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ELEGY ON CAPT. O'SULLIVAN,

COMMONLY CALLED

mac ringin oub,

séamus o caointiobán.

(Trancribed and annotated, with a preface, by the the Rev. PATRICK WOULFE, Limerick, for "Conán maol.")

Captain O'Sullivan, whose death is lamented in the following verses, belonged to that branch of the O'Sullivans called Clann Fínghín Dubh. The chief of the family was known as Mac Fínghín Dubh, and Captain O'Sullivan was the last who bore the title. An evil destiny is said to have pursued the family for generations, in consequence of the curse of a widow whose son Mac Fínghín Dubh severely flogged for robbing his orchard. Generation after generation the Mac Fínghín Dubh died in the flower of his youth, and in the person of Captain O'Sullivan the line was finally extinguished.

The last Mac Finghin Dubh was, at the time he met his tragic death, captain in the Kerry Militia and magistrate for the County Kerry. His sister was married to Ratty Brown of Rathcahill, and with them he usually lived. On the evening before his death he was dining with the bishop and clergy at the parochial house in Newcastle, and after dinner he started on his spirited charger for Rathcahill. But he never reached it alive. He was dragged home dead by the stirrup. Rumours of foul play were at first in circulation, but they seem to have been groundless. How he fell from his horse has, however, since remained a mystery.

Mac Finghin Dubh was a man of gigantic strength, of great bravery, of unsullied honour, a friend to the poor and oppressed, and a model of every Christian virtue. Many stories of his prowess are still told by the firesides in West Limerick. He was supposed (for what reason I know not) to have great influence with the Government and he is said to have had the privilege of bringing off a prisoner from capital punishment at every assizes. The scion of a noble race, and the last prince of the old stock, his virtues endeared him to the people, and his funeral, which is still vividly remembered in tradition, was accompanied by the whole countryside to Kilmakilloge, a distance of over sixty miles.

His monument is to be seen to the east side of the church—a high square altar tomb, raised on steps and supported by four carved pillars.

On the east end is the following inscription:-

I.—H.—S.

This

Monument

Contains the last remains

of the late

Mr. Finin Duffe.

He depd. this life the 1 day

of Sept., 1809, aged 53 years.

Pater Patrie.

After the death of Mac Finghin Dubh a prize of £10 was offered by his sister, Mrs. Brown, for the best elegy. The prize was won by James Quinlivan, a weaver, of the Strand, Rathcahill, who wrote the following marbhna for the competition:

Quinlivan was a good Irish scholar and was the author of several other poems, some of which are published in the "Gaelic Journal" Nos. 28 and 29, and 92. He was also the author of an Irish dictionary, now probably in the library of the Earl of Devon. A grandson (?) of Quinlivan's named Walsh is living in Rathcahill. The poem is taken from a MS. in the possession of Mgr. Hallinan, P.P., V.G., Newcastle West. It was written by Garrett Fox (i.e., Gearóid de Bhosg, a labourer, sometime before the year 1829. The writing is very small, but neat, and can be read only with the aid of a magnifying glass. It abounds in contractions, and the scribe often shows a prejudice in favour of the phonetic method of writing Irish. At the end of the elegy he bursts forth into the following eulogy written in English:-

Such is the elegy to the memory of Captain O'Sullivan, throughout the entire composition abounding with elegance and sublimity; the metres and style displaying a perfect model of the beauty and ornamental variety of the Irish language.

Departed this life in the year of our Lord, 1809, at Rathcahill, in the County of Limerick.

Every principle of moral rectitude and christian virtue praiseworthy.

Requiscat in Pace.

The last page of the MS. bears the date April 22, 1829.

I.

Ir voilb an reeol i Sclap foola coince Ceann cornaim na ocheon an reod ra lios-

Mac fingin Out chood, o'foin na milte, 1 5Cill Mo Cilleos—mo la bhoin!—finte.



II.

Since inp an uait, monuap-pa! an Phoenix, An pit-bite buadac, o'fuit uaibnit Eibip, An phionnpa San thuaim, oo b'uaipte chéite,

tusao na rtuaiste o chuaio-bheit]raon teir.

III.

leir raon cum baile oo tannaingead Saedeal boct

biod vaon ré staraid as Vanain te céarad;

le readar a peapran σο δ'easal teo rméidead

Ар ап Бероваіре Бреаппатар сеаппарас Léaomap.

IV.

Da téadman an phionnra é i ochiúcaib Eineann

Mac Fingin clúmail, de plun na réile,

Leoman roitbin rúbac Sairceamait Sníméactac

Las mano ran úin, m'fao-cuma-ra an chéan-fean!

V.

Théan-fean meacanta meanmnac theonman,

Thean-fear oraganca, calma, chooa,

Thean-fear tapa, b'fearr Sairce 1 SClar Foola

'O'fion-fuil ceannarait Cainbre ir Cotain.

VI.

O'fuit Cotain ir Cainbre o'earcain an raon-flait,

Asur phionnral speames sniod sairce asur taocar,

O Ceattacáin Cairit ir O Donnabáin néattac,

O Oonncada an Steanna, asur O Suitteadáin Déappa.

VII.

Cá Déappa ré rmúit, san tonnpad spéine, Asur Steann Ó Ruacta so huaibpeac téanman;

Nervin ré thuaim san ruaincear rctéipe, Asur Voipin na scuac ní fuit cuait ná chaob aip.

VIII.

ní fuit chaob ná chann i nsteann ná i nsaoptat

Mán chom a sceann ir nán cam a nséasa; Mí bruit iarc an Leamain nán batt te h-éictipr

O caitlead an pheannra, plannoa 'en chéanfuil.

IX.

Théanfuil ceannarac clanna cinc Saeoil Slair,

1aηλαί ξηασαιμ, αξυγ άιησ-γλαιτ Είλξε;mac Cáρηταις, mac Tonncada, αξυγ mag Tomain τρείτεας,

mac Jiotta Cooa, Duncais, asur Leiris.

X.

Léiris ir Seanaltais speannman Méinne, Asur Dhúnais uairle, ruain buad réile; lanta Cinn Mana na breanannaid raona, Rioiní an Steanna, asur Mac Con Mana a dlút-saolta.

IX.

Dí a faol so blút le De Cúpra tpéiteac, Ir le Ó Concubaip ruaip clú le baonact; le macaib sac phionnra rciúpo ó Saebeal flar,

le Unian Donúime ir te Conn tuz céao cat.

XII.

1 Scat na lann nion channoa an laoc é, Cé phiteat so rann mo chobaine sléiseal,



As readaide ranntad reamain dubśneidead

To bualat ra sceann te reall chuat beim ain.

XIII.

Mi chuad-beim gairce do thearcain an raon-flait

Oá caot-eac cnearta, nan cleactair ann a béara;

Act pro-bean lears, tus taitheam in meinn oo,

Oá ceann bain a hata, le zeapaib oo thaoc é.

XIV.

A traocat ba teacair i scomlatait sear-cait,

Di gniom ip gairce agur capa n-a géagaib;

Da ramail le Neactain, laoc neantman na Chaé é,

As riubal an raiteib Rat Catail na schaob slap.

XV.

1 Rát Čatail na schaob slar o'éas an taoireac,

Phionnya na nzaeveal, ruain ruaé na niozacta;

Tá Clanna Milériur le céile as caoi-sol O ceilsead é i n-úin-ché ré líosaib.

XVI.

Tá tioga glara Cinn Mana ag oubcant, 1r Citt Ainne an aitir raoi reamaitt gráineamta;

Steann At na schannaid as meatad 'r as túbad;

Citt Cotain na meata atur Ano Cuitite rmuiteac.

XVII.

Tá rmúit i n-a ceatannaib teagaite an rpéantaib

O Cuan an Daingin so paitée Dinn-Eadain;

Mi fuit cuac na cheaban, ton, reabac, na naorcac,

Miothuite, bnoc, rionnac nan vallad le h-éiclipr.

XVIII.

Tá éictipr reamattaé teagaite an Phoébur

1 oTuait Ó Siorea na brionna-bhog aotea;

Tá Oiteán Dainbhe 50 ocamain ó éagair,

San retéip, san aicear, so catuigteac

XIX.

véapac.

Tr véapac voito atá ainnin na scíoc seal,
To veinoriún ceana di speannman vilear,
So ruiseac as baile Rát Catail na
brionta

'Οτ έλοιο ξας παισελη το ηλτιιητελό claorote.

XX.

Claoidte o tá cionád na cpiće, Cpeac na mboctán, m'uclán, ré liozaid; Mo beannact zo bpát, azur các liomzuidead aip, Zo cataip na nzpár i ndáil 'Mic Iora.

XXI.

Δ Μιο Μυιρε πα ηξράς τυαιρ δάς σάρ γαοραδ,

Azur v'fulainz an pair i bpairc Cloinne Eva,

Sainm cusat láitheac it pálár naomta Anam an ano-flait oo b'áilne théite.



XXII.

Di theite calma ann, sairce asur laocar, Deirc ir cantannact, oineac ir daondact, Feile taitheamact speannmaineact naomtact,

Foinceann motad maint, 'r ip boilt an reeat é.

5luais.

- I.- 1. Clán róota, Ireland, the plain of Fodla.
 - 2. Δη reóo, decaying. rá tíoς aib, under the sod (lit. stones).
 - 3. V'roin na milte, who helped thousands.
 - 4. 1 5Cill mo Cilleós, the Church of Killmakilloge, in Parish of Tousist, near Kenmare.
- II.-I. An péinice, the Phoenix, paragon.
 - 2. An niż-bile, the kingly soldier. He was captain in the army. Éibean, ancestor of the families of Munster.
 - 3. Thuaim, sorrow or surliness. Théite, qualities.
 - CηυΔιό-δηειċ, severe judgment. This refers to his habit of bringing people from capital punishment.
- III.—1. He is said to have had the power of getting off a prisoner at every assize.
 - 2. Oanain, a foreigner.
 - 3. Sméroeao, to nod or wink.
 - 4. Cηιοδαιμε, a strong man. Σμεαππαμαμ, amiable. Ceannaμαc, commanding. Léaomap, strong, valiant.
- IV.-1. Cpiúc, a district.
 - 2. Clúmail, renowned, distinguished.
 - 3. Soitbin, pleasant; zním-éactac, of wondrous deeds.
 - 4. Cpéin-reap, a champion.
- V.-1. Meanmnac, magnanimous; meacanta, stout.
 - 2. Opazanta, soldier-like.
 - 3. Capa, active; Sairce, bravery, valour.
 - 4. rion-ruil, true race or blood.
- VI.—1. O'earcair, sprung, descended. Saon-rlait, great or goodly prince.
 - Σηθαπτα, elegant, fine; ba mô ξαιγτε, of the greatest valour. Laocar, heroism.
 "Ó Ceallacain Cairil, Ó néill, azur Ó Laożaine," R. W.
 - 3. Réaltac, starry, brilliant.
- VII.—1. Smúιτ, mist, sorrow. San t. z., without sunshine.
 - 2. Sleann ó Ruacta, Glanarought, a barony in Co. Kerry. So huaibneac, proudly, very lonely.—R. W.
 - 3. neroin, Kenmare. Shuaim, sorrow.

- 4. Ooinin na 5C., in Parish of Kilcaskin, and Barony of Bear. Cuail, branch or stem of tree, a pole.
- VIII.—1. ζαομτάο, a wooded glen.
 - 3. eiclipp, an eclipse, darkening, oppression.

 Leamain, the Lawne. πάμ σαll, that has not been blinded.
 - 4. Plannoa, a plant, a scion.
- IX.—1. Ceannapac, having superiority, ruling. Clanna pl. of clann. Clanna \$406alur, mss.
 - 2. Snavam, esteem, honour.
 - 3. mag iomain—mag guiðin in text. Chéiteat, accomplished, excellent. The Maguires of Cork are said to be mac iomain.
 - 4. Chuadantlur agur léirit, ms. Chuad antlér, B 6.
- X.—1. Бреапптар, witty, amiable, pleasant. Беарaltaiż Meinne, the Geraldines of Meinn, in Co. Limerick, (between Fohanagh and Kilmeedy.)
 - 3. 11a br., etc., see Tao5 Saeoealac, p. 136.
 - 4. A ölút-zaotza, his close relations.
- XI.-2. Oaonvact, humanity.
 - 3. Sciúno, sprang.
- XII.-I. tann, sword, swordblade. Channoa, decrepid.
 - 2. ppiceao, was found (see Ch. Br. Gram. p. 143); ppioc, B6.
 - 3. Slavurve, a thief. Sanntac, cruel, fierce. Sleamain, slippery. Oub-5., dark countenanced, masked (?), (disguised, R. W.).
 - 4. Peall, treachery. Chuao-béim, hard blow.
- XIII.—2. Cnearta, quiet, honest. nan cleactaro, on which he performed feats.
 - 3. Cairneam, love. meinn, desire.
 - 4. To traoc, subdued.
- XIV.—1. Comtavaio. Cómta, the guards which surround a prince; pl. dat. comtavaio. It would have been difficult to slay him at the head of his guards, i.e., leading them. 1 5comtannaio, in encounters, B6.
- XV.—1. Taoireac, chief (ticearac, a householder, provider, MS.).
 - 2. Suaé, sway. Béill, submission, B6.
 - 3. Clanna, n. pl. of Clann (Keating's Poems). A5 caoi-50l, weeping bitterly.
 - 4. Τειτξελό é, he was cast. úιη, mould, clay dust of a cemetery.
- XVI.-1. Oubcant, darkening, getting gloomy.
 - 2. Airip gen. of airear, mirth; reamailt, clouds.
 - 3. Steann At, on Loch Léin. Az meatao, decaying.



- XVII.—1. Ceatanna, showers. Leagaite, resting. Spéantait, the heavens.
 - 2. Cuan an O., Dingle Bay. Dinn é., Howth; éarain, B6.
 - 3. Cheadan, the woodcock. naorcac, snipe.
 - 4. míolmuite, a hare. Opoc, a badger. Sionnac, a fox.
- XVIII.—2. Tuait 6 S, Tuosist, parish west of Kenmare.
 - 3. Oileán O., Valentia Island. Ocamain, dark. O éagair, since you died.
 - 4. Scléip, pleasure. Catuitteac, sorrowful,
- XIX.—I. Θέαμας, tearful. Διηηιη, young woman, lady.
 - 2. Ceana, fond; gen. of cion, affection. Oilear, fond, beloved, faithful. The reference is to his sister, the wife of Ratty Brown.
 - 3. So ruiżeać, loudly, outwardly.
 - 4. 50 hatunpeac, wearily; classice, overcome.
- XX.—1. Cíonáô na chice, the chief of the land. Cíonáô, or cinn-máô, the chief trump at cards.
 - Cpeac, etc.: His death killed the poor.—
 R. W.
 - Các tiom, and let everybody pray with me for him.
 - 4. 1 noáil, in the presence of the Son.
- XXI.—1. Όάη γαομαύ, for our redemption.
 - 2. 1 bpáint, on account of, for the sake of. 1 noáit, B6.
 - 3. Jaipm cuhar, call to you.
 - 4. To b'áilne théite, of the finest accomplishments.
- XXII.-2. Captannact, charity; omeac, generosity.
 - 3. Speannmaineact (pron. Speanam-peact), amiability.
 - 4. poinceann, end. moleo maint, a dead person's praises.

The following extract of a letter from Father Woulfe to Conán maot throws a good deal of light on the subject of the above elegy:—

"I spent yesterday on the track of the Seancurve, and, though I travelled fifty miles for the purpose, it went next to being a tupar 1 n-airtean with me. However, I succeeded in obtaining some important information.

"The Seancuroe is Richard E. Woulse (Ripreáno éamuinn oe butb), who lives at the Glen of Cratloe, in the Parish of Athea, in West Limerick. He is a good authority on local history and traditions, and knows all about every family in Limerick and Kerry.

"After writing to you last, I consulted the file of the Limerick Chronicle, and found the notice of Mac Finghin Dubh's death, which I enclose. I was surprised at its silence about his being a soldier, and I wanted to clear up the point, so I said to Richard:

mire.—Tell me, Dick, did you ever hear of Captain O'Sullivan who was killed at Rathcahill?

Richard.—I did, of course.

mire.-Who was he?

Richard.—He was the son of mac ringin Oub. They were a great family in Kerry. They and O'Donoghue of the Glen, and the Browns. Earls of Kenmare, were all related. In the time of Elizabeth there was a great man of them, back in Bear. He was called Domnatt Cam.

mire.—That's all right. I know that; but tell me wasn't Captain O'Sullivan head of the soldiers in Newcastle?

R.—He was not.

m.-Wasn't he in the army?

R.—No.

m .- Why was he called Captain O'Sullivan, then?

R,-He was captain in the Kerry Militia.

m.-And why did he live in Newcastle?

- R.—His sister was married to one of the Browns of Rathcahill, and he lived with her.
- m.—Tell me, did you ever hear that he could get off a man from being hanged?
- R.—I did: tuzav na rluaište o čnuaiv-bneit raon teir.
- m.-And how was he able to get them off?
- R.—He was a magistrate, and he'd go to the assizes—
 (to Cork or Limerick or Kerry), and he'd say to
 the judge that this man should be let off, and any
 of them would be afraid to refuse him. He was
 the most powerful man in Ireland in his day.
- m.—Tell me: Did you ever hear of the poem Quinlivan wrote about him?
- R.—I did, often.
- m.-Could you say it for me?
- R.—I don't know. I know some of it; but, indeed, if I thought anyone ever wanted it, I could know it all, for many a time I heard it.
- m.-Did not Quinlivan get a prize for it?
- R.—He did—£10 from Mrs. Brown.
- m.—Did anyone go against him?
- R.—There were five of them going for it.
- m.—Do you know the names of any of them but Quinlivan?
- R.—I do, and of all of them.
- m.-Who were they?
- R.—One of them was Diapmaio na bolgaige.
- m.-Who was he?
- R.—He was a Kerry poet from beyond Kenmare.

 Don't you know Thady Shea of Park (in Parish of Athea)?



m.—I do. At least I heard of him. (He is a labourer living at Park, Athea, Co. Limerick.) What about him?

R.—Well, his father was a grandson of Oiapmaio na botsaite.

m.-What was his father's name?

R.—Darby.

m.—And what was Darby's father's name?

R.—ζούς. ζούς and his wife came here begging about 1830. I remember well when they first came—I was a little boy. His wife's name was entire ni ΔούΔ.

m.-Wasn't it eiblir ni śćażda?

R.—No, but eiblir ni Aova—Hayes. They are two different names. They settled down in this parish, and you have their grandson, Thady Shea, here still.

m.—But, tell me, what was Tao5's father's name?

R.—Oiapmaio na botzaiże—the man that wrote against Quinlivan.

m.-Did Oianmaio get any prize?

R.-No.

m.—Did you ever hear 'Oiapmaio's poem?

R.-I did.

m.-How does it begin?

R.—m'orna ché luimneac, etc. (and he repeated the first verse).

m.—Very good. And who were the others?

R.—One of them was Sullivan.

m.-Where was he from?

R.—He was a Kerry man. They were all Kerry men, but Quinlivan.

m.—Who were the others?

R.—Another one was O'Connor and another Moloney, perhaps, but I am not sure.

m.—Are you sure that O'Connor and Sullivan were the names of the others?

R.—Well, I think I am.

m.—Did none of the Kerins go for the prize? (These were two poets who lived in Kerry, a short distance from Abbeyfeale. See Quinlivan's poem in GAELIC JOURNAL, No. 28.)

R.—No. They knew Quinlivan was going for it, and that they would have no chance; but the Kerry men did not know Quinlivan.

"After this cross-examination, I had barely time to read over the poem to him, noting in pencil any place where his version differed from the MS. His version agreed remarkably with the MS., even where I thought the MS. was wrong. He used different words in a few places. But the time was too short to compare them properly.

"The following is the extract from the Limerick Chronicle of Sept. 9, 1809:—

" DIED—At Newcastle, in this Co., in consequence of a fall from his horse 12 days previous, universally

regretted, Sylvester O'Sullivan, Esq., of Killarney. He was lineally descended from a race of puissant Irish princes and recognised as Mac Finnan Duff, i.e., son of the black warrior Finnan. This gentleman was a magistrate of the Co. Kerry, and was very much respected.'''

In a letter to the Editor, Father Woulse mentions some further interesting facts in connection with mac fingin Oub:

"I am told by a man who had it from mac pingin Oub's servant that mac pingin Oub was killed, not as popular tradition says by being dragged along the road by the frightened horse, but by being dragged through an arched gateway into Mr. Brown's yard a Rathcahill. It may be of interest to note that the horse's name was 'York.'"

[We have compared the above poem with a copy in the handwriting of William Smith O'Brien in the Royal Irish Academy. The MS. is numbered 24 B6, and was copied from a manuscript supplied by Mr. Timothy O'Regan, of Ardagh National School, in 1860. We have also come across, in a MS. in the R.I.A., a copy of the elegy which was sent in by O Sullivan. It bears out the story of the Seancurée. We hope to be able to give it next month.—p. an 1,]

matain pionam peanam. ronn: "The Rakes of Mallow."

τοπη: "The Rakes of Mallow."

Rοιπ ταοξαί πια παοιί παιη ρίσιαπ ρεάπαπ, 'S ι υτεαπαιη πα πιόε σα δίσό α πάταιη αξ τειπιιπ όμαπτα ι δτμαμπα απ τημιτ Ο' μαιτίδ Ιμιρα απ άταιητής.

Πί τεατ τα π-αστ το 'ση ττασξαί απ ίσξαιη το δί απ απ υτρέαπ-δεαπ τέιτεας δίπη;

Πί' ι ταρίσδτα αξ έιπηε ι πυρέας πά ι ίδοι απ τα τεέιπ πά απ ξπαοι πα ππά το.

Apéip, nuaip bíor-ra tíor coir réile,

To tluair ann bhuitean 'oip tír fealltaépí
A háiteam thinn to bí aca real

Ap mátaip pionam peánam.

Tubairt reap te'n tír tup piot-bean breát
tléiteal buite-fuilt líomta tlát
Aobta aoibinn típeac ápt
mátair pionam peánam.

"An zcloiptí, a táiptoe," a párann linn péitleac,
"An cúnntar bheát ro tá rib léite
An cáz beat túnzac tútac rub
Man mátain píonam peánam.

1 ruúir a raotail bí a béal zo paman,
bí úpta an réil 'na réir zac am,
O blát a raotail bí chéact 'n-a ceann,
Man repíob rí ann an cápra."

