

CONQUEST OF IRELAND BY THE MILESIAN RACE

Excerpted from the Works of Abbé MacGeoghegan

Written *circa* 1750 ;The Four Masters ; Keating ; O'Flaherty, *et ux.*

THE MILESIAHS had their origin from the Scythians, and their customs from the Egyptians. These two rival nations were, no doubt, in their time the most cultured of any in the world. Scythia was shortly after the Deluge erected into a kingdom ; it lasted until the tyrannical sway of the kings of Babylon, and was so polished that other nations borrowed their laws and the form of their government from it. From these circumstances an emulation arose between them and the Egyptians, and in their struggle for pre-eminence the Scythians had always the advantage. Herodotus loads them with praises when speaking of the rash expedition undertaken against them by Darius, to revenge some hostilities committed by them when pursuing the Cimmerians into Asia, and for putting down the empire of the Medes, who were then masters of that part of the world. Justin, an excellent historian in the time of Augustus, says in his epitome of Trogn Pompeius, when speaking of the heroic actions of Darius, king of the Persians ; and that Cyrus and his whole army were destroyed by them ; that Zopyrus, general of Alexander the Great, together with the whole of his forces, fell beneath their blows ; and that they heard of the Roman arms without having ever felt them.

Japhet, one of the sons of Noah, had seven sons called Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Thubal, Mosoch, and Thyras. Magog, who occupied Scythia, in turn had three sons named Baath, Jobath, and Fathochta. From Baath was descended Fenius Farsa, King of Scythia.

Fenius Farsa had two sons named Nenual, the elder and heir to the throne, and Niul who being very learned in the languages multiplied by the confusion of Babel made a voyage into Egypt. There he married Scota, daughter of King Pharaoh Cincris, and established himself in the country of Capacirunt on the borders of the Red Sea. Niul had by the princess his spouse a son whom he named Gaodhal, also called Gadelius. Gaodhal, at the time the prophet Moses was making preparations to draw the people of Israel out of captivity, was bitten by a serpent. His father carried him quickly to the nearby encampment of Israelites and presented him to the holy patriarch, entreating his help. Moses knelt and prayed beside Gaodhal, then touched the wound with his rod, curing him.

Thereafter there remained a green spot in the place where the wound had been, which caused him to be called Gaodhal-Glas, otherwise Gadelas or Gadelius, the word *glas* signifying green in the Scotie language. Moses prophesied at the time of curing him that the land which would be inhabited by his posterity, who are still called Clanna-Gaodhal or Gadelians, would be free from serpents and all venomous reptiles, which has been verified in regard to the islands of Crete and Ireland.

The posterity of Niul, in the third generation, became numerous, and were consequently mistrusted by the Egyptians, who under the orders of Pharaoh-En-Tuir, their king, formed the resolution of making war against the strangers. Finding themselves unable to oppose the superior forces of the Egyptians, they embarked under the conduct of Sur, son of Easur,

son of Gaodhal, and after a few days sailing, landed in the island of Crete. There their chief died, and was succeeded in the command by Eibher, otherwise Heber-Scot, his son. From this flight of the Gadelians out of Egypt we must understand what Walsingham, an English monk and historian in the fifteenth century, says in his book called "YPODIGMA".

"The Egyptians", says he, "having been swallowed up in the Red Sea, those who survived that disaster expelled a certain noble Scythian, fearing lest he should usurp a power over them. Being thus driven away, together with his family, he went to Spain where he lived for many years; his race was multiplied exceedingly, and from thence they came to Ireland".

Heber-Scot, having the command of the Gadelians, departed from the island of Crete, and sailing through the Aegean and the Euxine seas he arrived in the river Tanais, in Scythia, the country of his ancestors, where his colony settled for some time. They were commanded after his death by his descendants successively from father to son; first by Agnamon, then Tait, Adnoin, and Lamphion. A persecution however was raised through jealousy of the Scythians against them, and they were compelled to take refuge among the Amazons, having Adnoin for their chief. After sojourning there for some time, they departed under the conduct of Lamphion, the son of Adnoin, for the country called in their language "Gaethluighe", which some think to be Gothia, or Gothland; but more probably, according to O'Flaherty, Getulia, conformably to this verse from Propertius in Camden:

Hibernique Getae, pictoque Britannia curru.

They remained in that country during eight generations, under the command of eight chiefs, the descendants of Lamphion, *viz.*, Heber-Glun-Fion, Eibrie, Nenuaill, Nuagatt, Alluid, Earchada, Deaghatha, and Bratha.

By Bratha they were led into Spain, inhabited at that time by the descendants of Tubal, son of Japhet. These newcomers, under the command of Breogan, son of Bratha, made war with success against the old inhabitants, and became masters of the northern provinces where Breogan built a city, which he called Brigantia, or Braganza, after his own name.

This chief had ten sons, namely Cuailgne, Cuala, Blath, Aibhle, Nar, Breagha, Fuad, Muirtheimhne, Ith, and Bille.

Bille was father of Gallamh, otherwise Mileag-Espaine, or in Latin Milesius, the ancestor of the Milesians or ancient Irish. Ith had a son called Lugadg, or Lugadius. Ith is pronounced 'Eeh'.

Milesius, after whom the ancient Irish were called Clanna-Mileag or Milesians, became in his turn chief of the colony of the Gadelians, and after having secured and extended by many victories the conquests of his predecessors, he made peace with his enemies, and formed the resolution of visiting the country of his ancestors. He left part of the colony to guard his new kingdom, and embarked with the remainder for Scythia, where he was honorably received by Riffloir, then king; who knew that this prince was, as well as himself, descended from Fenius-Farsa, with this difference, that Riffloir had his origin from Nenual the elder son, and successor to the throne of his father, whereas Milesius was descended from Niul, the younger son.

Milesius became by his courtly manners so great a favorite with the king that he appointed him his first minister, and general and chief over his troops. As a greater proof of his confidence

he gave him his daughter Seaug in marriage by whom he had two sons, Donn and Aireach, surnamed Feabhrua. But the death of his wife, added to some difference he had with the king, caused him to leave Scythia. He embarked with his two children and little troop of faithful Gadelians for Egypt. There the king Pharaoh-Nectonebus gave him the command of his army in a war in which he was engaged with the Ethiopians.

Milesius acquitted himself of that commission as usual, with honor, and Scota the king's daughter was given him in marriage, as a reward for his services. He had by this princess in Egypt two sons Heber-Fionn and Amhergin. After seven years spent in Egypt Milesius departed with his family and attendants for Spain. En route, at an island called Irene, on the frontiers of Thrace, Scota was delivered of a son, whom they called Ir. During their voyage she had another to whom they gave the name of Colpa. In Spain two more sons, Aranann and Heremon, were born.

Following a drought in their area that resulted in a famine, an uncle of Milesius named Ith (pronounced Ee) sailed with about one hundred and fifty soldiers to try to find a westerly island that had been foretold to them long before. They reached Ireland, called at that time by its inhabitants Innisfail. At first they were well received by the three princes who ruled the island, but Ith having acted at their request as a mediator of a disagreement between them, and later having congratulated them on having such a fruitful and beautiful island, they decided he might return to conquer them so attacked him and his company in force before they could reach their ship. The battle was fought at Moy-Ith in Tyrone, from which Ith and his remaining men barely escaped with their lives to their vessel. Ith died of his wounds during the homeward voyage. In his absence Milesius had also died.

With sixty vessels the Milesian colony set sail under the leadership of the sons of Milesius for Innisfail, or Ireland, taking with them the widowed Scota. They effected a successful landing and quickly gained a victory over the Tuatha de Danaan occupants. These people, though, by some singular piece of legerdemain, persuaded their conquerors to retire to their ships beyond the ninth wave, and then make a second landing. Amergin, who was druid for the Milesians, concurred in this extraordinary plan, a decision doubtless reached by augury or divination. A storm overtook them near the shore in which perished Aireagh, Donn, Ir, and Aranann, with their attendants and vessels.

Only Heremon, Heber, and Amergin succeeded in effecting a landing with their followers. Almost at once they were engaged in battle by the Tuatha de Danaans, whom they succeeded in routing. Scota was killed in one of these first battles. Heremon and Heber, having landed at separate places on the Irish coast, soon joined forces and engaged the army of the three reigning princes in a decisive battle, which they won.

Thereafter they divided the island between them, Heber possessing himself of what was afterwards called Munster, where he built a palace. Heremon took the sovereignty of what became Leinster, and caused the palace Rath-Beothaig to be built at Airgeodross, on the banks of the river Nore in the county of Ossory.

This joint sovereignty of the island by Heremon and Heber occurred in the year 3501 *anno mundi*, or 1693 B.C. Before leaving Spain, Heremon (also written Eremhon) had put aside his wife Odhbha, who had borne him three sons Muimhne, Luighne, and Laighne, and married Tea. Odhbha accompanied the colony to Ireland, but died in 3502 A.M. and was interred at Odhbha, so called after her name. This was the name of a mound on the summit of a hill giving name to a territory in the ancient Meath, which is mentioned in

O'Dugan's *Topographical Poems* as the lordship of O'h-Aedha, a name anglicized Hugh, but which actually means 'of the fiery one', Aodh. The descendants of Heremon very often were named Aedh.

Heremon, at the solicitation of his wife Tea, daughter of Lugadg, son of Ith, afterwards built the palace of Tea-Mor¹, which name later came to be called Tara.

The two brothers Heremon and Heber-Fionn reigned together for about a year, when Heber's wife caused them to quarrel over possession of a beautiful valley she coveted. She finally persuaded Heber to attack Heremon, and in the ensuing battle upon the plains of Geisiol, the frontier boundaries of Leinster and Munster, Heber was slain.

Of the descendants of Heremon, 58 kings ruled over Ireland before St. Patrick had preached the doctrines and sufferings of Christ to the Irish. After the time of St. Patrick, 50 kings of the race of Heremon ruled Ireland. (Ware's *Antiquities*, and *Ogygia*).

These ancient Irish, the Milesians, or Clanna-Mileag, that is to say the children of Milesius, were divided into four tribes, namely, those of Heremon, Heber, Ir, and Ith. They preserved their race pure, and made no alliances with the lower orders, nor with their vassals, who had followed them from Spain. They formed four great families, who were descended from the same father. They preserved their genealogies carefully, and knew the whole line of their ancestors, down to the chief of their tribe. This precaution was essential in regard to the succession to the throne, because it was required that those who aspired to it should be descended from one of the tribes. Each tribe possessed, in the beginning, its own portion of the island, and each portion was divided into lands and lordships, in turn possessed by the different branches of the tribe. Each tribe had a number of vassals or farmers to cultivate its lands, and conduct its numerous herds of cattle, which formed the tribe's chief wealth.

Everyone was called by his name. They did not take the name of castles or villages like the nobles of the present day. However, they usually added to their names that of their fathers, with the adjective Mac, which signifies son, as Laogare Mac Niall. The tribe, which usually bore the name of its chief, sometimes changed its name to take that of some one among the chiefs who was renowned for some great action, as for example the tribe of Ir, which took the name of Clanna-Rory, which signifies the children of Rory.

Under Eocha IX, Eochaid Feidlech "the melancholy" (28 B.C.) who was the 104th king, Ireland was divided into minor kingdoms. At that time the Irians, descendants of Ir, were still in possession of Ulster. From them is said to have come the Red Hand of Eirinn, later called the Red Hand of Ulster. The Mackays of Scotland emblazoned the same grisly symbol! The Heberians, descendants of Heber, and the Dergtines, of the race of Lugadh, son of Ith, were possessed of the two Munsters, which they governed alternately; but their possession had been disturbed some time before the reign of that monarch by the establishment of the Deagades of Lough Ern of the race of Heremon. Leinster was under the dominion of the Heremonians, descendants of Laogare Lorc, son of Ugane More, Hugony the Great, king of Ireland in 331 B.C. Connaught belonged to the Firdomnians, of the race of the Firbolgs, who were divided into three branches, the chiefs of which were at that time Fidhac, Eocha Allat, and Tinne.

¹ This is seriously and ably challenged by the eminent George Petrie, in his *Antiquities of Tara Hill*. He surmised Tea may have been named *after the hill*, rather than the hill after her. An ancient Irish poet opined that *Teamhur* actually denotes *any* hill or eminence, not a particular one.

In A.D. 285 Fiacha Streabthuine, son of Carbre Liffeachair, of the race of Heremon, succeeded to the throne of Ireland. He was called Streabthuine from Dun-Streabthuine where he was nursed. He had one son Muireadhach Tireach who afterwards became king of Ireland. Fiacha also had a brother Eocha Dubhlein who had three sons by Glean, daughter of the king of the Picts, called Cairioll, Muireadhach, and Aodh. They were better known as the three Collas, namely Colla-Vais, Colla-Da-Crioch, and Colla-Meann.

In the reign of Fiacha, Conde of the tribe of the Corcofirtres succeeded Aidhe in Connaught; after Conde's death the sceptre of this province devolved on Muireadhach Tireach, and remained in his posterity until the twelfth century.

The three Collas, cousins of Muireadhach Tireach, conceived a plan to attack Fiacha and seize the throne, which they knew Muireadhach would otherwise inherit. In the surprise battle the king perished and Colla-Vais was proclaimed monarch. Muireadhach Tireach collected an army, marched to Tara, and defeated Colla in battle, dethroning him. Colla-Vais fled to Albania and Muireadhach Tireach became monarch of Ireland.

One of the three Collas was named Aodh, and he may have been the Colla who was the ancestor of the MacAodhs that in early centuries owned and occupied Island Magee (P. W. Joyce, A.M., M.R.I.A., *The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places*, page 369), a peninsula north of Carrickfergus. The author entertains no doubt that one line of McKees descends from these Mac Aodhs. It should be kept in mind that Irish and Scottish genealogists are in agreement that the word MacKee or McKee is an anglicization of MacAodh, and also of Mac Caoch, the latter adverting to Niall Caoch O'Reilly, chief of the O'Reillys of Breifne, County Cavan, who was slain A.D. 1256.

The three Collas were grandchildren of King Carbre Liffecar (278-297 A.D.), who was a direct descendant of Conn of the Hundred Battles (King 174-212 A.D.), and through him of Heremon (*circa* 1700 B.C.), the first Milesian king of Ireland.

In his *General History of Ireland*, the learned Jeffry Keating, D.D. (London, 1723) gives us the following information about the three Collas on page 287 :

Fiachadh Sreabhthuine was the succeeding Monarch, A.D. 282; he was the Son of Cairbre Liffeachair, Son of Cormac Ufada, derived from the royal Line of Heremon, and sat upon the Throne thirty years, but fell at last by the Sword of the three Collas in the bloody Battle of Dubhchomar. This Prince obtained in Marriage Aoife, the Daughter of the King of Gall Gaoth, by whom he had a Son call'd Muireaghach Tireach. He was known by the Name of Fiachadh Sreabhthuine, because he was bred up, and had his Education in Dun Sreabtinne in the Province of Conacht.

To enlighten this part of the History, as far as the Ruins of Time will give Leave, it is proper to take Notice of the Reason that gave Occasion to this Battel of Dubhchomair, which stands recorded in that valuable Record the *Psalter of Cashel*; and likewise some Account should be given of the Genealogies that belong to the Relations of the Collas, which *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine* Son of *Cairbre Liffeachair* divided, *Clanna na Gcolla*, and *Oirgiallaidh* from *Clanna Neill* and the Posterity of the same Family in the Province of Conacht. This Prince *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*, we have observed, was the Son of *Cairbre Liffeachair*, and was the Grandfather of *Eochaidh Muighmeodhain*, Son of *Muireadhach Tireach*, Son of *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*; and from this Prince *Muireadhach* descended *Clanna Neil*, and those of the same Tribe in the Province of *Conacht*. *Eochaidh Dubhlein*, the Son of *Cairbre Liffeachair* was likewise Brother to *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*: This *Eochaidh* we find had three Sons, who were distinguished by the Title of the three Collas, from whom descended *Ui Mac Vais*, *Ui Criomhthan*, and *Mogh Drona*. The proper Names of

these three Brothers call'd the *Collas* were *Cairioll*, *Muireadhach*, and *Aodh*, and this we understand by the Testimony of an ancient Poet, who has transmitted the Account to us in these Lines :

Three Princes once the Glory of the Isle,
Known by the Name of the three warlike Collas,
Were Sons of Eochaidh ; and in Battel slew
The Irish Monarch, for heroic Deeds
Renown'd, and seiz'd upon the Irish Sceptre ;
These Brothers are in ancient Records call'd
Aodh Muireadhach and Cairioll,
Or for Distinction otherwise express'd.
Cairioll, Colla Uais, Aodha, Colla Mean,
And Muireadhach Colla do Chrioch.

The Wife of *Eochaidh Dubhlein*, was *Oilean* the Daughter of the King of *Scotland*, whose Glory it was to be the Mother of these three martial Princes the three *Collas*, who entering into a conspiracy against their native Prince *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*, by the Success of their Treason, in a decisive Battel wrested the Sovereignty out of his Hands, and put an End to his life. The true Occasion of this Rebellion is recorded in this manner.

Fiachadh Sreabhthuine, the Irish Monarch, had a Son whose Name was *Muirreadhach Tireach*. This young Prince soon discovered a military Genius, and obtain'd that Experience in the Art of War, that his Father, convinc'd of his Bravery and Abilities, made him *Generalissimo* of all his Forces, and delivered into his Hand the absolute Command of his Armies ; for at that Time the King never exposed himself at the Head of his Forces, his royal Life being of that Importance as not to be hazarded upon the uncertain issues of a Battel. Upon some Provocations from the King of Munster, it was thought necessary to send a strong Body of Troops into that Province, under the Command of *Muirreadhach*, the young Prince. And Fortune, whose Darling he was, followed him in all his Undertakings ; for he succeeded in this Expedition beyond his Hopes, and brought away with him a great Number of Captives and an immense Booty. His father *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*, King of Ireland, was encamped at that Time at *Dubhchomair* near *Tailtean* with a numerous Army ; for the three *Collas*, his Brother's Sons, had rais'd a considerable Body of Troops, and joined the Forces of the King, who, by these Recruits, became formidable, and resolved to do himself Justice upon his Enemies.

And now the Success of the young Prince in the Province of Munster was known in the King's Camp, which gave great Satisfaction to his Father ; but was not so well received by the three *Collas*, who envied him the Glory of his Conquests, and therefore conspired to destroy the King, and seize upon the Government ; for they apprehended that when the young Prince came to the Throne, he would resent some Indignities he had received from them, and at least banish them the Court, if not take away their Lives. They began therefore to concert measures in order to execute their Designs ; and prevailing upon some Officers of the King's Troops, they thought themselves able, with the Forces they had brought along with them, and this additional Strength, to engage with the Irish army, and give them Battel ; and if they came off with Victory, they would be in a Capacity to defeat the Succession of the young Prince, and to seize upon the Crown.

It happened that at this time the king had a very eminent *Druid* in his Retinue, with whom he consulted upon this Occasion ; for he was made sensible of the Treachery of three Brothers, who had separated their Forces from the Irish Army, and withdrawn to some Distance with a Design to fall upon the King. The *Druid*, whose Name was *Dubhchomair*, made use of his Art, and inform'd his Master, that he found it would be of the last Importance to himself and his Family to save the Lives of the three *Collas*, notwithstanding their Rebellion ; for if he destroyed them, the Crown of Ireland should not be worn by any of his Posterity, but descend in another Line. The King was somewhat surprised at this Reply, but upon Recollection made

this gallant Answer, that he would joyfully resign his Life, so that he might secure the Succession of his Descendants, rather than by destroying those three Traitors, be instrumental in fixing the Crown upon the Heads of their Posterity ; and arm'd with this Resolution, which added to his natural Bravery, he drew out his Forces, and fell upon the Enemy ; but his Destiny and the Prediction of the Druid followed him ; for he was slain in the Action.

Collas Uais (also spelled *Vais*.—R.W.M.) obtaining a complete Victory, was proclaimed Monarch of the Kingdom ; he was the son of *Cairbre Liffeachair*, a descendent from the Posterity of *Heremon*, and supported his title to the Government four years. But the lawful Heir *Muirreadhach Tireach*, the Son of the deceased King, kept his Pretensions on Foot, and, with a brave Body of loyal Troops, engaged the Usurper, and his Success was equal to the Justice of his Cause ; for he dethron'd him, and drove him out of the Kingdom. He fled for Refuge with his two Brothers to the Court of the King of Scotland, where they were hospitably received, and allowed Protection. (This was *circa* 327 A.D., nearly 200 years before Fergus Mac Earca and his brother Loarn led a colony into Scotland, then called Alban.—R.W.M.). The Reason that prevailed upon them to fly into that Country, was because they bore a very near Relation to the King ; for the Princess *Oilean* was a Daughter of the King of Scotland, the Wife of *Eochaidh Dubhlein*, and the Mother of these three ambitious brothers. This Usurper was distinguished by the Name of *Colla Uais*, as he was of a more noble and martial Disposition than his Brothers ; and as he found means to fix the Crown of Ireland upon his Head for some Time, which the other two were so far from accomplishing that they were obliged to leave their Country, and remove into a foreign Land to save their Lives.

Circa A.D. 319 *Muirreadhach Tireach* succeeded the Usurper ; he was the Son of *Fiachadh Sreabhthuine*, Son of *Cairbre Liffeachair*, descended from the royal Line of *Heremon*, and governed the Kingdom thirty years ; but was at length kill'd by *Caolbhach*, the Son of *Cruin Badhraoi*. The Consort of this Prince was *Muirion*, the Daughter of *Fiachadh*, King of *Cinneal Eoguin* (*i.e.* descendants of Eoghan, a son of Niall, now Tir-Eoghan or Tyrone, meaning Land of Eoghan, anglicized Owen.—R.W.M.), and the Mother of *Eochaidh Muighmeodhoin* (pronounced Ochy Moyvane.—R.W.M.).

The three *Collas* being expelled the Kingdom of Ireland, were forced to fly for Refuge to the King of Scotland, who supported them suitable to their Quality, and entered three hundred Soldiers that followed them into the regular Pay of his own Army ; for they were a Handful of brave hardy men, and wonderfully esteemed by the King for the Comeliness of their Persons and their undaunted Resolution and Courage. The three Brothers continued in Scotland for the Space of three Years.

In his *History of Ireland*, p. 126, Abbé MacGeoghegan supplies the following information about *Colla Huais* (otherwise written also as *Uais* and *Vais*.—R.W.M.) :

“ Colla-Huais and his brothers, princes of the race of Heremon, in the fourth century destroyed the palace of Eamhain (also written Emania), put an end to the sway of the ¹Clanna-Rorys, and founded the small kingdom of ²Orgiell, which comprised the counties of Louth, Ardmach, and Monaghan. The race of those brothers (*i.e.* the three Collas) formed many noble tribes, such as the Mac Donnels of Ireland and Scotland, the Mac Mahons, Maguires, O'Hanluans, *Magees*, O'Floinns-Tuirtre, O'Ceallaigs (O'Kelly) ”

¹ Clanna-Rory was named for its governing race, the Rudricians, who were descendants of Ir, one of Heremon's brothers.—R.W.M.

² Variousy spelled, but connoting “ golden fetters ”.—R.W.M.

THE ORGIELLIANS, THE POSTERITY OF THE COLLAS, AND THEIR TERRITORIES.

(Chap. LXXVI, p. 274 *et sequa*, O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, translation of Rev. James Hely, A.B., Dublin, 1793).

After the battle of Achalethderg, which is called the battle of the Collas (Cath na Ccolla, Cath na ttri Ccolla) and of the three Collas, the conquerors, having driven the Ultonians beyond Glenrigny and Lough Neach, made themselves masters of very extensive possessions, giving them the name of ¹Orgiellia; wherefore it is written Uriel and Oriel in English. It has been divided into the counties of Louth, Ardmagh, and Monaghan, within our own memory. (Roderick O'Flaherty wrote *circa* 1680.—R.W.M.). By this we may suppose the posterity of the three Collas to be a spreading and extensive one.

His son Achy had for Colla Huas (variously spelled; R.W.M.), monarch of Ireland (he was king 327–331 A.D.—R.W.M.), three grandsons, the principal branches of his family, Eric, Fiachri Tort, and Brian. From this Brian, by his son Cormac, is Hy-Cormac, so denominated. Hy-Cormaic is a barony in Hy-mac-cartheann. The Hyturtrians, Firlrians, and Hymachuais, *i.e.* the posterity of King Huas, whose country was also Hymachuais, still a barony in Westmeath, are descended from Fiachre Tort. Hyturtre is a country in Dalriatach, and county of Antrim, having Lough-neach to the west; which was they came from Dalaradia by Ferfat-tuam, a passage over the river Bann. Echin, Mann, Laogary, Aengus, Nathy, Cormac, and Muredach Broc were the seven sons of Fiachre Tort.

Eric, the oldest son of King Colla Huas' grandsons, had Carthenn, whose sons were Forgo, from whom Hymac-carthen near the bay of Lough Fevail which washes Londonderry, is called; Eric Amalgad, the proprietor of Firluirg; and Muredach, from whom St. Maidoc, archbishop of Ferus in Leinster, and patron of the Brefinians in Connaught and Ulster is descended.

Hyfiachre is a country of Tyrone in which Ardfratha lies, formerly an episcopal see near the river Derg, afterwards annexed to the see of Clogher (in Tyrone, first the residence of the princes of Orgiellia, afterwards converted into a cathedral) but about the year 1266, it was taken from the see of Clogher, with many other churches of Hyfiachre in the gift of the Tyronians, and was incorporated with the see of Londonderry.

From this Eric, the son of Carthenn, Godfrey has deduced his pedigree lineally, but removed fifteen generations; from whom many noble families in Scotland, and from thence in Ireland, have derived their genealogy. Somarly (otherwise Somerled.—R.W.M.), the eighth from Godfrey, had two sons, Ranulph and Dubgall (this means 'black foreigner'.—R.W.M.); from whom Mac Dowel. Ranulph begat a son called Roderick, from whom is sprung Mac Rory, lord of the Hebrides, and Donald from whom the Mac Donells are descended.

Donald had Aengus, and Alexander the father of Donald, Donnchad, and Achy Donn Donald the great-great-grandson of Aengus, from whom the Mac Donells are sprung, was lord of the Hebrides and of Kentyre in Scotland, in the reign of James the third: this Donald was the fifth lineal predecessor to Randal the illustrious Marquiss of Antrim, a most noble family of the line of King Colla Huas; who dying at a very advanced age, in the year of Our Lord, 1683, was succeeded by his brother Alexander, the present earl of Antrim.

Colla Meann (Aedh was his correct name) who was slain in the battle of Achalethderg, left seven sons: Kerball, Bernan, Crimthann, Donnchad, Imanac, Artrac, and Mugdorn.

¹Orgiellia, spelled in several different ways, means "golden fetters", definitely implying that these hostages or prisoners were of such an extraordinary quality as to require golden fetters.

Colla Da crioch, the third brother had for sons, Finchad, who left no male issue ; Rochad, Imchad, and Fiachre Cassan. The latter had a son Fedlim, who in turn had three sons Bressall, Achy, and Fieg. From this Achy descended :

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 89. Olill, father of | 96. Flanagan, father of |
| 90. Amalgad, father of | 97. Kellach, father of |
| 91. Feredac Chuldubh, father of | 98. Achy, father of |
| 92. Sinac, father of | 99. Malmar |
| 93. Dubdaleth, father of | 100. Amalgad |
| 94. Arect, father of | 101. Maliosa |
| 95. Coeman, father of | 102. Aid (<i>Aedh</i>) |

THE THREE COLLAS

FROM THE FOUR MASTERS

COLLA MEANN (Aid, or Aedh) (also Aodh).

COLLA DACHRICH (Da crioch) (Muredach) (also Muireadhach).

COLLA UAIS (Monarch 323-326) (Carell) (also Cairioll).

' A.D. 322. Fiacha Sraibhtine, after having been thirty-seven years as King over Ireland, was slain by the Collas, in the battle of Dubhchomar (*i.e.* Conflux of the Black River), in Crioch-Rois, in Breagh'.

' A.D. 323. The first year of Colla Uais, son of Eochaidh Doimhlen, as king over Ireland'.

' A.D. 326. The fourth year of Colla Uais¹, in the sovereignty of Ireland, when Muireadhach Tireach expelled him and his brothers into Alba (Scotland) with three hundred along with him'. (Their mother was a daughter of the King of Scotland.—R.W.M.)

' A.D. 327. The first year of Muireadhach Tireach in the sovereignty of Ireland. *At the end of this year the three Collas came to Ireland ; and there lived not of their forces but thrice nine persons only.* They then went to Muireadhach, having been instructed by a druid. They scolded at him, and expressed evil words, that he might kill² them, and that it might be on him (the curse of) the fínghal should alight. As he did not oppose them, they tarried with him, and were faithful³ to him'.

NOTES BY THE TRANSLATOR, JOHN O'DONOVAN :

¹ Colla Uais, *i.e.* Colla the Noble. All the authorities agree in giving him a reign of four years, but Dr. O'Conor shews that his expulsion should be placed in the year 329.

² *Might kill them.*—The word (Irish) *fiogal* (Anglicized *fínghal*), signifies the murder of a relative or clansman, and was considered to be so great a crime among the ancient Irish, that a curse was believed to alight on the murderer and his race. A druid had informed the Collas that if they could exasperate the King so as that he would kill them, or any of them, the sovereignty would be wrested from him and his line, and transferred to their descendants. The King, perceiving that this was their wish, bore patiently with all their taunting words. Keating says that when the Collas came into the presence of the King of Tara, he asked them what news, and that they replied : " We have no news more mournful than that thy father was killed by us ". " That is news which we have already known ", said the king, " but it is of no consequence to you now, for no revenge shall follow you, except that the misfortune, which has already attended you will follow you ". " This is the reply of a coward ", said the Collas. " Be not sorry for it ", replied the King, " ye are welcome ".

³ *Faithful to him.*—The language of this passage is very ancient, and seems to have been copied from Tighernach. According to Keating and the *Leabhar-Gabhala* of the O'Clerys, the Collas then entered into a treaty of friendship with the King, and were his generals, till about the year 332, when they destroyed the Ulster palace of Eamhain-Macha or Emania, and conquered vast territories for themselves in Ulster. Dr. O'Conor thinks that the overturning of Emania should be ascribed to A.D. 331.

'A.D. 331. The fifth year of Muireadhach. The battle of Achadh-leithdheirg, in Fearnmhagh, (was fought) by the three Collas against the Ulstermen, in which fell Fearghus Fogha, son of Fraechar Foirtriun, the last king of Ulster, (who resided) at Eamhain. They afterwards burned Eamhain and the Ulstermen did not dwell therein since. They also took from the Ulstermen that part of the province (extending) from the Rìghe (now the Newry River) and Loch n-Eathach (*i.e.* the Lake of Eochaidh now Lough Neagh) westwards. Colla Meann¹ fell in this battle'.

THE THREE COLLAS

PER O'FLAHERTY'S OGYGIA (p. 272-8)

'Colla Huas, the grandson of King Carbry by his son Achy Doimhlen, monarch of Ireland. Achy Doimhlen had three sons by Alechia the daughter of Updar, of Albanian extraction, *viz.*, King Colla Huas, Colla Meann, and Colla Da crioch, whose three names were Carell, Aid, and Muredach. They, through an insatiable thirst for empire, defeated and slew their uncle Fiach, king of Ireland, in the south of Talten, at Crioch-rois in Bregia.

Muredach Tiry (in A.D. 331), King Fiach's son, being advanced from the crown of Connaught to the monarchy, drove King Colla Huas, with his two brothers and thirty nobles, into British Albany (Scotland).

Aisea, of the Gall-gaidelian family, was King Muredach's mother (Muredach Tiry, or Muireadhach Tireach). I am persuaded these Gall-gaidelians were the Gaidelians who possessed at that time the islands adjacent to Britain; for I find, *Donald* the son of Thady O'Brian, whom the nobility of Mann and the islands selected as protector of their dominions, was called in Irish King of Isnesgall and Gallgaedelu. The Hebrides are called by our writers *Inse-gall*.

The three Collas being deserted by their confederates, to the number of twenty-seven, returning home in the course of a year (in 332 A.D.) were reconciled to their cousin, King Muredach, and were supplied by him with the means of carrying on a war with Ulster, an inveterate enemy to his family'.

Roderic O'Flaherty goes on to state that Colla Meann, whom he designates as Aid, or Aedh, fell in the ensuing decisive engagement at Carn-eacha-leth-derg, in Fernmoy. O'Flaherty wrote *Ogygia*, which means Ancient Island, during the reign of Charles II; the copy in the present writer's library was translated earlier than 1793, as that is the year in which it was printed in Dublin. By reason of the early year in which he wrote, *circa* 1683-1684, he had access to countless ancient Irish documents that have subsequently been destroyed by war, foreign malice, or in one of a series of rebellions. He traces many families to the three Collas.

Muireadhach Tireach was killed at the battle of Portriogh, near lake Dabhal, in the 26th year of his reign. He was succeeded by Caolvach (Caelbadh) who reigned about a year and was assassinated by his successor; Caolvach was the last monarch of the race of Ir, excepting of course Roderick O'Connor and his father Terdelach.

¹ *Colla-Meann*.—He was the ancestor of the ancient inhabitants of Crioch-Mughdhorn, now Cremorne, in the county of Monaghan. *Colla-Uais*, the eldest of the brothers, is the ancestor of the Mac Donnells, Mac Allisters, and Mac Dugalds of Scotland; and *Colla Dachrich*, of the Mac Mahons of the county of Monaghan, of the Maguires of Fermanagh, of the O'Hanlons and Mac Canns of the county of Armagh, and of various other families.

Eocha XII, or Eochaidh Muighmheadhoin (Ochy Moyvane) succeeded to the throne and reigned from A.D. 358 to 365. He first married Mung-Fionn, daughter of Fiodhuig, descended in the sixth degree from Oilioll Olum, by Eogan-More; by her he had four sons, namely Brian, Fiachra, Fergus, and Oilioll. He had a fifth son by Carthen-Cas-Dubh, daughter of a king of Britain, whom he named Niall. This was Niall Noigiallach, or ¹Niall of the Nine Hostages.

Muireadhach Tireach, son of Fiacha Streabthuine, was first king of Connaught, of the race of Heremon; that province remained in the possession of his posterity for many ages. Eochaidh Muighmheadhoin (Eocha XII), his son, succeeded him; who having become monarch left the province to his sons, namely Brian, Fergus, and Oilioll. The two first were the ancestors of the Hy-Brunes and Hy-Fiachras, whose posterity reigned in this province till the twelfth century.

The O'Connors-Don derive their origin from the illustrious tribe of the Hy-Brunes, of which they were chiefs; the collateral branches are the O'Connors-Roe, O'Connors-Sligo, O'Rourks, O'Ragallaighs (O'Reillys), MacDermots, MacDonaghs, O'Flahertys, O'Malys, O'Floinn, (Flynn), O'Flanegans, O'Hanlys, MacMaghnus, O'Fallons, MacKiernans, MacBradys, O'Donallans, O'Gairbfhias (O'Garvy), O'Brins, O'Malons, MacBrenans, Maollallas, or Lally, O'Creans, Maol-Breanoin, Maol-Mocheirges, O'Faithaigs (Fahy), O'Camhins, O'Domhleins, O'Breslins, *Mac Aodhs*, and several others.

From the beginning of the fifth century, Meath remained in the possession of the Southern Hy-Nialls, that is the descendants of Laeghaire, Conall Crimhthainne, Fiacha, and Maine, sons of the monarch Niall the Great of the race of Heremon.

Breifne, Briefnia, or Brenny comprised the counties of Leitrim and Cavan. Aodh-Finn (White Aodh) of the race of the Hy-Brunes was prince of this country about the year 572. His race was called Sliocht ²Aodha-Finn (White Aodh.—R.W.M.).

Ardes, an ancient territory, now a barony in the County Down, forming part of lower Clanneboy is a peninsula eighteen miles in length. This territory belonged to a branch of the O'Neills.

Clanneboy, or Clan-Hugh-Boy, a territory that takes its name from the descendants of Hugh Boy O'Neill, an anglicisation of Aodh Buidhe (yellow) O'Neill, and was divided into two parts, one northern and the other southern, belonged formerly to the different branches of the O'Neills, of the race of Heremon.

Southern Clanneboy comprised part of the territory of Ardes, with the land that extends from the bay of Dundrum to the bay of Carrick-Fergus in the County of Down, that is the baronies of Castlereagh and Kinalearty.

¹ An island in Lake Cuan, which washes Down, is called in the Gaelic *Dun-na-n-giull*; it is more modernly known as *Dunnynell* and the lake is Strangford Lough. The Gaelic name translates "Fort of the Hostages", from the prisoners said to have been imprisoned there by *Niall of the Nine Hostages*. *Irish Itinerary of Father Edmund Mac Cana*, translated from the original Latin by the Rev. W. Reeves, D.D. (the original was written about 1643.—R.W.M.), *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, p. 45, Vol. 2, A.D. 1854.

² *Aedh Dubh*. "Black Hugh". He was king of Dalaradia; his father Suibhne Araidhe had been earlier put to death by Diarmait MacFergus Cerrbheoil (King of Ireland 544-565 A.D.) who took Aedh Dubh to fosterage, but fearing his wrath banished him to Alba, that is Scotland. Later he returned to Ireland, killed Diarmait, and again fled to Scotland and took the clerical habit in a Columban monastery. Afterwards he again returned to Ireland and became king of Ulad, that is Ulster, in 581, where he was king until 587.

Annals of Ulster, footnote p. 61, Hennessy's translation, Dublin 1887.

Northern Clanneboy is a territory in the county of Antrim, bounded on the east and south by the bay of Carrickfergus and the river Lagan ; on the west by the territory of Kilultagh, and on the north by counties called Route and Glinnes, now the baronies of Kilconway and Glenarm.

Kinel-Eoghan, a territory of Hy-Neill, comprised the County Tyrone, the domain of the O'Neills, of the race of Heremon and of the monarch Niall Noigiallach, known as Niall the Great, and Eoghan his son. This territory was divided into several dynasties belonging to the different families of this name, of which Dungannon was the chief, and in case of his dying without issue, one was chosen from Clan-Hugh-Boy, or the Fewes. This chief was entitled THE O'NEILL.

Crimthann Mor succeeded to the throne after Eochy XII died at Tara ; he was Mung-Fionn's brother. She poisoned him, hoping her eldest son Brian, son of Eocha XII, would succeed to the throne ; but she died from having first tasted the poisoned cup. She having died first, the whole race of Brian was excluded from the monarchy, except Roderick O'Connor and his father Terdelach. Roderick O'Connor was the last king of Ireland.

NIALL THE GREAT succeeded Crimthann to the throne of Ireland, and became one of the most colorful figures in its magnificent history. He was called, as mentioned above, Niall Noigiallach, meaning Niall of the Nine Hostages. He reigned from 379 to 405 A.D. He had one son named Fiacha by Inne, his first wife who was descended in the sixth degree from Fergus Dovededagh, the monarch. By his second wife Roigneach he had seven fruitful sons : Laeghaire, Conall Crimthainne, Maine, Eoghan (the ancestor of the O'Neills), Conall Gulban, Cairbre, and Enda Finn.

1. Laeghaire, from whom are descended the O'Coindhealbhais or Kendellans of Vi-Laeghaire.
2. Conall Crimthainne, ancestor of the O'Melaghins.
3. Maine, ancestor of O'Caharnys, O'Breens, and Magawleys.
4. Eoghan, ancestor of the O'Neills, McHughs, McAedhs, and therefore probably one line of the McKees.
5. Conall Gulban, ancestor of the O'Donnells.
6. Cairbre, whose posterity settled in the barony of Carbury, in what is now County Sligo, and in the barony of Granard in the County of Longford.
7. Enda-Finn, whose race settled in Tir-Enda in Tir-Connell, and in Kinel-Enda, near the hill of Uisneach, in Westmeath.
8. Fiacha, by his first wife Inne, was ancestor of the MacGeoghegans and O'Melloys.

Four of Niall the Great's sons, of whom the most famous were Eoghan and Connall Gulban, conquered a large area of Western Ulster for themselves and established a great fort at the site of Grianan of Aileach, near Londonderry. The western part of Aileach was called Tirconnell, the land of Connall, and covered what is now Donegal ; Donegal was originally Dun-na-gall, meaning 'fort of the foreigner'. The eastern area, from the Foyle to the Bann, was called Tir-Eoghan, or Tirowen, or Tyrone, the land of Eoghan, and covered the modern counties of Londonderry and Tyrone.

The descendants of Niall in Ulster became known as the northern O'Neill, and some of the descendants of the O'Neills are still to be found in Ulster, where they provided a ruling

dynasty until after 1603, finally in the person of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, known as the Great Earl. He much preferred the ancient title he bore of THE O'NEILL, but since he was reared in the cloistered court of Queen Elizabeth for the express purpose of ruling Ireland as her hand-groomed minion, she investitured him as Earl of Tyrone, the same as some of his predecessors. She was furious when he assumed the ancient tribal chieftainship of 'The O'Neill', and it needed all the diplomatic tact and finesse her tutors had so artfully ingrained into him for *Aodh* to restore himself to the good graces of the English Queen. The Tara dynasty was the Southern O'Neill. The dynastic descendants of Connall were the O'Donnells of Donegal.

In the year 405 A.D., during one of Niall's raids on Britain, a captive boy named Patricius was taken back to Ireland, along with his sister. He later became known as St. Patrick. It was in 405 A.D. that Niall of the Nine Hostages was treacherously slain by Eochaidh, son of Enna Ceinnseallach, at Muir n-Icht, that is the sea between France and England. Other authorities say he was slain in Gaul on the banks of the Loire, which I believe to be the true account.

He was followed in the monarchy by Dathi, son of Fiachra, who was a brother of Niall. Dathi was killed by lightning at Sliabh Ealpa, that is in the Alps. His grave at Rathcroghan, Ireland, is marked by a red pillar-stone. He reigned from 405 to 428 A.D.

Laeghaire, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, succeeded Dathi in the monarchy, and reigned from 429 to 459 A.D. From him Niall's descendants reigned until the 11th century, except in one instance.

Oilioll Molt, son of Dathi, son of Fiachra, succeeded Laeghaire in the monarchy of Ireland, and reigned from 459 to 479 A.D. He was slain by Lughaidh, son of Laeghaire.

Lughaidh (southern Hy-Neill), son of Laeghaire, ruled from 479 to 503 A.D., then was struck by lightning, reputedly because of an insult he offered to St. Patrick.

Muircheartach Mac Erca (also called O'Neill) became king of Ireland and ruled from 503 to 526. He was the son of Muireadhach, son of Eoghan, son of Niall. He was killed by his concubine Sin Sighe, who set fire to his house, causing him because of his burns to plunge into a puncheon of wine and drown. He was said to have been the first Christian king of Ireland; his mother Eire, or Erca, became by a subsequent marriage the grandmother of St. Columba. He was chief of the great north Irish clan, the Cinel Eoghain, and after becoming king of Ireland he seized a tract in the modern County Derry, which remained until the 17th century in the possession of the Cinel Eoghain.

In the year A.D. 503 three brothers named Fergus, Angus, and Lorne, sons of a chief named Erc, led a colony to Scotland from their own district in Irish Dalriada; descendants of the Munster settlers of three centuries before. Dalriada was the portion of Ulster that faced across to Scotland, being the modern area of northeast Antrim. Fergus (Ulidian) became king of Dalriada, and was known as Fergus McErc and Fergus Mor (the Great). He was descended in the fifth degree from Cairbre Riada, of the Milesian race. To invest his actual crowning as king with greater dignity, he sent to Muircheartach Mac Erca to borrow the Lia Fail. This inauguration stone of the Irish Kings, known as the Stone of Destiny, was fabled to have been the pillow of Jacob when he dreamed of the heavenly ladder. It is now kept in Westminster Abbey, and is known as the Stone of Scone. Fergus Mac Erc was duly crowned King of Dalriada on it, after which he conveyed it to Dunstaffnage Castle in Scotland. The stone was originally brought to Ireland in Anno Mundi 3303 by the tribe

Tuatha de Danaan (tribe of God Danu) from Greece *via* Scandinavia. They were led by Nuadu Airgetlaim and brought with them not only the Lia Fail, which they set up at Tara, but also the cauldron of the Dagda, and the sword and spear of Lugaid Lamfada.

The state established under King Fergus the Great became the nucleus of the future kingdom of Scotland, and the "Scots" from Ulster thus gave to what was formerly the land of the Picts its modern name of Scotland. Fergus was the ancestor of the subsequent kings of Scotland, and from him in one of three genealogical lines descend through the Stuarts the royal family of England.

There can be no doubt that from Conn of the Hundred Battles descend the Mac Eths of Strathnaver, the O'Neills of Ulster, and the Stuarts of Scotland, the latter now the ruling family of Great Britain since James I, who was James VI of Scotland. As is adumbrated throughout the chapter *The Mackays of Scotland*, there is more than abundant evidence that the Mac Eths, forebears of the Mackays, were part of the royal line, and contended fiercely with the ruling family over a period of several centuries for the throne of Scotland. As to the early colonizations, most authors agree that there were several. Any careful reader will detect multiple instances where Irish princes, the Collas for example, sojourned in Scotland with followers, and very likely established colonies that in the course of time flourished. The present chapter has been taken from authors not too technical in their portrayals, as the more ancient accounts are so difficult that they convey very little information until the reader spends a year or so amongst their mysteries.

Abbé MacGeoghegan in his *History of Ireland* (ca. 1745), p. 96, states :

"The histories of the Milesians mention several colonies which they had sent at different times to Albania (early name for Scotland.—R.W.M.), in the first ages of Christianity ; from which the Scots of Albania, at present the Scotch, derive their origin. They are descended from the colonies which went from Ireland to Britain, and settled with the Picts in the northern parts of that island, which was at that time called Albania. The first colony of the Scoto-Milesians which was established in Albania, was commanded, in the beginning of the third century, by Cairbre, otherwise Eocha-Riada, son of Conare II, monarch of Ireland. The emigration of this colony could not have taken place before the year 211 ; as the territory inhabited by this colony on its first settlement in Albania, was, at the time of the expedition of Severus into the north of Britain (which Usher fixes in the year 208) in the possession of the Dicaledonians, a tribe of the Picts, so called from their proximity to the wall of Adrian"

In *Bede's Church History* it is said, "Besides the Britons and Picts, a colony of Scots having left Ireland under the command of Reuda, from which they were called Dalreudini, settled in Britain with the Picts, either peaceably or by force". Also, Bede elsewhere avers, "In the course of time Britain, after the Britons and Picts, admitted a third nation, the Scots, among the Picts, who under the guidance of Reuda, left Ireland, and claimed, from either friendship or by the sword, a settlement among them, which they thus far held ; from that leader they retain to this day the name of Dalreudini".

MacGeoghegan comments, too : "Riada (variant of Reuda.—R.W.M.) with his colony, having taken possession of a territory to the north of the gulf of Dumbarton, which was in the possession of the Dicaledonians in the time of Severus, and ceded to him by the Picts in consideration of his aid against the Britons, gave the command of it to Kinta, his son ; after which he returned to Ireland, where he died". This commencement of the Scotch nation in Albania, though weak at first, became afterwards very powerful. To throw more light on

this history, we must trace it back to its source, and examine the origin of Eocha-Riada, mentioned by Bede, under the name of Reuda.

Aengus III, called Aeneas by O'Flaherty, surnamed Turmeach, monarch of Ireland, had two sons, namely, Ennius, Enna, Eadna, or Eanda, surnamed Aighmach ; and Flacha, *anno mundi* 3870, B.C. 130 (O'Flaherty's corrected dating gives this king's reign as 3787-3819 *anno mundi*.—R.W.M.). By the former, who was legitimate, he was ancestor of all the kings of Ireland who succeeded him. By the latter, the fruit of the incest he committed with his own daughter, or sister, in a state of intoxication (Keating relates this.—R.W.M.), he was ancestor of the Earnochs (so named because they colonized on Lough Earn.—R.W.M.), Dalfiatachs, Deagades, Dalriads, and consequently the Scotch, as we shall hereafter see.

Aengus was surnamed Turmeach, signifying shame, for, although a pagan, he was always so much ashamed of the infamous action he had committed, that he endeavoured to conceal it from the knowledge of the world, by committing the child, which was the fruit of his crime, in a little boat, to the mercy of the winds and waves, in hopes of its perishing. But like another Moses, the innocent child was preserved by some fishermen, who gave him the surname of ¹Fearmara. Feacha—Fearmara had a son called Oilioll-Earn, who, with the consent of the tribe of Ir, which then possessed Ulster, settled it with his vassals near lake Earn, from whence his descendants, forming a considerable tribe, were called Earnochs. After Oilioll-Earn, the tribe was successively governed by Fearadach, his son, and Forgo, his grandson.

Sir George M'Kenzie, in the Preface to the Reader, which he has affixed to his *Defence of the Royal Lineage of Scotland* mentions having seen an ancient manuscript belonging to the monastery of Hy, in which it was said that Aengus-Turteampher (the same undoubtedly as Aengus-Turmeach) reigned in Ireland five generations before their Fergus I, and that it was under him the separation of the Scots of Ireland from those of Albania took place. This manuscript agrees perfectly with the genealogy of Forgo, who, according to the ancient monuments of the Milesians, is the fifth descendant in a direct line from Aengus III surnamed Turmeach (3787-3819 *anno mundi*.—R.W.M.). Would the conjecture be rash, were we to say that this Forgo, son of Fearadach, is the same as Fergus, son of Ferchard, who, according to Buchanan (a Scot historian.—R.W.M.), was the first king of Scotland ? The names are very nearly alike ; and the only difference arises from the Latin termination which Buchanan gives them, or from this author's ignorance of the ancient language of his country, in which those names were originally written. However, Forgo never left his country, but became, after his father, chief of the tribe of the Earnochs of lake Earn. In this rank he was perhaps called king, through courtesy, as it was general among the Milesians to give that title to princes, and lords of extensive possessions. This conjecture will be much strengthened, if we compare the descendants of Forgo, down to Eocha-Riada inclusively, forming twenty generations, with the genealogy of the kings of Scotland, delivered by a Scotch antiquarian at the coronation of Alexander II (1214 A.D.—R.W.M.) and quoted by John Major in his history : it will be seen that those genealogies correspond exactly, in the names, pronunciation, and manner of writing them, in their order and number ; except that the Scotch antiquary, or perhaps the author who published it, adds one more.

These two genealogies are represented in the two following columns : the left gives the genealogy of Forgo, according to the Milesians, and the right that of the kings of Scotland according to the antiquary above mentioned.

¹ In Gaelic, *Fearmara* connotes *man of the sea*.—R.W.M.

Forgo	Forgso
Main	Man
Earndail	Arindil
	Rowein
Rothrer	Redher
Threr	Ther
Rosin	Rosin
Sin	Syn
Deaga	Dechach
Kiar	Jair
Olill	Eliala
Eogan	Ewan
Ederskeol, monarch of Ireland (3944 to 3949 <i>anno mundi</i>). (During his reign Jesus Christ was born.—R.W.M.).	Edherskeol
Conar-More, monarch of Ireland (3949 A.M. to 60 A.D.—R.W.M.)	Conere-More
Carbre-Fin-More	Carbre-Find-More
Dare-Dorn-More	Dara-Deomore
Corbre-Crom-Chion	Corbre-Edancrum
Lugh-Allatach	Lughtach-Etholac
Mogulama	Mogalama
Conare II, monarch of Ireland (212 to 220 A.D.—R.W.M.).	Conare
Eocha-Riada	Ethad-Riad

It is evident that in these two columns the names are fundamentally the same, and that if there are a few letters, more or less or any transposition of letters, it creates no essential difference, and the error should only be attributed to the copyists. The addition of the name Rowein, which is in the catalogue of the Scotch antiquarian, is probably derived from 'Roghein' which signifies 'to be born of'; and the antiquary having found it between the names Earndail and Rothrer, to show that Rothrer was son of Earndail, he took it for a proper name, thus adding a generation.

By special privilege, or rather by a license belonging only to poets, Buchanan deviates in his catalogue of the kings of Scotland from the genealogy left by this antiquarian. He has obscured and disfigured the names of the kings, so that very few of them agree with it, although the antiquarian lived three hundred years before him and consulted the ancient monuments, unknown perhaps to Buchanan, for this genealogy; but the latter made up the deficiency by fiction. May we not reproach him as Camden has done in a like case, that he preferred deliberating with the subtlety of his wit, to thinking justly with others?

With regard to the separation of the two people, mentioned in the manuscript of M'Kenzie, and from which this author claims some advantage in favor of his system, it should

be considered less a local than a genealogical separation of the two branches, the chiefs of which were Ennius and Fiacha, without either of them having gone to Albania. Deaga led them into the province of Munster, where Duach III, then monarch of the island (3892-99 *anno mundi*.—R.W.M.), surnamed Dalta-Deagaigh, being the adopted son of Deaga, granted them a retreat in the northern part of the province, now called the county of Kerry, A.M. 3950, B.C. 50. This territory was called after their chief Luaghair-Deaghaigh.

After the death of Duach, Deaga succeeded to the monarchy of the whole island; he had three sons, Hiar, Dair, and Conal, to distinguish them from another tribe of the Earnochs, who descended from Eocha, brother of Deaga, and took the name of ¹Dalfiatachs, from ²Fiatach, monarch in the first century (116-123 A.D.—R.W.M.); it was called the tribe of the Deagades, from the name of their chief, which, according as they increased, were subdivided into other branches, as the Clan-Chonaires, Muskrys, Baskins, and Dalriads.

¹ *Dal* in Gaelic means "a part of", or "descendants of".—R.W.M.

² This reference is apparently to Fiach Finnoladh, king of Ireland in the early part of the *second*, and not the first, century, that is, from 116 to 123 A.D. He was a son of Feredach the Just, King 96 to 116 A.D., the latter the first king of the Heremonian line following Carbry Caitcheann (Cathead) who seized the throne after he and his adherents had invited all of the nobility to a huge carnival and feast, then murdered them. Only unborn children inside their pregnant mothers escaped to renew the Heremonian line.—R.W.M.