THE TRUE WITNESS AND OATHOLIO OHRONICLE.



10

BY CHARLES LEVER.

Author of ' 'Harry Lorrequer," " Jack Hinton the Guardsman," " Charles O'Malley the Irish Dragon," etc.

CHAPTER LXXXIII. THE GARDEN BY MOONLIGHT.

There was but one heavy heart at the dinner table that day; but Nina's pride was proof against any disclosure of suffering, and though she was tortured by anxiety and fevered with doubt, nonenot even Kate-suspected that any care weighed on her.

As for Kate herself, her happiness besmed in every linesment of her handsome face. The captain-to give him the name by which he was known-bad been up that day, and partaken of an atternoon tea with his sunt and Kate, Her spirits were excellent, and all the promise of the future was rose colored and bright. The little cloud of what trouble the trial might bring was not suffered to darken the cheerful meeting, and it was the one only bitter in their cup.

To divert Curtis from this theme, on which, with the accustomed mala propos of an awkward man, he wished to talk, the young men led him to the subject of Donogan and his party.

"I believe we'll take him this time," said Curtis. "He must have some close relations with some one about Moate or Kilbeggan, for it is remarked he cannot keep away from the neighborhood; but who are his friends, or what they are meditating, we cannot guess."

" If what Mademoiselle Kostalergi said this morning be correct," remarked Atlee, "conjecture is unnecessary. She told Dick and myself that every Irishman is at heart a rebel."

"I said more or less of one, Mr. Atlee, since there are some who have not the courage of their opinions."

"I hope you are gratified by the em-endation," whispered Dick; and then added, aloud, "Donogan is not one of these."

"He's a consummate fool," cried Curtis, bluntly. "He thinks the attack of a police barrack or the capture of a few firelocks will revolutionize Ireland." "He forgets that there are twelve

thousand police, officered by such men as yourself, captain," said Nina, gravely. "Well, there might be worse," rejoined

Curtis, doggedly, for he was not quite sure of the sincerity of the speaker.

"What will you be the better of taking him?" said Kilgobbin. "If the whole tree be pernicious, where's the use of plucking one leaf off it?"

"The captain has nothing to do with that," said Atlee. "any more than a hound has to discuss the morality of fox hunting-his business is the puruit."

"I don't like your simile, Mr. Atlee," said Nina, while she whispered some words to the captain, and drew him in this way into a confidential talk.

"I don't mind him at all, Miss Nina." said Curtis; "he's one of those fellows on the Press, and they are always saying impertment things, to keep their little talents in wind. I'll tell you, in confidence, how wrong he is. I have just had a meeting with the chief secretary, who told me that the Popish bishops are not at all pleased with the leniency of the Government; that, whatever 'healing measures' Mr. Gladstone contemplates, ought to be for the Church and the Ostholics; that the Fenians or the Nationalists are the enemies of the Holy Father; and that the time has come for the Government to hunt them down, and give over the rule of Ireland to the cardinal and his party." "That seems to me very reasonable, and very logical," said Nina. "Well, it is and it is not. If you want peace in the rabbit-warren, you must banish either the rats or the rabbits; and I suppose either the Protestants or the Papists must have it their own way here."

There's no use in hanging a bad fellow in Ireland-it frightens nobody ; but if you hang a respectable man, a man that has done generous and fine things, it produces a great effect on society, and is a terrible +xample.

"There may be a deep wisdom in what you say."

"Not that they'll mind me for all that. It's the men like myself, Mes Nins, who know Ireland well, who know every assize town in the country, and what the juries will do in each, are never consulted in England. They say: 'Let Curtis catch him-that's his bu-iness.'"

And how will you do it ?"

"I'll tell you. I haven't men enough to watch all the roade; but I'll take care to have my people where he's least likely to go-that is, to the North. He's a cunning fellow is Dan, and he'd make for the Shannon if he could; but now that he knows we're after him, he'll turn to Antrim or Derry. He'll cut cross Westmeath and make North if he gets away from this."

"That is a very soute calculation of yours; and where do you suspect he may he now-I mean, at this moment we're talking?"

"He's not three miles from where we're sitting," said he, in a low whisper, and a cautious glance round the table. "He's hid in the bog outside. There's scores of places there a man could hide in, and never be tracked ; and there's few fellows would like to meet Donogan single-handed. He's as active as a rope-dancer, and he's as courageous as the devil."

"It would be a pity to hang such a fellow."

-not exactly as good as him, perhaps, for Dan was a gentleman once." "There's plenty more of the same sort

"And is, probably, still ?" "It would be hard for him, with the rapscallions he has to live with, and not five shillings in his pocket besides."

"I don't know, after all, if you'll be happier for giving him up to the law. He may have a mother, a sister, a wife. or a sweetheart."

"He may have a sweetheart, but I know he has none of the others. He said, in the dock, that no man could quit life at less cost-that there wasn't one to grieve after him." "Foor fellow, that was a sad confes-

sion."

"We're not all to turn Fenians, Miss Nina, because we're only children and unmarried."

"You are too clever for me to dispute with," said she, in affected humility; "but I like greatly to hear you talk of Ireland. Now, what number of people have you here?"

"I have my orderly, and two men to patrol the demesne; but to-morrow we'll draw the net tighter. We'll call in all the party from Moate, and, from information I have got, we're sure to track him."

"What confidences is Curtis making with Mademoiselle Nina?" said Atlee, who, though affecting to join the general conversation, had never ceased to watch them.

"The captain is telling me how he put down the Fenians in the rising of '61," said Nina, calmly.

"And did he? I say, Curtis, have you really suppressed the rebellion in Ire-land?"

"No; nor won't Mr. Joe Atlee, till we put down the rascally Press-the unprincipled penny a-liners, that write treason o pay for their dinner. " Poor fellows !" replied Atlee. "Let us hope it does not interfere with their digestion. But seriously, mademoiselle, does it not give you a great notion of our insecurity here in Ireland when you see to what we trust law and order."



her as she thus thought, and Kate, perceiving it, rose at once to retire.

"You were not ill, dearest Nina? I saw you grow pale, and I fancied for a moment you seemed faint."

"No; a mere passing weakness. I shall lie down and be better presently." "And then you'll come up to aunt's

room-I call godmother aunt now-and take tea with Gorman and us all."

"Yes, I'll do that after a little rest. I'll take half an hour or so of quiet," said she, in broken utterances. "I suppose the gentlemen will sit over their wine; there's no fear of their breaking up."

"Very little fear, indeed," said Kate, laughing at the word. "Papa made me give out some of his rare old '41 wine to-

day, and they're not likely to leave it." "By-by, then, for a little while, said Nina, dreamily, for her thoughts had gone off on another track. "I shall join you later on."

Kate tripped gayly up the stairs, singing pleasantly as she went, for hers was a happy heart and a hopeful.

Nina lingered for a moment with her hand on the banister, and then hurried to her room.

It was a still, cold night of deep winter, a very faint crescent of a new moon was low in the sky, and a thin snow fall, slightly orisped with frost, covered the ground. Nina opened her window and looked out. All was still and quiet with out-not a twig moved. She bent her ear to listen, thinking that on the frozen ground a step might perhaps be heard, and it was relief to her anxiety when she heard nothing. The chill, cold air that came in through the window warned her to muffle herself well, and she drew the hood of her scarlet cloak over her head. Strongbooted, and with warm gloves, she stood for a moment at her door to listen, and finding all q iet, she slowly descended the stairs and gained the hall. She started affrighted as she entered, think ing there was some one seated at the table, but she rallied in an instant, as she saw it was only the loose horseman's coat or cloak of the chief constable, which, lined with red, and with the gold lace cap beside it, made up the delusion that alarmed her.

It was not an easy task to withdraw the heavy bolts and bars that secured the massive door, and even to turn the heavy key in the lock required an effort; but she succeeded at length, and issued forth into the open.

"How I hope he has not come; how I pray he has not ventured," said she to herself, as she walked along. "Leavetakings are sad things, and why incur one so full of peril and misery too! When I wrote to him, of course I knew nothing of his danger, and it is exactly She bis danger will make him come!" knew of others to whom such reasonings would not have applied, and a scornful shake of the head showed that she would not think of them at such a moment. The sound of her own footsteps on the orisp ground made her once or twice be Leve she heard some one coming, and as she stopped to listen, the strong beating of her heart could be counted. It was not fear-at least not fear in the sense of a personal danger-it was that high tension which great anxiety lends to the nerves, exalting vitality to a state in which a sensation is as powerful as a material influence. She ascended the steps of the little terraced mound of the rendezvous, one by one, overwhelmed almost to fainting by some imagined analogy with the scaffold, which might be the fa'e of him she was going to meet.

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WIT AND HUMOR.

What is the greatest curiosity in the world? A woman's.

Aspirant : "What is the chief requisite for a young lady entering the literary field ?" Editor: "Postage stamps."

Unsophisticated Cook-"If you please, mum, the butcher says I shall get five per cent. on all orders I give him. What does that mean?" Mistress..." It means, Mary, that we shall have a new butcher."

Entering the house of one of his congregation, Rowland Hill saw a child on a rooking-horse. "Dear me!" exclaimed the aged minister, "how wondrously like some Christians! There is motion, but no progress."

"Are you a single man?" inquired a lady of a brawny mechanic who had come to fix the kitchen stove. Considerin' matrimony, mum," he replied, "1 am; but when it comes to sluggin', they do say I'm equal to about four.

"I guess Jimmie Jones was mistaken about his brother being a college graduate." Mama: "What makes you think so?" "Well, papa said they always knew everything, and he couldn't tell what our baby was cryin' about."

Young Doctor-"Here I've had my shingle out two weeks, and not a case yet. I've been sitting here like patience on a monument." Friend-"Never mind : you will eventually get a chance to put the monuments on the patients."

"You must have made several dollars out of your theatricals." "I? Oh, no. Those theatricals were for the poor." "I know; that's why you divided up the receipts among the performers. They were the poorest I ever saw."

THE FOX AND THE LION'S DEN.

There is a rich store of illustrations for temperance speakers in the fables of Æsop and other writers. The moral of the following is self-evident :-- The lion, in order to catch his prey the easier, gave it out that he was very ill, and sent invitations to all the beasts to come to his den to see him in his illness. Most of them complied with this invitation, but it was noticed that the for kept outside. Upon this the lion sent one of his jackals to ask why he did not come into the den as others did? To this the fox replied, "Pray present my duty to his majesty, and tell him that I have the same respect for him as ever, and would certainly come to see him in his illness; but when I come to the mouth of his den I see the prints of all my neighbours pointing forwards into the cave, and cannot discover the impressions of anyone of them coming out again. This makes me tremble for my safety, and, therefore, I keep outside where I know I am in no danger." Those who go to the den of strong drink leave their footprints behind them, all pointing towards destruction; but where are the prints of those who return again?

"Then you mean to capture this man?'

"We do-we are determined on that. And what's more, I'd hang him if I had the power." ____" And why?"

"Just because he isn't a bad fellow ! A sudden cast of seriousness overcame

"Never mind him, Curtis," said Kil-gobbin. "When these fellows are not saying sharp things they have to be silent.

While the conversation went briskly on, Nina contrived to glance unnoticed at her watch, and saw that it wanted only a quarter of an hour to nine. Nine was the nour she had named to Donogan to be in the garden, and she already trembled at the danger to which she had exposed him. She reasoned thus: "So reckless and fearless is this man, that, if he should have come determined to see me, and I do not go to meet him, he is quite capable of entering the house boldly, even at the cost of being cap-tured. The very price he would have to pay for his rashness would be its temptation."

He was standing under a tree, his arms crossed on his breast, as she came up. The moment she appeared, he rushed to meet her, and throwing himself on one knee; he seized her hand and kissed it. (To be continued.)

TEST OF LOYALTY.

The test of true loyalty which each one may put to himself is : "Am I faithful to truth, to right, to duty, to love ?" "Am I constant to the best methods I can find-to the highest ideals I can form ?" To do this much must sometimes be resigned, just as in the ascent of a mountain, miny pleasant resting-places must be lett behind. But he who is thus loyal to his best conceptions will never be disloyal to his nation or his party or his frie: d. The great r includes the less. "To thine own slif be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, thou can'st not then be false to any man."