

Appendix 2 – *An Teachdaire Gaidhealteachd*, (*The Gaelic Messenger*) Issue No 10, 1857, p8.

Appendix 2 (a)

“Na Gaidheil ‘an Astrailia bha coinneamh aig cuid de ghaeil Geelong, ‘s a’ bhaile sin for cheann beagan ùine ‘chum dòighean a gabhail air stèidh comuinn Ghaelach a shuidheachadh d’ am bi mar sinn “Comunn Na Feinne.”* Tha na gnothuichean a bhios aig a’ Chomunn seo ‘s an amharc mar a leanas:” (*An Teachdaire Gaidhealachd* No.1 February 1857 p2.

1. A bhi Leasachadh agus a glèidheadh, air Mhaireann, na Gàelig, agus a chumail suas dùthchasachd nan Gaidheil.

2. Beusachd, Daonnachd

3. Arsaireachd

1. Bith an Ceann seo a’ gabhail a stigh na Gàelig agus a Meòir, no na Cànairean a tha ann an dàimh rithe, agus gach nì a bhios toiltneach air ar meas ‘s air ar spèis ma thiomchioll spiorad gràidh-dùthcha, ar sinnsre, an deas-ghnàthan, agus an cleachdaidhean.

2. Bithidh e mar fhiacha air gach ball de ’n chomunn seo cha ‘ne e mhain a bhi nochdadh, na chàite beatha fhèin an t-eiseimpleir is àirde airson Steidh-inntine urramaich agus mòr-aigeantachd, ach, a toirt misnich gu comh spàirn anns gach aon chruth de ghiulan beus ach a measg na h-uile ris am faod companas a bhi aige.

3. Fon cheann seo, bithidh air a ghabhail a stigh a h-uile roinn de rannsachadh arsanta, ach gu sonruichte tus agus eachdraidh nam fineacha Ceilteach. Chaidh na daoine-uaisle a leanas a chuir air leith mar Chuideachd airson. Riaghailtean a dhealbh a chum riaghaladh a Chomuinn:—

Translation

(A group of the Highlanders of Geelong met to establish a Highland Society which will be like a “Comunn Na Feinne”. The business of this Society will be as follows:

1. Improving and maintaining Gaelic and preserving the Highland nationality

2. Morality, Benevolence

3. Antiquarianism

In explaining these aims, Archibald Douglas added a fourth which was really an extension of the second aim.

1. Under this heading there will be Gaelic and the Branches of the Language related to it and everything which is deserving of our respect of the spirit, customs, habits of our forefathers and our native land.

2. Every member of this society will be bound not to show in his own self a wasted life but to be a high example of honourable conduct and encourage in each one of the company moral bearing.

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3. Under this heading will be every part of antiquarian research and especially the origin and history of our nation.”
4. To engender in oneself a spirit of philanthropy.

Appendix 2 (b)

For those Highlanders, especially the children, who could not read or write in their own language, efforts were made through such things as the setting up of Gaelic schools and also through Highland Associations such as the Comunn na Feinne, which encouraged reading and writing and composing in Gaelic through educational competitions, from its inception in 1856.

Comunn Na Feinne—Tha cruinneachadh bliadhna a' chomann ghaidhealaich seo ri bhi air latha na bliadhna ùire 1858, dlù air baile Geelong, Bhictoria. Tha dochas againn gu 'n d' thig na's urrainn da 'r luchd-dùthcha a chum na coinneamh mòire seo a nochdadh an dilseachd do chànan 's do luth-chleasan na 'n Gaidheal. A measg na 'n duais-mheasan (prizes) a thèid a thoirt seachad aig a Chruinneachadh, tha aon diubh air a chuir air leth airson leughadh agus ceart sgrìobhadh (Spelling) na Gàilig. Tha seo ro fheumail oir is nar do mhòran de na Gaidheil, ann an Astrailia, cho fhad 's tha iad air an ais ann an leughadh 's 'n sgrìobhadh cainnt an dùthcha. (An Teachdaire Gaidhealachd No 10, November 1857, p8).

Translation

[Comunn na Feinne. There is to be a Highland gathering on New Year's Day, 1858, near to the town of Geelong, Victoria. We hope that all of our countrymen who are able will come to this large meeting which is faithful to the language and games of the Highlander. Among the prizes which will be awarded at the Gathering is a special one separately for reading and spelling Gaelic. This is very useful because many of the Gaels in Australia so far away are backward in reading and writing their native language.]

Appendix 2 (c) Ossian MacPherson's Translation of a Passage from Gaelic Epic Fingal, Book Four, Lines

A mhacian cheann,
Nan cursan strann,
Ard leumnach, rìgh n' a'n sleigh!
Lamh threun 's gach càs
Cridh' ard nach gèill,
Ceann airm nan rinn gear girt,
Gearr sios gu bas,
Gun bharc sheol ban
Bhi snamh na dhubh Innishtore,
Mar th'arnanech bhavil
Do bhuill, a laoi-ch!
Do shuil mar chaoir ad cheann,
Mar charaic chruin,
Do chroidhe gun roinn.
Mar lass an oidhch do lann
Cum suar do scia
Is crobhhuì nial
Mar chih bho reul a bhaish,
A mhacain cheann
Nan cursan stran,
Sgrios naimhde sios gu lar."

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The following are the lines from Fingal, Book IV (Lines 271-283) with the original translation.

“A thriath each-ruith nan ard-leum,
A rìgh nan sleigh a’s leumnach lann,
Làmh threun’s gach càs, crìdh’ard, nach gèill,
A thriath mhòir, a’s gèire cruaidh,
Gearr sìos na dàimh, ‘s na fàg dhoibh fèin
Siuil bhàn a dh’èireas air cuan.
Mar thorrann biodh do làmh, a laoich,
Do dhearg-shùil mar chaoir a’ d’cheann,
Mar charradh cruaidh do chridh a’ s’thaobh,
Mar dhealan san oidhche do lann,
Tog do sgiath mar reul a bhàis,
A thriath each-ruith nam mòr-shrann.”

The War Song of Ullin

Son of the chief of generous steeds!
High-bounding king of spears.
Strong arm in every perilous toil.
Hard heart that never yields.
Chief of the pointed arms of death.
Cut down the foe;
let no white sail bound round dark Inistore.
Be thine arm like thunder.
Thine eyes like fire,
Thy heart of solid rock.
Whirl round thy sword as a meteor at night;
Lift thy shield like the flame of death.
Son of the chief of generous steeds,
Cut down the foe. Destroy.

Tall Ullin went, with step of age, and spoke to the king of swords. "Son of the chief of generous steeds! high-bounding king of spears! Strong arm in every perilous toil! Hard heart that never yields! Chief of the pointed arms of death! Cut down the foe; let no white sail bound round dark

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Inistore. Be thine arm like thunder, thine eyes like fire, thy heart of solid rock. Whirl round thy sword as a meteor at night: lift thy shield like the flame of death. Son of the chief of generous steeds, cut down the foe! Destroy!"

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