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**An cláréamh soluis**

January 11, 1913.

**WRITERS OF IRISH.**

Our readers understand by this time that the publication of original matter in Irish is one of the best means of securing the life of the language—it is, perhaps, the very best. A good story, a stirring or sweet poem, or a bit of historical writing is worth more than fifty meetings. At meetings we are told of the beauties and utilities of Irish. When we read a good story in Irish we feel the qualities of the language and become permanently attached to it. Since AN CLARÉAMH was founded close on fifteen years ago, it has always been hampered by want of money for the remuneration of its contributors. The amount placed at our disposal each year for the payment of writers would not sustain a single writer for six months. A paper like "The Weekly Freeman" pays more to writers of English in a month than we can afford to pay for Irish in a year. In the very last letter we received from the much lamented Art Mac Uidhir, he quoted the old saying, "Ni bheathuighneann na brathra na braithre." This is particularly true of writers of Irish. We propose now to establish a "Writers Fund." Our readers can assist us in securing a small sum, say £52 a year, for the special purpose of securing original Irish articles, stories, and poetry for AN CLARÉAMH. The amount we have named would enable us to secure a short story every week from one of our best writers. A time must come when a larger circle of readers will enable writers of Irish to live by their pens, but as matters stand to-day there is little money in Irish authorship. Originality and style in writing are very rare, so rare that they should be cared and nourished when discovered. Irish authorship, because its traditions had been shattered, is very difficult. In spite of this many of our writers have a freshness of style and an originality that is rare in the English of to-day. We put it to our readers that it is worth Ireland's while to support these young writers. They carry the message of the Gael. The fund we propose to open will help them to deliver that message. Writers, like the rest of us, must live. None of our Irish authors are millionaires that they can give their time and brains free. We ask the support of all our readers for the Writers Fund. The shilling will count as well as the pound. All may help and every subscriber will have the knowledge that his subscription will go to pay for something new and good in Irish literature.

**Sleo na Scat.**

**A new Work by Michael Mac Ruadhri.**  
Branch teachers will find in Mac na Mna Deisce, by Michael Mac Ruadhri and "Maine," an excellent text for their classes. Michael Mac Ruadhri is one of the most prolific of Connacht authors, and one of the safest authorities on Irish idiom. In Mac na Mna Deisce he breaks new ground. Hitherto his work has been largely confined to sean sgeolta. In the translation of "The Shuders' Child" which, with "Maine," he has made for AN CLARÉAMH he gives us conversational Irish dealing with a burning topic. Dublin readers will be interested to learn that the play will be staged probably in the "Abbey" at Easter. The first instalment of the play will be found on page 4.

**A singer of the Gaedhealtacht.**

Anna Ni Thearasáigh, of Caislean Glas, Tir Eoghain, died a couple of weeks ago. She was an Irish singer who had upwards of a hundred songs and almost as many airs. Her death deprives Tir Eoghain Gaedhealtacht of the greatest treasure it possessed, for although her brother Eamonn still lives in vigorous health his repertoire is not as varied as was hers. She never married, and lived on a farm all her life beside the Abha Ríogh, among the hills between Omagh and Caislean Glas. Music and song came to her from her parents. She belonged to a gifted family that preserved its traditions for many generations. There were men of the name who after hearing the singing

river on a summer night would sing a new song with a new air next day. In every generation since they settled in Tir Eoghain there were Treaceys to treasure the old music and song and to hand it on to their successors. Their songs and music were national. The caointe they preserved did not quench their hope for Ireland. "Ilochadh Fire i dtír íos," is a saying of Eamonn's that shows the spirit that is in him. The wealth of song possessed by Eamonn and his late sister did more than anything else to preserve Irish in the Caislean Glas district. It is well that many of her songs have been recorded. Philip Ua Bhaldata and others have secured the words, and Mr. Carl Hardebeck, to whom Irish music owes more than has yet been acknowledged, recorded about thirty airs from her singing. Philip Ua Bhaldata while in Caislean Glas succeeded in teaching some of her old songs to the pupils of his Irish classes. Solus De go rabh ag a hanam.

We take the following account of her last days from the "Irish Weekly"

"Gaelic Leaguers in Belfast will be grieved to hear of the death of Anne Treacey, of Benfechan, Mountfield, Co. Tyrone, who had, perhaps, the greatest store of songs of the Ulster bards which has come down to our time. Quite lately she passed several weeks in the Mater Hospital, Belfast, and successfully underwent an operation for cataract. Whilst there she was visited by Carl Hardebeck and Mrs. Hardebeck, Miss Alice Milligan, and Miss McCruden, of the Gaelic League and the greatest kindness and attention was shown her by the sisters and nurses of the Mater, of whom she spoke with gratitude and affection. On leaving the hospital she spent some time with a friend in Belfast, and visited the Gaelic League rooms, when those present were privileged to hear a few of her songs. She was anxious to return home for the Christmas season, but the long journey proved too much for her, and she only lived ten days after her return from Belfast. Mr. Henry Morris and Mr. Philip Waldron have recorded many of the Irish words of her store of songs, whilst Mrs. C. Milligan Fox and Carl Hardebeck have secured some of the airs. She is survived by a brother, Eamonn Treacey, who is also a fine singer, and was accustomed to sing along with his sister at Gaelic gatherings. His home is in the mountain country, some eight miles from Omagh, and it is a matter of surprise to many to find the Irish tongue and Irish music surviving with such vigour in the heart of Ulster, and surrounded on all sides by the people of the Plantation. The passing of Anne Treacey will serve as a reminder to Gaelic workers as to the great treasure we possess in those of our old people who inherit the native traditions."

**A New Year's Review.**

The latest press reports from many centres of Gaelic League work promise well for the new year.

**In Lar Mhíde.**

The invasion of Lar na hÉireann by Colaiste Laignean has not interfered with the usefulness and activity of the Mhúileann Ceart Craobh. The attendance at the classes improves steadily. A new additional room has just been acquired. We look to Mhúileann Ceart workers to make a record for their branch during next Language Week. Some little places cois na Stionnne, in the same county, have sent annually sums far exceeding Mhúileann Ceart contributions. We trust that the Coiste will not omit from their programme a propagandist or Irish play for La Fhéile Padraic.

A very successful start has also been made in the eastern portion of the country, says the "Midland Reporter." At Ballyvaughan, near Delvin, the classes are making satisfactory progress. The language movement is also going ahead in the southern end of the county. While recording these encouraging facts however, we are obliged to admit that there is much room for improvement, taking the county as a whole. Throughout a very large portion of the country no branches of the Gaelic League exist and no language classes are held in those districts."

**In Corcaigh.**

A report in the "Cork Examiner," says that the attendance at Craobh Chorcaigh shows a big improvement on last year. The classes are open to members from all parts of the city, and the teachers may be relied upon to give the pure Glas na Múinhan. The Gaels of Corcaigh have invited Colaiste na Múinhan to organise in the city a college for the training of teachers.