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## NO. 32

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## WHICH WAS THE TRAITOR ?

### A STORY OF '98.

### (From the Dublin Weekly Freeman)

CHAPTER XV .- THE MIDNIGHT RIDE. Charles followed as narrowly as he could the route which he and his followers had traversed on their march from the metropolis. This lay for considerable intervals through remote localities, and at such portions of the journey our hero and his faithful attendant were able to concert measures the object of which will be disclosed in the next chapter. At times, however, the travellers found themselves on the public highway or in peopled places, and at these times they moved on cautiously, eye and

ture of the tidings in transmission abroad, or cursed the envoys who had startled them out 0 75

of their slumber. While Bradley was making his appearance 1 00 Charles backed his horse, as if with impatience to the gate. In this way he drew Bradley 1 50 from the house. Fortunately the curiosity of the soldiers did not overcome their weariness. pair of ye. That's God's truth, anyhow. 1 50 One looked out for a moment and disappeared from the door again.

Bradley advanced to the barrier, and placed 0 75 the key in the stout padlock. Charles thrown 0 60 off his guard lifted his hat to scan the road be-1 00 fore him, and at that instant the Sergeant shot 1 25 the light of a dark lantern upon him. He 6 60 started. 0 60

The alarm was arrested at his lips. Charles clapped his pistol to his forchead, and bending 0 75 from his saddle said, in a stern whisper. 0 45

"One sound, one stir, and I'll blow your 0 75 brains out. We have only to turn back to make our escape, but there is no chance for his vest open, blinked gravely across the table you. Open the gate.'

2 50

1 50

1 80

hands. All right. If you raise your voice tumbler of whiskey punch stood before him, while we ... : within pistol-shot, have a care for yourself. Grand out of the way !" and putting spurs in his horse Charles dashed through with dition. Ned at his heels.

Bradley rushed into the house, terrifying the half-sleepy soldiers, who imagined in their drowse that the rebels were upon them.

At his outcries they seized their muskets and rushing out upon the road in deshabille de nuit, a turn of the road.

For spite they fired a volley into the air. Bradley's feelings were those of such a man as he when he has lost a thousand pounds when that sum is almost within his grasp.

Charles Raymond and Ned Fennell reached Castle Harden without further adventure. In a deep and lonely recess of the noble woods which clothed the demesne, our hero picketed his horse, and his servant, taking first watch, threw himself upon the grass to try and snatch the rest he needed to force the romainder of hiş enterprise.

CHAPTER XVI.--- A DECIDED STEP.

When it had grown dusk Charles ventured from his patulous refuge, and moving warily

There'll be more to be made, you know, sir," he explained with a laugh. "Ah, no. Master Charles, not me, for only doing a small matter to oblige yourself and Miss Marion. Ayeh! sure, its a far way I wouldn't go to serve the Good luck, Master Charles. I'll see after the 'convaynoniency.' " and he disappeared. Reassured by Butler's communication Charles

now grew bolder in his movements. He stepped on the narrow terrace, and moving carefully among the sattuary and flower pots with which it was adorned, reached the dinningroom window and, shaded from outer view as well as from detection from within, by the ivy which half overgrew it, looked in.

The Squire and his lieutenant were at a carouse. That was plain. The host thrown back in his chair, his bosom frill all awry, and

at his guest with the ludicrously wise express-Bradley unlocked the gate. "Now, fling it wide. Hold up both your is sober when he is far otherwise. A steaming

Richard Raymond was little better. He wore his uniform, for military attire became him well, and he wished to look at his best always at Castle Harden. The bright scarlet of his coat was, however, stained fresh with spilt wine, and at the moment we set eyes upon tound that the fugitives had disappeared round him he is drowsing with half shut eyos, one arm swaying over the back of his chair, and one boot-spur and all-through his "busby," which had somehow got, feathered and all, under his feet.

Squire Harden was habitually a temperate man, but accustomed, like so many, to stiffe care or choler in the bowl. As for Richard Raymond, he liked strong drink for the excitement it gave him. In short, Raymond was a drunkard.

In those days many gentlemen thought it a duty they owed society and themselves to go as drunk as possible every night to bed, if they too tipsy themselves to remove their masters.

The Squire had broken off midway in his song, being unable to remember his favourite girl, let us make up matters while everybody is verse. From the loss of memory he proceeded in the humour. Dick, stand up and come here to consider the cause of it, and had convinced himself that indulgence in the bottle had had friends. nothing to do therewith. But he failed to recall the chant, and therefore demanded a stave from his guest, who with some hiccoughs declared his total ignorance of all melody. "Come, dash my buttons, if this isn't too bad," cried the Squire, in a mood to carp at anything. "If a country gentleman with four Harden ?" he asked, reeling nearer, and atthousand a year can't find some beggarly music | tempting an imploring glance. "If you areto his after-dinner potations-it's a devilish queer state of things." "I can't sing," said Raymond, "and you can't sing. But there's your charming daughter. I never had the happiness myself, but others who heard her told me she has a divine voice. I'm quite aware of it, "he added with some inconsistency---- " she's a divinity in everything. She has treated me most harshly, but I still pronounce your daughter to be a most goddess-like creature. Her health !" and staggering to his feet, the lieutenant, with a grotesque gallautry, did honour to the absent lady.

self presentable. At the same time they heard as they deserve." Charles pressed some money her respectful salute, "to play us some music, you scoundrel, wheel me over-bring me near the voices of the soldiers who had been wakened into the hand of the groom, who drew back, by the episode, as they tried to guess the na- saying-

ginning to talk at random, and he added hastily, as the servant brought in the instrument. "Sit down, and give us just one."

Marion took her harp, the fashionable instrument of the time, and ran her fingers over the chords. Her heart was anxious, and her spirits fell still further to see the state in which her father was. She never looked at Richard Raymond.

"Are you ready, girl? So. Now, Dick, my boy, name your favourite."

The Squire had forgotten his Milan experience. Raymond, with a reminiscence from the mess-room orgies of the day, was about to call for the famous chant de marche, "Moll Flagon;" but recollecting himself in time, he with some labour bethought him of the more reputable piece, "By Celia's Arbour," which he managed to request.

"Give us 'Celia's Arbour,'" cried her father. " It reminds me of my bachelor days, Ecod, sir, by many an arbour have I been in my rakehelly days, but never-let me see"and the old fellow pondered-"no, never by any Celia's. There were girls quite as good though, I'll be bound, and-""

Here he was struck by his daughter's presence, and, by way of removing the effect of his ast remark, sternly bade her to go on.

Marion possessed a soft, and what is generally called a sympathetic voice-one of those organs which may be neither very powerful nor very sweet, but which, nevertheless, exercise an indescribable influence over the listener. She performed exquisitely also, and thus, untuned as her soul was to the sympathy, she, nevertheless, i.npressed her listeners.

Richard Raymond was usually little moved by concord of sweet sounds, but the beauty no less than the witching tones of the singer awakened in him a sensual rapture.

Squiro Harden, delighted with her performance, and proud always of his daughter. called her to him.

"Come here and kiss me, you hussy," he cried with brusque fondness. "There, see now" he added, taking her hand, his brain hazy with did not sleep where they fell under the table that elation which enables the intoxicated man -for it often happened that their servants were to see an easy way out of all difficulties, "see now how happy we might be, if only you would have a little sense, and do as I b Come. -if you can. Marion is going to make Richard Raymond rose and staggered from his chair, leering with drunken insolence upon the young lady. "Course I'll come," he jerked out, pausing to steady himself. "We're all friends now. I'm friendly, I know. Are you friendly, Mise if you are-say so, and make-make the man who adores you hap-happy." She averted her face in disgust, and tried gently to draw her hand from that of her father, whose eyes were beginning to close. "All right, Marion," continued the lieutenant. "Silence gives consent, my darling, and. damn me, I'll have a kiss," and he lurched forward stretching forth his arms. She sprang past him with a cry, and the ruffian, missing his clutch, fell heavily upon his face. He gathered himself up with a brutal oath, to see his host glaring in blank amazement at Charles Raymond, who stood before the drunken pair, and held Marion in his arms. "Dou !" was all the Squire could utter, as, with levelled fore-finger, he stared at the intruder. He doubted the evidence of his "I it is," retorted Charles Raymond, with cool scorn, and gently removing Marion's encircling arms, but retaining her in a lover's hold, he faced the Squire. "I make no apology for my presence here. After the scene I have witnessed-with the spectacle before me, I thank the Providence that guided me hither. Mr. Harden, I leave you to recover to remorse and shame. Come. Marion, this is no place for you." "Dear father, forgive and pity me," cried Marion. "Heaven knows how I love youbut you have forced me to this.' "Stay," said the Squire, not heeding her imploration. Rage and liquor almost choked him. "Unhand my daughter, you villain; unhand her, I say." He tried to rise, but his limbs, relaxed with the night's indulgence, refused their office: His distress under ether circumstances might have excited laughter.

"No, no, Master Charles not now. I'll eare away, as we do, and then you wont care "If you move hand or foot," said Charles. wait till better times, and you can pay me then. for anybody." Here it struck him he was be-turning to his younger brother, "not even the

blood which binds us shall save you," and he covered the trembling lieutenant with a pistol. "I warn you not to follow."

He addressed the Squire once more. "Mr. Harden," said he, "I have come to rescue your daughter from a persecution which would have killed her. I believe you did not know your own cruelty. The results be upon your own head.'

He drew Marion from the room, which he fastened upon the carousers.

The Squire now found his feet, and with deep imprecations on the cowardice and inaction of Richard Raymond, threw himself against the door, which soon yielded. Ho stumbled along the corridor with outeries which startled the household, and, gaining the place where it hung, tugged at the alarm-bell till the rope broke in his strenuous grasp.

#### CHAPTER XVIL --- THE ELOPPMENT.

The first to answer the startling summons was Major Craddock. Throwing uside Vauban he hurried towards the clangor. A dozen of his dragoons were speedily in their saddles. waiting the signal to set out.

Squire Harden almost sobered by the occurrences of the previous few minutes, hurried to the stables, and there made two discoveries. One was the disappearance of a pair of carriage horses and a light travelling carriage cushion. The other was that the one person on the premises whom the alarm had failed to arouse was Tom Butler, the groom.

The lazy fellow at length appeared, in all the stupor of a man unseasonably awakened from deep slumber. Nothing could exceed the astonishmont and dismay he displayed when he found the vehicle and the two best pacers in his charge spirited away, literally from under his nose-for he slept in the story above his equine charge.

Tom solemnly protested that the "Ould Boy" himself must have had a hand in the mystery.

A considerable time was lost in consequence of these complexities and of the Squire's determination to accompany the pursuit. When he took the saddle he found his deep potations anything but conducive to a firm seat, and the whole party were, therefore, obliged to move slowly till he should have recovered somewhat his usual horsemanship. They found the park gates wide open, and the man in charge in the same state of con fusion that had seized the others. He only knew that, shortly after he had been wakened by the bell, he heard the sound of wheels, then the grating of hinges; and, as he burried out. a carriage drove away, followed by a mounted man leading a second norse, without a rider. Squire Harden dismissed him there and then from his employment, warning him not to be on the spot at his return if he valued his liberty. The e was no need to ask the negligent janitor which direction the fugitives had taken One way the road led to the city, into which Raymond could not venture ; the other route was towards the country, and this, though perilous enough to a man circumstanced as Charles was just then, was beyond doubt the one he must have taken. Without a word or sign from their officer the cavalry wheeled to the right, and broke into a trot, increasing their pace to a round gallop. Squire Harden, Raymond, and Major Craddock rode at the head of the party. Not a word was exchanged b tween them, save when, on topping a hill or cutering on a long stretch of the' twilighted road, the Major called a moment's halt, and all listened and looked through the tranquil night for sight or sound of those they were following. As the cool rush of the night air cleared. away the reek which had obscured his reason, the Squire recalled more and more vividly the incidents of the hour before, and, unspeakably incensed as he felt against his daughter, and bitter as was his desire for vengeance upon the man who had seduced her from his roof, there was another circumstance which made probably as strong an impression upon him. He could not help contrasting the attitude of the two brothers during the crists, and, prejudiced as he was against the one, he was forced to own that the other made but a despicable show beside him. The manly courage and noble de-meanour of Charles Raymond recurred as strongly as the cowardice and craven aspect of Lieutenant Dick. He also remembered, all. the more poignantly that he had sanctioned it, the insult the latter had dared to offer his daughter, and he muttered a curse upon him-"Am I awake ?" he cried, looking wildly self for having permitted it. But the contrast round. He saw his lieutenant standing beside he was thus forced into drawing only strengthened his enmity towards Charles and his anger against Marion, at the same time that it provoked sentiments of indignation and contempt the control of the second the

car on the alert.

It was the hours of deep slumber, and the night was calm and beautiful. But the repose of the time had vanished. The peace and security of the country were hideously disturbed by the glare of conflagrations on every side, and by sounds, more or less distant, of suffervictims as they chanced to seize.

Charles and his servant were both armed to the teeth, and felt confident of their ability to encounter any half dezen of the volunteer soldiery. Raymond, moreover, was determined to die rather than yield at such a juncture.

By continual vigilance they managed to elude two or three encounters which threatened to bar their path.

Their progress was necessarily slow, and it was beginning to lighten when they had ar rived at the most serious obstacle between them and the end of their expedition. This was a turapike, which they remembered too late, as the time lost in making a detour to gain another road would bring in the day, and force them to seek a hiding place till darkness should fall again.

Charles knew that every turnpike was held by soldiers, but risking his fate on the turn of the event he quietly cocked a pistol, and, imitated by his companion, rode boldly up to the turnpike house, and knocked at the door.

A gruff voice replied. Charles was about to reply when Ned Fennell, placing a hand on his mouth, whisr ered---

"Bradley !"

It was Bradley who occupied the dwelling with a sergeant's party of regular infantry; for the informer had a sort of independent military command, and could exchange at will into the regiment from which he chose to select his assistants.

Charles, who had often seen Bradley at Squire Harden's, and had, moreover, some knowledge of his character, saw the gravity of the situation; but desperation gave him nerve, and as he turned up his high coat collar, and slouched his broad-brimmed hat over his face, lover of his tipple, unable, except seldom, to he answered to the challenge from within, disguising his voice.

"On his Majesty's service. Open instantly, you lazy scoundrel. We carry important dews."

the equivoke he employed struck his mind.

energetically laboring in his haste to make him- come when I may be able to repay your services

from shelter to shelter, at length gained the very spot in the parterre where he stood with Marion Harden when we made his first acquaintance. Here our hero and his servant met a third party. Butler, the groom, had managed to pay an unseen visit to them during the day in their woodland retreat; and it ing or of exultation, as the armed foes of the was the retainer who now awaited them .-people exercised their savage licence upon such | Touching his hat, as he ruet Charles, he whispered,

"I have told the other servants, Master Charles, and it's all right. There's only the Squire himself, and a person with him at dinner."

" Who ?"

"Well, as the truth is the best to be told, sir," replied the man, with some hesitation, It's your brother, Master Dick.'

Butler, with that refinement of feeling so marked in the character of the Irish peasantry, wished to avoid the mention of a name, which, he felt, would sound unpleasantly in our hero's ears. But Charles only observed,

"We don't care much for him. Where's Major Craddock ?"

"In his room, reading. You see the light in the left wing. It's there his men are quartered too, but they're all in bed except the sentry, and he won't be in your way: The butler told me the Major left the diningroom as soon as the drinking sets in. He must be a 'quare' sort of man," added the groom reflectively, for poor Butler was not likely, from the nature of his own habits, to understand, or at all events, to admire abstinence in others.

"Hark!" cried Charles, as sounds of a significant character reached them suddenly from the diningroom:

"Be me oath, its the Squire himself, and ha singing 'The Foxhunter.' D'ye hear him-the old sinner-with his 'Tally-ho, the fox in the mornin' ?' Edad! it's for him 'tis fineall out."

And Butler, a man of speculative turn, was struck with the inequality of fortune, which left a man like him, possessed of a good loud voice, a jovial comrade, moreover, an ardent gratify his natural bent, while another man had the opportunity to get drunk every night if he choose.

"Miss Harden is is her own room, I see."

"Yes, sir; you'll see the light go out at Charles almost smiled as the character of eleven o'clock, and then she'll come out to meet you here."

"Thank you, Butler ; you have proved your-"Coming, Colonel," replied Bradley in a "Thank you, Butler; you have proved your- she descended to the diningroom, tone considerably altered, and they heard him self a faithful fellow, and I hope the Time will obedient reverence to the Squire.

" I au't sing, do you say ?" quoth the Squire. "Dick Raymond, you lie, for your pains When I was younger then I am, and doing the Grand Tour-I remember it was with Buck Whalley-the prince of good fellows if he weren't

a little hare-brained-we were at Milan, and I sang in a quartette with Spadanci. Do you kuow, sir, that all the ladies preferred the stranger, and I might have carried off a marchesse with deuce knows how many gold crowns, if I was so minded. Look, you, I have taught the piece I sang that night to my daughter, and-yes, hang me-she'll sing it, too.'

Marion had, since the sciene related in a previous chapter, kept her own room, the only communication she had received in the interval from her father being a message to remind her of the act of duty he expected, and was determined she should render him.

She was surprised under the circumstances at receiving a summons to the diningroom. "And I was ordered to bring your harp in from the drawingroom, Miss." added the domestic, thus indicating to Marion the business on which she was wanted.

Marion looked at her watch, and said that it was near eleven. She was in no mood to ontertain, but, resolved to please her father, she descended to the diningroom, and made an

him, no less bemused, if more capable of movement, than himself.

Your hand, Dick-help me. No, d-"I sent for you," said he, without noticing me, I can't get up. I'm too drunk. Here as regarded Richard Raymond. He resolved NE and Magneria