

THE CAMPBELL CANNTAIREACHD MS.

This is contained in two manuscript volumes acquired in 1909 by Sheriff John Bartholomew of Glenorchard from Miss Ann Campbell, Oban, who gave him the following account of her family.

Her great grandfather, a piper, Donald, at the age of 16-18, was at the battle of Culloden in the service of MacDonald of Glenaladale. Glenaladale was on the Jacobite side, was wounded, and was conveyed home by Donald Campbell, who soon afterwards took service with Campbell of Carwhin. Carwhin, according to Angus MacKay, sent Donald to Skye to take lessons from Patrick Og MacCrimmon, but this was wrong, for Culloden took place in 1746, and Patrick Og was certainly dead in 1743. There is, however, other reason to believe that Donald Campbell was MacCrimmon taught, probably by Malcolm, son of Patrick Og.

Carwhin had commanded a company of the Argyll militia in 1745, and he settled Donald Campbell at Ardmaddy, near Easdale. Donald had a son, Colin, who was twice married and had, among other children, Donald, father of Ann, and John, afterwards piper to Campbell of Islay.

The two volumes of the Campbell Canntaireachd are now in the National Library, Edinburgh, having been deposited there, on loan, by Mr. Bartholomew's daughter. They are of different sizes, but the handwriting appears to be the same in both, neat and legible. The inscription in Volume 1 is "Colin Campbell's Instrumental Book 1797. The first volume continuing (sic) 83 tunes." The watermark on the music pages of Volume 1 is consistent with their having been written in, or before, or after 1797. But the index page is water marked "Collins 1810." The inscription is written not on the index page, but on the paper used for the music pages.

The whole of the Volume 2 music paper is watermarked "H. Salmon 1814" and at the end of the index page there is the inscription "Colin Campbell second volume, containing 86 tunes."

J. F. Campbell of Islay was born 1822. John Campbell, the piper, is mentioned in Angus MacKay's account of the Highland Society's Edinburgh Competitions as "from Nether Lorn" in the years 1815 to 1819 (when he won 1st prize), and he died in 1831, when in the service of "Walter Frederick Campbell of Shawfield and Isla" (Angus MacKay, p. 8, where he is described as "an excellent piper" and his father, Colin, and his grandfather, Donald, as "performers of merit"). J. F. Campbell writes in a pamphlet on the canntaireachd language that he often saw John, the piper, "reading and practising music from an old paper manuscript."

In 1816 John "of Nether Lorn" brought to the Edinburgh Competition a manuscript volume, described by Sir John Graham Dalyell ("Musical Memoirs of Scotland," p. 9) as "utterly unintelligible," presumably to himself and the other judges, and, though one of the competitors, Murdoch Maclean, pipe maker, Glasgow, offered to decipher the contents and explain them, his proposal "received no encouragement," and the owner refused to part with the manuscript. On a subsequent page ("Musical Memoirs," p. 12) Sir John writes that John Campbell said that his father, at home, had two other manuscript books of similar character (which shows, incidentally, that Colin Campbell was alive in 1816 and may have written both of our volumes). Sir John tried to trace the other two books, and to ascertain what had happened to the one brought to Edinburgh and acquired by Sir James MacGregor Murray, but without result.

Lieutenant John MacLennan, Edinburgh Police, had a large collection of biographical notes on pipers, and one of his entries describes Colin Campbell as "Piper in Islay" without further explanation, although his descriptions of several other pipers are very full. John Campbell is described as "son of Colin Mor of Islay."

Angus MacKay, who went to Islay as piper in 1837, left a few sheets, written roughly, and called "Specimens of Canntaireachd." These came into the hands of the Piobaireachd Society, and are on deposit in the National Library. They include four tunes which appear on pages 262 to 268 of Canntaireachd, Vol. 2. The first is called in the "Specimens," "One of Argyle's Marches," in the Canntaireachd "Argyle's March," and in Angus MacKay's MS., "The Battle of Lochcarron Point."

The second is called in the "Specimens" "Leacran," in the Canntaireachd the same, and in Angus MacKay's printed book, "The Half Finished Piobaireachd."

The third in the "Specimens" "Subie Eskie," in the Canntaireachd "Sophia Eskie," and in Angus MacKay's M.S. "Subiaski's Salute." The first three bars are given in another part of the "Specimens," and in a different language, and called "Failte Sobeaski."

The fourth has no name in the "Specimens." It is "Glengarrie's March" in the Canntaireachd, and "Red Alexander of Glengarys Lament" in Angus MacKay's MS.