

SOME NAME-PRONUNCIATIONS.

W. M. ALEXANDER.

THE following is a short working list of name-pronunciations for the Braemar and adjacent areas, with some incidental notes. A variety of factors are at work to-day tending to alter the sounds of names, or at least to create uncertainty and confusion. In any case the original and authentic sounds are no longer to be heard; and the most that can be expected is the maintenance of some sort of regard for the traditional pronunciations. The sounds represented here are, as nearly as memory serves, those which the writer was accustomed to hear in the district from good Gaelic speakers of the last generation. While these representations of spoken sounds are, it is hoped, clear enough for practical purposes, it need scarcely be added that from a strictly scientific point of view they are approximate only.

As we are all aware, the most important thing in uttering an unfamiliar name is to know on what syllable the stress accent falls. In this list the accented syllable is printed in heavier type. Meanings for names (in brackets) are only given in those cases where the meaning is beyond doubt. For convenience, the names have been grouped into a series of areas which are self-explanatory.

CRATHIE, GLENGAIRN, ETC.

Geallaig: **gyallik**; the hill on the north side of the Ballater-Crathie road; there are the big and little Geallaigs.

Glaschoille (green wood): the road from Gairn to Don; the sound is almost like **glass**-hill, or like Glassel, which is probably the same name.

Glen Fenzie: glen **fin**-ie.

Stronyarrick: strin-**yarrick**; the road from Crathie to Gairnshiel (sròn dearg, red nose or projection).

Culardoch: cool-**ardoch**.

- Bealach Dearg: **byallach djerrik**; the track from Invercauld to the Gairn (red pass).
 Glen Feardar: the stream is the Feardar: **fyarder**; in compound names the **f** drops out, hence giving Aberarder and Inverarder, the latter being usually called the Inver.
 Monaltrie: **mon-altrie**; old Monaltrie, the original location of the name, is a farm two miles west of Crathie church.

LOCHNAGAR.

- Inchnabobart: **innish-na-bobart**.
 Alltnagiubhsaich: **alt-na-yoosich** (burn of the fir-wood).
 Cuidhe Crom: **coo-ie crom** (bent snow-wreath).
 Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe: **myall-cor-na-sivvie**.
 Feindallacher: **fane-dallacher**.
 Garbh Allt: **garrawalt** (rough burn).
 Ballochbuie: **balloch-booie**.

BRAEMAR.

- Craig Choinnich: **craig hone-yich** (Kenneth's craig).
 Morrone: **mor-rone**; this sound is now the usual one; the Gaelic sound was the same as for Morven, approximately **mur-ving**.
 Càrn na Drochaide: **cairn drochet** (hill of the bridge).
 Gleann an t-slugain: now called the Sluggan; the name refers to the ravine (slugan) at the top of the glen.

GLENCLUNY, CAIRNWELL, ETC.

- Càrn an Tuirc: **cairn toork** (boar hill).
 Cairn na Glasha: **cairn glashie**.
 Fafernie: **fe-fernie**.
 Tom Buidhe: **tom booie** (yellow hillock).
 Caenlochan: **can-lochan**.
 Monega: **mon-aega**.
 Glas Maol: **glas meel** is the common sound now; the Gaelic was **glas-vyall** (green hill).
 Càrn Aosda: **cairn ösch**, with sound of German ö; the -da ending has no business there.
 Shanspittle Bridge: **shan-spittle**; the little ruined arch of the military road near the top of Glen Cluny, but now often meaning the modern road bridge farther down; the name indicates the "Old Spittal," which had once stood there.
 Càrn Geoidh: **cairn yo-ie** (goose hill).
 Glen Thaitneich: **glen tatnyich**.
 Beinn Iutharn: **ben yoo-arn**; there are two, the big and little.
 Lochan nan Eun: **lochan-nan-yane** (little loch of the birds).
 Glas Thulachan: **glas toolichan** (green tops).
 Càrn an Rìgh: **cairn an ree** (hill of the king).
 Càrn Bhac: **cairn vack**.

BYNACK, ATHOLL, ETC.

Bynack: by-nack.

Sgarsoch: the skarsoch; it had the def. article also in Gaelic.

Càrn Ealar: carn-eelar.

Beinn Dearg: ben djerrick (red hill); dearg, red, is pronounced with two syllables, as djerrick.

Càrn a' Chlamain: carn hlawing.

Beinn a' Ghlo: benna-glo is now a common sound; the map spelling Beinn a' Ghlo is not good; the old spelling Ben-y-Gloe cannot be called wrong, because it attempts to reproduce the palatal quality of the "n" in ben or beinn; the Gaelic was nearer to beinn-ghleo, or ben-glyo, with glyo as one syllable.

Garbh Buidhe: the garra boo-ie; a ravine at top of Tilt.

Falar: fe-lar (mare's burn).

STRATHSPEY.

Eidart River: etshart; the Gaelic had a front or palatal d, a sound not existing in English, but nearly like tsh.

Kingussie: kin-yoosie (end of the fir-wood).

Gaick: ga-yack.

Minigaig: minnigyak; the old drove road crossing from Kingussie to Blair.

Meall Tionail: myall tsheenil.

Càrn Bàn: carn ban, with a long a (white hill).

Sgòran Dubh: skorran doo (black crag).

Loch Eunach: loch ennich; but the e of the first syllable is long.

Cairngorm: càrn gorm; the collective name "Cairngorms" for the whole group of hills is purely English, having become used by visitors in the nineteenth century; the old Braemar people said they had no collective name for these hills; on the other hand the Strathspey people called them the Monadh Ruadh: monna-roo-a (red mount); this term, a good descriptive one when these hills are looked at from the west side, is now practically extinct, but I have met an old Strathspey man, as recently as 1942, to whom it was quite familiar.

GLEN DEE.

Càrn Cloich Mhuillin: carn clo-ich voolyin; the translated name, the Millstone Hill, is commonly used.

Beinn Bhrotain: ben vrotten.

Monadh Mòr: monna more (big mount).

Glen Geusachan: glen gyoosichen.

Cairn Toul: carn toul, like English "towel."

Coire Odhar, also spelt Corrou: cor ower; the second word rhymes with "power" (grey corry).

Garbh Choir: gar-horry; but Gaelic speakers said gar-hor (rough corry); the familiar word coire, a corry, which in western Gaelic is pronounced corry or corra, was in the Braemar dialect always a

- single syllable cor; where, as with this word, it is the second part of a compound name, the "c" becomes an "h" in sound.
- Coire Dee: the Gaelic sound was cor **yae**; the river-name Dee was pronounced, nominative dshae, genitive yae, both rhyming with "say."
- Braeriach: brae **ree-ach** (brindled slope).
- Coire Bhrochain: cor **vrohan** (gruel corry).
- Lairig Ghru: larig **groo**; the second word stands for the name of the stream on the north side, the Druie.
- Ben Macdhuì: ben mac-**doo-ie**.
- Devil's Point: this name justifies itself, being a literal translation of the Gaelic original, Bod an Diabhail or an Deamhain, *i.e.*, of the devil, demon.
- Angel's Peak: this name is a pure invention, being attributed to Mr Alex. Copland, one of the founders of the Cairngorm Club; the local people had no such name; to them it was Sgòr an Lochain Uaine, the Crag of the Green Loch.

BEN AVON, ETC.

- Ben Avon, or Ben A'an: the latter is the better sound, being nearest the Gaelic, which was like ben a-wing.
- An Sloc: the Slock, or the Muckle Slock.
- Beinn a' Bhùird: now often called **benna-boord**; the Gaelic was in two syllables, like ben-**bord**.
- Bruach Mhor: **brooach vore** (big brae).
- Dubh Gleann: the **dooglen** (dark glen).
- Coire nan Clach: cor na-**glach** (stony corry).
- Coire an Loch: corn **loch** (loch corry).
- Glen Quoich: the Gaelic sound was **co-ich**, in two syllables.
- Càrn Èas: the Gaelic sound was **carn-yess**.
- Beachan: **beh-an**, or **bae-ohan**; a name the map-makers overlooked; the Beachan means the whole upper part of Glen Quoich.
- Derry: always the Derry, with def. article also in Gaelic; the name refers to the piece of old pine forest near there (doire, a small wood).
- Càrn Crom: **carn crowm** (crooked hill).
- Càrn a' Mhaim: **carn-a-vime**, rhyming with "time."
- Sròn Riach: strone **ree-ach** (brindled slope).
- Sputan Dearg: spootan **djerrick** (red spout).
- Beinn Bhreac: ben **vreck**.
- Glas Allt: the **glass-alt** (green burn; it will be noticed that this burn has grassy sides, like the other Glassalt at Loch Muick).
- Beinn a' Chaorruinn: ben **hurrin**.
- Lairig Lui: the crossing to Abernethy is the Lui Lairig; some maps have laogh, for "calves," which is merely fanciful.
- Clais Fhearnaig: clash **hyarnich** (caterans' pass); between Lui and Quoich.
- Beinn Mheadhoin: ben **mae-in** (middle hill).
- Loch Etchachan: **etsch-echin**.

INVEREY.

Inverey: the Ey, the name of the stream, is pronounced not like English "eye," but like the diphthong used by Aberdeenshire farmers in words like "hay," "ley," etc.

Corriemulzie: corry **moolzie**; older speakers said corry **moolyie**.

Féith nan Sgòr: **fae-nan-skor** (moss burn of the crags); the hill mass between the Dee and Lui; the name had originally meant the burn on its top.

Delavorar: **del-a-vorar** (the lord's haugh); the extinct farm on the south side of the Dee above the Linn; farther up on the same side is the Dhubrach: **doobrach**; on the north side was Tomnamoine: **tom-na-mone** (moss hillock); beyond the White Bridge is Ruighnan-clach: **rooie-na-glach** (stony shieling).

Chest of Dee: a translation of the Gaelic name for it, the original word being *ciste*, a box, apparently from the box-like form of the rocks there.

[Place name spellings are those on the O.S. maps.]

