

Independence of character or self-reliance, our next classification, receives delicate and yet unmistakeable appreciation.

"Better," we are told, "one's cabin and goat's milk than another's castle," *Is fear bothan agus bainne goughur na caisleán duine eile*. Than this a whole treatise on the subject could not better convey the truth.

"Trotting after the great is the poorest marching," *Sodair indiad na h-uasile, sodar is suarange ar bit*. As a shot at sycophancy, the effectiveness of this must readily be recognized. Here is another shot at the same target—" 'Tis a slobbery road, the road to the big house." *Bionn leucaca sleamna an tig mor*.

In sharp contrast to this truckling to the so-called great, is the way of honest toil and self-dependence, of which terse and telling appreciation is offered in the sayings, "Better be tired than be dead," *Is fearr beit tuirseac na beit marbh*: and "Do it once and 'tis done forever," *Dear aon uair amain ae agus ta shae deanta go deo*.

Conversely, the truth underlying these proverbs is put in the cutting references to procrastination and indolence which we find in the mouths of the people and which show that those who have incorporated them in their proverbial philosophy cannot be the improvident and lazy race which some observers would have us believe. Here are a few samples."

"You will do it when the cuckoo builds its nest."—*Deanfaid tu ac nuair a dhearfai an cuac nead*. "Listen to the sound of the river and you'll catch fish."—*Eist le fuaim na h-abhann agus geophair breac*. "What's put off will be put off."—*An sud a theidh i bhfad theid shue ro-fada*.

"The windy day is not the day of the scallops," *Ne hae la na guorte la na scolb*. In this saying, one perhaps of the most familiar of proverbs among the peasantry, there is packed a good deal of the wisdom born of bitter experience. Of a fine calm day, when the sea near-by is as placid as a sheltered pool one may easily happen on an old man seated in some sunny spot cutting into barbed lengths the pliant willow or hazel rods out of which is made the scallop or bond for the thatch, when the latter is being freshly laid or needs additional strengthening in the stress of the gales that blow coastwards, you wonder at what seems superfluous precaution, but if you ask him for