

her praise of me was but a bait put forth to catch praise for her own wisdom.

"Faith, madam, an' you will say so," quoth she, dropping her demure curtesy, "I will say that none of us has any credit at all in the matter, but only the morning air and the vexation that hath put a colour into your cheeks that's like their own. Ah," says she, "I'd be well enough pleased to have a visit from the soldiers every morning if that might keep you looking so like yourself."

"Peace, silly!" said I. "Don't make me blush for your folly, before the Colonel, too."

"I'm sure he'll bear me out in it," said Margery, all of a sudden run mad, as it seemed. "Send but now for that corporal, madam, and I warrant he'll offer to send an express after the cattle that are half way to Derry by this time if you ask him."

"I like not this fooling, Margery," said I to her, a little ruffled; and at that she held her peace.

But as to the colour she spoke of, it had not quite left my faded cheeks when I went to my chamber after breakfast, and could see myself in the glass. I was fool enough and vain enough to rejoice thereat, though I spared not to rate Margery for the liberty she had given to her tongue when the Colonel had left us in the afternoon.

He rid to Glendermot that same day, at my special request, which I made because I feared that it might come to the ears of Kirke that he had been at Clonally when I had withstood his messengers. He might then have given it such a colour as to make it appear that the Colonel had influenced me in what I did, and this, no doubt, had been to his disadvantage [that had disadvantage enough without it], to appear as one in open opposition to his successor. Military governor and civil likewise—for Mr. Walker was gone to London, and Kirke had stepped into his shoes as well as Colonel Mitchelburne's—there was none to come between him and the victims of his rapacity. These were we; it was as his prey he viewed us, and not as faithful subjects put into his ward for our own benefit. Or if he thought otherwise, then did his conduct very much belie him.

CHAPTER II.

HOW THE LORD VISCOUNT MOUNTJOY LAY AT CLONALLY ON HIS WAY TO DUBLIN.

I BEGAN this narrative of our troubles by reflecting on this strange thing—that where circumstances seem most ordered and stable around us, as if they might go on in their customary round till the end of time, then on a sudden comes a change, and after that change upon change succeeds, so that, could we but have foreseen the turmoil, our very wits had been turned topsy-turvy with thinking of it. Here is another strange thing, now, when one thinks upon it—that there is not in our hearts the least inkling of what is coming upon us. One might think that we men might have an inner warning of the storm, as beasts and birds perceive the approach of the thunder before the tempest bursts about their ears—nay, the very daisies in the grass and the yellow pilewort under the hedge do know to shut themselves against the coming of a shower. But it is not so with man.

Sure, there was not another woman in Ulster busier than I, nor happier in what she was about, on the very day when the first tiny cloud came up on our horizon; not near so big as a man's hand, it seemed, but rather like a fleck of sunshine made visible, or like to one of those gold and scarlet specks that the sun doth leave in the sky after his setting on the clearest evenings of summer. When the prophet sent his servant to scan the sky the first time, I wonder if there was upon the face of it such another little golden cloud, not to be known of such a messenger for what it was because of the brightness it was steeped in. Had Elijah gone himself to look, would even he have recognized the herald of abundance of rain, I wonder? Or would he, too, have been deceived until it gathered blackness, though still so small and so far off? We are but purblind poor creatures, we mortals; and as for the gifts of prophecy, it hath departed out of the world.

It was the visit of my Lord Mountjoy to Clonally that was the harbinger of evil, though at the time it seemed nothing else than a pleasure and an honour. Nay, it seemed not only, but so it undoubtedly was, that my husband's commanding officer should grace our poor house with his presence; not but that Mr. Hamilton can count among his kinsfolk men as great as he, and greater—and these none so distant kinsmen, neither—but that doth nothing lessen the courtesy my Lord Viscount did us in becoming our guest—a courtesy I rated very high, and much desired to show my sense of it in his entertainment.

To this end I busied myself, as I said but a moment

ago, not leaving Margery to arrange all matters, as she commonly doth, but seeing to things myself; it was scarce needful, yet it was pleasant to me, and, in truth, there was enough for every one to do to have all things in the readiness that I thought fit for my Lord Viscount and his company. He could scarce expect, in the house of a simple gentleman, that state to which he is accustomed; but I desired he should lack nothing either of comfort or of observance. We have no pretension to entertain with magnificence, like greater folk, but in our own degree we might hope to compass completeness; and so, indeed, I believe we did. 'Tis ever a matter of carefulness with me that my husband be not ashamed in his household, but the contrary; the more especially that he took me from a family lower in station than his own.

At last everything was ready, both above stairs and below; nothing more remained to be seen to, unless I should have stood over the cook as she over her spits and stewpans. The sun had come out sweetly after a morning that was raw and cloudy, though seasonable, for sure in October we must expect such weather, and this was the twentieth of October last, a year ago and a week to the very day. Dear! how clear that day doth stand out in my memory, in spite of all that hath come and gone since then! as clear as though the week alone had passed, and the year were clean blotted out and gone.

Wamphray's wife, my dear sister Rosa (though sister by marriage and not by blood), was with me, she having ridden out to Derry with her little son James and his nursemaid to pass a week at Clonally; and I proposed to her that, having an hour to spare, we should walk as far as to the garden, a thing which she was nothing loath to do. For in the whole country there was no other garden like ours as it was then, before King James's soldiers had made havoc of it; such lilies late and early, such cowslips of all kinds and colours, such pansies, such gilliflowers, such roses in their season, and such good vegetables and fruits into the bargain. 'Twas the pride of the heart of Rabbie Wilson, the old Scotch gardener, that learned his trade in Scotland, in the gardens of my Lord of Hamilton, but hath been at Clonally longer than any of us, longer even than Captain Hamilton, whom he can remember in his boyish days. Rabbie is but a simple man, one that pretends to nothing beyond his station, yet there are few things pertaining to the management of a garden that he is ignorant of; and, if he had but the learning, I am sure he hath the knowledge to make as good a book on the subject as Master Parkinson's "Paradise."

Rosa and I walked through most of the garden before ever we cast eyes on him, however; at the last we caught sight of him upon his knees, in the midst of a patch of new-turned earth, just where the ground begins to slope towards the wilderness that abuts upon the river. He lifted his head and gave us a look that scarce seemed of welcome, but loosed his apron that he wore, and came towards us forthwith; and when I asked him what he was a-doing, he began to explain that he was setting some shoots of straw-berry of a rare and fine kind, newly brought from the plantations in Virginia.

"Suckers," said he, "that were sent me but yesterday frae the Duke's gardener, Master Anderson. He says they're grand fruit, twice as big as the common sort, or maybe mair; so I'm gi'en them every chance, the best o' the sun and the best o' the soil. I'd be laith to fa' short o' Master Anderson's weight frae the same number o' plants, gin the bearin'-time comes. But what's your leddyship's wull?" for it is as "my ladyship" that Rabbie persists in addressing me. "Is there aucht wantit for the hoose? Margery's been at me a dizen times the day, an' a hale clamjamfray o' lasses oot o' the kitchen as well, no to mention Annot herself, that should ken better. It's 'Rabbie, hay ye on'y chives?' the noo, an' 'Rabbie, hay ye on'y chervil?' the next time. Dod, but 'twould save a heap o' fash if they'd tak' a thocht an inch or twa ayont their noses, an' no come taiglin' me ance errant ilka errant."

(To be continued in our next.)

The amount deposited in the government Savings bank in this city during April was \$12,712. The withdrawals during the same period were \$9,254.17. Amount due depositors on the 30th of April, 1897, \$711,639.83. Since the month of July last the deposits have exceeded withdrawals by \$14,000.

The British embassy in Washington costs the people of England about \$90,000. The German embassy costs about \$60,000; the French about \$50,000, and the Italian about \$30,000.

A Chinese Doctor's Prescription

Powdered Snakes 2 parts
Wasps and their nests . . . 1 part
Centipedes 6 parts
Scorpions 4 parts
Toads 20 parts

Grind thoroughly, mix with honey and make into small pills.

Two to be Taken Four Times a Day

We do not know if your doctors would prescribe the above for a case of La-Grippe or not. Perhaps they would have a consultation first. The Chinese are not only away up in medical science, but are skilful in weaving. They make those pretty

STRAW MATTINGS

which you have admired so much in EDGECOMBE'S CARPET ROOMS, and which can be had in Choice Designs for 18c., 20c. and 25c. They are nice for your bedrooms and summer sitting rooms.

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