

thocht I wad haud wi' the cat an' play wi' the kitten; that's tae say, I wad figure in the Grit procession, but wi' the Phairson kilt on. Sae I got a bicycle. A bicycle is ae solitary muckle wheel, a' silver-eeged round the rim; an' ye get astride this wheel, an' it rins awa wi' ye the minnit ye begin tae ca' yer feet up an' doon time aboot; an' then there's a little wheel that comes rinnin' ahint ye like a little collie doggie. The great deeficulty is tae get up on the wheel, an' tae bide there when ye are up. Weel, I got ma bicycle oot intae the back yard, an' after I got mysel drest up in my new kilt, I gets out a chair an' proceeds to mount the machine. I canna understan' to this day hoo it cam aboot, but the first thing I kent was a fearfu pain in ma nose, a' the stars o' the farmament dancin' afore ma een, an' mysel spreed oot on ma face, an' the bicycle ridin' on tap o' me instead o' me on tap o' it. This was very humiliatin' tae a respectable man like me, the mair sae that gigglin' limmer, my landlady's dochter, was stannin' at the kitchen window just splittin her sides at the sicht o' me in a kilt fleein' heels ower head, like that. Somehoo or ither I got up, an' after I got a' the bluid an' dirt washed off my face, I resumed the attack. I thoct on Bruce an' Bannockburn, an' tuk courage. I kent that lassie was lukin' at me, so I staps up quite brisk, an' after hoppin' aboot wi' ae leg up an' anither doon, for a while, I boldly threw my ither leg ower the wheel, an' sat doon—on the sidewalk. It was maist extrao'rdner. I began tae think that either me or the bicycle was bewitched. It beat McPharson's horses. It was a most terrible settin' doon, an' I felt mair oncomfortable than I could very weel express tae ye. My nose by this time had swelled tae sic an extent that I couldna see straught afore me; but for a' that, I was determined tae try again. There's naething like perseverance. Sae I got a haud o' the confoonded thing, an' wi' some very superior engineerin' I just managed for the first time tae get fairly set doon in't, when flap ower it gaed sideways as flat as a flounder, an' me in the maist ondignified posection imagin-