

sparse population almost wholly from the Highlands of Scotland. Mrs. Millar's servant girl was one of that worthy race, so much so that she could talk but little but her native Gælic. Now it happens that the word "coo" in that language means dog. But in the lowland Scottish tongue it has an altogether different significance. The girl had come to the farm-house through the course of the day, and toward evening Mrs. Millar said to her in her bustling way :

"Gan awa' an' milk the coo."

The girl had had a difficult task all the afternoon in understanding just what her mistress was saying to her, for while she might have made some speed with common English, the broad sounds from "beyond the Tweed" were too much for her brain. But this order put a climax to it all. To milk the "coo"—the dog—what could the old woman mean. It was beyond her, but some of the other members of the family were near and one hit upon saying the word "cow" in plain English and the poor confused girl understood and was relieved.

On another time a similar occurrence took place. It was with a Mr. Robert Ellis (of thorough English parentage) now of O'Leary, and (since there are two gentlemen of the same name there) known as "little Robert." It was winter time and Mr. Ellis with some others were hauling loads in sleighs, passed Mr. Millar's homestead; the winter road, as is frequent, going through the field a short distance away, in place of the ordinary cart road.

Mr. Ellis for some reason stopped the teams and came over to the house. Mrs. Millar, who by the way, was quite inquisitive, began enquiring all about who were with him. After Mr. Ellis had told her that Tom Soanso and Dick Someone else were there, he was horrified to hear her ask: "Is there ony mair?"

"Mair" was the spelling in Mrs. Millar's mind, and of course she was asking was there any more people with him, but the spelling—the sound being the same—in Mr. Ellis' thought was "mare?" What could she mean by asking such an almost indelicate question as "Was there any mare?" And indeed he had to make an evasive answer since he could not understand the question at all. It was not until years afterward that he learned the meaning of Mrs. Millar's perfectly natural question.