

ing my girls from me," she said, "now that you have become rich."

"No, indeed, Mrs. Williams," said Peter and Willy together; and the latter added, "not on any account, if you still wish to keep them. It was God that put it in your heart to take them. You have been a mother to them; be so still, in God's name, and with his blessing! We couldn't place them in better hands, until such time as they're able to do for themselves. By that time I hope they'll be so well grounded in their faith, that there will be no danger of it slipping from them."

Mrs. Williams was delighted to hear this, and voluntarily renewed her promise to be a mother, as far as she could, to the interesting charge that Heaven itself had committed to her keeping.

From Mrs. Williams's the young men went to Mrs. O'Grady's, and they found that worthy woman and her family mourning around the death-bed of the husband and father. Poverty was in and around the dwelling, and amid all their sorrow for him who was about to leave them, his wife and children could scarcely wish that his life might be spared, so great were the privations they were all called upon to bear. This was no time for communicating their own good fortune, so the brothers went away without saying a word about their own affairs. Next day, however, Willy Burke, with Peter's consent (which he took care to ask, as