

# ATHOLIC RONICLE.

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#### No. 1.

## SHAWN NA SOGGARTH: OR, THE PRIEST-HUNTER. AN IRISH TALE OF THE PENAL TIMES.

BY M. ARCHDEACON, ESQ., Author of the Legends of Connaught;" &c. CHAPTER VIL.

There were three persons assembled, on the Sunday we have treated of, in what was termed the library of Ingram Castle, a dim-lighted room with oak pannelings and compartments, and which contained some hundreds of volumes seldom or never opened, with the exception of some of the recent statute books. The principal person of the trio was the redoubted Sir John Ingram himself, a tall, swarthy man of middle age, and with features of peculiar sternness. The next in standing was Arthur Ffolliot, sen., who possessed no distinctive marks of personal character beyond a floridness of complexion and a rotundity of paunch that did speak strongly of fleshly indulgence, and an eternal smile that ought to have told of everything but "a mind at peace with all below." The third was At-torney Baker, a man too well known to the illfated Catholic gentry in his neighborhood, with a small, inflamed, ferret-like eye, and cheek as fleshless and colorless as his own parchments .--And, Sunday as it was, the latter was seated at a table, spectacled and deeply engaged in examining a number of papers and statute books, niled before him, as it was only the evening before he had returned from Dublin, after a protracted sojourn there; while Sir John walked to and fro the room, with some marks of impatience, and Ffolliot looked occasionally at his watch, occasionally from the lawyer to Sir John, and occasionally at a paper he held in his hand.

"I am now confident, Sir John," said Baker. taking off his spectacles and rubbing his hands wth glee, " that we have a clear case against the M'Donnell property, Arduff, as I have this moment in my hands quite sufficient proof that Alexander Keeogh (the blind) was a relapsed papist, and, of course, was incompetent to make any settlement, so that, though his nephew is, or affects to be, a Protestant, his title can be readily set aside, coming from one incapacitated by act of parliament-I will not trouble you with the act-to confer such title."

some overt oct which will lay him entirely prostrate before us."

"O, give him as much line as you please ;-there can be little fear of his escaping," observed Sir John-" but who dares to make this not in our very presence ?" he added fiercely, as the voice of Shawn was heard in the hall calling down the usual imprecations on his head if he shouldn't see Sir John forthwith, no matter who was with him.

A scuffle then ensued for a moment-the door was unceremoniously thrown open, and Shawn, with blood-stained face and garments, made his unexpected entrance.

"How now, scoundrel," said Sir John, angrily, 'do you dare to brawl in the very castle, and approach us, even while engaged, without permission, and bearing about you the filthy marks of drunken ricting? Overmuch indulgence to a ruffianly nature and the effects of drink have made you forget the awe our presence should inspire; but a brief period in the dungeons or the stocks will soon bring you to your senses again."

A good deal abashed by Sir John's wrathful tone and stern aspect, as well as by the presence of Baker, who, he well knew, liked him not over well latterly, since he had appropriated to his own use some unholy spoils which the attorney had intended exclusively for himself, Shawn, despite the native assurance so long tolerated, slunk into a corner, stammering in an apologetic tone, "Sir John, I wouldn't attempt to throuble your noble honor at all now, partic'larly whin you wor so well ingaged"-he could not suppress a villainous sneer, despite the check he had received, as his eye glanced from Ffolliot to Baker-" barrin to show you afore the blood was dhry, the usage I'm like to get from the priests for my loyalty, since your noble honor went to protect one o' thim with your own hands, as the story goes."

" Come hither, sirrah, in the light."

Shawn advanced towards the window; and Sir John, after having examined the damage his satellites had received, asked bim, in by no means a sympathising tone, how many blows he had received.

"He sartialy sthruck me only wanst, Sir John. But Yallow Tom never tumbled one o' your noble honor's beeves with such a blow;signs on me, it knocked me dead for nearly a quarther 'aour."

" Then there was but one priest ?"

enabled to capture both the priests, either in the cottage or neighborhood; and, after some fur-

ther plotting and conversation, it was arranged, that the party should be despatched for that purpose, and with particular directions to ransack unceremoniously, every corner of the cottage and grounds, and that it should be under the command of Cornet Ffolliot, for the purpose of compelling him to the irksome duty of giving | game, with two such trumps in my hand." annoyance to those he loved as his father dis-

liked them, while his sergeant was to receive strict injunctions, to see that the duty was sternly performed.

Shawn was now dismissed with a double gratuity, in order that he might reconnoitre for a day or two, before the party should be despatched. I'folliot and Baker soon after left Sir John also, after having assisted him to sanctify the Lord's Day, in the manner described.

"The conduct of Arthur is very undutiful and provoking," observed Ffolliot, as the pair emerged from the castle, " in thus continuing his visits to such noted recusants, after my having peremptorily forbidden them, and insisted on his not thinking further of the girl."

" It is provoking, indeed. If it had even been before that drunken Bob became a conformist, there might be a chance of large settlements with her. But now, the connexion would bring only disgrace and beggary, if he took it into his head (like a gosling as he is) to marry the girl."

"Marry, Sir ! you want to drive me mad .---Marry her, after all the pains I have taken in planning his aggrandizement! By heaven, he should sooner marry the kitchen-maid. No, no, I'll soon clip the brainless gosling's wings; and it'll go hard, or I shall also drive the old recusant and his scheming daughter from the neighborhood, and put them out of the way of giving me further annoyance."

"But have you not yourself to blame in any degree ? Did you ever give encouragement to the intimacy of the parties?"

"Why, I believe that foolish woman of mine, up to her death, gave some kind of sanction to their acquaintance. But what of that? The girl is beggared now, together with being a marked and irreclaimable papist; and I shall sever the acquaintance for ever, if the jade was to be sent across the water."

"Aye, but that wild brother of her's, undutiful as he has been, I hear has been always attached to her; and there's no saying what desperate thought might come into his head, if any "That was all, Sir John ; an' that was more violent steps were taken towards her. Heigh ho! we have all our own rubs. God help all industrious, and not over-wise fathers, that waste time and taint, in accumulating for thankless offspring. You see how that unfortunate boy of hard-earned property, thought fit to become a common soldier, when I thought I had him almost fully qualified to engross a deed or prepare a brief, and nearly as well versed as myself in " Am I sure !" replied Shawn, in a tone of all the intricacies of the penal statutes."

"Then the sooner we begin to act, the bet- | ing a third glass with undisturbed composure ; ter."

"Well," soliloquized Baker, as he entered his dwelling, after having parted from his compa- ed place as the Hall, not to talk that it ud be ill nion, "Mr. Ffolliot, since he has picked up the wealth, is becoming more rapacious than Sir John himself. At all events, I must manage my cards badly indeed, if I don't play a winning

#### CHAPTER VIII.

Sir Robert Lynch was sitting, after dinner, half stupified after a hard day's hunting and drinking. There were abundant materials for carousing, before him; but he was alone, for, conformist even though he had become, his unnatural conduct to his father and sister had by no means tended to make his company sought after by his seniors, while the younger and more thoughtless were, to some extent, kept aloof by his well known proneness to the boisterous and quarrelsome over his cups, so that he was frequently left, since his acquirement of the property, to the enjoyment of his own thoughts, as now.

He had dismissed a groom, whom he sometimes admitted to join him over a bottle, and who had helped him to pass the last couple of hours, in discussing the merits of dogs and horses, and was enveloping himself in a cloud of moke, from the pipe, whose contents he was inhaling, when Shawn na Soggarth, after having reconnoitred from without, entered the room unceremoniously.

"Well, Mr. Mullowney," said Sir Robert, as he eyed the audacious intruder with a glance of half batred and half fear, " what weighty matter brings you to Lynch Hall at so late an bour ?"

"Why, faith, nothing at all, masther-Sir Robert, beyant that bein' on a little duty in the neighborhood. I jist dhropped in to ask how your noble liquor was."

"And does a contam-a fellow like you intrude into our very dining-room, and at such an hour, without the secuse of any business whatever ?"

"Poo, mastrice -Sir Robert, I knew I had welcome her. it any hour, now that you an' me's on the right side"—he seated himself on a chair at the end of the table, with one of his impudent leers, as he continued, "an' the Hall was always a place that a man never passed without curing himsel' of the druth, an' hunger, even in the ould times, afore yer ancesthors had gumption to turn to the right side." The eyes of their descendant flashed fire, and his band was mechanically stretched towards a bottle, with the intention of levelling it at the intruder's head. But he saw that Shawn's eye watchmine, after squandering a large portion of my ed him closely, and, despite his wrath, he controlled himself, only saying bitteriy, " Well, Sir John shall know in the morning of your intrusion and insolence, as I am sure be would not tolerate | world." you in using such insolence towards men of birth and family." "O masther Robert," said the unbashed priestsubject-my undutiful son will, I think, be bet- hunter, helping himself to a glass of brandy with ter managed, however. But you startled me a the coolest effrontery, while his host, by compulgood deal, a while ago, about the Lynch pro- sion, glared at him with herce astonishment,there might be many a thing it ud be betther "Yes, but you saw I took a hint very readily Sir John ud know nothing at all about-your from your looks, though at the same time, in | health, Sir Robert-but (after finishing his glass reality, the conformance of Sir Robert (as they | and smacking his lips twice or thrice) how many times were you at church for the last five or six weeks ?"

' an' you'd be right, masther Robert, as it might not tell well to have me assaulted in such a notyour commons to do so, afther all the love an' likin' I'm afther showing you. But as I'm well rested and refreshed now, here's long life to you, Sir Robert, and many thanks for your kind treatment-only be a little partikler about goin' to prayers and other religious duties, as the clargy say."

Sir Robert had stooped to rekindle his pipe ; and Shawn, seizing from the sideboard the nearest bottle to him and, placing it between his inner coat and cothamore, (outside, or great coat) moved more leisurely out of the ball than he had entered it; his worried and indignant entertainer (against his will) following fast behind him, vowing herce vengeance against the menials if they ever permitted his steps to pollute the threshold again.

Shawn now directed his steps to the cabin of his sister, Nancy Mullowny alias Loughnan, which was distant about a mile from the Hall.-Nancy was, ot the time now treated of, a youthful window, with the care of a couple of infant children and a few acres of ground, with some cattle left by her late husband, Tom Loughnas. She was rather comely in person, and a gentle, kind-hearted, affectionate creature ; and was accordingly, despite her brother's evil reputation, a general favorite among her scattered neighbors. She possessed also, in a high degree, her countrywomen's strong religious feelings, and felt, of course, keenly and bitterly the infamy of her brother's course, so that for some time past they seldom exchanged words, except when, at long intervals, he found it convenient, as now, to make her cabin an asylum for a few hours

His present unlooked for and most unwelcome visit was a source of peculiar annoyance, as the youngest of her children was apparently sick to death, and she had, that morning received a promise from Father Bernard, that he would visit the child in the evening.

" This is a cool reception, Naney, for a brother that didn't darken your doors for a twel'month afore," he said, flinging himself on a seat by the fire, while she moved to the opposite end of the little kitchen on his entrance; but I know how it is: there is no welcome for me any where, among high or low, strangers or friends, because I'm too loyal."

"So far you have done well, Baker," observed Sir John, with a stern smile, "as that stripe of Arduff, which runs in between my two quarters at the sea, has been a complete eyesore, and the sooner you take steps to attach it at once more to the property nature intended it it to belong to, the better. But what of William Eighter particularly ?"

"It's my decided opinion," said Baker, in a measured and important tone (we divest the reply of its technicalities) "that, as far as Sir Ulick Bourke's property is concerned, there is clearly no title to him. In fact, in my judgment, it is a point blank forfeited one, of which a discovery was made about thirty years ago ;--and though I know a large sum was paid to the government, with many others under the same circumstances, to ward off the effects of this discovery, as you are aware of, Sir John, yet, as the new grants have never since, to my knowledge, been perfected, the want of title must be-that is-1 think it must be fatal. But as this is a matter of high importance, I should like to have some opinion besides my own."

" No, by heaven ! ' exclaimed Sir John, striking the table energetically, "we shall seek no better authority than your own. We have other serious charges against Bourke, or M'William, as he chooses to call himself, who has dared to give us opposition on more than one occasion ;--and we will crush him-aye, crush him root and branch."

"Very well, Sir John, I shall commence the proceedings at once; and, I think we could include Maddeu's little adjoining property, which 15, I believe, in the same predicament."

"O damn the fellow, never mind him at present. His property is too insignificant, and be hasn't the spirit to give provocation."

"You're right, Sir John; his little patch is but what the savages here would call a fodeen," him that, as the patch was beneath Sir John's make a discovery against hum in his own favor. "Then," continued he, " :" for Sir Robert, contormist, as he has become." A look of peculiar meaning from Ffolliot, who flung down the paper he held with a start, on bearing the name, arrested the half-formed words he was about to utter, and, without a second's besitation, he resumed, utterly reversing the words and the import of what he had intended to express-" that circumstance in itself will oblige us to be more cautious, so that we must exercise patience till till the young reprodute shall have committed day or two, he had no doubt they should be less your contrivance be very clumsy indeed." For even inclined to do it," replied Shawn, fill-) any farther, you dhrunken barge" he took an-

than enough."

"I wish we had a score of such hitters in the fifth troop. Arthur would have no objection to command such fellows-eh, Ffolliot !" "I should think not indeed, Sir John," re-

sponded Ffolliot.

" Did he strike you without provocation-or are you sure that he was a priest at all ?" asked Baker, coolly.

irritation, produced by the utter want of sympathy he had met with. "Yis, as sure as I am that you're hatchin' roguery this minnit, an' that you'd chate your own mother."

Sir John gave vent to a low chuckle, while Ffolliot observed, " Mr. Mullowney, you should learn to be more respectful to your superiors ;--and I think you should not interrupt Sir John on the Sabbath, and while engaged on business, call him) will be a serious obstacle in the way of with a story that concerns only yourself."

"True," said Sir John, "as if it were of the slightest consequence, it his vile carcase was me. We know one another a long time, Adam, pommelled into a mummy, and particularly by a my boy; and you're aware I have no objection priest."

Shawa glared from Sir John to Fiolitot, whom he could have strangled where he stood, and on for extending his lands. Make the Lynch eswhom the bitterness of his heart was instantly | tate mine, and the two thousand shall be mau showered.

"Well, then," he said, " may be I could tell get Sir John to offer such terms." misther Ffolliot a story that might consara him a little, seein' that his own son suil goes purty often to visit the papists o' the lake cottage." "Of whom do you speak ?" asked Ffolliot,

eagerly. for your only, by his mother's account," respond ed the rulfian, with an impudent grin.

"When was he there to your positive knowledge and beware of what you say? If your said Baker, the thought occurring readily to information prove correct, you shall be rewarded -well rewarded; but if you are inventing fanotice, it would suit very well for an attorney to bles for my aunoyance, I warn you, I shall manage to have speedy and heavy satisfaction."

own eyes.

"Ha! the tables are turned, Ffolliot, I see," said Sir John, with his own grim smile.

Shawo now decaned to the trio, that the Cornet had repeatedly visited the cottage, since the He also stated his conviction, that it was to Bal-

"Well, we've had enough of an unpleasant perty."

a discovery."

" Pshaw1 damn all nonsense between you and to be generous, when it's worth my while. Sir John has ample room and opportunity elsewhere four. It would be a long time before you could

my old friend. But seriously, after long consideration on the subject, though, in the end, we time-" yer health agin, Sir Robert-I'm not might effect our purpose in the way you wish, still, if the dissolute conformist was watched and hu- there's always a good bit an' sup in the Hall, "Ov Cornet Ffolliot, that I suppose stands mored, a purchase could be cajoled from him, which would, in my opinion, be the readier and more certain way. I shall lend it every assist- dollar." ance in my power, claiming, of course, the same remuneration."

"Well, perhaps you are right, as least as far | garth." as appearances may be concerned. But it must be always understood that, whatever mode of ud reput not takin' a friendly warnin' in civility. "Why, he wasn't there, I suppose, since late by no means, interfere with my plan for expelling neighborhood, an' what ud you think if the peolast night, whin I saw him returning with my the father and sister from Arthur's neighbor- ple sed you wor helpin' to consale them ?" hood."

"And it need not, my dear sir. You are ing from his seat, utterly enraged by the falsity alarming yourself with shadows. One of the of this accusation, "that your sole object in objects of your suspicion, Sir Edmund, is, I understand, on the very threshold of death; and sult me. But what would you think if I was to myself, and that 1'd pull the tongue out sooner removal of Sir Edinund and his daughter to it. the poor drunken conformist's perceptions, are direct the servants to place you under the pump nor tell you, if I did know. O, God forgive von. not so sharp, but that, with my assistance, you for half an hour, and then wear a couple of John, for your bardened heart and all the disliutubher Father Kuger had proceeded, and will be enabled easily to prevail on the sister to whips on your vile bones ?" We have laid our hands on additional proof, or that, if a party were sent thither with him in a give up her views and change her residence, un- "You'd lose an arm to prevint thim if they

"What affair is that of yours, sirrah?" said Sir Robert, with a start.

"Arrah be aisy now, Sir Robert ; maybe it isn't faith. Do you know what ud be the fine, an' who it ud go to? You haard too, I suppose, ov such a thing as a relapsed Papist, an' know what ud be his punishment ; an' I can tell you there's more nor one ud give a thrifte to know as much about yer honor's ways as we do. But as "Your terms are most liberal beyond doubt, I have no spite in the world agin you, an' you're none o' my riglar game" - he filled a second goin' to make an informer o' mysel', purvided for a poor fellow passin', an' that you grease his fist now an' thin with an odd balloon (guidea) or

> " You shall be taught to repeat this presumption, as sure as your name is Shawn na Sog-

" May be it's yoursel', masther Robert, that management may be necessary with him, it shall, | Why, there's a brace o' priests this minnit in the

"I see clearly now," roared Sir Robert, startcoming here, this evening, was to annoy and in- to get intelligence out o' me, that I don't know

"You know well, John," she said, " that nobody was ever gladder to see another than I used to be to see you, ever an' always, till-(ill---"

"Well, to give the divle his due, you wor always the best o' the family. So here sit down an' take a toothful o' this'--- he drew forth the bottle of brandy he had taken from the Hall-"an' tell us how your gettin' on at all in this

"No, John, you know I was never fond o' the dhram dhrinkin'. But I'm glad to hear you axin' nathrel questions. May the Lord touck your heart an' put nathrel leeling into it."

"Well, Nancy, as you won't have a taste, I must take a pull myself. Here is your health ; an' rale beautiful stuff it is. An' how's the poor gorlaghs? It's long since I seen thim."

"Wan o' them, little Basonycen, is, Pue afeard, John, goin' - goin' to a better world"and the eyes of the nother filled with tears ;-" but any way," she continued, rubbing them away with her hand, "it does my heart good to hear you inquirin' that way for them."

"An' why wouldn't I have love and likin' for my own flesh and blood, and the purtiest little craitheers in the parish? I know people ses I'm this and that; but you see now I have the nathrel affection still. Yis, Nancy, an' to show you I've a leanin', too, even for the clargy, that they say I'm always persecutin', I know there's two o' them, this minuit, in this neighborhood ; an' I could tell them something that might save them from harm."

His sister looked eagerly into his face; but there was something in its expression, that instantly repressed the information she was about to give on the impulse of the moment. "John" she said, starting from his side, to which she had gradually approached, " there is wickedness still in your countenance, an' it's for no good you're makin' those inquiries."

"Now, Nancy, to show that you're an onshough, an' suspectin' me in the wrong, bring me to the house the priests is in, an' I'll tell them what I know to your face, or I'll tell it to you now, an' you can carry it to them yoursel', while I stay here till you return."

"No, no, no, John," she exclaimed vehemently; "I see now what you're afther. You want grace you're bringing on our name."

"Hould yer tongue an' don't aggravate me