

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## An t-Urr. Dòmhnall MacCaluim (3)

*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 [rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 772. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 468 corresponds to Litir 772.*

Ghluais an t-Urr. Dòmhnall MacCaluim gu coitheanal ùr ann an Eaglais na Mòintich ann an Tiriodh, àite ris an canar *Heylipol* ann am Beurla. Dh’fheuch Diùc Earra-Ghàidheal, an t-uachdaran, ri stad a chur air ach dh’fhàilnich air. Bha ùpraid ann an Tiriodh mu shuidheachadh an fhearainn, eadhon ged a bha Achd nan Croitearan air a dhol tron Phàrlamaid. ’S e a bu choireach ri sin gun robh tòrr choitearan ann, feadhainn aig nach robh fearann. Bha MacCaluim a’ seasamh an còraichean.

Bha droch bhàillidhean air a bhith ann an Tiriodh. Bha Iain Caimbeul, ‘Am Bàillidh Mòr’ ann. Chuir esan mòran daoine a-mach às na taighean aca.

Ghabh cuid de chroitearan tuathanas thairis. Chaidh saighdearan-mara a chur a Thiriodh. Ghèill na croitearan dhaibh. An dèidh cùis-chùirte, chaidh feadhainn dhiubh a chur don phrìosan.

Bha an t-eilean air bhoil nuair a chaidh Dòmhnall MacCaluim a dh’fhuireach ann. Cha robh aige ri daoine a phiobrachadh idir gus an còraichean a sheasamh. Bha na sgìlean aige air an cur gu feum ann a bhith a’ strì gu laghail. Cha robh e anns an eilean fada ach bha na Tiristich cho toilichte leis ’s gun do chuir iad carragh-cuimhne an-àirde dha – carragh air a bheil ‘Tùr MhicCaluim’. Bidh muinntir an eilein ag ràdh – ‘Is ann le Dia a tha an talamh air a bheil Tùr MhicCaluim’.

Ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad ’s a naoi (1889), ghluais Dòmhnall a-rithist – gu coitheanal anns am bitheadh e airson ùine mhòr. Bha e a-nise ann an Leòdhas – ann an sgìre nan Loch far an robh Frìth na Pàirce. Bha an sgìre ainmeil airson ‘Creach Mhòr nam Fiadh’ dà bhliadhna roimhe. Bha na croitearan air fèidh a mharbhadh mar phàirt de dh’iomairt an aghaidh an droch uachdranais a bha a’ milleadh an àite. Nuair a bha Dòmhnall fhathast ann an Tiriodh, chumadh cuirm-chiùil airson airgead a thogail do na croitearan anns an sgìre sin.

Cha robh Dòmhnall a-nise cho buileach radaigeach ’s dòcha ’s a bha e air a bhith roimhe sin. Agus fhuair e e fhèin an aghaidh cuid de na croitearan nuair a ghabh iad thairis pàirt de ghlib na h-Eaglaise. Ach lean e air le bhith a’ toirt taic do Lìog an Fhearainn. Sheas e an aghaidh beachd a’ Mhorair Leverhulme, ‘**Bodach an t-Siabainn**’, a bha ag iarraidh crathadh a thoirt air cleachdadh an fhearainn ann an Leòdhas.

Bha e cuideachd an sàs ann an sgeamaichean a chuir mòran fhear òga à Leòdhas gu ruige Patagonia far an robh iad ri cìobaireachd is obair nan caorach. Bidh cuid dhen bheachd, ’s dòcha, gu bheil e annasach gun robh Dòmhnall MacCaluim a’ brosnachadh **eilthireachd** aig an aon àm ’s a bha e a’ seasamh còraichean nan daoine.

Ach 's dòcha nach robh e ga thomhas mar eilthreachd, oir thill a' chuid a bu mhotha de na h-eilthirich dhachaigh aig a' cheann thall.

Ghluais Dòmhnall don Eilean Sgitheanach nuair a leig e dheth a dhreuchd mar mhinistear. Ann an naoi ceud deug, fichead 's a sia (1926), trì bliadhna mus do chaochail e, dh'fhosgail e carragh-cuimhne ann an Glaschu do ghaisgeach eile a bha an sàs ann an strì an fhearainn. B' esan Dòmhnall MacRath, am maighstir-sgoile ann am Bail' Ailein aig àm Creach Mhòr nam Fiadh. Bheir sinn sùil airsan an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** coitheanal: *congregation*; Diùc Earra-Ghàidheal: *The Duke of Argyll*; ùpraid: *unrest*; Achd nan Croitearan: *The Crofters' Act*; saighdearan-mara: *marines*; ghèill: *yielded*; Creach Mhòr nam Fiadh: *The Great Deer Raid (of Pàirc)*; Dòmhnall MacRath: *Donald MacRae*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Dh'fheuch X ri stad a chur air ach dh'fhàilnich air: *X tried to stop him but he failed*; 's e a bu choireach ri sin gun robh tòrr choitearan ann: *what was responsible for that was there were many cottars*; a' seasamh an còraichean: *defending their rights*; bha droch bhàillidhean air a bhith ann an Tiriodh: *there had been bad factors in Tiree*; an dèidh cùis-chùirte, chaidh feadhainn dhiubh a chur don phrìosan: *after a court case, some of them were sent to prison*; cha robh aige ri daoine a phiobrachadh: *he didn't have to incite the people*; bha na Tiristich cho toilichte leis 's gun do chuir iad carragh-cuimhne an-àirde dha: *the Tiree folk were so happy with him that they erected a memorial cairn to him*; mar phàirt de dh'iomairt an aghaidh an droch uachdranais a bha a' milleadh an àite: *as part of a campaign against the bad landlordism that was destroying the place*; chumadh cuirm-chiùil: *a concert was held*; cho buileach radaigeach 's dòcha 's a bha e air a bhith roimhe sin: *as completely radical as he'd perhaps been before that*; nuair a ghabh iad thairis pàirt de ghlib na h-Eaglaise: *when they took over part of the church's glebe*; a bha ag iarraidh crathadh a thoirt air cleachdadh an fhearainn: *who wanted to shake up land use*; far an robh iad ri cìobaireachd is obair nan caorach: *where they were involved with shepherding and working with sheep*; thill a' chuid a bu mhotha de na h-eilthirich dhachaigh aig a' cheann thall: *most of the emigrants eventually returned home*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** a' brosnachadh eilthreachd: *promoting emigration*. *There are many instances where English has gone to another language to borrow a word while Gaelic has created a word from its own roots. 'Emigrate' comes from Latin. The Gaelic equivalent comes from eile + tìr 'other land' ie foreign land. In earlier times, much overseas travel was for the purpose of pilgrimage, which is another meaning of eilthreachd.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Bodach an t-Siabainn: *'the old man of the soap'*. *This is the Gaelic nickname for Lord Leverhulme, for a while the landlord of Lewis and Harris, who made his fortune in soap. He is still known colloquially by his Gaelic nickname.*

*Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA*