

"We are na fou ; we're no that fou,
 But just a drappie in our e'e ;
 The cock may craw, the day may daw,
 But aye we'll taste the barley bree."

There is no better drinking song than that in the world, and I would have liked to have been there that night.

I have a good notion to tell you something. Not long ago I was dining with some gentlemen, and next me sat a minister. (Laughter). He was bound to get into good company for once in his life. (Renewed laughter). He was talking a little on the subject of religion, and I finally asked him, "Now," said I, "you have talked so much about the apostles and the Lord, and all that sort of thing ; now will you be honor bright with me and answer me a question ?" Well, he said he would. Said I, "Which would you rather spend the evening with, one of the apostles or Robert Burns ?" Well, he says, "If I tell you, you won't tell on me, will you ?" Well, I said, "I know what your answer is then, because if you had been going to say one of the apostles, you would never have told me not to tell."

Burns knew that poets could not be made. He knew that education had nothing to do with genius. He knew the university could not furnish capacity nor genius, it could not furnish that divine atmosphere.

AN ARTIST AND A DEMOCRAT.

Besides this, Burns was a very great artist. He has painted some of the most powerful word pictures in the human language. His description of a brook in "Hallowe'en" is one of the most exquisite things that has ever been my good fortune to read.

"Whyles owre a linn the burnie plays,
 As thro' the glen it wimpl't ;
 Whyles round a rocky sear it strays ;
 Whyles in a wiel it dimpl't ;
 Whyles glitter'd to the nightly rays,
 Wi' bickerin', dancin' dazzle,
 Whyles cookit underneath the braes,
 Below the spreading hazel,
 Unseen that nicht."

Just read that over to yourselves some day five or six times. All his work is of this character, so beautiful, so simple and so natural. It is splendid. Take the picture in Highland Mary. He pictures love in the breast of a sweet girl. It is beautiful. Think too of his description at the commencement of his vision. That shows his descriptive powers at their very best, and proves what a true poet this man is.