

"This is your doing, you vile snake-in-the-grass!—your's, and your precious sister's. But I'll be even with you yet!"

"Enough of this!" thundered the Colonel: "Respect the Court, or I'll commit you." Then turning from the abashed youth, he said to Delaval with an air of forced calmness—

"Read what you have got there, and let us have done with this."

Standing up, and talking the usual oaths, the Frenchman proceeded to read his deposition.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THERE was a subtle mixture of fact and falsehood in the information laid before the Court by Delaval. It was, in addition, skilfully adapted to work on the passions and prejudices of the high, but somewhat narrow minded veteran; while it was most damaging to the accused in its very appearance of moderation and fairness.

Simplified and divested of its legal terminology, the evidence amounted to something like the following:—

"That although, by Act of Parliament, *Habeas Corpus* was suspended, and therefore the accused could not of right claim to know the causes of their arrest, yet to avoid all appearance of severity, he would now detail the reasons of his procedure in the case. It was notorious that disaffection prevailed to an alarming extent in the district: that illegal gatherings for treasonable purposes were nightly held in the vicinity; and that foreign aid was being freely extended. Arms and ammunition from sympathizers in the United States had been surreptitiously landed and distributed; and a deputy from the Central Circle of the Fenian brotherhood in New York was even now present to organize and head the movement. All would remember how, being thus countenanced, the 'tumblers' had commenced their work by a murderous assault on one justly revered by all, but obnoxious to the malcontents, on account of his position, as being both a proprietor and the holder of a high Government appointment in the County. By a delicate, but, as will be shown, a complete chain of evidence, the guilt of the attempted murder has been brought home to one Barney Bralligan. Proceeding from these facts, the discretionary power entrusted to the informant by the presiding