

Fuadach nan Gaidheal

The Clearance of the Gaels

Le Henry Whyte

Rann 1

Gur a mise tha tùrsach, a' caoidh còr na dùthcha,
How sad I am, lamenting the condition of the country,
'S nan seann daoine cùiseal bha cliùiteach 'us treun;
And the old thrifty people who were renowned and strong
Rinn uachdrain am fuadach, gu fada null thar chuantan,
The landowners made the clearances, to far over the oceans,
Am fearann chaidh thoirt uapa, 's thoirt suas do na fèidh.
The land was taken from them and given up to the deer.
'Se siud a' chulaidh nàire, bhith faicinn daoine làidir,
That was a shameful thing, to be seeing strong people
Gam fuadach thar sàile mar bharrlach gun fheum
Being driven overseas like worthless tramps
'S am fonn a bha àluinn chaidh 'chur fo chaoirich bhàna.
And the once beautiful land has been put under white sheep.
Tha feanntagach 'sa' ghàradh 'san làrach fo fheur.
Nettles infest the garden and the ruins are grassed over.

Rann2

Far an robh mòran dhaoine, Le 'm mnathan is le 'n teaghlach
Where once were many men, with women and with families
Chan eil ach caoirich mhaola Ri fhaotainn 'nan àitch',
There is nothing but Cheviot sheep taking their place,
Chan fhaicear air a' bhuaile, A' bhanarach le buaraich,
There is not to be seen in the cattle fold, the milkmaid with cow fetters
No idir an crodh guail-fhionn, 'S am buachaille bàn.
Nor yet the white shouldered cattle and the fair haired herdsman,
Tha 'n uiseag anns na speuran A' seinn a luinneig ghleusda,
The lark in the sky is singing a tuneful song,
'S gun neach ann 'ga h-èisdeachd, Nuair dh' èireas i àird:
Without a person to hear her, when she rises on high:
Cha till, cha till na daoine Bha cridheil agus aoidheil,
They will not return, the people who were kind hearted and hospitable,
Mar mholl air latha gaoithe, Chaidh 'n sgaoileadh gu bràth.
Like chaff on a windy day, they have been scattered for ever.

Mise – mi; **tùrsach** – sad; **a' caoidh** – lamenting; **còr** – condition; **dùthcha** – country; **seann** – old; **daoine** – people; **cùiseal** – thrifty; **cliùiteach** – renowned; **treun** – strong; **Rinn** – made; **uachdrain** – superiors; landowners; **fuadach** – driving out, clearance, **fada** – far; **null** – away; **thar** – across; **chuantan** – seas oceans; **fearann** – land; **chaidh thoirt** – was taken; **uapa** – from them; **thoirt suas** – given up; **fèidh** – deer; **siud** – that; **chulaidh** – object, thing; **nàire** – shame; **bhith** – to be; **faicinn** – seeing; **làidir** – strong; **sàile** – sea, ocean; **mar** – like; **bharrlach** – tramps; **gun** – without; **fheum** – worth; **fonn** – land; **àluinn** – beautiful; **'chur** – to put; **fo** – under; **chaoirich** – sheep; **bhàna** – white; **feanntagach** – full of nettles; **ghàradh** – garden; **làrach** – ruin, habitation, farm; **fheur** – grass; **Far an robh** – where were; **mòran** – many; **dhaoine** – people; **Le** – with; **mnathan** – women; **teaghlach** – families; **Chan eil** – is not; **ach** – but; **caoirich mhaola** – Cheviot sheep; **fhaotainn** – getting, taking; **Chan fhaicear** – cannot be seen; **bhuaile** – cattle fold; **bhanarach** – milkmaid; **buaraich** – cow fetters; **No idir** – not even; **crodh** – cattle; **guail-fhionn** – white shouldered; **buachaille** – herdsman; **bàn** – fair haired; **uiseag** – sky lark; **speuran** – heavens, sky; **A' seinn** – singing; **luinneig** – song; **ghleusda** – in tune; **neach** – person; **èisdeachd** – listening, hearing; **Nuair** – when; **dh' èireas** – would rise; **àird** – on high; **Cha till** – will not return; **cridheil** – kind hearted; **aoidheil** – hospitable; **mhol** – chaff; **latha** – day; **gaoithe** – windy; **sgaoileadh** – scattered; **gu bràth** – for ever.