

cause of the change. I rode up to the house, it added still more gloom to the picture; the tall walls seathed and blackened, evidently by fire, and a few half-consumed beams of the noble mansion, alone remained standing; the door was half choked up with rubbish; the grounds were desolate; the shrubbery had been torn up, or trampled under foot; where the garden had been was no longer discernable; a curse seemed to have been pronounced on the place, which left it a wilderness. I was turning my horse from the spot, when I heard a footstep among the ruins, and observed an old man, apparently of the better class of farmers, emerging from one of the low windows, from whom I asked an explanation of what I saw.

"You must be a stranger in these parts," said he, "that you should know nothing of the great burnin', for many a mile away was it seen, and heard of still farther; yet there was not one of all that saw it, or heard of his death that day, to say rest his soul in peace, but the curses of the orphan and the widow fell heavy on his head."

"His last victims were two fine boys, the comfort and life of their aged parents' hearts, and though the troubles were all over, because he found they had been out with the boys in Limerick, they suffered on the gallows tree. Their old father's head was white, yet his hand was still steady, and it was said he kept a rifle that would kill at a long distance. The day after the boys were executed, when the Major was riding among the guard that always attended him, a shot was heard and he fell a corpse among his men; who done the deed no one knows, and few care; even the power which paid him well the price of blood, ceased to care for him now that he was no further use to them, and the government made but slight inquiry into the matter. The same day the guard was summoned from the house. His corpse was carried home, but no funeral service was performed—no priest raised a prayer as he sunk into mother earth—no consecrated ground rests upon his head—nor were there friends around to weep at his last resting place; but, as his presence was a curse to the earth, his body was con-

sumed, so that no trace of it was left to defile the world, and never did joy-bells peal to brighter bonfire than what it lumined the valley that night; the next day the grand mansion of Major Williamson was, as you now see it, a blackened ruin!"

"And his daughter—what became of her?" "Heaven rest her soul, I scarce can believe she could be the daughter of such a man; she was the loveliest flower of our isle; the light of our eyes and the joy of every heart—(little wonder Master Carthy O'More loved one so fair; for if he knew her, how could he help it, though she was the daughter of an enemy)—she drooped from the hour Master Carthy left the land. Her father sent her to Cove for her health; he knew not the disease; for no change, or physician can cure the broken heart! I saw her then once since, and my own old heart was near bursting to look on her; the light step was gone; the eye that beamed with heaven's finest light was dimmed—it's true, a bright color still rested on her cheek, but it was not the blush of the wild mountain rose—it was a mocking bloom, which death placed there to hide the shadow of his slow-descending hand. Ill news travels fast they say; word came that Master Carthy had fallen in the wars; this stroke severed the last tie which bound her pure spirit to the earth, and it has now found a happy resting-place. Hark! "that tolling bell tells of the return of her perfect form to its first and its last home."

I turned towards the village and observed emerging from its encircling trees a melancholy procession; it passed in silence till it had entered the Churchyard; suddenly the plaintive cry of death burst loudly on the stillness—then sunk—then rose still more wildly, till earth had covered from the mourners' view the last sight of Louisa Williamson.

I turned and left the spot to reach my long-absent home, with a heart more full of grief than joy, pondering on disobedience to parents, and its consequences.