

house, at noon, when you will be good enough to have your witnesses in attendance."

Burning with passion, Mr. Quill returned home. An hour afterwards, Mr. Forrester, the Dunmaine steward, was ushered into his office.

"How came you, Forrester, when I was at Dunmaine to-day, not to let me know that Weedon had carried off one of Lord Altham's horses?"

"God bless me, sir!—your messenger ordered him to come into Galway, with all haste, and as none of his lordship's cattle were at hand, I had my own saddled for him."

Mr. Quill was in a *fix*, and he felt himself to be so; the steward's account acquitted Weedon, and although it was an equivocation, was certainly a perfectly fair one. The attorney now turned his attention to making good his retreat, as well as he could, from his very unpleasant situation; after thinking a few minutes, he said—

"This entirely alters the question, Forrester,—I knew not that he had your authority for bringing away the horse."

"And if he had not," replied his blunt subaltern, "surely, sir, your orders would have justified him in riding any of my lord's horses."

"Yes, if he had obeyed them, which he has not. All is right however—you may return. You will oblige me by seeing that no more strangers trespass on Lord Altham's domain—I am very much displeased that his orders were totally disregarded yesterday."

"I fancy you are," thought the steward, "and would be more so if you knew all;" but he only said, "it was not my fault, sir;" and, as he had been directed, took his departure.

Mr. Quill seldom acted without deliberation. The desire of getting Weedon into his hands, even for a few hours, had hurried him into bringing an accusation, which he could not substantiate, against the coachman; it was now difficult to withdraw it—paying a due regard to appearances, which at present he saw great need of keeping up: the result of half an hour's consideration was the following letter to Mr. Daly:—

"DEAR SIR—

"I am happy, at the earliest instant, to inform you that my charge against Weedon arose from misapprehension: as I now learn from Lord Altham's steward, that he authorized him to take the horse from Dunmaine, which he rode last night. I therefore withdraw my accusation.

"I have, &c.,

H. QUILL."

Mr. Daly and his young friends were amusing themselves by anticipating Quill's appearance on the morrow, for which Dawkins and Bushe had determined to wait, when a servant