

as if to shut out some dreadful vision, but only for a moment. Rising to his feet and producing the spray of elder that he had plucked at the church gable, he told them as coherently as he could of the way in which he had executed his task. They might, he concluded, find additional evidence of the truth of his statement on the mane of the horse that had so splendidly served him in the greatest crisis of his life. Curiosity rather than doubt prompted them to make the examination suggested.

Going out to the courtyard, the guests saw three or four men intently looking at some object on the ground. Drawing nearer they beheld in the light of a lantern held by one of the men a spectacle which only too clearly corroborated what Kelly had told them. On the main drive of the courtyard, de Burgh's favorite horse was lying dead, a black streak, as of slime, staining the white mane where the spectral hand had grasped it. The lord of the manor had won his wager, but had lost the pride of the hunting field, the noble "garrawn bawn."

When the storm had abated, and

dawn permitted an investigation of the scene of the combat, a few of the more sceptical of the castle guests set out to discover, if possible, some trace of Kelly's fallen antagonist. But after a careful examination of the locality, the only mark found was a dark streak on the surface of a pool by the roadside, similar to that which they had seen on the mane of the dead horse. Yet for the people of the neighborhood ever afterwards, the most convincing proof of Kelly's daring deed was the disappearance of the dread spirit of the ruins. Since that memorable night, as the chronicle solemnly avers, she has never been seen.

As for her brave vanquisher, his fame to this day survives. His unique achievement; the tradition of loyalty to duty he strengthened; his vindication of the national character when he thought it assailed, won for him a distinction that still lingers in the land. To a comparatively recent date, at all events, an heir of his, direct or collateral, occupied the same fee simple holding presented by de Burgh to his devoted foster brother as a tribute to courage and fidelity.

