

Irascibility and its offspring, are deprecated, and the soft answer that turneth away wrath enjoined in: "A grip is better than a blow." *Iss fearr grioir na buille*. Caution, calculating and vindictive, rather than meekness may have suggested the advice: "Don't show your teeth till you can bite."—*Nu nach t'facle go b'feadfair an greim do bpreith*.

"The day of the fight is when the blows go astray," (*la na brui greann sead lniigeann na buille air a tuob*); warns against indiscriminate punishment lest the innocent should suffer or courage and energy be worse than wasted. Along the same lines is the proverb: "when hard words come, 'tis music to be dumb —*Air teact na focal forbh iss bium beal iadla*

The Gael's philosophy of life as set forth in his proverbial lore has evoked from him the finest and truest expression of his mind and heart. There is space here, however, for only a few from a copious stock of proverbs under this head.

The length of man's earthly stay or pilgrimage is summarized in the saying—"twenty years growing, twenty blowing, twenty going, and twenty neither in nor out of it," (*fiche bliadhain ar teact, fiche bliadhain ar stadh, fiche bliadhain ar meath, agus fiche bliadhain fur cuma ann no as*); its extremes are epigrammatically put in the proverb: "Beginning and end of man—to draw near the fire."—*Tosac agus deire an duine cum na toinead triallann*.

Patience in life's trials and stress is, of course, inculcated. Hamlet's conclusion that it is better to bear the ills we have than fly to others we know not of, proceeds from no sounder premises or saner view of life's problems than does the old Gaelic advice; "If we can't be easy, to be as easy as we can," buttressed as it is by such arguments as are advanced in the counsels:

"Patience is the cure of an old complaint."—*Leighas scan-galair-foigid*. "It isn't the same thing to send for death, and to meet him."—*Nee hionann cuiread do cur ar an maus agus ac ionnsing*. "Many a day we shall be at the back of the church."—*Iss ionda la beidmid faoih taoibh an teampaill*.

Righteousness and the best means of attaining it,—the avoidance of evil and aught that makes for it,—are particularly empha-