

Unlocking the door, and bustling round to turn on the lights and draw the curtains, the host kept up a running conversation:

"This is the parlour, an' yon is Maister Hervey's room; an' here's the Missie's dressin'-room, an' her bedroom's ayent it. A fine suite o' rooms, Sir!—bien an' snug as ye may weel see! Here, lassie," said he, stepping out into the lobby; "bring ben a shovelfu' o' coal; the nicht's cauld."

"I suppose the Harveys have been with you all summer?" said Delaval, cutting short the stream of his host's professional loquacity.

"Deed, no Sir! It's only the week afore last they cam. Fine, free-handed folks they are, though. They think less o' a *dollar*, as they ca' it, than ye wad o' a *saxpence*."

"Then they are Americans, I presume," said Delaval, suggestively.

"Ye may weel say that, Sir," replied Boniface. "They're aye *guessin'* whar ither folk are *jalousing*! But here ye are, Sir! What'll ye tak?" and he broke off to fill the glasses.

"Here's t'ye, Sir! An' it's a braw drap liquor to soudher the acquaintance in," said the host, holding his glass admiringly between his eye and the light, ere tossing it off.

"May the acquaintance be both pleasurable and profitable!" responded the Frenchman.

"Gin it's but profitable, it'll be pleasant aneuch, I'se warrant it," said the Scotchman, jocosely.

"It lies with yourself to make it both, Mr. McWhirter; that is, if you know on which side your bread is buttered," said Delaval.

"Aye! Say ye sae, Sir? Weel, try me," and his eyes sparkled with cupidity.

"You have heard of the Colonel's accident?"

"Weel, I did hear wind o' his gettin' a shot, or a tumble, or maybe baith. Is there onything in't?"

"It is true enough. Two inches closer, and he would have been a dead man."

"Gudesakes! Folks no sure o' their lives amang thae wild Irishry. It'll be anither Fenian job, I rackon."

"There is little doubt about that," said Delaval. "The affair has so far been traced up to them. The very man who fired the shot is known. But such as he are only the hands. Where is the