

Nevison the Highwayman.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. R. CAMPBELL.

It seems strange, when we consider how many gentlemen of courage, and well armed, were, up to the beginning of the present century, stopped by highwaymen, that so few of the scoundrels were paid off with lead instead of gold. But it is a fact that, as a rule, they ended their unusually short lives, not by the pistol, but by the rope. Still there have been exceptional cases where the robber has met his match, and the following is one. A certain nobleman, whom I shall call Lord A. (as I forget his real name), was wont to declare that no highwayman should ever rob him; and it would appear that this bit of bravado got to the ears of the robbing fraternity. For, as the story goes, one night, as his lordship was travelling in his carriage, a highwayman rode up, and thrust a pistol through the window before Lord A. could seize one of his own—albeit he had a brace close to his hand. Demanding his money or his life, the rascal added sneeringly, "I think, my lord, you've declared that no highwayman should ever rob you." "True," replied the nobleman, looking steadily through the window, "nor should I let you rob me now, were it not for that dark figure behind you." Now, there was really no such thing as a "dark figure," but the words staggered the villain, and he involuntarily turned and glanced behind him. It was but for a moment, but that moment was enough; Lord A. raised his pistol, fired and shot his assailant dead.

be spent in a booze to celebrate his initiation. He was then ordered to kneel down, and while on his knees was baptized with a gage of booze; (i. e. a quart of drink,) which was poured over his head by one of the chiefs. "I do, by virtue of this sovereign liquor, install the in the Rooge," said the chief, "and make the a free denizen of our ragged regiment. Henceforth, it shall be lawful for the to cant, only observing these rules: First, that thou art not to wander up and down all countries, but to keep to that quarter that is allotted thee; and secondly, thou art to give way to any of us that have borne all the offices of the wallet before; and, upon holding up a finger, to avoid any town or country village, thou seest we are foraging for victuals for our army that marches along with us. Observing these two rules, we take the under our protection, and constitute the a brother of our numerous society."

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