### Guelph Evening Mercury

CE ..... MACDONNELL STREET. MONDAY EVEN'G, NOVEMBER 25.

### NORAH CUSHALEEN

OR THE

HAUNTED CASTLE.

Atter much painful effort and frequent mees, they entered the long street of undarra, and gained the house, where sir arrival made old Bridget, the house-eper, quite useless through fright, and ash frantic with joy. But soon the old man was made to comprehend the ste of matters, and at once instituted reelf as Norah's nurse, while the dog d Terry exchanges the most extravant expressions of endearment.

Terry would have departed at once to a ruin, but he was afraid to leave rah, inasmuch as eymptoms of appaching fever showed themselves. For me hours she lay tossing upon her heat; but at length a draught which idget administered brought the moist, and she fell into a deep and quiet ep.

Terry was induced to throw off his booth and coat, and lie down in the adjoining room just for half-an hour's rest, as he intended; but five minutes had not clapsed ere he, too was in as sound a sleep as ever jweary man enjoyed, and no longer master of his own frame.

This result is not to be wondered at. For twenty-four hours he had undergone constant and exciting exertions, so that body and mind were utterly worn out and demanded repose. It was, in fact, mid-day when he sawoke, and greatly astonished and annoyed was be when he learned how long had been his slumber. Norah had awaked at an early hour, weak but composed, and anxious as she was to return to her child, she would not allow herself to disturb Terry's slumber, for well she knew what need he had of rest. Now, however, that he had waked of his own accord, she urged him to take the breakfast which Bridget had prepared, and accompany her to the mountain. Terry looked at her.

'No Norah, avic,' he said; you are not strong enough, and, forby, you'll be as safe at Dundarra as in the old ruin.—So I'll go myself and bring down the old man and the boy, and see what Mr. Hargreave means to do.'

It was rather difficult to persuade Norah to this course. Her felt weakness, however, assisted Terry's logic, and she consented.

Accordingly, about the middle of the alternoon Terry left the village, and reached the ruin as the last hues of sunset were fading from the mountain peaks. The door of the tower stood half open a circumstance which caused him some alarm; but his mind was at once set at rest by finding old Michael in the others—the below absorbed in the interesting duty of feeding his grandson, who was now a big, rosy boy, full of good humour and content.

'Och, musha!' exclaimed Michael — 'Didn't me heart leap to my mouth when I heard yer fut in the passage. I didn't know but it might be that murtherin' blackguard Blantire. God save ye then, and where's Norah?

'Down in the house,' replied Terry.

'Li's meself that thought had her and the same.'

'Where is Mis

Terry.
'Sorra a bit o' me knows,' answered
Michael. 'They all left an hour after

daylight.

'Left!' repeated Terry, staring at the old man. 'It there no one here but

cold man. 'It there no one here but you.'

'Not a soul but meself and the ould lady in the cell.'
In answer to other questions put by Terry, it came out that Hargreave and Andrew, accompanied by Mary, reached the ruin shortly after midnight, and that a stranger arrived about two hours after them. Then, after morning dawned, they took their departure in one company, the stranger going with them from the ruin. By the description which Michael gave of the stranger, Terry concluded that it could be no other han Captain Jack himself.

But where had they all gone, or for what purpose? This Michael could not tell. Only Mr. Hargreave had assured him that they would hear of or see him again before very long; and his present parting advice was to release Lady Blantire and quit the ruin, longer residence in it being quite unnecessary.

Terry scratched his head in great perplexity, as his cogitations issued in nothing, and as it was getting dark he resolved on complying with the advice which

plexity, as his cogitations issued in nothing, and as it was getting dark he resolved on complying with the advice which had been left for him; and the first thing for him to do was to rolease her ladyship; so he lighted a torch, and went to te chamber above.

He approached and looked through the grating. Lady Blantire lay on the floor of the cell in a very dirty state, but the flash from her dark eye and the scowling look with which she regarded Terry showed that her tierce, sterr spirit was neither broken nor bent.

'Yer ladyship has had a mighty long time of it in yer own trap,' be remarked. She made no reply, but her eye flashed again, and the scowl deepened on her face.

ed again, and the scowl deepened on her face.

And much ye've made wid all yer son's schaming and yer own bloody intentions,' he added, in the hope of stinging her into a tejoinder. 'Miss Mary was taken from him at the very altar, and now she's gone away with Mishter Hargreave; and the frightened black guard had to confess before them all that Norsh is his lawful wife, and her purty boy is the heir of Blantire. So, as that draws all yer teeth, and ye can't bite any more, it's meself that's going to free ye, and ye can walk down to Blantire Castle at yer own convanience.'

To this information Lady Blantire listened in perfect silence. The speaker was sure that it galled her terribly, but by the exercise of her iron will she concealed her passionate feelings.

Terry had seme difficulty in redeeming his promise to liberate her. He pressed the projecting stone, but it moved not; again and again he made the attempt, till at length he was rewarded by hear-ashap click, and the ponderoas wall

ride and passion are, nor these orking together within her, she proceeded down the stone stars. Terry following close behind her, though of his resence she took no heed.

'The top o' the evening to ye,' he ried after her, as she traversed the pasage, and went out by the oaken door. She neither spoke nor turned her head, nut stalked majestically forth, and, crossing the grassy esplanade, took the near-set path to Blantire Castle.

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