



# The School Gaelic Dictionary

*Malcolm MacFarlane*

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From the PREFACE:

IT was vain to imagine that the Gaelic Language could take and hold the place which was its due in the Schools of the Scottish Highlands without a graded series of Elementary Reading Books, supplemented by a cheap and handy Vocabulary of the words used in those books. The want of graded books has been so far met by "An Treòraiche," "An Comh-threòraiche," and "Compauach na cloinne," already published and in use; and now the present book is offered to meet the other want.

"Am Briathrachan Beag" is much more than a Vocabulary serving the above-mentioned books, however. It contains words which occur in the following Popular Historical Sketches, namely: "Rob Roy."

"William Wallace," and "John Knox," written by the well-known Lachlan Maclean — or "Lachann na Gàidhlig," as he was familiarly called — a master of uncorrupted Gaelic idiom; and also many other words of common use which are not in the aforesaid books.

Much matter has been appended to the Vocabulary proper, not as a substitute for a grammar, but mainly as a compendium from which writers of Gaelic — who, as a rule, are in great need of guidance in the technicalities of Gaelic literary work — may derive information in cases of doubt or want of knowledge.

In the Vocabulary proper, all words are in the first instance catalogued in their primary form; while many are given in their inflected forms and reference made to their primary form. The principal inflections of nouns, and odd inflections of verbs and adjectives, are given after the primary forms of the words; and inflections which are wanting there are made up for by notes and tables in the appendix.

One of the great drawbacks to the increase of Gaelic literary output has been, and is, ignorance of the proper manner in which to prepare and carry through Writing for the Press; and an attempt is made to remove some of that ignorance by instructions in the preparation of "copy," in the methods of correcting proofs, and in other matters in which writers of Gaelic usually fail to reach a reasonable standard of technique.

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