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Carroll O'Donoghue

A Tale of Irish Struggles of 1886 and Recent Times

by CHRISTINE FABER

Chapter XXI

The Miser of Dhrommacohol.

Continued from last week

"Now, Mr. Maloney, I'll be here bright an' airly in the mornin' for the horse, an' do you tell the groom to be bidable to me directions. Thin, whin I get to Tralee an' see the horse properly stabled, I'll make it me business to call on Mr. Canty, an' deliver yer message to him; an' if he persists in comin' down here afther that do you act the part I prescribed for you. Are you quite ready an' willin', Mr. Maloney, to do all that? no hesitation now, but spake up loike a man."

"Yes," answered old Ned, as if the monosyllable was choked out of him.

"Very well thin; an' mebbe whin you're the gainer o' as many pounds as I have holes in me caubeen,"—pointing to his tattered head-gear—"you'll have cause to be thankful to Tighe a Vohr."

There was no solicitation this time to return, and Tighe, with Shaun at his heels, was soon taking hasty strides toward his mother's humble home.

"I may as well kill two birds with one stone," he murmured to himself; "I'll see me mother, an' thry if I can't put in a good word for Corny O'Toole; it will rise the spirits o' the little man, an' kape him me constant frind; an' faith, mebbe I'd need him agin in the way o' writin' or the loike."

Chapter XXII

Carter Vists Dublin.

Mortimer Carter was desperate. The fact that his perfidy seemed so well known to both clergyman caused a horrible fear that through their united efforts something might occur to intercept or destroy his plans. He chafed at the bare possibility, and as he walked the narrow confines of his temporary lodging after his meeting with the little party from Dhrommacohol, he muttered to himself, with the savage and threatening look of a wild beast disturbed from its lair:

"A lifetime in the one pursuit I failed with her mother, but by the powers I shall have her, though the devil should have my soul the minute after! She turned her face away from me to-day; I am a traitor and a worm in her sight!" He clinched his hands and paced the room with quicker strides. "Oh, to bring her proud head down! but it shall be brought down, and that soon. Rick will be prepared to do what I ask him when I return, and if I can succeed in getting Carroll to try to escape again perhaps he will be shot in the venture, and that will be quicker for me than to wait for his hanging."

He ceased walking, and standing by the low mantle, folded his arms upon it and gave himself up to moody thought. Captain Dennier's manner to him on the occasion of their last interview had been productive of many a doubt and fear; he regretted, also, having given the Fenian document to that officer; he could have cursed bitterly for not being himself the bearer of it to Dublin; then, the promised reward—there was an ambiguity about even Lord Heathcote's assurance to him which did not point so surely to the compensation as the traitor desired. What if on the completion of his web of treachery he should find that he himself had been caught in the meshes! the thought was maddening, and goaded to an extremity to which in calmer moments he would scarcely have proceeded, he determined to go immediately to Dublin. Rumor had it that thither Lord Heathcote had repaired after his last visit to Tralee; he would see that high military official, and have a distinct settlement, as well as an assurance that the paper which he had given to Captain Dennier had been received by the proper authorities. He remembered the race for which he had entered Ned Maloney's horse, but a moment's thought convinced him that that need prove no obstacle to his journey; the preliminaries of the race were all arranged, and Joe Canty, now that he was really secured for the animal, was too good a horseman to require any supervision; beside, the numerous backers, as interested as Morty was himself, were sufficient to guard the interests of all concerned. He would be obliged to break his promise of bringing the horse up to Tralee, but old Maloney could do that himself, or failing to do it, he could trust the animal to the groom for the journey. These points settled in his mind, he hastily wrote the note which he subsequently intrusted to the boy who was injured by the overthrown gig, and then he rapidly indited another to Joe Canty, which he also sent by hand; the latter message simply stated his intended absence from Tralee and the uncertainty of the precise time of his return. To Dublin then he set his face, only to find, when he reached the capital and repaired to the castle, that there were more difficulties in the way of seeing Lord Heathcote than he had anticipated. He chafed at the delay which involved a loss of days and rendered him more desperate and eager. It dawned upon him at last that the difficulties in the way of seeing his lordship were interposed by the latter himself; then he sent up an importunate card, and after still further delay he was conducted to the nobleman. Dignified and cold to sternness, Lord Heathcote received his visitor; but the latter had fortified himself too strongly to be abashed by the haughty presence, and having made his obeisance, he responded to the curt:

"Well, Mr. Carter, the object of this visit?" by:

"I have ventured to intrude upon your lordship in order to settle serious doubts which have arisen in my mind."

"Regarding what?" asked Lord Heathcote, eyeing him coldly, and for an instant toying with one of the medals on his breast.

"Regarding the paper containing information of the Irish Republic which I gave by your order to Captain Dennier."

"I can quiet your fears about that," was the cold response. "The paper, in a sealed cover, was delivered at the castle, and it is now, with other sealed papers, in possession of the proper authorities; it will play an important part at the trial of the prisoners who are now confined in the county jail at Tralee. Have you any further business, Mr. Carter?"

Still unabashed by the increasing sternness of the nobleman's tone, or the cold manner which so plainly signified a desire for the visitor's departure, Carter said:

"Captain Dennier's own manner to me, stigmatizing me as a traitor, and showing by his words that his sympathies were more with this country than with his own, led me to fear that there might be foul play with the document."

There was a knitting of his lordship's brows for an instant, and a firmer closing of his rigid mouth; but he made no response. Carter, hurried by his short-sighted eagerness into a remark which should compel some reply from the haughty, impassible being before him, continued:

"Believe me, your lordship, incapable of saying aught which might lessen the affection you bear Captain Dennier, as your—"

"Cease!" the nobleman thundered, bounding out of his chair, and standing before Carter with so stern and commanding a mien that the traitor trembled and shrunk. "Years have passed since that time," continued his lordship in the same voice; "how have you penetrated my secret now—speak!" The last word was uttered in a still more peremptory tone, as Carter, wholly unprepared for the anger he had aroused, and vainly wishing he had been silent stood in cowering hesitation. But that peremptory tone would brook neither delay nor evasion. He forced himself to meet the keen eyes bent upon him as if they would pierce him through, and he answered with a painful tremor in his voice:

"The secret of those years ago, your lordship, has always been safe with me; I have never revealed it, and I should not have known this now but for the gossip of the barracks——" He paused.

"And that gossip?" demanded his lordship; "what did it reveal?"

"Your singular interest in the young officer, an interest that extended over years, and the resemblance between his manner and your own—how it was marked by the same sternness and power of command; it flashed upon me then your lordship, that Captain Dennier was——"

"Stop!" almost thundered the nobleman; "never must tongue utter that word! it brings back the disgrace, the pollution of that unfortunate, that miserable past."

Unhappily excited, despite his evident determination to remain calm, he paced the room with nervous and hurried tread. Carter watched him, regaining confidence and assurance as he saw this evidence of his power to move that stern and haughty soul. Suddenly he stopped before Carter; he had subdued his emotions and his mien had recovered its calmness.

"Have you betrayed this knowledge, these suspicions"—with an emphasis on the last word, as if he would force the belief upon Carter that the latter's mind, ignorant of the true facts in the case, held suspicions alone—"of yours, to any one else? have you hinted of them to Captain Dennier?"

"No, your lordship; I had too much regard for you; I would let the revelation of this come from yourself; it was not my place to know aught."

"You have acted well;" for an instant there was a distinct softening of the harsh voice; the next however, it had recovered its repellent tone; "why did you not tell me what you have told me to-day, on the occasion of our first meeting in Tralee garrison, when you brought yourself to my notice and reverted to our acquaintance twenty-seven years ago?"

"I had not then, your lordship, penetrated the present state of affairs."

Lord Heathcote was silent for a moment, looking keenly at Carter the while. At length he said

"You will maintain the same secrecy for the future?"

"Certainly, my lord;" and Carter bowed as low as his corpulent form would permit him to do.

Lord Heathcote, evidently considering the interview ended, turned aside to summon an attendant for the purpose of conducting Mr. Carter out; but the latter had another, and to him, a most important item of business.

"Will your lordship kindly reassure me about the reward for my information? Captain Dennier referred me to you for conference about it, though he told me of your promise to attend to it on the conclusion of the trials."

"Well,"—there was an accent of impatience in his lordship's tone—"what assurance do you wish?"

"That you will use your influence to secure for me the amount of money which I named when I had the honor of a pervious interview with your lordship."

"Your price is high," said Lord Heathcote; "what do you propose doing with such a sum?"

Carter replied: "To purchase the encumbered estate of the O'Donoghue family."

His lordship, without answering, resumed his seat, covering his face with his hands, and gave himself up to thought. Carter patiently waited, a complacent smile half curling the corners of his mouth. "The O'Donoghue family?" repeated his lordship at length, looking up; "the family, I presume, from whom comes this young Australian convict who was recaptured on information furnished, I believe, indirectly by you."

Carter bowed, and the nobleman continued:

"The estate became encumbered by debt."

Again Carter bowed. Lord Heathcote still continued:

"And you would install yourself on this estate? Well, Carter, if this last information, which you say is so valuable and the most important you have yet given, proves to be all that you claim for it, I have little doubt of your getting the reward you have stipulated."

Carter appeared to be satisfied; he was profuse in his thanks and bows, and when he left the nobleman's presence it was with a mind considerably relieved, and with courage entirely renewed for his nefarious plans.

(To be continued)

Around the Globe

Catholic News From Many Places.

The Bulls naming Mgr. Denis J. O'Connell, rector of the Catholic University, as Bishop Titular of Sebaste, have arrived. The Bishop-elect will be consecrated by His Eminence, the Cardinal in the Cathedral of Baltimore on Sunday, May 3.

A [illegible] breaking [illegible] Rivarolo near [illegible] trarily abolished [illegible] from the primary schools [illegible] commune, has received [illegible] from the Sub-Prefect [illegible] that religious instruction [illegible] re-established in these schools within the space of ten days from date of order.

The Right Rev. Dr. Leander Schnerr, O. S. B., Arch-abbot of the Arch-abbey of the Order of St. Benedict at Beatty, in Pennsylvania, has received from Rome the privilege of wearing the "Cappa Magna." The Cappa Magna of Cardinals is red, of Bishops purple, and that of Benedictine abbots black.

The venerable Abbess Benedikta Reinhardt, of the Fulda Benedictine Convent, has just died at the age of eighty-five. She was elected prioress in 1867, when, after having been banished for twelve years the Sisters returned to the old Convent of Fulda. In 1898 Pope Leo XIII raised the convent to the dignity of an abbey, and the Prioress Benedikta was the first abbess.

Rev. James McCabe, S. J., has been appointed president of Marquette University, Milwaukee, succeeding Rev. A. J. Burrows, S. J., who goes to Chicago as president of St. Ignatius' College. Rev. J. F. Frieden, S. J., has been made president of the St. Louis University, succeeding Very Rev. William Banks Rogers, S. J., who was forced to give up his work last spring on account of ill health.

English Catholic papers regard the recent action of the labor party in declaring for economic socialism as a serious setback for the labor movement in England. Catholic workingmen will not leave the party at once, but the divisions within the party will seriously cripple its activity. The stand of the party on the education question has done more to alienate Catholic support than its declaration of socialization of the means of production.

Professor Klein stated before the Munich Medical Society last week that the various narcotics and opiates devised by modern medical scientists for the destruction of pain were commonly used during the Middle Ages, now so conviently called by the Protestant world the "Dark Ages." As early as the twelfth century, says he, a Bishop of Cheriora in his charity distributed a narcotic pain-killer. Those Ages are dark only in their brightness to a modern, heretical and unbelieving world.

Referring to a beautiful eulogy delivered by Archbishop Glennon over the bier of the late Mrs. Frank B. McKenna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Kerens, of St. Louis, the "Western Watchman" says: "Any one listening to it could readily draw two conclusions. First, that Mrs. McKenna was a good and lovely woman, second, that the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in the new Cathedral will be a memorial to the Kerens family." The chapel referred to will be a part of the new Cathedral, and will cost $100,000.

News From Ireland

Antrim.

In Belfast the Medical Officer of Health has reported a recurrence of cerebrospinal meningitis, six patients being in the Workhouse Infirmary under treatment. It is exactly a year ago since spotted fever made its appearance in Belfast.

A popular Antrim practitioner has passed away in the person of W. J. Taggart, of Cloneven. Deceased was for many years dispensary medical officer in Antrim and in his early days traveled much aboard. He took his degree in 1863 at Belfast University, and became a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh in 1864.

Armagh.

Rev. Father [illegible] [illegible] at a large [illegible] representative [illegible] meeting in the Town Hall [illegible] on the night of [illegible] Doctor Robert T. [illegible] ed a very interesting [illegible] Tuberculosis.

Six [illegible] been used by [illegible] Cathedral in Armagh [illegible] by public auction. They [illegible] high figure, after spirited competition in which a Glasgow [illegible] er and a Monaghan man were the principal bidders, the [illegible] being declared the purchaser.

Cavan.

Messrs. H. Leonard and P. [illegible] ly have been elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively of Belturbet Urban Council.

At the annual meeting of [illegible] Cootehill Urban Council [illegible] Coyle was unanimously [illegible] chairman, and Mr. [illegible] vice-chairman.

After his election on Jan. [illegible] chairman of Cavan Urban Council, Mr. L. C. A. [illegible] entertained the Councillors [illegible] dinner.

Derry.

Thomas J. Irvine, J. P., has [illegible] appointed high sheriff for Derry City.

Rt. Rev. Mgr. [illegible] ade, Derry, met with a [illegible] accident on Jan. [illegible] right arm was [illegible]

Miss McBride, [illegible] in the workhouse infirmary [illegible] aine has resigned her position to take up a more lucrative one in Yorkshire, England.

Donegal.

A bridge connecting [illegible] land, County Donegal [illegible] mainland collapsed [illegible] was being [illegible] many persons [illegible] the [illegible]

At the annual meeting [illegible] Letterkenny Urban Council [illegible] cillors Thomas [illegible] Henry, [illegible] chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

Down.

Died Jan. [illegible] Warrenpoint road, Newry [illegible] Mrs. McGurk, relict of the late James McGurk, Newry.

At the weekly meeting of the Kilkeel Guardians on Jan. [illegible] the clerk reported the death of Mr. [illegible] Ormsby, a former master of the workhouse, who was in receipt of a superannuation allowance of £20 a year.

Fermanagh.

Judge Crain congratulated the Grand Jury at Enniskillen Quarter Session recently on the [illegible] small number of cases for trial.

The Local Government Board have requested the [illegible] Enniskillen Union to [illegible] position at once on account of some irregularities in his management of the Union.

Monaghan.

At the annual meeting of the Monaghan Rural District Council Mr. Bernard McKenna (N.) was appointed chairman and Mr. R. H. Parke (U.), vice-chairman.

For some time past the Rev. Father Shields, C. S. Sp., of [illegible] bro', Sierra Leone, West Africa, has been paying a visit to his brother Michael Shields, Carrickmacross. Father Shields belongs to the Fathers of the Holy Ghost, a distinguished Order that has worked wonders in [illegible] the light of Christianity and civilization into the Dark Continent.

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