

thought to herself, "It'll be through Tilly before bedtime."

"Ay, Kitty," she said, on her way back, looking over the dyke, "that was the Balribbie family calling on me."

Kitty, however, could never stand Chirsty's airs, and saw an opportunity of humbling her.

"I saw nobody," she answered.

"They've been in my house since half nine," cried Chirsty, anxiously, "and that was their carriage."

"I saw no carriage," said Kitty, cruelly.

"I saw ye gaping at it ower the dyke," Chirsty screamed, "and that's it ye hear driving east the road."

"I hear nothing," said Kitty.

"Katrine Crabb," cried Chirsty, "think shame of yourself."

"Na, Chirsty," rejoined Kitty, "ye needna blame me if your grand folk ignore ye."

So Chirsty entered her house with the dread fear that no one would give her the satisfaction of allowing that the Balribbie family had crossed its threshold. She was wringing a duster, as if it were Kitty Crabb, when Taummas stamped up the stair in no mood to offer sympathy.