

THE CLANKING OF CHAINS

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The clanking of chains by Brinsley MacNamara

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BRINSLEY MACNAMARA

**THE CLANKING
OF CHAINS**

THE CLANKING
OF CHAINS
BY BRINSLEY MACNAMARA

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

MAUNSEL AND COMPANY, LTD.
DUBLIN AND LONDON. 1920

TO MY
SISTER, MAE

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To A.C.
Who Came with Flowers

479250

*Was it for this the Wild Geese spread
The gray wing upon every tide,
For this that all that blood was shed,
For this Edward Fitzgerald died,
And Robert Emmet and Wolfe Tone,
All that delirium of the brave ;
Romantic Ireland's dead and gone,
'Tis with O'Leary in the grave.*

—W. B. YEATS.

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THE CLANKING OF CHAINS.

CHAPTER I.

ROBERT EMMET IN BALLYCULLEN.

THE little room at the back of the Courthouse in Ballycullen was animated unusually, and a number of young men and women were hurrying up the short stairway from the street door. It was Sunday evening, and each seemed to wear an air of business curiously out of keeping with the time and the place, for this was the day of deadness and no effort, beyond that of the tongue, in Ballycullen, and this little room was musty for lack of the warmth of human industry and occupation.

It was true that every Friday of the year, with the frequent addition of Fair days, this place displayed a certain connection with life, for it was then the office of the bank manager who came over from Castleconnor with his clerk, these two hirelings of Mammon always looking very important and grand as they drove up through Ballycullen about twelve o'clock in the day. Mr. Alexander