

them many of their comrades on the roadside. A loud laugh burst from Fergus as Brian galloped up and asked him where were the enemy.

"I don't know where they are," replied Fergus, "but there are some of our friends. Hurrah!"

The shout was taken up by the whole band, and by none more gaily than Dan Daily, as he saw Hugh O'Rielly and a dozen French sailors step out from a cabin that stood upon an eminence, at about a hundred yards distant, where Hugh had been besieged by the Queen's troops.

Fergus and Brian rushed to meet them, and the later dismounting, hurriedly inquired for Mabel.

"Why, there she is, man, looking at you through the window," said Hugh.

Brian turned and saw two lovely faces pressed against the window, their eyes beaming with love and thankfulness upon him. One was Mabel and the other Lucy Ogilby. In a moment he was in his sister's arms.

"We meet in a strange place and under strange circumstances, Miss Ogilby," said Brian, after being introduced to his sister's friend. "It is unfortunate that you accompanied Mabel thus far, as you can neither return home by Barnes or by the road you came. Both are blocked by the Queen's men, and in a short time we shall be compelled to leave here, and I am afraid you will be obliged to come with us to the ship. There is another circumstance distresses me, Mabel, and one which you, I know, are deeply interested in. It concerns Alice Crosby."

"What of her, Brian!" she eagerly inquired. "Hamilton told me two days ago that she was sick and confined to her room. I hope she is not worse—or—"

"Dead you would say, Mabel, I know by the sudden paleness of your cheek. But she is still alive and well, as far as mountain air and exercise can make her, but is mentally depressed. She is here."

"Here!" echoed Mabel, in astonishment.

"Yes, here, and within twenty yards of you, and breaking her heart to see you."

He then detailed to Mabel the scene

on the hillside, and her discovery at the time of her brother's death. As time was pressing, it was arranged that Dan Daily should bring Alice immediately to the cabin; and Hamilton, who accompanied Mabel, be despatched to where his horse was left and bring some bundles containing Mabel's clothing. Brian sent off Hamilton on the instant, and riding to Dan and Alice, who were in the rear, told the latter that Mabel was waiting for her in the cabin. Poor Alice blushed as she looked at her costume, and gave a pitiful glance at Brian. He understood it and assured her that in a few minutes she would be dressed in the costume becoming her sex, and that she would have plenty of time to explain all to Mabel. He rode with her to the cabin, and with a cry of joy, she rushed into the arms of Mabel.

Brian rejoined Hugh, who was listening to Fergus detailing the events of the morning, and as the latter concluded, he asked him how he came to be pursued by the soldiers.

"The facts are simple," replied Hugh. "We came up with Mabel at Crony Mountains, and, knowing that the garrison in Donegal were on the alert, we took a near cut to gain the strand, and thought we had left the soldiers on our right. But we were mistaken. As we came in sight of this cabin we suddenly saw them advancing upon us. We rushed to it for shelter, and as there were fourteen of us, twelve sailors and Hamilton and myself, we kept them at bay for about twenty minutes. You know the rest."

Hugh's astonishment was no less than Mabel's on hearing the story of Alice Crosby, and, retiring a distance from the men, they consulted long and earnestly on the plans they should pursue regarding the two girls so unexpectedly thrown upon their protection.

"But why did Miss Ogilby accompany Mabel so far, Hugh?" asked Brian.

"She only meant at starting to go a few miles and then return. But the morning was so lovely, and the hours passed away so pleasantly in chat, that Lucy had traveled half the distance before she was aware of it. She was afraid to return alone, and so rode on in hopes of meeting a guide who, for money, would conduct her home. But she met