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THE QUARRYMEN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN.

AN IRISH STORY.

It is a platitude to begin by saying that every subject has many sides, and yet perhaps no one subject might be stated as owning so many sides as that one termed "The Irish Question." As one involved in its intricacies, earnestly striving to disentangle the skein, behold—"Lord John Rivers." He was small of stature, fair haired, and very slight. His countenance wore an expression of forced yet of unruffled calmness—a certain rigidity in the features, and steely gleam in his light eyes, gave an impression to the observer that the man was one in earnest, desperate earnest, to gain some noble end; that to gain this end, obstacles, however weighty, would be forcibly expelled from his path; that, no matter where, this small man intended to be a power. Great, noble, sincere and earnest, what lacked he? Was not he one among men perfect in character and life; wherefore in his presence should people feel antagonistic to him, and falling in silence, dread to speak, lest his contemplative eye should lay bare to its foundation the thought expressed, and finding it lacked wisdom, silently reject it? But one more virtue, and

Lord John had lived his first thirty years an apostle to his age—he needed that great love which in some men has made their lives, like beautiful poems, leaving traces never to be erased by time. It was he who from his youth had determined that he would go amongst the wildest Irish, make his dwelling-place near to theirs, found for them schools, build for them commodious cottages, rouse one and all to a high standard of morals and education. Of all these things, he said, "I will perform," and his "I will" was a potent one.

He purchased an estate left vacant by the death of the last of an old Irish family. It was situated on Black Mountain, comprising village, castle, and heather land for some hundreds of acres. He was also proprietor of the valuable stone quarries which gave employment to the villagers.

Lord John, accompanied by his mother and an invalid sister, and taking with him a large retinue of servants, left his comfortable English home, determining that his home henceforth should be in Ireland; that all his future should be laid out in bringing