

**DANFHOCAIL: IRISH
EPIGRAMS
IN VERSE**

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Danfhocail: Irish epigrams in verse by Thomas F. O'Rahilly

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THOMAS F. O'RAHILLY

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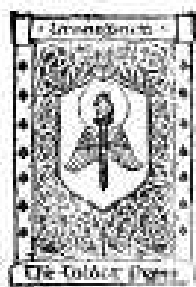
DÁNFOCAIL

IRISH EPIGRAMS IN VERSE

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY

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PREFACE

SCATTERED here and there throughout our Modern-Irish MSS., there exists a considerable body of epigrammatic verse, mostly in single quatrains, one or more of which not infrequently serve the purpose of filling up the blank spaces of the MSS. It has often occurred to me that an interesting collection of verse could be made by taking the best of these and publishing them in book-form; and as no one else seemed likely to do the work, I resolved to attempt it myself. The result is seen in the present volume. As to whether I was right in thinking that the collection would prove an interesting one, it is for the reader to decide.

The title, *Dánfhocail*, has been chosen in order concisely to indicate the fact that the collection is confined to verse written in the old syllabic metres (*dán*) or in their looser modern developments.

While I can claim to have spread my net wide, as the large number of MSS. drawn on sufficiently shows, I do not, I need hardly say, claim that the collection is exhaustive,—that it includes *all* the "best." New quatrains of merit are liable to turn up at any time in the most unlikely or out-of-the-way MSS., and

hence finality in a work of this kind is, for the present at least, out of the question. Since the text was printed I have, in fact, come across several other quatrains which I should have included had I met them earlier.

I have taken some pains to secure a reliable text, though I am not always fully satisfied with the results of my endeavours. I have also tried to make the text easily intelligible to readers acquainted only with the Irish of to-day. For such readers the book will, I hope, prove a convenient stepping-stone between current Irish and the "bardic" verse which constitutes so important a part of our Middle and Early-Modern Irish literature.

In conclusion, I have to thank Dr. Osborn Bergin for his kindness in reading over portion of the text and making some useful suggestions.

THOMAS F. O'RAHILLY.

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DÁNFHOCAIL

AN FHEILE AGUS AN SPRIUNLAITHEACT.

1. Caith an mhaith atá id lámh,
is cuir amáireach ar cáirde ;
muna gcaithe tú an saoghal,
ataoi i mbaoghal a fhágtha.
2. Déana mar do-níodh Guaire,
tréinfhear do b'uaisle croidhe ;
ó's buaine bladh ná saoghal,
caith le daonnacht a bhfoighe.
3. Caith agus do-gheobhair ó Dhia,
caith go fial agus gheobhair níos mó ;
an té leor leor beagán ó Dhia,
is leor le Dia beagán dó.
4. Ríot tar cheann a n-abraim-se,
ná cuir do dhruim le daonnacht ;
go bráth ná tuill easmailte,
ná caith do chuid it aonar.