

'take care of him,' as you say; o've been-a-thunking myself, as ye say, lads, that he has carried the joke rather too far, and that its time his power was ended; its very easy done—its a bold measure, certainly—the new Governor gives a ball to-night, now, as he returns, what's to hinder an ounce of cold lead and he becoming close acquaintances? Do you take?"

"'Maybe ye're jist about right, John,' said Rooney; 'it is a bould measure—but who d'ye think 'ill do it?'"

"'Whoy, if in case you foind no one else, oi don't moind giving him a pill myself.'"

"'There's not the laste taste an occasion in for you to do any thing o' the sort, John, a-hagur,' said Paddy, 'sure there'll be enough to run their neck in the halther, widout you, let corplur what d'ye say, if we call Sandy a aff-a-sentry, and see what he sez about it.'"

"'Agreed,' answered the corporal, 'we're be ourselves, an' divil a wan 'ill notice iot, so come in, Sandy, an' tell us what you think av it.'"

"Sandy accordingly lodged his musket against the wall, and entered the guard-room. I had forgotten to state that a bottle or two of rum—as the soldiers termed new rum—had been brought from the little village, called Edinburgh, just below the guard-room, during the previous evening, in some 'mobbie' * bottles. Sandy having taken a *long pull* out of a cocoa-nut shell, was as he stated, 'primed for service;' and the result of the deliberations of the other three having been made known to him, he took another draught of the 'poison,' and delivered himself as follows—

"'Why lads, this is a serious business ye are sought my counsel upon, the mon who does sae, will nae doot suffer—sae if ye tak my advice ye will leave him to fa' into ither hands, but if ye are bent upo' the thing, the only counsel I can gie, is to cast lots, and the mon upon whom the lot sall fa', let him watch for the coming of the auld fellow to the outside o' the moat.'"

"'The latter proposal was agreed to—lots were cast, and the lot fell upon Corporal Rooney,—now Rooney was a married man, and had two children,—he accordingly prepared to load his piece, when Murphy interceded with a spirit worthy of a better cause;

* A beverage made from the bark of a certain tree, and sweetened with sugar, which, when bottled, emitted a quantity of froth.—Bottles of spirits with a little of this froth on the top, were often clandestinely introduced into the garrison.

for, however, the major might have been disliked—his life was in the hands of God! nor could any thing excuse the dereliction of duty in these men, not to speak of the awful crime of murder which they had so deliberately planned, and which one of their body, was now preparing to execute.

"'Corplur,' said Murphy, 'I can't let you do this, we all know the consequences of such an act, the man that shoots ould Daley, 'ill hang as round as a hoop; you have a wife, and a couple o' children to keen afther you, whom this deed will lave to be thrown on the wide world, 'ithout any one to purtect them—and as I have divel resave the wan at all—at all, to lave afther me but mesel', I'll watch for the ould fellow;—I am for senthry at three o'clock in the mornin'. Daley 'ill be comin' back about four, and niver fare but I'll give him his dose, an' no wan need be the wiser that you had any hand in id whatsomiver.'"

"Rooney insisted, Murphy was equally obstinate, the arguments of the latter, backed by the other two, were at length successful, and Paddy loaded his musket.

"Two hours passed in every species of irregularity, the liquor was all drank, and all were pretty tipsy—the index of Rooney's watch drew rapidly to the fatal hour, and Murphy was planted on sentry.

"An hour had elapsed, and the voices of the Major and Adjutant were heard, together with the trampling of horses. Murphy, who had been smoking, now shook the ashes from his pipe, and putting it into his chako, demanded the usual question—'who comes there?'"

"'A friend, let down the bridge,' was the reply.

"The corporal of the guard proceeded to lower the draw-bridge, yet either through the effect of the liquor he had drank, or, a nervousness occasioned by the anticipation of the crime about to be committed, some moments elapsed before the ponderous machine fell; the Major observing this, let fly a volley of oaths and imprecations, and concluded by swearing that he 'would bring the corporal before a Court-Martial in the morning, for neglect of duty.'—Scarce had he said those words, when the portals of the bridge being lowered, the Major entered on horse-back, followed by the Adjutant, and as he gained the centre of the draw-bridge, the voice of Paddy was heard exclaiming—

"'A-then by your lave, Major, acushla, I'm thinkin' that its few more corplurs er min aither, that you'll punish no more!'"

"'Corporal,' roared Daley, 'take off that