

Providence. I never saw a man so crushed like."

"Ay, I'm no saying bnt what this may be true, but it doesna explain your reason for calling me Jeames."

"I eall ye Tammas as a rule, when it's necessary to mention your name. Ye canna deny that."

"Tell me how I'm Jeames to the gentry."

"I wasna to disgrace mysel' to them, was I?"

"Whaur's the disgrace in Tammas?"

"Ye maun see, Tammas Haggart, dull as ye are, that it was a trying position for me to be in. When I left Balribbie the leddies thocht I was to marry Jeames Pitbladdo; did they no?"

"I daursay."

"And I had told them Jeames was complete daft about me; and so he was, for he ealled his very porridge spoon after me, a thing you never did."

"Did I ever pretend to you I had these poetical ways?"

"I wouldna have believed it, though you did. But was ever mortal woman left in sich a predicament because of a superstition?"