

"Stop" says I "there's somebody goin' up along the ould turnpike ; for don't you hear Doolan's bull-dog how he tares ?"

"I do" says he, "but wait 'till the horse-man comes up, and we see what sort of a lookin' article he is for a horse it is and nothin' else."

"Very well," says I, "but I'll wager you my life that there's the whole party goin' round the back way, and that this joker, whoever he is, that's comin' cantherin' along, is just on a reconitherin' thrip, to see what's a foot here ; for, no doubt, he has larned that this is the very spot where he might, if he's a sthranger, be able to glane a little information regardin' you and yours."

Now, you see, Mick's was a good mile out of town, at laste ; and the ould turnpike lay about a gun shot to the left of the house, ladin' up to the Toomen by a round about way that wasn't much thravelled, as the road past the doore was a great dale better and shorter ; but, it sthruck me, do you persave, that the party, if the party it happened to be, might, by way of consalin' themselves and avoidin' the high road, take the deserted thraek as they could sthrike in up on the new line, at the lonesome corner this side of the ould castle down near the lough, for, no doubt, although new comers, they had information enough of the lie of the country, and perhaps of somethin' that was far more sarious to the poor boy beside me.

After listenin' about a minute or so, I says over to Harry, with a jump on the flure, "blur an agers maybe this is the new Gauger himself ridin' past this way to see if there is anythin' in the win' that might intherfare with his doin's beyond, and to make sure whether your are here or not, as I'll be bail, Johnny the spy has been collougin' with him since he saw you this evenin' ;" but havin' never laid an eye on him myself, I axes Harry what kind of a lookin' onshough he might be, and whether he was likely to be aisily handeled if I happened to come into close quarters with him.

"I never saw him in my life," says he, "but Phil Cassiday saw him over at Dhumsna, and he says that he'd know him again, among fifty thousand, for, that he is a baldish blackavized man about forty-nine or there

away, with his nose a little on one side, and a deep scar undther his left eye."

"Well then," says I, "off into the house with you, again, like mad, for I may be right in my surmise afther all ; for if it is my lad, and if he has got a wink of where you are from the spy, he'll smell a rat if he dosen't find you here ; while if he finds you purty well seasoned, as you must, dear, pretend to be, whoever it is, if he happens to call, he may loither awhile and maybe take a glass or so, and unknownst to himself, lave the boys a thrifle more time to put everything to rights beyond ; and then, if we find that we have come over him, my hand to you, that we'll take an evenin' or two on the head of it."

With that, in he bounces, into Mick's once more, fellin' Nelly what he thought was afoot, and preparin' for the newcomer whoever he might be, while myself was posted at the corner of the ould byre or stable with my heart goin' like the clapper of a mill, but middlin' detarmined, afther all, waitin' for the horseman that I knew would have to pass within ten yards of me, no matter whether he took the new road, or went on straight atords Listadden.

I hadn't been standing there over four or five breathins' afther Harry left me, when up dashes a gentleman ridin' a coal black horse which he reined up cautiously and fastened carefully undther the big white-thorn that he saw glimmerin' in the light that sthramed out of the little front windy.

"Troth," says I to myself, as I found when he came near the house that he took the bog side of the road so as that the noise of his horses hoofs couldn't be harde within, "you seem to be a purty old hand at the buziness at any rate ; and, besides," says I, the moment I saw him put his foot on the ground, "if you're the boy I mane, that's the right sort of a colour for you to ride a night like this, and nothin' surer, as you couldn't be noticed a yard off ; howsomever, maybe, afther all, you are merely some thraveller enquirin' for the way, although from your appearance you look rather suspicious, and are just about the cut that I would expect from the mauraudin' breed that we have been talkin' about."

Now, do you persave, this was all very