

In Ambush (6). *Emboscada (6)*

Of course ye can come again. *Pueden volver otra vez.*

Forgotten—forgotten was the College and the decency due to elders! McTurk was treading again the barren purple mountains of the rainy West coast, where in his holidays he was viceroy of four thousand naked acres, only son of a three-hundred-year-old house, lord of a crazy fishing-boat, and the idol of his father's shiftless tenantry. It was the landed man speaking to his equal—deep calling to deep—and the old gentleman acknowledged the cry.

*Olvidado estaba el Colegio y el respeto a los mayores. McTurk pateaba de nuevo las montañas púrpuras de tierra estéril de la lluviosa costa Oeste, donde en sus vacaciones era virrey de 4000 acres desnudos, único hijo de una casa de 300 años de tradición, señor de un pesquero disparatado, e ídolo de los perezosos arrendatarios de su padre. Era el hombre de la tierra hablando a su igual, desde lo profundo a lo profundo, y el viejo caballero reconocía aquella voz.*

"I apologize," said he. "I apologize unreservedly—to you, and to the Old Country. Now, will you be good enough to tell me your story?"

*-Lo siento, dijo. Me disculpo absolutamente, por usted y por todo el país. Ahora ¿estará usted listo para contarme su historia?*

"We were in your combe," McTurk began, and he told his tale alternately as a schoolboy and, when the iniquity of the thing overcame him, as an indignant squire; concluding: "So you see he must be in the habit of it. I—we—one never wants to accuse a neighbor's man; but I took the liberty in this case—"

*-Estábamos en su valle -empezó McTurk, y fue narrando alternativamente como un escolar, o como un propietario indignado, cuando la iniquidad del tema le dominaba; concluyendo: "Como usted ve él debe tener el hábito de hacer esto. Yo... nosotros... no deseábamos acusar al hombre de un vecino; pero me he tomado la libertad en este caso..."*

"I see. Quite so. For a reason ye had. Infamous—oh, infamous!"

*-Ya lo veo. En efecto. Es razonable. ¡Qué infamia!*

The two had fallen into step beside each other on the lawn, and Colonel Dabney was talking as one man to another. "This comes of promoting a fisherman—a fisherman—from his lobster-pots. It's enough to ruin the reputation of an archangel. Don't attempt to deny it. It is! Your father has brought you up well. He has. I'd much like the pleasure of his acquaintance. Very much, indeed.

*Los dos estaban uno frente al otro en el césped, y el coronel Dabney hablaba de hombre a hombre. "Esto sucede por promocionar a un pescador desde su langostera. Esto es bastante para arruinar la reputación de un arcángel. No intente negarlo. Es así. Su padre le ha criado bien. Lo ha hecho. Me gustaría conocerle. Mucho, en efecto."*

And these young gentlemen? English they are. Don't attempt to deny it. They came up with you, too? Extraordinary! Extraordinary, now! In the present state of education I shouldn't have thought any three boys would be well enough grounded. But out of the mouths of—No—no! Not that by any odds. Don't attempt to deny it. Ye're not! Sherry always catches me under the liver, but—beer, now? Eh?

- *¿Y estos jóvenes? Son ingleses. No intente negarlo. ¿Vienen con usted? ¡Extraordinario! ¡Extraordinario! Con el sistema educativo actual no hubiera pensado encontrar 3 muchachos tan bien criados. Sorprende que unos chicos... Sólo unas chucherías. No digan que no. El jerez se agarra al hígado, pero ¿y una cerveza? ¿Eh?*

What d'you say to beer, and something to eat? It's long since I was a boy—abominable nuisances; but exceptions prove the rule. And a vixen, too!" They were fed on the terrace by a gray-haired housekeeper. Stalky and Beetle merely ate, but McTurk with bright eyes continued a free and lofty discourse; and ever the old gentleman treated him as a brother.

- *¿Qué dicen a una cerveza, y a comer algo? Ha pasado mucho desde que yo era un chico; los chicos son molestias horribles; pero la excepción confirma la regla. ¡Y una zorra, además! -comieron en la terraza servidos por una gobernanta de pelo gris. Stalky y Beetle simplemente comían, pero McTurk, con ojos brillantes, continuaba con su majestuoso discurso; y el viejo caballero le trataba como a un hermano.*

"My dear man, of course ye can come again. Did I not say exceptions prove the rule? The lower combe? Man, dear, anywhere ye please, so long as you do not disturb my pheasants. The two are not incompatible. Don't attempt to deny it. They're not! I'll never allow another gun, though. Come and go as ye please. I'll not see you, and ye needn't see me. Ye've been well brought up.

- *Pueden volver otra vez. ¿No dije que la excepción confirma la regla? ¿El valle bajo? Donde les guste, con tal que no molesten a mis faisanes. Las dos cosas no son incompatibles. No lo niegue. No permitiré más disparos. Vengan cuando gusten. Yo no les veré y ustedes no me verán. Ustedes están bien educados.*

Another glass of beer, now? I tell you a fisherman he was and a fisherman he shall be tonight again. He shall! Wish I could drown him. I'll convoy you to the Lodge. My people are not precisely—ah—broke to boy, but they'll know you again."

- *¿Otro vaso de cerveza? Les digo que un pescador era y pescador será esta noche de nuevo. ¡Lo será! Me gustaría ahogarle. Voy a llevarles a ustedes a la Portería. Mi gente no está habituada a muchachos, pero les van a conocer a ustedes.*

He dismissed them with many compliments by the high Lodge-gate in the split-oak park palings and they stood still; even Stalky, who had played second, not to say a dumb, fiddle, regarding McTurk as one from another world.

*Se despidió de ellos con cumplidos en la puerta de la empalizada de roble, y ellos permanecieron callados; incluso Stalky, que había hecho de segundo, estaba mudo, jugueteando, mirando a Mc Turk como a alguien de otro mundo.*

The two glasses of strong home-brewed had brought a melancholy upon the boy, for, slowly strolling with his hands in his pockets, he crooned:—"Oh, Paddy dear, and did ye hear the news that's goin' round?"

*Los 2 vasos de fuerte cerveza casera habían puesto melancólico al muchacho que, paseando tranquilo con sus manos en los bolsillos, canturreaba: Oh, querida Paddy, ¿has oído las nuevas que circulan por ahí?*

Under other circumstances Stalky and Beetle would have fallen upon him, for that song was barred utterly—anathema—the sin of witchcraft. But seeing what he had wrought, they danced round him in silence, waiting till it pleased him to touch earth.

*En otras circunstancias Stalky y Beetle hubieran caído sobre él, porque esa canción estaba totalmente prohibida, era anatema, era el pecado de hechicería. Pero viendo que él había trabajado duro, danzaron alrededor en silencio, esperando que tuviese a bien tomar tierra.*

The tea-bell rang when they were still half a mile from College. McTurk shivered and came out of dreams. The glory of his holiday estate had left him. He was a Colleger of the College, speaking English once more.

*El timbre del té sonó cuando estaban a media milla del colegio. McTurk tembló y salió de sus sueños. La gloria de su estado feliz le abandonó. Era un colegial de un colegio, hablando inglés otra vez.*

"Turkey, it was immense!" said Stalky, generously. "I didn't know you had it in you. You've got us a hut for the rest of the term, where we simply can't be collared. Fids! Fids! Oh, Fids! I gloat! Hear me gloat!"

*-Turkey, ha sido inmenso -dijo Stalky, generosamente-. No sabía lo que tenías dentro. Has conseguido una choza para el resto de las vacaciones, donde no podemos ser pillados. Dioses, escuchad como me regodeo.*

They spun wildly on their heels, jodeling after the accepted manner of a "gloat," which is not unremotely allied to the primitive man's song of triumph, and dropped down the hill by the path from the gasometer just in time to meet their house-master, who had spent the afternoon watching their abandoned hut in the "wuzzy."

*Giraron salvajemente sobre sus talones, con satisfacción plena, no lejana de la canción de triunfo del hombre primitivo, y bajaron la colina por el camino del gasómetro justo a tiempo de reunirse con el director de su casa, que había estado esperándoles toda la tarde en su choza abandonada en los espinos.*

Unluckily, all Mr. Prout's imagination leaned to the darker side of life, and he looked on those young-eyed cherubims most sourly. Boys that he understood attended housematches and could be accounted for at any moment.

*Desgraciadamente, la imaginación del Sr. Prout se inclinaba hacia el lado oscuro de la vida, y vio en aquellos querubines la parte amarga. Chicos de la casa que podrían rendir cuentas ante él en cualquier momento.*