suelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE :...... MACDONNELL STREET

WEDNESDAY EV'G, NOVEMBER 27

NORAH CUSHALEEN

OR THE

HAUNTED CASTLE.

Mike, who all the time had held the torch which had lighted them through their proceeding, now began to look curiously round the lofty arched chamber, which bore many tokens of having been recently tenanted.

Bedad, he remarked, but Norah Qushalean must have been comfortable intirely in this quare place, are very body though that she was lying drowned at the bottom o' the black pool. Was this the chamber where she frightened ye all out uv yer sinses by coming in like a ghost?

'The very place,' said O'Brady. 'Faith and it was a clerer trick, and so was that shout the boxes. But ye see now, Mike, how they came to be filled with stones when you went'to dig them up.'

'Thunder and onns, they saw us bury them, 'cried Mike, O'Brady nodded.

'Thin it was gold dust after all.'

'Haven't any doubt of it. That's why Yeary has been giving himself such airs, but I'll get my revenge on him at last. Larry will put him in jail, and I'll see that he does not get out in a hurry.'

'That's right sur,' rejoined Mike. 'He once got me locked up by swearing against me, and now it's my turn.

Having gratified their curiosity by examining the chamber, they next proceeded to open the bundle which Terry was about to carry away, and of the provisions which it contained Mike and the factor made a substantial meal, the former chuckling all the while over his good luck.

While occupied with this agreeable task of feeding themselves, they were fearfully scared by a large bird flying in at one of the loopheles and flapping its sable wings round the torch, which was stuck in the floor, and which was overturned and extinguished.

'Och, murther

and, followed hard at his heels, and having caughthis coat, hung on by him with nervous tenacity.

For goodness sake, Mike, find the door, the vehemently ejaculated.

I can't, replied Mike, who was frantically groping against the wall, O'Brady keeping close behind him, and expecting every moment to be seized by the spurit of darkness.

Haven't ye got it yet? whispered the factor, through his chattering teeth.

Not a bit of me; and never a one of me will, answered Mike.

'Grope on and you'll come to it,' urged O'Brady.

Mike did grope on, but nothing could be felt but the cold [wall. Suddenly his hand came upon a smooth projecting stone; there was a clicking noise, the wall receded, and they fell forward—Mike first and the factor on the top of him Before either of them had time for an exclamation, the wall swung a loud roar, be began to kick furiously, and the heel of his boot coming in contact with Mike's stomach, the latter yelled with agony and struck out wildly with his first, till anadom, but tremendous, blow was lodged on the factor's nose, making lim see a thousand stars, and drawing the blood in a gurg-ling stream.

Murther! murther!' ropared O'Brady,

Mill be sold at unusually Low Prices to the Trade.

sand stars, and drawing the blood in a gurgling stream.

'Murther! murther!' roared O'Brady, kicking yet more vehemently.

'Oh!-O-O-curse it,' yelled Mike, planting another desperate blow on the factor's eyebrow, which made the latter roll over and allow Mike to rise.

'Misther O'Brady,' gasped Mike, wrathfully, 'what did ye kick the wind out uv me for?'

You blackguard, you've nearly murdered, groaned the factor, gathering himself

up.
'You've kilt me intirely,' retorted Mike.
'But where have we got to? Holy Mother,
we're shut in on every side.'
'Eh! what? exclaimed O'Brady, ceasing
to careas his bloody face. 'Shut in! that's
impossible.'

possible."
'Faix, I wish it was,' rejoined Mike; but 's in a closet we are, wid a stone wall all ound us. Oh! musha, but this is a busi-

it's in a closet we are, wid a stone wall all around us. Oh! musha, but this is a business.

The alarming intelligence caused the factor to forget his facial calamity, and he began to grope with his hand round their place of confinement. He was not long coming to the same conclusion as Mike. They were indeed in a place no larger than a closet, with no discoverable door. A solid wall of mason-ry surrounded them, and a small iron grating let in a little air.

Accident had again conspired to bring about a piece of retributive justice. They had just consigned Terry Cushaleen to a prison cell, but here they were helpleasly immured within a solitary ruin, which no one visited, and where they had the terrible prospect of dying of hunger. They had involuntarily fallen into the same trap which had ensnared Lady Blantire, and from which had ensnared Lady Blantire, and from which had been released by Terry only a few hours before. Mike, in his groping, had pressed the stone that touched the spring, and having fallen inward, when the wall receded, they were thoroughly secured when it swung round to its place.

It was not long till a conviction of the truth was forced on the minds of the two captives. Mike remembered touching the stone, and the loud click at the same moment was indicative of a secret spring. Should they, then, fail to discover the trick in the inside, and so release themselves, they had the terrible prospect of being starved to death.

To men of their stamp this was a horrible contemplation. Bad hearts are never braye.

Inside, and so release intensives, they had the terrible prospect of being starved to death.

To men of their stamp this was a horrible contemplation. Bad hearts are never brave. Passion, ferocity and unscrupulousness, fail before the necessity for patient endurance, and both Mike and O'Brady passed the dark hours of that night in abject terror. There was perfect silence in that lonely ruin, broken only by the fitful, dreary rustle of the gentle breeze, as it passed in at the loophole, sounding to their quaking hearts like the motion of some ghostly visitants.

Bleep was not for a moment to be thought of by either them. They were too terrihed for that; and, besides, the size of the place did admit of both lying on the floor. A hundred times did they grope all over the wall, in the hope of coming on the spring, but each time they were doomed to disappointment.

With longing eyes did they watch for the

in the hope of coming on the spring, but each time they were doomed to disappointment.

With longing eyes did they watch for the entrance of the morning light, to dispel the midnight gloom, and enable them to ascertain their chance of release. Never had either of them felt the hours so long or so dreary; the minutes seemed ages, and O'Brady's watch seemed to tick horribly sloy.

At length Mike exclaimed in a joyful tone that he could distinguish the little square grating of their cell. This was more than the factor could do, for he had only one eye to look with, the other being now swelled up as the result of Mike's vigorous blow.

The latter, however, was not mistaken.—The dawn of a new day was really breaking and the light increased with it's usual slow, but certain progress, till even the factor, with his one orb, could see the dim outline of the lofty arched chamber.

The moment the light was strong enough fof their purpose, they began eagerly to examine their confined prison. Certain disagreeble things within it convinced them that those who had lately inhabited the ruin had the means of entering it; and this incited them to greater ardour in searching for the spring. For hours they sought, but all in vain, and the conviction forced itself on them that it could only be opened from without.

This is horrible, gooaned O'Brady. 'To be starved to death in this infernal hole.

re can, and when we can't bear it r'll aise you uv yer pain, Misthe y sticking the knift in yer heart ne fiesh on yer bones will keep it longer, and maybees afore I've he last uv ye, somebody may hance to come and let me out. TO BE CONTINUED

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R. TORRANCE, Secretary Nov. 13, 1867.

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