

DERMOT—Yes, they are poorly clad, but their lack in that respect will not take the strength from their arms, the patriotism from their hearts, nor will it dampen the noble courage which inspires them to give their lives for Ireland and freedom !

O'G.—All nonsense, all nonsense ! The rabble will but give the King's troops a little practice. Mow them down ! Cut them to pieces ! Drive them from the face of the land ! But, enough of this : I called you here this morning for a double purpose, the first part of which I have already unfolded to you. And now for the second, which is this : to-morrow I leave here to join the army of the King, and—listen well,—you will accompany me.

DERMOT—For what purpose, father !

O'G.—For the purpose of entering the ranks of the army under the banner of King William !

DERMOT—*(Rising)*. What ! I join the ranks of the enemies of my country ! Father, this is a ghastly joke !

O'G.—You will find yourself face to face with a ghastly reality, if you refuse to obey me !

DERMOT—Then I refuse to obey ! Obedience to your parental authority has ever been to me a sacred thing, but this demand,—this interference with my rightful liberty,—this command to steep my hands in the blood of my gallant countrymen shall not be obeyed !

O'G.—Do you know the alternative ?

DERMOT—I know that I will incur your anger ; that you will attempt to force me to obey, but although you may command my body, you cannot fetter my soul !

O'G.—No, perhaps I cannot break your stubborn will, but I can, and if you still refuse to obey me, I shall hand you over to the authorities to be shot as a rebel !

DERMOT—You would not do that !

O'G.—Ah, you grow pale ! You shrink at my threat ! You tremble with fear !

DERMOT—Yes, I tremble, but not with fear of dying for love of my country, but at the terrible thought that my father,—that Roger O'Gorman, should stoop to utter such a threat to his own son, and in such a cause !

O'G.—You still refuse ?

DERMOT—Yes, and will never alter my decision. Listen to me for I too, have something to tell. A few days ago I performed an action which I know will lead me in the path of honor and duty—duty to my fellow-man.

O'G.—What do you mean ?

DERMOT—That I have already taken a step similar to that which you contemplate taking to-morrow.