

# VOL. XIV.

# TOM SAINT-AUBYN'S FREAK,

AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

A TALE OF MYSTERY.

## (Concluded.)

In the month of August, in this same fourth year into which this narrative has suddenly advanced, Coleraine and Burgess, after a summer tour in Switzerland, were making a brief sojourn amidst the pleasures of Paris. In preference to taking up their quarters in a hotel in the city, they hired an appartement in a pleasantly situated house m the Champs Elysees, near the Barriere de l'Etoile. They had not been many days in these quarters before they discovered that a couple of English ladies rented the premiere.

One day, some time after their arrival, when a strange ; our friends could not tell what to make iew casual meetings had made the parties ac- of it. For the second time Saint-Aubyn's skull quainted, a neat little note, addressed to them m the pleaasnt freedom of Parisian etiquette, apprised them that the Mis.es Barratt would be at home in the evening to receive a few friends, and would be much pleased it Mr. Coleraine and Mr. Burgess would join them-especially as the jatter were of their own country, dear old Engand. The invitation was readily accepted. In the evening they found themselves in the elegantly furnished salon of the premiere, in company with the Misses Barratt and six or eight French ladies and gentlemen. A couple of hours passed cheerfully away. Ladies sang and played; the piano and gutar were in almost Barratt.? He was inquiring for letters in the constant requisition ; one or two of the gentlemen sang also, and not the least successful effort was a rattling old English ballad chanted by rived fellow-countryman, their old acquaintance, Burgess; and there was, between whiles, an abundance of animated talking and gossip .--Tune proceeded very pleasantly until so very crifting a cause as the mention of a name threw the whole party into confusion. The sisters Barratt, let it be mentioned, appeared to be ladies of education and attainments, and to commond the sincere regard and esteem of the acquaintances around him. The elder - upon whose oot unhandsome face there seemed to reign an expression of anxiety and gloom, which, m thoughtful moments, gave her an air of brooding Alexis has christened you ' Barratt,' and dubs for offence; but-I am hardly my own master, metancholy, but when she was cheerful and engaged in conversation, was half dispelled, or, a that name bere.' Lavater might have said, intensified or ethereal. ' Pooh l' ename zed into a pleasant and warm smile-might have

# MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1864.

remainder of the evening, or for some time at more. It is most insulting and annoying to me; least, for perhaps she might soon recover herself. | and if I hear of its being further circulated by Miss Louisa then, after receiving poor Cole- you, we shall quarrel in right earnest ! Not one

raine's apology, and endeavoring to comfort in a thousand would have borne the scurvy busi-hun, tried to rally herseli and her friends; to ness in such good part as I did from the first ; laugh, talk, play, and sing, as they had done dur- but when I come here into France, some huning the early portion of the evening. For a dred miles from home, and find the tale already time there was some show of a revival of ani- abroad before me, and in the very place at which I rest, and where I am known, and people wondering and pondering over it, my patience begins to give way. Mark me ;- no more of fort, ease, and abandon had been brokec, and it !

The suddenness and vehemence of this outburst amazed his companions. The possible reasons of it, and Saint-Aubyn's old suspicions, broke darkly on their minds as they beheld the face of the speaker, white, even to the fiercely compressed lips, with inexplicable anger. Colerame's blood rushed to his cheek at the threatening manner in which he was addressed. He replied haughtily and defiantly : he was quite able to regulate his conduct for himself-he saw no barm in relating the anecdote, and he should do so again, perhaps, if tempted by circumstances ; it was quite innocent in itself, but if people choose to entertain extraordinary and unreasonable faucies about it, they rought-he couldn't help that.

"But I desire that you will not bandy my name about, sir l' cried Mr. Berrill, with still increased vehemence. 'You may talk what toolery you please, but you shall not mix my name up with it-preparing ridicule and insult for me wherever 1 go ! . Do you hear ? I can prevent that, and I will. I will thrash you with my cane-I will thrash you with my hand-but -ha! ha! ha! ha!--he takes it all in earnest! I have carried the jest too far-he is ready to kill me. Ha! ha! ha! ha!

The revulsion was as sudden, and almost as rritating; as had been the outburst. Still coutinung to laugh loudly, he held out both his hands for Coleraine to take. But the latter was not so speedily mollifielt; standing aloof, he demanded an explanation of these vagaries-to be insulted and threatened one moment, and laughed at the next, as it he were a whyward child, was not to be endured.

"Forgive me," returned Mr. Berrill. "I dare say I have insulted you and given you just cause you as either father or brother of the ladies of and know not what I do half my time. Forgive me, or quarrel with me-which you will, I can-' Pooh ?' ejaculated Mr. Berrill, quickly. 'He not help it.' His tone was now serious, and mistakes the name. There are a B and a cou- even melancholy, and he pressed his hand slowly ple of r's in both Barratt and Berrill, and he is across his brow. 'I knew not what I do half hal They are no relatives of mine; I am then, that all is not right with me. I am not merely their man of business, having to super- the same man I was. At tunes 1 am quarrelsome knowing wherefore, at times lachrymose, at times apathetic, morbid, or extravagautly gayas if I had lost my proper balance, and were coming to a sorry pass. I would not quarrel with you in this mad fashion--if you can, pray, forgive me !? Burgess interposed, and a sort of reconciliation took place, though it was by no means cordial on Coleraine's part. The remainder of the walk, as may be imagined, did not afford any of them much enjoyment. In the evening, Mr. Berrill busied himself with his luggage, and despatched a commissionnuire into Paris on various errands connected with his preparations for the journey into Swit- advantageous manner-and that he could not zerland. At about eight o'clock a couple of induriduals alighted from a cabriolet in the Champs Elysees, walked directly to the house of M. Alexis Louiche, and inquired if Mr. Berrul were within.

where he was brought into the presence of the Mr. Berrill a message to deliver to her master county magistrates, for examination, under the following circumstances :---

. . . . . . .

man of property, a widower, residing at D----, a friendly way." As the days passed by, and has died, leaving two youthful daughters. The the missing man was not found, much excitement superintendence of the affairs of the orphans was | ensued in the neighborhood; but no one appearintrusted to two guardians, who had been friends | ed so amazed and grieved as Mr. Bereill. He of their late father, one of whom was Thomas had two or three interviews with the magi-trates Duralt, Esq., a gentleman living in the neighbor- upon the subject, and assued bills, with his name bood, and the other, Mr. Berrill, of London, and city address oppended, offering a handsome then a solicitor. A year or two after this ar- (reward to whomsow for should bring tidings of rangement bad been in operation, a great in- the lost gentleman. On his veturn to boolion provement became manifest in the position of he closed his country inuse, and was never Mr. Berrill. In place of the somewhat humble | known to remain an it alterwards for more than chambers he had intherto occupied, he took a | a day at a time. handsome set of offices in the best quarter of [ About twenty years after the above period, a Lincoln's Inu, and, for a residence, a house in friend of Saint-Aubyn's found some boy's playing the vicinity of Hyde Park, which he had handsomely furnished. He pushed his practice with it of them, and sent it, with a humorous note to great assiduity, became well known as a bustling evergetic, and skrewd man of business, and apneared as one who had cautiously worked his way upwards, had prepared himself to assume a good position, had placed hunself therein directly with some difficulty ascertained where they had his circumstances were ripe for it, and was in a fair way of running a busy and prosperous career. wall had hallen to voin : the skull was found in He gained recognition as a promising practitioner the darkest conner, where a had been scratched moved in good society, married well, and, byand by, with a lady-like wile and a handsome daughter, succeed to present a very excellent example of worldly prosperity and felicity consequent upon the exercise of industry and prudence.

Meanwhile a warm intimacy had spruog up between Mr. Davalt and the eldest of his wards, Miss Barratt, which appeared likely to terminate in marriage; and that gentleman found reason for anxiety and complaint in the manner in which he was treated by his co-trustee, Mr. Berrill, who seemed determined to take upon himself the whole management of the property of the young ladies. All documents relating thereto had been placed in the custody of the latter, and he had been intrusted with the collection of rents and the legal management of their affairs, in consequence of the advantages offered by his profession and position. For a time, all went well; the rents were duly forwarded to Mr. Duralt, and concise returns made previous to Mr. Duralt's disappearance. A to him of the state of the property, &c., and that gentleman administered the receipts for the request, made inquities respecting the proceedyoung ladies in the manner most agreeable to ings of Berrill with the property of his maids, them and to his own comprehension of his office and discovering that all was not right; that he of guardian. By and by, however, he received knew the deceased had threatened a senting an intimation from Mr. Bernil that that gentleman had found a remarkably favorable oppor- when his friend was missed, but that the betunity for investing a sum of money for the haviour and demeanor of the prisoner at that young lanies, and intended so to do. Mr. Du- time had entirely disarmed them. valt replied, desiring to know the nature of the investment, and trusting Mr. Berrill would not ladies, which poor Duvait had so long ago contake any steps in the matter without consulting [ templated, was now entered into with a view to him. To this no answer was returned ; and Mr. I discovering whether the misoner could have had Davalt was much surprised to find that, at the any interest in suppressing it. By this means it ensuing quarter, Mr. Berrill, instead of remitting to him as formerly, came down himself to D-, sentation and chicanery, defrauded his wards of paid the money he had received at once into the seven or eight hundred pounds annually, ever bands of the Misses Barratt, and, afterwards since the term of the 'advantageous investment.' calling upon him, told him that the tone of his (Mr. Duvalt's) letter had given him (Mr. Berrill) much offence-that he was constantly moving in the most busy circles of the metropolis, and knew well how to invest money in the most endure anything like dictation, especially from one who had never mingled in the world, and whose experience of business was of a very limited nature. Suspicion arose in the mind of Davalt that all was not right, especially when he heard of Berrili's sudden prosperity. He cautiously set an inquiry on foot, and at length discovered that his co-trustee was a double dealer of the most subtle and accomplished character, and that be was trafficing with the property of his wards. --He instantly wrote to him, intimating that he knew all, demanded a scrutiny of the affairs of admission. the estate, and threatened, in case this were refused, to proceed by law, and compel concession. To this Mr. Berrill inside no reply ; but in a few days came down to D-..., for the ostensible purpose of superintending the furnishing of a house there, which, in the course of his busi- great result was made known to us, and from that ness, had come into his possession. As soon as result we might read a portion of the Almighty the house was in order, he gave an entertainment, one evening, to several of the gentry of upon him on the morning of this day, but what the result we might read, if not the complete destiny passed betwixt them is not known, for Davalt was never seen afterwards ! the guests assembled. Mr. Berrill was the spokes. The effect could not be denied. The wonheartiest, builliest, and most convivial of hosts. neartiest, brunest, and most convirtial of hosts. was spoken, was an effect too plain for even pre-Several times he inquired of the Misses Barratt judice to gainsay. The British Empire one bundred whether they had seen Duvalt, appearing sur-years ago, afforded a and spectacle to those who esthis same night, Mr. Berrill was being conducted prised and vexed at his absence. In the midst cared the teachings of the day. The cold Protest-rapidly to England by two emissaries of the of the featurity of the evening, Duvalt's house- wighthy and churched could secred their concerns. cident Mr. Coleraine had narrated to her, that Aubyn ? Let me warn you, once for all, Master London police. From London he was imme- keeper came to inquire after her master, who cident Mr. Coleraine had narrated to her, that Aubyn? Let me warn you, once for all, Master London police. From London he was name- | keeper came to inquire after her master, who contempt for conventional Christianity. The mid-she begged her friends would excuse her frate Coleraine, not to bandy that story about any diately conterped to D---, in Gloucestershire, had not been home all day, and received from die classes and the poor, destitute of real Obristian-

# No. 27.

as soon as she should see him-that he (Mr. Berrill) was very much hart at Mr. Davatt's Some twenty-four years previously, a gentle- absence, and thought he was not treating him in

with a skull m a held at D ----- He purchased the young cynic. A considerable time after, it was returned to him, with an account of the adventure at the Opera -- no names, however, being mentioned. He searched out the buys and found the skull. A portion of Berrill's garden up by a dog. The spot was delved, and an en-tire skeleton was brought to tight, together with a watch, cham, and seals, which were recognized by many as those norm by the late file. Ducalt. A peculiar formation or deformity of one of the legs also proved the identity of the skeleton .---An inquest was held upon the remains, and Berrill's arrest was communited by warrant. He had got tidings of the offair, and he sent his family to Switzerland, and proceeded himself to Paris, where, as we have seen, he was arrested. The Misses Barratt were also brought to England, and bore witness, of the inquest and before the magistrates, to the disagreement which had arisen betwixt Duvan and Berrill. It sppcared they had all along strongly suspected the latter of tout play. A pistol was found in Berrill's house, hidden in the recession of a secret closel; the maker's name was on it; he was sought, found and was able to testify that the weapon was purchased by Mr. Berrill some four days friend of the deceased deposed to having, at his

intend the administration of their property-a bare three hundred a year for each of them, poor girls-I wish it were more. Well, what do you mean to do with yourselves ? I am off to Switzerland to-morrow. Will you come?'

mation, but there was something hollow about

the sociability and enjoyment now ; it had but a

sort of unreal, galvanic life ; the wreath of com-

there was no mending it for the present. Mat-

ters became duller and duller, the anxious shade

settled down upon Louisa's brow, the friends be-

gan to talk in low tones and upon serious sub-

ects, and one after the other they departed .---

Presently, the two sisters were by themselves in

their appartement, and Burgess and Coleraine

by themselves in theirs. All this was very

had placed a number of individuals, assembled

for pleasure and enjoyment, in a most extraordi-

A couple of days after this, they were inform-

ed by the concierge that Monsieur Barratt had

arrived early in the morning from Calais, having

come from England to see his relatives - his sis-

ters or daughters, he did not know how the rela-

tionship stood-and was at present in the house.

He was in the habit of coming once or twice

every year. Half an hour after this communi-

cation was made, however, they came into colu-

sion with the geutleman described as " Monsieur

concier gerie, and what was the amazement of the

two friends at recognizing in their newly ar-

"Ab," exclaimed he, without any appearance

of astonishment, as he advanced and shook

hands with them ; ' I have heard from the ladies

up stairs that a couple of Englishmen were so-

journing in the house, answering to your names,

and I knew at once they must be yourselves .---

' We were not aware you had relatives here,'

said Burgess, with a laugh, their salutations and

various inquiries being concluded: 'Monsieur

Heartily glad to see you !'

nary predicament.

Mr. Berrill.

seen some five or six and thirty years ; while the younger appeared about twenty-eight or twenty- not particular-does not stick to the text. Ab, my time, I say. I have fears, indeed, now and nine, was well-looking and lady-like, and bore something of the same peculiar expression as ber sister when serious and thoughtful.

It happened that a young gentleman favored the company by surging, in studied imitation of Rubini, the famous ' Tu vechaz.' Naturally enough, Burgess and Coleraine involuntarily recalled a preceding occasion on which they had heard the same strains ; and, thinking the anecdote worth telling, the latter proceeded to recount to Miss Barratt the freak of Saint-Aubyn in moralizing over a skull at the Opera just at the time when Rubini was singing his grand cavatina, and the whole house was rapt with ecstacy; the jerking it from his hand, its rolling to daughter at Lausanne, so I shall not be altogethe feet of the gentleman, and the consternation ther alone. How is it our crusty friend, Saintof the whole party; the acquaintanceship which | Aubyn, is not here ?-- a fine place for a moralist had sprung up entirely through the incident, ending in the marriage of his friend Vivian to the daughter of the gentleman who was alarmed in he is the queerest character I have ever met such a whimsical manner, Mr. Berrill. Miss with.' Burratt listened to Coleraine with great attention as he related how the gentleman in front unsuspectingly picked up the skull, and swooned into the streets of Paris, which, however attracupon looking at it. She raised her hands, as if tive as was the display of life, bustle, and gaiety in sympathetic horror at so cruel a surprise ; but there, they speedly left, at the request of Mr. when, at the end of his recital, he mentioned Berrill, who did not wish to move about amongst the name of Mr. Berrill, she shrank from him the multitude, but preferred to be in the open with undisguised allicight-uttered, indeed, a country, ' where the air was fresh and free, and

der, from the room. his innocent communicativeness, and his embar- humor and cordiality whice he had displayed on rassment was by no means diminished as the a memorable occasion some years before; this whole company, with the exception of Miss gaiety, however, was soon exhausted on the Louisa Barratt, who hastened after her sister, present occasion; his laughter gradually became gathered round him, and questioned him as to less hearty and less frequent, remarks and obthe cause of the lady's agitation. All he could servations fell languidly from him, and at length to was to relate the anecdote which had excited | ceased altogether ; he grew abstracted and taciso vivid an exhibition of emotion, endeavoring to turn, and walked betwixt his friends with his account for Miss Barratt's alarm by supposing | head bowed down upon his breast like one abshe was extremely nervous and sensitive, and ex- sorbed in profound reverie. They had returned pressing much regret that he should unwittingly to the Bois de Boulogue, and were slowly pachave disturbed her equanimity, and interrupted ing down one of the many verdant and shady the enjoyment of the company.

turned to the salon. When she did so, her face in a low tone of concentrated ferocitywas pale, and bore an anxious, perturbed expression extremely painful to Colerame, and by no ratt, that ridiculous story of the skull, the other | saw their extraordinary acquaintance again. means reassuring to the rest of the guests. Her night-mixing my usine up with it, and holding sister, she said, was habitually nervous, and had me forth to ridicule and suspicion? Am I never been so strongly and strangely affected by an in- to hear the last of that trick of the crazy Saint-

The invitation was declined ; they had already made their tour thither-in fact, they had not long returned from Chamouni.

'Ah, to be sure ; I heard of it,' said Mr. Berrill. ' Sorry I was not with you. It is possible, however, I may meet Vivian and my --- plenty of food-all the vanities rampant-excellent pasture for the cynical rascal. Ah, na l

They walked out together ; after spending an hour in the Bois de Boulogne, making a descent slight shriek, and imrried, gasping and in disor- one felt oneself at liberty,' as he said. It is to be observed that Mr. Berrill received his ac-Coleraine was greatly shocked at the result of quaintance with much the same boisterous goodalle's there, when he suddenly broke from them, betrayed by M. Berrill. What passed betwixt It was many minutes before Miss Louisa re- and grasping Coleraine roughly by the arm, said, the latter oul the strangers is not knowa. In

"What made you tell my friend, Miss Bar-

"Berrill,' said the concierge, pondering on the name. ' There is no Mousteur Berrill in this house; there is a Monsieur Barratt, as also the Mademoiselles Barratt.'

"Barratt-ab ! that is the name-it is Monsieur Barratt, we mean,' said the stranger, and he and his companion were thereupon shown to the room of Mr- Berrill, who, it appeared, had assumed the name of Barratt on leaving England.

They were well dressed, gentlemanly looking personages, and evidently Englishmen. On being introduced into the presence of Mr. Berrill, they requested a few moments' private conversation with him. The Misses Barratt, and Coleraine and Burgess, happened to be in the room at the time; they retired instantly, the two gentlemen observing, with surprise and indefinable expectations of calamity, that unnustakable signs of consternation were mimediately half an hour, however, they all left the nouse to-

gether; and neither Coleraine nor Bargess ever

For, while they were sleeping on their heds

that at first he houseff had completions of Barrill

The scrutiny into the affairs of the young was found that he had, by a course of miscepre-Day by day, the evidence against the suspected man accumulated and gathered strength. He never, however, underwent more than two preliminary examinations. At these his demeanor and tranquil and attentive. After the second. however, his hope and herve forsook hun. He contrived to swallow the contents of a phial, which he had managed to conceal about his person--and the instice of this world was defeated !

### THE END.

### THE DESTINY OF THE IRISH NATION.

Last Sumlay evening the Rev. C. Porter, S. J., of Storeyhurat Collego, delivered a locture in St. Walburge's Catholic Church, Preston, on "The Destiny of the Irish Nation." There was an immense con-gregation, and large number were unable to obtain

The Rev. C. Porter in communing his lecture said ; -The dustinies of nations were usually concested from our view. They were formed in the seeret designs of Almighty God, and concealed in the depths of sternal wisdom, were generally veiled from the consideration of mea. Sometimes, however, a scheme of Divine Providence When an important result way atteined in consequence of a long zeries of causes, many of which were withdrawn frein the the neighborhood, and invited, amorgst the rest, power of man's will, then we might sufely assert that Duvalt and the Misses Barratt. Duvalt called such results were intended, by straighty God, and in of a astion as ordained by God, at least the destiny in a great part of the peopls. The destiny of the irish nation was in his opinion to convey the Ontho-The evening was one of great enjoyment to lie religion wherever the English language was wealthy and educated could scarcely conceal their