

<gai>
“Aig ogha Iarla Ile
Agus Chinn-tìre,
Rois is Innse Gall.”
<eng>

The MacDonalds of Sleat are descended from Hugh, son of Alexander the first to enter into possession of the Earldom of Ross.

705 ff. Mhic Iain Stiùbhairt: the patronymic of the chief of Appin, at that time Robert Stewart of Appin, to whom was married Isabel, sister of Roderick and Norman, and to whom, through his wife, the estates of MacLeod might pass in the event of the death of Roderick and Norman, their only brother, William, having died unmarried. Alexander Mackenzie, in the belief that the poem was composed on the death of Roderick the fifteenth chief, gives that Roderick a son and daughter, against the evidence of Douglas’s Baronage, and marries the daughter out of hand to Stewart of Appin. The case of that Roderick does not meet the requirements of the poem.

an Apuinn, Appin, a district north of Loch Creran in Argyll: Apuinn Mhic Iain Stiùbhairt; distinguish from Apuinn a’ Mhèinnearaich, Appin of Menzies, which is Dull in Perthshire.

718. an fhir fhéilidh: Iain Breac. The reference no doubt includes William as well as Roderick and Norman.

719. Ruairidh Mór: Sir Roderick Mór, who died in 1626, the great-great-grandfather of Roderick and Norman.

AN CRÒNAN

Mary’s joy at finding the report of Norman’s death to be false finds full expression in An Crònan; besides being personally attached to him, she welcomed the prospect of a change of régime. Though Roderick is not mentioned, his degeneracy from the hereditary qualities of his house is indicated plainly enough in constant reminders to Norman of what is due to tradition, and in expressions of joy that the old order of hunting, feasting and open-handedness to the household will be renewed. Norman was, as the language of the poem would of itself show, a young man at his accession, but Mary’s hopes were not fulfilled for long; Norman married in 1703 Anne Fraser, daughter of Hugh Lord Lovat, and died before the birth of his son Norman in 1706. It is clear that the poem was composed very soon after the Cumha do Mhac Leoid. A
fragment of it was sung to Miss Tolmie in Bracadale in 1862; see her Collection, No. 99.

723. The physician, i.e. God, says Miss Tolmie; perhaps rather the bearer of the message.

725. The reading of E. and M., theannas, is the relative fut., used commonly enough, though ungrammatically, in colloquial speech in place of the independent fut.

736. àrmunn: Iain Breac.

751. dùn ud nan cliar: Dunvegan.

779. socrach ri tuaith: a common sentiment; cf. Iain Lom to Mackinnon of Strath: “Cha b’e am fasan bh’aig càch / So ghlac e mar ghnàth / Bhith smachdail mu’n mhàl air tuaith.”

791. Olghar: cf. ll. 521, 698, 875, 1148.

“In the classic bardic poetry the name is Olbhur, and occurs frequently, e.g. in the elegy on Sir Norman aicme Olbhuir (thrice).—RC., II, 264; a poem in Nat. Lib. MS., addressed to William MacLeod, son of Sir Norman, has—

<gai>
Mac í Olbhuir mur thuinn thoruidh (rann 12),
Triath do rioghfhuil aicme Olbhuir (rann 23).
<eng>

Olghar, Olbhur is perhaps to be equated with Oilmor of the MacLeod genealogy as printed in Celt. Scot., III, 460, where he appears as great-grandfather of Leod, the eponymus of the clan. The name is obviously the Norse Olver: seven men of that name are mentioned in Landnámabók.”—BGh.

807. Sliochd Ruairidh, the race of Sir Roderick Mór. The descendants of his eleven children are too many to enumerate. The most prominent at this date were Sir Norman of Bernera, and the representatives of the houses of Talisker, Hamer, and Greshornish, founded respectively by Sir Roderick of Talisker, Tutor of MacLeod, William, and Donald, Sir

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Roderick Mór’s second, third and fourth sons. Besides these, through Sir Roderick Mór’s daughters Norman had marriage ties with, among others, the houses of Maclean of Duart, Maclean of Coll, MacDonald of Clan Ranald, MacDonald of Glen Garry, MacLeod of Raasay; and through the daughters of John, Sir Roderick’s eldest son and successor, with these and other houses.

812. Sir Domhnall a Sléite: Mary, daughter of Iain Mór of Dunvegan, married Sir James MacDonald IX of Sleat; Florence, Sir James’s
daughter, was wife of Iain Breac and mother of the present Norman.
This Sir Donald is Sir James’s grandson, XI of Sleat, who succeeded
in 1695 and died in 1718.

819. Mac mhic Ailein: this must refer to Alan, chief of Clan Ranald
since 1686, who was mortally wounded at Sheriffmuir. The version of
E. and SO. seems impossible, for it is apparently certain that Alan
had no son: so Mary’s younger contemporary, Silis na Ceapaich:

<gai>
Beir soraidh gu h-Ailean o’n chuan
Bha greis anns an Fhraing uainn air chuairt;
Is e ro mheud do ghaisge
Chum gun oighre air do phearsa.
<eng>
The lines in E. and SO. may arise from contamination with some other
poem.

The version of M. has, as noted, “Mac Mhic Ailein is da Mhac
Dhonuill”, which, written thus, is an extraordinary phrase, as Mac
Dhomhnaill is the style of the chief of that name only, and is
therefore not applicable to more than one man at a time. Capital
letters, however, are used indiscriminately in M., and we should
perhaps read “dà mhac Dhomhnaill”, “the two sons of Donald”. There
remains to identify these; we may suppose them to be James of
Orinsay, who was later for a short time chief of the house, and
William of Vallay, sons of Sir Donald who died in 1695, and brothers
of the Sir Donald mentioned in the previous stanza. The latter had
only one son. With this identification we may compare again Silis na
Ceapaich:

<gai>
Beir soraidh gu Domhnall o’n Dún,
Gu h-Uilleam ’s gu Seumas ’nan triuir.
<eng>

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825. Mac Shimidh: Fraser of Lovat. It is probable, though we cannot
be certain, that the Crònan was composed after May, 1699. In that
month died Thomas Lord Fraser, and was succeeded by his son Simon,
who erected in the churchyard of Kilmuir a monument to his father
bearing an inscription which is quoted in Mackenzie’s History of the
MacLeods. Lord Thomas married Sibella, daughter of Iain Mór, and,
says the inscription, “for the great love he bore the family of
MacLeod, he desired to be buried near his wife’s relations, in the
place where two of her uncles lay. And his son, Lord Simon, to show
to posterity his great affection for his mother’s kindred, the brave
MacLeods, chooses rather to leave his father’s bones with them than
carry them to his own burial place near Lovat.” Lord Simon was
beheaded in 1746 for his share in the ’45.

an Aird, Aird Mhic Shimidh, the Aird, a district near Beauly in
Inverness-shire.

826. Mackenzie of Kintail: see note on l. 683.

Ceann t’Sàil Mhic Coinnich, Mackenzie’s Kintail, in Ross-shire; distinguish Cinn t’Sàil Mhic Aoidh, Mackay’s Kintail, which is Tongue in Sutherland.

831 ff. Sir John, chief of Maclean, a strong supporter of the Jacobite cause, was in exile at the court of St. Germains from 1692 until the accession of Queen Anne in 1702; cf. Mairearad nighean Lachlainn, a younger contemporary of Mary MacLeod:

<gai>
Is goirt leam gaoir nam ban Muileach,
Iad ri caoineadh ’s ri tuireadh,
Gun Sir Iain an Lunnainn
No ’san Fhraing air cheann turuis, &c.
<eng>

834. do cheangal ris: see note to l. 807. Sir John’s mother was Julian, daughter of Iain Mór and aunt of Norman.

840. Breacachadh: the seat of the Macleans of Coll, often mentioned by John Maclean, the Maclean Bard; a description of the old castle, written towards the end of the sixteenth century, is printed in Skene’s Celt. Scot. In regard to the reading adopted, I am indebted to Mr. Hector M. MacDougall, Glasgow, a native of Coll, for the information (1) that the place-name is masculine; (2) that to the north-west of the old castle is

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some elevated ground where the rock is all of the red quartz variety, a rare thing in Coll, where grey gneiss with dykes of basalt predominates. This part is thus so red in appearance that the region is called “na creagan dearga”. The dhearg of M., which preserves the rime, has therefore been adopted, with change of gender.

Donald, the tenth Maclean of Coll, who died in 1729, married first Isabella, daughter of Sir Roderick of Talisker, and secondly Marian, daughter of Sir Norman of Bernera.

FUIGHEALL

“On her passage from Mull to Skye,” says John Mackenzie (i.e. at the end of her period of exile), Mary “composed a song, of which only a fragment can now be procured”. Once again, we are disappointed to find that we can extract no certain information from this fragment. The question must arise whether her destination was Dunvegan, the seat of the chief, or Bernera, the residence of Sir Norman. The words of l. 866 constitute the only tangible evidence for the
latter, and we are probably safe in accepting Mackenzie’s statement that her passage was to Skye. Dunvegan would be her natural destination, and especially the abode of the chief is indicated by dùthaich Mhic Leoid (l. 861) and ll. 872 and 903, for Mary is consistent in applying the proper style MacLeod to the chief alone. The title of the song Luinneag Mhic Leoid is no disproof of this, for it was probably not given by Mary. The expression in l. 866, therefore, referring to her passage westward, probably does not mean that she was bound for Harris.

If this is so, we can give only a poetic interpretation to the phrase. So far as we know, she set out for Dunvegan from either Sgarbaidh or as Mackenzie says from Mull. If from the former, the expression can be taken literally only if we suppose it to apply to the first part of the voyage to Dunvegan by way of the Sound of Iona. If we are content to concede to her a poetic licence, the phrase is as well used of a voyage from Aros as of one from Sgarbaidh north through the Sound of Mull; in either case it can only loosely describe the first part of the voyage, which is of course on the whole northwards and not westwards.

872. MacLeod: probably Norman; see over.

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873. an t-òg: this well suits the supposition that the MacLeod who recalled Mary was Norman the eighteenth chief, who as we know was a young man at his accession.

875. see 791 n.

884. Siol Tormoid: the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan; see note on l. 696.

905. Aros: àrois of SO. is certainly wrong, for the dative of àros, dwelling, mansion, is àros; if we suppose the word to be simply a common noun, the phrase àros an fhion is certainly not such as we should associate with Sgarbaidh, which, so far as is known, was never the abode of any person of importance. As the text stands, there is a pun on Aros, the place-name, àros, mansion, and talla, hall.

DO MHAC DHOMHNAILL

Headed in the MS. “Le Mairi nighean Alasdair Ruaidh mhic Leòid, an té sheinn An Crònan”

The poem is addressed to Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat, who succeeded his father, Sir Donald, in 1695. He was known as Domhnall Gorm Og, or more particularly as Domhnall a’ Chogaidh from the part he played in the war on behalf of James VII. At the Battle of Killiecrankie he commanded the forces of the clan in place of his father, who fell ill after setting out; in reference to this Iain
Lom, in a poem on Cath Raon Ruairidh, says:

<gai>
Mo ghaol an Domhnall Gorm Og
O’n Tùr Shléiteach ’s o’n Ord;
Fhuair thu deuchainn ’s bu mhór an sgeula e.

Mo ghaol an Tàinistear ùr
Is a gheur Spàinneach ’na smùid:
Cha b’e an t-ùmaidh air chùl na sgéithe e.
<eng>

Nor did the resistance of Sir Donald and his son to the government of King William end at Killiecrankie. They united with the other Jacobite chiefs in a refusal to submit on any terms (1), and Sir Donald’s house in Sleat, like those of other

(1) Cf. a letter printed in Browne’s History of the Highlands, ii, 183.

of the island chiefs, suffered bombardment by two government frigates. The Earl of Argyll received a commission “to reduce him if he does not speedily surrender”, referring to which a letter in the Sleat charter chest from the chief’s cousin, Hugh MacDonald, captain in General Mackay’s regiment, quoted in Clan Donald, urges the chief to signify his submission in “a very obliging letter” to General Mackay. “Lord Morton (see note on l. 977) appears in your interest, and advises you to write to Argyll an obliging letter, for he assures me that Argyll professes much kindness for you. This will not only keep Argyll from invading your country, but likewise make him befriend you at Court. I beseech you not to bring ruin upon yourself by papists and desperat people that resort to your island. Lord Morton would go on foot to London on condition that your peace was made.” The terms of Sir Donald’s ultimate surrender we do not know.

The younger Sir Donald, subject of the present poem, appears to have taken an active part in the Jacobite rising of 1715, and his estates were forfeited. He died in 1718. We do not know at what stage in his career the poem was composed, but as he is already Sir Donald it must have been after 1695. The poem affords Mary a good opportunity for the conventional but spirited enumeration of MacDonald’s allies; some of them would have done less for Sir Donald than Mary would have us believe.

In Alex. MacDonald’s Story and Song from Loch Ness-side (p. 288) we are told that the following stanzas were well known in that district, and that the tradition concerning them was that they were a part of a composition by Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh, when she discovered, pretty well advanced in years, that she was the daughter not of one Alexander MacLeod but of a distinguished MacDonald of the
Thoir tasgaidh bhuam an dìomhaireachd
O chionn an fhad so bhliadhnaichean—
Chan airgiod glas ’s chan iarann e
Ach Ridire glic riasanach
Fhuar meas is misneachd iarlaichean;
Is o’n fhuar air mi nis gu m’iarraidh e
Gun riaraich mi Sir Domhnall.

Mo chuid mhór gun airceas tu,
Mo chleasan snuadh mhór dealbhach thu,

Mo ghibht ro phriseil ainmeil thu;
O’n chuimhnich mi air seanchas ort
B’e an diochumhn’ mur a h-ainmichte thu,
Is nan leiginn bhuam air dearmad thu
Gu dearbhtha cha b’e chóir e.

Is gur craobh de’n abhall phriseil thu,
De’n mheas is blasda brioghalachd,
Is is dosraiche an âm cinntinne
‘S a’ choill ’s nach biodh na dìonagan, (1)
De’n fhIOR fhuil uasail fhionanaich;
Is gum bi mi dhoibh cho dichiollach
Is gun inns’ mi nis n’as eòl domh.

Thig sliochd mhór Mhic Cathain leat
Is an dream rioghair Leathanach,
Bha uasal uaiabhreach aighearach,
Is bu chruadalach ri labhairt riu
Fir Chinn-tìre is Latharna;
Is gur maireg luchd-beurla bhraiteadh tu
Is na maither sin an tòir ort.

This extraordinary tradition of Mary’s parentage seems to be quite
unknown in Skye or Harris, and was in all probability the result of
a misinterpretation of the somewhat curious wording of the poem
itself.

935. Dùn-tuilm, in Trotternish, was at this time the principal
residence of MacDonald. It was inhabited as late as 1715 (Pennant’s
Tour, ii, 303).

949. Mac Coinnich: Mackenzie of Kintail, no doubt Coinneach òg, an
active Jacobite, who succeeded his father in 1678 and died in Paris
in 1701. With Mackenzie of Kintail, as with most of the other
families mentioned, the house of Sleat was connected by marriage;
Sir Donald himself was the grandson of Margaret, daughter of Sir
Roderick Mackenzie of Còigeach, the Taoitear Tàileach.
Morair Tairbeirt: Sir George Mackenzie, Viscount Tarbat and first Earl of Cromarty, one of the most powerful men of his time in Scotland, and the great advocate of the Union.

(1) ? for dioganan, a dialectic form of gioganan, thistles.

He was the author of, inter alia, the History of the Family of Mackenzie.

950. Fir a’ Bhealaich, &c.: the followers of Campbell of Breadalbane.

am Bealach: Taymouth; the use of the article shows unfamiliarity with local usage, which is Bealach simply, or Bealach nan laogh.

951. Gleann Garadh: MacDonald of Glen Garry.

fir nan Garbhchrìoch are probably Clan Ranald, whose ancient patrimony is the country between Loch Shiel and Loch Hourn, to which the term na Garbhchriochan, the Rough Bounds, is generally applied.

952. an Colla: Coll MacDonald of Keppoch, Colla nam bó, who was born in 1664, succeeded in 1682, and died about 1723. His wife was Barbara, sister of the subject of the poem, and his sister was the great poetess Silis na Ceapaich, Mary MacLeod’s contemporary.

955. The MacDonalds in general, “the seed of Art and Conn and Cormac”. Conn Ceudchathach, Conn of the Hundred Battles, was High King of Ireland, according to the Annals, from 123 to 157 A.D. He was father of Art, who was father of Cormac. Cormac’s great-grandsons were the three Collas, who were banished from Ireland to Scotland and there acquired territory. “Téid arís Colla Uais go n-a bhráithribh i nAlbain agus gabhaid fearann mór innte; gonadh ón gColla Uais sin tângadar clann nDomhnaill na hAlban agus na hEireann” (see Keating, ii, 382). See note on l. 1155.

956. Collanan is a name formed on Colla, “the descendants of Colla”.

960. An Caiptein Mùideartach: Alan of Clan Ranald succeeded his father in 1686 at the age of thirteen, and at the age of sixteen accompanied his cousin and guardian, MacDonald of Benbecula, to the Battle of Killiecrankie at the head of five hundred men. The poem being probably after 1695, Alan had by now become reconciled to the government of King William, two of the sureties for his good behaviour being Argyll and Viscount Tarbat.

966. Siol Torcuill: the MacLeods of Lewis, who had lost their land and been nearly extirpated at the hands of the Mackenzies; hence “na tha air ghléidheadh dhiubh”.

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967. Mackinnon of Strath in Skye.

977. na Dubhghlasaich, &c.: Sir Donald’s mother was Lady Mary Douglas, daughter of Robert third Earl of Morton.

985. Antrum: the great house of MacDonald of Antrim, sprung from Somhairle Buidhe son of Alasdair of Dùn Naomhaig and the Glens of Antrim; the Earl is no doubt Randal, who succeeded in 1696 and died in 1721.

986. MacFéilim, i.e. Conn Ceudchathach (see l. 955 note), son of Feidhlimidh (Feidhlim) Reachtmhar, “F. the Lawmaker,” king of Ireland. By “these descendants of Felim’s son” Mary means a general reference to the MacDonals in Ulster. (Cf. “Mac Feighlimigh mhoir mheir,” Rel. Celt. II, 254.)

990. Iain Mór ’s Iain Cathanach, Sir John Mór of Dùn Naomhaig and his son; along with three sons of the latter, they were hanged on the Borough Muir of Edinburgh in 1499 for storming the castle of Dunaverty, in which King James IV had placed a garrison; see RC. ii, 164.

992. fir Chinn-tìre: a part of Kintyre, with the castles of Dunaverty and Saddell, as well as Dùn Naomhaig in Islay, were the patrimony of Iain Mór, second son of John Lord of the Isles and of Princess Margaret, daughter of Robert II. With Kintyre also we associate the MacAllisters of Loup, who derive their name from Alasdair, son of Donald, the progenitor of Clan Donald.

fir Latharna: the MacDougalls of Lorne, descended from Somerled.

995 ff. There are many parallels to this claim on behalf of the premier clan of Scotland; cf. MacCodrum’s “Moladh Chloinn Domhnaill” (MacDonald’s Uist Bards; BGh.):

<gai>
Alba, ge bu mhór r’a innse e,
Roinn iad i o thuinn gu móintich:
Is iomadh urra mhór bha innite
Fhuair an còir o làimh Chloinn Domhnaill.
Fhuair iad a rithis an Rùta,
Cunntaidh Antrum ge bu mhór i;
Sgrios iad as an naimhdean uile,
Is thuit MacUibhilin ’san tòrachd.
Bhuidhinn iad baile is leth Alba:
Is e an claidheamh a shealbhach còir dhoibh.
<eng>

[TD 137]

The tigh referred to (l. 999) seems to be Tigh nan teud, three miles north-west of Pitlochry; cf.:
B'ann diubh Art agus Cormac,
Siol Chuinn a bha ainmeil,
Sliochd nan Collaidhean garga
Le’n do chuireadh Cath-gailbheach (-Gairbheach)
Is Domhnall Ballach nan Garbhchrioch,
Rinn Tigh nan teud aig leth Alba ‘na chrich.<eng>
(MacDonald’s Story and Song from Loch Ness-side, p. 2).

The expression is an ancient one; cf. Acallamh na Senórach (Stokes) (MSS. of fifteenth cent.), l. 1837: “gu ngébadh tech ar leth Eirenn”, “that he would get half of Ireland and a house over”; also Glenmasan MS. (? c. 1500) (Mackinnon), Celtic Review, I, 14: “gur cosain nert a láime fén treab ar leth Alpan dó”, “so that the might of his own hand won for him half Scotland and a stead over”.

LUINNEAG DO IAIN MAC SHIR TORMOID

This song is still known in part in Harris. It is addressed to John, eldest son of Sir Norman of Bernera, sometimes called Iain Taoitear, as guardian of Norman, the nineteenth chief of MacLeod, who was born after his father’s death. John was an advocate at the Scottish bar.

The occasion of the poem is the presentation to the poetess of a snuff-mull (bràth), or, as some in Harris say, a quern, and the first two stanzas deal playfully with this subject.

1004. gun iarann air: “unshod”; the iron parts of a mill are a square block of iron (dealgan) let into the iron socket (dual) in the centre of the upper millstone; and the cylindrical iron bolt (torghann) inserted in the iron lunn, on which the propellor rests and rotates. A Lewis ballad runs:

<gai>
Tha an dealgan ’s an torghann
Air meirgeadh ‘san dual,
Is tha a h-uile rud ceartach ceart oirr’.<eng>
(All from Mr. H. M. Maciver).

1029. By his second marriage (to Catherine, daughter of Sir James MacDonald of Sleat) Sir Norman had two other sons, William and Alexander, and four daughters.

de is to be understood before chloinn.

[TD 138]

1041. Ruairidh: perhaps John’s second son, Roderick.

MARBHRANN DO SHIR TORMOD
This poem is entitled in E. Oran le Inghin Alastair ruaigh do Mac Leod, and in S.O. simply Cumha Mhic Leoid.

Sir Norman MacLeod of Bernera, to whom it is addressed, was the third son of Sir Roderick Mór of Harris and Dunvegan, and born in Bernera. His contract of fosterage, between Sir Roderick and “Eoin mac mic Cainnigh”, is among the National MSS. of Scotland, dated 8th October, 1614; at that date he was probably about five years old. Of his early life little is known. When in 1650 Charles II crossed to Scotland, Roderick of Talisker, Norman’s brother, raised a regiment of about 700, most of them MacLeods, to support the King; and Norman received the Lieut.-Colonelcy of this force. Both brothers fought at Worcester (1651), where the MacLeod forces were so reduced that, it is said, by common consent the clan was absolved from military service until it should recover. Norman was taken prisoner, confined for eighteen months, and tried for his life; owing to the similarity of his name to the Welsh Llwyd, Lloyd, he was stated in the indictment to be a Welshman, and through this flaw the trial was held up and Norman sent again to prison. Thence he escaped, and afterwards returned to Skye. After the defeat of Worcester Charles retired to the Continent; but his supporters in the Highlands were not idle, and in 1653 Norman was dispatched to him at Chantilly with a letter signed by the chiefs of the loyal clans informing him of affairs in the Highlands. It is a sign of the eminent place occupied by the MacLeods among the Jacobite clans that the message which Charles sent in reply was addressed to Sir Roderick of Talisker. After the defeat of General Middleton at Loch Garry in 1654, the royalist leaders and chiefs decided that no more could at present be accomplished for the cause; Norman opened his house in Bernera to the defeated generals, and from there they escaped to the Continent. In 1659 he undertook a mission on behalf of Charles to the court of Denmark, which procured a promise of no less than 10,000 troops; these however were never called upon; General Monk abandoned his support of Richard Cromwell, and the Restoration was accomplished. Roderick and Norman immediately gave their allegiance to the King in London, and were knighted, as they well deserved to be. Mary’s tribute to his loyalty, then (ll. 1223–4), is no more than the truth.

Sir Norman died on the third day of March, 1705, as appears from the dating verse in an elegy upon him from the Book of Clan Ranald, printed in RC. II, 264 ff.:

<gai>
Seacht ccéd dég sa dó re ríom
strí bliadhna aois a nairdriógh
órslath budh cneasda do chí
go teasda romhac ruaidhrí,
<eng>
translated there:
Seventeen hundred and two to be reckoned
and three years the age of the supreme king,
a gold wand the purest to be seen,
to the death of the excellent son of Rory.

So also an anonymous elegy:

<gai>
Seacht gcéad dég ’s a cúig gan chol,
ég Thormóid, doirbh an deadhol;
ré comháireamh is é sin
annáladh Dé go deimhin;<eng>
(see p. 106.)

Mary mentions the day but not the year. The poem can thus be
ascribed with certainty to the year 1705.

1075. iuchair mo chùil: The exact meaning seems to me uncertain
Iuchair possibly means not key but keystone, as in Irish; “the
keystone of my support (cùl).” Cùil may be gen. not of cùl but of
cùil, nook, secret place, pantry, in the sense of store-house,
treasure-house, by confusion with cuile of that meaning. Perhaps we
should read chiuil, “the key of my music”; cf. a eochracha éigse,
his keys of poesy (Dinn.); iuchair ghliocais; iuchair nam bàrd, righ
nam filidh (B Gh. vocab.).

1095. Here and at l. 1130 ff. the translation is derived from B Gh.

1106. Sir Roderick Mór of Harris and Dunvegan.

1115. Fuasgladh facail: “solving the knot of a case for decision”;
cf. the Cumha do Mhac Leoid mentioned on p. xxxii:

[TD 140]

“Mu mhàthair fhuasglaidh nan ceisteann”; and Pòl Crùbach’s Iorram na
Truaithe:

<gai>
“Ceann réite gach facail
Gus an uair an deach stad air do chainnt.”
<eng>

1130. These lines are difficult, especially in view of the tense of
bheir. “Many a stranger, many a guest and man of song, will for a
space be ready to part with wealth (lit. crowns), for his guidance
and his acquaintance.”—B Gh.

1148. Olghar: see note to l. 791.

1155. siol Cholla: the Clan Donald. “Is fòllus fós gurab ré linn
Mhuireadhaigh Tírigh do chuadar na tri Cholla go n-à mbráithribh ó
Chonnachtaibh do dhéanamh gabháltais ar Ulltaibh, gur bheanadar
roinn mhór do Chúigeadh Uladh dhíobh ar éigin, mar atá, Modhairn Uí mac Uais is Uí Chriomhthainn go bhfuilid drong mhór dhíobh da hathiughadh aníu, mar atá Raghnall mac Samhairle Iarla Antruim nó nAondroma ó Cholla Uais; &c: “It is also well known that it was in the time of Muireadhach Tìreach (d. A.D. 335) that the three Collas with their kinsmen left Connaught to win conquests from the Ultonians, and wrested by force from them a large portion of the province of Ulster, namely Modhairn, Ui Mac Uais and Ui Chriomhthainn; and many of their descendants hold possession of these to-day, as Raghnall son of Samhairle, Earl of Antrim, or Aondrom, descended from Colla Uais; &c.” (Keating, ed. Dinneen, Vol. II, p. 100). Colla Uais, the most famous of the three, was the alleged progenitor of the Clan Donald (see note on l. 955); and the reference here is to Sir Norman’s mother, Isabel daughter of Donald MacDonald of Glen Garry. Mary MacLeod’s knowledge of tradition is notable. Further information about the three Collas is given in the Book of Clan Ranald (RC. II, 151 ff., given also in Celt. Scot. III, appendix 1, in translation); for the clans supposed to be descended from Colla Uais, see Celt. Scot. index.

1167. Inghean Sheumais nan crùn: Catherine, eldest daughter of Sir James MacDonald IX of Sleat (Seumas Mór), married Sir Norman as his second wife in 1666. Her sister Florence was wife of Iain Breac of Harris and Dunvegan.

“Nan crùn” holds the same idea as is more fully expressed in l. 1209.

[TD 141]

CUMHA DO SHIR TORMOD

1216. am Mac Leoid-sa: the reference is certainly to the chief, no doubt Norman, to whom the Crònan, who died shortly afterwards, before the birth of his son in 1706. Sir Norman, in virtue of his age and capacities, naturally held a position of great authority in the councils of his clan, especially since the death of Sir Roderick of Talisker, the Tutor, in 1675.

The following version of the Cumha do Shir Tormod was taken down in 1861 from Mairi bheag nighean Domhnaill mhic Ruairidh, Ebost, Skye, by Miss Tolmie, and is printed in the MacD. Coll., p. 150. It bears clear signs of having been curtailed and corrupted by oral transmission, though it contains some lines that may be closer to the original than the received text. The first four verses are in Miss Tolmie’s Coll.

<gai>
Sàthghal Màiri nighean Alasdair Ruaidh.

MARBHHRANN DO MHAC LEOID

7 ma’s fior gun robh e marbh
Mo shàthghal goirt
Mar atà mi nochd
Is mi gun tàmh gun fhois gun sunnd.

Is mi gun sunnd air stàth,
Gun mo dhùil ri bhith slàn,
Tha mo shùgradh gu bràth air chùl.

Is ann tha Leòdach mo ghaoil
‘San t-sròl-anart (1) chaoil
Is gun chomhdach r’a thaobh ach bùird.

Is e bhith smaointinn ort
A chràidh mi am chorp
Is a chnàmh na roisg bho m’ shùil.

Tha Mac Leoid ata ann
Fo ghruaman ’san ám:
Is beag an t-ioghnadh, ’s e chaill an stiuir.
<eng>

(1) “‘San Ol anart,” MacD. Coll.

[TD 142]

<gai>
Chaill e meamhair air féin
Nach bu chladhair measg cheud
Is duine thaghadh na deagh chairt-iuil.

Chaill e sealgair na frith
Nach bu chearbach do’n Rìgh
Agus seirbhiseach dileas a chrùin.

Thog na filidh ort sgeul,
Air na chunnaic iad féin,
Gun robh eireachdas ceud ’nad ghnùis:

Gun robh thuigse ’nad ghniomh
Is de thlachd ann ad bhian
Nach faca (1) mi riamh aig triuir.
<eng>

In their note to the above the editors say rather strangely that its
subject is Roderick, the fifteenth MacLeod of Dunvegan, of whom they
say Mary sang, on his death in 1664, the fragment printed on p.
xxxiii. It is clear that the subject is Sir Norman, who died in
1705.

NOTES ON THE METRES

1. Regular Strophe: (a) (2) Consisting of a phrase of two stresses,
thrice repeated, and with end-rime, followed by a half-phrase
containing a rime which is carried throughout the poem. The full phrases, which may be stressed on the ultimate or the penultimate syllable, sometimes contain internal rime, but this is irregular. The poems in this metre are: An Talla am bu Ghnàth le Mac Leoid, Crónan an Taibh, Cumha do Shir Tormod, Fuigheall. In the first three the final half-phrase consists of two syllables with the stress on the second; in the Fuigheall it consists of three syllables with the stress on the first, giving the entire strophe a fine rolling swing very different from the mournful effect of the other.

These are briefly expressed as, e.g.:

3 (Ri fuaim an taibh) m’ àbhaist.

(1) “’N a chunnaic,” MacD. Coll.

(2) The metre which Mary MacLeod has been wrongly thought to have invented.

[TD 143]

(b) Consisting of a phrase of two stresses, six times repeated, with end-rime and inconstant internal rime, followed by a half-phrase of two syllables with stress on the penultimate and carrying its rime throughout the poem. This is found in Marbhrann do Fhear na Comraich:

6 (Tha mise air leaghadh le bròn) éirigh.

2. Irregular Strophe: (a) Marbhrann do Shir Tormod, which contains two types of strophe, (1) a phrase with two stresses, the second being on the penultimate syllable, six times repeated, with end-rime and usually internal rime, followed by a half-phrase of two syllables with one stress on the penult and carrying its rime throughout the poem:

6 (Cha sùrd cadail) éisdeachd;

and (2) a phrase of two stresses, the second being on the ultimate syllable, six to eight times repeated, followed by a half-phrase of three syllables with one stress on the penult:

6–8 (Is trom an cudthrom so dhrùidh) cha téid mi.

(b) An Crònan, which consists of the type last mentioned, the double-stressed phrase being repeated from five to seven times:

5–7 (An naidheachd so an dé) ri crònan.

(c) Marbhrann do Iain Garbh is of the same type, except that the final half-phrase is of three or four syllables, with stress on the penult or antepenult; but two strophes are of the type of Marbhrann do Shir Tormod (1), save that the double-stressed phrase is repeated
seven and eight times, and is followed by a four-syllable half-phrase with one stress:

5–7 (Mo bhèud ’s mo chràdh) an Ratharsaidh.

(d) Do Mhac Dhomhnaill. This is a rather unusual metre, consisting of a phrase with two chief stresses, the second being on the antepenultimate syllable, repeated from four to six times, with end-rime and inconstant internal rime, followed by a single-stressed phrase in the end-rime, followed in turn by a three-syllable phrase stressed on the penult and carrying its rime throughout the poem:

Tha ulaidh orm an uamharrachd
Mo ghibhte phriseil uasal thu

[TD 144]

Mo leug bu lionmhòr buadhan thu
Chan fhaigh an Rìgh ri t’fhuaasgladh thu
Air m’fhocal fìor o’n fhuar air mi thu
Cha tugainn uam air òr thu.

3. Cumha, in the form of quatrains. The structure is one of four long lines (printed for convenience as eight short lines), each with four stresses, the second and third stressed words riming within each line, and the final stressed word riming throughout the rann. There are three poems in this metre, the Cumha do Mhac Leoid, Luinneag do Iain, and Luinneag Mhic Leoid. The last is peculiar in its repetition of the final line of the rann as the first line of the next rann; “this may be regarded as an extension of conchlann, ‘a grasp’, a term used to denote the repetition of the final word of a rann as the first word of the next” (BGh.).

Ex. (as usual the internal rime is not quite constant):

Is mi am shuidhe air an tulaich
fo mhulad ’s fo imcheist
Is mi ag coimhead air Ile
is ann de m’iongnadh ‘san ám so
Bha mi uair nach do shaoil mi
gus an do chaochail air m’aìmsir
Gun tiginn an taobh so
dh’amharc Dhiùraidh à Sgarbaidh.

4. Amhran, in the form of single long lines, printed for convenience as a couplet. (a) Each long line has four stresses, the second and third stressed words riming, and the final stressed word carrying its rime throughout the poem. The two examples are Mairearad nan Cuireid and An t-Eudach.

Ex.: Tha mo chean air an lasgair, saighdear sgairteil fo sgéith thu.

(b) Pòsadh Mhic Leoid and Tuireadh. Each long line has four stresses, and in the Tuireadh the rime of the last stressed syllable
is continued throughout the poem. In the Pòsadh the rime of the last
stressed syllable is changed frequently.

[TD 145]

RELEVANT DATES

1613 Sir Roderick Mór of Harris and Dunvegan knighted.

1626 Sir Roderick Mór died.

1646 Roderick Mackenzie of Applecross died; Marbhrrann do Fhear na
Comraich, Mary MacLeod’s earliest poem of certain date.

1648 Iain Garbh mac Ghille Chaluim of Raasay served heir to his
father.

1649 John of Harris and Dunvegan, Iain Mór, fourteenth chief, died.

1650 Charles II landed in Scotland.

1651 Battle of Inverkeithing; Battle of Worcester.

1653 Norman of Bernera dispatched to Charles in France.

1654 (July) Battle at Loch Garry.

1655 Roderick of Harris and Dunvegan, fifteenth chief, accepted
protection of Cromwell.

1659 Norman of Bernera dispatched to court of Denmark.

1660 The Restoration; Norman of Bernera and Roderick of Talisker
knighted.

1664 Roderick of Harris and Dunvegan, Ruairidh Sgaiteach, died.

1666 Sir Norman of Bernera married Catherine, d. of Sir James
MacDonald of Sleat. Mr. James Fraser’s Polichronicon (The Wardlaw
Manuscript) begun.

1671 Iain Garbh mac Ghille Chaluim of Raasay drowned at sea;
Marbhrrann do Iain Garbh.

1675 Sir Roderick of Talisker died.

1688 Battle of Mulroy (Maol Ruadh in Lochaber) fought between the
Mackintoshes of Moy and Colla nam bó of Keppoch; the last clan
battle.

1689 Battle of Killiecrankie (Cath Raon Ruairidh).

1693 John of Harris and Dunvegan, Iain Breac, sixteenth chief, died;
succeeded by his son Roderick.
1699 Roderick of Harris and Dunvegan, seventeenth chief, died; Cumha do Mhac Leoid; succeeded by Norman; An Crónan.

1705 Sir Norman of Bernera died; Marbhrrann do Shir Tormod; Cumha do Shir Tormod, Mary MacLeod’s last poem of certain date.

1715 Battle of Sheriffmuir.

1718 Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat, Domhnall a’ Chogaidh, to whom “Do Mhac Dhomhnaill”, died.

VOCABULARY

n. after the number of the line refers to a footnote on the tex.

acain, 871, f. bemoaning, lamenting.

adharc, 457, f. horn for holding shot.

aghmhor, 570, prosperous, fortunate; 1143, magnificent.

aigeannntach, 171, form of aigeannach, spirited, mettlesome.

àilleagan, 177, 225, m. jewel; metaph. handsome man; often used as a term of affection for a child.

àillteachd, 546, f. beauty, excellence; form of ailleachd.

àilt, 1103, noble, stately.

aineol, 605, unacquaintance, want of knowledge; air m’aineol, in a land I know not; opposed to air m’eòlas. “Shiubhail mi cian leat air m’eòlas, Agus spailp de’n stròic air m’aineol” (Alex. MacDonald); 1130, fear aineoil, stranger.

aiteam, 786, m. and f. folk, people.

aitreabh, 247, f. dwelling, residence (elsewhere masc.).

àlach, 738, m. race, family.

alladh, 147, fame, renown, whence foll.

allail, 719, illustrious, renowned.

aoidh, 1131, m. stranger, guest.

araichd, 921, precious thing acquired, godsend, boon; same as Ir. aireag, O.Ir. airec, inventio.
àrbhuidhe, 531, for òrbhuidhe, gold-yellow.
àrmunn, 736, 1105, m. hero, warrior.
àros, 759, m. dwelling, mansion.

bàdhadh, 268, act of sinking deeply in.
balg, 472, m. quiver; generally, a bag.
bail, 900, m. part of rigging, rope; 1064, stud, nail or boss.
banchag, 373, f. a woman cowherd, dairymaid.
barrdhias, 462, f. point of a sword (bàrr, dias).
basbhualt, 1161; bean bh., a woman who claps her hands (in grief);
old gen. of basbhualadh, hand-clapping, used as adj.
basgheal, 370, white of palm, white-handed.
batail, 1229, Eng. battle.
bean-mhuinntir, 687, f. maidservant.
beart, 654, f. deed; 1128, sword-sheath.
beòshlaint, 80, f. livelihood, sustenance.
bian, pl. béin, 302, m. skin, hide.
biúthas, 963, m. glory, reputation.
bleidean, 65, m. wheedler, cajoler, importunate bothersome person.
boinne, m. drop; 1043, a metaphor for beauty of form and colour; cf.
“Is i (Deirdire) boinne-fala bu chaoine cruth”,
[TD 148]
“(Deirdire) was the blood-drop of finest form”.—Deirdire (Dr.
bonn, 1196, m. coin.
bòrd, 25, perhaps a tack in sailing; cf. bórd, to tack, bàrdadh,
tacking (Dw.); Ir. bórd, space advanced by a boat in two tacks
(Dinn.); see note; 227 board (of coffin); 335 board (of boat),
gunwale.
bradan, 221 n. swelling on the skin, ridgy tumour on the surface of
the body.—Dw.
bréid, 592, m. three-cornered kertch or coif formed of a square of fine linen, worn by married women; gen., piece of cloth, sail, from which foll.
bréidgheal, 176, 1159, white-sailed.
bríoghalachd, 928, f. juiciness, fullness of sap.
buaadh, 910, f. virtue, quality, excellence, whence foll.
buaadhail, 924, full of good qualities, excellent.
buaadhalach, 874, same meaning as buadhail.
buaaidh-ghlòireach, 895, choice-worded, of choice speech.
buaireadh, 564, m. disturbance, provocation, temptation.
buannachd, 299, f. maintenance, emolument.
buinneag, 144, f. lass, young woman.
buirb, 1146 (better buirbe) rudeness, arrogance.
busdubh, 88, black-muzzled; bus, a muzzle, snout, mouth.
caidreabh, 1178, m. society, companionship.
càil, 68, f. appetite, desire; c. chomhraidh, a desire for conversation.
càileachd, 549, f. genius, natural endowment, disposition.
cainbe, 466, f. hemp.
cairbinn, 464, carbine.
cairt-iuil, 1221, f. mariner’s compass.
caisfionn, 366, white-footed.
caismeachd, 1082, f. corresponding to Ir. caismirt; meaning, inter alia, “a discussion”: hence, theme of story-telling.
caith, 496, traverse, speed over.
caithreamach, 636, of joyful or victorious noise; caithream, joyful or warlike noise, shout of victory.
calg, 488, m. bristle, short stiff hair.
carantach, 817, affectionate, loving.
carantas, 823, m. affection; c. fuar, a proverbial phrase.
carthannach, 655, same meaning as carantach.
ceannard, 1126, high-headed.
ceannas, 400, m. authority; 236, (concrete) chief.
ceannsgalach, 814, authoritative, masterful.
ceann-uidhe, 631, m. end of a journey, objective.
ceartachadh, 838, m. adjustment, putting to rights.
ceir, 264, 936, f. wax; 489, a deer’s buttock, whence foll.
ceirgheal, 284, 245 n., white-buttocked.
ceòsach, 96, big-rumped.
ceumnach, 985, pacing, with stately pace.
ceudfaidh, 542, f. sense, mental faculty.
chugaibh, 105, away with you, avaunt; (chum, chun, in pronominal compound, 2nd. pl. “The combination is based on the analogy of agam &c.,” Dinn.) A worse spelling is thugaibh &c., from thun (phonetic.)
ciodh, 13, 17, what is?
cios, 945, 1156, f. tax, tribute.
ciosail, 956, exacting tribute, rich in tributes.
ciste, 203, f. box; 1118, dat. cistidh, coffin.
[[TD 149]]
ciannfhalt, 1129, m. clustering hair (clann in the sense of a lock of hair).
cliar, 248 n., 526, 751, f. company or train of bards, poetic band.
cliaranach, 1024, m. bard, minstrel, one of a cliar.
clisgeadh, 583, m. act of startling, alarming.
cluasag, 584, f. pillow.
cnèadh, 659, f. wound, hurt.
cóigeamh, 1158, m. province, lit. a fifth part.
coisionta, 781, industrious, overcoming, hardy.
colg, 798, m. wrath, fierce aspect.
conbhail, 1059, older form of cumail, holding; Ir. congháil.
còraichean, 669, pl. of còir, f. rightful possessions, property; titles.
còrn, 242, 1151, m. drinking-horn.
cosgail, 780, lavish, liberal.
corran, 269, m. small tapering point.
corrbheann, 1150, with tapering points or corners (còrr, beann, a horn).
cràdhghal, 1186, m. painful sobbing.
crann, 792, 876, 899, m. mast; 264, arrow.
cròc, 284, f. deer’s antler.
cròdhá, 1093, valiant.
crodhanta, 186, strong-hoofed, strongly shod; crodha, crudha, horse-shoe, hoof; crodhan, a parted hoof.
crònan, 725, m. crooning, humming.
crùidheach, 1126, well-shod.
crùist, 1227, f. burial-vault; form of crùidse, crùisle.
crùintidh, 1133, pl. of crùn.
crùn, 1167, 1209, m. crown piece; 1224, the Crown.
cuachag, 1046, f. small curl, ringlet.
cuailean, 150, m. lock of hair, curl.
cuairt, 780, f. a circuit, progress, here a circuit of bards.
cùil, 1075, f. store-house, closet; see note.
cuilibhir, 1037, m. gun, fowling-piece.
cùinneadh, 1182, m. wealth; coin.
cuireid, 121, f. trick, prank, wile.
cùl, 149, 454, 1045, 1129, m. hair of the back of the head, then in
general, the hair, tresses.
cumasg, 192, m. fray, tumultuous battle.
curanta, 189, 290, 1231, heroic (curaidh, hero).
cuspair, 259, m. mark, target.
dalta, 1160, m. foster-child.
daoiread, 470, m. dearness (daor); air and., despite their dearness, however dear they are.
daonnachdach, 655, liberal, hospitable.
daonnairceach, 1053, same meaning as daonnachdach.
dearbhtha, 418, 715; dearbhtha, 800, 889, 926, proven, tried, certain; past part. of dearbhaim, I prove, show.
dearcag, 448, f. small berry; d. na talmhainn, blaeberry.
déidh, 670, f. fondness, eagerness.
déinead, 620, f. keenness.
diobhail, 246, 312, f. loss, want.
diol, 733, m. act of draining (a glass).
dóigh, 188, m. likelihood; air dh. buille, by reason of the likelihood of being smitten; 640, manner, method, wont.
dolaidh, 577, f. defect, injury.
don-faighneachd, 15, 27, d. ort, “evil of asking upon you, a plague on your asking”; cf. don-bídh, dìth-bídh, don-dòchais (BGh. vocab).
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duaismhor, 769, liberal, bounteous.
dùth, 773, natural, hereditary, befitting one’s ancestors and oneself.
éagas, 245 n.; éagasc, 1098, m. form of aogas, countenance, appearance.
ealadh, 631, 1131, f. song, music, artistic production; luchd ealahd, minstrels.
ealchainn, 456, f. rack for weapons.
earras, 594, m. wealth, property.
eineach, 574, m. honour; generosity; lit., face, countenance.
eireadh, 235, form of eire, burden. (Given as éire(adh) in some Sc. Gael. dictt., but e is short.)
eirthir, 14, f. sea-coast.
éis, 188, f. delay, hindrance.
éisg, 130, f. satirist, reviler.
éislean, 606, m. debility, grief.
eòlas, 864, f. knowledge of, or familiarity with, the way.

faiche, 342, f. an exercising green or parade ground near a house; generally, a green.

faicheil, 837, of martial appearance.

faiteal, 164, breath; speech.

falluing, 490, f. garment, cloak.

fantalach, 778, lasting, enduring.

farspach, 110, f. blackbacked gull.

feachd, 984, 990, m. warlike expedition, host.

fearrdhris, 450, f. red wild rose, dog-rose.

feòlach, 44, m. carnage.

fiabhras, 581, m. fever, feverish confusion.

fiadhach, 1034, m. hunting of deer.

fiùran, 155, 771, 816, 881, 961, m. handsome youth; lit. sapling; cf. craobh, gasan, slat, sonn, all used by Mary MacLeod metaphorically of persons.

flathail, 1023, princely, noble.

flathasach, 307, 1103, same meaning as flathail.

foidearachd, 940, pastime, according to MacNicol (Henderson).
foirm, 987, m. noise, outcry; f. air rheumalachd, a cry of need for service.

foirmeil, 522, 697, 753, stately, magnificent; foirm, form, pomp.
foirmeileach, 885, same meaning as foirmeil, above.

fòirneart, 708, 783, 819 n., m. force, violence.
foistinneach, 573, calm, sedate.

folachd, 409, 579, noble lineage, noble blood (from fuil, blood).
fonn, 878, m. tune, air.

fraoidhneiseach, 943, fringed, embroidered.

freasdal, 253, m. waiting on, attending; ann am f. gach duine, in serving every man, in attending to his needs or requests; cf. 1115-7.

fuasgladh, 1115, m. act of solving, explication.
furbhailteach, 1053, courteous, affable.

gàbhaidh, 507, dangerous, perilous; gen. of gàbhadh used as adj.
gabhail, 274, f. carriage, bearing, behaviour.
gàinne, 269, f. arrow-head.
gàir, 1160, f. shout, cry.
gàirich, 760, f. roaring noise.
gaiseadh, 262 n., m. blemish, defect.
gar, 663, 691, 715, although (regularly changed to ged in S0.); more often gar an, though not.
gàrd, 947, m. Eng. guard.
garbhghlac, 482, f. rough hollow.

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gàrlach, 132, m. starveling child, bastard, term of contempt.
gèadh, 296, m. wild goose.
gealbhréideach, 957, white-sailed.
geall, 347, m. pledge, promise, wager.
glac, 261, f. quiver; 471, a handful of arrows, dòrlach; 1058, hollow of a saddle.

glaisean, 112, m. finch, linnet, sparrow.

glas-ghuib, 115, f. muzzle, gag to prevent speech.

gleadhraich, 242, f. loud rattling noise.

gleus, 204, m. and f. possibly the key of the harp, usu. crann; if so, cf. 1075 n.; 1088, fighting trim, activity; gaisge gleois, valour of action.

gleusta, 287, trim, accomplished, polished, deft; 879, tuneful; 1035, trim, in order, eager.

gniomh, 764, m. handiwork; elsewhere, a deed of prowess.

gradan, 221, m. pain, bitter sorrow, anguish; cf. greadan, Ir. greadàn, heat, torture, etc.

greadhnach, 172, majestic, magnificent.

greis, 283, 895, f. space of time, spell; 513, a ghreis féin, the world’s (or possibly his) own spell (of prosperity and adversity in turn); cf. “Fear gun dù là, fear gun là idir”.

gruag, 453, 535, f. head of hair.

iarmad, 1028, m. offspring, race.

innis, 295, f. haunt of seals, i.e. the sea; 755, haunt, haven or resting-place of poets; (cf. ròd nan cliar, anchorage of poets, BGh. vocab.); both from the meaning “pasture, resting-place for cattle”.

iomadaidh, 828, f. great quantity, abundance.

iomairt, 827, 1232, f. contest, conflict; 902,, bustle? gaming?

iomall, 143, m. refuse; dubh i. na tuatha, the very dregs of the population.

iomartas, 560, m. affairs, bustle, trouble.

iomsgaradh, 232, m. mutual separation, sad parting; O. Ir. imm-scarad (Windisch); see also tiomsgaradh.

ion, 607, fit, befitting, proper.

irghinn, 165, f. dialectic form of inghinn, dat. of inghean (nighean), used as nom. (Dw. misspells ireann).
isneach, 464, f. rifled gun.
iùl, 862, m. bearings, landmark, course (of a ship); 1134, knowledge, guidance.

làmh-sgiath, 941 n., f. hand-shield, targe.
làmh-sgriobhtha, 941 n., m. hand-writing; (old gen. of sgriobhadh).
lànmhcor, 537, complete, perfect.
lapach, 1230, slow and awkward, soft; meata.
làrarach, 125, f. house, dwelling; site of a dwelling.
lasadh, 530, m. flush, kindling of the face (not here of anger).
lasan, 1116, sudden kindling, blaze.
lasgair, 601, m. fine young man.
leannan, lover, sweetheart, 271, 632, m. (figuratively) one given to, one who constantly practises.
leigeadh, 764, m. act of letting run, broaching.
leac, 1123, f. grave-stone, slab.
leòmach, 66, 98, conceited, pert.
leug, 910, m. precious stone, jewel.
ligeadh, 75, form of leigeadh, q.v.
linn, 535, f. brood, family; cf. deireadh linne, the youngest of a family.
liobhragaideadh, 1196, m. act of
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delivering, bestowing (based on Eng. deliver).
lionsgaradh, 794, m. resources (in a very wide sense); cf. Rosg Gàidhlig p. 136, where liansgaraidh means genealogy, extraction. Mr. John N. Macleod gives examples of the idiomatic use of this word: nach ann aice (aige) tha an l., applied to a gossip who returns from a céilidh with all the goileam of the place; to a minister who has much freedom in preaching; to a man thoroughly versed in any sphere. This sense may be defined as “a wide range, a wide field of operations,” and seems appropriate in Alex. Macdonald’s Aoir Eile do Bhan-bhàrd an Obain (1924 ed. p. 336). The word is sometimes used in the sense of scattering, e.g. of sheep on a hillside.
lòisdeal, 636, m. lodging, residence; Ir. lóiste, lodge, booth; entertainment. Or poss. a form of lòiseam, pomp, magnificent assemblage: "gum b'uallach do lòiseam, T. 54, explained in a footnote "a great company of gentry".

lomhainn, 1035, f. leash of hounds.

luachach, 862, precious, excellent; mór luachach forms a noun, "that man of great worth".

luaimneach, 1042, restless, aflutter.

lùb, 182, f. young man, carried on in 183 as a scion, shoot.

macaomh, 241, 748, m. goodly youth, gallant; mac (adjectival), caomh (used as noun), lit. a lad dear one.

macnas, 378, 1068, m. sport, mirthfulness, whence foll.

macnasach, 240, sportive, mirthful.

mairg, 184, 505, 993, f. object of pity; is mairg an duine, woe to the man.

maith, 994, n. a noble; mith is maith, peasant and noble, gentle and simple (Alex. MacDonald).

màl, 1147, m. payment, subsidy.

malairt, 724, f. change (from sickness to health); 1133, exchange, barter.

mànran, 238, 519, m. tuneful sound, melody.

maothar, 1219, coll. noun; the young, the tender; m. na treuda, the young of the flock (MacLennnan).

marbh, 438, sgeul marbh, either "news of thy death", lit. "a dead tale of thee"; cf. marbharrann: or "news that thou art inactive"; cf. fuar-scéal, a dead or uninteresting story (Dinneen).

marcanta, 202, m. horseman, knight.

mathasach, 1052, benevolent, benign, or perhaps "giving without condition"; cf. Ir. maithim.

meachar, 1011, tender, kindly.

meadhrach, 240, 939, cheerful, merry, festive.

meadhrachail, 1052, same meaning as meadhrach.
mindearg, 179, smooth and ruddy.
mingheal, 160, smooth and bright.
miosair, 457, m. measure for powder; Ir. miosúr
mòd, 102, m. court of justice, council.
moltair, 1005, f. mill-dues.
mórdha, 701, noble, great.
mórdhalach, 569, magnificent, majestic.
morghail, 1149, sea-prowess, sea-fighting; (mor-, compositional form of muir, gal, gail, valour).

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mucag, 450, f. berry of the dog rose.

neo-chrìon, 545, liberal, abundant.
neo-éisleanach, 265, not feeble, strong, sound.
neo-mhalairteach, 626, not changeable, réidh.
neul, 260, 1087, m. hue, complexion.
uallanach, 502, loud-sounding, roaring.
nur, 629, dialectic form of bhur, your.

òg, 873, m. young man (adj. used as noun).
òircheard, 764, m. goldsmith.
oireachd, 682, f. gathering, assembly; usually eireachd in Sc. Gael, but here the other is required by the rime; Ir. oireacht.
òirleach, 268, f. inch.
Olgharach, 521, of the race of Olghar.
òrd, 257, m. hammer, dog-head of a gun, which strikes fire from the flint.
orghan, 743, 1152, m. organ.
paidirean, 51, m. rosary.
pàirt, 830, f. kindred, relationship.

pic, 345, f. bow; cf. Pòl Crùbach: “Agus pic mheallach Air a tarruing o chluais gu dòrn.”

pios, 34, 762, 887, 906, 938, 1157, m. silver vessel, cup.

pràmhan, 237 n. heaviness, dejection.

prasgan, 106, 965, m. rabble, gang, group of people.

preasan, 922, m. little bush or thicket.

purpais, 551, m. theme; Eng. purpose.

ranntannan, 671, pl. of rannt m. partisan, supporter, ally; from rann, a part, division.—Dw. coins “title-deeds, deeds of conveyance; chattels”.

reachdmhor, 1106, commanding, authoritative, puissant; Ir. reachtmhar, legislative, giving laws; from reacht, law, power, authority.

riarachadh, 80, 1010, m. act of satisfying.

riaraich, 580, serve, distribute.

réidhlean, 596, m. green level plain, lawn for games, etc.

ròd, 295 n., perhaps has the sense of a “quantity of sea-ware cast on the shore”—Dw.; but ròn is the correct reading.

rògach, 98, roguish; from Eng.

rònach, 62, full of seals.

ruaimneach, 770, glossed in E., “làidir”; robust, active.

ruiteach, 260, 449, ruddy.

sàradh, 763, m. act of broaching.

sealbh, 478, m. prosperity, good fortune; 745, possession, enjoyment.

seòd, 336, 1153, m. man of valour, warrior; form of seud.

seòlaid, 498, f. harbour, anchorage.

sgannal, 142, m. scandal, slander.

sgeilm, 251, f. boasting, vain talk.
sgleò, 160, 1090, m. boasting; 1090, vapour, mistiness, dimness of the eyes; cf. "na ríoghbrugh ní h-aisling ól", in his kingly mansion drinking is no dream;—RC., II, 286 (BGh.) and in Eng., "not with umbrages, but a substantial entertainment" (Wardlaw MS., p. 482).

gòid-bhràghad, 93, f. square neck-kerchief, stomacher.

sibhrainn 195 n., m. ?

siothshaimh, 425, 1136, f. peace, tranquillity.

slacan, 344, m. bludgeon, club, wand.

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slàn, 562, m. defiance, challenge (see note); “I defy Gael or Saxon (to show) that deceit was found on you.” (BGh), so dubh-shlàn, dúbhlan, defiance.

slat, 766, f. wand, rod; metaph. handsome youth.

sligeadh, 75 n., m. “drinking from shells”.—Dw. quoting this passage; but ?; ligeadh is the correct reading.

smeoirn, 269, f. butt end of arrow, notch to fit the bowstring.

so-iarraidh, 415, easy to ascertain.

solta, 567, vigorous, comely.

sonn, 879, m. post, stake; hence, stalwart man, champion, sonn catha.

spealp, 308, m. active trim young man.

spreadadh, 326, m. report of a gun, loud sound of bursting.

spreigeadh, 41, m. act of playing briskly and spiritedly; so Ir. spreagadh.

sròl, 1080, m. satin; 904, pl. sròiltean, 792, 876, satin pennon, or possibly sail.

staoidhle, 690, 933, m. title, style; the passive of the verb is found in 700.

stàth, 1189, m. good purpose or end, benefit, advantage.

stòpa, 78, m. stoup, flagon.

stròicte, 46, hacked, sundered, shivered.
stròth, 245 n., m. extravagance.

sùgh, 138, m. juice, broth.

susbaont, 552, 1192, f. substance.

tabh, 499, m. ocean. (Norse haf, n. the high sea, ocean); used by Alex. MacDonald, and still in Harris and Barra for the open sea, the Atlantic, opposed to An Cuan, the Minch. The outermost rock of the Flannan Isles is Sgeir an Taibh (A. Nicolson); Camus cùil an Taibh is on the west side of Iona.

taifeid, 266, 466, f. bowstring.

tàileasg, 229, 279 (in pl.), m. chess or backgammon.

tarruing, 900, f. halyard.

tasgadh, 1162, m. act of bestowing, burying.

tasgaidh, 523, 646, 914, f. what is bestowed, deposit, treasure; 1078, bestowal; 218, in sense of tasgadh.

teach, 525, m. house, mansion.

teanal, 526, m. gathering; form of tional.

teannachadh, 901, m. act of holding close to the wind.

tearbadh, 440, m. separation.

teist, 252, f. repute, fame.

teud, 152, m. fiddle-string; 203, harp (Armstrong); 550, harp-string.

teudbhuidhe, 1046, 1129, yellow as harp-strings, which were gold-gilt (BGh.); yellow-stranded.

tigheadas, 833, m. household.


togbhail, 738, older form of togail, raising, rearing; Ir. tógbháil.

toisgeal, 37, left, opposed to deas; (?also right, opp. to cearr: cf. “Is mairg … thigeadh cearr no toisgeal air,” S. 235).

tolg, 581, f. pride, ostentation.

tonn-bhàidhte, 355, f. a wave that drowns, lit. a wave of drowning;
bàidhte, old gen. of verb. noun bàdhadh.
tòrachd, 42, 790, f. pursuit.
treas-tarruing, 77, f. thrice-distilled whisky; foreshot.
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trusgan, 86, m. garment, clothes, mantle.
tuam, tuama, 660, 691, m. tomb, grave.
tuath, 143, 779, f. people of a country, population, peasantry.
tuathcheathairn, 868, m. f. tenantry, peasantry.
tuigsear, 550, m. one who understands, a connoisseur.
tuilg, 581, see tolg.
tuisleach, 258, unsteady, fallible.
turaideach, 754, turreted.
turnais, 1132, a job, a smart turn (Skye). (BGh. Vocab.)

uabharra, 877, prideful, haughty.
uamharrachd, 908, f. lit. frightfulness; excessiveness, excessive measure; “I have a treasure great exceedingly.”
uidh, 1142, f. journey, way.
uirghioll, 254, m. speech, the faculty of speech.
ulaidh, 908, f. treasure, especially a treasure lit upon more or less unexpectedly. (BGh. Vocab.).
urla, 1047, f. face, countenance.
urrainn, 1233, m. guarantee, authority, security; whence the ordinary usage, “is urrainn mi”, etc. “Thy nobility is no longer my security.”
ursainn-chatha, 835, f. pillar of battle, a conspicuous hero.
ursgeul, 283, m. tale, narrative, 1194, act of narrating.
usgar, 90, m. jewel.
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