

(Enter CASSIDY).

(To CASSIDY). Cassidy, I am going to my room and on no account do I wish to be disturbed. Do you understand?

CASS.—I do, sir, I do

O'G.—Mark me well—no one, I say no one, must be permitted to come to me!

(Moves to door).

CASS.—All right, sir.

(Exit O'G).

What's wrong with the old boy, I'd like to know? He looks as if he was about to swallow us all! Begorra I'm afraid there's trouble brewin' between Masther Dermot and his hard-hearted father, an' what'll come of it I don't know. There have been queer goin's on in this house for the last fortnight; soldiera,—men that should never be allowed to darken the door of an Irishman—that is if he's the right kind—have been hob-nobbin' with the masther, an' knowin' the man as I do, I fear there's somethin' wrong. Sure, on account of what we are, not a one of us would be kept in this house a minute, only he can't get any one else—except that omadhaun of a Frenchman down stairs, an' he—oh, begorra, he's a beauty!

(Enter DERMOT).

DERMOT—Cassidy, do you know where my father is?

CASS.—He's in his room, Masther Dermot, but just this minute he told me that he doesn't want anyone to disturb him.

DERMOT—(Moving to door). I must see him and at once.

CASS.—Ah, for the love o' God, Masther Dermot, don't go near him, or he'll break every bone in my body!

DERMOT—Nonsense man, I must see him!

CASS.—Well then, wait a minute an' I'll go an' tell him.

DERMOT—Very good.

(Exit CASSIDY).

Can it be possible that he will not see me? Has he ordered the servants to refuse me admittance to his presence? Surely not, and yet it may be so. All love for me, his only son, cannot yet be dead within him, and he may fear that my pleading will move him in spite of himself.

(Throws himself into a chair).

Ah, the future looks dark and threatening. My father, the descendant of the liberty-loving O'Gormans, has torn himself away from the traditions of the past, and, may God forgive him! has given himself body and soul to our enemies. But I will save him yet, yes, even if I give my life as a sacrifice!

(Re-enter CASSIDY).