

papers undreamt of, and the need of some vehicle of intercommunication other than the ordinary colloquial one, imperative.

In the present paper there can be given but a fraction of that store of proverbs which yet lingers in the modern Gaelic speech; enough, however, perhaps, to serve the purpose in view, which is to give an insight into racial thought and character by means of that test which the proverbial lore of a people supplies, for in the words of no less an authority than Bacon, "the genius, wit and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs."

What will be said in this rather hurried study on the subject, as well as the proverbs to be quoted in illustration, may fall under the following heads: Self-interest; Independence of Character; Innate Ability contrasted with Luck; Sociability; Marriage; some Estimates of Woman; Wealth and Poverty; the Cynic not destitute of Humor; and a Philosophy of Life.

Taking these in the order just given, we find that the proverbial expressions with respect to Self-Interest, show a keenness of intellect, a shrewdness of observation and a poignancy of humor, which, coupled with a transparent clearness of expression and thought, render comment superfluous.

Before quoting any of the proverbs to be submitted in this paper, it is proper to say, first, that in every case the English translation will precede the original version, and secondly, that, owing to the absence of Irish type, the Gaelic form, minus, necessarily, the aspirate and accent signs, is given.

To begin then our citations. "Every one is nice till the strange cow gets into his garden."—*Ta gac nile fear go lahac go dteith bo 'na garrda*. This is a keen shaft intended to pierce the smiling mask of superficial civility.

"'Tis for his own sake the cat purrs," *Iss mar maite leis fein a gnideas an cat cronan*; and "He who was dividing Ireland did not leave himself last," *Au te bi ag roinnt nah'Eireann, nior fag shae ae fein cum deiread*, are neat hits at selfishness.

Much ado about trifles and narrow-mindedness, respectively, are aimed at in "A worrying man is always deaf," *Bionn cluass bodhar ar an fear vohlac go deo*; and "Even a blind man finds his mouth," *Amsigean an dall a beal*.