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OUTLINES
OF
GAELIC ETYMOLOGY

BY THE LATE

ALEXANDER MACBAIN, M.A., LL.D.

ENEAS MACKAY, STIRLING

1909,

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ETYMOLOGY
OF THE
PRINCIPAL
GAELIC NATIONAL NAMES
PERSONAL NAMES
AND
SURNAMES

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A DISQUISITION ON PTOLEMY'S
GEOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND

BY THE LATE
ALEXANDER MACBAIN, M.A., LL.D.

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P R E F A C E

THE following Etymology of the Principal Gaelic National Names, Personal Names, and Surnames was originally, and still is, part of the Gaelic Etymological Dictionary by the late Dr MacBain. The Disquisition on Ptolemy's Geography of Scotland first appeared in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and, later, as a pamphlet.

The Publisher feels sure that the issue of these Treatises in their present form will confer a boon on those who cannot have access to them as originally published. They contain a great deal of information on subjects which have for long years interested Gaelic students and the Gaelic public, although they have not always properly understood them. Indeed, heretofore they have been much obscured by fanciful fallacies, which Dr MacBain's study and exposition will go a long way to dispel.

ETYMOLOGY
OF THE
PRINCIPAL
GAELIC NATIONAL NAMES
PERSONAL NAMES
AND
SURNAMES

NATIONAL NAMES

- ALBION**, Great Britain in the Greek writers, Gr. Ἀλβίων, Ἀλβίων, Ptolemy's Ἀλουίων, Lat. *Albion* (Pliny), G. *Alba*, g. *Albainn*, Scotland, Ir., E. Ir. *Alba*, *Alban*, W. *Alban*: **Albion-* (Stokes), "white-land"; Lat. *albus*, white; Gr. ἀλφός, white leprosy, white (Hes.); O. H. G. *albiz*, swan.
- ARMORIC**, belonging to Brittany, Lat. (Cæsar) *Armoricus*, *Aremoricus* (Orosius), **are-mori*, "by the sea" (see *air* and *muir* in Dict.), M. Br. *Armory*, Brittany, *armor*, land by the sea, Br. *arvor*, maritime.
- BRITAIN**, G. *Breatann*, Ir. *Breatain*, E. Ir. *Bretan*, n. pl. *Breatain*, the Britons, W. *Brython*, Briton, Corn. *Brethon*, Br. *Breiz*, Brittany, Lat. *Brittania* (Cæsar), *Brittani*, Britons, Βρεττανοί (Strabo). The best Gr. forms are Πρεττανοί, Πρεττανική, W. *Prydain*, Britain, E. Ir. *Cruithne*, a Pict, O. Ir. (Lat.) *Cruithnii* (Adamnan, *Cruthini Populi*): **Qrtaniá*, root *qrt*, to which Stokes refers G. *cruthneachd*, wheat, though the usual reference is to G. *cruth*, picture, form, still retaining the notion of "pictured" men as in the old explanations of *Pict*. Stokes, Rhys, etc., regard the Lat. *Brittania* as a word of different origin from the Gr. Πρεττανία, and G. *Cruithne*; though, as a matter of fact, the Lat. seems to have been a bad rendering of the Greek. The *Cruithne* or Picts thus gave their name to Britain, as being, about 300 B.C., its then Celtic inhabitants.
- BRITANNY**; the **BRETON** language; from *Britain* above. Britons poured into France in the fifth and sixth centuries.
- CALEDONIA**, northern Scotland (Tacitus), Gr. Καληδόνιοι (Ptol., etc.), Lat. *Calēdonii* (Lucan, Martial, etc.), O. G. *Dun-Callden*, *Duni-Callen*, *Dun-Keld*, fort of the Caledonians, G. *Dùn-Chaillinn*; explained by Windisch as from **cald*, the root of G. *coille*, the force being "wood-landers." Stokes and others object because of the η (Lat. ē) in Καληδ-; but if the Eng. and Gaelic modern forms are the descendants of the word Caledonia as locally spoken, the objection cannot hold.
- CELTS**, Lat. *Celtæ* (Cæsar), Gr. Κελτοί, Κελταί, Κελτικός, appearing in the fifth and fourth cent. B.C. in Herodotus, Xenophon, etc.: **Kelto-s*, "the lofty," root *qel*, raise, go, Lat. *celsus*,

NATIONAL NAMES.

high, Eng. *excel* Lit. *kéltas*, raised. Rhys refers the name to the root *gel*, slay, Ag. S. *hild*, war, Norse *hildir*, Lat. *percello*, hit, Lit. *kalti*, strike: the Celtæ being "smitters."

CORNWALL: CORNISH, Ag. S. *Cornwalas*, the *Walas* or Welsh of the Corn or Horn, E. Ir. *i tírib Bretann Cornn* (Corm.), in the lands of the Britons of the Corn. For *Walas* see *Wales*.

CRUITHNE, a Pict; see under *Britain*.

CYMRU, the Welsh (pl.), *Cymraeg*, the Welsh name for the Welsh language; the singular of *Cymru* is *Cymro*, older *Cym-mro*: **Com-mrox*, pl. *Com-mroges* or *Combrogés* (cf. Cæsar's *Allobroges*, "Other-landers"), country-men, "co-landers," from *brog*, *mrog* of *brugh* in Dict., q.v. The E. Ir. Gaelic for Wales is found in the phrase *isinchomreic* = im Kymrischen (Zim. Zeit. ³² 162).

ERIN; see *Ireland*.

GAELIC, GAEL, the name of the language and people of the Scottish Highlands, G. *Gáidhlig*, *Gáidheal*, Ir. *Gaoidhlig*, *Gaedhilig*, the Irish language, *Gaoidheal*, Irishman, E. Ir. *Góedel* (1100 A.D.), *Gaideli* (Giraldus), W. *Gwyddel*, Irishman: **Gádelo-s* (for Sc. Gaelic) or **Gádelo-s* (for Irish), root *ghádh*, Eng. *good*, Ger. *gut*, etc.? The Scotch form seems the best, as its use has been continuous, the race being only a fourth item in Scotland. Stokes gives a proto-Gaelic **Goidelos* or **Geidelos*, which Bez. compares to the Gaul. *Geidumni*, and which Stokes compares with Lat. *hoedus*, goat ("Goat-men," cf. Oscan *Hirpini*) or Lit. *gaidys*, cock.

GALLI, GAUL, now France, Lat. *Gallus*, *Galli* (fourth to first cent. B.C.), Gr. Γαλάτης, Γαλάται (third and second cent. B.C.); from the root *gal*, bravery, which see in Dict., with discussion of Galli and G. *Gall*, Lowlander, stranger.

IRELAND, IRISH; G. *Eireann*, Ir. *Eire*, g. *Eireann*, E. Ir. *Eriu*, *Erenn*, W. *Iwerddon*, *Iwerddon*, M. W. *Ewyrdonic*, Irish, Ptol. Ἰουερπία Ἰέρπη (Strabo), Lat. *Hibernia*, *Iverna* (Mela), *Ierne* (Claudian, fourth cent. A.D.), *Evernili*, Irish (Adamnan): **Iverjôn*-, **Everjôn*-, usually referred to *Piverjo*-, Skr. *pīvarî*, fat, Gr. Πιερία, the Grecian seat of the Muses, *πίων*, fat (Windisch, Stokes): "rich-soiled, swelling." Others refer it to G. *iar*, west, or Skr. *ávava* (from *ava*, G. *bho*), western, lower. No derivation can be satisfactory which does not at the same time account for the similarly named Highland rivers called *Eire*, *Eireann*, Eng. *Earn*, *Findhorn*.

MAN, MANX; Manx *Manninagh*, Manx (adj.), *Gaulck*, *Gaell*, the Manx Gaelic, E. Ir. *inis Manann*, Isle of Man, a genitive from **Mana* (= Lat. *Mona*), early W. *Manau*, Lat. *Mona* (Cæsar),

Ptol. Μονάουδα, *Monapia* (or *Mona*?) The E. Ir. god-name *Manannán Mac Lir* (son of the Sea) is connected with the Island; Skr. *Manu*, the Law-giver; Teutonic *Mannus* (Tacitus), Eng. *man*.

PICTS; G. Cruithnich, for which name see under *Britain*. The name *Picti* can scarcely be separated from the Gaul. *Pictavi*, now *Poitiers*; and, if this be the case, the usual derivation from Lat. *pictus*, painted, must be abandoned. Windisch adduces E. Ir. *cicht*, engraver, carver, for which a Brittonic *piht*, *pict* may be claimed as a parallel (**qict*); this again leaves the idea of tattooing intact, and so agrees with the historical facts.

SCOTLAND, SCOTS; E. Ir. *Scott*, pl. n. *Scuit*, d. *Scottaib*, Irishmen; Adamnan—*Scotia*, Ireland, *Scoti*, the Irish, *Scoti Britanniae*, Scots of Dalriada, etc., *Scoticus*, Irish, *Scotice*, in the Gaelic language, Lat. (fourth cent.) *Scotti*, *Scôti*, **Skotto-s*. Stokes translates the name as "masters, owners," allied to Got. *skatts*, money, Ger. *schatz*, treasure, stock, Ch. Sl. *skotŭ*, property, cattle. The root *skat*, hurt, scathe, cut, of Eng. *scathe*, has been suggested, either as "cutters" or "tattooed ones" (so Isidore of Saville). Rhys has suggested connection with W. *ysgwithr*, a cutting, carving—"tattooed or painted men."

WALES, WELSH; Ag. S. *Wealas*, *Walas*, the Welsh—the name of the people in pl. being used for the country, *Wylisc*, *Welsh*, *Wylisce men*, the Welsh; sing. of *Wealas* is *Wealh*, a foreigner, Welshman, O. H. G. *walh*, foreigner, Celt, Ger. *wal-* in *walnuss*, Eng. *wal-nut*: from the Gaul. nation of the *Volcae*, bordering on the Germans, **Volko-s*, **Volkâ*, "the bathers," from *volc*, bathe (see *faile* in Dict.). Stokes connects the name with Lit. *wilkti*, pull, referring to the restless wanderings of the Gauls.

PERSONAL NAMES AND SURNAMES

- ADAM, G. **Adhamh**, *Ahū* (Fer. MS.), *Awzoe* (D. of L.), E. Ir. *Adam*, O. Ir. *Adim* (g); from Hebrew *Adam*, red. Hence *Macadam*, *M'Caun*, and from Dial. G. *Adaidh* (a diminutive from Sc.) *M'Cadie*, *M'Adaidh*.
- ADAMNAN, G. **Adhmhnan** (pronounced *Yowan* or *Yōnan*), earlier *Adhamhnan* (*Oghamhnan*, M'V.), E. Ir. *Adamnán*, Lat. *Adamnanus* (seventh cent.), St Adamnan (died 704 A.D.), "little Adam," a Gaelic diminutive from *Adam*. Hence the personal name *Gilleownan* (1495), *Giolla-Adhamhndáin*, father of Somerled (twelfth cent.), *Gilla-agamnan* (1467 MS.), whence Skene deduces the *Mac-lennans*, q.v.
- ALEXANDER, G. **Alasdair**, *Allex* (D. of L.), *Alaxandair*, (1467 MS.), M. Ir. *Alaxandair*; from Lat. *Alexander*, from Gr. Ἀλέξανδρος, "defending men." Hence G. *M'Alasdair*, *Macalister*; further *Mac-andie* (from *Sandy*).
- ALLAN, G. **Ailean**, E. Ir. *Ailéne*, Adamnan's *Ailenus*, from *al*, rock? The Norman *Alan*, whence Scotch *Allan* mostly, is O. Br. *Alan*, *Alamnus*, Nennius *Alanus*, from *Alemannus*, the German tribe name—"All Men." Cf. Norman, Frank, Dugall, Fingall. Hence *Mac-allau*.
- ALPIN, G. **Ailpein**, E. Ir. *Alpin* (Dalriadic king 693); from Pictish or Welsh sources—M. W. *Elphin*, *Elfin*, which Stokes suggests to be from Lat. *Albinus*, from *albus*, white (or allied rather?). Hence G. *M'Ailpein*, *Mac-alpine*.
- ANDREW, G. **Aindrea** (*Anndra*, Dial.), *Gilleannndrais*, Eng. *Gillanders*, St. Andrew's *gille*, M. G. *Andro* (D. of L.), *Ainnrias*, *Gille-ainnrias* (1467 MS.), E. Ir. *Andrias*; from Lat. *Andreas*, g. *Andraea*, from Gr. Ἀνδρέας, a reduced double-stemmed name now showing only ἄνδρ-, man (see *neart*). Hence *Mac-andrew*, *Gillanders*, *Anderson*.
- ANGUS, G. **Aonghas**, Ir. *Aonghusa*, E. Ir. *Oengus*, O. Ir. *Oingus*, W., Cor. *Ungust*; *Oino-gustu-s*, "unique choice," from *aon* and *gus*, choice (Eng. *choose*, Lat. *gustus*, taste, as in G. *tagh*). Hence *M'Aonghuis*, *Mac-innes*; further *M'Ainsh*.
- ARCHIBALD, G. **Gilleasbuig**, Bishop's *gille* (see *easbuig* in Dict.), M. G. *Gillespik* (D. of L.), *Gilla-espik* (1467 MS.). Hence *Gillespie*. The name *Archibald*, Ag. S. *Arcebold*, *Arcebald*

or *Ercenbald*, which vaguely means "right-bold" (O. H. G. *erchen*, right, real), has no apparent connection with *Gillespic* in meaning or origin (cf. similarly Ludovic and *Maoldomhnuich*).

ARTHUR, G. *Artair*, M. G. *Artuir*, E. Ir. *Artuir*, *Artur*, Ir. Lat. *Arturius*, son of *Edan* (Adamnan), W. *Arihur*, to which the Lat. *Artorius* (Juvenal) has been compared and suggested as its source (it being maintained that the Gens Artoria of Yorkshire lasted from Roman to Domesday-Book times, where *Artor* appears in the days of Edward the Confessor). If native to Brittonic (which is probable), it is from **arto-s*, a bear, W. *arth*, O. Ir. *art*, whence the names *Art*, *Artgal*, *Artbran*. Rhys prefers to render the **arto-* as "cultor," from *ar*, plough (*Arth. Leg.*, 40-48), allying Arthur to the idea of a "Culture God." Hence G. **M'Artair**, *Mac-artthur*.

BAIN, from G. *bàn*, white. The Bains of Tulloch appear in the sixteenth century variously as *Bayne* or *Bane*, with a contemporary near them called John Makferquhair *M'Gillebane* (1555). This last name is now **M'Ille-bhàin**, "Fair-gille," rendered into Eng. by *Whyte*; whence also *à'Gilvane*.

BARTHOLOMEW, G. *Parlan*, Ir. *Partholon*, E. Ir. *Partholón*, Lat. *Partholomæus* or *Bartholomæus* (Nennius, ninth cent.), the name of a personage who is represented as the first invader of Ireland after the Flood (278 years after!). The *p* proves the name to be non-Gaelic; and as the historians take *Partholon* from Spain, the Spanish *Bar Tolemon* of legend has been suggested as the original. Prof. Rhys thought it came from the Ivernians or Pre-Celtic race in Ireland. Hence the Clan *Mac-farlane*, G. **M'Pharlain**.

BROWN, G. **M'A'-Bhriuthainn**, M. G. *M'abhriuin* (1408 Gaelic Charter), from *britheamhain*, the former (Sc. Gaelic) genitive of *britheamh*, judge, q.v. Hence *Mac-brayne*.

CAMERON, G. **Camsron**, **Camaran**, M. G. *Cámsroin*, g. (M'V.), *Camronaich* (D. of L.), *Gillacamsroin* (1467 MS.), Charter Eng. *Camroun* (1472); explained as from *càm-sròn*, "wry-nose," which is the most probable explanation (cf. *caimbeul*, E. Ir. *cerrbél*, wry mouth). Connection with *camerarius* or *chamberlain* (of Scotland) unlikely, or with the fourteenth century *De Cambruns* or *Cameron* parish in Fife.

CAMPBELL, G. **Caimbeul**, M. G. *Cambel* (1467 MS.), *Cambell* (1266, etc.), from *cambél*, wry-mouthed (*càm* and *beul*; see *Cameron*). There is no *De Cambel* in the numerous early references, but *De Campo-bello* appears in 1320 as a Latin

- form and an etymology ; this, however, should naturally be *De Bello-campo* as Norman-French idiom and Latin demand—a form we have in *Beau-champ* and *Beecham*. *De Campello* or *De Campellis* (little plain) has been suggested ; but unfortunately for these derivations the earliest forms show no *de* : *Cambell* was an epithet, not a place-name.
- CARMICHAEL, G. **M'Gillemhicheil**, Son of the *gille* of St Michael, M. G. *Gillamichol* (1467 MS.), O.G. *Gillemicel* (B. of Deer). The name Carmichael is really Lowland—from the Parish name of Carmichael in Lanark (Michael's *caer* or *cathair*, q.v.).
- CATTANACH, CHATTAN, G. **Catanach**, M. G. plural *Cattanich* (D. of L.), "belonging to Clan Chattan," *Clann Gillacatan* (1467), which claims descent from *Gillacatain* (1467 MS.), servant of St Catan, whose name denotes "little cat" (see *cat*).
- CHARLES, G. **Tearlach**, M. Ir. *Toirrdhealbhadh* (Maclean Genealogy), Englished as *Tirlagh* and *Turlough*, E. Ir. *Toirdelbach*, Latinised and explained as *Turri-formis*, "Tower-shaped," but the *toir* in Gaelic took the phonetics of the prefix *tair*, super, and hence the modern G. form. Hence *M'Kerlie*.
- CHISHOLM, G. **Siosal, Siosalach**, *De Chesholme* (thirteenth century documents), *De Chesholme* (1254), a Border name, the place-name Chisholm being in Roxburgh : *Ches-holm* (a holm, but *Ches* ?).
- CLARK, G. **Cléireach** ; see *cléireach* in Dict. Also **M' A' -Chléirich**, whence Galwegian *M'Chlery*.
- COLL, G. **Colla**, M. G. *Colla* (M'V., 1467 MS.), E. Ir. *Colla* : **Colnavo-s*, from *col*, *cel*, high, as in *Celtæ* (see above).
- COLIN, G. **Cailean**, M. G. *Callane* (D. of L.), *Cailin* (1467 MS.), *Colinus* (Lat. of 1292). This is a personal name, once more or less peculiar to the Campbells, the Chief being always in Gaelic **M'Cailein**. Its relation to Eng. and Continental *Colin* is doubtful. Cf. *Coileán*, "whelp," and personal name ; the G. is a dialectic form of old *coileán* (see *Foi.*), *cuilean*, whelp.
- CRERAR, G. **Criathrar**, the name of a Lochtay-side clan who regard themselves as Mackintoshes, explaining the name as "riddler," from *criathar* (which see in Dict.) : the derivation is right, but for the meaning compare the Eng. noun and name *Sieve(w)right*. See *Celt. Mag.* ⁶, 38.
- CUMMING, G. **Cuimein, Cuimeanach**, earliest Eng. form *Comyn*, a Norman family dating from the Conquest, belonging to the Norman house of De Comines, a territorial designation.

- DAVID, G. **Daibhidh** (Classical), **Dàidh** (C.S.); hence **Clann Dàidh** or the *Davidsons*, a branch of the Clan Chattan. In C.S., *Davidson* appears as **Déibhiosdan**.
- DERMID, G. **Diarmad**, M. G. *Dermit* (D. of L.), *Diarmada*, gen. (1467 MS.), E. Ir. *Diarmait*, O. Ir. *Diarmuit*, *Diarmit*, Ir. Lat. *Diormitius* (Adamnan). Zimmer explains the name as *Dia-ermit*, "God-reverencing," from *dia* and *ermit*: **arement*-, "on-minding," root *ment*, as in *dearmad*, q.v.
- DEWAR, G. **Deòir**, **Deòireach**, documents *Doire* (1487), *Jore* (1428); from *deòradh*, a pilgrim, q.v. Hence *Macindeor*.
- DONALD, G. **Domhnall**, M. G. *Domnall* (1467 MS.), gen. *Donil* (D. of L.), O. G. *Domnall* (B. of Deer), E. Ir. *Domnall*, Ir. Lat. *Domnallus* (Adamnan), *Domnail* (do., ablative), Early W. *Dumngual*, later *Dyfnwal*: **Dumnovalo-s*, from *dubno-* of *domhan*, and *valo-* (see *flath*), meaning "world-wielder, world-ruler," much the same in meaning as *Dumnorix*, world-king, Cæsar's opponent among the Aedui. See *domhan*, *flath*. Hence **M'Dhòmhnuill**, *Mac-donald*.
- DUFF, M. Ir. *Dubh* (*Clann Dubh*, Clan Duff, of which was Macbeth, etc.), earlier *Dub*, King Duff in tenth century; from Gadelic *dub*, now *dubh*, black, q.v. As a personal name, it is a curtailment of some longer or double-stemmed name (cf. *Fionn*, *Flann*, red). Hence *Macduff* (*Clen m^c Duffe*, 1384). The family name *Duff* is merely the adjective *dubh* used epithetically.
- DUFFY, Ir. *Dubhthaigh*; see *Mac-phae*.
- DUGALD, G. **Dùghall**, M. G. *Dowgall*, g. *Dowle* (D. of L.), *Dubgaill*, gen. (1467 MS.), thirteenth century documents give *Dugald* (1289), *Dufgal* (1261), M. Ir. *Dubgall* (first recorded Dubgall is at 912 A.D.), from Early Ir. *Dubgall*, a Dane, "Black stranger," as opposed to *Finngall*, a Norwegian, "Fair foreigner." See, for derivation, *fionn* and *Gall*. Hence **M'Dhùghaill**, *Mac-dougall*, *Mac-dowel*, etc.
- DUNCAN, G. **Donnchadh** (Dial. **Donnach**), M. G. *Duncha* (D. of L.), *Donnchaid*, gen. (1467 MS.), O. G. *Donchad* (B. of Deer), E. Ir. *Donnchad*: **Donno-catu-s*, **Dunno-catu-s*, "Brown warrior," from *donn* and *cath*, q.v. The Gaulish *Donno-* of personal names has been referred by De Jubainville to the same meaning and origin as M. Ir. *donn*, king, judge, noble—a word occurring in O'Davoren's glossary.
- EDWARD, G. **Eideard** (**Eudard**, Dial.), **Imhear**, **Iomhar**; the first is the Eng. *Edward* borrowed, the second is the Norse *Ivarr* borrowed (see *Mac-iver*). Hence **M'Eideard**, *M'Edward*.

- EWEN, G. **Eòghann** (Dial. **Eòghainn**), M. G. *Eogan*, *Eoghan*, E. Ir., O. Ir. *Eogan*: **Avi-gono-s* (**Avigenos*, Stokes), "well born, good," from **avi*, friendly, good, Skr. *ávi* (do.), Got. *avi-liud*, thanks, Lat. *aveo*, desire, possibly Gr. εὖ-, good (cf. here Εὐγένης, *Eugenius*), W. has *Eu-tgirn*, *Eu-tut*, O. Br. *Eu-cant*, *Eu-hocar*, Gaul. *Avi-cantus*. Rhys (*Hib. Lect.* 63) refers Ir. *Eoghan* and W. *Owen* to **Esu-gen-*, Gaul. *Esugenus*, sprung from the god *Esus*. Zimmer regards *Owen* as borrowed from Lat. *Eugenius*. Cf., however, the *evo-* of Ogmic *Eva-cattos*, now *Eochaidh*. Hence *Mac-ewen*.
- FARQUHAR, G. **Fearchar**, M. G. *Fearchar*, *Fearchair*, Ir. *Fearchair* (F. M., year 848 A.D.): **Ver-caro-s*, "super-dear one"; for *fear*, see *Fergus*, and for *car* see Dict. above. Hence **M'Fhearchair**, *Mac-erchar*, *Farquharson*, *M'Farquhar*.
- FERGUS, G. **Fearghas**, M. G. *Fearghus*, *Fergus*, E. Ir., O. Ir. *Fergus*, g. *Fergusso*, W. *Gurgust*, O. Br. *Uuorgost*, *Uurgost*: **Ver-gustu-s*, "super-choice"; for *ver-* or *fear-*, see in Dict. *far*, *air* (allied to Lat. *super*), and for *gustus*, see under *Aonghus* above. Some regard *Fer* here as G. *fear*, man, **viro-* or **vir*.
- FINGAL, G. **Fionn**, Macpherson's Gaelic **Fionnghal**, which really should mean "Norseman," or Fair-foreigner, M. G. *Fionnghall*, a Norseman (M.V.), *ri Fionn-gal*, king of Man and the Isles (M.V.), *Fingal* (*Manx Chron.*), king of Man and the Isles from 1070 to 1077: from *fionn* and *Gall*, q.v. *Fingal* as the name of the Gaelic mythic hero is an invention of Macpherson's, as likewise is his Gaelic **Fionnghal**. As a matter of fact the name is a Gaelic form of the female name *Flora*! See *Fionnaghal* in the addendum to this list.
- FINLAY, G. **Fionnla**, **Fionnlagh** (misspelt **Fionnladh**), M. G. *Finlay* (D. of L.), *Finlaeic*, gen. (1467 MS.), *Fionnlaeich*, gen. (*Duan Albanach*), E. Ir. *Findlaech* (Lib. Leinster), *Finnloech* and *Finlaeg*, gen. (Marianus Scotus). Those early forms and the Norse *Finnleikr* prove that the name means "Fair hero" (*fionn* and *laeich*). It is a popular (10th and 11th century) rendering of *Finnlug*, "Fair attractive one," the older name. It has been explained as "Fair calf," which would suit the phonetics also. Hence *Finlayson*, *Mackinlay* (**M'Fhionnlaigh**).
- FORBES, G. **Foirbeis**, **Foirbeiseach**, early document form *De Forbes* (thirteenth cent.), so named from the place-name *Forbes* in Aberdeenshire.
- FRASER, G. **Friseal**, **Frisealach**, circ. 1298 the patriot's name is variously *Simon Fraser*, *Frasel*, *Fresel*, *Frisel*, in Domesday B. *Fresle*, Battle Abbey Rolls (?) *Frisell* or *Fresell*; usually

- referred to O. Fr. *freze*, a strawberry, **frezele*, from Lat. *fragula*, *fragum*, Fr. *fraisier*, strawberry plant. For sense, cf. the name *Plantagenet* (broom). Strawberry leaves form part of the Fraser armorial bearings. The word may also mean "curled" (Eng. *frizzle*, *frieze*).
- GALBRAITH, G. M' A'-Bhreatnaich**, son of the Briton (of Strathclyde). The name appears in the thirteenth century in Lennox, etc., as *Galbraith* (from *Gall* and *Breat-* of Breatann above).
- GEORGE, G. Seòras, Seòrsa, Deòrsa**, ultimately from Gr. *γεωργός*, a farmer, "worker of the earth" (*γη*, earth, *ὄργος*, Eng. *work*). Hence the Border *M'George*.
- GILBERT, G. Gilleabart, Gillebride**. *Gilbert* is from Ag. S. *Gislebert*, "Bright hostage" (see *giall* in Dict.); *Gillebride* is St Bridget's slave, an exceedingly common name once, but now little used.
- GILCHRIST, G. Gillecriosd, M. G. Gillacrist, Ir. Gillacrist** (several in eleventh century): "servant of Christ." Hence *M'Gilchrist*. It translates also *Christopher*.
- GILLESPIE, G. Gilleasbuig**; see *Archibald*.
- GILLIES, G. Gilliosa**: "servant of Jesus." From **M'A-Lios** comes the "English" form *Lees*, *M'Leish*.
- GLASS, G. Glas**, an epithet, being *glas*, grey. See *M'Glashan*.
- GODFREY, G. Goraidh, M. G. Gofraig** (1467 MS.), *Godfrey* (do.), Ir. *Gofraidh* (F.M.), M. Ir. *Gothfrith*, *Gofraig*, also *Gofraig* (Tigernach, 989), E. Ir. *Gothfraid* (Lib. Lein.), E. W. *Gothrit* (*Ann. Camb.*). The Norse name, for it is Norse-men that are referred to, is *Goðröðr* or *Gudrod* (also *Góröðr*), but the earlier Gaelic shows rather a name allied to the Ag. S. *Godefrid*, Ger. *Gottfried*, "God's peace." Modern Gaelic is more like the Norse. The Dictionaries give G. **Guaidhre** as the equivalent of *Godfrey*; for which, however, see *M'Quarrie*.
- GORDON, G. Gòrdan, Gòrdon, Gòrdonach**; from the parish name of *Gordon* in Berwickshire. The De Gordons are well in evidence in the thirteenth century. Chalmers explains the place-name as *Gor-dyn*, "super-dûnum" (see *far* and *dùn*).
- GOW, G. Gobha**, a smith, now usually *gobhainn*, q.v. Hence *Mac-cowan*, *Mac-gowan*, *Cowan*.
- GRANT, G. Grand, Grant** (1258), an English family which settled about Inverness in the thirteenth century, Eng. *Grant*, *Grand*, from Fr., Eng. *grand*.
- GREGOR, G. Griogair, Griogarach, M. G. M'Gregar** (D. of L.), M. Ir. *Grigoir*, E. Ir. (Lat.) *Grigorius* (Gregory the Great, died 604), from Lat. *Gregorius*, Gr. *Γρηγόριος*, a favourite

- ecclesiastical name from the third century onward (cf. Gr. *γρηγορέω*, be watchful, Eng. *care*). Hence **M'Griogair**, *Macgregor*, *Gregory*.
- GUNN**, **G. Guinne**, **Gunnach**, early documents *Gun* (1601), *Clan-gun* (1525), in Kildonan of Sutherland, originally from Caithness; from the Norse *Gunni* (twelfth century), the name then of a son of Olaf, a Caithness chief (*Ork. Saga*). This *Gunni* is a short or "pet" form of some longer name of two stems, with *gunn-r*, war, as the first and chief one (cf. *Gann-arr*, which is an old Orkney name, *Gunn-björn*, *Gunn-laugr*, *Gunn-ólfr*, war-wolf, *Gunn-stein*, *Gunn-valdr*).
- HAROLD**, **G. Haralt**, M. Ir. *Aralt*, from Norse *Haraldr* (same in roots and origin as Eng. *herald*). Hence *Mac-raird*.
- HECTOR**, **G. Eachunn** (Dial. **Eachainn**), M. G. *Eachuinn*, g. (M'V.), *Eachdhuin*, g. (M'V.), *Eachdhonn*, g. *Eachduinn* (1467 MS.), Ir. *Eachdonn* (year 1042): **Ego-donno-s*, "horse lord," like *Each-thighearna* of *Mac-echern*. Of course "Brown-horse" is possible; cf. Gr. *Ξάνθιππος*. The phonetics are against **Each-duine*, "horse-man," as an explanation.
- HENRY**, **G. Eanruig**; from O. Eng. *Henric*, now Henry, from Germanic *Heim-rik*, "home-ruler" (Eng. *home* and *ric* in *bishop-ric*, *rich*). Hence *Mackendrick*, *Henderson*.
- HUGH**, **G. 'Uisdean** (**Huisdean**), in Argyle **Eòghan**, M. G. *Huisduinn*, which comes from Norse *Eysteinn*, "*Ey*(?)-stone." The Dictionaries also give the G. **Aodh** (see *Mackay*) as equivalent to Hugh, which is itself from Germanic sources, Teutonic root *hug*, thought.
- JAMES**, **G. Seumas**, M. G. *Séamus* (M'V.); from the Eng. *James*, a modification of Hebrew *Jacob*.
- JOHN**, **G. Iain**, older **Eòin**, in compounds **Seathain**, as *Mac-Gille-Sheathainn*, now **M'Illeathainn**.
- KATHEL**, **G. Cathal**, M. G. *Cathal* (M'V.), Ir. *Cathal* (common from seventh century onwards), O. W. *Catgual*: **Katu-valo-s*; see *cath*, war, and *val* under *Donald*. Hence *M'All*, *Mackail*.
- KENNEDY**, **G. Ceanaideach**, **Ceanadaidh**, *Kennedy* (*Kenedy*, John *M'Kennedy*, fourteenth century) is the family name of the old Earls of Carrick, now represented by the Marquis of Ailsa; it is a famous Irish name borne by the father of Brian Boru in the tenth century—Ir. *Ceinneidigh*, E. Ir. *Cennétich*, gen.; from *ceann*, head, and *éitigh*, ugly: "ugly head." Called also **M'Ualraig** from Walrick Kennedy (sixteenth century), who first settled in Lochaber: *Walrick* may be G. **Ualgharg** confused with Teutonic *Ulrick*, older *Uodalrich*, "rich patrimonially."

- KENNETH, G. Coinneach, M. G. Coinndech, Coinnidh, g. Coinndigh,** g. (M'V.), O. G. *Cainnech, g. Caennig* (B. of Deer), E. Ir. *Caennig*, gen., Ir. Lat. *Cainnechus* (Adamnan): **Cannico-s*, "fair one," from the same stem as *cannach* (root *gas*), q.v. The Eng. *Kenneth* is a different word: it is the old Scotch king name *Cinœd* (E. Ir. form), O. G. *Cinathá* (B. of Deer), Ir. *Cinaedh*, "fire-sprung," from *cin* of *cinn* and *aed* of *Mackay*.
- LACHLAN, G. Lachlann** (Dial. *Lachlainn*), **Lachunn, M. G. Lochlinn, g. (M'V.), Lochloinn, n. and g., Lachlan, g. (1467 MS.),** Ir. *Lochlainn Mac Lochlainn* (F.M., year 1060); probably from *Lochlann*, Scandinavia, possibly commencing as *Mac-Lochlainne*, a Scandinavian ("son of L."). *Lochlann* evidently means "Fjord-land."
- LAMOND, G. M'Laomuinn, Laman, M. G. Ladmann,** early documents *Lawemundus* (Lat. of 1292), *Laumun* (circ. 1230), M. Ir. *Laghmand, Lagmand*; from Norse *lagamaðr, lögmaðr*, lawman, pl. *lögmenn*, "law-men," by meaning and derivation. Hence *M'Clymont* (D. of L.), *V'Clymont, Clyne lymyn*.
- LAURENCE, G. Labhruinn, M. G. Labhran** (1467), Ir. *Laurint* (*Saint*), from Lat. *Laurentius*, St Laurence, the ultimate stem being that of Lat. *laurus*, a laurel. Hence **M'Labhruinn**, or *Mac-laren*.
- LEWIS, G. Luthais**; from Fr. *Louis*, from *Chlovis*, the Frankish king (fifth century), degraded from old German *Chlodwig*, now *Ludwig* (**Kluto-vigo-s*, famed warrior, roots in *cliu* and Eng. *victory*). Hence Eng. *Ludovic*, which is rendered in G. by **Maoldónuich**, shaveling of the Church.
- LIVINGSTONE, G. M'An-léigh**; see *Mac-leay*.
- LUKE, G. Lúcais.** Hence *Mac-lucas*.
- MAGNUS, G. Manus, Mánus, M. G. Magnus, Manuis, g. (1467 MS.),** Ir. *Maghnus*, Norse *Magnúss*, from Lat. *magnus*, in the name of Charlemagne—*Carolus Magnus*.
- MALCOLM, G. Calum, earlier Gillecalum, M. G. Mylcollum** (D. of L.), *Maelcolaim*, O. G. *Malcoloum, Malcolum, Gillicolaim*, Ir. *Maelcoluim*: from *maol*, bald, and *calum*, a dove (Lat. *columba*), the particular *Calum* meant here being St Columba. Hence *Maccallum*.
- MALISE, G. Maoliosa, E. Ir. Maelísu,** servant of Jesus. Hence also *Mellis*.
- MATHESON, G. M'Mhathan, Mathanach, M. G. Mac-Matgamna** (1467 MS.), *Macmaghan* (*Exchequer Rolls* for 1264), the Ir. *Mac-mahon*, "son of the bear," for which see *mathghamhuin*. Matheson in Perthshire and Kintyre is, as elsewhere outside the Highlands, for *Mathew-son, G. M'Mhatha*.

- MENZIES, G. Mèinnear, Mèinn and Mèinnearach** locally, early documents de *Mengues* (1487), de *Meyners* (1249); *De Meyneria* would mean much the same as *De Camera*, that is, "of the household," from *mesn-, masn-*, giving Fr. *mén-* (our *ménage, menagerie, menial*), from Lat. *mans-* (our *mansion*), from *maneo*, remain. The root anyway is *man* of *mansion* and *manor*, and the name is allied to *Manners* and *Main-waring*.
- MORGAN, M. G. Clann Mhorguinn (M'V.), O. G. Morgunn, g. Morcunt, W. Morgan, Cor. and O. Br. Morcant: Mori-canto-s,** "sea-white," from the stem of *muir* and root *kn̄d*, burn, as in *connadh* (Lat. *candeo*, shine, Eng. *candle*). See *Mackay*.
- MORRISON, G. Moireasdan, earlier M'Gille-mhoire, Mary's servant, M. G. Gillamure, whence Gilmour.** The name *Morris* is for *Maurice*, from the Latin saint's name *Mauricius*, "Moorish."
- MUNRO, G. Rothach, Mac-an-Rothaich (Dial. Munro).** In the fourteenth century the name is "of Monro," which shows it is a territorial name, explained as *Bun-roe*, the mouth of the Roe, a river in County Derry, Ireland, whence the family are represented as having come in the eleventh century.
- MURDOCH, G. Muireach, Murchadh;** the first is M. G. *Muireadh-aiġh*, gen. (M'V.), *Murreich* (D. of L.), *Muireadhaigh*, g. (1467 MS.), Ir. *Muireadhach*, E. Ir. *Muiredach*, O. Ir. (Lat.) *Muirethachus*, Adamnan's *Muiredachus*, "lord," allied to *muirenn* and *muriwán*; Ag. S. *masre*, clarus; Br. *conomorios* (?) (Stokes R. C. 1876.) The form **Murchadh** is in Ir. the same, E. Ir. *Murchad*: **Mori-catu-s*, sea warrior. Hence (from the first) **M'Mhuirich** (in Arran, etc., becoming *Currie*), and from the second, *Murchison, Murchie*, and Ir. *Murphy*. See *murrach* above.
- MURRAY, G. Moirreach;** from the county name Moray or Murray, early Gaelic forms being *Moreb, Muref*, and Norse *Morhæfi* (influenced by Norse *haf*, sea): **Mor-apia*, from *mor* of *muir*, sea, and **apia*, the termination of several Celtic place-names. Andrew *Morrish*, Kiltarn, 1672.
- MYLES, G. Maolmoire, servant of Mary, an old and common name.** *Myles* is from the Med. Lat. *Milo*, with a leaning on *miles*, soldier—a common name in the Middle Ages.
- MAC-ALISTER;** see *Alexander*.
- MAC-ANDREW;** see *Andrew*.
- MAC-ARTHUR;** see *Arthur*.
- MAC-ASKILL, G. M'Asgail;** from Norse *'Askell*, for **'As-ketill*, the kettle (sacrificial vessel) of the Anses or gods: "a vessel of holiness."

- MAC-AULAY**, G. **M'Amhlaidh**, Ir. *Mac Amhlaoihb*, M. Ir. *Amlaibh*, E. Ir. *Amláib*, 'Alaib; from Norse 'Oláfr, *Anlaf* (on coins), "the Anses' relic" (Eng. *left*).
- MAC-BEAN**, G. **M'Bheathain**, from **Beathan**, Englished as *Bean* (1490, *Beane*, 1481) or *Benjamin*: **Bitdtagno-s*, life's son, from *beatha*, life, with the termination *-agno-s*, meaning "descendant of," Eng. *-ing*, now used like the Eng. to form diminutives. Also *Mac-bain*, *Mac-vean*.
- MAC-BETH**, G. **M'Bheatha** (Dial. **M'Bheathain** and **M'Bheathaig**), M. G. *Macbethad*, O. G. *Mac-bead* (B. of Deer), M. Ir. *Macbethad*, *Macbeth* 1058, 1041 A.D.): "son of life," from *beatha*, life. It is a *personal* name originally, not *patronymic*. From *Macbeth* come *M'Bey*, *M'Vey*, *M'Veagh*.
- MAC-CAIG**, G. **M'Caog**, Ir. *Mac Taidhg*, son of Teague, E. Ir. *Tadg*, possibly allied to Gaul. *Tasgius*, etc. *Tadg* explained by O. Cl. and Dav. as "poet."
- MAC-CALLUM**, G. **M'Caluim**; see under *Malcolm*.
- MAC-CODRUM**, G. **M'Codrum**; from Norse *Guttormr*, *Goðormr*, Ag. S. *Guthrum*: "good or god serpent" (*orm*).
- MAC-COLL**, G. **M'Colla**; see *Coll*.
- MAC-COMBIE**, G. **M'Comaidh**, M. G. *M'Comie* (D. of L.): "son of Tommie," or Thomas.
- MAC-CONACHIE**, G. **M'Dhonnchaidh**, son of Duncan, which see. The Clan Donnachie are the Robertsons of Athole, so-named from Duncan de Atholia in Bruce's time: the English form of the name is from Robert, Duncan's great-grandson, who helped in bringing the murderers of James I. to execution.
- MAC-CORMIC**, G. **M'Cormaig**, from **Cormac** (**Cormag**), E. Ir. *Cormac*, Adamnan's *Cormacus*: **Corb-mac*, charioteer, from *corb*, chariot, Lat. *corbis*, basket. See *carbad*. From *corb* also comes **Cairbre**, O. Ir. *Coirbre*.
- MAC-CORQUODALE**, **M'Corcadail**, M. G. *Corgitill*, g. (D. of L.), early documents *Makorquydill* (1434); from Norse *Thorketill*, Thor's kettle or holy vessel (see *Mac-askill*).
- MAC-CRIMMON**, G. **M'Cruimein**; from *Rumun* (on a Manx Rune inscription), from Norse *Hrómundr* (for *Hróð-mundr*, famed protector)? Ceannfaelad *Mac Romain*, Bishop, d. 820; *Ruman*, the poet, d. 742; *Ruman*, the bishop, d. 919. Erig a n-agaid *Rumund*, MS. Bodl. Lib. Laud. 610, fol. 10, a, a (O. Don's Gram.).
- MAC-CULLOCH**, G. **M'Cullach**, early documents *M'Culloch* (1458), *M'Cullo*, *M'Cullach* (1431)—in Easter Ross: "son of the Boar" (*cullach*)? *M'Lulach*, son of *Lulach* (little calf?), has been suggested, and this appears as *M'Lulich*.

- MAC-DERMID; see *Dermid*.
- MAC-DONALD; see *Donald*.
- MACDUFF; see *Duff*.
- MAC-ECHERN, G. M'Eachairn, M. G. M'Caychirn (D. of L.), early documents *Mackauchern* (1499), Ir. *Echthighern* (Annals 846 A.D.): "Horse-lord," from *each* and *tighearna*. Also Englished as *M'Kechnie* (**Mac-Echthigerna*).
- MAC-FADYEN, G. M'Phaidein, early documents *M'Fadzeane* (1540); from *Paidean*, Pat, a pet form of *Patrick*.
- MAC-FARLANE; see *Bartholomew*.
- MAC-GILL; from a G. M'Gille, used as a curtailment, especially of *Mac-millan* or *M'Gille-mhaoil*.
- MAC-GILLIVRAY, G. M'Gillebhráth, son of the Servant of Judgment, from *bráth*, judgment, q.v.
- MAC-GLASIAN, G. M'Glaisein, a side-form of *M'Ghilleghlais*, the Grey lad, M. G. M'Illezlass (D. of L.), documents *M'Gille-glasch* (1508). For the formation of this name, cf. *Gille-naomh* (Mac-niven), *Gille-maol* (Mac-millan), *M'Gillebane* (1555), *M'Gille-uidhir* (M'Clure, dun lad), *Gibroy*, red lad.
- MAC-GOWAN; see under *Gow*.
- MAC-GREGOR; see *Gregor*.
- MAC-HARDY, G. M'Cardaidh:
- MAC-INDEOR; see *Dewar*.
- MAC-INNES; see *Angus*.
- MAC-INTYRE, G. Mac-an-t-saoir, son of the carpenter; see *saor*.
- MAC-IVER, G. M'Iamhair, M. G. M'Imhair (1467 MS.), Ir. *Imhar*, E. Ir. *Imair*, g.; from Norse *Ivarr*.
- MACKAY, G. M'Aoidh, from *Aoidh*, O. G. *Aed*, O. Ir. *Aed*, Adamnan's *Aidus*, g. *Aido*: **Aidu-s*, fire, E. Ir. *aed*, fire, Gr. *αἶθος*, fire, brand, Lat. *aedes*, house (=hearth), *aestus*, heat, O. H. G. *eit*, fire, pyre. Hence the Gaul. *Aedui*.
- MAC-KELLAR, G. M'Ealair, M'Eallair, old documents *Makkellar* (1518), *Makalere* (1476), *M'Callar* (1470), all "of Ardare" in Glassary, Argyle. *Ellar M'Kellar* (1595), proves the name to be *Ealair*. M. Ir. *Elair*, the Gaelic form of Lat. *Hilarius* borrowed.
- MAC-KENZIE, G. M'Coinnich; from *Coinneach*, which see under *Kenneth*.
- MACKERCHAR, G. M'Fhearchair; see *Farquhar*.
- MACKESSACK, for G. M'Isaac, son of *Isaac*. Also MACKIESON, *M'Kesek*, 1475; *Kessokissone*, *Kessoksone*, 1488; *Makesone*, 1507; *Makysonn*, 1400 (mostly in Menteith and S. Perth), from *Kessoc*, *Kessan*, personal names circ. 1500, also St. *Kessog* or *Kessock*.

- MACKILLOP, G. M'Philib**, for **Philip** (= *Filip*), where *f* (= *ph*) is aspirated and disappears; from Lat. *Phillipus*, from Gr. *Φίλιππος*, lover of horses (see *gaol* and *each*).
- MACKINLAY, G. M'Fhionnla(idh)**; from *Finlay*.
- MACKINNON, G. M'Fhionghuin**, M. G. *Fionghuine*, g. (M'V.), in *Macfingon* (1400), O. G. *Finguni*, gen. (B. of Deer), Ir. *Finghin*, M. Ir. *Finghin*, *Finghuine*, E. Ir. *Finghuine*: **Vindo-gonio-s*, "fair-born" (*fionn* and *gin*); cf. for force and partial root Gr. *Καλλιγένης*, and *-γονος* in proper names.
- MACKINTOSH, G. Mac-an-tóisich**, the Thane's son (see *tóiseach*), M. G. *Clanna-an-tóisaigh*, Clans Mackintosh (M'V.), *Toissich* (D. of L.), Mackintoshes, *Clann-an-toisigh* (1467 MS.), early documents *M'Toschy* (1382).
- MACKIRDY, G. M'Urardaigh**, *M'Urarthie*, 1632; *M'Quiritei*, 1626; *Makmurrarty*, 1547; *Makwerarty*, 1517; common in Bute and Arran of old, from *Muircheartach*, "sea-director" (*muir* and *ceart*); whence also *M'Murtrie*, *M'Mutrie*.
- MAC-LACHLAN, G. M'Lachlainn**; see *Lachlan*.
- MACLAGAN, G. M'Lagain (Lathagain** in its native district of Strathtay), documentary *Maklaogan* (1525): **M'Gillaagan*, sed quid?
- MAC-LAREN, G. M'Labhrúinn**; see *Lawrence*.
- MAC-LARTY, G. M'Labhartaigh and Lathartaich**, from *Flaithbheartach*, Eng. *Flaherty*: "dominion-bearing" or "princely-bearing" (see *flath* and *beartach*).
- MAC-LEAN, G. M'Illeathain**, for **Gill' Sheathain**, John or *Seathan's* servant, M. G. *Giolla-eóin* (M'V.), *Gilleeoin* (1467 MS.), documents *Makgilleon* (1390); from *gille* and *Seathain (Iain)* or *Eóin*, John, the latter being the classic G. for the name. John means in Hebrew "the Lord graciously gave."
- MAC-LEARNAN**, so G.; from *Gill' Ernan*, St Ernan's *gille*. The Latin name of this saint is *Ferreolus*, "Iron-one"; from *iarunn*.
- MAC-LEAY, G. M'An-léigh**, or earlier **M'An-léibh**, documents *M'Conteif* (1498 in Easter Ross), *Dunslephe*, gen. (1306-9, Kintyre), *Dunslaf* Makcorry (1505), M. G. *Duinsleibe*, gen., Ir. *Donnsléibhe*, E. Ir. *Duindslébe*, gen.: "Brown of the Hill," from *donn* and *sliabh* (not "Lord of the Hill," as other similar names exist in *dubh*, e.g. *Dubhsléibhe*; see *Mac-phae*). Capt. Thomas regarded the M'Leays of the north-west as descended from *Ferchar Leche*, F. the physician, who gets lands in Assynt in 1386, being thus *M'An-léigh*, physician's son, Manx *Cleg*, *Legge*. The Appin M'Lea clan Englished their name as Livingstone, of whom was the celebrated traveller.

- MAC-LELLAN, G. M'Gillfhaolain, M. G. M'Gillelan (D. of L.), *Gilla-faelan* (1467 MS.), St Fillan's slave, E. Ir. *Faelán*, O. Ir. *Fáilan*, from *fáil*, now *faol*, wolf, q.v. Hence *Gilfillan*.
- MAC-LENNAN, G. M'illinnein, Servant of *St Finnan*, Ir. *Mac-Gilla-finnen* (common in fourteenth and fifteenth century), M. Ir. *Finden*, E. Ir. *Finnian*, Adamnan's *Vinnianus* = *Finnio*, *Finnionis* = *Findbarrus*; from *finn*, *fionn*, white: the full name, of which Finnan is a pet form, was *Findbarr* or "Fair-head," Eng. Fairfax. Skene deduced *Mac-lennan* from M. G. M'Gilla-agannan, Adamnan's *gille*, documents *Gilleganan* Macneill (1545), *Gillecunnan* (1427).
- MAC-LEOD, G. M'Leoid, M. G. M'Cloyd (D. of L.), M'Leod (MS. 1540), documents *Macloyde* (fourteenth century), O. G. *Léot* (B. of Deer), Norse Sagas *Ljótr*, earl of Orkney in tenth century, and otherwise a common Norse name; the word is an adj. meaning "ugly" (!), Got. *liuta*, dissembler, Eng. *little*.
- MAC-MAHON, G. M'Mhathain; see *Matheson*.
- MAC-MARTIN, G. M'Mhairtinn, no doubt for earlier *Gillamartain*; gen. (1467 MS., an ancestor of the Cameron chiefs): Eng. *Martin*, from Lat. *Martinus*, the name of the famous fourth century Gaulish saint; it means "martial."
- MAC-MASTER, G. M'Mhaighistir, son of the Master.
- MAC-MICHAEL, G. M'Mhicheil, doubtless for earlier *Gillamichol*; see *Carmichael*.
- MAC-MILLAN, G. M'Mhaolain, M'Ghille-mhaoil, son of the Bald *gille* (cf. *M'Glashan*). To *Maolan* must be compared the Ogmic *Mailagni*.
- MAC-NAB, G. M'An-aba, M. G. m'yinnab (D. of L.), M'An Aba (1467 MS.): "son of the Abbot"; see *aba*.
- MAC-NAIR, G. M'An-uidhir; for *Mac Iain uidhir*, son of dun (odhar) John (cf. *Makaneroy*, 1556, now *Mac-inroy*, and *Makaneduy*, 1526, now *Mac-indoe*). Such is the source of the Gairloch branch of the name. The Perthshire sept appears in documents as *M'Inayr* (1468), *Macnayr* (1390), which is explained as *M'An-oighre*, son of the heir. *M'Nuirs* in Cowal (1685), John *Maknewar* (1546, in Dunoon); Tho. *M'Nuyer* (1681, Inverness). Prof. Mackinnon suggested *M'An-fhuibhir*, son of the smith or *faber*; nor should *M'An-jhuidhir*, the stranger's son, be overlooked as a possible etymology.
- MAC-NAUGHTON, G. M'Neachdainn, M. G. M'Neachtain (1467), O. G. *Nectan*, Pictish *Naiton* (Bede), from *necht*, pure, root *nig* of *nigh*, wash.

- MAC-NEE, G. **M'Righ**; D. of L. *M'onee*, *M'Nie*, 1613; *M'Knie*, 1594; *M'Kne*, 1480 (Menteith and Breadalbane). From *mac-nia*, champion?
- MAC-NEILL, G. **M'Neill**, documents *Makneill* (1427). See *Neil*.
- MAC-NICOL, G. **M'Neacail**, M. G. *M'Nicail*, from Lat. *Nicolas*, Gr. *Νικόλας*, "conquering people." Hence *Nicholson*.
- MAC-NISH, G. **M'Neis**; from **M'Naois**, the *Naois* being a dialectic form of **Aonghus** or **Angus**.
- MAC-NIVEN, G. **M'Ghille-naoimh**, the saintly *gille* (cf. for form in Eng. *Mac-glashan*). Documentary form *G'ilnew M'Ilwedy* (1506). The M. G. and Ir. *Gilla Nanaemh*, servant of the saints (1467 MS.), is a different name. The Ir. *M'Nevin* is for *M'Onaimhín*. *Mac Nimhein* (*Oranaiche* 520).
- MAC-PHAIL, G. **M'Phàil**; son of Paul. See *Paul*.
- MAC-PHEE, G. **M'a-Phi**, M. G. *M'a ffeith* (D. of L.), *M'Duibisithi* (1467), documents *Macduffie* (1463), for *Dub-shithe*, Black of peace (*dubh* and *sith*).
- MAC-PHERSON, G. **M'Phearsain**, son of the Parson, M. G. *M'a pharson* (D. of L.), documents *M'Inphersonis* (1594 Acts of Parl.). Bean *Makimpersone* (1490, Cawdor Papers), *Makfarson* (1481, Kilarvock Papers), Archibald M'Walter vic Doncho vic *Persoun* (who in 1589 has lands in Glassary of Argyle); Tormot *M'Farsane* (vicar of Snizort, 1526). The Badenoch M'Phersons are known as *Clann Mhuirich*; the Skye sept are called *Cananaich* (from Lat. *canonicus*, canon).
- MAC-QUARRIE, G. **M'Guair**, M. G. *Guair*, *M'Guair* (1467 MS.), *Macquharry* (1481), *M'Goire* of Ulva (1463, *Makquhory* in 1473); from Gadelic *Guair*, **Gaurio*-s, E. Ir. *guair*, noble; Gr. *γαῦρος*, proud, exulting; further Lat. *gaudeo*, rejoice, Eng. *joy*.
- MAC-QUEEN, G. **M'Cuinn**, documents *Sween M'Queen* (1609, Clan Chattan Bond), *M'Queyn* (1543, *Swyne* then also as a personal name, in Huntly's Bond), *Makquean* (1502, personal name *Soyne* also appears), M. G. *Suibne*, gen. (1467 MS., Mackintosh genealogy), *M'Soenith* (D. of L.), documents *Syffyn* (1269, the Kintyre Sweenes), Ir. *Suibhne* (Sweeney), E. Ir. *Subne*, Adamnan's *Suibneus*: **Subnio*-s, root *ben*, go: "Good going?" The opposite *Duibne* (O'Duinn, etc.) appears in Ogam as *Dovvinius* (gen.). Cf. *dubhach*, *subhach*. Usually Mac-queen is referred to Norse Eng. *Sweyn*, Norse *Sveinn*, which gives G. *M'Suain*, now *Mac-Swan*, a Skye name. Pronounced in Arg. *Mac Cui'ne* or *Cuibhne*, for **M'Shuibhne**, which is the best spelling for Argyle.
- MAC-RAE, G. **M'Rath**, M. G. gen. *Mecraith*, documents *M'Crath* (1383 in Rothiemurchus), Ir. *Macraith* (years 448, onwards):

- "Son of Grace or Luck," from *rath*, q.v. A personal name like *Macbeth*.
- MAC-RAILD; see under *Harold*.
- MAC-RANALD, G. M'Raonuill; see *Ranald*.
- MAC-RORY, MAC-RURY; see *Rory*. Documents give *Makreury* in 1427.
- MAC-TAGGART, G. M'An-t-Sagairt, son of the priest.
- MAC-TAVISH, G. M'Thàimhs, for M'Thàmhais, son of Thomas or Tammas, M. G. Clyne *Tawssi* (D. of L.), documents *M'Cawis* and *M'Cause* (1494, 1488, in Killin of Lochtay).
- MAC-VICAR, G. M'Bhiocair, documents *Makvicar* (1561, when lands are given near Inveraray to him): "Son of the Vicar."
- MAC-VURICH, G. M'Mhuirich, M. G. *Mhuireadhaigh* (M'V.): the Bardic family of M'Vurich claimed descent from the poet Muireach Albanach (circ. 1200 A.D.). They now call themselves Macphersons by confusion with the Badenoch Clann Mhuirich.
- NEIL, G. Niall, so Ir., E. Ir. *Níall*, Adamnan's *Nellis*, gen.: **Neillo-s*, **Neid-s-lo*; see *niata* for root, the meaning being "champion." Hence *Mac-neill*. The word was borrowed into Norse as *Njáll*, *Njal*, and thence borrowed into Eng., where it appears in Domesday Bk. as *Nigel*, a learned spelling of *Neil*, whence *Nelson*, etc.
- NICHOLSON, G. M'Neacail; see *Moc-nicol*.
- NORMAN, G. Tormoid, Tòrmod (Dial. *Tormailt*, for earlier *Tormond*), documents *Tormode* (David II.'s reign); from Norse *Thórmóðr*, the wrath of Thor, Eng. *mood*. The form *Tormund* alternates with *Tormod* (1584, 1560): "Thor's protection;" whence the Dial. *Tormailt* (cf. *iarmailt* for phonetics). Cf. *Gearmailt*, Germany.
- PATRICK, G. Pádrúig, Pàruig (with pet form *Para*), for *Gillephadruig*, M. G. *Gillapadruig*, Ir. *Pádraig*, *Giollaphátraicc*, O. Ir. *Patricc*; from Lat. *Patricius*, patrician. Hence *Macphatrick*, *Paterson*.
- PAUL, G. Pòl (Classic), Pàl (C.S.); from Lat. *Paulus*, from *paulus*, little, Eng. *few*.
- PETER, G. Peadair; from Lat. *Petrus*, from Gr. Πέτρος, rock, stone.
- PHILIP, so G.; see *Mackillop*.
- RANALD, G. Raonull, M. G. *Raghnall* (M'V.), *Ragnall*, *Raghnall* (1467 MS.), Ir. *Ragnall* (common); from Norse *Rögnvaldr*, ruler of (from) the gods, or ruler of counsel, from *rögn*, *regin*, the gods, Got. *ragin*, opinion, rule; whence *Reginald*, *Keynold*, etc. Hence M'Raonuill, *Mac-ranald*, *Clanranald*.
- ROBERT, Raibert, Robart, Rob, M. G. *Robert* (D. of L.), *Roibert* (1467 MS.); from Eng. *Robert*, Ag. S. *Robert*, from *hró*, *hróð*,

- fame, praise, and *berht*, bright, now *bright*, "bright fame."
Hence *Robertsons* (= **Clann Donnchaidh**), *Mac-robbie*.
- RODERICK, RORY, G. Ruairidh, M. G. Ruaidri** (1467 MS.), O. G. *Rúadri*, Ir. *Ruaidhri*, gen. *Ruadrach* (Annals at 779, 814), O. Ir. *Ruadri*, E. W. *Rotri, Rodri*; from *ruadh*, red, and the root of *rìgh*, king? The Teutonic *Roderick* means "Famed-ruler" (from *hróð* and *rik*, the same root as G. *rìgh*). The terminal *-ri, -rech* (old gen.) is a reduced form of *rìgh*, king (Zimmer, who, however, regards *Ruadri* as from N. *Hrórehr*, but this in Galloway actually gives *Kerik, M'Kerik, M'Crerik*, 1490, 1579, thus disproving Zimmer's view). *M'Cririck* still exists.
- ROSS, G. Rosach, Ros**; from the County name *Ross*, so named from *ros*, promontory.
- ROY, G. Ruadh**, red. Hence *Mac-inroy*, earlier *Makaneroy* (1555), for **M'Iain Ruaidh**, Red John's son.
- SAMUEL, G. Samuel, Somhairle**. The latter really is *Somerled*, M. G. *Somuirle* (M.V.), *Somairli* (1467 MS.); from Norse *Sumarliði*, which means a mariner, viking, "summer sailor," from *sumar* and *liði*, a follower, sailor.
- SHAW, G. Seaghdh**, Englished as *Seth*; evidently formerly *Si'ach* or *Se'ach*, *Schiach M'Keich*, Weem in 1637 (= Shaw M'Shaw), *Jo. Scheach*, Inverness in 1451, *Jo. and Tho. Scheoch*, king's "cursors" 1455-1462, *Sythach* Macmallon in Badenoch in 1224-33, Ferchar filius *Seth* there in 1234, *M'Sithig* in B. of Deer: **Sithech*, M. Ir. *sidhach*, wolf. The female name **Sitheag** was common in the Highlands in the 17th century (*Shiak, Shihag*). The Southern Shaws—of Ayrshire and Greenock—are from *De Schaw* (1296), from Sc. and Eng. *shaw, shaws*; the southern name influenced the northern in spelling and pronunciation. In Argyle, the Shaws are called **Clann Mhic-ghille-Sheathanaich**.
- SIMON, G. Sim**. This is the Lovat personal name; hence **M'Shimidh**, Simmie's son, the name by which the Lovat family is patronymically known. Hence in Eng. *Sime, Mac-kimmie, M'Kim, Simpson*, etc.
- SOMERLED**; see *Samuel*.
- SUTHERLAND, G. Suthurlanach**; from the county name.
- TAGGART**; see *Mac-taggart*.
- THOMAS, G. Tòmas, Tàmhus** (M.F.), M. G. *Tamas* (1467 MS.). Hence *Mac-tavish, Mac-combe*.
- TORQUIL, G. Torcull** (Torcall); from Norse *Thorkell*, a shorter form of *Thorketill*, which see under *Mac-corquodale*.
- WHYTE, G. M'Ilebhàin**; son of the fair *gille*. See *Bain* above.

WILLIAM, G. Uilleam, M. G. William (1467 MS.); the G. is borrowed from the Eng., O. Eng. *Willelm*, Ger. *Wilhelm*, "helmet of resolution" (from *will* and *helm*). Hence *Mac-william*.

SOME NATIVE FEMALE NAMES.

Beathag, SOPHIA, M. G. Bethog (M.V.), *Bethoc* (*Chronicles of Picts and Scots*: name of King Duncan's mother), for **Bethóc*, the fem. form of *Beathan*, discussed under *Mac-bean*.

Bride, BRIDGET, E. Ir., O. Ir. Brigit, g. Brigitte or Brigtae: **Brgnté* (Stokes), an old Gaelic goddess of poetry, etc. (Corm.); usually referred to the root *brg*, high, Celtic *Brigantes*, high or noble people; Skr. *brhatí*, high (fem.); further Ger. *berg*, hill, Eng. *burgh*. The Norse god of poetry was *Bragi*, whose name may be allied to that of *Brigit*. The name of the Gr. goddess Ἀφροδίτη (*Bhr̥g-ítá*) and the Teutonic name *Berhta* (from the same stem as Eng. *bright*), have been compared to that of *Bridget* (Hoffman, *Bez. Beit.*¹⁸, 290); but this derivation of *Aphrodite* ("foam-sprung"?) is unusual.

Diorbháil, Diorbhorguil, DOROTHY, M. G. Dearbháil (M.V.), Ir. *Dearbhail*, *Dearbhforghaill*, respectively translated by O'Donovan "true request" (see *áill*) and "true oath" (E. Ir. *for gall*, O. Ir. *for cell*, testimony, from *geall*). Hence the historic name *Devorgilla*.

Fionnaghal, FLORA, M. G. Fionnghuala (1469 MS.), documents *Finvola* (1463), *Fynvola* (1409), Ir. *Finnghuala*: "Fair-shouldered"; from *fionn* and *guala*.

Mór, Mórág, SARAH, M. G. Mór (M.V.), Ir. *Mór* (year 916); from *mór*, great, while Hebrew *Sarah* means "queen."

Muireall, MARION, MURIEL, Ir. Muirgheal (year 852): *Mori-gelá*, "sea-white"; from *muir* and *geal*.

Oighrig, Eighrig, EUPHEMIA, M. G. Effric (D. of L.), med. documents *Africa*, Ir. *Aithbhric*, older *Affraic* (two abbesses of Kildare so called in 738 and 833); from *Africa*?

Raonaid, Raonaid, RACHEL; from Norse *Ragnhildis*, "God's fight." Cf. *Ronald*.

Sorcha, CLARA, Ir. Sorcha; from the adj. *sorcha*, bright, the opposite of *dorcha*, q.v.

Una, WINIFRED, WINNY, Ir. Una; usually explained as from *úna* (*núna*, M. Ir. = *gorta*), hunger, famine, whence the Ir. proverb: "Ní bhíon an teach a mbíon Una lá ná leath gan núna"—The house where Una is is never a day or half one without hunger." W. *newyn*, Cor. *naun*, Br. *naon*, M. Br. *naffin*, **novengo*-, Eng. *need*. Cf. E. Ir. *uinchi*, scarcity, Eng. *want*, *wane*. Una, daughter of the King of Lochlan, is represented by Keating as Conn Céd cathach's mother (second century).