

ness have driven away. Staff in hand; a large silver ring on his finger, and his rosary beads hanging down from his left hand, as he journeyed along, every one rejoiced to meet him, and every house felt it an honor to entertain him. His entertainment cost little. He ate no flesh meat, and he drank no strong drink, and a little straw was his resting-place—on the boards if they happened to offer such a luxury; but oftener on bare, cold, and damp ground of the cottages, which James more frequented and preferred. More than this, he never stayed a second night in the same house, although he might make old friends a casual visit; but that night was to be remembered. James had stories of foreign travel, of night attacks on foes, and marches through the mountains and over rivers and glens and through woods, while every moment might prove the last through the hidden fire of ambush, or the enemies' discovery of your route. And then James drew forth his formidable rosary, sharp at nine o'clock, with fervor leading the prayers, and in the end giving the moral lesson. No wonder, we repeat, that every one prized him; and no wonder that the happiness of entertaining him often became an object for rivalry. Such a man was James, "the Pilgrim."

There certainly was an air of mystery about the man, and he had an intimate knowledge of things ordinarily hidden. And besides, although seemingly dependent upon alms, he never asked for any—nay, had been known to release old neighbors from embarrassment when they found themselves in the grasp of such landlordship as Mr. Giffard D'Alton's.

Here is James's story, as we ourselves have heard him tell it more than once.

He had been a very fast young man, entitled to a small property, and inheriting a good name. He soon "disestablished" the property and substituted "rake" for the "honest and prudent" character his father had bequeathed. Plenty of boon companions make limited means fly quickly, and James soon began to feel that want was not far off. But, even then he was devoted to the poor and would share with them his last penny.

"Never refuse any one who is sober;"

James would say; "but above all, never refuse a young lad; and help 'poor scholars.'"

"Poor scholars" were well known in those days; and, indeed, in days much more recent; but in James' early time you met them constantly. Nearly every farmer's house boarded one; and in town and city, where such refuge was not practicable, you met them, after school, going around with ink-horn hung on breast, and bundle of books under the arm, collecting rather than begging the means of meeting the expenses of lodging and board.

"I was saved soul and body," James said, "by a poor scholar."

"How?" asked Amy D'Alton, one day.

"A lot of my wild friends were around me one night in Clonmel. We had an old piper, whom we made play all kinds of Irish airs; and an old harper, and—oh, we had everything like good fellowship—when in walked a boy of fifteen years. He was a 'poor scholar,' and had travelled all the way from Monaghan to the classical school in Clonmel."

"Came to beg?"

"Came to get help to a quarter's schooling and his lodging."

"And they gave it?"

"Yes *agra*, we did—more by two times than he asked. The young fellow had something in his eyes, and handsome mouth—and he was as neat as a gentleman's son."

"Go on James."

"Well, everyone knows the rest. Everyone knows that I was transported to Van Dieman's Land for taking arms from the Fogartys—though I never entered the house. The voyage across the whole world was a thing I will remember, and I shake when I think of it. On shore, the prison and the gangs were worse. Ever so many killed themselves, not remembering there are worse chains than the convict-chains."

"Well, about the liberation."

"You heard me tell it before. A nice gentleman spoke to me one day about my crime and my health and my people, and I told him all. I told him I was wild enough and fought my way and spent my money; but I never set foot in Fogarty's house against his will; and that they had had blood in for me."