

THE ADVENTURES OF NERA

The following tale, now printed for the first time, seems to have been variously known as the *Echtra Nerai* or the *Táin Bé Aingen*. See Jubainville, *Catalogue*, pp. 124 and 213. Under the former title it is mentioned in LL. 245 b, 32, as one of the *remscéla* or introductory tales of the *Táin Bó Cuailnge*; the latter title it bears in one of the two copies that have come down to us, viz. that in H. 2. 16, col. 658-662. The other copy, preserved in Egerton 1782, fo. 71^b-73^b, is without a heading.

The *Echtra Nerai* is closely connected with the *Táin Bó Regamna* (referred to in the text, l. 169), which may be regarded as an episode of it. One of the incidents of the tale is referred to in the body of the *Táin Bó Cuailnge*, see note on l. 175.

An analysis of part of the *Echtra Nerai* is found in O'Curry, *Manners* III. pp. 199-201, and Hennessy has quoted some extracts from it in the *Revue Celtique*, I. p. 44.

The two MSS. give the same text and clearly go back to one archetypus. Neither of them can have been copied from the other, as mistakes caused by homoioteleuta occur in both at different places. See ll. 52, 87, 108, 142.

I have printed the text of Egerton as it stands, because it is more carefully written than that of H. 2. 16, and because of

its peculiar orthography. The various readings, but not the orthographical deviations, of H. 2. 16 are given at the foot of the pages, later additions and corrections by the hand of a different scribe and in paler ink being enclosed in parentheses.

KUNO MEYER.

ECHTRA NERAI

[EGERTON 1782, Fo. 71 b]

1. Bui Ailill ocus Meudb aidqi samnoi hir-Raith Cruachan cona techluch huili. Gaibtiur ar bearbad bid leu. Rocrochta da chimid leo al-laa remiu sin. Asmbert Ailill iarum: « Inti domberud tra », ol se, « id im choiss nechtar
5 na da chimmig fil issien croich, rambiath a log lium-so airiu, amuil bied ail do ».

2. Ba mor iarum a dorchotai na haidqi sin, agus a gran-
datai, agus doaidbitis demnoie ind oidqi sin dogres. No
teged gach fer ar huair huaidip immach dia fromud ina
10 haidqi sin 7 ba hopunn ticced issin tech doridisi. « Rom-
bith-si a loug lat », oll Neroi, « 7 ragat himmach ». « Rotmbiad mo claidium orduirn-sie eim », ol Ailill.

3. Dochomlui assiarum inti Nero 7 gaibiss gaisced maith fair dochum na cimmido. Atnaid iarum id him choiss in-
15 daro fiur dona cimbethuip. Docuirethar iarum ina deguid aitherruch co ma tri. Asmbert iarum in cimmith friss, mano thuco menuth taccuir fair, dia m-be aicci co maitin, ni duinfiuth iarum fair a menod fein ind fedo. Atnaig Nero menod taccuir fair iar sin.

20 4. Atpert in cimith assin croich fria Nero: « Ferdoi sin, a Nero! » « Feurdo ecin! » ol Nerai. « Ar fir do læchtachtdoi fritt, nombeir fort muin conn-esbiur dich latt.

H. 2. 16, col. 658. — 1 Tain Be Aingen and so. 2 gabthar docrochtba
4 olse annoso ith 5 nambiad log 6 bid 7 mar tra andorchadu 9 cach ar-
nuair nahaidche 7 [col. 659] 10 rombithsa log 12 rodbia 14 nacimead

THE ADVENTURES OF NERA

1. One Halloween Ailill and Medb were in Rath Cruachan with their whole household. They set about cooking food. Two captives had been hanged by them the day before that. Then Ailill said : « He who would now put a withe round the foot of either of the two captives that are on the gallows, shall have a prize for it from me, as he may choose ».

2. Great was the darkness of that night and its horror, and demons would appear on that night always. Each man of them went out in turn to try that night, and quickly would he come back into the house. « I will have the prize from thee », said Nera, « and I shall go out. Truly thou shalt have this my gold-hilted sword here », said Ailill.

3. Then this Nera went out towards the captives, and put good armour on him. He put a withe round the foot of one of the two captives. Thrice it sprang off again. Then the captive said to him, unless he put a proper peg on it, though he be at it till the morrow, he would not fix his own peg on it. Then Nera put a proper peg on it.

4. Said the captive from the gallows to Nera : « That is manly, o Nera ! » « Manly indeed ! » said Nera. « By the truth of thy valour, take me on thy neck, that I may get a

*indara cimid docuirther dono 16 ba 17 minathuca menad tacair ciabe aigi
18 ni(n) dunsad fair amenad fen iud adnaid 20 ferrda 21 ferrda do læch-
dacht rit 22 conasfiur deoch*

Rombui hito mor *form* in tan romcrochad. » « Tair eim *form* muin ! » oll Nero. Dotoet iarum *for* a muin. « *Cedh*
 25 leth notmber ? » oll Neuro. « Don taich iss nessum duinn », or in cimith.

5. Lotar iarum don taich hi sin. *Confaccatar* iarum ni, in loch tiniuth *immon* tech sin. [72^a] « Ni fil ar n-dig hissin tig siu », ol in cimith. « Ni bi teniu gen cogluid ann do-
 30 gres. Tair riunn don taich aili dono iss nessim duinn », ol in cimith. Lotar dono do sidi. *Confaccatar* dono loch n-*uscci* hime suidiu. « Na herich don tich sin », ol in cimith. « Ni gnath athinndlad na athfotraccod na ambor co nemiud ann ind aiche iar cotlud. Tair riund don toig
 35 aili *beus* », or in cimid. « Ata mu dig-siu isin taig siu *immoro* », or in cimid. Dolleciu de *for* lar. Tet issin tech. Athinnlat *ogus* athfothruccud ann, *ocus* bid dig hi cectur de. Ammor *con-nemid* *dana* *for* lar in taige. Ibid dono dig a cechtarna dosuidiu, 7 sroithid loimb n-dege-
 40 nuch asa beluib im aigti na n-doini batar hisin tig, *conn*-apatar uili. Is iar¹ sin *tra* ni maith athindlat na athfotraccod na teniu gin cogluid na ammor *con-nemid* a taig iar cotlud.

6. Dombeir iarum sin dochum a rede doridisiu. *Ogus* do-
 45 tet Neru *for* a chulo do Chruachnuib, *conn*facco ni. Ro loiscid in dun ar a chiunn 7 *conn*faco cendail *am-muinntiri* lasna hoccu on dun. Tet i n-diaig int sluaig iarum ind uaim *Cruachaon*. « Fer hi lorcc so », ol in *fer* deginueh fri Nero. « Trummu al-lorg so », ol in *fer* deginuch. 7 is-
 50 pert cech *fer fria* cheili in foccul sin ond fir deginuch *gus* in *fer* toisiuch. Iar sin dosegatt sid *Cruachan* 7 lotar isin sid. « Cid dogentar don fiur thanuicc lib ? » ol fer

1. iarn MS.

24 formomuin dothaed iarum dontig *asnesam* dun ol incimid 28 tened imon tellach hisin istigsea 29 tine cencoiclead 30 tairr roinn dontig naile dino 31 lodur dino dosuidiu. *con*thacadar ni dino in loch usci imiside naherc dino don tigsea 33 amur *con*emed 35 modeochsa 37 and ibid deod a ceachtarde 38 *con*emed dino 39 dino deod deside 7 sroithe loim deigenach 41 iarsin 42 tine cen coicled *con*uemed 43 collad 44 iarsin areigi doridisi *confaca* ni 7 dothæd nera 45 dochruachnoib dorisi roloscad 47 hocaib 48 f. . il-

drink with thee. I was very thirsty when I was hanged. » « Come on my neck then! » said Nera. So he went on his neck. « Whither shall I carry thee? » said Nera. « To the house which is nearest to us », said the captive.

5. So they went to that house. Then they saw something. A lake of fire round that house¹. « There is no drink for us in this house », said the captive. « There is no fire without sparing in it ever. « Let us therefore go to the other house, which is nearest to us », said the captive. They went to it then and saw a lake of water around it. « Do not go to that house! » said the captive. There is never a washing- nor a bathing-tub, nor a slop-pail in it at night after sleeping. « Let us still go to the other house », said the captive. « Now there is my drink in this house », said the captive. He let him down on the floor. He went into the house. There were tubs for washing and bathing in it, and a drink in either of them. Also a slop-pail on the floor of the house. He then drinks a draught of either of them and scatters the last sip from his lips at the faces of the people that were in the house, so that they all died. Henceforth it is not good (to have) either a tub for washing or bathing, or a fire without sparing, or a slop-pail in a house after sleeping.

6. Thereupon he carried him back to his torture, and Nera returned to Cruachan. Then he saw something. The dun was burnt before him, and he beheld a heap of heads of their people (cut off) by the warriors from the dun. He went after the host then into the cave of Cruachan. « A man on the track here! » said the last man to Nera. « The heavier is the track », said his comrade² to him, and each man said that word to his mate from the last man to the first man. Thereupon they reached the side of Cruachan and went into it. Then the heads were

1. round that hearth, H. 2. 16.

2. the last man, Eg.

lorgsa frimb tumu lorc fris olachele frisuidi 7 asbert 50 ommir toisinach rosegad 52 Gabair taisbenad na cend iarum don rig fiadosom isinsid. Cid do-dentar donir

dib-sium. « Taet ille *conn-accallar-su* », ol in rig. Dothaet qcco iarum *ocus* ispert ind *rig fris*: « Cid dotucc lasna
 55 hocco issin sid? » ol in rig *fris*. « A comuitech do sluaigsi », ol *Nerai*. « Aircc don taig uut tall *tra* », ol in rig, « ata *ben* aentomu ann, denud maith *friut*. Abair *fria* iss uaim faiter chuici. *Ocus* tair-siu cach dia co cuail *connuid* don taig siuo. »

60 7. Dognith-sium iarum innisin *amail issbreth fris*. Fer-tair iarum failte *fris* 7 ispert: « Fochen det, masso he in ri rofuid ille. » « Is he eim », oll *Nero*. *No* teged *Nero* co cuail *connuid* don *dun* gach dia. Atchid assin *dun immach* cach dia ar a chiunn dall 7 *baccoch for* a *muin*. *No*
 65 tegdis co *m-bitis for* ur na *tibrat* i *n-dorus* in *duiniu*. « In fil ann? » ol in *doll*. « Fil *ecin* », oll in *baccoch*. « *Tiagom* ass! » ol in *baccach*.

8. *Rofiarfacht Nero* iarum inni sin don *mnai*. « Cidh tathaigit », ol se, « in dall 7 in *baccach* don *tiprait*? »
 70 « *Tathuigid* in *m-barr* fil issin *tiprait* », ol in *uben*, « .i. mionn *n-oir* bis *for* cionn ind *rig*. Iss ann *do-coisigar*. » « Cid *armod* in *dias* *uccott* *dotathuiged*? » ol *Nero*. « *Ni ansa* », ol si, « huair rob iat *roba* *tairisiu* *lassin* *rig* do *thathuigid* in *bairr*. *Rodallad* indaro *fer* 7 *ro-*
 75 *baccad* *araili*. » « *Tair* ille *biucc*, » ol *Nero* *fria* a *mnai*, « *conn-ecius* *dam* ni do mo *imtechtuib* *collecc*. » « Cid *dotarfis*? » ol in *uben*. « *Ni ansa* », ol *Nero*. « In tan *romba* oc *tuidecht* issin sid, *andarlem* *rohorta* *Raith Cruachan* 7 *dorochair* *Ailill* 7 *Medb cona* *tegluch* [72^b] *huili*
 80 *ann*. » « *Ni fir* eim on », ol in *bean*, « *acht* is *sluag* *siabra* *dotainicc*. *Firfaigthir* inni sin », ol si, *mano* *foilset-*

53 *connanaicillirsa* 54 *dotuc* 55 *icomaidecht* *dotluaigsiu* 56 *erc thall*
 57 *ben aentuma* and 7 *denad* 58 *rofbiter* *cucu* *condaig* 60 *dognisom* *as-*
breth *feraid iarom* in *ben* 61 *duid* *olsi* *masa* he *inrig* *rochind* ille 62 *no* *thei-*
dedh nera [col. 660] *iarom* 63 *condaig* 65 *nifil* *tiagam* *as dino* 68 *roiarfacht*
 71 *isand* *dochoisecair* 72 *armad* *nothathaiged* 73 *huair* *robdar* *iat* *robo* *tairisi*

displayed to the king in the sid. « What shall be done to the man that came with you? » said one of them. « Let him come hither, that I may speak with him », said the king. Then Nera came to them and the king said to him: « What brought thee with the warriors into the sid? » said the king to him. « I came in the company of thy host », said Nera. « Go now to yonder house », said the king. « There is a single woman there, who will make thee welcome. Tell her it is from me thou art sent to her, and come every day to this house with a burden of firewood ».

7. Then he did as he was told. The woman bade him welcome and said: « Welcome to thee, if it is the king that sent thee hither ». « It is he, truly », said Nera. Every day Nera used to go with a burden of firewood to the dun. He saw every day a blind man and a lame man on his neck coming out of the dun before him. They would go until they were at the brink of a well before the dun. « Is it there? » said the blind man. « It is indeed », said the lame one. « Let us go away », said the lame man.

8. Nera then asked the woman about this. « Why do the blind and the lame man visit the well? » « They visit the crown, which is in the well », said the woman, « viz. a diadem of gold, which the king wears on his head. It is there it is kept ». « Why do those two go? » said Nera. « Not hard to tell », said she, « because it is they that are trusted by the king to visit the crown. « One of them was blinded, the other lamed ». « Come hither a little », said Nera to his wife, « that thou mayst tell me of my adventures now ». « What has appeared to thee? » said the woman. « Not hard to tell », said Nera. « When I was going into the sid, methought the rath of Cruachan was destroyed and Ailill and Medb with their whole household had fallen in it ». « That is not true indeed », said the woman, « but an elfin host came to thee¹. That

1. to them, H. 2. 16.

74 dothathaigid in barr robacaideg 75 bicc tra 76 coneci domimtheachtaib
77 ben intan rodha octaidecht isisimh intarlim roort 81 rodatic firdaidbir
manitailsigfedsom

som dia chelip. « Cinnus berut-si robud dom muinntir ? »
ol Nero. « Eircc a n-dochum », ol si. « Atat immon
caire *cetno beus*, 7 ni tallad in *lucht* don tinig cuse. »

- 85 Sech bao hairem *tri* laa *ocus* teoro n-aidqi leissium bui
issin tsid. « Abair *fríu*, airichlithir immon samfuin-si
dothaet, mana taesat-som do orgain in sídiu ; ar dorairn-
geiriud doib-sium on : orguin hin sido do Ailill *ocus* do
Meidb *ocus* in barr Briuin do *brith* doib ass. »

- 90 9. Is *ed* tredi *frith* hi suidiu .i. *cetach* Loeguirí-hind-Ard
Macho *ocus* in barr Briuin la *Connachto* *ocus* ind enach
Dunlaithe la Laigniu hi Cill Daro.

10. « Cinnus crefidter uaim-si techt hissin sid ? » ol
Nero. « Beir toirthe samruid latt », ol in *uben*. Dobert iarum
95 crem leis *ocus* sobairche *ocus* buiderath. « Et biam tor-
ruch-so uaitt », ol si, « *ocus* berot *mac* duit. *Ocus* dom-
hisiu fis-*scel* huait, in tan ticcfoi do muinnter do orguin
in sídui, co ruco do muinntir *ocus* do *chetra* assin sid. »

11. Luid Nero iarum co a muinntir, *conusfuair* imon
100 coiri *cetno*. *Ocus* atfet *scelo* doib. *Ocus* *dobreth* do iarum a
claidim, 7 anuis lia a muintir co cenn m-*bliadna* iar sin.
Is hi in *bliadain* sin *dana* intsainrud luidi *Fergus mac*
Roich a *crich* hUloth for lunguis co hAilill *ocus* *Meidb*
co *Cruachna* Aii. « Tainic do dal tra, a Nero », oll Ai-
105 lill *fría* Nero. « Eircc co tucca do muinntir 7 do *cetra*
assin tsid, *conn-icsim-ni* do orguin in tsido. »

12. Teit Nero iarum co mnai issi sid 7 *feruis* a ben *faitle*
friss. « Eircc ass *tra* don dun », ol a *ben fría* Nero, « 7
ber cuail *connuid* lat. *Atú-sa* *bliadain* lain oc a athigid co

82 beradsa ro. . dim 83 erig docum dotigi 75 dintene cose 85 tri naidchi
nombui isintig 86 airichlithir 87 minataedsad intsida doailill 7 domeidb
7 inbarr 90 ised tredi isuidiu .i. in *cetach* laegairi 91 macha 7 ineineach dun-
latha lalaigniu hicill dara 93 creidfider tuidecht 95 bidam(m) 96 doni

will come true », said she, unless he would reveal it to his friends. « How shall I give warning to my people? » said Nera. « Rise and go to them », said she. « They are still round the same caldron and the charge has not yet been removed from the fire. » Yet it had seemed to him three days and three nights since he had been in the sid. « Tell them to be on their guard at Halloween coming, unless they come to destroy the side. For I will promise them this: the sid to be destroyed by Ailill and Medb, and the crown of Briun to be carried off by them ».

9. [These are the three things, which were found in it, viz: the mantle of Loegaire in Armagh, and the crown of Briun in Connaught, and the shirt of Dunlaing in Leinster in Kildare.]

10. « How will it be believed of me, that I have gone into the sid? » said Nera. « Take fruits of summer with thee », said the woman. « Then he took wild garlic with him and primrose and golden fern. And I shall be pregnant by thee », said she « and shall bear thee a son. And send a message from thee to the sid, when thy people will come to destroy the sid, that thou mayest take thy family and thy cattle from the sid ».

11. Thereupon Nera went to his people, and found them around the same caldron; and he related his adventures to them. And then his sword was given to him, and he staid with his people to the end of a year. That was the very year, in which Fergus mac Roich came as an exile from the land of Ulster to Ailill and Medb to Cruachan. « Thy appointment has come, oh Nera », said Ailill to Nera. « Arise and bring thy people and thy cattle from the sid, that we may go to destroy the sid ».

12. Then Nera went to his wife in the sid, and she bade him welcome. « Arise out to the dun now », said the woman to Nera, « and take a burden of firewood with thee. I have gone

^d
 hissa 99 comuintir 100 dobreth(a) anclaidem 102 is(s)inbliadain do-
 sbondrud doluidh 103 nulad 104 tanic dal tra nera 106 conighesum doargain
 107 coamnai issintid 108 fris 7 ber cuail conaig lat dou dun ol aben atusa
 109 octhathaigid

- 110 qil *connuith for mo muin cech dia tart'eisiu, 7 atrubart*
iss i n-galur robaduse. 7 uinnsi do mac sunn ucud dono. »
Teid-sium ass iarum don dun 7 beirid chuail connuith
leiss for a muin. « Fodia do betho assin galur hir-rabo ! »
ol ind righ. « Olc lium immoro in ben do feiss lat cin ath-
 115 *comarcc. » « Dogentar do riar-so im soduin », ol Nero.*
« Ni bud hannso duit-si on », ol in ri. Dotaet dia tig
for culo. « In[gar] tra do bu aniud », ol in uben. « Dora-
tus buin dib dot mac iarna gein focetoir. » Tet Nero
dana lia a cetra in laa insin.
- 120 13. *Beirid in Morrigan iarum buin a mic-seom cein bui-*
sium ina chotlud, condrodart in Dunn Cuailgne thair hi
Cuailgne. Dotoet cona buin doridisi anair. Nosstairthenn
Cuculaind hi. Muig Muirtemne oc tuidecht tairiss. Ar ba
do geissib Conqlaind, ceteit ban asa thir, manip aurderg
 125 *leis. Ba dia geissib enlaith do fogailt a thiri, mani fac-*
batis [73^a] ni leiss. Ba dia geissib iascc ind inberuib, muni
thuitidis laiss. Ba dia geisib oicc^x echtarchiniul ina thir,
mad i n-agaid thistis, gen imacalluim forru ria matain,
mad fria laa thistais, cen imacallaim fria matain. Nach
 130 *ingen macdacht 7 nach ben æntamai nobid la hUlltai, is*
for a inhuib-seom no bitdis noco n-irailtis for feraib. It e
gessa Conculaind in sin. Doairthenn Cuculaind in Mor-
rigan cona bain 7 asbert : « Ni berthar ind imerge ! » ol
Cuculaind.
- 135 14. *Dothaet Nera ass iarum fescur dia thig cona buaib.*
« Tomesta bo mo mic tra », ol se. « Ni mo du do dul-sa
do ingairiu fonn alt sin », ol a ben frissim. Tanic in bo
fo sodain. « A ingnad tra, can dodeochaid in bo sai ? »
« Dodeochaid em, » ol in ben, « a Cuailngne iarna tair
 140 *don Donn Cuailngne. Erg ass tra a fecht sa », ol in ben,*
 1. oice MS.

110 cach tairrisiu 7 (andiv added over the line) adubert isangalar dobasu
 111 hunnsiu dino 112 beirith cuail 116 niba hannsum teit diathig Ingar
 tra 119 allasin [col. 661] 121 condarodart donn tair 122 nostærtend 124

to it for a whole year with a burden of firewood on my neck every day in thy stead, and I said thou wert in sickness. And there is also thy son yonder ». Then he went out to the dun, and carried a burden of firewood with him on his neck. « Welcome alive from the sickness in which thou wast! » said the king. « I am displeased that the woman should sleep with thee without asking ». « Thy will shall be done about this », said Nera. « It will not be hard for thee », said the king. He went back to his house. « Now tend thy kine today! » said the woman. « I gave a cow of them to thy son at once after his birth ». So Nera went with his cattle that day.

13. Then while he was asleep the Morrigan took the cow of his son, and the Donn of Cualgne bulled her in the east in Cualgne. She (the Morrigan) then went again westward with her cow. Cuchulaind overtook them in the plain of Murthemne as they passed across it. For it was one of Cuchulaind's *gessa* that even a woman should leave his land without his knowledge. [It was one of his *gessa* that birds should feed on his land, unless they left something with him. It was one of his *gessa* that fish should be in the bays, unless they fell by him. It was one of his *gessa* that warriors of another tribe should be in his land without his challenging them, before morning, if they came at night, or before night, if they came in the day. Every maiden and every single woman that was in Ulster, they were in his ward till they were ordained for husbands. These are the *gessa* of Cuchulaind]. Cuchulaind overtook the Morrigan with her cow, and he said: « This cow must not be taken ».

14. Nera went back then to his house with his kine in the evening. « The cow of my son is missing », said he¹. « I did not deserve that thou shouldst go and tend kine in that way », said his wife to him. On that came the cow. « A wonder now! Whence does this cow come? » « Truly, she comes from Cualgne, after being bulled by the Donn of Cualgne »,

1. she, H. 2. 16.

ceteit maniburderc 125 dofhogeilt 127 oic echartairceniuil 128 remaindin 129
renaidchi 131 noconerailldais 132 dathairthe 133 imirce 135 *fríanona* 136
domesta modú 138 dodechaid 140 dunn *chuaighe* ass of in *ben*

« nachas fogluaisit do oic », ol si. « Forremdeth in coibden hisiu a m-blednai *cusin samain aitherrach*. Do-tiasait aidqi shamnai aitherruch, ar it aursluictiu sido hErinn dogres him samuin. »

- 145 15. Dothet Neru dochum a muinteriú. « Canas tuthcho? » or Ailill 7 Medb frie Neru, « *ocus cait hi rabaduis o duchuduis uainn?* » « Roua a tirib cainib », ol Neri, « co setuib *ocus muinib moruib, con-imboth* bruitt *ocus biid ocus set n-ingnad*. Doragut du for n-orccuin oidqi hsam-
150 noi dotæt, mano foillsigter doib. » « Rosnicfim-ne eim », ol Ailill. Biit ann tra co cenn m-bliadna. « Manotdful ni tra isin sid », ol Ailill, « a Nero, co tucco ass. » Treiss laa iarum ria samuin co tucc a himirce assin tsid. Amail dodechaid iarum in tairbiniu assin sith, adaig
155 loeg bo Aingen, — .i. Aingeni ainm a mic-sium, — adaig a tri geiminno as in tairbin. Is hi sin huair robui Ailill *ocus Fergus* ac imbirt fithcilli. Co cualatar ni, geim in tairbini hissin mag. Is ann ispert *Fergus* :

16. « Ni bud inmuin limm ind ag
160 geissius hissin Cruachanmag,
mac Duib Chuailngne conodsoid,
macan in tairb ol-Loch Loig.

- Bet loegain de cin buu
i m-Bairchi hi Cuailgniu :
165 cichis reim roirge ind rig
do ág aide Aingini. »

17. Aingene ainm ind fir *ocus Bee n-Aingeni ainm na mna*, *ocus* ba hinunn *congraim atcondaire* inti Nerov forru *ocus atconairce Cuclainn* hi Tain Bo Ragamna.

141 fogluaiset foremteachair 142 hisin atharruch arit fosgoilti sidha Erenn dogres. Dothet 145 tudbhais 146 araba oduhad(ais)uaindi 147 ronba 149 doregad donnorgain samna 150 manifaillsigther duid ronicfamne 151 biid tra om. manadful 152 erc cotuca as. Tet nera iarom. Tresla dia-shamain 154 asinsid .i. laig bo aingen .i. aingene ainm ameciseom. 158 atnaig

said the woman. « Rise out now, lest thy warriors come », she said. « This host cannot go for a year till Halloween next. They will come on Halloween next: for the fairy-mounds of Erin are always opened about Halloween ».

15. Nera went to his people. « Whence comest thou? » said Ailill and Medb to Nera, « and where hast thou been since thou didst go from us? » « I was in fair lands », said Nera, « with great treasures and precious things, with plenty of garments and food, and of wonderful treasures. « They will come to slay you on Halloween coming, unless it had been revealed to you ». « We shall certainly go against them », said Ailill. So they remain there till the end of the year. « Now if thou hast anything in the sid », said Ailill to Nera, « bring it away ». So Nera went on the third day before Halloween and brought her drove out of the sid. Now as the bull calf went out of the sid, viz. the calf of the cow of Aingen (Aingene was the name of his son), it bellowed thrice. At that same hour Ailill and Fergus were playing drafts, when they heard something, the bellowing of the bull calf in the plain. Then said Fergus:

16

« I like not the calf
bellowing in the plain of Cruachan,
the son of the black bull of Cualgne, which approaches,
the young son of the bull from Loch Laig.

There will be calves without cows
on Bairche in Cualgne,
the king will go a ... march
through this calf of Aingene. »

17. [Aingene was the name of the man and Be Aingeni the name of the woman, and the appearance which this Nera saw on them was the same as that which Cuchulaind saw in the Tain Bo Regamna.]

gemenda 156 intairbinu 157 fichli imi gem intairbin 158 andsin 159 ni-
binmain inath 160 ma(i)g 161 mac induib cualgne conadsaig 162 mac in-
tairbin olochlaig beidit lög cenbu imbairchiu hiecuailgne cithis remi roirge
inri diag aigi aine gene ainm ap(t)ir 7 be aingene ainm namna 168 inti om.
169 regamna

- 170 18. *Condrecat iarum in toirbine ocus in Finnbennach hi Muig Cruachan. La ocus adaig doib hi comruc ann sin gurro[73^b]moig forsin toirbine fodeoig. Beccistair in tairbini iarum in tan ro mebuid fair. « Ced ro ubecustair ind ad? » ol Medb fria a buachail, Buaigniu a ainm sidein.*
- 175 « Ro fetur-so ni, a mo bopa, a Fergus, as sin laid ro gau-buis himbuaruch », ol Briccriu. Doneco Fergus seco la soduin ocus bentoi sethnu a chinn do Briccriu cona durn co lotur na cuicfir fichilli batar hind-durn F[er]guso hi cenn m-Briccriunn, co m-bo buan d'olcc do. « Apair
- 180 frium, a Buaidliuo, cid isrubuirt in tarb », ol Medb. « Adubuir eim », ol Buaigniu, « mad a athuir-sium tisiud do chomrucc friss .i. Dunn Cuailgne, niconn-ar-traigfeth ind Aii 7 no mebaid fair reme fo Mag n-Oi huili gach leth. » Is ann sin ispert Medb o bes lugai : « Tonga
- 185 na dea thungus mo thuath, na tairinnfit 7 na coitelfat for cluim na colccuid 7 ni bom blathcha 7 ni cainfuirim mo tæib 7 ni cainairbiur dergfhatha na finn 7 niconn-airbiur biuth, conamrabat na da tharb sin ar mo ubelaib a comracc. »
- 190 19. Iar sin tra tiaguit Connachtuid 7 in dubluingius hisin sid, gurairesiut in sith 7 co tucsiutt ass a m-bui ann. 7 co tucsiut ass in m-barr m-Briuin iar sin. Is hi sin tra in tres issa amra ind-hErinn 7 cetach Loegaire ind-Ard Macho 7 enech Dunluinge la Laigniu hio Cill Daro. For-
- 195 fagbud Nero tra cona muinntir ina sid 7 ni tainic as cose, acus nie thicfo co brath. Finit. .3 .uiii. maini .on .uiii. nox na casc.

170 tairbin finnbennach ai 171 aidchi ochomroc 172 maig tairbin beccastair 173 robecestair innag 174 fribuachail buaidliu side 175 ni om. popa a fergbais rogabus 176 dodechai(d) secha 177 benta sechnu(n) do Br. om. conadurn sbergusa hicind in bricrend 179 aolcc 180 buigliu (col. 662) 181 buaibliu tisad 182 indond 183 inai samag nai huili om. 184 Medb om. lugu tonga mothuath nitbiur bith comracad nadatarbsin armobe-

18. Then the bull calf and the Whitehorn¹ meet in the plain of Cruachan. A night and a day they were there fighting, until at last the bull calf was beaten. Then the bull calf bellowed when it was beaten. « What did the calf bellow ? » Medb asked of her neat-herd, whose name was Buaigle. « I know that, my good father Fergus », said Bricriu, « it is the strain which thou sangest in the morning ». On that Fergus glanced aside and struck with his fist at Bricriu's head, so that the five men of the draft-board that were in his hand, went into Bricriu's head, and it was a lasting hurt to him. « Tell me, o Buaigle, what did the bull say ? » said Medb. « Truly, it said », answered Buaigle, « if its father came to fight with it, viz. the Donn of Cualgne, it would not be seen in Ai, and it would be beaten throughout the whole plain of Ai on every side ». Then said Medb in the manner of an oath : « I swear by the gods that my people swear by, that I shall not lie down, nor sleep on down or flockbed, nor shall I drink butter-milk nor nurse my side, nor drink red ale nor white, nor shall I taste food, until I see those two kine fighting before my face ».

19. Thereafter the men of Connaught and the black host of exile went into the sid, and destroyed the sid, and took out what there was in it. And then they brought away the crown of Briun. That is the third wonderful gift in Erinn, and the mantle of Loegaire in Armagh, and the shirt of Dunlaing in Leinster in Kildare. Nera was left with his people in the sid, and has not come out until now, nor will he come till Doom.

1. of Ai, add. H. 2. 16.

laib docomruc 190 *conachta* inlongus 191 coroirged 192 iarom isin dino intres ascaid is amra inerin 194 ein(e)ach dunlaingi 195 tra om. 196 conid remscel dothanaid bocuailgne sin. Finit. Amen.

NOTES

- L. 36. This house reminds one of the *tech óiged* described in the *Aislinge Maic Conglinne*, LBr. 213^b, 37.
- L. 37. *athimdlad*. Cf. LBr. 213^b, 47: *benais féin iarum a chuaranu de 7 indlais asin aithindlat út, « he took off his shoes himself and washed (his feet) in the washing-tub there. »*
- L. 38. *ambor co néniud*. This seems to be the same thing as *lóthommar*, LL, 54 a, 34, LBr. 213^b, 45. For *némed* cf. O'Cl. *néimhédh* .i. *ainm don uile salchar*.
- L. 86. *airichlithir*, from *airichlim* (= *airfochlim*) I prepare, LL. 82 a, 10: *ara n-airichlea 7 ara n-airelma*. Cf. Tog. Tr. Ind. *airichill*.
- L. 89. On the *barr Briuin meic Smethrach* see Book of Lismore, fo. 96 a, 1 (in Stokes' forthcoming edition of the Lives of Saints).
- L. 91. *enach*, O'R's *eneach* « a shirt or smock; weft. »
- L. 92. For Dunlaithe read Dunlainge, as in l. 194. On this Gen. see Stokes, Celtic Declension, p. 18.
- L. 95. I take *buideraith* to be meant for *buide-raith* « lit. « yellow fern ». *raith* = W. **rhad*, *rhedyn*, Gaul. *pratis*, Lith. *papartis*, Russ. *paporoti*.
- L. 123. None of these *gesa* is mentioned in the piece called *Gessa 7 ilberta Conculaind*, LL. 107^b, 26-32.
- L. 124. For this meaning of *airderc* cf. Bricriu's saying (LL. 264 a, 11, 268 b, 37): *is irdarcu dam-sa sanas 'ná do neoch aile égem, « clearer to me is a whisper than to any one else a cry ».*
- L. 136. *dú* is used as a noun also in LL. 247 b. 6: *doberar dam co tinniu dóib cona dú di chormaim dia feiss*.
- L. 139. *dair*. Cf. O'R. *dair*, *daireadh* « bulling »; *bo ag daireadh*.
- L. 142. *coibden* F. « a host ». *coibhdean* .i. *coimhfheadhan* .i. *buidhean*, O'Cl. *d'ar m-breith sech coibdin, sech creich*, LL. 308^b, 19.
- L. 143. Cf. *ar badair olaicte sidha Erenn im samain dogres, air ni seta diamair dia samna dogres for sidaib*, Mcgn. Find, 21.
- L. 161. *conadsaig*. Cf. *adsegat nad arget*, LL. 344 d.
- L. 164. *i m-Bairchi hi Cuailgneiu*. These are the Benna Bairche, now the Mourne Mountains, mentioned in the Tripart. Life pp. 408; 422, in the *Táin Bó Fraích*, LL. 251^b, 45, and in the TBC. LL. 83^b.
- L. 165. *cichis*, 3rd sing. of the redupl. s-fut. of *cingim*.
Ib. *rém roirge* (= *rorige*) « a course of great kingship »?
- L. 167. *Bee n-Aingeni*. For other examples of the neuter gender of *bé* see Stokes, Celtic Declension, p. 29.
- L. 175. Bricriu, we are told in LL. 103^b, 36, had come from Ulster to beg presents from Fergus. But Fergus kept him waiting for jewels and precious things. From the wound he received from Fergus he lay ill at Crúachan during the whole war of the Táin. On the day on which the men of Erin returned from the war he got up for the first time. For his taunt to Fergus (*athis mór*) he had to pay with his life; for he was forced to witness the fight between the Whitehorn and the Donn of Cualnge, and was killed by the infuriated beasts LL. 103^b, 44-104^a, 12.
- L. 183. Cf. *rommebdatár rium-sa mórchatha cach leth*, LU. 114 a.