Buelph Evening Mercury

FRIDAY EV'NG, NOVEMBER 8.

Norah Cushaleen

HAUNTED CASTLE.

Terry's delight at this discovery could not be restrained. At one bound he leaped over the couch, and danced about the chamber with wild extravagence.—
Then rushing back he caught up one of the bars which had been removed, and was about to use it against that which remained, when the noise of the removal of the grating of their own chamber reached their ears and filled them with consternation. It was not the hour at which the jailer visited them, and they dreaded lest a discovery of their proceedings had been made, when liberty was almost within their grasp.

They had barely time to lay down their implements and rush to the other side of the chamber when a quick step was heard in the passage and the Captain appeared.

He had not visited them since the day when Andrew and Terry were brought as prisoners, and his presence at such a critical and exciting moment was ominous.

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when Andrew and Terry were brought as prisoners, and his presence at such a critical and exciting moment was ominous.

The keen eye of the Captain must have noticed the emotion which the prisoners could not conceal, had he not been himself mentally occupied and troubled. There was a cloud upon his brow, and a dissatisfied look on his face, as from some unpleasant naward feeling which he was striving to overcome.

Glancing for a moment at Hargreave, he gave him a bow so hurried that it mught have been called a nod, then, addressing himself to Andrew he sad—

'Mr M'Spurtle, are you aware of the grave nature of the position you occupy? My messenger has returned for the fourth time from Waterford, and there is no reply to your letter.'

'Weel, sir,' returned Anurew very gravely, 'It's very thouchtless o' my sister Jenny. I'm sure I wrote the letter in round text, that she micht be sure to understand it. I hope her reply will come in a day or twa.'

'I hope so too,' said Captain Jack. 'I will be a bad business for you and an unpleasant matter for me. I should be very sorry should the extremity be resorted to in your case.'

'And what may the extremity be ?' asked Andrew, with an unnocent air.

'Death by hanging?' replied the captain, with startling abruptness.

Save us and keep us!' cried Andrew, with strongly expressed horror. 'Captain ye surely wadna, murder me?'

'Can't help it,' was the answer. 'I am powerless in the matter. An inviolable oath guides us sill.'

'Confound yer oaths,' rejoined Andrew. 'Is a man tase be strangled in a hompen cravat because you and your men tak unholy eaths? My certie, but that's pleasant, or else it's noo'

'In your case,' added the captain, 'I will extend the time to two days longer.'

'Thrink ye, I'm sure I'm muckle obleeged the ye, 'returned Andrew with a sarcastic politeness, which the captain did not seem to notice, for he turned away, and, looking towards Hargreave, was about to speak, when he checked himself again, and began to pace to and fro in the chamber, the troubled, d

ance.
Terry followed his movements with looks of dismay, for he went dangerous ly near the aperture they had cleared in the corner. But the captain's mind was too much occupied by its reflections for his eye to notice the disarrangement of the rubbish.

the rubbish.

At length he again stopped in front of Hargreave.

'Well, the old miser has proved true to his character,' he said. 'His own ransom arrived some ten or twelve days' ago, and he departed, leaving her, his vife, behind, and positively refusing to ransom her.'

wife, behind, and positively refusing to ransom her.?

'And she remains still?' said Hargreave, who amid the excitement of their operations, had forgot the hopeless occupant of the adjoining chamber.

'Bhe does,' answered the captain; 'and the time appointed expires to night.—'To-morrow,' he added in a tone which he vainly strove to make indifferent, 'to-morrow the lots will be east for her, and to-morrow night she suffers the fate to which our laws consign her?'

'Great heaven, but you will save her?' said Hargreave, much shocked.
'I cannot, if I would,' he answered quickly. 'But why should I? Does she merit mercy at my hands? I sit not a just retribution for her perfidy?

'If you ask the questions at your strungding heart retribut these.

"If you ask the questions at your struggling heart rather than at me," responded Hargreave, 'it will reply that you should save her; and she does not merit mercy but justice from you; that justice points to her safe return to her husband's roof."

'Monossible' returned the section is the property of t

merit mercy but justice from you; that justice points to her safe return to her husband's roof.

'Moposible,' returned the captain in a deep voice. 'Her doom is sealed. It tell you I cannot save her if I would.'

'Would you if you could?' demanded Hargreave with pointed emphasis.

Captain Jack winced; then he answered in a would-be carefess tone—

'To tell you the truth, I did not contemplate that issue when I planned the scheme of the capture of that old dofard her husband, Mercenary as I knew him to be, I did not think it possible that he could leave her in our hands. That contingency I certainly never contemplated.'

'Or you would not have done it?' added Hargreave, in quiringly.

'I say not that,' replied the captain, 'but this I might have done—I would have conjoined the sums. Dearly as the old money-bag loved his gold, he loves his worthless life still more. But loves his worthle

TO BE CONTINUED.

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