

the condemned man to walk between the priest and himself and thus proceed to the scaffold, which stood at the eastern extremity of the town. Thus they ascended a flight of stairs by which they gained the street. Here supported by a strong military escort, they were about to advance, when they were stopped by the relatives of the culprit who surrounded the Mayor imploring him to spare the life of his son. The crowd stretching far before them, now loud in their outcries for mercy, now threatening their chief magistrate with instant death if he persisted in his course, made further progress impossible. The soldiers themselves, it is said moved by the pathetic spectacle, became unwilling to perform the duties of escort and suffered the populace to continue their humane, though illegal, opposition.

It is considered probable that the Mayor was not unprepared for this contingency or the rescue that would, when entreaty had failed, have been attempted. Seeing that progress through that excited and menacing mass of humanity was impracticable, he led his son back to the building they had just quitted, and, before the crowd could divine his intention, had mounted by a winding stair to an arched and opened window overlooking the

thronged street. Using the rope with which his unfortunate prisoner had been bound, he made a noose which he passed over the young man's head and to an iron bar, projecting from the wall outside, attached the other end of the fatal halter. Then in sight and hearing of the horrified spectators he addressed his son for the last time: "You have but a few moments to live, my child; employ them in prayer—take the final embrace of your unhappy father."

The onlooking multitude, rendered powerless by the rapidity with which the Mayor's terrible stragem was about to be executed, saw the parting embrace and then the sudden launch into the air above their heads of the murderer of Gomez!

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Retaining his station at the window, the chief magistrate of Galway confronted the populace. Regardless of applause or censure, seeking only the approval of his conscience, fearless as he was just, their threats did not dismay him.

But the faces upon which he now looked had undergone instant and complete transformation. Rage, menace, even horror had changed to speechless amazement. The greatness of his act had awed them!

