

IRONICLE.

VOL. XXIV.

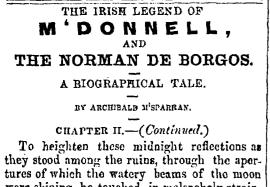
MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCT. 31, 1873. whatever would deny shelter to a wandering seven prongs close together, and also barbed. Having crossed the river, and keeping the some place, as it seemed, and following the

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were shining, he touched, in melancholy strain, the Fall of the Milesians, an old melody com-posed by the sweet voiced Malobruthian; and raising aloft their harps, they left to the silence and stillness of the night, this time-worn edifice, watering their path with tears. The moon by this time was encircled in a large ring; the stars were seen shooting along the sky and dipping to the horizon, and a short surly blast

bard ; that they had accustomed themselves to They scrutinized the stream with great village on their left hand, they directed their track through the trees, took it for a guide ; it travel in every season, and, above all, that the eagerness up and down, lifting their long course toward the slack that divides the ex- made many turns and windings, sometimes business on which they were, required the ut-bare legs high out of the current, lest tremity of Magilligan mountain from that ro-most despatch, and, therefore, they could not they should disturb the fish. At length mantic green hill, called the Kadey at the pre-leaving it. They might have begun to think comply.

no better than turf or bridle roads. A bridle salmon ;* then leaving it on the bank, and east some little openings along the stream which was as large as two men, nor could they perroad was such as could only be passed by men ing the fiery end of the torch backward, they separated these two mountains, and lighted by ceive any shape or form resembling a human on horseback, and not admitting any kind of took the strand which consisted of round stones their nightly friend, pale Luna, they entered being; but from the track, they knew it must car or carriage. A turf road was such as is of various descriptions, and went like a pair of the wood, not without some fear regarding be of wild beasts, they stretched their step a still used in bringing fuel or turf down from newly shod hunters over it, although treading wolves, an animal with which the wilds of Ire- little, as the saying is. When they came near the mountains, there being only a single rut, ' with the naked sole ; then into another, and so and that usually very unequal, so that their onward. The river was wooded on each side journey, as it had been the former day, could closely, save the kind of path which conducted not be many miles.

therhood as far as the river side, where they usually called, the sight was beautiful boyond could not see the farther bank for the weight description. The light at first nearly struck of snow that was falling around them, and also the density of the clouds, which collected into one universal gloom, were hovering over their heads like a dark canopy, and had rendered their external garments as white as their flowing beards. From leaving the ferry boat, they turned down the eastern side of the river, and each, with his instrument slung over his shoulder, his hands in a large skin muff, and dressed in his antique costume, passed along the way discoursing of yesterday's events, among which they did not forget the happiness of O'Fallon's after, a partridge. cabin, the sagacity of his dog, and chiefly his more than ordinary abilities in executing the Rinceadh fada, at the name of which they both the trees, their beards of snow hanging to their laughed aloud, thinking with what power of girdle, I must think it would have been grand. body and limbs he manœuvred before his fair Of this I am certain, that had the fishermen partner. Where the country was clear of seen them, it might have spoiled their sport. wood, it was pretty deep with snow at this time; and it was with much difficulty they beings, as ghosts and fairies, was almost uni-could perceive the road, night being closing versally believed throughout Ireland; the latfast upon them again.

"I think," said Malbruthan, "we are now approaching Oireagh O'Cahan, or the country well attended to; but should they be offended of O'Cahan. I lived among them for the by any kind of neglect, or by the cutting down space of two years, and know them to be a by any of their favorite haunts, as scroggs, i.e., great and powerful sept. They and the O'- shrivelled low bushes, old bended hawthorns, Neills are of the same stock, and also the called by the Irish skeaghs, and often standing O'Donnells. Have you ever heard of Toal O'Cahan, the famous minstrel of Teamra?" "I have seen some of his compositions, and

heard many anecdotes respecting him. Was as the gentry say they might call and require he not a facctious witty fellow, and something the like. Should any of the above insults or on the south by the Roe. fond of the bottle ?" said the other.

would sometimes force through the trees, warn- believe few since or before his time could equal eattle, or even his only caw, if he had no more; ing them that a change was about to take his performance; and I can also assure you often the death of one of the family, a broken place. They were now approaching Daire that he was of this very family. Many times have I heard his name mentioned by them his whole house. Of these things he was com tle bill. As far as the eye could reach on with sighs, as they said with him their history monly warned by a little fellow clothed in a either side, it was surrounded by a forest of and long line of genealogy had died. He was green jacket, who is usually the ambassador of born to a princely fortune, but being of a wandering disposition, he left his lands and inheritthree large ones at the northern quay served as ance among his friends, and took up his residence at Tara. 'Twas he composed that air called ' Thro' the green valleys of Erin,' which, I believe, was a kind of name for his own wanthe remaining part of the night, and even to derings. Indeed, there were few valleys of the morning bell, and, after prayers, sat down did not visit; the Dargle and Killarney were and female swimming parallel to each other, perhis favorite retreats, after which places he called many of his poetical and musical compositions. When I was in Ballingar with O'Connor, I found a fragment of an old song composed by him in our genuine tongue, every stanza of which ended with Finvola the gem of it snowed weightily during the remaining part the Roe. It was on the banks of this romantic stream that Toal O'Cahan took his birth, where I have eften mingled the sound of my harp with the cadence of the waters." Engaged in conversation of this kind, they passed imperceptibly on, until they began to think they had lost the main road, nor could they know on which hand it lay, as dusky night had almost assumed her full sovereignty over the whitened earth; brown woods and hills, smoothed with snow, so bewildered them, that they knew not which hand to turn to. At length they perceived a kind of winding track, which was one of those turf roads leading across the country, and following this for some miles, it brought them to the banks of the stream above mentioned, which was darkly round of fairies, woods, scroggs, glens, gentle bushes, forcing its way through pendant boughs, and grumbling as it received the falling tribute. "You now behold," said Malbruthan, " the favorite river of Toal O'Cahan. It appears dark on account of the snow, but in fine weather it is bright as a mirror." Just as he had finished this sentence, they heard some voices among the bushes at the ford below them, and saw a small light; in a few minutes it burst into a flame, and one of the young men, whose voices they heard, rushed (is the best specific in preserving milk from what is into the water, holding the flaming torch in one hand, and a weapon called a gaff in the other. It is crooked iron firmly bound to a chers suspend small carcases, only that it is set out at the point and barbed. The other was armed with what there called the other kind of staff about three or four feet in length; was armed with what they call a leester, after

them blind, but, when a little recovered they saw themselves standing in a forest of holly, hazel, alder, oak, and mountain ash ; the trunks of the cak were wound round with ivy, the leaves of which, with the holly berries sparkling in the light, made the place appear rather

like a fairy scene; the higher trees were all feathered over with snow, which not a breath of wind agitated; and to crown all the parts of this grand panorama, a large blackbird whirred

Now, could the piece have been well sketched, with the two reverond figures half seen among In early times the existence of supernatural ter genii they considered not an unfriendly kind of spirit, and that chiefly where they were alone in tilled or pasture fields, or even pouring out the water in which the family's feet were washed, this was an unpardonable offence, neglects be committed the delinquent was cer-

leg or arm, and sometimes the pulling down of the fairies.

the leester made a dash, but seeming to miss, sent day, but in earlier times Knockanbaan. - it was a delusion ; but in traversing another The country was mostly overgrown with the man with the torch sprung forward, and It was clothed with a thick forest nearly to the sweep of the river they saw a large bulk morwood, the roads were few, and such as they had, striking across him on the ford, lifted a large top, as was also the opposite hill. There were ing before them, which, to their imaginations, land formerly abounded, and the last of which, enough to see what the being was, for the snow I have been informed, was killed in the Wick- was over, the sky serene, and the moon sailing low mountains not thirty years back. The in lucid splendour above the whitened woods the benighted strangers to its banks, and when place which the minstrels were approaching -on one hand appeared the old cemetery of They were accompanied by some of the bro- the fishermen kindled their blaze, as it is was, perhaps, as pleasantly situated, and as Drumachose, its fretted walls silvered grey beautifully wild, as any they had met with. In with the pale light, and hanging over its sleepthe summer season Knockanbaan is covered with ling charge like some hoary sentinel, whose furthe purple flower of the wild thyme, the fra- rowed brow, bearing the marks of fifteen long grance of which is perceptible at a considerable campaigns, had caught the gleam of a neighdistance; and the butter that is made on this boring lamp as he leaned on his musket; while, soil, has a peculiar sweetness. I have also cold from the summit of Knockanbaan, the old lected wild strawberries on it; and if you set Druid temple cast its giant shade across the your foot on a bush of chamomile, which also wood, the stream, and the vale, frowning upon grows spontaneously here, it will salute you all-I say, just when they had got so far as I with the sweetest fragrance.

to be the whitest in Ireland; and further to cutting for the fire. In his right hand he bore out of a holly bush at their feet, and shortly the cast is a quarry of soft lime, that might an axe, and with the other secured his load, as almost be used for cement. Below are two he trudged in silence before them. The minlarge springs, whose currents united would al- strels seeing him loaded with fuel, and also most turn a mill. In a frosty morning, after | carrying his axe, knew he must be returning the sun is arisen, these fountains send up an evaporation like the steam of a furnace. But the finishing piece is the remains of a semicircular building on the top, which some suppose to have been a druidical temple. Magilligan mountain is oftener called Benn Evenney, from Evenney O'Cahan, that was formerly carried off by the fairies, concerning whom other necessaries of life, it was evident that many stories are told. Benn Evenney, I say, is productive of nearly all the natural beauties to be seen on the other; and, besides these,

has a most abrupt termination next the sea, some hundred yards of a perpendicular height, its confluence with the Atlantic, nearly to the warrens, washed on the west by the Poyle, and

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have mentioned, they perceived it was a man Toward the north is a lime quarry, supposed carrying a bundle of faggots which he had been

homeward to his hut, whatever sort it was, or wherever it might be, and also doubted not of his hospitality to them for one night, knowing they could make themselves comfortable with a good fire and the store of his cabin, be it ever so mean. Of the fire they had no reason to doubt from what they saw, and as to the flesh, fish, and fowl, in variety, were here in abundance.

The man, whom we are to suppose meditating on nought but witches, fairies, and Will-o'. commanding a grand view of the Foyle from travelled, flung his burden on the ground until the-wisp, * on being asked how far he had it almost rolled into the water, crossed himself liberties of Londonderry. Below you are the with the quickness of lightning, and muttering howlands of Magilligan, abounding in rabbit a short ejaculation, cast a handful of snow in a short ejaculation, cast a handful of snow in their faces. This only drew laughter from the strangers; but he well knowing that laughter As they passed along the valley that divides was a practice peculiar to the fairies, grew "I have been so informed," said he, "but tainly punished by the death of some of his these two hills, not without some dread of the worse. At that moment, recollecting that iron wolves" that were said to frequent them, they was a repeller of demons, he held up the edge thought that the snow appeared trampled in of the axe towards them, and retreating, kept his eyes firmly fixed upon them, and exclaiming, " A fair wind and a round soa to you, and always your heels to us." As Malbruthan ad-vanced to undeceive him, he gave a spring backward, and coming in contact with the bundle of faggots, went beels over head into the water. Imagining that all this was the effect of enchantment, and seeing the two pluntoms rush after him in order, as he imagined, to seize him, he thought he was on the point either of being annihilated or whipped into the air; and rolling on his one side out at the farther bank, for he had not time to rise, he burst through the thicket, and was heard crushing, cracking, and breaking, for a considerable distance up the stream. He was followed by peals of laughter from the travellers, which only added wings to his feet; and, to complete his catastrophe, they both struck up their harps and performed one of their merriest springs before they departed.

Calgac,* which stood on the acclivity of a littall oaks, the horizontal branches of which were extended over the waters of the Foyle, and a safe anchorage for vessels.

Coming to the monastery of Dominican friars, they, being admitted, rested soundly for te a comfortable breakfast.

They were fatigued with the difficulties and various casualties of last night, and, therefore, did not commence their journey until the day was pretty far advanced.

The atmosphere now became darkcned, and of the day; however, they could not be prevailed on to stay that night, notwithstanding much solicitation on the part of the Dominicans. They insisted that there was no cabin

* Daire Calgac, the ancient name of Londonderry, which signifies the oaks of Calgac, or the territory of oaks pertaining to Calgac. From Daire, an oak, the O'Dougherties of Innishoen took their name .---Daire, an oak, and oireagh, a property or territory, i.e., the chieftains of the oaks. It was not until after the colonizing of the forfeited lands that it received the appellation of London prefixed to it: and the place properly claiming the name Derry, is the immediate spot on which his Lordship, the Right Rev. William Knox's garden stands. Ireland, undoubtedly, in days of yore was the genuine country of the onk, as we have, in my own acquaintance, all these towns called by the onks-Derry Ard, Derry lane, Derry big, Derry more, little Derry, Der na flaw, Derry arken, Derry ork. So abundant was the oak timber in our island in former times, that it was exported to the Continent for shipbuilding, and many other purposes; and we have good testimony that Westminster Abbey is at this day roofed with our Itish glen wood oak. How many of the finest buildings in our country have been pulled down for the sake of that precious timber. Its duration, when kept free from water, cannot properly be ascertained by any person that ever I talked to. I have known weavers lately, when it became scarce, give at the rate of five pence per pound for it in order to make what they call under balls for looms, on account of its solidity for driving home the woof. The glen woods or coppice where the best oak was produced lay in the south eastern parts of the county Dorry; from Maghera to beyond Ballaghy and Magheratelt, and near Desort Martin, grew the so much celebrated royal oak claimed as a privilege by some of the Georges.

From Calgae possibly came Colgon, a name pretty common in Derry.

· For some time before November, the salmon, wishing to deposit their spawn, leave the salt water, and seeking the fresh water streams, ascend them to the very source. I have known them to be where the current would scarcely cover the back fins. 'Tis always the hardest and roughest bottom form a kind of motion, by moving off their meeting, and in this manner they form what is called the rood. For the purpose of taking the salmon, they split up the fir that is found in turi bogs, and this being dried, makes the finest of torches, and, when burning, the resin will run off it like oil. Then rolling up hard a little ball of tow, and leaving it in the fire till it becomes red, they carry it rolled in a larger quantity of tow, in order to light the torch. and this is called a spunk. † This appellation the fairies themselves consider

harsh and insulting. They would much rather be called the gentry, the quality, or the strangers ; and few of the lower order, at this day, will venture to call them by the above disrespectful name, imagining that they are always at their elbow. Many a happy evening I have sat, and many I do sit listening to legends of this kind ; but should I seem the least incredulous. I would not be favored by a single rohearsal. I say I am happy in hearing such recitals, because they convey to my mind the simplicity and innocence of our ancestors; and, indeed, the effect of it is evident on the present generation. In a winter evening, to enter a farmer's house, and see a group of young and old encircling a large turf fire, each employed in his or her respective business, the females commonly spinning, and the story going and haunted castles; I must confess, that to me this is more interesting than the orations of Demosthenes or Cicero. A place frequented by these genii is called a gentle place, and no enclument could induce them either to build on or till that spot.— Whirlwind is always full of them, and as it passes, the best preservative is to cast a hundful of earth into it, and call out, in the Scotch Innguage, "Weel may you gang, and weel may ye bide, and ai your heels to us. If this does not do, the pocket knife is to be opened, and held opposite danger. A withe or gad twisted of the mountain ash or rowan tree, called a bad eye, or the blink of an ill eye. The mould of nine pots boiled on a silver sixpence, is a complete cure for clf-shoeting. To go through a green hank of yarn that is unbleached, is almost immediate destruction ; and the only means of avoidings on New-year's day, there will be no luck in that the form of Neptune's trident, only it had house to that day twelvementh. To be crossed by 1 M 1 M 1

a hare, or meet a barefooted female first in the morning, is a sure omen of bad luck for that day. • When these animals were plenty in Ireland

they were, as they are in all other countries, mortal enemies to the sheep : for, not eating their satisfaction of one, or finishing out a carcase, they slaughtered and destroyed, so long as they were able, sucking the blood of each as they killed it, until they either thinned the fold, or were driven off by the force of men and dogs. In the monitainous parts of the county Tyrone, the inhabitants were very much distressed by them, and, from public contributions, gave so much for the head of every prowling freebooter, as they would now-a-days for a robber on the king's highway. There was an adventurer who, alone and unassisted by any person, made it his occupation to destroy those ravagers. The time for attacking them was in the night, and usually about midnight, as they would not leave their recesses in the woods until the country was at rest and quiet; then, issuing forth on their weak and defenceless prey, they generally commenced the carnage. There was a species of dog for the purpose of hunting them, called the wolf dog; the ligure of this animal was somewhat like a stout halfbred greyhound, but much stronger, with large ears and crect head and neck. In the county abovenamed, there was a large plot of ground enclosed with a high stone wall, having a gap at each of the two opposite extremities, and in this were enclosed the sheep of the surrounding inhabitants for better security; but still the fold was entered, and the havec continued. The proprietors having heard of this noted wolf hunter, Rory Carragh, I believe a native of a small village called Dungiven, sent for him, and offered the usual reward, with some addition, if he would undertake to destroy the two remaining wolves that had committed so much devastation. Carragh, taking two of those courageous animals with him, and a little boy only twelve years of age, the only person he could get to accompany him, repaired to the fold as it approached the hour of midnight. "Now," said he to the boy, " as the two wolves will outer the opposite extremities at the same moment. I must leave you and the dog to guard the one, while I go to the other. He steals with all the caution of a cat, nor will you hear him, but the dog will, and positively will give him the first fall; if, therefore, you are not active when he is down, to rivet his neck to the ground with this spear, he will rise and kill both you and the log, so good night." " I'll do what I can," said the boy, and immediately throwing the gate open, took his scat in the inner part close to the entrance, his faithful companion couching at his side, and being perfectly aware of the dangerous business he was about to encounter. The night was dark and somewhat sharp, so that he, being benumbed with the cold, was beginning to fall into a kind of sleep, but alas! he was slumbering on a dangerous precipice; for, at that instant the dog, with a roar, leaped across him, and laid his mortal enemy flat to the carth .--The boy was roused into double activity by the voice of his companion, and drove the spear through the wolf's neck as directed, at which time Carragh appeared bearing the head of the other.

The gentry are amazingly fond of music, as harps, fiddles, pipes, and the like, and have often been seen holding their rural dances under the greenwood tree, and the place brilliantly illuminated by a number of tapers.

The cottage in which the wood-cutter resided was much frequented in the winter evenings by the neighboring youth of both sexes, as it was scated in a pleasant place, with abundance of fuel; and the host himself, althouth a little credulous and something timorous on occasions. not averse to rustic merriment, and even fond of fairy legends, but scarcely ever could he trust himself to walk alone by night. The family with their evening visitants, were engaged in the above recitals just as he entered wanting his burden, his hair all on end, and prodigy bursting out of his two eyes. The lesson was perfectly read by them all before he spoke; but when he painted the two ghostly figures that appeared to him in the wood; how, when he attempted to place iron between himself and them, the foremost, with a blast out of his mouth, whiffed him over the bank of the river as if he had been a feather, and immediately both apparitions took wing and flew right forward to light on the top of me, said he; but by good luck I rolled across the stream, and here they were at the end of their tether, not

* This is a deceitful kind of spirit that is always seen with a blinking dim torch ; his business being to lead people astray who are travelling by night, also, to decoy them into pits and quagmires. He is much dreaded.