

**THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH
CENTURY: A NOVEL,
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL, IN
THREE VOLUMES, VOL. III**

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The Dawn of the Twentieth Century: A Novel, Social and Political, in Three Volumes, Vol. III
by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

A Nobel,

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.

"Be just and fear not;
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,
Thy God's and truth."

IN THREE VOLS.

VOL. III.



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1882.

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CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE CORK ASSIZES— <i>Continued</i> ,	1
II. SCRAPS,	24
III. MR. LIONEL GRANTLEY AND MR. WORKINGTON,	41
IV. IN CORK GAOL,	54
V. AT THE REFORM CLUB,	70
VI. WHAT WAS DOING ALL THIS TIME AT RUSH- BROOKE HALL,	82
VII. SOME MORE SCRAPS,	94
VIII. MORE ABOUT MICHAEL DOHERTY,	115
IX. DOHERTY AGAIN VISITED IN PRISON,	127
X. LADY WINIFRED VOWS AND PAYS,	142
XI. THE VICAR OF NORTHFIELD AND HIS TWO FRIENDS HAVE A TALK ON CHURCH ENDOW- MENTS AND FINANCES,	157
XII. WHAT BEFEL THE O'CALLAGHANS,	179
XIII. THE YEAR 1900 COMES TO A CLOSE,	188
XIV. THE GENERAL ELECTION, AND THAT OF NORTH- FIELD IN PARTICULAR,	202
XV. LIONEL GRANTLEY AT HOME AGAIN,	218
XVI. AT THE CARLTON CLUB,	228
XVII. PREFERMENT AND MATRIMONY,	235
XVIII. IN HOLIDAY SUIT,	250
XIX. CONCLUSION,	261

" Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand ;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be."



THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

CHAPTER I.

THE CORK ASSIZES (CONTINUED).

At length the suspense, painful and apparently protracted, passed away. The judge next morning took his seat in Court, and Michael Doherty's case was called on without loss of time.

The prisoner stands at the Bar. Loud and painful sobs are heard in Court.

"If the young woman I hear weeping," said the judge, "be the prisoner's wife, I think both for her sake and the prisoner's, whom she

will only unnerve, she will do better to retire from the court. Let her be taken care of in the precincts."

"Prisoner at the bar, Michael Doherty," began the clerk of assize, "you stand charged with firing a gun at Sir Roderick Norman, Baronet, of the Manor, with intent to murder him; and by a second count you stand charged with firing a gun with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. Say, are you guilty or not guilty?"

"Guilty," said Michael, dropping his head on his breast.

The court for the moment was taken quite aback.

After a short pause, Mr. Smallmeed rose and said, "May I interpose for one moment, my lord? I appear with my brother Wigmore for the prisoner who, I think, misunderstands the question put to him. He admits the charge of firing, but whether the intent were to murder, or do some grievous bodily harm, is the question we are to try, and in this sense perhaps your lordship will permit the

plea of guilty to be withdrawn, and that of not guilty to be substituted?"

"I quite concur, brother Smallmeed," observed the judge; "that is really the question before the court, and under the plea of guilty we can of course try nothing. Mr. Attorney, as I see you present, I presume you appear for the prosecution; I shall be glad to hear you on the point."

The junior members of the bar muttered all "Well done, Smallmeed," and Mr. Wigmore felt nettled that his junior had seen the way out of the dead lock more quickly than he had himself. But Wigmore was not an ungenerous man, and turning to his junior who sat on his left, whispered to him, "Thank you, Smallmeed, you put that point forcibly and well."

The attorney-general quite approved of the course. He felt it was best for the public that the facts of the case should come out fully; and assenting, the judge ordered the plea of guilty to be withdrawn, and that of not guilty to be recorded in its place.

"Who appears for the prosecution? who