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THE IRISH LEGEND OF 'DONNELL, AND THE NORMAN DE BORGOS. A BIOGRAPHICAL TALE.

BY ABCHIBALD M'SPARRAN.

CHAPTER I.--(Continued.)

The garrison altogether were allowed to embark on board the Sphinx with their baggage and arms, save forty stand that they retained for the use of the castle. They marched out that evening toward the beach where the the great hall, he accidentally met her alone; whother chance had brought her hither, or is not known. He took her hand and was all save one; hers was the last; but what tremble on his throne; therefore, let this half could he say in the presence of so many? Her Norman look well to his undertakings." father reached her his arm, she received it, and departed.

Dunluce, the O'Cahan family was on the de-

From his strict alliance with the O'Neills, he exposed himself to the enmity of great O'from the ancient Milesian kings.

A rupture having happened between O'Neill and O'Donnell, M'Quillan, having espoused the

As O'Donnell sat one night surrounded by his kinsmon, his clansmen, and gallow-glasses, drinking to the memory of heroes long gone, two aged minstrels stood behind, their grey beards hanging down to their girdles, and each clothed with a robe of six different colors, a dignity next to that of an Irish king, and were and almost in form of an oven, lay a large performing some of those old melancholy air peculiar to Ircland alone.

CHAPTER II.

"Does the wind touch thee, O Harp! or is it some passing ghost? It is the hand of Malvina! Bring me the harp, son of Alpin, another song shall rise; my soul shall depart in the sound."-Ost.

The bards tuned their harps to that sweet old Irish air, Coolun, which they touched with just and natural pathos, and after finishing this, they performed, as a concluding piece, the death march of Royal Bryan. At this piece a dead silence reigned through the company, nor could some of them refrain from tears.

"He's gone," said O'Donnell, " and no wonder that we should sympathize with the mourners of that great man; but if he fell, it was in the arms of victory, and his death gave a dying blow to the worst enemy, I mean a foreign enemy, that ever opposed our country; but where the inhabitants of a nation are divided against each other, I consider it tenfold worse. Daniel M'Quillan has joined the forces of O'Neill of Clanbuoy, and I am informed, ex-ults much in his noble ally. He thinks, couched beneath the wing of the cagle, he will

tapered to one end; to the top of these there God bless us and keep us from an ill hour, of their national music.* were short lines attached with strong hooks, for that he took the curragh,* and went out to During the time of p diate destruction. Along the side of this tower would you have of it, was the lad lying right the smoke rose perpendicularly, and altogether across her keel like a sack upon an ass. Oh, gave the wild shore a most romantic appear- | Chierna be praised, t grammachree! And was ance. In a crevice scooped out of the stone,

water-dog, looking down on the troubled element, as it burst against the base of his rocky habitation; and a little farther down the beach, they saw a small boat lying at anchor, having her cable bound round a fragment of the same.

There also was a number of geese and ducks, with one solitary hen standing alone. The vicinity of the cabin was plentifully strewed with fish bones, oyster and cockle shells, and fish. here and there heaps of the sea weed, or what the north-westerns call yagh. As they approached the house, the dog, springing from his adamantine walcove, attacked them sharply, and getting between them and the house, held them completely at bay. The noise of Drake, for this was the dog's name, brought the entire family to the door, even to an infant crawling on all fours. The sight of a human being at any time was rare; but such venerable looking suges as these must certainly have greatly as-

tonished the wild inhabitants of this secluded spot, who had pitched their dwelling here on the borders of the stormy Atlantic, much after the manner in which the cagle founds his cyric on the cliffs of St. Kilda.

The fisherman spoke to them, seeing that they were human beings, asked them into his rest fully secure; but I shall drive him from cottage, and seated them beside a turf fire, the Sphinx lay at anchor, all save a few soldiers who were employed burying the dead. One person among the victorious, and he on whose account the fortress was taken, could almost Unring to the two bards, Malbruthan and this fiding place, and course him like a stag, from Binguthar^{*} to Torr,[†] and from Torr to the heights of Sliagh Barragh."[†] He then, his eldest son and he were finishing a large net, his eldest son and he were finishing a large net, have wished to remain in bondage. He began Tuadhar, S told them they must go an inform that they had undertaken to make for some to like his prison, because it sometimes received Daniel M Quillan that if he would not withdraw fishermen that lived farther to the West. They erson who pitied him. He saw her melanch- his alliance from O'Neill of Clanbuoy, and were just arisen from dinner, which consisted oly appearance, and was distressed to think it send his sons as hostages for the fulfilment of of fish and bread; the former they usually was perhaps on his account. In passing through | the same, he would pay him a visit in a few | dress in a little butter, and this with bread is days, and perhaps an unpleasant one for him. their ordinary food; and often when butter "Does he think that the streams of the Foyle cannot be got, they eat the white fish withwhether she had expected to meet him there, or the Bann can save him; or does he think out any other kind of dressing save boiling, that his noble ally can save him from the and on this food they are healthy, fat, about to speak, but as he in such a short space sword of Baldearg? We have cut our way and vigorous, being no more the worse of knew not where to begin, he remained as silent through the most formidable ranks of the as she, at which time her mother, sister, and father appeared. He took a farewell of them polis, and we have made England's monarch dressed in a blue jacket of coarse manufacture, a pair of hempen trowsers smoothed over with tar, an old glazed hat beaten to the form of his These threats were uttered in the midst of head, and decorated with the insignia of his his numerous clans and gallow-glusses, who vocation, hooks, lines, and flies. Each of his made the ancient halls of Tyrconnell ring with | three sons wore head-dresses of the same fabricthe family war-cry, Aboo. The following day, the two reverend sages ation, or nearly so with their father, and all vied in binding them with as many fishing imset out, each bearing his harp as an emblem of plements as they could bear. The cabin was hung round with dried cod, salmon, turbot, and Next morning the hallooing of the sailors his national function, and arrayed in a robe of many other species, natives of the north-westsixfold colors. Having come to the banks of that the Sphinx was about to sail. He saw the deep and rapid Swilly, they saw a small ern Atlantic, and even of the fresh water her spread her snow-white canvas, and, with | hut close to the shore, behind which, on a litstreams, as eels and dologhins, so called by the Irish residing on the coasts of Donegal, Derry, three cheers from her British tars, stand from | the hill, was drying a fishing net, equipped with large masses of corkwood on one side to keep it and Antrim. Old M'Quillan, whom we have so called to above water, and on the lower side twisted with His venerable guests entered into conversation with him and the family regarding their tenure, their manner of support, and to whom • Binguthar, the giant's cape or promontory, was they owed fealty. He informed them that O'Donnell was their chieftain, landlord, and all; that the only acknowledgment he received was once in the season, or rather when he pleased, a turbot or known length under ground ; as a house at a mile's salmon; that he had accustomed himself to acdistance from the shore is disturbed by the noise of commodate the O'Donnells and their followers with his boat; and, in short, every article in his house, and himself to boot, was at their As they were accustomed to perform in con-† Torr, a lofty headland fronting Morven or Kinservice.

the purpose of taking the white fish, flounder, catch a score or two of the glashens achree for whining a mournful kind of ditty, keeping Donnell of Tyrconnell. The O'Donnell family and such as abound in the creeks and harbors the garlaghs of and, as I was saying, d'ye see time with the minstrels; but, indeed, his pipe was called in Irish, Baldearg, from a red spot of this frith. The cabin was formed in the me, just as he got over the channel, one of seemed to be the discordant notes of torture which they had on the neck, and which was natural rock, having spars of timber laid in a them large sais came swelling up, and striking rather than anything else. His actions, howaccounted a sure mark of their royal descent slanting direction from the lower to the higher her abaft, she shipt so much water that she ever, disturbed O'Fallon, his master, so poworledge. These, covered with turf, and securely was just going down; but at that moment an- fully, that he took off his brogue, and flung it thatched over with rushes and heather, toge- other struck her on the larboord, and capsized at him, with "Go slaht and be damned, ther with an outside or finishing coat of an old her like a salt-bax. Thinks I to myself, it's agaddy." The dog seeing that he had misbecause of his neighbor, was implicated in the net, defied all the powers of Folus. It was all up with yes, Phelimy; for I was lucken on baved, made the best of his way to the cavern, general quarrel. baved ou each side by a fragment in form of at the whole racket from that big stone there. and exchanging the sound of Apollo's harp for a porch, and over the top hung a huge mass of I grew blind with fear, and thought my head that of Triton's shell, laid himself down with a stone that threatened the inmates with imme- was running round like a wheel rim. What groan. not all this the doing of God Almighty him-self, asthore. Sure Baldearg could do nathing for him here, nor yet for himself; nat saying but he would if he could, bless him; but to make a long story short, I gat the large boat, and hurled him ashere in the eracking of a walnut."

They asked him had he no kind of milk for the children, seeing that it would be so nourishing for them who fed almost continually on

"Arrah! that's what we have, gragalmachree, and dwowl a better stripper than Brawney in the barrantry; that is, I mane when she was a stripper. She is now in calf, and her time will be in, for all the world, fourteen days after new Candlemas, ould style, jewel. I have it cut on the end of my shillelah.'

"And pray, how do you feed her?" said they.

"Why, do you see that little serag of a wood over bye there in the hip of the hill; I let her ate in it to the middle of the day, and then I | ing, toeing, wheeling, channeling, and frisking, drive her home, and cut her two or three creels | the harp changed to a slow minuet, upon which of the yagh or sai weed from the rocks, and on he immediately called for his hat, and stealing this, be assured, she will fill all the vessels in round the walls with his arms extended, bowthe teigh. § And, moreover and above, I can | ing, kneeling, and bending with the utmost tell yes, that by spreading the yagh on a lee pliability of limbs, &c., traversed the extremi-

ridge, we can raise the finest and sweetest of ties of the floor like an Irish king; his wily soil, dear; and by sowing the sai sand over the partner wafting round the walls like a shadow, ground, we have good corn but no matter for and moving from his approaches with captivatall these things, honey."

clear and entertaining explanations, as well as Cathleen prepared supper by broiling some his pious ideas, regarding the overruling care fresh fish, and toasting a couple of large oaten of providence.

wall there was a number of poles leaning, which hood, "I say, 'twas but the other day, together with the soft and melancholy pathos

During the time of performance. Drake lay

O'Fallon, rising up, and approaching the musicians, holding out one arm like a gun, and scrubbing the sleeve round with the other hand, said, "Arrah, mannam yes, could you play me the ould Rinceadh fada, that I used to dance at the eastle of Baldearg ?"

Being answered in the affirmative, he stood up before his Cathleen as straight as a poplar, and making a princely bow, handed her to the opposite side of the cabin. The children's eyes were glistening to see their father and mother in such spirits; and as the harp struck up the humorous jig, he crossed to the other side of the house like a shadow, and with one foot before another, thundered off a few hard beaten steps of a hornpipe; then, with a hirroo, cross-ed the floor again, his light-heeled partner passing through all the involutions and evolu-tions with equal agility, at the same time holding her apron extended with both her hands, as if she were guarding fowls into a barn door.

Then, with his right hand on his haunch, the other vibrating at his side like a pendulum, again to the left, and with a whisk, snapping his fingers as he passed his lady, he appeared in the ground where he started. After heeling shyness, kept her eye slily askance on her His guests were delighted with his very graceful paramour. The dance being ended, cakes, baked of a kind of meal, called by the "Here," said they, "the sca, which would | Irish, gredding. The strangers praised the appear to us a great inconvenience, and still fare, and having washed it down with a voutly, on their knees, returned thanks to Him who stores the air, the sea, and the land, with provisious for his children. As they rose from their devotion, the broad moon had protruded her golden edge over the mountain of Ailagh, as if awaiting the solemnization of this happy supper. "Och, my bannagh light on your purty face," said O'Fallon, as he turned round in the floor, and saw her ascending like a fiery balloon above the Swilly. " My bannagh light on you over again, say I, who has lit me over the waves, many a dripping, dreary night, hushla." The boat was soon drawn up, and the strangers, having taken a friendly leave of the family, embarked, being accompanied by their "Cathleen, lay by that wheel with yere host and his eldest son, as good and as fearless whirring and birring; I wonder yes have not a seaman as ever wielded an our. They had more manners before the jintlemen. Claus up proceeded a small distance to sea, when Captain O'Fallon recollected a line that he intendback, Phelimy, you and Pat, and you, Barney. ed to cast somewhere beyond the channel; and resting a little on their oars, he put his finger into his mouth and gave three whistles. This surprised the passengers very much, for they could not conceive what means his wife or spect and attention to the performers, and sat family had of sending the article that he wantlooking at them alternately, as they toned and | ed. A considerable time afterward they pertouched over several old melodies, they com- and greatly exhausted, having to fight his road "Arrah, kead miel a faltie to yes, my poor fellow," said he, "what could I do without ever had the least taste for our national music. you ?" Then cutting off a piece of twine nearly the same as that which he wanted, he cert, their strokes were natural and well timed, gave it into Drake's mouth, who, bounding the sound of each vibrating chord dying away over the side of the boat, disappeared in a few minutes, the tide being somewhat in his favor ; and with the line and hooks wrapped round his neck, soon appeared again. O'Fallon took him into the vessel, and informed them that when his wife saw what Drake bore in his mouth, it

M'Quillan stood looking after them; but she passed on even over the drawbridge, seeming not to notice it, and never raised her droop. ing head till she left his sight at the outer gate.

weighing the anchor, gave him to understand the bay.

distinguish him from his sons, was a man at sheet-lead for a contrary purpose. Against the this time not less than seventy; his youngest child, a daughter, and she his only daughter. was much about the age of Caroline Davers: She had been in a nunnery from her twelfth year, but notwithstanding this secluded life, was fond of conversation. She was informed very early of her noble descent, and told that between two huge masses of rock, and runs an unthe sovereigns of England were her blood relations by the Royal de Borgos.

Daniel M'Quillan, now seated in his rocky turret, ruled and gave laws to the northern shores. In his halls were sung by the minstrels the deeds of the Do Borgos o'er flood and field; the battle of Hastings and the defeat of Harold, with his two brave brothers, was often talked over, as also the achievements of Robert against the Saracens.

At this time the strictest amity existed between the family of Clanbuoy and him, so that few of the northern chieftains could make head against him. One clan, however, I mean the O'Cahans, still opposed M'Quillan, and often with their mouths full, saluting the carly passenger carried off the palm. The territory of this as he eyes them from beneath. The streams that family was contained between the streams of pour over it resemble the waterfall of a mill, touchthe Bann and the Foyle, the greater part of which they held in the beginning, independent to any crowned head whatever, and these rights they maintained on many a bloody field washed the second and family bistory records and generaby the above rivers. Their privilege was to the armour, and family history, records, and geneaby their famous exploits in war; but at the time that Daniel M'Quillan took possession of the house of Pindar, when he burned Thebes.

the former name of the Giant's Causeway. I shall not enter upon any description of this promontory at present, there being accounts of it almost in every book-shop. Suffice it to mention one, the cave of Bunkerry, which is only accessible by water, opens the waves in this cavern, during a storm, which commotions resemble distant thunder.

tyre; the distance between them is 18 miles. Here are the ruins of Fort Dunavarre, and a little above is Sleaght na barraght, or the grave of the slaughtered. This was called the Scots warning fire, in conse-quence of fires of alarm kindled here.

‡ Sliagh Barragh, a green ridge of mountain east of the beautiful vale of Glenarriff. It becomes more abrupt as it approaches the sea, until, in place of continued verdure, there is only a green spot here and there. These are most luxuriant in soil, on which the sheep are to be seen, not standing, but almost hanging, and on this lofty eminence, ing the precipice only in some places. The front of this hill is called Garron point, and is clothed with

"We belong to the same sept," said Malbruthan, " and are going on an important business across the Swilly, the Foyle, and the Bann. Will you be so good as to extend that accommodation to us that you have so often supplied to our common protector ?"

"What," said the fisherman, "do you mean God Almighty, or do you mean great Baldearg of Tyrconnell?"

"You are right," said the bard, "the Al-mighty is certainly the common parent of us all, but does not require accommodation so much as Baldearg."

"And if he did," said the other, "I should grant it as willingly and even more so; for we could live without Tyrconnell in a kind of way, but not without God. It was but the other day, my child," pointing to his eldest son, who had nearly attained the years of man-

more an almost impassable barrier, affords to draught of Brawney's Bunnarammer, they dethis solitary family, and their domestics, an in-exhaustible store of provisions.

They told him that it was time now they should depart, and would be glad if he would be kind enough to leave them on the other side. Darkness had already covered the adjacent cliffs, and hid from their eyes the face of the deep. There was also a strong gale blowing from the north-west.

Their host entreated them to wait a little till the moon would rise, which would not be long, and then they could cross it both swifter and with more safety; and, perhaps, the blessing of the clargy light down on yes, you would play us two or three springs of ould times.

that house, and put more oil in the lamp. Sit Choo Drake, go slaht agaddy."

The dog sprung to one corner, and the chil-dren to another. The landlord threw his hat under a kind of bench, as if to give more reprepared their instruments. After having | coived Drake's head rising on a large blue swoll, menced that sweetest of Irish airs, which goes | against both wind ‡ and water. now by the name of the Cold Frosty Morning. This tune cannot be unknown to any one that like distant echo.

O'Fallon, this was the fisherman's name, sat sighing deeply, one time looking at the minstrels, and another at Cathleen, who was sitting rather with her side to them, holding her apron to her eyes. "Och on, och on !" exclaimed O'Fallon, "but that brings to my mind the sweet ould times that never will return. Och hushla machree, na roon, och on, och on !"---The poor man and his wife were melted down into tears by the fascinating power of the harp,

• A curragh is a light kind of boat, not much wider than a cradle, made with ribs, and a rim nearly after the manner of a basket, and not much weightier, over it they sew a horse or cow hide, and in such a vessel will go out to the open sea, and I have it affirmed, sometimes to Scotland. † The boys, or growing boys.

n an airt

• There is a pleasing sadness peculiar to the old slow music of Ircland, which it possesses beyond all others. This caused a celebrated Italian musician to exclaim, on hearing some of our plaintive airs performed, " that it was a land of woe."

† Gredding was meal ground in a kind of handmill, known by the name of querns, the stones of which I have often seen dug up near the foundation of old dwellings. The grain got no other prepara-tion than thrashing, cleaning, and drying, often in a large pot. It was then ground down, husks and all, and being sifted, produced a delicious bread. My father told me he has often eaten of it.

t When the wind blows up the gut, it is necessary to sail against it, until the boat nearly reach the hannel. annels i strans a sabbe bli s (annels referenti bit e strafte

1 Jesus be praised. § Cabin.