

Pat once went to sleep at a place frequented by the fairies; and in his sleep was carried down to their palace. He was about to drink some of their ale, which would have forever prevented his return, when fortunately one of the fairies happened to sneeze, upon which Pat, in a courteous mood, exclaimed very innocently, "God bless your honor!" Wonderful was the effect of thus invoking the name of the Deity in their presence. With terrible imprecations, and in great dismay, the fairies fled away, and Pat awoke once more upon earth.

I could cite many such stories to prove the fact, that the Celtic race believe that from Satan down to the mildest form of evil spirits, the name of the Deity has the effect of rendering them, for the time, powerless to do harm.

Can we then find any clue to the question why we should wish to keep off fairies and evil spirits when a man sneezes? I have discovered the explanation, in the superstitions of the Highlanders. The following tradition as to a Highland Chief's family in Perthshire, related to me by the Rev. Dr. Robertson, a native of that county, shows that when a person sneezes, he is supposed to be *liable to be stolen by the fairies*, unless protected by some one invoking the name of the Deity.

Several centuries ago, an ancestor of the present Chief was engaged to be married to a young lady in France, who, he learned, had grown fickle, and was about to be married to a rival. In great distress, the Chief applied for aid to the King of the Fairies, who offered him a fairy horse, mounted on which he accompanied his Majesty to France. When they arrived at the house of the bride, the wedding was just commencing. The King of the Fairies, unseen by the guests, entered, and seeing the bride for a moment withdraw into a room alone, he followed her. Just then she sneezed—there was no one present to say "God bless you!" and in a moment the fairy had stolen the bride, whom he carried in triumph over to the Highlands, where she married the chieftain, and became the happy mother of a long line of illustrious Mac's. It is needless to add that his rival, the unhappy Frenchman, unconsciously married "*a fairy woman*."

This, then, is the explanation of the custom among the Celtic race: but as their belief as to fairies, is *precisely similar* to that of the Polynesians, and as both have inherited, in common with all nations, the custom of invoking the Deity when a person sneezes, we may very naturally infer, that what is an explanation for the custom in the Highlands, is also a solution for it among the people of the Tonga Islands. But it is manifest that if *all nations* possess the custom, they must have inherited it from a common source; and if so, that the custom must have been in