

feud like this, when the evidence was so conflicting. But in this instance, the magistrate adopted a very summary process, and seizing the poker he drove them both out of the house, telling them they ought to be ashamed of themselves and that if he ever caught them here again on such an errand, he would use the poker on both of them. It is said that they agreed better after that.

As a sample of the amusements and diversions of the youngsters on festal days in the olden time, we might mention an episode that happened on a St. Patrick's Day away back in the century. The principals in this case were two sons of Erin—Fairbairn and C——. A crowd had gathered to do honor to Ireland's patron saint and enjoy themselves generally. As usual on these occasions the "poteen" flowed freely. This day some of the boys suggested a duel, which was brought about after a little fuss and altercation between the aforesaid principals, only one of whom however was in the secret. The boys persuaded C—— that he had grievously insulted Fairbairn, and that as he had been challenged to a duel by the said gentlemen, there was no alternative but to fight, and of course if an Irishman has one more tender spot than another it is his honor, so the duel was arranged and the challenged chose pistols for weapons. The ground was measured off, and the combatants faced each other ready to do or die, as honor demanded or fate decided. C—— took it as a serious matter, and you can imagine his feelings as he stood there in fear and trembling for the result. The seconds took their places and the lot decided that C—— should shoot first. This he was loath to do, as he had no desire to injure his friend. He hesitated for some time, and then indicated that he would fire in the air, when the stern words came from his antagonist, with an assumed gravity of which he was quite capable: "If you don't shoot me I will shoot you." C—— taking this as an ultimatum that was not to be trifled with, fired at once and Fairbairn fell mortally wounded. His attendant raised him and tied a bloody handkerchief round his head to give the impression that his wound was there. C—— was by this time frantic, and was seized by several men who discoursed to him on the fearful consequences of his act, till his reason had almost fled.