

complain of the fun, the open ridicule poked at them?" and answers: "Because, be jabbers, the Irishman is proud of his Irish, so sure of himself, that he is the first to crack the Irish joke on the Irish."

This is really the secret of the Irishman's disposition to satirize his own people. Always overflowing with humour, he is perpetually exercising his gift at the expense of his nearest friend or dearest companion. There are no circumstances or conditions that will prevent this natural flow of the mother wit. Even in the presence of death itself it bursts forth in its greatest exuberance. A story is told of the dying king of Kerry Patch, the name given to the Irish quarter of St. Louis, that after he had disposed of the bulk of his property to various charities, ten dollars still remained. Being asked what should be done with the money, he replied: "Ye can have that for whisky at the funeral." On being further interrogated as to whether the whisky should be drunk going or coming, with his last expiring breath he exclaimed: "Have it going to the funeral, for then I'll be wid you."

This propensity to make bulls is a deep-rooted national characteristic, in no way confined to the lower classes, but found among educated and well-to-do people. A Cork newspaper recently published a report of an open-air political meeting in which this paragraph appeared: "Mr. M. A. Brennan next spoke at much length in his usual happy style, but from the distance we were wholly unable to catch the purport of his remarks."

The literature of Ireland is full of bright samples of ready repartee and scintillating wit, and among no other class is it in such vogue as among the legal fraternity. Bench and bar are continually on the alert for an opening for the use of this



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wonderful weapon for combating the opinions advanced by opposing counsel, and bringing ridicule on the statements of both attorneys and witnesses.

Judge Barton, who was a very old and wizened little man, was trying a case, when another very old man, scarcely able to walk, came into court to give evidence. Instead of going to the witness-box, he went toward