

have some fun. Under the rug, which covered the animal, they gently placed a large Scotch thistle. Then entering the woods they awaited the result.

They had scarcely taken up their position, when a ram, straying from his home, approached the mouth of the pit in which the men were labouring, and began to bleat piteously. For some time the men in the hole listened in awe-struck silence, as the sound seemed to issue from the depths of the earth. At length they became more accustomed to the outcry and set to work again. Then the ram uttered a loud and mournful sound. O'Leary dropped his shovel, and, thinking it a voice from the unseen, whispered: "Good God ! what is he saying ?"

Instantly the spell was broken. The two men no longer wished to work, and hastened gladly towards their horse. As it was getting dark, they could not at first discover him, but, after considerable anxiety, their patience was rewarded. O'Brian took his place in the cart, and O'Leary leaped upon the horse's back. In a moment he was flying through the air, and an instant later lay upon his back in a clump of nettles, from which he hastily scrambled. He stood up and looked at the horse, standing quietly on the grass. All looked as usual. "The evil spirits have leagued against us, friend," said O'Leary, "and we shall never find our treasure."

So the two men set out for home, determined to go no more on a vain search for wealth. The bears growled in the woods; the wind howled noisily among the leaves, and mingled its sad moaning with the roar of the waves. The night was dark and cold. No moon nor star relieved the inky blackness around. And the awestruck silent men continued on their way, and never more sought the treasures of the rovers of the sea.

