

## SCENES IN COURT.

## THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEING A WITNESS.

Have you ever been a witness? If not, come to the Recorder's Court. The case to-day is that of Mrs. Murphy McFlail against Ann O'Rourke, for no less an offence than that of throwing a cup of "bilin' wather" over her person. For the prosecution there is a lawyer, and for the defence there is counsel also, of course. Mrs. Murphy McFlail having stated her grievance, a witness is called to corroborate, and from a small host Mrs. Bridget McRavety, relict of the late Patrick Ravety, is called, and steps into the box with trepidation painful.

CLERK OF THE COURT—You have not been sworn, have you?

WITNESS (horrified)—I never swore in my life, Sir, an' it's not now I am goin' to begin the dirty habit.

CLERK—I mean, you have not taken the oath.

WITNESS—I never took an oat in all my life.

Witness here takes the "oat" in a very excited manner.

CLERK—What is your name?

WITNESS—Mrs. Michael McRavety, please the Court.

THE COURT—That's not your own name, surely?

WITNESS—It was the only name me husband gave me, Sir.

CLERK—What was your maiden name?

WITNESS—Bridget McClinker, which was me mother's name, more power to her.

CLERK—You are the relict of Michael Ravety?

WITNESS—No, Sir; I am a widdy three years gone last May, and a dacent —

CLERK—No doubt of it. You have heard the deposition read to you?

WITNESS (vacantly)—No, Sir; he never read to me in all his life, a dacent —

CLERK—This is what you swore to, yesterday, is it not?

WITNESS—Certain it is, if you say so, Sir.

COUNSEL FOR PROSECUTION (with important air)—Now, my good woman, just relate to the Court what you saw on this occasion.

WITNESS—As I am on my solemn oat, Tim McGinn was standin' wid me, dressed in his new coat —

COUNSEL FOR DEFENCE (loudly)—On your oath, now, was the coat Mr. McGinn had on not his other coat?

COUN. FOR PROS.—I object to that. It's no business of yours whether the coat was the one or the other.

COUN. FOR DEF.—You think so, eh? I insist, your Honor, for on the question being answered depends my case.

COURT TO WITNESS—Answer the question.

WITNESS (puzzled)—The coat I mean —

COUN. FOR DEF.—That's it. Now, on your oath, do you not swear that the coat McGinn had on would have been the same coat you mean, had it not been the other?

WITNESS—Ov course it's the same coat I mean.

COUN. FOR DEF. (triumphantly)—Ah, then, it was *the other* coat he had on. Will your Honor please make a note of that?

COUN. FOR PROS.—Your Honor will do no such thing. Now, my good woman, answer me. Don't be afraid. State whether the coat McGinn had on was the one coat or the other; and if not the other, whether it was the tother, and so on.

WITNESS (hopelessly puzzled)—It was the one coat he had on, and it was not the other.

COUN. FOR DEF. (excitedly)—Then it was the tother. It must be the one or the tother, sure. Your Honor, the case is clear.

COUN. FOR PROS. (producing volume)—Your Honor, Chipman, in his second page, 414, on coat, says: "A man wearing a coat can't have his other coat on."

COUN. FOR DEF. (producing another volume)—That's perfect nonsense, for Chipman, the same author you notice, your Honor, in his second page, 514, on coats, says: "A man having his other coat on, can't have but the same coat on, provided he has no other." Now the witness swears McGinn had on no *other* coat but the tother, and as the tother is not the same coat as that she means, of course it must be the other, as stated in the second answer of witness.

COUN. FOR PROS.—On the contrary, the witness says, your Honor, the coat she means, and which McGinn wore, was not the coat that she didn't mean—that is, she means the coat that McGinn didn't wear was the coat that she didn't mean; and, consequently, it was the other. Now, as the other must in such a case be the tother, for here, your Honor, we have the other and the tother. It is as clear as daylight that McGinn had not on then the other coat, but the tother, or the one that the prisoner means.

COUN. FOR DEF.—Now, I will ask the witness to prove I am right. Now, on your oath, Mrs. McRavety, which was the coat McGinn didn't wear?

WITNESS—It was the tother.

COUN. FOR DEF. (triumphantly)—Then the coat he wore was the other, and as McGinn had on a coat already when witness said he was standing by, you have the impossibility of a man's wearing his other coat when he has got the only one he possesses on his back.

COURT TO WITNESS—Now, be careful, Madam, and do not make any such mistakes again.

The interesting point being settled, the witness resumes her story.

## AGRICULTURAL.

GRINCHUCKLE is informed by several young men from the country, that disease is very prevalent among the Potatoes. He is confident in his belief that it is *all rot*.