

THE PRINCIPLES OF GAELIC GRAMMAR

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The Principles of Gaelic Grammar by John Forbes

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JOHN FORBES

**THE PRINCIPLES OF
GAELIC GRAMMAR**

THE
PRINCIPLES
OF
GAELIC GRAMMAR;

WITH THE
DEFINITIONS, RULES, AND EXAMPLES, CLEARLY
EXPRESSED IN ENGLISH AND GAELIC :

CONTAINING
COPIOUS EXERCISES FOR READING THE LANGUAGE, AND FOR
PARSING AND CORRECTION.

ADAPTED TO THE IMPROVED MODE OF TUITION.

For the Use of Schools and Private Students.

BY JOHN FORBES, F. E. I. S.

ONE OF THE MASTERS IN THE NORMAL INSTITUTION OF EDINBURGH ;
Author of the Double Grammar of English and Gaelic, &c.

SECOND EDITION, GREATLY IMPROVED.

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STÉIDHEAN
A'
GHRÀMAIR GHAÉLIG;

LE
GACH CO-MHÌNEACHADH, RIAILT AGUS SAMPLAIR
AINMICHTE GU-SOILLEIR ANN AM BEURLA
'S AN GÀELIG:

ANNS AM BEIL

CLEACHDAIDHEAN LIONMHOR AIR LÈUGHADH NA CÀINTE
AGUS AIR FÀIRTEACHADH 'US CEARTACHADH.

A--HEIR AN RIAN IONNSACHAIDH A'S FEARR.

Chum Maith Sgoilean agus Sgoilearan Bonarach.

LE IAIN FOIRBEIS, F. R. O. A.

FEAR DE MHAIGHSTEARAIDH NA SGOILE-RIAGHLAIDH ANN AN DUNÉDEAN.
Ùghdair a' Ghràmar Dhùbhailt air Beurla 's Gàellig, &c.

AN DARÀ CLO-BHUALADH, LEASAICHTE GU-MÒR.

DUNÉDEAN:

CLO-BHUALTE LE

OLIBHER 'us BÓID, AIG CLOHBHA DAIL-THUAILD, AN T-SRAID ARD
AGUS
SIMPSON, MARSHALL 'S AN CUIDEAGHD ANN AN LUNUINN.

1848.



FOCAL DO NA GÀEDHEIL.

A MHEUNTEAR IONMHEUNN,—Cha tigeadh dhomh an leabhar so a chur a-mach air feadh an t-Saoghail gun fhocal fàilteachaidh a labhairt ribh ann an càinnt bhur cridhe féin, a ta mi 'mlannachadh a theagasg dhúibh gu-ceart. Is sibh-ee a'liochd nan gaisgeach tréun 's nan daoine coire, a choisinn mòr urram 'us mòr chliù anns gach linn o shean. Cha n-'eil sluagh air thalamh a thug bàrr oirbh ann an cruadal 's 'an dilseachd.—Is i 'Ghàelig chruaidh, ghlan bu 'chànain dùibh o chian nan cian.—Is i a bheothaicheadh agus a lionadh bhur n-intinn le soibhneas agus sólas ann an aoradh Dhé. C'ait am faighear ann an càinnt eile fo nèamh briathran cho bóidheach, cho óirdheire 'us cho blasdail 's cho tarbhach do 'n anam ris an Treas Salm thar a' cheud maille ri iomad earran eile de 'n Bhiobull 'Naomh ! Dh'-iarradh Góill agus daoine' eile gun sgóinn thireil, a' Ghàelig a thilgeil bun-os-ciónn, ach a dh-aindeoin àm boicinn, cha tachair so gu-siorruidh. Sheas i feadh gach linn, agus seasaidh i fathast mar an darach cruaidh nach ciosnaich ston a' Gheamhraidh. Tha i an-diugh a' fàs gu-dlùth ann an dùthchaibh éin, a' sìneadh a-mach a géugan blàth mar a' chraobh-phailm, air còmhnaidh America agus Austràlià. Bu mhòr am béud agus bu ro dhuilich leinn gu'n diobradh i, no gu'n cuirteadh grabadh sam-bith airre. Tha daoine glie' a' meas, agus is fìor è, gur i 'Ghàelig Didean nan deadh-bhéus agus nam buaidhean óirdheire a ta, gu-sònruchte, fuaighte ri inn-tinnibh nan Gàedheil agus na'n cailleadh isd àm prionh chàinnt 's àn àbhaistean dùthchasach féin, gu'm beil aobhar eagal gu'm falbhadh àm béus, àn glòir 's àn cliù maille riutha

sin. Cha robh neach ànn riamh a fhuair eòlas soilleir air brìgh-mhorachd na Gàelig, leis nach robh i fìor thaitneach. Is ann mar so a chluinnear gach Àrd Sgoilear aig àm beil eòlas glan oirre, a' labhairt m' à timchioll. Cha n-fhaighear ach daoine gealtach, suarach agus iadsan a ta aincolach air à h-òirdheirceas, 'g à di-moladh no 'g à h-àicheadh.

"Tha 'GHAELIC cruadalach, cruaidh, sgairteil, de dhaon'-uaisle reachd-mhor, làidir,

'An àm tréubhantais no gaisge, 'ei 's deas-fhaclaich' 's an àit ud:

Tha i eòin 'an eòisean fialaidh, a chur an gluomh à bristhrán blátha,
'S tha i còrr a 'sgoltadh réasain, chum sluagh gun chéill a chur sámbach:

'S i 'fhuair sinn o na *Pàrantán* à 'rinn ar n-àrach òg,

'S i bu mhath leinn fhàgail aig an àl à tha 'teachd òirnn."

Tha càinnt anabarrach féumail thar nan uile nithe, chum eòlas a ghiùlan a dh-ionnsuidh na h-inntinn,—is i càinnt soitheach an eòlais. Mur làn-thuigear brìgh nam focal, ciod-air-bith càinnt a thàtar a' labhairt, cha n-urraimnear teagasg farsuing, àrd, a thoirt no ghabhail. Is ann trè dhìchioll buan, éudmhor, a gheibhear eòlas air càinnt. Chomhairlicheamaid do gach neach a bhì sior 'léughadh, oir is tearc fear no té nach faod son uair de na ceithir uairibh fichead, a bhuileachadh air ionnsachadh. Bitheadh Foclair 'us Gràmar aig gach neach. Sealladh è suas a h-uile focal nach tuig è. Leanadh è air a' chleachdadh dhuaiseach so agus ma dh'-ionnsaichear son fhocal gach là leis, 'an ceànn na bliadhnà bitheadh còrr 'us trì cheud gu leth focal ùr aige. 'An ceànn dà bhliadhnà bitheadh aige còrr 'us seachd ceud focal ùr, agus mar sin air aghaidh. Ma dh'-ionnsaicheas neach dà fhocal ùr 's an là, bitheadh an àireamh so dùbailt aig' 'an ceànn na bliadhnà. Fo dhòchas, mata, gu'm faighear an leabhar so 'n à innceal cuideachaidh féumail, taitneach leibh, thàtar a-nis, le mòr urram, 'g à thairgeadh dhùibh.

I. F.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE STUDENT. SEÒLAIDHEAN DO 'N STUIDEAR.

Reading and Pronouncing the Language.—The first point for the student to know, is the division of the vowels into *Broad* and *Small*, page 6. If he cannot read the language, let him commence with lesson 5th and 6th, page 19, beginning with *Màg, Car*. After learning these thoroughly, he should learn the aspirated sounds of the consonants, page 10 or 18. After mastering these, he may resume the sounds of the vowels at No. 7, page 20, and read every word on to page 28. For more reading, he may begin at the word *Mull*, page 165, and carry on to page 188, omitting every thing except what belongs to Reading and Spelling.

Spelling and Parsing the Language.—If the student can only read the language without being able to spell it, he should first learn the *Aspirations*, page 10 or 18, and the two general rules for spelling, page 9. Let him attend most carefully to the different sounds of the consonants when joined with a *Broad* and a *Small*, p. 12, 13, and 18. After thoroughly mastering these, by practice in reading and spelling, he may proceed with the Inflection of words, beginning with the *Article*, page 36. In going over the Declensions, he should commit all the general rules to memory, and read the special rules with great care. The mode of parsing a sentence, through either language, is exemplified on page 174 and 175.

Constructing the Language.—The Rules of Syntax may be learned in the order in which they stand in the book; but the easiest way is, first to learn Rule I., V., XVI., XXVIII., XXXI., XXXII., and XXXIII., after which the rest may be taken in their order. All the exercises under the Rules of Syntax should be carefully written out in a corrected form.

Obs.—The Marks used in this work, to distinguish the plural in *-an* of Nouns of the First Declension and the gender of the Relative and Possessive Pronouns, are not much used in other Gaelic books. These and other simple marks, employed in this Grammar, are of great use to facilitate the acquirements of the language. Similar marks are used for the same purpose in the Greek and Latin; and it is expected that future writers of Gaelic, who can see their importance, will adopt them.—See page 4, *Obs.* and 73, 74, 179.

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