

CÒMHRAIDHEAN

'AN GAELIG 'S 'AM BEURLA.

LE ROIMH-RADH LE PROFESSOR BLACKIE.

by
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CONVERSATIONS

IN

GAELIC AND ENGLISH.

WITH PREFACE BY PROFESSOR BLACKIE.

SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

MACLACHLAN AND STEWART,

Booksellers to the University.

1880.

A. KING AND CO., PRINTERS, ABERDEEN.



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N O T E.

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

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

THE AUTHOR.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE STUDY OF GAELIC.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,
1st June, 1880.

CÒMHRAIDHEAN GÀIDHEALACH.

AN STOIRM, THE STORM.

- Ciamar a tha 'chuideachd mu'n
ghealbhan ?
An sibh a th'ann, a Dhòmhnuille ?
'S fhad' o'n Chunnaic sinn sibh.
Ciod a bha 'g 'ur cumail ?
Nach robh mi 'n Glascho o'n bha
mi 'n so mu dheireadh !
Ciod a chuir a Ghlascho sibh ?
Innsidh mi sin duit.
Bha mi aig banais mo mhic, Seumas.
- 'S math an gnothuch air an robh
sibh.
Cha d'thug e tàmh dhomh gus an
do gheall mi dol ann.
Ciamar a thàinig am baile-mòr
ruibh ?
Cha d'thàinig ach meadhonach.
Ciod a th'agaibh 'n a aghaidh ?
Tha de dh'ùinich 's de dh'ùpraid
ann 's nach mòr nach do chuir
e mo cheann air aimhreit.
An robh sibh ann an carbad na
smùide ?
Cha robh 's cha bhi.
Tha mi taingeil gu'n d'fhuir mi air
m'ais do shàmhair a' ghlinne.
Nach fiadhaich an t-sid a th'againn !
Cha chuimhne leam na's fiadhaiche
aig an àm so 'n bhliadhna.
An cuala sibh mu'n sgiorradh bhrò-
nach a thachair aig drochaid
Thatha air oidhche di-dòmh-
nuich ?
Cha chuala mi focal dheth.
'N uair a bha'n stoirm aig a h-àirde
thuit an drochaid.
- How is the company around the
fire ?
Is it you, Donald ?
It is a long time since we saw you.
What was keeping you ?
Was I not in Glasgow since I was
here last !
What sent you to Glasgow ?
I will tell you that.
I was at the wedding of my son,
James.
You were on a good errand.
He gave me no rest till I promised
to go to it.
How did the city agree with you ?
It agreed with me but indifferently.
What have you against it ?
There is so much bustle and con-
fusion in it that it nearly put
my head wrong.
Were you in the train ?
I was not, and will not be.
I am thankful that I have got back
to the quiet of the glen.
What wild weather we have !
I do not recollect wilder at this
season of the year.
Have you heard of the sad accident
that occurred at the Tay
Bridge on Sunday night ?
I have not heard a word of it.
When the storm was at its height
the bridge fell.

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

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

Chailleadh.

Ni Maith 'g ar teasairginn !

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

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

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

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

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

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

'N e sin uil' e ?

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

Ciamar a chaidh dhuibh-fhéin ?

Cha n-fhaod sinn a bhì 'gearan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They were.

May the Good Being preserve us !

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

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

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

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

Was much damage done in the town of shops ?

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

Is that all ?

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

How did it fare with yourselves ?

We must not complain.

I heard that one of your houses was knocked down.

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

Is it not wonderful that the dwelling-house escaped ?

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

How did you feel during these trying moments ?

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

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

Ach mac an sgiobair, balachan
maoth,
Chual e gun gheilt an toirm ;
Fiamh aiteis àird gu'n robh 'n a
ghnùis,
Gun smuairceanairroimh 'n stoirm.

Dh'fheòraich a h-aon de'n sgioba
dheth
Cionnus bha e cho ciùin,
'Cha n-'eil eagal dhomh-sa,' fhreag-
air e,
'Tha m' athair air an stiuir.' ”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUATHANACHAS, FARMING.

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

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

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

So dhuibh cathair taobh an teine.

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

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

How are you yourself and those
belonging to you ?

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

Here is a chair for you beside the
fire.

You have indeed a cheerful fire
and a tidy hearth.

Tha 'mhòine pailte 's cha n-'eil caomhnadh orra.	Peats are abundant and are not spared.
'S mòr an t-sochair am pailteas connaidh.	Abundance of fuel is a great privilege.
An d'thàinig sibh o'n tigh an diugh? Thàinig.	Have you come from home to-day? I have.
Cha bheag an t-astar a choisich sibh.	You have walked no inconsiderable distance.
Tha e mu chòig mìle fichead.	It is about twenty-five miles.
Bithidh sibh sgìth.	You are tired.
Cha n-urrainn domh a ràdh nach 'eil.	I cannot say that I am not.
Am bheil thu 'n sin, a Mhòr?	Are you there, Sarah.
'D é b' àill leibh?	What is your will, please?
Am bheil a bhanarach a' bleoghan a' chruidh?	Is the dairymaid milking the cows?
Tha.	She is.
Falbh a mach agus abair rithe 'n soitheach so 'hionadh.	Go out and tell her to fill this dish.
Falbhaidh.	I will.
Cùrainnich am bòrd, a Cheit.	Cover the table, Kate.
C'àit am bheil an t-anart-bùird?	Where is the table-cloth?
Gheibh thu e 's a' chiste sin thall.	You will find it in the chest over there.
An toir mi nuas an t-aran-cruineachd 's an t-aran-coirce?	Shall I bring down the wheaten and oaten bread?
Bheir, agus an t-im 's a' mhulachag chàise.	Yes, and the butter and cheese.
Na caomhnaibh na th' air 'ur beul-aobh; 's e 'ur beatha.	Do not spare what is before you; you are welcome.
Tapadh leibh.	Thank you.
'S i 'mhiu ùr a th' agaibh 's an aran so.	It is the new meal that you have in this bread.
'S i; fhuair sinn as a' mhuilleann i air di-màirt.	Yes; we got it from the mill on Tuesday.
'N e so a' cheud deasachadh a bh' agaibh dhi?	Is this the first baking that you have had of it?
'S e.	Yes.
Tha i fìor ghrinn.	It is very fine.
Bu chòir dhi 'bhi sin; oir cha n-fhaca mi riamh bàrr coirce 'b'fheàrr na bh'againn am bliadhna.	It ought to be so; for I never saw a better crop of oats than we had this year.
Cia meud mulan a th' agaibh 's an iolainn?	How many stacks have you in the stack-yard?
Tha sèa-deug againn.	We have sixteen.
Am bi pailteas fodair agaibh do'n chrodh fad a' gheamhraidh 's an earrach?	Will you have plenty of fodder for the cattle during winter and spring?

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

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

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

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

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

Cha n-fhiosrach mi gu bheil.

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

Tha gu ro mhath.

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

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

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

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

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

Am bheil am buachail a stigh?

Tha mi 'n so.

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

An e crodh Gallda no Gàidhealach
a th' agaibh?

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

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

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

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

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

I think we shall.

Here is the man of the house
coming.

I am very glad to see you.

There is some time since you were
in this quarter.

There is nearly a year.

Have you brought any fresh news
down from the glen?

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

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

I am not aware that he has.

How do you like the new laird?

Very well.

Is he affable and kind to the
people?

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

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

The trouble he takes with the
school would surprise you.

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

Is the herd within?

I am here.

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

Whether is it Lowland or Highland
cattle that you have?

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

What do you do with the milk?

We send it to Oban every day.

How many pints has each cow?

About five pints.

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

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

IASGACH AIR A'MHUIR, SEA-FISHING.

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

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

Cia meud a ghlac sibh?
Seachd ceud.

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

Ceathrar.
Bha trìùir ag iasgach 'us aon a'
fannadh, nach robh?

Tha sibh ceart.
'N e pìocach no sgadan a bha sibh
a' faotainn?

Sgadan.
An robh iad a' cluich air uachdar
an uisge?

'S iad a bha sin; bha'n fhairge mar
gu'm b'ann air ghoil le'n cluich.
'N e na slatan no'n lìon a bh'agaibh?

Na slatan; cha robh an lìon deas
againn.

'D é 'n seòrsa maghair a bh' agaibh?
Bha maghar de dh'ite na faoilinn.
Cia meud maghar is àbhaist a bhì
air gach slait?

Corr uair aon 'us corr uair dithis.
An sibh-fhéin a bhios a' stalcadh
nan dubhan?

'S sinn.
Am faca sibh muca-mara?
Bha té mhòr 'n 'ar cuideachd fad an
fheasgair.

'D é mheudachd a bh' innte?
Tha mi cinnteach gu'n robh i dà
fhichead troidh air fad.

An robh i dlàth dhuibh?
Bha i aon uair cho dlùth 's gu'm
faodamaid leum air a druim.

'S math nach robh — còmhla
ruibh.

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

We were at the Carraig.
Were the fish taking well?
I have seldom seen them take
better.

How many did you catch?
Seven hundred.
You were not idle.

We were for a while taking them in
as fast as we could.

How many of you were in the
boat?

Four.
There were three fishing and one
rowing slowly, were there not?

You are right.
Whether was it seath or herring
that you were catching?

Herring.
Were they playing on the surface of
the water?

That they were; the sea was as it
were boiling with their playing.
Whether was it the rods or the net
that you had?

The rods; we had not the net
ready.

What kind of bait had you?
A bait of the gull's feather.

How many baits is it usual to have
on each rod?

Sometimes one and sometimes two.
Do you dress the hooks yourselves?

We do.
Did you see whales?

A large one kept us company all
the evening.

What size was it?
I am sure that it was forty feet
long.

Was it near you?
It was once so near that we might
have leaped on its back.

It is well that — were not with
you.

Why?
Before you could say seven they
would have been out to dance
upon it.

Tog de d' sgeig, Fhionnlaidh ghéir.

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

Ciamar sin?

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

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

Agus nach do shluig i thu 'n déigh sin?

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

Cha n-'eil.

C'uin a dh'fhág sibh thall?

Mu naoi uairean an raoir.

Am b'fheudar dhuibh iomram dhachaidh?

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

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

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

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

Co' bh' air an stiùir?

Bha Iain Dheòrsa.

Cha n-amadan a stiùras bàta ri sìd ghairbh.

Fàilt' oirbh, a mhnathan uaisle.

An robh sibhs' ag iasgach?

Tha sinn dìreach air tilleadh uaithe.

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

Fhuair sinn fichead cudainn agus deich bodaich-ruadha.

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

An d'fheuch sibh riamh iasgach bhàrr nan creag?

Cha d'fheuch.

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

Ciamar a théid sinn m'a dhéibhinn?

Give over your off-taking, sharp Finlay.

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

How that?

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

(I do believe that the man is crazy)

And that it did not swallow you afterwards?

There is no use in talking to you.

There is not.

When did you leave the other side?

About nine o'clock last night.

Had you to row home?

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

We had a smart breeze about ten o'clock.

It was not weaker with us outside.

Had you anything of a sea?

It ran high before we reached Kerara.

Who was at the helm?

John (son) of George.

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

Hail to you, ladies.

Were you fishing?

We have just returned from it.

I hope that you have succeeded.

We got twenty cuddies and ten codlings.

It was worth your while to go out.

Did you ever try fishing off the rocks.

We never did.

Many a basketful I got in that way.

How shall we set about it?

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

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

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

Théid againn air ràmh iomairt.

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

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

Mo bheannachd oirbh.

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

Slàn leibh air an àm.

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

We must try it some evening.

I hear that you are expert at rowing.

We can manage to ply an oar.

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

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

My blessing upon you.

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

Farewell for the present.

LÀ, A DAY.

A' MHADUINN, THE MORNING.

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

Tha e fichead mionaid a dhìth air
de naoi uairean.

An d'fhuair thu cadal math ?

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

Bithidh a' bhraiceas deas 'an ùine
ghoirrid.

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

Tha.

Am bu mhath leat thu-fhéin fhailc-
eadh ?

Bu mhath.

Tha 'n seòmar-failcidh làmh riut.
Bithibh cho math 's an doras aige
fhàgail fosgailte.

Ni mi sin.

'D é 'n seòrsa là 'th' ann ?

Là grianach, le oiteig de ghaoith an
ear.

An cual thu riamh—

“Gaoth a deas teas 'us toradh,

Do you intend to get up ?

What o'clock is it ?

It wants twenty minutes of nine
o'clock.

Have you slept well ?

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

Breakfast will be ready in a short
time.

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

There is.

Would you wish to have a bath ?

I would.

The bath-room is near you.

Be so good as leave its door open.

I will do so.

What kind of day is it ?

A sunny day, with a breeze of east
wind.

Did you ever hear—

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

Gaoth an iar iasg 'us bainne,	Wind from the west (denotes) fish and milk,
Gaoth a tuath fuachd 'us gaillionn,	Wind from the north (denotes) cold and storm,
Gaoth an ear measair chrannaibh''?*	Wind from the east (denotes) fruit on trees''?
'S math is aithne dhomh na faacail sin, ach 's fhad' o'n chuala mi iad.	I know these words well, but it is long since I heard them.

A'BHRAICEAS, BREAKFAST.

Iarramaid beannachadh.	Let us ask a blessing.
Co dhiù 's e <i>tea</i> no <i>coffee</i> 'ghabhas tu?	Whether will you take tea or coffee?
Gabhaidh mi <i>tea</i> , ma 's e 'ur toil e.	I will take tea, if you please.
An gabh thu siùcar 'us uachdar leatha?	Will you take sugar and cream with it?
Gabhaidh.	I will.
An gabh thu ubh an toiseach no iasg no muc-fheoil chrochte.	Whether will you take an egg first or fish or pork ham?
Gabhaidh mi ubh an toiseach.	I will take an egg first.
Am bheil mòran chearc agaibh?	Have you many hens?
Tha mu dhà fhichead againn.	We have about forty.
C'ait am bheil sibh a' faotainn nam breac?	Where do you get the trout?
'S an abhuinn ud shìos.	In the river down yonder.
'D é'n t-aran a ghabhas tu?	What bread will you take?
Gabhaidh mi 'h-aon de na breacagan cruineachd.	I will take one of the flour scones.
Co dhiù 'ghabhas tu ìm ùr no ìm sàillte?	Whether will you take fresh or salted butter?
Mhòlainn duit a h-aon de na bonnaich-isbein.	I would recommend to you one of the sausage bannocks.
An toir sibh dhomh-sa sliseag de'n mhuic-fheoil chrochte, 'athair?	Will you give me a slice of pork ham, father?
Geàrr air do shon fhéin i, 'ille.	Cut it for yourself, lad.
Ciamar a tha thu 'dol a chaitheamh an là, 'Ailein.	How are you going to spend the day, Allan?
Tha mi 'dol do'n mhonadh a shealg.	I am going to the hill to shoot (lit. hunt).
'D é 'tha thusa 'dol a dheanamh, a Sheònaid?	What are you going to do, Janet?
Tha mi 'dol a sgrìobhadh litrichean an toiseach.	I am going to write letters first.
'D é 'tha thu 'dol a dheanamh an déigh sin?	What are you going to do after that?

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

Tha mi 'dol a leubhadh.	I am going to read.
'D é 'n leabhar a tha thu 'dol a leubhadh ?	What book are you going to read ?
Eachdraidh na H-Alba.	The History of Scotland.
'S e sin a 's fheàrr na sgeulachdan spleadhach.	That is better than fictitious tales.
'D é 'tha sibh-fhèin 'dol a dheanamh, a mhàthair ?	What are you going to do yourself, mother ?
Tha mi 'dol do'n bhaile air ghnòthuch.	I am going to town on business.
'D e 'tha sibhse 'dol a dheanamh, 'athair ?	What are you going to do, father ?
Thi mi 'dol a chumail mòid air duine truagh a tha iad a cur as a leth gu'n robh e 'sealg gun chhead.	I am going to hold a court on a poor man who is accused of poaching.

AN DÌNNEIR, DINNER.

Ciamar a thàinig thu air d'aghaidh 's a' mhonadh ?	How did you get on in the hill ?
Mharbh mi sèa eòin ruadha agus dà mhaighich.	I killed six grouse and two hares.
'S math a fhuaras thu.	You have done well.
Am faca tu fèidh ?	Did you see deer ?
Chunnaic mi damh briagh air mul-lach a' mhonaidh.	I saw a fine stag on the top of the hill.
An robh e mar astar urchair dhuit ?	Was it within gun-shot range of you ?
Bha sàr chothrom agam air a thilg-eil na'm biodh peileirean agam.	I was very favourably situated for shooting him if I had had balls.
Am bheil thu sgìth ?	Are you tired ?
Cha n-urrainn domh a ràdh gu bheil.	I cannot say that I am.
'S iongantach leam sin.	I am surprised at that.
Bha 'n t-àileadh cho beothachail 's nach do sgithich an t-saothair mi.	The air was so bracing that the exertion did not fatigue me.
Tha 'n dìnneir air a' bhòrd.	Dinner is on the table.
Thoir thusa sios bean-an-tighe, 'Ailein.	Take you down the lady of the house, Allan.
Tha 'n staidhir farsuing 'us furasd' a thèarnadh.	The stair is broad and easily descended.
Is eireachdail na cabair-fèidh a th' air a' bhalla.	The deer horns on the wall are handsome.
Tha dithis dhiubh air am bheil dà mheur dheug.	There are two of them with twelve points.
An gabh thu brot ?	Will you take broth ?

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

Fhuair.

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

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

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

Gabh gloine fiona.

Theagamh gur fheàrr leat nisge-
beatha.

Gabhaidh mi fion.

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

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

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

Tha mi buidheach.

An gabh thu làn spàine de'n bhiadh
mhilis ?

An gabh thu càise ?

An gabh thu ubhal no *orange* ?

'S fheàrr leam flon-dhearc.

Gabh gloine de dh'fhion dearg.

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

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

Tha 'n t-uisg' ann.

Cha n-'eil ann ach fras.

Tha 'm paipeir-naigheachd air tigh-
inn.

Thoir h-ugam e.

Thoir dhuinn ceòl, 'Iseabal.

'S math a chluich thu 'm port sin.

Thoir a nis dhuinn òran.

Ciod a dh'èirich do'n phiobair ?

Cha chuala mi sgal d' a phiob an
diugh.

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

I will, thank you.

Did you get your business done ?

Yes.

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

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

Will you take a bit of salmon ?

Bring here the potatoes and melted
butter.

The salmon is fresh from the river.

Take a glass of wine.

Perhaps you prefer whisky.

I will take wine.

Allow me to send you a slice of this
beef.

I never tasted sweeter and tenderer
beef.

Will you now take some of the
mutton ?

I am satisfied.

Will you take a spoonful of this
pudding ?

Will you take cheese ?

Whether will you take an apple or
an orange ?

I prefer grapes.

Take a glass of port.

Send round the bottle, Colin.

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

It is raining.

It is only a shower.

The newspaper has come.

Bring it to me.

Give us music, Isabella.

You have played that tune well.

Give us now a song.

What has happened to the piper ?

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

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

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

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

Tha' n t-àm ann airson aoraidh.

Buail an clag.

The blockhead ! but be kind to the
poor lad.

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

It is time for worship.

Ring the bell.

A' BHANAIS, THE WEDDING.

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

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

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

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

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

Bha mòran agaibh r' a dheanamh.

Carson a tha thu 'g ràdh sin ?

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

Dh'fhaodadh tu innseadh dhomh-sa.

An geall sibh nach tig sibh thairis
air ?

Geallaidh ; so mo làmh.

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

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

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

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

'D é 's ciall d' a sin ?

Nach 'eil fhios agad ?

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

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

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

I forgot that you were at the wed-
ding.

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

You had much to do.

Why do you say so ?

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

You might tell it to me.

Will you promise not to repeat it ?

I will ; here is my hand.

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

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

She is not and never was nice.

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

What does that mean ?

Do you not know ?

Cha n-'eil.

Ri linn mo sheanar b'abhaist do'n chòrdadh a bhì aca air a' mhonadh ud.

'D é dhe sin ?

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

'D é tha 'n 'ur beachd ?

Tha nach bì còrdadh agad-sa 'm bliadhna.

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

Cha toir i feairt ort.

Chì sinn.

Turus math dhuit, a Màiri laghach.

C'uin a thàinig thu o'n bhanais ?

Mu chòig uairean 's a' mhaduinn.

Cia meud a bh'ann de chuideachd ?

Mu dhà fhichead.

Co 'phòs iad ?

Phòs ministear na sgìreaachd.

Am bheil an sluagh toigheach air ?

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

'D é 'rinn sibh an déigh dha falbh.

Thòisich sinn air an dannsadh.

Co 'dhanns a' cheud rìghil ?

Dhanns mise le be anna bainnse, 's dhanns fear na bainnse le 'maighdein.

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

An sin leig sibh 'ur n-anail tacan.

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

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

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

I do not.

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

What of that ?

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

What do you mean ?

I mean that there will be no marriage contract for you this year.

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

She will not heed you.

We shall see.

A good journey to you, dainty Mary.

When did you come from the wedding ?

About five o'clock in the morning.

How many were there of a company ?

About forty.

Who married them ?

The minister of the parish.

Are the people fond of him ?

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

What did you do after he left ?

We began the dancing.

Who danced the first reel ?

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

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

You then rested yourselves for a while.

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

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

Were they shouting and cracking their fingers ?

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

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

An robh òrain 'g an gabhail ?

Bha, an dràs 's a ris.

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

Dìreach sin.

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

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

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

Bha e deich uairean.

Co 'bh' air ceann a' bhùird ?

Bha mise.

Co 'bh' air ceann shìos a' bhùird ?

Bha athair bean na bainnse.

An robh cuirm shòghar agaibh ?

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

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

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

An robh fala-dhà agaibh ?

Bha na 's leòir.

Am bheil an sluagh tugaideach ?

Tha, mòrau diubh.

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

Bithidh iad ri fala-dhà le cnàmhan.

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

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

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

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

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

Were songs sung ?

Yes, now and again.

When you were tired of thumping
the floor.

Just so.

What does "arresting the floor"
mean ?

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

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

It was ten o'clock.

Who was at the head of the table ?

I was.

Who was at the foot of the table ?

The bride's father.

Had you a sumptuous feast ?

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

Are the men good carvers ?

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

Had you fun ?

We had plenty.

Are the people jocose ?

Yes, many of them.

Have they any particular amuse-
ment at the supper.

They make sport with bones.

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

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

- Nach 'eil coinneamh aca roimh 'n phòsadh a shocrachadh chùisean ?
 Have they not a meeting before marriage to arrange matters ?
- Tha dà choinneamh aca' an còrdadh mòr 's an còrdadh beag.
 They have two meetings—the big contract meeting and the little.
- 'D é 'th' air a dheanamh aig a' chòrdadh bheag ?
 What is done at the little contract meeting ?
- Tha 'm fear a' tighinn le companach gu tigh a leanain gu e-féin a thairgseadh.
 The man comes with a companion to his sweetheart's house to offer himself.
- Tha 'n còrdadh mòr 'n a leth bhannais.
 The big contract meeting is a half wedding.
- Tha na càirdean a' cruinneachadh taobh air thaobh.
 The friends of both parties meet.
- 'D e 'tha air a dheanamh aige ?
 What is done at it ?
- Tha là na bainnse 's gach cùis fheumail eil' air an socrachadh.
 The wedding day is fixed and other necessary arrangements are made.
- Feumaidh gu bheil na bainnsean sin cosgail.
 These weddings must be expensive.
- Cha n-eil teagamh nach 'eil.
 No doubt they are.
- Nach amaideach na h-niread a chur a mach orra ?
 Is it not folly to spend so much on them ?
- Cha n-'eil an t-uallach orra-san aig am bheil a' bhannais.
 The burden does not fall on those who have the wedding.
- Camar sin ?
 How so ?
- Tha na coimhearsnaich a' cur a stigh gach ni 'bhios feumail.
 The neighbours send in all that is necessary.
- Gu dearbh !
 Indeed !
- Cuiridh iad cearcan, uibhean, ìm, mulachagan càise, 'us nithe eile g' an ionnsuidh.
 They send them hens, eggs, butter, cheeses, and other things.
- Mar so tha càirdeas agus deagh coimhearsnachd air an cumail suas.
 Thus friendliness and neighbourliness are kept up.
- Tha eagal orm gu bheil tuilleadh 's a' chòir de dh'òl a' dol air aghaidh aig na còdhailibh sin.
 I fear that too much drinking goes on at these meetings.
- Tha air uairibh ; ach tha na 's lugha ann dheth na b' àbhaist.
 Yes, at times, but there is less of it than used to be.
- Gu ma h-ann na 's lugha 'bhios e 'fàs a h-uile là.
 May it become less every day.

CRUINNEACHADH GÀIDHEALACH AN OBAIN.

THE OBAN HIGHLAND GATHERING.

- Fàilt air a' mhaighstir-sgoil ; cia as a thug sibh a' choiseachd ?
 Hail to the schoolmaster ; whence have you walked ?

Is coma cia as ; tha mi air mo
chlaoidh le teas 'us pathadh.

Rachaibh a stigh, a dhuine ghaol-
aich.

Ni mi sin gu toileach.

Am bheil thu 'n sin, a Chiorsdan ?

Tha mi 'tighinn.

So am maighstir-sgoil an impis
fàilneachadh le pathadh.

Nach e so au là bruthainneach !

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

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

An gabh sibh deoch mheòig no
bhlàthaich ?

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

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

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

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

Toilichibh sibh-fhéin.

'S fheàird mi sin.

An ann 's an Oban a bha sibh ?

'S ann.

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

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

Ciod air am bheil sibh a' tighinn ?

B' e 'n diugh là nan cluichean
Gàidhealach.

An do chruinnich mòran sluaigh
g'am faicinn ?

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

Cia as a thàinig iad ?

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

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

It does not matter whence ; I am
exhausted with heat and thirst.

Go in, dear man.

I will do so willingly

Are you there, Kirsty ?

I am coming.

Here is the schoolmaster like to
faint with thirst.

What a sultry day !

Stretch yourself on the couch.

Come ! come ! bring a drink to
your friend.

Will you take a drink of whey or
butter milk.

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

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

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

I prefer a drink of whey, thank you.

Please yourself.

I am the better of that.

Is it in Oban that you were ?

Yes.

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

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

What do you refer to ?

This was the day of the Highland
games.

Did many people assemble to see
them ?

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

Whence did they come ?

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

Where was the meeting held ?

- Air faiche taobh a mach a' bhaile.
 An robh au sluagh uile air an fhaiche aig an aon àm ?
- Cha robh ; bha sruth 'us saobh-shruth dhiubh air an ais 's air an aghaidh eadar am baile 's an fhaiche fad an là.
- An robh an t-éideadh Gàidhealach air mòran diubh ?
- Bha e air a' chuid bu mhò de luchd na farpais 's air corra 'h-aon de na h-naislean.
- An robh farpais ann mu chaitheamh na cloiche ?
- Is dùth dhuit-sa 'cheist sin a chur.
- Bha là 'bha mi maith air caitheamh na cloiche, ach dh'fhalbh an là sin.
- Bha farpais ann mu chaitheamh na cloiche, mu thilgeil an ùird, mu chur char de 'n chabar, mu leum, mu ruith, mu dhannasadh, 's mu phìobaireachd.
- Co 'bhuidhinn an duais a b'airde airson a' cheud thrì dhiubh sin ?
- Fear ris an abrar Dòmhnall Dinnie.
- Cia meud troidh a thilg e 'chlach bu truime ?
- Naoi troidhe deug air fhichead.
- Cia meud troidh a thilg e 'n t-òrd bu truime ?
- A dhà dheug 'us còig fichead troidh agus naoi òirlich.
- A dhuine chridhe ! Nach e 'n curaidh e !
- Tha iad ag ràdh gu'm b'urrainn e 'thilgeil na b'fhaide na 'n tog-radh e.
- An d'fhairich sibh an robh mòran de dh'uaislean na dùthcha air an fhaiche ?
- Cha n-fhaca mi riamh cruinneachadh cho mòr dhiubh.
- An robh Professor Blackie, caraid nan Gàidheal, ann ?
- 'S e 'bha, am broilleach na cuid-eachd.
- On a field outside of the town.
 Were all the people on the field at the same time ?
- They were not ; a stream of them was passing and re-passing all day between the town and the field.
- Did many of them wear the Highland dress ?
- It was worn by most of the competitors and by a few of the gentry.
- Was there a competition in putting the stone ?
- It is natural for you to put that question.
- There was a day when I could put the stone well, but that day has passed.
- There was a competition in putting the stone, throwing the hammer, tossing the caber, leaping, running, dancing, and bagpipe playing.
- Who won the first prize for the first three of these ?
- A man called Donald Dinnie.
 How many feet did he throw the heavy stone ?
- Thirty-nine feet.
 How many feet did he throw the heavy hammer ?
- One hundred and twelve feet and nine inches.
- Dear me ! What a champion he is !
- It is said that he could have thrown it farther had he chosen.
- Did you notice if many of the gentlemen of the county were on the field ?
- I never saw so large an assembly of them.
- Was Professor Blackie, the friend of the Gael, there ?
- He was, in the forefront of the company.

Co tuilleadh a chunnaic sibh de na h-naislean ?

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

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

Cha robh.

Is diuilich sin.

Cha b'ionann a' chùis ri linn Dhonnachaidh bhàin Mhic-annt-Saoir.

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

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

Ciod air am bheil iad a' tighinn ?

Air a' Ghaelig 's a' phìob mhòir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who more did you see of the gentlemen ?

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

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

There were not.

That is a pity.

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

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

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

What is the subject of them ?

Gaelic and the great bagpipe.

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

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

What kind of prizes was given at them ?

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

It strikes me that that was a trifling reward.

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

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

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

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

- Tha na h-uachdarain am bidheantas
'n an daoine tuigseach, fiosrach.
- Tha iad, ach cha n-'eil iad cho
dealasach mu fhòghlum 's a
dh'fhaodadh iad.
- Na 'm biodh chitheadh iad gur
h-ann trid na Gaelig amhain
is urrainn na Gàidheil a bhi
air an ionnsachadh gu ceart.
- Tha e imchuidh uime sin gu'm
biodh a' Ghàelig air a teagasg
's na sgoilean.
- Nach 'eil e imchuidh cuideachd gu
'm biodh a' Bheurla air a teag-
asg annta ?
- Gun teagamh ; cha n-fhaodar
dearmad a dheanamh air a'
Bheurla.
- Is duilich nach 'eil leabhar air a
chur a mach le Gàelig 'us
Beurla taobh ri taobh.
- 'D é 'm math a dheanamh sin ?
- Bhiodh e'n a chuideachadh mòr do'n
òigridh ana an ionnsachadh
na Beurla.
- Tha mi 'g 'ur tuigsian ; 's ann 'n
'ur ceann fhéin a tha 'n tùr.
- 'S mithich dhomh a nis dol air mo
cheum.
- Gu ma math a bhios sibh.
- Thugaibh ar beannachd gu 'r céile,
a' bhean chéillidh, chòir.
- The lairds are generally intelligent
and well-informed men.
- They are, but they are not so
zealous about learning as they
might be.
- If they were they would perceive
that it is only through the
medium of Gaelic that High-
landers can be instructed pro-
perly.
- It is proper, therefore, that Gaelic
should be taught in the schools.
- Is it not proper also that English
should be taught in them ?
- Undoubtedly ; English must not be
neglected.
- It is a pity that a book is not pub-
lished with Gaelic and English
side by side.
- What good would that do ?
- It would be a great assistance to
the young in learning English.
- I understand you ; it is in your
head that the sense is.
- It is time for me now to pursue my
journey.
- May all good attend you.
- Give our compliments to your wife,
the discreet and worthy woman.

AM BAILE, THE TOWN.

1

- A ghlinn mo ghràidh carson a
dh'fhàg mi thu ? Tha mi 'n
so mar bhò mhaoil 'am buaile
choimhich.
- 'S truagh mi-fhéin leat ; c'uin a
sguireas tu de d' ghearan 's de
d' ochanaich ?
- Cha tig am baile so rium gu sìorr-
uidh, tha mi 'g ràdh riut.
- My beloved glen why did I leave
thee ?
- I am here like a polled cow in a
strange fold.
- I am to be pitied with you ; when
will you cease your complaining
and wailing ?
- This town will never agree with
me, I tell you.

- Mur tig 's ann agad-sa 's cha n-ann aig a' bhaile 'tha choire.
 'S fheàrr dhuibh sgrìob a ghabhail feadh a' bhaile dh'fheuch an cuir e saod oirbh.
 Tha mi seachd sgath d' a chabh-sair tioram, cruaidh.
 Tha sinn air ar cur h-uige gu cruaidh le 'r dòighean friona-sach.
 Tha fhios gu'n seasadh tusa do mhàthair an aghaidh d'athar.
 'D é 'dh'iarradh sibh nach 'eil agaibh :—tigh grinn, seagair, coimhearsnaich shuairce, agus iomadh toileachas-inntinn ?
 B'fheàrr leam mìle nair na seana choimhearsnaich, an sean tigh tubhta, agus na garbhlaichean m' a thiomchioll.
 Tuigidh sibh ri ùine uaisle nam bailtean.
 Uaisle nam bailtean gu dearbh !
 'S e sin uaisle tholgach an fhasain, mar thubhairt am bàrd.
 Nach bu taitneach a' choinneamh aig an robh sinn an oidhche roimhe !
 'N e 'n t-Soiridh 'tha 'ad bheachd no c'ainm so 'th' air ?
 An *Soiree*.
 Coinneamh na spìocaireachd.
 Shaoileadh neach nach d'ith thu dad ach domlas o'n thàinig thu do'n bhaile.
 Cupan de dh'eanghlais, sliseag thana de dh'aran-cruineachd, agus fiach a bhonn-a-sèa de rèisins.
 Cha b'ann gu cuirm geòcaireachd a bha sinn air ar cuireadh.
 Chunnaic mi là 'dh'ithinn air aon tràth na bh' air a roinn air gach aon a bha 's an àite-shuidhe còmhla rium.
 Cha n-fhaod e 'bhi nach do thaitinn na ministerean riut.
 Mata cha do thaitinn.
 D e 'choire 'th' agad dhoibh.
- If not you and not the town are to blame.
 You had better take a turn through the town to see if it will put you into good humour.
 I am sick tired of its dry, hard pavement.
 We are severely tried by your fretful ways.
 Of course you would stand by your mother against your father.
 What could you desire that you have not :—a fine sung house, affable neighbours, and many enjoyments.
 I would prefer a thousand times the old neighbours, the old thatched house, and the rough grounds around it.
 You will by and by understand town gentility.
 Town gentility indeed ! That is the hollow gentility of fashion, as the bard said.
 What a pleasant meeting we were at the other night !
 Do you mean the Soiridh, or what is it called ?
 The *Soiree*.
 The niggardly meeting.
 One would be ready to suppose that you had eaten nothing but gall since you came to town.
 A cup of milk-and-water, a thin slice of wheaten bread, and a half-penny's worth of raisins.
 It was not to a feast of gluttony that we were invited.
 I have seen the day when I could eat at one meal what was served to all in the seat with me.
 Surely the ministers pleased you.
 They did not.
 What fault have you with them ?

- Tha gu 'n do ghabh iad mar cheann-teagaisg, "Mol thusa mise agus molaidh mise thusa 's mi fhéin."
- Cha d'fhairich sinne anns na thubhairt iad ach comharadh air an càirdeas d' a chèile.
- Bha spailpean 'n am measg a chuir 'am chuimhne adhag a bhios a' tathunnaich ris gach neach a thig 'n a rathad.
- Nach tu a leig ruith le d'theangaidh !
- Co ach esan ! rinn e sud 'us rinn e so ; cha d' rinn e sud 's cha d' riun e so ; 's mu 'n do sguir e thug e beum do dhaoine b' fheàr 's a' b'fhòghluimte na e fhéin.
- Cha robh an gille grinn ach a' deanamh a dhleasnais.
- Theagamh nach robh, ach 's coma leam peasain gun mhodh, gun tùr.
- Nach peacach dhuit a bhi an aghaidh nam ministeirean ?
- Cha n-'eil mise 'n an aghaidh, 's mi nach 'eil.
- 'S ann coltach ris a tha do shean-achas.
- Biodh iad bàigheil, tùrail, fiachail 's cha n-'eil neach ann aig am bi barrachd meas orra na bhios agam-sa.
- A thaobh *soirees*, abram gu bheil iad 'n an caitheamh-aimsir thaitneich, tharbheich do shean 's do dh'òg 'n uair a tha iad fo dheagh riaghladh.
- S mòr am math a th' air a dheanamh 'n ar là 's 'n ar linn trid sgoilean-sàbaid.
- Cha chomasach tuilleadh 's a' chòir a ràdh as an leth.
- That they took for their text—
"Praise you me, and I will praise you and myself."
- We perceived nothing in what they said but a token of friendliness to each other.
- There was a fop among them who reminded me of a terrier that barks at every one that comes in its way.
- How you have given rein to your tongue !
- Who but he ! He did this and he did that ; and he did not do this and he did not do that : and before he finished he hit better and more learned men than himself.
- The fine lad was only doing his duty.
- Perhaps so ; but I do not care for brats without manners or sense.
- Is it not sinful of you to be against the ministers ?
- I am not against them, not I.
- Your conversation indicates as much.
- Let them be kindly, sensible, and worthy, and no one will respect them more than I.
- With regard to *soirees*, let me say that they are a pleasant and profitable pastime to old and young when they are well conducted.
- Great good is being done in our day and generation by means of Sabbath Schools.
- It is not possible to say too much in their favour.

- Tha cuid-eigin aig an dorus, a Mhairearad.
- There is some person at the door, Margaret.

- Mur h-'eil mi meallta 's e Eoghann
a' bhuth' a th' ann.
Am bheil sibh nìle 'n 'ur slàinte 'an
so ?
Thig a nìos, 'Eoghainn ; bha sùil
agam riut an dé.
'N nair a bhà mi deas gus am
bruthach a dhìreadh thàinig
sgaoimearan bhàrr yacht a
stigh, 'us b' fheadar dhomh
feitheamh orra.
'S math an t-àm 'an d' thàinig thu.
Theab tighinn eadar na mnathan
'us mise mu dhòighean a'
bhaile.
'S ann ri dòighean 'us beusan eile
'bha sibhse cleachda.
'S ann, ach tha gliocas 's an t-sean-
fhacal, "Beus an àite 's am
bithear 's e 'nithear."
- An téid sibh a mach a ghabhail
sràid ?
Tha sin cho math dhomh 's a bhì
meananaich 's a' tachas mo
chinn 'an so fad an là, gun
sion agam r' a dheanamh.
Thoir a nuas mo bhrògan, a Shiùs-
aidh.
Nach fheàrr dhuibh na bòtuinnean
a chur oirbh o'n 's e là na faidh-
reach a th' ann ?
Na bòtuinnean ! Togaibh d' ur n-
amaideachd.
A nuas na brògan gu h-ealamh.
Tha mi nis deas gu dol leat.
Ciamar a thèarnas sinn am bruth-
ach ?
Air fhiaradh.
Nach àillidh, farsuing an sealladh
a th' againn o'n mhullach so !
Snd calg-dhàireach mu 'r coinneamh
caol nan loingean bréid-gheal,
eadar Muile 's a' Mhorairne.
Sin an Linne Sheileich eadar iad 's
tìr-mòr.
Tha cìlean Chearara dlùth dhuinn,
a' cumail dìon 'us fasgaidh air
a' chala 's air a' bhaile.
- If I am not deceived, it is Ewen of
the shop.
Are you all well here ?
Come forward, Ewen ; I expected
you yesterday.
When I was ready to ascend the
hill, harum-scarums from a
yacht came in, and I had to
attend upon them.
You have come in good time.
The women and I very nearly
quarrelled about the ways of
the town.
You have been accustomed to other
ways and manners.
Yes, but there is wisdom in the
proverb, "The use and wont of
the place you dwell in must be
conformed to."
Will you go out to walk ?
It is as well for me to do so as to be
yawning and scratching my
head here all day, having no-
thing to do.
Bring down my shoes, Susan.
Had you not better put on the boots,
since it is the market day ?
The boots ! give over your folly.
Bring down the boots quickly.
I am now ready to accompany you.
How shall we descend the hill ?
Slantwise.
What a beautiful and extensive
view we have from this height !
Yonder is the sound of white-sailed
ships, between Mull and Mor-
ven.
There is the Linne Heilich between
them and the mainland.
The island of Kerara is near us,
protecting and sheltering the
harbour and town

- 'D é phàirce bheag tha 'n so fodh-
ainn ? What small park is this below us ?
- 'S e sin an t-àilean-bhall.
Gabhamaid sìos an rathad so.
Tha sinn a nis air a' chòmhnard.
That is the bowling green.
Let us turn down this way.
- 'D é 'n stiobull àrd, cuimir a th'
air an làimh chli ? We are now on level ground.
What lofty and graceful steeple is
to the left ?
- 'S e sin stiobull na h-eaglais' ùire
nu 'n robh mi 'bruidhinn ruibh
air a' bho'n dé.
That is the steeple of the church
about which I was speaking to
you the day before yesterday.
- 'S e togail eireachdail a th' innte
darireadh.
It is really a handsome building.
- Am bheil i grinn 's an taobh a
stigh ? Is it elegant within ?
- Cha mhòr a tha cho grinn.
Few are so elegant.
- Am bheil òrgan innte ? Is there an organ in it ?
- 'S e *harmonium* is ainm do'n inneal-
chiùil a th' innte.
The musical instrument in it is
called a harmonium.
- 'D é 'n seòrsa inneal-ciùil a th' ann ?
What kind of musical instrument
is it ?
- Tha e car cosmhuil ri *piano* air an
taobh a mach, ach tha fuaim
monmhorach, àrd aige mar th'
aig òrgan.
It is somewhat like a piano outside,
but it has a loud murmuring
sound like that of an organ.
- Chì sibh bùithean de gach seòrsa a
suas 's a nuas an t-sràid.
You will see shops of every variety
up and down the street.
- 'D é 'n tigh àrd, ninneagach a th'
againn 'an so ? What lofty many-windowed house
have we here ?
- 'S e sin *bank* no tigh-malairt airgid.
That is a bank.
- 'D é 'n riadh a gheibhear ann airson
airgid ? What interest will be received in it
for money ?
- Cha n-fhaigh ach dà phunnd 's a
deich as a cheud punnd Sassun-
nach.
Only two and a half per cent.
- 'D é 'n soitheach-smùide 'tha cho
farumach le 'clag 's le 'feadaig ?
What steamboat is it that makes
such a noise with its bell and
whistle ?
- Té de 'n fheadhainn bheaga 'bhios
a' dol troimh 'n *chanal*.
One of the small ones that goes
through the canal.
- Cha n-fhaca mi tigh-òsda o'n
thàinig sinn a mach.
I have not seen an hotel since we
came out.
- Tha còig eadar sinn 's an drochaid.
There are five between us and the
bridge.
- C'àit am bheil obair a' *ghas* ?
Where is the gas work ?
- Tha i 's an t-sràid chùil.
It is in the back street.
- Nach ann 's a' chala' tha 'n loingear ?
What a number of ships is in the
harbour ?
- Tha ceithir-deng ann de loingear
dhaoin' uaisle.
There are fourteen gentlemen's ships
in it.

- Sud tigh-sgoil a' bhaile aig bun a' bhruthaich.
 Tha sinn a nis aig a' *Post Office*.
 Cia meud uair 's an là 'bhios am post a' dol a mach 's a' tighiuu a stigh ?
 Dà uair.
 'S mòr an goireas sin do 'n dùth-aich.
 'N e sin an *dotair* mòr a' dol seachad ?
 A' cheart duine.
 Nach ann air a tha 'chabhag !
 Tha de dh'iarraidh aig daoine air 's nach 'eil tàmh no fois aige a là no dh'oidhche.
 An duine beannaichte ! 'N uair a bha mi air mo dhruim air leabaidh-thinneis cha b'urrainn mo mhàthair a bhi na bu chaomharrum.
 Nach ann air muinntir na faidhreach a tha 'n othail !
 Tha e coltach ris gu bheil forfhais mhath air eich.
 Am faic sibh an tigh ud air am bheil aghaidh de chloich ghoireil ?
 Tha mi 'g a fhaicinn.
 'S e sin an tigh-mòid.
 An ann 'an sin a bhios an Siorram agus Luchd-riaghlaidh a' bhaile a' cumail mhòdan ?
 'S ann.
 Tha cho math dhuinn so fhàgail mu 'n coinnich sinn luchd-eòlais.
 Rachamaid sìos seach a' ceàrdach.
 'D é 'n obair a tha 'dol air aghaidh 'an so ?
 Tha iad ag uidheamachadh ceannuidhe airson an rathaid-iaruinn.
 Tha mi 'cluinninn gu bheil iad 'dol a thogail laimhrig ùire.
 Tha iad ag obair orra goirrid uainn.
 'D e 'n doimhneachd uisge 'th' aig an àite far am bheil iad 'g a togail ?
- Yonder is the schoolhouse, at the foot of the brae.
 We are now at the Post Office.
 How many times a day does the post go out and come in ?
 Twice.
 That is a great convenience to the country.
 Is that the big doctor passing ?
 The very man.
 What a hurry he is in !
 He is so much in request that he has no rest either day or night.
 The blessed man ! When I was on my back on a sick bed my mother could not be kinder to me.
 What a bustle there is among the market people !
 It appears that there is a good demand for horses.
 Do you see you house with a free-stone front ?
 I see it.
 That is the Court House.
 Is it there that the Sheriff and Magistrates of the town hold courts ?
 It is.
 It is as well for us to leave this lest we meet acquaintances.
 Let us go down past the smithy.
 What work is going on here ?
 They are preparing a terminus for the railway.
 I hear that they are going to build a new pier.
 They are working at it a short distance from us.
 What depth of water is there at the place where they are building it ?

- Mu fhichead troidh aig ìsle làin 's mu dhà throidh dheug air fhichead aig àirde làin.
- Ciamar a tha na clachan air an leigeil le leathad ?
- Le slabhraidhean agus ulagan iar-unn.
- Tha inneal-deathaich aca a dh'oirbr-eachadh na h-achfhuinn.
- Ciamar a tha na clachan air an cur 'n an àite gu h-ìosal ?
- Tha clachairean a' dol sìos.
- Ciamar a thèid aca air fuireach gu h-ìosal ?
- Bheir mi oidhearp air sin a mhìn-eachadh dhuibh.
- Tha aodach leathraich orra 'tha 'g an còmbdachadh o bhonn an cosan gu 'n amhaich. Tha clogaid chopair air a cur orra a tha aig a h-ìochdar air a dlùthadh ris an aodach air dhòigh 's nach fhaigh deur uisge 'stigh.
- Ciamar a tha e 'tachairt nach 'eil na fir air an tacadh ?
- Tha pìob de *ghutta-percha* a leigeil a stigh àilidh air cùlaobh na clogaide.
- Cia as a tha 'n t-àileadh a' tighinn ?
- O inneal-àilidh ris am bheil an dara ceann de 'n phìob air a theannachadh.
- Tha dòigh aca air àilidh shalaich 's air anabarr àilidh ghloin a leigeil a mach.
- Ciamar a tha iad a' faicinn fo 'n uisge ?
- Tha trì uinneagan beaga air a' chlogaid.
- Am bheil an rathad a' dol troimh 'n chnoc so os ar ceann ?
- Tha ; coisicheamaid suas g' a ionnsuidh.
- 'S iomadh tora, òrd, piocaid, geamhlag, 'ns baraile fùdair a chuidich gu am bealach so 'ghearradh.
- 'S iomadh ; 's bha tora aca 'bha 'g obair le cumhachd deathaich.
- About twenty feet at low water, and about thirty-two feet at high water.
- How are the stones let down ?
- With iron chains and blocks.
- They have a steam-engine to work the apparatus.
- How are the stones put in their place under water ?
- Masons go down.
- How do they manage to remain below ?
- I shall attempt to explain that to you.
- They have leather clothes on them, that cover from the soles of their feet to their neck. A copper helmet is put on them, and is fitted so tightly at its lower end to the clothes that no water can get in.
- How does it happen that the men are not choked ?
- A gutta-percha pipe admits air at the back of the helmet.
- Where does the air come from ?
- From an air-engine to which one end of the pipe is screwed.
- They have a method of letting out foul air and excess of pure air.
- How do they see under water ?
- There are three small windows on the helmet.
- Does the way pass through this hill above us ?
- It does ; let us walk up to it.
- Many a drill, hammer, pickaxe, crowbar, and barrel of powder helped to cut this gap.
- Yes ; and they had a drill that worked by steam power.

- Tha sinn a nis air taobh deas a' chuic.
 'N e sud an t-each-iaruinn a' cur nan smùid dheth?
 'S e.
 An gille ! Cha chuir sgìos no cuing-analach air-san.
- Nach i 'n togail ud taobh eil' an lochain eaglais na sgìreachd ?
 S i.
 Nach laghach i leis an àilean naine air a beulaobh, an cladh cianail air a cùlaobh, agus a' challaid dhosrach m' a tiomchioll ?
 Gu ma fada 'bhios an soisgeul air a shearmonachadh iunte ann an cànan ghloin nam beann.
- We are now on the south side of the hill.
 Is yon the iron horse throwing off its smoke and steam ?
 It is.
 The hero ! Neither fatigue nor shortness of breathing will affect him.
 Is not yon building on the other side of the lake the parish church ?
 It is.
 Is it not nice, with the green plot in front, the solitary graveyard behind, and the bushy hedge around it ?
 Long may the Gospel be preached in it in the pure language of the mountains.

LEABHRAICHEAN GAELIG, GAELIC BOOKS.

1

- An aithne dhuibh fear a' bhail' ud shuas ?
 'S aithne dhomh e r' a fhaicinn ; 's e sin nil' e.
 Cha bu mhòr an call ged nach robh am barrachd eòlais agaibh air.
- Tha e coltach ris nach 'eil thu-sa buidheach dheth.
 Cha n-'eil, 's tha aobhar agam.
 Ciod a thàinig eadaraibh ?
 Cha téid stad air a theangaidh ghobhlaich a' diomoladh na Gàelig 's gach ni Gàidhealaich.
 "Is tric a dhìomol an ceannaich' am bathar bu mhath leis a bhì aige 'n a mhàileid."
 Nach dubhairt e rium 'an clàr an aodainn nach 'eil 's a' Ghàelig ach cainnt dhaoine borba, 's nach 'eil leabhraichean innte a 's fhiach an leubhadh !
 Cha do labhair e ach a réir an eòlais a th'aige.
 Bu chòir dhuibh a ràdh a réir 'ain-eòlais 's a mhi-mhodhalachd.
- Do you know the man of the farm up yonder ?
 I know him by sight, that is all.
 It would be no great loss though you should have no further acquaintance with him.
 It seems that you are not well pleased with him.
 I am not, and I have cause.
 What is the cause of quarrel ?
 His forked tongue does not cease to disparage Gaelic and everything Highland.
 Often has the pedlar disparaged the goods that he would wish to have in his pack.
 Did he not tell me to my face that Gaelic is no better than a language for savages, and that there are no books in it worth reading !
 He only spoke according to the knowledge that he has.
 You should say according to his ignorance and rudeness.

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

Cha sguir thusa de chagnadh
naimhdean na Gàelig.

"Is duilich leam," mar thubhairt
Iain Lom, "nach urrainn domh
an slugadh."

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

Bha sin againn, agus bu taitneach
an seanachas e.

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

C' àit an tòisich sinn ?

Aig an toiseach.

Ach c' àit am bheil an toiseach ?

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

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

Tha iad a' deanamh dheth gu bheil.

C' ainm a th' air ?

Leabhar Dheer.

'N e ainm àite a th' ann an Deer ?

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

Co 'sgrìobh e ?

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

Ciod air am bheil e 'tighinn ?

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

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

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

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

Cha n-ionann ; tha mùthadh eatorra.

You are too hard upon him.

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

You will not cease to chew the
enemies of Gaelic.

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

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

We had, and a pleasant talk it was.

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

Where shall we begin ?

At the beginning.

But where is the beginning ?

We must go back six or seven
hundred years.

Is the oldest book that we have
that age ?

It is estimated that it is.

What is its name ?

The Book of Deer.

Is Deer the name of a place ?

It is the name of a parish to the
west of Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire.

Who wrote it ?

The monks in a monastery in the
parish.

What is its subject ?

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

What is the subject of the Gaelic
portion of it ?

Chiefly land given to the monastery
by neighbouring chiefs.

Is the Gaelic of this book the same
as ours ?

No ; there is a difference between
them.

- 'S e 'n ath leabhar a 's sin' a th' againn *Leabhar Deadhan Lise Mòire*, ann an Earraghaidheal.
- C'uin a bha 'n leabhar sin air a chur r' a chéile ?
- 'S a' bhliadhna 1512 ; co dhiù bha e deas 's a' bhliadhna sin.
- Co dhiù 's e eachdraidh no bàrdachd a th' ann ?
- Bàrdachd.
- C' àit an d'fhuair iad i ?
- Air feadh na Gàidhealtachd.
- Cia meud dàn a th' ann ?
- Tha còrr 'us trì fichead ann, 'us ochd air fhichead dhiubh mu'n Fhéinn.
- Am bheil dàn ann le Oisean ?
- A réir an leabhair tha naoi le Oisean, dithis le Fergus filidh, agus aon le Caoilte Mac Ronain.
- Co iad sin ?
- Triùir bhàrd na Féinne.
- Tha sinn a' fòghlum o so gu'n robh iomradh air Oisean 's gu'n robh dàn air an cur as a leth o cheann còrr 'us trì cheud 'us trì fichead bliadhna.
- Ciod an seòrsa Gàelig a th' ann ?
- An t-aona Ghàelig 's a th' ann an Leabhar Dheer.
- C'uin a bha e air a chur a mach ?
- Tha mu fhichead bliadhna uaithe.
- Co 'dh' ullaich e airson a chur a mach ?
- An T-Ollamh MacLachluinn 'an Dun-éideann.
- 'S e 'cheud leabhar Gàelig a bh'air a chlòdh-bhualadh *Leabhar-ùrn-igh Knox*, air eadar-theangachadh gu Gàelig leis an Easbuig Charsallach.
- C'uin a thàinig e 'mach ?
- 'S a' bhliadhna 1567.
- Bha e air a chur a mach as ùr leis an Ollamh Mac Lachluinn o cheann beagan bhliadhnaichean.
- The next oldest book we have is "The book of the Dean of Lismore," in Argyll.
- When was that book put together ?
- In the year 1512 ; at least it was ready that year.
- Whether does it contain history or poetry ?
- Poetry.
- Where did they find it ?
- Throughout the Highlands.
- How many poems does it contain ?
- Upwards of sixty, of which twenty-eight are Fingalian.
- Are there poems in it by Ossian ?
- According to the book there are five by Ossian, two by Fergus the bard, and one by Caoilte Mac Ronain.
- Who are these ?
- The three Fingalian bards.
- We learn from this that mention was made of Ossian and poems attributed to him upwards of three hundred and sixty years ago.
- What kind of Gaelic does it contain ?
- The same Gaelic as in the Book of Deer.
- When was it published ?
- About twenty years ago ?
- Who prepared it for publication ?
- Dr. M'Lauchlan, in Edinburgh.
- The first Gaelic book printed is Knox's Liturgy, translated into Gaelic by Bishop Carswell.
- When did it come out ?
- In the year 1567.
- It was republished by Dr. M'Lauchlan a few years ago.

- Bu choltach gu'n robh mòran de na Gàidheil comasach air a' Ghàelig a leubhadh 's a' bhliadhna 1567.
- Chuir Seanadh Earraghàidheal a mach 'an Gàelig leth cheud de na Sailm 's a' bhliadhna 1659, agus an còrr 's a' bhliadhna 1694.
- Bha na Sailm air an cur a mach 'an Gàelig leis an Urramach Iain Kirke, ministear Bhochuidir, 's a' bhliadhna 1684.
- Bha Foclair Gàelig air a chur a mach le Alastair Dòmhnallach, am bàrd, 's a' bhliadhna 1740.
- Bha 'n *Tiomnadh Nuadh* 'an Gàelig air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1767.
- Bha co-chruinneachadh de Ghnàth-fhocail Ghàidhealach air a chur a mach le Mac-an-Tòisich 's a' bhliadhna 1785.
- Bha 'n *Sean Tiomnadh* air a chur a mach 'an Gàelig 'n a earrannaibh o'n bhliadhna 1783 gus a' bhliadhna 1801, 'n uair a bha 'n obair crìochnaichte.
- Bha na *Sean Dana* air an cur a mach leis an Ollamh Mac-a'-Ghobhainn 's a' bhliadhna 1787.
- Cha n-'eil an leabhar so 'nis furasda 'fhaotainn, ach bha dithis d' a dhàin ciatach, "Dàn an Déirg" agus "Tiomnadh Ghuil," air an cur a mach o cheann beagan bhliadhnaichean le C. S. Jerram, M.A. Tha 'Ghàelig agus eadar-theangachadh firinneach, fìor thaitneach, taobh ri taobh. Tha sinn a' moladh an leabhair so d'ar luchd-dùthcha.
- Bha Obair Oisein le Mac-Mhuirich air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1806.
- Bha Foclair Gàelig Armstrong air a chur a mach 's a' bhliadhna 1825, agus Foclair a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich trì bliadhna an déigh sin.
- It would appear that many of the Highlanders could read Gaelic in 1567.
- The Synod of Argyll published in Gaelic fifty of the Psalms in the year 1659, and the rest of them in the year 1694.
- The Psalms were published in Gaelic by the Rev. John Kirke, minister of Balquhiddir, in the year 1684.
- A Gaelic Vocabulary was published by Alexander MacDonald, the bard, in the year 1740.
- The New Testament in Gaelic was published in the year 1767.
- A collection of Gaelic Proverbs was published by Mackintosh in the year 1785.
- The Old Testament was published in Gaelic in parts from the year 1783 to the year 1801, when the work was finished.
- The Ancient Lays were published by Dr. Smith in the year 1787.
- It is not now easy to find this book, but two of its fine lays, "Dearg's Lay," and "Goll's Testament," were published some years ago by C. S. Jerram, M.A. The Gaelic and a faithful and a very pleasant translation stand side by side. We recommend this book to our countrymen.
- Ossian's Work, by Macpherson, was published in the year 1806.
- Armstrong's Gaelic Dictionary was published in the year 1825, and the Highland Society's Dictionary three years afterwards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2

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

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

Cha n-urrainn domh sin a dheanamh an dràs.

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

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

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

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

'D é'n seòrsa òran a th'annta?

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

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

Tha naoi ann.

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

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

I cannot do that at present.

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

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

Are the songs of all the bards in that book?

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

What kind of songs are they?

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

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

There are nine.

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

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

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

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

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

'S ann.

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

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

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

Thug, 'us fhuair i dhachaidh.

An do ghleidh i 'gealladh ?

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

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

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

'D é 'n linn 's an robh e beo ?

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

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

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

Where was she born ?

In Roudal, in Harris.

When was she born ?

In the year 1569.

What age was she when she died ?

One hundred and five years.

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

She was for many years.

Why did he banish her to Mull ?

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

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

It was.

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

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

Did she give the promise that was
 required of her ?

She did, and was allowed to go home.

Did she keep her promise ?

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

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

He was a MacDonald of the family
 of Keppoch.

In what age did he live ?

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

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

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

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

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

'D e 'n seòrsa duine 'bh' ann ?

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

C'uin a chaochail e ?

Mu'n bhliadhna 1710.

Bha e aois mhòr 'n uair a chaochail e.

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

Rugadh e ann am Mùideart mu'n bhliadhna 1700.

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

'D e bu dreuchd dha-fhéin ?

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

Dh'fheumadh gu'n robh sgoil mhath aige.

Fhuair e 'ionnsachadh ann an oil-thigh Ghlascho.

Nach do thionndaidh e ris a' Chreid-eamh Phàpanach ?

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

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

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

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

Cha n'eil mi ro chinnteach.

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

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

What kind of man was he ?

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

When did he die ?

About the year 1710.

He was a great age when he died.

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

He was born in Muideart about the year 1700.

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

What was his own profession ?

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

He must have been a good scholar.

He was educated in Glasgow College.

Did he not turn to the Popish religion ?

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

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

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

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

I am not very sure.

- Tha iad le chéile 'n am bàird chumhachdach. They are both powerful poets.
- Tha Donnachadh Bàn na's flusa 'thuigsinn. Duncan Bàn is more easily understood.
- Tha tuilleadh fhocal ann am bàrdachd an Dòmhnallaich a chaidh a cleachdadh. There are more obsolete words in MacDonald's poetry.
- C'ait an d'rugadh Donnachadh Bàn ? Where was Duncan Bàn born ?
- Rugadh e 'an Druimliaghairt 'an Gleann-urehaidh, 's a' bhliadhna 1724. He was born in Drimliart in Glenorchy, in the year 1724.
- Dh'innseadh dhomh nach b'urrainn, da aona chuid leubhadh no sgrìobhadh. I was told that he could neither read nor write.
- Cha b'urrainn, ach bha meodhar cho math aige 's nach do dhì-chuimhnich e focal de na h-òrain a rinn e. He could not, but he had so good a memory that he did not forget a word of the songs that he composed.
- Au robh ceàird sam bith aige ? Had he any trade ?
- Bha e 'n toiseach 'n a fhrithear do Mhorair Bhraid-Albainn 'an Coire-cheathaich 's am Beinn-dòrain, agus an dèigh sin do Dhiùc Earraghàidheal 'am Buachail Eite. He was first forester to Lord Breadalbane in Coire-cheathaich and Bendorain, and afterwards to the Duke of Argyll in Buachail Eite.
- Nach robh e 's an arm ? Was he not in the army ?
- 'N uair a bha e 'n a dhuin' òg bha e le Còirneal Caimbeul Choire-chumhan 'am blàr na H-Eaglaise Brice. When he was a young man he was with Colonel Campbell of Corwhin at the battle of Falkirk.
- Bha e o 'n bhliadhna 1793 gus a' bhliadhna 1799 ann am *Fencibles* Mhorair Bhraid-albainn. He was from the year 1793 to the year 1799 in Lord Breadalbane's Fencibles.
- Bha e na h-uibhir a bhlianaichean am am Freiceadan baile Dhun-èideann. He was several years in the City Guard of Edinburgh.
- C'uin a chaochail e ? When did he die ?
- 'S a' bhliadhna 1812. In the year 1812.
- 'S iad na h-òrain a 's fhearr a rinn e "Beinn-dòrain," "Coire-cheathaich," agus "A Mhàiri Bhàn Og." The best songs that he composed are "Bendorain," "Coire-cheathaich," and "Young Fair Mary".
- Nach d'eadar-theangaich *Professor Blackie* "Beinn-dòrain" gu Beurla ? Did not Professor Blackie translate "Bendorain" into English ?
- Dh'eadar-theangaich. He did.
- Dh'innseadh dhomh gu'm bheil e anabarrach grinn air a dheanamh. I have been told that it is very finely done.

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

C'ait am faic mi e ?

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

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

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

'S e do bheatha.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'S ann ri fala-dhà a tha thu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Where shall I see it ?

In his book about Gaelic and the
Highland bards.

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

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

You are welcome.

If I could only remember it all !

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

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

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

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

You are jesting.

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

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

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

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

There are many kinds of music
that I would consider more

- eadh e sibh-fhéin gu gaireach-daich a bhi 'faicinn an leum-raich a bhios oirnn a null 's a nall g' a sheachnadh.
- The eagal orm gu'm bi droch dhìol air earnais 's air aodach.
- 'N uair a bha mi 'cur orm coilleir glan chum gu'm bithinn mar bu chòir dhomh 'n uair a thig-inn 'n 'ur làthair-sa thàinig boinne nuas a dh'fhàg comharadh odhar cho mòr ri bonn tasdain air an anart ghrinn, gheal.
- Tha 'leithid sin gu math deuchainneach air foighidinn duine.
- 'S math nach robh sibh 's an éisd-eachd 'n uair a thachair e, oir bha mi 'n sin "cho fiata ri broc liath a bhiodh 'an garaidh".
- Cha n-iongantach leam idir gu'n robh.
- Saoil sibh ciod a thàinig air Noah 'n uair a leig e na radain a stigh do'n àire?
- Sin rud nach do ghabh mi-fhéin riamh fo m' bheachd.
- Tha amharus agam, ach cha n-abair mi 'bheag.
- Dh'innseadh dhomh gu'n robh thu 's an Oban an dé.
- Chaidh mi sìos a cheannach snath' a chàradh nan lìon agus a phàigheadh beagan gheòtan a bh'aig na ceannaichean 'am aghaidh.
- Agus ciamar a tha baile na h-àilleachd?
- Tha e'n sud mar bha e riamh o'n is cuimhne leam-sa e, 'n a thàmh ri taobh na mara 's aig bun a' mhonaidh.
- Tha mi 'cluinntinn gu bheil sùrd anabarrach ann an dràs leis an each-iaruinn.
- Ciamar air bith a tha sin bha e 'n dé cho sàmhach ris a' ghleann uaigneach againn-fhéinn.
- cheerful, but it would make yourself laugh to see us jumping hither and thither to avoid them.
- I am afraid that both furniture and clothes will be badly used.
- When I was putting on a clean collar that I might appear in your presence as I should do, a drop came down that left a dun mark as large as a shilling piece on the fine white linen.
- That sort of thing is pretty trying to one's patience.
- It is well that you were not within hearing when it happened, for I was at the time as fierce as a grey badger in his den.
- I am not at all surprised that you were.
- What, think you, came over Noah when he admitted the rats into the ark?
- That is a matter that I have never taken into consideration.
- I have a suspicion, but I shall say nothing.
- I was told that you were in Oban yesterday.
- I went down to buy thread to mend the net, and to pay a few trifling debts that the shopkeepers had against me.
- And how is the town of beauty?
- It is yonder as it was ever since I remember it, resting by the sea-side and at the foot of the hill.
- I hear that there is great activity in it at present with the iron horse.
- However that is, it was yesterday as quiet as our own solitary glen.

Ciod a b'aobhar d' a sin ?

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

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

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

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

Nach do ghabh ?

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

Tha fhios agam gu bheil inntinn smuaineachail agad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What was the cause of that ?

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

How did you spend your time ?

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

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

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

Did you not ?

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

I know that you have a thoughtful mind.

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

Plenty of educated people are similarly situated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Co 'b'athair dhi ?

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

Co 'bu mhàthair dhi ?

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

C'uin a chaochail a h-athair ?

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

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

Bha, ach chaochail iad 'n an òige.

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

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

C'àit an robh i air a crùnadh ?

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

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

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

Co iad luchd-comhairle na Ban-
rìgh ?

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

Co 'tha 'g an taghadh ?

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

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

He had an excellent memory.

He had, and he made good use of
it.

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

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

Who was her father ?

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

Who was her mother ?

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

When did her father die ?

The year after she was born.

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

He had, but they died in their
youth.

When did she come to the throne ?

In the year 1837, when King
William died.

Where was she crowned ?

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

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

Yes, but she had counsellors guid-
ing her.

Who are the Queen's counsellors ?

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

Who chooses them ?

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

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

- 'N uair a bhios tuilleadh 'n an aghaidh 's a' Pharlamaid na bhios leo cha n-urrainn iad seasamh.
- Nach fhaod iad an greim a ghleidheil gun taing do'n fheadhainn a tha 'n an aghaidh ?
- Cha n-fhaod, a chionn gu'n dihltair airgid dhoibh gu guothaichean na righeachd a chur air aghaidh.
- Tha mi 'tuigsinn ; is mòr cumhachd an airgid.
- Abraibh gu'n téid ni sam bith air aimhreit co a choirichear, a' Bhan-rìgh no a luchd-comhairle ?
- A luchd-comhairle ; a réir an lagha tha ise gun choire 's na nithe sin.
- C'uin a bha 'Bhan-rìgh agus Prionns' Ailbeart air am pòsadh ?
- Ann an toiseach an earraich 's a' bhliadhna 1840.
- Nach robh iad daimheil d' a chèile ?
- Bha ; b' e Prionns' Ailbeart mac Dhiùc Choburg, brathair màthar na Ban-rìgh.
- Ciod am mùthadh a bha eatorra a thaobh aois ?
- Bha 'm Prionnsa trì mìosan na 's òige na 'Bhan-rìgh.
- An robh dreuchd sam bith aige ann an riaghladh na righeachd ?
- Cha robh.
- Is cinnteach mi nach b'urrainn duine cho math ris 'ùine chur seachad 'an diamhanas.
- Bha e gun tàmh a' deanamh math.
- 'D é 'n teaghlach a bh'aca ?
- Còignear nighean agus ceathrar mhae.
- C'uin a rugadh Prionnsa *Wales* no na Cuimrig, oighr' a' chrìin ?
- Rugadh e 's a' bhliadhna 1841.
- 'S e Ailbeart Edward no Imhear is ainm dha.
- Co ris a tha e pòsda ?
- When more are opposed to them in Parliament than are favourable to them they cannot stand.
- May they not retain their hold in spite of those that are opposed to them ?
- They may not, because money will be refused to them to carry on the affairs of the kingdom.
- I understand ; great is the power of money.
- Suppose that anything goes wrong, who is blamed, the Queen or her counsellors ?
- Her counsellors ; according to the law she is without blame in these things.
- When were the Queen and Prince Albert married ?
- In the beginning of spring in the year 1840.
- Were they not related ?
- They were ; Albert was son to the Duke of Coburg, brother to the Queen's mother.
- What difference was there between them as regards age ?
- The Prince was three months younger than the Queen.
- Had he any office in the government of the kingdom ?
- He had not.
- I am sure that so good a man could not have spent his time in idleness.
- He was constantly doing good.
- What family had they ?
- Five daughters and four sons.
- When was the Prince of Wales, heir to the crown, born ?
- He was born in the year 1841.
- His name is Albert Edward.
- To whom is he married ?

- Ris a Bhana-Phrionnsa, *Alexandra*, nighean a's sine rìgh *Dhenmark* agus piuthar rìgh na Gréige.
- Tha Alfred, an dara mac, pòsda ris a' Bhan-diùc, Mairi, nighean Impire *Russia*.
- Nach ann air a' mhuir a tha esan ? 'S ann ; tha long-chogaidh fo 'cheannardachd ?
- 'S iad Artair 'us Leopold an dà mhac a 's òige.
- Tha Bhictoria, a' Bana-Phrionnsa Rìgheil, pòsda ri Frederick Uilleam, Prionnsa *Phrussia*.
- Bha 'n dara nighean, Alice, nach maireann, pòsda ri Frederick Uilliam, Prionnsa *Hesse*.
- Tha 'n treas nighean, Helena, pòsda ri Frederick, Prionnsa na dùthcha ris an abrar *Schleswig-holstein*.
- Tha 'cheathramh nighean, Louise, pòsda, mar tha fhios aig gach Gàidheal, ri Marcus Lathurna, Ard-uacharan Chanada.
- Tha 'n nighean a 's òige, Beatrice, gun bhi pòsda.
- C'àit am bheil a' Bhan-rìgh mar is bidheant' a chòmhnuidh ?
- Ann an Lùchairt *Windsor*, trì mìle fichead a mach a Lunnuinn.
- C'àit am bi i 'fuirreach 'n uair a bhios i 'an Lunnuinn ?
- Ann an Lùchairt *Bhuckingham*.
- Tha tìgh eil' aic' 'an Lunnuinn ris an abrar *St. James's*.
- Tha àit' aice ris an abrar *Osborne* ann an Eilean *Wight*.
- 'S iad *Holyrood* an Dun-éideann agus *Bhaile-mhorair* an siorramachd Abaraidhean na h-àitean-còmhnuidh a th'aic' 'an Albainn.
- Tha mi 'cluinntinn gu bheil i fìor thoigheach air Baile-mhorair.
- To the Princess Alexandra, eldest daughter of the King of Denmark and sister to the King of Greece.
- Alfred, the second son, is married to the Duchess Mairi, daughter of the Emperor of Russia.
- Is he not at sea ? He is ; a ship of war is under his command.
- Arthur and Leopold are the two youngest sons.
- Victoria, the Princess Royal, is married to Frederick William, Prince of Prussia.
- The second daughter, Alice, who is not alive, was married to Frederick William, Prince of Hesse.
- The third daughter, Helena, is married to Frederick, Prince of the country called Schleswig-holstein.
- The fourth daughter, Louise, is married, as every Highlander knows, to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor of Canada.
- The youngest daughter, Beatrice, is unmarried.
- Where does the Queen generally reside ? In Windsor Palace, twenty-three miles out from London.
- Where does she stay when she is in London ? In Buckingham Palace.
- She has another house in London called *St. James's*.
- She has a place called Osborne in the Isle of Wight.
- Holyrood in Edinburgh, and Balmoral in Aberdeenshire, are her residences in Scotland. *
- I hear that she is very fond of Balmoral.

* For some facts and dates above I am indebted to "Sequel to No. IV. Royal School Series".

Tha ; 's ann ann is àbhaist di 'm fogharadh 'chur seachad.

Nach do chuir i 'mach leabhar anns an bheil i 'toirt cunntais air a beatha 's a' Ghàidhealtachd ?

Chuir, agus bu choir do gach neach 's an rìgheachd a leubhadh.

Carson ?

A chionn nach urrainn neach sam bith a leubhadh gun a thairis-eachd 's a speis do'n Bhan-rìgh a bhì air am meudachadh.

Cha n-'eil teagamh nach ann mar a's àird' am meas a bhios aig daoine oirre-se a's coltaiche dhoibh a bhì toilichte foipe agus dileas di.

Anns an leabhar so chithear i 'n a mnaoi, 'n a màthair, 'n a nigh-inn, agus 'n a caraid dleasnach.

Na'm biodh am Freasdal cho caoimhneil 'us a càrdeas a chur an rathad so cha' n-ann 'an tigh snidheach a bhiodh Màiri 'us mise.

Chithear i a' nochdadh co-fhulangais leis a mhuinntir a tha ann an nìreasbhuidh 's 'an amhghar, a' taoghal ann an tìghean nam bochd, a' co-aontachadh leis an t-sluagh 'n am fearas-chuid-eachd, a' cumail conaltraidh shuairce r' a seirbheisich, a' dìreadh bheanntan, a' dol thar aibhnichean, a' leigeil fhaicinn air iomadh dòigh gu bheil cridhe blàth aice agus inntinn bhunailteach.

Is mòr am beannachadh do'n dùth-aich a leithid a bhì air an rìgh-chathair.

She is ; it is there that she is in the habit of spending the harvest.

Did she not publish a book in which she gives an account of her life in the Highlands ?

She did, and every person in the kingdom should read it.

Why ?

Because no one can read it without having his loyalty to and esteem for the Queen increased.

There is no doubt that the higher the respect people have for her the more likely they are to be contented under her and faithful to her.

In this book she will be seen in the character of a dutiful wife, mother, daughter, and friend.

If Providence were so kind as to send her friendship this way, Mary and I would not be in a leaky house.

She will be seen showing sympathy with those who are in want and affliction, visiting in the houses of the poor, joining the people in their amusements, holding affable conversation with her servants, ascending mountains, crossing rivers, showing in many ways that she has a warm heart, and a constant mind.

It is a great blessing to the country to have such as she on the throne.



CÒMHRAIDHEAN 'AN GHÀELIG 'S 'AM BEURLA.

A' GHÀELIG, GAELIC.

1

- Tha sibhse ri leabhranachd, mar is àbhaist. You are engaged with books as usual.
- Tha leabhraichean dhomh-sa mar tha 'acfhuin do'n fhear-cheàird. Books are to me, as his tools are to the tradesmen.
- Tha mis' air tighinn oirbh mar an sneachd, gun sireadh, gun iarraidh. I have come upon you like the snow, unsought, and unasked for.
- Cha n-'eil idir; tha obair an là seachad agam. Not at all; my day's work is over.
- Co dhiù 's i 'Ghàelig no 'Bheurla, an Laidionn no 'Ghrengais a tha sibh a' cnuasachd an dràs? Whether are you studying Gaelic or English, Latin or Greek, at present?
- A' Ghàelig. Gaelic.
- Cha n-fhaod e bhì nach 'eil sibh coimh-liont' innte mu 'n àm so. Surely you are perfect in it by this time.
- Cha n-urrainn domh a ràdh gu bheil. I cannot say that I am.
- Cha n-'eil sibhse furasd' a thoil-eachadh. You are not easily satisfied.
- Tha 'Ghàelig 'us cànainean am bidheantas mar thobar nach traodh. Gaelic and languages in general are like an exhaustless spring.
- Cha n-'eil mi uile gu léir 'g 'ur tuigsinn. I do not quite understand you.
- Tha mi 'ciallachadh gu bheil mòran aig neach r' a fhòghlum mu 'n ruig e air làn eòlas cia b' air bith cho fada 's a dh' fhaodas e bhì 'g an cnuasachd. I mean that one has much to learn before he attains to full knowledge, however long he may be studying them.
- Saoil sibh ciod is ciall do 'n othail a tha mu 'n Ghàelig o cheann beagan bhliadhnaichean? What do you think is the meaning of the stir that there has been about Gaelic for some years?
- Tha daoine fòghluimte air dùsgadh gu mothachadh air a luach. Learned men have awakened to a sense of its value.
- Mata bu mbhithich dhoibh; 's iomadh là 'chuir iad suarach i. It was time for them; they treated it with indifference for many a day.

- Tha cuid déidheil air seadh ainm-
eanan àiteachan fhaotainn a
mach, agus cha bhuaidhaich
iad gun a' Ghàelig.
- Nach 'eil ainmeanan Gàelig air
mòran àiteachan 's a' Ghall-
achd 's 'an Sasunn cho math
'us anns a' Ghàidhealtachd ?
- Tha.
- Tha feadhainn eile toigheach air
sgeulachdan 'us dàin a chruinn-
eachadb, agus air eòlas fhaot-
ainn air seana chleachdainnean.
- Cha mhò 'ni iadsan a' bheag de
mhath as eugmhais na Gàelig.
- Tha feadhainn eil' ann a tha
'gabhaill tlachd ann an lorgach-
adh na daimhe 'tha eadar a'
Ghàelig 'us cànairean eile.
- Is cinnteach mi nach 'eil sin furasd'
a dheanamh.
- Cha n-'eil ; cha n-e 'h-uile duine
fòghluimte 'tha murrach air.
- Cuiridh sibh comain mhòr orm ma
bheir sibh dhomh fiosrachadh
mu 'n chùis.
- Feuchaidh mi ri beagan de na leubh
mi m' a déibhinn a chur mu d'
choinneamh.
- 'S sibh-fhéin an t-aon neach a tha
mi 'faotainn toileach gu m'
chuideachadh 'n am thoir air
eòlas.
- Thoir leat 's a' cheud dol a mach gu
bheil cànairean an t-saoghail air
an roinn 'n an teaghlachibh.
- C' ainm a th' air an teaghlach d'
am buin a' Ghàelig ?
- An *Aryan* no 'n *Indo-European*.
- An ainmich sibh na cànairean d' am
bheil an teaghlach so air a
dheanamh suas ?
- Thig mi dh' ionnsuidh sin an ceart
uair.
- Tha mi 'g iarraidh maitheanas.
- 'N nair a sgaoil an sluagh a bha
'bruidhinn na cànairean bu
mhàthair do na cànairean a
thàinig a nuas g' ur n-ionns-
- Some are desirous to find out the
meaning of the names of places,
and they will not succeed with-
out Gaelic.
- Do not many places in the Lowlands
and in England, as well as in
the Highlands, bear Gaelic
names ?
- Yes.
- Others are fond of collecting tales
and poems, and of obtaining a
knowledge of ancient customs.
- Neither will they do any good with-
out Gaelic.
- Others take pleasure in tracing the
affinity that subsists between
Gaelic and other languages.
- I am sure that that is not easily
done.
- It is not ; it is not every learned
man that can do it.
- You will oblige me very much by
giving me information about
the matter.
- I will endeavour to set before you a
little of what I have read about
it.
- You are yourself the only one whom
I find willing to help me, in my
search after knowledge.
- Carry away with you at the outset,
that the languages of the world
are divided into families.
- What is the name of the family that
Gaelic belongs to ?
- The *Aryan* or *Indo-European*.
- Will you name the languages of
which this family is composed ?
- I will come to that presently.
- I beg pardon.
- When the people that spoke the
mother tongue of the languages
that have come down to us dis-
persed, some of them went east-

nidh-ne chaidh cuid dhiubh an ear do na H-Innsean agus cuid eile dhiubh an iar do 'n Roinn-Eòrpa.

'D e 'n dùthaich as an do sgaoil iad ?
Tha e coltach gur h-ann a *Persia* a sgaoil iad.

C' ainm a th' air a' chànanain a bh' aig an sgaoth dhiubh a chaidh do na H-Innsean ?

An *Sanscrit*.

Am bheil a' chànanain so air a bruidh-inn fhathast ?

Cha n-'eil, ach tha i air mhaireann ann an leabhraichean.

'Dé na cànaimean eile 'bhùineas do'n teaghlach so ?

Tha againn an toiseach na cànaimean mòra sin—a' Ghreugais 's an Laidionn.

'S fhad' o 'n bhàsaich iad sin.

Tha 'Ghreugais fhathast beò, slàn, ach tha mòran chendan de bhliadhnaichean o 'n sguir an Laidionn a bhi air a bruidhinn.

An d' fhàg an Laidionn sliochd 'n a déigh ?

'S i 'dh' fhàg.

An ainmich sibh iad ?

Cànain na H- Eadailt, na Spàinte, Phortugall, na Frainge, agus corra 'h- aon eile.

Am bheil tuilleadh chànaimean ann a bhùineas do 'n *Aryan* ?

Buinidh dhi a' Bheurla, cainnt na Gearmailt, Ruisia, Pholand, Bhulgaria, Bohemia, Shervia, &c.

Air m' fhocal cha n-'eil aobhar aig a' Ghàelig nàir' a ghabhail d' a luchd-daimh.

Tha Raonull, Mac Eachainn, aig an doras, ag iarraidh bruidhinn ruibh.

Thoir a stigh e do sheòmar na dinneireach.

Bithidh mi air m' ais a chlisgeadh. Na cuiribh cabhag sam bith oirbh-fhéin air mo shon-sa.

ward to the Indies, and others of them went westward to Europe.

From what country did they disperse. It is probable that it was from Persia that they dispersed.

What is the name of the language spoken by the swarm of them that went to India ?

The Sanscrit.

Is this language spoken still ?

It is not, but it survives in books.

What other languages belong to this family ?

We have first these great languages—the Greek and Latin.

It is long since these died.

Greek is still living and healthy, but Latin ceased to be spoken many hundreds of years ago.

Did Latin leave a family behind it.

That it did.

Will you name its members ?

The Language of Italy, of Spain, of Portugal, of France, and a few others.

Are there more languages that belong to the *Aryan* ?

There belong to it the English, German, Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Bohemian, Servian, &c.

Upon my word, Gaelic has no reason to be ashamed of its kindred.

Ronald, son of Hector, is at the door, wishing to speak to you.

Bring him in to the dining room.

I shall be back presently.

Do not hurry yourself on my account.

2

- An saoil sibh am bheil a' Ghàelig air a cothlamadh le focail o chànainean eile?
- Tha ann an tomhas, ach tha na 's lugha de dh' fhacail choigreach innte na anns a' chuid a 's mò de chànainean na Roimn-Eòrpa.
- Cia as a fhuair i na facail sin?
- Fhuair i 'chuid mhòr dhiubh o 'n Laidinn.
- Ciamar a fhuair iad a stigh innte?
- Trid cumhachd cléir' eaglais na Roimhe.
- 'S ainneamh ni anns nach bi làmh aig a' chléir.
- Anns na h- amanan dorcha o shean bha cumhachd mòr aca ann an nithe ainseireil cho math 'us ann an nithe spioradail.
- 'S e mo bharail-fhèin nach 'eil e chum buannachd do chléir eaglais sam bith a bhi' gabhail mòran gnothuich ri nithe ainseireil.
- B'iad luchd-comhairle rìghrean 'us luchd-teagaisg an t-sluaigh, agus is gann a bha eòlas no fòghlum 's an dùthaich ach na bha 'n am measg-sau.
- Cha n- iongantach, uime sin, ged fhuair iad nìread buaidh' air a' Ghàelig 's gu'm b' éigin di facail a ghabhail o 'n Laidinn.
- Am bi sibh cho math agus cuid de na facail sin ainmeachadh?
- So cuid dhiubh 'an Gaelig 's 'an Laidinn:—coisrig—consecrare, sagairt—sacerdos, easbuig—episcopus, coguis—conscientia, faosaid—confessio, creid—credo, cill—cella.
- Bheir thu fanear gu bheil a' chuid a 's mò de na facail Laidinn air an giorrachadh 's a' Ghàelig.
- Do you think that Gaelic is mixed with words from other languages?
- Yes in a measure, but there are fewer foreign words in it than in most of the languages of Europe.
- Whence did it receive these words?
- It got the most of them from Latin.
- How did they gain admittance into it?
- Through the influence of the clergy of the Church of Rome.
- There are few things in which the clergy have not a hand.
- In the dark times of old, they had great influence in temporal as well as in spiritual matters.
- It is my own opinion that it is not of advantage to the clergy of any Church to interfere much in temporal matters.
- They were the counsellors of kings, and the teachers of the people, and there was scarcely any knowledge or learning in the land, except what was among them.
- It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that they so prevailed over Gaelic as to compel it to receive words from Latin.
- Will you be so good as name some of these words?
- Here are some of them in Gaelic and Latin:—coisrig—consecrare, sagairt—sacerdos, easbuig—episcopus, coguis—conscientia, faosaid—confessio, creid—credo, cill—cella.
- You will observe that the most of the Latin words are shortened in Gaelic.

- An d' thàinig facail a stigh do 'n Ghàelig o chànainean sam bith eile?
- Thàinig a' bheag no 'mhòr o chainnt nan Lochlannach.
- Cha ruig mi leas 'innseadh dhuit gu bheil facail 's a' Ghàelig a fhuair i o 'n Bheurla.
- Tha sin soilleir do n-a h-uile duine.
- An innis sibh dhomh ciod a' chainnt a 's dluithe daimh do 'n Ghàelig?
- An Laidiunn.
- An déigh na Laidinn 's iad na cainntean a 's daimheile dhi cainnt na Gearmailt agus a' Bheurla mar bha i mu 'n robh i air a truilleadh le facail o chainntean eile.
- Am bheil daimh idir aig a' Ghàelig ris a' Ghreugais?
- Tha, ach tha e na 's fhaide 'mach na ris an trì eile.
- Ciamar a nithear a mach gu bheil an daimh so eadar a' Ghàelig agus na cainntean sin?
- Gabh beachd air cho cosmhuil 's a tha na facail so ri 'chéile:— aon—unus, dà—duo, trì—tres, ochd—octo, mìle—mille, sèa—sex, seachd—septem, agus mar sin sìos.
- Buinidh na facail sin do 'n Ghàelig cho math 'us do 'n Laidinn; 's leis an teaghlach 'an coit-chiontas iad.
- Cha n-'eil teagamh nach buill iad de 'n aon teaghlach.
- Am bheil dad r' a fhaotainn ann an *Grammar* na Gàelig a tha cosmhuil ris na gheibhear ann an *Grammar* nan cainntean eile?
- Tha beagan, ach tha e cho mion 's nach 'eil e furasd' a chur ann an Gàelig a thuigeas daoine.
- Chomhairlichinn duit leabhar Professor Blackie mu 'n Ghàelig a leubhadh gu cùramach.
- Did words enter Gaelic from any other languages?
- Fewer or more entered it from the Scandinavian language.
- I need not tell you that there are words in Gaelic that it received from English.
- That is apparent to every man.
- Will you tell me what language has the closest affinity to Gaelic?
- Latin.
- After Latin the languages that have the closest affinity to Gaelic are German, and English as it was before it was corrupted with words from other languages.
- Has Gaelic any affinity with Greek?
- Yes, but it is more remote than with the other three.
- How can it be made out that this affinity subsists between Gaelic and these languages?
- Mark how like these words are to each other:—aon—unus, dà—duo, trì—tres, ochd—octo, mìle—mille, sèa—sex, seachd—septem, and so forth.
- These words belong to Gaelic as well as to Latin; they are the general property of the family.
- There is no doubt that they are members of the same family.
- Is there anything to be found in Gaelic Grammar resembling what may be found in the Grammar of the other languages?
- There is a little, but it is so minute that it is not easy to put it into intelligible Gaelic.
- I would recommend to you to read carefully Professor Blackie's book about Gaelic.

- Cìod tuilleadh a tha ri ràdh mu 'n chùis?
- Tha mòran de bhun-fhocail 's a' Ghàelig aig am bheil an leth-bhreacan 's an Laidinn gu sònraichte.
- An toir sibh dhomh samhlaidhean?
- Gabh iad so :—can—cano, geum—gemo, greigh—grex, tana—tenuis, tìr—terra, bo—bos, beatha—vita, athair—pater, feasgar—vesper, nochd—noc-tem.
- Gheibhear na ceudan d' an leithidibh sin.
- Is àirdh a thoirt fanear nach 'eil na facail a tha freagairt d' a chéile 's an dà chainnt daonau a' tòiseachadh leis an aon litir.
- Ann an coimeas chànaichean, uime sin, tha e feumail a thoirt fanear cìod na fuaimean anns an dara cainnt a tha freagairt do na fuaimean anns a' chainnt eile.
- Tha aon cheist eil' agam ri chur ruibh mu 'n dealaich sinn.
- Cluineam i.
- 'D e 'ur barail mu 'n Ghàelig mar chainnt?
- Tha i fìor fhreagarrach a chur an céill smuaintean, faireachd-uinnean, agus uireasbhuidhean gnàthaichte an duine.
- Nach 'eil i freagarrach airson bàrdachd?
- Tha, agus airson ciùil, sgeòil, sgeulachdan, airson labhairt ri sluagh agus cunntas a thoirt air coltas na cruithachd.
- Am bheil i freagarrach airson feallsanachd?
- Cha n-'eil.
- Carson?
- A chionn nach 'eil facail fhreagarrach inntè?
- Ciamar a thachair sin?
- Chaidh stad a chur air a cinneas.
- What more is there to be said about the matter?
- There are many root-words in Gaelic that have their counterparts in Latin especially.
- Will you give me examples?
- Take these :—can—cano, geum—gemo, greigh—grex, tana—tenuis, tìr—terra, bo—bos, beatha—vita, athair—pater, feasgar—vesper, nochd—noc-tem.
- Hundreds of such as these may be found.
- It is worthy of consideration that the corresponding words do not always begin with the same letter.
- In comparing languages, therefore, it is necessary to consider what sounds in the one language correspond with the sounds in the other.
- I have one other question to put to you before we part.
- Let me hear it.
- What is your opinion of Gaelic as a language?
- It is very well adapted for expressing the ordinary thoughts, feelings, and wants of man.
- Is it not adapted for poetry?
- Yes, and for music, narrative, tales, for oratory and description of the appearances of the creation.
- Is it adapted for philosophy?
- It is not.
- Why?
- Because it does not contain suitable words.
- How did that happen?
- Its growth has been stopped.

- Am bheil e 'n a comas àireamh a focail a mhendachadh ?
 Tha gu mòr, agus sin uaipe féin, gun bhi fo chomain do chanain sam bith eile.
 A bharrachd air sin tha i 'n a cainnt lìomharra, bhinn-fhoelach, cheòlmhor.
 'S e so barail nan daoine fòghluimte a rannsrich a' chùis.

Mòran taing 'us buidheachais dhuibh.

Biodh a càirdean uile cho dìleas di 's a tha sibhse 's cha bhì eagal di.

“ Mhair i fòs
 'S cha téid a glòir air chall,
 A dh'aindeoin gò
 'Us mì-run mòr nan Gall.”—*MacDonald*.

TURUS-IASGAICH, A FISHING EXCURSION.

- Rinn mi guth aig an doras an dé, ach dh'innis an searbhanta dhomh gu'n robh sibh o'n bhaile.
 Ghabh mi cothrom an là mhaith a dhol a dh'iasgach.
 Co dhiù 's ann air a' mhuir no air abhuinn no air loch uisg' a bha sibh ag iasgach ?
 Bha mi 'g iasgach air Loch Sgamadail.
 'S iomadh àite 's an robh mi, tuath 'us deas, an ear 's an iar, ach cha robh mi riamh aig Loch Sgamadail.
 Thachair a leithid eile dhomh-fhéin. Bha mi air mullach a' Chùirn-ghuirm 's aig Loch-an-doirb 's an taobh tuath, ach cha robh mi riamh air mullach Chruachain no aig Loch Sgamadail gus o chionn ghoirrid.
 Is lìomhor iad a tha eòlach air àiteachan 's air nithe 'tha fad air falbh am feadh a tha iad aineolach air àiteachan 's air nithe a tha dlùth làimh.
- I called at the door yesterday, but the servant told me that you were from home.
 I took the opportunity of the good day to go to fish.
 Whether was it on the sea or on a river, or on a fresh water lake that you were fishing ?
 I was fishing on Loch Scamadale.
 I was in many a place, North and South, East and West, but I was never at Loch Scamadale.
 The like happened to myself. I was on the top of Cairngorm and at Lochendorb in the North, but I was never on the top of Cruachan or at Loch Scamadale till lately.
 There are numbers of persons that are acquainted with places and things that are far off while they are ignorant of places and things that are near at hand.

'S ann mar sin a thachair do dh'iom-
adh aon a thaobh na Gàelig.

Tha sibh ceart ; gheibhear na ceud-
an a chaith mòran d'an ùine ag
ionnsachadh na Fraingeis agus
cainnt na Gearmailt aig nach
'eil smid Ghàelig 'u an ceann
ged is i 'chainnt a bh'aig na
daoine o'n d'fhàinig iad agus a
th'aig an t-sluagh a tha iad a'
chòmhnuidh 'n am measg.

'D é 'n rathad a ghabh sibh do
Sgamadal ?

Thog mi ris a' bhrudhach bràigh
Bhaile-nodha 's ghabh mi null
thar a' mhonaidh.

'D é 'n seòrsa rathaid a th'ann ?

Tha deagh rathad a' fiaradh a suas
taobh a' bhrudhaich gu mull-
ach a' mhonaidh, ach cha n-'eil
ann an déigh sin ach ceum
garbh tro'n fhraoch.

'D é 'n t-astar a tha eadar Baile-
nodha 's an loch ?

Theirinn gu bheil mu thuaiream
trì mìle gu leth ann.

Cia meud mìle 'tha o so gu ruig an
loch ?

Còig mìle, agus trì mìle gu leth—
's e sin ochd mìle gu leth.

An do mhothaich sibh am bheil
coilich 'us cearcan fraoich
pailte 's a' mhonadh ?

Tha mi 'm barail gu bheil, oir bha
iad ag éiridh 'n an sgaothaibh
a h-uile ceann tacain mar
chaidh mi air m' aghaidh.

Thar leam-fhéin nach 'eil eun ann
a's briadha na'n coileach-fraoich
deireadh an fhogharaidh.

Is math is fhiach e 'fhaicinn a'
spaisdeireachd air ais 's air
aghaidh gu h-uaihbreach air
tolman, a chàirean dearg togta
'n àird os ceann a shùilean,
agus 'iteach dubh-dhonn a'
deàrsadh 's a ghréin.

It has been thus with many in
regard to Gaelic.

You are right ; hundreds will be
found who have spent much of
their time in learning French
and German, but who do not
know a word of Gaelic, though
it is the language that was
spoken by those from whom
they have sprung, and that is
spoken by those among whom
they dwell.

What road did you take to Scama-
dale.

I struck up the hill above Balino
and crossed the moor.

What kind of road is it ?

A good road winds along the side
of the hill to the top of the
moor, but there is only a
rough path through the heather
after that.

What distance is there between
Balino and the lake.

I should say that there are about
three miles and a half.

How many miles are there from
here to the loch ?

Five miles, and three miles and a
half, that makes eight miles
and a half.

Did you observe if grouse are plen-
tiful on the moor ?

I am of opinion that they are, for
they were rising in coveys
every now and again as I went
forward.

I do not think that there is a more
elegant bird than the cock
grouse in the end of harvest.

He is well worth being seen strut-
ting about proudly on a knoll,
with his red crest erected above
his eyes, and his dark-brown
plumage gleaming in the sun.

- 'D é 'n ùine 'ghabh sibh a' dol a null o Bhaile-nodha ?
 Mu uair an uaireadair, a' coiseachd air mo shocair.
- Tha de dh'uchdain, de chamhanan, 's de lùban 's na monaidhean 's nach 'eil e furasda coiseachd gu luath tharta.
- 'N uair a ràinig mi 'n taobh thall chunnaic mi sealladh nach dì-chuimhnich mi 'chlisge.
- 'D é 'n seorsa seallaidh a bh'ann ?
 Bha badan de cheò cho geal ris an t-sneachd air mullach Chùirn-liath.
- Chithear sin gu tric air na beanntan.
- Am feadh a bha mi 'g amharc air thàinig oiteag ghaoithe fodha a reub 'n a stroicean e, a chuibhill mu'n cuairt iad air iomadh dòigh iongantach, agus a thog a suas 's an adhar iad, far an deachaidh iad as an t-sealladh.
- 'D é 'mheudaichd a th'anns an loch ?
 Tha è mu dhà mhil' air fad 's mu cheithreamh mhil' air leud.
- Ciamar a tha e air a shuidheachadh ?
- Tha e ann an lag dhomhain eadar na beanntan, a tha 'g éiridh gu cas uaithe, 's iad uaine gu'm mullach.
- Am bheil coille a' cinntinn air an cliathaichean ?
- Cha n-'eil ; na'm biodh cha n-'eil loch 's a' Ghàidhealtachd a bhiodh na b'ailidh na e.
- An robh bàt' agaibh 'g a iasgach ?
 Bha.
- Cuiridh mi geall gu'n d'fhuair sibh i làn uisge.
- Fhuair, agus ghabh mi mu chòig mionaide fichead 'g a taomadh.
- 'D e 'n seòrsa taomain a bh'agaibh ?
 Bha cuach-bhleodhain, a fhuair mi o'n mhnaoi cheanalta 'tha 'chòmhnuidh taobh an loch.
- What time did you take to cross from Balino.
- About an hour by the watch, walking at my leisure.
- There are so many steep ascents, hollows, and windings in the moors that is not easy to walk fast over them.
- When I reached the other side I saw a sight that I shall not quickly forget.
- What kind of sight was it ?
 There was a tuft of mist as white as snow on the top of Carn-liath.
- That is often seen on the mountains.
- While I was looking at it a gust of wind came under it that tore it in tatters, whirling them round in many curious fashions, and raising them into the air, where they disappeared.
- What is the size of the lake ?
 It is about two miles long, and a quarter of a mile broad.
- How is it situated ?
- It lies in a deep hollow between the mountains, that rise abruptly from it and are green to their tops.
- Is there wood growing on their flanks ?
- There is not ; if there were there would not be a more beautiful lake in the Highlands.
- Had you a boat fishing it ?
 I had.
- I'll wager that you found it full of water.
- Yes, and I took about twenty-five minutes to bale it.
- What kind of baler had you ?
 A milking-pail that I got from the kind woman who lives by the side of the lake.

Am b'ann 'am meadhon an loch a
bha sibh ag iasgach ?

Cha b'ann ach aig a thaobhan ; tha
'm meadhon tuilleadh 'us domh-
ain.

'D é 'n doimhneachd a's freagar-
aiche ?

Eadar ceithir 'us deich troidhean.

Cha b'urrainn duibh iasgach agus
iomram aig an aon am.

Cha b'urrainn, ach leig mi leis a'
bhàta falbh leis a' ghaoith, a'
toirt làimh air na ràimh an dràs
's a rìs g' a cumail ceart.

Cia meud breac a ghlac sibh ?

Fichead.

'D é 'n nùine 'ghabh sibh g' an glac-
adh ?

Ghlac mi 'chuid a's mò dhiubh ann
an leth uair.

Cha robh sibh dìomhanach.

Bha iad rè na h-ùine sin a' leum gu
sùrdail ceithir thimchioll, agus
's e sin an t-àm a's fheàrr a
ghabhas iad.

Am bheil sibh eòlach air òrain Mhic
Mhaighstir Alastair ?

Lengh mi iad uair 'us uair.

Nach bu nadurra 'sheinn e mu na
bric !

“ Na bric a' gearradh shùrdag,

Ri plubraich dhlùth le cheil',

Taobh-leumraich mear le lùth-
chleas

A bùrn le mùirn ri gréin ;

Ri ceapadh chuileag siùbhlach

Le'm bristeadh lùthmhor fhéin ;

Druim lann-ghorm, 's ball-bhreac
giùran,

'S an launnair-chùil mar léig.”

Bha m'aire cho mòr air an iasgach
's nach do smuainich mi air a'
cheithreamh sin.

'D é 'n t-àm de'n bhliadhn' a's fheàrr
gu iasgach air na lochan sin ?

An dara agus an treasa mìos de'n
t-samhradh.

Was it in the middle of the lake
that you were fishing ?

It was not, but at its sides ; the
middle is too deep.

What is the most suitable depth ?

Between four and ten feet.

You could not both fish and row at
the same time.

I could not, but I let the boat
drift with the wind, handling
the oars now and again to keep
her right.

How many trout did you catch ?

Twenty.

What time did you take to catch
them ?

I caught the most of them in the
course of half an hour.

You were not idle.

They were during that time leaping
diligently all round, and that
is the time when they take
best.

Are you acquainted with the songs
of the son of Mr. Alexander ?

I have read them often.

How naturally he sang about the
trout !

“ The trout kept nimbly leaping

With merry plunge and play ;

Dimpling the burn with sprightly
tricks,

Warm in the sunny ray,

Their blade-blue back and spotted
gills

Gleamed with gem-like scales ;

Then with a dash they snapped the
fly

That careless wandering sails.”

(*Pattison*).

My attention was so much bent
upon the fishing that I did not
think of that stanza.

What is the best season of the year
for fishing on these lakes ?

The second and third months of
summer.

- 'D é 'n seòrsa là a's freagaraiche airson an iasgaich ?
 Là blàth, grianach, le fras nisg' an dràs 's a rìs, agus gaoth an iar.
- What kind of day is most suitable for the fishing ?
 A warm, sunny day, with a shower of rain now and then, and a west wind.
- 'D é 'n seòrsa chuileagan a's freagaraiche ?
 Ma tha'n là soilleir, gun deò gaoith' ann, 's iad cuileagan beaga, dorcha a's freagaraiche, ach ma tha'n là dorcha, an t-uisge dorcha, agus sgairt mhath ghaoith' ann, feumar cuileagan na's mò's na's soilleire 'ghabhail.
- What kind of flies are most suitable ?
 If the day is clear and windless small and dark-coloured flies are the most suitable, but if the day is dark, the water dark, and a smart breeze blowing, larger and lighter coloured flies must be taken.
- Mur 'eil an t-iasgair eòlach air an loch feumaidh e seòrsa no dhà fheuchainn gus an amais e air an fheadhainn a fhreagras.
- If the fisher is not acquainted with the lake he must try different kinds till he find those that suit.
- Tha mòran an earbsa ris an dòigh air an tilgear na cuileagan 's air an tairngear iad tro' 'n uisge.
- Much depends on the manner in which the flies are cast and drawn through the water.
- 'D é na h-àiteachan a's fheàrr gu iasgach ?
- What are the best places for fishing ?
- Far am bheil luibhcannach a' cinn-tinn 'us far am bheil uillt a' dol a stigh do'n loch.
- Where weeds grow and where burns enter the lake.*
- Am bheil bradain 'an Loch Sgamadail ?
- Are there salmon in Loch Scamadale ?
- Tha.
- There are.
- Ciamar a tha iad 'g a ruigheachd ?
- How do they reach it ?
- Tha iad a' tighinn a nìos air a-bhuinn Iuchair as a' mhuir 's an earrach agus 's an t-samh-radh.
- They come up on the river Iuchair from the sea in Spring and Summer.
- Nach 'eil iad toigheach air a bhi ann an aibhnichean 's 'an lochan ?
- Are they not fond of being in rivers and lakes ?
- Tha, anabarrach toigheach.
- Yes, very fond.
- 'S iomadh uair a chunnaic mi iad a' leum àirde mòire as an uisge ; 'd é 'tha 'toirt orra sin a dheanamh ?
- I have often seen them leap a great height out of the water ; what causes them to do that ?
- Tha e coltach gu bheil iad a' leum mar so chum gu'm faigh iad cuite de sheòrsa mial' a th'orra 'n uair a dh'fhàgas iad an fhairge
- It is probable that they leap thus in order to get quit of a kind of louse that adheres to them when they leave the sea.

* *The Practical Angler*, by W. C. Stewart.

- Am faca sibh iad riamh a' leum a suas eas ?
 Did you ever see them leap up a fall ?
- Chunnaic iomadh uair ; is iongantach, b'òidheach an sealladh e.
 I did many a time ; it is a curious and pretty sight.
- Ciamar a tha iad a' toirt na h-oidheirp ?
 How do they make the attempt ?
- Tha iad a' lùbadh an cinn gu'n earball, 's a' toirt duileum air an aghart mar dheanamh cearcall cuilce na'm biodh a dhà cheann air an leigeil as.
 They bend their head to their tail, and spring forward as a hoop of cane would do if both its ends were released.
- Nach tric leo tuiteam air an ais ?
 Do they not often fall back ?
- 'S eadh, ma tha'n t-eas car àrd, ach bheir iad ionnsuidh an déigh ionnsuidh air a' mhullach a ruigheachd gus an soirbhich leo, ma tha sin comasach.
 Yes, if the fall is rather high, but they will make attempt after attempt to reach the top till they succeed, if that is possible.
- Cha n-'eil teagamh agam nach robh dileag de Chaol Isle agaibh 's a' chliabh a thoirt beothachaidh dhuibh 'n uair a bhiodh sibh sgìth de thilgeil na driamlach.
 I have no doubt that you had a drop of Caol Isle in the basket to refresh you when tired of throwing the line.
- Cha robh, ach bha làn searraig agam de *thea* fhuaire le siùcar 'us uachdar 'n a mheasg.
 I had not, but I had a bottlefull of cold tea mixed with sugar and cream.
- Cha shaoilinn gu'm biodh an deoch sin aona chuid blasda no beothachail.
 I should not suppose that that drink would be either palatable or refreshing.
- Tha i 'n dà chuid, agus tha mòran 'g a gabhail a roghainn air deoch sam bith eile.
 It is both, and many take it in preference to any other drink.
- 'D é 'n rathad a ghabh sibh a' tighinn dachaidh ?
 What road did you take coming home ?
- Am monadh.
 The moor.
- Tha mi cinnteach gu'n robh sibh sgìth gu leòir 'n uair a ràinig sibh an tigh.
 I am sure that you were tired enough when you reached home.
- Bha mi, ach cha bhithinn a chòir cho sgìth mur b'e gu'n deachaidh mi air seachran 's a' mhonadh.
 I was, but I should not have been nearly so tired were it not that I went astray in the moor.
- 'D e chuir air seachran sibh ?
 What caused you to go astray ?
- Ceò dùmhail a dhùin mu m' thimchioll.
 A thick mist that closed round me.
- An do choisich sibh air ar n-aghaidh tro' 'n cheò ?
 Did you walk on through the mist ?
- Choisich fad trì cheithreamhan na h-uaire, tha mi cinnteach, gus
 I did for three quarters of an hour, I am sure, till I came back at

an d'thàinig mi mu dheireadh
air m'ais a dh'ionnsuidh an àite
as an d'fhalbh mi.

'N uair a thig an ceò air neach 's a'
mhonadh 's e 'ghliocas fuireach
far am bheil e gus an sgaoil e.

Rinn mi sin mu dheireadh. 'Am
shìneadh air an fhraoch bhad-
anach, ghorm, air mo shuain-
eadh 'am bhreacan dùbh-ghlas,
thàinig na rannan sin le Donn-
achadh Bàn 'am chuimhne :—

“ 'S mithich teàrnadh do na gleann-
aibh

O'n tha grunaimich air na beannaibh,
'S ceathach duinte mu na meallaibh,
A' cur dallaidh air ar léirsinn.

Bi 'dh sinn beò 'an dòchas ro mhath
Gu 'm bi 'chùis na's fheàrr an ath
là,

Gu'm bi gaoth, 'ns grian, 'us talamb,

Mar bu mhath leinn air na sléibh-
tibh.”

last to the place from which I
started.

When one is overtaken by the mist
in the moor it is his wisdom to
remain where he is till it dis-
perses.

I did so at last. While reclining
on the bushy and blue heather,
wrapped in my dark-grey plaid,
these verses by Duncan Ban
came into my memory :—

“ It is time to descend to the glens,

Since there is gloom on the bens,
And mist enveloping the hills,
Blinding our vision.

We shall live in good hope
That matters will be more favour-
able the next day,

That the wind, the sun, and the
ground,

Will be as we could wish on the
mountains.”