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FROM New Ireland."

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# The Last Historical Abduction In Ireland

By A. M. Bullivan. 张张张

1854, I was standing with County Tipperary. \*\*\*\* century, built into the wall close by the northern end of the bridge which here spans the Suir, when a cry or shout on the other side of OUR the river, and the noise of a horse in rapid gallop attracted our attention: Looking quickly around, we had barely time to get out of the way when there dashed by us at furious speed a police orderly, his NEXT ISSUE horse all flecked with foam, and mud spattered to the top of his shako. What was it? Not another 'rising," surely? "A landlord shot, as sure as we live," exclaimed one of our party; and, standing where we did, on Tipperary soil, in the midst of a famous shooting district, no guess could have been more natural under all the circumstances. After a while we turned into the abbey, and, having spent an hour GONTAIN amidst the ruined aisles of King Donald's Church and the shattered tombs of prince and lord, we forgot for a moment the hurried horseman, and came away. It was only when we returned to Thurles, after a brisk walk of three miles we had an explanation of the incident at the bridge. "Did you hear the news, sir?—did you hear the news? Carden of Barnane-the country is up in pursuit of him; all the police out, and the mounted men are giv-FULL ing the alarm."

'But, what has he done?" "Done, sir! Didn't you hear? Miss Arbuthnot-the young English lady, a sister of Mrs. Gough, that he was mad in love with, they say-sure he tried to carry her off; and there was a bloody battle between his men, and the people defending her, and he was beat; but an orderly has brought word to our sub-inspector that they say he was took an hour ago, on the road below at Farney.'

Could we credit our ears? An abduction! Had the worst days of the last century come back on us once more? An abduction, and by Mr. Carden of Barnane, one of the magnates of the county, a great landlord, grand juror, magistrate, dep-uty-lieutenant. Before nightfall the town was all excitement over the story, which was told in a hundred versions. True it was that an event destined to startle the kingdom from end to end had just befallen within a few miles of where we stood. "For years past," said the 'Times' two days subsequently, 'no event of any political cast has created greater excitement than the adventurous attempt of the lord of Barnane to possess himself by means beyond the pale of the law, of a bride possessed of all the requisites, personal and pecuniary, which were but too frequently irresistible for the philosophy of the Celtic temperament.

About three miles from Clonmel, the beautifully environed capital of Southern Tipperary, stands Rathronan House. The road to Cashel leads due north for two miles, when at Rathronan Church it turns sharply to the left and west. Here it ing half a mile from the little church already referred to. In 1854 Rathronan was the residence of Captain the Honorable George Gough eldest son of Field-Marshal Lord Gough, the hero of Sobraon. Captain Gough had married an English lady, daughter of Mr. George Arbuthnot, of Elderslie, Surrey, at this time two sisters of Mrs. Gough, Laura, the elder and Eleathe younger, resided with her. The fame of these fair Saxons filled add that they were heiresses to considerable fortune, it will be at once admitted they were fascinating and irresistible. So at least, thought all the young gallants of the per ten" in Tipperary. Eleanor fairly turned the heads of several of them; yet her heart was obdurate: she was impartially civil and cold to all. Among these suitors was "the lord of Barnane," Mr. John Carden. He had met her Marlfield, the charming residence of Mr. Bagwell, long time member for Clonmel, and soon the North Riding squire was the most desperately in love of all. He followed her everywhere. Wherever she appeared-

॥••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• him and Captain Gough there exsome friends outside the isted the friendly and social rela-vied gateway of Holy Cross tions of one county gentleman with tions of one county gentleman with another constantly met in the hunt-We were examining a curiously ing field and the grand jury room; sculptured stone of the sixteenth but the families were not intimate in their intercourse. At length Mr. Carden formally proposed hand of the English maiden. He was refused-refused under circumstances that not alone wounded his feelings, but caused him to believe that he owed his repulse not so much to any aversion on the part of the young lady as to unfair position on the part of her family Once this idea took possession of him, there was no displacing it Trifles light as air were viewed as corroboration; a fancied glance as she passed him in the street, flourish of her whip as she drove by in the pony-phaeton, were embraced as so many signals that she really loved him, but was under restraint. The plain truth was, cared not a jot for the lord of Barnane. Very likely she may have been for a while a little pleased with or vain of his attentions; but she did all that a young girl could well do

without being painfully rude, to re-

press any closer advances

things became serious.

The ladies of Rathronan House were in the habit of attending divine service on Wednesdays at Fethard, a town distant northward six or seven miles. On Wednesday, the 28th of June, 1854, from one reason or another Miss Eleanor and Mrs. Gough stayed at home, and the elder, Miss Arbuthnot, Laura, and a young lady friend, Miss Linden, were driven to the Church at Fethard, by a servant name Hoare While he was engaged in stabling the horse during the time of ser vice, Hoare was accosted by Mr John Carden's confidential "man," Rainsberry, who was very inquisitive, and asked quite a number of pumping questions about the young ladies. He elicited from Hoare, at all events, the fact that Miss Eleanor was not of the party. Returning home the ladies encountered on the road, at a place called Market Hill, Mr. Carden, who was on horseback, and it was observed that drawn up close by was a carriage. Furthermore, Hoare noticed that soon after the Rathronan phaeton passed a car drove up, containing Rainsberry and four other men, who joined the attendants of the carriage in the by-way. These circumstances, however, seemed to have

aroused no particular suspicious at the time. Next day there was the Midsum mer Flower Show at Clonmel, the favored annual rendezvous of county gentry, or rather of the county ladies. Mr. Carden was early on the ground. He sauntered through the marquees, and strolled along the stands; but the bloom of June roses had no charm for him. His eyes sought only the flower of Rathronan. In the afternoon she appeared. He accosted her; asked how her sister was. She bowed answered that her sister was very well, and passed on. All efforts to engage her in conversation was

baffled. skirts for a mile the southern boundry of Rathronan demesne, after which it turns again northward. On the following Sunday, 2nd of July, 1854, Mrs. Gough, Miss Arwhich it turns again northward. On buthnot, Miss Eleanor Arbuthnot, this road is the avenue entrance to and Miss Linden attended divine three had to be pulled out and dis-Rathronan House, the gate-lodge be- worship at Rathronan, Captain posed of. All four showed fight in were in full chase. They rightly Gough being all this time absent in The party were driven Dublin. the Church on an Irish "outside" car. As they entered the Churchyard they saw standing behind a tombstone, as if idly waiting the commencement of the service, Mr Carden of Barnane. Considering the incident of Wednesday, the meeting at the flower show, and, above all, the fact that Rathronan was not the Church which ordinarily he would attend, they must have felt the county. They were young, hand-some, and accomplished. When I monstration of that "haunting" process of which they had by this time become painfully conscious. As eral notice, nearly every one under standing that he came to have a look at "Miss Eleanor." During devotions he exhibited not a trace of nervousness, excitement, or anxiety. He withdrew at the close of the regular service; but as this was Sacrament Sunday the Rathronan ladies waited to communicate and consequently, did not leave at the same time.

The morning had been so fine that the ladies had left home, as I have mentioned, on an open vehicle; but scarcely had they entered the at archery meet or at flower show, at concert, evening party, or county ball—there was he, like one under a spell, having eyes for noth-

N Sunday, the 2nd of July, | ing and nobody but her. Between | of a mile), put up the outside jaunting car, and returned with what is called a "covered car" in its stead. This is a description of vehicle which is entered at the back. the passengers sitting on each side visa-vis within. Dwyer little dreamt how much was soon to turn on this change of "traps." There had meantime drawn up out-

ernment." But he saw women attacked, and he could make no mistake in hitting hard at their assailants. Mr. Carden returned to the car after hurling Miss Linden aside, and renewed his endeavors to drag Eleanor Arbuthnot from her seat. "Eleanor! Eleanor!" he exside the Rathronan demesne gateclaimed, "it is you I want. I know way a carriage, to which were har-I shall hang for this. My life will be the price!" Laura yet remained nessed a dashing pair of thoroughbreds. Six strange men with her; and he found he must get served loitering about close by; and of the elder sister as he had on the road outside the entrance to the church-yard a groom led two saddle horses. When Mr. Carden now remained in the vehicle, but quitted the Church he mounted one the one whose capture was the obof them, and rode up to where the ject of all his efforts. The hapless carriage stood. He spoke a few girl had seen her companions and hurried words, on which the coachprotectors one by one torn from her man gripped his reins, and the six side, and now her turn had come 'guards'' or attendants, at once closed in. Mr. Carden got off his would she fight to the last! She put horse, and earnestly examined the her arm through a leather hanginghousings of the two magnificent anistrap that was fixed outside the mals yoked to the carriage. Every window, and held on for dear life. strap and buckle, band and trace She struggled frantically against was minutely and carefully scrutinthe powerful savage, who wildly ized and tested. The examination pulled and tore at her with all his concluded, he again mounted and rohe back toward the Church. force. Several times had he suc-He ceeded but for the interference, met Captain Gough's covered car the most critical moment, of some returning with the ladies. He at one of her few defenders outside; for once wheeled round and closely folall this time a deadly encounter lowed it, his horse's head being was proceeding on the road. barely a few feet from the end of the Grath, his head literally gashed vehicle. Dwyer, the coachman, as with wounds, Dwyer, the coachman he neared the gateway saw and Smithwick, the herd, also bleedstrange carriage and the attending profusely, were, ever and anon, ants, and knew that behind was despite the greater numbers of their riding Mr. John Carden of Barnane the importunate suitor of foes, able to make a dash at Mr " the young mistress." Some thought that all was not right flashed like who saw the scene, not one of them lightning through his mind. He had fought so daringly as Miss Linden not time to work the problem out Again and again she was flung to to any very clear conclusion; but as the ground by Mr. Carden; as often he neared the gate, he, with a sort did she spring to her feet and of instinctive alarm, shook the rein clutch him by the throat, tear his and cried to his horse. Before touch of his whip could fall the six hair by the handful, and pound his men dashed forward, seized and stopped the car. Then first he rec-Gasping, breathless, almost faintognized in their leader Rainsberry ing, he had received a fearful blow and divined what was up. He of a stone on the temple from Mc sprang from the driving seat, Grath, Mr. Carden cried to his folclaiming, "Rainsberry, you villain, lowers, "Cowards! cowards! come let go my horse; you'll pay dear for on. Why don't you fire? why don't A blow on the head from a you fire?" But happily they would not fire, though in the carriage skull-cracker tumbled Dwyer to the ground. Rainsberry shouted out, "Cut, cut! Knives, knives!" One of close by fire-arms had been provided. The only one of them who seem the band pulled from beneath his ed ready to proceed to extremities coach a large garden knife, freshly was Rainsberry. The others, as they shrpened, and with one stroke severed the reins of the Rathronan subsequently complained, had been told that Miss Eleanor Arbuthnos horse; another and another, and the was to be a consenting party to the traces hung on the ground. This was abduction. When they saw the turn the affair had taken, they wished to but the work of a few seconds; years of terror and agony they be well out of it. Every moment eemed to the screaming victims showed them more clearly the car. At the instant the vehicle their necks were being run into haltwas stopped, Mr. Carden jumped ers, and every moment also lessened their chance of escape. Help was from his horse, rushed over and grasped at Eleanor Arbuthnot. But

the whole chapter of accidents was

in her favor that day. She happen-

ed to be farthest in; he could

touch her only by reaching across

Miss Linden, who sitting on the

the ladies been on the outside

realizing what was on foot.

from his nose and streamed

struggled; he tore

condition of health

through the avenue

same seat, was next the door. Had His attendants almost forced him into the carriage, and, like arrow from the hended bow, off it flew which bore them to Church in the two of the finest blood horses in all morning, one pull from their assailant would have brought any of Munster straining in the traces. them to his feet. But, placed as they Clonmel was the first to receive now were, they were considerably the alarm, and quickly Mr. Goold, sheltered from attack, and before the resident magistrate, Mr. Fos-Eleanor could be reached the other berry, the sub-inspector of police, guessed that the fugitives would the most determined manner, fully make for Templemore, Carden succeeded for a moment in gripping Eleanor. With desperate the Rathronan farm steward had energy he pulled and strained to taken horse and galloped to Cashel, drag her out. Laura held her back, where, on receipt of the astounding and Miss Linden, drawing her clenched fist with all the force she news which he brought, Mr. M'Cullough, the sub-inspector, with all could command, struck the undethe mounted officers of his force fended face of the deputy-lieutenant soon took saddle and gave pursuit smashing blow. Blood spurted About three or four miles north of Holy Cross, and within four or five covering his shirt-fron miles of Branane gate, is Farney Bridge, close by Farney Castle, the picturesque residence of Mr. Armand vest. He loosed his hold and truned sharply on his lady assailstrong. Here, after a ride of ten ant. In vain she shricked and miles at full gallop, they sighted her furiously the carriage going at a desperate pace. But Mr. M'Cullough's horses from her hold, and flung her on the side of the road. Mrs. Gough, whose were fresh, and the run of twenty made a scene like this almost cermiles from Rathronan, over very heavy roads, had told severely she could out of the car, and rushed Mr. Carden's. The officers soon over hauled the vehicle and summoned the occupants to pull up and surhouse, screaming for help. A young peasant, named McGrath, was the render. The answer was a shout of first to arrive on the scene. He saw defiance. Instantly springing from Captain Gough's herd at some disthe stirrup, Mr. M'Cullough rushed at the horses, managed to seize them, and by turning them slightly tance and shouted to him to hurry that there was murder going on ran the carriage into the ditch. Tw Then, with genuine Tipperary vehe attendants jumped from the "dick-ey," and showed fight, but they mence he dashed into the fray. Had it been a struggle altogether be-

in the distance. The maddening thought forced itself on Mr. Carden

Not readily, however, could be be

got to realize the astounding fact.

that he had failed and must

"law and order," the police, the arriving in time to assist in the magistrates, the landlords, or that concatenation of them all "the Govcapture and disarmament of whole party. Mr. Carden was discovered to be severely wounded about the head and neck. There were found upon him a loaded sixbarreled revolver, a loaded doublebarreled pistol, a belt containing three hundred and fifteen pounds in gold and English notes, a dum book, and a lady's lace vail With the prisoner were taken three "life-preservers," one stained with blood, a large knife, and a pouch of revolver ammunition. In the carriage were a coil of rope, coats, disposed of Miss Linden. After a rugs, shawls, quite a variety of long contest he succeeded, and there clothing, and a black leather bag. rugs, shawls, quite a variety of On opening the bag it was found to contain two bottles of chloroform, one bottle of mixture, sponge, a bottle of smelling salts, a bottle of tincture of valerian, a small goblet, some ladies' gloves, a undaunted, pair of ladies' slippers, a vest, a wig, some bandages and lint, besides minor articles. One of the chlorofom bottles was marked 'a teaspoonful to a cup of water.' From the following entry discovered in the memorandum book it would seem that Mr. Carden meant to drive through his own demesne without stopping, dispatching this written message to some trusted agent there:

"Lock the main gate; bully and baffle all pursuers; but don't endanger life. Lead pursuers to suspect that I'm shut up in the tower. Rake tracks. Give a hint to Johnson to be a friend and mislead the pursu-Carden, and drive him from his ers. Do not forward my letters, hold. But by the testimony of all but write yourself to St. James's, and protect the men who were with

> All, however, was over now. His desperate game was played and He was led a prisoner to Cashel jail.

So incredible did it seem that such an outrage as this could happen in our country in the middle of the nineteenth century, that when the first reports appeared in the Dublin newspapers there were many readers who derided the story as a sensational fiction. It was only when every day and hour subsequent brought irresistible corroboration that men universally accepted as a fact the astounding narrative. The particulars that came later to hand intensified the general excitement. It became known that the measures Mr. Carden had concerted for the abduction of Miss Eleanor Arbuthnot had occupied his attention for a long period, and had involved a considerable expenditure. He had, it was stated, decided upon conveying her to the shore of Galway Bay (distant some fifty miles), where he had a steamer chartered now approaching; shouts were heard for the purpose of taking her off to sea, relays of horses being placed along the entire route from Templemore to Galway. The vessel with steam up was lying off the shore, and it was stated to be his intention to sail direct for London. These preparations cost him a sum about seven thousand pounds

On Thursday, the 27th of July, 1854, the Tipperary South Riding ussizes were opened in Clonmel by the Right Honorable Judge Ball. Hardly within the memory of the oldest inhabitant was there such a throng of the county families as filled the town upon that day; for the sensational trial of Mr. John Carden was to be the great item of the dashed away northward. Meanwhile calendar. The Honorable George O'Callaghan, high sheriff, was in a state bordering on frenzy for several days previously. Ladies, young, old and neuter, hunted him remorse lessly from post to pillar with unappeasable demands for admission tickets. He piteously explained that a considerable enlargement of the county court house was impracticable at such short notice, and that he feared the judge would not listen to the idea of conducting the trial on the race-course or in the fairgreen. All to no purpose. fair persecutor was very sure she would take up little room,—"hardly any at all,"-and could easily, he pleased," be provided nook whence she could see that poor mad creature, Mr. Carden, dear soul, who had, "loved not wisely but too well," and so forth; and it was nothing but downright ill nature, to be resented to the day of his death for him, the high sheriff or Sam Going, his surly "sub," to say the places were already assigned. He fled the town,—was "not at home." to inquirers,—but they pushed their way into his study all the same. Then he took to his bed, and gave out that he was very ill,

combination of measles

