thradicted it. I said there wasn't a word of thruth in it."

"And he believed you, I hope. What else did he say?"

"He said he saw you in church, and that you didn't seem to know him. It's my opinion he'd have gone away without ever finding out it was yereself that was in it if he didn't come acrass the parson afther church, and he tould him all about you, as how you onct lived in Canady."

"How unfortunate!"

"Faix it was misfortunate, no doubt. Bad-'cess to him—the parson I mane—for if he had held his tongue we would have got rid of him quiet and asy, and now he's on my hands, and the sin of it will be heavy on my sowl."

The concluding part of this sentence was muttered as if to herself, but the half-intelligible words caught the quick ear of Hilda.

"The sin of what?" she asked, an indefined terror looking out of the large, dark eyes, which were fixed so earnestly on the old woman.

There was no answer. Eveleen was considering whether she should inform her young lady of Dudley's imprisonment. She half feared to do so. The peculiar expression of her face confirmed Hilda's suspicions. She saw there was something concealed, and Eveleen's former threat recurred startlingly to her.

"Nurse! what have you done?" she demanded sternly. "You surely have not done any harm to Dudley?"

Well, I did then, and there's no use in denying it. Sorra lie I'll tell about it aither."

A death-like pallor over-spread Hilda's face.

"Have you killed him?" broke in horror from her white lips.

"Killed him! What put that in your head,"

"You remember you threatened to do so," replied Hilda, feeling greatly relieved, the evil was not so bad as she had apprehended.

"And so I would if you'd only let me!" exclaimed Eveleen with fierce determination. "It's the only way to get quit of him, I tell you. And then you'd be free onct more. Then, jewel, you might marry Sir Gervase himself, the one worthy of you. Think of that," she added, changing her voice suddenly to a wheedling tone.

"Nurse! how can you be so wicked?" and Hilda turned away from her in indignant horror.

"Well, it's a purty thing to see you tied down for life to the likes of him. By St. Pathrick it dhrives me crazy only to think of it! Och, my grief! if I only could see you called 'me lady,' afore I die, and shure you'd be that same afore long if you'd only consint to lave him where he is. He's caged fast enough, anyhow."

"Caged! where?" demanded Hilda, the truth dawning upon her.

"Up above there, with the ghosts to keep him company."

"And how did you get him there?" asked Hilda in surprise.

"Aisy enough! or rather it wasn't aisy at all, bekase them stairs is so rickety, it's well we didn't break our necks the two of us."

"But why did he accompany you there? what did you lead him to expect?"

"To meet yourself, of coorse, he'd have followed me to the world's end for that."

"And he never suspected what you were going to do?"

"Never, it bates Banagher to see a big man like him so innocent."

To be continued.

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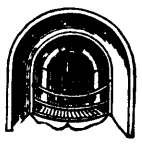

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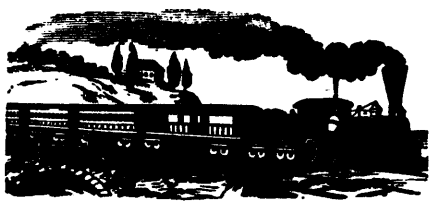

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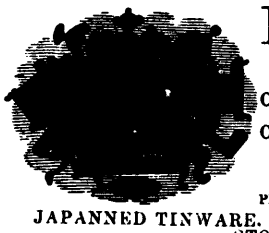

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