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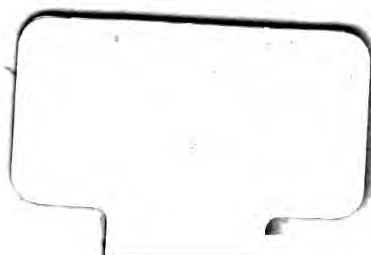
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April, 1909

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ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

TODD LECTURE SERIES

VOLUME XV.

KUNO MEYER, PH.D.

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF KING CORMAC
MAC AIRT



DUBLIN

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LONDON: WILLIAMS & NORGATE

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P R E F A C E

AMONG the gnomic literature of ancient Ireland, the instructions given by princes to their heirs, by tutors to their disciples, or by foster-fathers to their sons form a group by themselves. The oldest among them are those ascribed to Morann mac Móin, addressed to his foster-son Nére to be delivered by him to King Feradach Findféchnach, who, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, was King of Ireland from 15 to 36 A.D. They are known as *Audacht*, *Auraicept*, or *Tecosc Morainn* 'The Bequest, Precept, or Instruction of Morann,' and to judge from their language were composed early in the eighth century. They have never been edited or translated.¹

The Instructions of Cúchulaind to his foster-son Lugaid of the Red Stripes, known as *Briathartheosc Conculaind*, form an episode in the tale called the 'Sickbed of Cúchulaind,' edited by Windisch in his *Irische Texte*, vol. I, p. 213-214. They have often been translated, by O'Curry in *Atlantis*, vol. I, pp. 362-392, and vol. II, pp. 98-124; by Brian O'Looney in the *Facsimiles of the National MSS. of Ireland*; by D'Arbois de Jubainville in *L'Épopée celtique en Irlande*, pp. 186-191; and by Miss E. Hull in her *Cuchullin Saga*, pp. 231-234.

A third collection of precepts and wise sayings is ascribed

¹ For an enumeration of the MSS. in which this text has come down to us, see D'Arbois de Jubainville's *Catalogue*, p. 41, and add: Additional 33, 993 (British Museum), a fifteenth-century vellum, fo. 76-8 a. This is a fragment beginning: *Incipit auraicept Morainn nó tecusc Morainn for Feradach finnfechnach. Comerig a Neire nuallgnaith noithiut buaid ngairé*; and breaking off abruptly with the words: *dligid beos cach dotche miscais. dligid cach gúbrethach gaire*. As to the age of *Auraicept Morainn* see Strachan's note in his 'Deponent Verb,' p. 50.

In the Laws sets of legal maxims are ascribed to Morann. See vol. iv, p. 384.

to the poet Fíthel or Fíthal, who is said to have lived at the court of King Cormac mac Airt in the third century. They are addressed to his son, and are known as *Senbriathra* or *Senráite Fíthail*.¹ Some of them are in the form of question and answer, like *Tecosca Cormaic*, a circumstance which has led many scribes to a confusion of the two. They have never been edited or translated; but some extracts from them will be found in Hardiman's *Minstrelsy*, vol. II, p. 396. Like *Tecosca Cormaic*, I would ascribe them to the ninth century.

Certain sayings of Fíthel are in some MSS. attributed to Flann Fína mac Ossu, by which name Aldfrid the son of king Osuiu (Oswy) of Northumberland was known in Ireland. Thus the strings of proverbs beginning respectively *Atchota soichell saidbrius*, *Ba faitech ar ná ba fiachach*, *Descaid cotulta freslige*, *Tosach eoluis imchomarc*, *Ferr dán orba* are ascribed to him in 23 N 10. and 23 D 2. Both these MSS. also attribute to him a number of sayings which begin like § 15 of my edition of *Tecosca Cormaic*, but continue *Dligid fir fortacht*, *dligid gó a cairiugud*, &c. Under the heading *Flann Fína beos* 23 D 2 further assigns to him the following interesting piece, which, as I have never come across it in any other manuscript, I will print and translate *in extenso* :—

Cia féighe rángais? Fir Mhuighi Féine 7 gaoth.
 Cia hannsa rángais? Araidh Cliach 7 arc[h]oin.
 Cia solmha rángais? Osraighe 7 deamhnae.
 Cia dána rángais? Corco Laeighde 7
 Cia tétem rángais? Na Déisi 7 miolchoin.
 Cia heglaiqe rángais? Húi Líatháin 7 caoirigh.
 Cia mesgamla rángais? Cíarraige 7 menntáin.
 Cia húailla rángais? Muscraige 7 coiligh fedha.
 Cia gairbe rángais? Orbraige 7 aitend.

¹ See the mss. enumerated in D'Arbois de Jubainville's *Catalogue*, p. 205. For a poetical dialogue between Fíthel and King Cormac see my *Hibernica Minora*, p. 82.

Caite as dech rángais? A n-as¹ mesa do síol Aodha Sláine 7 a n-as¹ ferr díb-sein as fri hainglib nime at² cosmaile.

Cia mesamh rángais? A n-as deach Glasraighe 7 a n-as mesa díb-sein as fri demnaibh at cosmaile.

“Who are the keenest you have met? The men of Mag Féne and wind.

Who are the most troublesome you have met? The Araid Cliach and watch-hounds.³

Who are the swiftest you have met? The men of Ossory and demons.

Who are the boldest you have met? The Corco Laeigde and . . .

Who are the wantonest you have met? The Deissi and hounds.

Who are the most timid you have met? The Húi Liatháin and sheep.

Who are the most drunken you have met? The men of Kerry⁴ and titmice.

Who are the proudest you have met? The men of Muskerry and wood-cocks.

Who are the roughest you have met? The men of Orbraige⁵ and furze.

Who are the best you have met? The worst part of the race of Aed Sláine,⁶ and those who are best of them are like unto angels of Heaven.

Who are the worst you have met? The best part of the Glasraige;⁷ and those who are worst of them are like unto demons.”

In 23 N 27, p. 33, a set of sayings beginning *Maith dán ecna dogní ri[g] do bocht* is attributed to Flann Fíona mac Cosa(*sic*).

The ‘Instructions of Cormac’ have not before been published or translated in their entirety. A few selections from the text of the Book of Ballymote were translated by

¹ inas ms.

² ata ms.

³ Perhaps, *árchoin* ‘slaughter-hounds.’

⁴ Perhaps one of the other districts anciently called Ciarraige is meant, such as Ciarraige Ái in co. Roscommon.

⁵ The name of this tribe is preserved in that of the barony of Orrery, in co. Cork.

⁶ King of Ireland from 598–604.

⁷ In the *Triads* § 45 this tribe is mentioned as one of the three ‘evils’ or ‘evil ones’ of Ireland.

Hardiman l.c. O'Donovan's edition and translation from the Book of Lécán in the *Dublin Penny Journal* of December, 1832, and January, 1833, are well known; but the text which he followed is both incomplete and faulty, and his renderings can now be much improved upon. The following edition is based upon a comparison of all available MSS. which I will briefly characterize.

L, i.e. the Book of Leinster, a MS. of the twelfth century, pp. 343-345. In spite of its age and fine penmanship this MS. does not, as I have repeatedly pointed out, supply us with accurate and trustworthy texts. The copy of *Tecosca Cormaic* contained in it has many faulty readings, such as *riglach* (p. 343b40) for *riaglach* (§ 3, 10), *ales* (p. 343b21) for *ata lais* (§ 2, 24), *imtholta* (p. 345, 17) for *imscoltad* (§ 22, 10), *cátingud* (ib. 25) for *cathugud* (ib. 17), *éthech* (p. 345c) for *etech* (§ 31, 9), *trebar* (ib.) for *trebad* (ib. 10), *forus* (ib.) for *árus* (ib. 11), *fuacht* (ib.) for *fuchacht* or *fuichecht* (ib. 14) &c.

B, i.e. the Book of Ballymote, a MS. of the fourteenth century, pp. 62a-65a. Like **L**, it mixes up *Tecosca Cormaic* with *Briathra Fithail*, passing suddenly from *Cormac dixit fri Coirpre* (p. 65a13) to *ol a mac fri Fithul* (ib. 32). The text, though good on the whole, is never quite reliable, the scribe often blundering in an almost incredible manner.¹ Several sections are left out.

Lec, i.e. the Book of Lecan, a MS. of the fifteenth century, fo. 420a-422a, and pp. 179-180 in the codex H. 2. 17 (Trin. Coll.), with which some of the leaves of the Book of Lecan are now bound up. Neither a complete nor very accurate version.

¹ A warning instance of such blundering is to be found on p. 37d32, where a sentence which stands correctly in LL. p. 354b as follows: *Ruman mac Colmain in fili diata síl Ruman i nAth Truim. Tri filid in domain .i. Homer ó Grécaib 7 Fergil ó Latinnaib et Ruman ó Gædelaib*, is made into: *Rumann mac Colmáin .i. poeta diada síl Rumaind a nAth Truim .i. Hi Aenir oc Cræibh 7 Fergil o Laitrib.*

- N**¹, i.e. the ms. marked 23 N 17 (R.I.A.) containing in its vellum portion from p. 1-6 a large fragment of our text.¹ A careful and trustworthy copy on the whole.
- N**², i.e. the paper ms. marked 23 N 17 (R.I.A.) written in 1714 by Domhnall ó Duind mac Eimuin. Here on fo. 7b-32b is a carefully written and heavily glossed copy of the *Tecosca*. In 1828 O'Donovan made a transcript of it which, numbered 23 O 20, is preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy.
- D**, i.e. a small paper octavo marked 23 D 2 (R.I.A.). Though written in the seventeenth century it contains in a remarkably neat hand both the most complete and by far the best copy of the *Tecosca*.
- H**¹, i.e. the paper ms. numbered H. 1. 15 (Trin. Coll.), written in 1745 by Tadhg ua Neachtain. Under the title *Teagasg Riogh* it contains on pp. 149-174 a fairly complete and on the whole pretty accurate copy of our text.
- H**², i.e. the eighteenth-century paper manuscript numbered H. 1. 9. (Trin. Coll.) pp. 59 to the end, a poor copy, of which I have hardly made any use.
- H**³, i.e. the paper ms. numbered H. 4. 8. (Trin. Coll.), copied in the latter half of the seventeenth century by Dr. Joannes Beaton from a vellum manuscript. It once belonged to the Welsh antiquary Edward Lloyd, entries in English and Welsh by whom are found at the beginning of the volume. This copy also has so many defects that I have but rarely used it.
- K**, i.e. the sixteenth-century vellum marked VII., No. 3 in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. It contains from fo. 9 a¹-9 b² an imperfect, but fairly good copy of our text. It breaks off with § 18 of my edition.

¹ For a brief description of the ms. see *Ériu*, vol. I, p. 38, and *Triads of Ireland*, p. vi.

Lastly, the paper ms. No. II among the Gaelic MSS. in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh contains on ten pages an incomplete and faulty copy of our text written in the seventeenth century. I have not used it.¹ Nor have I thought it worth while to collate throughout a copy in the Book of Húi Maine, fo. 182 a¹–182 b, as it is identical with that of **B**.

I have already stated that **N**² is copiously glossed. Occasionally glosses are also found in **B** and in some of the other MSS. These glosses, like those of the Triads, were written at a time when Old-Irish was no longer understood, and are therefore of hardly any value. Besides, some of them are not explanatory, but etymological, such as *ilach* (§ 10, 4 in my edition) *.i. imat focul*. Many of them were collected for the purpose of forming a glossary of Old-Irish words,² and are to be found under the title *Incipit din Tecusc Rig budesta* in H. 3. 18, col. 539a. A few samples will characterise them sufficiently:—*argrinn goit* (§ 2, 8) *.i. tabach. airiti dála* (§ 6, 39) *.i. aentugud. turchomrac* (§ 3, 4) *.i. tinol. clandad dligid* (§ 2, 11) *.i. sadad nó cur. forsmaltaib* (§ 2, 21) *.i. caithem. foltaib* (§ 2, 24) *.i. acra. athcomarc* (§ 3, 6) *.i. fiarfaide. diubairt* (§ 3, 30) *.i. lethtrom. deide* (§ 1, 6) *senchasa .i. damachtain nó fulang. rob sobraid* (§ 6, 4) *.i. soabraid. rop*

¹ I take this opportunity of saying that the copy of the *Triads* contained in the Kilbride MS. VII, No. 3 of the Edinburgh collection (not III, as stated in my Preface, p. vii), bears a close resemblance to the copies in the Book of Ballymote and in the Book of Húi Maine. A partial collation made by me yielded no important results. I have further found two fragments of the *Triads* in 23 N 7 (see above) fo. 1a–6b, beginning *ratha Laighnen* (§ 56), and ending *Cetheora aibhitre baiose baioithe condailbe imreasoin doingthe. FINIS.* and in C. 2. 3 (R.I.A.), a vellum ms. written in 1552, fo. 13a, beginning *Cend Éirenn Ardmacha*, and ending *tri scenb Hérenn Tulach na n-espoc Achadh Dea Duin mBuirigh* (§ 106), neither however of much importance.

² As for the various stages in the preparation of alphabetical glossaries see *Archiv* iii, p. 138. That O'Clery made use of a collection of glosses on our text is shown by such items in his glossary as *atach ndroichbhérta* (§ 22, 5), *iomsgoltadh ngaoisi* (ib. 10), perhaps also *deithide* (§ 1, 6), *collach* (§ 15, 16), *goibhél* (§ 17, 7) &c.

*sognasaig*¹ (§ 6, 17) *i. gnai uais.* *tochus* (§ 6, 43) *i. calada.*
suilid (§ 7, 9) *i. sofulaing.* *duilid* (§ 7, 10) *i. dofulaing.*
meilcend (§ 7, 17) *i. tabartus.* *cuire* (§ 8, 5) *i. uir.* *riancobra*
 (§ 11, 5) *i. rianocobrach i. saithech.* *teiti* (§ 10, 10) *i. slighi.*
suanach (§ 13, 12) *i. conaich.* *solom* (§ 13, 34) *i. soluam.*
gabail (§ 14, 1) *i. tinol ut dixit* (leg. dicitur) *Lebar Gabála.*
turrtugud (§ 14, 27) *i. timpud.* *tirfochraic*² (§ 14, 27) *i.*
cennach. *toimdinach* (§ 15, 2) *i. dochusach.* *crinnach*³
 (§ 15, 5) *i. crin.* *disgir* (§ 15, 17) *i. diaisc.* *itfaide*
 (§ 16, 17) *i. saithech.* *resca* (§ 16, 81) *i. grasta.* *forcomat*
 (§ 16, 87) *i. rogabat.* *faenbleogan* (§ 16, 106) *i. cendsugad, &c.*

Some of the glosses were evidently made on a text occasionally differing from ours, e.g. *déide senchasa* instead of *dethide senchasa* § 1, 6. Here *déitiu*, the O.-Ir. verbal noun of *damur* or *daimim* (Middle-Ir. *daimthiu*), is rightly glossed by *i. damachtain no fulang*.

I think there can be no doubt that *Tecosca Cormaic* in the form in which it has come down to us was compiled during the Old-Irish period of the language, and, so far as I can judge, not later than the first half of the ninth century. The numerous verbal forms which it contains seem to point to that time. The later forms of the infixed pronouns which Strachan has pointed out in *Eriu* III, p. 158, such as *-das-* or *-dos-*, do not appear in our text.

A tendency is occasionally apparent to link some of the lines of each paragraph together by alliteration in such a way that the initial sound of the last word in one line is repeated at the beginning of the next, e.g. § 14, 4:

luge ria m**b**reith,
 bretha d**d**ána,
 dúscud f**f**erge
 folabra gúach &c.

¹ The reading of L.

² The reading of D N².

³ Instead of *crinnach*.

Professor O. J. Bergin and Dr. Whitley Stokes have had the kindness to read proofs of the text and translation, to point out mistakes and to suggest emendations, for which I desire to express my best thanks to them here.

K. M.

TECOSCA CORMAIC

TECOSCA CORMAIC INSO SIS.¹

1. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as dech² do rí?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac, 'Dech dó

Fosta³ cen feirg,

Ainmne cen debaid,

5 Soacallaim⁴ cen mórdait⁵,

Deithide⁶ senchasa,

Frithfolad⁷ fir,⁸

Géill i nglassaib,

Slógad fri⁹ deithbiri,

10 Fír cen fuillem,¹⁰

Trócaire co ndlúthugud¹¹ rechta,

Síd do thúathaib,

Rátha écsamla,

Bretha fíra,

15 Troscud for cochríchaib,

Mórad nemed,

Airmitiu filed,

Adrad Dé móir,

Torud inna flaith,¹²

20 Déicsiu¹³ cach thrúaig,

Almsana ile,

Mess for crannaib,

Íasc¹⁴ i n-inberaib,

Talam torthech,

25 Bára do thochor¹⁵ i port,¹⁶

Allmaire sét,

Murchuirthe¹⁷ dílse,

¹ Ar Cormac roththlaigh Cairpri Lifechar a mac an teagasg sa, uair breitheam é ar gáis 7 seanchaidh ar eolas 7 brugaídh ar brugaidecht 7 filidh ar filidecht 7 rígh ar dlíghedh ríghdha *B* 7 robo threorach i cerdaib cáich *add. Lec* 7 sái i ndlíged rioghdha an Corbmac sin uair as lais baoi coir rechta riogh do rioghaib an domain uili cenmotha Solomh mac Duid nama. Asbert fri Corbmac (*sic*) iertain ina iomchomarc *add. D* ² cidh is dech *N*¹ cia as dech *B* cia dech *LK* ³ fostacht *Lec* fostud *LBK* ⁴ soacallma *LD* soacallmacht *Lec* uallcha *B* ⁵ mordata *N*¹ mordacht *D Lec* mordha *B* ⁶ dethide *Lec BK* dethitiu *L* ⁷ fritholaid *LN*¹ *B*

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF CORMAC HERE BELOW.

1. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is best for a king?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'Best for him

- Firmness without anger,
 Patience without strife,
 5 Affability without haughtiness,
 Taking care of ancient lore,
 Giving truth for truth,¹
 Hostages in fetters,
 Hosting with reason,
 10 Truth² without addition,
 Mercifulness with consolidation of law,
 Peace to tribes,
 Manifold sureties,
 True judgments,
 15 Fasting upon neighbouring territories,
 Exalting privileged persons,
 Honouring poets,
 Worshipping great God,
 Fertility during his reign,³
 20 Taking cognizance of every wretch,
 Many alms,
 Mast upon trees,
 Fish in river-mouths,
 Earth fruitful,
 25 Inviting barks into harbour,
 Importing treasures from over sea,
 Forfeiture of sea-waifs,⁴

fritholamh *LecK* ⁸ fíra *LN²K* frithfolá fri araile *add. N¹* ⁹ la *N¹ ri L*
¹⁰ fuille *L* fuileadh *B* ¹¹ dlúthud *LB* ¹² flaitheas *LecK* ¹³ degsi *B*
 dechsain *Lec* ¹⁴ iesc *N¹* ¹⁵ sochar *Lec* ¹⁶ i port *om. N¹N²BLec*
¹⁷ murchortha *N²* murchorad *Lec*

¹ Or 'justice for justice.' ² Or 'justice.' ³ This should probably
 come after l. 21. ⁴ Literally, 'sea-waifs forfeited.'

Étach sirecda,
 Drong claidebbémuech ar choimét cada túaithe,¹
 30 Forrána² dar crícha,
 Torramad lubru,³
 Lessaiged triunu,
 Tachtad fír,
 Cairiged góí,⁴
 35 Carad fírinne,
 Dinged oman,
 Báded bidbadu,
 Bered⁵ fírbretha,
 Bíathad cech n-ái,
 40 Uaged cech síd,⁶
 Criad⁷ máine,
 Lessaiged⁸ anmain,
 Aisnéided cach réilbreth,⁹
 Imbed¹⁰ fína sceo meda,¹¹
 45 Canad cach fír,
 ar is tria fír flaitheman dobeir¹² Día in sin uile.'

2. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cate cóir rechta rí?'
 'Ni hansa. Recht fallnathar¹³ for¹⁴ talman¹⁵ tuind,¹⁶ atáthum,¹⁷
 atchous¹⁸ duit,' ol Cormac fri Carpre.

'Congbad¹⁹ máru,
 5 Marbad²⁰ ulcu,²¹
 Mórad²² maithi,²³
 Tróethad²⁴ foglaide,²⁵
 Airgaired²⁶ gait,
 Córaiged coibnius,²⁷

¹ aracoimedait gach tuath *N*¹ do choimet a thuaithi *Lec* ² forran *DN*²
Lec forfuaigedh a crícha *B* ³ torrumha(dh) lubra *DN*¹*BLec* eslánu *L*
⁴ oirgedh gae *BDN*² oirgnead *LecK* orgidh *N*¹ ⁵ beridh *N*¹ ⁶ uaigheadh
 sith *N*¹*N*² síoda *D* ⁷ criaad *N*¹ criadhadh¹*N*² criada *D* ⁸ a *add.*
Lec leasughadh anma *N*² ⁹ reilbreatha *DN*¹*N*² ¹⁰ imbet *N*¹ immad *L*
¹¹ adrad a mardie *add.* *N*¹ mairdhia *N*² ¹² flaithemnaís dabeir *B* donid-
 naic in mardia *N*¹ ¹³ fallnathor *N*¹*D* fallnaighther *B* fallnamnaichthear *Lec*
 fallnaither *L* ¹⁴ ar *L* ¹⁵ talmain *codd.* ¹⁶ truim *L* ¹⁷ sic *N*
 tathum, taithem *cott.* ¹⁸ sic *L* atcoos *N*¹ atcuas *DLec* adchuas *B* ¹⁹ congaib *B*

Silken raiment,
 A sword-smiting troop to protect every tribe,
 30 Raids across borders,
 Let him attend to the sick,
 Let him benefit the strong,
 Let him possess truth,
 Let him chide falsehood,
 35 Let him love righteousness,
 Let him beat down fear,
 Let him crush criminals,
 Let him give true judgments,
 Let him foster every science,
 40 Let him consolidate¹ every peace,
 Let him buy treasures,
 Let him improve his soul,
 Let him make known every clear judgment,
 Abundance of wine and mead,
 45 Let him utter every truth,
 for it is through the truth² of a ruler that God gives all that.'

2. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the true right of a king?'

'Not hard to tell. The right that rules upon the surface of the earth, I have it, let me make it known to you,' said Cormac to Carbre.

'Let him restrain the great,
 5 Let him slay evildoers,
 Let him exalt the good,
 Let him put down robbers,
 Let him check theft,
 Let him adjust relationship,

congba(i)d *L* congala mara *DN*¹*N*² ²⁰ marbaid *LK* ²¹ marulca *N*¹*N*²
²² moraid *LK* marad *N*¹ ²³ flaithe *BLec* ²⁴ troethaid *L* traithad *N*¹
²⁵ foghla *N*² fogladha *D* ²⁶ airgairid *N*¹*D* airged in *B* airgnich *Lec*
 airgidh *K* argreind *L* ²⁷ coraigid *L* coraighed coibnesa *N*¹*DBK*

¹ Literally 'stitch'; cf. Old-Engl. 'friðu-webba.'

² Or 'justice'.

- 10 Comúaised¹ síd,
Clandad² dlíged,
Cosced³ indlíged,
Dóerad⁴ bidbadu,
Sóerad enngu,⁵
- 15 Ainced⁶ idnu,
Cuimriged essidnu,⁷
Fócrad⁸ foglaide,
Lándílse do cach láim la fiachu,
Comláithre lánfiachaib⁹ fis, lethfiachaib¹⁰ anfis,
- 20 Co cátu rí,
Co fursmaltaib¹¹ flatha,
Conóiged¹² dlíged téchta¹³ cech fír¹⁴ do neoch as leis
muir 7 tír,
Foltaib fíraib do¹⁵ thúathaib ata lais¹⁶ cintaib¹⁷ láime,
- 25 Forimthecht coss,¹⁸
Silliud súla, cintaib bél,¹⁹
Éitsecht²⁰ clúas,²¹
Co fíraib cuibse,²²
Lérigidir cert cech cind,²³
- 30 Timmoirged²⁴ cách fo recht²⁵—
air it é²⁶ téchta flatha in sin fri túatha.²⁷

3. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as dech²⁸ do less túathe?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Terchomrac dagdóine,²⁹

5 Dála menci,

Menma athchomairc,

¹ comfuaiged *N*¹ *D* codnaigid *L* ² clandaiged *N*¹ *B* clannaid *L*
³ coscid *L* cairiged *B* marbaid *Lec* ni aurfoim *N*¹ ni faemh *D* ⁴ doeraid *L*
⁵ saerad eangu *BLec* andga *N*¹ ⁶ angid *L* aincidh *N*¹ *D* ⁷ conrig *L* condrighed
ainidhnu *B* coraiged ainidnu *Lec* ⁸ fochair *BLec* fo craid *L* ⁹ comlaithriu
la fiachaib *Lec* comlaithre la fiachaib lainfiacha (!) *B* comlúth re lánfiachaib *L*
¹⁰ lethfiacho *N*¹ leath a fiachaib *B* le fiachaib *Lec* ¹¹ fursmachtaib *Lec*
¹² conóige *LD* conaicneadh ndlighidh *B* ¹³ techtad *N*¹ *Lec* *D* techtid *B*

- 10 Let him consolidate peace,
 Let him plant law,
 Let him check unlawfulness,
 Let him enslave criminals,
 Let him set the innocent free,
- 15 Let him protect the just,
 Let him bind the unjust,
 Let him proclaim robbers,—
 Full forfeiture for every hand with fines,
 Composition (?) with full fines where there was know-
 ledge, with half fines where there was ignorance,
- 20 With due respect for a king,
 With due exactions (?) for a lord,
 Let him perfect the proper due of every man, of what-
 ever is his on sea and land,
 With just substances to the tribes which are his, for
 crimes of hand,
- 25 Walking about of feet,
 Looking of eyes, for crimes of mouth,
 With hearing of ears,
 With tests of conscience,
 Let him study the right of every chief,
- 30 Let him bring each one under law—
 for those are the duties of a lord towards tribes.'

3. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is best for the good of a tribe?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

- 'A meeting of nobles,
 5 Frequent assemblies,
 An enquiring mind,

¹⁴ fir *L* ¹⁵ fogalta fira fir fri *B* ¹⁶ ales *L* ¹⁷ la cintaib *Lec* ¹⁸ for
 imthechtaib cos *N*¹ coisi *D* ¹⁹ la cinta beoil *B* la cintaib bél *L*
²⁰ eistecht *B* esdeco *N*¹ ²¹ clúasaib *L* cluaisi *D* ²² coibsin *N*¹ co fira
 cuisib *B* ²³ leirighther ceart cacha cind *N*¹ leirtri (?) ceart catha cind *B*
 larig dærchert cach cind *Lec* ²⁴ dorimmairg *L* dothimairc *Lec* timairter *BD*
²⁵ cech recht *L* cach for airecht *B* ²⁶ oir is e *B* ²⁷ flatha for tuathaib
 sin uile *B* ²⁸ cia dech *L* cidh is dech *N*¹ cia is deach *B* ²⁹ degdaíne *L*

- Fochmare di¹ gáethaib,
 Airdíbdud cech² uile,
 Comalnad³ cech maithiusa,
 10 Airecht riaglach,⁴
 Sechem⁵ senchusa,⁶
 Senad rechtaide,⁷
 Rechtge la flaith,
 Tóisich fíréna,⁸
 15 Cen forbrisiud⁹ trúag,
 Comad¹⁰ cairddine,¹¹
 Trócaire co ndagbésaib,¹²
 Dlúthugud¹³ coibniusa,
 Comúaim coimgne,
 20 Comalnad¹⁴ rechtge,¹⁵
 Recht senchairdde,
 Cotach cen timdibe,¹⁶
 Fíanna cen díummus,¹⁷
 Inire¹⁸ fri náimtiu,
 25 Indraccus fri bráthriu,¹⁹
 Rátha fíala,
 Aithi slána,
 Bretha fíra,
 Fiadain indraicce,
 30 Astud²⁰ cundrada cen diupairt,²¹
 Fuillem²² ndiuparto,²³
 Folaíd chutrummæ,²⁴
 Airlicud²⁵ éim,
 Géill do inchaib,
 35 Íasacht follán,²⁶
 Óin²⁷ fri toich,
 Cubés²⁸ cach maith,

¹ sic *N*¹ do *cett.* ² *catcha* *N*¹ ³ *comollud* *L* *comallnadh* *N*¹
⁴ *riaglach* *L* ⁵ *seichim* .i. *leanmhaint* *B* ⁶ *senchais* *L* ⁷ *rechta* *B*
rechtaire *Lec* *rechtge* *N*¹ *rechtaig* *D* ⁸ *toisech* *firían* *L* *fíren* *BLec*
⁹ *gen orbrisiudh* *B* ¹⁰ *commaid chairddine* *L* ¹¹ *cairdfine* *Lec* ¹² *ndagbés* *L*
ndegbesaib *N*¹*Lec* ¹³ *dlúthad* *L* ¹⁴ *comollud* *L* ¹⁵ *rechta* *L*
¹⁶ *irchaire* *L* *icaire* (*sic*) .i. *gen a imdenus* *B* ¹⁷ *dimes* *Lec* ¹⁸ *indire*
*DN*¹*BLec* ¹⁹ *bráthri* *L* ²⁰ *fostadh* *DN*² ²¹ *dibairt* *Lec* ²² *fuilleadh*

- Questioning the wise,
 Quelling every evil,
 Fulfilling every good,
 10 An assembly according to rules,
 Following ancient lore,
 A lawful synod,
 A lawful lord,¹
 Righteous chieftains,
 15 Not to crush wretches,
 Keeping treaties,
 Mercifulness with good customs,
 Consolidating kinship,
 Weaving together synchronisms,
 20 Fulfilling the law,
 Legality of ancient alliances,
 A covenant without curtailment,
 Warrior-bands without overbearing,
 Manliness against foes,
 25 Honesty towards brothers,
 Just sureties,
 Full compensations,
 Righteous judgments,
 Honest witnesses,
 30 Keeping a bargain without detriment,
 Interest on detriment,
 Evenly balanced substances,
 Ready hiring,
 Hostages for honour,
 35 Lending without stint,
 Acceptable loans,
 An equivalent for every good,

*BLec*N² fulliud *L* ²³ *sic* *N*¹ diuparta *LD* dibarta *Lec* ²⁴ folaid
 chutrumma *L* folta *DN*² ²⁵ aileocan *Lec* ²⁶ iasachta sœra *B* solam *Lec*
 follain *DN*¹ ²⁷ saine *B* an *Lec* oin ar oin fri toich no fri . . . *D*
²⁸ coibeis *N*¹*N*² cuibdeas *Lec*

¹ Literally, 'legality with the lord.'

- Taithese míadchar,¹
 Messair dílmair,²
 40 Foglaimm cach dána,
 Eolas cech bérilai,
 Druine mrechtrad,³
 Tacra co fásaigib,⁴
 Brithemnas⁵ co roscadaib,
 45 Tabairt almsan,
 Trócaire fri bochtu,
 Gella⁶ fri bretha,⁷
 Nadmann indraice,⁸
 Éitsecht fri sruithi,⁹
 50 Buidre¹⁰ fri dáescarslúag,
 Lessugud críche ar cach n-olc,¹¹
 Ní ba réideinech oc less túaithe,
 Ní ba gerthide i n-ailt midchúarto—
 dech¹² do less túaithe in sin.¹³

4. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cadeat¹⁴ ada flatha
7 cuirmthige?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

- 'Costud im dagflaith,
 5 Lassamna do lochrannaib,¹⁵
 Luthbas¹⁶ im¹⁷ sochaide,
 Samugud suide,
 Soichlige dáleman,¹⁸
 Díanlám oc fodail,
 10 Fochraibe¹⁹ oc timthirecht,
 Tigerna do charthain,
 Mesrugud senma,
 Scélugud²⁰ ngairit,
 Gnúis fáilid,²¹

¹ tatasg (.i. rad uasal) midchara *B* midchuir *DN*¹ miochair *N*² ² measar
BLec dílmair *Lec* ³ druine cech brithemnais *L* mbrechtrad *DN*¹*N*²
⁴ gu fassuib *N*¹ fossugud *L* ⁵ bretheamh *BLec* breth *D* ⁶ gill *N*¹
⁷ lecad lugha *add. N*¹ ⁸ nadmanna indraca *N*¹*D* ⁹ sruithe *L* ¹⁰ burba
nó ugra B ¹¹ ar cach ulca *N*¹ ¹² a n-as dech *L* ¹³ Ní bad reithide
 (reidheineach *N*²) og les tuaithi ní ba gerthide ind ailt midchuarto dech do les tuaithi

A dignified response,
 Legitimate measure,
 40 Learning every art,
 Knowledge of every language,
 Skill in variegated work,
 Pleading with established maxims,
 Passing judgment with precedents,
 45 Giving alms,
 Mercy towards the poor,
 Pledges for (carrying out) judgments,
 Honest guarantees,
 Listening to elders,
 50 Turning a deaf ear to the rabble,
 Guarding the frontier against every evil,
 Let him not be smooth-faced where the good of the
 tribe is concerned,
 Let him not be greasy¹ in the mead-court house—
 that is best for the good of a tribe.'

4. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what are the dues of a chief and of an ale-house?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'Good behaviour around a good chief,
 5 Lights to lamps,
 Exerting oneself for the company,
 Settling seats,
 Liberality of dispensers,
 A nimble hand at distributing,
 10 Attentive service,²
 To love one's lord,
 Music in moderation,
 Short story-telling,
 A joyous countenance,

indsin *N*¹*N*² 14 caidi iat *Lec* caidead iat *B* caide *D* 15 sic *N*¹ lochairn *L*
 lochrand *LecD* 16 luathbasa *N*¹ luthasa *B* 17 i *L* om. *Lec* 18 do
 dailemain *LN*¹ do dháilemnaibh 19 fochraib *B* 20 recludud (!) ngairit
 .i. scéla gairddi *L* recludmad *Lec* reaglugad *B* 21 gnuisi faoilti *D*

¹ Or 'unctuous,' 'slippery' (?).

² Literally, 'nearness in attending.'

15 Fáilte fri dáma,
 Tóe¹ fri comad,²
 Cocetla³ bindi,
 'it é⁴ sin adae flatha 7 cormthige,' ol Cormac fri Carpre.

5. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid asa ngaibther⁵ flaithemnas⁶ for túathaib 7 chlandaib 7 chenélaib?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'A feib⁷ chrotha 7 cheneóil 7 érgnai,⁸ a gáis 7 ordan 7 eslabrai 7 indraccus, a feib dúthchusa⁹ 7 airlabra,¹⁰ a 5 nirt imгона 7 sochraite gaibther.'¹¹

6. 'Cest, caté¹² téchta flatha?'¹³ ol Carpre.

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Rop sogeis,
 rop sobraig,
 5 rop saigthech,
 rop soaccobrach,
 rop soacallmach,¹⁴
 rop becca,
 rop mórda,
 10 rop dían,
 rop fossaid,¹⁵
 rop fili,
 rop fénech,
 rop gáeth,
 15 rop gartaid,¹⁶
 rop sochraid,
 rop sognais,¹⁷
 rop máeth,
 rop crúaid,
 20 rop carthach,

¹ taoi *D* tói *N*¹*N*² feidle *cett*. ² comadha *B* comthaigib *Lec* coma *N*¹
³ coiccerta *D* coigealta *N*² ⁴ itiat *L* ate *B* ⁵ ngabthæ *D* ngabar *BLec*
 ngabtór *N*¹ ngabhthar *N*² ⁶ righe *DN*² ⁷ feab .i. a feabas *B*
⁸ .i. glicusa *B* ⁹ tochusa *N*¹ ¹⁰ degurlabra *B* ¹¹ gabthar

- 15 Welcome to companies,
Silence during a recital (?),
Harmonious choruses—

those are the dues of a chief and of an ale-house,' said Cormac to Carbre.

5. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'whence is chieftaincy taken over tribes, and clans, and races?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'By virtue of shape and race and knowledge, through wisdom and rank and liberality and honesty, 5 by virtue of hereditary right and eloquence, by the strength of fighting and an army it is taken.'

6. 'Question, what are the proper qualities of a chief?' said Carbre.

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

- 'Let him have good *gessa*,
let him be sober,
5 let him be an invader,
let him have good desires,
let him be affable,
let him be humble,
let him be proud,
10 let him be quick,
let him be steadfast,
let him be a poet,
let him be versed in legal lore.
let him be wise,
15 let him be generous,
let him be decorous,
let him be sociable,
let him be gentle,
let him be hard,
20 let him be loving,

Lec a gaois a gart a hordan a herlabra a nert iomghona et sochraidi gabhor *DN*²
¹² caite *D* cade *L* caidhe *N*² ¹³ na flatha *D* ¹⁴ soagallmha *DN*¹
 suacmalla *B Lec* ¹⁵ fossad *L* ¹⁶ gartach *N*² ¹⁷ sognassaid *L* rop
 sognaidh, rop sognathach *N*²

- rop condarcell,¹
 rop fíréⁿ,²
 rop féig,³
 rop fedil,
 25 rop ainmnetach,
 rop áinte^{ch},⁴
 turgbad⁵ lubru⁶ la triunu,
 bered fírbretha,
 bíathad cach ndílle^{ch}ta,⁷
 30 báthed cach n-anslicht,⁸
 miscniged góⁱ,
 carad fírinⁿⁱ,⁹
 rop dermatach uile,
 rop cuimne^{ch} maithiusa,¹⁰
 35 rop slúagach i ndálaib,
 rop úathad i sanasaib,¹¹
 rop sorche¹² fri gnáis,
 rop grían tige midchúarto,
 rop airtid¹³ dála 7 aire^{ch}ta,
 40 rop sercaid¹⁴ fis 7 érgnai,
 rop cundrigid¹⁵ uile,
 rop smachtaid coisc cáich mbes¹⁶ ingor,
 míastar¹⁷ cách íarna thochus,
 dobera¹⁸ a thé^{ch}ta do chách,
 45 rop¹⁹ midid cá[i]ch iarna míad,
 rop¹⁹ tairbertaid²⁰ cá[i]ch iarna ngrád 7 iarna ndán,
 ropat dlúthe²¹ a nadmann,²²
 ropat laxa²³ a thobaig,
 ropat²⁴ áithe étrumma²⁵ a bretha 7 a chocerta,
 50 ar is triasna té^{ch}ta sin miditir²⁶ rí^g 7 flaithi,' ol Cormac fri Carpre.

¹ coindirchil *D* coinnire^{ch}le^{ch} *N*² ² ffríán *L* ³ feich- *N*¹ ⁴ om. *L*
⁵ turgbad *D* torgbad^h *N*² tuargabad *BN*¹ turbaid *Lec* ⁶ turgabad lubair *L*
 la triunu om. *L* ⁷ ndilliucht *L* ndille^{ch}t *N*¹ ndileacht *N*² ndileachtgæ *B*
⁸ om. *L* andslicht *N*¹ ⁹ fíor *D* ¹⁰ maithesa *N*¹*N*² étsid cech
 mathiusa *L* ¹¹ sanuisi *N*² ¹² sorcha *D* soirche *N*² ¹³ airete
*N*¹*N*² airich *Lec* airigtid *B* ¹⁴ seircid *B* serce *N*¹ searcach *N*²
¹⁵ connre^{ch}taig *N*¹ cuimbreachtaid^h *D* cuimreachtaid *N*² rop cundrigid coisc

- let him be merciful,
 let him be righteous,
 let him be keen,
 let him be persevering,
 25 let him be patient,
 let him be abstinent,
 let him raise up the weak by the strong,
 let him give true judgments,
 let him feed every orphan,
 30 let him quell every wrong (?),
 let him hate falsehood,
 let him love truth,
 let him be forgetful of wrong,
 let him be mindful of good,
 35 let him be attended by a host in gatherings,
 let him be attended by few in secret councils,
 let him be brilliant in company,
 let him be the sun of the mead-hall,
 let him be an entertainer of a gathering and assembly,
 40 let him be a lover of knowledge and wisdom,
 let him be a chastiser of wrong,
 let him be masterful to check every one that may be
 undutiful,
 let him judge every one according to his proper right,
 let him give his due to each,
 45 let him be a judge of every one according to his rank,
 let him be liberal to every one according to their degree
 and profession,
 let his covenants be firm,
 let his levies be lenient,
 let his judgments and decisions be sharp and light,
 50 for it is by those qualities kings and lords are judged,' said Cormac
 to Carbre.

caich bes . . . *L* ¹⁶ bus *N*¹ for each bus *N*² ¹⁷ mestar *D* measta *N*²
¹⁸ doberar *Lec* *N*² doberor *D* ¹⁹ robtur *D* robdar *N*² 45 and 46 *DN*² *om. cett.*
²⁰ oirbeartach *D* ²¹ rop dluith *D* robdar dluith *Lec* ²² nadhmanna *D* rob
 dluithech nadmann *N*² ²³ roptar lacsá *L* rob laxa tabhaidh *N*² robtac lácis (!)
Lec rob laxa *D* ²⁴ roptar *L* ²⁵ rob aith éttrom *D* ²⁶ domiditer ri 7 flaith *D*

7. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia bátar do bésa intan ropsa¹ gilla?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

- 'Ba-sa² coistechtach caille,
 5 ba³ décsenach renda,⁴
 ba⁵ dall rúine,
 ba⁶ tó fásaig,
 ba⁶ labor sochuide,
 ba⁶ sulig midchúarta,
 10 ba⁶ dulig irgaile,
 ba⁷ solam d' foraire,
 ba⁸ cennais cairdine,
 ba⁸ liaig lobor,
 ba⁸ fann fri amnirt,⁹
 15 ba trén fri rúanaid,
 nírba¹⁰ crúaid ar ná ba¹¹ áertha,
 nírba¹⁰ timm ar ná ba¹¹ máele[h]end,
 nírba ocus¹² ar ná ba¹³ tromm,
 nírba labar ciapsa¹⁴ gáeth,
 20 nírba taircsinach¹⁵ ciarba¹⁶ trén,
 nírba laimthenach ciarba¹⁶ lúath,
 ní cuitbinn sen ciarba¹⁶ óc,
 nírba móidmech¹⁷ ciarba¹⁶ gonach,¹⁸
 ní lúaidinn nech ina écmais,
 25 ní aiscinn is nomolainn,
 ní cuinginn is doberainn,

ar is triasna bésu sin rosegat¹⁹ óic corbat sin²⁰ 7 rígláich.²¹

¹ ropsat *LN*² robtar *D* ² bam *DN*² basam *B* ³ bam *D* nipsa *L*
 nabsam *B* ⁴ rainne *L* decsanach rinne *D* ⁵ bam *DN*² ⁶ bam *DN*²
 basa *L* ⁷ basam *B* bam *DLN*² ⁸ bam *LN*² ⁹ heneart *N*²
¹⁰ nirbam *DN*² ¹¹ nar bam melcend *D* na rom *N*² For 12-23 all MSS.
 except *DN*² have the following: nipsa rochrúaid, nipsa roirusa, nipsa rothim, nipsa
 melcend (mælcenn *Lee*), nipsa tromda, basa gáeth, nipsa forlabar (forlob *L*),

7. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what were your habits when you were a lad?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

- 'I was a listener in woods,
 5 I was a gazer at stars,
 I was blind where secrets were concerned,
 I was silent in a wilderness,
 I was talkative among many,
 I was mild in the mead-hall,
 10 I was stern in battle,
 I was ready to watch,
 I was gentle in friendship,¹
 I was a physician of the sick,
 I was weak towards the strengthless,
 15 I was strong towards the powerful,
 I never was hard lest I be satirised,
 I never was feeble lest I should have my hair stript off,
 I was not close lest I should be burdensome,
 I was not arrogant² though I was wise,
 20 I was not given to promising though I was strong,
 I was not venturesome though I was swift,
 I did not deride old people though I was young,
 I was not boastful though I was a good fighter,
 I would not speak about anyone in his absence,
 25 I would not reproach, but I would praise,
 I would not ask, but I would give,

for it is through those habits that the young become old and kingly warriors.'

basu thrén, basu lúath, nipsa airrechtach (tairrechtach *BLec*), nipsa fomsech
 (fæmseach *BLec*) ¹² focus *DN*² ¹³ arnarbam *DN*² ¹⁴ ciapsam *D*
 gersam *N*² ¹⁵ tairccsin *D* ¹⁶ ciarbam *D* gerbham *N*² ¹⁷ maoithmech
*N*² ¹⁸ gontach *N*² ¹⁹ roseichit *D* ²⁰ gorbot sein *D* ²¹ riaghlaigh *N*²

¹ Literally, 'alliance.'

² Or, perhaps, 'talkative'.

8. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia bátar do gníma intan ropsa¹ gilla?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Nogonainn muic, nolenainn lore i mba² m'óenur,

5 noeinginn ar chuire cóicir³ i mba⁴ cóicer,

ba-sa oirgnech i mbsa dechenborach,

ba-sa indredach i mbsa fichtech,⁵

ba-sa cathach⁶ i mbsa cétach⁷—

rop íat sin mó gníma,' ol Cormac fri Carpre.

9. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid messam lat adchondare?'⁸

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Gnúsi námat i rói chatha.'⁹

10. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid¹⁰ bindem¹¹ lat rochúala?'¹²

'Ni hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Ilach iar mbúaid,

5 molad iar¹³ lúag,

itge degmná dia hadurt.'

11. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as dech dam?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Ma contúaisi frim thecose, nír tharta¹⁴ th'enech¹⁵ ar choirm¹⁶ ná ar biad, ar is ferr dín¹⁷ cloth oldás dín mbiid.¹⁸

Nírba¹⁹ úallach minba²⁰ trebthach,

5 nírba¹⁹ sríangabrach²¹ cen eochu,²²

nírba ólchobrach²³ cen choirm,

nírba¹⁹ lachtmar²⁴ cen bú,

nírba¹⁹ massech minba cháerchach,²⁵

¹ ropsat *LN*² basat *D* ² i mbiind *L* i mbeind *B* ³ i curi chóicir *L*
a cuire cuigir *N* coiciur *D* ⁴ imbam *N*² i mba c. om. *LB* ⁵ bam
oirgnech deichneabair i mbam (im *D*) dechneabhar no iondruinn fiche i mbam
(im *D*) fiche *N*² *D* ⁶ cachtach (!) *L* ⁷ bam crechtach (creachach
*N*²) cedach im (imbam *N*²) cédach, bam cathach cosnamach conuroinn orguin
for chách. Uair (Ar *D*) as dech do ghníomh uibh ógflatha indsin uile *DN*²
⁸ adchonnarcas *BLecN*² atchonnac *L* ⁹ i cath *L* a re catha *N*²
¹⁰ cia *L* ciodh as *N*² ¹¹ binne *DN*² ¹² atchualais *DN*²
adcuála *B* rochualadais riam *Lec* ¹³ iarna *L* ¹⁴ nírtardha *B*

8. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what were your deeds when you were a young man?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'I would slay a boar, I would follow a track when I was alone,

5 I would march against a troop of five when I was one of five,

I was ready to slay and wreck when I was one of ten,

I was ready for a raid when I was one of twenty,

I was ready to give battle when I was one of a hundred—
those were my deeds,' said Cormac to Carbre.

9. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what do you deem the worst thing you have seen?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'Faces of foes in a battle-field.'

10. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what do you deem the sweetest thing you have heard?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'A pæan after victory,

5 Praise after wages,

A lady's invitation to her pillow.'

11. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is best for me?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'If you listen to my teaching, do not give your honour for ale nor for food, for it is better to save one's fair fame than to save one's food.

Be not proud unless you be a land-owner,

5 do not keep bridled steeds without (a stud) of horses,

do not give banquets¹ without (brewing) ale,

be not prodigal of dairy-produce without kine,

do not dress elegantly unless you possess sheep,

na tarta *Lec* ¹⁵ ina t'anam *add. D* na h'anum *N²* ¹⁶ clot *D* ¹⁷ dono *B*
¹⁸ mbídh *D* bíid *L* ¹⁹ nirbat *L* nibat *D* niba *N²* ²⁰ minbat *D*
manbat *L* ²¹ sriangabra *D* riangabræ *N²* ²² riangabrach minbad eochach
Lec ²³ olcobra *L* heolcobhra *N²* holchormach *Lec* ²⁴ lachtmara *B*
lachtmoire *D* ²⁵ mani bet cáircha lat *L*

¹ Or, perhaps, be no 'ale-bibber.'

ar is col i ndálaib in domain úall cen trebad,

- 10 tété cen eochu,
ólchobra¹ cen choirm,
lachtmaire cen bú,
maisse cen cáircha.'

12. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as fó dam?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Ma² contúaisi frim thecosc,³

- ní cuitbe nach sen ciarba⁴ óc,
n⁴⁵ bocht ciarba⁴ sóimm,⁶
5 ná nocht ciarba⁴ suim,⁷
ná losc ciarba⁸ lúath,
ná dall ciarba⁸ féig,⁹
ná lobor ciarba⁸ thrén,
ná borb ciarba⁸ threbar,
10 ná óinmit ciarba¹⁰ gáeth,
nírba¹¹ lesc,
nírba lonn,
nírba súanach,
nírba neóit,
15 nírba deáith,¹²
nírba étaid,

ar cach¹³ lesc lond súanach neóit deáith étaid is miscais Dé 7 dóine.¹⁴

13. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia etargén¹⁵ síl nÁdaim?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Nosnetargén¹⁶ uili, fir, mná, maic sceo ingena archena.'

5 'Cinnas ón?' ol Carpre.

- 'Gáeth cech fossaid,¹⁷
fírén¹⁸ cech fíal,
fedil cech ainmnetach,
fissid cech foglaintid,

¹ ólcobra *D* eolcobhra *N*² olchobar *L* ² mad *D* ³ frimsa
Lec frim thiomna *N*² ⁴ ciarbat *L* gerbat *B* ⁵ ina *D*
⁶ suimm *D* somma *L* ⁷ sic *Lec* súin *L* ed- *D* edoigh *N*² ⁸ ciaso *L*
⁹ fairgsionach *N*² ¹⁰ ciarbot *L* ¹¹ nirbot *L* niorbad *N*²

for pride without husbandry,
 10 luxury without horses,
 banqueting without ale,
 dairy-produce without kine,
 elegant dress without sheep
 are a crime in the gatherings of the world.'

12. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is good for me?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'If you listen to my teaching,
 do not deride any old person though you are young,
 nor a poor one though you are rich,
 5 nor a naked one though you are well-clad,
 nor a lame one though you are swift,
 nor a blind one though you are keen-sighted,
 nor an invalid though you are strong,
 nor a dull one though you are clever,
 10 nor a fool though you are wise,
 be not slothful,
 be not fierce,
 be not sleepy,
 be not niggardly,
 15 be not feckless,
 be not jealous,
 for every lazy, fierce, sleepy, niggardly, feckless, jealous person is
 hateful before God and men.'

13. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'how do you distinguish the race of Adam?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'I distinguish them all, both men, women, sons, and daughters.'

5 'How is that?' said Carbre.

'Every steadfast person is wise,
 every generous person is righteous,
 every patient person is persevering,
 every studious person is learned,

¹² deaúth *B* ¹³ nach *N*² ¹⁴ duine *DN*² ¹⁵ eittirghein *D*
 edirghin *N*² ¹⁶ nosneitirghein *DN*² ¹⁷ each fossad *L* ¹⁸ fírian *L*

- 10 fúarrech cech finechar,¹
 fáilid cech slán,
 súanach² cech slemon,
 serb cech borb,
 báeth cech trén,
 15 tibir³ cech mer,
 múcna cech mog,
 móirda cech ndindba,
 imresnaid⁴ cech n-aneólach,
 anbal⁵ cech anecnaid,
 20 ecal⁶ cech uamnach,⁷
 indraicc⁸ cech lobur,
 altromaid⁹ cech dochraid,¹⁰
 ál cech angtha,¹¹
 faitech cech uaimnech,
 25 andgid cech ecal,¹²
 diupartach cech dindba,¹³
 dálach cech cosnamach,
 conchar¹⁴ cech sáithech,¹⁵
 solepthach cech suirgech,¹⁶
 30 sétach cech selbach,
 slichtlethan cech sáer,
 so[th]chern¹⁷ cech suaibsech,¹⁸
 menmar¹⁹ cech cáinte,
 solam cech marcach,²⁰
 35 domblas²¹ cech gó,
 milis cech fír,
 milbéla druinecha,²²
 dálacha²³ drochmná,
 dodáil a maic, mairg oca mbíat!²⁴

¹ fineochair *Lec* *N*² fineocair .i. teangtha fírionnach (!) *B* ² suán (!) *L*
 sleamon gach suanach *N*² ³ tibre *L* tibra *Lec* tibhir *N*² ⁴ imreasnach *N*²
⁵ anbal *B* *Lec* *N*² n-ainegnaidh *BN*² ⁶ faitech *D* eglach *B* ⁷ n-uaimnech *D*
⁸ indric *B* ⁹ galtromaig *B* altrom *DN*² ¹⁰ ndochraid *DB*
 ndocruide *N*² ¹¹ ongtha *DLec* *N*² .i. ecal cach athgonaid *B* ¹² aingid
 gach n-eccal *D* aingidhe *N*² ¹³ ndindba *LN*² ¹⁴ conchair *DN*²

- 10 every one who loves his kindred is gentle,
 every healthy person is joyous,
 every sleek person is sleepy,
 every boor is crabbed,
 every athlete is dull-witted,
 15 every madcap is a laughing-stock,
 every serf is morose,¹
 every indigent person is proud,
 every uninformed person is quarrelsome,
 every ignoramus is shameless,
 20 every timorous person is apprehensive,
 every infirm person is candid,
 every ill-favoured person is given to fostering,
 every anxious person is timid,
 every timorous person is cautious,
 25 every timid person is ruthless,
 every indigent person is fraudulent,
 every contentious person is a frequenter of meetings,
 every satiated person is fond of dogs,
 every lover likes a dainty bed,
 30 every wealthy person is fond of jewels,
 every freeman is broad-tracked,
 every genial person is generous,
 every satirical person is . . . ,
 every horseman is nimble,
 35 every falsehood is bitter,
 everything true is sweet,
 skilful women are honey-mouthed,
 bad women are given to trysting,
 ill-met are their sons, woe to him who has them !'

¹⁵ sathach *B* ¹⁶ sic *DBLecN*² surig *L* ¹⁷ sochearnach *BLec* sochearn *N*²
 suichernach *D* ¹⁸ suabaisech *N*² sétach *L* ¹⁹ minmar *B* ²⁰ gach
 ndaighech *D* noigheach *N*² ²¹ sic *D* serb *cett.* ²² milbel druinechdha *B*
²³ dodálacha *L* ²⁴ as amhlaidh sin nottanetergein (nosnedirghin *N*²) cach
 uile ol Corpmac fri Cairpre *add. DN*²

¹ Or, 'truculent.'

14. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'ocus gabála¹ báise cis lir?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Luge ria mbreith,
 5 bretha díana,
 dúscud ferge,
 folabra² gúach,³
 cairigud fír,
 freitech⁴ derthige,⁵
 10 tintúd breth,⁶
 brón oc fleid,⁷
 flaithem gúach,
 gáire im sen,
 senchas do chleith,⁸
 15 cluiche for aill,
 erchor⁹ cen chommus,¹⁰
 comrith fri báeth,
 mórtu fri rí,
 recht cen chomallad,¹¹
 20 comallad¹² cech uile,
 ole fri carddine,
 cétlud¹³ fri cách,
 gel nech núa,
 náma cech gnáth,
 25 gním cen fiadnaisi,¹⁴
 fiada¹⁵ tláith,
 turfochraic¹⁶ breth,
 bith cen seotu,
 airlicud il,¹⁷
 30 ilar carat,
 brón fri rí,
 rolabra¹⁸ cen gáis, —

is í sin gabáil báise,' ar Cormac.¹⁹

¹ gabail *L* cislir gabail báisi *B* cia eadargabaib [*sic*] baisi cis lir *Lec*
² folabrad *L* ³ ierngaeth *DN*² ⁴ frithecht *L* fritecht *Lec* .i. bais
gan dol ann *B* ⁵ durthoige *N*² derthaige *L* ⁶ breithi *B* ⁷ fleadhaibh *B*
⁸ ic fleid (!) *Lec* ⁹ urchur *D* ercher *Lec* ¹⁰ tomas *Lec* ¹¹ chomollud *L*

14. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'and the ways¹ of folly, what is their number?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

- 'Swearing after² judgment,
 5 rash judgments,
 rousing anger,
 false (after-wise *DN*²) grumbling,
 chiding truth,
 renouncing the prayer-house,
 10 reversing judgments,
 sorrow at a feast,
 a lying chief,
 laughter at an old man,
 concealing ancient lore,
 15 playing upon a cliff,
 a cast without a proper grip,³
 competing with a fool,
 being haughty with a king,
 not to fulfil the law,
 20 to fulfil whatever is evil,
 (to harbour) evil against⁴ an ally,
 to keep company with every one,
 to hold any new thing fair,
 to hold everything familiar an enemy,
 25 to act without a witness,
 being a feeble master,
 buying judgments,
 to be⁵ without treasures,
 much lending,
 30 many friends,
 sorrow in the presence of a king,
 talking much without wisdom,—

that is the way of folly,' said Cormac.

comall *N*² ¹² comall *LN*² ¹³ cedlúth *N*² ¹⁴ gen inad *B* gen findaid *Lec*
¹⁵ fiadhnúisi *N*² fiado *L* ¹⁶ sic *DN*² turtugud *cett.* ¹⁷ ile *DBLec*
 airleacca ile *N*² ¹⁸ mórlabra *B* ¹⁹ sic *Lec* om. *cett.*

¹ Literally, 'takings, seizings.'

² Read *iar mbreith*, as below § 22, 20.

³ Or 'control.'

⁴ Or, perhaps, 'to do wrong to.'

⁵ Or, 'a world.'

15. 'Dligid ecpa airmitein,
 arfich¹ gáis gail,
 tomténach cech n-uamnach,²
 torsech cech sercach,
 5 crimnach³ cech galrach,⁴
 imresnach cech gúach,
 gáibthech cech báeth,
 báeglach cech labor,⁵
 imgonaid⁶ cech lond,
 10 trebar cech trebthach,
 dreman⁷ cech drochláech,
 anbal⁸ cech rudrach,
 úathmar cech ecal,⁹
 adúathmar cech ndorcha,
 15 ísel cech athech,
 collach cech sámach,¹⁰
 díscir cech dona,
 uamnach¹¹ cech cintach,
 í¹²fán cech aithisech,
 20 ecal cech faittech,
 cosáitech cech dotheng,¹³
 án cech cétludach,¹⁴
 dálach¹⁵ cech dagthúath,
 dúnadach cech degrí,¹⁶
 25 sétrech cech saigthech,¹⁷
 suabais¹⁸ cech dána,
 ésléssach¹⁹ cech brass,²⁰
 gúach cech tairngertach,²¹
 soisil²² cech bronntach,²³
 30 cuitbide cech denmnetach,
 athissech cech coimsech,²⁴
 arrachtach cech athissech,
 coimsech cech céillid,²⁵

¹ arfeadh *N* ² n-aimhirsech *DN*² ³ sic *D* grimnach *B* creimnech *N*²
 gnímach *cett.* ⁴ gallrach *L* ⁵ lóbor *DN*² ⁶ imgonad *L* iomghonach
*DN*² ⁷ triamain *L* ⁸ anbail *Lec* *N*² ⁹ eaglach *B* ¹⁰ suanach *D*
 colach cech snamach *Lec* ¹¹ imuamnach *LN*² imuaimneach *B* imsnímach *Lec*
¹² om. *L* ¹³ dotheangthach *BN*² ndoithengthech *D* ¹⁴ cetaltach *Lec*

15. ' Knowledge deserves to be honoured,
 wisdom vanquishes valour,
 every timid person is opinionate,
 every lover is melancholy,
 5 every sick person is . . . ,
 every liar is quarrelsome,
 every fool is dangerous,
 every arrogant person runs a risk,
 every fierce person is ready to strike,
 10 every farmer is prudent,
 every bad warrior is violent,
 every person with vested interests is shameless,
 every timorous person is easily frightened,
 everything dark is awful,
 15 every plebeian is low,
 whoever is fond of ease is corpulent,
 every unfortunate person is vehement,
 every guilty person is apprehensive,
 every reviler is precipitate,
 20 every cautious person is timorous,
 every foulmouthed person is quarrelsome,
 every one fond of company is brilliant,
 every brave tribe is fond of gatherings,
 every brave king holds encampments,
 25 every aggressor is puissant,
 every bold person is cheerful,
 every big talker is neglectful,
 every one making promises readily is false,
 every lavish person is overweening,
 30 every hasty person is ridiculous,
 every powerful person is liable to be reviled,
 every reviler is stubborn,
 every sensible person is competent,

¹⁵ dúnadach *L* ¹⁶ *om. L* brughaid gach damach *add. DN* ² ¹⁷ sathach *B*
 saithech *Lec* ¹⁸ sobais *B* subach *Lec* suabhaisech *D* suaibhsioch *N*²
¹⁹ eisledach *Lec* eisleisech *D* ²⁰ mbras *DN* ² ²¹ tairngerech *LB*
 tairngertaich *Lec* ²² saisil *L* ²³ brontach *L* ²⁴ comsid *L* 32-39 *DN*²
om. cett. ²⁵ ceilech *N*²

- 35 comairlech cech irisech,
midlaech cech díchoisc,
sái cech sochoisc,
aititiu¹ cech indraic,
innmusach cech dán maith,
dóinech cech dindba.'

16. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia etargén² mná?'
'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Nosnetargén 7 nísnetargléim.³

- Serba sír gnáise,⁴
mórda tathigthe,⁵
5 drútha follaigthe,⁶
báetha⁷ comairle,
santacha tormaig,
aigde aiséise,⁸
debthaige frechnaire,⁹
10 míanacha léicthe,¹⁰
santacha tabarta,
freslige roscéla,¹¹
cailte dígbála,
feidle miscne,¹²
15 dermatcha seirce,
ítfaide toile,¹³
deithide¹⁴ cairddine,¹⁵
cundamna écnaig,
écundla airechta,¹⁶
20 airrechtga¹⁷ ugrai,
étairise rúne,
rudracha táithe,¹⁸
garechtga eóit,
immaicse¹⁹ taithlig,

¹ aidide *N*² ² eterglem *B* ³ etargleim 7 nisetargleim *L* nisneitirglen
(nisnedirglim) .i. ní fedaim a n-eitirgleod *DN*² ⁴ serbh a siorghnath *N*²
serbh a siorghnath *N*² serbh a siorghnais *D* ⁵ mórda attathaiqe *DN*²
⁶ druith a bfollaigthe *DN*² ⁷ a add. *L* ⁸ aiséise *L* faisnese *B*
⁹ fri fiuru *D* frechnaire *L* ¹⁰ ligthe *N*² leiccti *D* ¹¹ freslig
roscelaig *L* freslige roscelaich *Lec* ¹² miscsen *L* miscen *N*² ¹³ itfadaigi
a tuile *B* íotfaidhe *D* ¹⁴ deiti *Lec* dedidea *B* ¹⁵ cairdfine *Lec*

- every faithful¹ person is a good counsellor,²
 35 every indocile person is cowardly,
 every docile person is sage,
 every worthy person is a cognizance,
 every good art produces wealth,
 every indigent person is humane.'

16. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'how do you distinguish women?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'I distinguish them, but I make no difference among them.

- They are crabbed as constant companions,
 haughty when visited,
 5 lewd when neglected,
 silly counsellors,
 greedy of increase,
 they have tell-tale faces,
 they are quarrelsome in company,
 10 desirous of letting go,
 greedy of gifts,
 putting up with exaggeration,
 hard and grasping,³
 steadfast in hate,
 15 forgetful of love,
 thirsting (?) for lust,
 anxious for alliance,
 accustomed to slander,
 dishonest in an assembly,
 20 stubborn in a quarrel,
 not to be trusted with a secret,
 ever intent on pilfering,
 boisterous in their jealousy,
 ever ready for an excuse,

¹⁶ airechtaiss *Lec*

¹⁷ airrechtai *LN*² arrechtaigh *D* airechtaiss *Lec*

¹⁸ rudrach tathaide *Lec* rudrach ataide *D* tathe *L* attaidhe *N*² ¹⁹ a *add. D*
 iomfoigse attaithe *N*²

¹ Or 'believing.'
 'hard of taking away.'

² Or, perhaps, 'fond of giving advice.'

³ Literally,

- 25 tórachtcha¹ báise,
 brassa airnadma,²
 airlama forgill,
 foille foiehlige,³
 sóera⁴ ainme,
 30 essóera ícce,⁵
 consuidet nád⁶ comraicet,
 romairnet⁷ nád aincet,⁸
 úallcha tochmaire,⁹
 éчнаig míadamla,
 35 fóille foimrime,
 táithe¹⁰ abrais,¹¹
 rigne célide,
 diumsacha dagdóine,¹²
 doirche gusmara,
 40 dermatcha coisc,¹³
 cumnige debtha,
 fanna immargaile,¹⁴
 inire¹⁵ debtha,
 díairithe¹⁶ lítha,
 45 bróncha cuirmthige,
 comnarta imresna,¹⁷
 énairte fedma,
 todiúre ciúil,
 étradcha¹⁸ lige,
 50 labra écundla,
 tuillmecha augrai,
 cessachtaige biid,
 amairsi erlabra,¹⁹
 eitche trebaire,
 55 tailce erlabra,
 ána athise,

¹ torrachtaig *BLec* torachtaig *L* torrachta *N*² ² ernadhmanna *D*
³ .i. ic denum dhruisi *B* ⁴ suiridh *N*² ⁵ essuiridh íce *N*² .i. is urusa leo
ainim do [dénun] 7 ní urusa leo a íce duib e *B* ⁶ nát *D* ⁷ mairnit *D*
⁸ aincit *D* ⁹ fri tochmarc *D* fri attochmarc *N*² ¹⁰ taiðhe *DN*²
¹¹ obrais *LB* abhrais *N*² ¹² ar degdaoinibh *D* ¹³ micuimneach cuisc *B*

- 25 on the pursuit of folly,
 quick to engage,
 ready to pledge,
 neglectful of earning,
 ready to injure,
 30 never ready to heal,
 they check what they do not attain,
 they betray what they do not save,
 haughty when wooed,¹
 slanderers of worth,
 35 slow to make use of things,
 scamping their work,
 stiff when paying a visit,
 disdainful of good men,
 gloomy and stubborn,
 40 forgetful of restraint,²
 mindful of strife,
 feeble in a contest,
 viragos in strife,
 prodigal at a feast,
 45 sorrowful in an ale-house,
 sturdy in wrangling,
 indolent of exertion,
 tearful during music,
 lustful in bed,
 50 arrogant and disingenuous,
 abettors of strife,
 niggardly with food,
 incredulous of speech,
 rejecting wisdom,
 55 vigorous of speech,
 quick to revile,

¹⁴ *sic D* *cumnige* *immargaile cett.* ¹⁵ *mire BLec* ¹⁶ *diarthe B* *diaride L*
¹⁷ *imresain L* ¹⁸ *ettrochta D* *edrochta B* *etrachta (!) Lec* ¹⁹ *aimirsige*
arlamha D

¹ Or, 'proud of being wooed.'

² Or, perhaps, 'correction.'

- airrechtga¹ fresligi,²
frithberta[cha]³ cóemnai,
cuimnige díchoemnai,⁴
60 dimbeóda tinóil,⁵
cétludcha báise,
béoda tingill,
tomtencha uile,
santacha dála,
65 duabaise tairirid,⁶
tromda⁷ coblige,
bodra forcetail,
dalla dagairle,⁸
dochéille sochaide,
70 míancha blassachta,⁹
mina tairberta,
terca tidnacuil,
tláithe timgaire,
aidble¹⁰ irnaidi,
75 ainble céilidi,¹¹
imda labartha,¹¹
fossaide im thoil,
cumge airberta,¹²
eólaige rebraid,
80 aneólaige réire,¹³
rescacha rurit,¹⁴
dulbaire torbai,
sulbaire espai,
snímcha cendmaisse,
85 ¹⁵canait nád comailit,
¹⁵triallait nád forbait,¹⁶
forcomat nád comraicet,¹⁷
¹⁵rodíallat¹⁶ nád astat,
adgellat nád fírat,

¹ airechtaigh *B* arrachta *N*² ² freslig *D* freslaig *Lec* ³ fritbert *B*
sentaige *D* seunta *N*² ⁴ cuimne dicuimne (!) *B* ⁵ attionoil *D*
⁶ duaibhsighe tairisi *N*² *om. L* tairirid .i. oc siubul *B* ⁷ troma *B*
⁸ dalla miana *add. N*² dalla taighedha *B* ⁹ seire a sollamnaib *add. N*²

- tenacious in cohabitation,
 setting themselves against comfort,
 alive to¹ discomfort,
 60 indolent in gathering,
 ever in the company of folly,
 quick to promise,
 harbouring evil thoughts,
 eager to go into society,
 65 sulky on a journey,
 troublesome bedfellows,
 deaf to instruction,
 blind to good advice,
 fatuous in society,
 70 craving for delicacies,
 small givers,
 chary in their presents,
 languid when being solicited,
 exceeding all bounds² in keeping others waiting,³
 75 shameless on visits,
 tedious talkers,
 persevering in lust,
 close practitioners,
 skilled in pleasure-seeking,
 80 unskilled in obedience,
 prattling . . . ,⁴
 dumb on useful matters,
 eloquent on trifles,
 painstaking about an elegant head-dress,
 85 they utter what they do not perform,
 they attempt what they do not finish,
 they watch what they do not get,
 they turn aside what they do not secure,
 they vow what they do not make true,

¹⁰ aidble *N*² ainble *L* anaible *B* ¹¹ om. *L* ¹² oirbhoirt *N*² ¹³ reide *B*

¹⁴ rasgach sceoil *N* reasca ruirid .i. roscelach iat re each ní *B* ¹⁵ om. *L*

¹⁶ fobruid *N*² ¹⁷ comraicit *N*² comradat *LB* ¹⁸ ro iallat *LB*

¹ Literally, 'mindful of.'
 themselves be waited for.'

² Literally, 'huge' or 'vast.'

⁴ I can make nothing of *ruirid*.

³ Or, 'in letting

- 90 dorairngerat nád chomallat,
 ¹conrannat² nád fúaslaigit,³
 rocollet⁴ nád íccat,
 forfodlat nád tinólat,⁵
 ronertat nád⁶ dernat,
 95 adsegat nád táircet,⁷
 conscarat nád⁶ rothinólat,⁸
 rorenat⁹ nád⁶ toibget,
 robronnat nád⁶ rothrebat,¹⁰
 fó cach tan tene,¹¹
 100 fó cách náchasríaraig,¹²
 a n-úaman amail tenid,¹³
 a n-ecla mar fiadmíla,¹⁴
 elca¹⁵ míla mná,
 maith fídbad cecha ráithe,
 105 mairg rodafóinblig,¹⁶
 ferr a fleacad a fóenblegon,
 ferr a sroigled a subugud,¹⁷
 ferr a túargain a táltugud,¹⁸
 ¹ferr a mbúalad a mbuidechas,
 110 ferr a foimtiu¹⁹ a tairisi,
 ferr a tróethad a turgorud,²⁰
 ferr a ndinge²¹ a ngrádugud,—
 ní bí²² enech ná anim²³ ná cloth ac neoch contúasi fri drochmná,' ol
 Cormac fri Carpre.
- 115 'At tonna notbáidet,
 at tene notloisc,²⁴
 at airm defáebracha notchloidmet,
 at legaim ar lenamain,
 at nathracha ar túaichli,
 120 *at dorchá i soillsi,
 at olca etir maithi,
 at messa etir olcu.'²⁵

¹ om. L ² condreagoid N²B ³ Here B inserts: frioirged nad eirget,
 fricomraiced nad comailled ⁴ rochollet L rocoillid B ⁵ tarcomhlaid N²
 na tarcomlat L nad comailleadh B ⁶ na L ⁷ nadarget L adsannaid nad
 tarcead N² ⁸ nadorimlad B imrobhrad nad escomhrad add. D ni robrad nad
 eascobrad BN² ⁹ rorannat D roreandad D ¹⁰ trebhoid N² ¹¹ 98-100 om. L

- 90 they promise what they do not fulfil,
 they separate what they do not redeem (?),
 they destroy what they do not save,
 they scatter what they do not gather,
 they affirm what they cannot do,
 95 they strive after what they do not effect,
 they break up what they cannot collect,
 they give away what they do not levy,
 they lavish what they cannot husband,
 [fire is good at any time,]¹
 100 happy he who does not yield to them,
 they should be dreaded like fire,
 they should be feared like wild beasts,
 women are capricious beasts,
 [a wood is good at every season,]¹
 105 woe to him who humours them,
 better to whip them than to humour them,
 better to scourge them than to gladden them,
 better to beat them than to coddle them,
 better to smite them than to please them,
 110 better to beware of them than to trust them,
 better to trample upon them than to fondle them,
 better to crush them than to cherish them,—
 he will have neither honour nor life nor fame who listens to bad
 women,' said Cormac to Carbre.
 115 'They are waves that drown you,
 they are fire that burns you,
 they are two-edged weapons that cut you,
 they are moths for sticking to one,
 they are serpents for cunning,
 120 they are darkness in light,
 they are bad among the good,
 they are worse among the bad.'

¹² riaruid *N*² ¹³ teine *N*² ¹⁴ fiadhmhiola *N*² ¹⁵ alca *N*² olca *B*
¹⁶ áusfaonbhleog *N*² ¹⁷ rodafoinlig *L* ¹⁸ subha *N*² ¹⁹ tlatughadh *DN*²
 tatlugud *L* ²⁰ foimdin *BD* ²¹ tomtin *L* ²² torghaire *N*² ²³ dige *L* ²⁴ diuga *B*
²⁵ bi éimh *N*² ²⁶ bia *LN* ²⁷ anech na hanim *L* ²⁸ notloiscet *D* ²⁹ 115-122 *om LB*

¹ This sentence seems out of place here.

17. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia¹ etargén sína?'
'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Máthair etha aig,²
athair³ saille snechta,
5 túar fola fleochud,
túar tedma tart,
andsom⁴ gobél gáeth,
dech do sínaib ceó,
ferr a bráthair bróen,
10 acht do muir ní torthach⁵ torann.'

18. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid⁶ messam⁷ trebad?'

'Ní hansa. 'Trebad do ná⁹ crenar enech ná anim¹⁰. Atá araile trebad as messa¹¹ .i. uic, tuic, beir, tabair!'

19. ¹²Item Cormac ad Carpre:

'Ní bága fri rí,
ní comrís¹³ fri báeth,
ní comthéis fri díbergach,
5 ní comthana fri échtaid,¹⁴
ní cria di secht mbáethaib file¹⁵ la Féne,
.i. di mnái, di chimbid, di mesc, di drúth, di dásachtach, di ardd,¹⁶
di aruse,¹⁷
nír imthige¹⁸ fri roth ná rout ná roilbe ná romuir ná
10 báegul ná gá,
ní dlútha¹⁹ écnach,
ní ba thibre²⁰ dála,
ní ba²¹ brónach cuirmthige,²²
ní ba dermatach dála,

¹ cid *D* ciodh *N*² ² adaigh *B* ³ máthair *L* ⁴ ionnsa *N*² annsa *D*
andso *L* ⁵ torthach *N*² thorthach *L* ⁶ cia *LB* ⁷ measa *N*²
do threbad *BDN*¹ ⁸ *D* has for this, and *N*² adds: meic, mná, ingena ile
meile, feda minca, clemna ili imchiana, noterionat et ni thormaiget, with which
cp. Triads 223 ⁹ da nach *DN*² do nach *B* ¹⁰ oinech na anom *N*²
aínech no hanim *L* ¹¹ messom *L* atá treabhadh ada measa *N*² ¹² Here *B*
inserts Tosach agrai (*leg.* ugrai) acbosan &c. ¹³ coimrith *DH*² ¹⁴ ni
comthan fri hechtaigh *B* échta *L* ¹⁵ fillid *N*² file la féne *om. L* ¹⁶ di *L*
di aird *B* ¹⁷ di airriuse *LB* ¹⁸ ni imbaigh *N*²*H*² ¹⁹ ni ba dluithe *N*²
²⁰ ni bat tibre *L* ²¹ ni bat *L*, and so throughout ²² cormthige *LB*

17. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'how do you distinguish weathers?'¹

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'Ice is the mother of corn,
snow is the father of fat,
5 a shower is a presage of bloodshed,
drought is a presage of pestilence,
wind is most troublesome in a strait,
the best of weathers is mist,
better his brother rain,
10 save for the sea, thunder is not fruitful.'

18. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst housekeeping?'

'Not hard to tell.² A housekeeping by which neither honour nor life is bought. There is another housekeeping which is worse: 'Get, fetch, take, bring!'

19. Item Cormac ad Carbre:

'Do not contend with a king,
do not forgather with a fool,
do not associate with a marauder,
5 do not fraternize with an evil-doer,
do not buy from the seven imbeciles according to the law
of the Irish, viz. from a woman, from a caitiff, from a drunken
person, from a buffoon, from a madman, from a superior,³ from a
. . . ,
do not race against a wheel,⁴ nor against the cast of a
10 spear, nor up a great height, nor against the surf of the sea, nor
against danger, nor a lance,
do not join in blasphemy,
be not the laughing-stock of an assembly,
be not sorrowful in an alehouse,
be not forgetful of an assignation.

¹ Or, 'the various kinds of weather.'

² Here D has: Sons, women, many lewd daughters, frequent feasts, numerous distant alliances in marriage; they waste you and do not profit.

³ Literally, 'from a high person.'

⁴ i.e. a chariot.

- 15 ní ba dochoisc,
 ní ba imresnaid fír,¹
 ní ba aichnech for góí,²
 ní ba foss foglaide,³
 ní ba chond ugra,
 20 ní ba muine⁴ debtha,
⁵ní ois do beólu do chách,
 ní thairngire ná dotbé,
 ní ba⁶ choibchech ar ná ba⁷ fíachach,
 ní ba imgonaid⁸ ar ná ba mélachtach,
 25 ní ba chomramach ar ná ba miscnech,
 ní ba imresnaid ar ná ba cennscoilte,
 ní ba garg ar ná ba dobláith,
 ní ba ugrach ar ná ba aitchennach,⁹
⁵ní ba éitir¹⁰ ar ná ba éslesach,¹¹
 30 ní ba cotut ar ná ba dothcherna,
 ní ba rogartaid¹² ar ná ba aithbe,¹³
 ní ba lesc ar ná ba meirb,
 ní ba roescaid ar ná ba dáiscuir,¹⁴
 ní ba debthach ar ná ba scarthach,¹⁵
 35 ní ba ráth ar neoch ar ná ba eirse¹⁶ do chomaithech.'

20. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as búaine for bith?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Fér, umæ, ibar.'

21. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cid as messam¹⁷ do chorp duini?'

'Ní hansa,' ar Cormac. 'Rosuide, rolige,¹⁸ airissem fota, tócbála tromma, fedmanna ós niurt,¹⁹ élud elta,²⁰ roretha, roléimenna,²¹ tuit-
 5 menna mince, coss tar crann siúil, éirimm grib, silliud fri grís, dallchéimenna,²² cér, nús, núa corma, tarb, táth, turach, uisce móna,²³

¹ fira *B* ² taithi neich *L* hadnach *for*gai *B* taitnech natragha *D* ³ foglithe *L*
 forglighthe *B* ⁴ munigu *L* muiniugud *B* ⁵ om. *L* ⁶ nirbat *L* and
 so throughout ⁷ bat *L* and so throughout ⁸ iomghonach *N*² ⁹ aicennach *L*
¹⁰ eidir *N*² ¹¹ eislis *N*²*H*² heislise *B* ¹² roghartach *N*²*H*² ¹³ aithe *LB*
¹⁴ doescair *L* ¹⁵ nirbat dochois. fi. *add.* *L* nirbad dochoise . . . *add.* *N*² nirbo
 docoisc *B* ¹⁶ arná eirsi *D* arna rub a erse *B* ¹⁷ ciodh as measa *N*²*H*²
 cia mesamh *D* ¹⁸ roluihe *DN*²*H*² ¹⁹ nert *N*² ²⁰ eulughadh alta *N*²*H*²

- 15 do not be indocile,
do not be a wrangler against truth,
take no cognizance of falsehood,¹
do not be the servant of robbers,
do not be a leader in strife,
- 20 do not be a bush² of discord,
do not lend your lips to every one,
do not promise what you have not,
be not fond of buying lest you be encumbered by debts,
be no fighter lest you be disgraced,
- 25 be not contentious lest you be hateful,
be no wrangler lest you get your head broken,
be not rough lest you become ungainly,
be not quarrelsome lest you be . . . ,
be not an absentee lest you become negligent,
- 30 be not hard lest you become churlish,
be not too generous lest you be left stranded,
be not lazy lest you become enfeebled,
do not bustle too much lest you become vile,
be not cantankerous lest you become unsociable,
do not become a guarantor for any one lest your neighbour . . . '

20. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is most lasting on earth?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'Grass, copper, a yew-tree.'

21. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst for the body of man?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'Sitting too long, lying too long, long standing, heavy lifts, exertions beyond one's strength, . . . ,
5 running too much, leaping too much,³ frequent falls, sleeping with one's leg over the bedrail, swift racing, gazing at glowing embers, stepping in the dark, wax, beestings, new ale, bull-flesh, curdles, dry food, bog-water, rising too early, cold, sun, hunger, drinking too

²¹ Here *D* inserts *faiscéimmenna* ²² *dailceiminda D* ²³ *monadh N² mono D*

¹ This line seems corrupt in all copies. ² i.e. a protector. ³ Or, perhaps, 'too far.'

mochéirge,¹ úacht,² grían, gorta, roól, rosáith, rocholud, ropheccad, cuma, rith³ fri hard, gairm fri gáith, béimm ós niurt,⁴ tirad, samdrúcht,⁵ gamdrúcht, slige luaithred,⁶ snám iar sáith, cotlud fóen, 10 deoch mór,⁷ baile, báithe.'

22. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ar Carpre, 'cia messam tacra 7 fuigell?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Secht⁸ comartha deac drochthacra .i.

Frithchathugud fessa,⁹
 5 attach ndrochbér lai,¹⁰
 ilar n-athise,
 cathugud¹¹ cen chomartha,
 rigne labartha,¹²
 folabra¹³ n-indsci,
 10 imscoltad¹⁴ ngáise,
 derbad n-inderb,¹⁵
 dínsem lebar,
 sód fri nóisi,¹⁶
 roairde ngotha,¹⁷
 15 útmaille tacrai,¹⁸
 sprecad sochuide,
 cathugud¹⁹ cáich,
 a²⁰ adbhlos fadéin,²¹
 grécha cinn,
 20 luga iar mbreith.'

23.²² 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam tacra?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'A báis, a dermatche.'

24. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam áí?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Ai lugach, áí móeth mall rigin.'²³

¹ muicheirghe *D* ² fuacht *N*² ³ *Instead of* cuma, rith *H*²*N*² *have* coimrith
⁴ niort *D* ⁵ *om.* *N*² ⁶ luaithrid *D* *s.* luaithred *om.* *N*² ⁷ deog mhór *H*²
⁸ sé *L* ⁹ fis *B* ¹⁰ drochberla *L* ¹¹ cathigud *L* fathugud *D* ¹² labra *H*²
 a molad fadesin, fáilte fri tús (tuisil *B*) tracrai, tomus fri arddu (hard *B*) *add.* *LB*
¹³ folabrad *LB* ¹⁴ imtholta *LB* ¹⁵ derbad an indeirbh *D* ¹⁶ nós *H*²*N*²

much, eating too much, sleeping too much, sinning too much, grief, running up a height, shouting against the wind, a blow beyond one's strength, drying oneself by a fire, summer-dew, winter-dew, beating ashes, swimming on a full stomach, sleeping on one's back, a deep
10 drink, frenzy, foolish romping.'

22. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst pleading and arguing?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'Seventeen signs of bad pleading, viz.:

- 5 Contending against knowledge,
taking refuge in bad language,
much abuse,
contending without proofs,
stiffness of delivery,
a muttering speech,
- 10 hair-splitting,
uncertain proofs,
despising books,
turning against customs,
talking in too loud a voice,
- 15 shifting one's pleading,
inciting the multitude,
fighting everybody,
blowing one's own trumpet,
shouting at the top of one's voice,
- 20 swearing after judgment.'

23. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst pleading?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'A rash forgetful pleading.'

24. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst arguing?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'An argument based on oaths, a feeble, slow, stiff argument.'

noise *L* ¹⁷ airdde ngobr- *L* ¹⁸ tacra fergach *add. LB* ¹⁹ cátingud (!) *L*
cathadh *B* ²⁰ *om. N*² 18-20 *om. L* ²¹ féin *N*² féin *DH*² ²² 23-28 *om. L*
²³ áí m. m. r. *om. N*²

25.¹ 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaíc,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam áí airechta?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Ai lonn lenamnach fota,²

5 áí útmaille,
toiched³ toll telachtach,
tacra dían dermatach,
dúscad ferge,
fordinge forlonn,

10 báide báeglaige,
luige lúatha laimthecha,⁴
freora n-ard n-óbéle,
búaidred n-airechta,
ainme⁵ mbréithre,

15 lám do sund.⁶

26. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaíc,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam tacra?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Tacra cen foglaímm, cen eólus,
luinde fri heclaímm,

5 eclaimm cen dliged,
tacra cen toga, cen chuindrech,⁷ cen astud, cen airbert.'

27. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaíc,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam frisambia⁸ condelg duit?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Fer co n-ainbli cáinti,

5 co n-ugra cumaile,
co foilli con cermna,
co cubus con,
col-láim latrainn,⁹
co nirt¹⁰ tairb,

10 co n-érgna bretheman,¹¹
co n-ecna airctech¹² amnus,

¹ 25-28 om. B
lamhthenach N^2H^2

sunt H^2
¹⁰ nert N^2H^2

² fothad N^2

⁵ ainmheadh N^2

⁷ coinnirceall N^2H^2

¹¹ mbetheman N^2

³ toithed N^2 tocha D

⁶ laimhdi disund N^2 laimh di

⁸ frisambia N^2D

¹² argtech N^2

⁹ ladrann N^2

.

25. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst arguing before an assembly?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'A violent, stubborn, long-winded arguing,
 5 an unsteady arguing,
 a hollow loose suing,
 a vehement oblivious pleading,
 rousing anger,
 very violent urging,
 10 playing a dangerous game,¹
 rash reckless oaths,
 a loud open-mouthed answer,
 to disconcert the meeting,
 slanderous words,
 15 hand²

26. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the worst pleading?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'A pleading without instruction, without knowledge,
 violence in discussion,
 discussion without reason,
 a pleading without choice, without restraint, without
 grasp, without practice.'

27. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'who are the worst for whom you have a comparison?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'A man with the impudence of a satirist,
 5 with the pugnacity of a slave-woman,
 with the carelessness of a . . . dog,
 with the conscience of a hound,
 with a robber's hand,
 with a bull's strength,
 10 with the dignity of a judge,
 with keen ingenious wisdom,

¹ Literally 'fondling danger.' ² Perhaps, 'hand to staff,' i.e. 'playing with one's staff,' such as enforcing an argument by thumping with the staff, or the like.

co n-erlabra fir sochraid,
 co cuimne senchada,¹
 co n-airbert comarba,
 15 co luga echthádat,²
 os é³ gáeth gúach liath lond lugach⁴ labar a n-asbeir 'tairnic, tung,⁵
 titthis.'

28. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam frismbia⁶
 condelg duit beos?'

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Fer garb serb borb lonn dían dóescair⁷
 díscir dermatach engach anbal⁸ iarngáesach nád ana nech fris,⁹ ní
 5 ana fri nech.¹⁰ Ní bind lais-sium a n-asbeir nech, ní bind la nech a
 n-asbeir sium, is é co n-urgairt túaithe 7 eclaise.'¹¹

29. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'is áil dam-sa co
 fessur¹² cindas beo¹³ itir gáethu 7 báethu,¹⁴ itir gnáthu 7 ingnathu,¹⁵
 itir senu 7 ócu, itir engu 7 anengu.'¹⁶

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.¹⁷

- 5 'Ní ba¹⁸ rogáeth, ní ba robáeth,
 ní ba róuallach, ní ba dimbrígach,
 ní ba romórda, ní ba robecda,
 ní ba rolabar, ní ba rothó,¹⁹
 ní ba rochrúaid, ní ba rothimm.
 10 Dia mba²⁰ rogáeth, fritotsáilfider,²¹
 dia mba robáeth, nottogáethfaider,²²
 dia mba róuallach, notdimdaigfaider,²³
 dia mba robecda, bid²⁴ dígráid,
 dia mba rolabar, bid²⁴ dérgna,
 15 dia mba rothó, nítsúilfider,²⁵
 dia mba rochrúaid, fordotbrisfider,²⁶
 dia mba rothimm, notdreisfider.'

¹ ccoimgne senca *D* ² each tadhat *N*² ectadat *D* ³ ase *N*² ⁴ luidhech
 liath *N*²*H*² ⁵ anusber tonn *N*² ⁶ frisambia *N*² ⁷ om. *N*² ⁸ anbhail *N*²*H*²
⁹ fana fri nech *N*²*H*² ¹⁰ nech fris *N*²*H*² ¹¹ con urgair túath 7 eclais *D*
¹² co fesar om. *N*² ¹³ biad *N*² ¹⁴ bæthaib 7 gæthaib *D* ¹⁵ 7 gnathchib
 7 ingnathchib ¹⁶ 7 eenaib 7 anecnaib *L* ¹⁷ Fithal *B* ¹⁸ nimbad *N*²

with the speech of a stately man,
 with the memory of an historian,
 with the behaviour of an abbot,
 15 with the swearing of a horse-thief,
 and he wise, lying, grey-haired, violent, swearing, garrulous when he
 says 'the matter is settled, I swear, I shall swear.'

28. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'who are the
 worst for whom you further have a comparison?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'A rough, bitter, rude, violent,
 vehement, vulgar, impetuous, forgetful, noisy, impudent, after-wise
 man, to whom no one attends, who does not attend to any one, who
 does not care what anyone else says, while no one cares what he says,
 and he proscribed both by the laity and by the Church.'

29. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'I desire to
 know how I shall behave among the wise and the foolish, among
 friends and strangers, among the old and the young, among the
 innocent and the wicked.'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

- 5 'Be not too wise, be not too foolish,
 be not too conceited, be not too diffident,
 be not too haughty, be not too humble,
 be not too talkative, be not too silent,
 be not too harsh, be not too feeble.
- 10 If you be too wise, one will expect (too much) of you ;
 if you be too foolish, you will be deceived ;
 if you be too conceited, you will be thought vexatious ;
 if you be too humble, you will be without honour ;
 if you be too talkative, you will not be heeded ;
- 15 if you be too silent, you will not be regarded ;
 if you be too harsh, you will be broken ;
 if you be too feeble, you will be crushed.'

nirbat *L* nirbo *N* and so throughout 19 rothói *D* rothai *BN* 20 dia
 mbad *N* dia mbat *L* and so throughout 21 frithotsailfaider *L* 22 nottogaib-
 faider (!) *L* 23 dodimdaigfer *N* dodiomgaothfuidhther *N*² *H*² 24 bat *L*.
 25 sic *B* om. cett. 26 forditbrisfider *L* nó míchlufidher add. *BN*²

30. 'Cest,' ol Carpre, 'cindas nombeo?'¹

'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac.

- 'Ba² gáeth fri gáis ar ná rottogáitha³ nech i ngáis,
 ba úallach fri úaill ar ná tucca nech⁴ crith fort,
 5 ba beeda fri beedatáid a ndéntar do thol,
 ba labar fri labra⁵ ,⁶
 ba tó fri tói⁷ i n-éitsider⁸ aiséis,
 ba crúaid fri crúas⁹ ar náchattarda¹⁰ nech i n-éislis,
 ba móeth fri móithi ar náchatrochra cách.¹¹

31. Cormac beos roráid inso : ¹²

- 'Gáeth cách co reic a forbbaí,¹³
 báeth cách co lóg¹⁴ tíre,
 cara¹⁵ cách co fiachu,
 5 rechtaid cách co leibu,¹⁶
 súanach cách co clemnas,
 ferach¹⁷ cách co cresine,¹⁸
 sochlu¹⁹ cách co áir,
 brugaid cách co eitech,²⁰
 10 fénnid cách co trebad,
 amos²¹ cách co árus,²²
 sochonn²³ cách co meisce,
 codnach cách co feirg,
 sognaid²⁴ cách co fuichecht,²⁵
 15 sobraig cách co altrom,
 rúnaid²⁶ cách co ugra,
 urraid cách co fógra,²⁷
 fáilid cách co dona,
 dána cách co hetech,²⁸
 20 troigthech cách co cairptech,
 cáid cach ceól co cruit,

¹ rombeo N^2LH^2 ² bad N^2H^2 bat L and so throughout ³ rodtoñoother
 a ngaois N^2H^2 ⁴ ar ná rotugthar N^2 ar na (nach B) tuathar crith fort LB
⁵ labhar N^2 ⁶ romtareat B ⁷ inotagar cath L ⁸ notagar NH^2
⁹ tói DN ¹⁰ eistear DH^2 ¹¹ cruaid L ¹² náttarda DN ¹³ ar nabarocrucach BD
 ar nabrochracach N^2H^2 ¹⁴ roca cach L ¹⁵ 31-37 om. L ¹⁶ fforba N^2
¹⁷ luag BL ¹⁸ luadh N^2 ¹⁹ 4-7 om. D ²⁰ caruid N^2 ²¹ coart B ²² lealbha N^2
 leanbu B ²³ lenbo L ²⁴ ferech B ²⁵ creisim B ²⁶ sochla LDB

30. 'A question,' said Carbre, 'how shall I be?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'Be wise with the wise¹ lest anyone deceive you in wisdom,
be proud with the proud¹ lest anyone make you tremble,
5 be humble with the humble when your will is being done,
be talkative with the talkative. . . .²
be silent with the silent when a recital is being
listened to,
be hard with the hard lest anyone slight you,
be gentle with the gentle lest everyone . . . you.'

31. Cormac further has said this :

'Every one is wise till he comes to sell his heritage,
every one is foolish till he buys land,
every one is a friend till it comes to debts,
5 every one is a law-giver till it comes to children,
every one is sleepy till it comes to marrying,
every one is ferocious till it comes to piety,
every one is fair-famed till he is satirised,
every one is a hospitaller till he refuses (to entertain),
10 every one is a roving warrior till he takes up husbandry,
every one is a mercenary till he settles in a dwelling,
every one is *compos mentis* till he becomes drunk,
every one is reasonable till he gets angry,
every one is decorous till he commits adultery,
15 every one is tranquil till he has foster-children,
every one is a counsellor till he begins to quarrel,
every one is a citizen till he is proclaimed,
every one is joyful till he meets with ill-luck,
every one is bold till he meets with a refusal,
20 every one is a pedestrian till he drives a chariot,
all music is holy till it comes to the harp,

²⁰ éthech <i>L</i>	²¹ amhnus <i>N</i> ²	²² forus <i>LB</i>	²³ soichell <i>D</i>	²⁴ om. <i>D</i>
soghnuidh <i>N</i> ²	²⁵ fuacht <i>BL</i>	fuicheacht <i>H</i> ²	²⁶ ruanaid <i>N</i> ² <i>H</i> ²	rúinid <i>BL</i>
²⁷ foghail <i>N</i> ² <i>H</i> ²	fodail <i>B</i>	²⁸ heitheach <i>BLH</i> ²		

¹ Literally 'with wisdom,' 'with pride,' &c.
seems to be corrupt in all copies.

² The rest of the sentence

sochraid cach¹ sona,
 dochraid cach¹ dona,
 milsem² codalta freislige,
 25 milsem² cormæ cétdeoch,
 milsem ceól ceól i ndoirche,
 milsem² lochta³ airigid.⁴

Duine óc sochoisc umal erlataid bus léir cubus 7 cobais, bid cóem a
 óitiú,⁵ bid sruith a sentu,⁶ bid fír a briathar, bid cáid a forgnúis, bid
 30 úasal cid ísel, bid sen cid óc, bid maith a forcenn la Día 7 duine.⁷

32.⁸ 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cate forus cuitbeda
 la Féine?' 'Ni hansa,' ol Cormac.

'Fer sotal im gáis, im dán, im thocad,⁹
 fer suirig miadach máithmech,¹⁰
 5 fer lesc lond timm teichmech,¹¹
 fer báeth borb brasbríathrach,¹²
 fer fergach forránach forsmachtach,¹³
 fer neóit anfossaid étaid coirpetæ ecal ocal opunn anfaí-
 tech ansercach¹⁴ anraitech¹⁵ imda andíarraid.'

33. 'A húi Chuind, a Chormaic,' ol Carpre, 'cia mesam comairge?'
 'Ní hansa,' ol Cormac. 'Comairge béldub becenech¹⁶ renas a
 grúaid 7 a glún 7 a lám 7 a chích 7 a chride 7 fír a chlainde 7 a
 cheneóil 7 a gaisced.¹⁷

5 Is lomm a díre,
 is toll a eneclann,
 is prap a persannacht,
 is gerr a chuire,
 is seng a snádugud,
 10 ní lugu a lám nách a ordan,
 is fúathledb genaige a delb fiad cach duine,¹⁸
 is cuitbide cennísel sechip maigen imté 7 i mbé.¹⁹

¹ cach go B ² milsi LH² ³ gach lochta B ⁴ airige DN² a hairigid B ⁵ aoide N²H² ⁶ senda N² ⁷ Here follows
 in N²: Ni bhagha fri rioghuihb, &c. See § 19 ⁸ 32-37 om. BL
⁹ thoice N² ¹⁰ toiced DH² ¹¹ maoidhmech N² ¹² teithmeach N²
¹³ bras boirbbhriathrach N² ¹⁴ forsmaltach DNH² ¹⁵ ansearg N²
¹⁶ anruith N² ¹⁷ beageinigh N² ¹⁸ a om. ghaiscidh N²D ¹⁹ nduine NN²
²⁰ seceb maighean a mbe N²

every fortunate creature is fair,
 every unfortunate creature is foul,
 the sweetest part of sleep is cohabitation,
 25 the sweetest part of ale is the first draught,
 music is sweetest in the dark,
 the sweetest part of a meal is the honorific portion.

A docile, humble, obedient young man of a nice conscience and confession, his youth will be lovable, his old age venerable, his word
 30 will be true, his countenance will be chaste, he will be exalted though low, he will be old though young, his end will be good with God and man.'

32. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'what is the code of ridicule among the Irish?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac.

'A man proud of his wisdom, his gifts, his good fortune,
 fastidious, standing on his dignity, vainglorious,
 5 a lazy, violent, feeble, flighty man,
 a silly, dull, big-worded man,
 a wrathful, aggressive, masterful man,
 a man niggardly, unstable, jealous, . . ., timorous, violent,
 impulsive, incautious, loveless, . . ., tedious, angry.

33. 'O grandson of Conn, O Cormac,' said Carbre, 'who is the worst guarantor?'

'Not hard to tell,' said Cormac. 'A black-mouthed guarantor of small honour, who sells his cheek and his knee and his hand and his breast and his heart and the honour of his children and of his race and his valour.

5 His amends are barren,¹
 his honour-price is hollow,
 his character is changeable (?),
 his . . . is short,
 his protection is narrow,
 10 his arm is not smaller than his dignity,
 his figure is a pattern of mockery² in the sight of all men,
 he is a hang-head butt of ridicule wherever he go or be.

¹ Literally, 'bare.'

² Or, perhaps, 'a mock pattern.'

34. 'A maic, ma contúaisi frim, ol Cormac, 'is é mo chose duit:¹

Ní bad² rechtaire duit fer co célib,
 ní bad² tairbertaid³ duit ben co maccaib 7 daltaib,
 ní bad rannaire duit fer ilmíanach,
 5 ní bad muilleóir duit fer ilfuirig,
 ní bad techtaire duit fer lonn dothengthach,
 ní bad foss duit fer lesc geránach,
 ní bad rúinid duit fer labar,
 ní bad dáilem duit fer somesc,
 10 ní bad dercaid duit fer drochruisc,
 ní bad doraíd duit fer serb sotal,
 ní bad brethem duit fer condarcell,
 ní bad túisech duit fer cen eólus,
 ní bad cenn athchomaire duit fer dotcadach.'

35. 'A húi Chuind, cid⁴ buidre lat rochúala?'

'Ní hansa. Trú cusa mberar robad,
 nech ara condegar ní nád cara,
 risi mná báithe.'

36. 'A húi Chuind, cid as dech do ráithib?'

'Ní hansa. Gem cáin cuisnech,
 errach tirim gáethach,
 sam tur frossach,
 5 fogmar tromdrúchtach torthech.'

37. 'A húi Chuind, cid mesam⁵ lat rochúala?'

'Ní hansa. 'Egem iar ngalgait,
 cnet galair,
 banugra eter dá fer.'

¹ ma contuaisi frim theagusc N^2 ² nib N^2 ³ Here, between pp. 30
 and 31 a leaf is missing in N^2 ⁴ cia DH^2N^1 ⁵ cia mesa D

34. 'O son, if you listen to me,' said Cormac, 'this is my instruction to you :

Do not let a man with friends be your steward,
 nor a woman with sons and fostersons your housekeeper,
 nor a man of many desires your dispenser,
 5 nor a man of much delay your miller,
 nor a violent foul-mouthed man your messenger,
 nor a grumbling sluggard your servant,
 nor a garrulous man your counsellor,
 nor a bibulous man your cup-bearer,
 10 nor a man with a bad sight your watchman,
 nor a bitter, haughty man your doorkeeper,
 nor a compassionate man your judge,
 nor a man without knowledge your leader,
 nor an unfortunate man your adviser.'

35. 'O grandson of Conn, whom do you deem the deafest you have heard?' 'Not hard to tell. A fey person¹ who is being warned, one who is asked what he does not like, the tattle of a silly woman.'

36. 'O grandson of Conn, what are the best seasons²?'

'Not hard to tell. A fine frosty winter,
 a dry windy spring,
 a drouhty showery summer,
 5 a fruitful autumn with heavy dews.'

37. 'O grandson of Conn, what do you think the worst you have heard?'

'Not hard to tell. An outcry after outrage,
 the groan of disease,
 a womanish quarrel between two men.'

¹ i.e. a man rushing on his fate.

² Literally, 'what is best for seasons?'

NOTES

§ 1. With this and the following section compare the poem on the duties of a king, beginning *Dia mbad messe bad ri réil*,¹ in the fourth stanza of which our text is mentioned as follows:—

Tecosc Cormaic, is cor ngdeth, ar Cairpre Liphechar lúath.

ib. 6. *Deithide*. Neither here nor in § 16, 17 have any of the mss. the oldest form *dethiden*.

ib. 8. *Hostages in fetters*. Cf. the following line from the poem quoted above (LL. p. 147b6):—

muire is ná bít géill i ngill is é in lind i coire toll

‘a lord who has not hostages in pledge is like liquor in a leaky caldron.’

ib. 15. *Fasting upon neighbouring territories*. As to the custom of ‘fasting upon a person’ in order to enforce one’s claims see ‘Ancient Laws of Ireland,’ vol. i., p. 82, note 1, and the Preface to that volume, p. xlviii.

ib. 23. Here *íasc* is used collectively, as in *immed n-éisc*, Hib. Min. p. 41, 5. *tucsat íasc dóib*, Alex. 752. *dia tomna íasc indberu rotbía éu*, LU. 67a25, *rucsat imbed ind éisc amrai inna curach*, Anecd. I, p. 67, § 147, &c.

ib. 27. *Seawaiifs*, or foreigners cast ashore. Cf. Atkinson, Laws’ Glossary s.v. *mur-chuirthe*. As to their treatment under the native law see Laws i., p. 128.

ib. 37. Here and in § 2, 13 none of the mss. has the Old-Irish *bibdad*.

§ 2, 2. *for talman tuind*. As is so often the case in Middle-Irish mss., this Old-Irish construction of putting the gen. attribute before the noun on which it depends, which was no longer understood, was altered by the scribes so as to make the first noun dependent in case upon the preposition. See Thurneysen, *Imram Snédgusa* p. 17.

§ 3, 21. *cairdde* is neut., not fem., as stated in my Contributions. n. sg. *a cairde*, Ml. 91 c; gen. *in chairdi*, ib. 110a4. So in *Imram Snédg*. § 50 *cen chuit cairdi* rhymes correctly with *forsin fairgi*.

ib. 23. *fianna cen díummus*. By *fianna* I understand roving bands of mercenary soldiers who offered their services to Irish kings at home and abroad. In § 31, 10 *fénnid*, a member of the *fiann*, is distinguished from the *amus* or member of the household troops. A famous *rig-fénnid* or leader of *fianna* was

¹ Copies of this poem occur in the following mss.:—LL. p. 147b; H. 3. 18, p. 41; Book of Lismore, fo. 95a2, where it is ascribed to Dubdathúath; Egerton 92, fo. 9a1; Laud 610, fo. 72b1, where the heading is: Fingen. cc. do Chormac mac Cuillennáin; and the Brussels ms. 5057-59, fo. 42.

Máeluma Garg mac Báetáin, who came to the help of King Aedán mac Gabráin against the Saxons in the battle of Degsastán. I hope to deal more fully with this institution in the Introduction to the next volume of Todd Lectures, which will contain a number of hitherto unpublished Old-Irish texts referring to Find and other historical or legendary leaders of *fianna*.

§ 4, 16. Perhaps *feidle fri comada*, 'faithfulness with regard to conditions (or terms)' is the correct reading. My rendering of *comad* by 'recital' is a mere guess. See the Glossary.

§ 6, 13. *rop fénech*. My translation is based upon the meaning of the derivative *fénechas* by which the code of native law is commonly denoted.¹

In *árusc fénech* (*Imram Snédgusa*, ed. Thurneysen, § 15) it seems simply to denote 'Irish.' *Féne*, I take it, was originally a tribal name² which for some reason came to denote the genuine or old Irish stock, as in the constantly recurring phrase *la Féne* in the Laws, which we also have in our text, § 32, 2.³ So *bérta Féne* denotes pure or correct Irish, somewhat in the sense in which *cruaidh-ghaedhilg* is now used, perhaps with a reference to the archaic language of the Laws. Thus the poet Dallán mac Móire calls King Cerball *ollam bérta Féne* (Rev. Celt. xx., p. 8), 'a master of Irish speech'; and when in the Triads § 16 Cork is called the seat of *bérta Féne Érenn*, we are to understand that the most correct Irish is to be found there. For Munster was always famous for its learning—*foglaimm Hérenn a mMumain*, LL. p. 245, marg. sup. In my opinion the word *Féne* has nothing to do with *fian*.

§ 10, 5. In the Triads, 112, 'praise after wages' is mentioned as 'one of the three speeches that are better than silence.'

§ 12, 4. Compare Triads, 82.

§ 13, 14. *báeth cech trén*. The exact meaning of *báeth* in this and other passages is not easy to determine. As the dictionaries show, the word has many meanings, and is applied e.g. to a wanton or lewd woman, to a skittish fawn, to foolish advice, imprudent or rash behaviour, innocent children, and to silly or half-witted persons.

ib. 29. If *surig* (*L*) is the right reading, the translation would be 'every fastidious person loves a dainty bed.'

§ 14, 11. *brón oc fleid*. Cf. § 16, 45: *bróncha cuirmthige*, and § 19, 13: *ní ba brónach cuirmthige*.

ib. 23. *gel cech núa*. See the same proverb in the Dialogue between Fíthel and Cormac, *Hib. Min.* p. 82.

¹ Cf. *is de asbeir in file do Scotaib isin fénechus: conétaigti ara rígdalb rosc*, LB. 146a28. Ailfrid rígh ro ordneadh recht 7 fénechus na Saxan, FM. 900. *fénechas Hérenn Clúain Uama*, Triads 12.

² It occurs as such in *Tairired na nDésse*, § 26, a text of the eighth century. Cf. a note in the Book of Armagh, Thesaurus Palæohibernicus, vol. ii., p. 240, 24.

³ Cf. a *Fénib each foras*, Corm. p. 33.

§ 15. This whole section is perhaps out of place here and belongs rather to Senbriathra Fíthil.

ib. 19. *fán cech aithisech*. This phrase recurs in the poem referred to above, LL. p. 147b25: *is fán aithisech farír!*

ib. 31. *Athissech cech coimsech*. Compare the Greek proverb βασιλικόν ἐστὶ κακῶς ἀκούειν, and *adcota flaith folabra(d)*, Briathra Fíthil.

§ 15, 38. *Every good art produces wealth*. Compare the German proverb *Handwerk hat einen goldenen Boden*.

§ 16. This formidable catalogue of woman's imperfections reminds one of similar wholesale denunciations in eastern literature, such as the following from the code of Gentos Laws translated by N. B. Halhed (London, 1776), p. 283:—

'Women have six qualities: the first, an inordinate desire for jewels and fine furniture, handsome clothes, and nice victuals; the second, immoderate lust; the third, violent anger; the fourth, deep resentment, i.e. no person knows the sentiments concealed in their hearts; the fifth, another person's good appears evil in their eyes; the sixth, they commit bad actions.'

In the sayings of Fíthel (23 N 27, p. 33) the fifteen virtues of good women and the fifteen vices of bad women are enumerated as follows: *Cúic airdena* (ailgena ms.) *déc degmná*: *cíall, cóime, connlacht, náire, áille, áilgine, saidbres, sogóidelg nó soithnge, tlás, fos, féile, gáis, idna, indracus*. *Cúic airdena déc drochmná* .i. *doinnme, díbe, dímaine, labra, leisce, liuntaighe, glór, gráinne, cesacht, cuairt, goit, céilide, drúis, báes, brataige*.

ib. 88. *rodíallat* for Old-Irish *doríallat*. The verb is here used in a transitive sense.

ib. 96. Here *B* seems to have badly copied an original *dorinólat*. I can make nothing of the additional readings of *D*, *B* and *N*². *B* also adds: *adandad nad deargad*¹ = *adsannaid nad tarccad* *N*² 'They kindle what they do not . . .'

ib. 114. Here *D* adds after *cloth*: *ná goil ná cerd dána ná dlíged et ní techtfa aontoidh Dé ná daoine 7 ní bia denta in . . . fria ceorp— et conbera a cétsaid sauibchiall . . . g— dail anneich contúaisi fri drochmndíbh* 'nor valour nor skill of art nor reason, and he will not possess union with God or men, and . . . of every one who listens to bad women.'

ib. 122. At the end of the paragraph *D* adds: *Gorab maith an t-olc, gorab flaith ifern, go rocheala grían a soillsi, co rothuitett reanna nimhe, co roforbara bióth ier mbráth, go roscéra fód férach, ní bia ben acht mar atrubramar. Mairg tra ámm nosgrádaig, nosldmaig, nosriaraig, nosmianaig, mairg gach aon isa fríthe an drochmhnaoi!*² 'Until evil is good, until hell is heaven, until the sun hide his light, until the stars of heaven fall, until the world increase after Doom, until the grassy sod split, woman will be as we have said. Woe then verily to him who loves them, who caresses them, who humours them, who desires them! woe to every one who has found bad women!'

¹ *deirgad*, with punctum delens under *i*.

² Read *isa fríthe drochmná*, which is translated.

§ 17. For other weather-prognostics see *Hibernica Minora*, p. 39. In Egerton 1782, fo. 43a there is a *eailleóracht* or weather-prophecy from the week-day on which the first of January falls. It is ascribed to Fintan, i.e. Fintan mac Bóchra. Unfortunately it is largely illegible. The beginning is: Caland Enair for domnach, bliadan cháinchomracach, gem maith, errach . . . secc, foghmar maith, toirthi bega, maith beich 7 cáirig . . . Caland for luan, gem dúr tirim dubach, errach maith, sam gæthach . . . tirim ainbtenach, maith a foghmar. Caland for mairt, geim ilsínoch brónach . . . asgolt imdo, bit ili tedhmonn . . . báidhfitir noo, 'When the calends of January fall upon a Sunday, the year will be kindly, there will be a good winter, a dry spring, a good autumn, small fruit, bees and sheep good. When the calends fall upon a Monday, there will be a hard dry gloomy winter, a good spring, a windy dry tempestuous summer, its autumn will be good. When the calends fall upon a Tuesday, there will be a many-weathered grievous winter, much famine, there will be many plagues, ships will be drowned.'

§ 19, 7. *ní cria* &c. Cf. Laws iii., p. 58, 6: *ní cria do báeth[aib] filit la Féine, do mnái, do chimbid, do mug, do chumail, do manach, do mac beoathar, do deorad, do t[h]áid*.—*arusc* or *airriusc* is obscure to me.

§ 19, 17. None of the mss. have the reading which I propose, though some of them come pretty near it. For the construction cf. *ná tabair aithne* (leg. *aichne*) *ar* (= for) in *muintir féin sech na comaichaib* (leg. *comaitchib*), Laws iii., p. 416, 12.

ib. 31. Here *aithbe*, literally 're-beat,' i.e. 'ebb, exhaustion,' like so many other abstract nouns, is used in application to a person.

§ 21, 4. *élud elta*. Of this I can make nothing, unless *elta* is miswritten for *alta* (*N*²), in which case one might perhaps render 'escaping on a cliff,' hardly a satisfactory meaning. Compare however *cluiche for aill*, § 14, 15.

§ 22. This paragraph occurs also in a metrical treatise in the Edinburgh ms. vii. No. 3, beginning on fo. 8 a 1 with the words: *Tréidhe dleaghar don ollam fíledh* (fílidh ms.) *andso sis .i. teinm laegha 7 imas forosna* (forosnadh ms.) *7 dicheadal do cheannaibh*. Instead of *a adbhlos fadéin* it has *a moladh budésin*. It leaves out ll. 19 and 20, for which it substitutes *fáilti fri tuisil tagra, tomus fri harda and tagra fergach*, thus making 18 instead of 17 items. Then follows: *secht comartadha déc deagtagra .i. dathagud scél, scannrud briathar, brodlach n-urlabra, aithi inntleachtach, innsene fossaid, athcur n-aineolais, imradad fis, forus fégi, fechemnus féig* . . . the text breaking off with the end of the folio.

ib. 5. *attach ndrochbérilai*. I have taken *attach* as the verb-noun of *ad-techim*; but it is possible that it is here the verb-noun of *ad-teoch*, in which case the rendering would be 'a pleading in bad language.' O'Clery's gloss .i. *bheith anchainnteach* does not help.

ib. 8. *rigne labartha*. Cf. Triads, 179.

ib. 11. *derbad n-inderb*. Perhaps *derbad n-indeirb* 'affirming what cannot be affirmed' (cf. the variant of *H*²) is the correct reading.

ib. 13. *súd fri nóisi*. Cf. *súd fri fiadnu*, Triads § 174.

§ 25, 5. *ái útmaille*. Cf. *ái fossad*, Triads § 174.

§ 30, 6. I cannot suggest any emendation. The reading of *L inotagar cath* means 'a battle is entered.'

§ 32, 8. It is possible that *coirpetae* is miswritten for *coirpthe* 'corrupt.'

§ 33, 3. In the Triads cheek, knee and breast are called the three halidoms of the Irish.

§ 34, 14. *D* adds the following set of legal maxims, which do not seem to have anything to do here:—

ní hinchóisc idna immarba,
 ní apail ire anfaitechius,
 ní fasta iubail,
 ní iada faill for diubarta,
 ní imgaib firén fugallbla,
 ní faillig endca úasalbreth,
 ní hescaid fuigell fo dallbach,
 ní foim diubairt deoradbreth,
 ní dech santach senchada,
 ní foim firinne forngabáil,
 ní fulaing lena lánfola,
 leithi firinne fásach,
 dofúaslaic fir cech ndochar,
 rátha imda écsamla,
 crena cosmaile,
 etercerta díрге,
 imchomarc ngrésach cen breth ar lethscél,
 breth iar fír do chách,
 condircle fri fand,
 cuimne co n-indraccus,
 nít breithem nád foglaintig,
 níp saí nech corop dáí,
 cach fis iar n-anfis,
 sochoisci a mbésa,
 dochoisci imroe.

§ 35, 2. Cf. *robud do throich*, Triads 83; *Aisl. Maic Conglinne*, p. 71, 20.

§ 36. Contrast with this the following characterisation of bad seasons from *Immacallam in dá Thuarad*, § 231: gaim dullech, sam dubach, fochmuine cen messu, errach cen bláthu 'winter leafy, summer gloomy, autumn without crops, spring without blossoms.'

GLOSSARY OF THE RARER WORDS

- ad-cúad**: subj. sg. 1: atchous 2, 3.
ad-gillim *I vow, promise.* adgellat 16, 98. See Contributions s.v. Perf. sg. 2 adruiglais RC. 14, 454. sg. 3 atrugell, LU. 132a28. pl. 2: adruiglisid Anecd. I, 43.
aichnech *knowing, cognizant* 19, 17.
ailt *a house.* dat. ailt 3, 53.
air-licud *a lending or hiring out on pledge or interest* 13, 33.
aiscim *I reproach, rebuke* 7, 25. A denominative from *aisc* 'reproach.'
aitchennach ? 19, 28.
aititiu f. (v.n. of ad-daimim) *cognizance.* 15, 37. See Laws' Gloss. and Contrib. s.v. ad-daimim.
an-slicht *a wrong track, wrong* 6, 30.
arasc, airresc ? m. ? dat. aruse, airriuse 19, 8. Hence perhaps the proper name Arascach, AU. 747.
ar-fichim (v.n. air-gal f.) *I vanquish* 15, 2.
arrachtach *strong, tough, obstinate, stubborn* 15, 33. n. pl. f. airrechtga 16, 20, 57. imthigeas go ha., ML. 20, 5. Hence **arrachtaige** f. a. na n-obar n-aosda *the strength of the ancient works* MS. Mat. p. 579, 10.
atáthum *est mihi.* 2, 2.
athissech (1) *reviling* 15, 19, 32. (2) *liable to be reviled*¹ 15, 31.
bec-enech *having small honour* 33, 2. Cf. the proper name Becenech, Rawl. B. 502, p. 160b.
cenn-isel *low-headed, hang-head* 33, 11. Aisl. M. 29, 22.
cér wax 21, 6.
cermna ? 27, 6.
cétach *one of a hundred* 8, 8.
cia (with enclitic verb) *how* ? 13, 1, 16, 1. Cf. Contributions s.v. 4. *cia*, and add: *cia acci ar slúag* ? TBC. 223, 228. *is maith limb-so cia thési dó*, CZ. iv, p. 35.
coirpetae 32, 8. See note.
comad *a recital? song* ? 4, 16. Cf. Ériu I, p. 39. Perhaps originally not different from *comad*, the verbal noun of *con-óim* 'an adjustment, arrangement.' Cf. Laws I, p. 264, 7.
com-láithre f. *composition* ? 2, 19. Cf. Cáin Adamnáin § 47.
comthanaim (fri) *I consort (with)* 19, 6. Cf. *comthanas* m. 'fellowship,' Contributions, formed like *lepthanas* &c. on the analogy of words in which the *n* belongs to the stem.
crimnach ? 15, 5. Cf. Contributions s.v.
cuire .i. uir N² ? 33, 7.
dérgna *not conspicuous, common, despised.* 29, 14. See Contributions.
dí-airithe *not particular, careless, prodigal.* O'R. 16, 44.
do-dáil *ill to meet, ill-met.* 13, 39.
do-ellaim used transitively, *I turn aside, deflect.* rodiallat 16, 88.
dóinech *humane* 15, 39.
dreisim *I break* 29, 17. *dreasaim*, O'R. co ndreised in carpat huile YBL. 42a47.
échtaid m. *an evil-doer* 19, 6.

¹ For the active and passive meaning of adjectives cf. *gaibthech* (1) *dangerous*, (2) *endangered*.

- eclaimm** n. (v.n. of as-gliunn) *a discussing, examining* 26, 4, 5. Sarauw, Irske Studier, p. 75. a n-eclaim ón gl. discutionem, Ml. 114b15. inni nádneclainni-siu, Ml. 64a 4. Literally, *a picking out*. gabsat eclaim 7 lomrad inna míl, RC. 10, 74. ib. 76, 2, 3.
- ech-tháid** m. *a horse-thief*. gen. -táda 28, 15. acc. im echtadait,¹ Laws i., p. 160, 2.
- eirse** ? 19, 35.
- éitir** *one who lives away from his land* 19, 29. Cf. díthir 'a landless person,' Triads 165.
- elc** *mischievous, capricious, jealous* 16, 103. Cf. ealemhair .i. tnúthach O'Cl. ragab ét 7 ealemaire 7 immfármait Dubthach Dáel Ulad imma mnái, Wi. TBC. 2749.
- engach** *noisy* 28, 4. .i. brégach nó cáintech, H. 3, 18, p. 416. do-dechaid Lochra co roisir 7 co hengach co cosnam 7 cetaib fri Pátraic, Arch. III., 14, § 28. SG. 268, 13. slúag étig engach, LL. 216a30. Aed Engach, Ir. T. III., 89, 27. Used as a noun: ferr éstecht indá hengach, D. 4. 2, fo. 55b1.
- érgna** *understanding, knowledge*. gen. érgnai 5, 3. 6, 40. ar febas a érgnai, LU. 121b. dat. co n-érgnu, LL. 6b50. SR. 3447. fer na n-é. n-óc, LL. 33b7. Cf. Rochond mac Ergnai, Ergna mac Ecnai, Immac. in Dá Thuarad, § 138.
- eslabra** f. *liberality* 5, 4. Er. II., 172.
- éslessach** *negligent* 15, 27; 19, 30.
- ésliss** *neglect*. 32, 8. CZ. III., 447, 6. nírbó thabarta d' eislis, LL. 110b22. ní cóir a thabairt i n-éislis, Arch. III., 295. LL. 207b21; 269a15.
- étaid** *jealous* 12, 16. 17. 32, 8. Triads 95.
- etar-gén** *I distinguish* 13, 1. 3; 16, 1.
- etar-gléim** *I distinguish* 16, 2.
- étsid** m. *a hearer* 6, 34 L.
- fallnur** *I rule*. fallnaither 2, 2. foll-nadar, LL. 294b8. mo theora ucse indiu | for Ríg fallnathair gríana, Add. 30, 512, fo. 41a. subj. sg. 3 follnaither, Ml. 90a9. follnaim, Wi. fán precipitate 15, 19.
- fásach** *a precedent, maxim*. dat. pl. fásaigib 3, 43. Triads 178.
- fénech** *versed in legal lore* 6, 13.
- fénnid** m. *a member of a fiann* 31, 10.
- ferach** *ferocious* 31, 7. fearach 'wild', O'R. Borrowed from Lat. *feroc-*. Cf. W. *ffer*, borrowed from Lat. *ferus*.
- fiad-míl** n. *a wild beast* 16, 102.
- fichtech** *one of twenty* 8, 7.
- fine-char** *loving one's kindred* 13, 10. irchar cach finechair, Corm. Tr., p. 98, s. v. irchaire.
- fó** *good* 12, 1.
- fochraibe** f. *nearness* 4, 10.
- fochmarc** *an asking, questioning* 3, 7. Wi. fochmore foruis, Immac. in dá Thuarad, § 50. do fochmarc a dhála immon caingin sin, Ir. T. III. Ir. Ordeals, § 66. f. inna héicse, LL. 187a26.
- foglaintid** m. *a learner* 13, 9.
- foichlige** f. *an earning* 16, 28.
- foimrim** *a using, making use of*, gen. -e 16, 35. Cf. Triads, Index s. v.
- fóin-bligim** *I soothe, humour* 16, 105. v. n. fóin - blegon, ib. 106. The original meaning is perhaps 'stroking,' literally 'empty or mock-milking.' For the use of fóin in the sense of 'mock' cf. *faon-mhathes*, SG. i., p. 6, 35, translated 'mock substance' by O'Grady.
- fo-labra** *a muttering, grumbling* 14, 7.
- folad** m. *substance, matter*. n. pl. folaid 3, 32. In Old-Ir. the word is neuter.
- follán** (fo-slán) *complete, perfect* 3, 35. Amra Coluim cach dia cep é nodgeba co f., LU. 6a21.

¹ Put in the glossary to the Laws under a non-existent *echtaige*.

forbaim (a denominative from *forba* n., v. n. of *for-benim*) *I achieve*. *forbat* 16, 86. 6 ro forb thra Aehil in ngním sa, TTr.² 1199.

for-comaim *I guard, watch*. *forcomat* 16, 87. Sg. 167b. ní hinund sin 7 flaith forcomat ind náe[i]b 7 ind fireóin, LL. 371a38. *I observe, keep*. *mani* forcomat in domnach etir a chríchu córu, Ériu ii., 106, 1. antí forcomh cresene, CZ. iii., 452, 17. *ma* forcomathar recht bân bathise, O'Gr. Cat. 100. *I preserve, keep*. *fortacomai*, Ml. 29a3.

for-dinge *a forcing, pressing, urging* 25, 9. in f. dorat Troil forru, TTr.² 1516. *dobidís na hanaim ig á f. issin lassair sin contra ipsam flammam animae cogebantur intrare*, Aisl. Tund. vii. Diumusach mac For-dinge, Anecd. ii., p. 49, § 10.

for-im-thecht (W. *gor-ym-daith*) *a walking about* 2, 25. Wi.

for-labar *over-talkative* 7, 19n.

forrán *an assault, aggression, a raid*. n. pl. —al, 30. acc. sg. fúair forráin is frithargain, LL. 129b18. *dorat* forrán for Tamár, SR. 6710.

forránach *aggressive* 32, 7.

forsmachtach *masterful* 32, 7.

freitech (v. n. of *fris-tongim*) n. *a renouncing, repudiating* 14, 9.

freslige n. *a lying down with* 16, 12. *cohabitation* 16, 57. 31, 24.

fris-sáilim *I expect of* 29, 10.

frith-chathugud *a fighting against* 22, 4.

frith-folad m. *a thing given in return*. f. fir 1, 7. n. pl. -folaid, ib. acc. pl. atcota féile frithfolta, Briathra Fíthil.

fúarrech *gentle, benign* 13, 10. Wi. *ba f. fri cách!* Er. ii., 172. *súarrach* is also found; *suarrach* tabarta, Hib. Min., p. 65, 12.

fúath-ledb *a pattern made of leather* 33, 10. *usaite lé in torad dogní ó láim inn [f]úathledb ina fiadnaisi .i. fúath in gresa innti*, Laws i., p. 152, 23. From *fúath* 'shape,' and *ledb* f. *a*

leathern strip, shred. acc. *tresan leidb*, Laws i., 144, 2. *a cutilia .i. ó leidb .i. ní má a bríg quam ledb de cute*, O'Mulc. 257. *ba sanntach* (viz. in sinnach) *um na leadbaib batar uime* (viz. in lebor) *dianechtair*, Lism. L. 4052. *leadbán*, SG. 21, 34.

fuichecht f. *adultery, fornication* 31, 14. Triads 155. *gúgairm fuchachta a false cry of cuckoldry*, O'Dav. 935.

fuillem *interest* 3, 31. See Laws' Gloss.

fursmalt *exaction?* 2, 21. *dobebat flathi ria n-anflathib la fursmalta fer ndubga[e]*, Immac. in dá Thuarad § 191.

gáibthech *dangerous* 15, 7. Wi. in *gleo guinech gaimtheach*, YBL. 206h.

galgat f. (1) *an outrage* 37, 2. See Ériu i., p. 42. n. pl. *mára galgata*, grith faebair for Cairpri clannaib, Rawl. B. 502, p. 121a. (2) *a champion*. for *galgataib* Gréc, TTr. 1985. *na galgata sain na Gréci 7 lucht na Eorpa* TTr. 856. MR. 224, 10. for *slicht na ban-galgatai (nó gaitte) .i. mná Nechtain mic Núadat*, Ferm. fo. 19a.

gárechtach *boisterous* 16, 23. SG. ii., 476, 48. *ní thuca in cainind ngáir-echtaig!* LL. 346, 15. *ní bat gárechtach aiscedaig fergnúsi ocom urnaidm*, ib. 123b24. *do chlaind Galaim gárechtach*, ib. 156b44.

gartach *generous* 6, 15. *fial do gnúis, g. do grúad*, LL. 119b8.

gartaid *a generous man* 6, 15. *bid féinnid, bid g.*, SG. p. 254, 25.

genaige *mock; a laughing-stock*. *lánam-nas g.*, Laws ii., p. 356, 11. *atbérthar bid genaige*, Ll. 111a33. *coirm ng.*, biad g., Ir.T. ii., p. 174, 2.

geránach *grumbling* 34, 7. *ciamair g.*, BB., p. 461a42. RC. ix., p. 472, 10, 13.

gerthide *greasy* 3, 53. As a proper name: *mac don Maelodur in gerthide*, Rawl. B. 502, p. 119b. From *geir* f. *gen. gered* 'grease.' Aisl. M.

gobél f. *a strait of the sea* 17, 17. is sí ind alagobél inso domimmuire, Wb. 23b36. is fúar gabél gaethach, LL. 178b37. gaibhél uathmar ilphíastach, Hy Maine, fo. 116b.

gonach (gontach) *inflicting wounds* 7, 23. sleagha gonacha gáibtheacha, Atlantis iv., p. 178.

gusmar *strong, stubborn* 16, 39. ric in gilla g. gand, Amra Col. C.

iarngáesach *after-wise* 28, 4.

iarngáeth *after-wise* 14, 7 DN².

i-fuirech *a delaying much* 34, 5.

il-míanach *having many desires* 34, 4.

imda *prolix, tedious* 16, 76. 32, 9.

im-gonaid m. *a striker* 15, 9.

imresnaid m. *a quarrelsome person* 13, 18.

im-scoltad *a splitting* 22, 10.

im-tíagu *I go about.* Subj. sg. 3 imté 33, 11.

inir (in-fir) *manly, stubborn* 16, 43. ba tnúthach 7 ba hinfir in comrac sa, LL. 291a27. a ngluind, a n-échtá, a n-orgni batar infir, ib. 183b.

inire f. *manliness, sternness* 3, 24. inire debtha, LL. 344d. inire fri náimtiu, inruccus fri bráthri, ib. 343b.

in-gor *undutiful, impious* 6, 42. voc. pl. á ingru! ML. 76c1.

irchaire f. *intercession?* 3, 22L. irchaire .i. iarchairdius .i. cara égnairce, ut dicitur: irchar cach finechair, Corm. Tr. p. 98.

itfaid .i. sáithech? 16, 16. Cf. itfa, Triads 231.

labor *arrogant* 15, 8. 16, 50. Wi.

lachtmar *rich in dairy produce* 11, 7. *full of milk.* secht mbá go lionnbholgaib ~a, ML. p. 4, 8. Hence **lachtmaire** f. 11, 12.

laimthech *daring, rash* 25, 11.

laimthenach *daring, venturesome* 7, 21. 'aggressive,' SG. 331, 1. ropsat laimthenaig na fir, LL. 205b 16. láimthinach, BB. 263b33.

lassamain *a light.* n. pl. lassamna 4, 5.

lax lenient. n. pl. laxa 6, 48.

legam m. *a moth,* n. pl. legaim 16, 119. Corm. Tr. p. 99.

lelap m. *a child* Wi. acc. pl. lelbu 31, 5. ar do lelbu, YBL. 122b21. im na lelbu, ib. 44.

lérigiur *I study.* lérigidir 2, 29. *I attend to, tend.* léirig do láego! RC. 20, p. 252.

lenamnach *stubborn* 25, 4. cath Lúachra ba lenamnach, RC. 29, 212, *following persistently,* Strachan, *Stories from the Táin s.v.*

lugach *swearing an oath* 27, 16.

luthbas *vigour, exertion, effort.* 4, 6. is bec ná rochrothset in talmáin la méit in luthbasa 7 la fichud na feirge rucsat na láech leo isin chath, TTr. 2208. Hence luthbasach, LL. p. 399a. láich luthbasaig, Alex. 478. in rí cróda comramach luthbasach, TTr. 207.

máel-chenn *bald-headed* 7, 17.

máithmech *vainglorious* 32, 4. 7, 23 N².

massech *elegantly dressed* 11, 18.

menmar (minmar)? 13, 33.

mesraigim *I moderate.* v.n. mesrugud 4, 12.

messair *a measure* 3, 39. messar gl. phiala, O'Mulc. 223. gen. do ibaind dig d' úachtur mesrach, CZ. iii., p. 35, 14. n. dual: dá mesair deac doberthe úaithe (from a cow) i n-óenfecht, Féil.² p. 202 § 9.

míad-char *dignified* 3, 38.

midid m. *a judge* 6, 45.

midláech *a coward* 15, 35. Usually midlach f. (cf. Germ. *die Memme*). Wi. SG. 58, 7. gen. nírbo thuttim midlaige, LL. 121b45. dat. pl. midlaigib 7 meraigib, LL. 87a. Hence midlaigeacht f. *cowardice*, LL. 97b.

miochair *kind, friendly* 3, 38 (N²).

miscnigim *I hate* 6, 31.

móidech *boastful* 7, 23.

móithe f. *gentleness* 30, 9.

mórda *proud* 13, 17, 16, 4.

mórdatu m. *haughtiness* 1, 5. Ir. T. iii., p. 193.

mórtu m. *haughtiness* 14, 18.

múna *morose, truculent*, 13, 16. Wi. Hence **múnatu** m. Wi. CZ. iii., p. 450, 5.

mur-chuirthe a *sea-waif* 1, 27.

neóit *niggardly* 12, 14, 17, 32, 8. níb n. bréccach! LL. 360 marg.

6-béle *open-mouthed* 25, 12. óbélda also occurs: co mbái amail choire n-6bélda, Dinds. § 145.

ocal *violent, fierce* 32, 8. Wi. ba hocgal anbsaid écialla, TTr. 543. lasin rí n-ocul ndíumsach, LB. 181a. minap ole 7 minap ocallatt, LB. 116b. oegal, LL. 224b18. is ocul fri gach menicc, Ériu ii., p. 228. Hence **oclatu**, Wb. 15d34, and **oclaigur**, Trip. 462, 24.

oidim I *lend*. Subj. sg. 2 ois 19, 21. mad ois do tharb do óen na comaithech, O'Dav. 1310. imper. sg. 2 oid menmain, Féil. June 1 (= Ml. 24 13); part. nec. oissi menmain, Ml. 115c6. óid menmain, ib. 101b5.

óin (v.n. of oidim) a *lending* 3, 36. Sarauw, Irske Studier, p. 87.

óil-chobra a *banquet* 11, 11.

óilchobrach *banqueting, a giver of banquets* 11, 16.

persannacht f. *personality* 33, 6.

prap *sudden, quick* 33, 6. rapa phrapp in choméirge, LL. 27a. máthair na mac nglan prap, ib. 49a.

rechtaide *lawful* 3, 12.

réid-einech *smooth-faced* 3, 52.

réil-breth f. a *clear judgment* 1, 43.

rescach *prattling, babbling* 16, 81. in fer r., RC. 12, 100, § 134.

riaglach *regular, according to rules* 3, 10.

riss a *story, tale*. n. pl. rissi 35, 4.

roilbe (ro-slébe) a *great height* 19, 9.

ro-labra f. *too much talking* 14, 32.

romuir n. *the surf of the sea, sea* 19, 9.

Féil. Index. gen. tracht romra, Anecd. ii., 15 § 8. im romra ró, LU. 40a 23. is tond romra bádes, LL. 98a 40. im-Muir romra Rúaid, SR. 3982. romra tar rian, Anecd. I, 63, § 115.

roscad a *precedent* 3, 44.

rudrach *holding possession by prescription* 15, 12, 16, 22. Used as a noun, Féil.² p. 182, 18. focul cen chlóen, cen rudrach, LL. 293a 3.

rúinid, rúnaid m. a *councillor* 31, 16, 34, 8.

saigthech *invasive* 6, 5. an invader, Alex. 639.

sámach *fond of ease* 15, 16.

sanas a *secret, counsel* 6, 36.

scarthach *unsociable* 19, 34.

scélugud *story-telling* 4, 13.

sceo and 13, 3.

selbach *wealthy* 13, 30.

seól a *bed*; gen. siúil 21, 5.

sétrech *powerful, puissant* 15, 25. Cf. ba-sa s. sáithech, Imr. Br. ii., 292, with gen. *capable of*. nírbó s. comlaind, LL. 256b19. co s. 7 co ferda, 255b47. MR. 182, 3. ní ba s. Alaxandair fri tomait bid, Alex. corrop séitrig ar serraig, LL. 171b27. Hence **séitrige** f. MR. 154, 156.

sercaid (seircid) m. a *lover* 6, 40.

slicht-lethan *broad-tracked* 13, 31.

smachtaid m. a *masterful person* 6, 42.

snímach *troubling, careful* 16, 84.

so-acallaim f., **so-acallma** f., **so-acallmacht** f. *affability* 1, 5.

so-acallmach *affable* 6, 7.

so-accobrach *having good desires* 6, 6.

sobraig *sober, staid, tranquil* 6, 4, 31, 15. LL. 132b1. ib. 125 m. sup. ba sobraid a bás co bás, FM. 904 (p. 572). O. Ir. sobrich, Wb. 31b35.

so-choisc *docile* 15, 36.

sochraid *decorous* 6, 16.

so-geis *having good gessa* 6, 3.

sognaid *decorous* 31, 14.

so-gnais *sociable* 6, 17.

- soichlige** *f. liberality* 4, 8.
sóisil *haughty* 15, 29. *nip sotal sóisil sain-airlech!* LL. 294a36.
solam *handy, nimble* 13, 34. Wi. *swift. isin charput solam*, LU. 113a3.
so-lephthach *well-bedded* 13, 29.
so-mesc *bibulous* 34, 9.
sothcherna, *literally, what behoves a good lord, i.e. liberal, generous* 13, 32.
sprecad *an inciting, provoking* 22, 16.
srían-gabrach *fond of bridled horses* 11, 5.
su-aibsech *genial* 13, 32.
súilim *I regard* 29, 15.
suim *well-clad* 12, 5.
suirgech *a wooer, suitor* 13, 29. Triads, Index.
sulig *easy, gentle* 7, 9.
surig *dainty, fastidious* 13, 29 L. 32, 4.
- tairbertaid** *a provider, manager* 6, 46. 34, 3.
taircsinach *offering, promising* 7, 20.
tairired (*tair-šired*) *an expedition, journey; gen. tairirid* 16, 65.
tairngertach *vowing, promising* 15, 28.
táithe *f. theft* 16, 22. 36. *táide* Wi.
taithesc *a response* 3, 38. Wb. 27c29.
taithlech *an excuse; gen. taithlig* 16, 24.
táltugud *an appeasing, soothing* 16, 108. Wi. BB. 257a48. YBL. 177a.
- táth** *unpressed cheese made of sour milk curds* 21, 6. Aisl. M.
tathigid *a visiting. gen. tathigthe* 16, 4.
teichmech *flighty* 32, 5.
telachtach *loose* 25, 6.
téte *f. luxury, luxuriousness* 11, 10.
tibir (tibre) *a laughing-stock* 13, 15; 19, 12. *ciarbo thúi nírbó thibri*, LL. 446.
tithis, see **tung**.
tláith *feeble* 14, 26.
tochus *m. due, right* 6, 43. *iarna grád 7 iarna t.*, LL. 187b5.
todiúir *tearful* 16, 48. *sethnach tanaide todeóir*, Ériu II., p. 65. *taidínir*, BB. 463b80. *is todiúir mo gnúis*, LL. 147a30.
toich *acceptable* 3, 36.
toiched *a suing* 25, 6. See *Laws' Gloss. s.v.*
tomtenach *full of thoughts or opinions* 15, 3. 16, 63.
tórachtach *pursuing* 16, 25.
treorach *guiding, directing. t. i cerdaib cáich* 1, 1 Lec.
túaichle *f. cunning* 16, 119.
tuillmech *adding, increasing*, 16, 51.
tung *I swear* 27, 16. *tungu*, O'Mulc. 469. *fut. sg. 1 tithis* 27, 17.
turach *dry food* 21, 6.
tur-fochraic *f. a buying* 14, 27.
tur-gorud *a warming, cherishing* 16, 111.

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