

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 367. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 63 corresponds to Litir 367.

Bha an Siorram ann an Inbhir Ùige airson a’ mhì-rian anns a’ bhaile, air an robh “Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige”, a bha gu ìre mhòr eadar Gàidheil is Goill, a thoirt gu ceann. Chuir e feachd a-mach leis an amas grèim fhaighinn air Raibeart Dòmhnallach, Leòdhasach a bha mòran a’ coireachadh airson na h-aimhreit taobh a-muigh stèisean a’ phoilis seachd latha roimhe.

Ach fhuair Raibeart fios ro làimh agus theich e. Aig Thrumster, gu deas air Inbhir Ùige, ghabh e coidse thairis an aghaidh toil an dràibheir. Rinn e air Poll Iù, far an do ghabh e bàta gu ruige na h-Eileanan a-Muigh. Chaidh e am falach ann an Sgìre nan Loch ann an Leòdhas.

Ann an Inbhir Ùige fhèin, chùm an Siorram na saighdearan a-mach à sealladh. Chaidh rabhadh a thoirt don mhòr-shluagh gun a bhith a’ dol air na sràidean agus bha gnothaichean an ìre mhath sìtheil.

Ach aig deich uairean a dh’oidhche, fhuair an Siorram droch naidheachd. Chaidh grunnan a shàthadh le sgeinean ann am Pulteneytown. Chaidh òrdugh a thoirt do na saighdearan agus taobh a-staigh còig mionaidean bha iad air na sràidean. Thàinig saighdearan eile far bhàtaichean anns a’ chala. Agus bha iad dìreach ann an àm oir bha an naidheachd a’ sgaoileadh am measg an t-sluaigh. Bha buidhnean de Ghàidheil is Goill a’ dèanamh deiseil airson tuilleadh sabaid.

Ann an trì sràidean, chaidh aona duine deug a shàthadh le sgeinean. ’S iad gillean às a’ bhaile fhèin a bu choireach. Bha iad a’ sàthadh cha mhòr Gàidheal sam bith a bha na sheasamh air stairsneach taighe. Gu fortanach, cha deach duine a mharbhadh.

Ged is iad na saighdearan a chuir an sluagh ma sgaoil, thòisich an ciùineachadh às an aonais. Bha cuid de mhuinntir a’ bhaile air an uabhasachadh leis na bha na còmhlain de ghillean a’ dèanamh, agus chuir iad am buill-airm an dàrna taobh. Chuidich iad an fheadhainn a bh’ air an leòn agus chuir iad fios gu lighichean.

Bha an fhòirneart seachad. Ged a bha poilis is saighdearan a’ coiseachd nan sràidean airson beagan làithean às dèidh sin, cha robh an tuilleadh mì-rian ann. Chaidh duais luach còig nota fichead a thabhann airson fiosrachadh a leigeadh leis na poilis luchd nan ionnsaighean a chur an grèim. Ach fhuair iad dìreach aon ghille.

Cha do dhìochuimhnich iad mu Raibeart Dòmhnallach ann an Leòdhas, ge-tà. Chaidh barantas air a shon a chur gu ruige Steòrnabhagh ach bha an Dòmhnallach am falach **air na Lochan**. Chaidh seachdainean seachad is cha do thachair dad. Thòisich Raibeart air a dhol a-mach gu cèilidhean is a leithid. Chuala na poilis mu dheidhinn. Oidhche a bha seo, chaidh dithis phoileas à Steòrnabhagh ann airson a chur an grèim.

Chaidh Raibeart a cheangal le **glas-làmh** ri fear de na h-oifigearan. Thòisich iad air coiseachd air ais a Steòrnabhagh. Bha mòran de mhuinntir na sgìre nan cois. Air an rathad bha aca ri dhol seachad air loch. Thuir Raibeart gun leumadh e a-steach don loch is gun toireadh e am poileas leis mura faigheadh e ma sgaoil. Às dèidh spàirn fhuair Raibeart ma sgaoil agus theich e bhon eilean. Thathar ag ràdh gu robh e na mharaiche às dèidh sin agus gun deach a bhàthadh ann an Abhainn Thames timcheall air ochd ceud deug, seasgad 's a seachd (1867).

A thaobh an iasgaich ann an Inbhir Ùige cha robh fàilte cho cridheil air na h-iasgairean Gàidhealach às dèidh na Sabaid Mhòir. Bho dheireadh nan caogadan a-mach cha robh na coitheanalán Gàidhlig anns a' bhaile idir cho mòr 's a bha iad roimhe.

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Faclan na Litreach: theich: *fled*; Poll Iù: *Poolewe*; na h-Eileanan a-Muigh: *the Outer Isles (colloquial)*; sìtheil: *peaceful*; òrdugh: *order*; cala: *harbour*.

Abairtean na Litreach: an Siorram ann an Inbhir Ùige: *the Sheriff in Wick*; bha X airson a' mhì-rian anns a' bhaile a thoirt gu ceann: *X wanted to bring the disorder to an end*; ghabh e coidse thairis an aghaidh toil an tràibheir: *he took over a coach against the driver's will*; chaidh e am falach ann an Sgìre nan Loch: *he hid in the parish of Lochs*; chaidh grunnan a shàthadh le sgeinean: *some people were stabbed with knives*; bha iad dìreach ann an àm: *they were just in time*; 's iad gillean às a' bhaile fhèin a bu choireach: *it's local lads that were responsible*; a bha na sheasamh air stairsneach taighe: *who was standing in a house's doorway*; thòisich an ciùineachadh às an aonais: *the pacification started without them*; bha cuid air an uabhasachadh: *some were horrified*; chuir iad am buill-airm an dàrna taobh: *they laid their weapons aside*; chuidich iad an fheadhainn a bh' air an leòn: *they helped the ones who were wounded*; chuir iad fios gu lighichean: *they sent for doctors*; bha an fhòirneart seachad: *the violence was over*; a leigeadh leis na poilis luchd nan ionnsaighean a chur an grèim: *which would let the police arrest the attackers*; cha do dhìochuimhnich iad: *they didn't forget [they hadn't forgotten]*; oidhche a bha seo: *one night*; chaidh dithis phoileas à Steòrnabhagh ann airson a chur an grèim: *two policemen from Stornoway went there to arrest him*; bha mòran de mhuinntir na sgìre nan cois: *many locals were with them*; gun leumadh e a-steach don loch: *that he would jump into the loch*; às dèidh spàirn fhuair Raibeart ma sgaoil: *after a struggle Robert got free*; gun deach a bhàthadh: *that he was drowned*; bho dheireadh nan caogadan a-mach: *from the end of the fifties (1850s) [onwards]*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **glas-làmh:** *handcuffs*. Although the English is a plural word, do you notice that the Gaelic is singular. At least, it is singular with regard to *glas*. But what about *làmh*? This is in fact a genitive plural (old style, see last week's *Puing-chànain*) – because the device is usually used to tie “hands” together. *Glas-làmh* is literally “hands-lock”. The Gaelic was adopted in the English spoken in Inverness and anglicised as “*glaslawes*”, although that word has long since gone out of usage.

Gnàths-cainnt na Litreach: **air na Lochan:** in the parish of Lochs, Lewis (see also Litir 187, 17.01.03)

* Tha “*Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh*” air a maoinachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.