

it's in Bridewell you'll find yourself for a vagrant."

"O! thin, but that's a fine word, intirely, sir—if you would not be above tacin' it to me."

Egan turned away.

"Mr. Egan," shouted the boy; "Mr. Egan, sir!" The Constable turned back. "About the little errand you sent me on: when shall I tell you?"

Egan looked utterly incredulous. Was it possible that the boy had gone and come that distance in two hours? He did not like to speak to him either outside or inside the barrack, though it was dark—so he simply pointed up the road. The boy understood perfectly. He went up the road, and, when he was out of sight, he waited quietly for Egan. The man went into the house, partly because he did not wish to be seen following Jack, and partly to get a dark-lantern to examine the purchase, if it had been made. It was made. The famous Jack had secured a stray horse, which had the misfortune to be grazing by the roadside, and as the boy always made it a rule never to use his legs if he could get any other mode of conveyance he had mounted the animal, *sans* saddle or bridle, and rode until quite close to Kingstown. His purchase made, with his usual luck he discovered the horse grazing in a field where he had left it, in the conjecture, and, as the event proved, well founded assurance, that it was too dark for any man to distinguish one beast from another, or to send it to pound.

He then loitered about the barrack a good half hour, but, true to his trust, he had made no effort even to ascertain if Egan had returned.

"I'm thinking that's the article your honor'll be looking after," said the boy, as soon as they were completely hidden from any possibility of observation,—and he produced the article from its repository.

A shove of one shoulder, and a slip of the other released him from the small amount of upper garments he wore, and round his waist, next a skin not immaculately clean, the comforter was wound, as he graphically expressed it, "illegant and aisy."

A rapid glance showed the constable that he had got what he wanted. The next move was to get rid of the boy

quietly. More easily wished than accomplished: for the lad had an investigating turn of mind, and even as Egan handed him the new shilling, with all his eagerness to possess it, and his joy at having such a sum of money in his possession for the first time, he asked, with a grin that showed he meant to have an answer if he could, "Ah, thin, Mr. Egan, sir, maybe you'd tell poor Jack why you're so anxious about the neck ornament, for I know it's not for nothing I've got this," and he flourished his shilling in the air.

"If you don't hold your——" Egan began; but he suddenly remembered he might want the boy to give evidence the next day, and that it would be desirable to secure him in some manner for the occasion. It is true, his evidence would not be of much interest, and his character was not one to give it much value. But Egan was thoroughly alive to the importance of manifesting his own skill in the affair; and the more evidence he could bring forward, the more would be thought of his efforts to promote the proper administration of justice. He remained silent so long that Jack began to get alarmed, as far as it was in him to be alarmed at anything. He had some awe of the Head Constable, and an unlimited idea of his powers. He was just on the point of taking to his heels, his well-tryed resource in all emergencies, when Egan spoke:

"Now, then, Jack," he said briskly, "how would you like a bit of gold to put with the bit of silver?" He turned the light of the lamp full on the boy, and the expression of his countenance left no doubt whatsoever as to his feelings on the subject. "Because," continued Egan, perfectly satisfied now, "if you will keep your tongue quiet, and do just what I tell you from this till this time to-morrow, you shall have that!" and he showed him a new half-sovereign.

Jack flung three double somersaults on the spot, and went so close to Egan at the last performance that he adroitly knocked the lantern out of his hands with his foot, and caught it again before it reached the ground. The boy would have been a fortune to an acrobatic troupe.

(To be continued.)