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SHAWN NA SOGGARTH : OR, THE PRIEST-HUNTER.

AN IRISH TALE OF THE PENAL TIMES.

BY M. ARCHDEACON, ESQ., Author of the Legends of Connaught," &c. (Concluded.)

There was no attendance at the wake beyond the drunken household, with the exception of a few aged pensants, male and female, who were induced to resort to it for the sake of the cheer, which they rightly judged would be liberally doled out. But, early in the ensuing day, Sir John. Ffolliot, and Baker met together in the Hall, each intent on his own interest. The baronet took on himself the responsibility uf opening doors and ransacking presses and drawers.

"There is no will or memorandum of any intended bequest or legacy,' he said when the search was closed, and the few papers found minutely examined; " and, as the sister of the deceased is a papist, and not in the country besides, it becomes my duty to take possession of the property and chattles for the crown, to which, under the circumstances, the entire, of course, reverts."

"I believe, Sir John, I will save you the trouble of looking after one moiety of the estate, at all events,' said Baker, with difficulty suppressing a grin, as he drew forth a copy of the deed of sale, the title deeds, a receipt for the monies handed over as part payment of the purchase money, and a copy of the securities entered into for the payment of the remainder.

"It must be all a fabrication,' exclaimed Ffolliot violently, " or else you (to Baker) got him to sign it in his drunkenness. He never had an idea of disposing of any part of the estate to you. I hold mortgages on it for six thousand pounds: and it was to me he intended to make the sale whenever he should make it, as you, yourself, Baker, must admit if you speak the truth.?

"I can attest that such was your intention at all events; and I would advise you as a friend, Mr. Ffolliot, to be a little more guarded in your language, and to recollect that you are not now in contact with the respectable female society of

Sir John's own schemes, than attempting to

thwart them. The funeral procession was almost as thin as the wake had been, being limited to the same persons that had attended the former, with the addition of Sir John, Mr. Gordon, and a few others; and, 'unwept, unhonored,' without tear possessed of much shrewdness, by yielding subor lament, the remains of the undutiful and profligate conformist were laid beside those of his ancestors, whose clay, if sentient, would have vorite with his former instructor and, afterwards distinction or partiality?

We shall now, according to what we may call about the other principal personages of our tale,

and drop the curtain. Arthur and Frank obtained commissions in the Irish Brigade, where their gallant bearing among the gallant, achieved for them both fame and rank. When the long expected annuls of that Brigade, so renowned for its heroic bravery,

makes its appearance, we have no doubt we shall find the names of both recorded as having distinguished themselves in many a hard-fought field, as well as at the celebrated battle of Fontenoy, where the English chivalry were dooined to experience one of the darkest disasters that shadows the generally victorious annals of Britam, and where the daring bravery of the two Irish officers we are treating of, was eminently conpicuous in the decisive charge.

Arthur renounced his paternal surname, and assumed that of his mother, Reilly; and it was under that name he received the hand of Ellen Lycch, the ensuing year, as she had resisted all his importunities for their union during that interval, which she spent in a convent, the prioress of which had been a very early friend of her mother's. Both of them had heard of the death of the conformist and the taking possession of the property by Sir John. But Arthur give them a relish for old Ireland altogether .-was now proceeding prosperously in his career of arms, for which he had always a partiality. He | value.' had a disrelish, too, for the locality in which his family had been so detested, and he was per-

fectly aware how slender would be his chances of success, in disputing claims with so powerful an antagonist as Sir John Ingram, even should it be still undiscovered in Ireland that he had borne | Crown a grant altogether of the late conformist's arms for a country hostile to Britain. He lived and died in the service of France; and many with other sources of discomfort also. Some

sure, now and then, he asserted his own superiority, by some disparaging allusion to by-gone times, or by damning his quondam rival's dullness and want of capacity. But this was human nature; and Dan, naturally good humored, and missively to those claims of superiority, managed in a short period, to become as great a fashrunk in horror from the pollution of his con- rival, as he had been an object of dislike to him.

We must not omit, in reference to Ned, that nor reason in it.

Johnny likewise became a follower in the army, and having the means of supplying himself purchasers, and in consequence, amassed money gradually. He still continued his rhyming propensities, and frequently, on a foreign soil, as he had before done on Irish ground, stirred up Ned's wrath, which was, however, in general, soon quenched in a jorum of wine or brandy. Ulti-

mately his savings went to aid the fortunes of Fergus and Nancy, and their growing family.

We shall now briefly allude to the personages of our tale that remained in Ireland, with apologies to the reader for having omitted to state before, that in the same vessel with Aaron Andrews and his wife, was our old acquaintance Katty Kivlin, to spend the remainder of her days with her young lady, and make the infant Ffolliots or Reilles familiar with the language and proverbs of their fatherland, 28 well as to fiv the words ov an ould colliagh was ov any

Ffolliot was fain to accept, after considerable delay, six thousand pounds-the bare amount of a midnight exploit, and suffered, in consequence, the different monies he had lent, without a single a long imprisonment-an imprisonment neither pound interest-from Sir John, who, according to his anticipations either obtained from the

estate, or purchased it at a low rate. He met

treated with patronizing kindness; though, to be of its produce, scarcely more remained at his death than covered the funeral expenses. One thousand, of the six, Arthur retransmitted

to the benevolent rector, to be distributed in charities, that the name of his family might, in after times, be remembered with blessings, as it had been hitherto named only with curses .--Need we tell the reader it was promptly, judiciously and liberally applied, without sectarian

The ebb of fortune's tide swept with it more of worldly comfort and hope from the attorney, than even from Ffolliot. The reader will realmost imperative prescription, say a few words he wrote an epithalajoinm for the wedding of his member a bitter allusion made by Baker, in our rangement of Providence. Crimes and faults are favorite 'the rosebud,' which was chokeful of early pages, to an only son of his that, after the names of heathen detties and heroes, and having nearly attained his profession, fied the outwardly. But who can say that chashsement which Johnny M'Cann said, had neither rhyme parental roof and enlisted; and the young man's was not influcted on Sir John, even here ! He conduct in the army was, it appears, in accordance with his undutiful and unwise act in eutering it. He was dissolute and insubordinate there with a varied stock, what between his skill in as he had been at home; so that punishment, selling, his ready wit and humorous habits, he and no promotion, was apportioned to him by his soon became a prime favorite among his reckless | superiors as his desert ; and, before he was a second year in the service, having struck his serleant, one day, in a fit of drunken passion, three hundred lashes were awarded to him by courtmartial.

> Smarting under the pain and disgrace of this public punishment, he deserted. He was, however, speedily captured and again punished. A second time he deserted, with the same result .---A third time, and he was branded on the back as an irreclaimable offender, and expelled the corps, with drums beating and fifes playing.

The world was now before him, and he turned his thoughts to home. Home, accordingly, he came, to torment and disgrace his griping and unloving father.

The attorney could not, of course, and would not sanction the expelled deserter; and young Baker resorted to crime and fraud for the maintenance of his evil life.

He soon connected himself with a noted band of " Minions of the Moon," was apprehended in sympathised with, nor in any manner alleviated by his father.

This utter abandonment pressed heavily on his mind; and, shortly atter his liberation, having learned that his father had just received a conin contact with the respectative tentale society of gallant officers bearing the name Reille, his de- valuable leases fell out of his hands by the death siderable sum, he with three of his companious, scendants, have since distinguished themselves in of the parties whose lives were inserted in them, entered the home of his childhood, and plunder-

suitable for him than would have been the rosebud of Ballintubber. She was as good humored as bimself; she was also careful and bustling, and made him an excellent soldier's wife, though he often declared when he had an extra glass in, and was out of ear-shot of his spouse, that he would have preferred the little rosebud after al', Sir John Ingram, the highest is rank, and one of the most prominent of our dramatis personce-what shall we say of him? He met with no striking reverses or misfortunes, such as the reader might look for as instances of poetical justice. But poetical justice is not always the arnot, on all occasions, punished in this life, at least lost his children in their infancy ; and their mather, a beautiful and high-born, but unprincipled woman, deserted him to ily to the Contin at with a profligate young scion of nobility. He retamed to the last, to be sare, his high position, notwithstanding a severe check he received, through the strong and strongly supported representations of Mr. Gordon, after Ellen's abduction ; and inwealth and influence seemed to increase with every year. Still he was alone-a dishonorad

husband and a childless father; and, though his persecution did not draw down buildin Fengeance on his head, who may tell the vengeance indicted by a troubled conscience, which

"In itself can comprehend Woe without name, or hope or end ?"

That he felt the gnawing of the worm that dieth not, no one that knows the human neart, can doubt; and it was strongly evinced on his deathbed. His latest ravings were of the priest-hunter and his victuus. Dare not, ruffian, to insinuate that I sanctioned your murdering him -an old man, too-the bloody work is all your own-foh " were the last struggling words he gave utterance to, ere consciousness had entirely deserted him, half an hour before the separation of mind and body. He left to other times the desecrated name of a ruthless and remorseless nersecutor.

The winds that flutter the rich ivy drapery, and sing their mournful dirge through ruined cloister and aisle, sweep over the bones of persecutor and persecuted, as they lie crumbing together within the abbey walls.

The deeply blood-stamed priest-hunter, who seemed, through life, to have neither loved nor feared God or man, was also interred in a little dismantled chapel adjacent to the abbey; and the ash tree which shadowed his grave was long took an extraordinary bend downwards, till it and then shot upwards, once more, to some height. It was, as may be supposed, an object well as to protect all Christian bodies from being polluted by coming in contact with the desecrated boncs beneath. It is now entirely pros-Our say is said; and if we have been enabled to present the reader with a picture of our country in her days of darkness and persecution-if we have awakened the sympathy of the generous mind, however different its religious faith, for a the ancient faith of their fathers amid temptation and peril, and proscription and death, or, if we have convinced the prejudiced that persecution but defeats its own end and aim, and that evil vain will we deem to have been penned the tale

whether the papers be genuine or not'-the attorney reached over one of the papers, with imperfectly suppressed triumph, to the baronet.

" The papers are, 1 dare say, all correct,' said Sir John glancing carelessly over them ; " but they can have no effect in altering the course I mentioned as my duty.' Baker stared at him ; and the baronet, smiling one of his grimmest smiles, " You had informed yourselt, of course, Mr. Baker, when making this purchase, that Sir Gerald Lynch obtained a general grant of his property, that it might descend to females, failing male heirs, and that he was one of the very few Connaught gentry that had the prudent foresight to have it enrolled regularly by the proper officer.'

Not, had an earthquake shaken the ground beneath him, could the attorney have looked more frightenedly bewildered, than did he now, when he found that Sir John was completely versant with the nature of the grant.

be paid at once the six thousand, for which I hold the mortgages.'

"I will be plain and brief with you both, gentlemen,' said Sir John, looking from one to the other, "particularly as I am limited in point of time, and tell you at once, that I am confident that the crown will be very reluctant to sanction repayment of monies lent at usurious interest, or a sale of so questionable a nature, where its own Brigade, and literally fought his way, through interests are at stake, and where a legitimate bloody field and deadly breach, to a sword and claimant may appear any day, should that giddy commission; so that Nancy, to whom he was perty attached to it, but they would be enabled girl take it into her head to conform."

And no further admission or encouragement could either attorney or magistrate obtain from the baronet, though the conference lasted for to, that of an officer's lady-namely, and the some minutes after, during which they argued, wile of one of the boldest and bravest soldiers complained, and entreated.

Mingled with the annoyance felt by the over- brave. reached plotter, as they rode together from the Hall, was one thought, that gave each some con- ence of Arthur and Frank, among the corps of now completely on himself, without friends and beneficially employed life. solation, namely, that his companion was unsuccessful as well as himself. This was, however, not suffered to appear in words, as they had inclinations, and in which his knowledge of acnow ascertained that their interests were not counts and facility in picking up domestic words been addicted previously, and contracted a pasclashing.

overmatch for old Nick himself; and I would bet the interest of my money that he'll manage tain of being refunded even the advanced money situation, that in the course of some time, he funded by Sir John, and which he had at once of letting it go to the crown. But are we cer-

the French service.

Frank's marriage with "the rose of Ballintubber' took place at the same time with Arthur's, and Bessy always, previously, replied laughingly to his proposals and entreaties, that it would be 'time enough to a bad market,' and the head of the family, his cousin.

A few months after her marriage, Aaron made a journey to Rotterdam to meet herself and her husband, a journey to which he was as much induced by the persuasions of Hetty Matthews (now Andrews) whom he had taken as a helpmate, after having got rid of the impertinent in- out ' one farewell to Rolla ;' taking with her, as terference of his intended son-in-law, Mr. Sa-

muel M'Nab, as to his desire to see his daughter once more. Nothing could, however, induce him to remain on the Continent ; and, after bestowing on his daughter his forgiveness and blessing, with a few hundreds in addition, he returned "But surely, Sir John,' said Ffolliot, "I will to the cottage, where he resided till his death, which took place a few years prior to that of his honest-minded helpmate, who not having been blessed with issue, had the entire of Aaron's savings through life (a round amount) with the exception of some trilling sums bequeathed to friends, conveyed to her former mistress.

Fergus, in imitation of his favorite ' masther Frank,' enrolled himself in the ranks of the married immediately on reaching the Continent. in the progress of a lew years found herself in a situation she could never have dreamt of aspiring in that chivalrous Brigade, where all were

His father, too, was placed, through the milu-

sition enlarged and improved by his improved possessor of, was the six thousand pounds re-

and Sir John, with whom he had grown com-

pletely into disfavor, refused to renew them without raising the rents exorbitantly. Ally, likewise, as she found his infatuation increased, had no reliance on her fidelity. And the event that she would certainly follow the example of proved that he was right not to have placed any faith in it; for, one night, after the termination

of one of their not unfrequent schemes, in the course of which she had exhausted her whole vocabulary of abusive terms on his head, while he, in return, threatened chastisement and expulsion. she bade adieu to Ffolliot's Grove for ever, withthe companion of her flight, Bryan Gaven, who had remained in the neighborhood since Sir Robert's death, and lightening Ffolliot of the care of money, plate, trinklets and debentures, to the amount of a couple thousand pounds. So successfully, too, did they prosecute their flight, rector. that, though the plundered man offered a large reward for the apprehension of the plunderers.

they managed to turn the plate and jewels into money, receive the amount of the debentures and reach America in security, where they scatamassing it.

Ffolliot now wrote to Arthur, entreating him earnestly to return, in which case not only would he resign to him Ffolliot's Grove and the prohis letter) to make Sir John disgorge the entire, or at least a portion of the Lynch property.

But Arthur, in his reply, returned a most decided, though respectfully couched refusal, expressing his high relish for his profession, and stating that, on no terms would he ever return to

reside in the Grove or its locality. Thrown sutlers in attendance on the army-a berth without principle, Ftolliot formed intimacy with which Ned found to be entirely congenial to his persons he had before looked down on, acquired habits of intemperance, to which he hdd never of barbarous French, derived (he himself said) sion for gambling, which had formerly been an "Well,' said Ffolliot, 'Sir John would be an from his extensive knowledge of the Latin abomination to him; so that, what with those tongue, made him in a short time, of consider- habits and some other chance reverses he met able importance among his more ignorant com- with, at his death a few years after, all that reto get the property into his own clutches, instead pations; and so much were his mind and dispo- mained to him, of the large sum he had been the

himself was the principal means of obtaining a invested in the funds. This sum he drew the quetty?' "Why, considering whose grasp is now on the estate, I wish we had even that without trouble or delay. However, I think we shall succeed so who had also been compelled by persecution to gress, parted with, as his son, from his present 'oly wedlock' to a buxome widow, who had some which rises soft, beautiful, and fragrant from the or oclay. riowever, I thus we shall succeed so who had also been composition, and there is a position, could never, of course, inherit it; and money, and whose age rendered her far more rough and thorny stock, she should come forth far at least, by rather going with the current of quit his native country, and whom he in general position, could never, of course, inherit it; and money, and whose age rendered her far more rough and thorny stock, she should come forth

ed it of money and valuables.

Well were it trusting even to that ! But, unfortunately, the watchful attorney attempted some resistance, when the profligate son of an an object of curiosity to the visitor at Ballintubshowed herself a very termagent, besides that he evil-minded parent, excited by drink and the re- ber. This tree, or rather, for the last half cencollection of his father's heartlessness during his tury, branchless and leafless trunk, after springincarceration, assaulted hun so violently that he ing upright some feet, on one side of the grave, never completely recovered from its effects, tho' he survived for many months after. For this reached the ground again on the opposite side, crime, through the vindictive feelings of the elder Baker, Adam Baker, junior, was transported for life, on the evidence of a servant ;- | of awe as well as of wonder among the peasantand the considerable property, for which the ry of the district, whose general belief was that attorney had waded, for years, through fraud its singular growth was ordained, by Providence, and chicanery, descended to a remote and dis- to mark out the grave of the priest-hunter, as liked relative.

As opposite to the closing career of the two personages of our tale just mentioned, as he was unlike them in character, was that of the worthy rector.

Time, the alleviator of all human woe, had its usual influence on him too, by gradually softening down the bitterness of his grief for the loss of his beautiful, gifted and angel-minded child, till the recollection of her became a sweet and tered the pillage while it lasted, with a zeal as soothing remembrance; and he had the gratifica- patient and long suffering people, who clung to untiring as its former owner had exercised in tion of seeing his other children growing up, if not with her beauty of person, at least endowed, to a considerable extent, with the more endearing beauties of mind similar to bers. In the progress of a few years he was promoted from laws are encouragers only to evil doers, not in the parish, to which he had been a blessing, to a between them (he expressed a firm conviction in deanery-an exaltation which enlarged the sphere of Shawn na Soggarth. of his usefulness, and enabled him to fling, more frequently, the shield of his protection over the oppressed and persecuted. As he had been honored and beloved in life, so his memory was held in reverential affection, for many a year, in the extensive and widely separated districts where he had spent the different portions of his day :---

> We shall just remark in passing, that Dixon was not appointed to the parish as he expected, on the promotion of the rector. It was bestowed on a man whose mild and tolerant spirit was more kindred to that of his benevolent predecessor-one, in fact, whose zeal in the way of persecution was (as the curate afterwards expressed it, in his bitter complaints regarding the appoint- justice, bateth sin and iniquity, and to give birth ment) but as the puny flame of a rushlight, in to the Redeemer, who was to vanquish all the comparison with the blaze of his own.

Reader, farewell.

THE END.

PASTORAL OF HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP. The following pastoral letter was read in all the churches and chapels of the diocese on Sun-

VERY REV. BRETHREN - Allow me to request of you to. exhort your faithful flocks to celebrate the approaching festival of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary with great fervour and devotion. . On that festival we commemorate her exemption from the stain of original guilt. Being destined to become the Mother of the eternal Son of God, who, in His powers of darkuess, it was meet that among the

After having got over his concern tor the loss children of Eve she should be free from the conof his little ' hangel,' Heavisides, still continuing | tagion of every sin, and be preserved from the