#### nelph Evening Mercury

FRIDAY EVN'G, SEPTEMBER 6.

ull, and a pull altogether 10-MOR-10W MORNING will give our cause and our candidates—STRFON and 10W—such a majority as will place heir election beyond a doubt. Up hen and devote a few hours to the rork which is before you.

### NORAH CUSHALEEN

HAUNTED CASTLE.

HAUNTED CASTLE.

'Impossible,' said the youth. 'Your experience seems to be exceptional, and you judge humantly by an extreme and isolated case. Some real or fancied wrong has made you cruel and unjust.—

A private grievance has made you the foe of society. 'Society itself has made me its foe,' cried the captain. 'Falsehood, perfidy, base mercenary love have torn the softmess out of my nature, and I glory in my power to retaints.'

'Pestle has returned,' said a voice behind, and the face of the attendant papeared at the opening.

'He! say you so—and his news?'

'Good,' was the answer.

'Send him here,' said the captain, greatly excited.

'Send him here,' said the captain, greatly excited.

The face vanished, and the captain, taking no further notice of Hargestwe, paced to and fro in a state of wild, fierce agitation. There was a foot-step without, and the young, active fellow, dirty and travel-stained, entered the cavern.

'Now Pestle, your news,' cried the leader. 'Is the old dotard to cross the mountains soon?'

'Now, Pestle, your news,' cried the leader. 'Is the old dotard to cross the mountains soon?'
'In a day or two at the farthest,' replied the man,
'And alone?'
'No; his wife accompanies him,'
'What!' shouted the captain. Did you say his wife?'
'I said so, captain. He is so jealous that he cannot bear to leave her behind.'
'Oh, this will be the very essence of revenge,' exclaimed the captain. 'A double ransom. How I will wring his hard miserly heart, and what withering scorn I will heap on her faithless head. They shall both find what a fiend they have raised in the breast of the man they injured. But enough. Pestle, I owe you thanks. Remain here two days, and make merry with your friends, and then return to Ballybrogan and watch their departure. Find out the exact route they take, then speed hither with the intelligence, and I will take measures for their capture. Away!'

The man put his hand to his brow, by

gence, and I will take measures for their capture. Away!

The man put his hand to his brow, by way of salute, and vanished. For some time after his departure, the captain strode from side to side of the chamber, apparently much moved in spirit. Passion was evidently working fierely within him, deep and fierce emotion rushed with a wild impatience through his heart, and his dark eye gleamed with a fiery light.

with a wild impatience through his heart, and his dark eye gleamed with a fiery light.

Hargreave sat silently watching him, and this he could do all the more narrowly because the Captain seemed to have entirely forgotton his presence.—He was a young man, much about Hargreave's own age, and had a countenance rather attractive than otherwise. Its most prominent expressions seemed to be openness and generosity, but there was also about it a sharpness and firmness and strength of will not to be overcome. A hard sternness was discernible in the knitted brow and compressed lips, a fearless, reckless bravery shot out in every glance of his eye. It did indeed look as if his words were true, that the softness of his nature had been crushed out of him and left an acutely active mind capable only of cherishing bitter thoughts and executing cruel purposes. He had the look of a young man of great powers, whom a deep wrong had soured and changed into a mocking heartless fiend, with all a fiend's activity. Yet as Hargreave gazed upon him and discovered all this, the question which occurred to him was—"I st his man's fine generous nature gone from him utterly, or is there a possibility of circumstances recalling it? Are his powers henceforth to be devoted to the lawless life he has begun till perchance it is cut short by the hand of justice, or will the humanity to be devoted to the lawless life he has begun till perchance it is cut short by the hand of justice, or will the humanity that was once in him reassert itself and remove the sneering scepticism and faithlessness that now has possession of him? Suddenly the captain stood still, and turning towards Hargreave, folded his hand across his heart, and while a cold calmness came upon his face, he thus addressed him.

hand across his heart, and while a cold calmness came upon his face, he thus addressed him.

'You are a man possessed of intellectual power, and not of the class who are ordinarily made the victims of our just retaliation. Therefore I don't care if I do to you what I would scorn to do to another. I will justify myself in your sight. I have not always been what I am now. I was once, and that not long ago, a man of faith and hope like yourself. I loved a girl and fondly thought that she loved me. On that belief I built a fair fabric of happy prospects.—

That fabric was tumbled to the dust—it was her hand threw it down. All at once she became changed towards me, and at length refused to see me, sending me by her father a cold heartless message to the effect that our intimacy had ceused. I would not take such a message at her father'a hand—I insisted on seeing herself. I did see her, and heard her lips utter the same words. I demanded her reasons. She could give me none, but told me to leave her. Biting my lips till the blood came, I gave her back the love tokens she had given me, and received mine in return. Then I left her, and a few days revealed the secret of pertidy. She had sold herself or gold. In less than a mouth she was the wife of a man as old as her father, but who could clothe her in satin, and give her a couch to ride in. What was my loving heart to such a splendid fortune? What were her vows and promises to such a gilded lot? Nothing—emptiness—air. With her lips yet warm with my last kiss of love, she went to the altar, and swore there a false oath of love and obedience. On that altar where my hopes were sacrificed and my dream dispelled, I laid all my former nature aside, and vowed beacciorth orly to live for retaliation.—

the intelligence that the man whi gold enough to rob me of my hapes, is soon to take a journey over mountains, and she will be with.

My band shall seize them and them hither. His heart I will by making him empty his coffers we his life; but hers I will without trumphant scorn. Now you know yongs and my justification.'

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Stratford, 3rd September, 1867.

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