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# LITERARY, POLITICAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND FAMILY

Vol. VII.-Whole No. 347.

LINDSAY, C. W., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1866.

Literary Selections.

Norah Cushaleen;

THE HAUNTED CASTLE.

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER XXI.

SUSPICION ENTERS THE MIND OF LADY BLAN-

WITH A DARK AND CRUEL PURPOSE.

TIRE.WHICH CAUSES HER TO VISIT THE RUIN

On the night of Mary Kendal's abduction

Lady Blantire was walking to and fro in her

room in a state of proud exultation. She was too excited to sleep, owing to the importance of the event which was that night

taking place. The honour and prosperity

of the family were being put beyond peril

Malyrin was being married to a lady of equal

rank, and her ample fortune would free the

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just beautiful, said Michael, entering with his load, and groping his way forward. Lady Blantire crept stealthily forward at the same moment, and entered close behind leave me to my own thoughts, and seek re-pose for yourself. At a later hour I will liance. The spirit of Norah will not appear on the occasion, for it will take place in a regular consecrated chapel. Go-go,' she imperatively rejoined. 'I as As Lady Blantire listened to these words, the quiet smile variabled from her face,

THE LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE. Norah had to ascend to the chamber in

lonesome place to be sure,' he remarked. he muttered. 'She means not to be seen 'Norah, avich, isn't it yer heavy-hearted again till I have led Mary Kendal to the father that's sorry to think that you have to Yet all saw, all heard it. Then it is no again the I have led mary kendar to the latter than 1 heard it. Then it is no again the I have led mary kendar to the latter than 2 heard blood after. Be it so. I will not seek to invade put up in such a nasty ghost uv a castle, all

Norah, in a cheerful tone. 'You forget that

God save the swate little crayture, to be sure; but barrin' his presence, that hasn't

. It is hard, no doubt, and far from pleaspreparing a dress, partly for disguise and ant, but it must be borne, returned Norah, promptly execute all orders with which he may be favoured, in the latest styles and at the lowest prices.

Of Chairs, Bed Steads, Bureaus, Dressing and of Chairs, Bed Steads, Bureaus, Dressing and other stands, Looking Glasses, &c., all of contracted amid much pomp and splendour. Yes, I—I must do it. To no other hand will be favoured, in the latest styles and at the lowest prices.

Of Chairs, Bed Steads, Bureaus, Dressing and other stands, Looking Glasses, &c., all of contracted amid much pomp and splendour. Yes, I—I must do it. To no other hand will bridge the gulf that nothing else will. Yes, I—I must do it. To no other hand will other stands, Looking Glasses, &c., all of which he will sell at much lower rates than have heretofore been asked in Lindsay.

Her preparations being completed, when have heretofore been asked in Lindsay.

Her preparations being completed, when and loud and open congratulations; but inwalk and that heavy load. Come up the stair, and I will cast the light back upon the

> 'Och, but it's yourself that has the kind heart, Norah darlin,' said Michael, as he followed her. 'If I was ten times tireder than I am, the words that come out uv your swate purty lips would make me as fresh as the dasies in the mornin.' When half way up the stair, Michael sud-

denly paused. 'Bedad!' he exclaimed. 'if I haven't forgot to bar the door.'

'Ah,' cried Norah, 'that must be immestones which secured it.

wall, and in her hand she held the dagger ready to plunge into the bosom of the unsuspecting girl, should she discover her pre-sence. But Norah completed her task and some time beiore, and for a similar purpose. retreated without the taintest suspicion of The intention of the mother was the same as the presence of any one in the passage. that of the son, viz .- to murder Norah Cush-'I might have struck the blow,' muttered

that the latter was still alive, and lurking away in the distance. 'Ay, and I would have done it but for the child. As Lady Blantire ascended the solitary I heard by their conversation, still lives, and steep, amid frowning rocks, black gorges, he too must be put out of the way. I will

common superstitions of the district; but dagger to her bosom, and cautiously advanceven had she been a believer in the super- ed along the passage, till she came to a to disregard, or at least to brave the danger. tiently till Michael would be gone, when

'The poor, frightened fools, to run at the sight of a weak, helpless woman,' she mutlow murmur of the sea were the only sounds If they escaped the sea, my dagger will be

Musing thus in the darkness, more than Following the path as it turned from the an hour passed away, and then there was a cliff, Lady Blantire, whose figure was close- noise of voices and footsteps, and a glare of

Lady Blantire retreated to the corner of less than an hour entered the open level the corner of the apartment, and there space in front of the ruin. All was dark and crouched down; but there was no means of perfectly silent. No gleam of light came further concealment, and if Norah and her from any of the loop-holes, no sound of any-thing human was heard, either without or light she would inevitably be discovered.

Lady Blantire glided across the esplan- parted with tender, loving expressions, husband themselves for action, old as I am, ade and approached the low oaken door. It Michael took his leave, and Norah carefully

erect and motionless by the side of his that they had left this door open, and now it the passage and the deed is done; but I'll couch. He looked for a moment bewil- is shut and secured. This is not the doing rather wait, and steal upon her when she is asleep.'

'I have,' she sternly rejoined; 'but prevail against it. She therefore turned her thoughts to finding admission by some other ing near—of the heart and hand steeled to strike the fatal blow on herself and her daron is so miserably marred? way.

Oh! hang it, don't harp longer on that Passing round to the north she entered the ling child. She thought not of danger, strain. If I failed once, I shan't do so enclosure where Mike O'Rafferty and his imagined not that she was less secure than again. Tell me what your plan is, and if sons had buried Terry's boxas, but no door- she had been on other nights, and prepared practicable at all, I swear that I will ac- way or other aperture existed in this direc- to go to rest with a heart cheered by the

> three peculiar loud taps on the door, by way soon relapsed into the deep and undisturbed slumber of infancy. Lady Blantire noiselessly crept forward It was now past midnight. After leaving by the side of the wall, and stood behind an the child again upon the couch, she prepared

> to take her place beside him. But first she Who is there? asked a female's voice knelt down and recommended herself and her boy to the care of the Great Father in · It's me, Norah, darling,' answered the Heaven. Oh, how greatly did she that night old man. 'Sure you know the sound of your stand in need of Divine protection, though she knew it not. The murderess was with-Immediately there was the sound of stones out, watching and waiting for her victims, being removed from behind the door, and and all human help was distant. Shall that Oh! father, said Norah, why have darkness?

rah; 'as much as will serve for weeks to the chamber door was lifted, and the door

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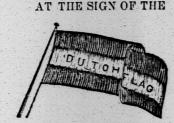
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estate from the embarrassment which her son's extravagance and dissipation had Cushaleen be alive, the danger to the house To be sure there were circumstances conof Blantire is ten thousand times greater than nected with the marriage which were calculated to detract somewhat from Lady Blan-tire's feeling of triumphant satisfaction. ever. His wife the law will make her so, and ruin, and disgrace are before us. The She could not get rid of the thought the series of silent and interest the rid of the thought the series of silent and interest thought the series of the se

time, the place, and the character of the cer- eral minutes of silent and intense thought. tween the houses of Kendal and Blantire. can prevent the terrible catastrophe—that the deadly purpose of her heart, and in will bridge the gulf that nothing else will. A marriage so anspicious ought to have been stead of all this there was secrecy, silence, and concealment. The midnight hour was riage was altogether forced. The union was

visit you in your own chamber.'

more the sole occupant of the chamber.

They all saw it, she muttered.

person at once, and it never speaks, or if it

would be alone.'

sank heavily into a seat.

But this other matter, how is it to be manproduced by the wiles of the intriguing ad- | what ? -av, what ? there is the difficulty. venturer Hargreave, and she imagined that Yet it is a difficulty which must be solved, when the vain and silly dream was over, for this obstinate girl shall not escape from Mary would be glad and thankful that she the honour which all her friends wish to confer upon her.

was strongly excited by it, for the interests remained for several hours, during which which had been at stake and the dangers time the troubled expression of her stern, unwhich would be removed by it were of the bending countenance did not change. Evivery gravest description, and threatened to dently her long and deep meditation prodeal a fatal blow at the Blantire family, of duced nothing, at least nothing satisfactorily: whom her son was the representative. If though her face did once or twice show a the disgraceful fact had become known, that faint gleam of satisfaction, as if she had ob-Malvrin had been secretly married to Norah tained a glimpse of the solution of the prob-Cushaleen, a peasant girl, Squire Kendal lem vetlit presently relapsed into perplexity, would have indignantly spurned the idea of and the gloom remained on her knitted brow. It is often the case that what a long and laborious search fails to reach comes like a been equally prejudicial to an alliance with flash upon the mind. It was so now. After having vainly spent several of the hours

tire rose from her seat without a likely plan having occurred to her, and, advancing to the window, gazed dreamily out upon the park, now smiling in bright summer sun-All at once she gave a start, for an idea leapt into her mind which she knew in a moment contained a successful solution of the problem that baffled her. How it came, or by what law of association, she could not conjecture, but there it was, and its value She could not sleep, and was restlessly

she instantly recognized. A few brief mopacing her chamber as the dawn of the new ments only served to show her the plan in its details, and a smile of triumph and satisfaction once more animated her hard features. This was the notable scheme, the influence and nature of which we detailed in last when she characterised it as the device of a

> Throwing a large Indian shawl over her shoulders, Lady Blantire sought her son's sleeping apartment. He lay in his bed, but partially undressed, and was in a calm and deen slumber. Sine stood for some moments steadily re-And he can sleep thus, she murmured in a reproachful tone, 'though the events

of Blantire, ruin and disgrace would soon within. overtake it. Yet, let youth and strength I can plan and work too.' Wher. Malvrin opened his eyes they fell on the tall form of his mother, as she stood erect and motionless by the side of his

the situation of affairs. Her sudden appearance surprised him, devised another scheme? and for some moments he stood silent before tion is so miserably marred?

narrated the appearance of the spirit of the her ladyship, that I will not admit you doubts of her ability to penetrate into the in- little box lay on the couch quite awake, and

finished the recital, by telling her of the in- countable blundering it fail, you may nev- closure, when her quick eye noticed a dark his grandfather had imprinted on his balmy er see my face again.

> 'To the death!' answered Malyrin. 'You are certain that the youth now in his charge cannot by any possibility es-

Good. Then all is secure. Now lis-· And suppose it was a ghost, what pow-ten. Let a letter be concocted, purporter could it have?' demanded her ladvship. ing to be written by Captain Jack to Squire I would no more be afraid of a ghost than Kendal, informing him that unless a ran-I am of my own lap-dog. It can have no som of two hundred pounds be sent with-power, for it is but a shadow, after all.' in one month, the young man will, accord-presently it was pulled open.

He departed, and Lady Blantire was once the sole occupant of the chamber.

With an eager, trembling hand she fast-Next day Lady Blantire was not to be ened the door, and tottering across the room, seem in the Castle. Malvrin went to her ed her father had groped more than half-chamber, and saw that it had not been way along the passage.

'Oh, musha, but this is a could, damp, spirit, it is said, can be seen by only one 'So she has carried out her purpose,' does, it can be heard by one person only.

ghost; it is the girl herself in flesh and blood, and the story of her death is a myth. Great Heaven! if my suspicion be true, if Norah when I bring her home.' But the disappearance of Lady Blantire I have little Malvrin beside me. was connected with something very differ-After If the girl be indeed alive, her death alone own apartment, meditating and maturing hear spake.

ness nor fear will move me from my purpose. it drew towards evening she stealthily Murder! Ay, I could commit ten murders made her way to a room where lay many chosen for the time of the ceremony, the in such a cause; and shall I permit the lite old and antique articles, and various kinds place was a solitary ruin among the moun- of a paltry peasant girl to stand between me of armour, which had been worn by the tains, and on the part of the bride the mar- and the honour of my family? No, I will ancient and warlike lords of Blantire. Openvisit this ruined castle, and if I find my ing a cabinet there, she took out a small suspicion to be true, Norah Cushaleen dies dagger, on the blade of which lay red spots by my hand. No hesitation, no uncertainty, of rust, which had been gathered for generations. She looked at it for a moment, felt the point, and a grim fiendish smile disfigured her face. Then she wiped the dagger with her napkin, and deposited it in her bosom. When the deepening twilight made ob-

ects almost indistinguishable, she stole out by a small private door at the rear of the bery which at that place reached almost to the wall and skirted the whole of the north In spite, then, of the exceptional circum-stances attending the union, Lady Blantire and in this state of mental abstraction, she and in this state of mental abstraction, she side of several fields to the highway, on wall, and in her hand she held the dagger path which led by the cliffs to the ruin. It was the same path taken by Malvrin

> concealed within the ruin. no fear, and hardly fe't fatigue. Her stern the double blow.

counting that above all other considerathat broke upon the stillness and the calm- more true and faithful.

ness of the scene. ly muffled up, toiled up the rugged and diffi- light flashed along the passage. cult ascent with unflagging energy, and in of the night have been so disastrous. Alas! were I as careless of the honour of the house

dered, but presently his mind reverted to of a spirit!

ed. At the same time it is the last that | She was about to retire to the low oaken had enjoyed a long and sound sleep, from But she did not interrupt him till he had can be carried out, and if by any unac- door and had almost emerged from the en- which he had been roused by the kiss which figure approach from the path that led from lips. The tears of the old man lay like fresh Bless me! are you serious? asked Mal- the mountains to the valley of Dundarra. dew-drops on his downy cheeks, and the Quite serious, replied his mother, with as a tiger watching for its prey. The dark was like stinshine on the sparkling flowers.

abutment close to the door.

from within. father's voice."

and brave, as becomes the house of Blantire.' it, for the young man's sake.'

"Cease your reproaches, mother,' cried 'Faith, mother, I haven't the least doubt come. However, I am glad indeed to see

C. Blackett Robinson, 'Never mind the road, darlin'. Sure I'd been sufficiently chafed and worried; do scheme is a brilliant one. It will be suc-not you add to my annoyance. Let us rather think how the mischance is to be remedied.'

A quiet smile played for an instant round the compressed lips of Lady Blantire.

And the best of it is,' added Malviin, that Mary will go voluntarily and openly to the altar, and we shall have a marriage worthy at the familiar who form the standard of the standard worthy at the familiar who form the standard of the standard worthy at the familiar who form the standard of the stan Wait a moment till I bring a light. You cannot find the way along the passage in the dark, said Norah, her voice dying away as she tripped quickly into the interio · Och, now, don't bother, I'll find the road

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CHAPTER XXII. the tower for the light, and when she return-

'Not quite by myself, father,' returned

diately rectified,' and setting down the light, she tripped hurriedly down the stair, and Castle, and plunged into the thick shrub- came along the dark passage. The door was not only unfastened, but half open, and she immediately set herself to pile up the

aleen, should her suspicion prove correct Lady Blantire, when Norah's footsteps died

and the darkness of night she experienced wait till the old man is gone, and then strike resolute spirit was not trammelled by the She rose slowly from her lair, returned the natural the errand on which she was bent doorway, and entered a dark and empty would have placed her above it, and led her chamber. Here she remained waiting pa-

For the honour of her family (she herself she would be able to effect her cruel purwas a Blantire) she would dare everything, pose. She gained the top of the cliff; and the tered, as she thought of Malvrin and his two murmuring sea as it flowed among the rocks accomplices. 'Had I been as superstitious, far below, came to her ear. The night was utter ruin would have come upon our house. very different from that in which Norah Dennis must have deceived Malvrin with a was decoyed to the boat by her heartless false story of Norah's death; and yet he betrayer. There were no clouds on the saw them in the boat and tossing upon the sky, no storm in the air, and no tempest waves. How, then, could the girl escape? on the ocean. A faint breeze floated on Dennis himself was drowned, for Malvrin the heights and stirred the wild flowers saw his body; and yet the girl and her chapter. Probably Mary Kendal was right and tall grass that grew in the crevices of child still live. It is a mystery; but if I the rocks, and the rustle of these, with the cannot unravel it, I shall make it harmless.

But they passed the doorway, and having

She pressed against it, and it shook a little Her ladyship acting on this resolution, 'Ha, mother!' he exclaimed, 'have you but showed no signs of yielding, and het Norah was allowed to return to the chamber ladyship felt that no strength of hers would above. Poor, persecuted girl, little did she

omplish it.'

tion, and after exploring the ruin as far as visit of her father.

'It is so easy, so practicable,' returned the rocks permitted, she began to entertain When she returned to the chamber the on her return set up a crow of delight. He She instantly crouched down, and watched laughing glance of the child's bright eyes figure paused for some moments at the verge Norah took him up, kissed him fondly, of the esplanade, then slowly advanced to and sat down to give him second supper.

Wm. McDONNELL."

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These quastions might be said to be trembled to be the photographs of Mr. Francis

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"I consider the ph

(Continued on Fourth Page)

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Tarty And Arctoria.

Space and Arctoria.

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myself.'

being formed not only without her consent, but she was absolute'y rendered helpless by violence, and made a wife against her These facts were certainly calculated to aged? It is evident that the scheme of a moderate Lady Blantire's satisfaction, but forced marriage must be abandoned. Havshe looked upon Mary's opposition as the ing failed so signally, it cannot be tried again. result of romantic and evanescent feeling, Another plan must be substituted for it. But

had been constrained to her own good. a marriage with his daughter, and the publication of the horrible truth would have any other suitable Irish family. The consequences therefore, would have been poverty of early morning in meditation, Lady Blan-

and extinctiou- two unmitigated and irreparable evils. . But from these awful consequences the ceremony of that night saved the house of Blantire, and her ladyship was correspondingly elated, more particularly as the abduction which was that night being effected was her own suggestion and she congratuted herself on the thought that by her prompt and energetic counsel, the threatened danger had been averted.

day broke silently over the earth. All is secure now, she muttered, as she approached the window and looked dreamily across the park, the objects of which were every moment becoming more distinct. 'Yes,' she continued, 'the ceremony must be over by this time, and Mary Kendal is the wife of Malvrin. No more danger is to be apprehended from that sneaking English adventurer or from her own absurd romantic notions. She is bound fast and sure, and in a few hours Malvrin will arrive with her here, where all is ready for her reception.

Ha! I see the figure of a horseman coming across the park. Surely it is-yes it is Malvrin, and alone. What can this mean ? Slowly the rider approached on his jaded horse, and as Lady Blantire thought, with an air of dejection hardly befitting a new-made husband. She stood petrified with astonishment, and a vague feeling of alarm stole through her heart.

'Can he have failed, can the scheme have miscarried?' she murmured through her She listened till she heard him enter and ascend the stair, then softly opening her chamber door, she met him on the landing. What means this?' she hurriedly asked.

Why are you here and alone ?'

have not failed! Surely you have not come to tell me you have failed? He passed into her chamber, and beckoned her to follow him. Then he told her all that had occurred. She heard him in silence, and when he murdered Norah she started, and a strangely again to my presence till it is accomplish- terior. dark expression came over her countenance.

effectual search they had made for Mary. "Coward, she then bitterly exclaimed poor, pitiful coward, to be frightened by a vrin. saw and heard it as well as 1.' 'They did,' said her ladyship, as her eyes

suddenly emitted a gleaming flash.

scared deer,' she said, scornfully.

'It is no joke to see and to be challenged by a ghost, mother,' returned Malvrin gloom-

'You are wrong, mother,' he replied. 'It stern severity. 'But do not alarm yourwas no shadow. O'Brady and the priest self, for, except from wilful mismanagement, it is not possible that the scheme the closed door. It was an old man, carry- Full of health and young gushing life, he should fail. One thing let me ask-is Cap- ing a large bundle on his back, and he gave partook eagerly of the food she offered, and tain Jack to be implicitly relied on? 'They did,' and were not less moved than

rentare vienel and bebaer.

And you all three fled like a pack of cape ? I am certain of that as I am of my own existence.'

H. WORKMAN Malvrin, in an impatient tone. 'I have of it,' eried Malvrin starting up. 'The you, only it is such a long dreary read.