

---

# **Transactions, Volume 21**

**#Gaelic Society of Inverness**

---

**Title: Transactions, Volume 21**

**Author: #Gaelic Society of Inverness**

**This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.**









TRANSACTIONS

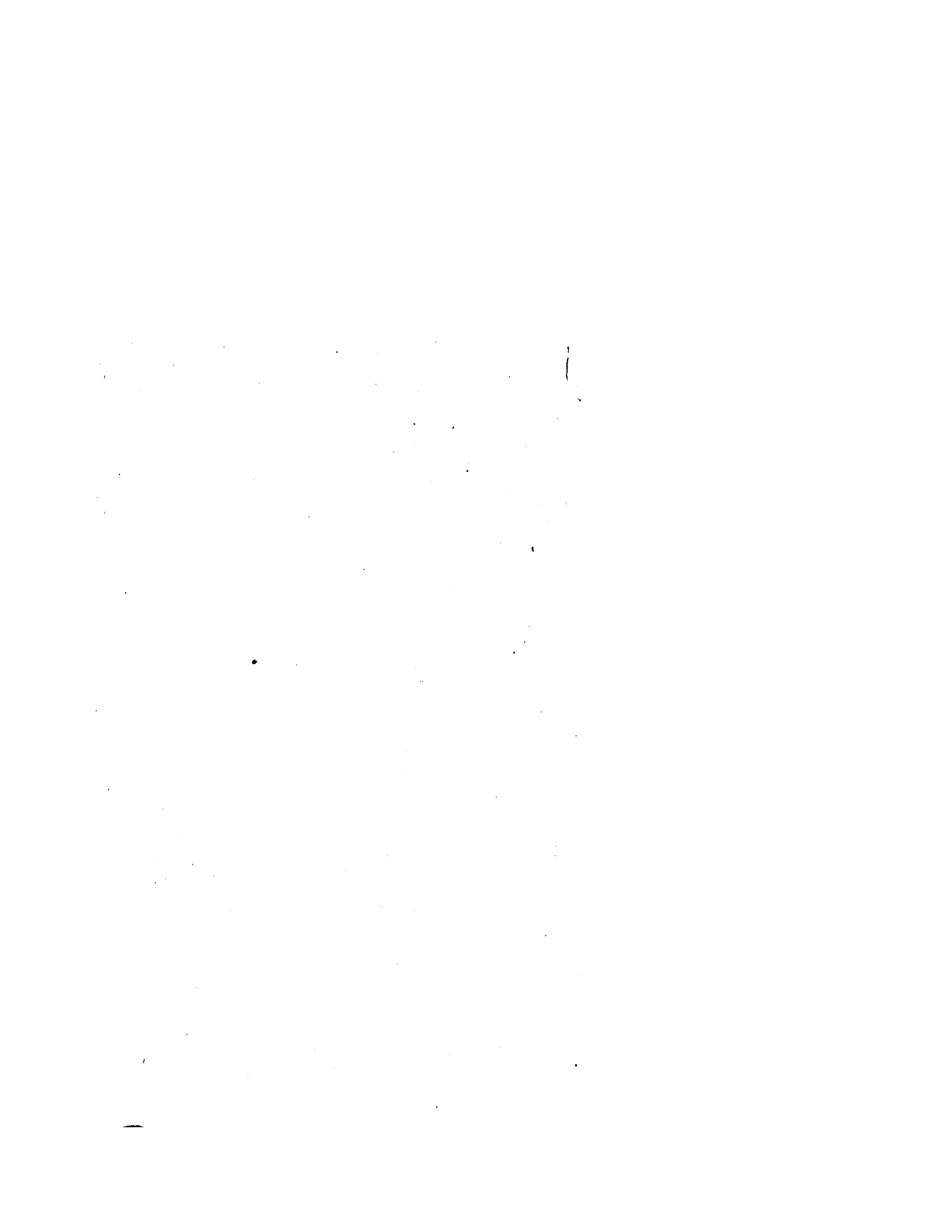
OF

THE GAELIC SOCIETY OF INVERNESS.

---

VOLUME XXI.

1896-97.



TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
GAELIC SOCIETY  
OF INVERNESS.

---

VOLUME XXI.

1896-97.

---

Clann nan Gaidheal an Ghailean a Cheile.

Inverness:

THE GAELIC SOCIETY OF INVERNESS.

1899.

M.C.T.



THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
222149  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.  
R 1901 L.

---

Inberriss :

PRINTED BY THE NORTHERN COUNTIES NEWSPAPER AND PRINTING AND PUBLISHING  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

---

NOV 21 1901

## INTRODUCTION.

---

THIS, the 21st volume of the Gaelic Society of Inverness Transactions, though a majority volume, is published in the Society's 28th year of existence. The publication of a yearly volume has long been found impossible or impracticable; and this volume, like its two immediate predecessors, contains a year and a half's work—from January of 1896 to June of 1897. The volume claims to be unique in one respect: it is the largest which the Society has yet issued, coming as it does within a few pages of the five hundred. Its characteristics otherwise are the same as the later volumes of the Society—few general or elementary papers, but several papers containing original research or original documents. It is not invidious to draw attention to the historical or documentary value of the "Bighouse Papers" and the "Gleanings from the Cluny Charter Chest;" but it will be seen that the Society has not forgotten the other aspects of its work—Highland folklore, Gaelic literature in all its phases, Gaelic dialects, and local as well as clan history.

Our death-roll for this volume is heavy, both in number and quality. Alexander Mackenzie, well known under the sobriquet of the "Clach" (which arose from the name of his first shop in Inverness—"Clachnacuddin House"), died on the 22nd January, 1898. He was one of the most notable men in the Highlands for the last generation—Highland politician, editor, and clan historian. Born on a croft in Gairloch in 1838, he had little opportunity for schooling, and at an early age he had to earn his living as navy, ploughman, and the like. About 1860 he joined the Scotch Drapery Trade in England, and soon made his way in business. In 1869 he settled in Inverness, first as clothier,

developing latterly into editor and publisher of the *Celtic Magazine* and *Scottish Highlander*. He has left seven clan histories, all works of great genealogical value. He was one of the founders of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and took an active part in all its proceedings to the last. Sir Henry C. Macandrew, who had held the office of Chief of the Society, and who so often acted as chairman of its public meetings when the actual chiefs could not be present, died on the 26th September of last year; he was born in 1832. Another enthusiastic and energetic member was the late Captain Macra Chisholm of Glassburn. Within the last few weeks the Highland publishing world has had to mourn the loss of two of its most valued heads. Mr Archibald Sinclair of Glasgow, "deagh mhac an deagh athar," died on the 1st February, at the early age of 48. From his "Celtic Press" have issued many Gaelic publications during the last thirty years. Mr Robert Livingston, manager of the *Northern Chronicle*, and practically the Society's publisher, died suddenly at Edinburgh on the 3rd March, much regretted by everyone that knew him. The poetess, Mrs Mary Macpherson or "Mairi Nighean Iain Bhàin," must also be added to our death roll. She was born at Skeabost, in Skye, in 1821, and died there in November, 1898, at the ripe age of 77 years.

In taking our customary glance at Celtic literature, we have to record a fair output for the Highlands. Gaelic works are few. Surgeon-Colonel John Macgregor has greatly enhanced his poetic reputation by his *Luinneagan Luaineach* (Nutt). Two volumes are now published in handy and cheap form of Rev. Mr Macrury's racy and accurate translation of the "Arabian Nights"—*Syeulachdan Arabianach* ("Northern Chronicle"). Dr George Henderson has laid the Gaelic world under a great debt of obligation to him for his excellent work *Leabhar nan Gleann*, which contains three leading features: one-third of it consists of transliterations from the Férnaig MS. to the extent of half the MS., one-half is taken up with a collection of Hebridean poetry, and the rest contains an English translation of Prof. Zimmer's important paper on "Matriarchy among the Picts." Mr Henry Whyte has published, under the title of *Leabhar Na Ceilidh*, an

excellent selection of Gaelic readings and recitations in prose and verse. A new edition of Rob Donn's poems, edited by Mr Hew Morrison, with a memoir, has given rise to a very lively controversy as to whether the poet was a Calder or a Mackay. Of English works on Highland subjects, we may first mention the late Alex. Mackenzie's posthumous "History of the Munros," which merits to be placed among his best books. Dr Charles Fraser-Mackintosh has published the "Minor Septs of Clan Chattan," wherein he shews his usual clan enthusiasm and accuracy of research. Mr W. Drummond-Norie has written a most readable popular history of Lochaber under the title of "Loyal Lochaber," where the legendary element bulks largely. "Inverness County" was published last year by the Blackwoods in their County Histories series; Dr Cameron Lees, the author, has done the work with his usual literary power. Captain Ellice's "Place-Names of Glengarry and Glenquoich" is a very creditable performance, and we should like to see more of this class of work done; the last similar book was Mr Liddall's "Fife and Kinross Place-Names" (1896). Mr E. B. Nicholson, the Bodleian Librarian, spent some vacations in Golspie, and the result is an "omnium gatherum" work, entitled "Golspie: Contributions to its Folklore," very readable, and, save on Pictish inscriptions, reliable. Mr Andrew Lang has edited a Spy's Account of the "Highlands in 1750," with introduction and notes. It is a useful book, giving a valuable if prejudiced report upon the clans and their capacities. Of new editions we may mention Dr Kennedy's "Days of the Fathers in Ross-shire," edited by the Revs. J. Noble and J. Kennedy; "Leabhar Nan Cnoc," republished largely at the expense of that enthusiastic Highlander, Mr John Mackay of Hereford; and Mackay's Collection of Pipe-Music (Logan & Co). In regard to periodicals and journals, *The Caledonian Medical Journal* and the *Highland News* deserve special mention for their Gaelic and Highland matter. *Mactalla*, of Cape Breton Island, still continues to be our only purely Gaelic journal.

Outside Scotland there has been some slackness in book publishing, but magazine articles are as numerous as ever. A