

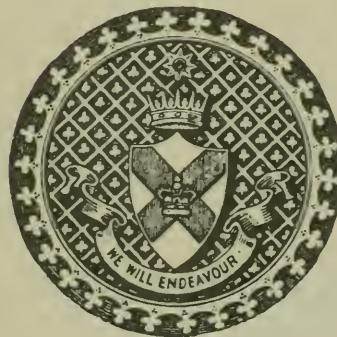
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VOLUME XIV.

KUNO MEYER

THE DEATH-TALES OF THE ULSTER
HEROES



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P R E F A C E

IT is a remarkable accident that, except in one instance, so very few copies of the death-tales of the chief warriors attached to King Conchobar's court at Emain Macha should have come down to us. Indeed, if it were not for one comparatively late manuscript now preserved outside Ireland, in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, we should have to rely for our knowledge of most of these stories almost entirely on Keating's *History of Ireland*. Under these circumstances it has seemed to me that I could hardly render a better service to Irish studies than to preserve these stories, by transcribing and publishing them, from the accidents and the natural decay to which they are exposed as long as they exist in a single manuscript copy only.

In the well-known list of Irish tales preserved in the Book of Leinster and elsewhere, under the title *oitte*, i.e. 'tragical or violent deaths,' eight death-stories of Ulster heroes are enumerated as follows: the deaths of Cúchulinn, of Conall (i.e. Conall Cernach), of Celtchar, of Blái the Hospitaller, of Lóegaire, of Fergus (mac Róich), of King Conchobar himself, and of Fiamain.

The *Death of Cúchulinn* forms an episode in the story called *Brislech Mór Maige Murthemne*; and extracts from the version in the Book of Leinster have been edited and translated by Whitley Stokes, in the *Revue Celtique*, vol. III., p. 175 ff. It is curious that, apart from this twelfth-century version, we have no copies older than the eighteenth century. These modern copies are enumerated by Prof. D'Arbois de Jubainville in his *Catalogue de la Littérature Épique de l'Irlande*, p. 15.

The *Death of Conall Cernach* is told in a tale, the full title

of which is 'The Cherishing of Conall Cernach in Cruachan, and the Death of Ailill and of Conall Cernach.' It has been edited and translated by me, from the only two existing manuscripts, in the first volume of the *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie*, p. 102 ff.

The *Death of Celtchar son of Uthechar* is found in a very fragmentary and illegible condition in the Book of Leinster, p. 118 b. Fortunately there exists a second complete copy in the Edinburgh ms. xl, pp. 9-11.¹ It has not hitherto been edited or translated.

The *Death of Blái the Hospitaller* has been preserved only in the Edinburgh ms., where it occupies pp. 11-13. It is here for the first time edited and translated.

Of the *Death of Lóegaire Búadach* we have only one ancient copy, again in the Edinburgh ms., pp. 8-9, hitherto unpublished. There is a shorter and later version, which is practically that of Keating's *History*, contained in two eighteenth-century mss. in the Royal Irish Academy, numbered 23. B. 21, p. 176, and 23. G. 21, p. 142, respectively. Copies of these I owe to the kindness of Mr. R. Irvine Best.

The *Death of Fergus mac Róich* is also preserved in a single copy only, again to be found in the Edinburgh ms., p. 5. Our only source hitherto has been Keating's version.

The only tale among those enumerated above which has reached us in fairly numerous copies is that of the *Death of Conchobar*. Prof. D'Arbois de Jubainville, *l.c.*, p. 13, enumerates four manuscripts² in addition to Keating's account, which is also that of 23. G. 21, and 23. B. 21. To these a fifth must be added, the version in the Edinburgh ms. xl, pp. 1-3, which is unfortunately illegible at the beginning. Mr. Edward Gwynn has

¹ For a full account of the contents of this manuscript, one of the most valuable in the Edinburgh collection, see my article in the *Celtic Magazine* for 1887, pp. 208-218.

² The Stowe ms. cited by him is now marked D. 4. 2. The copy of *Aided Chonchobuir* is found on fol. 54 a 2.

kindly supplied me with a transcript of the version contained in the *Liber Flavus Fergusiorum*; and Mr. R. I. Best has copied, and placed at my disposal, the version in 23. N. 10, a ms. in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.

The tale last mentioned in the list, that of the *Death of Fiamain*, seems now lost. At least, so far as I know, no copy of it has yet been discovered; nor does Keating give any account of it. Fiamain mac Forrói is mentioned in *Tochmarc Emire* as one of those Irish youths who were learning feats of arms with Scáthach in Britain when Cúchulinn came there for the same purpose (see *Zeitschr.* III., p. 250, § 67); and in the poem at the end of that tale (*ib.*, p. 262, l. 8) a Fiamain is enumerated among the young warriors in the Cráeb Rúad at Emain Macha. But whether this was Fiamain mac Forrói or some other Fiamain is doubtful. The only other references to the former that I can find are—first, one in Cináed húa Hartacáin's poem on the deaths of some of the nobles of Erin, which has been edited and translated by Whitley Stokes in *Revue Celtique*, vol. xxiii., p. 303 ff. Here he is said to have been slain at Dún mBinne,¹ a fort that has not been identified. A battle of Duma Beinne is mentioned in *Cath Maige Rath*, p. 211. The other reference to Fiamain mac Forrói occurs in a poem in that tale, p. 213: 'Seven battles around Cathir Conrói, the wrecking of Fiamain mac Forói, the wrecking of Cúrói, together with the seventeen sons of Deda.'

In addition to these Ulster death-tales, the Edinburgh manuscript contains an account of the death of the redoubtable Connaught warrior Cet mac Magach. Of this story, as it has not hitherto been published, I add an edition and translation.

K. M.

¹ *Forbais Dain Binni* is the title of a tale mentioned in the list in the Book of Leinster, p. 189 c; but no copy of it is known.

THE DEATH-TALES OF THE ULSTER HEROES

I. THE DEATH OF CONCHOBAR

WE possess, as stated on page vi, five manuscript copies of *Aided Chonchobuir*, apart from the account contained in Keating's History. They all differ materially, so that it seemed desirable to print them *in extenso*. The version in the Edinburgh ms. xl is partly illegible; but it appears to be identical in its opening with that of the Book of Leinster.

As is common in the tradition of the oldest Irish tales, these five manuscripts either represent different versions of various ages, or attempts to bring these versions into harmony with each other. We can distinguish the following three different accounts of the events which led to Conchobar's death.

Once when the men of Ulster were at a gathering, the sun was darkened and the moon turned into the colour of blood. On Conchobar's question as to the cause of this disturbance, the druid Cathbad tells the story of the Crucifixion, dwelling on the fact that Conchobar and Christ were born on the same night. Compare the *Compert Conchobuir*, "Revue Celtique," vi., p. 180. This is the account contained in the third version of the *Liber Flavus Fergusiorum* (§ 4). Slight variants of this version are to be found in the account of the Book of Leinster (§ 11), where an earthquake takes the place of the eclipse of the sun, and where the druid's name is not mentioned, and in the Edinburgh account (§ 11), in which Conchobar addresses his question to all his druids.

A second version places the gathering at Muirthemne. There, on a certain day, Bachrach, a Leinster poet, arrives from abroad,¹ and on the question for news tells the story of the Crucifixion which he

¹ The manuscript, indeed, says (Lib. Flav., § 1) that he came from Leinster, though it makes Conchobar ask him for news of *Alba* (i.e. Great Britain) and *Leth Moga* (the southern half of Ireland), for which we should unquestionably read *Letha* (i.e. the Continent). For from meaning either 'Latium' or 'Brittany,' *Letha* has practically come to denote the Continent.

has heard on the Continent or in Great Britain. This is the account given most fully in the first version of the *Liber Flavus* (§ 1), mentioned briefly in the Stowe manuscript (§ 1), and given as a variant in the Book of Leinster (§ 13).

In a third version, the Roman consul Altus visits Conchobar, either with presents from Tiberius (23. N. 10, § 1, and *Liber Flavus*, § 2), or to exact tribute for Octavian (Book of Leinster, § 14), and being himself a Christian, relates the story of the Crucifixion.

All versions end very nearly alike; only the account in the Book of Leinster breaks off shortly without mentioning Conchobar's death. The other versions say that Conchobar's pity roused him to fury; he uttered a *rhetoric* beginning '*Ba aprainn*,' seized his weapons, and rushed madly about, either as far as the sea (*Lib. Flav.*, § 4) or cutting down the wood on Lettir Lámraighe (Edinburgh and Stowe version); Mesgegra's brain starts out of his head, and he dies a Christian, the blood gushing from his head being his baptism.

Two late versions—those in the Edinburgh and in the Stowe manuscripts—add the further history of Mesgegra's brain, the existence of which is revealed by God to Buite mac Brónaig, abbot of Monasterboice († ca. A.D. 520), who uses it as a pillow, whence it is known by the name of *adart Buiti*. In support of this, the Stowe version quotes a poem by Cináed húa Hartacáin, a poet who died in A.D. 975, another copy of which may be found in the Book of Leinster, p. 150 a, l. 26.

Lastly, in the Edinburgh version, the incident of Cenn Berraide, who, in all other accounts, carried the king on his back after he had been wounded by Cet at the Ford of Daire Dá Báeth, is shifted and added on at the end, where it is quite out of place.

AIDED CHONCHOBUIR

Version A

From the Book of Leinster, p. 123b, and the Edinburgh ms. xl, p. 2.

1. Bāi mesça mór for Ultó fecht n-and i nEmain Macha. Docuridar didiu immarbāga móra 7 comrama eturro .i. etir Chonall 7 Coinculaind 7 Lōegaire. ‘Tucaid dam-sa’ ar Conall ‘inchind Me[i]ssgegra co ro-acilliu ócu na comram.’¹ Ba bēs d’ Ultaib ind inbaid sin cach curaid nomarbdais ar galaib ūenfir nogatta a n-inchind assa cendaib 7 commesct[h]a āel airthib co ndēnad līathrōite crūade dīb. Ocus intan nobītis i n-immarbāig nō chomramaib dobertis dōib co mbītis inna lāmaib.

2. ‘Maith, a Chonchobuir,’ ar Conall, ‘na co ndernat ūic na comram écht fōn innas-[s]a ar galaib² óinfir, nīdat tūalngi comram frim-sa.’ ‘Is fir ón,’ ar Conchobur.

3. Doratad īarum forsin forud fora mbíd dog.ēs ind inchind. Luid cach a lethi arnabārach dia cluchiu. Dolluid dano Cet mac Matach do chūairt ectra la Ultó. Bēist ass andsam robói i nHērinn in Cet. Ised dolluid-side dar faidchi na hEmna 7 tri lāechcind leis do Ultaib.

4. Intan bátar na ónmite ‘co cluchiu do inchind Me[i]ssgegra, issed atbert ind ónmit fri araile. Roclinedar Cet aní sin. Ethaid side in n-inchind al-láim indala n-ái 7 berid leiss, ū rofitir Cet robói i taringere do Messgegra a dīgail iarna écaib. Cach cath 7 cach irga[1] nobíd do Chonnachtaib fri Ultó dobered Cet in n-inchind inna chriss dús in tetarthad écht n-amra d’ Ultaib do marbad di.

¹ chomram Fcs.

² galam Fcs.

THE DEATH OF CONCHOBAR

Version A

1. Once upon a time the men of Ulster were greatly intoxicated in Emain Macha. Thence there arise great contentions and comparison of trophies between them, even between Conall and Cuchulinn and Loegaire. 'Bring me,' said Conall, 'the brain of Mesgegra, so that I may talk to the competing warriors.' At that time it was a custom with the men of Ulster to take the brains out of the head of every warrior whom they slew in single combat, and to mix lime with them, so that they were made into hard balls. And whenever they were in contention or at comparison of trophies, these were brought to them, so that they had them in their hands.

2. 'Well, O Conchobar,' said Conall, 'until the competing warriors perform a deed like this in single combat, they are not capable of comparing trophies with me.' 'That is true,' said Conchobar.

3. Then the brain³ was put upon the shelf upon which it was always kept. On the morrow every one went his own way to his sport. Then Cet, the son of Matu, went upon a round of adventures in Ulster. This Cet was the most troublesome pest that was in Ireland. This is the way he went, across the green of Emain, having with him three warriors' heads of the men of Ulster.

4. While the jesters (of Emain) were at play with the brain of Mesgegra, this is what one jester said to the other. Cet hears that. He snatches the brain out of the hand of one of them, and carries it off; for he knew that it had been foretold of Mesgegra that he would avenge himself after his death. In every battle and in every combat which the men of Connaught had with those of Ulster, Cet used to carry the brain in his girdle to see whether he could compass a famous deed by slaying a man of Ulster with it.

5. Fecht and *didiu* dolluid-seom intí Cet sair co tuc tánai mbó a Feraib Ross.. Donarraid i n-íarmóracht *Ulaid* ina diaid. Doriachtatar *dano* Connachtai dond leith aile dia thessarcain-seom. Fechair cath eturro. Dolluid Conchubur féin issin cath. Conid andsin gádatar mná Connacht do Conchubur tuidecht for leith do dēscin a delba dóib. Fobíth ní rabi for *talmain* delb duini amail deilb Conchobuir .i. etir chruth 7 deilb 7 dechelt, etir mét 7 córe 7 cu-trummae, etir rose 7 folt 7 gile, etir gáis 7 álraig 7 erlabra, etir erriud 7 áne 7 éosc, etir arm 7 immad 7 orddan, etir gnáis 7 gaisced 7 chenél. Nírbo lochtach tra intí Conchubur. A comairli *immorro* in Cheit rogabsat ná mná ailgis do Chonchobur. Luid íarum for leth a óinur dia dēscin dona mnáib.

6. Dolluid Cet *immorro* co mbúi etir na mná immedón. Nos-indlethar Cet inchind Mesgegra isin tábaill 7 nosteilec conidtarla im-mullach Conchobuir co mbátar a dā trían inna chind 7 co torchair-seom isa cend¹, co tarla fri lár². Focherddat *Ulaid* chuci³ conidruesat Ó Chet. For brú Átha Daire Dā Báeth is and dorochair⁴ Conchobar. Atá a lige and⁵ baile i torchair 7 corthe fria chend 7 corthe fria chossa⁶.

7. Maidid tra for Connachta⁷ co Sciaig⁸ Aird na Con⁹. Dobertar *Ulaid* sair doridisi¹⁰ co Áth Daire Dā Báeth. ‘Mo¹¹ brith-se ass !’ ar Conchobur. ‘Dobér ríge nUlad do neoch nombéra connici mo thech.’ ‘Notbér-sa,’ ar Cend Berraide, ar a gilla fadéin. Dobeir-side lomain imme 7 nombeir for a muin co Arddachad Slébe Fuáit. Maidid a chride isin gillu. Conid de sin atá ‘ríge Cind Berraide for Ultaib’ .i. in rí for a muin leth ind lái.

8. Conócbad trá in debaid ón tráth co araile dar éis in ríg. Co-ráimid¹² for Ultu iarsin.

¹ Here the Edinburgh ms. becomes legible.

² roimie a *talmain* Ed.

³ reithit na fir cuici iarsin Ed.

⁴ adorchair Ed.

⁵ ata a lecht ann 7 a

ligi Ed.

⁶ 7 araili fria bonn Ed.

⁷ strainter Connacht Ed.

⁸ sciaid L.

⁹ siar add. Ed.

¹⁰ maidid diu for Ultu soir Ed.

¹¹ From here to the

5. Once then Cet went eastwards until he took a drove of cows from the men of the Rosses. The men of Ulster overtook him in pursuit after him. Then the men of Connaught came up from the other side to rescue him. A battle is fought between them. Conchobar himself went into the battle. And it was then that the women of Connaught begged Conchobar to come aside so that they might see his shape. For there was not on earth the shape of a human being like the shape of Conchobar, both for beauty and figure and dress, for size and symmetry and proportion, for eye and hair and whiteness, for wisdom and manners and eloquence, for raiment and nobleness and equipment, for weapons and wealth and dignity, for bearing and valour and race. That Conchobar was faultless indeed. However, it was by the advice of Cet that the women importuned Conchobar. Then he went aside alone to be seen by the women.

6. Cet, however, went until he was in the midst of the women. He adjusts the brain of Mesgegra in the sling, and throws it so that it hit the crown of Conchobar's head, so that two-thirds of it entered his head, so that he fell upon his head forward to the ground. The men of Ulster ran towards him, and carried him off from Cet. On the brink of the ford of Daire Dá Báeth^a it was that Conchobar fell. His grave is there where he fell, and a pillar-stone at his head, and another at his feet.

7. The men of Connaught are then routed to Scé Aird na Con.^b The men of Ulster are driven eastwards again to the ford of Daire Dá Báeth. 'Let me be carried out of this!' said Conchobar. 'I shall give the kingship of Ulster to anyone who will carry me as far as my house.' 'I will carry thee,' said Cenn Berraide^c, his own attendant. He puts a cord around him, and carries him upon his back to Ard-achad^d of the Fews. The attendant's heart broke within him. Hence is the saying 'Cenn Berraide's kingship over Ulster,' to wit, the king upon his back for (only) half the day.

8. However, the fight was kept up after the king from one hour of the day to the same hour on the next day, after which the men of Ulster were routed.

end of the § Ed. omits.

¹² muigid Ed.

^a i.e. 'the Oakwood of the two foolish ones,' not identified. ^b i.e. 'the Hawthorn of the height of the hound (or hounds),' not identified. ^c i.e. 'Shorn-head.' ^d i.e. 'Highfield,' near Newtown Hamilton, Co. Armagh.

9. Doberar tra a liaig co Conchobar .i. Fingen. Iss ēside nofinnad don dīaid nothēiged¹ don tig in lín nobíd i ingleur 'sin tig ocus cech galar nobíd and. 'Maith²,' or Fingen, 'dia taltar³ in chloch as do chind biat marb⁴ fo chétōir. Mani tuchtar ass immorō, not-ícfaind 7 bid athis duit⁵.' 'Is asso dún' ar Ulaid 'ind athis oldás⁶ a éc-som.'

10. Ro-iccad⁷ īarum a chend⁸ 7 rofūaged co snáth⁹ óir¹⁰, ar ba cumma dath fuilt Conchobuir 7 dath inn óir. Ocus asbert in liaig fri Conchobar co mbeth i fomtin .i. ar nā tisad a ferg dó 7 nā digsed for ech 7 nā etraiged mnái [7 ná rocaithed biad] co anfeta 7 nā rethed.¹¹

11. Robói dano¹² isin chuntabairt sin céin¹³ robo beō .i. secht mbliadna 7 nírbo eignamaid, acht a airisium inna śuidi nammā .i. naco cūala Crīst do chrochad do Iudaib¹⁴. Tānic and side¹⁵ crith mór forsna dūli¹⁶ 7 rochrithnaig nem 7 talam la mēt¹⁷ in gníma darónad and¹⁸ .i. Ísu Crīst mac Dé bí do chrochad cen chinaid.¹⁹ 'Crāet so?' ar Conchobur fria drūid. 'Cia olc mór dogníther isind lathiu-sa indiū?' 'Is fir ōn ém,' ar in drúi. 'Is mór in gním sin,' ar Conchobur. 'In fer sin dano' ar in drúi 'i n-óenaidchi rogein 7 rogenis-[s]iu .i. i n-ocht calde Enair cen cop inund bliadain.'²⁰

12. Is andsin rochreiti²¹ Conchobar.²² Ocus issé sin indara fer²³ rochreti²⁴ do Dīa i nHērinn²⁵ rīa tiachtain creitmi é .i. Morand²⁶ in fer aile. 'Maith tra,' ar Conchobar.²⁷ 'Ba hapraind nadáil cuadríg

¹ .i. Fингin eisidein 7 ise trath nofinded in [sic] diaid notiged Ed. ² tra add. Ed. ³ tuchtar Ed. ⁴ asa cend in cloch bid marb Ed. ⁵ rohiefaither 7 biaid athais do Ed. ⁶ andas Ed. ⁷ rohicad Ed. ⁸ in cenn Ed. ⁹ snaithi Ed. ¹⁰ e add. Ed., omitting the rest of the sentence. ¹¹ co mbeith a foiditin .i. co na tisad ferg fai[r] 7 na tisad for ech 7 na tisad co mnái 7 na rocaithed biad co hanfeta Ed. ¹² om. Ed. ¹³ in cein Ed. ¹⁴ acht tairisim ina śuidi amain cusin uair rocrochad Crīst la Iudaib Ed. ¹⁵ annsin Ed. ¹⁶ duilib Ed. ¹⁷ meit Ed. ¹⁸ donither isin laithiu si aniu Ed. ¹⁹ d' Iudaib amairsecha Ed. ²⁰ cid so? or C. fria druidib 7 cia gnim mor donither annso aniu?

9. In the meantime his physician was brought to Conchobar, even Fingen. 'Tis he who would know from the smoke that arose from a house how many were ill in the house, and every disease that was in it. 'Well,' said Fingen, 'if the stone is taken out of thy head, thou wilt be dead forthwith. If it is not taken out, however, I would heal thee, but it will be a blemish for thee.' 'It is easier for us,' said the men of Ulster, 'to bear the blemish than his death.'

10. His head was then healed; and it was stitched with thread of gold, for the colour of Conchobar's hair was the same as the colour of gold. And the physician said to Conchobar that he should be on his guard lest anger should come on him, and that he should not mount a horse, that he should not have connexion with a woman, that he should not eat food greedily, and that he should not run.

11. In that doubtful state, then, he was as long as he lived, even seven years; and he was not capable of action, but remained in his seat only, until he heard that Christ had been crucified by the Jews. At that time a great trembling came over the elements, and the heavens and the earth shook with the enormity of the deed that was then done, even Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, to be crucified without guilt. 'What is this?' said Conchobar to his druid.^a 'What great evil is being done on this day?' 'That is true, indeed,' said the druid [who then tells the story of the Crucifixion]. 'Awful is that deed,' said Conchobar. 'That man, now,' said the druid, 'was born in the same night in which thou wast born, even on the eighth before the calends of January, though the year was not the same.'

12. It was then that Conchobar believed. And he was one of the two men that had believed in God in Ireland before the coming of the

Is fir or na druidi is gnim mor donither and .i. Crist mac De bi do chrochad la Iudaib .i. fer rogena[ir] a comais frit-si. Bachrach fili do Lagnib ise ro-indis do Chonchobur Crist do chrochad Ed. ²¹ dochreit Ed. ²² do Christ add. Ed. ²³ toisech add. Ed. ²⁴ dochreit Ed. ²⁵ om. Ed. ²⁶ mac Main add. Ed. ²⁷ From here to the end Ed. differs, as follows: 'Dofaetsat mile fer n-armach lim-sa ac tesarcain Christ.' Roling iarsin 'chum a di gai 7 rusbertaig co tenn gurromuigiter ina dorm 7 rogab iarum a chlaidein ina laim 7 rogab don cailliad uime co ndernaig mag don

^a to his druids Ed.

nar nagg atumbeoir irricht chrūadchurad cichtis cichtis [sic] mo beoil. concichlais crúas mór miled. maidm nitha muáid nimslóig serbairlech. sordnified soerchobair la Crīst congénaind. gáir báeth baruléim for leth amlan Chomded lanscél céchointir crochad ríg ba moo coirp arí ardrach adamrai. tumcichthe ingním itinol tairisem treóin uasal i Coimded coimthecht congnam cáin bé la Dia dílgadach dia chobair. cáin forlund fóbenaind. cáin comlund crothfind Crīst arnemthuir. nípu scíth ce chéssaitís coirp chriad. ciarbo ar Crīst caid cumachtach cia dú dún nadrochem rád dúr derchóinte runortar inarmen mona miad nadríg roachtmar roncráidi crochad Crīst ma chotócbaimmis ba hassu nadbemmis iar n-ardrach écomnart úasal rí rocés croich crúaid ar dōine digmaig dia ráith ragaind-se bás achtu flaith for leccaind fochil n-éca nabuni nemthuir necht remiteised dochoimrid mo chride clúas in ardrach ínguba ar mu dia indscib nadríg roacht co fir fortacht fritumthá brón bás conatbiur ar omun dom dul druib. cen dūlemain digail.'

13. Is and doringni Conchobar in rethoric se dia ro-innis Bachrach drúi de Lagnib do Chonchobur Crīst do chrochad, dia ra-iarfraig Conchobar: 'Ciata airde ingantacha so?' 7 c.

14. Nō dano co mbad é Altus in consul dodechaid ó Óchtauín do chungid in chīsa co Gædelaib no-innised do Chonchobur Crīst do chrochad.

caill i. Mag Lamrigi a Feraib Rus 7 ised atbert: 'is amlaid so do digolainn-si Crist for Iudalair 7 for in lucht rochroch he da roisind iat.' Lasin feirg sin roling incinn Miscegra asa cinn co tainic a incind fein fair gurbo marb de 7 conid aire sin aderait cach: 'is nemedac[h] Conchobar trit an durtacht doroine Conchobar.' Ise in dedenach [deigach ms.] adubairt Conchobar: 'gidbe nombera-sa cin tairisium fam connuici mo tech,' ar se (p. 3) . . . ardrigi nUlad nob . . . lam uime 7 berith go hArdachad tSleibi Fuait for a muin . . . isin gilla conid [d]e ata rige Ceinn Beriti for Ultaib i. in ri for a muin leth in lai. Ro foillsig Dia do Búiti mac Bronaigh incind Miscegra conid hi is adart Buiti aniu 7 is nemedach gach aen fora racha incind Miscegra ic dol fria bás 7 ata briathar a breth fodes a Lagnib 7 fortamlus doib iarsin. Conid hi a[i]ded Conchobair connuici sin.

^a From this point the Edinburgh version continues as follows: 'A thousand armed men shall fall by me in the rescue of Christ.' Thereupon he sprang towards his two lances and brandished them stoutly so that they broke in his hand; and then he took his sword in his hand and attacked the wood around him so that he

Faith, Morann being the other man. 'Well, now,' said Conchobar^a, 'it is a pity,' etc.^b . . . 'without avenging the Creator.'^c

13. This rhetoric Conchobar made when Bachrach, a druid of Leinster, told him that Christ was crucified, when Conchobar asked: 'What wonderful signs are these?' etc.

14. Or, again, it may have been Altus, the consul who had come to the Gaels from Octavian to seek the tribute, who told Conchobar that Christ was crucified.

made a plain of the wood, even Mag Lámráige in the land of the men of the Rosses. And he said this: "'Tis thus I should avenge Christ upon the Jews and upon those that crucified Him, if I could reach them.' Through that fury the brain of Mesgegra sprang out of his head so that his own brains came upon him, so that he died of it. And hence all say: 'A dweller in Heaven is Conchobar for the wish^d which he has uttered.' This is the last thing Conchobar said, 'Whoever would carry me without stopping under me as far as my house,' said he, 'shall have the kingship of Ulster,' &c. [Here follows the story of Cenn Berraide, as above.] God revealed the brain of Mesgegra to Buite the son of Bronach, so that at this day it is Buite's pillow; and everyone upon whom the brain of Mesgegra goes as he goes to death is sure of Heaven. And there is a saying that it will be carried southward into Leinster, and that thereafter Leinster will have superiority. So this is the Death of Conchobar as far as that.

^b I cannot translate the rest of the *rhetoric*.

^c Read *cen duléman digail*.

^d I read *dúthracht* for *durtacht*.

Version B

From ms. 23. N. 10 (R.I.A.), p. 1.

1. Bái Conchobar mac Nesai fechtus n-ann. Atfēt dō Altus crochad Crīst. Altus *immorro* is hē dothathaiged co clōemclōdaib sēd ō Tibir mac Augaist rī[g] Rōmān co Conchobar mac Nesa. Ar ba cuma bātar rechtairea rīg Rōmān in n-aimsir sin for medōn in uetha 7 for indsip fuinid 7 turcbālai, co mba comderb isin mbit[h] nach sgēl n-airdirc forcumcad ann.

2. Ba derb 'diu la Conchobur fon n-innus sin in crut[h] forcūa[i]d crochad Crīst. Ar atfēt dō Altus ba hē Crīst dorosat nem 7 talmain 7 is airi arfōit colainn ar tathereicc in cineda dōenai. Ba cretmech Altus, is aire atfēd cec[h] mait[h] im crochad Crīst.

3. Concreid Conchobur do Chrīst 7 is īarum asimbert Conchobur rofestais fir in betha a chumang oc cathugud fri hIudaidi croc[h]siti Crīst, ma nubet[h] hi comfogus do Chrīst. Is de ismbert Conchubar :

' Ba haprainn nandāil cuart rīg narnaic atum fir hi richt crōad-churad cichtis [mo beōil] *conciuchlis* [crūas] mār militha maidm netho mōith n-imdai slūag searbairlech soistnefeit soircobur la Crīst congaib geanām gāir bāit[h] for let[h] enæ lan Coimdid ba rolanscel cichointir crochat[h] fir ba inmoo mo corp canæ n-artrīg n-adamrai n-airerni atumcichtæ gnīm fir hi tinōl tairisem triun uaisib in Coimded chāith cumachtaigh can be ein lam dee ndīlgodag do cobur can forlonn foabeaba rinn cach comlann croit[h]finn la Crīst arnenitir nī bu seīth cichestæ ar Crīst cāth cumachtoch cid dudamī dun dērcōinti din reil rochuinem nadnea nderagam .i. dīgal duir choirp crochsiti rīg dorearoosat¹ ronort inni menman med nadrig roachta mar roncrāide crochad Crīst ma chutooccaibmis atbelmais ba hasa artrag ēcomnart hōasal rī rocēs croich coirtar doine ndicmaire diasait noregainn hi mbās atumflait for leicib fa chel necombaine inmain artriun do comrath mo chridea cloas imartrach atgubai arumeda inscibin na roacht fir furtacht Crīst fritombrōn bāis cuadbair airomun airimud tomdrub cen duileman dīgail.'

¹ This curious form, which seems to mean 'who has created us,' also occurs in *Imram Brain*, § 48: ónd rīg dorearoasat.

Version B

1. Once upon a time Altus related to Conchobar mac Nessa the crucifixion of Christ. Altus, however, used to visit Conchobar with exchanges of treasures from Tiberius, the son of Augustus the Roman. For at that time stewards of the King of the Romans were equally over the centre of the world and over the islands of the west and east, so that every famous story that would happen there was equally known in the world.

2. Hence, in that way, the manner in which the crucifixion of Christ happened became known to Conchobar. For Altus told him that it was Christ who had made Heaven and earth, and that to redeem mankind He had assumed flesh. Altus was a believer. 'Tis therefore he told every good thing about the crucifixion of Christ.

3. Conchobar believes in Christ; and then he said that if he were near Christ the men of the world would know what he could do in fighting against the Jews that had crucified Christ. Hence Conchobar said: 'It was a pity,' &c.^a . . . 'without avenging the Creator.'

^a I cannot translate the 'rhetoric' which follows.

4. Is iar sin cotnoscrastur *amail* bid oc techt hi rōi cathai ar bēlaip Crīst *co* sesceand asa c[h]inn an inc[h]inn Meisgedra 7 conidebilt ind ar sin. Ised isber[at] dee iarum is ē cēt-gentlide¹ docōid hi flait[h] nimea, fobit[h] robad bat[h]ais dō ind ful donescmacht² 7 rocreit ē do Christ. Finit. Amen.

Version C

From the Liber Flavus Fergusiorum, fo. 105 a 1.

1. [B]udh dāil mōr la hUlltu a Muigh Muirthui[m]ni. Doluidh³ iarum Bochrach fili 7 drāi⁴ do Loighnibh docum na dāla iar toidhicht dō a Laighnibh iar foghluim fili[d]echta. Fiafraiges⁵ Concubur scēla Alban 7 Leatha Mogha dō.

2. 'Atā sgēl mōr ēimh' ol sē, 'dorōnnadh isin bith thoir .i. crochad rīgh neimhi 7 talman la hIubhdaibh 7 is ē rotirchansat fāidhi 7 drāidhthi. Do īc 7 do teasraguin dāini an domuin do pheachd Adhaim dodeachaid ū næmneimh co roēt coluinn ū Muiri Óighinghin cen lāthair freasguil, cor'luidh⁶ a crand croichi la hIudhaib do īcc an ceineōil dænna. Imon cāisc docūaidh ūainn 7 atraacht isin treas lō iarna cēsadhl'.i. roinnis *dono* Altus, iss ē tiged⁷ co n-aitheasguibh 7 cu sēdaibh 7 co māinibh ū Tibir Šesair Aughuist rīgh Rōmān 7 ū rīg an domhuin co Concubur [mac] Neasa do Eamhuin Macha. Ar ba cuma bādar reachtuireadha rīgh an domuin isinn aimsir sin for meadhōn an beatha 7 a n-innsibh fuinidh⁸ grēine 7 turgabāla, co m[b]a comhderbh isin bith uili nach sgēl airderc⁹ foseumadh ann.

3. Ba derbh le Conchubhur fōn innus sin an cruth forcūaidh crochadh Crīst. Ar ro-innis Altus dō ba hē Crīst dorinni¹⁰ neamh 7

¹ geit rinsin ms. See Version B. ² leg. *donescmart*. Cf. ar écnairc inna fola doescmart erond, *Otia II.*, p. 97, § 30. ³ doluigh ms ⁴ draigh ms ⁵ fiabraidhus ms ⁶ corluigh ms ⁷ tigi ms ⁸ fuinigh ms ⁹ airdrech ms ¹⁰ dorinnidh ms

4. Thereupon he shook himself(?)^a as if he were going into a battlefield in the presence of Christ, so that Mesgegra's brain jumped out of his head, and then he died there. This is what they say,^b that he was the first pagan who went into the Kingdom of Heaven, because the blood which he had shed was a baptism to him, and (because) he had believed in Christ. Finit. Amen.

Version C

1. The men of Ulster were holding a great gathering in the plain of Murthemne. Then towards the gathering came Bochrach, a poet and druid of the men of Leinster, having come out of Leinster after learning poetry. Of him Conchobar asked tidings of Alba and Leth Moga.^c

2. 'There is great tidings indeed,' said he, 'which have happened in the eastern world, even the crucifying of the King of Heaven and Earth by the Jews; and He it is whom seers and druids have prophesied. To save and to rescue the men of the world from the sin of Adam He came from holy heaven; and He assumed flesh from the Virgin Mary without the presence of man^d; and to save the human race He went upon the tree of the cross by command of the Jews. About Easter He went from us and arose on the third day after His suffering,' viz., Altus also had told this. 'Tis he who used to come with messages and with treasures and precious things from Tiberius Caesar Augustus, even the king of the Romans, and the king of the world, to Conchobar son of Ness, to Emain Macha. For at that time stewards of the king of the world were equally over the centre of the world and in the islands of the setting and rising sun, so that every famous story that happened was equally known in the whole world.

3. In that way the manner in which the crucifixion of Christ happened became known to Conchobar. For Altus told him that

^a *cotnoscrastrar*, 3 sg. deponent preterite of *con-oscaim* (*con-od-scaraim*).

^b The Irish is corrupt here. ^c See above, p. 2, note. ^d *cen láthair freasguil* = *cen láthair ferdai*, Ériu II., p. 198, l. 16.

talumh. Et is aire arroēt colann ḍ Muiri ḍīgh ar taithchreich an ceineōil dænna. Ba creidmheach dono Altus fein. Is aire atfēt arsgēla Crīst co maith. *Concreid Concubur a Crīst.*

4. Nō is amlaid so atcæmnacair hē.

Budh¹ Concubur i ndāil 7 maithi fer nĒirenn uime an lā rocrochadh Crīst². Antan dodechaidh teimheal forsin ngrēin 7 rosūi³ ēsga a ndath fola rofiarfaigh⁴ Concubur immorro do Cathbad⁵ dūss cid rombādar na dūile. ‘Do comhalta-sa,’ ar sē, ‘in fer rogēanair a n-ōenaidchi frit, anosa martar docuirthi(?) fair 7 doradadh a croich⁶ hē 7 isē sin chanuid anní sin.’ Atraigi trath Concubur sūas la sodhuin⁷ 7 gabaid a gaisgedh fair 7 atbert: ‘Is ē sin ēimh’ ol sē, ‘mo comalta-sa 7 mo comāis 7 is ē rogēanair a n-ænoidchi frium’ 7 rogob iarum deargail ḍtā sin co ro-acht isin fairrgi 7 cur'luidh⁸ innti conruigi a fiacuil.⁹ Is oc in deargail iarum rogobh Concubur an lāid¹⁰ si: ‘Ba aprainn na hIdhuil eo hard iar n-ēguibh righ’ 7 rl.

5. Ocus as iarsin asbert Concubur: ‘Rofeasdais fir in beatha mo cumang ac cathugud fri¹¹ hIudaidhibh¹² tre crochad Crīst dia mbeinn a comfogus dō.’ Is iarsin attraacht 7 rosgobh forsin deargail cur’sceinn incinn Mesgeagra¹³ as a cinn 7 conearbaitl Concubur fochētōir. Conadh [d]esin adber[a]t na Gæidhil¹⁴ conadh hē Concubur cēt-geinntlide¹⁵ docōidh docum neimhi a nĒirinn, fōbīth robo baithis dō in fiul dobidg¹⁶ as[a] cinn. Et as annsin rucadh ainim Concubur a n-ifrinn gu comraiced⁷ Crīst fria¹⁸ ac te:uir¹⁹ na broide a hifrinn, co tuc Crīst leis anim Concabair docum neimhi. Finid.

¹ buidh ms ² r̄cr ms ³ rosuigh ms ⁴ rofiarfaidh ms ⁵ Cathbaidh ms

⁶ croid ms ⁷ soghuin ms ⁸ curluigh ms ⁹ ḍruigi ms ¹⁰ laig ms
¹¹ frith ms ¹² hiughāidhbh ms ¹³ Mesgeadhra ms ¹⁴ ghæidhil ms

it was Christ who had made Heaven and Earth, and that He had assumed flesh from the Virgin Mary for the sake of redeeming the human race. Altus himself, however, was a believer. 'Tis therefore he told the story of Christ well, and Conchobar believed in Christ.

4. Or 'tis thus it happened.

On the day that Christ was crucified, Conchobar was at a gathering, and the nobles of the men of Ireland around him. Now when darkness came upon the sun, and the moon turned into the colour of blood, Conchobar asked of Cathbad what ailed the elements. 'Thy own foster-brother,' said he, 'He who was born on the same night as you, is now undergoing martyrdom and has been put on the cross, and that is what this portends.' At that Conchobar arises and takes his weapons upon him, and he said: 'He is indeed my foster-brother and coeval, and 'tis He that was born in the same night with me,' and then he made an onslaught from thence until he reached the sea, and he went into it up to his teeth. 'Tis during the onslaught then that Conchobar sang this lay: ' 'Twas a pity that the Jews after a King's death,' &c.

5. And thereupon Conchobar said: 'The men of the world would know what I can do in fighting against the Jews for the sake of the crucifixion of Christ, if I were near Him.' Then he rose and made the onslaught, until Mesgegra's brains jumped out of his head, so that Conchobar died forthwith. Hence the Gaels say that Conchobar was the first pagan who went to Heaven in Ireland, for the blood that sprang out of his head was a baptism to him. And then Conchobar's soul was taken to hell until Christ encountered her as He brought the captive host out of hell, so that Christ took the soul of Conchobar with Him to Heaven. Finit.

¹⁵ geinntlighi ms

¹⁶ doluidgh ms

¹⁷ comfraicead ms

¹⁸ friadha ms

This spelling of the disyllabic *fria* 'versus eam' is evidently intended to distinguish it from *fria* 'to his (her, its).' ¹⁹ leg. tabairt ?

Version D

From the Stowe ms. D. 4. 2, fo. 54 a 3.

Incipit do oidhedh Concubuir mic Nessa annsō sis.

1. Ceat mac Mādach rotheilg in cloich i. inchind Miscedhra rīgh Laighen for Concubur hic Ath Dhaire Dá Bhæth. Finghen fāthliaig Concubuir is é ná rolēig in cloich do thabairt asa chind. Muma *immorro* in cerd iss é dorat cumdach impe ria cenn amuich. Bacrach file do Laighnibh ro-indis do Chonchubar Crīst do chrochad. I Maigh Lāmrighe atchūaidh dó. Is annsin dorochair Concobar ac glanadh in mhaighe. Trí traighthi *sechtmogat* ina fot. Cōica traiged *immorro* i fedh Taidhg mic Céin, ut dixit poeta i. Flann [Mainistrech] :—

‘Cōica traighedh tōlaibh tlacht fa slōghaib sain[f]ear srianbalcc fad in airdrīgh inar¹ lēir gart², Taidhg mic Céin ótāit Cianacht.

‘Concubur, cloithech a celg, mac noit[h]ech Nessa nīabdherg, airdrīgh Ulad, rodlecht de, dia ro[s]lecht lerg Lāmraidhe. Ina lecht, nī laimthi liacc, fūair trī traighthi *sechtmogat*.’

2. Is don cloich sin romudaig³ Conchubur rochan in fili :—

‘A chloch⁴thall for elaid⁴ ūair Buite būain maic Brōnaig bāin, ropsa⁵ mind i tressaib tóir dia mba i cind⁶ maic Nessa nāir.

‘Ciapsat⁷ náma dó rot-chelt,⁸ secht mbliadna lána rot-alt⁹: dia luid¹⁰ do dīgail Ríg recht, is and fo-frith¹¹ a lecht latt.

‘Láech frisralais co mbúaid¹² chain fúair lat loimm¹³ tonnайд īar sin : for mac Cathbath, cóinsit fir, dális dig di¹⁴ nathrach¹⁵ neim.

¹ leg. 'nar² In margin nō gaig³ romughaid ms⁴ elagh D⁵ robsat D

ropsa L

⁶ mbái a cind D⁷ ciapsam D⁸ rodotcelt C⁹ roalt D¹⁰ doluidh D¹¹ forrith L¹² commaid L

Version D

Incipit of the tragic death of Conchobar son of Ness here below.

1. At the Ford of Daire Dá Báeth, Cet mac Mágach threw the stone at Conchobar, viz., the brain of Mesgegra, king of Leinster. Fingen, the wizard-leech of Conchobar, 'tis he who would not let the stone be taken out of his head. Muma, however, the artificer, 'tis he who put a cover around it outside his head. Bachrach, a Leinster poet, told Conchobar that Christ had been crucified. In Mag Lamraige he told it to him. 'Tis there Conchobar fell in clearing the plain. Seventy-three feet was his length. Fifty feet, however, was the length of Tadg mac Céin, ut dixit poeta, *i.e.* Flann Mainistrech :—

‘Fifty feet, with abundance of delights, among hosts of strong-bridled distinguished men, was the length of the high-king in whom honour was conspicuous, of Tadg mac Céin, from whom are the Cianacht.

‘Conchobar, famous was his guile, Ness’ celebrated son of ruddy beauty, high-king of Ulster—he deserved it—by whom the slope of Lámraige was cut down. In his grave . . .^a he found seventy-three feet.’

2. Of that stone which ruined Conchobar the poet^b has sung :—

‘O stone yonder upon the cold tomb of ever-famous Buite, the blessed son of Brónach, thou wast a diadem in battles of pursuit while thou wast in the head of the noble son of Ness.

‘Though thou wast an enemy to him, he hid thee, he nourished thee for seven full years : when he went to avenge the King of laws, 'tis then was found his grave through thee.

‘The hero whom thou didst hit victoriously thereafter found through thee a draught of poison : to the son of Cathbad—men wailed—thou didst deal a drink of a serpent’s venom.

¹³ lom L fuair in tonnaigh D

¹⁴ dit D

¹⁵ nathraig L

^a I do not understand *ní laimthi liacc*.

^b *i.e.* Cináed húa Hartacáin.

‘ Neimnech dotuc¹ Cet an-dess
cenn ríg Emna orgsi leiss, a tress ard Ailbe fria aiss,
a inchinn Meis-gegra glaiss.

‘ Dotarlaic² dar ārach ūad³ Cet mac Māgach⁴ fri gliaid ngáeth⁵
ón muni rofitir cách co Ath ic⁶ Daire Dá Báeth.

‘ Scoiltis dít, ba móir in⁷ gním, mullach in ríg rígi gíall,
ar is é ba ferr do láech darsa taitned gáeth is grían.

‘ A ndor-airngred⁸ duit ót áis, maирg Laignech irraba⁹ gnáis,
nīr’ scarais¹⁰ frisin ríg rāin co rosfargbais¹¹ i ndáil¹² báis.

‘ For Lettir Lāmraigi luimm rotgíallsat¹³ druing na fían find,
do¹⁴ gleō frit chomthach ba gand co torchar¹⁵ and assa chinn.

‘ Fotroilsig¹⁶ Rí rodelb nem do mac Brōnaig ūas bri¹⁷ Breg,
i ndún daingen i n-rotail¹⁸ i fail ilar¹⁹ angel ngel.

‘ Ó chonattail fritt cen brath Buti co rath rúamnai cloth,
tairnit duit in tسلúaig²⁰ for ruth²¹ co rochlōemchlais²²
cruth, a chloch. A.

‘ Inchind Meiss-gegra ’sin chath, ropo gleō fri demna²³ troch,
adart Buti co tí bráth bud²⁴ é th’ainm la cách, a chloch. A.’

FINIT.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ¹ dothucc D | ² dotharlaic D | ³ ruagh D | ⁴ Matach L |
| ⁵ nglóed L | ⁶ om. L | ⁷ om. L | ⁸ ann dorighnedh D; |
| ndorairingered L | | ⁹ maирg a lagnech imba L | ¹⁰ ni rascarais L |
| ¹¹ cofargbais L | ¹² bain add. L | ¹³ rogiallsat D | ¹⁴ dot L |
| ¹⁵ torcair D | ¹⁶ rothoillsidh D | ¹⁷ brig D | ¹⁸ inattail L |
| ¹⁹ in fail hilliu D | ²⁰ in sluagh D | ²¹ rath D | ²² o rachloais D |
| ²³ demnu L | ²⁴ is D | | |

‘Venomous from the south Cet brought thee upon his back from the noble battle of Ailbe, the head of Emain’s king thou hast wrecked thereby, O brain of the youthful Mesgegra.

‘From the brake,—all know it,—to the Ford at Daire Dá Báeth, Cet mac Mágach^a sent thee in violation of a bond from him for a cunning fight.

‘He cleft with thee, the deed was great, the crown of the king’s head, a kingdom of hostages, for ’tis he that was the best hero on whom wind and sun would shine.

‘What was foretold thee all along,^b woe to the Leinsterman^c in whose company thou wast! thou ’never partedst from the noble^d king until thou leftst him in a meeting with death.

‘On the bare slope of Lámraighe hosts of fair bands did homage to thee: thy struggle against thy comrade was rare, until thou fellest there out of his head.

‘The King who has shaped Heaven has revealed thee to the son of Brónach above Brí Breg; in a strong fortress in which he slept, where there is a multitude of white angels.

‘Since Bute with grace of fame has slept on thee without treachery, the hosts have eagerly^e humbled^f themselves to thee, until thou changedst colour, O stone!

‘The brain of Mesgegra in the battle, it was a fight against demons of doomed men; “pillow of Bute,” until Doom that shall be thy name with every one, O stone! ’

FINIT.

^a On this form of the name see the notes.
phrase ót áis see *Eriu* II., p. 87.

^b For this meaning of the

^c i.e. Mesgegra, who was a Leinster King.

^d ráin, a by-form of ran, required by the metre.
‘speedily.’ Cf. *for rith*, *Imram Brain*, II., p. 302, § 5, and see the note, *ib.* p. 304.

^e tairnit, present tense, used, as in German and French, of an action that has been going on for some time and continues up to the present.

^f for ruth, lit. ‘a running,’

II. AIDED LÖEGAIRI BŪADAIG

Version A

From the Edinburgh ms. XL, p. 8.

1. Cid diatā A[i]ded Lōégairi Būadaig?

Ní hansa. Aed mac Ainninne dochomraic re Mughain (p. 9) Aitinchairchech 7 ben Conchobair in Mugain¹ sin. Fili Conchobair in tĀed. Rofes forro a mbeith amlaid.

2. Iarsin rohergabad la Conchobar in fili 7 rochuinnig² in fili comad hī a a[i]ded a bādud³ 7 ro...⁴ Conchobar dō inní sin 7 nobertha iarsin dia bādud dochum gach locha a nĒrinn 7 nocanad som bricht forsan usci, go mbenta gach trāig 7 co nach bīd banna ann, co nā raibi a nĒrinn abann⁵ nā loch nobāidfed, co ndechus lais do Loch Lái a ndorus tighe [Lōégairi]. Rofeimid som in bricht forsin loch. Antan didiu robás ac a bādud, as ann doriacht rechtairi Lōegaire asin lis amach. 'Fē amai, a Lōegaire!' or sē, 'ní frith a nĒrinn baile a mbāit[e]a in file co rāinic in baili si.' Atracht intí Lōegaire 7 geibid a chlaidem ina lāim 7 ac lēim dó imach benaid a mullach imon fordorus go ruc in leth iartharach do cloicenn de, co mbōi sprethach a inchi[n]de for a brot 7 romarb som iardain trīchait do lucht in bāiti 7 roēlo Aod ūatha 7 atbath Lōégairi iartain. Conid hī A[i]ded Lōégairi connuici sin.

Version B

From mss. 23. B. 21, p. 176, and 23. G. 21, p. 142 (R.I.A.).

An t-ádhbhar fá ttáinig bás Láoghaire Bhuadhaig.⁶

File imoro do bhí aig⁷ Conchubhur dá ngoirthidhe⁸ Aodha mac Aininn; 7 do ligheadh air Mhaghán bean Connchubhuir é: 7 air na fionnachtain sin do Chonchubhar as í breith rug air a chur⁹ dá bháthadh go Loch Laoghaire [sic]; 7 tangadar drong ris air fógradh an ríge gusan loch dá bháthadh; 7 air na faicsin sin do reachtaire Laoghaire Bhuadhaigh tét go Laoghaire 7 adúbhait nách raibh áit a nEirinn ina mbáithfidhe an file acht ina dhoras-sin; leis sin loingios Láoghaire amach 7 tarla fárdhorus an tighe re cún a chinn gur bhris a séicne 7 gur fóireadh an file leis, 7 éagas féin air an láthair sin: gonabh í¹⁰ sin Críoch Láoghaire, Bhuadhaigh.

¹ Magain ² rochuinnig ³ bad7 ⁴ Two or three letters cut

off with the edge of the page. Read either dámair or ðem.

⁵ Perhaps aba-

⁶ No title in G ⁷ ag G ⁸ goirthí G

⁹ ceur B

¹⁰ gon i G

II. THE DEATH OF LÓEGAIRE BÚADACH

Version A

1. Whence is the tragical death of Lóegaire the Victorious? Not hard to tell. Aed mac Ainninne cohabited with Mugain of the Furzy Hair.^a She was the wife of Conchobar; Aed was a poet of Conchobar's. They were found out.

2. Then the poet was seized by Conchobar's command, and the poet asked that his death might be drowning, and Conchobar granted him that; whereupon he was taken to be drowned to every lake in Ireland; and he would sing a spell upon the water so that it ebbed away until there was not a drop in it^b, so that there was not in Ireland any river or lake that would drown him, until they came with him to Loch Lai in front of Lóegaire's house. He was unable to work the spell upon the lake. However, while they were engaged in drowning him, Lóegaire's steward came out of the *liss*. 'Woe is me, Lóegaire!' he cried. 'They could not find in all Ireland a place in which to drown a poet till they came to this stead.' Lóegaire arose and took his sword in his hand; and as he was leaping forth he strikes the crown of his head against the lintel of the door, so that it took off the hinder part of his skull, and his brains were scattered over his cloak. And thereupon he slew thirty of the drowners, and Aed escaped from them. And then Lóegaire died. So far the Tragical Death of Lóegaire.

^a Aitten-chairchech, more usually called Aitten-chaithrech, and corruptly Etan-chaithrech. As to the exact meaning see *Ériu* 1., p. 117, note *b*.

^b This would appear to be the sense; but *go mbenta gach tráig* is obscure to me.

III. AIDED CHELTCHAIR MAIC UTHECHAIR

From the Edinburgh ms. lx, p. 9, and the Book of Leinster, p. 118a.

1. Cid diatá Aided Cheltchair maic Uthechair?

Ní hansa. Fer amra robúi de Ultaib¹ i. Blái briuga. Secht n-airgeda leis.² Secht fichit bó cecha airgi γ seisred³ cecha airgi. Tech n-óiged² Ba geiss dó⁴ dano² ben for dāmrud dia thig⁵ cen feiss dó-som⁶ le, meni beth a fer ina fochair. Doluid didiu⁶ Bríg Brethach ben Cheltchair⁷ dia thig-som.⁸ 'Ní maith a ndoronais,⁹ a ben,' ar Blái briuga. 'Is geiss dam-sa do thuidecht chucum¹⁰ amal táncais.' 'Is fer trúag,' ar in ben,¹¹ 'loites¹² a gessi féin.'¹³ 'Is fir. Isim senóir-si γ acum gressacht atái dano,'¹⁴ ar se. Fóid lee¹⁵ in aidchi sin.

2. Dofitir Celtchar inní sin γ doluid for iarair a mná.¹⁶ Luid Blái briuga co mbái for lethláim Conchobair isin rígthig.¹⁷ Luid dano Celtchar ina diaid co mbói for lár in rígthige.¹⁸ Is and robái Conchobar γ Cúchulaind ac imirt fidchille γ robái bruinne Blai briugad tarsin fidchill etarru γ clannaíd Celtchar in gáit trit co mbái isin cleith iarna cúl, co táinic banna do rind in gáit co mbái forsin fidchill.

3. 'Amin, a Chúchulaind!' ar Conchobar. 'Amin dano¹⁹, a Chonchobair!' ar Cúchulaind. Toimsit[h]er²⁰ in fidchell ón banna anunn γ ille²¹ dús cia díb diarbo foicsi²². Foicsi in banna dano²³ do Chonchobur γ rob siadi co dígail²⁴ iársin. Atbath immorro²⁵ Blai briuga. Atrulla²⁶ Celtchar co mbúi isna Déisib Muman tess²⁷.

¹ fer amra do Ultaib E ² om. E ³ seisr̄ E ⁴ dosom E
⁵ dochom [a thige] L ⁶ om. E ⁷ for oi [gidecht] add. E ⁸ dochum a
 thaig[e] L ⁹ ndernus E ¹⁰ thecht cucum E ¹¹ ar in ben om. E
¹² goittes L ¹³ a geis for mnai E ¹⁴ om. E ¹⁵ γ faidid le E
¹⁶ dolluid side diarra na mna L ¹⁷ co mbai etir Chonchobur . . . in c.
 Batar . . . desciurd ó Emuin Macha L ¹⁸ co [m]bui i comf[ocus] . . . L

III. THE DEATH OF CELTCHAR MAC UTHECHAIR

1. Whence is the tragical death of Celtchar mac Uthechair? Not hard to tell. There was a famous man of the men of Ulster, even Blái the Hospitaller. He owned seven herds of cattle, seven score kine in each herd, and a plough-team with each herd. He also kept a guest-house. Now it was a *geis* for him that a woman should come in a company to his house without his sleeping with her, unless her husband were in her company. Then Brig Brethach, wife of Celtchar, went to his house. 'Not good is what thou hast done, woman,' said Blái the Hospitaller. 'Thy coming to me as thou hast come is a *geis* to me.' 'It is a wretched man,' said the woman, 'that violates his own *gessa*.' 'Tis true. I am an old man, and moreover thou art inciting me,' said he. 'That night he sleeps with her.'

2. Celtchar came to know that; and he went to seek his wife. Blái the Hospitaller went until he was by the side of Conchobar in the royal house. Celtchar also went until he was on the floor of the royal house. There were Conchobar and Cúchulinn playing a game of *fidchell*; and Blái the Hospitaller's chest was over the play-board between them. And Celtchar plants a spear through him so that it stuck in the wattle of the wall behind him, so that a drop (of blood) from the point of the spear fell upon the board.

3. 'Forsooth, Cúchulinn!' said Conchobar. 'Indeed, then, Conchobar!' said Cúchulinn. The board is measured from the drop hither and thither to know to which of them it was nearer. Now the drop was nearer to Conchobar, and it was the longer till revenge.^a Blái the Hospitaller, however, died.

Celtchar escaped until he was in the land of the Déisi of Munster in the south.^b

¹⁹ om. E ²⁰ foimister E rottomsed L ²¹ alle E ille 7 inund L
²² cia da bad faisci E ²³ om. E ²⁴ siad cosin dic . . . L ²⁵ tra L
²⁶ 7 docuaid E ²⁷ aness E

^a i.e., I suppose, Cúchulinn would have avenged the deed on the spot. ^b Now the two baronies of Decies in Co. Waterford.

4. 'Is olc so, a Chonchobair!' ar Ulaid. 'Is toitim Déisi annso. Ropo lór in fer marb diar n-esbud¹ 7 ticed² Celtchar³ da thír,' ar Ulaid. 'Ticed dano⁴,' ar Conchobar, ' 7 eirged⁵ a mac for a cend 7 téiged i commairge fris⁶.' Ní⁷ gebtha dono cin ind athar forsin⁸ mac iná⁹ cin in maic forsin athair ac Ultaib in tan sin. Luid sidein didiu dia gairm¹⁰ co mbói thess¹¹.

5. 'Cid dia tutc[h]aidh, a macáin ?' or sé. 'Condigid siumh (*sic*) don thír,' uar in gilla. 'Cisse comairce dotaot frim ?' ol sé. 'Misi,' ol in gilla. 'Fír,' ol sé. 'Is séimh in *muin* doberat¹¹ Ulaid ummum-sa techt for muin mo mic.' 'Bid séimh a ainm 7 ainm a cheneóil¹²,' ar in drúi. 'An-sa, a gilla!' for sé, ' 7 ragat-sa anunn¹³.'

6. Dogníther ón 7 is de atá Semuine isna Déisib.

7. Isí immorro¹⁴ éraicc conattechtecht¹⁵ im Blái briugaid, na trí fochaide ata annsom¹⁶ doticfad¹⁷ la Ultu [ina] remes¹⁸ do dingbál díb.

8. Doluid didiu Conganchnes mac Dedad do dígail a bráthar for Ultu .i. Cúrúi¹⁹ mac Daire maic Dedad. Rofásraigestar Ultu co móir²⁰. Níngéibtis²¹ gái nó chlaidib, acht noscendis ass amal de chongnu²².

9. 'Díngaib dín in fochaid seo²³, a Cheltchair!' ar Conchobar. 'Maith ám,' ar Celtchar, 7 luid dia acallaim in Chonganchnis laa n-óen²⁴ co tard muin uime,²⁵ gur gell a ingin dó .i. Níab²⁶ ingen Cheltchair 7 proind céit cecha nóna dia tairiuc. Co tard²⁷ in ben bréic uime co n-epert fris: 'Innis dam-sa,' ar sí, 'amal marbhar tú²⁸.' 'Bera derga iarnaidi do tapaírt im²⁹ bonaib 7 tria mo luirgnib.'

¹ et as lór aoinfer do esbaid oirn E ² tabhartar Cealtchair E ³ dino E
⁴ eirched E ⁵ bí a comairci fair E ⁶ ni tei . . . L ⁷ for in L
 forsán E ⁸ nō L ⁹ di gairm Cheltchair L ¹⁰ aneas E
¹¹ doberait E ¹² chini E ¹³ om. L ¹⁴ tra L ¹⁵ conaitced E
¹⁶ annso L ¹⁷ tic . . . L ¹⁸ ina remes om. E ¹⁹ Conrui E
²⁰ Ultu commor L ²¹ ni gapdis . . . he E ²² noscingtis de amal bid
 codna nobendais E ²³ sin E ²⁴ laa and E ²⁵ tarad breit (leg.

4. 'This is bad, O Conchobar!' said the men of Ulster. 'This means the ruin of the Déisi. It was enough that we should lose the man who has died, and let Celtchar come (back) to his land,' said the men of Ulster. 'Let him come, then,' said Conchobar; 'and let his son go for him, and let him be his safeguard.' At that time with the men of Ulster a father's crime was not laid upon his son, nor a son's crime upon the father. So he went to summon him until he was in the south.

5. 'Wherefore hast thou come, my son?' said Celtchar. 'That thou mayst come to thy land,' said the lad. 'What is my safeguard?' 'I,' said the lad. 'True,' said he. 'Subtle is the treachery which the men of Ulster practise upon me, that I should go on my son's guarantee.' 'Subtle shall be his name and the name of his offspring,' said the druid. 'Wait, lad,' said Celtchar, 'and I will go (with thee).'

6. This is done, and hence is Semuine^a in the land of the Déisi.

7. However, this is the fine which was demanded for Blái the Hospitaller, to free them from the three worst pests that would come into Ulster in his time.

8. Then Conganchnes^b mac Dedad went to avenge his brother, even Curoi son of Daire mac Dedad, upon the men of Ulster. He devastated Ulster greatly. Spears or swords hurt him not, but sprang from him as from horn.

9. 'Free us from this pest, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. 'Surely I will,' said Celtchar. And on a certain day he went to converse with the Horny-skin so that he beguiled him, promising to him his daughter, even Niam daughter of Celtchar, as well as a dinner for a hundred every afternoon to be supplied to him. Then the woman beguiled him, saying to him: 'Tell me,' she said, 'how you may be killed.' 'Red-hot iron spits have to be thrust into my soles and

breic) frise L ²⁶ Niam E ²⁷ co tarat L ²⁸ co n-erbairt frie in
n-innas no mair . . . L ²⁹ [bera] iairn it eat derga tri . . . Here the
fragment in L ends.

^a A tribal territory of the Déssi, so called, according to the 'Expulsion of the Déssi' (p. 122), from Semon mac Oenguso maic Celtchair maic Uithechair.

^b i.e. Horn-skin.

Co n-epert si¹ riana hathair co ndernta dá bir móra lais 7 co tardta bricht súain fair 7 co tarcumlad slóg mór cuici. 7 dorónad amlaid. Et docóas ar a tarr co tardad na beru co n-ordáib ina bonaib 7 sechnóin a smera con dorchair lais, co tall a cend de, co tardad carn for a cend .i. cloch cacha fir tánaic ann.

10. Et isí fochaid tánaise iarsin .i. in luch donn .i. cuilén fúair mac na baintrebthaigi a cúas omna 7 ronalt an bantrepach co mba mór. Fadeoigh dono dofell ar cóerchu na bantrebthaigi 7 romarb a bú 7 a mac 7 romarb feisin hí féin 7 docóid iarsin co Glenn na Mórmuici. Les gach n-aidchi nofásaignchedh la Ultu 7 ina cotlud cach dia. ‘Díngaib dín, a Celtchair!’ ar Conchobar, 7 téit Celtchar a fidbaid co tuc cep ferna as 7 gur ro-(p. 11)clas comfada a lama 7 gur roberbh a lusaib tuthmara 7 a mil 7 a mbeoil gur bo bog righin. Téit Celtchar dochum na derca a cotlad in luch dunn 7 gabaid isin derc moch siu tísad in luch dond iarsan orcuin. Tic side 7 a srón a n-airde la tuth in croinn 7 lēicid Celtchar in crann tarsan derc amach cuici. Gabaid in chú ina beolu co tard a fiacula inn 7 rolen na fiacula isin maidi righin. Srengaid Celtchar in crann cuici 7 srengaid in chú isin leth anail 7 dobeir Celtchar a lāim iarsin cep co tard a chridi tar a bēl, co raibi ina dorn 7 ruc a cend lais.

11. *Ocus* in lā a cinn bliadna iarsin bātar būachailli a tāib cairn Congoncnis, co cūaladar iachtad na cuilén isin cairn 7 rotochladar in carn 7 fūaradar trī cuiléna ann .i. cū odur 7 cū minbrec 7 cū dub. Rucad in cū minbrec a n-ascaid do Mac Dāthó do *Laignib* 7 is impi dotuit sochaidi do feraib Érenn a tig Maic Dāthó 7 Ailbi ainm na con sin, 7 co mad do Cūland cerda dobert[h]a in chú odur 7 in chú dub Daol-

through my shins.' Then she told her father that he should have two large spits made, and a sleeping spell put upon them, and that he should gather a large host to himself. And so it was done. And they went on their bellies, and the spears were thrust into his soles with sledge-hammers and right through his marrow, so that he fell by him. And Celtchar cut off his head, over which a cairn was raised, viz. a stone was placed by every man that came there.

10. And this is the second pest, even the Dun Mouse, viz. a whelp which the son of the widow had found in the hollow of an oak, and which the widow had reared till it was big. At last then it turned^a upon the sheep of the widow; and it killed her kine, and her son, and killed herself, and then went to the Glen of the Great Sow.^b Every night it would devastate a *liss* in Ulster, and every day it lay asleep. 'Free us from it, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. And Celtchar went into a wood and brought out a log of alder; and a hole was dug in it as long as his arms, and he boiled it in fragrant herbs and in honey and in grease until it was soft and tough. Celtchar went towards the cave in which the Dun Mouse used to sleep, and he enters the cave early before the Dun Mouse came after the slaughter. It came, and its snout raised high in the air at the smell of the wood. And Celtchar pushes the wood out through the cave towards it. The hound takes it in his jaws, and puts his teeth into it, and the teeth clave in the tough wood. Celtchar pulls the wood towards him; and the hound pulls at the other side; and Celtchar puts his arm along the log (inside) and took its heart out through its jaws so that he had it in his hand. And he took its head with him.

11. And that day, at the end of a year afterwards, cow-herds were by the side of the cairn of Horny-skin, and heard the squealing of whelps in the cairn. And they dug up the cairn and found three whelps in it, viz. a dun hound, and a hound with small spots, and a black hound. The hound with the small spots was given as a present to Mac Datho of Leinster; and for its sake multitudes of the men of Ireland fell in the house of Mac Datho, and Ailbe was the name of that hound.^c And it would be to Culand the smith that the

^a *dafell ar* evidently stands for *do-ell for*. Cf. *dosai forsna cethra* below.

^b Not identified. ^c See the story of Mac Dáthó's pig, *Hibernica Minora*, p. 57.

cú Celtchair feisin. Ní lēiced side a gabāil do duine acht do Celtchar. Fecht ann ní bái Celtchar abus 7 do lēiced in cú amach 7 forfēimditer¹ in muinter a gabāil 7 dosāi forsna cethra 7 forna hindili 7 nomilled bī gach n-aidchi la Ultu fo deoid.²

12. 'Dīnguib didiu in fochaid³ ut, a Celtchair!' ar Conchobar. Luid Celtchar dochum in glenna 'na mbōi in cú 7 cét laoch lais 7 gairmid in coin fo thrī, co facadar in coin cucu 7 nosdīrgenn co Celtchar co mbōi ac lige a cos. 'Is trūag ām ann-dognī an cú,' ar cách. 'Ní biú-sa fot cinaid ní bus mō,' ar Celtchar 7 atnaig builli don lūin Celtchair, co ruc a cride trithi 7 co fūair [bás] īarsin. 'Fé amai!' ar cách. 'As fir,' ar sē la turgbāil an gāi sūas, gur fēimid brōen fola d'fuil na con cuici ar fut an gāi co ndechaid trīt co talmain, co mbo marb de. 7 rolaa[d] a gāir guil 7 rotōgbad a lia 7 a lecht ann. Conid hī sin A[i]ded Blái Briugad 7 Congonenis 7 Celtchair maic Uithechair. Finit.

¹ forfeimgiter E

² deoid E

³ fochaidi E

dun hound was given, and the black hound was Celtchar's own Dóelchú. It let no man take hold of it save Celtchar. Once upon a time Celtchar was not at home, and the hound was let out, and the people of his household could not catch it; and it turned among the cattle and the flocks, and at last it would destroy a living creature every night in Ulster.

12. 'Free us from that pest, O Celtchar!' said Conchobar. Celtchar went towards the glen in which the hound was, and a hundred warriors with him, and three times he calls the hound until they saw it coming towards them, making straight for Celtchar until it was licking his feet. 'It is sad, indeed, what the hound does,' said all. 'I will no longer be incriminated for thy sake!' said Celtchar, giving it a blow with the *lúin*^a of Celtchar, so that he brought out its heart, whereupon it died. 'Woe!' cried everybody. "'Tis true,' said he, as he raised the spear, when a drop of the hound's blood ran along the spear and went through him to the ground, so that he died of it. And his lament was set up and his stone and tomb were raised there. So this is the Tragical Death of Blái the Hospitaller, and of Horny-skin, and of Celtchar the son of Uthechar. Finit.

^a See the notes.

IV. AIDED FERGUSA MAIC RÓICH

From the Edinburgh ms. xl, p. 5.

1. CID DIATA A[i]dēd Fergus maic Róich?

Ní *hansa*. Būi Fergus for luinges i Connachtaib iarna sārugud im maccuib *Usnech*, ūair is ē in tres comairci tucad friu 7 Dubthach Dōeltenga 7 Cormac Conlonges mac Conchobair. Bātar dono uili tiar forsan loingis co cend cethri mbliaðna déc 7 nī an dono gul nā crith leo a nUltuib, acht gul 7 crith gach n-oidhchi. Is ē romarb¹ *Fiachraig* mac Conchobair 7 is ē romarb Geirgi mac nIlleda 7 as ē romarb¹ Eogan mac Durthact. Is lais tucad in tāin² i. la Fergus. Mōr tra do gnīmaib dorine sium a tegluch *Ailello* 7 *Medba* 7 ba minca nobid som 7 a muinter ar fot in tīre cena nā isin tegluch. Trīcha cēt rob ē līn na loingsi 7 is ē roba fer cumtha dō-som a tegluch *Ailello* i. *Lugaid* Daillēigis i. brāthair do Oilill in *Lugaid* sin.

2. Bātar ann iar ngnīmaib acon loch ar *Mag Ái*. Dūnad mōr leo i. cluichi³ 7 cēti ann. Laa n-aon ann dono luid in slōg uili i[si]n loch dia fothrucad. ‘Erg sīs, a Fergus,’ ar Ailill ‘7 bāid na firu!’ ‘Nīt maith a n-usci,’ ar Fergus. Luid-som sīs ar ái sin. Nīr fulaing a eridi do *Meidb* co ndecheid isin loch. *Mur* docūaid Fergus isin loch dorala ana mbui do *grenaig* 7 do *clochaib* a n-īchtar an loch[a] co raibi for ūachtar uli. Luid *Medb* didiū co raibi for a bruindi-sium 7 a gabla ime 7 co taircell-som in loch annsin 7 rogab ēt Ailill. Doluid didiū sūas *Medb*.

3. ‘Is ālaind a ndogni⁴ an dam, a *Lugaid*, 7 an eilit isin loch,’ ar Ailill. ‘Cid nach gontar?’ or *Lugaid* 7 nī tuc urchor n-imraill riām. ‘Teilg-su dūn orchur forru!’ ar Ailill. ‘Impō m’agaid⁵

¹ romarb- ms² antain intain ms³ el-ti ms⁴ anndogni ms⁵ mad- ms

IV. THE DEATH OF FERGUS MAC RÓICH

1. Whence is the tragical death of Fergus mac Róich? Not hard to tell.

Fergus was in exile in Connaught after his honour had been violated in the matter of the sons of Usnech; for he was one of the three guarantors that were given to them, the other two being Dubthach Chafertongue and Cormac Conlonges the son of Conchobar. These were all in exile in the west to the end of fourteen years, and (during all that time) wailing and trembling in Ulster never ceased through them,^a but there were wailing and trembling every night. 'Tis he who slew Fiachra the son of Conchobar, and Gerg the son of Illand, and Eogan the son of Durthacht.^b By him, even Fergus, the Táin was brought. Many deeds he did while in the household of Ailill and Medb; and he and his people were more often abroad in the land than in Ailill's household. Three thousand was the number of the exiled company; and his comrade in Ailill's household was Lugaid Dalléces, to wit, a brother of Ailill's was that Lugaid.

2. Once after deeds of valour they were by the lake^c on Mag Ai, where they had a large encampment, in which games and gatherings were held. Now on a certain day the whole host went into the lake to bathe. 'Go down, O Fergus,' said Ailill, 'and drown the men.' 'They are not good in water,' said Fergus. Nevertheless he went down. Medb's heart could not bear that, so that she went into the lake. As Fergus entered the lake, all there was of gravel and of stones at the bottom of the lake came to the surface. Then Medb went till she was on the breast of Fergus, with her legs entwined around him, and then he swam around the lake. And jealousy seized Ailill. Then Medb went up.

3. 'It is delightful what the hart and the doe are doing in the lake, O Lugaid,' said Ailill. 'Why not kill them?' said Lugaid, who had never missed his aim. 'Do thou have a cast at them!' said

^a i.e. through their deeds of vengeance. ^b i.e. the murderer of the sons of Usnech. ^c i.e. Findloch. See "Revue Celtique," xxiii., p. 338.

cuchta,' or Lugaid, '7 tabraigd gāi dam.' Robūi Fergus aca nige asin loch 7 a bruinni fria 7 tucad a carpat docum Oilello co mbūi ina farrad 7 do teilc Lugaid urcor don gāi co mbōi triana druim sīar sechtair¹. (p. 6) 'Doriacht an t-urchur!' ar Lugaid. 'Is fir on,' ar cāch, 'atāt bruindi Fergus.'

4. 'Trūag sin,' ar Lugaid, 'mo chomalta 7 m' fer cumtha do marbad dam-sa cin cinaid.' 'Mo carpat dam-sa!' ar Ailill. Tēit in slōg uili for teiched, cach fer a leth fri tir etir luinges 7 Connachta. Gataid Fergus² an gāi as 7 teilcid a ndiaid Ailello co ndechein tresin milco[i]n būi etir dā fertas in carpait. Luid Fergus īarum asin loch 7 nusdīrgenn forsan tulaig a taeib in locha 7 luid a anum as focētōir 7 atā a lige ann fōs. Conid hī A[i]ded Fergus[a] connuici sin.

¹ sechtduir ms

² Fergus ms

Ailill. ‘Turn my face towards them!’ said Lugaid, ‘and bring a lance to me!’ Fergus was washing himself in the lake, and his breast was towards them. And his chariot is brought to Ailill, so that it was near him; and Lugaid threw the lance, so that it passed out through his back behind. ‘The cast has gone home!’ said Lugaid. ‘That is true,’ said all; ‘it is the end^a of Fergus.’

4. ‘How sad,’ said Lugaid, ‘if I should have killed my foster-brother and comrade innocently.’ ‘My chariot to me!’ said Ailill. All the host began to flee, each man towards the shore, both the exiled and the men of Connaught. Fergus draws out the lance and hurls it after Ailill, so that it passed through the deerhound which was between the two hind-shafts of the chariot. Thereupon Fergus came out of the lake, and straightens himself out upon the hill by the side of the lake; and his soul passed out of him forthwith. And his grave is there still. So this is the tragical Death of Fergus so far.

^a There is here an untranslatable play on the word *bruinne*, which means both ‘breast’ and ‘end.’

V. AIDED CHEIT MAIC MĀGACH

Version A

From the Edinburgh ms. xl., p. 7.

1. Cid diatā A[i]ded Ceit maic Māgach?

Nī hansa.

Luidh Cet fecht ann a crīch nUlad do chuinghi[d] gona duine, inní ba minic lais .i. Ulaid do goin, ûair nī dechaid asa nōendin rīam [cen] guin Ultaig.

2. Luid sium siar īarum 7 trī nōi¹ cinn do Ultaib lais 7 docuredh īarum Conall Cernach for a lurg co Brēfni Connacht. Laad snechta an gemrid do sunnrad, co fūair Conall a fāstig hē ac fuine a chotach² 7 a ara. Bātar tra na eochu fōn carpat amuich.

3. 'Is ē Cet so,' ar Conall, '7 nī fīu dūin comrac fris ar a doilghi 7 ar a crōdacht. Is amnus in fer fil [and],' ar Conall. 'Fē amai!' ol in t-ara, 'nī maith tig tar do beōlu, in pēist fil for dīgail Ulad [cen] gabail tige fair 7 nī meabal tra comtuitim duit fris, oir atā dia beōdacht³ connuic so.' 'A athair,' ar Conall, 'nī tibur m' anum do lāith gaili fer nĒrenn 7 dobēr tra comartha forsna eochu.' Gadaid Conall dūal a muing na n-eoch 7 dobeir andlochtan a cinn in carpait 7 tēit as sair co hUltu.

4. 'Fē, a Ceit!' ar an t-ara. 'Nī fē,' ar Cet, 'is mait[h] in t-anocul tuc for na heocha. Conall so,' ar sē, '7 biaid caradrad de 7 bid maith hē.' 'Fē amae!' or in t-ara, 'in fer rolá ár Connacht do tabairt mēla fort 7 nī toircēba t'ainm co bráth can a bás nō can a rūacad a fescur.' 'Maith ám,' ar Cet. Lotar ina diaid co hĀt[h] Ceit.

¹ The ms has the ordinary compendium for *nó*, with a dot or small *i* over it.² a acotach ms³ beogachta ms

V. THE DEATH OF CET MAC MÁGACH

Version A

1. Whence is the Death of Cet mac Magach ?

Not hard to tell.

Once upon a time Cet went into Ulster to seek the slaying of a man, a thing he often did (viz., to slay Ulstermen), for from his childhood he never went without the slaughter of an Ulsterman.^a

2. So he went westwards, having the heads of thrice nine men of Ulster with him. And Conall Cernach was then sent upon his track to Brefne in Connaught (for winter-snow had fallen), until in an empty house he found him and his charioteer cooking their meal. The horses, however, were under the chariot outside.

3. 'This is Cet,' said Conall, 'and it is not fitting for us to fight with him on account of his ferocity and his fierceness. He is a savage man,' said Conall. 'Woe!' said the charioteer, 'no good comes over thy lips, not to storm the house in which is the pest that is harrying Ulster, and it is no shame for thee to fall in combat together with him; for such is his courage until now.'^b 'O father,' said Conall, 'I shall not give my life to any hero of the men of Ireland; but I shall put a token upon the horses.' Conall snatches a lock out of the mane of the horses, and puts a wisp upon the front of the chariot, and goes away eastward to Ulster.

4. 'Woe, Cet!' said the charioteer.

'Not woe,' said Cet. 'It is well that he has spared the horses. This is Conall('s doing),' said he, 'and from this there shall be friendship, and it will be well.'

'Woe,' said the charioteer, 'that the man who has made a slaughter of the men of Connaught should put disgrace upon thee, and thy name will not endure till Doom without thy killing him or putting him to flight this evening.' 'Right indeed,' said Cet. They went after him as far as Cet's Ford.

^a Cf. fer ná dechaid asa náindin riam eret robói gáí ina láim cen chenn Connachtaig leis, Zeitschr. 1., p. 103, 1.

^b Here the text seems corrupt.

5. 'Amin, a Chonaill!' ar Cet. 'Cid sin, a Ceit?' ar Conall. 'Ní racha as aniu, a clóain,' or Cet. 'Dōig lem,' or Conall ac intód¹ cuici 7 nothūairgenn (p. 8) cāch dīb a chēili co clos fon dīthrub uli a ngnīthech 7 a mbolcfadach 7 gāir na scur 7² an anr³ ac lāigedh na lāth ngaili robātar isin āth, co torchair cechtarde anunn 7 anall. Marb immorro Cet fo cētōir 7 dororchair Conall a nēl.

6. Ocus dūscid Conall asa nēl. 'Ber lat na hechu co hUltu,' or sē, 'ar nā romaigset Connachta cetus.' Farofēimid in gilla tra a tōcbāil-som ina carpat 7 ceilebraid in gilla dō īarum 7 luid dia tig. 'Olc so tra,' or Conall, 'aonfer do Connachtaib 7 rogellus-[s]a ām,' ar sē, 'nach[am] muirfed aonfer do Chonnachtaib 7 robo ferr lem inā rīge in domuin nech do Chonnachtaib dom athguin co nā ba[d] for aon fer do Chonnachtaib nobeith mo marbad.'

7. Bélchu Brēfni tra, is ē tānic ar túis. 'Cet so,' or sē. 'Conall dono sunna,' ar sē 7 bid⁴ maith an Ēriu festa,' or sē, 'ō dotorchair in dā árchoin so doloitsitar an Ēiriū eturra,' la tabairt a[i]rlaindi a t̄sligi for Conall. 'Fair t̄irlaind dīm, a athair!' or sē. 'At beō,' ar Bélchū. 'Ní buide⁵ frit ūn,' ar Conall, 'am beō-sa.' 'Fír, a Conaill,' ar Bélchū, 'a[c] cuinci[d] do gona atāi form-sa 7 nī dingēnsa, oir is marb cena tū.' 'Ní lēmt[h]a cid mo brat do goin,' ar Conall, 'a caillech trūag!' 'Nītmairbfet-sa⁶ tra, acht atā nī cena,' ar sē. 'Notbēr lem dom tig 7 not-īcfaiter acum 7 madat⁷ slān immorro caithfet frit.'

8. Iarsin tra tōcbaid for a muin 7 a leth ina diaid, co rāinic a tech 7 dobeir leaga cucui gur bo slān. 'Bid fir,' ar Bélchū fria maccaibh, 'raga in fer sa ūaim 7 nī dingna ar les. Marbaid in fer resiu dech⁸

¹ intógh ms

² Here the ms is illegible.

³ An leg. a n-arad?

⁴ bit ms

⁵ buige ms

⁶ nitmuirbebsom ms

⁷ magat ms

⁸ dech- ms

5. 'Now, Conall!' said Cet.

'What is that, O Cet?' said Conall.

'Thou shalt not escape to-day, O evil one,' said Cet.

'That is my opinion too,' said Conall, turning towards him. And each of them smites the other, so that their shouting and their panting, and the . . . of the horses, and the . . . of their charioteers(?) inciting the heroes who were in the ford were heard throughout the wilderness, until both fell to this side and that. Cet, however, died forthwith, and Conall fell into a swoon.

6. And Conall awoke out of his swoon. 'Take the horses with thee to the men of Ulster,' said he, 'before the men of Connaught . . .'^a However, the lad was unable to lift him into the chariot, and so he bids him farewell, and he went home. 'Now, this is bad,' said Conall, 'that a single man of Connaught should have wounded me,'^b while I have vowed that no single man of Connaught should kill me. And I had rather than the kingship of the world that some one of Connaught should wound me again, so that the slaying of me should not rest with one man of Connaught.'

7. Bélchú of Brefne, however, was the first to come there.

'This is Cet,' said he. 'And here is Conall,' said he. 'And henceforth Ireland will be happy, since these two slaughter-hounds have fallen, who ruined Ireland between them.' So saying, he set the butt-end of his spear on Conall. 'Take away^c thy spear from me, O father,' said Conall. 'Thou art alive,' said Bélchú. 'No thanks to thee,' said Conall, 'I am alive.' 'I see it, O Conall,' said Bélchú, 'thou wouldest have me slay thee. But I shall not do so, for thou art dead as it is.' 'Thou wouldest not dare to wound even my cloak,' said Conall, 'thou wretched old woman.' 'I shall not kill thee now, but there is something else. I shall carry thee with me to my house, and thou shalt be healed with me; and when thou art whole, I shall fight with thee.'

8. So then he lifts him on his back, half dragging him behind, until he reached his house. And he brought physicians to him until he was whole. 'It will be even so,' said Bélchú to his sons, 'this man will escape from me and will do us no good. Kill ye the man

^a *romaigset?*
'take heed.'

^b Something like this seems omitted.

^c Literally

úain. Tigid iarum cucui uili amáraach d'agaid, co facar-sa in airecul fosclaicthi ar bar cinn 7 marbaid [é] ina lebaid.' Rofitir fer in imnid 7 an uile móir .i. Conall in mídúthracht robói dō.

9. 'Dūn in tech !' ar Conall fri Bélecoin. Téit sair 7 fácaid in tech fuslaicthi. 'Mait[h] didiu, a Bélc'hú,' ar Conall, 'tarr am lebaid-sa !' 'Ní tō,' or Bélc'hú. 'Do cenn dít-sa,' ar Conall, 'mina tísi isin lebaid.' 'Bid éicin,' ar Bélc'hú. Dūnaid¹ didiu Bélc'hú in tech. Iar cotlud do Bélc'hoin fuslaicid² Conall an tech. Dothecait maic Bélc'hon dochum na imdaidi a mbái a n-athair 7 doberait a tri slígi trit gur marbsat 7 eirgid Conall iarsin 7 imrid a claidem forra co mbói spreathach a n-inceinni im na fraighthaib 7 beridh a ceithri cinnu lais sair, co riacht a thech rēsiu roba matin. Conid hī A[i]ded Ceit 7 Bélc'hon Bréfni cona maccaib in sin.

Version B

From mss. 23. G. 21, p. 140, and 23. B. 21, p. 174 (R. I. A.).

Ag so síos do bhás Cheit mic Mághach.

1. Ba tréinfear an Ceat so 7 fa biodhbha biothfoghlaidh air Ulltaibh é feadh a ré. Lá n-aon dá ndeachaidh an Ceat so a nUlltaibh ag deanamh díbfeirge amhul fá gnáith leis go ttárla sneachta mór fán am sin ann; 7 ag tille do 7 trí ceinn laoch air gad aige do marbadh leis 'san turras³ sin, thig Conall Cearrnach air a lorg gur chuir fá għreim é ag Āth Cheat, gur chomruic siad le chéile, gur thuit Ceat 'san chomhlann 7 gur tromghoineadh Conall féin, gur thuit a néal air an láthair iair ttréigion iomaid fola do. 7 leis sin tig Béalc'hú Bréifne, tréinfear eile do Chonnachtaibh do láthair. Mar fuair Ceat marbh 7 Conall a ccrothaibh báis adubhairt gur mhaith an sgéal an dá onnchoin sin dá ttáinig aighmhille Éireann do bheith isna hann-rachtaibh sin.

2. 'As fíor sin,' air Conall, '7 a ndíol a ndearrna mise d' ulc air Chonnachtaibh riámh marbh-sa me !' As uime adubhairt Conall sin do brígh go madh fearr leis ná flaithios Éireann laoch eigin⁴ eile dá

¹ dunaig ms

² fusti ms

³ turruis B

⁴ om. B

before he goes from us! Come then to him all of you to-morrow night, when I will leave the house open before you, and kill him in his bed.' The man of affliction and great woe, even Conall, knew the evil intent which was (harboured) against him.

9. 'Close the house!' said Conall to Bélechú. He goes forward and leaves the house open. 'Well now, Bélechú,' said Conall, 'come into my bed.' 'Nay,' said Bélechú. 'Off with thy head!' said Conall, 'unless thou come into the bed.' 'It must needs be,' said Bélechú. Then Bélechú closed the house. When Bélechú had fallen asleep, Conall opens the house. The sons of Bélechú come towards the bed in which their father was and put their three spears through him, so that they killed him. And then Conall arises and plies his sword upon them, so that their brains were scattered about the walls. And he carries their four heads with him eastward until he reached his house before it was morning. So that is the Death of Cet and of Bélechú of Brefne with his sons.

ghoin ionnus nach beth clú a mharbhtha air aonlaoch amháin do Chonnachtaibh. 'Ní mhuiरfid,' air Béalachú, 'oir as geall re bheith marbh dhuit an riocht ina bhfuile. Gidheadh, béal liom thú 7 cuirfead Leighios ort 7 más téarmóidh¹ ód othrus² duit, do dhéan comhrac áenfir leat go ndíoghalta liom ort gach dochar 7 gach díth dár himreadh leat air Chonnachtaibh.'

3. Agus leis sin cuirios iomchar faoi 7 beirios leis dá thig féin é, gur chuir Leighios air ann go beth dá chréachtaibh cneasda. Mar do mheas umorro Béalachú eision ag tearnó 7 a neart féin a teacht arís ann, do ghabh eagla ré Conall é 7 ollmhuiгtheар triur laoch da chlainn ré Béalchoin re marbhadh Chonaill tré feall 'san oidhche air a leabaidh, Gidheadh, fuair Conall dóigh air chogar³ na ceilge sin, 7 an oidhche do bhí a bharra⁴ fán ecloinn teacht ag déanamh na feille, adubhairt Conall le Béalchoin go ccaithfeadh malairt leaptha d' fághail uaidh no go muirfeadh. 7 leis sin luigheas Béalachú gér leisg é a leabaidh Chonaill 7 do luigh Conall ina leabaidh sin, go ttángadar an triur laoch sin fá chlainn do Béalchoin d' ionsuighe na leaptha ina mbíodh Conall, gur mharbhadar a n-athair a riocht Chonaill.

4. Mar do mhoithigh Conall iad sin iar marbhadh a n-athar ina riocht féin, do ling ortha 7 marbhthar leis iad a ttriur 7 díthcheanntar leis iad mar aon lena n-athair, go rug airnamháireach a ccinn dá ecomh-mhaoidheamh go hEamhuin. Gonadh ag muidheamh an ghníomha sin atá an file 'san rann so :

Fá do chearrdaibh Conaill Chearnaigh]
ionnradh Manann, móر an modh,
is goin trí mac Béalachón Bréifne
iár ngoin⁵ athar⁶ na ttrí ccon.

Gonadh é sin marbhadh Ceit mic Mághach 7 Bhéalchon gona thriur mac go roich so ; gidheadh as iomdha éacht adhbhal eile do féadfaidhe do chomhmuidheamh air Chonall fuigfiom don chur so gan cur síos ann so.

¹ teárnoidh B

⁵ bhéil add. BG

² tothrus G ; tfothras B

⁶ athair BG

³ chogair B

⁴ bhara B

NOTES

p. 4, § 1, *commesetha*, better *conmesetha*.

ib., § 3, *a lethi arnabárach*, perhaps miswritten for *a leth iarnabárach*.

p. 7, § 5. Similar incidents of self-display to women occur in the *Táin Bó Cuailngi* (Cúchulinn), and in *Dindsenchas* 9 (Niall).

p. 11, l. 1, *Morann, son of Móen* add. Ed.

p. 12, § 2. Perhaps instead of *forcua[i]d* we should read *forcu[mc]ad* as in § 1. But cf. *forcuad* 'has been completed,' Tur. 49. So also *foscumadh*, p. 14, § 2, may be miswritten for *forecumead*.

p. 15, l. 4. *The blood which he had shed was a baptism to him.* So the Holy Innocents were baptised with their blood. See *Fél.*², p. 468.

p. 20, l. 2. Note the internal rhyme between *Emna* and (*Meiss-*)*gegra*. Similarly ib., l. 16 (*Meiss-*)*gegra*: *demna*.

ib., l. 3. As there is internal rhyme in every couplet of this poem, it is evident that Cináed húa Hartacáin wrote *Mágach*, which alone would give the required rhyme with *árah*. In his poem, *Fianna bátar i nEmain* ('Rev. Celt.' xxiii., p. 308), *Mágach* rhymes with (*ro*)*lámad*.

ib., l. 7. Note the internal rhyme between (*dor-*)*aingred* and *Laignech*.

p. 22, § 2, *co ráinic in baili si*. Here *co ráinic* is either a petrified phrase like *corrīci*, or, more likely, *ráinic* is used impersonally like the German *es kam*. The impersonal use of certain verbs, such as *dogní*, *do-icc*, and others, deserves special study. Cf. *dorigne lúaith de*, literally, 'it made ashes of him'; *ó thánic cusna dedenchu dó*; *ó rosiacht cusna dedenchu dó*, &c.

p. 24, § 1. *Celtchar* son of *Uthechar*,¹ from whom *Dún Celtchair*, a large fort near Downpatrick, is named, is often mentioned, together with *Conall Cernach*, *Fergus mac Róich*, and *Lóigaire Búadach*, among the older generation of the Ulster heroes. In the story of *MacDáthó's Pig*, he is called 'a tall, grey, very terrible warrior' (*láech liath mór forgráonna*, § 13). His wife was *Brig Brethach* (§ 1 and FB. 28). His daughter *Niab* (§ 9) was the wife of *Cormac Condlongas*, the son of *Conchobor* (ib.). One of his sons was called *Liath* (*Tochm. Etáine*, 16, 19). He had two brothers, *Glas* and *Menn* (Henderson, *Fled Br.*, p. 132). He is called *Celtchar na celg*, 'C. of the wiles,' in *Serglige Conculaind*, § 29.

ib., § 2. *Blái Briuga's* burial-place is mentioned in a poem at the end of *Leabhar na hUidhre* (p. 134b), the fragmentary state of which is greatly to be regretted, as the poem is evidently very old, and we have no second copy. This

¹ He is called *mac Uthidir*, LU. 121 b, in *Tog. Br. D. D.*, and elsewhere.

poem is entitled, 'The places in which the heads of the Ulster champions are. From the Book of' . . .¹ Only three quatrains are preserved, as follows:—

Hönd ūair dundánic Fáilbe d'Eliu iar n-imram ch[urach]
 indid dam-se citn' armand hi fil chend erred Ul[ad].
 Īarna thabairt do Maig Breg do Ráith Emnæ tūaith a[
 adradnacht cend Conchobuir for a cholaind im-Machi.
 Góeta diág mná Celtchair cinid cechind ha hisil
 cend Blái Briugad iar n-insu da néim hEmuin fa des . . .

In his poem beginning *Fianna bátar i nEmain* (*Rev. Celt.* xxiii., p. 308), O'Hartacán says that he died *tria chin mná i ndesciurt Óenaig Macha*.

p. 27, l. 4. According to the *Expulsion of the Déssi* (p. 122), the name of this son of Celtnchar's was Óengus.

p. 28, § 10. The monster called *Luch donn*, or Dun Mouse, is also mentioned in the dindsenchas of Alend (E. Gwynn, *Metrical Dindsenchas* II., p. 80). In *Fled Bricrend*, §§ 22, 46, the name is applied as an epithet to Loegaire Buadach. Thurneysen's rendering 'Mäusehaut,' as if *luch-thond* (Sagen aus dem alten Irland, p. 35) should be corrected accordingly.

p. 29, l. 5. In *Fled Bricrend*, § 7, Celtchar boasts of having slain Conganchness, and cut off his head.

ib., § 11. A marginal gloss in LU. (p. 61) contradicts the statement here made that the hound of Culand the smith was one of the three hounds that were in the brain of Conganchness. It says that these events happened long after the *Táin*, and that the smith's hound had been brought out of Spain. 'Nirbo é in tres cù robói i n-inchind Conganchnis in cù sin amail is cétfaid do foirind. Ar is do dígail Conrói for Ultaib dodeochaid Conganchnes 7 fota a aithli na Tána cid héside 7 hi cind a secht mbliadna romarb som (i. Cúchulaind) coin na cerda. Conid bréc amlaid sin cétfaid na fairni út, ar is a Hespán tucad cù na cerda amail innistir hi curp in sceoil.'

p. 31, l. 1. *Dóelchú*, *Celtchar's own hound*. The name of this hound is also mentioned in the Dindsenchas of Sliab Callann (*Rev. Celt.* xvi., p. 53), and in the glosses on O Hartacán's poem *Fianna bátar i nEmain* (ib. xxiii., p. 320² and 325).

Dóil, i.e. 'Black Chafer' seems to have been a common name for black hounds. One of Maelfothartaig's favourite hounds bore the same name in its diminutive form *Dóiline* (see *Rev. Celt.* xiii., p. 393).

ib., § 12. Celtchar's death is mentioned in O Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308) as having occurred eastward of Dún Lethglaise, i.e. Downpatrick.³ In the gloss the fatal drop is said to have passed through his head.

¹ Inna hinadu hi filet cind erred [n]Ulad in so. Allib[ur] . . .

² Here, in § 15, for *Dóelcu chelch*. *mc* read *Dóelcú Cheltchair maic* [*Uthechair*], and correct the translation on p. 335 accordingly.

³ 'Atbath Celtchair cona dálí fri Dún Lethglasse anair.' Stokes reads *conad ail*, and translates, 'so that it is a shame.' The glossator certainly read *cona dálí* 'with his Dael,' though this makes a poor rhyme with *anair*.

p. 31, § 12. The *luin Cheltchair* was a lance found in the Battle of Moytura, whose deadly qualities are thus described in *Bruden Dá Derga*, § 129: 'When it is ripe to pour forth a foeman's blood, a caldron full of blood is needed to quench it when a deed of manslaying is expected from it. Unless it gets that, it will flame on its haft, and will go through its bearer or the master of the palace wherein it is. If it is a thrust that is given by it, it will kill a man at every thrust while it is at that feat, from one hour to another, though it may not reach him. And if it be a cast, it will kill nine men at every cast, and one of the nine will be a king or a crown prince or a chieftain of reavers.' After Celtchar's death, it passed into the hands of Dubthach Dóil Ulad (ib.); Dubthach was himself slain with it by Fedlimid (see Hennessy's edition of *Mesca Ulad*, pp. xiv, vi; 37, 39). At a later period Mac Cécht slew Cuscraid Menn with it (RC. 23, p. 308, § 16).

p. 33, § 1. For these events see the *Longes mac n'Usnech*, Ir. Texte, I.

ib., § 2. *They are not good in water.* Cf. the following passage in the *Táin Bó Fráich*. 'Adfiadar dam,' ol Ailill, 'at maith i n-uisciú,' LL. 250 a 17.

ib., § 3. Cf. O Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308):—

Robhí Fergus matan moch do sleig Lugdach i Findloch:
iss é sin in scél dia tá 'Óenét amnas Ailella,'

with the gloss: Ailill isbert fri Lugdaig Dalléces: 'álainn connágat in t-ag 7 in elit,' ar sé, i. Ailill 'isin loch. Imsoei gae forrae, a Lugaid !'

p. 36. There seem to have been other versions of this story differing from those here printed. This I conclude from the following stanza in O Hartacán's poem (l. c., p. 308):—

I fleid Bélon ro-lámad céltguine Ceit maicc Mágach :
Bélchú Breifne cona chlaind góita do cherddai Conaill.

'At Belchu's feast the first slaying of Cet mac Magach was planned: Belchu of Breifne, with his children, was slain by Conall's arts.' On this we have the following gloss (ib., p. 326): i. Conall Cernach romarb Cet a cath (an leg. ac a áth?) 7 ic fled Bélon roccorathad (leg. roccorad), 'Conall Cernach slew Cet in battle (at his ford? cf. § 4, above), and at Belchu's feast it had been planned.'

ib., § 4. *a fescur*, literally, 'in the evening, before night,' seems to have the secondary meaning of 'at once, immediately.'

p. 38, l. 6, *dororchair*, better *dorochair*.

ib., § 7, *caithfet*, perhaps miswritten for *cathaigfet*.

p. 40, § 9, *fuslaicid Conall an tech*. The ms. has 'fusti,' which might be read *fuslaicthi*, with proleptic neuter pronoun (*i*) referring to *an tech* (better *a tech*).

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GLOSSARY

The first number refers to the page, the second to the paragraph.

air-lann *a staff, shaft.* gen. *airlainde* 38, 7. acc. *irlaind*, ib. gen. pl. *maidm na n-urland ria nGerr nGáela* for *Gullu* 'rout of the staves,' Tig. 1024. *a rudder, docorustar a lái* (nó *urland*) *fri tir*, Corm. s.v. *prúll*.

áis *age.* ót áis *all thy life* 20, 1. 7. See *Ériu* II., p. 87.

aitin-chairchech *furzy-haired.* *Mugain* A. 22, 1. 6. See *Ériu* I., p. 117, note *b*.

álaig *behaviour, manners* 6, 5. *álaig*, LU. 91^b17. gen. *dech cecha áilche* *ainmne*, LL. 294^a38. n. pl. *alcha* *bár* i. *bésa* *súadh*, CZ. v. dat. *nolinfad* in *domun dia ailgib* 7 *dia* *gaiscedaib*, TTr.² 1501. Hence *su-alaig virtue*, *du-alaig vice*.

amárach d'agaid *to-morrow night* 40, 1. 1. *ragat-sa imárach dadaig* in *bar* *ndegaid* RC. 22, p. 23, note 8.

amin *indeed, forsooth!* 24, 3. *is olc* *amein!* *Otia* ii. 86.

an-dlochta *a wisp, bunch* 36, 3. Cf. *dlocht* *crema*, Mgn. Finn, § 24. *dlochta* *crema* i *criss*, Ir. T. iii. 82.

an-feta *violent, a derivative of anfeth.* *eo anfeta* 8, 10.

árach n. *bond, security.* *dar* *árach* 20, 1. 3.

ár-chú *a slaughter-hound.* du. nom. in *dá* *archoin* 38, 7.

ardrach *sovran?* a *Rí* *ardrach adamrai* 10, 12. *iar n-ardrach* *écomnart*, ib. i *n-ardrach* *inguba*, ib. *artrag* 12, 3.

arnenitir 12, 3.

ath-guin f. *a wounding again.* dom a. 38, 6.

attail *he slept* 20, 1. 12.

beoil *grease* 20, 10.

bolefadach *a puffing, panting* 38, 1. 4. b. *na trénfer sin la scís ind imrama*, TTr.² 863.

bricht súain *a sleeping spell* 28, 1. 2.

bruinne (1) *breast*; (2) *brink, end.* A play upon the double meaning, 34, 1. 5.

caithim *I fight.* fut. sg. 1 *caithfet* *frit* 38, 7.

cepp *a block, log.* *cep* *ferna* 28, 10. acc. *iarsin cep*, ib. gen. *Áth* in *Chip*, n.l. AU. 1270. dat. in *indeoin cona* *cip*, RC. 24, 194. *ató mar chimbid i cipp*, Franc. ms. A (9). dat. pl. *do cheppaib*, LL. 110^a.

cingim *I go, march.* *eichtis* 10, 12. *cichestæ* 12, 3.

clóemchlód = *cóimchlód* *an exchange* 12, 1.

cloithech *famous.* c. a *chelg* 18, 1. *nem cloethech*, LB. 111^b.

coimthecht *companionship.* i *Coimded* *coimthecht* in the company of the Lord 10, 12.

com-derb *equally certain or known.* *co mba* c. *isin mbith nach scél n-airdire* 12, 1.

comthach m. *a companion.* frit chomthach 20, 1. 10. mo chomthach, Tochm. Ferbe 533.

con-clichim trans. *I dash, toss;* intr. *I shake, tremble.* conciuchlis 12, 3.

con-oebaim (con-od-gabim) *I lift up.* ma chotóebaimmis 10, 12 = ma chutoocabimis 12, 3. conocba, Ml. 79^c5.

con-oscaim (con-od-scaraim): cotnos-crastar *he shook himself?* 14, 4.

con-tulim *I sleep.* perf. sg. 3 connat-tail 20, 1. 14.

cuit a portion of food. gen. ac fuine a chotach 36, 2.

dám-rad n. *a company of visitors or guests, a visiting.* Laws. for dámrud 24, 1.

derc n. *a cave.* gen. dochum na derca, 20, 10. dat. isin derc, ib. acc. tarsan derc amach ib.

dergail = *derg-gail?* 16, 4. 5.

díigmaig? rocés croich crúaid ar dóine digmaig (díchmaire 12, 3) 10, 12. ní bia debaid díigmaig de, sídaig mac na mongfinde, LL. 34^b53. ba díchmaig cen díth, SR. 6335. Dauíd díchmaig dil, SR. 6401. 6339. tecait iarum na Fomoire co mbátar i ndích-maid i Scetno, RC. xii. 86.

dírigim *I make straight, straighten.* nos-dírgenn co Celchar *he makes straight for C.* 30, 12. oc dírgad chucca for a slicht, Alex. 307. nus-dírgenn *he strengthens himself* 34, 4.

do-aircibim? ní toircéabá t'ainm co bráth 36, 4.

do-ellaim *I turn aside.* dofell (= do-ell) ar (= for) cóerchu 28, 10. doraell for écnuch na Trinóite, Arch. iii. 14. doellsit, Ir. T. iii. 240, 169.

do-es-com-orgim *I shed.* ind fuil donesmart (sic leg.) 14, 4. ar écnaire inna fola donesmart erond, Otia Merseiana ii. p. 97, § 30.

do-etal-rethim *I overtake, reach.* dús in tetarthalad écht 4, 4. dosní-etalraaid, LU. 76 a 16. nicon tetarraaid béim ná forgab fair 73 a 11.

do-re-a-roosat *who has created us* 12, 3. = Imram Brain § 48.

do-sóim *I turn.* dosái fornsa cethra 30, 1. 3. imsoat, dosoat SR. 1013. tossói som iarum clár clé a charpait fri hEmain, LU. 63 a 24. dasúi Flathgius gilla Find | a gnúis ri gáir écomlained, LL. 163^b31. tosóifet fria sruthu sruthlinne, RC. 26, 48.

drub *delay* 12, 3. druib 10, 12. drubh i. tairisiomh nó comhnaidhe, O'Cl. drub cen tathchor, LL. 371 a 15. Cf. drubaim *I linger, stay, abide.* ar a fat rodrubastar fo recht nób, RC. xx. p. 274.

dúal *a plait, lock, tress.* acc. gataid dúal a muing na n-ech 36, 3. gen. mell for rind each dúail, Br. Dá D. 1.

elad f. = ailad, Contribb., ulad Wi. a tomb. dat. for elaid úair 18, 2. for a elaid Trip. 158, 12.

engnamaid *valorous* 8, 11.

ethaim *I take, seize, snatch.* ethaid 4, 4. ethaid (= gaibid L.) in luirg n-iairn, Otia ii. 86 § 4. ethais gíall cach cóicid, ib. 87 § 7. See Zimmer, Kuhns Zeitschrift xxx., p. 75.

etraigim (with acc.) *I have to do or meddle with.* ná etraiged mnái 8, 10. ní hetragim dála ban, SR. 3178. ná hettruiccidh clann Eoghain! Arch. Soc. i. 42.

fás-tech n. *an empty or deserted house.* dat. i fástig 36, 2. i fástig notguin triana tuighi súas, CZ. i. 104, 22. acc. fogabat fástech and, D. 4. 2, fo. 52^b2.

fáth-liaig m. *vates medicus, a seer physician* 18, 11. brithem 7 f. LL. 200^b2. See Aisl. M., p. 145. gen. do thig araile fáthlegha, D. 4. 2, fo. 53^a1.

fed extent, length. i fedh Taidg 18, 1.

fertas f. *the hind-shaft of a chariot.* etir dá f. in charpait 34, 4. dat. din lorg-fertais chatha, LL. 177^a.

festa *henceforth* 38, 7.

fionnachtain *a becoming known* 22, B.

fo-cerddaim (intrans.) *I rush.* fochedardat Ulaid chuci 6, 6.

fo-fríth *was found* 18, 2.

fomtiu (verb-noun of fo-menim) f. *caution, guard.* Aisl. M. Index. dat. i fomtin 8, 10.

forad m. *a shelf.* doratad forsin forud 4, 3. n. pl. failet foraid forórdai, SR. 502.

fortamlas m. *prevalence, superiority, the upper hand.* rogab ciniud indala fir f. ar aroile, Bodl. Dinds. 14.

frescol ? cen láthair freasguil 14, 2. Cf. cin láthar ferrda CZ. vi. 84, 9.

fris-táim *I oppose.* fritumthá brón báis 10, 12. conná bí ní frestai a mes ón so that there is nothing to oppose its valuation, Ml. 31^{d6}.

fúagaim = úagaim, with prothetic f, *I stitch, sew.* pret. pass. rofúaged co snáth óir 8, 10.

gart *generosity, hospitality, honourable behaviour.* cinnid ar cech crábud gart, LB. 77. is cóir gart i coic, Eg. 1782, 45^{a1}. LL. 345^c. 270^{b23}. gen. sg. ar mét a garta 7 a gníma, TTr. 2 1335. im dian-garta dám, LL. 132^{b23}. acc. pl. rochren fíal-garta cen fail, LU. 53a.

gníthech *a shouting* 38, 1. 4. Cf. gníd .i. guth, unde dicitur gnídgál, Corm. p. 23. gnióth a shout, uproar, O'R. co ngníthaib fiad na slógaib, SR. 8118.

grenach f. *gravel.* dat. do grenaig 32, 2. LL. 197^{b22}. nirpsa grenach cecharda, Hib. Min. Rawl. B. 512, fo. 111^{a2}. cona grenchaib airgididib, SR. 378.

iachtad a *squealing, yelping.* i. na cuilén 28, 11. i. cech mairb, RC. 26, 32.

Idal m. *an idolater, Jew.* n. pl. na hIdhuil 16, 4. Gaelic Maundeville, §§ 2, 16.

imda f. *bed.* gen. dochum na imdaidi 40, 9.

indellaim *I make ready, adjust.* nos-indelethar 6, 6. I have no other instances of this verb in the deponent. ní indilum líná ná gosti, Alex. 862. ro-indiltea na líná, LU. 41^{a12}.

intód a *turning.* ac i. cuici 38, 1. 2.

Iudha a *Jew.* dat. pl. Iudhaib 14, 2. Iubhdaibh, ib.

Iudaide a *Jew.* dat. pl. do Iudaidib 8, 11. acc. fri hIudaidi 12, 3. O. Ir. Iudide, Wb. 1 d 21, 2 a 4.

láidim *I exhort, encourage.* inf. ac láidéid na láth ngaile 38, 1. 5. laoidh-eadh .i. greasacht, O'Cl. norlaoidhenn .i. doní ar ngreasacht, ib. laoidhedd, FM. 1522. ní dligid duit-siu clann Conaill do laidiud ná do lúaig-grésacht, MR. 154, 1. a laidiud, a luath-gresacht, ib. 6. 'ga laidiud, 'ga luamairecht, ib. 182, 13. luighim I encourage, abet, O'R.

lochtach *faulty, possessed of faults,* 6, 5.

loman f. *a rope, cord* Wi. acc. sg. lomain 6, 7. gen. cù lomna, LL. 251^{b43}. acc. pl. is maирg thescas a lomna, | noco rí cech rodamna, LL. 120 marg.

lúin f. *a lance* 30, 12. The length of the u and the gender are shown in the following verses: rí Achaid úir ibairdraignig | crathaid (= crothaid) in lúin lethammerlig, Ir. T. III., p. 12. dia luin .i. dia ghae, RC. xxiii. 325, § 15. in luin lúath échtach Celtchair 'na láim, LL. 267b.

mád-at if (it is that) thou art 38, 7.
 mádat óentadach-su frinn, TTr.² 1801.

maite wood, timber. isin maidi righin 28, 10.

mí-dúthracht f. an evil wish 40, 1. 3.

min-brec having small spots. cù m. 28, 11.

moch early. moch siu tísad 28, 10.

mudaigim *I ruin, destroy* 18, 2. ros-mudaig, ros-mill, Fél. cxlii. rot-marbais, rot-mudaigis, SR. 1680.

muin (múin?) a treacherous trick 26, 5. co tard m. uime 26, 9. in m. doberat Ulaid immum-sa, doberthar tra múin impu, LL. 289^b5. dobéra muin n-immi, Ir. T. 1., p. 144, 31. dorat muin imbe do chathugud fri Grécu, TTr.² 213.

muin back, used idiomatically in the phrase for muin mo mic *on my son's guarantee* 26, 5. a lög mo chuil is mo chelg | ma romgab muin mó cach maирg, Eg. 1782. Cf. do muin *for the sake of*.

necht pure, bright 10, 12. necht cach glan, Corm. 10 s. v. cruthnecht.

neimnech venomous, virulent 20, 1. 1. O'Mulc. 132.

nél a swoon. dororchair i nél 38, 5. dúsclid asa nél 38, 6. táníc iarom nell chuice co tarmairt écc cen anmain, LB. 112^b.

nemedach dwelling, or a dweller, in Heaven, 10 Ed. nimedach, RC. xxiii. 430, 5.

nem-thuir ? cáin comlund crothfind Críst ar nemthuir 10, 12. nemthuir necht 10, 12. Cf. nemthor mbodba, MR. 170, 10?

níam-derg of ruddy beauty. niabhderg, 18, 1.

noithech renowned, celebrated, 18, 1. SR. Index. i Sid n. Nennta, Gwynn, Metr. Dinds. 11. 8. co mesc tuir noithig Nebrúaid, LL. 130^b36.

ráin, a by-form of rán = ro-án *very noble.* acc. m. frisin ríg ráin 20, 1. 8.

rechtaire m. a steward, Wi. rechtaire teglaig Conaire, LU. 88^b26. n. pl. rechtairea ríg Rómán 12, 1. reachtuireadha rígh an domuin 14, 2.

remi-tíagaim *I go before, precede.* remiteised 10, 12.

resiu conj. before. r. dech 38, 8. r. roba matin 40, 9.

rethoric f. a composition in rhymeless verse, 10, 13. canais in retoric se, LU. 91 a 43. rochan in rithoirc níbíc si tria glósnaíte filidechta, Eg. 1782. dorigni in retairic sea 7 rochan na runnu sa, LU. 38 a 27. dorigni in rhetoric seo, LL. 254^b. See on the word Windisch, Rev. Celt. v., p. 389, and O'Beirne Crowe, Journal of the Arch. and Hist. Association, 1874, p. 129.

rúacad a routing 36, 4. fríth ar-rúacad co rochrúaid, LL. 215^b59. inf. of rúacaim *I rout*, SG. 36, 27.

rúamna f. redness. co rath rúamnai cloth 20, 1. 14. ní rap rannaire rúamna goa! LL. 293^b49.

ruth a running, course. nír garit in ruth, LL. 203 a. lúath a ruth, SR. 3107, Aisl. M. 79, 30. for ruth 20, 1. 14. SR. 4051.

seicne? gur bhris a séicne 22 B.

séim subtle. is séimh in muin 26, 5.

seisred a plough-team 24, 1.

serb-airlech of bitter counsel 10, 12.

siu conj. with subj. before. siu tísad 28, 10.

snáth a thread. dat. co snáth óir 8, 10. 'sa snaad *on the line (of an angle)*, Tochm. Em. 31.

sprethach a scattering. sp. a inchinne 22, 2. 40, 9.

snáthe *a thread.* snáthe far ruisc romeайд, Tochm. Ferbe 599. Cf. Three Shafts 21, 27. snaithi find-ruine asa n-ochraig, Ir. T. III. 238, 101.

srían-balc *strong-bridled* 18, 1.

táin f. *a drove.* acc. sg. támai mbó 6, 5.

tathchreic *redemption* 12, 2. 16, 3. mane thised in Coimdui dia t., Lism. 47^b2.

tlacht i. díten *protection*, O'Dav. 1512. i. étach, ib. 1505. i. écosc, H. 3. 18, 650^b. tólaib tlacht 18, 1. gen. tlachta, Laws. IV. 350, 5. acc. pl. tlachtu, Fél. Jan. 4.

trú *fated to die, a doomed person.* gen. pl. fri demna troch 20, 1. 17. Opposite sáeglach *long-lived*, see Ir. Nenn. 197, note g. i. ar tí a tutma atá, H. 3. 18, 79^a. ní thesaig trú teiched, MR. 172, 8. n. pl. dofáeth-sat troich lat, H. 3. 18, 711.

túth *a smell, stench.* la t. in chroinn 28, 10. tuth na raibhe *foetor sulphuris*, Aisl. Tund. VII. tuth na mbachlach aile dochóid immut-so, LL. 286^b17.

túthmar *smelling, fragrant.* a lusaib tuthmara 28, 10. tuthmar fer i. crann fir nó elann, H. 3. 18, p. 34. Hence túdnaire f. *smell, fragrance*, Ml. 65^c9.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

p. 18, § 2, for *co mbúaid chain* read with L *commaid chain*, which gives a rhyme with *tonnайд*. With *láech frisralais* compare *conid-rolur-sa frisin fer n-uccut*, LU 63^b 13.

p. 20, l. 4. Perhaps *muni* is here a place-name.

p. 22, § 2. See the account of Loegaire's death in *Rev. Celt.* xxiii., pp. 320 and 325, where, instead of *Loch Lai*, the correct form *Loch Lóig* is found.

CORRIGENDA.

p. 29, l. 2, for 'them' read 'him'.

p. 30, § 12, l. 1, for 'didiu' read 'dín'.

FURTHER ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

[The following are found in Meyer's own copy. O. J. B.]

p. vi, last line, to 'beginning' *add note* : 'Another copy of this version is in the Stowe MS. C.I.2. fo. 5b-8a.'

p. vii, *add note* : 'Harl. 5280, fo. 57b: Fiamain mac Forai i. Fiamhain mac Buidb Deirg meic an Daghda a Sid for (MS. fer) Femhin.'

pp. 3, 5, Conchobar, *add note* : 'Vita Albei (Acta Sanct. Hib., col. 235) : Post hec venit Palladius ad Hyberniam insulam multis annis ante Patricium, ut ibi fidem Dei seminaret. Cumque Palladius Christi passionem regi Conchobir filio Nessa predicasset, rex zelo Dei commotus et nimio furore repletus dixit : Utinam tunc adessem propinquus ego cum viris Hulad ut pro filio Dei totis viribus quasi gigas fortiter pugnarem et liberarem eum. Et cum hoc dixisset statim lapis qui in capite eius multo tempore fuit sursum exilivit et ipse pro suo zelo vitam eternam adipisci meruit. Palladius autem elevavit crucem cedrinam iuxta Stagnum Gerc.'

pp. 10, 15, 'leg. dúleman.'

p. 12, § 2, *for* 'forcúa[i]d' *read* 'forcūad.'

Note, *read* : 'This form, which means 'who has created ages (times)' etc. *Add* : 'See Bergin, Ériu VIII 99.'

p. 13, § 2, *for* 'happened' *read* 'was achieved.'

p. 18, 10-11, Meyer adds : 'From a poem of six stanzas in Laud 610, fo. 74al.' and gives variants.

pp. 18-20, § 2. 'Another copy in the Stowe MS. B.IV.2, fo. 150b.'

p. 26, 1, *for* 'Déisi' *read* 'deise.'

p. 27, 2, *for* 'ruin of the Déisi' *read* 'death of two.'

p. 27, 14, *for* 'Wait' *read* 'Stay thou (here),' and *for* '(with thee)' *read* 'there.'

p. 33, 16, *for* 'Dalléces' *read* 'the blind poet.'

p. 40, 4, *read* 'fácbaid.'

p. 44, 7, *read* 'cech ind.'

p. 44, 8, 'leg. da-n-eim fadēs[in].'

p. 44, 13, *read* 'Luchdonn, or Mouse-dun.'

p. 46, *read* : Ádam 14, § 2. Blái Briuga. Cúrúi mac Dáire. Eogan . . . 32, § 1. in Luchdond. Mugain Aittinchaithrech.

p. 48 a, *under ardrach*, *read* 10, 1. 4 . . . ib. 11 . . . ib. 14.

p. 48 b, **attall** queried in marg. [inattail, inatfail B.IV.2, means 'in which thou art.' O. J. B.]

p. 49 a 4 f. b., *read* 'donescmart.'

p. 49 b 5, *for* 'us' *read* 'ages.'

p. 50 a 10, *for* 'fo-menim' *read* 'fo-moiniur.'

p. 50 a 10, 5 f. b., *after grenach add* ' (from griän) .

p. 51 a, *under muin* *add* : 'assed dobeir maoin im Flann, FM 866 (I 508,3) .'

John Grant. 3/6 Read 4/10/50.

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