

the reason he is sure to answer you with an oracular shake of the head and the proverb just quoted.

The essential is neatly differentiated from the accidental in the well-known saw, "It is not the pot-stick makes the porridge, but the meat."—*Nee hae an mada pota a gnu dheas an leite act min.*

The clumsy craftsman is warned that "He will make a spoon or spoil a horn."—*Deanfaid shae sponog no millfsad shae adharc* The braggart is advised to "Do his work and not mind his best."—*Dean an obair agus na bac le do dhuthcholl.*

In dealing with the third division of our study—Innate Ability versus Luck—we are at once confronted with certain interesting and profound phases of Irish character,—some of those indeed on which ethnologists have based their theory as to the Oriental origin of the Gaels. Reference here is particularly made to fatalism and chance as opposed to free will and inherent ability, and the legitimate exercise of those prerogatives.

"Better," we are told, "is one blast of fortune than if you were breaking your heart forever." *Is fearr aon ghaoth fortuinn amhain na do mdeithu ag brisad do croidhe go dev.* It is hard to reason with a man smitten with this notion. In vain you tell him in the words of another proverb to "Do his best, and leave to Providence the rest." Then the magic of chance or luck, which as might be expected holds a peculiar charm for an imaginative people, runs like a glittering though elusive thread through the thought of not a few Gaelic proverbs. Here are some of numerous examples :

"If luck is on man it will be on his cabbages :—*An te ag a mbionn an rath air fein, ionn shae ar a cuid gabaiste.*

"Misfortune knows her own."—*Aithneann an donus a duine fein.*

"The lucky one has only to catch hold of it."—*Nee bionn 'on fear sona act ae breit.*

"Better be lucky than to rise early."—*Is fearr an t-adh na eirig go mac.*

"One point of the law is to be lucky."—*Ponc d'on dlige do beir sheuntac.*

But against this blind submission to fate and equally blind confidence in luck or chance there may be cited sayings in plenty on the side of pluck, individual initiative, manliness ; as,