

both very much obliged to you. However, all responsibility must in justice rest with me, who am so soon to be blest with the title you have assumed. I am that lady's husband," turning to the same man; "at least, that intend to be."

"Pray, madam, will you be kind enough to inform me which of these gentlemen who are laying claim to the honour of possessing you is in reality your husband?"

"That is my husband," at length exclaimed the sobbing lady, holding her handkerchief closely pressed to her face with one hand while she pointed to me with the other.

"Good Heaven! madam,—how, when, where, what do you mean?" exclaimed O'Flaherty, excited beyond every thing I had ever previously witnessed.

"She is quite right, Sir Brien; that lady is indeed my wife; and not forty-eight hours have elapsed since we pledged our faith to each other at the altar."

"Then, sir, without further preamble," pursued the man who had hitherto spoken, "as you acknowledge yourself to be her husband, I arrest you for her debts."

"Debts! What debts, fellow?" I exclaimed. "You must be mistaken in the person altogether. This lady, sir, is a woman of large fortune."

"I am glad to hear it for your sake," returned the man with imperturbable gravity; "meanwhile, however, until we have more satisfactory proof of this fact than the mere assertion of the lady, you must excuse us if we lay your person under contribution."

"Mrs. M'Lofty,—Mrs. Morris I mean, can you explain the secret of this affair? For my part, I am perfectly lost in astonishment. But what are these fellows about?"

"Acting under my instructions," returned the man. "That carriage which, but for my timely notice of this lady's departure, would in a few hours have been beyond all reach, has not yet been paid for, and I am now seizing it under the direction of my employer."

"So ho!" exclaimed the baronet, recovering somewhat from the stupid surprise into which this scene had thrown him, "this way blows the wind, then! God bless you, my dear Morris, I wish you well out of this scrape, but this