

OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET.
TUESDAY EVENG. MAY 10, 1868.

Larry Geoghegan ;
OR,
A DRIVE WITH A DUBLIN CARMAN.

"But how did it happen, Mr. Gagan?" said we, our pronunciation caught from our interlocutor, "If you have no objection to inform us?"

"The neither shame nor sorrow I feel to tell a respectable gentleman like yourself how it happened; it was nearly thirty years ago, and I'm a happier man this day than poor Father Fox who repented; besides, I'm to the fore but he's gone."

"Tell us all about it, Larry."

"Why, you see, sir, when I got to be fifteen I met my Norah at the wake of Biddy McKee's husband's mother's cousin, twice removed—and the blue eyes of her, deep dark-blue, like a frosty night without a moon, and their roguish twinkle out of one corner behind a heavy long lash, with the sweet, sweet mouth of her, and her crimson cheek, made me mad with love for her. In course I was very young and she was younger still. I was at school working Gough and Minsuration; and she, the darling, was at her sampler, and learning how to knit stockings and make shirts; so that we could not get married yet awhile. But we broke a ring ever it, and Norah Conlan and Larry Geoghegan swore on the pathway of Paradise that we would be one, and I sealed that oath upon her lips you may be sure with a smack that would sound from Cork to Kerry and back again. Well, your honour, as ill-luck would have it, the Conlans and Dunns had had blood atween them—the Conlans of Dublin and the Dunns of Kildare. Now my mother was a Dunn, and I myself was brought up in my uncle's, near Leas, for eight years, and after that in my father's house in Dublin, and Norah lived in Stoy-Batter. So when the friends on both sides found we were sweet upon each other, they fretted about it entirely, and wouldn't hear of it no how. They said they'd sooner see her dead than married to a Dunn, and my people said they'd sooner see me 'listed for a sojer than thru away upon a trapesing Conlan. It would have been prime sport to hear how they would blagarding one another, only that they almost broke poor Norah's heart. They druv me all as one as mad. They rise all sorts of stories about her, and they told me that she spoke lightly of me, and of all my breed, seed and generation; and that she was sure there was a bad drop in me of the Dunn blood, although she had been partial to me wanst—Och! yer honour, but that was the unkindest cut of all, for she owned that she loved me wanst, and that was like saying she loved me no longer."

"Well with the one thing and the other, they got me to give her up, and study for the priesthood. So I got a chutor and studied Latin and Euclid, but some march. Great I got, and they didn't ask it (but it was late to begin after I was sixteen); and I stuck to it, and in five years I was able to enter Mayneuth—Dinny Fox, an old schoolfellow and neighbour's son, interested at the same time and a gay fellow he war. We used often, before that, to drown our sorrows in wine—that is, whisky—mine arising from blighted love, but his from his drouthy nature. You see your honour, some men are of a sandy nature, they drink up every haet about them and seem niver a fardin' better nor worse; and that was just like Dinny."

"The first Crissymas holidays that come, I went home dressed in my best suit, and quite genteel after being six months at college; and what could I do but visit Norah? The friends on both sides, as I said, was not friendly, but I tuk no heed of that, for I heered the girl was poorly; and besides I wanted to show off to the proud Conlans how genteel I was in black superfine from tip to toe. Ain't I a born beauty? said the crow when it stuck itself with paycock's feathers, and I sed the same when I went in my broadcloth to Norah's. How do you do, Miss Conlan?" said I, with a distant and airy-storatic air, "I have just called to pay my respects, and to ax about your health."

"Now my heart reproached me when I saw her cheek quite pale-like, that used to be as rosy as the summer's morn, and to see how meek and quite (quiet) she looked out of those once roguish and wicked eyes; but still I kept up as stout as Samson, and didn't let on to feel a bit unasy."

"Don't call me 'Miss Conlan,' said she, 'dear Larry, but call me Norah, as you used to do long ago; call me your own vounreen Norah again, or my heart will break. It's almost broke already,' said she, and burst into tears, and flung herself into my arms."

"Arrah, your honor, it was then I felt how hard it was to be a priest, as she pressed me close to her buzzom, and smothered me with kisses, and cried and laughed in a breath. Her mother came in, and more than that, I saw and saw much, but said nothing, except shaking hands with me all round—mighty kind entirely, which I tuk to be a good sign. They made me stay for dinner, and the father and brothers was chertical over the so-called glass afterwards, and my heart warmed towards them, and dear Norah blushed in the old way again, and they were all delighted to see her cheeks with the bloom in them, and her eyes once more bright. And so they married us over night to save the darling's life; and now that I am the father of twelve childer I can wish the girls to be no better than my own decent Norah, nor happier than their father has been ever since. In course I was rusty cated, and more than that, I in my wore a soutane, that is a student's gown, yer honor, from that day to this."

"I'm glad, Larry, it has turned out so well, after all, for many persons marry in haste, and repent at leisure. How did your friend Fox incur the displeasure of the authorities?"

"That's easy told, if your honor has patience to listen. Dinny, sir, the Reverend Dionysius afterwards, was a great crony of mine, and had grown up together like two young pyttaytes or kittens, and we had a mighty liking for one another. Well, your honor, signs be on, when they gev him credit for wonderful devotion to the Virgin, I knew the sayret, that he joined it with devotion to something stronger than holy water. Ye see how it was, yer honor. He had a cane or shillelah—a decent bit of an alpeen as ever flourished in the hands of a Tipperary thrasher, and it was partly scooped out and made hollow. The top of it went about a good half pint, and many half pint of the genuine native—the rare Innishowen—found its way into it. After the vesper bell, we two would go out into the grounds, or himself alone, and proceeding to the farthest western point, we—that is, he—would gaze upon the approaching night, leaning with his lips upon the hollow stick. His devotion to this vesper worship was long and exemplary, and Dinny was looked upon as a pattern to the pious, for his evening adoration of the Virgin. Whenever any one came near him in his walk, he was always muttering—'Virgo pusauna—ora pro nobis.' Well, your honor, Dinny grew in the odour of sanctity cither less careful, or else his devotion became so strong that it overpowered weak nature, for on one occasion he remained standing in the grounds long after every one had retired, and the sun had gone down; and Dinny was required within for his studies. One of the dancs (dancs) went out for him, and found him standing, wrapt in devotion, the eyes fixed, and the lips muttering. To every address of the danc he made no reply, but continued deaf, inflexible, absorbed in mtered worship, lost to all earthly things in h evenly meditations. But the dew was fallin g, and study was waiting, and the danc's punch was growing cold in the professor's retortory, which he had just mixed but was obliged to leave in order to bring in ma bocha i; so that his Very Reverence grew impatient, and with that he touched my friend's elbow—when down he fell like a bullock that was shot, or a deck of cards on a three legged stool. Och, your honor, this the sayret came out, for his breath was mighty bad with the 'acqua vita', and no thing could insinise him into a knowledge of his situation; but every now and then he repeated his byms to the Virgin, showing the devout bint of his soul amidst all. 'Virgo intempera, he would say while he lay upon his back: 'O spotless Virgin, my serene met, have mercy upon me! O Re gina Caeli, ora pro nobis—O Queen of heaven, pray for us; for sure you're the darling one of other of the saints.'"

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