

BAILE AN OR

ALAN REID

IN THE SPRING OF EIGHTEEN SIXTY NINE I HAD A DRAM WITH A TRAVELLER MAN
AND HE SPOKE OF GOLD IN SUTHERLAND LAND AT A PLACE CALLED BAILE AN OR
SO I JOINED 600 HUNDRED HUNGRY MEN WHO HAD GATHERED BY KILDONAN BURN
AND I LAY MY TENT UPON THE GROUND AT THE CAMP OF BAILE AN OR

WHEN DAY WAS DONE WE SAT BEFORE THE CAMPFIRE DRINKIN' WHISKY
SINGIN' SONGS AND DREAMIN' OF THE GOLD THAT WAS IN STORE AT BAILE AN OR

THE DUKE'S MAN CAME UP TO MY TENT, HE TOOK FROM ME A POUND IN RENT
HE SAYS 'HIS GRACE TAKES TEN PER PER CENT OF THE GOLD AT BAILE AN OR.
AND ALL YOU MINERS SHOULD BEWARE FOR IF THE DUKE IS HUNTING NEAR
COMMON FOLK SHOULD STAY WELL CLEAR AND REMAIN AT BAILE AN OR'

WE SLITHERED IN THE MUD AND THE WET, THE MIDGES DRANK OUR BLOOD AND SWEAT
AND I CAN FEEL THEM BITING YET WHEN I THINK ON BAILE AN OR
WE WORKED THROUGH COLD, WE WORKED THROUGH RAIN,
THE DUKE'S MEN MEASURED EVERY CLAIM
AND SOME WOULD LOSE AND OTHERS WOULD GAIN FROM THE GOLD AT BAILE AN OR

I HEARD THE NEWS AT SUMMER'S END, THE HERRING FLEET WAS SHORT OF MEN
SO I DONNED MY SEABOOTS ONCE AGAIN, DEPARTING BAILE AN OR
AND LATER I HEARD FROM A MAN THE PRICE OF GOLD HAD TUMBLED DOWN
AND THE DUKE HAD MOVED THE MINERS ON FROM THE FIELD OF BAILE AN OR

WHEN DAY IS DONE AND I SEE THE SILVER DARLINS' IN THE HOLD
NOW I KNOW THAT ALL THAT GLISTERS IS NOT GOLD
NO MORE MINERS DREAMIN' DREAMS OF FINDING GOLD
AT BAILE AN OR, BAILE AN OR, BAILE AN OR..... BAILE AN OR