

A BUNDLE OF YARNS

Kelley, I tell you that. Hungry babies is what gnaws the heart out, folks tells me as knows. 'Tis what keeps the Irish down, havin' such terrible families. Now there's Bridget O'Shay—she that was Beazie McCarthy,—you remember, Williper. She worked next spooler to me for years. A rosy-cheeked girl was Beazie McCarthy when she married Mike O'Shay. Seven children she had in as many years, and look at her now! You mind me, Mamie Kelley, and don't you fret about gettin' married. It's the natural curse of the Irish—I mean the children as follows."

A scratching sound was now audible in the hall.

"What's that?" Little Jack inquired, pricking up his ears.

"It's 'the wolf at the door!'" Williper Père replied with a grin.

This is the first joke ever known to have been uttered by Williper Père. A gruesome joke it was, and it set the