

THE STORY OF THE NEW PRIEST.

CHAPTER XXXI.

MISS FANNY DARE REPORTS.

NEXT day, Miss Dare met the Minister passing by, and said, "Mr. Naughton and I have visited the Nunnery, officially ; only, I suppose that I really ought to say 'I and Mr. Naughton ;' for, indeed, I was the magistrate, and he only what the Germans call the '*Doppelgänger*' — the figure of the magistrate, at my side. *I* said and did."

The Minister looked quite curious. "Perhaps we'd better go inside," said he.

"We'll go just off the road, here, if you please," said she, "and you shall sit upon that rock, and I'll stand before you, as good young people ought to stand before the Minister."

Mr Wellon, smiling, was persuaded to her arrangement ; and when this disposition was accomplished, she went on :—

"I got a note from the old priest, Father Terence, who is a kind old man, and saw the chief of the Sisters, and asked her, point-blank,—while she was expecting me to propose to take the veil,—whether Lucy Barbury was there."

(The Minister was hearing, attentively.)

"Poor thing ! she couldn't help being a woman, if she was a nun, and she couldn't keep her blood down ; and so she stammered 'No !' "