

**THE STORY OF  
EARLY  
GAELIC LITERATURE**

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The story of early Gaelic literature by Douglas Hyde

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**DOUGLAS HYDE**

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"Ogygia too, in Greek, is equivalent to *Insula Perantiqua*, that is 'Very-ancient Island.' And a fitting name is that for Erin, because it was far in the past that she was first inhabited, and because perfect is the exact knowledge which her Shanachies possess of the records of her ancients from the beginning of the ages, generation after generation."

—*From the Irish of seadán céitins.*

# THE STORY OF EARLY GAELIC LITERATURE

BY

DOUGLAS HYDE, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

(An Chraoibhin Aoidhinn)

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TO THE  
AMERICAN

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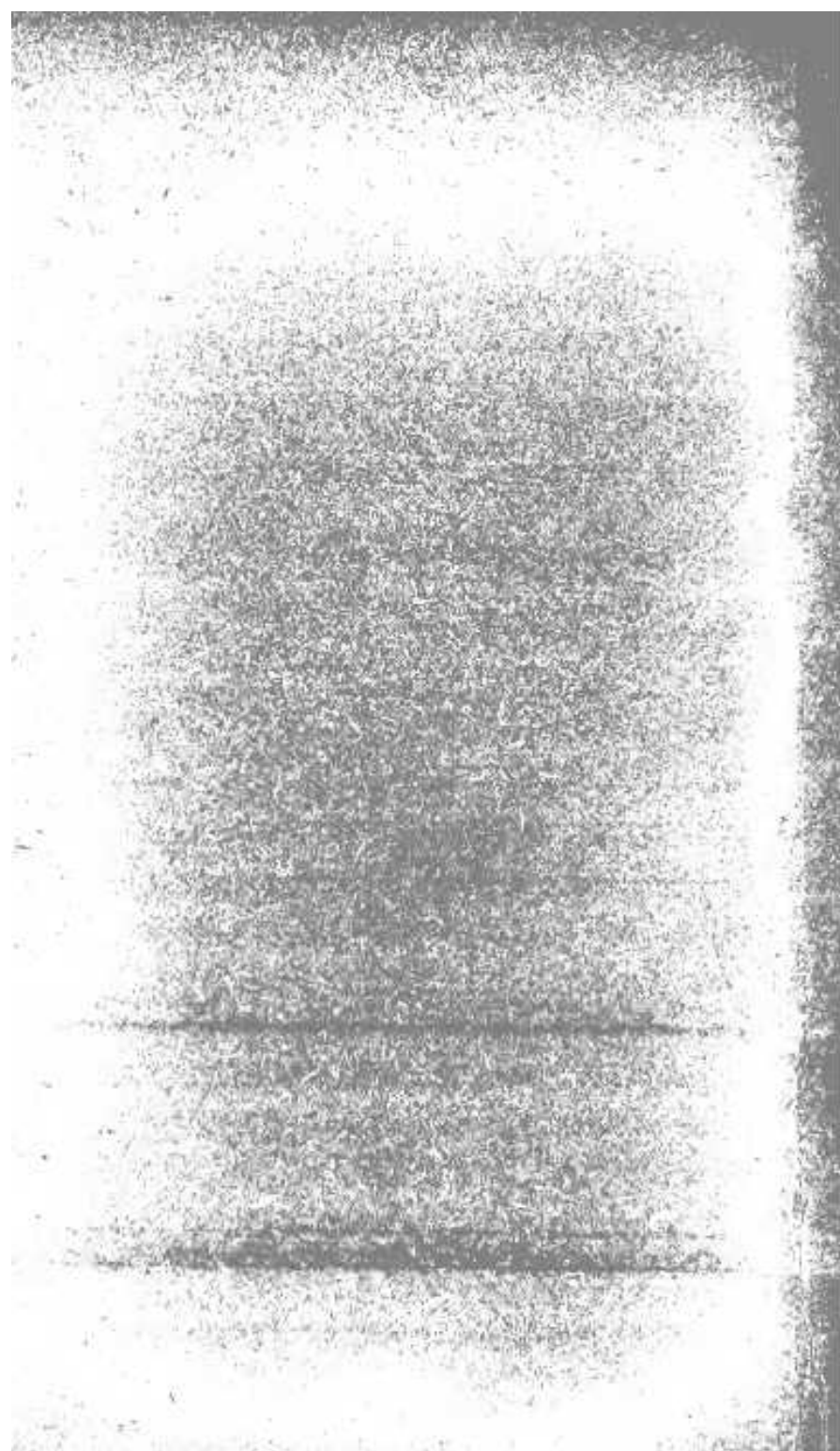
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Caingim an Leabhairín seo  
Mar Duan-chumhne ar mo cáirib,  
Seumas Mac Doohagáin Sagart, agus Euseb D Mac  
Cleavair ollamh Diaóáca.

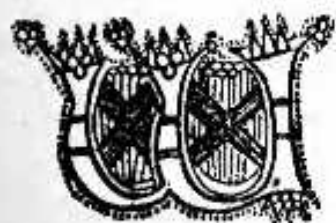
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TO THE MEMORY OF MY LATE DEAR FRIENDS,  
*THE REV EUSEBY D. CLEAVER,*  
OF DOLGELLY, NORTH WALES, AND  
*FATHER JAMES KEEGAN*  
OF ST. LOUIS, U.S.A., WHOSE LIFE-LONG, FAR-REACHING,  
PERSISTENT AND UNSELFISH EFFORTS  
TO STEM THE EVER-INCREASING ANGLICISATION  
OF OUR RACE,  
HAVE EARNED THE WARM GRATITUDE OF ALL THOSE  
IRISHMEN  
WHO DO NOT DESIRE TO SEE OUR ANCIENT IRISH NATION  
SINK INTO A WEST BRITAIN.

876883



## PREFACE.



WHEN Trelawny the friend of Byron and Shelley, who himself played so romantic a part in the revival of Greece, afterwards surveyed dispassionately the almost miraculous emergence of that nation from the blackest night into the warm day, he thus pointed the moral as it appeared to him: "no people," he said, "if they retain their name and language need despair." That pledge of liberty, that guarantee of nationality, Ireland like Greece possessed—possessed even when Trelawny wrote—but possesses no more

Whoever takes the trouble to acquaint himself