

7. LUGAID *menn* (illustrious). "He it was that first and violently grasped the land of Tuadh-Mumha [*i.e.* the modern county of Clare]—for which reason it is called Lugaïd Red-hand's rough sword-land, seeing that the countries which the men of Mumha acquired by main force were two, viz., Osraighe in eric for Edirsceol whom the men of Laigen slew, and Tuadh-Mumha in eric for Crimthann, son of Fidach. Howbeit . . . according to the legal right of the [old] provincial partition Tuadh-Mumha belongs to the province of Connachta."\*

Now the ostensible reason why Lugaïd seized on the land beyond the Sinainn as eric for Crimthann was this:—

Crimthann the Great, of the Eoganachta race, brother-in-law of Eochaid Muigmedon, to whom he succeeded in the sovereignty of Eire (365) had for sister Mongfionn the Queen, and her vehement desire was that her favourite son Brian should be Ard-ri after Crimthann her brother. To compass her purpose, and to that end, she entertained her brother while on a visit to the province of Connachta, at a banquet, whereat she handed him a poisoned cup of wine:

'Received he drink of poison in his house  
From his sister, from the daughter of Fidach.'

"I will not drink," said he, "until thou first shalt have drunk." She drank accordingly and Crimthann after her. Mongfionn died on Samhain's Eve . . . but Crimthann from the north, progressing towards his own country, gained Sliabh-suidhe-in-rig (the mountain of the King's sitting) near Creatalach beyond the Sinainn, and there he died (A.D. 379). . . . Howbeit Mongfionn's treachery and her choice of death for herself, served her purpose not at all, for Niall of the Nine Hostages succeeded Crimthann, and ruled all Eire (379-405).†

Lugaïd broke seven battles on Connachta and so reduced that province that the men thereof submitted to his terms, for "he drove their battalions from Carn Feradaigh to Ath-Lucait, and guarded his newly acquired territory so well 'that not even a leveret escaped northward.'‡ Thus he

\* L. Baili-in-muta, fo. 264, b.

† L. Baili-in-muta, tr. in *Silva Gadelica*, p. 373.

‡ *Cogadh Gaedhel re Gallaibh*, tr. by J. H. Todd.

made good his claims, and thus was that land annexed to Leth-Mogha, to which half of Eire it nominally had belonged, lying as it did southward of the frontier set up by Conn and Eoghan: but it was not entirely subdued till about the beginning of the fifth century, for Connachta's kings made many attempts to recover possession of it.

The kingdom of Tuath-Mumha after this conquest extended from the isles of Aran and Sliabh Echtghe on the north to Sliabh Eibhline near Caisel; and from the cliffs of Leim-Conchullainn, eastward to Sliabh-Dala in Osraighe. "And the Dal-gCais had it free without rent, without taxing from the Kings of Eire."\*

When Lugaid attained in due course the Kingship of Mumha, he invaded Wales and exacted its tribute, and sailing northward carried his forays into Alba, where he was likewise victorious.† His son—

8. CONALL *each luath* (of the swift steeds) had been the foster-son and trusted friend of the Ard-ri Crimthann, and before his death the monarch had exerted himself to obtain Conall's future election to the throne of Mumha after Lugaid *menn*. This interference with the rule of succession was highly displeasing to the descendants of Eoghan, and they represented that Conall Corc, grandson of Ailill Flann *beg*, was the rightful successor to Lugaid. Conall *each luath*, being a just man, thereupon consented willingly to refer the matter of the election to the judgment of an assembly of the chieftains of Leth-Mogha. They accordingly met together, and by them it was decided that Conall Corc was entitled to the sovereignty according to the rule established by Ailill *ólom*, the common ancestor of both candidates; seeing that Lugaid *menn* was of the race of Cormac Cas, and at his death it would be the turn of one of Eoghan's descendants to rule over the province. The assembly moreover ordered hostages to be delivered to Conall *each luath* to insure to him, or his next heir, the peaceful accession to the sovereignty of Mumha immediately after Conall Corc. This arrangement, whereby the will of

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\* Keating.

† L. Muimhnech, quoted by O'Brien in 'Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis,' vol. iv.

Ailill *ólom* was confirmed and ratified, proved satisfactory to both claimants, and was duly executed, Conall *each luath* peacefully succeeding Conall Corc.

Conall 'of the swift steeds' left two sons, Enna and Cas. Enna *airctheach* (the plunderer) succeeded his father in the rule of Tuadh-Mumha. During his reign the men of Connachta made strenuous efforts to recover the territory beyond the Sinainn conquered by Lugaid *menn*; and Enna, in order that his forces might be free to oppose such attempts, was constrained to effect a compromise with the race of Eoghan. It was therefore agreed between them that the Dal-gCais and their posterity should rest content with their patrimonial inheritance of Tuadh-Mumha, and should surrender any claims over Des-Mumha to which they might become entitled when elected to rule over the whole province. The permanent hereditary possession of Des-Mumha, by this agreement, became vested in the Eoghanachta. The alternate right of succession to the supremacy of Mumha was however retained, but from this time forward, with few exceptions, was monopolised by the elder branch.\*

Of Enna's posterity little is known. The Kingship of Tuadh-Mumha passed after him to his younger brother Cas, in whose line it continued without interruption, until the native independent rule of Tuadh-Mumha was extinguished by his degenerate descendant in the days of Henry VIII.

9. CAS, surnamed *Mac-tail* (son of adze), because he had been fostered by a wright, made a gavel of his territory among his twelve sons, reserving to Blad, the eldest, the right of succession and all privileges belonging thereto. From Blad therefore descend the Kings of Tuadh-Mumha.
10. CAISIN, second son of Cas, had allotted to him by his father the district of Ui-gCaisin. From him it took its name, which is preserved to the present day in the rural deanery of 'Ogaskin,' for the ecclesiastical divisions of a country are less liable to change than the political divisions. After the introduction of Christianity, Ui-gCaisin was divided into the parishes of Cluaine, Cuiuche, Duire, Cill-reachtais,

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\* O'Brien in Coll. de rebus Hib., vol. iv.

Inis-Cronain with a sub-division Cill-Subhalaid, Teampul Ui-Mailli, and Tulach-na-nEscop with a later sub-division—Cill-Muire. These existing parishes form the Deanery, and their bounds cover the ground originally granted to Caisin. Henceforward the chief of Ui-gCaisin held the second place in precedency among the Dal-gCais, and to him belonged the hereditary office of Marshal of Tuadh-Mumha, whose duty it was to inaugurate, by the delivery of a straight white wand and other ceremonies, the head of the tribe on his election to the kingship. This solemn inauguration of the King of Tuadh-Mumha took place on the mound of Magh-Adhair, (in the parish of Cluaine), the burial place of Adar, a celebrated Fir-bolg chieftain of that district. This site must have been regarded with peculiar veneration by succeeding generations, since it was selected by a later race as their solemn meeting-place for the election of their Celtic kings.

The succeeding four centuries from the time of Caisin seem to have been uneventful and peaceful, for no records of his immediate descendants occur in the Annals, save the bare mention of their names in the genealogies. From him the line of descent continued thus:—

11. CARTHENN.
12. FERGAL.
13. ATHLANN.
14. EOGHAN.
15. DONGALACH.
16. URTHAL.
17. CUILEN. "Cuilen's mother, a daughter of the King of Mumha, saw in a dream the child, who was to be born of her, in the form of a hound, hence the name given to him" [Cuilen=catullus, whelp.] From him his descendants derived their appellation of Clann-Cuilein.
18. MAELCLUITH.
19. SIODA *in eich buidi* (of the bay steed). While Sioda was chief of Ui-gCaisin an attempt was made by Flann Sinna (of the Sinainn) Ard-ri of Eire (879-916) to exact tribute from the Dal-gCais, while on circuit through the whole country accompanied by four powerful battalions, for the purpose of receiving hostages and tribute from the provincial rulers. Before setting out on this expedition he



had boasted at Temair that there were none of the Provincial kings who could play chess against him, or prevent him from playing wherever he chose to play the game. His *ollamh* of poetry, Flann, son of Lonan (d. 897), warned him against such idle boasting, saying that to his certain knowledge there were free cantreds in Eire wherein the monarch would not be allowed to play against their will. Flann *Sinna* made a demand on the free Dal-gCais, who were exempt from any payment to him, of a sheep from every flock, a war-steed from their king, a free gift from every prince, and three silver pennies from every chieftain.

Now Lorcan, son of Lachna, was King of Tuadh-Mumha at that time, a man of prowess and renown, and he dwelt on Loch-Derg-deirc; and he went forward to meet Flann, who, on his progress from Luimneach, had reached the Plain of Adar and was encamped in its midst, and there on the sacred mound Flann's chess-board was given him to play withal. The assembled Dal-gCais were enraged at this insult, and rushing into the monarch's tent, broke the board in twain and so scattered the pieces that not the third part of them were ever afterwards recovered.

Then with their quickly gathered forces they laid such close siege to Flann in that place that for three days and three nights none of his troops obtained rest, or food, or drink, nor is it known how many of them fell. Of the Dal-gCais only one rash youth, armed with no weapons save darts, was slain by Flann's archers. The cavalry of the Ard-ri had fled to the adjoining forests, where they were surrounded and taken by Sioda.

After three days siege the monarch 'went under the protection of his poet' in order to obtain terms and release.

It was on this occasion that the latter composed the lay—"Lorcan of Loch Derg . . ." wherein he highly eulogises Sioda:—

Sida upon his bay-steed seized of our horses two hundred :  
 He came round us from the south whereby he did us much mischief :  
 He came round us from the north the:eby forcing us to give way.  
 Said Flann, King of banquets, from Temair, house of royal heroes,  
 " Flann, Lonan's son ! for friendship claim fondly from Sida his  
 steed."

Then went I forth to address Sida the fair and free hero.

"Wherefore, O Flann, art thou come?" demanded then that fierce warrior.

Answer made I to that chief—the noble Gaedhil's fierce gryphon :

"To beg from thee the free-gift of thy bay-steed, Sir, am I here."

"Hearken, O Flann, thou Poet! My bay-steed of beautiful crest—

"Long time him have I ridden. Brave deeds can I do without him!"

Then cried the host from their tents "For Sida be the black saddled!

"The King shall make an exchange! Give for a bay-steed a black one!"

Bay-steeds seemed all their steeds then! Horror of death in their weapons!

Yet Sida ever with me maintained his friendly relation.

The poet therefore asked protection from the Dal-gCais for Flann, and his petition was granted. The discomfited monarch with his battalions were then fed, and conducted to the fords of the Sinainn. Sioda's son—

20. AISITH—was probably the man of that name mentioned in the 'Cathreim Cellachain Caisil,' whose son Aengus was slain while accompanying Cellachan, King of Mumha, to Ath-cliaith in A.D. 950. There treacherously Cellachan was taken prisoner by the Norsemen, and carried first to Ard-Macha, and afterwards on board the Viking fleet anchored in Dun-nDealgan bay. A messenger from him announced his capture to the chiefs of Mumha, who summoned a hosting to effect the rescue of their king. Their battalions mustered at Magh-Adhair, and there Cenneide, King of Tualh-Mumha, who was left behind to protect Mumha, detached 3,000 men (more than the half of his forces) and sent them forward with the expedition. His commands were—"Let Coscrach, Lonngarcán and Congalach come, with 2,000 men. Let Aissida, son of Aissida, come, with 500 of the descendants of Carthenn along with him. Let Deghadh, son of Domnall, son of Donn, come, with 500 of the men of Ele with him." These forces he added to the host, who pushed on to Ard-Macha, where they routed the Danes; and after the Irish fleet had come round the coast and vanquished the Viking fleet in Dun-nDealgan bay and released their king, returned with him in triumph to Caisel. ["Cathreim Cellachain Caisil," tr. by Alexander Bugge, Christiania, 1905.]
21. ENDA.
22. AEDH *adhav* [wan-faced], from whom the clan derived its name *Siol-Aedha*, or Seed of Aedh.

23. MENMA—was most probably with the troops of the Dal-g Cais, in their accustomed place in the van of Brian's army, at the battle of Cluain-tarbh, where they engaged with the mail-clad Danes, and defeated them utterly, 23 April, 1014.

Menma evidently survived, and accompanied Donnchadh, the son of King Brian *borvoimhe*, on his heroic march homeward to Ceann-coradh, after this decisive battle wherein the Norsemen were finally defeated and driven out of Ireland, for his death is recorded in the following year, 1015.\*

24. DOMHNALL.

25. CUMARA (hound of the sea)—“so called because he was born on the high seas,” or “because he was as powerful on sea as on land.”

From him his descendants took their surname Mac-Conmara.

His eldest son Murchadh, King of Ui-gCaisin, died in 1099.

His second son Cumara *mór* (the great) succeeded him, and was slain in 1135.

His youngest son Domhnall continued the line—

26. DOMHNALL of Echtghe. Sliabh Echtghe is the range of hills on the border of Clare and Galway.

27. CUMARA *beg* (the little) succeeded his uncle Cumara *mór* as King of the Ui-gCaisin, and was slain in the battle of Moin-mor, fought in 1151, against the troops of Connachta and Laigen, wherein the forces of Des-Mumha and the Dal-gCais lost 7,000 men.†

Three of his sons—Domhnali drowned in the Sinainn 1159, Ragnall, and Cumedha—succeeded respectively as Chiefs. A younger son—

28. NIALL was father of

29. CUMEDHA the Great, who succeeded his elder brother Sioda as Chief in 1278. During his chieftaincy and his brother's, civil war raged in Tuadh-Mumha between rival factions of the Ua Briain clan, who were contending for the kingship. A younger branch of this family had the support of the Anglo-Normans under Thomas de Clare, who had established himself in Tradraighe, in his strong castle of

\* Annals of Inis-faithlenn. † Ann. Rioghacta Eireann.