

**GAELIC FOLK TALES.  
A SUPPLEMENTARY  
READER**

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Gaelic folk tales. A supplementary reader by Mary Grant O'Sheridan

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**MARY GRANT O'SHERIDAN**

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A SUPPLEMENTARY  
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# GAELIC FOLK TALES

A SUPPLEMENTARY READER

By

MARY GRANT O'SHERIDAN

SOUTH MADISON, WISCONSIN

REVISED EDITION

HALL & McCREARY  
CHICAGO

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## Foreword

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This little book is but a glimpse of a fairy structure whose beauty has no peer, and whose antiquity antedates all others of its kind, except the Hellenic. I have chosen it out of that which Julius Pokarney calls "a fresh fountain of lore and legend, almost inexhaustible, belonging to the Gaels, to the Irish Gaels." To Mr. Michael O'Gallagher and Mr. David Ryan Twomey of the Gaelic Society of Chicago, I am indebted for kindest assistance in writing the notes. My book is but a wee "chraoibhin," yet I hope to see the time of its blossom and fruitage. How can I better express myself than in the beautiful lines of Ethna Carbery:

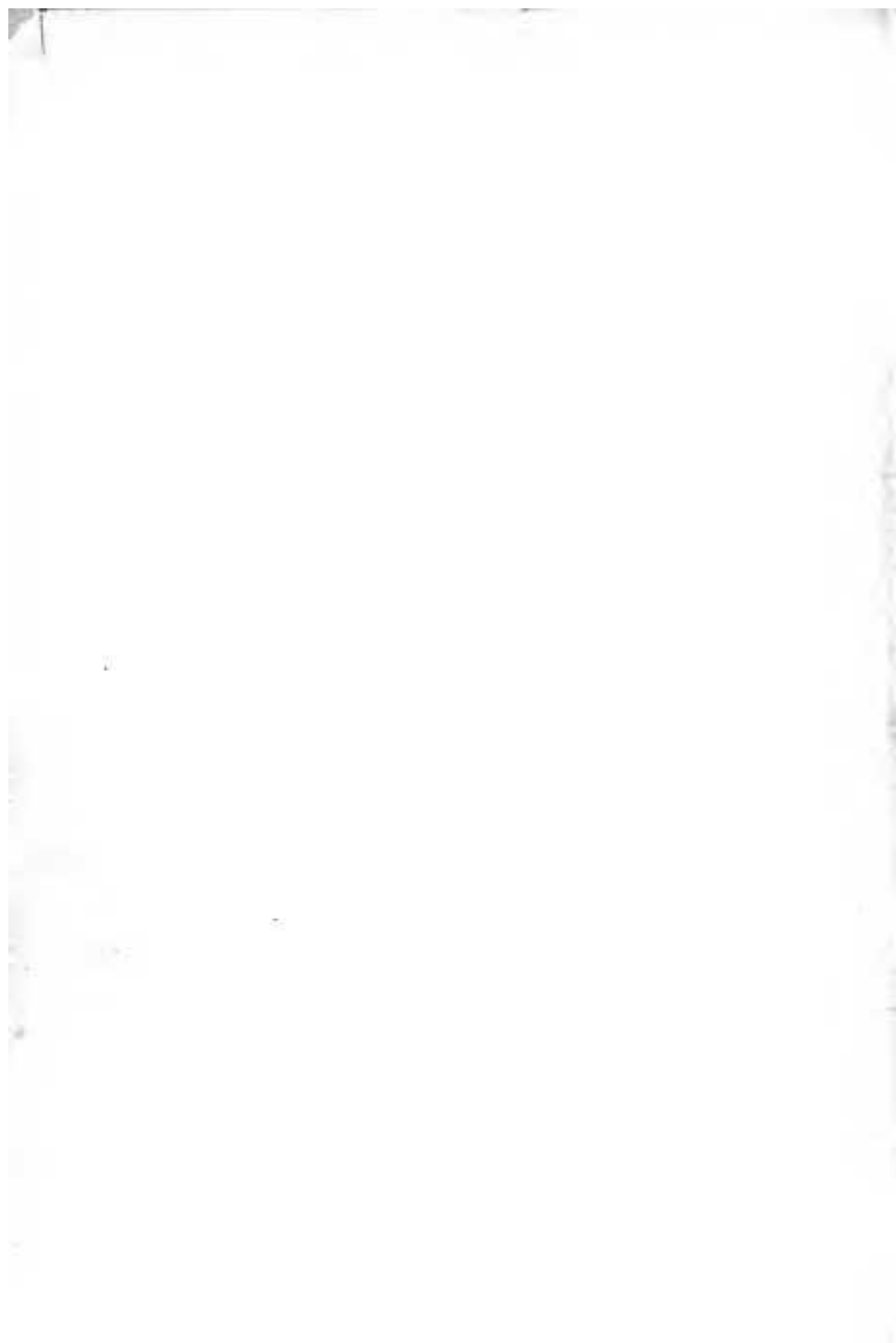
"O little green bud, break and blow into flower,  
Break and blow through the welcome of sunshine and shower;  
'Twas a long night and dreary you hid there forlorn,  
But now the cold hills wear the radiance of morn!

O wind-drifted branch, lift your head to the sun,  
For the sap of new life in your veins hath begun!"

—MARY GRANT O'SHERIDAN.

Chraoibhin [Crēē vēēn]: A branch.

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## INDEX.

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|                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| THE QUEST OF THE ERIC FINE.....                | 7   |
| THE FATE OF THE CHILDREN OF LIR.....           | 60  |
| THE ARD RIGH OF EIRE.....                      | 83  |
| DEIRDRE, OR THE FATE OF THE SONS OF USNACH.... | 118 |
| OISIN'S TALE OF TIR-NA-N-OG.....               | 154 |
| THE PURSUIT OF THE GILLA DACKER.....           | 174 |
| THE FAIRY PALACE OF THE QUICKEN TREES.....     | 211 |



# The Quest of the Eric Fine

## CHAPTER I.



LIDDEN away in the hills of the beautiful island of Eire, there dwell to-day a fairy people called the Sidhe. In olden times, before the enchantment fell upon them, these people were large of stature and comely of feature; skilled in the arts of war and peace; lovers of beauty, of freedom and of song.

The name by which they were called was Tuatha De Danann. They came with their king, Nuada, to Eire and fought the Firbolgs, the people who at that time inhabited the island, and being victorious they took possession. But in their last great encounter, the battle of Magh Tuireadh, a Firbolg warrior cut off the hand of Nuada the De Danann king.

The loss of his kingship went with that of his hand; for no one with a personal blemish could

Eric: restitution. Eire [Ār'-yā]: Name of Ireland in the Gaelic language. Sidhe [Shē]: Fairies. Tuatha De Danann [Thōō' ā hā Dā Dān' Ann]: The tribes of the God Danu; the gods of the pagan Irish. Nuada [Nōō'āh]. Firbolgs [Fēer' bolgs]. Magh Tuireadh [Māw Tū' rāh]: Battle fought, according to the annals of the Four Masters, between the Tuatha De Danann and the Fomorians in the year of the world 3330 on a field in the County Sligo.