

the shoulders, and slapping him smartly on the back, said:—

“Rise up, now, Great O’Neil, and I wish you joy of your fine features and your fine poll of hair.”

O’Neil jumped upon the floor, and they led him to the looking glass, but on seeing the beautiful countenance which he now possessed, his transports were so great that he had well nigh broken his bones leaping over tables and chairs, and cutting all kinds of capers in his ecstasy. When the vehemence of his glee had somewhat abated, he unlocked the door and summoned his lady and all the household to witness the change which had been effected. All congratulated him upon it, and all lavished praises and caresses on McEneiry and his Man as plentifully as they had done abuse and menaces before. A grand banquet was made, to which all the chieftains in the neighborhood were invited. The feasting lasted several days, during which McEneiry and his Man were treated with all the respect and attention due to noblemen of the highest rank. At length they signified to him their intention of departing, as the duties of their profession would not suffer them to continue longer at his Castle. O’Neil pressed them much to stay longer, but finding them determined, he commanded his herdsman to fetch forty of the fattest bullocks in his paddock, and while he was doing so, he ordered his groom to bring forward two noble horses, ready bridled and saddled, for the journey. When all was ready he went into one of his own secret apartments, and brought out two pair of boots, one pair full of gold, and the other of silver. Ten men were summoned to drive home the cattle.

“Allow me, Mr. McEneiry,” said the great O’Neil, “to present you with this trifling mark of my esteem. Those horses, and this gold and silver and the cattle which you behold, I request you to accept as a very inadequate compensation for the important service you have rendered me.”

They took leave of all in the Castle and departed. When they were passing the furze hill in which McEneiry had concealed his harp, he got down off his horse and went to look for it. Finding it safe where he laid it, he brought it out

and placed it on the saddle before him, when all resumed their journey. When they had had gone two or three miles on the road homeward, the Man called aloud to the cattle drivers and asked them who they were? They answered that they were labourers belonging to the great O’Neil.

“What time,” said he, “did he allow you to go and come?”

“He allowed us a fortnight, or a month if necessary,” replied one of the men.

“Ah!” said the Man, “go home, my poor fellows, and till your gardens during that time, and we will drive these cattle home ourselves.”

Saying this he put his hand into one of the boots and gave each of them a handful of gold, and another of silver, and sent them away filled with gratitude, and leaving abundance of praise and blessings behind them.

When they were out of sight, McEneiry said, after proceeding for some time in silence:

“How very liberal you made yourself in sharing my gold and silver!”

“Make yourself easy now,” said the Man, “I did not, I am sure, altogether, give one bootful out of the four, and we shall have more in the remainder than we can spend for the rest of our lives.”

“That won’t do,” said McEneiry, “you should have borne in mind that I was the master, and that the whole was given to me.”

“Remember,” said the Man, “that what we have was very easily acquired, and, therefore, we ought to share with the poor; for what we have ourselves does not belong to us altogether, especially when we have obtained it without much trouble. And as to your part, I am sure if I was to leave you where you were hid in the bush the other morning, you would be thinking of something else besides bootfuls of gold and silver before now.”

McEneiry said nothing, and they continued their journey in silence, until they reached the foot of Knoe Fierna.

“Now,” said the Man, “we are on the spot where we first met, and as I suppose we must part, let me see how you’ll behave yourself, and I hope not as you did on a former occasion.”