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SHAWN NA SOGGARTH; OR, THE PRIEST-HUNTER. AN IRISH TALE OF THE PENAL TIMES.

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CHAPTER V.

The cabin, in which the proscribed instructor of youth resided, was situated on the edge of an extensive heath, stretching away to the Partree mountains, and hard-by a deep, dark stream .---The sun had been declining some hours, when Frank reached the humble domicile, but there was still considerable heat in his beams, and the old man was basking himself on a turf seat in front of the cabin, with a red night-cap on his head, and "spectacle on nose," as he pored over a greasy and well-thumbed manuscript, after having stealthily dismissed his ragged and proscribed pupils, to their widely-scattered homes, from what he humorously termed hus " hive of learning"-namely, a sheltered nook, hard-by a bend of the river between two craggy hills, at some distance from the cabin, where the more grown boys, stretched at their length on the heath, or with large stones for desks, learned to soil paper with mis-shapen letters, or crooked lines intended to represent figures ; and the juniors, on the sound of a strange footstep, became silent as mutes, in total opposition to the system pursued in more modern hedge-schools, where the urchins were wont on the approach of a stranger, to dash into a loud and general clatter of rehearsal, by way of exhibiting their attention to learning. For, at the dreary period we are treating of, a heavy penalty was the award of any Catholic who was detected in giving instructions ; and the consequence was, of course, that ignorance and crime overspread the length and breadth of the land, in rank and deadly luxuriance.

Ned was intently engaged over his manuscript, occasionally rubbing his cap with a puzzled air; and Frank paused to observe his fantastic and curiously mingled garb. His nether habiliments consisted of clay-colored brogues, rusty silk stockings, and well patched black breeches with shining knee-buckles. His vest was a faded brocade, reaching below his hips, and his coat, more than half threadbare, was of fine black cloth, except the sleeves, which were of blue frieze, that had been inserted instead of the original ones, either for durability or of necessity. A red flannel night-cap surmounted this motley dress, at which the old man cast an occasional glance, with no little complacency .--After having observed him for a tew moments. Frank, advancing still unperceived, slapped his quondam tutor on the shoulder, exclaiming,-"Hallo, my old boy, still over the books and papers, "I see." The old man stared-started up-rubbed his spectacles and stared again, muttering to himself, "Yis-no-surely it can't be himself in earnest. Yet it's so like him! It must be his fetch. Ochone, masther Frank, are ye real flesh an' blood or only a shadow?" "Real flesh and blood, my old cock," responded Frank, with a hearty shake of the hoisted sail ?" "Hubaboo, murther in airnest ?" should the old man, as he jumped about with the agility of boyhood, now perfectly assured of the reality of his visitor. "Masther Frank himself! Let me look at you-phoo, what a beautiful lad he's turned out-the little gossoon that was, the other day, only in his Cæsar an' rule o' three. An' to think ov his bein' in foreign parts, an' they say a great sailor, too. I suppose Eneas himself, in all his wanderins couldn't come near you. What a power o' grand sights you must see abroad, Masther Frank ! The true religion is, in course, in grate splindhor abroad ; an' 1 suppose you went to see the Pope an' St. Pether's. I hear they're rale grand sights."

whether Cæsar was a Roman or a Milesian general, and scarcely knows a square from a circle. Often I had to cry to him-

"Hard is the task to wash an Ethiop white, To polish dunces-make a blockhead bright."

"I'd bet all I'm worth this minit, (no heavy bet the reader may guess) the spalpeen couldn't consther the verb ' Lavo,' or tell why a figure is skipt in every line o' multiplication. He a mas-

ther, inagh !" Laughing at this outburst of jealousy, Frank observed, "I need not ask respecting Fergus, as I met him yesterday."

"Did you, though? I'm afraid he's takin' to wild courses lattherly, (sinking his voice) though he was a'most as dutiful a boy as the pious Eneas himself, an' nathrally ov a good disposition, barrin' that he didn't take to the larnin', an' I could never get him beyond the conjugations or out of fractions. Any way he was cruelly persecuted since you went abroad, Masther Frank, an' particularly since he gave the father ov a lickin', more power to his arm, to that upstart Dan Heraghty, that you may remimber has a large faction in the parish, because he couldn't put up with some disparagement the spalpeen was puttin' on me. But with the blessin' o' God, the poor fellow 'll come on the right path again, through the intercession of the Virgin an' the saints, that, bad as he is, he never turned his back to yit. But I'm talkin' too much o' myself an' mine, an' to you. God help me, whin I ought remimber what misfortune has come over my betthers. How is Sir Edmund-that was-weatherin' it out? the jolly and the good hearted. I didn' see him for the last month."

"He is driving fast to his eternal harbor, and it's as much owing to his illness, as to my wish to see yourself, that I came here to-day, as I thought I might hear something of Father Kilger, who landed with me two days ago-you havn't heard of, or from him ?"

" That's the first time I heard his name mintioned this many a long day : an' did the darling vinture back to his own ould parish in spite of the two Shawns? Faith thin, maybe he won't be as welcome as the flowers o' May, or ----' he was interrupted by a low, sweet voice calling from the opposite side of the cabin, "Ned, old Ned, are you there ?"

twice as many dinners as myself, an' three times member my friends while they are before my lish. They won't delay you more than a few ard, once beyond which, my chances of escaping as much meal an' potatoes. A spalpeen that eyes, and sometimes, I fear, even more than I hardly knows a case from a tense, couldn't tell do," she said, without appearing in the least surprised at the knowledge of her name, displayed by a stranger, as she affected to consider Frank. " No brother, cousin, or other valued friend,

in whom she feels any particular interest?" "Yes, now I think of it, there is a wild cousin

of mine, Benjamin, that went to America, because he was tired of home, and home of him. But I never inquire after him, because I never expect to hear any good of him. And then, there's my old granduncle, Bennet, that has been a nabob for the last forty years. He might be worth inquiring for, as he could, perhaps, send us diamonds or pearls. But it is likely, you have not journeyed so far as his residence, or, even if you have, that, as a stranger, you heard not of him."

"Arra, tundher an nounters, never mind him, Miss Bessy," said Ned ; " who is he at all ----- " "I have not, indeed, been so far from home," said Frank, interrupting Ned with a significant frown. "My sailing has but extended to the European shores. And is there not in that wide space, one, Miss Andrews would ask for ?"

"I scarcely think there is, as far as remembrance serves me at this moment," she rejoined. "Besides, the absent seldom allow us to hear any good of them; and it's so much pleasanter, to amuse ourselves with those that are present, and whose attractions are before our eyes, than to waste the hours in useless regrets for those that are away, and may never return. But I'm running on too freely."

"Oh, there is nothing like openness," responded Frank. "Complete the admission now, by stating that, at present, you have no thought or memory for any one not decorated with sword or helmet.'

"A rather curious proposal certainly, to one who admits no father confessor, and only to be tolerated from a person introduced as the friend of my old acquaintance, Ned."

"And' if the thruth was known, Miss Bessy,

sure he's as grate a friend -----" Another frown cut Ned short again; Bessy, affecting not to perceive this bye-play, continued "well, as I have listened to the question, I will answer it openly. I do like the society of the military, as I think them the gayest; and I believe, most of my countrywomen have the same feeling towards them. You are not military, I imagine !"

minutes." "I can't delay a second more at present, Ned

-there's the workmen's dinner bell, and my father would be alarmed at my absence; when you come to the cottage, I shall have an opportunity of hearing the remainder of your flattery."

With another curtsey to Frank, as cool and distant as the first, though the same arch smile was still on her countenance, she recrossed the hedge, and moved along the heath, with a step almost as light as that of the hare she occasionally startled in her path.

"Well, then, Miss Bessy, if you must go, I must go with yourself, asking pardon of masther —this gentleman." So saying, Nez rushed into the cabin—seized his ancient and well worn cocked hat, and, repassing, Frank, whispered, as he shook his hand, "I will do more for you, than you were doin' for yerself. Pho, did you think me such a gomeril, as not to see all the time, that you didn't lave in foreign parts, an atom o' the sneakin' regard you used to have for my little rosebud . An' throth, it went agin my stomach, not to tell her at wanst, who she was talkin' to; though I'm sure I saw by her eye, she half suspected it all the time, though she said nothingbonnagh lath, (blessings with you) I'll have more to tell you in a day or two." He pushed on after Miss Andrews, at a pace utterly at variance with his years, and which, with his motley dress, formed a striking contrast to her appearance and motions.

"I think with him," soliloquized Frank, " that she suspected at least who I was, if she didn't recognize me all through. And how completely she exhibited her old julting propensities ! Pshaw ! what are her propensities-or what is she herself to me at present? And yet, the ease with which she talked to my face, of her preference for the military-the pertness of her manner, and the provoking sinile she wore throughout.---More than once I had enough to do to shorten sail, and refrain from flinging back on her some of her former sentiments and opinions. But I

will think no more of her now, when heavier matters are pressing on me. How gracefully she moves, like a vessel before the breeze, with all her gear on. I am almost zealous of that odd, old simpleton, for moving so near her .--Ah ! she is gone ; but I shall see her soon again, and her favorite perhaps, too."

ng gaze, and he turned him towards the abbey ; my path again. Mullowny will not be always

observation, and consequently of safety, would, I knew, be greatly increased. Unfortunately, however-fortunately I should rather express itthe first person I saw on entering the town, early as was the hour, was the person I most feared, and had most reason to fear, the dreaded Sir John Ingram hunself. To attempt to retrace my steps would be madness; and to diverge from the street was out of the question, as the houses were all closed, and, even if practicable, such a movement would have but prolonged the period of my danger, as Sir John, having per-ceived me, was advancing fast. So I took the resolution of throwing myself on his protection -a resolutiou certainly conceived on the spur of the occasion, but to which I was induced by more than one motive. The worst have sometimes redceming qualities. I had heard that there was a species of wild generosity in Sir John's character that, when the chord was awakened, had induced him to shelter temporarily some that had confidingly appealed to hum. I had heard also, that he greatly relished the discomfiture of his villainous satellite. Accordingly, I met him boldly, as he advanced towards me ;and when he asked my name, and where I was going to, I answered unhesitatingly, that I was a priest, flying from Shawn na Soggarth, whom I was after having knocked down; that there was one man I was particularly afraid of, namely Sir John, and that I trusted that he, as the first 1 had met with, and evidently a friendly gontleman, would help to save me from those I feared. "And you gave the rascal a sound licking-eh! did you?" he said.

"I left him stretched on the road certainly." "A grim smile passed across his face, as he said, ' and you wished to escape Sir John and him ?'

" ' That is my most carnest wish under heaven, this moment.'

". Then you couldn't have fallen into better hands-follow me.' The same grim smile lighted his features, as he wheeled round to be my guide. "I followed him through some streets, silently,

though not without suspicion, an occasional early riser eyeing me as we passed with commiseration, though without venturing to speak, till we reached a bridge about a furlong east of the town, when he stopped, and, turning full round to me, said, 'You are now safe tor the present. I am An eminence had shut her out from his strain- Sir John Ingram; but beware how you cross

"Our canvass did not reach quite so far, Ned. But another time I must give you the whole history of my voyages. At present you must tell me how the land lies here."

"Oh, bad, bad, bad entirely for us. Nothin' but finin', an' imprisonin', an' thransportin', if we don't become vagabon' turncoats, like masther Robert-I beg your pardon, masther Frank."

"And do you still venture to instruct ?"

teach them their Christian Docthrine, an' the my apology for delayin' my purty rosebud." sarvin' o' Mass ? an' they already without priests masther, that was only a scholar o' my own, an' | phere. as stupid as a jackass, though he's now gettin'

The tones thrilled with electrical influence through Frank. His frame trembled and his agitation became visible, even to the dim eyes of

his companion. "Don't be alarmed, Mr. Frank," observed the latter ;-" I'm coming, my jewel ;- it's only my little rosebud, Elizabeth Andrews, that sometimes gets an odd lesson from me, to improve her language and knowledge of accounts. You remimber Miss Elizabeth ;- I'm with you in a have a thought bestowed on her; and, fortujiffey, a haggar ;---though she doesn't remimber you, with your foreign look, and unvernacular accent. But I can introduce you in a minnit. 'Twas hersel' that gave me the most o' these fine raimants, that I call my Irish togæ"-he glanced proudly over his motley habiliments.

"Not a word of my name on any account, Ned, or I will instantly hoist sail. The young lady must remember-I remember-that is, we shall be very well acquainted."

"Very well, Masther Frank-here is the charming flower hersel'."

Pulling off his head gear, Ned sprang forward, with a grace all his own, to assist over a hedge adjoining the cabin, a blooming girl, radiant with health and exercise. Bessy Andrews was Hebe-like in person, with rich brown tresses, flowing in careless luxuriance, over a neck and as yours." shoulders of beautiful proportions, and ivory fairness, as far as they were visible, while large eyes, liquid as ocean's depths and darkly blue, mated well with features of much archness as well as with the rich rose-hues of her dimpled cheeks - richer still from her recent walk.

"You must have been deeply engaged, Ned -perhaps writing love verses," said the lively girl, springing lightly from the hedge, " as I have called two or three times without your minding me"-then perceiving Frank, she drew back a pace, blushing deeply. But, observing him sharply for a moment, an archer smile overspread her features, as she returned his bow with a distant curtsey.

just returned from foreign parts, an' talkin' to me till another opportunity, as I have already overwithout a cast o' my office, if it was only to ov ould times, Miss Bessy," said Ned, "an' that's stayed my time, listening to your flattering when I distinguished the clatter of a horse's

"And has Miss Andrews no friend in other an' without chapels. Yis, masther Frank, as lands she would care to inquire for ?" asked an without enapers. Its, masther I than, as first a few ordinary remarks had been some employment for you, in making out ac- to stop, or that he would shoot me. Instead, long as I'm left alive an' out o' jail, I'll thry to Frank, after a few ordinary remarks had been some employment for you, in making out ac- to stop, or that he would shoot me. Instead, give them a mouthful o' the larnin' the poor made on both sides, and they had refused Ned's counts, that have foiled me. Farewell then for gossoons are so fond ov : though, to tell the invitation to go in and rest themselves in the truth, they don't desarve it so well from me at cabin, the appearance of which, truth to say, present, as the lower part of the parish is, this offered but little inducement, to exchange the minit, incouragin' Dan Heraghty as a hedge- pure, sweet air abroad for its smoky atmos-

some harshness.

"Oh, the daughter of a founder," she said laughingly, "would, in your country, be too much beneath one of those epauletted gentry, to nately, I am much humbler in my notions--" " Oh, Miss Bessy, don't talk that way of yer- | said, " Frank, my boy, your thoughts must have self," eagerly interrupted Ned, who liked neither been of a deep, if not of a pleasant nature, as I the manner nor matter of the conversation .--The rosebud of Ballintubber is good enough for a colonel, if she fancied him-I dida't give you a ceived me." copy yit of the lines I made for you the last

time I mounted my ould Pegasus. I wish Dan Heraghty was here to listen to them.

"Whin the sun he is brightly shinin'-"

"Another time will answer better for the recital, Ned," said Frank.

"No, no, Masther F-sir, I mean, there's no time like the present; an' I'll lave it to the lady herself."

"Let us have the verses by all means, Ned, however unworthy the subject of such a muse

After humming twice or thrice to clear his throat, drawing up a stocking, and adjusting a dingy cravat, Ned commenced,

"Whin the sun he is brightly shining' Thin our rosebud the fairest is smilin'; For it is my full and clear conviction, Beyond all fear of contradiction, That the goddess Venus was scarce so fair, And did Helen of Greece, but once compare,

With our rosebud, in her blooming charms, Ould Throy would have been spared from its alarms. The Greeks would stay at home and be quiet, Instead of kicking up so vagabond a riot ; For the Throjan boy'd scorn to rob her From her spouse, but turn to Ballintubber-"

"Well, Ned," she said, interrupting him with a hearty laugh, "now that you've brought him "This is an ould pu-an ould friend I mean, to Ballintubber, I must take my leave of him, verses, which had almost made me forget, that hoofs pressing hard behind me; and, in a few my errand was to tell you, that, when you find time to come to the cottage, my father will have calling on me by name, with a tremendous oath,

"Wait, Miss Bessy, for the nixt four lines .-They're the flower o' the flock, an' 'ud make Dan Heraghty hang himself if he heard them, barrin' that the spalpeen knows no more about which a child could then have easily accom- The last colleen that bought a gown o' that pat-"Oh, 'tis as much as I can ever do, to re- poetbry, than a Spanish cow does of talkin' Ing- plished—I made at my utmost speed for Castle- thern, was married and churched in it—buried

" No, an unfortunate Papist would find no ac- his mind, despite his recently expressed resolucess in the English army to sword and epaulettes, | tion, actively and effectually engaged in tracing without which, Miss Andrews would not, of out the striking improvement three years had course, deign to notice him," said Frank, with made in Bessy's personal attractions, and recalling the late as well as former interviews with her.

He was nearing the precints of the abbey, so entirely wrapt up in this subject, that the approach of a person, from behind an ivied fragment, was unperceived, till a hand was laid on his shoulder, and the voice of Father Bernard have been moving parallel, and close to you, for the last few minutes, without your having per-

"And yet you, my dear sir, were the person of all the world, I was in search of," said Frank, with a warm pressure of his hand; "though but with but slight hopes of meeting you, as it is a day earlier than you calculated on arriving here. "Yes, I found the inmates of a cabin, in which I intended resting for a day, were from

home." Frank now informed the priest of his uncle's dying state, and his engrossing anxiety to have a confessor, before his dissolution ; and it was arranged, that the priest should visit the cottage a look for profit; but I give the primest articles little before midnight. "And were you enabled, that's made for less than it could be manufactur-Father Bernard, to steer safely here, and with- ed for :

out trouble ?" asked Frank.

"Not altogether, Frank ; but let us take the field path towards Owen Durkan's, where I purpose resting for the night, and I will detail to you my escape, as it may serve to impress on you the value of the presence of mind, in an emergency. The night after I parted from you," he continued, as they struck into the field-path, "I sheltered in a lone cabin; and whether I was betrayed, whether he had tracked my steps, or whether it was mere casualty, Shawn, in a state of complete intoxication, came to rest in that the texture, as smooth as an eel's waistcoat, and cabin about midnight. Unfortunately, too, he must have witnessed my departure at grey dawn, as I had scarcely advanced a quarter of a mile. minutes more, I heard the voice of the ruffian doubled my pace. But in vain. He came up with me rapidly, and, in dismounting, attempted | I brought it myself all the way from the manu-

drunk.'

"I was not long, you may be sure, in taking myself out of his sight; and striking into the fields at once, I reached Balliotubber without further obstacle or delay."

They had now closely approached Durkan's cabin, and, at the priest's request, Frank and he separated for a few hours, the former returning to his uncle and cousin, with the glad intelligence of Father Bernard's arrival, and his intended visit to them that night.

CHAPTER VI.

It was the market-day of Castleard. The usual groups of loungers and venders-the industrious and the idle-were assembled ; but hy far the most remarkable man in the market was Johnny M'Cann, the widely-known peddler, usually designated " Cheap Johnny."

Johnny had, as usual, a considerable assemblage about him, to whom he was auctioning gowns, caps, kerchiefs, &c., with his accustomed strength of lungs and profusion of words. "That's right," he roared, "faug a ballagh (clear the way. There, that's the way. Gather round me, boys and girls; there's no one else in the market worth goin' to. For every one else 'ill

> "Tanners, weavers, Sawyers, paviors, Tinkers, tailors, Soldiers, sailors, Brewers, bakers Sweeps, shoemakers,

and their wives. There, Molly, that is the patthern of a gown, I believe.

"Examine it, try it, And if you like it buy it.

"Turn it-draw it-twist it-pull it. It can bear inspection as well as yourself. Look at the colors as clear as-----

"Mud," put in an arch girl among the surrounding group.

"No, you rogue," said the ready salesman, 'but as bright as your own rogueish eyes. I wish I was a week courtin' you.

"Troth thin we'd rather have you for a week than for a fortnight, I'm thinkin'."

"I'll have no more to say to you, you little divle, you. Molly, be sure to have the coat .---to seize me; but intemperance rendered him factory, and can sell it cheaper than it was powerless, and, shoving him to the earth—a task made for. It's one of our lucky pattherns, too.