

Murray. I have been taking a look round this pleasant leaguer, and it's God's truth I know not where to find a better. Here is all a reasonable man can want, keep, dungeons, barricadoes and what not, not to mention good full larders, all in the most proper order and regularity. As a man of sound understanding, will you tell me wherefore I should quit? Tut, they misjudge me who think I came to see my friends only to run away from them like a base thief."

"I must remind you again that I am waiting for your answer," said Murray.

"Faith, and I am well reminded," was the response. "Now, as between you and me, if I was to clap you in one of the fine rooms down below," tapping on the floor significantly with his foot, "would that, think you, be a plain enough answer to your plain message?"

"Be assured," replied Murray, drawing himself up undauntedly, "that if, contrary to all rules of war, you offer me either insult or injury, you shall live to repent it."

Colkitto threw back his head with a great satirical laugh. "In good faith, my friend, I might die without repenting it," he rejoined. "'Tis a time of little leisure for repentance with some of us. Repent, heh! What with this rudeness and that, an ambuscade here, a furious onset there, and even the king's friends shaking their steel in my face, would you have me on my marrow-bones like a frightened penitent? Why, sir, I take leave to say I am neither a priest nor a terrified old wife."