

**THE LANGUAGE OF
THE ANNALS
OF ULSTER**

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The language of the annals of Ulster by Tom?s ? M?ille

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TOMÁS ? M?ILLE

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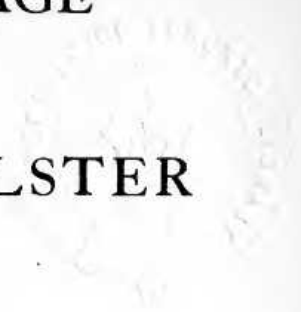
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BY
Tomas O'Maille,
(TOMÁS Ó MÁILLE,) M.A., PH.D.
Professor of Irish at University College, Galway

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TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN STRACHAN

PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH the grammatical system of Old Irish is now fairly well established, very little systematic work has as yet been done at the grammar of the later periods of the language. It had long been my intention to undertake some investigations on the history of the Irish language, and accordingly, when, on the lamented death of the late Professor Strachan, Professor Kuno Meyer suggested to me to take up "The Language of the Annals of Ulster" as a subject for a dissertation for the M.A. degree of Manchester University, I thought it well to treat the material at my disposal from an historical point of view. Whilst keeping this before me, I have not in the present volume deemed it advisable to deal with the whole of Old- and Early Middle-Irish grammar beyond comparing the material of the Annals with that of contemporary documents. In the course of the work, I endeavour to show that the Annals, from the early eighth century onwards, consist of a chronicle taken from contemporary records, and so may be expected to afford a means of dating various Irish documents from the eighth to the eleventh century.

Before proceeding to thank those from whom I have received kind assistance and encouragement, I wish, first of all, to place on record my indebtedness to the great scholar to whose memory this book is dedicated, for a valuable training in the scientific study of Old Irish, and for his many important papers on Irish grammar which have served as my guide.

My best thanks are due to Professor Kuno Meyer, of

Liverpool, who suggested to me the subject of this dissertation, and whose great knowledge of Irish has always been at my disposal. He has also been so kind as to read through the proofs of the book, and to make many important corrections.

I have further to record my sincere thanks to Professor Thurneysen of Freiburg i./B., and Professor Zimmer of Berlin, both of whom read a considerable part of the manuscript, and made many valuable suggestions. To the work of these scholars in the department of Irish philology I have in the course of the book often referred. As the present volume was in the hands of the printer before the former's "Handbuch des Alt-irischen" appeared, the references to this invaluable book are much fewer than would otherwise have been the case.

Last, but not least, I wish to express my very especial thanks to Dr. E. C. Quiggin, of Caius College, Cambridge, who has read carefully through nearly the whole of the manuscript and all the proofs, making several important corrections and suggestions.

I have also to thank Professor Tout for kindly taking charge, on the part of the Publication Committee of the University of Manchester, of the printing of the thesis, and for his solicitude for the success of the work.

I have further to thank the authorities of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, for their kindness in placing the MSS. of the Annals at my disposal.

Whilst thanking the above-mentioned for a good deal of valuable aid ungrudgingly given, I deem it my duty to state that, for the general accuracy of the work and for any theories put forward, I am alone responsible.

TOMÁS Ó MÁILLE.

GALWAY, *July*, 1910.