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The Expulsion of the Dessi.

BY PROFESSOR KUNO MEYER, PH.D.

OUR knowledge of Irish history during the early centuries of our era is fortunately not confined to the meagre accounts of the Annals. In addition to them, and as independent sources, we possess a large mass of materials in the histories of individual tribes, genealogical tables, chronological poems, sagas, and saints' Lives, all bearing upon the early history of Ireland. These materials are, of course, of the most varied origin and age, and will have to be carefully tested and sifted. Not until this has been done will the historian of Ireland have before him all the materials which Irish literature affords.

Much inedited matter of this kind is found in the Bodleian codices Rawlinson B. 502 and 512, and in Laud 610. Among other important texts I may mention the piece called *Baile in Scáil*, or 'The Vision of the Phantom,' which enumerates more than fifty Irish kings from Conn Cétchathach (A.D. 123-157) downward to the eleventh century, together with the duration of their reigns, long lists of battles fought by them, the circumstances of their deaths, and other details.¹ But it is the tribal histories that are perhaps of the greatest historical value, as they certainly are of the widest interest. One of these, dealing

¹ There is a fragment of the same piece in Harleian 5280, of which I am preparing an edition for publication in the third number of the *Zeitschrift für Celt. Philologie*, vol. iii.

with what in a term borrowed from contemporary history may be called the trekkings of the tribe of the Déssi¹ and originally written, as has been shown,² in the latter half of the eighth century, is here edited and translated for the first time. Its special interest for Welsh students lies in the fact that it contains an account of an Irish settlement in Wales during the third century (§ 11).

Two different versions of the story have come down to us. The older, the one here printed, which I will call A, has been preserved in Laud 610, fo. 99b 2—102a 2, and in Rawl. B. 502, fo. 72a 2—73a 2. In Laud the title is *De causis torche³ na nDéssi . i . acuis toirge na nDésse*, while Rawl. has the heading *Tairired⁴ na nDéssi*. As is so often the case in dealing with Irish texts, it was difficult to decide which of the two copies to make the staple of the edition, as neither is in every way superior to the other, and both correct and supplement each other. The best thing undoubtedly would be to do, as Stokes has done with *Félire Oengusso*, and Windisch with several pieces in the *Irische Texte*, to print both copies *in extenso*, but this would have taken up too much space. I have, therefore, selected the Rawlinson text as needing, on the whole, less correction than that of Laud, though the latter excels it in retaining a more archaic spelling. As regards the text itself, the two copies are in the main almost identical,

¹ The name of this tribe is preserved by those of the barony of *Deece*, co. Meath, their original home, and of the two baronies of *Decies*, co. Waterford.

² See *Y Cymmrodor*, vol. xii, p. 20.

³ I am not sure of the exact meaning of *torche* (*toirge*). It seems to combine the meanings of German *Zug* (1) expedition, (2) band, company.

⁴ As to *tairired* 'journeying,' cf. *mithid dam-sa toirired*, Book of Lismore, fo. 53b 2. *tairired Bóinne*, LL. 191a 7. gen. *fer tairirid*, *Laws*, i, p. 194, 20.

though the single paragraphs are differently arranged. The most important variants of Laud are given in the footnotes. Where Laud deviates from Rawlinson I have sometimes indicated this in the translation by putting the reading of Laud in parenthesis; in a few cases these translations have been put at the foot of the page. Towards the end of both copies the scribes have become careless, and each has blundered in his own way.

The second and later version of our story, which I will call B, deserves a separate publication. So far as I know, it has come down to us in three copies, the oldest of which is a fragment contained in the *Book of the Dun*, pp. 53a—54b. It has the heading *Tucait innarba na nDési imMumain 7 aided Cormaic*. Its gaps can easily be supplied from two later copies, one in H. 3. 17, col. 720b—723a (entitled *Cóechad Cormaic i Temraig*), the other in H. 2. 15, pp. 67a—68b (*Tucaid cháechta Cormaic do Aengus Gaibuaibtheach 7 aigead Ceallaig 7 fotha indarbtha na nDeissi do Muig Breag*). The latter MS. preserves a number of poems not contained in the other copies. Whether one of the two versions, or which of them, is identical with the *Tochomlad na nDési a Temraig* quoted in the list of tales in D'Arbois de Jubainville's *Catalogue*, p. 263, and with the *Longes Eithne Uathaige* (*ib.*, p. 171), I cannot say.

K. M.

Tairired na nDessi inso ar a choibne fri Fotharto ocus
batar *trichait bliadan* la Laigniu.¹

1. Cethri *maic* batar la Harttchorb mac Meschuirb . i . Brecc 7 Oengus 7 Eochuid² 7 Forad.³ Forad dano, mac *side cumaile*⁴ 7 ni ragaib thir, 7 is he ba sinu⁵ dib. Nert coecat *immurqu* la Hoengus.

2. Bæ dano mac tét la rig Temrach . i . Conn mac Corbmaic. Gabais laim ingine Foraid⁶ . i . Forach a [h]ainm 7 fordoscarastar. Forumai Oengus for a hiarair na hingine⁷, co luid⁸ hi Temraig. Ni tharraid gabail na slabrad batar ar comloid na slige;⁹ ar ba hécen fer cechtar a da slabrad *side dogres*.¹⁰ Confacca a chomalta¹¹ for dheis *maic* ind rig. ‘Ni maculammar in clemnas nua sin,’ ar Oengus.¹² Friscair mac ind rig: ‘Daimthi dail cuind dam-sa!’¹³ Archena déma-su cen co dama-su.’ ‘Nocon fodem cetumus,’¹⁴ ar Oengus. Atróeraid Oengus [d]in tsleig *trüit*.¹⁵ Bi dano indala slabrad suil ind rig, co roemaid¹⁶ ina chind.¹⁷ Intan dosreng in sleig adochum,

Laud 610, fo. 99 b 2.—¹ De causis torche na nDéisi innso . i . acuis toirge na nDéisi ² Allmuir *add.* ³ Sorad ⁴ chumle ⁵ a sinser ⁶ Soraith ⁷ luidh Aengus gaibuaibthech lád gaile for iarair
⁸ conluid ⁹ ni tarraid na slabrada batar hi croumlaib in gai
¹⁰ *L. omits this sentence.* ¹¹ inn ingin ¹² ni messe, ol se, conailla in clemnas n-isiu ¹³ Atberat ris: Daimthi dál cuind do-som inní sein.
¹⁴ ni didam-sa caimme ¹⁵ atnuarith side din tsleig conluith triit . i . sleg 7 da slabrad esti 7 triar for each slabrad dib ¹⁶ corobris ¹⁷ co n-ecmoing a hirlond inn-éton in rechtaire co mboi triana chend siar. Immalle dorochratar in mac 7 in rechtaire 7 romebaid súil Cormaic 7 ní roachtas greim fair, corrócht a theg 7 romarb nonbar do churadaib Cormaic occá thafund . i . a dalta leis . i . Corc Duibne diatát Corco Duibne 7 atrullai sede a giallu.

These are the Wanderings of the Dessi (which are put here) because of their kinship with the Fothairt;¹ and they were thirty years in Leinster.

1. Artchorp son of Messchorp had four sons, to wit, Brecc and Oengus and Eochuid and Forad.² Forad, however, was the son of a bondmaid and did not get any land, and he was the eldest of them. Oengus had the strength of fifty men.

2. Now the King of Tara³ had a wanton son, to wit, Conn⁴ mac Cormaic, who forcibly seized the daughter of Forad—Forach was her name—and ravished her. Then Oengus set out in search of the girl and went to Tara. He did not secure the chains which were on the . . .⁵ of the lance; for a man was needed for each of these two chains of his always.⁶ He saw his fosterchild sitting at the right hand of the King's son. 'We have not heard of this new alliance,' said Oengus. The King's son answered: 'Grant me the respite of a grown-up person! In any case, thou wilt have to bear it, though thou do not grant it.' 'To begin with, I will not bear it!' said Oengus and ran the lance through him. Then one of the two chains struck the eye of the King, so that it broke in his head; and when he

¹ An account of the tribe of the Fothairt precedes this story in the MS. ² Sorad, *Laud.* ³ *i.e.* Cormac mac Airt. ⁴ He is called Cellach by Tigernach (see *Rev. Celt.*, xvii, p. 19.) ⁵ What the *comla* ('valve') of a lance, to which the chains were affixed may be I do not know; perhaps a ring that would turn round. Nor do I understand the *croumlaib* of *Laud.* ⁶ *i. e.* these chains when taken out would each demand the sacrifice of a man. The scribe of H. 2. 15 understands this differently; for he writes: *triar fer cacha slabraid ig a tarraing* 'three men were needed for carrying each chain.' This lance reminds one of Maelodran's lance, the *Carr Belaig Durgin*, which killed of its own accord, or when moved by a demon. See *Hibernica Minora*, p. 81.

rodbi fochoir na sleigi triasin deogbaire, conid se conapaid prius. Is arna slabradaib tra ba Hoengus Gæbuaibthech a ainm-seom.

3. Is desin rognid Ocheill for Temraig sechtair . i . clasa rath la Cormac, conid inte nofoihed som dogres, ar ni ba hada ri co n-anim do feis i Temraig. Conid de asberar Achell ar Themair *nó* ar aicce Temrach, daig na faichle bæ ar suil ind rig.¹

4. Bebais mac ind rig 7 dobert Oengus in mnai leis.

5. Dobert Cormac sluago forsna Deisse 7 romebdatar secht catha forthu ria n-Oengus co maccaib a brathar . i . Russ 7 Eogan.² Ba rii Oengus dar eisse mBricc co cenn . xl . laithi. Et balobrathair *cach* fer iarum, ar ni foerlangtar nert ind flatha 7 ind laith gaile 'moalé. Is ann asbeir-som: 'Forasselbthai for rige. Is dech dam-sa mo nert fodessin.'

6. Tecmall ri Temrach firu Herenn forthu 7 ni damair cert catha doib, co tarlaicset a thir do. Dolotar iarum co Laigniu co Fiachaig m-Baicceda mac Catháir, co rochart *side hú* Bairrche remib asa tir 7 fothaigtir na Deisse ann co

¹ Ni deochaid *didiu* Cormac hi Temuir, conid i n-Ochail [fo. 100 a 1] ar Themair robúi on uáir sin. ² Doratsat na Déise iarsin secht catha do Chormac. Ba tresiu fortarlín fer nHeirenn fadeóid la Cormac. Ba maith cid a cenel-som .i. na nDéise, cland Fiachach Soguitte *maic* Feidlimthe Rectoda *maic* Tuathail Techtmair. Oc Dumu Der *immurgu*, is and celebrat mna na nDéise .i. déra fola rotheilcset ic scarad fria tir 7 fria talmuin co bráth. I mMaig Inair, is and doratsat in cath déidenach. 'Is ininair in comrac indossa,' ar Cormac. 'Bid ed a hainm co bráth, Mag Innair.'

pulled the lance back, its butt end struck the cup-bearer and passed through him so that he died the first.¹ It was from the chains that his name was Oengus of the Dread Lance.

3. Hence Achail² was built by the side of Tara, that is to say, a *rath* was dug by Cormac in which he would always sleep; for it was not lawful for a king with a blemish to sleep in Tara. Hence is said Achail by Tara (or near Tara), on account of the care (*faichill*) taken of the eye of the King.

4. The King's son died, and Oengus took the woman away with him.

5. Cormac sent hosts against the Dessi, who were routed in seven battles under the leadership of Oengus and his brother's³ sons, to wit, Russ and Eogan. To the end of forty days Oengus was king after Brecc, and then every man murmurs,⁴ for they could not endure the combined power of the prince and the champion together. It is then he said: 'Take possession (?) of the kingship! My own strength is best for me.'

6. The King of Tara gathered the men of Ireland against them, and did not grant them fair fight, so that they left his land to him. Then they went into Leinster to Fiachu Bacceda, son of Cathair, who drove the Hui Bairrche for them out of their land; and there the Dessi were settled until the time of Crimthann, son of Enna

¹ So that its butt-end struck the forehead of the steward and came out at the back of his head. At the same time did the son and the steward fall and Cormac's eye was broken; and they could not lay hold of him, so that he reached his house. And he killed nine of Cormac's warriors as they were pursuing him, and his fosterson was with him, to wit, Core Duibne (from whom are the Corco Duibne), who had escaped from hostageship—*Laud*.

² Now the Hill of Skreen.

³ *i.e.* Brecc. ⁴ For *balobrathair* read *folabrathair*, 3rd sing. pres. ind. of *folabrur*.

haimsir Crimthaind maic Ennæ Ceinselaig maic Labrada maic Bresail Belaig maic Fiachach Baiceda.¹

7. Dorala læch² amra la hu³ Bairrchi . i . Eochu Guinech mac Oengusa, co rosglan side dia thir.⁴ Berthius Crimthand mac Ennæ i n-Aird Ladrann fodes⁵ immirge na n-Deisse, conid de ata Tir na Himmergi 7 Aes na Himmergi o shein ille.

8. Mell ingen Ernbraind ben Crimthaind bert macco do Chrimthund 7 atbath Mell iar suidiu. Ocus dobreth Cuiniu ingen Ernbraind do iarum.⁶ Bert Cuiniu ingen do . i . Eithne Uathach. Bæ Bri mac Bairceda in drui isin dun in n-aidchi⁷ rogenair Eithne. [fo. 72b, 1] ‘Ind ingen rogenair⁸ innocht,’ ar Bri, ‘rosfessatar⁹ fir Herenn uili¹⁰ 7 ardaig na hingine sin gebait a mathre in tir artrefat.¹¹ Amail atchualatar¹² som coir in sceoil sin lasin druid,¹³ co mbad tria chumachtu na hingine nogebtais forbbæ,¹⁴ rosaltatar¹⁵ for carnaib¹⁶ mac mbec co mbad luath no-assad.¹⁷ Is de ba Heithne Uathach a hainm-se, ardaig nos-aigtis in meicc bicc.¹⁸

¹ Rodlomtha trá co mbatar occ Hard na nDéise hi crích Laighen for Mag Liffe. Fiacho Baiceda *immurgu* mac Cathair Moir, is hé ba rígh in inbaid sin hil-Laighnib. Cart side Au Barreche rempu assa tír 7 suidigestar na Déisse and. Rothrebsat and co haimsir Crimthain mic Censelaig mic Endai Labrada mic Bresail Belaig mic Fiachach Baceda. Is 'na haimsir-side tollotar na Deisse for longais. ² Robúi óclách ³ d'uib ⁴ tír (*sic leg.*) ⁵ berthus Crimthan mac Censelaich issind Aird fodeissin. ⁶ Bert Meld ingen Ernbraind macco do-side. O rodamuir side dobreth Annu ingen Er[n]bruind dobert side óenigen (*sic*) do . i . Eithne a hainm ⁷ Búi Brí faith mic Bairchetia isin dún ind adaich sin ⁸ gignathar ⁹ rofessatar ¹⁰ *om. L.* ¹¹ Is tria chumachta gebaid am-mathre thír arattrefat co bráth ¹² rochualatar ¹³ fáith ¹⁴ tír ¹⁵ nosgabatsom 7 nosnaltatar ¹⁶ feolaib ¹⁷ luathite a forbairt ¹⁸ ar donaigtis na maic becca.

Censelach, son of Labraid, son of Bressal Belach, son of Fiachu Baceda.

7. There chanced to be a famous warrior with the Hui Bairrchi, to wit, Eochu Guinech, son of Oengus,¹ and he it was who drove them out of their land. Then Crimthann, son of Enna, sent the wandering host of the Dessi to Ard Ladrann southward, whence the Land of the Wandering Host and the Folk of the Wandering Host have been so called ever since.

8. Meld, the daughter of Ernbrand, the wife of Crimthand, bore sons to Crimthand and then died, whereupon Cuiniu, the daughter of Ernbrand, was married to him.

Cuiniu bore him a daughter, even Ethne the Dread. In the night when Ethne was born Bri, the druid, son of Bairchid,² was in the stronghold. 'The maiden that has been born to-night,' said Bri, 'all the men of Ireland shall know her, and on account of this maiden her mother's kindred will seize the land on which they shall dwell.' When they heard the truth of that story from the druid, that it was through the power of the maiden that they would obtain inheritance, they reared her on the flesh of little boys that she might grow quickly.³ Hence Ethne the Dread was her name, for the little boys dreaded her.

¹ Cf. Crimthand mac Ennæ. Eochu guinech rí húa mBarrchi, *mac a ingini féin, rosmarb*, LL. 39 b.

² Cf. Brí mac Baircheda, LL. 197 a 3.

³ the quicker.—*Laud.*

9. Is e a senathair in druad sin dano rochachain¹ a n-imthechta doib hic tuidecht atuid hi cath Truisten.² Is ann asbert: ‘Ni o Temair dochumlaid tigid tigid doth-aide gluind mara cotobcatha crethit cetnaanad tuidecht do mac Daurthecht deircthe Eogan sceo echta scen macco Echach Airiman Artt ero Corp coitua cel cichsit datfiannæ im Findhad mac Niod atroinne noifidir ruthit min mairfitit coicthe rann Dil diairithe Lethe Laidcind ilar lenthus diacoi crochæ marfit Dil nad flathius gaile genithar gaibthiut co firu Fochlæ ifaitse dosclich doarnid arus mac Meschuirb mogithar dalsus condesil fidgella forderga ordd araserb slas ninde mac nDega diagraif arrigthius rige os cach ros codi-dian desingar ar Ros mac Feochair feig falnathar cotafodlaib fergair cain iarnithu mac Riath rascthius itreichnimi conoid ni.’ Ni.³

10. Ticht⁴ tra o Chormac i n-diaid mac mBric .i. Ros 7 Eogan, co ndigsitis afrithisi co Cormac. Amail rochuala Oengus, asbert friu:⁵ ‘In fir,’ ar se, ‘tuidecht fri himmarchur sid 7 choræ frib-se? [‘Fír,]’⁶ ol seat. ‘Ronbia slan cach neich dorigensam⁷ 7 ronbiat da chutrumma ar tire liar tir fodesin⁸ 7 og coræ co brath.’

¹ dicachain ² o chath Druissen oc tuidecht antueth ³ Nitho Themuir dochumlith ticith dofaiteth gluind mair conib cath crechtnigther aratuitet da mac Durthacht dercthus echen sceo eche de sceo mac mair-Echach ere maine ard ere corba maccu delchidechsit dodareim Findchath mac Níathait no Endi rofitir ruithid find niarfithid coderaind Dil dia rathus Lithi Ladcend hilar lentus dia Chondochtæ norbe dal nad lathugaile gainethur gaibidith co firo Foichle hi foidse dosfeth tus ar dith arus mac Meschuirp mogethar dalsus condesisel ditafind gola folt forderga ord æra serbsi as indin indinn dega grisas rigthus rigib os cech rus condirannais ingair arus mac maic Fechuir fech fellnatar contofodli fergair conarnith mac Níath naiscthus hi trena hi triach none conoethu nithu Ni o Themuir dochumlit. ⁴ Tóhet ⁵ dotéit co maccu [fo. 100 a 2] a brathar dia n-acallaim. ⁶ sic L. ⁷ do neoch dongnisiu ⁸ da tír lar tir

9. Now, it was that druid's grandfather, who had sung their wanderings to them as they went from the north to the battle of Truistiu.¹ 'Tis then he said: 'Not from Tara, &c.'²

10. Then messengers were sent from Cormac after the sons of Brecc, even Russ and Eogan, that they should come back to Cormac. When Oengus heard that, he said to them: 'Is it true,' said he, 'that they have come on an errand of peace³ and treaty with you?' 'It is true,' said they. 'We are to be absolved of everything that we have done, and we are to have twice as much again as our own land, together with our own land and full peace till Doom.' 'Do not do it,' said Oengus, 'leave me not alone!

¹ Or, perhaps, 'at the Ford (*ic áth*) of Truistiu.'

² In the present state of our knowledge of Old-Irish it is impossible to understand more than an occasional word or phrase in these rhapsodical compositions. A comparison of the two versions shows how little they were understood by the scribes themselves.

³ Cf. *do immarchor chóre*, Wb. 5 a 5.

‘Na¹ denid,’ ar Oengus, ‘nadimfacbaid-se² m’oenur! Roforb³ da trian in⁴ tire araglaintem.⁵ Remthus⁶ do for clannaib for mo chlann-se co brath. Ocus mo chlann-sa do dul i cath 7 hi crích ria cach 7 do bith fodeoid ic tudecht a crích.⁷ Ocus co n-irglantar tír remib.⁸ Nachimfacbaid-se!’ Dorigset⁹ iarum anisin 7 dobretha¹⁰ fir¹¹ fris . i . fir ciche 7 gruaide, nime 7 talman, gréne 7 esca, druchta 7 daithe, mara 7 tire.

11. Luid Eochaid mac Arttchuirp dar muir cona chlaid hi crích Demed,¹² conid ann atbathatar¹³ a maic 7 a hui. Conid dib cenel Crimthaind allæ,¹⁴ diata Tualodor mac Rígin maic Catacuind maic Caittienn maic Clotenn maic Næe maic Artuir maic Rethoir maic Congair maic Gartbuir maic Alchoil maic Trestin maic Aeda Brosc maic Corath maic Echach Almuir maic Arttchuirp.¹⁵

12. Dobert Cormac húa Cuind breic im [d]a milid Oengusa ind rí¹⁶ . i . Grainne 7 Moinne, diatat¹⁷ Granraige 7 Moinrige. Atberthi¹⁸ uad fri cehtar de i n-ecmais¹⁹ araile: ‘Is bec do brig lat rí, a Grainne.²⁰ Ni tabar hi cosmailius fri Moinne nGall.²¹ Asbered a chummat cetna fri Moinne. Et asbeir side fri Oengus: ‘Dia nomthabarthar-sa²² hi

¹ nach ² nachamfacbaid-si ³ robarbiat ⁴ om.L ⁵ aranglanfam
⁶ tús ⁷ essi ⁸ corroglantar tír dúib ⁹ dogniat
¹⁰ dobretha *with punctum delens under a—L.* ¹¹ fer *add. L.*
¹² Demeth ¹³ robo marbh 7 ¹⁴ Crimthain alle ¹⁵ Taulodar
 mac Rígin mic Catien mic Clothienn mic Noé mic Artuir mic Petuir
 mic Congair mic Goirtiben mic Alcon mic Tresund mic Aeda mic
 Brosc mic Corach mic Echdach Allmair mic Airtchuirp. ¹⁶ bréic im
 dunuth oenguill ind rí (sic) ¹⁷ diata ¹⁸ asbreth ¹⁹ i n-ecndairg
 (corrected out of ecndairt) ²⁰ a Granfir ²¹ co n-érbrad hi cosmailius
 fri Méinne nGall ²² dia nomtarta-sa

You shall have two thirds of the land which we shall clear, precedence to your children over my own children till Doom, and my own children to go to battle and across the border before every one, and to be the last to come out of the enemy's land. And they shall clear the land before you. Do not leave me!' Then they did that, and truth was pledged for it, to wit, truth of breast and cheek, of heaven and earth, of sun and moon, of dew and drop, of sea and land.

11. Eochaid, son of Artchorp, went over sea with his descendants into the territory of Demed, and it is there that his sons and grandsons died. And from them is the race of Crimthann over there, of which is Teudor son of Regin, son of Catgocaun, son of Cathen, son of Cloten, son of Nougoy, son of Arthur, son of Petr, son of Cincar, son of Guortepir, son of Aircol, son of Triphun, son of Aed Brosc,¹ son of Corath, son of Eochaid Allmuir, son of Artchorp.

12. Cormac, the grandson of Conn, played a trick upon two soldiers of Oengus the King, to wit, Grainne and Moinne, from whom Granraige and Moinrige are so called. He caused it to be said to either of them in the absence of the other: 'Small is thy esteem with thy king, O Grainne. Thou art not deemed worthy to be compared to Moinne the Gall.' The same thing was said to Moinne. Then the latter said to Oengus: 'If I am put in comparison with Grainne, I shall put this spear through thee.' When Cormac knew the order of the watch which would come

¹ As Zimmer has shown (*Nennius Vind.*, p. 88) this is the Ewein Vreisc of Teudos' pedigree in the Jesus College MS. 20, fo. 35b. I have restored the Welsh forms of the names according to Anscombe's Indexes to Old-Welsh Genealogies, *Archiv. für celt. Lexikographie*, i, pp. 187-212.

cubes fri Grainne, dobér-sa in sleig se triut-su.' O raftir Cormac ord na haire dodasicfad a ndis i n-oenaidchi immoalle. It he rotheileset slog fair inna dun 7 rongeguinn indara de 7 roort mac a brathar 'moalle fris.¹

13. Dosbert Crimthann i n-Ard Ladrann iarsain. Et d[o]coirsetar maic Crimthain cocad frisna Deisse² .i. Eochu, is e rogab doib in ndarbre cona frenaib (*sic*) 7 doscartsat im-maidm as hi tir n-Osairge.

14. Imaittreib doib alla aniar hi Commur Tri n-Usce hir-rind tire Tigernaich.³ Ardosfaicce⁴ ri Osraige matan moch iar ndenam a n-aittreib.⁵ 'Is mili tige 7 mile ndethach ani thall,' ar se. Is de asberar Milidach.⁶ Gebtait forn (*sic*). Atasaigid hi tenid, loiscitir a nhuile aittreba⁷ 7 nistalla leo thiar iarsuidiu.⁸ Doloingset as 7 dothaegat iar⁹ muir siar, co n-gabsat i nHirchuilind tiar.¹⁰

15. [fo. 72b, 2] Isind aimsir sin ba marb ben Oengusa maic Nadfraich rig Caisil¹¹, et dothæt nech uad do thochmarc na hingine cucco, ar robæ Eithne moalle friu-som thiar. Atrogell Oengus a tri rinnroisc di. Batar se a tri rindroisc . i . faithchi Chaissil¹² o Luaisc co Caissel do

¹ Ar rofitir Cormac ord n-aire nachommaitethe rofitir donticfad oenadaig immele side. Tolléicset slog fair inna dún 7 geguinn indele he 7 huirt mac a brathar immelle. ² Inn uair ropo marb Crimthann mac Censelaig, dogensat Lagin coccad friu-som. ³ O rofitir Osseirge immarthrub alle aniar fri Comur tri n-Uisci ir-rind tire Echach ⁴ atchi ⁵ atruib ⁶ Is mile tige ani thall, ol se, conid desin rohainmniged Milithach. ⁷ huile in att-[fo. 100b 2] ruib ⁸ nistall thair hisuidiu ⁹ dothiagat tar ¹⁰ tiar thess ¹¹ hi Caisiul. Ardrig Caisil 7 Muman heside ¹² Is mo inrasc-sa ém ol si, faithchi Chaisil.

to them on the same night together. . . .¹ 'Tis they who let in a host upon him in his fortress, and one of them wounded him, and his brother's son was slain together with him.

13. Thereupon Crimthann sent them into Ard Ladrann. And after the death of Crimthann, his sons made war upon the Dessi; and one of them, Eochu, took the oak with its roots to them.² And in a rout they drove them out into the land of Ossory.³

14. There in the east by the meeting of the Three Waters⁴ on a point of the land of Tigernach⁵ they dwelt. Early one morning, after they had built their dwellings, the King of Ossory saw them. 'Yonder,' he said, 'are a thousand houses (*míle tige*) and a thousand smokes.' Hence Miledach⁶ is so-called. He put fire to them,⁷ and all their dwellings are burnt. After that there was no place for them in the east to stay in. They fared forth and went along the sea westward until they settled in Irchuilenn in the (south-)west.

15. At that time the wife of Oengus son of Nadfraich, King of Cashel, died, and a messenger was sent by him to the Dessi to woo the maiden Ethne, for she had been with them in the west. Oengus promised her three wishes. These were her three wishes, to wit, that the meadow land

¹ Something seems omitted here.

² This seems an idiom, which I cannot explain. Cf. *crothais dóib dairbre ndall*, *Ir. Texte*, i, p. 108, 4.

³ The ancient kingdom of Ossory comprised nearly the whole of the present county Kilkenny as well as the baronies of Upper Woods, Clandonagh and Clarmallagh in Queen's County.

⁴ The meeting of the rivers Suir, Nore and Barrow near Waterford.

⁵ Eochu, *Laud*.

⁶ A place near the Meeting of the Three Waters. Cf. *commor immar Milidach*, LL. 44 b 9.

⁷ Cf. *adachtatar in crích hi tenid*, LU. 65 a 12.

thabairt di 7 a maithriu do airisem ann. Et in cenel nothogfaitis¹ do aurglanad rempu 7 a dilsi doib in tiri sin. Et comsaire doib frisna teora Heoganachta Muman . i . E[*o*]gonacht Raithlind 7 Eoganacht Locha Lein 7 Eoganacht Hua Fidgeinti² co n-Huib Liathain.

16. Togait³ iarum na Deisse Osairgi do aurglanad rempu⁴ 7 do chocad⁵ friu. Lotar da druid lasna Deisse . i . Drong⁶ et Cecht.⁷ Bæ dano drui la Hosairgiu . i . Dil mac Hui Chrecca, 7 roptar daltai doside druid na n-Deisse. Dobertsat na Deisse *secht* catha do Osairgib 7 romaidset na *secht* catha sin ria n-Osairgi forsna Deissib⁸ hi Lethet Laidcind i n-Ard Chatha.⁹

17. Dobreth Eithne Uathach iarsin comairle dia meithre . i . dula¹⁰ co cenn adchomairc Muman, co fath-brithemain¹¹ Casil, co [Lugaid] Laigde Cosc, conid he roscobair tria gæs 7 trebair.¹² Ba he ba brithem do Chorccu Laigde. Ar robæ¹³ imthus do¹⁴ Chorccu Laigdi 7 do Eoganacht hi Caissiul¹⁵ . i . intan nobid ri do Chorccu Laigdi, nobid brithem do Eoganacht. Oengus mac Nad-fraich ba ri in tan sin 7 Lugaid Laigdi Cosc¹⁶ ba brithem.

¹ dongoetais ² 7 comsoere doib fri rig teora ndEoganachta Muman . i . rí Raithlind 7 rí Lochræ 7 rí huad (*sic*) Fidgeinti ³ togdatar
⁴ rembi ⁵ do chath ⁶ Droch ⁷ do sil maccu Crecca *add. L.*
⁸ for na Déisse ⁹ il leith Laidcind . i . Art. Asberat araile is xxx. cath ¹⁰ Is and airlestar Ethne Huathach dona Déisib dia haitib dul doib ¹¹ brithem ¹² Luigith Corc (*sic*), is he nodairlestar ar a gais 7 ar a threbairi. ¹³ ata ¹⁴ etir ¹⁵ o aimsir Dárine 7 Derctine, a brithemna do chlandaib Luighdech 7 rigi do chlandaib Auglum (*sic*), rigi dano do chlandaib Luighdech 7 brithemnas do chlandaib Auluim, co roimchla líth ifectsa rige dogrés la clannaib [fo. 101 b 1] Auluim 7 breithemnus dogrés la clandaib Luighdech.
¹⁶ Luigith Cosc.

of Cashel from Luasc to Cashel be given to her, for her mother's kindred to dwell there, that the tribe which they would choose should clear the land before them, which should then belong to them; and that they should be as free as the three Eoganacht of Munster, to wit, the Eoganacht of Raithlenn, the Eoganacht of Loch Lein and the Eoganacht of the Hui Fidgenti together with the Hui Liathain.

16. Then the Dessi chose the people of Ossory to be cleared out before them and to fight against. There were two druids with the Dessi, to wit, Drong and Cecht; and there was also a druid with those of Ossory, Dil, the descendant of Crecca, and the druids of the Dessi had been foster-sons of his. The Dessi fought seven battles with the men of Ossory at Lethet Laidcind in Ard Catha,¹ in all of which they were routed by the men of Ossory.

17. Then Ethne the Dread advised her mother's kinsfolk to go to the chief counsellor of Munster, the seer-judge of Cashel, Lugaid Laigde Cosc. He by his wisdom and prudence helped them. He was judge to the Corco Laigdi. For there had been an interchange between the Corco Laigdi and the Eoganacht² in Cashel (from the time of Darfine and Dercthine), to wit, whenever there was a king of the Corco Laigdi, there was a judge of the Eoganacht. Oengus, son of Nadfraich, was king at that time, and Lugaid Laigde Cosc was judge.

¹ Others say there were thirty battles.—*Laud.*

² Between the children of Lugaid and the children of (Ailill) Olum.—*Laud.*

18. Tiagait maithi na nDeisse 7 Eithne Huathach leo co Lugaid¹ Cosc 7 asberat fris: ‘Ronfoire² im chobair dún.³ Rotbia tir linni dar a eisse cen chis, cen chongabail,⁴ cen dunad, cen biathad, 7 ni thicfam dar cert ar do chlaind co brath.⁵ Naidmthir⁶ fir n-Oengussa 7 fir n-Eithne 7 fir flatha na nDeisse fri sodain. ‘Congraid for ndruidé dam-sa,’ ar Lugaid⁷ Cosc, . i . Droch 7 Checht. Congraiter⁸ do, et dobretha di muinnir . i . da phaitt doib,⁹ hit e lana do fin. Dobreth doib-sium a tirib Gall 7 biad Gall lais, ar ba mescamail sobruige inti nochaithead.¹⁰ ‘Berid in fricill¹¹ se do for n-aite 7 apraid fris at for n-aithrig do debaid fris.¹² Et berid tecosc¹³ dia ingin iar n-ol ind fínæ.’¹⁴

19. Dorigset amlaid.¹⁵ Et arfofet Díl¹⁶ in fricill¹⁷ 7 roscar-som ind ingen 7 ro-oslaid in fuiriud rempu.¹⁸ Dall didiu in Dil.¹⁹ Rochomairc ind ingen dó ar belaib a dalta isin tan ba mesc.²⁰ ‘A mo sruith,’ ar ind ingen, ‘im bia tesargain²¹ na nDeisse indorsa ?’²² ‘Biaid amæ,²³ ar Dil, ‘mad i n-urd turebad grían foruib 7 na robeotais 7 na roruibtis nech ann. Ar inti bifas nó genfas nech do slog araile immarach ar thus, noco n-aittrefa in tir sin²⁴ co

¹ Luigith ² Tonfairne ³ a Lugith *add.* ⁴ chongbail ⁵ 7
ni thesseba a chert co brath ⁶ adguiter ⁷ Gairthir dam-sa tra,
ar Lugith, bar ndrúidi ⁸ congairter ⁹ dobeir da muinirlana doib
¹⁰ biath na nGall laiss 7 it he nohithed a bargin namma. ¹¹ Berith
inso ¹² abraid is he bar n-aithrech debuid fris ¹³ tecosc
¹⁴ tria mesci in fina iarna ol ¹⁵ Dogensat som aní sein ¹⁶ som
¹⁷ nisreccell (*sic*) ¹⁸ cartait som in ingin Dil 7 asoelc a forud remib
¹⁹ ropu dall Dil ²⁰ ni chuingen ba frit comaire ind ingen o ropo
mesc ar belaib a da dalta ²¹ im bui tesorcud ²² innosa ²³ báí,
a muinecan ²⁴ mad mattain foruib imbárach ni urd 7 ni fuibitis
nech n-and. Ar intí on gontar nech imbarach ni aitreba a tír so

18. The nobles of the Dessi, and Ethne the Dread with them, went to Lugaid Cosc and said to him: 'Help us! Thou shalt have land with us for it without rent, without seizure, without levy of host or food, nor shall we ever trespass against thy descendants.' The truth of Oengus and of Ethne and of the princes of the Dessi is pledged for this. 'Call your druids to me,' said Lugaid Cosc, 'even Droch and Cecht.' They were called to him, and they gave them two jars full of wine, which had been brought to them¹ from the lands of Gaul, together with food of Gaul; for he who would eat and drink it would be intoxicated and sober (at the same time). 'Take this gift to your tutor and say to him that ye repent of fighting against him. And he will instruct his daughter after he has drunk the wine.'

19. They did so. And Dil accepted the gift, and the girl divided it and opened (?) . . . before them.² Dil, however, was blind. Then, when he was drunk, the maiden asked him before his two foster-sons: 'O my venerable (father)' said she, 'will there be rescue for the Dessi now?' 'Indeed, there will be,' said Dil, 'if the sun rise upon them in battle-order and they slay and wound no one. For he who will first slay or wound any one of the other host to-morrow morning, shall not inhabit this land till Doom.' 'Perhaps there will be no

¹ *i.e.*, to Oengus and Lugaid, as Rawl. indicates by the insertion of marks of reference over *dóib-sium* and the two names.

² I do not know what *forud* or *fuiriu* may mean. Perhaps it is O'Clery's *fúireadh .i. ullmhughadh*.

brath.' 'Bess ni hingnad anisin,¹ ar ind ingen, ardaig co cloistis na gillæ. 'Dia mbeind hi cœmthecht na nDesse,² nodolbfaind³ boin deirg do duiniu 7 nogonfaitis Osairgi, in boin sin.'⁴

20. Mosdáilet an druid⁵ cosna Deissib fochetoir fothuaid do Chasiul 7 doberat na Dessi leo co m-batar i n-urd matan moch iarnabarach.⁶ Astuat tenid⁷ cairthind ann 7 foidit a diaid sair co Hosairgib. Tecait⁸ Osairgi iarum co Hinneoin 7 fucairthir la Dil na rorubtha 7 na robeota nech dona Deissib ann.⁹ Dolbait dano druid na n-Deisse aithech¹⁰ hi richt bo dergce¹¹ . i . Dochet a anmain,¹² ar soire dia chlaind dogrés. Teit iarum ina ndail¹³ 7 cot-meil foraib 7 giallaid gail 7 gonair forsind ath fri Indeoin aniar.¹⁴ Is de asberar Ath Bo Deirge. Conid iarum adchonncatar co mba¹⁵ colann duine iarna guin.

21. Maitte for Ossairgib sair co Handobru¹⁶ (*sic*) 7 imsoat Ossairgi a sain 7 doberat a mbiu¹⁷ 7 am-marbu coema i n-airther Ratha sair.¹⁸ Maidte foraib atherruch o Andobur

¹ Bess ni gontar em ² Mad me bad chend athchomairc
laisna (*sic*) Déssib ³ nodoilfind ⁴ nosgonfatis Ossirge.
⁵ Tochumlat iarsain in da drúith ⁶ Tosberat co mba mattin
foraib i n-urd ⁷ attáit tenti ⁸ Totet ⁹ [fo. 101b 2] Focairther
o Dil arna rogonta nech ann dona Déssib ¹⁰ senaithech and dona
Déisib ¹¹ máile *add.* ¹² Docheth a hainm ¹³ Teit dochum in
tshluaig sair ¹⁴ Cid dognither thiar innossa, a gillai? or Dil. Tene
do fhatóg 7 bó derg do thelcud forsind n-áth aniar. Ni ba hi ma món,
ar se. Na gonat ind fhir in boin, ar se. Noslecet seccu. Nosgonait
gillai na n-ech iarna cúl 7 lecit gair impe. Cissi gáir so, a gillai? or
se. Inna gillai oc guin na bo. Fe fe amái! or sé. Mo charput dam!
ar se. A hord slaitir Indeoin. ¹⁵ corbo ¹⁶ Handobor ¹⁷ beritt
a n-aithbiu ¹⁸ condicce airther Rátha Machuthnoe for brú Andobor

slaying then,' said the girl, so that the young men should hear it. 'If I were in the company of the Dessi, I should by magic shape a man into a red cow, so that the men of Ossory would kill that cow.'

20. Forthwith the druids repair northward to Cashel to the Dessi and take them with them in battle-order early on the next morning. They light a fire of rowan there and send its smoke eastward into Ossory. Thereupon the men of Ossory come to Inneoin, and it was proclaimed by Dil that no one of the Dessi should be slain or wounded there. But the druids of the Dessi formed an old serf, Docheth by name, into the shape of a red (hornless) cow, promising freedom to his descendants for ever. Then the cow went to encounter the men of Ossory and flings herself upon them, and¹ and is killed at the ford² westward of Inneoin,³ whence the Ford of the Red Cow is so called. And then they saw it was the body of a man that had been slain.

21. The men of Ossory were routed eastward as far as the Andobur,⁴ and there they turn and take their

¹ I do not know what *giallaim gail* may mean. As Strachan points out to me, the phrase seems a corruption of *gáelaim gail*, which occurs in Salt. na Rann, l. 6167. Laud gives a more detailed account: 'What are they doing in the west now, my lads?' said Dil. 'They are kindling a fire and letting a red cow into the ford from the west.' 'That is not my work. Do not let the men kill the cow!' said he. They let her go past them. But the horse-boys behind their back kill her and raise a shout. 'What shout is that, my lads?' said Dil. 'The horseboys are slaying the cow.' 'Woe is me!' said Dil. 'Bring me my chariot.'

² This must be a ford on the river Suir.

³ Also called Indeoin na n Déssi, now Mullach Indeona, a townland near Clonmel. See O'Don. F.M. A.D. 852.

⁴ This I take to be the river Anner, a tributary of the Suir, co. Tipperary. It is called Annúir by Keating (*Gaelic League Series of Irish Texts*, I, p. 204).

co Lainen.¹ Na hothurbi² forfacabsat Ossairgi i n-airthiur Ratha rosgegnatar³ na Desse oc tintud⁴ anair. Is de ata Belach n-Eca iar⁵ fiad Ratha.

22. Rannait iarum na Dessi i cetriub rannaib na tiri sin.⁶ Cach clann tarraid in cethramaid sin, ata a chuit isin tir.⁷ Coeca toirgi lasna Dessib, a .xxu.⁸ [fo. 73a, 1] dib tarthatar raind 7 a .xxu.⁸ aile na⁹ tarthatar 7 is dona toirgib sin is ainm Dessi, ar it e fil fo chis¹⁰ 7 dligud 7 bothachas¹¹ na nDeisse¹² dona flaithib . i . do Dail Fiachach Suidge 7 ni hainm doib-side Deisse. Cach¹³ longas tra rofitir Eithne Huathach la Herind dosreclam¹⁴ cosna Deisse, fobith nodigbaitis¹⁵ Dal Fiachach Suidge isna¹⁶ cathaib mencib.

23. Do thoirgib na nDessi inso sis.
Dobert¹⁷ Semuin¹⁸ di Ultaib cucu, diatat Semuine.¹⁹

Dobert cucu Nemungin²⁰ di Huaithnib . l . diatat Nechtarge.

¹ conod hi sein in choicrich co brath etir na Deisi 7 Osseirge. A mail ossa, is amlaid rorathatar ass. Is de ata Osseirgi foraiub 7 rofaithaigset na Desi inna tír co brath. ² na hothair ³ nosgegnatar ⁴ impud ⁵ hi ⁶ Ronnit a cetraind tíre hí sein ⁷ Nach duine tarnaid in cetraind sin, ata a chuit ar a raind sin. ⁸ cuic fichet ⁹ nach ¹⁰ deisis ¹¹ bodagas ¹² na nDeisse *om. L.* ¹³ nach ¹⁴ dosfuide ¹⁵ arcrunad ¹⁶ isnaib ¹⁷ Tobeir ¹⁸ Semon mac Oengusa maic Cel[t]chair maic Huithechair ¹⁹ Semoni ²⁰ Nemongen mac Nechtain

wounded and their dead nobles into the front part of Rath Machuthnoe¹ (on the bank of the Andobur) in the east. Again they were routed from the Andobur to the Lainen, ² (which is the boundary between the Dessi and the men of Ossory till Doom. They ran away like deer (*ossa*.) As the Dessi were returning from the east they killed the wounded men whom those of Ossory had left behind in the front part of the fortress. Hence the Road of Death along the front³ of the fortress is so called.

22. Thereupon the Dessi divide those lands into four parts. Each family which came into this first division has its share in the land. There are fifty septs among the Dessi, of whom twenty-five got a share, while the other twenty-five did not; and the former are called Dessi, for it is they who are under rent and law and hut-tax⁴ to the princes, viz. to the Division of Fiachu Suidge, and the latter are not called Dessi. Every exiled band, however, of which Ethne the Dread knew in Ireland, she gathered to the Dessi, because the Division of Fiachu Suidge had been diminished in so many battles.

23. Of the septs of the Dessi.

She brought Semon (son of Oengus, son of Celtchar, son of Uthechar) of the men of Ulster to them (with 150 men) from whom are the Semuine.⁵

She brought to them Nemongen (son of Nechtan) of the Uaithni, with fifty men, from whom are the Nechtarge.

¹ Not identified.

² This is the river now called Lingaun (from Mod. Ir. *Lainneán*) which forms the boundary between the barony of Iffa and Offa East and that of Iverk.

³ Here I take *fiad* (W. *gŷydd*) to be the noun which has passed into the nominal preposition *fiad* 'coram.'

⁴ *bothachas* (*bodagas*), the tax payed by a *bothach* or 'hut-dweller, cottar.'

⁵ Cf. LL. 331c: Clann Sem diatát Semni na nDesi.

Dobert¹ cuco tri macco Lugdach² Cosca britheman Corco
Laigdi a Cassiul. 1.³

Tri chóicait dano do thrib maccaib Oengusa maic Derbchon
maic Cormaic Ul[*f*]atai, de quibus Mechain.⁴

Coeca do maccaib Feideilmid Brufir,⁵ de quibus⁶ Bruirige.

Coeca do maccaib Odro,⁷ de quibus Odraige.⁸

Nonbur di maccaib Ditha do Ernaib, de quibus⁶ Corco
Ditha.

Cet læch luid Benta in t-eces⁹ di Ultaib, de quo⁶ Bent-
raige.

Nonbur do maccaib Conaill maic Neill, de quo⁶ Condrige.¹⁰

Nonbur do maccaib Suid maic Mugdornæ Duib, de quo
Sordraige.¹¹

Nonbur do maccaib Munigblæ maic Mugdornæ Duib,¹² de
quibus⁶ Duibrige. Maic ingine Briuin in sin.

. ix . do maccaib Mugdornæ Cerbfir do Chairige.¹³

. ix . do maccaib Laidir maic Firchi do Ladrage.¹⁴

Tri nonbuir do Oengus Fingabræ mac Conaire maic Messi
Buachalla do Gabraige.¹⁵

¹ Dobeir ² Luigdech ³ Tri choicait lin Semoin, cóica lin maccu Luigdech, coica lin maccu Nemongin. ⁴ Coica læch do maccaib Oengusa Darcon maic Cormaicc Aulfata dal maic Con. ⁵ Feidlimthi Bruirir ⁶ diata ⁷ Bru nó Odro R. di Hultaib *add. L.* ⁸ Odrige ⁹ Cét læch lin hue maic Bind ind ecis ¹⁰ Conrige ¹¹ Soirt maic Doirna diata Sorthrige ¹² Muindigblæ maic Maudgornæ diata Loch Muindig hi tirib Maudgornæ ¹³ Nonbur do maccaib Cerir maic Mugdornæ diata Ciarraige. ¹⁴ Nonbur do maccaib Latfir diatat Lattrige . i . maic Fír Ceoch ¹⁵ diatat Gabrige

She brought to them the three sons of Lugaid Cosc, judge of the Corco Laigdi, from Cashel, with fifty men.

Next, 150 men of the three sons of Oengus, son of Derbchu (Oengus Darchu), son of Cormac Ulfata, de quibus Mechain (Dál Maic Chon).

Fifty men of the sons of Fedilmid Brufer, de quibus Brurige.

Fifty men of the sons of Odro, from Ulster, de quibus Odraige.

Nine men of the sons of Dith, of the Erainn, de quibus Corco Ditha.

A hundred warriors was the number of the descendants of Benta (Mac Bind), the poet from Ulster, de quo Bentraige.

Nine men of the sons of Conall, son of Niall, de quo Condraige.

Nine men of the sons of Sord, son of Mugdorna Dub,¹ de quo Sordraige.

Nine men of the sons of Mundechlæ,² son of Mugdorna Dub, (from whom Loch Muindig² in the lands of the Mugdoirn⁴ is so called), de quibus Dubrige. These are the sons of Briun's daughter.

Nine men of the sons of Cerbfer (Cerir), son of Mugdorna, from whom are the Ciarraige (Cairige).

Nine men of the sons of Latfer, son of Fer Ceoch, from whom are the Latraige.

Three times nine men of Oengus Fírgabra, son of Conaire, son of Mess Buachalla, from whom are the Gabraige.

¹ He was the son of Colla Menn.

² Cf. Mundechlai and Mundechlæ, LL. 328a 13.

³ Cf. Hinc Loch Demundeclæ hi tírib Mugdorne, LL. 327h.

⁴ From them the present barony of Cremorne (Crích Mugdorn), co. Monaghan, takes its name.

- . ix . do Afir do Ernaib do Uraige.¹
 . ix . do Fír Menn mac Cuscraid Mind Macha maic Conchobuir do Mennraige.
 . ix . do mac² Glasschaich maic Moga Ruith do Rodraige.³
 Tri nonbuir do Oengus Chreca⁴ mac Conchobuir Mael maic Formael⁵ di Ultaib. Is e nochrecad goo⁶ hi Temair. A quo Crecraige.
 Binne 7 Eochaid Cóen⁷ do Bintrige 7 do Choenrige. Nonbur doib.
 . ix . do Naithir mac Fircheich do Nathraige.⁸
 . ix . do Nudfir⁹ do Laignib do Nudraige.¹⁰
 . ix . do maccaib Blait do Blatraige.¹¹
 . ix . do Nindfir mac Bairrche do Nindrige.¹²
 . ix . do FíurLuide ar Sid ar Femen do Ludraige.¹³
 . ix . do Chærfir¹⁴ di Chruithnib do Chærige.¹⁵
 Tri nonbuir do thrib maccaib Bonnfir do Bonnraige.¹⁶
 . ix . do Luthor mac Arda do Luthraige.¹⁷
 . ix . do Blotchoin¹⁸ di Bretnaib do Blotraige.¹⁹

¹ Nonbor di Haurir do Hernaib diata Aurige ² maccaib L.
³ Roithrige ⁴ Crece ⁵ Máil maic Formail ⁶ crec
 gai ⁷ Coene ⁸ Nothir mac Fírceoch diata Nothrige
⁹ Nudir ¹⁰ diata Nudrige ¹¹ Blathrig diata Blathrige
¹² L. omit; this paragraph. ¹³ hiSid ar Femon di Hultaib nad aicidacht
 diata Luidrige ¹⁴ Celir ¹⁵ diata Celrigi ¹⁶ Trí maic Boindfir
 buachala Eithne diata Boendrige ¹⁷ Nonbur [do] Libur mac Arta
 diata Lubrige. ¹⁸ Blóthchum ¹⁹ diata Blodrige

- Nine men of Aurir of the Erainn, from whom are the Aurige.
Nine men of Fer Menn, son of Cuscraid Menn of Macha, son of Conchobor, from whom are the Mennraige.¹
Nine men of the son (sons) of Glaschach, son of Mug Ruith from whom are the Rodraige.
Three times nine men of Oengus Crece, son of Conchobor Mael, son of Formaël, of the men of Ulster—'tis he who sold spears in Tara—a quo Crecraige.
Binne and Eochaid Coen, from whom are the Bintrige and Coenrige. They were nine.
Nine men of Nothir, son of Fer Ceoch, from whom are the Nothrige.
Nine men of Nudfer from Leinster, from whom are the Nudraige.
Nine men of the sons of Blat, from whom are the Blatraige.
Nine men of Nindfer, son of Bairche, from whom are the Nindrige.
Nine men of FerLuide from Sid ar Femun, from whom are the Ludraige.
Nine men of Caerfer (Celir) of the Picts, from whom are the Caerige (Celrige).
Three times nine men of the three sons of Bonnfer (the cowherd of Ethne), from whom are the Bonnrige.
Nine men of Luthor (Liber), son of Art, from whom are the Luthraige (Luburige).
Nine men of Blotchu of the Britons, from whom are the Blotrige.

¹ Mendraige, LL. 331*b*, 16.

- . ix . do Grutbit mac Dubain do Grutbrige.¹
- . ix . do mac Buidb² do Bodbrige.
- . ix . do mac Grinnir do Ultaib do Grinnrige.³
- . ix . do Gallaib do Muinrige im mac Muinmind.⁴
- . ix . do Maine mac Cuinrige.⁵
- . ix . do mac Dimáin do Darfiniu do Chorco Dimaine.⁶
- . ix . do macco Ennæ Uniche di Gallaib do Chorcco Uniche.⁷
- Coeca⁸ do Glasschatt mac Ailella Auluim di Chattrraige.⁹
- Coeca do trib maccaib Mathrach maic Ailella Auluimb do Dal maic Cuirb.¹⁰
- Coeca Tidil¹¹ maic Ailella Auluim do Dal Tidil Cichich forsa mbatar . iii . cicheich.¹²
- . ix . do Magneth¹³ Gall do dal Maged.¹³
- . ix . Michoil do Dairfin[i] u di Dal Michoil.¹⁴

¹ Gubrith maccu Buén diata Gubtrige ² do maccaib Bodb
³ Grán diata Granrige di Hultaib ⁴ *L. omits this paragraph.*
⁵ do mac Ainiu maic Cuirir diata Cuirrige ⁶ Dímáini di Darin
dia-[fo. 101 a 2] tá Corco Din ⁷ Endi Uniche diatat Corco
Huiniche do Gallaib ⁸ Coíca fer ⁹ diata Catrige.
¹⁰ Mathrach maic Ailella Auluim. Ingen Fírgair a mathair, diata
dal Mathrach. Cóica d'úib maic Cuirp maic Ailella Auluim diatát dál
maic Cuirp. ¹¹ cóica di huib Didil. ¹² dál Didil cét cíge forsarabí.
¹³ Maignén ¹⁴ Mechon mac Dare di Darine diata dál Mechon

Nine men of Grutbit (Gubrith maccu Buen), son of Duban, from whom are the Grutbrige (Gubtrige).

Nine men of the son of Bodb, from whom are the Bodb-rige.

Nine men of the son of Grinner (Gran) of Ulster, from whom are the Grinnrige (Granrige).

Nine Gauls of Muinrige with the son of Muinmend.

Nine men of Maine (of the Son of Ainiu, son of Cuirer) from whom are the Cuirrige.

Nine men of the son of Dimain of Darfine, from whom are the Corco Dimaine.

Nine men of the descendant of Enne Uniche of the Gauls, from whom are the Corco Uniche.

Fifty men of Glaschatt,¹ son of Ailell Aulom, from whom are the Cattraige.

Fifty men of the three sons of Mathri,² son of Ailill Aulom (Fergair's daughter was their mother), from whom are the Dál Mathrach. Fifty men of the descendants of Mac Corp, son of Ailill Aulom), from whom are the Dál Maic Chuirp.

Fifty men of Tidel, son of Ailill Aulom, from whom are the Dál Tidil Cíchich, on whom were three (a hundred) teats.

Nine men of Magneth (Maignen) the Gaul, from whom are the Dál Maged (Maignen).

Nine men of Michol (Mechon, son of Dare) from Darfine, from whom are the Dál Michoil (Mechon).

¹ He is called Glass Catha, and his descendants Cathraige in LL. 319*b*.

² He is called Mathreth, and his descendants Dál Mathra in LL. 319*b*.

Tri nonbuir do maccaib Dorchon maic Huair do Dal Dorchon.¹

Tri nonbuir do maccaib Luigne² di Ernaib do Dal Luigni.

Coecca do trib maccaib Nuidni maic Conrui do Dal Nuidni.³

. ix . do trib maccaib Niamdæ di Dal Niamdæ.⁴

. xi . do Loiscniu mac Cuinniath do Dal Loscind.⁵

Tri lege⁶ Eithne Huathaig diata Dal Niathlega.⁷

Tri maic Moga Caintich do Dal Mogaide.⁸

Tri maic Cairinne cerdda do Cherdraige.⁹

Læmman¹⁰ mac Niathaig maic Briuin, is e cetnagaibed giallu Ferchair. Fathbrithem.

Cæchros mac Fiaich cetarogaib cath n-Inde do laim.¹¹

24. Teora hingena Ernbraind, Mell 7 Belge¹² 7 Cinnu, dochuatar co Crimthann¹³ a triur, cach hæ¹⁴ i ndiaid araile. Sil Mella o Meill. Húi Beilge o Beilge.¹⁵ Eithne namma ruc Cinnu do.¹⁶

25. O doluid iarum¹⁷ Corbmac asa rige¹⁸ iarna gollad¹⁹ do Oengus mac Artchuirp, gabais Carpre Liphechar in²⁰

¹ *L. omits this paragraph.* ² d'uib Luigni Leithduib ³ Noidne diata dal Nuidn . i . maic Chonrú maic Dare ⁴ Nimde diata dal Nimde ⁵ Luisniu mac Cumenath diata dal Luisni ⁶ . iii . laigni ⁷ Mathlego (*sic*) ⁸ Mugo maic Cuthig diata dal Mugith. ⁹ Tri maic Arme cerda diatat Cerdraige ¹⁰ Læbán ¹¹ rogab giallu Fer nGair robo brithem rainni caich Ros mac Féice cetnaragaib cath nIndide do laim ¹² Belc ¹³ Crimthan ¹⁴ dib ¹⁵ Belc ¹⁶ conid hí side dalta na nDéisi 7 rl. *add. L.* ¹⁷ tra ¹⁸ rígu ¹⁹ cháichad ²⁰ *om L.*

Three times nine men of the sons of Dorchu, son of Uar, from whom are the Dál Dorchon.

Three times nine men of the sons Luigne (Lethdub) of the Erainn, from whom are the Dál Luigni.

Fifty men of the three sons of Nuidne, son of Curoi (son of Dáre), from whom are the Dál Nuidni.

Nine men of the three sons of Niamda (Nimde) from whom are the Dál Niamda (Nimde).

Nine men of Loiscne (Luischniu) son of Cuinnia (Cumenath), from whom are the Dál Loscind (Luischni).

Three leeches of Ethne the Dread, from whom are the Dál Niathlega.

Three sons of Mug Caintech (son of Cuttech), from whom are the Dál Mogaide (Mugith).

Three sons of Cairinne (Arme) Cerd, from whom are the Cerdraige.¹

Laemman, son of Niathach, son of Briun, 'tis he who first took hostages of the Fir Gair.² He was a seer-judge.

Caechros, son of Fiach (Feice), who first pledged the battalion of Inde (?).

24. The three daughters of Ernbrand, Mell and Belc and Cinniu were all three married to Crimthann, one after another. From Mell are the Síl Mella, from Belc the Hui Beilce. Cinniu bore Ethne only to him.

25. Now, when Cormac, after having been blinded by Oengus, son of Artchorp, gave up his kingship, Carpre Lifechar took the government in the place of his father. This is what he practised every day before his father: he would put two fingers around the tusk-hilted sword and

¹ A different account of the origin of the Cerdraige Tuilche Gossa will be found in O'Curry's *Lectures*, iii, p. 207, from LL. 320 *f*.

² The Fir Gair were descendants of Brecc mac Artchuirp. See LL. 328*b*.

flaith ar belaib a athar. Is i abairt dognid¹ Cormac ar a belaib cach dia .i. dobered a da mer immun colg² ndet 7 a mer hi³ timchul lainne in sceith. Is *ed* noinchoisced sain, slaidi mui[n]*tire* Cairpre immun mBoin[n] sanchan [fo. 73 a 2] .i. do cach leith.⁴ Is de doloinsich⁵ hi crich Lagen. O rabi⁶ Fiachu Sraiptine 7 Colla Huais⁷ 7 Colla Mend do Mugdornaib⁸ rig na nDeisse⁹ .i. Brecc mac Arttchuirp, rochartsat Laigen (*sic*) uaid¹⁰ siar for Commur trian in tsluaig. Tuait do Chassiul do chuingid chobrad o Oengus. Is annsin marbais Fedelmid Clar mac hui Braichte 7 Anlathe mac Eogain i n-Etarbaine. Is de ata Carn m Brigti ingen¹¹ Dubthaich maic Duib maic Lugdach di Ultaib.

26. In trian iarum doluid atuaid, hit e turcaibset inn ingin .i. Eithni Uathach ingen Crimthainn. Moalle longsigset Osairgi 7 Corco Laigdi, ar it he batar ech—ech—. Ar gabsat o Chommur tri n-usce co Birra Lagen, i mbatar hi tir Osairge, co Heochair anair. Is de ata Ath Fothart 7 Daire Lagen la Hossairgi. Is inund aimser hi lotar¹² na Deisse for Gabruan¹³ 7 Fene for Fid Mar 7 Fothairt¹⁴ for Gabruan sair. Ar robatar Fothairt for longais iar nGabran¹⁵ iar nguin Echach Domplen maic Carpre Liphchair do Sarniad¹⁶ mac Cirb¹⁷ brathair Bronaich do Fothartaib.¹⁸

¹ ba sí a breth (*sic*) dogniad ² cailg ³ om. ⁴ in-
rochosecht troso dani sladi muintire Coirpri sainchan immon Bóind
di cachleith ⁵ dolonget ⁶ ho robith arna ragegain ⁷ Condla
Hos (*sic*) diatat Húi maic Guais ⁸ diatat Mugdornæ ⁹ [fo. 102
a 2] geognaitir rí na nDéisi ¹⁰ leg. Laigin uaidib ¹¹ leg.
ingine ¹² tulatar ¹³ Gabran ¹⁴ Fothart ¹⁵ Fothart iar
longis for Gabran ¹⁶ Seminaith ¹⁷ Coirpri ¹⁸ diatat Hui
Bronaich la Fotharta 7 rl.

one-finger around the boss of the shield. In that way he was instructed to slay the people of Carpre on either side of the Boyne. Hence they went into exile into the territory of Leinster. After Fiachu Sraiptine and Colla Uais and Colla Menn of the Mugdoirn had slain the king of the Dessi, Brecc, son of Artchorp, the men of Leinster drove one third of the host westward to Commur. They sent to Cashel to ask help of Oengus. 'Tis there he killed Fedelmid Clar, the descendant of Brigit and Anlathe, son of Eogan, in Etarbaine. Hence is the Cairn of Brigit, daughter of Dubthach, son of Dub, son of Lugaid, of Ulster.¹

26. Now, the third who came from the north, 'tis they that reared the maiden Ethne the Dread, the daughter of Crimthann. The men of Ossory and the Corco Laigdi went into exile together, for they² They took land from the Meeting of the Three Waters as far as Birr in Leinster. When they were in the land of Ossory, as far as Eochair in the east. Hence the Ford of the Fothairt and the Oakwood of Leinster in Ossory are so called. At the same time the Dessi went to Gabruan (Gabran) and the Féni to Fid Már and the Fothairt to Gabruan (Gabran), in the east. For the Fothairt were in exile in Gabruan (Gabran), after Echu Domlen, son of Carpre Lifechar had been slain by Sarniad (Seminaith)³ the son of Cerb, the brother of Bronach, of the Fothairt.

¹ Cf. LL. 328a: Secht maic Brigti ingine Dubthaig de Ultaib: Irruis, Fedlimid Clár, a quo Húi Chláre. Iss ed a charn til i n-Etarphainiu.

² I can make nothing of ech— ech—.

³ He is called Seniach by Tigernach (*Rev. Celt.*, xvii, p. 23), Sémeon by the Four Masters, A.D. 284. In a poem in LL. 48b. 50 Echu Domlén is said to have been slain by Senioth and Sarnia:

*Senioth, Sarnia, noco chel,
is iat romarb Eochó Domlén.*

27. Forsluinte Dal Fiachach Suidge.

Semuinrige, Nechtraige, Bentraige, Odraige, Osraige, Bruirige o Bruru mac Artharu rig Cruthni, Sordraige, Latraige, Carraige, Gabraige, Cairige, Mentrige, Rotraige, Rudraige, Blairige, Ranrige, Luidrige . i . fer luid hi sid, Callraige . iii . maic, Bodraige, Lubentraige, Crobentraige, Corco Che, Corco Ainige, Corco Dithech, Dal Mechoin, Dál Mathrach, Dál Maigne, Dál Luigne, Dál Mencuirp, Dal nInidæ, Dál nUidne, Dál nDorchon, Dorchu mac Linne, Dál Luisne. Hit he insin dia ngairter Deisse . i . ar dihuaise nó ar diahuaise . i . ar immad al-lamdia, nó ar huaise nó ar deisse nó ar diuisse nó ar gaire ind inaid asrogeinset nó ara ndifisse, amail ata a tuirim 7 a taiririud 7 a toirge la cach. Teora bliadna trichat o doludsat¹ na Deisse o Themair co tucsat Lagin dorair doib for Gabruan² 7 for Commur³ Tri nUsci iar maidm secht catha forthu.⁴

¹ dolotar
(end of Laud).

² Gabrán

³ 7 Chommor

⁴ forsna Déisi 7 rl.

27. The by-names¹ of the Divisions of Fiachu Suidge. Semuinrige, Nechtraige, Bentraige, Odraige, Osraige, Bruirige from Bruru, son of Artharu, king of the Picts, Sordraige, Latraige, Carraige, Gabraige, Cairige, Mentrige, Rotrige, Rudraige, Blairige, Ranrige, Luidrige (viz. a man who went into an elfmound), Callraige (three sons), Bodraige, Lubentraige, Crobentraige, Corco Che,² Corco Ainige, Corco Dithech, Dál Mechoin, Dál Mathrach, Dál Maigne, Dál Luigne, Dál Menchuirp, Dál nInidæ, Dál nUidne, Dál nDorchon (Dorchú mac Linne), Dál Luisne. These they are who are called Dessi, for their great nobleness³ or for the nobleness of their gods, *i.e.* for the number of their idols, or for their skilfulness, or for their great justice, or for their love of the place in which they were born, or for their great celebrity, since their expedition and their wanderings and their marchings are known to every one. It was thirty-three years after the Dessi went from Tara that the men of Leinster gave them battle at Gabruan and at the Meeting of the Three Waters, after having routed the Dessi in seven battles.

¹ forslondud 'over-name,' as distinguished from *prím-slondud* (LL. 312*a*). Cf. *dá prím-acmi déc do Ernaib 7 cethri forslointe fichet . i . dá forslonnud each aicme*, LL. 324*e*.

² Cf. *De Chorco Che*, LL. 327*e*.

³ These are etymological speculations on the name of Déssi.
