

"Shure, Ma'am, we got a great scould from the praste the day." "Indeed, Biddy, what did he scould you for?" "Faix, and it's not meself that he scoulded at all, at all, but Misther Peter N—— and John L——, an' he held them up as an example to the whole church. 'Peter N——' says he, 'you have not been inside this church before to-day for the last three months, and you have not paid your pew-rent for the last two years. But, maybe, you have got the fourteen dollars in your pockets at this moment of spaking; or maybe you have spint it in buying pigiron to make gridirons, in order to fry your mate of a Friday; and when your praste comes to visit you, if he does not see it itself, he smells it. And you, John L——, Alderman L——, are not six days enough in the week for work and pastime, that you must go hunting of hares on a holiday? And pray how many hares did you catch, Alderman John?'"

The point of the last satire lay in the fact that the said Alderman John was known to be an ambitious, but very poor, sportsman; which made the allusion to the *hares* he had shot the unkindest cut of all.

Such an oration from a Protestant minister would have led his congregation to imagine that their good pastor had lost his wits; but I have no doubt that it was eminently successful in abstracting the fourteen dollars from the pocket of the dilatory Peter N——, and in preventing Alderman John from hunting hares on a holiday for the time to come.

Most of the Irish priests possess a great deal of humour, which always finds a response in their mirth-loving countrymen, to whom wit is a quality of native growth.

"I wish you a happy death, Pat S——" said Mr. R——, the jolly, black-browed priest of P——, after he had married an old servant of ours, who had reached the patriarchal age of sixty-eight, to an old woman of seventy.

"D—— clear of it!" quoth Pat, smiting his thigh, with a look of inimitable drollery,—such a look of broad humour as can alone twinkle from the eyes of an emerald of that class. Pat was a prophet; in less than six months he brought the body of the youthful bride in a wagon to the house of the said priest to