



English translation of a tale which was printed
in the Gaelic Journal, Vol. **IV**. (1889), pp.7-9,
26-28, 35-37. The contributor's name is
P. O. Briain. No provenance is given for the tale
but it is clear that it is of West Munster origin.

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Joachim.

Translation of

The History of the Farmer & of the Red Gruagach

The original Irish
appeared in
The Gaelic Journal
Dublin IV (1889)

An important Irish variant of Larminie's "Morraha".

See Kennedy's Fictions of the Irish Celts p 266



THE HISTORY OF THE FARMER AND THE RED GRUAGACH. *

Long ago, before the Lochlannaich ever thought of coming to Erin, or of making beer [= mead?] of the shoots of the heather, there dwelt in Beula-dáchab, in the southern part of Erin, a farmer who was fairly rich, as he was an industrious, careful man who had a good deal of riches. He had no burden or family but just one son only, and it is right to say that he was very fond of him. But it is seldom that a saving father has a wise and skilful son, and that was true of this farmer. Eventually the old man, having lived his time industriously, ^{and} laboriously, died after the manner of the people of this world.

When he had been laid in the grave, and when the young man had entered into possession of his father's abundance, the vainglorious youth little thought that he would ever succeed in scattering ^{all} the gold and silver, but he thought still less of increasing his estate. He frequented fairs and gatherings, and spent his silver generously. In this manner,

* Dinneen's Foclóir gives "gruagach, an enchanter, a magician, a spectre, goblin, 'browney'." In Scottish, it means a person with an abundant head of hair. It is therefore a name for a hero in the old tales, and reflects the custom of ^{wearing} keeping the hair long among the old Celtic aristocracy. Nowadays, it is only applied to a maiden.



he ~~was~~ wasted ^{in complacent ease [?]} [~~the~~ reaped, cut off] a few years ~~haughtily~~. But

after the the lapse of a certain time, the [Young] Farmer found himself slipping into poverty. He searched every hidingplace and cranny, in which he thought his father might have hidden his money, and at last he had the good luck to find, tightly squeezed in under the house-thatch, a ~~piece~~

Sporrans ^{full} of gold. ~~but this~~ ^{This, however,} only settled his difficulties for

a short while, for instead of turning from his evil ways and acting for his own good, the fact is that he began again to drink and ~~to~~ gamble until he had lost

his proprietorship, his reputation, and self-respect. He was

compelled to mortgage his land, because he had nothing with which to pay his debts. ~~But~~ ^{Yet} in spite of the greatness of

the misfortune which had attended him, his wits were none the better of it, for he ~~followed~~ consorted with wild

fellow, and ^{continued to} ~~followed~~ every senseless game he had

practised from his youth up.

G.I.
IV. 7.



One day, when sorrowfully going home, he met an old man on the road near his own house, who seemed to be half a fool, and who was sitting snugly on the western side of a great hedge of gorse or furze. They entered into converse with each other. By way of giving an account of himself, the stranger said that the name he had was the Red Gruagach, and that ever since he had been born it had been his hard lot to be ~~given~~ ^{immoderately addicted} to playing with the dice, notwithstanding that he frequently failed to reap anything ^{from it} but loss and distress. He asked the Farmer if he would play a game with him. The Farmer replied that he would have done so, but that he had not any money. But the Farmer said to him:—

The advice that I would ~~personally~~ give thee, is
 To ^{nobly restrain thee and} cease from thy ~~habit~~ drinking;
 Spend not thy money in a foolishly proud manner,
 And do not be senselessly drunk.
 Seeing that thou hadst much better have a ^{sixpence,} ~~shilling,~~
 To spend in food for thy mouth,
 Than to scatter a crown in a fairing,
 And have nought in return but to go begging.



"It is good advice," said the Farmer, "if only I were able to do accordingly."

The Gruagach was a man fond of [practical] jokes, and ^{Sarcastic,} ~~man~~ well acquainted with the tricks and channels of witchcraft, matters about which the Farmer was ignorant. He [the Gruagach] had never refrained from practising that mischievous ^{art} whenever he got an opportunity, but the Farmer did not know that he was ^a dishonest knave. The Gruagach produced some dice from his pocket, and they bent their minds on the game. The wager they arranged between them, was, that the Red Gruagach was to lay a hundred pounds against the Farmer's crown, but they had not long pursued the game when the Farmer won, and received without delay the amount that had been promised him. The Farmer wended his way home, merrily and in good spirits, and full of vigour. Thenceforth, he began to recover his senses, and to fulfil every bargain he made.



At the end of a number of weeks, whom should the Farmer fall in with a second time, but the Red Gruagach. After conversing for a little while, the Gruagach invited him to play a game. — "What," said the Farmer, "wouldst thou demand if the game goes against me, for we ought ~~first of all~~ to understand beforehand the bearings and the why and wherefore of our business?"

"We will not play for money now," said the Gruagach, "but let us postpone ^{the terms of our covenants or stakes,} ~~our alliance~~ [for let us put it to the hazard of play?] till we see which of us is the best man."

"Very good," said the Farmer.

Each of them played his tricks carefully, intently, and ^{with} painstaking, ^{at last} until } the Farmer managed to win victory.

"That was a bad effort on my part," said the Gruagach, "and I think thou hast played some deceit upon me, but let it stand, thou shalt have it as it stands; but I will prove to thee that I will requite that ~~obligation~~ favour to thee yet. Tell me what spells thou dost desire to lay upon me?"



"[The spells] I now bind upon thee as a supreme obligation," said the Farmer, "are, that thou bring me ^{to my house} ~~me~~ for my ^{son} } especial behoof a fortnight or fifteen days from tomorrow the most beautiful woman in the world that I may marry her." — "That is a hard decision," said the Gruagach, "and in consequence I am now in very great straits. But I have great hopes I shall be able to satisfy thee."

The Farmer was full of gladness, and he passed his time merrily till the morning of the day appointed.

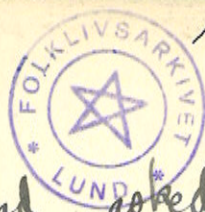
After the sun had risen, his servant came to the door of his room, and said that there was a noble lady more handsome and elegant than a king's daughter in appearance and form waiting for him in the hall, and that she had never seen her equal for loveliness. The Farmer was quickly by her side. The lady was afraid of him at first, but he spoke to her very gently and courteously, besides he was himself a splendid, good looking, capable man.



She told him how she had been compelled against her will to leave her father and her mother, and journey to him. They were married, and spent their lives as if enchanted without trouble or sorrow for a year. About that time, the Farmer ~~made determination~~ formed the resolution to have another encounter with the Red Grnagach.

"It is my opinion," said his wife, "that ~~any~~ if thou ^{ever} had any dealings with the Red Grnagach again, it will be an omen of the very mischief for thee." But it was useless for her to advise him for his own good.

He set out on a delightful evening, and went on until he came to the place in the glen where the Grnagach used to sit, expecting to see him. He was not deceived in his hopes, for he soon saw the Grnagach, enjoying himself. As a result of the ^{mutual} acquaintance they already had, the Grnagach saluted the Farmer in a friendly, familiar



way, and asked how he had got on since the last time he had met him. The Farmer told him, word for word, just what had happened. Upon conversing together about the world's doings, the Gruagach confessed that he had not cured himself of his own evil bias; "and," said he, "I am desirous of playing a game on the same terms that we last arranged between us, if thou wish or please."

The Farmer did not require much pressing, and so they began to play for the third time, on the understanding that each should have leave to lay as a tribute upon his fellow whatever terms he chose.

The proverb says, "It is not always that ^{Yellow} Donald is in the state of being marooned," and the same thing [lit. trick] might be said, in a parable, respecting the Farmer's luck in his dealings with the Red Gruagach. ✓



No matter how ~~ingeniously~~ ^{shrewdly} the Farmer imagined himself to be playing ~~tricks~~ ^{tricks} and to be in his best form } [or? no matter how ingeniously he thought] he played, thinking himself to be in a fair way of winning, the Gruagach was far more dexterous and quick. And after spending a long spell playing against each other, the Red Gruagach got the upper hand. ~~With~~ Trembling with fear and troubled at heart, the Farmer struck his palms together, and fell ^{down} ~~in~~ fainting.

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The Farmer remained in that condition for nearly an hour ~~off~~ by the clock, but on awaking, he came to himself again, and recovered himself from the awful trembling that had entered his heart with fear at the dreadful sentence that the Red Gruagach threatened to lay upon him ~~for~~ as a charge or burden.



"I will not do thee any harm," said the Red Gruagach, on whom there then was a surly gloomy look. "Sit up quickly that I may tell thee what spells I am going to lay upon thee."

The Farmer arose and stood up (~~sit~~ [not, sat up] and said, "If it please thee, tell me what they are, since there is no escape from them for me."

"It is true," said the Gruagach, "thou must submit to my decision now; and ~~have~~ ^{be} thou under no mistake nor fail to remember but that these are my orders — that thou get ~~word~~ for me word who it was that stole the golden ship, ^{and} who killed the Giant O Dubhda, and that thou bring me to this very spot a day and a year from to-day the word of light which the Young Hero has in the Eastern World. Health be thine. There is ^{before thee} many a crooked road, and many a straight one."



It was with a surly heart that the Farmer went home. His wife saw at once that some sorrow was troubling him, and she strongly suspected that it was the knavery of the Red Gruagach that ~~caused~~ prevented him from being more courageous. She questioned him as to the way in which ~~he~~ he had spent his time since he had left home, or what had happened to him that he should be so woe-begone.

He knew his wife was far-seeing indeed, and that it would be useless for him to ~~not~~ hide the truth from her by means of magic.

He related to her what had fallen out between him and the Red Gruagach. "This," said he, "is the cause

of my anguish."

"If thou ^{hadst only} ~~taken~~ my advice," said she, "thou wouldst never have had such a tale to tell,

for I well know that thou wilt have little return or profit of the Red Gruagach, and that he had no other business



in hand from beginning to end, but to arrange his nets in a snare against thee. I know a way by which you may get free from his spells, and it is most necessary for thee to have confidence in thyself and do thine endeavours stoutly. " She then explained to him the adventures through which he must go, and after that she sent him to sleep with fairy music.

On the morrow, at the opening of the day, the Farmer's wife was busily preparing food for her husband against the road. She went out into the field, took a long thread out of her pocket, let it fly away with the wind, and shouted loudly once or twice. In a short time a slender brown horse came to her, equipped with a rein and saddle. The Farmer remained ~~waited~~ waiting patiently, expecting her to ~~return [or expecting her to set off?] set off.~~ set off.



A 628:13

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"It is high time for thee to be going," said his wife, "my blessing go with thee; may thy journey prosper with thee; and may thou come back safe and sound." The Farmer leaped upon the back of the horse, ^{and} gave his wife a kiss; ~~at that~~ ^{and at that} moment, a shower of tears fell from her eyes, and he gave [his horse its] head ~~to~~ ^{and set out on} the road. The horse galloped as swiftly as the wind, ~~and~~ ^{so that} the Farmer did not know whether he ~~was~~ going east or west until he came to the banks of the sea; but that did not stop him at all, for the horse flew over the waves of the sea as swiftly as an eagle could skim over the sides of a hill, and in a short time the Farmer was far out of sight of ~~the~~ haven and harbour. He continued travelling in that way until evening overtook him and the sun was going down. At that time the Farmer saw land, and ~~he~~ landed, but notwithstanding, the steed



never ceased from ~~his~~ the furious pace he had ^{always} kept up, until he came to a spacious field at the foot of a great wide castle, newly-whitened ^{with lime}, and then began to neigh. This was like a sign to the people of the castle, for the doors were opened and a band of servants came out to him who led him in to the hall of the palace. It was the King of the country who dwelt in the great house, and he and his Queen gave the Farmer a hundred thousand welcomes. They told him that they were the father and mother of his spouse. Food and drink suitable [to the occasion?] were brought to him, and he ate and drank as much as he required. They enquired about their daughter, and asked how she liked staying in Erin. "The black raven thinks its ^{own} nestling white, and I love the daughter of her mother," said the Queen, when she saw the gold ring which the Farmer had allowed to drop into the glass out of which he ^{had been} ~~was~~ drinking: ^{xx}

* = I love my own daughter.

xx an incident in some of Campbell of Isley's tales.
and in Celtic Magazine,

It is an incident of recognition, and it is probable that the King and Queen did not recognize the hero until he dropped the ring in the glass.



I know she would never have given thee this treasure, were it not that she loved thee well."

The Farmer did not conceal from them any single detail of what had happened to him, and finished [his recital] by saying, "It is upon your ~~directions~~ ~~or instructs~~ guidance and management that my life or my death depend."

He went to sleep, for he was heavy and weary after his long journey, and he slept comfortably and quietly until the ^{fair} light of day overtook him.

The King told the Farmer in the morning the real character of the problems that he had to settle in order to satisfy the Gnuagach. "It is highly necessary for me to tell thee," said the King, "that we three ~~be brethren,~~ — the Red Gnuagach, the Young Hero, and myself, be brethren; and though the Red Gnuagach be the youngest one of us, he is keen and wise. He has for a long time coveted

X the relationship here predicated of the hero's ^{one} friend and two ~~enemies~~ enemies, is singular, and does not occur in any other version known to me.



the sword of light that the Young Hero has,
and he knows that he could never get it without my help.
Little did I wish to do any wrong to my own brother,
for the beloved fellow never did any harm at all to me,
though he has undertaken many a dangerous enterprise in
the course of his life. The Red Gruagach met thee and
played ^{at} dice with thee, expecting that he would be able through
his evil ~~crimes~~ ^{crimes} to gratify his desire for revenge upon the
Young Hero, and for the same end he carried off our
daughter. The Young Hero dwells in a strong fortress
two miles from here, which has walls or high ramparts
surrounding it, and inside them there are long-toothed
dragons who keep watch, and it is an awful thing to
anger them. If they get a hold of thee, they will eat
thee alive, but if thou ^{canst} escape away the first day and the
second, there will be no cause for thee to fear thenceforth.
This [place that I have described] is a place of protection



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to the Young Hero, and no man dare go near the house who is not known to the dragons. Mount the back of the brindled horse that will be shown thee, and he will carry thee through the gate. Let nothing ~~thou~~ ^{you} mayest see put thee into a fix ^{or puzzle thee,} but proclaim in a loud voice that } the sword of light is ~~what thou wantest~~, and } to get word who it was who stole the golden ship and who killed the Giant O' Dubhda. ^{After saying that, make} ~~make~~ not the slightest delay, ~~for~~ ^{instantly} but swing round and come back ~~instantly~~ and urge and hurry home with all the speed thou canst."

At the end of a few days, when the time appointed had come, the Farmer set out courageously, ^{oh} and proceeded till he came to the confines of the wall that was round the Fortress; the horse shook its head, bounded and ^{eagerly} over the wall into the place. The Farmer shouted fiercely and sternly to bring the sword of light out to him, and to tell him who stole the golden ship and ~~and~~ who killed the Giant O' Dubhda.

nothing said as to how the Farmer was supplied with a horse



The dragons gave a ~~fierce~~ ^{fierce} shriek, but though they made a furious attempt to swallow him, he ^{spun round and} turned back, urged his horse on in earnest, and at a single bound ~~cleared~~ vaulted over the wall to the other side, but the ~~the~~ two hind legs of the horse were broken.

The Farmer pressed on, and arrived at his father-in-law's house at night-fall, unwounded, unhurt, and full of joy. They were all glad and triumphant at the expeditious manner in which he had achieved his object.

~~Next day~~ On the second day, he set off to the Fortress of the Young Hero, and no sooner was he inside the wall than the dragons gave forth a hideous roar far worse than he had ever heard before; still, he succeeded by dint of the utmost exertion † or by the skin of his teeth in escaping to the court of his wife's relations.

On the morning of the third day, the Knight said to him, "The dragons will be asleep today, for they are tired with watching * day and night during the two

* nothing about supplying him with a second horse.

† lit. at the pinch of death. — How the Farmer escapes is not told; some important incident must have been omitted: nor is there any ~~anything~~ about the † word as to how the second horse fared.

§ of. "sleep as much as you want now," Moraha, Larminie, 16.



days that have past, and they will not notice thy going in. March up to the Fortress, and thou wilt get everything thou dost desire."

He followed his father-in-law's advice, and no attempt was made to stop him. The dragons were in deep slumber, and though he trod on the foot of one of them, the beast never stirred.

GJ.
IV, 35.

He moved nearer up to the castle, and upon seeing a ^{broad and} ~~wide~~ splendidly-made door wide open, he went into the hall. He thought he had never been in such a ~~place~~ beautiful and well-appointed place, ~~and~~ but never a person ~~did he~~ could he see about. He ~~was~~ took counsel with himself for some ^{little} time as to what he had better do. Upon glancing about, he saw a fine staircase close by, and up that stair he pressed. Upon coming to the first floor, he heard talking in one of the rooms.



He knocked at the door, and asked leave to enter. "Leave thou shalt have and welcome," said the man who opened the door, "for thou hadst the power to destroy with vengeance the solid defences that ^{defended us, though} ~~for~~ we thought that they were impregnable against any pursuers that might come upon us. Sit thee down, and tell me to what kindred thou dost belong, and what put it into thy head to persecute us?"

"I have come a long way from home to [see] you," said the Farmer.

"I am very sorry that it should be so," said the gentleman^P, "but for the sake of ~~thy~~ the doughtiness of thy deeds, I will not cast a single reproach at thee. Many a valiant warrior has been destroyed by seeking to ~~destroy~~ ^{demolish} this fortress."

^P the man who opened the door? ✓



The Farmer sat down ^{bashfully} ~~modestly~~, and of all the things that had happened to him, he left not a single incident ~~of all the things that had happened to him~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~did~~ ~~not~~ ~~lay~~ ~~before~~ ~~them~~, in answer to the enquiries that had ^{set forth} ~~been~~ put to him. "And now," said he, "the only things I lack are the sword of light, and to know who stole the golden ship and who killed the Giant O Dúda (sic)."

"I suppose that thou knowest already that I am the Young Hero," ~~There~~ said the gentleman. "There yonder, is the sword of light hanging against the wall, and I now bestow it upon thee. It sheds so bright a light ^{in the deepest} ~~in the~~ darkness of the night that [^] thou wilt be able to see anything round about it as distinctly as thou canst in the middle of the day. — I must now tell thee the manner in which I obtained the golden ship, and how the Giant O Dúda was laid low by the strength of my hand.



No one is listening to us except my wife, whom thou seest sitting there at the side of the fire, and let her give me the lie or contradict me if she thinks I am not telling thee the truth.

When I was but a young stripling of a lad, I took a fancy to see foreign men and places, in order to get ~~is~~ better acquainted with their ways of living. Upon setting ^{out,} [^]whither should I sail in so stately ~~is~~ a manner but to Greece, and became acquainted with the King of Greece, a person who had a daughter, such that the like of her was not easy to find for beauty. I had not sojourned there long when we married, with the consent of her father and mother; but there was no place under the recumbent clouds * in which I so much preferred to live as in Erin, my native place, and so I begged her to come away with me from Greece.

* lit. under the lying of the clouds.



She refused my request saying that she was independent of me, and that she would pay no heed to my supplication till she considered it fully time; for she was young and ~~not~~ foolish, and paid no attention to my words, as she had no real affection for me in her heart. Her parents advised her to go with me, and in order to coax her, her father gave her as a gift a wizard wand that had ~~had~~ been in his possession for a long, long time. But she did not agree to do this until she had obtained ^{my} leave ~~from~~ ~~me~~ to take me to dwell in the Eastern World first. After we had arrived, she behaved ⁱⁿ such a way as to vex my very heart with her folly, and because ^{on one particular day} I refused to give her her own self-willed way, she struck me with the wizard wand, and changed me into the shape of a horse.



In spite of that, I did not lose my senses, and my memory remained in my power, and I might have done her much harm, but I considered that I had better refrain from ill deeds, lest I might repent of it afterwards.* Now and again I would kick at any one who came to drive me, and throw them under my feet. At other times, I would tear and rip with my teeth whosoever came near me. ~~When~~ At the time this report was spread abroad about me ~~for? at the time~~ ~~this~~ ~~hell~~ ~~my~~ I was living an idle life, but not because I liked it. ~~for? not~~ This [idle life of mine?] did not please my wife's unbridled ^{desires} ~~inclinations~~; and she came to me one day as I was contentedly sunning myself at the foot of a tree.

"Thou hadst no business to be settling thyself there," said she, giving me a jab in the back with a spike.

X a touch that is characteristic of the Irish versions of this tale.



I was unable to accept this insult from her,
~~it would have been painful~~
and with a mad, wild blow, for she had pained me so greatly,
~~and I struck~~ I kicked her in the face with my foot,
and she fell down on the earth, without a breath or
movement in her. A servant found her quite speechless.
She was taken home, and after great care [had been taken
of her,] she got better and stronger again, but that was no
good news to me, for my notion was that she had never
ceased ^{thinking} day or night ~~thinking of some trick or way~~
~~to~~ in what manner she might best destroy me.
One fine day when I was alone, she, to spite
me, struck me with the wizard wand, and made a
wolf of me, and she urged the hounds after me.
The swiftness of my feet saved me from them entirely,
but they got ahead of me, and seized me at last.



They were just about to tear me asunder, when it happened that the King of Greece came up with us. He never recognized who I was, for my wife had told him long before, that I had gone away without a trace or tidings [gan fios mo thairisg] of me,^{xx} so that she did not know whether I was alive [or not.]

^{xx} the King of ~~the~~ Greece is the character who protects the were-wolf in the Highland Tuairisgeal tales. The appearance of the word tuairisg (tidings) in the Irish tale at this point, ~~illustrates~~ reminds one of the confusion between Tuairisgeal, a sea giant, and tuairisgeal, tidings, tale — a confusion which resulted in the giant being called An Sgath Shgaylracht, the story; a fact which greatly puzzled harminie, page 252.



I rendered obeisance to the King as well as I could. He saw the appearance of tears on my cheek, and took pity for me. He thought I was rather ^{queer} ~~strange~~ [~~or of amiable?~~] in my ~~behaviour~~ ^{movements}. I followed him home, and every day that we passed ^{together,} our fondness for each other increased. This made my wife angry; and as it was not in her power to kill me, she did her best to get her father's consent to have me banished into exile. She had little profit by doing so, as he never paid any attention to her voice.

It was my habit and use to be frequently in the room in which our child slept in his cradle. She crept in to me one day, and scattered blood upon me, and rubbed some of it upon the child, in order that people might imagine from this that I had a desire to ~~kill~~



kill the child. She then began to scream and shriek, until her father and every body else in the house heard her. They all ran to her in order to find out what was the cause of her trouble. She complained of me very severely, and ~~gave~~^{caused} me great ~~affront~~^{shame}, proving that it was she who saved the child from the danger in which it ~~had been through~~^{had been}, the danger of my ~~vices~~^{fangs}.

They all turned upon me, and had almost put me to death; but my father-in-law, the King of Greece, said it were better to release me and let me depart from them, that I ~~my~~ might go my own ways and ~~on~~^{seek} my own ~~account~~^{fortune}. Great was the disadvantage and the distress that resulted to me from this, for I was driven away to wander thirsty and hungry, and having nowhere that I might lie down,



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but I was in no uncertainty as to what I had to do. I made up my own mind that I would make my way to the sea-shore, to see if I could find some fish or ~~other~~ carrion that had been thrown up by the sea, and which I might eat to take away my hunger. I had not been long wandering by the side of the high cliffs, while the waves that were buffeting the rocks tremendously were being broken on every side of me, when I saw the most beautiful ship that the eye of man had ever seen ^{rocking} unsteadily ~~swinging~~ on the surface of the water, a little way from me. I made off to her [swimming] hoping to find some bread or meat floating about her. Upon my coming close up to her,

✓



I could see a fishing-rod held by some one on board, who was industriously fishing. I turned about to the stern of the ship where the rod was, and no sooner did I get under it than my shape and my natural appearance came to me again. I shall never succeed by mere force of words ~~in~~ making thee understand the extent of the joy that filled my heart, and I shouted lustily to have me drawn out of the water. A line was thrown to me; I gripped it, and was dragged in on board the ship.

There was nobody on board but a couple of young fellows and their father; they were the



Giant O Dúda (sic) and his sons, who were enjoying themselves in the open air. They supposed that I was a thief who had come to them, and they ~~induced me to fight.~~ ~~quarrelled with me.~~ } I quarrelled with ^me. } I was obliged to give them battle for my own sake, and the Giant O Dúda fell by the victorious virtue of my strength. I sent his two sons home to their own country, and have never heard a word about them since then. Upon ransacking the ship, I found the sword of light, and I never ~~would~~ parted with it for either gold or silver, ^{I never would,} though many a man put the venom of his eyes into it [= coveted it,] and thought to get it from me; but nobody was more desirous of getting it than my brother, the Red Gruagach, and it was in the hope of ^{living} ~~remaining~~ in peace, free from that strong and crafty man that I came here to dwell.



But I must return to my story.

I was full of joy at the very advantageous manner in which things had prospered with me, and I turned back home in order to give my father-in-law a true account of the wrongs that had been done to me. No sooner did I come before him than he recognized me; and my wife, [on her part] threw herself on her two knees, and asked my forgiveness. I took compassion on her upon hearing her confess repentance, and upon her giving a promise that she would never do the same again; and for fear that she might suffer reproach, or that any one might ^{work} ~~do~~ her ~~some~~ some evil, I told her I was willing to take up with [live with] her again, if she would remain peaceable [lit. if she would ^{catch} ^{or} control her peacefulness.] Ever since then, there has not been nor is there, a better woman than she in all the world.



I also forgive the Red Gruagach whatever damage he has done me. So now thou knowest who stole the golden ship, and who killed the Giant O Dúda; have thou the sword of light; take it with thee and my blessing with it."

The Farmer left his wishes for good health with the Young Hero; and after spending some little while with his father-in-law and mother-in-law, he turned his face homewards.

A week before that, sickness ~~was~~ struck the Red Gruagach down, and he found death; it was good news for the Farmer, for now there was no one living to ^{away from him} take possession of the sword of light, or to trouble him ever again. His wife had been expecting him every day, and upon catching sight of him, ran to meet him. "Thou art welcome [Et God is thy life]" said



A 628:34

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she, and her joy was so great that he thought she would smother him with kisses, and drown him with tears, and dry him with the finest napkins of silk and satin. They lived very happily during together during the rest of their lives, and may that be the lot of all of us.

The End.

PÁDRUIG Ó BRIAIN.

Dublin,

Beltane (May-Day or May) 1890.



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The golden ship. ~~It~~ We may perhaps see in this feature of the tale ~~an echo~~ of some connection with the ship symbols carved on rocks, notably at New Grange and Dorothe. ~~(cf. Dorothe and the Giant)~~ The magic fishing-rod in the hand of a giant fisherman appears also in a Scottish tale, Iain Og, Guth na Bliadhna, XI, 455.

In our tale, getting under the rod or perhaps getting a blow from it recovers the hero to his natural human shape. Perhaps we may compare Dorothe with O Dubhda or O Dúda, the name of the Giant fisherman.