

"The man without a shift will be hanged."—*Fear gan sheirt, croctaire.*

"The whole world would not make a race horse of a donkey."—*Ner deanfaid an saogal capall ras d'asal.*

"It was not from the wind he got it."—*Nee o'n gaot do toig shac ae.* Tantamount to saying that the person spoken of possesses innate ability, which he can well and wisely use. This proverb is not infrequently made serve in an adverse sense when used in reference to some hereditary fault or defect. In fact it, as well as the three proverbs that immediately follow, may be regarded as proving the case from two different though not opposed points of view. As used here the truth that emerges from them is this: "Develop the talent that is in you; 'to your own self be true.'"

"What will the cat's son do but catch mice?"—*Cad do dean-fad mac an eurt act lucog a gobair?*

"Put silk on a sow, and she'll still love to root."—*Do gcutfeà sioda ar muc shae binneas a beal gnusact.*

"You can't draw blood from a turnip."—*Nee baintear fuil a turnaip.*

Of the proverbs in the last group, it is quite true that some are open to the inference that unless one is called to or fitted for a certain station in life, it is folly for him to seek it, and equally out of the question for him ever to hope to succeed therein should he enter upon it. But this, even in Gaelic proverbial lore, must be received with considerable qualification. For there are numerous sayings which insist that work, faithful and persevering, and an indomitable will, directed by education, will accomplish wonders by the removal or cure of natural defects.

"There is no fool," we are told, "but has some sense of his own."—*Neel amadan ar buih gan a ciall fein.*

"Sense is no load."—*Nee ualach do'ncolann ciall:* said of a dull, but plodding and patient worker.

But there must be no sham or affectation, for there is no royal road to culture. "No gentleness without education."—*Neelseim neac go beil oilte.* And so great stress is laid on courteous and kindly manners, lack of which neither material prosperity nor learning can offset in the estimation of the Gael. This quality of manners, moreover, must spring from the heart, as well as from the mind, before it