

in process of time it became their acknowledged badge, and that, as such, it is almost universally worn in the hat all over Ireland, on St. Patrick's Day.

Adopting the common view regarding the identity of the Shamrock, let us see what superstitions of interest clover stands credited with.

In point of luck, it is to be noted, first of all, there is a great difference between three-leaved and four-leaved clover. To find the latter is a sure sign of luck. Only—and this is an important point to observe—it must be found unawares. This is the way with good fortune; it comes unsought; if we hunt for it, it is seldom or never to be secured. He who finds four-leaved clover, and especially on Christmas Eve, has the power of seeing fairies and such like beings. In Hunt's "Popular Romances of the West of England," there is a curious tale of a milkmaid who, after having finished her labours, plucked up a handful of grass and clover to put in the head of her hat that she might carry the bucket the steadier. "She had no sooner placed the hat on her head, than she saw hundreds and thousands of the small people swarming in all directions about the cow, and dipping their hands in the milk, and taking it out on the clover blossoms." When she got home the girl looked over by candle-light what was in her hat, and found a bunch of three-leaved grass and *one stem with four-leaves*. In Bohemia, if a girl has a lover setting out on a journey, she contrives, unknown to him, to place four-leaved clover in his shoes, and believes that by that means she has effectually secured his return to her. And a lover, in the Tyrol, puts four-leaved clover under his pillow at night in order to dream of his lass. It is also believed in some places to cure madness by being plucked with a gloved hand and carried, unnoticed by any one, to the patient. And it is used in Germany also as a safeguard against being drafted for military service. Melton, in his "Astrologastir," says that, "If a man walking in the fields finds any four-leaved grass, he shall, in a short while after, find some good thing." The wonderful powers and sacredness of four-leaved clover are said to arise from its cross-like form. This makes it, according to our forefathers, "noisome to witches."

The finder of a five-leaved clover need expect nothing but bad luck.

A piece of clover with only two leaves, or "a clover of two," as it is called, is used in Cambridgeshire by young men and women who desire to know to whom they are to be married. The method of employing it may be gathered from the following rhyme, which is repeated as a charm,—

"A clover, a clover of two;
Put it in your right shoe.
The first young man [woman] you meet,
In field, street, or lane,
You'll get him [her] or one of his [her] name."