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THE RETURN OF CLANEBOY. (From Blackwood's Magazine.)

'Alas, alas!' cried Lady Gyle, as the harper raised his bands from the still vibrating chords, it was by listening to the lays of such tempters that all the unfortunates of my house have been beguiled; and yet I cannot hear the complaint of oppression, or the longing for liberty, without

dreaming myself of the free hill side and of the merry men at call; of royal and state authority, of gallant hunting and festivals, of embassies and high councils, and sylvan courts and camps, and all the pomp of arms and royalty.' Her looks kindled as she spoke, and while her eyes sparkled with the fire of ambition, and her brow expanded a smile of conscious dignity spread triumphantly over her features. Although the mother of Honora, whose age might have been eighteen, Lady Gyle was still a fair and noble-looking woman, and as she sat between the dim-seen figures of the Knight and Erenach, there was something startlingly bright in the sudden flashing of her eyes, and revealment of her neck and arm from the falling cloak, for she had stretched out her hand as if to grasp an imaginary sceptre. But wo is me!' she exclaimed, relapsing into a deeper dejection from her temporary excitement, why do I talk of freedom or honor while chains are on the limbs of Richard and Hubert, and the clay of the church-yard upon Walter's breast?" She burst into tears, and Honora went over to her, and taking her hand sat down by her side, heartily sympothising in her sorrow, yet glad to escape the embarrassment of again meeting the eyes of O'Neill; for while the harper had been singing, she could not help twice owning their appeals at those passages of the song which applied so closely to their own situation, that neither could restrain a glance at the other .-O'Neill a fisher and hunter, wore his long and bright hair plaited in a band, or coolun, while on his upper lip the cromneal, or moustache, had already gathered its browner defiance of the statute, although he seemed a little older than

application might be marred by that deficiency, it would have been difficult for either to have 'Thou wilt learn to-night to sleep upon a bed of rushes, lady, said he, rising to retire with natural politeness, when he saw the grief of her mother, ' and to pillow thy head upon a soldier's

the fair being by his side; the cloak which he had thrown off was the probibited mantle, and

the language he used was every syllable prescrib-

ed. In short, there wanted nothing to make the

song perfectly appropriate to him and to Honora

'Ah !' she replied, ' what would we not have given for such a bed on the night when O Moore burned Dumase, and drove us forth with our cousins of Mortiner to seek a shelter it, the forest ? round, methicks we need hardly envy Lady UIster in her castle of stone.

She looked down blushing, for O'Neill's eye seemed to say, 'Come, and fire always with me

in such a home. But Mandevill and the Erenach were already withdrawing, and without venturing to meet her the rivulets which were trickling down the sides of water? the mountain, scarce seen in the bottoms of their deep channels. Even the little river was clearing its dimished waters between its banks; and save for the pools that still remained in the hollows adjacent, and here and there a red scar where the land had been swept by a more impetuous sweep of the stream, the face of the open slope between the mountain and the woods looked as bright and cheerful in the sunrise as if it had been visited by nothing heavier than the dews of summer. But across the lower country, that was partially rerealed through the end of the valley, there was a ghttering of the sunbeams on a sheet of water like a lake, where the spent floods of all the surrounding hills had exhausted themselves. The that had escaped wove a green sinning veil over of the nearer tent come to their door and looked down the mountain below, they could hardly bethe descending storm the might before.-And in the eyes of each other, as great an increase of fresh beauty seemed to have been host, although the evening image that some had

for proceeding on thir journey. With the gallantry of the times, the Prince advanced and kissed the cheek of each, but as he withdrew his lips from the scarcely impressed ¿down of Honora's, a burning blush suffused her brow and neck, and was answered by as deep a crimson as his own. Again the Lady Gyle and the Erenack fixed their eyes upon the pair, and exchanged looks of intelligence; but the churchman did not seem to contemplate the chances of their mutual admiration being matured into a serious attachment with the same complacency as the fond mother, who already in imagination beheld her daughter's brow encircled with the asion of an Irish princess; for, whatever power of negotiation might have been deputed to the legate of the exiled government, the disposal of the Prince's hand in marriage, or the sanction of his own disposal of it, had not been instructed. He had ripened the disaffection of the lady and her kinsman, so that they were only withheld from the casting of their allegiance by the almost hopeless chance of obtaining a pardon for their relatives, and in their defection he had secured that of the numerous and powerful families of which they were, next to Earl William, the heads; but be forsaw that the accession of even such strength would be ungrateful, if coupled with a connection disapproved of by the haughty house of O'Neill. Nevertheless he could not refuse the invitation pressed on him and the Prince, to accompany the stranger party to the common place of destination; and accordingly unwilling as he was, he found himelf, after the morning meal by the side of the elder lady, while the Prince and Honora rode behind, deeply engaged in constant conversation. They had twice sunk out of sight of Slemish, while crossing the broad valleys that lay upon their route, and had risen again into view of it when the blue hills of down became visible over the last ridge of hill between them and the the coast. The sun was still far from the mid arch of the sky, as they at length beheld the broad arm of the sea that lay beneath. A fresh breeze had curled the offing into a dark rough blue, while the shoal water on either side of the lough lay in stripes of pale green and purple, shifting as the shadow of the clouds swept rapidly across; the summer sun and the dewy air showed but that they should be lovers; and how long its everything in the fresh clearness of the morning; and sails at sea, and castles and houses on shore, while their magnificent amphitheatre of hills and woods, cornfields and pastures, burst ali at once upon the astonished O'Neill. The first object mantle of the kern, and, like the savages, comthat fixed his eyes was the great square keep of Carrickfergus, where it stood out from the glittering belt of the sunlight on the water. Bawn of Tara, what a tower! he exclaimed

fair gossip, is it all of stone?

Stone to the foot of the flag-staff, Sir Tanist, replied Honora; 'and all these lesser toowers But in such a pavilion as this, she added, looking before the gate, with their red-tiled roofs and fautastic parapets, are eastles of stone also. Alas I have not been within these walls since I was a those who were sometimes honest men, seeing child, but I well remember their solid strength, and the giddy terror to look down from their battlements.'

And these ships, truly they are floating castles-sailed they across all that wilderness of eyes again, he also retired to the farther tent, waters? he said half unconsciously: and then where, wrapping themselves in their mantles, smiling at his own simplicity, prevented a reply they all three lay down side by side with their by again questioning- And tell me, lady, whose men. With the return of day comparatively few are those courts and turrets between us and the traces of the storm were visible around the en- great castle where I see some of the roofs bright campment on Slemish. The torrents had shrunk to red, like the others, and some as blue as the sea for bounties numberless, and mad in impotent

> Cross, where we will lodge thee to-night in a other example to ourselves. Nevertheless, I chamber roofed with slate, and floored with polished oak. The Prior is my mother's kinsman, and we use his house as our own.?

They continued to converse, Honora explaining all the novelties of the scene until they arrived at the Priory. Here they found a spacious range of apartments prepared for their reception, for the building was at that time the most extensive religious house in the north. Lidy Gyle had scarce allowed time for the common greetings to the Prior, ere she laid before him a catalogue of her grievances, and unrolled the numerous petitions and memorials for their redress, that young haves of the woods again rustled crisply sine had procured on her journey. 'And now, in the wind, and even where a tree had been torn | worthy Richard, she said, 'take thy staff and up or a branch broken down, the waving boughs let us to the castle, for I have made a vow that I will never eat nor sleep till I have told Earl the half seen calaimity; so that when the minates William as much as I have now told thee .--Come, for I see his grooms parading his horses at the gate, as if he intended a journey. Come here it the same scene they had beheld under thou also, good father, she added to the Ere-

' Alas !' said he, 'my advocacy would but increase their guilt in his eyes; yet I will wrap unparted to the Lady Honora and her young one of the brotherhood's clocks around me, and go down in your train, that I may see and hear left upon the others memory had seemed fair be- this youthful governor, of whose wisdom fame youd addition of the heauty in numberless dreams has been so loud: for I also will soon have difficult matter to deal in with him.

morning salutations to their guests, along with and having pulled the cowl over his face so as to the Prior, and slowly and sorrowfully returned execution directed to William as Constable of ley.

Mandeville, who had already prepared the horses complete his disguise, followed the lady and her companion to the Castle. They passed the portcudis and barbican, and in the middle of the square met Earl William, armed at all points, and equipped for a journey, descending from the keep, Lady Gyle advanced—he started in amazement, but held out his hand to welcome her, No, William-no,' she said; 'I will not touch the hand that cast chains upon a dear brother!

'Noble kinswoman,' said William, 'thou art wearied from thy journey; let me lead thee to my Countess, who will see to thy refreshment and lodging here in our castle.'

'Oh, William, William!' she exclaimed, 'I can hardly look at the walls you ask me to enter. Was it not in the dungeon of that keep that Walter lay in your fetters, winter winds piercing him through the open gates above, and the chill damps turning his bed to rottenness beneath, till death came at last and set him free? And do you ask me to share your hospitality within them? No!-Under your roof I cannot go, Earl; but here, in the open light of day, I will tell you, and I call the heaven and earth, before whose face you have done this injustice, to witness, that my bothers have been belied by traitors, betrayed and foully wronged by you, and others your accomplices. Look at these names,' she cried, unrolling a voluminous parchment, 'pious churchmen or noble gentlemen all; look at this enrolled flower of your Pale, and read their declaration.' She put the writing into his hands, and stood pointing to every clause as he gave it a careful and calm perusal.

'Noble Gyle,' he said, when he had read it,

There is both truth and reason here. My

cousins have done much good service in trying times; but, alas! so did Fitz-Thomas and the Lacys, before they fell away from their allegiance; and so do many now, who, if not deterred by constant example, would also turn their arms from honorable service to traitorous rebellion.— For, day and night, the subtle Irishman ceases not to instigate us all to the kingdom's ruin and our own disgrace; and nothing save the stern exercise of the law by men rigorous to inflict, and patient to endure, can longer withold us from total disaffection. Our nobles have been so long left to their own wild wills, using the authority of kings and judges, each in his castle; and our gentry and yeomanry have, by their feuds, been so accustomed to turbulence and bloodshed, that they have long since began to hold our English pound with Brehen for the blood they have shed than retain the decent habits, names, and rasponsibility of civil subjects. It is known to all how the kingdom has, by these means, been reduced to the extremity of misery-how no man's life, these ten years back, has been safe outside the walls of his castle-how burning and pillage have frightened the husbandman from his fields, and the artisags from his factory, while many of nothing for them but to be driven up and down before the outlaws, have either fled beyond sea. or desperately joined their persecutors. And now when at length by the enforcement of the laws, and the exertions of the Council, peace is again beginning to let the earth yield its increase and just government is once more extending its protection to all within the Pale, behold these their duty, their bond of past services, ungrateful ambition, have given another triumph to the bar-'That,' said Henora, 'is the Printy of Holy | barian, and, I fear me much, must soon give anwill make no delay in laying these applications before the Council; for I am but a servant—a Cryle was now in tears, and it was a strange sight to see her spirit so subdued hefore the youthful severity of her kinsman, for William, though high in trust and reputation, was but one-andtwenty,- Dear lady, feel for me also. Tarry to-day with my Countess; or if thou canst not enter our doors, let me commend thee to the care of the goed Prior till my return, and I am summoned thus hastily, as thou seest, to quell another deadly dispute and insurrection of White and Savage, in the Ardhs. And, Prior, there has come an embassy from Irishry to Holy Cross. Entertain them honorably and freely at my charge till this tumuit is settled. I would I could wait to treat with them, for I have heard of some designs whereof I would fain show them meet him; he delivered a breathless message, wearied temples." the vanity; but thou knowest that a rising of and the Knight returned to where his relative, 'Alas! Prince,' replied Honora, 'canst thou ... the Savage brooks no delay.'

He sprang upon his horse, and with the long attendant treop, wheeled out of the arched gateway, then struck along the beach towards the distant fords at the mouth of the Lagan. Lady

the Earl's spech, none, however, had departed with more confused and disappointed feelings than Loughlin Phelim. His designs on William, whatever they might have been, were apparently rendered quite abortive, for he thenceforth seemed to dread a conference; and so far did their disarrangement operate on his future conduct in other respects, that he did not afterwards evince offers, lady? any wish to check the attachment of O'Neill and Honora. Thoughtful as he had been before, he low as hardly to he heard even in the calm of the now became doubly so-spent much of his time sultry air- Are you sure that you can make in prayer, and seemed like a man that had staked, good what you have offered? or was about to stake, everything on the issue of some desperate chance. That day, and the next, and the next, passed in constant expectation of William's return; but messenger after messenger brought daily news of unexpected difficulties and farther delays; and day after day the Erenach regretted not having sent on yesterday for instructions from Tyrone, till at length, by Sunday, a messenger arrived with the positive assurance that the Earl would be at Carrickfer- | pact.' gus in time for next morning's matins. The Erenach no sooner received this intelligence, than he departed in haste to the encampment on the in what they had undertaken. On the road near Slemish, and by noon the green tents had disappeared; and St. Patrick's well flowed in a solitude as unbroken as on the eye of their erection. But on the hill-top, and on all the eminences of told that Honora and her companion were togewestern aspect from thence to Devis, there had ther in the glen. All tures immediately disarisen piles of turf and fagots before sunset : and mounted and proceeded up the ravine in search close beside, scarcely distinguishable from what- of them. Let us now return to the party menever cover the long gross or heather might afford, tioned as taking their way over Shevatrue. had couched down a kern, with a slow fire of peat by his side. Meanwhile, at the Priory, al- and ere they had reached the waterfall, they though Lady Gyle still kept her chamber in ex- were accompanied by but one attendant. As cessive grief, Sir Robert Mandeville had pro- they rode on, the banks became so precipitous, vided all gayeties for the entertainment of O'- that, fearful of trusting their horses on the inse-Neill. There had been huntings and hawkings cure footing, they were obliged to hold their in the morning, games and dances at night; and course for the greater part along the exposed the Prince, delighted with everything, would sunny head of the hill. The languid form of have been completely happy, bad not her duty Henora as she bent to each step of her palfrey kent Honora almost constantly with her mother. on the rude and uneven road, betrayed her ex-But on the Saturday morning there issued from haustion. O'Neill cast his eyes wistfully upon the Priory gates a cavalcade, at the head of the river, where it appeared glancing between which appeared the Lady Gyle herself, accom- the tree tops, clear and cool helow. panied by the Knight, her kinsman, while amid Lady, said he, fif thou wouldst but trust the waving of plumes and glittering of gay habits thyself to my guidance down this bank of forze different parties, drawn asunder by the diverse the Priory? course taken by their hawks and hounds. The chase was now over, and the hunters were stras- | gloved hand through the almost impalpable air as gling home in groups of twos and threes. Some had descended the southern side of the Knockagh, or Hill of the White Thorn, and were wonding their way along the strand at its base, where the sea-breeze came fresh and conf from the chiing tide; others having climbed the shoulder of rous to his attendant. 'See,' said he, 'here is Shevatrue, were harrying to screen themselves burn; while a third party, having taken the scows more closely. Sweet lady, let me aid among the steep and hazelly banks of the Woodnorthern route, were descending from the commons by Lough Mouene.

ment seemed preparing to withdraw from the painful. conference, when a horseman was seen coming ' Liow pleasant,' said he, how cool and gratetrembling from excitement, flushed and indig- arms and battle?' nant; while the irritated legate biting his has . Ah, sweet lady, said he, the lovelier the

He drew on a frier's gown above his dress, pressed upon her forehead, then took the arm of A messenger is at the Castle with writs for the her presence like a burst of sunshine in the val-

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to the Priory. Of all the standers-by during Norburgh. He came by Armagh and Kilutain and so missed the Earl, else they were now no better than dead men.2

'May Heaven pity me ! exclaimed the miserable lady, and became deadly pale.

'So sure as William comes home to-night he will sign and seal their death warrant," said Loughlin Phelimy. What say you now to my

' Are you sure,' said Lady Gyle, in a voice so

'I pledge my life to you,' replied the Erenach, 'that I will fulfill all that I have pro-

'Then,' said Gyle, slowly, while she raised her face that was as white as ashes, 'Lagree ---Sir Robert thou will stand by us?

"To the last drop of my blood," replied the Knight; and now let us hasten to find the Prince, and conclude the first part of our com-

They put their horses in motion towards the town at a rapid pace, as if they dreaded to pause Woodburne, they met a groom leading two horses which those they were in search of had ridden at the hunt, and inquiring of him were

Among them had been Honora and O'Neill.

and housings, might be seen the young frishman, and hazel, I would place thee safe on youder beside his eminently graceful and lovely friend. broad stone beneath the rowan tree, where the They crossed the hills that lie behind the town, coolness of the shadows and the breath of the and pursued their game till the middle of the af- running water will soon refresh ther. Meanternoon; but long ere then they had broken into time this greem shall lead or horses on before us

. In truth, replied Honora, moving her unshe snoke, 'I would give my merlin's best crimson jesses and varrals of silver to dip but my lingers' ends in that dampling pool.

O'Neill leaped from his borse, and gave the a path by which I can lead thee to its very brook; the bank is here less steep, and the trees you down, for I also am sighing to change this hery sky for the coolness of the shadows;' and he did sigh deeply as he assisted her to dismount, There is scarce a more dreary and ominous and led her, supported on his arm, down the nool on all the face of Ireland than this-dark, steep pathway from stem to stem and rock to deep, level with its bare margin, its monotonous cock, till they gained at length the deep and aspect unbroken by the shadow of anything save istony channel of the river. Against the broad the clouds, at a preternatural height above the borng he had pointed out, the stream took a sweep, my unhappy kmsmen, forgetful of their birth, neighboring sea, and the subject of traditions ob- rising in an unbroken swell almost to its surface scure and fearful, it now lay, even under the sun at one side, a sliding off at the other in a gurgof June, and in the midst of the country's sum- ling gash that melted and dimpled far into a gramer pride, a dismat and melancholy blot upon the velly pool below. Honora sank, panting, on the bosom of the mountain. The party who had sent of stone, and dipped her hands over its edge chosen this forbidden route accorded well with till the water bubbled up round her winte and its aspect: they were the Lady Gyle and her polished wrists. She looked at her small fingers kinsman, with the Evenach, who had jamed them has they twinkled through the glancing eddy, for servant of others, older and more powerful; and as if by appointment; for they had early sepa- she tell an even deeper glow upon her cheeks as they command, so must I, at peril of life, if rated from the rest of their party, and without and forehead since she had descended from the need be, execute. Dear lady, he continued, for partaking in any of the pleasures of the chase, sanahine into these silent and unseen depths of had been riding up and down in the way towards the give. O'Neill stretched lumself along the Slemish, till met by him a little time before - back at her feet, and, laying aside his cap, laved . They rode slowly along the banks of the lake, the flashing water over his neck and brows, and engaged in earnest consultation; the Erenach they also glowed with a purple light under its apparently urging something very repugnant on fluent er stal; he then unded the scart by which the lady; for they frequently stopped, while her his bugin was slung, and for a morrent sunk his gestures betrayed excessive motion, and her color have in its folds. When he raised his head, he went and came like the shadows sweeping over met the dark lambent eyes of Honora bent upon the water before them. They had already tra- han with an interest that their sudden aversion versed the whole circuit of the little lough, and | could not conce it. There was mutual embarthe Erenach, with a face of angry disappoint- passment till he broke the silence now become

at full gallop over the bare table ground between ful this water is to my brows. The cold steel them and the town. Mandeville rode out to of a humbet run were not more refreshing to my

with her face averted from the Erenach, sat here, in this peaceful and lovely gien, think of

and breathing hard, played with his reins and land the more we mourn its loss, and long for its dagger, (for he was now armed) and scowled recovery. The lovelier the daughters of the Gyle stood for a minute after he was gone, with askance at the unoffending water.

Stranger, he added, the more we long to win her eyes fixed on the ground, and her hand 'Ill news, sister,' cried Sir Robert. them also, each with her hills and castles, and