

**READING BOOK FOR THE USE
OF STUDENTS OF THE GAELIC
CLASS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH; PART I**

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Reading book for the use of students of the Gaelic class in the University of Edinburgh; Part I by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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THE following extracts in Gaelic prose and verse are printed as a Reading Book for the use of students who attend the Class in connection with the Celtic Chair. The orthography and idiom of the authors differ in many cases, but it has been thought desirable to preserve this variety, as it illustrates the dialects of the various districts in the Highlands, and the want of uniformity among authors in writing the Gaelic language. A few apostrophes and a considerable number of accents have been removed from the page; and the number of both might be still further reduced with advantage.

The extracts now printed are selected simply for their style, and are intended to form a First or Junior Reading Book. A second volume of extracts, containing specimens of the higher efforts of modern Gaelic poets, along with specimens of older Gaelic and middle and old Irish, will afterwards be published.

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LONG MHOR NAN EILTHREACH.

[The five following extracts are by the late Rev. Norman MacLeod, D.D. Dr. MacLeod was born in the manse of Morven in 1783, and died in Glasgow in 1862. He was successively minister of Campbelltown, Caniside, and St. Columba's, Glasgow. He was, in conjunction with Principal Baird of Edinburgh, the founder of the General Assembly's Education Scheme. He was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1836. He was Dean of the Chapel-Royal, and one of Her Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland. He was the author of many Gaelic publications. In 1829-31 he edited and for the most part wrote the *Teachdaire Gàidhealach*. In 1840-43 he edited *Còisirtear nan Gleann*. He also contributed to the *Mountain Visitor*, a Gaelic monthly edited by his son-in-law, the present minister of Kilmalie, the Rev. Dr. Clerk. He translated the Psalms for the use of the Irish Church, and they are published in the Irish character. A selection from his works, edited by Dr. Clerk, and with a "Biographical Sketch of the Author" by his gifted son, the late Rev. Norman MacLeod, D.D., of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, was published under the title of *Caraid nan Gàidheal* in 1867. Dr. MacLeod is admitted to be the best of our Gaelic prose writers. Of the first extract, Professor Blackie says that "for graceful simplicity and profound pathos, it is second to nothing that I know in any language, unless, indeed, it be the account of the death of Socrates in Plato's *Phædo*, and some well-known chapters in the Gospel of St. John."]]

Air pilleadh dhomh air n'ais o I Chluain Chille,
thainig sinn, air an aon fheasgar shannraigidh a
b'ailidh a chumais mi rianh, do àite tearuinte
fagach, a tha ann an ceann mu thuath an eilein

Mhuilich. Ar lean nach faca mi caladh luingeis idir a tha air a dhìon o eirigh fairge agus o chumbachd stoirne mar tha e. Tha eilean fada caol 'g a chuirteachadh air an taobh a muigh, a' sgaoileadh a sgiathan gu eirdeil mu'n cuairt air gach soitheach beag agus long a tha 'g iarraidh fasgaidh 'n a thaic o dhruim a' chuain, no tha feitheamh ri sìd mara gus an rudha-mor a ghabhail. Air an laimh dheis mar chaidh sinn a stigh, tha 'm fearann ag eirigh gu corrach, eas. Bha sinn a' seoladh ri bile nan creag, agus bha geugan nan craobh a' lùbadh dluth dhainn. Thainig faileadh a' bharrach oirnn air oiteig an t-samhraidh, agus bha mìle eun beag le'n ceilearadh binn a' seinn air gach preas, a' cur failte oirnn 'n nair a bha sinn a' seoladh seachad orra gu reidh, sàmhach. Cha robh taobh a thionndaidhinn mo shùil nach robh 'n sealladh taitneach. Bha na beanntan arda Morchuanach, 's iad vaine gu'm nullach; Seaineart le chinnean 's le thulaichean boidheach, 's an Leather-Morthairneach a' deannadh gairdeachais ann am blàs an fheasgair samhraidh. Aig ceann shuas a' chaoil chi mi,

" — Bheinn arda 's sìllich sgianh,
Ceann-fadhma nam mìlte beann;
B'fhaidh a' sìllich nan deubh 'n a' clabh,
'S i beate nan uisge a' ceann."

An uair a dluthaich sinn a stigh, cha robh r'a thaicinn ach croinn nan luingeas, an brataichean a' srath gu fann ris an t-saibheas; 's cha robh r'a chluinntinn ach farann rann, 's torman nan allt agus nan eas, a bha tuiteam o iomadh sgairneach arda do'n chialadh a bha nis a' fosgladh gu faruinn romhainn.