

But perhaps enough has been drawn from this ungracious vein of proverbial comment.

The next category which deals with the everlasting contrast between wealth and poverty has a number of proverbs in which Gaelic philosophy and satire are singularly, yet not incongruously blended. One characteristic is universally conceded to the proverb, and that is the rapidity with which it conveys its thought, brevity of phrase being, of course, a fundamental condition of its effectiveness. The examples now to be noted possess not only this essential but also the quality of humor which though here grim yet pierces the gloom of that seamy side of life with which they deal. For your Gael, is not when all is said, a born pessimist. And now for instances: "The poor have no relations."—*Neel gaol ag aionne le duine boith.*

"A herring on a cold sod, and far from the fire" (the poor man's portion).—*Sgadan air fadh fuar i bhfad suas o'n teinidh.*

"Woe to him who has nothing in his bag at sundown."—*Ag dul sìos d'en grein, is mairg nac mbionn rud aige.*

"How harsh is the voice of the poor."—*Searbh-glos an le bios lio*

"Death is the poor man's doctor."—*Liaig grc boict bus.*

"Better an axe straight to his neck, who, for the sake of child or chick, will leave himself without a speck."—*Gabhail de'n tuiag seo i mbaic a muinell d'on te tabharfad a cuil go teir no mac no d'ingin.*

Certainly the iron of adversity must have entered into the soul of him who voiced his grief in the proverbs just given, whilst those which immediately follow reveal a burning resentment against the world and a bitter arraignment of its attitude towards the poor:

"The rich man can do as he likes.—*Gn saidbir reir a aonta.*

"The poor are the sport of the world."—*Duine gan stor bionn shac n-a sporth aig aindeis an tsaogal.*

"Want is not the worst, but the contempt for it.—*Nec h-a an ainghis act an tarcuishne leananni.*

There is humor, as well as bitterness, in the comments that "the pig in the sty doesn't know the pig going the road, and "a full stomach doesn't understand a lean one."—*nec huigeann an sabac an sheang,*