

Ireland after The Deluge

*The History of Ireland*

By

*Geoffrey Keating, D.D.*

*Edited*

*With Translation and Notes*

By

*David Comyn*

*M.R.I. A.*

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In his ‘Literary History of Ireland,’ Dr. Douglas Hyde thus contrasts the O’Clerys and Keating :—“As if to emphasise the truth that they were only redacting the Annals of Ireland from the most ancient sources at their command, the Masters wrote in an ancient bardic dialect, full at once of such idioms and words as were unintelligible, even to the men of their own day, unless they had received a bardic training. In fact, they were learned men writing for the learned, and this work was one of the last efforts of the *esprit de corps* of the school-bred shanachy which always prompted him to keep bardic and historical learning a close monopoly amongst his own class. Keating was Michael O’Clery’s contemporary, but he wrote—and I consider him the first Irish historian and trained scholar who did so—for the masses, not the classes, and he had his reward in the thousands of copies of his popular History made and read throughout all Ireland, while the copies made of the Annals were quite few in comparison, and after the end of the seventeenth century little read.”

DAVID COMYN.

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Foras Feasa ar Éirinn

THE ORIGINS OF IRISH HISTORY.

Volume I

*I. Of the first occupation that was made on Ireland here.*

According to some antiquaries, there came a youth of the family of Nin son of Bél (whose name was Adhna son of Bioth) to spy Ireland about seven score years after the deluge. However, it was not long the stay he made in it. He went back to give an account of the island he had seen, to his neighbours, and with him a part or certain bulk of the grass of Ireland, as is read in the poem (to which is) beginning, “I found in the Saltair of Caiseal,” &c. [1] [Here is what the poem says.]

*Adhna mac Beatha go gcéill,*  
 Adhna, son of Bioth, with prophecy (?) [2]  
 A warrior of the family of Nin son of Bél,  
 Came into Ireland to explore it,  
 So that he plucked grass in wood island [3] :  
 He brought with him the full of his fist of its grass,  
 He goes back to tell the news :  
 That is the clear complete possession,  
 Shortest in duration which occupied Ireland.

Howbeit, I do not think that the expedition of that man ought to be called a conquest, because he did not make any stay in it, and therefore that it is more right to reckon the conquest of Partholón as the first occupation of it after the deluge.

*II. Of the first chief-conquest which was made on Ireland after the deluge, namely the invasion of Partholon, here.*

Ireland, indeed, was desert three hundred years after the deluge, till Partholon, son of Sera, son of Sru, son of Esru, son of Fraimint, son of Fathacht, son of Magog, son of Japheth came to occupy it, according as it is found in the poem [to which is] beginning,—“ Adam, father, fountain of our hosts” [as the poet says] :—

*Trí chéad bliadhan iar ndilinn,*  
 Three hundred years after the deluge,  
 It is a tale of truth, as I reckon,  
 All holy Ireland was desert,  
 Until Partholón came.

Accordingly, I think that it is twenty-two years before Abraham was born, Partholón came into Ireland, and that it is it which was the age of the world therefore, about this time a thousand, nine hundred and three score and eighteen years, as this verse states :—

*A hocht seachtmhoghad céim glan,*  
 Eight and seventy—a clear gradation—  
 A thousand and nine hundred years,  
 From the time of Adam, virtuous, just,  
 To the birth of Abraham our father.

However, the opinion of the people who say that it is at the end of two years and a thousand after the deluge that Partholón came to Ireland, is not truthful, and they, admitting that it is in the time of Abraham he came into it, and that it is Abraham, who was only the eighth generation from Sem, son of Noe, and Sem himself to be reckoned. For it is not likely that more than a thousand years would have been spent during the time of seven generations after the deluge. Wherefore I deem the former opinion more sound than the latter opinion ; and, accordingly, it is probable that it was at the end of three hundred years after the deluge Partholón came into Ireland.

From middle Greece, *i.e.* ‘ Migdonia,’ Partholón set out. It is the way which he took (was) through the ‘ Torrian’ Sea to Sicily, and with the right hand towards Spain till he reached Ireland. Two months and a half he was on the sea till he took harbour in Innbhear Sceine, [4] in the western part of Munster, the fourteenth day in the month May. It is of it this verse was recited [as the poet says] :—

*An Ceathramhadh dég for Mháirt,*  
The fourteenth, on (day of) Mars,  
They put their noble barks  
Into the port of fair lands, blue, clear,  
In Innbhear Scéine of bright shields.

Here is the company who came with Partholón to Ireland, and with his wife, Dealgnaid her name : their three sons, namely, Rudhruidhe, Slangha, and Laighlinne, with their wives, and a thousand of a host along with them, according to Nennius, as is read in the Saltair of Caiseal.

It is the place where Partholón dwelt at first in Ireland, in Inis Saimher, [5] near to Eirne. It is why it was called Inis Saimher ; a lap-dog or hound-whelp which Partholón had, which was named Saimher ; and he killed it through jealousy with his wife, who committed misconduct with her own attendant, Todhga ; and when Partholón accused her, it is not an apology she made, but said it was fitter the blame of that ill-deed to be on himself than on her : and she said these words : “ O Partholón,” says she, “ do you think that it is possible a woman and honey to be near one another, new milk and a child, food and a generous person, flesh meat and a cat, weapons or implements and a workman, or a man and woman in private, without their meddling with each other” : and she repeats the verse :—

*Mil la mnaoi, leamhnacht la mac,*  
Honey with a woman, new milk with a child,  
Food with the generous, flesh with a cat,  
A workman in a house, and edge tools,  
One with the other, it is great risk.

After Partholón had heard that answer, his jealousy was so increased by it that he struck the dog to the ground, till it was killed : so that from it the island is named. The first jealousy of Ireland after the deluge (was) that. So for it was recited this verse :—

*Buailis an rí coin na mná*  
The king strikes the hound of the woman  
With his hand—it was not sad that it was (so) ;—?  
The hound was dead . . . . . [6]  
That was the first jealousy of Ireland.

The seventh year after the occupation of Ireland by Partholon, the first man of his people died, namely, Feadha, son of Tortan, from whom is named Magh Feadha. [7]

It is the cause on account of which Partholón came to Ireland, because he had slain his father and his mother, seeking the kingdom from his brother, so that he came in flight (because of) his parricide till he reached Ireland, so that it is therefore God sent a plague on his race, by which nine thousand of them were slain during one week in Beann Eadair. [8]

Some of our authors reckon another occupation of Ireland before Partholón, namely, the invasion of Cíocal, son of Nel, son of Garbh, son of Ughmhór, from Sliabh Ughmhóir, and Lot Luaimhneach (was) his mother : they (were) two hundred years (living) on fish and fowl till the coming of Partholón into Ireland, till the battle of Magh Iotha [9] took place between them, in which Cíocal fell, and in which the Fomorians [10] were destroyed by Partholón. In Innbhear Domhnann [11] Cíocal, with his people, took harbour in Ireland : six ships their number ; fifty men and fifty women the complement of each ship [of them]. It is about them it is recited :—

*Seachtmhadh gabháil ro dus gabh*

The seventh invasion which took  
Spoil of Ireland of the high plains  
(Was) by Cíocal the stunted, of withered feet, [12]  
Over the fields of Innbhear Domhnann ;  
Three hundred men, the number of his host,  
Who came from the regions of Ughmhór,  
Till they were scattered after that,  
Being cut off in a week.

Seven lakes burst forth in Ireland in the time of Partholón, namely, Loch Masc in Connacht ; over Magh Leargna it sprang up : at the end of three years after giving battle to Cíocal, Loch Con burst over the land, and Magh Cró (was) the name of the plain over which it came : Loch Deichet [13] at the end of twelve years after the coming of Partholón into Ireland. A year after that the fourth chieftain of his people died, namely, Slangha, and it is at Sliabh Slangha [14] he was buried. At the end of a year after that (was) the eruption of Loch Laighlinne [15] in Ua-mac-Uais Breagh, [16] *i.e.* (the lake of) Laighlinne, son of Partholón ; and when his sepulchre was being built, the lake sprang forth from the earth, it is from that it is called Loch Laighlinne. At the end of a year after that (was) the eruption of Loch Eachtra, [17] between Sliabh Mudhairn [18] and Sliabh Fuaid, [19] in Oirghialla. [20] After that, the eruption of Loch Rudhruidhe, [21] in which Rudhruidhe himself was drowned. In the same year the eruption of Loch Cuan. [22]

Partholón did not find before him in Ireland but three lakes and nine rivers : the names of the lakes (are) Loch Luimneach [23] in Desmond, Loch Foirdhreamhain [24] at Traigh-lí, [25] by Sliabh Mis in Munster, and Fionnloch Ceara [26] in Iorros Domhnann [27] in Connacht. It is for them this verse was recited [as the poet says] : —

*Tri locha aidhbhle ammais,*  
Three lakes—wondrous their brilliancy,  
And nine plentiful rivers ;  
Loch Foirdhreamhain, Loch Luimnigh,  
Fionn Loch beyond the bounds of Iorros.

Here are the rivers :— The Buas, [28] between Dal n-Aruidhe [29] and Dalriada, [30] *i.e.* the Ruta; the Rurthach, *i.e.* *Abhann Life*, [31] between the Ui Neill [32] and the Leinstermen ; Laoi, [33] in Munster, through Muscraidhe [34] to Cork ; the Sligeach [35] ; the Samhaoir [36] ; the Muaidh [37] in Connacht, through Ui Fiachrach of the north [38] ; the Moghurn [39] in Tír Eoghain ; the Fionn, [40] between Cinéal Eoghain and Cinéal Conaill [41] ; and the Banna, between Lí and Eille [42] ; as is said in the poem to which (this) is the beginning, “ Ye learned of the plain of fair gentle Conn” :—

*Muaidh, Sligeach, Samhaoir sloinne,*  
Muaidh, Sligeach, Samhaoir of name [43] ?  
Buas, a torrent of melodious sound ;  
Moghurn, Fionn, with face of brightness ;  
Banna, between Lí and Eille.

Or yet in the poem which has for beginning, “ Adam, father, fount of our hosts,” &c. :—

*Laoi, Buas, Banna, Bearbha, bhuan,*  
Laoi, Buas, Banna, lasting Bearbha, [44]  
Samhaoir, Sligeach, Moghurn, Muaidh,

And Lifé in Leinster with them,  
There they are, the old rivers.

At the end of four years after the eruption of Murthol, [45] Partholón died in Sean-mhagh Ealta Eudair, [46] and it is there he was buried. It is called Sean-mhagh, ‘ old plain,’ because a wood never grew on it ; and, moreover, it is why it is called Magh n-Ealta, as it was there the birds of Ireland used to come to bask in the sun. At the end of thirty years from the coming of Partholón to Ireland, he died. Some antiquaries say that the age of the world when Partholón died was two thousand six hundred and twenty-eight years : nevertheless, what I think is, according to everything we have said before, that it is one thousand nine hundred and four score and six years from the beginning of the world to the death of Partholon. Some others say that it is five hundred and twenty years from the death of Partholon to the plague of his people : however, the general opinion of the antiquaries is against that, since they say that Ireland was not a desert but thirty years [the time which] was from the death of Partholón’s people to the coming of Neimheadh into it, as the poet says in this verse : —

*Ré triochad bliadhan beachta,*  
During thirty years of a period  
It was empty of (its) skilled warriors,  
After the destruction of its host in a week,  
In crowds upon Magh n-Ealta.

Holy Cormac son of Cuileannan agrees with the same thing in the Saltair of Caiseal, where he says that it is three hundred years (that) were from the coming of Partholón into Ireland to the plague of his people. The poet Eochaidh Ua Floinn agrees with it likewise, according to this verse : —

*Trí céad bliadhan, cia ad féisidh,*  
Three hundred years, who know it ?  
Over very great (or wide) excellent corn-lands, (?)  
The rank sharp-pointed stalks (or weeds) (?) [47]  
(Were) in noble Erin grass-grown.

From all these things (it appears that) those who say that there was more than five hundred years from the death of Partholón till the destruction of his people, are not to be believed ; and it is not probable that Ireland could have been settled so long, without more people in it than five thousand men and four thousand women.

III. *Here is the division which the four sons of Partholón made on Ireland ; and it is the first partition of Ireland.*

Er, Orba, Fearón, and Feargna their names, and there were four their namesakes among the descendants of Míleadh, as we shall set down in (relating) their special conquest.

From Aileach Néid (in the) north to 'Athcliath Laighean, the portion of Er.

From the same 'Athcliath to Oiléan 'Arda Neimeadh [to] which is called Oiléan Mór an Bharraigh now, the portion of Orba.

From the Oiléan Mór to Meadhraidhe by Gaillimh, the division of Fearón.

From 'Athcliath Meadhraidhe to Aileach Néid, the portion of Feargna, as Eochaidh Ua Floinn says in these verses : and he was the chief professor of poetry in Ireland in his time :—

*Ceathrar mac ba griobhdha glór,*  
Four sons, (who) were fierce of voice,  
For noble children had Partholón :  
They took under direction among them  
The tribes of Ireland without objection :  
Not easy to the kings was their division,  
The island of Erin (being all) one wood,  
Treasure close (? safe) in each dwelling [48] during their time ;  
Each man got knowledge of his share.  
Er, their eldest, (who) was free in happiness,  
Pleasant his portion, long without change ;  
From Aileach Néid, land without treachery,  
To 'Athcliath Laighean full-strong.  
From 'Athcliath of Leinster—leap of the sea [49]—  
To the isle of Neimheadh's Height,  
Without misery—not weak his conduct—  
(Was) Orba's portion of the land of his race.  
From the ford where Neimheadh was slain  
To Meadhraidhe of the great districts,  
A cause of good content without cease there,  
The portion of Fearón, long the tract.  
From Meadhraidhe, (it is) long also,  
To Aileach Neid of good customs,  
If we follow the boundary in every track ;  
Feargna got an extensive tract.  
On Erin itself, not a cause of deceit (this),  
Were born the strong men (whom) I enumerate,  
A noble company, who were established in fame,  
Gentle (and) knightly were the four.

#### *IV. Of the people of Partholón here.*

Here are the names of the ploughmen he had, namely, Tothacht, Treun, Iomhas, Aicheachbhéal, Cúl, Dorcha, and Damh. The names of the four oxen they had, namely, Liag, Leagmhagh, Iomaire, and Eitrighe. Beoir (was) the name of the man who gave out free entertainment or hospitality at first in Ireland. Breagha, son of Seanbhoth (it was) who established single combat first in Ireland. Samaliliath first introduced ale-drinking in it. Fios, Eolus and Fochmore (were) his three druids. Macha, Mearan, and Muicneachán, his three strong-men. Biobhal and Beabhal his two merchants. Partholón had ten daughters and ten sons-in-law.

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#### *Section VII.*

Of the second conquest which was made on Ireland here, *i.e.* the conquest of the children of Neimheadh.

Ireland, indeed, was waste thirty years after the destruction of the race of Partholón, till Neimheadh son of Agnoman, son of Pamp, son of Tat, son of Seara, son of Srú, son of Easrú,

son of Framant, son of Fathacht, son of Magog, son of Japheth, came to settle in it : for every invasion which occupied Ireland after the deluge is of the children of Magog. At Srú, son of Easrú, Partholón and the children of Neimheadh separate from each other : and at Seara the Firbolg, the Tuatha Dé Danann, and the sons of Míleadh separate. And it is the Scotie [50] language every tribe of these had. That is evident from (the occasion) when Ith, son of Breogan, came into Ireland ; for it is through the Scotie language he himself and the Tuatha Dé Danann spoke with each other ; and they said that they were of the race of Magog on both sides. Some others say, as for Neimheadh, that he was of the posterity of the son, Adhla his name, whom Partholón had left in the east. It is the track in which Neimheadh journeyed, coming into Ireland from Scythia on the narrow sea which reaches from the ocean called Mare Euxinum, [51]—it is it (*i.e.* the narrow sea) which is the boundary between the north-west side of Asia and the north-east side of Europe,—and at the north-west part of Asia are the mountains of Riffé, [52] according to Pomponius Mela, on the boundary line of the narrow sea [53] we have mentioned and the northern ocean. He gave his right hand to the mountains of Riffé, till he came into the ocean to the north, [54] and his left hand towards Europe till he came to Ireland. Thirty-four ships (was) the number of his fleet, and thirty persons in every ship of them.

Starn, Iarbhoine Fáidh, Ainninn, and Fearghus Leithdhearg [55] (are) the names of the four sons of Neimheadh.

Four lake-eruptions in Ireland in the time of Neimheadh, namely, Loch mBreunainn [56] on Mágh n-Asail in Uí Nialláin : Loch Muinreamhair [57] on Magh Sola among the Leinstermen : at the end of ten years after Neimheadh had arrived in Ireland, Loch Dairbhreach and Loch n-Ainnin [58] sprang up in Magh Mór in Meath : for when the grave of Ainnin was dug, it is then Loch Ainnin sprang forth. It is in proof that it was in Neimheadh's time these lakes burst forth that this verse was made : —

*Ceithre locha fo linn lóir*  
 Four lakes of abundant water  
 Burst forth over Fodhla truly great : —  
 Loch Dairbhreach, Loch mBreunainn sweet sounding,  
 Loch Muinreamhair, Loch n-Ainnin,

The wife of Neimheadh—Macha her name—died in Ireland sooner than Ainnin ; and the twelfth year after their coming into Ireland this Macha died ; and she was the first dead person of Ireland after the coming of Neimheadh into it. And it is from her Árd Macha [59] is named ; for it is there she was buried. Two royal forts were built by Neimheadh in Ireland, namely, Rath Chinneich [60] in Uí Nialláin, and Rath Ciombaoth [61] in Seimhne. [62] The four sons of Madán Muinreamhar [63] of the Fomórians built Rath Cinneich in one day, Bog, Robhog, Ruibhne, and Rodan their names : and Neimheadh slew them on the morrow in the morning, in Daire Lighe, [64] for fear that they should resolve on the destruction of the fort again ; and they were buried there.

Twelve plains were cleared from wood by Neimheadh in Ireland ; namely, Magh Ceara, [65] Magh Neara, Magh Cuile Toladh, [66] Magh Luirg [67] in Connacht, Magh Tochair in Tír Eoghain, [68] Leacmhagh in Munster, Magh mBreasa, [69] Magh Lughaidh in Uí Tuirtre, [70] Magh Seireadh in Teathbha, [71] Magh Seimhne [72] in Dal n-Áruidhe, Magh Muirtheimhne [73] in Breagh, [74] and Magh Macha in Oirghialla. [75]

Neimheadh won three battles on the Fomórians, namely, navigators of the race of Cham, who fared from Africa ; they came fleeing to the islands of the west of Europe, and to make a settlement for themselves, and (also) fleeing the race of Sem, for fear that they might have

advantage over them, in consequence of the curse which Noe had left on Cham from whom they came ; inasmuch as they thought themselves to be safe from the control of the posterity of Sem by being at a distance from them : wherefore, they came to Ireland, so that the three battles aforesaid were won over them, *i.e.* the battle of Sliabh Bádhná ; [76] the battle of Ross Fraocháin [77] in Connacht, in which there fell Gann and Geanann, two leaders of the Fomorians ; and the battle of Murbholg [78] in Dalriada, *i.e.* the Rúta, the place where Starn son of Neimheadh fell by Conaing son of Faobhar in Leithead Lachtmhaighe. Moreover, he fought the battle of Cnámhros [79] in Leinster, where there was a slaughter (made) of the men of Ireland, including Artur, son of Neimheadh, *i.e.* a son born in Ireland to him ; and including Iobcan son of Starn, son of Neimheadh. However, it is by Neimheadh these three battles were won over the Fomorians, as these verses below certify :—

*Do bhris Nimheadh,—niamhdha a neart—*  
 Neimheadh defeated—illustrious his strength—  
 (Their sepulchre was satiated I think),  
 Gann and Geanann, by his attack.  
 They were slain by him, one after the other.  
 Geanann by Neimheadh was worn out.  
 Their little grave—what tomb is greater (than it) ?—  
 By Starn, son of Neimheadh the mighty,  
 Gann fell, and it is not deceit.  
 The battle of Murbholg—he fought it—  
 Till it was closed, it was stiff,  
 It was won by Neimheadh of the arms,  
 Though Starn came not back (from it).  
 During the battle of Cnamhros, which was very great,  
 It is much there was of hacking of flesh ;  
 Artur and Iobcan fell there,  
 Although in it Gann was routed.

After that Neimheadh died of the plague in Oiléan Árda Neimheadh [80] in Críoch Liatháin in Munster, which is called Oiléan Mór an Bharraigh ; and two thousand (of) people with him, both men and women.

There was slavery and great oppression afterwards on the race of Neimheadh by the Fomorians, revenging the battles which Neimheadh had gained over them. More, indeed, son of Deileadh, and Conaing, son of Faobhar, from whom is named Tor Conaing on the border of Ireland north [who] had a fleet, and they residing in Tor Conaing which is called Toirinis [81], enforcing a tribute on the children of Neimheadh : and the extent of that tribute was two thirds of the children, and of the corn, and of the milch-kine of the men of Ireland, to be offered to them every year on the eve of Samhain [82] at Magh gCéidne between the Drobhaois and the Eirne. [83] It is why it is called Magh gCéidne from the frequency (with which) the tribute was brought to the same plain.[84]

The Fomorians had still more tyranny on the children of Neimheadh, to wit, three full measures from every single household in Ireland of the cream of milk, of the flour of wheat, and of butter, to be brought to More and to Conaing to Toirinis ; and a female steward who was called Liagh, enforcing that tax throughout Ireland, so that of that tax this verse was recited :—

*An cháin sin ro cumadh ann,*  
 That tax which was devised there,  
 Three measures which were not very scant ;  
 A measure of the cream of rich milk,

And a measure of the flour of wheat,  
The third obligation—we think it was hard—  
A measure of butter over it for a condiment.

Anger and rage indeed seize upon the men of Ireland by reason of the heaviness of that tribute and tax, insomuch that they went to do battle with the Fomorians. It is wherefore they used to be called Fomorians, namely, from their being committing robbery on sea : Fomhóraig, [85] *i.e.* along the seas.

There were, however, three good warriors among the children of Neimheadh at this period, namely, Beothach, son of Iarbhoineol the prophetic, son of Neimheadh ; Fearghus the red-sided, son of Neimheadh ; and Earglan, son of Béoan, son of Starn, son of Neimheadh, with his two brothers, namely, Manntán and Iarthacht : and their number was thirty thousand on sea, and the same number on land, as this verse shows :—

*Trí fichid míle—modh nglé—*  
Three score thousand,—bright array—  
On land and on water ;  
It is the number went from their dwelling,  
The race of Neimheadh to the demolition (of the tower).

The tower was demolished then, and Conaing falls with his children by the race of Neimheadh. Afterwards, Morc, son of Deileadh, brought the crew of three score ships from Africa to Toirinis, till he gave battle to the children of Neimheadh, so that they fell side by side, and that everyone of them who was not slain was drowned, but Morc and a few of his company who took possession of the island : for they did not perceive the sea coming under them with the obstinacy of the fighting, so that there escaped not of the race of Neimheadh (as many of them as were in this warfare) but the crew of one bark, in which were thirty strong men, including three chiefs, namely, Simeon Breac, son of Starn, son of Neimheadh ; Iobath, son of Beothach, son of Iarbhoineol Fáidh, son of Neimheadh ; and Briotán Maol, son of Fearghus Leithdhearg, son of Neimheadh, as the verse says : —

*Acht aon-bhárc go n-a lucht lór*  
But one bark with its full company,  
There escaped not of them, the entire of their hosts :  
Simeon and Iobath good,  
And Briotán Maol, in that ship.

On their coming away from that conflict, it is the counsel on which they resolved, to fare from Ireland to fly the tyranny of the Fomorians. They were seven years making ready towards this adventure ; and a fleet is prepared by each chief of them, and a party of the people who had come with Neimheadh to Ireland, and of his descendants, go with each one of the aforesaid chiefs ; and some of them remain behind in Ireland, namely, ten warriors whom they left taking the headship of the remnant of the race of Neimheadh who remained under servitude of the Fomorians till the time of the Firbolg.

A chief of the three above (named), viz. Simeon Breac, son of Starn, goes to Greece, even to Thrace, and a company with him ; it is there they were under bondage, and it is from him the Firbolg have come, as we shall say hereafter.

The second chief, namely, Iobáth, son of Beothach, goes into the regions of the north of Europe ; and some antiquaries say that it is to ‘ Boetia’ [86] he went : it is from him the Tuatha Dé Danann have descended.

The third chief, *i.e.* Briotán Maol goes with a company with him to Dobhar and to Iar-dhobhar in the north of Scotland, so that he himself and his posterity after him dwelled there. It is the total of the fleet these chiefs, the children of Neimheadh, (had) on this expedition, between ship, bark, skiff, and small boat, one thousand one hundred and thirty vessels.

However, Briotán Maol, son of Fearghus Leithdhearg, son of Neimheadh, and his posterity, were inhabiting the north of Scotland until the Crutheni, *i.e.* the Picts, went from Ireland to dwell in Scotland in the time of Eireamhón. Holy Cormac, son of Cuileannan, in his Saltair, says that it is from Briotán Britannia is called to the island which is to-day called Great Britain : and the ancient record of Ireland is agreeing with him on that, as the poem says, which has for beginning “ Adam father, fountain of our hosts,” where it says :—

*Luidh briotán tar muir, gan mheirg,*  
Briotán went beyond sea, without stain,  
Generous son of red-sided Fearghus ;  
The Britons all, victory with renown,  
From him, without deception, they have descended.

Another author supports him on that where he says : —

*Briotán Maol, mac na flatha,*  
Briotán Maol, son of the prince,  
Noble the stock-branch spreading from him,  
Son of Leithdhearg from Leacmhagh, [87]  
From whom are the Britons of the world.

It is the more right to think that to be true since it is not probable that it is from Brutus it is called (Britain) ; for if it were from him, it is likely that it is Brutania it would be called ; and, besides, it is the more its name was obscured by the children of Brutus, according to (Geoffrey of) Monmouth, since Laegrus, son of Brutus, gave Laegria for name to the part of Britain which came to him ; Camber, the second son of Brutus, gave Cambria for name to the part of it that came to himself; and Albanactus, the third son of Brutus, gave Albania for name to his own portion of the same territory. [88]

As to the remnant of the race of Neimheadh, who remained dwelling in Ireland after those chiefs ; they were oppressed by the Fomorians from time to time, till the arrival of the posterity of Simeon Breac, son of Starn, son of Neimheadh, in Ireland from Greece. Two hundred and seventeen years from the coming by Neimheadh into Ireland till the coming of the Firbolg into it, as this verse certifies : —

*Seacht mbliadhna deugis dá chéad*  
Seventeen years and two hundred —  
During their reckoning, (there is) no exaggeration —  
Since Neimheadh came from the east,  
Over sea with his great sons,  
Till the children of Starn came  
From Greece, [89] terrifying, very rugged.

[1] *i.e.* Cashel.

[2] *Or* guided by an oracle (?).

[3] *i.e.* Ireland : this probably has reference, as O’Mahony conjectures, to an ancient usage

observed in taking possession of land.

- [4] The Bay of Kenmare.
- [5] A small island in the Erne.
- [6] Only a mere guess can be made at these lines.
- [7] A plain in Co. Carlow.
- [8] Ben Edar, afterwards called Howth.
- [9] Old place-name in Donegal.
- [10] Foghmrach, a sea-rover.
- [11] Old name of Malahide Bay, Co. Dublin.
- [12] *or* hairy-legged?
- [13] Now Loch Gara, in Mayo.
- [14] Old name of Sliabh Domhanghoirt, *i.e.* Sliav Donard.
- [15] Exact spot not known.
- [16] The Barony of Moygoish, in Westmeath.
- [17] Old name (now lost) between Armagh and Monaghan.
- [18] In Cremorne, Co. Monaghan.
- [19] Co. Armagh.
- [20] A district including Monaghan and Louth, ‘ Oriel.’
- [21] Old name of Dundrum Bay.
- [22] *I.e.* Strangford loch.
- [23] Old name of the lower Shannon.
- [24] Old name of Tralee Bay.
- [25] Tralee.
- [26] Loch Ceara, Co. Mayo.
- [27] Barony of Erris, Co. Mayo.
- [28] *I.e.* the Bush, in Antrim.
- [29] Dalnarry or Dalaradia, obsolete name of a district partly in Antrim, partly in Down, from the tribe named.
- [30] Dalriada, or Rúta, in Antrim, from the river Bush north to the sea.
- [31] River of Lifé (name of the district) : Liffey : ancient name Rurthach.
- [32] The descendants of Niall, northern and southern, indicating the territory they inhabited.
- [33] Lee.
- [34] *I.e.* the district of Muskerry, Co. Cork.
- [35] The river at Sligo.
- [36] Old name for the Erne.
- [37] *I.e.* the Moy, river at Ballina.
- [38] The northern part of Co. Mayo, sometimes called ‘ Hy’ Fiachra.
- [39] The Mourne, in Tyrone.
- [40] A second river Bush, between Tyrone and Donegal, is mentioned in C, but not in other authorities.
- [41] Or Tyrconnell.
- [42] Territories lying east and west of the Bann, south of Cúlraihain, or Coleraine.
- [43] Perhaps slinne, from *slin*, a flat stone, or slate, is intended.
- [44] Barrow.
- [45] Old name of part of Strangford Loch.
- [46] The old plain of the flocks of Edar, extending inland from Howth : Moynalty.
- [47] These two lines are very obscure and the translation of the verse can be but tentative.
- [48] *Lios*, an enclosure : houses, apartments, or other dwellings within a fortification.
- [49] Lear, *gen.* Lir, a sea divinity ; poetically, the sea.
- [50] *i.e.* Gaelic.
- [51] The Black Sea ; but possibly the Baltic is meant as O’Mahony conjectures.
- [52] The Riffean or Riphean, *i.e.* the Ural, mountains.
- [53] The name of this ‘ narrow sea’ does not appear.

- [54] Perhaps on some great river.
- [55] Red-sided.
- [56] Ancient name of *Lochgcal* or Loughall, barony of O'Neill and, Co. Armagh.
- [57] Loch Ramor.
- [58] Two lakes in Westmeath, now called Derravaragh and Ennell.
- [59] *i.e.* Armagh.
- [60] Near Derrylee, barony O'Nialland, Co. Armagh.
- [61] Near Island Magee, Co. Antrim.
- [62] *i.e.* *Rinn Seimhne*, old name of Island Magee.
- [63] *i.e.* Thick-necked.
- [64] Derrylee, Co. Armagh.
- [65] Barony of Carra, Co. Mayo.
- [66] In barony of Kilmaine, Co. Mayo.
- [67] In Co. Roscommon.
- [68] *i.e.* Tyrone, but the place here mentioned seems to be in Inisowen, Co. Donegal.
- [69] *or* Magh mBrensa : Haliday and other authorities add ' in Leinster.'
- [70] Near Loch Neach.
- [71] *i.e.* ' Teffia,' .
- [72] Near Island Magee.
- [73] Now part of Co. Louth.
- [74] ' Bregia,' now part of Meath and Louth.
- [75] ' Oriel,' now part of Louth, Monaghan, and Armagh counties.
- [76] *i.e.* Sliev Bawn, Co. Roscommon.
- [77] *i.e.* Rosreaghan, Co. Mayo.
- [78] *i.e.* Murlough Bay, Co. Antrim.
- [79] Said to be Camross, Co. Carlow.
- [80] Críoch Liatháin, *i.e.* the district round Castlelyons, Co. Cork.
- [81] *i.e.* Tory Island, off Donegal.
- [82] The festival of Samhain at the beginning of November.
- [83] *i.e.* the plain lying between the rivers ' Drowse' and ' Erne,' south of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
- [84] *i.e.* Magh gCeudna : this explanation is not tenable.
- [85] Explanation not admitted.
- [86] Some northern region is intended (? Bothnia).
- [87] ' Stony plain.'
- [88] These speculations are of no value.
- [89] Or ' Thracia.' as above.

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