

ness of mousing cannot be considered a wrong doer pure and simple, the injury being incident to the zealous performance of its duty. The cat, therefore, pays to the profitable worker mitigated damages, and to the idler who was not present in the fulfilment of any duty of his own, no damage whatever. It is only right to add that one version of Aicill says that this exemption for stealing food only applies to the case of "a neighbor cat" and "not to the cat of the house, which shall be made to pay according to its wickedness, for the guarding of the kitchen had been entrusted to it."

Bees and cats must tell the story. Suffice to say that Cormac and Cennfaeladh and their commentators, endeavored to deal with all cases and all varieties of circumstances, laying down special rules for every relation of life and every detail of social and domestic economy, for injuries to every part of the human form divine, discriminating between the finger nail of a pauper and that of an ordinary person; and between shaving the false locks of poets, the lashes of a girl's eyes and the beards and whiskers of men; for man-trespass and cattle-trespass; for trespass by horses and trespass by pigs, by pigs big, by pigs middle sized, and by pigs sucking; for injuries in building, in blacksmithing, in threshing; for mistakes and malpractices of doctors, yea, even for the errors and mistakes of judgment, inadvertent or malicious, of the Brehons themselves.

There was much resemblance between the Irish laws and those of ancient Britain, particularly those of ancient Wales. All British laws were modified under Roman sway, but Ireland escaped this. The laws of the Gaels of Scotland were the Irish laws transferred thither, but early modified by the feudal system. As Ginnell says, "The Brehon laws, whether they are good or bad, creditable or otherwise to our race, are essentially, substantially and characteristically Irish."

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