

near Knockfergus. It does not appear, however, that Alexander MacDonnell ever returned again to the Antrim coast, or took any part in the violent and protracted struggle which now commenced between his brother Sorley and the English. He died probably in 1569, or the year following, as no later mention of him occurs either in the Irish or Scottish State Papers. Nothing, or almost nothing, is known of his family. He had at least one son, but whether the latter survived his father, or if so, where, and in what manner he lived is not known. It appears that this son was held by the English, in 1567, probably as a hostage for his father's good faith, and that he was clandestinely withdrawn from their hands by Con and Hugh MacNeill, who conveyed him safely over to Scotland after his father's return thither from the Glynnns. The letter which records his deliverance terms him the "dear son of Alexander Oge," and states that his liberators, the "two Mac Neills," were forthwith imprisoned for their pains in the castle of Knockfergus.

We have thus briefly sketched the lives of *four* sons of Alexander of Isla, who were distinguished leaders of the Clan Ian Vór in Antrim. The seventh son, Sorley Boy, was the best known, and by much the most successful. His career, both as a military and political leader, is fraught with interest, and may, probably, form the subject of a distinct paper in a subsequent number of this *Journal*.

GEORGE HILL.

THE MACLEODS OF SCOTLAND.

In a recent article in this *Journal* on the "Fomorian and Lochlanns," Dr. O'Donovan* has done me the honor to refer to me by name, in relation to the pedigree of the MacLeods of Scotland.

He says, referring to the Scottish tradition that MacLeod of Arran is of Scandinavian descent:—"This descent has been latterly doubted by Mr. Skene in his *History of the Highland Clans*: he is of opinion that the tradition of the Norwegian descent of MacLeod is not very old, and that it is not borne out by any historical authority. However, it is quite clear that the pedigree of MacLeod, as preserved by MacFirbis,

is the only one ever known or received in Ireland or Scotland; but what weight it will have with Mr. Skene remains to be tried."

I most willingly respond to this call.

The work on the Highland Clans, from which Dr. O'Donovan quotes a passage, was written at a very early age, and when I was only entering upon that field of investigation which has afforded me so much pleasant occupation for so many years, but still I think that the statement there made is substantially correct. I was there referring to the supposed descent of the MacLeods from the Norwegian kings of Man and the Isles, supposed to be borne out by the Chronicle of

* The lamented death of Dr. O'Donovan took place since the above was written. [EDIT.]

Man, and by the inscription on the Fermanagh cup, the reading of which was quite false, and I stated that it rested upon no authority, and that the MS. genealogies referred the MacLeods to a common origin with the Campbells. I was not then aware of the pedigree given by Mac Firbis.

The statement to which Dr. O'Donovan now asks my assent is, that this "is the only one ever known or received in Ireland or Scotland."

In reply I have to state, that in one of the Irish MSS. now deposited in the Advocates' library, Edinburgh, there is a pedigree of the Campbells and of the MacLeods, referring them to a common origin from the Nemedians, through Fergus Leithdearg, who is said to have led a colony of that tribe to Scotland. These pedigrees were written about 1550, a century earlier than that of MacFirbis, and were printed by me in the *Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis*.

The Campbells or Clan Cailin are deduced from Braodn, son of Fergus Leithdearg, son of Nemedius. Then follows the pedigree of the MacLeods. The first six names have been carefully erased, probably by a partizan of one of the two great rival MacLeod families, whose claims to the chiefship were disproved by it. The rest is as follows:—

- Genelach MicLeod annso.
-
- (These six
- names
- erased.)
-
-
- Mic Leod o. r.

- Mic Oloir.
 - Mic Oib.
 - Mic Oilmoir
 - Mic Iamhar og.
 - Mic Sin Iamhar.
 - Mic Sgoinne Sganlain.
 - Mic Iamhar Atacliadh.
 - Mic Connla.
 - Mic Conaill clannderg.
 - Mic Ceallach.
 - Mic Mardoid re. r. in mic L.
 - Mic Ceallach Catluanid.
 - Mic Culinan.
 - Mic Connla.
 - Mic Dergdian Sgotheg.
 - Mic Manuis oig.
 - Mic Magnus na luinge luaithe.
 - Mic Magnus aircon ise ro gab iiiii
micam in leomhar.
 - Mic Iamhar uallach.
 - Mic Dergi.
 - Mic Arait.
 - Mic Iamhar na mBreat.
 - Mic Ubhaidh.
 - Mic Arait.
 - Mic Aspuig.
 - Mic Ceallach.
 - Mic Connla.
 - Mic Lamus.
 - Mic Lungbaird.
 - Mic Lamus.
 - Mic Lochlan.
 - Mic Arait.
 - Mic Laigh laidere or. crich L.
 - Mic Fergus Leithderg.
- But there is still older authority for the com-

mon descent of the Campbells and the MacLeods from the Nemedians; for, in a collection of MS. genealogies written in the year 1467, there is the usual pedigree of the Milesians, and at Sruson of Esru, the father of Eber Scuit, there is the following sentence in Latin:—

7 frater ejus Seara a quo venit Nemedius, inter posteros ejus Mo Caillin moir 7 mio Leoid 7c.

It is therefore clear that MacFirbis's pedigree was not the only one known in Ireland or in Scotland, and I doubt much whether it could ever have been received in either country. It is a very strange genealogy. Some of the names are the same as those in the pedigree of 1550, as Iamhar, Maguus na luinge luaithe, Sin Iamhar na mBreath, but they are stated in a different order, and there is no resemblance between the other names. It consists of 39 names, which at the usual computation of three generations to a century, would give a period of thirteen hundred years, over which it ranges before it reaches Sin Iamhar na mBreath; and it contains a strange jumble of names, some evidently taken from the list of Scottish kings, as Malcolm Ceanmair, Dolbh, Indolph, &c. It appears to me to bear evident marks of fabrication, and is more like a *jeu d'esprit* of some Senachaidhe than a pedigree seriously intended to be taken as authentic. Moreover, MacFirbis terms it the pedigree of the MacLeods of Arann in Scotland, but no such family is known in Scotland. There were two great rival families

of MacLeod who contested the chiefship of the Clan Leod—the Siol Torquill or MacLeod of Lewis, who likewise possessed the district of Trotterness in Skye, and the Siol Tormod or MacLeod of Harris, who possessed Dunvegan and Waterness in Skye, and Glenelg on the Mainland; but there is no trace of any connection between either family and the Island of Arann.* There was in Arann an ancient family termed Foularton, who possessed a barony in the Island from the time of Robert I., and who were patronymically called MacLewis or MacLowe, and it is possible they may be the family meant, as the ninth name in the pedigree has the epithet “Leosaigh;” but this family was never held to belong to the Clan Leod, and their names do not correspond with those in the pedigree. It is plain that MacFirbis himself did not consider this as the only known or received pedigree of the MacLeods, for at page 141 of the same MS. he refers to another account of the pedigrees of the Highland Clans, which he says he found among the books of Fardoragh MacFirbis, who, he says, was a Senachaidhe well acquainted in Alban.

This account states “MacGilleoin, *an da MacLeod*, MacCoinning, Macatoisig, Murmor huindr^b ar Sliocht Conaire me Eidersgeoil.” The two MacLeods are MacLeod of Lewis, and MacLeod of Harris, and if they were of the race of Conaire MacEidersgeoil, they were not Lochlanaich.

Surely if the Clan Leod were Lochlanaich, we

* I suspect that by Ara here is not meant the Island of Arann in Scotland, but Harris, which is frequently written in old documents Hary, Here and Harre. Harris is the Southern part of the Island of Lewis. The pedigree, however, does not correspond with that of the MacLeods of Harris, as deduced from documentary evidence.

^b What *huindr* is I am unable to say. The Murmor meant seems, from his juxtaposition to the MacIntoshes, to be the Murmor of Murray.

should find their pedigree composed entirely of Norwegian and Danish names; but instead of that, the names are in the main Celtic, interspersed with occasional Norwegian names such as Imhair, Magnus, Arailt, &c.; and the natural inference is that the MacLeods were a Celtic tribe who, having settled in the Western Isles while under the dominion of the Norwegians, intermarried with them and so acquired Norwegian names, and that they were only Lochlanaich by female descent.

Dr. O'Donovan comes to the same conclusion with regard to Donald, son of Emhin son of Cainnech, Marmor of Mar, who, he admits, could only have been of Danish descent by the mother's side, though MacFirbis equally includes him among the Clan Leoid of Arann. By the father's side, (Dr. O'Donovan adds,) he descended from Maine Leamhna son of Corc, &c.; but in this he is inaccurate, for he descended from Cairbre Cruithneachan, the traditionary ancestor of the Eoganacht of Magh Gherginn in Scotland, now Mearns.

There is still another pedigree of the MacLeods given in the same MS., which completely bears out the view that the MacLeods were Lochlanaich by maternal descent only. It is in the pedigree of the MacLeans, p. 405, where the following passage occurs:—

Clann Cristiona ingene MicLeoid, i.

Murcad.

Mac Tormoid.

Mac Leoid.

Mac Gillemuire.

Mac Raice.

Mac Olbair Snoice.

Mac Gillemuire. Ealga fholt-alainn
ingean Arailt mic Semmair rig
Lochlan mathairan Gillemuiredin.

The MacLeods are here taken up to a certain Gillemuire, a thoroughly Celtic name, and then it is added, "Ealga of the beautiful hair, daughter of Arailt, MacSemmair, king of Lochlain, was his mother."

It is a subject well worthy of discussion, what precise degree of credibility ought to be given to these old pedigrees when carried beyond the limits of documentary evidence. Dr O'Donovan appears to accept them as history.

I am, &c., WILLIAM F. SKENE.

20, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh.

P.S.—By Clann Orca, MacFirbis probably means the Orcadians.

The Clann Cruinner were the Guns or Clan Gun, a Sutherland Clan, whose chief was hereditary Coroner or Crouner of Caithness. Sir R. Gordon, in his history of Sutherland, p. 91, mentions "William Mackames wick Chruner" chief of the clan Gun, and adds, "from this Cruner all this Clan Gun are descended, and are after him called Clan Chruner."

The Clann Thorcadail were the Macquhorcadales of Phantellan, a small but ancient clan in Argyllshire.