

DORNOCH PAGEANT

SCENE 1

AUDIENCE ASSEMBLES, TAKE SEATS, ONE SCHOOL GROUP MINGLES WITH THE AUDIENCE. TEACHER SHEPHERDS SCHOOL PARTY WITH THE USUAL NUDGING AND GIGGLING TAKING PLACE.

TEACHER: (with guide book in hand drones) "Cathedral dates from the 13th Century and is made of local sandstone, quarried at Dornoch and Embo. The glass for the windows was also made locally at Cyderhall."

WILLIE: "I could do with a can of cider or Fanta right now."

TEACHER: "Quiet Willie, pay attention." (pause) "The Cathedral was founded by Gilbert de Moravia, Bishop of Caithness."

WILLIE: "Fancy a Gollach building a Cathedral in Sutherland."

TEACHER: "It wasn't a Gollach he came accross the water from Morayshire, hence the de Moravia in the title."

WILLIE: (aside) "Moravian mad if you ask me."

TEACHER: (exasperated) "Quiet, all of you."

CLOAKED AND HOODED MONK FALLS OUT OF A NICHE IN SURPRISE.

MONK: "Good heavens you startled me, I thought you were a ghost."

WILLIE: "Who are you?"

MONK: "Call me Andrew, I am the custodian of this house of God."

WILLIE: "You're the Minister then."

MONK: "No, mercy me, the minister is the man who appears on the TV and writes humorous paperbacks. He has been here 13 years. I've been here with the stonework so to speak."

JEANNIE: (reflectively) "You must be awful old, like my Dad- he's 40"

MONK: "Old enough to remember what things were really like here when this place was biggit."

JEANNIE: "Please tell us"

MONK: "Alright, mind you Dornoch was a Christian Centre long before Gilbert and his crew came along."

BACK PROJECTION HERE OF CELTIC CROSS WITH A SOFT CHANTING OF IONA BOAT SONG IN GAELIC - *Choir*

MONK: "There was a Culdee Monastery near here. The Culdees belonged to the ancient Celtic Church which was independent of the Pope in Rome. The Celtic Church was founded by St Columba.

WILLIE: Oh aye! Our teacher told us about him. He sailed from Ireland to Iona in a little coracle.

MONK: Quite right. Well his Gaelic speaking monks led a simple life, worshipping God and attending to their small crofts and gardens, but as often happens in Scottish history, the independent way of life did not suit the ways of the big battalions and the Celtic Church was gradually absorbed into the ways of Rome. It started when King Malcolm Canmore married an English princess called Margaret.

JENNIE: Is that the one who lived in Edinburgh Castle? I saw the little chapel she built the last time I visited the Castle.

MONK: Yes that's the one. Well their son David I helped to finish the absorption into the Roman Church. He established the Bishopric of Caithness which included Sutherland at the Culdee Centre of Halkirk in Caithness around 1146. But for some bloodthirsty events you might now be celebrating the 750th anniversary of Halkirk Cathedral"

Back drop window - detailed

WILLIE: "Good, I like bloodthirsty deeds. This is better than watching " Neighbours "

3 SCENE DORNOCH — OUP

ENTER AN ASSORTMENT OF LOCAL PEOPLE OF THE PERIOD (13TH CENTURY)

TOWN CRIER: "Oyez! Oyez! Good Christian citizens of the province of Cat and Sutherland. A proclamation has gone out from our beloved patron -the good Bishop Adam. From Michaelmas this year of our Lord 1222 a tax will be raised of one span of butter from every ten cows.....

Person 1: (interrupting) But that's ridiculous. For the last five years we've only had to raise that from 20 cows.

Person 2: He's right you know. We've had a lot of drought this last while. There's hardly enough grazing for the cows and certainly no enough milk for that amount of butter

Person 1: What kind of sense do you expect from Gollach anyway? He might be a bishop but what does he know about farming?

Person 3: Who does that Adam think he is? The son of man?

Person 2: He's no got a charitable bone in his body that's for sure.

Person 4: I know what I'd like to see done with his bones- hang them from the nearest gibbet.

Towncrier: THERE CAN BE NO ARGUMENT. Our Lord Bishop has decreed ONE SPAN from every ten cows. Payment is to be made at Dornoch on the 29th September at the Michaelmas Fair.

Person 1: He can have his payment. Take this(Throw a cabbage) and you can tell HIM we are no paying and that's that.

Person 2: We can't afford it-----life is hard enough in this cold dreich place without any extra taxes . They'll be taxing our heads next.

Person 3: We should organise a trip o'er the Ord to see the Bishop and plead with him to be more reasonable.

Person 4: Aye maybe that's a good idea -if he sees the sorry state we're in he'll be sure to understand. After all we do as best we can on very little.

4 SCENE HALKIRK PALACE.

VARIOUS MEMBERS SHOUTING FROM THE CROWD ASSEMBLED.

"Hear our pleas:Give us the bishop: Have pity: etc."

ENTER BISHOP ADAM

BISHOP: Ah my good folk and to what do I owe this visit. It is a long and hard road over the Berriedale Braes to my humble Halkirk home.

P4: Humble! Come and see what poverty we live in and you won't complain.

P1: My Lord we heard tha tyou plan to raise extra tithes this year.

BISHOP: Indeed

P2: But we are poor crofting folk. There's no enough grazing in Pulrossie to permit us to raise the extra. We beg you to take pity on us.

BISHOP: Oh you good folk of Dornoch I need the extra finances- promoting the work of our Lord Jesus is not easy- money is needed to spread the word of God.

P4: More like spreading extra butter on your oatcakes- we canna afford it and we're not paying.

BEGINNINGS OF MURMURINGS OF DISSENT FROM THE MOB AND A MISSILE TO BE FIRED.

BISHOP: That's not very charitable but I'll turn the other cheek.

P3: Listen to who's talking about charity

Pl: Don't bother turning the other cheek-take this (another missile fired)

HERE THE MOB SHOULD MOVE FORWARD- ONE SHOULD RAISE AN AXE TOWARDS THE BISHOP AND THE LIGHTS GO OUT AS THE NOISE LEVEL INCREASES BUT THE BISHOP SHOULD BE BLOCKED

MONK: And so the Bishop met his death on Sunday 11 September 1222 at the hands of the angry mob- he was stoned to death and roasted over the fire in the Palace kitchen.

5 BACK PROJECTION OF RED GLOW AND FLICKERING FIRES

WILLIE: Holy smoke

MONK: (clips Willie's lug) Well- there was the most awful stramash after that- King Alexander sent an army over the Ord of Caithness and appointed a new Bishop, Gilbert de Moravia. Now Gilbert was a man of courage and ability.

(wearily) As I was saying, Gilbert was consecrated Bishop in Dornoch by the Bishop of St Andrew's in the presence of Alexander and his army.

TABLEAU OF GILBERT KNEELING FOR COMMUNION IN FRONT OF A BACKGROUND OF SPEARS AND FLAGS.

MONK: Wisely deciding that Halkirk was becoming too hot for him, Gilbert decided to establish his Bishop's seat at Dornoch of ancient Christian settlement and there, at his own expense, he built his Cathedral Church near the old Church of St Barr nearly 750 years ago

~~CONSECRATION IN OLD CHURCH OF ST BARR~~

6 011 P ~ consecration

DORNOCH PAGEANT

SCENE 2

THIS IS A BUILDING SCENE, SCAFFOLDING ON THE SET,
WORKMEN HURRYING ABOUT, LIGHTER ATMOSPHERE ALTOGETHER.

1ST W

How they got planning permission I don't know. This sandstone contraption will never last like our dub and wattle homes.

2ND W

They're saying that Gilbert's got a lot of sway with the Council, him owning Skelbo and Skibo and his cousin Thane William at Dunrobin owning the rest.

1ST W

Aye it's right feudal, and they say he has a direct line to the Almighty too. My cousin Mary's man was working his nets in the river with never a tail of fish in them and along comes Gilbert, kneels doon, washes his hands in the water, has a quick prayer then my goodness, Jock could hardly pull them in, there were so many salmon in the nets.

2ND W

Man. He's a right amazing chap- not only did he design this place but they say that when the workmen would'nt go up the ladder to the steeple, because of some demarcation dispute, Gilbert threw up the stones and beams himself. Wait till the boys hear about this.

1ST W

Man he isna fear't, they'll be making him a saint next, I should'nt wonder.

ENTER BISHOP GILBERT

BISHOP:

Good day my fine fellows - you are making excellent progress. The years have fairly passed - 1224 seems a long time since I was appointed.

1ST W:

Indeed my LOrd Bishop - it is now 1239 - it is a fine thing you have done - built this beautiful cathedral For the glory of God nothing is too much effort. However, soon the bones of the late Bishop Adam.....

2ND W:

Him that was burn't to death?

BISHOP:

Yes indeed - let us not dwell on the unhappy past - as I was saying - the bones of the late Bishop will be taken from Halkirk here to the seat of the diocese and our FIRST service - our CONSECRATION service will include the re-interring of his bones. May his soul rest in peace.

So if you can just ensure that all the tools are tidied up by the close of your day's work we can prepare for the first of many services in this church,

Ref to stone masons marks?

EXIT BISHOP - FADE OUT - TABLEAU HERE OF MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS PROCESSION, WINDING ITS WAY THROUGH THE CATHEDRAL TO CHANTED LITANY FROM THE CHOIR. CHANCE HERE TO DISPLAY COLOURFUL MEDIEVAL TRAPPINGS- PROCESSION ENDS UP AT THE ALTER AS BISHOP RAISES ARMS TO BEGIN MASS. - Benediction - procession / trappings both

↓

Some masons marks

file out after

Thane

BOY STAGGERS IN MELODRAMATICALLY "THE VIKINGS ARE COMING, THEY'VE LANDED AT LITTLE FERRY AND ARE HEADING FOR EMBO" CONGREGATION SEIZE ARMS AND RUSH OFF TO DO BATTLE.

(9) BACK PROJECTION OF VIKINGS, CLASH OF SWORDS, FLAMES ETC. - Mar

Teunis water up - what is it?

MONK: The tale of the battle of Embo is well known. Gilbert's brother, Richard, surprised the Norsemen near Embo but had to retreat towards Dornoch. The arrival of Earl William's men helped to turn the tide of the battle, but during the fighting both Richard and the Norse leader were killed, the Viking being despatched by a horse's leg or was it a horse-shoe?. That's Sir Richard lying yonder in yon stone coffin by the door.

WILLIE: Is that why Dornoch has a horse-shoe in it's Coat of Arms?

MONK: Aye, well Gilbert followed his brother to his grave in 1245 and was buried directly under the steeple of his beloved Cathedral church.

SCENE 3

7 Scotland - 1286. Typed Libretto

MONK: In 1286 the Scottish Crown passed to King Alexander's grand-daughter, the Maid of Norway, however she died in Orkney on her way South to the consternation of the Commissioners of the Scottish Parliament, resting in Skelbo Castle on their way to meet the Maid.

(10) MIME HERE - SKELBO CASTLE - COMMISSIONERS WAITING FOR THE MAID OF NORWAY TO ARRIVE - MESSENGER ARRIVES WITH NEWS OF HER DEATH. SCATTERING OF COMMISSIONERS - FADE OUT TO NEXT SCENE

MONK: Scotland had to face war, not only between the rival claimants to the throne, but also against the pretensions of the English King, who saw his chance to seize power.

(11) ENTER TWO BATTLE-WEARY SOLDIERS CARRYING A TATTERED ST. ANDREW'S CROSS BANNER *Choir singing / Bishop in prayer*

BISHOP: (surprised) What mean ye, disturbing ~~our~~ *Holy Evensong?* ~~Sacraments?~~

1ST S: My Lord Bishop, we beg your pardon, but we bring great news from our Leige Lord, Robert Bruce, King of the Scots

BISHOP: (raising hand for silence) Say on then.

1ST S: My Lord, we have won a famous victory at the field cried the Bannock Burn near to Stirling Castle. King Edward's army is routed, his chief knights our prisoners and Edward himself fled hame like a whipped cur.

BOSHOP: God be praised.

2ND S: Aye, indeed Bishop, afore the melee we all kneeled in prayer to invoke his blessing. Kink Edward sees us kneeling and says to ane of his knichts " See, they bow down to do me homage. The knicht replied " No Sire, they bow down to one more powerful than you"

BISHOP: (wondering) Our land is then free!

1ST S: Aye, my Lord.

BISHOP: Then let us give thanks to God.

ALL KNEEL AND PRAY - CHOIR SING TRIUMPHAL AIR. - *B. Ford*

MONK:

The struggle for independence was to come to a climax in 1314 with the Battle of Bannock Burn and the Declaration of Arbroath that culminated in the Pope's recognition of Scotland as an independent Nation in 1324. ~~As long as but 100 of us remain alive, never will we on any condition be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory nor riches nor honour that we are fighting, but for freedom and that alone, which no honest man giveth up but with life itself~~

MONK:

During the centuries between its erection and the Reformation, a period of some 340 years, Gilbert's great Cathedral with its alters, its numerous clergy, its rich vessels and vestments, continued to serve the purpose for which its saintly founder had intended it.

while
in 1324 it

Planning
was
help in out
with

SCENE 4 REFORMATION PERIOD

MONK:

By the 16th century new ideas were sweeping through Europe. The Renaissance in the arts and sciences based on the lost ideals of Greece and Rome had its counterpart in matters spiritual when men dared to question the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

JOHN K:

ENTER "MAISTER" JOHN KNOX - STRIDES UP TO THE PULPIT - GLOWERS AT THE AUDIENCE.

I am here today to decry the wickedness, and corruption, that assails the Kirk of Rome, wi' a' its plaister saints, its lecherous clergy, and its idolatrous Mass. Believe me my friends, ye shall be saved, but by faith - nae by works, and nae by ony intercession of priests or saints. Let nane stan' atween you an' your saviour seekin' to put THEIR price on HIS mercy.
"Aye," they say, "You can buy your way oot o' damnation wi' a wee bit o' paper cried an Indulgence. Wee sins tuppence. Big sins will cost ye a hale saxpence."

ENTER MARY → *substance*

MARY:

And what was YOUR price Mr Knox for your defection? What reward did you claim for this betrayal of your priesthood when you deserted our Old Church?

JOHN K:

It seems we are honoured by Your Majesty's presence, though I fear you may be the last of your line to do so on Rome's behalf.

MARY:

It is not Rome's interests that I pursue here, sir.

JOHN K:

Perhaps not Rome's then, more likely that of France?

MARY:

I serve the interests of God and my country. Have a care Mr Knox, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God."

JOHN K:

Ah, you would quote my bible at me, would you? I did well to sound the first blast of the trumpet against the monstrous regiment of women. You plead the divine right of kings. Well I would ask you to recall how Ahab was a King and Jezebel a Queen and how Elijah strongly criticised them. You claim your power is ordained by God? Na na, my lady. We identify corruption among the clergy with the hierarchy. The hierarchy with the Crown, the Crown with the domination of France, and France with Catholicism and Corruption and France with Catholicism and Corruption.

MARY:

And you would prefer domination of an English variety, would you? History should prove one of us right, but mark this.

Our forefathers have professed the Catholic faith in this place for centuries. Sometimes we have erred and strayed from the true path, as perhaps we do now. Some of US TOO have the desire and the will to reform, but it must be a conservative and Catholic reform. We need time, time, and this you will not allow, so you rant from every pulpit, disseminating your hatred and your bitterness that will fester and divide our people long after we both have gone to our Maker.

JOHN K:

That circumstance Madam, wis niver ma intention. I preach - I try to preach - enlightenment, that God's love is for every human being IN EQUAL MEASURE. It cannot be dependent on your priest's dispensation. If history condemns me, nae matter. Perhaps something of my sermons may servive in this very church for history

to take account of, hundreds of years from now.

EXIT MARY AND JOHN K. *fast in opposite direction*

SONG 4 MARYS *St. Mary's really coming - cut her head off - killing nuns etc*

Joanne
MONK:

The Reformation was slow in coming to Sutherland. Before it came the Mackays of Strathnaver who hated the Dornoch Murrays, came and set fire to the town of Dornoch and its Cathedral, so that only the pillars, the steeple and the chancel walls remained. (Monk to point to each of these)

15

BACK PROJECTION OF SMOKING CATHEDRAL - CORDINER'S SKETCH

MONK:

action
During the sacking of the Cathedral, the remains of St Gilbert were contemptuously kicked to pieces by Sutherland of Evelix, who had ganged up with the Mackays of Strathnaver. What an unholy alliance they made. At this time Bishop Robert Stewart who was a keener and better golfer than he was a bishop, decided to pack his golf bags and head for the more salubrious fairways of St Andrews, fed up with being as he said, "Among the wild and uncivilized Scots and in a wintry region". He was never to return to his diocese.

WILLIE:

Good riddance! Any more doom and gloom, Mr Monk?

MONK:

1600
Aye plenty. Just before the Reformation the church officials knowing that big changes were coming, and that there would be a break from Rome, prepared for the future by giving away a lot of church property and lands to relatives and friends. They gave away the lands and the castle of Skibo, of Cyderhall and the town and castle of Dornoch!

WILLIE:

Why did they do that? That must surely have been the biggest give away ever. *Just like St. Mary's Cathedral*

MONK: *Joanne*

You are right but you see the understanding was that those to whom they made these gifts would look after the church officials and support them once the Reformation came.

WILLIE:

What chancers! Any more doom and gloom?

MONK:

Joanne Storm
17
Yes, on the night of 5th November 1605 the same night as the famous Guy Fawkes Gunpowder plot, there were all kinds of bangs up here in the North. A fierce storm caused most of the ruined pillars and walls of the Cathedral nave to collapse. The noise was so great that some thought the world was coming to an end.

WILLIE:

Was there no good news?

MONK:

Not much except that in 1628 King Charles I made Dornoch a royal Burgh hoping thereby as he said, 'to restore the barbarous and uncivilized Highlanders to civilization'

18

BACK PROJECTION OF CHARLES I

19
The King also urged the local nobles to assist in the repairing of the Cathedral. The transepts and chancel were reroofed. No longer was the Cathedral in the shape of a cross. Now it was in the shape of a T for a wall had been built between these two pillars (MONK POINTS) shutting off the ruined nave.

WILLIE:

I'm fed up hearing about buildings. Have you not got any horror stories?

MONK:

Yes we have a true horror story in Dornoch.

Sheriff R "Janet Horne you are arraigned afore this assembly on these charges-that ye are in league wi Satan and his hordes, being ane witch and sorceress. What say you?"

Janet- "Maister Ross, I am just an old God-fearing body, a bit dighted noo and then, but I wid hae no trachle wi the devil."

Sheriff Ross- "Ye plead not guilty, Woman"

Janet- "Aye, Maister."

Sheriff Ross- "Ca the first witness. Ye are the Reverend Robertson of Loth.

Robertson (sanctimoniously)- "Aye. I serve the good Lord in this humble capacity.

Sheriff Ross- "Tell the court what transpired.

Robertson- "I was walking in my garden after dinner one evening my mind full of affairs of the kirk and the text of my Sabbath Sermon, and I looked up to heaven for inspiration and what did I see? There on the very top of my Kirk alighted this monstrous black hag. She was sitten upon a wond o' twigs the same as it were a horse."

Sheriff- "Go on man. What did you do?"

Robertson- "I recited the Lord's Prayer and cried on the creature to depart in the name of God, but there she sat, glowering and girning at me, till I fell down in a swoon."

Sheriff- "What say you to that, Woman.

Janet- "Mercy maister I was never higher than the top of a stack in all my life."

Sheriff- "Step doon Reverend Robertson. The Court hopes you have recovered from your ordeal."

Robertson- "By God's Grace Sheriff, I have. I have indeed been fully restored to my accustomed dignity."

Sheriff- "Call the next witness. You are Mary Sutherland, a neighbour of the accused.

Mary- "Aye, maister I'm Mary Sutherland."

Sheriff- "Tell us what you saw, woman."

Mary- "Well you know I have the best coo between the Ord and Dornoch, the finest milker you ever saw, butter as yellow as the sands of Embo."

Sheriff- "Yes, yes, yes, woman. I don't doubt it, but get on with it, get on with it."

Mary- "Well I knew fine Janet was jealous of my bonnie beast and was forever coming to my door for a droppie milk. I didn't grudge her a droppie now and again but no all the time. One day I sent her off without a drop. The very next morning my bonnie coo went off her milk. There wasn't enough for my husband's brose. The next morning I was up at the crack o' dawn. I knew that there was something no canny going on. Well as I stooped oot the door I saw a muckle big hare dandering over the field to my coo and it sooked every drop o' milk oot o' the coo. I grabbed my broom and ran shouting after the creature and did it no turn back and run stright into Janet Horne's house

Janet- "Mary Sutherland I knew you had a spite against me ever since I came back from my grand job wi' her ladyship"

Sheriff- "Quiet, spiteful besom. Ca the next witness. Are you Hamish Macangus?"

Hamish- "I am and I canna wait to tell you what I know about Janet Horne. She turned her only daughter into a donkey on more than one occasion and rode on that donkey to meet her evil master. The last time she didn't turn the lassie back into proper female form. Just look at the shape of her left hand, the shape of a donkey's hoof. Shod by the devil."

Sheriff- "You can stand down Hamish. And now Janet Horne I have one more thing that I want you to do. Repeat for me the Lord's Prayer in your native Gaelic."

Janet- "Ar n-Athair a bha air neamh .Our Father who wert in heaven."

Sheriff- "STOP. You need go no further. You have condemned yourself. Our father is still in heaven. You are praying to the devil who as we all know was expelled from heaven for his rebellion against God. Janet Horne, you are to have your head shaved. You will be tarred and feathered and taken to be burned at the stake on Dornoch Links."

Monk- 21 "Poor Janet. She was so deranged that she held out her hands to the fire welcoming its warmth as the day was so cold. This was in the year 1722, and it was the last witch burning to take place in Scotland. Fortunately her daughter escaped after the trial."

~~WILLIE:~~ *same* Did that really happen? *It is in the old history books*

MONK: Take a look in the Greenkeeper's garden - you'll see the stone.

MONK: 23RD PSALM - ANNE DUNLOP - *Gaelic*
For many years after this the Burghers of Dornoch had to wind their way through middens and the overall appearance was not improved by pigs roaming around the town and rooting about in the unfenced backyard of *the school*

WILLIE: But there is a wall!

MONK: Yes, well, the townspeople built it but that didn't stop them holding their fairs in amongst the tombstones. Surely you've spotted the ELL stone, Willie?

WILLIE: Of course, our History teacher told us.

John 22 MIME OF FAIR (churchyard scene with tombstones and *baskets/trays* booths selling whisky, cakes, children running about *cries* with trumpets)

INTERRUPTED BY HERALD RALLYING CLANSMEN TO KING *→ waving into air* GEORGE.

Town Crier SIGN YOUR MARK HERE FOR THE " WEE GERMAN LAIRDIE" LONG LIVE KING GEORGE!

23 ENTER 2 JACOBITES TO THE SOUND OF PIPES - BACK PROJECTION OF BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE *→ some paper Jacobite air*

↓
adult son
John

2 groups Jacobite fanatics

MONK:

Again Dornoch was to be occupied by troops loyal to the Hanovarian government and then to Prince Charlie when the Jacobites occupied East Sutherland. The prominent members of the nobility and business community then thought it prudent to take boat into Morayshire.

On the eve of Culloden, reinforcements for the Jacobites were ambushed by Sutherland Militia men led by ensign John Mackay, a wine merchant from Golspie. Many of the Jacobites died, drowned in the waters of Little Ferry as they tried to escape.

It is interesting to speculate what would have happened had the reinforcements arrived at Culloden, perhaps the whole tide of Scottish and British history might have been different but for ensign Mackay and his "home guard".

BACK PROJECTION HERE - PICTURE OF THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN
HERALD ANNOUNCING THE VICTORY OF HANOVARIANS

The local ministers were filled with relief and joy that the Protestant succession had been upheld and decided that all should go straight away to Inverness to wait on "Butcher" Cumberland to present him with a congratulatory address. (cheers and murmurs of 'Thanks be to God')

crowd → hand of

enjoyed

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

to be in

26 SCENE 5 - CLEARANCES - BACK PROJECTION OF PICTURES OF EMPTY STRATHS

voice as
MONK: Use
Chewer Steps etc
The failure of the Jacobites '45 led to the breakup of the clan system. Those chiefs who were not in exile, found it more profitable to replace men with sheep to provide wool for the growing industrial revolution and to clothe the forces in the Napoleonic Wars.

(17) Fishing table etc
(28) Crofting
103 Gaelic psalm of emigration - 29
Dispossessed crofters were forced to eke out a living by the seashore as at the Little Town of Embo and in Little Town in Dornoch where hill men perforce became fishermen. Others scratched a living by clinging to patches of cultivation by the cliffs at Badbea in Caithness where the children were tethered to stop them falling into the sea below the cliffs. No wonder the emigrant ships sailed from Little Ferry to the new world and emerging British Empire

(30) TABLEAU OF CROFTERS HUDDLED TOGETHER OUTSIDE KIRK WALLS WITH ONE OF THEM REACHING UP TO WRITE ON WINDOWS

Dispersed crofters from Glen Calvie sought shelter in Croick churchyard for several days and scratched their pathetic messages on the outside windows " Glencalvie folk the wicked generation"

PART OF DONALD SAGE SERMON HERE → individual voice

Psalm 84
The dispossession and destitution of the Gaelic speaking people has been described as one of the saddest periods of Highland history. While croft house roofs were being put to the torch, the roof of the cathedral was being restored.

GAELIC PSALM TO BE SUNG

(31)
The Duchess Countess of Sutherland in the 1830's cleared away the ruined nave with its gravestones together with cartloads of human remains. The remains of the ancient inhabitants of Dornoch. The nave was entirely rebuilt and the raised wooden floors and galleries of the late 18th century were removed, the tower repaired, Gilbert's steeple was renovated and a round outside tower and stone stair were added. The choir was raised up and turned into a Sutherland family pew and the whole interior was slapped over with lathe and plaster. The ancient Cathedral Church of St Gilbert and Dornoch was to become an essence converted into a private chapel of the Sutherlands and other wealthy landowners, to which the inhabitants of Dornoch were still allowed the privilege of using as their Parish Church.

(32) BACK PROJECTION - PICTURE OF CATHEDRAL RESTORED
CHOIR SINGING PARAPHRASE

(33)
In 1843 the Church of Scotland split in two. The dispute concerned the power the nobility had over the church. The disruption gave back to the people the freedom to call their own Minister and worship as they pleased. That year the majority of the people of Dornoch left the Cathedral and started what they called the Free Church. Hector Mackay, a former Town Clerk, tells how they presented a grave problem to one pious old Dornoch lady who because of her love of the Cathedral had named her hens after the Minister and the elders.

34

MIME - MRS ARCHIBALD FRASER FEEDS HER HENS, THROWS THE NECKS OF ALL THE HENS EXCEPT GEORGE DEMPSTER AND DUNCAN ROSS. AS SHE STRANGLES THE LAST OF HER HENS A FRIEND APPROACHES:-

FRIEND:

What are ye doing now Mrs Archie?

MRS A

What do you think I'm doing? I'm wringing their necks.

FRIEND:

You look like you're going to feed an army. I thought the hens were all your friends?

MRS A:

FRIENDS! No friends of mine now - friends of the De'el more like. TREACHEROUS, TRAITEROUS, Judases, these ministers and elders deserted St Gilbert's church for the Free Kirk. I'll still be going to the Cathedral with Messrs. Dempster and Ross. even if we are the only three there on a Sunday and even if we have no minister

FOLLOW THIS WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANT:-

"The walls are thick,
The folk are thin,
The Lord's gone out
And the Deil's gone in"

use
crowd

MONK:

And so Dornoch and its Cathedral struggled ^{into} ~~towards~~ the 20th century.

35

shades of two of century

- { early 20th music
Edwardian }
==

GRAMAPHONE RECORD PLAYS "DAISY DAISY" (or some such thing)
CHILDREN PLAYING WITH HOOPS AND SO ON WEARING TACKETY BOOTS ETC - GAMES OF THE EARLY PART OF THE CENTURY
THE FOLLOWING CLIPS OF DIALOGUE TO BE WORKED INTO THE SCENE:-

37

(SOUND EFFECT OF A MOTOR CAR) - *kids scatter to 2 sides*

1ST BOY: I saw it ! I saw it! (excitedly)
2ND BOY:- What?
1ST BOY: A motor car.
2ND BOY: You never did!
1ST BOY: Yes it came round, doon the road from the Poles, raising clouds of dust and the Carnagie mannie banging the sides and shouting whoa!whoa! same as it was a Clydesdale.
2ND BOY: He must have thought he was still driving a pony and trap!
1ST BOY: Surely, anyway he could'nt stop and just at Pitgrudy Farm there was a flock of ducks waddling across the road. Boy, you would have thought it was a snowstorm with the feathers.
2ND BOY: (pointing) Look up at the sky, what's yon?
1ST BOY: It's one of them flying machines.
2ND BOY: Boy it must be doing 20 miles/hour at least.
1ST BOY: Almost as fast as the "Coffee pot" train from the Mound!
2ND BOY: How would you like to be up in that thing(looking up at the sky)?
1ST BOY: (pause) I wouldn't like to be up there without it!

38

ENTER TWO ENGLISH GOWFERS

G 1 I say, Montague, that chap Sutherland's article in the London Daily News was bang on- absolutely spifling Golf Course. Must tell my fellow Harley Street doctors about it.
G 2 Bunkers at the second cost me a six. As for that approach shot to Foxy, lost me bet there.
G 1 Fill your lungs, old chap with that salt air and ozone.
G 2 Impressive visitors book in the clubhouse, what! The Weathereds, Vardon, Taylor, Braid. No wonder the King gave the club a Royal Charter. And have you seen Andy Carnegie's new trophy - solid silver with three pictures of the Cathedral engraved on it. Can't be many golf trophies like that.
G 1 Do you fancy your chances then in the first Carnegie Shield next week?
G 2 Unfortunately I can't make it - short of time, you know - pity there's no Bridge or I might have got Carnegie to send one of his cars for me.

FADE OUT - *singing games*

39

ENTER TWO WIFIES - *send kids home for tea*

1ST W: Anyway as I was saying, I heard that Andrew Carnegie was wanting to build a bridge over the firth, if Dornoch and Tain Town Councils would pay for its upkeep but as usual they couldna agree!
2ND W: It's a pity, mark my words we'll never see a bridge across the Firth!

40

1ST W:

He's been a fine man, generous to a fault to Dornoch. The Library's fine and the sound from the new organ on the Sabbath is just marvellous. *black for organ*

2ND W

He's paying for a new hall for Clashmore and they're saying the W.R.I. are going to hold their meetings there.

FADE OUT

MILITARY MUSIC - ENTER THE RECRUITING SERGEANT

S:

And now my lucky lads we need you Highland Heroes to help put the Kybosh on the Kaiser. England...er, Britain needs you, so quick march - pick those feet up Jock, left, right, left, right etc

Soldiers
CHILDREN MARCH OFF TO JINGOISTIC MUSIC - *Pipers lead off.*

MONK:

Sutherland men and women went to serve in 2 bitter World Wars. Allied servicemen found the quiet of this building a haven of refuge during the darkest hours of the 2nd World War. The enemies of old - the English and the Norwegians shared the tranquility of the Cathedral with the folk of Sutherland during those days, when Lancaster bombers took off from the Dornoch Links and Sunderland flying boats patrolled the Firth.

Dornoch and its Cathedral saw the return of the servicemen from the Great War to 'a land fit for heroes in the 1920's' when Dr Bentick who was the Minister then finally removed the yellow lath and plaster to reveal Gilbert's original stonework.

The cathedral saw the depression of the 1930's, the drabness of the 40's and 50's, the swinging 60's and 70's and has now reached the end of the 80's - 750 years after its foundation.

Composite of music from previous scenes
FIGURES FROM THE CATHEDRAL'S PAST PASS IN REVIEW BEFORE AUDIENCE - LAST FIGURE (ST. GILBERT) HANDS CHILDREN A CANDLE SYMBOLISING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WHILE THE MONK RECALLS THAT THE LIGHT WHICH WAS KINDLED SO LONG AGO HAS GUTTERED AND SANK WITH THE FORTUNES OF THE CATHEDRAL AND STILL BURNS STEADILY TODAY. THE MONK POINTS OUT THAT THE CHILDREN OF SUTHERLAND ARE THE INHERITORS OF THE CENTURIES OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN DORNOCH AND IT IS UP TO THEM TO MAINTAIN THE LIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

THE MONK VANISHES LEAVING THE SCHOOL PARTY WONDERING IF IT WAS ALL A DREAM.

THE BURNING CANDLE REMINDS THEM THAT IT REALLY HAPPENED.

(pointing to candle) What's that?

It must be the LANTERN OF THE NORTH WHOSE LIGHT SHINES ON IN THE DARK. THE DARKNESS HAS NEVER QUENCHETH IT. (Light slowly builds up with crescendo of music)

JEANNIE:

WILLIE:

house lights go on

