

**THE BATTLE OF MAGH  
LEANA;  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
COURTSHIP OF MOMERA**

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The Battle of Magh Leana; Together with the Courtship of Momera by Eugene Curry

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**EUGENE CURRY**

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с а т њ ѡ њ у ј 5 њ е л é а н а,  
OR  
THE BATTLE OF MAGH LEANA;

TOGETHER WITH

Т о с ѡ а р с ѡ њ о м е р а,  
OR  
THE COURTSHIP OF MOMERA.

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME EDITED

WITH TRANSLATION AND NOTES,

BY

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN order to bring more immediately before the reader the remote causes of the Battle of Magh Lena, and the reference to the Battle of Cruacha with which the narrative opens, a brief glance at the relative positions of those who acted the chief parts in both battles is deemed necessary.

Feidhlimidh Reachtmhar,\* monarch of Erin, and father of Conn Ced-chathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles), died A.D. 119, and was succeeded in the monarchy in the same year by Cathaer Mór (Cathaer the Great), king of Leigin (Leinster,) who, it would appear, was more powerful than the young prince Conn.

The course of the succession to the monarchy of Erin was irregular and uncertain from the time of the Milesian conquest. The surviving leaders of that conquest were Ebher Finn (Heber the Fair) and

\* Feidhlimidh Reachtmhar was the son of Tuathal Techtmhar, the first monarch on the restoration of the royal line after the short usurpation of the Aitheach Tuatha, or Democratic tribes, commonly but corruptly called Attocots. Feidhlimidh was the twenty-second in descent from Ugainc Mór,

or the great, who was the common ancestor of the great families of Ulster of the Ui Neill, or "Hy-Niall," line, as well as of the Leinster families descended from Cathaer Mór or the Great, and of the Uíbh Fiachra and Uíbh Briuin families of Connacht. (See APPENDIX I., Table III.)

Eremhon (Hereimon). Ebber was the senior of the two, Donn and the other elder brother having perished on the expedition. When the two brothers had obtained possession of the conquered country, a dispute arose between them as to which of them should be its king; but failing to settle their dispute, they referred it to their surviving brother Amergin, who was the *Breithembh* (judge) and poet of the expedition. Amergin decided (apparently according to some law of their former country, Spain), that the right in the land, which properly belonged to Donn the eldest brother who had been drowned, should be given to Eremhon first, and that after his death it should revert to Ebber. To this decision Ebber objected, and they agreed to divide the country between them, and that each should govern his part independently of the other. Ebber took the part south of the Boyne and the Shannon, and Eremhon took the northern parts. They soon disagreed, however, and the battle of Geishill (in the present King's County), was fought between them, in which Ebber was killed (A.M. 3501); Eremhon then became sole king of Erin. Iriall, Eremhon's eldest son, succeeded his father, but Conmael the eldest son of Ebber gave him battle, killed him and assumed the sole monarchy himself. Thenceforward the succession alternated between these two lines, according as either was able to wrest it from the other; and sometimes it was successfully contested by the descendants of Ith, the cousins of the sons of Milesus, and of Ir, one of the brothers who perished on the expedition, (from whom descend the Mac Aenghusa, or Mac Ennis, and other Ulidian families).

There was no invariable rule of succession in the Milesian times, but according to the general tenor of our ancient accounts, the eldest son succeeded the father to the exclusion of all collateral claimants of the same line, as well as his brothers; unless it happened that he was disqualified by some personal deformity, or blemish, or by natural imbecility or crime; or unless, (as happened in after ages) by parental testament, or mutual compact, the succession was made alternate in two or more families, as will be seen below. The eldest son being thus recognized as the presumptive heir and successor to the dignity, was denominated *Tanaiste*, that is, minor or second, whilst all the other sons, or persons that were eligible in case of his failure, were simply called *Righ-dhamhna*, that is, king-material, or king-makings. This