

lover placing himself in a ridiculous position at the moment he is doing his best to make himself agreeable.

"It is well your coat's not new," said Matty, with a contemptuous look at Andy's weather-beaten vestment.

"I hope I'll soon have a better," said Andy, a little piqued, with all his reverence for the heiress, at this allusion to his poverty---"But sure, it wasn't the coat you married, but the man that's in it; and sure I'll take off my clothes as soon as you please, Matty, my dear---Miss Dwyer, I mane---I beg your pardon."

"You had better wait till you get better," answered Matty, very dryly---"You know the old saying, 'Don't throw out your dirty wather until you get in fresh.'"

"Ah darlin,' don't be cruel to me," said Andy, in a supplicating tone---"I know I'm not deservin' of you, but sure I did not make so howld as to make up to you until I seen that nobody else would have you."

"Nobody else have me!" exclaimed Matty, as her eyes flashed with anger.

"I beg your pardon, Miss," said poor Andy, who in the extremity of his own humility had committed such an offence against Matty's pride. "I only meant that---"

"Say no more about it," said Matty, who recovered her equanimity---"Didn't my father give you the lease of the field and house?"

"Yis, Miss."

"You had better let me keep it, then; ---'twill be safer with me than you."

"Sartainly," said Andy---who drew the lease from his pocket, and handed it to her, and as he was near her, he attempted a little familiarity, which Matty repelled very unequivocally.

"Arrah, is it jokes you are crackin'?" said Andy, with a grin, advancing to renew his fondling.

"I tell you what it is," said Matty, jumping up, "I'll crack your head if you don't behave yourself!" and she seized the stool on which she had been sitting, and brandished it in a very Amazonian fashion.

"Oh wirra! wirra!" said Andy in amaze---"aren't you my wife?"

"Your wife!" retorted Matty, with a very devil in her eye---"Your wife, indeed, you great *omadharon*; why, then,

had you the brass to think I'd put up with you?"

"Arrah, then, why did you marry me?" said Andy, in a pitiful argumentative whine.

"Why did I marry you?" retorted Matty---"Didn't I know better than to refuse you, when my father said the word *when the devil was busy with him*?---Why did I marry you?---it's a pity I didn't refuse, and be murdered that night, may be, as soon as the people's backs was turned.---Oh it's little you know of owld Jack Dwyer, or you wouldn't ask me that; but though I'm afraid of him, I'm not afraid of you---and stand off, I tell you."

"Oh blessed Vargin!" cried Andy,---"and what will be the end of it?"

There was a tapping at the door as he spoke.

"You'll soon see what will be the end of it," said Matty, as she walked across the cabin and opened to the knock.

James Casey entered, and clasped Matty in his arms; and half a dozen athletic fellows, and one old and debauched looking man followed, and the door was immediately closed after their entry.

Andy stood in amazement while Casey and Matty caressed each other, and the old man said, in a voice tremulous from intoxication, "A very pretty filly, by jingo!"

"I lost no time the minute I got your message, Matty," said Casey, "and there's the Father ready to join us."

Ay, ay," cackled the old reprobate---"hammer and tongs!---strike while the iron's hot---"I'm the boy for a short job"---and he pulled a greasy book from his pocket as he spoke.

This was a degraded clergyman, known in Ireland under the title of "couple beggar," who is ready to perform irregular marriages on such urgent occasions as the present.---And Matty had continued to inform James Casey of the strange turn affairs had taken at home, and recommended him to adopt the present course and to defeat the violent measure of her father by one still more so.

A scene of uproar now ensued for Andy did not take matters quietly, but made a pretty considerable row, which was speedily put an end to by Casey's body guard, who tied Andy neck and heels, and in that helpless state he witnessed the marriage ceremony performed by the "couple beggar," between