

them said, "for she has her grand folk after all."

"Ay," said the other, "and Tammas is no in, so she'll no need to explain how her man's so lang and thin by what he was when she exhibited him at Bahribbie."

"What do ye mean, ye limmers?" cried Haggart, stepping into sight. "I was never at Balribbie."

They slipped past him giggling, with the parting shots—

"Chirsty can tell ye what we mean," and

"And so can Jeames Pitbladdo."

Haggart probably sent his under lip over the upper one, for that was his way when troubled. He was aware that Chirsty had very nearly married Pitbladdo, but these women meant something else. Withont knowing that he was doing so, he marched straight for his house, and was half-way up the outside stair when the door opened, and two ladies, accompanied by Chirsty, came out. Haggart did not even know what they were like, though he was to become such an authority on the female face and figure. He stopped, wanting the conrage to go on and the discourtesy to turn back. So he merely stood politely in their way.