

Reminiscent.

BY JOHN MOLLISON.

OCCASIONALLY we hear of a kind of play upon words that creates a smile. What I refer to are words the exact sounds of which occur in an altogether different language, and with an altogether different accent, which when associated together in the mind, are more or less ridiculous. Let me give two examples which happened on our own dear Isle.

Alexander Millar came to this colony about the year 1850, and settled in that part of North Bedeque known as "The Creek." In the spring of 1861 he and the family moved to the westward, having bought during the previous year a farm in Bideford, Lot 12, where his second youngest son, Peter Millar, now resides, he being one of the well-to-do farmers of that neighborhood.

Mr. Millar was for the first years of his life in this country a threshing-machine manufacturer, and of course his business called him away from home frequently. This had the effect of bringing him in more contact with his fellows, and, as a consequence, the effect was not only to broaden his mind but to anglicise his Scottish dialect to a great extent. But with Mrs. Millar it was different. She was a faithful energetic helpmeet and so was kept at home almost altogether by the exigencies of her home work. For this reason her broad Doric tongue was scarcely ever modified from the time she left her lowland Scottish home near Edinburgh for "the wilds of America," as this country was then looked upon by the peasantry of Europe. Such words, therefore, as "fikey," "nicht," (with the German guttural) "dinnie fash yersel," and many others, constantly dropped from her lips.

In the exigencies of the life they found themselves in—a comparatively new farm to stump and to drain—outside help was required, even though they had a family of four boys (the girls being the first, in order of time, and married). This necessitated outside help in the kitchen as well.

On one occasion Mrs. Millar hired a big soncy girl from Grand River, a settlement some few miles to the south, with a