

From MS. Laud 615, p. 18.

Mongan cecinitdo Colum Cille.

Caomh-Colum cáidh ciuin cubaid cobsaid comdalach com ramach cumachtach Cille mirbuilech,

[5] ag nach fail gradh ilselba,
cabras da mainib gan dimda
gach dam imda ilarda,
nach fail *tarut* na 1 fich na ferg,
gnais derg lethan lainnerdha,
[10] corp gel ar n-derbad a rúin,
ocus clú gan imharbus,
rosg glas gan locht is gan lasg
ocus folt cas coinnealda. 2

Foghar gotha Coluim Cille,
[15] lor a binne os gach cleir,
co tend cuig *fichet déc* ceimenn,
aidble remenn, sedh ba reil.

Mac Eit[h]ni is Fei[d]limid finn
cuigi romcinn Dia do cein
a Tir Tarrngaire na finn,
[20] mar a cantar fír gan bréig.

Tri caoguit inis rea rim
ma docuired on rig *réd*, 3
in gach innsi dar mo leighend
tri coibheis Eirenn fodein.

[25] Mar domsdíur mac De gu haghmar,
om tir fein tang ane
gu Carraig Eolairg gan mebail,
cu bord Locha Febail fein. [p. 89](#)
Loch Febail fial nocho míbladh
ag dílad aidhed [1](#) o Néill.

Colum Cille cáin gan gó,
briathra an laoi ch gersat ra ló,
anté nach cabair na fainn [5]
noca carann [2](#) caom-Choluim.
Caomh-Cholum caidh.

Beloved, chaste, gentle, just, firm, disputant, combative, [powerful](#), miraculous Colum Cille,

'Who loveth not many possessions, [10]
Who with his gifts without displeasure
Helpeth every numerous multitudinous band.
Over thee there is neither wrath nor anger.
Red broad radiant face,
White body that hath proved mysteries, [15]
And fame without sin,
Grey eye without fault and without . . . ,
And curly luminous hair.

The sound of Colum Cilia's voice--
Abundant its sweetness above every train, [20]
To the end of fifteen score paces,
Vastness of courses! it was clear. [3](#)

The son of Ethne and of Fedlimid the Fair,
To him God sent me from afar,
From the Land of Promise of the blessed, [25]
Where truth is sung without falsehood.

Thrice fifty isles are counted,
As they were set by the bright King;
In every isle, by my lore!

There is three times the size of Erin herself. [30]

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As the Son of God directed me prosperously,
From my own land I have come yesterday
To Carraic Eolairg without disgrace,
To the edge of Lough Foyle itself.
[5] Loch Foyle, hospitable without ill-fame,
Contenting the guests of the Ui Néill.

Colum Cille, fair without falsehood,
Though the words of the warrior were . . .
He that doth not help the weak,
[10] He is no friend of beloved Colum.'

Footnotes

88:1 This *na* is superfluous; it spoils the metre.

88:2 [30] In the notes on Féline Oengusso, p. ci., these lines are as follows:

"Colam cáincruth cumachtach,
drech derg lethan lainderda,
corp geal, clú cen imarba,
folt cass, suil glas chaindelta.

88:3 Read *réil*.

89:1 Read *áighadh*.

89:2 Read *cara*.

89:3 This quatrain is also found in Three Middle-Irish Homilies, p. 102, in Féilire Oengusso, p. ci, and in Goidelica, p. 163. Instead of *cóic fichet déc* read *cóic cét déac*. *Déac* having become a monosyllable, *cét* was changed into *fichet* to make up the seven syllables.

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