SHAWN NA SOGGARTH;

THE PRIEST-HUNTER.

AN IRISH TALE OF THE PENAL TIMES.

BY M. ARCHDEACON, ESQ., Author of the Legends of Connought," &c. CHAPTER EXX.

The rage of Sir John, on hearing of the notorious priest-hunter's death, and the manner of it, was beyond all bounds. He traversed the castle like an infuriated tiger ravening for blood. swore he would hang, draw and quarter the slayer, without judge or jury, if he remained on Irish ground, and adjured the bones of Black Dick to evidence his vow that, he would now in earnest. exterminate priests and popery. He despatched before him any person or persons whom they think you? taight take into their heads to suspect of concealing the friar, or of being cognizant, either his flight.

"Yes, by the heavens! he exclaimed, with savage energy, after he had despatched the party, "I will either have the murderer and his abetters, or I will hunt the bloody-minded paupers of that district from the soil-aye, route them bag and baggage, and leave vermin the only tenants of their levelled cabins. But, maybe that wily old fox could assist me to lay hands on the perpetrator of the deed, as he knows the locality so well'-the baronet alluded to Ffolliot, the tather, who still remained in the town, and whom he saw at the moment at some distance.

Accordingly, Ffolliot was summoned to the castle, and speedily made his appearance there.

"Well, Ffolliot,' said Sir John, " as you were saying the other day, the times are beginning to he really terrible in this lawless region of ours. I suppose you heard of the murder of Mullowny.

"Yes, Sir John:—a most active, zealous, loyal man he was. But I, Sir John, have reason not to be surprised at any outrage, however violent or murderous, that occurs, after the attack on Ffolliot's Grove, and the murder of my dear | designate him) quailed not to them. -dear-I cannot get out the word, and you will excuse my weakness, Sir John--'

of your brother now? It was of another-

"Yes, Sir John; it was of honest John you were talking-an efficient and trustworthy servant he was; and I don't wonder at all at the murder; and to be perpetrated so close to lads from their nests too soon."

"But, can you aid use in getting the perpetrator within my grasp?

iffolliot was thinking of a studied reply that show the difficulty of coming at the perpetrator; which difficulty would, however, be likely to be overcome by his exertions and ingenuity, when he was cut short by the loud voice of the pedlar, in rhyming argument with the porter.

"I tell you, sir, I've wares to-day, Your master would not send away."

Johnny was chaunting with emphasis, when Sir John himself, enraged by the interruption, rushed into the hall, asking fiercely, "what scoundrel dared to make such disturbance?"

"Why, Sir John, it's only yer honor's poor servant. Chean Johnny, that thought some intelligence might be the wares your honor would fancy most this turn. But, if you're too much the care of the porter till his return, pushed off promise his greyhound-like form seemed to give. engaged now, I can go away; and maybe, after with the party. all, now that he's dead, your honor cares as little carrion.

"Ha, knave! then you know something respecting his murder. Come in, and no secrecy; what he promises.'

'tis only Ffolliot.' After having deposited his wares with the porter, the pedlar followed into the study; but, moment, on finding himself face to face with the | till the return of the party.' dreaded Sir John. Compunction or regret for passage to another world.

He recovered hunself, however, instantiy, and, magnificent. after having affected some hesitation about imin high altercation on the road, as he himself one of the number. was resting behind a hedge, and that it was some cotters the attorney had on a farm a tew miles I could give your heart some comfort. from the town that had pursued the priest-hunt-

with the friar, had aided in murdering him.

CATHOLIC

The baronet, compressing lip and brow, fastened a fierce and earnest gaze on the informant, as if he would have looked through him. But the pedlar blenched not before it; and the baronet said, musingly, " Baker-Baker-it's not possible; and yet the fellow's bold and positive assertion-you were here, Ffolliot, the day me into a 'uge 'eap of troubles for her sake.' Baker and the murdered man were in this room together.

"Yes, Sir John."

"And the priest-hunter was saucy and illmannered to the attorney; they were on bad terms altogether, eh?'

"They were, Sir John.'
"And, though Baker was speaking favorably of him to me, a couple of nights before the mur-der, that might be but policy, if he knew of misa large party to ransack the neighborhood where chief being intended for him. Attorneys are trouble she's cost me, we may settle it all yet, the deed had been done, with directions to drag very keen and ingenious—eli, Ffolliot, what and you'll be a conferrin a favor wot Bill 'Eavi-

Now, Ffolliot, though he really gave so credence to the tale, had no objection whatever to of his place of concealment or the direction of let suspicion rest, as long as it might, on his friend the attorcey; and he rejoined slowly, and as if deliberately, "Why, Sir John, 'tis hard to credit such an accusation against our respectable neighbor, Mr. Baker, and coming, too, from not the, and see the blooming rosebud herself. But the most respectable authority—you'll pardon meet ye will most certainly, this evening; and 11 hope he aint given us the slip. me, my honest man. Yet, we are all frail, and it is not all of us that can control our passions reach 'the furze.' once much roused: besides, that revenge is a passion that hears away the wisest of us. But, after all, even should this honest man's account be true, it may be that rash and violent dependants of Mr. Baker carried his wishes-or what they might have mistakenly supposed to be his wishes—into effect, without his knowledge or consent at all; and—'

"Mr. Pedlar,' interrupted Sic John, 'if you are giving us true and accurate information, you shall never carry a pack again; but if, on the the cabin where the murderers are; and, when I other hand, you are knowingly and wilfully misleading us, by the bones of Black Dick, you shall dangle from the topmost branch in front of you before to-morrow's sun sets, eh!'

The baronet's eye and tone told that he was earnest. Still Johnny (so we shall continue to

"Excuse the devil, sir. Who was thinking ten o'clock-and before noon I'll have two of from the view of either of the ambushed parties, nearly half a mile distant. articles about them that Shawn had in his pock- nearly at right angles to that he had been takwill allow me to have my own way, and go quiet- no fictitious murderers, but Fergus Cormick, his your being terribly enraged at the daringness of ly about the business, so as not to frighten the father, Nancy Loughnan with her children, and

So impressed was Sir John with the apparent | ed in the attack on Ffolliot's Grove. openness and fearlessness of this statement and offer, that he ordered at once the desired party, breathlessly, and addressing a slight youth, whose and directed that Johnny should be allowed to appearance gave promise of much activity, 'run should express his own zeal for anything Sir take whatever steps he thought best, unless it as fast as your legs can carry you to the old mill, John took an interest in; and, at the same time, should appear that he was misleading them, in and there give three blasts (reaching him the which case they were to bring him back as a prisoner, or shoot him without ceremony, should town in the other direction, as the troopers are he attempt to fig from them.

" Now, Sir John,' said the cool and self-nossessed pedlar, " if you will also order a few men to be placed at the Clondurragh weir, for fear the villains should be started too soon and try to behind the village of Drimcloon, where you'll escape that way, my head for it we have them find us, or you can wait for us if you're first back to you before two hours."

reward. But beware of the other alternativelook up there,' Sir John pointed to the top of point of Kilglass,' the tree he had before alluded to.

Johnny smiled, and, commending his pack to

"That's a hold fellow; I've been eyeing him about Shawn as about any other worthless closely those few minutes past,' observed Ffolliot, as the party marched away. 'There's no day to be the messenger of the gods, Mercury fluctung about him, and he's likely to perform himself; and, as for planning, suprens Ulysses-

you the principal will soon follow them. But as Ned. I have troubled you so early, Ffolliot, you will "But is the coast clear, Johnny? asked Ver- er-in-chiel, wot 'ad the gumption to do Sir John your errand, and have the intelligence coaveyed on entering, he faltered and turned pale for a stay breakfast in the castle, and remain with me gus-

Ffolliot made no objection-in fact, an invita-

plicating the attorney, he stated that he had the side of troop serjeant-major Heavisides, who, for everday before the last, overheard Baker and Shawn though not the leader of the present party, made

er's track, and, coming up during his struggle sides, who knew the pedlar by sight and by the youngest, where his pack was wont to be ertion tempering down his tone and manner to speech.

"Why, what would you think of meeting your little runaway rosebud, your 'hangel, pretty Bessy Andrews, after all?

"Muster Johnny, you must not be agoin' to 'umbug people that ere way. That gal deserted me like as one wot 'ad no 'eart, after bringing

The serieant-major looked cautiously round, to ascertain if any of the party were listening to or observing him; but they seemed to be all otherwise employed; and, leaning over the chest-

nut's side, he whispered to Johnny:
"Through that gal I 'a been a scolded and wrongfully confined, and yet I'll not disguise that she 'as my eart still; and, Muster Johnny, as you aint no 'ighflyer, but a man of sense, if you'll bring me to a meeting with the gal, after all the sides can never forget-not by no means, d-n me if I shall.'

"Say no more; the matter's settled, and ye shall meet to-night."

"But we're, Musther Johany? remember my hanxiety.'

"We'll settle that when I return to the casnow you'll attend to my instructions when we

Heavisides nodded assent, and squeezed the pedlar's fingers with his gloved hand.

Speedily after, they reached the spot called the furze, from the exuberant growth of the blossomed furze unprofitable gay' thereabouts.

"Now,' said Johnny, "let half the party lie hid here behind the furze; and do you, serjeant Heavisides, with the other half, come as far as the bushes over the bend of the stream; I will then proceed alone, for fear of alarming them, to sound this whistle, both parties will come in a gallon to where the sound comes from.

The leader of the party, according to his instructions, acceded to those arrangements; and the pedlar, having placed Heavisides and his division beneath the shade of the bushes, pushed on cautiously for a few yards, in a direction op-"Sir John,' he said, 'to show a'm telling but posite to that he intended to pursue; then wadin's said Heavisides, doubtingly, as he pointed to the truth; let a party go with me now—it's but ing the river, where a small eminence shut it out the nearest house in sight, but which was still the murderers in custody, and with some of the the flew at his utmost speed, and in a direction et when he was killed; that is, if the troopers ling before, to a cabin in which were assembled three or four of the party who had been wound-

"Tony,' he said, as he entered the cahin half whistle) then run for your life till you reach the the humble beds, flung about the rude utensils, Baker, as your information and ready wit may whistle will gallop towards the sound. From pose; no additional occupants could be discothe town you can proceed at your lessure, as you're neither known nor suspected, to the cave The Swallow will put out to-day, but there. "Then, in that case, you can name your own Captain Frank will send a boat back for us all, ed. But the well-disposed Heavisides swore the curate, who had just entered to consult the to-night, if we don't get one ourselves, to the energetically that he would bring to court-mar- attorney in regard to some arrears of tithes, re-

The youth set forward, to perform his portion of the plan, at a speed that did not belie the barbarity.

"And now, Johnny asthore, how did you manage it all, at all? asked two or three voices. party, after resting for a few minutes, set for- as we know your zeal to exteriminate popery; in the vernacular, the wise Ulysses' himself crations on Johnny's head, and others laughing rascals may have friends in the town, who, if "Then, if we secure the agents, I swear to couldn't hould a candle for you, observed old at his ingenuity.

" We havn't time, For prose or rhyme,

having witnessed and, in some degree, advised tion of any kind from Sir John was always a just now,' said the pedlar. "By Tony's mathe slaying of the priest-hunter, he had none; - matter of pride and importance to the magis- nouvre we have nearly four miles between the and fear, in general, he was almost as much a trate—and they adjourned to beguile a portion present party and the troopers Sir John sent out stranger to, as was the gallant Nelson, when he of the two hours of suspense, in discussing hom, in the morning to ransack'-he looked at Nancy Yet, still, well might be feel some instinctive with cakes of various fashions and materials; for pass from this dangerous neighborhood at once, dhrink more primin' to his pan." misgivings, in the presence he then stood in; for, the baronet's table was always a hospitable and while we have the room. It'll be some time bedid but the baronet even suspect his aiding and an amply provided one; and the Irish style of fore the fat serjeant and the party return back feet hurricane, on his being informed of the ped-spot." abetting in the homicide, speedy would be his living among the higher ranks, at the period, this way; and, if we once reach the mountain lar's treachery. He ordered his horse forthwas, if not refined, profuse and, to some extent, without being seen, there'll be but little danger after till we get to the cave and the shore ;-Meanwhile, Johnny attached himself to the and then good night to unfortunate ould Ireland the attorney's house which, as was stated in a Dixon; the fellows shall be dispatched in the

Without more words, the parly set forward on vicinity of the town. their route for the coast, each bearing some little "Serieani-Major, whispered Johnny, I think parcel—the only portion they were taking from most improbable story, and one so terribly af- show fight—and here comes Rourke who shall

HRONICLE.

They traversed the well-known district beneath the shelter of hedges and walls, where these could be made available. They moved speedily also, though cautiously and watchfully; and, for the present, suffice it to say, reached their destination, without having attracted dangerous observation, or met with any serious ob-

Let us now, leaving them to their route, see how it fared with the deceived dragoons.

On hearing the sound of the whistle, Heavisides and his section pushed forward, at a brisk trot, in the direction the sound came from; and they were instantly followed by the other section, led by serjeant-major Broughton, the superior in command of the party, who plumed eimself on being a step above Heavisides in gentility, as they were both from the same shire, where his father was an assistant in the feeding of beeves, while the sire of Heavisides was engaged in the less aristocratic occupation of fattening swine, so that there was a frequent feeling of jealousy between the parties.

On reaching the mill, without perceiving any Johnny, or any other cabin in that direction, "Why, d -n his eyes, where is that ere feller and his cabin?" exclaimed one of the party;-

"Not by no means, I'm sure,' said Heavisides; soon find him. That man 's true as steel, I and dangle, as a warning, from the second know; at least I think.'

"I don't know, I'm sure,' said Broughton;-"but for all his winspering with you 'Eavisides, I can't help doubting the feller. But let's hexamine well, as they do at court-martial, before

we pass sentence.' The mill was now ransacked; the near eminences were climbed, and the bushes so completely laid open with the swords and pistols, that the birds flew alarmed in all directions;still no one was discoverable, and Heavisides'

confidence began to sink considerably. One of the dragoons now, applying his hand to his mouth, whistled shrilly; but there was no to the care of so neutral a party as the Datch response from the signal giver, who was, by this time, nearing the town fast.

"We must try that cabin yonder, I'm athinkin' said Heavisides, doubtingly, as he pointed to John-"

" Why, the whistle could never be 'eard from that ere cabin, but let us hexamine it, if you will, as a man wot's drownin' will catch a straw,' observed Broughton, with a sneer.

account, had gone to the town to dispose of grein | coming at some accurate information." and poultry.

vice in the cabin, drove their swords through this case; and you had better accompany us, too, broke open the only chest the cabin contained, help to insure our success,' on a false scent, and the moment they hear the and clambered to the loft. But all to no purvered.

thatch by way of frolic, as well as to show the pedlar, by the blaze, the fate that awaited him humble aid to oblige Sir John Ingram." for his treachery, when he should be apprehend-

The plot and fields bordering the house were and rapparees." now narrowly searched, but in vain; and the "Why, Johnny M'Cann, you're fit afther this ward on their return to quarters, to detail to Sir and we shall set out forthwith." John the pedlar's treachery, and their own consequent failure; some venting threats and exe-

"Wby, that feller should be made command-

as my name's Donald Frazer, and ha' auld clos- young, too, and my advice would be that you tie's pass, to gang sic a gate and get awa harm- would send the dragoons on before you, man by less, observed Sawny.
"By the powers o' Moll Kelly, I'll charge

him nothin' for this trick anyhow,' observed as possible. Let them take the Drimcloon road stated, in his boyhood, that he never saw lear. fowl and pastry, wine, brandy, ten and chocolate, and passed—' anyway,' he continued, "let us Paddy; 'an' barrin that I haven't the stuff, I'd as the least public; and direct them to march

The storm of Sir John's wrath rose to a perwith, and, taking Ffolliot with him, who would certainly have a working brain, and your present have preferred avoiding the visit, proceeded to advice may profit you hereafter. Come along former chapter, was situated in the immediate order Baker advises, and we will lunch before

could give your heart some comfort. their native land—besides which Fergus carried fecting my character, told by a rambling pack accompany us, as he can draw a sure trigger, "As 'ow, Muster Johnny? rejoined Heavi- also the eldest child in his arms, and Johnny? carrier, Sir John? asked Baker, by great ex- and because I know he would rather go on any

any semblance of respectfulness, when the baronet had detailed to him Johnny's accusation.

"To tell you the truth, Baker, the fellow's daring assurance staggered me a good deal, added to my knowledge that the priest-hunter and yourself were on but indifferent terms; and it struck me that some violent rascal in your employment might have helped to give him his coup de grace whether you wished it or not .--But Ffolliot's belief in the accusation far it's went mine.'

"O yes, Mr. Ffolliot is very easy of benef, when it answers his purpose, said the art many, bitterly; "but we may soon find an opportunit, of returning the compliment; and he giared malignantly at the magistrate.

"But, flinging aside anything concerning your self, Baker,' said Sr John, " can you throw any light on the murder, or show as any reason that ruffian's deceiving us.'

"To say the least, Sir John, you did not as t with your usual clear-sightedness in isstening to, or acting on, that daring and dangeron- fell tell information. Why, there is strong reasons suppose he was himself aiding and aberting or the murder which there can be no doubt, was princepally perpetrated by the fruit Bucke, whom we priest-hunter was pursuing to apprehend.

"And the audacity of the dating radical or venture into our presence after, out one if " let's us 'ave a sharp eye about, boys, and we'll ears with his inventions ! But he trust her ways ed out to him this morning."

"And richly he has earned such that ondoubtedly. But I fear, Sir Jami, you may e cont. mitted more blunders within the last low days than allowing yourself to be delided by subse-You have, if my information be correct, mased yourself up in the sending away from her own country a young lady that shall be nameless just now, through the interference of zealous friends, and who had themselves, of course, no interested motive for their interference" - the attorney grunned maliciously at Ffolliot. "To mend to: matter," he continued, "you have confided nor skipper, alias her cousin, Captain Frank, as tary call him, though he played the Dutchman adm ably both to you and Rourke, I understand, See

"Hell and furies," interrupted the baronet, stamping, " is it possible I have been so egregiously duped every way?"

"A fact, Sir John: but you have still time to redeem your blunders. The Sicallow (the vessel he commands) will sail to night or in the On reaching the cabin, however, the party morning from Kilglass; and if you send a party found themselves as unsuccessful as before; it's to the coast, you may still recover the girl, and only inmates being two children and their grand- apprehend the real murderers, too, I suspending mother, as the parents, according to the crone's So you see, now, Sir John, I have means of

" I will myself set out at once with the party. The irritated troopers ransacked every cre- You will come with us of course, Ffolliot, in

"A press of urgent business (the attorney pointed to a pile of papers on the table) and the duty I owe my numerous clients must be my One of the party now proposed to fire the apology. Were it otherwise, no one would ge more zealous to prove his loyalty, and lend his

" I shall gladly attend you. Sir John." and tial, at once, the man or men that should such specting which Mr. Gordon had latterly meattempt to commit such wanton and uncalled for come utterly regardless; "that is if I guess aright that your object is to apprehend idolates " We shall be glad of your attendance, Dates,

"Perhaps, Sir John," said Baker, " it would be as well not to be too precipitate. Table they see a strong party with you at their head, set out in the direction of the sea, may surmise and hensnare 'eavy guts after,' said John Bull. to the shore, by bog and mountain paths, earlier "You chief maun be the deil's bairn, as sure than even you could reach it. The day is still man, and with the interval of some minutes between each, so as to attract as little observation slowly, and halt for you at the fort this side of the bridge, which is a completely sheltered

"Your suggestion is a good one, Baker : you we follow them, as we may have some hours' "And did you so readily place credit in this hard work after, particularly if the smugglers