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The Story of the Bull (Continued)

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OUR GAELIC CLASS.

PATERNOSTER—Continued.

Ar talamh mar théantar ar neamh: "On earth as it is done in heaven." There is not much to say on this clause beyond what is contained in the previous lessons on the Lord's Prayer. The Gaelic word for earth, *talamh*, at once calls to mind the Latin *tellus*, which probably springs from the same root as the Greek *teletho*, meaning to bring forth. The earth, then, in Irish, is denoted by a word signifying that which brings forth or is fruitful.

The preposition *ar* is connected with the Greek *paros* (the *p* being silenced) and our "for."

Mar means "as" or "like," and I suspect it must be connected with the Latin *par*, equal, and our "peer," by change of the objectionable *p* into *m*. It has the power of aspirating, and so the word *théantar*, "is done," is to be pronounced "yainthar."

An interesting suggestion for the help of the Irish movement was lately made to me in a letter from a friend in Belfast. One of the great needs in the Gaelic-speaking districts of Ireland is that of books to read. Of course there is also, owing to our insane system of education, a considerable lack of persons who can read Irish, although they speak nothing else. But this difficulty is being in some measure overcome by the efforts of the Gaelic League in organizing classes, and it is highly desirable that those who have acquired the power of reading their own language should have something to exercise their minds on. In the absence of suitable Gaelic books, it is suggested that excellent books could be made by cutting out poems, stories, and similar contributions from the *Gaelic Journal*, from *An Saobhad*, from *Clárdeamh Soluis*, *Fáinne an Lae*, and other Gaelic publications, and pasting them into a neat album.

If anyone was to do this in the spirit of an old Irish scribe they would draw and colour initial letters, borders, and tail-pieces in Celtic design, and add, perhaps, sketches illustrating the text, or even cut out suitable sketches from illustrated papers or magazines and paste them in. An album of this kind, strongly bound, would pass from hand to hand and be much prized and studied, and with a little taste and care it might be made a thing of much beauty as well as of use. A Gaelic lending library is to be opened in the Arran Islands this summer. Will anyone contribute to its store of books an album such as this? If anyone thinks of it, and would like further information as to the sources of material for contributions and for ornament, &c., I shall be very glad if they will communicate with me at the office of this Review.

The one and only hope of preserving Irish in the places where it is still spoken is to give it what it has not now in the peasant's eyes—the dignity of a written and scholarly language. He thinks English in the language of books and of all the elevated side of life, and the language of St. Columba is to him only a peasant patois. He despises it, as I was told lately in the West, just as he despises the knee-breeches and blue stockings that his grandfather wore, or as the girl despises the well-known blue cloak and scarlet, homespun petticoat, thinking she looks finer in a shoddy gown from some Scotch factory. To create another and a truer standard of feeling must be the immediate aim of those who are interested in the maintenance of Irish as a living tongue, or else a priceless treasure from the past will soon have slipped from our grasp, and we shall "mourn our loss too late."

T. W. ROLLESTON.

THE STORY OF THE BULL—Continued

Do bí pé ag fearaó ar an ródh (dho vee shae eg shasso er an ródh), he was standing on the road. (Literally—He was at standing on the road).

rear — stand
fearaó — standing
ag fearaó — at standing or a-standing

What is known to English Grammarians as the Participle Active, or, as it is sometimes called, the Present or Imperfect Participle, is regarded by Irish Grammarians as a verbal noun governed by a preposition. The preposition used in this case is generally *ag*, at. Thus—

Tá pé ag out abaithe (thaw shae eg dhull awalye), he is going home. (Literally—He is at-going or a-going home).

out — the act of going
ag out — a-going or going
abaithe — home (following a verb of motion)

Nuair táinig an t-aothaire agus dá maoth leir (Noor hawnig an th-ayerre oggus dhaw wodha lyesh), When the herd came and two dogs with him.

Nuair — the time, when
Táinig — came, past tense of *táim*, I come
aothaire — a herd
Dá — two—always followed by the noun to which it refers

Before going further we may mention that in Irish there are only two genders—masculine and feminine, and the article affects the noun in a different manner in each case. Thus when the article is placed before *aothaire*, which is masculine, in the nominative case, the combination is not an *aothaire* but an *t-aothaire*, the *t* sound coming in here not only for euphony but for grammatical distinction also.

Other examples of the use of the article with a masculine noun beginning with a vowel:—

Do bí an t-urrlár lom (dho vee an th-urrlawr lum), the floor was bare.

urrlár — a floor lom — bare

An t-am fadó ó (an th-om fadh o), the time long ago — "Auld lang syne."

am — time fadó ó — long since, long ago

Examples of the use of the article with a feminine noun in the nominative case.

Tá an amshir thirim (thaw an amshir thirim), the weather is dry.

amshir — weather, season thirim — dry

Tá an inneoin throm (thaw an innyeone throm), the anvil is heavy.

inneoin — an anvil throm — heavy

In these last examples the *t* sound between the article and the noun is not heard, so when a feminine noun in the nominative case, and beginning with a vowel, follows the article, this *t* sound is omitted.

O' ionnruig ná maoth an tairb, agus do cuir an t-aothaire é in ar páirc arís (dh-innuee na modhee an thorruv oggus dho huir an th-ayerre ae ins an fawrk areesh), the dogs attacked the bull, and the herd put him into the field again.

ionnruig, attack; o'ionnruig, attacked; ná, the plural of *an*; maoth, dogs (plural of *maoth*); ná maoth, the dogs; cuir, put; do cuir, did put; é him, (accusative of *pé*); arís, again.

PATRICK KANGLEY.

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