e Orphan of the Wreck.

road this afternoon, just a. the gloamin', ye wad hae seen that—my cortic, aye wad ye."

"An' what sort o' a carriage was it, Jamie?—Tam Porter's cadger cart?"

"Oh, man, but ye hae puir taste," returned Jamie, with huge disdain, "What wad ye say tae the Ardgowan carriage wi' its grand yellow sides and rod wheels?"

"The Ardgowan carriage," cried Harry who with George had started suddenly at the utterance of the name. "What about the Ardgowan carriage?"

"What's aboot it? The snaw's aboot it by this time, I thinkin'; an' if it wan the Bee Skep, that's a' the length it's gotten, or I'll wonder."

"or heaven's sake, tell us what you mean," exclaimed Harry. "Did you see the Ardgowan carriage on the road today?"

"Be ceevil, myfried; be ceevil," replied Janie. "And if I did, and if I was ridin' ahint it, when naebody kenned, that's no your busnness, is it?"

"Yes, it is my business," exclaimed arry, getting more and more excited. "Where did you see the carriage, where was it going, and who were in it? Quick, tell us."

"Lord, but that's a guid ane!" responded Jamie. "As if a man has tae speek or haud his tongue just as ye bid him.

"Don't trifle, you fool. This may be a matter of the utmost importance to us."

"Fule! An' wha are yeeg'in a fule?

"Don't trine, you rool. This may be a matter of the utmost importance to us."

"Fule! An' wha are ye ca'in a fule? Certes, my man, but ye are no blat."

"Oh, this is maddening," said Harry, turning a wild look towards George, who who was little less agitated. "How shall we get the truth out of him?"

"Weel, gentlemen," said the farmer, "as ye seem much concerned about this, let me manage Jamie, and I's get oot o' him what ye want. But dinna spier at him in that way or ye'll mak naething o't.

"Well," said George, "for the love of goodness, get out of him all he knows about the Ardgowan carriage, for it is of essential moment that my friend and I should know."

"Then dinna either o' ye say a word. Wull ye no hae anither wee drap, Jamie?"

"Oh, aye; ane's no the waur o' a dram or twa on a cauld nicht like this. Here's tae ye, Wullie, lad, an' a' yer belangin's. You tae, lads; mair sense tae ye the baith; and whene'er ye are oot amang snaw again may a freend like me come across ye."

langin's. You tae, lasts; mair sense tae ye the baith; and whene'er ye are oot amang snaw again may a freend like me come across ye."

"That's richt, Jamie," remarked the farmer. "But I doot, noo that ye hae been ridin' ahint a carriage, ye'll be gettin' ower prood for yer auld joss."

been ridh' annit a carriage, ye. "o tin' ower prood for yer auld joss."

"Ye may say that."

"An' was there mony grand folk there beside yerse!"

"Hale three—there was the young and the Captain, and that ill-faured carle the factor. Puir thing, Miss Lilias was a'begrutten, and pled sair for them no tae tak' her awa'. Ah, they didna think I was sittin' ahint and lookin' at them."

Here the youths in the wildness of their agitation were about to break in again, when the farmer warned them to keep silent.

"An' where dae ye think they were takin' her, Jamie?"

"Ah, but what ken I? I wad haen tae asked them, and that whet I didna dae. I was ower glad to get a lift alang the road, for the snaw was peltin' on noo, and I wanted hame."

"And I wager ye cam' wi' them as far as the four road ends?" said the farmer.

"Just that, guidman. Eh, Wullie, but ye're a wutch at guessin'. Wha kens but ye'll hae as muckle sense as me by and bye."

both in a breath.

"The daft idiots," ejaculated Jamie.

"But the thing is impossible. The wind is still roarin, as ya hear, and ye hen what the drift is."

"It matters not. Life and death de-

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