

27. From Gilles's collection.

28. There are four versions of this poem, Dr. Maclean's, Turner's, Ewen Maclachlan's and Alexander Macdonald's. Dr. Maclean's and Turner's differ but very little. Ewen Maclachlan copied his version from an old MS. He states that the poem was composed about Lord Macdonell. The poem, as I have given it, is partly from Dr. Maclean's version and partly from Ewen Maclachlan's. Both these versions contain the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th verses. But they do not give the 4th and 10th verses in the same way. The 4th is given by Ewen Maclachlan as follows:—

Thèid mi shealltulan an null  
Air nigh'n Sheumais nan tur,  
Gum meal thu 'n staoidhle sin puid ri 'd bheo.

If the poem is about Lord Macdonell nigh'n Sheumais should be nigh'n Domhnaill; if about Macdonald, of Sleat, it should be Sir Seumas or Sir Domhnaill. The 10th verse, as given by Dr. Maclean, runs thus,—

'Sleat Sir Domhnaill o'n Choal,  
'Sleat Clann Domhnaill na laoiach,  
Sud a bhuidheann nach maom 'san toir.

Ewen Maclachlan has it as follows:—

Leat a dh' eireadh na laoiach,  
Clann-Domhnaill an fhraoich,  
Sud na connspulnn nach faoin 'san toir.

Of course the only difference of any consequence is in the first line.

The fifth verse is in my opinion the best in the poem. But to whom does it refer? I feel confident that it must refer to Sir James of Sleat, to Lord Macdonell, or to Sir Donald of Sleat. As John Lom was a man of good common sense, I am inclined to think that Sir James and Lord