

"So it would seem likely indeed, but Lord Anglesey had been so much annoyed at his brother's marriage with Miss Sheffield, which he deemed unsuitable, that all communication between them ceased, and Dunmaine, where Altham resided at the time, is in a very secluded part of the country. It appears also, that shortly after the period of the alleged birth of the son, he became jealous of a son of the only neighbor who pretended to the rank of a gentleman, and surprising him in Lady Altham's room, called in the servants, and actually cut off his ear, which, as we may suppose, was a very effectual mode of cutting his acquaintance; the consequence, as regarded his unhappy Lady, was an immediate separation. His circumstances were, at this time, much embarrassed, and his being anxious to sell or mortgage his estates, might probably have led him to conceal the birth of the boy, to whose paternity he perhaps doubted his claim."

"But then the present Earl and he, were never, I have heard, on good terms—his rights would have interfered as effectually as those of a son."

"The present Lord was then a dissipated young man, without means, and as, in case of his brother's death, he was presumptive heir to the vast Anglesey estates, it was perhaps no difficult matter to purchase his consent to the sale of a mere contingency,—the fact of his joining his brother in raising considerable sums is a sufficient answer to your objection.—But what a deuced row those urchins are making, scarce an evening passes now without broken heads,—there is a regular feud between the youngsters of Mountjoy Square, and the raggamuffins of the neighborhood—faith their wars would furnish ample matter for an epic. The urchins shew very fair fight—what say you to closing as near as we may safely, for their stones fly like grape-shot."

At the period of our tale, Sackville Street had been recently built, at least that part north of where Nelson's Pillar now stands, and terminated in a road leading to Mountjoy Square, the intervening land was laid out in pasture fields, which were now occupied by the youthful combatants, whose encounter had interrupted the conversation of our friends. Sods, stones, and missives of all descriptions had been unsparingly used by both parties, but at them the bourgeoisie had manifestly the advantage, their opponents were driven to the fences for shelter, when, however, being reinforced by a strong detachment of elder brothers and servants, they soon found themselves in a position to resume the offensive, and in return pressed hard on the former victors, most of whom again contented themselves with their former means of annoyance. A gallant little band, however, maintained a hand to hand fight manfully, under the leading of a remarkable lad, in whom Bushe at once recognized the boy by whose distress he had been so moved