

have been sheltering a known conspirator. You know there are penalties for aiders and abettors of treason."

"Aweel! Mak it as ye wad hae it!" said the daunted Scot. "I'll do onything in reason."

"Oh! it's a very simple matter. Only to sign your name to this information purporting to be delivered on oath before you as magistrate by certain credible witnesses, and further certified by concomitant circumstances that have arisen within your own knowledge. Here, in this *escritoire*, I dare say we will find pen and ink. Where is your duplicate key?"

"It's here, Sir!" said Sandy, with a hang-dog look. "I suppose a' richt, gin he *be* ane o' thae rin-the-rout Fenians!"

The signature was appended; the money pocketed by the one, and the document secured by the other.

"And now," said the Frenchman, "there can be no objection, I fancy, to my overhauling the private papers, memoranda, and so forth of a suspected person. Where does he keep them mostly?"

"Yon's his desk, and Miss has her's in her trunk. Try them," and the Scot held out a bunch of keys, two of which were found to fit.

Rummaging through the secret drawers, and scanning the contents of the letters and other private documents, Delaval finally selected a few, and slipped them into his pocket-book.

Then starting up he seized the grumpy, angular Scot, and twirled him round the room in a fantastic waltz!

"Aha! old cock!" cried he. "*Ca ira!* as sang my brigands of ancestors some eighty years ago. I have got the end of the thread now!"

Then, fetching up before his host's wife, who had come to pack up some necessaries, he airily saluted that astonished dame, and, having whispered a few final directions to his accomplice, took his departure in high glee.

CHAPTER XIII.

DELAVAL turned his steps towards the chasm, into which Barney had fallen, partly, it may be, haunted by the thought that he was his murderer, but also with the view of meeting another party, as his impatience indicated. He was about to retrace his steps when the sound of crackling twigs, and an approaching tread, arrested him.