

MRS. MONK, % EDWARDS, No 2, CREGURRY, BENSECULA

(Aged 7)

Cairleach an Durdan. Mrs Monk saw this when she was about twelve. It was danced by a man and a woman. Both had sticks and they beat each other. But everything else was vague. She did know the first verse of the song sent to us by Angus Matheson [p.].

She was not able to dance, but showed us a step by moving her feet while sitting down, which she thought was that used in this dance.

- Beat 1. Weight on L foot, put R toe down beside L heel.
- 2. Weight on L foot, put R toe down beside L toe
- 3 Step to 2nd posⁿ on R.
- and Close L to R, feet side by side
- 4 Beat with L in this posⁿ.
- 5-8 v. of '1, 2, 3, and'. No beat.

Ruidhleach na Corieach Dubha. Mrs Monk knew the Part-a-bent. The tune was that sent to us by Miss Bassin [p. 156.1], and the words were the same save that the 3rd and 4th lines of Miss Bassin's Miss began

"Air a' Bruth-aich Againn Thinn"

instead of

"Air a Bruthaich Air a Bruthaich."

Scotch Reel. She told us that in the old days the Scotch Reel had no figure eight, and the dancers merely danced round in a circle. More precisely the dancers began as shown below, and then followed each other round in a circle.



[hands not joined] in a clockwise direction until they regained their places.

Mrs Monk knew several tunes which could be those on our list, and these we noted with the aid of Ian MacLachlan of Cregorry. Mrs Monk came all her songs from her grandmother, who used to sing them while sitting spinning.

She told us that the following was a dance tune. She thought it was a solo dance, but Angus John Macellan would know it.

TRI CRÍODHAN CAORACH.

Tri críodhan da críodhan Tri críodhan caorach

Tri críodhan da críodhan Críodhan ceannachadh mairid

Co theid a chuidheach leam Co theid a dhannadh

Co theid a chuidheach leam Co theid a dhannadh

Co theid a chuidheach leam Co theid a dhannadh

Co theid a chuidheach leam Ach críodhan is carr cam ann

T This pair of notes might have been  in each case.

‡ The timing of the last 2 bars was a little uncertain.

Mrs. Monk thought that the following was "Cath nan Coileach". But the occurrence of the name Mac Anlay has a Benbecula flavour, not a Barra one.

CATH NAN COILEACH

Ruidhleadh nan choileach air lár Rì coileach Mhac Anlaigh †

Gairmeadh na chailleach air spor Grad bheirinn an ceann as

Sud a coileach a bha sponnais Lèis a chota Thranagach

Sheathadh a nì coileach aile Anns an seilear Mhac Anlaigh

The next sàtg might be "Bualadh mi" etc, though the tune is different

A cheorainn a cheorainn Bualadh mi sa chlaigann thu

A cheorainn a cheorainn Cragadh mi sa cheann thu

Bheir mi faran or a cheann Mar a diom thu solas dhomh

Bheir mi faran or a cheann Mar a las thu lamha dhomh

† Mac Anlay

Stopping

The following was sung while dandling the cat on its hind legs. Could it be *Dansa bhriogais*?

Damsadh bhriogainn { a' chait a' chait } Damsadh bhriogainn a' chait bhean
 a' chait u' ga' sa'

Damsadh bhriogainn { a' chait a' chait } Bha thu a' cait an tigh a' bhean
 a' chait u' ga' sa'

Ha buik a' chait a' chait Ha buik a' chait bhean

Ha buik a' chait a' chait Dhith thu an radan a' chait

D.C.

The last is a song about a ship called - An' dubh Ghleannach (The Black Gla)

An' dubh Ghleannach
 An' dubh Ghleannach
 An' dubh Ghleannach