3.0 Iad Siúd a raibh tionchar acu ar an Éirí Amach: Réamhrá

3.4 Bhain na cinn seo go príomha leis an gcultúr Gaelach

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

Rugadh Dubhghlas de hÍde (1860-1949) sa Chaisleán Riabhach, Co. Ros Comáin, mac le ministir de chuid Eaglais na hÉireann ab ea é. Fuair sé a chuid oideachais óna athair agus i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, áit a ndearna sé staidéar ar an dlí. Ina dhiaidh sin, d'fhoghlaim sé Gaeilge i Ráth an tSratha, Co. Ros Comáin, áit a raibh an teanga fós á labhairt ach í á tréigean ag na daoine. Thug sé a shaol do staidéar agus d'fhoilsiú litríocht agus béaloideas traidisiúnta na Gaeilge, ar na leabhair a d'fhoilsigh sé bhí Amhráin Grádh Chúige Connacht (1893) A Literary History of Ireland (1899), agus a dhírbheathaisnéis Mise agus an Conradh (1931). Scríobh sé roinnt drámaí freisin, arbh é an ceann ba iomráití Casadh an tSúgáin, an chéad dráma Gaeilge a léiríodh go proifisiúnta don stáitse (1901). Ghlac sé an ainm chleite An Craoibhín Aoibhinn. I 1909 ba é an chéad ollamh le Nua-Ghaeilge i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

Cé go raibh tionchar an-mhór aige ar litríocht na Gaeilge, ba mar ghníomhach cultúir a rinne sé an gaisce ba mhó. I 1893 bhí sé ina chathaoirleach ag cruinniú bunaithe Chonradh na Gaeilge, cruinniú a rinne Eoin Mac Néill a thionól: ba é de hÍde an chéad Uachtarán, agus d'fhan sa phost go dtí 1915. Eagraíocht neamhpholaitiúil agus neamhsheicteach ab ea é, a raibh sé mar aidhm aige daoine a raibh dílseachtaí éagsúla creidimh agus polaitíochta acu a mhealladh isteach i dtionscnamh coitinn cultúir. Ba é an aidhm a bhí leis ná an Ghaeilge a athbheochan agus litríocht, ceol agus cultúr traidisiúnta na nGael a chaomhnú.

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

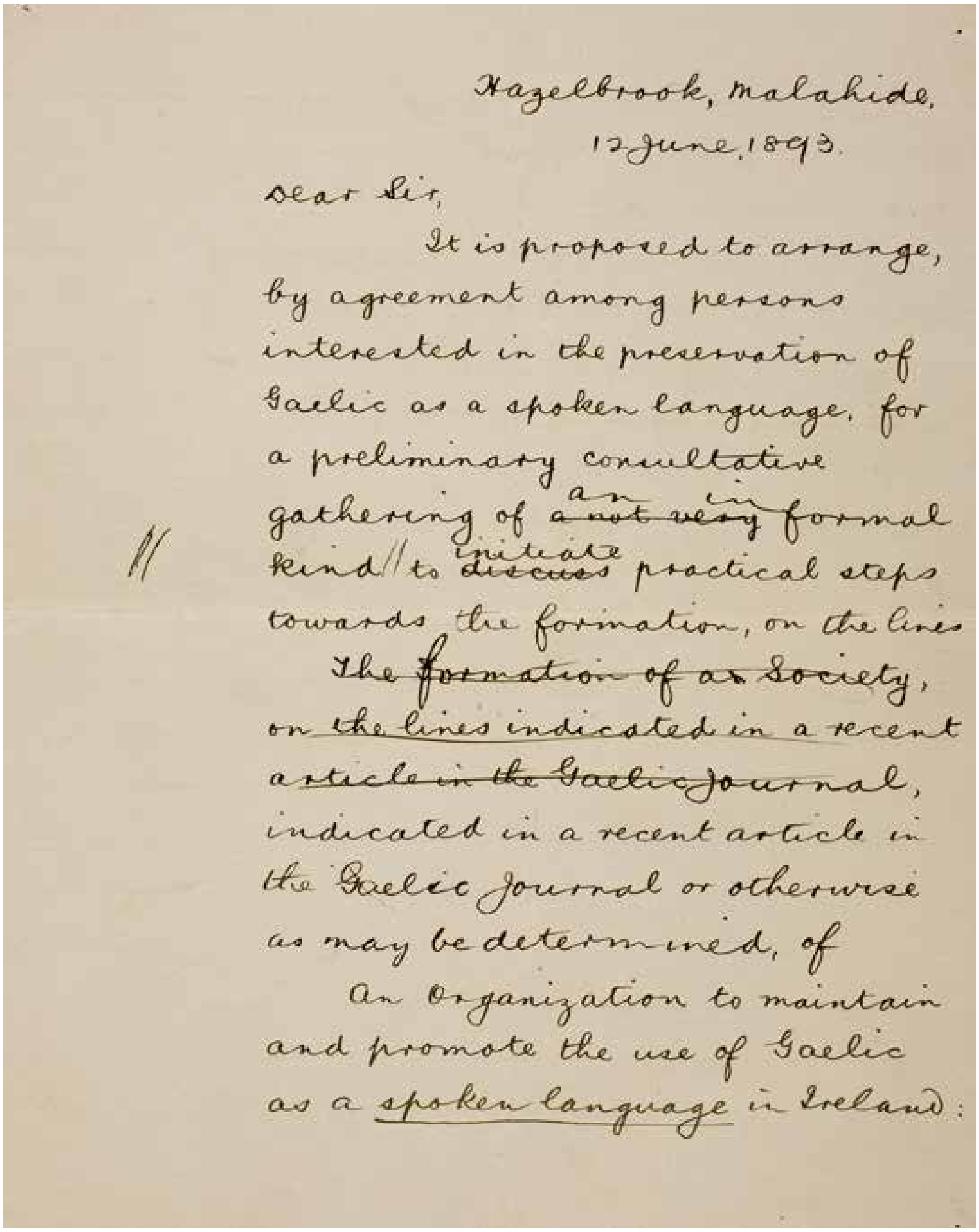
Faoi stiúir de hÍde mar uachtarán agus Eoin Mhic Néill mar rúnaí, chuir Conradh na Gaeilge clár uaillmhianach le chéile agus i bhfeidhm; faoin mbliain 1905 bhí 550 craobh den Chonradh ar fud na tíre. D'eagraigh na craobhacha ranganna Gaeilge le timirí (múinteoirí taistil) mar theagascóirí agus d'eagraigh léachtaí, ceolchoirmeacha agus céilithe freisin. Ón mbliain 1899 ar aghaidh d'fhoilsigh Conradh na Gaeilge An Claidheamh Soluis, nuachtán seachtainiúil Gaeilge. Thionóil sé féile bhliantúil chultúir, an tOireachtas, agus tar eis don Chonradh brú a chur ar na húdaráis ainmníodh Lá Fhéile Pádraig mar shaoire náisiúnta. D'éirigh leis freisin an Ghaeilge a chur ar churaclam na mbunsoileanna agus na meánscoileanna agus rinneadh ábhar éigeantach i scrúdú máithréanach Ollscoil Náisiúnta na hÉireann di.

Cé gur eagraíocht iomlán neamhpholaitiúil a bhí sa Chonradh, a raibh roinnt Aontachtaithe ina mbaill de, ba náisiúnaithe iad formhór na mball – sna blianta roimh 1916 bhí an chuid ba mhó díobhsan measartha go leor ina dtuairimí polaitíochta agus d'fhéach siad ar Rialtas Dúchais mar an t-aon chuspóir inmharthana a d'fhéadfaí a bhaint amach. I measc na mball freisin bhí náisiúnaithe radacacha, lena n-áirítear cuid acusan a shínigh Forógra na Poblachta i 1916 agus a raibh tionchar an-mhór acu taobh istigh den eagraíocht. Cé gur éirigh leo smacht a fháil ar an gConradh i 1915, bhí a chion déanta cheana féin ag an gConradh ó thaobh Éirí Amach 1916 de: laistigh de ghlúin amháin d'éirigh le Conradh na Gaeilge athruithe móra cultúir a chur i gcrích i measc an phoabail náisiúnaigh. Bhí fir óga ghlúin 1916 mórtasach as a bheith ina nÉireannaigh agus iad ina n-oidhrí ar cheann de na sibhialtachtaí ab ársa san Eoraip; labhair a lán díobh an Ghaeilge; ba mhór acu a dtraidisiúin chultúrtha; agus thar aon ní eile bhíodar eolach ar a stair náisiúnta – stair ina raibh Éire faoi fhorlámhas éagórach leis na céadta bliain. Cé go mbeadh tromlach díobh sásta le Rialtas Dúchais, chreid cuid acu go raibh Éire i dteideal neamhspleáchas iomlán, cuspóir a raibh siad toilteanach troid ar a shon.

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

Douglas Hyde as a young man.

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge



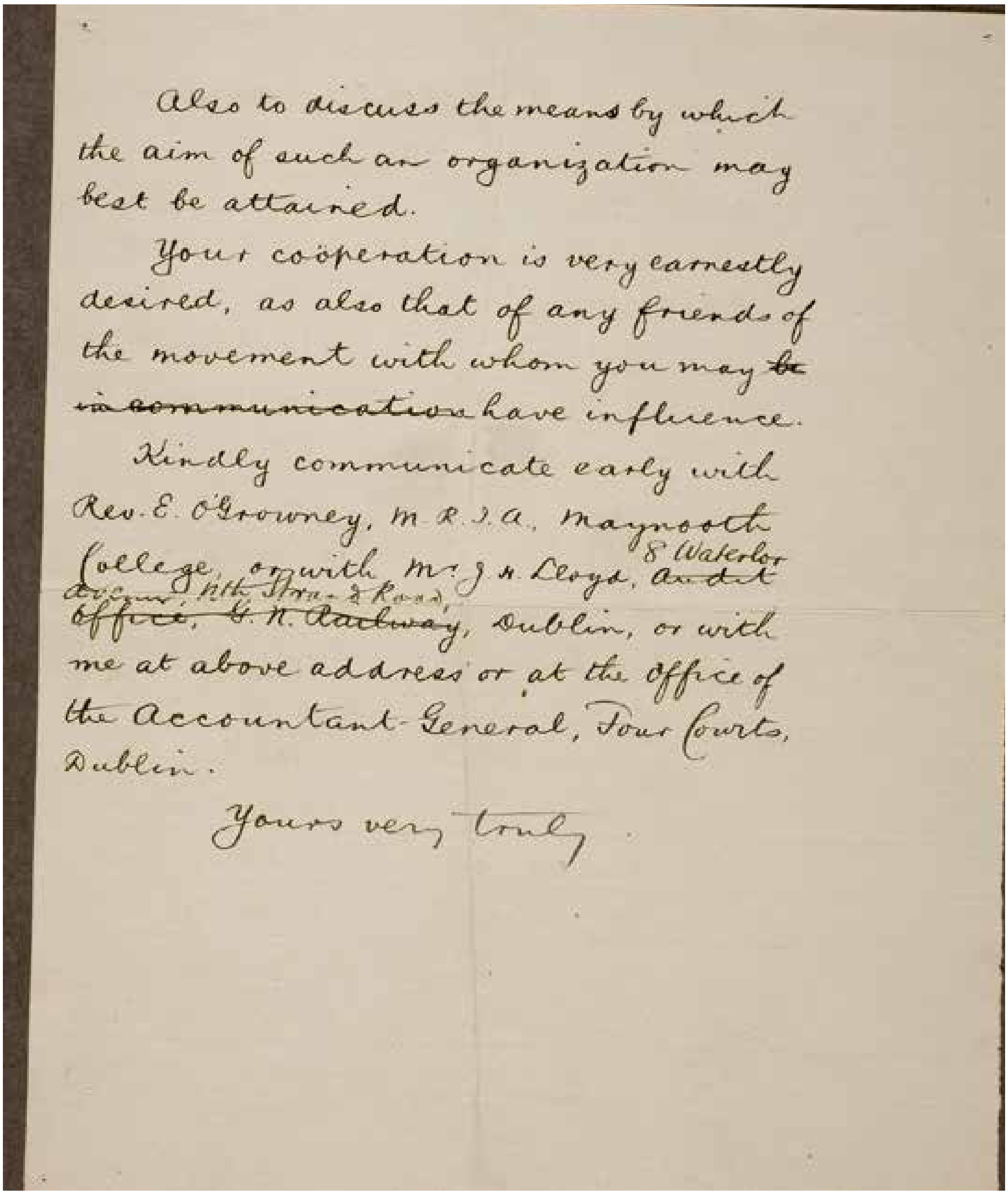
Hazelbrook, Malahide.
12 June, 1893.

Dear Sir,

It is proposed to arrange, by agreement among persons interested in the preservation of Gaelic as a spoken language, for a preliminary consultative gathering of ~~a not very~~ an informal kind // to ~~discuss~~ initiate practical steps towards the formation, on the lines
~~The formation of an Society,~~
~~on the lines indicated in a recent~~
~~article in the Gaelic Journal,~~
indicated in a recent article in the Gaelic Journal or otherwise as may be determined, of
An Organization to maintain and promote the use of Gaelic as a spoken language in Ireland:

Draft of letter by Eoin MacNeill proposing the foundation of a society for the preservation of the Irish language.(Ms. 19,315).

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge



Also to discuss the means by which the aim of such an organization may best be attained.

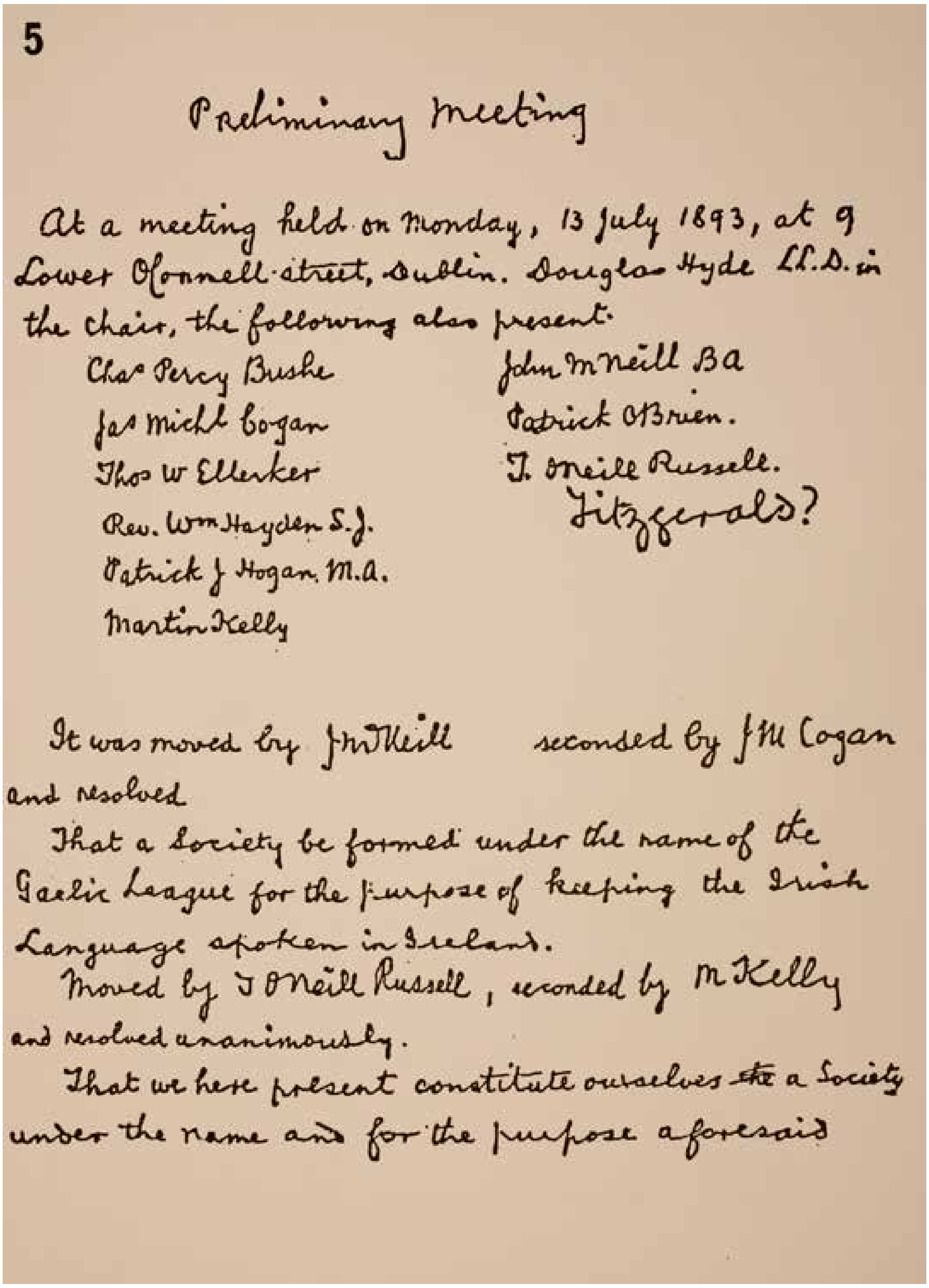
Your coöperation is very earnestly desired, as also that of any friends of the movement with whom you may ~~be in communication~~ have influence.

Kindly communicate early with Rev. E. O'Growney, M.R.I.A., Maynooth College, or with Mr. J. H. Lloyd, 8 Waterloo Avenue, Nth Strand Road, ~~Audit Office, G. N. Railway~~, Dublin, or with me at above address or at the office of the Accountant-General, Four Courts, Dublin.

Yours very truly

Draft of letter by Eoin MacNeill proposing the foundation of a society for the preservation of the Irish language.(Ms. 19,315).

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge



5

Preliminary meeting

At a meeting held on Monday, 13 July 1893, at 9 Lower O'Connell street, Dublin. Douglas Hyde LL.D. in the chair, the following also present.

Chas Percy Bushe
Jas Michl Cogan
Thos W Ellerker
Rev. Wm Hayden S.J.
Patrick J Hogan M.A.
Martin Kelly
John McNeill BA
Patrick O'Brien.
T. O'Neill Russell.
Fitzgerald?

It was moved by J McNeill seconded by J M Cogan and resolved

That a Society be formed under the name of the Gaelic League for the purpose of keeping the Irish Language spoken in Ireland.

Moved by T O'Neill Russell, seconded by M Kelly and resolved unanimously.

That we here present constitute ourselves ~~the~~ a Society under the name and for the purpose aforesaid

Minutes of the preliminary meeting of the Gaelic League. (Ms. 10,895).

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

(Founded, *July*, 1893.)

Objects.

1. The preservation of Irish as the national language of Ireland, and the extension of its use as a spoken tongue.

2. The study and publication of existing Gaelic literature, and the cultivation of a modern literature in Irish.

Means.

The means by which it is sought to achieve these objects are:—

1. The establishment of branches of the League in suitable centres, especially in the Irish-speaking districts.

2. The encouragement of the formation of classes for the study of Irish.

3. The holding of public meetings and lectures for the purpose of stimulating and informing public opinion on behalf of the Irish language.

4. To encourage the people who know Irish to speak it habitually where it is understood, and to impart the language to the young.

5. To endeavour to secure that, as in Wales, the national language shall be the medium of instruction in the National Schools in those districts where it is the home language of the people, and that greater facilities than at present be afforded for its teaching in the National and Intermediate Schools in all parts of the country.

6. The publication and distribution of books and pamphlets in Irish, or relating thereto.

7. The publication of the *Gaelic Journal*, a magazine devoted exclusively to the objects of the League and issued mainly in the Irish language.

8. The encouragement of Irish music and songs in Irish.

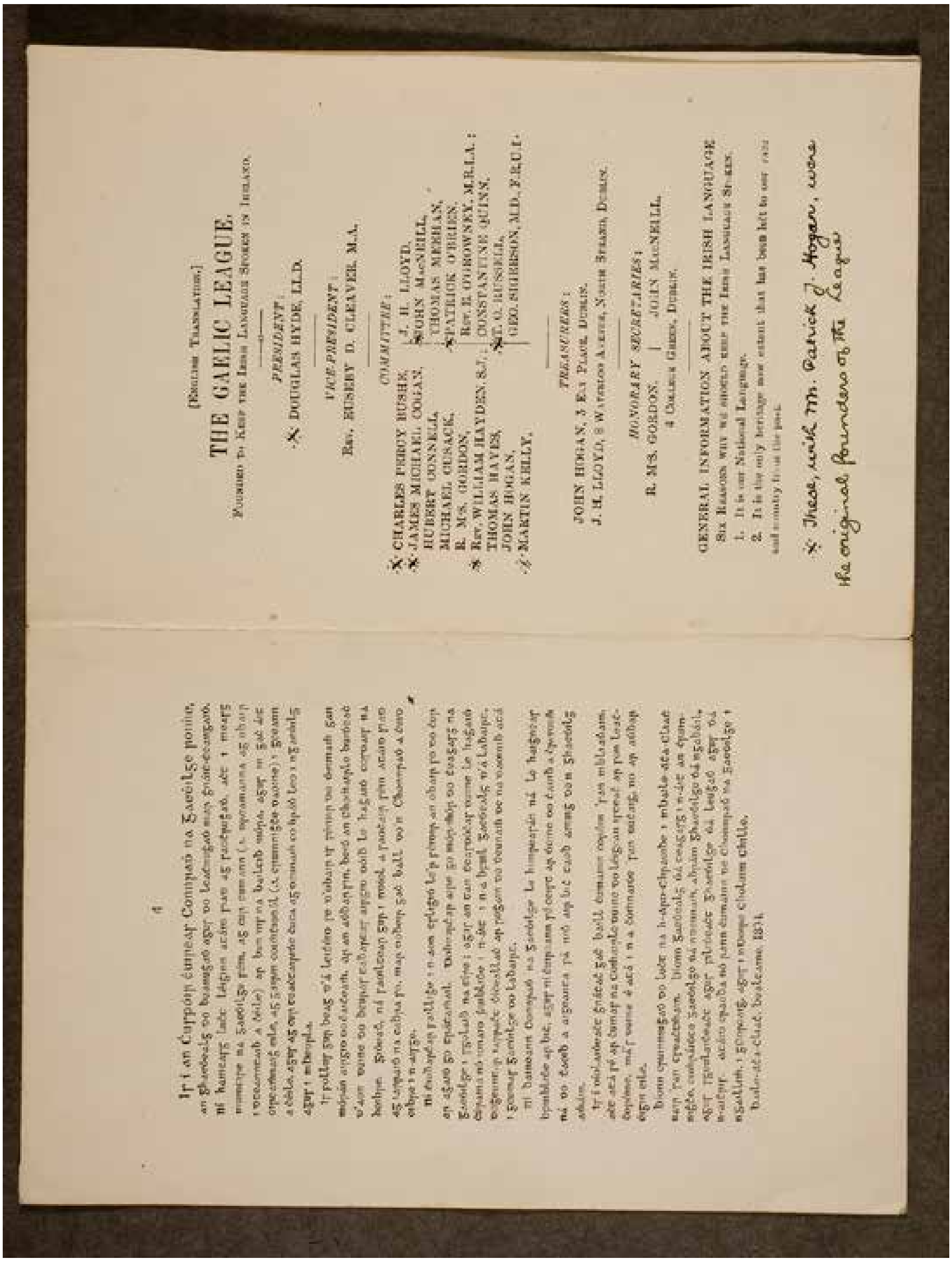
9. To inform the public on questions relating to the movement by contributions to magazines and journals.

10. The collection of the oral Gaelic literature, consisting of folk tales, poems, songs, proverbs, riddles, &c., still extant among the people.

11. The free grant of Irish books to branches of the League that cannot easily obtain them otherwise.

A Gaelic League leaflet.

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge



[English Translation.]

THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

Founded to Keep the Irish Language Spoken in Ireland.

PRESIDENT:
✗ DOUGLAS HYDE, LL.D.

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Rev. Euseby D. Cleaver, M.A.

COMMITTEE:
✗ CHARLES PERCY BUSHE, J. H. LLOYD,
✗ JAMES MICHAEL COGAN, ✗ JOHN MacNEILL,
HUBERT O'CONNELL, THOMAS MEEHAN,
MICHAEL CUSACK, ✗ PATRICK O'BRIEN,
R. Mc. GORDON, Rev. E. O'GROWNEY, M.R.I.A.;
✗ Rev. WILLIAM HAYDEN, S.J.; CONSTANTINE QUINN,
THOMAS HAYES, ✗ T. O. RUSSELL,
JOHN HOGAN, GEO. SIGERSON, M.D., F.R.U.I.
✗ MARTIN KELLY,

TREASURERS:
JOHN HOGAN, 3 Ely Place, Dublin.
J. H. LLOYD, 8 Waterloo Avenue, North Strand, Dublin.

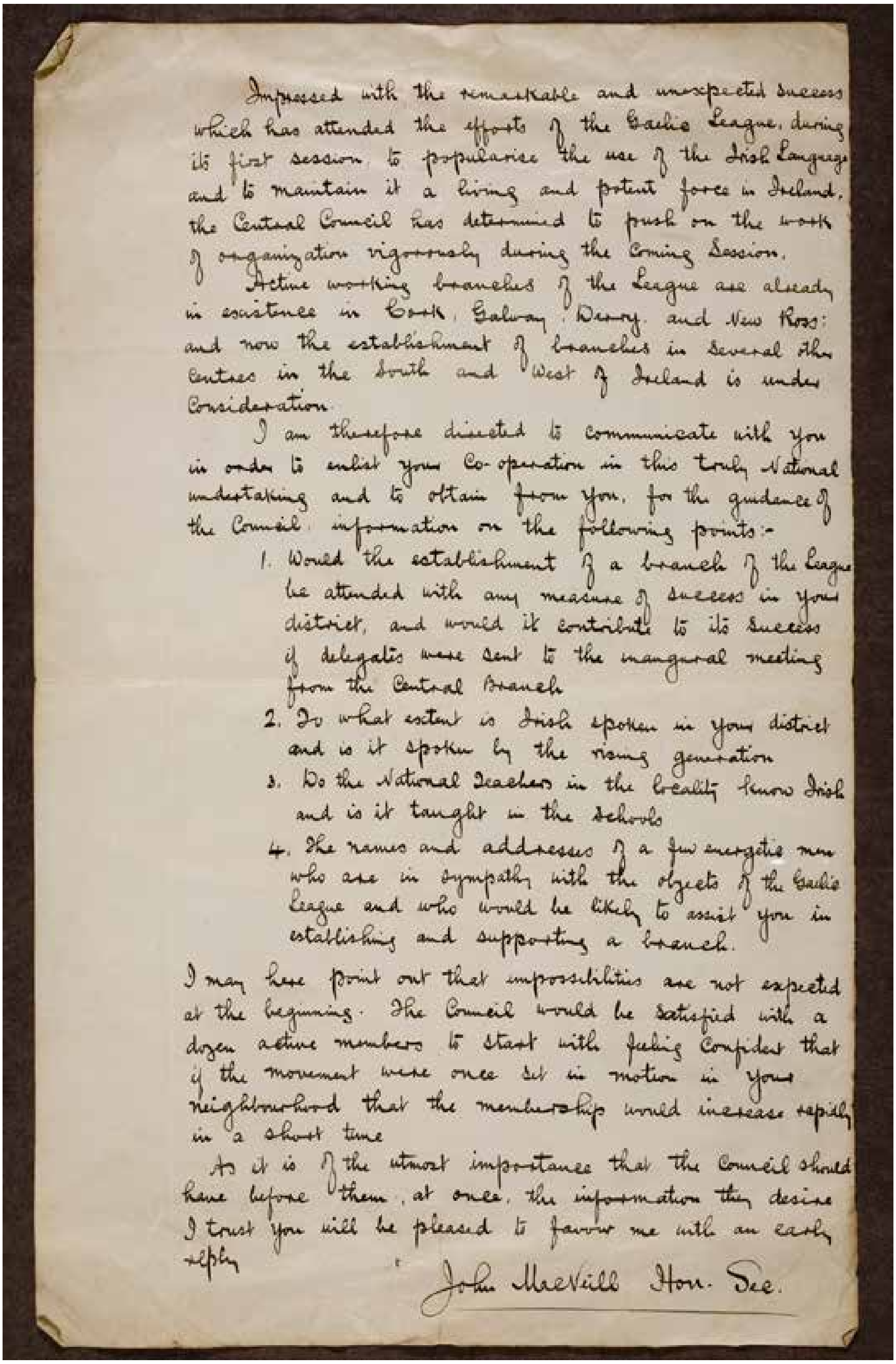
HONORARY SECRETARIES:
R. Mc. GORDON. | JOHN MacNEILL,
4 Dollier Green, Dublin.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE IRISH LANGUAGE.
Six Reasons why we should keep the Irish Language Spoken.
1. It is our National Language.
2. It is the only heritage now extant that has been left to our race and country from the past.

✗ These, with Mr. Patrick J. Hogan, were the original founders of the League.

Pages from Gaelic League brochure, Oct. 1896. (Ms. 10,895).

3.4.2 | Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge



Impressed with the remarkable and unexpected success which has attended the efforts of the Gaelic League, during its first session, to popularise the use of the Irish Language and to maintain it a living and potent force in Ireland, the Central Council has determined to push on the work of organization vigorously during the coming Session.

Active working branches of the League are already in existence in Cork, Galway, Derry, and New Ross: and now the establishment of branches in several other centres in the South and West of Ireland is under consideration.

I am therefore directed to communicate with you in order to enlist your co-operation in this truly National undertaking and to obtain from you, for the guidance of the Council, information on the following points:-

1. Would the establishment of a branch of the League be attended with any measure of success in your district, and would it contribute to its success if delegates were sent to the inaugural meeting from the Central Branch
2. To what extent is Irish spoken in your district and is it spoken by the rising generation
3. Do the National Teachers in the locality know Irish and is it taught in the schools
4. The names and addresses of a few energetic men who are in sympathy with the objects of the Gaelic League and who would be likely to assist you in establishing and supporting a branch.

I may here point out that impossibilities are not expected at the beginning. The Council would be satisfied with a dozen active members to start with feeling confident that if the movement were once set in motion in your neighbourhood that the membership would increase rapidly in a short time

As it is of the utmost importance that the Council should have before them, at once, the information they desire I trust you will be pleased to favour me with an early reply

John MacNeill Hon. Sec.

Statement by Eoin MacNeill on the success of the Gaelic League, 1893-4. (Ms. 10,895).

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

Extract from page of An Claidheamh Soluis, 13 June 1903.

3.4.2 Dubhghlas de hÍde, Eoin Mac Néill agus Conradh na Gaeilge

Poster advertising the annual Seachtmhain na Gaedhilge (Irish week), c.1915-16. (Proclamations).