

Cabar Fèidh
The Deer's Antlers
(The badge and banner of Clan MacKenzie)

1

Le Tormod MacLeòid

Rann 1

Deoch slàinte chabar fèidh seo,

Drink a health to the deer's antlers here,

Gur h-èibhinn 's gur h-aighearach:

That are joy and happiness:

Ge fada bho thìr fèin e,

Although they are far from their own land,

Mhic Dhè, greas g'a fhearann e:

Son of God, hasten them to their country:

Mo chrochadh is mo cheasadh,

Against my hanging and my torture,

Is m' èideadh nar mhealladh mi:

They are my armour that will not fail me:

Mur ait leam thu bhith 'g èirigh

It pleases me that you will be rising

Le treun neart gach caraide:

With the mighty power of each friend

Gur mise chunna sibh gu gunnach,

As I saw you armed with guns,

Ealamh ullamh acfhuinneach:

Expertly prepared and equipped

A ruith nan Rothach 's math ur gnothach,

To make the Munros run, we did our business well,

Thug sibh sothadh maidne dhaibh:

We gave the pleasure of the morning to them:

O cha deach Cataich air an tapadh,

O the Sutherlands did not go bravely,

Dh'fhàg an neart le eagal iad,

Their might left them through fear,

Ri faicinn ceann an fhèidh ort

Seeing on you the head of the deer

Nuair dh'èirich do chabar ort!

When you raised up your antlers!

Rann 2

B' e'n t-amadan Fear-Fòghlais

It was the foolish Laird of Fowls

Nuair thòisich e cogadh riut

When he started a war with you

Rothaich agus Ròsaich

Munros and Rosses

Bu ghòrach na bodaich iad:

As stupid as old men they were:

Frisealaich is Granndaich,

Frasers and Grants,

An campa cha stadadh iad:

In camp they would not stay:

'S thug Foirbeisich 'nan deann-ruith

And the Forbes were hurried off

Gu seann taigh Chuilodair orr!

To the old house of Culloden!

Deoch - drink; **slàinte** - health;
chabar - antlers; **fèidh** - of the deer;
Cabar Fèidh is also the name given to
the chief of Clan MacKenzie.

èibhinn - joy;

aighearach - happiness;

fada - far; **thìr** - land; **fèin** - their
own;

Mhic Dhè - Son of God; **greas** -
hasten; **fhearann** - country;

chrochadh - hanging; **cheasadh** -
torture:

m' èideadh - my armour; **nar** - that
will not; **mhealladh** - cheat, deceive;
ait - happy; **leam** - with me; **'g èirigh**
- rising; rebelling; **treun** - might;

neart - power; **gach** - each; **caraide** -
of friends; **mise** - me; **chunna** - saw;

sibh - you; **gu gunnach** - armed with
guns; **Ealamh** - expertly; **ullamh** -
prepared; **acfhuinneach** - well
equipped; **ruith** - run; **gnothach** -

business; **Thug sibh** - we gave;

sothadh - pleasure; **maidne** - of the
morning; **dhaibh** - to them; **cha deach**
- did not go; **tapadh** - heroic feat;

Dh'fhàg - left; **neart** - power, might;
eagal - fear; **iad** - them; **faicinn** -

seeing; **ceann** - head; **an fhèidh** - of
the deer; **ort** - on you; **Nuair** - when;
dh'èirich - raised; **do chabar** - your
antlers; **ort** - on you;

amadan - fool, idiot;

thòisich - started; **cogadh** - war; **riut** -
with you;

ghòrach - stupid; **bodaich** - old men;

campa - camp; **cha stadadh** - would
not stay;

thug - put; **deann-ruith** - great hurry,
utmost speed;

seann - old; **taigh** - house; **orr** - on
them;

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Theich 'ad uile is cha d'fhuirich
They all fled and there remained not

An treas duine bh'acasan:
A third of them:

An t-Iarla Catach ruith e dhachaigh
The Earl of Sutherland ran home

Cha do las a dhagachan:
Without firing his pistols:

MacAoidh nan creach gun d'thàrr e às
MacKay escaped without being plundered
'S ann dh'èigh e 'n t-each b' aigeannaich
When he called on his horse to be lively

Ri gabhail an ra-treuta,
In taking the retreat,

Nuair dh'èirich do chabar ort!
When you raised up your antlers!

Rann 3

Dh'èirich leat fir Mhùideart
The men of Moidart rose with you

Nuair ruisgte do bhrataichean,
When you unfurled your banners,

Le'n lannan daite dù-ghorm.
With the dark blue coloured sword blades .

Gun ciùrrte na marcaich leò:
Unhurt were those who rode with them:

Mac Alasdair 's Mac Fhionghuin
MacAlasdairs and MacKinnons

Le 'n cuilbheirean acfhuinneach
With their their well equipped guns

Nuair rachadh iad 'san iorghuill.
When they would go into the fray.

Gum b' iongnadh mur trodadh iad:
It would have been surprising if they did not beat them:

Bidh tu fhathast gabhail aigheir.
With you still taking joy.

Ann an Brathainn bhaidealach.
In the Brahan fortress.

Bidh cinneadh t' athar ort a' feitheamh
The clan of your father attends you

Cò bhrathadh bagradh ort
Who would threaten to betray you ?

Bidh fion 'ga chaitheamh feadh do thaighe.
Wine will be drunk throughout your house.

'S uisge beatha feadanach.
And whisky on tap.

'S gur lionmhor piob' gan gleusadh.
And many a pipe will be tuned.

Nuair dh'èireas do chabar ort!
When your antlers will be raised up!

Theich - fled; **uile** - all; **cha d'fhuirich** ; did not remain;
treas - third; **duine** - man; **acasan** - of them;
ruith - ran; **dhachaigh** - home;

las - fire; **dhagachan** - pistols;

creach - plunder; **d'thàrr e às** - escaped;

dh'èigh - shouted; **'n t-each** - his horse; **aigeannaich** - spirited, lively; **gabhail** - taking; **ra-treuta** - retreat

Dh'èirich - rose, rebelled; **leat** - with you; **fir** - men;

Nuair - when; **ruisgte** - unsheathed, unfurled; **bhrataichean** - flags, banners; **lannan** - sword blades; **daite** - coloured; **dù-ghorm** - dark blue;

ciùrrte - wounded; **marcaich** - riders; **leò** - with them;

cuilbheirean - guns; **acfhuinneach** - well equipped;
rachadh - would go; **iorghuill** - fray;

iongnadh - surprising; **trodadh** - scold, beat;

fhathast - still; **gabhail** - taking; **aigheir** - joy, pleasure;
bhaidealach - fortified;

cinneadh - clan; **t' athar** - of your father; **a' feitheamh** - waiting, attending;

bhrathadh - betrayal; **bagradh** - threaten; **fion** - wine; **chaitheamh** - consumed; **feadh** - throughout; **thaighe** - house; **uisge beatha** - whisky; **feadanach** - in conduits, piped;

lionmhor - many; **piob'** - bagpipe; **gleusadh** - tuned;