

The sergeant made no comment on this and another long silence ensued.

"They gave me the warrant," the sergeant said at last, in a tone which dissociated him from all connection with such an unneighborly document.

"Did they so?" exclaimed Dan, as if he was shocked by the thoughtfulness of the authorities.

"So whenever 'twould be convenient for you-----"

"Well now you mention it," said Dan, by way of throwing out a suggestion for debate, "I could go with you now."

"ah, sha, what do you want going at this hour for?" protested the sergeant with a wave of his hand, dismissing the notion as the tone required.

"Or I could go tomorrow," added Dan, warning to the issue.

"Would it be suitable for you now?" asked the sergeant, scaling up his voice accordingly.

"But, as a matter of fact," said the old man emphatically, "the day that would be most convenient to me would be Friday after dinner, because I have some messages to do in town, and I wouldn't have the journey for nothing."

"Friday will do grand," said the sergeant with relief that this delicate matter was now practically disposed of. "If it does not they can damn well wait. You could walk in there yourself when it suits you and tell them I sent you."

"I'd rather have yourself there, Sergeant if it would be no inconvenience. As it is, I'd feel a bit shy."

"Why then, you needn't feel shy at all. There's a man from my own parish there, a warder; one Whelan. Ask for him; I'll tell him you're coming, and I'll guarantee when he knows you're a friend of mine he'll make you as comfortable as if you were at home."

"I'd like that fine," Dan said with profound satisfaction. "I'd like to be with friends, Sergeant."

"You will be, never fear. Good-bye again now, Dan. I'll have to hurry."

"Wait now, wait till I see you to the road."

Together the two men strolled down the laneway while Dan explained how it was that he, a respectable old man, had had the misfortune to open the head of another old man in such a way as to require his removal to hospital, and why it was that he couldn't give the old man in question

the satisfaction of paying in cash for an injury brought about through the victim's own unmannerly method of argument.

"You see, Sergeant," Dan said, looking at another little cottage up the hill, "the way it is, he's there now, and he's looking at us as sure as there's a glimmer of sight in his weak, wandering, watery eyes, and nothing would give him more gratification than for me to pay. But I'll punish him, Sergeant, so that neither he nor any of his children after him will be able to raise their heads for the shame of it."

On the following Friday he made ready his donkey and butt and set out. On his way he collected a number of neighbors who wished to bid him farewell. At the top of the hill he stopped to send them back. An old man, sitting in the sunlight, hastily made his way indoors, and a moment later the door of his cottage was quietly closed.

Having shaken all his friends by the hand, Dan lashed the old donkey, shouted: "Hup there!" and set out along the road to prison.

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#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

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| May 7th  | Philo Ceili  |
| May 11th | Philo general meeting  |
| May 14th | Philo dancing team and singing group to appear at Montclair Cosmopolitan Club - Jersey |
| May 15th | Council of Gaelic Societies annual Feis - Iona College                                 |