NORA'S PLEDGE.

BY THE REV. AUTHUR RYHN. "Wisha, Paddy, what brought you? You're

Welcome, asthore, To your supper at home with your wife; Sure they told me as much, and see, whisper. what's more.

You're the pledge, they say, taken for life." "Arrab, Nora, don't mind 'em, what harm if I have ? Sure there's pleasy of men with the same, And I never heard yet that they asked by your

Of their wives—or cared much for their blame.'

"Is it blame you, my darling'? God help us! Ah w .y Would I blame you, and I here alone?

No! I pray on my two bended kness till I

For the father that pledge you, my own."
"Now wait n b r, Nora, and wet in the tea,
And we'll talk of the prayers by and bye; You were always a wonder entirely to pray.

But I'm never much good while I'm dry."

Sure I have it here ready. well drawn, and

of new milk with the cream on for you,
And I'd like you to show me the publican's shop.

Where you'd get a more elegant brew,

And the fire I have bright as my heart is, and

warm
As the love that is burning in here,

And I'm thinking your pledge won't be broken, while my arm Is around you like this, Patsy dear."

"Why thin, Nors, 'tis true for you, darlin', I'm

Not half of the drunkards that rome Would ever be seen darkening a publican'

door,
If their Norss would keep them at home. Sure the Abstinence pleage would be easy to

keep. If two heads and two hearts were as one And if homes were like this, no poor Noras

would weep
Through the comfortless evening alone. "Let me kneel down then, husband; I'm

thinking I'll take. A pledge from you, dearest—'tis this:

I will promise your home ever home-like to

And I'll handsel my pledge with a kiss, And you'll promise to come and here and stay with your wife.

When you've finished your work for the day, And she's pledged now to make your home

happy for life; So now, darlin', let's come to our tea."

## KILDARE

Or, the Rival Claimants.

CHAPTER IX. THE OFFERED COMPROMISE.

For an hour or more the two guardians of the Lady Nora Kildare, in conjunction with Sir Russel's lawyer, Mr. Wedburn, studied closely the various documents submitted by Redmond Kildare in support of his claims to the Kildare title and estates. The Lady Nora looked on in ellence. The Lady Kathleen Connor kept her seat by the window, and busied herself with her needle. Radmond Kildare watched the gentlemen and the Lady Nora furtively and with equal impartiality, and with the calmness of assured victory in his manner.

At last, with a gesture of utter weariness and sorrow, Mr. Michael Kildare, the Dublia attorney, withdrew himself from his associ-

a wearisome business, but I hope it will soon be settled. I telegraphed to Sir Russel the himself. And by to night, I hope, all our suspense will be ended, and we shall have settled upon a course of action?"

"I hope so," said the young Lady Nora

wearily. "My poor child!" said Mr. Kildare, in tone of sympathy and tenderness, "This is a terrible trial for you! I wish I could tell you to hope, but I dare not. You must be prepared for the worst! We may mourn and grieve, but justice must take her course And I know you are too honorable, proud and just to desire wealth and honors at the expense of another."

The young Lady Nora's lips quivered, "The-the case will be decided against me, then? she asked.

T.a Dablin lawyer replied only by a significant silence.

Before Nora could command herself to speak again, the London lawyer, Mr. Wedburn, dashed down upon the table the last of the documents submitted to his examination, and exclaimed :

These documents seem to be perfectly genuine. And if genuine, of course they put the most serious aspect upon this business. Oblige us, Mr. Kildare, by telling us at this peint all that you know concerning this new claimant to Kildare. That will give us the additional light we want, and enable us to see our way more clearly !"

"Cercainly, certainly, sir," said Mr. Michael Kildare a little nervously. "I will tell you all I knew concerning Redmond Kildare's claims. Unfortunately I know more en the subject than I wish I did !" He glided back to his seat, and with a

grave face began his narrative.
"You all know," he said, "that the fifteenth Earl of Kildare, the Lady Nora's grandfather, had two sons, Redmond and Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was the father of our young Lady Nora. Redmend was supposed to have died a bachelor, some four and twenty years ago. He suffered his last ill ness at Point Kildare, and died here. At that time I was living in Dublin, as now, and was in the early practice of my profes-sion. It may be as well for me to state here that I belong to a remote branch of the family, and out of the line of succession, but

that I was always a favorite with the Kildares of the castle.' "We know all that," said Sir Russell, with a slight impatience. "Pray come to

the point, Kildare !" Michael Kildare bowed deprecatingly, his meek, pale face flushing slightjy.

"I beg your pardon," he said, rather timidly. "To come to the point. Some four and twenty years ago, Redmond Kildare lay ill here at the castle, and given over to die. It was then he sent a special messenger to me at Dublin with a letter, bidding me to come to him post-haste, as he had something to say to me before he died. I set out at the Lady Nora a share in its revenues. I am once, reaching the castle two days before his aware that what I am about to say will seem death. And the day before he died, he made altogether strange and unprecedented, but I to me a secret communication of the utmost importance !"

actress?" demanded Sir Russel.

mad enough to marry an actress belonging to as I stand alone among her friends, myself a London theatre, and named Madeline Ben-friendless, I cannot be too frank and outham. This woman was very beautiful, gay, spoken. Lady Nora!"
and dashing, and in an evil moment he made He turned to her as he spoke her name. her his wife. One child-a son-was the off. She looked up at him in a wondering surapring of that marriage. While this son was a more infant in arms, Lord Redmend Kil- "Lady Nora!" he repeated, approaching a land is mine. I see no harm in visiting Castle Butternut Pills.

with her past record, to his proud, stern, audacity than he could command. Therefore | you are as good and noble and spirited as you he abandoned her. He asked me if he had grounds for a divorce, but it was too late for such a step, had it been feasible. He had previously asked my opinion secretly, while co a visit to me in Dublin, on the feasibility of obtaining divorce, but it is only his death-bed revelation I desire to submit to you. The other was of less importance, and divested of the solemnity which gave the last all," murmured Michael Kildare, audibly. one weight."

"He abandoned his wife?" asked Mr. Wedburn.

"He did, and told her he should divorce himself from her, and repudiate his child. The woman, bad as she might have been, loved him, and went mad at his desertion. She was sent to a mad house. The child was put to nurse in the country. Lord Radmond Kildare acknowledged that child to me as his own, but declared that he could not permit the son of his mad marriage, the son of his actress wife, to inherit Kildare to the detri-ment of Lord Fitzgerald! He said the boy had bad bloed, and would be but a biot upon the noble and ancient line of K!l-

dares-" My father was decidedly flattering!" observed Redmond Kildare, with a scowi.

"I am but repeating what he said to me," said Mr. Michael, in a feeble, deprecating way. "You cannot blame me surely for his did not knew till yesterday?" sentiments. Lord Redmond desired that his son should, therefere, be brought up to a profession, and in total ignorance of his birth and the matter, I could speak, but otherwise I must keep silent. He bound me to secrecy. And then he made me promise to look after his son, to have him educated, and put into a breathed Lord Redmond's secret all these years. I dared not, if I had been free to do se, tell it to the stern and proud old Earl. I dared not tell it to the late Earl, the Lady Nora's father, for he was my best and truest friend. And I would have died, if I had been permitted, without telling it to poor Lidy Nora, whom I love as if she were my laughter! I would have spared her this trial at the expense of my life!"

He removed his spectacles, wiping them with his handkerchief, and then rubbed his wet forehead.

"You know, then, that Lord Redmond Kildare left a legitimate son?" questioned Sir

Russell Ryan.
"I know it!" "You know this young man to be that

· I do. I have kept trace of him all my life long. For several years he remained with the humble family near London in whose care he had been placed. He supposed himself their son. But when he was old enough to be sent to school, I went to his foster parents, paid them a sufficient sum of money for the lad's expenses, and ordered him to be sent to a good free school. At my desire his foster parents informed the boy that his resl name was Redmond, and that his father was dead and his mother in an asylumfor the insane. At school the boy was known as John Redmond. He used at times to visit his mother, but I never showed myself to him, fearing to excite his curiosity or suspicious of the trutb. I continued to pay his expenses and supply him

be settled. I telegraphed to Sir Russel the ether day, and he came on to Dablin with his lawyer somer than I expected, so that we have arrived here not much behind Redmond have arrived here not much behind Redmond his own identity, and finally came to me. Heart bleeds for you. Be wise, Nora, and And then I dared conceal the truth no longer. The secret was known to him, and all I could do was to seek to aviod scandal. I telegraphed for Sir Rassel; I wrote to Nora. You

know the rest ! He concluded with considerable apparent nervousness and anxiety, and drew a long breath of relief, as if his task had been dis-

agreeable to him.

Mr. Wedburn looked thoughtful; Sir Russel Ryan looked troubled and perplexed. "The case looks clear enough, Wedburn!" said Sir Russel, after a pause. "What is to

be done?"
"We must examine the registers from which those certificates were copied," said will you go Of course, my house will be Wedburn slowly, "and see Mr. and Mrs. open to you, but I am not rich and my family Wedburn slowly, "and see Mr. and Mrs. Dox, and the lady who claims to be Lord Redmond Kildare's widow !"
"And then ?"

"And then, Sir Russel, we shall have to ed!" decide whether we shall go to law or not !" "That can be decided now," said Lady Nora, in her clear, high voice. "If my pendent upon you! I can make my own way guardians and you, Mr. Wedburn, are persuaded of the justice of this young man's healthy. I will earn my own living!" claims, why should we waste money in resist. ing his demands? Why should we arouse the scandal Mr. Michael desires to avoid? Besides, what right is is right. I want no one's Nora shall share these with me, rather than property but my own. Make what investigation you will, and inform me of the result. But don't forget that if the evidence is strong enough to convince those who desire my

triumph, it cannot fail to convince stran-"She is right!" said Sir Russel. "We will see these people, and if we are convinced we may knew a jury would be."

"You will be convinced," declared Mr. Michael sorrowfully. 'And after the investigation we shall be back where we are new. Lord Redmond has a better heart than one could have expected from his maternity. In fact, he seems to display some of the noble qualities of his father's family. He has expressed deep sorrow at the unfortunate posi-

tion of my poor little Nora, and-" "Permit me to speak for myself, Mr. Kildare," said Redmond, arising and waving his hand in a graceful gesture. "I comprehend hand in a graceful gesture. "I comprehend the auguish it will cost Lady Nera to yield to another the place she has always believed her own. No one can lose a heritage like this without a deadly grief. I wish, therefore, to offer a compromise."

"A compromise !" said Sir Russel, in surprise.

"A compromise !" echoed Mr. Wedburn, with a look of interest in his keen eyes.

Ah !" "Yes," said Redmond Kildare, not without some embarrassment, "Of course I haven't any wild idea of splitting the estate. That would be impossible. But I can offer

am a plain man, without society advantages, therefore all the delicate usages of po-He acknowledged a marriage with an lite society cannot be expected of me. Possibly I ought to reserve this communication for "He did. He told me that he had been the private hearing of the Lady Nora, but,

dare tired of his wife. His discovery that step nearer her, si I have made good my claim Ruin attended as I was, and I refuse to between before her marriage she had not been a world malities, and the place must become mine. for it!" man of pure life. To introduce her as his wife, You and I are the last representatives, of a noble and audient family. It goes to my honorable father, to his noble younger heart to hurl yeu from your wealth into brother, and to the pure and honorable wife peverty. Our acquaintance has been short, of his brother, required more courage and | yet it has been long enough to show me that | are beautiful. I have never loved-till new ! Lady Nora, I ask you to be my wife!"

There was a profound sensation, The eyes of all turned upon the young Lady of terror, and those of the gentlemen in eager inquiry.

"He has the generous Kildare nature, after The proud young face of the Lady Kildare flushed, then grew deadly pale, as she slowly arose from her chair and stoadled her slight, tremulous figure by leaning upon its back. There was a faint quiver about her lips, too, but a clear, undaunted look beamed from her shining brown eyes-a look that told a prompt

and unswerving resolution.
"Mr. Redmond Kildare," she said, "I thnk you for the honor you have done me, but I must decline your offer. If I were capable of marrying for a home, still I could not

he your wife!"
"Lady Nora!" exclaimed Sir Russel Ryan, half sternly.

Mr. Michael Kildare repeated her name in

tender, deprecating way. The young helress turned upon her guard-

ians proudly.
"What is it?" she asked. "Do you want me to marry this man, of whose existence I

"Do not decide too hastily either way," said Sir Russel. "Lord Redmond is of your blood and your name. He has shown him-self capable of generosity and thoughtfulness rights. He said if the boy over discovered the self capable of generosity and thoughtfulness truth, and demanded of me my knowledge in for others. It seems to me that he will make out his case. You would do well to take his proposal into consideration, my child."

position to earn his ewn support. I have Mr. Wedburn, who looked upon marriage kept that promise faithfully. I have never from a business point of view.

"I have been toe abrupt, perhaps," said Redmond Kildare softly. "Take time for consideration, dear Lady Nora." "I need no time," cried Nora, impetuously.
"My answer a year hence would be the same

Michael Kildare arose and again approached his ward. His mild, gentle face wore a dis ressful look. A fatherly anxiety beamed from his eves.

"My dear Nora," he said, taking her little quivering hand, "listen to me who love you, and who have your good at heart. You do not realize all that is involved in your refusal of Lord Kildare, for this young man is Earl of Kildare. He offers to make you his wife, the honored mistress of Kildare Castle. Your position here will know no change. The revenues of the estate will still be at your command. The little island school which yet have established for the children of your tenantry will still be under your direction. Your various humble friends and dependents will be still under your kindly care. You will continue to be the instrument of noble charities and great good. I, who know you so well, know how dear ail these objects are to you. Now look at the reverse of the picture.

He hesitated, as if it pained him to continue. His voice trembled as he finally re-

"On the other hand is a life of bare and pinching poverty—absolute poverty and de-pendence, Nora. Your poor father, had he forseen this contingency, could have providattorney, withdrew himself from his associated and approached his young kinswoman.

"You look tired and anxious, Nora," he said, in his soft, gentle, feeble voice. "This is a wearisome business, but I hope it will soon be settled. I telegraphed to Sir Russel the

reconsider your decision." "oannot, Michael!" the girl said lewly. "But this is sheer obstinacy!" oried Sir Russel Ryan, upon whom the two pictures drawn by Michael Kildare had had their effect. "You must not throw away a fortune for a mere caprice. This young man offers you your own name, a magnificant home a grand fortune ! A penniless girl has few chances like this !'

The Lady Nora made no response.

"If you refuse him," continued the old caronet, intending to be kind and decided in the expression of his views, rather than harsh, "what are you going to do? Where is expensive. I cannot offer you any grand suite of rooms, any special attendance, any of the luxuries to which you are accustom-

"I have no claims upon you," said Nora epiritedly; "and I shall not become a de-

"Not while I live !" cried the Lady Kathleen Connor arising and coming forward. "I have an estate and a fortune of my own. to rush into an unloving marriage !" She put her arm around her young step

sister's waist, gently and tenderly supporting

the girl. "I cannot permit my young kinsweman to become a dependent upon one not of her name and blood," said Michael Kildare hastily. "I am one of Nora's guardians, and though the lesser one of the two in point of power and authority, I am sure Sir Richard Russell will give my young cousin into my charge, should she deliberately put herself out of house and home !"

"Your claims come before mine, Mr. Kildare," said Sir Russel. "Were I a richer man, however, I would answer you different-

"Is it decided that I am rejected?" asked Redmond Klidare. "Will not Lidy Nora not take time to consider?" "You have my answer already!" said Nora

coldly and proudly. "You have little of the Kildare pride, to persist in proposal after such positive refusals."

"It must be, then,' said Redmond Kildare, gently, yet with glittering eyes, "that your heart is already given to another. You visited Glen O'Nell this morning. Can the felfow they call Wild Larry be your lover ?" "And if he is, what then?" Michael Kildare uttered a shocked exclama-

tion.
"Nors, you haven't been to Glen O'Nell?"
he asked—"to Castle Ruin?"

The girl answered in the affirmative.
"But but—this is terrible!" said the Dublin lawyor, looking appealing at Sir Russel "My dear Nora, you have done what the world would call a very bold and indelicate act?" "Very!" said Sir Russel, taking the

" How have I been bold or indelicate in visiting Lord O'Noil?" demanded Nora. "I used to do so often with papa. I took my housekeeper and old Shene with me. We are simple people up here, Sir Russel, and care little for the false etiquette of Dublin and

"But it was very improper!" insisted Sir Russel, who had a reverence for conventionalities and etiquette. "Very improper indeed. I wonder what your late father could have been thinking of when he insisted upon your spending the years of your minority at Kildare Castle! The Lady Kathleen Connor is too young, as it turns out, to serve as your chaperon and duenna, Your govern-ess has been dismissed. Your chaplain and Nors, those of the Lady Kathlean in a sort his wife think yeu se nearly perfect that they of terror, and those of the gentlemen in eager would not dare interfere with you. And the upshot is, that you are left to follow your own impules. Wild Larry! The very sobri-quet of Lerd O'Neil shows how improper an associate he is for you !"

The Lady Nora lifted her small head proudly. "Be careful how you speak of The O'Neil

to me, Sir Russel !" she said. "He is my premised husband. Redmond Kildare uttered an ejaculation.

The Dublin lawyer turned pale. "You are engaged to that beggar !" oried Michael Kildare. "Oh, Nora! Nora! The girl's features quivered. She leved her

old old relative, and was pained at his grief. "This interview has gone far enough," she said, controlling herself by a hard strug-gle. "All I demand is to be left in possession of Kildaro Castle until Sir Russel and Mr. Wedburn have made their investigations. Give me two weeks to myself. Then come to

me with the result of your investigations. If they confirm your present opinions, I will leave the cartle with my personal effects !" "The Lady Nora's demands are just," said Redmond Kildare. "I will leave the castle to-day, and return just a fortnight hence, when I hope you, gentlemen, will be here to

settle the final details of this business." The guardians and the lawyer assented, and the Lady Nors, accompanied by her step-sis-

"A marriage between the rival claimants tor withdraw.
would settle the affair handsomely" remarked Redmond Kildare presently went out also, going to the stables to order his horse to be

made ready for departure.
"A fine young fellow!" said Sir Russel
Ryan, watching him as he crossed the lawn. "Yes," said Michael Kildare, "he's a true Kildare, after all ! If only Nora will be wise enough to accept him !"

"She will accept—she must accept him!" cried Sir Russal. "She must not be allowed to throw away her whole future for a mere caprice. Why, Lord O'Neil is over head and ears in debt ! He can't marry for years. Nora must marry her cousin !"

"Yes; she must marry her cousin!" repeated Michael Kildare softly. "She must

marry him !" The London lawyer looked at his Dublin confrere with sudden sharpness. It seemed to him, by some sudden instinct or intuitior, that under all Michael Kildare's softness and gentleness was a great and terrible will. It seemed to him as if that glove of downy velvet covered a hand of iron! Like a revelation came to him the idea that all Michael Kildare's eweerness and poitness were like the playful, balf-timid wiles of a Bengal tiger, and under them he hid the tiger's fierceness and strength.

Yet, the next instant, meeting Michael Kildare's mild and deprecating look, he smiled inwardly at what he deemed his own

(Te be continued.)

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THE NEW ORIEF JUSTICE.

Honor - Judiciary Changes.

Judge Johnson, of Montreal, Given the

OTTAWA, December 10 .- Judge Johnson, of Montreal, has been appointed onlef justice, of the Superior court, vice Sir Andrew Stuart, resigned. Chief Justice Johnson will continue to reside in Montreal. Judge Cassault, of Quebec, will be presiding judge there and chief justice de facto, with corresponding powers and salary. Judge Routhler is appointed to the Quebec bench, vice Cassault promoted, and Mr. J. A. Gagne, formerly M.P. for Chicoutimi and Siguenay, is ap-pointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, vice Routhler, transferred.

Major Charles A. Baulton, of Shell River, Manitoba, has been called to the Senate, vice Hon. Dr. Schultz, appointed Lieutrnant-Governor of Manitoba, and J. A. Lenghead, Q C., of Calgary, vice Hon, Senator Hardisty. deceased.

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Religions in India.

India is a land of varieties; it is scarcely less so in Religion than in language. Statistics just issued from the British India Office give the population of that empire in March, 1888, as 269,467,728. Distributed according to religion, and in reund numbers, the Hindoo population is about one hundred and ninety millions, the Mahomedans eightyene, "aberiginals" six and a half, Buddnists three and a half, Christians nearly two, Sikha nearly two, and Jains one million and a quarter. Parsees, Jews and others are comparatively few. Of the Ohristian population bout one hundred and forty-three thousand are of European birth, sixty-three thousand Eurasians, and nine hundred thousand natives. The remainder are classed as "others not epecified." The Church of England has nearly three hundred and sixty thousand members, other Episoopalian Courches twen-ty thousand, the Ohurch of Spotland the same number, and "other Protestants" onehundred and thirty-eight thousand. The Catholics number about a million. The conversion of India to Christianity is a work which evidently remains yet to be done.

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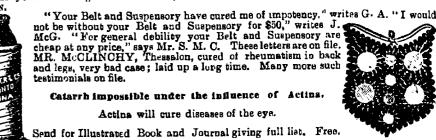
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CANADA — PROVINCE OF QUEBRO DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, SU-PERIOR COURT, No. 1931. DAME MARY SARA'S FARRELL. of the City and District of Montreal, wife of THOMAS CONNOLLY, of the game place. Cabinet Makes and Calinet Makes. of the same place, Cabinet Maker, and Guly authorized for the purposes of this suit,

The said THOMAS CONNOLLY, Defend-

An action for separation as to property has been instituted in this cause. Montreal, 28th November, 1869, DOHERTY & DOHERTY.

CANADA, PROVINCE OF QUEBEO, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL SUPERIOR COURT. No. 788.—JANE MoINTOSH, of the city and District of Montreal wife common as to property of John McCowan of the same place, clerk, duly authorized to ester en justice, Plaintiff;

JOHN McCOWAN, of the City and District of Montreal, clerk, Defendant An action for separation as to property has been instituted in this matter this day. Montreal, Nov. 30, 1889. GREENSHIELDS, GUERIN & GREEN-

Autorneys for Plaintiff.

Attorneys for Plaintiff,