

A Practical Course in Gaelic

PART II

In this second instalment of the course for Gaelic beginners we give the future tense of the verb "to be," and illustrate its use with sentences. The new reader should make himself familiar with Lesson One, as the vocabulary and grammar given there are taken for granted in this instalment.

In the old ceilidh house, which was the unofficial community centre of the Highland village, one of the people's pastimes was the propounding of riddles, the quoting of proverbs, and the reciting of tongue-twisters. These things have rather gone out of fashion now, but they make a useful addition to the learner's background knowledge of Gaelic. We propose, therefore, to include a "Ceilidh Corner" in each instalment of this course, and to include in it little snippets of Gaelic wisdom and wit.

The keen Gaelic learner will want to forage for himself beyond the bounds of these lessons, and so we suggest a few books for private reading and reference. A useful book for beginners is *Duncan Reid's Elementary Gaelic Grammar*. *Macbain's Etymological Gaelic Dictionary* will appeal to the student who is interested in the relationships of Gaelic words, although *Dwelly's Dictionary* has the fullest vocabulary. *Donald Maclean's Literature of the Scottish Gael* gives the best and most concise account of our literature. And the *Gaelic and English parallel-column edition of the New Testament* is, perhaps, the most valuable text-book of all for the student who has made some progress with Gaelic.

Before commencing this instalment, please refer to the Autumn edition of *Gairm* and revise the Pronunciation Chart. Once more, we stress the importance of consultation with the native Gaelic speaker.

SECTION A(1).

The verb "to be." Future tense. Affirmative.

Singular.

Bithidh mi. I shall be.
Bithidh thu. You will be.
Bithidh e. He will be.
Bithidh i. She will be.

Plural.

Bithidh sinn. We shall be.
Bithidh sibh. You will be.
Bithidh iad. They will be.

VOCABULARY.

Am baile, The town; **Am peann,** The pen; **Am bàta,** The boat; **Am bata,** The walking-stick; **Am balach,** The boy; **Am bodach,** The old man; **An dràsda,** Just now; **A rithis,** Again; **Am màireach,** Tomorrow; **A nochd,** Tonight; **An là roimhe,** The other day; **Anns an sgoil,** In school; **Anns a' bhaile,** In town; **Aig an tigh,** At home.

Sentences using the future form of the verb "to be."

1. **Bithidh am balach aig an tigh.** The boy will be at home.
2. **Bithidh iad anns a' bhaile am màireach.** They will be in the town tomorrow.
3. **Bithidh mi anns a' bhaile an dràsda agus a rithis.** I shall be in town now and again.
4. **Bithidh sibh sgìth an diugh.** You will be tired today.
5. **Bithidh i anns an sgoil am màireach.** She will be in school tomorrow.

SECTION A(2).

The verb "to be." Future tense. Negative.

Singular.

Cha bhi mi. I shall not be.
Cha bhi thu. You will not be.
Cha bhi e. He will not be.
Cha bhi i. She will not be.

Plural.

Cha bhi sinn. We shall not be.
Cha bhi sibh. You will not be.
Cha bhi iad. They will not be.