SALLY CAVANAGH,

Or, The Untenanted Graves.

A TALE OF TIPPERARY.

BY CHARLES J. KICKHAM.

CHAPTER XI. *Continued.*

Matt Hazlitt pointed with his pipe to the dead fox.

"Yes," says Tim Crook, "*twas* him."

Matt leant back in his chair and laughed.

"Oh, but aisy till I tell y' *it* all," continued Tim. "I looked at him, an' he looked at me. I took the heads of my two white ducks in me hand: 'Be off, you robber,' says I. An' wid that I pelted the ducks' head at him, an' away with him as fast as his legs could carry him. The next mornin' when I got up the first thing I see was two white ducks outside the door, an' the fox on his grog munchin' 'em."

"Were the ducks alive?" inquired Matt.

"Alive—the divil a look of life. An' where he got 'em I don't make out. But maybe 'twas aisy for him to have 'em."

"By the law," says Matt Hazlitt, "I'm inclin'—I'm over—I'm—I was goin' to add to myself."

"What was that?"

"Didn't I tell you to stop?"

"No," says Tim, "for I soon did remember."

"Well, one evening last harvest I was seen by a few slaves in the five-acre field, as the wind was rising, and I expected we'd have a storm before morning. 'Twas just dusk when I was finished. I thought of the geese I was after taking a lot of young turkeys from Mrs. Purcell the same week—and I thought I might as well turn home the geese that were out on the sod bogs. I was drivin' 'em on fair an' aisy by the crab-ditch—and by the same token the crabs were hissin' like baist-nuns with every strong blast o' wind—when the geese all screeched and clapped their wings, and riz from the ground, and off with 'em like a white cloud over the ditch, towards the house. One goose didn't fly—and no blame to her, poor crathur, I see we were runnin' along the path as we came. I walked fast to get up with her. When I come out from the shade of the ditch, I saw that the goose was runnin' on a rat-tat instead of two."

"Aye, aye," says Tim Crook, with a grin of delight.

"I had a pitchfork in my hand," Matt Hazlitt continued, "an' I made at him, but he was too strong for me. Any way, I swore to have the satisfaction of pickin' that goose, and I kept close to him—never let him get back to the rabbit burrow. I was at rabbit-an'-gettin' over the ditch—I'd never get him from me. Still I was able to keep within a few perches of him, but to come to the deer park wall. He whipped the goose, and made a run at the wall as I got to the top of it. I was nearly certain I had him by the—but I grappled the goose—as I was sure of the goose. He gave two or three short barks on the top of the wall, and from behind every stone in the goose-garden—before I had time to be up to snap of up the goose and make—rest, for the Lord's sake!—as I have told it over a hundred times—I got over the wall with the goose. But what do you think? I—I—I was after losing my temper—I—I—I was in a terrible—I—I—I