

THE

SURPRISING LIFE AND ADVENTURES

THE HISTORY OF

OF THE

GENTLEMAN-ROBBER,

REDMOND O'HANLON,

GENERALLY CALLED THE

Captain General of the Irish Robbers,
Protector of the rights and properties of his
Benefactors, and Redresser of the wrongs
of the poor and distressed.

His daring mood preserved him still;

This was the Robber's simple plan,

That they should *take* who have the will,

And they alone should *keep* who can.

WORDSWORTH.



GLASGOW:

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THE HISTORY OF REDMOND O'HANLON

REDMOND O'HANLON was the son of a reputable gentleman, who had a considerable estate, and lived at the foot of Slygunnin mountains, in the county of Armagh, among a vast number of relations several whereof were of the same name. After his parents had given him the best education the time and place could afford, they obtained a small post for him in the army, where he served a few years with credit, though very young, till the reduction of the Irish forces in that kingdom, among which our Redmond was one.

The nation being reduced by the English forces, several Irish families, who had a hand in the wars of Ireland, were dispossessed, and their lands forfeited; by which means a very great alteration was made in this family, and several of the O'Hanlons were obliged to travel, in hopes of retrieving their fortunes. But poor Redmond, in this unhappy condition, once happened to be at the killing of a gentleman in a quarrel, and flying for safety, stopped abroad for a long time, still refusing to come to a trial till he was outlawed, which put him to his shifts. But our hero having received instructions in the art of war, and being naturally of an undaunted courage, was easily led into the secret of invading other men's properties, both on the highway and by breaking open of houses, till he had acquired as much money as might have put him in a way to live above the frowns of fortune, with good management, all his life.

But seeming to relish this new course of life more than the former, he proceeded in his robberies, till from an infancy in the art, he became one of the most notorious and expert of that profession that had ever been bred in the kingdom of Ireland. He had made himself acquainted with all the bye passages in the country, and knew every lurking place in the mountains of Newry and Slygunnin, so that whoever pretended to pursue him made but fruitless attempts, and commonly returned with loss and shame, like dogs that lost their ears, both before and after the rewards were offered by the government for apprehending him.

He was strong and active, and as occasion required, could perform his feats either on foot, or on horseback: and though he was so notorious a plunderer, yet he was naturally of a very generous disposition, frequently giving share of what he got from the rich to relieve the poor in their necessities. His remarkable actions and surprising attempts, spread his character through all the country; and being joined by a great number of his former acquaintances; (adventurous lads, who became his associates spontaneously,) till his company was augmented to the number of fifty active men, mostly his own relations; he then began to take upon him a captain's command, and appointed a brigade to act in every province, who were always to return (barring accidents) four times a year to the general place of rendezvous, and give an account of their success. And as soon as the booty was regularly divided, each brigade was ordered to exchange posts, and to march out on duty again. This was their constant practice for some years, by which policy they kept themselves concealed much longer than otherwise they would have done. However, there was no robbery committed any where at all in the kingdom but was attributed to captain O'Hanlon.

though it is probable he might have been an hundred miles distant at the same time. Nay, so well was his character established, and so notorious his actions, that it became a common proverb, when any one had a mind to brand another with infamy and scandal, for him to say, You are as great a rogne as Redmond O'Hanlon.

As Redmond was onco gliding along the road between Newry and Armagh, like a kite in the air in quest of prey, with only two or three attendants, who were at some distance behind him, he overtook a pedlar crying out and bemoaning his misfortune, in a very moving and piteous manner: Redmond taking compassion on the pedlar, came up, and asked him what had befallen him? To whom the pedlar replied, "That damned rogne of a Redmond O'Hanlon has robbed me of above five pounds in monies, which was all I had, and that would not satisfy him neither, but he has taken my box away too; and because I strove to hold it he knocked me down, and kicked and abused me like a dog." Redmond, incensed at such language, had hardly patience to hear the fellow tell out his story, before he interrupted him, and called him a rascal and a lying son of a whore: "How could I rob you," said he, "that never saw you before? You dog, show me which way he went, and I'll convince you that it was none of Redmond O'Hanlon that robbed you." By the time the fellow had described the robber, and showed the road he took, Redmond's company came up, and they all went in pursuit of the new rogne, whom they overtook, with the pedlar's box under his arm, and brought him back to the place where he committed the robbery. He knew himself guilty of the fact, and returned the pedlar both his money and box, without waiting to be examined, being no way acquainted with Redmond or any of his party. Upon this captain O'Hanlon said, he

would teach him to rob in his name, and without his license or permission. He bound the pedlar under an obligation to prosecute the fellow at the next ensuing assizes, and then wrote a mittimus and sent the criminal with a proper guard to the gaol of Armagh. The pedlar was as good as his word, and prosecuted him to the very utmost, upon which the fellow was found guilty, and accordingly executed. He was not altogether so destitute of friends but that he had council to plead for him, who insisted very much upon the error in commitment,* and prevailed so far in court as to have the trial postponed; but this was of no other service than to give rise to as pleasant a fit of merriment in court as ever happened upon such an occasion, the judges and every one else laughing till they were ready to burst at the conceit of Redmond's acting the justice of peace.

Redmond had a much greater antipathy to the English than to the Scotch and Irish; for he was always kind to his countrymen, and made a bargain both with them and the North country pedlars, and all such as acknowledged his jurisdiction all over the kingdom, alleging for excuse, that as he was a reduced gentleman, he hoped his countrymen would not refuse to pay him tribute towards his maintenance, upon his desisting to plunder.

* The mittimus we are informed ran thus, By Redmond O'Haulon, in loco of one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the said county, but chief ranger of the mountains.

'I herewith send you the body of ———, who was this day brought before me and examined, for robbing Mr ——— on the king's road, requiring of you to hold him in safe custody till the next general assize to be held for the said county, and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.'

Given under my hand this 1st day of March, 1635.
To ——— Gaoler of Armagh.

REDMOND O'HANLON.

Upon this he made proposals, that whoever paid him half-a-crown per annum, he would indemnify them from robbers of all kinds: but if at any time they neglected to remit him his salary, and run in arrears, they were sure to pay for it. Such as made this bargain with him, had their names registered in his pocket-book, and were so little afraid of losing any of their goods by robbers, that they thought their effects as safe in the fields as in the house; for if at any time they happened to have any thing stolen, upon application to Redmond, he would make the most diligent search that could possibly be made, through all parts of the kingdom, until he found it, and restored it to the owner; and if he failed to find it, always allowed his benefactor two years salary to compensate the loss. But he had so many emissaries, and such good intelligence, and all other petty rogues were so much afraid of him and his party, that none of them dared to disoblige him; and besides, every petty robber was served with a copy of the registered names, and had strict orders not to meddle with any thing that belonged to such, but to assist the loser in searching for his goods; so that his friends seldom suffered under his protection.

Having once got cold upon some desperato occasion, it threw him into a dangerous fever, of which he recovered; yet the place being damp where he lay, he lost the use of his limbs, and continued a cripple, or lame, for some years. Yet during this time he was preserved among his friends, who had a great esteem for him, and escaped from being taken, though he was proclaimed a tory and a robber, and a reward of 50*l.* was offered for taking him, which occasioned frequent searches after him. He likewise was punctually paid his salary or tribute all the time, by his benefactors or allies: (except a few who broke the truce, but dearly paid for it after :) though robberies were not so frequent during his

illness as before, so that he was under the necessity of making his pay maintain him till he was able to go about again.

As soon as he had recovered the use of his limbs, he took the field again, and scoured all the roads in the country, sometimes alone and sometimes with company, and took special care to revenge himself on all those who had neglected to send him his yearly pension when he was out of order; but found himself so closely hunted, that he fixed his head quarters in and about the bog of Allen for a considerable time, where he committed such a number of notorious robberies, that the people were obliged to keep under arms to guard their effects. The government taking this affair again into consideration, a fresh proclamation was issued out offering a reward of 250*l.* for the taking of him, upon which several attempts were made to secure him, but to no effect; though he was once taken in bed near Clonbullock, but had the good fortune to be rescued by his comrades, as his captors were leading him to Naas gaol.

Though he was very well acquainted all over the kingdom, yet he was loath to venture his carcass any longer in this place, and among strangers, for fear of a second disaster; so he took an opportunity of conveying himself privately to his old quarters on Slygunnin, where he remained some time, and carried on his game, with great success, before his enemies had time to seek him.

Soon after his return, he was in company with some of his associates beyond Armagh, where they met with cornet Montgomery's steward, who having received above 500*l.* from his master's tenants, on an estate he had in that country, was carrying it home to his own house, near Killevan in the county of Monaghan, where he dwelt. Redmond stood at a little distance all the time of the action, and

observed the dispute on both sides, and the defence made by the steward, which, though he maintained it with bravery for some time, yet was overpowered by numbers, and obliged to deliver his purse to save his life. When the booty was divided, captain O'Hanlon made a present of his part to the cornet's young son, who was at nurse in the same place, which he sent by the steward, with strict orders to deliver it, and took his acknowledgment for the same payable on demand. This he did out of a pure regard that he had for the cornet, on account of some favour he had done him formerly; and the cornet to make him a requittal for so generous an action, made a promise that he would use his best endeavours to obtain the king's pardon for him, in hopes of him forsaking his new trade; and was as good as his word, as by the sequel will appear.

A little after this action, a merchant in Dundalk had a draught on a merchant in Newry, for a large sum, but was so much afraid of Redmond O'Hanlon, that he was afraid either to send for the money, or to go for it himself. While he was thus consulting with his wife how to get the money safely home, his apprentice, a lad about sixteen years of age, overheard their discourse, and as soon as he got an opportunity, desired his master to tell him why he was so much afraid of sending to Newry? The master having answered his request; the boy asked him whether he would venture to trust him with so much money? The master said he did not doubt his honesty; but on that occasion he could not know what to think of the matter. However, by many entreaties, the boy prevailed on the master to let him go for the money, promising to forfeit his ears if he lost one halfpenny of it. Tho' the boy having obtained privilege to go for the money, immediately set about preparing himself for the journey; and, by his master's assistance, being provided with about

forty shillings in halfpence, he divided them into two parcels, and tied them close up in a little wallet at each end, and then went to the field and brought home an old vicious stone horse, (much of the same humour with Sir Teague O'Regan's war horse, on which he rode out to meet duke Scomberg after the surrender of Charlemont,) that when any other came up to meet him on the road, he always strove to bite or kick him, by which means he commonly kept the road to himself. With proper accoutrements the boy mounted, and had the fortune to meet Redmond on the road as he was going, who, as it was usual with him, demanded where he was going? The boy told him to Newry. Pray what business have you there? says Redmond. Why, says the boy, to receive above 100*l.* for my master. And when do you think you'll be back? says Redmond. Why, says the boy, I believe about this time to-morrow. Well, my good boy, says Redmond, you had better take care not to tell every body what your business is, for fear you should be robbed.— Oh, says the boy, I'm sure such a gentleman as you would not rob me, I do not intend to tell any body else. Upon this Redmond made him a present of a ducat to drink his health, or to hire another horse, if the one he had under him should tire; and so they parted good friends for that time.

Redmond was then under some necessities for a little money; and as none of his companions were present at the dialogue, he was resolved not to let them know any thing of the matter, that he might have all the booty to himself. And to make himself more sure of the prey, he ordered his comrades to a different post the next morning, and waited himself alone on the road leading from Newry, till the boy returned.

When the boy came in sight, Redmond saluted him, and, began to ask him the necessary questions

about the money.—The boy confessed that he had received it, upon which the other desired him to let him see it. The boy made several excuses, but they all availed him nothing; for, the other began to demand with some authority, and would have taken hold of him, had he not been something afraid of receiving a kick from the mad horse. Amongst other excuses, the boy alleged that his master would think he had made away with the money himself, for which reason he could not part with it; but Redmond threatening to shoot him if he refused any longer, the boy took his wallet, and cast it over a slough by the road-side, and told Redmond that if he must have it, he should follow it. Upon this Redmond alighted from his horse, and having tied him to a tree, with some difficulty he got to the place where the wallet lay. While he was upon this expedition, the boy exchanged horses, much for the better, and rode home with speed, having the money he received at Newry, safely quilted up in his waistcoat, and though Redmond called after him to stay, yet he left him to make the best hand he could of an old garron and a bag of half-pence.

Short after this, Redmond was presented with the king's protection for three years, on trial of his good behaviour, by cornet Montgomery, and remained for the space of two years very inoffensive in the country, and kept company with some of the best gentlemen in the kingdom. However, tho' he knew well, if he had continued his good behaviour for the term granted, he might have obtained a general pardon, yet this honest way of living did not relish well with him: he had an itch to be at the old game, and accordingly began it before the limited time was expired, growing ten times more wicked and notorious than ever he had been before.

In imitation of Oliver Cromwell, lord protector

of the commonwealth, he took upon him either the title of protector of the rights and properties of his benefactors and contributors, chief ranger of the mountains, surveyor general of the high roads of Ireland, or lord examiner of all passengers, committing such villanies and barbarities on sturdy travellers, as were never heard of before, often driving away whole herds of cattle from such as, in contempt of his protection and authority, had given him offence by running in arrears. Yet he seldom robbed a poor man, but on the contrary, was always generous to men in necessity or distress.—Having once overtaken a poor man who had but one cow, which he was driving to a fair to be sold, to raise the rent for his landlord, he asked him several questions, till he found certainly that he was in want, and then lent him five pounds, which he was to pay him at an inn a few weeks after. The poor man went with the money according to compact, which pleased Redmond so well that he bestowed it on him, and five pounds more.

He understood the art of dissimulation well; sometimes appearing like an officer, sometimes like a country gentleman, sometimes like a footman, and could alter the tone of his voice at pleasure; so that the soldiers seldom knew him, though he often gave them money to drink. The duke of Ormond, ordered a party of foot and horse to pursue him, who being informed where he was, but not mistrusting his disguise, went after him hot foot. Redmond dressed himself like an officer, and went quietly along the high road, until he saw the red coats at a good distance behind him; then he hastened to a gentleman's house near the road, and told him he was an officer, who was sent out with a party of men in pursuit of Redmond O'Hanlon, but being a little fatigued, made bold to call and rest himself until his men came up; then desiring the people of

the house, to call him as soon as they passed by, he stretched himself down to rest. The soldiers had not gone above an hundred yards past the end of the avenue, before Redmond went out on pretence of meeting them at a stile by the road side a quarter of a mile off; but his intent was to make his escape another way, which he did for that time unperceived.

Not long afterwards he appeared in Armagh in the habit of a country gentleman, and requested of the commanding officer there to let him have a few men to guard him about eight miles further, for fear of being met by any of Redmond O'Hanlon's party, because he had a charge of money about him. The request was granted. He and the men passed on very jocosely for about seven miles, when he told them he was out of danger, and they might go back. He gave every man a piece of money, and desired them to make a discharge for joy of his safe passage, which they did; then he desired them to charge and do the like again, until at length they told him their ammunition was spent. This was what he expected, and giving a whistle, a parcel of his gang sprung out of the thicket, who stripped the soldiers, in which shameful condition, they were obliged to go back to their quarters.

The escape he made at the four mile house, between Dundalk and Newry, may claim the reader's attention. Being there overtaken by an officer and twelve men, he was made prisoner; but seeming to have a great respect for the soldiers, and they for him, there was no dispute made. His ready compliance and civility drew compassion from the men towards him, and he treated them with North country whisky, taking care to drink sparingly himself, until they were all overcome with that heady liquor. While they were in this condition, he got them all tied neck and heels, and leaving them in that posi-

ture, marched off with their arms, which it seems he and his gang had occasion for.

The government being justly incensed at this proceeding, issued out a proclamation offering a reward for his head.

A captain of foot being informed of one of his haunts, chose out twenty of the most active men in the barraek, who stripped themselves to their waist-coats, and marched out in pursuit of him before break of day, with nothing but their muskets and bayonets, and a little provision in their pockets. In about two hours they invested his castle of defence, but had the mortification to hear him call out from an adjacent hill bidding defiance, for it seems he had warning of their approach. Upon this the military men held a consultation of war, wherein it was resolved to divide themselves into three parties. The captain and ten men were to follow the chace in the centre, and five men on each wing, who were always to keep within a quarter of a mile of the main body. In this manner they followed him until noon. But at length, several of the men beginning to lag, the chace was only maintained by four, who kept so nigh him as to have him in view the greatest part of the day. In the evening he hid himself in a knot of furze, about half a mile from a small village, where several of his friends lived, intending to convey himself thither in the night, expecting that the soldiers would have searched the village before it grew dark; but here he was entirely mistaken, for his pursuers, upon losing sight of him, suspected that he had hid himself, and waited near the place until the whole company came up, and then made a diligent search, but to no purpose. Upon this they held a fresh consultation, not many yards from the place where Redmond lay, and concluded to lie under cover till morning. Redmond overheard the discourse,

and was resolved to steal away, but was prevented by the men's walking to and fro to keep themselves warm, until observing a smoke at a distance, they drew near, thinking to refresh themselves. They found a village, where they were furnished with fresh provisions. As they were returning to renew the search, they observed a man at some distance, making to a cabin, whom they pursued, and found that they were still on the right scout. But Redmond looking behind him, though he was exceedingly hungry, altered his course, and the pursuit was renewed with great warmth; and he was obliged to hide himself next evening on the top of a mountain, where he remained until break of day, and then he went to one of his friend's houses to get something to eat.

At his coming up to the door, one of the dogs began to bark, which alarmed the pursuers to the centre, who lay not far off; whereupon they all came up in a body, and surrounded the house, just as Redmond sat down with a cake of bread, some butter, and a can of milk before him. It was now the third day since he had eaten a morsel, and being almost spent for want of food, was just going to put the first bit in his mouth, when the captain of the little army appeared at the door, with a very kind salutation, which Redmond returned with a gentleman-like saying. Sir, I acknowledge that I am your prisoner, and shall comply with your orders immediately; but gentlemen, you have been hunting me these two days past, as I never was hunted in my life. I had not time to put one bit in my mouth, until now, and I beg, sir, you'll just leave me to eat my last breakfast with my friends; as soon as I have done you shall carry me where you please, and it will be no small honour to have the credit of taking Redmond O'Hanlon; only don't disturb me until I am ready. This privilege

was readily granted him, and the officer, with eight men, stood at the door, resting on their arms, while the other twelve guarded the house on all sides without, until Redmond had done; then he started up, taking his blunderbuss in his hand, and presenting it to the officer, said, "Now you take me for your prisoner, but you must give me a little play, that the world should not have it to say that I was taken so silly; you bear the title of captain, so do I; if you refuse to give me horse-room and ear-room, I'll discharge my piece at you this instant: I expect nothing but death, gentlemen, but yet am resolved to have fair play, and die honourably; I have but one life to lose, you can take no more, and perhaps I'll make three or four of you bear me company; for to gaol I never will go alive." This language surprised the officer, who seemed to give way a little, as though he had a mind to consent: upon which Redmond forced out of the door, and escaped.

It was about this time that Power, the greatest robber in Munster, took a journey to the county of Armagh, for the sake of seeing Redmond O'Hanlon, of whom he had heard abundance of fine stories. When he came near the place of Redmond's abode, he put up at an inn. Observing a gentleman, as he thought, telling over a good sum of money, he took care to be informed which road he intended to take in the morning; upon which he pursued him, and overtook him. On coming up he demanded the money which he told him he saw him reckoning the night before. The other told him he had money sure enough, but swore whoever took it should fight for it: upon which each of them discharged a pistol without any damage, and then drew their swords, with which they fought some time on horseback. At length, looking on one another, they forebore a while, and agreed

to alight and decide the quarrel on foot. Having alighted, the victory was contended for with equal bravery and loss of blood on both sides, until they were able to fight no longer: then sitting down to rest, "Pray," says the Sampson of the north, "who are you, or what's your name?" Upon this, the other confessed he was the chief robber of Munster, who hearing a great deal of Redmond O'Hanlon's fame, came purposely to get acquainted with him. Says Redmond, "Then you have satisfied your curiosity, for I am the man; and I must confess you are the heartiest lad I ever met with—I never was so worsted before." So they kissed and became friends, and he made a league to tarry with Redmond a year and a half in the north; but not relishing bannocks and oatmeal, he returned to his own country, and surveyed only the Munster roads afterwards.

Before he departed they made a truce, and promised to give one another notice if at any time either of them was put in prison, or in distress, that the one at liberty might rescue the other if possible. Soon after this the Munster tory was put into Clonmel gaol, for murdering a traveller, on Kilnagowna, near the place where Patrick Sarsfield afterwards had the fortune to blow up King William's artillery, and nail down the cannon. According to their compact he wrote a letter to Redmond, which he communicated to his trusty comrades, Patrick Mactigh, John Reily, Shan Bernagh, Phil. Galloge, Pat. Meel, Arthur O'Neal, and the famous O'Quigley, they took the affair into consideration; but the time being very short, Redmond posted away alone, and only reached Clonmel the evening before the Munster champion was led out to Kilnagowna to be executed. Being in the habit of a gentleman, he found means of communicating to Power that he intended to set the town

on fire in several places that night, that while the people were in confusion he might have an opportunity of executing his design; but Power let him know the danger of such an attempt, while a strong guard of soldiers were kept in the town, and dissuaded him from it by telling him of a much better opportunity that would offer on the road the next day, there being but a file or two of foot soldiers with the sheriff to guard him; and so put him in a way of forming a probable stratagem for making a rescue. Next morning the guard set out with the prisoner, and having conducted him about half way they stopped awhile at a public house on the road to refresh themselves. The prisoner was left under the charge of four soldiers, while the others sat in a large room at the other end, over a sup of liquor. While they sat in this posture, Redmond appeared at the door in the dress of a gentleman, and having enquired the cause of the soldiers being there, he desired to see the prisoner, which being readily granted to him, he called for wine to treat the men, and paid the whole reckoning. This being over, the officer called for more wine to treat the gentleman, while the men were plied with liquor, by Redmond's private orders, to facilitate his design.

As soon as found convenient, Redmond stepped out on pretence of making water, and looking round about to see whether the coast was clear, he observed eight men riding towards him, and found they were some of his own comrades, who had followed to assist him. To be sure his comrades could never meet him in a more welcome time. They consulted the manner of executing their design, and had the luck to rescue Power in a very surprising manner, as follows: One of the gang held the horses at the end of the house, whilst the rest followed Redmond into it, who opening a door that was in

the passage, to prevent any in the lower room from looking up into the other, stood there and made some kind of a noise, not only to drown the voice of those with the prisoner during the scuffle, but to hinder the others from coming out to see what the matter was, if there arose any suspicion. In the mean while seven of the north-country robbers entered into the little room, and taking advantage of the small guard, dispatched the four men so suddenly, that they had no time to cry out; and having cut the cords wherewith the prisoner was bound, he followed them out, and mounted one of the horses with very little noise, and so made his escape to the mountains. Redmond himself was the first who gavo notice of the escape, and assisted the sheriff in pursuing the rescuers for several miles, until finding opportunity in the evening, he turned off short, and followed his comrades directly to Longford pass, near the bog of Allen.

When the soldiers, in the barrack erected at Carradelvin, had marched out of their quarters, and fresh ones had supplied their room, Redmond took out with him eighteen men, and went in the night to the barrack, to be revenged on the soldiers for the severe hunting he got when he made his very surprising escape. It seems the soldiers had no suspicion of captain O'Hanlon's adventure, for they were all asleep, otherwise it appears improbable that the raparees could open the door, and steal away oighteen horses, unknown to the guard. However, so it was, the eighteen O'Hanlonians made off with eighteen horses, to Ballibey, where there stood an old castle in the valley, at the foot of a great hill. Here they alighted to observe how the army behaved.

How the robbery was discovered is not known, but this is a fact: eighteen horsemen, each with a foot soldier behind him, began the pursuit early

in the morning, and following the tracks of the horses, came within sight of them about nine o'clock in the morning, in the valley aforesaid. As soon as captain O'Hanlon perceived the pursuers, he ordered his men to draw up the horses into a half-moon, and prepare for battle. His reason for making out the circle was, that his men might keep the face of the half-moon still towards the enemy; because he knew very well the dragoons did not pursue them with an intent to kill their own horses.

In this posture they were just by the side of a large trench, when the officer came within shot. Captain O'Hanlon gave the officer a fair challenge either to decide the matter by a field battle, or to give three guineas a piece for the horses; but the offer was rejected, and several stratagems were made use of by the officer to break the order of the raparees; which Redmond observing, and fearing that the footmen would find a passage over the trench, and get behind him while the rest were before, he thought proper to make a moderate offer, which was to return the horses at a guinea apiece, and to be allowed the liberty of marching off unmolested: if this were refused, he swore that every man he had should fire upon the army, making no doubt but they should kill eighteen at least, and that several of themselves would escape afterwards. This audacious challenge occasioned a council of war to be held, wherein it was concluded to give him the last demand, with a privilege of retiring an hundred yards before a soldier moved from his place, to prevent the loss of men and horses. A messenger was sent with the money; which when captain O'Hanlon had received, he and his men retired behind the trench, which was before unperceived by the officer, who otherwise, upon an earlier discovery, might have made Redmond a prisoner. Thus this surprising adventure ended without striking a blow.

This last action of Redmond's incensed the government to the highest degree, and a fresh proclamation was issued out offering a reward of 400*l.* or more, for his head dead or alive, and 40*l.* apiece for the eighteen men that were with him. The family of the Cootes at Cote hill were very active and successful in taking his comrades; as likewise the Johnstons of the Fews; and in a few years, the most of his chief men were executed, except Reilly, who fled for his life to France, where the same Cote having killed a man, was tried and found guilty. Reilly came to him, and told him he was then come to render good for evil; and accordingly helped him to make his escape to Ireland again.

When Cote got home he enquired for Reilly's family, and having found his father only in possession of a small potato garden, one cow, and a little cabin, on the mountain, he made him a freehold lease of a small piece of land, in the county of Monaghan, which the Reilly family still enjoy to this day, and is now of very considerable value and importance.

Brien Kelly was the most active servant that Redmond had, and merits a place in history (if a rogue can have merit) almost as well as his master, having been in company with him in most of his daring enterprises, as well as in several more private; but as the particulars have not been told me I shall only relate one, and let the rest lie in oblivion. While Redmond resided near Allen, Kelly, with two or three green-horn raparees, beset a house in the county of Kildare, and having a hole made in the wall, through which the whey was usually conveyed into the swine trough, the servant maid had occasion to go into the dairy, and observing that the hole was somewhat wider than before, mistrusted that all was not right. Upon this, she took a large cleaver, and conveyed herself to the

side of the hole. When all was hushed the hands fell to work again to pick out the stones of the wall, and made the hole wider, and presently came in a head and shoulders, which the girl perceived, and making ready to give him a stroke, the fellow called to his comrades to bring him back, but the girl had taken care to lighten the load, by cutting off the head, which terrified the rest without so much, that they fled for the same, and nobody came afterwards to challenge the dead, neither was it known who he was, till Kelly, the great murderer, and robber, confessed it afterwards in his last speech at the gallows of Armagh. However, the girl was highly applauded. But now to return to Redmond and finish his life.

The gallows having destroyed many of Redmond's notorious accomplices, and the large rewards that were offered by government for taking himself, encouraged even private persons to endeavour, by every means, to take him. And the family of the Johnstons of the Fews, are at present very serviceable to their country in apprehending Tories and Raparees, and they were more so then.

The vigilant Mr Johnston seldom let Redmond rest after his chief comrades were cut off, but hunted him over hills and dales; but more particularly once, having notice that he was at Narrow Water, took some men, and pursued him hot foot almost to Carlingford, where, for fear that he should get and hide, and so convey himself away by sea in the night, his passages were all intercepted, which Redmond observing, he made up to an alehouse by the river side, at which time it happened there was no boat near hand, nor bridge within a mile and a half of the place. By some means or other old Johnston got notice of it, and hastened to the place, thinking it not possible for Redmond to escape over so broad a river while the tide was in: for he

had no other way left. When old Johnston and his men came near, they observed that Redmond had stript off his clothes and tied them on his back, with which he took to the river, and swam down, mostly under water, for above two hundred yards. This prevented him from receiving the shot of his pursuers, until out of danger. And what was as remarkable as this, when Mr Johnston set his dog after him to seize him, the dog snapt at the coat, and at the same time Redmond turned about and took hold of him by the throat, and dragged him along with him under water, till he drowned him quite; for Redmond was a good swimmer. In a little time he gained the bank on the other side of the river, then dressed himself, and fled directly to Island Magee near Belfast, where he lurked privately for a year or more, till he thought the country had forgotten him, and then came up to the county of Armagh to make new adventures, but did not reign long.

He was now under more apprehensions of danger than ever, and appeared but seldom publicly abroad. Yet, though he was somewhat advanced in years, he fell desperately in love with an inn-keeper's daughter, a very beautiful young woman, whom he prevailed upon, by entreaties and valuable gifts, after a long suit, to yield to his lustful embraces, upon a kind of sham marriage. However, he was very fond of her, and spent most of his time in her company, until her father hearing who he was, and what reward was offered for his apprehension, endeavoured to get her to betray him. But it was all to no purpose; for it only gave Redmond warning to conceal himself with more caution. At length one Douglas, a minister of the established church, in the parish where the young woman mostly resided, knowing she was brought up a protestant, and that Redmond only went to

hear mass, (if he frequented any place of worship at all,) thought that she might be prevailed upon, on this account, to make a discovery: but all his endeavours seemed to be fruitless for a long time, until Redmond took some occasion to abuse her; then this Douglas began to work on her again, and at last obtained his end. This young woman, according to her promise to Douglas, took an opportunity to send a messenger to him, and gave him notice where Redmond was, just as he was going into bed after a hard fit of drinking. In a little time a guard came up and took him asleep, and he was hurried to Armagh, and put into gaol, with about twelve stones of irons upon him, where he remained till the assizes; and being tried, was found guilty of such a number of facts,* that he was condemned, and his body ordered to be cut into four quarters, and to be hung up in different places, as a terror to others, notwithstanding which he gave three surprising jumps in court, to show his activity, though so heavily loaded with irons.

However, it is said that he was afterwards either enlarged, or made his escape out of prison, for he died at last by the hands of one of his own relations, (a foster-brother,) who, for the sake of the large reward (offered for Redmond's head) caused his wife to lay a wile for him, and she having betrayed him under a pretence of giving him some refreshment, he being weary stretched himself down to rest, and was shot through the head as he lay asleep in a barn. He that shot him had the head carried on a staff to Armagh, and got the thanks of the whole

* What the old women say of his mother's dreams, of her going to consult an Astrologer upon his birth, and of his having a T on his breast when born, is all a story and a fiction; though it is certain, that his exploits spread his fame through most countries in Europe. In England he was called captain O'Hanlon, but in France count O'Hanlon, by all his fraternity.

country, besides the reward at the ensuing quarter sessions.

Thus ended the memorable life of that notorious highwayman and robber, Redmond O'Hanlon, on whom there was a very curious song composed after his death, though never printed. * But stories concerning him differ greatly; nevertheless, had all his exploits and actions been recorded, they would have made as remarkable a history as most of the Irish giants.

* And though some soldiers lost their lives in the rescue of Power, yet he was entirely against it, and intended only to overdo them by liquor, Kelly was the chief actor in the tragedy, therefore Redmond ought not to bear the scandal of so foul a deed.

THE END.