eep in the bosom of the Father lies His co-eternal Word,—the Infinite, Whose generation's everlasting light Illumes the unborn ages...Lift your eyes, And contemplate that Home in Paradise, That first eternal dwelling of the

Word I—
Before the angels were,—before the skies
Blush'd over Eden, or the waters stirred change or death? Amid the God-head's central fires ex-

Life lives in Love, O men of vision dim,

"And they came with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant tying in a manger."—Lake ii., 16. Tho' midnight shadows wrap Him in thei

The stars upon His rosy sweetness s From Mary's bosom to the cattle-stall, He passes in His baby grace divine! Venite adoremus. In this shrine, Our God appears, our Savior, and our All

Before the Word made Flesh, adoring, fall, And praise the Everlasting's design.

Far, o'er the hills, the angel-chorus rings shepherds, thro' the dusk, are

drawing nigh; St. Joseph's lanterr glows. . . . The East ern Kings Stand out, like giants, 'gainst

" Glory to God !- (the swelling strains in And, on the earth, to men of good will-

A child is born to us. and a Son given to us, and the government is upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called the Angel of Great Council."—Isains ix.

Within the Bethlehem of these poor hearts The manger of our souls, O Prince Come, in thy pity, and he born again Ere yet the golden Christmas-tide departs, Love, with its thousand sweet and tender

Or, like the Magi from the Orient marts, Shall gold, and myrrh, and frankincen

O Babe, so rich in Thy great poverty,

O Babe, sublime in Thy humility, Grant us, in Thee, all pride to self-abase O suffring Babe. so blissful in Thy woe, A self-denying joy on us bestow

LADY KILDARE

THE RIVAL CLAIMANTS.

CHAPTER I THE LADY NOBA.

Point Kildere, on the coast of county Antrim, in the porth of Ire and, had been for many generations the home of the Earls of Kildare As its name im-plies it was a point of land jutting out into the North Channel, but it was also an island, being divided from the mainland by a deep and narrow stream with high and rocky banks. This stream, known as the Kildare Cut-off, was spanned by a massive drawbridge. which was tended by an old retainer. a forest greenery on the Kildare shore.

The point or island, thus watered on its four sides, inclosed within its bounderies a princely estate of over two thousand acres, comprising farms, hills. glens and woods, in picturesque and charming arrangement. A wide drive. shaded by magnificent arching trees, completely encircled the island, and stately avenues traversed the woods and parks, and wound among the well cultured farms, while sunny lanes and secluded foot-paths led to the glens and more retired portions of the do-

The chief feature of the island was, of course, the residence of its owners-Kildare Castle. It stood high up on a rocky bluff overlooking the channel, and presented a grand combination of

ecretive nature, and perhaps with an dare?' inpulse of curiosity the horseman ing oak true at one side of the road,

nounds in full cry. The rider, unattended

The horseman thrilled with a sudden

he ejaculated. *How beautiful she is -the glorious little amazon! I am impatient to learn how she will take the news I have to tell her! He rode on at a gallop, following in the lady's wake.

A few minutes later he arrived at he drawbridge over the cut-off, and be in. ne rode leisurely over it. The horsewoman, with her bounds, had disap ger reached the Kildare shore. the old bridge-keeper, whose post was merely ominal, yet who faithfully adhered ancient customs, came forward,

ouching his hat to the new-comer. 'I have business at the castle,' said the horseman, tossing the old man a 'Which turn shall I take?' shilling. 'To the right,' responded the bridge-

ire. The Lady Nora has just come

m born! Who can he be?" Unconscious of the interest he had with you, sir?

xcited in the old bridge-keeper's comin g at last upon the broad sweep eading to the chief door or the castle By this time the sun had set and the

hadows of the twilight were gathering. The doors and windows of the car were all open, to give free play to the pleasant evening breeze, but the lawn as deserted, and no one was visible claimant to Point Kildare!

nd slowly alighted, and at the same moment a lad came running from the said haughtily. I am the only child, placed in the lunatic asylum Lord firection of the stables to take his and consequently the heiress of the Redmond placed his son in safe hands, orse. Resigning the animal into the Earl of Kildare. stream, known as the Kildare Cut-off, orse. Resigning the animal into the was spanned by a massive drawbridge. Ind's charge, the stranger ascended the which was tended by an old retainer whose picturesque lodge nestled amid sounded the massive varnished knocker. after an imperious, authoritative heart,

'I wish to see the Lady Nora The demanding his business. Kildare,' said the new comer. 'Be terrupting him. kind enough to tell her that a gentle-

nan from London wighes to see her I few moments on business."

lidyship. The servitor nodded sagely and con- sort you are preferring. fucted the guest down the length of the magnificent hall, past stately

The young girl bowed gravely.

'And you?' she asked. The sound of beating hoofs grew yet louder, and presently a horse and rider dashed past, followed by a pack of don to see you, and have letters with John's Wood. Knowing his father's present in due time. You will listen acknowledge his mad marriage.

spirit and animation, of a mass of call, and with a haughty little bend of wife, and repeated his folly in marry floating, dusky hair under a trailing ber small head, she signified her assent ing her. The birth of a son had not plume, and then the glowing vision to his singular proposition. wept on, and a cloud of dust veiled

'It must be the Lady Nora herself!' the Lady Nora exclaimed:

'It must be the Lady Nora herself!' the Lady Nora exclaimed:

'Ask the Lady Kathleen to come to a private insane asylum. Lord Red-

'Very well,' said the Lady Nora, and existence of his mad wife and her son

ossession of an arm-chair, and point- day !"

'This is a grand old place !' said the stranger, with a glance around him istence. There are yet living witnesse than you love your life!' 'Love it!' repeated Lady Kildare, in

keeper, with a look of keen curiosity. a haughty surprise. 'Love Kildare, for visitors at Kildare Castle were the home of my ancestors, the spot where I was born! Why, all the traditions of our family are interwoven with this island! The old Irish Kings galloped along the broad avenue, while from whom I glaim descent had their the old bridge-keeper looked after him, strongholds on Point Kildare! It is, 'I don't like the looks of him! It's dear, most exceed, and most glorious the eye of a snake he has! And yet to me.! But, she added coldly, checkhe has the Kildare features, as sure's ing herself abruptly, 'what have my sentiments in regard to my home to do be sure it will be closely investigated

A strange gleam came into the stranisland, most concealed by his bushy, overhanging black moustache. 'Much-everything!' he responded.

I came here to tell your ladyship that batts, with men. your possession of this cherished spot 'Menaced!' 'Yes, my ludy. There is another

The Lady Nora uttered an exclama

'The new claimant has a right his birth. And he would never have The summons was speedily answered superior to yours—superior to that of your late father!' he exclaimed with an was discharged a month since from nittance into a grand old entrance hall air of assurance, 'Permit me to tell her asylum cured, and that he took her

she said. If your words, which seem his birth' He is not a hard man, Lady an niterly preposterous, have any Nora, although he has been hardly foundation in truth, I am not the one treated. He has no wish to war upon 'No matter about the name,' return- to whom you should come. I refer you a young girl. but one thing he must d the stranger, giving the old man a lomy guardian, Sir Rassel Byan, who have—justice. His mother's wronge half-crown. 'I wish to surprise her lives in England, he and his lawyer will demand to be righted. He wants his soon dispose of any pretensions of the rightful name and honors. He has

She arose to withdraw the magnificent hall, past stately drawing rooms, into a pleasant breasy marior at the further end, then setting arm in a commanding gesture. 'I tremities, and invoking the aid of the latest in WINDOW BLINDS, and all kinds of WINDOW BLINDS. and presented a grand combination of towers and turrers and immense windows, which glittered in the sunlight like glorious jewels. The waters although a dashed against the sea wall at the base of the castle, ship would see him presently, and the hoary old structure extended terraces and lawns and gardens, losing themselves in the other features of the island which we have described.

The present owner of Point Kildare, and its broad windows opened grand old line of Kildares, was a wo-stranger stepped out on the balcony for pour nwa sake, listen to me. If

This threat had its effect. The Lady silence concerning my existence. Again Nora resumed her seat, her face be-

date of our story, hall det the young Lady Nora absolute mistrees of harman principality, her guardian, an easy-natured, indelent old gentleman, residing on his own easters in England, and contesting himself with semi-annual visit to his word.

And no queen was ever loved more benderly than was the Lady More accounts of the destroy has well as the Lady More accounts the faithful old retainers who had one otherwise the faithful old retainers who had one the mention of family.

Hat can summy afternoon in September 1869, a horseman app cached Point Kildare, coming from the direction of the small wateringplace of Glemarm. He was well dereased and well mounted, and his appearance different in the extraction of the small wateringplace of Glemarm. He was well dereased and well mounted, and his appearance different in the important particular from that of the ordinary fashionshie young man of the day. He was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his time the door was public time, and twenty years of age, dark of his time the door was public time, and twenty years of age, dark of his time the door was public time, his time and a moreing mere on his fill ensued lips, that brokened a between the day. He was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his time the door was public time, and twenty years of age, dark of his fill ensued lips, that brokened a between the comment of the day. He was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his fill ensued lips, that brokened a between the day of the state of the day. He was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day, the was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his age of the day. He was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day, the was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day, the was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day, the was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day, the was about first and twenty years of age, dark of his day had the day of the comment of the day. He was about first provided

my unknown Lady Nora—war to the knife! In the deadly straggle between figure, and a half-haughty poi-e of her una, which shall wir?

His have dericated with a lock of the keenest, deadliest resolve. It was evident that in the struggle which he apprehended he would not be hampered by any sense of chivalry or honor.

He was about to move onward, when the silence around him was suddenly broken by a full, rich bugle peal. The sound was followed by the baying of hounds and the tread of a horse s fest in the distance, the latter sound growing loader with each instant.

With the instinct of a cautious and secretive nature, and perhaps with an dare?'

I um acquainted with the laws of principal poi-e of her subject on the subject of her swaping to her. Her yes were of a bronze-tord, then, of this great fact?' de manded the sinister guest, with some catilities. You comprehend that if over her shoulders in ripples and waves. The face was exquinitely pi-quant, bright, with and unmy.

You wished to see ma sir?' she swith a doubtful glance at the stranger. The fact is perfectly plain.'

An equitant gleam shone in the atranger's eyes. A triumphant glow overspread his face.

Listen!' he cried, his voice ringing through the room. 'Lord Redmond Kildare, your father's elder brother,

'You are then the Lady Nora Kil-through the room. 'Lord Redmon Kildare, your father's elder brother iledmond was secrety mile the rage actress, who was for a while the rage 'Permit me to retain my name from actress, who was for a while the ray your ladyship until I have unfolded my errand,' said the stranger politely. wife, and withdrew her from the stage. me from friends of yours which I will inveterate family pride, he dared no bounds, was a woman.

The watcher, bending forward cagerly in his saddle, caught a brief glimpse
f a sunny, witching face, bright with
youth and health, and all aglow with
castle, with a score of retainers within

Lord Redmond soon tired of his actres o his singular proposition.

'I will have my step-sister, the Lady wife, and he coolly abandoned her when Kathleen Connor, present, she said, his child was less than a year old. The touching the bell. The stranger made wife had one noble quality at least—no reply. A servant appeared, and her love for him. She went mad at mond continued his wild career; and The Lady Kathleen has gone out a year or two later, worn out with his for a stroll on the rocks, my lady, re-excesses, came home to Point Kildare turned the servitor. 'She bade me to die. With his proud old father at say, if your ladyship should call for his bedside, with his younger brother her, that it's not under an hour she'd ministering tenderly to him, he could

> He died with the secret untold And The young girl then quietly took that wife and son are both living to ing out another to her sinister guest, Lady Nora looked at the narrator signified her readiness to listen to with dilating eyes She could not trust her voice to speak.

'The marriage certificate is in e 'No doubt you love it. my lady, more to that strange, secret marriage. to that strange, secret marriage. There is a certificate of the son's birth. There are letters which Lord Redmone Kildare wrote to his wife before sh went mad, some of them bearing date from Point Kildare. A conclusive has been wrought out, and Lord Red

Why has he never put forward hi claim before? demanded the Lady Nora. 'If this claim is made, you may This son, or pretended son of Lord ger's eyes. A curious smile gathered and twenty years old. Why did he not ree-arched avenue, following its about the corners of his thin lips, alhe waited until the cetates have fallen into the hands of a young orphan girl? Does it not look as if he had feared to A red flush burned on the stranger

cheek. His voice was husky as ne

known his own history. The marriage bout the premises.

The stranger rode up to the portion of incredulity.

You have been imposed upon, she mond's father. When the mother was mond's father. was secret, and intended to be kept revealed. The boy grew up ignorant of The Lady Nora waved her hand, in lips this story. Since hearing it, he has collected all the proofs necessary Call and Inspect, and get Bargains at Auction Prices for Cash. 'I decline to hear your statements,' to establish his mother's marriage and and old line of Kildares, was a woman.

The death of her father, the late earl, a few months previous to the opening date of our story, had left the young dates of our story, had left the young kineses full of scheming and calculations. The transfer scheming man described by the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage, and thus the secret marriage, and the scene of the secret marriage.



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