

cruel man before Ye sind him to hell. Punish him for that bloody day at Parramatta; smite him wid some tirrible afflictin' disase; let his childhren's childhren hate and despise his mimory; let the tares an' the groans and the could sweat av those he has persecuted an' murthered——"

"Stop, old man," cried the ex-soldier, with a shudder; "don't say any more, for God's sake. You'll put me off eatin' breakfast, and I'm sharp set, I can tell you, after a thirty-mile ride."

The old man's excitement vanished at once.

"Sure an' I was forgettin' ye. Come along wid me to the house."

Just as Mrs. Lathom entered the dining-room her husband strode up on to the verandah, with Russ at his heels.

"Ha, here you are, Ida. Look at this;" and he laid Dr. Haldane's note on the table before her. She read it.

"DEAR LATHOM,—I am sorry to say that you will have to entertain two guests instead of one. Marsbin came here this evening and coolly informed me that having heard I was paying you a visit he had decided to come with me, 'as it would be pleasant for us to travel in company.' Hang the fellow.—Yours, GEORGE HALDANE."

Mrs. Lathom shrugged her shoulders. "Very annoying, Fred. I trust he will not stay long."

"So do I, Ida. But I fear he will contrive to spend two or three days here, make as much mischief as he can in the settlement by his usual ill-timed interferences, and then say something ill-natured about me to the Governor."