

The following is of old standing. Are the present utterances an improvement?

—"There was a Kerry priest," began Ned Shea, "an' he had the fashion of hearin' confessions wid a slate and pencil; an' he'd write down every sin, an' the price of it opposite. Well, one day a big mountziny fellow came to his duty, an' says he, 'I bruk a man's head last Hallow Eve.' 'That's ninepence,' said the priest. 'I cut the tail ov Larry Kelly's cow.' 'That's a shillin'—oh, a shillin' that is!' And down it went on the slate. 'I nearly murdered me wife twice.' That's thruppence; go on.' 'I kilt an Orangeman.' 'Whoo!' says the priest, rubbin' out everything, '*That clanes out all the rest!*'"