

HAIL BRIGIT

AN OLD-IRISH POEM ON THE HILL OF ALENN

EDITED AND TRANSLATED

BY

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TO
RICHARD IRVINE AND EDITH BEST

IN MEMORY
OF OUR VISIT TO KNOCKAWLIN ON JUNE 19TH 1910
AND OF MANY OTHER HAPPY HOURS
SPENT IN THEIR COMPANY

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THE Old-Irish poem here printed and translated for the first time has for its theme the disappearance of the pagan world of Ireland and the triumph of Christianity, as exemplified by the deserted ruins of the ancient hill-fort of Alenn contrasted with the flourishing state of the neighbouring Kildare. Indeed the poem reads like an amplification of Oengus' lines in the Prologue to his *Féilire*:

*Borg Ailinne uallach atbath lia slóg mbágach:
is mór Brigit búadach, is cáin a rriam dúlach.*¹

'Alenn's proud citadel has perished with its warlike host: great is victorious Brigit, fair is her multitudinous cemetery.'

The hill of Alenn,² now called Knockawlin,³ is situated in the county of Kildare, not far from Old Kilcullen, and still contains vestiges of what was the largest fort in Ireland after Emain Macha. It has often been described.⁴

¹ See *The Martyrology of Oengus*, ed. by Wh. Stokes, 1905, p. 25.

² This is the oldest form of the name, a feminine *ā*-stem, making its genitive *Ailinne* and its dative and accusative *Alinn*. Forms with *ll* appear early, and in the latter half of the ninth century the genitive *Alend* occurs, as if the nom. were *Aliu*. See RC. XX, p. 10 (*i n-óenuch Alend*) and LL 45 b (*Énna Ailend*, spelt *Ailenn* 393 a).

³ By folk-etymology, as if *Cnoc Alainn* 'Delightful Hill'.

⁴ As e. g. by the late Mr. T. O'Neill Russell in CZ. IV, p. 340.

According to an early tradition the wall or rampart of Alenn was constructed by Art Mes-Delmonn,¹ son of Sétna Sithbacc, king of Leinster, though it had been a royal seat even before his time.² In an ancient alliterative poem on his death, ascribed to Briccine mac Brigni, Alenn is mentioned as the stronghold from which he descended upon his enemies:³

*Mál adriúalaid iathu marb, mac sóer Sétnai;
selaig srathu Fomoire for dóine donnaib.
Di óchtur Alinne oirt triumu talman,
trebunn trén tuathmar Mes-Delmonn Domnann.*

'A prince has gone to the meadow-lands of the dead, the noble son of Sétna. He ravaged the straths of Fomorians over worlds of men. From the height of Alenn he slew the mighty ones of the earth, a powerful captain⁴ of many tribes, Mes-Delmonn of the Domnainn.'

The tradition that Alenn was a seat of the Leinster kings before the time of Art Mes-Delmonn is borne out by a very ancient poem, where it is mentioned together with Tara and Crúachu (Ratheroghan). This is a composition of twenty-two stanzas called *Fursunnud Laidcinn*, i. e.

¹ That this, and not Mes-Telmonn as it is sometimes written, is the correct form is shown by alliteration: *mac Mis-Delmond dorar már*, LL 51 b.

² Is lais conrotacht múr nAlinne, licet antea ciuitas regalis fuit, Rawl. B. 502, p. 118 a 30 = LL 311 b 31 and 378 a. Art Mes-Delmand mac Sétna cedna conacclaid múr nAilinne, Dinds. 17 (RC. XV, p. 309). Cf. also the poem on Alenn in E. Gwynn's *Metrical Dindsenchas II*, p. 80.

³ See Rawl. B. 502, p. 118 a 32, LL 311 b 33 and 378 a 19.

⁴ Literally, 'tribune'.

'The Illumination of Laidcenn (mac Bairchedo)', preserved in a single copy only in Rawlinson B. 502, p. 116 c. This remarkable poem is one of few revealing a metrical system which has never been noticed before. This system stands midway between the old alliterative rhythmical poetry and the later syllabic rhymed unrhythmical poetry. There is rhythm, each verse having as a rule three, and sometimes four or two stresses; there is alliteration from word to word and from verse to verse; and there are full disyllabic rhymes at the end of the couplets. It is therefore not unreasonable to assume that we have here to do with poems belonging to a period when the introduction of rhyme into the old purely alliterative metres prepared the way towards a complete adoption in Irish poetry of the rhymed metres based upon the Latin church hymns.

The lines referred to are:

*Olddam Elgga aigthide Amlongaid an Oengus
adtreb tōeba Temro,¹ tosnort² arid n-ōenhus.
Ailenn chruind, Crūachu, cāinu³ dūn dindgnai,
duir conserad rōmdæ rīgrad rūad rindgnai.*

'The dread ollam of Ireland, the noble Great Supporter⁵ Oengus, dwelt on the sides of Tara; he vanquished it by his sole strength.⁴

¹ atreb toebu temra Ms. For the spelling *atreb* compare *atrefea*, Ml. 107 a 15.

² dosnort Ms.

³ Read either *cāine* or *cāinem*.

⁴ Here *arid n-* seems to contain the personal instead of the possessive pronoun of the 3 sg. m. (*id n-*).

⁵ The name which is here written *Amlongaid* has undergone many changes in the course of time. It is best known in its

Round Alenn, Cruachu, fairest¹ of hill-forts, . . .²
glorious strong kings of spear-craft.'

Oengus Ollam Amlongaid was the son of Ailill Abrat-cháin and grandson of Labraid Loingsech. See his pedigree in Rawl. B. 502, p. 117 f. He was slain by Irero mac Meilge, ib. 135 b 46. But the Leinster king who is most frequently associated with Alenn is Find fili mac Rossa Rúaid. While his brother Corpre Nio-fer made himself king of Tara, and his brother Ailill mac Máta by virtue of his maternal descent ruled in Connaught, Find became king of Leinster with his residence at Alenn. The three brothers and their royal seats are celebrated in many poems dating from various periods. The oldest is one ascribed to Senchán Torpéist, a wellknown poet of the seventh century:³

*Tri maicc Rúaid, ruirig flaind:
fiangal⁵ Find, Ailill acher, cóem Corpre.⁴*

latest form *Amalgaid*, where *g* as it does often stands for *ng*. In AU. 717 we find *Amalgaid*, gen. *Amalgado* 592. The Book of Armagh (fo. 10 b 1) has *Amolngid*. But the earliest Old-Irish form has been preserved by the scribe of Rawl. B. 502 who on p. 144 g writes *Anblongaid*. This clearly stands for **an-folangid* 'great supporter', just as the gen. *Anfolmíthe* goes back to the ogham *Ana-vlamattias*, as John MacNeill (Notes on Irish Ogham Inscriptions, p. 358) has shown.

¹ Literally, 'excellence'.

² I can make nothing of *duir conserad*. An leg. *converad*?

³ See Rawl. B. 502, p. 118 b 15, LL 311 c 34 and 380 a 13.

⁴ This line occurs with a slight change in the *Fursunnud Laidcenn* (Rawl. B. 502, 116 c): *Finn fili, Ailill acher, caem Cairpre*.

⁵ It is interesting to find this epithet applied to Find mac Rossa. The more one studies these old texts, the more evident it becomes that the connexion of Find mac Cumail with the hill

*Cáine dind dem i fóat:
Alenn chruind, Crúachu, Temair thóebglan.*

'Three sons of Ruad, noble great kings: Find of the valour of warbands, fierce Ailill, loveable Carbre. Fairest of hills¹ is the shelter² in which they sleep:³ round Alenn, Cruachu, bright-sided Tara'.

In the same way the three brothers and their residences are celebrated in a poem placed in the mouth of Conchobor mac Nessa at the end of *Cath Ruiss na Rig*,⁴ and again in the following unassigned verses in LL 379 b 34:

*Amra in mhaicni maicne Rossa, rād̄h gin mebail,
Oilill a Crúachain,⁵ Find i nAillinn, Cairpri i Temair.*

A poem on the thirty-five kings of Leinster who were also high-kings of Ireland likewise mentions them as follows, adding the name of a fourth brother:⁶

*Ross Rúad, Find file a hAlinn, Ailill mac Rosa robind,
Corpre Nia-fer co n-aeb iath is Conchobor Abratriad.*

Lastly, there was a poem on the three brothers by Orthánach, of which however the first verse only has been preserved:⁷

Can tri macco Rúaid din rind 7 rl.

of Allen rests on a confusion with his namesake and of Alenn with Almu (Allen). It is remarkable that among the kings 'who loved to be at Alenn' our poem mentions Find mac Roith (§ 13), whose name, so far as I know, occurs nowhere else.

¹ Literally, 'excellence of hills'.

² As to this meaning of *dem* see my Contributions s. v.

³ Cf. *is iar in adba i fáat*, Otia Merseiana I, p. 125.

⁴ See Hogan's edition, p. 5.

⁵ Read *Oilill Crúachna*.

⁶ See Rawl. B. 502, p. 83 a 44. ⁷ Ibid., p. 118 b 17.

The hill of Alenn was the scene of several battles. Sírna Sírsáeglach mac Déin is said to have been slain there by Rothechtaid Ratha,¹ and Etarscéil Már mocu Ieir by Núadu Necht.² In 728 A. D. a battle between Dúinchad and Fáelán, the sons of Murchad mac Brain, king of Leinster, for the succession of the kingship was fought there.³

When exactly Alenn was abandoned as a royal residence we do not hear. It must have been between the death of Bran mac Conaill, the last king mentioned in our poem as having resided there, and the composition of the Félire, i. e. between the years 695 and the end of the eighth century.

It is a pity that the poem has reached us in a single copy only. This will be found in the Book of Leinster, p. 49 b 9 ff. The shortcomings of the scribe of this Ms. are by now notorious, and unfortunately his copy of the poem forms no exception to his careless habits, so that we are repeatedly obliged to have recourse to emendation and conjecture. Besides, the Ms. has become illegible in several places. In one case the facsimile does not represent the exact reading of the original.⁴

There can I think be no doubt that our poem was composed during the Old-Irish period. As unmistakeably Old-Irish forms I would instance the s-subjunctive *seiss* 1,

¹ See Rawl. B. 502, p. 135 a 1.

² Ibid., p. 135 b 3.

³ *Bellum Ailenne inter duos germanos filios Murchado maic Brain 7 Dúinchad senior iugulatus est. Iunior Faelanus regnat*, AU. 727. In his reference to this passage in the Index the editor has confused Alenn with Almu.

⁴ See CZ. VIII, p. 182.

ó doréccu 3, *mruig* 10, the verb-noun *boith* 13, *cui[n]gare* 17, *immudrú* 25, the use of *uae* 6, 22, 26 and of *nió* (*nepos*) 16 as disyllables. The archaic order in *féin co ngaírg* 13 may also be mentioned. All this would speak for the eighth or early ninth century. On the other hand, the use of *fil* in relative function (1) instead of O. Ir. *file*, which still occurs in the Félire (Prol. 336), of *ronalt* for O. Ir. *rodnalt*¹ 15, and of *crúach* 'bloody' as a monosyllable seems rather to point to the end of the ninth. However, the use of *tíri Gall* (11) in the sense of 'lands of the Gaul' i. e. France, forbids us, I think, to put the poem later than the early part of the ninth century before *Gall* had changed its meaning to 'Norseman'.

The poem is composed in the metre *rannaigecht mór*. The last word of the first and third verses assonate regularly with the rhyme. When they do not so assonate they must rhyme with a word in the following verse.² The only exception to this rule will be found in §§ 11 and 21 where *tráth* and *neoch* are left without rhymes in the fourth verses. There is throughout so-called *fidrad freccomail*, i. e. the last word of each stanza alliterates with the first or the first accented word of the following stanza. Here *c* and *g* (as in 5/6, 7/8, 8/9, 11/12) count as alliteration. In stanza 5 the repetition of *ni mair* and in 15 the repetition of *Life* are a sufficient link; in 17 *Catháir* may be intended to form a link with *Currech Corpri*; but in 20 and 21 I can find no alliteration of any kind. Perhaps some stanzas have here dropt out.

¹ But this may be due to the transcriber.

² They do so often even when there is full assonance.

Handwritten note: This passage (see VIII, 182) is a fine example of the use of the s-subjunctive in the Old-Irish period.

- 1 Slān seiss, a Brigit co mbūaid, for grūaid Lifi lir co tráig,
is tū banflaith buidnib slūaig fil for clannaib Cathāir Máir.
- 2 Ba móu epert in each ré airle Dé fri hĒrind [n-]ūaig,¹
indiu eid² latt Liphe lig, ropo thír cāich ala n-ūair.³
- 3 Ō doréccu Cuirrech cáin assa tháeb na torem . . .⁴ tír,
dobeir mac[h]dath for each meild in cor foiceird for
each ríg.
- 4 Ba rí Lōegaire co ler, Ailill Áne, adbol cor,
marid Currech cona lí, ní mair nach rí robōi for.
- 5 Ní mair Labraid Longsech lán iar tundsem a trichait⁵
chōim,⁶
i nDind Ríg, ba hadba gnāth, ō thuc bráth do Chobthach
Chōil.⁷
- 6 Gabais hĒrinn hūae Luirc, Ōengus Rōirend, réim co saire,
rolá fathi dar a feirt Maistiu munbrece Moga Airt.
- 7 Ailend aurdairc, álaind fuis,⁸ fail mór fathi fo a crius,⁹
ba mó foscnaid tan atchess Crimthan Coscrach ina crius.

¹ uill Ms.

² sic Ms. ind .u. cid Fcs.

³ arnuair Ms.

⁴ torēni Fcs., but *ní* is not clear in the Ms. It looks to me more like *al*.

⁵ trichait Ms.

⁶ cām Ms.

⁷ ceļ Ms.

⁸ álaind fál fuis Ms.

⁹ cirus Ms.

1 Sit thou safely enthroned, triumphant Brigit, upon
the side of Liffey¹ far as the strand of the ebbing sea!
Thou art the sovereign lady with banded hosts² that
presides over the Children of Cathair the Great.

2 God's counsel at every time concerning virgin Erin
is greater than can be told: though glittering Liffey is
thine to-day, it has been the land of others in their turn.

3 When from its side I gaze upon the fair Curragh . . . ,
the lot that has fallen to every king causes awe at each
wreck.

4 Loegaire was king as far as the sea, — Ailill Áne,
a mighty fate: the Curragh with its glitter remains —
none of the kings remains that lived thereon.

5 Perfect Labraid Longsech lives no more, having
trodden under foot his fair thirty years: since in Dinn Ríg
— 'twas a wonted abode — he dealt doom to Cobthach
the Slender.

6 Lorc's grandson, Oengus of Róiriu, seized the rule
of Erin, . . . sway; Maistiu of the freckled neck, son of
Mug Airt, threw princes across their graves.

7 Far-famed Alenn! delightful knowledge! many a
prince is under its girth: it is greater than can be
fathomed when Crimthan the Victorious was seen in its
bosom.

¹ i. e. the Plain of the Liffey, which included the town of
Kildare.

² i. e. the monks and nuns of Kildare.

- 8 Gáir a ilaig¹ iar cech mbūaid im chúail claideb, cumtaig
drend,
bríg a fian fri indna ngorm, gloim a corn for cétaib cend.
- 9 Glēs a hindeón comdad cúar, clúas a dūan do theingthaib
bard,
bruth a fer fri comlund nglan, cruth a ban fri óenach n-ard.
- 10 A hól meda for cech mbruig, a graig allmar, ilar túath,
a seinm² rond do rígaib fer fo duilnib sleg cóicrind crūach.
- 11 A ceóil binni in each thráth, a finbárc for tondgur fland,
a fross argait orddain³ móir,⁴ a tuire óir a tírib Gall.
- 12 Co muir nAlban amal cháir ráith a orddan la cech rí,
rufer āmaill im cech cāin Alend ālaind cona bríg.
- 13 Bressal [Brecc] ba rí for Eilgg, Fíachra Fobrecc fēin
co n̄gaire,
Fergus Fairgge, Find mac Roith carsat boith i nAlind aird.
- 14 Adrad litha⁵ nī fiu clúas, solud nā sēn siabras bás,
is bréc uile iarna thūr indid Alend is dún fás.

¹ inaig Ms.

² seinm Ms.

³ or[] Fcs. I think I can make out *orddain*. O'Curry,
Lect. III, p. 182 prints *órdai*.

⁴ máir Ms.

⁵ lithu Ms.

8 The shout of triumph heard there after each victory around a shock of swords, a mettlesome mass; the strength of its warrior-bands against the dark-blue battle-array; the sound of its horns above hundreds of heads.

9 The tuneful ring of its even-coloured bent anvils, the sound of songs heard there from the tongues of bards; the ardour of its men at the glorious contest; the beauty of its women at the stately gathering.

10 Drinking of mead there in every home-stead; its noble steeds, many tribes; the jingle of chains unto kings of men under blades of five-edged bloody spears.

11 The sweet strains heard there at every hour; its wine-barque upon the purple flood; its shower of silver of great splendour; its torques of gold from the lands of the Gaul.

12 Far as the sea of Britain the high renown of each king has sped like a meteor: delightful Alenn with its might has made sport of every law.

13 Bresal Brec was king over Elg,¹ Fíachra Fobrec with a fierce band of warriors; Fergus of the Sca, Finn son of Roth, they loved to dwell in lofty Alenn.

14 Worship of auguries is not worth listening to, nor of spells and auspices that betoken death; all is vain when it is probed, since Alenn is a deserted doon.

¹ A poetic name for Ireland.

- 15 Foglass a ngen¹ tibes duit a maig² . . . [p. 50 a] tūaith
crícha Cuire,
di cech lín ronalt a húair doriñgne lūaith Liphe³ Luirc.
- 16 Currech Lifi lir co hor, Currech Sétnai, síth co ler,
is mōr ríg frisrala cor Currech Corpri⁴ Niö[d] fer.
- 17 Catháir Már, ba forgu delb, reraig hĒrind ilar ndolb,
ce chutgáre oc a ráith roscáich a ngal ilar fodb.
- 18 Fiachna Fomne, Bresal rán rerig⁵ sál co snigib sleg,
trícha⁶ ruirech rēin cu hor⁷ gabsat tír im Themair Breg.
- 19 Benna Iuchna, ālains port, imma ndessid ilar fert,
fēga latt i nAlmain aird adba[id] Taidg⁸ maic Nūadat
Necht.
- 20 Fodbæ Feradaig, fō mind, imma n-aigtis⁹ buidne bend,
a barr bre[c]glas, a brat líg, is mór ríg ralā dar cend.
- 21 Dūnlañg Fornac[h]ta, ba fial, flaith fri Níall ro chathu clóí,
ce adfeissed scēl do neoch ní hé in bith cetabói.
- 22 Brigais Illand im[ma] thūaith trichait catha fri cech ríg,
hūāe Ēnnai, ald fri ūath,¹⁰ nī bu slūag cen riān ríg.

¹ ngein Ms.² maig [] Fcs. maig :: it (?) Ms.³ liphi Ms. ⁷ cor Ms.⁴ corpre Ms. ⁸ thaidg Ms.⁵ rerid Ms. ⁹ immundaigtis Ms. Cf. Ériu IV, 28, 30.⁶ trichait Ms. ¹⁰ nath Ms.

15 Bright is the smile that smiles on you from the plain . . . of Corc's land; of each generation which it reared in turn Liffey of Lorc has made ashes.

16 The Curragh of Liffey to the brink of the main, the Curragh of Sétna, a land of peace as far as the sea, — many is the king whom the Curragh of Carbre Nia-fer has overthrown.

17 Catháir the Great — he was the choicest of shapes — ruled Erin of many hues: though you cry upon him at his rath, his¹ prowess of many weapons has vanished.

18 Fiachna of Fomuin, glorious Bresal ruled the sea with showers of spears: thirty great kings to the edge of the sea seized land around Tara of Bregia.

19 The Peaks of Iuchna, delightful place, around which many graves have settled — behold in lofty Allen the abode of Taidg, son of Nuadu Necht!

20 The apparel of Feradach — a goodly diadem — around whom crested bands would move; his blue-speckled helmet, his shining mantle, — many a king he overthrew.

21 Dunlang of Fornocta¹, he was generous, a prince who routed battles against the sons of Niall: though one were to tell the tale to all, this is not the world that was once.

22 Illann with his tribe launched thirty battles against every king, Enna's grandson, a rock against terror, it was not a host without a king's rule.

¹ I translate *a gal*.

- 23 Ba rí Ailill ērnad rath, fris¹ ndressed cath crōdond crūaid,
Cormac,² Corpre, Colmān Mór, Brandub, bāre i mbātar
slūaig.
- 24 Ba slicht flatha Faelán find, Fīannamail fri forbud fiand,
Bran mac Conaill co llín glond, ba sī in tond dar each
n-ald.
- 25 A Brigit 'sa tír atchū, is cāch a úair immudrá,³
rogab do chló for a chló ind rí, is tū fordará.
- 26 Tāthut bith[*f*]laith lasin Ríg cen a tír i fail do rúaim,
a ūē Bresail maic Dēin, slán⁴ seiss, a Brigit co mbūaid!

¹ resi Ms.² cormac mac Ms.³ immudrí Ms.⁴ islan Ms.

23 Ailill was a king that would bestow favour, against whom a fierce blood-dark battle-host would rise; Cormac, Carbre, Colman the Great, Brandub, a barque in which were hosts.

24 Faelan the Fair was a track of princesship, Fianamail with . . .; Bran, son of Conall with many deeds, he was the wave over every cliff.

25 Oh Brigit whose land I behold, on which each one in turn has moved about, thy fame has outshone the fame of the king — thou art over them all.

26 Thou hast everlasting rule with the king apart from the land wherein is thy cemetery. Grand-child of Bresal son of Dian, sit thou safely enthroned, triumphant Brigit!

Notes

1. *seiss*, 2 sg. s-subj. of *saidim* 'I sit'; cf. the past subj. *nosessed* Ml. 135 a 13. — *for grúaid Lifi*. For the poetical use of *grúad* 'check' in the sense of 'side' applied to places cf. *dar slimgrúaid sár Sencharmain* LL 215 a 38. — *lir co tráig*. Here and in *lir co hor* 16, *réin cu hor* 18 the genitive attribute precedes the noun with preposition, on which it depends. — *for clannaib Catháir Máir*. Catháir Már, who flourished about the middle of the fourth century — his grandson Bresal Bélach died in 435 — was the ancestor of the Húi Dúnlainge and Húi Chenselaig, and many kings of Leinster were descended from him.

2. *úaig*. This is my conjecture for the faulty *uill* of the Ms. which yields no rhyme. — *ala n-uair*. In order to get the full number of syllables I have substituted the older *ala* for the later *ar* of the Ms.

3. *assa tháeb*. Translate, perhaps, 'whose side'. — *dobeir machdath for cach meild*. Here *for* has taken the place of *ar*. Cf. *ba mór a n-ádúath ar machdath ar sceol* (sic leg.) *adtarfas dóib*, R.C. XIV, p. 452, 26. — *mell f.* 'ruin, destruction'. See Windisch s. v. and add: *is meth 7 is mell* (*milliud* LL) *dond fír*, CZ. III 3. It is the noun from which *millim* 'I destroy' is derived.

4. *Lóegaire*, i. e. Lóeguire Lorc, son of Ugaine Már, king of Ireland. *Ailill Áne*, son of Lóegaire Lorc. — *Currech cona lí*. In a poem ascribed to Finn in LL 191 b 31 the phrase *coná lí* is applied to the hero Currech himself. — *robói for*. As to this order of words see CZ. VIII 183, and add: *cid fo, cid for béus bemni*, Imr. Snédg. ed. Thurneysen, § 7.

5. *Labraid Longsech*, son of Ailill Áne. According to Rawl. B. 502, 135 b 42 his reign lasted only nineteen years. — *tundsem m.*, literally, 'a trampling under foot, treading', verb-noun of *tonnessaim*, as *dínsem* of *di-nessaim*, *comainsem* of *con-nessaim*.

6. *húae Luirc*, i. e. Labraid Longsech. — *Óengus Róirenn*, i. e. Oengus Ollam Amlongaid, grandson of Labraid Loingsech.

As Marstrander has pointed out to me, *Róiriu* stands for *Ro-Eriu*, the opposite of *Bec-Ériu*, now Beggery Island. — *réimm co sairc* I can make nothing of *sairc*. An leg. *ós airá?* — *Maistiu munbrec Moga Airt*. I can find no such person in the genealogies. Notice the absence of *mac*, on which see CZ. VIII, p. 179.

7. The first verse as it stands in the Ms. has one syllable too many. As the last word should, in assonance with *crius* and *atchess*, end in a non-palatal consonant, I have altered *fuis* into *fius*. *fál* I regard as an insertion made when *fius* had been misread as *fius*. *fál fuis* would mean 'wall of residence'. — *foscnað*. This I take to be the verb-noun of *fo-scannaim* 'I toss', in a metaphorical sense 'I agitate, scrutinize'. In the former sense it occurs in Ml. 63 b 17, in the latter ib. 96 a 4. — *Crimthann Coscrach*, son of Feradach Findfechtach. According to Rawl. B. 502, 136 a 5 he was slain by Rudraige mac Sittride.

8. *cuntaig*. The meaning of this noun which occurs four times in SR (see my Contributions and add *cuntaig ar cest* 1103) has not been made out. It seems to denote a mass, band, number, or the like.

10. *for cech nbruig*. Alliteration with *meda* shows that we have to restore *mruig*. — *duil-ne f.* (later *duille*), a singulative of *duil* 'leaf', like W. *dalen* from *dail*.

11. *finbárc*. The word also occurs in Br. D. D. 81: *cid finbárc totessed treu*. — *fland* 'dark-red' is, like the Homeric *οἴνοπ*, a common epithet for the sea. Cf. *fogur fairgge slainne*, Liad. and Curithir, p. 24, 15. — *móir*. I have altered the Ms. reading *máir* in order to restore the rhyme with *óir*.

12. *rufer ámaill ac*. The meaning of this idiom is perhaps 'it flouted every tribute'. As to *ámall f.* see my Contributions s. v. and p. XII and add: *bebais brón-ámaill nbratha | mac mórálaind Murchada*, LL 133 a 19.

13. *Bressal Brecc*, son of Lugaid Lóthfind, grandson of Fiachu Fobrecc. — *féin co ngaírg*, a poetical order of words for *co féin gaírg*. — *Fergus Fairgge*, son of Níadu Necht. — *Find mac Roith*. I cannot find him in the genealogies.

14. *fíu* 'worth', with acc. Cf. *fíu cóicait cumal* LL 145 a 28; *ba fíu Éirinn a óenur* AU 902. — *solud* (*so-lith) m. 'something

portending luck', often used together with *sén*. — *is bréc uile tarna thír*. Cf. *is bréc uile acht Isucán*, Féil.² p. 44. — *indid*, literally, 'in which is' (Thurn. Handb. § 776), generally used in the sense of 'when, since'. For further examples see Strachan, Ériu I 12, and add: *inid ed so file and*, Ér. I 120 § 12.

15. *foglass a ngen* (*ngein* Ms., *perperam*). *foglass* (W. *golas*) recurs in the sense of 'bright' as applied to a smile in *Anecd.* I 71 § 182: *nímbí foglas fonn gen combras oca mbitis*. — *gen* 'smile' seems originally a neuter u-stem. We have the gen. sg. in *mac Genna meic Cuitbiuda*, *Anecd.* II 57, 1 if this is miswritten for *Gena*. Otherwise *Genna* might stand for the adjective *genda*. The nom. pl. occurs in the Triads § 91: *tri gena*. But in *gen chon* ib. the word has passed into the feminine gender. In *Fianaigeacht* p. 16 § 42 however we have the nom *in cais-gen*. In mod. Ir. it is masc. — *crícha Cuirc*. According to Hogan's *Onomasticon* this is an ancient name for the barony of Burren and Corcumroe, which would hardly suit our context.

16. *Currech Lifí* ac. Here three divisions of the Curragh are distinguished, which so far as I know are not mentioned elsewhere. *Currech Sétnai*, probably so called from *Sétna* *Sithbacc*.

17. *forgu*, an indeclinable neuter like *dígu*, *rogu*, *togu*, *uccu*. Cf. *fri forggú fer* LL 52 a 25; *forgo* SR 3708. It also occurs as a proper name, *Forggu*, Rl. 502, 141 a; *mac Forgco*, ib. 141 b. — *ce chutyare*. Cf. *ce chotnaicléstar*, *Corm. s. v. lethech*. Here *g*, as often, stands for *ng*. *congarim* (*congaur*) in the transitive use of 'I summon, call upon' is of frequent occurrence, e. g. *cotgair Lugaíd imach hé* LÚ 67 b 1, where *hé* is redundant; *cotgart Lóegaire don tshíag*, CZ. III 45; *coitgéra in Coimdiu cucí*, ib. IV 243, 16; *it é conacartatar Pátraic a bronnaib a máthar*, *Trip.* 134, 6.

18. *Fiachna Fomne*, i. e. *Fiachna ba accid*, son of *Catháir Már*. I take *Fomne* as the gen. of *Fomuín*, the name of a place in Leinster (Hogan). — *Bresal*, i. e. *Bresal Béalach*, who according to the *Annals* of Ulster died either in 435 or 436 A. D. — *trícha ruirech* ac. According to various Leinster accounts twenty-five or thirty Kings of Leinster are said to have been at the same

time high-kings of Ireland. But in the following note in LL 377 b their number is reduced to ten: *atberat Laigin cóig rígh fichet dúbh a ríge nÉrenn 7 ní faghait eolaig Lethe Cuinn acht deichnebur i. Lóeguirí, Labraid, Aongus, Oilill, Ferghus Fortamail, Crimthann Coscrach, Bresal Enechghlas, Níadha Necht, Conchabur Abtráradh, Eochaid mac Én[na] Ghenselaig aon-adhaigh*. In a late poem in *Rawl. B.* 502, 83 a, beginning *Cóic rígh tríchat do Laignib rogabsat Banba mbladbil* their number is increased to thirty-five and their names are enumerated; but this result is arrived at by splitting up their names and making e. g. two kings *Oengus* and *Amalgaid* out of *Oengus Amalgaid*.

19. *Benna Iuchna*, not identified. — *dessid*, orthotonic *do-essid* (*de-en-sed*, Thurn. § 692). — *adbaid*. I have restored this form so as to have rhyme with *Almain*. — *Tadg mac Níadat Necht*, a famous druid of *Catháir Már's*. See more about him in *Fotha Catha Cnucha*, ed. Windisch, *Irische Grammatik*, p. 121.

20. *fodbae*, the nom. pl. of *fodb*, a masc. u-stem, later *fuidd*. — *Feradach*. I do not know which *Feradach* is meant. The older form of this name is *Feredach* (*Rawl. B.* 502, 116 c 24), = *Fer-fedach* a derivation from *Fer-fid* (*Ferid*) 'Man-wood', just as *Muiredach* stands for *Muir-fedach* from *Muir-fid* (*Muirid*, gen. *Muireda* *Tig.* 564) 'Sea-wood' = O. W. *Morguid*. The Irish proper names which derive their first or second element from *fid* 'wood' are very numerous, such as *Fid-abra*, *Fid-gnáth*, *Fid-gus*, *Fid-gein*, *Fid-geinid* (cf. O. W. *Guid-gen*, Ohg. *Witu-kint*), *Fid-chad*, *Fid-chú* (O. W. *Guid-ci*), *Fid-airle*, *Fid-gal*, *Fid-muine*, *Fid-rue*, **Fid-ub* (of which *Fidbad* in *Failbe Fidbad*, *Tig.* 623 is the gen.) &c. *Cáirid* (= *Cáir-fid*), gen. *Cáiredo*, *Cóem-fid*, *Crín-fid* &c. — *brecglas*. The spelling *breglass* of the Ms. also occurs in *YBL* p. 108 a 25 in a passage where the book of Lismore has *brecaglas*. See Best's edition of *Suidigud Tellaig Temra*, *Eriu* IV 146, 5. There it seems to be a noun. Further examples of the adjective are: *for Banba brecglais broenaich*, *YBL* 125 a 43, a *mBreifne brecglais*, ib. 125 b 31, *ecllach bronnmarr brecglas*, *BB* 257 b 8.

21. *Dúnlang Fornachta*. He was the son of *Énna Nia*. The name *Fornachta* is now *Forenoughts* in co. *Kildare*, near *Naas*

(Hogan). — *fri Niall* i. e. against the descendants of Niall of the Nine Hostages. Throughout the fifth and sixth centuries there was constant warfare between Leinster and them. See the Annals s. a. 458, 461, 494, 500, 502, 503 &c. — *ce adfeissed*. Here *ce* counts as a separate syllable, as it does in *ci asberar a láidi*, RC. XV 310, 5; *ce atchethea trédua cain*, LL 52 a 19, *ci atrandsat oible oited*, Anecd. I 51 § 7, while in Féil. Prol. 182 *im Chiarán ci atcois* and in Anecd. I 54 § 28 *ci adcitis céo* (sic leg.) it has to be run together with the following syllable.

22. *Illand*, son of Dúnlang, † 527. He fought the battle of Cell Osnada against Munster in 490, and that of Inde Mór against Ulster in 503. — *huac Énnai*, i. e. Illand. — *ald fri úath*. The Ms. has *nath*. But a long syllable and rhyme with *slúag* are required. *all* 'cliff, rock' is poetically applied to a hero, saint, or other prominent person. Cf. *Iulian*, *all nglaine*, Féil. Jan. 6. — *rián*, gen. *riáin*, seems to be a living word and to mean 'strength, power, sway, control' or the like. Cf. *ar dhith neirt 7 riain*, Oss. III 254, 4. *ar easba riain*, ib. 244. It is probably the same word as O'Clery's *rian* i. *reisi* 'a span'.

23. *Ailill* i. e. Illann's brother, who succeeded him as king of Leinster 527—549. — *Cormac*, Ailill's son, † 553. — *Corpre*, Cormac's son. He succeeded his father. — *Colmán Mór*, son of Diarmait, died either in 558 or 563. — *Brandub mac Echdach*, king of Leinster 595—605. — *bárc i mbátar slúag*. Thus Bresal Brecc is called *bárcc inna mbó*, Rawl. B. 502, 83a and Aed of Ailech *bárc ordain áin*, Ir. T. III, p. 21.

24. *Fáelán*, the son of Colmán. His wife Uasal, daughter of Suibne mac Colmáin died in 643 (Tig.) — *Fianamail*, son of Máeltuile, † 680. — *fri forbud fland*. Here *forbud* is obscure to me. — *Bran mac Conaill* † 695.

25. *immudrá*. Cf. *dirsan dó in rian rorá*, LU 51 b 45.

26. *úe*. I have no other instance of the use of *úe* in the sense of 'grand-daughter'.