

DROLLERIES OF DONEGAL.

A Series of Irish Folk Stories.

By SEUMAS MAGNANUS.

Author of "Through the Turf Smoke," "The Leadin' Road to Donegal."

CHAPTER I.

The Adventures of Billy Beg.

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Once on a time there was a king and queen, and they had one son, Billy, and the queen gave Billy a bull that he was very fond of, and it was just as fond of him.

After some time the queen died, and she put as her last request on the king that he would never part Billy and the bull, and the king promised that, come what might, come what may, he would not.

When Billy heard this he got very down in the heart, entirely, and he went doleful about and the bull saw him and asked him what was wrong with him, that he was so mournful, so Billy told the bull what was wrong with him and the bull told him to never mind, but keep up his heart, the queen would never take a drop of his blood.

The next day, then, the bull was to be killed and the queen got up and went out to have the delight of seeing his death. When the bull was led up to be killed, says he to Billy: "Jump up on my back till I see what kind of a horseman you are."

Up Billy jumped on his back and with that the bull leaped nine mile high, nine mile deep and nine mile broad and came down with Billy sticking between his horns. Hundreds were looking on dazed at the sight and through them the bull rushed and over the top of the queen, killing her dead, and a way he galloped where you wouldn't know day by night or night by day, over high hills, low hills, sheep walks and bullock traces, the Cove of Cork and old Tom Fox with his bugle horn.

When at last they stopped "Now then," said the bull to Billy, "you and I must undergo great adversity, Billy. Put your hand," says the bull, "in my left ear and you'll get a napkin, that, when you spread it out, will be covered with eating and drinking of all sorts, fit for the king himself."

Billy did this and then he spread out the napkin and ate and drank to his heart's content, and he rolled up the napkin and put it back in the bull's ear again. Then says the bull: "Now put your hand into my right ear and you'll find a bit of a stick; if you wind it over your hand three times it will be turned into a sword and give you the strength of a thousand men besides your own and when you have no more need of it as a sword it will change back into a stick again."

Billy then got up again on the bull's back and the bull started off and away where you wouldn't know day by night, or night by day, over high hills, low hills, sheep walks and bullock traces, the Cove of Cork and old Tom Fox with his bugle horn. There he met another bull, and both of them fought, and the like of their fight was never seen before or since. They knocked the soft ground into

AND LENGTH THE BLACK BULL OF THE FOREST KILLED BILLY BEG'S BULL, AND DRANK HIS BLOOD.

hard, and the hard into soft, the soft into spring wells, the spring wells into rocks, and the rocks into high hills. They fought long, and Billy Beg's bull killed the other and drank his blood. Then Billy took the napkin out of his ear again and spread it out and ate a hearty good dinner.

Then says the bull to Billy, says he: "At 12 o'clock tomorrow I'm to meet the bull's brother that I killed today, and it's a hard fight." Billy got on the bull's back again, and the bull started off and away where you wouldn't know day by night or night by day, over high hills, low hills, sheep walks and bullock traces, the Cove of Cork and old Tom Fox with his bugle horn. There he met the bull's brother that he killed the day before, and they set to and they fought, and the like of the fight was never seen before or since. They knocked the soft ground into hard, the hard into soft, the soft into spring wells, the spring wells into rocks, and the rocks into high hills. Billy Beg's bull killed the other and drank his blood. And then Billy took the napkin out of the bull's ear again and spread it out and eat another hearty dinner.

Then says the bull to Billy, says he:

It into a sword, and giving him the strength of a thousand men besides his own. The giant laughed at him, and says he, "How will I kill you—with a swing by the back, a cut of the sword, or a square round of boxing?" "With a swing by the back," says Billy, "if you can."

So the both of them laid holds, and Billy lifted the giant clean off the ground, and fetching him down again, sunk him in it up to the armpits. "O, spare my life," says the giant. But Billy, taking up his sword, killed him and cut out his tongue. It was evening by this time, and Billy drove home his three goats, three cows, three horses and three asses, and what milk the cows gave that night overflowed all the vessels in the house, and, running out, turned a rusty mill that hadn't been turned for thirty years. If the master was surprised seeing Billy coming back so late before, he was ten times more surprised now.

"Did you see anything in the orchard the day?" says the gentleman. "Nothing worse nor myself," says Billy. "What about my wages now?" says Billy. "Well, never mind about your wages," says the gentleman, "till the morrow, for I think you'll hardly come back alive again," says he.

Well and good, Billy went to bed, and the gentleman went to his bed, and when the gentleman rose in the morning says he to Billy, "I don't know what's wrong with you."

When Billy got home he changed his clothes again and had the horse in the stable and the cattle all in before his master came. When the master came he began telling Billy about the wonderful day they had entirely and about the warrior hiding in the well of water and about the grand stranger that came down out of the sky in a cloud of a black horse and killed the fiery dragon, and then vanished into a cloud again. "And now," says he, "Billy, wasn't that wonderful?"

"It was, indeed," says Billy, "very wonderful entirely." After that it was given out over the country that all the people were to come to the king's castle on a certain day, till the king's daughter would try the shoe on them, and whoever it fitted she was to marry.

When the day arrived Billy was in the orchard with the three goats, three cows, three horses and three asses, as usual, and the like of all the crowds that passed that day going to the king's castle to get the shoe tried on he never saw before. They went in coaches and carriages, on horses and jacksasses, riding and walking and crawling and creeping. They all asked Billy why he wasn't going to the king's castle, but Billy said he wouldn't go, saying that he was going to the king's castle to get the shoe tried on he never saw before. They went in coaches and carriages, on horses and jacksasses, riding and walking and crawling and creeping. They all asked Billy why he wasn't going to the king's castle, but Billy said he wouldn't go, saying that he was going to the king's castle to get the shoe tried on he never saw before.

London has a negro lawyer. America has 2,900 breweries. Ireland contains 900,000 houses. Germany makes Scotch whisky. The receipts of the Suez canal in 1898 were \$1,581,200. European railroads have smoking cars for women. Queen Margherita has a \$30,000 handkerchief. It takes the tusks of 75,000 elephants a year to furnish the world's piano keys, billiard balls and knife handles. There are parts of Spain where the hat is unknown except in pictures. The men, when they need a covering, tie up their heads and the women use flowers. J. P. Bryant, the Bardwell, Ky., millionaire, owns the largest strawberry patch in the world. It covers 1,700 acres and has made him a fortune. In nearly every street in Japanese cities is a public oven, where, for a small fee, housewives may have the dinners and suppers cooked for them. Charcoal is the great Italian fuel. Naples alone consumes 40,000 tons of wood charcoal at a cost of from \$16 to \$20 per ton, the national consumption being 700,000 tons. In Switzerland a milkmaid gets better wages if gifted with good voice, because it has been discovered that a cow will yield one-fifth more milk if soothed during milking by melody. The curious may like to make a note of the fact that there are about 40,000 locomotives in use in the United States. In the fiscal year 1898 the value of American locomotives exported to foreign countries was almost \$4,000,000. A good locomotive costs from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Women who wear imported switches may be interested in a strange discovery made at Antwerp. In that city a baby of human hair, weighing 172 pounds was stolen from a railroad station. It was afterward learned that the hair had been clipped from the heads of lunatics and convicts in public asylums and prisons. \$5,525,970 pounds of money coined at the Philadelphia mint during the last fiscal year will allow one penny for each inhabitant of the United States, including Guam. If the tributes were minted in 1863, 308 people would each get a double eagle and \$7,992,354 would each get a copper cent, which is about the way things usually go. The attorney general of Virginia, who receives \$2,500 a year for his services, has recently been called upon to decide the case of Mayor Bibb of Louisiana, who is disqualified from holding office because he has been convicted of his failure to take the oath of dueling out. The case is one which attracts attention from the fact that it has been found that other counties and towns in a Virginia are disqualified from the same cause. The state constitution of Virginia disqualifies duellists from officeholding and the disqualification is not removed by the disqualification and the abettors of dueling from voting.

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thought he never saw anything half as beautiful, and the great warrior that was to fight the dragon was walking up and down on the lawn before her, with a man carrying his sword, and everyone in the whole country gathered there looking at him. But when the fiery dragon came up with white heads on him, and every mouth of him splitting fire, and let twelve roars out of him, the warrior ran away and hid himself up to the neck in a well of water, and all they could do they couldn't get him to face the dragon. Then the king's daughter asked if there was no one there to save her from the dragon and get her in marriage. But no one stirred.

When Billy saw this he tied the belt of the bull's hide around him, swung his stick over his head and went in and after a terrible fight killed the dragon. Every one then gathered about to see the stranger was Billy jumped on his horse and dashed away sooner than let them know, but just as he was getting away the king's daughter pulled the shoe off his foot. When the dragon was killed the warrior that had hidden in the well of water came out and cutting the heads of the dragon, he brought them to the king and said that it was he who killed the dragon, in disguise, and he claimed the king's daughter. But she tried the shoe on him and found it didn't fit, so she said it wasn't he and that she would marry no one only the man the shoe fitted.

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AND RODE OFF TO THE FIGHT AFTER THE REST. "Let me try it on; maybe it would fit me." But the people, when they saw him, all began to laugh at the sight of him, and "Go along out of that, you example you," says they, shoving and pushing him back. But the king's daughter saw him and called on them by all manner of means to let him come up and try on the shoe. Billy went up, and all the people looked on, breaking their hearts laughing at the conceit of it. But what would you have of it but, to the amusement of them all, the shoe fitted Billy so nice that it was made on his foot for a last. So the king's daughter claimed Billy as her husband. He then confessed that it was he that killed the fiery dragon, and when he king had him dressed up in a silk and satin suit, with plenty of gold and silver ornaments, very gay, and he said like they never saw before. He was then married to the king's daughter and the wedding lasted nine days nine hours nine minutes nine half-minutes and nine quarter-minutes, and they lived happy and well from that day to this. I got brogues of brooding and brooding, and I got a pie for telling a lie, and then I came slithering home.

PUSSY IN A MINE. Adventures of a Feline Pet During Months of Underground Wandering. Little Annie McGinn of West Butte owns a kitten that has just emerged from one of the strangest adventures that ever befell any little girl's feline pet, relates the Anconada (Mont.) Standard. This cat in particular, after wandering through the mine workings under Butte since last fall, reappeared on the surface two miles from the land, where she turned up on the head of a Pussay spent fully four months wandering through underground Butte, but has survived in good shape. The cat, becoming frightened at something, jumped down a shaft near the big Poulton hole. She survived and opened up a hole and became a Pussay. Little Annie was heartbroken. Her brother secured a long rope and lowered it into the shaft, hoping that the kitten would "catch on" and be hoisted, but the cat only howled louder. Annie used to carry bits of meat and bread over to the hole and throw them down for the cat to eat. After a couple of weeks the moaning in the shaft ceased. Annie gave up her pet as lost forever, and Christmas at Annie's home was not as cheerful for the owner of the lost kitten as it might have been had kitty not been so venturesome.

AND FETCHING HIM DOWN SUNK HIM IN THE GROUND UP TO HIS ARM PITS. king's daughter is going to be devoured by a fiery dragon, if the greatest fighter in the land, which she have been feeding specially for the last three weeks, isn't able to kill the dragon first. And if he's able to kill the dragon, the king is to give him the daughter in marriage.

"That will be fine," says Billy. Billy drove out his three goats, three cows, three horses and three asses, and the like of all the crowds that passed that day to see the fight with the man and the fiery dragon Billy never witnessed before. They went in coaches and carriages, on horses and jacksasses, riding and walking and crawling and creeping. They all asked Billy why he wasn't going to the king's castle, but Billy said he wouldn't go, saying that he was going to the king's castle to get the shoe tried on he never saw before.

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While some children were playing near the dump of the Colusa mine they were startled upon beholding a cat tumbling down the pile of rock with a carload of waste that had just been dumped. The cat meowed loudly as it fell over just in time to escape a big chunk that came bounding past. The children ran to the rescue and found a sorry-looking specimen of the cat family. Its hair was matted and soiled, its eyes red and it was sore and lame. The only mark of identification was the little ribbon about its neck, to which was attached a small brass bell. The feline underground explorer was returned to its owner at once.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS. "I expect I'll be frightfully tanned," she said. "I'm going to the seashore." "I was frightfully tanned yesterday," broke in her small brother. "I was out in the woodstaid with father."

"What would you like for luncheon, Tommy?" asked Tommy's mother, as they sat down in a department store restaurant. "Ice cream," replied Tommy, with a smile of anticipation. "And what else?" "More ice cream," said Tommy, with a larger smile than before.

The Blencoe (La.) Beacon relates that one of Blencoe's smart youngsters, while at the home of a neighbor recently, was asked how the baby at his house was getting along. "Oh, all right," replied the boy. "But, just think. He is only 3 months old and has got away with \$9 worth of condensed milk. He has cost us enough already to buy a good horse."

This story comes from a children's party, and it is true, says the Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin. There were two little girls, their eyes round with wonder over the remarkable chocolate ice cream rabbits, and cows and dogs that were being passed. And the little girl in the crisp organdie said: "We had those at the Sunday school picnic."

"Do you go to Sunday school?" asked the little girl in the plain dress wonderingly. "Yes," she answered importantly. "I do." The other little girl studied her. "What for?" she asked. "Why," said the little organdie girl, "don't you know? I go there to learn about Jesus."

The little girl in the plain dress looked up in astonishment. "Oh," she said with wide, horror-struck eyes. "You mustn't say that. That's a naughty word the boys use in the streets."

The little son of a Manchester gentleman, in mischievously playing with a vase, managed after several attempts to get his hand through the narrow neck, and was then unable to extricate it, relates Tit-Bits. For half an hour or more the whole family and one or two friends did their best to withdraw the fist of the luckless young offender, but in vain. It was a very valuable vase, and the father was loth to break it, but the existing state of affairs could not continue forever. At length, after a final attempt to draw forth the hand of the victim, the father gave up his efforts in despair, but tried a last suggestion.

"Open your hand!" he commanded the tearful young captive, "and then draw it forth." "I can't open it, father," declared the boy. "Can't?" demanded his father. "Why?" "I've got my penny in my hand," came the astounding reply. "Why, you young rascal!" thundered his father, "drop it at once!" The country rattled in the bottom of the vase, and out came the hand.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY. London has a negro lawyer. America has 2,900 breweries. Ireland contains 900,000 houses. Germany makes Scotch whisky. The receipts of the Suez canal in 1898 were \$1,581,200. European railroads have smoking cars for women. Queen Margherita has a \$30,000 handkerchief. It takes the tusks of 75,000 elephants a year to furnish the world's piano keys, billiard balls and knife handles. There are parts of Spain where the hat is unknown except in pictures. The men, when they need a covering, tie up their heads and the women use flowers. J. P. Bryant, the Bardwell, Ky., millionaire, owns the largest strawberry patch in the world. It covers 1,700 acres and has made him a fortune. In nearly every street in Japanese cities is a public oven, where, for a small fee, housewives may have the dinners and suppers cooked for them. Charcoal is the great Italian fuel. Naples alone consumes 40,000 tons of wood charcoal at a cost of from \$16 to \$20 per ton, the national consumption being 700,000 tons. In Switzerland a milkmaid gets better wages if gifted with good voice, because it has been discovered that a cow will yield one-fifth more milk if soothed during milking by melody. The curious may like to make a note of the fact that there are about 40,000 locomotives in use in the United States. In the fiscal year 1898 the value of American locomotives exported to foreign countries was almost \$4,000,000. A good locomotive costs from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Women who wear imported switches may be interested in a strange discovery made at Antwerp. In that city a baby of human hair, weighing 172 pounds was stolen from a railroad station. It was afterward learned that the hair had been clipped from the heads of lunatics and convicts in public asylums and prisons. \$5,525,970 pounds of money coined at the Philadelphia mint during the last fiscal year will allow one penny for each inhabitant of the United States, including Guam. If the tributes were minted in 1863, 308 people would each get a double eagle and \$7,992,354 would each get a copper cent, which is about the way things usually go. The attorney general of Virginia, who receives \$2,500 a year for his services, has recently been called upon to decide the case of Mayor Bibb of Louisiana, who is disqualified from holding office because he has been convicted of his failure to take the oath of dueling out. The case is one which attracts attention from the fact that it has been found that other counties and towns in a Virginia are disqualified from the same cause. The state constitution of Virginia disqualifies duellists from officeholding and the disqualification is not removed by the disqualification and the abettors of dueling from voting.

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