

(c) Maintain the supremacy of British Law—that Romish Canon Law shall not interfere with the authority and administration of the laws of the Empire—that Romish Ecclesiastics, Monasteries, and Nunneries, shall be subject to the same:

(d) Maintain those Principles which placed Her Majesty's Ancestors on the Throne of these Realms—the Constitution of 1688.

A MIDNIGHT RIDE IN '98.

PART II.

I found myself tramping on foot through a wild mountainous district, within half an hour after the occurrence described at the close of my last chapter. I was surrounded by the party who had so abruptly arrested my progress—the leader, who was styled by his companions Tom Hackett, being mounted on my mare, and maintaining a rigid silence. With the exception of occasional remarks upon the state of the roads, and the genealogy and worldly wealth of the farmers on the road along which they were marching, little was said by any of them. Immediately after my ignominious overthrow, my pockets had been rifled of their contents and, amongst other things, of letters from my father to Mr. Gilbert, in which the conduct and character of the rebels were commented upon in no very favourable terms. This discovery, though I was unable at that time to perceive its importance in relation to my own prospects, was anything but agreeable, as it led to my being set down as a spy and deceiver, and liable to all the consequences which such a character entails upon him who is found bearing it in a time of war. That weary night stamped itself too truly on my memory ever to be forgotten. I think we must have tramped on at least twenty miles along rough mountain roads, stormy and precipitous, my thin town boots torn, my feet blistered and bleeding, my bones aching with fatigue. Once or twice we stopped at cabins on the way-side; the inmates were rudely roused, and compelled to furnish us with any food which they had at command, and this, with copious draughts of whiskey and water partially supported my faltering strength. When the sun began to peep above the horizon, I was blindfolded, and after another hour's march, the bandage was taken off, and I found myself at the door of a long, low-lying thatched farmhouse, with a hugh yard, containing a heap of manure of almost equal size in front. Three or four men were sleeping upon stone benches by the wall, and raising themselves up at the noise made by the opening of the door, lay down again to snore, upon the leader of our party exclaiming, "Fair an' aisy goes far in a day."

Upon entering I was detained a moment in the walled-off passage which as in most Irish farmhouses shields the fire from the draught of the door, whilst one of my captors went forward into the room. I could hear a conversation carried on for a few minutes in a low tone, and then in a loud, stern order—

"Bring him in."

"Yis giniral," was the reply: and rounding the corner I found myself face to face with the famous "General" Holt, or, as he was better known, "Giniral Hoult."

He glanced carelessly at me for a moment, and then drew aside his coat tails, and stood with his back to the fire. I was struck upon the instant by the tremendous energy in his lips, and the sharp, piercing glance of his grey eye. He was not above the middle height but the exquisite symmetry of his limbs, displayed fully by tight-fitting buckskin breeches and top-boots, the breadth of his chest, and the lofty and commanding air with which his head was perched upon his shoulders, gave him all the dignity which one generally connects with six feet and a half. A green coat and epaulettes, a cocked hat and feather, and a heavy broadsword, made up the sum of his equipments. A small table with writing materials stood in the corner of the room. A few muskets and pikes were piled on a table near the lower end of the room, and on the stairs, chairs, and a settle, some dozen men were lounging wearily.

"What's your name?" said he, after eyeing me sternly for a few moments I gave it.

"Where d'ye come from?"

"Dublin."

"An' where wor you going to?"

"To Mr. Gilbert's."

"An' who wrote this letter?" pointing to my despatches, which lay open on his table.

"My father."

"Well," striking the table, "you'll never carry any more letters for him nor any one else, and mayther will ould Gilbert save anny. Ye'll die the death of a traitor this very evenin'. Take him away." I was forthwith dragged away, and confined in a sort of garret on the first or only floor of which the house could boast, except the ground one. The heat as the sun rose and shone fiercely on the roof was stifling. After several hours of painful anxiety, and horrid misgivings, my breakfast was brought me by a young woman, very fat, and very ruddy, but anything but handsome. She was coarse and deeply pockmarked,—but there was a kindly beam in her eye which made my spirits rise for the moment. There was no guard on my room except the locking of the door, but I was effectually secured from the fact that there was no window, save a small one through which I could hardly drag my leg. I ventured to open up a conversation with her whilst she was placing my meal, consisting of mutton chops, a little too much done, upon the top of a chest, which, with a bed, formed the only furniture of the room. "Don't be east down, alyanna bawn," said she, using a freedom which my extreme youth made excusable; "but bore a hole in the thatch and run along the roof 'o the house, and ye'll find your little horse tied to a tree at the far end of the grove, at sunsit this evenin'. The road to Grana Hall is straight up the hill, and ride for your life, for the boys is goin' to burn it over the ould masher's head this very night. Don't make a noise, an' ye'll be all safe. Sure they're drinkin' an' carousin' below like wild b-astes."

She ran out, and locked the door without giving me time for an answer. Towards afternoon, however, instead of thinking of making my escape, I was in momentary expectation to be dragged forth to execution, but by the sounds of merriment proceeding from the kitchen, I concluded I had been forgotten, and instantly roused myself. After breaking through the dry sod called the "scraw," which is immediately over the rafters, it was no difficult matter, though a very dirty job, to get out through the thick coating of rotten thatch which formed the roof. I dropped into the grove, found the Lyanna attached to a tree about the place mentioned, and holding my breath while I mounted, galloped away for my life. Towards the evening I rode up to the door of Grana Hall, and dismounting in hot haste, told my story. Old Mr. Gilbert instantly set about making preparations for his defence. Old fire-arms were routed out and furnished, the furniture piled up in back-rooms, the beds heaped up close to the windows

ready to be used as bulwarks. The servants were all called in, and such of the tenantry as were supposed to be still untainted by revolutionary principles; a cow was killed and salted, and every other measure which prudence or experience could suggest, was taken to prepare for a long siege. The ladies were placed in the cellar, with carpet, a bed, a table, and a few chairs, and some refreshments. All this was done before nine o'clock, and then for the first time I had a few minutes' leisure for rest and conversation. The Misses Gilbert were dreadfully alarmed, their father was blustering and blowing like a porpoise, and the retainers some a little pale at the thought of a fight in earnest, and others panting for the fray. The house was a large square building covered on all sides from the roof to the ground with slates. A grove of trees at the end was felled to prevent its affording shelter to the besiegers, and all the doors were firmly barricaded.

But it was evident that if we were attacked by a strong force and that they possessed any ordinary amount of bravery and perseverance, it was impossible that we could hold out, considering the state of our defences. We came to a resolution, which I am now surprised we did not think of sooner, and that was to dispatch a special messenger to Hackettstown for assistance from the garrison. He mounted and rode off, and we watched him from the window riding down the avenue to the road. He had not reached the gate, when we heard the sharp crack of a musket, and saw him fall heavily from his horse. In a moment afterwards the rebels were seen advancing along the lawn in a dense column and at a rapid rate.

We all ran instantly to our posts, and had no sooner done so than a shower of bullets rattling on the slates told us that our only hope now lay in our own courage. Upon coming up within musket shot the besiegers cattered themselves behind the hedge-rows, ditches, out-offices, and haystack, those who had guns firing as often as they could reload, those who had not "doing" the yelling an exclamation for the others. The scene now became really awful; to any one not engaged in the conflict it would have been splendid. To a day of unclouded splendour had succeeded a night of murky darkness. The clouds lay on the sky in heavy black masses, or moved lazily before a breeze rising with a low murmuring sound; and through this gloom the flash of every musket, in those days of flint locks, was seen with the distinctness of a watchfire. Ever and anon, as our party yelled out, "Croppy, lie down!" "Orange lie down!" came back with ragged loudness from behind the walls and trees. We had divided ourselves into parties for each room, the best shots taking their places in the windows, and the others loading. The marksmen sheltered themselves behind a pile of bedding, and strictly reserved their fire until there was a tolerable certainty of hitting—a precaution rendered absolutely necessary in consequence of our limited supply of ammunition. Despite our care, however, it was not long before two of our best men were struck down by the deadly skill of the Shilmalcer marksmen, who abounded in the ranks of the rebels, and whose long guns, used in shooting the wild ducks in the marshes on the Wexford coast, carried certain death at one thousand yards.

The firing went on for two or three hours, and at the last that of the besiegers totally ceased; but I believe the pause was more dreadful to us than the fury of the engagement. The darkness, the silence, the uncertainty, the fear of a *coup de main*, and the distinctly heard groans of the wounded men from the adjoining room had each something terribly disheartening. The cause was soon made apparent by the approach of two parties at a swinging trot, each carrying a ladder covered with long plank to protect them from our fire. They succeeded in planting them against two windows, and a great number began to mount, every man, to our great surprise, having a pillow in front of him, which he pushed up to shelter him as he ascended. This device, however, proved futile, as we picked off the pillows with the point of a long pike as soon as they got near the top, and then shot their bearers.

It was just midnight, and the rain was beginning to descend in fearful torrents, when we discovered that we had only six rounds a man of powder and ball remaining. Old Mr. Gilbert began to lose heart, and offered twenty pounds to any man who would ride to Hackettstown and bring on a troop of dragoons to our assistance; and, if he fell, to provide for his family, or any one who was dependant on him. There was a general pause. None liked to run so fearful a risk as running the fire of an unseen enemy scattered all over the fields for half a mile round, and doubtless in great force along the whole line of road. Whether it was infatuation, or foolhardiness, or want of sleep, that made me volunteer to undertake this duty, I have never been able to tell; all I know is that it was not really devoted courage.

The horses had been brought into the kitchen, and were there standing in a profusion of straw. The Lyanna had been well rubbed down, and from what I knew of her mettle I felt assured she was again ready for the road. In the excitement of the moment I hurried off, and in a few minutes she was saddled, led out into the yard, and I mounted. I took a hurried leave of the old gentleman, the gates were suddenly opened, and out I dashed. The yells and execrations that met my ear when I issued on the lawn and the moonlight fell on me through the drizzling rain, sounded like my death knell; and throwing myself forward on the mare's neck, I galloped for dear life. I had nearly reached the gate, and was congratulating myself upon my escape, when a dozen men started up like ghosts, shut the gates, and closed to receive me on their bayonets. Luckily there was still room for presence of mind; and suddenly turning aside I galloped for a few strides across the green sward, and clearing the wall at a bound, fell out upon the road. I rose with the blood streaming from my head, scrambled on Lyanna's back, and away we went once more, the bullets flying pretty thickly, but gradually decreasing, until a stray shot, fired at random from a Shilmalcer gun, was the only evidence of the close proximity of an enemy. But on coming round a sweep of the road which brought me in the rear of the hall, the noise of the firing came directly up the glen, and I could still hear the faint cheer of the besieged, which was almost the only thing they could now send back to the crashing volleys which rained upon the house, and which entering at the open windows struck the plaster off the walls and ceilings in crumbling masses.

I tied a handkerchief round my head, which stopped the bleeding from the cut received in my fall, and galloped on. I suddenly heard the sound of a horse's footsteps behind me. I put the Lyanna to the top of her speed, but still my pursuer seemed to gain on me, and, at last, when he seemed to be within pistol-shot, he roared, in a hoarse voice, "Ride aisy, I tell ye; ain't I ye're mare down the hill, and take the ditch at the cross roads, or ye'll go right into Darby Kelly's old house, and be spitted afore ye know where ye are. Pull aisy, I say!"

Thus adjured I did "pull aisy," and was very soon joined by the speaker—a thin, tall, but wiry man of about forty five, mounted upon an equally gaunt, high-shouldered, rough-going horse, one of those old Irish hunters, which for courage and endurance particularly in crossing a rough country, have perhaps never been surpassed. He told me that he feared I might go astray, and fall into the hands of some of the roving bands of brigands which had now overspread the country, and had therefore broken cover soon after my departure and followed me.

The moon soon broke out in splendour, and we crossed the ditch at the turning at full speed, and struck out boldly through the meadow below, taking every fence and hedge as if following the hounds in broad noonday. At the foot of the hill we plunged into the river with a splash and dash which roused the cattle in the adjacent fields from their midnight slumbers, and sent them cantering wildly about in every direction. After two miles we once more reached the road, and in an hour thundered along the silent streets of Hackettstown; and, after answering the sentinel's challenge, we were admitted in presence of my old friend Captain Hudson. He hastily donned his uniform, the trumpet sounded the *reville*, and in fifteen minutes we were once more on the road, going at the top of our speed towards Grana Hall. When we reached it, the Lyanna was well nigh spent; the out-fices were in flames, and a heap of burning straw at the hall door had already sent the flames up the staircase and through the dining-room. We charged up the lawn with loud hurrahs, the rebels slowly retired—the terrible Shilmalers knocking many a fine fellow out of his saddle as they retreated, and, rushing into the house, we soon extinguished the fire, and put all to rights. The troops remained till morning, and then a company was left on permanent. I went to bed and slept soundly, and in the morning I received the hearty thanks and congratulations of father and daughters. Before the end of the summer one of them was my wife.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE LOYAL ORANGE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued.)

75. The Provincial Grand Secretary and Treasurer, shall prepare a list of the names of the Officers that may have been received, with the office they hold in the Association, and the number of the Lodge to which the Officer belongs, and also a statement of the Lodges in their province, marking opposite to the number of each Lodge, arrears or not, as the case may be, which statement shall be laid before the Committee on credentials at the annual meeting. (See G. L. Rept. 1869, page 25, line 37.)

76. Any vacancy in the Office of Provincial Grand Master, during the currency of his Office, by death or any other cause, shall be filled by the succession of the senior Provincial Deputy Grand Masters thereto.

77. No Provincial Grand Lodge shall be held unless there are at least twelve Companions of the Royal Scarlet Order present.

78. Meetings of Provincial Grand Lodges shall be presided over by the Provincial Grand Master, or a Deputy Provincial Grand Master; if neither of them be present, the senior Officer present shall preside, and, while so presiding, shall have all the powers of the Provincial Grand Master.

79. Every Provincial Grand Lodge shall have, within its Province, all the powers, rights and authorities of the Grand Lodge, but in subordination to the Grand Lodge; and there shall be an appeal to the Grand Lodge from the Provincial Grand Lodge, and on such appeal the decision of the Grand Lodge shall be final and conclusive.

80. Provincial Grand Treasurers, when elected, shall furnish two sureties in five hundred dollars each, and be bound himself in one thousand dollars; and shall, as often as once in three months, remit to the Grand Treasurer of the M. W. Grand Lodge, all moneys (as Grand Lodge dues) in his hands constitutionally belonging to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, together with a statement of what Lodges paid the money, and any Treasurer neglecting or refusing to comply with this Rule may (on complaint) be suspended by the Grand Master, or the Grand Master may take such other action as he may think necessary.

81. It shall be the duty of each Provincial Grand Secretary to transmit annually to the Grand Secretary of M. W. Grand Lodge, within two months after the Annual Meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodges, a Report in writing, stating the names of the Provincial Grand Officers County Masters and District Masters for the current year within the jurisdiction of his Provincial Grand Lodge, and the Post Office address of each, together with a list of the suspensions and expulsions; and showing the next place of meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge.

82. No member of any Grand Lodge, to whatever office appointed, can be allowed to take his seat, or to act in any capacity under such appointment, without having first paid all dues required by the Regulations, and received the five Orders of the Association. Nor shall any member be eligible to be elected to any Grand Office unless he has at the same time received the five Degrees, and is in good standing in his Lodge.

83. The duties and powers of the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodges shall be the same as those of the M. W. Grand Lodges within their jurisdiction.

84. The M. W. Grand Lodge shall be entitled to receive from each Provincial Grand Lodge one dollar annually for each working Private Lodge under its jurisdiction, and the M. W. Grand Lodge of British America shall be at the expense of all printing, except Reports of Provincial Grand Lodges; and Private Lodges which pay all dues regularly, shall have three copies of all Rituals, and two of the Constitution, these to be renewed once in three years if demanded.

85. Each Lodge shall be furnished by the Provincial Grand Secretary through the County and District Masters, with copies of all forms of Returns, at the expense of the M. W. Grand Lodge, and failing to make such Return after having received said forms, shall pay a fine of one dollar into the District Lodge fund, and shall not receive the Annual until this Regulation be complied with.

COUNTY LODGES.

86. Members of County Lodges must have at least the Orange, Purple, Blue and Royal Arch Purple Degrees.

87. County Lodges shall be composed of County Officers, District Officers, Masters, Deputy Masters, Chaplains, Secretaries, Treasurers, and senior Committeemen of Private Lodges, Past County Masters and. (See G. L. Rept. 1869, page 24, line 1.) last Past Masters of District and Private Lodges, being members in good standing in Private Lodges within the County. The District Master that has not made his returns shall not be allowed to vote in the County Lodge. (See Grand Lodge Rept. 1869, p. 25, line 28.)

88. Any member of the County Lodge failing to attend when summoned, and not assigning any good reason for non-attendance, may be admonished or fined, at the discretion of the Lodge.

89. At the Annual Meeting, the members shall attend without notice, and shall elect for the ensuing year:—

A County Master.
A County Deputy Master.
A County Chaplain.
A County Secretary.
A County Treasurer, and
A County Director of Ceremonies, all of whom must be members of the Lodge.