

Shrewd Condy Cullen And His Trick. On Excise Officers. William Carleton Tells How He Got Some Good Whisky.

Young Condy Cullen was descended from a long line of private distillers, and of course, exhibited in his own person all the practical wit, sagacity, cunning and fertility of invention which the natural genius of the family, sharpened by long experience, had created from generation to generation as a standing capital to be handed down from father to son.

"The boy I speak of you must have met," said Stinton. "It's not five minutes—no, not more than three, since he came inside the field. That my feet may grow to the ground, then, if I see a boy in or about this place, within that time, barrin' myself."

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"Ay, list of the Kerrigans of Killbeggan." "I knew the family," said Stinton; "they are decent in their way—but come, my lad, don't lose your temper, and don't let me hear another question. Where were you bringing the whisky?"

"To a better man than ever stud in your shoes," replied Condy, in a tone of absolute defiance, "to a gentleman, any way, with a peculiar emphasis on the word 'gentleman'."

"But what's his name?" "Mr. Stinton's his name—Gauger Stinton."

"The shrewd excise man stood and fixed his keen eye on Condy with a glance of such piercing scrutiny as scarcely implied consciousness of imposture could withstand."

"Condy, on the other hand, stood and eyed him with an open, unshrinking, yet angry glance; never winking, but appeared by the detection of his leg to have altogether forgotten the line of cunning policy he had previously adopted."

"That evening, at 5 o'clock, Stinton, Cartwright and two others arrived at the house of the worthy gauger to partake of his good cheer. A cold, frosty evening gave a peculiar zest to the comfort of a warm room, a blazing fire and a good dinner."

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