

**FLED BRICREND: THE
FEAST OF BRICRIU. IRISH
TEXT SOCIETY. VOL. II**

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Fled Bricrend: the feast of Bricriu. Irish text society. Vol. II by George Henderson

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GEORGE HENDERSON

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IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY

Comann na Sgríbeann Gaeilge.



VOL. II.



FLED BRICREND

THE FEAST OF BRICRIU

AN EARLY GAELIC SAGA TRANSCRIBED FROM
OLDER MSS. INTO THE BOOK OF
THE DUN COW, BY

MOELMUIRI MAC MIC CUINN NA M-BOCHT

OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE CULDEES AT CLONMACNOIS,
WITH CONCLUSION FROM GAELIC MS. XL,
EDINBURGH ADVOCATES' LIBRARY

EDITED, WITH TRANSLATION, INTRODUCTION,
AND NOTES BY

GEORGE HENDERSON

M.A. (EDIN.); PH.D. (VIENNA); COLL. JESU, OXON.

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1899

PREFACE

ERE I bid my work God-speed, it is my duty and privilege to thank those who have personally helped me. The Hon. Secretary of the Society, Miss Eleanor Hull, made valuable suggestions and criticisms on my MS. translation in its initial stage. Throughout she abounded in help such as was to me particularly valuable. My rendering when in proof was subjected to further criticism by Miss S. Shaw Kissock, Edinburgh, whose imaginative insight readily re-lived the old incidents once more. To her acumen, independent thought, and æsthetic judgment, I owe still further insight, even into the original. She made the work, in a peculiar sense, her own. To these ladies I owe much.

To the President, Mr. Douglas Hyde, LL.D., I am indebted in an especial way for his kindness in connection with this undertaking. To Professor Mackinnon, Edinburgh University, who with great courtesy and care read my MS. rendering, I tender thanks for very able and helpful criticism and discussion, as well as for the generous loan of several books. To the veteran student of Celtic Myth and Saga, Mr. Alfred Nutt, I am under great obligation for his valuable exposition of the principles which in such a work as this it would be well for one to

have in view. For all the guidance and kindness of Principal Rhŷs, LL.D., Jesus Professor of Celtic, who read this tale with me at Oxford, I am most grateful. As a native Highlander this had for me an entirely unique value. How often has he not pointed out to me words in Cymric cognate with those in this tale, thus helping to elucidate the text! In showing its relation also to the circumstances of a far past, he opened up to me many interesting vistas.

The care and intelligence of the house of Messrs. Ballantyne, Hanson & Co. in the printing have been of very essential assistance. The authorities for all verifications, isolated or otherwise, are cited throughout. And it will readily be believed that ere essaying an undertaking like this, I learned to value very highly the work of all fellow-labourers.

May this tale, now as a whole accessible to the English reader for the first time, prove itself a feast as of yore.

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ABBREVIATED TITLES OF WORKS REFERRED TO

- AFM.*—"Annals of the Four Masters," ed. O'Donovan.
Anct. Laws.—"The Ancient Laws of Ireland," vols. i.-iv.
Bezz. Beit.—Bezenberger's *Beiträge*.
Borlase.—"Doimens of Ireland," by W. Copeland Borlase, 3 vols.
CL.—*Celtische Lexicographie*, ed. Stokes and Meyer.
Cormac.—Cormac's "Glossary."
CZ.—*Celtische Zeitschrift*, ed. Stern and Meyer.
Ed.—The Edinburgh MS. of present text.
Eg.—The Egerton MSS. of present text.
FE.—Fled Bricrend.
H.—MS. of present text (Trinity College, Dublin).
Hib. Lect.—"Hibbert Lectures," by J. Rhŷs.
Hn.—Henebry's "*Dissertatio Inauguralis*: a contribution to the
Phonology of Desi-Irish," Gryphiswaldia, 1898.
Hull.—"The Cuchulainn Saga," ed. Eleanor Hull.
Hyde.—"A Literary History of Ireland," by Douglas Hyde.
IB.—*Imram Brain*, ed. Kuno Meyer and Alfred Nutt.
IF.—*Indogermanische Forschungen*.
Ir. Texte.—*Irische Texte mit Wörterbuch*, von E. Windisch.
JRHAI.—"Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological
Association of Ireland."
KS.—*Keltische Studien*, von H. Zimmer, I.-II.
KZ.—*Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Sprachforschung* (containing
Zimmer's *Keltische Studien*).
L.—Leyden MS. of present text.
LG.—*Leabhar nan Gleann*, by George Henderson.
LH.—*Liber Hymnorum* (Henry Bradshaw Society, 1897).
LL.—"The Book of Leinster," facsimile, Royal Irish Academy.
LU.—"The Book of the Dun Cow," facsimile, Royal Irish
Academy.
MI.—The Milan Glosses, ed. Ascoli: *Il Codice Irlandese dell'*
Ambrosiana, Turin.
MR.—"The Battle of Mag Rath," ed. O'Donovan.