# THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

### 2

## LLOYD PENNANT.

A TALE OF THE WEST.

By RALPH NEVILLE, Esq.

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#### CHAPTER VIII.-CONTINUED.

"Stay a bit," he said, as Pincher led the way out, " you and governor must'nt stir 'till I get clear of the wall, else some other cove might stop me. Here goes." He flung the weight clear over the first throw, and mounted the rope with the agility of a cat.

When Colonel Blake reached the gaol next morning all was bustle and confusion, the prisoner had effected his escape-how, no one could tell : there were slight marks upon the wall, and it was supposed he had succeeded in crossing it there. The sheriff instituted 'a rigid investigation, to which the Colonel and other magistrates was invited; he seemed to be particularly irritated against the governor (who by the way was a close relation of his own, although the fact was carefully concealed). but it appeared that every possible precaution had been taken, all the officers were at their respective posts. The gaoler positively swore that he had seen the prisoner safe at ten o'clock, and his testimony was corroborated by two of the turnkeys, who saw him locking the yard door of the condemned cell after having made his inspection. A considerable time having been lost in making this inquiry, it was at length decided that a pursuit should be instantly undertaken, and the gaoler having just then informed the sheriff that a person resembling the escaped convict had been met on a road leading in exactly a contrary direction to that which Johnson had really taken, every available man was despatched thither, with positive orders to treat, and also regarding her uncle's pecuenter all houses and make a general and most careful search.

More than six months had now elapsed since the execution of the mortgage to Mr. Clipper, and the first gale of interest due was applied for on behalf of Mr. Pincher Martin, who had taken an assignment of it before the flight of the compromised attorney. Mike, being fully prepared, at once paid the money, but it became a source of uneasiness both to him and the Colonel that the incumbrance had fallen into the hands of a person from whom they could anticipate nothing but hostility and annoyance.

To add to their disquietude, Mr. Docket's bankruptcy appeared shortly after in the Theobald Frederick Blatherwell again soli-Gazette, and it was not without sad forebodings that the Colonel read Mr. Pepper's letter apprising him that Pincher had added to his claims upon the Dunseverick estates by be- | party to which he had attached himself, were coming possessor of the charge originally vested in the unfortunate banker.

For some time after the trial, Pincher Martin felt considerable uncasiness as to the con-Johnson had previously made to himself.

and escape was to prevent further publicity by tuency on patriotic principles. But here he securing the local press, in which he perfectly succeeded, and then, like a prudent man, he proceeded to take precautions against the worst that might ensue.

His marriage was by no means a happy one late themselves upon their success. The girl

be unknown to any but herself and Mike together with the efforts made to solve the mystery of her lover's disappearance, roused the dormant faculties of her mind, and brought both her reasoning powers and her judgment to maturity. The vicissitudes of her uncle's fortune

showed her that calamities might arise, when least expected, and she prepared herself to meet any which Providence in His wisdom should decree, by mentally contemplating worldly misfortunes in the most appalling forms they could assume, and learning to mitigate the consequences of their infliction by training herself so as to be always prepared meckly, but bravely, to encounter them. Thus the cultivation of her talents was sedulously attended to, and fresh acquirements, while they afforded pleasure to her friends, imparted a sense of additional independence to herself.

Colonel Blake often marvelled at the indomitable perseverance with which she mustered a language or learned an art. He little knew that those severe studies and prolonged her claims on general admiration.

Miss Bingham did not, it is true, exactly annecessity of trusting to her talents to supply | lord of the castle or his uncle had advanced her own or her uncle's personal requirements, but she reflected deeply on the instability of human greatness, and she took a pleasure in cultivating the talents with which Heaven combat still further reverses should they be sent.

The mutual confidence established between Mike and herself since the interview in the drawing-room tended to give this bent to her mind and this direction to her reflections. She communicated unreservedly her own feelings and expectations to him, and received in return information concerning the steps which were being taken to discover Pennant's reniary embarrassments, with which he, good man, supposed her to be altogether unac-

quainted. It was no wonder that a girl whose thoughts and acts were regulated by such high motives, and whose affections were guided by such rigid principles, whose disposition was so unselfish, and whose attentions were at once so delicate and so tender, should win a complete ascendency over an afflicted heart a mind bowed down by sorrow. The Colonel doted upon her as his child, and his every wish was centred in her happiness and future advance ment.

Parliament having been suddenly dissolved cited the honor of representing the county He had, however, proved a failure in the House, and the ministry, although of the perfectly indifferent to his success. He was looked upon as a self-sufficient and selfwilled person, confident of powers which he did not possess, and holding a high opinion of sequences which might arise from the threat his own importance, in which few were found so publicly made in the courthouse, as well as to concur. The active influence of Governfrom the private communications which Johnson had previously made to himself. well conceived that his most judicious course His first step after the prisoner's conviction | would be to place himself before the constiappeared ludicrously out of character.

The candidate who could then base his claims on patriotism must be a fellow able to drink all night and ready to fight in the morning; he should be generous without money his wife being anything but an amiable per- | and hospitable without means; his tongue son, and although no expense had been spared | must be ready to abuse, and his hand prompt in cultivating her mind and seeking to give to strike; he was expected to sacrifice his own her a good education, those who superin- interests for the benefit of his friends, and to tended her studies and sought to form her heap personal favors on those whose votes character had but small reason to congratu- secured him personal protection; old blood was indispensable. But although the prowas not only ill-looking (an extraordinary in- ) fession of patriotism at that period might stance of ugliness in a family remarkable for | imply but a slight share of private and a still personal beauty), but innately vulgar. She slighter share of public integrity, yet the them that she could do the fine lady, and by had low propensities, and had exhibited at a person who hoped to succeed under the ban- so doing the good woman added exceedingly very early age a predilection for strong liquors, ner must have been at least so far gifted as to the perplexities and discomfort of the even-with difficulty checked before her marriage, to conceal the rottenness of the representative ing. under the accomplishments of the gentleman. Nowadays those mitigating qualifications are dispensed with, and the purvenue patriot, unher disgraceful failing, her occasional absence | adorned as he is dishonest, may sell himself with the same facility, if not to the like advantage, as his more aristocratic predecessors sold their country. Theobald Frederick could not lay claim to even the least meritorious of those qualifications, being neither eloquent in his speech nor the ailment to her astonished husband; and to | elegant in his manners; neither hospitable the dread inspired by the revelations made to nor generous; possessing neither old blood The source from which he sprang was ignoble, and the ink which transferred to him his estate was still wet upon the parchment. He had never invited any of the county people to his house, nor obtained the "entree" to theirs, and he endeavored to pal-liate his niggardliness by the paltry excuse that he had no residence of his own, the family mansion being as yet his father's. The judge felt the full force of his son's disadvantages, and the thought struck him that they might be in some degree overcome by locating him at Castlemore during his canvass. Under his relative's roof he might claim some "locus standi," Pincher being his cousin, and his cousin's wife being the representative of an old family and a large estate in the county. The worthy judge had other motives, too. for proposing the arrangement ; it would not only facilitate his son's communication with the leaders of his party, but also save his own purse. He wished to preserve his parliamentary influence at any cost for the purpose of forwarding his own ultimate views, and he should be obliged to pay unhesitatingly, for were any lick of money apparent, inquiries might be made by Lord Heatheringfield as to how his prudent son-in-law could be crippled in his pecuniary resources, and the mystery might be solved by the discovery that the young man had privately contracted annually to refund to his father one-half of the liberal settlement ostensibly made upon him at his marriage, together with at once transferring a full moiety of Lady Olivia's ready money. Pincher Martin received the proposition with delight. He longed for the opportunity of playing the "grand seigneur," and of ex-hibiting his wealth and splendor to those whose high descent enabled them to dispense with many of the appliances so essential to the parcenu. He only desired a plausible excuse for inviting his neighbors, who looked upon him coldly, although they had paid the usual complimentary visits on his establishment amongst them, and he, moreover, considered this a felicitous opportunity for realizing another object dear to his ambition. Notwithstanding all his obsequiousness and money, he had never been able to obtain a all intercourse between the Blakes and Marfooting at Heatheringfield Manor; he heard that the Earl would come into the county to | old stock." support his son-in-law's pretensions, and see that the freeholders on his estate aeted in conformity with his wishes. Now, then, was the time to secure a visit from the haughty peer, which might lead to evidently taken too much wine, requested him an invitation for Mrs. Pincher Martin and him- to walk into the parlor, as he wished to hold self, and he resolved to lose no time in taking self-control and the value of self-reliance. At measures to insure the success of his plan. nineteen she found herself plighted and de- He wrote to young Biatherwell, stating how on the point of making some communication screted, and the desire to conceal from others a delighted and honored he should feel if Lord which he seemed afraid to hazard, but his hitter disappointment, which she believed to Heatheringfield would make Castlemore his | courage had reached the sticking point.

headquarters during his sojourn in the neigh-borhood, and enclosed an invitation for that Celonel to support Blatherwelk! nobleman, which he requested his relative to forward and enforce with all his, influence. At the some time and through the same chan-

Lady Olivia, expressing her hope that the siderin Countess and her daughters would accompany. him." the Earl. /" It would be so charming," sho wrote, "to have such a family party, and so much pleasauter for the ladies to be on the spot when the election came off, rather than at a distance, where they might be kept leng in suspense as to the result." The invitation so warmly pressed was accepted, not only by Lord Heatheringfield, but (a much more important matter) by the ladies also, and preparations on a grand scale were immediately made for their reception. Mrs. and the Misses Blatherwell (there

were two) formed a considerable addition to the family circle, and now it only remained to secure the presence of some of the neighboring, aristocracy to render success complete. Pincher felt peculiarly anxious on this point, labors were undertaken from a far higher as he wished the Heatheringfields to see that motive than that of affording gratification to | he held station amongst the recognized county those she loved, or of adding another item to families. Cards were accordingly issued for a large dinner party and forwarded to many who had never noticed the present Martin people ticipate that she should ever be reduced to the at all, but on the security of whose estates the considerable sums of money. Pincher's ideas led him to suppose that persons so situated, no matter what their private feelings might be in respect to himself, would scarcely venture had gifted her, in order more efficiently to to refuse his invitation, and amongst others so circumstanced to whom missives were despatched figured all the members of the idomestic circle at Dunseverick.

Colonel Blake declined on the score of illhealth and disinelination to enter society, but even he was awed by the power which Pincher, were he hostilely disposed, might exercise over him, and therefore, to keep up ap pearances, suggested that Kate and Mike should go

It rarely happens that persons unaccus tomed to move in good society from their youth can do the honors of their table with that elegance and ease which only habitual association with the refined can impart. There was abundance of display, the sideboard groaned under a load of plate, and no objection could be taken to the number or appointments of the servants, who paraded in the gorgeous livery of the Martins, but the dignity of an accomplished host was wanting to harmonize all the constituent parts of the entertainment, and make it pass of with *cclat*. Pincher appeared to be sitting on thoms. He could see nobody, could attend no one, but Lord Heatheringfield and his party. " My lord " and "my lady," "your lordship " and " your ladyship," were for ever on his tongue, to the great annoyance of those really wellbred people. More than once he ordered a servant to remove "the lord's plate" to the said lord's unutterable disgust; and he so overwhelmed the ladies with pompous and stilted compliments that they longed for a release from such uncongenial conversation. It was the first occasion upon which Mrs.

Blatherwell and her daughters had the honor of dining in company with the Heatheringfield ladies; for, although the peer, when in town, sometimes patronized the judge, the countess had never honored their new connections with her presence at an entertainment. Lady Heatheringfield, who was too conscious of her own position to be supercilious, displayed the utmost condescension when she came in contact with the female branches of the Blatherwell family, and had even gone the length of suggesting that some of them might be invited to the Manor ; but the earlat once put an extinguisher on the proposal, declaring peremptorily "that it would never answer." Unfortunately, Mrs. Blatherwell deemed it necessary to show off before her grand connections on this the first opportunity which presented itself, for the purpose of convincing

" I only wanted to say," addressing Mike, as he closed the door, "that I will expect the DOOL.

forward and enforce with all his influence. Mike made no reply. i At the some time and through the same chan. "That, I think," Pincher. continued, be-nel, he despatched a note from his wife to seeming excited, "is the least he can do, considering how kind I have behaved towards

Mike said "that never having spoken with Colonel Blake upon the subject, he did not know what his intentions might be,

"I don't care a d-n." rejoined Pincher "what his intentions are; I only know my own; and, by G-d, if he doesn't do what I expect, I'll make him sup sorrow. So tell, him that, if you please," and he turned to leave the room.

"Mr. Martin," said Mike, calmly, "I am here an invited guest, and did not expect to now tell you L won't make the communication you require, and that but for the respect I entertain for some of the inmates of your. house, I should punish such conduct on the spot.

"I don't care a d-n about you, sir," said Pincher. "I set you at defiance. I'll go over to-momew with Blatherwell, and have a clear understanding and decisive answer. I tell you now" (he raised his voice as he opened the door, so that every one in the hall might hear him), "if what I want is not done, I'll smoke the old fax out of his castle, that's all," and he strode into the drawing-room, leaving Mike speechless with rage amongst the servants.

As he handed Miss Bingham to the carriage, Mike felt her tremble upon his arm, and when the horses started she burst into tears.

"What is the matter, Kate ?" demanded her companion anxiously. " Oh, I have been so worried by those horrid

women! Miss Blatherwell warned me, in the coarsest manner, that if my uncle did not support her brother, Mr. Pincher Martin would ruin him. And I overheard his threat to you. I wish we had not come amongst such people." And the poor girl sobbed bitterly. - My dear Mike, to think of his being in the power of persons so tyrannical and unfeeling !

Colonel Rlake was unusually cheerful at the breakfast table next morning. He felt gratified that Lord Heatheringfield, who sent him many kind messages, had not forgotten their former intimacy, and was even affected when he learned that his old acquaintance, posed paying him a visit before he left the country. "Now, good folks," said he, rising gaily.

when the meal was over, "prepare at once to accompany me, as I have something to do which will require your advice and assistance. Do you know, Kate, that I amused myself last evening during your absence in planning a new approach to your garden : but some trees must be cut down to accomplish my object ; the men are waiting for our orders, so come along.

As they proceeded on their way, the Colonel explained his intended improvement. The present approach to the garden led directly from the grand avenue; he designed to go by romantic route, running along the river side. which should be dammed at a particular spot, and so form a pretty and refreshing cascade. laborers just then went home for dinner, and manners "-was distinctly audible. Kate and the gentlemen seated themselves on the trunk of a newly-felled oak, awaiting their return. After some time, persons were heard approaching in loud conversation, and suddenly Pincher Martin, now quite near, though concealed by the underwood, should out : "Holla! by gad, the fellow's making pretty

work here. I won't stand this." He had scarcely finished the speech when

ledge, Miss Bingham. c I consider it the first duty of every young lady to look efter the sick "In that opinion I fully coincide, Miss-

Blatherwell ; but my uncle pays a doctor for attending the indigent tenantry, and authorizes him to administer whatever medical assistance they may require. If they need clothing or diet, they have but to apply 20. ma." "That," said Anna Maria, " is a very expen-

sive way of doing charity."

Blatherwell "-(every one in the judge's establishment was required to address the eldest young lady thus formally)-"Miss. Blatherwell," continued the latter, "has a very nice dispensary, and although Pa is so rich, we all consider it a duty to save expanse be insulted by being asked to convey a most when we can, and certainly" (with a super-ungentlemanly message to my relative. L cilious air) "if our estate owed money we should think economy still more obligatory." A pause in the conversation enabled Colonel Blake to catch the concluding remarks, and to notice the expression of the speaker's face. "Yes, certainly," chimcd in the older, "when people have the misfortune to owe

money they should avoid all unnecessary outlay, for, as Mamma says, ' every mickle mekos a muckle," and, Miss Bingham, if you allow me to order you a chest from Pilkington & morning he waited on Pepper by appoint. Co's I shall have great pleasure in driving ment. Some of the porsons they called upon And if you, or your relative, as you call me to order you a chest from Pilkington & him, attempt to annoy me, I'll take you to Co's I shall have great pleasure in driving the King's Bench to learn you manners. And over occasionally while I remain at Oastlemore to teach you how to dispense." (To her sister)-"I don't think the judge would object to my coming for such a purpose. Do you, sweetest ?"

"I think not. He always wishes as to do good, no matter at what inconvenience."

"And then, you know," continued Miss Blatherwell, in a voice somewhat subdued, yet quite audible to the entire company, "then, you know, Miss Bingham, you could assist your uncle by saving the doctor's salary, an important matter to a person circumstanced as he is; even a small saving of that kind might sometimes keep the sherif from the door.

Kate blushed to the roots of her hair, the Colonel grew unwasy, but Miss Elatherwell went on; she had mounted her hobby, and should have a canter, no matter what the consequence.

After coming out "gay" under the chaperonage of a rich retired tradesman's wife, the relative of her maternal grandfather, Anna Maria easily abandoned what she termed a dissipated, when she found it to be an unprofitable, description of life. As her father prospered at his profession and she advanced in years, she became, first, "decidedly serious," in the hope of catching a parson : and whom he had not met for many years, pro- then blue, to captivate a fellow of college; when both dodges had signally failed, she took to charity and medicine (two strings to her bow): if she could not secure a husband by the practice of the divine virtue, she might possibly accomplish her object through the instrumentality of the healing art. Anna Maria was now turned thirty-five-an age at which even a presentable M. D, is not un-

acceptable. "But, dear me," she cried, addressing Mrs. Pincher Martin, whilst walking towards the opened window, "what can keep Theobald Frederick and Tom so long ?"

At the same moment, the carriage drove to the door, and Pincher, from without, having whistled to attract attention, desired them all a more circuitous, but much more private and to come down directly, and Miss Blatherwerl scampered playfully away, followed by the others. Colonel Blake and Kate could overhear the gentlemen telling the ladies all that They were all busily engaged directing the had occurred before they entered the carriage, cutting down of the necessary trees, when a and the concluding remark of Anna Mariacarriage drove towards the house. The "I would teach such proud beggars better

#### CHAPTER IX.

after dinner that same day, "some decisive clously, and requested his visitor to sit down. step must must be taken. I'm now fairly Having performed all that politeness de-driven to the wall. The fact is, I would manded, he laid the open book on the table. sooner sell the estate than lead the life I do. so that its sacred character might be easily subject to the impertinence and insult of enery | recognized, cautiously romoved the blue rilwho may have the power to an noy me." Mike started on the chair, and looked incredulously at his companion as he alluded to his eyes to the cailing as he clasped it to his the sale of his property, the probability of such breast. Again he smiled blandly, bowed even an event having never before occured to his mind. "Maurice, Maurice," he answered, "you | (after the morning meal, and before the comcouldn't think of such a thing. Sell the estate, and not leave a drop of the Blakes' blood in Dunseverick Castle! Why, your ancestors would rise from their graves to haunt you !" and his eyss filled with tears. " Heaven knows what bitter anguish such a step will cost me! I did not know myself to perfection. until I formed my determination what a pang it would inflict. But what can I do? If I don't sell, it will be sold for me." " The estate is good security for three times what it owes, and it will be easy to borrow the money and pay Pincher off," rejoined Mike. "And transfer me to another, and perhaps more exacting master. By selling, I shall at least be independent ; the surplus will be my own. It is a sorrowful thing no doubt, to see an old and honored family uprooted, and if extravagance or dissipation had led to my em-barrassments, I should feel the blow with double force; but I can lay my hand on my heart and honestly declare that law-law, in which I was involved from no fault of my own -is the sole cause of my misfortunes." "Yes, yes," interupted Mike, "that infernal Clipper, and that unlucky Pepper, and that -d expensive humbug they call equity." "On the day," continued the Colonel, unmindful of the interruption, his lips quivering with emotion-"on the day that I am driven forth by law from the home of my fathers I can at least raise my eyes without shame to their portraits as I remove them from their desecrated halls, and truly say the fault is not mine.' "Maurice," again interrupted Mike, "I can't stand this. I cannot bear to see you so. I sold my own estate, but what of that? It was but a branch of the old tree, an offset from the parent trunk. Would to Heaven I had it to sell new, that I might relieve you. I never felt the full extent of my misconduct, I never regretted the past, until I saw you in trouble. I am but a single man-what matter what becomes of me? but to see you, the head of my house, and that sweet, sweet child, that should inherit after you." "Aye," said the Colonel, " that it is which lies heaviest on my heart. My neglect, or at least my attorney's, for which I am morally responsible, has robbed her; and it is to guard against the possibility of further professional plunder, and principally to protect her interests, that I have determined to sell, and so secure a certainty which no law can deprive her of. What else can I do? I have borne insult, degradation, imprisonment; and no effort that I can make, short of selling, seems likely to arrest their repetition. My only course is to realizs, while yet within my power, a competence for Kate, and then to retire from this world, and endeavor to make suitable preparation for a better." "Come, come, Maurice," said Mike, "no more of this despondency. You will laugh at all this yet. Don't you do anything until I the most confident promises. I beg you to "Surely, surely," rejoined Miss Blatherwell, try my hand and see if I can procure the

Hear Kate's smilling face appeared at the window: She tapped, and joyously asked the gentlemen to accompany her in a walk.

"Heaven bless you, my sweep and warm-hearted girl !" muttered the Colonel, as he rose from his seat to comply with her re quest.

Mr. Pincher Martin lost no time in putting his threats into execution. Before a work elapsed, a formal demand was made for the amount of the mortgage, accompanied by a notification that if the money remained unpaid after ten days he should proceed by bill of foreclosure.

Mike, who had now become quite a man of business, at once proceeded to Dublin, and by the next post after his arrival transmitted the cheesing intelligence that Pepper assured him 'there could be no difficulty in getting the sum required ; in fact he had no doubt that he could have it that very evening had he only the time to call upon the proper parties."

Mr. Pepper, it may be remarked, never felt a difficulty about anything he undertook, although it, unfortunately for his clients, almost invariably turned out. that his expectations were not realized. Mike dined with him, and passed a merry night, for he antici. pated the joy which his letter would diffuse amongst his friends at Dunseverick. Next were from home, and others so occupied that they could not receive them, and so that day passed; and on the succeeding one the disappointments were repeated. At length Mr Pepper wrote to a friend in the country (his trump card), and was informed as quickly as a communication could reach him in return that's what I call a regular off-hand, honest fellow. Now, all that remains to be done is to stop proceedings and draw up the deeds, There are but four of the ten days unexpired. Let's go to Sharp's office, and show him that we require no raore than time to prepare our papers. A great rascal he is, no doubt, but he will scarcely venture to do anything under such circumstances."

Mr. Sharp, however, soon undeceived them "His instructions were peremptory, and he must obey them. If the money were not paid within the specified time the bill should la filed.

"No making a hand of the sanctimonious scoundrel," said Pepper, as they walked away, "It's not possible to have deeds prepared so quickly, and if the bill be filed the expenses will be heavy. You must at once stare for home, call upon the judge, he is Pincher's master, and is just now staying with him ; take this letter-he knows the writer, and will see that the money is forthcoming-ask his interference as a favor, be sweet upon the old humbug, and you might lead him to infer [with a wink] "that although the Dunseverick interest is against him this time it may be for him the next. He is a soapy fellow, and if you lay on thick you may possibly save oth the expenses and exposure.

Mike rose cheery as a lark on the morning after his arrival at the Castle, and communicated his vivacity to the friends, who sorely missed his hearty, good-natured laugh during his absence. His horse was ordered, and after an early breakfast he set out, without acquainting any one with his destination or purpose, to call upon Judge Blatherwell. Being of a sanguine temperament, Mike, when he desired success, always set success down as certain; and not doubting the felicitous issue of his present undertaking, he hummed snatches of hunting songs as he trotted smartly towards Castlemore.

The judge received him in the library, seated in an arm-chair, and enveloped in a rich but sembre-colored dressing-gown. He continued attentively perusing a small-sized Bible which he held in his hand uninterrupted by the entrance of the servant, until Mr. Blake's name was announced : then he Mikk, said the Colonel, as they sat together | raised his eyes, smiled benignly, bowed grabon-marker to the page which he had been reading, then closed and grasped his treasure. as though he dreaded its abduction, and raised more graciously than before, and then remained silent. It happened to be the hour mencement of his diurnal duties) which the worthy judge devoted to private meditation. and the precise time when he wished to see and be seen, because he was then always well made up for the part he assumed, and prepared to enact the character of a devoted Christian

but which had broken out with increased violence since she had become her own mistress. For a long time Pincher remained ignorant of from the dinner-table being attributed to sudden and severe headaches, which compelled her to remain in bod, and she took special sare never to appear until the effects of her intemperance had been completely slept off.

At length accident disclosed the nature of him by Johnson was added the unpleasant nor old acres. certainty of being irrevocably bound, under all circumstances, to the drunken heiress. The ci-devant attorney's feelings, however, were not very acute. Love (as well as honor) was a sentiment which remained a stranger to his heart. Could he but preserve the secret of his wife's weak point and the possession of her property be would have been perfectly contented with his lot. He endeavored to accomplish the first object by allowing her free access to the decanters at times when the effects could be concealed from the servants; perhaps, too, he acted thus from a latent wish that unrestrained excess might ultimately produce fatal consequences. As time wore on, however, and no claimant appeared to contest his right, the possessor of Castlemore became reassured, confidence in the stability of his tenure increased, and the insolence generated by his unexpected elevation became augmented. There was not a more arrogant or unpopular man in the county-

Nearly two years had gone by since the trial. The interest on the debts affecting the Dunseverick estates had been punctually paid by Mike, and the Colonel and his niece led a quiet and comparatively happy life, during the summer taking trips to the English watering-places, and thus diversifying the monotony of a continued residence in the country. Miss Bingham was now of age, and her mind, as well as her person, had become more fully developed. She was the admiration of every society in which she mixed; the frankness of her character and manners put every one with whom she came in contact at ease, and the charm of her open smile and artless countenance impressed all who approached her with the honesty and benignity of her gentle soul. Her personal charms, though universally admitted to be great, seemed cast into the shade by her varied accomplishments and the sweet simplicity of her affectionate disposition. No guile was in her thoughts, no scandal on her lips, no jealousy threw its baleful shadow over her beaming face, no evil passion lurked within the precincts or corroded the purity of her untainted heart, and she was more frequently culogised as the most amiable and gifted than as the most beautiful of women. Yet under the captivating exterior of artlessness and gaiety, this girl concealed a character as unbending as the oak when principle was at stake, and as unswerving in its fidelity to professed affection as it was regardless of the personal sacrifices which duty imposed or love demanded.

Kate had been early taught the necessity of

a nation to the

"Dearest" (the pet name by which the indge always addressed his better half) was a tine buxom dame, turned of fifty, with a person rather stout, with a face presenting as florid a picture of robust health as the most jovial bacchante that ever issued from the easel of Nichol Pousin. Nevertheless, Mrs. Blatherwell had the misfortune to be nervous, or considered it good taste to appear so, and made a practice of fainting during dinner upon special occasions-a habit extremely inconvenient to her guests, who, as she weighed profoundly, were often obliged to participate in the labor of removing a burthen which the servants in attendance were unable to support. But what of that? Her little fits afforded the indge an opportunity of displaying his con-

jugal affection, and enabled her daughters to show off their sensibility and filial love. The entertainment was progressing heavily.

out, all things considered, rather well, when a preliminary hysterical sob startled the comboiled turkey and oyster sauce, to which she jacket of a cornet of hussars, who, in his efforts to save his finery, struck a decanter of | who executes your orders. wine from the hands of a servant into the lap of an elderly lady, habited in a brocaded silk, an heirloom from her grandmother. Anna Maria, the elder Miss Blatherwell, flew to her mother in a twinkling, and the worthy dame was borne away, followed in procession by her sorrowing spouse and afflicted family. The Heatheringfields, not being habituated to these scenes, appeared deeply distressed, and the host left the room, but soon returned with the consoling intelligence that all would be I shall do with my own property." right directly. He seemed, however, quite thrown off his guard by the occurrence, and forgetting by whom he was surrounded, remarked to Theobald Frederick, who had resumed his seat at the foot of the table, "that it was d----d unlucky." After waiting some it was d-----d unlucky." After waiting some see if she could render any service, but she Castle. He and Kate, as they approached, drawing-room in a complete state of convalescence, while Mrs. Pincher Martin stood before her with a smelling bottle in one hand and a bumper of Madeira in the other.

"How very unlike her family the lady of the house is," said Lord Heatheringfield to Mike, at the close of a conversation which they had carried on for some time in the drawing-room.

"Very," replied Mike, looking intently at her; "it is the first time I've had the honor of meeting her, for you may suppose, Lord Heatheringfield, that past occurrences cut off tins; but she is indeed very unlike any of the

The night was far advanced, and Colonel Blake's carriage stood at the door. Miss Bingham had gone to snufile, and Mike waited her return in the hall, when Pincher, who had to walk into the parlor, as he wished to hold some conversation in private with him. He had often, during the evening, appeared to he on the point of making some communication

he stood in presence of the party. The can- upstart fellow didate accompanied him, but before he saluted Colonel Blake or introduced his friend Pincher continued : "Cutting timber, sir ? By gad, I don't well

know that that's exactly correct, sir. It's playing the very devil with the place, and if such work is permitted to continue the property won't be worth the mortgage."

" May I inquire to what cause I am indebted for the honor of this visit, sir?" said the Colonel, rising from his seat with crushing dignity.

"I'm come, sir-I'm come-but really this is too bad" (looking around him). I'm come as I told Mr. Blake last night, to ask your support for my friend, Mr. Blatherwell, at the approaching election."

" My support, sir, is already promised-

"Promised !" repeated Pincher. "Then, sir, I'm sorry for it on your own account, for if you don't give my cousin your votes you pany, and Mrs. Blatherwell fell back in her must be ready to give me my money; and chair. As she turned over, she caught the in the meantime I tell you plainly that I'll table-cloth in her grasp, and jerked a plate of have no more trees cut; and I warn you publicly" (the laborers had now entered) " not had just been helped, right upon the full-dress to lay a finger on one more of them or 111 make it a dear job to you or any other person

Mike would have felled him to the earth. the men crowded round ready to pitch him into the river, but the Colonel interposed.

"You will please to leave my demesne forthwith, sir," he said, addressing Pincher, with his usual screnity of manner. "If you have any power to enforce your threats, you may do so; but until you satisfy me of your authority to interfere I have not the least notion of allowing you to dictate to me what

Then, taking Kate on his arm, after giving strict injunctions that no violence should be offered to the intruders, he walked towards the ladies of his party were scattered over the could hear them running from the sleeping apartments towards the drawing-room, which they were barely enabled to reach before the Colonel entered. It may easily be supposed that neither the master of the mansion nor his niece were in humor to receive visitors, and least of all those who now presented themselves. However, Kate's imperturbable good nature and her uncle's high-bred politeness rendered their salutations courteous, although their manner was cold.

"Mrs. Pincher Martin, the Misses Blatherwell," said Kate, introducing them.

"What a very pretty place this is," naturally remarked the elder Miss Blatherwell, looking from the window.

"It would be very nice, indeed, if some alterations were made and the house newly done up," responded her sister.

"Have you many sick persons in the neighborhood?" inquired the elder of Kate, while Mrs. Pincher Martin engaged the Colonel's attention by some very commonplace conversation.

"None-none, at least, that I am aware of."

"there could be none without your know- money from some proper person."

Pincher, who was in the room, continued writing at another table, and did not appear to notice anything passing around him.

Mike was charmed with his reception, and as he looked on the placid, benevolent countenance of the judge he regarded his object as almost accomplished. And, then, how fortunate to find the person at whose hands he sought a favor actually pondering over the sacred volume which inculcated brotherly love and Christian forbearance. Had his knowledge of physiognomy been more prefound, he might have marked the unrelenting expression of the clear, cold, blue eye, and the smile of suppressed triumph which sat upon the sneering lip, but partially concealed by the catlike gentleness with which the vindictive man contemplated the victim now fairly within his clutches."

After some desultory remarke, the envoy entered on the subject of his mission without the slightest embarrassment.

"Colonel Blake being, as you are aware, in delicate health, and unable to call upon you, Judge Blatherwell, has deputed me to speak to you concerning the mortgage held by Mr. Pincher Martin on the Dunseverick estates. [The Baron bowed.] "He is much surprised to find that such decisive Steps are about to be taken, and hopes that you, as the uncle and trustee of Mr. Martin, will kindly exert your influence to procure a short delay in the proceedings.

" I should have felt a difficulty in addressing myself to Mr. Martin, on account of some un fortunate circumstances which have recently occurred, in which, I am willing to admit. I may have been to blame, and for which I am prepared to make a suitable apology." [He turned to where Pincher sat to see the effect produced by such unconditional submission he caught the full expression of his face, and was startled by its malignity.]

The judge hommed, and was proceeding to reply, when Mike interrupted him.

" I beg to say that all we require is a delay sufficient to enable us to have the deeds reassigning the mortgage drawn up, for the money is ready.

"If that were all," said the judge, with the most charming blandness, "I am sure Mr. Martin would not hesitate to agree to your request, and certainly I should advise him to grant it. But then, Mr. Blake, money is always said to be ready on such occasions until the moment it is required, and then any one acquainted with such matters knows how frequent the disappointments are, and how futile are the expectations of those who make believe that I don't allude to this particular instance, for what you say may turn out to be