

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Cath Chromdhail (1)

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.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,150. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 846 corresponds to Litir 1,150.

Tha baile Chromdhail air a dheagh ainmeachadh. Tha e suidhichte faisg air Baile nan Grannach air talamh an ìre mhath còmhnaidh far a bheil lùb ann an Uisge Spè. Tha Crom Dhail a’ ciallachadh sin – *crooked haugh* ann am Beurla. Cromdhail no Crom’ail no Crombail ann an Gàidhlig, agus Cromdale ann am Beurla. ’S dòcha gun cuala sibh mu dheidhinn ‘*The Haughs of Cromdale*’. Tha sin a’ ciallachadh gu litreachail ‘*the haughs of the crooked haugh*’!

Bha Cromdhail uabhasach cudromach aig aon àm. Carson? Uill, bha seirbheis aiseig ann airson a dhol tarsainn Uisge Spè. Cha robh drochaid anns an sgìre. Agus, a rèir mapa Roy bho mheadhan an ochdamh linn deug, **cha robh no** seirbheis aiseig eile faisg air làimh. Tha am mapa a’ sealltainn nàdar de rathad bhon abhainn an sin gu ruige Inbhir Narann air cladaich Linne Mhoireibh.

Tha an t-ainm – Cromdhail – gu math aithnichte do dhaoine aig a bheil ùidh ann an eachdraidh na h-Alba. Bha cath an sin anns a’ bhliadhna sia ceud deug is naochad (1690). Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu dheidhinn. Tha e car fillte!

Chaill Seumas VII àite air an rìgh-chathair ann an sia ceud deug, ochdad ’s a h-ochd (1688). Bha e na Chaitligeach, agus chaidh a nighean Màiri a chur na àite. Bha ise Pròstanach. Bha i a’ riaghladh còmhla ris an duine aice, Uilleam Orains – Dùitseach a bha gu làidir na Phròstanach. Chaill Seumas an rìgh-chathair ann an Sasainn cuideachd agus theich e don Fhraing.

Bliadhna an dèidh sin, dh’èirich na Seumasaich. Thill Seumas a dh’Èirinn far an robh na Caitligich anns a’ mhòr-chuid. Agus chuir Biocas Dhùn Dè – Iain Greumach – arm ri chèile ann an Alba a sheasadh às leth an t-seann Rìgh. Tha mòran ga chuimhneachadh mar ‘*Bonnie Dundee*’.

Anns an Iuchar choinnich armailt aig an Rìgh fo stiùir Dhùn Dè ri armailt aig an riaghaltas. Bha sin aig Raon Ruairidh faisg air Coille Chnagaidh ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. B’ e sin cath ainmeil ris an canar ann am Beurla – *The Battle of Killcrankie*. Ann an Gàidhlig tha e aithnichte dhuinn mar Blàr Raon Ruairidh.

Bha na Seumasaich soirbheachail anns a’ chath. Ach chaill iad mòran shaighdearan, nam measg an ceannard – Dùn Dè. Sgaoil arm nan Seumasach agus chaidh na saighdearan dhachaigh. Bha aig mòran ri an arbhar a bhuain. Sgrìobh na ceannardan Seumasach don t-seann Rìgh, Seumas, ann an Èirinn. Dh’iarr iad air taic a thoirt dhaibh.

Chuir Seumas aodach, armachd agus biadh thuca. Agus chuir e oifigearan airm a-null cuideachd. Nam measg, bha am Màidsear-Seanalair Tòmas Buchan,

saighdear proifeiseanta a bhuineadh do Shiorrachd Obar Dheathain. Thill e a dh'Alba tràth ann an sia ceud deug is naochad (1690) airson a bhith na cheannard air Arm nan Seumasach.

Chùm Buchan coinneamh le ceannardan nam fineachan Seumasach. Bha feadhainn dhiubh airson gèilleadh don riaghaltas. Ach rinn iad co-dhùnadh **aig a' cheann thall** leantainn leis a' chogadh. Ge-tà, bha iad an urra ri sluagh a bha gan cumail fhèin beò air toradh an fhearainn. Bhiodh aca ri feitheamh gus am biodh obair an Earraich seachad agus na sìl air an cur. Mar sin, cha robh Buchan deiseil airson cath ann an Cromdhail no àite sam bith eile.

An-ath-sheachain innsidh mi dhuibh mar a thàinig an dà armailt còmhla agus mar a thug Cath Chromdhail buaidh air iomairt nan Seumasach.

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Faclan na Litreach: Baile nan Granndach: *Grantown-on-Spey*; gu litreachail: *literally*; rìgh-chathair: *throne*; Biocas Dhùn Dè: *Viscount Dundee*; cath: *battle*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Tha baile Chromdhail air a dheagh ainmeachadh: *the village of Cromdale is well-named*; bha seirbheis aiseig ann airson a dhol tarsainn Uisge Spè: *there was a ferry service there going across the River Spey*; a rèir mapa Roy bho mheadhan an ochdamh linn deug: *according to Roy's map from the middle of the 18th century*; gu ruige Inbhir Narann air cladach Linne Mhoireibh: *to Nairn on the shore of the Moray Firth*; gu math aithnichte do dhaoine aig a bheil ùidh ann an eachdraidh na h-Alba: *well recognised by people who are interested in Scottish history*; tha e car fillte: *it's pretty complicated*; bha e na Chaitligeach: *he was a Catholic*; chaidh a nighean Màiri a chur na àite: *his daughter was installed in his place*; theich e don Fhraing: *he fled to France*; a sheasadh às leth an t-seann Rìgh: *that would stand in behalf of the old King*; Raon Ruairidh faisg air Coille Chnagaidh ann an Siorrachd Pheairt: *'Ruairidh's field' near Killiecrankie in Perthshire*; chaill iad mòran shaighdearan: *they lost many soldiers*; chuir e oifigearan airm a-null cuideachd: *he sent military officers over as well*; ceannardan nam fineachan Seumasach: *the heads of the Jacobite clans*; bha feadhainn dhiubh airson gèilleadh don riaghaltas: *many of them wanted to submit to the government*; bha iad an urra ri sluagh a bha gan cumail fhèin beò air toradh an fhearainn: *they depended on a population that survived on the productivity of the land*; agus na sìl air an cur: *and the seeds [crops] planted*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: cha robh no seirbheis aiseig eile faisg air làimh: ***nor was there*** a ferry service nearby. *This construction is very useful – here are other examples.* Cha robh m' athair toilichte a bhith ann. Cha robh, no mise. *'My father wasn't happy to be there. Neither was I.'* Cha robh comas aig Napoleon an Ruis a smachdachadh. Cha robh no aig Hitler anns an fhicheadamh linn *'Napoleon was not able to defeat Russia. Neither was Hitler in the twentieth century.'*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: rinn iad co-dhùnadh **aig a' cheann thall** leantainn leis a' chogadh: *they made a decision eventually/finally to continue with the war.*

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